

IOWA MONTHLY WEATHER SUMMARY

October 2002

General Summary. October temperatures averaged 46.2° or 5.9° below normal while precipitation totaled 3.66 inches or 1.13 inches above normal. This ranks as the 5th coldest and 17th wettest October among 130 years of state records. A colder October has not been recorded since 1925.

Temperatures. The warm weather pattern that prevailed through much of September continued only through the first day of October when temperatures reached 89° at Glenwood, Keokuk, Keosauqua and Rathbun Dam. Temperatures averaged above normal on only four additional days during the month (8th, 10th, 11th and 18th) with no readings higher than 78° after the 1st. Persistent cloud cover kept daytime temperatures unusually low but also prevented nighttime readings from falling to record levels in most areas. Primghar reported the month's lowest temperature with a 15° reading on the morning of the 31st.

Precipitation. The month began with widespread moderate to heavy rainfall. The first week of October was Iowa's wettest week in 17 months and accounted for about two-thirds of the month's precipitation total. Mostly dry weather prevailed for the second week of the month allowing fall harvest activities to resume rather quickly. The second half of October brought light precipitation on almost a daily basis. The season's first snow briefly accumulated in northwest Iowa on the 16th with two inches at Sioux Center. Snow accumulated across the northwest one-half of Iowa on both the 23rd-24th and 27th-28th with 1 to 3 inch amounts common in each event. Rockwell City reported the most snow for the month with 7.1 inches. However, no snow was reported over about the southeast one-quarter of Iowa. The state average snowfall was 2.1 inches (normal is 0.3) and ranks as the 5th highest October total among 116 years of snowfall records. Monthly precipitation totals (rain and the liquid equivalent of snowfall) varied from 2.10 inches at Dumont up to 6.55 inches at Maquoketa.

Severe Weather. A hail storm caused locally severe crop damage on October 1 along a narrow path from Sioux County eastward to Palo Alto County.