

Climate of Moline, Illinois (MLI)

Moline (Quad Cities, including Moline and Rock Island in Illinois, and Davenport and Bettendorf in Iowa) is in the heart of the Corn Belt. Key agricultural crops include corn, soybeans and hay. Cattle and hog production in Iowa and Illinois rank very high nationally. Close to the Mississippi River, there is large scale truck farming and considerable dairying. The countryside is rolling prairie with forested areas mainly near rivers and streams. Damaging droughts are not common but do occur. This, together with the intensity of agricultural production, has led to the designation Bread Basket of America.

This area has a temperate continental climate with a wide temperature range throughout the year. Substantial weather changes frequently occur at three to four day intervals as a direct result of proximity to mid-latitude storm tracks. There are some intensely hot, very humid, periods in summer and severely cold periods in winter. The average temperature for the year is around 50 °F and ranges from ~73 °F in the summer to ~25 °F in the winter. Maxima of 90 °F or more have occurred as frequently as 55 days and zero or lower readings have occurred during every winter. On average, below zero readings occur on 17 days with a record of 43 days in 1977-78.

Freezing temperatures have occurred as late in spring as late May and as early in autumn as late September. Precipitation is usually well distributed throughout the year with the greatest amounts falling during the 177-day average crop-growing season. The average precipitation is near 38 inches. Rarely does snowfall equal or exceed 6 inches in a day - about once every 2 years.

March and April are the windiest months. June is the wettest. July and August are the sunniest and November and December are the cloudiest.

Source: adapted from NCDC