

IOWA MONTHLY WEATHER SUMMARY – MARCH 2026

General Summary: Statewide temperatures averaged 42.6 degrees or 6.2 degrees above normal while precipitation totaled 1.97 inches, 0.02 inch below normal. March 2026 ties 1921 as the 12th warmest in 154 years of records. It also ranks as the 67th wettest/88th driest March on record. A warmer and wetter March occurred last year, while 2023 was drier.

Temperatures: Unseasonable warmth blanketed Iowa through March with the warmest conditions across south-central Iowa; stations there reported positive departures approaching eight degrees. March's statewide average maximum temperature was 55.6 degrees, 9.3 degrees above normal, while the average minimum temperature was 29.6 degrees, 3.1 degrees above normal. Little Sioux (Harrison County) reported the month's high temperature of 97 degrees on the 21st, 46 degrees above normal. This reading sets the new March statewide record high temperature, which was set on March 25th, 1907, in Clarinda (Page County) and Massena (Cass County) and tied on March 29th, 1986, at Glenwood (Mills County). Spencer Municipal Airport (Clay County) recorded the month's low temperature of -5 degrees on the 17th, 30 degrees below normal.

Heating Degree Days: Home heating requirements, estimated by heating degree day totals, averaged 1% more than last March and 22% less than normal. Heating degree day totals are running 2% less than last year at this time and 10% less than normal.

Precipitation: The western periphery, along with portions of southern and eastern Iowa, had precipitation deficits of over an inch. Much of the rest of Iowa saw near normal to slightly wetter conditions. Monthly precipitation totals ranged from 0.37 inch at a Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow (CoCoRaHS) network gauge in Le Mars (Plymouth County) to 3.96 inches at a CoCoRaHS gauge in Corydon (Wayne County).

US Drought Monitor: The US Drought Monitor showed some improvement across portions of the state through March. Overall, Iowa experienced a 12% decrease in Abnormal Dryness (D0) along with a 9% decrease in D1 (Moderate Drought). D2 conditions expanded across northwestern Iowa by 5%. As of the first USDM map of April, the area designated as D0 covers 37% of the state. For drought categories, D1 covers about 13% while D2 covers 3.5%. According to the Iowa Drought Plan (IDP) trigger tables, Drought Region 1 is the only region classified as in a "Watch." The remaining Drought Regions are classified as "Normal" with improving conditions.

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

March 2026

WEATHER BY DISTRICTS

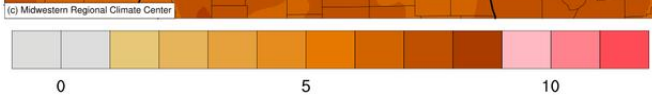
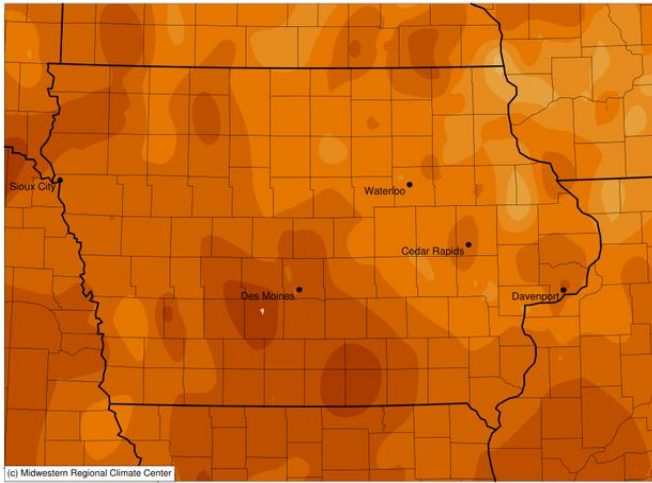
DISTRICT	TEMPERATURE (F)		HEATING DEGREE DAYS				PRECIPITATION (inches)				SNOWFALL Mar 2026 Average
	March 2026 Average	Departure	March 2026 Average	Departure	Since Jul., 1, 2025 Average	Departure	March 2026 Average	Departure	Since Jan. 1, 2026 Average	Departure	
Northwest	40.1	+6.1	772	-190	5777	-834	1.15	-0.51	1.47	-1.75	3.5
North Central	38.8	+5.5	812	-170	6050	-613	1.93	0.00	3.13	-0.73	4.6
Northeast	39.4	+5.4	794	-168	6060	-471	2.51	+0.49	4.79	+0.40	4.0
West Central	43.0	+6.2	691	-186	5293	-824	2.00	+0.19	3.02	-0.53	2.3
Central	42.6	+6.2	703	-184	5450	-659	2.18	+0.18	3.99	-0.05	1.9
East Central	43.4	+6.3	677	-188	5464	-488	2.23	+0.02	3.37	-1.51	4.1
Southwest	45.9	+6.5	605	-193	4864	-779	1.36	-0.62	2.57	-1.35	0.8
South Central	46.9	+7.8	576	-231	4866	-753	1.94	-0.16	3.19	-1.23	1.2
Southeast	45.6	+6.4	612	-190	4995	-544	2.40	+0.07	3.15	-2.12	2.1
STATE	42.6	+6.2	698	-186	5469	-619	1.97	-0.02	3.20	-0.94	2.9

* Departures are computed from 1991-2020 normals.

The weather data in this report are based upon information collected by the U. S. Dept. of Commerce, NOAA National Weather Service.

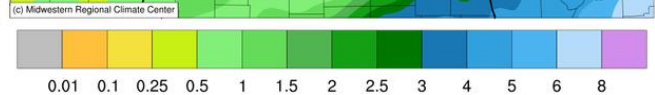
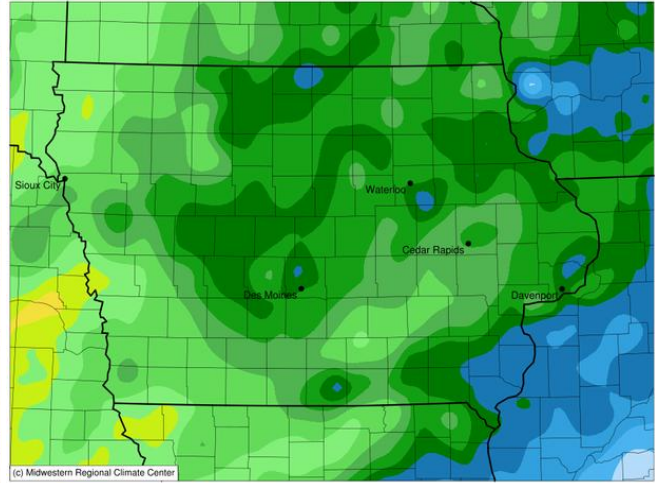
Average Temperature (°F): Departure from 1991-2020 Normals

March 01, 2026 to March 31, 2026



Accumulated Precipitation (in)

March 01, 2026 to March 31, 2026



Accumulated Snowfall (in)

March 01, 2026 to March 31, 2026

