

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO SPRINGFIELD AND “LINCOLN COUNTRY”, ILLINOIS

LOCATION: Springfield, the capital of Illinois (thanks to Lincoln’s efforts) is located very close to the center of that state—much as representative state capital should be. The city is situated on the Sangamon River, a tributary of the Illinois River, which—in turn—flows into the Mississippi north of St. Louis. The surrounding landscape is flat and fertile, and pretty much given over to cropland outside of the urban areas. Elevations are close to 600 feet above sea level. This was Abraham Lincoln’s home for much of his life—the place where he practiced law, got married, and raised his children. Many of the historic sites connected with his life have been preserved and attract many visitors.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:42	10:41	11:56	13:14	14:22	14:57	14:42	13:45	12:30	11:12	10:03	9:25
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	4:37	5:30	6:12	7:33	9:03	10:15	10:54	9:46	8:26	7:07	5:05	4:12
AREA OF BLUE SKY	34%	35%	33%	36%	40%	42%	49%	49%	50%	50%	37%	32%
LOW FOR MONTH	-3°	1°	14°	28°	38°	49°	56°	53°	41°	30°	16°	2°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	20°	23°	32°	43°	53°	63°	67°	65°	57°	46°	34°	24°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	35°	39°	50°	63°	74°	83°	88°	85°	79°	67°	51°	39°
HIGH FOR MONTH	57°	61°	75°	83°	89°	96°	98°	96°	93°	85°	72°	61°
FROSTY MORNINGS	86%	81%	53%	12%	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%	7%	44%	75%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	4%	23%	39%	28%	13%	1%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	68%	66%	60%	54%	52%	53%	54%	56%	50%	50%	61%	69%
DRY DAYS	71%	69%	64%	62%	63%	65%	73%	74%	71%	74%	72%	71%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	87%	87%	81%	78%	77%	79%	84%	83%	82%	85%	84%	85%
DRY HOURS	84%	85%	85%	88%	92%	94%	96%	95%	94%	92%	88%	84%
LIKELY SNOWFALL	5.4"	5.3"	3.9"	0.6"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.1"	1.3"	4.3"
DAYS WITH SOME SNOW	16%	16%	10%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	4%	13%
DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER	1%	3%	10%	15%	24%	30%	25%	23%	16%	7%	6%	1%
DAYS WITH SOME FOG	8%	6%	4%	2%	1%	1%	1%	2%	3%	3%	4%	7%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 59% of the year’s daylight hours. This might range from a low of 45% in December, to a high of 74% in July. The year’s lowest temperature should be close to -8°, and the highest should be near 99°. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be a few degrees warmer than actual ones during the summer months, and pretty much the same as actual ones during the rest of the year. The year is divided in four distinct and fairly equal seasons. Precipitation is at least adequate in all months, with a slight early summer maximum. Summer are hot and humid, while winters are cold and as likely to be rainy as snowy. Late summer and autumn bring the best weather, with clear days more than 40% of the time.