

## SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE MERCED AREA, CALIFORNIA

LOCATION: Merced is the county seat of Merced County, in central California. The city is situated at the western edge of the San Joaquin River Valley, astride Bear Creek. Elevations are about 170 feet above sea level. Castle Air Force Base is located a few miles to the northwest, outside of Atwater. Merced is the chief all-weather and year-around gateway to Yosemite National Park. It is an attractive community, and offers a pleasant alternative to the overpriced and under-serviced accommodations and meals in the Park. The tenth campus of the University of California system will open here in 2005.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:55	10:48	11:56	13:08	14:10	14:42	14:28	13:36	12:28	11:17	10:13	9:40
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	3:42	6:28	7:23	11:41	11:18	12:02	11:56	11:20	10:01	8:56	5:49	3:17
AREA OF BLUE SKY	31%	46%	46%	54%	65%	72%	78%	78%	74%	69%	48%	30%
LOW FOR MONTH	25 °	29 °	33 °	37 °	43 °	49 °	55 °	53 °	48 °	38 °	29 °	24 °
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	36 °	39 °	41 °	45 °	50 °	56 °	61 °	59 °	55 °	47 °	39 °	36 °
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	55 °	62 °	67 °	75 °	83 °	91 °	97 °	95 °	90 °	80 °	66 °	56 °
HIGH FOR MONTH	67 °	73 °	79 °	90 °	97 °	107 °	109 °	108 °	104 °	95 °	80 °	68 °
FROSTY MORNINGS	27%	16%	4%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	11%	31%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90 °	0%	0%	0%	4%	23%	54%	89%	83%	56%	14%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	75%	64%	58%	44%	35%	35%	30%	33%	36%	44%	58%	75%
DRY DAYS	71%	73%	75%	86%	94%	97%	99%	99%	97%	94%	82%	75%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	82%	84%	85%	91%	97%	99%	99%	99%	98%	97%	90%	87%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.38	0.35	0.30	0.18	0.08	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.09	0.22	0.30
DAYS WITH SOME SNOW	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER	1%	1%	2%	2%	1%	1%	0%	1%	2%	1%	0%	0%
DAYS WITH SOME FOG	55%	36%	16%	8%	1%	0%	0%	0%	4%	15%	39%	53%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 69% of the daylight hours of the year. This might range from a low of 34% in foggy December, to a high of 83% in sunny July and August. The lowest temperature of the year should be close to 22° at some calm and clear winter sunrise, and the highest should be near 111° 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 up to 4° cooler than actual ones. The area receives numerous “tule (TOO-lee)” fogs during the cooler months. Although a hindrance to motorists, they are absolutely essential for the profitable production of the area’s almonds, pistachios, and fruit trees. These fogs form during clear winter nights, and can persist for days or even weeks. Rain tends to wash them away, and high winds (fairly rare) can blow them off.