



## IOWA MONTHLY WEATHER SUMMARY – OCTOBER 2014

General Summary. Temperatures averaged 51.1° or 0.3° above normal while precipitation totaled 3.20 inches or 0.59 inches above normal. This ranks as the 63<sup>rd</sup> coolest and 36<sup>th</sup> wettest October among 142 years of records.

Temperatures. The statewide average temperature was above normal for only the second month this year (June was the other). Cooler than usual weather dominated much of the first twelve days of the month but was followed by an extended period of milder weather with above normal temperatures prevailing on all but one day from the 13<sup>th</sup> through the 28<sup>th</sup>. Temperatures reached 80° at Sioux City on the 1<sup>st</sup> and at Lowden on the 27<sup>th</sup> while the warmest weather came on the 26<sup>th</sup> when Sidney reached 85°. There were frequent episodes of freezing weather during the month but the first widespread hard freeze came on the morning of the 11<sup>th</sup> when Elkader, Mason City and Sheldon reported morning lows of 25°. Similar readings also occurred on the morning of the 30<sup>th</sup> while the first nearly statewide hard freeze (a handful of locations along the Mississippi River did not record a freeze during October) came on the last day of the month with morning lows down to 19° at Primghar, Rock Rapids and Sheldon. Finally, Spencer Airport recorded the lowest temperature of the month at midnight at the end of the 31<sup>st</sup> with a reading of 17°.

Heating Degree Day Totals. Home heating requirements, as estimated by heating degree day totals, averaged 7% less than last October and 5% less than normal. Degree day totals so far this heating season (since July 1) are running 4% greater than one year ago but 4% less than normal.

Precipitation. Widespread precipitation from September 30 into October 3 brought harvest activities to a halt across most of Iowa. Greatest rain totals from this event fell over southwest Iowa where Oakland recorded 4.40 inches while the least fell across the far northwest where Rock Rapids picked up only 0.31 inches. A second widespread rain event from the 12<sup>th</sup> through the 14<sup>th</sup> brought rain totals varying from just a trace at Estherville and Spencer to 4.61 inches at Pella. A very welcome period of much drier weather prevailed for the remainder of the month with the exception of some light to moderate rain on the 22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>. Monthly precipitation totals varied from 0.75 inches at Rock Rapids to 6.41 inches at Oakland. According to Iowa Agricultural Statistics the frequent early wet weather allowed only 9% of the soybean crop to be harvested by October 5, the lowest percentage completed by this date in over 30 years. However, the late month dryness finally allowed the soybean harvest to progress slightly ahead of the normal pace by November 2. Snow flurries were observed over portions of northern and eastern Iowa on the morning of the 4<sup>th</sup>. This was the earliest recorded snow in Iowa since 1999 but proved to be the only occurrence during the month.

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# October 2014

## WEATHER BY DISTRICTS

DISTRICT	TEMPERATURE (F)		HEATING DEGREE DAYS				PRECIPITATION (inches)				SNOWFALL Oct 2014 Average
	October 2014 Average	Departure*	October 2014 Average	Departure*	Since Jul., 1, 2014 Average	Departure*	October 2014 Average	Departure*	Since Jan.1, 2014 Average	Departure*	
Northwest	50.5	+1.5	442	-62	621	-71	1.65	-0.59	29.99	+2.03	T
North Central	48.9	0.0	493	-13	671	-32	2.45	+0.08	35.64	+4.44	T
Northeast	48.4	-1.2	507	+23	690	+25	3.13	+0.55	34.79	+2.30	T
West Central	52.0	+1.5	399	-58	560	-52	2.81	+0.40	40.75	+10.50	T
Central	51.0	+0.3	428	-24	588	-16	3.59	+0.97	40.60	+7.71	0.0
East Central	50.8	-0.9	434	+11	580	+22	3.20	+0.31	36.91	+4.40	T
Southwest	53.8	+1.4	351	-52	476	-42	4.40	+1.79	39.89	+7.44	0.0
South Central	52.8	+0.5	372	-34	507	-25	3.69	+0.84	42.96	+8.89	0.0
Southeast	52.7	-0.9	374	+5	494	+23	4.47	+1.41	38.69	+4.43	0.0
STATE	51.1	+0.3	425	-24	581	-21	3.20	+0.59	37.70	+5.82	T

\* Departures are computed from 1981-2010 normals.

The weather data in this report are based upon information collected by the U. S. Dept. of Commerce, NOAA National Weather Service.

State Climatologist, Iowa Dept. of Agriculture & Land Stewardship

### COUNTY PRECIPITATION ESTIMATES, OCTOBER 2014 (inches)

