

MONTHLY CLIMATE SUMMARY, December, 2004 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	36	19	27.5	0	37.5	0.30	4.3
2	64	-5	37	23	29	20	24.5	0	40.5	0	0
3	66	-14	37	22	35	15	25	0	40	0	0
4	60	-4	37	22	33	16	24.5	0	40.5	0	0
5	62	-4	37	22	39	29	34	0	31	0	0
6	65	-7	36	22	45	32	38.5	0	26.5	0.14	0
7	66	-9	36	21	48	40	44	0	21	0.23	0
8	63	-8	35	21	47	35	41	0	24	0.24	0
9	59	-18	35	20	42	35	38.5	0	26.5	T	0
10	56	-18	35	20	44	35	39.5	0	25.5	0	0
11	60	-15	34	19	42	33	37.5	0	27.5	0.03	0
12	55	-10	35	20	36	32	34	0	31	T	0
13	60	-19	34	20	43	22	32.5	0	32.5	T	0
14	58	-12	34	20	27	12	19.5	0	45.5	T	0
15	59	-14	33	19	27	12	19.5	0	45.5	0	0
16	58	-17	33	19	37	15	26	0	39	0	0
17	57	-13	32	19	43	17	30	0	35	0	0
18	56	-12	32	18	34	18	26	0	39	0	0
19	55	-17	32	18	35	1	18	0	47	0	0
20	57	-19	32	18	13	1	7	0	58	0	0
21	57	-18	33	18	28	13	20.5	0	44.5	0.01	T
22	55	-12	32	17	28	3	15.5	0	49.5	0	0
23	58	-17	31	16	10	2	6	0	59	0	0
24	55	-22	30	16	14	-6	4	0	61	0	0
25	60	-13	30	15	12	-6	3	0	62	T	0.1
26	56	-22	30	14	20	9	14.5	0	50.5	0.04	0.8
27	55	-20	30	15	20	7	13.5	0	51.5	0	0
28	64	-24	31	16	26	16	21	0	44	0	0
29	63	-12	31	15	42	22	32	0	33	0	0
30	59	-13	31	15	42	22	32	0	33	T	0
31	57	-14	30	15	53	34	43.5	0	21.5	0.12	0

Temperature

1896-1995 AVG. HI: 33.3 (F)
 1896-1995 AVG. LOW: 18.6 (F)
 1896-1995 AVG. TEMP: 26.0 (F)
 December 2004 AVG. HI: 33.2 (F)
 December 2004 AVG. LO: 17.9 (F)
 December 2004 AVG. TEMP: 25.6 (F)

Precipitation

December TOTAL: 1.11 in
 December AVG: 2.22 in.
 SNOW: 5.2 in.
 AVG SNOW: 8.7 in
 YEAR TO DATE: 35.41 in.
 YEAR TO DATE AVG: 36.74 in

Degree Days

COOLING: 12/04: 0.0
 1/04-Now: 549.5
 HEATING: 12/04: 1222.5
 7/03-Now: 2447.5

Discussion

December 2004 will be remembered for its great temperature variations and an early wet snowfall. Overall, we managed a total of only 5.2" of snowfall for the month, which is well under the average of 8.7". For precipitation as a whole, we ranked in the lower third of Decembers with 1.11" of total precipitation for the month. The greatest one-day total occurred on the 1st with 0.30". DeKalb experienced a thunderstorm (with pea-sized hail and high winds) during the night of the 30th (well remembered by NIU Husky Fans as the night NIU beat Troy 34-21 in the Silicon Valley Bowl). As far as temperatures are concerned, DeKalb ended up near average (falling 0.4°F below the long-term average). However, the month was characterized by two periods with above average temperatures, from the 5th through the 18th and 29th through the 31st, and two periods with below average temperatures, from the 1st through the 4th and from the 19th through the 28th. The second cold period brought the first below zero temperatures to DeKalb this winter as a large polar air mass impacted most of the eastern two-thirds of the United States.

Looking back at the year as a whole, it was a series of weather ups and downs. At 35.41", 2004 will go down as a near average precipitation year (1.33" below the long-term average). Interestingly, more than 10 inches of that total occurred during the wettest May on record. January, February, and September each had less than an inch of precipitation. Record corn and soybean yields as well as below average air conditioning demand were a result of a cooler than average summer. September, October, and November were warmer than average. The average temperature for 2004 was 48.45°, which was about 0.8°F below the long-term (1896-1995) average of 49.2°F.

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

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