

Arizona Has Everything

H. V. Smith

*It's Always Good Weather,
When Good Fellows Get Together.*

So sang the barbershop quartets and New Year's Eve celebrants in days gone by. Then, and it's just as true today, that applies to Arizona and its amazing range of climates.

Arizona's climate is one of contrasts. This is because of great differences in altitude and great north-south distances. By highway from north to south the state stretches for 535 miles. Weather recording stations range from 110 feet above sea level in the Yuma Valley to 8,400 feet at the Bright Angel Ranger Station. Both these factors must be considered if climatic differences in the state are to be appreciated.

The U. S. Weather Bureau has divided the state into climatic areas based on geographic and physiographic considerations.

Data From 4 Areas

Data from four of these areas are given in our table. The Yuma Area (elevation 138 feet) is the lowest and also the warmest area in the state. Mean temperatures decrease in the areas of higher elevation such as the Phoenix, Tucson, and Prescott areas which lie at elevations of 1148, 2410, and 5854 feet respectively. The coldest month of each of these areas is January and the warmest is July.

To illustrate how wide variations in temperature may be, one has only to compare monthly temperatures at Yuma and Flagstaff. The mean minimum temperature at Yuma and the mean maximum at Flagstaff are similar. Generally speaking, Flagstaff's mean maximum temperatures are the same as Yuma's mean minimum temperatures.

Prof. Smith, member of the Department of Agricultural Chemistry and Soils, has been in charge of the University of Arizona weather stations for many years.

Extreme temperatures recorded at the stations under consideration are: Yuma, 120 and 22° F; Phoenix, 118 and 17°; Tucson, 112 and 5°; and Prescott, 105 and -21°.

Precipitation

In Arizona the amount of precipitation generally increases with an increase in elevation. The mean at all precipitation stations of Arizona varies from about 3 to more than 30 inches per year. Winter

storms occur in December, January, and February while the summer storms come in July, August, and September. The driest months are either May or June.

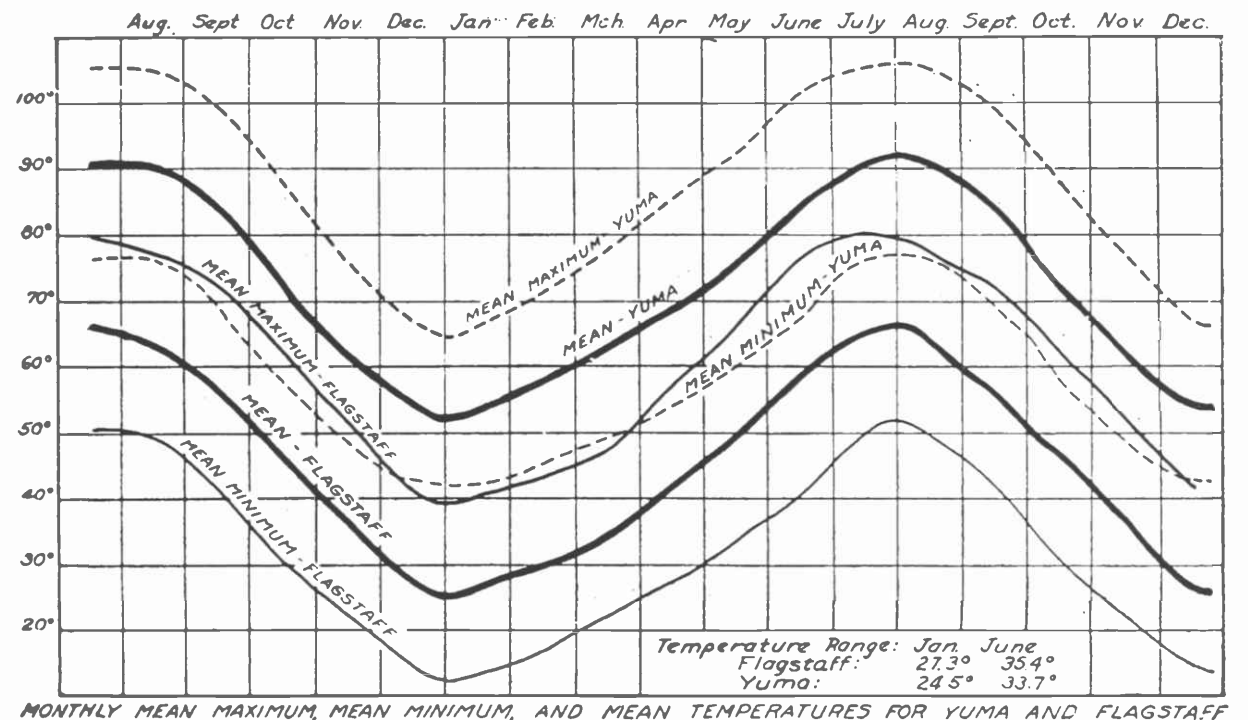
The mean velocity of winds in the different areas in the state varies from 5 to 8 miles per hour. No part of the state is free from winds of high velocity, even though they may be of short duration. Tornadoes are very rare in Arizona.

Length of Growing Season

Weather Bureau records show Alpine to have the shortest and Yuma to have the longest growing seasons in the state with 84 and 320 days respectively. The table shows the relationship between elevation and length of growing season.

Weather Data From Various Sections of Arizona

	Temperature (°F.)			
	S. W. (Yuma Area)	S. Central (Phoenix Area)	S. E. (Tucson Area)	W. Central (Prescott Area)
Mean Temperature	71.5 Annual	68.7 Annual	63.3 Annual	57.8 Annual
Coldest Month	57.8 Jan.	49.2 Jan.	45.6 Jan.	39.5 Jan.
Warmest Month	92.2 July	89.2 July	81.4 July	77.5 July
	Precipitation (in.)			
Mean	3.58 Ann.	7.26 Ann.	10.83 Ann.	18.47 Ann.
Greatest/mo.	0.56 Aug.	1.34 Aug.	2.12 Aug.	3.18 Aug.
Least/mo.	0.01 June	0.06 June	0.19 May	0.28 June
	Wind Velocity (m.p.h.)			
Mean Vel.	5.9 Ann	5.0 Ann.	6.2 Ann.	8.4 Ann.
Max. Vel.	56	65	47	72
	Growing Season (days)			
Last Frost in Spring	Jan. 30	Feb. 7	March 15	May 17
First Frost in Autumn	Dec. 17	Nov. 28	Nov. 20	Oct. 8
Length of Growing Season (days)	320	294	250	144



YOU CAN HAVE the same climate, temperature-wise, all year around, in Arizona, if you go to Flagstaff in the summer, Yuma in the winter.

Interesting Recent Climbers

GOLDEN SHOWERS, L. Cl. 1956. Pillar or climber, 6 to 10 feet. Dark glossy foliage. Flowers medium yellow,

opening flat.

CL. MARK SULLIVAN, Cl. H. T. 1955. Very vigorous climbers, blooms freely with good stems for cutting. Flowers golden yellow shaded with pink.

Flowers like the bush. A pillar or short climber which repeats.

BONFIRE R. 1928. Small double flowers in clusters of 20 to 25, scarlet. Not fragrant. Best in afternoon shade. Foliage small, light green, growth vigorous.

CL. SNOWBIRD, Cl. H. T., 1959.