



IOWA PRELIMINARY MONTHLY WEATHER SUMMARY – MARCH 2018

General Summary: March was a relatively cool and wet month for most of the state. The average temperature was 35.2°F, which is almost 1°F below normal; this was the 66th coolest March and coldest since 2014. Average rainfall across the state was 2.30 inches, 0.2 inches above normal, making it the 39th wettest on record. The state also recorded an average of 7.0 inches of snow, a little more than two inches more than normal.

Temperatures: Temperatures across the eastern two-thirds of the state were between 2°F and 4°F below normal. The remaining third had near normal readings. Average low temperatures were near normal in the center third of the state with departures 2- 4°F above normal in the west and up to 2°F below normal in the east. Average highs across the state were 2 - 4°F below normal. Bellevue, in Jackson County, recorded the high temperature (62°F) during the first week of the month. Stanley, in Buchanan County, had a low of 3°F on the same day. The following week, much the southern part of the state had average temperatures between 30-35°F, with the northern half observing 20-30°F temperatures, a statewide negative departure of between 1 and 4°F. Average temperatures returned to most of the state between the 12th and the 18th; the southwest corner was unseasonably cool with departures of around 4°F. Centerville recorded a low temperature of 15°F on the 15th. The end of the month saw temperatures statewide slide below their averages by 4-7°F in eastern Iowa and 1 to 3°F in the west. Davenport observed a low of 17°F on the 22nd. Le Mars (Plymouth County) reported a high of 62°F on the 29th.

Heating Degree Days: Home heating requirements, as estimated by heating degree day totals, averaged 44% more than normal. Heating degree day totals so far this season (since July 1st, 2017) are running 18% more than last season at this time and 8% less compared to last March.

Precipitation: A band of above normal accumulated precipitation ran from the southeast to the northwest of the state, including a band stretching two-thirds down the western border with Nebraska. These regions saw anywhere from 100 – 150% of expected precipitation, with extreme northwest Iowa receiving between 150 and 175% of normal precipitation. With the above normal precipitation pattern, field work and spring planting was slow to start, especially in the north. Early in the month, measurable precipitation fell over the entire Illinois – Iowa border, this area extended westward along the southern half of the state. Areas in extreme eastern Iowa observed rainfall up to 0.25 inches. West central Iowa also recorded measurable precipitation, with a precipitation bullseye centered on Monona County. The following week, much of Iowa, with the exception of the southwest corner, received 0.2 to 0.6 inches above normal. The border region with Illinois and the eastern third of the state received rainfall totals between 0.75 inches to 1.5 inches. From March 12th through the 18th, central and western Iowa received 125 – 300% of the expected totals, with parts of Harrison and Pottawattamie Counties receiving over an inch. March 23-24th experienced the wettest conditions for the week, as a large winter system moved across the state generally from northwest to southeast. Fulton recorded 3.00 inches of rain on Saturday (24th). Higher than normal snow accumulations were measured within a swath of Iowa stretching from Mason City to Waterloo; on Friday (23rd), this part of the state experienced



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND LAND STEWARDSHIP

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heavy, wet snow of up to 6-10 inches, with an additional accumulation of up to four inches on Saturday (24th). The end of the month found drier than normal conditions with much of the state receiving between 0.2 and 0.3 inches of precipitation.

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March 2018

WEATHER BY DISTRICTS

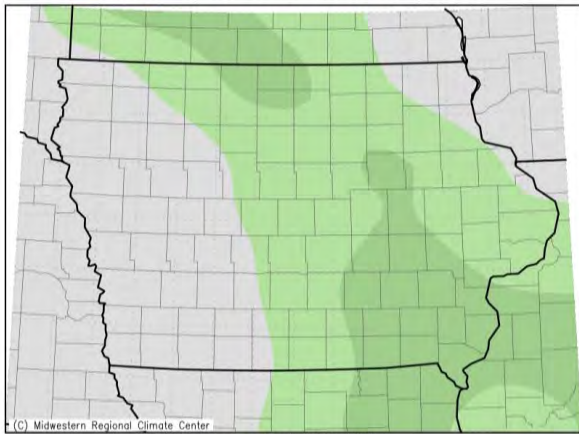
DISTRICT	TEMPERATURE (F)		HEATING DEGREE DAYS				PRECIPITATION (inches)				SNOWFALL Mar 2018 Average
	March 2018 Average	Departure*	March 2018 Average	Departure*	Since Jul., 1, 2017 Average	Departure*	March 2018 Average	Departure*	Since Jan.1, 2018 Average	Departure*	
Northwest	33.3	+0.2	983	+345	6779	+24	2.31	+0.43	4.23	+1.04	10.0
North Central	31.9	-0.9	1026	+330	6831	+2	1.95	-0.01	4.58	+0.93	17.1
Northeast	32.7	-1.5	1001	+340	6611	+57	1.58	-0.39	4.91	+0.82	9.4
West Central	36.6	+0.9	880	+258	6212	-76	2.30	+0.19	4.33	+0.62	5.1
Central	35.1	-0.8	927	+268	6209	-39	2.33	+0.14	5.01	+0.88	7.0
East Central	35.1	-2.2	927	+301	6106	+140	2.26	-0.02	5.46	+0.69	9.0
Southwest	39.2	+0.8	800	+231	5736	-20	1.99	-0.24	3.82	-0.25	1.0
South Central	37.7	-0.5	846	+213	5734	-34	2.26	-0.03	4.68	+0.26	2.0
Southeast	36.8	-2.7	874	+295	5751	+245	2.81	+0.24	5.74	+0.34	1.0
STATE	35.2	-0.8	926	+282	6218	-5	2.30	+0.05	4.76	+0.64	7.0

* Departures are computed from 1981-2010 normals.

Monthly estimates are preliminary and likely to change.

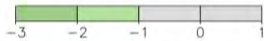
The weather data in this report are based upon information collected by the U. S. Dept. of Commerce, NOAA National Weather Service.

Average Temperature (°F): Departure from Mean
March 1, 2018 to March 31, 2018



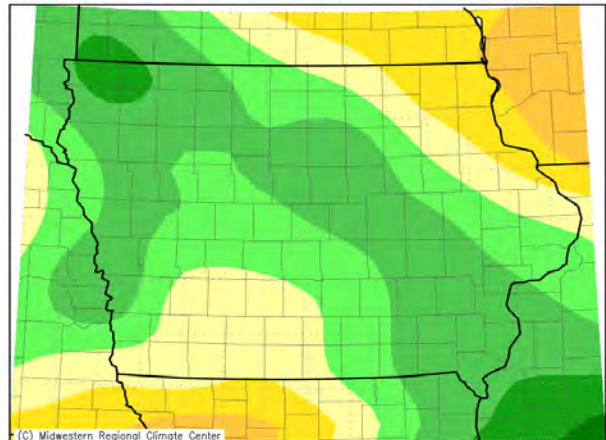
(C) Midwestern Regional Climate Center

Mean period is 1981-2010.



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Accumulated Precipitation (in): Departure from Mean
March 1, 2018 to March 31, 2018



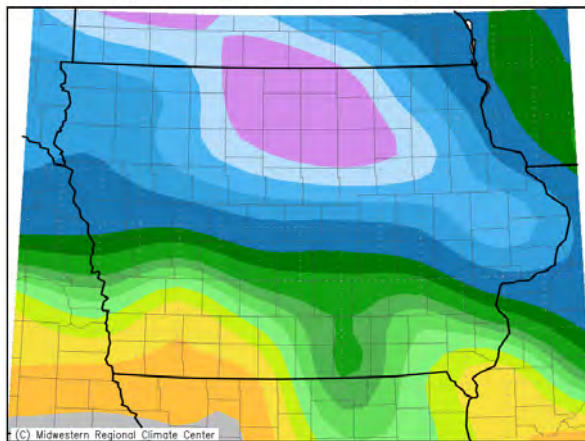
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Accumulated Snowfall (in)
March 1, 2018 to March 31, 2018



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