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

CLIMATOLOGICAL SUMMARY

LATITUDE 31° 48' N
LONGITUDE 95° 09' W
ELEV. (GROUND) 720 ft.

STATION RUSK, TEXAS

MEANS AND EXTREMES FOR PERIOD 1942-1966

Month	Temperature (°F)							** Mean degree days	Precipitation Totals (Inches)								Mean number of days					Month
	Means			Extremes								Snow, Sleet						Temperatures				
																		Max.		Min.		
	Daily maximum	Daily minimum	Monthly	Record highest	Year	Record lowest	Year		Mean	Greatest daily	Year	Mean	Maximum monthly	Year	Greatest Depth	Year	Precip. .10 inch or more	90° and above	32° and below	32° and below	0° and below	
(a)	24	24	24	24		24		11	24	24		24	24		11		11	11	11	11	11	
Jan	57.5	36.0	46.8	85	1943	6	1962	622	4.22	4.00	1944	1.3	13.0	1948	T	1956	5	0	1	13	0	Jan
Feb	62.1	39.6	50.9	83	1956	1	1951	464	3.88	2.40	1950	0.1	1.2	1958	0		6	0	*	8	0	Feb
Mar	68.9	45.1	57.0	94	1946	13	1943	304	3.68	6.17	1965	0.1	1.3	1954	0		5	0	0	3	0	Mar
Apr	76.8	53.9	65.4	96	1948	30	1961+	85	4.92	4.24	1944	0			0		6	*	0	*	0	Apr
May	82.8	60.9	71.9	96	1956+	40	1945+	9	5.51	5.32	1944	0			0		5	4	0	0	0	May
Jun	89.8	67.8	78.8	102	1956	46	1955	*	3.70	3.30	1961	0			0		6	16	0	0	0	Jun
Jul	93.5	70.3	81.9	107	1954	60	1956	0	2.87	4.70	1959	0			0		4	28	0	0	0	Jul
Aug	94.4	69.8	82.1	107	1962+	57	1956	0	3.14	2.70	1942	0			0		5	26	0	0	0	Aug
Sep	88.4	64.8	76.6	104	1951	40	1942	1	3.41	4.15	1958	0			0		5	15	0	0	0	Sep
Oct	80.6	54.9	67.8	97	1956	30	1957	49	3.18	8.00	1957	0			0		3	3	0	*	0	Oct
Nov	69.3	45.1	57.2	89	1955+	21	1951	246	3.75	3.29	1943	0			0		6	0	0	3	0	Nov
Dec	60.5	38.0	49.3	83	1956	8	1950	497	4.19	3.10	1959	T	T	1942	0		7	0	*	9	0	Dec
Year	77.1	53.9	65.5	107	Aug. 1962	1	Feb. 1951	2277	46.45	8.00	Oct. 1957	1.5	13.0	Jan. 1948	T	Jan. 1956	63	92	1	36	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 RUSK, TEXAS

Rusk, located in the heart of East Texas is the center of a farming, livestock, and iron ore producing area. Industries include the manufacture of garments, feeds, and poultry products. Rusk State Hospital is located here. Only one family was living there in 1846, when Rusk was chosen as the county seat of Cherokee County. Poultry, dairying, and livestock account for about four-fifths of the farm income of Cherokee County. Peaches, plums, roses, and a variety of truck crops are grown in the county. Jim Hogg State Historic Park, consisting of more than 175 acres, is located two miles northeast of Rusk off U. S. Highway 84. I. D. Fairchild State Forest is located along U. S. Highway 84 west of Rusk. Many historic sites in the area include Spanish missions, Indian camps, a Confederate gun factory, and ante bellum homes.

The climate of Rusk is humid subtropical with warm summers. Rainfall is abundant, averaging 46.45 inches annually, and is evenly distributed throughout the year. Prevailing winds are southerly to southeasterly during all months except January when northerly winds predominate. Thus, the Gulf of Mexico largely controls the climate of the area; although in winter, modified polar and arctic air masses exert their influence, and provide a certain continental flavor to the climate of this particular season.

Rusk enjoys mild winters. On only one day during the year, on an average, does the maximum temperature fail to go above freezing. During January, the coldest month, minimum temperatures are 32°F or below only about 42 percent of the time. During the winter and early spring months, modified polar or arctic air masses push down through the region, producing sudden temperature changes. When these cold air masses stagnate, and are overrun by moist air from the south, several days of cold, cloudy, rainy weather follow. Ordinarily, these occasional cold spells are of short duration, rarely lasting longer than 48 hours.

Daytime temperatures are warm in summer, particularly in August; however, summer nights are not unpleasant. Except for occasional thundershowers that dissipate the afternoon heat, there is little variation in the day-to-day weather in summer. Refrigerated air-conditioning is recommended for maximum comfort indoors.

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 stimulating.

Precipitation falls mostly as thundershowers, resulting from the interaction of cold fronts with the warm moist tropical air flowing northward from the Gulf of Mexico. Because of the abundant supply of moisture, heavy rains of short duration may occur anytime during the year. Thundershowers are most frequent in late spring; consequently, average monthly rainfall is greatest during this period. July is the driest month. Slow, general rains, resulting from warm fronts or stationary fronts over East Texas, are more common in winter.

Snowfall averages 1.5 inches annually; however, average values are misleading. A single, exceptionally heavy snowfall may bias the data averages for many years. For example, 13.0 inches of snow fell at Rusk in January 1948, and 6.5 inches fell in January 1949; then no measurable amounts fell during January for 10 consecutive years, 1952 through 1961. Usually, snow melts about as rapidly as it falls. Sleet and freezing rain occur a little more often than snow, but amounts are light.

Average annual relative humidity is about 84 percent at 6:00 a.m., and 58 percent at both noon and 6:00 p.m. Central Standard Time. Seasonal averages vary only slightly. The area receives about 64 percent of the total possible sunshine annually. Mean annual lake evaporation is estimated at 52 to 53 inches.

The growing season (freeze free period) at Rusk averages 258 days. The average date of the last freeze in the spring is March 8, while the average date of the first freeze in the fall is November 21.

Severe wind and hailstorms may occur on occasions, but are infrequent. Four tornadoes have touched ground in Cherokee County during the seven year period 1959-1966.

In summary, the climate of Rusk is subtropical with mild winters--suitable for year-round outdoor activity. Abundant, evenly distributed rainfall produces lush vegetative growth.

RUSK, TEXAS

Average Temperature (°F)

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann'l
1942	45.6	49.4	57.5	66.0	72.0	79.2	81.0	81.4	73.6	67.4	61.0	51.0	65.4
1943	48.2	55.5	54.7	67.9	74.2	81.0	83.0	83.4	74.6	65.4	55.2	47.0	65.8
1944	46.2	55.7	57.8	64.9	70.2	80.0	82.4	82.2	75.2	68.2	57.2	44.5	65.4
1945	46.3	51.2	63.0	64.0	68.7	78.0	80.1	79.5	-	-	-	-	-
1946	47.4	53.2	67.3	68.0	70.2	77.2	81.0	81.8	74.5	-	59.5	55.1	-
1947	48.1	45.2	53.4	65.4	70.0	79.4	80.5	82.8	78.0	74.2	55.0	50.3	65.2
1948	41.6	50.1	56.8	69.0	73.3	82.0	83.1	86.2	-	68.9	57.8	-	-
1949	46.1	55.2	-	-	-	-	81.1	78.3	76.6	68.2	55.9	52.1	-
1950	54.7	54.1	53.8	61.8	-	74.7	78.6	-	-	-	57.6	50.4	-
1951	48.6	49.9	58.3	65.0	70.4	79.4	83.3	86.1	77.1	68.5	54.6	54.0	66.2
1952	57.0	55.3	57.4	62.2	70.5	79.2	80.0	83.6	76.7	61.8	57.8	47.5	65.7
1953	52.2	51.9	63.7	61.7	71.7	81.6	80.3	80.2	74.3	66.9	54.8	45.3	65.4
1954	48.4	54.5	54.5	66.6	66.7	79.0	86.3	84.4	78.7	69.4	55.0	50.1	66.1
1955	46.5	48.3	59.6	68.6	74.9	75.8	81.6	79.3	68.1	65.4	55.9	50.1	65.4
1956	47.1	51.2	56.5	62.2	74.5	79.1	83.0	81.9	78.6	71.2	53.6	53.7	66.1
1957	47.3	56.6	55.7	64.9	73.0	78.0	83.2	81.2	74.4	64.0	55.7	54.0	65.7
1958	46.1	44.8	52.7	64.2	72.9	80.9	82.9	82.9	77.0	65.7	59.3	47.0	64.7
1959	43.4	49.9	56.2	61.7	74.8	78.8	80.8	81.0	77.5	68.3	51.4	52.4	64.7
1960	45.9	43.9	49.1	67.4	70.8	79.8	81.9	81.7	78.2	71.0	58.8	45.8	64.5
1961	42.8	52.5	61.5	62.4	72.0	76.2	79.4	80.3	76.8	68.1	55.2	48.4	64.6
1962	42.6	58.2	54.3	63.5	74.4	77.5	82.4	84.8	77.6	71.4	55.7	47.2	65.8
1963	39.4	46.3	61.8	69.9	73.4	80.3	82.7	83.4	79.5	74.3	59.6	40.7	65.9
1964	46.3	45.6	57.4	68.0	73.1	79.1	83.4	83.1	77.2	65.4	58.4	48.7	65.5
1965	49.3	46.5	47.6	67.0	69.9	77.5	81.9	80.6	76.8	66.1	64.3	52.2	65.0
1966	42.8	46.8	57.3	66.1	71.4	77.5	83.9	79.9	74.9	65.6	61.3	47.8	64.6

STATION HISTORY

A climatological station was established at Rusk, Texas on January 1, 1942. It was located 0.7 mile east-northeast of the post office. On March 16, 1953, the station was relocated to a site at the City Water Plant, one mile east-northeast of the post office. To improve exposure, the equipment was moved 140 feet southward 10 feet higher in elevation on October 18, 1962. The cotton region shelter, maximum and minimum thermometers, and standard 8-inch rain gauge are installed on the flat top of a concrete water tank covered with two feet of soil. The earthern top is grass covered, sloping to ground level below. A ring of large trees surrounds the area. Temperature and precipitation data are published monthly in CLIMATOLOGICAL DATA--TEXAS.

Weather Bureau State Climatologist
Environmental Science Services Administration
3600 Manor Road, Austin, Texas 78723
August 1967

RUSK, TEXAS

Total Precipitation (Inches)

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann'l
1942	1.55	1.00	2.43	7.45	4.68	7.99	2.48	3.74	4.62	2.04	0.97	4.14	43.09
1943	2.58	1.29	1.93	2.73	4.27	1.26	4.29	2.92	3.00	1.26	5.73	5.50	36.76
1944	8.30	5.01	4.18	7.61	11.05	2.45	0.63	6.28	1.84	0	7.62	7.66	62.63
1945	5.57	5.46	5.91	5.34	6.10	4.01	9.15	3.79	3.51	6.37	0.50	3.30	59.01
1946	7.01	5.29	6.06	3.78	10.47	4.20	2.12	5.33	2.73	-	11.63	3.35	-
1947	3.83	1.97	7.24	2.65	9.97	5.08	0.29	2.77	3.34	1.22	4.65	4.35	47.36
1948	4.78	5.43	3.21	4.21	2.94	1.63	0.34	-	-	-	4.29	-	-
1949	6.95	-	-	-	-	-	4.78	0.17	1.78	11.64	0.23	3.91	-
1950	5.17	6.73	1.70	-	-	1.90	6.23	-	-	-	2.56	0.61	-
1951	2.19	4.46	5.47	2.98	2.06	5.61	0.54	0.02	5.82	0.56	2.88	3.62	36.21
1952	2.99	7.24	3.22	7.07	3.87	0.39	4.34	0.75	0.51	0	4.87	4.19	39.44
1953	3.64	3.13	7.62	5.50	10.75	1.90	3.29	3.11	1.76	1.73	2.69	5.66	50.78
1954	2.49	0.60	1.14	1.56	5.89	0.81	0.95	T	0.81	6.77	2.65	3.33	27.00
1955	5.47	3.33	1.50	4.13	6.31	2.36	2.98	5.32	1.75	0.51	0.27	1.96	35.89
1956	3.40	4.98	1.78	3.96	4.64	0.95	0.34	4.87	0.27	1.20	2.80	1.11	30.30
1957	4.38	2.34	5.54	13.65	4.67	8.84	0.55	2.60	4.35	16.25	9.67	1.99	74.83
1958	4.20	2.10	2.55	5.50	1.80	2.38	1.70	2.75	12.15	1.60	1.75	1.48	39.96
1959	0.65	3.95	0.76	5.48	4.55	6.03	7.45	3.60	1.80	4.13	4.03	6.33	48.76
1960	3.70	6.47	3.71	5.00	1.70	6.27	1.55	3.87	2.93	6.45	5.03	10.05	56.73
1961	7.03	4.73	6.45	1.14	1.91	9.86	7.25	2.47	6.94	1.81	5.48	6.71	61.78
1962	5.17	2.91	1.39	4.40	3.49	7.58	1.33	1.26	5.57	1.93	3.01	2.72	40.76
1963	2.18	2.05	1.39	3.30	3.96	2.43	2.84	2.33	2.37	0.24	4.75	3.48	31.32
1964	3.53	3.01	3.04	3.74	5.60	1.41	3.67	5.41	2.21	0.95	2.68	3.12	38.37
1965	3.82	6.41	7.75	1.55	9.23	2.90	0.55	3.68	4.52	2.01	1.56	8.36	52.34
1966	4.84	3.18	2.28	10.39	6.72	0.61	2.00	5.23	3.79	1.23	1.35	3.56	45.18

T - Trace

Monthly Temperatures and Precipitation