



Des Moines Climate



1878-Present: December

Compiled by: Craig Cogil

Temperature

Highest Daily Maximum:	69	December 28, 1984 and three previous years
Lowest Daily Maximum:	-12	December 24, 1983
Highest Daily Minimum:	54	December 4, 2001
Lowest Daily Minimum:	-22	December 23, 1989
Highest Daily Average:	61	December 8, 1946
Lowest Daily Average:	-15	December 24, 1983

Top Ten Warmest

1.	39.5	1889
2.	35.8	1923
	35.8	1931
4.	35.2	1965
5.	34.9	1881
6.	34.7	2006
7.	34.6	1891
8.	34.3	1918
9.	34.0	1896
	34.0	1913

Top Ten Coldest

1.	9.8	1983
2.	11.5	2000
3.	13.4	1985
4.	15.1	1963
5.	16.5	1919
6.	16.7	1917
7.	16.8	1989
8.	16.9	1909
9.	17.7	1924
10.	18.3	1945, 1972

Number of Years with Max of 60 degrees or Higher: 37 (28% of the years)

Number of Years with Max of 50 degrees or Higher: 110 (83% of the years)

Number of Years with Max of 40 degrees or Higher: 129 (98% of the years)

All Decembers have had at least 1 day with a high above freezing. 1983 had the fewest with 4.

Number of Years with Min below 10 degrees: 123 (93% of the years)

Number of Years with Min below 0 degrees: 88 (67% of the years)

Number of Years with Min -10 degrees or below: 34 (26% of the years)

Precipitation

Wettest Day: 1.48" December 27, 1982

Highest 3-day total: 2.47" 29 – 31, 1931

Highest 7-day total: 2.47" 26 – 31, 1931

Highest 14 - day total: 2.71" 19 – 31, 1941

Top Ten Wettest

1.	3.72	1931
2.	3.43	1982
3.	3.18	1911
4.	2.90	1941
	2.90	2007
6.	2.87	1945
7.	2.65	1973
8.	2.59	1987
9.	2.53	2006
10.	2.50	1882

Top Ten Driest

1.	Trace	2002
2.	0.09	1903
3.	0.11	1890
4.	0.12	1976
5.	0.20	1910
	0.20	1979
7.	0.22	1946
8.	0.25	1922
	0.25	1958
10.	0.27	1950

Average Number of Days with at least 0.01" of precipitation: 8

Average Number of Days with at least 0.10" of precipitation: 3

Average Number of Days with at least 0.50" of precipitation: 1

Number of Years with at least one day where 0.50" of Precipitation fell: 59 (45% of the years)

Number of Years with at least one day where 1.00" of Precipitation fell: 12 (9% of the years)

Number of Years with at least one day where 2.00" of Precipitation fell: 0 (0% of the years)

Snowfall

Snowiest Day: 17.0" December 26, 1888

Highest 3-day total: 17.0" 24 – 26, 1888

Most Snow on Ground: 18" December 23, 1961

Top Ten Snowiest

1. 26.9" 2000
2. 23.9" 1961
3. 22.4" 1904
4. 22.0" 1977
5. 19.6" 1897
19.6" 1983
7. 19.0" 1911
8. 17.8" 1925
9. 17.0" 1888
10. 16.0" 1909

Top Ten Least Snowiest

1. 0.1" 1889
- 0.1" 2002
3. 0.4" 1979
4. 0.5" 1975
5. 0.6" 1906
0.6" 1912
7. 0.8" 1933
8. 0.9" 1896
0.9" 1945
10. 1.0" 5 different years most recently 2001

Monthly Normals

Average Maximum Temperature 33.1

Average Minimum Temperature 16.7

Average Daily Temperature 24.9

Average Precipitation 1.33"

Average Snowfall 7.7"

If you have any questions or comments, please send them to craig.cogil@noaa.gov.

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