

Table . Summary of climatic data by months for the 2002-2003 cropping year (September-August) compared to averages for the period of record from 1911 to 2002 at the Southern Agricultural Research Center near Huntley, Montana.

| | 2002 | | | | 2003 | | | | | | | | Year |
|-------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|----------------|
| | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | |
| <u>Precipitation (inches)</u> | | | | | | | | | | | | | <u>Total</u> |
| Current Year (2002-2003) | 1.36 | 0.74 | 0.10 | 0.24 | 0.68 | 0.74 | 0.82 | 1.04 | 2.75 | 2.38 | 0.00 | 0.12 | 10.97 |
| Average (1911-2002) | 1.30 | 1.01 | 0.63 | 0.59 | 0.55 | 0.45 | 0.78 | 1.32 | 2.08 | 2.38 | 1.15 | 0.94 | 13.18 |
| Difference | +0.06 | -0.27 | -0.53 | -0.35 | +0.13 | +0.29 | +0.04 | -0.28 | +0.67 | 0.00 | -1.15 | -0.82 | -2.21 |
| <u>Mean Temperature (°F)</u> | | | | | | | | | | | | | <u>Average</u> |
| Current Year (2002-2003) | 59.4 | 40.7 | 38.3 | 27.6 | 27.2 | 26.5 | 33.0 | 49.3 | 54.5 | 62.4 | 74.7 | 73.4 | 47.3 |
| Average (1911-2002) | 57.8 | 46.9 | 33.4 | 23.8 | 20.5 | 25.6 | 33.8 | 45.4 | 55.0 | 63.3 | 70.5 | 68.6 | 45.4 |
| Difference | +1.6 | -6.2 | +4.9 | +3.8 | +6.7 | +0.9 | -0.8 | +3.9 | -0.5 | -0.9 | +4.2 | +4.8 | +1.9 |

Last Killing Frost in Spring^{1/}

2003 May 20 (25 °F)
 Average (1911-2002) May 16

First Killing Frost in the Fall^{1/}

2003 September 14 (29 °F)
 Average (1911-2002) September 19

Frost-free period

2003 116 days
 Average (1911-2002) 125 days

Growing Degree Days (Base 50)^{2/}

2003 2,211 GDD (°F)
 Average (1911-2002) 1,864 GDD (°F)

Growing Degree Days (Corn)^{2/}

2003 2,059 GDD (°F)
 Average (1911-2002) 1,925 GDD (°F)

Maximum Summer Temperature

105 °F on July 24, 2003

Minimum Winter Temperature

-21 °F on February 24, 2003

1/ In this summary, 32 °F is considered a killing frost. Average last and first killing frost dates are calculated on a 50% probability of a minimum temperature occurring below a threshold temperature of 32.5 °F based on observations from 1911 to 2002.

2/ Growing degree days calculated from temperatures observed during the frost free period from May 20 through September 14 for 2003, and for the same 116 day interval from the period of record of 1911 to 2002.