

2014 WEATHER SUMMARY

Snow cover in the northern half of Minnesota and considerable frost depth throughout the state delayed the start of the 2014 crop season. Planting started off ahead of last year in April, but was well behind normal pace. Precipitation in late April and early May slowed planting progress to behind the five-year average. Topsoil moisture was 100 percent adequate to surplus on May 11 for the first of several times this year. Waterlogged fields were an issue throughout much of the season, causing delays in both planting and harvesting for most crops. Minnesota didn't see 5.0 or more days suitable until the week ending May 25, allowing rapid planting progress to be made during that week. Warm weather arrived at the end of May to help advance crop emergence. Topsoil and subsoil moisture reached their highest levels the week ending June 22, with 58 percent and 53 percent in surplus condition, respectively. As the weather warmed in July, conditions improved for most crops. In late July, northern counties endured heavy rainfall while farmers in southern Minnesota wanted more rain. As of August 17, 43 percent of topsoil moisture was rated short to very short. Small grain harvest continued through late September, behind the normal pace. High grain moistures caused many farmers to delay the beginning of harvest activities. However, favorable weather conditions during October and the beginning of November allowed harvest to advance past last year's progress and past the five year average for several crops. November brought cold temperatures and the first appearance of measurable snow on November 10.



