



## IOWA PRELIMINARY WEATHER SUMMARY – SEPTEMBER 2014

General Summary. Temperatures averaged 62.0° or 1.2° below normal while precipitation totaled 4.37 inches or 0.99 inches above normal. This ranks as the 43<sup>rd</sup> coolest and 40<sup>th</sup> wettest September among 142 years of records.

Temperatures. Temperatures were on the cool side of normal for 17 of the first 23 days of the month. Most noteworthy was an unseasonably cold period from the 11<sup>th</sup> through the 16<sup>th</sup>. Daytime high temperatures on the 12<sup>th</sup> were only in the forties as far south as Ringgold and Union counties. At Dubuque their calendar day high of 48° on the 12<sup>th</sup> came a full week sooner than the previous earliest sub-50° maximum in 140 years of records in that city. The next morning frost was scattered across much of the state with the lowest official readings of 31° recorded at Elkader, Estherville, Mason City, Sheldon, Sioux Center, Spencer, Stanley and Webster City. These were the lowest temperatures recorded for so early in the season in Iowa since Elkader recorded 29° on September 10, 1976. Frost was also reported in a few areas on the morning of the 16<sup>th</sup> when official temperature readings bottomed out at 33° at Battle Creek, Elkader, Sheldon and Stanley. However, a brief warm-up came on the 4<sup>th</sup> when nearly one-half of Iowa saw temperatures in the nineties with highest readings of 94° at Donnellson, Glenwood, Shenandoah and Sidney. Little Sioux and Sioux City also reached 90° on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Finally, temperatures frequently climbed into the eighties from the 25<sup>th</sup> through the 29<sup>th</sup>.

Cooling Degree Day Totals. Home air conditioning requirements, as estimated by cooling degree day totals, averaged 26% less than normal and 59% less than during the very warm September of 2013. Air conditioning requirements for the 2014 season are running 15% less than normal and 21% less than last year.

Precipitation. September began with a widespread rain event exiting the state and ended with another large rain event entering Iowa. Rain was frequent over the first twelve days of the month with the largest event coming on the night of the 9<sup>th</sup>. Rain amounts of three to five inches were widespread with this event across the southern one-third of the state with a maximum of 5.41 inches reported near Hartford in Warren County. Thanks to the frequent early month rains the September 16 edition of the U.S. Drought Monitor had Iowa 100% free of even an ‘abnormally dry’ designation for the first time since July 12, 2011. Little, if any, rain fell across much of east central and southeast Iowa during the last one-half of the month. Monthly rain totals varied from 1.35 inches at Rock Rapids to 8.63 inches near Norwalk. At Denison above normal rainfall each month from April through September, including a record wet calendar month in August, has pushed their annual precipitation total through September 30 to 45.96 inches. With three months to go in the year, this breaks their previous annual record of 45.08 inches set in 1993 (115 years of data).

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](mailto:Harry.Hillaker@IowaAgriculture.gov)

# September 2014

## WEATHER BY DISTRICTS

DISTRICT	TEMPERATURE (F)		COOLING DEGREE DAYS				PRECIPITATION (inches)			
	September 2014		September 2014		Since Jan., 1, 2014		September 2014		Since Jan.1, 2014	
	Average	Departure*	Average	Departure*	Average	Departure*	Average	Departure*	Average	Departure*
Northwest	61.3	-0.5	45	-18	554	-141	2.87	-0.36	28.79	+3.07
North Central	60.7	-0.6	42	-13	546	-82	3.74	+0.55	33.09	+4.26
Northeast	61.0	-0.9	48	-14	583	-73	2.95	-0.40	31.55	+1.64
West Central	61.8	-1.3	54	-24	615	-189	4.74	+1.58	38.08	+10.24
Central	61.7	-1.4	55	-21	644	-133	4.72	+1.40	36.37	+6.10
East Central	62.6	-1.2	64	-18	740	-82	4.70	+1.38	34.44	+4.81
Southwest	63.4	-1.4	83	-15	883	-57	4.82	+1.41	34.93	+5.09
South Central	62.9	-1.3	74	-16	773	-108	5.85	+2.03	39.53	+8.31
Southeast	63.7	-1.7	73	-34	852	-145	5.47	+1.69	33.10	+1.90
STATE	62.0	-1.2	58	-20	675	-116	4.37	+0.99	34.41	+5.13

\* 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, SEPTEMBER 2014 (inches)

