IOWA DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE &
LAND STEWARDSHIP

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SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

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IOWA MONTHLY WEATHER SUMMARY – APRIL 2026

General Summary: Statewide temperatures averaged 52.7 degrees or 4.1 degrees above normal while precipitation totaled 5.34 inches, 1.67 inches above normal. April 2026 ties 1954 and 1986 as the 18th warmest and ranks as the 6th wettest in 154 years of statewide records; 2010 was warmer (10th) while 2013 was wetter and the wettest on record.

Temperatures: Temperatures for the month were above average statewide with the warmest conditions over southern Iowa; portions of western Iowa were closer to normal, though still one to two degrees above average. Three stations reported the month's high temperature of 89 degrees on two dates -- Lamoni (Decatur County) reported this reading on the 15th, which was 26 degrees above normal. Mapleton (Monona County) and Sioux City Airport (Woodbury County) also registered this temperature on the 21st, on average 26 degrees above normal. Both Estherville's (Emmet County) National Weather Service station and municipal airport along with Lake Park (Dickinson County) reported the month's low temperature of 16 degrees on the 7th, on average 15 degrees below normal.

Heating Degree Days: Home heating requirements, as estimated by heating degree day totals, averaged 4% more than last April and 9% less than normal. Heating degree day totals are running 10% more than last year at this time and 8% less than normal.

Precipitation: Most of Iowa's southeastern half reported at least five inches of precipitation through April, which was generally two to four inches above the 30-year climatological average. Only a swath of northwestern Iowa reported below normal precipitation. Precipitation totals ranged from 2.25 inches at Spencer Municipal Airport (Clay County) to 10.08 inches in Allison (Butler County).

Rain developed across southern Iowa after midnight on Wednesday (1st) and became widespread overnight as a large low-pressure system approached. Nearly 120 stations reported at least 1.00 inch of rainfall. The heaviest totals included 1.50 inches in Le Mars (Plymouth County), 1.87 inches in Ames (Story County) and 1.95 inches in Earlville (Delaware County). The statewide average rainfall was 0.86 inch, more than 130% of the normal weekly precipitation total. Additional rounds of moderate to heavy rain fell on Thursday (2nd), particularly across north-central, northeast, and southeastern Iowa. New Hampton (Chickasaw County) measured 1.01 inches while Wellman (Washington County) recorded 1.57 inches. The statewide average precipitation for the day was 0.70 inch. A third period of heavy rainfall occurred Friday into early Saturday (3rd–4th) as another low-pressure system and cold front crossed the state. Rainfall totals were especially high across west-central to northern Iowa, where Boone (Boone County) received 1.98 inches and Decorah (Winneshiek County) observed 4.60 inches. More than 70 stations reported at least 1.00 inch of rainfall during this event.

Rainfall on Tuesday (7th) was concentrated across southwestern Iowa as showers developed overnight into the afternoon. Corning (Adams County) recorded 1.01 inches while Creston (Union County) measured 1.36 inches. Several nearby stations reported more than 0.50 inch, though precipitation amounts decreased farther northeast.
Light showers accompanied a cold front on Wednesday (8th), mainly across eastern Iowa, where most locations observed up to 0.10 inch of rainfall. A more widespread and significant rainfall event occurred Thursday (9th) into early Friday (10th) as a warm front and upper-level disturbance interacted with abundant moisture. Much of southern Iowa received at least 0.75 inch of rain, and nearly 120 stations measured at least 1.00 inch. The highest totals were centered in central Iowa, including 1.52 to 1.64 inches at several Des Moines (Polk County) gauges and 1.78 inches in Dallas Center (Dallas County). The statewide average rainfall for the event was 0.71 inch. Another disturbance brought additional showers late Friday into Saturday (11th), primarily affecting southern and northeastern Iowa. Most stations receiving measurable

precipitation reported less than 0.40 inch, though higher totals included 0.78 inch in Lineville (Decatur County), 0.50 inch in Melrose (Appanoose County), 0.54 inch in Decorah (Winneshiek County), and 0.61 inch in Elma (Howard County).

On Sunday (12th), rainfall was concentrated in a narrow south-central to northeast corridor, where totals ranged from 0.69 inch at Rathbun Dam (Appanoose County) to 0.95 inch in Peosta (Dubuque County). Most other locations receiving rain reported between 0.20 and 0.40 inch. Thunderstorms on Monday (13th) produced localized heavy rainfall across northern Iowa, with Lake Mills (Winnebago County) recording 1.42 inches and Ringsted (Emmet County) measuring 0.97 inch. A more widespread heavy rainfall event occurred Tuesday (14th) as strong to severe thunderstorms repeatedly tracked over the same areas in central and eastern Iowa. Six stations reported at least 2.00 inches of rainfall, including 2.45 inches in Hartford (Warren County) and 2.78 inches in Sully (Jasper County). Much of Iowa's southeastern two-thirds received at least several tenths of an inch, and the statewide average precipitation was 0.51 inch. Additional widespread rainfall accompanied severe storms on Wednesday (15th), particularly across eastern Iowa where many stations observed more than 0.75 inch. Over 30 stations measured at least 1.00 inch, with the highest total of 1.93 inches reported in Vinton (Benton County). The statewide average rainfall was 0.55 inch. Heavy rainfall continued Friday (17th) as strong thunderstorms developed along a cold front moving through eastern Iowa. Moderate to heavy totals were common, including 1.02 inches in Ottumwa (Wapello County) and 2.35 inches in Wayne County.

Warm and windy conditions developed across Iowa early in the week, peaking Tuesday (21st) when temperatures surged into the mid- to upper 80s across northwestern Iowa. The statewide average high temperature reached 83 degrees, roughly 20 degrees above normal. Only isolated light rainfall occurred ahead of the main storm system on Wednesday (22nd), with minor totals reported in northwestern Iowa, including 0.09 inch in Le Mars (Plymouth County) and 0.19 inch in Spencer (Clay County). A cold front pushed through Iowa on the 23rd, firing thunderstorms along the boundary. Widespread rainfall accompanied the storms, with more than 75 stations reporting at least 1.00 inch of precipitation. The highest totals were observed in northeast Iowa, including 1.67 inches in Hopkinton (Delaware County) and 2.11 inches in Manchester (Delaware County). The statewide average rainfall for the event was 0.60 inch. Additional rainfall later in the period was more limited and generally light. Showers moving into western Iowa on Saturday (25th) mostly produced less than a few tenths of an inch, though Underwood (Pottawattamie County) measured 0.76 inch.

A low-pressure system moved through Iowa on Sunday, April 26, producing showers and thunderstorms mainly across southern and northwestern parts of the state. Rainfall became more widespread after midnight into Monday morning, with additional isolated thundershowers developing along a trailing cold front Monday afternoon; hail was reported in Lourdes in Howard County. The heaviest precipitation occurred in Dickinson County, where totals ranged from 1.93 inches in Milford to 3.74 inches in Lake Park. More than 70 stations recorded at least one inch of rain, and most stations statewide received measurable precipitation, resulting in a statewide average of 0.68 inch. Conditions remained cloudy with cooler temperatures and westerly winds. By Tuesday morning, skies had cleared across much of western Iowa, but scattered showers redeveloped later Tuesday in southwestern Iowa while additional light rain fell across northern Iowa. Northern rainfall totals generally exceeded 0.10 inch at some locations, including 0.25 inch in Dundee and 0.46 inch in Rock Rapids. Wednesday (27th) was comparatively dry and quiet, with only partial cloud cover and no significant precipitation reported.

Severe Weather: The 2nd was an active severe weather day for portions of southern and eastern Iowa as a warm front became a focusing mechanism for severe thunderstorms. Afternoon temperatures pushed into the low 70s with dew points in the mid 60s, providing enough instability for all modes of severe weather. Three-inch diameter hail was reported in Martinsburg (Keokuk County) along with an EF-1 tornado with winds approaching 105 mph near Welton (Clinton County).

An active severe weather pattern impacted Iowa from April 13–17, producing four consecutive days of severe thunderstorms with tornadoes, large hail, damaging winds, and heavy rainfall across multiple regions of the state. The first severe weather occurred Monday (13th) across northern Iowa as a low-pressure system tracked along the Iowa-Minnesota border. Warm, humid, and sheared conditions supported several severe storms, including a few weak

tornadoes, pockets of large hail, and locally heavy rainfall. Rainfall totals reached 0.97 inch in Ringsted (Emmet County) and 1.42 inches in Lake Mills (Winnebago County). On Tuesday (14th), a secondary low-pressure system and advancing cold front triggered widespread severe thunderstorms across central and eastern Iowa. Two EF-1 tornadoes were confirmed near Masonville (Buchanan County) and Dubuque (Dubuque County). Large hail was widespread, including a 3.5-inch hailstone in Elma (Howard County). Repeated storms over the same locations also produced heavy rainfall, with totals reaching 2.45 inches in Hartford (Warren County) and 2.78 inches in Sully (Jasper County). Severe weather on Wednesday (15th) was focused mainly across southern Iowa and was dominated by large hail, with isolated damaging straight-line winds reported in southeastern Iowa. Heavy rainfall accompanied many storms, with more than 30 stations measuring at least 1.00 inch. The highest rainfall total was 1.93 inches in Vinton (Benton County). The most significant outbreak of the period occurred Friday (17th) as a strong low-pressure system and cold front moved through the state. Discrete supercells developed ahead of the front in eastern Iowa before storms merged into a severe squall line. Tornado damage to farm buildings was reported near Washington (Washington County). Damaging straight-line winds became the primary hazard later in the event, with an 86-mph wind gust recorded in Cascade (Dubuque County).

A significant severe weather outbreak unfolded Thursday (23rd) as a cold front swept across the state. Severe thunderstorms initially developed along the Iowa-Nebraska border and rapidly intensified in an unstable and strongly sheared environment. Multiple weak tornadoes were confirmed during the event, including tornadoes causing structural damage in Little Sioux (Harrison County), as well as additional tornadoes near Slater (Story County), Mitchellville (Polk County), and Weldon (Decatur County). Large hail was the dominant early severe weather hazard before storms evolved into a damaging wind event across central and eastern Iowa. Straight-line wind gusts reached 70 mph in both Lamoni (Decatur County) and Davenport (Scott County).

US Drought Monitor: The US Drought Monitor showed significant improvement across much of the state through April. As of the first week of April, 53% of Iowa was rated at some level of dryness or drought. Abnormal Dryness (D0) covered much of southern Iowa, with an overall coverage of 24%. Areas of Moderate Drought (D1) were found in northeast and southern Iowa, covering 10% of the state; Severe Drought (D2) encompassed 4% of northwest Iowa. By the end of the month, D0-D2 conditions diminished by 28% with drought improving by 11%; the categorical breakdown is as follows: D0 - 6%, D1 - 1% and D2 – 0.10%.

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April 2026

WEATHER BY DISTRICTS

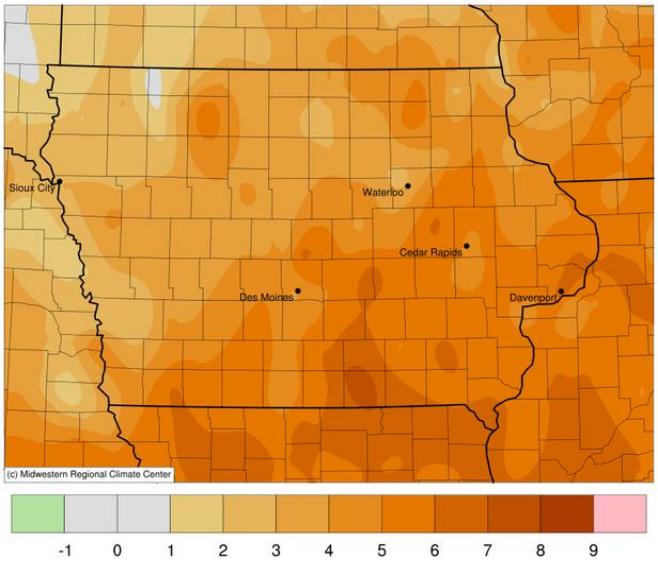
DISTRICT	TEMPERATURE (F)		HEATING DEGREE DAYS				PRECIPITATION (inches)				
	April 2026		April 2026		Since Jul., 1, 2025		April 2026		Since Jan.1, 2026		SNOWFALL
	Average	Departure*	Average	Departure*	Average	Departure*	Average	Departure*	Average	Departure*	Apr 2026 Average
Northwest	49.0	+2.2	480	-24	6259	-298	3.27	+0.03	4.77	-1.69	0.0
North Central	49.9	+3.2	458	-61	6508	-110	4.46	+0.69	7.68	+0.05	0.0
Northeast	50.9	+4.3	428	-133	6527	-40	6.38	+2.47	11.17	+2.87	0.0
West Central	52.0	+3.2	396	-54	5686	-400	3.71	+0.27	6.73	-0.26	0.0
Central	53.2	+4.3	361	-80	5811	-204	6.36	+2.57	10.41	+2.58	0.0
East Central	54.2	+5.0	333	-105	5797	-116	6.64	+2.86	10.06	+1.40	0.0
Southwest	54.7	+4.1	320	-67	5183	-433	4.99	+1.48	7.57	+0.14	0.0
South Central	56.0	+5.3	284	-96	5150	-405	6.27	+2.38	9.48	+1.17	0.0
Southeast	56.4	+5.4	273	-107	5268	-258	6.42	+2.71	9.62	+0.64	0.0
STATE	52.7	+4.1	364	-89	5838	-205	5.34	+1.67	8.58	+0.77	0.0

* 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.

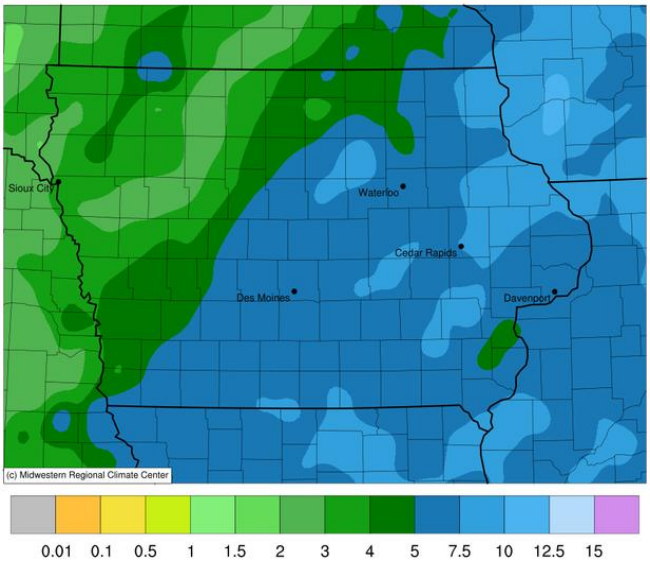
Average Temperature (°F): Departure from 1991-2020 Normals

April 01, 2026 to April 30, 2026



Accumulated Precipitation (in)

April 01, 2026 to April 30, 2026



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