

MONTHLY CLIMATE SUMMARY, APRIL 2012
NIU WEATHER SERVICE: DE KALB, ILL.

| Day | Record HI | Record LO | Average HI | Average LO | Obs. HI | Obs. LO | Obs. Avg. | GDD | CDD | HDD | Precip (in.) | Snowfall (in.) |
|-----|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|---------|---------|-----------|------|-----|------|--------------|----------------|
| 1 | 84 | 16 | 56 | 34 | 52 | 36 | 44 | 0 | 0 | 21 | 0.22 | 0.0 |
| 2 | 81 | 14 | 53 | 34 | 63 | 44 | 53.5 | 3.5 | 0 | 11.5 | 0.00 | 0.0 |
| 3 | 80 | 14 | 57 | 35 | 67 | 48 | 57.5 | 7.5 | 0 | 7.5 | 0.00 | 0.0 |
| 4 | 79 | 13 | 56 | 34 | 74 | 44 | 59 | 9 | 0 | 6 | 0.00 | 0.0 |
| 5 | 80 | 15 | 53 | 33 | 60 | 37 | 48.5 | 0 | 0 | 16.5 | 0.00 | 0.0 |
| 6 | 83 | 12 | 55 | 33 | 52 | 32 | 42 | 0 | 0 | 23 | 0.00 | 0.0 |
| 7 | 79 | 8 | 56 | 33 | 56 | 33 | 44.5 | 0 | 0 | 20.5 | 0.00 | 0.0 |
| 8 | 83 | 12 | 55 | 33 | 65 | 38 | 51.5 | 1.5 | 0 | 13.5 | T | 0.0 |
| 9 | 77 | 18 | 52 | 33 | 64 | 36 | 50 | 0 | 0 | 15 | 0.00 | 0.0 |
| 10 | 92 | 17 | 54 | 34 | 64 | 28 | 46 | 0 | 0 | 19 | 0.00 | 0.0 |
| 11 | 90 | 18 | 57 | 35 | 47 | 27 | 37 | 0 | 0 | 28 | 0.00 | 0.0 |
| 12 | 82 | 18 | 57 | 37 | 54 | 28 | 41 | 0 | 0 | 24 | 0.00 | 0.0 |
| 13 | 82 | 18 | 56 | 37 | 64 | 34 | 49 | 0 | 0 | 16 | 0.00 | 0.0 |
| 14 | 84 | 20 | 58 | 37 | 60 | 43 | 51.5 | 1.5 | 0 | 13.5 | T | 0.0 |
| 15 | 85 | 17 | 61 | 39 | 67 | 50 | 58.5 | 8.5 | 0 | 6.5 | 1.32 | 0.0 |
| 16 | 87 | 16 | 61 | 40 | 72 | 55 | 63.5 | 13.5 | 0 | 1.5 | 0.33 | 0.0 |
| 17 | 87 | 22 | 60 | 39 | 55 | 36 | 45.5 | 0 | 0 | 19.5 | 0.01 | 0.0 |
| 18 | 87 | 21 | 62 | 39 | 58 | 37 | 47.5 | 0 | 0 | 17.5 | 0.00 | 0.0 |
| 19 | 90 | 22 | 64 | 42 | 72 | 43 | 57.5 | 7.5 | 0 | 7.5 | 0.03 | 0.0 |
| 20 | 84 | 22 | 63 | 41 | 66 | 42 | 54 | 4 | 0 | 11 | 0.08 | 0.0 |
| 21 | 90 | 22 | 63 | 41 | 44 | 33 | 38.5 | 0 | 0 | 26.5 | T | 0.0 |
| 22 | 91 | 20 | 60 | 39 | 53 | 34 | 43.5 | 0 | 0 | 21.5 | 0.00 | 0.0 |
| 23 | 91 | 22 | 61 | 40 | 51 | 36 | 43.5 | 0 | 0 | 21.5 | 0.00 | 0.0 |
| 24 | 85 | 17 | 62 | 40 | 58 | 36 | 47 | 0 | 0 | 18 | 0.00 | 0.0 |
| 25 | 85 | 21 | 67 | 43 | 60 | 41 | 50.5 | 0.5 | 0 | 14.5 | 0.04 | 0.0 |
| 26 | 92 | 25 | 68 | 43 | 68 | 43 | 55.5 | 5.5 | 0 | 9.5 | 0.04 | 0.0 |
| 27 | 91 | 22 | 66 | 42 | 59 | 33 | 46 | 0 | 0 | 19 | 0.00 | 0.0 |
| 28 | 88 | 25 | 64 | 41 | 54 | 36 | 45 | 0 | 0 | 20 | 0.37 | 0.0 |
| 29 | 89 | 25 | 63 | 42 | 50 | 40 | 45 | 0 | 0 | 20 | 0.01 | 0.0 |
| 30 | 92 | 29 | 66 | 44 | 56 | 42 | 49 | 0 | 0 | 16 | 0.51 | 0.0 |

Temperature

1981-2010 AVG. HI: 59.5(F)
 1981-2010 AVG. LOW: 37.8(F)
 1981-2010 AVG. TEMP.: 48.7(F)
 April 2012 AVG. HI: 59.5(F)
 April 2012 AVG. LO: 38.2(F)
 April 2012 AVG. TEMP.: 48.8(F)

Precipitation

April 2012 TOTAL: 2.96 in.
 April AVG.: 3.26 in.
 April 2012 SNOW: 0
 April SNOW AVG: 0.8 in.
 2012 liquid-eq. YEAR TO DATE: 7.35 in.
 liquid-eq. YEAR TO DATE AVG.: 8.54 in.
 2011-12 Seasonal SNOW TO DATE: 24.1in.
 Seasonal SNOW TO DATE AVG.: 35.8 in.

Degree Days

COOLING: 4/12: 0
 1/12-Now: 28.5
 HEATING: 4/12: 485
 7/11-Now: 5530
 GROWING: 4/12: 62.5
 1/12-Now: 258.5

Discussion

April 2012 featured temperatures near the historical (30-year, 1981-2010) averages. The monthly average high temperature was 59.5 degrees, which was exactly the monthly historical average high temperature. The monthly average low temperature was 38.2 degrees, 0.4 degrees above the historical average. Interestingly, the monthly mean temperature of 48.8 degrees, albeit 0.1 degrees above the historical average, was actually 1.8 degrees colder than the same value for March 2012. This statistic speaks to how very warm this past March was. Near- to above-normal temperatures dominated the first three weeks or so of the month, whereas generally below-normal temperatures were observed during the last week to ten days.

April had a liquid-equivalent precipitation total of 2.96 in., which was some 91 percent of the historical-average value of 3.26 in. Precipitation was not very well distributed temporally, as there was 0.22 in. of rain recorded on the 1st, followed by 13 days without measurable precipitation. Rainfall made a more frequent appearance in the second half of the month even though most of the rain occurred on the night of the 14th. No snowfall was recorded; the historical-average total is 0.8 in.

Year-to-date precipitation as of 30 April was 7.35 in., which was 86 percent of the historical-average total of 8.54 in. This deficit, according to the 24 April U.S. Drought Monitor put out by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, has not resulted in longer-term drought in northern Illinois but has resulted in abnormally dry to moderate-drought conditions nearby across central Illinois south of the Illinois River valley (<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>). As of 24 April, crop-moisture conditions, according to the NOAA Climate Prediction Center, were "slightly dry/favorably moist" in northern Illinois and adjacent regions (http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/regional_monitoring/cmi.gif), which bodes well for area agricultural interests as field work transitions to planting.

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 This summary was prepared by John Barmann and Daniel J. Brouillette, 30 April 2012. Forecast information (updated once daily at approx. 7:30 am): (815) 753-1623.
 Climate Website: <http://climate.niu.edu>

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April 2012 Daily Highs and Lows with 1981-2010 Average Highs and Lows
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