



The
Alabama
Climate Report

Brought to you by the Office of the Alabama Climatologist

May 2020

Volume 11, Number 2 :: May 2020



Dr. John Christy, Alabama State Climatologist

The coolish spring temperatures from April continued into May for most of the month. The state experienced many days below average with a spell around the 10th due to an anomalous strong trough that sent a few temperatures below freezing ... in May! The US Forest Service station at Liri near the Little River Canyon dropped to a chilly 30°F. That's about as cold as it can get in May in Alabama. The USDA station near the TN border in Madison Co. hit 31 °F while Hamilton and Sudduth Farms (Winston Co. elevation 772 ft) bottomed out at 32 °F.

There were some warm days too. Topping the list for a change was not the Andalusia-Opp Airport – they missed the state high by one degree to the Lock and Dam at Demopolis where the high was 96 °F on the 30th. Most of the state experienced their highest temperature towards the end of the month thanks in part to a ridge of high pressure and southerly flow ushering in tropical moisture and heat. Statewide, the average temperature was below normal by 1.9 °F with many, many delightful spring days.

Rainfall was a bit below the long-term average of 4.24 inches by 0.71 inches. There were no remarkable totals reaching into double digits, but Talladega and Pisgah led the state with 8.37 inches each as the NE quarter of the state caught the most. Almost everyone though saw at least 2 inches. As we move into summer, the rainfall distribution will become more variable depending on where those random, heavy thunderstorms decide to drench.

The end of May signifies the unofficial end to the Alabama spring severe weather season. While May was quiet in terms of tornadoes (0 recorded), April saw numerous tornadoes from April 12th to 13th due to an outbreak on that spanned from Texas to Maryland with a preliminary total of 27 tornadoes in Alabama. Another smaller outbreak occurred along the Gulf states from Texas to Florida with a preliminary total of 14 tornadoes in Alabama. In total April saw 44 tornadoes which is 2nd most tornadoes in Alabama since 1950 if the total becomes official.

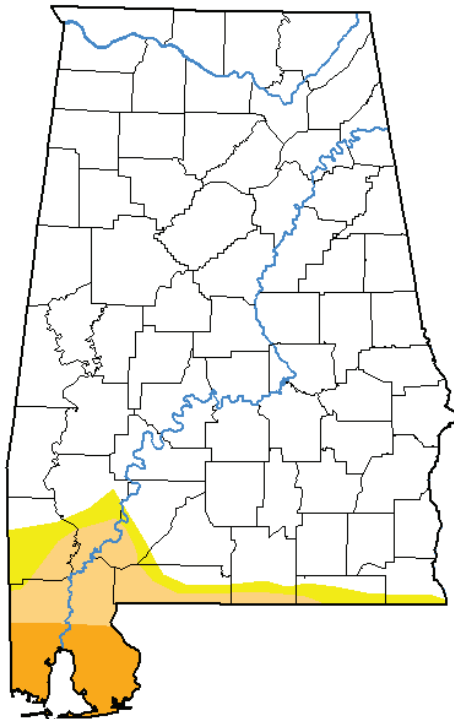
The “official” start of the Atlantic hurricane season starts with the end of May. This hurricane season is expected to be above normal according to NOAA Climate Prediction Center with 13-19 named storms, 6-10 hurricanes, and 3-6 major hurricanes (defined as Cat 3 or higher). Two named storms (Tropical Storms' Arthur and Bertha) developed in May for the third time in recorded history. Typically, tropical systems do not impact Alabama in May. In fact, only two storms have tracked across Alabama, tropical storm Alberto in 2018 and an unnamed hurricane in 1863. The latter had an impact on the Civil War.

[Note: with my extra duties as interim Dean of the College of Science and the unexpected demands arising from COVID-19, these monthly reports will be considerably delayed for a while. Thank you for your patience. JRC]







Drought Monitor

U.S. Drought Monitor Alabama

June 2, 2020
(Released Thursday, Jun. 4, 2020)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Intensity:

-  None
-  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. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:

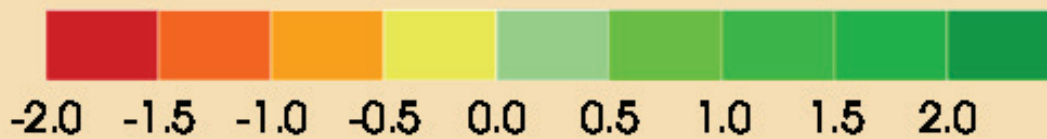
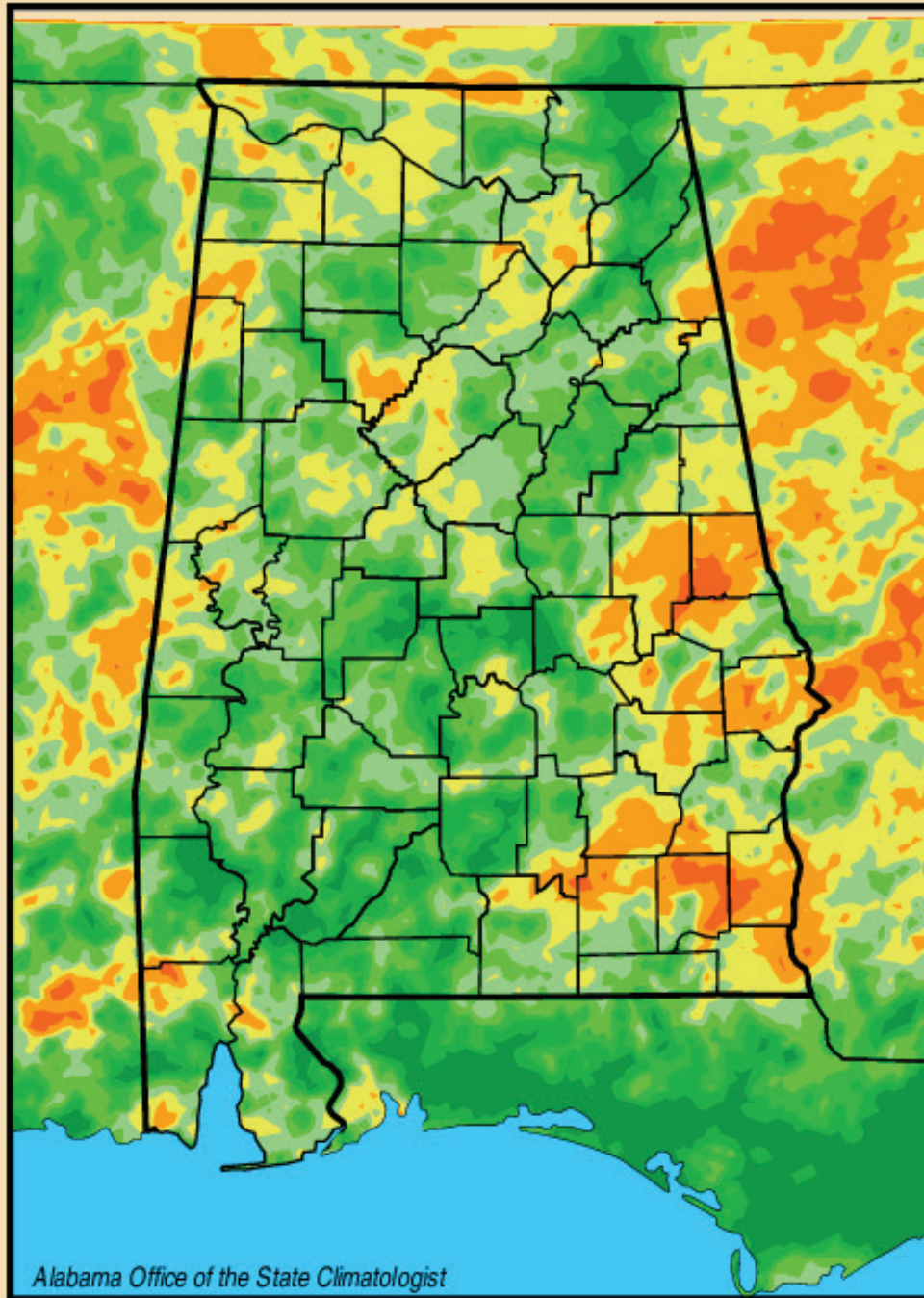
Curtis Riganti
National Drought Mitigation Center



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Lawn & Garden Index

Lawn-and-Garden Moisture Index
for June 7, 2020



Alabama Monthly Climate Summaries

Alabama Monthly Climate Summaries

May 2020

	May Mean May Norm	May High Temp Record High	May Low Temp Record Low	Total Precip. Normal Precip.	Wettest May Driest May	Heaviest May Record May
Anniston	68.1	89 5/24/20	39 5/7/20	5.19"	8.59" 1983	1.56" 5/23/20
	69.4	98 5/16/62	34 5/13/60	4.16"	1.81" 1977	3.32" 5/19/83
Auburn	69.5	89 5/24/20	43 5/7/20	2.50"	10.33" 1915	1.27" 5/27/20
	71.7	98 5/27/1911	35 5/13/60	3.75"	.36" 1914	4.53" 5/7/15
Birmingham	69.4	90 5/24/20	40 5/10/20	6.39"	9.57" 1983	3.12" 5/23/20
	70.4	99 5/28/62	36 5/4/71	4.83"	.88" 2000	3.85" 5/6/67
Brewton	70.5	90.5 5/23/20	45.4 5/7/20	3.00"	15.97" 1991	1.79" 5/26/20
	70.9	100 5/26/33	34 5/4/71	5.56"	.85" 1988	5.00+ 5/10/95
Calera	69.7	90 5/24/20	42 5/10/20	3.01"	9.99" 2003	.93" 5/22/20
	69.5	98 5/21/62	31 5/13/60	4.02"	.34" 1977	3.65" 5/12/12
Clanton	67.9	88.4 5/24/20	38.5 5/10/20	2.44"	13.26" 1991	.73" 5/27/20
	70.5	99+ 5/31/45	33 5/13/60	4.36"	.57" 1977	3.75" 5/20/46
Courtland	66.3	88.6 5/25/20	38.7 5/7/20	2.96"	M	.84" 5/26/20
	M	M	M	M	M	M
Cullman (St. Bernard)	64.7	85.7 5/24/20	33.6 5/10/20	5.92"	M	1.41" 5/17/20
	M	M	M	M	M	M
Decatur (Pryor Field)	66.5	87 5/25/20	37 5/9/20	3.31"	8.44" 1907	1.26" 5/22/20
	70.2	100 3/31/14	34 5/2/1909	3.87"	.15" 1941	3.50" 5/29/1912
Dothan	74.1	93 5/30/20	48 5/8/20	2.13"	8.73" 1947	1.01" 5/18/20
	74.6	104 5/30/37	44 5/5/54	3.37"	.45" 1962	4.10" 5/12/1903
Fairhope	72.2	88.9 5/24/20	47.7 5/11/20	3.93"	13.75" 1991	1.66" 5/18/20
	73.3	98 5/27/53	43 5/13/60	5.60"	.31" 1988	6.54" 5/20/81
Gadsden	63.5	83.6 5/24/20	32 5/17/20	5.37"	7.75" 1973	2.36" 5/27/20
	68.4	99 5/24/70	33 5/13/60	4.59"	1.43" 2000	3.22" 5/22/67
Gainesville Lock	68.7	88.5 5/22/20	42.6 5/10/20	2.95"	12.17" 1978	.81" 5/27/20
	70	97 5/31/77	38 5/5/86	4.43"	.12" 2000	5.12" 5/1/78
Greensboro	68.6	89 5/24/20	39.8 5/10/20	4.76"	10.30" 1991	1.75" 5/26/20
	71.9	98+ 5/24/96	37+ 5/10/66	4.47"	.81" 1992	4.10" 5/18/30
Guntersville	M	M	M	M	8.31" 1973	M
	69.4	99 5/17/62	36 5/2/63	4.47"	1.07" 1982	4.73" 5/3/97
Highland Home	69.5	87.9 5/24/20	43 5/7/20	4.71"	9.61" 1976	1.28" 5/21/20
	70.7	98 5/22/62	40 5/13/81	4.05"	.44" 2000	4.46" 5/4/78
Huntsville	67.2	88 5/25/20	39 5/7/20	4.63"	11.88" 1983	1.52" 5/22/20
	69.2	96 5/20/1960	36 5/3/71	5.04"	.78" 2007	4.64" 5/16/80
Mobile	72.3	90 5/31/20	46 5/1/20	5.56"	15.08" 1980	1.72" 5/27/20
	73.5	100+ 5/27/53	43 5/13/60	6.10"	.36" 1996	7.96" 5/5/81
Montgomery	72.2	93 5/24/20	43 5/7/20	3.64"	12.01" 1978	1.18" 5/21/20
	72.3	98 5/27/53	40 5/4/71	4.14"	.68" 1995	5.23" 5/9/78
Muscle Shoals Airport	69	91 5/25/20	42 5/7/20	4.03"	11.86" 1983	1.49" 5/26/20
	68.8	99 5/29/41	36+ 5/4/71	5.30"	1.18" 1987	3.32" 5/17/80
Russellville	64.9	87.6 5/25/20	33.2 5/10/20	3.52"	18.37" 1991	1.18" 5/22/20
	66.3	95+ 5/27/00	31+ 5/4/76	5.87"	.62" 1987	6.10" 5/8/84
Scottsboro	64.6	85.7 5/24/20	36 5/10/20	5.30"	9.81" 1983	2.30" 5/27/20
	68.1	97 5/29/41	32 5/4/71	5.02"	1.27" 1992	5.00" 5/3/97
Selma	68.5	89.7 5/24/20	39.3 5/7/20	3.99"	9.01" 1991	1.39" 5/28/20
	71.8	100 5/27/53	40 5/7/44	3.71"	.10" 1977	3.40" 5/4/57
Talladega	67.3	88.6 5/24/20	36.1 5/10/20	6.10"	11.72" 1983	2.21" 5/27/20
	70	96+ 5/25/96	32 5/4/71	4.71"	1.55" 1995	5.22" 5/19/83
Thomasville	68.5	88 5/25/20	40.6 5/10/20	3.90"	12.04" 1980	1.70" 5/26/20
	72.1	99 5/31/37	36 5/13/60	4.75"	.64" 1988	5.07" 5/1/40
Troy	71.7	92 5/24/20	42 5/7/20	1.32"	9.57" 1976	.49" 5/26/20
	71.2	99 5/30/37	38 5/4/71	3.73"	.14" 1977	4.65" 5/6/53
Tuscaloosa	70.6	92 5/24/20	42 5/7/20	3.13"	11.13" 1976	1.53" 5/26/20
	71.9	98 5/31/51	36 5/4/76	4.55"	.44" 2000	3.91" 5/1/58
Valley Head	63.2	84 5/24/20	33 5/10/20	4.70"	8.63" 1978	1.26" 5/27/20
	66.4	94+ 5/29/62	29+ 5/4/76	4.70"	1.08" 1992	4.19" 5/3/97

New Alabama Climate Records

Lowest Minimum Temperature Monthly Record						
STATION	DATE	RECORD	PREV. DATE	PREV. RECORD	NUMBER OF YEARS	DIFFERENCE
FORT BENNING LAWSON FIELD, AL US	5/8/20	39	5/8/07	39	71	0
Highest Maximum Temperature Daily Record						
MUSCLE SHOALS REGIONAL AIRPORT, AL US	5/3/20	88	5/3/41	88	79	0
MOBILE DOWNTOWN AIRPORT, AL US	5/21/20	92	5/21/64	92	71	0
DEMOPOLIS LOCK AND DAM, AL US	5/30/20	96	5/30/53	95	68	1
Highest Minimum Temperature Daily Record						
RUSSELLVILLE NUMBER 2, AL US	5/15/20	65	5/15/04	65	66	0
Lowest Maximum Temperature Daily Record						
BESSEMER 3 WSW, AL US	5/8/20	63	5/8/80	66	43	-3
JACKSON, AL US	5/8/20	73	5/8/13	75	36	-2
ONEONTA, AL US	5/8/20	58	5/8/92	60	125	-2
HUNTSVILLE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT JONES FIELD, AL US	5/8/20	61	5/8/84	64	61	-3
ANNISTON METROPOLITAN AIRPORT, AL US	5/8/20	66	5/8/60	67	117	-1
BIRMINGHAM AIRPORT, AL US	5/8/20	64	5/8/84	67	90	-3
TUSCALOOSA AIRPORT ASOS, AL US	5/8/20	65	5/8/84	68	72	-3
BELLE MINA 2 N, AL US	5/9/20	59	5/9/83	63	70	-4
BESSEMER 3 WSW, AL US	5/9/20	67	5/9/85	68	43	-1
GAINESVILLE LOCK, AL US	5/9/20	66	5/9/76	66	62	0
GREENSBORO, AL US	5/9/20	65	5/9/06	65	128	0
GUNTERSVILLE, AL US	5/9/20	60	5/9/85	63	110	-3
ONEONTA, AL US	5/9/20	60	5/9/08	60	125	0
ROCK MILLS, AL US	5/9/20	64	5/9/90	68	78	-4
SAND MOUNTAIN SUBSTATION, AL US	5/9/20	56	5/9/85	62	70	-6
SCOTTSBORO, AL US	5/9/20	58	5/9/06	59	128	-1
SYLACAUGA 4 NE, AL US	5/9/20	65	5/9/84	69	65	-4
VERNON, AL US	5/9/20	65	5/9/91	66	63	-1
MOBILE DOWNTOWN AIRPORT, AL US	5/9/20	73	5/9/61	73	71	0
ANNISTON METROPOLITAN AIRPORT, AL US	5/9/20	66	5/9/85	66	117	0
MOBILE REGIONAL AIRPORT, AL US	5/9/20	69	5/9/61	75	72	-6
BAY MINETTE, AL US	5/10/20	70	5/10/61	70	105	0
BELLE MINA 2 N, AL US	5/10/20	62	5/10/85	64	70	-2
DAUPHIN ISLAND NUMBER 2, AL US	5/10/20	70	5/10/92	73	44	-3
DEMOPOLIS LOCK AND DAM, AL US	5/10/20	64	5/10/10	70	68	-6
GAINESVILLE LOCK, AL US	5/10/20	67	5/10/61	69	62	-2
GUNTERSVILLE, AL US	5/10/20	63	5/10/61	64	110	-1
MOULTON 2, AL US	5/10/20	62	5/10/10	65	63	-3
OPELIKA, AL US	5/10/20	65	5/10/85	66	63	-1
ROBERTSDALE, AL US	5/10/20	71	5/10/24	72	96	-1
SAND MOUNTAIN SUBSTATION, AL US	5/10/20	60	5/10/85	60	70	0
SELMA, AL US	5/10/20	69	5/10/06	69	123	0
SYLACAUGA 4 NE, AL US	5/10/20	64	5/10/85	67	65	-3
DAUPHIN ISLAND NUMBER 2, AL US	5/11/20	75	5/11/97	75	44	0
ONEONTA, AL US	5/11/20	64	5/11/89	66	125	-2
MOULTON 2, AL US	5/20/20	67	5/20/81	68	63	-1
ROCK MILLS, AL US	5/20/20	70	5/20/02	72	78	-2
MOBILE DOWNTOWN AIRPORT, AL US	5/20/20	76	5/20/02	77	71	-1

New Alabama Climate Records (cont.)

Lowest Minimum Temperature Daily Record						
ENTERPRISE 2 W, AL US	5/1/20	46	5/1/96	46	54	0
ROCK MILLS, AL US	5/1/20	39	5/1/65	39	78	0
FORT BENNING LAWSON FIELD, AL US	5/1/20	44	5/1/65	44	71	0
MOBILE REGIONAL AIRPORT, AL US	5/1/20	46	5/1/99	46	72	0
GAINESVILLE LOCK, AL US	5/2/20	42	5/2/18	42	62	0
BESSEMER 3 WSW, AL US	5/7/20	40	5/7/92	40	43	0
CLAYTON, AL US	5/7/20	43	5/7/17	45	64	-2
GENEVA NUMBER 2, AL US	5/7/20	43	5/7/16	44	44	-1
MARION JUNCTION 2 NE, AL US	5/7/20	40	5/7/92	43	70	-3
MOULTON 2, AL US	5/7/20	38	5/7/57	39	63	-1
SYLACAUGA 4 NE, AL US	5/7/20	38	5/7/89	38	65	0
HUNTSVILLE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT JONES FIELD, AL US	5/7/20	39	5/7/89	41	61	-2
ANNISTON METROPOLITAN AIRPORT, AL US	5/7/20	39	5/7/89	42	117	-3
MONTGOMERY AIRPORT, AL US	5/7/20	43	5/7/89	44	72	-1
HAMILTON 3 S, AL US	5/8/20	34	5/8/89	36	58	-2
JACKSON, AL US	5/8/20	45	5/8/07	46	36	-1
FORT BENNING LAWSON FIELD, AL US	5/8/20	39	5/8/07	39	71	0
BELLE MINA 2 N, AL US	5/9/20	39	5/9/10	40	70	-1
GADSDEN, AL US	5/9/20	38	5/9/60	39	67	-1
GAINESVILLE LOCK, AL US	5/9/20	40	5/9/92	44	62	-4
MOULTON 2, AL US	5/9/20	37	5/9/83	38	63	-1
SAND MOUNTAIN SUBSTATION, AL US	5/9/20	40	5/9/92	42	70	-2
HUNTSVILLE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT JONES FIELD, AL US	5/9/20	40	5/9/92	43	61	-3
FORT BENNING LAWSON FIELD, AL US	5/9/20	44	5/9/13	45	71	-1
BELLE MINA 2 N, AL US	5/10/20	37	5/10/66	38	70	-1
BESSEMER 3 WSW, AL US	5/10/20	38	5/10/84	40	43	-2
DAUPHIN ISLAND NUMBER 2, AL US	5/10/20	63	5/10/83	63	44	0
DEMOPOLIS LOCK AND DAM, AL US	5/10/20	44	5/10/66	45	68	-1
GADSDEN, AL US	5/10/20	39	5/10/66	39	67	0
HAMILTON 3 S, AL US	5/10/20	0	5/10/69	35	58	-3
MARION JUNCTION 2 NE, AL US	5/10/20	41	5/10/84	41	70	0
MOULTON 2, AL US	5/10/20	36	5/10/66	37	63	-1
ROCK MILLS, AL US	5/10/20	35	5/10/90	39	78	-4
SYLACAUGA 4 NE, AL US	5/10/20	37	5/10/84	38	65	-1
HUNTSVILLE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT JONES FIELD, AL US	5/10/20	39	5/10/66	40	61	-1
FORT BENNING LAWSON FIELD, AL US	5/10/20	41	5/10/69	43	71	-2
ANNISTON METROPOLITAN AIRPORT, AL US	5/10/20	39	5/10/66	40	117	-1
MONTGOMERY AIRPORT, AL US	5/10/20	44	5/10/92	45	72	-1
BANKHEAD LOCK AND DAM, AL US	5/11/20	39	5/11/69	39	63	0
BELLE MINA 2 N, AL US	5/11/20	40	5/11/97	41	70	-1
DEMOPOLIS LOCK AND DAM, AL US	5/11/20	44	5/11/97	46	68	-2
GAINESVILLE LOCK, AL US	5/11/20	42	5/11/97	46	62	-4
GENEVA NUMBER 2, AL US	5/11/20	45	5/11/89	46	44	-1
HAMILTON 3 S, AL US	5/11/20	0	5/11/80	36	58	-4
MOULTON 2, AL US	5/11/20	36	5/11/97	40	63	-4
SELMA, AL US	5/11/20	44	5/11/09	44	123	0
HUNTSVILLE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT JONES FIELD, AL US	5/11/20	43	5/11/97	43	61	0
FORT BENNING LAWSON FIELD, AL US	5/11/20	41	5/11/69	49	71	-8
MOBILE DOWNTOWN AIRPORT, AL US	5/11/20	52	5/11/97	52	71	0
GAINESVILLE LOCK, AL US	5/12/20	42	5/12/60	43	62	-1
GENEVA NUMBER 2, AL US	5/12/20	45	5/12/89	45	44	0
FORT BENNING LAWSON FIELD, AL US	5/12/20	43	5/12/69	44	71	-1
Highest Precipitation Daily Record						
ADDISON, AL US	5/27/20	1.35	5/27/97	1.15	82	0.2

Volunteer Precipitation Reports

(CoCoRAHS)

Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network (CoCoRAHS)
May 2020

Ave. Total Precip.			# Stations			Ave. Total Precip.			# Stations			Normal May Precipitation*			
Autauga	3.47	1	Houston	3.08	2	Abbeville	3.82	Baldwin	3.85	29	Jackson	7.46	4	Alberta	3.92
Barbour	3.81	1	Jefferson	3.31	15	Alex City	4.33	Bibb	5.87	1	Lamar	3.04	1	Aliceville	4.60
Blount	3.83	5	Lauderdale	3.59	9	Andalusia	3.89	Bullock	n.a.	0	Lawrence	3.59	4	Ashland	4.00
Butler	n.a.	0	Lee	4.32	4	Athens	5.16	Calhoun	4.56	1	Limestone	3.83	8	Bay Minette	5.81
Chambers	n.a.	0	Lowndes	n.a.	0	Besemer	5.04	Cherokee	2.29	1	Macon	2.57	1	Billingsly	2.62
Chilton	3.02	1	Madison	5.62	20	Centreville WSM	4.23	Choctaw	3.95	1	Marengo	n.a.	0	Chatom	5.79
Clarke	3.51	4	Marion	1.75	2	Claiborne L&D	3.97	Clarke	3.51	4	Marshall	4.43	10	Clayton	3.60
Clay	n.a.	0	Mobile	4.33	18	Dauphin Isl.	4.41	Cleburne	n.a.	0	Monroe	4.13	2	Elba	4.42
Coffee	n.a.	0	Montgomery	4.43	4	Eufaula WR	3.26	Colbert	3.19	8	Morgan	4.50	7	Evergreen	4.52
Conecuh	2.39	2	Perry	n.a.	0	Fayette	4.53	Coosa	4.22	2	Pickens	n.a.	0	Geneva 2	3.68
Coosa	4.22	2	Pike	n.a.	0	Greenville	3.94	Covington	2.83	1	Randolph	3.17	2	Haleyville	6.22
Crenshaw	n.a.	0	Russell	3.54	2	Hamilton 3S	6.30	Cullman	4.37	4	St. Clair	5.32	5	Heflin	4.95
Dale	4.98	1	Shelby	3.73	14	Hurtsboro	3.63	Dallas	3.73	1	Sumter	n.a.	0	Jasper	5.35
DeKalb	5.80	7	Talladega	6.82	4	Lafayette	4.27	Elmore	3.64	5	Tallapoosa	5.77	1	Livingston	4.92
Escambia	4.46	1	Tuscaloosa	2.75	5	Melvin	5.37	Etowah	n.a.	0	Walker	2.85	1	Milstead	4.04
Fayette	3.68	1	Washington	2.43	1	Moulton	5.65	Franklin	n.a.	0	Wilcox	2.94	2	Oneonta	4.73
Geneva	n.a.	0	Winston	4.17	3	Perryville	3.67	Greene	n.a.	0	Plantersville	3.95	Rock Mills	3.46	
Hale	n.a.	0				Rockford	4.19	Henry	n.a.	0	Sylacauga	4.26	Sylacauga	4.26	
						Union Springs	4.08				Uniontown	4.13	Vernon	5.58	
						Warrior L&D	4.26				Wetumpka	3.37			



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