

The winter in Southern Alberta and Western Saskatchewan is a season of bright, cloudless days, infrequent and scanty snowfalls and frequent and prolonged breaks of warm weather, heralded by the chinook wind. Wagons are used during the entire year, and it is only in occasional seasons that sleighs are necessary for brief periods. In January and the early part of February there are sometimes short periods of cold, sharp weather. Heavy snowstorms have at times covered the prairie more than a foot deep, but this is very exceptional. The winter generally breaks up in February with a warm wind from the west, followed by a period of from one to three weeks of warm, bright weather, the beginning of Southern Alberta's spring. The earliest spring flowers appear in March. May is generally fine, warm and bright, June and the earlier part of July rainy, the remainder of July, August, September, October and generally November warm and dry. The summer, July to September, is characterized by hot days, relieved by a never-failing breeze, and cool nights, but the warm golden days of autumn, often lasting well into December, are the glory of the year. The grand characteristic of the climate as a whole, and the one on which the weather hinges, is the chinook wind, so called because it blows from the region formerly inhabited by the Chinook Indians, on the banks of the lower Columbia River. It is a warm, dry, balmy wind, blowing from the mountains across the plains, and its effect in winter may be described as little short of miraculous, in its clearing away of the snow, always scanty in amount, with amazing celerity.

3. **The Summer.** The same cause which obviates the inconvenience which might under other circumstances arise from low temperatures in winter, namely, the dryness of the atmosphere, also operates in the settler's favor in summer time, permitting of a rapid radiation of the heat communicated to the land by the intensely powerful rays of the sun in our cloudless skies. It thus happens that, however warm the temperature may be during the day, the nights are always cool, allowing of perfect rest. Of course, extremely high temperatures are exceptional, but temperatures of over 90 in the shade are by no means uncommon. Here, again, the dryness of the atmosphere is individually helpful, by rendering the cooling action of perspiration—Nature's great safeguard—most effective. The writer is not aware that any case is on record of deaths in Western Canada directly attributive to excessive heat, while, not long ago, it was reported that no fewer than 250 persons perished in one day in the city of New York from excessive heat. The highest temperature recorded there at that time was 99.8°.

4. In replying to the question, "Are the climatic conditions prevailing during the summer favorable to agricultural operations?" the matter of rainfall is, of course, of first importance in non-irrigable sections. From the statement given elsewhere it will be seen that the normal precipitation in the Prairie Provinces is quite sufficient in volume to ensure satisfactory agricultural results. Indeed, the crop statistics of this area furnish the most complete and conclusive evidence on that point.