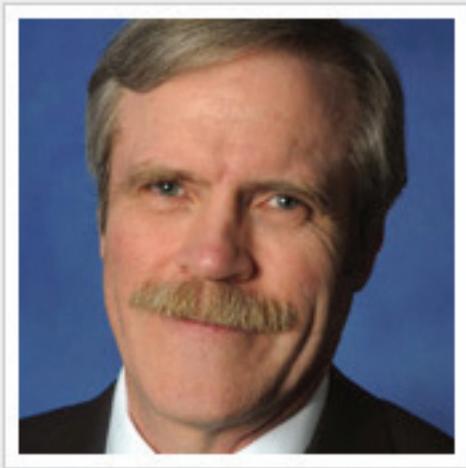


The Alabama Climate Report

Brought to you by the Office of the Alabama Climatologist

Volume 7, Number 8, May 2017



Dr. John Christy, Alabama State Climatologist

May certainly wasn't quiet. At least three significant storm systems knocked down trees and utility poles, blocking roads and causing power outages and flash floods in spots across the state while also causing some un-May-like cool temperatures.

Montgomery had its wettest May on record, with 12.74" of rain for the month. That included 8.15" just on May 20. The former record for May was 12.01" set in May 1978.

But Montgomery was unique in that respect. Mobile got more than 10" of rain in May, but that isn't close to the 15.08" May 1980 record. Likewise, Troy recorded 7.77" of rain in May, which was 1.8" short of the May 1976 record.

Several stations saw daily rainfall records broken, but for the month most of Alabama seemed to fall somewhere in the slightly wetter than normal to slightly drier than normal spectrum.

Those cool temperatures kept May's high temperatures on the cool side. Looking only at high temperatures, May 2017 was the 40th coolest May on record in Birmingham, the 29th coolest in Montgomery and the 20th coolest in Mobile. The average high temperature was cooler than normal in Huntsville. A couple of dozen daily records were broken statewide for the "lowest high temperature."

Despite the generally cool highs in May, the year to date has been generally warmer than normal. Through May, 2017 has been the second warmest start to a year in Birmingham and Mobile, is tied for the warmest start in Huntsville, and is the warmest first five months on record in Montgomery.

Warmer than normal temperatures aren't much of a hardship in January, February and March. If the trend continues into July, August and September, however, it could be a hot and sticky summer.

June is the official start of the hurricane season, although we've already had one named storm this year: Tropical storm Arlene back in April.

The official forecast is for a slightly better than normal chance of the more active than normal hurricane season this year. The chance that we will see an El Niño Pacific Ocean warming event (which typically suppresses Atlantic hurricane formation) form this summer is about 50/50. The

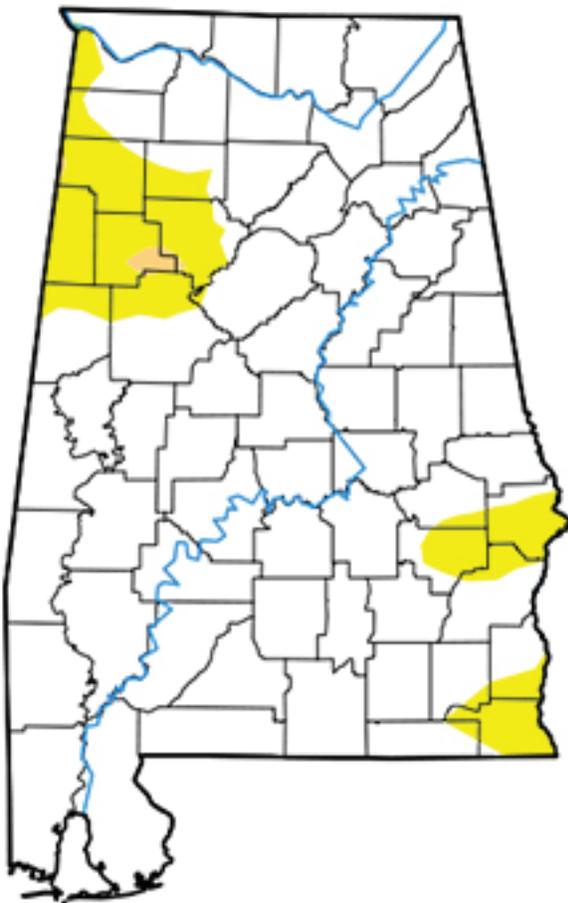
expectation is that if an El Niño does form, it will probably be weak and have little impact on Atlantic hurricanes.

We are working on our 12th hurricane season since a major (category 3 or stronger) hurricane hit the continental U.S. That is far and away the longest major hurricane “drought” on record. If we have no faith in the hurricane forecast, plain old statistics and that regression to the norm thing would tend to say the longer we go without a major storm, the more likely it becomes that we will get one.

Which means this isn’t a good time to neglect our hurricane preparations. There’s never really a good time to neglect our severe weather prep. After more than a decade of relative quiet, however, human nature and putting things off can kick in. Not a good idea.

- John Christy

U.S. Drought Monitor Alabama



May 30, 2017
(Released Thursday, Jun. 1, 2017)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	88.42	11.58	0.33	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week 06-23-2017	77.96	22.04	1.76	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 03-29-2017	36.64	63.36	53.63	31.96	5.21	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-03-2017	22.97	77.03	66.12	48.58	23.32	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-27-2016	17.15	82.85	47.12	17.94	6.36	0.00
One Year Ago 06-30-2016	51.71	48.29	26.84	7.55	0.00	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.

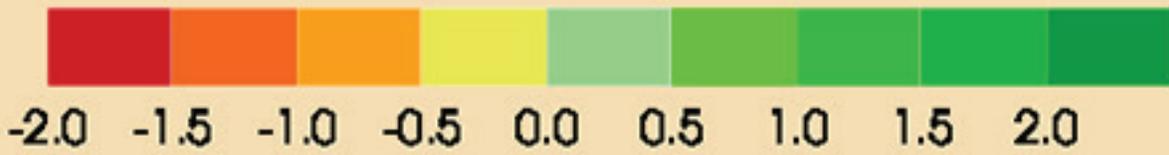
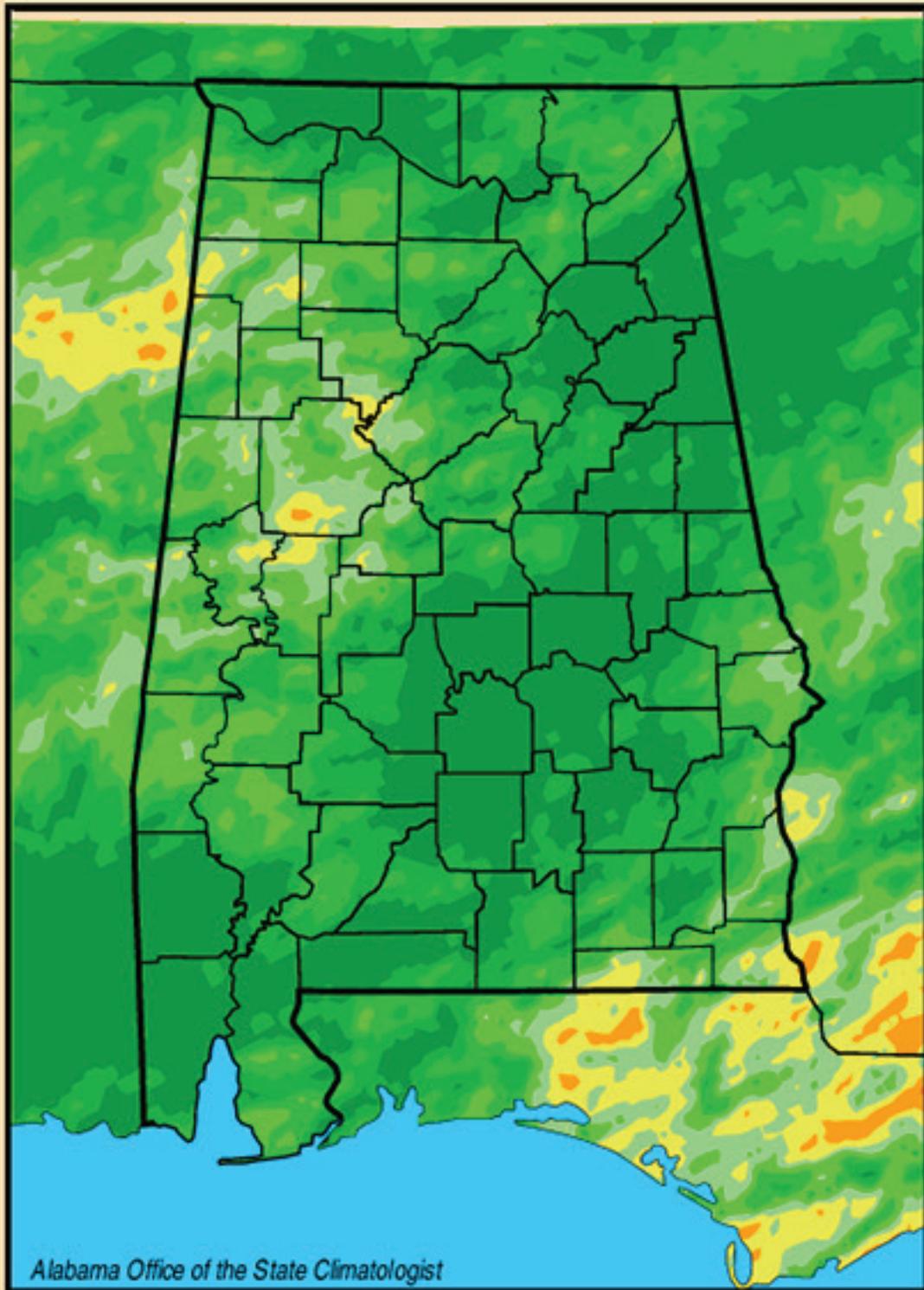
Author:

Chris Fenimore
NCEI/NESDIS/NOAA



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

Lawn-and-Garden Moisture Index for June 1, 2017



Alabama Monthly Climate Summaries

May 2017

	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	68.7°	90° 5/19/17	43° 5/6/17	5.16"	8.50" 1983	1.82" 5/20/17
		69.4°	98° 5/16/82	34° 5/13/80	4.16"	1.81" 1977	3.32" 5/19/83
Auburn	1/1893	70.6°	87° 5/27/17	48° 5/6/17	5.77"	10.33" 1915	1.52" 5/23/17
		71.7°	98° 5/27/1911	35° 5/13/80	3.75"	0.36" 1914	4.53" 5/7/15
Birmingham	1/1930	71.1°	92° 5/19/17	43° 5/6/17	6.67"	9.57" 1983	2.65" 5/20/17
		70.4°	99° 5/28/82	38° 5/4/71	4.83"	0.88" 2000	3.85" 5/6/67
Brewton	4/1977	70.8°	90.1° 5/19/17	43.2° 5/6/17	10.48"	15.97" 1991	2.59" 5/23/17
		70.9°	100° 5/26/33	34° 5/4/71	5.56"	0.85" 1988	5.00"+ 5/10/95
Calera	9/1900	70.4°	91° 5/18/17	43° 5/6/17	6.11"	9.99" 2003	1.33" 5/20/17
		69.5°	98° 5/21/82	31° 5/13/80	4.02"	0.34" 1977	3.65" 5/12/12
Clanton	2/1893	68.9°	89.4° 5/19/17	43.3° 5/6/17	6.44"	13.26" 1991	1.87" 5/20/17
		70.5°	99°+ 5/31/45	33° 5/13/80	4.36"	0.57" 1977	3.75" 5/20/48
Courtland		68.3°	88.4° 5/17/17	42.9° 5/6/17	6.20"	M	1.72" 5/20/17
		M	M	M	M	M	M
Cullman	7/1907	67.0°	86.3° 5/19/17	37.6° 5/6/17	6.60"	M	1.57" 5/20/17
		M	M	M	M	M	M
Decatur	2/1880	68.9°	91° 5/19/17	44° 5/6/17	5.40"	8.44" 1907	1.25" 5/20/17
		70.2°	100° 3/31/14	34° 5/2/1909	3.87"	0.15" 1941	3.50" 5/29/1912
Dothan	2/1902	73.7°	92° 5/16/17	49° 5/5/17	4.55"	8.73" 1947	1.03" 5/21/17
		74.6°	104° 5/30/37	44° 5/5/54	3.37"	0.45" 1962	4.10" 5/12/1903
Fairhope	8/1917	72.0°	87.4° 5/16/17	47.2° 5/6/17	8.62"	13.75" 1991	1.61" 5/20/17
		73.3°	98° 5/27/53	43° 5/13/80	5.60"	0.31" 1988	6.54" 5/20/81
Gadsden	7/1893	66.8°	86.1° 5/19/17	42.2° 5/6/17	9.48"	7.75" 1973	2.40" 5/22/17
		68.4°	99° 5/24/70	33° 5/13/80	4.59"	1.43" 2000	3.22" 5/22/67
Gainesville Lock	6/1948	69.5°	89.4° 5/19/17	43.8° 5/6/17	4.57"	12.17" 1978	1.87" 5/20/17
		70.0°	97° 5/31/77	38° 5/5/86	4.43"	0.12" 2000	5.12" 5/1/78
Greensboro	2/1890	69.4°	89.4° 5/19/17	40.9° 5/6/17	3.91"	10.30" 1991	1.14" 5/22/17
		71.9°	98°+ 5/24/96	37°+ 5/10/86	4.47"	0.81" 1992	4.10" 5/18/30
Highland Home	3/1892	70.7°	89.1° 5/16/17	45° 5/6/17	6.04"	9.61" 1976	2.14" 5/23/17
		70.7°	98° 5/22/82	40° 5/13/81	4.05"	0.44" 2000	4.46" 5/4/78
Huntsville	1/1959	70.3°	92° 5/20/17	43° 5/6/17	5.97"	11.88" 1983	1.30" 5/20/17
		69.2°	96° 5/20/1960	36° 5/3/71	5.04"	0.78" 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	73.1°	89° 5/16/17	44° 5/6/17	10.88"	15.08" 1980	4.37" 5/20/17
		73.5°	100°+ 5/27/53	43° 5/13/80	6.10"	0.36" 1996	7.96" 5/5/81
Montgomery	6/1948	72.9°	92° 5/18/17	47° 5/6/17	*12.74"	12.01" 1978	*8.15" 5/20/17
		72.3°	98° 5/27/53	40° 5/4/71	4.14"	0.68" 1995	5.23" 5/9/78
Muscle Shoals	12/1940	69.4°	91° 5/19/17	43° 5/6/17	4.96"	11.86" 1983	1.21" 5/28/17
		68.8°	99° 5/29/41	36°+ 5/4/71	5.30"	1.18" 1987	3.32" 5/17/80
Russellville	9/1953	66.7°	86.5° 5/16/17	38.3° 5/6/17	3.71"	18.37" 1991	0.55" 5/28/17
		66.3°	95°+ 5/27/00	31°+ 5/4/76	5.87"	0.62" 1987	6.10" 5/8/84
Scottsboro	10/1891	67.4°	88.9° 5/19/17	39.9° 5/6/17	5.20"	9.81" 1983	1.00" 5/1/17
		68.1°	97° 5/29/41	32° 5/4/71	5.02"	1.27" 1992	5.00" 5/3/97
Selma	1/1895	69.4°	88.9° 5/19/17	40.3° 5/6/17	5.98"	9.01" 1991	1.57" 5/31/17
		71.8°	100° 5/27/53	40° 5/7/44	3.71"	0.10" 1977	3.40" 5/4/57
Talladega	2/1888	69.2°	91.3° 5/19/17	41.3° 5/6/17	7.43"	11.72" 1983	2.22" 5/20/17
		70.0°	96°+ 5/25/96	32° 5/4/71	4.71"	1.55" 1995	5.22" 5/19/83
Thomasville	9/1891	69.4°	90.1° 5/19/17	40° 5/6/17	4.98"	12.04" 1980	1.29" 5/1/17
		72.1°	99° 5/31/37	36° 5/13/80	4.75"	0.64" 1988	5.07" 5/1/40
Troy	6/1908	70.5°	91° 5/16/17	42° 5/6/17	7.95"	9.57" 1976	3.03" 5/23/17
		71.2°	99° 5/30/37	38° 5/4/71	3.73"	0.14" 1977	4.65" 5/6/53
Tuscaloosa	6/1948	70.4°	91° 5/19/17	41° 5/6/17	3.49"	11.13" 1976	0.78" 5/22/17
		71.9°	98° 5/31/51	36° 5/4/76	4.55"	0.44" 2000	3.91" 5/1/58
Valley Head	1/1893	65.9°	86.8° 5/19/17	38.2° 5/6/17	7.58"	8.63" 1978	1.73" 5/20/17
		66.4°	94°+ 5/29/62	29°+ 5/4/76	4.70"	1.08" 1992	4.19" 5/3/97
Statewide May 2015		69.84° /	92° 4 stations	37.6° Russellville	6.56"	18.37" Russellville	8.15" Montgomery
May Norm		70.52° /	104° Dothan	29°+ Valley Head	4.59"	0.10" Selma	8.15" Montgomery

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

Community Collaborative Rain, Hail & Snow Network (CoCoRAHS)

May 2017

	Total Precip.	# Stations
Autauga	8.09	2
Baldwin	9.62	26
Barbour	n.a.	0
Bibb	n.a.	0
Blount	7.02	8
Bullock	n.a.	0
Butler	9.11	1
Calhoun	8.60	2
Chambers	n.a.	0
Cherokee	n.a.	0
Chilton	8.23	2
Choctaw	7.70	1
Clarke	8.67	1
Clay	n.a.	0
Cleburne	n.a.	0
Coffee	6.50	1
Colbert	5.48	5
Conecuh	11.19	2
Coosa	9.50	2
Covington	n.a.	0
Crenshaw	n.a.	0
Cullman	7.16	3
Dale	5.01	1
Dallas	8.73	1
DeKalb	8.10	5
Elmore	11.32	5
Escambia	12.77	1
Etowah	n.a.	0
Fayette	4.77	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	4.04	2
Jackson	7.37	6
Jefferson	6.75	14
Lamar	n.a.	0
Lauderdale	6.18	10
Lawrence	4.83	2
Lee	6.55	3
Limestone	7.53	7
Lowndes	n.a.	0
Macon	10.10	1
Madison	6.82	21
Marengo	n.a.	0
Marion	7.90	1
Marshall	7.32	9
Mobile	13.33	14
Monroe	10.16	2
Montgomery	9.23	4
Morgan	8.38	5
Perry	n.a.	0
Pickens	7.11	1
Pike	n.a.	0
Randolph	7.44	2
Russell	4.34	2
St. Clair	7.51	5
Shelby	6.88	17
Sumter	n.a.	0
Talladega	7.56	4
Tallapoosa	4.52	3
Tuscaloosa	5.25	5
Walker	n.a.	0
Washington	6.71	1
Wilcox	7.20	2
Winston	5.85	2

Normal May Precipitation*

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.serc.com

New Local Climate Records¹

May 2017

Precipitation, Daily

	New Record	Previous Year	Previous Record	Period of Record					
01 May 2017					CALERA	1.89	2000-05-21	1.80	116
ALEXANDER CITY	1.80	2002-05-01	1.58	47	CLAYTON	2.73	1955-05-21	2.72	88
ALICEVILLE LAND D	1.36	1985-05-01	0.81	37	GADSDEN	2.00	2010-05-21	1.48	64
BANKHEAD LOCK AND DAM	2.20	2002-05-01	1.28	60	GENEVA NUMBER 2	1.75	2016-05-21	0.69	41
CENTREVILLE 2.9 SW	1.76	1978-05-01	1.53	42	HAMILTON 3 S	3.62	1983-05-21	2.17	55
CHATOM	3.21	1993-05-01	1.00	67	JACKSONVILLE	2.81	1959-05-21	1.56	69
COFFEEVILLE LOCK & DAM	3.80	1989-05-01	1.38	34	LAY DAM	2.16	1947-05-21	0.84	80
DEMOPOLIS LOCK & DAM	2.09	2004-05-01	0.84	65	MITCHELL DAM	3.78	1990-05-21	1.45	80
HANCEVILLE	1.32	2002-05-01	0.70	31	OPELIKA	1.85	2010-05-21	0.67	60
HOLT LOCK AND DAM	1.62	2006-05-01	0.70	36	PINE APPLE	2.10	1989-05-21	0.68	49
HURTSBORO	0.55	2003-05-01	0.18	39	SAND MTN SUBSTATION	1.37	2005-05-21	1.20	68
ONEONTA	2.25	1909-05-01	1.30	122	SELMA	2.22	1922-05-21	1.67	122
PINE APPLE	1.65	2006-05-01	1.54	49	THORSBY EXP STATION	2.31	2000-05-21	1.01	59
PLANTERSVILLE 2 SSE	2.37	1940-05-01	2.08	77	23 May 2017				
SAND MT SUBSTATION	1.59	1949-05-01	1.30	68	ALEXANDER CITY	0.94	1974-05-23	0.82	47
SCOTTSBORO	1.71	1976-05-01	1.25	125	BESSEMER 3 WSW	0.74	2009-05-23	0.52	40
THORSBY EXP. STATION	2.12	1978-05-01	1.10	59	COFFEEVILLE LOCK & DAM	0.85	2009-05-23	0.66	34
UNIONTOWN	2.82	1940-05-01	2.78	122	FT BENNING LAWSON FD	0.90	1980-05-23	0.67	68
WALLACE 2 E	2.04	1989-05-01	2.00	76	FORT PAYNE	1.56	1974-05-23	1.38	81
WARRIOR LOCK & DAM	1.75	1978-05-01	1.50	59	GAINESVILLE LOCK	1.26	1959-05-23	1.10	69
04 May 2017					HOLT LOCK AND DAM	0.86	1983-05-23	0.28	36
BAY MINETTE	2.25	2008-05-04	1.96	103	JORDAN DAM	1.29	1974-05-23	1.03	80
MOBILE DT AIRPORT	1.54	1967-05-04	0.60	68	MOBILE DT AIRPORT	1.82	1999-05-23	1.17	68
MOBILE REGL AIRPORT	1.47	1967-05-04	1.33	69	OPELIKA	1.65	1980-05-23	1.58	60
05 May 2017					SAND MTN SUBSTATION	2.44	1977-05-23	1.50	68
SYLACAUGA 4 NE	1.02	2013-05-05	0.90	62	UNIONTOWN	1.30	1974-05-23	1.25	122
13 May 2017					WALLACE 2 E	2.00	1976-05-23	1.40	76
ALICEVILLE LAND D	2.54	2012-05-13	1.52	37	24 May 2017				
14 May 2017					ALEXANDER CITY	1.04	1977-05-24	1.00	47
CLAYTON	0.81	2002-05-14	0.80	88	CHATOM	2.80	2009-05-24	2.05	67
20 May 2017					CLAIBORNE LOCK & DAM	2.40	1955-05-24	2.15	64
ANNISTON METRO AIRPRT	1.82	1980-05-20	0.68	114	JACKSONVILLE	1.17	1973-05-24	0.83	69
BIRMINGHAM AIRPORT	2.65	2010-05-20	1.72	87	MILLERS FERRY L&D	1.28	1997-05-24	1.08	36
MOBILE DT AIRPORT	2.37	1950-05-20	2.34	68	OPELIKA	1.10	1982-05-24	0.85	60
MOBILE REGL AIRPORT	4.37	1950-05-20	2.28	69	WALLACE 2 E	1.60	1989-05-24	1.53	76
MONTGOMERY AIRPORT	8.15	1980-05-20	2.00	69	WALNUT GROVE	1.63	1943-05-24	1.48	76
TALLAPOOSA WTR PLANT	7.00	1980-05-20	1.80	39	HUNTSVILLE INTL AIRPORT	0.97	1986-05-24	0.91	58
21 May 2017					28 May 2017				
ADDISON	0.73	2003-05-21	0.72	79	BELLE MINA	1.94	2015-05-28	1.70	67
ALEXANDER CITY	3.04	2010-05-21	1.02	47	29 May 2017				
ATMORE	3.28	1989-05-21	1.89	77	GADSDEN	1.38	1955-05-29	1.22	64
BAY MINETTE	2.81	2003-05-21	2.78	103	TALLAPOOSA WTR PLANT	0.60	1984-05-29	0.56	39
BILLINGSLEY	2.74	1990-05-21	2.41	78	31 May 2017				
CAHABA PUMP HOUSE	2.50	1984-05-21	2.00	35	BILLINGSLEY	0.99	1962-05-31	0.90	78
					CENTREVILLE 2.9 SW	1.18	1997-05-31	0.47	42
					HANCEVILLE	1.81	2004-05-31	1.80	31
					SYLACAUGA 4 NE	1.04	1975-05-31	0.98	62

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

New Local Climate Records¹

May 2017

Maximum High Temperature, Daily

	New Record	Previous Hottest Day	Previous Record	Period of Record
03 May 2017				
GADSDEN	90	1990-05-03	88	64
17 May 2017				
FT BENNING LAWSON FD 92	92	1968-05-17	90	68

Minimum Low Temperature, Daily

	New Record	Previous Coldest Day	Previous Record	Period of Record
03 May 2017				
GAINESVILLE LOCK.....	42	1988-05-03	44	59
06 May 2017				
ENTERPRISE 2 W	30	2013-05-06	42	51
HALEYVILLE.....	36	1957-05-06	39	114
JACKSON	42	2013-05-06	43	33
MOBILE REGIONAL AIRPRT...44	44	2013-05-06	45	69
07 May 2017				
EVERGREEN.....	43	1992-05-07	44	125
GAINESVILLE LOCK.....	40	1992-05-07	44	59
15 May 2017				
HALEYVILLE.....	39	1959-05-15	40	114

Precipitation, Wettest May Day

	New Record	Previous Wettest Day	Previous Record	Period of Record
20 May 2017				
TALLAPOOSA WTR PLANT	7.00	2009-05-07	5.20	39
MONTGOMERY AIRPORT	8.15	1978-05-09	5.23	69

Lowest Temperature, Month of May

	New Record	Previous Coolest Day	Previous Record	Period of Record
06 May 2017				
ENTERPRISE 2 W	30	1971-05-04	40	51

Cooler High Temperature, May

	New Record	Previous Date	Previous Record	Length of Record
05 May 2017				
ANNISTON METRO AIRPORT	52	1992-05-07	55	114
BESSEMER 3 WSW	53	2013-05-05	55	40
BIRMINGHAM AIRPORT	52	1970-05-03	56	87
HUNTSVILLE INTL AIRPORT	53	2013-05-04	54	58
MONTGOMERY AIRPORT	58	1970-05-03	60	69
06 May 2017				
BANKHEAD LOCK & DAM	52	2013-05-06	55	60
SYLACAUGA 4 NE	51	2013-05-05	53	62

Alabama State Climatologist

John R. Christy

Alabama State Climatologist

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