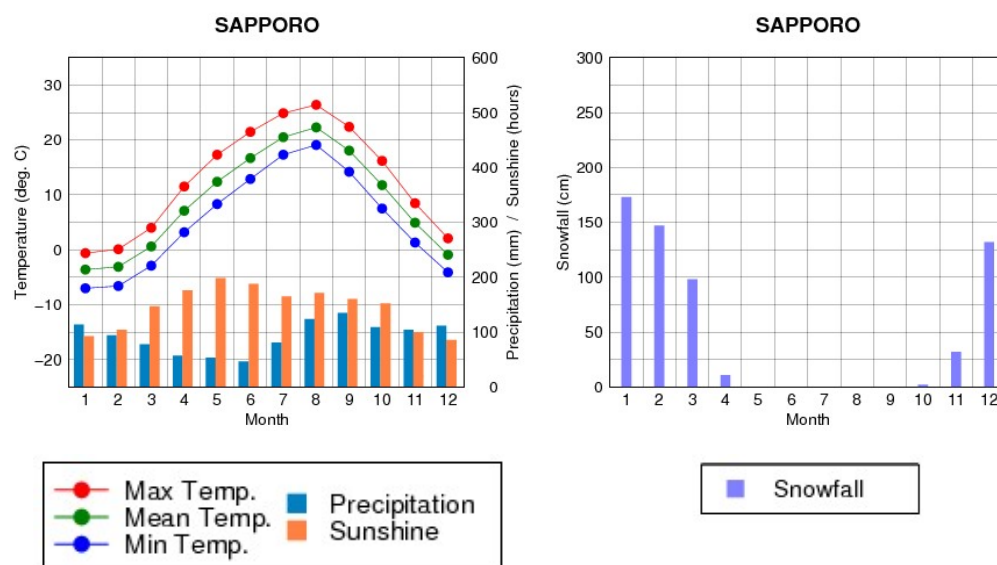


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## Climate of Hokkaido district



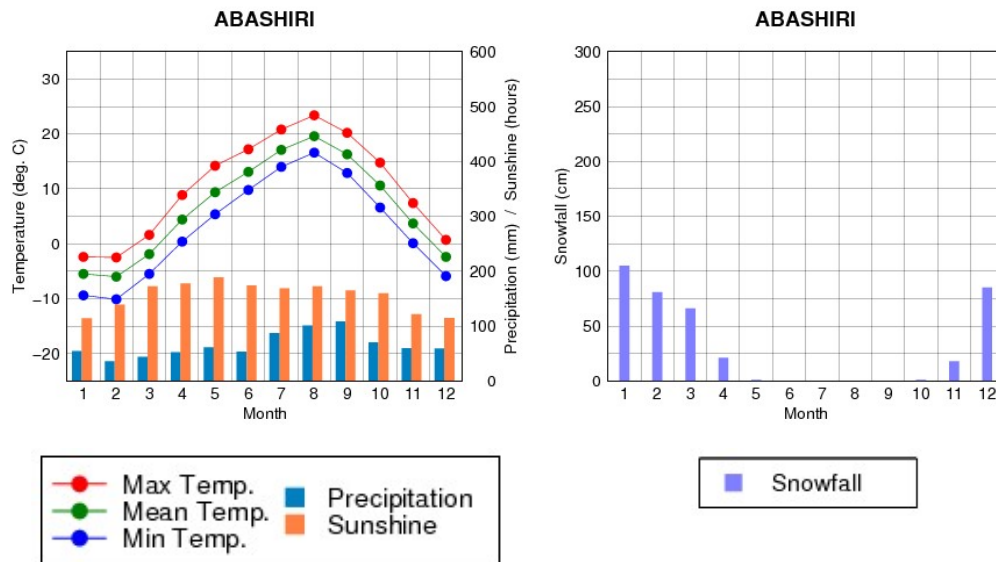
**Figure 1 Location of Sapporo City, Abashiri City, and Kushiro City**



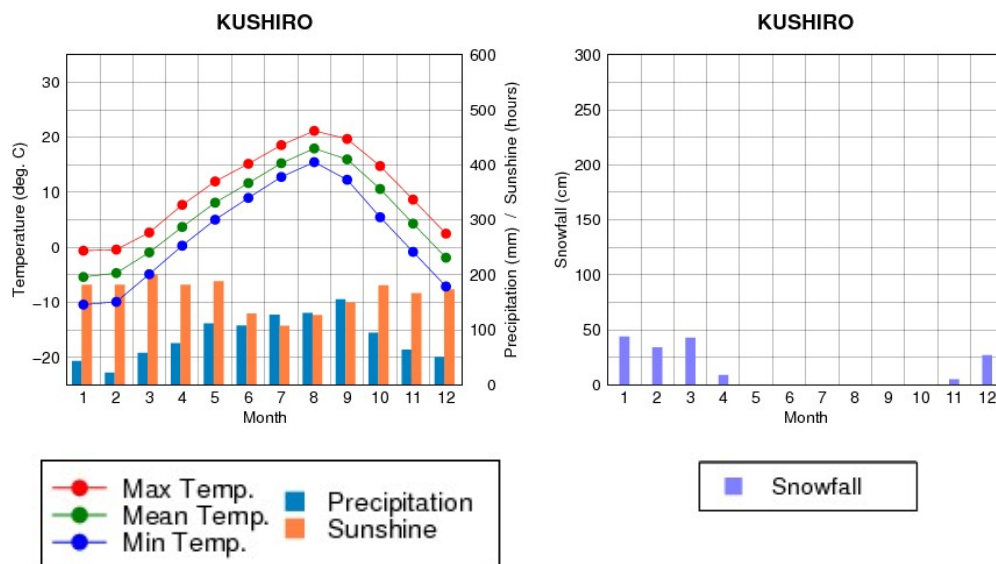
**Figure 2 Seasonal variation of meteorological elements**

## in Sapporo City

Left panel: The green, red and blue lines indicate monthly averages of daily mean, maximum and minimum temperatures, respectively. The blue and brown bars show monthly precipitation amounts and monthly sunshine durations, respectively. Right panel: Purple bars indicate monthly snowfall amounts.

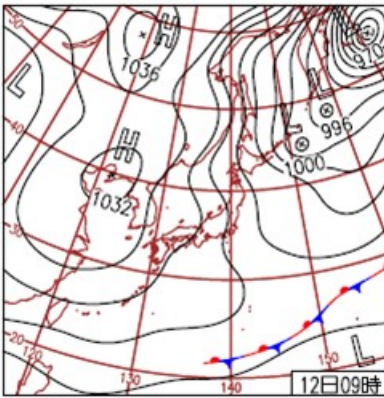


**Figure 3 Same as Figure 2 but for Abashiri City**



**Figure 4 Same as Figure 2 but for Kushiro City**

## Winter (December-January-February)

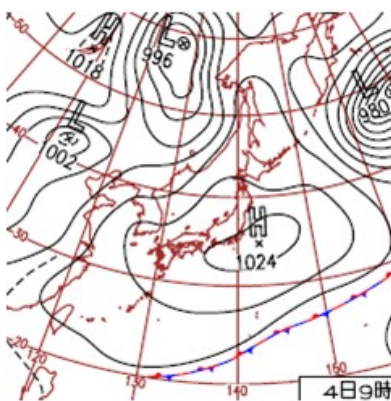


**Figure 5 Weather chart for 00UTC on 12 December 2012**

The Siberian High developed over the Eurasian Continent and the Aleutian Low developed over the northern North Pacific. Cold air flowed southeastward across Japan, bringing heavy snowfall to its Sea of Japan side.

In winter (December-January-February), the Siberian High develops over the Eurasian Continent and the Aleutian Low develops over the northern North Pacific. Prevailing northwesterly winds cause the advection of cold air from Siberia to Hokkaido and bring heavy snowfall to the Sea of Japan side of Hokkaido (upstream of mountainous land) and sunny weather to the Pacific side (downstream of mountainous land). Temperatures as low as  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$  are frequently observed in inland areas. When sea ice reaches the Sea of Okhotsk side of Hokkaido, the area is very cold.

## Spring (March-April-May)

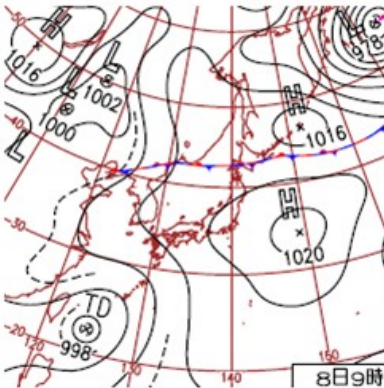


**Figure 6 Weather chart for 00UTC on 4 May 2006**

An anticyclonic system covered Japan and brought sunny

In spring (March-April-May), migratory cyclones and anticyclones that alternately move eastward prevail across Japan. Temperature increases (decreases) in front (back) of cyclonic systems due to warm southerly (cold northerly) flow. Temperature in Hokkaido rises gradually with large short-term variations. The sunshine duration is the longest in the second half of spring due to the predominance of anticyclonic systems.

## Summer (June-July-August)

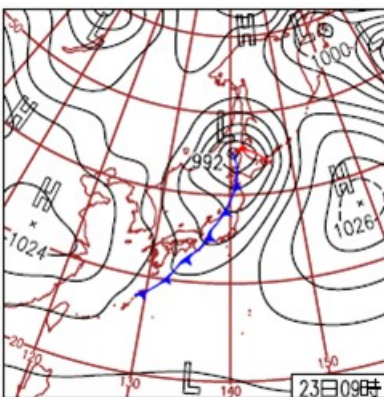


**Figure 7 Weather chart for 00UTC on 8 August 2010**

Heavy rainfall in Hokkaido was caused by a stationary front.

When the North Pacific High extends northwestward around northern Japan, it brings warm and sunny conditions to Hokkaido. Temperatures as high as 30°C are frequently observed in inland areas. The Foehn phenomenon also sometimes causes temperatures of 30°C or above on the Sea of Okhotsk side. Sea mist forms on the Pacific side when moist air transported by southerly winds is cooled by the ocean's cold Oyashio Current. Precipitation amounts in Hokkaido increase in August due mainly to the activity of fronts, though the Baiu front that forms from June to July hardly affects the region's weather.

## Autumn (September-October-November)



**Figure 8 Weather chart for 00UTC on 23 October 2012**

Cyclonic and anticyclonic systems

In autumn (September-October-November), temperatures in Hokkaido fall gradually and cyclonic/anticyclonic systems move eastward across Japan alternately. The frequencies of cold northwesterly flows across Japan and snowfall on the Sea of Japan side of Hokkaido show an increasing tendency.

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