

Joseph Mays
(765) 494-6574

Indiana State Climate Office

Monthly Weather Report

Jun 4, 2008



<http://www.iclimete.org>

May 2008 Climate Summary

Summary

April in Indiana was warm and dry. The exact opposite was true for May. May 2008 was very cool and very wet. In addition to that general trend, the month will be remembered for some severe weather, especially during the month's final few days.

The statewide average temperature for the month is 58.4°F, which is 3.6°F below normal. Northwestern counties were the coolest, with an average temperature of 56.5°F (4.2°F below normal). All counties received above normal precipitation during May 2008. The statewide average is 6.10 inches, 1.7 inches above normal (or 138% of normal). The south central region received the heaviest rains and therefore the highest rainfall total for the month (8.38 inches, 3.38 inches above normal).

April's efforts for a warm and dry spring were thwarted by March and May, which were very cool and moist. The statewide average spring 2008 temperature is 49.7°F, which is 1.7°F below normal. Dry conditions in April left the northwest and north central regions as the only areas below normal precipitation for the season (94% and 98% of normal respectively). In contrast, the southwest and south central regions received more than 10 inches above normal precipitation during the spring. These oscillating conditions are expected during and after a La Niña. Don't be surprised if June is warm and dry.

May 1st – 7th

The transition from April to May began with warmer and drier weather. A warm front moved through the state on the 1st raising temperatures into the mid-70s, slightly above normal. Temperatures remained there on the 2nd but would cool off on the 3rd and 4th as the first cold front of the month entered. After the dry day on the 1st, portions of Indiana would see rain on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th. All regions of the state received at least 0.3 inches during this time period. The heaviest rains were concentrated in the extreme south along the Indiana-Kentucky border. Spencer, Perry, Crawford, Harrison, and Floyd counties all received at least 1.5 inches as a result of this front. The storms were most severe on the 2nd. There were reports of some hail damage in Starke and Elkhart counties on that day. High temperatures on the 3rd and the 4th were in the low- to mid-60s, slightly below normal. After the system passed on the 4th, temperatures returned to normal on the 5th with highs back in the 70s. Conditions were quite pleasant on the 6th as well, with a mostly clear sky and warm temperatures. Unfortunately a stationary front moving south

from Canada would change that at the end of week one. The front morphed into a weak synoptic low on the night of the 6th and brought more rain and slightly cooler conditions on the 7th.

May 8th – 14th

The heavier rains fell on the 8th and 9th as part of the back end of the front. This disturbance was actually 2 fronts as one, right after each other. In fact, moist conditions persisted through almost all of week two. The 13th was the only relatively dry day. Besides the 2 connected fronts early in the week, a front entered on the 11th as well as on the 14th. Weekly precipitation totals ranged from $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch in the northeast to almost 5 inches in the southwest. Once again the south received the heaviest rains. The strongest storms were associated with the system that entered late on the 10th and into the morning of the 11th. Severe storms rocked the entire state late that night and early the next morning, with heavy rains and some strong winds. Trees were reportedly knocked down in Lawrence and Orange counties late on the 10th. The same was reported in Henry, Fayette, Randolph, and Delaware counties early on the 11th. There were quite a few power outages as well. Due to continuous frontal systems passing through the state, high temperatures were well below normal during the second week of May 2008. Highs rarely made it above 65°F.

May 15th – 21st

The last disturbance of week two carried into week three. The tail end of the cold front left behind even more rain and very cool temperatures for this time of year. Areas of the state were lucky to reach just 60°F on the 15th. Yet another system would impact the state on the 16th. This front was a continuation of the previous disturbance, much like the successive fronts on the 8th and 9th. Highs remained in the upper-50's as more rain fell. The heavier rains were concentrated around the central and southeastern counties this time around. Ohio, Switzerland, Jefferson, and Scott counties received over 1.1 inches from this system alone. The rain ended early on the 17th and temperatures rose into the mid-70's. But guess what? It wouldn't last. Another system was eager to bring more moisture to Indiana early on the 18th. It rained, lightly, almost all day on the 18th and into the morning on the 19th. Rainfall totals for the system were less than $\frac{1}{2}$ inch. The heavier rains were on the eastern half of the state. A strong swath of storm developed on the 20th. This system brought rain to much of the state but was strongest in Franklin, Ripley, Dearborn, Ohio, and Switzerland counties. There rainfall totals reached 0.65 inches. A dry day on the 21st – only the third in the last two weeks – ended week three on a high note. Temperatures were still on the cool side as a result of the last system but there was no rain!

May 22nd – 28th

Those conditions pushed into the 22nd. Temperatures remained cool but it was another dry day. On the 23rd and 24th some rogue storms brought short, heavy rains to central Indiana. For the first time this month some high pressure moved into the region. This

brought some warmer weather to the state. Highs were predominantly in the upper 70s but a few southern counties reached 80°F on the 25th. These conditions persisted for a beautiful Memorial Day in the Midwest but another system entered late that holiday night. This system would drop temperatures and bring rain and a few strong storms to Indiana on the 27th and 28th. Once again the heavier rains fell throughout the south, especially in Gibson, Vanderburgh, and Posey counties. Areas in those counties saw more than 2 inches from this system. On the evening of the 27th one of the storm cells spawned a tornado in Daviess County. Luckily it touched down in an open field. However, this would be a sign of things to come in a few days. High temperatures dropped to the high-60's as a result of the front.

May 29th – 31st

High pressure rushed back into the Ohio Valley after the passing of the latest disturbance. Mostly sunny conditions prevailed and temperatures rose into the mid-70's. This reprieve would be brief. While temperatures would continue to warm (into the low 80's), a synoptic low would clip the northern part of the state on the 30th sparking severe thunderstorms in central and northern Indiana. There were 5 confirmed tornadoes on the 30th, one in Wabash, Parke, and Henry counties and 2 in Carroll County. Luckily no lives were lost and damage was limited. Eight different counties reported hail, with the largest in Hancock County (1 3/4" in diameter). Numerous counties reported strong winds and wind damage. A speed of 80 mph was reported in Huntington County. The rain continued through the night and into the morning of the 31st. Two-day rainfall totals ranged from 0.2 inches in southern counties to 1.6 inches in Benton, White, Carroll, Cass, and Miami counties.

May Summary

Temperature

Region	Temperature	Normal	Deviation
Northwest	56.5	60.8	-4.2
North Central	56.4	60.3	-3.9
Northeast	56.5	59.8	-3.3
West Central	58.2	62.3	-4.1
Central	58.0	61.7	-3.7
East Central	57.7	60.8	-3.2
Southwest	61.4	64.6	-3.2
South Central	60.3	63.9	-3.6
Southeast	59.8	63.0	-3.2
State	58.4	62.0	-3.6

Precipitation

Region	Precipitation	Normal	Deviation	Percent of Normal
Northwest	4.40	3.98	0.43	111

North Central	4.28	3.85	0.42	111
Northeast	3.90	3.78	0.13	103
West Central	6.24	4.38	1.86	142
Central	6.51	4.40	2.11	148
East Central	5.50	4.31	1.19	128
Southwest	7.76	4.99	2.77	156
South Central	8.38	5.00	3.38	167
Southeast	7.18	4.85	2.33	148
State	6.10	4.40	1.70	138

Spring-to-Date
(March, April, and May)

Temperature

Region	Temperature	Normal	Deviation
Northwest	47.6	49.6	-2.0
North Central	47.4	49.0	-1.6
Northeast	47.1	48.5	-1.4
West Central	49.6	51.5	-1.8
Central	49.5	50.9	-1.4
East Central	48.8	49.9	-1.1
Southwest	52.9	54.7	-1.9
South Central	52.0	54.1	-2.1
Southeast	51.4	53.1	-1.7
State	49.7	51.4	-1.7

Precipitation

Region	Precipitation	Normal	Deviation	Percent of Normal
Northwest	9.88	10.50	-0.61	94
North Central	10.06	10.22	-0.16	98
Northeast	10.15	9.96	0.19	102
West Central	14.23	11.61	2.61	123
Central	15.69	11.59	4.10	135
East Central	14.18	11.16	3.01	127
Southwest	23.89	13.66	10.22	175
South Central	24.40	13.59	10.81	180
Southeast	20.99	13.01	7.99	161
State	16.09	11.74	4.35	137

Annual-to-Date

Temperature

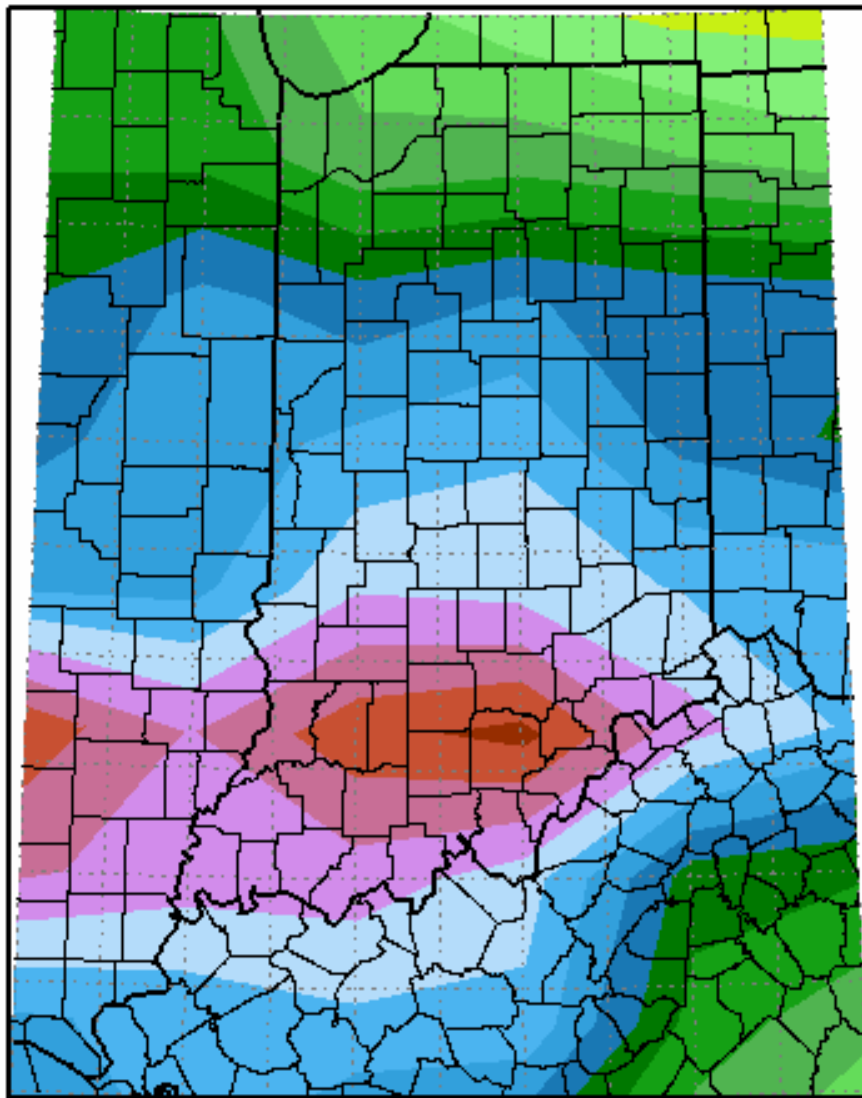
Region	Temperature	Normal	Deviation
Northwest	38.3	40.0	-1.8

North Central	38.3	39.7	-1.4
Northeast	38.3	39.2	-1.0
West Central	40.4	42.0	-1.6
Central	40.6	41.6	-1.0
East Central	39.9	40.8	-0.8
Southwest	44.4	45.9	-1.5
South Central	43.6	45.5	-1.8
Southeast	43.0	44.5	-1.5
State	40.8	42.2	-1.4

Precipitation

Region	Precipitation	Normal	Deviation	Percent of Normal
Northwest	18.97	14.08	4.89	135
North Central	20.07	14.09	5.98	142
Northeast	19.02	13.73	5.29	139
West Central	21.49	16.06	5.42	134
Central	23.69	16.21	7.49	146
East Central	22.15	15.61	6.54	142
Southwest	31.94	19.54	12.39	163
South Central	33.05	19.62	13.44	169
Southeast	28.67	18.82	9.85	152
State	24.49	16.47	8.02	149

**Total Precipitation in Inches
May 1, 2008 to May 31, 2008**

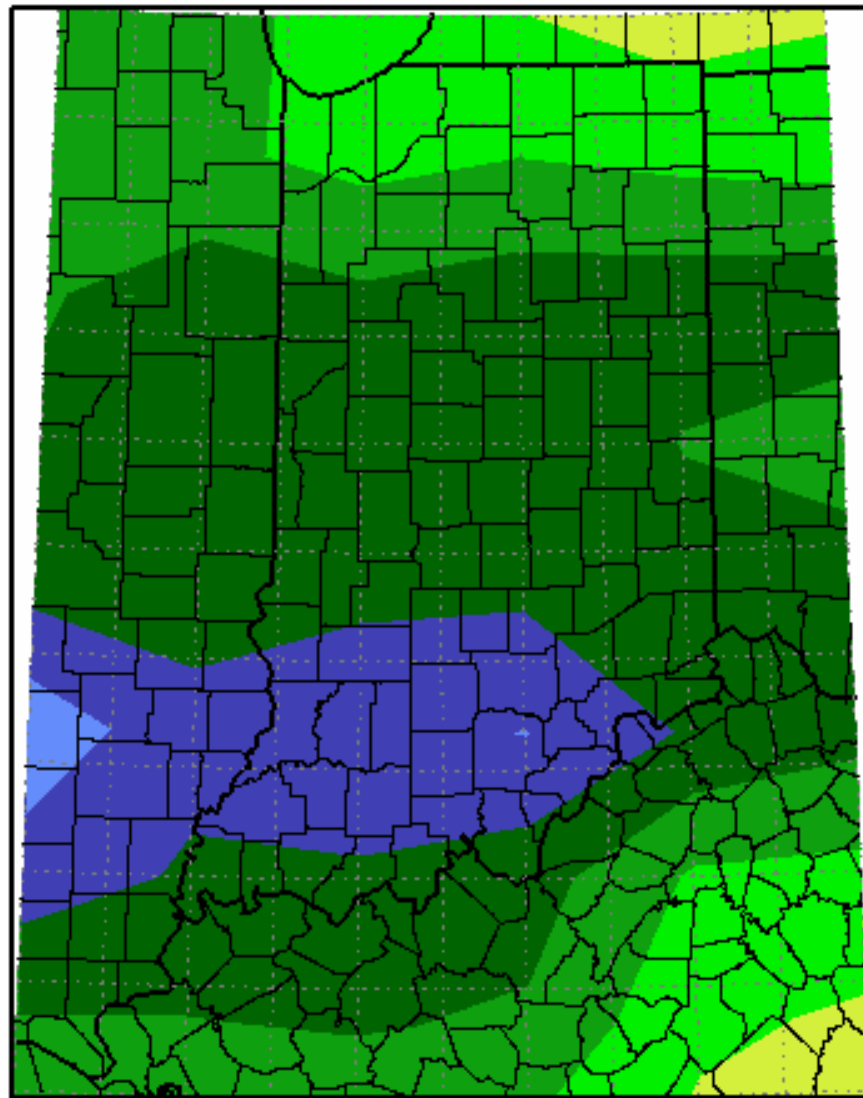


Midwestern Regional Climate Center

Illinois State Water Survey

Champaign, Illinois

**Total Precipitation Percent of Mean
May 1, 2008 to May 31, 2008**

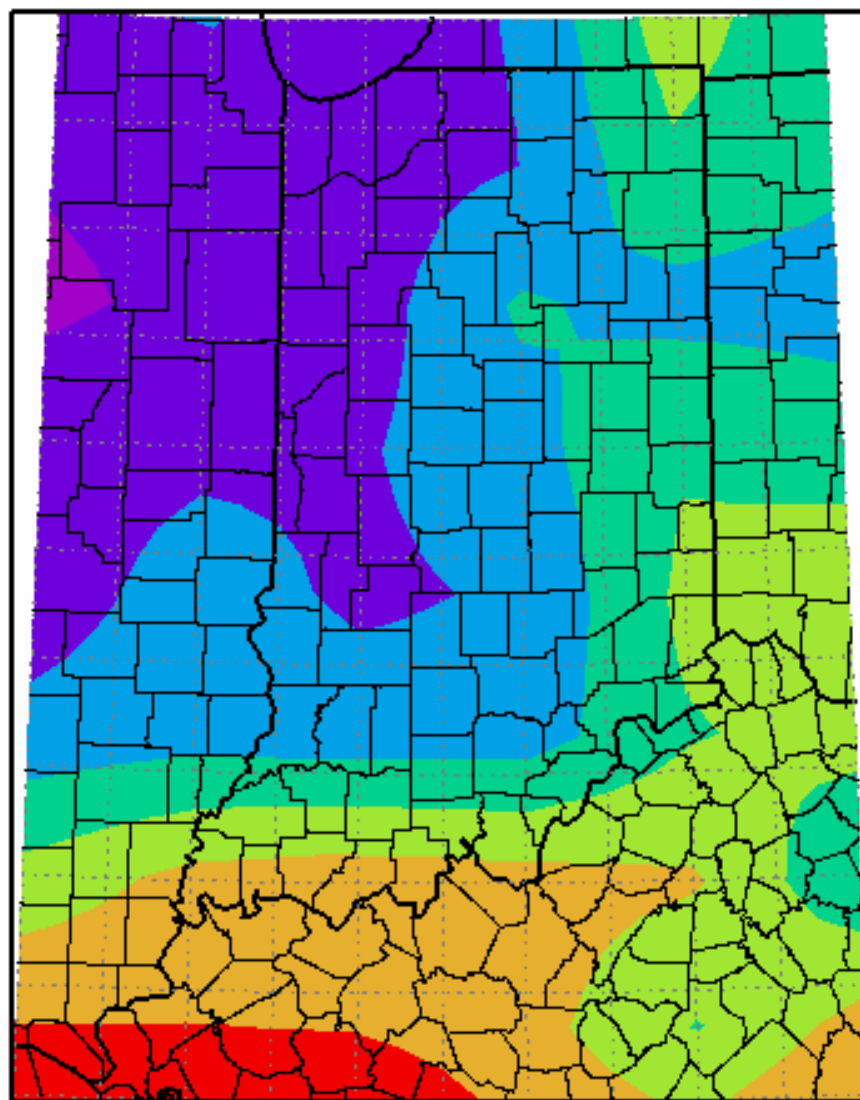


Midwestern Regional Climate Center

Illinois State Water Survey

Champaign, Illinois

Average Temperature Departure from Mean in Degrees F
May 1, 2008 to May 31, 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, May 6th 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
05/06/08	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
05/13/08	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
05/20/08	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
05/27/08	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

May 6th Drought Summary



May 13th Drought Summary



May 20th Drought Summary



May 27th Drought Summary

