



IOWA PRELIMINARY MONTHLY WEATHER SUMMARY 6 JULY 2014

General Summary. Temperatures averaged 69.0° or 4.6° below normal while precipitation totaled 3.31 inches or 1.19 inches below normal. This ranks as the fifth coolest and 60th driest July among 142 years of state records. A cooler July was last recorded just five years ago. While precipitation was below normal it was much greater than during the previous two Julys.

Temperatures. Below normal temperatures were the rule through most of the month with just six days (6th-7th, 12th, 21st-22nd and 26th) averaging warmer than usual. Overnight lows in the forties were just as frequent as daytime highs in the nineties. The month's lowest temperatures were 44 degree minimums on the morning of the 16th at Little Sioux and Stanley while daytime highs reached only 63 degrees at Allerton and Rathbun Dam on the 3rd. Summer heat did creep into southwestern Iowa on the 21st, 22nd and 25th with heat indices soaring to 117° at Audubon on the 21st and Shenandoah on the 25th (actual temperature of 93° with a dew point of 82° both times). Sidney recorded the highest actual temperature during the month with a 102° reading on the 25th, the only reading in Iowa this year above 97°. Several locations across northern and eastern Iowa have yet to reach 90 degrees this year. At Burlington this is the first time that temperatures have not reached 90° by the end of July since records began in 1897.

Cooling Degree Day Totals. Home air conditioning requirements, as estimated by cooling degree day totals, averaged 40% less than last July and 45% less than normal. Cooling degree day totals so far this year are running 15% less than last year and 18% less than normal.

Precipitation. The month began with widespread flooding in progress from frequent heavy rains in late June. However, July brought much less rain with only three events bringing a statewide average rainfall of more than one-half inch (0.72 inches on the 5th-6th, 0.79 on the 11th-12th and 0.55 on the 24th-25th). Monthly rain totals were much below normal over parts of southwest and far northern Iowa. Atlantic reported the lowest total with 0.71 inches while Montezuma reported the most with 10.21 inches. Mild temperatures and abundant subsoil moisture reserves allowed the statewide average corn and soybean ratings to improve slightly during the month despite the drier weather. Pasture conditions declined very slightly during July but remained much better than usual for late July according to USDA NASS numbers.

Severe Weather. Unlike the previous month, July 2014 was a quiet month for severe weather. There were only a few dates with relatively isolated severe thunderstorms. Nevertheless, the evening of July 6 brought eight small tornadoes to central Iowa.

Harry J. Hillaker
State Climatologist
Iowa Dept. of Agriculture & Land Stewardship
Wallace State Office Bldg.
Des Moines, IA 50319
Telephone: (515) 281-8981
E-mail: Harry.Hillaker@IowaAgriculture.gov

July 2014

WEATHER BY DISTRICTS

DISTRICT	TEMPERATURE (F)		COOLING DEGREE DAYS				PRECIPITATION (inches)			
	July 2014		July 2014		Since Jan., 1, 2014		July 2014		Since Jan.1, 2014	
	Average	Departure*	Average	Departure*	Average	Departure*	Average	Departure*	Average	Departure*
Northwest	68.3	-4.4	134	-112	340	-107	1.83	-2.02	21.44	+2.73
North Central	68.0	-4.0	121	-105	318	-88	2.18	-2.46	24.14	+2.61
Northeast	68.0	-4.2	122	-110	341	-72	2.24	-2.43	24.95	+3.01
West Central	68.7	-5.2	139	-140	371	-137	4.21	-0.05	24.73	+3.94
Central	68.6	-4.9	141	-128	376	-112	4.42	-0.28	26.18	+3.69
East Central	69.3	-4.5	160	-117	451	-65	4.48	+0.12	26.39	+4.58
Southwest	71.3	-3.9	214	-104	542	-39	2.64	-2.10	20.56	-2.07
South Central	70.0	-4.6	169	-133	463	-72	3.20	-1.78	23.90	+0.79
Southeast	70.3	-5.3	174	-155	520	-93	4.42	-0.05	22.77	-0.39
STATE	69.0	-4.6	150	-123	406	-90	3.31	-1.19	24.02	+2.32

* 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

PRELIMINARY COUNTY PRECIPITATION ESTIMATES, JULY 2014 (inches)

