

## SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE OCONEE NATIONAL FOREST, GEORGIA

LOCATION: The Oconee segment of the recently amalgamated Chattahoochee – Oconee National Forest is located in the Piedmont of central Georgia. The forest extends from south of Athens in a generally south-southeast direction to north of Macon. The National Forest lands, cover more than 180 square miles, and are not contiguous—they contain many private in-holdings. Most of the Forest was once farmland, ruined by poor farming practices. It supports a second growth of pines, with some hardwoods along the watercourses. Recreation here is mostly from local families, and is centered about Sinclair Lake. Elevations are between 500 and 800 feet above sea level. The district ranger office is in Eatonton.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	10:13	10:59	11:58	13:00	13:52	14:20	14:08	13:24	12:25	11:23	10:29	10:00
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	5:17	6:07	7:15	8:52	9:42	9:53	9:13	9:44	8:13	7:36	6:27	5:13
AREA OF BLUE SKY	39%	41%	42%	47%	45%	43%	41%	44%	47%	55%	50%	41%
LOW FOR MONTH	17°	20°	27°	35°	45°	57°	64°	62°	51°	36°	26°	20°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	35°	37°	43°	51°	59°	67°	70°	69°	64°	52°	42°	36°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	55°	58°	67°	75°	83°	89°	91°	90°	85°	75°	65°	57°
HIGH FOR MONTH	72°	75°	82°	88°	92°	97°	98°	97°	94°	87°	80°	74°
FROSTY MORNINGS	47%	37%	15%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	17%	40%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	2%	17%	49%	63%	58%	27%	2%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	54%	50%	48%	45%	49%	52%	56%	56%	56%	50%	50%	54%
DRY DAYS	66%	65%	68%	73%	71%	67%	61%	68%	74%	79%	76%	69%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	77%	75%	76%	82%	83%	80%	75%	80%	84%	87%	84%	80%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.71	0.83	0.82	0.62	0.55	0.65	0.79	0.66	0.54	0.43	0.49	0.66
DAYS WITH SOME SNOW	2%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%
DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER	4%	6%	10%	14%	20%	29%	40%	28%	11%	3%	4%	3%
DAYS WITH SOME FOG	16%	15%	11%	8%	8%	8%	9%	12%	13%	10%	14%	16%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 63% of the daylight hours of the year. This might range from a low of 52% in December and January, to a high of 73% in sunny August. The lowest temperature of the year should be close to 13° at some chilly winter sunrise, and the highest should be near 100° on some sultry summer afternoon. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you feel) will be significantly higher than actual ones during June and July, due to the combination of heat and humidity. The Forest enjoys a four-season year. Rainfall is abundant in all seasons, with a primary peak in February and March (frontal storms) and a secondary one in July (thunderstorms). Humidity is moderately high throughout the year. Morning dews (or frosts, in season) and light ground mists are common. Winter (December through February) has chilly to cool days and cold nights. About two winter sunrises out of five will start out below the freezing point, but generally warm quickly to above that point. Snowfalls are light and irregular, with some winter getting none of note. Snow rarely stays on the ground more than a few hours. Summer (late May through late September) has hot to very hot days and warm to mild nights. Most of the rain falls are afternoon and evening thundershowers. Spring and autumn are seasons of transition, but bring the Forest some of its nicest weather.