

# The Alabama Climate Report

Brought to you by the Office of the Alabama Climatologist

**Volume 9, Number 9, December 2018**



Dr. John Christy, Alabama State Climatologist

The year for Alabama ended on a fairly wet note for almost the entire state. During the year various sections of the state flirted with drought issues, but we avoided the serious deficits that have occurred in years past. A little over half the state reported totals greater than 8 inches for December with several more than 10 inches (Birmingham, Tuscaloosa, Shelby Co. Airport, Anniston, Opelika, Dothan and more). Foley 0.5ESE, Thomasville 2S, Alabaster 2.5NE and Foley 2.0SSW all reported more than 15 inches. A few stations in SE AL did not reach the 5-inch mark (e.g. Andalusia, Dothan, Auburn).

The wet December put most of the stations above their normal annual total. In preliminary 2018 totals, stations in and around Fairhope were the wettest with Fairhope 2.2E 89.32" and above 85" - Fairhope 1.5WSW, Bay Minette and Fairhope 2.3N. We certainly welcome the CoCoRaHS rainfall and snowfall reports as these fill many of the gaps in our current network of observations.

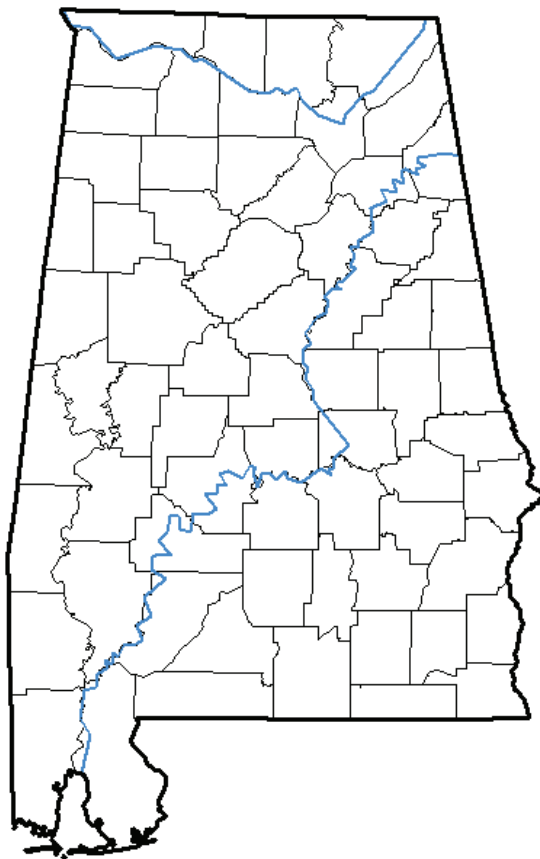
In 2018 temperatures hit 100°F in only five stations with Marion Junction 2NE leading the pack at 102°F followed at 100°F by Childersburg, Eufaula, Andalusia and Muscle Shoals. Two bitter cold events in January sent temperatures down to single digits in numerous stations as far south as Thomasville, Demopolis and Greensboro. Addison in the Bankhead Forest won the prize for the coldest reading at 0°F.

Water-wise we begin 2019 in good shape with very moist conditions. But as we know, things can change with the weather in this part of the world and no one really knows what the coming year will bring. A fading El Niño in the tropical Pacific hints at a coolish and wettish spring, but not much more than a hint at this point. Whatever happens, stay tuned to the Alabama Climate Report to see what is transpiring with our weather.

- John Christy

**U.S. Drought Monitor**  
**Alabama**

**January 1, 2019**  
(Released Thursday, Jan. 3, 2019)  
Valid 7 a.m. EST



**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.*

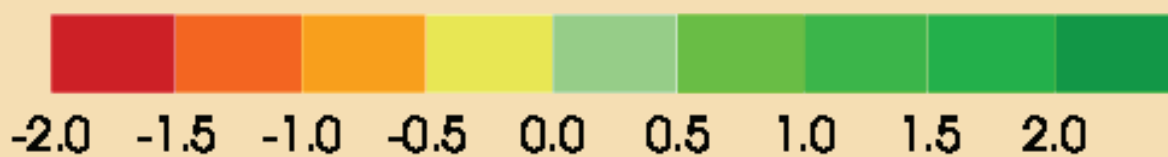
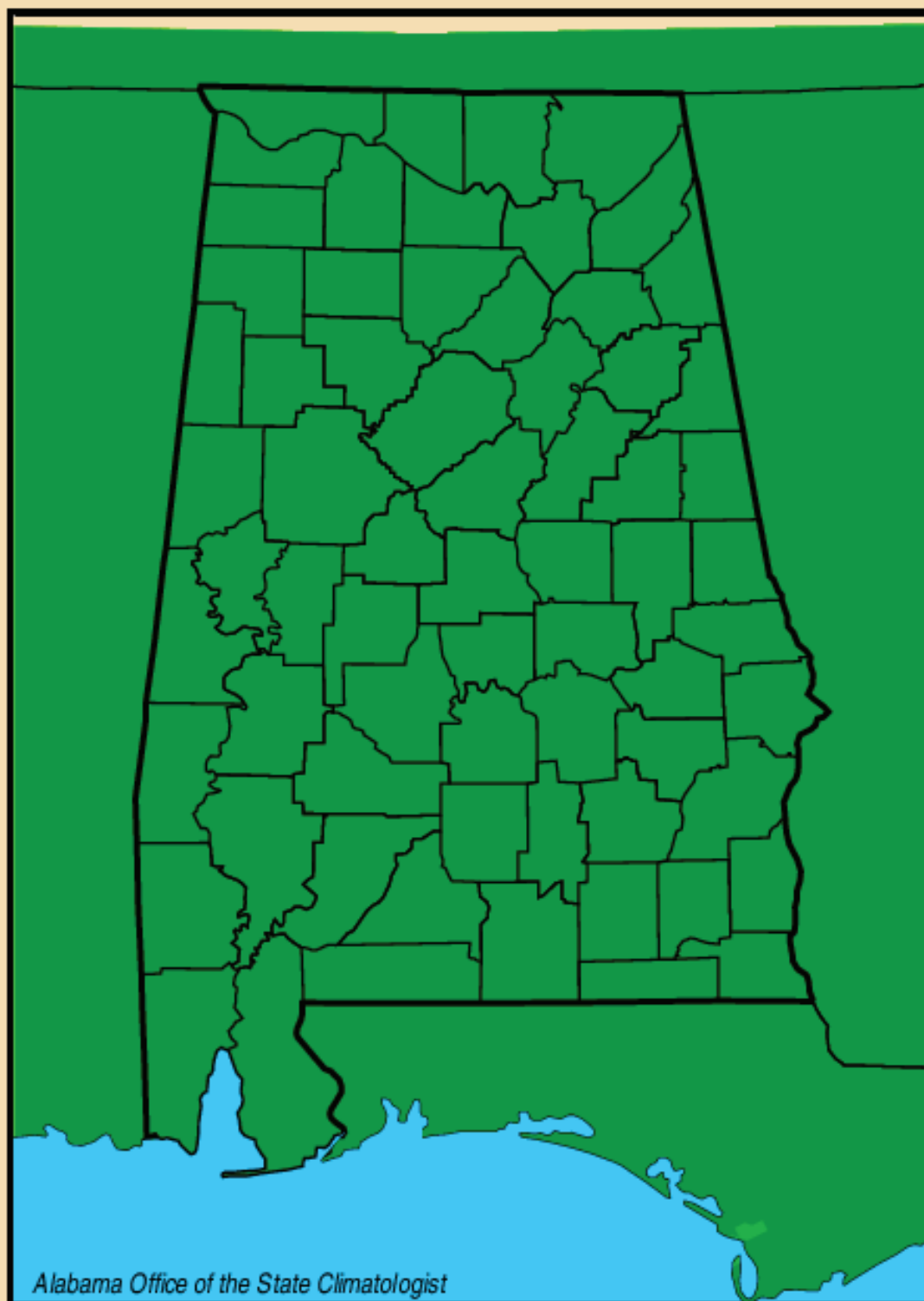
**Author:**

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NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC



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

## Lawn-and-Garden Moisture Index for January 5, 2019



## Alabama Monthly Climate Summaries

December 2018

	Dec. Mean Dec. Norm	Dec. High Temp Record High	Dec. Low Temp Record Low	Total Precip. Normal Precip.	Wettest Dec. Driest Dec.	Heaviest Day Record Day
Anniston	47.1 46.1	74 12/2/18 80 12/7/51	24 12/6/18 1 12/13/62	10.01" 4.11"	10.32" 1983 .71" 1980	2.68" 12/1/18 4.11" 12/20/51
Auburn	50.3 48.3	74 12/2/18 84 12/20/24	26 12/6/18 -1 12/13/62	8.45" 5.26"	14.27" 1953 .82" 1955	2.31" 12/27/18 6.22" 12/4/53
Birmingham	48.3 45.6	75 12/2/18 80 12/7/51	25 12/6/18 1+ 12/23/89	11.34" 4.47"	12.63" 1983 .81" 1980	2.41" 12/8/18 7.70" 12/27/42
Brewton	49.6 49.5	77.4 12/5/17 84 12/9/98	25.6 12/10/17 7 12/13/62	3.52" 4.78"	14.96" 1972 1.13" 1980	0.81 12/6/17 6.23" 12/21/72
Calera	48.3 45.9	74 12/2/18 79 12/8/78	26 12/6/18 -5 12/26/83	12.03" 5.12"	13.61" 1983 .65" 1917	2.51" 12/8/18 7.25" 12/28/42
Clanton	45.4 45.2	74.1 12/20/17 80+ 12/9/78	22.4 12/10/17 2 12/13/62	3.73" 4.96"	13.61" 1983 2.20" 1980	0.98" 12/8/17 5.10" 12/12/61
Courtland	42.2 M	69.9 12/23/17 M	15.9 12/31/17 M	4.84" M	M M	1.92" 12/5/17 M
Cullman (St. Bernard)	42.1 M	68 12/23/17 M	16.5 12/31/17 M	5.40" M	M M	2.35" 12/20/17 M
Decatur (Pryor Field)	45.4 43.5	72 12/31/18 78 12/7/51	22 12/6/18 1 12/15/1901	8.83" 5.08"	11.52" 1911 .88" 1965	1.85 12/8/18 4.87" 12/29/54
Dothan	54.2 51.3	78 12/31/18 82 12/6/51	30 12/6/18 7 12/13/62	10.23" 4.56"	13.72" 1964 .50" 1955	2.38" 12/2/18 9.84" 12/25/64
Fairhope	52.7 52.5	78 12/5/17 84 12/30/65	28.9 12/10/17 8 12/13/62	2.42" 4.40"	8.04" 1982 1.67" 1980	0.78" 12/8/17 9.80" 12/6/53
Gadsden	42 43.5	66.7 12/23/17 78+ 12/7/98	16.9 12/31/17 1 12/13/62	4.16" 4.89"	10.33" 1983 .43" 1980	1.99" 12/20/17 5.85" 12/12/61
Gainesville Lock	45.7 46.1	76.5 12/20/17 83 12/4/78	23.5 12/16/17 2 12/24/89	2.80" 4.81"	11.36" 1982 .73" 1980	0.76" 12/20/17 4.77" 12/26/73
Greensboro	46.1 48.5	75.3 12/5/17 82 12/6/51	23.3 12/16/17 2 12/23/89	3.54" 4.76"	13.36" 1973 .37" 1980	0.81" 12/8/17 6.12" 12/28/42
Guntersville	M 42.7	M 78 12/6/98	M -2 12/23/89	M 4.76"	11.10" 1983 1.03" 1980	M 5.95" 12/28/42
Highland Home	48.7 48.5	74.9 12/5/17 83 12/8/51	26.3 12/31/17 4+ 12/26/83	3.13" 4.60"	9.05" 1972 1.59" 1998	0.61" 12/8/17 4.00"+ 12/17/92
Huntsville	47.1 43.1	74 12/31/18 79 12/4/98	25 12/6/18 -3 12/22/89	9.80" 5.59"	18.68" 1990 .76" 1965	2.12" 12/27/18 9.07" 12/22/90
Mobile	55.4 52.3	81 12/2/18 81+ 12/7/98	31 12/6/18 8 12/25/83	9.45" 4.66"	8.86" 1995 1.29" 1980	3.46" 12/8/18 4.68" 12/18/95
Montgomery	51.8 49	79 12/2/18 85 12/2/82	26 12/6/18 5+ 12/25/83	9.99" 4.97"	11.35" 1961 1.39" 1980	2.02" 12/28/18 3.92" 12/16/92
Muscle Shoals Airport	46.9 43.3	72 12/31/18 78+ 12/24/64	24 12/6/18 -5 12/23/89	7.02" 5.44"	19.19" 1990 .65" 1980	1.33" 12/27/18 5.20" 12/1/91
Russellville	41.7 42	69.5 12/23/17 85 12/25/64	15.2 12/31/17 -7 12/23/89	5.63" 5.36"	17.45" 1990 1.02" 1980	1.96" 12/20/17 5.31" 12/29/54
Scottsboro	41.7 42.1	68.2 12/23/17 80 12/7/51	18.3 12/31/17 -1 12/25/83	3.81" 5.65"	14.73 1990 1.34" 1980	1.83" 12/20/17 6.80" 12/23/90
Selma	46 49.2	78.7 12/5/17 85+ 12/6/51	19.4 12/16/17 5 12/13/62	3.56" 4.72"	9.97" 1983 1.29" 1980	1.04" 12/8/17 7.08" 12/10/61
Talladega	44.5 43.6	70.1 12/23/17 80 12/7/51	20.4 12/10/17 0 12/13/62	4.15" 4.24"	8.43" 1983 .98" 1979	1.96" 12/20/17 3.80" 12/31/73
Thomasville	47 59.6	78.0 12/5/17 85 12/11/33	23.4 12/10/17 3 12/13/62	4.54" 5.16"	11.65" 1971 1.12" 1980	0.97" 12/17/17 6.29" 12/10/61
Troy	51.4 50.4	77 12/2/18 82 12/3/1912	25 12/6/18 4 12/13/62	8.14" 4.54"	14.95" 1972 .29" 1980	1.75" 12/27/18 6.67" 12/6/72
Tuscaloosa	50.1 47	78 12/31/18 82 12/3/78	27 12/6/18 2 12/23/89	10.63" 4.87"	11.05" 1983 .69" 1980	2.72" 12/27/18 3.64" 12/20/51
Valley Head	40.9 41.3	67.4 12/23/17 85 12/28/42	17.1 12/31/17 -8 12/13/62	4.07" 4.86"	13.67" 1961 .77" 1904	2.39" 12/20/17 4.28" 12/12/61



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

December 2018

	Ave. Total Precip.	# Stations			Ave. Total Precip.	# Stations
Autauga	7.94	2		Houston	8.87	2
Baldwin	11.20	26		Jackson	10.87	4
Barbour	7.22	1		Jefferson	11.80	15
Bibb	11.70	1		Lamar	11.66	1
Blount	9.96	7		Lauderdale	8.88	6
Bullock	0.00	0		Lawrence	9.19	3
Butler	0.00	0		Lee	8.55	3
Calhoun	7.43	3		Limestone	10.05	7
Chambers	0.00	0		Lowndes	0.00	0
Cherokee	0.00	0		Macon	10.07	1
Chilton	10.66	1		Madison	10.31	17
Choctaw	14.02	1		Marengo	0.00	0
Clarke	8.22	2		Marion	9.90	1
Clay	0.00	0		Marshall	9.90	10
Cleburne	0.00	0		Mobile	8.86	16
Coffee	0.00	0		Monroe	6.88	2
Colbert	8.48	5		Montgomery	10.89	4
Conecuh	0.00	0		Morgan	11.21	5
Coosa	11.86	0		Perry	0.00	0
Covington	0.00	0		Pickens	0.00	0
Crenshaw	0.00	0		Pike	0.00	0
Cullman	11.21	3		Randolph	11.37	2
Dale	10.15	1		Russell	7.81	2
Dallas	9.59	1		St. Clair	12.51	5
DeKalb	10.67	5		Shelby	12.07	16
Elmore	9.46	6		Sumter	0.00	0
Escambia	10.17	2		Talladega	10.12	3
Etowah	0.00	0		Tallapoosa	10.97	1
Fayette	12.23	1		Tuscaloosa	10.69	6
Franklin	0.00	0		Walker	0.00	0
Geneva	0.74	1		Washington	9.72	1
Greene	0.00	0		Wilcox	8.89	3
Hale	0.00	0		Winston	11.26	2
Henry	0.00	0				

Normal December Precipitation*	
Abbeville	4.73
Alberta	4.98
Alex City	4.90
Aliceville	4.60
Andalusia	4.91
Ashland	5.27
Athens	6.13
Bay Minette	5.51
Bessemer	5.20
Billingsly	4.72
Centreville WSMC	5.33
Chatom	6.83
Claiborne L&D	5.03
Clayton	4.09
Dauphin Isl.	4.87
Elba	4.35
Eufaula WR	4.49
Evergreen	5.06
Fayette	5.08
Geneva 2	4.73
Greenville	4.66
Haleyville	6.18
Hamilton 3S	6.08
Heflin	4.72
Hurtsboro	4.30
Jasper	5.68
Lafayette	4.85
Livingston	4.86
Melvin	7.58
Milstead	4.45
Moulton	6.03
Oneonta	5.09
Perryville	4.91
Plantersville	5.49
Rock Mills	5.14
Rockford	5.07
Sylacauga	4.85
Union Springs	4.67
Uniontown	5.11
Vernon	5.56
Warrior L&D	4.85
Wetumpka	4.74

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