

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, WEATHER BUREAU
IN COOPERATION WITH THE WISCONSIN CROP REPORTING SERVICE
CLIMATOGRAPHY OF THE UNITED STATES NO. 20-47

LATITUDE 45° 07' N
LONGITUDE 90° 21' W
ELEV. (GROUND) 1437 Feet

CLIMATOLOGICAL SUMMARY

STATION:
MEDFORD, WISCONSIN

MEANS AND EXTREMES FOR PERIOD 1930-1959

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 daily		Year	90° and above	Max.			Min.		
																			32° and above	32° and below		32° and below	0° and below	
(a)	30	30	30	30		30		30	30															
Jan.	22.4	3.7	13.1	52	1941	-37	1935	1610	1.21	1.06	1949	11.2	24.8	1935	10.0	1935	4	0	25	31	12			Jan.
Feb.	25.7	5.1	15.4	59	1930	-33	1936+	1390	1.12	1.27	1953	9.8	28.5	1945	10.0	1939	3	0	21	28	11			Feb.
Mar.	35.6	16.0	25.8	76	1946	-22	1948	1220	1.75	1.51	1952	10.8	30.3	1956	11.0	1951	5	0	11	28	4			Mar.
Apr.	53.0	31.0	42.0	89	1952	6	1936	690	2.40	2.07	1958	3.2	10.0	1945	10.0	1945	6	0	1	18	0			Apr.
May	66.1	41.9	54.0	101	1934	21	1953	350	3.96	2.77	1936	0.5	8.0	1935	6.5	1935	8	*	0	5	0			May
June	74.9	52.3	63.6	98	1931	28	1945	130	5.30	3.38	1946	0	0		0		9	1	0	*	0			June
July	79.9	56.5	68.2	104	1936	39	1930	40	3.63	4.77	1959	0	0		0		7	2	0	0	0			July
Aug.	78.6	55.2	66.9	99	1936	30	1931	60	4.18	4.14	1938	0	0		0		7	2	0	*	0			Aug.
Sent.	69.1	46.1	57.6	96	1931	21	1947	250	3.75	6.06	1942	0.2	4.5	1942	4.5	1942	6	*	0	3	0			Sent.
Oct.	57.3	35.9	46.6	84	1953+	6	1933	570	2.17	1.27	1944	0.7	4.5	1933	4.0	1938	5	0	*	11	0			Oct.
Nov.	38.6	22.1	30.4	70	1938+	-15	1950	1040	2.12	1.56	1953	7.4	17.1	1957	9.0	1942	5	0	10	25	1			Nov.
Dec.	25.9	9.7	17.8	54	1951	-31	1933	1460	1.33	1.25	1939	10.0	31.0	1950	8.5	1934	4	0	23	30	8			Dec.
Year	52.3	31.3	41.8	104	1936	-37	1935	8810	32.92	6.06	1942	53.8	31.0	1950	11.0	1951	69	5	91	179	36			Year

(a) Average length of record, years.

+ Also on earlier dates, months, or years.

† Trace, an amount too small to measure.

* Less than one half.

** Base 65°F. (H. C. S. Thom, Monthly Weather Review, January 1954.)

CLIMATE OF MEDFORD, WISCONSIN

Medford, county seat of Taylor County, is located on the Black River in north-central Wisconsin. The area is rolling to hilly with considerable second growth. Originally, a continuous mixed forest of white and Norway pine, hemlock, sugar maple, and yellow birch covered the entire county. The few swamps were covered with tamarack, some cedar, and spruce. The soils are gray silt loams with mottled subsoils over compact, gravelly clay loams. Data in this summary are representative of Medford and the surrounding countryside.

The climate of Medford is continental. Winters are often severe, cold, and snowy; summers are relatively short and warm, seldom hot. Springs and falls are often short and mixtures of both summer and winter. All seasons are marked by storms that accompany the change of one air mass to another. Changes in the weather can be expected every two or three days in winter and spring.

For the period of this summary, the number of days in a year with 90 degrees or more has varied from 23 in 1931 to 0 days in 9 individual years. The number of days with temperatures zero or below has varied from 55 in 1943 and 1950 to 10 in 1931. The hottest period on record occurred from July 7 to 18, 1936, when 12 consecutive days had maximum temperatures that ranged from 90 degrees to 104 degrees. The coldest period occurred from January 19 to February 22, 1936, when 34 of the 35 daily minimums ranged from -4 to -33 degrees.

Approximately 60 per cent of the annual precipitation falls in the 5-month period May through September. The likelihood of an inch or more of rain in a 7-day period during the summer is greatest the last half of June when the chance is a little more than 4 years in 10. The likelihood of a 7-day dry period, trace or less, during the summer is greatest the second week of July and the last three weeks of August when the chance is a bit more than once in ten years. Intensities of about 1.25 inches in 1 hour, 2.00 in 6 hours, and 2.70 inches in 24 hours can be expected about once in two years. The greatest amount of precipitation in 24 hours was the 8.00 inches that fell June 5, 1905.

Snowfall varies greatly for individual years, with amounts having ranged from 98 inches in 1950 to 16 inches in 1958. The average date of the first one inch or greater snowfall is November 13, and probability of the fall by October 18 is once in ten years and by December 9, nine in ten years.

Thunderstorms have occurred on an average of 31 days a year with individual years varying from 18 to 42 days.

Hail has occurred on an average of two days a year with occurrences for individual years varying from 0 to 8 days.

Wind, sunshine, and cloudiness records are not available, but the following data for Wausau should be similar to conditions at Medford.

Prevailing winds are from the west and northwest in winter, and from southerly directions in summer. Annually, prevailing directions have averaged northwest 20 per cent, southwest 10 per cent, and southeast 15 per cent of the time. Wind speeds have averaged less than 4 miles per hour about 7 per cent, from 4 to 15 miles per hour 67 per cent, from 16 to 31 miles per hour 25 per cent, and greater than 31 miles per hour less than 1 per cent of the time. The highest speeds are usually from the southwest and northwest.

Possible sunshine has approximated 40 per cent for October, November, and December; 45 per cent for January; 50 per cent for February and March; and 60 per cent or greater from April through September.

The greatest amount of cloudiness usually occurs in November and December with averages of seven-tenths. The least amount of cloudiness usually occurs in July and August with averages of five-tenths.

The average date of the last 32-degree freeze in the spring is May 19; the first in the fall is September 23. The growing season, defined as the number of days between the last 32-degree freeze in the spring and the first in the fall, averages 126 days. The following table gives the likelihood of critical temperatures occurring.

Temperatures	AFTER DATE IN SPRING			
	20%	40%	60%	80%
32° or below	May 29	May 22	May 16	May 9
28° or below	May 21	May 14	May 7	Apr. 30
24° or below	May 8	May 1	Apr. 24	Apr. 17
20° or below	Apr. 26	Apr. 19	Apr. 12	Apr. 4
16° or below	Apr. 12	Apr. 5	Mar. 29	Mar. 22

Temperatures	BEFORE DATE IN FALL			
	20%	40%	60%	80%
32° or below	Sept. 13	Sept. 20	Sept. 26	Oct. 3
28° or below	Sept. 21	Sept. 28	Oct. 4	Oct. 12
24° or below	Oct. 1	Oct. 9	Oct. 15	Oct. 23
20° or below	Oct. 19	Oct. 26	Nov. 1	Nov. 9
16° or below	Oct. 26	Nov. 3	Nov. 9	Nov. 17

Marvin W. Burley
Weather Bureau State Climatologist
Weather Bureau Office
Madison, Wisconsin

MEDFORD, WISCONSIN

Average Temperature (°F)

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann'l
1930	7.6	23.2	28.4	45.5	55.6	65.2	69.6	68.6	59.0	44.6	38.0	17.2	43.6
1931	20.6	26.6	29.0	44.8	51.8	67.2	69.1	65.2	62.7	49.9	37.8	26.0	45.8
1932	18.6	16.7	16.8	40.8	51.2	65.6	67.6	67.4	55.4	43.2	26.6	11.2	46.8
1933	19.6	18.4	25.0	41.4	51.4	67.9			62.2		26.7	12.9	
1934	20.0	10.6	24.0	41.4	62.6	67.8					34.4		
1935	8.9	19.4	20.6	39.8	49.7	59.0	72.7	66.5	56.9	44.7	27.0	17.1	49.9
1936	6.8	1.0	27.1	36.0	59.0	61.4	74.0	69.2	61.1	42.3	27.8	14.3	46.5
1937	7.6	12.9	22.5	39.4	55.2	61.8	69.6	71.3	58.1	41.8	26.0	11.3	40.2
1938	10.9	19.8	33.3	42.9	53.7	61.6	66.9	67.9	55.6	48.6	32.0	17.8	42.7
1939	18.8	10.6	25.6	39.3	50.8	62.9	68.9	66.6	59.4	45.6	33.0	24.0	43.0
1940	7.6	19.5	21.2	39.4	51.6	62.4	68.8	64.4	59.6	48.1	27.9	19.8	46.9
1941	17.8	17.1	23.0	49.0	58.5	65.0	68.7	66.2	59.7	47.0	33.9	25.1	43.9
1942	15.9	11.4	20.8	47.2	51.5	62.0	65.7	64.6	53.6	46.0	28.0	12.6	41.0
1943	6.9	11.2	17.0	38.8	52.2	65.6	69.6	66.9	53.2	45.5	26.8	18.9	39.6
1944	22.9	17.1	22.0	38.8	57.6	65.3	66.0	66.6	57.2	45.2	35.2	11.4	42.4
1945	8.6	13.1	35.1	40.5	48.8	53.0	64.6	65.0	57.0	43.4	28.8	11.0	39.5
1946	12.9	12.4	37.8	44.8	51.4	61.8	67.2	63.9	55.5	48.2	30.7	18.7	42.1
1947	17.8	12.5	25.6	39.4	49.2	60.4	67.8	73.6	59.3	56.6	25.9	17.8	42.2
1948	7.6	13.6	25.6	47.1	51.0	62.8	68.9	68.2	62.4	46.8	35.5	18.2	42.6
1949	16.1	14.9	26.7	44.1	56.6	67.6	70.4	67.8	54.6	49.3	32.7	19.0	43.3
1950	9.5	14.2	21.3	34.1	52.5	62.6	64.9	63.1	57.7	50.8	26.7	12.2	42.2
1951	10.3	16.1	22.5	40.9	58.3	66.8	66.8	63.1	53.8	45.7	23.3	16.4	39.8
1952	11.6	21.4	24.6	46.5	53.8	65.2	69.0	64.8	57.5	46.7	32.9	22.6	42.8
1953	16.5	15.5	24.6	38.6	55.0	66.8	67.4	67.4	57.3	53.2	20.3	19.3	43.3
1954	11.3	27.7	25.3	44.0	48.6	66.0	68.0	64.7	56.3	44.2	34.3	19.8	42.5
1955	11.8	13.0	24.2	48.1	55.5	62.4	71.6	70.1	58.6	48.8	25.5	12.4	41.6
1956	14.6	14.2	22.7	38.0	53.1	66.4	64.7	65.9	55.1	52.6	30.7	20.6	41.6
1957	6.7	17.8	28.0	43.9	53.3	63.3	69.8	65.3	55.2	44.7	29.6	19.7	41.4
1958	18.1	13.2	29.9	43.7	53.5	58.7	65.1	64.8	57.9	48.5	32.6	11.1	44.4
1959	6.6	11.8	25.6	42.5	57.5	64.3	67.0	69.4	58.6	42.1	21.7	20.1	41.1

STATION HISTORY

The first climatological station in Medford was established on December 1, 1892. The thermometers were located on the southeast corner of a 2-story building, five feet above the ground. The rain gauge was located 25 feet from the building.

The station has made the following moves: One block from the post office June 1, 1897; an unknown location December 1, 1930; three blocks east of the post office at 334 Ogden Street November 1, 1934, to an excellent exposure on the edge of a small orchard; 0.8 mile northeast of the post office August 18, 1954; 0.5 mile northeast of the post office June 22, 1956; one mile southwest of the post office August 14, 1958.

Total Precipitation (Inches)

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann'l
1930	0.96	1.70	1.78	0.98	4.30	7.34	2.35	0.72	3.89	3.55	1.65	0.37	29.59
1931	0.50	0.44	1.18	1.06	1.94	4.68	2.26	1.72	4.83	2.66	4.79	1.01	27.07
1932	2.56	1.85	0.91	2.47	3.77	3.73	2.26	3.46	1.12	0.86	2.02	2.14	27.18
1933	2.00	1.40	0.69	2.68	3.44	2.49	1.63	3.26	1.84	1.49	0.79	1.13	21.11
1934	1.10	1.57	1.57	2.60	1.46	5.34	2.71	3.31	6.47	3.68	4.94	2.81	38.24
1935	3.41	0.42	1.06	2.34	2.29	6.58	4.36	2.81	2.74	3.71	1.09	1.06	31.87
1936	1.13	1.42	2.78	1.67	4.19	1.93	1.22	5.44	1.92	1.21	0.66	2.02	25.99
1937	1.09	1.33	0.44	3.27	3.30	1.66	2.22	2.77	3.11	4.39	1.79	0.72	25.79
1938	0.98	1.31	2.59	3.89	6.05	5.67	4.56	8.12	7.26	1.62	3.42	0.80	46.27
1939	1.09	1.63	0.55	1.46	3.68	8.71	1.61	3.92	2.34	1.47	0.17	1.98	36.41
1940	0.50	1.67	1.51	1.38	4.10	11.23	1.08	5.13	1.42	2.45	3.92	1.60	35.99
1941	0.60	0.86	0.86	0.86	8.14	1.53	2.88	10.74	5.14	6.12	1.51	1.02	38.13
1942	0.52	0.72	4.10	1.62	8.15	5.78	3.44	2.06	12.94	2.31	2.19	2.02	46.36
1943	2.46	0.35	2.54	1.54	6.75	10.92	3.18	5.45	3.53	2.46	2.10	1.10	44.19
1944	0.85	0.67	2.67	1.53	6.50	5.99	2.44	3.55	3.17	0.78	2.71	0.80	31.63
1945	1.11	2.90	1.84	3.22	4.45	2.03	5.37	6.09	2.70	1.13	3.56	2.60	36.80
1946	2.57	1.85	1.32	0.71	3.32	8.36	1.59	1.91	4.52	3.53	2.35	1.41	33.44
1947	1.25	0.67	1.96	3.69	4.91	3.68	0.69	4.68	3.29	1.86	2.50	1.24	30.85
1948	0.66	1.39	1.31	2.59	1.37	4.12	4.38	1.70	4.39	0.57	3.74	0.90	27.22
1949	2.09	0.70	3.18	1.46	3.66	4.67	8.26	3.11	3.67	1.75	1.94	1.29	36.08
1950	0.53	0.82	2.36	2.77	3.20	4.45	4.33	1.90	1.41	1.22	1.06	2.96	29.01
1951	0.51	0.52	3.43	3.15	3.62	6.03	4.64	4.59	7.11	2.51	1.83	2.13	42.10
1952	2.48	0.70	2.22	2.43	3.68	3.37	5.72	6.89	0.30	0.11	1.21	1.75	30.86
1953	0.60	2.71	1.85	2.48	2.03	4.06	7.75	3.67	0.89	0.08	2.00	2.09	30.90
1954	0.80	0.67	2.00	4.02	3.98	4.46	4.51	1.71	5.22	2.12	0.99	0.25	33.55
1955	0.42	0.58	1.64	2.66	3.71	5.75	3.71	7.47	1.30	3.63	1.00	0.79	35.66
1956	0.42	0.30	1.87	1.59	3.78	6.97	4.13	3.95	1.36	0.64	2.66	0.37	28.64
1957	0.24	0.71	1.42	1.82	3.40	4.85	4.85	3.68	2.47	1.36	2.46	0.60	27.01
1958	0.21	0.06	0.48	4.33	3.06	6.88	3.97	3.80	3.38	2.45	1.73	0.16	30.51
1959	0.33	0.64	1.20	2.28	5.27	2.74	7.83	7.21	6.71	3.28	0.91	1.92	40.32

STATION HISTORY (Continued)

The instruments have been over sod and exposed under standard conditions since 1897.

Observers have been:

Dr. F. R. Zeit December 1, 1892 to May 31, 1897;
 William Zeit June 1, 1897 to November 27, 1930;
 E. L. Allman December 1, 1930 to June 30, 1934;
 Gordon J. Kuse November 1, 1934 to August 17, 1954;
 Thomas H. Olson August 18, 1954 to June 14, 1955;
 Joe Tuss June 15, 1955 to June 21, 1956;
 Frank C. Krueger June 22, 1956 to present.