

Decorah Weather - May 2025 Summary

by Richard Bernatz

Weather data available online at <http://faculty.luther.edu/~bernatzr/DecWx/>

1. MAY 2025 TEMPERATURES

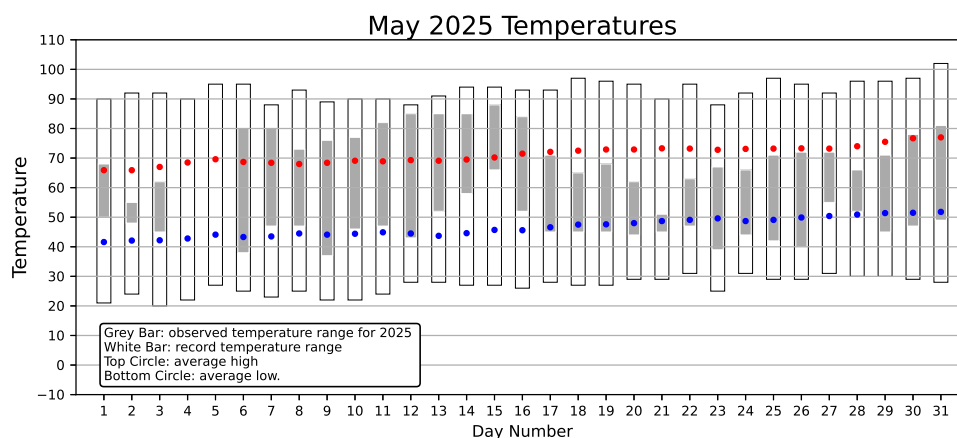


Figure 1: **Grey Bar:** Observed temperature range for 2025, **White Bar:** Record temperature range, **Circles:** Average temperature range, red circle for average high, blue circle for average low.

Temperature (° F)	May 2025	Historical	Deviation
Average High	72.6	71.2	+1.4
Average Low	46.9	46.6	+0.3
Daily Average	59.7	59.0	+0.7

Table 1: May 2025 average temperatures compared to May historical averages.

- MAY 2025
 - Record Temperatures : none
 - Below average maximum temperature recorded on 15 days
 - Average temperature : 5.97° F, 0.7° F warmer than average
 - Warmest temperature : 88° F on the 15th
 - Coldest temperature : 37° F on the 9th.
 - Heating degree days : 178.0, 50.1 less than average
 - Cooling degree days : 25.0, 17.3 less than average
- ALL MAYS: 1895-2025 (130 years, missing data for 1921)
 - Compared with May 2025, 54 Mays were warmer, two were the same, 75 were cooler
 - Warmest average : 67.6° F in 1934
 - Coldest average : 48.7° F in 1924
 - Warmest temperature : 97° F on the 25th of 1911
 - Coldest temperature : 20° F on the 3rd of 1908 and the 3rd of 2005

2. MAY 2025 PRECIPITATION

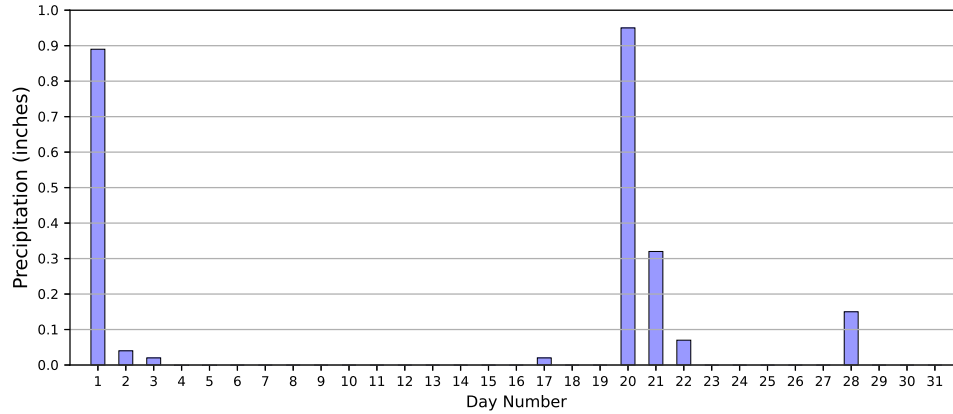


Figure 2: May 2025 precipitation for Decorah.

- MAY 2025
 - Total precipitation for May 2025 : 2.46 inches, 1.79 inches less than the average amount of 4.25 inches
 - Eight days with measurable precipitation - average is between eleven and twelve days
 - Greatest 24-hour total : 0.95 inches on the 12th
 - No snowfall in May 2025
- ALL MAYS: 1895 - 2025 (130 years, data missing for 1921)
 - Compared with May 2025, 106 Mays were wetter, and 23 Mays were drier
 - Wettest May : 12.18 inches in 1941
 - Driest May : 0.79 inches in 1897

3. TWELVE-MONTH SUMMARY

Month	Year	Ave Temp (°F)	Deviation (°F)	Rank [†] (#/Total)	Precip (inches)	Deviation (inches)	Rank [‡] (#/Total)
June	2024	71.9	+3.6	18/130	7.38	+2.60	22/130
July	2024	73.8	+1.2	45/130	3.13	-0.94	79/131
August	2024	73.8	+3.4	16/132	1.87	-2.16	108/132
September	2024	67.5	+5.2	9/131	0.39	-3.29	130/131
October	2024	57.3	+6.9	4/131	1.61	-0.71	89/131
November	2024	40.4	+4.1	15/132	3.70	+1.85	12/132
December	2024	26.7	+5.6	24/132	1.62	+0.41	36/132
January	2025	19.3	+2.9	44/132	0.06	-0.96	132/132
February	2025	19.7	-0.5	67/132	0.30	-0.65	114/131
March	2025	43.0	+10.0	3/133	3.08	+1.16	14/133
April	2025	49.3	+2.0	26/132	5.90	+2.76	12/132
May	2025	59.7	+0.7	55/130	2.46	-1.79	107/130

Table 2: A summary of the last twelve months. [†]- The smaller the number (#), the warmer the month. [‡]- The smaller the number (#), the wetter the month. Boxed entries are within the historical top or bottom ten.

- Eleven of the past 12 months were warmer than average.
- Seven of the past 12 months were drier than average.
- Precipitation deviations. last 3 months : +2.14 inches, last 6 months : +0.95 inches, last 9 months : -1.21, last 12 months : -1.72

4. MAY NARRATIVE SUMMARY

May 2025 in Decorah brought a taste of early summer, continuing the region's overall trend of above-average temperatures. The month's average temperature of 59.7°F was a subtle 0.7°F warmer than the historical average, marking the eleventh time in the past twelve months that Decorah has seen temperatures climb above typical levels. While no new daily temperature records were set, the month delivered some notably warm days, peaking at a pleasant 88°F on the 15th. Conversely, the mercury dipped to a cool 37°F on the 9th, a brief reminder that spring still held some of its cooler days. The consistent warmth meant less need for heating, with heating degree days notably below average, though cooling degree days also remained modest.

Unlike the persistent, albeit slight, warmth observed in May 2025, May's precipitation was a shift towards drier conditions. The total rainfall for the month amounted to 2.46 inches, a deficit of 1.79 inches compared to the historical average. This made May 2025 a comparatively dry month, with measurable rain falling on only eight days, fewer than the typical eleven to twelve. The most significant rainfall occurred on the 12th, bringing just under an inch (0.95 inches). As expected for May, there was no snowfall.

Looking at the broader weather patterns over the past twelve months, the trend of above-average temperatures remains consistent, with eleven out of twelve months experiencing warmer conditions. However, the precipitation narrative is more varied. May's dryness means that seven of the last twelve months have now been drier than average. While the last three-months total is a slight increase in average precipitation for those months, and the last six months are near average, the overall picture for the past year indicates a slight deficit in total rainfall.