

MONTHLY CLIMATE SUMMARY, APRIL 2003 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	84	16	54	33	56	30	43	0	22	T	0.0
2	81*	14	52	32	81	45	63	0	2	0.00	0.0
3	82	14	53	34	79	38	58.5	0	6.5	0.00	0.0
4	79	13	54	34	55	35	45	0	20	0.38	0.0
5	80	15	52	32	37	22	29.5	0	35.5	0.15	T
6	83	12	53	31	33	23	28	0	37	T	T
7	79	8	57	32	39	28	33.5	0	31.5	0.21	2.0
8	83	12	57	34	31	28	29.5	0	35.5	0.02	T
9	77	18	53	32	32	22	27	0	38	T	T
10	92	17	53	32	48	25	36.5	0	28.5	0.00	0.0
11	90	18	56	35	63	30	46.5	0	18.5	0.00	0.0
12	82	18	58	37	73	37	55	0	10	0.00	0.0
13	82	18	57	37	61	32	46.5	0	18.5	0.00	0.0
14	80	20	59	37	68	33	50.5	0	14.5	0.00	0.0
15	85*	17	60	38	85	46	65.5	0.5	0	0.00	0.0
16	87	16	59	39	86	56	71	6	0	0.00	0.0
17	87	22	60	38	60	38	49	0	16	0.02	0.0
18	87	21	63	40	44	38	41	0	24	0.00	0.0
19	90	22	64	41	51	39	45	0	20	0.10	0.0
20	84	22	63	42	69	50	59.5	0	5.5	0.17	0.0
21	90	22	63	43	62	44	53	0	12	T	0.0
22	91	20	61	39	49	35	42	0	23	0.01	0.0
23	91	22	62	40	61	33	47	0	18	0.00	0.0
24	84	17	63	40	63	37	50	0	15	0.00	0.0
25	85	21	64	42	61	42	51.5	0	13.5	0.00	0.0
26	92	25	67	42	64	36	50	0	15	0.00	0.0
27	91	22	67	42	66	37	51.5	0	13.5	0.00	0.0
28	88	25	64	42	76	42	59	0	6	0.00	0.0
29	89	25	62	41	74	47	60.5	0	4.5	0.00	0.0
30	92	29	65	42	69	46	57.5	0	7.5	0.44	0.0

***New Record**

Temperature

1971-2000 AVG. HI: 59.1°F
 1971-2000 AVG. LOW: 37.4°F
 1971-2000 AVG. TEMP: 48.2°F
 April 2003 AVG. HI: 59.9°F
 April 2003 AVG. LO: 36.5°F
 April 2003 AVG. TEMP: 48.2°F

Precipitation

April TOTAL: 1.50 in.
 April AVG: 3.46 in.
 SNOW: 2.0 in.
 AVG SNOW: 1.2 in.
 YEAR TO DATE: 3.73 in.
 YEAR TO DATE AVG: 8.53 in.

Degree Days

COOLING: 4/03: 6.5
 1/03-Now: 6.5
 HEATING: 4/03: 511.5
 7/02-Now: 6766.5

Discussion

The exceptionally dry weather continued into April despite a roller-coaster ride with the temperatures. Even with an active weather pattern, most of the systems passed through northern Illinois very dry, perpetuating the severe drought according to the US Drought Monitor* as of April 29. For April, DeKalb totaled only 1.50 inches of rain, which is nearly 2 inches below average. From September 2002 through April 2003, DeKalb has only measured 8.76 inches of precipitation, making the eight-month period the 2nd driest September-April on record. The driest September-April on record occurred in 1933-1934 when only 8.30 inches of precipitation fell.

Two record highs (81°F on the 2nd and 85°F on the 15th) were observed this month, but the average high, low, and mean temperatures were all very close or right at the normal for the 1971-2000 averages. A third record was almost broke on the 16th when we experienced the maximum temperature all month of 86°F. The record high for the 16th was 87°F set just last year. A cool period was experienced from the 5th through the 9th, where daytime highs only reached the typical low temperatures, in the low to mid 30's. The cool weather also contributed to the area adding two more inches of snowfall to our annual total on the 7th of the month.

The end of the month did see a return to more spring-like weather with temperatures averaging in the mid 60's and healthy .44 inches of rain. Hopefully this is sign of more "normal" weather to come.

*US Drought Monitor website: <http://www.drought.unl.edu/dmi/monitor.html>

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

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