

IOWA MONTHLY WEATHER SUMMARY – SEPTEMBER 2003

General Summary. Iowa temperatures averaged 61.2° or 1.7° below normal while precipitation totaled 3.24 inches or 0.17 inches less than normal. This ranks as the 30th coolest and 63rd driest September among 131 years of state records.

Temperatures. September began with cooler than normal weather prevailing for the first five days of the month. Above normal temperatures were the rule from the 6th through the 12th with Bellevue reporting the month's highest temperature with a 95° reading on the 7th. Only two (16th & 17th) of the last 18 days of September averaged warmer than normal with Glenwood reporting the final 90° temperature of the month on the 17th. Unseasonably cold weather prevailed over the last week of September. The first freeze of the season was recorded on the morning of the 25th with a low of 29° at Spencer. The last two days of the month were the coldest with 26° lows reported from Glenwood, Audubon and Atlantic on the 29th and also at Decorah, Fayette and Sioux Rapids on the 30th. Freezing temperatures were reported from 71% of the state's reporting points on either the 29th or 30th.

Cooling Degree Days. Home air conditioning requirements, as estimated by cooling degree day totals, averaged 15% less than normal and 49% less than last September. Air conditioning requirements for the 2003 season are running 7% less than normal and 22% less than last year.

Precipitation. More than one-half of September's rain fell between the 9th and 13th. Locally heavy rain fell in far northwest Iowa on the 9th and 10th and again in portions of southeastern Iowa on the 11th and 13th. Rain also fell statewide on the 18th and 21st while very little precipitation was recorded over the last week of the month. Monthly rainfall totals varied from only 1.09 inches at Mason City to 7.43 inches at Donnellson.

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