

IOWA MONTHLY WEATHER SUMMARY – OCTOBER 2007

General Summary. Iowa temperatures averaged 55.9° or 5.0° above normal while precipitation totaled 5.09 inches or 2.57 inches above normal. This was the warmest October since 1973, yet ranks as only 19th warmest October among 135 years of records. This was also the wettest October since 1984 and 4th wettest October on record.

Temperatures. Warmer than normal weather was the rule for most of October with just 8 days averaging cooler than usual. The first week was by far the warmest with temperatures more than 10 degrees above normal on the 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th when unusually humid air kept nighttime temperatures well above normal. At Des Moines the minimum temperature on the 7th was 71°, the ‘highest’ low on record for so late in the year. Burlington and Keokuk recorded the highest maximum temperature of the month with 91° readings, also on the 7th. Other than a 31° reading at Little Sioux on the 11th and a 32° reading at Cresco on the morning of the 12th there were no freezes reported in the month until the 23rd. Sheldon reported the lowest temperature of the month with a 23° minimum on the morning of the 28th. There are 7 of the 139 temperature reporting locations in the state, mostly in the far south and east, which had yet to record a freeze this fall season.

Degree Days. Home heating requirements, as estimated by heating degree day totals, averaged 43% less than last October and 30% less than normal. So far this heating season heating degree day totals are running 42% less than last season at this time and 33% less than normal. Iowa’s annual cooling degree day total, an estimate of air conditioning requirements, averaged 11% greater than last year and 20% greater than normal. This was the largest cooling degree day total since 1991, but just a fraction of one percent more than seen in 2002 and 2005.

Precipitation. Very wet weather prevailed for the first 18 days of the month. Large rain events came on the 2nd (2.25 inches at New Hampton), 7th-8th (5.57 inches at Edgewood), 13th-15th (6.27 at Randolph) and 17th-18th (3.20 inches at Bloomfield). The frequent heavy rains brought harvest activities to a halt following a rapid start to the harvest season in September. However, very dry weather prevailed late in the month with an average of only 0.04 inches of rain for the final 12 days of October. Monthly rain totals varied from 2.05 inches at Davenport to 11.26 inches at Red Oak. Record maximum October precipitation totals were recorded at a number of locations including:

City	Oct. 2007 Total	Old October Record	Length of Record
Red Oak	11.26	5.88 inches in 1935	97 years
Atlantic	9.88	6.72 inches in 1997	119 years
Oakland	8.00	5.61 inches in 1986	87 years
Guthrie Center	7.13	6.47 inches in 1941	108 years
Guttenberg	6.28	5.19 inches in 1967	75 years
Le Mars	6.27	5.69 inches in 1968	115 years
Perry	6.25	5.33 inches in 1977	105 years

There was no snowfall recorded anywhere in Iowa during October. This was the first snowless October since 1998 and the 16th such occurrence among 121 years of statewide snowfall records.

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