

IOWA MONTHLY WEATHER SUMMARY – JUNE 2004

General Summary. June temperatures averaged 67.1° or 2.7° below normal while precipitation totaled 3.60 inches or 1.04 inches below normal. This ranks as the 24th coolest and 35th driest June among 132 years of state records. This month ties with 2002 as Iowa's driest June since 1992 and is also the coolest June since 1982 (although just barely cooler than the recent Junes of 1985, 1998 and 2003).

Temperatures. The first 4 days of June averaged cooler than normal with temperatures falling to 43° at Cresco and Sheldon on the morning of the 3rd. Above normal temperatures were the rule from the 5th through the 16th with the month's hottest days on the 7th and 8th in most areas. Rock Rapids and Spencer reported the month's highest temperature with 95° readings on the 7th. Unseasonably cool weather prevailed for the remainder of June. There were no 90° readings anywhere in the state after the 12th. The coolest weather arrived on the morning of the 25th when Grinnell, Sioux Rapids and Fayette reported lows of 39°. These were Iowa's lowest late June temperatures since 1992.

Degree Days. Home air conditioning requirements, as estimated by cooling degree day totals, averaged 37% less than normal but just 8% less than last June which also had been unusually mild. The 2003-2004 heating season ended with home heating requirements averaging 6% less than normal and 5% less than the previous season.

Precipitation. A much needed break from the very wet late May weather pattern came in early June as precipitation averaged only 0.22 inches over the first 9 days of the month. However, the wet weather returned during the second week of the month with precipitation averaging 2.41 inches from the 10th through the 16th. The month's heaviest rains fell on Ida, Sac and Calhoun counties on the 16th where Ida Grove and Holstein both reported 4.00 inches of rain. A cooler and much drier weather pattern prevailed for the final two weeks of the month. Only 0.07 inches of rain was recorded at Bloomfield after the 16th. Monthly precipitation totals varied from 0.88 inches at Sheldon and 1.42 inches at Sanborn up to 7.80 inches at Oelwein and 7.91 inches at Holstein.

Severe Weather. Severe weather was not as frequent or as widespread during June as it had been in May. However, a preliminary total of 24 tornadoes touched down in the state on June 11 (mostly in Clay and Webster counties) with another 4 on June 16. This brings the yearly total to 89 tornadoes. Only in 2001 (105) were more tornadoes reported in Iowa. No severe weather was reported in the state after June 16.

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