

## IOWA MONTHLY WEATHER SUMMARY – NOVEMBER 2003

General Summary. Iowa temperatures averaged 35.8° or 0.2° above normal while precipitation averaged 3.45 inches or 1.31 inches above normal. This ranks as the 57<sup>th</sup> coolest and 11<sup>th</sup> wettest November among 131 years of state records.

Temperatures. Temperatures averaged below normal for the first 9 days of the month with Sibley reporting a low of 6° on the 6<sup>th</sup> while Swea City registered a low of 5° on the 8<sup>th</sup>. However, above normal temperatures were the rule on all but 4 of the remaining 21 days of November. The month's highest temperature was recorded on the 20<sup>th</sup> at Indianola with a 75° reading. Just four days later Sibley and Primghar reported the lowest temperatures of November with -1° readings on the morning of the 24<sup>th</sup>.

Heating Degree Days. Home heating requirements, as estimated by heating degree day totals, averaged 1% less than normal and 5% less than last November. Thus far this heating season, heating requirements are running 4% less than normal and 10% less than last season at this time.

Precipitation. A large storm system on the 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> deposited an average of 2.59 inches of rain across Iowa. The heaviest rain fell from southwest, through central, and into northeast Iowa. Garwin reported a 24-hour total of 5.04 inches on the 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> which was Iowa's largest one-day November total in 51 years. Most of the remainder of the month's precipitation was distributed among storms on the 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>. Monthly precipitation totals varied from 0.50 inches at Rock Rapids (only one-third of normal) to 7.94 inches at Dubuque Lock & Dam.

Records for greatest November precipitation were set at the following locations:

Station	November 2003	Old November Record	Year of Record
Dubuque L & D	7.94	6.22 in 1992	67
Cascade	7.62	6.88 in 1992	62
Toledo	6.99	6.57 in 1931	110
Vinton	6.72	5.98 in 1992	68
Manchester	6.52	5.90 in 1879	122
Independence	6.39	6.30 in 1879	144
Clarinda	5.87	5.74 in 1909 & 1983	132
Guttenberg	5.72	5.22 in 1961	67

The season's first accumulating snow came on the 3<sup>rd</sup> with one to two inches falling in extreme northwest Iowa. Another 1 to 4 inches of snow fell across the northwest one-third of the state on the 23<sup>rd</sup> while flurries were reported across the rest of Iowa. Rock Rapids reported the most snow for the month with 5.7 inches while the southeast two-thirds of the state recorded only trace amounts.

Fall Summary. The three fall months averaged 49.8° or exactly normal while precipitation totaled 7.69 inches or 0.38 inches less than normal. This ranks as the 42<sup>nd</sup> coolest and 58<sup>th</sup> wettest fall among 131 years of state records. Autumn precipitation generally was near or above normal across most of the southeastern two-thirds of Iowa. However, autumn rains were less than one-half of normal over portions of northwest and north central Iowa.

Harry J. Hillaker, State Climatologist  
Iowa Dept. of Agriculture & Land Stewardship  
Wallace State Office Bldg., Des Moines, IA 50319  
Phone: (515) 281-8981; E-mail: [harry.hillaker@idals.state.ia.us](mailto:harry.hillaker@idals.state.ia.us)