



North Dakota

Monthly Climate Summary

March 2013

Precipitation:

Below normal precipitation totals of ~50% to ~70% of normal fell in the southern and the east-central part of the state. Above normal amounts of ~130% to ~200% of normal fell in the north, northwest, and a small corner of the southeast based on the High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC) analysis (Figure 1). HPRCC total precipitation amounts were between ~0.5 inches in the below normal regions and greater than an inch in the areas with above normal precipitation. The National Weather Service Grand Forks office reported a major storm on the 4th with significant snowfall in the northeastern part of the state of over a foot including Cavalier at 18", Park River at 16.5", and Gilby 2E at 15.0". A second storm on the 18th also brought the highest totals of 4 to 6 inches to the northeastern part of the state. The U.S. Drought Monitor March 26th report listed 66.51% of the state as having anywhere from Abnormally Dry (D0) through Severe Drought (D2). The Severe Drought (D2) was reported for 24.73% of the state with 33.49% of the state having no drought conditions.

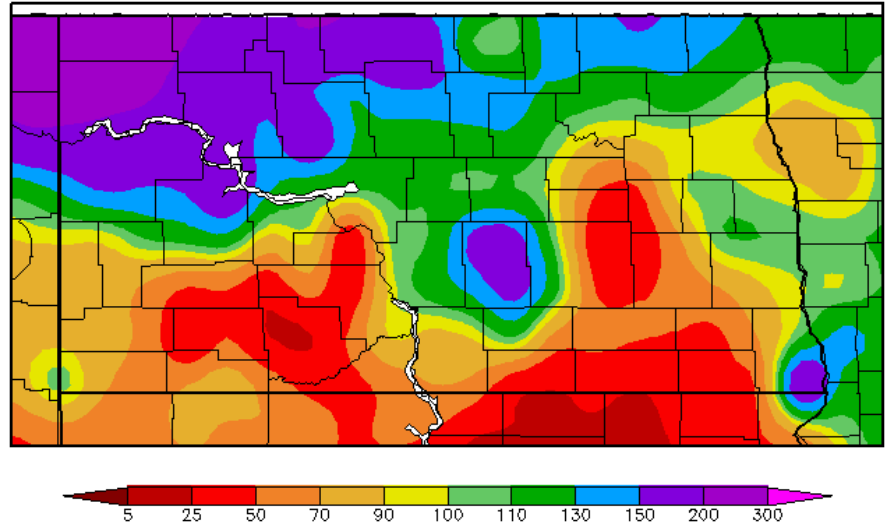


Figure 1. Precipitation Percent of Normal in March 2013 for North Dakota (High Plains Regional Climate Center, HPRCC)

Temperature:

NDAWN March average air temperatures ranged from ~11 °F in the northeast to ~27 °F in the southwest. Departure from normal average air temperatures ranged from -15 °F to -3 °F (Figure 2). The daily average temperatures were primarily below normal throughout the state. March average monthly temperature for Grand Forks Univ. NWS was the 10th coolest for 2013 and 1956. Fargo March 2013 was 14th coolest along with 1996 and 1923. Minot REC average temperature for March 2013 was 4th coolest.

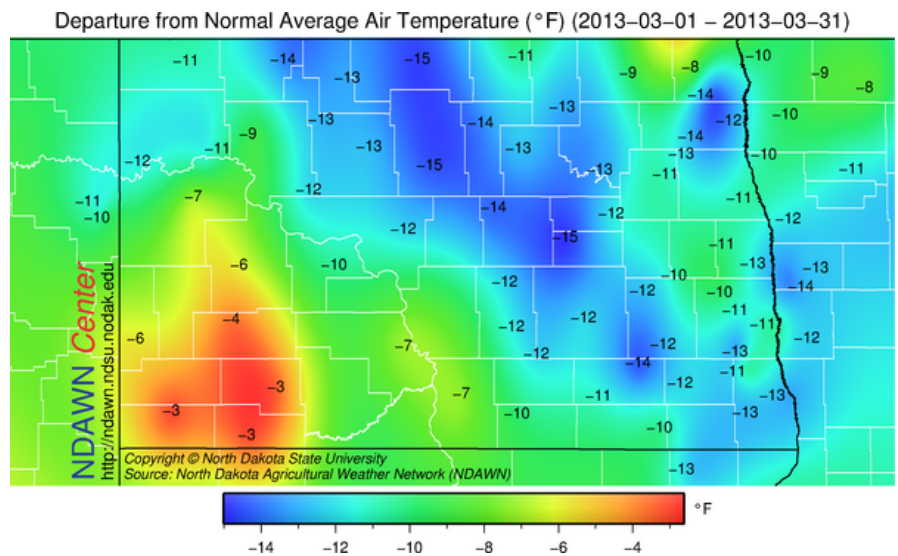


Figure 2. Temperature Departure from Normal in March 2013 for North Dakota (North Dakota Agricultural Weather Network, NDAWN)