

ILLINOIS WEATHER & CROPS



ILLINOIS
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SUMMARY OF 1994 ILLINOIS WEATHER

Prepared by the Illinois State Water Survey, Champaign

SUMMARY: Temperatures during 1994 in Illinois were near average, whereas precipitation was somewhat drier than average, but there was great variability from month to month. Annual precipitation was a bit less than the 1961-90 averages.

PRECIPITATION: Precipitation for the year was five to 15 percent less than average. Indeed, only those for April, June, August and November were above average. There was substantial concern for the crops due to less than average precipitation during the growing season in Illinois, primarily June and July. Apparently sufficient precipitation was received at the particularly sensitive times for the crops, promoting record yields.

TEMPERATURE: Temperatures across the state were near average for the year as a whole. Only those for June, October, November, and particularly December were warmer than average. Indeed, winter "weather" for the 1994-95 winter only affected northern most Illinois counties, and then only in late November and December. Even snow flurries were uncommon due to the warmer than average temperatures.

SIGNIFICANT WEATHER EVENTS

SEVERE WINTER STORMS: There were four severe winter storms (six inches or more snow, or glaze impacting at least 5,000 square miles) in the state, two in February, and one each in January and March. The storm of January 26-29 only hit northern counties. The two in February also impacted the north (primarily northeastern counties of the state) occurring on February 22-23 and February 24-25, back to back. Chicago measured more than a foot accumulation with 15 inches on the ground at the end of the month. The northeastern most eight or so counties were immobilized for several days with snowcover, glaze and extremely cold temperatures. That of March 8-10 hit the southern most counties of the state with up to 12 inches.

TEMPERATURE EXTREMES: Several days near January 17 brought temperatures into the -10°F to -25°F range with persistent winds 25 to 35 mph. Wind chills were in the -50°F to -70°F range for substantial parts of three days.

TORNADOES AND SEVERE THUNDERSTORMS: Spring temperatures in Illinois were sufficiently cool to delay the onset of spring severe weather, including thunderstorms, hail events and tornadoes, a condition also observed in 1993. The preliminary total number of tornadoes for the year is 23 (28 is average), nine in April, one in May, five in June, three in July, and five in August. On August 19, some 50,000 acres of corn were destroyed by up to two inch hail in Winnebago County.

PROMINENT WEATHER RELATED IMPACTS FOR 1994: The heavy snow of the 1993-94 winter, and heavy rainfall in northeastern Illinois during April resulted in widespread flooding along central Illinois rivers and the Mississippi during April. Since little snow fell in the state during November and December, costs for snow removal were essentially non-existent.

Precipitation, Illinois totals by districts, months, average (1961-90) and 1993-94 1/

District and year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
Inches													
Northwest													
Average	1.33	1.14	2.60	3.68	3.88	4.18	3.99	4.08	3.87	2.75	2.49	2.04	36.03
1993	2.38	1.02	3.82	5.34	3.61	10.24	4.94	6.22	4.79	1.06	1.74	1.47	46.63
1994	1.27	2.22	0.76	2.02	1.27	5.72	3.24	4.40	2.52	1.23	4.25	1.45	30.95
Northeast													
Average	1.57	1.33	2.68	3.73	3.64	4.05	3.98	3.96	3.79	2.50	2.83	2.38	36.44
1993	3.29	1.05	3.10	5.27	2.44	9.75	4.14	4.67	4.68	1.85	1.85	1.25	43.34
1994	1.77	2.46	0.88	2.63	0.94	5.24	2.91	4.81	2.10	1.40	5.74	1.83	32.73
West													
Average	1.45	1.41	3.09	3.76	4.10	3.98	4.39	3.74	4.28	3.01	2.63	2.28	38.12
1993	1.97	1.61	3.43	4.66	3.61	6.38	9.93	6.35	7.14	1.66	2.26	1.05	50.05
1994	0.86	2.24	0.69	5.62	3.01	3.43	2.35	3.67	1.23	2.22	4.24	2.73	32.51
Central													
Average	1.57	1.51	3.08	3.75	3.98	3.82	3.95	3.45	3.75	2.72	2.77	2.68	37.03
1993	3.83	2.07	3.32	4.95	2.32	6.77	8.69	6.10	7.84	2.89	2.75	1.37	52.90
1994	1.35	1.52	0.97	4.97	2.15	2.79	2.76	4.40	1.82	2.17	5.23	2.97	32.21
East													
Average	1.65	1.63	2.99	3.78	4.00	3.85	4.21	3.63	3.41	2.64	2.91	2.78	37.48
1993	3.82	1.78	3.09	5.11	3.43	7.90	6.52	5.43	7.83	4.22	3.40	1.80	54.33
1994	1.69	0.95	1.22	7.12	2.06	2.49	3.75	3.86	2.51	1.80	5.18	2.41	34.30
West Southwest													
Average	1.67	1.87	3.38	3.70	4.28	3.72	3.91	3.37	3.50	2.82	3.06	2.95	38.23
1993	3.91	2.02	2.80	5.42	2.72	5.57	6.87	4.74	10.12	2.39	4.24	1.36	52.16
1994	1.28	1.26	1.23	9.70	2.53	3.76	2.31	3.66	2.07	2.74	5.57	2.34	37.50
East Southeast													
Average	2.03	2.21	3.74	3.83	4.23	3.81	4.23	3.36	3.15	2.86	3.50	3.42	40.37
1993	4.24	2.21	2.92	5.01	3.58	4.28	7.01	4.29	8.14	2.96	7.02	1.65	53.31
1994	2.44	1.32	1.11	8.85	1.71	3.88	3.80	3.53	3.16	2.21	6.01	1.99	37.27
Southwest													
Average	2.36	2.79	4.33	3.93	4.44	3.74	3.85	3.51	3.28	2.96	3.84	3.77	42.80
1993	4.90	3.24	3.03	4.86	4.63	5.88	4.74	3.58	8.85	3.30	7.48	2.04	56.53
1994	3.27	1.71	1.95	9.11	1.53	4.13	2.74	3.97	2.75	2.83	7.86	2.70	42.71
Southeast													
Average	2.69	3.05	4.75	4.39	4.89	3.86	4.05	3.37	3.08	3.01	4.01	4.05	45.20
1993	4.61	2.97	2.92	5.58	4.29	4.63	4.79	3.00	7.06	3.16	7.84	2.62	53.47
1994	3.46	1.92	2.34	7.08	1.56	4.14	2.40	3.12	2.58	1.81	7.03	2.86	40.53
Illinois													
Average	1.73	1.78	3.41	3.81	4.04	3.85	3.93	3.65	3.55	2.85	2.98	2.79	38.37
1993	3.67	2.00	3.16	5.13	3.42	5.80	6.40	4.97	7.39	2.77	4.02	1.36	50.72
1994	1.87	1.72	1.19	6.32	1.85	4.00	2.94	3.96	2.32	2.11	5.61	2.31	35.43

Source: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Illinois State Water Survey
 1/1994 Preliminary

Colder than average temperatures in January and February resulted in greater than average heating costs. Substantially warmer than average temperatures in October, November and December resulted in lower than average heating costs. Summer cooling demand was lower than average due to reduced temperatures.

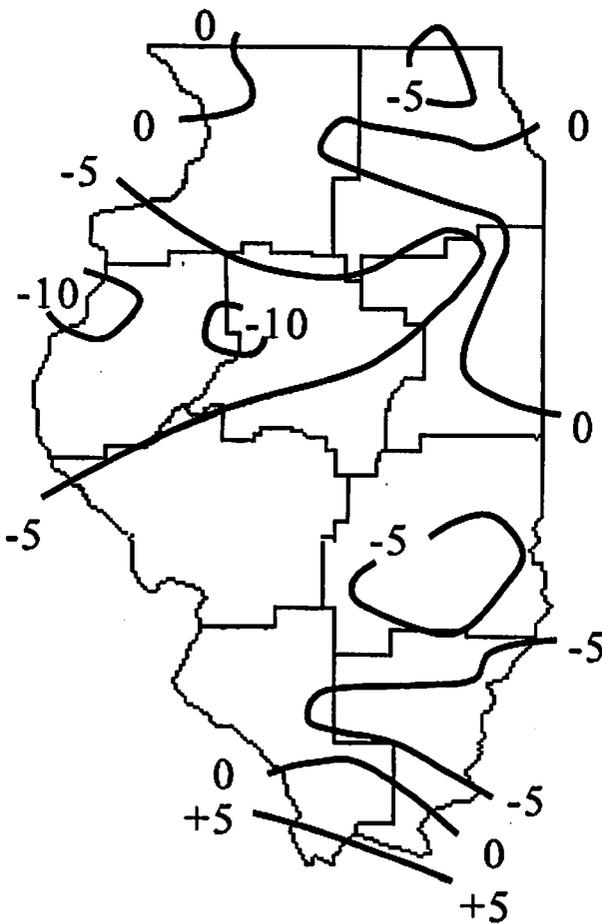
Temperatures, Illinois averages by districts, months, average (1961-90) and 1993-94 1/

District and year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
Degrees													
Northwest													
Average	19.2	24.0	36.4	49.4	60.6	69.9	73.8	71.4	63.8	52.3	38.9	24.8	48.7
1993	22.7	22.8	32.9	45.8	61.5	67.7	73.3	72.6	58.7	49.6	36.3	27.1	47.6
1994	12.0	19.5	37.7	50.2	60.5	71.8	70.7	67.8	64.1	53.9	42.8	31.3	48.7
Northeast													
Average	20.7	25.2	36.7	48.7	59.6	69.3	73.5	71.6	64.4	52.9	40.1	26.5	49.1
1993	25.1	24.3	33.6	45.8	61.1	67.4	74.4	73.3	59.4	50.4	38.1	28.4	48.4
1994	13.8	21.2	37.5	50.4	59.0	70.7	71.5	68.1	64.8	54.5	44.3	32.8	49.2
West													
Average	23.2	28.0	40.0	52.6	62.8	72.0	76.1	73.4	66.3	54.9	41.8	28.2	51.6
1993	25.2	25.0	35.8	49.1	63.5	70.7	75.7	75.4	60.6	51.6	38.1	30.2	50.1
1994	17.7	26.1	40.9	52.4	61.9	73.9	73.2	70.2	65.3	56.7	45.8	34.4	51.8
Central													
Average	23.0	27.6	39.8	52.2	62.6	71.9	75.3	73.0	66.3	54.5	41.7	28.3	51.4
1993	26.5	25.5	35.5	48.9	63.3	70.1	75.4	74.3	61.1	51.7	39.1	30.4	50.2
1994	17.5	25.7	40.1	52.0	61.0	73.8	73.3	70.2	65.4	56.6	46.1	34.8	51.3
East													
Average	23.0	27.3	39.4	51.3	62.1	71.5	74.7	72.3	66.0	54.0	41.6	28.5	51.0
1993	26.6	25.1	35.4	48.1	63.1	69.9	75.4	74.0	60.6	51.1	39.3	29.6	49.9
1994	17.2	25.0	39.0	51.3	60.2	73.6	73.0	69.2	65.1	55.8	46.5	35.5	50.9
West Southwest													
Average	25.9	30.4	42.1	54.2	63.9	72.8	76.6	74.1	67.5	56.0	43.7	31.0	53.2
1993	28.3	27.9	37.8	51.1	64.3	72.2	78.2	76.7	62.8	52.9	40.4	33.2	52.2
1994	21.5	30.2	43.0	53.8	62.1	75.0	74.9	72.6	66.2	57.8	49.2	37.2	53.8
East Southeast													
Average	26.7	31.2	42.8	54.3	64.1	73.0	76.5	74.3	67.9	56.1	44.2	31.9	53.6
1993	30.7	28.8	38.9	51.4	64.5	72.6	78.8	76.3	63.7	53.2	41.8	33.4	52.8
1994	22.3	31.4	42.8	54.6	61.6	75.4	75.4	72.4	65.8	57.8	49.8	38.3	53.9
Southwest													
Average	30.3	34.7	45.7	56.7	65.7	74.3	78.1	76.0	69.3	58.0	46.5	34.9	55.9
1993	33.3	32.4	41.6	53.2	65.7	73.6	81.1	78.1	66.1	55.3	43.2	36.7	55.0
1994	26.0	35.1	45.1	56.7	62.3	75.8	76.1	72.9	66.0	59.0	51.7	40.0	55.6
Southeast													
Average	30.6	35.0	46.0	56.7	65.7	74.2	77.9	76.0	69.5	57.9	46.9	35.4	56.0
1993	34.2	31.9	41.6	52.7	65.0	73.2	81.0	77.4	65.7	54.5	43.3	35.9	54.7
1994	25.9	35.7	44.8	57.4	62.3	76.1	76.1	72.7	65.8	58.6	51.6	40.3	55.7
Illinois													
Average	24.4	28.9	40.8	52.8	63.0	72.0	75.8	73.5	66.5	55.0	43.1	29.5	52.1
1993	28.0	27.2	36.9	49.2	63.2	70.5	76.8	75.5	61.5	51.9	40.0	32.5	51.1
1994	19.0	27.4	41.1	53.0	61.2	73.9	73.7	70.7	65.4	56.7	47.4	35.9	52.2

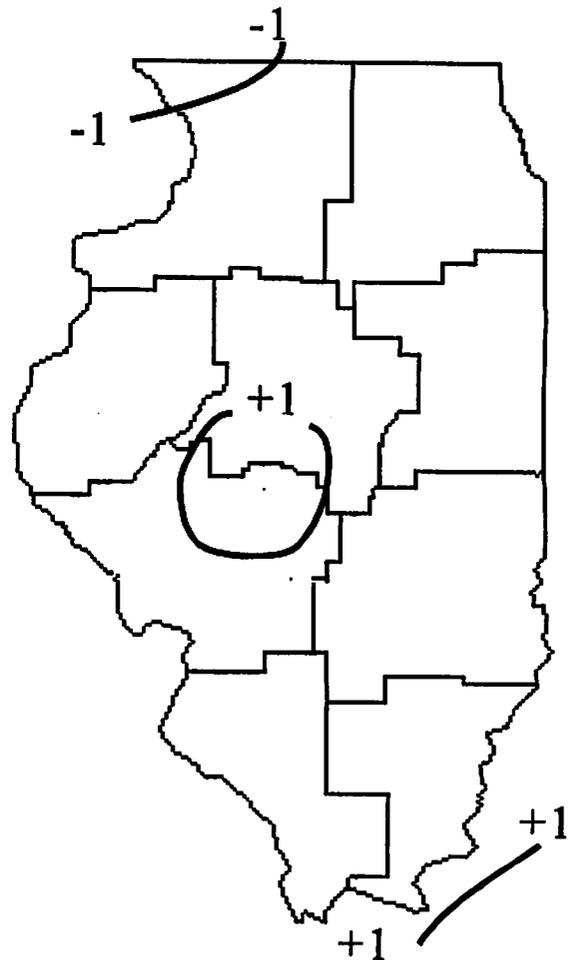
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Precipitation Departure
1994



Temperature Departure
1994