

IOWA WEATHER SUMMARY OCTOBER 2001

General Summary. October temperatures averaged 50.2° or 1.9° below normal while precipitation totaled 2.53 inches or exactly normal. This ranks as the 39th coolest and 58th wettest October among 129 years of state weather records.

Temperatures. The month began warm with above normal temperatures for the first three days of October. Hawarden reported the month's highest temperature with a 91° reading on the 2nd. However, a hard freeze was recorded over the northwest one-third of the state on the 6th with a 21° minimum at Sheldon while northeast Iowa saw a hard freeze on the 7th with 20° at Cresco. Most of the state also recorded a freeze on the 17th when Ames, Guthrie Center and Swea City reported lows of 22°. Very cold and windy weather swept the state from the 25th through the 27th with Spencer and Sheldon recording lows of 11° on the morning of the 27th. Mild weather finally returned late in the month with Glenwood reaching 76° on the 28th. Overall this was Iowa's coolest October since 1993.

Degree Day Totals. Home heating requirements, as estimated by heating degree day totals, averaged 43% greater than last October and 10% more than normal. Finally, the 2001 air conditioning season came to an end with annual cooling degree day totals running 3% greater than last year and right at the long-term normal.

Precipitation. Relatively dry weather prevailed across the northwest one-third of Iowa for the second consecutive month while southeast sections of the state were unusually wet. Monthly rainfall totals varied from only 0.42 inch at Alton up to 5.74 inches at Fairfield. The month's heaviest rainfall came on the 22nd with widespread rain on the 4th, 9th and 10th as well.

Severe Weather. Large hail caused localized damage in an 12 county area stretching from near Glenwood to Centerville on the afternoon of the 22nd. Isolated reports of large hail were also received on the 9th, 21st, 23rd and 24th.

Harry Hillaker
State Climatologist
9607 NW Beaver Dr.
Johnston, IA 50131
Phone: (515) 270-6907
E-mail: iastatec@netins.net