

2002 WEATHER SUMMARY

January 2002 was a very mild month with many locations reporting 4 to 5 days with high temperatures greater than 60 degrees and several locations reporting at least one day with temperatures in the 70's, a rare event in January. Only the first week of January recorded below normal temperatures for the week, the rest of the month was mostly mild. The first day of the month was the coldest with low temperatures dropping to the single digits. The warmest day was near the 28th when Jackson reported a record breaking 78 degrees. For the record the month ranked as the 23rd warmest and the 51st wettest in the past 107 years. Temperatures averaged 38.4 degrees across the State which was 5 degrees above normal and nearly 4 degrees colder than the previous month. Precipitation for the period totaled 4.06 inches statewide which was 0.38 inches above normal.

Mostly seasonal to mild temperatures and dry conditions prevailed during *February* until the last few days of the month when arctic air returned to the Bluegrass State. Despite the colder temperatures at month's end, February was the 4th month straight (since November 2001) with above normal temperatures. It ranked as the 12th driest and the 43rd warmest on record. Additionally, February was 3 degrees cooler than February 2001. Temperatures averaged 38 degrees across the State which was 2 degrees above normal. Precipitation totaled 1.85 inches statewide which was 1.90 inches below normal.

Periods of mild temperatures were offset by cold, arctic air during *March*. Dry conditions occurred during the first half of the month but the remainder of the month was very wet making March the 9th wettest in the past 108 years. Due to excessive rainfall across Kentucky in March, many streams and rivers rose rapidly and resulted in minor to moderate flooding for most areas. Temperatures averaged 46 degrees across the State which was 1 degree below normal. Precipitation totaled 7.71 inches statewide which was 3.14 inches above normal.

April was the 9th warmest and 24th wettest in the past 108 years. Temperatures for the period averaged 59 degrees across the State which was 3.4 degrees above normal and 13 degrees warmer than March. Rainfall totaled 5.25 inches statewide which was 1.15 inches above normal.

Temperatures for *May* averaged 63 degrees across the State which was 2 degrees below normal. Extreme high temperatures were in the 80's and extreme lows were in the low 30's with record and near-record low

temperatures set on May 19 thru 22. This exceeded many locations last expected frost date of May 10th by 7 to 9 days. Additionally, most locations in the State received 5 to 10 days with high temperatures in the 80's. Soil temperatures across the State averaged in the low to mid 60's at 4 inches under a sod cover. Rainfall totaled 6.29 inches statewide which was 1.30 inches above normal which ranked the month as the 17th wettest May in the past 108 years.

After the 7th wettest spring in Kentucky; drier, muggy conditions prevailed during *June*. Most of the rainfall occurred during the first 10 days of the month with the final 3 weeks receiving widely scattered showers and thunderstorms on nearly a daily basis. Rainfall received was below normal. The first and fourth week of June were much warmer than the middle two weeks elevating the ranking as the 18th warmest June in the past 108 years. Temperatures averaged 75 degrees across the State which was 2 degrees above normal. Rainfall totaled 3.72 inches statewide which was 0.54 inches below normal.

Drought returned to the Bluegrass State as very warm temperatures continued the entire month of *July*. Temperatures averaged 79 degrees across the State which was 3 degrees above normal and ranked this month as the 17th warmest July in the past 108 years. Rainfall totaled 4.02 inches statewide which was 0.74 inches below normal.

August went into the record books as a hot and dry month for the Commonwealth. It was the 3rd straight month with above normal temperatures and below normal rainfall. Preliminary analysis indicated that August was the 10th hottest and the 40th driest in the past 108 years. Temperatures averaged 78 degrees across the State which was 3 degrees above normal. Precipitation totaled 2.90 inches statewide which was 0.71 inches below normal.

The weather for *September* went into the record books as the 5th wettest and 15th warmest September in the past century and a month of flip-flops and contrasts. Very warm and dry conditions dominated the month until the remnants of hurricane Isidore moved through Kentucky and the Ohio Valley. In a two week period during the latter half of the month, Kentucky went from severe hydrologic drought in some sections of the State to "wet spell" according to the Palmer Drought Severity and Crop Moisture Indices. Additionally, the final week of September had slightly below normal temperatures, which was the first time the "entire summer" (18 weeks) for below normal weekly average temperatures. Temperatures averaged 72 degrees across the State which was 4 degrees above normal. Rainfall totaled 5.81 inches statewide which was 2.33 inches above normal and 167 percent of normal.