U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, WEATHER BUREAU IN COOPERATION WITH
AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION, UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI
CLIMATOGRAPHY OF THE UNITED STATES NO. 20-23

CLIMATOLOGICAL SUMMARY

LATITUDE 36° 45'
LONGITUDE 90° 23'
ELEV. (GROUND) 332

STATION POPLAR BLUFF, MISSOURI

MEANS AND EXTREMES FOR PERIOD 1931-1960

Month	Temperature (°F) Means: Daily maximum	Daily minimum	Monthly	Extremes: Record highest	Year	Record lowest	Year	** Mean degree days	Precipitation Totals (Inches): Mean	Greatest daily	Year	Snow, Sleet: Mean	Maximum monthly	Year	Greatest daily	Year	Mean number of days: Precip. .10 inch or more	Temperatures Max.: 90° and above	32° and below	Min.: 32° and below	0° and below	Month
(a)	30	30	30	46 ø		46 ø		30	30	46 ø		46 ø	46 ø				46	46	46	46	46	
Jan.	47.7	27.1	37.5	78	1943	-23	1930	856	3.84	4.40	1927	3.4	47.5	1918			6	0	4	23	1	Jan.
Feb.	51.1	29.4	40.2	81	1918	-18	1953	692	3.45	3.50	1949	2.4	12.0	1939			5	0	1	18	*	Feb.
Mar.	59.8	36.5	48.2	92	1929	0	1943	536	4.50	3.75	1935	1.2	23.7	1960			6	*	*	13	*	Mar.
Apr.	71.4	47.0	59.3	94	1927	23	1939+	201	4.49	3.80	1944	T	T	1957+			7	*	0	2	0	Apr.
May	79.8	55.5	67.7	100	1934	31	1944	47	4.83	4.79	1918	0	0				7	3	0	0	0	May
June	88.3	64.4	76.4	110	1936	41	1917	0	4.16	4.00	1928	0	0				6	13	0	0	0	June
July	91.9	67.8	79.9	109	1930	48	1947	0	3.33	5.56	1937	0	0				5	21	0	0	0	July
Aug.	91.4	66.8	79.1	112	1930	45	1946+	0	3.13	5.67	1942	0	0				5	19	0	0	0	Aug.
Sept.	85.2	58.3	71.7	108	1925	31	1924	36	3.47	6.17	1936	0	0				5	10	0	0	0	Sept.
Oct.	74.9	46.7	60.9	96	1953+	17	1952	195	3.26	3.56	1919	0.1	3.0	1925			5	1	*	3	0	Oct.
Nov.	60.3	34.9	47.6	85	1924	4	1950	522	3.78	3.34	1931	0.3	7.0	1958			6	0	*	14	0	Nov.
Dec.	49.7	28.8	39.3	79	1939	-17	1916	797	3.40	3.62	1918	1.7	10.7	1917			6	0	2	21	*	Dec.
Year	71.0	46.9	59.0	112	1930	-23	1930	3882	45.64	6.17	1936	9.1	47.5	1918			69	67	7	94	1	Year

(a) Average length of record, years.

T Trace, an amount too small to measure.

** Base 65°F

+ Also on earlier dates, months, or years.

* Less than one half.

ø Length of record, 46 years (through 1960)

NARRATIVE CLIMATOLOGICAL SUMMARY

Poplar Bluff lies on the border between the hilly, forest-covered Ozarks to the west and north and the comparatively flat, low-lying farm land of the Missouri Bootheel to the east and south. The climate of Poplar Bluff tends to be similar to that of the Ozarks in that it is comparatively warm and has relatively high fall and winter precipitation, on the average.

Poplar Bluff is subject to fairly large fluctuations in temperature. For example, it has been as cold as -23°F and as warm as 78°F in January. Temperatures as warm as 110°F have been recorded in the summer months, while there have been some summer nights when it has been as cool as the mid-40's. Below zero winter temperatures are comparatively rare, and one would expect to have one or two such extremely low readings about two or three winters in ten. At the other end of the scale, temperatures of 100° or more are not quite as rare in Poplar Bluff. One would expect to have at least one day above 100°F in about half of the summers there.

Thunderstorms are most frequent in April, May and June, but it would not be considered unusual to have these in any of the other months.

On the average, precipitation is distributed rather uniformly through all months of the year, but this is subject to large variations from season to season, and from year to year. For example, total rainfall in June has varied from as little as half an inch to as much as 15 inches. In most years, the comparatively heavy winter precipitation comes at a time when the demand for water by growing plants and evaporation from the soil and from streams, ponds and lakes is at a minimum. This makes the problem of drainage of excess water a problem.

Winter precipitation is sometimes snow, sometimes rain, and at times it is a mixture of both. About one year in four total snowfall is less than 3 inches. About one year in four snowfall totals more than 12 inches. It is rare to have continuous snow cover on the ground for more than a week or two, and most snows melt off in a few days.

During most summers, precipitation is at a minimum during July and August, at a time when evaporation and demand for water from vegetation is at a peak.

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State Climatologist
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Average Temperature (°F) POPLAR BLUFF, MISSOURI

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann'l
1931	37.[illegible]	43.4	44.1	58.0	62.8	77.3	79.[illegible]	75.5	75.[illegible]	62.8	55.0	45.8	5[illegible].5
1932	44.2	4[illegible].8	44.4	60.8	58.[illegible]	79.0	82.0	79.3	70.5	58.4	4[illegible].3	3[illegible].7	5[illegible].7
1933	43.4	36.8	47.8	57.8	69.0	77.1	79.0	76.4	76.0	57.8	46.4	42.2	59.2
1934	3[illegible]	33.[illegible]	43.[illegible]	57.1	59.2	79.8	83.8	80.[illegible]	68.2	63.8	51.7	35.5	58.7
1935	39.0	42.4	54.2	55.8	64.8	72.0	81.4	79.8	69.4	59.8	46.4	32.0	58.1
1936	31.8	30.8	51.8	54.4	68.6	77.3	82.9	83.6	74.8	57.4	44.8	41.2	58.3
1937	37.1	38.5	44.0	57.2	68.4	76.4	77.2	80.6	70.0	57.9	45.1	36.5	57.4
1938	36.5	46.5	55.6	59.8	67.4	73.2	79.0	81.2	73.0	63.6	47.8	38.4	60.2
1939	42.0	37.8	50.4	55.5	67.4	76.2	79.8	76.6	76.7	61.6	45.8	40.6	59.2
1940	23.2	37.4	47.0	57.0	64.6	75.2	77.5	77.8	69.8	63.8	47.1	43.2	57.0
1941	39.8	37.6	45.6	64.2	72.0	77.9	82.4	82.2	75.6	66.0	46.4	42.0	61.0
1942	32.8	36.3	51.1	61.1	67.4	76.2	82.1	77.0	70.4	60.8	51.7	38.1	58.8
1943	39.0	44.2	44.7	59.0	69.4	78.2	81.4	81.8	68.8	58.5	46.5	35.7	58.9
1944	38.8	44.5	47.5	57.8	71.6	81.4	80.0	79.2	71.4	61.0	48.5	32.6	59.5
1945	34.6	39.2	55.6	59.4	63.3	72.6	77.0	78.2	71.9	58.5	49.4	32.3	57.6
1946	37.9	43.3	57.6	63.1	65.4	75.6	80.0	75.7	70.2	61.2	52.3	44.5	60.6
1947	40.2	34.6	42.4	60.1	66.1	75.8	76.4	83.6	72.8	66.7	45.6	41.0	58.8
1948	30.8	39.8	49.6	64.0	67.4	76.0	80.2	78.7	72.0	57.8	50.5	42.6	59.1
1949	40.8	42.5	48.6	58.7	70.1	77.2	81.1	M	66.6	62.3	49.4	42.7	----
1950	44.3	41.9	46.4	55.1	68.5	75.6	76.3	74.6	69.5	65.1	43.7	35.8	58.0
1951	37.9	40.6	48.2	56.2	67.8	75.4	79.9	79.2	69.4	61.3	41.9	40.6	58.2
1952	43.7	45.0	47.6	57.4	67.9	82.1	82.1	79.4	69.2	54.5	47.8	40.7	59.8
1953	M	43.4	52.5	M	68.7	81.7	79.8	78.6	72.7	61.9	48.0	39.0	----
1954	37.9	M	48.0	65.2	63.5	77.7	83.2	82.5	74.6	61.2	48.9	39.1	----
1955	38.6	40.4	51.5	64.0	69.4	71.3	81.4	78.9	73.3	59.4	45.4	36.3	59.2
1956	33.9	42.9	48.8	57.7	68.9	74.0	78.9	79.5	70.0	63.8	47.8	45.2	59.3
1957	34.0	44.5	48.2	62.2	68.9	76.4	78.6	77.0	70.6	57.7	48.0	44.9	59.3
1958	35.4	32.6	43.0	58.7	66.9	74.0	78.9	77.5	70.3	60.1	50.8	35.5	56.9
1959	34.1	39.1	49.0	59.9	71.2	75.0	77.2	79.5	72.9	59.8	43.1	42.2	58.6
1960	39.1	37.7	36.5	61.6	65.8	75.6	78.2	79.5	75.2	62.1	48.0	34.5	57.8

Total Precipitation (Inches)

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann'l
1931	1.43	3.62	6.03	2.47	3.76	1.48	5.02	5.55	1.87	2.18	6.09	5.09	44.59
1932	7.29	4.13	3.24	2.39	0.85	3.23	4.57	6.23	2.92	5.49	2.12	9.87	52.33
1933	3.05	3.19	4.76	5.79	6.70	0.63	1.70	5.27	6.86	2.26	1.68	3.21	45.10
1934	2.43	2.05	5.05	2.65	0.51	4.87	0.14	6.05	4.07	2.35	5.99	3.71	39.87
1935	4.70	1.50	10.16	5.37	9.88	9.27	1.77	1.26	3.00	4.82	2.12	2.55	56.40
1936	0.66	1.65	1.42	5.04	1.99	0.65	4.00	0.53	10.82	5.59	2.68	3.91	38.94
1937	13.11	2.16	1.42	4.29	2.12	7.08	7.62	1.00	4.71	4.68	2.77	2.90	53.86
1938	3.97	4.53	8.46	3.05	4.49	5.73	7.33	1.70	1.54	0.68	4.08	1.88	47.44
1939	5.26	6.56	4.23	6.13	3.05	3.13	2.06	2.66	1.32	2.94	2.22	2.24	41.80
1940	2.30	2.52	3.25	7.96	2.58	3.31	3.18	4.75	0.57	0.59	4.98	4.00	39.99
1941	3.68	0.71	0.71	2.54	3.27	2.71	6.35	4.02	1.01	8.13	2.58	4.16	39.87
1942	5.24	2.36	1.74	6.12	3.82	4.16	0.65	11.19	3.30	3.22	4.82	2.61	49.22
1943	0.18	1.03	7.32	3.79	7.13	3.34	0.95	M	4.37	3.74	0.86	2.14	----
1944	0.65	5.30	3.44	10.90	4.33	1.17	2.09	3.19	1.96	1.06	2.60	3.77	40.46
1945	1.43	7.65	10.84	7.32	6.26	12.56	1.75	3.20	9.62	1.21	2.38	1.50	65.72
1946	3.54	5.23	2.79	4.30	11.47	1.48	3.25	3.87	4.38	4.33	7.62	2.94	55.20
1947	1.06	0.19	1.91	5.52	5.26	6.64	1.00	1.24	2.50	4.54	3.25	2.46	35.57
1948	2.35	3.55	5.05	4.31	2.84	7.40	1.09	0.88	3.47	1.78	8.12	4.87	45.71
1949	8.46	4.89	4.82	1.62	3.50	5.82	3.24	2.02	3.05	11.02	0.70	5.98	55.13
1950	12.12	5.45	5.03	3.93	8.43	4.33	3.26	5.35	4.12	2.31	3.61	1.09	59.03
1951	4.61	6.71	4.51	3.38	2.18	9.72	9.42	1.02	5.54	2.24	6.72	2.61	58.66
1952	2.25	3.18	7.36	4.15	3.53	0.48	1.25	2.74	M	0.91	5.15	3.49	----
1953	2.72	1.84	6.37	4.20	2.96	1.11	1.25	0.68	0.45	2.15	1.78	2.02	27.53
1954	4.24	2.96	2.50	1.84	7.11	3.56	1.43	1.41	4.21	2.27	1.61	6.96	40.10
1955	0.45	2.38	5.80	3.40	6.19	3.35	1.57	0.78	4.12	4.21	1.93	0.32	34.50
1956	1.76	7.57	1.12	4.05	3.07	4.43	3.43	1.10	0.98	2.21	3.01	1.91	34.73
1957	6.36	3.60	2.45	10.99	10.29	5.04	6.45	2.74	0.95	3.72	9.01	6.28	67.88
1958	2.61	1.79	7.87	3.35	6.43	2.62	7.87	3.02	4.00	0.23	5.31	0.07	45.17
1959	4.22	2.99	2.67	2.19	5.18	2.33	3.52	2.90	3.66	4.41	2.62	3.80	40.49
1960	3.03	2.18	2.67	1.60	5.84	3.21	2.75	4.33	1.28	2.66	5.13	3.59	38.27

PROBABILITY OF FREEZES OCCURRING AS LATE IN THE SPRING OR AS EARLY IN THE FALL AS DATES SHOWN IN THE FOLLOWING TABLE

Temperature As Cold As	SPRING MONTHS			FALL MONTHS		
	50%	20%	10%	50%	20%	10%
32°	Apr. 10	Apr. 21	Apr. 26	Oct. 22	Oct. 13	Oct. 8
28°	Mar. 25	Apr. 6	Apr. 13	Nov. 5	Oct. 28	Oct. 24
24°	Mar. 15	Mar. 25	May 30	Nov. 16	Nov. 6	Oct. 31
20°	Mar. 3	Mar. 13	Mar. 19	Nov. 29	Nov. 19	Nov. 14
16°	Feb. 19	Mar. 4	Mar. 12	Dec. 9	Nov. 27	Nov. 22

STATION HISTORY

DATE	LOCATION	ELEVATION	OBSERVER
9-12-1916/5-11-1921*	1/3 Mi from P.O	339	Belle Kinne
5-12-1921/2-26-1922	3/4 Mi W	339	Gertrude Bock
3-1-1922/4-30-1924	1/2 Mi NW	339	John A. Gallaher
5-1-1924/11-30-1933	1.5 Mi NW	339	J. H. Wolpers
12-1-1933/10-31-1940	"	339	Mrs. J. H. Wolpers
11-1-1940/9-30-1943		339	Bernard Wheetley
10-1-1943/3-19-1946	8 Blks. N, 2 E	339	Joe L. Roehm
3-20-1946/9-22-1952	0.4 Mi E		O. M. Richardson
9-23-1952/7-18-1961	0.65 Mi SSE	332	O. M. Richardson
7-19-1961/ Present	3/4 Mi SE	332	O. M. Richardson

* For earlier data write to State Climatologist