

April 1, 2025

Dear Precipitation Observer,

Each year, we reach out to our amazing volunteer citizen scientists with a summary of the previous year's weather, observation tips for the upcoming year, and a note of thanks.

2024 Weather Summary:

The drought that lingered from 2023 was eliminated with the very wet spring. Meteorological spring (March-May) was the 19th warmest and the 7th wettest on record for the state as a whole. The warmth was noteworthy too with the earliest occurrence of 70 degrees at various locations in the state.

The downside to the wet spring was massive flooding. June 15-22 saw four to eight inches of precipitation across southern and northeast Minnesota. In particular, June 18 saw some of the highest rainfalls on record in northeast Minnesota with 7.60 inches near Tower. Floodwaters inundated the city of Cook in St. Louis County. The flooding at the Rapidan Dam in Blue Earth County captured nationwide attention.

In a summer that was fairly quiet severe-storm wise, one event stood out. This was the giant hail that fell at Chokio in Stevens County. One of the largest hailstones measured in Minnesota fell there, at least one with a diameter of six inches.

The warmest September on record statewide and scant precipitation caused the drought to return. October continued the dry spell with the autumn drought peaking in late October with half the state experiencing severe drought conditions. A Halloween rain and snow event took the edge off the developing drought.

November continued the warm pattern with soil temperatures staying above historical averages and the ground remaining unfrozen for the first half of the month. This was very fortunate because a mid-November rain event soaked into the soil and replenished soil moisture. An arctic blast on Thanksgiving weekend wasn't event enough to prevent a record warm fall in the state.

December 2024 had the first sub-zero temperatures of the winter statewide and several clipper-like snow systems, the largest of which was on December 19th with snowfall totals 3-6 inches across much of central and southern Minnesota. The multi-year drought persisted and would continue through the rest of the 2024-25 winter.

Observation Tips:

The 2024 listing of monthly precipitation totals for locations in your county should depict your measurements. If your data are missing, or if inaccurate values are shown for you, please let us know. Contact: **peter.boulay@state.mn.us** or 651-296-4214.

The enclosed **annual** observation form is for your personal records only. Please use the **monthly** forms to report data to the network administrator. You can also provide your data on-line. To learn how contact: **peter.boulay@state.mn.us**. Your data, and data from all of our volunteers, can be viewed on the State Climatology Office Web Site www.climateapps.dnr.state.mn.us

Thank you for contributing your data to the statewide precipitation archive. We appreciate your time and your hard work. The data you provide is critical to our understanding and appreciation of Minnesota's dynamic weather patterns.

Sincerely,



Pete Boulay
Climatologist –DNR Climatology