

## IOWA MONTHLY WEATHER SUMMARY – APRIL 2005

General Summary. April temperatures averaged 53.1° or 4.6° above normal while precipitation totaled 3.56 inches or 0.23 inches above normal. This ranks as the 14<sup>th</sup> warmest and 36<sup>th</sup> wettest April among 133 years of state records. This was also the warmest April since 1987.

Temperatures. Unseasonably mild weather prevailed for the first three weeks of April. Temperatures averaged 10.8° above normal for the first 21 days of the month with a streak of 26 consecutive warmer than normal days finally coming to an end on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Colder than normal weather was the rule for the last nine days of April with temperatures falling as low as 21° at Sheldon on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Temperature extremes for the month varied from 18° at Mapleton and Washta on the 2<sup>nd</sup> to 86° at Sioux City on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

Heating Degree Days. Home heating requirements, as estimated by heating degree day totals, averaged 17% less than last April and 28% less than normal. Heating requirements for the 2004-2005 season are running 6% less than one year ago and 11% less than normal.

Precipitation. Rainfall amounts varied widely across Iowa during April. Generally, conditions were much drier than normal across eastern portions of the state while very wet weather affected scattered portions of western and central Iowa. Monthly rainfall totals varied from only 0.75 inches at Clinton to 7.67 inches at Little Sioux. At Clinton their monthly precipitation total was the lowest for April since 1915. Meanwhile, Logan, with 7.38 inches, recorded their wettest April among 140 years of records (old record 7.17 in 1896). The most widespread rain event of the month came on the 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> when rain totals varied from 0.28 inches at Clinton to 3.64 inches at Little Sioux. Locally heavy rain also fell on the 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> across the northwest half of Iowa with 3.83 inches falling at Logan. However, this event completely missed east central and southeast Iowa. There was no measurable snowfall during the month. Snowfall for the 2004-2005 season averaged 19.0 inches or 13.4 inches less than normal. This ranks as the 13<sup>th</sup> lowest seasonal snow total among 118 years of records and is only one-half of the previous winter's total.

Severe Weather. April was an unusually quiet month for severe weather. The only severe weather reports came at mid month with reports received each day from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup>. Most of the reports were only marginally severe with the exception of golf ball size hail at Garber (Clayton Co.) on April 17.

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