



Manitoba Prairies

Low Carbon Emissions (RCP4.5)

Climate Variable	Season	1981–2010 (Baseline)	2021–2050			2051–2080		
			L	M	H	L	M	H
Mean Temperature	Annual	2.5 °C	3.7 °C	4.2 °C	5.0 °C	4.9 °C	5.4 °C	5.8 °C
	Summer	17.9 °C	18.8 °C	19.4 °C	19.9 °C	19.9 °C	20.5 °C	21.0 °C
	Winter	-15.0 °C	-13.9 °C	-12.8 °C	-11.6 °C	-12.2 °C	-11.1 °C	-10.1 °C
Precipitation	Annual	485.1 mm	481.6 mm	512.4 mm	544.0 mm	487.2 mm	511.9 mm	543.2 mm
	Summer	209.2 mm	188.7 mm	210.2 mm	234.7 mm	184.1 mm	200.8 mm	218.2 mm
	Winter	65.7 mm	66.5 mm	72.4 mm	80.5 mm	68.0 mm	76.6 mm	84.6 mm
Days ≥ 30 °C	Annual	9.5 days	12.3 days	18.0 days	23.5 days	20.8 days	27.5 days	34.1 days
Nights ≥ 20 °C	Annual	0.4 days	0.2 days	1.8 days	3.8 days	1.5 days	3.7 days	6.1 days
Days ≤ -30 °C	Annual	9.9 days	1.4 days	4.7 days	8.5 days	0.4 days	2.6 days	4.9 days
Frost-Free Period	Annual	122.0 days	121.7 days	136.2 days	151.9 days	131.9 days	144.0 days	157.4 days
5 °C Degree Days	Annual	1700.5	1868.1	1975.0	2077.7	2070.6	2181.7	2266.5
10 °C Degree Days	Annual	915.3	1044.5	1120.3	1198.0	1210.1	1292.8	1368.3
Freeze-Thaw Cycles	Annual	64.7 cycles	50.7 cycles	60.9 cycles	71.5 cycles	54.8 cycles	63.2 cycles	71.9 cycles
Max 1-day Precip Total	Annual	62.9 mm	48.3 mm	73.5 mm	106.3 mm	48.4 mm	68.1 mm	92.5 mm
Max 3-day Precip Total	Annual	133.4 mm	105.6 mm	155.9 mm	220.5 mm	105.4 mm	143.8 mm	192.3 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	2.4 °C	3.8 °C	4.6 °C	5.2 °C	5.6 °C	6.8 °C	8.0 °C
	Summer	17.9 °C	19.2 °C	19.8 °C	20.4 °C	20.9 °C	21.9 °C	22.9 °C
	Winter	-15.1 °C	-13.4 °C	-12.2 °C	-11.0 °C	-11.2 °C	-9.5 °C	-7.9 °C
Precipitation	Annual	485.1 mm	478.9 mm	512.0 mm	545.1 mm	491.1 mm	524.7 mm	556.0 mm
	Summer	208.4 mm	189.4 mm	205.8 mm	222.2 mm	175.2 mm	196.7 mm	216.0 mm
	Winter	65.7 mm	63.7 mm	71.9 mm	82.2 mm	68.3 mm	79.7 mm	89.0 mm
Days ≥ 30 °C	Annual	9.4 days	15.1 days	20.9 days	27.8 days	30.3 days	40.9 days	51.6 days
Nights ≥ 20 °C	Annual	0.3 days	0.4 days	2.6 days	5.1 days	5.3 days	10.1 days	15.4 days
Days ≤ -30 °C	Annual	10.3 days	1.0 days	3.9 days	7.4 days	0.1 days	1.4 days	3.0 days
Frost-Free Period	Annual	122.0 days	123.7 days	139.6 days	155.8 days	139.8 days	154.3 days	170.6 days
5 °C Degree Days	Annual	1698.8	1948.4	2044.7	2163.2	2262.1	2451.9	2659.9
10 °C Degree Days	Annual	913.4	1108.8	1182.1	1265.5	1363.8	1514.9	1692.0
Freeze-Thaw Cycles	Annual	64.4 cycles	51.8 cycles	61.0 cycles	69.1 cycles	52.0 cycles	59.7 cycles	67.1 cycles
Max 1-day Precip Total	Annual	62.1 mm	47.8 mm	68.9 mm	92.7 mm	50.3 mm	70.9 mm	97.0 mm
Max 3-day Precip Total	Annual	131.5 mm	102.8 mm	145.5 mm	193.6 mm	106.9 mm	151.1 mm	204.4 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).

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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