

MONTHLY CLIMATE SUMMARY, DECEMBER, 2002

NIU WEATHER SERVICE, DEKALB, IL

Day	Record HI	Record LO	Average HI	Average LO	Obs. HI	Obs. LO	Obs. Avg.	CDD	HDD	Precip. (in)	Snowfall (in)
1	63	4	37	23	26	10	18	0	47	T	T
2	64	-5	37	23	38	15	26.5	0	38.5	T	T
3	66	-14	37	22	31	8	19.5	0	45.5	0.04	1.3
4	60	-4	37	22	22	7	14.5	0	50.5	0.00	0
5	62	-4	37	22	26	10	18	0	47	0.00	0
6	65	-7	36	22	23	7	15	0	50	T	T
7	66	-9	36	21	32	8	20	0	45	0.00	0
8	63	-8	35	21	42	19	30.5	0	34.5	0.00	0
9	59	-18	35	20	25	7	16	0	49	0.00	0
10	56	-18	35	20	32	7	19.5	0	45.5	0.00	0
11	60	-15	34	19	46	20	33	0	32	0.00	0
12	55	-10	35	20	45	20	32.5	0	32.5	0.00	0
13	60	-19	34	20	38	33	35.5	0	29.5	0.00	0
14	58	-12	34	20	40	29	34.5	0	30.5	0.00	0
15	59	-14	33	19	41	29	35	0	30	0.00	0
16	58	-17	33	19	44	24	34	0	31	0.00	0
17	57	-13	32	19	33	26	29.5	0	35.5	0.00	0
18	56	-12	32	18	51	29	40	0	25	0.11	0
19	*55	-17	32	18	55	35	45	0	20	0.53	0
20	57	-19	32	18	42	31	36.5	0	28.5	0.00	0
21	57	-18	33	18	33	27	30	0	35	0.02	0.6
22	55	-12	32	17	33	23	28	0	37	T	T
23	58	-17	31	16	29	22	25.5	0	39.5	0.00	0
24	55	-22	30	16	32	18	25	0	40	0.14	1.6
25	60	-13	30	15	27	18	22.5	0	42.5	0.00	0
26	56	-22	30	14	26	14	20	0	45	0.00	0
27	55	-20	30	15	28	14	21	0	44	0.00	0
28	64	-24	31	16	33	15	24	0	41	0.00	0
29	63	-12	31	15	36	24	30	0	35	0.00	0
30	59	-13	31	15	45	28	36.5	0	28.5	0.00	0
31	*57	-14	30	15	57	27	42	0	23	0.00	0

*Indicates New Record

Temperature

1896-1995 AVG. HI: 33.3(F)
 1896-1995 AVG. LOW: 18.6(F)
 1896-1995 AVG. TEMP: 24.6(F)
 December 2002 AVG. HI: 35.8(F)
 December 2001 AVG. LO: 19.5(F)
 December 2001 AVG. TEMP: 27.7(F)

Precipitation

December TOTAL: 0.84 in
 December AVG: 2.22 in.
 SNOW: 3.5 in.
 AVG SNOW: 8.7 in
 YEAR TO DATE: 30.80 in.
 YEAR TO DATE AVG: 36.74 in

Degree Days

COOLING: 11/01: 0.0
 1/01-Now: 1026.5
 HEATING: 11/01: 1037.0
 7/01-Now: 2621.5

Discussion

December 2002 was the fourth consecutive month experiencing below average precipitation in DeKalb, so the dry trend continued here. The 0.84 inches of precipitation recorded this month was less than half of the 2.22 inches that is average for December and was the 25th driest since 1896. Over half of the 0.84 inches of precipitation recorded this month fell in the form of rain on the 16th and 17th of the month when 0.64 inches was recorded. However, despite the dry month and a 5.2 inch snowfall deficit, the area did manage a white Christmas as the areas most significant snowfall event of the month (1.6 inches) occurred on Christmas Eve.

The snow-pack did not last long though. Above average temperatures at the end of the month, highlighted by a record high of 57 degrees on New Years Eve quickly eroded all signs of the white Christmas. The 55 degree high on the 19th of the month broke the previous record high temperature of 53 degrees for that date. These warm temperatures in the latter third of the month quickly erased the cold start to the month, as December 2002 averaged 3.1 degrees above average making it the 38th warmest on record since 1896. The warm and dry pattern that locked in for the second half of the month began to portray a typical El Nino pattern that was forecasted this winter. We will have to wait and see if this pattern continues in the months to come.

2002 as a whole averaged significantly warmer and drier than normal. The 2002 average temperature was 49.31 degrees, 0.9 degrees above the 1896-Current average of 48.41 degrees. This made 2002 the 26th warmest year on record in 107 years of observations in DeKalb. The below average precipitation experienced the last four months of 2002 has left DeKalb with nearly a 6 inch precipitation deficit heading into 2003. 2002 was the 25th driest year on record in DeKalb. With the El Nino winter pattern appearing to be locked in, it does not appear likely that this deficit will be improved in the first two months of 2003.

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Forecast Information (updated once daily at approx. 7:30 am): (815) 753-1623

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