

Montana Drought/Precipitation Summary

April 21, 2004

Montana weather and precipitation summary, April 2004.

Scattered showers again fell across Montana during April thus far. 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 8th, with scattered thunderstorms across the southwest bringing ½ to ¾ inches of rain around the 20th. Temperatures continue on the warm side, averaging three to five degrees above normal.

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

Location	Apr 1 - Apr 20	% of Normal	Oct 1 - Apr 20	% of Normal	Rank	Percentile	Years of Record
Billings	0.48	45	4.06	65	14 th driest	20 th	70
Bozeman	1.09	128	3.74	68	13 th driest	21 st	63
Butte	0.91	149	2.35	54	8 th driest	7 th	110
Cut Bank	0.41	84	1.08	37	4 th driest	4 th	101
Dillon	1.09	202	2.16	63	16 th driest	25 th	64
Glasgow	0.44	102	3.88	130	38 th wettest	66 th	111
Great Falls	0.88	105	2.03	39	3 rd driest	3 rd	112
Havre	0.60	120	1.64	45	3 rd driest	2 nd	124
Helena	1.45	274	3.14	86	26 th driest	21 st	124
Kalispell	1.52	197	7.69	90	43 rd driest	41 st	105
Lewistown	0.49	60	3.85	63	7 th driest	6 th	108
Livingston	1.03	112	4.75	110	29 th driest	29 th	101
Miles City	0.05	6	2.32	52	7 th driest	6 th	111
Missoula	0.89	135	5.88	92	39 th driest	4 th	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 7th of each month), go to: 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 1st, CPC forecasts equal chances of wetter or drier than normal conditions across Montana for the period through April 2004, and equal chances of cooler or warmer than normal temperatures forecast. For the period April through July, the forecast calls for a 55% chance of below normal temperatures over eastern Montana and equal chances of above or below normal temperatures elsewhere. It also calls for a 50-55% chance of above normal precipitation west of the divide and equal chances of wetter or drier conditions elsewhere. 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

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>