

Climate of Burlington, Iowa (BRL)

Burlington, Iowa is situated on the west bank of the Mississippi River. The downtown business district is located in a valley that opens onto the river and also in a small tributary valley which runs west to east. The residential sections are on several hills to the north, west and south of the junction of these valleys. The airport is a large level field on top of the bluff (South Hill), 180 feet above the river. The river has only a limited effect on climate and that is for areas of the city close to it.

The normal temperature is about 52°F. The summer average is around 74°F and winter average around 26°F. Maximum temperatures of 100°F or higher occur at least once in about half the summers. The highest temperature recorded was 111°F on 2 successive days in mid-July 1936. The coldest was -27°F in February 1905. The growing season averages 183 days with the last spring freeze usually occurring in late April and the first fall freeze usually occurring in mid October. Rainfall is abundant, around 38 inches, most of which occurs during the growing season. The heavy summer rainfall combined with warm summer night favors growth of corn and soybeans.

Winter is usually rather mild with infrequent heavy snows and only an occasional ice storm. Snowfall averages around 27 inches with falls of 1 inch or more occurring about 10 times per season. Seldom does a single storm produce as much as 6 inches of snow.

March and April are the windiest months and July is the wettest. Thunderstorms are most numerous during the summer but can occur in any month of the year. Summers are frequently hot and humid. Autumns tend to be dry and cool, and December is the cloudiest month in contrast to the mostly sunny summers. Burlington tends to be warmer and wetter than most other Iowa locations.

Source: adapted from NCDC