

# Montana Drought/Precipitation Summary

April 30, 2004

## Montana weather and precipitation summary, April 2004.

Scattered showers again fell across Montana during April. Early April brought nearly an inch of rain with snow to the Helena through Great Falls areas. Around an inch of rain fell in the Kalispell area around the 8<sup>th</sup>. Heavy snow fell over the extreme south central on the 8<sup>th</sup>, with up to a foot reported. Scattered thunderstorms across the southwest around the 20<sup>th</sup> brought ½ to ¾ inches of rain. Also during the last week, a storm brought mostly light precipitation to the state, with isolated amounts near one inch to the northwestern portion, along with snowfall of five to 10 inches at higher elevations. Temperatures averaged one to four degrees above normal, continuing a trend for most of the water year. For the water year, temperatures have averaged zero to three degrees above normal. Winds also continued to blow at below average rates over the month and water-year.

**Historical Rank of Precipitation (inches)  
for the Past Month and Water Year to Date**

Location	Apr 1 - Apr 30	% of Normal	Oct 1 - Apr 30	% of Normal	Rank	Percentile	Years of Record
Billings	1.51	87	5.09	74	20 <sup>th</sup> driest	29 <sup>th</sup>	70
Bozeman	1.29	92	3.94	65	8 <sup>th</sup> driest	13 <sup>st</sup>	63
Butte	1.17	115	2.61	55	5 <sup>th</sup> driest	5 <sup>th</sup>	110
Cut Bank	0.50	56	1.17	35	3 <sup>rd</sup> driest	3 <sup>rd</sup>	101
Dillon	1.12	118	2.19	69	9 <sup>th</sup> driest	14 <sup>th</sup>	64
Glasgow	0.59	79	4.03	122	47 <sup>th</sup> wettest	58 <sup>th</sup>	111
Great Falls	1.06	76	2.21	38	2 <sup>nd</sup> driest	2 <sup>nd</sup>	112
Havre	0.77	89	1.81	45	4 <sup>th</sup> driest	3 <sup>rd</sup>	124
Helena	1.82	200	3.51	87	25 <sup>th</sup> driest	20 <sup>th</sup>	124
Kalispell	1.61	132	7.78	86	37 <sup>th</sup> driest	35 <sup>th</sup>	105
Lewistown	0.85	62	4.21	63	10 <sup>th</sup> driest	9 <sup>th</sup>	108
Livingston	1.24	78	4.96	82	34 <sup>th</sup> driest	34 <sup>th</sup>	101
Miles City	0.05	4	2.32	47	5 <sup>th</sup> driest	5 <sup>th</sup>	111
Missoula	1.07	98	6.06	89	43 <sup>rd</sup> driest	39 <sup>th</sup>	111

For an automated version of this chart, updated daily, go to <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/cgi-bin/greatfalls/getproduct.pl?PCPNTOTALS>

For a state map of % of normal water year precipitation (updated around the 7<sup>th</sup> of each month), go to: [http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/Greatfalls/txf.php?TEXT+wateryear\\_percent.html](http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/Greatfalls/txf.php?TEXT+wateryear_percent.html)

For the latest information on mountain snow pack from the NRCS, go to: <http://www.mt.nrcs.usda.gov/snow/index.html>

For the latest U.S. Drought Monitor, issued weekly by the Climate Prediction Center (CPC), go to: <http://www.drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html>

### **Montana precipitation/temperature forecast.**

As of April 30<sup>th</sup>, CPC forecasts slightly better than 50% chance of drier than normal conditions across Montana for the period through April 2004, and a 50-55% chance of cooler than normal temperatures forecast. For the period May through August, the forecast calls for equal chances of above or below normal temperatures and precipitation over Montana. Graphics and text relating to these outlooks, and additional long-range forecasts can be found at [http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/multi\\_season/13\\_seasonal\\_outlooks/color/seasonal\\_forecast.html](http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/multi_season/13_seasonal_outlooks/color/seasonal_forecast.html)

Further inquiries about the moisture conditions can be directed to Dave Bernhardt or Gina Loss at (406) 453-2081. Many more links can be found on the Drought Information Page of the NWS Great Falls web site at <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/Greatfalls/txf.php?HTML+drought>