

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE SCOTTSBLUFF AREA, NEBRASKA

LOCATION: The city of Scottsbluff (all one word) is located in extreme western Nebraska, about twenty miles from the Wyoming border. It is situated on the North Platte River near Mitchell Pass, an important point on the early Oregon Trail. Scotts Bluff (two words) National Monument is here, and the Agate Fossil Beds National Monument is some forty miles to the north. Elevations are close to 4,000 feet above sea level here on the High Plains.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:31	10:34	11:55	13:20	14:32	15:11	14:54	13:53	12:32	11:08	9:53	9:13
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	5:41	6:31	7:06	8:16	9:07	10:45	11:54	10:30	9:17	7:38	5:44	5:19
AREA OF BLUE SKY	42%	40%	36%	38%	38%	50%	58%	56%	58%	54%	43%	44%
LOW FOR MONTH	-12°	-7°	1°	16°	30°	40°	49°	46°	31°	19°	2°	-9°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	12°	16°	22°	32°	43°	52°	58°	56°	45°	33°	22°	14°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	39°	43°	50°	61°	71°	82°	89°	88°	78°	66°	51°	41°
HIGH FOR MONTH	60°	64°	73°	83°	90°	97°	101°	99°	94°	85°	72°	62°
FROSTY MORNINGS	97%	97%	87%	48%	6%	0%	0%	0%	4%	42%	89%	97%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	4%	24%	51%	42%	14%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	53%	46%	43%	38%	40%	38%	35%	36%	34%	37%	47%	53%
DRY DAYS	85%	83%	79%	74%	65%	66%	75%	78%	79%	85%	85%	85%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	96%	95%	91%	87%	80%	81%	86%	92%	90%	93%	94%	95%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.07	0.08	0.15	0.28	0.45	0.46	0.31	0.19	0.20	0.14	0.09	0.08
LIKELY SNOWFALL	5.6"	5.3"	8.2"	5.1"	0.8"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.2"	1.9"	4.5"	5.7"
SNOWY DAYS	15%	17%	20%	11%	2%	0%	0%	0%	1%	4%	13%	15%
THUNDER DAYS	0%	0%	1%	6%	24%	37%	34%	26%	14%	2%	0%	0%
FOGGY DAYS	3%	3%	5%	2%	2%	2%	1%	2%	3%	3%	4%	3%

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 80% in July. The year's lowest temperature should be close to -19°, and the highest should be near 102°. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be a degree or two cooler than actual ones. The area has a High Plains version of the mid-latitude four-season year. Like all of the High Plains, precipitation is light in the area, with almost all of it coming during the warmer months--mostly as thunderstorms, and frequently with destructive hail. Winter precipitation is almost all snow, but is very light and easily evaporated by the winter sun and blown into protected spots by the winter winds. These same winds, moving downslope from the Laramie Mountains to the west can produce a *chinook* effect, raising temperatures rapidly and melting snow at a great rate.