

IOWA WEATHER SUMMARY – MAY 2007

General Summary. Iowa temperatures averaged 64.9° or 4.7° above normal while precipitation totaled 5.38 inches or 1.15 inches above normal. This ranks as the 14th warmest and 31st wettest May among 135 years of state records.

Temperatures. Warm weather was the rule for most of the month as below normal temperatures were limited to only the 15th-18th and 24th-27th. The most anomalous warmth came during the second week of the month when a few locations reached into the 90's on the 11th, 12th, 13th and 14th. The highest reported temperatures for the month were 93° readings at Sioux City on the 13th and Dubuque Lock & Dam on the 14th. However, Dubuque Lock & Dam was the only point in Iowa reaching 90° for the remainder of the month (on the 23rd and 29th). Cresco reported the only freeze during May with a 32° reading on the morning of the 17th.

Degree Day Totals. Home heating requirements, as estimated by heating degree day totals, averaged 58% less than last May and 61% less than normal. For the 2006-2007 season (since July 1, 2006) heating requirements have averaged 7% more than last season, but 6% less than normal. Meanwhile, home air conditioning requirements, as estimated by cooling degree day totals, averaged 14% more than last May and 31% more than normal.

Precipitation. There was a major contrast in precipitation across Iowa during May. Monthly totals varied from only 1.07 inches at Dubuque Airport and Bellevue to 12.53 inches at Red Oak. At Dubuque this was the 6th driest May among 153 years of records while at Red Oak it was the 3rd wettest May among 93 years of data. The bulk of the month's precipitation came during two periods. The first, on May 5-7, brought flooding rains to much of west central and southwest Iowa with 6.95 inches at Randolph and 6.77 inches at Logan. However, this early month rain largely missed eastern Iowa where Davenport and Dubuque received only 0.02 inches. Relatively dry weather prevailed for the next two weeks over most of Iowa allowing significant progress with spring planting. The next major rain system struck on the 23rd and 24th with greatest amounts again in west central and southwest Iowa. Guthrie Center reported the most rain during this second event with 7.17 inches. Frequent light to moderate rainfall was the rule in most areas of Iowa for the last week of May.

Severe Weather. May was unusually quiet for severe weather with no major severe weather outbreaks. The most damaging weather came on the night of May 5 when hail and high winds were reported from 16 western Iowa counties. These storms brought tornadoes to Pottawattamie, Cass, Mills, Montgomery and Fremont counties.

Spring Summary. Temperatures during the three spring months averaged 50.9° or 2.7° above normal while precipitation totaled 13.09 inches or 3.32 inches above normal. This ranks as the 19th warmest and 10th wettest spring among 135 years of state records.

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