

IOWA MONTHLY WEATHER SUMMARY – JUNE 2003

General Summary. June temperatures averaged 67.4° or 2.4° below normal while precipitation totaled 4.59 inches or 0.05 inches less than normal. This ranks as the 34th coolest and 64th driest June among 131 years of state records.

Temperatures. June began unseasonably cool with each of the first 12 days of the month averaging cooler than normal. Waukon reported the month's lowest temperature with a 37° low on the morning of the 1st. Temperatures finally warmed above normal from the 13th through the 18th although only a few scattered locations reached 90°. Below normal temperatures prevailed again from the 19th through the 21st with Elkader reporting a low of 40° on the morning of the 20th. Temperatures from the 22nd through the 25th averaged warmer than normal with the month's hottest weather coming on the 24th when afternoon highs in the 90's covered nearly all of the state with Waterloo being the hot spot at 97°. Cooler and much drier air dominated Iowa over the last five days of the month.

Degree Day Totals. Home air conditioning requirements, as estimated by cooling degree day totals, averaged 49% less than last June and 26% less than normal. Air conditioning requirements for the first half of 2003 are averaging 39% less than normal and 49% less than last year. June marked the end of the 2002-2003 heating season. Home heating requirements for the 2002-2003 season averaged just 0.3% less than normal but were 14% greater than during the very mild 2001-2002 season.

Precipitation. Rain was frequent during the first ten days of the month and brought an average of 1.99 inches of precipitation to the state. Much drier weather was the rule at mid-month with an average of only 0.28 inches of rain falling from the 11th through the 21st. Rain was again plentiful in most areas late in the month with an average 1.95 inches falling just from the 22nd through the 25th. Daily rainfall amounts exceeded four inches in parts of northwest Iowa centered on Cherokee on the night of the 23rd and in several areas of southeast Iowa on the 25th including Indianola and Oskaloosa. Monthly rain totals varied from 2.40 inches at Rock Rapids to 10.47 inches at Sioux Rapids.

Severe Weather. June was unusually quiet for severe weather in Iowa. Severe weather was reported on 12 days during the month; however, none of the severe weather episodes were large. June 24 and 25 each produced severe weather reports from nine counties. A total of four small tornadoes were reported during the month bringing the tornado count for the first half of 2003 to 14. This is the smallest June and first-half year total of tornadoes since 1997.

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