U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Environmental Science Services Administration
in cooperation with
Cotton Economic Research and
Bureau of Business Research of
The University of Texas at Austin

CLIMATOGRAPHY OF THE UNITED STATES NO. 20-41

LATITUDE 32° 12' N
LONGITUDE 95° 51' W
ELEV. (GROUND) 490 ft.

CLIMATOLOGICAL SUMMARY

STATION ATHENS, TEXAS

MEANS AND EXTREMES FOR PERIOD 1951-1966

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 Depth	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)	13	13	13	13		13		11	16	16		16	16		8		11	11	11	11	11	
Jan	58.0	36.4	47.2	82	1957	9	1963+	561	2.51	2.33	1965	0.6	3.0	1961	2	1962	5	0	1	12	0	Jan
Feb	63.0	40.5	51.8	86	1959	14	1958	389	3.30	2.47	1959	0.2	2.3	1963	1	1960	6	1	*	7	0	Feb
Mar	69.0	45.7	57.4	88	1966+	21	1965	264	2.58	2.52	1953	T	T	1960+	T	1960	4	0	0	3	0	Mar
Apr	78.7	56.4	67.6	95	1963	34	1959	63	4.64	4.61	1966	0	0		0		6	1	0	0	0	Apr
May	84.8	63.4	74.1	96	1963	40	1954	6	5.17	5.95	1959	0	0		0		5	5	0	0	0	May
Jun	90.7	68.8	79.8	101	1960+	52	1955	*	3.14	2.72	1959	0	0		0		5	21	0	0	0	Jun
Jul	96.1	72.4	84.3	109	1954	65	1956+	0	1.41	1.79	1960	0	0		0		3	29	0	0	0	Jul
Aug	96.0	71.1	83.6	107	1964+	56	1956	0	2.04	3.87	1958	0	0		0		3	28	0	0	0	Aug
Sep	89.9	66.3	78.1	104	1956	50	1956	*	3.82	4.12	1957	0	0		0		5	6	0	0	0	Sep
Oct	80.6	56.3	68.5	97	1963	29	1957	46	3.45	6.04	1954	0	0		0		3	4	0	*	0	Oct
Nov	69.9	46.7	58.3	88	1965+	20	1959	225	3.38	3.63	1952	T	T	1959	T	1959	5	0	0	3	0	Nov
Dec	61.5	39.7	50.6	86	1955	10	1963	454	3.26	2.52	1960	0.2	2.5	1963	0	0	5	0	*	8	0	Dec
Year	78.2	55.3	66.8	109	July 1954	9	Jan. 1963+	2008	38.70	6.04	Oct. 1954	1.0	3.0	Jan. 1961	2	Jan. 1962	55	95	1	33	0	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.

THE CLIMATE OF ATHENS, TEXAS

Athens, county seat of Henderson County, is located in the pine-post oak area of East Texas, about 70 air miles southeast of Dallas. It is an industrial center turning out such diversified products as brick, pottery, clothing, television sets, furniture, hardwood lumber, processed foods, oil and gas products, and fertilizer. The surrounding rolling to hilly surface drains to the Neches River on the east, and to the Trinity River on the west. Cedar Creek Reservoir, with 678,000 acre-feet of water storage, located approximately five miles northwest of Athens, is one of the most popular recreational spots in East Texas. Nestled among post oaks and pines, the huge lake offers innumerable campsites, picnicking areas, excellent fishing, swimming and boating.

The climate is humid subtropical, with hot summers. Rainfall averages 38.70 inches annually, evenly distributed throughout the year, except for a relatively dry period in July and August. Prevailing winds vary from south to southeast; consequently, the Gulf of Mexico plays a dominate role in determining the weather in the area.

Winter temperatures are mild with only about one day each year, on an average, when the daily maximum fails to rise above freezing. During the period of record, no temperatures of zero (°F) or below have ever been recorded. The occasional cold spells are of short duration, usually turning cold one day, reaching the lowest temperature on the second night, then warming up again on the third day. Subtropical vegetation and flowers fare well in winter. Roses often bloom into December and begin blooming again by late March. Maximum daily temperatures average 58°F in January, the coldest month.

Daytime temperatures are quite warm in summer with the average daily maximum 96°F in both July and August. Summer nights are not unpleasant, however, since daily minimum temperatures average only 71 to 72°F during the warmest months.

The spring and fall seasons are the most delightful. Temperatures are neither too hot nor too cold, and there are sufficient changes to make the weather interesting.

Precipitation falls mostly as thundershowers, resulting from the interaction of cold fronts from the north clashing with the warm moist air moving northward from the Gulf of Mexico. Consequently, amounts are heaviest in late spring and again in early fall. Slow, general rains are more common in winter, while the predominance of high pressure over East Texas in summer, and the exclusion of cold fronts from the area result in a decrease in rainfall during summer. Snowfall averages only about one inch annually; however, average values are misleading. One snow of two or three inches may be followed by several years with no measurable amounts. Usually, snow melts about as rapidly as it falls, and is an unimportant source of moisture.

The growing season (freeze free period) at Athens averages 260 days. The average date of the last spring freeze is March 11, while the average date of the first fall freeze is November 26.

Average annual relative humidity is 80-85 percent at 6:00 a.m. and 55 percent at 6:00 p.m. Central Standard Time. Seasonal averages vary only slightly. The area receives about 65 percent of the total possible sunshine annually. January and February are the cloudiest months. Mean annual lake evaporation is estimated at 54 inches.

ATHENS, TEXAS

Average Temperature (°F)

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann'l
1954	49.8	57.0	57.0	70.2	69.1	80.0	86.8	85.7	80.5	69.8	55.4	52.0	67.8
1955	48.8	50.7	59.2	69.0	74.5	76.6	82.3	80.6	78.7	67.3	57.7	50.8	66.4
1956	48.1	53.5	59.1	65.3	78.3	80.4	85.3	84.3	77.2	70.1	54.7	54.0	67.5
1957	47.5	58.5	55.8	64.7	72.8	78.7	83.9	82.0	75.3	63.7	55.4	54.6	66.1
1958	47.1	46.4	52.1	63.8	73.0	80.9	83.7	83.3	77.4	66.0	58.7	47.0	64.9
1959	47.0	51.2	56.9	62.9	74.8	78.9	80.9	81.1	77.7	67.3	51.4	51.8	65.2
1960	47.3	45.5	51.7	69.3	72.6	81.7	83.5	83.0	78.5	69.6	59.4	47.2	65.8
1961	45.9	54.5	62.5	65.4	74.0	77.5	81.6	81.8	M	67.9	56.4	50.7	-
1962	44.6	58.8	56.4	65.4	75.7	78.8	83.7	85.6	78.3	72.4	56.8	50.0	67.2
1963	42.0	50.0	64.5	71.8	75.8	82.8	86.1	86.2	79.3	74.3	61.1	42.3	68.0
1964	49.0	46.2	58.7	70.4	75.4	80.4	86.5	86.9	79.3	67.2	62.1	53.0	67.9
1965	52.6	51.4	52.4	72.2	74.9	80.5	85.4	84.0	79.2	67.6	65.8	54.3	68.4
1966	44.4	49.3	59.6	67.9	73.0	80.0	86.0	82.2	75.9	66.8	63.6	50.1	66.6

M - Missing

ATHENS, TEXAS

Total Precipitation (Inches)

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann'l
1951	2.15	4.32	3.47	2.50	2.90	4.15	0	0	6.40	1.80	1.40	2.80	31.89
1952	1.90	6.25	2.50	8.10	7.15	1.50	2.05	0.07	0.86	0.35	7.38	6.17	44.28
1953	1.09	1.78	4.74	3.97	8.50	1.81	1.55	1.09	2.63	2.54	1.75	5.32	36.77
1954	1.73	1.55	0.94	3.04	5.45	1.28	0.62	0.06	0.65	19.52	4.22	1.51	40.57
1955	2.54	3.53	2.59	3.69	6.38	2.46	1.43	4.09	5.98	2.38	0.09	1.65	36.81
1956	2.88	3.35	0.88	1.21	7.50	0.43	1.32	2.86	0	0.28	4.67	2.47	27.85
1957	2.27	3.18	4.93	12.49	7.29	2.67	1.01	3.82	4.59	7.29	5.48	1.37	56.39
1958	2.93	2.07	2.30	6.47	2.89	1.94	2.38	5.44	4.29	4.53	3.40	1.03	39.67
1959	0.95	4.05	1.49	5.11	12.70	6.64	3.35	2.06	4.97	4.80	1.00	6.60	53.72
1960	3.92	3.71	1.58	1.52	1.72	4.97	4.56	3.37	3.59	4.05	2.67	9.47	45.13
1961	5.98	2.50	5.41	0.87	2.20	4.42	1.82	0.41	4.01	0.93	5.17	4.77	38.49
1962	2.18	3.19	2.07	4.11	1.65	8.76	0.89	0.89	8.93	2.59	4.45	0.98	40.69
1963	1.61	1.68	1.19	4.48	3.73	2.07	0.72	1.31	1.07	0.54	3.37	2.61	24.38
1964	1.88	2.86	3.98	1.85	3.17	2.72	T	0.83	3.71	0.42	5.69	0.81	27.92
1965	3.66	5.67	1.59	1.66	6.93	3.63	0.26	1.83	5.64	1.66	1.68	2.42	36.63
1966	2.51	3.11	1.68	13.13	2.54	0.72	0.53	4.46	3.83	1.59	1.72	2.12	37.94

T - Trace

STATION HISTORY

A climatological station was first established at Athens December 1, 1903, but closed about 2½ years later on August 31, 1906. The weather station was not re-established until September 16, 1946, at which time a standard rain gage was installed at the city water plant. This station was discontinued November 30, 1950, and rainfall observations were made from a privately owned 5 inch Taylor rain gage installed at the ice plant, four blocks north of the post office, December 1, 1950 to June 13, 1952. Mr. Ervin D. Kirksey was the observer. On June 14, 1952 a standard eight inch gage was installed at the observer's home, one mile northwest of the post office. Radio Station KBUD took over as the official weather observer August 8, 1953, and the weather station relocated to the transmitter site, 2.2 miles south-southeast of the Athens Post Office. An instrument shelter with maximum and minimum thermometers was installed at the new location. The instrument site was on the north side of a shallow valley about three-quarters of a mile wide, oriented northwest-southeast. The weather station was moved to its present location within the city of Athens, at Radio Station KBUD, and 70 feet northeast of the post office on July 1, 1960. Rainfall records are continuous at Athens since November 1950, and temperature records are continuous since September 1953. Data are published monthly in CLIMATOLOGICAL DATA-TEXAS.

Weather Bureau State Climatologist
Environmental Science Services Administration
3600 Manor Road, Austin, Texas 78723
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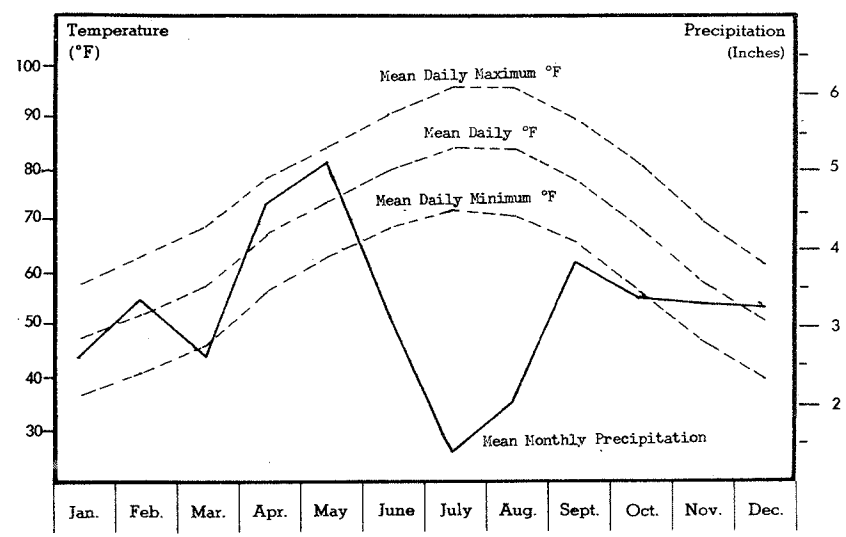
Monthly Temperatures and Precipitation