

April 1, 2019

**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.

**2018 Weather Summary:**

2018 was a very wet year for much of central and southern Minnesota, while a pesky drought was stubborn to leave northwest Minnesota. The annual precipitation average for the state was 28.41 inches, higher than 2017, but less than 2016. The wettest location was Harmony in Fillmore County with 60.21 inches of precipitation. If verified, this would be the highest official annual precipitation total measured in Minnesota. Closely behind was the Root River SWCD office in Houston County with 60.13 inches.

2018 was also a year that seemed to have two seasons: Winter and summer, with a brief spring and autumn. A memorable snow storm hit the state on April 14<sup>th</sup>, dropping a lot of snow and prolonging winter. Statewide, April 2018 was the 3<sup>rd</sup> coldest on record (1895-2018.) This made for some record late lake ice out reports. Lake Minnetonka lost its ice on May 5, tied for the latest date in its 141-year record.

After the near record cold April, May 2018 was the 4<sup>th</sup> warmest May statewide. The hottest day of the year for many places in Minnesota was on Memorial Day. Field activity that was delayed in April and early May made up lost ground with planting advancing rapidly for the second half of May thanks to the warmer conditions.

Summer was warm, hazy and a degree-and-a-half above normal statewide. Precipitation was a nudge above normal statewide for the summer, with extremely wet conditions continuing in the south. On September 20, twenty-five tornadoes were reported in Minnesota, with damage reported at many southern Minnesota locations. Wet conditions delayed field work and damp conditions persisted through October. The first snows were reported in the north on October 10. A hard freeze for many in the central and south arrived on October 12. The second half of December turned mild with a melting snow pack and a "Brown Christmas" for folks south of a line from Fergus Falls to Moose Lake.

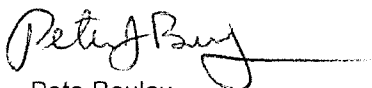
**Observation Tips:**

The 2018 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](mailto:peter.boulay@state.mn.us) or 651-296-4214.

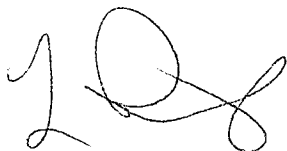
The enclosed **annual** observation form is for your personal records only. Please use the **monthly** forms to report data to the network administrator. You can also provide your data on-line. To learn how contact: [peter.boulay@state.mn.us](mailto:peter.boulay@state.mn.us). Your data, and data from 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. The data you provide is critical to our understanding and appreciation of Minnesota's dynamic weather patterns.


Sincerely,



Pete Boulay  
Climatologist  
DNR-Climatology



Luigi Romolo  
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DNR-Climatology



Kenny Blumenfeld  
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