

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO APALACHICOLA NATIONAL FOREST, FLORIDA

LOCATION: Apalachicola National Forest, Florida's largest at some 884 square miles, is located in the Florida "Panhandle" southwest of Tallahassee. The Forest is divided into two ranger districts by the Ochlockomee River. The westernmost, the Apalachicola District is administered from Bristol. The Northwest District is administered from Crawfordville. Most of the area is not virgin forest, but is the relict of misuse during earlier lumbering and turpentine-extraction days. The landscape is flat to gently rolling, and covered with pine flats, hardwood hummocks, grassy flats, swamps, and marshes. Elevations range up to just over a hundred feet above sea level. There are two wilderness areas. The Mud Swamp/New River Wilderness Area, and the Bradwell Bay Wilderness Area. The Forest has numerous campgrounds and other developed facilities, including one for the handicapped at Trout Pond.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	10:27	11:07	11:59	12:54	13:40	14:04	13:54	13:15	12:23	11:28	10:40	10:15
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	5:57	6:47	7:39	9:27	10:08	9:46	9:17	8:51	8:17	8:16	6:59	5:48
AREA OF BLUE SKY	42%	44%	44%	52%	52%	47%	41%	43%	47%	58%	53%	43%
LOW FOR MONTH	25°	29°	34°	42°	52°	61°	68°	67°	59°	44°	33°	27°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	44°	46°	51°	57°	65°	71°	73°	73°	70°	61°	51°	45°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	63°	65°	71°	77°	84°	89°	89°	89°	86°	79°	70°	64°
HIGH FOR MONTH	75°	76°	82°	87°	92°	97°	97°	96°	94°	89°	81°	76°
FROSTY MORNINGS	23%	16%	5%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	7%	18%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	2%	16%	45%	54%	52%	32%	3%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	59%	58%	57%	54%	56%	61%	67%	68%	63%	56%	58%	60%
DRY DAYS	73%	70%	75%	81%	78%	64%	50%	55%	66%	84%	82%	75%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	79%	80%	81%	87%	84%	76%	66%	71%	78%	88%	86%	83%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.63	0.77	0.77	0.62	0.57	0.98	1.23	1.15	1.08	0.48	0.47	0.67
DAYS WITH SOME SNOW	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER	6%	9%	13%	12%	21%	40%	59%	52%	30%	7%	5%	5%
DAYS WITH SOME FOG	21%	18%	17%	11%	9%	5%	3%	3%	3%	5%	12%	17%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on two-thirds of the daylight hours of the year. This might range from a low of 57% in December and January, to a high of 74% in sunny May. The lowest temperature of the year should be close to 22° at some chilly winter sunrise, and the highest should be near 99° on some sultry summer afternoon. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you feel) will be substantially higher than actual ones from late June through early September. The area has a subtropical four-season year, with vegetative growth continuing throughout the year. Humidities are always high. Winter (December through February) features mild days and chilly nights. Frosty mornings will occur on perhaps two dozen occasions during the three winter months. Summer (late May through September) has hot to very hot and humid days and warm and sultry nights. This is the rainier season, with most of the rain coming from thundershowers. Spring and autumn are seasons of transition, but bring the area its very best weather. October, in particular, is a delightful month.