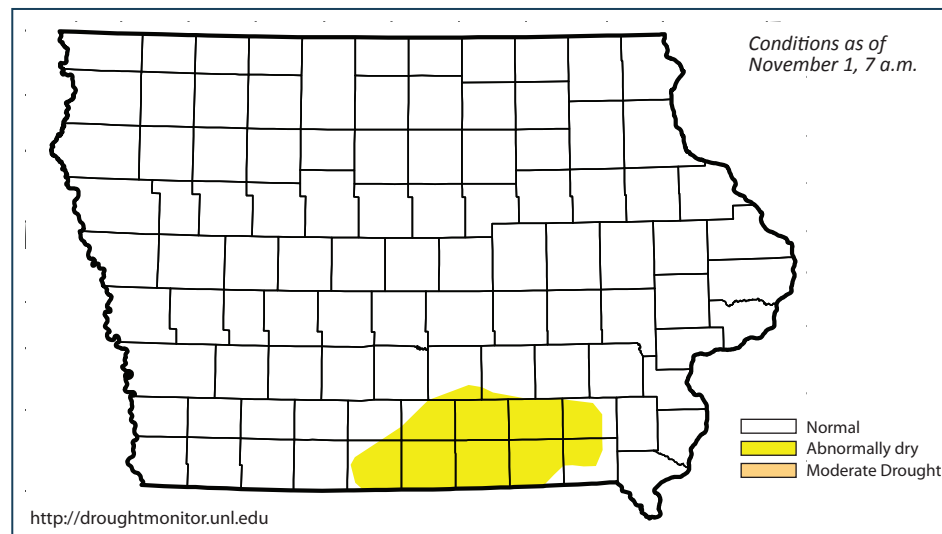


WATER SUMMARY UPDATE

PUBLISHED DATE
NOVEMBER 3, 2016

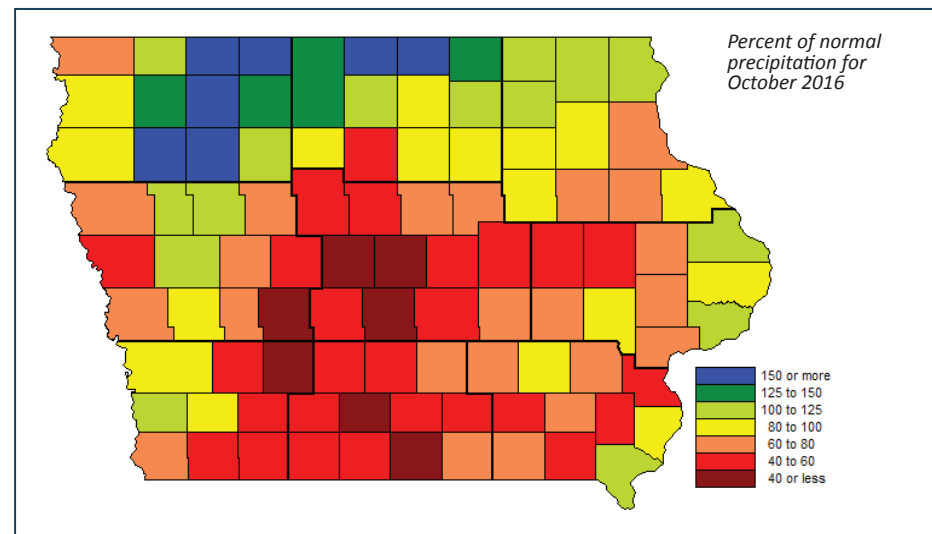
Drought Monitor

National Drought Mitigation Center and partners



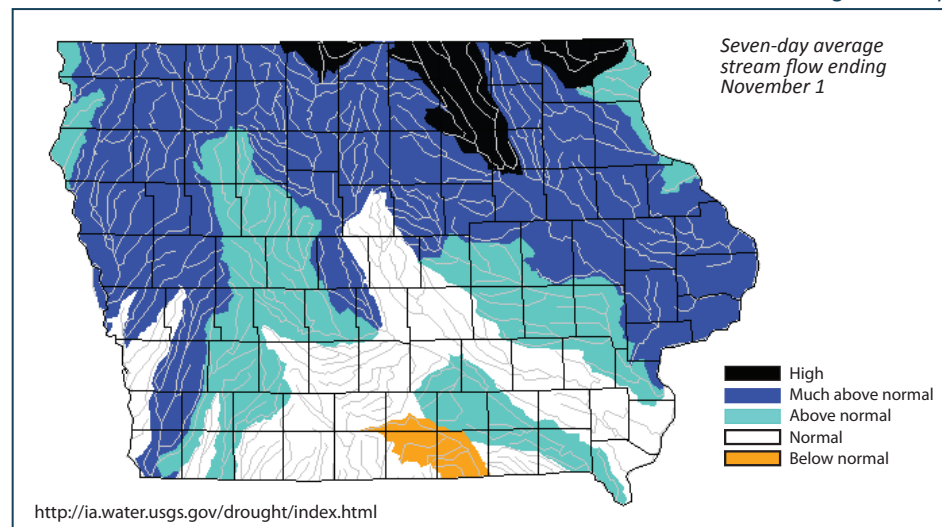
Precipitation

State Climatologist



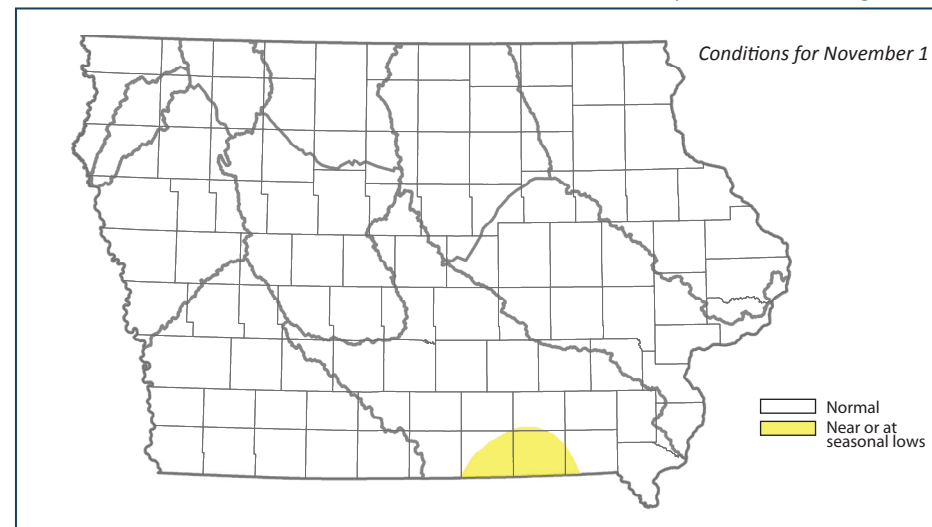
Stream Flow

US Geological Survey



Shallow Groundwater

Iowa DNR and IHR-Hydrosience and Engineering



RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AND CHANGES

SUMMARY

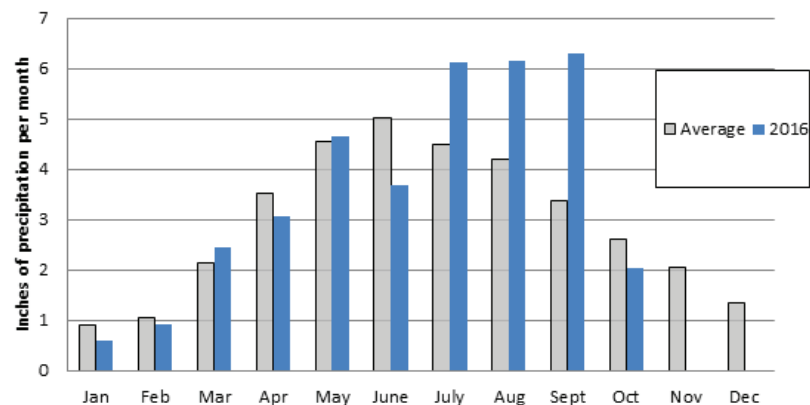
The month of October was the first month since June for below normal rainfall in the state. Despite this drier than normal month, stream flows remain high over much of Iowa, and groundwater conditions are predominantly good. There is only a small area of the state rated as Abnormally Dry – D0 in the National Drought Monitor. Iowa is now headed into the driest four months of the year, and also typically the most hydrologically stable time for the state as well.

PRECIPITATION:

Statewide average precipitation during October was just over 2 inches, or about 0.6 inches less than normal. A small area at Keokuk experienced a localized downpour of nearly five inches of rain on October 5, which pushed their monthly total to nearly 7 inches. Otherwise, unlike the previous four months, there were not any widespread excessive rain events in Iowa during the past month. Driest areas in October were across central and south central Iowa where monthly rain totals were under an inch with the lowest October amount reported from Gilbert in Story County of 0.54 inches. North central and northeast Iowa, which had seen exceptionally heavy rains in the previous two months, finally received a very welcome period of mostly dry weather from the last week of September until October 25 when widespread rains of 1.5 to 3.0 inches returned to that area.

This was the warmest October since 2007 with temperatures averaging 4.5 degrees above normal. While a hard freeze on October 13 ended the growing season over much of the northwest two-thirds of the state there remain some areas in extreme eastern and southeast Iowa, plus the Des Moines metro area, where a freeze has yet to occur.

2016 Iowa Statewide Precipitation



GROUNDWATER:

Shallow groundwater across most of Iowa is normal or above normal. The one exception is the far southeast corner of Iowa, primarily Appanoose and Davis counties, where the shallow groundwater levels are slightly below normal.

STREAMFLOW:

Streamflow conditions are above normal for the majority of the state. Since the last water summary update, streamflow conditions across the south central portion of the state decreased to the normal condition, with the Chariton River Basin moving into the below normal condition. Stream flow across the northern half of the state remains much above normal, especially in the Cedar, Des Moines, and Upper Iowa River basins.

DROUGHT MONITOR:

The area of the state that is rated as D0, or “Abnormally Dry” continues to persist in south-central Iowa. In fact, that area has increased from about 5 percent in early October to nearly 7 percent this week. The condition of the state is much better than it was a year ago, and remains positive headed into the driest months of the year.

NORMAL YEARLY PRECIPITATION

The next four months (November through February) are the four driest months of the year in Iowa. During this third of the year, Iowa normally gets less than 5.5 inches of total precipitation, or only 15% of the annual total. Compare this with the months of May through August, when Iowa typically sees over 18 inches of precipitation, or just over half its total annual moisture.

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