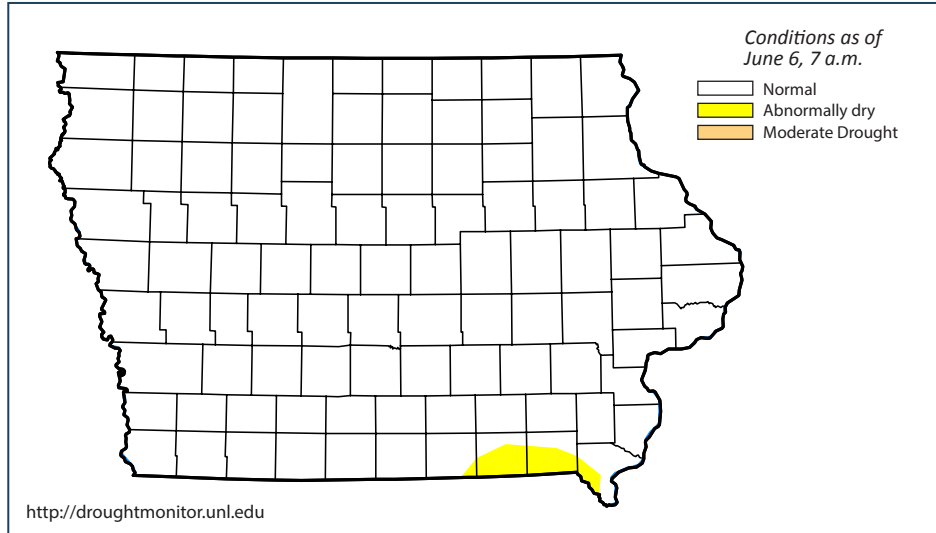


# WATER SUMMARY UPDATE

PUBLISHED DATE  
JUNE 8, 2017

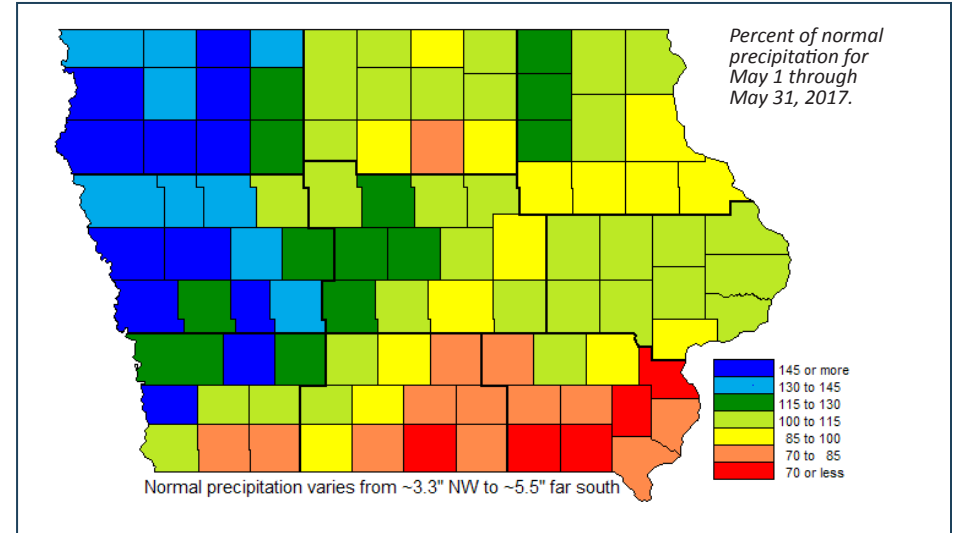
## Drought Monitor

National Drought Mitigation Center and partners



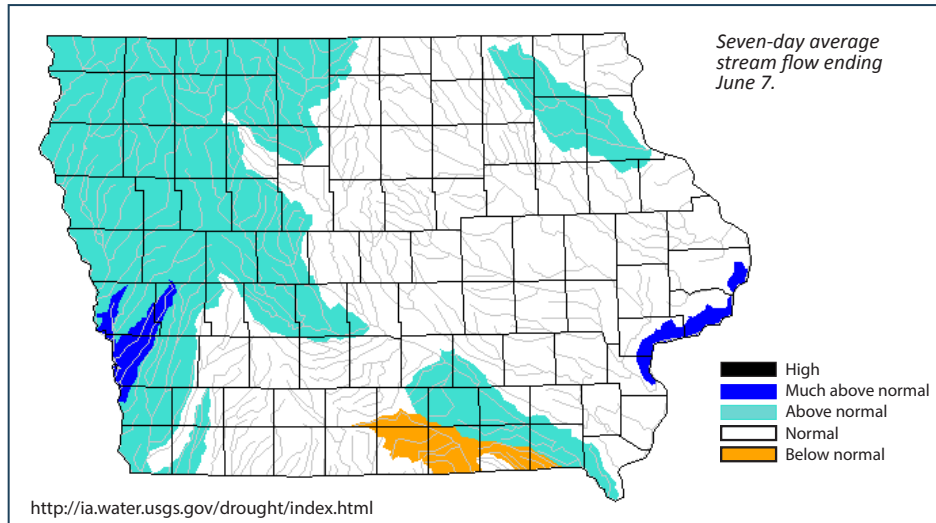
## Precipitation

State Climatologist



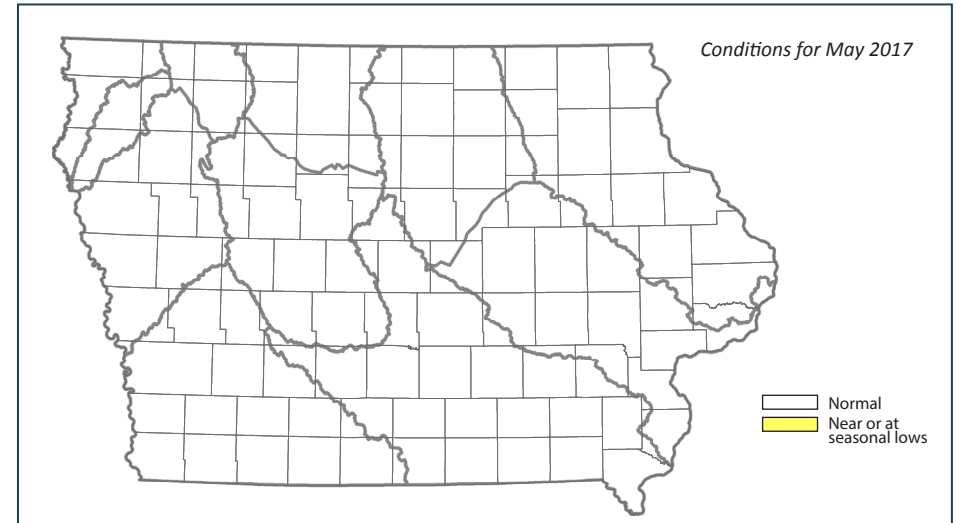
## Stream Flow

US Geological Survey



## Shallow Groundwater

Iowa DNR and IHR-Hydroscience and Engineering



# RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AND CHANGES

## SUMMARY

Conditions in Iowa are generally good – with average rainfall and average streamflow prevailing across most of the State. The Southeast part of the State, however, has not seen the adequate rainfall that the rest of the State has seen. Stream flows are generally normal across the state, and groundwater conditions are rated as normal as well. June, July, and August are the three wettest months of the year, so it will be important to carefully watch precipitation over the next 90 days.

## DROUGHT MONITOR

A large area of dryness and drought has begun to settle into the Dakotas and parts of Minnesota, but is not growing toward Iowa. All of North Dakota and 80 percent of South Dakota are rated in some form of dryness or drought. The persistent dry conditions in Southeast Iowa have resulted in an area of D0 – Abnormally Dry to be established in southern portions of Davis, Lee, and Van Buren Counties. This area only includes about 1.3 percent of the State, but will be watched carefully in the weeks ahead. Of note at the national level, recent rains in the southeastern US have resulted in all Extreme or Exceptional Drought (D3 and D4) being removed from those areas. The entire nation is now free from D3 or D4 conditions for the first time since May 2010.

## CURRENT STREAM FLOW

Streamflow conditions are above normal for a third of the state. Since the last water summary update, streamflow conditions across the majority of the state have moved to the normal condition. Stream flow in the western third of the state remains above normal, while the Chariton and Fox Rivers have below normal flow.

## MAY PRECIPITATION

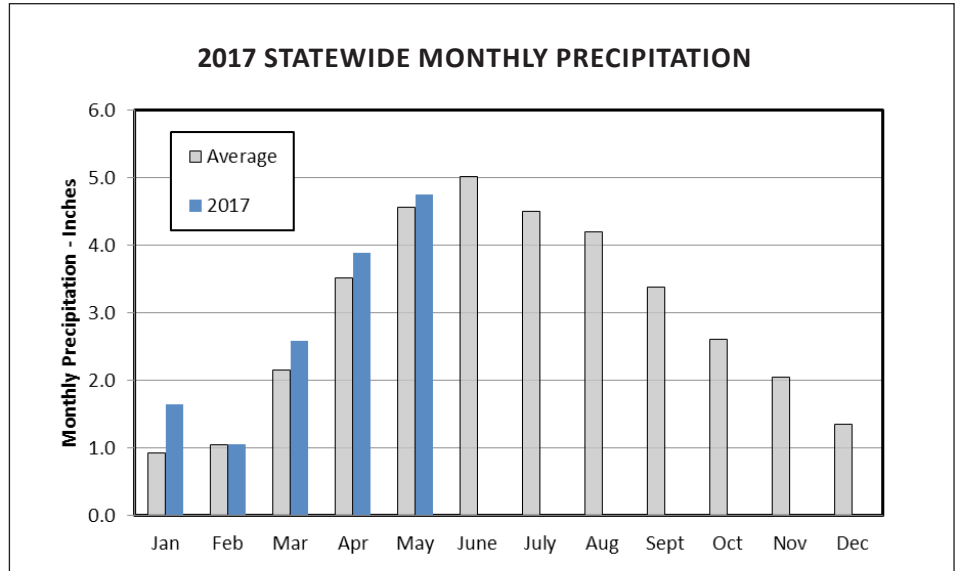
May rainfall was above normal over most of the northwest two-thirds of the state with greatest rain totals concentrated over west central Iowa. Much drier conditions prevailed over the southeast one-third with locations in parts of Davis, Van Buren and Lee counties seeing barely one-half of normal May rainfall. The month began with very wet weather, including some snow in the far northwest. Then conditions were mostly warm and dry through the middle of the month, providing an extended period favorable for spring planting. Moderate to heavy rain was frequent from the 16th to the 20th with below normal temperatures dominating the final two weeks of the month. Drier weather returned late in the month. The statewide average temperature for May averaged 58.6° or 1.5° below normal while precipitation totaled 4.75 inches or 0.19 inches above normal. Monthly rain totals varied from 2.51 inches at Fort Madison to 8.24 inches near Anita (Cass County). The three spring months of March, April and May ranked as the 28th warmest and 32nd wettest among 145 years of Iowa records.

## SHALLOW GROUNDWATER

Shallow groundwater conditions in the first week of June are normal across Iowa, but below normal precipitation across much of northwest, northeast, and southeast Iowa are causing shallow groundwater levels to drop in these areas. Additional precipitation is needed in the month of June to prevent northwest, northeast, and southeast Iowa from falling into a slight drought category.

## ANNUAL RAINFALL UPDATE

So far, 2017 has been generally following the average monthly precipitation trends for the State. Other than January, which was much wetter than normal, the monthly totals are closely mirroring the normal monthly rainfall amounts. June is typically the wettest month of the year, and in 2012 statewide precipitation began to drop well below normal from June through September. Hopefully the state will follow a more normal precipitation pattern over the next three months, which are the overall average wettest for Iowa.



## CONTACTS

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