

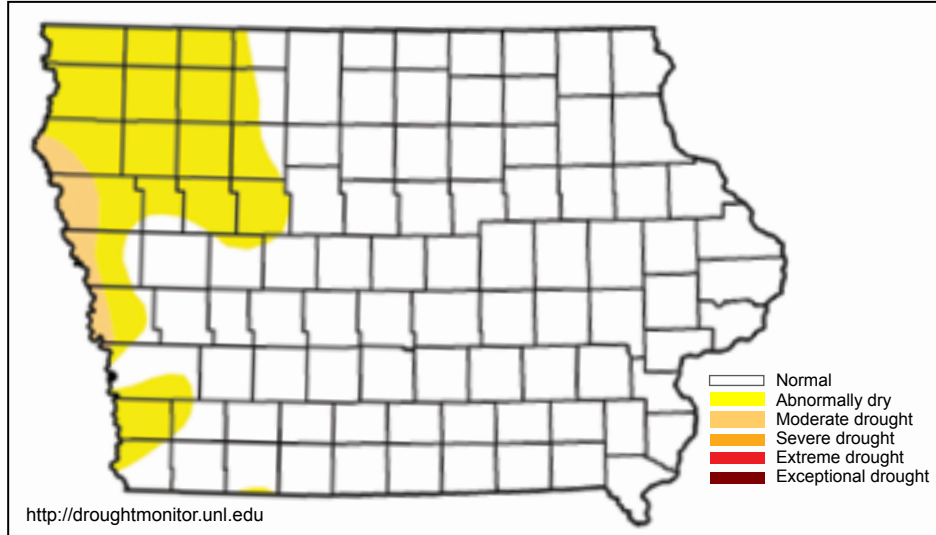
WATER SUMMARY UPDATE

No. 25

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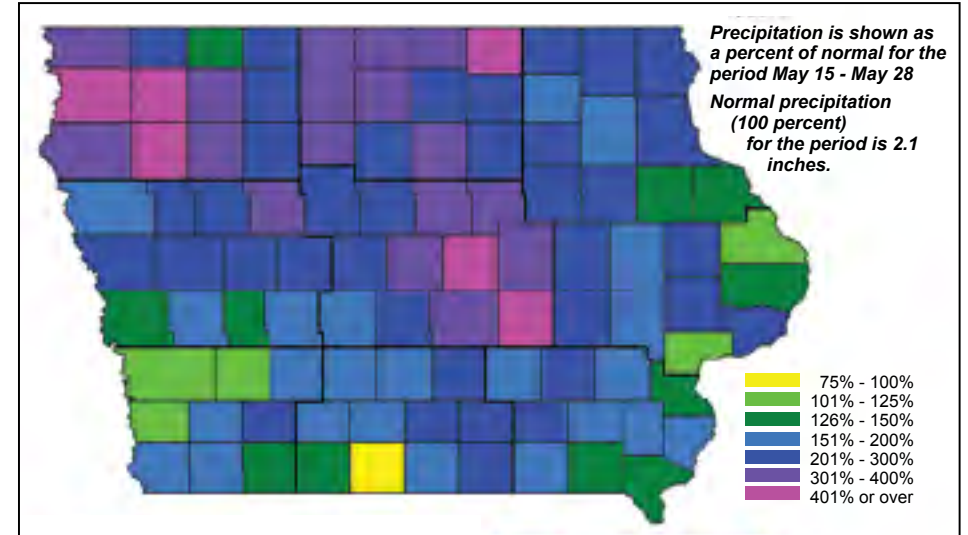
Drought Monitor

National Drought Mitigation Center and partners



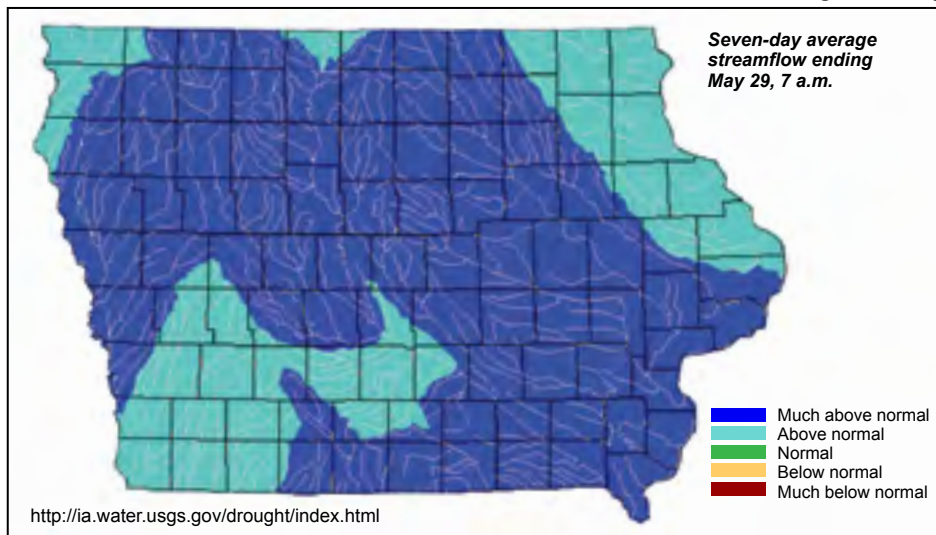
Precipitation

State Climatologist



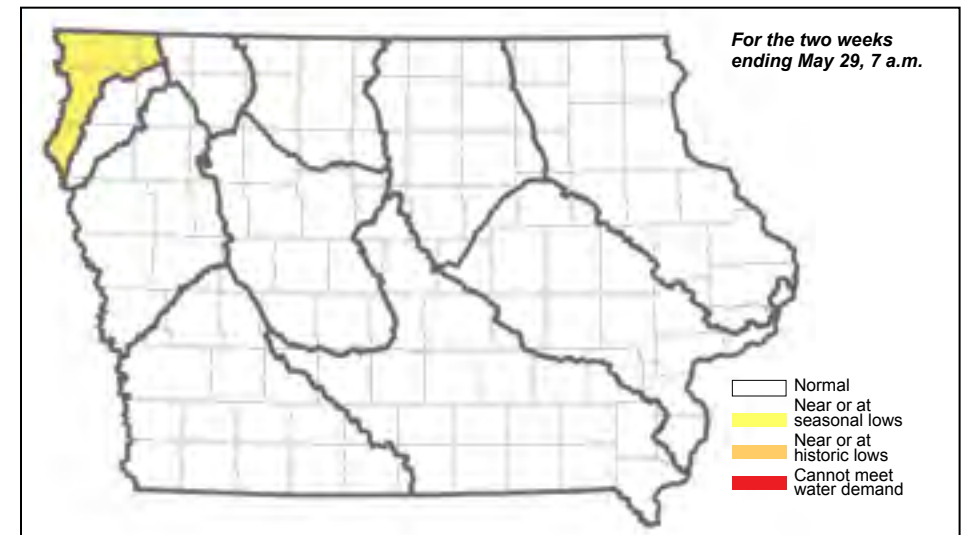
Streamflow

US Geological Survey



Shallow Groundwater

Iowa DNR



Recent Developments and Changes

Overall Conditions

Much of Iowa has gone from drought concerns to flooding worries in the space of several weeks. The focus of this Water Summary Update is on too much water rather than too little.

Drought Monitor

This week's drought monitor indicates overall conditions in the state are the best they have been since July 2011. More than 81 percent of the state is drought-free, and most of the area in northwest Iowa still rated in drought is designated D0 (abnormally dry), the least serious drought designations. Continued rain this week is likely to move the northwest part of Iowa out of drought.

Minnesota, South Dakota and Nebraska also have had significant improvement in drought conditions.

Precipitation

All eyes were on the exceptionally hot weather impacting Iowa May 14. Temperatures climbed into the triple digits in northwest Iowa with Sioux City reporting an amazing 106 degrees, and above normal temperatures persisted through May 21. Since then, the state has had mostly cooler than normal weather.

The big weather news is the frequent and heavy precipitation that followed the warm weather. Torrential rains fell on portions of northwest and central Iowa from May 25 to May 27. These events, plus several other smaller ones, resulted in widespread flooding. The statewide average precipitation for the two-week period averaged 4.81 inches — more than twice the normal 2.10 inches. Rain totals varied from 1.34 inches at Clinton to 11.57 inches at Grinnell. The statewide average precipitation has been above normal for six consecutive months. The May 2013 total stands at 7.62 inches so far, the fifth highest May total of record. The statewide average precipitation of 16.65 inches for spring 2013 (March, April, May) and the year-to-date total of 18.92 inches are both new record highs among 141 years of records.

Shallow Groundwater

Record May rainfall has resulted in normal to above normal shallow groundwater levels across the state. Water levels along parts of the Rock River are still slightly below normal, but have improved substantially in the last seven days due to heavy rainfall over the Memorial Day weekend.

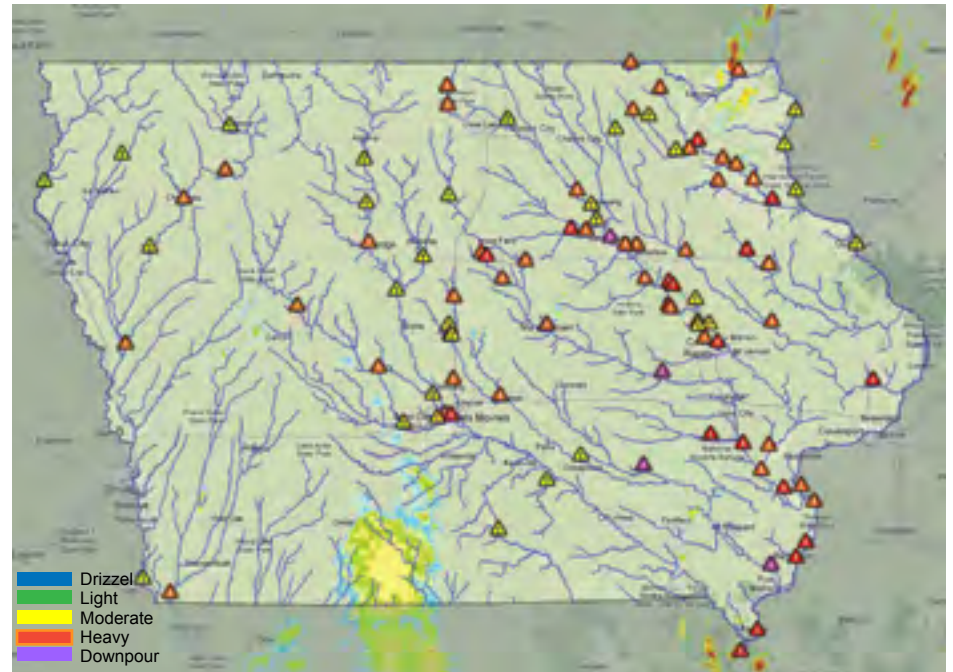
Streamflow

The many rainfall events in the last two weeks has increased streamflows across the state. The majority of streams are either above normal, and in many cases much above normal streamflow conditions. The National Weather Service has established flood-stage levels for 115 stream sites across Iowa. As of today, 38 sites are above their flood stage.

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
June 13, 2013

Useful Flood-Related Information



The Iowa Flood Information System (IFIS), developed by the Iowa Flood Center, is a user-friendly online application based on a Google Maps-interface. IFIS displays up-to-the-minute, community-specific information on rainfall, stream levels, current flood warnings and stream forecasts. Real-time rainfall maps display current conditions and past rainfall accumulation. Real-time stream levels are displayed for nearly 275 locations in Iowa. Flood inundation maps are available for select communities: Cedar Rapids, Charles City, Elkader, Iowa City, Hills, Mason City and Waterloo/Cedar Falls. IFIS can be accessed at www.iowafloodcenter.org.

Contacts

General information Tim.Hall@dnr.iowa.gov 515-281-8169
Drought Monitor Harry.Hillaker@iowaagriculture.gov 515-281-8981
Precipitation Harry.Hillaker@iowaagriculture.gov 515-281-8981
Streamflow Daniel.Christiansen, dechrist@usgs.gov 319-358-3639
Streamflow Michael.Anderson@dnr.iowa.gov 515-725-0336
Shallow Groundwater Mike.Gannon@dnr.iowa.gov 319-335-1575