

The Alabama Climate Report

Brought to you by the Office of the Alabama Climatologist

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Dr. John Christy, Alabama State Climatologist

It feels like it was a mild summer, but something interesting was happening while most of us were asleep: Temperatures weren't dropping as much as they usually do, keeping average summer temps warmer than we might have realized.

This wasn't unique for Alabama. In a recent conference call with other state climatologists around the south, we were all talking about our warmer than normal nights this summer.

How warm?

According to data from the Southeastern Regional Climate Center (SERCC), daily lows in Mobile, Birmingham and Huntsville were all in the top 14 warmest summers; Montgomery's summer lows were the 4th warmest on record (which goes back to 1948).

By comparison, high temperatures in all four cities were cooler than normal for June, July and August. How cool? Alabama had only two 100° days reported this summer (both in Andalusia/Opp in July). There were only five 99° reports this summer.

The SERCC data also says the past 12 and 24 month periods were the warmest September through August periods on record, which means something was going on before May, when our 21-cities sample says the state's average temperature dropped below the monthly norms.

A look at our sample over the past 12 months shows eight warmer than normal months followed by a cool May and summer. How warm? September 2016 averaged more than 3° warmer than normal, and October more than four. January was 8.3° warmer and February more than 7° warmer than normal.

Winter months tend to have larger swings in temperature than summer months, but we might not notice those as much when winter temps are relatively comfortable and warm. But those warm winter months add into the yearly average, in this case enough to offset a relatively mild summer and give us those record September-through-August warm temperatures.

We should also note both the end of the continental U.S. major hurricane drought, with the land-fall of Hurricane Harvey, and the presence now of Hurricane Irma. The remnants of Harvey were strong enough to bring significant rain to Alabama, and to spin up three tornadoes, including an EF-2 that hit Reform and injured six people.

Alabama isn't in the most recent forecast bulls eye for Irma, but we are close enough to start feeling uncomfortable. With its record-breaking sustained winds, Irma won't need to make a direct hit on Alabama to cause extensive damage. Not to sound like a broken record (or CD), but it isn't nearly too early to be making severe weather preparations ... just in case.

Keep an eye on the weather and be safe.

- John Christy

U.S. Drought Monitor Alabama



August 29, 2017
(Released Thursday, Aug. 31, 2017)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	99.95	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week 08-22-2017	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 06-30-2017	88.42	11.58	0.33	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-01-2017	22.97	77.03	68.12	48.58	23.32	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-01-2016	17.15	82.85	47.12	17.94	6.36	0.00
One Year Ago 08-30-2016	50.76	49.24	27.23	9.52	1.51	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.

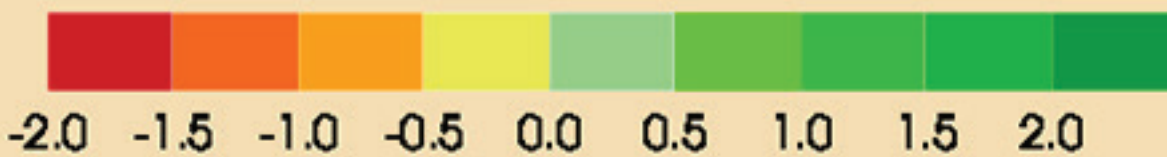
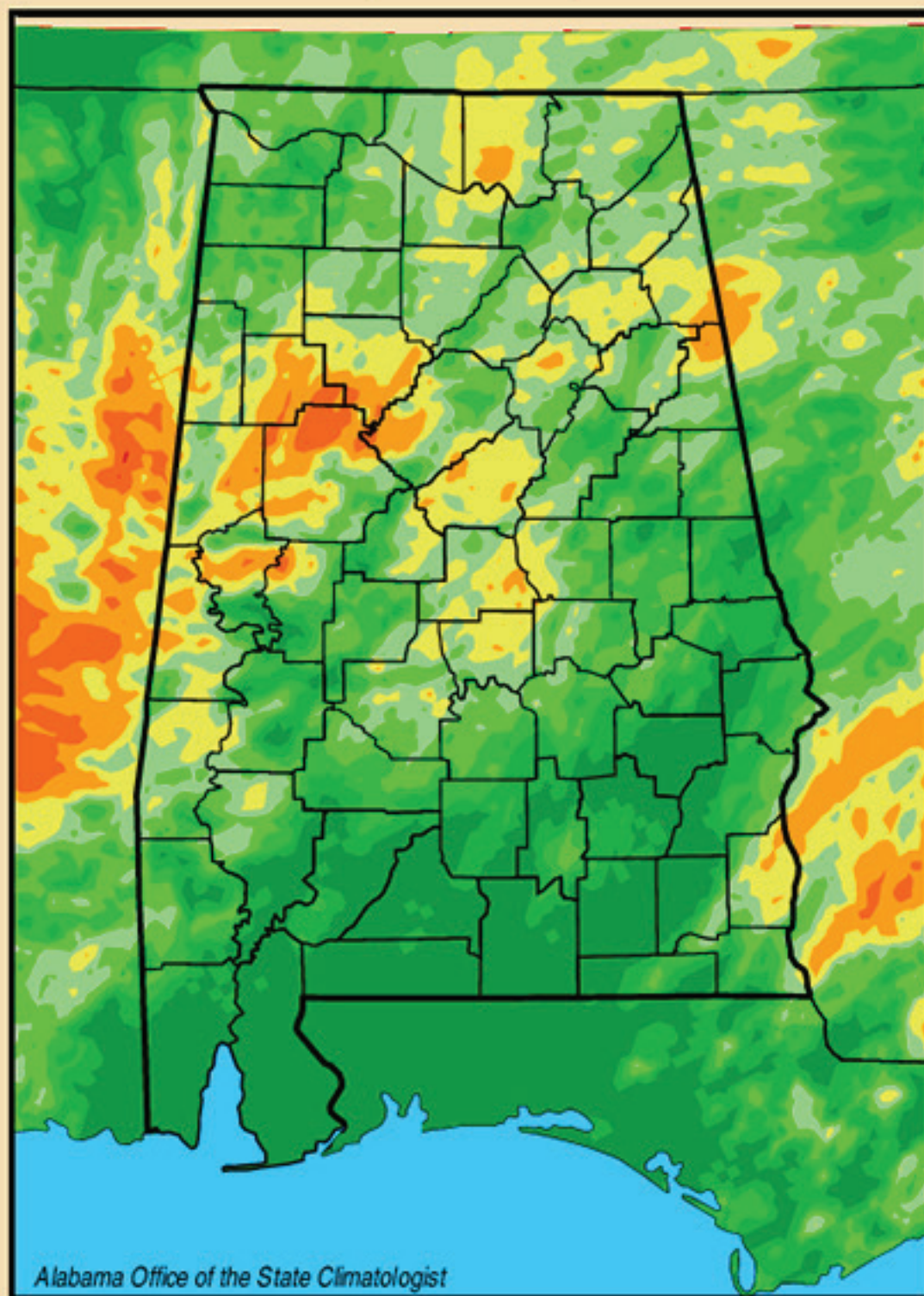
Author:

Chris Fenimore
NCEI/NESDIS/NOAA



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

Lawn-and-Garden Moisture Index for September 6, 2017



Alabama Monthly Climate Summaries

August 2017

	Station Began	August Mean August Norm	August Hi Temp Record Hi	August Low Temp Record Low	Total Precip. Normal Prec.	Wettest August Driest August	Heaviest Day Record Day
Anniston	2/1903	78.7°	93° 8/20/17	63 8/25/17	5.71"	7.54" 1974	1.45" 8/14/17
		79.5°	106° 8/21/83	50 8/28/52	3.35"	.50" 1983	5.57" 8/24/67
Auburn	1/1893	79.0°	93° 8/20/17	63 8/1/17	6.00"	11.03" 1944	1.63" 8/30/17
		79.7°	106° 8/20/25	54 8/29/68	4.28"	.01" 1925	3.73" 8/17/39
Birmingham	1/1930	79.6°	93° 8/20/17	62 8/25/17	7.61"	8.98" 1998	2.58" 8/8/17
		79.6°	104° 8/8/35	51 8/31/46	3.48"	.38" 1989	4.15" 8/2/41
Brewton	4/1977	77.8°	92.2° 8/20/17	63.3 8/1/17	8.39"	14.69" 1977	1.78" 8/30/17
		79.7°	104°+ 8/13/54	53+ 8/30/68	5.64"	1.67" 1980	7.20" 8/4/95
Calera	9/1900	80.0°	94° 8/20/17	67 8/1/17	7.26"	15.00" 1939	1.25" 8/8/17
		78.4°	102° 8/10/56	50 8/26/66	4.23"	.33" 1998	5.70" 8/26/08
Clanton	2/1893	77.2°	92.6° 8/20/17	61.2 8/25/17	3.00"	7.98" 1974	0.74" 8/30/17
		78.3°	105° 8/8/35	51 8/24/57	3.73"	.45" 1990	6.75" 8/26/70
Courtland		76.2°	92.5° 8/20/17	59.3 8/25/17	6.27"	M	1.67" 8/7/17
		M	M	M	M	M	M
Cullman	7/1907	75.2°	90.3° 8/22/17	57.6 8/25/17	4.56"	M	1.03" 8/30/17
		M	M	M	M	M	M
Decatur	2/1880	77.0°	94° 8/20/17	59 8/24/17	3.84"	11.93" 1919	1.25" 8/31/17
		79.8°	107° 8/1/35	52 8/26/17	3.61"	.00" 1962	3.95" 8/22/60
Dothan	2/1902	81.7°	96° 8/20/17	63 8/1/17	5.06"	20.85" 1939	1.75" 8/14/17
		81.2°	103° 8/26/38	43 8/24/1902	4.81"	1.47" 1958	4.80" 8/10/31
Fairhope	8/1917	79.3°	92.4° 8/18/17	62.5 8/1/17	13.36"	14.23" 1984	5.04" 8/4/17
		81.1°	102° 8/30/00	60+ 8/30/92	6.22"	1.25" 1997	5.74" 8/2/84
Gadsden	7/1893	74.3°	89.7° 8/20/17	55.8 8/25/17	3.15"	9.52" 1992	1.06" 8/31/17
		78.9°	105° 8/16/54	52+ 8/12/67	3.65"	.10" 1983	3.32" 8/6/60
Gainesville Lock	6/1948	78.1°	92.9° 8/19/17	62.5 8/25/17	5.85"	8.11" 1992	2.91" 8/7/17
		80.3°	103°+ 8/30/00	55 8/30/66	2.91"	.37" 1990	4.12" 8/10/70
Greensboro	2/1890	77.5°	92.4° 8/20/17	63.0 8/25/17	4.69"	7.01" 1993	1.96" 8/31/17
		81.3°	107° 8/26/43	55 8/22/56	3.30"	1.16" 1989	4.22" 8/31/61
Highland Home	3/1892	77.4°	90.8° 8/20/17	65.6 8/25/17	6.76"	8.28" 1984	2.30" 8/30/17
		79.0°	103° 8/9/54	56 8/29/92	4.30"	.89" 1997	3.65" 8/12/86
Huntsville	1/1959	78.9°	96° 8/20/17	59 8/25/17	3.86"	9.81" 1986	0.80" 8/9/17
		78.9°	108° 8/8/30	50 8/10/1954	3.42"	.58" 1998	4.29" 8/10/86

Alabama Monthly Climate Summaries

August 2017

	Station Began	August Mean August Norm	August Hi Temp Record Hi	August Low Temp Record Lo	Total Precip. Normal Prec.	Wettest August Driest August	Heaviest Day Record Day
Mobile	3/1900	81.7°	96° 8/18/17	67 8/1/17	12.79"	15.19" 1984	3.47" 8/29/17
		81.3°	105° 8/29/2000	57 8/25/1891	6.20"	1.04" 1997	5.65" 8/1/84
Montgomery	6/1948	82.8°	98° 8/20/17	67 8/1/17	8.14"	10.43" 1984	*5.73" 8/10/17
		81.2°	104°+ 8/24/83	56 8/29/92	3.63"	.73" 1997	5.38" 8/2/84
Muscle Shoals	12/1940	78.1°	96° 8/20/17	62 8/25/17	5.67"	6.78" 1979	1.40" 8/14/17
		79.1°	105°+ 8/16/54	53+ 8/29/92	2.96"	.15" 1990	3.43" 8/25/76
Russellville	9/1953	74.8°	91.1° 8/20/17	55.4 8/25/17	*6.96"	6.83" 1997	1.75" 8/7/17
		77.0°	103°+ 8/30/00	46+ 8/29/87	2.97"	.07" 1999	3.69" 8/16/85
Scottsboro	10/1891	75.1°	91.5° 8/20/17	57.5 8/24/17	3.57"	7.70" 1985	1.03" 8/7/17
		77.7°	105°+ 8/16/54	46 8/23/82	3.43"	.74" 1999	4.39" 8/11/01
Selma	1/1895	78.0°	93.8° 8/20/17	61.5 8/1/17	3.52"	8.84" 1984	0.83" 8/8/17
		81.0°	105°+ 8/30/54	57+ 8/30/92	4.01"	.71" 1990	5.35" 8/15/39
Talladega	2/1888	80.0°	96.0° 8/31/16	68.1 8/23/17	2.43"	9.11" 1984	0.67" 8/2/17
		77.3°	103° 8/16/54	46 8/23/50	3.52"	.60" 1999	4.30" 8/11/82
Thomasville	9/1891	77.2°	92.2° 8/20/17	61.7 8/1/17	6.98"	9.01" 1996	2.08" 8/8/17
		80.9°	105°+ 8/31/54	53 8/22/56	3.88"	1.02" 1989	6.05" 8/14/39
Troy	6/1908	79.6°	95° 8/23/17	61 8/1/17	*8.92"	8.38" 1996	3.62" 8/10/17
		80.2°	106° 8/28/54	55 8/31/46	3.56"	.55" 1989	6.75" 8/31/81
Tuscaloosa	6/1948	80.0°	94° 8/20/17	63 8/25/17	6.47"	8.84" 1970	2.21" 8/8/17
		81.2°	107° 8/10/07	53 8/22/56	3.80"	.57" 1953	2.87" 8/10/87
Valley Head	1/1893	M	M	M	M	6.68" 1981	M
		75.3°	105° 8/16/54	46 8/13/64	3.49"	.58" 1983	3.61" 8/4/84
Statewide August 2017		78.49°	98° Montgomery	55.4° Russellville	6.25"	20.85" Dothan	5.73" Montgomery
August Norm		79.69°	108° Huntsville	43° Dothan	3.95"	0.00" Decatur	7.20" Brewton

M: Data is missing or not available

*New Record

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

Community Collaborative Rain, Hail & Snow Network (CoCoRAHS)

August 2017

						Normal August Precipitation*	
	Total Precip.	# Stations		Total Precip.	# Stations		
Autauga	6.07	2	Houston	3.53	2	Abbeville	4.52"
Baldwin	13.96	26	Jackson	4.80	6	Alberta	4.16"
Barbour	n.a.	0	Jefferson	6.40	16	Alex City	4.40"
Bibb	n.a.	0	Lamar	n.a.	0	Aliceville	3.32"
Blount	5.61	7	Lauderdale	4.51	10	Andalusia	5.38"
Bullock	n.a.	0	Lawrence	6.20	2	Ashland	4.22"
Butler	3.54	1	Lee	4.67	2	Athens	3.33"
Calhoun	6.78	2	Limestone	6.43	7	Bay Minette	6.60"
Chambers	n.a.	0	Lowndes	n.a.	0	Bessemer	3.70"
Cherokee	6.03	1	Macon	7.24	1	Billingsley	4.30"
Chilton	6.15	1	Madison	6.76	22	Centreville WSMO	4.49"
Choctaw	4.72	1	Marengo	n.a.	0	Chatom	4.76"
Clarke	10.35	1	Marion	5.72	1	Claiborne L&D	4.28"
Clay	n.a.	0	Marshall	3.60	10	Clayton	4.53"
Cleburne	n.a.	0	Mobile	11.88	14	Dauphin Isl.	7.12"
Coffee	8.28	1	Monroe	8.86	2	Elba	4.70"
Colbert	6.24	5	Montgomery	5.45	4	Eufaula WR	3.81"
Conecuh	10.71	2	Morgan	6.03	5	Evergreen	4.73"
Coosa	4.62	2	Perry	n.a.	0	Fayette	4.71"
Covington	n.a.	0	Pickens	4.73	1	Geneva 2	5.07"
Crenshaw	n.a.	0	Pike	1.91	1	Greenville	4.86"
Cullman	4.37	4	Randolph	7.01	2	Haleyville	4.21"
Dale	8.71	1	Russell	7.37	2	Hamilton 3S	4.04"
Dallas	6.14	1	St. Clair	5.29	5	Heflin	3.39"
DeKalb	3.70	5	Shelby	5.73	17	Hurtsboro	3.78"
Elmore	5.51	5	Sumter	n.a.	0	Jasper	3.53"
Escambia	11.35	1	Talladega	5.98	4	Lafayette	3.76"
Etowah	n.a.	0	Tallapoosa	3.40	2	Livingston	3.72"
Fayette	4.67	3	Tuscaloosa	6.69	5	Melvin	4.40"
Franklin	n.a.	0	Walker	n.a.	0	Milstead	4.13"
Geneva	4.29	1	Washington	10.09	1	Moulton	3.77"
Greene	n.a.	0	Wilcox	9.21	2	Oneonta	4.08"
Hale	n.a.	0	Winston	8.59	2	Perryville	3.53"
Henry	n.a.	0				Plantersville	4.18"
						Rock Mills	3.91"
						Rockford	4.20"
						Sylacauga	4.12"
						Union Springs	4.64"
						Uniontown	3.92"
						Vernon	3.40"
						Warrior L&D	3.82"
						Wetumpka	4.47"

*Southeast Regional Climate Center
www.serrc.com

New Local Climate Records¹

August 2017

Precipitation, Daily

	New Record	Previous Year	Previous Record	Period of Record					
04 August 2017					TALLADEGA	1.50	2014-08-09	1.40	129
FAIRHOPE 2 NE	3.76	1995-08-04	3.74	99	TUSCALOOSA OLIVER DAM	2.28	1967-08-09	2.02	117
MOBILE DT AIRPORT	2.48	1957-08-04	2.20	68	10 August 2017				
MOBILE REG'L AIRPORT	3.24	1995-08-04	2.45	69	JACKSONVILLE	2.15	1965-08-10	1.86	69
05 August 2017					MONTGOMERY AIRPORT	5.73	2000-08-10	1.55	69
ALEXANDER CITY	1.13	1978-08-05	1.12	47	11 August 2017				
ENTERPRISE 2 W	1.55	1971-08-05	0.87	51	ADDISON	1.92	2001-08-11	1.86	79
06 August 2017					ATHENS	1.05	1960-08-11	0.79	76
CHATOM	2.00	2003-08-06	1.80	67	MILLERS FERRY L&D	1.52	2004-08-11	0.53	36
07 August 2017					ROCK MILLS	4.16	2000-08-11	2.44	79
ADDISON	2.19	1995-08-07	1.12	79	14 August 2017				
08 August 2017					BESSEMER 3 WSW	0.95	1994-08-15	0.74	40
ALICEVILLE LAND D	2.10	1993-08-08	1.03	37	MUSCLE SHOALS REG'L AP	1.40	1952-08-14	1.01	76
BESSEMER 3 WSW	1.55	1978-08-08	1.44	40	16 August 2017				
BIRMINGHAM AIRPORT	2.58	1967-08-08	1.89	87	JACKSON	1.03	1974-08-16	0.84	55
CENTREVILLE 2.9 SW	0.63	1981-08-08	0.42	42	MARION JUNCTION 2 NE	1.02	2003-08-16	0.90	67
CLAIBORNE LOCK & DAM	2.00	2002-08-08	1.28	64	OPELIKA	1.05	1974-08-16	0.85	60
GAINESVILLE LOCK	2.02	2014-08-08	1.76	69	20 August 2017				
JACKSON	2.60	1993-08-08	2.00	55	MOUNDVILLE	1.05	2010-08-20	0.94	34
MOULTON 2	2.42	1967-08-08	1.76	60	29 August 2017				
TUSCALOOSA MUNI A'PORT	2.21	1983-08-08	0.84	69	RUSSELLVILLE NUMBER 2	0.89	1966-08-29	0.81	63
09 August 2017					30 August 2017				
CENTREVILLE 2.9 SW	2.18	1983-08-09	1.32	42	DAUPHIN ISLAND No. 2	4.10	2012-08-30	2.16	41
HOLT LOCK AND DAM	1.70	1998-08-09	1.58	36	FAIRHOPE 2 NE	3.72	1950-08-30	2.43	99
JACKSON	1.90	1965-08-09	0.93	55	ROCK MILLS	1.47	1991-08-30	1.32	79
PINE APPLE	4.00	1970-08-09	1.55	49	31 August 2017				
					ENTERPRISE 2 W	2.55	1996-08-31	1.21	51
					EVERGREEN	1.81	1949-08-31	1.55	121
					ROBERTSDALE	7.91	1996-08-31	2.40	105

Precipitation, Wettest August Day on Record

	New Record	Previous Wettest Day	Previous Record	Period of Record
10 August 2017				
MONTGOMERY A'PORT	5.73	1984-08-02	5.38	69
11 August 2017				
ROCK MILLS	4.16	1945-08-13	4.00	79
31 August 2017				
ROBERTSDALE	7.91	1939-08-16	5.06	105

Minimum Low Temperature, Daily

	New Record	Previous Coldest Day	Previous Record	Period of Record
01 August 2017				
ROBERTSDALE	64	2014-08-01	65	93
FT BENNING LAWSON FLD	62	1966-08-01	66	68
MOBILE REG'L AIRPORT	67	1997-08-01	68	69
02 August 2017				
FAIRHOPE 2 NE	63	1975-08-02	67	99
GREENVILLE	62	1976-08-02	63	90
03 August 2017				
GENEVA NUMBER 2	63	1998-08-03	64	41

¹ ncdc.noaa.gov/cdo-web/datatools/records

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