



North Dakota

Monthly Climate Summary

January 2011

Precipitation:

Precipitation ranged from roughly 25% to 300% percent of normal. Above normal precipitation fell primarily in the south central, southwestern, and northeastern regions with below normal elsewhere (Figure 1. High Plains Regional Climate Center). Precipitation totals ranged mostly from 0.3 to 1.2 inches across the state with greater than an inch falling in the southwest corner. The National Weather Service released it's 2011 spring flood predictions in which many locations across North Dakota were rated as greater and far greater than normal of reaching and exceeding flood stage. Factors that contributed to the spring flood concerns include the wet fall soil conditions, above normal snowfall, and a persisting La Nina pattern in conjunction with a negative Arctic Oscillation. The USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, North Dakota Field Office reported the average statewide snow depth was 24.3 inches on January 30th compared with 13.3 inches this time last year.

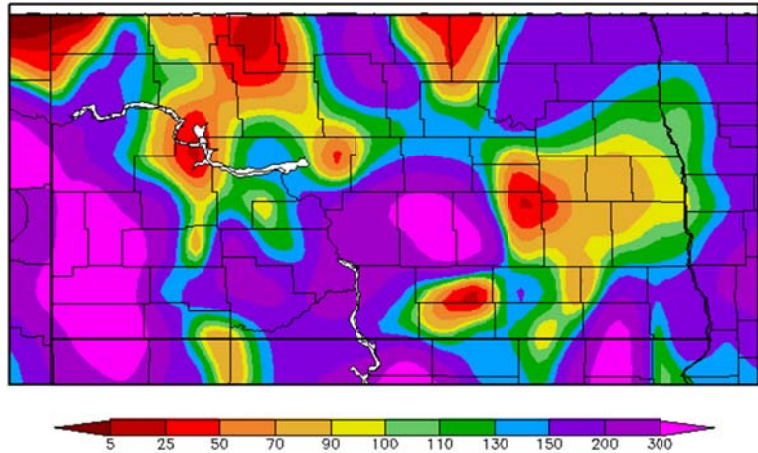


Figure 1. Precipitation Percent of Normal in January 2011 for North Dakota (High Plains Regional Climate Center)

Temperature:

The North Dakota Agricultural Weather Network (NDAWN) January average air temperatures ranged from 1 °F to 14 °F. NDAWN departure from normal temperatures ranged from 3 °F to -6 °F (Figure 2. North Dakota State Climate Office). Most of the state had near normal or slightly below normal average temperatures. Areas with -4 °F or less departure from normal temperatures were the southwest corner, the eastern edge, and the southeast. Most of the daily average air temperatures in January were below normal. There were a couple of days in the first few days of January that were above normal and a stretch from around the 24th through the 28th that were above normal. Otherwise, most days were near normal or below. Days with far colder than normal temperatures fell around the 10th to the 12th primarily in the west, 18th to the 22nd primarily in the east, and the last three days which took a sharp downward turn to the upper teens and 20 °F below normal for most of the state and 30 °F below normal in the southwest.

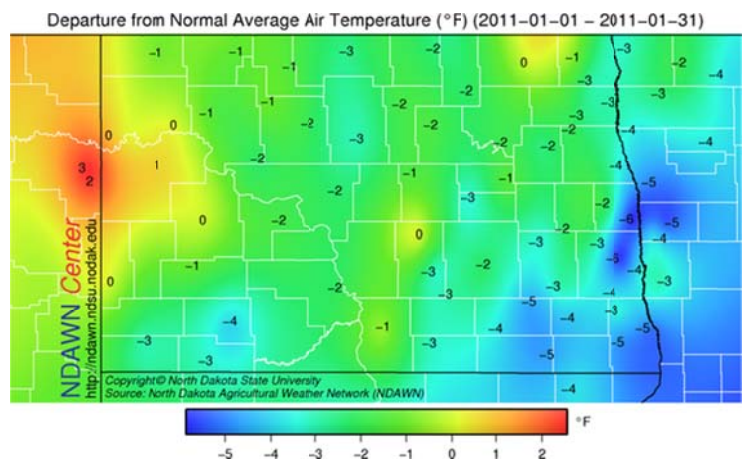


Figure 2. Temperature Departure from Normal in January 2011 for North Dakota (North Dakota State Climate Office)