



IOWA MONTHLY WEATHER SUMMARY – DECEMBER 2014

General Summary. Iowa temperatures averaged 28.1° or 5.2° above normal while precipitation totaled 1.14 inches or 0.20 inches below normal. This ranks as the 35th warmest and 67th wettest December among 142 years of records.

Temperatures. The cold weather pattern that dominated the month of November persisted only into the first three days of December. Above normal temperatures prevailed on all but two days between the 4th and 28th. There were two prolonged periods averaging more than ten degrees warmer than normal from the 12th through the 15th and from the 21st through the 26th when overnight low temperatures were frequently higher than typical daytime high readings. The month's highest temperatures of 60° were recorded on the 14th at Shenandoah and Sidney. Subzero temperatures were confined to only December 1st, and again over the last four days of the month. Sanborn recorded the lowest temperature of the month with a -16° reading on the morning of the 30th while wind chills bottomed out at -33° the same morning at Storm Lake. Soils, which had frozen to a depth of three to eight inches during the unusually cold November, were completely thawed in many areas by Christmas. However, frost depths quickly returned to the 3 to 8 inch range in response to sharply colder weather at the end of December.

Heating Degree Day Totals. Home heating requirements averaged 23% less than last December and 13% less than normal for the month. Heating requirements thus far this winter season (since July 1) are running 6% less than last year at this time but are 1% more than normal.

Precipitation. December began very dry with no measurable precipitation anywhere in the state until the 7th. Most of the month's precipitation came in two events. The first storm system brought light to moderate rain statewide from the 14th to the 16th with the rain changing to very light snow in the far northwest late in the event. The second event also brought light to moderate rain statewide between the 22nd and 24th before changing over to one to four inches of snow across the northwest one-half of the state. One last event brought one to four inches of snow to the northwest one-third of Iowa on the night of the 26th. Monthly precipitation totals, coming mostly as rain, were above normal over most of northwestern Iowa but decreased to about one-half of normal over the far southeast. Precipitation totals varied from 0.47 at Allerton to 2.51 inches at Little Sioux. The statewide average snowfall for the month was only 1.6 inches or 6.7 inches below normal. This is the lowest December snow total since 2006 and 13th lowest among 128 years of records. Numerous locations in eastern Iowa had no measurable snow during the month such as Davenport, Dubuque and Iowa City. Saint Ansgar reported the most snow with 8.1 inches.

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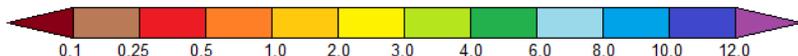
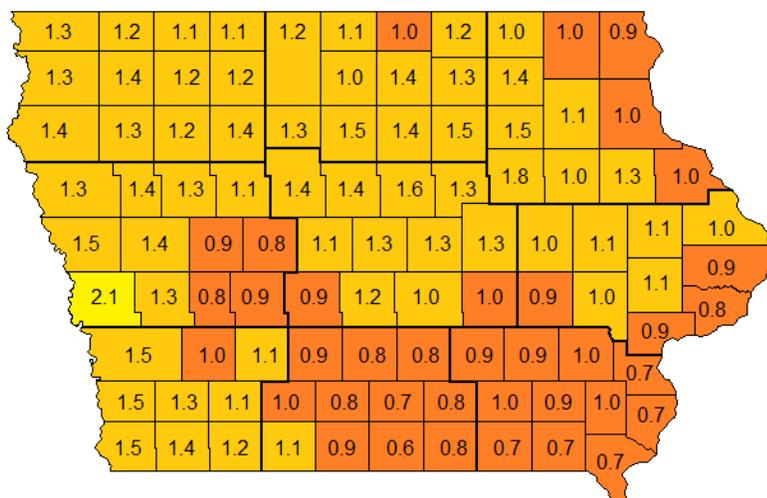
December 2014

WEATHER BY DISTRICTS

DISTRICT	TEMPERATURE (F)		HEATING DEGREE DAYS				PRECIPITATION (inches)				SNOWFALL Dec 2014 Average
	December 2014		December 2014		Since Jul., 1, 2014		December 2014		Since Jan. 1, 2014		
	Average	Departure*	Average	Departure*	Average	Departure*	Average	Departure*	Average	Departure*	
Northwest	25.1	+5.4	1232	-172	3011	-26	1.19	+0.29	31.65	+1.25	3.7
North Central	24.9	+5.4	1236	-174	3070	+21	1.27	+0.03	37.58	+3.27	4.2
Northeast	27.2	+5.9	1167	-186	2974	+71	1.18	-0.31	36.80	+0.54	0.4
West Central	27.8	+5.5	1147	-177	2776	-37	1.28	+0.19	42.43	+9.46	2.3
Central	28.1	+5.3	1137	-172	2789	+21	1.25	-0.07	42.51	+6.16	1.1
East Central	29.7	+5.2	1087	-167	2702	+87	0.99	-0.75	39.48	+2.82	0.1
Southwest	30.2	+4.8	1074	-153	2537	-7	1.33	+0.09	41.63	+6.00	0.8
South Central	30.3	+4.6	1069	-150	2567	+27	0.85	-0.53	44.58	+6.86	0.7
Southeast	31.1	+4.1	1043	-134	2507	+116	0.86	-0.95	41.24	+2.60	0.2
STATE	28.1	+5.2	1137	-167	2786	+27	1.14	-0.20	39.65	+4.38	1.6

* Departures are computed from 1981-2010 normals. Monthly estimates are preliminary and are likely to change.
 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 AVERAGES, DECEMBER 2014 (inches)



State Climatologist, Iowa Dept. of Agriculture & Land Stewardship
 COUNTY SNOWFALL AVERAGES, DECEMBER 2014 (inches)

