

The Alabama Climate Report

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Dr. John Christy, Alabama State Climatologist

People often ask me what the weather will be over the summer. Usually the key interest is whether it will be wet or dry. As far as I know, I've never made such a forecast for the summer months. The rainfall pattern from this past June will tell you why. Now, most of you know that when summer comes, the spotty, scattered, chaotic, hit-and-miss, and unpredictable thundershowers arrive as well.

The plot below shows how much rain fell in Alabama as a percentage of normal in June. About half of Alabama was above normal and half below normal. Some spots in Tuscaloosa and Hale counties received less than 25 percent of normal, while in places in adjacent counties of Walker and Marengo, rainfall totals were over 200 percent of normal. In Butler Co., we saw

over times the average. So, who could have forecasted something so variable? Not me.

If in May you had predicted Alabama would have normal rainfall for June, you would have been right for the state average, but wrong in nearly every particular spot. And, people live in specific spots, not all over the state at once. This is why I don't forecast summer rainfall totals (and be wary of anyone who does.)

Speaking of rain, have you ever heard of a Derecho? This is a complex of intense thunderstorms that is especially long-lived and is usually accompanied by high winds. Alabama experiences about one of these every two years. On June 28th one of these damaging complexes moved over 400 miles from Kentucky to the Gulf, crossing Alabama as its leading edge fed off the extremely warm and humid air, leaving downed trees and power lines in its wake. The NWS office in Huntsville has a nice explanation and video of the event here.

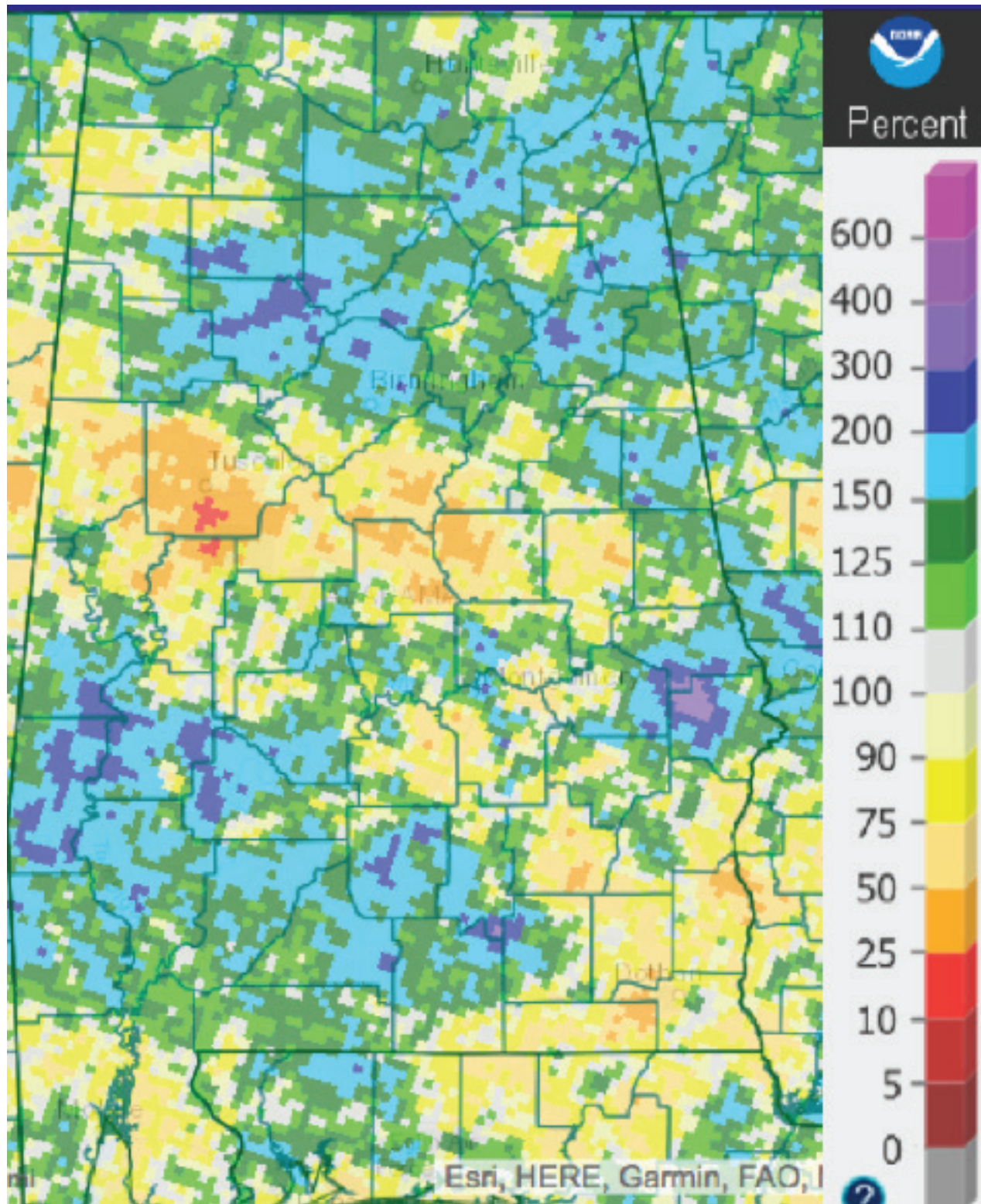
<https://www.weather.gov/hun/event06282018>

Temperature-wise, June was a bit above average, around 2.5 °F statewide. Tuscaloosa, in that dry spot, came in at 3.9 °F above average while Anniston, in a wet spot, was only +1.7 °F above average.

July is now here and represents the month in which the bulk of the state, roughly the southeastern two thirds, generally experiences its hottest day of the year. For the northwestern third however, that normally comes in August with the far northwest seeing their hottest day in the second half of August. This late heat in the north is related to common short periods

of drought that tend to occur later in the summer as the distance from the warm, moist Gulf air increases.

- John Christy



U.S. Drought Monitor
Alabama

June 26, 2018
(Released Thursday, Jun. 28, 2018)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

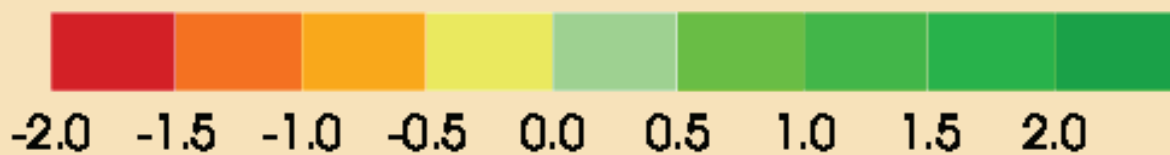
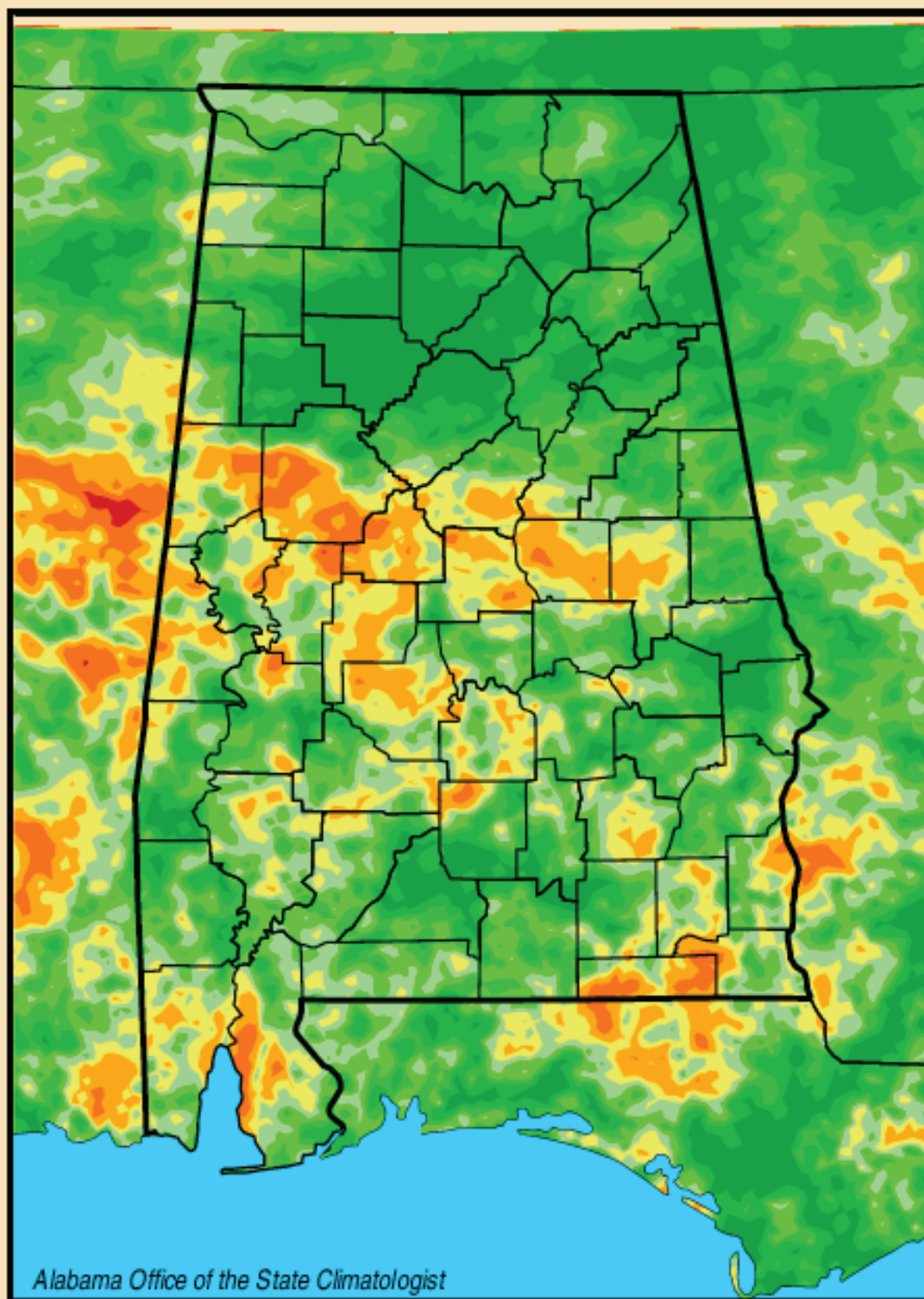
Author:

Richard Heim
NCEI/NOAA



<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

Lawn-and-Garden Moisture Index for July 2, 2018



Alabama Monthly Climate Summaries

June 2018

	June Mean June Norm	June High Temp Record High	June Low Temp Record Low	Total Precip. Normal Precip.	Wettest June Driest June	Heaviest June Record June
Anniston	78.7 76.6	93 6/19/18 102+ 6/27/54	58 6/5/18 42 6/1/72	4.44" 4.14"	9.27" 1982 .00" 1988	0.91" 6/22/18 3.60" 6/4/50
Auburn	78.8 78.3	93 6/20/18 107 6/19/33	63 6/5/18 39 6/3/56	2.82" 4.17"	8.64" 1909 .57" 1931	1.53" 6/17/18 3.64" 6/5/28
Birmingham	79.7 76.4	94 6/26/18 106 6/29/31	61 6/5/18 42 6/1/66	5.77" 3.78"	9.04" 1999 .79" 1988	1.29" 6/10/18 3.85" 6/23/57
Brewton	77.7 77.3	92.7 6/25/18 109 6/18/33	62.6 6/5/18 40 6/3/56	8.67" 5.97"	13.80" 1989 1.90" 1998	2.00" 6/15/18 6.45" 6/3/70
Calera	80 76	93 6/29/18 103 6/29/69	63 6/6/18 37 6/1/66	3.35" 4.15"	14.58" 2003 .06" 1902	0.70" 6/17/18 5.04" 6/12/42
Clanton	77.6 76	93.4 6/28/18 106 6/19/36	60.1 6/6/18 42 6/3/56	3.06" 4.16"	11.82" 1991 .69" 1988	0.99" 6/28/18 7.82" 6/26/91
Courtland	77.6 M	92.3 6/26/18 M	58.1 6/4/18 M	4.97" M	M M	1.49" 6/21/18 M
Cullman (St. Bernard)	75.9 M	93 6/16/18 M	55.4 6/6/18 M	4.55" M	M M	1.93" 6/21/18 M
Decatur (Pryor Field)	78.4 77.9	93 6/17/18 108 6/10/14	57 6/6/18 44 6/3/56	5.04" 3.58"	11.07" 1900 .20" 1931	1.79" 6/21/18 3.06" 6/4/34
Dothan	82.2 80.1	97 6/25/18 104 6/27/52	67 6/5/18 49 6/3/56	4.52" 4.31"	8.52" 1942 1.10" 1945	1.12" 6/10/18 3.78" 6/22/49
Fairhope	79.3 79.2	92 6/28/18 100+ 6/11/54	65.7 6/7/18 52 6/1/84	5.12" 5.94"	18.52" 1989 .71" 1977	1.69" 6/5/18 7.80" 6/9/89
Gadsden	74.6 75.8	89.6 6/16/18 102 6/27/54	53 6/6/18 42 6/3/56	5.99" 4.34"	10.30" 1994 .13" 1988	0.93" 6/28/18 3.10" 6/25/99
Gainesville Lock	79.1 77.2	96.2 6/28/18 101 6/24/77	63.6 6/4/18 42 6/1/84	1.19" 4.07"	9.56" 1983 .61" 1988	0.32" 6/13/18 3.49" 6/13/87
Greensboro	78.4 78.9	93.8 6/28/18 105+ 6/29/54	59.9 6/6/18 41 6/1/66	3.14" 3.72"	10.25" 1999 .66" 1988	0.70" 6/17/18 5.50" 6/3/70
Guntersville	M 75.4	M 103 6/26/88	M 44 6/4/56	M 3.85"	9.94" 1999 .19" 1988	M 4.20"+ 6/19/76
Highland Home	77.4 76.9	91.7 6/24/18 104+ 6/7/85	64.9 6/6/18 45 6/1/84	2.55" 4.70"	12.90" 1983 1.22" 1971	0.86" 6/26/18 4.30" 6/3/70
Huntsville	80.3 76.5	96 6/15/18 101 6/29/69	60 6/4/18 45 6/1/72	5.50" 4.10"	14.99" 1989 .17" 1988	1.73" 6/22/18 4.46" 6/14/69
Mobile	81.8 79.3	95 6/28/18 102+ 6/29/54	67 6/5/18 49 6/1/84	6.99" 5.01"	11.00" 1982 1.26" 1977	1.69" 6/5/18 6.08" 6/20/61
Montgomery	81.5 78.9	98 6/28/18 105 6/28/54	64 6/5/18 49+ 6/1/84	1.52" 4.13"	14.44" 1989 .33" 1979	0.51" 6/28/18 3.91" 6/28/57
Muscle Shoals Airport	79.6 76.5	95 6/16/18 104 6/28/52	60 6/4/18 44 6/1/72	3.89" 4.90"	13.43" 1989 1.03" 1988	1.48" 6/21/18 5.60" 6/12/92
Russellville	75.8 73.7	92.6 6/16/18 102 6/28/54	53.1 6/6/18 36+ 6/4/69	4.29" 4.23"	12.71" 1997 .50" 1988	2.39" 6/21/18 3.30" 6/8/94
Scottsboro	75.5 75.5	91.3 6/16/18 107+ 6/29/31	54.6 6/6/18 39 6/3/56	4.73" 4.38"	9.08" 1989 .65" 1988	0.98" 6/10/18 3.72" 6/29/41
Selma	78.2 80	94.8 6/28/18 108 6/28/54	60.8 6/6/18 42 6/1/84	2.39" 4.13"	10.32" 1989 .34" 1988	0.77" 6/14/18 3.65" 6/25/91
Talladega	77.1 77	92.3 6/16/18 102 6/27/54	58.4 6/6/18 39 6/1/72	4.99" 4.64"	11.97" 1989 .32" 1988	1.09" 6/22/18 4.60" 6/22/97
Thomasville	76.9 78.7	94.1 6/30/18 108 6/26/30	60.4 6/5/18 46+ 6/1/84	4.48" 4.92"	12.69" 1989 .93" 1988	1.07" 6/14/18 3.98" 6/29/43
Troy	79.4 77.5	95 6/20/18 105 6/19/33	60 6/5/18 43 6/9/00	4.86" 4.78"	12.63" 1989 1.04" 1986	1.52" 6/14/18 4.36" 6/4/70
Tuscaloosa	82.3 78.7	98 6/26/18 105 6/28/52	63 6/6/18 45 6/3/56	1.82" 4.20"	11.98" 1989 1.22" 1988	1.21" 6/11/18 3.41" 6/18/63
Valley Head	73.6 72.2	89.1 6/18/18 101 6/28/52	54 6/6/18 35 6/1/66	7.22" 4.33"	9.19" 1976 .54" 1988	2.62" 6/26/18 3.08" 6/10/61

Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network (CoCoRAHS)								
June 2018								
	Ave. Total Precip.	# Stations			Ave. Total Precip.	# Stations	Normal June Precipitation*	
Autauga	3.67	2		Houston	4.89	2	Abbeville	5.20
Baldwin	6.26	24		Jackson	5.78	5	Alberta	4.36
Barbour	9.17	1		Jefferson	6.28	15	Alex City	4.45
Bibb	9.24	1		Lamar	5.19	1	Aliceville	4.88
Blount	6.15	7		Lauderdale	3.96	7	Andalusia	5.30
Bullock	0.00	0		Lawrence	6.09	3	Ashland	4.35
Butler	0.00	0		Lee	4.34	2	Athens	4.69
Calhoun	7.89	3		Limestone	5.81	7	Bay Minette	6.46
Chambers	n.a.	0		Lowndes	n.a.	0	Besemer	4.51
Cherokee	5.67	1		Macon	5.03	1	Billingsly	3.39
Chilton	6.25	1		Madison	5.56	21	Centreville WSMC	4.28
Choctaw	5.93	1		Marengo	n.a.	0	Chatom	4.71
Clarke	9.38	2		Marion	8.45	1	Claiborne L&D	4.10
Clay	n.a.	0		Marshall	7.60	10	Clayton	5.08
Cleburne	n.a.	0		Mobile	7.78	14	Dauphin Isl.	5.14
Coffee	6.71	1		Monroe	7.87	2	Elba	5.70
Colbert	4.80	5		Montgomery	3.53	4	Eufaula WR	4.60
Conecuh	4.71	1		Morgan	7.70	5	Evergreen	5.52
Coosa	6.17	2		Perry	n.a.	0	Fayette	4.92
Covington	n.a.	0		Pickens	n.a.	0	Geneva 2	5.79
Crenshaw	n.a.	0		Pike	n.a.	0	Greenville	5.00
Cullman	5.90	3		Randolph	6.11	2	Haleyville	4.83
Dale	3.13	1		Russell	8.65	2	Hamilton 3S	4.95
Dallas	4.91	1		St. Clair	5.52	5	Heffin	4.31
DeKalb	6.66	5		Shelby	3.65	17	Hurtsboro	3.49
Elmore	4.16	5		Sumter	n.a.	0	Jasper	4.87
Escambia	6.35	2		Talladega	4.38	4	Lafayette	4.18
Etowah	n.a.	0		Tallapoosa	3.51	1	Livingston	4.48
Fayette	7.47	1		Tuscaloosa	3.88	6	Melvin	1.73
Franklin	n.a.	0		Walker	n.a.	0	Milstead	4.34
Geneva	n.a.	0		Washington	7.51	1	Moulton	4.40
Greene	n.a.	0		Wilcox	4.84	3	Oneonta	4.67
Hale	n.a.	0		Winston	6.66	2	Perryville	4.08
Henry	n.a.	0					Plantersville	3.95
							Rock Mills	5.46
							Rockford	3.82
							Sylacauga	4.25
							Union Springs	5.22
							Uniontown	3.81
							Vernon	4.53
							Warrior L&D	4.07
							Wetumpka	4.22

New Local Climate Records

High Temperature Daily Records						
STATION	DATE	RECORD	PREV. DATE	PREV. RECORD	NUMBER OF YEARS	DIFFERENCE
MOBILE DOWNTOWN AIRPORT, AL US	6/2/18	94	6/2/53	94	69	0
MOBILE DOWNTOWN AIRPORT, AL US	6/3/18	97	6/3/11	97	69	0
MOBILE DOWNTOWN AIRPORT, AL US	6/7/18	95	6/7/53	95	69	0
BESSEMER 3 WSW, AL US	6/10/18	99	6/10/11	96	41	3
EUFAULA WILDLIFE REF, AL US	6/27/18	98	6/27/11	98	51	0
Highest Minimum Temperature Daily Record						
VERNON, AL US	6/29/18	77	6/29/78	75	61	2
Highest Precipitation Total, Daily Record						
WEST BLOCTON, AL US	6/29/18	1.5	6/29/57	1.5	78	0

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