

# Climatography of the United States

No. 20

1971-2000

Station: COLFAX, CA

COOP ID: 041912

Climate Division: CA 2

NWS Call Sign:

Elevation: 2,400 Feet Lat: 39°07N

Lon: 120°57W

## Temperature (°F)

Mean (1)				Extremes										Degree Days (1) Base Temp 65		Mean Number of Days (3)					
Month	Daily Max	Daily Min	Mean	Highest Daily(2)	Year	Day	Highest Month(1) Mean	Year	Lowest Daily(2)	Year	Day	Lowest Month(1) Mean	Year	Heating	Cooling	Max >= 100	Max >= 90	Max >= 50	Max <= 32	Min <= 32	Min <= 0
Jan	55.6	35.2	45.4	78+	1968	22	50.7	1986	17+	1950	2	42.1	1982	607	0	.0	.0	21.9	@	12.1	.0
Feb	58.1	36.9	47.5	81	1971	12	53.9	1991	15	1989	7	42.6	1998	491	0	.0	.0	22.7	.1	7.6	.0
Mar	60.4	38.4	49.4	87	1972	15	55.1	1972	20+	1956	11	42.9	1991	483	1	.0	.0	26.8	.0	5.5	.0
Apr	66.3	41.8	54.1	89+	1981	30	61.0	1987	27+	1976	1	46.8	1975	341	12	.0	.0	28.4	.0	2.7	.0
May	73.9	48.0	61.0	100	2001	31	67.9	1992	25	1956	1	51.2	1998	191	66	.0	1.1	31.0	.0	.3	.0
Jun	82.8	55.3	69.1	107	1961	15	75.1	1972	36	1952	12	62.3	1998	53	174	.2	7.6	30.0	.0	.0	.0
Jul	89.6	60.7	75.2	113	1972	14	81.4	1972	40	1964	4	70.0	1983	11	325	1.5	17.7	31.0	.0	.0	.0
Aug	89.2	59.1	74.2	107	1971	10	78.6	1971	43	1972	16	67.6	1976	6	291	1.9	16.8	31.0	.0	.0	.0
Sep	84.2	54.7	69.5	106	1955	4	76.0	1974	32	1971	30	62.7	1986	51	184	.3	9.8	30.0	.0	@	.0
Oct	74.6	47.1	60.9	100	2001	1	66.0	1988	24	1971	29	55.5	1984	190	61	.0	1.9	30.8	.0	.3	.0
Nov	60.7	38.6	49.7	85+	1976	3	56.4	1976	20	1977	19	43.1	1994	463	2	.0	.0	26.9	.0	5.1	.0
Dec	55.4	34.3	44.9	79+	1980	15	50.8	1980	9	1972	10	38.3	1972	625	0	.0	.0	22.9	.0	11.6	.0
Ann	70.9	45.8	58.4	113	Jul 1972	14	81.4	Jul 1972	9	Dec 1972	10	38.3	Dec 1972	3512	1116	3.9	54.9	333.4	.1	45.2	.0

+ Also occurred on an earlier date(s)

@ Denotes mean number of days greater than 0 but less than .05

Complete documentation available from: [www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/climate/normal/usnormals.html](http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/climate/normal/usnormals.html)

Issue Date: February 2004

(1) From the 1971-2000 Monthly Normals

(2) Derived from station's available digital record: 1948-2001

(3) Derived from 1971-2000 serially complete daily data

046-A

# Climatography of the United States

## No. 20 1971-2000

National Climatic Data Center  
Federal Building  
151 Patton Avenue  
Asheville, North Carolina 28801  
www.ncdc.noaa.gov

**Station: COLFAX, CA**

**COOP ID: 041912**

**Climate Division: CA 2**

**NWS Call Sign:**

**Elevation: 2,400 Feet Lat: 39°07N**

**Lon: 120°57W**

Precipitation (inches)																								
	Precipitation Totals									Mean Number of Days (3)				Precipitation Probabilities (1) Probability that the monthly/annual precipitation will be equal to or less than the indicated amount										
	Means/ Medians(1)		Extremes							Daily Precipitation				Monthly/Annual Precipitation vs Probability Levels These values were determined from the incomplete gamma distribution										
Month	Mean	Med- ian	Highest Daily(2)	Year	Day	Highest Monthly(1)	Year	Lowest Monthly(1)	Year	>= 0.01	>= 0.10	>= 0.50	>= 1.00	.05	.10	.20	.30	.40	.50	.60	.70	.80	.90	.95
Jan	8.77	8.49	5.41	1967	21	22.50	1995	.35	1984	11.4	8.7	5.5	3.1	.91	1.56	2.76	3.98	5.30	6.79	8.53	10.71	13.68	18.61	23.43
Feb	8.43	6.94	5.97	1960	8	24.76	1986	.42	1997	11.0	8.6	5.5	2.9	.82	1.43	2.58	3.76	5.03	6.47	8.16	10.28	13.19	18.02	22.75
Mar	7.70	6.18	3.90	1974	1	19.98	1989	.90	1976	11.9	9.6	5.2	2.5	.99	1.60	2.69	3.77	4.90	6.15	7.61	9.41	11.85	15.84	19.71
Apr	3.19	2.47	3.88	1953	27	8.80	1982	.18	1977	8.2	5.5	2.1	.9	.48	.75	1.21	1.65	2.11	2.61	3.19	3.90	4.85	6.39	7.87
May	1.70	1.25	4.65	1957	18	6.81	1998	.00+	1985	4.8	3.2	1.2	.3	.00	.00	.20	.44	.73	1.08	1.51	2.06	2.84	4.20	5.56
Jun	.59	.38	1.97	1967	13	3.13	1993	.00+	1990	2.0	1.2	.4	.1	.00	.00	.00	.08	.18	.31	.48	.70	1.02	1.57	2.13
Jul	.19	.00	2.28	1974	8	3.55	1974	.00+	2000	.5	.2	.1	.1	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.02	.40	1.14
Aug	.23	.00	1.26	1976	15	2.16	1976	.00+	2000	1.0	.4	.1	.1	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.01	.12	.33	.79	1.28
Sep	1.08	.54	2.12	1959	18	4.00	1986	.00+	1999	2.5	1.7	.7	.4	.00	.00	.00	.08	.24	.46	.77	1.20	1.85	3.04	4.27
Oct	2.58	2.49	10.02	1962	13	8.57	1982	.00	1995	4.9	3.2	1.7	.9	.04	.18	.49	.85	1.26	1.75	2.34	3.12	4.21	6.08	7.96
Nov	6.44	4.85	5.10	1950	21	18.28	1973	.62	1995	9.6	7.2	4.1	2.2	.65	1.12	2.00	2.90	3.87	4.96	6.25	7.86	10.06	13.72	17.29
Dec	7.02	4.89	6.37	1964	22	26.42	1996	.00	1989	10.0	7.6	4.5	2.4	.38	1.04	2.12	3.15	4.25	5.47	6.89	8.66	11.05	15.01	18.86
Ann	47.92	44.19	10.02	Oct 1962	13	26.42	Dec 1996	.00+	Aug 2000	77.8	57.1	31.1	15.9	23.76	27.81	33.34	37.77	41.85	45.93	50.27	55.20	61.36	70.63	78.93

+ Also occurred on an earlier date(s)

# Denotes amounts of a trace

@ Denotes mean number of days greater than 0 but less than .05

\*\* Statistics not computed because less than six years out of thirty had measurable precipitation

(1) From the 1971-2000 Monthly Normals

(2) Derived from station's available digital record: 1948-2001

(3) Derived from 1971-2000 serially complete daily data

Complete documentation available from:  
www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/climate/normals/usnormals.html

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Station: COLFAX, CA

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Climate Division: CA 2

NWS Call Sign:

Elevation: 2,400 Feet

Lat: 39°07N

Lon: 120°57W

Snow (inches)																							
Snow Totals															Mean Number of Days (1)								
Means/Medians (1)					Extremes (2)										Snow Fall >= Thresholds					Snow Depth >= Thresholds			
Month	Snow Fall Mean	Snow Fall Median	Snow Depth Mean	Snow Depth Median	Highest Daily Snow Fall	Year	Day	Highest Monthly Snow Fall	Year	Highest Daily Snow Depth	Year	Day	Highest Monthly Mean Snow Depth	Year	0.1	1.0	3.0	5.0	10.0	1	3	5	10
Jan	3.3	.0	#	0	14.5	1974	6	27.0	1974	17	1974	6	3	1974	.8	.8	.5	.2	@	.6	.4	.3	.1
Feb	1.9	.0	#	0	20.0	1990	16	20.0	1990	1	1976	4	#+	2000	.6	.6	.4	.2	.1	.1	.0	.0	.0
Mar	1.1	.0	#	0	11.0	1985	6	11.0	1985	4	1975	13	#+	2000	.6	.6	.2	.1	@	.1	.1	.0	.0
Apr	1.0	.0	#	0	5.0	1975	5	10.0	1975	2	1975	5	#+	1998	.5	.4	.2	@	.0	.1	.0	.0	.0
May	#	.0	0	0	#	1974	17	#	1974	0	0	0	0	0	.0	.0	.0	.0	.0	.0	.0	.0	.0
Jun	.0	.0	0	0	.0	0	0	.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.0	.0	.0	.0	.0	.0	.0	.0	.0
Jul	.0	.0	0	0	.0	0	0	.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.0	.0	.0	.0	.0	.0	.0	.0	.0
Aug	.0	.0	0	0	.0	0	0	.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.0	.0	.0	.0	.0	.0	.0	.0	.0
Sep	.0	.0	0	0	.0	0	0	.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.0	.0	.0	.0	.0	.0	.0	.0	.0
Oct	.0	.0	0	0	.0	0	0	.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.0	.0	.0	.0	.0	.0	.0	.0	.0
Nov	.5	.0	#	0	8.0	1985	11	8.0	1985	1	1978	12	#+	2000	.2	.1	.1	@	.0	.1	.0	.0	.0
Dec	.9	.0	#	0	6.0	1972	6	9.0	1972	5	1998	6	2	1971	.7	.6	.2	.2	.0	.1	.1	.1	.0
Ann	8.7	.0	N/A	N/A	20.0	Feb 1990	16	27.0	Jan 1974	17	Jan 1974	6	3	Jan 1974	3.4	3.1	1.6	.7	.1	1.1	.6	.4	.1

+ Also occurred on an earlier date(s) #Denotes trace amounts

@ Denotes mean number of days greater than 0 but less than .05

-9/-9.9 represents missing values

Annual statistics for Mean/Median snow depths are not appropriate

(1) Derived from Snow Climatology and 1971-2000 daily data

(2) Derived from 1971-2000 daily data

Complete documentation available from:

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Freeze Data									
Spring Freeze Dates (Month/Day)									
Temp (F)	Probability of later date in spring (thru Jul 31) than indicated(*)								
	.10	.20	.30	.40	.50	.60	.70	.80	.90
36	5/21	5/13	5/07	5/02	4/27	4/23	4/18	4/12	4/03
32	5/09	4/30	4/23	4/17	4/11	4/06	3/31	3/24	3/15
28	4/12	3/29	3/18	3/10	3/01	2/21	2/12	2/02	1/18
24	2/27	2/11	1/31	1/20	1/10	12/28	12/10	0/00	0/00
20	1/06	12/13	0/00	0/00	0/00	0/00	0/00	0/00	0/00
16	12/31	0/00	0/00	0/00	0/00	0/00	0/00	0/00	0/00
Fall Freeze Dates (Month/Day)									
Temp (F)	Probability of earlier date in fall (beginning Aug 1) than indicated(*)								
	.10	.20	.30	.40	.50	.60	.70	.80	.90
36	10/13	10/19	10/24	10/28	10/31	11/04	11/08	11/12	11/19
32	10/26	11/02	11/07	11/11	11/15	11/18	11/23	11/27	12/04
28	11/09	11/17	11/23	11/27	12/02	12/06	12/11	12/17	12/24
24	11/19	12/03	12/13	12/23	1/02	1/14	2/05	0/00	0/00
20	12/16	1/09	0/00	0/00	0/00	0/00	0/00	0/00	0/00
16	1/22	0/00	0/00	0/00	0/00	0/00	0/00	0/00	0/00
Freeze Free Period									
Temp (F)	Probability of longer than indicated freeze free period (Days)								
	.10	.20	.30	.40	.50	.60	.70	.80	.90
36	217	206	199	192	186	180	174	166	156
32	252	240	231	223	216	209	202	193	181
28	327	309	296	285	275	265	254	241	223
24	>365	>365	>365	>365	>365	358	327	304	277
20	>365	>365	>365	>365	>365	>365	>365	>365	>365
16	>365	>365	>365	>365	>365	>365	>365	>365	>365

\* Probability of observing a temperature as cold, or colder, later in the spring or earlier in the fall than the indicated date.

**0/00** Indicates that the probability of occurrence of threshold temperature is less than the indicated probability.

Derived from 1971-2000 serially complete daily data

Complete documentation available from:  
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Degree Days to Selected Base Temperatures (°F)													
Base	Heating Degree Days (1)												
Below	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Ann
65	607	491	483	341	191	53	11	6	51	190	463	625	3512
60	452	353	338	216	106	18	1	0	17	101	323	471	2396
57	359	274	257	156	67	8	0	0	8	63	246	384	1822
55	299	224	208	122	47	4	0	0	4	44	201	327	1480
50	161	120	114	54	17	0	0	0	0	14	109	200	789
32	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	6	7

Base	Cooling Degree Days (1)												
Above	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Ann
32	416	434	540	661	898	1111	1337	1308	1124	894	530	404	9657
55	2	13	36	93	231	425	624	595	438	225	40	12	2734
57	0	7	22	67	190	369	562	533	382	182	26	7	2347
60	0	2	11	37	136	289	470	440	301	127	12	2	1827
65	0	0	1	12	66	174	325	291	184	61	2	0	1116
70	0	0	0	2	25	90	196	158	98	22	0	0	591

Growing Degree Units (2)																								
Base	Growing Degree Units (Monthly)												Growing Degree Units (Accumulated Monthly)											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
40	177	224	298	409	665	879	1101	1077	898	652	294	177	177	401	699	1108	1773	2652	3753	4830	5728	6380	6674	6851
45	77	113	170	272	510	729	946	922	748	499	166	73	77	190	360	632	1142	1871	2817	3739	4487	4986	5152	5225
50	22	46	74	157	359	579	791	767	598	350	74	15	22	68	142	299	658	1237	2028	2795	3393	3743	3817	3832
55	0	10	25	72	227	431	636	612	451	223	21	0	0	10	35	107	334	765	1401	2013	2464	2687	2708	2708
60	0	0	2	28	125	296	481	457	307	115	3	0	0	0	2	30	155	451	932	1389	1696	1811	1814	1814
Base	Growing Degree Units for Corn (Monthly)												Growing Degree Units for Corn (Accumulated Monthly)											
50/86	105	126	173	248	411	563	714	690	571	406	166	105	105	231	404	652	1063	1626	2340	3030	3601	4007	4173	4278

(1) Derived from the 1971-2000 Monthly Normals

(2) Derived from 1971-2000 serially complete daily data

**Note:** For corn, temperatures below 50 are set to 50, and temperatures above 86 are set to 86

Complete documentation available from:  
[www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/climate/normal/usnormals.html](http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/climate/normal/usnormals.html)

## Notes

- a. The monthly means are simple arithmetic averages computed by summing the monthly values for the period 1971-2000 and dividing by thirty. Prior to averaging, the data are adjusted if necessary to compensate for data quality issues, station moves or changes in station reporting practices. Missing months are replaced by estimates based on neighboring stations.
- b. The median is defined as the middle value in an ordered set of values. The median is being provided for the snow and precipitation elements because the mean can be a misleading value for precipitation normals.
- c. Only observed validated values were used to select the extreme daily values.
- d. Extreme monthly temperature/precipitation means were selected from the monthly normals data.  
Monthly snow extremes were calculated from daily values quality controlled to be consistent with the Snow Climatology.
- e. Degree Days were derived using the same techniques as the 1971-2000 normals.  
Complete documentation for the 1971-2000 Normals is available on the internet from:  
[www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/climate/normal/usnormals.html](http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/climate/normal/usnormals.html)
- f. Mean "number of days statistics" for temperature and precipitation were calculated from a serially complete daily data set.  
Documentation of the serially complete data set is available from the link below:
- g. Snowfall and snow depth statistics were derived from the Snow Climatology.  
Documentation for the Snow Climatology project is available from the link under references.

## Data Sources for Tables

Several different data sources were used to create the Clim20 climate summaries. In some cases the daily extremes appear inconsistent with the monthly extremes and or the mean number of days statistics. For example, a high daily extreme value may not be reflected in the highest monthly value or the mean number of days threshold that is less than and equal to the extreme value. Some of these difference are caused by different periods of record. Daily extremes are derived from the station's entire period of record while the serial data and normals data were for the 1971-2000 period. Therefore extremes observed before 1971 would not be included in the 1971-2000 normals or the 1971-2000 serial daily data set. Inconsistencies can also occur when monthly values are adjusted to reflect the current observing conditions or were replaced during the 1971-2000 Monthly Normals processing and are not reconciled with the Summary of the Day data.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Temperature/ Precipitation Tables<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. 1971-2000 Monthly Normals</li><li>2. Cooperative Summary of the Day</li><li>3. National Weather Service station records</li><li>4. 1971-2000 serially complete daily data</li></ol></li><li>b. Degree Day Table<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Monthly and Annual Heating and Cooling Degree Days Normals to Selected Bases derived from 1971-2000 Monthly Normals</li><li>2. Daily Normal Growing Degree Units to Selected Base Temperatures derived from 1971-2000 serially complete daily data</li></ol></li></ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>c. Snow Tables<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Snow Climatology</li><li>2. Cooperative Summary of the Day</li></ol></li><li>d. Freeze Data Table<br/>1971-2000 serially complete daily data</li></ol> |
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## References

U.S. Climate Normals 1971-2000, [www.ncdc.noaa.gov/normal.html](http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/normal.html)  
U.S. Climate Normals 1971-2000-Products Clim20, [www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/climate/normal/usnormalsprods.html](http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/climate/normal/usnormalsprods.html)  
Snow Climatology Project Description, [www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/climate/monitoring/snowclim/mainpage.html](http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/climate/monitoring/snowclim/mainpage.html)  
Eischeid, J. K., P. Pasteris, H. F. Diaz, M. Plantico, and N. Lott, 2000: Creating a serially complete, national daily time series of temperature and precipitation for the Western United States. J. Appl. Meteorol., 39, 1580-1591,  
[www1.ncdc.noaa.gov/pub/data/special/serialcomplete\\_jam\\_0900.pdf](http://www1.ncdc.noaa.gov/pub/data/special/serialcomplete_jam_0900.pdf)