



## IOWA PRELIMINARY MONTHLY WEATHER SUMMARY – APRIL 2016

General Summary. Iowa temperatures averaged 49.9° or 1.0° above normal while precipitation totaled 3.07 inches or 0.44 inches less than normal. This ranks as the 57<sup>th</sup> warmest and 68<sup>th</sup> wettest April among 144 years of records.

Temperatures. April opened and closed with mostly cooler than normal weather. However, above normal temperatures prevailed every day from the 13<sup>th</sup> through the 26<sup>th</sup>. The most noteworthy temperature events of the month were a pair of hard freezes on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. The 9<sup>th</sup> was the coldest day over most of the state with temperatures falling into the teens over much of the northwest two-thirds of Iowa. The lowest temperature recorded on the 9<sup>th</sup> was 13° at Audubon while readings on the 12<sup>th</sup> fell to 16° at Sheldon, Spencer and Webster City. There was some freeze injury to fruit trees, however, damage was not as great as feared given the advanced stage of development of vegetation which resulted from an extended period of very mild weather in March. The month's highest temperatures were 85° readings at Little Sioux on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and Donnellson on the 25<sup>th</sup>. April came to an end with cloudy, cool and wet weather holding daytime highs down in the forties in many areas from the 27<sup>th</sup> through the 30<sup>th</sup>.

Heating Degree Day Totals. Home heating requirements, as estimated by heating degree day totals, averaged 7% greater than last April, but 8% less than normal. Degree day totals for the heating season-to-date (from July 1, 2015) are running 16% less than last season at this time and 14% less than normal.

Precipitation. Unseasonably dry weather prevailed for the first 18 days of the month when no measurable rain fell over parts of west central and southwest Iowa. This dry period allowed an unusually early start to the corn planting season but for a time also delayed germination of specialty crops owing to dry topsoil. Rainfall was much more frequent and plentiful for the final dozen days of April. Late-month rainfall was particularly heavy over western Iowa where numerous rivers and streams reached or slightly exceeded flood stage. The state-wide average precipitation averaged only 0.57 inches for the first 18 days of April but rebounded to 2.50 inches for the final 12 days of the month. April precipitation totals were above normal over most of the western one-third of Iowa and driest over north central and northeast Iowa where monthly totals were under one-half of normal in some areas. April rain totals varied from only 0.75 inches at Marquette to 7.52 inches at Alta. At Guttenberg this was the driest April since 1942 while at Sioux City this was the wettest April since 1998. Precipitation was widespread on the last day of the month. However, much of this precipitation fell after the final rain measurements of the month (made at 7 a.m. or 8 a.m. daily at most locations) and will be included in the May 2016 statistics.

Severe Weather. Severe thunderstorm activity was minimal during April and was limited to only the 24<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. High winds and hail were recorded within a narrow band of northwest Iowa on the 24<sup>th</sup>, roughly between Sioux City and Estherville. There were also five short-lived tornadoes confirmed in southwest Iowa on the 27<sup>th</sup>, along with a few scattered hail reports. However, April began with frequent non-thunderstorm high wind events with wind gusts of 40 mph or higher recorded on 8 of the first 9 days of the month (early April on average is the windiest time of the year in Iowa).

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# April 2016

## WEATHER BY DISTRICTS

DISTRICT	TEMPERATURE (F)		HEATING DEGREE DAYS				PRECIPITATION (inches)				SNOWFALL Apr 2016 Average
	April 2016 Average	Departure*	April 2016 Average	Departure*	Since Jul., 1, 2015 Average	Departure*	April 2016 Average	Departure*	Since Jan.1, 2016 Average	Departure*	
Northwest	48.8	+1.8	492	-54	6354	-947	4.73	+1.51	8.51	+2.10	T
North Central	48.0	+1.4	503	-52	6367	-1017	1.74	-1.84	6.60	-0.63	T
Northeast	47.9	+0.3	512	-15	6133	-948	1.65	-2.05	6.91	-0.88	T
West Central	49.9	+1.3	449	-52	5948	-841	4.47	+1.04	7.88	+0.74	T
Central	50.3	+1.5	440	-54	5740	-1002	2.26	-1.37	6.15	-1.60	T
East Central	49.7	-0.3	468	+10	5513	-911	2.26	-1.14	5.89	-2.28	T
Southwest	52.5	+2.1	375	-72	5243	-960	5.44	+1.98	8.50	+0.96	0.0
South Central	51.5	+1.4	407	-49	5259	-965	3.11	-0.54	6.96	-1.11	0.0
Southeast	52.0	+0.2	396	-11	5029	-884	2.12	-1.46	5.94	-3.04	T
STATE	49.9	+1.0	453	-39	5774	-941	3.07	-0.44	7.04	-0.59	T

\* 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, APRIL 2016 (inches)

