SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE BERKSHIRE HILLS, MASSACHUSETTS

LOCATION: The Berkshire Hills are located in western Massachusetts, west of the Connecticut River. They represent a gentler southern extension of the more rugged Green Mountains to the north in Vermont. Elevations vary from only a few hundred feet above sea level to some 3,491 feet at the rounded summit of Mount Graylock.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:28	10:32	11:55	13:21	14:36	15:15	14:59	13:55	12:33	11:07	9:50	9:08
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	4:07	5:26	6:19	7:09	8:15	9:14	9:22	8:25	7:13	5:50	3:38	3:26
AREA OF BLUE SKY	33%	36%	37%	37%	39%	41%	44%	44%	45%	42%	31%	30%
LOW FOR MONTH	-7˚	-7˚	3˚	20˚	30˚	39˚	45˚	42˚	31˚	23˚	12˚	-5˚
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	13˚	13˚	22˚	33˚	43˚	51˚	56˚	55˚	47˚	37˚	29˚	17˚
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	31˚	32˚	40˚	53˚	66˚	75˚	79˚	78˚	69˚	59˚	46˚	33˚
HIGH FOR MONTH	51˚	50˚	60˚	77˚	84˚	90˚	91˚	90˚	85˚	77˚	65˚	53˚
FROSTY MORNINGS	97%	97%	88%	52%	7%	0%	0%	0%	5%	32%	66%	88%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90˚	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	6%	4%	1%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	70%	66%	61%	55%	59%	63%	64%	70%	75%	72%	72%	73%
DRY DAYS	58%	57%	58%	60%	61%	63%	65%	68%	70%	71%	60%	61%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	77%	75%	74%	73%	71%	77%	77%	77%	77%	81%	70%	74%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.48	0.49	0.54	0.58	0.56	0.67	0.73	0.64	0.68	0.52	0.59	0.52
LIKELY SNOWFALL	19.3"	22.7"	16.3"	4.2"	0.1"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	5.4"	17.6"
SNOWY DAYS	42%	43%	42%	14%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	25%	39%
THUNDER DAYS	0%	0%	2%	4%	11%	16%	18%	14%	5%	3%	1%	0%
FOGGY DAYS	18%	20%	25%	23%	23%	27%	20%	20%	27%	23%	26%	23%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 53% of the year's daylight hours. This might range from a low of 37% in November, to a high of 63% in July. The year's lowest temperature should be close to -12˚, and the highest should be near 92˚. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be essentially the same as actual ones. The Berkshires have a definite four-season year, with short warm summers and long cold winters. Within the general area of the Berkshires, the local weather pretty much depends upon elevation, slope orientation, and local air drainage. Table data presume an elevation of about 1,200 feet above sea level, with no particular slope orientation. Gentle nighttime air drainage can result in "pooling" of cool air in the valleys and hollows, creating temperature inversions. Patches of fog and mist in these areas can result. Stronger air drainage blows this mist away, whereas lighter movement results in dew and hoarfrost instead. You can expect daytime temperatures to drop an average of 1°F for each 300'-increase in elevation--and vice versa going downhill.

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