WATER SUMMARY UPDATE

No. 26

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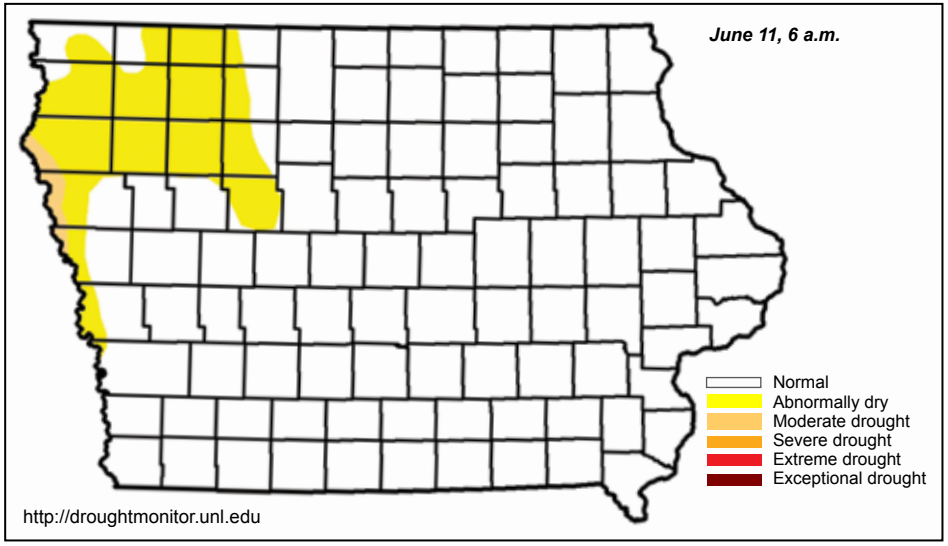
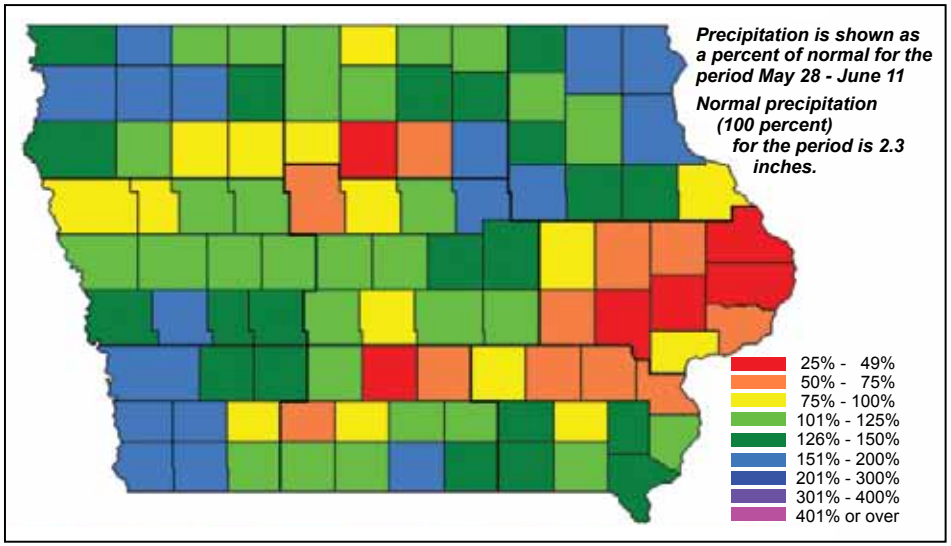
Drought Monitor

National Drought Mitigation Center and partners



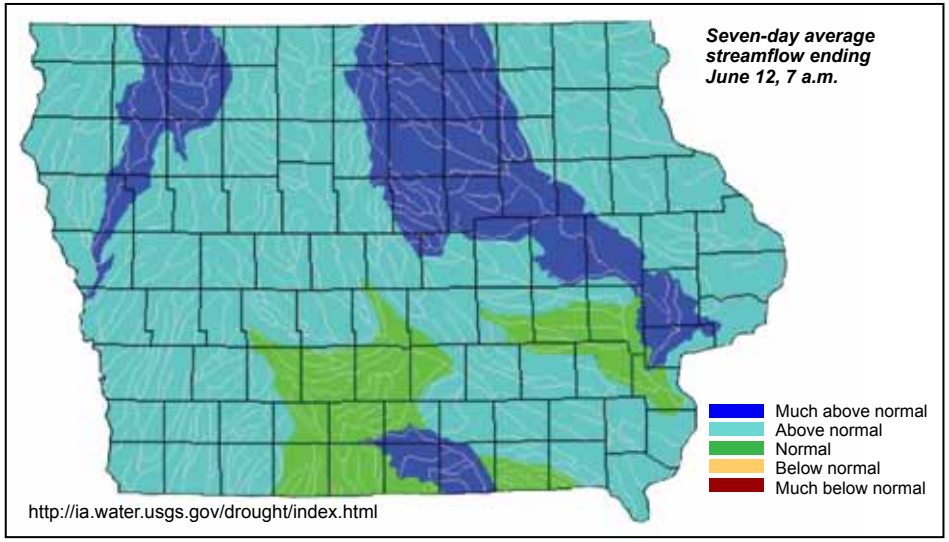
Precipitation

State Climatologist



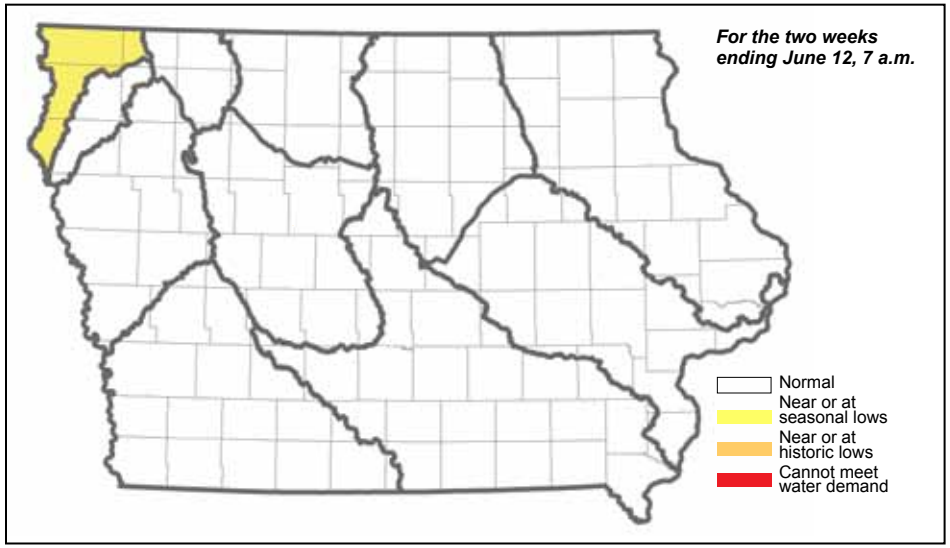
Streamflow

US Geological Survey



Shallow Groundwater

Iowa DNR



Recent Developments and Changes

Overall Conditions

The overall situation in Iowa is continuing to improve and approaching normal. While there are some areas of concern for both flooding conditions and for slightly lower than normal groundwater, overall conditions are encouraging. Rainfall over the past several weeks has resulted in significant improvement. Average precipitation was above normal, and temperatures were below normal for the two-week period. As a result, the drought designated area of the state continues to shrink, and is now only about 10 percent of the state. Stream flows are moving toward normal levels, although the majority of streams are still in the "above normal" stage. Shallow groundwater in areas of concern is improving as well.

Drought Monitor

Conditions continue to improve in Iowa, with this week's drought monitor indicating almost 90 percent of the state is free from drought. Parts of northwestern Iowa continue to be abnormally dry. A small area along the Missouri River, amounting to less than 1 percent of the state, is designated as D1 Drought – Moderate. Rainfall patterns and cooler weather have continued to reduce Iowa's drought designated areas. Just three months ago (mid-March) nearly one-third of Iowa was designated as D3 – Extreme Drought, and over 99 percent of the state was in some form of drought. Now no areas of the state are rated worst than D1.

Precipitation

Iowa's weather over the past two weeks has been less extreme than seen in recent months. Temperatures averaged 3.0 degrees below normal for the period, and rainfall averaged slightly above average. Rainfall was as low as 0.5 inches near Indianola and as high as almost 6 inches at Shenandoah. The statewide average precipitation was 2.6 inches while normal for the period is 2.3 inches. Wettest conditions were in the extreme northwest, the southwest corner, far southern Iowa and much of northeastern Iowa. A welcome area of much drier conditions extended from Madison County northeastward to Dubuque and Clinton. Numerous records were set for excessive precipitation for the period ending May 31, including those for wettest May, wettest spring and wettest year-to-date.

Temperatures have been unusually low for the past three months with 2013 a close second to 1960 as the coldest spring in 121 years. However, Iowa rapidly transitioned to a more typical summer weather pattern June 11 with this warmer pattern expected to continue for the foreseeable future.

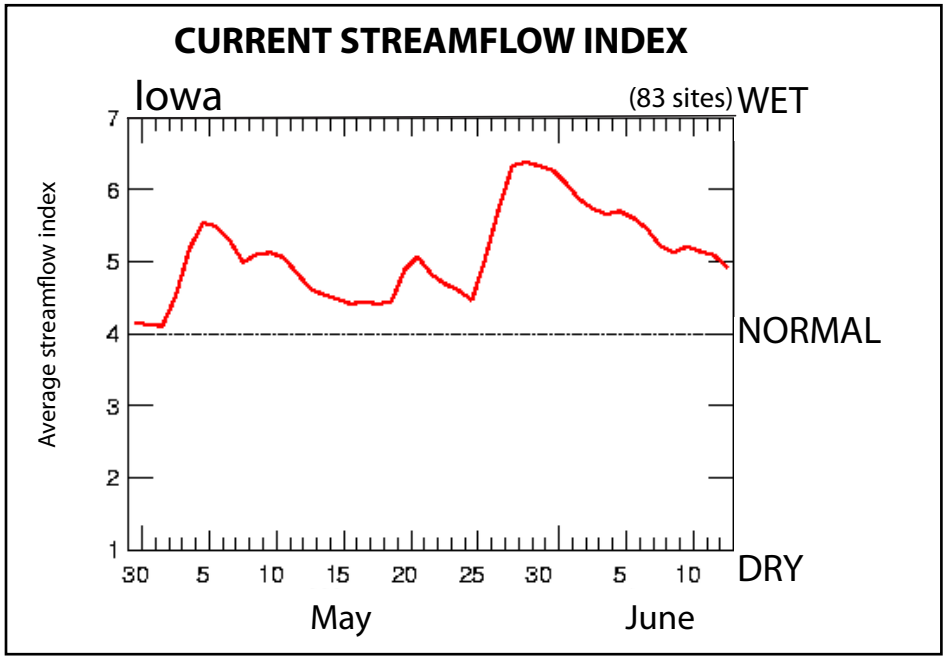
Shallow Groundwater

Moderate to heavy rainfall across western and northern Iowa has resulted in normal to above normal shallow groundwater levels in most of the state. Shallow groundwater levels along parts of the Rock River are still slightly below normal, but have risen four to six feet over the last three to four weeks.

Prepared by the Iowa DNR in collaboration with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, the U.S. Geological Survey, and The Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division.

Next Water Summary Update will be published July 11, 2013

Useful Flood-Related Information



This figure shows the average streamflow for all 83 rivers and streams in Iowa compared to the historical normal flow for those same rivers and streams. While this index was in the dry range for much of the past year, was very high after the wet month of May, but is continuing to trend downward toward the normal range. It is worth noting that this is a statewide average, so streams in flood stage are balanced off by streams with normal flow to create this graph.

Streamflow

Streamflow conditions have been stable since the last Water Summary Update, as rainfall has eased. Streamflow conditions across the majority of the state are still rated as above normal, and some areas are rated as much above normal. In areas of central and southern Iowa stream flows have decreased to the normal range.

The National Weather Service has established flood-stage levels for 115 stream sites across Iowa. As of June 13, eight sites are above their flood stage, while two weeks ago there were 38 sites in that category.

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