



IOWA MONTHLY WEATHER SUMMARY – OCTOBER 2015

General Summary. Iowa temperatures averaged 53.0° or 2.2° above normal while precipitation totaled 1.78 inches or 0.83 inches less than normal. This ranks as the 51st warmest and 53rd driest October among 143 years of records.

Temperatures. October began with slightly cooler than normal weather for the first four days of the month. Estherville recorded Iowa's first freeze of the season with a 32° reading on the morning of the 2nd. However, a lower temperature was not recorded in the state until the 14th when several northeast Iowa locations reported 30° readings. The first hard freeze arrived at scattered northwest Iowa locations on the morning of the 16th with a 27° reading at Spencer. The next morning brought the lowest temperatures of the month with a 19° reading at Stanley and a hard freeze over much of the northeast one-half of the state. All of Iowa, with the exception of Des Moines and Keokuk, had recorded at least a light freeze by the end of the month. On the other extreme, temperatures reached into the eighties somewhere in the state on the 7th, 8th, 10th, 11th, 19th, 20th and 21st. The warmest day in most areas came on the 11th when all reporting points except Dubuque Airport and Fort Madison reached 80° with Sioux City, Hawarden and Le Mars being the hot spots with daily record 91° readings.

Heating Degree Day Totals. Home heating requirements, as estimated by heating degree day totals, averaged 12% less than last October and 17% less than normal. Heating degree day totals thus far this season are running 20% less than at this point last year and 23% less than normal.

Precipitation. Exceptionally dry weather prevailed from September 30 until the morning of October 20 with only a handful of locations recording any measurable rain during the period. Parts of northwest Iowa remained dry for a few more days until rain finally moved into that portion of the state on the 23rd. The dry, and mostly warmer than normal weather, allowed for excellent conditions for harvest and ample in-field dry-down of corn and soybeans. Rain was more frequent late in the month with about one-half of the October total arriving on the 27th-28th. Rain totals for the month varied from 0.54 inches at Britt to 4.07 inches on the east side of Cedar Rapids and at Iowa City. Despite the turn to greater rainfall late in the month only a few locations, mostly in east central and far northwest Iowa, recorded above normal precipitation for the month. Iowa's first snow of the season arrived in the northwest on the afternoon of the 28th but with little, if any, accumulation.

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October 2015

WEATHER BY DISTRICTS

DISTRICT	TEMPERATURE (F)		HEATING DEGREE DAYS				PRECIPITATION (inches)				SNOWFALL Oct 2015 Average
	October 2015		October 2015		Since Jan., 1, 2015		October 2015		Since Jan.1, 2015		
	Average	Departure*	Average	Departure*	Average	Departure*	Average	Departure*	Average	Departure*	
Northwest	52.3	+3.3	392	-112	510	-182	1.82	-0.42	28.42	+0.46	T
North Central	50.9	+2.0	434	-72	552	-151	1.18	-1.19	31.93	+0.73	T
Northeast	51.5	+1.9	413	-71	528	-137	2.11	-0.47	28.33	-4.16	T
West Central	53.2	+2.7	369	-88	474	-138	1.44	-0.97	36.94	+6.69	T
Central	52.8	+2.1	380	-72	475	-129	1.94	-0.68	37.05	+4.16	T
East Central	53.5	+1.8	355	-68	426	-132	2.91	+0.02	34.39	+1.88	T
Southwest	55.0	+2.6	318	-85	385	-133	1.04	-1.57	40.81	+8.36	0.0
South Central	54.0	+1.7	342	-64	418	-114	1.50	-1.35	38.44	+4.37	0.0
Southeast	54.6	+1.0	325	-44	387	-84	1.95	-1.11	34.05	-0.21	0.0
STATE	53.0	+2.2	373	-76	466	-136	1.78	-0.83	34.31	+2.43	T

* 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.

State Climatologist, Iowa Dept. of Agriculture & Land Stewardship
COUNTY PRECIPITATION ESTIMATES, OCTOBER 2015 (inches)

