The Hoosier Observer

Indiana CoCoRaHS monthly e-newsletter

April 2025

The trend section in the graphic above compares this month's data to the same month from the previous year. A change of 10 or more is necessary for a trend arrow to be displayed as either pointing up or down. If the change is less than 10, a white dash is used to indicate that the data is similar to that of the previous year.

Coordinator Update

Andrew White, NWS Indianapolis

Our March recruitment season ended with 18 stations recruited. We saw a couple of stations where folks mentioned word of mouth as their recruitment source, so we appreciate it if you helped with that!

If you haven't started your observations after the winter, now is a great time to do so with no freezing weather imminent. We saw a lot of you come back during the recent flooding event, and your information through that event was invaluable, as 8 of the top 10 precipitation reports for the state came from CoCoRaHS observers

We'd also like to recognize the 18 new Indiana observers (Allen, Boone, Dubois, Delaware [2], Fayette, Jackson, Jasper, Marion, Morgan, Pike, Posey [2], Ripley, Steuben, Switzerland, Tipton, Wayne) who joined CoCoRaHS last month. Thanks for joining the team!

Indiana's Precipitation Report

Austin Pearson, Indiana State Climate Office

Much-needed precipitation returned in March, alleviating some ongoing drought concerns. The state average precipitation reached 3.87 inches, which was 0.54 inches above normal, or 116 percent of normal. The heaviest precipitation occurred in southern and northern Indiana, with lesser totals recorded in central Indiana (Figure 1). Southern Indiana reported precipitation totals ranging from 3 to just over 8 inches for the month. Galena 4.3 ENE, located in Floyd County, measured exactly 8.39 inches in March alone. Northern Indiana reported between 3 and 6 inches of precipitation in March, while central Indiana recorded between 1.5 and 4 inches.

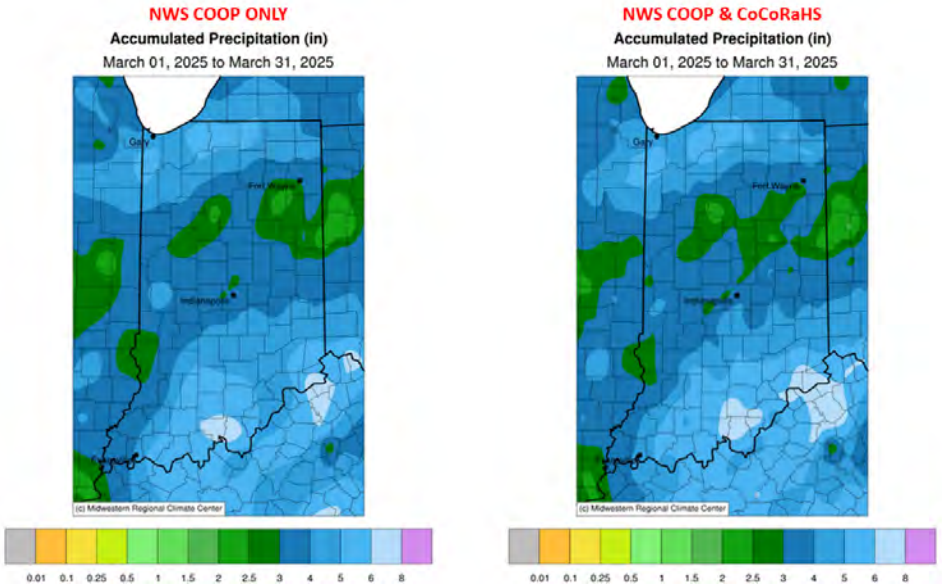


Figure 1: Left - March 2025 accumulated precipitation from NWS COOP network only. Right - March 2025 accumulated precipitation including both NWS COOP and CoCoRaHS.

March precipitation departures were most significant in northern Indiana, where totals ranged from 1 to 3.5 inches above normal, exceeding 150 to 200 percent of normal (Figure 2). To the south, precipitation totals were near to slightly above normal. Isolated locations in central Indiana received precipitation totals up to 1 inch below normal. Portions of Gibson and Posey counties experienced totals between 1 and 1.5 inches below normal for the month.

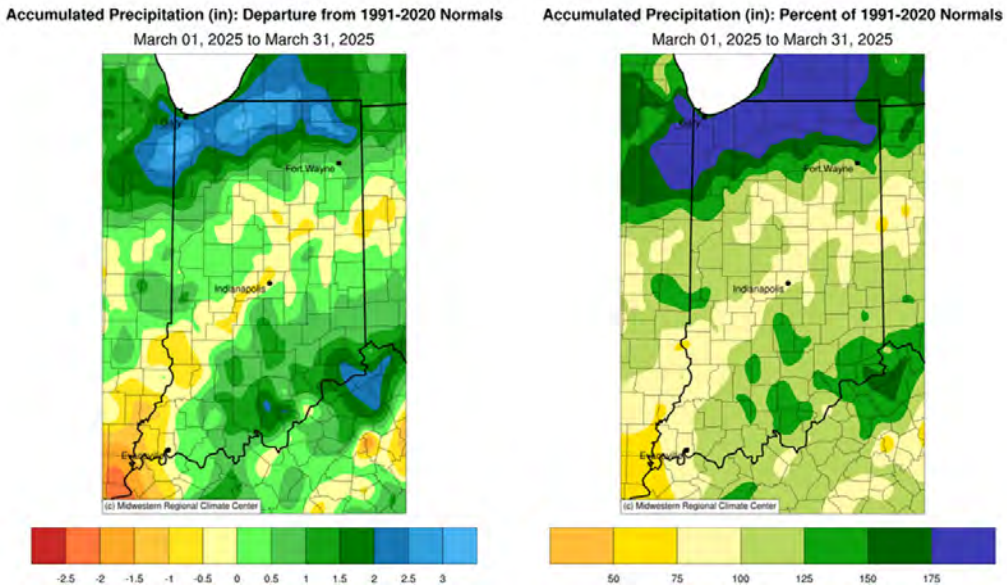


Figure 2: Left - March 2025 accumulated precipitation represented as the departure from the 1991-2020 climatological normal. Right - March 2025 accumulated precipitation represented as the percent of the 1991-2020 climatological normal.

Heavy rain and flooding marked the first week of April, with areas in southern Indiana recording between 7.5 and just over 10 inches (Figure 3). Thank you to all who answered the call to record precipitation! On April 3, we had a total of 504 observers report observations,

marking the first 500-report day of the year. We'd love to have these numbers every day, so keep it up! Between April 3 and 8, Galena 4.3 ENE (Floyd County) measured 10.02 inches of precipitation, the highest in the state during that period. Newburgh 0.3 SE (Warrick County) recorded 9.55 inches, which was good enough for second highest.

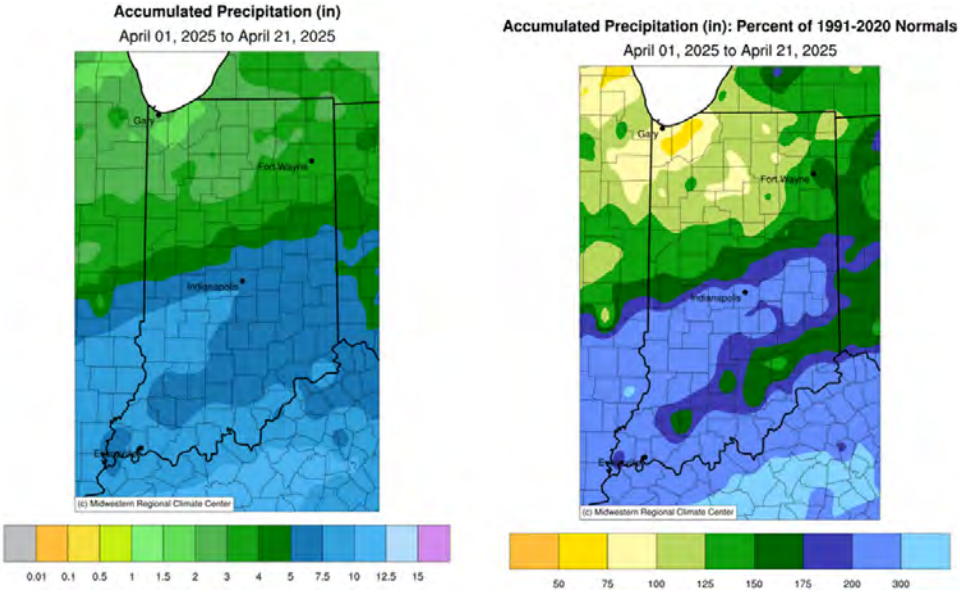


Figure 3: Left - April 1-21, 2025, accumulated precipitation. Right - April 1-21, 2025, accumulated precipitation represented as the departure from the 1991-2020 climatological normal.

The increased precipitation has improved drought conditions since the beginning of March. The March 4, 2025, US Drought Monitor Map indicated that 33 percent of the state was experiencing moderate drought (D1) conditions (Figure 4). Despite these rapidly improving conditions, longer-term precipitation departures and drought indices have kept abnormally dry (D0) conditions in central Indiana, as shown in the April 15, 2025, US Drought Monitor Map. Nearly 15 percent of the state continues to remain in D0-D1 conditions.

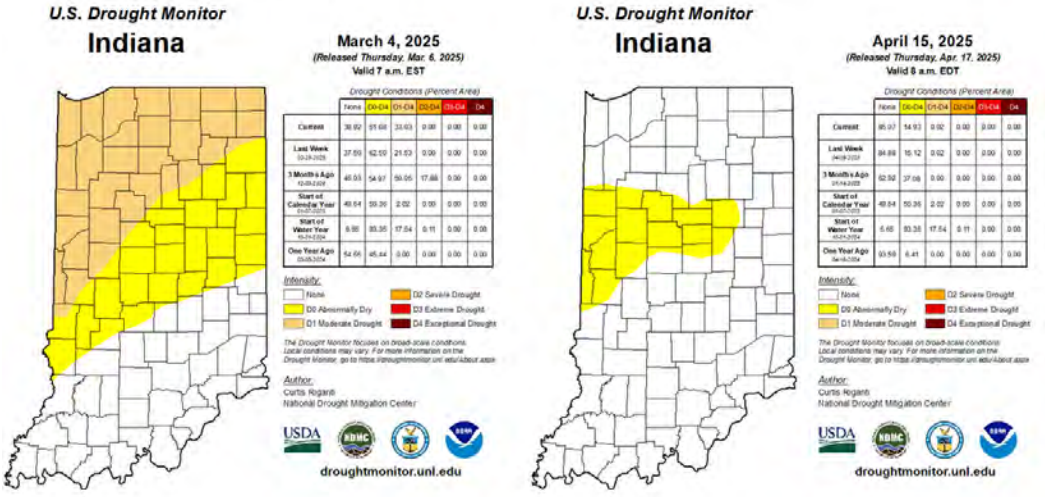


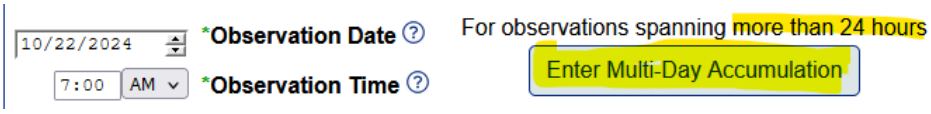
Figure 4: Left - March 4, 2025, US Drought Monitor Map for Indiana. Right - April 15, 2025, US Drought Monitor Map for Indiana.

Stations considered had 100% daily precipitation reports.

Multi-Day Accumulation Reports - Dos and Don'ts
Steve Hilberg, CoCoRaHS Headquarters

We really want daily observations. Multi-day accumulation reports are used when you have gone and/or cannot make daily observations. There is one more instance where you should use it - when your daily observation is made four hours or more after your normal observation time, especially when there has been precipitation during that time. The reason for this is to keep comparable in increments of 24 hrs. i.e, we are not comparing a 30-hour amount with a 24-hour amount. Multi-day accumulations can be entered using the website or the mobile app. Either way, there are a few rules to follow and things to keep in mind.

Multi-day accumulations are entered on a separate form. You can find that form in the website's left-hand menu and in the app's menu options. Since your Daily Report pops up automatically when you log in, you can use the Multi-Day Accumulation button on that form to pull up the Multi-Day Accumulation Report.



Pay attention to the start and end dates in your report. The start date is always the day AFTER your last observation, assuming you submit observations each day.

Try to make your multi-day observation while you make your regular observation. This keeps your observation in synch with the daily observations. For example, if you come home after being gone several days at 6:00 p.m. and read your rain gauge, hold that report until your next regular observation time (assuming no more rain is expected). If it is raining or more rain is expected, you can measure what is in the gauge, but report it the next morning with any additional precipitation.

Once you have submitted your multi-day report, do not go back and enter daily amounts for any of the days in the report. That will cause a data overlap. Each day can have only a daily report OR a multi-day report. Multi-day reports are limited to 60 days in length. Even with the funnel on, evaporation can affect the amount in the gauge. In addition, long accumulations

have more limited use. Please try to avoid multi-day reports that extend over the beginning or end of the month whenever possible.

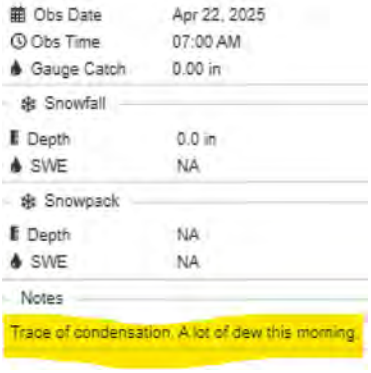
If you have a multi-day report of zero, you can forgo the multi-day report and enter daily reports of zero for each of the days in the range. This is only if you are sure there was no rain during the period.

How to Record Dew in Your Daily Gauge Catch

Austin Pearson, Indiana State Climate Office

As I stepped outside to record the daily gauge catch on April 22, I couldn't help but notice the heavy dew glistening on the grass, while the gauge itself was draped in condensation. When I measured it, I found a trace 'T' of water in the gauge, but I knew it hadn't rained yesterday. Water molecules condensed inside the funnel and trickled down into the gauge! This is fairly common in springtime, and in some cases, can measure a few hundredths as a result. So, how do we handle this when reporting your daily gauge catch?

If you are certain that you didn't receive any rainfall in the last 24 hours, simply mark 0.00 inches for the gauge catch and report the dew accumulation in the comment section. I did this for my station on April 22 (see right). There may be instances where it rained at some point within the previous 24 hours. If you did not check your gauge immediately after the rain event, there is no way to separate the dew from the rain. Report the total in the gauge and make a note of the dew in your comments.



Be a Zero Hero!

Steve Hilberg, CoCoRaHS Headquarters

The many users of the observations you take appreciate your efforts to report your precipitation. Every report is essential, even on the days it does not rain. That is especially true this time of year, when showers and thunderstorms can drop vastly different amounts of rain across short distances. Yes, the reports of zero rain are just as important as the reports of two inches of rain. Zeros are a measurement, meaning "I observed that I had no precipitation." "No report" from an observer could mean anything from "I didn't have any rain" to "I am on vacation and there is no one to observe" to "My dog ate the gauge." In other words, if you do not report on a day, we cannot and do not assume zero. It takes only seconds to enter that zero report. If you haven't been on the computer for a few days and need to enter zero reports, an easy way to do this is with the **Monthly Zeros Report**. Select this report, and just check the box on the days you had zero. Hit Submit, and you're done!

So, be a Zero Hero - enter zero for the days you measured no precipitation!

If You Move, or Change Your Email Address

If you're moving to a new home and want to keep participating in CoCoRaHS, please let us know as soon as possible. Your observations are tied to a specific location, so we want to make sure that your new observations are correctly associated with your new address. Observations are most valuable when they are consistent at one location, so you might also suggest to the new owner or tenant of your current home that they consider joining

CoCoRaHS. We have a **brochure** available for download, print, and distribution.

Once you have your new address, inform **us** so we can close your old station and set up a new one at your new location. Please avoid signing up for CoCoRaHS again yourself. Once we've set up your new station, you can start entering observations from your new location. If you're moving to a different state, we can connect you with the state coordinator there to help you get started.

If you change your email address, please update your record in the CoCoRaHS database by logging in, selecting "My Account" from the top menu, and clicking "Edit" in the "My Information" section. Make your updates and click "Save."

Also, send a quick message to **in-sco@purdue.edu** with your new email address so we can update our newsletter mailing list, which is maintained separately from the main CoCoRaHS database.

CoCoRaHS Newsletter Archive

If you are interested in viewing past issues of The Hoosier Observer, visit the **Newsletter Archive** located on the Indiana State Climate Office Website.

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