

GROWING CONDITIONS – 1983

Rainfall in September and October, 1982 was well above average, providing an excellent soil water recharge. Total fall precipitation for September through December, 1982 was 9.4 inches compared to the 90-year average of 3.16 inches. Precipitation of 4.9 inches during April through June was below average, but for the rest of the year nearly normal. Total precipitation for the period September, 1982 through August, 1983 was 19.62 inches, compared to 15.92 inches for the 90-year average. The combination of stored rainfall in September and October, 1982 and nearly normal seasonal precipitation provided ample water for good crop growth.

Mean temperatures for April, May and June were well below the 71-year average. Hot spells of several days in July and August when temperatures exceeded 90°F affected late seeded grain, causing some kernel shrinkage and reducing test weights and yields. Early seeded crops escaped serious damage from high temperatures.

In general, disease development was minimal. However, isolated cases of rather severe stem rust on spring wheat occurred in southwestern North Dakota.

Weather Data Summary

		Inches		
Precipitation:		1982 – 83	90-Yr. Avg.	
September - December		9.40	3.16	
January – March		1.35	1.55	
April – June		4.90	7.31	
July – August		<u>3.97</u>	<u>3.90</u>	
Total		19.62	15.92	
Average Temperature – Degrees F:				
	Maximum	Minimum	Mean	71-Year Mean
April	50	24	37	42
May	62	34	48	53
June	73	46	60	62
July	85	56	71	69
August	90	58	74	67