



Des Moines Climate



1879-2026: May

Updated 6/3/2026

Temperature

Highest Daily Maximum:	105	May 30, 1934
Lowest Daily Maximum:	35	May 3, 2013
Highest Daily Minimum:	79	May 31, 1934
Lowest Daily Minimum:	26	May 4, 1907
Highest Daily Average:	91	May 31, 1934
Lowest Daily Average:	35	May 1, 1909; May 5, 1944; May 3, 2013

Top Ten Warmest

1.	71.1	1934
2.	71.0	2018
3.	69.5	1977
4.	69.2	1962
5.	68.5	2012
6.	68.4	1881
	68.4	1939
8.	68.2	1936
9.	68.1	1880
10.	67.4	1988

Top Ten Coldest

1.	54.2	1907
2.	55.0	1892
3.	55.3	1888
4.	55.6	1945
5.	55.7	1924
	55.7	1947
7.	55.8	1997
8.	55.9	1935
9.	56.3	1882
10.	56.6	1883

Number of Years with Max of 100 degrees or Higher:	1	(0.7% of the years)
Number of Years with Max of 90 degrees or Higher:	50	(34% of the years)
Number of Years with Max of 80 degrees or Higher:	145	(99% of the years)
Number of Years with Min 40 degrees or below:	120	(82% of the years)
Number of Years with Min 32 degrees or below:	26	(18% of the years)

Precipitation

Wettest Day:	3.84"	May 19, 2025
Highest 3-day total:	5.00"	8 - 10, 1996
Highest 7-day total:	7.47"	25 – 31, 1903
Highest 14 - day total:	9.13"	18 – 31, 1903

Top Ten Wettest

1.	12.13	1996
2.	10.64	1903
3.	9.89	1908
4.	9.76	1883
5.	9.50	2019
6.	8.77	1892
7.	8.53	1882
8.	8.21	1915
9.	7.88	1991
10.	7.84	1888

Top Ten Driest

1.	0.77	1925
2.	1.06	1934
3.	1.23	1949
4.	1.26	1924
5.	1.40	1901
6.	1.41	1894
	1.41	2006
8.	1.45	1936
	1.45	1992
10.	1.46	1988

Number of Years with at least one day where 0.50" of Precipitation fell:	141	(96% of the years)
Number of Years with at least one day where 1.00" of Precipitation fell:	107	(73% of the years)
Number of Years with at least one day where 2.00" of Precipitation fell:	23	(16% of the years)

Snowfall

Snowiest Day:	3.5"	May 3, 2013
Highest 3-day total:	6.9"	1 - 3, 2013
Most Snow on Ground:	5"	May 3, 2013

Top Ten Snowiest

1. 6.9" 2013
2. 1.3" 1907
3. 0.6" 1917
4. 0.2" 1944
5. 0.1" 1918
6. Trace -19 years have had a trace,
most recently in 2014.

Top Ten Least Snowiest

1. 0.0" 118 years have seen no snow,
most recently in 2026.

Monthly Normals (1991-2020)

Average Maximum Temperature	72.4
Average Minimum Temperature	52.3
Average Daily Temperature	62.4
Average Precipitation	5.24"
Average Snowfall	0.2"

If you have any questions or comments, please send them to jim.w.lee@noaa.gov.

Temperature and precipitation records for Des Moines began in August of 1878. Snowfall records didn't begin until December 1884.