



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND LAND STEWARDSHIP

Mike Naig, Secretary of Agriculture
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IOWA PRELIMINARY MONTHLY WEATHER SUMMARY – APRIL 2018

General Summary: Iowa experienced the coldest April on record as temperatures averaged 39.0°F, which was almost 10.0°F below normal. Total precipitation averaged around 1.50 inches or 2.00 inches below normal; this ranks as Iowa's 13th driest April over the entire 146 year observational record.

Temperatures: April started off unseasonably cold as temperatures departed by as much as 19°F from climatology. Wakon recorded a temperature of -3°F on the 7th, which was the lowest reading of the month. From the 9th to the 22nd, the northern half of the state had average temperatures between 10°F to 22°F below normal, while the southern half recorded temperatures between 2°F and 12°F below normal. Sidney topped out at an unseasonably warm 85°F on the 14th. Towards the end of this period, daily minimum temperatures stayed above freezing, allowing soil temperatures to rise into the mid to upper 40s. The last week of the month saw slightly below average temperatures and relatively dry conditions. The northern half of the state experienced cooler conditions, while south central Iowa felt somewhat warmer than normal conditions, with Atlantic and De Soto reporting temperatures of 79°F.

Heating Degree Days: Home heating requirements, as estimated by heating degree day totals, averaged 4% more than normal. Heating degree day totals so far this season (since July 1st, 2017) are running 23% more than last season at this time and 84% compared to last April.

Precipitation: The month began unseasonable dry in Iowa's southern two-thirds, as precipitation deficits of more than 0.40 inches were recorded. The only portion of the state receiving near normal amounts of precipitation was the northwestern quadrant. The highest measurable precipitation (0.74 inches) fell in Pocahontas, while numerous stations across the state recorded no precipitation. A late week snow storm dropped 10 inches on Mason City, closing out the first week of April. During the following week, measurable snow in excess of 12 inches fell at numerous stations across north central and northwestern Iowa with over 20 inches piling up at Spirit Lake, in Dickinson County. The last half of the month again found below normal precipitation totals across a majority of the state. Northern Iowa again experienced plentiful snowfall, with Forest City receiving 22 inches from the 16th (12 inches) to the 19th (10 inches). Areas surrounding Winnebago County typically received about a foot. April closed out extremely dry with only the western third of the state receiving measurable precipitation, totaling between 0.05-0.1 inches. Little Sioux, in Harrison County, observed the largest precipitation totals of 0.18 inches on the 29th.

Severe Weather: April was relatively calm in terms of severe weather, with only two days (13th and 18th) of reported severe activity. Dime to quarter size hail was reported on the 13th across a long, narrow swath of Iowa, from the southwest to northeast corners of the state. Wind gusts in excess of 70 mph caused building damage and toppled semi-trucks as the strong storm system moved through the state. On the 18th, nickel to quarter size hail fell in Hardin and Webster counties; this system also brought snow to north central Iowa.

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April 2018

WEATHER BY DISTRICTS

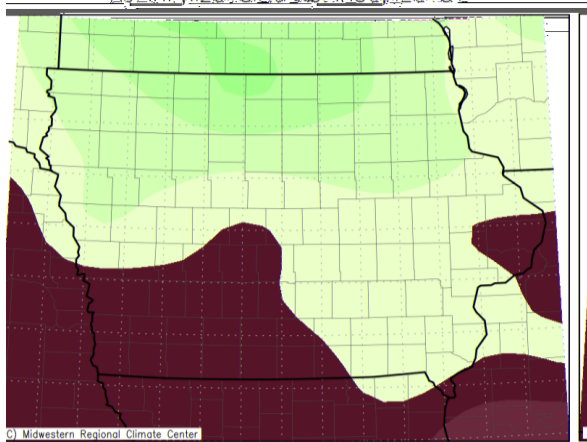
DISTRICT	TEMPERATURE (F)		HEATING DEGREE DAYS				PRECIPITATION (inches)				SNOWFALL Apr 2018 Average
	April 2018 Average	Departure*	April 2018 Average	Departure*	Since Jul., 1, 2017 Average	Departure*	April 2018 Average	Departure*	Since Jan.1, 2018 Average	Departure*	
Northwest	35.3	-11.7	891	+345	7670	+369	2.24	-0.98	6.47	+0.16	15.6
North Central	35.5	-11.1	885	+330	7716	+332	2.98	-0.62	7.56	+0.48	20.5
Northeast	36.1	-11.5	867	+340	7478	+397	2.36	-1.37	7.27	-0.42	11.4
West Central	39.7	-8.9	759	+258	6971	+182	1.23	-2.14	5.56	-1.45	5.6
Central	39.6	-9.2	762	+268	6971	+229	1.43	-2.16	6.44	-1.12	5.6
East Central	39.7	-10.3	759	+301	6865	+441	0.88	-2.49	6.34	-1.18	3.7
Southwest	42.4	-8.1	678	+231	6414	+211	0.66	-2.78	4.48	-2.87	1.7
South Central	42.7	-7.4	669	+213	6403	+179	0.69	-2.94	5.37	-2.56	2.1
Southeast	41.6	-10.2	702	+295	6453	+540	0.56	-3.02	6.30	-2.29	2.4
STATE	39.0	-10.1	774	+282	6992	+277	1.50	-2.00	6.26	-1.22	7.8

* Departures are computed from 1981-2010 normals.

Monthly estimates are preliminary and likely to change.

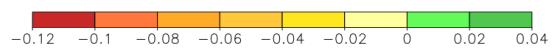
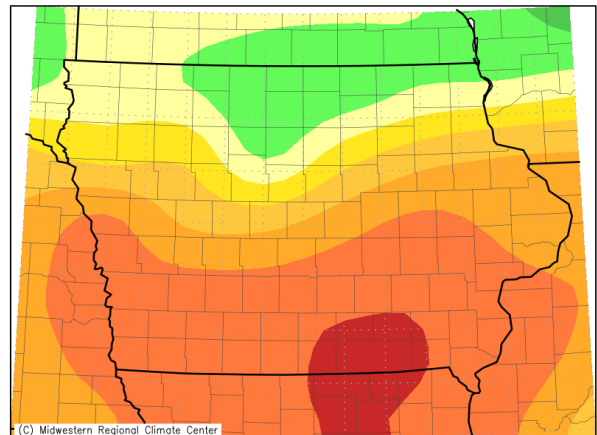
The weather data in this report are based upon information collected by the U. S. Dept. of Commerce, NOAA National Weather Service.

Average Temperature (°F): Departure from Mean
April 1, 2018 to April 30, 2018



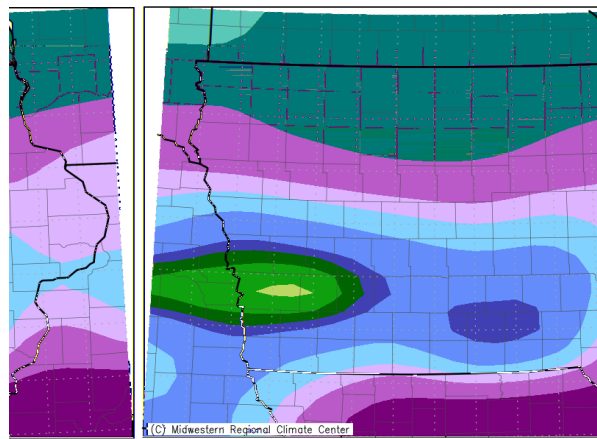
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Average Daily Precipitation (in): Departure from Mean
April 1, 2018 to April 30, 2018



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Accumulated Snowfall: Percent of Mean
April 1, 2018 to April 30, 2018



Midwestern Regional Climate Center
cli-MATE: MRCC Application Tools Environment