

Champaign-Urbana Weather Highlights – December 2000

ILLINOIS STATE WATER SURVEY

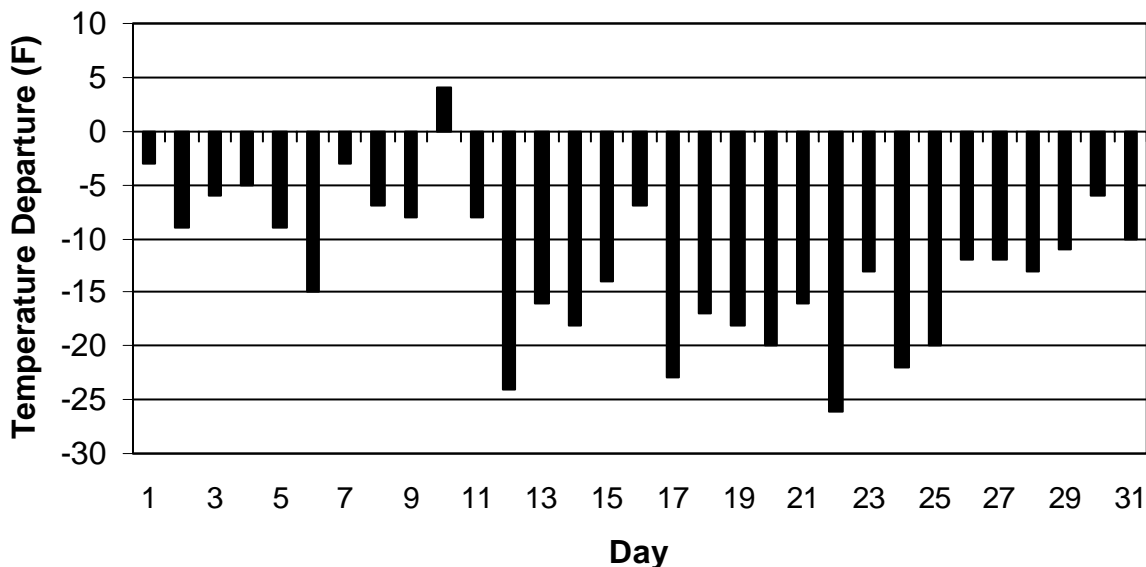
2204 Griffith Dr.
Champaign, IL 61820
wxobsrvr@sws.uiuc.edu

December 2000 will be remembered for the cold and snowy conditions during most of the month. As the bar graph illustrates, most days were well below average, making this the second coldest December since records began in 1888. Only December 1983 was colder. This was also the 7th snowiest December on record. On December 17th, a new record low high temperature of 7°F was recorded.

All of this is in marked contrast to the last two Decembers. December 1999 was 2.6 degrees above average with average snowfall (6"). December 1998 was even milder at 5.4 degrees above average with below average snowfall (4.6"). In fact, we reached 71 degrees on December 4th, 1998, the warmest day on record for December.

Two winter records that we have not broken yet are: 1) the number of days with constant snow cover which is currently 69 days, held during the period of December 16, 1981 to February 22, 1982; and 2) the number of days below freezing which is currently 35 days, held during the period of December 30, 1976 to February 1, 1977.

December 2000 Mean Daily Temperature Departure



JRA

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/>