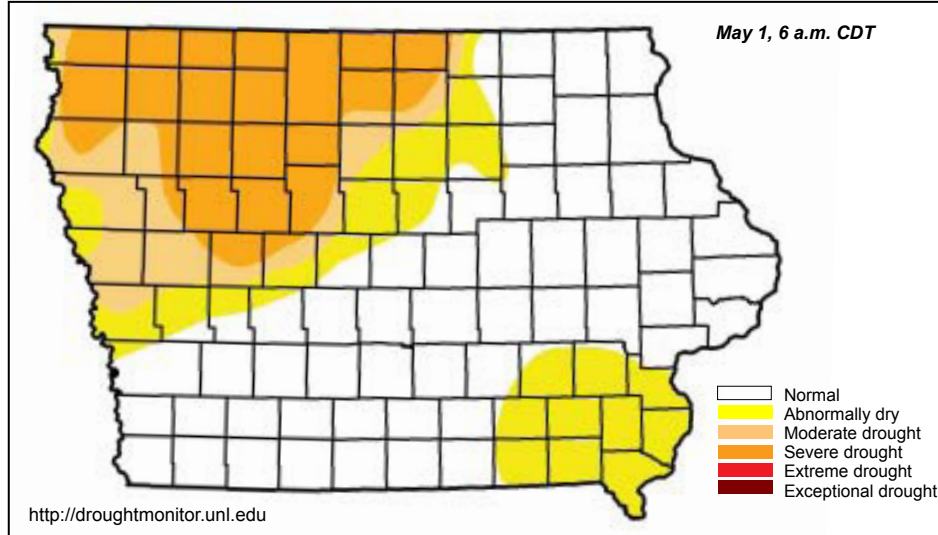


# WATER SUMMARY UPDATE

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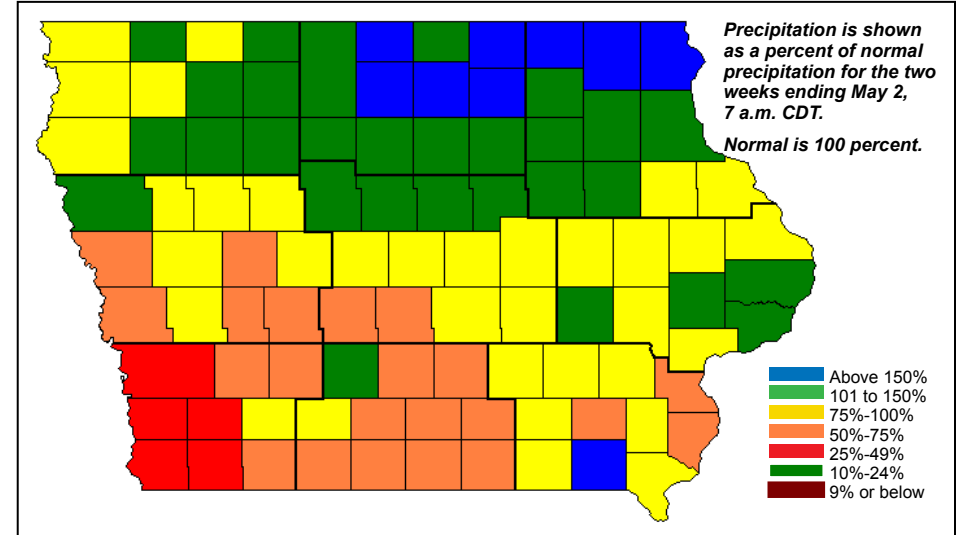
## Drought Monitor

National Drought Mitigation Center and partners



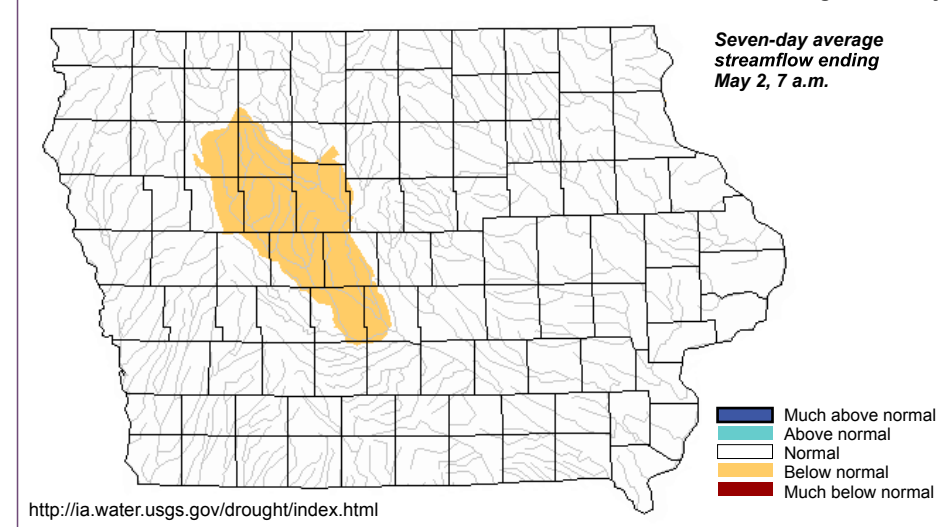
## Precipitation

State Climatologist



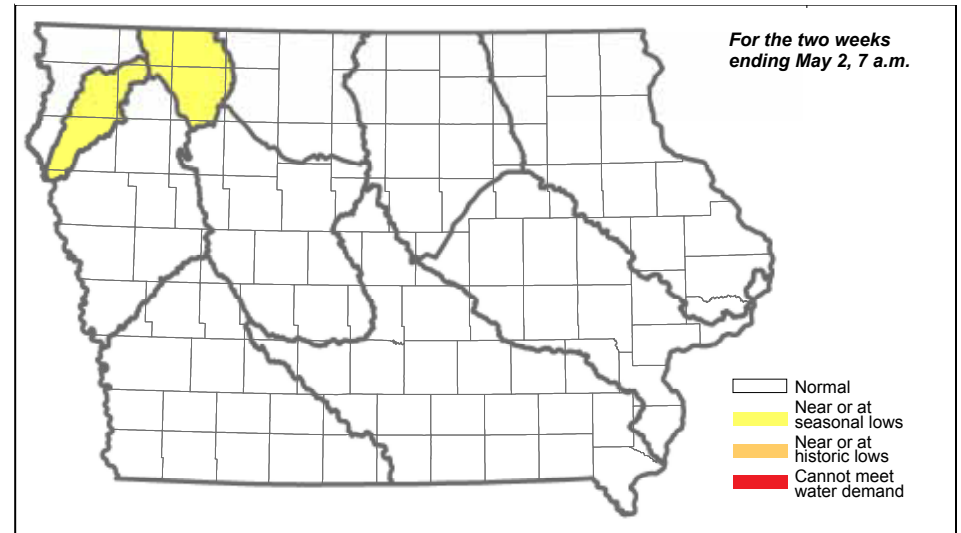
## Streamflow

US Geological Survey



## Shallow Groundwater

Iowa DNR



## Recent Developments and Changes

### Overall Conditions

Although past two weeks have seen consistent rains, the amount of rainfall statewide was not even quite equal to the average for this two week period. The driest parts of the state will need to see consistent rainfall above the statewide average in order to make long-term progress in drought improvement. Shallow groundwater levels and stream flows are improving—benefitting from recent rainfall. While conditions are certainly improving, recovery from dry conditions that have persisted since last fall will take longer than a few weeks and more than a few storm systems.

### Drought Monitor

The Drought Monitor for Iowa has changed very little over the past two weeks. The April 24 version reduced drought areas slightly in northeast and north central Iowa thanks to the locally heavy rain in that area on April 19. However, the drought area for southeast Iowa was expanded slightly further north and west. The May 1 version of the U.S. Drought Monitor shows just a very small southward expansion of drought areas over west central and north central Iowa.

Overall the areas considered in some form of drought have not changed more than one percent from last week. However, since the beginning of 2012, the area of the state considered to be in some form of drought is smaller — from 61 percent in late December 2011 to 54 percent as of May 1, 2012.

### Precipitation

The bulk of the period's rain came in three events. The first system brought rain to most of Iowa on the 19th with heaviest precipitation over northeastern sections. Another event on the 27th-28th brought light to moderate rain statewide. Finally, a third event on the 29th brought rain to all but far northwest Iowa. Rain totals varied from 0.80 inch at Sidney to 3.83 inches at Cresco. The statewide average precipitation was 1.81 inches or just barely less than the normal for the period of 1.86 inches.

Warmer and wetter than normal weather is expected to dominate the state through Sunday, May 6 with a trend towards cooler and drier weather for the week after.

### Streamflow

Streamflow conditions for the last seven days are normal for much of Iowa in comparison to average streamflow conditions for the same time of the year. Observed streamflows are below normal in the Raccoon River and parts of the Des Moines River. Streamflows in southwest part of Iowa which were above normal two weeks ago, have returned to normal levels. ►

## Notable Events for the Period

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

In Lyon County on April 30, streams and rivers were all flowing quite well and were about one-third full. Quite a few tiles were observed and none found to be running. That area received a lot of rain Tuesday night, so conditions may have improved.

In general, stream levels in northwest Iowa have improved due to the widespread rainfall, and some tile lines are now running.

For 2012 to date, the statewide precipitation has been just over 8 inches, while the statewide average for this period is just under 8 inches. In other words, the drought conditions that parts of Iowa are experiencing result from how warm and dry it was late summer through the end of 2011, and are not a result of 2012 weather. We still need to catch up on our rainfall.

### Shallow Groundwater

Shallow groundwater levels throughout Iowa benefited from the rainfall that occurred over the past two weeks. Shallow groundwater levels recovered approximately 1 to 1.3 feet in the Floyd River watershed in northwest Iowa, but continue to be historically low. Shallow groundwater levels along the Rock/Big Sioux River recovered 2 to 4 feet, and have returned to near normal conditions. Shallow groundwater levels along the Ocheyedon and upper Little Sioux rivers continue to be at or near seasonal lows.

## 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

*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.*