

April 1, 2011

Dear Precipitation Observer,

You have helped to record a landmark period in Minnesota's climate history. On a state-averaged basis, 2010 was the wettest year in Minnesota's modern climate record! The 2010 state-averaged annual precipitation total was a whopping 34.10 inches, roughly eight inches more than the historical average, and nearly 19 inches greater than the all-time record low annual precipitation total (15.15", 1910). The 2010 precipitation total demonstrated the extraordinary year-to-year changeability that is a dominant feature of Minnesota's climate. Because of your help as "citizen scientist", we are able to quantify these extraordinary weather variations across space and across time. **Thank you as always!**

The summer of 2010 was warm, wet, and stormy. Frequent downpours, especially in June and August, pushed summer rainfall totals well above average in most Minnesota communities. Many locations received the equivalent of an extra month's worth of summertime rainfall during the three-month period. Severe weather accompanied the rain-producing storms. A historic tornado outbreak took place on June 17, 2010. While the final statistics have yet to be tabulated, it is known that the statewide tornado total for that day exceeded 40. This will go into the record-books as the greatest number of reported tornadoes for a single day in Minnesota history. It is also known that the annual tornado total for Minnesota in 2010 will number above 100, another all-time state record.

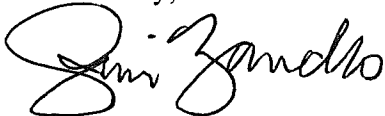
Unfortunately, the active weather did not end with the end of summer. A massive rainfall event on September 22-23 dropped more than six inches of rain across thousands of square miles in southern Minnesota. More than eight inches of rain fell in many of these areas. The heavy rains, coming on the heels of a soggy summer, led to major flooding in many locales. The deluge helped to contribute to yet another benchmark moment in Minnesota's climate history. The state-averaged monthly rainfall total of 6.47 inches was the wettest ever for the month of September.

The 2010 listing of monthly precipitation totals for locations in your vicinity should depict your measurements. If your data are missing, or if inaccurate values are shown for you, please let us know and we will correct the values in the data archive (contact: climate@umn.edu 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 (contact: climate@umn.edu). Your data, and data from all of our volunteers, can be viewed on the State Climatology Office Web site (<http://climate.umn.edu>). Please pass this Web address along to friends, colleagues, teachers, and anyone who shares your interest in the weather.

Thank you for contributing your data to the statewide precipitation archive. We appreciate your time and your hard work. You provide an important public service, and we are most grateful.

Sincerely,

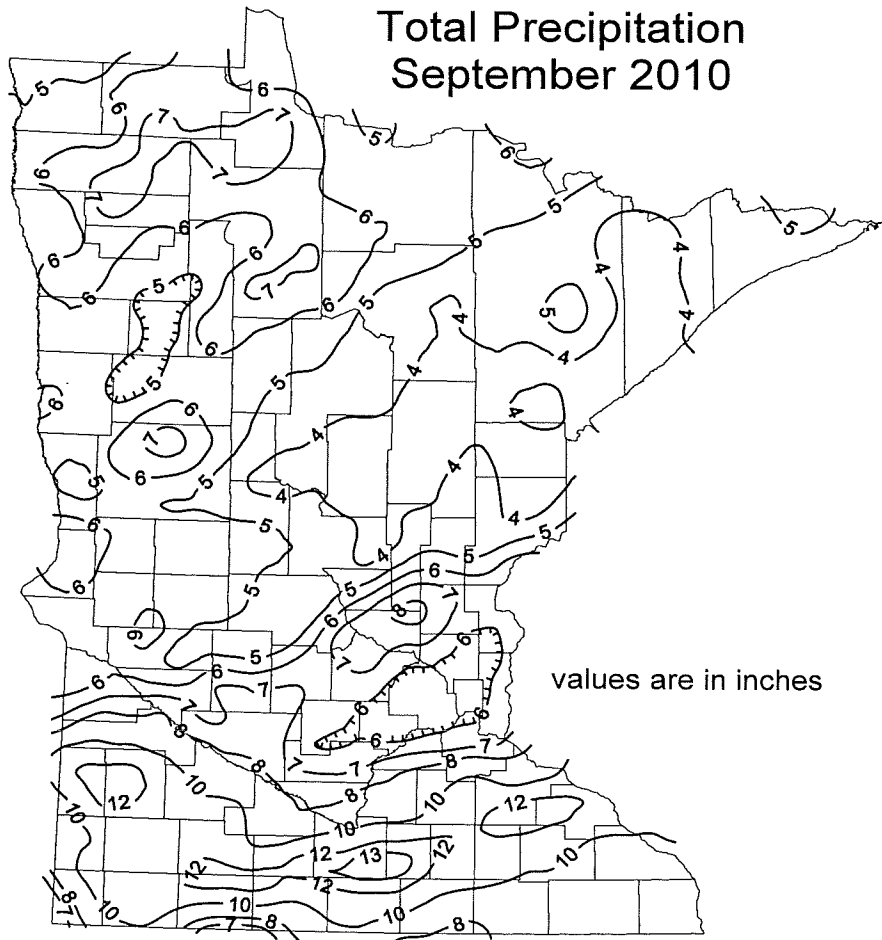
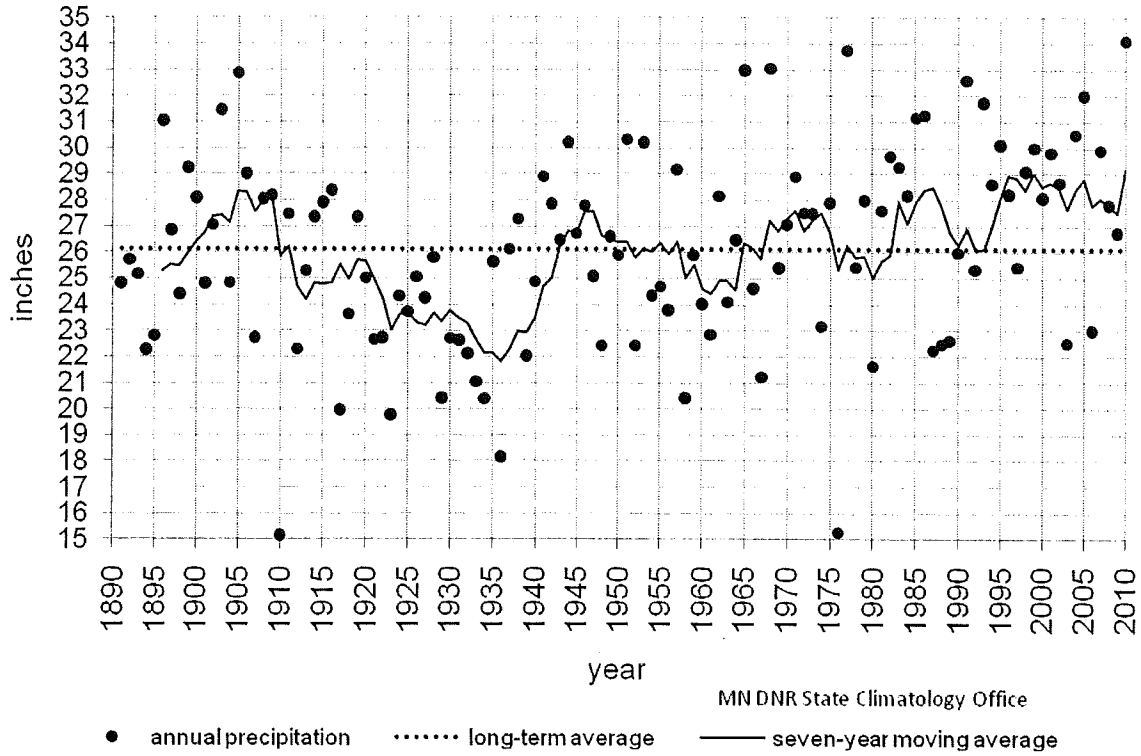


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Minnesota State-Averaged Annual Precipitation



MN DNR State Climatology Office