

Spring 2009 Climate Information

Spring 2009 began on Friday, March 20th, 2009 at 644 AM CDT, and will end on Sunday, June 21st, 2009 at 1246 AM CDT, when the Summer 2009 officially begins.

Average Spring Climate Information for the latest 30 Year Normals from 1971 to 2000 are listed below for Austin, Del Rio, and San Antonio. The information for extremes includes information from the beginning of climate record.

Austin/Mabry

Month	High	Low	All time High	All time Low	Average Rainfall	All Time Driest	All Time Wettest
March	72.5	50.9	98	18	2.14	0	7.23
April	78.9	57.6	99	30	2.51	T	19.82
May	84.8	65.4	104	40	5.03	T	14.10
June	90.9	71.1	108	51	3.81	0	14.96

Austin/Bergstrom

Month	High	Low	All time High	All time Low	Average Rainfall	All Time Driest	All Time Wettest
March	73.5	51.7	98	17	2.36	0.05	6.52
April	79.6	58.1	99	31	2.63	0.03	12.18
May	85.2	65.9	102	42	5.12	0.28	13.69
June	91.1	71.8	109	56	3.42	T	15.59

Del Rio

Month	High	Low	All time High	All time Low	Average Rainfall	All Time Driest	All Time Wettest
March	76.0	51.6	103	19	0.96	T	3.20
April	82.7	58.5	106	33	1.71	T	7.51
May	88.7	66.7	109	45	2.31	0.03	10.23
June	93.7	72.1	112	49	2.34	T	13.71

San Antonio

Month	High	Low	All time High	All time Low	Average Rainfall	All Time Driest	All Time Wettest
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March	74.3	49.9	100	19	1.89	T	6.12
April	80.4	56.9	101	31	2.60	T	11.64
May	86.0	65.5	104	43	4.72	0.17	14.07
June	91.4	71.6	107	48	4.30	T	11.95

Even though the average date of the last freeze is in late February to the middle part of March, strong cold outbreaks have brought freezes to the area in late March to the middle part of April. A widespread freeze came to the Hill Country and South Central Texas on April 3, 1987.

A few cold outbreaks in April have brought lots of clouds and left daytime highs in the 40s. This occurred at Austin, Del Rio and San Antonio in 1928, after very warm weather in late March of 1928. In April of 2007, a cold precipitation event on April 7th to the early morning hours of April 8th of 2007 brought cold rain and a mix of freezing rain and sleet to the area. Afternoon temperatures on April 7th, 2007 fell into the low and mid 30s, 30 to 35 degrees colder than on Friday, April 6th. Light rain began to fall through the cold air and then changed to sleet at many locations along and north of a line from Del Rio to San Antonio to San Marcos, Austin and Georgetown, including the Texas Hill Country in the afternoon and evening of April 7th. Light snow was observed in Llano and Burnet Counties and extended east to parts of Williamson and Travis Counties. Some areas received measurable snow amounts, notably 10 miles northwest of Llano and over parts of Burnet and Williamson Counties. Snow flurries were observed in the Austin Area. Austin Bergstrom International Airport reported a trace of snow on April 7, 2007. Cold rain fell mainly south of Highway 90 from near Del Rio to south of San Antonio, and also southeast of Interstate 35.

On the other side of extremes, some spring days had highs near and above 100. In recent history, a record breaking heat wave came on the last few days of May 2004. Highs on May 31st, 2004 reached 107 at Del Rio, 104 at San Antonio, 100 at Austin Mabry and 99 at Austin Bergstrom. In May of 2008, very warm weather came in the early and late part of May. The high of 107 at Del Rio on May 10th, 2008 was the warmest day of 2008 at Del Rio. The average first 100 degree day comes to the area from late May to early July. The earliest 100 degree in some years came as early as February 21st to March. The average date of the first 90 degree day at Austin Mabry and Austin Bergstrom is April 19th; at Del Rio on March 21st; and at San Antonio on April 9th.

Some large scale severe spring weather events since 1997 included the Jarrell Tornado and severe weather event on May 27, 1997, a severe weather and tornado event over the Northern Texas Hill Country May 11, 1999, a severe weather event May 6, 2001, a severe weather and flood event April 4, 2004, a severe weather event April 20, 2006, and the Eagle Pass Tornado and severe weather event on Tuesday April 24, 2007 to the early morning hours of Wednesday April 25, 2007. Frequent severe weather events came in the middle of May in 2008. A severe weather event on the evening of May 14th to early morning hours of May 15th, 2008 brought severe thunderstorms from the Hill Country and east to parts of Central Texas, including the Austin Area.

The following information is a summary of a few of the major tornado events from the past. On May 4, 1922, 2 Tornadoes occurred in Austin, as they moved across the area from northeast to southwest about 3 miles apart. In this tornado event, there were 12 fatalities in the Austin Area, 50 injured, and a half a million dollars in damage. In April of 1927 an F5 tornado struck Rocksprings, destroying most of the town. The tornado was over 1 mile wide, and it caused 72 fatalities in Rocksprings and 2 in Leakey. From the late winter to spring of 1973 a stormy period prevailed, associated with the 1972/1973 El Nino. On March 10, 1973, the Burnet tornado damaged or destroyed 40 businesses and 161 homes in Burnet. Stormy weather on April 15, 1973 brought an F4 tornado to Pearsall, killing 5 persons, as it crossed Interstate 35. Another tornado, rated F2, cut across Medina the same day.

On May 27, 1997, a deadly F5 Tornado struck Jarrell, in Williamson County, where 27 fatalities

occurred. Tornadoes also affected parts of Austin and west of Austin. In this severe weather event an F4 Tornado struck Pedernales Valley and an F3 Tornado struck Cedar Park. Other tornadoes in the area included 2 F2 Tornadoes and 5 F1/F0 Tornadoes, plus 1 waterspout. In addition, 17 severe hail reports were observed, 9 downbursts, and 7 flash flood events. As the thunderstorms moved southwest to the San Antonio area, in the evening hours of May 27, a wind gust of 122 mph was observed at Kelly AFB in southwest San Antonio from a thunderstorm. Two years later, on May 11th, 1999 another severe weather event brought tornadoes to the area. Tornadoes were observed in parts of Llano and Gillespie Counties. An F3 Tornado struck in western Gillespie County and an F4 Tornado occurred in eastern Mason County.

On the evening of Tuesday, April 24th, 2007 a tornado touched down in the Eagle Pass Area. As the spring storm system moved to West Texas in the afternoon of the 24th, a widespread severe weather event developed rapidly just south of Del Rio and west to northwest of Eagle Pass, near the Rio Grande. The storms then moved east, as a line of thunderstorms across South Central Texas Tuesday evening to the predawn hours of Wednesday, April 25th, 2007. On the evening of Tuesday the 24th, a devastating tornado struck Eagle Pass at 7:01 pm. The tornado was rated EF-3 on the enhanced Fujita Scale, had a path width of one-quarter mile and a path length near one mile long. These devastating severe, tornadic thunderstorms in the Eagle Pass area caused 7 Fatalities, more than 80 Injuries, and numerous property damage to homes, businesses and an elementary school in the Eagle Pass Area. The severe thunderstorms then proceeded to move across the rest of South Central Texas from 8 pm, April 24th through 6 am, Wednesday April 25th, 2007. Damaging winds and hail were reported in Maverick, Dimmit, Zavala, Medina, Bexar, Atascosa, Wilson, Guadalupe, Caldwell, Gonzales, Bastrop, Fayette, and Lavaca Counties.

A few noteworthy floods have also come during the Spring. A widespread flood came to the area in April of 1915, when devastating and deadly floods affected South Central Texas. A flood at Austin, Texas left 35 fatalities in April of 1915. On April 23, 1915, the Austin City climate location recorded 10 inches of rain. Heavy rain followed on the 25th and 26th, with 6.05 inches of additional rain. April 1915 ended with 19.82 inches of rain at Austin, the 2nd wettest all time month for Austin, after September of 1921. Also in April of 1915, heavy rains and floods left 6.78 inches at San Antonio on April 18th. April 1915 ended up the wettest April on record for San Antonio, with 11.64 inches of rain.

A few additional spring flood events are summarized below. In 1935 a prolonged period of severe weather and floods came in May and June. Heavy rains and floods were observed from Del Rio and extended east across the Texas Hill Country, Austin, and San Antonio. At Austin 9.21 inches of rain fell in May and another 9.21 inches in June of 1935. For Del Rio May of 1935 brought 4.89 inches of rain, and 13.71 inches of additional rain in June of 1935. On May 31, 1935 very heavy rains near D' Hanis in Medina County left 22 to 24 inches of rain in only 2 hours and 45 minutes. The heaviest rains occurred at Woodward Ranch about 17 miles above D' Hanis on the Seco Creek, where extensive flooding occurred. Rains in Uvalde on June 15, 1935 amounted to 12.5 inches in 12 hours and 17.6 inches in 24 hours. At San Antonio, May of 1935 was the wettest May of record from 1871 to 2008, with 14.07 inches of rain, followed by 8.41 inches in June of 1935.

In 1972 on May 11th, heavy rains fell over eastern Comal County between 8 pm and Midnight. This caused a devastating flood on the Guadalupe River at New Braunfels the night of May 11 and May 12, 1972. Sixteen and a half inches of rain was observed between Canyon Dam and New Braunfels on the Guadalupe river watershed. Widespread damage to homes and businesses occurred as the flood wave moved downstream through Lake Dunlap and Lake McQueeney.

In 1981 on Monday, May 24th the Memorial Day Flood came to Austin, when 4 to 10 inches of rain fell in a short period of time. On May 7, 1972 and May 5, 1993, a heavy rain and flood event affected San Antonio. On May 27, 2003, a heavy rain and flood event came to Del Rio, where 6.53 inches of rain fell.

Like May and June of 1935, an extended period of heavy rains and flooding affected South Central Texas from May 13 to June 12, 1987. Widespread flooding over the Texas Hill Country and South Central Texas occurred. Twenty years later in the Spring of 2007, several heavy rain events came to South Central Texas, and this rainy period continued through June, July and August of 2007.

Some Springs in the past have been very dry. A few notable ones in recent history include the Spring of 1999, 2000, 2002, 2003, 2005, 2006, and 2008.

A trend toward windy days in wake of fast moving Pacific Cold Fronts returned in the Fall of 2008 and has continued through the Winter of 2008/2009. Sometimes these type of trends continue through the Spring Season. During the El Nino of 1982/1983, the pattern of windy days in wake of fast moving cold fronts extended from the Winter of 1982/1983 to the Spring of 1983. On Friday, April 1st, 1983, very windy conditions came, as a fast moving Pacific Cold Front swept across the area. This brought large amounts of dust from the west and northwest, with strong northwest winds that gusted to between 45 and 55 mph. An isolated wind gust of 65 mph was observed at Del Rio on Friday April 1st, 1983.

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