



Counting Drops

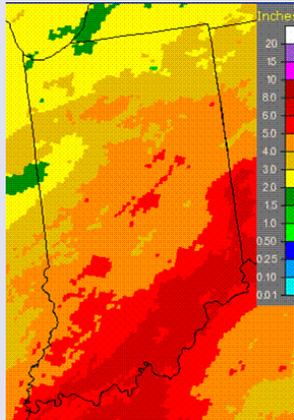
The Indiana CoCoRaHS Newsletter

Newsletter

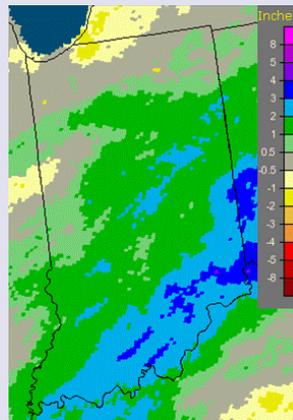
Winter 2011-12

Where's the Snow?

Many Hoosiers have probably noticed how different this Winter season has started compared to last year. By the end of December in 2010, there were locations in the northern part of the state that had already had nearly 30 to 40 inches of snow, and nearly 10 to 20 inches across central portions. Indianapolis had the 3rd snowiest December on record. This year, however, December totals were near 5 inches or less across the majority of the state - quite the difference! So does this mean that we've been abnormally dry? Not quite - while we are lacking in the snow department so far this season, it has actually been quite wet and many areas have had above normal precipitation. The atmosphere has just been too warm. Below are several maps of statewide precipitation from this past December (2011):



Observed



Departure from Normal

With observed precipitation totals ranging from about 3 inches in the north to 8 inches in the south (left map), Indiana has been anywhere from near normal to more than 3 inches above normal (right map) for this December. A possible reason for the difference this Winter could be due to La Niña, when there is abnormal warming of the western Pacific ocean. This typically leads to wetter than normal conditions in our area, which doesn't always mean snowier. The cooler than normal temperatures usually stay in the northwestern part of the country (see image below).



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Featured Daily Report Comment:

IN-EL-46, (11/30/2011)
An observer in Elkhart county describes the local conditions following a late November snow event:

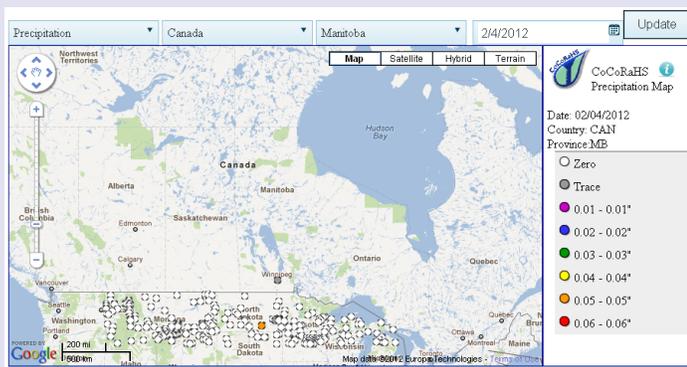
"Locally widespread tree damage and numerous accidents due to extremely heavy snow. Many power outages, including 30 hours of no electricity at this location."

CoCoRaHS Goes International and Educational

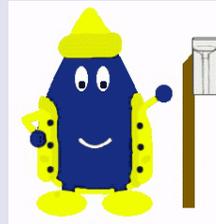
You may have already noticed some exciting advancements to our rapidly expanding program! One such example of this is the expansion of CoCoRaHS into Canada - that's right, CoCoRaHS is now INTERNATIONAL!



CoCoRaHS Canada began in Manitoba in December of 2011 following a massive flood that occurred in Manitoba and parts of Saskatchewan. This program expects to be country-wide within the upcoming years, and current observations can be viewed online through a Google Map display - check it out!



CoCoRaHS has also expanded more into education with the creation of the CoCoRaHS School Pilot Program (link can be found by clicking on "Education" under the "Resources" section on the left side of the main CoCoRaHS website).



With this handy new online resource, there are information sections provided for teachers, sponsors, and mentors. Teachers have access to quick links for getting started, lesson plans, FAQ's, and training materials. Sponsors can contact the program if they wish to set up a particular school with a gauge. Current CoCoRaHS volunteers can contact the program to become mentors for schools, and potentially provide assistance with tasks including gauge installation, data entries, and general questions the class may have. What better way to be involved in the community! This resource will help support one of the greatest benefits of the CoCoRaHS program - that anyone can participate, including the youngest generation!

Most Memorable Moments of 2011

A question was posted on the Indiana CoCoRaHS website to see what your most memorable weather events were of this past year. A reply from the observer at IN-MR-102 included the following:

"The most memorable moment for me in 2011 was the wet spring and hot dry summer. On April 20th we received 3.63 inches of rain and our total for the month was 10.85 inches... Over the three month period of April, May and June we received 22.92 inches of rain... When July came the water shut off. We received .67 inches for the month... August produced 1.35 inches for a total of just over 2 inches for the 2 month period... So it was a very memorable spring and summer here in Indianapolis."



Observer Awards - Congratulations!

As a sign of the CoCoRaHS program's gratitude for devoted and active observers, it has come time to award those who have actively submitted reports of their data over the long term. Such observers help maintain Indiana as having one of the strongest programs in the nation. Thank you! The following stations will be mailed a certificate in congratulations for active reporting for at least 5 years:

- IN-AD-1
- IN-AL-1
- IN-AL-5
- IN-AL-6
- IN-AL-7
- IN-BN-1
- IN-BN-10
- IN-BN-11
- IN-BN-14
- IN-BN-17
- IN-BN-26
- IN-BN-7
- IN-BN-9
- IN-BW-2
- IN-BW-5
- IN-CK-6
- IN-DB-1
- IN-DL-1
- IN-DV-1
- IN-DV-6
- IN-EL-1
- IN-EL-12
- IN-EL-3
- IN-EL-7
- IN-EL-8
- IN-EL-9
- IN-FD-2
- IN-FL-3
- IN-FN-3
- IN-FY-2
- IN-GN-2
- IN-HM-1
- IN-HM-17
- N-HM-18
- IN-HM-2
- IN-HM-5
- IN-HN-3
- IN-HR-3
- IN-HS-2
- IN-HS-4
- IN-HS-5
- IN-HS-8
- IN-HT-1
- IN-HW-3
- IN-HW-5
- IN-HY-1
- IN-HY-5
- IN-JF-1
- IN-JH-4
- IN-JS-1
- IN-JS-4
- IN-JS-7
- IN-JS-8
- IN-KS-3
- IN-KS-6
- IN-KS-7
- IN-LG-1
- IN-LK-15
- IN-LK-3
- IN-LK-8
- IN-LP-2
- IN-LP-7
- IN-MD-6
- IN-MG-1
- IN-ML-6
- IN-MN-2
- IN-MN-3
- IN-MN-7
- IN-MN-8
- IN-MR-13
- IN-MR-16
- IN-MR-3
- IN-MR-31
- IN-NW-1
- IN-OH-1
- IN-OW-2
- IN-OW-6
- IN-PS-1
- IN-PT-10
- IN-PT-12
- IN-PT-13
- IN-PT-14
- IN-PT-18
- IN-PT-19
- IN-PT-20
- IN-PT-21
- IN-PT-24
- IN-PT-29
- IN-PT-3
- IN-PT-32
- IN-PT-44
- IN-PT-8
- IN-SH-4
- IN-SH-5
- IN-SH-7
- IN-SH-9
- IN-SJ-5
- IN-SL-2
- IN-ST-1
- IN-TN-1
- IN-TP-9
- IN-VN-1
- IN-VN-10
- IN-VN-11
- IN-VN-16
- IN-VN-2
- IN-VN-5
- IN-VN-6
- IN-VN-9
- IN-WH-2
- IN-WK-12
- IN-WK-14
- IN-WK-2
- IN-WK-5
- IN-WK-6
- IN-WK-7
- IN-WK-8
- IN-WS-1
- IN-WY-2

