



# Des Moines Climate



## 1879-2018: May

Compiled by: Craig Cogil – Updated 12/13/2018

### 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   | (1% of the years)   |
| Number of Years with Max of 90 degrees or Higher:  | 48  | (34% of the years)  |
| Number of Years with Max of 80 degrees or Higher:  | 137 | (98% of the years)  |
| Number of Years with Min 50 degrees or below:      | 140 | (100% of the years) |
| Number of Years with Min 40 degrees or below:      | 114 | (82% of the years)  |
| Number of Years with Min 32 degrees or below:      | 25  | (18% of the years)  |

## Precipitation

|                         |       |               |
|-------------------------|-------|---------------|
| Wettest Day:            | 3.48" | May 27, 1915  |
| 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.  | 8.77  | 1892 |
| 6.  | 8.53  | 1882 |
| 7.  | 8.21  | 1915 |
| 8.  | 7.88  | 1991 |
| 9.  | 7.84  | 1888 |
| 10. | 7.53  | 1960 |

### 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 |

|                                                              |    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Average Number of Days with at least 0.01" of precipitation: | 11 |
| Average Number of Days with at least 0.10" of precipitation: | 7  |
| Average Number of Days with at least 0.50" of precipitation: | 3  |

|                                                                          |     |                    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|--------------------|
| Number of Years with at least one day where 0.50" of Precipitation fell: | 133 | (95% of the years) |
| Number of Years with at least one day where 1.00" of Precipitation fell: | 101 | (72% of the years) |
| Number of Years with at least one day where 2.00" of Precipitation fell: | 22  | (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" 116 years have seen no snow,  
most recently in 2018.

# Monthly Normals

|                             |       |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| Average Maximum Temperature | 72.4  |
| Average Minimum Temperature | 52.2  |
| Average Daily Temperature   | 62.3  |
| Average Precipitation       | 4.74" |
| Average Snowfall            | 0.0"  |

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

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