

2020 Year in Review for Central and Southeast Illinois

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Temperatures averaged near to slightly above normal for the year. Precipitation averaged above normal south of I-72, as well as in a narrow area from Peoria northeast to Pontiac. The driest conditions were near Galesburg and southeast of Bloomington, where yearly precipitation was 3 to 6 inches below normal.

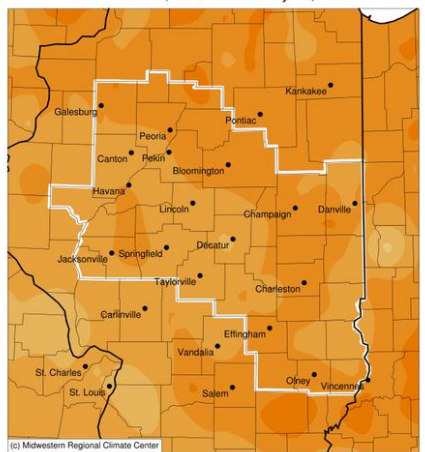
Winter Season

(December 1, 2019 to February 29, 2020)

Temperatures: Above normal

Precipitation: Mostly above normal

Average Temperature (°F): Departure from 1981-2010 Normals
December 01, 2019 to February 29, 2020

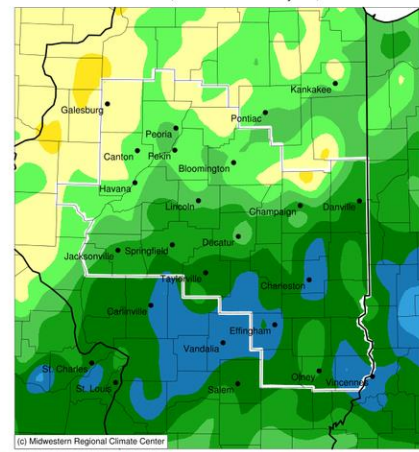


(c) Midwestern Regional Climate Center



Stations from the following networks used: WBAN, COOP, FAA, GHCN, ThreadEx, CoCoRaHS, WMO, ICAO, NWSLI, Midwestern Regional Climate Center
cli-MATE: MRCC Application Tools Environment
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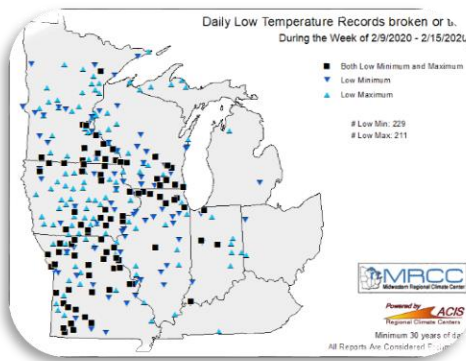
Accumulated Precipitation (in): Departure from 1981-2010 Normals
December 01, 2019 to February 29, 2020



(c) Midwestern Regional Climate Center



Stations from the following networks used: WBAN, COOP, FAA, GHCN, ThreadEx, CoCoRaHS, WMO, ICAO, NWSLI, Midwestern Regional Climate Center
cli-MATE: MRCC Application Tools Environment
Generated at: 12/14/2020 11:56:28 AM CST



The surge of cold air that occurred in the period around Valentine's Day resulted in a number of central Illinois stations breaking records for record lows, as well as record cold highs. Image from the Midwestern Regional Climate Center.

Temperature Review:

The season as a whole averaged temperatures 3 to 6 degrees above normal across the region. Only two significant cold surges were noted, from January 19-20 and on Valentine's Day. The first surge saw single digit lows across much of central Illinois. The latter one brought the coldest air of the year, when widespread lows

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below zero were observed north of an I-72/Danville line and wind chills fell to as much as 20 below zero. One death was reported in Peoria due to hypothermia.

Weather Review:

Precipitation was above normal over a large portion of central and southeast Illinois for the season, especially in areas south of I-72.

Very heavy rain of 3 to 6 inches occurred from January 11-12 in most of the southeast 2/3 of the state, with the heaviest rainfall in an area along and north of I-70. Numerous creeks and streams flooded, along with many low lying areas.

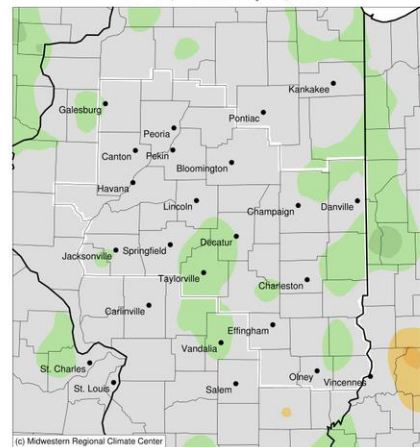
Spring Season

(March 1 through May 31)

Temperatures: Near normal

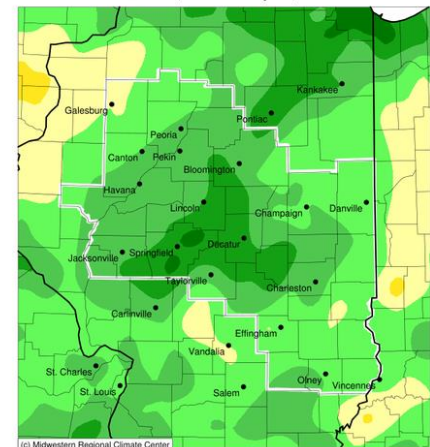
Precipitation: Above normal

Average Temperature (°F): Departure from 1981-2010 Normals
March 01, 2020 to May 31, 2020



(c) Midwestern Regional Climate Center
-4 -3 -2 -1 0 1 2 3
Stations from the following networks used: WBAN, COOP, FAA, GHCN, ThreadEx, CoCoRaHS, WMO, ICAO, NWSLI, Midwestern Regional Climate Center, cli-MATE: MRCC Application Tools Environment
Generated at: 12/14/2020 11:58:25 AM CST

Accumulated Precipitation (in): Departure from 1981-2010 Normals
March 01, 2020 to May 31, 2020



(c) Midwestern Regional Climate Center
-2 0 2 4 6 8 10 12
Stations from the following networks used: WBAN, COOP, FAA, GHCN, ThreadEx, CoCoRaHS, WMO, ICAO, NWSLI, Midwestern Regional Climate Center, cli-MATE: MRCC Application Tools Environment
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*Mammatus clouds were observed on April 8th as severe thunderstorms moved through the region.
Photo by Linda Kimbrel.*

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Temperature Review:

Much of March featured well above normal temperatures, aside from the 21-24th. April averaged well below normal, aside from highs in the 80s on the 7-8th, and subfreezing temperatures occurred on several occasions from the 13-18th. A late season freeze on May 9th was one of the latest on record for this area, but the heat returned toward the latter part of the month, with highs in the mid to upper 80s.

Weather Review:

Most of the accumulating snowfall in March fell on the 14th and 22nd. A localized band of heavier snow on the 14th produced 2 to 4 inches of snow near Bloomington. A late season winter storm on April 16-17th resulted in snowfall as high as 6 inches near Galesburg, with amounts quickly dropping off to the southeast; Peoria received only an inch and little or no accumulation was observed south of I-72.

In April, areas between the Illinois River and I-55 saw rainfall of 2 to 3 inches above normal, mainly due to a couple late month heavy rains.

Strong thunderstorms on May 14-15th caused wind damage around Galesburg and Peoria, as well as over 2 inches of rain. Flash flooding occurred in the Peoria metro area on the 25th due to numerous thunderstorms.

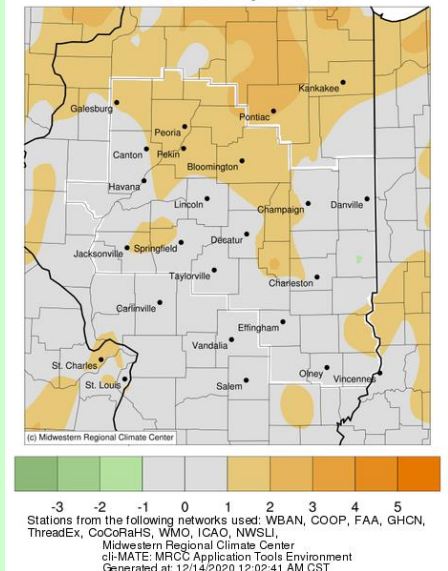
Summer Season

(June 1 through August 31)

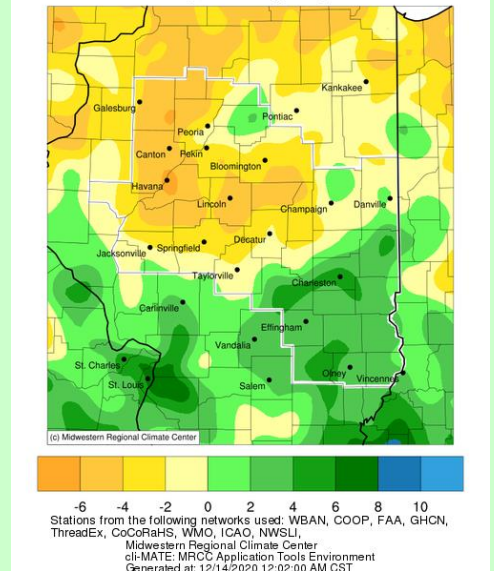
Temperatures: Near to slightly above normal

Precipitation: Below normal north of I-72, above normal south

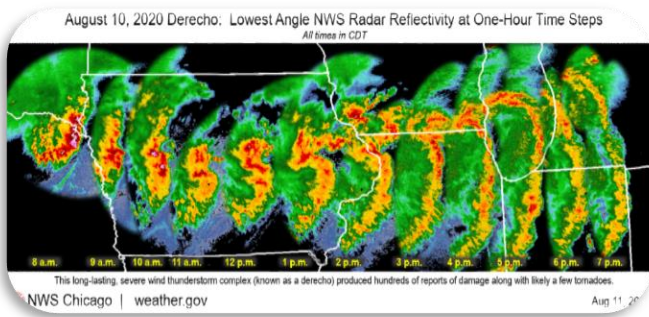
Average Temperature (°F): Departure from 1981-2010 Normals
June 01, 2020 to August 31, 2020



Accumulated Precipitation (in): Departure from 1981-2010 Normals
June 01, 2020 to August 31, 2020



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A derecho tracked from Nebraska to Ohio over the span of 12 hours on August 10th, causing significant wind damage all along its path. Image courtesy of the Chicago NWS office.

Temperature Review:

While no major heat waves were observed in June, most days saw temperatures at least a few degrees above normal. July also averaged a few degrees above normal, with heat advisories in effect on the 18-19th and the 26th due to high humidity levels. August temperatures were near to slightly below normal, with only a handful of days reaching the 90s.

Weather Review:

Tropical Depression Cristobal skirted western Illinois on June 9th with heavy rain of around an inch near the Mississippi River, but rainfall further east was generally less than a half inch. Otherwise, the month was fairly dry across the region, with amounts less than 2 inches in many areas.

Several rounds of thunderstorms on July 15th produced heavy rain of 5 to 7 inches centered around the Peoria metro area and into southern Tazewell County. Rainfall measured 6.70 inches at Secor and 6.65 inches at Roanoke, where 71 homes and 15 businesses were flooded, including the collapse of basement walls and foundations. Peoria International Airport reported 5.19 inches, breaking the monthly 24-hour record and establishing its second wettest day since records began in 1883. For the month of July, Clay City in southeast Illinois observed over 13 inches of rain, and rainfall was well above normal south of I-72 and also around the Peoria region due to the heavy rain mentioned earlier.

Monthly rainfall deficits of 2 to 3 inches were common across central Illinois in August, except south of I-70, with several locations observing less than an inch for the month.

A [derecho](#) (long-lived line of thunderstorms with intense winds) moved across the Midwest on August 10. Many areas had hurricane-force wind speeds in excess of 75 mph, including some 100-115 mph wind gusts in eastern Iowa. Eleven tornadoes also occurred across northern Illinois. Between the winds and the tornadoes, a widespread region of the Midwest saw extensive damage to trees, power lines, buildings, and vehicles.

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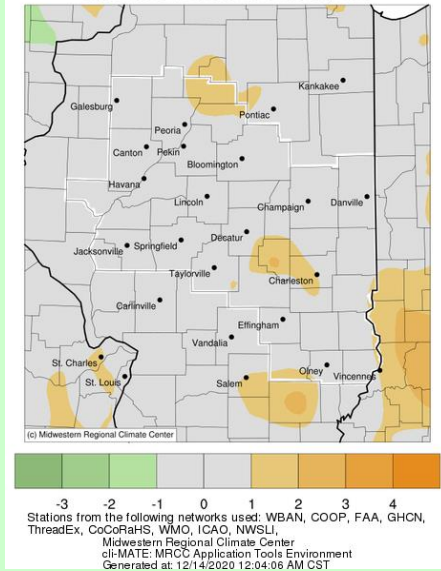
Autumn Season

(September 1 through November 30)

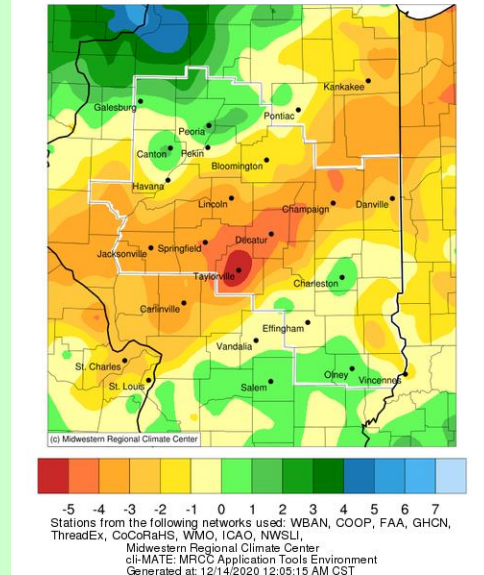
Temperatures: Near normal

Precipitation: Mostly below normal

Average Temperature (°F): Departure from 1981-2010 Normals
September 01, 2020 to November 30, 2020



Accumulated Precipitation (in): Departure from 1981-2010 Normals
September 01, 2020 to November 30, 2020



Significant roof damage occurred to a café in Elmwood due to severe thunderstorms on November 10th. Photo from Peoria County EMA.

Temperature Review:

While a cool stretch of weather occurred from September 18-20th, the month overall was close to normal. The first freeze occurred in many areas on October 5th, though widespread hard freezes held off until late October or early November in some cases. November featured well above normal temperatures across the area, averaging 3 to 5 degrees above normal, with an extended period of highs in the 70s from the 3-10th.

Weather Review:

A sharp rainfall gradient was observed over the area in September, with areas near and northwest of the Illinois River significantly wetter than normal, and widespread dryness south of I-72.

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A front drifted north into the area on October 20-21st, producing widespread rainfall of 2 to 4 inches centered along the I-70 corridor and eliminating drought conditions there. Further north, moderate drought conditions had developed by mid October centered along the I-72/Danville corridor, with severe drought in a small area near Decatur, Springfield and Lincoln by mid November.

On October 14th and 17th, the dry conditions, combined with fall harvesting, resulted in an enhanced fire danger across the area. High resolution satellite imagery detected at least 18 field fires on the 14th, which caused three injuries.

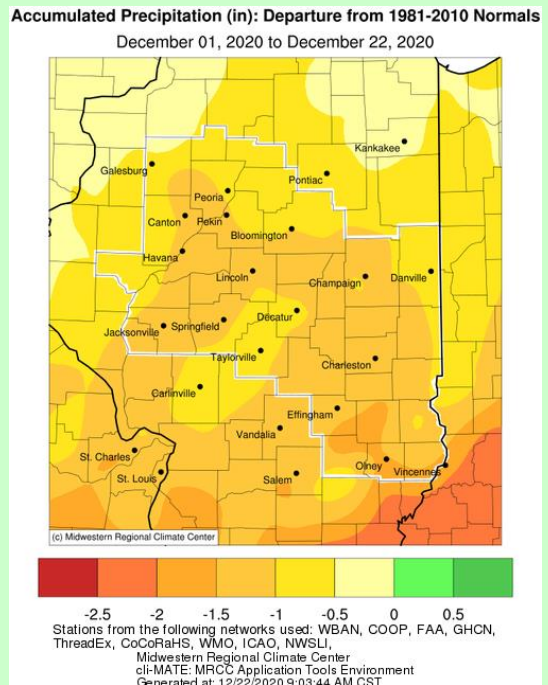
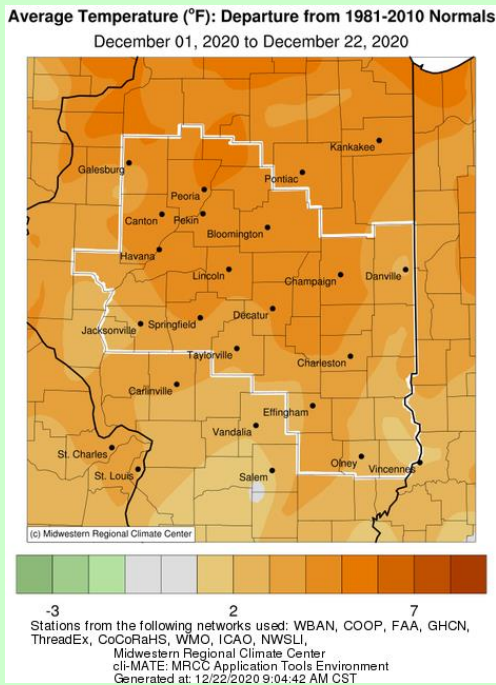
Severe thunderstorms that impacted west central into northeast Illinois on November 10th produced 60-70 mph winds around the Peoria region, with significant damage to buildings in Elmwood.

Winter Season to date

(December 1-22)

Temperatures: Above normal

Precipitation: Below normal



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Jupiter and 4 of its moons are visible along with Saturn in this sky image from December 20th, one day before the closest appearance of these two planets together since 1623. Photo by Bob Wilson.

Temperature Review:

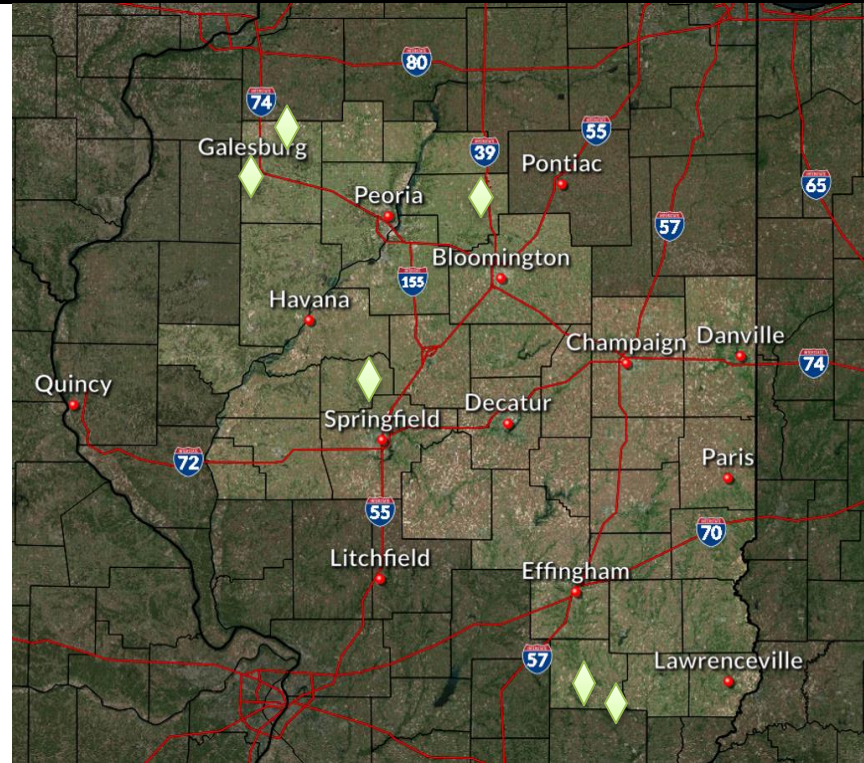
Temperatures up through the winter solstice averaged well above normal through the period, especially from the 9-12th, peaking in the 60s in some areas on the 10th. While highs returned to the 30s from the 13-18th, overnight lows were warmer than normal. A significant surge of cold air was expected to move into the area for Christmas, though not last especially long.

Weather Review:

No significant snowstorms affected the area through the winter solstice, and in fact, little snowfall has been observed at all, especially west of I-55. The only real snowfall of note was on the 15th, where 1 to 2 inches occurred in areas near and east of I-57.

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Preliminary Statistics for the Lincoln NWS Coverage Area:



Highest Temperature:

98°F at Flora (June 7)

Lowest Temperature:

-15°F at Altona (February 15)

Most Rain in 24 Hours:

7.05" at El Paso 5NNW (July 15)

Most Snow in 24 Hours:

5.5" at Galesburg (April 17)

Most Rain in 1 Month:

13.18" at Clay City 6SSE (July)

Most Snow in 1 Month:

12.8" at Petersburg (February)

Reported Tornadoes: 16

By EF Strength: EF0=5, EF1=3. 8 of unknown strength.

By County: Sangamon 4, Moultrie 2, Peoria 2, Tazewell 2. One each in Fulton, Knox, Macon, McLean, Morgan, Piatt, and Woodford Counties. (Total is greater than 16 due to border crossers.)