



# Des Moines Climate



## 1878-2026: September

Updated 10/1/2026

### Temperature

|                        |     |                                            |
|------------------------|-----|--------------------------------------------|
| Highest Daily Maximum: | 101 | September 3 and 7, 1939; September 9, 2013 |
| Lowest Daily Maximum:  | 42  | September 26, 1942                         |
| Highest Daily Minimum: | 80  | September 5, 1899                          |
| Lowest Daily Minimum:  | 26  | September 30, 1899 and September 28, 1942  |
| Highest Daily Average: | 90  | September 5, 1899                          |
| Lowest Daily Average:  | 38  | September 25, 1942                         |

#### Top Ten Warmest

|     |      |      |
|-----|------|------|
| 1.  | 73.7 | 1897 |
| 2.  | 72.4 | 1931 |
| 3.  | 71.9 | 2015 |
| 4.  | 71.6 | 2019 |
| 5.  | 71.4 | 2013 |
|     | 71.4 | 2016 |
| 7.  | 70.9 | 2024 |
| 8.  | 70.8 | 2017 |
| 9.  | 70.6 | 2026 |
| 10. | 70.5 | 1931 |
|     | 70.5 | 1978 |
|     | 70.5 | 2023 |

#### Top Ten Coldest

|     |      |      |
|-----|------|------|
| 1.  | 59.2 | 1993 |
| 2.  | 59.6 | 1896 |
| 3.  | 59.9 | 1902 |
| 4.  | 60.0 | 1949 |
| 5.  | 60.2 | 1918 |
| 6.  | 60.4 | 1883 |
| 7.  | 60.5 | 1924 |
| 8.  | 60.6 | 1943 |
| 9.  | 60.7 | 1879 |
| 10. | 60.8 | 1951 |

|                                                    |     |                    |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----|--------------------|
| Number of Years with Max of 100 degrees or Higher: | 2   | (1% of the years)  |
| Number of Years with Max of 90 degrees or Higher:  | 93  | (62% of the years) |
| Number of Years with Min 50 degrees or below:      | 148 | (99% of the years) |
| Number of Years with Min 40 degrees or below:      | 105 | (70% of the years) |
| Number of Years with Min 32 degrees or below :     | 19  | (13% of the years) |

## Precipitation

Wettest Day: 4.87" September 16, 1914

Highest 3-day total: 6.43" 14 - 16, 1914

Highest 7-day total: 12.02" 10 – 16, 1914

Highest 14 - day total: 13.84" 8 – 21, 1914

### Top Ten Wettest

|     |       |      |
|-----|-------|------|
| 1.  | 14.81 | 1914 |
| 2.  | 14.50 | 2026 |
| 3.  | 10.35 | 1926 |
| 4.  | 10.19 | 1961 |
| 5.  | 8.63  | 1941 |
| 6.  | 8.50  | 1936 |
| 7.  | 8.32  | 2018 |
| 8.  | 7.93  | 1886 |
| 9.  | 7.68  | 1911 |
| 10. | 7.47  | 1919 |

### Top Ten Driest

|     |      |      |
|-----|------|------|
| 1.  | 0.15 | 1882 |
| 2.  | 0.41 | 1950 |
| 3.  | 0.48 | 1888 |
| 4.  | 0.53 | 1940 |
|     | 0.53 | 1952 |
| 6.  | 0.60 | 2024 |
| 7.  | 0.66 | 1953 |
| 8.  | 0.69 | 1998 |
| 9.  | 0.71 | 2011 |
| 10. | 0.72 | 1947 |

Number of Years with at least one day where 0.50" of Precipitation fell: 129 (87% of the years)

Number of Years with at least one day where 1.00" of Precipitation fell: 79 (53% of the years)

Number of Years with at least one day where 2.00" of Precipitation fell: 21 (14% of the years)

## Snowfall

Snow has occurred in three Septembers: 1985, 1942, and 1881. All three events were trace amounts. The earliest snow event was September 16, 1881.

## Monthly Normals (1991-2020)

|                             |       |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| Average Maximum Temperature | 76.9  |
| Average Minimum Temperature | 55.4  |
| Average Daily Temperature   | 66.2  |
| Average Precipitation       | 3.18" |
| Average Snowfall            | 0.0"  |

If you have any questions or comments, please send them to [jim.w.lee@noaa.gov](mailto:jim.w.lee@noaa.gov).

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