

## IOWA WEATHER SUMMARY – SEPTEMBER 2005

General Summary. September temperatures averaged 67.6° or 4.7° above normal while precipitation totaled 3.43 inches or 0.02 inches more than normal. This ranks as the 11<sup>th</sup> warmest and 60<sup>th</sup> wettest September among 133 years of state records. The last warmer September was in 1998 with a 68.6° average.

Temperatures. September was a consistently warm month. Only six days (1<sup>st</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>) averaged cooler than normal. The warmest day came on the 21<sup>st</sup> when Glenwood reached 101°. This was Iowa's highest temperature for so late in the year since the same location reached 103° on September 28, 1953. The season's first freeze struck portions of western Iowa on the morning of the 29<sup>th</sup>. Atlantic reported the lowest temperature with 27° on that date with temperatures in low lying areas dipping below freezing down to the Missouri border. Overall, 22% of the state's temperature stations reported a freeze during the month.

Cooling Degree Days. Home air conditioning requirements, as estimated by cooling degree day totals, averaged 111% more than normal and 34% more than last September. Cooling degree day totals so far this year are running 16% greater than usual and 59% more than last year.

Precipitation. Although the statewide average precipitation was almost exactly normal, the distribution of the precipitation was not. Very dry weather prevailed over southern, and particularly, southwestern Iowa. Glenwood recorded only 0.11 inches of rain for the month. This is their lowest September total among 124 years of records (previous low of 0.43 inches in 1888). Meanwhile, very wet weather was the rule for parts of northern Iowa. Mason City Airport reported 9.54 inches of rain for the month. This was their second highest September rain total among 64 years of record (14.41 inches in 1965 is their September record).

Severe Weather. The only widespread severe weather event of the month came on the 8<sup>th</sup> when high winds and large hail affected a fairly narrow band from near Sioux Falls southeastward to Keokuk. Baseball size hail pounded the Everly area of Clay County while a small tornado touched down on the Iowa State University campus in Ames.

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