

MONTHLY CLIMATE SUMMARY, DECEMBER, 2005

NIU WEATHER SERVICE, DEKALB, IL

Day	Record HI	Record LO	Average HI	Average LO	Obs. HI	Obs. LO	Obs. Avg.	CDD	HDD	GDD	Precip. (in)	Snowfall (in)
1	63	4	37	25	29	22	25.5	0	39.5	0	0.01	0.2
2	64	-5	38	23	29	10	19.5	0	45.5	0	T	0.1
3	66	-14	38	23	22	10	16	0	49	0	0.01	0.3
4	60	-4	37	22	6	6	6	0	59	0	0.30	1.7
5	62	-4	38	24	21	-2	9.5	0	55.5	0	0.00	0
6	65	-7	37	22	17	-2	7.5	0	57.5	0	0.00	0
7	66	-9	35	21	13	-7	3	0	62	0	0.01	0.3
8	63	-8	34	22	13	-7	3	0	62	0	T	T
9	59	-18	34	19	23	8	15.5	0	49.5	0	0.31	3.9
10	56	-18	33	18	16	3	9.5	0	55.5	0	0.00	0
11	60	-15	32	17	31	15	23	0	42	0	0.04	0.9
12	55	-10	34	18	27	3	15	0	50	0	0.00	0
13	60	-19	33	19	23	9	16	0	49	0	0.00	0
14	58	-12	35	21	27	22	24.5	0	40.5	0	0.03	0.5
14	59	-14	37	22	33	26	29.5	0	35.5	0	0.07	0.7
16	58	-17	35	20	31	17	24	0	41	0	0.03	0.4
17	57	-13	31	17	20	7	13.5	0	51.5	0	T	0
18	56	-12	30	15	18	3	10.5	0	54.5	0	0.00	0
19	53	-17	30	17	12	-7	2.5	0	62.5	0	0.00	0
20	57	-19	32	16	8	-7	0.5	0	64.5	0	0.00	0
21	57	-18	31	16	19	3	11	0	54	0	T	0
22	55	-12	31	15	16	5	10.5	0	54.5	0	T	0
23	58	-17	32	18	36	16	26	0	39	0	0.00	0
24	55	-22	32	17	39	33	36	0	29	0	0.00	0
25	60	-13	28	13	38	31	34.5	0	30.5	0	0.03	T
26	56	-22	27	13	34	32	33	0	32	0	T	0.1
27	55	-20	30	15	35	30	32.5	0	32.5	0	0.00	0
28	64	-24	32	16	40	31	35.5	0	29.5	0	0.01	0
29	63	-12	32	16	35	32	33.5	0	31.5	0	0.01	0
30	59	-13	30	14	34	31	32.5	0	32.5	0	0.00	0
31	51	-14	30	15	35	32	33.5	0	31.5	0	0.26	1.1

*Indicates New Record

Temperature

1971-2000 AVG. HI: 33.0° F
 1971-2000 AVG. LOW: 18.3° F
 1971-2000 AVG. TEMP: 25.9° F
 December 2005 AVG. HI: 25.8° F
 December 2005 AVG. LO: 13.1° F
 December 2005 AVG. TEMP: 19.1° F

Precipitation

December TOTAL: 1.12 in
 December AVG: 2.18 in.
 SNOW: 10.2 in.
 AVG SNOW: 9.5 in
 YEAR TO DATE: 23.38 in.
 YEAR TO DATE AVG: 35.0 in

Degree Days

COOLING: 12/05: 0.0
 1/05-Now: 1026.5
 HEATING: 12/05: 1422.5
 1/05-Now: 6466.5
 GROWING: 12/05: 0.0
 1/05-Now: 3417

Discussion

With a little over half of the normal precipitation for the month, December becomes the 10th consecutive month to experience below average precipitation. The year is now officially the 2nd driest on record for DeKalb, and the 5th driest going back to 1896 when the records began in Sycamore.

The month began with a few dustings followed by a modest 1.7" event on the 4th. This began a period of at least two inches of snow on the ground that did not end until the last few days of the month. The month was highlighted by the 3.9" of snow that fell on the 9th, the last day of the semester, and a very wet 1.1" on New Years Eve.

The monthly average Low and High temperatures, 5 and 7°F below normal respectively, are indeed an indication that this December was particularly cold. In fact, December '05s average Low ranks 6th out of the last 50 years while the average High comes in at 4th coldest for the same period. This is thanks largely to the cold outbreak at the beginning of the month when the thermometer overnight fell below zero for four nights in a row. The rebound to near normal temperatures on the 11th was brief as the mercury went south quickly, heading for the high of 8°F on the 20th which was accompanied by a bone chilling -7°F at 7 a.m. the previous morning. The month ended with 8 straight days of above average temperatures that almost had some folks reaching for their shorts as we hit 39°F on Christmas Eve and 40°F on the 28th.

Matt Becker, Elliott Sidell and Bill Oswald, Weather Directors/Cooperative Observers, NIU

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

December 2005 Daily Highs and Lows with 1971-2000 Average Highs and Lows

