

The Alabama Climate Report

Brought to you by the Office of the Alabama Climatologist

Volume 7, Number 12, September 2017



Dr. John Christy, Alabama State Climatologist

We want to look a bit back into the records this month, to recognize the 50th anniversary of what was easily the coldest summer in Alabama's climate record.

It was the summer (and September) of 1967. During that September UAH celebrated its first anniversary of being UAH. (Before that it was the University of Alabama extension center in Huntsville.) NASA chose eight possible sites for a "moon port." The news was keeping an eye on elections in Vietnam, where Nguyen Van Thieu was named president.

The civil rights movement was also in the news, as were reports of riots and other violence. A story in the Huntsville Times reported: Former Alabama Governor "George Wallace said his wife, Alabama Governor Lurleen Wallace, was considering use of 'police power action in our state' to reverse the school desegregation orders of the federal courts."

But the weather news late that summer was the record cold combined with more rain than normal. June was cooler than normal, but didn't set a record. July, August and September all went into the record books as the coldest of those months on record. The aggregate for all four months was a statewide average temperature that was 4.5° cooler than normal.

On Sept. 3, the Huntsville Times reported: "Northeast Alabama's cotton crop will be cut in half — as much as \$13 million — unless weather during the next month remains warm and dry."

That wasn't going to happen, and on Sept. 29 the Times' lead story had the headline:

Cold Snap Hits
In Icy Surprise;
Records Tumble

"Long standing low-temperature records were shattered in Alabama this morning, and scattered frost warnings and a low of 38 have been issued for tonight in Huntsville."

One of the unique things about this cold spell is that it was tied to neither exceptionally heavy rain nor a tropical system, such as a tropical storm or hurricane. Generally speaking, cool summer temperatures are often linked to rain, as are the subsequent humid, muggy days and nights.

The statewide rainfall for June-September 1967, however, averaged 21.4 inches, which is only about 3.6 inches more than normal. That ranks 17th in the Southeastern Regional Climate Center's 70-year climate record; 17th isn't especially remarkable.

And Alabama was completely bypassed by hurricane and tropical storm action in 1967.

And despite having the coldest summer, and nine months of colder than normal temperatures (February and April through November), 1967 isn't close to being the coldest year in Alabama's climate record. That "honor" goes to 1976, which was 1.2° cooler than 1967; 1967 comes in only 15th in the ranking of coolest years.

Go figure.

Regarding the September just past, it looks like it will probably go into the middle of Septembers for both temperature and rainfall. It was warmer and drier than normal in both Mobile and Montgomery, but cooler and drier in Birmingham and Huntsville. Looking a bit more closely, we see the first half of the month was generally cool, while the latter half was warmer than normal — almost averaging out to normal for the month as a whole.

At the end of September, the year-to-date in all four major cities was either the warmest or second warmest first nine months in the SERCC climate records, based on average temperature. Rainfall is ahead of normal for all four, with Montgomery reporting its wettest Jan.-Sept. on record, and Birmingham its third wettest.

- John Christy

U.S. Drought Monitor Alabama



September 26, 2017
(Released Thursday, Sep. 28, 2017)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week <i>09-19-2017</i>	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago <i>06-27-2017</i>	98.47	1.53	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year <i>01-03-2017</i>	22.97	77.03	68.12	48.58	23.32	0.00
Start of Water Year <i>09-27-2016</i>	17.15	82.85	47.12	17.94	6.36	0.00
One Year Ago <i>09-27-2016</i>	17.15	82.85	47.12	17.94	6.36	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.

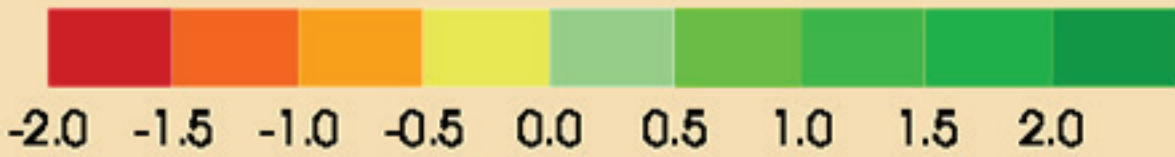
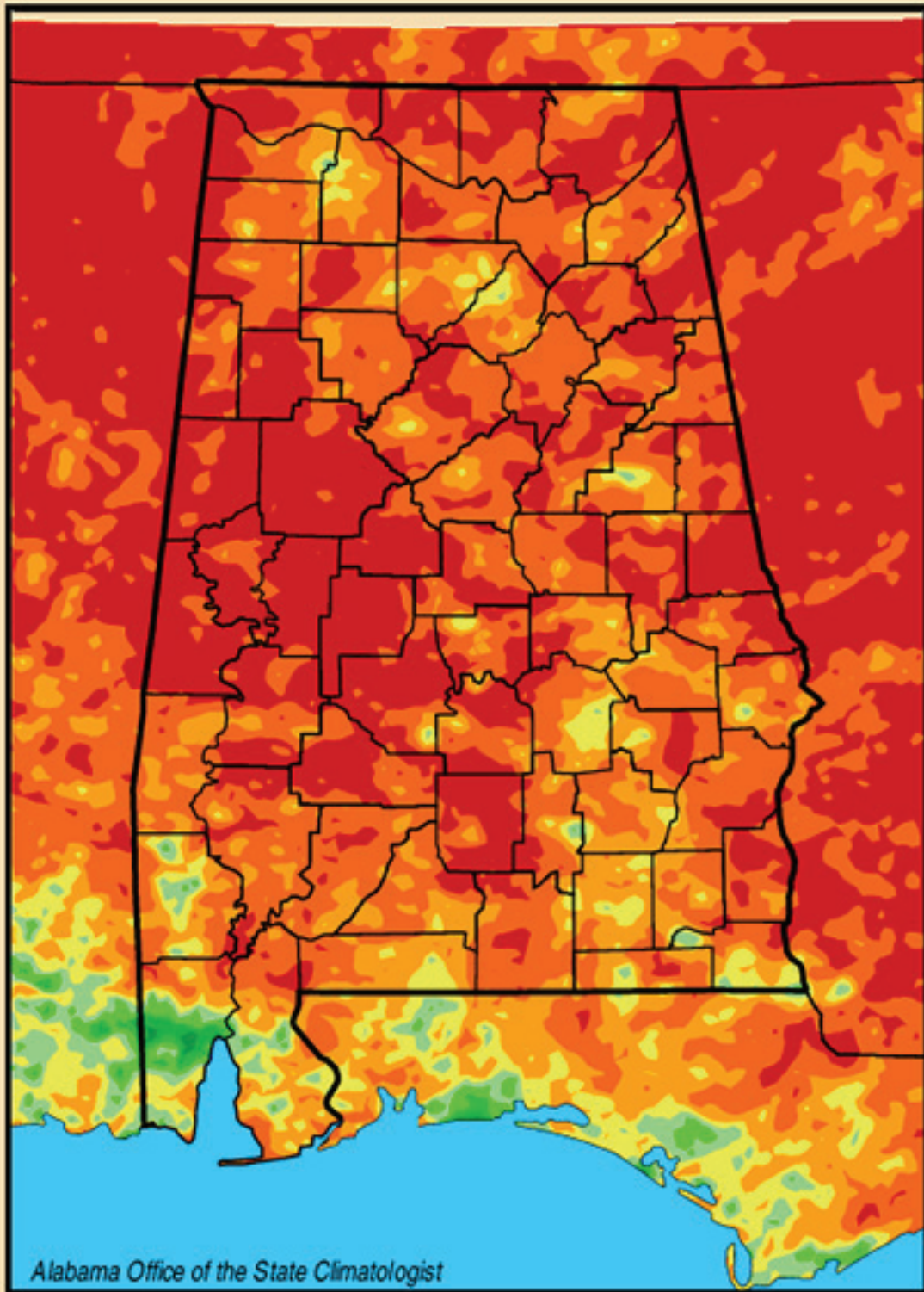
Author:

Brad Rippey
U.S. Department of Agriculture



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

Lawn-and-Garden Moisture Index for October 2, 2017



Alabama Monthly Climate Summaries

September 2017

	Station Began	Sept. Mean Sept. Norm	Sept. Hi Temp Record Hi	Sept. Low Temp Record Low	Total Precip. Normal Prec.	Wettest Sept. Driest Sept.	Heaviest Day Record Day
Anniston	2/1903	72.7°	91° 9/22/17	48° 9/7/17	3.98"	7.22" 1975	3.07" 9/11/17
		73.8°	101°+ 9/1/57	34° 9/30/67	3.32"	0.33" 1984	3.99" 9/21/95
Auburn	1/1893	M	M 9/2/17	64° 9/2/17	M	10.19" 1956	M 9/1/17
		75.9°	108° 9/5/25	34° 9/30/67	3.60"	0.36" 1919	6.48" 9/26/56
Birmingham	1/1930	73.9°	91° 9/27/17	51° 9/7/17	2.48"	10.43" 1977	1.92" 9/11/17
		73.8°	102° 9/19/31	37° 9/30/67	4.05"	0.16" 1984	3.70" 9/27/79
Brewton	4/1977	74.0°	89.5° 9/28/17	53.6° 9/13/17	3.18"	25.20" 1998	1.20" 3/16/17
		75.1°	101°+ 9/15/72	32° 9/30/67	5.51"	0.90" 1995	9.30" 9/28/98
Calera	9/1900	74.7°	91° 9/28/17	53° 9/7/17	2.34"	12.75" 1906	1.59" 9/11/17
		73.6°	101° 9/15/80	33° 9/30/67	3.76"	0.07" 1955	7.05" 9/29/1906
Clanton	2/1893	71.2°	89.1° 9/22/17	49.5° 9/7/17	3.68"	10.30" 1979	1.84" 9/11/17
		73.0°	101°+ 9/16/80	36° 9/30/67	4.66"	0.37" 1990	5.20" 9/28/79
Courtland		69.7°	88.3° 9/21/17	48.8° 9/8/17	5.07"	M	1.94" 9/19/17
		M	M	M	M	M	M
Cullman	7/1907	68.6°	87.9° 9/22/17	46.0° 9/7/17	3.53"	M	1.52" 9/11/17
		M	M	M	M	M	M
Decatur	2/1880	70.6°	92° 9/27/17	45° 9/7/17	3.12"	8.49" 1946	1.58" 9/11/17
		74.4°	104° 9/9/25	37° 9/27/1899	2.95"	0.11" 1901	4.34" 9/10/46
Dothan	2/1902	76.9°	95° 9/29/17	55° 9/7/17	2.85"	13.86" 1929	2.27" 9/11/17
		76.9°	100° 9/3/40	45° 9/29/67	5.02"	0.63" 1940	8.00" 9/30/29
Fairhope	8/1917	75.4°	91.7° 9/30/17	53.2° 9/13/17	1.37"	24.11" 1998	0.52" 9/30/17
		77.3°	100° 9/10/54	41° 9/30/67	5.97"	0.57" 1984	9.18" 9/28/98
Gadsden	7/1893	67.8°	85.9° 9/27/17	45.2° 9/7/17	5.69"	9.29" 1979	2.84" 9/11/17
		73.1°	102° 9/3/54	33° 9/30/67	4.13"	0.25" 1984	4.07" 9/22/58
Gainesville Lock	6/1948	73.3°	91.0° 9/21/17	52.5° 9/7/17	1.11"	11.85" 1974	0.59" 9/11/17
		74.9°	102° 9/10/80	38° 9/30/67	3.61"	0.26" 1984	4.26" 9/5/49
Greensboro	2/1890	72.5°	90.7° 9/22/17	50.1° 9/7/17	2.18"	9.13" 1974	1.36" 9/5/17
		76.1°	104°+ 9/5/54	39° 9/30/67	3.93"	0.58" 1984	4.79" 9/5/49
Highland Home	3/1892	73.6°	88.2° 9/28/17	54.0° 9/13/17	4.57"	13.19" 1975	2.13" 9/11/17
		74.7°	102° 9/11/80	37°+ 9/30/67	4.03"	0.50" 1984	6.35" 9/26/53
Huntsville	1/1959	72.5°	92° 9/22/17	49° 9/7/17	2.71"	9.78" 1980	1.64" 9/11/17
		72.9°	101° 9/7/90	37° 9/30/67	3.94"	0.48" 1998	3.93" 9/25/80

Alabama Monthly Climate Summaries

September 2017

	Station Began	Sept. Mean Sept. Norm	Sept. Hi Temp Record Hi	Sept. Low Temp Record Lo	Total Precip. Normal Prec.	Wettest Sept. Driest Sept.	Heaviest Day Record Day
Mobile	3/1900	78.0°	93° 9/30/17	57° 9/13/17	3.03"	24.13" 1998	0.62" 9/22/17
		77.2°	99°+ 9/4/90	42° 9/29/87	6.01"	0.74" 1984	8.60" 9/28/98
Montgomery	6/1948	77.9°	95° 9/28/17	55° 9/13/17	2.25"	9.47" 1998	2.08" 9/11/17
		76.3°	101°+ 9/10/80	39° 9/30/87	4.22"	0.81" 1984	8.72" 9/26/53
Muscle Shoals	12/1940	71.9°	92° 9/21/17	48° 9/7/17	3.51"	10.13" 1979	1.33" 9/1/17
		72.9°	103° 9/4/54	39°+ 9/23/82	4.30"	0.17" 1984	5.71" 9/13/79
Russellville	9/1953	88.2°	88.5° 9/21/17	45.3° 9/8/17	3.19"	10.06" 1975	1.27" 9/11/17
		71.2°	102°+ 9/8/54	30° 9/30/87	4.18"	0.34" 1999	5.33" 9/14/79
Scottsboro	10/1891	87.9°	88.4° 9/27/17	47.5° 9/7/17	3.86"	10.99" 1977	2.52" 9/11/17
		71.5°	105°+ 9/8/54	36°+ 9/27/40	4.81"	0.95" 1984	4.92" 9/28/79
Selma	1/1895	72.9°	91.6° 9/19/17	50.3° 9/7/17	1.11"	10.96" 1998	0.81" 9/11/17
		76.2°	105° 9/8/54	40° 9/30/87	3.87"	0.35" 1990	6.15" 9/29/98
Talladega	2/1888	70.8°	90.9° 9/22/17	48.2° 9/7/17	4.09"	8.04" 1979	2.87" 9/11/17
		71.8°	103° 9/4/54	35° 9/30/87	3.76"	0.40" 1976	4.00" 9/23/75
Thomasville	9/1891	72.2°	90.4° 9/28/17	51.0° 9/7/17	0.83"	13.42" 1998	0.41" 9/11/17
		76.2°	104° 9/11/80	39° 9/29/87	4.13"	0.07" 1984	7.30" 9/8/74
Troy	6/1908	74.7°	92° 9/29/17	51° 9/8/17	3.33"	13.29" 1998	2.40" 9/11/17
		75.8°	104° 9/8/54	38° 9/30/87	3.52"	0.63" 1978	7.46" 9/1/37
Tuscaloosa	6/1948	75.2°	93° 9/27/17	51° 9/7/17	1.63"	10.91" 2009	0.99" 9/11/17
		75.6°	104° 9/1/51	37° 9/30/87	3.48"	0.00" 1955	6.28" 9/3/01
Valley Head	1/1893	M 89.3°	M 100°+ 9/7/54	M 29° 9/30/87	M 4.27"	9.77" 1977 0.77" 1984	M 5.38" 9/17/80
Statewide Sept. 2017		73.05° /	95° 2 stations	45° Decatur	2.75"	25.20" Brewton	2.87" Talladega
Sept. Norm		74.59° /	108° Auburn	29° Valley Head	4.20"	0.00" Tuscaloosa	9.30" 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)

September 2017

	Total Precip.	# Stations
Autauga	3.22	2
Baldwin	4.40	27
Barbour	n.a.	0
Bibb	1.45	1
Blount	5.37	8
Bullock	n.a.	0
Butler	n.a.	0
Calhoun	6.75	2
Chambers	n.a.	0
Cherokee	0.00	0
Chilton	4.59	1
Choctaw	2.21	1
Clarke	1.95	1
Clay	n.a.	0
Cleburne	n.a.	0
Coffee	9.01	1
Colbert	5.71	5
Conecuh	3.70	2
Coosa	5.44	2
Covington	n.a.	0
Crenshaw	n.a.	0
Cullman	6.29	3
Dale	7.53	1
Dallas	2.76	1
DeKalb	4.73	5
Elmore	3.49	5
Escambia	4.96	1
Etowah	n.a.	0
Fayette	3.16	2
Franklin	n.a.	0
Geneva	5.49	1
Greene	n.a.	0
Hale	n.a.	0
Henry	n.a.	0

	Total Precip.	# Stations
Houston	4.90	2
Jackson	5.80	6
Jefferson	4.24	16
Lamar	n.a.	0
Lauderdale	4.55	10
Lawrence	5.45	2
Lee	4.36	3
Limestone	4.75	7
Lowndes	n.a.	0
Macon	6.57	1
Madison	4.70	22
Marengo	n.a.	0
Marion	5.04	1
Marshall	6.74	10
Mobile	5.04	13
Monroe	4.28	2
Montgomery	5.61	4
Morgan	5.77	5
Perry	n.a.	0
Pickens	2.83	1
Pike	n.a.	0
Randolph	5.87	2
Russell	4.65	2
St. Clair	5.04	5
Shelby	4.68	17
Sumter	n.a.	0
Talladega	5.47	4
Tallapoosa	3.64	2
Tuscaloosa	2.84	5
Walker	n.a.	0
Washington	1.33	1
Wilcox	2.69	2
Winston	5.58	2

Normal September Precipitation*

Abbeville	4.00"
Alberta	3.65"
Alex City	4.14"
Aliceville	3.41"
Andalusia	4.78"
Ashland	4.17"
Athens	3.74"
Bay Minette	5.93"
Bessemer	4.18"
Billingsley	3.56"
Centreville WSMO	4.56"
Chatom	4.64"
Claiborne L&D	3.83"
Clayton	4.12"
Dauphin Isl.	4.95"
Elba	4.27"
Eufaula WR	3.67"
Evergreen	4.02"
Fayette	3.50"
Geneva 2	4.28"
Greenville	4.02"
Haleyville	4.24"
Hamilton 3S	4.39"
Heflin	4.08"
Hurtsboro	3.10"
Jasper	4.16"
Lafayette	3.97"
Livingston	3.16"
Melvin	4.05"
Milstead	3.57"
Moulton	4.24"
Oneonta	3.66"
Perryville	3.65"
Plantersville	3.82"
Rock Mills	3.68"
Rockford	4.23"
Sylacauga	4.07"
Union Springs	3.54"
Uniontown	2.99"
Vernon	3.84"
Warrior L&D	3.24"
Wetumpka	3.46"

*Southeast Regional Climate Center
www.serrc.com

New Local Climate Records¹

September 2017

Precipitation, Daily

	New Record	Previous Year	Previous Record	Period of Record
01 Sept. 2017				
ADDISON	1.08	1951-09-01	0.48	79
ALICEVILLE LAND D	1.22	1994-09-01	0.65	37
CHILDERSBURG WATER	1.85	1981-09-01	0.80	60
ENTERPRISE 2 W	1.15	2011-09-01	0.90	51
HAMILTON 3 S	1.50	1976-09-01	1.24	55
MOULTON 2	1.34	1979-09-01	0.96	60
SYLACAUGA 4 NE	1.04	1960-09-01	0.65	62
TALLADEGA	2.15	1888-09-01	2.00	129
11 Sept. 2017				
ANNISTON METRO AIRPRT	2.92	2015-09-11	0.92	114
BESSEMER 3 WSW	1.46	2009-09-11	1.01	40
BILLINGSLEY	1.55	2016-09-11	1.22	78
BIRMINGHAM AIRPORT	1.69	1989-09-11	0.95	87
BOAZ	3.53	1946-09-11	1.22	79
ROCK MILLS	3.22	1951-09-11	0.78	79
TALLAPOOSA WATER	2.40	2007-09-11	1.18	39
VALLEY HEAD	1.96	1959-09-11	1.60	124
12 Sept. 2017				
ALEXANDER CITY	2.62	2004-09-12	0.80	47
CLAYTON	3.28	1964-09-12	3.14	88
FT BENNING LAWSON FLD	4.34	1964-09-12	3.08	68
FORT PAYNE	2.64	1965-09-12	1.48	81
GENEVA NUMBER 2	1.55	2004-09-12	0.96	41
HOLT LOCK AND DAM	0.85	1983-09-12	0.80	36
JACKSONVILLE	3.43	1958-09-12	0.85	69
MITCHELL DAM	2.21	1983-09-12	1.57	80
MOULTON 2	1.42	1987-09-12	1.32	60
ONEONTA	2.43	1965-09-12	2.42	122
PINE APPLE	1.20	1975-09-12	0.28	49
SAND MTN SUBSTATION	2.59	1983-09-12	2.39	68
TALLADEGA	2.70	1986-09-12	1.29	129
13 Sept. 2017				
ENTERPRISE 2 W	2.03	1979-09-13	1.51	51
17 Sept. 2017				
GENEVA NUMBER 2	2.75	1988-09-17	1.18	41

Minimum Low Temperature, Daily

	New Record	Previous Coldest Day	Previous Record	Period of Record
02 Sept. 2017				
GAINESVILLE LOCK.....	56	1987-09-02	60	59
03 Sept. 2017				
GAINESVILLE LOCK.....	56	1987-09-03	58	59
07 Sept. 2017				
ANNISTON METRO AIRPORT.	48	1953-09-07	51	114
BELLE MINA	46	2010-09-07	48	67
HUNTSVILLE INT'L AIRPORT.	49	1988-09-07	51	58
MUSCLE SHOALS AIRPORT ..	48	1988-09-07	51	76
OPELIKA.....	48	1997-09-07	52	60
ROCK MILLS.....	47	1984-09-07	50	75
SAND MTN SUBSTATION	48	1988-09-07	49	67
THORSBY EXP. STATION	50	1988-09-07	53	59
08 Sept. 2017				
ALEXANDER CITY	52	1984-09-08	53	47
BELLE MINA	47	1988-09-08	49	67
BESSEMER 3 WSW.....	51	2011-09-08	53	40
BIRMINGHAM AIRPORT	53	1932-09-08	54	87
FT BENNING LAWSON FLD....	49	1965-09-08	56	68
GUNTERSVILLE	52	1988-09-08	55	107
HUNTSVILLE INT'L AIRPORT.	49	2011-09-08	57	58
MOULTON 2.....	48	2011-09-08	55	60
MUSCLE SHOALS AIRPORT ..	48	2011-09-08	56	76
OPELIKA.....	50	1965-09-08	52	60
ROCK MILLS.....	49	1984-09-08	50	75
SAND MTN SUBSTATION	48	1953-09-08	50	67
SELMA.....	54	1984-09-08	56	120
SYLACAUGA 4 NE	47	1988-09-08	49	62
TALLADEGA.....	49	1997-09-08	51	123
TUSCALOOSA MUNI AIRPRT .	53	1953-09-08	57	69
09 Sept. 2017				
ROBERTSDALE.....	58	2011-09-09	60	93
SELMA.....	55	1984-09-09	57	120
SYLACAUGA 4 NE	49	1998-09-09	50	62
FT BENNING LAWSON FLD....	52	1956-09-09	58	68
MUSCLE SHOALS AIRPORT ..	51	1988-09-09	53	76
11 Sept. 2017				
DAUPHIN ISLAND No. 2	67	1976-09-11	69	41
12 Sept. 2017				
DAUPHIN ISLAND No. 2	67	1976-09-12	70	41
13 Sept. 2017				
DAUPHIN ISLAND No. 2	68	1975-09-13	72	41
FAIRHOPE 2 NE.....	53	1940-09-13	54	99

Precipitation, Wettest September Day on Record

	New Record	Previous Wettest Day	Previous Record	Period of Record
12 Sept. 2017				
FT BENNING LAWSON FLD	4.34*	1998-09-30	3.85*	68

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

New Local Climate Records¹

September 2017

Maximum High Temperature, Daily

	New Record	Previous Hottest Day	Previous Record	Period of Record
28 Sept. 2017				
GENEVA No	95	1986-09-28	92	41
30 Sept. 2017				
ENTERPRISE 2 W	95	1986-09-30	93	51

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