

IOWA WEATHER SUMMARY – NOVEMBER 2012

General Summary. Iowa temperatures averaged 39.0° or 2.4° above normal while precipitation totaled 1.08 inches or 0.97 inches below normal. This ranks as the 43rd warmest and 45th driest November among 140 years of records. This was the ninth consecutive warmer than normal November.

Temperatures. November temperatures exhibited fairly typical seasonal variability with one prolonged period of warmer than normal weather from the 14th through the 22nd. Several daily record high temperature readings were set on the 10th and on the 21st. Little Sioux reported the month's highest temperature with a 79° reading on the 10th. Single digit minimum temperatures were recorded at a few locations on the 24th, 27th and 28th with Stanley the cold spot at 5° on the morning of the 27th.

Heating Degree Day Totals. Home heating requirements, as estimated by heating degree day totals, averaged 1% more than last November and 9% less than normal. Degree day totals so far this season are running 8% more than last year and the same as normal.

Precipitation. Rain was infrequent during the month with only three events bringing a state average of more than one-tenth of an inch (4th-5th, 6th-7th and 10th-11th). The last of these events provided the bulk of the month's precipitation (0.79 inches) with a few isolated totals of near two inches in south central Iowa. Promise City (Wayne County) reported the month's greatest rain total with 2.46 inches while Fort Dodge was the dry spot with just 0.18 inches. Only a few far eastern Iowa locations received any measurable rain over the last eleven days of the month. Snowfall was minimal with just a few northeast Iowa locations reporting a brief accumulation on the morning of the 6th. Monona reported the most snow with one inch. The statewide average snowfall was just a trace while normal for the month is 2.7 inches. This was the fourteenth consecutive November with less than normal snowfall.

Fall Summary. Temperatures over the three fall months averaged 50.0° or 0.2° degrees below normal while precipitation totaled 5.82 inches or 2.22 inches less than normal. This ranks as the 45th coolest and 39th driest autumn among 140 years of records. Fall precipitation was generally in the 6 to 8 inch range over the eastern two-thirds of the state, and a few other scattered areas in southwest and south central Iowa. Much drier weather prevailed over far northwestern Iowa where some areas saw less than three inches of rain for the season. The soil moisture capacity of most Iowa soils ranges from 10 to 12 inches in the top five feet of ground. Thus, some areas of eastern and southern Iowa have filled at least one-half of the soil profile. This represents quite an improvement in conditions from late summer but unfortunately, as of the end of November, is worse than at this time one year ago.

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