

## SOUTH DAKOTA WEATHER SUMMARY, 2012

### GENERAL

The 2012 crop season started ideal, with some producers planting early due to above average soil temperatures and adequate moisture. In early to mid June hot and dry conditions started to take a toll. As a result of the early planting and the dry conditions, harvest was completed well ahead of normal for most crops.

### JANUARY

Average temperatures ranged from 19°F to 32°F during the month; however, all stations also reported temperatures well below 0°F. The low and high temperatures recorded in the state were -17°F and 74°F, respectively. Much of the state received some snowfall during the month. Average snow depth for the month was 1.6 inches, with most of the eastern part of the state having only a few inches of snow cover, while the west was generally snow-free.

### FEBRUARY

Warmer than average temperatures continued through February as temperatures ranged from 4°F below average to 7°F above average. Philip recorded the coldest temperature at -15°F, while Oelrichs was the warmest at 58°F. A mid-month storm dropped heavier snowfalls from north central to southeast parts of the state. Wessington Springs had highest monthly precipitation total of 1.21 inches, while Newell had the lowest total at 0.12 of an inch.

### MARCH

Temperatures continued the above average trend, ranging from 8-17°F above average overall. Statewide average temperatures were mostly in the 40's. Pierre, Huron, Chamberlain, Mitchell, and Pickstown, all reported a high temperature for the month at 88°F. Sisseton reported the low temperature of the month at -2°F. Precipitation was limited over most of the state, with the heaviest amounts in the southeast. Winner had the highest for the month at 1.08 inches.

### APRIL

Unusually warm conditions allowed for early planting of small grains and row crops. Average soil temperatures the beginning of April ranged from 44-61°F. Nearly a third of the corn was planted by the end of April, well ahead of the five year average. Temperatures across the state were anywhere from 10°F to over 20°F above average the first part of the month, but toward the end of the month were only 2-12°F above average. By the end of the month only a couple of areas had below normal Growing Degree Days.

### MAY

Temperatures remained above average which allowed spring planting to continue, advancing farther ahead of most five year averages. Since April, most areas remained slightly above average for precipitation during the beginning of the month but started to decline towards the end. Growing Degree Days were above normal at the end of May.

### JUNE

Warm temperatures returned to the state the month of June, with warmer than average conditions overall for early June. Planting was finishing up for corn and soybeans the first few days of the month, while sorghum and sunflowers completed closer to the end of the month. Corn and soybeans were planted well ahead of

the five year averages. Small grain progress stages soared ahead of the five year averages for the month of June due in large part to the early planting dates. Crop conditions remained mostly in good to excellent condition by the end of June, with the exception of alfalfa.

### JULY

Hot temperatures were the highlight early in the month with most of the state reaching triple digit highs. By the middle of July, most areas of the state were below average for precipitation, with some locations reporting up to 8.46 inches below average since October. Triple digit temperatures returned towards the end of the month with minimal precipitation, allowing for no real relief from the dry conditions. By the end of July, crop conditions had dwindled with less than 50% in the good to excellent condition, due to the lack of moisture and the extremely high temperatures.

### AUGUST

Most of August saw cooler temperatures, even some were below average in the first half of the month. By the last week, temperatures were warmer than average nearly statewide. Precipitation was scattered and limited, with nearly all stations reporting a deficit. At the end of the month, Centerville had the largest deficit of precipitation with 10.22 below average since October 1st. Silage harvest remained ahead of the five year average as things started drying up. The small grain harvest was nearly complete the first part of the month, due to the advanced progress.

### SEPTEMBER

Overall, September saw near average temperatures, with limited precipitation. Row crop harvest began the first part of the month with dry conditions allowing for quick progress. Fire danger was a concern for much of the September harvest with only traces of scattered precipitation for the month. Dry soil conditions made winter wheat seeding difficult and emergence also lagged behind schedule. At the end of September, most of the row crop harvest was nearing fifty percent complete.

### OCTOBER

Modest precipitation the last half of the month helped reduce the fire danger, but obviously was too late for most crops. Row crop harvest was nearly complete by the middle of October with only sunflowers less than 70 percent harvested. Destructive wind storms were also a challenge as farmers were wrapping up harvest. By the end of October row crop harvest was at or near completion for all crops.

### NOVEMBER

Sunflower harvest was completed in the first two weeks of the month, closing out row crop harvest. Winter wheat emergence slowly advanced throughout the month, but still remained well behind the five year average. Temperatures were right around average for the majority of the month, with minimal scattered precipitation.

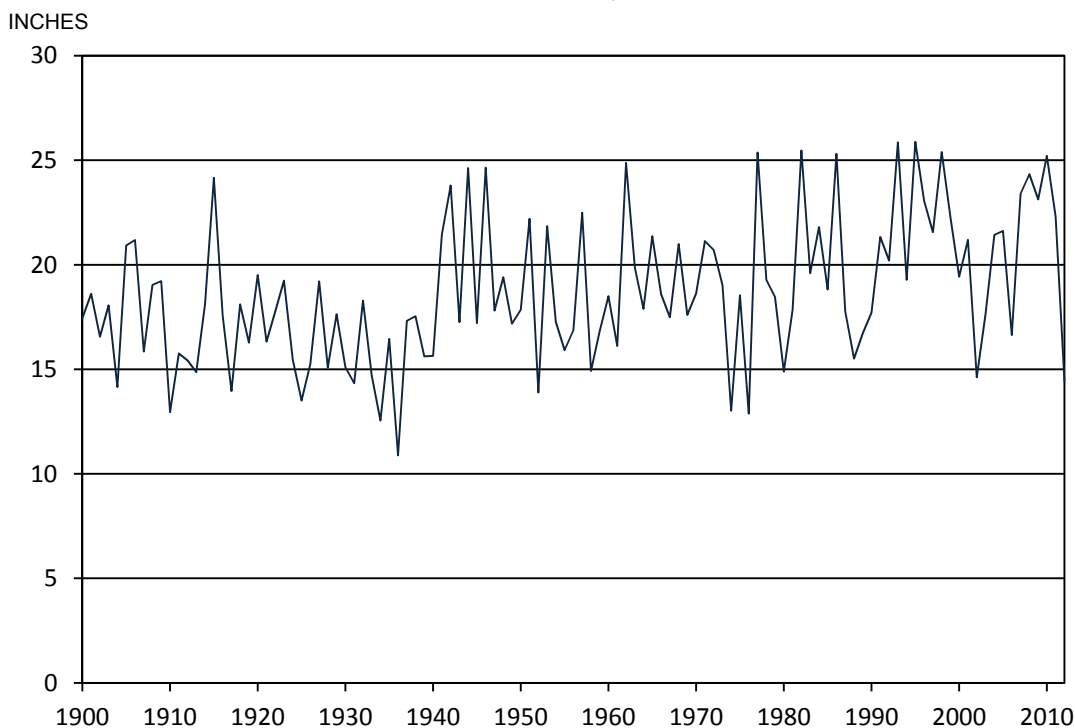
### DECEMBER

December presented some early winter snowfall and hazards across much of the state. The peak precipitation for the month was at Clear Lake where a total of 1.51 inches of precipitation fell, while Oelrichs saw the least precipitation with only 0.16 inches. Snow cover for winter wheat was rated at 49 percent poor, while alfalfa was rated 37 percent poor and 61 percent adequate.

**PRECIPITATION,  
SOUTH DAKOTA, 2011-2012**

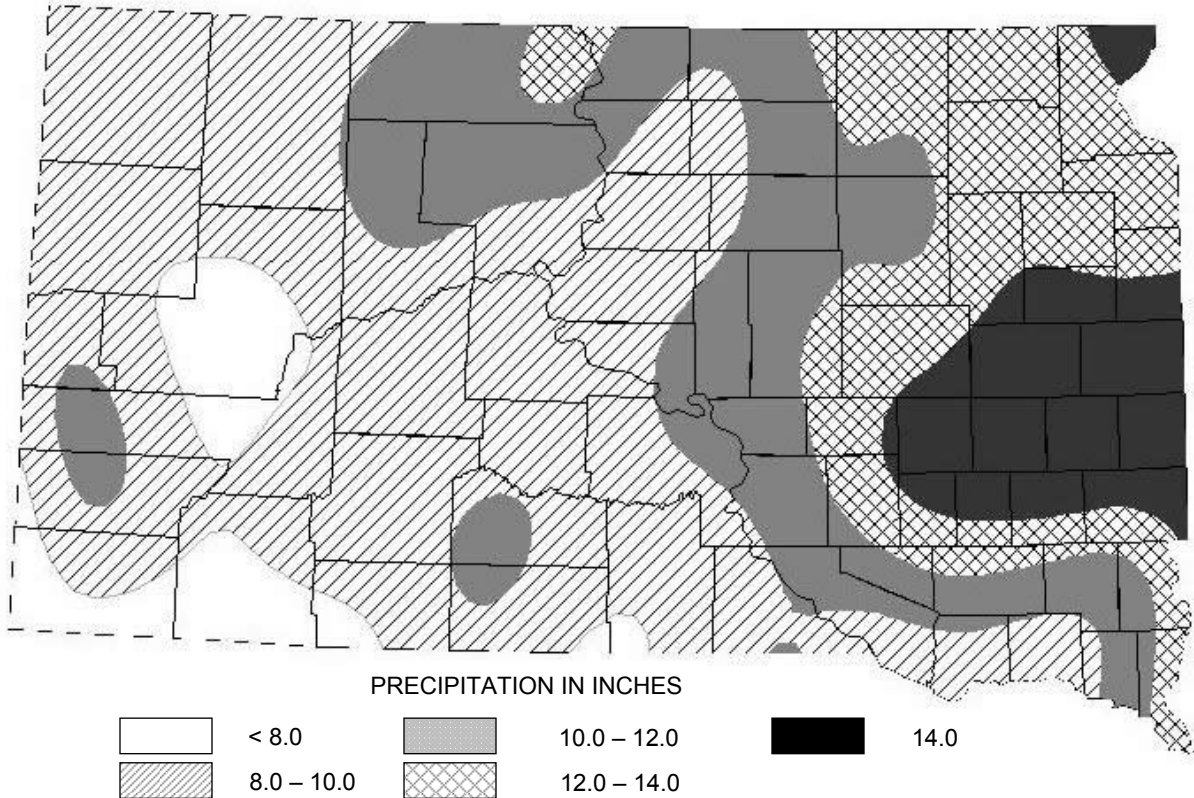
DIST.	STATION	GROWING SEASON				ANNUAL			
		APR 1-SEP 30, 2011		APR 1-SEP 30, 2012		2011		2012	
		TOTAL	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	TOTAL	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	TOTAL	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	TOTAL	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL
		----- INCHES -----							
NW	CAMP CROOK	15.55	4.63	9.77	-1.56	18.95	5.06	11.59	-3.19
	NEWELL	13.20	2.01	8.26	-3.45	17.37	2.10	10.17	-5.91
	LEMMON	14.72	1.16	10.78	-2.78	18.68	0.82	13.42	-4.84
	DUPREE	18.42	4.53	11.79	-2.1	24.06	5.80	14.09	-4.28
NC	MOBRIDGE	13.88	0.06	10.93	-2.89	19.08	1.21	13.71	-4.31
	FAULKTON	18.38	2.45	11.33	-4.6	25.35	3.52	13.91	-8.32
	ABERDEEN	18.74	2.44	10.5	-5.8	23.31	1.59	14.64	-7.30
NE	WEBSTER	16.13	-2.19	15.44	-3.15	20.78	-3.76	22.22	-2.88
	WATERTOWN	14.32	-2.36	13.59	-3.09	20.02	-2.06	18.39	-3.90
	MILBANK	20.64	2.77	14.28	-3.59	25.65	1.67	20.08	-3.90
WC	SPEARFISH	11.93	-1.32	8.59	-6.28	17.18	-2.14	12.11	-8.78
	RAPID CITY	14.42	2.17	9.53	-2.72	19.42	3.13	11.41	-4.89
	COTTONWOOD	12.45	-0.29	9.97	-2.24	15.59	-1.57	11.93	-4.98
	MILESVILLE	16.78	1.50	8.27	-7.01	21.00	0.62	10.44	-10.14
C	PIERRE	20.19	5.38	8.23	-6.58	25.89	5.88	11.57	-8.76
	WESSING. SPR.	18.06	1.32	16.01	-2.85	23.70	0.75	21.75	-4.87
	HURON	16.17	-0.99	13.49	-3.67	22.71	-0.19	19.66	-6.36
EC	MITCHELL	16.07	-2.47	15.7	-3.66	19.34	-2.18	22.22	0.42
	BROOKINGS	19.33	0.42	15.91	-2.9	23.38	-0.93	21.14	-3.02
	SIOUX FALLS	20.13	0.89	10.87	-8.37	24.28	-2.10	17.34	-9.11
SW	OELRICHS	12.97	0.48	10.23	-2.43	16.00	-0.76	13.51	-3.42
	MARTIN	20.11	5.79	8.75	-5.57	24.3	4.99	11.21	-8.48
SC	MURDO	25.20	10.56	8.66	-5.63	30.05	9.67	11.41	-9.14
	KENNEBEC	16.86	2.00	10.53	-4.33	21.34	1.71	14.26	-6.30
	WINNER	21.98	4.43	6.90	-10.13	27.69	4.09	10.45	-12.68
SE	PICKSTOWN	15.02	-2.84	9.20	-8.66	19.31	-4.85	13.02	-12.38
	YANKTON	22.12	2.58	8.46	-11.08	28.46	1.38	14.57	-13.53

**AVERAGE ANNUAL PRECIPITATION,  
SOUTH DAKOTA, 1900-2012**

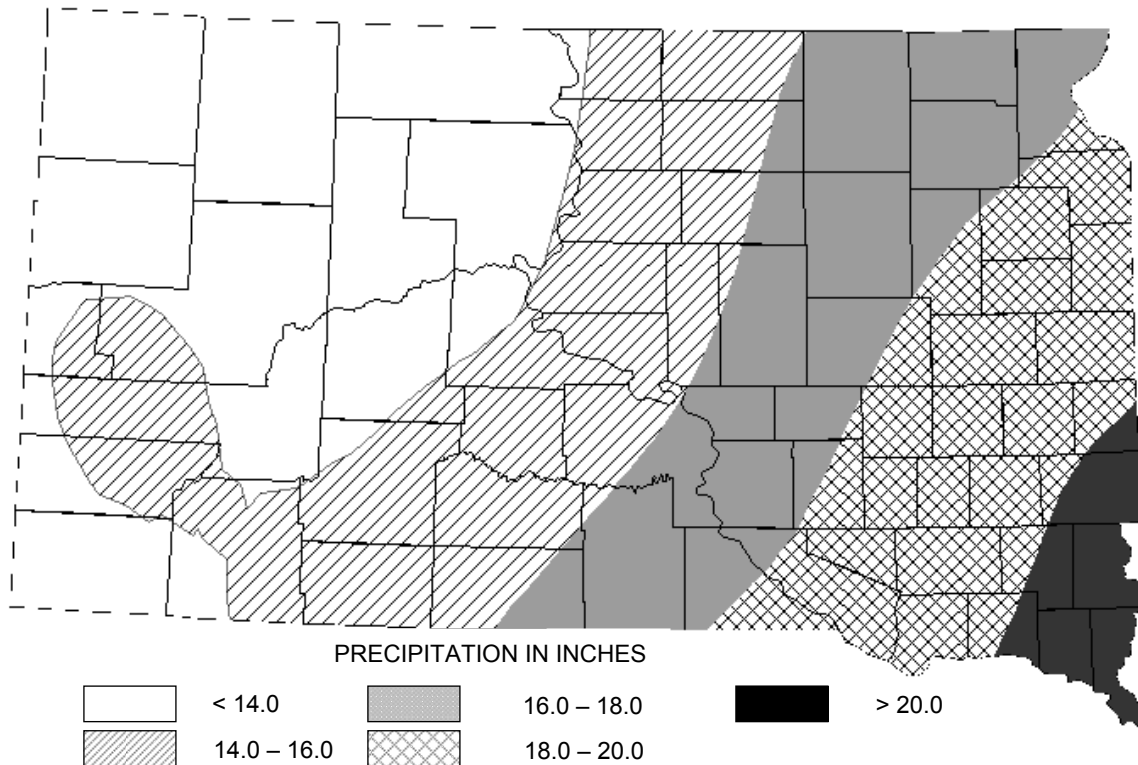


SOURCE: STATE CLIMATE OFFICE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

**GROWING SEASON PRECIPITATION,  
SOUTH DAKOTA, APRIL THROUGH SEPTEMBER, 2012**



**GROWING SEASON PRECIPITATION,  
SOUTH DAKOTA, APRIL THROUGH SEPTEMBER AVERAGE, 1981-2010**



SOURCE: STATE CLIMATE OFFICE OF SOUTH DAKOTA