U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, WEATHER BUREAU IN COOPERATION WITH
THE WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
CLIMATOGRAPHY OF THE UNITED STATES 20-45

LATITUDE 48° 11'
LONGITUDE 117° 03'
ELEV. (GROUND) 2135 ft.

CLIMATOLOGICAL SUMMARY

STATION NEWPORT, WASH.

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	30.9	17.2	24.0	52	1945	-41	1950	1271	3.50	1.52	1954	26.2	67.3	1954	17.0	1950	10	0	14	29	5	JAN
FEB	38.7	18.3	28.5	59	1947	-39	1950	1022	2.65	1.56	1958	13.0	38.8	1949	9.0	1949	7	0	5	27	2	FEB
MAR	47.6	24.4	36.0	72	1939	-14	1955	899	2.48	1.37	1950	5.4	19.5	1957	6.0	1957	8	0	1	27	1	MAR
APR	60.5	29.9	45.2	93	1939	6	1936	594	1.71	1.02	1953	.6	4.8	1955	2.0	1956+	5	*	*	20	0	APR
MAY	69.5	36.7	53.1	95	1934	17	1954	375	1.99	1.77	1942	T	1.0	1955	.5	1955	5	*	0	10	0	MAY
JUN	75.4	42.6	59.0	97	1940+	26	1952+	192	1.89	1.63	1947						6	2	0	2	0	JUN
JUL	86.2	44.6	65.4	107	1941	30	1940+	65	.61	.82	1955						2	12	0	1	0	JUL
AUG	84.7	41.5	63.1	101	1933	27	1945	96	.80	1.13	1950						2	9	0	2	0	AUG
SEP	74.5	37.5	56.0	99	1938	11	1934	285	1.47	1.62	1940						4	2	0	8	0	SEP
OCT	59.2	32.3	45.8	85	1943	-1	1935	595	2.76	1.50	1955	..8	10.0	1957	10.0	1957	7	0	*	17	*	OCT
NOV	41.2	26.3	33.8	61	1941+	-14	1955	936	3.51	1.96	1960	6.6	27.3	1955	8.0	1958	9	0	3	24	1	NOV
DEC	34.6	22.4	28.5	55	1941	-18	1948	1132	3.79	2.24	1951	17.8	48.0	1951	8.0	1955+	10	0	10	29	1	DEC
Year	58.6	31.1	44.9	107	JUL 1941	-41	JAN 1950	7462	27.16	2.24	DEC 1951	70.4	67.3	JAN 1954	17.0	JAN 1950	75	25	33	196	10	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.

NARRATIVE CLIMATOLOGICAL SUMMARY

Newport, the county seat of Pend Oreille County, is located at the Idaho-Washington border on the south bank of the Pend Oreille River. Southwest of the City, a plateau 10 to 15 miles in width extends toward the Columbia Basin. In a northerly direction and within 5 to 15 miles, mountains in the Kaniksu National Forest reach elevations of 4,000 to 6,000 feet. Most of this area, other than the valley near the River and the plateau southwest of the City, is mountainous and covered with timber. Some of the more important industrial activities are forestry management, lumbering, development and management of hydroelectric projects. Agriculture is limited primarily to the growing of small grain crops, hay, pasture and the raising of livestock. Lakes, streams and mountains in this section of Washington and Idaho offer many opportunities for persons interested in hunting, camping, fishing, skiing and other outdoor activities.

The Rocky Mountains protect this area from the more severe winter storms moving southward across Canada and the Cascade Range obstructs the easterly movement of moist air from over the Ocean. The climate has some of the characteristics of both marine and continental types. There is considerable difference between the climate in the valleys and the alpine climate in the higher elevations. The summers are dry and sunny with warm afternoons and cool nights; while the winters are rather cold with considerable cloudiness and snow. During the summer, afternoon temperatures are in the 80's and nighttime readings are in the upper 40's. In the cooler summers, maximum temperatures reach 90° or higher on 5 to 15 days, while during the warmer summers 90° or higher is recorded on 40 to 60 days. During July and August, maximum temperatures reach 100° and minimum temperatures drop to freezing on one or more days in approximately one-half of the summers. The average number of days between the last occurrence of 32° in the spring and first in the fall is 65 days, and the occurrence of 28° is 129 days. Within short distances, several days' difference in the growing season can be expected.

In the winter season, afternoon temperatures are near freezing and nighttime readings range from 12° to 20°. Maximum temperatures remain below freezing on 50 to 60 days in the colder winters and on 15 to 20 days during the warmer. The lowest temperatures generally occur when a high pressure area develops and cold air spills over the Rocky Mountains and reaches this section. Under these conditions, the sky is frequently clear and the ground covered with snow, thus additional heat is lost by radiation at night. Minimum temperatures may range from zero to -25° and maximum temperatures from 10° to 15°. Within a few days, warmer, moist air from over the Pacific brings relief from the low temperatures, however, mixing of the moist air with the colder air results in cloudiness and fog. During one of the coldest winters in recent years, 1949-50, the average January maximum and minimum temperatures were 18.3° and -3.9°. In the winter season, minimum temperatures dropped to zero on 21 nights, -20° on 10 nights, -30° on 7 nights, and -41° on one night. In one of the warmer winters, 1952-53, the average January maximum and minimum temperatures were 41.3° and 29.9°. Between October and March, minimum temperatures dropped below 15° on 20 nights, 10° on 9 nights and to zero on one night.

Precipitation is light in the summer, increasing in the fall, reaching a peak in winter, then decreasing in the spring, with a slight increase in May and a sharp drop in July. Summer rainfall is frequently associated with thunderstorms and numerous forest fires are started by lightning. Between the latter half of November and the first of March, most of the precipitation falls as snow. The winter season snowfall has ranged from 25 inches in 1944-45 to 136 inches in 1955-56. In the lower elevations, snow usually remains on the ground from mid-December until the last of February, reaching a depth of 10 to 20 inches in an average winter and 30 inches or more in the heavier snowfall years. Snow can be expected in the higher elevations by the last of October or first of November and remains on the ground until mid-May. The few snow survey reports available above 5,000 feet indicate 6 to 8 feet of snow on the ground April 1st and 4 to 5 feet, May 1st.

The average highest and lowest relative humidity for each day in this area ranges from 75% to 90% in the winter, 45% to 80% in the spring and fall, 20% to 60% in the summer. The number of clear or only partly cloudy days each month ranges from approximately 8 in mid-winter to 15 in the spring and fall to 25 in midsummer. This area of the State receives about 25% of the possible sunshine in the winter, 60% in the spring and fall, 80% in the summer. The number of hours of possible sunshine on a clear day ranges from 8 in December to 16 in June.

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