

April 1, 2023

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.

2022 Weather Summary:

Overall, 2022 was a cooler and drier than normal year statewide. The dryness was no surprise due to the drought that reasserted itself, albeit farther south and a more rapid intensification than in 2021. However, the 2021 drought was worse in magnitude and state coverage.

While the 2022 drought persisted into early 2023, ample snow and precipitation events during the winter of 2022-23 blunted the drought coverage quite a bit.

Precipitation coverages in the state for 2022 were highly variable. The far north saw an exceptionally wet spring, while southern and central Minnesota fell into a worsening drought by summer. International Falls set its wettest year on record with 35.45 inches or ten inches above normal. Lamberton had its driest year since 2003 with 20.13 inches, or 9.20 inches below normal.

In spite of the drought, it was an active year for severe storms. Minnesota finished with 71 tornadoes for 2022. The most active month was May with 47 tornadoes. There were three extreme wind events in the summer too, each with numerous wind gusts of 8'0 mph or greater. Wind gusts of 94 mph were recorded on May 12 at Madison in Lac Qui Parle County and also Verndale in Wadena County. An outbreak of storms on Memorial Day produced damaging tornadoes and more and strong thunderstorm wind gusts, reaching 90 mph in Appleton, in Swift County. Another round of destructive storms on June 20-21 produced a 91mph wind gust near Mallory in Polk County.

Temperatures for 2022 in general for Minnesota were below normal from January through May, with January having the coldest statewide average temperature since 2014. June through November was above normal, but not excessively so. The hottest day of the year was June 20 with 102 degrees at Sabin and Crookston and 101 degrees in the Twin Cities and St. Cloud. The year ended with the coldest December since 2013, averaging about four degrees below normal. The warm months were not quite enough to counter-balance the cold ones. The 2022 average temperature was 40.2 degrees F, falling short of the 1991-2020 normal of 41.8 degrees F

Observation Tips:

The 2022 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,

Pete Boulay

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