THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA IN HUNTSVILLE

The Alabama Climate Report

Brought to you by the Office of the Alabama Climatologist

Volume 4, Number 12, September 2014

Dr. John Christy, Alabama State Climatologist

Fall is usually a dry season over most of Alabama, which isn't necessarily a bad thing. Farmers and gardeners need drier weather for their harvest of corn, cotton, squash and so forth.

But September kicked off the fall with an especially dry month. In our 25 city sample, rainfall during the month was just over half of normal (2.13" average compared to the 4.15" norm). That put most of the state in some level of drought or abnormal dryness.

While the drought seemed to get worse as you go north, Montgomery had its driest September on record. The capital saw only 0.62" of rain for the month, breaking the 0.81" record set in September 1984.

Huntsville got only 0.49", which was 0.01" more than record set in September 1998. Gainesville Lock & Dam reported only 0.52", while Gadsden saw 0.63" and Decatur 0.65" in September.

While it is often difficult to say exactly why conditions like we saw in September happen, it is worth noting that we are in the midst of another calm hurricane season. The record-setting major hurricane "drought" in the U.S. continues. The last Category 3 or stronger hurricane to hit the continental U.S. was Hurricane Wilma in October 2005. That almost nine-year gap is the longest period in the record book between major hurricanes.

So far this year there have been only five named storms, which is three below normal.

While we don't miss major hurricanes with the destruction they cause, lesser tropical systems can be an important source of rainfall across much of the southeastern U.S., even if they never make landfall here.

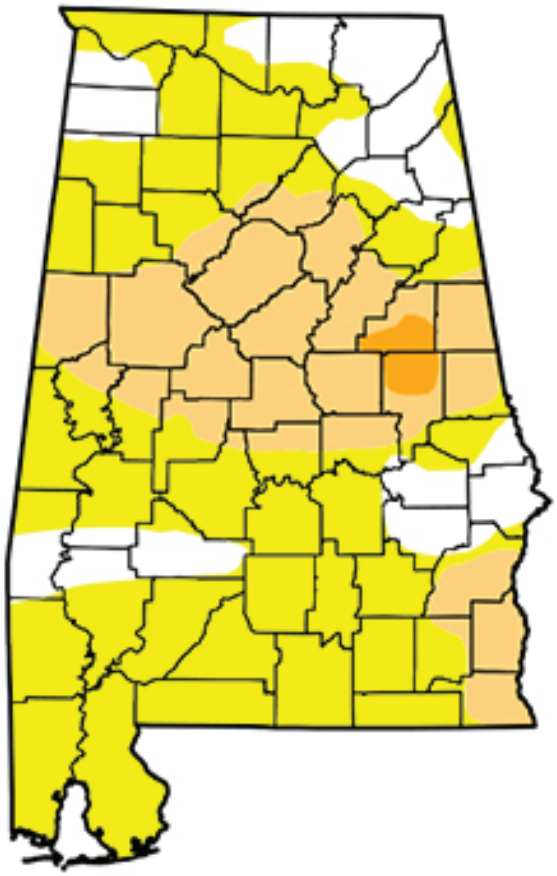
The hurricane season continues through the end of November, so we still have time for some unnamed tropical depression to drive a few inches of rain across the state and help us lift this drought.

It is also a reminder that the hurricane season does continue through November, so this is a good time to make sure you are weather prepared. The longer the hurricane drought continues, the better are the odds that it is going to break. When that happens, it's good to be ready.

- John Christy

U.S. Drought Monitor

Alabama



September 30, 2014

(Released Thursday, Oct. 2, 2014)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	17.21	82.79	26.99	1.25	0.00	0.00
Last Week 9/23/2014	37.03	62.97	11.63	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 7/1/2014	99.27	0.73	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 12/31/2013	97.35	2.65	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 10/1/2013	96.85	3.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 10/1/2013	96.85	3.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

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
NCDC/NOAA

http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/

Community Collaborative Rain, Hail & Snow Network (CoCoRAHS)

September 2014

	Ave. Total Precip.	# Stations
Autauga	2.35	3
Baldwin	4.69	22
Barbour	n.a.	0
Bibb	1.42	1
Blount	3.46	9
Bullock	n.a.	0
Butler	n.a.	0
Calhoun	3.37	2
Chambers	n.a.	0
Cherokee	6.82	1
Chilton	3.26	2
Choctaw	0.35	1
Clarke	3.04	3
Clay	n.a.	0
Cleburne	n.a.	0
Coffee	4.43	1
Colbert	2.31	7
Conecuh	n.a.	0
Coosa	3.91	2
Covington	n.a.	0
Crenshaw	n.a.	0
Cullman	2.76	4
Dale	4.52	2
Dallas	3.66	1
DeKalb	2.32	4
Elmore	2.71	7
Escambia	4.31	1
Etowah	3.21	1
Fayette	3.06	2
Franklin	n.a.	0
Geneva	n.a.	0
Greene	n.a.	0
Hale	n.a.	0
Henry	n.a.	0

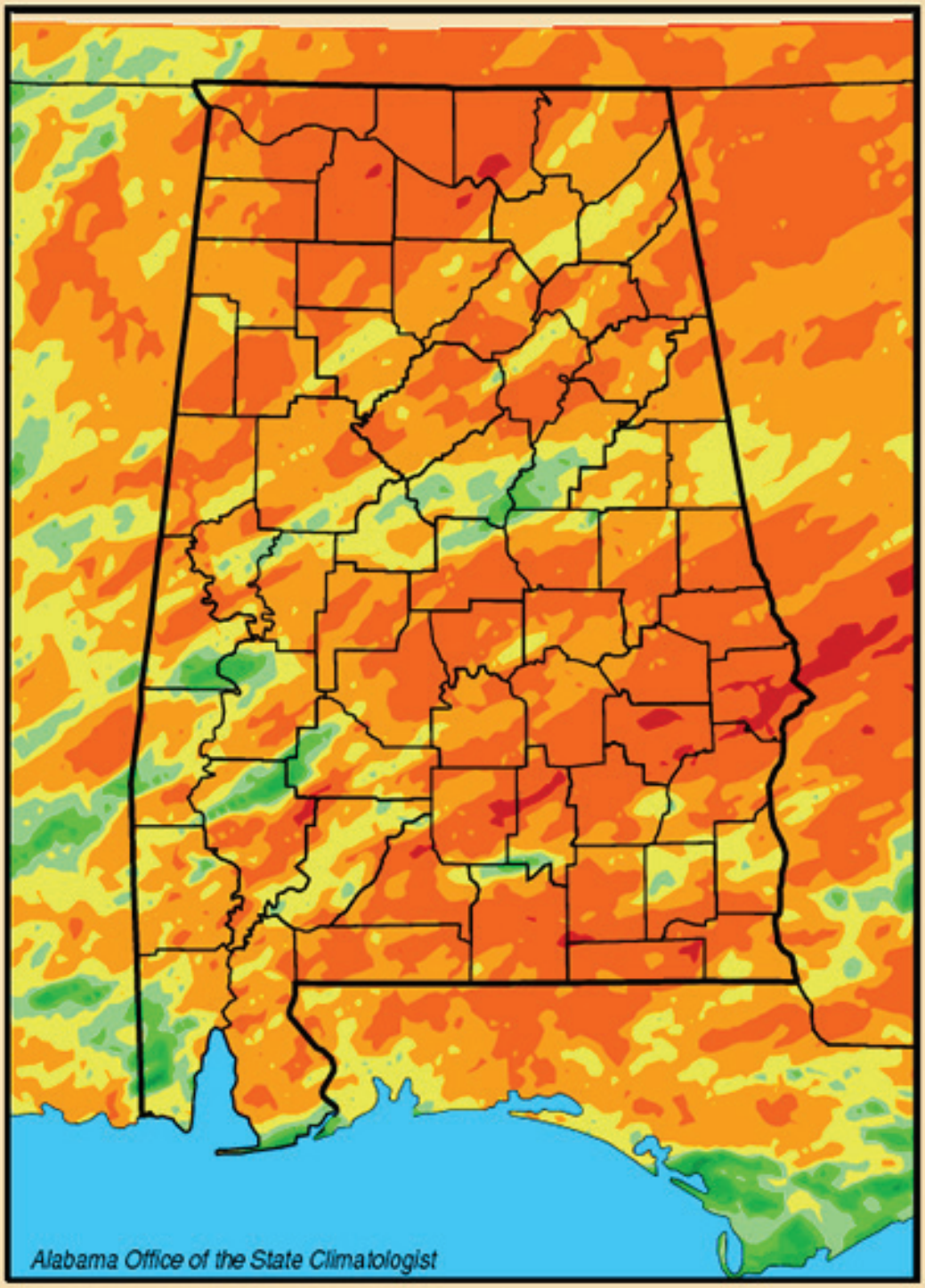
	Ave. Total Precip.	# Stations
Houston	2.33	1
Jackson	2.85	7
Jefferson	3.81	14
Lamar	2.33	1
Lauderdale	1.00	11
Lawrence	2.29	2
Lee	2.67	5
Limestone	3.15	11
Lowndes	n.a.	0
Macon	n.a.	0
Madison	2.24	51
Marengo	n.a.	0
Marion	3.79	1
Marshall	3.30	11
Mobile	4.11	14
Monroe	4.99	2
Montgomery	2.10	3
Morgan	0.99	8
Perry	n.a.	0
Pickens	1.93	1
Pike	n.a.	0
Randolph	3.61	1
Russell	1.99	2
St. Clair	3.24	3
Shelby	3.82	22
Sumter	n.a.	0
Talladega	3.83	6
Tallapoosa	1.69	4
Tuscaloosa	1.50	5
Walker	n.a.	0
Washington	1.94	1
Wilcox	4.50	2
Winston	3.60	2

Normal September Precipitation*

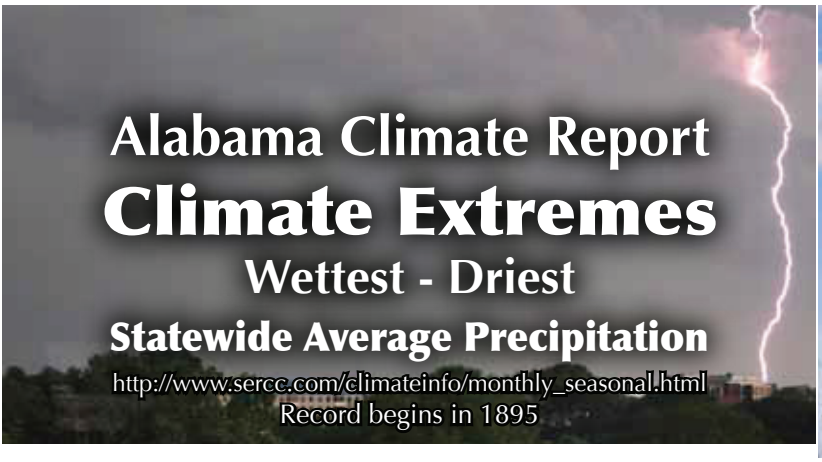
Abbeville	4.00"
Alberta	3.65"
Alex City	4.14"
Aliceville	3.41"
Andalusia	4.78"
Ashland	4.17"
Athens	3.74"
Bay Minette	5.93"
Bessemer	4.18"
Billingsley	3.56"
Centreville WSMO	4.56"
Chatom	4.64"
Claiborne L&D	3.83"
Clayton	4.12"
Dauphin Isl.	4.95"
Elba	4.27"
Eufaula WR	3.67"
Evergreen	4.02"
Fayette	3.50"
Geneva 2	4.28"
Greenville	4.02"
Haleyville	4.24"
Hamilton 3S	4.39"
Heflin	4.08"
Hurtsboro	3.10"
Jasper	4.16"
Lafayette	3.97"
Livingston	3.16"
Melvin	4.05"
Milstead	3.57"
Moulton	4.24"
Oneonta	3.66"
Perryville	3.65"
Plantersville	3.82"
Rock Mills	3.68"
Rockford	4.23"
Sylacauga	4.07"
Union Springs	3.54"
Uniontown	2.99"
Vernon	3.84"
Warrior L&D	3.24"
Wetumpka	3.46"

*Southeast Regional Climate Center
www.sercc.com

Lawn-and-Garden Moisture Index for October 6, 2014



-2.0 -1.5 -1.0 -0.5 0.0 0.5 1.0 1.5 2.0



Alabama Climate Report
Climate Extremes
Wettest - Driest
Statewide Average Precipitation
http://www.sercc.com/climateinfo/monthly_seasonal.html
Record begins in 1895

Year to Date

Wettest	1.	1929	39.86″
	2.	1980	36.48″
	3.	1979	36.19″
	4.	1991	36.02″
	5.	1983	35.63″
	6.	1973	35.23″
	7.	1975	34.46″
	8.	1990	34.31″
	9.	1922	34.24″
	10.	1912	34.03″
	11.	1944	33.92″
	12.	1964	33.68″
	33.	**2014**	**28.03″**
January through May 2014	AVG		25.26″
	12.	1967	18.30″
	11.	1927	18.06″
	10.	2000	17.88″
	9.	1910	17.54″
	8.	1904	17.52″
	7.	1931	17.19″
	6.	1954	16.94″
	5.	1986	16.06″
	4.	1914	15.22″
	3.	1898	14.59″
	2.	1941	13.75″
Driest	1.	2007	13.18″

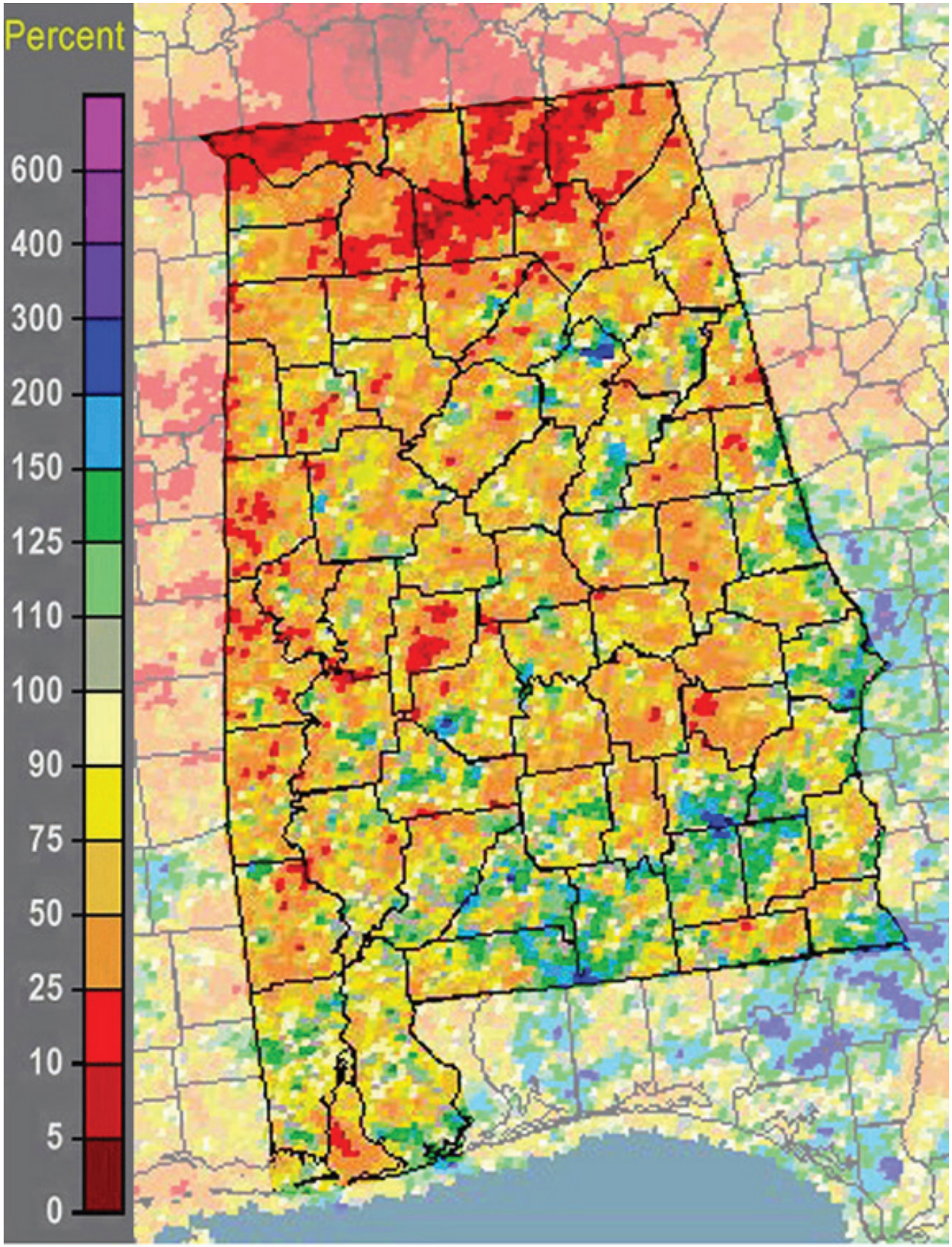
Office of Alabama Climatologist
The University of Alabama in Huntsville
nsstc.uah.edu/aosc/

Alabama Climate Report
Climate Extremes
Hottest - Coldest
Statewide Average Temperature
http://www.sercc.com/climateinfo/monthly_seasonal.html
Record begins in 1895

Year-to-date

Hottest	1.	2012	61.04°
	2.	1927	60.34°
	3.	1911	59.60°
	4.	1938	59.46°
		1950	59.46°
	6.	1974	59.32°
	7.	1921	58.94°
	8.	1957	58.86°
	9.	1922	58.72°
	10.	1945	58.68°
		1990	58.68°
	12.	1925	58.64°
January through May 2014	AVG		56.34°
	12.	1979	54.06°
	11.	**2014**	**53.90°**
	10.	2010	53.86°
	9.	1971	53.72°
	8.	1895	53.58°
	7.	1924	53.48°
	6.	1968	53.44°
	5.	1983	53.42°
	4.	1960	53.22°
	3.	1958	52.58°
	2.	1940	51.94°
Coldest	1.	1978	51.90°

Office of Alabama Climatologist
The University of Alabama in Huntsville
nsstc.uah.edu/aosc/



Sept. 2014 NWS percentage of normal precipitation

New Local Climate Records[1]

September 2014

Maximum High Temperature, Daily

	New Record	Previous Hottest Day	Previous Record	Period of Record
1 September 2014				
GENEVA NUMBER 2	97	2011-09-01	95	38
2 September 2014				
ENTERPRISE 2 W	96	2011-09-02	95	48
HEADLAND	97	1970-09-02	95	64
3 September 2014				
ALEXANDER CITY	95	2011-09-03	94	44
GENEVA NUMBER 2	97	1984-09-03	95	38
6 September 2014				
ENTERPRISE 2 W	96	2002-09-06	94	48
14 September 2014				
CLAYTON	96	1991-09-14	95	58

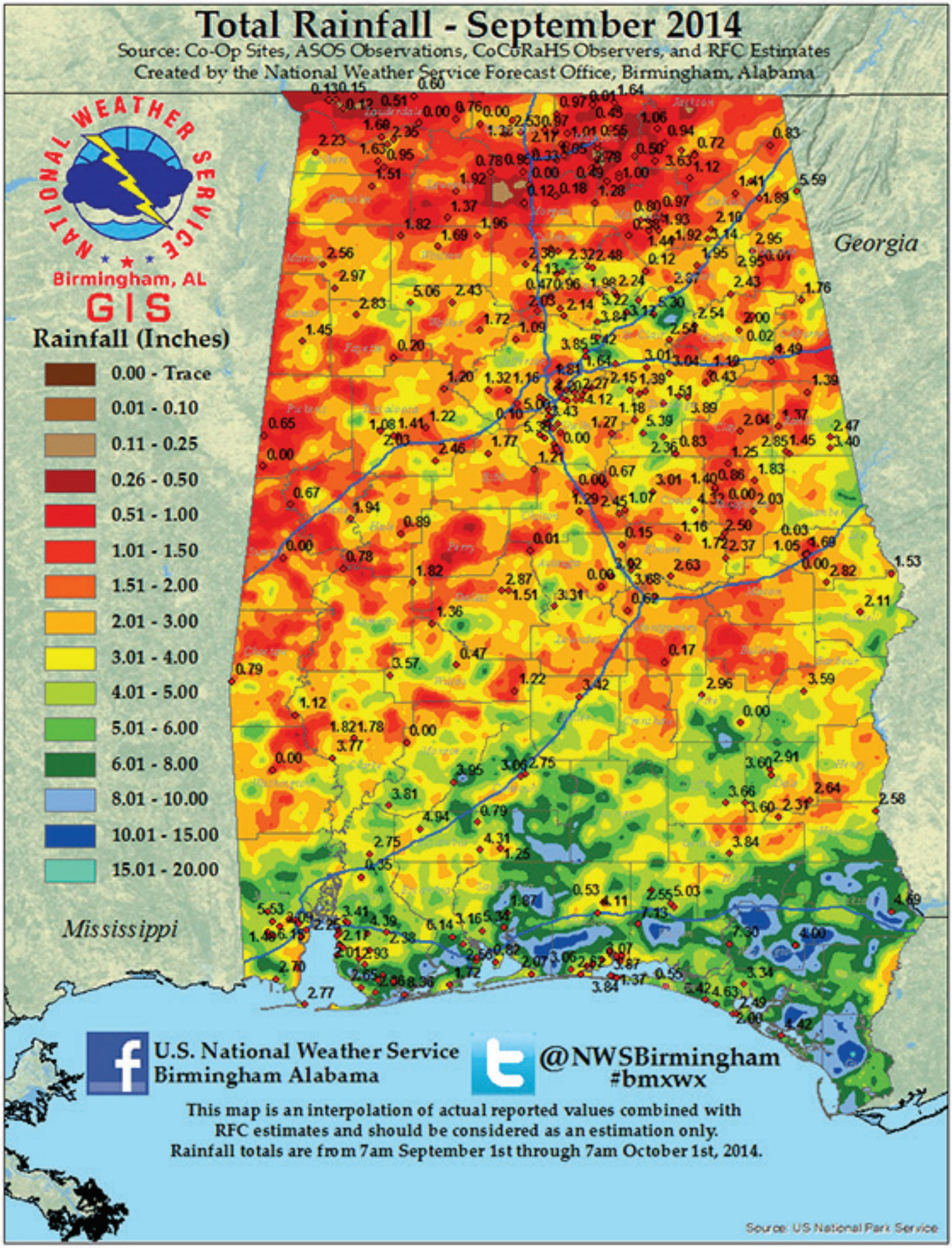
Precipitation, Daily

	New Record	Previous Year	Previous Record	Period of Record
4 September 2014				
BILLINGSLEY	2.21	1984-09-04	0.76	75
GUNTERSVILLE	2.02	1966-09-04	1.89	109
WADLEY	1.43	1967-09-04	1.41	81
8 September 2014				
EUFAULA WILDLIFE REF	3.33	1986-09-08	1.49	47
9 September 2014				
ENTERPRISE 2 W	1.50	1987-09-09	0.25	48
10 September 2014				
CARBON HILL 4 SE	2.36	2008-09-10	1.15	76
12 September 2014				
CARBON HILL 4 SE	2.24	1965-09-12	1.15	76
13 September 2014				
MILLERS FERRY L&D	1.31	2006-09-13	0.81	33
15 September 2014				
THORSBY EXP STATION	2.40	1978-09-15	0.86	56
16 September 2014				
WARRIOR L&DAM	1.12	1978-09-16	0.87	56

[1] http://lwf.ncdc.noaa.gov/extremes/records/

Total Rainfall - September 2014

Source: Co-Op Sites, ASOS Observations, CoCoRaHS Observers, and RFC Estimates
Created by the National Weather Service Forecast Office, Birmingham, Alabama



U.S. National Weather Service
Birmingham Alabama

@NWSBirmingham
#bmxwx

This map is an interpolation of actual reported values combined with RFC estimates and should be considered as an estimation only.
Rainfall totals are from 7am September 1st through 7am October 1st, 2014.

Source: US National Park Service

Alabama State Climatologist
John R. Christy
Alabama State Climatologist
The University of Alabama
in Huntsville
christy@nsstc.uah.edu
256-961-7763

Contact:

Phillip Gentry
UAHuntsville Communications
The University of Alabama in Huntsville
gentry@nsstc.uah.edu
256.961.7618

Bob Clymer
Assistant State Climatologist
The University of Alabama in Huntsville
bob.clymer@nsstc.uah.edu
256-961-7771

http://nsstc.uah.edu/alclimatereport