

April 1, 2026

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.

2025 Weather Summary:

2025 brought a little of everything to Minnesota. What will be remembered the most? The derecho that truck Bemidji? The smoky summer? The extended summer and the delay of autumn? Overall, the statewide average temperature finished about a degree and a third above normal, based on 1991-2020 averages, and statewide annual precipitation was about two inches below normal.

In general, it was a warm summer, with precipitation varying from place to place. The wettest spots were in west-central and south-central Minnesota, while areas in southwest and northeast Minnesota missed out on some of the heavier events. Minnesota had 45 tornadoes in 2025, which is the most since the most since 2022 but still one below the 1991-2020 average of 46. All of 2025's tornadoes were fairly weak, rated EF-0 or EF-1, or with unknown ratings from a lack of damage.

The one standout severe weather event of 2025 was the derecho on June 20-21, which devastated the Bemidji area. Heavy smoke also dominated the summer, with 15 days with at least one station recording a daily Air Quality Index (AQI) of 151 or higher, which is the "Red" or "Unhealthy for Everyone" category. The summer of 2025 was likely the smokiest in at least five decades.

Summer-like temperatures persisted in late September and into early October, with record highs over the state on October 4 as temperatures climbed into the low 90s, marking the latest calendar date on record with such high temperatures at some stations. The warmth caused fall colors to peak two weeks later than average in some areas.

Any thoughts that winter was going to skip its visit were dashed by a snowstorm over the Thanksgiving weekend with the first measurable snow for the season for many locations in central and southern Minnesota. Balmy weather in December brought a brown Christmas to southwestern Minnesota. The final days of 2025 brought another bout of winter statewide with a blizzard on December 28-29.

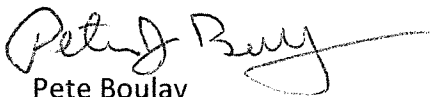
Observation Tips:

The 2025 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 651-539-2150.

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 online. 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.

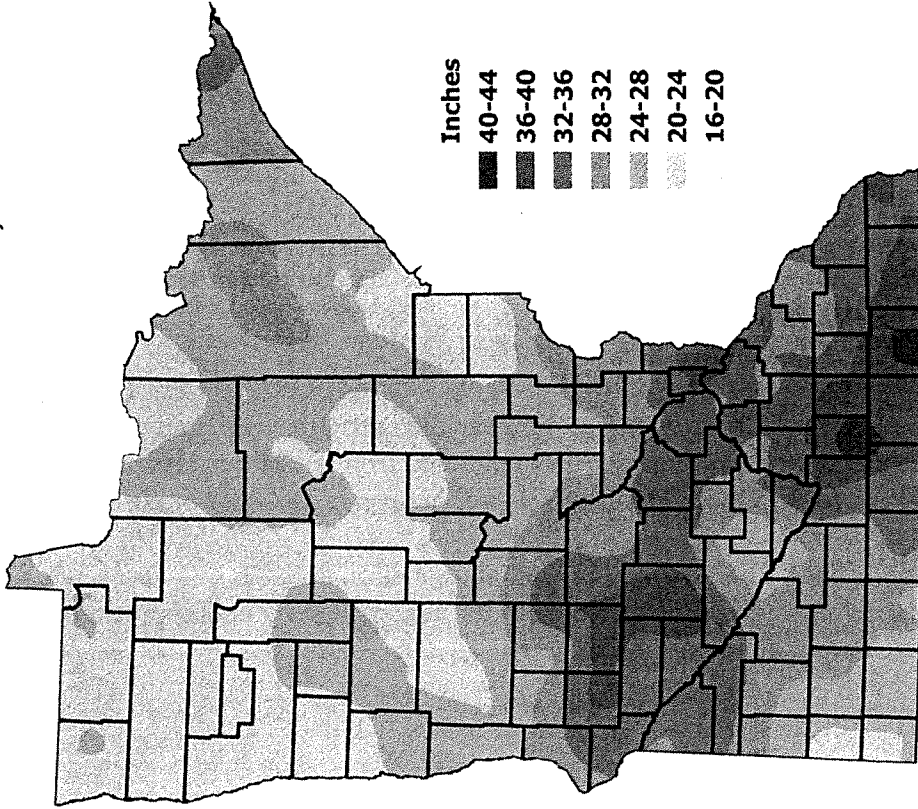
Sincerely,



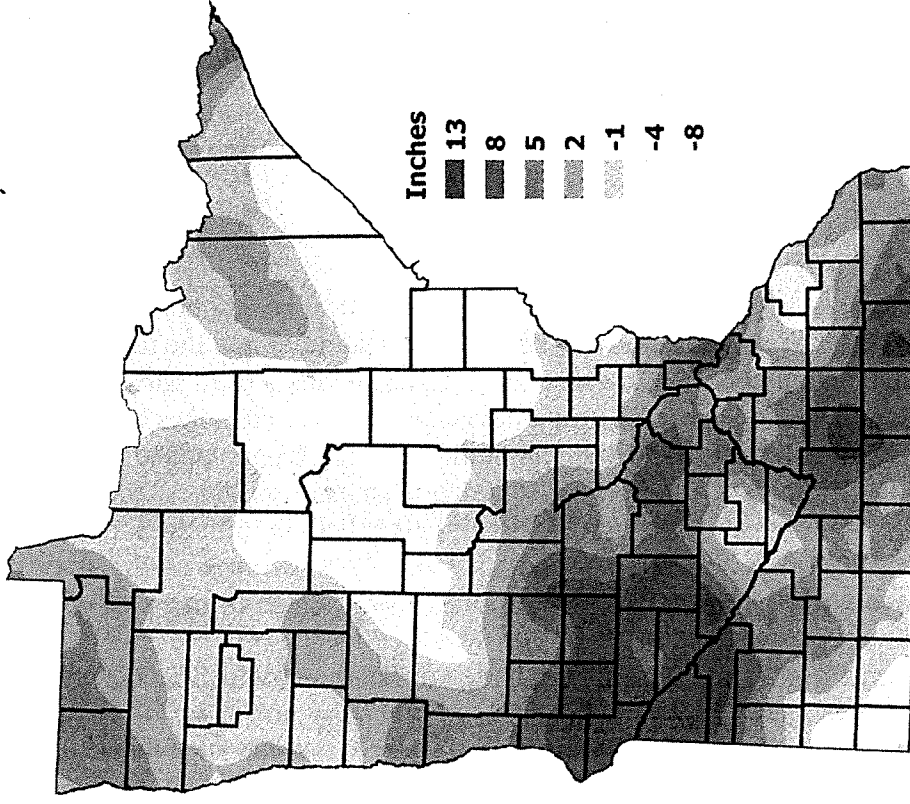
Pete Boulay

Climatologist –DNR Climatology

Precipitation Total
Jan 1 - Dec 31, 2025



Precipitation Departure
Jan 1 - Dec 31, 2025



These maps depict the total precipitation for 2025 and the departure from the 1991-2020 normal precipitation for 2025.