



## IOWA MONTHLY WEATHER SUMMARY – JULY 2015

General Summary. Temperatures averaged 72.2° or 1.4° below normal while precipitation totaled 5.78 inches or 1.28 inches above normal. This ranks as the 27<sup>th</sup> coolest and 19<sup>th</sup> wettest July among 143 years of records.

Temperatures. Unseasonably cool weather prevailed early in the month with nine of the first ten days of July averaging cooler than usual. Temperatures failed to exceed 90° anywhere in the state during those opening ten days of the month with afternoon highs reaching only 61° at Donnellson, Fort Madison, Keokuk and Burlington on the 8<sup>th</sup>. The month's lowest temperatures were recorded during this period with 44° readings at Cresco and Elkader on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and also at Spencer on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. However, seven of the next eight days were warmer than normal. Temperatures reached 97° at Des Moines on the 13<sup>th</sup> and at Bellevue, Lamoni and Osceola on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Meanwhile the heat index (what the air 'feels like' when humidity is considered) reached 110° at Sioux City on the 12<sup>th</sup>, 111° at Burlington on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 110° at Burlington on the 17<sup>th</sup>. The last one-third of the month was nearly evenly divided between above and below normal temperatures. Hawarden recorded the highest temperature with 97° on the 24<sup>th</sup> while Burlington registered the highest heat index with 109° on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Spencer Airport was the late-month cool spot with a low of 50° on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

Cooling Degree Day Totals. Home air conditioning requirements, as estimated by cooling degree day totals, averaged 63% greater than last July (the fifth coolest July on record) but 12% less than normal. Cooling degree day totals thus far in 2015 are running 9% greater than last year at this time, but 12% less than normal.

Precipitation. The first two weeks of July were relatively dry, bringing a statewide average of 1.61 inches of rain (normal = 2.28) while the remainder of the month brought an average of 4.17 inches of precipitation (normal = 2.22). The most noteworthy early month rain event brought 3 to 5 inches of rain to much of Muscatine and Scott counties on the night of the 6<sup>th</sup>. Rains of 3 to 5 inches fell across much of Page and Taylor Counties on the night of the 15<sup>th</sup>. However, the most concentrated period of rain came from the 24<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup>. North central Iowa was the initial focus for heavy rains with Mason City Airport picking up 4.13 inches on the 24<sup>th</sup>. The month's heaviest rains fell across south central Iowa on the night of the 28<sup>th</sup> with Spring Hill (Warren County) picking up 6.32 inches. Monthly rain totals were quite variable with much of northern Iowa recording below normal July rain totals while the southern one-third of the state (with the exception of Pottawattamie County) was very wet. Rain totals varied from 1.20 inches at the Dubuque Airport to 13.33 inches at Knoxville. Knoxville's total was just shy of their July record of 13.58 inches set in 1958.

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# July 2015

## WEATHER BY DISTRICTS

DISTRICT	TEMPERATURE (F)		COOLING DEGREE DAYS				PRECIPITATION (inches)			
	July 2015		July 2015		Since Jan., 1, 2015		July 2015		Since Jan.1, 2015	
	Average	Departure*	Average	Departure*	Average	Departure*	Average	Departure*	Average	Departure*
Northwest	71.7	-1.0	229	-17	400	-47	4.24	+0.39	16.00	-2.71
North Central	70.7	-1.3	202	-24	356	-50	4.61	-0.03	21.76	+0.23
Northeast	70.5	-1.7	194	-38	348	-65	2.70	-1.97	19.68	-2.26
West Central	72.1	-1.8	240	-39	421	-87	6.43	+2.17	23.40	+2.61
Central	71.9	-1.6	233	-36	416	-72	6.21	+1.51	24.35	+1.86
East Central	72.3	-1.5	239	-38	459	-57	3.88	-0.48	23.33	+1.52
Southwest	73.8	-1.4	285	-33	518	-63	6.59	+1.85	25.62	+2.99
South Central	73.5	-1.1	278	-24	511	-24	10.22	+5.24	28.40	+5.29
Southeast	74.0	-1.6	290	-39	563	-50	8.12	+3.65	26.44	+3.28
STATE	72.2	-1.4	241	-32	437	-59	5.78	+1.28	22.99	+1.29

\* 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.

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**COUNTY PRECIPITATION ESTIMATES, JULY 2015 (inches)**

