

Table 1. Summary of climatic data by months for 1997-98 crop year (September thru August) and averages for the period 1949-98 at the Northwestern Agricultural Research Center, Kalispell, MT.

ITEM	Sept. 1997	Oct. 1997	Nov. 1997	Dec. 1997	Jan. 1998	Feb. 1998	Mar. 1998	Apr. 1998	May 1998	June 1998	July 1998	Aug. 1998	Total or Average
Precipitation (inches)													
Current Year	2.36	0.94	0.33	0.42	0.77	0.33	2.64	1.80	5.14	4.64	1.18	0.72	21.27
Avg. 1949 to 1994-98	1.59	1.38	1.57	1.63	1.49	1.15	1.19	1.52	2.39	2.98	1.62	1.53	20.04
Mean Temperature (F)													
Current Year	55.6	43.7	33.0	27.9	25.1	33.0	34.9	44.5	54.1	56.0	68.4	65.6	45.2
Avg. 1949 to 1994-98	53.5	43.2	32.5	25.4	22.3	27.7	33.8	43.2	51.7	58.2	64.0	62.9	43.2
Last killing frost in spring													
1998													May 19 (31 degrees F)
Avg. 1949-98													May 23 (30 degrees F)
First killing frost in fall													
1998													October 5 (30 degrees F)
Avg. 1949-98													September 15 (30 degrees F)
Frost Free Period													
1998													139 days
Avg. 1949-98													115 days
Growing Degree Days (base 50):													
May 1 - Oct. 31, 1998													2056.5 days
Avg. 1949-98													1880.1 days
Maximum summer temperature													92 degrees F on August 6 & 7, 1998
Minimum winter temperature													-20 degrees F on January 12, 1998

In this summary 32 degrees is considered a killing frost.