



North Dakota

Monthly Climate Summary

March 2010

Precipitation:

The north and western regions generally had from 0.1 to 1 inch of total March precipitation. The south central and southeast had from 1 to 2 inches of total precipitation. The north and western areas of the state had below normal precipitation. The south central and southeast had above normal precipitation ranging from 100 to 300% of normal (Figure 1. High Plains Regional Climate Center). The majority of March precipitation fell from the 9th through the 12th. The National Weather Service recorded breaking daily total precipitation records on the 9th at Grand Forks airport and on the 10th at Jamestown, Dickinson, Grand Forks and Fargo. During the second half of March, moderate to major flooding from snowmelt occurred in the central and eastern parts of the state. The Red River crested at 46.07 feet in Grand Forks on the 20th. At Fargo, the Red River crested on the 21st with 36.99 feet.

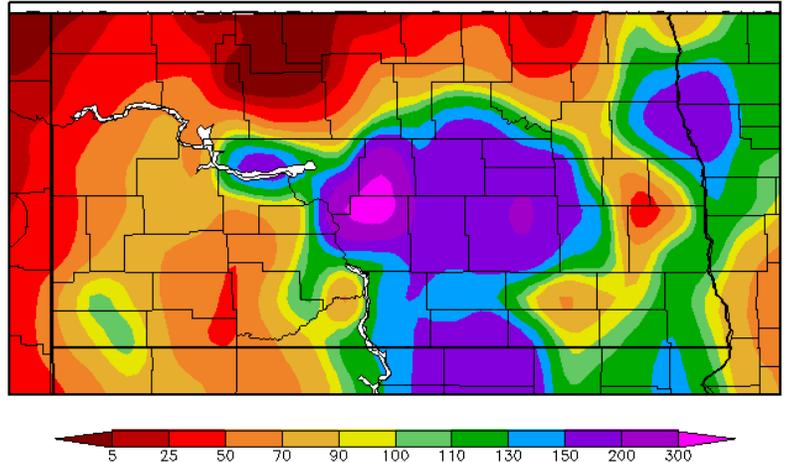


Figure 1. Precipitation Percent of Normal in March 2010 for North Dakota (High Plains Regional Climate Center)

Temperature:

March average monthly temperatures ranged from 28°F to 35°F. Average monthly temperatures of 28°F to 31°F covered the northern and western regions. The southeast and western edge had average monthly temperatures of 32°F to 35°F. The central western part of the state had near normal to 4°F below normal average air temperatures. The remainder of the state had near normal to 8°F above normal average air temperatures (Figure 2. High Plains Regional Climate Center). Daily average air temperatures started below normal and rose to near normal in the first few days of March. The temperatures continued as near normal and above for the rest of the month except for the 19th and 25th when temperatures were below normal. Record high temperatures were set on the 29th in Williston with 71°F and on the 30th at Jamestown with 74°F.

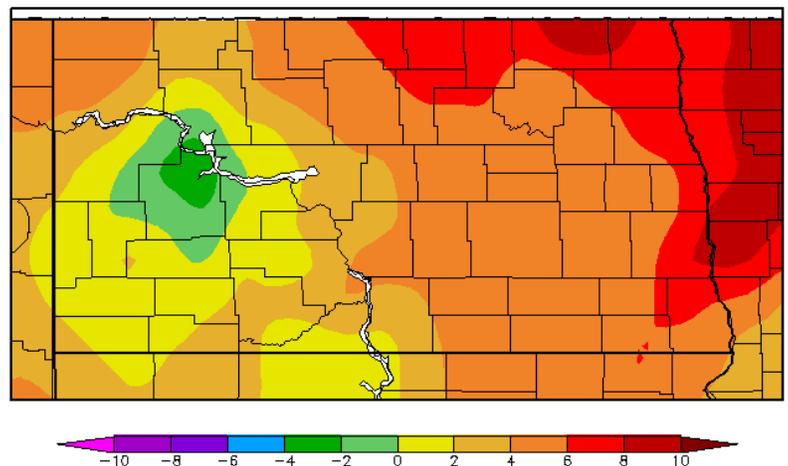


Figure 2. Temperature Departure from Normal in March 2010 for North Dakota (High Plains Regional Climate Center)