

April 1, 2021

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.

2020 Weather Summary:

2020 was the 19th driest on record and the driest year since 2006 with a statewide average of 24.32 inches of precipitation. This was about eleven inches less than the record setting year of 2019. A few areas did have well-above precipitation totals for 2020, particularly in Sibley and Nicollet counties, where some locations finished nine inches above normal for the year.

Drought slowly crept into the state throughout the year and would have been much worse had it not been for the ample soil moisture "stored in the bank" from 2019. The US Drought Monitor was free of any drought indicators though April 14. By early July, one quarter of the state was under moderate drought and by the end of the year moderate drought persisted, especially over the west and north.

Spring came early with mild temperatures and an early lake ice out. Statewide April and May precipitation fell short of normal by an inch for each month, June precipitation was near normal with July and August slightly above normal. Meteorological summer from June-August was quite warm overall. The warmest day of the summer came early with many readings in the mid to upper 90s in early June. Morris and Milan both hit 100 degrees.

As summer faded into autumn, hazy skies from western wildfires spread across the state. Harvest progressed at a much faster pace compared to 2019. September was the driest month of the year compared to the 1981-2010 normal. The statewide average September precipitation was only 1.45 inches or 1.73 inches short of normal.

October had surprises in the form of some early winter snows and cold temperatures. Early November was as warm as October was cold and there were even high temperatures in the upper 70s, shattering records across the state. The winter began balmy with statewide November and December combined average temperatures finishing 11th warmest on record.

Observation Tips:

The 2020 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 612-390-1301.

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

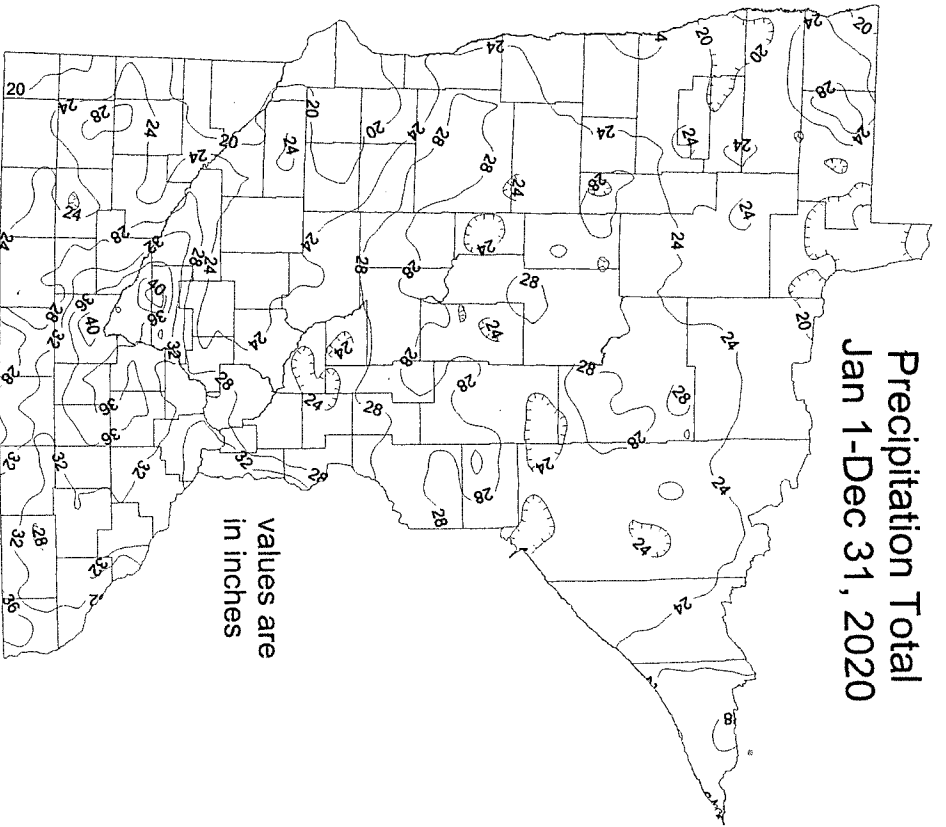
Thank you for contributing your data to the statewide precipitation archive. We appreciate your time and your hard work. The data you provide is critical to our understanding and appreciation of Minnesota's dynamic weather patterns.

Sincerely,



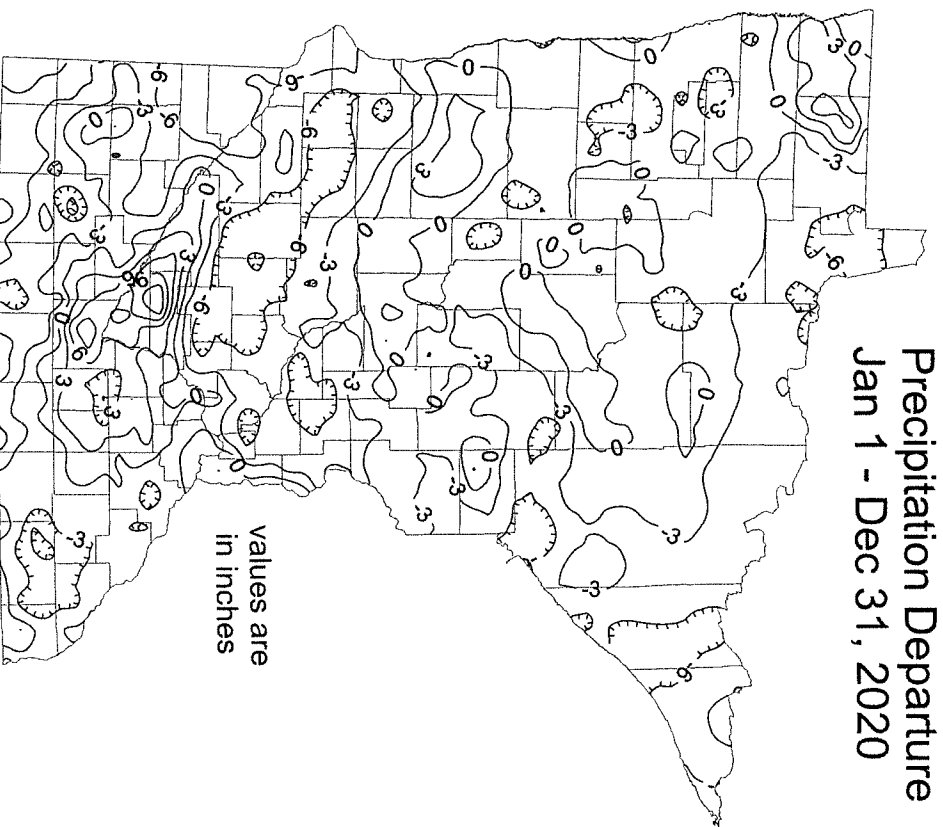
Pete Boulay
Climatologist
DNR-Climatology

**Precipitation Total
Jan 1-Dec 31, 2020**



DNR State Climatology Office, March 15, 2021

**Precipitation Departure
Jan 1 - Dec 31, 2020**



DNR State Climatology Office - March 15, 2021

These maps depict the precipitation and the departure from normal for 2020.

It was the driest year since 2006.