

MONTHLY CLIMATE SUMMARY, March, 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	65	-13	38	23	58	36	47	0	18	0.20	0.0
2	66	-9	41	22	61	36	48.5	0	16.5	0.25	0.0
3	72	5	40	24	45	35	40	0	25	0.00	0.0
4	70	-3	40	23	43	35	39	0	26	0.03	0.0
5	71	-7	39	24	59	39	49	0	16	1.31	0.0
6	69	-7	41	24	57	34	45.5	0	19.5	0.00	0.0
7	70	-7	41	24	44	35	39.5	0	25.5	T	0.0
8	77	-13	42	23	40	28	34	0	31	T	T
9	73	-3	41	24	39	27	33	0	32	0.00	0.0
10	69	-2	42	24	40	26	33	0	32	0.00	0.0
11	69	-3	43	25	48	27	37.5	0	27.5	0.02	0.0
12	72	-6	43	25	34	12	23	0	42	T	T
13	77	5	45	28	33	13	23	0	42	0.00	0.0
14	71	5	46	28	46	24	35	0	30	0.22	0.0
15	74	9	45	27	42	27	34.5	0	30.5	0.00	0.0
16	77	-1	45	26	36	28	32	0	33	0.03	0.3
17	71	-2	44	27	33	28	30.5	0	34.5	0.04	0.4
18	79	-1	44	27	38	29	33.5	0	31.5	0.05	0.5
19	78	-8	45	28	42	26	34	0	31	0.07	0.6
20	77	2	46	28	52	28	40	0	25	T	0.0
21	77	4	48	30	59	25	42	0	23	0.00	0.0
22	78	1	49	28	35	18	26.5	0	38.5	0.00	0.0
23	80	0	48	28	41	21	31	0	34	0.00	0.0
24	84	3	48	27	61	32	46.5	0	18.5	0.51	0.0
25	81	3	48	29	60	42	51	0	14	0.42	0.0
26	80	7	52	33	59	53	56	0	9	0.32	0.0
27	82	9	52	33	67	47	57	0	8	0.00	0.0
28	82	8	53	34	64	47	55.5	0	9.5	T	0.0
29	84	12	52	34	71	40	55.5	0	9.5	0.47	0.0
30	84	5	52	34	61	41	51	0	14	0.00	0.0
31	81	7	54	34	51	34	42.5	0	22.5	0.24	0.0

*New Record

Temperature
 1971-2000 AVG. HI: 45.4°F
 1971-2000 AVG. LOW: 27.3°F
 1971-2000 AVG. TEMP: 36.4°F
 March 2004 AVG. HI: 49.0°F
 March 2004 AVG. LO: 31.4°F
 March 2004 AVG. TEMP: 40.2°F

Precipitation
 March TOTAL: 4.18 in.
 March AVG: 2.43 in.
 SNOW: 1.8 in.
 AVG SNOW: 4.7 in.
 YEAR TO DATE: 5.66 in.
 YEAR TO DATE AVG: 5.07 in.

Degree Days
 COOLING: 3/04: 0.0
 1/04-Now: 0.0
 HEATING: 3/04: 769.0
 7/03-Now: 5856.5

Discussion

March 2004 brought needed rainfall to DeKalb. This was the first month since December 2003, and only the second since last May that we experienced above average monthly precipitation. The 4.18 inches put March 2004 in the upper (wet) third of 109 Marches (since 1895). This is welcome news to local farmers and those concerned about surface water supplies heading into the growing season. The vast majority of March precipitation fell as rainfall as we only had 1.8 inches of snowfall for the month. The highest single-day total was 1.31 inches which was recorded on 5th.

March 2004 experienced wide variations in temperatures, typical of a "transition month" from winter to summer. We experienced much above temperatures from the 1st to the 7th and from the 24th through the 31st. As a result of these warm periods, March averaged nearly 4°F warmer than average and was located in the warmer third of 109 Marches (since 1895). Overall, heating demand for the winter of 2003/04 is running nearly 400 heating degree days behind last winter, suggesting that we have enjoyed a warmer than average winter.

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

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