

Weather Information for Tribune, 2021

D. Bond and J. Slattery

In 2021, annual precipitation of 22.12 in. was recorded, which is 3.68 in. above normal. Only four months had above-normal precipitation. May (9.44 in.) was the wettest month and historically the wettest May, breaking the record set in 1915 (8.20 in.). This also ranked as the third wettest month on record after June of 1932 (11.48 in.) and June of 1951 (10.55 in.). The largest single amount of precipitation was 5.66 in. on May 16. Historically, this was the second largest recorded amount in a 24-hour period, surpassed only by June 4, 1932 (6.46 in.). December, the driest month, recorded no precipitation. In addition, November only recorded 0.09 in. of precipitation.

Snowfall for the year totaled 16.7 in. (5.5 in. below normal); January, February, March, and April had 6.5, 3.7, 3.3, and 3.2 in., respectively. There was a total of 22 days of snow cover, which is three days below normal. The longest consecutive period of snow cover, 12 days, occurred February 8 through February 19.

Record-high temperatures were recorded on 4 days: April 5 (88°F), September 11 (99°F), November 16 (80°F), and December 3 (74°F). Historical record-high temperatures were tied on 4 days: April 6 (88°F), September 12 (101°F) and 13 (100°F), and October 27 (85°F). Record-low temperatures were recorded on 3 days: February 14 (-9°F), 15 (-25°F) and 16 (-15°F). A historical record-low temperature was tied on April 20 (18°F). August was the warmest month with a mean temperature of 75.2°F. The hottest day of the year (101°F) occurred on September 12. The coldest day of the year (-25°F) occurred on February 15. This reading has only been recorded one other time in the station's history on January 18, 1984! February was the coldest month with a mean temperature of 21.9°F.

Mean air temperature was below normal for 7 months. December set a record of 55.6°F for average maximum temperature, which broke the historical record of 55.4°F set in 1980. December had the greatest departure above normal (6.1°F), and February had the greatest departure below normal (-11.1°F). Temperatures were 100°F or higher on 7 days, which is 5 days below normal. Temperatures were 90°F or higher on 55 days, which is 10 days below normal. The latest spring freeze was May 12, which is 8 days later than normal; the earliest fall freeze fell on October 13, which is 6 days later than normal. This produced a frost-free period of 154 days, which is 2 days less than the normal of 156 days.

Open-pan evaporation from April through September totaled 63.48 in., which is 6.79 in. below normal. Wind speed for this period averaged 4.1 mph, which is 0.9 mph less than normal.

The 2021 weather information for Tribune is summarized in Table 1.

Table 1. Climatic data, Southwest Research-Extension Center, Tribune, KS

Month	Monthly average temperatures (°F)													
	Precipitation (in.)		2021				Normal		2021 extreme		Wind (MPH)		Evaporation (in.)	
	2021	Normal	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	2021	Normal	2021	Normal		
January	0.51	0.43	45.3	14.0	44.2	16.1	67	-10	---	---	---	---		
February	0.28	0.54	35.2	8.6	47.2	18.7	72	-25	---	---	---	---		
March	3.24	0.99	56.1	25.2	56.9	26.5	86	11	---	---	---	---		
April	0.68	1.66	64.0	30.3	64.9	34.6	89	18	4.3	5.6	8.19	8.06		
May	9.44	2.23	71.2	45.2	74.6	46.0	87	31	4.9	5.2	9.06	11.73		
June	0.97	2.77	85.4	56.8	86.2	56.6	100	43	3.6	5.2	11.66	14.27		
July	2.76	3.14	88.0	59.0	91.4	61.7	100	52	3.7	4.8	11.69	15.11		
August	0.95	2.87	92.0	58.5	88.2	59.8	100	52	4.3	4.3	12.04	11.67		
September	2.12	1.13	88.2	51.8	81.4	50.8	101	35	3.7	4.7	10.84	9.43		
October	1.08	1.59	71.7	36.2	68.3	36.7	86	24	3.1*	4.2*	6.40*	6.01*		
November	0.09	0.53	61.5	26.7	54.7	25.6	83	11	---	---	---	---		
December	0.00	0.56	55.6	18.6	44.8	17.2	74	4	---	---	---	---		
ANNUAL	22.12	18.44	67.9	35.9	66.9	37.5	101	-25	4.1	5.0	63.48	70.27		

Normal latest freeze (32°F) in spring: May 4. In 2021: May 12.

Normal earliest freeze (32°F) in fall: October 7. In 2021: October 13.

Normal frost-free (>32°F) period: 156 days. In 2021: 154 days.

Normal for precipitation and temperature is 30-year average (1991–2020) from National Weather Service.

Normal for latest freeze, earliest freeze, wind, and evaporation is 30-year average (1991–2020) from Tribune weather data.

* Normal for October wind and evaporation is 20-year average (2001–2020) from Tribune weather data; October not included in annual totals.