

Local Climatological Data
Champaign-Urbana, IL - 118740

Illinois State Water Survey
Water Survey Research Center

March 2002

DATE	TEMPERATURE			PRECIP (in)	SNOW (in)		WEATHER TYPES	WIND				SKY COVER	DEGREE DAYS	
	Max	Min	Mean		Amnt	Depth		Dir	Speed (mph)	Peak Gust	Gust Dir	COVER	Heat	Cool
1	40	16	28	0.00	0.0	2		E	2.7	14.5	SE	PC	37	0
2	39	20	30	0.48	T	1	R,IP-,S,F	SE	6.1	24.2	NW	CLDY	35	0
3	20	4	12	T	T	T	SW-	W	11.0	25.1	W	CLDY	53	0
4	27	1	14	T	T	T	SW-	SW	9.8	24.0	S	PC	51	0
5	45	18	32	0.00	0.0	T		S	8.3	20.9	S	PC	33	0
6	59	36	48	0.00	0.0	0		SW	8.8	22.2	SW	CLR	17	0
7	63	36	50	0.00	0.0	0	F-	SE	5.0	18.5	S	PC	15	0
8	69	49	59	T	0.0	0	RW-	S	14.9	34.7	S	CLDY	6	0
9	61	26	44	0.69	T	0	TRW,RW,SW-	W	20.2	45.1	W	CLDY	21	0
10	31	22	27	0.00	0.0	0		W	8.8	24.9	W	CLR	38	0
11	43	22	33	0.05	T	0	IP-,RW-	SE	5.6	18.7	S	CLDY	32	0
12	49	30	40	0.00	0.0	0	F+	SE	2.6	10.7	SE	CLDY	25	0
13	60	37	49	0.00	0.0	0	F-	SW	6.0	17.0	SW	PC	16	0
14	67	36	52	0.00	0.0	0		SE	10.2	31.0	S	CLR	13	0
15	58	35	47	0.26	T	0	TRW-,RW-,SW-	N	7.1	23.2	W	CLDY	18	0
16	45	33	39	0.00	0.0	0		NE	6.4	19.7	NE	PC	26	0
17	42	35	39	0.06	0.0	0	RW-	E	3.8	10.8	NE	CLDY	26	0
18	47	37	42	0.00	0.0	0		NE	3.7	14.2	N	PC	23	0
19	49	40	45	0.09	0.0	0	RW-	E	3.1	10.7	E	CLDY	20	0
20	45	31	38	0.06	0.0	0	RW-,F-	N	5.4	20.0	N	CLDY	27	0
21	34	18	26	T	T	0	SW-	NW	9.9	25.7	NW	CLDY	39	0
22	36	14	25	0.00	0.0	0		W	9.9	24.0	W	CLR	40	0
23	49	22	36	0.00	0.0	0		SW	7.8	22.3	W	CLR	29	0
24	41	31	36	0.21	T	0	RW-,IP-,ZR-	NE	5.9	21.9	NE	CLDY	29	0
25	32	24	28	0.68	0.6	1	S-,IP-,ZR-	NE	5.0	15.2	NE	CLDY	37	0
26	32	16	24	0.47	6.1	6	S+,IP-,ZR-	N	4.0	13.5	N	CLDY	41	0
27	37	9	23	0.00	0.0	5	F	SE	2.3	8.2	SE	CLR	42	0
28	41	27	34	T	0.0	2	RW-,F	S	5.4	14.4	SE	PC	31	0
29	47	33	40	0.04	0.0	T	RW-,F	SE	4.0	27.5	N	CLDY	25	0
30	57	33	45	0.00	0.0	0		W	4.9	17.7	W	CLDY	20	0
31	54	32	43	0.01	0.0	0	RW-	NW	3.9	17.0	NW	CLDY	22	0
AVG/TOT	45.8	26.5	36.2	3.10	6.7			W	6.9				887	0
DEP.	-3.8	-4.7	-4.2	-0.11	+3.4			S	-1.1				+122	0

NUMBER OF DAYS and DEPARTURE

	MAX TEMP				MIN TEMP				PRECIPITATION					SNOW	SKY COVER		
	>=90	<=32	<=32	<=0	>T	>=.01	>=.10	>=.50	>=1.00	>=1.0	CLR	PC	CLDY				
TOTAL	0	5	19	0	17	12	6	2	0	1	6	8	17				
DEP	0	+2	0	0	+1	-1	0	-1		0	-1	-1	+2				

	WEATHER TYPES											SEASONAL DEGREE DAYS		PRECIPITATION
	R	L	S	Z	IP	A	T	F	D	H	BS	HEATING	COOLING	JAN-March
TOTAL	12	0	8	3	5	0	2	7	0	0	0	4575	0	8.86
DFF	+2	-4	+2	+2	-1	-1	+3					-676	0	+1.75

Averages based on 1971-2000 data. The daily sky condition is determined by the prevailing sky condition of three observations made between 7am and 7pm LST. Snow depth at 7am LST. All other data midnight-midnight. M = Missin

WEATHER TYPES:

R = Rain
L = Drizzle
S = Snow
T = Thunder
Z = Freezing rain/drizzle
IP = Ice pellets (sleet)
A = Hail
F = Fog
D = Dust
H = Haze
BS = Blowing snow
RW = Rainshower
SW = Snowshower

PRECIP INTENSITY

- Light
Moderate
+ Heavy

DEGREE DAYS

Heat and Cool base 65F. Corn Growing base 50F, ceiling 86F. Heating DD season July-June. Cool and Corn DD season January-December.

Champaign-Urbana Weather Highlights – March 2002

ILLINOIS STATE WATER SURVEY

Maria Peters, Weather Observer
2204 Griffith Drive
Champaign, IL 61820
wxobsrvr@sws.uiuc.edu

After a mild winter season with above average temperatures and below average snowfall, March 2002 came in like a lion with snow and record cold during the first week of the month and went out the same way.

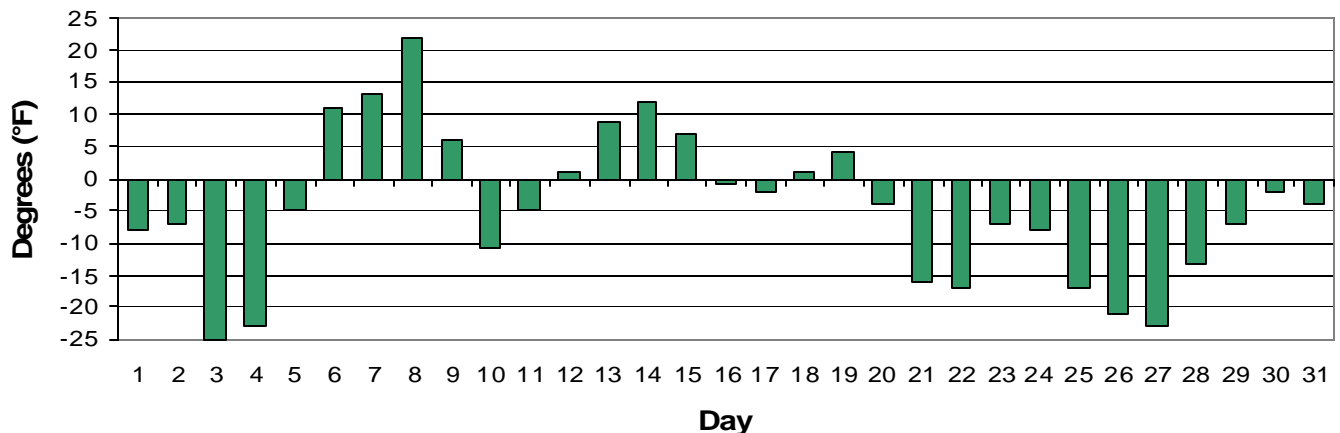
Temperatures for the month averaged 4.2 degrees below average, making March 2002 the 19th coolest March on record. The coldest March occurred in 1960 when the average temperature for the month was 25.9° F and the warmest March was in 1946 with an average temperature of 51.8° F. Several daily temperature records were set or tied this month:

- ⌚ The minimum temperature of 1°F on March 4th tied the record low minimum temperature for the day set in 1916.
- ⌚ The minimum temperature of 9°F on March 27th set a new record low for the day, breaking the old record of 11°F which had stood for over 100 years (1894). This was also the latest date for a single degree temperature since records started in 1889.
- ⌚ The mean temperature of 23°F on March 27th tied the record low mean temperature for the day set in 1894.

March 2002 finished with below average precipitation (-0.11 inches), despite above average snowfall for the month (+3.4 inches). The 6.1 inches of snow that fell on March 26th was the heaviest one-day snowfall to occur so late in the season and actually exceeded the total winter snowfall for December 2001 – February 2002 (5.9 inches). The 6.7 inches of snow for the month ranks March 2002 as only the 19th snowiest March on record, not even close to the record of 32.0 inches that fell in March 1906. Until the snow in March, Champaign-Urbana had also been on track to break the lowest snow season total (October through May) of 6.7 inches set in 1954, but now is tied for 17th, pending any additional snowfall in April or May.

The other significant weather that occurred during the month was the damaging straight-line winds that buffeted the area on March 9th, the last day of Severe Weather Preparedness Week. Winds here at the Water Survey reached 45.1 miles per hour and reports from Willard Airport showed peak winds of up to 56 miles per hour. Damage reports included damage to roofs, lost siding, and tree limbs down.

**March 2002 Mean Daily Temperature
Departure from Normal**



The daily climate statistics are available by touch-tone phone. Call 333-8890 and select menu option 1. The recording is updated daily Monday through Friday by 8:00 a.m. For this and other climate data, visit the State Climatologist web site at <http://www.sws.uiuc.edu/atmos/statecli/>