

# The Alabama Climate Report

Brought to you by the Office of the Alabama Climatologist

Volume 6, Number 7, April 2016



Dr. John Christy, Alabama State Climatologist

People are starting to ask: What impact will a large pool of cooler than normal water out in the middle of the equatorial Pacific Ocean have on this summer's weather in Alabama?

NOAA has issued a La Niña "watch" for the upcoming year, and sea surface temperatures in that part of the Pacific are already cooler than normal, after being warmer than normal during the just passed El Niño Pacific Ocean warming event.

We will most likely be in the transition between the two this summer, which history tells us means a slightly higher than normal chance of a summer than is warmer and drier than seasonal norms, especially in the southern two-thirds of the state.

"Slightly higher than normal" means that if most summers have a 50/50 shot at being warmer or cooler, a La Niña transition summer might have a 55 or 60 percent chance of being warmer and drier. We've had wetter and cooler La Niña summers in the past, but that's the way statistics sometimes work.

That slightly higher than normal chance of warmer and drier also extends into the winter during a La Niña year, especially the closer you are to the Gulf. La Niña pushes northern and Ohio Valley states toward cooler and wetter (brrrr) winters. North Alabama is sort of in the pivot area between the two, so we can go either way or one and then the other. And then back. It's what makes our weather so ... interesting.

El Niño warming and La Niña cooling do these things, in part, by pushing around the jet stream over North America. El Niño tends to pull the jet stream further south, while La Niña tends to keep the jet stream more anchored in the north. But that's just a tendency, not a long range forecast.

June 1 is the start of the Atlantic hurricane season, and we are still in the longest major hurricane "drought" in U.S. history. Hurricane Wilma, in 2005, was the last major hurricane (category 3 or larger) to hit the U.S., so this drought is going on eleven years. The previous longest streak without a major hurricane was eight years.

We should note Atlantic hurricanes tend to be more frequent during La Niña years (not always, but more so than normal), so this might be a good time to make your severe weather plans for this summer and fall.

- John Christy

# U.S. Drought Monitor Alabama



### April 26, 2016

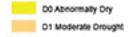
(Released Thursday, Apr. 28, 2016)

#### Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (	(Percent	Area)
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	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	91.12	8.88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 9292016	37.12	62.88	4.86	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 4252015	73.06	26.94	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

#### Intensity:



D3 Extreme Drought D4 Exceptional Drought

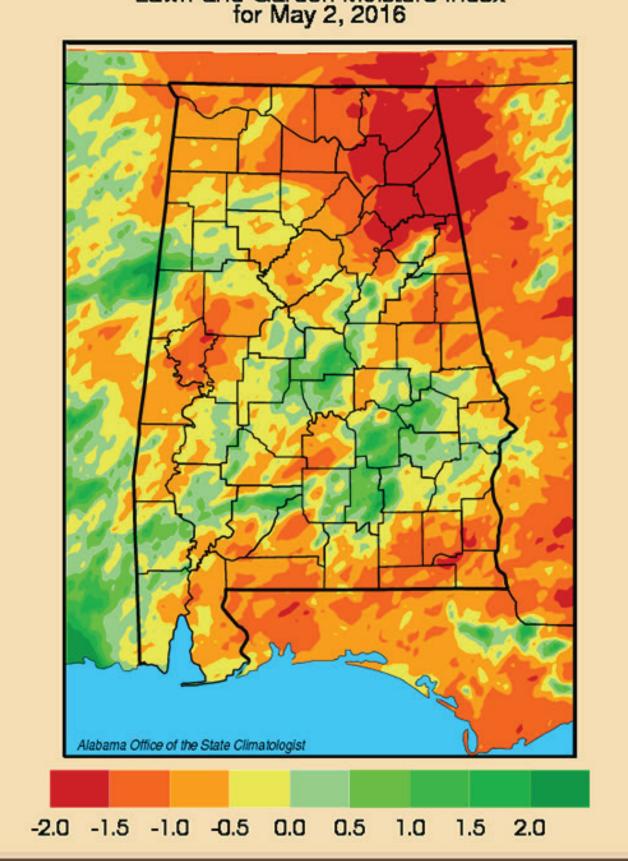
D2 Severe Drought

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 May 2, 2016

#### Alabama Monthly Climate Summaries April 2016

Stat Beg		April Mean April Norm	April Hi Temp Record Hi	April Low Temp Record Low	Total Precip. Normal Prec.	Wettest April Driest April	Heaviest Day Record Day
Anniston 2/19	903	63.5° 62.0°	87° 4/29/16 93° 4/17/55	37° 4/9/16 26° 4/17/1905	3.10" 4.87"	17.30° 1979 0.17° 1986	1.31° 4/11/16 6.15° 4/29/63
Auburn 1/1	893	64.0° 64.0°	86° 4/30/16 94° 4/30/42	43° 4/4/16 27° 4/13/40	7.67* 4.92*	17.66* 1964 0.50* 1915	2.68° 4/1/16 5.15° 4/8/64
Birmingham 1/1	930	64.4° 62.6°	86° 4/29/16 92° 4/21/87	40° 4/9/16 26° 4/11/73	3.75° 4.67°	13.75° 1979 0.42° 1986	1.82° 4/11/16 4.61° 4/12/79
Brewton 4/19	977	65.2° 65.3°	88.3° 4/29/16 95° 4/30/43	39.8° 4/9/16 25° 4/7/50	3.66" 4.50"	11.13* 1975 0.50* 1981	1.13" 4/14/16 9.60" 4/14/55
Calera 9/1	900	64.3° 62.4°	87° 4/29/16 90° 4/24/60	40° 4/9/16 25° 4/11/73	4.52" 5.15"	18.32° 1979 0.10° 1925	2.16" 4/11/16 5.33" 4/13/79
Clanton 2/1	893	62.9° 62.7°	84.6° 4/29/16 94° 4/25/25	39.0° 4/9/16 26° 4/13/40	6.56" 5.43"	22.00° 1979 0.12° 1986	2.08" 4/11/16 9.00" 4/8/38
Courtland		61.2° M	84.5° 4/28/16 M	37.7° 4/9/16 M	4.36" M	M M	1.63" 4/11/16 M
Cullman 7/19	907	60.2° M	82.2° 4/30/16 M	33.2° 4/9/16 M	3.32" M	M M	1.58° 4/11/16 M
Decatur 2/1	880	61.8° 61.6°	86° 4/28/16 92° 4/29/1899	40° 4/9/16 26° 4/6/1898	2.67" 4.50"	13.57° 1911 0.58° 1930	1.21° 4/11/16 4.38° 4/6/1892
Dothan 2/1	902	66.4° 67.3°	89° 4/29/16 95° 4/30/42	42° 4/9/16 31° 4/13/40	5.79" 4.11"	10.32* 1944 0.54* 1967	"4.30" 4/1/16 4.25" 4/6/37
Fairhope 8/19	917	66.6° 66.9°	85.2° 4/29/16 97° 4/10/23	39.1° 4/9/16 29° 4/13/40	7.37" 4.53"	13.53* 1980 0.11* 1999	4.28° 4/1/16 8.31° 4/15/96
Gadsden 7/1	893	59.8° 61.6°	81.8° 4/30/16 94° 4/30/15	38° 4/10/16 24° 4/7/52	2.46" 5.21"	12.65* 1979 0.57* 1986	0.79° 4/11/16 4.60° 4/13/79
Gainesville Lock 6/19	948	63.7° 63.3°	85.1° 4/28/16 92°+ 4/28/87	39.7° 4/9/16 29° 4/1/87	3.41" 5.37"	18.41° 1979 0.34° 1976	2.65" 4/11/16 7.55" 4/13/79
Greensboro 2/1	890	63.6° 64.4°	83.8° 4/29/16 97° 4/25/16	38.2° 4/9/16 28° 4/13/40	4.02" 5.33"	12.37* 1979 0.59* 1987	2.34" 4/11/16 4.46" 4/5/56
Highland Home 3/1	892	64.8° 64.8°	84.2° 4/29/16 96° 4/30/1906	44.2° 4/3/16 24° 4/4/87	6.77* 4.57*	14.00° 1964 0.35° 1915	2.51° 4/1/16 7.57° 4/27/64
Huntsville 1/19	959	63.4° 61.2°	87° 4/26/16 92° 4/16/67	40° 4/9/16 26° 4/1/87	2.24" 4.86"	12.55* 1964 0.42* 1986	1.10" 4/11/16 3.85" 4/5/83

#### Alabama Monthly Climate Summaries April 2016

		April Mean April Norm	April Hi Temp Record Hi	April Low Temp Record Lo	Total Precip. Normal Prec.	Wettest April Driest April	Heaviest Day Record Day
Mobile	3/1900	67.5° 67.3°	86° 4/29/16 94° 4/21/87	40° 4/9/16 32° 4/5/87	5.89" 5.70"	15.43" 1980 0.08" 1999	2.68" 4/1/16 6.65" 4/5/57
Montgomery	6/1948	66.8° 64.8°	89° 4/29/16 91°+ 4/5/88	43° 4/9/16 28° 4/1/87	6.62" 4.34"	15.64" 1964 0.52" 1986	2.22" 4/11/16 4.54" 4/8/64
Muscle Shoals 1	2/1940	63.5° 61.5°	87° 4/28/16 92° 4/30/87	40° 4/9/16 27° 4/11/89	3.66" 4.43"	12.81° 1983 0.36° 1986	1.27" 4/11/16 5.34" 4/5/83
Russellville	9/1953	60.2° 58.0°	83.6° 4/28/16 89°+ 4/11/01	31.6° 4/9/16 22° 4/11/73	2.57" 4.97"	14.00° 1991 0.57° 1986	1.25" 4/11/16 3.85" 4/6/83
Scottsboro 1	0/1891	60.7° 58.7°	83.4° 4/28/16 92° 4/30/43	34.9° 4/10/16 23°+ 4/3/92	1.95" 4.52"	9.57" 2000 1.22" 1976	0.71" 4/11/16 3.72" 4/29/63
Selma	1/1895	63.9° 63.5°	84.8° 4/29/16 93°+ 4/22/87	37.7° 4/9/16 29° 4/13/40	6.22" 4.33"	10.02" 1973 0.22" 1986	2.00" 4/11/16 8.74" 4/8/38
Talladega	2/1888	62.6° 59.8°	87.0° 4/29/16 92° 4/18/55	36.0° 4/9/16 24°+ 4/3/92	2.80" 4.80"	18.27" 1979 0.35" 1986	1.38" 4/11/16 5.72" 4/4/74
Thomasville	9/1891	64.0° 64.1°	84.6° 4/29/16 94° 4/22/87	36.8° 4/9/16 27° 4/13/40	4.17" 4.64"	12.02" 1979 0.49" 1987	1.89" 4/11/16 5.47" 4/3/79
Troy	6/1908	64.0° 63.4°	84.9° 4/29/16 94° 4/30/42	37.8° 4/9/16 29° 4/13/40	5.63" 4.25"	8.41" 1979 0.73" 1986	1.70" 4/1/16 4.52" 4/15/34
Tuscaloosa	6/1948	63.9° 63.9°	87° 4/29/16 94° 4/21/87	38° 4/9/16 29° 4/1/87	3.92" 5.10"	14.41" 1979 0.30" 1987	2.20" 4/11/16 6.44" 4/12/79
Valley Head	1/1893	59.3° 55.9°	82.9° 4/30/16 88°+ 4/27/86	31.1° 4/9/16 19° 4/3/92	2.06" 4.73"	10.08" 1979 1.10" 1976	0.68" 4/6/16 4.18" 4/30/63
Statewide April 2 April N		63.63° / 62.84° /	89° 2 stations 97° 2 stations	31.1° Valley Head 19° Valley Head	4.38" 4.79"	22.0" Clanton 0.08" Mobile	4.30" Dothan 9.60" Brewton

M: Data is missing or not available

\*New Record

#This data is missing this month due to an instrument malfunction

\* This record differs from long-term data in the AOSC climate database: http://nsstc.uah.edu/alclimate/climate/daily\_climate\_and\_normals.php

# New Local Climate Records<sup>1</sup> April 2016

## Precipitation, Daily

	,	-	
New	Previous		Period of
Record	Year	Record	Record
		4.75.95	
			36
			76
1.80	1998-04-01		59
1.72	1988-04-01	1.39	66
1.53	2005-04-01	1.10	34
2.07	1957-04-01	1.87	59
1.92	1981-04-01	1.62	68
1.65	1998-04-01	0.92	35
2.40	1998-04-01	0.93	55
4.32	1981-04-01	3.78	35
2.91	1957-04-01	2.66	79
2.90	1948-04-01	2.38	78
1.80	1970-04-01	1.05	62
1.61	1998-04-01	1.50	67
2.58	1957-04-01	2.25	61
2.02	1920-04-01	1.98	116
2.78	1981-04-01	1.53	58
2.29	2005-04-02	0.79	40
			50
			98
			104
176	2013-04-11	1.50	39
			68
2.20		1.00	
1.82	1988-04-12	1.69	78
			34
			35
			35
			61
			121
2.42	1330-04-12	2.20	121
0.25	1000 04 47	0.02	40
0.30	1999-04-17	0.02	40
1.50	1066 04 20	4.94	54
1.50	1500-04-30	1.04	34
	Record 3.47 2.02 2.67 1.80 1.72 1.53 2.07 1.92 1.65 2.40 4.32 2.91 2.90 1.61 2.58 12.02 2.78 2.29 4.55 4.34 4.17 1.76 2.20 1.82 2.52 2.00 1.55	Record Year   3.47 1981-04-01   2.02 1998-04-01   2.67 1957-04-01   1.80 1998-04-01   1.72 1988-04-01   1.72 1988-04-01   1.72 1988-04-01   1.72 1988-04-01   1.92 1981-04-01   1.65 1998-04-01   2.40 1998-04-01   2.40 1998-04-01   2.41 1981-04-01   2.90 1948-04-01   2.91 1957-04-01   2.90 1948-04-01   1.80 1970-04-01   1.61 1998-04-01   2.02 1920-04-01   2.78 1981-04-01   2.78 1981-04-01   2.78 1981-04-01   2.78 1981-04-01   2.78 1981-04-01   2.78 1981-04-01   2.78 1981-04-01   2.78 1981-04-02   4.17 1945-04-02   4.17 1945	Record Year Record   3.47 1981-04-01 2.83   2.02 1998-04-01 1.49   2.67 1957-04-01 1.94   1.80 1998-04-01 1.39   1.72 1988-04-01 1.39   1.53 2005-04-01 1.62   1.65 1998-04-01 0.92   2.40 1998-04-01 0.93   4.32 1981-04-01 3.78   2.91 1957-04-01 2.66   2.90 1948-04-01 2.38   1.80 1970-04-01 1.05   1.61 1998-04-01 2.38   1.80 1970-04-01 1.05   1.61 1998-04-01 1.50   2.58 1957-04-01 2.25   12.02 1920-04-01 1.98   2.78 1981-04-01 1.53   2.29 2005-04-02 2.91   4.17 1945-04-02 2.61   1.76 2013-04-11 1.50   1.220 <td< td=""></td<>

# Maximum High Temperature, Daily

F	New Record	Previous Hottest Day	Previous Record	Period of Record
27 April 2016				
MARION JUNCTION 2 NE	88	2015-04-27	87	66
29 April 2016				
GAINESVILLE LOCK	89	2002-04-29	88	58
MARION JUNCTION 2 NE	90	2002-04-29	88	66
30 April 2016				
BANKHEAD LOCK & DAM	90	1985-04-30	88	59

Precipitation, Wettest
April Day on Record

	New Record	Previous Wettest Day		Period of Record
01 April 2016 JONES BLUFF L&DAM 02 April 2016	4.32	1981-04-01	3.78	35
ENTERPRISE 2 W	4.55	2004-04-30	4.36	50

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

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### Community Collaborative Rain, Hail & Snow Network (CoCoRAHS)

1	Total Precip.	# Stations
Autauga	9.78	2
Baldwin	6.56	22
Barbour	n.a.	0
Bibb	n.a.	0
Blount	4.32	9
Bullock	n.a.	0
Butler	n.a.	0
Calhoun	2.54	2
Chambers	n.a.	0
Cherokee	3.68	1
Chilton	4.72	2
Choctaw	6.37	1
Clarke	5.22	1
Clay	n.a.	0
Cleburne	n.a.	0
Coffee	6.62	1
Colbert	5.67	6
Conecuh	n.a.	0
Coosa	9.59	2
Covington	n.a.	0
Crenshaw	n.a.	0
Cullman	4.73	5
Dale	7.28	1
Dallas	9.24	1
DeKalb	2.60	3
Elmore	10.52	7
Escambia	7.52	1
Etowah	4.12	1
Fayette	3.91	1
Franklin	n.a.	0
Geneva	n.a.	0
Greene	n.a.	0
Hale	n.a.	0
Henry	n.a.	0

April 2016
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April 20	16 Total Precip.	# Stations
Houston	10.03	1
Jackson	3.50	7
Jefferson	4.84	13
Lamar	n.a.	0
Lauderdale	4.91	11
Lawrence	5.64	2
Lee	8.82	3
Limestone	4.44	10
Lowndes	n.a.	0
Macon	n.a.	0
Madison	3.15	46
Marengo	n.a.	0
Marion	7.62	1
Marshall	3.56	10
Mobile	6.56	14
Monroe	6.67	2
Montgomery	9.21	3
Morgan	4.77	5
Репу	n.a.	0
Pickens	6.93	1
Pike	n.a.	0
Randolph	6.20	2
Russell	6.18	2
St. Clair	4.65	5
Shelby	5.01	17
Sumter	n.a.	0
Talladega	5.34	4
Tallapoosa	6.20	4
Tuscaloosa	5.88	5
Walker	n.a.	0
Washington	4.63	1
Wilcox	5.09	2
Winston	5.76	2

Normal							
April							
Precipitatio	n*						
Abbeville	.4.08"						
Alberta	.4.89"						
Alex City	.4.56"						
Aliceville							
Andalusia	.4.88"						
Ashland	.4.64"						
Athens	.4.53"						
Bay Minette	. 5.31"						
Bessemer							
Billingsley	. 5.00"						
Centreville WSMO							
Chatom							
Claiborne L&D							
Clayton	. 4.25°						
Dauphin Isl	. 4.31"						
Elba							
Eufaula WR							
Evergreen							
Fayette	. 5.75"						
Geneva 2	. 3.92"						
Greenville	.4.71"						
Haleyville	. 5.48"						
Hamilton 3S	. 5.89"						
Heflin	. 5.26"						
Hurtsboro	. 3.92"						
Jasper	. 5.59"						
Lafayette	. 5.15"						
Livingston	. 5.10"						
Melvin							
Milstead	. 4.59"						
Moulton	. 5.16"						
Oneonta	. 5.01"						
Perryville	. 5.06"						
Plantersville	. 5.18"						
Rock Mills	. 4.90"						
Rockford	. 5.23"						
Sylacauga	.4.74"						
Union Springs	.4.45"						
Uniontown	. 4.64"						
Vernon	. 5.52"						
Warrior L&D	. 5.12"						
Wetumpka	4.68"						
Coulterest Conterest Cilerat	- Contra						

Southeast Regional Climate Center

www.serrc.com

# **Alabama Climate Report Climate Extremes Hottest - Coldest**

**Statewide Average Temperature** 

http://www.sercc.com/climateinfo/monthly seasonal.html **Record begins in 1895** 

# January

Hottest	1.	1950	58.9°
	2.	1937	57.0°
	3.	1974	55.0°
	4.	1907	53.6°
	5.	1949	52.7°
	6.	1952	52.4°
	7.	1932	51.9°
	8.	1916	51.8°
	9.	1933	51.4°
	10.	1913	51.2°
	11.	2006	51.1°
	12.	1923	50.9°
		AVG	45.0°
	47.	2015	<b>43.5</b> °
	12.	1961	39.2°
	12. 11.	1961 1963	39.2° 39.1°
	12. 11. 10.	1961 1963 1905	39.2° 39.1° 38.6°
	12. 11. 10. 9.	1961 1963 1905 1948	39.2° 39.1° 38.6° 38.5°
	12. 11. 10.	1961 1963 1905	39.2° 39.1° 38.6° 38.5° 38.0°
	12. 11. 10. 9.	1961 1963 1905 1948	39.2° 39.1° 38.6° 38.5°
	12. 11. 10. 9. 8.	1961 1963 1905 1948 1970	39.2° 39.1° 38.6° 38.5° 38.0°
	12. 11. 10. 9. 8. 7.	1961 1963 1905 1948 1970 1979	39.2° 39.1° 38.6° 38.5° 38.0° 37.8°
	12. 11. 10. 9. 8. 7. 6.	1961 1963 1905 1948 1970 1979 1918	39.2° 39.1° 38.6° 38.5° 38.0° 37.8° 37.4°
	12. 11. 10. 9. 8. 7. 6. 5.	1961 1963 1905 1948 1970 1979 1918 2014	39.2° 39.1° 38.6° 38.5° 38.0° 37.8° 37.4° 37.3°
	12. 11. 10. 9. 8. 7. 6. 5. 4.	1961 1963 1905 1948 1970 1979 1918 2014 1985	39.2° 39.1° 38.6° 38.5° 38.0° 37.8° 37.8° 37.4° 37.3° 37.2°

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

# **Alabama Climate Report Climate Extremes** Wettest - Driest

**Statewide Average Precipitation** 

http://www.sercc.com/climateinfo/monthly\_seasonal.html Record begins in 1895

# January

Wettest	1.	1936	11.49″
	2.	1925	10.08″
	3.	1947	9.97''
	4.	1937	9.10″
	5.	1972	8.52″
	6.	1990	8.44″
	7.	1946	8.37″
	8.	1974	8.20″
	9.	1998	8.14″
	10.	1926	7.96″
	11.	1999	7.94″
	12.	1979	7.68″
		AVG	5.06″
	52.	2015	4.35″
	12.	1935	2.76″
	12. 11.	1935 1941	2.76″ 2.72″
	12. 11. 10.	1935 1941 2014	2.76″ 2.72″ 2.70″
	12. 11. 10. 9.	1935 1941 2014 1956	2.76" 2.72" 2.70" 2.68"
	12. 11. 10. 9. 8.	1935 1941 2014 1956 2003	2.76" 2.72" 2.70" 2.68" 2.33"
	12. 11. 10. 9. 8. 7.	1935 1941 2014 1956 2003 1907	2.76" 2.72" 2.70" 2.68" 2.33" 2.21"
	12. 11. 10. 9. 8. 7. 6.	1935 1941 2014 1956 2003 1907 1914	2.76" 2.72" 2.70" 2.68" 2.33" 2.21" 2.14"
	12. 11. 10. 9. 8. 7. 6. 5.	1935 1941 2014 1956 2003 1907 1914 1986	2.76" 2.72" 2.70" 2.68" 2.33" 2.21" 2.14" 2.13"
	12. 11. 10. 9. 8. 7. 6. 5. 4.	1935 1941 2014 1956 2003 1907 1914 1986 1909	2.76" 2.72" 2.70" 2.68" 2.33" 2.21" 2.14" 2.13" 2.05"
	12. 11. 10. 9. 8. 7. 6. 5.	1935 1941 2014 1956 2003 1907 1914 1986	2.76" 2.72" 2.70" 2.68" 2.33" 2.21" 2.14" 2.13" 2.05" 1.52"
	12. 11. 10. 9. 8. 7. 6. 5. 4.	1935 1941 2014 1956 2003 1907 1914 1986 1909	2.76" 2.72" 2.70" 2.68" 2.33" 2.21" 2.14" 2.13" 2.05"

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http://nsstc.uah.edu/alclimatereport