

IOWA MONTHLY WEATHER SUMMARY – JULY 2004

General Summary. Iowa temperatures averaged 70.6° or 3.2° below normal while precipitation totaled 4.20 inches or 0.05 inches below normal. This ranks as the 10th coolest and 48th wettest July among 132 years of state records.

Temperatures. The unseasonably cool weather pattern that began in mid-June continued through most of July. The month's lowest temperature was reported from Osage on the morning of the 8th with a 43° reading. Lamoni reported an afternoon high of 91° on the 11th which was the state's first 90° reading since June 12. However, hot weather did not make a prolonged appearance during July as above normal temperatures never prevailed for more than 3 consecutive days. The month's highest temperature was a 96° reading at Fort Madison on the 13th. This is the highest temperature recorded so far this year. Temperatures have failed to exceed 96° by the end of July somewhere in Iowa in only two other years (1992 and 1993) among the past 115 years. Overall, this was the state's coolest July since 1992 although the Julys of 1994 and 1996 were only fractionally warmer.

Cooling Degree Days. Home air conditioning requirements, as estimated by cooling degree day totals, averaged 32% less than normal and 27% less than last July. Year-to-date cooling requirements are running 29% less than normal and 9% less than last year at this time.

Precipitation. Rainfall was heaviest early in the month with 3.17 inches of the July total falling during the first 11 days of the month. Greatest rainfall was in northeast Iowa which continues the wet pattern of the previous two months in that area of the state. Monthly precipitation totals vary from 1.35 inches at Coggon to 11.89 inches at New Hampton.

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