

The Alabama Climate Report

Brought to you by the Office of the Alabama Climatologist

Volume 6, Number 9, June 2016



Dr. John Christy, Alabama State Climatologist

It is summer in Alabama, and that usually means hotter temperatures and a bit less rain.

Usually, but not always. This month we note the 100th anniversary of July 1916, the wettest month in the state's climate record of more than 120 years.

As is often the case, Alabama's record rain was caused in large part by a hurricane or tropical system. The July 5 Gulf of Mexico hurricane came ashore along the Mississippi and Alabama coast during the afternoon of July 5. Wind in Mobile peaked at 106 mph. The 11.6-foot storm surge — which inundated an area four blocks deep along the Mobile waterfront — is still a record. The storm dropped 8.56 inches of rain on Mobile.

It was just getting started. After starting northwesterly across Mississippi almost into Louisiana and Arkansas, the storm made a U turn and crossed into Alabama not far from Tuscaloosa on July 7. It spent the next two and a half days dumping rain across north Alabama. Birmingham reported 4.58 inches on July 6, 7.02 on July 7 and another 2.47 inches over the next three days.

The official hurricane death toll was four, although there were early reports of as many as 17 deaths in one location. Damages along the coast were set at \$3 million (about \$65 million in 2016 dollars).

The July 7, 1916, the Huntsville Daily Times reported: "... 17 negroes were reported killed, and 8 persons hurt near Beloit, Ala. ... A railroad wire message from Mobile says three or four were killed and much damage was done at the waterfront. A woman was reported killed (in) Lowdnesboro."

On July 9, 1916, the Daily Times noted: "Practically all Southern trains from the West are annulled this morning because of the washout of the bridge near Courtland, and other traffic along the line of the Memphis division is (crippled) because of the heavy rains of the past few days.

"The L&N Railway is probably the heaviest sufferer between Birmingham and Mobile. Several trains have been marooned for more than 24 hours."

A second tropical system that came ashore along the Atlantic coast contributed about 3" of additional rain in what is Birmingham's wettest month of record, with a soggy 20.12" of rain during that July.

The statewide AVERAGE rainfall for that July was 17.59". By comparison, the second wettest July in the Alabama record was in 1994, when the state average rainfall was 9.43".

The five wettest months in Alabama's official climate record are:

#1	July 1916	17.59"
#2	Nov. 1948	15.07"
#3	Mar. 1929	14.82"
#4	Mar. 1980	13.81"
#5	Dec. 1961	12.21"

The July 1916 hurricane was also the earliest in the year for Alabama, which doesn't have a June hurricane in its weather history. So while the Atlantic hurricane season officially started a month ago, it is unofficially time for folks along the Alabama gulf coast to get their tropical storm preparations in gear.

June was warmer than usual, and in some places significantly drier. The northeastern portion of the state is in varying degrees of drought. After their driest May on record, Talladega, Scottsboro and Muscle Shoals each got below normal rainfall in June. CoCoRAHS volunteers in Jackson County said that county averaged only 2.05" of rain in June, compared to Scottsboro's normal 4.28". Auburn saw its driest June on record (0.56"), while Mobile got 7.47" — half again its normal June rain.

Stations including Montgomery, Birmingham and Anniston hit 100° in June, while Clayton and Marion Junction each set daily records on June 26, when the temperature hit 101°.



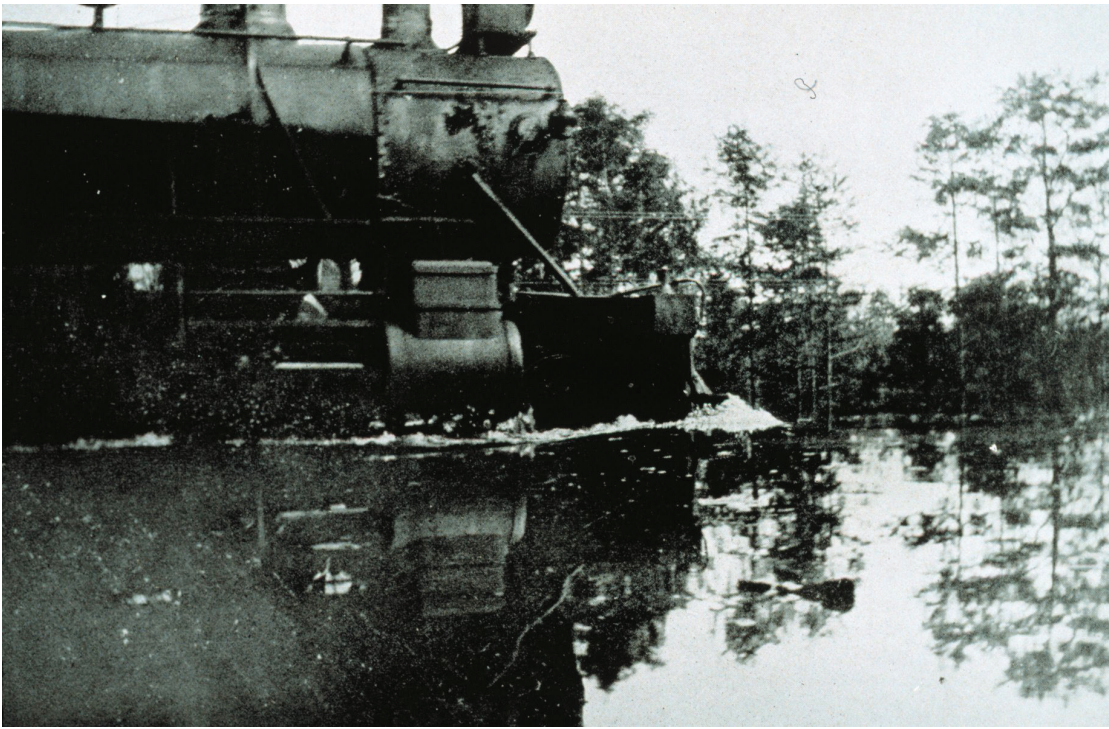
Fill material slid down the mountain, leaving track suspended during heavy rains.



Cotton bales and other debris in Mobile.



Steamers sunk in Mobile by hurricane of July 5-9, 1916.



Train running through backwater from the Tombigbee River near Wagar, Alabama.



Train running through flood water from the Tombigbee River near Wagar, Alabama.



The steamer "City of Mobile" sits on the municipal wharf at Mobile after the July 1916 hurricane passed through.

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U.S. Drought Monitor Alabama

June 28, 2016

(Released Thursday, Jun. 30, 2016)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	41.31	58.69	40.69	15.14	0.70	0.00
Last Week 6/21/2016	43.10	56.90	40.19	12.32	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 3/29/2016	96.08	1.92	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 12/29/2015	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 9/29/2015	37.12	62.88	4.86	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 6/30/2015	63.79	36.21	14.35	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

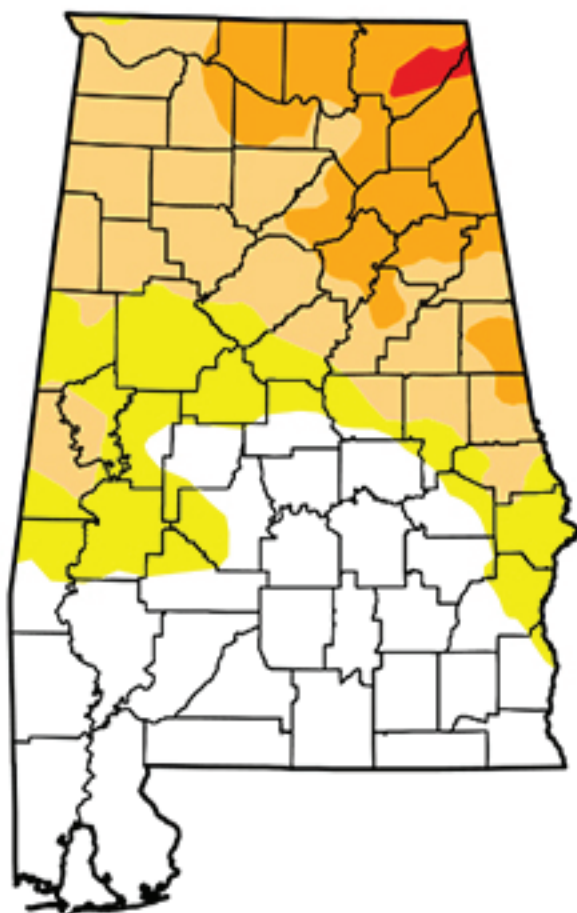
 D0 Abnormally Dry	 D3 Extreme Drought
 D1 Moderate Drought	 D4 Exceptional Drought
 D2 Severe Drought	

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

Author:

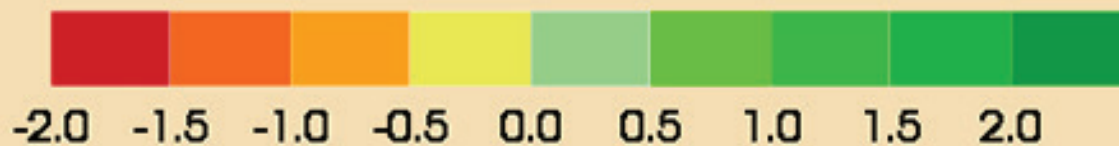
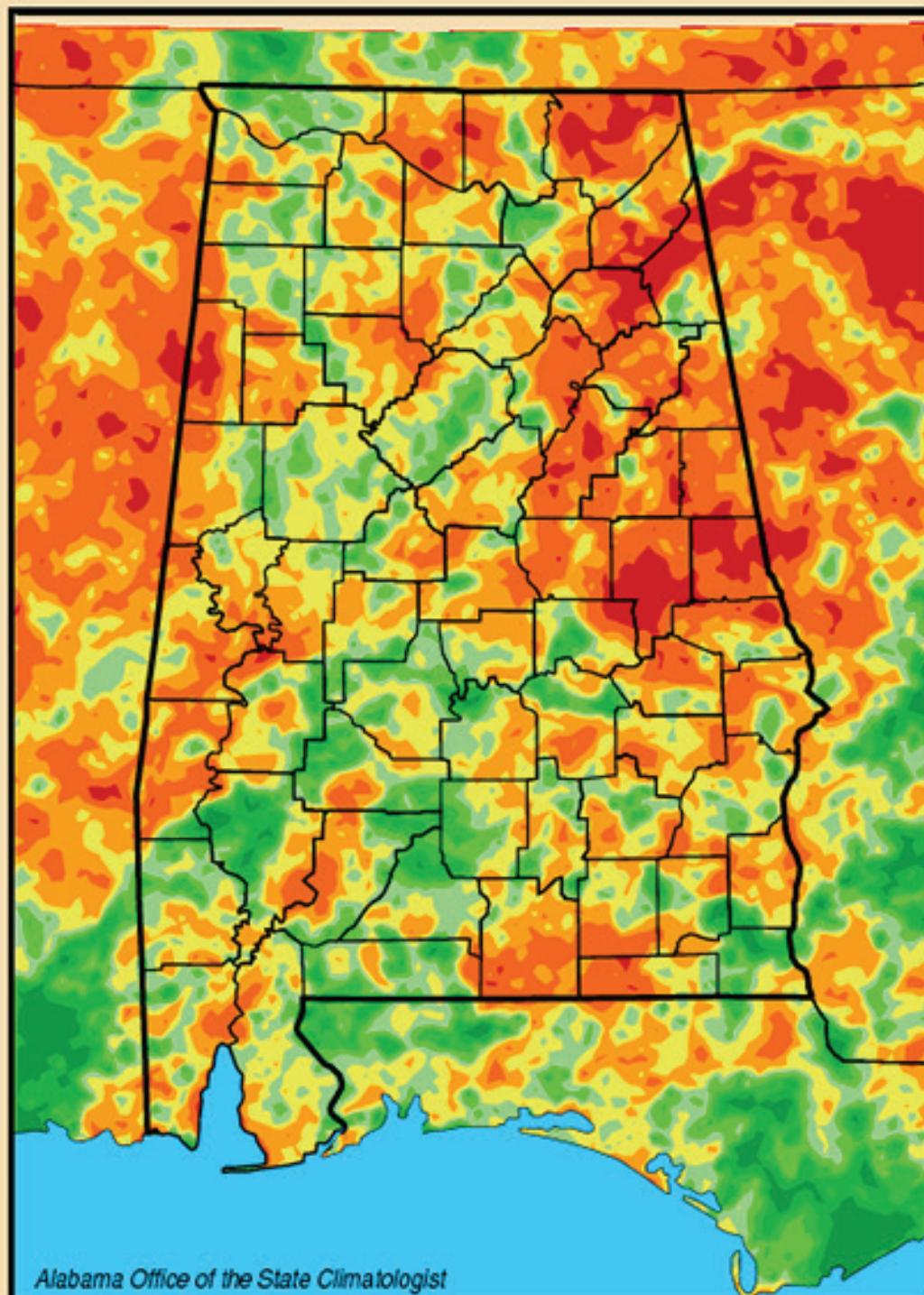
Eric Luebbehusen

U.S. Department of Agriculture



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

Lawn-and-Garden Moisture Index for July 1, 2016



Alabama Monthly Climate Summaries

June 2016

	Station Began	June Mean June Norm	June Hi Temp Record Hi	June Low Temp Record Low	Total Precip. Normal Prec.	Wettest June Driest June	Heaviest Day Record Day
Anniston	2/1903	79.3°	100° 6/25/16	57° 6/9/16	1.56"	9.27" 1982	0.41" 6/15/16
		76.6°	102°+ 6/27/54	42° 6/1/72	4.14"	0.00" 1988	3.60" 6/4/50
Auburn	1/1893	80.6°	96° 6/17/16	65° 6/9/16	0.56"	8.64" 1909	0.21" 6/25/16
		78.3°	107° 6/19/33	39° 6/3/56	4.17"	0.57" 1931	3.64" 6/5/28
Birmingham	1/1930	80.7°	100° 6/26/16	61° 6/8/16	3.96"	9.04" 1999	1.38" 6/14/16
		76.4°	106° 6/29/31	42° 6/1/66	3.78"	0.79" 1988	3.85" 6/23/57
Brewton	4/1977	77.9°	96.4° 6/26/16	61.5° 6/9/16	4.25"	13.80" 1989	1.62" 6/4/16
		77.3°	109° 6/18/33	40° 6/3/56	5.97"	1.90" 1998	6.45" 6/3/70
Calera	9/1900	79.9°	97° 6/13/16	61° 6/9/16	3.01"	14.58" 2003	0.76" 6/14/16
		76.0°	103° 6/29/69	37° 6/1/66	4.15"	0.06" 1902	5.04" 6/12/42
Clanton	2/1893	77.5°	97.3° 6/26/16	57.3° 6/9/16	1.87"	11.82" 1991	0.44" 6/26/16
		76.0°	106° 6/19/36	42° 6/3/56	4.16"	0.69" 1988	7.82" 6/26/91
Courtland		77.9°	96.1° 6/26/16	54.9° 6/8/16	2.73"	M	1.01" 6/27/16
		M	M	M	M	M	M
Cullman	7/1907	76.3°	94.9° 6/26/16	51.2° 6/9/16	3.81"	M	1.69" 6/26/16
		M	M	M	M	M	M
Decatur	2/1880	79.2°	99° 6/26/16	55° 6/9/16	1.39"	11.07" 1900	0.57" 6/5/16
		77.9°	108° 6/10/14	44° 6/3/56	3.58"	0.20" 1931	3.06" 6/4/34
Dothan	2/1902	81.2°	98° 6/26/16	66° 6/21/16	5.09"	8.52" 1942	1.25" 6/16/16
		80.1°	104° 6/27/52	49° 6/3/56	4.31"	1.10" 1945	3.78" 6/22/49
Fairhope	8/1917	79.0°	93.7° 6/26/16	64.3° 6/21/16	3.87"	18.52" 1989	1.31" 6/4/16
		79.2°	100°+ 6/11/54	52° 6/1/84	5.94"	0.71" 1977	7.80" 6/9/89
Gadsden	7/1893	75.7°	97.4° 6/25/16	50.8° 6/9/16	2.69"	10.30" 1994	1.13" 6/1/16
		75.8°	102° 6/27/54	42° 6/3/56	4.34"	0.13" 1988	3.10" 6/25/99
Gainesville Lock	6/1948	79.2°	97.4° 6/17/16	60.0° 6/9/16	2.10"	9.56" 1983	1.16" 6/27/16
		77.2°	101° 6/24/77	42° 6/1/84	4.07"	0.61" 1988	3.49" 6/13/87
Greensboro	2/1890	78.1°	94.4° 6/25/16	59.1° 6/9/16	5.33"	10.25" 1999	2.23" 6/13/16
		78.9°	105°+ 6/29/54	41° 6/1/66	3.72"	0.66" 1988	5.50" 6/3/70
Highland Home	3/1892	78.2°	95.3° 6/26/16	64.1° 6/20/16	2.94"	12.90" 1983	0.83" 6/15/16
		76.9°	104°+ 6/7/85	45° 6/1/84	4.70"	1.22" 1971	4.30" 6/3/70
Huntsville	1/1959	80.7°	99° 6/25/16	57° 6/8/16	4.40"	14.99" 1989	2.10" 6/1/16
		76.5°	101° 6/29/69	45° 6/1/72	4.10"	0.17" 1988	4.46" 6/14/69

Alabama Monthly Climate Summaries

June 2016

	Station Began	June Mean June Norm	June Hi Temp Record Hi	June Low Temp Record Lo	Total Precip. Normal Prec.	Wettest June Driest June	Heaviest Day Record Day
Mobile	3/1900	80.8°	97° 6/26/16	66° 6/23/16	7.47"	11.00" 1982	2.35" 6/28/16
		79.3°	102°+ 6/29/54	49° 6/1/84	5.01"	1.26" 1977	6.08" 6/20/61
Montgomery	6/1948	82.1°	100° 6/26/16	62° 6/9/16	2.73"	14.44" 1989	0.88" 6/15/16
		78.9°	105° 6/28/54	49°+ 6/1/84	4.13"	0.33" 1979	3.91" 6/28/57
Muscle Shoals	12/1940	79.9°	96° 6/24/16	57° 6/10/16	4.69"	13.43" 1989	1.11" 6/27/16
		76.5°	104° 6/28/52	44° 6/1/72	4.90"	1.03" 1988	5.60" 6/12/92
Russellville	9/1953	76.0°	93.4° 6/16/16	51.0° 6/8/16	5.22"	12.71" 1997	2.12" 6/17/16
		73.7°	102° 6/28/54	36°+ 6/4/69	4.23"	0.50" 1988	3.30" 6/8/94
Scottsboro	10/1891	76.4°	96.2° 6/25/16	52.0° 6/9/16	2.12"	9.08" 1989	0.90" 6/15/16
		75.5°	107°+ 6/29/31	39° 6/3/56	4.38"	0.65" 1988	3.72" 6/29/41
Selma	1/1895	78.3°	96.9° 6/26/16	59.3° 6/9/16	5.81"	10.32" 1989	1.49" 6/27/16
		80.0°	108° 6/28/54	42° 6/1/84	4.13"	0.34" 1988	3.65" 6/25/91
Talladega	2/1888	78.1°	98.0° 6/25/16	55.5° 6/9/16	3.21"	11.97" 1989	1.00" 6/1/16
		77.0°	102° 6/27/54	39° 6/1/72	4.64"	0.32" 1988	4.60" 6/22/97
Thomasville	9/1891	77.5°	96.7° 6/26/16	59.0° 6/9/16	5.45"	12.69" 1989	3.01" 6/27/16
		78.7°	108° 6/26/30	46°+ 6/1/84	4.92"	0.93" 1988	3.98" 6/29/43
Troy	6/1908	79.4°	97° 6/26/16	59° 6/9/16	6.00"	12.63" 1989	2.16" 6/30/16
		77.5°	105° 6/19/33	43° 6/9/00	4.78"	1.04" 1986	4.36" 6/4/70
Tuscaloosa	6/1948	80.0°	96° 6/13/16	60° 6/9/16	4.30"	11.98" 1989	1.82" 6/15/16
		78.7°	105° 6/28/52	45° 6/3/56	4.20"	1.22" 1988	3.41" 6/18/63
Valley Head	1/1893	74.7°	94.8° 6/25/16	50.9° 6/8/16	2.35"	9.19" 1976	0.65" 6/5/16
		72.2°	101° 6/28/52	35° 6/1/66	4.33"	0.54" 1988	3.08" 6/10/61
Statewide June 2015		78.82° /	100° 3 stations	50.8° Gadsden	3.69"	18.52" Fairhope	3.01" Thomasville
June Norm		77.24° /	109° Brewton	35° Valley Head	4.43"	0.00" Anniston	7.82" Clanton

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 Records¹

June 2016

Precipitation, Daily

	New Record	Previous Year	Previous Record	Period of Record
1 June 2016				
HUNTSVILLE INTL AIRPT	2.10	1976-06-01	1.54	57
2 June 2016				
SAND MT SUBSTATION	1.60	1981-06-02	1.48	67
3 June 2016				
MOULTON 2	2.00	1990-06-03	1.57	59
4 June 2016				
MOBILE REG. AIRPORT	2.25	2009-06-04	1.60	68
5 June 2016				
BESSEMER 3 WSW	1.70	2000-06-05	0.75	39
GENEVA NUMBER 2	1.65	1995-06-05	0.95	40
MILLERS FERRY L&D	1.50	1982-06-05	0.32	35
6 June 2016				
CARBON HILL 4 SE	1.84	2005-06-06	1.34	78
14 June 2016				
BANKHEAD LOCK & DAM	2.57	2004-06-14	1.50	59
15 June 2016				
GREENVILLE	2.10	1956-06-15	1.67	115
TUSCALOOSA MUN APRT	1.82	1958-06-15	1.60	68
16 June 2016				
ADDISON	1.20	1990-06-16	0.87	78
BESSEMER 3 WSW	1.20	2004-06-16	0.70	39
CAHABA PUMP HOUSE	0.78	1998-06-16	0.77	34
HOLT LOCK AND DAM	2.87	2010-06-16	1.42	35
JASPER	2.24	1972-06-16	0.76	55
JONES BLUFF L&D	2.24	1999-06-16	1.87	35
PINE APPLE	2.96	1972-06-16	1.65	48
PLANTERSVILLE	2.18	1989-06-16	1.85	76
WEST BLOCTON	1.68	2010-06-16	1.05	76
17 June 2016				
MONTGOMERY AIRPORT	0.72	1960-06-17	0.57	68
TUSCALOOSA MUN APRT	1.14	1956-06-17	0.86	68
18 June 2016				
CALERA	2.10	2003-06-18	1.40	115
COFFEEVILLE L&D	1.15	1991-06-18	0.58	33
26 June 2016				
HUNTSVILLE INTL ARPRT	1.56	1994-06-26	1.17	57
27 June 2016				
CARBON HILL 4 SE	1.61	1948-06-27	1.52	78
EUFALA WILDLIFE REF	1.65	1991-06-27	0.80	49
BIRMINGHAM AIRPORT	1.31	1999-06-27	1.17	86
28 June 2016				
COFFEEVILLE L&D	3.19	1999-06-28	2.00	33
JONES BLUFF L&D	3.13	2013-06-28	1.88	35
JORDAN DAM	1.96	1962-06-28	0.78	79
MILLERS FERRY L&D	1.23	2002-06-28	1.05	35
29 June 2016				
CHATOM	2.27	1962-06-29	1.81	66

Precipitation, Wettest June Day

	New Record	Previous Wettest Day	Previous Record	Period of Record
12 June 2016				
JONES BLUFF L&D	3.13	1989-06-12	2.60	35

Maximum High Temperature, Daily

	New Record	Previous Hottest Day	Previous Record	Period of Record
1 June 2016				
CLAYTON	97	2011-06-01	95	60
14 June 2016				
CLAYTON	100	2000-06-14	99	60
15 June 2016				
RUSSELLVILLE No. 2	98	1958-06-15	97	62
18 June 2016				
OPELIKA	96	1984-06-18	94	59
25 June 2016				
ANNISTON METRO ARPT	100	1978-06-25	98	113
26 June 2016				
CLAYTON	101	2010-06-26	99	60
MARION JUNCTION 2 NE	101	1954-06-26	100	66
SAND MT SUBSTATION	98	1952-06-26	97	66

Minimum Low Temperature, Daily

	New Record	Previous Year	Previous Record	Period of Record
21 June 2016				
FAIRHOPE 2 NE.....	64	1995-06-21	65	98
GENEVA NUMBER 2.....	59	1976-06-21	61	40
23 June 2016				
GENEVA NUMBER 2.....	62	2007-06-23	63	40

¹ <http://wf.ncdc.noaa.gov/extremes/records/>

Community Collaborative Rain, Hail & Snow Network (CoCoRAHS)

June 2016

Normal June Precipitation*

	Total Precip.	# Stations
Autauga	3.27	2
Baldwin	5.05	22
Barbour	n.a.	0
Bibb	n.a.	0
Blount	3.88	8
Bullock	n.a.	0
Butler	n.a.	0
Calhoun	1.46	2
Chambers	n.a.	0
Cherokee	2.00	1
Chilton	4.85	2
Choctaw	2.03	1
Clarke	6.32	1
Clay	n.a.	0
Cleburne	n.a.	0
Coffee	5.64	1
Colbert	2.84	6
Conecuh	n.a.	0
Coosa	1.30	2
Covington	n.a.	0
Crenshaw	n.a.	0
Cullman	2.82	5
Dale	3.28	1
Dallas	5.45	1
DeKalb	3.52	3
Elmore	2.57	7
Escambia	2.73	1
Etowah	3.77	1
Fayette	2.40	2
Franklin	n.a.	0
Geneva	n.a.	0
Greene	n.a.	0
Hale	n.a.	0
Henry	n.a.	0

	Total Precip.	# Stations
Houston	3.95	3
Jackson	2.05	7
Jefferson	3.98	13
Lamar	n.a.	0
Lauderdale	4.44	10
Lawrence	5.96	2
Lee	1.93	3
Limestone	2.86	10
Lowndes	n.a.	0
Macon	n.a.	0
Madison	2.40	44
Marengo	n.a.	0
Marion	2.29	1
Marshall	3.99	10
Mobile	5.78	14
Monroe	5.37	2
Montgomery	3.16	4
Morgan	3.83	5
Perry	n.a.	0
Pickens	3.40	1
Pike	n.a.	0
Randolph	2.19	2
Russell	2.60	2
St. Clair	4.49	4
Shelby	4.19	16
Sumter	n.a.	0
Talladega	2.29	4
Tallapoosa	2.21	3
Tuscaloosa	5.94	5
Walker	n.a.	0
Washington	5.07	1
Wilcox	4.80	2
Winston	2.97	2

Abbeville	4.81"
Alberta	3.76"
Alex City	3.85"
Aliceville	3.38"
Andalusia	4.92"
Ashland	4.42"
Athens	3.95"
Bay Minette	5.32"
Bessemer	3.89"
Billingsley	4.10"
Centreville WSMO	4.06"
Chatom	4.62"
Claiborne L&D	4.39"
Clayton	4.26"
Dauphin Isl.	4.90"
Elba	4.74"
Eufaula WR	4.11"
Evergreen	5.06"
Fayette	4.68"
Geneva 2	4.98"
Greenville	4.39"
Haleyville	4.20"
Hamilton 3S	4.27"
Heflin	4.35"
Hurtsboro	3.36"
Jasper	4.14"
Lafayette	3.60"
Livingston	3.76"
Melvin	3.76"
Milstead	3.72"
Moulton	3.77"
Oneonta	4.17"
Perryville	4.02"
Plantersville	4.02"
Rock Mills	3.95"
Rockford	4.02"
Sylacauga	4.22"
Union Springs	4.33"
Uniontown	3.61"
Vernon	4.43"
Warrior L&D	3.33"
Wetumpka	4.08"

*Southeast Regional Climate Center
www.serrc.com

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