

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE AMANA COLONIES, IOWA

LOCATION: The six Amana towns are located some twenty miles northwest of Iowa City in east-central Iowa. They are situated on some 25,000 acres of prairie farmland in the valley of the Iowa River. In addition to Amana, the original settlement, there are East Amana, West Amana, South Amana, High Amana, Middle Amana, and Homestead. The latter town was purchased outright for its rail access. The colonies represent both a religious and a commercial entity, producing foodstuffs and appliances.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:31	10:34	11:55	13:19	14:32	15:10	14:54	13:53	12:32	11:08	9:53	9:13
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	4:51	5:31	6:16	7:21	8:36	9:50	10:31	9:23	7:58	6:42	4:32	4:04
AREA OF BLUE SKY	38%	38%	35%	37%	39%	43%	50%	50%	50%	50%	37%	35%
LOW FOR MONTH	-7°	-4°	0°	24°	38°	48°	54°	50°	37°	26°	9°	-3°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	13°	16°	26°	38°	49°	60°	63°	62°	53°	42°	28°	18°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	31°	35°	46°	61°	73°	82°	87°	85°	77°	66°	48°	35°
HIGH FOR MONTH	46°	51°	66°	78°	91°	95°	98°	98°	90°	81°	64°	51°
FROSTY MORNINGS	97%	96%	76%	28%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	19%	64%	92%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	17%	29%	20%	6%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	65%	64%	59%	53%	52%	53%	55%	57%	56%	53%	62%	68%
DRY DAYS	78%	77%	72%	68%	61%	66%	73%	73%	73%	77%	78%	78%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	91%	89%	84%	77%	76%	78%	81%	82%	80%	84%	88%	89%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.21	0.21	0.34	0.48	0.63	0.77	0.61	0.56	0.62	0.40	0.33	0.22
LIKELY SNOWFALL	7.2"	6.4"	6.5"	1.4"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.2"	2.1"	7.1"
SNOWY DAYS	22%	22%	16%	4%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	9%	21%
THUNDER DAYS	1%	2%	7%	14%	22%	29%	27%	23%	16%	9%	4%	2%
FOGGY DAYS	6%	6%	5%	2%	2%	2%	2%	4%	4%	5%	4%	6%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is probable on 57% of the year's daylight hours. This might range from a low of 44% in December, to a high of 71% in July. The year's lowest temperature should be close to -18°, and the highest might well be near 105°. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be essentially the same as actual ones—except in July, when they tend to be a few degrees hotter. The colonies have a prairie version of the four-season year. Summer afternoons are quite sunny, moderately humid, and hot. Much of the summer rain comes from thundershowers. Winter afternoons are moderately sunny, fairly humid, and quite cold. About half the days never warm to above the freezing point, and one night out of four will drop below zero. Most of the winter precipitation comes as snow; but the combination of light snowfall, strong winds, and frequent sunshine keeps much of the ground bare most of the winter.