

IOWA MONTHLY WEATHER SUMMARY – SEPTEMBER 2006

General Summary. Iowa temperatures averaged 60.1° or 2.8° below normal while precipitation averaged 4.19 inches or 0.78 inches more than normal. This ranks as the 17th coolest and 41st wettest September among 134 years of state records. This was the coolest September since 1993 and wettest since 1992. It was also the first month to average cooler than normal since December.

Temperatures. Cool weather was the rule for most of the month as above normal temperatures were restricted to only 8 days (6th-8th, 14th-16th, 22nd and 30th). Temperatures dipped into the 30's for the first time this season at Spencer on the morning of the 13th with a low of 38°. One week later Spencer Airport also recorded the lowest temperature of the month with a low of 27° on the morning of the 20th. This was Iowa's lowest temperature for so early in the fall since 1991. Temperatures of 32° or lower were recorded at 29% of Iowa's reporting points on the 20th, including some valley bottom locations near the Missouri border. However, there were no additional freezes during the month. On the other extreme the only 90° readings of the month were registered on the 16th with Glenwood, Red Oak and Shenandoah being the hot spots at 92°.

Cooling Degree Day Totals. Home air conditioning requirements, as estimated by cooling degree day totals, averaged 56% less than normal and 79% less than last September. Cooling degree day totals for the 2006 season are running 7% greater than normal but 8% less than last year.

Precipitation. Rainfall was plentiful across northern and western Iowa, particularly during the first one-half of the month. Jefferson recorded 8.28 inches of rain for the month, their wettest September since 1965 while Dumont reported the most precipitation in the state with 8.48 inches. Dumont's total was aided by a 6.20 inch downpour for the 24 hours ending 7 a.m. September 11th; their largest one-day rain total since July 17, 1968. However, conditions were very dry in parts of east central and southeast Iowa. Clinton recorded only 0.82 inches of rain while Donnellson had 0.84 inches for the month.

Severe Weather. The most widespread severe weather event of the growing season came on the night of the 16th when severe winds were reported from 23 counties, mostly in central and west central Iowa. After a very active start to Iowa's severe weather season there have been only 7 tornadoes reported since mid-April, the lowest total for this time period since 1955 when tornado reporting was far less complete than is the case today.

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