



North Dakota

Monthly Climate Summary

March 2012

Precipitation:

The High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC) March percent of normal precipitation was less than 50% for most of North Dakota including western, southern, and east central regions (Figure 1. High Plains Regional Climate Center). The driest regions of less than 5% to 25% fell mostly west of the Missouri River plus parts of Emmons, McIntosh, Logan, Kidder and Dickey Counties. The highest amounts of 150% to 200% fell in the north central and northeast corner. According to the National Weather Service, a snow storm on the 1st through the 3rd produced up to 6 inches of snow in the northeast. The remainder of the months precipitation fell primarily as rain with the heaviest amounts falling in the central region with up to 6 tenths of an inch. The USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, North Dakota Field Office reported that there was nearly no snow cover on March 25th. The US Drought Monitor March 27, 2012 report had abnormally dry conditions for most of the state. The report listed the north central with no drought conditions and the northeast with severe dry conditions.

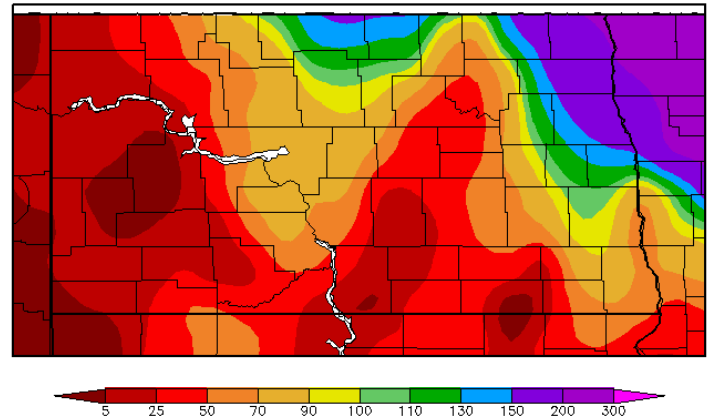


Figure 1. Precipitation Percent of Normal in March 2012 for North Dakota (High Plains Regional Climate Center)

Temperature:

NDAWN March monthly average air temperatures ranged from 35 °F to 45 °F. NDAWN departure from normal average temperatures were above normal across the state and ranged from 12 °F to 16 °F (Figure 2. North Dakota State Climate Office). Daily average air temperatures were primarily below normal at most locations for the first nine days of March. The remainder of the month had above normal to far above normal average air temperatures. The National Weather Service from the 10th through the 23rd recorded breaking a maximum air temperature and/or a high minimum air temperature at several locations nearly every day. According to the Applied Climate Information System (ACIS), the Grand Forks International Airport had the warmest March on record with an average air temperature of 38.0 °F which broke the previous record of 35.4 °F set in 1973. Fargo also had the warmest average air temperature for March with 41.6 °F breaking the previous record of 36.0 °F set in 1973. Bismarck tied the 1910 warmest March average air temperature with 43.2 °F.

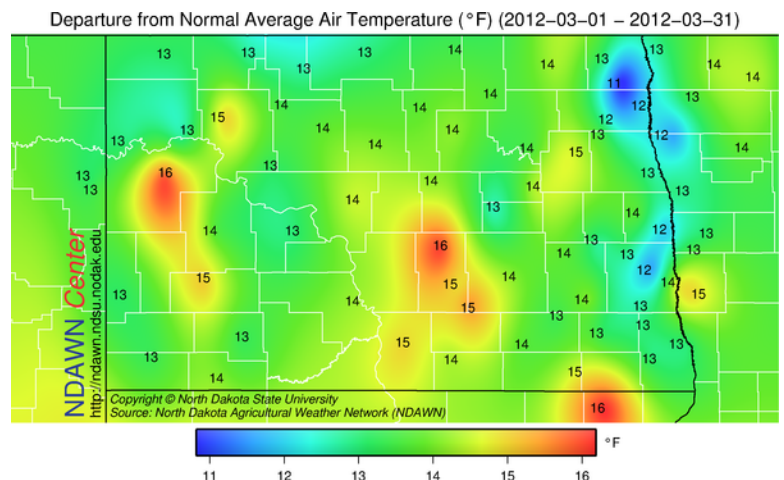


Figure 2. Temperature Departure from Normal in March 2012 for North Dakota (North Dakota State Climate Office)