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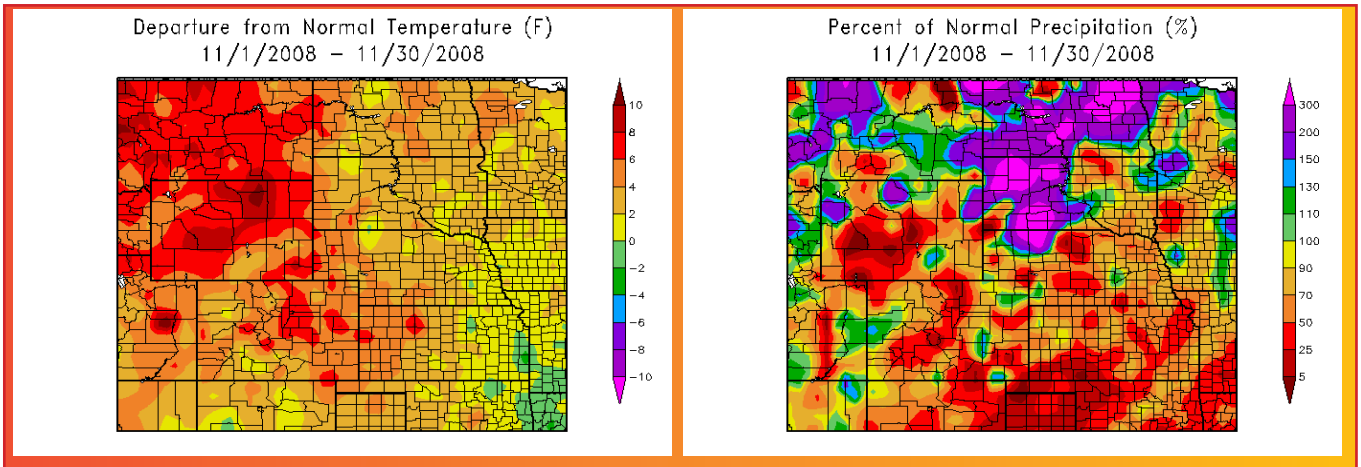
Late afternoon sunshine in rural eastern Nebraska - Photo by Ken Dewey
http://www.nebraskaweatherphotos.org

November 2008 Climate Summary

Region Breakdown

Overall, November was warmer than normal across the region. Monthly average temperature departures from normal generally ranged from 2-6˚F, however several locations exceeded 8˚F above normal. Record setting locations include Northglenn, CO, Clark 3 NE, WY, Lander Hunt Airfield, WY, and Chugwater, WY. Northglenn, CO had an average temperature of 46.8˚F which was the 2nd warmest November on record. Clark 3 NE and Lander Hunt Airfield both recorded the 3rd warmest November with each location having an average temperature of 38.8˚F and 38.6˚F, respectively. Meanwhile, Chugwater, WY had an average temperature of 42.1˚F which was the 4th warmest November on record.

Much of the region had below normal precipitation, however most of North Dakota, western South Dakota, and a small portion of Wyoming and Nebraska had precipitation in excess of 200% of normal. This precipitation helped ease the drought in western North Dakota and conditions are forecast to continue to improve.

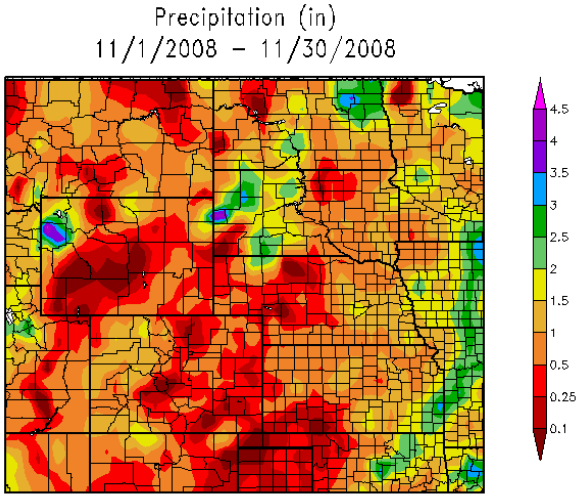


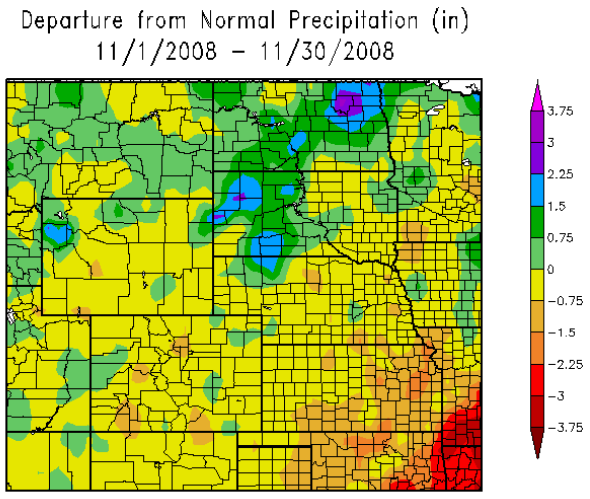
Departure from1971-2000 Normal Mean Average Temperature (left) and Percent of 1971-2000 Normal Total Precipitation (right) for November 2008 in the High Plains Region. Map by High Plains Regional Climate Center. Available at: http://hprcc.unl.edu/maps/current

Precipitation Summary

Dry locations across the region included Wyoming, Colorado, Nebraska, Kansas and eastern South Dakota with less than 50% of normal precipitation. The Perry Stokes Airport in Trinidad, CO did not record any measurable precipitation and tied the record for driest November (last set in 1965).

Areas that received above normal precipitation include North Dakota, the western half of South Dakota, and a small portion of Nebraska and Wyoming. Drought conditions have improved across western North Dakota where many locations received over 200% of normal precipitation. On the other side of the state, many locations received over 300% of normal precipitation. One particularly wet location was Cavalier 7NW, ND which received 2.97" of precipitation, or 437% of normal. This was the third wettest November on record for Cavalier.





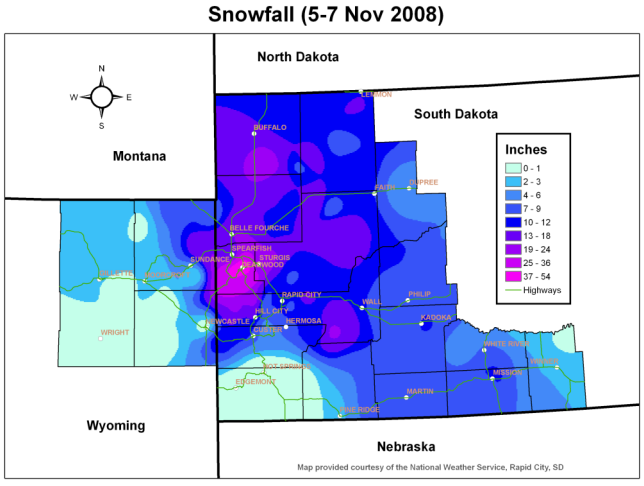
Above: Total precipitation (in inches) (left) and Departure from Normal Precipitation (right) (using 1971-2000 Normals) for November 2008 in the High Plains Region. These maps are produced by HPRCC and can be found on the Current Climate Summary Map page at: http://hprcc.unl.edu/maps/current.

November 5-7, 2008 Blizzard

A blizzard struck western South Dakota early this month. While most areas received at least 10" of snow, the storm brought over four feet of snow to certain areas in the Black Hills. In addition to the snow, winds over 60 mph were reported.

This powerful storm created travel woes as not only were roads closed, but so was the Rapid City Regional Airport. Power was also cut to many people as the blizzard damaged or destroyed power poles and power lines.

Map provided by the National Weather Service, Rapid City, SD. http://www.crh.noaa.gov/unr/

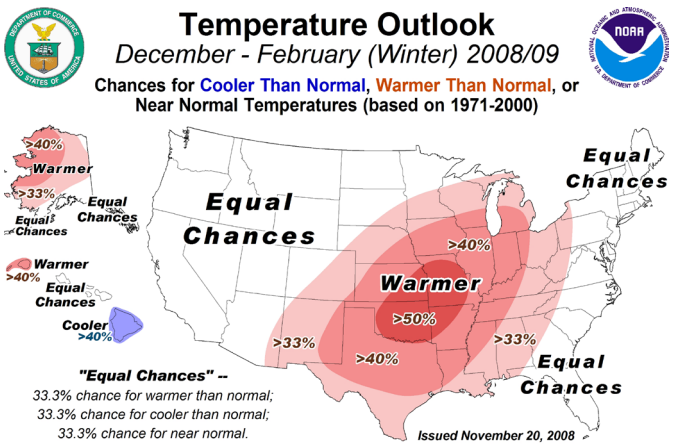


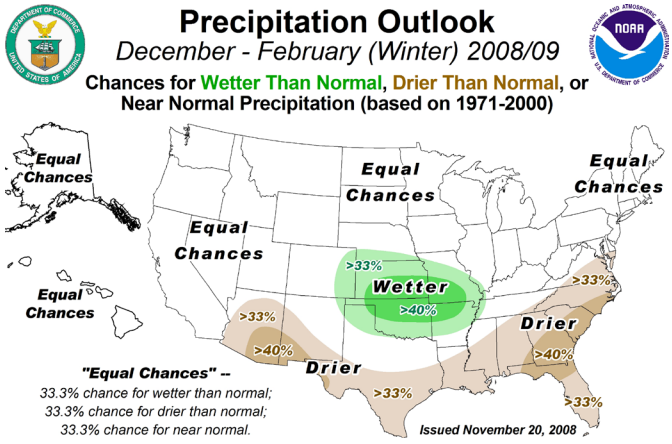
The High Plains Regional Climate Center is one of the NOAA Regional Climate Centers, and is involved in the Applied Climate Information System (ACIS) development and management effort. Data found throughout this publication were derived using products built on the ACIS framework.

ACIS
Applied Climate Information System - NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Climate Outlook

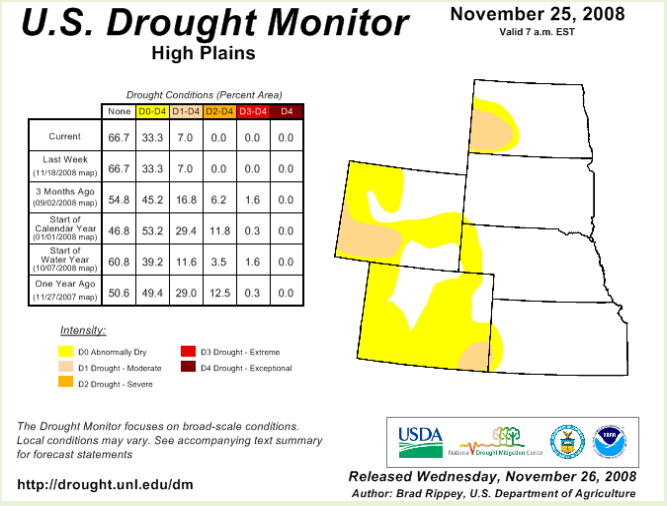
ENSO conditions remain neutral and are expected to persist through early 2009. NOAA forecasters are predicting chances of above normal temperatures for Kansas, much of eastern Colorado, most of Nebraska, and southeast South Dakota this winter. Equal chances of above, near, or below normal temperatures are predicted for the remainder of the region. Equal chances of above, near, or below normal precipitation exist for all but a portion of eastern Colorado, southern Nebraska, and all of Kansas where there are chances for above normal precipitation. This winter outlook is produced by scientists at the NOAA Climate Prediction Center. More information can be found here: http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/.

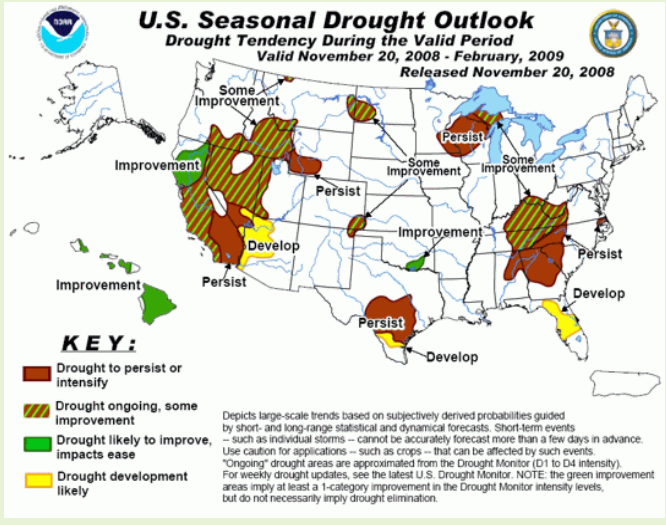




Drought Watch

Thanks to abundant precipitation (over 200% of normal precipitation at several locations), drought conditions have improved in western North Dakota as severe drought (D2) has been downgraded to moderate drought (D1) and conditions are forecast to continue to improve. Moderate drought conditions persist in southwest Wyoming and southeast Colorado. While conditions are expected to improve in southeast Colorado, a new area of abnormally dry conditions (D0) have developed in southwest Colorado.





The U.S. Drought Monitor is produced as a joint effort of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), National Drought Mitigation Center, U.S. Department of Commerce and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Real-time data provided through ACIS from the NOAA Regional Climate Centers is often used by the agencies involved in the U.S. Drought Monitor when determining the area and intensity of drought conditions, although the product itself is not produced by HPRCC. For current Drought Monitor information, please see: http://www.ndmc.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html

Portions of this Drought Watch are courtesy the Drought Monitor Text Discussion found on the Drought Monitor webpage.

State Summaries

Colorado	Temperatures (degrees F)								Precipitation (inches)		
	Averages				Extremes				Totals		
	Max	Min	Mean	Depart	High	Date	Low	Date	Obs	Depart	% Norm
Alamosa San Luis Airport	49.1	13.4	31.3	2.9	68	11/02	-1	11/06	0.60	0.12	125
Akron Washington County Airport	53.3	29.5	41.4	4.7	80	11/02	18	11/15	0.76	0.07	110
Colorado Springs Municipal Airport	55.1	28.2	41.7	5.5	76	11/18	13	11/15	0.25	-0.27	48
Grand Junction Walker Field Airport	54.5	28.0	41.2	3.1	76	11/02	15	11/06	0.95	0.24	134
Pueblo Memorial Airport	58.8	25.5	42.1	3.7	81	11/01	13	11/26+	0.50	-0.08	86

Kansas	Temperatures (degrees F)								Precipitation (inches)		
	Averages				Extremes				Totals		
	Max	Min	Mean	Depart	High	Date	Low	Date	Obs	Depart	% Norm
Concordia Municipal Airport	52.8	31.8	42.3	1.5	78	11/02	13	11/21	0.65	-0.8	45
Dodge City Regional Airport	57.9	32.3	45.1	2.7	79	11/02	14	11/21	0.19	-0.82	19
Goodland Renner Field	55.0	28.4	41.7	4.3	78	11/02	16	11/20	0.83	0.01	101
Topeka Municipal Airport	54.3	33.8	44.1	1.5	79	11/03	16	11/21	0.89	-1.42	39
Wichita Mid-Continent Airport	57.0	35.3	46.1	1.9	78	11/02	19	11/21	1.37	-0.45	75

Nebraska	Temperatures (degrees F)								Precipitation (inches)		
	Averages				Extremes				Totals		
	Max	Min	Mean	Depart	High	Date	Low	Date	Obs	Depart	% Norm
Chadron Municipal Airport	51.9	24.5	38.2	4.5	81	11/02	13	11/27	0.54	-0.03	95
Grand Island Airport	49.6	28.4	39.0	2.6	76	11/02	11	11/21	1.52	0.11	108
Lincoln Municipal Airport	50.8	28.7	39.7	1.6	79	11/03	10	11/21	1.22	-0.36	77
Omaha Eppley International Airport	47.9	29.8	38.8	0.8	79	11/03	12	11/21	1.56	-0.26	86
Norfolk Karl Stefan Airport	47.0	28.0	37.5	2.4	77	11/02	8	11/21	0.90	-0.54	62
North Platte Regional Airport	51.4	24.0	37.7	3.1	76	11/02+	8	11/21	0.34	-0.42	45
Valentine Miller Field	48.0	23.9	36.0	3.0	81	11/02	7	11/21+	0.34	-0.38	47

North Dakota	Temperatures (degrees F)								Precipitation (inches)		
	Averages				Extremes				Totals		
	Max	Min	Mean	Depart	High	Date	Low	Date	Obs	Depart	% Norm
Bismark Municipal Airport	40.3	22.0	31.2	3.2	70	11/02	2	11/09	2.25	1.55	321
Dickinson Municipal Airport	40.1	22.3	31.2	2.2	72	11/02	4	11/09	1.26	0.67	214
Fargo International Airport	38.9	24.6	31.7	4.7	69	11/03	3	11/21	1.14	0.08	108
Grand Forks International Airport	36.6	22.4	29.5	3.7	66	11/03	1	11/21	2.37	1.38	239
Williston International Airport	41.7	21.5	31.6	6.0	64	11/2+	10	11/28	1.57	0.92	242

All Data are Preliminary and Subject to Change.
Source: National Weather Service Cooperative Observation Network Data
Data are retrieved through the Applied Climate Information System (ACIS).
These data are available for the entire period of record through the CLIMOD system. For more information please see http://hprcc.unl.edu/services.

November 2008 Climate Summary

South Dakota	Temperatures (degrees F)								Precipitation (inches)		
	Averages				Extremes				Totals		
	Max	Min	Mean	Depart	High	Date	Low	Date	Obs	Depart	% Norm
Aberdeen Regional Airport	41.6	22.3	31.9	2.6	70	11/02	1	11/21	0.31	-0.44	41
Huron Regional Airport	42.4	24.6	33.5	2.2	72	11/03+	9	11/21+	0.87	-0.02	98
Rapid City Regional Airport	47.9	24.7	36.3	2.9	79	11/18+	15	11/20+	0.40	-0.21	66
Sioux Falls Joe Foss Field Airport	43.4	25.7	34.6	3.3	76	11/02	5	11/21	1.01	-0.35	74

Wyoming	Temperatures (degrees F)								Precipitation (inches)		
	Averages				Extremes				Totals		
	Max	Min	Mean	Depart	High	Date	Low	Date	Obs	Depart	% Norm
Casper Natrona County International AP	50.9	26.6	38.8	6.8	71	11/02	11	11/27+	0.36	-0.46	44
Cheyenne Airport	51.2	27.2	39.2	5.9	72	11/01	13	11/15	0.29	-0.35	45
Lander Hunt Field Airport	50.5	26.8	38.6	8.3	67	11/17	16	11/24+	0.21	-0.78	21
Laramie Regional Airport	46.3	22.5	34.4	6.0	66	11/02	5	11/14	0.24	-0.4	38
Rawlins Municipal Airport	46.5	24.0	35.2	3.7	67	11/02	7	11/14	0.26	-0.39	40
Sheridan County Airport	52.2	26.5	39.3	8.3	74	11/18	13	11/24	0.75	-0.05	94

All Data are Preliminary and Subject to Change.
Source: National Weather Service Cooperative Observation Network Data
Data are retrieved through the Applied Climate Information System (ACIS).
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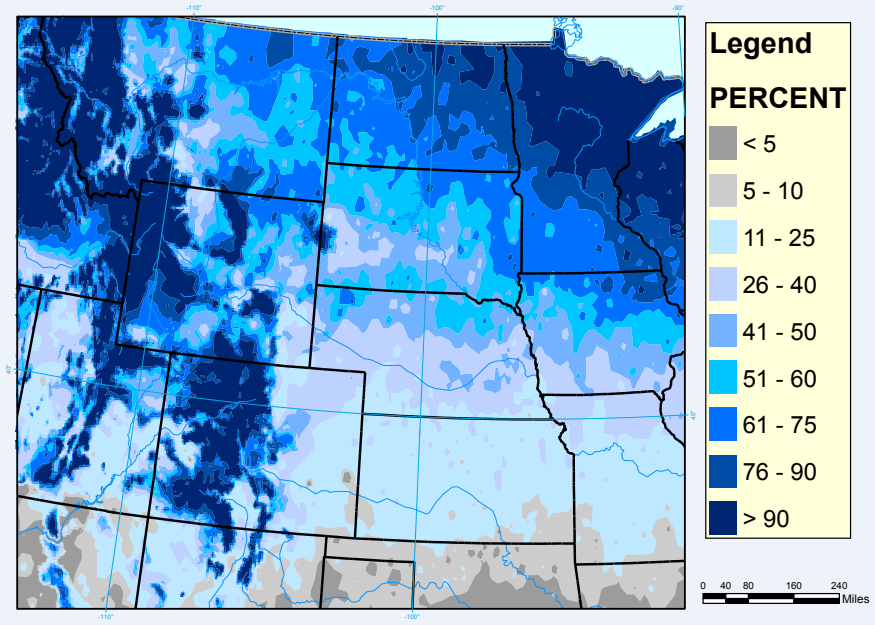
Probability of a White Christmas

This time of year many people wonder what the chances are for a White Christmas.

NOAA's National Climatic Data Center has calculated and mapped out the chances of a White Christmas from a climatological perspective. The probabilites are based upon historical snowfall and snow depth data.



HIGH PLAINS REGIONAL CLIMATE CENTER

NOAA — National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration — U.S. Department of Commerce

Climate Data: National Climatic Data Center
Map: High Plains Regional Climate Center

State Spotlight - Nebraska

Al Dutcher - State Climatologist
Nebraska State Climate Office, University of Nebraska - Lincoln

The general climate trend across Nebraska during November was warmer and drier than normal. However, a look at the numbers indicates that two significant snow events hit parts of the state, along with a widespread precipitation event that further delayed harvest activities. It is not uncommon to see wild temperature swings during the late fall across the High Plains region and this was the case for Nebraska during November 2008. For most reporting locations, their high temperatures fell between the 11/2-11/3 or 11/18-11/19 periods, while the coldest readings fell between the 11/20-11/22 or 11/24-11/28 time frames. A more detailed analysis of November conditions across the state can be found below.

Liquid Equivalent Precipitation

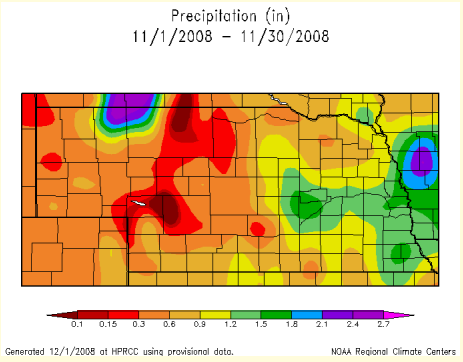
There were 8 days during November that measurable precipitation was recorded somewhere within the state. The first precipitation event of the month was a three day affair from 11/5-11/7. For the 24 hour period ending on 11/5, less than 0.25 inches of moisture fell across the central Panhandle climate district from the Colorado border northward to South Dakota. By 11/6, the precipitation had expanded to cover the central and northern Panhandle with totals ranging from 0.25-1.50 inches, as well as a small area of 0.10-0.25 inch totals across the southeast climate district. Precipitation totals on 11/7 indicated the storm system had weakened and moved out of the region. Liquid equivalent totals ranged from 0.10-0.25 inches across the northern Panhandle, eastern sections of the north central climate district, and portions of the central climate district.

The second storm system of the month impacted the state during the 11/11-11/14 time frame. The primary precipitation event with this storm system occurred on 11/11 with 0.25-1.00 inches recorded across the central and eastern Panhandle, along with areas south and east of a line from Imperial to Yankton, South Dakota. Precipitation totals of 1.00-1.50 inches were reported in isolated pockets of southwest, south central, and central Nebraska. Precipitation on 11/12 was confined to the eastern 1/4 of the state with totals ranging from 0.10-0.25 inches. After a brief lull on 11/13, precipitation was reported across the southwestern Panhandle, as well as the northeastern and southeastern corners of the state. Precipitation totals were light with totals generally around 0.10 inches, with a few locations approaching 0.25 inches.

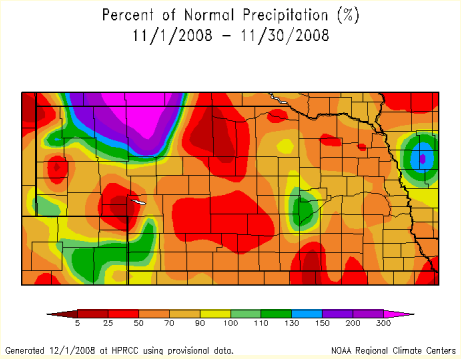
The final event of the month occurred during the 11/29-11/30 period as a storm system passed south of the state. Daily moisture totals of less than 0.10 inches were reported from most locations south and east of a line from Fairbury to Omaha. Some of this moisture caused slick spots on I-80 during the nighttime hours and over 20 accidents were reported by local law enforcement officials during the evening hours of 11/29.

November precipitation statistics from locations that report electronically and have a minimum of 90% of their observations available for analysis indicate that greatest monthly total was 1.63 inches at Table Rock 4 N. Expectations are that higher totals were observed, especially considering that some locations across the northern Panhandle were hit with blizzard conditions during the 11/5-11/7 period and failed to report all of their November observations in electronic form. In addition, many locations from central and south central Nebraska didn't report 24 hour precipitation totals from the heavy rain event on 11/11 in electronic format. The greatest preliminary 24 hour total was 1.21 inches at York 4 N on 11/11.

Graphical representation of total November precipitation across Nebraska indicates that an area of 1.20-1.50 inches fell from central Nebraska eastward to the Missouri river and southward through Falls City. Within this region, pockets of 1.50-1.80 inches were indicated in the Central City, Omaha, and Syracuse areas. An area of 0.90-1.20 inches surrounded the periphery of the 1.20-1.50 area and included regions of northeast, central, east central, southeast, and south central Nebraska. The remainder of the state received between 0.30-0.90 inches of moisture, except for portions of the western Sandhills where totals fell between 0.15-0.30 inches. An area of the northern Panhandle from Gordon eastward through Merriman caught the southern fringe of the Dakota's blizzard event, with liquid equivalent totals possibly approaching 2.00 inches.



State Spotlight - Nebraska continued



Quantification of November 2008 precipitation in terms of percent of normal indicates that only the extreme southwest corner of the Panhandle, northern Panhandle, northwest corner of the southwest climate district, and a small pocket of the central climate district received above normal moisture. The eastern half of Nebraska saw 70-100% of normal moisture, while the remainder of the state was in the 25-70 percent of normal range.

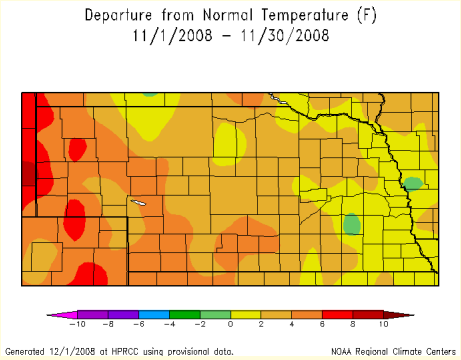
Snow

Two snow events occurred during the month of November. The first event occurred between 11/5-11/7 and impacted the extreme northern Panhandle and northwest corner of the Sandhills. Although a maximum 24 hour snow total of 6 inches was observed at Hemingford on 11/6, blizzard conditions made accurate snow measurements impossible. Highway 20 between Chadron and Merriman was closed for two days because of snow drifts of 4 to 12 feet. Chadron State University was forced to cancel one day of classes due to the hazardous conditions.

The second snow event of the month occurred during the 11/10-11/11 period in a narrow band from Imperial northeastward to Valentine. Most locations received 1-4 inches of snow, but Chase county had totals in the 8-12 inch range. Most county and rural highways were impassable through mid-day on the 11th. East of this region, a mixture of rain and freezing rain made for hazardous driving conditions on I-80 between North Platte and Grand Island.

When looking at the entire state, measurable snowfall (> one inch) was confined to the northern Panhandle, the southwestern climate district, and the western half of the north central district during November. For stations reporting a minimum of 50% of their daily observations, the greatest monthly snowfall accumulation was reported at Imperial with 10.5 inches. Their entire monthly total occurred within a 24 hour period ending at 7:00 am on 11/11 and also represented the greatest 24 hour accumulation within the state during November. Unofficial reports from areas surrounding Imperial indicate totals approaching one foot.

Temperatures



November started out on the warm side, with high temperatures in the 70's common sight across the entire state. The period between 11/5-11/15 brought two storm systems and normal to below normal temperatures before another surge of warmth hit the state through Thanksgiving day. Normal to slightly below normal temperatures were reported during the final three days of the month.

November average temperatures ranged from 33-38 F across the northern half of the state and 38-42 F across the southern half of Nebraska. Average temperature departures were 0-2 F above normal across the eastern 1/4 of the state, 2-4 F above normal across the central 1/2 of the state, to 4-8 F above normal across the western 1/4 of Nebraska.

For most stations reporting at least 90% of the their daily observations in electronic format, the warmest daily highs fell centered on the 11/2-11/3 or 11/18-11/19 periods. The coldest minimum temperatures occurred between 11/18-11/21. The highest observed maximum temperature was 83 F at Bridgeport 18 WSW on 11/3, while the lowest temperature was 3 F at Wakefield on 11/21. There was an 80 F swing between the warmest and coldest observations recorded in Nebraska during November.

Every recording location within Nebraska reported at least one day where the maximum temperature exceeded 74 F, with at least 20 of 153 stations with at least 90% of their November observations available for analysis breaking the 80 F mark. Every reporting site had at least one day where the minimum temperature reached 17 F, with 57 of 153 locations recording at least one single digit minimum temperature reading during November.

The Nebraska State Climate Office is a part of the School of Natural Resources, University of Nebraska - Lincoln.
For more information about the School of Natural Resources at UNL: http://www.snr.unl.edu.
For more information on the University of Nebraska - Lincoln: http://www.unl.edu.

State Spotlight - North Dakota

F. Adnan Akyüz - State Climatologist
North Dakota State Climate Office, North Dakota State University

Precipitation:

The November total precipitation for the majority of the western part of the state ranged from 0.5 to 1.5 inches. Most of the central regions of the state received between 1 and 2.5 inches. The northeast part of the state total precipitation ranged from 2.5 to 3.5 inches and the southeast was between 0.5 and 1.5 inches. Most of the states percent of normal precipitation was between 150% to greater than 300% of normal (Figure 1, High Plains Regional Climate Center). The wettest fall (September through November total precipitation) on record was set in Grand Forks, ND with 11.97 inches which broke the previous record of 10.41 inches set in 1957. Fargo, ND also set a new record for the wettest fall (September through November total precipitation) with 10.67 inches which broke the previous record of 10.25 inches set in 1977.

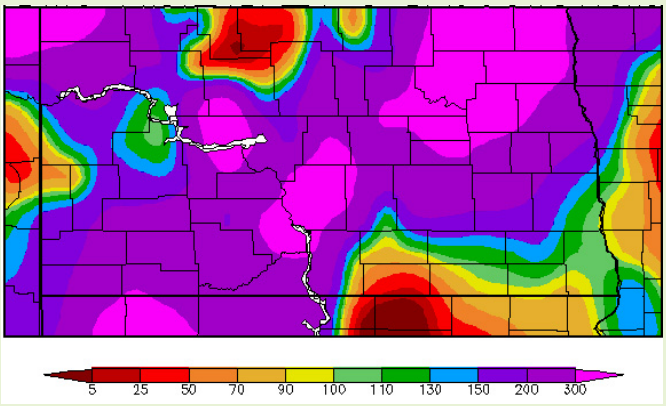


Figure 1. Precipitation Percent of Normal in November 2008 for North Dakota (High Plains Regional Climate Center)

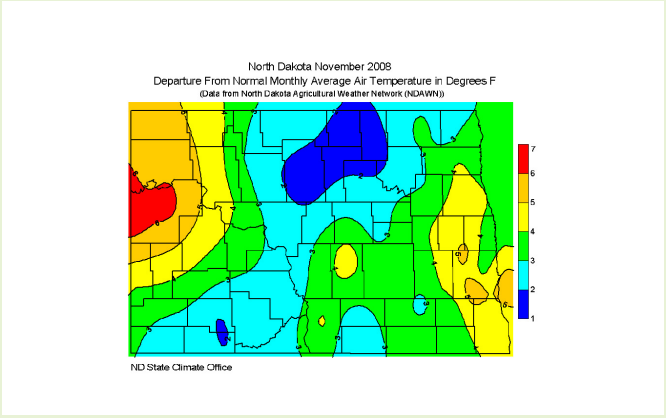


Figure 2. Temperature Departure from Normal in November 2008 for North Dakota (North Dakota State Climate Office)

Temperature

The state November average air temperature ranged from 25 to 28°F in the northeast to 30 to 32°F in the southwest. The departure from normal air temperature was above normal across the state. The western part of the state was 3 to 6°F above normal, the central region was 2 to 4°F above normal and the eastern part ranged from 3 to 5°F above normal (Figure 2, North Dakota State Climate Office). The North Dakota Agricultural Weather Networks highest recorded daily air temperature for November was 73.5°F at Wishek, ND on the 2nd. The lowest recorded daily air temperature was -12.2°F at Rugby, ND on the 20th.

State Drought Assessment and Impact:

By the end of the month, drought conditions improved significantly alleviating severe drought that had been lingered around southwestern portions of the state since the spring of 2008. Based on the National Drought Mitigation assessment, 17% of the state was under at least moderate drought (Area shown with brown color in Figure 3, National Drought Mitigation Center). Counties mostly affected by the moderate drought were McKenzie, Golden Valley, Billings, Dunn, Stark, Morton, Grant, Hettinger, Slope, Bowman and Adams counties. Some of the impacts of the long-term drought since last fall are yield loss in Lentil and Pea production. The Climate Prediction Center anticipates that the drought will improve.

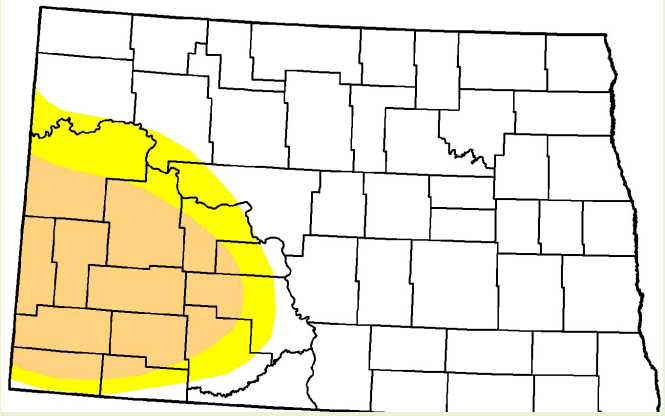


Figure 3. Drought Monitor as of November 25 (National Drought Mitigation Center)

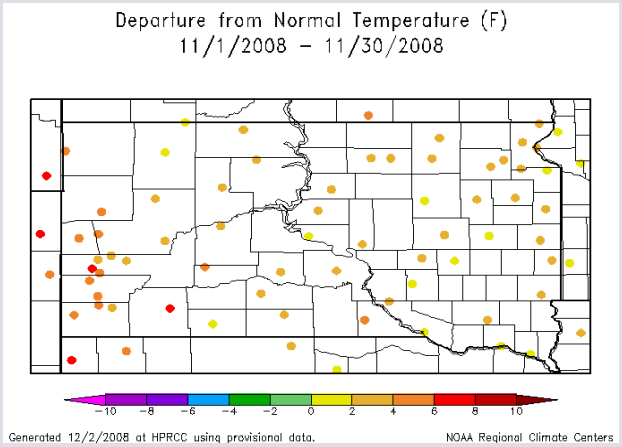
For more information about the North Dakota State Climate Office: http://www.ndsu.edu/ndsco
For more information on the North Dakota Agricultural Network: http://www.ndawn.ndsu.nodak.edu
The North Dakota Agricultural Network is a part of the Automated Weather Data Network (AWDN).

State Spotlight - South Dakota

Dennis Todey - State Climatologist
South Dakota State Climate Office, South Dakota State University

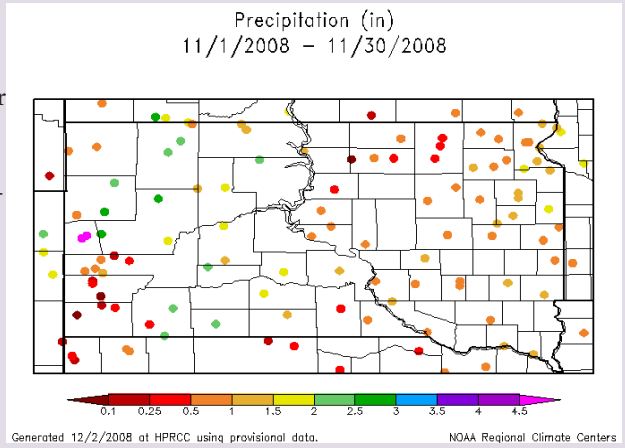
Temperatures

November was generally warm across the state from 2-4 F above average over most of the state except for the Black Hills and adjacent areas where temperatures ranged from 4-8 F above average. Several high temperature records were set. The Rapid City area set records on Nov. 2 (79 F) and Nov. 18 (79 F). Interior (74 F) and Spearfish (75 F) set records on the 18th. Cedar Butte had the highest temperature in the month at 85 F Nov. 3. Several stations in the northeast and east central reached 0 F on Nov. 21.



Precipitation

Portions of western SD saw over 2" of liquid precip (over 4" in the Black Hills) during the month. Much of this was associated with a major blizzard early in the month. Some areas of the northeast received over 1.5". Precipitation outside these areas was much lighter and generally below average. The Aberdeen area received less than 50% of average precip. Large areas of the western part of the state received over 300% of average precip for the month. Custer an Fall River County continue to be dry, also with less than 25% of average precip for the month. The winter storm on Nov. 5-6 set several daily record precip and snow records. Lead reported the highest monthly precipitation at 5.51".



Storm events

A major winter storm impacted the western part of the state Nov. 5-7 causing severe traffic delays as many highways were shut down for several days. Numerous power poles were knocked down. Many schools and businesses closed. The storm brought over 60 mph winds to most of the western part of the state and several wind gusts in excess of 70 mph in the Rapid City area and near Porcupine. Large areas of western SD received over 10" of snow. http://www.crh.noaa.gov/unr/?n=11-0507-08

18-24" totals were reported closer to the Black Hills. The Deadwood area in the Black Hills totaled 45.7" for the storm.

Drought Monitor

The only location in the state included in the latest US Drought Monitor is far southwestern SD, which is still listed as D0 (Abnormally Dry). Longer term precipitation totals have removed most drought issues.

Impacts

While much of eastern SD was fairly dry during the month, the impacts of a wetter September-October were still being felt as harvest was delayed from their 5-year average, corn (11%), sorghum (5%) and sunflowers (16%).

Warmer temperatures were also impacting soils, which were still not frozen across the state. Typically soils are frozen at 4" by the middle of November. As of the end of November, only Aberdeen saw sub-freezing soil temperatures.

For more information about the South Dakota State Climate Office: http://climate.sdstate.edu
The SDSU's AWDN is a part of the High Plains Automated Weather Data Network (AWDN). Data is available through SDSU or the High Plains Regional Climate Center.

About the High Plains Regional Climate Center

The High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC) operates out of the University of Nebraska - Lincoln (UNL) in Lincoln, Nebraska. As one of 6 regional climate centers operated under the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), HPRCC works closely with other organizations such as the National Climatic Data Center (NCDC), Local and Regional National Weather Service (NWS) Offices, and other climate services organizations such as the National Drought Mitigation Center (also located at UNL) to provide climate data services and specialized climate products.

For More Information Online

High Plains Regional Climate Center: http://hprcc.unl.edu

High Plains Regional Climate Services: http://hprcc.unl.edu/services

CLIMOD: http://climod.unl.edu

NOAA Regional Climate Centers and ACIS: http://www.rcc-acis.org

National Weather Service: http://www.weather.gov

National Climatic Data Center: http://ncdc.noaa.gov

University of Nebraska - Lincoln: http://www.unl.edu

National Drought Mitigation Center: http://drought.unl.edu

Climate Prediction Center: http://www.cpc.noaa.gov

NOAA Storm Prediction Center: http://www.spc.noaa.gov

Photo of the Nebraska Sandhills by Bill Sorensen - Senior Programmer - HPRCC

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