

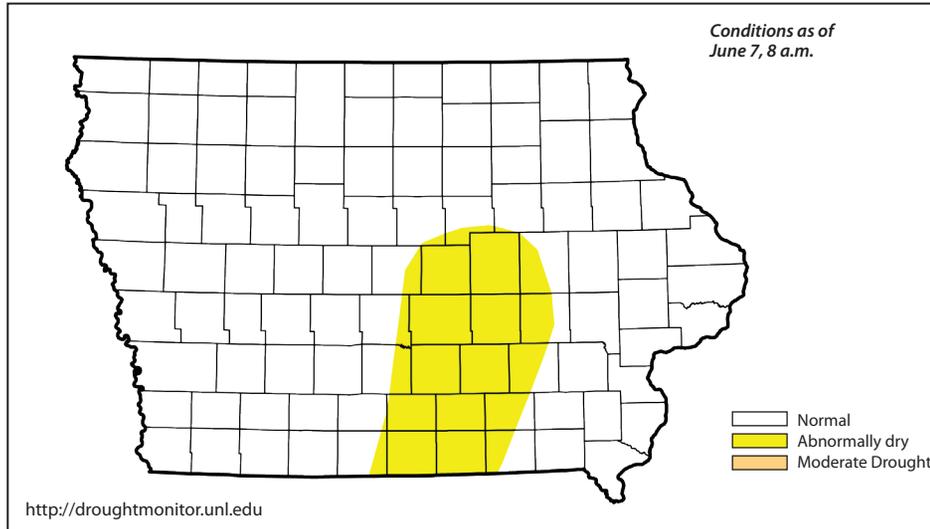
WATER SUMMARY UPDATE

No. 63

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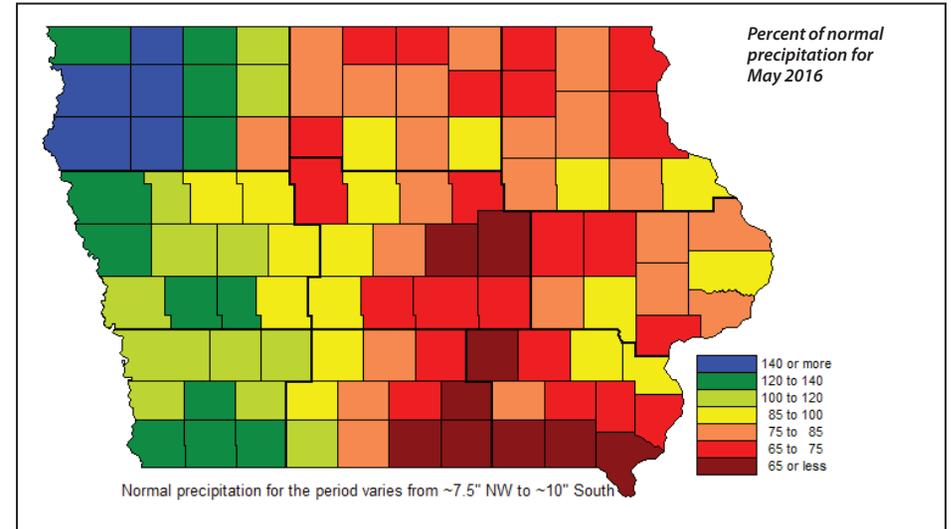
Drought Monitor

National Drought Mitigation Center and partners



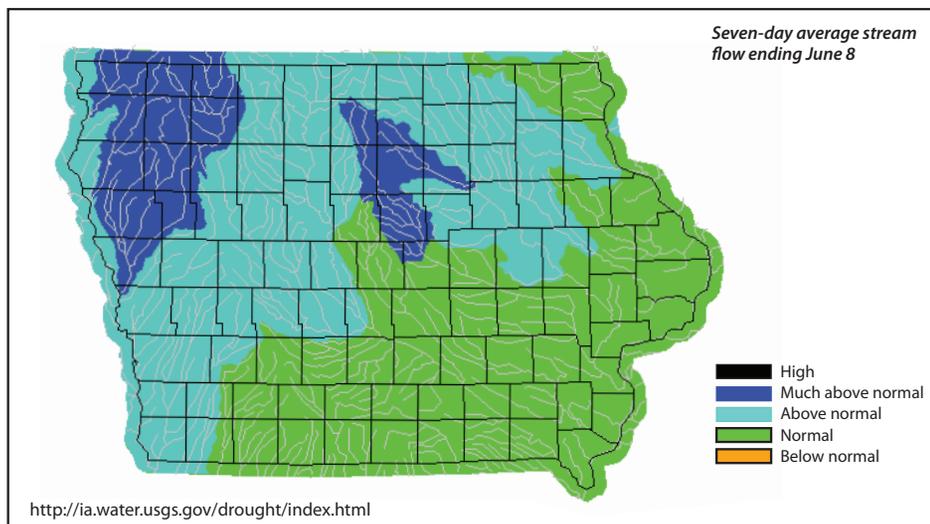
Precipitation

State Climatologist



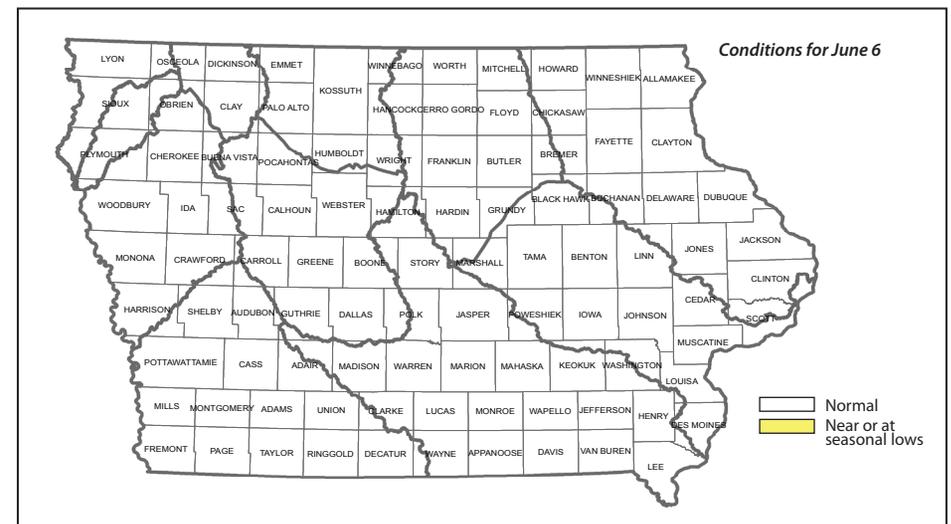
Stream Flow

US Geological Survey



Shallow Groundwater

Iowa DNR and IHR-Hydroscience and Engineering



Recent Developments and Changes

Summary:

A very wet western Iowa and a drier eastern Iowa show the variability in precipitation that can occur over the state. While conditions are generally normal on a statewide basis, the western part of the state has experienced much more rainfall than the eastern part of the state, which is reflected in the streamflow conditions as well. In general, overall conditions remain good for this time of the year. Groundwater levels are generally good across the state, especially in northwestern parts of Iowa that have experienced lower groundwater levels over the past several years. May, June, and July are the months that typically see the highest rainfall in the state, so Iowa is in the middle of its wettest time of the year.

Drought Monitor:

The National Drought Monitor shows an area of abnormal dryness across part of south central Iowa. This is the first indication of dryness in Iowa by the National Drought Mitigation Center since December of last year. The dryness covers about 15% of the state, and is consistent with pockets of abnormally dry conditions that exist throughout the upper Midwest region. The U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook issued in late May by the Climate Prediction Center shows an area of drought development likely in northern Minnesota and eastern North Dakota, but does not show drought development in Iowa. The outlook covers the period through August 31, 2016.

Streamflow:

Streamflow conditions remain above normal for approximately half of the state. Since the last water summary update, streamflow conditions across the state have increased from normal to above normal conditions. Streams in the northwest portion of the state have moved into the much above normal condition along with portions on the Iowa and West Fork Cedar Rivers in north central Iowa.

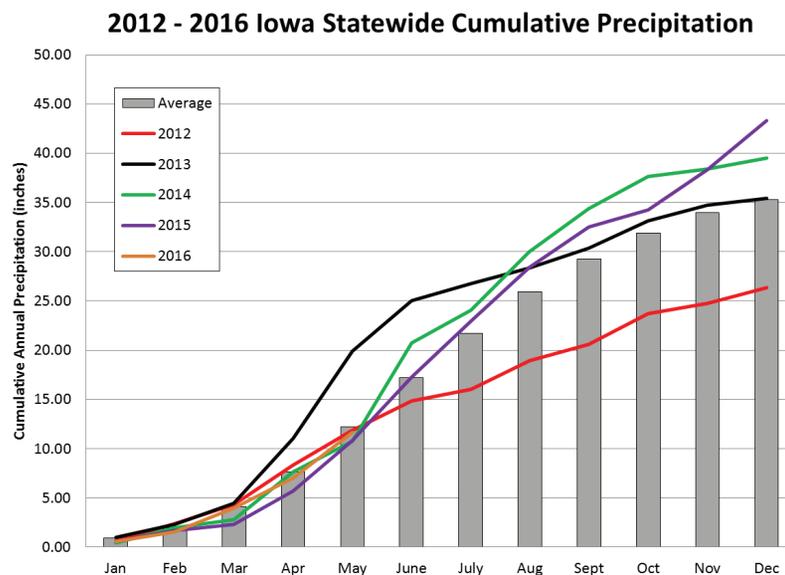
Precipitation and Temperature:

Temperatures across Iowa since the beginning of April have averaged just slightly higher than normal while precipitation has been greater than usual over the west one-third of Iowa and below normal elsewhere. The first 18 days of April were unusually dry statewide which allowed for a very rapid start to the spring planting season. The period from mid-April to mid-May brought an abundance of rain to the western one-third of Iowa and consistently less rain across central and eastern Iowa. However, since mid-May rainfall has been more evenly distributed across the state. With the near normal statewide rainfall in May, total precipitation for 2016 is slightly below normal, and much drier than 2013.

Iowa entered 2016 with unusually high soil moisture levels statewide. However, topsoil moisture levels began to dry considerably over the southwest one-half of Iowa beginning in March and spread to all of Iowa by mid-April. A wet period in late April eased top soil moisture concerns across the central and east while frequent heavy rain over the west one-third of Iowa soon resulted in ponding of fields and frequent delays in planting in that portion of the state. Subsoil moisture reserves remain excellent over nearly all of Iowa while recent warmer and drier weather is rapidly depleting top soil moisture levels, particularly in central and south central Iowa.

Shallow Groundwater:

Shallow groundwater conditions are normal in Southeastern and Northeastern Iowa, with groundwater levels much above normal in the western one-half of Iowa for May 2016. These conditions are a good sign heading into the typically hot and drier summer months.



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