



## IOWA PRELIMINARY MONTHLY WEATHER SUMMARY – AUGUST 2019

**General Summary:** Iowa temperatures averaged 69.8 degrees or 1.7 degrees below normal while rainfall totaled 3.55 inches or 0.65 inches below normal. This ties 1908 as the 31<sup>st</sup> coolest August on record; a colder August last occurred in 2017. This was also the 74<sup>th</sup> driest August in 147 years of statewide records, tying 1899. A drier August last occurred in 2013.

**Temperatures:** Temperature departures show below average conditions across the state with up to three degrees below normal in isolated sections of Iowa. Eighteen days during the month were below average statewide with the longest stretch occurring between August 20<sup>th</sup> through the 31<sup>st</sup>. Average temperatures during this stretch were anywhere from two to nine degrees below average. The month's high temperature of 92 degrees was reported at Muscatine in Muscatine County on the 5<sup>th</sup>; this reading was also reported at Little Sioux in Harrison County and Oakland in Pottawattamie County on the 20<sup>th</sup>. The reported high temperature was on average eight degrees above average. Fayette in Fayette County reported the month's low temperature of 47 degrees on the 31<sup>st</sup>, 10 degrees below average.

**Cooling Degree Day Totals:** Home air conditioning requirements, as estimated by cooling degree day totals, averaged 29% less than normal and 32% more than seen during August 2018. Cooling degree day totals are running 12% less than normal and 22% less than last year at this time.

**Precipitation:** Mostly sunny and dry conditions began the month, though isolated showers were present across northwestern Iowa during the afternoon of the 2<sup>nd</sup>. Light rain continued into the 3<sup>rd</sup> with totals ranging from 0.01 inch in Sheldon (O'Brien County) to 0.10 inch in Akron (Plymouth County). Isolated thunderstorms popped up in north central Iowa during the early morning hours of the 5<sup>th</sup> ahead of a line of strong thunderstorms that sped through much of Iowa's eastern half during the afternoon into the late-night hours. Much of the northeastern two-thirds of the state reported measurable rainfall; totals ranged from 0.01 inch in Lowden (Cedar County) to 1.68 inches in Stanley (Buchanan County) with the statewide average rainfall at 0.28 inch.

Showers and thunderstorms popped up in central Iowa during the morning hours of the 8<sup>th</sup> with a brief downpour on the opening ceremonies of the 160<sup>th</sup> Iowa State Fair in Des Moines (Polk County); a total of 0.22 inch was reported near the fair grounds. Higher rain totals were found in east-central Iowa with Newton (Jasper County) reporting 0.42 inch and Montezuma (Poweshiek County) observing 0.40 inch. Rain showers pushed into northwestern Iowa during the evening hours and remained into the 10<sup>th</sup>. Additional thundershowers popped up in north-central Iowa and moved east in two rounds into the afternoon hours. A system of showers and thunderstorms moved into southwestern Iowa early on the 11<sup>th</sup>. Rain totals, reported at 7:00 am for the previous 24-hours, were mostly under one inch and in the range of 0.10 – 0.50 inch; Underwood (Pottawattamie County) reported 1.00 inch.

A low pressure system moved across Iowa through the afternoon on the 11<sup>th</sup> bringing measurable rainfall from showers and thunderstorms. There were locally heavy downpours with a stronger line of storms in southwest Iowa. A second low pressure system propagated through Iowa early on the 12<sup>th</sup> bringing another wave of thunderstorms. As of 7:00 am, over 35 stations reported totals above an inch with Oakland (Pottawattamie County) reporting the highest 24-hour total of 2.82 inches. The system continued through eastern Iowa through the afternoon leaving behind 0.25 to 0.75 inch of rain in the

northeast and southeast corners with isolated totals above an inch. Centerville (Appanoose County) reported 1.98 inches while Guttenberg Lock and Dam (Clayton County) observed 1.30 inches

Rain moved into southern Iowa on the 17th along with isolated thunderstorms throughout the day. Chariton (Lucas County) reported 0.95 inch of rain. A squall line ahead of a cold front brought much needed rain to Iowa on Saturday night into Sunday (18th) morning. Totals across the state were above one inch at over 60 stations with isolated two-inch totals at several stations. A low pressure system moved out of Iowa through the afternoon hours on Sunday (18th) leaving measurable rainfall across the southern half of the state. Rain totals reported at 7:00 am on Monday (19th) were heaviest in southeast Iowa with a station in Ottumwa (Wapello County) observing 0.92 inches. Widespread totals between 0.10 inch and 0.25 inch were also reported

In terms of rainfall, over 100 stations reported an inch or more. In locations with stronger storms, rain totals varied from 2.00 inches Eldora (Hardin County) to 4.30 inches in Coon Rapids (Carroll County). Another low pressure system moved through Iowa on the 21st bringing additional widespread rain to much of the state. Totals were highest across central and southern Iowa. Pella (Marion County) reported 2.22 inches while Rathbun Dam (Appanoose County) reported 2.10 inches

A low pressure system moving through Missouri brought waves of showers across eastern Iowa on Sunday (25th) afternoon and into the evening hours before dissipating. Storms reformed during the early morning hours on Monday (26th) bringing much needed rain to eastern Iowa; three stations near Burlington (Des Moines County) reported over two inches. A small cluster of thunderstorms formed across west-central Iowa in the early morning hours of Thursday (29th). The storms moved through central Iowa before heading southeast. Isolated thunderstorms re-fired across southwestern Iowa just before midnight on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Twenty-four hour rain totals at 7:00 am on the 30th ranged from 0.01 inch in Atlantic (Cass County) to 1.85 inches at Rathbun Dam (Appanoose County).

Summer Summary: Temperatures for the three summer months of June, July and August averaged 71.4, which is 0.20 degrees below normal. Precipitation totaled 10.81 inches or 2.90 inches below normal. This ranks as the 40<sup>th</sup> wettest and 55<sup>th</sup> coldest summer in 147 years of records. A wetter and colder summer last occurred in 2017.

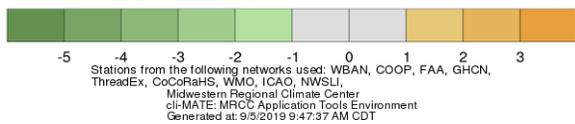
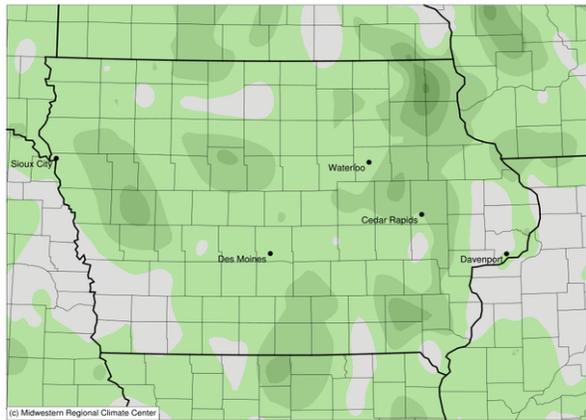
Drought: Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions continued to expand across Iowa, now covering a little over 41% of the state. Moderate Drought (D1) conditions were also introduced into eastern and central Iowa on August 13<sup>th</sup>, as precipitation deficits continued to accumulate. As of September 3<sup>rd</sup>, D1 conditions covered almost 12 percent of Iowa

Justin M. Glisan, Ph.D.  
State Climatologist of Iowa  
Iowa Dept. of Agriculture & Land Stewardship  
Wallace State Office Bldg.  
Des Moines, IA 50319  
Telephone: (515) 281-8981  
E-mail: Justin.Glisan@IowaAgriculture.gov

August 2019										
WEATHER BY DISTRICTS										
DISTRICT	TEMPERATURE (F)		COOLING DEGREE DAYS				PRECIPITATION (inches)			
	August 2019		August 2019		Since Jan., 1, 2019		August 2019		Since Jan. 1, 2019	
	Average	Departure*	Average	Departure*	Average	Departure*	Average	Departure*	Average	Departure*
Northwest	68.7	-1.6	128	-59	549	-92	2.27	-1.51	26.61	+4.12
North Central	68.0	-1.6	107	-72	501	-122	2.85	-1.26	25.61	-0.03
Northeast	68.2	-2.0	112	-67	524	-76	3.03	-1.60	28.80	+2.23
West Central	69.9	-1.7	155	-79	636	-147	3.50	-0.39	22.99	-1.70
Central	69.5	-1.9	143	-65	618	-86	3.46	-1.00	26.60	-0.35
East Central	70.5	-1.3	172	-53	709	-46	4.10	-0.40	30.33	+4.03
Southwest	72.1	-1.0	222	-48	801	-79	4.63	+0.82	27.30	+0.86
South Central	71.2	-1.8	196	-63	748	-87	4.98	+0.69	31.79	+4.39
Southeast	71.7	-2.0	209	-62	811	-85	3.75	-0.51	32.87	+5.46
STATE	69.8	-1.7	157	-64	646	-92	3.55	-0.65	27.86	+1.96

\* Departures are computed from 1981-2010 normals. Monthly estimates are preliminary and are likely to change.  
 The weather data in this report are based upon information collected by the U. S. Dept. of Commerce, NOAA National Weather Service.

**Average Temperature (°F): Departure from 1981-2010 Normals**  
 August 01, 2019 to August 31, 2019



**Accumulated Precipitation (in)**  
 August 01, 2019 to August 31, 2019

