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## Indiana State Climate Office

### Monthly Weather Report

Jul 6, 2007



<http://www.iclimat.org>

## May 2007 Climate Summary

### Summary

The month of May ended up the driest May since 1988 and the warmest May since 1998, accruing on average only 42% of its normal rainfall and temperature deviations of around four to five degrees Fahrenheit above normal. This constitutes a tie for 11<sup>th</sup> warmest May and the 9<sup>th</sup> driest May since recording began in the late 1800's. Widespread rain systems were very few, if any, and no major flooding was reported throughout the month, with stream flows ending at a slower pace than at the beginning of the month. Warmer regions saw temperatures in the 90's early on in May, which is usually rare. High amplitude, high pressure ridges and low pressure troughs dominated the month of May, creating slow-moving ridges and troughs that caused, for the most part, extended periods of dry weather. By the end of the month, the jet stream dampened out, causing weaker troughs and ridges, making these weather patterns move much more briskly through the region.

### May 1-7

May started out clear, with a cold front beginning to move through the northern half of the state. By May 2<sup>nd</sup>, the skies darkened and the cold front slowly progressed south until it exited the state after 1200 UTC. With it brought rainfall, mainly in the southern counties, and overcast skies as winds shifted from the west towards the east. A flash flood was reported in Lawrence and Orange counties on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, constituting the only flash flood of the month. Later on, a stationary front positioned itself right outside southwestern Indiana, producing small amounts of rainfall later in this week, but by the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> the skies had begun to clear. Temperatures mainly ranged from the mid-high 70's to upper 80's near the beginning of May, with temperatures cooling off with the passing cold front and the presence of a high pressure ridge by the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, with high temperatures reading mainly in the mid 60's to 70's for much of Indiana. Lows dipped into the high 30's in some extremes. Small hail of under 1.25 inches was recorded in northern Indiana on May 1<sup>st</sup>.

### May 8-14

May 8<sup>th</sup> began with southeasterly winds and an incoming cold front from the northwest, with heavy rainfall observed in the Indianapolis HSA area. By May 9<sup>th</sup>, it had

evolved into a stationary front hanging over Indiana, and finally exited on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Another low pressure trough from the north passed through Indiana on the 12<sup>th</sup>, producing less than half an inch of rain for select places. For the next several days, a high pressure ridge would essentially sit over Indiana, ending with southerly winds and clear skies. Temperatures wrestled between the mid 70's to upper 80's on average, with a few extreme cases recorded in the 90's earlier in the week. As a low pressure trough pressed through and caused rainfall early on, temperatures cooled by the end of the week to high 60's and 70's in most cases. No severe weather or extreme temperatures were recorded from this event.

### **May 15-21**

May 15<sup>th</sup> was probably the most active month as far as damage across Indiana. An impressive cold front moved across the U.S., eventually making its way into Indiana, spawning three tornadoes in Indiana (LaPorte, South Bend, and Burnettsville). Several hail reports and even more numerous wind damage reports were filed, making this a very active day for most of Indiana. Small amounts of rainfall were recorded in essentially every location throughout Indiana, with larger values cropping up occasionally. One report of over an inch of rain was recorded in Brookville. This active day was not enough to break the overall dry and warm spell, however, even as temperatures plummeted into the 50's and 60's for most of Indiana the next day, with lows driving down to the mid 30's in some cases. A weaker cold front moved in afterwards, producing little if any rainfall, keeping the temperatures down. By the end of the week, however, the winds returned to their normal southwesterly prevalence, and a high pressure ridge lingered in the area for several days, preventing any rainfall while temperatures climbed back up to their abnormally high levels. Transitioning over towards the week of the 22<sup>nd</sup>, a low pressure trough began making its way through Indiana, causing rainfall in the northern to central areas of Indiana along with temperature drops, which would eventually begin warming up by the next day.

### **May 22-31**

The 22<sup>nd</sup> through the 24<sup>th</sup> were generally free of precipitation and warm, with temperatures climbing into the 80's and 90's. The sewage plant in Lafayette managed to reach a temperature of 98 degrees on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Winds were generally light and from the south, shifting to southeast with the approach of a cold front from the northwest. As the front passed in the morning of the 25<sup>th</sup>, areas of Indiana received rainfalls of typically below one inch of rainfall. The passage of the cold front brought temperatures down as low as the 60's in some areas, while most locations experienced 70's and a few 80's were recorded. The jet stream had finally begun to dampen out from its high-amplitude pattern, bringing with it fast-moving high and low pressure systems across Indiana that caused small bouts of rain to pop up throughout the state to close out the month, and trapped Indiana within an upper-level, high pressure ridge at the end of the month. Temperatures remained about the same from here on out, with winds from the south and southwest and relatively mild.

### Temperature

Region	Temperature	Normal	Deviation
Northwest	65.2	60.8	4.4
North Central	64.5	60.3	4.2
Northeast	63.8	59.8	3.9
West Central	67.2	62.3	5
Central	66.5	61.7	4.8
East Central	65.8	60.8	5
Southwest	69.2	64.6	4.6
South Central	67.9	63.9	4
Southeast	67.2	63	4.1
<b>State</b>	66.5	62	4.5

### Precipitation

Region	Precipitation	Normal	Deviation	Percent of Normal
Northwest	2.21	3.98	-1.76	56
North Central	1.87	3.85	-1.99	48
Northeast	1.57	3.78	-2.21	42
West Central	1.9	4.38	-2.48	43
Central	1.51	4.4	-2.89	34
East Central	1.48	4.31	-2.83	34
Southwest	2.38	4.99	-2.61	48
South Central	2.07	5	-2.93	41
Southeast	1.35	4.85	-3.5	28
<b>State</b>	1.85	4.4	-2.56	42

### Spring Season-to-Date (March-May)

#### Temperature

Region	Temperature	Normal	Deviation
Northwest	52.3	49.6	2.7
North Central	51.5	49	2.4
Northeast	50.7	48.5	2.1
West Central	54.8	51.5	3.3
Central	54.2	50.9	3.4
East Central	53.2	49.9	3.2
Southwest	58	54.7	3.3
South Central	56.9	54.1	2.8
Southeast	55.8	53.1	2.7
<b>State</b>	54.3	51.4	2.9

### Precipitation

Region	Precipitation	Normal	Deviation	Percent of Normal
Northwest	10.16	10.5	-0.34	97
North Central	9.23	10.22	-0.99	90
Northeast	8.58	9.96	-1.38	86
West Central	9.56	11.61	-2.06	82
Central	11.29	11.59	-0.3	97
East Central	11.75	11.16	0.58	105
Southwest	9.02	13.66	-4.64	66
South Central	9.33	13.59	-4.26	69
Southeast	8.68	13.01	-4.33	67
<b>State</b>	<b>9.78</b>	<b>11.74</b>	<b>-1.97</b>	<b>83</b>

### Annual-to-Date

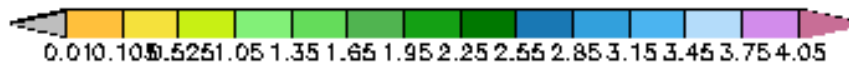
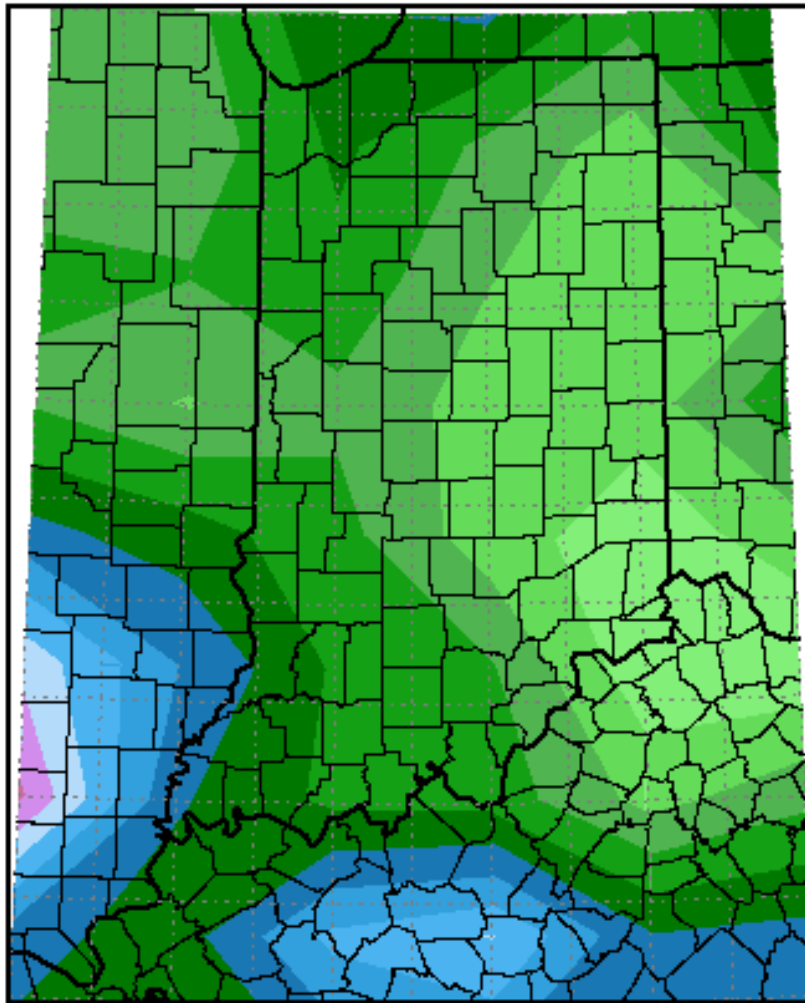
#### Temperature

Region	Temperature	Normal	Deviation
Northwest	40.7	40.1	0.6
North Central	40.3	39.7	0.6
Northeast	39.9	39.3	0.6
West Central	43.1	42.1	1
Central	42.8	41.7	1.1
East Central	42	40.8	1.1
Southwest	47.6	45.9	1.6
South Central	46.6	45.5	1.1
Southeast	45.4	44.5	0.8
<b>State</b>	<b>43.3</b>	<b>42.3</b>	<b>1</b>

#### Precipitation

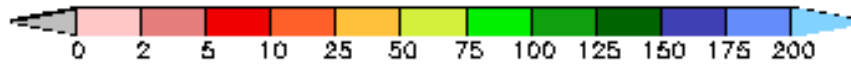
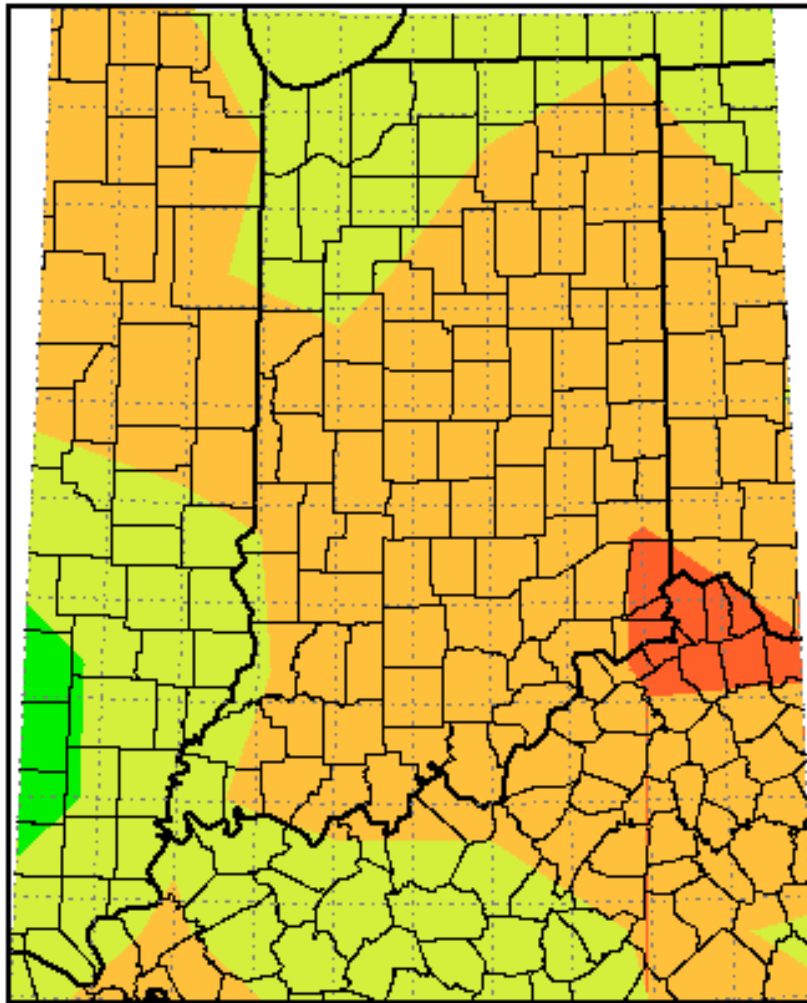
Region	Precipitation	Normal	Deviation	Percent of Normal
Northwest	15.45	14.05	1.4	110
North Central	14.87	14.07	0.8	106
Northeast	13.83	13.72	0.11	101
West Central	16.25	16.06	0.19	101
Central	19.09	16.2	2.89	118
East Central	19.15	15.6	3.55	123
Southwest	17.46	19.54	-2.08	89
South Central	17.36	19.61	-2.25	89
Southeast	16.8	18.82	-2.01	89
<b>State</b>	<b>16.79</b>	<b>16.46</b>	<b>0.33</b>	<b>102</b>

**Total Precipitation in Inches  
May 1, 2007 to May 31, 2007**



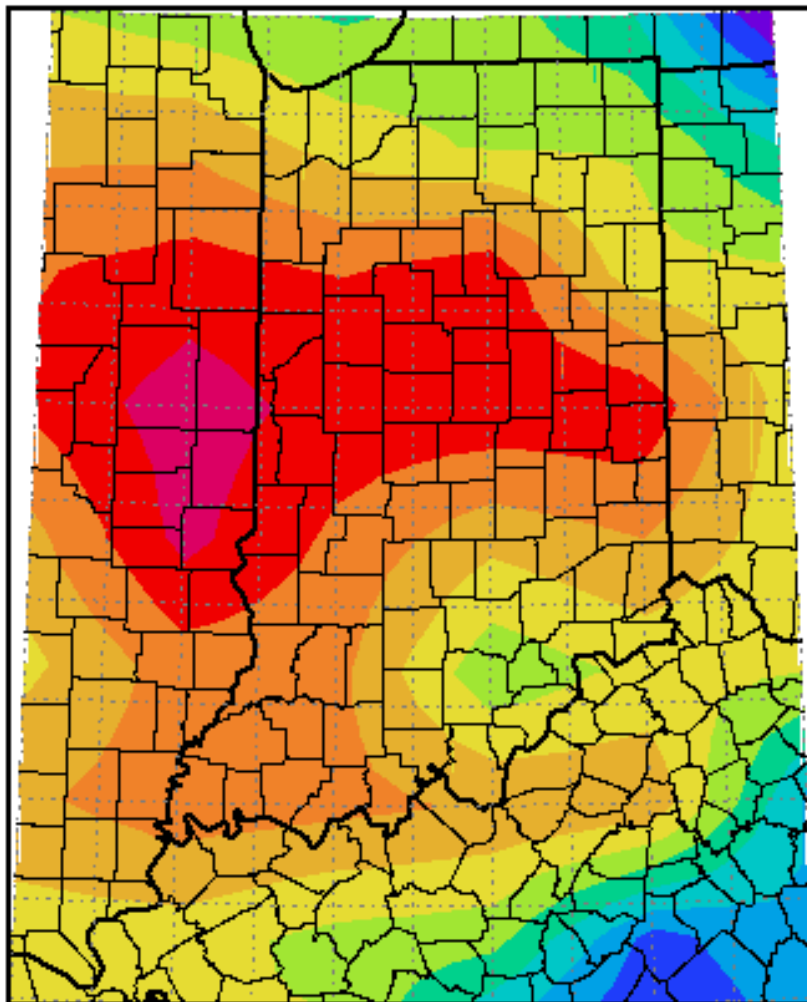
**Midwestern Regional Climate Center  
Illinois State Water Survey  
Champaign, Illinois**

**Total Precipitation Percent of Mean  
May 1, 2007 to May 31, 2007**



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

**Average Temperature Departure from Mean in Degrees F  
May 1, 2007 to May 31, 2007**



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

*Contributions Provided by Al Shipe of the Indianapolis NWS Office*