



North Dakota

Monthly Climate Summary

February 2012

Precipitation:

The High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC) February percent of normal precipitation was less than 50% for much of northern North Dakota with the driest region of less than 5% in the northeast, including parts of Towner, Benson, and Pierce Counties. Amounts of greater than 100% of normal precipitation fell in the far southern counties with the highest amounts of greater than 200% falling in the southeast, including parts of Richland, Sargent, and Cass Counties (Figure 1. High Plains Regional Climate Center). According to the National Weather Service (NWS), the first half of the month was mostly dry with the last half of the month having four primary snowfall events. On the 15th, up to 3" of total snowfall fell in western ND. On the 20th through the 21st, 2" to 5" of snow fell in eastern ND. A highly variable snow storm on the 25th through the 27th had 2" to 8" of total snowfall. The higher amounts recorded from the 25th-27th snowstorm was Lidgerwood with 9" and Minot REC with 8.5". The snow storm on the 29th hit hardest in the south central and southeast with totals between 4" and 7" of snow. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor published on February 28th, all of ND had at least abnormally dry conditions with the northeast corner having moderate drought conditions.

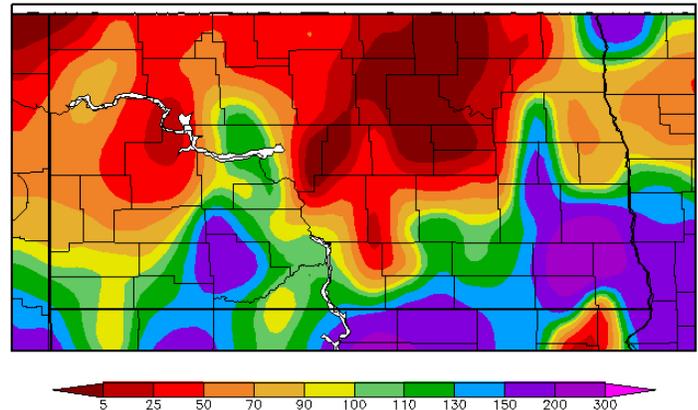


Figure 1. Precipitation Percent of Normal in February 2012 for North Dakota (High Plains Regional Climate Center)

Temperature:

NDAWN February monthly average air temperatures ranged from 14 °F to 23 °F. NDAWN departure from normal temperatures were above normal across most of the state and ranged from 0 °F to 9 °F (Figure 2. North Dakota State Climate Office). Daily average air temperatures were below normal on the 10th through the 12th and the 24th through the 28th. Otherwise, daily average air temperatures were primarily above normal. The average air temperature for the winter of 2011-2012 (Dec.-Feb.) ranked in the top 10 warmest on record at several locations. According to the Applied Climate Information System (ACIS), Fargo area had the warmest winter average air temperature on record with 22.1 °F. Grand Forks area ranked the 2nd warmest average air temperature with 19.2 °F. Bismarck area was 7th warmest with 23.4 °F. Williston area was 4th warmest with an average air temperature of 22.1 °F.

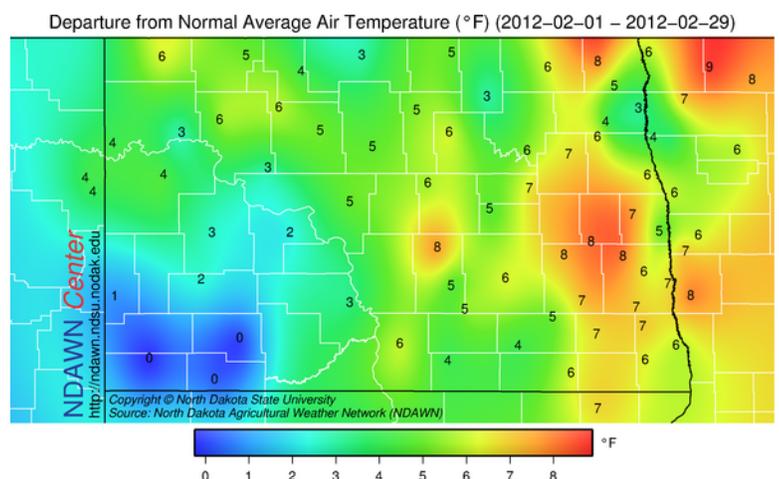


Figure 2. Temperature Departure from Normal in February 2012 for North Dakota (North Dakota State Climate Office)