

## SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE GRAND RAPIDS AREA, MICHIGAN

LOCATION: Grand Rapids is located in the southwestern portion of Michigan's lower peninsula. The city is situated on the banks of the Grand River, some thirty miles east of its outlet into Lake Michigan. Furniture-making is the city's most famous industry, while orchards dominate the agricultural scene. Elevations in town are a bit over 600 feet above sea level in the valley bottom, but rise to over a thousand feet near the airport.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:25	10:30	11:54	13:22	14:38	15:18	15:01	13:57	12:33	11:06	9:48	9:05
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	2:32	3:59	5:38	7:00	8:35	9:46	10:22	9:02	7:07	5:24	2:52	2:06
AREA OF BLUE SKY	18%	24%	30%	35%	39%	42%	48%	46%	42%	36%	21%	16%
LOW FOR MONTH	-3°	-2°	8°	22°	32°	42°	49°	47°	36°	28°	17°	4°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	17°	17°	26°	37°	47°	57°	62°	60°	52°	42°	32°	22°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	31°	32°	42°	57°	69°	79°	83°	81°	73°	61°	46°	34°
HIGH FOR MONTH	48°	50°	66°	78°	86°	92°	94°	92°	88°	79°	67°	53°
FROSTY MORNINGS	92%	93%	76%	35%	5%	0%	0%	0%	0%	13%	53%	87%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	9%	17%	11%	3%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	74%	68%	62%	53%	51%	53%	52%	54%	57%	58%	68%	74%
DRY DAYS	52%	57%	60%	58%	64%	67%	72%	71%	66%	67%	58%	52%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	84%	86%	79%	75%	81%	80%	81%	82%	79%	82%	76%	80%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.36	0.33	0.41	0.51	0.52	0.60	0.49	0.47	0.58	0.45	0.48	0.40
LIKELY SNOWFALL	17.7"	12.0"	9.2"	2.4"	0.2"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.4"	7.0"	15.0"
DAYS WITH SOME SNOW	48%	40%	27%	8%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	18%	41%
DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER	1%	2%	6%	11%	14%	21%	22%	18%	15%	6%	4%	1%
DAYS WITH SOME FOG	5%	5%	5%	3%	2%	2%	2%	3%	5%	4%	5%	6%

COMMENTS: : Bright sunshine is likely on 48% of the year's daylight hours. This might range from a low of 23% in December, to a high of 69% in July. The year's lowest temperature should be close to -7°, and the highest should be near 95°. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be pretty much the same as actual ones most of the year—perhaps a touch cooler during the spring and autumn. The area is strongly influenced by the prevailing westerly winds off of Lake Michigan. This has the effect of delaying all of the seasons by a week or two. This delay is enormously beneficial to the area's fruit crops, delaying the blossoming past most of the spring frosts, and allowing the autumnal harvest before the first serious frosts of that season. Snow generally covers the ground from mid-November through the middle of March—although rarely continuously. Less than half of the winter days remain below freezing all afternoon, and only a few winter nights (less than a half dozen in most years) will drop below zero.