

1. NUMBER OF DAYS WITH MEAN CLOUD COVER LESS THAN 1.5/10
2. NUMBER OF DAYS WITH MEAN CLOUD COVER EQUAL TO OR MORE THAN 8.5/10
3. NUMBER OF HOURS OF BRIGHT SUNSHINE

1. Number of Days with Mean Cloud Cover Less Than 1.5/10
2. Number of Days with Mean Cloud Cover Equal to or More Than 8.5/10

The amount of cloud cover is the apparent ratio of cloudy sky to the whole sky and is divided into 11 grades (0 to 10). Cloud cover 0 indicates there are few or no clouds in the sky, cloud cover 10 means the whole sky is covered with clouds or there are few or no rifts between clouds, with fog or haze being included in cloud cover.

Days with mean cloud cover of less than 1.5 are almost fine and those with more than 8.5 indicate cloudy weather.

The mean cloud cover of Japan varies greatly with season and locality, being high during the rainy season throughout the country, but low on the Pacific side and high on the Japan Sea side in the winter.

The number of days with mean cloud cover of less than 1.5 is high in the inland areas of Kantō and low on the Japan Sea side and isolated southern islands.

The number of days with mean cloud cover of more than 8.5 is high on the Japan Sea side from san'in to Hokkaidō and low on the Pacific side and isolated southern islands.

[Salient Points of the Legend and Map Compilation]

Mean cloud cover is indicated by normals computed from values recorded at meteorological offices throughout the country from 1951 to 1980. Monthly and annual normals are calculated from daily mean values recorded four fixed observation times (0300, 0900, 1500, 2100; however, sometimes only three observations are made, in which case 0300 is excluded).

3. Number of Hours of Bright Sunshine

Hours of bright sunshine (sunshine duration) refers to time when sunlight shines over the ground surface without being screened by clouds or fog. The length of sunshine duration varies greatly according to season and locality.

The annual sunshine duration in Japan is generally long on the Pacific side and the coast of Seto Naikai but short on the Japan Sea side and in mountain areas. The annual change in the sunshine duration indicates long hours during the summer throughout the country and regional variations in the winter; for example, the sunshine duration is long on the Pacific side and short on the Japan Sea side.

The percentage of sunshine is the ratio of the sunshine duration to the possible sunshine duration. The possible sunshine duration represents the time when the center of the sun rises above the horizon until it disappears below the horizon. This value is calculated on the basis of the altitude, latitude and longitude of a given point without considering times when the sun is screened by mountains or other objects.

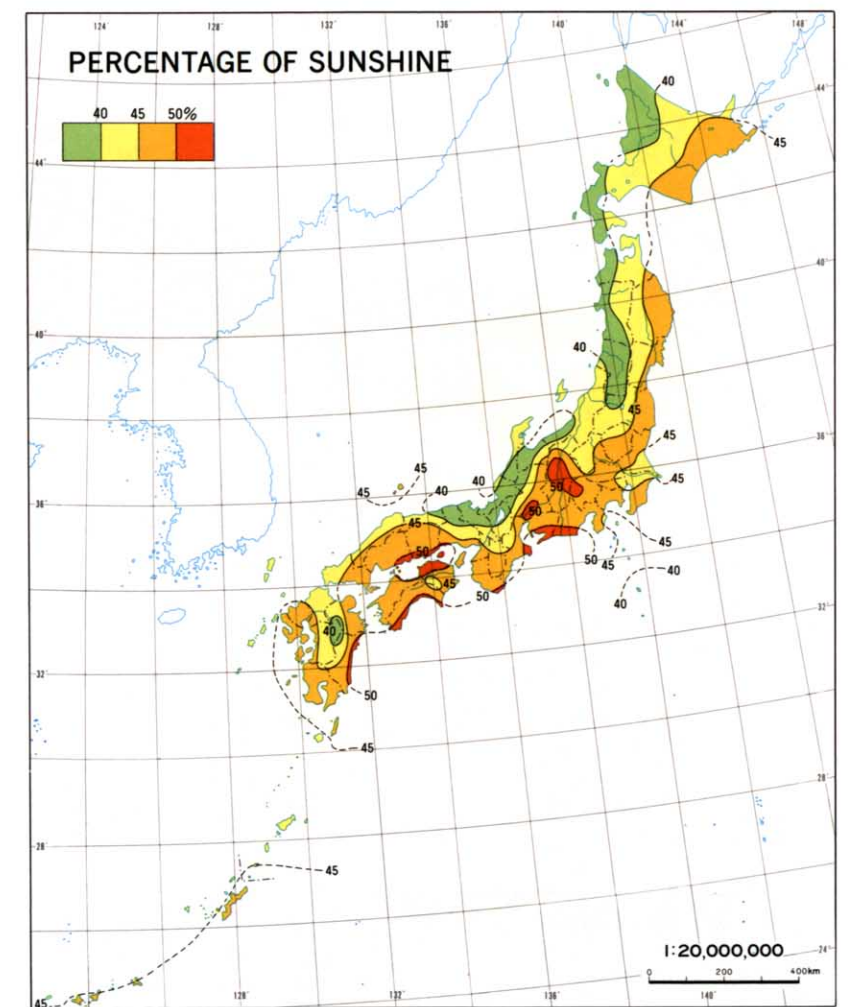
Solar radiation means the amount of radiant heat from the sun reaching the surface of the earth, and consists of direct solar radiation (radiant heat moving directly from the sun to the earth) and diffuse solar radiation (scattered heat from the sky), the combined value of these on a fine day represents the global solar radiation. It varies according to the height of the sun and the amount of cloud, and is largest at culmination time during the day and at a time near the summer solstice.

[Salient Points of Legend and Map Compilation]

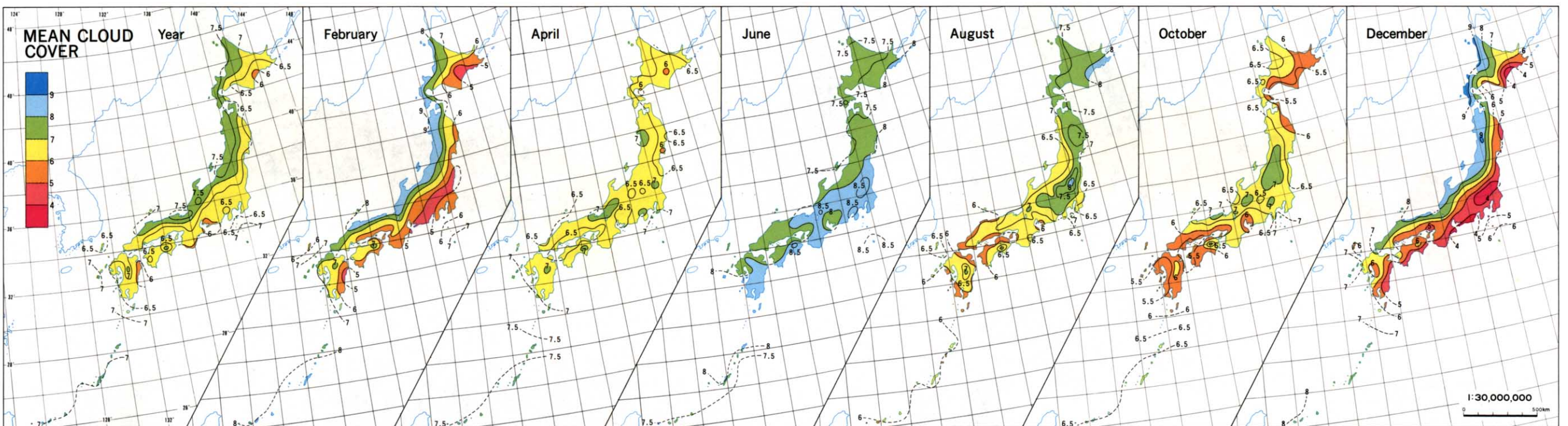
The sunshine duration is indicated by normals computed from the values observed at meteorological offices throughout the country from 1951 to 1980. Monthly and annual normals are calculated from values observed daily.

[Sources]

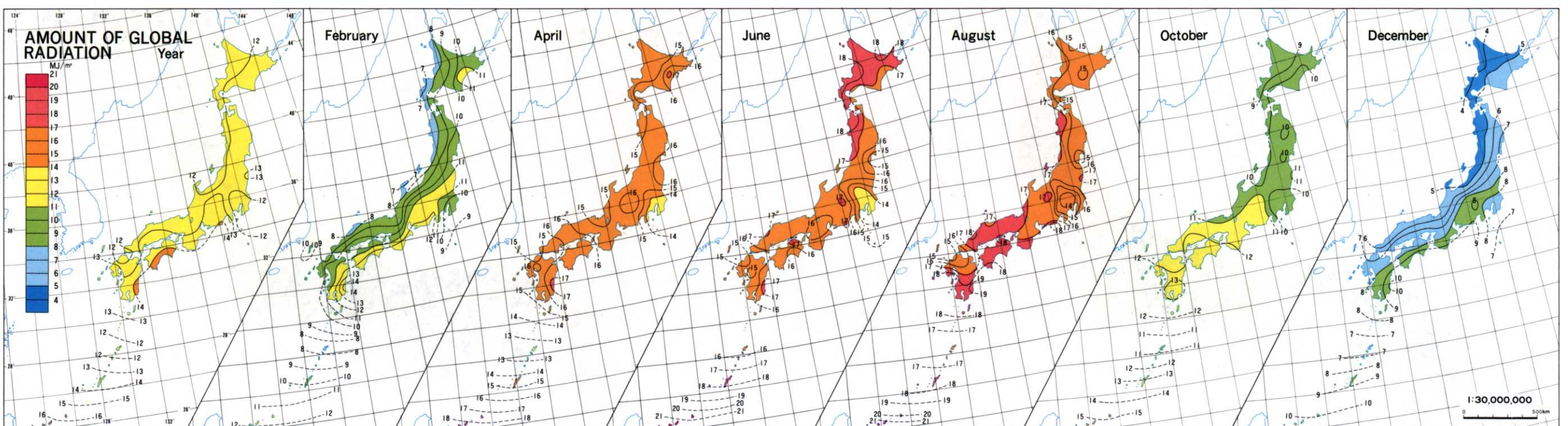
1. Japan Meteorological Agency, *Climatic Table of Japan, Part 2, Monthly Normals by Stations (1951-1980)*, 1982
2. Japan Meteorological Agency, *Climatic Atlas of Japan*, 1980



(Compiled from Climatic Table of Japan)



(Compiled from Climatic Table of Japan)



(Compiled from Climatic Table of Japan)

NUMBER OF DAYS WITH MEAN CLOUD COVER EQUAL TO OR MORE THAN 8.5/10

1:12,000,000

