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Indiana State Climate Office

Monthly Weather Report

Apr 29, 2006



March 2006 Climate Summary

March 1-4

Unseasonably warm temperatures ushered in March, with highs across the northern parts of the state in the 40s and gradually warming temperatures into the 70s across the extreme southern part of Indiana. The large contrast in temperatures can be attributed to a stationary front draped across the state. Slightly cooler temperatures on the 2nd gave way to even cooler temperatures on the 3rd as a cold front pushed across the state. There was very little precipitation associated with the system; however, temperatures on the 3rd and 4th only made it up into the 30s and 40s. Low temperatures dropped from the 30s and 40s in the beginning of the month to the low 20s by the 4th. On average, only 0 to 0.02 inches of precipitation fell during this period.

March 5-7

Another system began to approach by the morning of the 5th and brought light rain to most locations across the Hoosier state. A warm front was located across southern Indiana by the evening allowing for southern Indiana to reach the upper 40s, while central and northern Indiana remained in the upper 30s to low 40s. The temperature contrast was much more noticeable on the 6th when temperatures decreased from the 50s in the southwest corner of the state to the mid 30s across the northeastern corner, associated with another disturbance moving through the region. All of the state climbed up into the 40s and 50s on the 7th. Low temperatures had a lot of variation as the 5th dropped down into the teens across the north, warmed into the 30s for lows on the 6th, and then retreated back into the upper teens and 20s on the morning of the 7th. State-averaged precipitation values were around the normal of 0.29, with a state average of 0.24.

March 8-13

A stormy pattern with above normal temperatures began to batter the state with heavy rainfall by the 8th and severe weather from the 9th until the 13th. A warm front moved northward on the 8th, and a low pressure system moved into Illinois by the evening of the 9th setting up severe weather for the extreme southern locations of the state. Winds in this region knocked down multiple trees and power lines. The next morning, hail upwards of one inch pelted the same general region. A strong warm front on the 11th allowed for another round of severe weather. A tornado touched down in Perry County

with reports of numerous injuries and lots of debris at a mobile home park. Hail, once again upwards of an inch in diameter fell across the extreme southern counties and in west central Indiana. Although a majority of the severe weather was off to the west of the state associated with a strong cyclone, some storms stayed together long enough to produce wind damage with trees down across northwest Indiana. The 13th marked the end of the severe weather with the cold front pressing eastward through Indiana dropping high temperatures over 20 degrees from the 13th to the 14th. Only two hail reports occurred on the 13th with 0.88 inch hail in Pulasky County and 1.00 inch hail in Starke County. The state as a whole received on average 4.17 inches of rain in this six-day period, well above the normal of 0.62 inches. The heaviest rain fell in southern Indiana with amounts from 6 to more than 10 inches. The result of the heavy rains in southern Indiana was flooding along the White, East Fork White, Muscatatuck, Eel, and Wabash Rivers. Some roads and residences were damaged as a result of the floods. Other flooding occurred in regions around Medora, Bedford, Shoals, Petersburg, Hazleton, and Lost River. Two deaths occurred as a result of the flooding in Indiana. One individual drowned while canoeing flooded Indiana Creek in Lawrence County, while a young man drowned by driving into a flooded road near a tributary of the Muscatatuck River in rural Crothersville, located in Jackson County. High temperatures were in the 50s to 70s for the entire period with lows mainly in the 30s to 50s. This brought average temperatures over 10 degrees above normal.

March 14-19

The calm after the storms was present from the 14th to the 19th as only light precipitation occurred on the 16th with a fast moving low pressure system. Temperatures also returned to around normal and were only a few degrees below normal for this time period. Highs were in the 40s and 50s except for the 16th in which southern Indiana climbed into the 60s with the northward push of the warm front. Lows were generally in the 20s to 40s.

March 20-26

A warm front south of the state brought light to moderate amounts of precipitation up to the state. Southern portions of the state received 0.20-0.43 inches, whereas only a trace amount fell in northern regions. The low, although still south of the state, moved further north on the 21st with precipitation values from 0.01 to 0.12 inches falling across most locations in the state. Precipitation with these systems was in the form of rain and snow. Snow across central Indiana ranged from 1 to 6 inches. Indianapolis had not seen this much late season snowfall since 1912. High pressure built in on the 22nd and 23rd although another weak disturbance brought showers to the state on the 24th. High pressure quickly built back in, however, and only trace amounts of precipitation were measured until the end of this time frame. Temperatures were about 8 degrees on average below normal with highs only in the 30s and 40s and lows in the teens to low 30s. The coolest morning was on the 22nd when lows dropped down to the teens and low 20s across the state.

March 27-31

A low-pressure system began to approach the state on the 27th and a warm front began to push northward allowing temperatures to warm with the passage of the front. The occluding low-pressure system moved across the region on the morning of the 28th and moved out of the state by the evening hours. High pressure moved in behind the system on the 29th; however, by the evening of the 30th another system began to approach, again bringing rain to much of the state. State-averaged rainfall during this period up to this point was 0.44 inches, a value which doubled on the 31st to 0.83 inches. This powerful system brought with it two rounds of precipitation on the 31st. The first round was relatively benign; however, during the evening hours a line of storms began to fire with damaging winds, hail, and tornadoes. Areas across the northwestern counties received only 0.05 inches of rain as the line began to form just to the east. The heaviest rain on this day fell across south central Indiana where 0.89 inches fell on average. Temperatures during this period, 27th to 31st, increased from the upper 40s and 50s to the 70s. This heating added fuel to the severe storms on the 31st. A tornado began one mile east of Greenwood in Johnson County and continued into the northern locations of Shelby County. According to the National Weather Service damage assessment team, the tornado was on the ground for about 17 miles, was four-tenths of a mile wide at its widest point, and was rated F2 on the Fujita scale. There was damage to many structures and trees. Multiple hail reports of 1.75 inches and less were reported across a large portion of the central two thirds of the state. Evidence of damaging wind was also present across many locations. Although March came in like a lamb, it left the state of Indiana like a lion.

Temperatures

| Region | Average | Normal | Deviation |
|---------------|---------|--------|-----------|
| Northwest | 39.0 | 38.9 | 0.1 |
| North central | 38.6 | 38.3 | 0.4 |
| Northeast | 38.3 | 37.7 | 0.6 |
| West central | 40.4 | 41.0 | -0.5 |
| Central | 40.1 | 40.4 | -0.4 |
| East central | 39.6 | 39.4 | 0.2 |
| Southwest | 44.5 | 45.1 | -0.5 |
| South central | 43.1 | 44.6 | -1.5 |
| Southeast | 41.7 | 43.5 | -1.8 |
| State | 40.7 | 41.1 | -0.4 |

Precipitation

| Region | Total | Normal | Deviation | Percent of Normal |
|---------------|-------|--------|-----------|-------------------|
| Northwest | 3.55 | 2.98 | 0.57 | 119 |
| North central | 3.50 | 2.83 | 0.66 | 123 |
| Northeast | 3.01 | 2.75 | 0.26 | 109 |
| West central | 5.13 | 3.41 | 1.73 | 151 |
| Central | 5.51 | 3.32 | 2.19 | 166 |
| East central | 4.41 | 3.11 | 1.31 | 142 |
| Southwest | 8.65 | 4.20 | 4.45 | 206 |
| South central | 8.59 | 4.15 | 4.44 | 207 |
| Southeast | 6.79 | 3.93 | 2.86 | 173 |
| State | 5.57 | 3.43 | 2.14 | 163 |

Local extremes with over 50% of the data available

| | Site | Ob | Dev | % Available Data |
|--------------------|----------------------|-------|-------|------------------|
| Low Precipitation | Flora | 1.11 | -2.03 | 65 |
| High Precipitation | 2 miles ESE of Merom | 14.01 | 10.26 | 87 |

Spring Season-to-date (Same as month-to-date)

Temperatures

| Region | Average | Normal | Deviation |
|---------------|---------|--------|-----------|
| Northwest | 39.0 | 38.9 | 0.1 |
| North central | 38.6 | 38.3 | 0.4 |
| Northeast | 38.3 | 37.7 | 0.6 |
| West central | 40.4 | 41.0 | -0.5 |
| Central | 40.1 | 40.4 | -0.4 |
| East central | 39.6 | 39.4 | 0.2 |
| Southwest | 44.5 | 45.1 | -0.5 |
| South central | 43.1 | 44.6 | -1.5 |
| Southeast | 41.7 | 43.5 | -1.8 |
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| Central | 5.51 | 3.32 | 2.19 | 166 |
| East central | 4.41 | 3.11 | 1.31 | 142 |
| Southwest | 8.65 | 4.20 | 4.45 | 206 |
| South central | 8.59 | 4.15 | 4.44 | 207 |
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| State | 5.57 | 3.43 | 2.14 | 163 |

Annual-to-Date

Temperatures

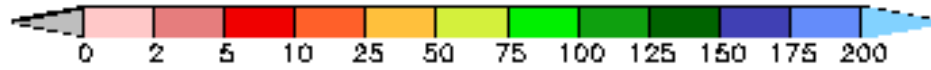
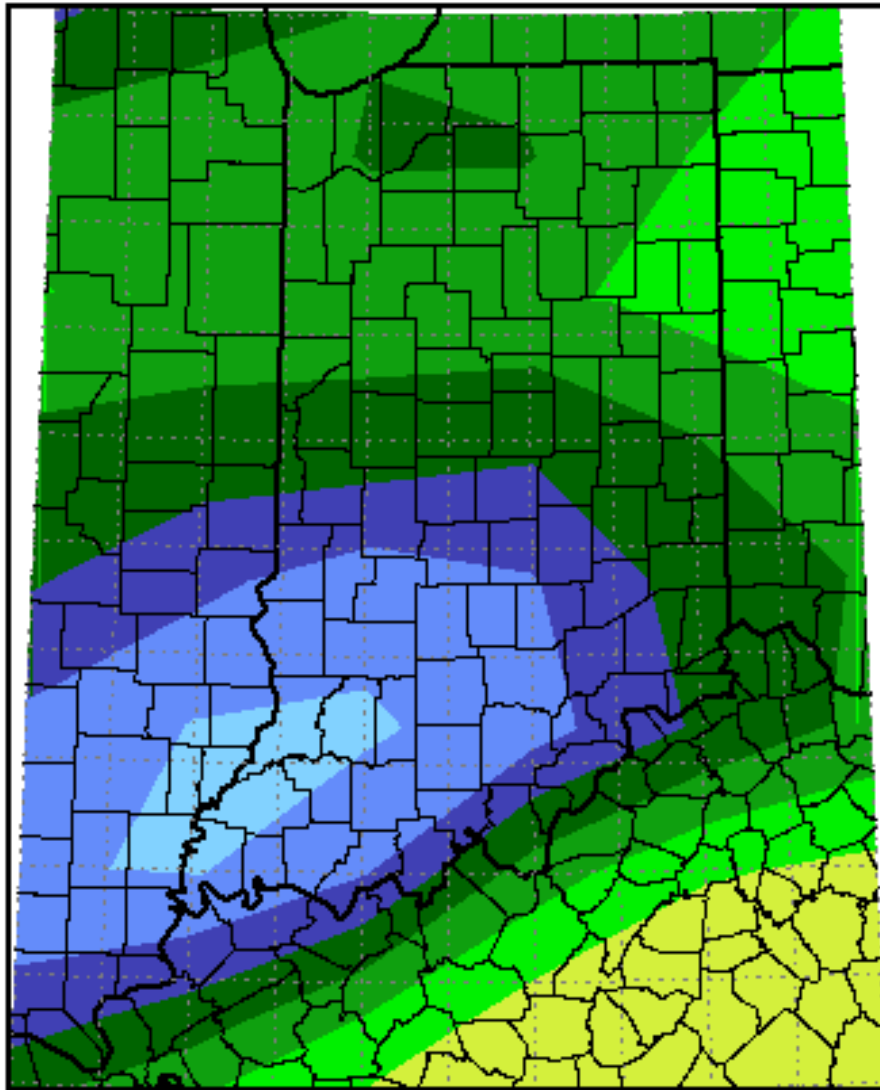
| Region | Average | Normal | Deviation |
|---------------|---------|--------|-----------|
| Northwest | 35.2 | 30.0 | 5.2 |
| North central | 34.9 | 29.7 | 5.2 |
| Northeast | 34.6 | 29.4 | 5.2 |
| West central | 36.8 | 32.2 | 4.6 |
| Central | 36.7 | 32.0 | 4.8 |
| East central | 36.2 | 31.1 | 5.1 |
| Southwest | 40.4 | 36.7 | 3.7 |
| South central | 39.5 | 36.5 | 3.1 |
| Southeast | 38.6 | 35.5 | 3.1 |
| State | 37.1 | 32.6 | 4.4 |

Precipitation

| Region | Total | Normal | Deviation | Percent of Normal |
|---------------|-------|--------|-----------|-------------------|
| Northwest | 7.28 | 6.52 | 0.76 | 112 |
| North central | 7.88 | 6.66 | 1.22 | 118 |
| Northeast | 7.96 | 6.49 | 1.47 | 123 |

| | | | | |
|---------------|-------|-------|------|-----|
| West central | 9.36 | 7.82 | 1.54 | 120 |
| Central | 10.93 | 7.88 | 3.05 | 139 |
| East central | 8.84 | 7.51 | 1.34 | 118 |
| Southwest | 14.71 | 10.09 | 4.62 | 146 |
| South central | 15.23 | 10.17 | 5.06 | 150 |
| Southeast | 12.65 | 9.75 | 2.91 | 130 |
| State | 10.69 | 8.12 | 2.57 | 132 |

**Total Precipitation Percent of Mean
March 1, 2006 to March 31, 2006**

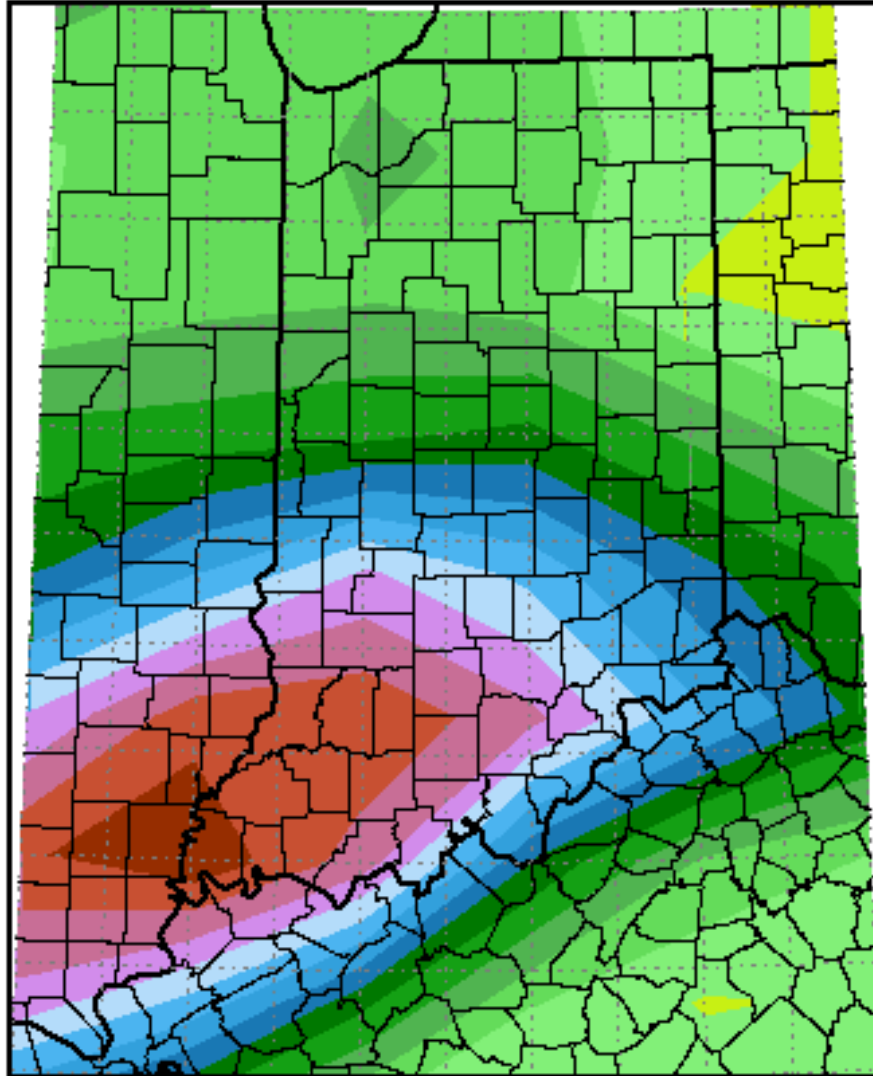


Midwestern Regional Climate Center

Illinois State Water Survey

Champaign, Illinois

**Total Precipitation in Inches
March 1, 2006 to March 31, 2006**

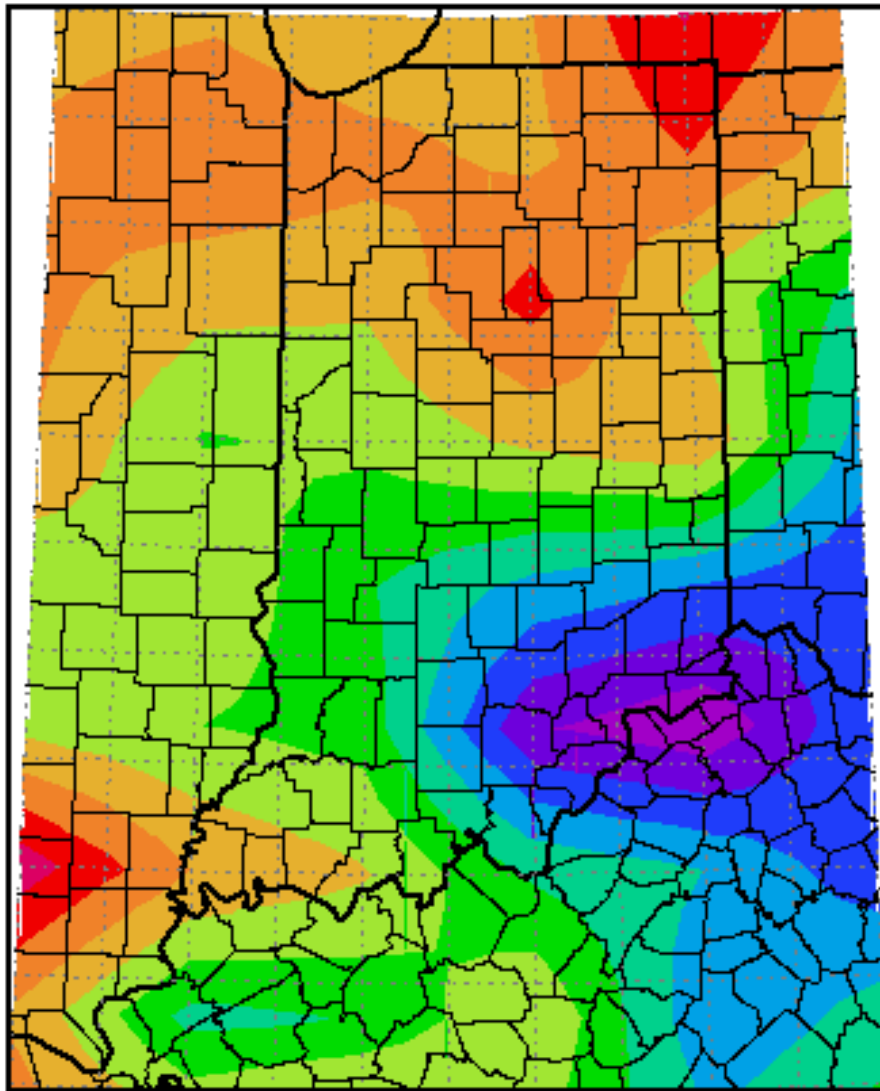


Midwestern Regional Climate Center

Illinois State Water Survey

Champaign, Illinois

**Average Temperature Departure from Mean in Degrees F
March 1, 2006 to March 31, 2006**



**Midwestern Regional Climate Center
Illinois State Water Survey
Champaign, Illinois**

Contributions made by Al Shipe NWS Indianapolis