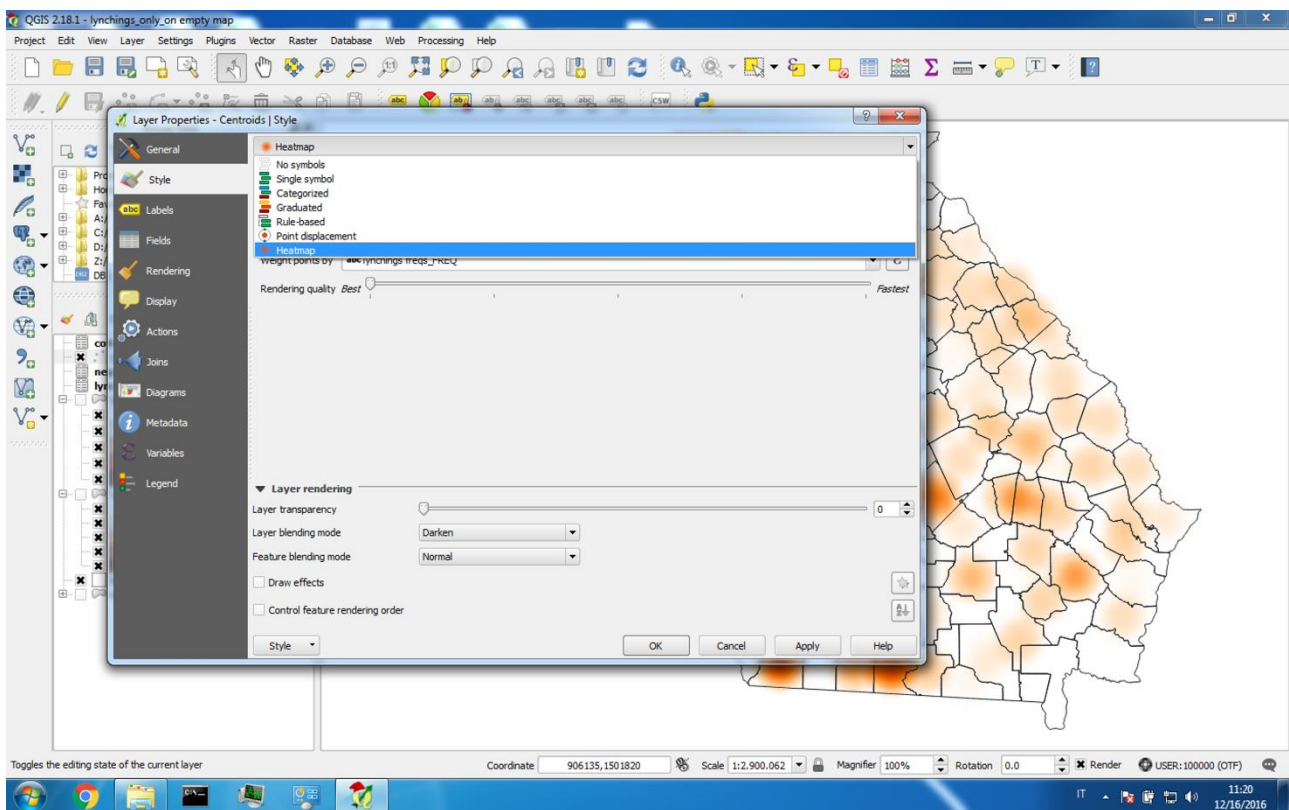# Heatmaps

To create a heatmap you will first need to have a map with a series of points displayed on it.
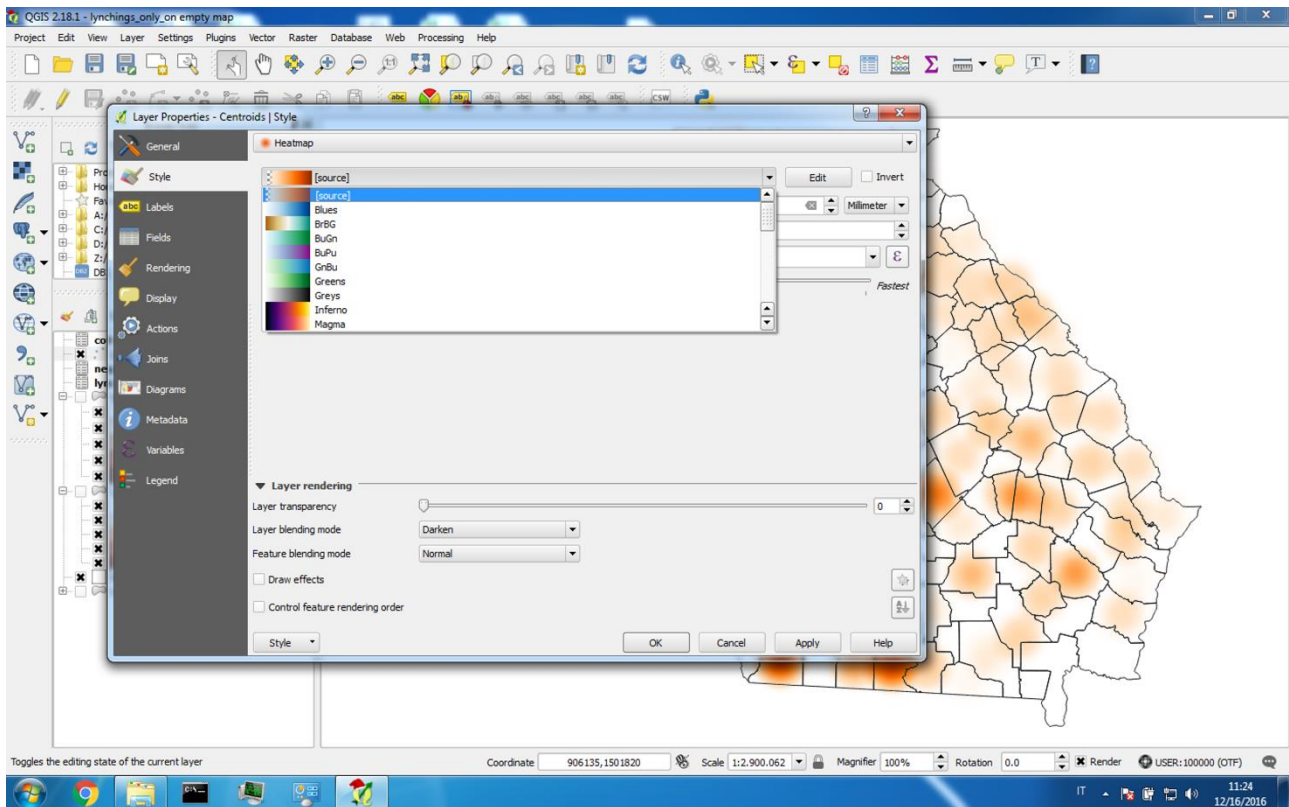
To add points to a map you can import a delimited text files with some data and a set of coordinates for each point.

After you added a layer from the imported file double click on the layer in the layer panel or right click on it and then choose "Properties".
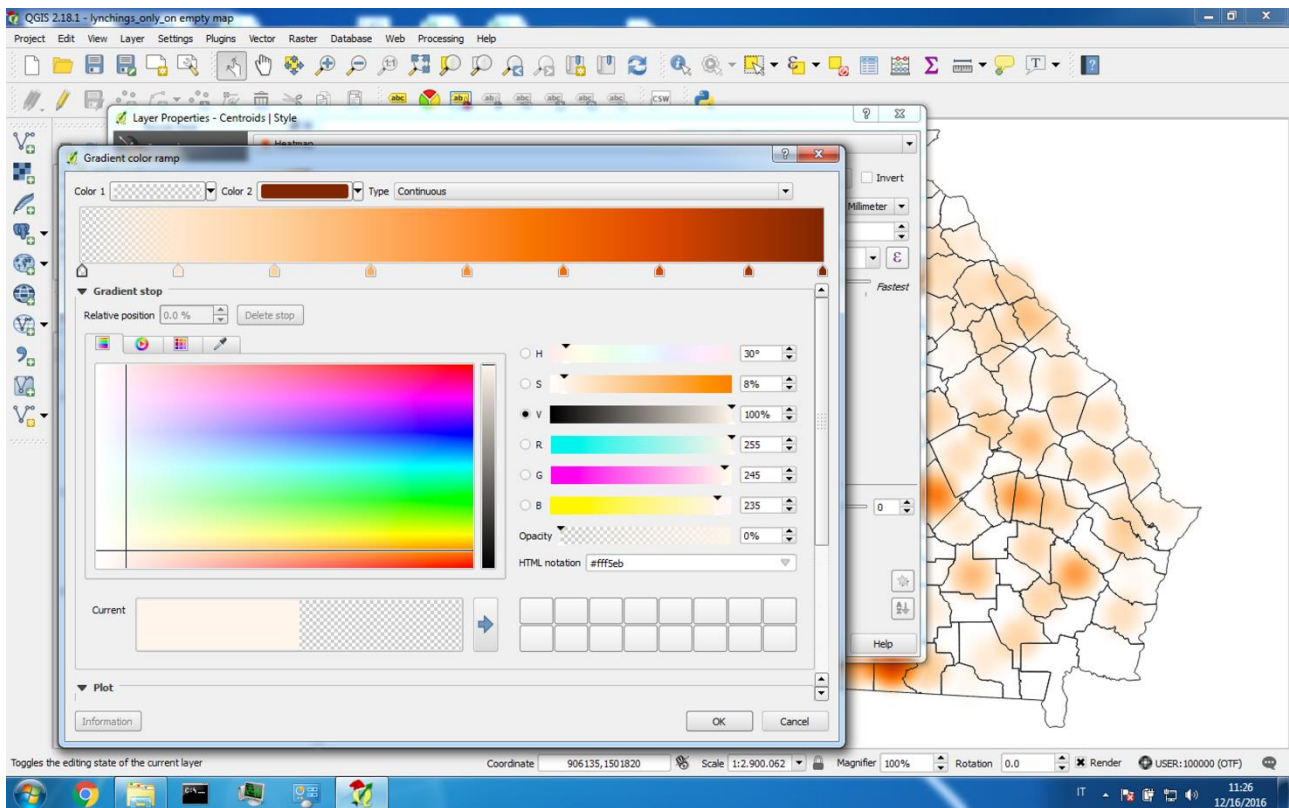
From the Layer Properties form, choose the "Style" section, on the top of it there is a combo box where you will have to select the "Heatmap" option.

You can select the colors used to create the map by selecting an option among the presets in the combo box displayed in the picture below.
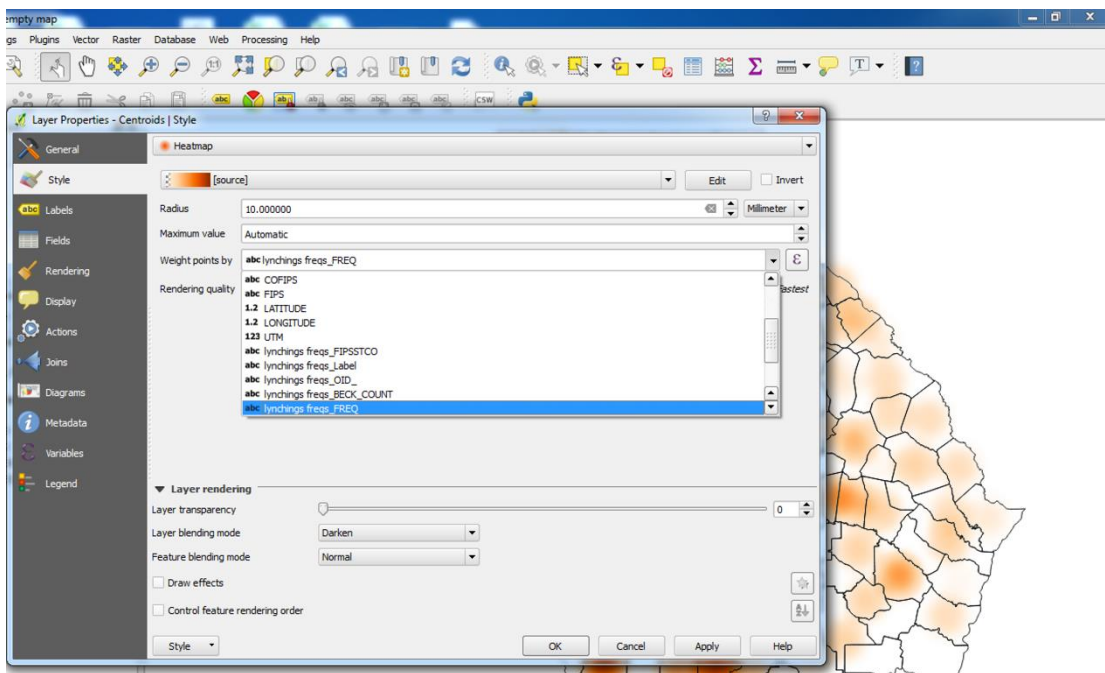
If you are not happy with any of the colors you can click on the "Edit" button next to the list of options and change the color gradient and the opacity for example.
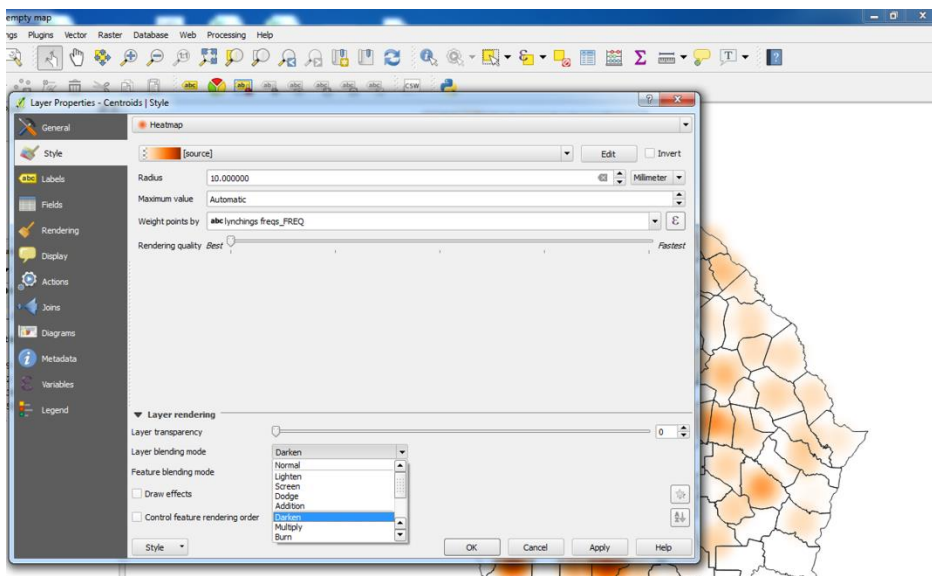
Note that in the picture above the first color picked for the gradient has the minimum level of opacity. This way, all the areas that have no data or correspond to the lowest level of "heat" are left with their previous color. In our case, if we hadn't change the opacity level we would have had a map with a light orange tint all over it.
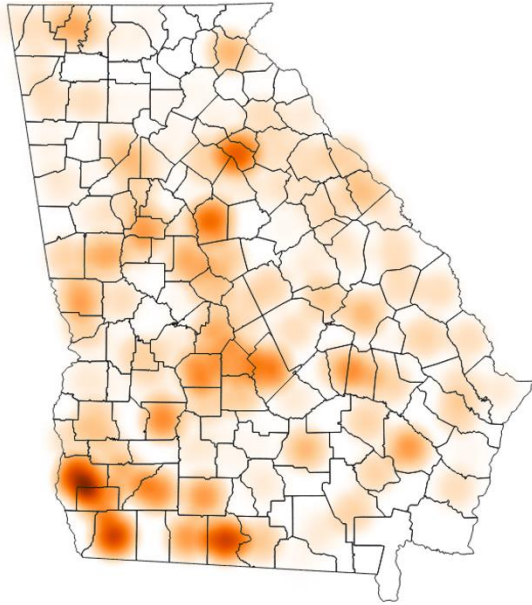
Then you can choose to weight each point in the map according to a field in the imported data. In our data we have a dataset that contains a point for each of the counties in Georgia and another field that contains the frequency of lynchings of African Americans for each county. We choose in this example to weight each of our points according to the lynchings frequencies when creating the heatmap.

Finally from the section "Layer rendering" at the bottom of the form you can choose how the layer blends with the map and other options.

The following picture shows our results with the options described above.

You can also overlap multiple layers containing heatmaps creating each of them as it was described above. To toggle the display of multiple layers you can use the check boxes in the Layer Panel next to each layer name.