

IOWA PRELIMINARY MONTHLY WEATHER SUMMARY – JUNE 2013

General Summary. Iowa temperatures averaged 69.0° or 0.7° below normal while precipitation totaled 5.14 inches or 0.12 inches above normal. This ranks as the 55th coolest and 55th wettest June among 141 years of records. A cooler June has not been recorded since 2004.

Temperatures. The very cool spring weather pattern continued into the first ten days of June with temperatures averaging below normal each day. Elkader reported a low of 37° on the morning of the 3rd for Iowa's lowest temperature for so late in the season since 1998. The month's first 80 degree maximum temperature did not arrive until the 10th. However, only five of the remaining days of June averaged cooler than normal. Nevertheless, extreme heat was absent during the month with monthly maximum temperatures of only 94° recorded at Sioux City on the 21st and Muscatine on the 22nd. A lower statewide maximum temperature in June has been recorded only six times in the past century (most recently in 2008 at 92°).

Cooling Degree Days Totals. Home air conditioning requirements, as estimated by cooling degree day totals, averaged 1% less than normal and 25% less than last June. Thus far this season cooling degree day totals are running 2% greater than normal and 36% less than at this time last year.

Precipitation. The storm track shifted a bit further north in June, keeping the excessive rains confined to about the northeast one-third of the state. The month's largest event came from the 21st to the 23rd with Dorchester recording 8.99 inches of rain. Major flooding resulted along northeast Iowa rivers such as the Upper Iowa and the Turkey. A second major rain event on the 24th brought 6.80 inches of rain to Lowden and resulted in major flooding along the Wapsipinicon River. Rain totals for the month varied from 2.11 inches at Holly Springs (Woodbury County) and 2.22 inches near Albia to a whopping 14.06 inch total at Dorchester (but still shy of their June record total of 15.13 inches set in 2008). The persistent spring and early summer precipitation has allowed all of Iowa to be rated as drought-free by the U. S. Drought Monitor for the first time since early August 2011. According to Iowa Agricultural Statistics crop planting progress has been the slowest since 1993 with 4% of the soybean acreage, mostly in north central and northeast Iowa, still unplanted at month's end. The statewide average year-to-date precipitation total was a record for the first one-half of the year at 25.07 inches or 7.87 inches more than normal. The old record for January through June was 24.46 inches set in 2008 while 2012's total for the entire year was 26.49 inches.

Severe Weather. June was a more active month for severe weather in Iowa than earlier months this year, but still quieter than what is typical. The two largest events came on the 12th and 24th. Hail, high winds and tornadoes were reported across north central and northeast Iowa on the 12th with an EF-3 tornado touching down near Belmond. More widespread activity occurred on the 24th when high winds struck a wide area from southwest into central Iowa with a second area from south central to east central Iowa. Within the latter area an EF-1 tornado resulted in one fatality at Muscatine.

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