

**2007 was Eleventh Driest Year on Record
at the USDA NRCS Plant Materials Center (PMC) in Elsberry**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service experimental farm located south of Elsberry opened in 1934 and has recorded weather data for the entire 74 year period. In 2007, the Elsberry PMC recorded 28.96 inches of precipitation, a deficit of 8.52 inches from the 74 year average of 37.48 inches. This past year was the eleventh driest year on record. The driest year was 1989 with 24.85 inches.

The rainfall in summer is particularly important during the growing season in the Midwest and 2007 was the ninth driest summer on record. The driest summer was 1936, 1.67 inches; followed by 1984, 2.52 inches; 1983, 4.98 inches; 1972, 5.19 inches; and 1933, 5.50 inches of precipitation(See chart below).

Rank	Year	Yearly Rainfall	Summer Rainfall (June, July, August)	Rank
1-Driest	1989	24.11	8.25	
2	1934	25.80	5.64	7
3	1940	26.83	13.83	
4	1976	26.96	5.54	6
5	1936	27.25	1.67	Driest
6	1953	27.74	8.70	
7	1952	27.83	10.77	
8	1964	28.37	7.46	
9	1944	28.55	6.38	8
10	1954	28.67	9.85	
11	2007	28.96	6.87	9

The Elsberry PMC began as a tree production nursery in 1934 and was called the Government Nursery. During the 1950's the mission changed from woody production to an experimental farm for selection and development of plants for conservation uses. Primary emphasis at this time is working with native plants for forage, wildlife, roadsides, bio-fuels, landscaping and conservation programs.

For more information about the Elsberry Plant Materials Center go to our website at <http://plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov/mopmc/> or give us a call at 573/898-2012.

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