

IOWA MONTHLY WEATHER SUMMARY – AUGUST 2006

General Summary. Iowa temperatures averaged 72.4° or 1.1° above normal while precipitation totaled 5.80 inches or 1.61 inches above normal. This ranks as the 53rd warmest and 16th wettest August among 134 years of state records. This was Iowa's wettest month since May 2004.

Temperatures. Above normal temperatures prevailed for 10 of the first 13 days of August. The month's highest reading, 101°, was recorded on the 2nd at Keokuk. The second half of the month was much milder with 90° readings confined to only a few areas on the 23rd, 24th and 25th. Spencer and Sheldon reported the lowest temperatures of the month with 44° readings on the morning of the 30th.

Cooling Degree Day Totals. Home air conditioning requirements, as estimated by cooling degree day totals, averaged 6% greater than normal and 7% greater than last August. Cooling degree day totals so far this year are running 13% greater than normal and 5% greater than last year. A warmer air conditioning season was last recorded in 2002.

Precipitation. The big weather story of the month was the return of abundant rainfall. Following the driest May-July period ever in northwest Iowa, August wasted no time in reversing the dry trend. Very heavy rain fell on the night of the 1st with 6.90 inches at Algona and 5.95 inches at Titonka. A week later heavy rain fell across southwest Iowa with 5.80 inches at Bedford on the 8th. Rainfall later in the month was not as heavy but still came frequently. Monthly precipitation totals reached 13.72 inches at Bedford, their wettest month since July 1993. However, northeast Iowa, which had been the wettest part of Iowa earlier in the growing season, recorded below normal rainfall in August with only 1.97 inches at Dubuque.

Summer Summary. Temperatures over the three summer months averaged 72.9° or 1.3° above normal while precipitation totaled 11.57 inches or 1.50 inches less than normal. This ranks as the 45th warmest and 54th driest summer among 134 years of state records.

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