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Indiana State Climate Office

Monthly Weather Report

May 5, 2008



<http://www.iclimat.org>

April 2008 Climate Summary

Summary

Despite the way the month ended (cold and wet), the month of April 2008 was actually warm and dry overall. The northern and eastern parts of the state saw the more “extreme” conditions where as the southern and western portions were closer to normal. The statewide average temperature of 52.3°F is 0.9°F above the normal. The northeast was the warmest of the nine climate divisions at 2°F above the normal. The statewide average precipitation totals is 3.43 inches for April 2008. This total is approximately ½ inch below normal. This average is a bit misleading. As is discussed below the south received heavier rain throughout the month and two divisions (southwest and south central) were actually wetter than usual. April appeared to be rather moist but despite the abundance of systems the actual rainfall was not as high as usual.

April 1st – 7th

The final disturbance of March stretched into April Fool’s Day and dropped more rain across the state. The heaviest rain fell in the southwest part of the state where over an inch was reported in Knox, Sullivan, and Daviess counties. The entire state received at least 0.2 inches. This system was associated with a cold front and it dropped high temperatures into the mid-40’s. Temperatures continued to decline throughout the day on the 1st and they remained below normal through April 4th. Some moisture in advance of a second disturbance brought rain to the southern portion of Indiana on the 3rd. The system itself would arrive on the 4th resulting in more wet conditions across the state. The bulk of the moisture stayed in the south, continuing the theme from March. Counties along the Indiana-Kentucky border received over 2 inches of rain where as counties along the Indiana-Michigan border saw only 0.15 inches. A few lingering showers persisted on the 5th but high pressure eventually dropped down from Canada. High temperatures climbed into the upper-50’s on the fifth day of April 2008. The high pressure area lingered over the region on the 6th but was slowly ushered out of the region in advance of the third system of the month. Temperatures continued to climb on the 6th (low-60’s) and finally leveled out on the 7th (mid-60’s). The third system of April 2008 would open up the second week of the month.

April 8th – 14th

Temperatures remained warm on the 8th but fell sharply as the third system passed through the state on the 9th and 10th. The first wave of rain entered the northwest late on the 8th. Accumulation was below 0.2 inches for the day. That weak wave would filter down towards the southeast throughout the 9th, dropping no more than 0.2 inches of rain. The system lost strength as it crossed Indiana and accumulation of rain on the 10th was minimal as well. That system passed leaving behind only about 0.5 inch of rain over the three day period. However a reprieve was not in the cards. A very strong system followed immediately behind system three. This fourth disturbance would drop much more than ½ inch of rain. A strong synoptic low centered over northern Illinois entered mid-day on the 11th. Temperatures warmed in advance of the system. The system dropped at least 0.8 inches across the entire state, with a storm maximum of 1.4 inches in Washington County. Once again the heaviest rain was experienced in the south. Fortunately it was a fast moving system and was gone by mid-day on the 12th. A few showers lingered in the early morning hours but accumulations didn't breach 0.20 inches. Temperatures fell swiftly as the cold front took its toll. High temperatures peaked in the mid-40's, almost 20°F below normal. They continue to fall on the 13th (highs in the low-40's). A weak low pressure system over the Great Lakes dropped a few showers across the state on the 13th and 14th but accumulations were minimal. Temperatures increased slightly as highs crept back into the mid-40's on the 14th.

April 15th – 21st

High pressure moved back into the region at the beginning of the third week of April 2008. Warm air from the south was brought into the region and high temperatures leapt back into the upper-50's, just a shade below normal (but much more pleasant). Highs would reach the mid-70's on the 17th, over 12°F above normal in some areas of the state. The state saw mostly sunny conditions on the 15th, 16th, and 17th. Clouds started to creep into the region on the 18th ahead of the fifth disturbance. This synoptic low entered from the southwest and moved to the northeast, dropping temperatures along its way. While it remained unseasonably warm in the northeast on the 19th (near 70°F) the southwest was experiencing abnormally cold weather (mid-50's) as a result of the new system. Rain would start to fall in the afternoon and accumulations reached 0.35 inches in the extreme southwest counties of Indiana. The system was rather weak and brought little more than scattered showers across the state on the 20th. Rainfall totals rarely exceeded 0.15 inches. The third week ended just like it began: mostly sunny and warm (low-70's).

April 22nd – 30th

The pleasantly warm weather continued into the final full week of April 2008. High temperatures rose into the mid-70's and conditions remained mostly sunny. The state saw these conditions persist up until the 25th. After four days of warm and dry weather, Mother Nature insisted on some moisture. Two consecutive small systems, associated with cold fronts, traversed the state on the 25th and 26th. A few sever storms popped up, specifically in St. Joseph and Elkhart counties where storm winds were reported in excess of 55 MPH. There were a few trees down and power outages reported. Two-day precipitation totals were below 0.6 inches throughout Indiana. Temperatures dropped a

bit each day and eventually were below normal on the 26th. The abnormally cold weather would persist through the rest of the month thanks to yet another cold front. This final disturbance approached and crossed the state on the 28th and 29th. Two-day precipitation totals reached ½ inch. The rapid crossing of three cold fronts over a five day period dropped high temperatures from the mid-70's to the upper 40's. Fort Wayne set a record low temperature on April 30 of 29°F. The previous record low was 30° set in 1958.

April Summary

Temperature

| Region | Temperature | Normal | Deviation |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| Northwest | 50.8 | 49.5 | 1.3 |
| North Central | 50.7 | 48.9 | 1.8 |
| Northeast | 50.5 | 48.5 | 2.0 |
| West Central | 52.1 | 51.5 | 0.6 |
| Central | 52.2 | 50.9 | 1.3 |
| East Central | 51.7 | 49.9 | 1.8 |
| Southwest | 54.4 | 54.9 | -0.5 |
| South Central | 54.2 | 54.2 | 0.0 |
| Southeast | 54.0 | 53.1 | 0.9 |
| State | 52.3 | 51.4 | 0.9 |

Precipitation

| Region | Precipitation | Normal | Deviation | Percent of Normal |
|---------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Northwest | 2.95 | 3.60 | -0.65 | 82 |
| North Central | 2.85 | 3.59 | -0.74 | 79 |
| Northeast | 2.83 | 3.47 | -0.64 | 82 |
| West Central | 2.94 | 3.88 | -0.94 | 76 |
| Central | 2.70 | 3.91 | -1.21 | 69 |
| East Central | 2.71 | 3.78 | -1.07 | 72 |
| Southwest | 5.24 | 4.45 | 0.79 | 118 |
| South Central | 4.80 | 4.42 | 0.38 | 109 |
| Southeast | 3.56 | 4.21 | -0.65 | 85 |
| State | 3.43 | 3.94 | -0.50 | 87 |

Spring-to-Date

(March & April)

Temperature

| Region | Temperature | Normal | Deviation |
|---------------|-------------|--------|-----------|
| Northwest | 43.1 | 43.9 | -0.8 |
| North Central | 42.9 | 43.3 | -0.5 |

| | | | |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Northeast | 42.4 | 42.8 | -0.4 |
| West Central | 45.3 | 46.0 | -0.7 |
| Central | 45.2 | 45.4 | -0.2 |
| East Central | 44.3 | 44.4 | -0.1 |
| Southwest | 48.5 | 49.7 | -1.2 |
| South Central | 47.9 | 49.1 | -1.3 |
| Southeast | 47.1 | 48.1 | -1.0 |
| State | 45.3 | 46.0 | -0.7 |

Precipitation

| Region | Precipitation | Normal | Deviation | Percent of Normal |
|---------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Northwest | 5.51 | 6.52 | -1.01 | 84 |
| North Central | 5.80 | 6.37 | -0.57 | 91 |
| Northeast | 6.25 | 6.18 | 0.07 | 101 |
| West Central | 7.99 | 7.23 | 0.75 | 110 |
| Central | 9.12 | 7.19 | 1.93 | 127 |
| East Central | 8.72 | 6.85 | 1.87 | 127 |
| Southwest | 16.09 | 8.68 | 7.42 | 186 |
| South Central | 16.00 | 8.59 | 7.41 | 186 |
| Southeast | 13.71 | 8.16 | 5.56 | 168 |
| State | 9.98 | 7.34 | 2.64 | 136 |

Annual-to-Date

Temperature

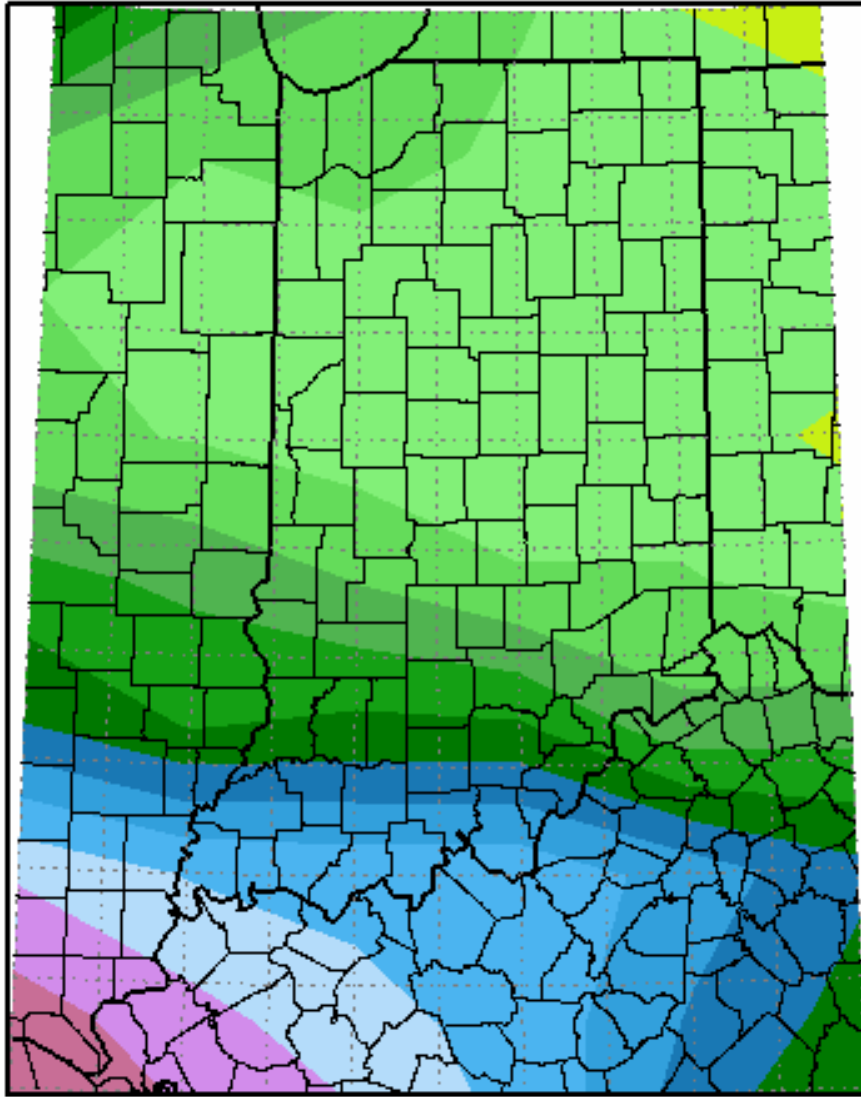
| Region | Temperature | Normal | Deviation |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Northwest | 33.7 | 34.7 | -1.1 |
| North Central | 33.7 | 34.4 | -0.7 |
| Northeast | 33.7 | 34.0 | -0.3 |
| West Central | 35.9 | 36.8 | -1.0 |
| Central | 36.2 | 36.5 | -0.3 |
| East Central | 35.4 | 35.6 | -0.2 |
| Southwest | 40.1 | 41.1 | -1.1 |
| South Central | 39.4 | 40.7 | -1.4 |
| Southeast | 38.7 | 39.7 | -1.0 |
| State | 36.4 | 37.2 | -0.8 |

Precipitation

| Region | Precipitation | Normal | Deviation | Percent of Normal |
|---------------|---------------|--------|-----------|-------------------|
| Northwest | 14.62 | 10.11 | 4.51 | 145 |
| North Central | 15.73 | 10.24 | 5.49 | 154 |
| Northeast | 15.06 | 9.96 | 5.10 | 151 |
| West Central | 15.33 | 11.68 | 3.64 | 131 |
| Central | 17.14 | 11.81 | 5.33 | 145 |

| | | | | |
|---------------|-------|-------|------|-----|
| East Central | 16.74 | 11.30 | 5.44 | 148 |
| Southwest | 24.23 | 14.55 | 9.68 | 167 |
| South Central | 24.58 | 14.61 | 9.97 | 168 |
| Southeast | 21.35 | 13.97 | 7.38 | 153 |
| State | 18.38 | 12.06 | 6.31 | 152 |

**Total Precipitation in Inches
April 1, 2008 to April 30, 2008**

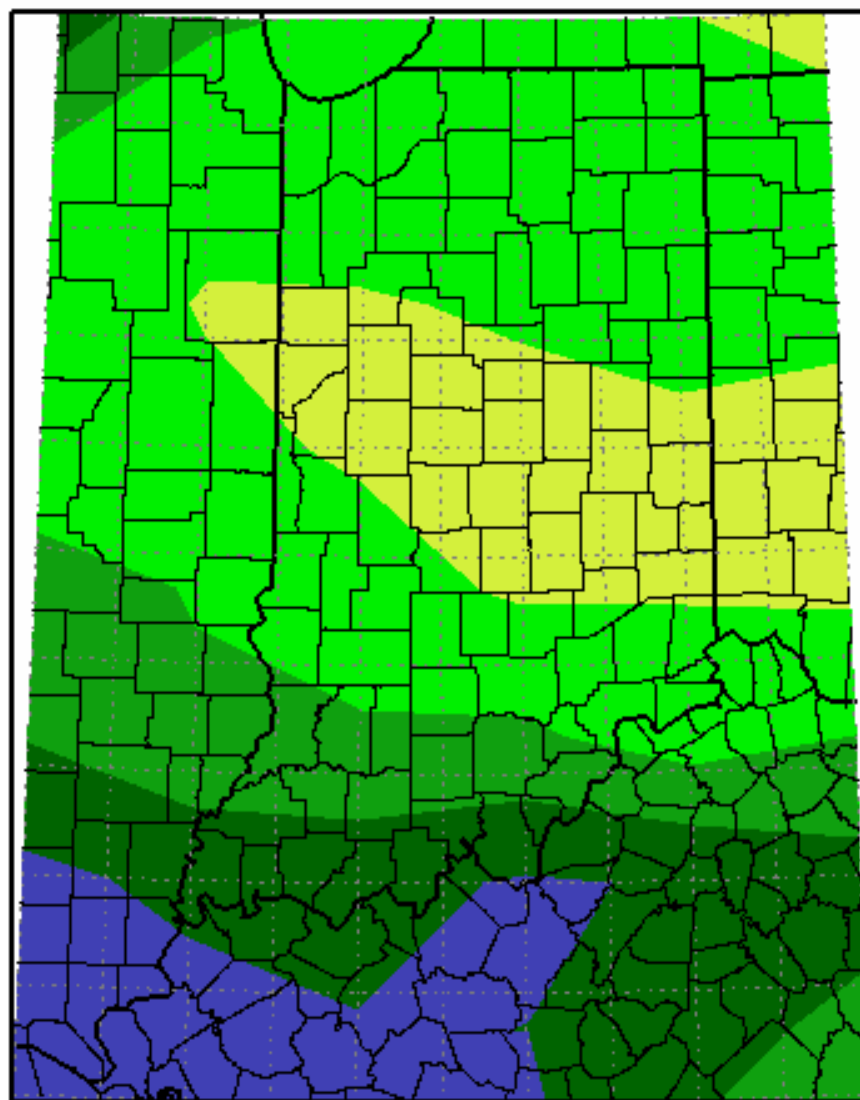


Midwestern Regional Climate Center

Illinois State Water Survey

Champaign, Illinois

**Total Precipitation Percent of Mean
April 1, 2008 to April 30, 2008**

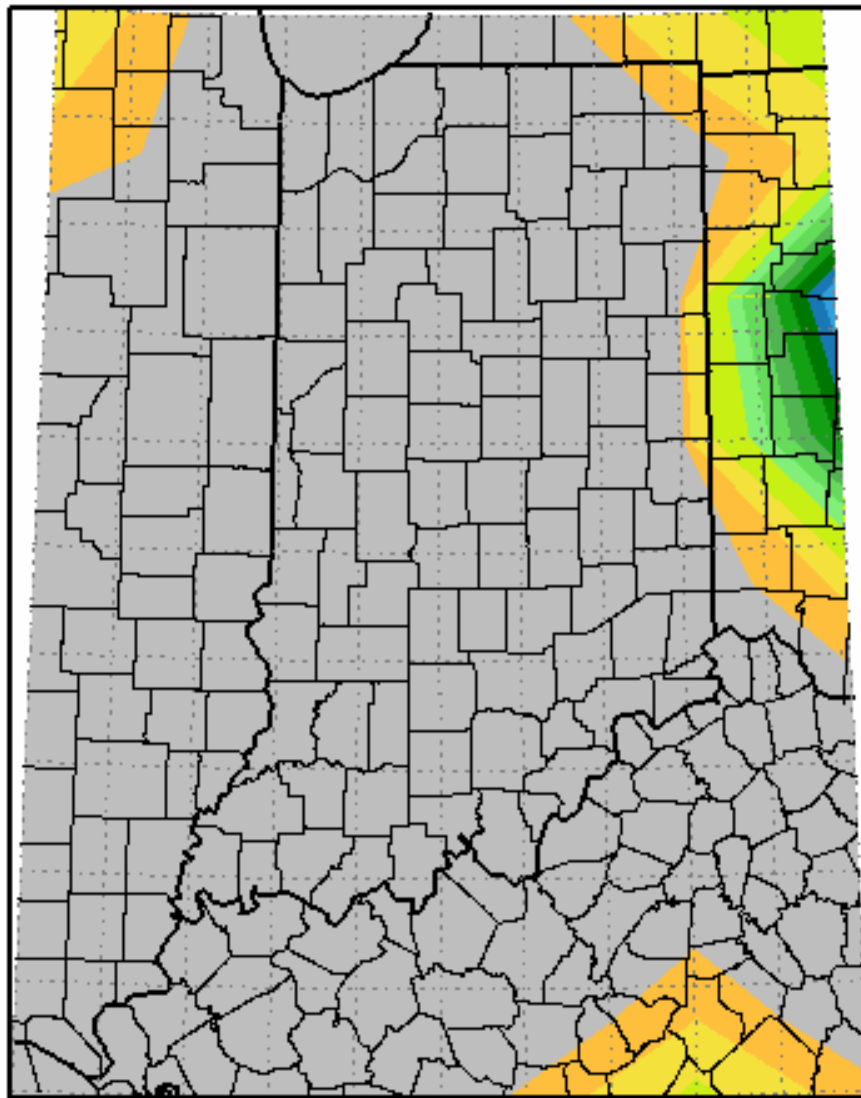


Midwestern Regional Climate Center

Illinois State Water Survey

Champaign, Illinois

Total Snowfall in Inches
April 1, 2008 to April 30, 2008

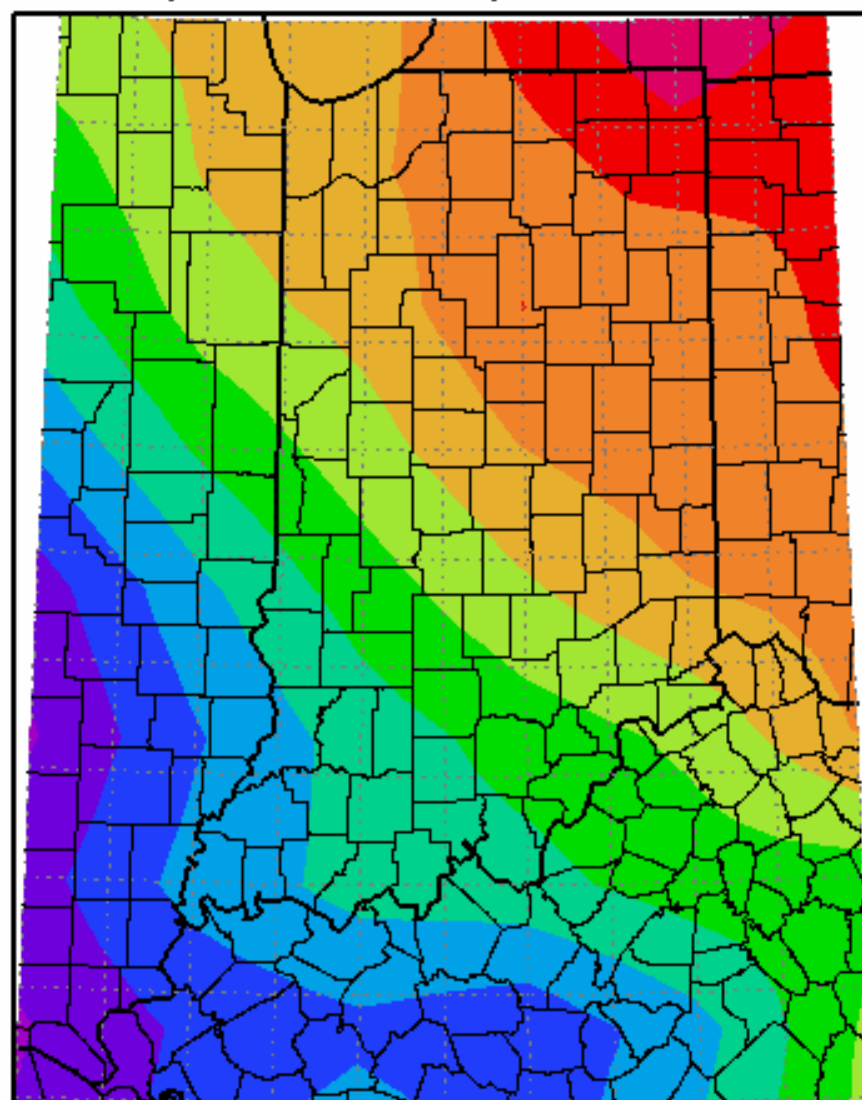


Midwestern Regional Climate Center

Illinois State Water Survey

Champaign, Illinois

Average Temperature Departure from Mean in Degrees F
April 1, 2008 to April 30, 2008



Midwestern Regional Climate Center

Illinois State Water Survey

Champaign, Illinois

Drought Summary from the U.S. Drought Monitor

Below is a drought summary for the state of Indiana from the U.S. drought monitor. Areas in white are not experiencing any drought. Yellow areas are abnormally dry, but not entirely considered a drought. Drought begins when the moisture levels become more severe, with beige, orange, red, and brown indicating increasing levels of drought (moderate, severe, extreme, and exceptional, respectively). The table below indicates how much of the state is not under drought conditions, and also how much of the state is under drought conditions from its respective column upwards.

For example, April 1st has 0.00% of Indiana under no drought, and 0.00% of Indiana under at *least* D0 through D4 drought status. This is followed by 0.00% as D1 through D4 status. To obtain the amount that is D0 status, simply subtract the D1-D4 column from the D0-D4 column, thus giving you the percentage of area with abnormally dry conditions. Please note, however, that these areas are not exact, and much of this drought map has been created from reports throughout the state and estimation, so use this information as a general view rather than for specifics.

| D0 Abnormally Dry | D1 Drought - Moderate | D2 Drought - Severe | D3 Drought - Extreme | D4 Drought - Exceptional | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|-------|------|
| Week | None | D0-D4 | D1-D4 | D2-D4 | D3-D4 | D4 |
| 04/01/08 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04/08/08 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04/15/08 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04/22/08 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 04/29/08 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |

April 1st Drought Summary



April 8th Drought Summary



April 15th Drought Summary



April 22nd Drought Summary



April 29th Drought Summary

