



IOWA MONTHLY WEATHER SUMMARY – APRIL 2017

General Summary. Iowa temperatures averaged 50.8° or 1.9° above normal while precipitation totaled 3.89 inches or 0.38 inches above normal. This ranks as the 23rd warmest and 35th wettest April among 145 years of records. A warmer April was last recorded in 2012 and a wetter one in 2013. This was the 13th consecutive April with a statewide average precipitation amount in excess of the historical April average of 3.05 inches (1873-2016).

Temperatures. Warmer than usual weather prevailed for 16 of the first 20 days of the month, averaging 6.3° above normal. However, cloudy, wet and cold weather prevailed late in the month, particularly for the final five days of April which averaged 11.6° cooler than normal. Temperature extremes for the month varied from a high of 84° at Lamoni on the 19th to a low of 20° at Battle Creek on the morning of the 7th. However, probably the most significant temperature event of the month was a hard freeze across most of the northern one-third of Iowa on the morning of the 28th. Temperatures fell to 22° at Mason City and Spencer. While freezes are not uncommon at this time of year in northern Iowa the mild weather prevailing for much of the late winter and early spring accelerated development of horticultural crops and may have left them more susceptible to freeze damage. Meanwhile, a handful of locations in far southern and extreme eastern Iowa have not recorded a freeze since March 22.

Heating Degree Day Totals. Home heating requirements, as estimated by heating degree day totals, averaged 14% less than usual during April and 7% less than last year. Heating requirements thus far this season (since July 1, 2016) are running 16% less than normal and 2% less than last season at this time.

Precipitation. April precipitation totals varied from 1.88 inches at Estherville to 7.85 inches at Chariton. With a few exceptions, rain totals were below normal over most of northwest and west central Iowa, roughly north and west of a line from Council Bluffs to Ames to Forest City. At Chariton a higher April precipitation total has been recorded only twice (1897 and 1991) among 123 years of data.

Severe Weather. There were three severe weather outbreaks during the month. The most widespread event came on the evening of the 15th with severe weather, mostly in the form of large hail, reported from 28 counties with hail to baseball size in Black Hawk and Plymouth counties. Another event on the night of the 9th generated severe weather reports from 15 counties, again mostly in the form of hail, with largest hail of 2.5 inches in diameter from Mitchell County. Finally, one last event on the evening of the 19th brought severe weather reports, mostly high winds, to eight counties.

Harry J. Hillaker, State Climatologist
Iowa Dept. of Agriculture & Land Stewardship
Wallace State Office Bldg.
Des Moines, IA 50319
Telephone: (515) 281-8981
E-mail: Harry.Hillaker@IowaAgriculture.gov

April 2017

WEATHER BY DISTRICTS

| DISTRICT | TEMPERATURE (F) | | HEATING DEGREE DAYS | | | | PRECIPITATION (inches) | | | | SNOWFALL Apr 2017 Average |
|---------------|-----------------------|------------|-----------------------|------------|--------------------------------|------------|------------------------|------------|------------------------------|------------|---------------------------------|
| | April 2017 Average | Departure* | April 2017 Average | Departure* | Since Jul., 1, 2016 Average | Departure* | April 2017 Average | Departure* | Since Jan.1, 2017 Average | Departure* | |
| Northwest | 48.6 | +1.6 | 485 | -61 | 6279 | -1022 | 2.71 | -0.51 | 6.74 | +0.33 | T |
| North Central | 48.9 | +2.3 | 475 | -80 | 6282 | -1102 | 3.59 | +0.01 | 9.92 | +2.69 | T |
| Northeast | 50.0 | +2.4 | 447 | -80 | 5986 | -1095 | 4.07 | +0.37 | 10.29 | +2.50 | T |
| West Central | 49.5 | +0.9 | 458 | -43 | 5855 | -934 | 2.88 | -0.55 | 7.40 | +0.26 | T |
| Central | 51.1 | +2.3 | 414 | -80 | 5611 | -1131 | 3.55 | -0.07 | 9.29 | +1.54 | T |
| East Central | 52.2 | +2.2 | 385 | -73 | 5414 | -1010 | 4.86 | +1.47 | 10.03 | +1.87 | T |
| Southwest | 52.2 | +1.8 | 379 | -68 | 5210 | -993 | 3.37 | -0.09 | 8.42 | +0.88 | 0.0 |
| South Central | 52.6 | +2.5 | 367 | -89 | 5135 | -1089 | 5.43 | +1.78 | 10.02 | +1.95 | 0.0 |
| Southeast | 53.9 | +2.1 | 339 | -68 | 4883 | -1030 | 5.13 | +1.55 | 10.04 | +1.07 | 0.0 |
| STATE | 50.8 | +1.9 | 421 | -71 | 5667 | -1048 | 3.89 | +0.38 | 9.06 | +1.43 | T |

* Departures are computed from 1981-2010 normals.

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

State Climatologist, Iowa Dept. of Agriculture & Land Stewardship
COUNTY PRECIPITATION ESTIMATES, APRIL 2017 (inches)

