

IOWA MONTHLY WEATHER SUMMARY – JULY 2006

General Summary. Iowa temperatures averaged 76.2° or 2.4° above normal while precipitation totaled 3.20 inches or 1.05 inches less than normal. This ranks as the 29th warmest and 49th driest July among 134 years of state records. This was Iowa's warmest month since July 2002 and driest July since 1998.

Temperatures. Hot weather was only briefly interrupted by cooler than normal periods on the 4th-8th, 10th-11th and 21st-23rd. The month began with a 99° maximum at Sidney on the 1st. However, a period of very mild weather brought morning lows down to 46° at Sheldon and Washta on the 5th and 6th. The month's hottest weather was centered at mid-month and again for the last few days of the month. Triple digit heat was recorded at several southern and western Iowa locations on the 15th, 16th, 17th, 19th, 28th, 29th, 30th and 31st. The highest temperature recorded was a 106° reading at Washta on the 19th. This was Iowa's highest official temperature since Keosauqua reached 107° on July 29, 1999. Heat indices, among official National Weather Service locations, peaked at 113° at Iowa City on the 17th and 112° at Des Moines and Spencer on the 19th. Temperatures reached or exceeded 90° on 22 days during July at Onawa while 41 of the state's 139 temperature stations reached or exceeded 100° during the month.

Cooling Degree Days. Home air conditioning requirements, as estimated by cooling degree day totals, averaged 11% greater than last July and 25% more than normal. Air conditioning requirements so far this season are running 5% more than last season and 16% more than normal.

Precipitation. Rainfall amounts were extremely variable across Iowa. A pair of storm systems on the 10th-11th and 25th-26th brought very heavy rain to portions of west central, central and east central Iowa. Popejoy in southwest Franklin County reported 7.95 inches for the 10th-11th while Perry, which registered their driest June ever last month, received 4.65 inches. The second storm event dumped 4.39 inches of rain near Oskaloosa. However, both storm systems dropped little if any rain across northwest Iowa. Akron received only 0.10 inches of rain for the month. The following locations set record low totals for July:

Location	July 2006	Old July Record	Years of Record
Sheldon	0.15	0.27 in 1975	95
Alton	0.25	0.38 in 1988	102
Sioux Rapids	0.29	0.53 in 1967	65
Sanborn	0.34	0.35 in 1959	95
Storm Lake	0.45	0.51 in 1936	115

Popejoy reported the most July rainfall with 11.24 inches.

Drought Situation. After a relatively wet winter and early spring very dry weather has dominated the state since May 1. The statewide average precipitation for the May through July period was only 8.28 inches or 4.83 inches less than normal. This ranks 8th driest among 134 years of record for this time period with only 1988 being drier in the most recent 70 years.

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