

# Climatology of the United States

## No. 20

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

**Station: GRASS RANGE, MT**

**1971-2000**

**COOP ID: 243727**

**Climate Division: MT 4**

**NWS Call Sign:**

**Elevation: 3,490 Feet Lat: 47°02N**

**Lon: 108°48W**

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	34.7	10.9	22.8	74	1981	22	36.6	1986	-40	1969	24	8.0	1979	1309	0	.0	.0	7.1	9.9	28.8	8.5
Feb	39.9	15.6	27.8	73	1992	27	38.1	1991	-34	1996	2	14.4	1989	1043	0	.0	.0	10.1	6.4	25.9	5.2
Mar	46.9	22.5	34.7	80	1978	29	43.3	1986	-32	1960	3	24.6	1996	938	0	.0	.0	16.8	3.2	26.7	1.5
Apr	56.6	30.6	43.6	94	1987	28	51.2	1987	-5	1986	14	34.8	1975	641	0	.0	.1	23.7	.6	17.7	.1
May	65.8	39.3	52.6	97	1980	22	57.9	1988	6	1954	2	47.4	1974	389	3	.0	.5	29.3	.0	4.8	.0
Jun	74.7	46.8	60.8	103	1988	25	70.6	1988	27	1969	14	56.6	1998	169	41	.2	3.1	29.9	.0	.2	.0
Jul	81.4	51.0	66.2	104+	1985	22	71.1	1998	31	1994	14	57.4	1993	87	124	.5	9.2	31.0	.0	@	.0
Aug	81.6	50.3	66.0	105+	1983	6	72.4	1983	29	1992	25	59.8	1974	108	137	.4	8.8	30.9	.0	.1	.0
Sep	70.6	41.0	55.8	100	1950	4	63.8	1998	15	1985	30	48.6	1985	304	28	.0	1.7	29.0	.0	3.4	.0
Oct	59.8	32.4	46.1	90	1987	3	49.8	1974	-9	1991	29	40.6	1984	586	0	.0	@	26.4	.4	14.4	.2
Nov	44.2	20.7	32.5	85	1975	5	42.9	1999	-26	1955	13	14.2	1985	977	0	.0	.0	13.4	4.3	25.6	1.9
Dec	36.9	13.5	25.2	70	1988	1	36.0	1999	-39	1983	24	9.5	1983	1235	0	.0	.0	8.0	8.2	28.9	5.6
Ann	57.8	31.2	44.5	105+	Aug 1983	6	72.4	Aug 1983	-40	Jan 1969	24	8.0	Jan 1979	7786	333	1.1	23.4	255.6	33.0	176.5	23.0

+ 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

067-A

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**Lon: 108°48W**

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	.79	.50	.92	1991	1	3.28	1991	.00	1987	5.0	2.3	.3	.0	.01	.05	.14	.24	.37	.52	.70	.94	1.29	1.88	2.47
Feb	.31	.26	.45+	1982	22	.90	1978	.00+	1977	2.8	1.3	.0	.0	.00	.03	.08	.13	.18	.24	.30	.39	.50	.69	.87
Mar	.99	.93	.99	1995	25	2.52	1998	.31	1978	6.1	3.4	.4	.0	.30	.39	.53	.65	.77	.89	1.03	1.19	1.39	1.71	2.01
Apr	1.44	1.37	1.64	1961	23	3.29	1991	.17	1985	6.1	3.8	.8	.2	.28	.41	.63	.82	1.02	1.23	1.46	1.75	2.13	2.74	3.32
May	3.08	2.63	2.62	1988	7	10.84	1981	.74	1992	9.1	6.2	1.8	.7	.87	1.16	1.61	1.99	2.37	2.76	3.19	3.70	4.37	5.41	6.37
Jun	2.81	2.29	2.68	1968	9	6.23	1992	.65	1985	9.4	6.1	1.7	.4	.85	1.12	1.52	1.86	2.20	2.54	2.92	3.37	3.95	4.85	5.69
Jul	2.06	1.79	2.00	1994	6	6.53	1993	.12	1971	7.9	5.1	1.1	.2	.27	.44	.73	1.02	1.32	1.65	2.04	2.52	3.16	4.22	5.24
Aug	1.59	1.31	2.42	1979	25	4.57	1985	.15+	1988	6.3	4.1	.9	.2	.23	.36	.59	.81	1.04	1.29	1.58	1.94	2.42	3.19	3.94
Sep	1.27	1.02	2.28	1978	12	4.10	1978	.02	1990	5.2	3.6	.6	.1	.11	.20	.37	.55	.74	.96	1.22	1.55	2.00	2.75	3.49
Oct	.92	.85	1.20	1981	12	2.29	1980	.00	1987	4.4	2.5	.5	.1	.11	.23	.38	.51	.64	.78	.94	1.13	1.38	1.78	2.16
Nov	.61	.54	.67	1958	4	1.81	1985	.10+	1979	4.2	2.4	.1	.0	.11	.16	.25	.33	.42	.51	.61	.74	.90	1.17	1.43
Dec	.64	.44	1.00	1984	24	2.44	1989	.00	1991	4.2	2.3	.2	@	.02	.07	.15	.25	.35	.47	.61	.78	1.03	1.44	1.85
Ann	16.51	15.63	2.68	Jun 1968	9	10.84	May 1981	.00+	Dec 1991	70.7	43.1	8.4	1.9	10.50	11.61	13.06	14.18	15.19	16.17	17.19	18.34	19.74	21.79	23.59

+ 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:  
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**Climate Division: MT 4**

**NWS Call Sign:**

**Elevation: 3,490 Feet**

**Lat: 47°02N**

**Lon: 108°48W**

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	10.6	7.0	2	2	13.0	1989	23	44.0	1978	11	1971	13	7	1984	4.2	3.2	1.3	.5	.1	13.6	6.4	3.7	.7
Feb	4.7	5.0	2	#	6.0	1978	12	12.0	1978	12	1971	2	12	1971	2.7	1.9	.4	.2	.0	6.1	2.5	.8	.0
Mar	10.0	8.5	1	#	16.0	1985	2	31.0	1985	11	1996	7	5	1996	3.9	3.2	1.4	.4	.1	6.2	3.1	2.0	.4
Apr	5.1	4.5	#	0	12.0	1973	20	16.0	1982	8+	1997	10	2	1997	1.7	1.5	.8	.3	.1	1.9	1.3	.7	.0
May	.7	.0	#	0	4.0	1973	1	5.0	1996	8	1983	11	#+	1996	.4	.3	.1	.0	.0	.1	.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	.4	.0	#	0	4.0	1973	15	4.0	1973	2	2000	22	#	2000	.2	.2	.1	.0	.0	.1	.0	.0	.0
Oct	3.0	.0	#	0	12.0	1981	12	21.0	1980	15	1980	16	1	1980	.9	.7	.4	.2	@	.7	.1	.0	.0
Nov	5.3	5.0	1	#	6.0	1996	19	9.5	1995	12	1985	30	3	1996	3.0	2.3	.8	.1	.0	6.1	2.1	1.1	.2
Dec	7.0	4.3	2	#	12.0	1984	24	36.1	1989	29	1989	21	10	1989	3.9	2.7	.9	.3	@	12.1	5.2	2.4	.8
Ann	46.8	34.3	N/A	N/A	16.0	Mar 1985	2	44.0	Jan 1978	29	Dec 1989	21	12	Feb 1971	20.9	16.0	6.2	2.0	.3	46.9	20.7	10.7	2.1

+ 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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**NWS Call Sign:**

**Elevation: 3,490 Feet**

**Lat: 47° 02N**

**Lon: 108° 48W**

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	7/02	6/24	6/19	6/14	6/10	6/06	6/01	5/27	5/19
32	6/11	6/05	5/31	5/27	5/23	5/19	5/15	5/10	5/03
28	5/22	5/17	5/14	5/11	5/08	5/05	5/02	4/29	4/24
24	5/08	5/03	4/29	4/26	4/23	4/20	4/17	4/13	4/08
20	4/19	4/15	4/13	4/10	4/08	4/06	4/04	4/01	3/28
16	4/16	4/11	4/08	4/05	4/02	3/30	3/27	3/23	3/18
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	8/27	9/01	9/04	9/07	9/10	9/12	9/15	9/18	9/23
32	9/06	9/10	9/13	9/15	9/18	9/20	9/22	9/25	9/29
28	9/15	9/19	9/22	9/25	9/28	9/30	10/03	10/06	10/10
24	9/22	9/27	10/01	10/05	10/08	10/11	10/14	10/18	10/24
20	9/27	10/03	10/08	10/12	10/16	10/20	10/24	10/29	11/04
16	10/10	10/16	10/20	10/23	10/27	10/30	11/02	11/06	11/12
Freeze Free Period									
Temp (F)	Probability of longer than indicated freeze free period (Days)								
	.10	.20	.30	.40	.50	.60	.70	.80	.90
36	116	107	101	96	91	86	81	75	66
32	141	133	127	122	117	112	107	101	93
28	162	155	150	146	142	138	133	128	121
24	189	181	176	171	167	163	158	153	146
20	213	205	200	195	190	186	181	175	167
16	227	220	215	211	207	203	199	194	188

\* 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:

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

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**Elevation: 3,490 Feet Lat: 47°02N**

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**Degree Days to Selected Base Temperatures (°F)**

<b>Base</b>	<b>Heating Degree Days (1)</b>												
<b>Below</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Apr</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Jun</b>	<b>Jul</b>	<b>Aug</b>	<b>Sep</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Dec</b>	<b>Ann</b>
<b>65</b>	1309	1043	938	641	389	169	87	108	304	586	977	1235	7786
<b>60</b>	1154	903	783	493	250	82	31	48	192	432	827	1080	6275
<b>57</b>	1070	825	690	409	178	45	15	27	137	340	744	987	5467
<b>55</b>	1013	773	628	354	138	28	9	18	106	282	688	929	4966
<b>50</b>	868	642	482	231	62	7	0	5	46	154	549	786	3832
<b>32</b>	420	260	94	13	0	0	0	0	0	4	177	337	1305

<b>Base</b>	<b>Cooling Degree Days (1)</b>												
<b>Above</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Apr</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Jun</b>	<b>Jul</b>	<b>Aug</b>	<b>Sep</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Dec</b>	<b>Ann</b>
<b>32</b>	134	141	179	362	637	863	1061	1052	714	440	191	126	5900
<b>55</b>	14	10	0	13	62	201	356	357	129	5	11	4	1162
<b>57</b>	9	6	0	8	40	158	300	304	101	2	7	0	935
<b>60</b>	0	0	0	3	19	104	223	232	66	0	0	0	647
<b>65</b>	0	0	0	0	3	41	124	137	28	0	0	0	333
<b>70</b>	0	0	0	0	0	11	53	66	10	0	0	0	140

**Growing Degree Units (2)**

<b>Base</b>	<b>Growing Degree Units (Monthly)</b>												<b>Growing Degree Units (Accumulated Monthly)</b>											
	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Apr</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Jun</b>	<b>Jul</b>	<b>Aug</b>	<b>Sep</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Dec</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Apr</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Jun</b>	<b>Jul</b>	<b>Aug</b>	<b>Sep</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Dec</b>
<b>40</b>	20	33	68	203	447	673	869	857	528	282	62	23	20	53	121	324	771	1444	2313	3170	3698	3980	4042	4065
<b>45</b>	3	7	26	110	301	523	714	702	383	172	29	4	3	10	36	146	447	970	1684	2386	2769	2941	2970	2974
<b>50</b>	0	0	1	52	175	375	559	547	254	88	9	0	0	0	1	53	228	603	1162	1709	1963	2051	2060	2060
<b>55</b>	0	0	0	17	82	236	405	394	147	33	1	0	0	0	0	17	99	335	740	1134	1281	1314	1315	1315
<b>60</b>	0	0	0	3	32	122	257	247	62	9	0	0	0	0	0	3	35	157	414	661	723	732	732	732
<b>Base</b>	<b>Growing Degree Units for Corn (Monthly)</b>												<b>Growing Degree Units for Corn (Accumulated Monthly)</b>											
<b>50/86</b>	20	39	79	166	299	420	545	545	362	217	63	26	20	59	138	304	603	1023	1568	2113	2475	2692	2755	2781

(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/normals/usnormals.html](http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/climate/normals/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.

- a. Temperature/ Precipitation Tables
  - 1. 1971-2000 Monthly Normals
  - 2. Cooperative Summary of the Day
  - 3. National Weather Service station records
  - 4. 1971-2000 serially complete daily data
- b. Degree Day Table
  - 1. Monthly and Annual Heating and Cooling Degree Days Normals to Selected Bases derived from 1971-2000 Monthly Normals
  - 2. Daily Normal Growing Degree Units to Selected Base Temperatures derived from 1971-2000 serially complete daily data
- c. Snow Tables
  - 1. Snow Climatology
  - 2. Cooperative Summary of the Day
- d. Freeze Data Table  
1971-2000 serially complete daily data

## 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)