

Seasonal Weather Summary

Summer 2008

Don Simonsen, NWS Glasgow

June was both cooler and wetter than normal, although there were a few locations that were drier than normal. Eleven locations did receive more than 4.00 inches of rain. This was led by Zortman, which had 7.17 inches of rain. Wolf Point had 6.41 inches, and Whitewater 18NNE 5.68 inches. Plentywood was the driest with only 0.75 inches, while Mildred 5N had only 0.95 inches, and Circle 1.14 inches. Two places reported rainfalls of more than 2 inches within 24 hours. They were Zortman, which had 2.49 inches on the 13th, and Scobey 4NW which had 2.43 inches on the 23rd.

Hot weather was almost completely absent until the last day of June. Nearly all of the hot readings occurred on the last day of the month, when many places finally reached 90 degrees, the only time during the entire month. Flatwillow and Savage had 98 degrees for highs, while Culbertson, Fort Peck and Circle reached 96 degrees.

The first half of the month was unusually cool, one of the coolest starts to June ever, as highs in the 60s were common, and very few highs anywhere even reached 80 degrees. The 12th was especially cool, with many record cool highs reported that were only in the upper 40s and 50s. Terry 21NNW could only manage a high of 46 degrees for a high on the 12th, while Westby had only 47 degrees. Cohagen, Redstone, Opheim 10N all had only 48 degrees for their highs on the 12th.

The coldest low temperatures reported during the month were Zortman with 28 degrees on the 1st, Flatwillow 32 degrees on the 11th, and Scobey 4NW having 34 degrees on the 5th.

July was generally drier than normal, with near-normal temperatures. Only a few places were significantly wetter than normal. Homestead 5SE had 3.32 inches, Wolf Point 3.30 inches, and Richey 10SW 2.41 inches. Many locations had well under an inch of rainfall for the entire month, with some not even receiving 25% of the normal for the month. Cohagen only had 0.19 inches, Jordan 0.20, and Cohagen 21E 0.21 inches total for the month.

Short hot spells alternated with short cooler periods. While there was a near-average amount of hot days, there were no significant heat waves. There were also not many really cool days, although a few places had more than 2 or 3 days lower than 80 degrees for highs. Content 3SE, Mildred 5N, and Terry, were the hottest reported in July with highs of 100 degrees. Numerous locations hit 98 or 99 degrees during the month. One of the cooler days was on the 11th, when a few places were held to the 60s for highs, with Zortman reporting only 62 degrees for a high. Opheim 12SE had 65 degrees, and Brockway 3WSW, Redstone, and Saco had only 69 degrees.

The cooler overnight lows for the month tended to be around the 12th also, as a few places fell into the upper 30s. Coldest was 37 degrees for a low at Scobey 4NW and Opheim 12SE, and 38 degrees at Content 3SSE, Terry 21NNW, and Wibaux 2E. The only really warm overnight lows were 70 degrees at Vida 6NE and Circle on the 22nd.

August was close to normal for both temperatures and rainfall. Some places were quite a bit wetter than normal, including 3.64 inches at Wolf Pont, 3.60 inches at Port of Raymond, and 2.06 inches at Winnett 12SW. The driest reports for the month were 0.48 inches at Malta 7E, 0.52 inches at Bloomfield 9NNE, and 0.54 inches at Hinsdale 21SW.

August had alternating hot and cool spells. There were several hot spells, but they were only a few days long, although most stations did manage to hit 100 degrees at least once during the month. 100 degree readings were quite common on the 1st or 2nd, the 19th, and the 25th, and a number of these were record highs for the date. The hottest reported was 105 degrees at Content 3SSE on the 25th, and at Flatwillow on the 21st. Flatwillow also had 104 degrees on the 19th, while Terry had 104 degrees on the 2nd. As in July, the cool spells were typically only a day or two that had highs below 80, but some very cool high temperatures that were only in the 60s occurred on the 22nd. Carlyle had only 58 degrees for a high on the 22nd, Wibaux 2E 60 degrees, Bredette 61 degrees, Redstone and Terry 21NNW 62 degrees. The low temperatures that followed on the morning of the 23rd were generally the coolest reported since late May, with several readings noted into the 30s. Up until the 23rd, nobody reported any lows below 40 in August. The first observed freeze of the season in northeast Montana was 29 degrees at Ophiem 12SE, and 30 degrees at Opheim 10N on the 23rd. Scobey 4NW and Redstone had lows of 33 on that date. The 22nd and 23rd set records for both the coolest highs and the lowest lows at many locations. Only a few really warm overnight lows were reported in August. Glendive had a low of 70 degrees on the 19th, and Terry a low of 70 degrees on the 20th.

Overall the thunderstorm season was quieter than normal. The major damages were caused by hail and affected mostly crops, not structures, particularly in Roosevelt, Daniels, Sheridan and Richland Counties. Overall 175 severe thunderstorm and tornado warnings were issued for northeast Montana (the average for the last three years is 289), with 115 of them verifying with either hail or wind. No tornados were confirmed this season, but there were several damaging wind events. Only three flash flood warnings were issued, compared to an average of 22 flash flood warnings over the previous three years. The drought held a firm grasp on extreme northeastern Montana as well this summer with significant agriculture impacts in Sheridan, eastern Roosevelt and Richland Counties.