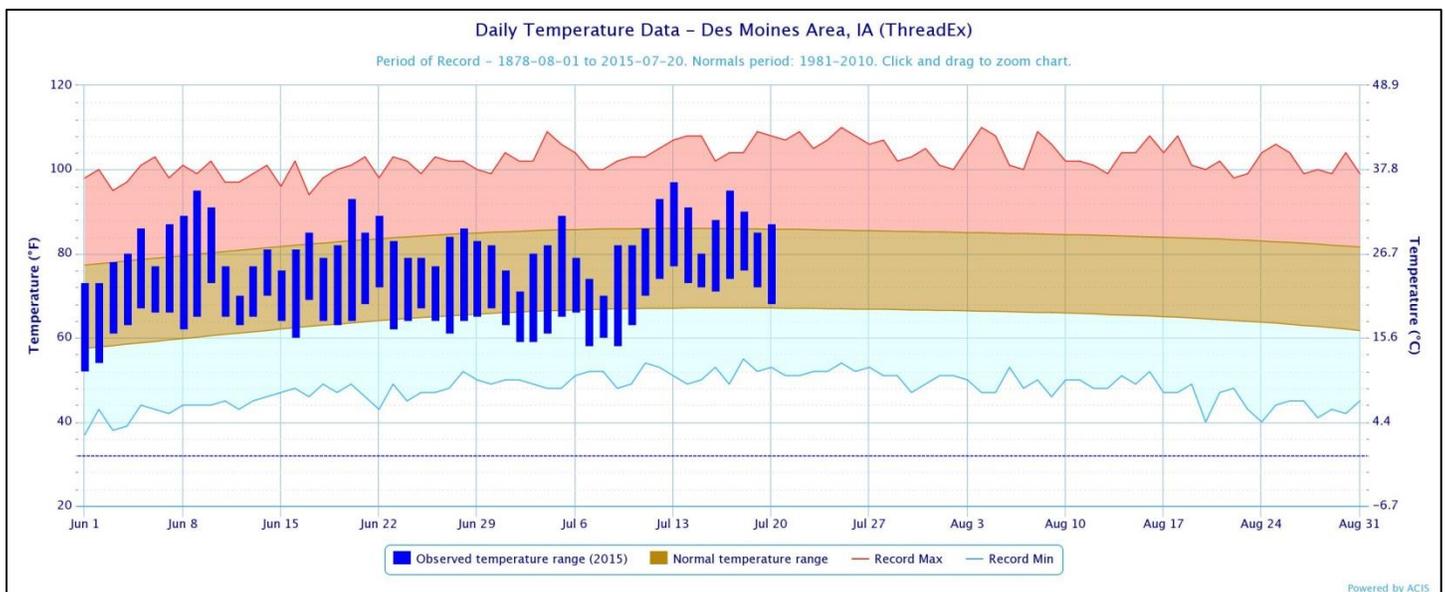


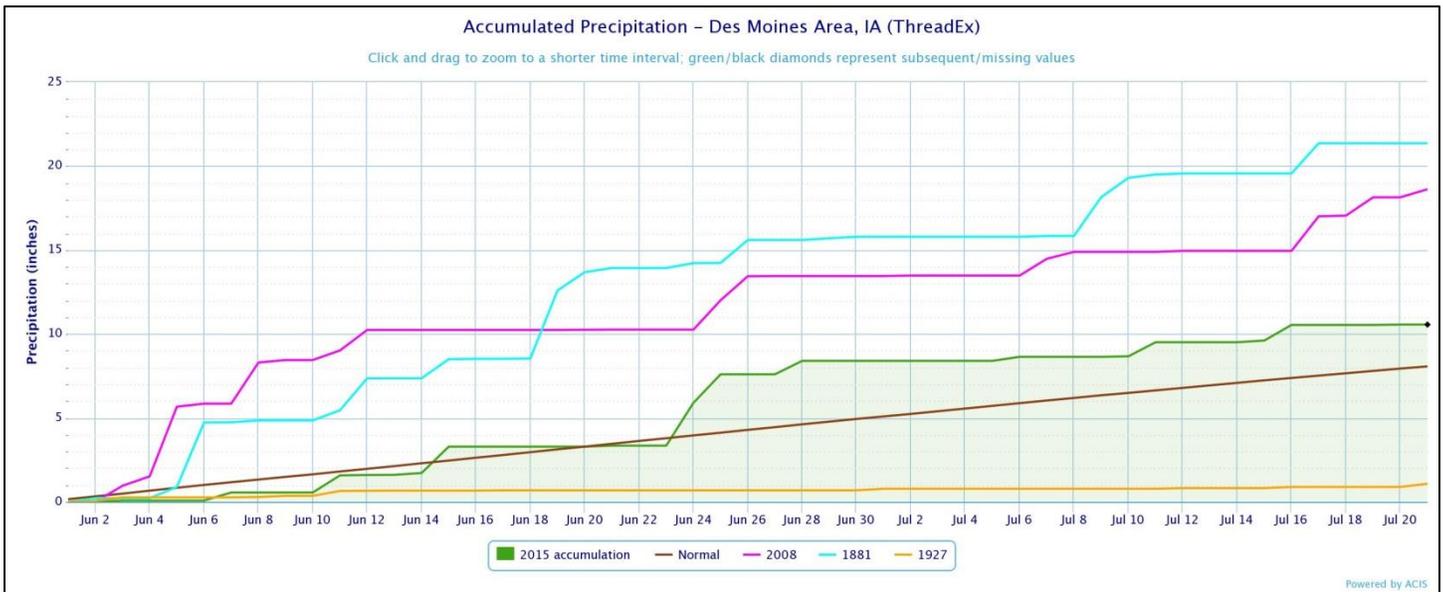
Summer 2015 – So Far

As of yesterday (July 20), normal average temperatures at Des Moines and Waterloo began a long, slow downward trend that will accelerate in September. One could thus say that we have passed the peak of Summer heat, in terms of long-term normals. Here is a look at how the summer has gone so far, from June 1 through July 20, at both Des Moines and Waterloo.

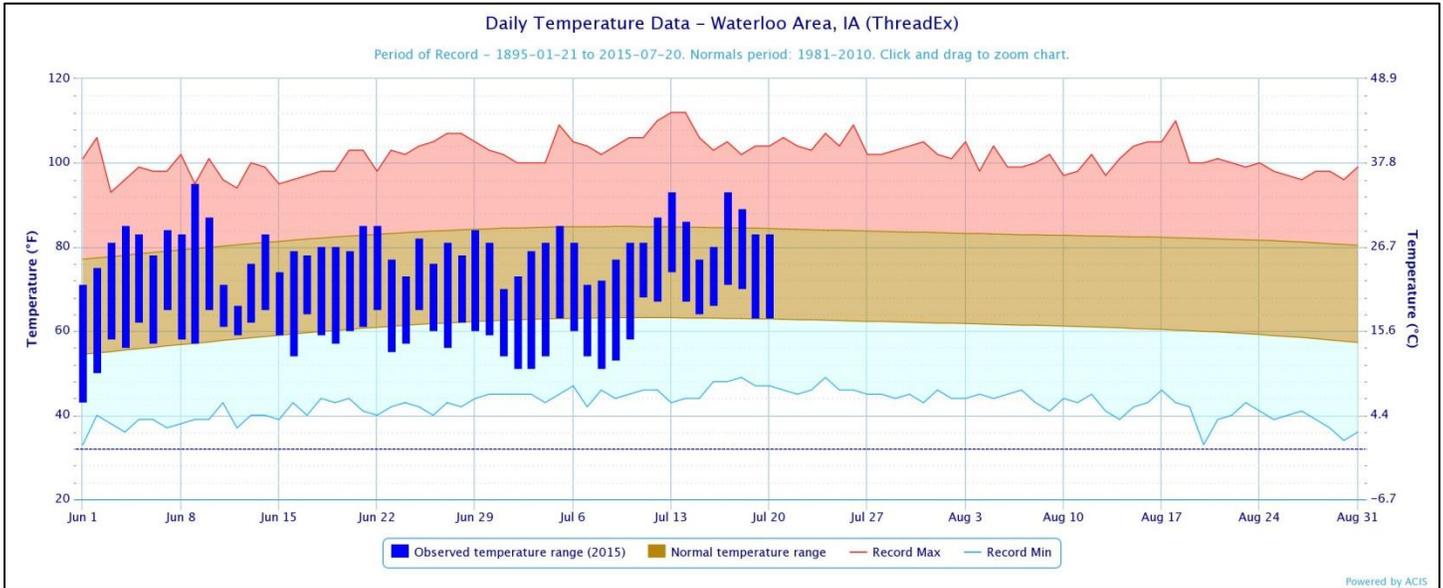
At Des Moines, the average temperature this summer has been only very slightly above normal, 74.0 as compared to a normal of 73.7 degrees. The plot below shows the high and low temperature for each day since June 1st and how it compared to the normal and record values for the date. As you can see the most pronounced warm periods (relative to normal) were in the second week of June and again in mid-July, while late June and early July saw below-normal temperatures. However, no day has approached record values.



Meanwhile, Des Moines has been wetter than normal with a total of 10.56" of rainfall as compared to a normal of 7.94" from June 1 through July 20. Nearly half of the total this year, 4.25", fell overnight on June 24-25 causing widespread flooding along the Raccoon River and Walnut Creek basins, among others. This two-day rainfall total was the third-highest in the last 19 years, behind June events in 2008 and 2011. The graph below displays total accumulated rainfall so far this summer as compared to normal, the wettest year on record over those dates (1881), the driest year (1927), and 2008 which as we all remember saw record flooding across parts of central Iowa. The 4.25" of rain that fell on June 24-25 is notable as before that time, June rainfall had been very close to normal, and since that time, rainfall has actually been below normal at Des Moines.



At Waterloo, the average temperature so far this summer has been 70.1 as compared to a normal value of 70.2 degrees. The temperature plot below, similar to the Des Moines plot on the first page, indicates that above normal temperatures have been confined to the second week of June and a few days in mid-July, while much of late June and early July was cooler than normal. On June 9 Waterloo reached a high of 95 degrees, their warmest temperature of the year so far and only one degree off from the daily record of 96 (set in 1911).



As opposed to Des Moines, Waterloo has actually been a bit drier than normal this summer, receiving 6.67" of rainfall as compared to the normal of 8.28". July has accounted for all of this departure with only 1.20" of rain through the first 20 days, well below the normal amount of 3.30". The plot below once again displays rainfall accumulation for the first 50 days of this summer compared with the wettest (1993) and driest (1927) years on record and 2008.

Accumulated Precipitation - Waterloo Area, IA (ThreadEx)

Click and drag to zoom to a shorter time interval; green/black diamonds represent subsequent/missing values

