

Victoria, on the Pacific Coast, it is but 21°. The absolute recorded range of temperature at Winnipeg is 153°, and at Victoria 97°. A change of temperature of 40° in 24 hours is not exceptional in winter in Manitoba, while a change of 49° has occurred. The average daily change is from 20° to 25° in Winnipeg, while in Victoria it is from 5° to 8°. These instances of the continental type of climate are, of course, just as typical of Saskatchewan as of Manitoba.

Great variations in the character of a winter are possible in Manitoba as in the other prairie provinces. There is a January on record with a mean temperature 10° above normal, a February 25° above normal, and a February 13° below normal. Variations in the temperature of the summer months are much less pronounced; the mean temperature of the warmest July at Winnipeg was 70°, the coolest 61°.

The change from winter to spring is much more rapid than in Great Britain or western Europe; frequently April, wintry at the beginning, ends with conditions approaching those of midsummer. The average April is, however, not so warm in Manitoba as in England. The nights are cold, but on the other hand the day temperature rises quite high. The frost leaves the ground early and the farmer may commence sowing at a date very much earlier than the mean temperature would lead one to consider possible.

The mean temperature of May is as high as in the south of England, with the afternoon temperatures considerably higher; and while frosts occasionally occur they are seldom severe. Light snowfalls may in some years occur in this month, sometimes accompanied by high winds, but these storms are seldom injurious to agriculture. During June the temperature continues to increase with daily maxima on the average ranging between 70° and 75°, according to district. In July the daily maximum averages 75° to 80° in the southern districts. Mean temperatures are 65° and higher. Few summers go by without several spells of heat; during these, the temperature exceeds 90°. In August 1886 103° was recorded in Winnipeg, and 104° further west. In July 1914 the high record from the south central district was 107°, and in August of the same year, 105°.

After the middle of August, the mean temperature exhibits a rather rapid fall on the average; and the last fortnight is a period of uneasiness to farmers, particularly in those years when seeding was later than usual in the spring, since it is known that light frosts occur in some years, with consequent damage to wheat not fully matured. Even if frosts do occur, summer is not yet over, for periods of exceptionally warm weather are not infrequent even in September. October is the true autumn month, when the normal temperature curve exhibits its most rapid decline; and before its close nightly frosts occur, while on some days the temperature may not rise above the freezing point.

The winter may be regarded as lasting for five months, from November to the end of March. It is not usually, however, until the last week in November that the temperature falls to zero for a few days. It is seldom that a temperature so low as zero is registered after March 25.

At Winnipeg the greatest annual precipitation on record was that of 29.24 inches in 1878, and the least, 14.38 inches in 1886. In this latter year only 4.23 inches fell during the period from May to August. Most of the summer rainfall occurs in thunderstorms, which at times are quite heavy, accompanied by violent squalls. Less frequently hail accompanies these storms. Very rarely do these storms attain something like the energy of the tornado, which is not uncommon on the great plains to the south. In general the precipitation of Manitoba is not subject to as much fluctuation from year to year as that of Alberta and Saskatchewan, and is besides, on the average, a little greater in amount.