

IOWA MONTHLY WEATHER SUMMARY – SEPTEMBER 2010

General Summary. September temperatures averaged 63.1° or 0.2° above normal while precipitation totaled 5.56 inches or 2.15 inches above normal. This ranks as the 60th coolest and 19th wettest September among 138 years of records. The last wetter September came in 1986.

Temperatures. Temperatures were quite variable through September, as is often the case during the falls months. The longest streak of warmer than normal weather was only five days (11th-15th) and the longest cool streak was four days (24th-27th). Daytime highs reached 90 degrees or higher at a few locations on the 6th, 12th, 13th and 20th while morning lows were in the 30's in some areas on the 4th, 8th, 18th, 25th, 26th, 27th and 30th. Statewide extremes for the month ranged from an afternoon high of 93° at Sioux City on the 20th to morning lows of 33° at Elkader and Postville on the 27th.

Cooling Degree Days. Home air conditioning requirements, as estimated by cooling degree day totals, averaged 17% less than normal but 79% greater than last September. The 2010 cooling degree day totals have averaged 13% greater than normal and 88% greater than last year. This has been the warmest air conditioning season since 2007.

Precipitation. Rainfall was frequent and sometimes heavy during September as has been the case for the previous three months. The wettest period, accounting for over one-half of the month's total, was the 18th through the 25th. Rainfall was above normal over all but small portions of north central and northeast Iowa (the same areas that were relatively dry during August). Monthly rain totals varied from 2.12 inches at Bellevue to 16.05 inches at Allerton. Allerton's hefty total was still shy of a September record at that location (18.57 inches in 1926) but pushed their annual total to 58.41 inches. Iowa's statewide average precipitation for the year to date already ranks as the ninth highest among 138 years of records with three months to go.

Severe Weather. Severe storms usually become less frequent in Iowa during the fall months but were reported on the 6th, 12th, 13th, 15th, 18th, 21st and 22nd. The most widespread severe episodes came on the 21st over east-central Iowa with hail up to golf ball size in the Cedar Rapids area and also over far northwest Iowa on the 22nd when Rock Rapids reported hail up to base ball size.

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