



The North Dakota Monthly Climate Summary

May 2015

Precipitation:

After several months with an overall lack of precipitation in North Dakota, May 2015 quickly erased the cold season dryness with the month being one of the wettest on record (Figure 1). The North Dakota Agricultural Weather Network (NDAWN) average rainfall was 4.00 inches which is well above the average of 2.53 inches. That would rank the month as the 15th wettest May statewide with some sites surpassing the previous wettest May on record. The extremely wet conditions during the month eliminated much of the Abnormally Dry (D0) or Moderate Drought (D1) conditions in North Dakota with only 21% of the state listed in drought (all D0) on the May 26 Drought Monitor, down from 81% (D0 and D1) at the end of April.

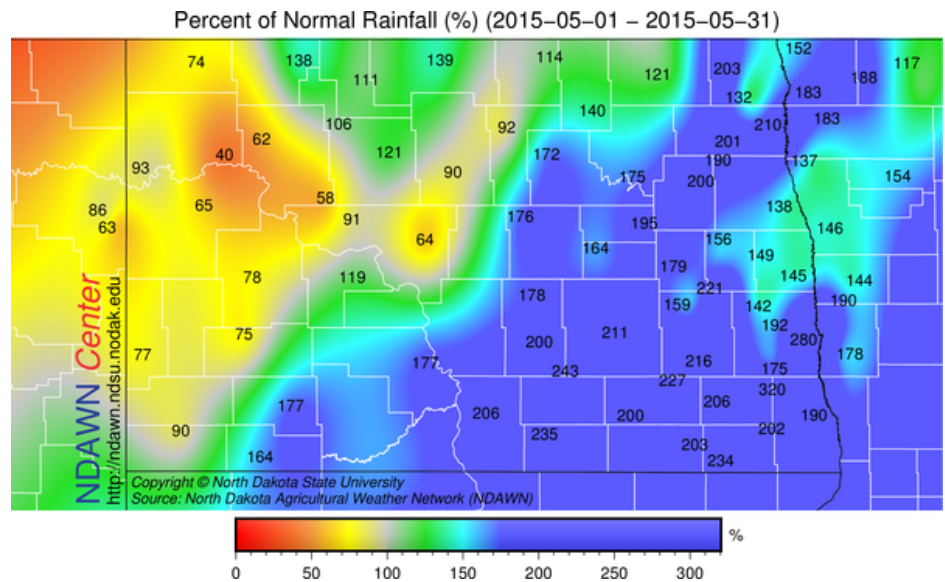


Figure 1. Precipitation Percent of Normal in May, 2015 for North Dakota (North Dakota Agricultural Weather Network, NDAWN)

Temperature:

During the warm season in North Dakota, a wet month is usually a cool month as the cloud cover associated with the rain suppresses the daytime temperatures and therefore, it was no surprised that May 2015 finished below average across much of the state (Figure 2). The NDAWN statewide average temperature was 52.7 degrees which is 1.4 degrees below normal. That would rank the month as tied for the 50th coolest on record. The warmest reading recorded in May was a 89° maximum at the Marion NDAWN station and the minimum at several sites was a 21° low on May 19. That was part of a widespread frost and freeze across the state that morning which damaged or killed emerging crops in many locations.

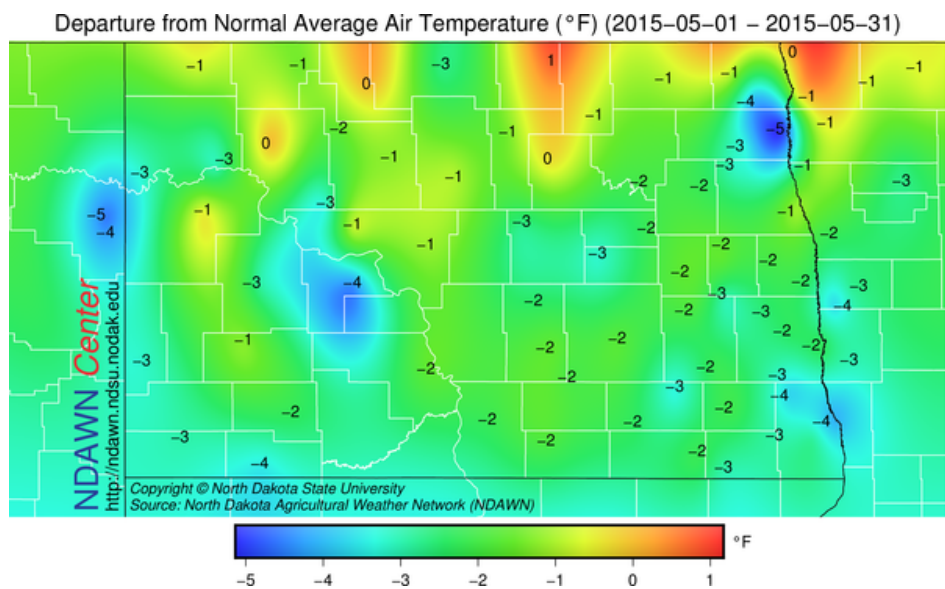


Figure 2. Temperature Departure from Normal in May, 2015 for North Dakota (North Dakota Agricultural Weather Network, NDAWN)