

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE DES MOINES METROPOLITAN AREA, IOWA

LOCATION: Des Moines, the capital and primate city of Iowa, is located in the south-central part of that state. The city is situated at the junction of the Raccoon River with the Des Moines River, a tributary of the Missouri River. The landscape is a gently rolling one, and elevations are in the neighborhood of 800 feet above sea level.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:33	10:35	11:55	13:19	14:31	15:09	14:53	13:52	12:32	11:09	9:54	9:14
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	5:11	5:54	6:37	7:41	8:56	10:07	10:57	9:37	8:12	6:58	5:05	4:25
AREA OF BLUE SKY	42%	42%	38%	40%	41%	45%	54%	53%	53%	53%	43%	39%
LOW FOR MONTH	-12°	-6°	7°	24°	36°	48°	55°	51°	38°	26°	11°	-5°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	12°	16°	27°	40°	51°	61°	66°	63°	55°	43°	29°	18°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	30°	34°	46°	61°	72°	81°	87°	84°	76°	65°	48°	34°
HIGH FOR MONTH	51°	56°	73°	83°	88°	94°	98°	97°	91°	83°	69°	56°
FROSTY MORNINGS	94%	92%	65%	18%	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%	14%	61%	89%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	1%	3%	14%	32%	23%	9%	1%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	66%	64%	58%	51%	51%	52%	54%	56%	55%	52%	60%	67%
DRY DAYS	75%	75%	69%	66%	62%	64%	71%	71%	70%	75%	76%	74%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	91%	90%	85%	81%	77%	77%	82%	81%	81%	86%	90%	89%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.18	0.20	0.32	0.48	0.68	0.78	0.55	0.60	0.57	0.40	0.27	0.20
LIKELY SNOWFALL	8.5"	7.1"	6.0"	1.5"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.3"	2.5"	6.9"
SNOWY DAYS	25%	24%	19%	4%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	10%	23%
THUNDER DAYS	1%	1%	7%	14%	23%	30%	26%	23%	17%	9%	3%	1%
FOGGY DAYS	5%	5%	4%	2%	1%	1%	1%	2%	2%	3%	4%	5%

COMMENTS: Des Moines' position well into the interior of the continent of North America gives it a continental version of the standard mid-latitude four-season climate. It continentality means that summer temperatures are hotter and winter temperatures are colder than similar latitudes on either coast. Temperatures above 90° occur every summer, and temperatures below zero occur every winter. Precipitation is adequate in most years, with a distinct early summer maximum. Afternoon humidities are moderate throughout the year. The area is sunny more often than not. December is the only month that gets less than half of its available sunshine (48%), and that not by much. July gets 74%, and the year will average 60%. Snow flurries are common from November through April, and most of the winter precipitation comes in this form. Snowfall is extremely variable from one year to another.