

The Alabama Climate Report

Brought to you by the Office of the Alabama Climatologist

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Dr. John Christy, Alabama State Climatologist

This is a big month for anniversaries. To begin, February will be the 120th anniversary of the coldest February in Alabama's 121-year weather record.

Apparently driven in large part by a mid-month winter storm system, the average temperature for February 1895 was a chilly 37.4° F, which is almost ten degrees colder than the normal average temperature of 47.2°.

It was quite a storm. It dropped snow flakes on Tampico, Mexico, the furthest south for coastal snow on record in the Western hemisphere. Houston got 20 inches of snow. The 24 inches of snow that fell on Rayne, Louisiana — 50 miles inland from the Gulf of Mexico — is still a state record after 120 years. New Orleans registered 8.2 inches, and Biloxi 6.2 inches, while Pensacola got 3 inches.

The Monthly Weather Review, which in 1895 was published by the U.S. Army Signal Corps (since this was pre-National Weather Service), had this report from the "Alabama weather service": "The month was remarkable for the extreme cold periods, especially during the first week. The temperature at many stations was several degrees lower than ever recorded at that season. The average monthly temperature for the whole State was 12° below the normal. The snowfall was also heavier than ever known in this section during this month, the monthly fall averaging from a few inches in the southern portions to a foot deep in northern portions, where it was sufficient, on the 14th and 15th, to impede railroad traffic."

On Thursday, Feb. 14, 1895, the Blount County News and Dispatch reported: "For the past week we have had the most extraordinary cold weather ever known in Murphree's Valley. On Thursday, the 7th, it snowed. Friday the thermometer marked 2 degrees below zero. It was bitterly cold all day, but on Saturday morning it moderated. Sunday afternoon it thawed in the afternoon occasional flakes of snow fell; after dark it began to sleet, which continued till after midnight, when it turned to snow. Monday the whole earth is clothed in a white mantle, the sky is heavy and lowering with not the smallest prospect of better weather approaching."

Of course, there were light moments. One week later, under the marriages column, the News and Dispatch said, "Near Brooksville, Ala., by the Rev. Mr. Sims, a few days ago, Mr. Ransom Mardis to Miss Mary Brown. The bridal party encountered a fierce snow storm on their way to the groom's residence, and had a gay and festive time snowballing."

At the end of January, we should note that this past month was the 75th anniversary of the coldest month in the state's 121-year climate record, January 1940, when the average temperature statewide was a chilly 32.1°. The past month was also the 65th anniversary of the warmest January on record, with a statewide average temperature of 58.9° — almost 27 degrees warmer than the cold record set 10 years earlier!

Those kinds of wild temperature swings are more likely during the winter months than in the summer, when the

state climate tends to wobble between hot and just a bit hotter.

And, by way of noting that it is never too early to prepare for severe weather, we also note that Feb. 12 will be the 60th anniversary of a tornado that hit north of Montgomery, killing 26 people and leaving another 293 injured.

It is a grim reminder that there really is no month of the year when Alabama is completely safe from violent weather, so make your preparations and plans now. Stay weather alert.

- John Christy

U.S. Drought Monitor Alabama



February 3, 2015

(Released Thursday, Feb. 5, 2015)

Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	61.06	38.94	1.63	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week 1/27/2015	61.06	38.94	1.63	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 11/4/2014	32.61	67.39	25.94	1.25	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 12/30/2014	62.49	37.51	3.77	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 9/30/2014	17.21	82.79	26.99	1.25	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 2/4/2014	65.11	34.89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:



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

Author:

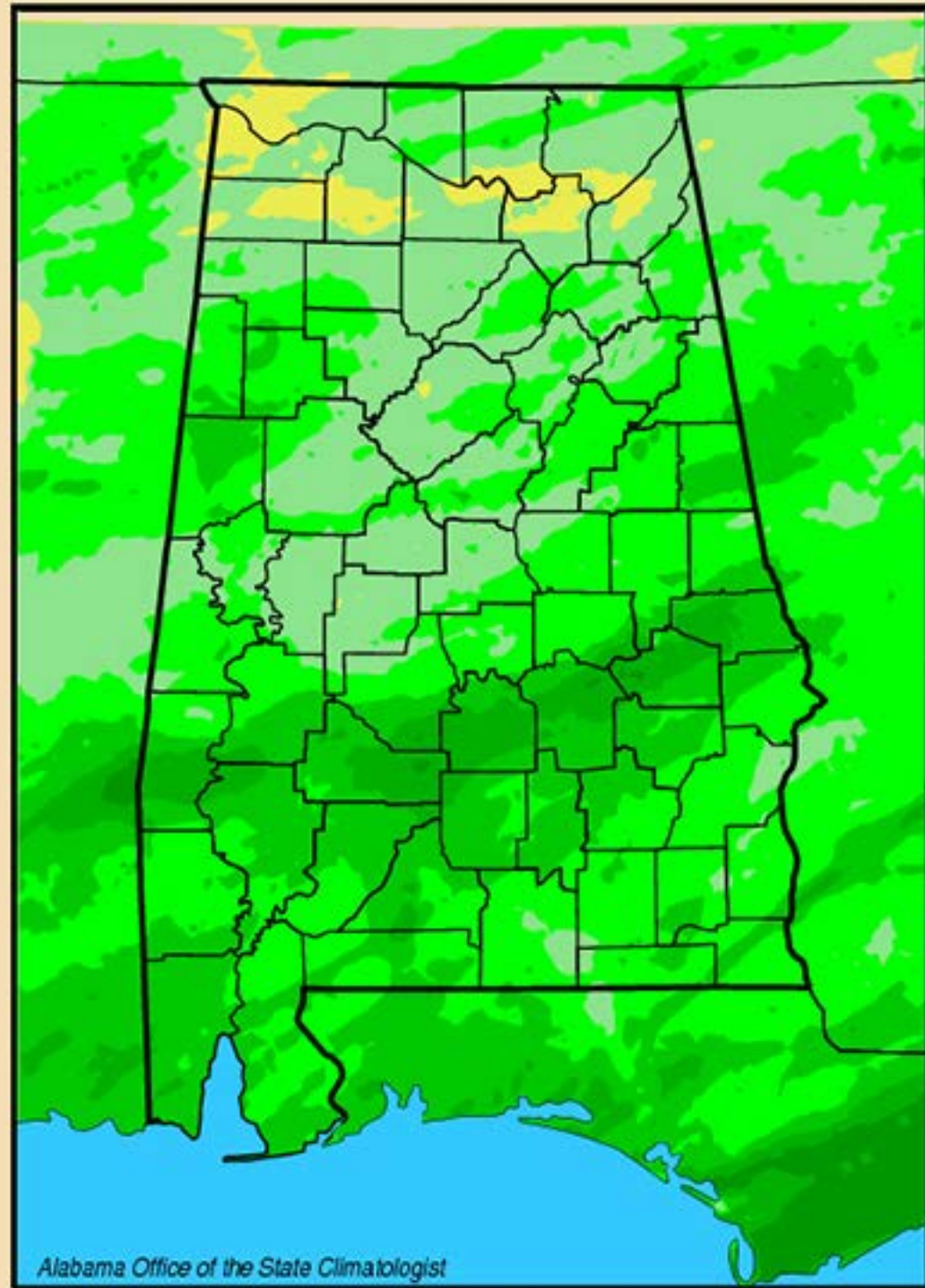
Brian Fuchs

National Drought Mitigation Center

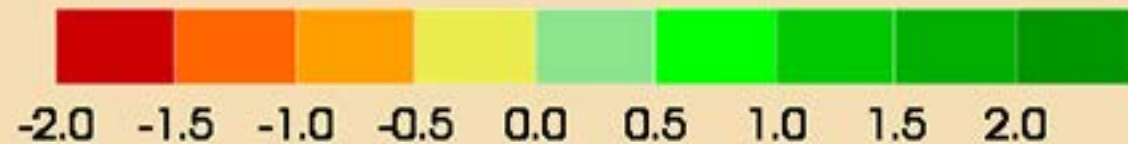


<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

Lawn-and-Garden Moisture Index for February 4, 2015



Alabama Office of the State Climatologist



Alabama Monthly Climate Summaries

Jan. 2014

Station	Station Began	Jan. Mean Jan. Norm	Jan. Hi Temp Record Hi	Jan. Low Temp Record Low	Total Precip. Normal Prec.	Wettest Jan. Driest Jan.	Heaviest Day Record Day
Anniston	2/1903	42.2°	70° 1/3/15	10° 1/8/15	5.50"	12.69" 1972	3.22" 1/3-4/15
		43.5°	80°+ 1/25/50	-5° 1/21/85	5.34"	0.95" 1986	5.07" 1/4/72
Auburn	1/1893	43.8°	66° 1/4/15	9° 1/8/15	2.69"	12.09" 1936	1.12" 1/4/15
		48.3°	84° 12/20/24	-1° 12/13/62	5.26"	0.49" 1927	5.23" 1/29/12
Birmingham	1/1930	42.2°	68° 1/19/15	8° 1/8/15	4.38"	9.59" 1996	2.26" 1/3-4/15
		42.8°	81° 1/10/49	-8° 1/21/85	5.45"	1.09" 1981	4.71" 1/26/96
Brewton	4/1977	47.4°	74.5° 1/3/15	16° 1/8/15	4.06"	12.55" 1991	1.63" 1/23/15
		47.7°	85° 1/12/49	3° 1/21/85	6.19"	1.46" 1981	6.45" 1/25/78
Calera	9/1900	44.3°	68° 1/19/15	11° 1/8/15	4.82"	12.59" 1947	1.70" 1/3/15
		42.8°	78° 1/29/57	-2° 1/24/63	5.06"	0.74" 1927	4.77" 1/24/20
Clanton	2/1893	43.0°	67.6° 1/3/15	10.8° 1/8/15	4.47"	13.48" 1972	1.27" 1/4/15
		42.8°	84° 1/12/49	-4° 1/21/85	5.98"	1.15" 1986	4.84" 1/19/36
Courtland		38.9°	66.1° 1/19/15	6.1° 1/8/15	4.04"	M	1.59" 1/3/15
		M	M	M	M	M	M
Cullman	7/1907	39.1°	64° 1/19/15	5.6° 1/8/15	3.85"	M	1.89" 1/3/15
		M	M	M	M	M	M
Decatur	2/1880	39.1°	66° 1/19/15	6° 1/8/15	3.64"	12.98" 1949	1.79" 1/3-4/15
		42.2°	79° 01/15/1907	-5° 01/12/18	5.04"	1.00" 1958	4.62" 01/06/50
Dothan	2/1902	49.0°	75° 1/3/15	16° 1/8/15	2.95"	16.88" 1936	1.92" 1/22-23/15
		50.7°	83° 12/11/49	10° 12/24/63	4.27"	0.34" 1927	6.42" 1/18/36
Fairhope	8/1917	48.7°	75.9° 1/3/15	17.9° 1/8/15	3.81"	16.33" 1998	1.85" 1/23/15
		50.2°	82° 1/2/52	5°+ 1/22/85	6.11"	0.87" 1989	9.58" 1/25/78
Gadsden	7/1893	39.5°	66° 1/19/15	9° 1/8/15	3.85"	9.01" 1996	1.24" 1/3/15
		40.3°	76° 1/29/75	-6°+ 1/21/85	5.85"	1.48" 1981	4.05" 1/16/54
Gainesville Lock	6/1948	43.2°	72.5° 1/29/15	11.5° 1/8/15	6.46"	10.80" 1998	*3.99" 1/3/15
		43.2°	81° 1/20/82	-2°+ 1/22/85	5.87"	1.30" 1981	3.40" 1/20/63
Greensboro	2/1890	43.8°	72.3° 1/29/15	10.2° 1/8/15	4.03"	11.69" 1972	1.85" 1/3/15
		45.7°	83° 1/9/37	-2° 1/21/85	6.12"	1.31" 1986	5.58" 1/18/87
Highland Home	3/1892	46.7°	70.7° 1/3/15	11.3° 1/8/15	3.53"	10.49" 1978	1.60" 1/23/15
		45.8°	84° 1/12/49	-3°+ 1/22/85	5.48"	0.92" 1981	4.02" 1/25/78
Huntsville	1/1959	41.0°	67° 1/19/15	7° 1/8/15	3.97"	10.92" 1982	1.75" 1/24/15
		39.9°	77° 1/30/2002	-11° 1/30/86	4.99"	1.32" 1986	4.83" 1/3/82

Alabama Monthly Climate Summaries

Jan. 2014

Station Began	Jan. Mean Jan. Norm	Jan. Hi Temp Record Hi	Jan. Low Temp Record Lo	Total Precip. Normal Prec.	Wettest Jan. Driest Jan.	Heaviest Day Record Day
Mobile 3/1900	48.5° 50.1°	78° 1/12/15 84° 1/11/49	17° 1/8/15 3° 1/21/85	3.89" 5.75"	16.92" 1998 1.23" 1981	2.18" 1/22-23/15 6.16" 1/7/98
Montgomery 6/1948	46.7° 46.6°	73° 1/3/15 83° 1/11/49	14° 1/8/15 0° 1/21/85	2.82" 5.04"	10.16" 1990 1.12" 1986	1.43" 1/22-23/15 4.16" 1/23/85
Muscle Shoals 12/1940	40.2° 39.9°	67° 1/19/15 80° 1/10/49	8° 1/8/15 -11° 1/21/85	4.17" 4.97"	11.77" 1974 0.60" 1986	1.58" 1/12/15 4.41" 1/31/51
Russellville 9/1953	39.0° 38.9°	65.6° 1/19/15 78° 1/25/72	5° 1/8/15 -24°+ 1/31/86	5.17" 5.44"	12.48" 1998 0.93" 1986	2.23" 1/3/15 3.20" 1/19/2001
Scottsboro 10/1891	M 39.0°	M 81° 1/11/49	M -10° 1/26/40	M 6.01"	10.92" 1996 0.84" 1986	M 4.12" 1/2/37
Selma 1/1895	44.5° 47.0°	71° 1/29/15 83°+ 1/30/50	12.6° 1/8/15 0° 1/21/85	3.99" 5.64"	12.24" 1972 1.07" 1986	1.20" 1/4/15 4.20" 1/6/32
Talladega 2/1888	41.1° 41.0°	67.6° 1/3/15 80°+ 1/25/50	8.7° 1/8/15 -5°+ 1/21/85	2.91" 6.12"	15.50" 1972 1.05" 1986	1.02" 1/23/15 4.01" 1/4/72
Thomasville 9/1891	44.7° 47.4°	72.1° 1/29/15 86° 1/20/1913	12.6° 1/8/15 -1° 1/21/85	4.25" 5.13"	14.37" 1925 0.79" 1902	1.51" 1/4/15 5.04" 1/16/25
Troy 6/1908	46.7° 46.7°	73° 1/3/15 83° 1/12/49	13° 1/8/15 -1° 1/21/85	3.22" 5.11"	9.81" 1978 0.98" 1981	2.23" 1/22-23/15 5.43" 1/19/36
Tuscaloosa 6/1948	43.8° 45.2°	72° 1/29/15 82° 1/10/49	11° 1/8/15 -1°+ 1/21/85	6.17" 5.72"	10.18" 1979 1.22" 1986	2.84" 1/3-4/15 4.26" 1/26/96
Valley Head 1/1893	37.6° 37.2°	62.9° 1/19/15 77°+ 1/26/50	5.5° 1/8/15 -14°+ 1/22/85	3.39" 6.06"	10.42" 1974 1.70" 1981	.96" 1/3/15 4.00" 1/5/49
Statewide Jan. 2015	43.6°	78° Mobile	5° Russellville	4.09"	16.92" Mobile	3.99" G'ville Lck.
Jan. Norm	44.4°	86° Thomasville	-24° Russellville	5.50"	0.34" Dothan	9.58" Fairhope

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)

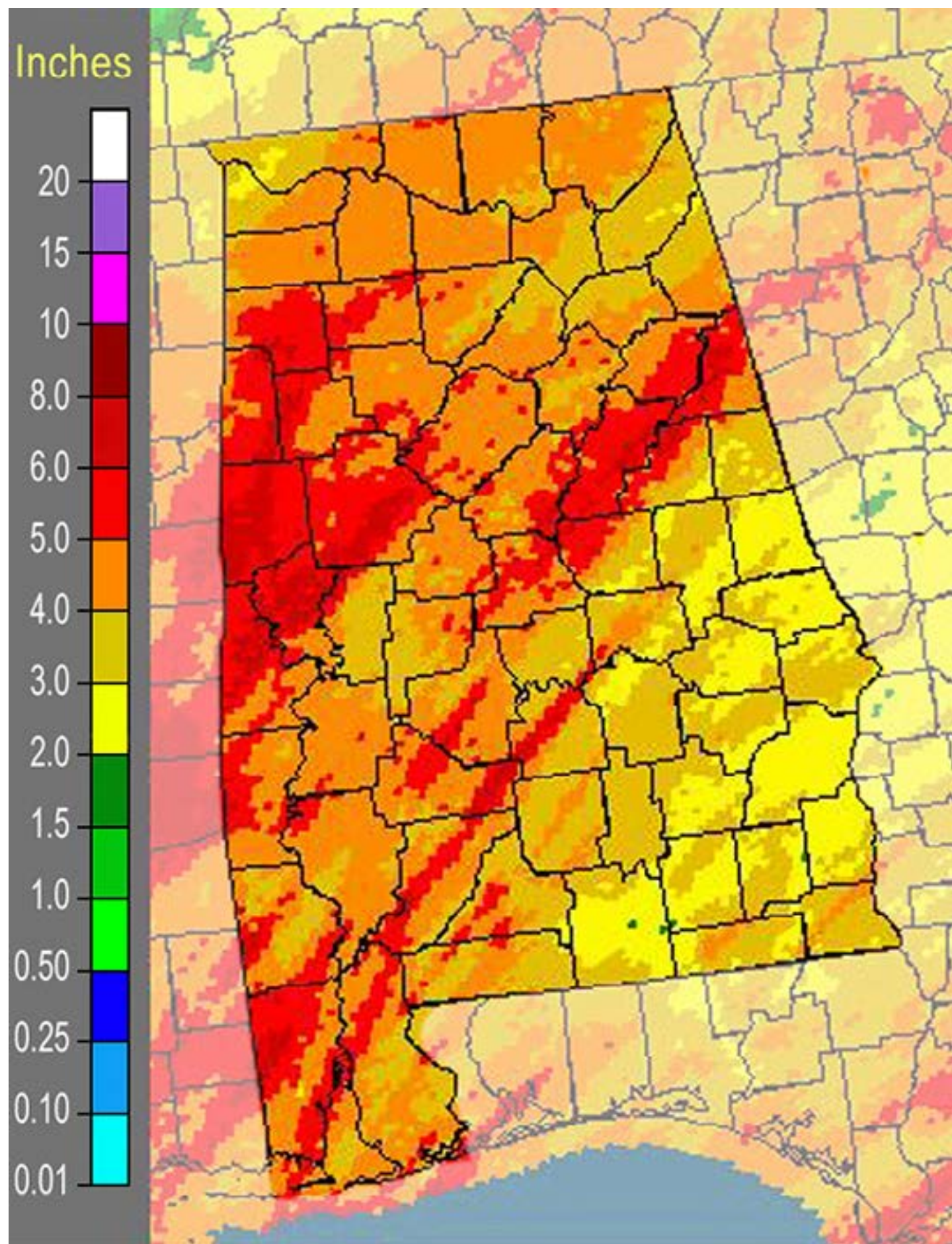
January 2015

	Ave. Total Precip.	# Stations		Ave. Total Precip.	# Stations
Autauga	3.55	2	Houston	3.59	1
Baldwin	4.17	22	Jackson	4.44	8
Barbour	n.a.	0	Jefferson	5.75	13
Bibb	4.77	1	Lamar	4.21	1
Blount	4.26	10	Lauderdale	3.65	9
Bullock	n.a.	0	Lawrence	4.83	2
Butler	n.a.	0	Lee	2.74	4
Calhoun	5.60	2	Limestone	4.52	11
Chambers	n.a.	0	Lowndes	n.a.	0
Cherokee	5.02	1	Macon	n.a.	0
Chilton	5.57	2	Madison	3.60	54
Choctaw	2.37	1	Marengo	n.a.	0
Clarke	4.62	3	Marion	2.48	2
Clay	n.a.	0	Marshall	3.87	11
Cleburne	n.a.	0	Mobile	4.36	13
Coffee	2.94	1	Monroe	4.75	2
Colbert	4.77	8	Montgomery	2.76	4
Conecuh	n.a.	0	Morgan	4.37	6
Coosa	4.36	2	Perry	n.a.	0
Covington	n.a.	0	Pickens	6.20	1
Crenshaw	n.a.	0	Pike	n.a.	0
Cullman	3.46	5	Randolph	3.44	1
Dale	3.44	2	Russell	3.45	2
Dallas	5.27	1	St. Clair	5.20	2
DeKalb	3.66	3	Shelby	5.35	21
Elmore	3.88	7	Sumter	n.a.	0
Escambia	4.82	1	Talladega	6.63	5
Etowah	4.08	1	Tallapoosa	2.86	4
Fayette	6.40	1	Tuscaloosa	6.33	4
Franklin	n.a.	0	Walker	n.a.	0
Geneva	n.a.	0	Washington	4.24	1
Greene	n.a.	0	Wilcox	4.34	2
Hale	n.a.	0	Winston	4.98	2
Henry	n.a.	0			

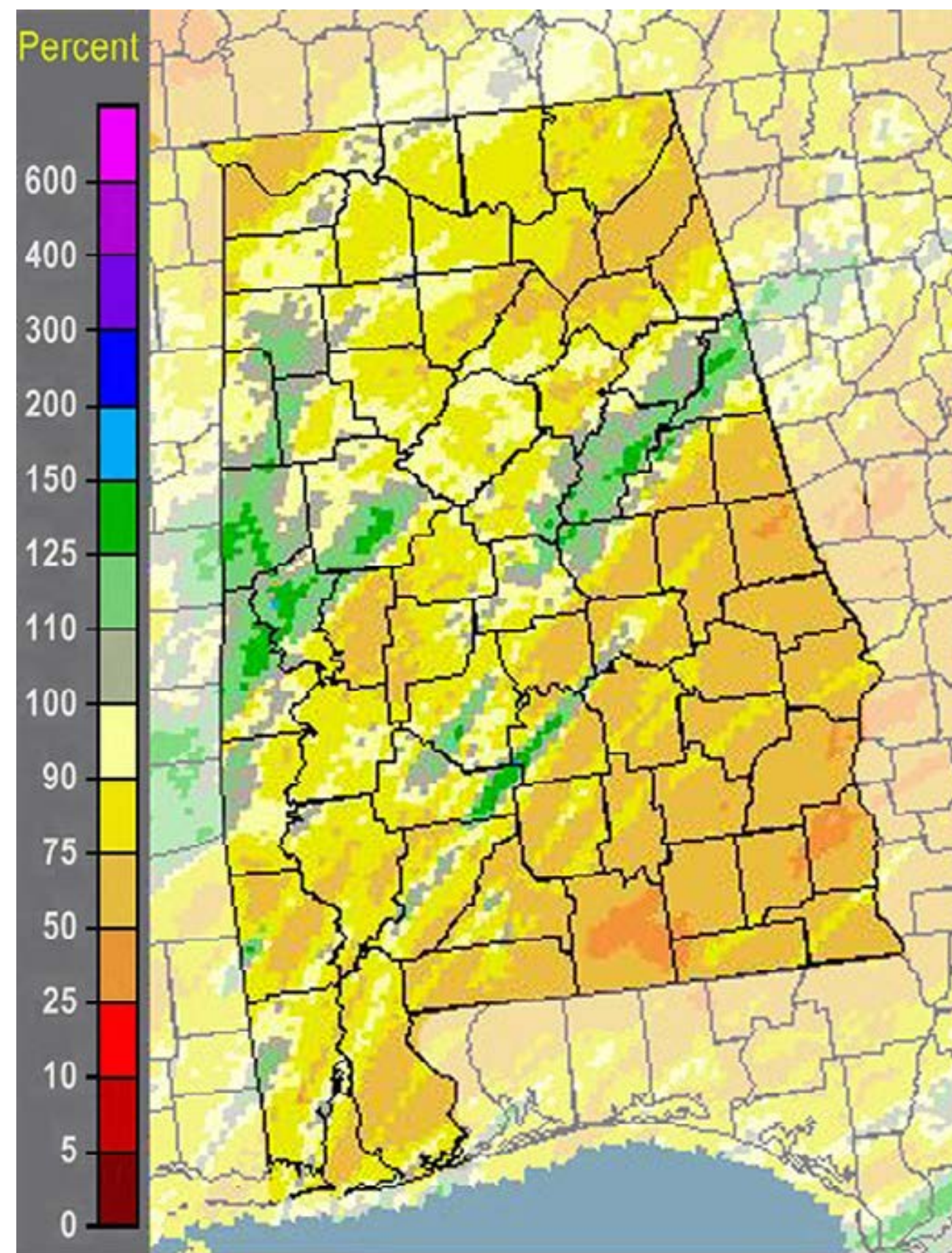
Normal January Precipitation*

Abbeville	5.30"
Alberta	4.84"
Alex City	5.69"
Aliceville	5.30"
Andalusia	5.17"
Ashland	5.48"
Athens	6.06"
Bay Minette	5.43"
Bessemer	5.34"
Billingsley	4.98"
Centreville WSMO	5.63"
Chatom	5.45"
Claiborne L&D	5.49"
Clayton	4.91"
Dauphin Isl.	5.86"
Elba	5.08"
Eufaula WR	5.20"
Evergreen	5.55"
Fayette	5.75"
Geneva 2	6.43"
Greenville	4.98"
Haleyville	5.79"
Hamilton 3S	5.31"
Heflin	5.31"
Hurtsboro	4.89"
Jasper	5.71"
Lafayette	5.19"
Livingston	4.77"
Melvin	5.25"
Milstead	4.85"
Moulton	5.03"
Oneonta	5.39"
Perryville	5.00"
Plantersville	5.26"
Rock Mills	5.39"
Rockford	5.54"
Sylacauga	5.14"
Union Springs	4.77"
Uniontown	4.99"
Vernon	5.95"
Warrior L&D	5.34"
Wetumpka	4.87"

*Southeast Regional Climate Center
www.serc.com



January 2015 NWS multi-sensor precipitation estimate



January 2015 NWS percentage of normal precipitation

Alabama State Climatologist

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