

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE YAKIMA AREA, WASHINGTON

LOCATION: Yakima is located in the south-central part of Washington. The city sits astride the Yakima River within the heavily-irrigated and immensely fertile Yakima Basin. Elevations are around a thousand feet above sea level. The area lies within the “rain shadow” of the Cascade Mountains just to the west. These mountains intercept the moisture-laden winds from the Pacific, leaving a “shadow” stretching many miles to the east where little rain falls.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:02	10:18	11:53	13:33	15:00	15:46	15:27	14:12	12:37	10:58	9:29	8:40
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	2:55	4:32	6:52	8:32	10:14	10:55	12:25	11:07	9:03	6:02	3:18	2:30
AREA OF BLUE SKY	21%	28%	33%	37%	42%	49%	71%	69%	62%	45%	28%	22%
LOW FOR MONTH	2 °	10 °	19 °	24 °	30 °	37 °	41 °	41 °	33 °	23 °	15 °	6 °
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	20 °	26 °	30 °	35 °	42 °	49 °	53 °	52 °	44 °	35 °	28 °	22 °
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	37 °	46 °	55 °	64 °	72 °	80 °	87 °	86 °	78 °	64 °	48 °	38 °
HIGH FOR MONTH	54 °	59 °	68 °	78 °	89 °	94 °	100 °	99 °	91 °	78 °	63 °	55 °
FROSTY MORNINGS	89%	84%	66%	40%	9%	0%	0%	0%	4%	38%	72%	89%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90 °	0%	0%	0%	0%	4%	14%	44%	35%	8%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	71%	58%	41%	33%	31%	31%	26%	28%	32%	43%	63%	75%
DRY DAYS	71%	76%	81%	85%	85%	85%	94%	92%	88%	85%	73%	72%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	88%	90%	94%	94%	94%	93%	98%	97%	96%	94%	89%	88%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.19	0.14	0.09	0.08	0.08	0.10	0.02	0.03	0.07	0.08	0.17	0.20
LIKELY SNOWFALL	8.2"	3.2"	1.1"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.1"	2.9"	8.0"
DAYS WITH SOME SNOW	20%	10%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	8%	19%
DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER	0%	0%	0%	1%	4%	6%	5%	4%	2%	0%	0%	0%
DAYS WITH SOME FOG	15%	9%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	12%	22%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 61% of the daylight hours of the year. This might range from a low of 29% in December, to a high of 80% in July. The lowest temperature of the year should be close to zero on some calm and clear winter sunrise, and the highest should be near 100 ° on some sunny and windless summer afternoon. Sensible temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be up to 4 ° cooler than actual ones during the summer months. A typical summer afternoon will be long, very sunny, quite arid, probably rainless, and quite hot--occasionally very hot. Summer nights are generally short, clear, and cool. A typical winter afternoon will be short, cloudy, humid, and raining about one day in three or four. It will also be cold, with about twenty winter days remaining below freezing all day. Winter nights are very cold, are almost always below freezing, and drop below zero on just over half the winters. Much of the winter precipitation comes as snow, but the ground is rarely snow-covered past noon of the next day.