

GROWING CONDITIONS – 1981

Precipitation the last four months of 1980 was above average and helped to recharge seriously depleted soil water, aiding germination and fall growth of winter grains. Snowfall was very light, producing only .13 inch of precipitation for the three months of January thru March. Precipitation for the first half of the year was 3 inches below average but was fairly well distributed.

Early seeded small grain crops were severely frosted by a temperature drop to 24° F on May 9 but recovered well. Oats showed the poorest recovery.

The most severe weather affecting crop growth and development occurred the first 10 days in July, when temperatures of 93° F and above were recorded on 7 days, with a maximum reading of 110° F. Evaporation measured 3.93 inches during this 10 day period.

Oats and barley were more adversely affected by high temperatures, but all crop growth suffered.

Table 1. Weather Data Summary 1981 – Dickinson Experiment Station

			Precipitation - inches	
			1980 - 81	89 yr average
September - December			3.96	3.09
January – March			.13	1.55
April – June			5.67	7.34
July – August			5.62	3.90
Total			15.38	15.88
Average Temperature – Degrees F.				
	Maximum	Minimum	Mean	70 Year
April	62	31	47	42
May	65	41	53	53
June	73	47	60	62
July	87	56	71	69
August	84	55	70	67