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- Morton D. Winsberg. *Florida Weather*. (Orlando, FL: University of Central Florida Press, 1990).
 - Reviewed by Donald Brandes, University of South Florida.

Florida Weather is written primarily for the general reader, with no prior background in climatology, but includes enough detail to provide points of interest even for seasoned geographers. Although this book is packed with information, it is presented in an easy to read and understandable style and holds the reader's attention.

The volume begins with many of the principles taught in the weather and climate part of an introductory physical geography course. This prepares the reader to understand better the many details that follow. Chapter 1 defines climate and differentiates it from weather. It then provides a brief lesson in basic climatology and meteorology. The major climate controls and causes of weather are discussed with particular reference to how they affect Florida. These include such topics as latitude, wind and pressure belts, sun angle, land and water distribution, ocean currents, air masses, cloud formation, and fronts. Illustrative comparisons are made between conditions in Florida and those of other states and countries.

The four remaining chapters each summarize prevailing conditions during one season of the year. Climatic factors and specific types of weather associated with each season are discussed. These include temperature, precipitation, humidity, fog, frost, freezes, snow, drought, floods, land-sea breezes, cooling and heating degree days, thunderstorms, lightning, tornadoes, waterspouts, and hurricanes.

Although temperature and precipitation are discussed for all seasons, other climatic factors and types of weather events are assigned to specific seasons. This causes some misleading impressions if the event is common in more than one season. Sometimes, the matching of season with weather event also seems less than optimal. Placement of hurricanes into the Fall season chapter is noticeable in this regard, although it did help make chapter lengths more even. It might have been more advantageous to treat some of these topics in separate chapters.

Beyond the prose of the main text, copious tables provide extensive numerical data. These include mean temperature and precipitation for thirty stations, selected hurricanes, dates of first and last freeze, heating and cooling degree days, humidity, sky conditions, wind, fog, and thunderstorms. The information appearing in these tables, and in the book's many maps, was tabulated from raw data specifically for this volume, using a thorough network of reporting stations.

Although *Florida Weather* provides a wealth of information about the state's prevailing atmospheric conditions, it should not be viewed as just a book about the physical world. Dr. Winsberg is more than a weatherman. He is a broadly-based geographer. His wide knowledge of geography and history are often evident in his discussions of weather and climate. He frequently connects historical events, human geography, and economic development to the climatological context in which they occurred. This meshing of human activities with their environmental context provides many insights which further pique the reader's interest.