

MONTHLY CLIMATE SUMMARY, March, 2006

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	65	-13	39	22	43	25	34	0	31	0	0.00	0.0
2	66	-9	40	21	48	27	37.5	0	27.5	0	0.00	0.0
3	72	5	40	23	36	22	29	0	36	0	0.00	0.0
4	70	-3	39	24	35	18	26.5	0	38.5	0	0.00	0.0
5	71	-7	41	24	41	19	30	0	35	0	0.00	0.0
6	69	-7	42	25	35	27	31	0	34	0	0.38	3.3
7	70	-7	41	25	35	17	26	0	39	0	0.07	0.7
8	77	-13	42	23	38	17	27.5	0	37.5	0	0.28	0.0
9	73	-3	42	24	51	17	34	0	31	0	0.41	0.0
10	69	-2	41	22	51	36	43.5	0	21.5	0	0.32	0.0
11	69	-3	43	25	54	37	45.5	0	19.5	0	0.00	0.0
12	72	-6	44	27	65	36	50.5	0	14.5	0.5	0.17	0.0
13	77	5	44	27	54	36	45	0	20	0	1.24	0.0
14	71	5	46	29	58	23	40.5	0	24.5	0	0.00	T
15	74	9	46	28	40	22	31	0	34	0	0.00	0.0
16	77	-1	45	27	42	22	32	0	33	0	T	0.0
17	71	-2	44	27	37	25	31	0	34	0	0.03	0.3
18	79	-1	45	27	38	21	29.5	0	35.5	0	0.00	0.0
19	78	-8	45	29	40	22	31	0	34	0	0.00	0.0
20	77	2	47	29	44	24	34	0	31	0	0.00	0.0
21	77	4	47	29	38	26	32	0	33	0	0.00	0.0
22	78	1	48	28	34	25	29.5	0	35.5	0	0.00	0.0
23	80	0	49	28	48	26	37	0	28	0	0.00	0.0
24	84	3	49	29	41	28	34.5	0	30.5	0	0.09	0.9
25	81	3	49	29	39	28	33.5	0	31.5	0	0.03	0.3
26	80	7	50	32	42	30	36	0	29	0	T	0.0
27	82	9	51	32	50	29	39.5	0	25.5	0	0.00	0.0
28	82	8	53	34	48	33	40.5	0	24.5	0	0.26	0.0
29	84	12	52	35	45	34	39.5	0	25.5	0	T	0.0
30	84	5	52	33	48	38	43	0	22	0	0.00	0.0
31	81	7	55	34	66	41	53.5	0	11.5	3.5	0.19	0.0

Temperature

1971-2000 AVG. HI: 45.5°F
 1971-2000 AVG. LOW: 27.3°F
 1971-2000 AVG. TEMP: 36.4°F
 March 2006 AVG. HI: 44.6°F
 March 2006 AVG. LO: 26.8°F
 March 2006 AVG. TEMP: 35.7°F

Precipitation

March TOTAL: 3.47 in.
 March AVG: 2.44 in.
 SNOW: 5.5 in.
 AVG SNOW: 4.7 in
 YEAR TO DATE: 7.20 in.
 YEAR TO DATE AVG: 5.41 in.

Degree Days

COOLING: 3/06: 0.0
 1/06-3/06: 0.0
 HEATING: 3/06: 907.5
 7/05-3/06: 5426.0
 GROWING: 3/06: 4.0
 1/06-3/06: 4.0

Discussion

In like a lion, out like a lamb? Well, almost. The first week of March gave us a significant snow event on the 6th and 7th that put 4 official inches on the ground. The snow didn't stick around long as the pattern shifted dramatically over the 2nd week and we received a normal month's worth of precipitation in just 6 days- all of it rain, about half of which fell over the 12th and 13th. These two days may be remembered by many as the first substantial outbreak of severe weather in the Midwest for 2006. While many DeKalb area residents enjoyed the 50°+ temperatures, including the 65° high on the 12th, this weather was associated with a larger system that produced over 100 tornadoes throughout most of Missouri and parts of central Illinois. Although the 03/06 average temperatures suggest a fairly routine March, only 10 days saw daytime high temps at or above normal. The second half of the month, which saw below normal daily temperatures, also received an additional 0.6" of liquid precipitation; 0.12" which fell as 1.2" of snow on the 24th and 25th, 0.26" on the 28th, and 0.19" on the last day to close out the month, bringing our year-to-date total almost 1.8" above normal.

As the events of the 12th and 13th remind us, we are not immune to the destructive forces of Mother Nature - especially this time of the year. Take the time now to think about what you should do in case of a tornado.

Matt Becker, Bill Oswald and Elliott Siddell, 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

March 2006 Daily Highs and Lows with 1971-2000 Average Highs and Lows

