



North Dakota Climate Bulletin

Spring 2026

Volume 20, No. 2

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Daryl Ritchison

North Dakota State Climatologist

daryl.ritchison@ndsu.edu

North Dakota State Climate Office

School of Natural Resource Sciences

North Dakota State University

174 Van Es Hall
Fargo, ND 58108

www.ndsu.edu/ndsco



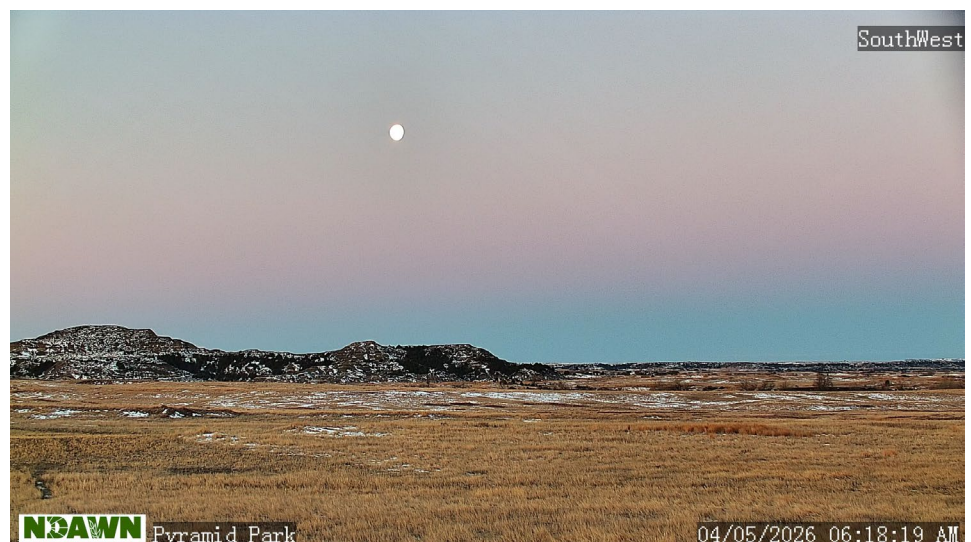
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From the Office of the State Climatologist

The North Dakota Climate Bulletin is a quarterly publication of North Dakota's weather and climate from the North Dakota State Climate Office in the School of Natural Resource Sciences, North Dakota State University in Fargo, North Dakota.

Spring featured warmer-than-normal temperatures in March, cooler conditions in April, and highly variable extremes in May, paired with below-normal precipitation that dried soils and set the stage for drought concerns by the end of May. The Spring of 2026 served as a classic reminder that the Spring season in North Dakota is often a mix of winter and summer, with an occasional day that may feel like "spring".



The moon rises high at Pyramid Park NDAWN

Seasonal Precipitation Summary

Spring 2026 Statewide Average Precipitation: 3.28" (67% of normal)

Precipitation was hard to come by this spring, with most of the stations in the North Dakota Agricultural Weather Network (NDAWN) recording much below average precipitation amounts. The highest precipitation total for the season occurred at the NDAWN station Kintyre 3S in Emmons County with 6.71 inches, which is 126% of normal (+1.39"). The lowest seasonal rainfall occurred in Williams County at the Buford 3SE NDAWN station, which recorded 0.97 inches, which was 26% of normal (-2.83").

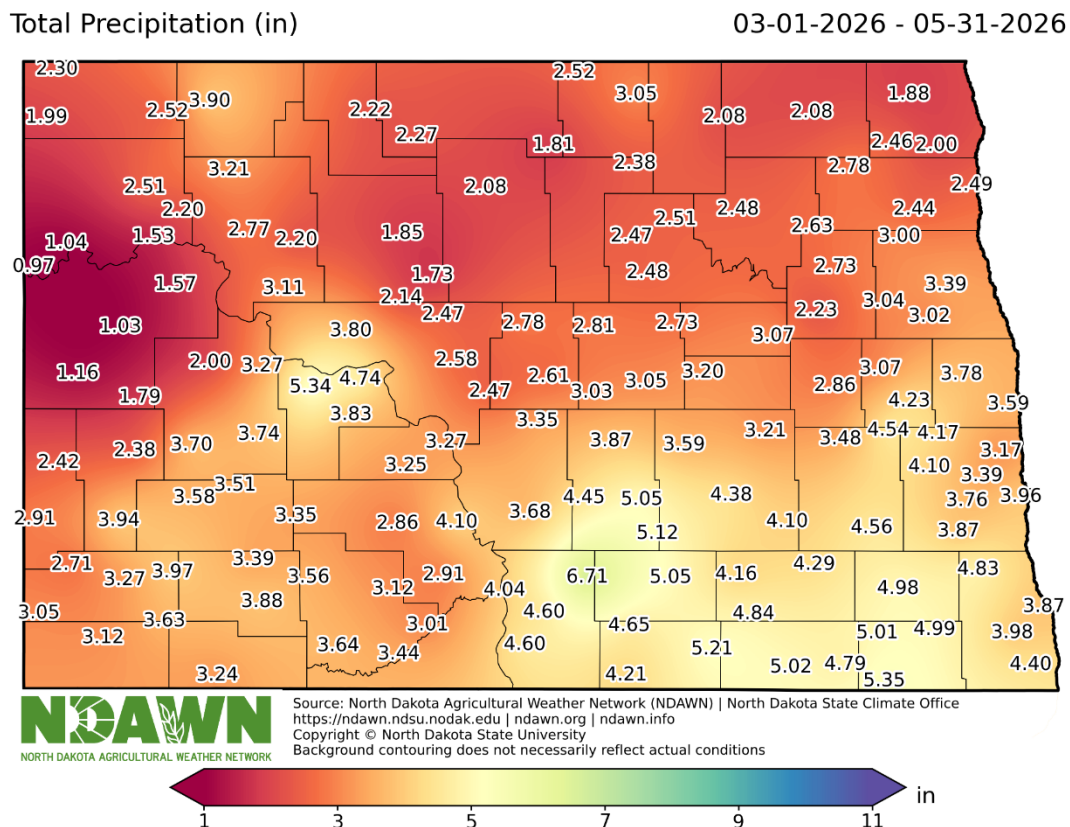
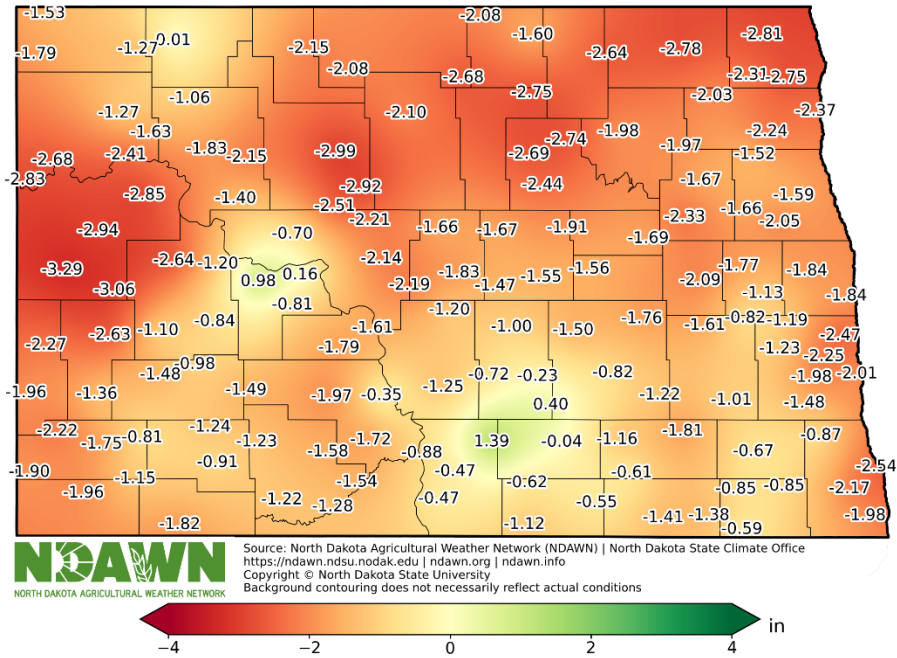


Figure 1: Total precipitation recorded by NDAWN stations with all-season precipitation gauges in Spring 2026

Departure from Normal Precipitation (in) 03-01-2026 - 05-31-2026



Percent of Normal Precipitation (%) 03-01-2026 - 05-31-2026

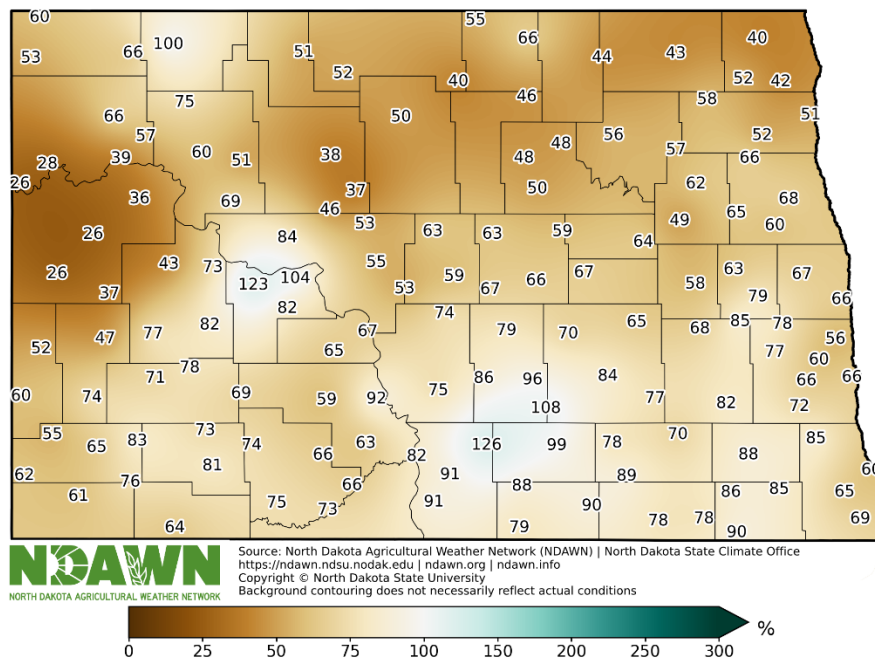
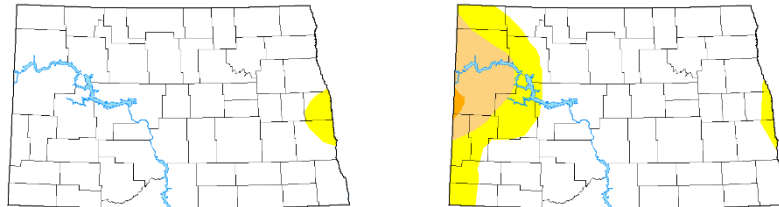


Figure 2: Departure from normal (top) and percent of normal precipitation (bottom) at NDAWN stations with all-season precipitation gauges in Spring 2026

The lack of significant rainfall has led to the subsoil drying out, particularly in western North Dakota. This has led to parts of North Dakota being classified as drought (D1+) for the first time since August 5, 2025 (Figure 3).



Week	None	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4
2026-03-03	98.22	1.78	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2026-06-02	79.87	12.45	7.34	0.34	0.00	0.00
Change	-18.35	+10.67	+7.34	+0.34	0.00	0.00

Figure 3: U.S. Drought Monitor conditions March 3, 2026 (left) vs. June 2, 2026 (right) and the Categorical Percent Area

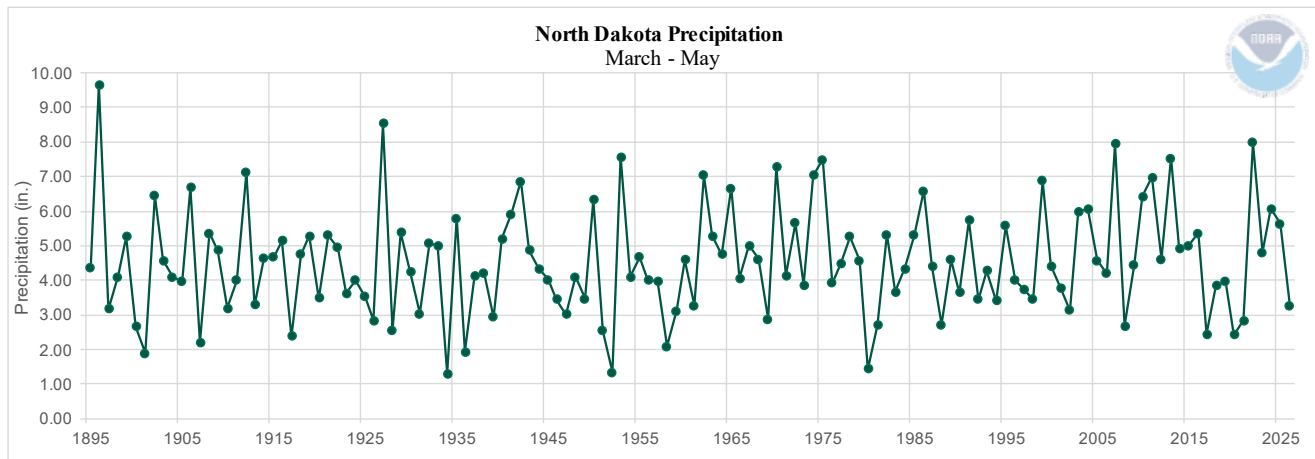


Figure 4: Average Precipitation in North Dakota for the spring season (via NCEI)

North Dakota Precipitation Summary

	Precipitation	Normal	Anomaly	Rank	Record
Spring 2026	3.28"	4.89"	-1.61"	105th Wettest	9.64" (1896)
				28th Driest	1.30" (1934)

Table 1: Spring precipitation summary for North Dakota. 2026 statistics from NDAWN station data. Ranking and records based on NCEI climate data (1895-2026) (NOAA).

Seasonal Temperature Summary

Spring 2026 Statewide Average Temperature: 41.5°F (0.8°F above normal)

Despite a cooler than normal April, a warmer than normal March and May pushed the Spring season to be warmer than normal across most of the state. Far northeastern to northern Red River Valley were at or below average for the season. The Sunny Slope 3W NDAWN station finished 3.7°F above normal; St. Thomas 2WSW and Wales 1W NDAWN stations 2.4°F below normal (Figure 5).

Departure from Normal Average Air Temperature (°F) 03-01-2026 - 05-31-2026

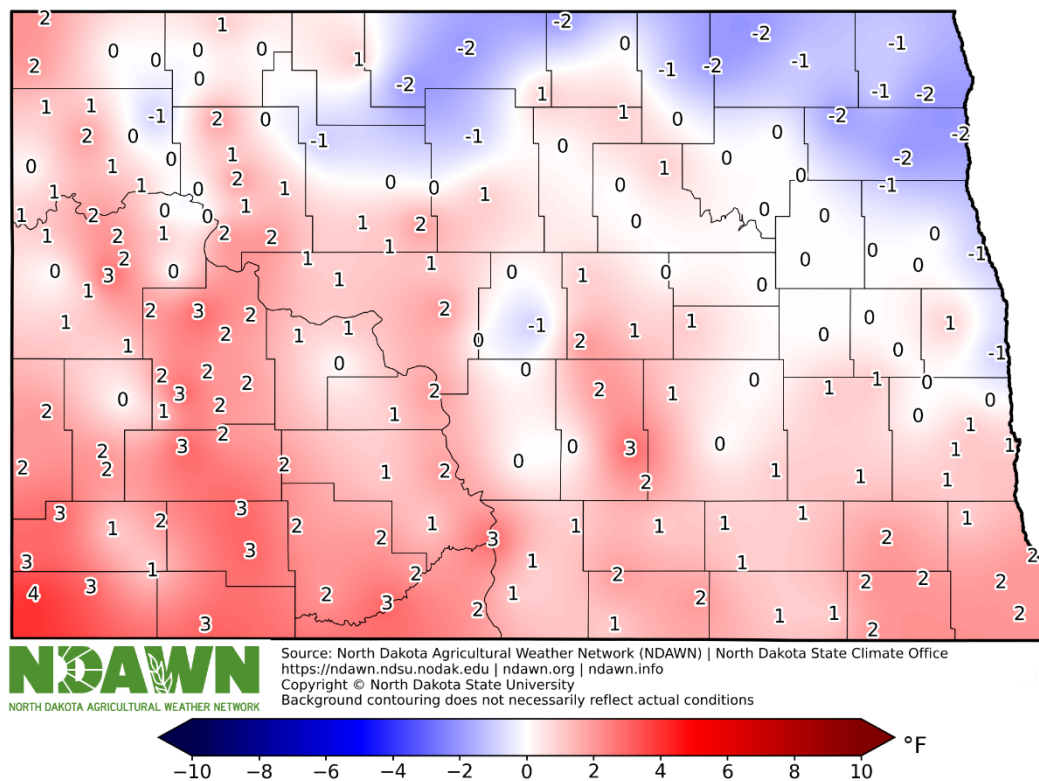
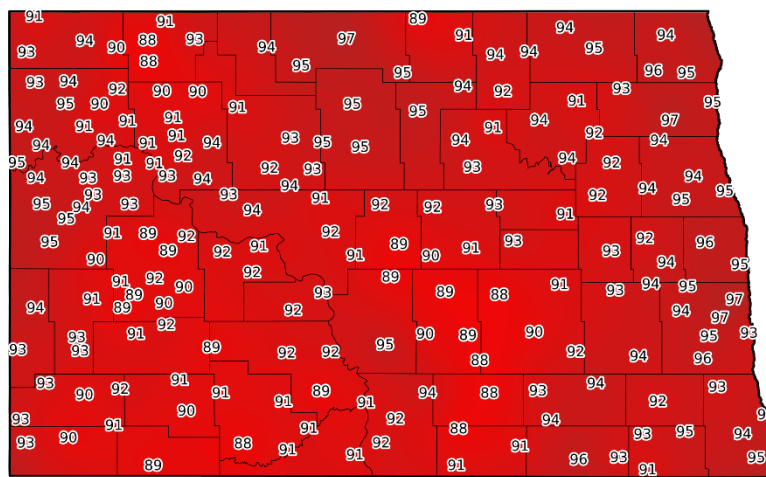


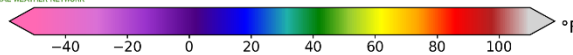
Figure 5: Departure from normal average air temperature recorded by NDAWN stations in Spring 2026

The warmest temperature of the winter was recorded at the Gardner 2SSW NDAWN station on May 28 with a reading of 97.3°F (Figure 6). The coldest temperature of the season occurred at the Peace Garden NDAWN station with a minimum of -25.2°F on March 16.

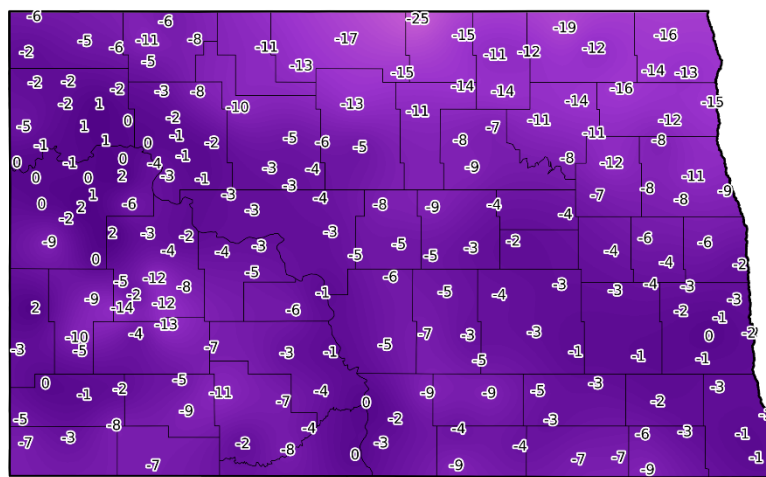
Maximum Temperature (°F) 03-01-2026 - 05-31-2026



NDAWN NORTH DAKOTA AGRICULTURAL WEATHER NETWORK
 Source: North Dakota Agricultural Weather Network (NDAWN) | North Dakota State Climate Office
<https://ndawn.ndsu.nodak.edu> | ndawn.org | ndawn.info
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Minimum Temperature (°F) 03-01-2026 - 05-31-2026



NDAWN NORTH DAKOTA AGRICULTURAL WEATHER NETWORK
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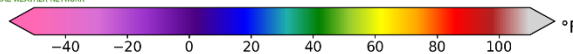
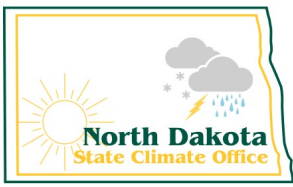


Figure 6: Maximum (top) and minimum air temperature (bottom) recorded by NDAWN stations during Spring 2026



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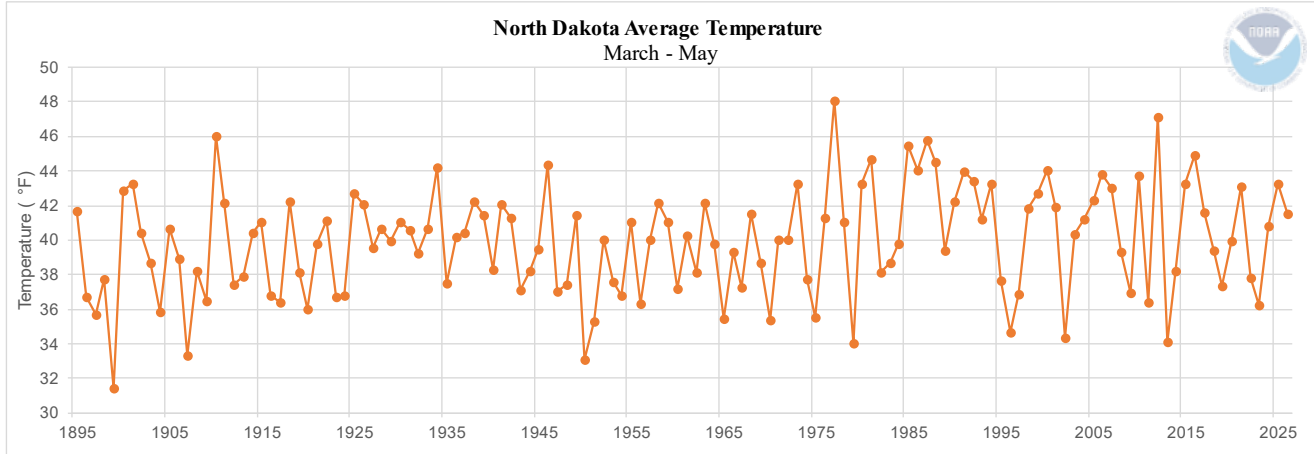


Figure 7: Average Temperature in North Dakota for the spring season (via NCEI)

North Dakota Temperature Summary

	Average T	Avg max T	Avg min T	Maximum	Minimum
Spring 2026	41.5°F	54.0°F	29.1°F	97.3°F	-25.2°F
Anomaly	+0.8°F	+1.6°F	+0.1°F		
Rank					
Warmest	42nd Warmest	38th Warmest	51st Warmest		
Coolest	91st Coolest	95th Coolest	84th Coolest		
Record					
Warmest	48.1°F (1977)	61.3°F (1977)	34.8°F (1977)		
Coolest	31.5°F (1899)	42.6°F (1950)	20.3°F (1899)		

Table 2: Spring temperature summary for North Dakota. 2026 statistics from NDAWN station data. Ranking and records based on NCEI climate data (1895-2026) (NOAA).

Detailed monthly summaries and the full archive can be found at ndsco.ndsu.edu.

NDAWN monthly, seasonal, and annual climate statistic maps can be found at ndawn.info/climate-statistics.

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