

This Day in Weather History

December

Minnesota State Climatology Office: DNR Waters

December 1

1998 The warmest December day ever in the Twin Cities with 68 degrees. St. Cloud rose to 61.

December 2

1982 Warm up over Southern Minnesota. Record high of 63 degrees at Twin Cities

December 3

1856 Severe Blizzard in Iowa lasted for three days.

December 4

1953 Ice storm in the Southeast. 2 inches of ice on telephone wires.

December 5

1948 Sleet and ice storm in the southeast.

1979 December warmth: 52 at St. Cloud, Browns Valley hits 54.

2001 Warm December day with a high of 63 degrees at the Twin Cities. Summer-like thunderstorms developed and dropped quarter-sized hail at the Eyota Post Office in Olmsted County.

December 6

1939 December heat wave. High temperature hits 62 at New London.

1950 Snowstorm hits Duluth with 23.2 inches of snow in 24 hours, winds up getting 35.2 total.

December 7

1927 Blizzard hits the arrowhead with heavy snows and 70 mph winds at Duluth.

1982 A farmer near St. Bonifacius bailed his 4th crop of alfalfa hay today.

December 8

1804 John Sayer at the Snake River Fir Trading Post near present day Pine City mentions: "Cold day. Thermometer 10 degrees below freezing." Lewis and Clark also noted this cold wave at their winter quarters in Ft. Mandan, North Dakota near present day Bismarck.

1876 The term "Blizzard" first used in the government publication Monthly Weather Review.

December 9

1961 Snowstorm hits central Minnesota. Mora gets about a foot.

December 10

- 1889 Late season thunderstorm observed at Maple Plain.
- 1979 Heat wave across Minnesota. 54 at Twin Cities, 57 at Winona.
- 1992 By this time there is partial ice cover in the Duluth harbor.

December 11

- 1979 Temperature dropped in Roseville from 48 degrees at 2 pm to zero by dawn.
- 1983 Nine cars fell through the ice at the same time on Buffalo Lake in central Minnesota. There was only 5 to 6 inches of ice on the lake.

December 12

- 1939 December gale at north shore, winds clocked at 48 mph at Duluth.

December 13

- 1962 Miami, Florida dropped down to 35 degrees on this day.
- 1821 Cold snap begins at Ft. Snelling. Below zero for 19 days except one.

December 14

- 1924 Temperature at Helena, Montana dropped 79 degrees in 24 hours.
- 1933 Severe ice storm hits southeast and central Minnesota.

November 15

- 1939 Lilacs were budding at New London due to an extended warm spell. Highs in the 50's were common for the first half of december.

December 15

- 1971 Snowstorm hits Duluth with 10 inches.

December 16

- 1940 Snowstorm hits state. Water equivalent of the snow was 1.27 inches at Winona.

December 27

- 1804 -43 degrees at sunrise was recorded on the thermometer at the Lewis and Clark camp in Ft. Mandan, North Dakota Ft. Mandan, North Dakota near present day Bismarck.

December 17

- 1924 Severe ice storm across central Illinois. Ice and sleet two inches thick was on the ground for two weeks.
- 1946 Heavy snow with wind across northern Minnesota. Duluth has winds up to 62 mph.

December 18

- 1922 Heat wave across south. Temperature rose into the 60's at New Ulm and St. Peter.

December 19

- 1922 Heat wave across Minnesota. 60's at New Ulm.
- 1924 Riverside Ranger Station in Yellowstone Park dipped to -59 degrees.

December 20

1836 "Sudden Change" in central Illinois. Temperature dropped from 40 degrees to zero in minutes. Some far-fetched reports were chickens frozen in their tracks and men frozen to saddles.

1989 Hard pressed to find snow cover in Minnesota. Only good places to cross country ski is at Grand Marais and along the Gunflint Trail.

December 21

1939 Latest date for Lake Minnewaska to freeze over at Glenwood.

December 22

Amount of sunlight on this day varies from nearly 9 hours along the Iowa border while International Falls gets only 8 hours and 15 minutes.

December 23

1833 Warm spell at Ft. Snelling. Temperature reached 45 degrees.

1919 An observer at Pine River Dam reported a fake heat wave with a doubtful 66 degrees.

1983 The Twin Cities had a high of 17 degrees below zero.

December 24

1982 Heavy rain over the state with slushy snow over southwest Minnesota. Twin Cities gets 2.61 inches of precipitation through Christmas. Some lightning and thunder with the heavy rain on Christmas Eve.

December 25

1922 People were golfing in the Twin Cities as temperatures reached the 50's.

December 26

1985 Hurricane force winds over the Dakotas as gale moves across the upper Midwest.

December 27

1982 Snowstorm starts across state and dumps 16 inches in the Twin Cities when it ended on the 28th.

December 28

1927 Cold snap across state. Temperature falls from 41 to -15 at Farmington.

1979 Balmy weather enables city park crew in Duluth to rake leaves.

December 29

1830 Snowstorm across the upper Midwest dumped 36 inches at Kansas City.

December 30

1980 Heat wave across state. Redwood Falls hits 51.

December 31

1937 Damage done by flood at Grand Marais. 18 inches of snow dumped on Grand Portage.

1963 New Year Eve snowstorm across gulf states. New Orleans picked up over 4 inches. Some places in Mississippi got over a foot.

1999 Balmy end to the 2nd millennium over Minnesota with temperatures in the 30's over central and southern Minnesota near midnight.