

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE COLORADO SPRINGS AREA, COLORADO

LOCATION: Colorado Springs is located in El Paso County in central Colorado. The city is situated at the eastern foot of the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains, looking eastward out over the high plains. Elevations within the city itself are around 6,000 feet above sea level, but rise quickly westward to 14,110 at the summit of Pikes Peak. That peak, part of the Rampart Range, is surrounded by Pike National Forest.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:47	10:44	11:56	13:12	14:17	14:51	14:37	13:42	12:29	11:14	10:07	9:31
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	7:11	7:46	8:27	9:10	9:48	11:08	10:48	10:04	9:32	8:22	7:09	6:37
AREA OF BLUE SKY	52%	48%	44%	45%	43%	53%	51%	52%	59%	60%	53%	53%
LOW FOR MONTH	-4°	-1°	5°	17°	30°	40°	49°	47°	34°	22°	5°	0°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	16°	18°	24°	33°	42°	51°	56°	55°	47°	36°	25°	18°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	42°	44°	50°	59°	68°	78°	83°	81°	75°	64°	51°	44°
HIGH FOR MONTH	63°	65°	69°	77°	83°	92°	94°	92°	88°	80°	71°	65°
FROSTY MORNINGS	97%	94%	81%	43%	7%	0%	0%	0%	3%	28%	82%	96%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	13%	29%	11%	2%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	44%	41%	39%	35%	37%	35%	38%	41%	36%	36%	43%	45%
DRY DAYS	87%	85%	79%	75%	67%	70%	60%	62%	79%	86%	87%	88%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	97%	96%	91%	89%	83%	84%	79%	80%	89%	92%	94%	96%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.04	0.06	0.12	0.23	0.35	0.31	0.45	0.39	0.19	0.12	0.07	0.05
LIKELY SNOWFALL	4.2"	5.3"	8.9"	6.3"	1.4"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.8"	2.6"	4.4"	5.1"
SNOWY DAYS	30%	32%	34%	20%	6%	0%	0%	0%	2%	9%	25%	26%
THUNDER DAYS	0%	0%	2%	8%	26%	36%	47%	42%	15%	2%	0%	0%
FOGGY DAYS	8%	10%	9%	8%	7%	3%	2%	3%	6%	6%	8%	8%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is probable on 72% of the year's daylight hours. This might range from a low of 69% in April and May, to a high of 76% in September. The year's lowest temperature should be close to -11°, and the highest might well be near 95°. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be slightly lower than actual ones. Extremes of temperature from summer to winter and from one day to the next are common. The *chinook* (from a Salish Indian word, meaning "snow eater") is a strong, warm, dry, downslope wind common to the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains. It often sets in following a winter storm. During the *chinook*, temperatures will rise many tens of degrees in as many minutes. The combination of increasing temperatures, high winds, and very low humidity tends to both melt and evaporate large quantities of snow—sometimes as much as a foot or more per hour.