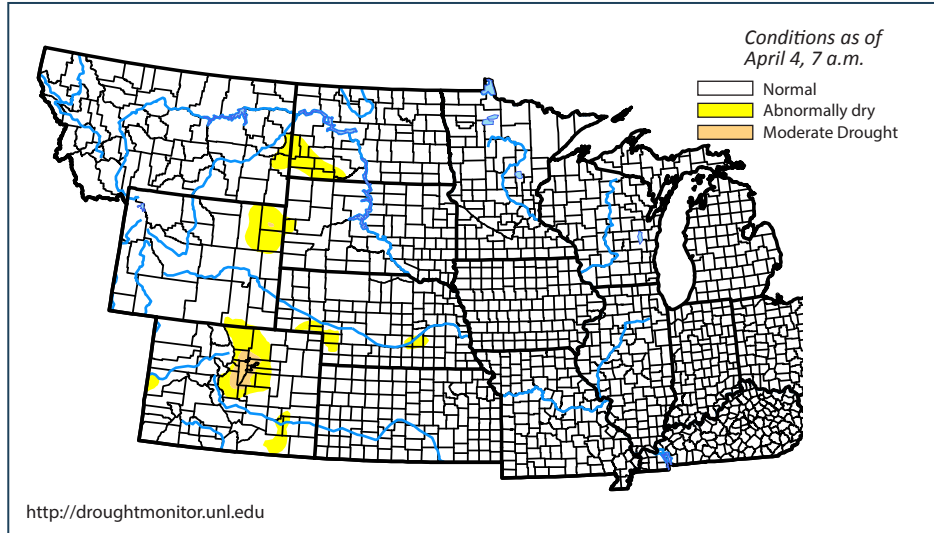


# WATER SUMMARY UPDATE

PUBLISHED DATE  
MAY 4, 2017

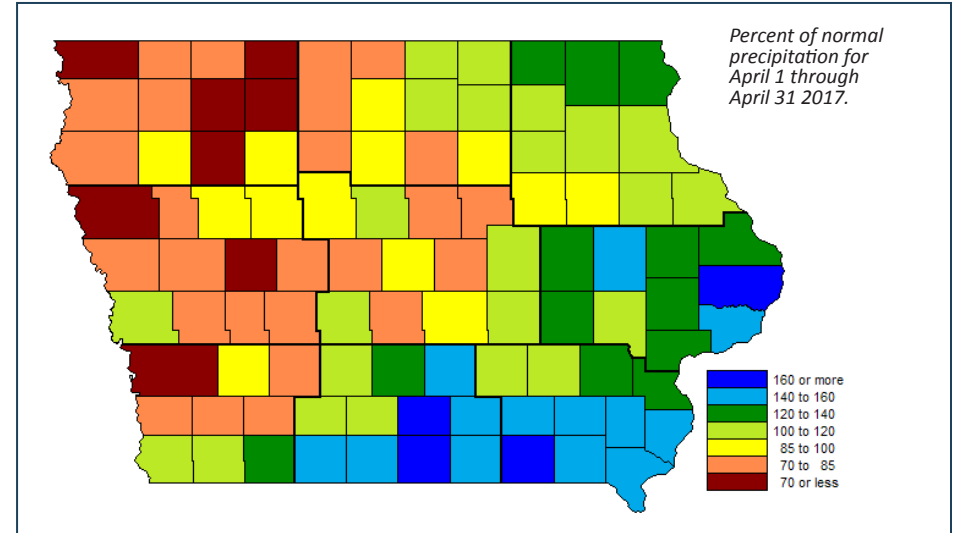
## Drought Monitor

National Drought Mitigation Center and partners



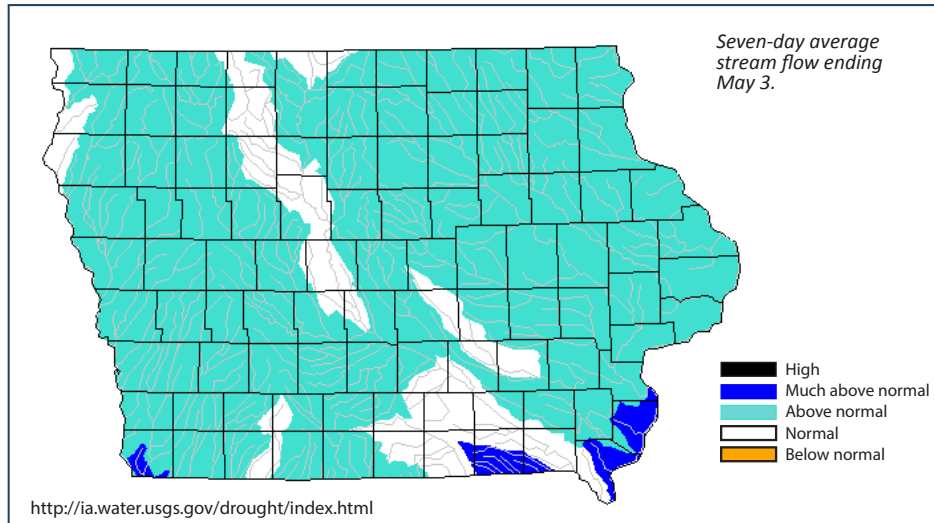
## Precipitation

State Climatologist



## Stream Flow

US Geological Survey



## Shallow Groundwater

Iowa DNR and IHR-Hydroscience and Engineering



# RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AND CHANGES

## SUMMARY

Conditions in Iowa continue to improve, especially in the areas of southeast Iowa that had been dry over the winter. The wet and cool April weather has resulted in an elimination of any drought or dryness designation in Iowa. Shallow groundwater is now rated as normal to above normal across the state, and streamflow is above normal across much of the state as a result of the recent very wet weather that occurred right at the end of April.

## DROUGHT MONITOR

For the first time in almost a year, none of the State of Iowa is shown in any form of drought or dryness. This late April cool and wet period was finally enough to eliminate the last of the abnormally dry conditions in southeast Iowa. The central region of the United States, from Montana to Kentucky, shows almost no drought or dry conditions. This is a great position to be in going into the late spring and summer months. Nationwide, the percentage of the United States classified as being in drought is the smallest since the National Drought Monitor began issuing its weekly updates in 2000.

## CURRENT STREAM FLOW

Streamflow conditions are above normal for the majority of the state, and much above normal for small areas along the southern and eastern borders. Since the last water summary update, streamflow conditions across the majority of the state have remained or moved to the above normal condition.

## APRIL PRECIPITATION

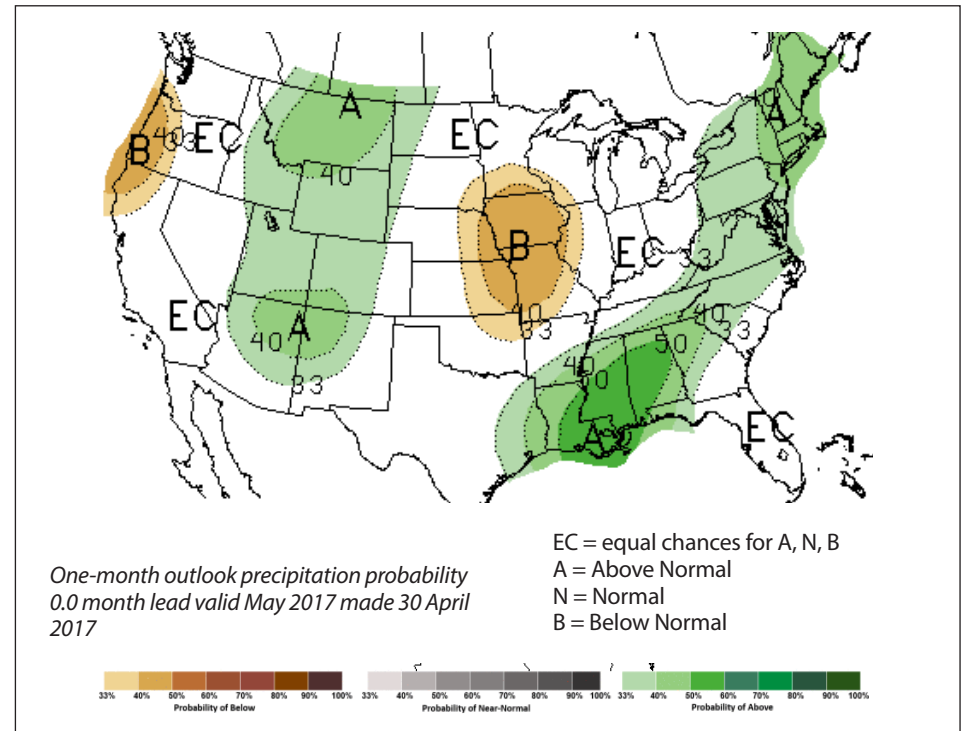
The statewide average precipitation for April was 3.89 inches or 0.38 inches above the 30-year normal. This was the thirteenth consecutive April with above average statewide precipitation for recorded rainfall going back to 1873. April precipitation was less than normal over much of northwest and west central Iowa with wettest conditions over south central sections of the state where Chariton recorded their third wettest April among 123 years of record with 7.85 inches of rain. The wettest weather for most areas arrived on the last day of the month and owing to most daily observations being made at 7 a.m., will largely go into the record books for May, rather than April. Most of April saw mild weather with temperatures above normal for 16 of the first 20 days of the month. However, unseasonably cool and wet weather prevailed for the last few days of the month and put a halt to spring planting and field work statewide.

## SHALLOW GROUNDWATER

Shallow groundwater conditions improved dramatically across southeast and south central Iowa during the month of April. The entire state has normal to above normal shallow groundwater levels.

## FLOODING CONDITIONS

Despite the recent heavy rains, the only river gauging stations in Iowa that are above flood stage are the Little Sioux River at Linn Grove, the Big Sioux River near Hawarden, and a few locations on or near the Mississippi River in Illinois and Iowa. The Climate Prediction Center is suggesting that for the month of May, it is likely that Iowa will have below normal precipitation. This indication is that precipitation could be below normal, but does not attempt to predict how much below normal the rainfall might be.



## CONTACTS

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