



Iowa Field Office · 210 Walnut Street Ste 833 · Des Moines IA 50309 · (515) 776-3400 · (800) 772-0825
fax (855) 271-9802 · www.nass.usda.gov/ia

Cooperating with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

October 28, 2024 - For Immediate Release

Media Contact: Greg Thessen

Row crop harvest was ahead of normal as Iowa’s farmers had **6.7 days suitable for fieldwork** during the week ending October 27, 2024, according to the USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service. Field activities included harvesting corn and soybeans, completing fall tillage, and applying fall fertilizer.

Topsoil moisture condition rated 43 percent very short, 42 percent short, 15 percent adequate and 0 percent surplus. Topsoil moisture condition rated at least 75 percent short to very short across the State. **Subsoil moisture** condition rated 34 percent very short, 46 percent short, 20 percent adequate and 0 percent surplus.

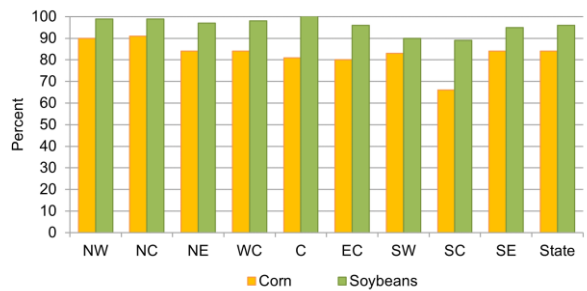
Corn harvest for grain reached 84 percent statewide, almost a week ahead of last year and 12 days ahead of the five-year average. South central Iowa farmers still have 34 percent of their corn for grain remaining to harvest, while farmers have already harvested 91 percent in north central Iowa. Moisture content of field corn being harvested was 14 percent. Iowa’s **soybean** harvest was nearly complete at 96 percent.

Pasture condition continued to fall and rated 19 percent good to excellent this week. Pastures have largely gone dormant due to shorter daylight hours, cooler temperatures, and dry conditions.

Crop Condition as of October 27, 2024

Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Pasture and range	13	34	34	17	2

**Corn for Grain and Soybeans Harvested - Iowa
October 27, 2024**



Crop Progress as of October 27, 2024

Item	Districts									State			
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	This week	Last week	Last year	5-year avg
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Corn harvested for grain	90	91	84	84	81	80	83	66	84	84	68	73	63
Soybeans harvested	99	99	97	98	94	96	90	89	95	96	91	91	86

Days Suitable for Fieldwork and Soil Moisture Condition as of October 27, 2024

Item	Districts									State		
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	This week	Last week	Last year
	(days)	(days)	(days)	(days)	(days)	(days)	(days)	(days)	(days)	(days)	(days)	(days)
Days suitable	7.0	6.8	6.9	6.9	6.6	6.0	6.6	6.2	6.3	6.7	6.8	4.2
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Topsoil moisture												
Very short	48	53	45	48	31	24	52	58	26	43	41	12
Short	31	33	45	43	46	51	44	36	54	42	40	35
Adequate	21	14	10	9	23	25	4	6	20	15	19	51
Surplus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Subsoil moisture												
Very short	30	35	41	38	27	29	47	42	24	34	31	25
Short	40	48	46	51	42	50	38	50	52	46	46	42
Adequate	30	17	13	11	31	21	15	8	24	20	23	31
Surplus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2

The complete report can be found on the USDA NASS website at www.nass.usda.gov/Publications.

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IOWA PRELIMINARY WEATHER SUMMARY

Provided by Justin Glisan, Ph.D., State Climatologist
Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

Reports from the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship and maps from the Midwestern Regional Climate Center reflect data collected from 7:00 A.M. Central Time October 21, 2024, through 7:00 A.M. Central Time on October 27, 2024.

Widespread rainfall returned to Iowa over the reporting period with the highest totals found in east-central Iowa; the weekly statewide total was more than the previous four weeks combined, though still below the 30-year climatological average. Temperatures remained unseasonably warm with a statewide average of 53.6 degrees, 4.2 degrees above normal.

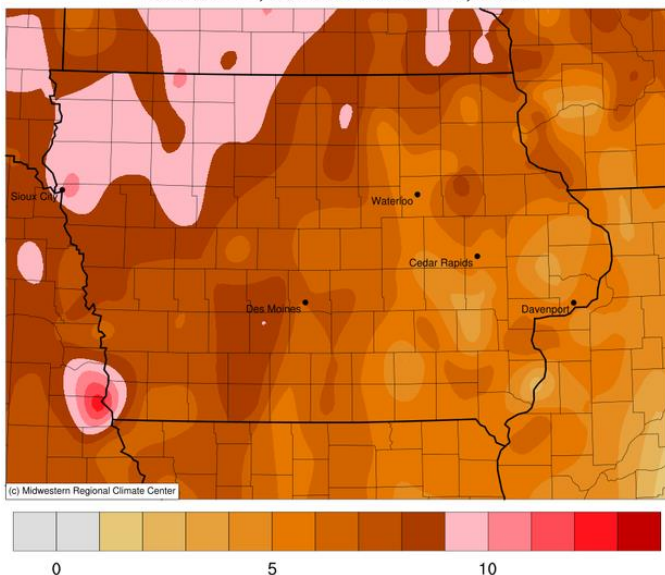
Strong southwesterly winds helped boost Sunday (20th) afternoon temperatures into the low 80s across most of Iowa. Clear conditions continued into Monday (21st) with morning temperatures ranging from the mid 40s southeast to upper 50s northwest. Afternoon temperatures returned to the low 80s statewide with sunny skies and southerly winds persisting. Clouds increased over western Iowa prior to sunset as a band of showers, with locally heavier rain, pushed into Iowa ahead of a low pressure system. Showers and a few thunderstorms increased in coverage as the system moved through central and eastern Iowa into late Tuesday (22nd) morning. Moderate rain was reported along a narrow line in eastern Iowa before the system cleared the state. Most stations reporting rain had totals under 0.15 inches with higher amounts ranging from 0.21 inches in Washington (Washington County) to 0.41 inches near Council Bluffs (Pottawattamie County). Westerly winds built in behind the system with clearing skies in eastern Iowa and highs in the 70s west to upper 60s east. Winds shifted northwesterly overnight as patchy cloud cover and light rain moved over southern Iowa.

Conditions cleared out through Wednesday (23rd) with afternoon conditions in the upper 50s to mid 60s, near seasonal for late October. Overnight lows into Thursday (24th) were below freezing in eastern Iowa, where patchy frozen fog was observed; upper 40s and low 50s were reported farther west. A shift back to gusty southerly winds ahead of another low pressure center helped fire thunderstorms across southern Iowa into the afternoon hours. A more concentrated line of showers and thunderstorms formed along the low's attendant cold front as it sped through central Iowa; several storms became severe-warned with pea to penny-sized hail along with heavier rainfall rates. Thirty stations in eastern Iowa reported at least an inch of rain with the highest totals in Johnson County, where 1.93 inches was registered in North Liberty. Many stations observed rainfall in the 0.30 to 0.70-inch range. The system cleared eastern Iowa by sunrise on Friday (25th) with morning lows in the mid 30s northwest to low 50s southeast under clear skies. Sunshine and northerly winds prevailed with highs holding in the upper 50s and low 60s. Saturday (26th) dawned chilly with temperatures in the 20s across western Iowa while conditions were up to 10 degrees warmer in eastern Iowa. Daytime temperatures rose back into the upper 50s and low 60s as blustery southerly winds returned. Starry skies were visible into Sunday (27th) with morning lows in the upper 30s and low 40s.

Weekly precipitation totals ranged from no accumulation in northwest Iowa to 2.18 inches in Solon (Johnson County). The weekly statewide average precipitation was 0.24 inches while the normal is 0.53 inches. Spencer Municipal Airport (Clay County) reported the week's high temperature of 85 degrees on the 21st, 27 degrees above normal. Mapleton (Monona County) and Mason City (Cerro Gordo County) reported the week's low temperature of 20 degrees on the 27th, on average 13 degrees below normal.

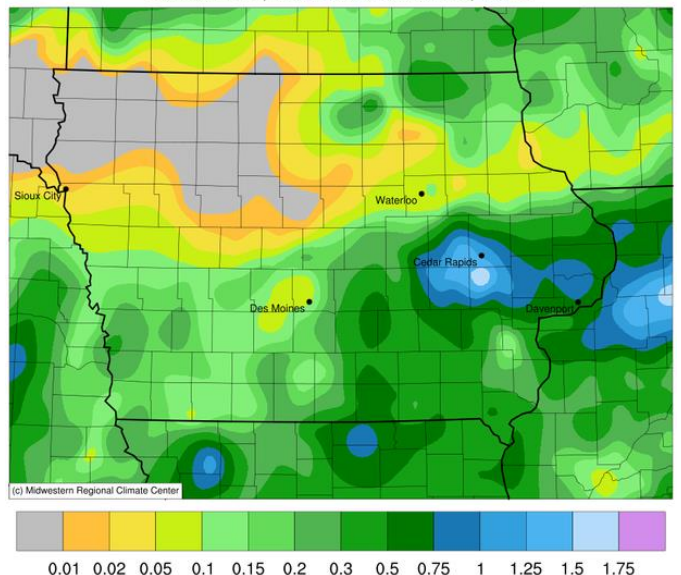
Average Temperature (°F): Departure from 1991-2020 Normals

October 21, 2024 to October 27, 2024



Accumulated Precipitation (in)

October 21, 2024 to October 27, 2024



Temperature and Precipitation Maps, courtesy of the Midwestern Regional Climate Center, are available at: <https://mrcc.purdue.edu/CLIMATE/>