



North Dakota

Monthly Climate Summary

April 2009

Precipitation:

Most of the first few days of April were dry across the State with some snow in the central and northeast regions. The middle of the month saw more rain showers across the State. The last few days of April had heavier rains that turned to flurries with the larger snow accumulations in the western and central regions. Monthly precipitation totals ranged from 0.5 inches to 1.9 inches. The southwest corner and the far southeast corner had less than an inch of total monthly precipitation with the remaining areas receiving greater than an inch. The southwest region of the State had monthly percent of normal precipitation of 50% and less. The southeast region had 50 to 90 percent of normal monthly precipitation. The northwest and northeast monthly precipitation percent of normal ranged from 100% to 200% (Figure 1, High Plains Regional Climate Center).

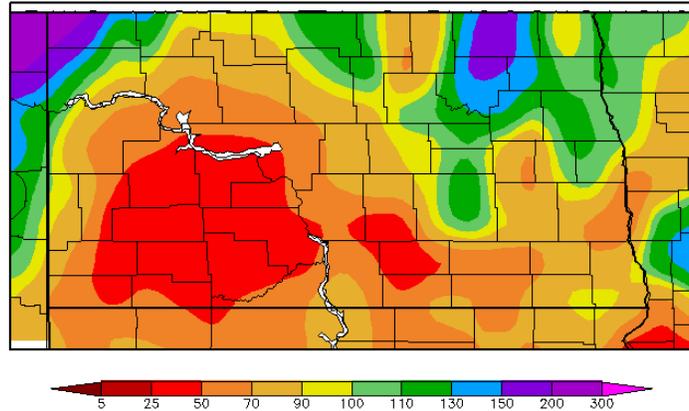


Figure 1. Precipitation Percent of Normal in April 2009 for North Dakota (High Plains Regional Climate Center)

Temperature:

The average April air temperature was below normal across the State. There were a few days of above normal average air temperatures during the middle of the month. However, most of the daily average air temperatures were below normal. Many of the days that had above normal temperatures were quickly followed by precipitation events. For example, on April 23rd, the average air temperatures at Fargo dropped from 81°F to 68°F in one hour and temperatures continued to fall as a low pressure system moved in and brought cooler temperatures and rain showers to the area. The monthly average air temperatures ranged from 36°F to 42°F. The north central, central, and southwest regions had monthly air temperatures ranging from 36 to 39°F. The eastern and northwest regions had average monthly air temperatures from 40 to 42°F. The monthly departure from normal air temperatures ranged from 0 to -4°F. The northwest region had between 0 and -2°F departure from normal air temperatures with the remaining areas of the State having April departures of -2 to -4°F (Figure 2, High Plains Regional Climate Center).

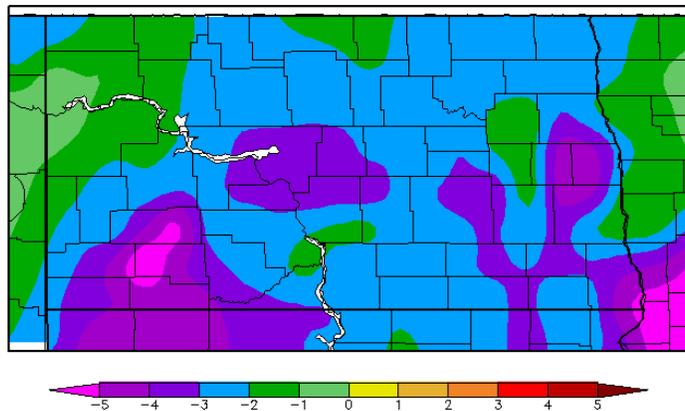


Figure 2. Air Temperature Departure from Normal in April 2009 for North Dakota (High Plains Regional Climate Center)

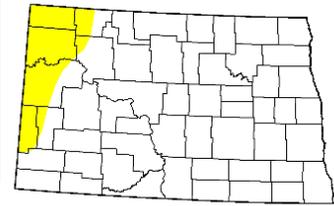
Drought:

Abnormally dry conditions set in western North Dakota in mid April. By the third week of April more than 10% of the state was under abnormally dry conditions. Divide, Burke Williams, Mountrail, McKenzie, Billings and Golden Valley counties were so dry, the National Weather Service put out Fire Danger statements during the second and third week covering most of the Bismarck County Warning Areas. Recent rainfall will alleviate some of the dryness in the upcoming weeks.

U.S. Drought Monitor North Dakota

April 28, 2009
Valid 7 a.m. EST

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	89.5	10.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Last Week (04/21/2009 map)	89.5	10.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
3 Months Ago (02/03/2009 map)	85.7	14.3	7.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Start of Calendar Year (1/06/2009 map)	74.6	25.4	16.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Start of Water Year (10/07/2008 map)	54.9	45.2	28.8	19.4	11.8	0.0
One Year Ago (04/29/2008 map)	3.4	96.6	59.8	49.5	29.5	0.0



Intensity:

■ D0 Abnormally Dry	■ D3 Drought - Extreme
■ D1 Drought - Moderate	■ D4 Drought - Exceptional
■ D2 Drought - Severe	

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

<http://drought.unl.edu/dm>



Released Thursday, April 30, 2009
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Flood:

By the end of the month of April, no location on the Red River was reporting Major Flood. The stage at Fargo, Oslo, Drayton and Pembina improved to a Moderate Flood Stage. Grand Forks and Halstad are at Minor Flood Stage, while Wahpeton was improved to a "Near Flood Stage".

Sheyenne River at Valley City, Lisbon and West Fargo experienced major flooding. By the end of the month, flood at Valley City and Lisbon were downgraded to "Moderate Flood" while the River at West Fargo location is still flowing just a foot above the major flood category. The NCRFC is forecasting a gradual decrease in river levels during the upcoming week.

James River at Kensal location is flowing at Major flood category while it is currently downgraded to Moderate category at Jamestown and Ludden locations. LaMoure gauge is showing only minor flooding. At all locations the stage has been steady.

Souris River at Towner and Bantry locations are at Moderate Flood stage while the stage at Willow City on Willow Creek peaked at 11.14' (Flood Stage). River stages at all locations are falling at a steady rate.