

## SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE BILLINGS AREA, MONTANA

LOCATION: Billings, Montana's largest city, is located in the south-central part of that state. The city is situated on the north bank of the Yellowstone River in the high plains region. Elevations are some 3,600 feet above sea level.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:07	10:20	11:53	13:31	14:55	15:40	15:21	14:09	12:36	10:59	9:33	8:46
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	4:19	5:35	7:23	8:20	9:06	10:10	11:36	10:42	8:38	6:39	4:21	3:52
AREA OF BLUE SKY	28%	28%	28%	29%	33%	41%	56%	56%	48%	41%	31%	32%
LOW FOR MONTH	-12 °	-7 °	1 °	19 °	31 °	41 °	48 °	46 °	33 °	22 °	4 °	-7 °
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	13 °	16 °	24 °	33 °	42 °	50 °	57 °	54 °	45 °	36 °	24 °	17 °
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	33 °	38 °	46 °	59 °	68 °	78 °	87 °	86 °	74 °	62 °	46 °	37 °
HIGH FOR MONTH	55 °	60 °	68 °	78 °	87 °	94 °	100 °	98 °	92 °	81 °	66 °	57 °
FROSTY MORNINGS	88%	83%	74%	41%	6%	0%	0%	0%	4%	26%	70%	88%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90 °	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	13%	38%	35%	7%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	56%	52%	47%	42%	42%	40%	32%	30%	37%	42%	53%	56%
DRY DAYS	78%	78%	74%	71%	65%	64%	77%	81%	78%	80%	81%	80%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	93%	93%	89%	85%	82%	83%	92%	92%	90%	91%	93%	93%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.11	0.10	0.16	0.25	0.38	0.39	0.17	0.15	0.21	0.18	0.13	0.10
LIKELY SNOWFALL	8.9"	7.1"	9.5"	6.1"	1.3"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.9"	3.4"	6.9"	7.9"
SNOWY DAYS	22%	22%	24%	15%	2%	0%	0%	0%	2%	7%	15%	20%
THUNDER DAYS	0%	0%	0%	4%	14%	24%	23%	18%	6%	1%	0%	0%
FOGGY DAYS	5%	8%	7%	8%	4%	2%	1%	1%	4%	6%	7%	5%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 61% of the year's daylight hours. This might range from a low of 44% in December, to a high of 76% in July and August. The year's lowest temperature should be close to -20°, and the highest should be near 101°. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be fairly close to actual ones in cool weather, and up to 4° cooler than actual ones during the hot weather. Far from either coast, the area has a strongly continental version of the mid-latitude four-season year. This continentality manifests itself in the wide annual range of expected temperatures, and the slight precipitation (less than fifteen inches in a normal year--and very few are normal). Summers are short, sunny, dry, and hot. Summer nights are cool, often chilly. Thunderstorms are characteristic of the afternoons and early evenings, but not all of them bring rain that actually reaches the ground. Winters are very long, moderately cloudy, dry, and very cold. You can get below-zero temperatures any time from late November through early March. Snowfall is light, with the strong winter winds quickly blowing it into sheltered locations. Spring and autumn bring highly changeable weather--hot one day, snowing the next.