

## **IOWA MONTHLY WEATHER SUMMARY**

### **July 2002**

General Summary. July temperatures averaged 76.7° or 2.2° above normal while precipitation totaled 4.23 inches or 0.09 inch greater than normal. This ranks as the 21st warmest and 46th wettest July among 130 years of state records.

Temperatures. The month began hot with above normal temperatures for each of the first nine days of July. Glenwood reported the state's first official 100° maximum on the 9th. However, much cooler weather was the rule from the 10th through the 16th with Cresco reporting the month's lowest temperature with a 47° reading on the morning of the 12th. Hot weather returned on the 16th with all but three of the remaining days of the month averaging warmer than normal. The hottest days were the 20th and 21st when about a dozen counties, mainly in the southwest, reaching 100°. Glenwood was again the hot spot with a 104° maximum on the 21st. This was the state's highest temperature since September 2, 2000.

Cooling Degree Days. Home air conditioning requirements, as estimated by cooling degree day totals, averaged 12% greater than last July and 23% more than normal. Cooling degree day totals so far this year are running 18% greater than last year at this time and 20% greater than normal. The season-to-date degree day totals are the highest recorded since 1991.

Precipitation. The very dry weather pattern that began in mid June continued through the first eight days of July. Widespread thunderstorm activity on the 10th-11th, 21st-22nd, and 25th-29th provided much needed moisture to most of the state. The critically dry far southwest corner of the state largely missed the first of these rain episodes but finally received 2 to 3 inches of rain during the fourth week of the month. July rainfall was plentiful over most of north central, central and east central Iowa. However, less than half of normal rainfall was recorded in the far northwest and southeast corners of the state. Monthly rain totals varied from only 0.77 inch at Primghar up to 10.43 inches at Tipton.