

## SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE SANTA ROSA AREA, CALIFORNIA

DESCRIPTION: Santa Rosa is the county seat and service-center of Sonoma County, and is located in northern California, a bit up the coast from the San Francisco Bay area. The city is situated on the banks of the Santa Rosa River, a tributary of the Russian River. Elevations are some 170 feet above sea level. Santa Rosa was home to Luther Burbank, and his home and gardens are open to the public. *Annadel State Park* is located in the hills just to the east of town, and Sonoma State College is situated in Rohnert Park, a satellite community to the south. The famous Sonoma Valley vineyards start just north of Santa Rosa.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:49	10:45	11:56	13:11	14:15	14:48	14:34	13:40	12:29	11:15	10:09	9:33
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	5:19	7:06	8:49	10:41	12:09	13:35	13:33	12:37	11:35	9:49	7:24	5:16
AREA OF BLUE SKY	38%	44%	49%	57%	66%	78%	87%	85%	84%	74%	55%	41%
LOW FOR MONTH	20°	24°	27°	30°	34°	40°	43°	42°	38°	32°	23°	21°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	36°	39°	40°	42°	45°	49°	50°	49°	49°	45°	39°	37°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	57°	62°	65°	70°	74°	80°	83°	83°	83°	77°	67°	58°
HIGH FOR MONTH	71°	75°	80°	85°	92°	97°	95°	95°	97°	94°	83°	72°
FROSTY MORNINGS	31%	18%	11%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	12%	27%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	1%	5%	15%	19%	21%	25%	10%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	63%	52%	46%	46%	46%	39%	44%	41%	39%	45%	56%	59%
DRY DAYS	58%	62%	67%	79%	87%	95%	99%	98%	95%	84%	71%	66%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	70%	72%	78%	87%	94%	97%	99%	99%	97%	91%	81%	74%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	1.00	0.93	0.66	0.34	0.17	0.05	0.01	0.01	0.07	0.26	0.57	0.89
DAYS WITH SOME SNOW	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%
DAYS WITH SOME FOG	30%	19%	15%	13%	14%	13%	20%	24%	21%	19%	22%	31%

CLIMATE: Bright sunshine is likely on 79% of the daylight hours of the year. This might range from a low of 54% in January, to a high of 93% in sunny June. The lowest temperature of the year should be close to 19° at some clear and calm winter sunrise, and the highest should be near 99° on some equally clear and windless summer afternoon. Clear skies and calm airs tend to make the high temperatures higher and the low ones lower. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you feel) will be two to three degrees cooler than actual ones throughout the year. In contrast to the coastal areas a few miles to the west, fog is at a maximum in the winter months in California's interior valleys. Some of this blows in from the Pacific, but the majority of winter fogs are of the "tule (TOO-ly)" type; that is radiation fogs. These tend to form on clear nights with little or no wind, settle to the bottoms of the valleys (the upper slopes of the nearby hills are clear), and persist well into the next day. Fogs do not normally form under conditions of rain or high winds. These fogs help to keep the winters mild for the latitude. Snow flurries occur, but snow on the ground is rare. Summer fog is usually advection fog; that is, it blows in from the coast—either up the Russian River Valley or over the hills from the coast. These summer fogs also serve to keep the summer temperatures milder than places the same latitude in the great Central Valley farther east. These seasonal moderations are important to the local wine-growing industry.