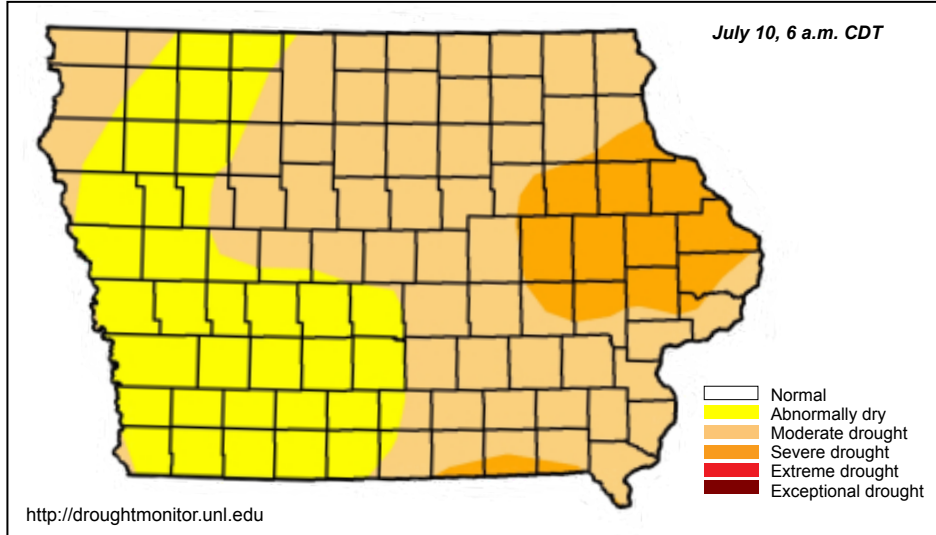


WATER SUMMARY UPDATE

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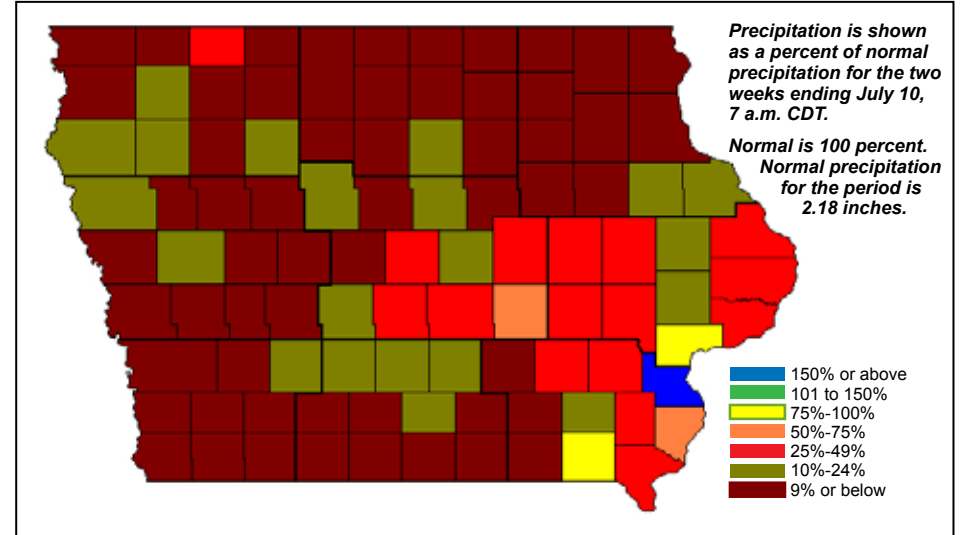
Drought Monitor

National Drought Mitigation Center and partners



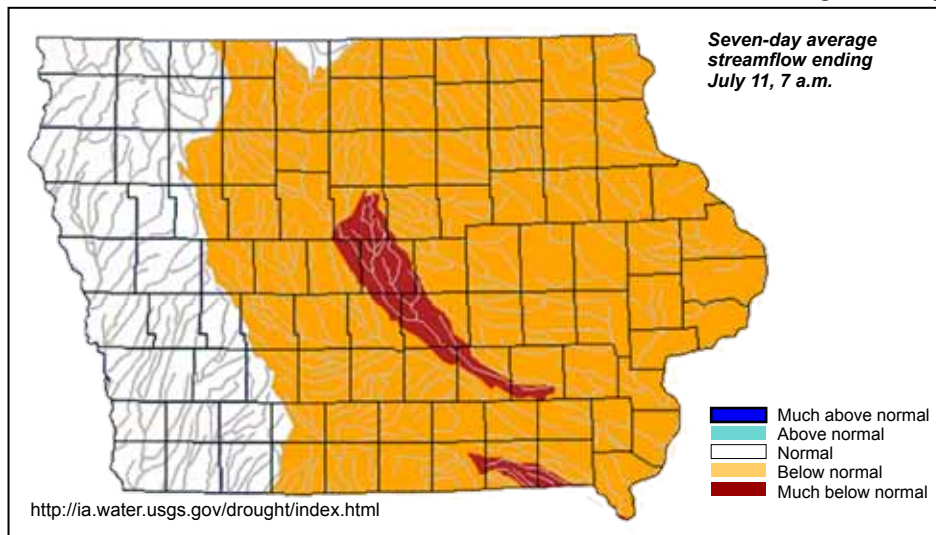
Precipitation

State Climatologist



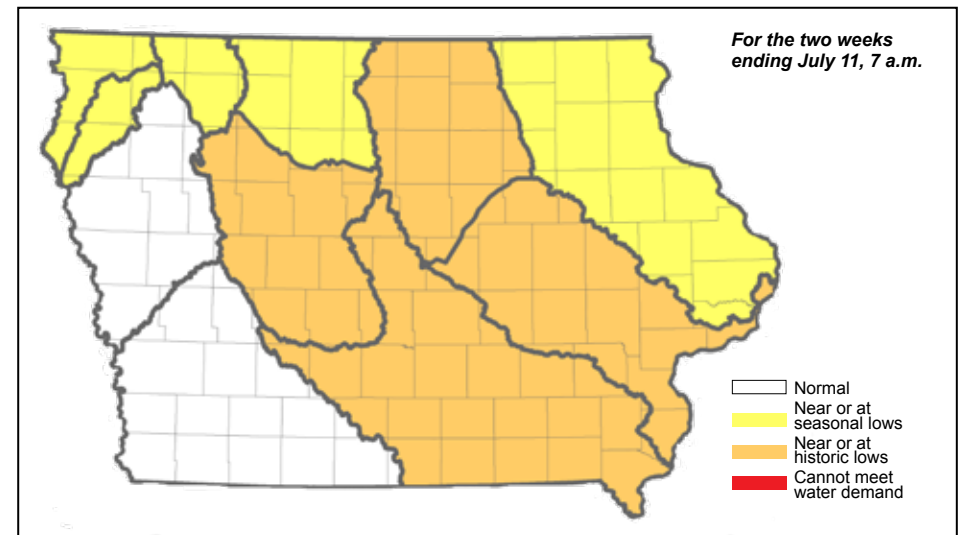
Streamflow

US Geological Survey



Shallow Groundwater

Iowa DNR



Recent Developments and Changes

Overall Conditions

This two week period of hot and dry weather has taken a toll on Iowa's water conditions. Streamflow and shallow groundwater conditions have dropped below normal in the majority of the state. The western quarter of the state, which was previously ranked as "normal" on the Drought Monitor, is now abnormally dry. Drought conditions continue to increase in eastern and central Iowa. Conditions should continue to be monitored, as warm weather is likely to persist through July.

Triple digit temperatures and little, if any, rainfall in most areas of the state caused crop conditions to decline significantly during the week. Iowa farmers not only face hot, dry conditions, but rising insect populations and treating their fields. Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey commented "The hot dry weather we experienced last week was a real challenge and showed as the condition of both the corn and soybean crop deteriorated. Less than half of the corn and soybeans are in good to excellent condition now and need more moisture. The high temperatures have also presented challenges for livestock producers as they seek to keep their animals cool."

Precipitation

Iowa endured a very hot and dry two week period. Temperatures were above normal on all but the first day of the period and averaged 9.3 degrees above normal for the past two weeks. The temperature reached a high of 105 degrees on July 7 at several locations in the state. There were no widespread rain events during the period with a statewide average of 0.31 inches of rain, far less than the normal of 2.18 inches. Only portions of Louisa County recorded above normal rainfall.

Drought Monitor

The Drought Monitor for July 10 shows the entire state in some form of drought or dryness. Nearly two-thirds of the state is rated as D1 (moderate drought), while over 12 percent is now rated as D2 (severe drought). These areas are up markedly from last week, with eastern Iowa in the worst condition.

Streamflow

The streamflow map shows the average flow over the past seven days compared to historical streamflow levels. Streamflow conditions were below normal for two-thirds of the state. Observed streamflows were generally less than 25 percent of normal streamflow conditions for the majority of the state, with the lowest streamflow conditions at the Skunk and Fox rivers, which were less than 10 percent of normal streamflow. Streamflow conditions in the western part of Iowa are normal.

Shallow Groundwater

Shallow groundwater levels in most of Iowa continue to deteriorate. Shallow groundwater along the Des Moines and Raccoon rivers in central Iowa were downgraded from slight to moderate drought conditions, and far northwest Iowa was downgraded from normal to slight drought conditions. Many locations are reporting lower trends in water levels and are approaching historic lows.

Notable Events for the Period

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

One of the streams feeding Lake Darling in Washington County is drying up with some small pools but no flow.

Squaw Creek had almost no flow southwest of Indianola.

A dairy operation in southwest Iowa stated that all six of its shallow wells were being pumped and the water levels were not keeping up. It was advised that additional wells were needed to meet their peak demand.

Coralville, in an area of severe drought, is currently under voluntary water-use reduction.

Numerous fish kills have been reported around the state, and most were likely caused by high water temperatures, low stream flows and low dissolved oxygen levels.

The trout streams are starting to decrease in flow with water temperatures rising. DNR is concerned about temperatures becoming too warm for the stocking of hatchery catchable trout.

Many landowners in southeast Iowa are showing increased concern regarding farm ponds. Many ponds have lost half or more of their depth and the potential for summer kill is ever-increasing.

Temperatures of 97 degrees were recorded along the entire lower Des Moines River over this past weekend. These temperatures were associated with a large fish kill that impacted more than 50,000 fish of varying species but dominated by shovelnose sturgeon.

The Iowa Great Lakes remain at or just above crest. Area wetlands and shallow natural lakes, however, are beginning to lose water rapidly.

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