

IOWA MONTHLY WEATHER SUMMARY – AUGUST 2005

General Summary. Temperatures during August averaged 71.8° or 0.5° above normal while precipitation averaged 3.10 inches or 1.09 inches less than normal. This ranks as the 67th warmest and 49th driest August among 133 years of state records.

Temperatures. Most of the month averaged warmer than normal; however, there were three brief periods of cool weather on the 4th-6th, 12th-17th and 22nd-24th. During these milder periods temperatures fell to 47° at Audubon and Guthrie Center on the 6th and 48° at Swea City on the 14th as well as at Cresco on the 15th. The month's lowest temperatures were 45° readings at Cresco and Elkader on the 23rd and again at Cresco on the 24th. During the more frequent hot periods temperatures reached 100° at Keokuk on the 3rd, 96° at Keosauqua on the 18th and 94° at Sioux City on the 27th. Keosauqua reported the highest temperature of the month with 101° on the 9th.

Cooling Degree Day Totals. Home air conditioning requirements, as estimated by cooling degree day totals, averaged 92% greater than last August (which was the 3rd coolest August on record) but 1% less than normal. Thus far this year cooling degree day totals are running 65% greater than last year and 8% more than normal.

Precipitation. The tendency for wetter weather to occur in western Iowa and drier in the east that has persisted since March finally reversed in August. The driest weather this past month occurred across the western one-third of the state. Among the lower precipitation totals were 1.00 inches at Randolph in the southwest, 1.09 inches at Harlan in west central Iowa and 1.21 inches at Lake Park in the northwest. Heaviest rains fell across portions of central and northeast Iowa with 8.63 inches at Ames and 7.78 inches at Ionia. The severe drought area of east central and southeast Iowa generally received 2 to 3 inches of rain during the month. In many cases these were the highest monthly totals they have had this year despite these totals being 1 to 2 inches less than usual for August. The northern edge of the severe drought region, Jones, Jackson and Clinton counties, fared a little better than most with near-normal rain totals this past month. Rainfall deficits for the year are in the 8 to 12 inch range for far eastern and southeastern Iowa.

Summer Summary. Temperatures for the three summer months averaged 73.2° or 1.6° above normal while precipitation totaled 11.77 inches or 1.30 inches less than normal. This ranks as the 35th warmest and 58th driest summer among 133 years of state records. In recent years the summers of 1995 (73.8°) and 2002 (73.5°) were slightly warmer while 1995 (10.83"), 1997 (10.24"), 2001 (10.33") and 2003 (9.87") were drier.

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