

## IOWA PRELIMINARY MONTHLY WEATHER SUMMARY – OCTOBER 2006

General Summary. October temperatures averaged 48.0° or 2.9° below normal while precipitation totaled 1.73 inches or 0.79 inches less than normal. This ranks as the 20<sup>th</sup> coldest and 49<sup>th</sup> driest October among 133 years of state records. This has been Iowa's coolest start to the fall season since 1993 and wettest since 2001 (Sep. 1 to Oct. 31 averages).

Temperatures. October began with hot weather as temperatures reached the 90's in many areas on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. Burlington, Columbus Junction, Keosauqua, Mount Pleasant and Muscatine all reached 95° on the 3<sup>rd</sup> for the state's highest temperatures of the month. These readings were only two degrees shy of the state record highest temperature for October of 97° set in 1897, 1938 and 1963. However, unseasonably cool weather was the rule for most of the month. The temperature failed to reach 70 degrees anywhere in the state between the 9<sup>th</sup> and the 29<sup>th</sup>. Some notable low temperatures included 21° at Cresco on the 12<sup>th</sup>, which was also the date of the first statewide freeze of the season, 20° at Onawa and Sanborn on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 16° at Sanborn on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Warmer weather briefly returned late in the month with 78° readings recorded at Glenwood, Shenandoah and Sidney on the 29<sup>th</sup> and 75° at Burlington on the 30<sup>th</sup>. However, temperatures fell as low as 12° by midnight on the 31<sup>st</sup> at Spencer.

Degree Days Summary. Monthly heating requirements, as estimated by heating degree day totals, averaged 22% greater than normal and 31% more than last October. So far this season heating requirements are running 16% more than normal and 47% more than last season at this time. Air conditioning requirements for the 2006 season ended at 9% more than normal but 9% less than year.

Precipitation. Most of October's precipitation fell during the second half of the month and across southeastern Iowa. An average of only 0.33 inches of the month's 1.73 inch total fell during the first one-half of the month. Precipitation totals were well below normal across northwestern Iowa and slightly above normal at a few southeastern locations. Monthly precipitation totals varied from 0.23 inches at Cherokee (their driest October since 1958) to 3.67 inches at Allerton. The season's first snow arrived on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> with scattered accumulations across the north one-half of the state. Tripoli reported the most snow during this first event with 1.3 inches. Snow also accumulated over parts of northwest Iowa on the 18<sup>th</sup> with 2.2 inches reported at Rock Rapids.

Severe Weather. Thunderstorms dropped large hail along a narrow path from Winnebago to Winneshiek County during the pre-dawn hours of October 4 causing considerable damage to crops that were ready for harvest.

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