

Table _____ Summary of climatic data by months for the 1996-1997 crop year (October thru September) and averages for the period 1949-97 at the Eastern Agricultural Research Center, Sidney, Montana. Irrigated and dryland site.

| | <i>Month and Year</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | Total or Average |
|---|--------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| | Oct 1996 | Nov 1996 | Dec 1996 | Jan 1997 | Feb 1997 | Mar 1997 | Apr 1997 | May 1997 | June 1997 | July 1997 | Aug 1997 | Sept 1997 | |
| Precipitation (inches) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Current Year-Irrigated | 1.18 | 1.30 | 0.72 | 0.26 | 0.14 | 0.56 | 1.81 | 0.79 | 1.70 | 5.72 | 2.05 | 0.27 | 16.50 |
| Avg 1949 to 1996-97 | 0.84 | 0.47 | 0.42 | 0.39 | 0.36 | 0.52 | 1.16 | 1.98 | 2.80 | 2.05 | 1.48 | 1.32 | 13.79 |
| Current Year-Dryland | 0.25 | 0.39 | 0.36 | 0.06 | 0.04 | 0.38 | 1.20 | 0.68 | 3.54 | 8.33 | 3.49 | 0.15 | 18.87 |
| Mean Temperature (F°) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Current Year | 44.0 | 17.9 | 8.3 | 5.3 | 23.5 | 30.7 | 41.6 | 54.9 | 69.5 | 68.7 | 69.2 | 63.8 | 41.5 |
| Avg 1949 to 1996-97 | 45.7 | 29.4 | 17.7 | 11.3 | 19.1 | 29.6 | 44.0 | 55.8 | 64.5 | 69.5 | 67.6 | 57.0 | 42.6 |
| Last killing frost in spring * | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1997..... | May 20, 1997 (27°) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Avg 1949 to 1997..... | May 17 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| First killing frost in fall * | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1997..... | September 20, 1997 (28°) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Avg 1949 to 1997..... | September 19 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Frost-free period | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1997..... | 123 days | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Avg 1949 to 1997..... | 126 days | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Growing degree days (base 50) ** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| May 1 - First killing frost..... | 2356.5 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Avg 1949 to 1997..... | 2192.5 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Maximum summer temperature..... | 95° on August 2, 23, 24 and 27, 1997 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Minimum winter temperature..... | 36° below zero on January 27, 1997 | | | | | | | | | | | | |

* 32° is considered a killing frost.

** In calculating growing degree days, 29° is considered a killing frost.