

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

STATION SMITHVILLE, TEXAS

LATITUDE 30° 00' N
 LONGITUDE 97° 09' W
 ELEV. (GROUND) 324 ft.

MEANS AND EXTREMES FOR PERIOD 1939-1968

Month	Temperature (°F)								** Mean degree days	Precipitation Totals (Inches)							Mean number of days					Month	
	Means			Extremes						Mean	Greatest daily	Year	Snow, Sleet				Precip. .10 inch or more	Temperatures					
	Daily maximum	Daily minimum	Monthly	Record highest	Year	Record lowest	Year	Mean					Maximum monthly	Year	Greatest Depth	Year		90° and above	Max.		Min.		
																			32° and below	32° and below	0° and below		0° and below
(a)	30	30	30	30		30		13	30	30		30	30	13		13	13	13	13				
Jan	62.6	37.7	50.2	87	1953+	10	1962+	555	2.55	2.55	1945	0.3	6.0	1944	0		5	0	1	13	0	Jan	
Feb	65.5	41.6	53.6	93	1940	6	1951	392	2.91	2.31	1965	0.1	2.5	1964	1	1965	5	*	*	7	0	Feb	
Mar	72.6	47.6	60.1	97	1955+	19	1948+	239	1.98	3.20	1945	T	T		0		4	*	0	3	0	Mar	
Apr	80.5	57.4	69.0	102	1939	31	1961	54	3.90	5.60	1953	0	0		0		5	1	0	*	0	Apr	
May	86.9	65.0	76.0	100	1939	41	1954	4	3.91	2.90	1965	0	0		0		5	9	0	0	0	May	
Jun	92.7	70.6	81.7	105	1942	55	1964	0	4.44	16.05	1940	0	0		0		5	22	0	0	0	Jun	
Jul	96.7	72.7	84.7	111	1954	57	1967	0	2.31	5.00	1961+	0	0		0		3	29	0	0	0	Jul	
Aug	97.8	72.0	84.9	110	1962+	58	1967	0	2.62	6.01	1947	0	0		0		4	29	0	0	0	Aug	
Sep	91.5	66.9	79.2	108	1939	43	1947+	2	4.30	6.67	1964	0	0		0		6	18	0	0	0	Sep	
Oct	84.0	57.4	70.7	99	1956+	32	1957	4	2.61	3.25	1960	0	0		0		4	5	0	*	0	Oct	
Nov	72.6	46.4	59.5	94	1948	22	1950	211	3.07	4.40	1940	T	T	1959	T	1959	5	0	0	3	0	Nov	
Dec	63.1	40.0	51.6	91	1952	13	1951	438	2.58	2.47	1965	0	0		0		6	0	*	9	0	Dec	
Year	80.5	56.3	68.4	111	Jul. 1954	6	Feb. 1951	1940	37.18	16.05	Jun. 1940	0.4	6.0	Jan. 1944	1	Feb. 1965	57	113	1	35	0	Year	

(a) Average length of record, years.

+ Also on earlier dates, months, or years.

T Trace, an amount too small to measure.

* Less than one half.

** Base 65°F

THE CLIMATE OF SMITHVILLE, TEXAS

Smithville is located on the south bank of the Colorado River, in South Central Texas, approximately 43 miles east-southeast of Austin. Established about 1827 in a rich farming area, the town is primarily an agricultural supply center. Processing plants, brick plants, and other industries are located here also. Bastrop County, in which Smithville is located, depends largely on the production of livestock, sorghums, hay, peanuts and cotton for income. Beautiful Buescher State Park, 1,729 acres of rolling, scenic parkland in the "Lost Pines" region is only three miles north of Smithville. Shelter, trailer, camping, and picnicking sites are available in the park. Lake Buescher provides facilities for fishing and boating. Bastrop State Park, 2,100 acres of parkland, joins Buescher State Park on the west, and provides equally outstanding recreational facilities.

The climate of Smithville is humid subtropical with hot summers. Tropical Maritime air masses predominate throughout the spring, summer, and fall months. Modified polar air masses take over in winter and provide a continental type of climate characterized by considerable variations in temperature. Mean annual total precipitation is 37.18 inches. Rainfall maxima, the result of thundershowers, occur in June and September. The wettest year of record is 1957, when a total of 59.35 inches fell at Smithville. Only 19.78 inches fell in 1954, the driest year of record. The prevailing winds are southerly the year round. The mean annual relative humidity at Smithville is 83 percent at 6:00 a.m., 55 percent at noon, and 52 percent at 6:00 p.m., Central Standard Time. Seasonal variations in relative humidity are small. Smithville receives approximately 62 percent of the total possible sunshine annually.

Winter temperatures are sufficiently mild as to cause little or no interference with outdoor work or recreation. The season is not marked by any prolonged periods of cold weather but rather by

short spans of 36 to 72 hours. There is considerable variety in the day-to-day weather as conditions fluctuate between warm, dry periods and cool, wet periods. Cloudiness often persists through the morning hours, dissipating by noon, with clear to partly cloudy skies a high percentage of the time in the afternoon. Precipitation most often occurs as light rain or drizzle. The arithmetic mean is not a very useful statistic for estimating expected snowfall, as it is biased by infrequent heavy snows. For example, measurable snow has fallen in the month of January at Smithville in only two of the past 30 years. A total of six inches fell in January 1944, and two inches fell in January 1940.

Summer temperatures are hot in the daytime. Refrigerated-type air conditioning is recommended for maximum comfort indoors or while traveling via automobile. Thundershowers occur in June, but the months of July and August are hot and relatively dry, with little variation in the weather from day to day.

Spring and fall are pleasant seasons characterized by mild days and cool nights. March is the driest month of the year. Thundershower activity increases significantly in April. Considerable early morning cloudiness continues in the spring but dissipates more quickly than in winter. Early fall is a relatively wet period, but precipitation decreases in October. Often in the fall there are long periods of uninterrupted fair weather and light winds.

The mean length of the warm season (freeze free period) at Smithville is 268 days. The mean dates of the last occurrence of 32°F or below in the spring and the first occurrence of 32°F or below in the fall are March 6 and November 29, respectively. The mean annual lake evaporation is 55 inches. Thundershowers occur on an average of 43 days annually. Destructive winds and damaging hailstorms are infrequent.

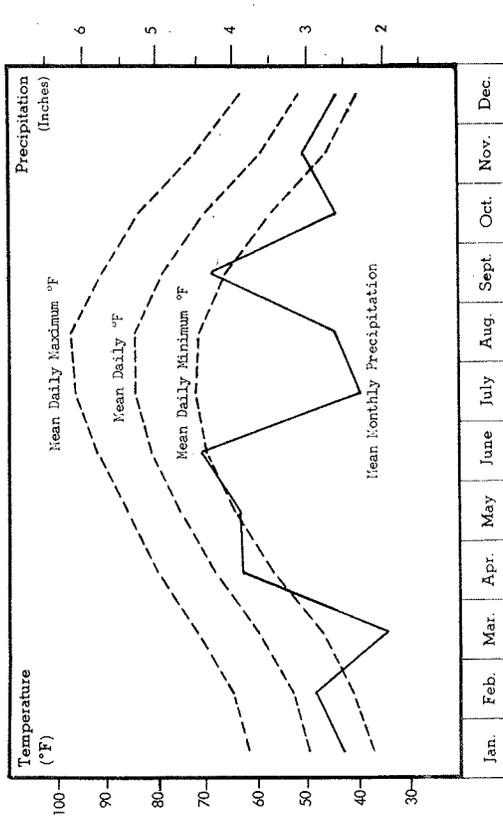
SMITHVILLE, TEXAS

Total Precipitation (Inches)

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann'l
1939	2.24	3.07	0.98	1.25	1.90	4.56	2.32	2.70	3.02	0.19	2.30	2.87	27.40
1940	0.72	2.21	1.15	2.48	3.48	23.20	2.50	0.90	1.78	3.10	10.04	5.98	57.54
1941	1.51	3.54	4.25	7.24	6.71	8.57	5.86	1.65	1.85	5.67	1.91	1.53	50.29
1942	0.72	1.45	1.25	2.83	2.83	2.17	6.79	1.83	4.19	2.22	4.20	1.54	34.53
1943	2.16	1.28	2.15	0.22	5.79	1.38	5.58	0.45	3.44	0.66	1.60	2.26	26.97
1944	5.55	2.60	3.15	1.29	7.23	2.22	0.60	6.78	1.55	0.44	10.45	4.23	46.09
1945	3.78	2.53	5.80	4.50	7.22	4.57	3.82	3.49	2.27	4.85	1.78	1.43	39.54
1946	6.49	3.03	4.42	4.75	4.25	5.11	0.08	5.56	6.27	2.11	4.42	1.67	49.16
1947	3.57	0.49	4.55	3.51	2.74	1.61	0.85	8.18	0.02	0.36	1.82	2.33	30.03
1948	1.43	3.48	0.81	1.63	5.98	3.53	1.75	1.62	1.85	0.27	1.36	0.33	24.04
1949	6.99	3.63	2.18	-	0.08	3.99	3.88	2.29	4.42	5.06	0.26	4.72	31.84
1950	1.20	3.15	0.94	7.42	1.68	7.97	1.12	1.17	4.64	0.11	0.41	0.03	31.84
1951	0.66	3.46	3.55	0.49	3.52	4.26	2.01	2.01	7.97	1.23	1.27	7.07	29.71
1952	2.17	1.54	1.12	3.25	4.76	1.75	2.30	0.36	2.80	0	2.76	5.03	31.95
1953	0.57	3.36	1.36	7.60	3.28	2.77	1.00	3.36	3.10	0.96	1.34	4.02	38.31
1954	1.48	3.36	0.28	3.55	2.04	0.82	5.78	2.19	1.09	0.92	1.14	1.78	25.26
1955	2.12	3.10	0.97	1.44	6.27	3.56	0.28	2.57	1.39	0.92	1.14	1.99	17.94
1956	2.35	3.19	0.87	1.86	2.98	0.92	0.15	0.63	1.07	1.43	0.80	1.45	59.35
1957	0.63	3.01	4.83	13.69	5.99	3.81	1.23	0.14	10.32	7.14	4.45	2.11	59.35
1958	3.20	4.79	1.19	9.12	2.01	1.19	1.88	1.21	5.92	4.27	1.63	2.55	42.43
1959	0.18	4.17	0.51	9.12	3.24	2.90	2.92	2.28	2.28	3.22	4.37	2.45	46.08
1960	2.72	3.05	1.42	6.65	2.09	6.30	2.28	2.69	1.90	8.21	4.34	2.14	50.28
1961	1.91	3.10	0.77	2.55	2.85	11.00	6.15	5.39	8.01	5.29	6.85	3.80	53.28
1962	3.33	1.43	1.46	3.86	1.65	4.83	0.77	1.79	6.01	1.28	4.34	4.20	34.36
1963	1.00	2.47	0.22	2.03	2.44	3.24	1.62	1.79	4.39	0.27	4.17	2.95	24.56
1964	2.95	4.28	3.07	1.73	2.24	2.34	2.99	2.42	13.20	1.00	1.15	2.00	46.98
1965	3.29	8.47	1.19	2.41	9.23	1.28	0.60	4.65	2.74	3.99	5.08	6.05	48.98
1966	2.43	4.28	0.86	3.99	5.37	2.44	0.12	2.91	2.85	3.04	0.11	1.65	30.95
1967	0.59	1.41	1.28	1.51	7.70	0	1.22	2.10	8.80	4.87	3.21	1.20	31.89
1968	8.58	1.32	1.70	6.44	7.97	8.62	2.92	0.64	9.32	0.94	5.01	3.23	56.99

T - Trace

Monthly Temperatures and Precipitation



SMITHVILLE, TEXAS

Average Temperature (°F)

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann'l
1939	53.8	55.2	65.8	72.0	80.0	84.0	87.4	86.6	83.6	75.0	58.4	58.6	71.8
1940	42.8	55.0	63.1	66.9	75.4	79.4	84.8	85.4	80.1	73.0	60.4	57.2	68.5
1941	57.0	53.9	57.6	69.4	77.5	82.0	83.4	86.7	83.0	77.6	60.0	56.3	70.6
1942	50.8	54.7	62.8	69.9	74.5	78.0	83.7	86.2	78.6	72.1	59.6	57.4	70.4
1943	52.1	59.2	61.8	70.4	79.8	84.6	88.2	88.5	78.8	70.6	62.2	51.0	70.5
1944	53.8	60.8	61.8	69.6	76.4	81.6	86.4	87.8	81.8	70.2	66.0	53.8	71.2
1945	51.8	57.2	64.6	70.9	78.7	84.8	86.4	86.4	79.4	73.8	62.9	57.6	70.4
1946	49.6	49.0	56.4	69.0	75.2	82.7	84.2	84.0	78.7	70.5	58.6	56.4	67.8
1947	45.4	51.1	59.0	71.7	78.2	84.6	85.6	86.0	80.6	70.9	60.8	54.4	68.9
1948	49.0	57.1	60.0	66.2	77.0	82.3	84.7	83.2	80.6	73.3	59.3	53.3	69.0
1949	56.9	55.6	58.7	67.7	75.3	81.9	87.2	86.8	77.9	63.2	55.8	52.0	67.0
1950	49.8	50.9	60.6	67.8	75.3	81.2	83.2	85.9	76.1	70.4	57.3	48.0	68.3
1951	57.6	56.6	58.2	65.6	74.4	82.4	84.5	84.8	77.9	72.4	54.7	54.7	68.9
1952	54.4	52.2	55.6	66.7	72.4	78.7	83.4	83.4	81.5	70.5	58.4	51.6	66.8
1953	52.1	57.3	59.1	71.7	78.7	83.4	86.7	84.7	76.7	64.6	57.2	54.7	67.7
1954	50.7	54.8	59.1	66.8	75.4	81.9	84.7	86.2	79.9	68.9	60.1	48.6	66.8
1955	50.7	54.8	59.1	66.8	75.4	81.9	84.7	86.2	79.9	68.9	60.1	48.6	66.8
1956	50.7	54.8	59.1	66.8	75.4	81.9	84.7	86.2	79.9	68.9	60.1	48.6	66.8
1957	50.7	54.8	59.1	66.8	75.4	81.9	84.7	86.2	79.9	68.9	60.1	48.6	66.8
1958	47.0	52.9	57.5	63.3	72.8	80.6	83.2	82.0	79.1	72.5	61.1	49.0	66.7
1959	48.1	53.7	63.8	69.7	79.2	86.3	83.1	81.4	78.4	69.1	56.7	51.3	66.9
1960	48.1	53.7	63.8	69.7	79.2	86.3	83.1	81.4	78.4	72.2	58.1	50.0	68.0
1961	48.1	53.7	63.8	69.7	79.2	86.3	83.1	81.4	78.4	72.2	58.1	50.0	68.0
1962	43.6	49.3	62.4	72.7	77.6	82.9	85.1	85.7	80.6	65.4	61.9	52.4	67.8
1963	43.6	49.3	62.4	72.7	77.6	82.9	85.1	85.7	80.6	65.4	61.9	52.4	67.8
1964	48.2	45.9	57.0	69.2	76.5	81.3	84.9	84.1	78.9	65.4	63.5	50.8	66.5
1965	53.7	49.2	53.6	71.4	73.5	79.9	83.2	83.1	79.3	67.5	63.5	50.8	66.5
1966	45.8	48.8	59.3	68.2	73.3	78.7	82.8	82.1	77.1	66.5	59.2	50.0	67.7
1967	49.8	50.6	65.1	75.2	74.6	81.8	83.2	81.1	74.7	66.5	59.2	50.0	67.7
1968	47.5	47.5	56.3	67.8	73.3	78.4	80.2	82.3	74.3	69.9	55.9	50.1	65.5

STATION HISTORY

Rainfall observations began at Smithville on May 1, 1917. The station was located two blocks east of the present Smithville Post Office Building. A non-recording river staff gage was installed in the Colorado River on July 1, 1920. In the following year, on May 1, 1921, a cotton region shelter, and maximum and minimum thermometers were added to the station equipment. The station has been relocated several times, but each move has been within a distance of one mile of the post office building. The present location is at 501 Mills Street, 0.6 mile east-southeast of the post office. Mrs. Claudia K. Young, the present Cooperative Weather Observer was appointed April 1, 1964. Temperature and precipitation data are published monthly in CLIMATOLOGICAL DATA-TEXAS. Station index number: 41-8415-07.

ESSA State Climatologist for Texas
 Airport Administration Building
 3600 Manor Road, Austin, Texas 78723
 February 1970

Single copies of this summary are available without charge from the Bureau of Business Research, The University of Texas, Austin, Texas 78712. Quantity rates upon request.