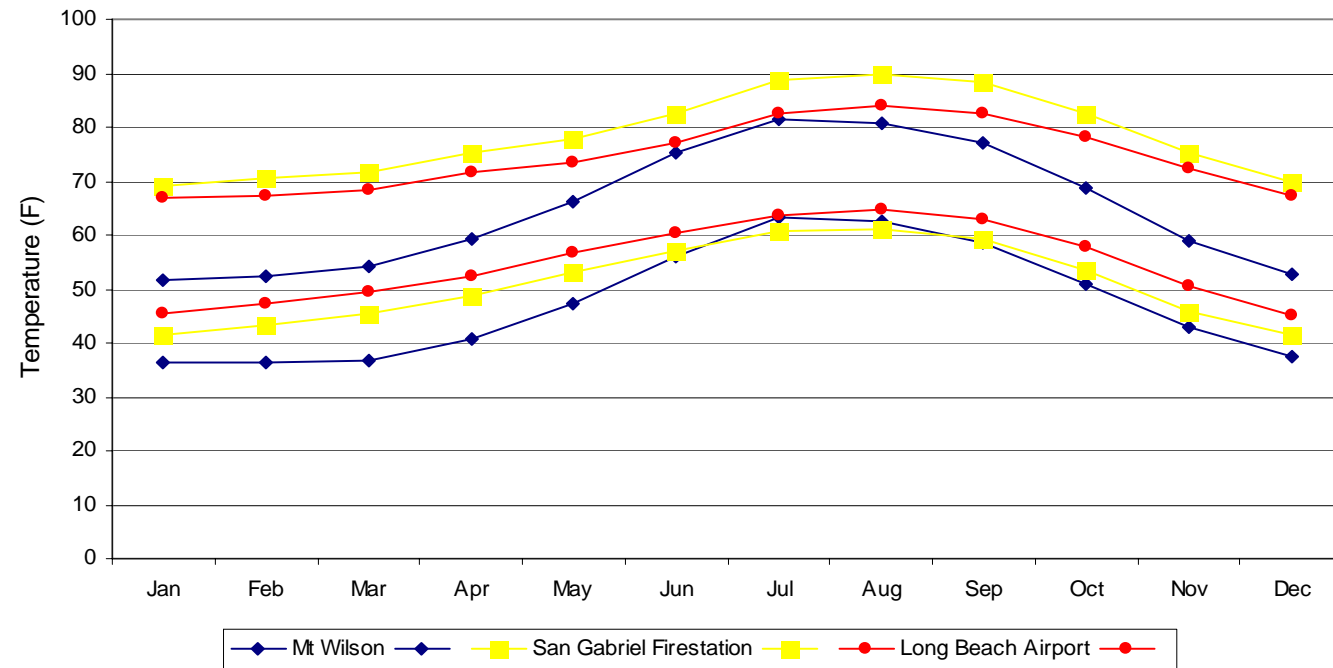
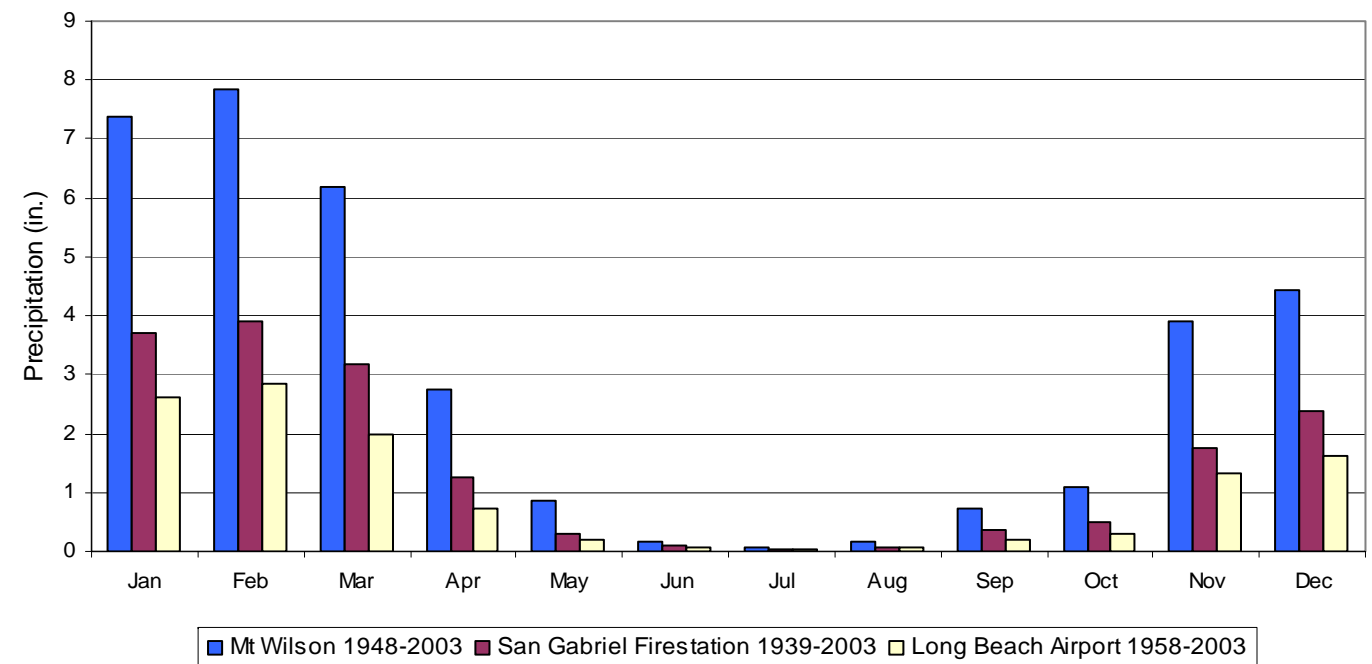


Average Air Temperature by Location



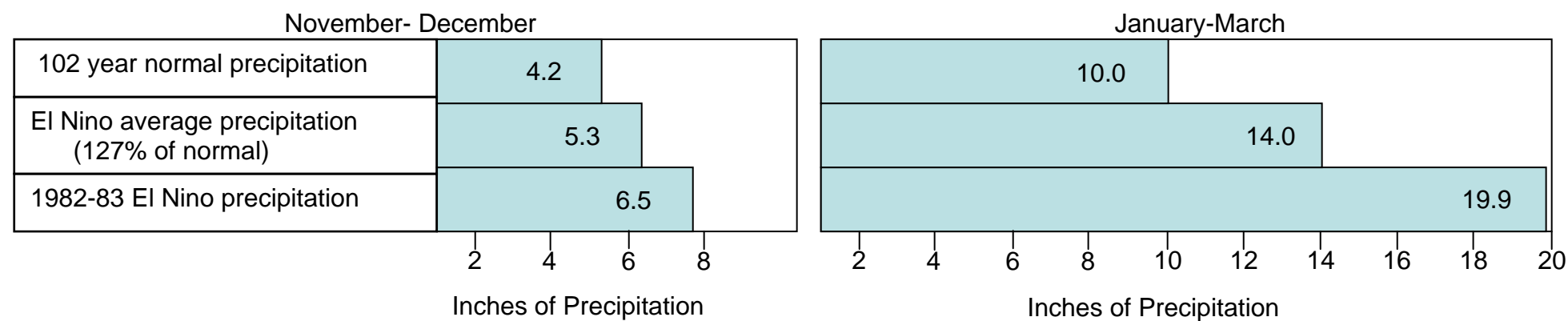
Average Monthly Precipitation by Location



The precipitation and temperature graphs above illustrate the southern California coastal climate of warm, dry summers and wet, cool winters. Data from coastal (Long Beach Airport), inland (San Gabriel Fire Station), and mountain (Mt. Wilson) locations exhibit the differences in temperature and precipitation these areas experience. It should be noted that Mt. Wilson lies just west of Mt. San Antonio but is not part of the San Gabriel River Watershed; its data is included as representative of the San Gabriel Mountains.

Climatic Effect of El Nino

Southern California Coast Normal Precipitation 1895-1996



El Niño was originally recognized by fisherman off the coast of South America as the appearance of unusually warm water in the eastern Pacific Ocean, occurring near the beginning of the year. This disruption of the ocean-atmosphere system of the tropical Pacific has significant consequences of weather around the globe. Among the consequences of this climatic shift is increased rainfall across the western margin of North and South America. This climatic shift has also resulted in destructive flooding and drought in the west Pacific that has been associated with devastating brush fires in Australia. El Niño periods in southern California are marked by increased precipitation as illustrated in the graphs to the left. The two most recent El Niño periods were 1992-93 and 1997-98. El Niño is often confused with the Pacific Decadal Oscillation which has similar affects on southern California climate.