



North Dakota

Monthly Climate Summary

April 2013

Precipitation:

Percent of normal precipitation totals were above normal in the central, southeast, and eastern regions and below normal elsewhere based on the High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC) analysis (Figure 1).

HPRCC total precipitation amounts were ~0.5 inches in the below normal regions and greater than 1.5 inches in the areas with above normal precipitation. Most of the precipitation that fell in April was in the form of snow. April ranked 4th snowiest month in Fargo with 16.7 inches and the snowiest month in Bismarck with 21.8 inches.

17.3 inches of snow fell in Bismarck on April 14th which broke the record for a daily snowfall for any day in Bismarck. The greatest amount of the April snow fell during the storm event from the 14th through the 15th. The highest amounts fell in the south central regions with totals reaching 15 to over 20 inches. The southeast received about 8 to 10 inches during that storm. The U.S. Drought Monitor April 23rd report listed 49.04% of the state as having anywhere from Abnormally Dry (D0) through Severe Drought (D2). Severe Drought (D2) was only reported for 1.84% of the state with 50.96% of the state having no drought conditions.

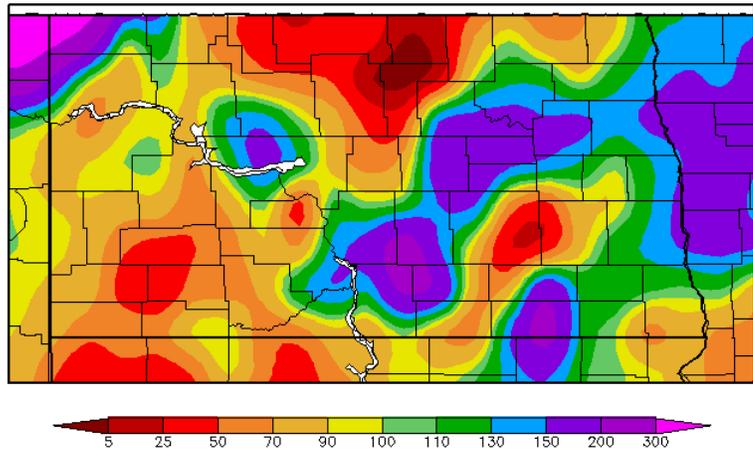


Figure 1. Precipitation Percent of Normal in April 2013 for North Dakota (High Plains Regional Climate Center, HPRCC)

Temperature:

NDAWN April average air temperatures ranged from ~24 °F in the north to ~35 °F in the southwest. Departure from normal average air temperatures ranged from -16 °F to -7 °F (Figure 2). The daily average temperatures were primarily far below normal throughout the state for the first 24 days of April breaking several low temperature records from the 18th through the 23rd. According to the National Climatic Data Center (NCDC), April was the 3rd coldest average temperature at Bismarck with 34.5 °F and it was the 5th coldest average temperature at Fargo with 33.8 °F. Fargo also broke the latest first 50 ° day in the recorded history. It happened on April 26th when the thermometer reached the 50 ° threshold for the first time in 2013. The previous record was set 133 years ago on April 17, 1881. After the 24th, average daily air temperatures were above normal across the state for most of the remaining days. The two-day (26th-27th) average maximum temperature at Bismarck ranked 6th warmest with 78.0 °F.

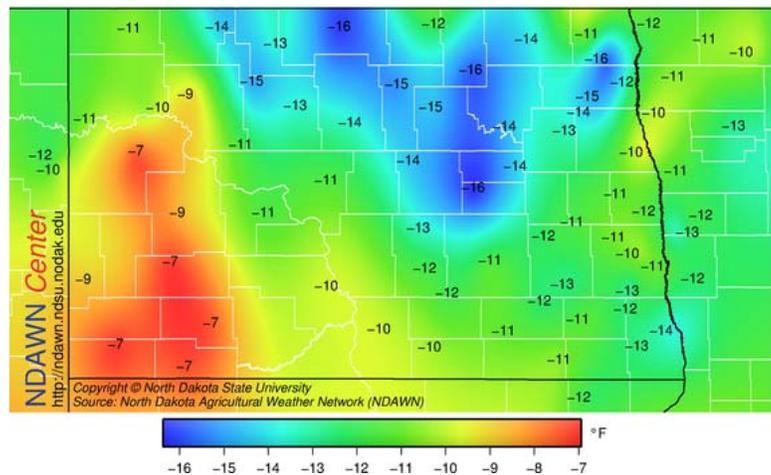


Figure 2. Temperature Departure from Normal in April 2013 for North Dakota (North Dakota Agricultural Weather Network, NDAWN)