



The North Dakota Monthly Climate Summary

May 2016

Precipitation:

Very little precipitation fell across North Dakota during the first half of May but the last 10 days of the month it turned quite wet for at least some parts of the state. With the lack of moisture during the first part of the month many seeds did not germinate or emerge until the rains arrived which in some ways was a blessing because of a hard freeze right before the needed rains eventually arrived. The North Dakota Agricultural Weather Network (NDAWN) average rainfall for stations located in North Dakota was 2.61 inches, which is right at the average for those stations. Even though the overall precipitation for the state was near the average, most NDAWN station tended to finish either well above or well below normal for the month (Figure 1).

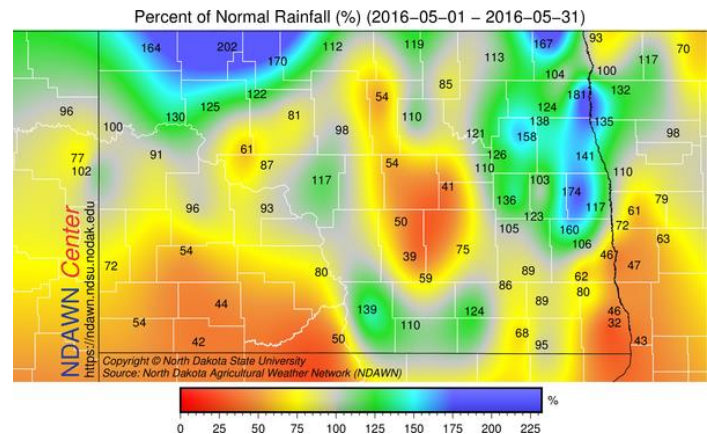


Figure 1. Precipitation Percent of Normal in May, 2016 for North Dakota (North Dakota Agricultural Weather Network, NDAWN)

Temperature:

May 2016 continued the overall trend for above normal temperatures that started last summer. The southern and western portions of North Dakota recorded temperatures near to a bit above average, whereas the northeastern portion of the state had temperature departures more noticeably above the current 30 year average. (Figure 2). The average temperature for the North Dakota NDAWN stations in May was 57.3° which is 2.6° above normal for those locations. The highest temperature recorded during the month occurred on May 5 when the NDAWN station near Cavalier, ND reached 94.0° F. The lowest temperature recorded in the month was 21.5° F at the Pillsbury, ND NDAWN station on May 14. That hard freeze damaged crops that had emerged throughout the region.

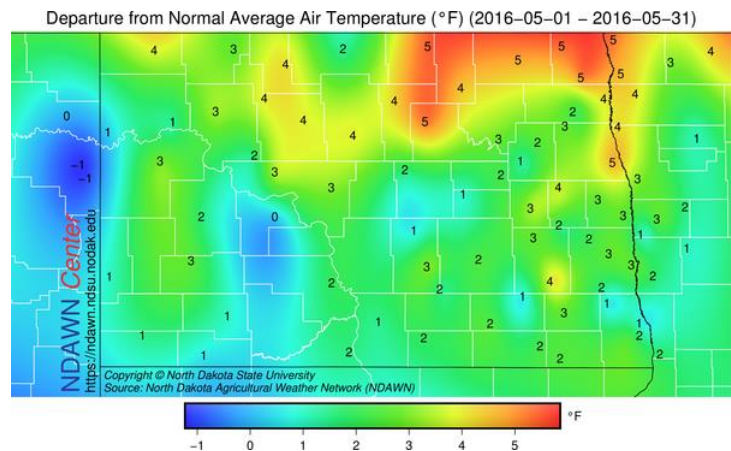


Figure 2. Temperature Departure from Normal in May, 2016 for North Dakota (North Dakota Agricultural Weather Network, NDAWN)