



North Dakota Monthly Climate Summary

May 2014

Precipitation:

May 2014 recorded highly variable rain totals across the state of North Dakota. Most of the rainfall during the month occurred in the form of thunderstorms that attributed to this variability. About as many locations recorded above normal as recorded below normal rainfall during the month (Figure 1). Using data from the North Dakota Agricultural Weather Network (NDAWN), the statewide average precipitation for the month of May was 2.27 inches. That is very close to the May average of 2.32 inches. That would rank May 2014 as the 63rd driest on record. The U.S. Drought Monitor did not include any part of North Dakota in drought conditions.

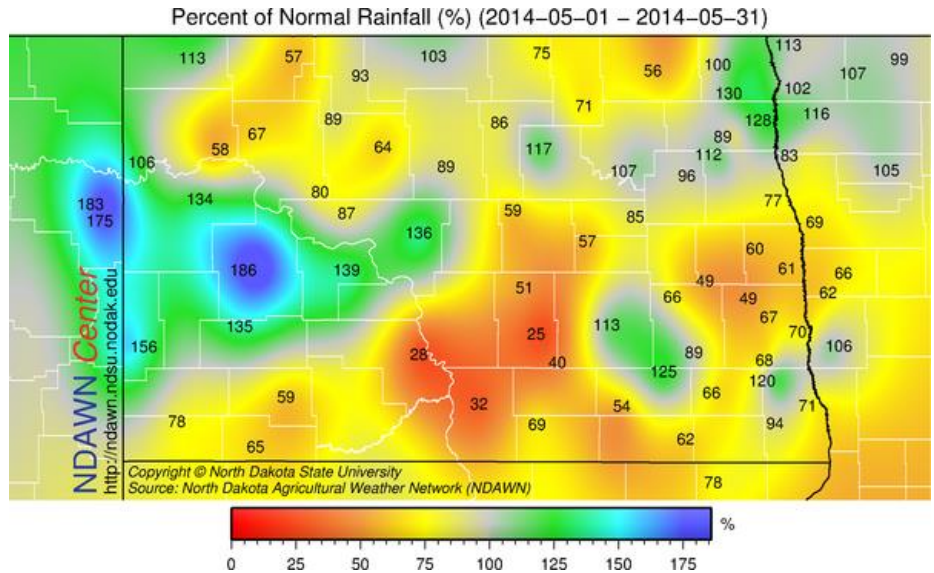


Figure 1. Precipitation Percent of Normal in May 2014 for North Dakota (North Dakota Agricultural Weather Network, NDAWN)

Temperature:

If you examine the final average temperatures for May 2014, most of North Dakota finished very close to the current 30 year average. Yet, a very high percentage of the month recorded noticeable positive or negative temperature anomalies. From May 1 to 15 most NDAWN stations recorded temperatures 5 to 7 degrees below normal. From May 16-31 most locations recorded temperatures from 5 to 7 degrees above averages. The final result was a near average month for the state (Figure 2) with an overall average temperature of 53.8°. That would rank May 2014 as the 54th warmest on record.

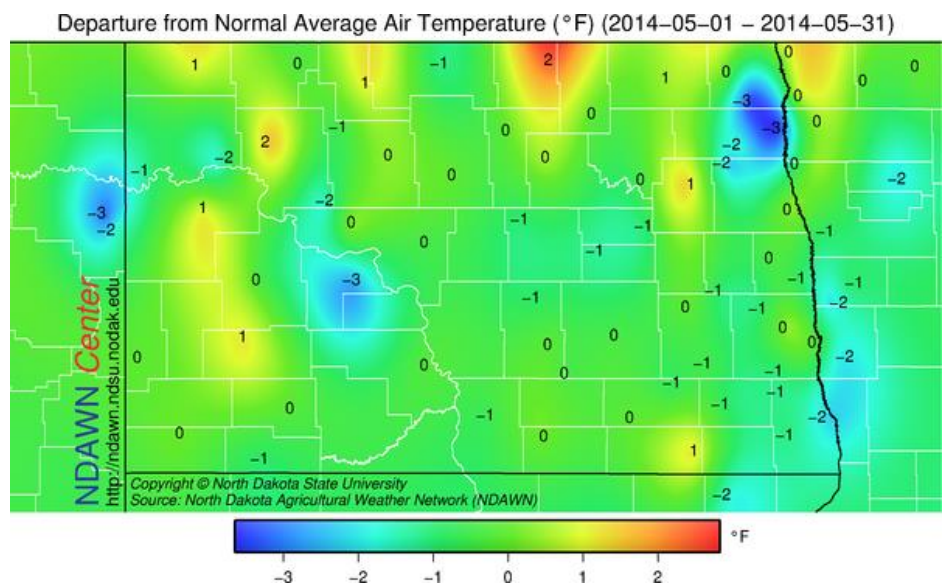


Figure 2. Temperature Departure from Normal in May 2014 for North Dakota (North Dakota Agricultural Weather Network, NDAWN)

Notable Weather:

The cool air during the first part of May was a continuation of a prolonged period of colder than average temperatures that began in October 2013. The combination of a cool astronomical autumn and the lack of truly warm conditions not being observed until the second half of May meant that there was an extended period from the last 80° high temperature of 2013 and the first 80° reading in 2014.

Figure 4 lists the Top 15 longest periods of record for consecutive days below 80° in Fargo, Bismarck and Williston, North Dakota. Fargo recorded 238 straight days with a high temperature below 80° which ranked as the 12th longest such period since 1891. Bismarck recorded 242 days in a row without an 80° temperature which ranked as the 11th longest such streak since 1874 and the residents of Williston had to wait even longer with 247 days without an 80° temperature being observed. That was the 4th longest such periods since 1894.

Other cities not listed in Figure 4 include Grand Forks that recorded 240 consecutive below 80° days which was the 9th longest such period on record and the Minot Experiment Station with 247 days between 80° days which ranked 6th on record.

Number of Consecutive Days Max Temperature < 80 for FARGO HECTOR INTL AP, ND
Click column heading to sort ascending, click again to sort descending.

Rank	Run Length	Ending Date
1	270	1966-05-20
2	269	1983-06-06
3	262	1974-05-19
4	251	1995-05-28
5	250	1999-05-27
6	246	1979-05-15
7	245	1986-05-03
8	244	1972-05-14
9	243	1978-05-09
10	242	1997-05-09
11	240	1960-05-11
12	238	2014-05-22
-	238	1951-05-22
14	237	1970-05-16
15	234	2010-05-17
Period of record: 1891-05-27 to 2014-06-01		

Number of Consecutive Days Max Temperature < 80 for BISMARCK MUNI AP, ND
Click column heading to sort ascending, click again to sort descending.

Rank	Run Length	Ending Date
1	270	1892-06-17
-	270	1877-05-27
3	268	1879-06-02
-	268	1878-06-16
5	266	1974-06-02
-	266	1882-06-06
7	252	1966-05-03
8	247	1995-05-29
9	246	1883-05-30
10	245	1983-05-25
11	242	2014-05-22
12	241	1927-05-15
-	241	1905-05-30
14	240	1996-06-07
15	239	1999-05-25
Last value also occurred in one or more previous years.		
Period of record: 1874-10-01 to 2014-06-01		

Number of Consecutive Days Max Temperature < 80 for WILLISTON SLOULIN INTL AP, ND
Click column heading to sort ascending, click again to sort descending.

Rank	Run Length	Ending Date
1	258	1945-05-23
2	256	1927-05-15
3	252	1999-05-27
4	247	2014-05-22
5	245	1972-05-13
6	244	1966-05-03
7	243	1995-05-29
-	243	1907-06-11
9	242	1983-05-25
-	242	1978-05-14
-	242	1920-05-16
12	241	1960-05-11
13	240	1969-05-12
-	240	1919-05-19
15	239	1922-05-23
Period of record: 1894-01-01 to 2014-06-01		

Figure 4. The Top 15 consecutive days with a high temperature below 80° in Fargo, Bismarck and Williston, ND.