

## IOWA MONTHLY WEATHER SUMMARY – DECEMBER 2020

General Summary: Temperatures averaged 27.2 degrees or 4.3 degrees above normal, tying 1975 as the 48<sup>th</sup> warmest December on record. Precipitation averaged 0.94 inch or 0.40 inches less than normal, ranking it as the 54<sup>th</sup> driest (ties 1967). A warmer December occurred just last year while a drier one was last recorded in 2013.

Temperatures: Warmer than average conditions persisted through December with positive departures ranging from four to eight degrees statewide; northern Iowa reported the warmest conditions. December's statewide average maximum temperature was 36.8 degrees, 5.2 degrees above normal while the average minimum temperature was 17.6 degrees, 3.2 degrees above normal. Centerville (Appanoose County) and Lamoni (Page County) reported the month's high temperature of 66 degrees on the 10<sup>th</sup>, on average 29 degrees above normal. Mason City Municipal Airport (Cerro Gordo County), Northwood (Worth County) and Pocahontas (Pocahontas County) reported the month's low temperature of -7 degrees on the 25<sup>th</sup>, on average 15 degrees below normal. Red Oak (Montgomery County) also observed this low temperature on the 31<sup>st</sup>, 20 degrees below normal for that station.

Heating Degree Day Totals: Home heating requirements, as estimated by heating degree day totals, averaged 7% more than last December and 9% less than normal. Thus far this heating season, heating degree day totals are running 4% less than last year at this time and 5% less than normal.

Precipitation: Much of the northern half of Iowa experienced drier than normal conditions on the order of 0.50 inch to one inch; a few counties in northeast Iowa observed negative departures approaching 1.50 inches. Southern Iowa, in particular southeastern Iowa, reported above normal totals of similar magnitudes. Multiple winter systems moved through Iowa leaving behind measurable snow statewide. Over the month, above average snow totals accumulated from Omaha northeast through Dubuque; portions of central and eastern Iowa measured totals of four to six inches above average. Monthly precipitation totals ranged from 0.12 inch at Ionia 2 W (Chickasaw County) to 2.78 inches in Muscatine (Muscatine County). The statewide average snowfall was 8.4 inches, which is 0.1 inch above normal liquid-equivalent totals.

US Drought Monitor: Drought and abnormally dry conditions remained across Iowa with drought boundaries remaining status quo. As of the first week of January, 61% of Iowa was covered in D0-D3 conditions; northwest Iowa still remains the driest part of the state with 4% of D3 (Extreme Drought) still remaining.

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

# December 2020

## WEATHER BY DISTRICTS

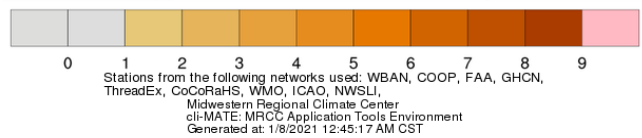
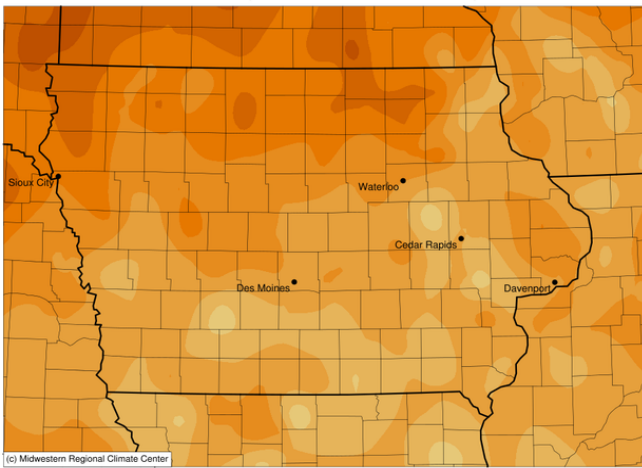
DISTRICT	TEMPERATURE (F)		HEATING DEGREE DAYS				PRECIPITATION (inches)				SNOWFALL Dec 2020 Average
	December 2020		December 2020		Since Jul., 1, 2020		December 2020		Since Jan.1, 2020		
	Average	Departure*	Average	Departure*	Average	Departure*	Average	Departure*	Average	Departure*	
Northwest	25.6	+5.9	1221	-174	2850	-176	0.46	-0.44	20.61	-9.79	6.2
North Central	25.5	+6.0	1224	-174	2848	-176	0.30	-0.94	28.23	-6.06	5.6
Northeast	25.6	+4.3	1221	-142	2792	-166	0.77	-0.72	36.39	+0.13	7.9
West Central	27.4	+5.1	1166	-144	2597	-185	0.62	-0.47	21.86	-11.11	8.1
Central	27.0	+4.2	1178	-123	2588	-157	0.73	-0.59	28.39	-7.96	10.8
East Central	27.5	+3.0	1162	-101	2515	-130	1.81	+0.07	36.58	-0.08	10.9
Southwest	28.8	+3.4	1122	-101	2430	-121	0.77	-0.47	23.70	-11.93	9.3
South Central	29.0	+3.3	1116	-93	2400	-112	1.33	-0.05	31.59	-6.13	7.1
Southeast	29.8	+2.8	1091	-99	2354	-82	1.96	+0.15	34.63	-4.02	5.6
STATE	27.2	+4.3	1171	-123	2592	-144	0.94	-0.40	28.92	-6.35	8.4

\* 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.

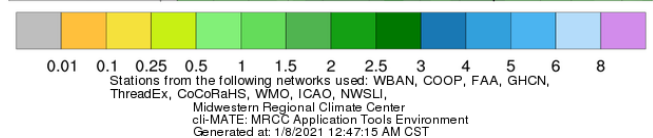
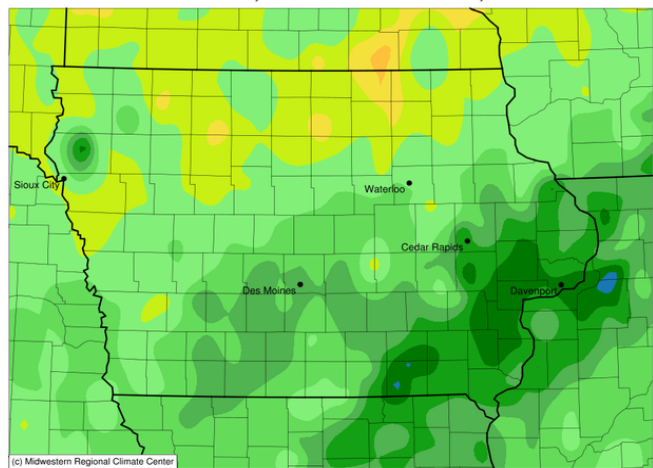
### Average Temperature (°F): Departure from 1981-2010 Normals

December 01, 2020 to December 31, 2020



### Accumulated Precipitation (in)

December 01, 2020 to December 31, 2020



### Accumulated Snowfall (in)

December 01, 2020 to December 31, 2020

