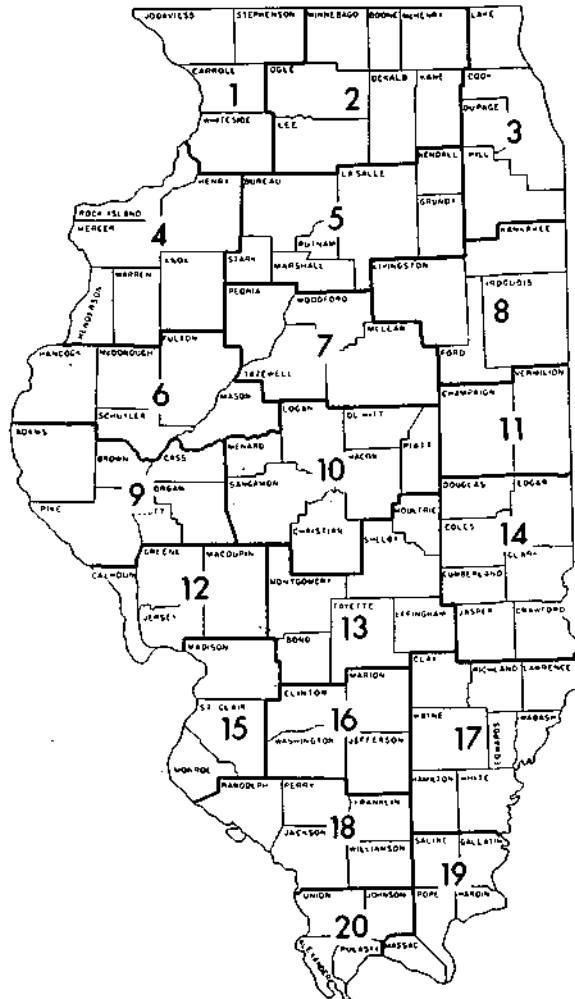


THE CLIMATE OF ILLINOIS

Lying midway between the Continental Divide and the Atlantic Ocean, and 500 miles north of the Gulf of Mexico, Illinois has a climate labeled as continental. Cold winters, and warm, sometimes humid summers mark the character of the state's climate. Precipitation averages about 38 inches a year state-wide, although averages vary from around 34 inches in northern sections to 46 inches in the extreme south.

Temperature also varies with latitude across the state. During January the north-south range in mean temperature is about 14 degrees. In contrast, the range of mean temperatures across the state in July is only about 6 degrees. However, the average annual number of days of 90 degrees or higher varies from around 20 in the north to 50 days in the west-central and southern portions of Illinois.

Storm systems move through Illinois most frequently during the winter and spring. They tend to become weaker and stay farther north during the summer. Rain or snow during the winter generally falls over a wide area, while summer precipitation is usually more localized in the form of showers and thunderstorms. The showers and thunderstorms are for the most part associated with frontal systems that frequently move into and through Illinois.



Climate Regions in Illinois

KEY TO THE ILLINOIS CLIMATE CALENDAR

The climate regions were developed by analyzing average temperature and precipitation patterns. Values in this calendar apply to the entire region. However, in some cases maximum precipitation and snowfall amounts could vary considerably across the region. Average values are for the period 1951-1980.

In each date box there are two columns. In the left-hand column are the average maximum (HI) and minimum (LO) temperatures for the date, and the average heating degree day (HD) and cooling degree day (CD) totals through the date.

In the right-hand column, the record maximum and minimum temperatures and the record precipitation (PR) for the date are listed along with the year of occurrence. Sunrise (SR) and sunset (SS) are the last two entries in the column. Times are Central Standard, and an hour must be added when Daylight Savings Time is in effect.

The Illinois Climate Calendar was developed by Steven D. Hilberg.
Climate data were compiled by Robert A. Sinclair.

State Water Survey Division



Water Resources Building
605 East Springfield Avenue
P.O. Box 5050, Station A
Champaign, Illinois 61820-9050
217/333-2211



Illinois Department of
Energy and Natural Resources