

## MONTHLY CLIMATE SUMMARY, December, 2003

### NIU WEATHER SERVICE, DEKALB, IL

Day	Record HI	Record LO	Average				Obs. Avg.	CDD	HDD	Precip. (in)	Snowfall (in)
			HI	Average LO	Obs. HI	Obs. LO					
1	63	4	37	23	54	27	40.5	0	24.5	0	0
2	64	-5	37	23	41	18	29.5	0	35.5	0	0
3	66	-14	37	22	35	18	26.5	0	38.5	0	0
4	60	-4	37	22	39	29	34	0	31	0	0
5	62	-4	37	22	37	32	34.5	0	30.5	0.35	1.6
6	65	-7	36	22	43	27	35	0	30	T	T
7	66	-9	36	21	34	27	30.5	0	34.5	0	0
8	63	-8	35	21	40	30	35	0	30	0	0
9	59	-18	35	20	45	35	40	0	25	0	0
10	56	-18	35	20	47	40	43.5	0	21.5	2.03	0
11	60	-15	34	19	45	15	30	0	35	0.34	T
12	55	-10	35	20	20	6	13	0	52	0	0
13	60	-19	34	20	22	6	14	0	51	0	0
14	58	-12	34	20	27	17	22	0	43	0.07	0.9
15	59	-14	33	19	28	23	25.5	0	39.5	T	T
16	58	-17	33	19	39	26	32.5	0	32.5	0	0
17	57	-13	32	19	34	20	27	0	38	0.02	T
18	56	-12	32	18	23	19	21	0	44	T	T
19	55	-17	32	18	28	20	24	0	41	T	T
20	57	-19	32	18	29	12	20.5	0	44.5	T	T
21	57	-18	33	18	29	12	20.5	0	44.5	0	0
22	55	-12	32	17	47	28	37.5	0	27.5	T	0
23	58	-17	31	16	43	29	36	0	29	T	0
24	55	-22	30	16	33	15	24	0	41	T	T
25	60	-13	30	15	24	15	19.5	0	45.5	0	0
26	56	-22	30	14	37	16	26.5	0	38.5	0	0
27	55	-20	30	15	43	22	32.5	0	32.5	0	0
28	64	-24	31	16	48	35	41.5	0	23.5	0.22	0
29	63	-12	31	15	49	29	39	0	26	T	0
30	59	-13	31	15	39	22	30.5	0	34.5	T	T
31	57	-14	30	15	39	22	30.5	0	34.5	0	0

#### Temperature

1896-1995 AVG. HI: 33.3(F)  
 1896-1995 AVG. LOW: 18.6(F)  
 1896-1995 AVG. TEMP: 26.0(F)  
 December 2003 AVG. HI: 36.8(F)  
 December 2003 AVG. LO: 22.3(F)  
 December 2003 AVG. TEMP: 29.6(F)

#### Precipitation

December TOTAL: 3.03in  
 December AVG: 2.22in.  
 SNOW: 2.5in.  
 AVG SNOW: 8.7in  
 YEAR TO DATE: 28.43in.  
 YEAR TO DATE AVG: 36.74 in

#### Degree Days

COOLING: 12/03: 0.0  
 1/03-Now: 706  
 HEATING: 12/03: 1098.5  
 7/03-Now: 2435.5

#### Discussion

After a long wait we finally received our first one inch snowfall of the season on the 5<sup>th</sup> of December. While it wasn't a significant accumulation, it did mark the start of the Winter season for us. Overall, we managed a total of only 2.5" of snowfall for the month, which is well under the average of 8.7". For precipitation as a whole, we ranked in the upper third of Decembers with 3.03" of total precipitation for the month. As far as temperatures are concerned, we had our second straight month of above average temperatures. December ended up being 3.6°F above average. Temperature were generally above average from the 22<sup>nd</sup> through the end of the month. Only two days had low temperatures below 10°F (the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>). Overall, December ranked as one of the top 25 warmest Decembers since 1895.

Looking back at the year as a whole, it was a series of ups and downs. At 28.43", 2003 will go down as the 17<sup>th</sup> driest year since 1895. This year was highlighted by a very dry summer which impacted local corn and soybean yields. Although November and December experienced wetter than average conditions, there are regional concerns about drought as we enter 2004. The average temperature for 2003 was 47.93°, which ranked it in the bottom (coolest) third of all years since 1895. Only August, November, and December experienced warmer than average conditions.

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

The Climate Summary is supported by the Department of Geography, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and the Department of Operations