

## IOWA MONTHLY WEATHER SUMMARY – JULY 2008

General Summary. July temperatures averaged 73.4° or 0.4° below normal while precipitation totaled 5.92 inches or 1.67 inches above normal. This ranks as the 54<sup>th</sup> coolest and 16<sup>th</sup> wettest July among 136 years of record.

Temperatures. As was the case in June, temperatures fluctuated very little during the month with only five days averaging more than five degrees from normal. Temperature extremes ranged from a low of 48° at Elkader on the morning of the 1<sup>st</sup> to afternoon highs of 95° at Ankeny and Keosauqua on the 7<sup>th</sup>, Little Sioux and Ankeny on the 15<sup>th</sup> and Bedford on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Only in 1993 has a smaller range in temperatures been recorded in Iowa during July (50° to 94°). Several eastern Iowa cities have yet to reach the 90° mark this year.

Cooling Degree Day Totals. Home air conditioning requirements, as estimated by cooling degree day totals, averaged 6% less than last July and normal. Thus far this air conditioning season the cooling requirements are running 24% less than last year at this time and 20% less than normal.

Precipitation. July rain fall was uneventful until the evening of the 17<sup>th</sup> when heavy rain fell over much of central Iowa with Brooklyn reporting the most rain with 4.21 inches. A much larger rain event drenched south central Iowa on the morning of the 24<sup>th</sup> with 8.18 inches reported at the Creston Airport and 8.26 inches at Lamoni. Yet another heavy rain event affected much of central and south central Iowa on the night of the 27<sup>th</sup> with Guthrie Center reporting 6.73 inches of rain. Monthly rain totals exceeded a foot over parts of south central Iowa while sections of far western and northern Iowa recorded a drier than normal July. Monthly rain totals varied from only 1.66 inches at Clarinda and 1.92 inches at Red Oak and Swea City to 13.58 inches at Centerville and 12.83 inches at Lake Rathbun Dam. Unofficial totals as high as 13.87 inches were reported near Indianola. Indianola's official precipitation total of 11.94 inches set a new July record for that location (old record 11.51 inches in 1884 among 119 years of records). Statewide this was Iowa's wettest July since 1993 when the all-time calendar month record of 10.50 inches was set. Year-to-date precipitation totals have already exceeded annual normals over much of south central, central and northeast Iowa. In terms of statewide average precipitation the first seven months of 2008 are the second wettest January through July period among 136 years of records. This year's total is 30.39 inches, normal for the period is 20.59 inches and the only wetter period came in 1993 with 32.98 inches.

Severe Weather. The number of severe storms typically decreases substantially during July from the peak severe weather months of May and June. This year was no exception, however, July was still a very active month. Severe weather was reported somewhere in the state on 15 days during the month. The most noteworthy events came on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. A derecho developed near Sioux City very late on the 20<sup>th</sup> and rapidly traversed central sections of Iowa to the Quad Cities by sunrise on the 21<sup>st</sup>. Very high winds resulted in reported damage from 24 counties. On the night of the 27<sup>th</sup> and

into the 28<sup>th</sup> severe weather was reported from 25 counties across central and southern Iowa. Several locations were struck with damaging wind and/or hail several times with softball size reported near Kiron in Crawford County.

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