

My Reasonable Guide to the Koppen Climate Classification System

This system is a way of describing climates and the types of vegetation that are found in those climates.

It can be very complicated and I use a simplified system for understanding the patterns in Latin America.

A *Tropical rainy climates* -- Average temperature of every month is above 64.4°. These climates have no winter season. Annual rainfall is high and exceeds evaporation.

Af *Tropical rainforest climate* -- Rainfall of the driest month is 2.4 inches or more.

Am *Monsoon variety of Af* -- Short dry season. Rainfall of the driest month is less than 2.4 inches.

Aw *Tropical savanna climate* -- Pronounced dry season. At least one month has less than 2.4 inches of rain.

B *Dry climates* -- Evaporation exceeds precipitation on the average throughout the year. No water surplus.

BS *Steppe climate* -- A semiarid climate characterized by grasslands. Mean annual precipitation varies according to mean annual temperature, but roughly between 15-30 inches of rain/year.

BW *Desert climate* -- An arid climate with annual precipitation usually less than 15 inches.

C *Mild humid climates* -- Coldest month has an average temperature under 64.4°. The C climates have a distinct summer/winter seasonality.

Cs *Mediterranean climate* -- Mild humid climate with a dry summer and wet winter.

D and E *Snowy-forest and Polar climates* -- Or commonly, undifferentiated highlands (H)