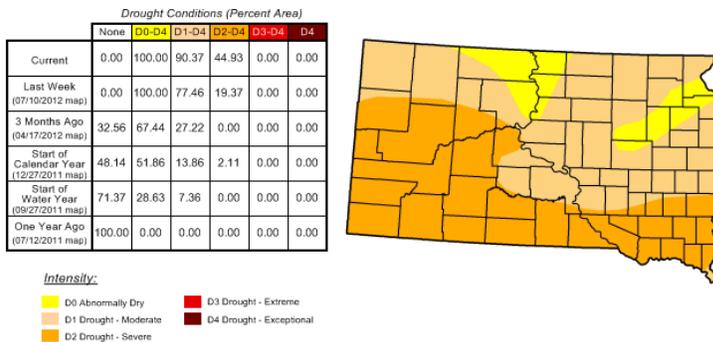


South Dakota Drought Briefing
Dr. Dennis Todey
South Dakota State Climatologist/SDSU
23 July 2012

Summary

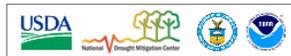
A few storms have crossed the state providing slight relief in isolated areas of the state. Generally, dry and warm conditions continue statewide and across the region. The most recent conditions on the US Drought Monitor have shown worsening conditions in South Dakota again (current map – Figure 1.) Most of the state is at D1 (Moderate Drought) to D2 (Severe Drought) because of the ongoing dry and warm conditions. No major improvement in these conditions appearing in the near future.

U.S. Drought Monitor July 17, 2012
Valid 7 a.m. EST
South Dakota



The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>



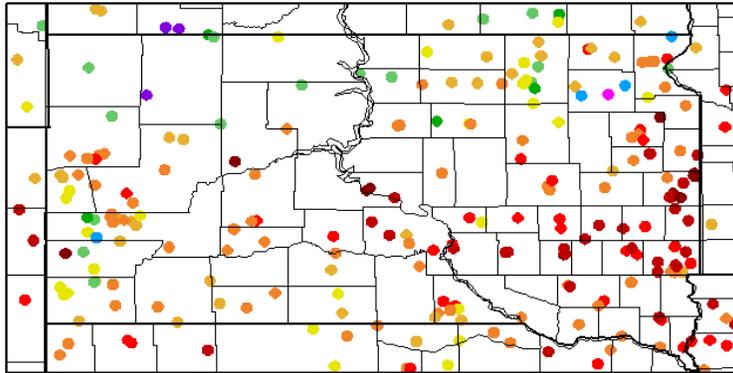
Released Thursday, July 19, 2012
 Richard Heim, National Climatic Data Center, NOAA

Fig. 1 US Drought Monitor for South Dakota

Current status

Precipitation fell in a few spots during the week. Webster received nearly 4". Several other places received over an inch. Most other areas received amounts on the order of tenths of inches or less. These amounts do not provide much relief to the overall precipitation deficits as a corn plant for example would use over an inch of moisture per week at this time of year. Much of the state has received less than 50% of average precipitation over the last week.

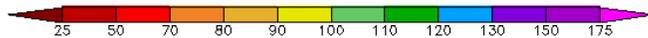
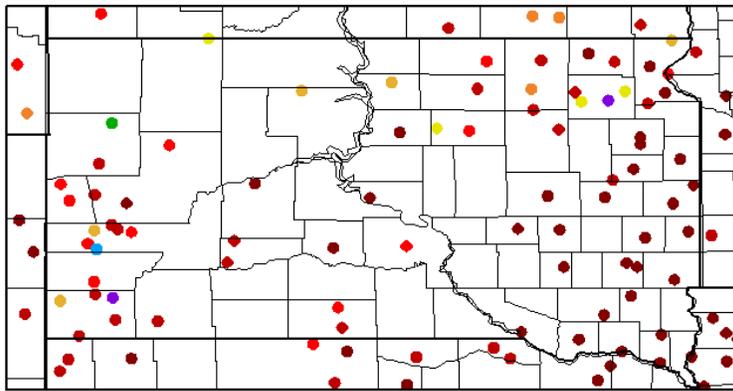
Precipitation (in)
6/22/2012 - 7/21/2012



Generated 7/22/2012 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
6/22/2012 - 7/21/2012



Generated 7/22/2012 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

Fig 2a-b. Total precipitation and percent of average precipitation (last 30 days).

Six stations in the southeast continue the driest on record since June 1. Their precipitation totals have been an inch or less during this time. This is much less than 25% of average for this time of year.

Temperatures continue to run above average statewide. This has been the trend since March 1. Data from the White Lake weather station, one of the weather stations run by the State Climate Office at SDSU, show the issue. Temperatures have been consistently above average through the spring and in the winter with several days above 100 F. The western part of the state has seen many more days of 100 F or above.

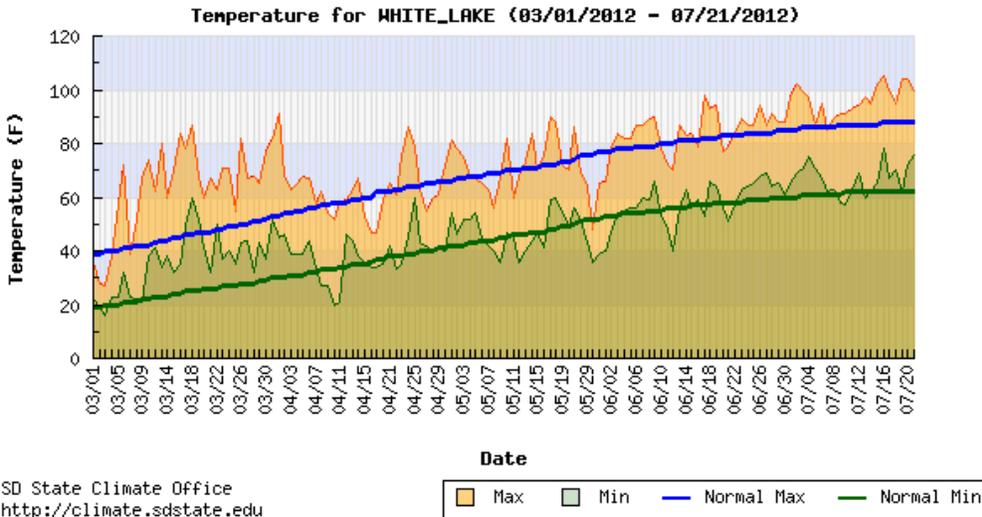


Fig. 3 White Lake Temperature Data since March 1

Impacts

Fires in the west flared again over the weekend south of Custer and on the Pine Ridge Reservation.

Water for cattle and feed for cattle is becoming shorter in supply. Even those that have water are reporting poorer water quality from ponds/dugouts. Or ranchers are having to truck water. Auction houses are reporting larger numbers of cattle heading to auction.

Damage to corn crop has been significant particularly in the southeast. Fields have been taken for silage already. Amounts of yield loss are being determined. Reports of 50% loss in areas have been noted.

Soybeans have been showing some stress, but still have an opportunity if rains can occur.

Outlook

The NOAA Climate Prediction Center's 8-14 day outlooks continue the recent trend of likely warmer and drier conditions. Released daily these maps show the likelihood for temperature and rainfall conditions. The current maps show a strong likelihood for warmer than average conditions to continuing into early August. Precipitation chances do increase slightly over northern areas of South Dakota and North Dakota

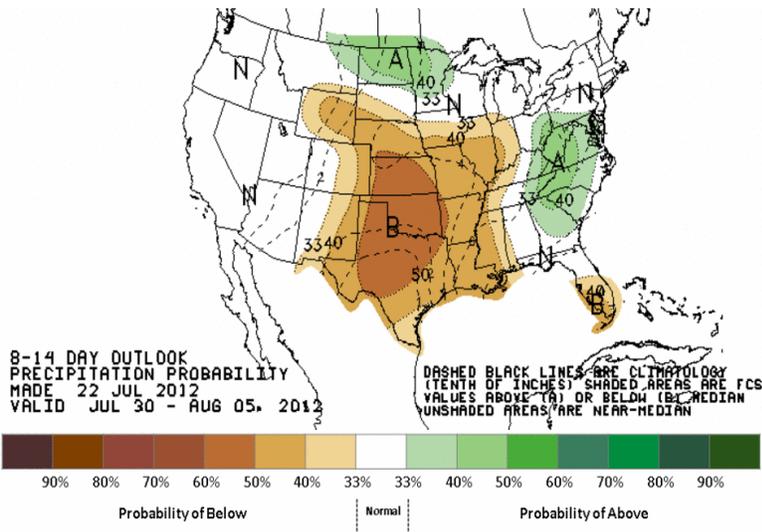
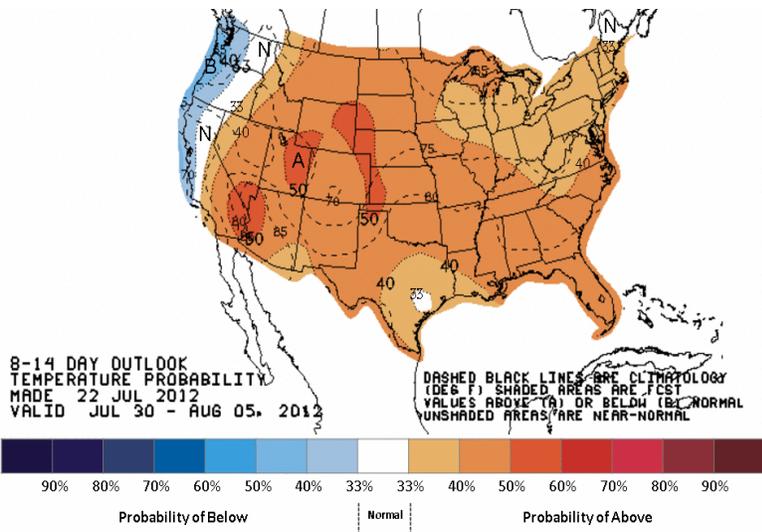


Fig. 4 a-b Temperature and Precipitation Outlooks (8-14 Day)

Actions

The governor has enacted the state drought task force. They will be meeting in Pierre on Monday July 23 at 2 PM.

In response to the continuing impacts SDSU Extension is hosting a drought webinar at each of the extension regional offices. More information is available at:

<http://igrow.org/news/sdsu-extension-drought-updates-jul-23/>

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