



IOWA MONTHLY WEATHER SUMMARY – JULY 2014

General Summary. Temperatures averaged 69.0° or 4.6° below normal while precipitation totaled 3.43 inches or 1.07 inches below normal. This ranks as the fifth coolest and 67th 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 62 degrees at Allerton and Rathbun Dam on the 2nd. 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 98° reading on the 25th. 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 42% less than last July and 46% less than normal. Cooling degree day totals so far this year are running 16% less than last year and 19% 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 (0.73 inches on the 5th-6th, 0.80 on the 11th-12th and 0.56 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 0.75 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 nine 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 Average Departure*		July 2014 Average Departure*		Since Jan., 1, 2014 Average Departure*		July 2014 Average Departure*		Since Jan.1, 2014 Average Departure*	
Northwest	68.3	-4.4	131	-115	336	-111	1.92	-1.93	20.94	+2.23
North Central	67.8	-4.2	116	-110	305	-101	2.20	-2.44	24.53	+3.00
Northeast	68.0	-4.2	122	-110	337	-76	2.41	-2.26	24.98	+3.04
West Central	68.6	-5.3	140	-139	387	-121	4.13	-0.13	24.57	+3.78
Central	68.7	-4.8	138	-131	373	-115	4.75	+0.05	26.86	+4.37
East Central	69.3	-4.5	154	-123	443	-73	4.51	+0.15	25.72	+3.91
Southwest	70.8	-4.4	199	-119	523	-58	2.68	-2.06	21.04	-1.59
South Central	69.9	-4.7	173	-129	462	-73	3.07	-1.91	23.71	+0.60
Southeast	70.2	-5.4	178	-151	514	-99	5.05	+0.58	24.00	+0.84
STATE	69.0	-4.6	148	-125	402	-94	3.43	-1.07	24.14	+2.44

* 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 ESTIMATES, JULY 2014 (inches)

