

April 1, 2020

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.

2019 Weather Summary:

2019 was the wettest year on record statewide with 35.49 inches, edging out 1977 with 33.93 inches. One of the wettest locations was Rochester, with an annual precipitation total of 55.16 inches. This is **22.14 inches above normal** for 2019.

Cold and stormy conditions from the end of January through April contributed to high seasonal snowfall totals. The first four months of the year were about two degrees F below average. February had the coldest departure with 6 degrees F below normal. There was a memorable blizzard on February 22-24 especially in southern Minnesota.

Winter persisted into April, with more snow in the middle of the month. April started off very chilly, with some mild episodes in the second half of the month. May was quite cool (3.7 degrees F below normal) with spring crop planting falling well behind. Lake ice-out ran about a week behind the median.

June turned a bit warmer, with below normal precipitation. July and August had close to normal precipitation. Autumn turned wet again. Precipitation for September and October were both well above normal most of Minnesota. September was quite mild, with temperatures finishing from three to five degrees F above normal. The very last day of September was exceptionally muggy with highs in the mid-80s and dew point temperatures in the low 70s. October turned cool with average temperatures about three degrees F below normal.

Winter ended late for 2018-19 and started early for 2019-20 with a very cold start to November. Lakes began to freeze up with one of the earliest ice-in dates on record, but a mild spell in the middle of November thawed out many lakes. December seesawed between arctic and mild episodes and finished about three degrees above normal. Soils that froze up in early November then thawed and what frost remained was shallow in southern Minnesota, generally six inches or less under sod. Some places were free of frost in late December.

Observation Tips:

The 2019 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,

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