Alaska Weather

2026 Calendar

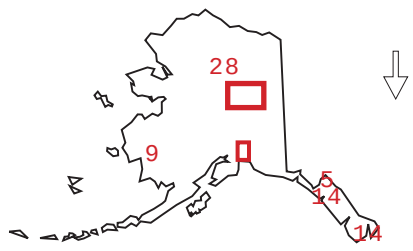
weather and climate info

astronomical predictions

***bonus:* unusual weather records**

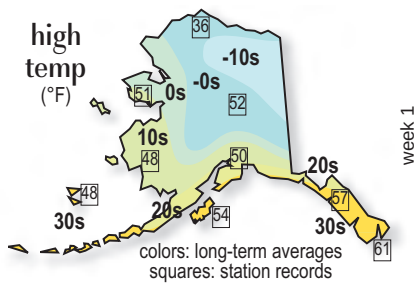
Hot Meets Cold

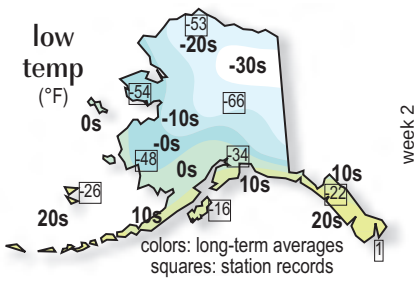
Trees, snow, almost everything at Chena Hot Springs wears a thick parka of *hoarfrost* thanks to the unusual amount of humidity offered by the springs. The hot water evaporates into the dry air, but quickly saturates the air, and some of the water vapor returns to liquid in the form of fog. The vapor and liquid fog drops find an equilibrium — the air is *saturated with respect to water*. However, from the point of view of any ice crystals present, the air has too much vapor in it (*supersaturated*) and those crystals take it on, growing via *deposition* — directly from vapor to solid. As this ice growth removes water vapor from the air, the equilibrium between vapor and liquid is upset, and the air is relatively dry in that relationship. But the springs keep replenishing it, and so the cycle continues.

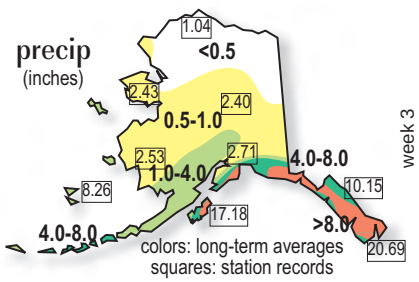


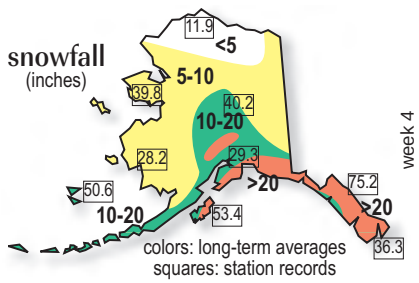
Below: Warm sunrise colors reflect off mid-level clouds over the Chugach Mountains near Matanuska Glacier. The clouds are *orographic*, ie., caused by the wind blowing over the mountains, some very distinctly lens-shaped, from which we get the term *lenticular*.

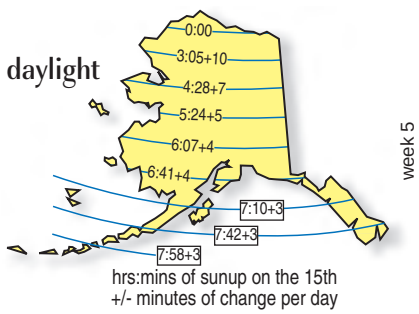
January climate



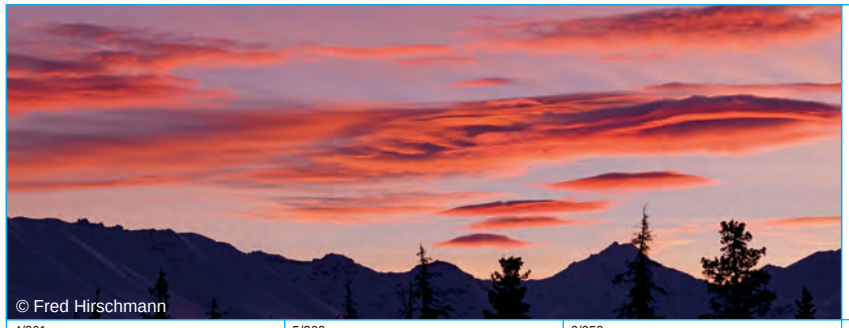








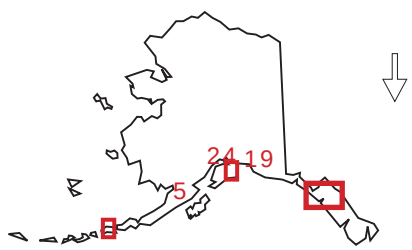
January 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
week 1						
			S M T W T F S December 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 February 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	1/364[1] tides: 167% **1** New Year's Day	2/363 tides: 179% Quadrantid meteor shower[2] **2**	3/362 tides: 184% perihelion[3] **3** full moon 0103 Alaska Statehood Day
week 2						
4/361 tides: 184% **4**	5/360 tides: 176% **5** Cold, windy fact: in December in Skagway, if the temperature is below zero F (−18C), there's about a 90% chance of 20+ (30 km/hr) mph wind.	6/359 tides: 161% **6**	7/358 **7** Orthodox Christmas	8/357 **8**	9/356 Jupiter at opposition[4] **9** 2020: Bethel's 18th straight day with the temperature staying below zero F (−18 C). Abnormal cold continued most of the time through mid-March.	10/355 last quarter **10**
week 3						
11/354 **11**	12/353 **12**	13/352 **13**	14/351 tides: 32% **14** Orthodox New Year 2018: Unseasonal warmth surged into SE. Highs broke 60F (16C) as far north as Gustavus, maxing out at 66F (19C) at Metlakatla.	15/350 tides: 34% **15**	16/349 **16**	17/348 **17**
week 4						
18/347 new moon 1052 **18**	19/346 **19** Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	20/345 **20** Many of Alaska's major rivers carry an enormous load of silt…but in the winter when glacier and snowmelt virtually stop, they clear up.	21/344 **21**	22/343 **22**	23/342 **23**	24/341 **24**
week 5						
25/340 first quarter **25**	26/339 **26**	27/338 **27**	28/337 **28** 1973: 18.5 inch (47cm) snowfall at Bettles helped boost the monthly total there to 55.8" (142 cm), the standing January record.	29/336 **29**	30/335 tides: 158% **30**	31/334 tides: 167% **31**

Notes:
1. See the back cover for information on how to use the extra date features in this calendar.
2. 2nd: The Quadrantid meteor shower can be seen from approx. Dec 28 through Jan 12 but peaks on Jan 2nd-4th.
3. 3rd: Perihelion: the point of Earth's orbit closest to the sun.
4. 9th: Jupiter is opposite the sun, so closest pass by Earth.

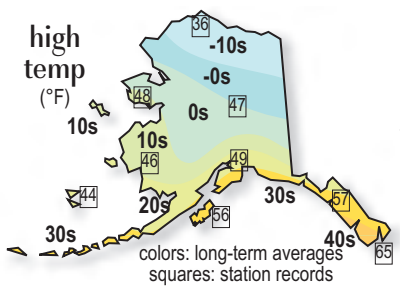
Beyond Pastel

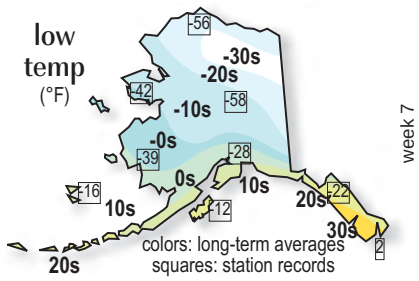
A brilliant mid-afternoon sunset finishes off what by Southeast Alaska standards was a cold day: a high of 18 °F (–8 °C) after a morning low of 1 °F (–17 °C). The view is from Gustavus, looking over Icy Strait and the coastal mountains of Chichigof and several smaller islands. Most of the clouds are *cirrus*, located roughly 25,000 feet (8 km) high. Stretched and streaky-looking cirrus, such as in this photo, are most often created by dynamics involving a jet stream or a lesser core of high winds at that level, which also draws them out into the parallel streaks. Their connection with high winds aloft makes these clouds a good predictor of weather changes. In this case, about 24 hours after the time of this photo snow started falling, and the several-day cold snap was over.

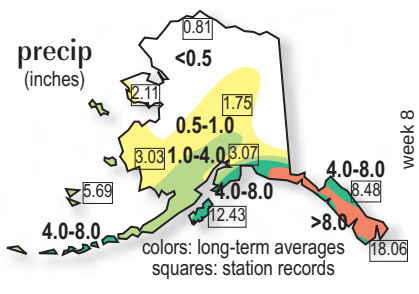


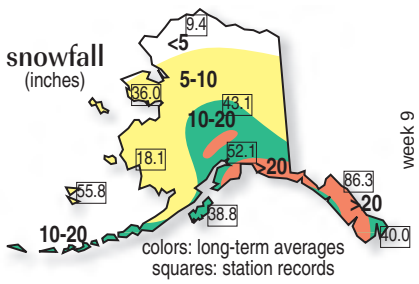
Below left: Turnagain Pass: fog in the valley, welcome sun above. **Below right:** Snow cover and low sun angle accentuate old lava flows on Unimak Island. The volcano near the center of the frame, with the small *cap cloud*, is Shishaldin, the one to the left is Isanotski.

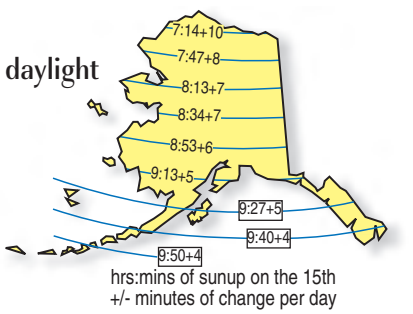
February climate





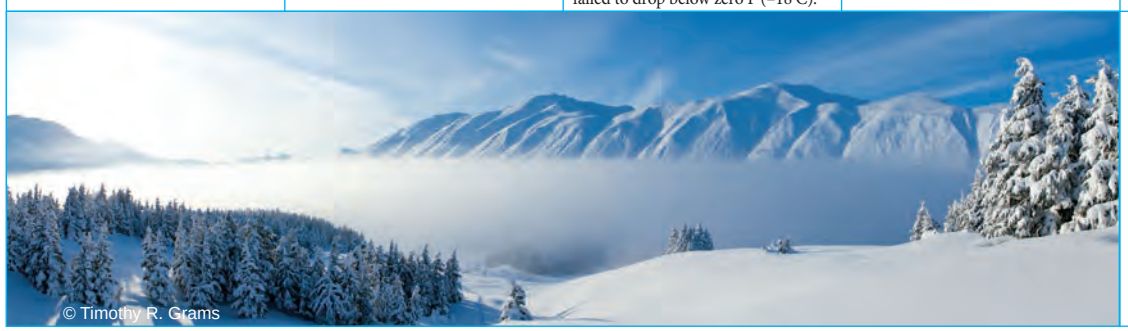




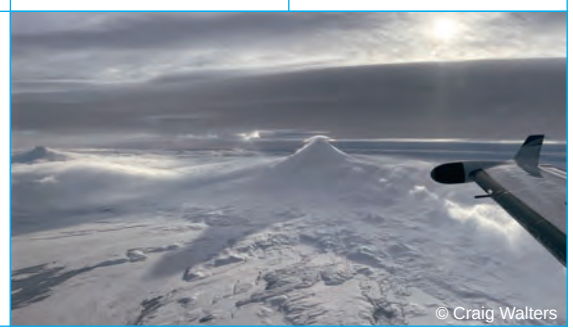


February 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
week 6						
32/333 tides: 172% full moon 1309 **1**	33/332 tides: 170% **2**	34/331 tides: 161% **3**	35/330 **4**	36/329 **5** 1999: Each of the last 7 days at King Salmon the low dropped to –28F (–33C) or colder. See the weather fact on the 10th for more.	37/328 **6**	38/327 **7**
week 7						
39/326 **8**	40/325 tides: 37% last quarter **9**	41/324 **10** King Salmon's average winter temperatures are similar to Anchorage's, but their February *monthly* lows are *much* colder. Why? See footnote 1.	42/323 tides: 25% **11**	43/322 tides: 23% **12**	44/321 tides: 29% **13**	45/320 **14** St. Valentine's Day
week 8						
46/319 **15**	47/318 **16** Presidents' Day Elizabeth Peratrovich Day (Alaska)	48/317 new moon 0301 annular solar eclipse[2] **17**	49/316 Mercury very near moon[3] **18** Ash Wednesday	50/315 Mercury E elongation **19** 1953: 49.3 inches (1.25 m) of snow fell at Thompson Pass this day, the 2nd day of an 18-day streak totaling 251.5 inches (6.4 m).	51/314 **20**	52/313 **21**
week 9						
53/312 **22**	54/311 **23**	55/310 first quarter **24** 2001: Anchorage's low of 2 F (–17 C) was the coldest of the winter, the only winter on record for the city that failed to drop below zero F (–18 C).	56/309 **25**	57/308 **26**	58/307 **27**	59/306 **28**



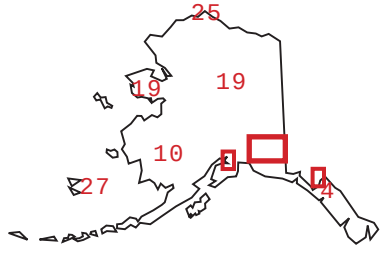
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
January						
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
March						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



Notes:
1. 10th: King Salmon is more exposed to blasts of arctic air from both the Alaska interior and from Siberia, across the Bering Sea (more ice in late winter means the arctic blasts arrive colder). Anchorage is protected by the Aleutians and Alaska Ranges.
2. 17th: Annual solar eclipse visible from part of Antarctica; partial visible from southern Africa.
3. 18th: An occulation of Mercury by the moon will be visible in some areas.

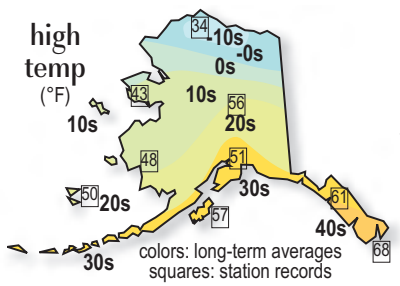
Winter Welcome

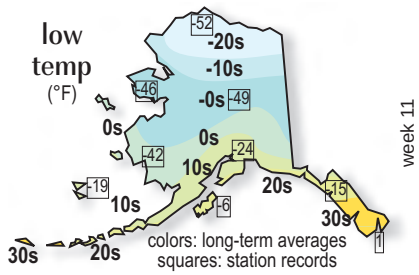
Sunshine brightens the snowy scene at the McCarthy Lodge (photo c1998). The healthy accumulation of dry snow is typical here, a climate exhibiting more continental traits (large yearly temperature swing, low precipitation) than its short distance inland would predict. The mountains are the crucial variable: the elevated stance of McCarthy (1,400 ft/425 m) is a factor, but more important is the large barrier range that blocks the moderating oceanic influence. Temperature and precipitation data for McCarthy and Gulkana (similarly situated) show that the area is only slightly less continental than Fairbanks, but much more than Talkeetna, at the same latitude and distance from the ocean as Gulkana, but more open to its influences. More on continentality in the center section.

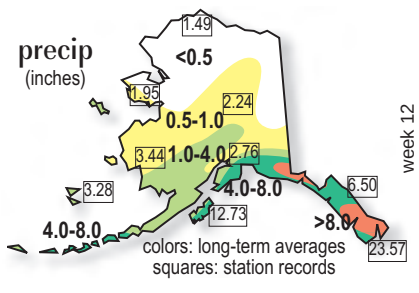


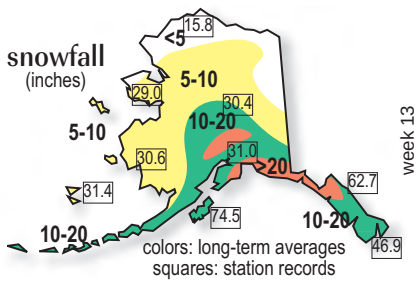
Below left: Hanging ice sculptures formed over a small creek in Chugach State Park. **Below right:** Drifting snow in the high country of the Haines Highway between Haines and Haines Junction, Canada. The poles on either side of the road are for when it gets worse.

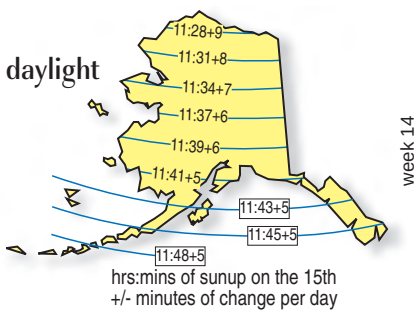
March climate











March 2026

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
week 10	60/305 **1**	61/304 **2**	62/303 full moon 0238 total lunar eclipse[1] **3** Purim	63/302 **4** 2007, 2-6: Snow and wind for northern panhandle: 54" (137 cm) in 2 days at Hoonah, 32" (81 cm) over 3 days at Haines with heavy drifting.	64/301 **5**	65/300 **6**	66/299 **7**
week 11	67/298 **8** Daylight Saving Time begins[2]	68/297 **9**	69/296 **10** 2018: Taking "rivers-as-highways" to the next level, a 200-mile (320-km) vehicle road was built on the Kuskokwim River ice, the longest to date.	70/295 tides: 31% last quarter **11**	71/294 tides: 21% **12**	72/293 tides: 21% **13**	73/292 tides: 30% **14**
week 12	74/291 tides: 44% Mercury near Mars **15**	75/290 **16**	76/289 Mars near moon **17** St. Patrick's Day	77/288 new moon 1723 **18**	78/287 **19** 1993: Heavy snow north of an arctic front from the Seward Peninsula to the interior. 29" (74 cm) of snow in 24 hrs at Coldfoot.	79/286 **20** Vernal Equinox 6:46 am	80/285 **21**
week 13	81/284 **22**	82/283 **23**	83/282 **24**	84/281 first quarter **25** 1963: Utqiagvik was hit with 0.71" (18 mm) of precipitation, exceptional for one of the driest months in one of the driest places in Alaska.	85/280 **26**	86/279 **27** 2008: Bering Sea ice was unusually slow in its spring retreat, remaining south of St. George Is. 18 days of the month and St. Paul the whole month.	87/278 **28**
week 14	88/277 **29**	89/276 **30** Seward's Day (Alaska)	90/275 **31**	 © Ted Moore		 © Jim Green	

February

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

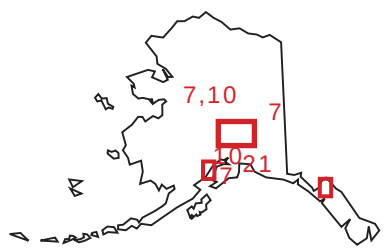
April

			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Notes: 1. 3rd: Total lunar eclipse visible in the Americas, eastern Asia, Australia, Pacific.
2. 8th: Changes are possible; check the status of Daylight Saving Time laws in your area.

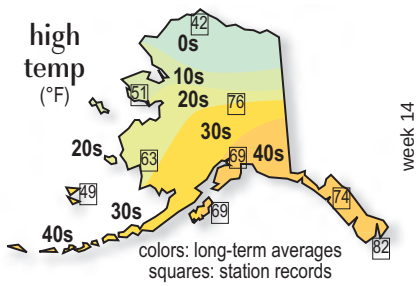
Openness

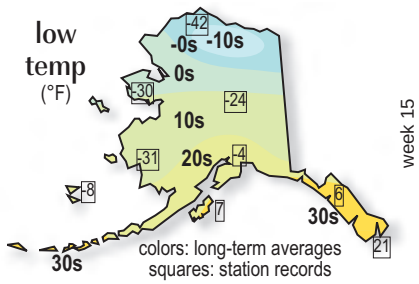
The evening view from Curry Ridge, about 20 miles (30 km) north of Talkeetna, includes long terrestrial vistas topped with a band of aurora borealis in a starry sky. Those reaching the crest via the 3.5 mile (5.6 km) trail, with a 1,100 foot (340 m) climb, might be glad to find the Curry Ridge Hut, also called Camp Regalvista, since this spot, like virtually any exposed ridge or peak in Alaska, is often windy. The linear, drifted snow patterns, called *sastrugi*, and the guy wires holding the hut down support that notion well enough. Spring progresses slowly at altitude, but the power of the sun has a foothold with the dark surfaces of the hut, and the wind-scoured bare ground. The hut was built by the Alaska Railroad in 1923 to access the spectacular view of Denali and encourage tourism.

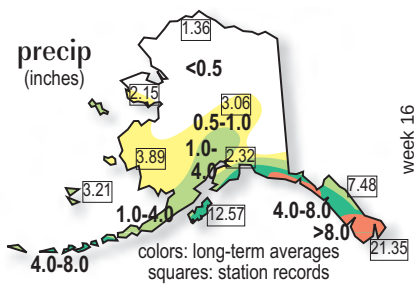


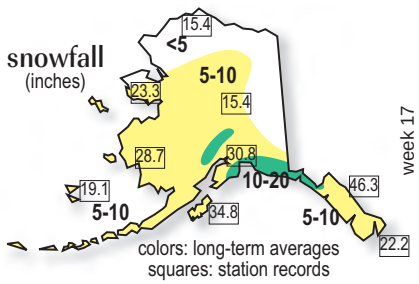
Below top: Redoubt Volcano emits a small plume of steam and ash in 2009 as viewed across Cook Inlet from Kenai.
Below bottom: Raindrops cling to willow branches in Haines, with buds beginning to open: a classic sign of spring.

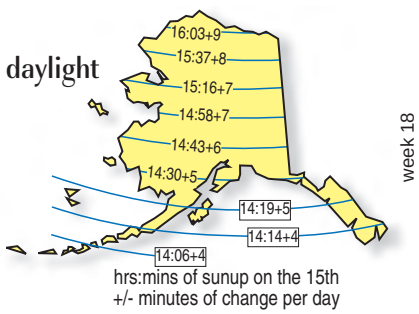
April climate



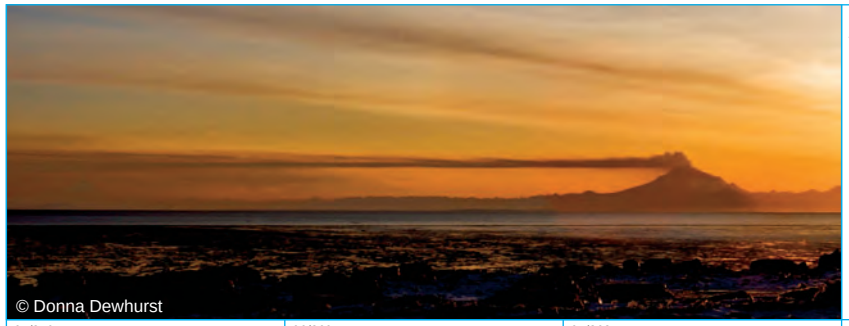
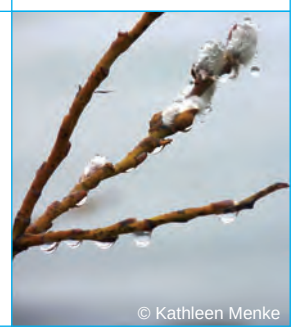








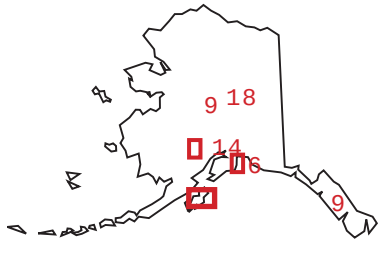
April 2026

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
week 14				91/274 full moon 1812 **1**	92/273 **2** First day of Passover	93/272 Mercury W elongation[1] **3** Good Friday	94/271 **4**
week 15	95/270 **5** Easter	96/269 **6**	97/268 **7** 2022: For roughly the next 30 days little or no precipitation will fall in about 1/2 of the state, from Kenai to Galena to the Canadian border.	98/267 **8**	99/266 tides: 28% last quarter **9**	100/265 tides: 22% **10** Orthodox Good Friday 2015: Unusually early-season thunderstorms hit Anchorage on the 10th, near Wasilla on the 16th, and Galena and that region on the 19th.	101/264 tides: 25% **11**
week 16	102/263 tides: 36% **12** Orthodox Easter	103/262 **13** The speed of spring snow melt depends on many factors: temperature, sunshine, albedo (clean vs dirty snow), rain, humidity, and wind.	104/261 **14**	105/260 **15**	106/259 Lyrid meteor shower[2] **16**	107/258 new moon 0352 **17**	108/257 tides: 159% **18**
week 17	109/256 tides: 169% planet grouping[3] **19**	110/255 tides: 170% **20**	111/254 tides: 164% **21** 2002: Wet snow fell nonstop at Valdez for 74 hours ending on this day, part of a 41-inch (104-cm) dump over 5 days.	112/253 Jupiter near moon **22** Earth Day	113/252 first quarter Venus near Pleiades **23**	114/251 **24**	115/250 **25**
week 18	116/249 **26**	117/248 **27**	118/247 **28**	119/246 **29**	120/245 **30**	S M T W T F S March 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 May 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	

Notes: 1. 3rd: Mercury's highest appearance in the morning sky.
2. 16th: The Lyrid meteor shower can be seen from approximately April 16th through the 25th with a peak on the 21st or 22nd.
3. 19th-20th: Mars, Saturn, and Mercury will cluster.

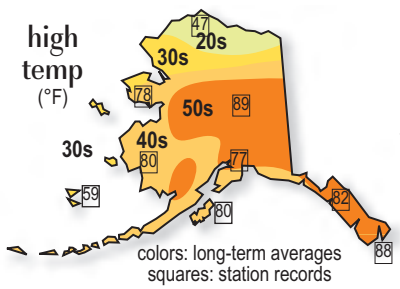
Life with Wind

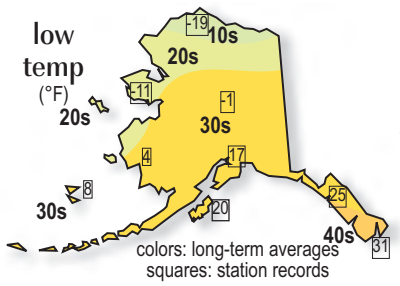
A Sitka spruce tree high on Kodiak's Pillar Mountain grows low and wide in response to the windy environment, a form called *krummholz*. In the background are some trees of a more normal stature, presumably enjoying more shelter in their spots. Besides the stability of a low stance, protection by snow cover during the stormiest months is a potential benefit. Kodiak's hills are more sparsely forested than islands across the Gulf of Alaska at the same latitude, such as Chichigof and Baranof. In fact, forestation since the last ice age has only made it partway across the Kodiak archipelago, possibly slowed by more frequent strong, cold blasts of continental winds than the Southeast forests deal with. In the distance, a layer of marine fog moves up the valley in front of the Three Sisters.

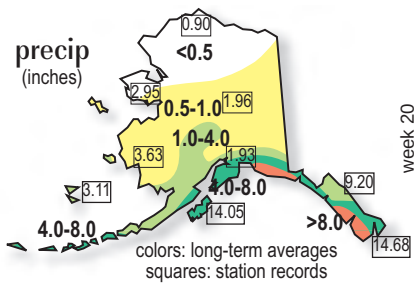


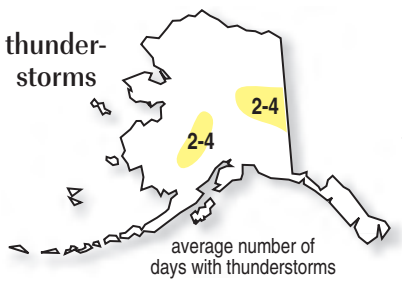
Below left: Rings of seaweed mark various high tide levels on a gravelly point in Foul Bay, western Prince William Sound. **Below right:** Wind-shoved ice is piled head high (note person) on the edge of Telaquana Lake in Lake Clark National Preserve.

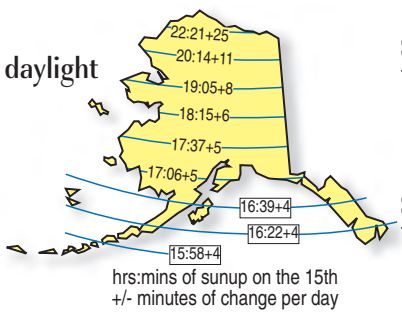
May climate









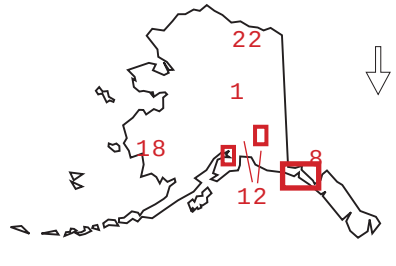


May 2026

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
week 18	 © Timothy R. Grams			S M T W T F S April 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 June 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	 © Jeanette Mills	121/244 full moon 0923 1	122/243 2
week 19	123/242 3	124/241 4	125/240 5	126/239 tides: 36% 6 2001: Unseasonably heavy snow 2nd-6th: 6-14" (17-36 cm) in the Anchorage area, 14-29" (36-74 cm) for Prince William Sound	127/238 tides: 35% 7	128/237 tides: 31% 8	129/236 tides: 30% last quarter 9 2020: Alaska: upper 70s F (24-26 C) from Southeast to the interior. New England: snow, wind, and highs in the 40s F (7-9 C).
week 20	130/235 tides: 35% 10 Mother's Day	131/234 11	132/233 12	133/232 13	134/231 14 1962: Three soldiers died when their company was caught in a fierce late-season blizzard in the Chugach Mountains near Anchorage.	135/230 15	136/229 tides: 163% new moon 1201 16
week 21	137/228 tides: 177% 17	138/227 tides: 183% Venus near moon 18 2013: State HS track meet in Fairbanks: below freezing, fresh snow, wind gusting to 21 mph bringing wind chills down to 11F (–12C).	139/226 tides: 182% 19	140/225 tides: 173% Jupiter near moon 20	141/224 tides: 159% 21	142/223 22	143/222 first quarter 23
week 22	144/221 24	145/220 25 Memorial Day	146/219 26	147/218 27 1990: A cargo ship in the north Pacific lost 5 containers in a storm, spilling 80,000 sneakers. Researchers used them to track currents.	148/217 28	149/216 29	150/215 30
week 23	151/214 full moon 0045 31						

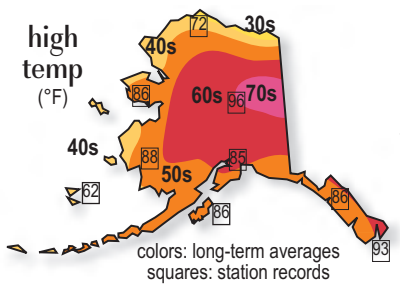
Collateral Damage

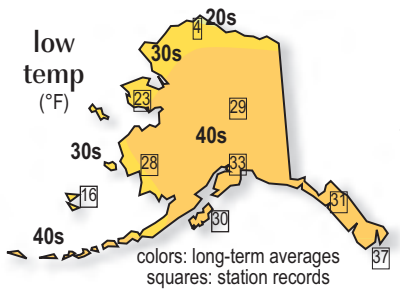
A layer of *altocumulus* clouds is no threat to a rare sunny day along the Gulf of Alaska coast near Yakutat. The bleached stumps ringing the body of water in the photo are trees killed in a multi-layered meteorological/hydrological event forty years ago. It started with the lowly snowflake, one of the smallest units of ice. When untold trillions of snowflakes piled deep enough, gravity and time crushed and morphed them into a river of ice we now call Hubbard Glacier, a mass of ice some 76-miles (120-km) long. In 1986, the glacier advanced enough to dam Russell Fiord, turning it into a salty lake. With the outlet blocked from May to October of that year, the level of Russell Lake rose about 83 feet (25 m), killing the trees. A similar blockage happened briefly in 2002.

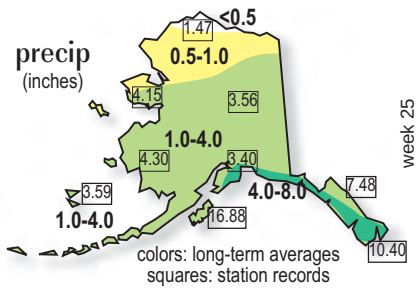


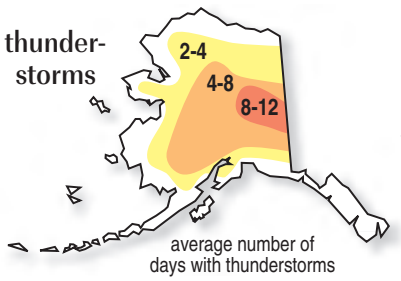
Below top: A patch of *cirrocumulus*, most likely orographic in nature, Copper River Basin. **Below bottom left:** Sunshine through the young foliage of old cottonwood trees, Anchorage. **Below bottom right:** Paddle boarders riding a small Turnagain Arm tidal bore.

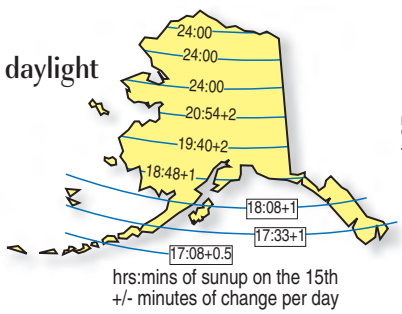
June climate



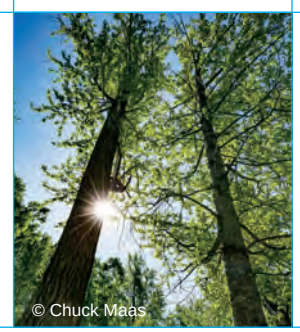








June 2026

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
week 23		152/213 **1** 1949: Coolest and nearly the wettest June on record in Fairbanks. June 2013 had almost identical record precipitation but tied for the warmest.	153/212 **2**	154/211 **3**	155/210 **4**	156/209 tides: 41% **5**	157/208 tides: 44% **6**
week 24	158/207 **7**	159/206 last quarter **8** 2016: Water levels on Kluane Lake and downstream began dropping this year after Slims River was diverted by glacial action to another watershed.	160/205 Venus near Jupiter **9**	161/204 **10**	162/203 **11**	163/202 **12** 2018: Substantial snow in the highway passes: Eureka Roadhouse reported 8-10" (20-25cm); some accumulation in Thompson Pass too.	164/201 **13**
week 25	165/200 tides: 171% new moon 1854 **14** Flag Day	166/199 tides: 182% Mercury E elongation[1] **15**	167/198 tides: 187% planet grouping[2] **16**	168/197 tides: 184% **17**	169/196 tides: 175% **18** 2004: A tornado spotted by a pilot 60 miles (100 km) west of Bethel followed just 4 days after one seen by citizens north of Bethel.	170/195 tides: 159% **19** Juneteenth	171/194 **20**
week 26	172/193 first quarter **21** Summer Solstice 12:24 am Father's Day	173/192 **22** 2024: Solar heating spawned thunderstorms on the north slope of the Brooks Range while the Arctic Coast stayed in the 30s F (~2C)	174/191 **23**	175/190 **24**	176/189 **25**	177/188 **26**	178/187 **27**
week 27	179/186 Mars near Pleiades **28**	180/185 full moon 1556 **29**	181/184 **30**		S M T W T F S May 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 July 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31		

Notes:
1. 15th: Mercury's highest appearance in the evening sky.
2. 16-25th: Mercury, Jupiter, Venus, moon dance, with occulation of Venus by the noon visible in some areas (see in-the-sky.org or another source for details).

New Insights From Old Data

These aren't your everyday, run-of-the-Internet weather records. These seldom- or never-seen data snacks can provide fresh views into the diverse and often extreme climates found in Alaska, and be fun at the same time. Don't call it trivia, though. There's nothing trivial about the weather in Alaska. First, some caveats and disclaimers:

- For this article I've restricted the records to populated places (communities), with one noted exception.
- Weather observations are only a sampling of the weather, not a comprehensive description, so the records shown only reflect available data. More extreme conditions likely have occurred without official documentation.
- These data views are meant to illustrate important aspects of weather and climate. For that purpose I'm confident they are useful and reliable, but I'm not claiming a high level of scientific rigor in all details. The imperfect nature of weather observations and record handling means that there is a fair amount of bogus data in the "official" records. Through careful checking I've weeded out questionable data as best as practical, but if you see something awry, or think I missed something, please let me know.
- The notes under the record categories below offer more details and disclaimers specific to that subject.

Digging out in Juneau © Jim Green

Snow Fatigue

An original index attempting to quantify the urge to fly south for the winter, combining, with roughly equal weight, long-term averages of:

1) Length of the snow-on-ground season (days).

2) Number of days/year with 4" or more snowfall.

3) The amount of precipitation (rain, melted snow, in inches) during the snow season (higher precipitation means wetter, heavier snow, or rain falling on the snow, very fatiguing factors).

Snow fatigue index

top 4		Season length	4 inch days	Season precip	SFI
1	Whittier	204	22	99	103
2	Valdez	190	26	31	76
3	Yakutat	159	15	62	69
4	Haines (border station)	193	23	27	69
selected stations					
A	Cordova (town)	148	10	65	62
B	Elfin Cove	135	9	50	52
C	Juneau	128	7	25	36
D	Dutch Harbor	150	4	31	36
E	Anchorage	175	5	6	28
F	Utqiagvik	248	0.5	3	27
G	Fairbanks	195	3	4	26
H	St Paul Island	171	1	9	23

Fort Wainwright during the 1967 flood
photo courtesy US Army Corps of Engineers

1-Day Deluge

Ranking 1-day maximum precipitation as a percentage of yearly average lets drier areas steal some fame from the usual rain champs of the coast (note that the high-precipitation areas tend to rank low to moderate in this metric). It also correlates well with flooding potential across climates.

Greatest 1-day precipitation (% of yearly average)

top 5		date	amount (inches)	yr ave (inches)	percent of ave
1	Chitina	1955-12-29	4.18	10.97	38.1%
2	Northway	1944-08-01	3.75	9.94	37.7%
3*	Clear (Anderson)	1967-08-13	4.58	12.96	35.3%
4	Chalkyitsik	1972-08-27	2.07	6.01	34.4%
5	Kuparuk	1994-08-18	1.28	3.97	32.2%
selected coastal stations for comparison					
A*	Seward	1986-10-10	15.05	68.6	21.9%
B*	Anchorage	1997-08-21	2.76	16.38	16.8%
C*	Alyeska	2021-10-31	9.53	70.23	13.6%
D*	Little Port Walter	1964-12-06	14.84	228.64	6.5%

*3. Clear: This record is from the 1967 rain event that flooded Fairbanks and surrounding areas. Several records from the same event with slightly lower percentages have been skipped in this analysis, including Nenana, and the several stations in or around Fairbanks,

*A. Seward: This is the official state record for 24-hour precipitation. It ranks a somewhat higher percentage than records from most rainy coastal areas, which hints to its rarity.

*B, C. Anchorage and Alyeska ski resort are only about 40 miles apart, but their precipitation averages are vastly different. However, *percentage-wise,* their records are similar.

*D. Little Port Walter is the wettest weather station in Alaska. There are so many wet storms in this part of the state that even the most extreme ones can't manage to amount to a large portion of the yearly averages here.

Steese Roadhouse in Central @ around –20 °F
© Seth Adams

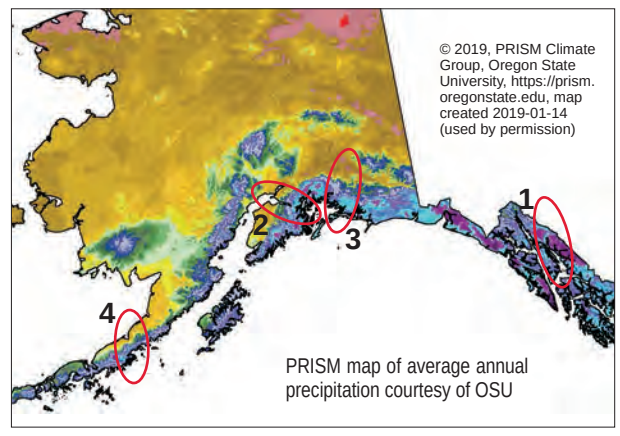
Kinds of Cold

Cold is measured objectively, but felt or thought about from various human perspectives. In this section we compare "long cold" (greatest consecutive number of days below zero °F), "deep cold" (lowest average low (°F) for 7 consecutive days), and "summer cold" (the average number of days per year that reach 60 °F or warmer). The crucial Wind Chill Factor will have to wait for a future article. These stations were selected as representative examples rather than the most extreme, although the Ambler deep cold appears to be just that, a state record.

Three measures of cold

selected stations		Long Cold	Deep Cold	Summer Cold
A	Utqiagvik	52	-47.1	6
B	Ambler	36	-67.3	89
C	Fort Yukon	37	-65.0	104
D	McGrath	26	-63.3	97
E	Saint Paul Island	1	-8.4	2
F	Dutch Harbor	0	9.0	26

Data are from 1980 onward to reflect the warmer climate since then.



Precipitation Contrasts

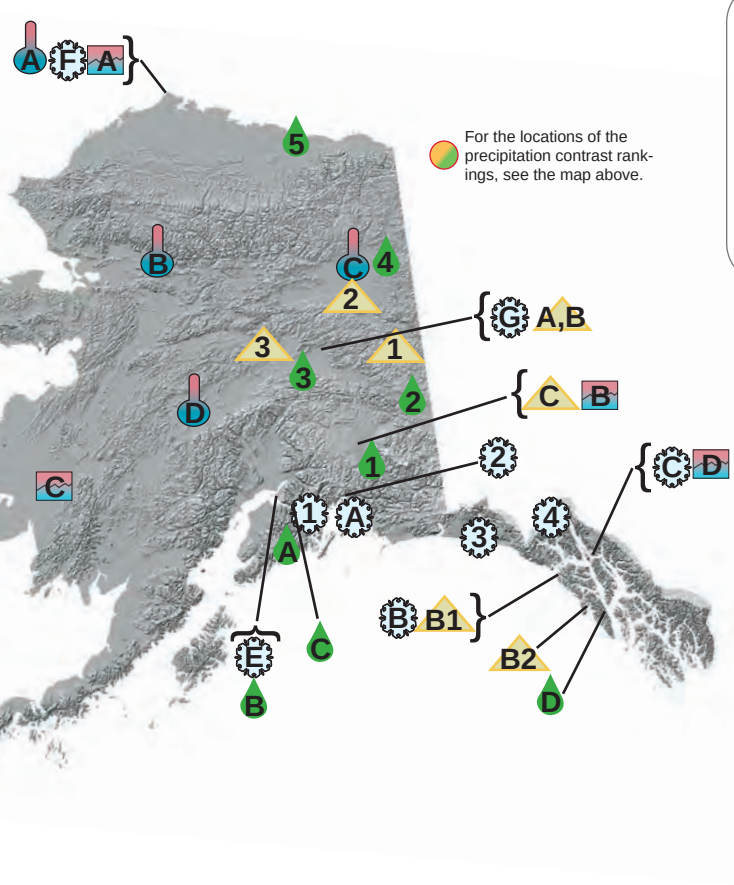
Thanks to one of the largest coastal mountain barriers in the world, precipitation in Alaska can vary by a tremendous amount over relatively short distances. This is the rain shadow/rain enhancement effect on steroids. Ignoring microclimate variations over just a few miles, here are the largest precipitation gradients found using ground-truth weather stations with adequate data. Looking at the map of modeled data above, it can be seen that there are likely even more extreme changes between the sparsely-spaced rain gauge locations. Incidentally, these same mountain barriers affect temperature, too, which can be explored under the *continentality* topic below.

Precipitation variation over distance

top 4		Ratio	Miles	Ratio/ mile
1*	Snettisham (188.09") / Atlin, BC (7.92")	23.7	100	0.24
2	Whittier (197.31") / Anchorage (16.42")	12.0	52	0.23
3	Cordova (downtown) (148.74") / Chitina (10.97")	13.6	78	0.17
4*	Chignik (96") / Port Heiden (18")	5.2	46	0.12

*1. Snettisham is Juneau's hydro-power plant, not a "community."

*4. The precipitation figures given for these two stations are approximate, based on limited available data and PRISM model data.



Continentality

A measure of where the climate of a place falls on the spectrum spanning maritime (dominated by ocean influences) to continental (dominated by land masses). The defining metric is the annual temperature range, from which various indices generally stem. For this ranking I've used the difference between the average high of the warmest month and the average low of the coldest month (metric 1). Metric 2 is the absolute highest ever recorded at the station minus the absolute lowest. Precipitation (ave year), distance to tidewater, and elevation are correlating factors included for informational purposes.

Continentality measures

top 3		metric 1*	metric 2*	precip (inches)	dist to tide (miles)	elevation (feet)
1	Chicken	99	163	12.27	247	1800
2*	Central	97	161	10.67	295	920
3	Manley Hot Springs	94	166	14.03	258	272
selected interesting locations						
A*	Fairbanks	90	162	11.42	260	430
B*	Keystone Ridge	70	132	17.23	266	1600
C*	Gulkana	81	162	11.47	75	1578
bottom 3						
B3	Dutch Harbor	30	90	60.13	0	10
B2	Sitka	30	89	84.47	0	20
B3	Elfin Cove	30	79	104.04	0	20

This analysis can be tricky to slice too thin on a station-by-station basis. Small siting differences can make a big difference; for instance, in coastal areas, being right on the water vs a mile inland, or in the interior, relative elevation (see footnote 4) and proximity to large rivers or lakes. The big picture is seen in the grouping of stations.

*Metric 1 is based on NCEI 1991-2020 normals. Metric 2 is based on the entire station's record, so longer running stations will tend to have more extreme spread.

*2. The closest tidewater to Central is the Arctic Ocean, which is ice covered much of the year. However, to the south, Prince William Sound is only slightly farther (307 miles).

*A. Fairbanks and Keystone Ridge (~14 mi NW of the airport station used for Fairbanks) are included to show how dramatically elevation affects temperatures, especially in the interior winter. Keystone's spot in the hills means it is both warmer in winter and cooler in summer than the valley floor, so exhibits a less continental climate.

*C. Gulkana is included since it has such a high continentality despite being much closer to the ocean than other high-ranking locations. For more on this particular area, see the caption for the main March calendar photo.

Resources

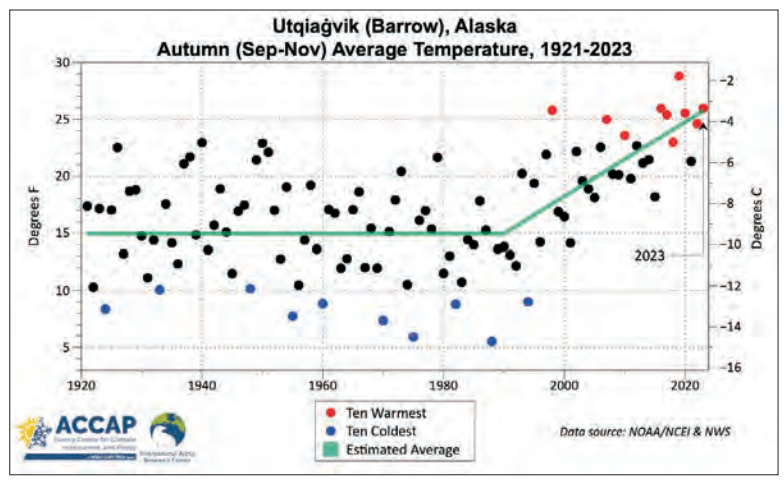
ACIS climate data viewer
`xmacis.rcc-acis.org`

Alaska Center for Climate Assessment and Policy
`uaf-accap.org`

Western Regional Climate Center
`wrcc.dri.edu`

PRISM Climate Group
`prism.oregonstate.edu/projects/alaska.php`

National Centers for Environmental Information
`www.ncei.noaa.gov`



graphic courtesy of Alaska Center for Climate Assessment and Policy

Climate Change Drill Down

It's not news that Alaska, from a state-wide perspective, is warming at a rapid pace — but the regional differences are striking. The most dramatic warming is in the north and west, while for the eastern interior and southeast panhandle, changes are much slower. This table also highlights seasonal differences and differing rates of change between the daily max and min temperatures (high and lows). Here is a zoom-in on a few locations exhibiting some of the largest and smallest changes in Alaska.

50-year (1975-2024) temperature changes, deg. F

selected stations		Spring		Summer		Autumn		Winter		Yr
		max	min	max	min	max	min	max	min	ave
A	Utqiagvik	+7.8	+8.1	+3.7	+3.7	+14.0	+14.3	+9.9	+8.6	+8.5
B	Gulkana	+1.8	-1.1	+2.2	+1.2	+1.2	-1.0	+2.1	+0.3	+1.0
C	Bethel	+3.9	+2.7	+2.1	+2.0	+3.3	+3.3	+4.4	+4.3	+3.2
D	Juneau	+1.1	-0.5	+1.1	+2.9	+0.6	+0.0	+3.1	+3.4	+1.5

There is some danger in focusing on individual stations in climate studies, but these four are among the best in Alaska in terms of long-term data quality, though Utqiagvik and Juneau have some potential influences from changes in development. There is also some danger in focusing on a specific time period. For the best understanding, examine a variety of data views.

September 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

October 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

November 2025

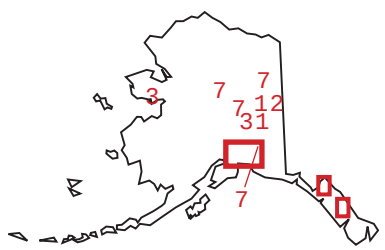
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

December 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

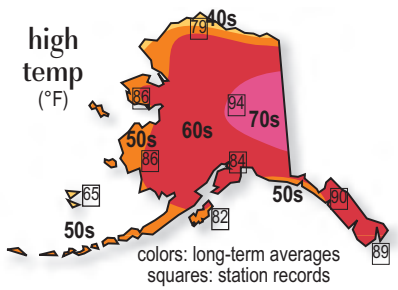
Hot Meets Cold Part II

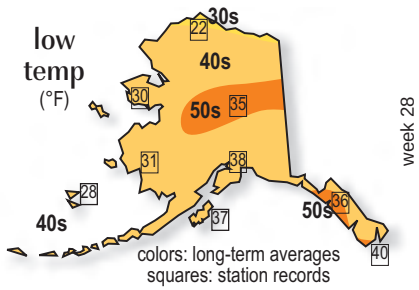
A lightning bolt from a thunderstorm in the Chugach Mountains finds earth near the snout of Matanuska Glacier. These two weather-related phenomena, lightning and glacier, represent ridiculous extremes in both temperature and speed. The temperature of temperate glaciers stays near or a bit below 32 °F/0 °C. The temperature of lightning is tricky to quantify, but we know it heats the air along its path to around 50,000 °F (30,000 °C), roughly five times hotter than the surface of the sun. Speed: Matanuska Glacier creeps along at around 1 foot (0.3 m) per day, on average. Keeping in mind that the complex multi-step process of lightning complicates this exercise, the *return stroke*, the visible climax, propagates at approximately 200 million mph (100,000 km/second).

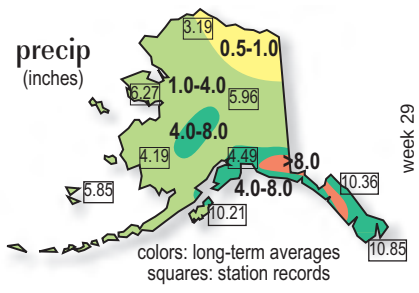


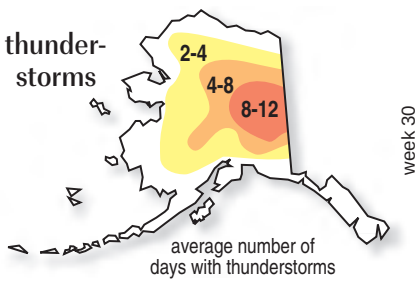
Below top: A dramatic cirrus sky over the Chilkat Valley near Haines. **Below bottom:** The thin "clouds" trailing this jet landing at Petersburg are common when the air is moist. Vortices at the corners of plane's flaps expand and cool the air to the dew point.

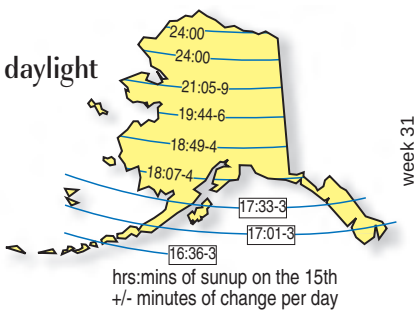
July climate



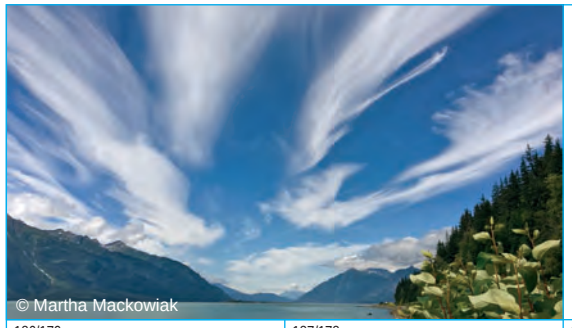
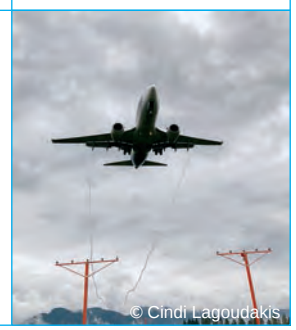








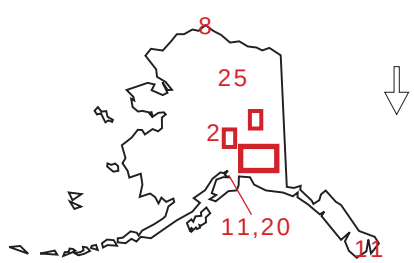
July 2026

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
week 27			June S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 August 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	182/183 **1**	183/182 **2**	184/181 **3** 1924: State record low for July, 16 °F (−9 °C) set at White Mountain. July is the only month that has not been below zero (<−18 °C) in Alaska.	185/180 **4** Independence Day
week 28	186/179 **5**	187/178 aphelion[1] **6**	188/177 last quarter **7** 1915: Hot summer maxes: 90s F (33-36C) in SE, 95F (35C) at Fairbanks, 97F (36C) at Gulkana, Rampart, 100F (38C) at Fort Yukon (state record).	189/176 **8**	190/175 **9**	191/174 **10**	192/173 **11**
week 29	193/172 **12** 2010: Taylor Highway was closed after up to 4 inches (100 mm) of rain pushed the 40 Mile River to a record high flood stage.	194/171 tides: 169% **13**	195/170 tides: 178% new moon 0143 **14**	196/169 tides: 182% **15**	197/168 tides: 178% **16**	198/167 tides: 167% Venus near moon **17**	199/166 **18**
week 30	200/165 **19**	201/164 **20**	202/163 first quarter **21**	203/162 **22**	204/161 tides: 41% **23** Days are getting shorter, but there's an upside: most parts of AK are now getting enough darkness to see *noctilucent* clouds, some to see the aurora.	205/160 tides: 34% **24**	206/159 tides: 35% **25**
week 31	207/158 tides: 39% **26**	208/157 **27**	209/156 **28**	210/155 full moon 0636 **29**	211/154 **30**	212/153 **31** 2016: Wet month for the central interior: Fairbanks totaled 4.97 inches (126 mm) which bested Anchorage, Seward, Juneau, even Ketchikan.	

Notes: 1. 6th: Aphelion: the point of Earth's orbit farthest from the sun.

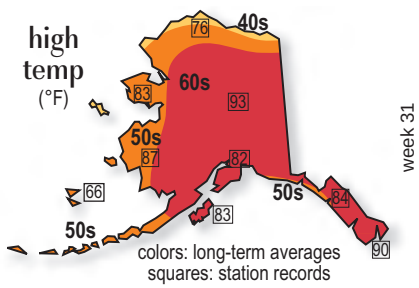
Transitions

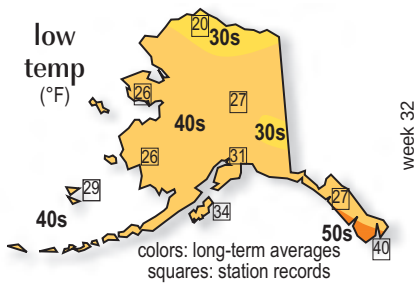
Sunrise silhouettes distant mounts Wrangell and Blackburn beyond misty Willow Lake, in the Copper River Basin. Rapidly lengthening late-summer nights bring many changes. In this area, the time the sun is down is increasing by about six minutes a day. The sun's heat is being steadily reduced not only in duration, but also in intensity, as the angle of incidence lessens. The resultant cooling is not so steady. In cloudy weather both day and night temperatures are only slightly cooling, compared to earlier in the summer. But those minority days with thin or no clouds allow for dramatic change. Daytime highs remain quite warm, but the temperature drops quickly with the sun, often squeezing water vapor out of the air and into dew, fog, or even frost.

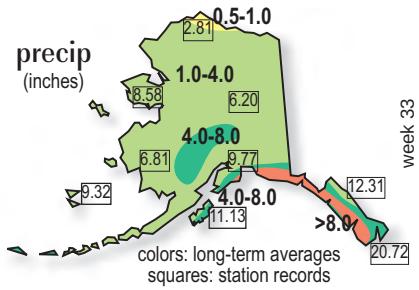


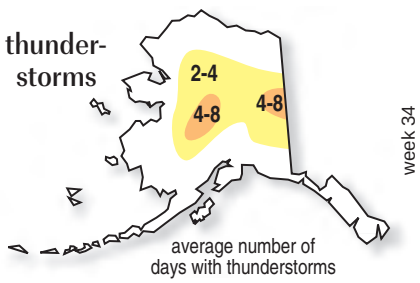
Below left: A riot of lenticular clouds spills downwind from Denali and other Alaska Range peaks. **Below right:** Ripening barley in the Delta Junction area. Barley does well here even with the short, cool growing season.

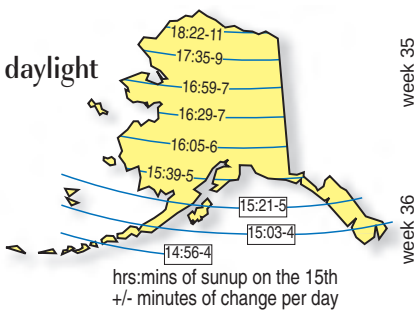
August climate



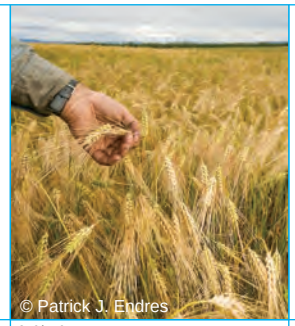








August 2026

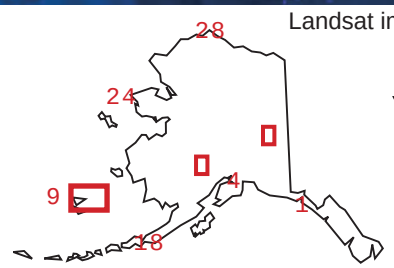
	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
week 31	 © Jim Green				S M T W T F S July 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 September 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	 © Patrick J. Endres	213/152 Mercury W elongation **1**
week 32	214/151 **2** 2020: A remote weather station west of Wonder Lake recorded an unheard-of 5.35" (135.9mm) of rain in 24 hours, most of that in 12 hours.	215/150 **3**	216/149 **4**	217/148 last quarter **5** 	218/147 **6**	219/146 tides: 43% **7**	220/145 tides: 42% **8** 1955: The low at Utqiagvik (Barrow) of 33F (1C) was the last low temperature above freezing from this day until June 27, 1956—323 days.
week 33	221/144 **9**	222/143 Perseid meteor shower[1] **10**	223/142 tides: 160% **11** August rain varies highly from year to year in Alaska. Examples: Anchorage: 0.04-9.77" (1-249 mm) Ketchikan 0.90-33.90" (23-862 mm).	224/141 tides: 167% total solar eclipse[2] **12**  new moon 0937	225/140 tides: 167% **13**	226/139 tides: 161% **14**	227/138 Venus near moon **15**
week 34	228/137 **16**	229/136 **17**	230/135 **18** Alaska Primary Election	231/134 first quarter **19** 	232/133 tides: 42% **20** 2000: Anchorage thunderstorms caused street flooding, power outages and 3/4 inch (1.9 cm) hail.	233/132 tides: 30% **21**	234/131 tides: 27% **22**
week 35	235/130 tides: 33% **23**	236/129 tides: 42% **24**	237/128 **25**	238/127 **26**	239/126 full moon 2018 partial lunar eclipse[3] **27** 	240/125 **28**	241/124 **29**
week 36	242/123 **30**	243/122 **31**	Fall comes early in Bettles, southern Brooks Range. 77% of Augusts have at least one freezing night. On 31 Aug 2013 it dropped to 15F (−9 C).				

Notes:
1. 10th: Perseid meteor shower runs from mid-July through about August 24th, with a peak around the 12th.
2. 12th: Total solar eclipse visible eastern Greenland, parts of Iceland, Spain. Partial visible North America (including Alaska), Europe, western Africa.
3. 27th: Partial lunar eclipse visible Americas, Europe, Africa.

Late Bloomer

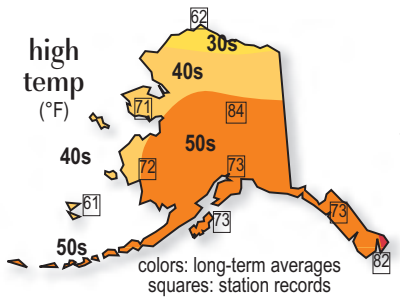
Swirls of unusually colorful waters in the Bering Sea reveal a bloom of phytoplankton, microscopic organisms that are the foundation of the productive habitat here for fish, birds, and marine mammals. Blooms are most common in spring, after ice cover retreats and nutrients and freshened water are abundant near the ocean surface, and again in autumn when storms stir nutrients back to the surface, and the surface water cools to a more optimal temperature. That there are only a few small cumulus clouds and some thin cirrus in the image is perhaps as amazing as the eye-catching plankton bloom. The Bering Sea is one of the cloudiest regions on the globe. The island is St. Paul, one of the two main Pribilof Islands, the other being St. George, just to the south of this frame.

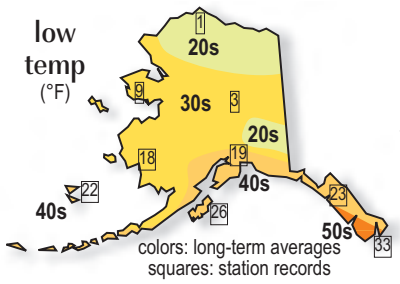
Landsat image 22 September 2014 courtesy of NASA/USGS

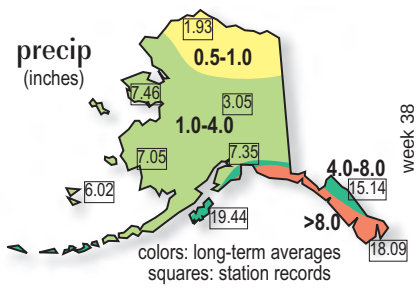


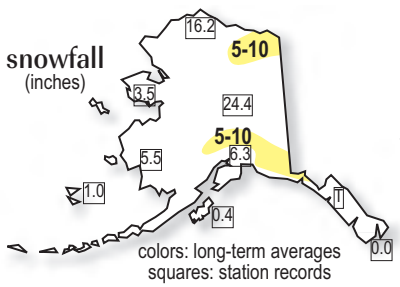
Below top: Fall colors are topped by a layer of termination dust (early autumn new snow) alongside Canwell Glacier in the eastern Alaska Range. **Below bottom:** At the other end of the Alaska Range: fog on Telaquana Lake, more fall colors, more termination dust.

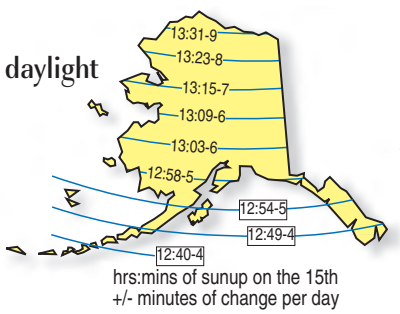
September climate











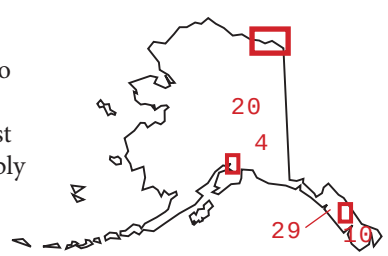
September 2026

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
week 36			244/121 **1** 1987: A four-month rainy spell began in Yakutat. At its end 147.85 inches (3755 mm) of precipitation had fallen, with only 11 dry days.	245/120 **2**	246/119 last quarter **3**	247/118 tides: 45% **4** 2012: Strong early fall windstorm for Anchorage: 131 mph (211 km/hr) peak gust at Glenn Alps...50,000 without power...airport closed.	248/117 tides: 39% **5**
week 37	249/116 Mars near moon **6**	250/115 **7** Labor Day	251/114 Jupiter very near moon[1] **8**	252/113 **9** 2014: Unusually warm Bering Sea water gave the Pribilof Islands a record warm month. St. Paul's highs were 50-58F (10-14 C) each day.	253/112 new moon 1927 **10**	254/111 **11**	255/110 **12** Rosh Hashana
week 38	256/109 **13**	257/108 Venus very near moon[1] **14**	258/107 **15**	259/106 **16**	260/105 **17**	261/104 tides: 33% first quarter **18** 1988: Ex-tropical storm Hal kicked up sustained 75 mph (120 km/hr) winds at Cold Bay with peak gust of 96 mph (155 km/hr).	262/103 tides: 25% **19**
week 39	263/102 tides: 26% **20**	264/101 tides: 36% **21** Yom Kippur	265/100 **22** Autumnal Equinox 4:05pm	266/99 **23**	267/98 **24** 2021: Social media reports indicated about 6" (15 cm) of new snow fell at Little Diomede, quite a bit so early in the fall for the island community.	268/97 **25**	269/96 full moon 0849 **26**
week 40	270/95 **27**	271/94 **28** 2017: Coastal flooding in Utqiagvik (formerly Barrow) breached protective berms and washed out roads. Damage estimate was over $10M.	272/93 **29**	273/92 **30**	S M T W T F S August 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 October 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31		

Notes: 1. 8th & 14th: Occultation of Jupiter and Venus by the noon on these respective dates (see in-the-sky.org for details).

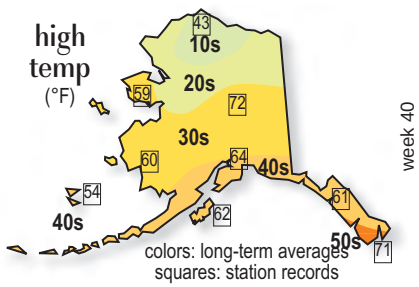
Beaufort Sea Freezeup

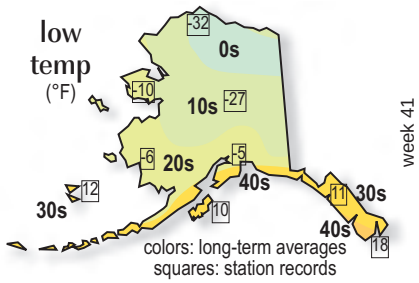
Varied colors of dawn spread over the Beaufort Sea at Barter Island on Alaska's Arctic coast. The ice along the beach is a precursor to a full freezeup here later. As the fall air gets colder, the water cools, too, but slowly. Much heat needs to be removed from the water to lower it to the freezing point (for sea water, around 29 °F (–2 °C)), so the sea ice lags the weather by a couple months. Since at least 1979 (when satellite measurements began), Arctic sea ice has been in major decline, mostly in the loss of summer ice, but also notably in later freezeup along Alaska's coast. This has in turn been a major driver in a sharp regional fall and winter warming, and has also made shorelines more vulnerable to flooding and erosion during fall storms. More on regional climate trends in the center section.

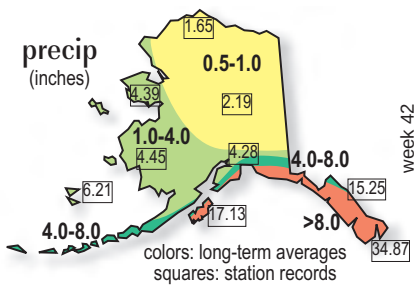


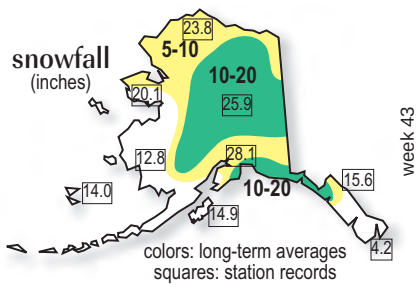
Below left: Yet more fall colors and termination dust, this time among grasses along the mudflats of the Knik River, and on the Talkeetna Mountains. **Below right:** Peaks and ridges barely peek through low clouds along Southeast Alaska's Inside Passage.

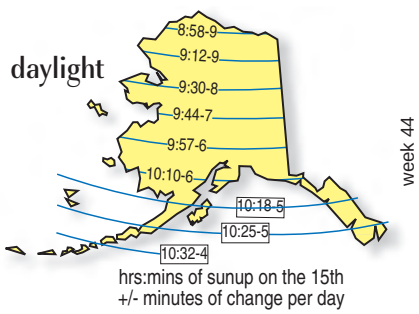
October climate











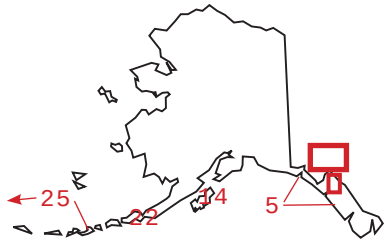
October 2026

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
week 40			S M T W T F S September 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 November 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30		274/91 **1**	275/90 **2**	276/89 last quarter **3**
week 41	277/88 Saturn at opposition; Mars very near moon[1] **4** 1974: On the 3rd-4th lows dropped below zero F (−18 C) in the Copper River Basin and points north; teens (−7 to −11 C) in Southcentral.	278/87 **5**	279/86 Jupiter very near moon[1] **6**	280/85 **7**	281/84 **8**	282/83 **9**	283/82 new moon 0750 **10** 2010: Winds measured as high as 127 mph (204 km/hr) raked the Ketchikan area, sending boats adrift, downing trees and cutting power.
week 42	284/81 Venus near moon **11**	285/80 Mercury E elongation **12** Indigenous People's Day[2] Columbus Day[2]	286/79 **13**	287/78 **14** 2010: The event on the 10th was only the highlight. 70+ mph (113 km/hr) in southern SE waters most days from the 9th-15th.	288/77 **15**	289/76 **16**	290/75 tides: 29% **17**
week 43	291/74 tides: 25% first quarter **18** Alaska Day	292/73 tides: 29% Orionid meteor shower[3] **19**	293/72 tides: 40% **20** 2018: First snow of any amount this fall in Fairbanks, the latest ever. Both warm and dry for October and most of November.	294/71 **21**	295/70 **22**	296/69 **23**	297/68 **24**
week 44	298/67 full moon 2012 **25**	299/66 tides: 156% **26**	300/65 tides: 166% **27**	301/64 tides: 169% **28**	302/63 tides: 165% **29** 1975: The first snow of the season arrived at Pelican with a bang: heavy rain and snow showers, and lightning. *Thundersnow* is the term.	303/62 tides: 155% **30**	304/61 **31** Head's up! Daylight Saving Time ends tonight (2 am Sunday 11/1)

Notes:
1. 4th & 6th: Occultation of Mars and Jupiter by the moon on these respective dates (see in-the-sky.org for details).
2. 12th: Alaska, some other states, and many local governments recognize Indigenous People's Day. Columbus Day remains a federal holiday.
3. 19th: The Orionid meteor shower is active the latter half of October with a broad peak around the 21st or 22nd.

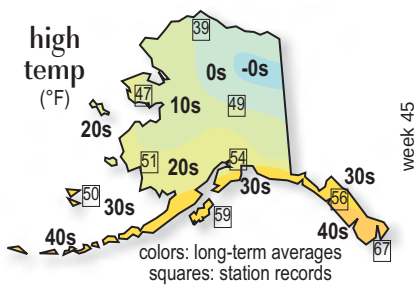
River Ice

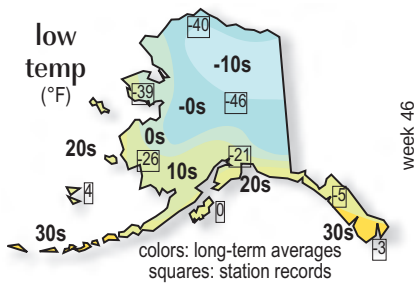
Pancake ice runs on the Takhini River near Whitehorse after a cold night in Canada's Yukon. Some *shore ice* has formed along the banks as well, and it's only a matter of time before the river will be frozen to a thickness allowing human and animal travel. In the meantime, open water promotes the wispy fog and touches of hoarfrost seen in the photo (but much less than that in the January photo). Even when the river appears totally iced over, the water still flows under it, and open *leads* could be just around the corner, perhaps concealed under a thin veneer of ice and snow. Another complication with river ice is *overflow*, which happens when water is forced up through breaks in the ice and flows on top, where it can freeze into layer after layer of ice, sometimes with water between.

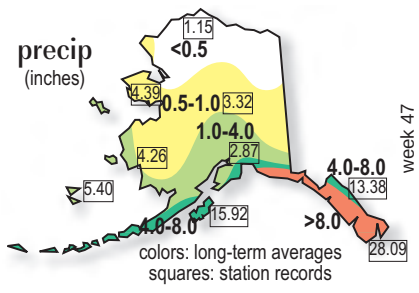


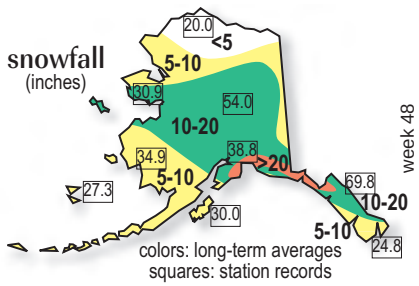
Below: Low clouds seem to make an about face as they rise into a different wind pattern over Lynn Canal, in the northern reaches of the Inside Passage. A healthy layer of new snow covers the Chilkat Range on the west side of the fjord.

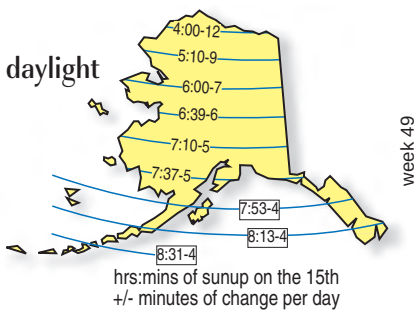
November climate











November 2026

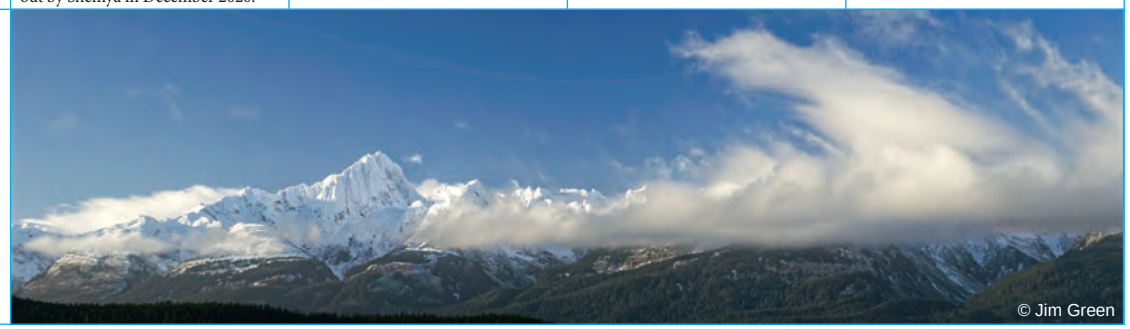
	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
week 45	305/60 last quarter **1**	306/59 Mars/Jupiter near moon[2] **2**	307/58 **3** General Election	308/57 **4**	309/56 **5** 2009: A strong Gulf low conspired with the highest tides of the month to bring substantial flooding damage to Yakutat and Sitka mainly.	310/55 **6**	311/54 Venus very near moon[2] **7** *Now is a good time to order your* 2027 Alaska Weather Calendar. *See the back cover for ordering information.*
week 46	312/53 new moon 2202 **8**	313/52 **9**	314/51 **10**	315/50 **11** Veterans' Day	316/49 **12**	317/48 **13**	318/47 Leonid meteor shower[3] **14** 2013: The high of 59 F (15 C) at Kodiak this date beat the previous warmest November day by 5 F degrees (3 C degrees).
week 47	319/46 tides: 33% Jupiter near Mars **15**	320/45 tides: 32% **16** In the Arctic, the warmest months are the wettest; in the SE panhandle, the patterns are opposite—the warmest months are the driest.	321/44 tides: 37% first quarter **17**	322/43 **18**	323/42 **19**	324/41 Mercury W elongation **20**	325/40 **21**
week 48	326/39 **22** 1983: The only day at Cold Bay with zero precipitation from October 31st through December 23rd of this year.	327/38 tides: 158% **23**	328/37 tides: 173% full moon 0553 **24**	329/36 tides: 182% Uranus at opposition **25** 1977: The sea level pressure of 925mb at Dutch Harbor was the record lowest in AK for 43 years until edged out by Shemya in December 2020.	330/35 tides: 183% **26** Thanksgiving	331/34 tides: 177% **27**	332/33 tides: 165% **28**
week 49	333/32 **29**	334/31 last quarter Jupiter/Mars near moon[2] **30**					

October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

December

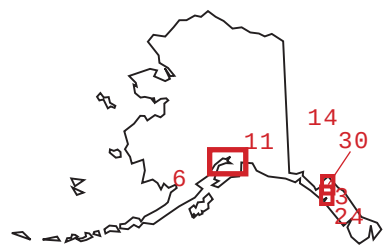
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		


© Jim Green

Notes:
1. 2nd: As of press time.
2. 2nd, 7th, 30th: Occultations of Mars, Jupiter, Venus, then Jupiter (again) by the moon might be viewable from some locations (see in-the-sky.org for details).
3. 14th: Leonid shower, visible ~14th-20th with a peak on the 16th or 17th.

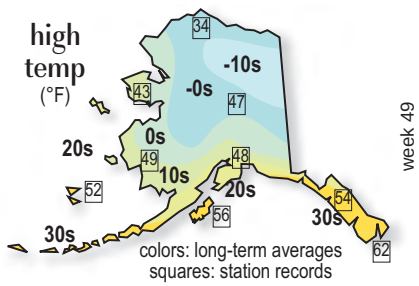
Fata Morgana

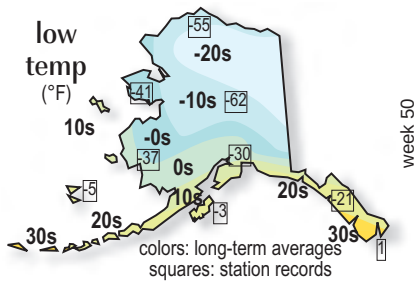
A mirage termed *fata morgana* distorts the Tordrillo Mountains west of Anchorage on a cold morning. Cook Inlet's tidal flats reflect the morning glow, which also highlights a mass of low clouds beyond Fire Island. In a mirage, light rays are bent by the air (*refracted*) in such a way that objects appear distorted and/or in a place they are not. In this photo there is a complex, large displacement of the image of the mountains that varies depending on the angle of vision. This is due to sharp changes in air density vs. elevation caused by multiple thin layers of air with differing temperature and humidity, common in cold winter weather when dense cold air is overlaid by warmer layers (an *inversion*). Differing winds often manipulate the layers, adding to the effects.

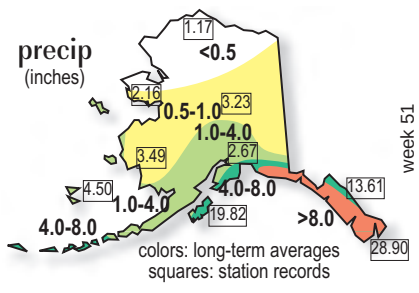


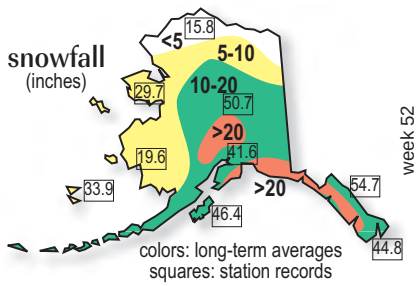
Below top: Frost follows the detail of a totem at Bartlett Cove, at the entrance to Glacier Bay National Park. **Below bottom:** The dried remains of cow parsnip blossoms take on a new look with a light snowfall near Haines.

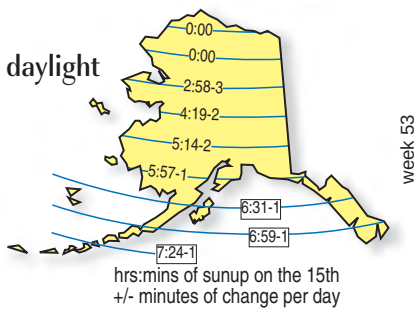
December climate



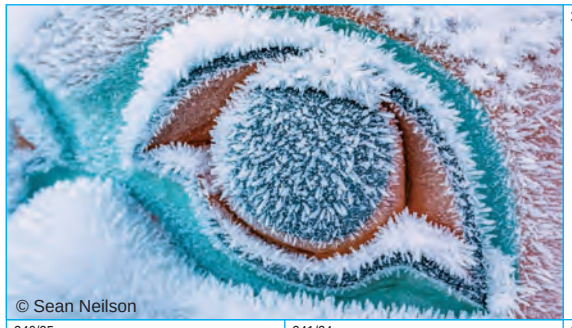
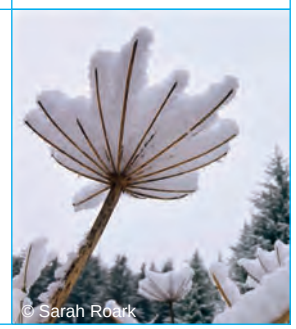








December 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
week 49						
 © Sean Neilson		335/30 **1**	336/29 **2**	337/28 **3** 2007: strong offshore flow kept Southeast in the single digits to teens F (−7 to −17 ° C). Parts of Juneau saw 60 mph (100 km/hr) wind gusts.	338/27 **4**	339/26 **5** First day of Chanukah
week 50						
340/25 **6** Geminid meteor shower[1] 2021: 1-2 feet (35-75 cm) of snow fell in the Dillingham-Aleknagik area, with areas of severe drifting, downed trees, and power outages.	341/24 **7**	342/23 **8** new moon 1552	343/22 **9**	344/21 **10**	345/20 **11** 2022: Glennallen received 29" (74 cm) of snow the 11th and 12th, almost doubling the previous record for a single storm.	346/19 **12**
week 51						
347/18 **13**	348/17 **14** 2008: Super high pressure in the Yukon Territory: 1058 mb. Temperatures there ranged from 15 to 30 below zero F (−25 to −35 C).	349/16 **15**	350/15 first quarter **16**	351/14 **17**	352/13 **18**	353/12 **19**
week 52						
354/11 **20**	355/10 **21** Winter Solstice 11:50 am	356/9 tides: 165% **22**	357/8 tides: 179% full moon 1628 **23**	358/7 tides: 187% **24** 1953: Days of heavy rain (over 3"/80mm some days) obliterated the snow pack for virtually all of the sea-level communities of SE AK.	359/6 tides: 188% **25** Christmas	360/5 tides: 181% **26**
week 53						
361/4 tides: 167% Jupiter near moon **27**	362/3 **28**	363/2 **29**	364/1 last quarter **30** 2023: Ice storm in northern SE: Haines hit with 0.4 inches (10 mm) of glaze resulting in many trees downed or bent under the weight.	365/0 **31**	S M T W T F S November 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 January 2027 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	 © Sarah Roark

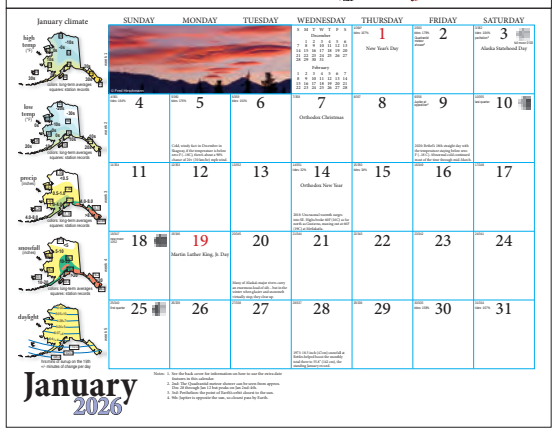
Notes: 1. 6th: The Geminid meteor shower is visible around the 6th-17th with a peak on the night of the 13th.

Hot Meets Cold

Then, snow, almost everything at Chena Hot Springs wears a thick parka of *hoarfrost* thanks to the unusual amount of humidity offered by the springs. The hot water evaporates into the dry air, but quickly saturates the air, and some of the water vapor returns to liquid in the form of fog. The vapor and liquid fog drops find an equilibrium—the air is *saturated with respect to water*. However, from the point of view of any ice crystals present, the air has too much vapor in it (*supersaturated*) and those crystals take it on, growing via *deposition*—directly from vapor to solid. As this ice growth removes water vapor from the air, the equilibrium between vapor and liquid is upset, and the air is relatively dry in that relationship. But the springs keep replenishing it, and so the cycle continues.

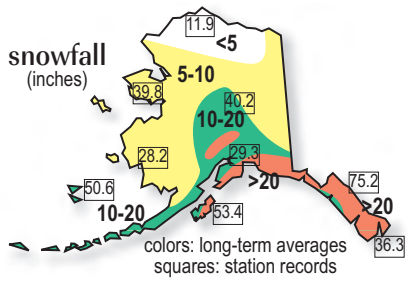
© Sunny Awazuhara-Reed / Alaska Stock

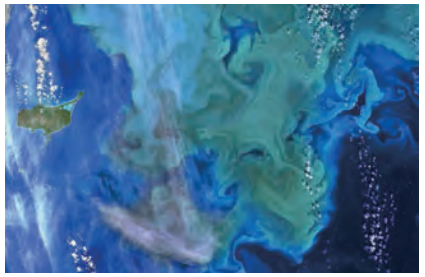
Below: Warm sunrise colors reflect off mid-level clouds over the Chugach Mountains near Matanuska Glacier. The clouds are *orographic*, ie., caused by the wind blowing over the mountains, some very distinctly lens-shaped, from which we get the term lenticular.



climate maps

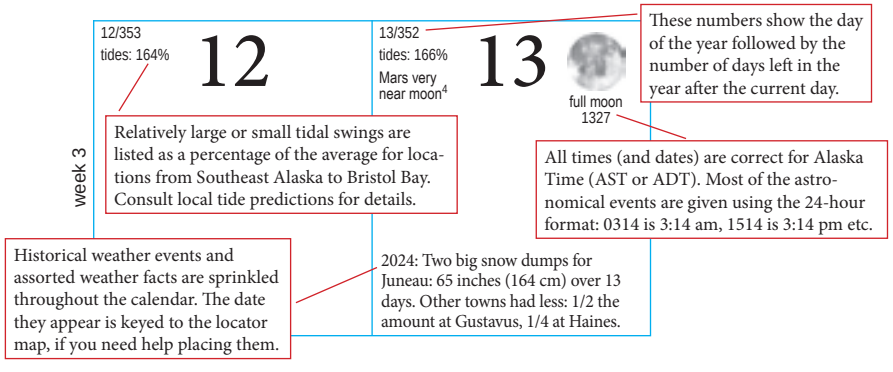
The maps show long-term averages via the colored bands, and monthly records for primary stations in the boxed numbers. There are five maps for each month: high and low temperatures, precipitation, snowfall or thunderstorms (summer), and daylight hours and minutes with amount of daily change.





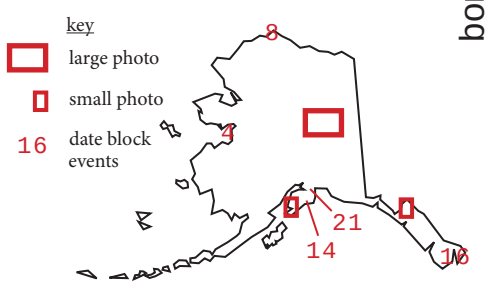
weather history — astronomical predictions

Besides the usual holidays, this calendar looks back at memorable weather events of past years, and forward to upcoming celestial happenings. Be aware of the next full moon, solstice or equinox, solar or lunar eclipse, planet grouping, or meteor shower.

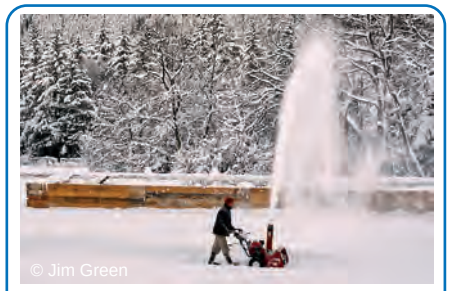


locator maps

If you are unfamiliar with place names mentioned in the captions or date block weather events, these maps will point them out to you. The weather event locations correspond to the date they appear in the calendar.



bonus pages



Insightful Data Analysis

Inside find enlightening feature material on unusual ways to look at weather and climate data, with segments on precipitation contrasts, three ways to classify cold, the debut of the "Snow Fatigue Index," and more. This two-page spread also serves as a poster calendar for the last four months of 2025. You don't have to wait until the new year to use your *2026 Alaska Weather Calendar*.

Credits

Content and design: Jim Green
Photography*: Seth Adams, Sunny Awazuhara-Reed, Donna Dewhurst, Patrick J. Endres, Timothy R. Grams, Jim Green, Bruce M. Herman, Fred Hirschmann, Cindi Lagoudakis, Chuck Maas, Martha Mackowiak, Kathleen Menke, Jeanette Mills, Ted Moore, Sean Neilson, Marion Owen, Daryl Pederson, Sarah Roark, Craig Walters, Myron Wright
Reviewing/editing/proofreading: Roberta Austring, Elliott Barske, Steve Gruhn, Nancy Nash, Margaret Plucker
Printing: Printwest, Woodinville, WA
Astronomical data: Sky Events Almanac, courtesy of Fred Espenak, www.AstroPixels.com; U.S. Naval Observatory; In-The-Sky.org
Cover photo: Wrangell Mountains and Willow Lake © Patrick J. Endres
*web and email links for many of our photographers can be found at www.williwaw.com

Williwaw products and ordering

current *Alaska Weather Calendar* $16.00
back issues of the *Alaska Weather Calendar* $5.00
viral map of USA with Alaska in its proper place $15.00

See more products online. We offer quantity discounts starting at just four items, and customized calendars for business promotion.

www.williwaw.com
1-800-490-4950
publications@williwaw.com

Williwaw Publishing Co.
PO Box 309
Haines, AK 99827

34th edition

Your input is sought

We'd love to hear your **comments** on our calendar and ideas for subjects you'd like to see covered. We're also looking for dramatic Alaska weather **photos** for future editions.

Call, write, or use our website to provide feedback, get the photo guidelines, or find out more about our other publications. Also at **williwaw.com** are hundreds of links to useful Alaska weather and climate data, and the *Alaska Weather Blog*.

Made in U.S.A.

10% post-consumer

UPC 7 63599 29326 9

US $16.00

ISBN 978-1-892337-39-9

EAN 9 781892 337399