

**MONTHLY CLIMATE SUMMARY, FEBRUARY, 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	65	-18	30.1	12.8	32	23	27.5	0	33	0.06	0.5
2	47	-20	29.2	13.8	32	6	19	0	33.5	T	0.0
3	52	-23	29.7	14.5	30	6	18	0	30	0.00	0.0
4	54	-18	28.7	12.6	33	7	20	0	35.5	0.01	0.1
5	58	-20	26.5	11.2	20	2	11	0	53	T	T
6	55	-15	25.8	11.6	30	10	20	0	50.5	0.00	0.0
7	52	-16	27.2	9.3	34	16	25	0	50	0.00	0.0
8	56	-16	26.8	10.1	39	24	31.5	0	57	0.00	0.0
9	59	-26	27.7	10.2	38	27	32.5	0	50	0.00	0.0
10	55	-21	30.7	14.2	45	31	38	0	53.5	T	T
11	60	-15	32.2	16.2	35	18	26.5	0	52	T	T
12	55	-21	32.6	14.5	36	35	35.5	0	49	0.02	0.6
13	59	-26	31.2	15.2	41	16	28.5	0	55	0.00	0.0
14	60	-12	32.7	16.7	34	16	25	0	44	0.00	0.0
15	64	-17	33.7	18.7	43	27	35	0	37	0.09	2.9
16	56	-14	34	16.7	41	32	36.5	0	46.5	T	T
17	57	-16	33.2	18.3	42	23	32.5	0	43.5	0.00	0.0
18	56	-21	35	21	40	24	32	0	37.5	T	T
19	66	-17	37.7	21.8	50	27	38.5	0	35.5	T	T
20	62	-25	39.7	22.9	48	40	44	0	35	0.00	0.0
21	65	-11	40.1	24	48	30	39	0	28.5	0.00	0.0
22	64	-13	39.2	23.1	31	20	25.5	0	28	0.00	0.0
23	69	-12	38.7	24.4	38	20	29	0	45	T	T
24	62	-11	38.7	22.4	46	31	38.5	0	47.5	0.03	0.5
25	66	-12	36	20.4	60	36	48	0	59	T	T
26	69	-11	37.8	19.9	36	20	28	0	60.5	0.00	0.0
27	68	-6	40.1	22.3	24	14	19	0	46	0.00	0.0
28	63	-5	40	22.9	25	11	18	0	40.5	0.00	0.0

Temperature

1971-2000 AVG. HI: 33.4(F)
 1971-2000 AVG. LOW: 17.2(F)
 1971-2000 AVG. TEMP: 25.3(F)
 February 2003 AVG. HI: 30.3(F)
 February 2003 AVG. LO: 11.5(F)
 February 2003 AVG. TEMP: 20.9(F)

Precipitation

February TOTAL: 0.21in
 February AVG: 1.21in.
 SNOW: 4.6in.
 AVG SNOW: 7.3in
 YEAR TO DATE: 0.95in.
 YEAR TO DATE AVG: 2.64 in

Degree Days

COOLING: 2/03: 0.0
 1/03-Now: 0.0
 HEATING: 2/03: 1236.0
 7/02-Now: 5324.0

Discussion

The stretch of abnormally dry weather continued in February in DeKalb. Only 0.21 inches of liquid water equivalent fell, which is exactly 1 inch below the average for the month. This put DeKalb 8.12 inches below average for the last six months, continuing the severe drought in northern Illinois (U.S. Drought Monitor). The highest single-day snowfall for the month occurred on February 14th when 2.9 inches fell. Despite having little or no snow cover for most of the month, which in winter tends to keep temperatures warmer, DeKalb was still 4.4°F below average. The cold temperatures this month can attributed to the region being influenced by Arctic air masses that kept temperatures cool for the majority of the month and the storm track and heaviest precipitation to the south of the area.

The end of February marks the end of meteorological winter. If you thought we were lacking a little snow this winter, you are correct. This winter was the 6th least snowy winter going back to 1966 in DeKalb. Despite a very cold end to the winter, temperatures were only 1.2°F below the 30-year (1971-2000) average. Going into the upcoming growing season, moisture is a "must-have" in order to not only assist in erasing the large deficit, but also so the area can have a profitable harvest come fall.

Walter Pekovitch & Mike Sandstrom, Weather Directors/Cooperative Observers, NIU

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

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