



North Dakota

Monthly Climate Summary

April 2010

Precipitation:

Monthly precipitation totals were 1.5 to 3.75 inches in the central and southeast corner of the state with less than an inch falling elsewhere. Percent of normal monthly precipitation was 150% to 300% of normal in the central part of the state. The southwest and southeast corners also had above normal precipitation. The western and eastern parts of the state had below normal precipitation (Figure 1. High Plains Regional Climate Center). Most days in April were dry. The primary daily rainfall events happened from the 1st to the 3rd, 12th and 13th, and scattered showers across the state from the 22nd to the end of the month. The April 1st and 2nd severe storm event produced freezing rain, ice and heavy snow in the central part of the state. The storm caused thousands of residents to lose power. The President declared the storm a major disaster which released federal funds to be used by 12 counties and the Standing Rock Sioux Indian Reservation to repair the damage. The eastern part of the state continued with mild spring weather that produced only a trace or no snow throughout April.

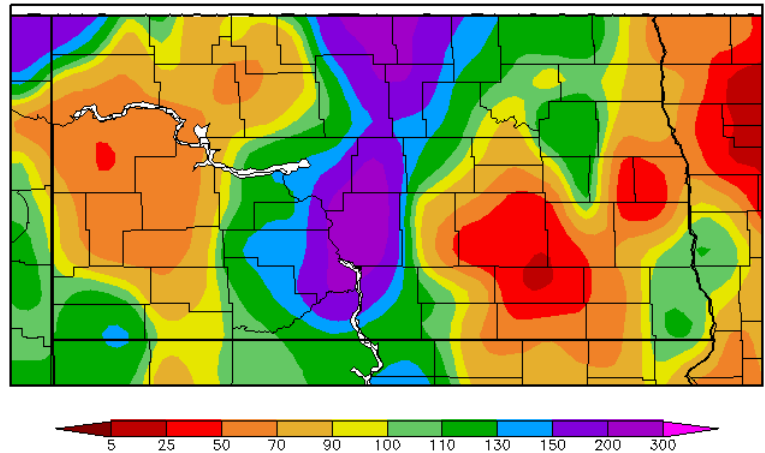


Figure 1. Precipitation Percent of Normal in April 2010 for North Dakota (High Plains Regional Climate Center)

Temperature:

April average monthly temperatures ranged from 41°F to 52°F with the higher temperatures in the southeast and the lower temperatures in the northwest. The average departure from normal temperatures were primarily above normal across the state with a range of -2 to 10 (Figure 2. High Plains Regional Climate Center). The eastern half of the state had monthly departures of 4°F and greater. The western half of the state had near normal and slightly above normal monthly temperatures. The daily average air temperatures were near or above normal throughout most of the month. The last few days of the month had cooler than normal daily air temperatures. The mild April temperatures allowed producers to get in their fields two weeks earlier than the previous year. The USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, North Dakota Field Office reported the statewide average starting date for fieldwork was April 18.

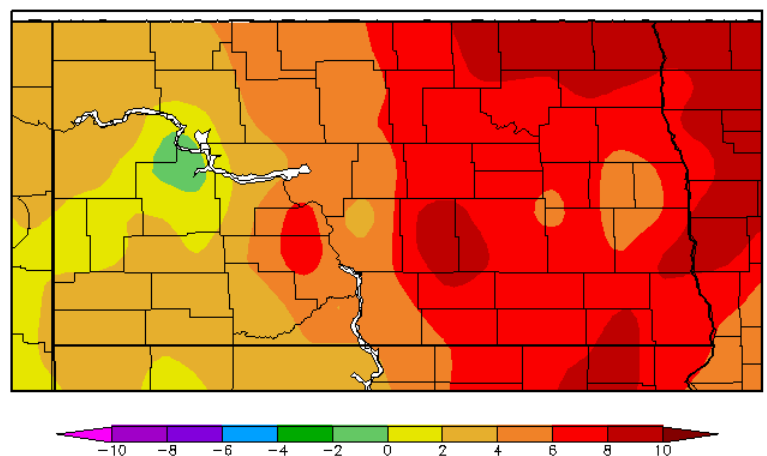


Figure 2. Temperature Departure from Normal in April 2010 for North Dakota (High Plains Regional Climate Center)