

# The Data Prep Menu

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## Introduction

PRISM's data prep routines make it easier for PRISM users to convert daily temperature data and energy consumption data to PRISM-ready format. Although all possible data formats cannot be accommodated, the new PRISM data prep routines cover many formats typically used by NOAA and utility companies. Procedures to speed the updating of temperature and meter data are also included. An editor to use with small ASCII files is also included (for editing .SET files, for example).

## NOAA to TPS

In 1998 NOAA revised their system of providing temperature data to users. Users may now request data from the NOAA on-line system located at <http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/ncdc.html>. Files are available for a fee to most users, except those with an .EDU domain address, who have free access to all NOAA data.

To accommodate these changes we have created a new **NOAA to TPS** program called **NOAATOCOLS**. This program is no longer embedded in PRISM but is an external utility. The program takes raw NOAA data and converts it to columnar format so the embedded PRISM Utility, **Column to TPS** can be used to create PRISM-ready temperature files. Detailed instructions for downloading daily minimum and maximum temperatures ( TD-3210, First order summary of the day temperature data) are provided in a separate document titled "Downloading from NCDC" and also available at the PRISM web site located at [www.Princeton.edu/~marean](http://www.Princeton.edu/~marean). The User downloads the temperature data files from NOAA, processes them in **NOAATOCOLS** to produce a columnar format, then process the columnar file in **Column to TPS** to produce PRISM-ready temperature files.

## Column to TPS

Column to TPS translates ASCII temperature files in columnar form to .TPS files. Column to TPS can translate space, comma, or tab- delimited files. To start the routine:

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\* These sections replace II-83 through the top half of page II-88 of the PRISM Users' Guide , up to the "Column to MTR" section on page II-88.

- Select:**        **Data Prep**  
                  **Column to TPS...**
- Click:**        **Text file containing temperature data**
- Enter:**        **Column numbers for requested fields**
- Click:**        **Make TPS**

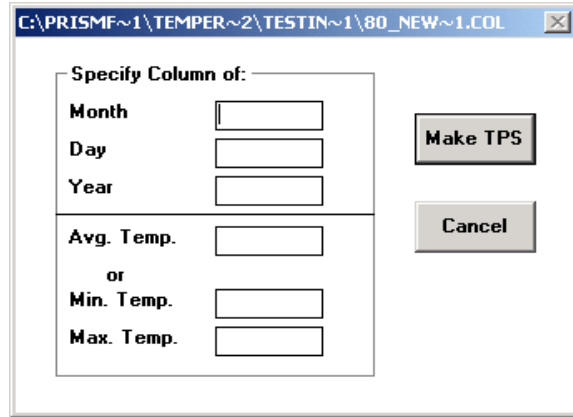


Figure 9.2 Column to .TPS data prep screen

If the name of the original temperature data file was NEWARK92.COL, PRISM will return with the message in the text box that reads: `NEWARK92.COL has been successfully translated into NEWARK92.TPS.'

The sample below shows the format for a typical run in **NOAATOCOLS**. For the following example of a columnar temperature file:

1	1	2002	19	37
1	2	2002	22	39
1	3	2002	26	38
1	4	2002	28	42
1	5	2002	31	44
1	6	2002	29	41
1	7	2002	28	37

the correct column number specification would be:

Month	1
Day	2
Year	3
Min. Temp.	4
Max. Temp.	5

**Column to TPS** can also take other formats, for example columnar text files created from Excel, SPSS or SAS.

For the following example of a columnar temperature file:

```

8 1 92 7 44.70 13.88 3271 85
8 2 92 1 44.40 13.52 3297 85
8 3 92 2 38.90 13.98 3852 83
8 4 92 3 44.10 14.16 3720 83
8 5 92 4 43.40 14.52 3616 84
8 6 92 5 47.80 12.98 3638 85
8 7 92 6 49.40 13.79 3584 85
8 8 92 7 49.20 14.07 3197 86
8 9 92 1 49.60 13.52 3255 86
8 10 92 2 50.80 14.07 3748 86
8 11 92 3 51.30 16.52 3837 85
8 12 92 4 50.00 15.52 3686 86
8 13 92 5 49.00 15.52 3632 84
8 14 92 6 40.80 14.88 3563 83
8 15 92 7 39.10 15.25 3176 85

```

the correct column number specification would be:

Month	1
Day	2
Year	3
Avg. Temp.	8

### Add Entries to TPS

This routine provides the user with an easy way to add entries manually to an existing .TPS file (for updating purposes, from the monthly Local Climatological Data sheets from NOAA), or to create a new .TPS file from scratch. The screen will prompt for entries to the temperature file. To add entries to (an existing) .TPS file:

**Select:**                    **Data Prep**  
                                  **Add Entries to .TPS...**

**Enter:**                    **name of .TPS file**

**Click:**                    **OK**

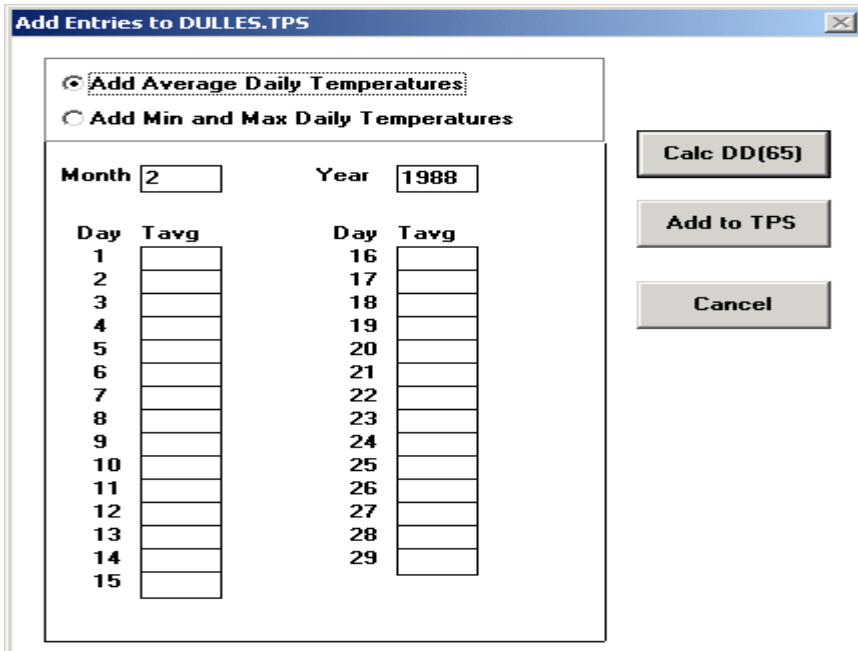


Figure 9.3 Add Entries to .TPS data prep screen.

Enter the temperature data indicated on the screen. Before proceeding, check each temperature entry for accuracy. In addition, if the base 65 F degree-days HDD(65) and CDD(65) for the month are published, as they are in NOAA's Local Climatological Data (LCD) Monthly Summary (the usual data source for monthly updates), then a further check on the accuracy of the temperature entries can be performed by comparing the HDD(65) and CDD(65) for the temperature entries to the published values.

To do so: **Click: Calc DD(65)**

The values of HDD(65) and CDD(65) computed for your data will be displayed. If the temperature data have been entered correctly, these numbers should exactly match the published numbers. If not, carefully re-check each temperature entry.

Once you are satisfied with the accuracy of the entries:

**Click: Add to TPS**

A message indicating that temperature readings were successfully added to .TPS for the month indicated will appear.

**Click: OK**

The screen will repeat until the user clicks 'Cancel'.

Reminder: The accuracy of update data is as important as the accuracy of the data originally entered. See Chapter 1, Input Files, The Importance of Data Quality.

Note: PRISM Users' Manual resumes on page II-88 with Column to MTR section.