

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

LATITUDE 43° 31' N
LONGITUDE 90° 00' W
ELEV. (GROUND) 870 Feet

CLIMATOLOGICAL SUMMARY

STATION :
REEDSBURG, WISCONSIN

MEANS AND EXTREMES FOR PERIOD 1945-1959

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	Year					Year	Year	Year	Year		Year	Year	Year	Year		Max.		Min.	
																							90° and above	32° and below	32° and below	0° and below
(a)	15	15	15	15		15		15	15	15		15	15		15	15	15	15	15	15						
Jan.	28.2	8.8	18.5	51	1947	-42	1951	1440	0.96	1.17	1946	10.4	22.0	1951	8.0	1954+	3	0	19	30	9	Jan.				
Feb.	32.3	12.2	22.3	58	1958	-30	1959+	1200	1.06	0.85	1959	8.4	25.6	1959	9.0	1959	3	0	13	27	6	Feb.				
Mar.	42.4	22.5	32.5	77	1946	-11	1959+	1010	1.96	1.90	1959	10.5	30.0	1959	14.0	1959	5	0	6	25	9	Mar.				
Apr.	58.8	34.8	46.8	91	1952	12	1956	550	3.27	1.98	1950	0.7	5.0	1949	4.5	1949	6	*	*	11	0	Apr.				
May	70.0	44.8	57.4	92	1953	25	1945	280	3.30	2.97	1950	0.4	6.0	1947	6.0	1947	7	*	0	2	0	May				
June	78.9	55.0	67.0	96	1953	33	1945	80	4.84	3.06	1947	0	0		0		8	2	0	0	0	June				
July	83.8	58.9	71.4	98	1955	41	1958+	20	4.21	3.49	1949	0	0		0		7	5	0	0	0	July				
Aug.	82.9	58.0	70.5	102	1948	36	1958+	30	3.84	3.60	1954	0	0		0		6	6	0	0	0	Aug.				
Sept.	74.2	49.1	61.7	98	1955	24	1949	160	2.71	1.92	1946	0	0		0		6	2	0	1	0	Sept.				
Oct.	64.2	39.8	52.0	87	1950	11	1948	420	1.81	2.06	1959	0.1	1.0	1959+	1.0	1959+	4	0	0	8	0	Oct.				
Nov.	44.1	26.1	35.1	75	1950+	-15	1947	900	1.97	1.86	1956	4.9	15.2	1947	6.0	1947	4	0	6	22	1	Nov.				
Dec.	31.6	14.6	23.1	62	1951	-26	1950	1300	1.22	0.98	1946	8.7	21.0	1950	8.0	1945	3	0	16	29	5	Dec.				
Year	57.6	35.4	46.5	102	Aug. 1948	-42	Jan. 1951	7390	31.15	3.60	Aug. 1954	44.1	30.0	Mar. 1959	14.0	Mar. 1959	62	15	60	158	30	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 REEDSBURG, WISCONSIN

Reedsburg is located on the Baraboo River in Sauk County in south-central Wisconsin. The river valley has a gentle roll and is about seven miles wide at this point. Outside of the valley the terrain is rolling to hilly. The soils are mainly yellowish or grayish brown sands and loams. The original vegetation of the county was white oak, black oak, and hickory except in the sandy soils of the northeast where jack pine and scrub oak predominated.

This summary is representative of Reedsburg and the Baraboo valley. Allowances to temperatures should be made in the hilly areas. Generally, the higher elevations have earlier last freezes in the spring and later first freezes in the fall than valley exposures.

The climate of Reedsburg is continental, characterized by four definite seasons and a large annual temperature range. Winters are usually long, snowy, and cold; summers are warm and fully developed; springs and falls are sometimes short with many short period weather changes. During the period of this summary, the number of days in a year with 90 degrees or higher temperatures has varied from 36 in 1955 to 1 in 1951. The number of days in a year with zero or lower has varied from 35 in 1959 to 8 in 1952.

Precipitation during the five months May through September has averaged 60 percent of the annual amount. The likelihood of one inch or more of rain in a 7-day period during the summer is greatest the first part of June when the chance is nearly five in ten years. The likelihood of a dry 7-day period, trace or less, in the summer is greatest during the last part of August when the chance is three in ten years. Intensities of about 1.35 inches in an hour, 2.30 in 6 hours, and 3.00 inches in 24 hours can be expected about once in two years. The greatest amount of precipitation in 24 hours was the 3.65 inches that fell July 27, 1915.

The annual amount of snowfall has ranged from 22 inches in 1958 to 91 inches in 1959. The average date of the first one inch or greater snowfall is November 23, with the chance of this fall by October 30 once in ten years and by December 16 nine in ten years.

Thunderstorms have averaged occurrences on 43 days a year with extreme years of 59 and 28 days. Hail has fallen on an average of 3 days a year with extreme years of 6 and 0 days. Thunderstorms, accompanied by strong winds, heavy rain, and large hail, have been quite destructive at times. On July 6, 1954, hail fell that measured two and a half inches in diameter. Since 1916 seven tornadoes have been confirmed in Sauk County.

Wind, sunshine, and relative humidity records are not available but the following data from Madison should approximate conditions at Reedsburg.

Prevailing winds are westerly in winter and southerly in summer. March, April, and November are the windiest months with averages of 12 miles per hour. July and August are the least windy with averages of 9 miles per hour. The wind speed has averaged less than 4 miles per hour about 10 per cent, 4 to 12 miles per hour about 50 per cent, 13 to 31 miles per hour about 40 per cent, and greater than 31 miles per hour less than 1 per cent of the time. The highest speeds are usually from the west or southwest.

The per cent of possible sunshine has averaged about 40 per cent for November and December, 60 per cent or greater for May through October, and between 50 and 60 per cent for the remaining months.

Relative humidity has approximated:

Threshold	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall
Less than 50%	5%	20%	15%	20%
50% to 79%	55%	50%	45%	50%
Greater than 79%	40%	30%	40%	30%

The average date of the last 32-degree freeze in the spring is May 9, and the first in the fall is September 28. 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 142 days. The following table gives the likelihood of critical temperatures occurring:

AFTER DATE IN SPRING

Temperature	20%	40%	60%	80%
32° or below	May 19	May 12	May 6	Apr. 29
28° or below	May 11	May 4	Apr. 28	Apr. 21
24° or below	Apr. 25	Apr. 17	Apr. 11	Apr. 3
20° or below	Apr. 17	Apr. 10	Apr. 3	Mar. 26
16° or below	Apr. 3	Mar. 26	Mar. 20	Mar. 12

BEFORE DATE IN FALL

32° or below	Sept. 18	Sept. 25	Oct. 1	Oct. 8
28° or below	Sept. 27	Oct. 11	Oct. 11	Oct. 19
24° or below	Oct. 16	Oct. 24	Oct. 30	Nov. 7
20° or below	Oct. 25	Nov. 2	Nov. 8	Nov. 15
16° or below	Oct. 31	Nov. 7	Nov. 14	Nov. 21

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REEDSBURG, WISCONSIN

Average Temperature (°F)

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann'l
1914									63.6	51.0	41.1	19.4	
1915	15.4	22.2	44.6	47.2	53.2	62.2	70.1	70.0	60.8	49.1	36.2	17.8	45.7
1916	22.2	23.0	43.4	51.0	56.4	66.6	72.2	68.9	61.2	55.0	37.6	26.0	48.6
1917	23.6	17.3	30.0	45.1	53.0	64.5	70.6	77.0	63.7	60.1	30.2	23.8	46.6
1918	13.0	19.8	32.6	52.0	56.8	66.4	73.1	72.8	66.2	49.4	39.5	24.0	47.1
1919	20.5	22.1	33.1	47.9	60.8	71.0	74.4	71.6	57.7	55.0	37.1	25.2	48.0
1950	20.3	20.9	27.6	40.9	58.7	67.3	68.4	66.0	61.4	55.5	32.2	15.9	44.6
1951	14.4	20.4	27.9	44.0	62.2	65.1	70.4	66.8	58.9	50.7	27.7	20.9	44.1
1952	20.5	26.8	28.9	50.1	57.6	70.1	73.9	69.1	62.2	44.5	37.4	25.9	47.3
1953	21.1	21.8	31.2	42.4	57.6	69.8	71.7	72.4	62.6	56.0	40.0	28.2	48.2
1954	19.3	32.4	30.9	49.1	52.7	69.6	71.4	66.6	63.1	51.2	38.1	24.0	47.4
1955	18.6	20.2	30.0	53.2	60.4	64.1	76.1	73.8	64.3	58.2	29.1	18.6	46.7
1956	19.5	20.3	27.7	43.7	57.6	69.7	67.4	68.1	58.2	56.0	36.0	25.6	45.8
1957	12.9	26.8	33.2	47.9	55.6	67.1	72.5	69.2	59.5	46.8	35.0	27.4	46.2
1958	21.1	17.4	32.9	47.2	57.8	62.8	68.5	70.8	62.8	53.1	37.7	15.9	45.7
1959	9.8	15.2	28.9	46.7	62.6	68.2	69.8	74.0	62.9	46.3	26.9	31.1	45.2

STATION HISTORY (Continued)

The instruments have been exposed over sod since 1914. Records from the various locations are comparable.

The observers have been:

- Allen B. West January 1, 1893 to June 30, 1893.
- William B. Smith July 1, 1893 to December 29, 1894.
- James Mulady January 1, 1914 to February 28, 1919.
- John Rosenberger March 1, 1919 to January 31, 1920.
- Doris Gibson August 22, 1944 to December 31, 1947.
- Dorothy W. Ninman March 1, 1948 to December 5, 1952.
- Kenneth Russell December 5, 1952 to August 31, 1953.
- Robert W. Kaun November 8, 1955 to present.

Total Precipitation (Inches)

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann'l
1914													
1915	0.42	1.35	1.80	4.51	3.22	4.90	1.02	6.78	3.73	0.48	1.48	0.78	31.52
1916	2.06	0.58	2.57	0.73	2.61	4.92	1.21	1.57	5.66	2.55	4.82	1.56	29.63
1917	1.70	1.10	1.41	1.19	5.67	5.96	4.13	2.68	4.52	1.78	2.87	0.84	35.25
1918	0.08	2.31	2.44	2.57	4.39	3.92	5.43	0.86	1.11	1.85	1.82	1.56	28.26
1919	2.10	0.68	2.16	1.12	1.58	8.01	7.48	3.06	2.54	1.22	0.66	1.11	31.72
1950	1.47	1.40	1.56	4.34	4.37	6.51	7.31	1.35	3.74	0.65	0.90	2.44	36.04
1951	1.42	1.72	4.02	5.19	2.93	3.85	4.69	3.48	1.77	4.43	1.93	0.84	36.27
1952	1.21	0.53	1.56	1.87	4.07	6.81	8.57	4.48	1.37	0.13	2.88	1.98	35.49
1953	0.63	2.25	1.89	1.54	2.73	3.31	2.08	5.26	2.02	0.35	0.82	1.58	27.53
1954	0.97	0.73	1.33	4.42	2.15	7.21	5.86	0.60	3.56	3.16	1.00	1.61	37.70
1955	0.06	1.23	1.13	1.38	1.93	6.41	4.61	1.49	1.33	2.72	0.75	0.83	26.87
1956	0.54	0.81	2.73	3.16	4.25	2.55	3.90	5.56	1.78	0.43	3.77	0.68	30.16
1957	0.43	0.89	0.89	2.30	4.69	3.59	2.30	3.04	1.42	1.02	2.82	1.09	23.74
1958	0.35	0.08	0.44	3.01	0.80	2.09	2.15	3.26	1.86	1.47	1.11	0.26	16.88
1959	0.94	2.00	3.57	3.00	3.94	2.40	2.37	7.89	4.32	5.88	2.19	1.61	40.11

STATION HISTORY

The first climatological station in Reedsburg opened January 1, 1893 and closed December 29, 1894. The location and description of the exposure of the instruments are unknown.

A station was opened at 306 Vine Street January 1, 1914, where observations were taken until its moving on March 1, 1919 to 746 Third Street. The station was closed January 31, 1920.

A climatological station was opened August 22, 1944 at 900 Plum Street. The following moves have been made: March 1, 1948 to 201 South Pine Street, December 5, 1952 to County Home and Hospital, November 8, 1955 to Sewage Treatment Plant.