

IOWA MONTHLY WEATHER SUMMARY

November 2002

General Summary. November temperatures averaged 34.6° or 2.8° below normal while precipitation totaled 0.21 inches or 1.57 inches less than normal. This ranks as the 46th coldest and 4th driest November among 130 years of state records. Only the Novembers of 1976 (0.10”), 1904 (0.15”) and 1875 (0.19”) were drier.

Temperatures. The very cold weather pattern of October continued through the first six days of November with temperatures averaging more than 10° below normal on the 1st, 2nd and 4th. Above normal temperatures prevailed for most of the second week of the month with Glenwood and Sioux City reaching 72° on the 7th. Temperatures were near normal for the third week of the month and fell back below normal for much of the last week of November. The month's lowest temperatures were reported on the morning of the 25th with 5° readings at Davenport and Sibley and also at Leon on the 27th..

Heating Degree Day Totals. Home heating requirements, as estimated by heating degree day totals, averaged 78% greater than last November (the warmest November on record) and 9% greater than normal. Heating requirements so far this season are running 42% greater than last season through November 30 and 15% greater than normal.

Precipitation. Very dry weather prevailed throughout the month. About one-half of the monthly precipitation total came on the 5th when light snow fell across the northwest two-thirds of the state and light rain fell in the southeast. There were no other statewide precipitation events during the month. November precipitation totals varied from 0.06 inches at Anamosa to 0.53 inches at Dorchester. Despite being the state's wet spot the Dorchester total is only one-fourth of their normal precipitation amount for November. This was Iowa's driest month since March 1994.

Fall Summary. Temperatures over the three fall months of September, October and November averaged 48.8° or 2.2° below normal. Fall precipitation totaled 5.60 inches or 2.54 inches less than normal. This ranks as the 30th coldest and 31st driest Fall among 130 years of state records.