



# North Dakota

## Monthly Climate Summary

May 2009

### Precipitation:

The wide spread rain events for May happened from the 11<sup>th</sup> through the 13<sup>th</sup> and the 24<sup>th</sup> through the 25<sup>th</sup>. The rain event two day totals for the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> was heaviest in the northeast corner with amounts of over 2 inches. The North Dakota Agricultural Weather Network (NDAWN) total May rainfall ranged from 3.71 inches at Cavalier to 0.19 inches at Bowbells. The smallest monthly totals of a quarter inch and less were in the northwest corner. The highest monthly totals of greater than 3 inches recorded by NDAWN were in Mercer, Mclean Pierce, Benson, and Pembina counties. The majority of the State had below normal precipitation. The areas of above normal precipitation ranged from 100% to 160% and included the west central, north central, and northeastern corner (Figure 1. North Dakota State Climate Office).

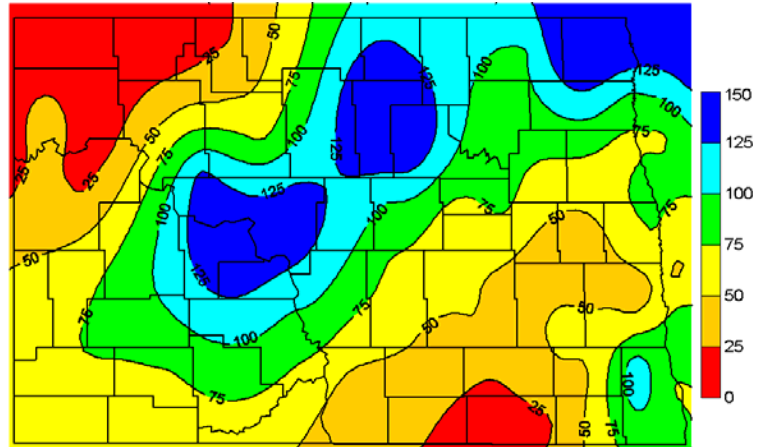


Figure 1. Precipitation Percent of Normal in May 2009 for North Dakota (North Dakota State Climate Office)

### Temperature:

May departure from normal monthly air temperatures were below normal across the State. The departures ranged from -7°F in the upper northeast to near zero in the lower southwest (Figure 2, North Dakota State Climate Office). The average monthly air temperatures ranged from 47°F in the northeast to 56°F in the southeast. Most daily average air temperatures during the first half of May were well below 60°F. The second half of May had slightly warmer temperatures with daily temperatures in the upper 50's and some just above 60°F. The southeast corner of the State had two days with average daily air temperatures over 70°F.

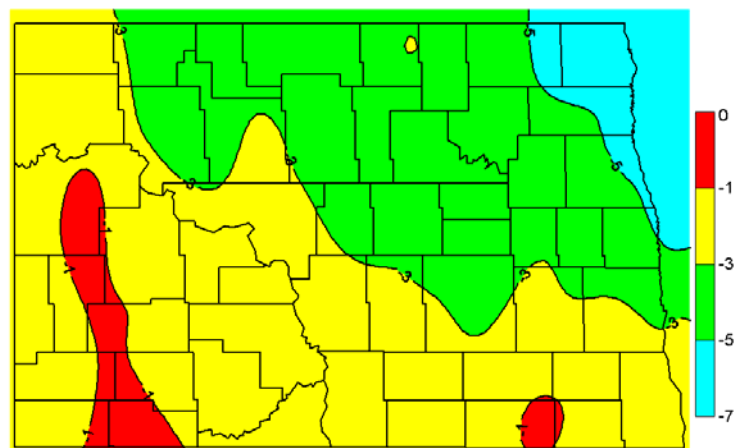


Figure 2. Temperature Departure from Normal in May 2009 for North Dakota (North Dakota State Climate Office)

### Drought Monitor:

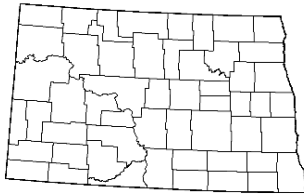
The US Drought Monitor depicted all parts of the state drought-free by the end of the month. There were some areas where abnormally dry conditions persisted at the beginning of the month especially in the

# U.S. Drought Monitor

## North Dakota

May 26, 2009  
Valid 7 a.m. EST

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D1	D1-D2	D2-D3	D3-D4	D4
Current	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Last Week (05/19/2009 map)	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
3 Months Ago (03/03/2009 map)	91.6	8.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Start of Calendar Year (01/01/2009 map)	74.6	25.4	16.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Start of Water Year (10/01/2008 map)	54.9	45.2	28.8	19.4	11.8	0.0
One Year Ago (05/27/2008 map)	1.3	98.7	83.5	47.8	29.5	0.0



**Intensity:**

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought - Moderate
- D2 Drought - Severe
- D3 Drought - Extreme
- D4 Drought - Exceptional

*The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements*

<http://drought.unl.edu/dm>



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northwestern North Dakota from Divide to Golden Valley counties. By May 5, dryness migrated southward to Bowman County. Dry weather allowed for producers to make good progress planting. According to USDA National Ag Statistical Services, Spring wheat was 29 percent emerged, over two weeks behind the average, but improved from the previous week. Durum wheat was 69 percent seeded compared with 77 percent average. Barley was 66 percent planted compared with 93 percent average. Oat plantings were 77 percent complete, compared with 94 percent average. All small grains planted were at least 25 percent emerged; however, at this time last year all small grains planted were over 50 percent

emerged. Rains returned and eliminated the dryness by May 12.

### Drought Outlook:

Dryness intensified in the northwestern parts of the state. County extension agents in Burke, Williams and McKenzie counties reported signs of moisture stress and poor growth. Therefore areas of D0 (“abnormally dryness” in the US Drought Monitor scale) will return to the northwestern North Dakota during the upcoming weeks in June. Soil moisture elsewhere is adequate. Above normal precipitation is in the forecast especially in the eastern parts of the state. Therefore, drought should be no concern in the eastern half of the state during June.