

## IOWA MONTHLY WEATHER SUMMARY – OCTOBER 2005

General Summary. Iowa temperatures averaged 52.7° or 1.8° above normal while precipitation averaged 0.96 inches or 1.56 inches less than normal. This ranks as the 52<sup>nd</sup> warmest and 15<sup>th</sup> driest October among 133 years of state records.

Temperatures. October began with unusually warm weather. Temperatures were well above normal for the first 5 days of the month with Glenwood reaching 93° on the 4<sup>th</sup>. A strong cold front moved across the state on the 5<sup>th</sup> with below normal temperatures prevailing from the 6<sup>th</sup> through the 11<sup>th</sup>. Temperatures fell to 25° at Little Sioux on the 7<sup>th</sup> and at Atlantic, Guthrie Center and Winterset on the 8<sup>th</sup>; however, most of eastern Iowa avoided a freeze during this cool spell. Above normal temperatures returned for the 12<sup>th</sup> through the 19<sup>th</sup> with Glenwood reaching 88° on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Colder than normal weather prevailed from the 20<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup> with most of eastern Iowa finally recording a freeze during this time period. Little Sioux reported the lowest temperature of the month with an 18° reading on the morning of the 25<sup>th</sup>. Finally, the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> averaged warmer than normal with Glenwood and Little Sioux reaching 73° on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Glenwood, Onawa and Sioux City reached 90° on three dates during the month (2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>) while Burlington Radio KBUR, Fort Madison and Keokuk failed to record a freeze prior to the end of October.

Degree Day Totals. Home heating requirements, as estimated by heating degree day totals, averaged 4% greater than last October but 7% less than normal. Heating requirements so far this season (since July 1) are running 8% less than last year at this time and 21% less than normal. Home air conditioning requirements, as estimated by cooling degree day totals, averaged 20% greater than normal for the 2005 season and 65% greater than the exceptionally mild 2004 season. The annual cooling degree day total was nearly identical to that of 2002, the only other hotter than normal air conditioning season since 1998.

Precipitation. Rainfall was well below normal across most of Iowa during October. Daily rainfall amounts in excess of two-thirds of an inch were restricted to far northwest Iowa on the 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>, far southern Iowa on the 20<sup>th</sup> and a very small portion of extreme northern Iowa on the 30<sup>th</sup>. Burlington reported the most rain during the month with 3.11 inches while the lowest total came from Buckeye with 0.13 inches. The dry weather has been nearly perfect for the fall harvest. However, about the southeast three-fourths of the state is now classified as being in drought conditions.

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