

# The Alabama Climate Report

Brought to you by the Office of the Alabama Climatologist

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Weather wise, June is typically the calmest month of the year in Alabama. We average barely more than one tornado statewide during the month. (As any native can attest, there is a general shortage of cold fronts throughout the Alabama summer.) And, although it is technically the start of the Atlantic hurricane season, National Weather Service data says there has never been a June hurricane in Alabama.

The earliest hurricane on record to hit Alabama was the record-setting July 5, 1916, hurricane, but more on that next month.

May was generally uneventful, trending at the end of the month toward dry and hot. At the beginning of May less than 10 percent of the state was 'abnormally dry.' The new state drought monitor

will show the top half of the state in moderate drought and the northeastern corner in a severe drought.

That kind of thing happens when rain falters and temperatures rise, which they did at the end of the month as temperatures topped 90° during the last week of May. Birmingham saw temps of 90°, 92° and 93° from Sunday through Tuesday, when the normal high would be 84°. Montgomery got 90°+ temps five of the last six days of May, while Huntsville averaged about 11 degrees warmer than normal on May 29-31. Mobile also hit 90° or warmer for the last three days of May, but Mobile's average temperature for the month was 0.6° cooler than May norms.

Stations statewide generally saw little rain in May: With 2.66" of rain, Mobile got just over half of its normal May rainfall. Huntsville got 1.54", Birmingham 1.43" and Montgomery 0.73". Stations at Scottsboro (1.03"), Muscle Shoals (1.16") and Talladega (1.24") saw their driest May on record, although Clanton saw its wettest May day on record May 1st, with 3.98" of rain in one day.

It is too early to say whether this will be a trend that continues through the summer, although there is a better than average chance that might happen as the east central Pacific Ocean transitions from an El Niño warming event to a La Niña cooling event.

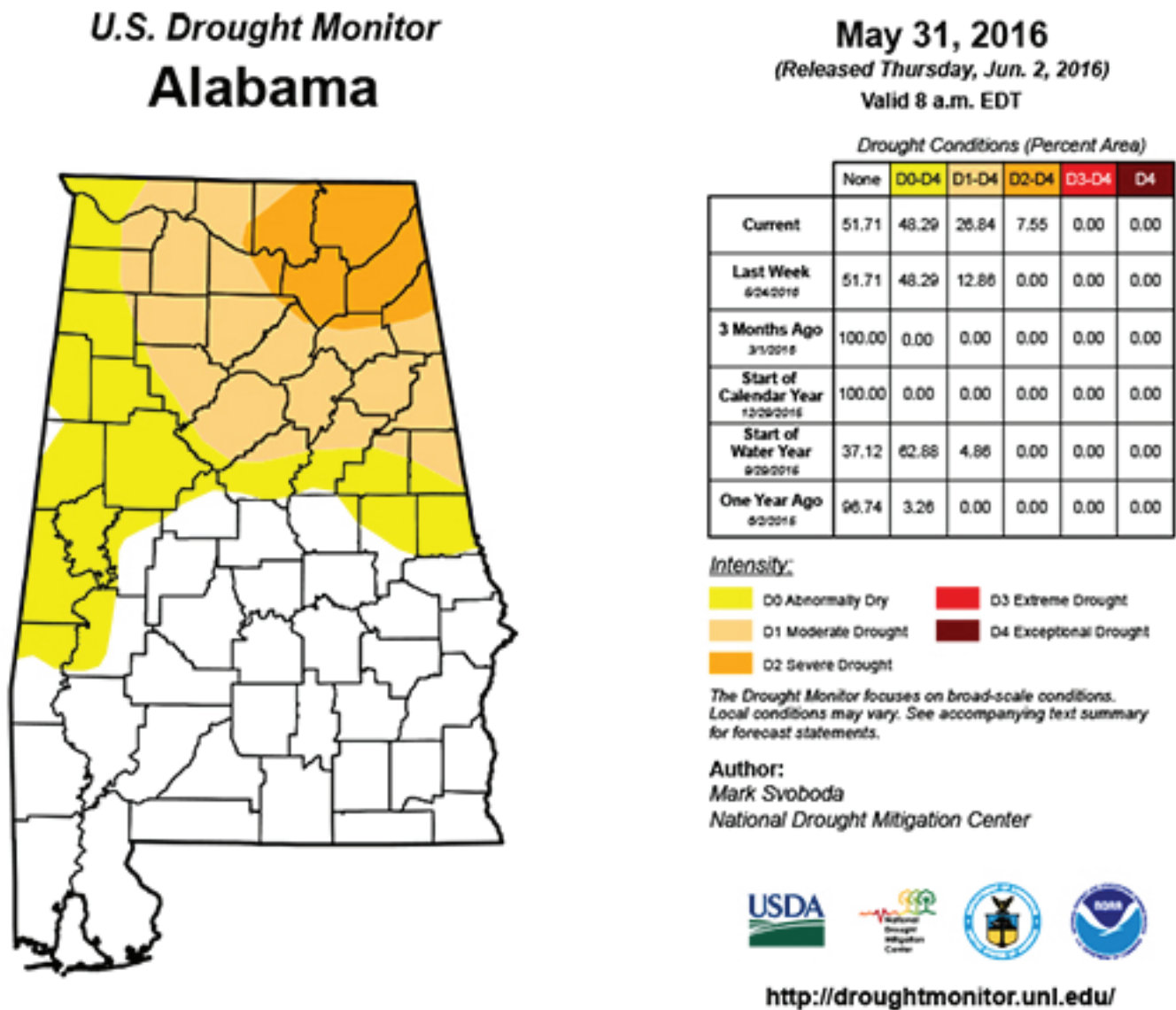
While we are still a few days from the beginning of the astronomical summer (the Sun hits its northernmost reach on June 20 at 5:34 a.m. CDT), June 1 marks not only the start of the hurricane season but also the meteorological summer. In the Northern Hemisphere, of course.

While the Sun is going to do what the Sun does, the warmest 91 days of the calendar year for Alabama occur, on average, starting about June 9 and running through Sept. 7. June 9 is a bit closer to June 1 than it is to the solstice, so meteorologists generally refer to the entire month of June as the

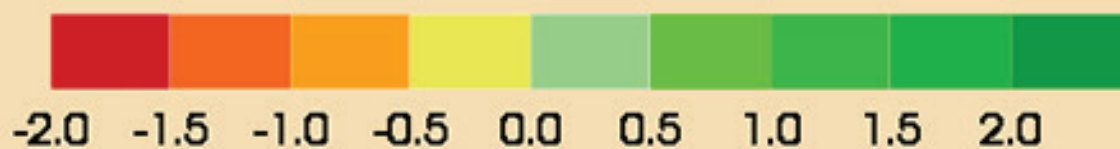
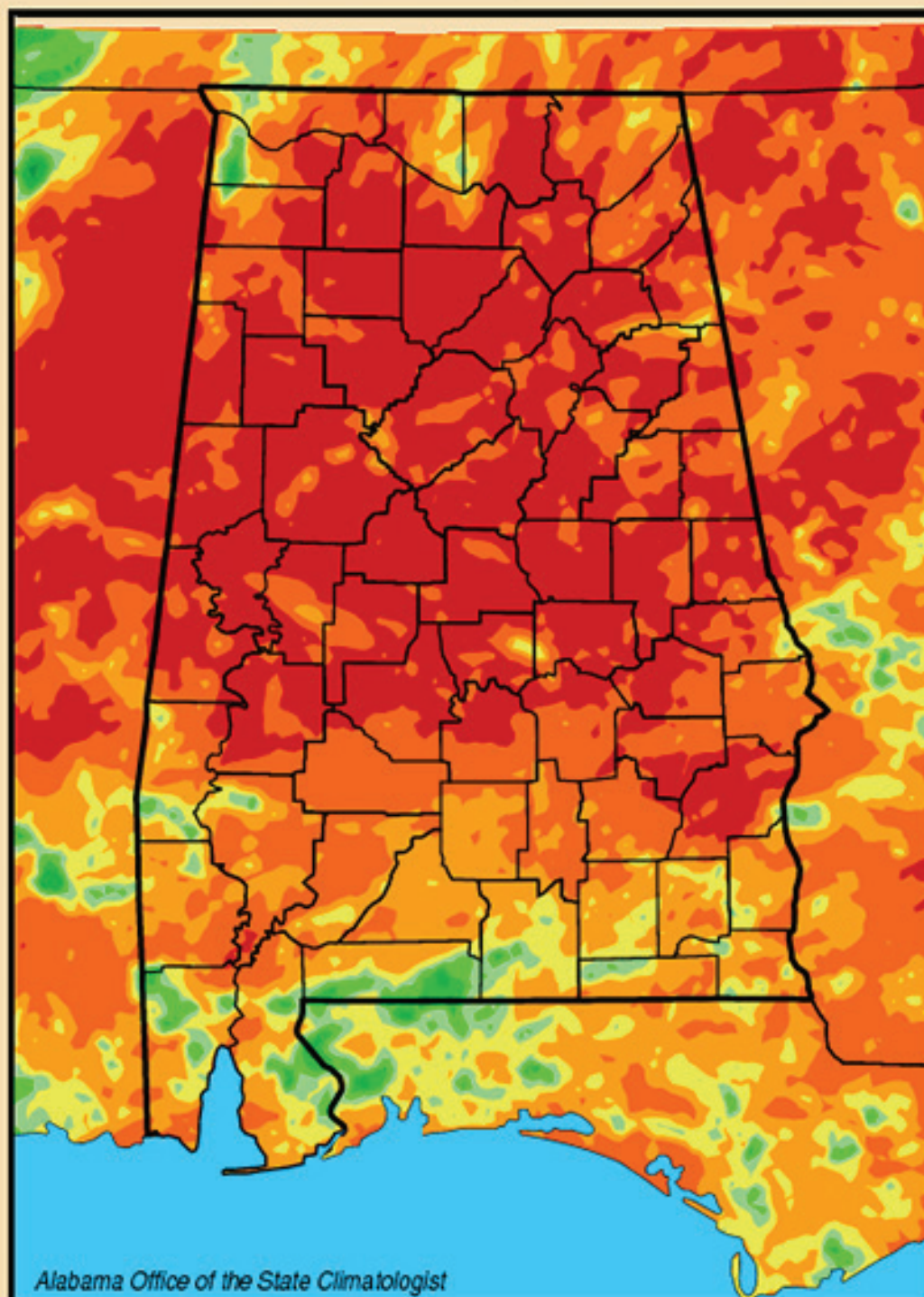
start of summer and the last day of August as its end.

It's an interesting choice for modern scientists to be making, choosing between a calendar introduced by a 16th century pope or solar movements tracked by ancient civilizations from Egypt to Stonehenge and beyond.

- John Christy



# Lawn-and-Garden Moisture Index for June 2, 2016





# Alabama Monthly Climate Summaries

## May 2016

	Station Began	May Mean May Norm	May Hi Temp Record Hi	May Low Temp Record Low	Total Precip. Normal Prec.	Wettest May Driest May	Heaviest Day Record Day
Anniston	2/1903	70.2°	94° 5/31/16	44° 5/6/16	4.49"	8.59" 1983	2.58" 5/1/16
		69.4°	98° 5/16/62	34° 5/13/60	4.16"	1.81" 1977	3.32" 5/19/83
Auburn	1/1893	69.0°	86° 5/12/16	44° 5/6/16	1.58"	10.33" 1915	0.59" 5/2/16
		71.7°	98° 5/27/1911	35° 5/13/60	3.75"	.36" 1914	4.53" 5/7/15
Birmingham	1/1930	70.8°	93° 5/31/16	45° 5/6/16	1.42"	9.57" 1983	1.04" 5/27-28/15
		70.4°	99° 5/28/62	36° 5/4/71	4.83"	.88" 2000	3.85" 5/6/67
Brewton	4/1977	71.2°	91.9° 5/30/16	45.2° 5/6/16	3.31"	15.97" 1991	1.30" 5/17/16
		70.9°	100° 5/26/33	34° 5/4/71	5.56"	.85" 1988	5.00+ 5/10/95
Calera	9/1900	70.9°	94° 5/31/16	47° 5/6/16	1.51"	9.99" 2003	0.45" 5/1/16
		69.5°	98° 5/21/62	31° 5/13/60	4.02"	.34" 1977	3.65" 5/12/12
Clanton	2/1893	69.6°	93.2° 5/31/16	45.8° 5/7/16	5.27"	13.26" 1991	3.98" 5/1/16
		70.5°	99°+ 5/31/45	33° 5/13/60	4.36"	.57" 1977	3.75" 5/20/46
Courtland		68.0°	89.3° 5/26/16	43.8° 5/5/16	0.28"	M	0.15" 5/12/16
		M	M	M	M	M	M
Cullman	7/1907	66.6°	91.6° 5/31/16	41.2° 5/5/16	1.71"	M	0.77" 5/2/16
		M	M	M	M	M	M
Decatur	2/1880	68.3°	91° 5/30/16	44° 5/6/16	1.10"	8.44" 1907	0.95" 5/12/16
		70.2°	100° 3/31/14	34° 5/2/1909	3.87"	.15" 1941	3.50" 5/29/1912
Dothan	2/1902	74.0°	96° 5/31/16	48° 5/6/16	1.62"	8.73" 1947	0.61" 5/17/16
		74.6°	104° 5/30/37	44° 5/5/54	3.37"	.45" 1962	4.10" 5/12/1903
Fairhope	8/1917	72.5°	90.3° 5/30/16	47.4° 5/7/16	2.04"	13.75" 1991	1.70" 5/20/16
		73.3°	98° 5/27/53	43° 5/13/60	5.60"	.31" 1988	6.54" 5/20/81
Gadsden	7/1893	66.1°	89.4° 5/31/16	41.9° 5/6/16	2.47"	7.75" 1973	0.93" 5/12/16
		68.4°	99° 5/24/70	33° 5/13/60	4.59"	1.43" 2000	3.22" 5/22/67
Gainesville Lock	6/1948	70.0°	93.1° 5/31/16	47.1° 5/6/16	0.92"	12.17" 1978	0.36" 5/12/16
		70.0°	97° 5/31/77	38° 5/5/86	4.43"	.12" 2000	5.12" 5/1/78
Greensboro	2/1890	69.4°	91.7° 5/30/16	42.6° 5/6/16	3.89"	10.30" 1991	1.77" 5/20/16
		71.9°	98°+ 5/24/96	37°+ 5/10/66	4.47"	.81" 1992	4.10" 5/18/30
Highland Home	3/1892	70.8°	91.5° 5/31/16	46.9° 5/6/16	3.07"	9.61" 1976	1.18" 5/1/16
		70.7°	98° 5/22/62	40° 5/13/81	4.05"	.44" 2000	4.46" 5/4/78
Huntsville	1/1959	70.4°	94° 5/30/16	43° 5/6/16	1.62"	11.88" 1983	1.04" 5/12/16
		69.2°	96° 5/20/1960	36° 5/3/71	5.04"	.78" 2007	4.64" 5/16/80

# Alabama Monthly Climate Summaries

May 2016

	Station Began	May Mean May Norm	May Hi Temp Record Hi	May Low Temp Record Lo	Total Precip. Normal Prec.	Wettest May Driest May	Heaviest Day Record Day
Mobile	3/1900	73.5°	93° 5/30/16	49° 5/7/16	2.66"	15.08" 1980	1.85" 5/20/16
		73.5°	100°+ 5/27/53	43° 5/13/80	6.10"	.36" 1996	7.96" 5/5/81
Montgomery	6/1948	73.6°	96° 5/30/16	48° 5/8/16	0.73"	12.01" 1978	0.43" 5/20/16
		72.3°	98° 5/27/53	40° 5/4/71	4.14"	.68" 1995	5.23" 5/9/78
Muscle Shoals	12/1940	69.8°	92° 5/29/16	46° 5/5/16	1.16"	11.86" 1983	0.70" 5/10/16
		68.8°	99° 5/29/41	36°+ 5/4/71	5.30"	1.18" 1987	3.32" 5/17/80
Russellville	9/1953	66.3°	89.2° 5/26/16	38.9° 5/8/16	0.87"	18.37" 1991	0.40" 5/2/16
		66.3°	95°+ 5/27/00	31°+ 5/4/76	5.87"	.62" 1987	6.10" 5/8/84
Scottsboro	10/1891	67.0°	91.5° 5/31/16	41.2° 5/8/16	1.03"	9.81" 1983	0.42" 5/12/16
		68.1°	97° 5/29/41	32° 5/4/71	5.02"	1.27" 1992	5.00" 5/3/97
Selma	1/1895	70.2°	94.1° 5/31/16	45.6° 5/7/16	2.25"	9.01" 1991	0.83" 5/2/16
		71.8°	100° 5/27/53	40° 5/7/44	3.71"	.10" 1977	3.40" 5/4/57
Talladega	2/1888	69.5°	93.2° 5/31/16	42° 5/8/16	1.24"	11.72" 1983	0.45" 5/12/16
		70.0°	96°+ 5/25/96	32° 5/4/71	4.71"	1.55" 1995	5.22" 5/19/83
Thomasville	9/1891	69.8°	92.3° 5/31/16	44.8° 5/7/16	2.06"	12.04" 1980	1.15" 5/17/16
		72.1°	99° 5/31/37	36° 5/13/80	4.75"	.64" 1988	5.07" 5/1/40
Troy	6/1908	72.5°	97° 5/31/16	45° 5/8/16	2.41"	9.57" 1976	1.16" 5/1/16
		71.2°	99° 5/30/37	38° 5/4/71	3.73"	.14" 1977	4.65" 5/6/53
Tuscaloosa	6/1948	70.6°	94° 5/30/16	44° 5/8/16	0.70"	11.13" 1976	0.46" 5/12/16
		71.9°	98° 5/31/51	36° 5/4/76	4.55"	.44" 2000	3.91" 5/1/58
Valley Head	1/1893	65.3°	88.5° 5/30/16	37° 5/8/16	1.82"	8.63" 1978	0.89" 5/12/16
		66.4°	94°+ 5/29/62	29°+ 5/4/76	4.70"	1.08" 1992	4.19" 5/3/97
Statewide May 2015		70.05° /	97° Troy	37° Valley Head	2.05"	18.37" Russellville	2.58" Anniston
May Norm		70.52° /	104° Dothan	29°+ Valley Head	4.59"	0.10" Selma	7.96" Mobile

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://nsssc.uah.edu/alclimate/climate/daily\\_climate\\_and\\_normals.php](http://nsssc.uah.edu/alclimate/climate/daily_climate_and_normals.php)

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

May 2016

## Precipitation, Daily

	New Record	Previous Year	Previous Record	Period of Record
<b>01 May 2016</b>				
ANNISTON METRO APRT	2.58	1985-05-01	1.97	113
BILLINGSLEY	2.15	1957-05-01	1.92	77
<b>02 May 2016</b>				
GADSDEN	1.05	2004-05-02	1.01	63
<b>12 May 2016</b>				
ATHENS	1.19	1955-05-12	0.75	75
GADSDEN	1.25	1991-05-12	0.89	63
<b>17 May 2016</b>				
MOBILE DTWN AIRPORT	0.75	1968-05-17	0.64	67
<b>18 May 2016</b>				
GENEVA NUMBER 2	0.75	1987-05-18	0.55	40
MELVIN	2.02	2010-05-18	1.23	76
<b>19 May 2016</b>				
FT BENNING LAWSON FD	0.75	1993-05-19	0.55	67
<b>21 May 2016</b>				
GENEVA NUMBER 2	0.69	2015-05-21	0.55	40

## Maximum High Temperature, Daily

	New Record	Previous Hottest Day	Previous Record	Period of Record
<b>31 May 2016</b>				
ALEXANDER CITY	94	2012-05-31	93	46
CLAYTON	96	2011-05-31	95	60

## Minimum Low Temperature, Daily

	New Record	Previous Year	Previous Record	Period of Record
<b>15 May 2016</b>				
HAMILTON 3 S.....	40	2006-05-15	41	54

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

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

May 2016

## Normal May Precipitation\*

	Total Precip.	# Stations
Autauga	2.55	2
Baldwin	4.07	22
Barbour	n.a.	0
Bibb	n.a.	0
Blount	2.77	8
Bullock	n.a.	0
Butler	n.a.	0
Calhoun	2.32	2
Chambers	n.a.	0
Cherokee	2.14	1
Chilton	2.70	2
Choctaw	2.92	1
Clarke	2.56	1
Clay	n.a.	0
Cleburne	n.a.	0
Coffee	3.26	1
Colbert	2.00	6
Conecuh	n.a.	0
Coosa	2.10	2
Covington	n.a.	0
Crenshaw	n.a.	0
Cullman	2.85	5
Dale	3.17	1
Dallas	3.08	1
DeKalb	1.93	3
Elmore	2.70	5
Escambia	4.35	1
Etowah	3.05	1
Fayette	2.21	1
Franklin	n.a.	0
Geneva	n.a.	0
Greene	n.a.	0
Hale	n.a.	0
Henry	n.a.	0

	Total Precip.	# Stations
Houston	1.52	2
Jackson	1.73	7
Jefferson	2.15	14
Lamar	n.a.	0
Lauderdale	1.48	11
Lawrence	2.11	2
Lee	1.22	3
Limestone	2.14	10
Lowndes	n.a.	0
Macon	n.a.	0
Madison	1.94	44
Marengo	n.a.	0
Marion	2.06	1
Marshall	2.09	10
Mobile	3.48	15
Monroe	3.27	2
Montgomery	1.96	3
Morgan	1.81	5
Perry	n.a.	0
Pickens	1.86	1
Pike	n.a.	0
Randolph	1.14	2
Russell	1.92	2
St. Clair	2.83	5
Shelby	2.39	16
Sumter	n.a.	0
Talladega	3.11	4
Tallapoosa	0.97	4
Tuscaloosa	1.88	5
Walker	1.86	1
Washington	1.85	1
Wilcox	1.81	2
Winston	2.51	2

Abbeville	4.03"
Alberta	4.25"
Alex City	4.42"
Aliceville	3.90"
Andalusia	4.69"
Ashland	4.44"
Athens	4.12"
Bay Minette	5.48"
Bessemer	5.16"
Billingsley	3.70"
Centreville WSMO	4.56"
Chatom	5.19"
Claiborne L&D	4.33"
Clayton	4.00"
Dauphin Isl.	5.51"
Elba	4.27"
Eufaula WR	4.04"
Evergreen	4.69"
Fayette	4.42"
Geneva 2	4.52"
Greenville	4.12"
Haleyville	4.97"
Hamilton 3S	5.92"
Heflin	4.87"
Hurtsboro	4.53"
Jasper	5.14"
Lafayette	4.29"
Livingston	4.18"
Melvin	4.52"
Milstead	3.93"
Moulton	4.97"
Oneonta	4.44"
Perryville	3.72"
Plantersville	4.00"
Rock Mills	3.95"
Rockford	4.32"
Sylacauga	3.80"
Union Springs	3.83"
Uniontown	3.83"
Vernon	4.94"
Warrior L&D	4.14"
Wetumpka	3.63"

\*Southeast Regional Climate Center  
www.serrc.com

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