

**A record wet June comes to an end and predictions for July
July 2, 2014**

What a difference a season makes. After a bone-dry winter, June 2014 will go down in the record books as one of the wettest June's for much of Nebraska and Iowa. According to the National Weather Service in Valley, NE, it was the 5th wettest June in Omaha (10.52"), 3rd wettest June in Norfolk (11.39"), and wettest June on record in Sioux City (16.65"). Much of the rest of the state received above average precipitation (Fig. 1). Kearney, Hastings, Grand Island, and North Platte were also in the top five for June precipitation and Valentine, NE set the record for wettest month of June. Only parts of Sioux county, in extreme northwestern NE, received slightly below average rainfall.

The wet conditions kept many home lawns green and had eliminated the need to irrigate across much of Nebraska. Still too many in-ground irrigation systems could be seen running during or just after significant rainfall. Consider installing a rainout switch on irrigation controllers. A wired switch can cost as little as \$17 and a wireless switch can cost less than \$40. Both are fairly simple to install and can save a significant amount of water and money. There is no sense watering after a rain.

The wet weather has created challenges for many golf courses in northeast Nebraska, western Iowa, and southeast South Dakota. Commonly, turf in low areas of fairways or greens, where soils are saturated, have a yellow/chlorotic appearance. This is most likely the result of denitrification, lack of oxygen, and buildup of toxic gases. Light applications of soluble nitrogen fertilizer and aeration will help these areas recover. The warm and wet weather has also slowed winterkill recovery as seedlings struggle to tolerate the conditions and increased golfer traffic. The severe weather last June also damaged golf course facilities ranging from flooding to tornado damage to trees and facilities. June was another memorable month in an already memorable year.

What can we expect for July? In the short term, dry cool weather has blanketed much of the region but the forecasts call for warm weather to return in a few days. Long term, the national climate prediction center projects July will bring average precipitation with a slight chance of below-normal air temperatures. From a turf management prospective, we'll cross our fingers and gladly welcome a cooler July with frequent but average precipitation.

Bill Kreuser, Assistant Professor and Turfgrass Extension Specialist, wkreuser2@unl.edu
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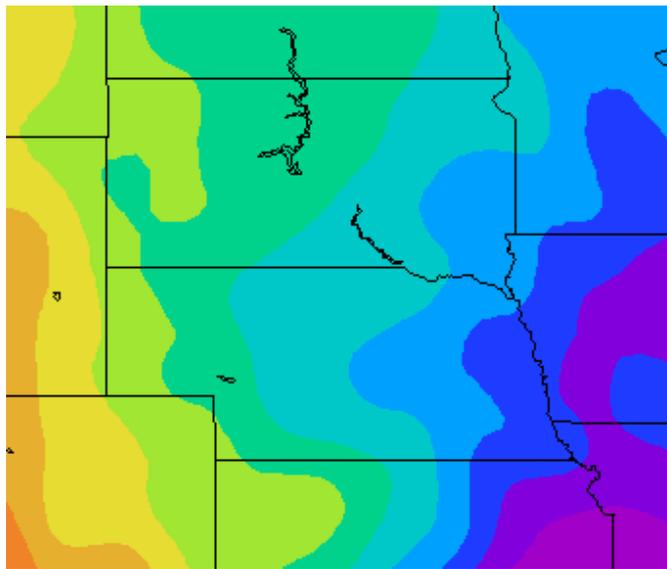
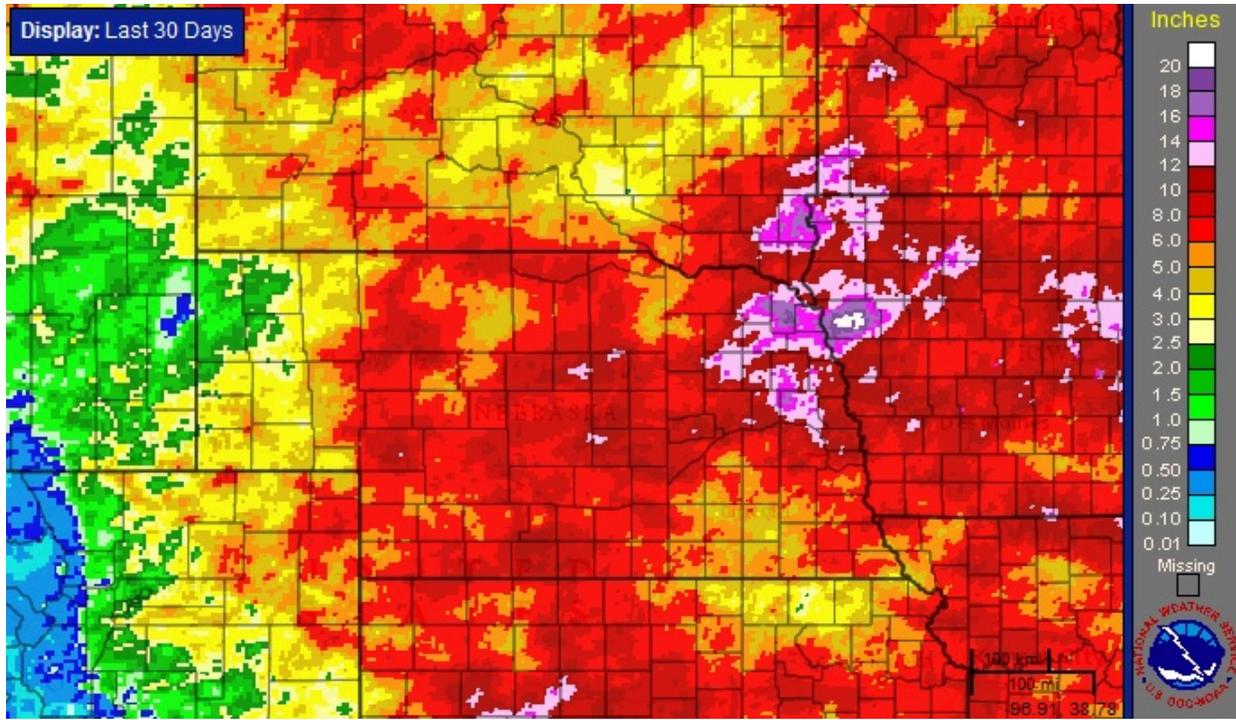


Figure 1. Observed (above) and average (left) monthly precipitation for June 2014. Graphics courtesy of the National Weather Service and Great Plains Regional Climate Center.