



North Dakota

Monthly Climate Summary

July 2009

Precipitation:

Most of the July precipitation fell in the first half of the month. The North Dakota Agricultural Weather Network (NDAWN) total July rainfall ranged from 4.59 inches at the northwestern Hofflund station to 0.40 inches at the eastern located Galesburg station. The percent of normal July total rainfall was generally above normal in a stretch from the northwest to south central area with a range from roughly 100% to 200% (Figure 1. High Plains Regional Climate Center). The north central, southwest corner, and eastern regions had below normal precipitation with the eastern region having the lowest amounts with 50% or less percent of normal precipitation. A major storm event occurred on the 8th in the western part of the State. The National Weather Service (NWS) Storm Prediction Center reported tornadoes on the 8th in Golden Valley, Burke, Billings, Stark, and Renville Counties. A tornado touched down in Dickinson on the evening of the 8th. The tornado was classified an EF3 with winds speeds of 150 mph and a path length of nearly 2 miles long and one tenth of a mile wide.

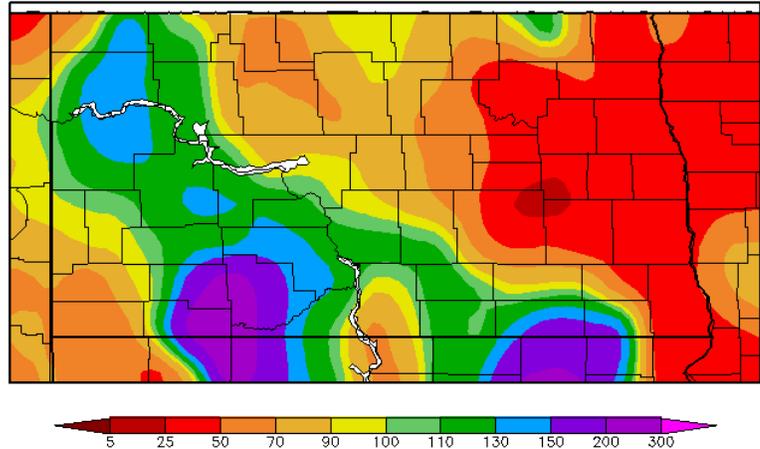


Figure 1. Precipitation Percent of Normal in July 2009 for North Dakota (High Plains Regional Climate Center)

Temperature:

July was a cool month. The departure from normal monthly average air temperatures were below normal across the state and ranged from roughly 3 to 6 degrees below normal (Figure 2. North Dakota State Climate Office). The average monthly air temperatures recorded from NDAWN ranged from 62°F to 68°F with the cooler temperatures in the north and warmest temperatures in the southeast corner and central western edge. The NWS reported breaking the low maximum daily temperature at the Grand Forks Airport with 69°F on the 16th. The NWS also recorded a record low daily temperature at Williston of 42°F on the 17th. The monthly average air temperature for July at Bismarck was 66.9°F which ranked the 11th coolest of records going back to 1875. Similarly, the monthly average air temperature for July at Fargo was 66.5°F which ranked 12th coolest of records going back to 1881.

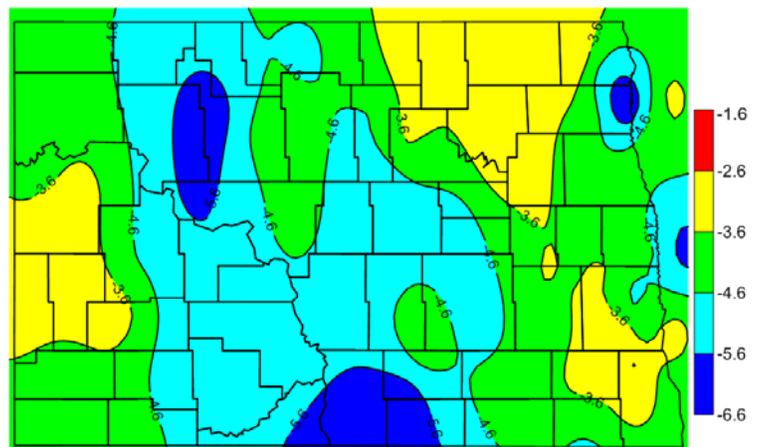


Figure 2. Temperature Departure from Normal in July 2009 for North Dakota (North Dakota State Climate Office)

Drought Monitor:

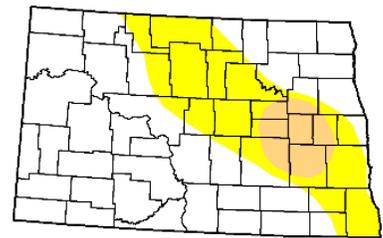
Statewide drought conditions worsened compared to previous month. Conditions were elevated from abnormally dry to moderate drought in east central portions of the state occupying southwestern Barnes and Nelson Counties, southeastern Eddy, eastern Foster, Northeastern Stutsman, northern Barnes, western Steele and entire Griggs counties. The state was drought free prior to the end of July since February 2009. Currently, agricultural impacts are negligible.

U.S. Drought Monitor

North Dakota

July 28, 2009
Valid 7 a.m. EST

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	68.3	31.7	6.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
Last Week (07/21/2009 map)	82.6	17.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
3 Months Ago (05/05/2009 map)	93.3	6.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Start of Calendar Year (01/01/2009 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 (07/29/2008 map)	0.0	100.0	57.0	49.0	37.9	0.0



Intensity:



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, July 30, 2009

Author: Mark Svoboda, National Drought Mitigation Center