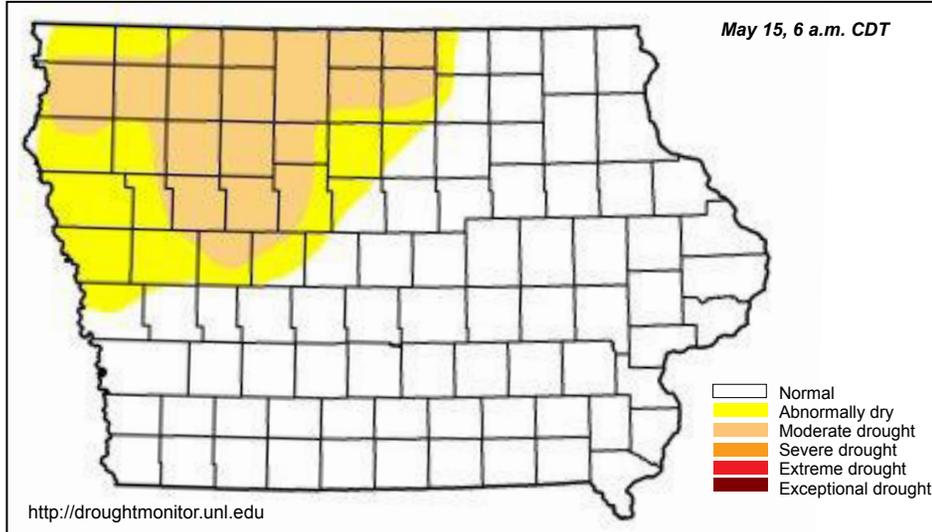


WATER SUMMARY UPDATE

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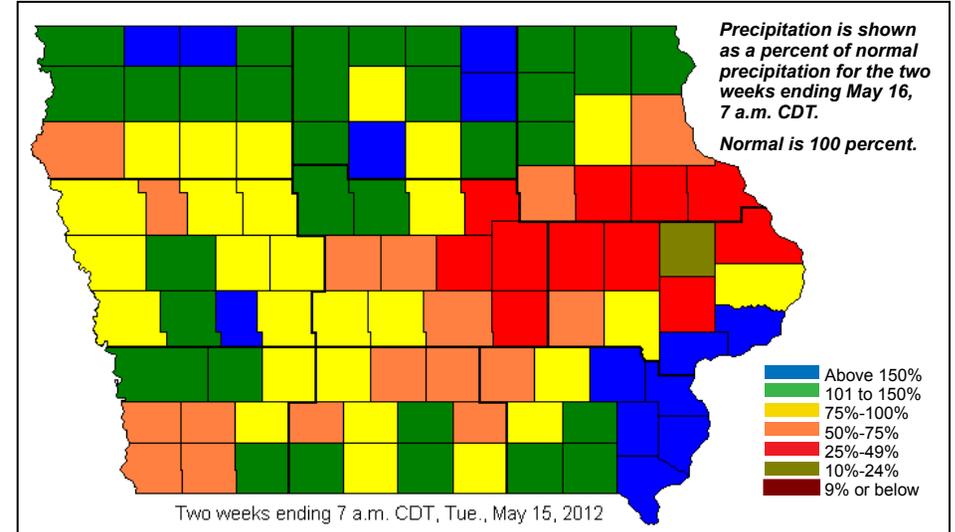
Drought Monitor

National Drought Mitigation Center and partners



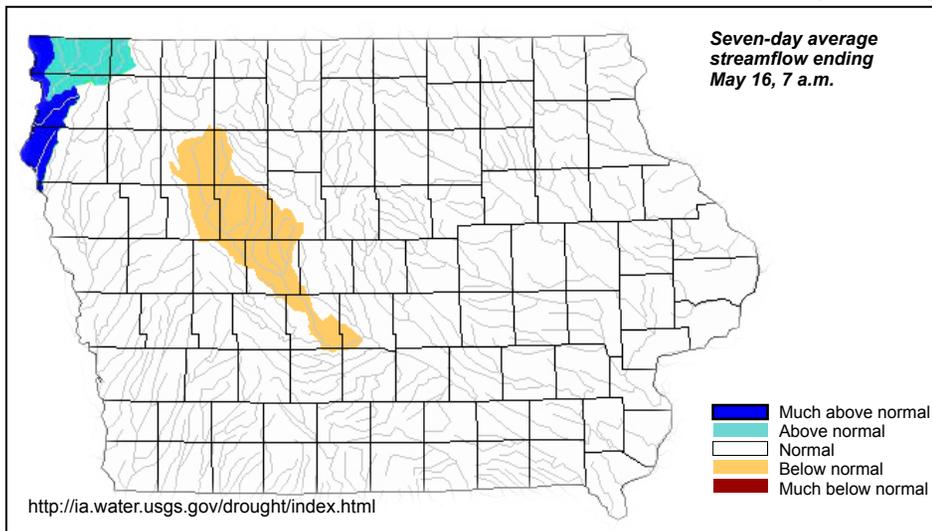
Precipitation

State Climatologist



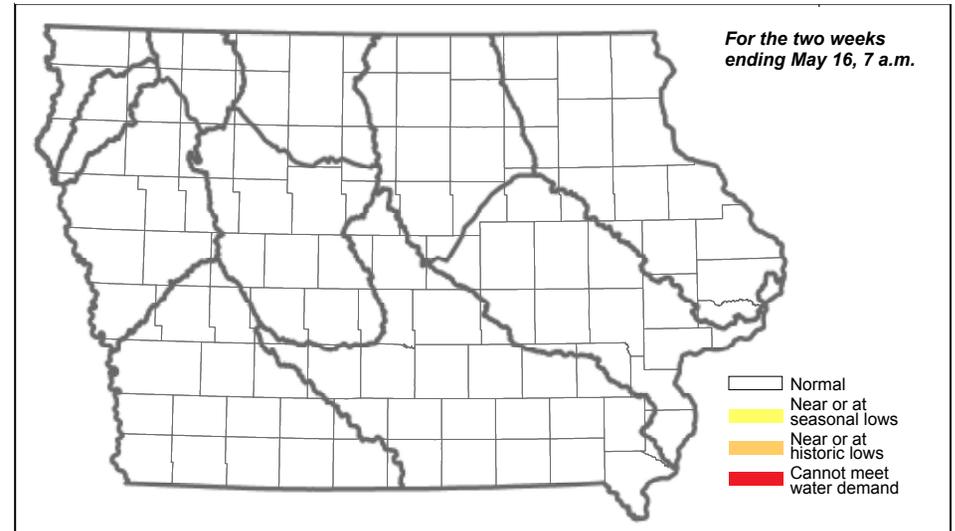
Streamflow

US Geological Survey



Shallow Groundwater

Iowa DNR



Recent Developments and Changes

Overall Conditions

Today's Water Summary Update shows continued improvement in conditions around the state. Precipitation across the northern tiers of counties over the past two weeks has resulted in improved groundwater levels in wells in northwest Iowa as well as improved streamflow. In fact, other than the Raccoon River basin and an area in extreme northwest Iowa, the average flows over the past seven days across the state are normal. The Raccoon river is just below normal in flow, and in the northwest part of Iowa there are two basins that have above normal flow.

While overall conditions have improved, the current warm and dry trend is concerning – particularly since warmer than normal weather at this time of year often persists into June and July. With warm weather comes growth of vegetation which could deplete shallow soil moisture, particularly when accompanied by sunny and windy days. Conditions will be monitored carefully and presented in future Water Summary Updates.

Drought Monitor

The Drought Monitor for this week shows improvement for Iowa. The area of southeast Iowa that was rated as "Abnormally Dry" is now rated as normal. The area of northern and northwestern Iowa that was rated as "Drought – Severe" has been changed to "Drought – Moderate." Two weeks ago about 55% of the state was rated as normal, and in this week's monitor that has risen to nearly 70%. Only 18% of the state is rated as "Drought – Moderate" compared to almost 30% two weeks ago. These improvements are significant, and point to consistently improving conditions.

Precipitation

Showers and thunderstorms were frequent from May 2 through May 7 with mostly dry weather from the 8th through the 15th. Rain totals varied from 0.19 inch at Monticello to 5.38 inches at the Washington Airport. The statewide average precipitation was 1.93 inches or just slightly less than the normal amount for the period (of 2.01 inches). Temperatures were well above normal for much of the last two weeks resulting in greater than usual rates of evaporation. The outlook for the next one to two weeks favors a continuation of above normal temperatures, while precipitation is expected to average less than normal over the upcoming one to two weeks.

Notable Events for the Period

The following observations were made by Iowa DNR and other agency technical and field staff:

Stream levels in some parts of northwest Iowa have been dropping over the past week as conditions have been warm and dry with hot, windy conditions predicted for the rest of the week.

In some areas, the tiles are running, in others, they are not yet.

In many parts of northwest Iowa groundwater and surface water conditions are improved, but not back to normal. Above normal precipitation is needed in the coming months to continue improvement.

Osceola Rural Water has seen significant improvement in their groundwater levels. The last several weeks of rainfall have raised the water levels in their wells by about three feet.

Streamflow

Streamflow conditions over the last seven days were normal for much of Iowa as compared to the historical streamflow conditions. Observed streamflows were the lowest compared to normal in the North Raccoon River, which were less than 25 percent of normal streamflow conditions. Streamflow conditions in the extreme northwest part of the state the last seven days were above normal.

Shallow Groundwater

Shallow groundwater levels across most of Iowa have risen over the last two weeks. Shallow groundwater levels near major rivers and streams in northwest, north central and southeast Iowa recovered several feet after heavy rainfall occurred during the first week of May. Stable or slightly lower water levels are being reported during the period May 10th to 17th due to lack of significant rainfall.

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