



Prosser's 2015 Summer Crushes Previous Heat Record Set Just Last Year

Despite a pleasant end to the season, the summer of 2015 shattered the 2014 record to become the new hottest summer on record. This fact is in large part thanks to the unprecedented month of June 2015, which was actually much warmer than August this year. It is a very unusual occurrence, as only once (1992) had June been warmer than August prior to this year. Although August was warmer than normal, it pales in comparison to the rest of the sizzling summer season.

The mean August 2015 temperature at Prosser (WSU IAREC) was 71.0 degrees, which is 0.6 degrees above average. The monthly mean high temperature was 87.1 degrees, which is 0.5 degrees above average. The mean low temperature was 55.6 degrees, which is 1.2 degrees above average. The warmest temperature of the month was 101.7 degrees on the 1st, while the coldest temperature was 47.2 degrees on August 23rd.

The mean summer 2015 temperature was 73.4 degrees, which is 3.7 degrees (2.2 standard deviations) above average. This shatters the old record of 72.3 degrees, which was set in 2014. The mean seasonal high temperature was 88.8 degrees, which is 4.1 degrees (2.0 standard deviations) above average. The previous record of 87.4 degrees was set in 2014. The mean low temperature was 56.8 degrees, which is 3.3 degrees (1.9 standard deviations) above average. The previous record of 56.2 degrees was set in 2014.

In fact, this summer ties with the winter of 1991/1992 as the warmest season (relative to normal) on record, meaning that its +3.7 degree departure from normal makes the summer of 2015 the most above normal season on record (along with winter 1991/1992). Overall, it was the most abnormal season since the cool summer of 1993, which was 3.9 degrees below normal.