U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, WEATHER BUREAU IN COOPERATION WITH
UTAH COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRIAL AND EMPLOYMENT PLANNING AND
UNIVERSITY OF UTAH BUREAU OF ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS RESEARCH
CLIMATOGRAPHY OF THE UNITED STATES 20 - 42

LATITUDE 37° 37'
LONGITUDE 109° 28'
ELEV. (GROUND) 6036 Ft.

STATION **BLANDING, UTAH**

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	Max. 32° and below	Min. 32° and below	Min. 0° and below	Month
(a)	30	30	30	30		30		30	30	30		30	30		30		30	30	30	30	30	
Jan.	39.1	15.6	27.4	60	1956	-17	1937	1166	1.20	1.04	1952	9.6	26.5	1930	10.0	1944	3	0	6	31	3	Jan.
Feb.	43.7	20.4	32.1	67	1932	-23	1933	921	1.16	1.03	1937	5.9	13.8	1960+	8.0	1939	4	0	3	26	1	Feb.
Mar.	51.9	26.1	39.0	72	1934	2	1948	806	.94	1.00	1937	3.5	10.7	1945	6.0	1958+	3	0	*	27	0	Mar.
Apr.	62.6	33.7	48.1	82	1943+	11	1936	507	.86	1.06	1957	1.1	15.2	1957	11.2	1957	2	0	0	13	0	Apr.
May	71.9	41.3	56.6	92	1951	23	1933+	270	.64	.94	1947	T	2.0	1933	2.0	1933	2	*	0	3	0	May
June	82.8	49.2	66.0	100	1954	28	1947	63	.55	1.40	1938	T	T	1949	T	1949	1	6	0	*	0	June
July	89.1	56.9	73.0	103	1931	36	1934	0	.84	1.32	1930	0	0		0		3	17	0	0	0	July
Aug.	86.5	55.5	71.0	98	1954+	42	1950+	0	1.19	1.98	1951	0	0		0		3	9	0	0	0	Aug.
Sept.	79.3	47.7	63.6	95	1948	29	1934	84	1.19	1.21	1933	0	0		0		3	2	0	*	0	Sept.
Oct.	66.2	36.9	51.6	90	1937	14	1935	415	1.38	1.55	1940	*	5.0	1935	3.0	1935	3	0	0	8	0	Oct.
Nov.	50.8	24.1	37.5	69	1934+	- 7	1931	825	.74	0.95	1946	2.6	19.0	1931	7.2	1955	2	0	1	27	*	Nov.
Dec.	41.6	18.6	30.1	61	1949	-11	1935	1082	1.26	1.40	1931	11.1	29.5	1931	12.0	1936	3	0	4	30	1	Dec.
Year	63.8	35.5	49.7	103	July 1931	-23	Feb. 1933	6139	11.95	2.00	Oct. 1928	33.8	29.5	Dec. 1931	12.0	Dec. 1936	32	34	14	165	5	Year

(a) Average length of record, years.

T Trace, an amount too small to measure.

+ Also on earlier dates, months, or years.

* Less than one half.

** Base 65°F

CLIMATE OF BLANDING, UTAH

Blanding is located in San Juan County in southeastern Utah near the foot of the south slope of the Abajo Mountains. This range, which has peaks extending to above 11,000 feet above sea level, lies about 15 miles to the north of the city. The terrain in the area is gently rolling and slopes downward toward the east and south.

The mountain ranges of western United States, particularly the Sierra Nevada and Cascade Ranges and the Rocky Mountains, have a pronounced effect on the climate of the area. As storms from the Pacific Ocean are forced to rise over the Sierras and Cascades, much of the moisture in the air condenses and falls as precipitation. Thus, the prevailing westerly currents reaching Utah are comparatively dry, resulting in light precipitation at Blanding and over most of the state. The Rockies are effective in preventing extended periods of extremely cold weather since they act as a barrier to cold continental air masses.

The climate is of the semi-arid (steppe) type, the most striking features being light precipitation, low relative humidities and large annual and daily ranges of temperature.

There are four well-defined seasons. Winters are cold but usually not severe. Temperatures of zero or below occur in about two of every three years, but temperatures colder than 15 degrees below zero are quite rare. Snowfall is generally light with only about 1/4 of the annual precipitation falling in that form.

Principally because of the altitude of Blanding, summers are pleasantly cool. The average daily temperature range during this season is about 32 degrees with maxima generally in the 80's and night-time minima in the 50's or high 40's. Temperatures above 100 degrees have been reported only three times during the period of record.

There are two separate rainfall seasons. The first occurs during the late summer and early fall when moisture-laden air masses occasionally move into the area from the Gulf of Mexico, thus contributing to the development of showers and thunderstorms. The second rainfall period occurs during the winter months when Pacific storms frequent the region.

The number of clear days at Blanding averages about 167 per year, partly cloudy days about 119, and cloudy days approximately 79.

Winds are light to moderate in all seasons, averaging generally less than 20 MPH. The extremely strong winds that do rarely occur are usually associated with local thundershowers.

The growing season, or freeze-free period, averages about five months in length and extends from the middle of May to the middle of October. The principal agricultural activities in the area are the production of wheat, livestock, and dairy products. Dry beans are grown to a limited extent.

Following are the tables of miscellaneous phenomena not included in the climatological summary table.

Average dates of occurrences of various temperature values:

Temperature Equal to or Lower than	Average Dates of Occurrence: Last in Spring	First in Fall	Length of Period
40°	June 12	Sept. 19	99
36°	June 3	Sept. 30	119
32°	May 20	Oct. 14	147
28°	April 28	Oct. 23	178
24°	April 7	Nov. 2	209
20°	March 26	Nov. 9	228
16°	March 15	Nov. 14	244

Extremes of Temperature and Precipitation which have occurred and which exceed those appearing in the table include:

Maximum Temperature:
62° in January 1918
78° in March 1908 +
85° in April 1907
101° in August 1922
71° in November 1922
65° in December 1929

Minimum Temperature:
10° in April 1913
18° in May 1905
40° in August 1922
20° in September 1908
12° in October 1908

Greatest Daily Precipitation:
2.00 inches in January 1914
1.50 inches in February 1908
1.30 inches in April 1905
1.04 inches in May 1926
1.60 inches in Sept. 1927
2.00 inches in Oct. 1928
2.79 inches in November 1919
2.80 inches in December 1908

Greatest and least monthly precipitation totals for the full period of record are as follow:

Month	Greatest	Year	Least	Year
January	4.09	1914	T	1931
February	3.87	1913	T	1921+
March	3.72	1906	T	1955+
April	4.35	1926	T	1937+
May	2.62	1926	0	1913
June	2.84	1948	0	1935+
July	3.55	1914	T	1920
August	3.78	1909	0.09	1960+
September	4.80	1927	0	1957+
October	7.01	1916	0	1952+
November	4.31	1906	0	1932+
December	6.43	1909	0	1930+
Annual	24.61	1909	4.93	1956

Average Temperature (°F)

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann'l
1931	27.4	37.2	39.4	48.4	54.4	66.8	74.3	71.8	65.2	52.0	34.5	19.4	49.2
1932	17.6	35.3	39.0	48.2	54.8	63.8	72.2	70.4	61.2	47.2	35.7	20.5	47.2
1933	18.3	18.8	40.0	42.3	50.7	66.6	73.2	71.1	65.4	54.3	41.0	33.8	48.0
1934	32.4	38.9	47.1	52.4	62.3	63.6	74.7	73.0	62.0	54.0	39.8	31.6	52.6
1935	31.2	35.9	37.2	47.4	52.2	66.8	71.0	70.0	62.6	49.6	35.8	29.9	49.1
1936	27.6	32.2	41.2	49.6	59.6	70.0	73.7	71.4	61.6	50.6	38.2	29.1	50.4
1937	12.7	25.6	38.4	46.8	59.9	64.0	70.6	70.2	62.8	53.4	41.1	32.9	48.2
1938	30.5	32.8	38.6	--	55.2	66.4	69.7	71.2	63.2	52.4	32.8	31.9	--
1939	29.0	22.2	41.2	52.2	58.6	67.0	74.4	72.4	63.6	49.2	41.6	34.8	50.5
1940	27.8	33.0	43.0	49.1	60.1	69.6	74.8	72.2	63.1	51.5	36.0	31.6	51.0
1941	30.6	36.1	40.0	42.4	56.0	62.3	70.8	69.0	58.4	48.2	38.9	31.6	48.7
1942	27.4	27.4	35.6	48.4	53.9	65.8	73.6	71.0	62.0	51.8	39.0	33.2	49.1
1943	30.5	36.0	39.8	53.0	56.1	64.4	73.4	70.9	64.7	51.2	38.1	30.8	50.7
1944	25.8	31.0	36.4	42.9	54.9	62.0	70.6	70.9	63.9	54.0	37.4	30.6	48.4
1945	30.2	34.8	36.2	43.6	56.1	62.4	73.0	72.6	63.4	52.5	35.8	24.1	48.7
1946	27.1	32.9	40.4	53.0	55.2	68.8	74.0	71.4	64.0	46.6	36.3	34.6	50.3
1947	24.4	38.0	41.4	47.7	59.8	62.6	74.0	69.2	65.8	52.6	33.3	28.6	49.8
1948	28.6	30.2	33.0	48.6	57.8	63.4	71.2	70.0	64.7	50.5	32.7	28.6	48.3
1949	20.6	23.6	39.4	50.1	54.6	63.0	71.5	69.6	64.8	47.8	43.0	27.5	47.9
1950	25.7	36.0	38.4	49.0	55.1	65.2	72.0	70.4	61.6	57.8	40.6	36.0	50.7
1951	28.3	33.5	37.6	47.9	58.1	64.6	75.6	70.2	63.3	49.4	34.2	24.4	48.9
1952	26.8	29.9	33.9	48.8	57.5	65.6	71.9	72.2	63.7	54.1	32.4	28.0	48.7
1953	33.9	31.9	40.0	46.4	52.2	68.0	74.3	68.4	64.9	51.8	40.2	26.9	49.9
1954	32.2	39.9	37.5	52.7	59.7	66.7	75.1	70.5	64.0	53.1	42.3	27.6	51.8
1955	25.2	23.8	37.5	44.5	55.6	64.7	72.4	72.9	65.1	54.0	37.1	33.3	48.8
1956	34.8	30.1	40.6	47.8	59.6	70.2	72.3	68.4	66.0	51.8	34.2	30.1	50.5
1957	29.9	38.4	40.6	45.5	52.2	65.1	71.4	69.8	61.5	49.7	34.0	32.8	49.2
1958	30.6	37.1	35.0	45.8	61.5	70.0	72.7	74.2	64.5	54.2	39.4	36.2	51.8
1959	29.8	32.0	39.3	--	--	--	75.8	70.7	62.2	52.0	38.6	33.3	51.0
1960	24.2	27.6	42.2	49.1	56.9	69.5	75.4	73.3	67.6	49.5	39.9	28.5	50.3
1961	28.3	36.0	39.1	46.3	58.0	71.4	74.4	71.8	58.6	49.9	37.0	23.3	49.5
1962	25.0	34.6	35.5	52.1	56.4	67.0	73.0	71.9	64.2	52.6	42.9	33.0	50.7

Total Precipitation (Inches)

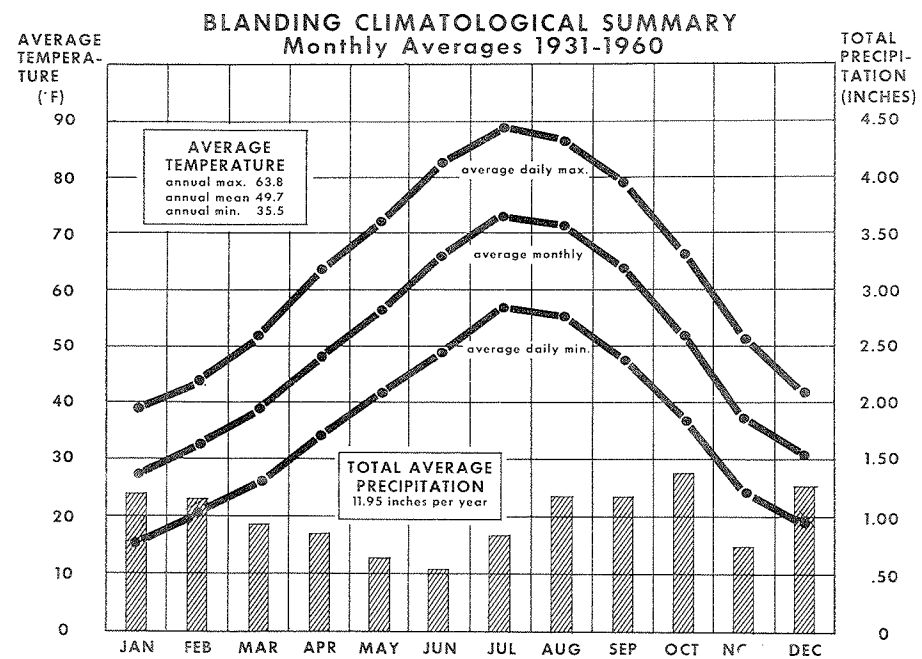
Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann'l
1931	T	1.47	0.80	0.73	0.32	0.39	0.42	0.46	1.98	2.14	2.17	2.90	13.78
1932	0.77	2.27	T	1.00	0.37	0.67	1.43	1.57	1.72	0.37	0.00	1.02	11.19
1933	1.40	0.14	0.12	1.26	1.33	0.24	1.39	0.85	2.61	1.52	1.22	0.55	12.63
1934	0.27	1.41	0.05	0.66	0.93	0.05	0.25	0.57	0.28	0.15	1.28	1.17	07.07
1935	2.62	0.92	1.42	0.78	0.75	0.00	1.31	1.21	1.75	0.65	0.18	0.71	12.30
1936	0.09	1.95	0.57	0.25	0.23	0.48	1.31	1.77	0.99	1.62	0.26	2.32	11.84
1937	0.73	2.50	3.20	T	0.77	T	1.72	1.51	1.17	0.32	0.22	1.16	13.30
1938	1.35	1.99	2.61	0.64	0.38	2.06	0.28	0.74	2.24	0.48	0.20	1.77	14.74
1939	1.43	1.07	1.27	0.28	0.35	T	0.46	0.35	2.56	0.93	0.82	0.09	09.61
1940	2.16	2.28	0.36	0.97	0.60	0.25	0.14	0.83	3.45	2.45	1.95	3.70	19.14
1941	1.73	1.78	1.99	3.08	0.89	0.97	0.74	1.06	2.35	4.68	0.70	1.63	21.60
1942	0.24	0.73	1.21	1.47	0.01	T	0.19	0.17	1.13	1.14	0.20	1.38	07.87
1943	2.00	0.75	1.34	0.21	0.88	0.02	0.25	1.34	0.56	0.83	0.52	1.00	09.70
1944	1.37	1.28	0.36	2.76	1.07	0.39	0.88	0.33	0.78	0.16	1.54	0.89	11.81
1945	1.56	1.29	1.64	0.69	0.27	0.35	0.90	1.20	0.04	1.07	0.01	1.19	10.21
1946	0.37	0.05	1.33	2.06	0.44	0.11	0.93	1.16	1.21	1.41	1.64	0.70	11.41
1947	0.41	0.61	0.21	0.13	1.70	0.84	0.41	3.46	0.62	2.32	1.10	2.02	13.83
1948	0.24	1.25	0.98	0.29	0.25	2.84	0.71	1.54	2.15	1.93	0.10	1.48	13.76
1949	3.42	0.86	1.72	0.57	2.24	2.46	0.68	0.50	0.63	2.32	0.34	0.85	16.59
1950	0.75	1.00	0.55	0.06	0.41	0.06	0.81	0.09	1.34	0.00	0.18	0.07	05.32
1951	0.78	0.64	0.59	0.59	0.53	0.12	0.91	2.70	0.39	0.94	0.60	2.08	10.87
1952	2.24	0.24	1.00	1.05	0.05	0.67	1.71	0.44	1.78	0.00	1.29	0.97	11.44
1953	0.49	0.98	0.47	1.09	0.08	0.04	3.09	3.64	0.06	2.51	0.89	0.52	13.86
1954	0.85	0.40	1.97	0.62	0.94	0.26	0.85	0.41	1.35	1.55	0.63	1.37	11.20
1955	1.24	1.37	T	0.38	0.69	0.07	0.39	1.68	0.16	T	1.09	0.95	08.02
1956	1.64	0.17	0.08	0.17	0.18	0.16	0.69	0.61	T	0.91	0.07	0.25	04.93
1957	4.07	0.69	0.44	2.14	1.65	2.15	1.15	3.46	0.00	3.84	1.42	1.23	09.47
1958	0.59	1.66	1.38	0.61	0.37	0.14	0.95	0.18	1.69	1.19	0.58	T	09.34
1959	0.33	1.54	T	0.73	0.02	0.57	0.22	1.80	0.45	1.58	0.39	3.13	10.76
1960	0.98	1.36	0.48	0.38	0.62	T	0.03	0.09	0.13	2.50	0.49	0.72	07.78
1961	0.42	0.14	1.79	0.67	0.23	T	0.78	1.60	1.63	1.65	0.79	0.89	10.59
1962	0.38	1.64	0.40	0.09	0.30	0.29	0.36	0.51	3.79	1.60	1.64	0.41	11.41

STATION HISTORY - BLANDING, UTAH

Observations of precipitation and maximum and minimum temperatures have been recorded at Blanding since December 1904 (the town was known as Grayson prior to March 1915). Some of the early record before April 1912 is fragmentary and inaccurate, but since that date there is only a small amount of missing data and the record is excellent. The station has been moved a total of five times during its history, but all of the moves were for short distances and the compatibility of the records was not affected (latitude and longitude have been the same and the elevation essentially the same at all locations of the station).

Prior to April 1939 the station was situated at the following locations: J. A. Lyman residence (Dec. 1904-June 1910); E. F. Thompson residence (April 1912-Jan. 1917); W. A. Porter residence, one block east of Post Office (Feb. 1917-Aug. 1922); Kumer Jones residence, 0.4 mile from Post Office (Sept. 1922-Jan. 1928); and the A. R. Lyman residence (Jan. 1928-April 1939).

In April 1939, the station was established as a Weather Bureau off-airways station (it became a 2nd order Weather Bureau station in Nov. 1940) at the J. Frank Wright residence, elevation 6,036 feet, located 0.5 mile southeast of the Post Office and a barometer, an anemometer, and a psychrometer were added to the station equipment. Since that date synoptic and/or aviation type observations, in addition to climatological observations, have been recorded at Blanding.

In November 1940 a recording rain gage which records intensity of precipitation was installed at the station.

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EM 3-9024