

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE SAND HILLS AREA, NEBRASKA

LOCATION: The Sand Hills of Nebraska are located in the north-central part of that state. The hills are noted for three things--cattle raising, fishing, and hunting. The hills are dotted with thousands of small, shallow, lakes and ponds that produce excellent northern pike and large-mouth bass. The area is a major stopping and nesting point on migratory bird routes, and produce many upland birds as well. Elevations vary somewhat, but are close to 4,000 feet above sea level. Major service centers include Valentine and North Platte.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:30	10:34	11:55	13:20	14:33	15:12	14:55	13:53	12:32	11:08	9:52	9:12
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	5:48	6:33	7:13	8:12	9:13	10:45	11:42	10:23	9:05	7:40	5:46	5:21
AREA OF BLUE SKY	40%	38%	35%	37%	37%	48%	55%	54%	55%	52%	41%	42%
LOW FOR MONTH	-13°	-8°	0°	17°	30°	41°	49°	46°	31°	19°	2°	-9°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	10°	14°	22°	34°	44°	54°	60°	58°	47°	35°	22°	13°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	36°	40°	48°	61°	71°	81°	88°	87°	77°	65°	49°	39°
HIGH FOR MONTH	59°	63°	74°	84°	90°	97°	102°	100°	95°	86°	72°	62°
FROSTY MORNINGS	98%	97%	84%	43%	6%	0%	0%	0%	4%	38%	88%	97%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	4%	19%	44%	36%	13%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	56%	52%	47%	41%	43%	42%	40%	40%	38%	40%	49%	55%
DRY DAYS	84%	81%	77%	73%	65%	65%	72%	75%	78%	85%	85%	85%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	96%	95%	91%	86%	80%	81%	84%	88%	89%	93%	94%	96%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.07	0.09	0.17	0.31	0.47	0.51	0.41	0.31	0.23	0.16	0.10	0.08
LIKELY SNOWFALL	5.2"	5.3"	7.9"	3.7"	0.6"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.2"	1.5"	4.2"	5.1"
SNOWY DAYS	16%	18%	18%	8%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	4%	11%	15%
THUNDER DAYS	0%	0%	1%	7%	20%	33%	31%	26%	13%	3%	0%	0%
FOGGY DAYS	4%	5%	6%	3%	3%	2%	2%	3%	4%	4%	5%	4%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on two-thirds of the year's daylight hours. This might range from a low of 58% in November and December, to a high of 78% in July. The year's lowest temperature should be close to -20°, and the highest should be near 105°. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be essentially the same as actual ones from most of the year, but a degree or two lower than actual ones on the hotter days. The area has a Great Plains version of the mid-latitude four-season year. Precipitation is light, with summer rains and winter drought. Much of the summer rain comes as thunderstorms in the late afternoon and early evening hours. Most of the winter precipitation comes as snow, but since there is little precipitation to begin with at this season, the ground is rarely snow-covered for long. Strong winds are characteristic of the area in all seasons.