

GEOGRAPHICAL AND SEASONAL VARIATION IN SOLAR RADIATION

This table gives the amount of solar radiation reaching a unit area at the top of the earth's atmosphere per day as a function of latitude and approximate date. It is based upon a solar constant (total energy per unit area at the earth's average orbital distance) of 1373 W/m². Absorption of radiation by the atmosphere is not taken into consideration.

Reference

List, R. J., *Smithsonian Meteorological Tables, Seventh Edition*, Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C., 1962.

Daily Solar Radiation in MJ/m ²								
Lat.	Mar. 21	Apr. 13	May 6	May 29	Jun. 2	Jul. 15	Aug. 8	Aug. 31
90°		18.0	32.8	42.4	45.7	42.2	32.5	17.7
80	6.6	18.0	32.3	41.8	45.0	41.6	32.0	17.7
70	13.0	22.3	31.8	39.9	43.0	39.7	31.5	22.0
60	19.0	27.0	34.4	39.7	41.6	39.4	34.0	26.7
50	24.4	31.1	36.8	40.7	42.0	40.5	36.5	30.8
40	29.1	34.3	38.6	41.3	42.1	41.1	38.3	33.9
30	32.9	36.7	39.4	41.1	41.4	40.8	39.1	36.3
20	35.7	38.0	39.2	39.7	39.7	39.5	38.9	37.5
10	37.4	38.1	37.9	37.4	37.1	37.2	37.6	37.7
0	38.0	37.1	35.5	34.1	33.5	34.0	35.2	36.6
-10	37.4	35.0	32.3	30.0	29.2	29.9	32.0	34.6
-20	35.7	31.8	28.0	25.2	24.1	25.1	27.8	31.5
-30	32.9	27.8	23.1	19.7	18.5	19.7	22.8	27.4
-40	29.1	22.8	17.5	14.0	12.6	13.9	17.4	22.6
-50	24.4	17.3	11.7	8.2	7.0	8.2	11.6	17.2
-60	19.0	11.4	5.9	2.9	2.0	2.9	5.9	11.3
-70	13.0	5.4	1.0				1.0	5.3
-80	6.6	0.3						0.3
-90								

Lat.	Sep. 23	Oct. 16	Nov. 8	Nov. 30	Dec. 22	Jan. 13	Feb. 4	Feb. 26
90°								
80	6.5	0.3						0.3
70	12.9	5.5	1.0				1.0	5.6
60	18.8	11.6	6.2	3.1	2.1	3.1	6.2	11.7
50	24.1	17.6	12.1	8.7	7.5	8.7	12.3	17.8
40	28.7	23.1	18.2	14.8	13.5	14.9	18.4	23.5
30	32.5	28.2	23.9	20.9	19.8	21.0	24.1	28.4
20	35.3	32.3	29.1	26.6	25.7	26.7	29.3	32.7
10	37.0	35.5	33.5	31.8	31.1	31.9	33.8	35.9
0	37.6	37.6	36.9	36.1	35.8	36.3	37.3	38.0
-10	37.0	38.6	39.4	39.5	39.6	39.7	39.7	39.1
-20	35.3	38.5	40.7	42.0	42.4	42.2	41.1	39.0
-30	32.5	37.2	40.9	43.3	44.2	43.5	41.3	37.7
-40	28.7	34.8	40.1	43.6	45.0	43.8	40.5	35.2
-50	24.1	31.5	38.3	43.1	44.8	43.2	38.6	31.9
-60	18.8	27.3	35.7	41.9	44.4	42.1	36.0	27.7
-70	12.9	22.6	33.0	42.2	45.9	42.4	33.3	22.9
-80	6.5	18.2	33.5	44.2	48.1	44.4	33.8	18.4
-90		18.2	34.0	44.8	48.8	45.1	34.4	18.4