

IOWA WEATHER SUMMARY – SEPTEMBER 2007

General Summary. Iowa temperatures averaged 64.8° or 1.9° above normal while precipitation totaled 2.89 inches or 0.52 inches less than normal. This ranks as the 46th warmest and 58th driest September among 135 years of state records.

Temperatures. Most of September was on the warm side of normal. However, there was one extended period of unusually cold weather from the 9th through the 16th. It was during this cold episode that the most notable temperature event of the month occurred. Temperatures dipped to near freezing on the morning of the 12th with lows of 34° at several locations. However, a freeze was recorded across 52% of the state on the morning of September 15. This was easily Iowa's most widespread freeze for so early in the fall season in over 100 years (a freeze on September 12-13, 1902 affected 64% of the state). Temperatures fell as low as 28° at Spencer, Sheldon, Estherville, Mason City and Elkader. Fortunately most of Iowa's crops were planted in a timely manner last spring, and the growing season had been a relatively warm one, thus allowing ample time for crop development and minimizing potential freeze damage. Sheldon was the only location to record another freeze before the end of the month with a 32° reading on the 28th. On the other extreme the temperature reached 94° at Keokuk on the 4th for the month's highest temperature.

Cooling Degree Days. Home air conditioning requirements, as estimated by cooling degree day totals, averaged 49% greater than normal and 242% greater than last September which had been unusually cool. Cooling degree day totals for the year-to-date are running 17% greater than normal and 10% greater than last year at this time.

Precipitation. Rainfall amounts were below normal at most locations, a welcome change from the record wet August. Excessive rain fell in a few areas, such as Gilman (4.60 inches) and Red Oak (4.00) on the 6th-7th and Emmetsburg (3.75) and Swea City (3.61) on September 30. On the other extreme monthly totals were unusually low at Le Claire (0.86 inches), Clinton (0.93) and Keokuk (0.93). Gilman reported the most rain for the month with 6.66 inches.

Severe Weather. September's severe weather occurrences were fairly typical for the season with the most widespread activity on the 18th (west central to northeast); 21st (northeast) and 30th (northwest and east central). Most damage resulted from high winds, including two tornadoes in Poweshiek County on the 30th.

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