



IOWA MONTHLY WEATHER SUMMARY – SEPTEMBER 2017

General Summary. Iowa temperatures averaged 66.7° or 3.5° above normal while precipitation totaled 2.34 inches or 1.04 inches below normal. This ranks as the 15th warmest and 45th driest September among 145 years of records. Last September was slightly warmer while a drier September was last recorded in 2013.

Temperatures. The unseasonably cool weather pattern that began on July 28 continued through the first eight days of September. Only six days in this 43 day period averaged warmer than normal. However, the opposite weather pattern began on September 9 with all but two days of the remainder of the month averaging warmer than normal. The temperature reached 90° at Osceola on the 13th, the first time ninety had been reached anywhere in the state since August 19. Temperatures climbed into the nineties on ten days between the 13th and the 25th. Iowa City Airport reported the highest temperature of the month with a 95° reading on the 23rd. On the other extreme morning lows dipped to 35° at Stanley on the 7th and at Cresco on the 30th. September as a whole averaged just 1.3° cooler than August (1897 was the only year to have a September average warmer than August).

Cooling Degree Day Totals. Home air conditioning requirements, as estimated by cooling degree day totals, averaged 1% less than last September but 63% more than normal. Thus far this air conditioning season cooling degree day totals are running 14% less than last year at this time and 2% more than normal.⁸

Precipitation. Exceptionally dry weather prevailed over the first one-half of the month with a statewide average rainfall of only 0.07 inches during the period compared to a normal of 1.77 inches. The second one-half of the month brought an average of 2.27 inches of rain compared to a normal of 1.61 inches. Greatest rains during the month were concentrated over west central Iowa, however, torrential rains fell across small portions of southeastern Iowa on the 20th-21st with a location just south of Ottumwa picking up 7.75 inches of rain overnight. Monthly rain totals varied from only 0.05 inches just south of Burlington to 9.08 inches just south of Ottumwa. Two locations recorded their driest Septembers on record. Anamosa saw 0.36 inches in the month, slightly less than their previous record of 0.38 inches set in 1976 among 88 years of records at that location. The Dubuque Lock & Dam also set a record low with 0.23 inches with their previous record of 0.51 inches set in 1990 among 81 years of records. Burlington's low total failed to set a record with 1979 having brought only a trace of rain during September. Year-to-date precipitation totals vary from only 18.37 inches at Sigourney (nearly 12 inches below normal) to 41.38 inches at Little Sioux (about 13 inches above normal). Above normal annual totals are mostly confined to the western and northern one-thirds of the state. Extreme drought persists over parts of eight south central Iowa counties.

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September 2017

WEATHER BY DISTRICTS

DISTRICT	TEMPERATURE (F)		COOLING DEGREE DAYS				PRECIPITATION (inches)			
	September 2017		September 2017		Since Jan., 1, 2017		September 2017		Since Jan.1, 2017	
	Average	Departure*	Average	Departure*	Average	Departure*	Average	Departure*	Average	Departure*
Northwest	65.3	+3.5	106	+43	718	+23	3.05	-0.18	24.70	-1.02
North Central	65.4	+4.1	102	+47	614	-14	2.17	-1.02	28.15	-0.68
Northeast	65.5	+3.6	113	+51	629	-27	1.14	-2.21	30.93	+1.02
West Central	66.2	+3.1	116	+38	823	+19	3.36	+0.20	29.16	+1.32
Central	67.2	+4.1	133	+57	826	+49	2.03	-1.29	25.29	-4.98
East Central	66.6	+2.8	125	+43	767	-55	1.31	-2.01	27.74	-1.89
Southwest	68.6	+3.8	158	+60	965	+25	2.36	-1.05	28.55	-1.29
South Central	68.5	+4.3	156	+66	971	+90	2.71	-1.11	24.45	-6.77
Southeast	68.2	+2.8	150	+43	1009	+12	2.93	-0.85	22.68	-8.52
STATE	66.7	+3.5	127	+49	804	+13	2.34	-1.04	26.90	-2.38

* Departures are computed from 1981-2010 normals.

State Climatologist, Iowa Dept. of Agriculture & Land Stewardship

COUNTY PRECIPITATION ESTIMATES, SEPTEMBER 2017 (inches)

