

THE  
**ATMOSPHERIC RESERVOIR**  
*Examining the Atmosphere and Atmospheric Resource Management*

## 2004 Growing Season: A Look Back

By Aaron Gilstad

It is finally time to put the peculiar growing season and the summer that was not, behind us. Total precipitation recorded by the Atmospheric Resource Board Cooperative Observer Network (ARBCON) was near normal throughout much of North Dakota, but that was about all that was near normal this season.

Spring brought late snows and heavy rains that kept many farmers out of the fields. Cool temperatures and dry conditions through the summer months drastically slowed the

maturation of many crops statewide. If this wasn't bad enough, strange conditions continued, with an August frost and heavy rains again this fall. By all accounts, definitely not a normal growing season.

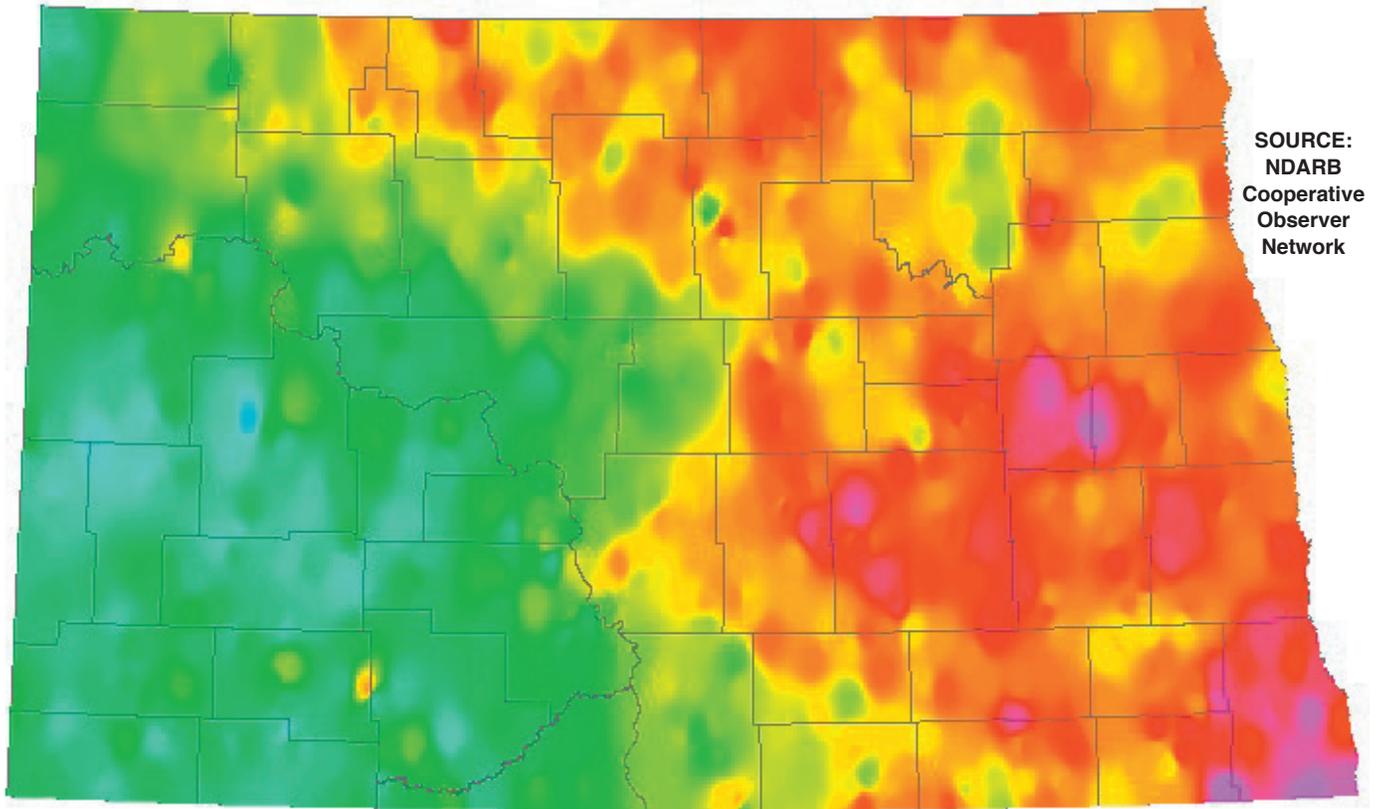
All of the ARBCON data received in the April-September recording season is archived in a computer database. ARBCON is used to provide support data throughout the year to any interested parties for any number of purposes and is available via user interface on our website. Also available on our website is an archive of total annual rainfall maps from

1977 through 2004 if you are more interested in rainfall patterns.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, you can e-mail us from the website, or call our offices at (701) 328-2788. We would be happy to have you!

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**SOURCE:**  
 NDARB  
 Cooperative  
 Observer  
 Network

**North Dakota May-September 2004 Rainfall**

