

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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FLORIDA SUNSHINE

No, we don't own any Florida real estate, but we can tell you that Florida has the sunniest winter climate in the eastern United States. The Florida peninsula not only has the highest percentage of possible sunshine, over 60 per cent. in winter and over 70 per cent. in spring, but also, because of its low latitude the most intense sunlight of any lowland east of Texas.

This does not mean, however, that Florida sunshine in winter is equal to northern sunshine in summer. In cloudless weather, according to Kimball's computations, the average daily totals of insolation on a horizontal surface in Peninsular Florida in winter are but little over half these of the northern United States in summer. Comparing December in Florida with June in the North, we find Florida sunshine appreciably less than half that of the North. But in the same month, December, the intensity of sunshine in Florida exceeds that in the north by over 50 per cent. if nothing is allowed in the north for reflection from the snow.

But Florida gains in the comparison when the average sunshine of all days is compared, for Florida is notably clear in winter, and interfering clouds are no more frequent there in winter than in the North in summer. So the total December sunshine in Florida is about double that in the North at the same time, though still less than half of Northern sunshine in June. The noon altitude of the sun in southern Florida is not now so great as ours will be by the middle of March. Nevertheless, at the present time Florida sunshine is far ahead of ours, and for this reason, if for no other, Florida could claim its place as a fine winter health resort.

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