



# Alberta Taiga Plains

## Low Carbon Emissions (RCP4.5)

Climate Variable	Season	1981–2010 (Baseline)	2021–2050			2051–2080		
			L	M	H	L	M	H
Mean Temperature	Annual	-2.2 °C	-1.0 °C	-0.4 °C	0.4 °C	0.3 °C	0.8 °C	1.4 °C
	Summer	14.2 °C	15.1 °C	15.6 °C	16.1 °C	16.1 °C	16.5 °C	16.9 °C
	Winter	-20.4 °C	-19.0 °C	-18.0 °C	-16.5 °C	-17.5 °C	-16.2 °C	-14.6 °C
Precipitation	Annual	393.0 mm	397.1 mm	419.2 mm	441.4 mm	407.7 mm	429.1 mm	454.1 mm
	Summer	169.0 mm	155.5 mm	175.3 mm	195.9 mm	157.5 mm	176.7 mm	196.9 mm
	Winter	67.8 mm	65.1 mm	70.9 mm	76.6 mm	67.3 mm	73.7 mm	82.1 mm
Days ≥ 30 °C	Annual	0.8 days	0.5 days	2.7 days	5.8 days	1.6 days	4.2 days	7.1 days
Nights ≥ 20 °C	Annual	0.0 days	0.0 days	0.0 days	0.0 days	0.0 days	0.1 days	0.2 days
Days ≤ -30 °C	Annual	32.0 days	13.3 days	20.1 days	26.5 days	9.6 days	14.3 days	18.2 days
Frost-Free Period	Annual	101.6 days	97.1 days	115.9 days	132.7 days	108.4 days	123.8 days	140.4 days
5 °C Degree Days	Annual	1092.1	1224.9	1301.9	1378.9	1383.9	1451.8	1528.6
10 °C Degree Days	Annual	464.2	557.7	611.9	672.4	662.2	719.4	766.6
Freeze-Thaw Cycles	Annual	63.5 cycles	49.0 cycles	59.0 cycles	68.8 cycles	48.8 cycles	58.6 cycles	69.5 cycles
Max 1-day Precip Total	Annual	37.7 mm	30.7 mm	44.1 mm	60.3 mm	31.9 mm	45.9 mm	62.0 mm
Max 3-day Precip Total	Annual	83.6 mm	69.2 mm	97.6 mm	129.8 mm	71.5 mm	102.3 mm	139.0 mm

## High Carbon Emissions (RCP8.5)

Climate Variable	Season	1981–2010 (Baseline)	2021–2050			2051–2080		
			L	M	H	L	M	H
Mean Temperature	Annual	-2.2 °C	-0.6 °C	0.0 °C	0.9 °C	1.3 °C	2.2 °C	3.3 °C
	Summer	14.2 °C	15.2 °C	15.8 °C	16.5 °C	17.1 °C	17.9 °C	18.8 °C
	Winter	-20.5 °C	-18.4 °C	-17.2 °C	-15.7 °C	-15.6 °C	-14.3 °C	-12.9 °C
Precipitation	Annual	388.8 mm	396.6 mm	421.9 mm	449.3 mm	415.1 mm	441.6 mm	472.5 mm
	Summer	166.2 mm	156.0 mm	172.5 mm	194.2 mm	155.1 mm	176.3 mm	194.1 mm
	Winter	66.2 mm	65.8 mm	72.4 mm	80.1 mm	69.4 mm	76.9 mm	84.9 mm
Days ≥ 30 °C	Annual	0.9 days	0.8 days	3.1 days	5.4 days	4.2 days	8.5 days	14.1 days
Nights ≥ 20 °C	Annual	0.0 days	0.0 days	0.0 days	0.0 days	0.0 days	0.4 days	1.0 days
Days ≤ -30 °C	Annual	32.6 days	10.5 days	17.5 days	24.7 days	4.4 days	9.0 days	13.3 days
Frost-Free Period	Annual	101.6 days	101.1 days	120.2 days	137.8 days	119.8 days	137.3 days	156.0 days
5 °C Degree Days	Annual	1096.5	1243.3	1343.2	1468.1	1547.4	1670.8	1846.2
10 °C Degree Days	Annual	467.0	575.1	641.2	733.8	790.3	887.0	1023.2
Freeze-Thaw Cycles	Annual	62.9 cycles	48.0 cycles	58.2 cycles	68.5 cycles	45.4 cycles	55.9 cycles	65.8 cycles
Max 1-day Precip Total	Annual	37.8 mm	30.0 mm	42.2 mm	55.9 mm	31.9 mm	46.0 mm	61.2 mm
Max 3-day Precip Total	Annual	83.8 mm	67.1 mm	93.5 mm	124.0 mm	71.7 mm	101.7 mm	134.8 mm

## Where did this data come from?

Global Climate Models (GCMs) are used to depict how the climate is likely to change in the future. Since no one climate model can be considered 'correct', it is important to use many GCMs to capture a range of possible conditions. The GCM data we used were obtained from the Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium (PCIC). PCIC collected temperature and precipitation data produced by 12 different models and used advanced statistical techniques to create high-resolution (daily, 10km) versions of the data for all of Canada (for more information visit [pacificclimate.org](http://pacificclimate.org)).

## What is the difference between the 'Low' and 'High' Carbon emission scenarios?

One of the most important inputs into GCM simulations of the future climate is the expected concentration of greenhouse gases (GHGs; especially carbon dioxide) in the atmosphere as a result of human activity. In the scientific literature these future GHG concentrations are used to calculate Representative Concentration Pathways (RCPs). The High Carbon scenario (RCP8.5) assumes that we continue to emit very large amounts of carbon dioxide from the burning of fossil fuels; the Low Carbon scenario (RCP4.5) assumes that drastic reductions of emissions in the coming decades will stabilize the concentration of GHGs in the atmosphere by the end of this century. We did not use RCP2.6, an even lower emissions scenario.

## How were the Low, Mean, and High values calculated?

For a variety of climate variables, we used the projected values from the 12 models to calculate an *ensemble* (average) value for each year. The ensemble values for the 2021-2050 and 2051-2080 periods were used to calculate the 'M', or mean, values. To portray the range of values within the 30-year periods, we calculated the 10th and 90th percentiles; 10% of the annual values are lower than the 'L' values and 10% of the annual values are higher than the 'H' values. For comparative purposes, we also calculated ensembles for the baseline period of 1981-2010 (as simulated by the models).

## Some definitions

**Frost-Free Period:** number of consecutive days without freezing temperatures

**5 °C Degree Days:** cumulative number of degrees greater than 5 °C (using daily mean temperatures)

**Freeze-Thaw Cycles:** number of days with maximum temperature > 0 °C and minimum temperature < -1 °C



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