

CLIMATE SUMMARY: November 2008

Precipitation:

The November total precipitation for the majority of the western part of the state ranged from 0.5 to 1.5 inches. Most of the central regions of the state received between 1 and 2.5 inches. The northeast part of the state total precipitation ranged from 2.5 to 3.5

inches and the southeast was between 0.5 and 1.5

inches. Most of the states percent of normal precipitation was between 150% to greater than 300% of normal (Figure 1, High Plains Regional Climate Center). The wettest fall (September through November total precipitation) on record was set in Grand Forks, ND with 11.97 inches which broke the previous record of 10.41 inches set in 1957. Fargo, ND also set a new record for the wettest fall (September through November total precipitation) with 10.67 inches which broke the previous record of 10.25 inches set in 1977.

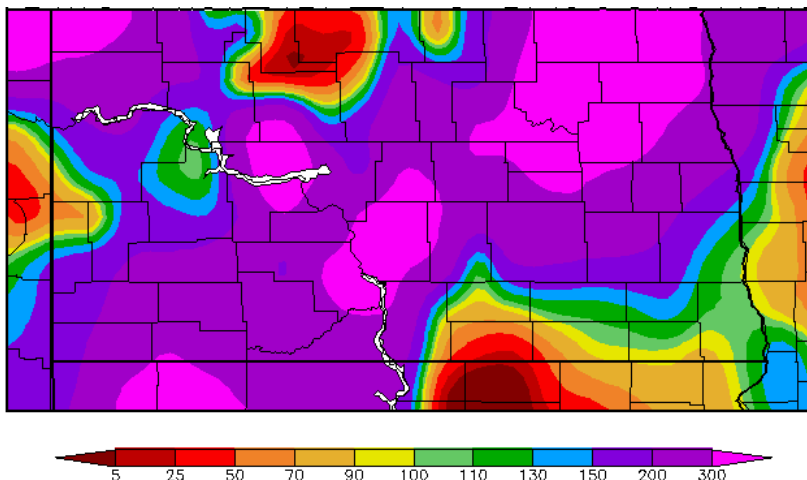


Figure 1. Precipitation Percent of Normal in November 2008 for North Dakota (High Plains Regional Climate Center)

Temperature

The state November average air temperature ranged from 25 to 28°F in the northeast to 30 to 32°F in the southwest. The departure from normal air temperature was above normal across the state. The western part of the state was 3 to 6°F above normal, the central region was 2 to 4°F above normal and the eastern part ranged from 3 to 5°F above normal (Figure 2, North Dakota State Climate Office). The North Dakota Agricultural Weather

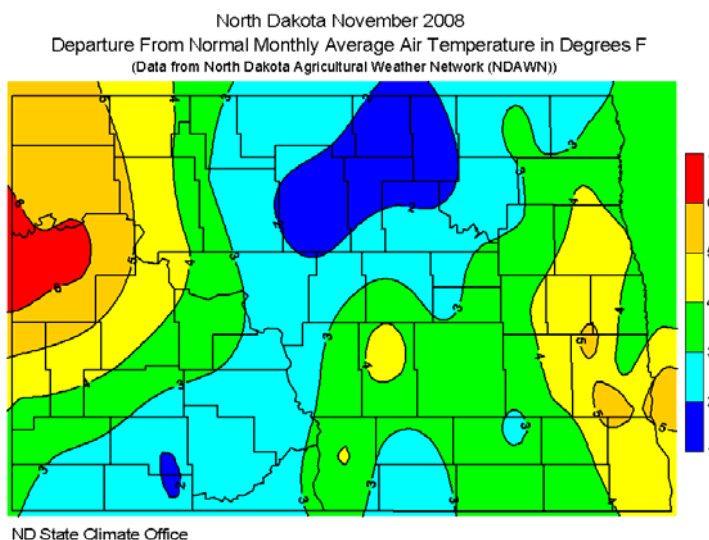


Figure 2. Temperature Departure from Normal in November 2008 for North Dakota (North Dakota State Climate Office)

Networks highest recorded daily air temperature for November was 73.5°F at Wishek, ND on the 2nd. The lowest recorded daily air temperature was -12.2°F at Rugby, ND on the 20th.

State Drought Assessment and Impact:

By the end of the month, drought conditions improved significantly alleviating severe drought that had been lingered around southwestern portions of the state since the spring of 2008. Based on the National Drought Mitigation assessment, 17% of the state was under at least moderate drought (Area shown with brown color in Figure 3, National Drought Mitigation Center). Counties mostly affected by the moderate drought were McKenzie, Golden Valley, Billings, Dunn, Stark, Morton, Grant, Hettinger, Slope, Bowman and Adams counties. Some of the impacts of the long-term drought since last fall are yield loss in Lentil and Pea production. The Climate Prediction Center anticipates that the drought will improve.

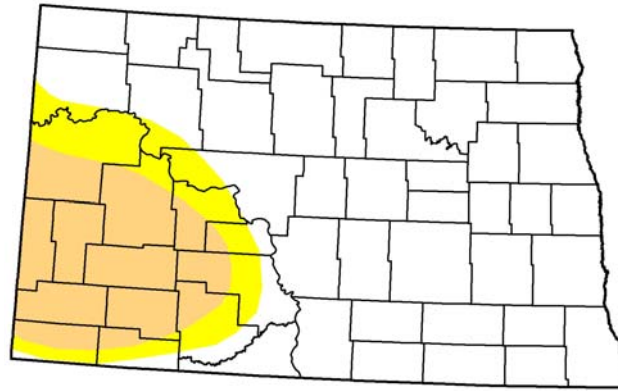


Figure 3. Drought Monitor as of November 25 (National Drought Mitigation Center)