April 1, 2015

Dear Precipitation Observer,

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

2014 Weather Summary:

Spring was postponed with bouts of snow in April. While some escaped the snow, all felt the cold with temperatures that ran three to five degrees below normal for the month. It was another year of late ice out across the state. In general the lakes lost their ice nine days later than their historical median date, but nine days earlier than 2013. The wet spring continued into May with a heavy rain event on May 11th and 12th that fell on already soggy ground. The wet ground caused planting delays.

June was the wettest month for Minnesota for any month of the year. The statewide average was 8.07 inches, breaking the old record by three quarters of an inch. The wettest area was in southern Minnesota, with some places seeing a foot of rain in June. Glencoe tied with Redwood Falls for the highest total found with 14.24 inches. These totals are more than the average rainfall for these areas for the entire summer. The statewide average temperature for June was slightly above normal and was the first above normal month since October, 2013. See the back of this page for a map and a graph showing the record June rain of 2014.

July gave the chance for the landscape to dry out. July rainfall in most counties fell short of historical averages by one to three inches. Minnesota was spared any major heatwaves. Indeed, the highest statewide temperature for the year was 96 degrees at Hutchinson on July 22. Both Duluth and Rochester failed to reach 90 in 2014. The overnight temperatures were mild and this counter-balanced the cooler highs and enabled crop growth to play catch up. The pleasant weather of July extended right up to State Fair time. A late summer dry spell ran from about June 25 to August 26. The driest spots were over northeast and southwest Minnesota. Some places were from two to six inches short of normal, especially in Lyon and Redwood Counties. Drought impacts were slow to return to Minnesota because of the relatively mild weather and soil moisture stored from the record wet June

The late summer dryness continued into September. Temperatures were near normal. Many corn and soybean fields in central and southern Minnesota were affected by frost during the morning hours of September 13th. Mid-September frost is quite uncommon in these areas. October rainfall finished close to average in south central Minnesota with cool spells at the beginning and the end of the month with "Indian Summer" in between.

Observation Tips:

The 2014 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 and we will correct the values in the data archive (contact: climate@umn.edu or 651-296-4214).

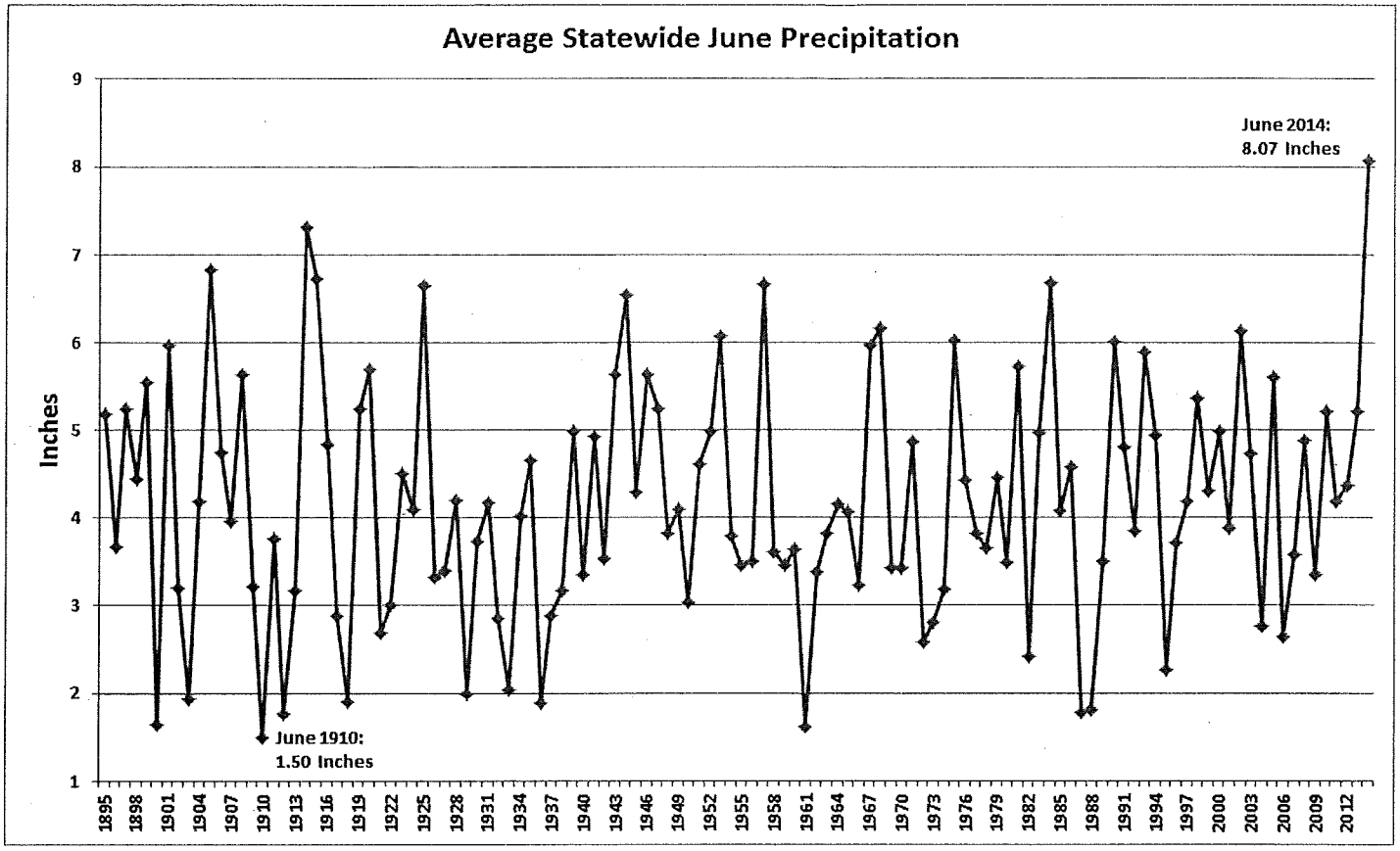
The enclosed **annual** observation form is for your personal records only. Please use the **monthly** forms to report data to the network administrator. You can also provide your data on-line (contact: climate@umn.edu). Your data, and data from all of our volunteers, can be viewed on the State Climatology Office Web site (http://climate.umn.edu).

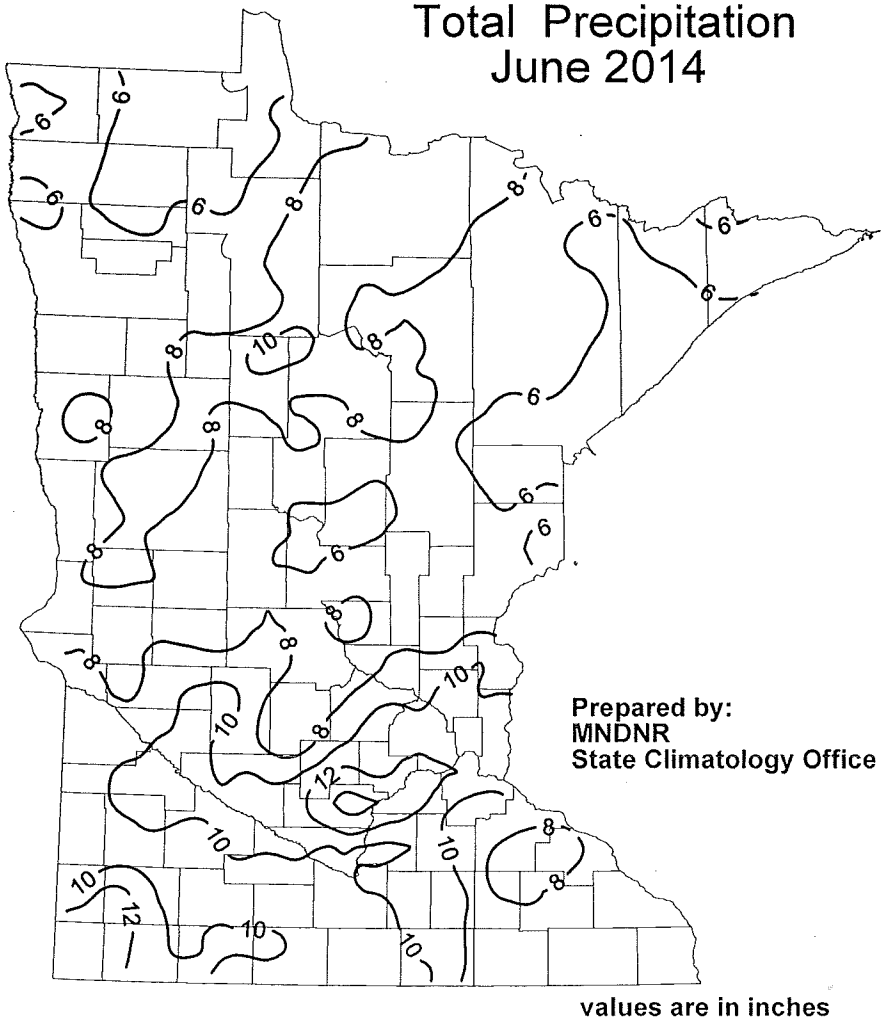
Thank you for contributing your data to the statewide precipitation archive. We appreciate your time and your hard work. You provide an important public service, and we are most grateful.

Sincerely,

Pete Boulay, Climatologist
State Climatology Office
Department of Natural Resources – St. Paul, MN

Dr. Mark Seeley, Professor of
Climatology/Meteorology
University of Minnesota – St. Paul, MN


Average Statewide June Precipitation
Inches
June 2014:
8.07 Inches
June 1910:
1.50 Inches


Total Precipitation
June 2014
Prepared by:
MNDNR
State Climatology Office
values are in inches