



North Dakota

Monthly Climate Summary

December 2011

Precipitation:

The High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC) December percent of normal precipitation was less than 80% for most of North Dakota. (Figure 1. High Plains Regional Climate Center). The southwest corner had the greatest amount of precipitation with 150% to 200% of normal. December continued a pattern of dry and seasonally warm temperatures. The precipitation events from the 1st through the 26th produced amounts of a trace to around a tenth of an inch with the east being the driest. Snow depth from the 1st through the 26th varied from a trace in most areas to an inch in the northern regions. The 27th through the 31st had precipitation fall in most areas with the highest amounts in the northeast.

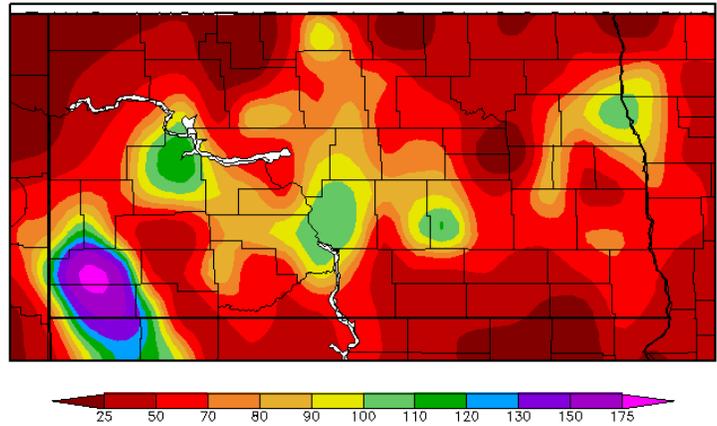


Figure 1. Precipitation Percent of Normal in December 2011 for North Dakota (High Plains Regional Climate Center)

Temperature:

NDAWN December average air temperatures ranged from 19 °F to 25 °F. NDAWN departure from normal temperatures were above normal across the state and ranged from 6 °F to 13 °F (Figure 2. North Dakota State Climate Office). The 4th through the 9th had near normal to below normal temperatures across the state. The majority of all other days had above normal to far above normal average air temperatures across the state. The National Weather Service reported breaking or tying high temperature records on the 18th and the 26th. Bismarck December average air temperature ranked 8th warmest with 25.1 °F (tied with 1991). Williston December was the 7th warmest with 25.0 °F. Fargo December was 3rd warmest on record with 25.3 °F and Grand Forks was 3rd warmest with 22.2 °F. Similar to November, the lack of or sparse snow pack contributed to the warm temperatures.

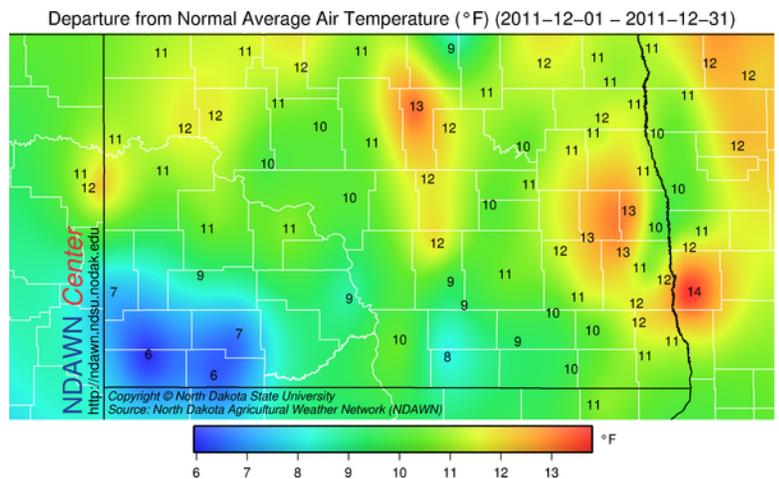


Figure 2. Temperature Departure from Normal in December 2011 for North Dakota (North Dakota State Climate Office)