

Monthly Weather Bulletin

No. 289
MAY 2010



This picture of mountain wave clouds was taken near Louisburgh, Co. Mayo, on the 7th. These clouds typically form over or in the lee of mountains, when moist air condenses after being forced upwards over high ground. (picture courtesy Dominic McManus)

MAINLY DRY AND SUNNY; BECOMING WARM AFTER COOL FIRST HALF

High pressure was the main influence on Ireland's weather during much of May, giving generally dry and sunny conditions. After a relatively cool first half of the month with widespread ground frost, temperatures rose during the second half, with a spell of very

warm weather between the 20th and 23rd. Rainfall totals were below normal almost everywhere, with many stations recording around half of their average amounts for the month and it was the driest May since 1991 at Claremorris. The year so far has been a dry one



INSIDE

**Tropical storm
Agatha hits
Guatemala- page 2**



Wind & Elements	4
Marine & Pressure	5
Agmet /Lab	6

Diary	8
Rainfall	10
Temperature	12
Sunshine	14
World weather	15
The weather of spring 2010	16

**Sunniest spring on record
in southwest**

Produced by Met Éireann,
Glasnevin Hill, Dublin 9.
Annual subscription 80 euro



For more information-
tel: +353-1-8064260
fax: +353-1-8064216
climate.enquiries@met.ie
www.met.ie/climate

Notes on the tables and map
showing location of stations
appear in January issue

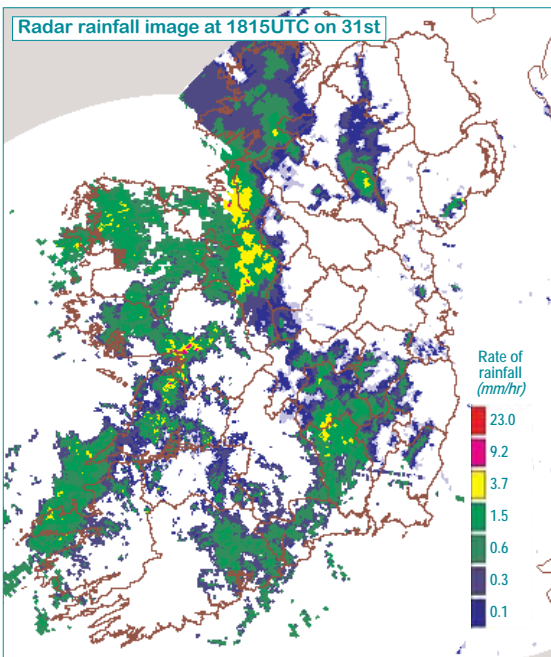
generally: totals for the five-month period at most stations are between 70% and 85% of normal. There were between 7 and 11 wetdays at most stations (days with 1mm or more rainfall) compared with the normal range for May of 12 to 16, and many of the falls on these days were light.

Although temperatures were near or below normal during much of May, warm weather during the final third brought mean air temperatures for the month a little above normal overall. Ground frost was frequent during the first two weeks and was severe in places on the 11th and 12th; a number of stations in the east recorded their

lowest ground temperatures for between 28 and 31 years on the 11th, while Valentia Observatory's value of -4.1°C on the 9th was its lowest May grass minimum value since such records began there in 1921. There were between 10 and 15 ground frosts during the month at inland stations, compared with their normal range for May of between four and seven. In contrast, temperatures rose to around 25°C in most places on the 22nd and 23rd, the highest May values in the Dublin area for around 50 years. Sunshine totals were above normal over the country for the sixth successive month. The period between the 22nd and 27th was

Below

Unsettled weather at the end of the month, associated with a deep Atlantic depression, brought a band of rain across all areas on the 31st. The rain was heaviest in western areas, with some locally heavy thunderstorms. At the same time, meanwhile, the breezy conditions were suitable for the Baltimore Wooden Boat Festival in County Cork. (picture Irish Examiner, satellite image courtesy Wokingham Weather, www.woksat.info/lwvp2.html)



particularly sunny; daily values of around 15.5 hours on the 23rd were the highest on record for May at some western and southern stations.

1st to 17th: High pressure was centred to the west or southwest of Ireland, bringing a cool polar airstream over the country. There were spells of rain or showers at times associated with weak fronts, but, apart from southern areas on the 1st, amounts of rain were generally small. Many days were sunny, while clear skies allowed ground frost to develop on most nights. Winds were generally light to moderate, between northeasterly and northwesterly in direction, but stronger on the 15th as a depression passed near the northwest coast.

18th to 25th: An active frontal system on the 18th brought a spell of rain in all areas, and also introduced milder and more humid air of tropical origin. High pressure on subsequent days gave mainly dry, sunny weather with light winds. Temperatures rose well above normal in all but some

coastal areas between the 20th and 23rd.

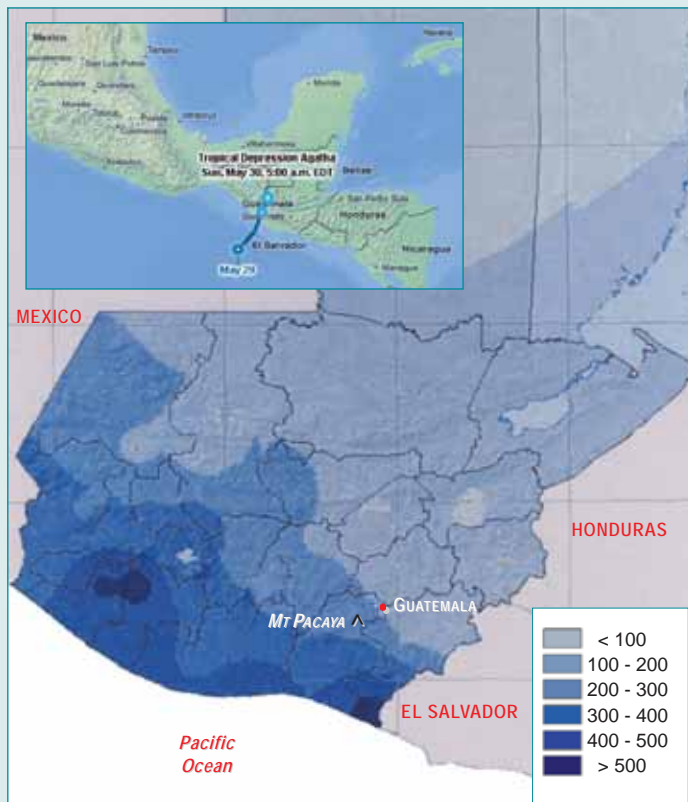
26th to 31st: Shallow depressions over or near Ireland brought spells of rain or showers, heaviest on the 29th and 31st; some severe thunderstorms were recorded in western areas during the evening of the 31st, causing structural damage in the Athenry area of Galway. Both maximum and minimum temperatures were near or a little above normal, while winds were mostly light, generally south to southwesterly in direction.

Wind and elements: Mean windspeeds for the month of between 5 and 11 knots (9 and 20km/h) were below normal everywhere and were the lowest for May since 2001 in most places. Most stations recorded no gale gusts; the month's highest gust of 38 knots (70km/h) was observed at Malin Head on the 15th. There were isolated hail showers on the 1st and in the period 11th to 14th. Thunderstorms were recorded in southern areas on the 1st and 20th and in the west on the 31st. Fog was most frequent between the 19th and 24th.

FIRST PACIFIC HURRICANE OF SEASON HITS GUATEMALA

Tropical Storm Agatha- the first named storm of the 2010 Pacific hurricane season- formed off the west coast of El Salvador on May 29th. The storm made landfall near the Guatemala-Mexico border on the same day. Although the storm only intensified to sustained winds of 72 km/h, the slow-moving system produced almost a metre of rain in some mountainous areas of Guatemala, according to government officials, while five-day falls of over 400mm were recorded in many coastal areas (see map right). One of the deadliest Pacific tropical cyclones on record, at least 184 people were killed in Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras (with most of the deaths concentrated in Guatemala), while more than 165,000 were evacuated from their homes. All three countries declared states of emergency. A large sinkhole more than 18 meters wide and 60 meters deep formed in the middle of Guatemala City, swallowing a street intersection and a three-storey clothing factory.

For Guatemala, this was the second natural disaster to occur within the space of a few days. On May 27th, the Pacaya volcano erupted, causing a 90-metre wide lava flow. The capital city of Guatemala, a city with two million inhabitants located just 30 kilometres from the volcano, was covered in a blanket of ash and dust. The two events together caused surreal conditions, when lava and floodwater combined to form a concrete-like material that clogged drains and greatly hampered relief efforts.



FIVE-DAY RAINFALL TOTALS (mm) OVER GUATEMALA, MAY 25TH TO 30TH

-a detailed report on the tropical storm is available (in spanish) on the website of the Guatemala Meteorological Office: www.insivumeh.gob.gt

County / Station	WIND (KNOTS)										ELEMENTS				
	Mean speed	Max. dir.	10-min. speed	mean date/hour	Max. dir.	Gust speed	date/time	Days with gales	gale gusts	Hours with gale gusts	Snow	Snow Lying	Hail	Thunder	Fog
CO. CARLOW CARLOW (OAK PARK)	6.1	200°	18	13/15	190°	26	18/1206	0	0	0					
CO. CAVAN BALLYHAISE	5.4	010°	13	10/09	340°	24	2/1725	0	0	0					
		220°	13	15/21	010°	24	10/0900								
CO. CLARE SHANNON AIRPORT	7.6	310°	20	14/12	330°	27	2/1559	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
					040°	27	7/1226								
CO. CORK ROCHE'S POINT	9.4	310°	23	14/19	320°	30	14/1025	0	0	0					
CORK AIRPORT	7.9	330°	20	2/19	340°	28	10/1104	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	7
					340°	28	12/1549								
CO. DONEGAL MALIN HEAD	9.7	360°	27	15/23	360°	38	15/2200	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
CO. DUBLIN DUBLIN AIRPORT	8.2	040°	20	8/10	110°	28	29/0916	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
CASEMENT AERODROME	6.2	200°	19	13/18	030°	28	8/1036	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	2
					200°	28	13/1748								
CO. KERRY VALENTIA OBSERVATORY	7.1	010°	19	6/09	340°	31	14/1036	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
CO. MAYO BELMULLET	9.3	220°	25	15/18	220°	36	15/1710	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	3
KNOCK AIRPORT	8.2	020°	19	10/08	360°	30	10/1349	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
		330°	19	14/15	270°	30	15/2007								
CO. TIPPERARY GURTEEN	6.5	050°	17	8/10	060°	24	8/1100	0	0	0					
CO. WESTMEATH MULLINGAR	4.9	040°	12	8/10	050°	21	7/1645	0	0	0					
		180°	12	18/14											
CO. WEXFORD JOHNSTOWN CASTLE	5.9	220°	16	13/15	220°	28	13/1559	0	0	0					

Valentia Observatory

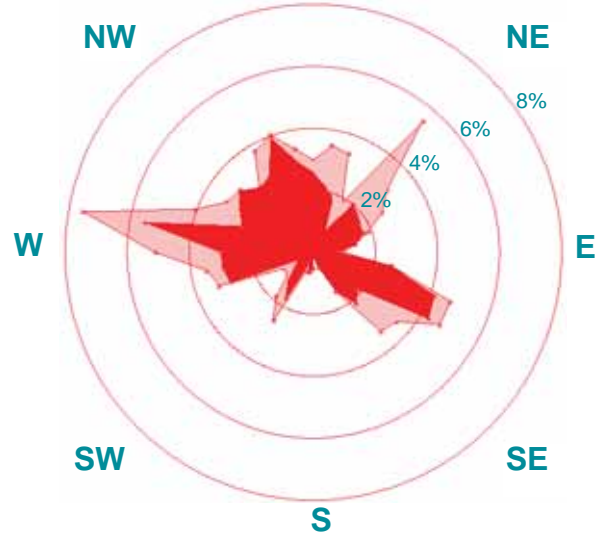
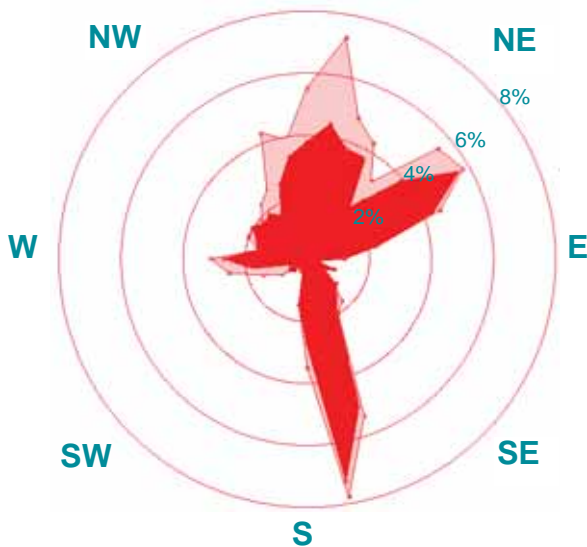
Dublin Airport

Calm: 0.1%

N

Calm: 0.0%

N

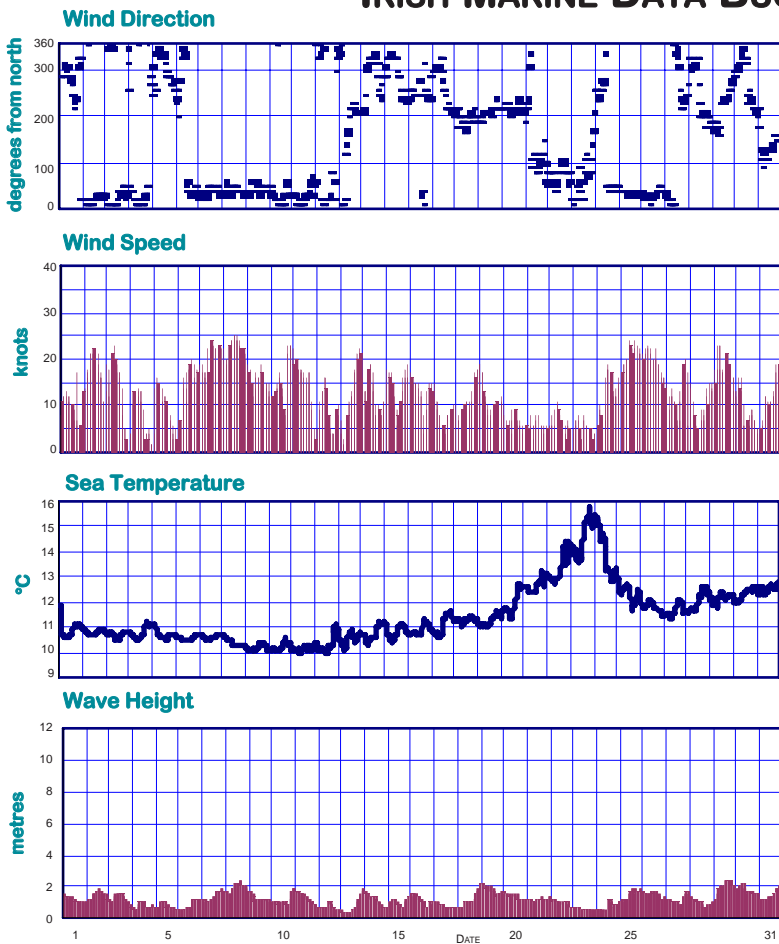


1-10 knots

>10 knots

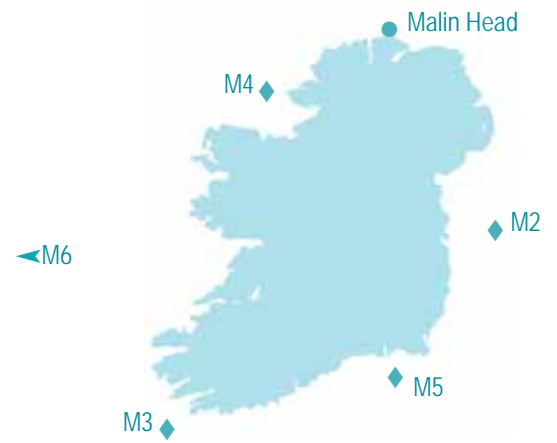
PERCENTAGE FREQUENCY OF WIND DIRECTION

MARINE OBSERVATIONS FROM IRISH MARINE DATA BUOY NETWORK



Buoy	Sea surface temp. (°C)	Mean wind speed (knots)	Max. 10-min wind (knots)	Mean wave height (m.)	Max. wave height (m.)
M2	n/a	11.9	26	0.8	2.2
M3	12.5	13.5	25	1.9	3.8
M4	11.0	13.8	29	2.0	4.0
M5	11.4	12.5	25	1.2	2.4
M6	12.1	n/a	n/a	2.0	3.9
Malin Head	10.0				

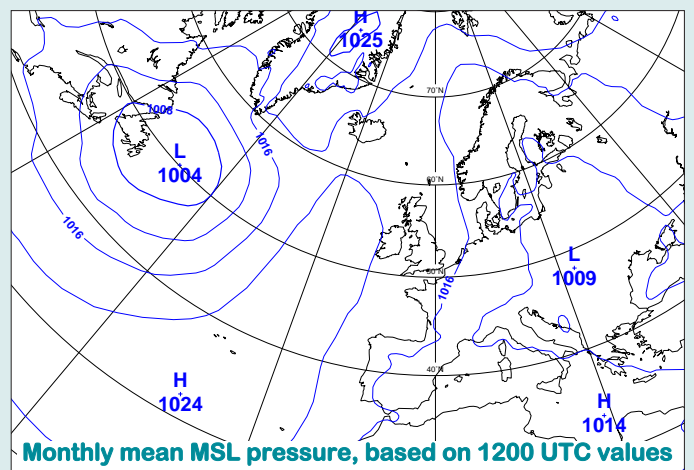
Summary of Mean Monthly Values



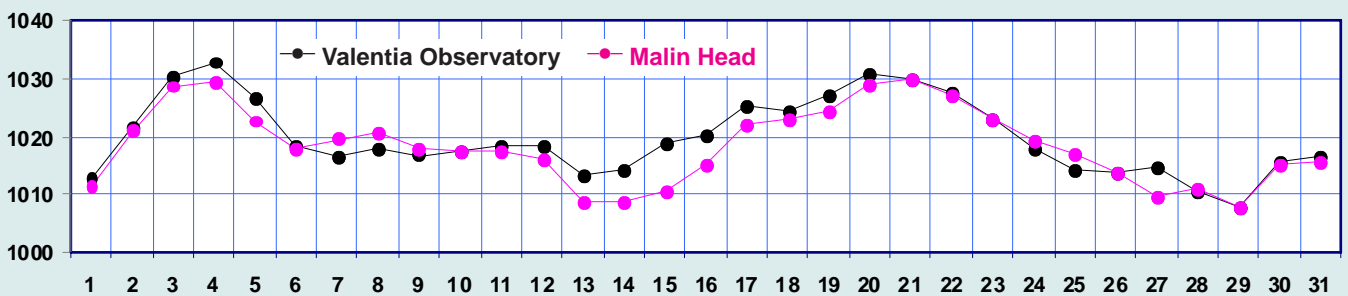
Hourly wind and wave conditions at M5 (51.7°N, 6.7°W)

MEAN ATMOSPHERIC PRESSURE

There was little variation in mean sea level pressure values for the month: average values were between 1019hPa and 1020hPa everywhere, around 5hPa higher than normal for May. Pressure rose rapidly during the first few days of the month, reaching 1034.5hPa at Belmullet on both the 3rd and 4th, the highest value of the month. The month's lowest pressure values were during the last week, when depressions passed over the south of Ireland; the lowest pressure of 1001.5hPa was recorded at Cork Airport on the 29th.



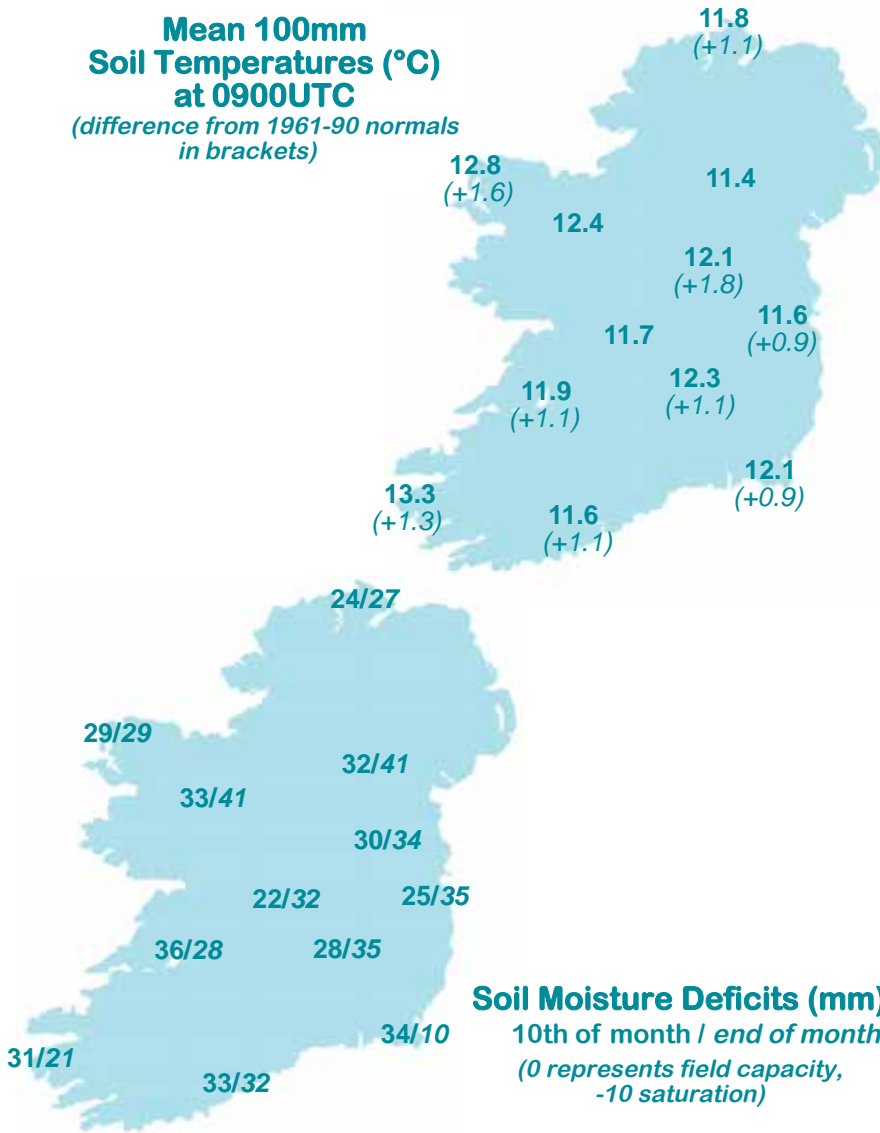
Monthly mean MSL pressure, based on 1200 UTC values



Mean daily Mean Sea Level pressure (hPa)

Mean 100mm Soil Temperatures (°C) at 0900UTC

(difference from 1961-90 normals in brackets)

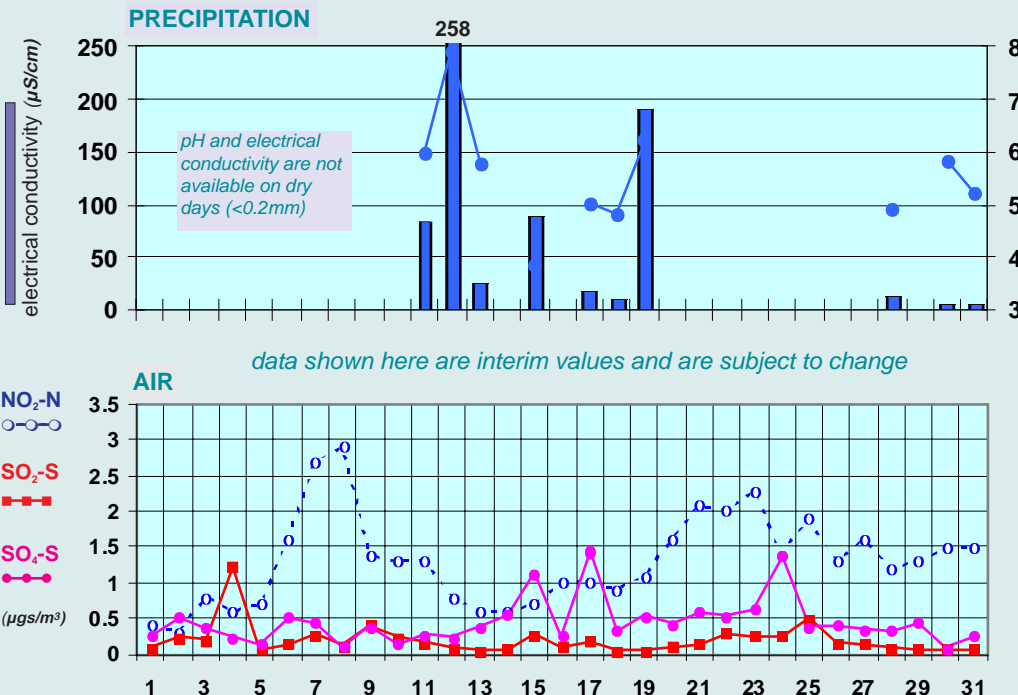


Soil Temperatures at 0900UTC

County/ Station	°C		
	100mm	200mm	300mm
CO. CARLOW			
CARLOW (OAK PARK)	12.3	11.9	12.2
CO. CAVAN			
BALLYHAISE	11.4	11.5	11.7
CO. CLARE			
SHANNON AIRPORT	11.9	12.0	12.6
CARRON	12.3		12.7
CO. CORK			
ROCHE'S POINT	11.5	11.6	11.7
FERMOY (MOOREPARK)	12.0	11.9	12.2
CORK AIRPORT	11.6	11.3	11.8
SHERKIN ISLAND	12.0	12.1	12.2
BALLINCURRIG (PEAFIELD)	11.5	11.2	11.6
CO. DONEGAL			
MALIN HEAD	11.8	12.0	12.1
CO. DUBLIN			
DUBLIN (PHOENIX PARK)	12.2	12.5	12.4
DUBLIN AIRPORT	11.2	11.2	11.8
CASEMENT AERODROME	11.6	11.7	12.0
CO. KERRY			
VALENTIA OBSERVATORY	13.3	13.7	14.3
CO. LIMERICK			
MOUNT RUSSELL	10.9	11.9	
CO. MAYO			
BELMULLET	12.8	14.0	14.4
STRAIDE	12.4		
KNOCK AIRPORT	10.2	10.6	11.3
CO. MEATH			
WARRENSTOWN	11.1	11.9	13.0
CO. TIPPERARY			
GURTEEN	11.7	11.7	12.1
PETHARD (PARSONSHILL)	11.2	12.1	
CO. WATERFORD			
DUNGARVAN (CARRIGLEA)		12.4	12.6
CO. WESTMEATH			
MULLINGAR	12.1	12.1	12.9
CO. WEXFORD			
JOHNSTOWN CASTLE	12.1	11.9	12.3
JOHN F. KENNEDY PARK	12.7	12.8	13.5
CLONROCHE (KNOXTOWN)	12.1	12.5	12.5

Soil Moisture Deficits (mm)
10th of month / end of month
(0 represents field capacity, -10 saturation)

Chemical Analysis of Precipitation and Air Samples at Valentia Observatory



Acid rain occurs when pollutants combine with moisture in the air to form sulphuric or nitric acid. pH is the simplest way of measuring the acidity of precipitation. Usually pH of 7.00 is considered neutral but this is not the case in rainfall samples. Pure water in the atmosphere has an equilibrium pH value of 5.65 at 20°C owing to carbon dioxide in the air dissolving to form carbonic acid. Any value below pH 5.65 is considered acid while any value above is considered alkaline.

Sulphur dioxide and sulphate in air contribute to the formation of sulphuric acid; nitrate in air contributes to the formation of nitric acid.

Conductivity measures the total ion activity in the rainfall, i.e. the higher the conductivity the greater the number of ions present.

10-DAY VALUES FOR SELECTED AGROMETEOROLOGICAL STATIONS		RAINFALL (MM)				TEMPERATURE (°C)												SUNSHINE (HOURS)			
Station	period	amount	% of average	rain days	wet days	mean max.	mean min.	mean daily	diff. from average	lowest min.	date	days with air frost	degree days > 4.4°C	degree days > 10.0°C	lowest "grass-min."	date	days with ground frost	mean 10cm at 0900h	mean 30cm at 0900h	total no. of hours	% of average
Cavan (Loreto)	11-20	13.2	-	8	6	15.0	4.9	10.0	-	-1.5	12	2	59	21	-4.1	11	3	-	-	42.8	-
	21-end	13.3	-	4	4	17.9	7.2	12.6	-	1.9	28	0	91	38	-2.0	28	2	-	-	88.3	-
	month	31.8	-	17	13	15.4	5.7	10.6	-	-1.5	12	2	198	70	-4.1	11	9	-	-	192.5	-
Co. Cork	1-10	13.1	-	5	3	14.0	4.4	9.2	-	2.0	9	0	50	11	1.4	4	0	9.2	10.1	55.7	-
Ballincurrag	11-20	10.0	-	7	3	15.1	6.0	10.6	-	0.2	11	0	63	21	0.0	11	0	11.0	11.0	60.0	-
(Peafield)	21-end	26.5	-	3	3	18.5	7.5	13.0	-	3.1	27	0	95	40	2.5	27	0	14.1	13.7	77.2	-
	month	49.6	-	15	9	16.0	6.0	11.0	-	0.2	11	0	208	72	0.0	11	0	11.5	11.6	192.9	-
Co. Donegal	1-10	18.5	-	6	4	14.4	4.1	9.3	-	-0.9	9	1	52	12	-3.6	9	5	-	-	-	-
Glenties	11-20	16.8	-	8	6	14.9	5.4	10.2	-	-1.4	12	2	61	21	-4.1	12	3	-	-	-	-
	21-end	14.1	-	4	3	17.2	6.9	12.1	-	1.9	27	0	86	36	-1.4	28	2	-	-	-	-
	month	49.4	54	18	13	15.6	5.5	10.6	0.6	-1.4	12	3	198	69	-4.1	12	10	-	-	-	-
Co. Kerry	1-10	0.8	-	3	0	15.0	4.6	9.8	-	0.9	9	0	56	15	-2.3	9	3	-	-	64.7	-
Ardfert	11-20	11.5	-	7	5	16.7	6.8	11.8	-	-0.4	11	1	75	29	-3.5	11	1	-	-	54.0	-
	21-end	14.9	-	4	3	19.8	8.1	14.0	-	2.8	27	0	106	49	-0.6	27	1	-	-	81.0	-
	month	27.2	-	14	8	17.3	6.6	12.0	1.4	-0.4	11	1	237	93	-3.5	11	5	-	-	199.7	-
Co. Monaghan	1-10	7.2	-	3	2	13.9	5.1	9.5	-	2.8	10	0	53	13	-2.7	10	5	-	-	-	-
Carrickmacross	11-20	13.9	-	8	3	15.1	4.7	9.9	-	-1.4	12	2	59	20	-4.4	12	5	-	-	-	-
	21-end	21.6	-	4	4	17.8	7.0	12.4	-	2.4	27	0	89	37	-3.1	27	4	-	-	-	-
	month	42.7	68	15	9	15.7	5.6	10.7	-	-1.4	12	2	200	70	-4.4	12	14	-	-	-	-
Co. Waterford	1-10	6.1	-	4	1	13.8	6.4	10.1	-	3.3	9	0	57	13	0.6	9	0	-	10.3	56.3	-
Dungarvan	11-20	7.3	-	6	2	16.2	6.1	11.2	-	1.5	11	0	70	26	-0.9	11	1	-	11.8	70.6	-
	21-end	33.1	-	3	2	18.7	7.7	13.2	-	3.0	28	0	97	42	1.0	28	0	-	15.3	88.1	-
	month	46.5	-	13	5	16.3	6.7	11.5	0.7	1.5	11	0	224	81	-0.9	11	1	-	12.6	215.0	118
Co. Wexford	1-10	9.9	-	4	3	13.7	5.8	9.8	-	2.0	3	0	54	11	-1.3	4	2	10.6	12.1	57.8	-
J.F.K. Park	11-20	19.2	-	6	5	14.8	6.4	10.6	-	2.1	11	0	63	19	-0.6	11	1	12.1	12.9	63.7	-
	21-end	37.6	-	4	4	18.0	7.8	12.9	-	4.6	28	0	93	38	0.0	27	0	15.1	15.2	81.6	-
	month	66.7	93	14	12	15.5	6.7	11.1	0.5	2.0	3	0	211	69	-1.3	4	3	12.7	13.5	203.1	119

MEASURED POTENTIAL EVAPOTRANSPIRATION (P.E.) AND SOIL MOISTURE					
Station	Period	P.E. (mm)		Soil Moisture (mm)	
		Amount	Deficit	Accum'd	Surplus
Co. Kerry	1-10	18.3	16	16	-
Valentia Obs.	11-20	31.1	-	16	-
	21-end	40.9	27	43	-
	month	90.3			

Station	P.E. (Penman)		GLOBAL SOLAR RADIATION (MJ/sq.m.)			
	total(mm)		1st-10th	11th-20th	21st-end	Total
Co. Carlow						
Carlow (Oak Park)*	77		139.01	164.28	222.69	525.98
Co. Cavan						
Ballyhaise*	73		134.75	151.18	214.37	500.30
Co. Clare						
Shannon Airport	78		global solar radiation values for stations marked * are provisional			
Co. Cork						
Cork Airport	78					
Roche's Point*			157.02	171.83	219.17	548.02
Co. Donegal						
Malin Head	73		189.77	177.02	226.01	592.80
Co. Dublin						
Dublin Airport	72		152.94	171.74	231.93	556.61
Casement Aerodrome	76					
Co. Kerry						
Valentia Obs.	84		189.00	176.47	240.15	605.62
Co. Mayo						
Belmullet	71		180.44	152.63	227.72	560.79
Knock Airport	77					
Co. Tipperary						
Curteen*	73		130.11	167.35	206.45	503.91
Co. Westmeath						
Mullingar*	74		129.61	155.87	221.99	507.47
Co. Wexford						
Johnstown Castle*	76		143.67	171.27	215.56	530.50

MONTHLY EVAPORATION (MM) FROM CLASS A PAN			
County	Station	Monthly Rainfall (mm)	Monthly Evaporation (mm)
Kerry	Valentia Observatory	54.2	98.8
Kerry	North Kerry Landfill	51.5	77.3
Mayo	Newport (Furnace)	48.2	79.7
Offaly	Derrygreenagh	41.9	88.4
Waterford	Dungarvan (Carriglea)	46.5	93.8
Wexford	J.F.K. Park	66.7	84.7

Saturday 1st: Mostly dry overnight apart from some showers in the northwest. The morning was dry at first with some sunny spells; however, showers developed later, some heavy in places. Showers continued during the afternoon, with sunny periods also. During the evening and night, showers died out with clear spells developing. Winds were light and variable in direction.

Rainfall: nil to 14mm, heaviest at Shannon Airport, nil at Ballyhaise

Temperature: max. 11°C to 14°C, min. 4°C to 9°C, ground temperatures down to zero at Mullingar

Sunshine: 2 to 8 hours, sunniest at Belmullet, 2 hours at Cork Airport

Sunday 2nd: Mostly cloudy overnight with some showers in places. Isolated showers continued throughout the day with sunny spells also, mainly in the west. Mostly dry during the evening and night, with clear spells and some ground frost in places. Winds were light northerly.

Rainfall: trace to 3mm, heaviest at Knock Airport, trace at Cork Airport

Temperature: max. 10°C to 13°C, min. 3°C to 9°C, ground temperatures down to -2°C at Dublin Airport

Sunshine: 2 to 11 hours, sunniest at Belmullet, 2 hours at Casement Aerodrome

Monday 3rd: Cold with ground frost under clear skies overnight. Cloudier in the north with scattered showers. Cool and dry generally, although it was fine in most places with long spells of sunshine. Clear spells after dark and remaining cold. Winds were light and generally northerly in direction.

Rainfall: nil to trace generally, <1mm at Knock Airport

Temperature: max. 10°C to 14°C, min. 0°C to 8°C, ground temperatures down to -5°C at Casement Aerodrome

Sunshine: 6 to 13 hours, sunniest at Knock Airport, 6 hours at Belmullet

Tuesday 4th: Cold with clear spells over the southern half of the country, giving a slight to sharp frost in places. Some outbreaks of rain in Ulster during the latter part of the night and during the early morning. Generally dry and overcast during the morning. Staying dry and becoming sunny in many parts during the afternoon. Winds were light and northerly in direction.

Rainfall: nil generally, <1mm at Malin Head

Temperature: max. 11°C to 14°C, min. 1°C to 8°C, ground temperatures down to -4°C at Casement Aerodrome

Sunshine: 1 to 6 hours, sunniest at Valentia, 1 hour at Knock Airport

Wednesday 5th: Overnight rain in most areas, heaviest in the north, but generally dry in the south. The rain moved southwards during the morning and cleared most areas by early afternoon. A cloudy day generally with some mist or fog patches and short sunny breaks, mainly in the east. Generally dry by evening, apart from in the northeast, where there was some heavy rain. Light to moderate northwesterly winds were fresh at times on some exposed coasts.

Rainfall: nil to 10mm, heaviest at Malin Head, nil at Cork Airport

Temperature: max. 11°C to 17°C, min. 6°C to 10°C, no ground frost

Sunshine: nil to 5 hours, sunniest at Dublin Airport, nil in the south and northwest

Thursday 6th: Heavy rain in the northeast moved over the eastern half of the country during the night. The rain cleared during the morning, giving a mainly dry day with some sunny spells and isolated showers. Winds were light to moderate northwesterly, fresh and gusty at times in the north and northwest.

Rainfall: nil to 8mm, heaviest at Johnstown Castle

Temperature: max. 11°C to 16°C, min. 5°C to 11°C, no ground frost

Sunshine: <1 to 7 hours, sunniest at Valentia, <1 hour at Belmullet

Friday 7th: Scattered showers in the eastern half of the country overnight, mainly dry elsewhere. After a generally dry start, showers in the east became more widespread, with some turning heavy in Munster and south Leinster. Cool with some sunny spells, becoming dry in most parts by evening. Winds were moderate to fresh and gusty, north to northeasterly in direction.

Rainfall: nil to 1mm generally, 3mm at Cork Airport

Temperature: max. 11°C to 15°C, min. 2°C to 8°C, ground temperatures down to -3°C at Gurteen

Sunshine: 3 to 12 hours, sunniest at Valentia, 3 hours at Cork Airport

Saturday 8th: It was a cool, breezy and mostly dry day with long sunny periods. Cloudier in the far south with isolated showers. Cold again after dark away from Atlantic coasts, with ground frost developing in places. Light to moderate northeasterly winds overnight, increasing moderate to fresh and gusty during the day, but mostly light again by evening.

Rainfall: nil

Temperature: max. 11°C to 16°C, min. 0°C to 7°C, ground temperatures down to -4°C at Gurteen

Sunshine: 6 to 15 hours, sunniest at Knock Airport, 6 hours at Cork Airport

Sunday 9th: Dry and clear overnight with a widespread ground frost. A dry day throughout with sunny spells, but more overcast in eastern and northern areas. Staying dry during the evening and night apart from some light drizzle in eastern areas late in the evening. Winds were light, northerly in direction.

Rainfall: nil

Temperature: max. 11°C to 15°C, min. -1°C to 7°C, ground temperatures down to -5°C at Gurteen

Sunshine: 8 to 14 hours, sunniest at Valentia, 8 hours at Knock Airport

Monday 10th: Frequent showers along the east coast during the morning, but fewer elsewhere with some sunny spells. During the afternoon, the showers became well-scattered and confined to northwestern coastal areas. Sunny spells during the afternoon everywhere, although relatively cool. Winds were light, northerly in direction.

Rainfall: nil 1mm, heaviest at Belmullet

Temperature: max. 9°C to 13°C, min. 1°C to 8°C, ground temperatures down to -3°C at Dublin Airport

Sunshine: 5 to 10 hours, sunniest at Belmullet, 5 hours at Casement Aerodrome

Tuesday 11th: After a generally dry start, showers affected parts of Ulster and Leinster during the morning, spreading to most parts of the country during the afternoon, with heavy falls in places. The south and southwest escaped the rain and had long hours of sunshine. Winds were light, northerly in direction.

Rainfall: nil to 6mm, heaviest at Dublin Airport, nil at Cork Airport

Temperature: max. 9°C to 12°C, min. -2°C to 4°C, ground temperatures down to -7°C at Casement Aerodrome

Sunshine: trace to 8 hours, sunniest at Cork Airport, trace at Belmullet

Wednesday 12th: Some showers overnight, heaviest in the southwest. During the morning, showers affected eastern parts and became frequent and heavy at times with some hail also. The showers eventually died out by late afternoon. Sunny spells in all areas, although remaining relatively cool. Winds were light northeasterly initially, becoming variable during the day.

Rainfall: nil to 1mm generally, 4mm at Valentia

Temperature: max. 9°C to 13°C, min. -1°C to 6°C, ground temperatures down to -5°C at Ballyhaise

Sunshine: 7 to 11 hours, sunniest at Shannon Airport, 7 hours at Cork Airport

Thursday 13th: A band of light rain stretching from the southwest to the northeast moved over the country during the day, giving some heavy falls, particularly in the southeast. Some sunny spells in the east and west, although generally overcast and cool. Winds were moderate southwesterly ahead of the rain, becoming light westerly as it cleared.

Rainfall: nil to 5mm, heaviest at Johnstown Castle, nil at Malin Head

Temperature: max. 10°C to 14°C, min. 1°C to 8°C, ground temperatures down to -3°C at Dublin Airport

Sunshine: trace to 3 hours, sunniest at Dublin Airport, trace at Cork Airport

Friday 14th: Showers developed in the west during the morning and became countrywide by the afternoon, with some heavy showers in places. Becoming dry in all areas by evening. Long sunny spells in all areas. Winds were northwesterly, light to moderate, becoming light throughout by evening.

Rainfall: trace to 7mm, heaviest at Casement Aerodrome, trace at Mullingar

Temperature: max. 12°C to 16°C, min. 3°C to 9°C, ground temperatures down to -1°C at Gurteen and Ballyhaise

Sunshine: 7 to 12 hours, sunniest at Shannon Airport, 7 hours at Valentia

Saturday 15th: After a dry, sunny start, rain moved into the west and northwest during the afternoon, crossing the country by late evening. The rain was mainly light but turned heavy for a while in the north during the afternoon. A clearance followed into the northwest in the evening. Winds were variable, generally light to moderate, stronger along west and southwest coasts.

Rainfall: nil to 8mm, heaviest at Malin Head, nil in the south and east

Temperature: max. 13°C to 16°C, min. 2°C to 9°C, ground temperatures down to -3°C at Mullingar

Sunshine: 3 to 10 hours, sunniest at Valentia, 3 hours at Knock Airport

Sunday 16th: Light rain cleared the southern half of the country by early morning. Showers developed in Ulster during the morning and continued during the day. Generally dry elsewhere with sunshine, particularly in the south. Winds were westerly, light to moderate in direction.

Rainfall: nil to 1mm, heaviest at Shannon Airport

Temperature: max. 13°C to 15°C, min. 3°C to 9°C, ground temperatures down to -2°C at Mullingar

Sunshine: 5 to 12 hours, sunniest at Valentia, 5 hours at Knock Airport

Monday 17th: A slight ground frost in places overnight. Dry and sunny in the midlands and east during the morning, cloudier further west with some patchy rain and drizzle. Light rain in western and southern areas during the afternoon and evening, mainly dry elsewhere. Winds were light and variable in direction.

Rainfall: nil to 3mm, heaviest at Valentia, nil in the east

Temperature: max. 12°C to 17°C, min. 3°C to 8°C, ground temperatures down to -2°C at Casement Aerodrome

Sunshine: trace to 7 hours, sunniest at Dublin Airport, trace at Valentia

Tuesday 18th: Rain and drizzle over the western half of the country overnight. Some sunny spells in the east during the morning, cloudy elsewhere. Rain continued in the west during the afternoon and spread slowly eastwards, reaching all areas by evening. Winds were light, southerly in direction.

Rainfall: 1 to 20mm, heaviest at Valentia, 1mm at Casement Aerodrome

Temperature: max. 12°C to 19°C, min 5°C to 11°C, no ground frost

Sunshine: nil generally, 3 hours at Dublin Airport

Wednesday 19th: Rain spread across the country in the early part of the day, heavy in places, generally dying out by noon. A few sunny spells also, although generally overcast. Some light rain and drizzle overnight. Winds were light, south to southwesterly, later backing southeasterly while staying light.

Rainfall: nil to 1 mm, heaviest at Shannon Airport, nil at Gurteen

Temperature: max. 14°C to 21°C, min. 10°C to 12°C, no ground frost

Sunshine: nil to 3 hours, sunniest at Dublin Airport, nil at Valentia

Thursday 20th: Overnight showers in the west and northwest. Early mist and fog in places. Sunny spells during the day in many areas, although it remained generally cloudy and dull in the west. Mist and fog persisted in the south throughout the day. Winds were light and variable in direction.

Rainfall: nil to 3mm, heaviest at Shannon Airport, nil in the east

Temperature: max. 13°C to 24°C, min. 9°C to 14°C, no ground frost

Sunshine: 1 to 9 hours, sunniest at Cork Airport, 1 hour at Belmullet

Friday 21st: Overnight showers, some heavy in places. Mist and fog cleared slowly during the morning and it was a mostly dry, warm and sunny day with spells of hazy sunshine and occasional shower in places. Winds were light and variable or southeasterly in direction.

Rainfall: nil to 1mm generally, 5mm at Mullingar

Temperature: max. 15°C to 23°C, min. 9°C to 13°C, no ground frost

Sunshine: trace to 10 hours, sunniest in the east, trace at Belmullet

Saturday 22nd: Overnight mist and fog cleared during the morning, leading to a dry, very warm and sunny day generally. Remaining mild and dry again after dark. Winds were southeasterly, light to moderate.

Rainfall: nil to trace

Temperature: max. 18°C to 25°C, min. 6°C to 12°C, no ground frost

Sunshine: 11 to 15 hours, sunniest at Shannon Airport, 11 hours at Knock Airport

Sunday 23rd: Dry overnight. Fog formed in some inland areas but cleared quickly after dawn. The day was warm, dry and sunny countrywide and became very warm inland during the afternoon. Winds were mostly light and variable in direction, fresh westerly on north Ulster coasts during the afternoon.

Rainfall: nil

Temperature: max. 17°C to 26°C, min. 8°C to 13°C, no ground frost

Sunshine: 11 to 16 hours, sunniest at Shannon Airport, 11 hours at Belmullet

Monday 24th: The day was warm, dry and generally sunny, but cooler further north. Cloudy over the south midlands during the morning. Winds were mostly light and variable, moderate northeasterly on north Ulster and north Connacht coasts for a while during the afternoon.

Rainfall: nil

Temperature: max. 13°C to 22°C, min. 7°C to 10°C, no ground frost

Sunshine: 7 to 14 hours, sunniest at Valentia, 7 hours at Shannon Airport

Tuesday 25th: Dry overnight with clear spells and mist in places. A dry day throughout with long sunny spells. Cooler than recent days. Continuing dry overnight with clear spells. Winds were light northeasterly.

Rainfall: nil

Temperature: max. 11°C to 19°C, min. 2°C to 12°C, ground temperatures down to -1°C at Casement Aerodrome

Sunshine: 13 to 15 hours, sunniest at Shannon Airport, 13 hours at Valentia

Wednesday 26th: Dry overnight with clear spells, but cloudy in the northwest. Mostly dry throughout the day with sunny spells developing and just the odd shower along the north coast. The evening and night continued dry with clear spells. Winds were light northeasterly.

Rainfall: nil generally, <1mm at Malin Head

Temperature: max. 11°C to 17°C, min. 3°C to 9°C, ground temperatures down to -1°C at Dublin Airport

Sunshine: 9 to 12 hours, sunniest at Valentia, 9 hours at Cork Airport

Thursday 27th: After initial clear or sunny spells, particularly in the east and south, cloud increased during the morning with showers in the north, gradually becoming more widespread by the afternoon. The far south of the country remained mostly dry. Winds were light to moderate, northwesterly in direction.

Rainfall: nil to 8mm, heaviest at Malin Head

Temperature: max. 12°C to 16°C, min. 2°C to 7°C, ground temperatures down to -2°C at Carlow (Oak Park)

Sunshine: 4 to 11 hours, sunniest at Dublin Airport, 4 hours at Shannon Airport

Friday 28th: Dry with clear spells overnight and a fairly widespread ground frost. The morning was mainly dry with some sunny spells, but with isolated showers along western and northern coasts. Continuing dry during the afternoon with some sunshine. During the evening, rain moved into the southwest and south and spread slowly northeastwards. Winds were light and variable in direction.

Rainfall: nil to 5mm, heaviest at Valentia, nil in the east

Temperature: max. 13°C to 17°C, min. 1°C to 9°C, ground temperatures down to -4°C at Ballyhaise

Sunshine: 3 to 9 hours, sunniest at Casement Aerodrome, 3 hours at Shannon Airport

Saturday 29th: Mild and humid overnight with rain over the southern half of the country moving steadily northeastwards. The rain was heavy at times, particularly in the southeastern quarter of the country. Relatively dry in the northwest. The rain cleared eastwards into the Irish Sea during the morning and the remainder of the day was mild and mostly cloudy, with patchy rain or showers and some sunny spells in the afternoon. Winds were light to moderate, variable in direction.

Rainfall: <1 to 26mm, heaviest at Johnstown Castle, <1mm at Malin Head

Temperature: max. 12°C to 18°C, min. 7°C to 11°C, no ground frost

Sunshine: nil to 5 hours, sunniest at Belmullet, nil at Dublin Airport

Sunday 30th: The day started dry and mainly fair with spells of hazy sunshine, however, wet weather in the southwest moved across much of Munster and south Connacht during the afternoon and evening. Afternoon temperatures were around normal in most places but were a few degrees cooler where cloud persisted. Light to moderate northwesterly winds were fresh at times on northern coasts. Winds decreased light and variable in the afternoon.

Rainfall: nil to 8mm, heaviest at Valentia

Temperature: max. 13°C to 17°C, min. 4°C to 10°C, ground temperatures down to -1°C at Mullingar

Sunshine: nil to 11 hours, sunniest at Casement Aerodrome, nil at Valentia

Monday 31st: Patchy rain in Munster and south Connacht overnight, largely dry elsewhere. Rain died out during the morning and the day started off dry with sunny spells in the east and north. Rain moved into the west and southwest from the Atlantic during the afternoon and moved quickly eastwards across the rest of the country, persistent and heavy in places, particularly in the south and southeast. The rain became more patchy along Atlantic coasts later in the evening. Light southeast winds overnight, increasing moderate, sometimes fresh and gusty during the day. Winds veered southwesterly and decreased light in the southwest during the evening.

Rainfall: 5 to 16mm, heaviest at Mullingar, 5mm at Malin Head

Temperature: max. 13°C to 19°C, min. 5°C to 13°C, no ground frost

Sunshine: nil to 6 hours, sunniest at Casement Aerodrome, nil at Cork Airport

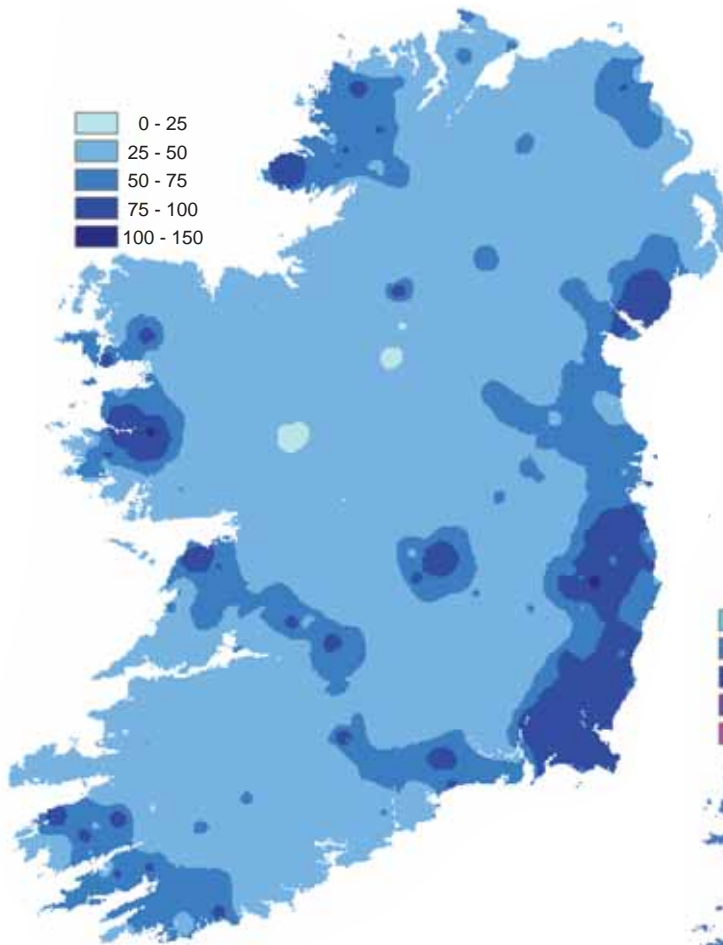
Drier than normal almost everywhere

May rainfall totals were below normal at all stations except in parts of Leinster. Around half of normal rainfall for the month was recorded over most of the country, but totals were a little higher than normal at a few stations in the east and southeast. Totals varied between 27mm at Ardfert (Liscahane), Co. Kerry and 83mm at Johnstown Castle, with percentage of normal values ranging from 41% of normal at both Ballygar, Co. Galway, and Straide, Co. Mayo to 130% at Johnstown Castle. It was the driest May since 1991 at some western stations.

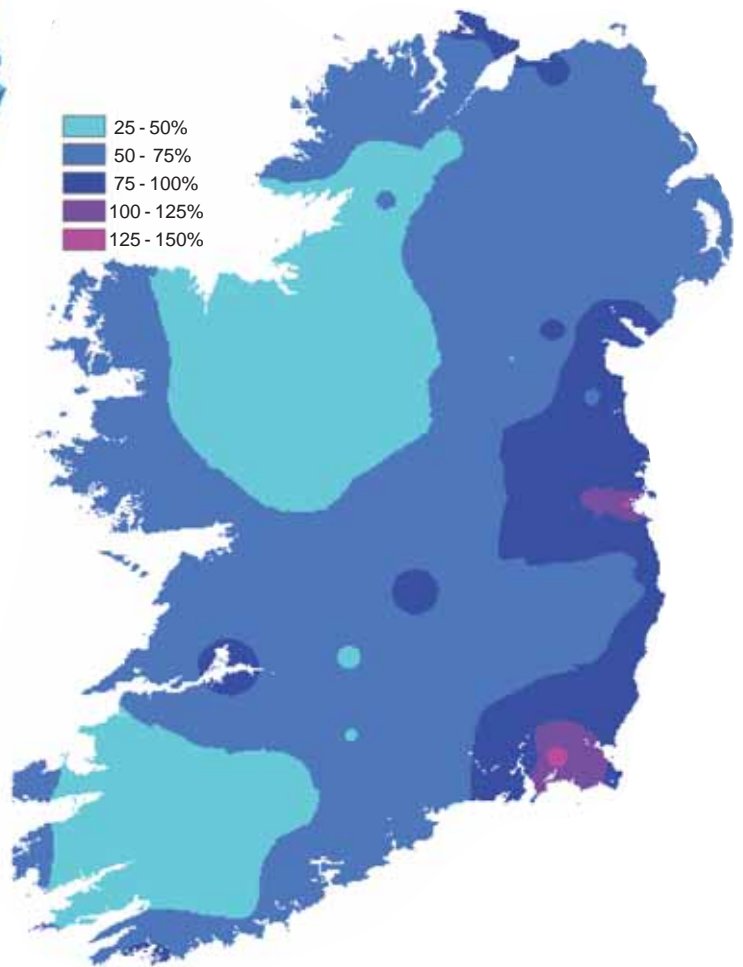
Daily rainfall amounts throughout almost all of the month were small, but there were some heavy falls on the 18th and in the period 28th to 31st. There was a total of between seven and 11 wetdays at the majority of stations (*days with 1mm or more of rainfall*), compared with the normal range for May of between 12 to 16. Almost all stations recorded their highest daily fall on the 31st, which accounted for almost half of the monthly total in many cases. Johnstown Castle also measured the highest daily value of the month on this day, 26.9mm.

County/ Station	Total Amount (mm)	% of 1961-90 average	Most in a day / date		Number of Raindays (>0.2mm)	Wetdays (≥1mm)
CO. CARLOW						
CARLOW (OAK PARK)	56.7		16.6	31	15	9
CO. CAVAN						
BALLYHAISE	28.8	44	10.4	31	14	9
CAVAN LORETO COLLEGE	31.8		9.1	31	17	13
CO. CLARE						
SHANNON AIRPORT	54.3	91	11.7	31	13	9
CARRON	54.5	61	11.9	28	19	8
CO. CORK						
ROCHE'S POINT	44.5	66	11.4	31	12	7
FERMOY (MOOREPARK)	48.8	72	10.0	31	14	9
CORK AIRPORT	47.3	56	10.5	28	12	9
SHERKIN ISLAND	58.8	82	14.3	31	12	10
BALLINCURRIG (PEAFIELD)	49.6		13.0	28	15	9
CO. DONEGAL						
MALIN HEAD	51.5	87	9.7	5	18	10
GLENTIES HATCHERY	49.4	54	9.3	4	18	13
BALLYSHANNON (CATHLEEN'S FALL)	32.2	47	10.8	31	15	11
CO. DUBLIN						
DUBLIN (PHOENIX PARK)	57.6	101	22.0	31	15	11
DUBLIN AIRPORT	48.8		19.5	31	13	9
CASEMENT AERODROME	58.4	101	23.9	31	15	11
DUBLIN (MERRION SQUARE)	70.1	130	24.5	31	13	9
CO. GALWAY						
GALWAY (UNIV. COLL.)	44.2	59	10.2	31	16	9
MAAM VALLEY	66.6		20.7	18	15	8
BALLYGAR	28.5	41	9.9	31	12	6
CO. KERRY						
VALENTIA OBSERVATORY	54.2	61	13.6	17	14	7
ARDFERT (LISCAHANE)	27.2		7.7	30	14	8
CO. LIMERICK						
MOUNT RUSSELL	44.9		8.7	28	13	10
CO. MAYO						
BELMULLET	38.1	56	15.3	31	16	6
STRAIDE	31.0	41	8.2	31	12	9
CONNACHT AIRPORT	33.6		9.7	31	15	7
DELPHI LODGE II	54.7		11.8	15	16	9
CO. MEATH						
WARRENTOWN	53.8	85	23.4	31	14	9
CO. MONAGHAN						
CARRICKMACROSS (DUNOGE)	42.7	68	15.2	31	15	9
CO. OFFALY						
DERRYGREENAGH	41.9	64	21.8	31	12	8
CO. SLIGO						
ARDTARMON	36.4		11.3	31	14	8
CO. TIPPERARY						
GURTEEN	37.2		12.1	31	13	8
FETHARD (PARSONSHILL)	46.2		12.6	31	13	10
CO. WATERFORD						
WATERFORD (TYCOR)	44.0	63	19.3	31	11	7
DUNGARVAN (CARRIGLEA)	46.5		21.2	31	13	5
CO. WESTMEATH						
MULLINGAR	44.6	61	19.1	31	15	9
CO. WEXFORD						
JOHNSTOWN CASTLE	82.9	130	26.9	31	16	8
JOHN F. KENNEDY PARK	66.7	93	18.2	31	14	12
CLONROCHE (KNOXTOWN)	70.2		16.9	31	16	11

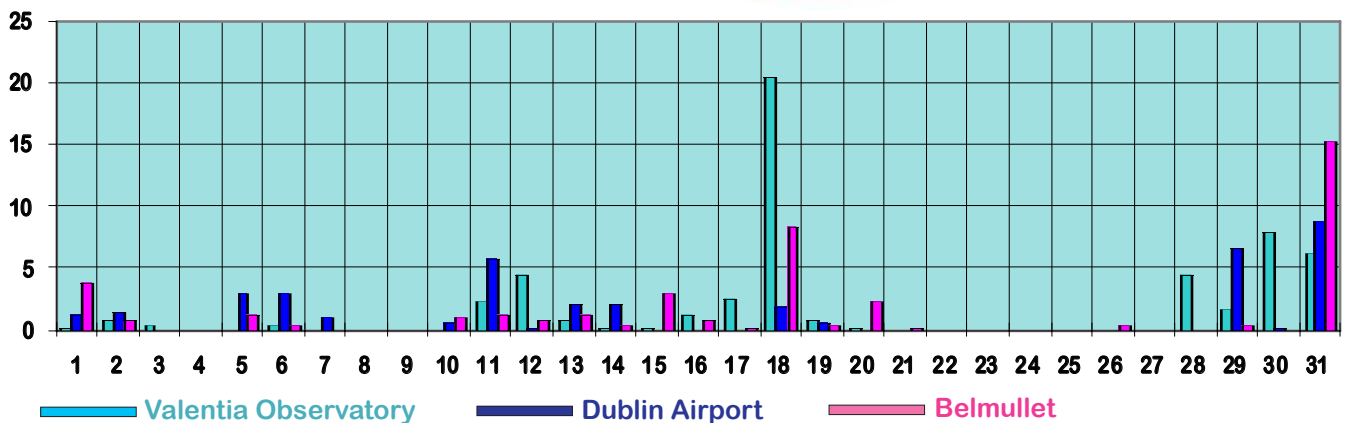
Total rainfall (mm)



Percentage of normal rainfall



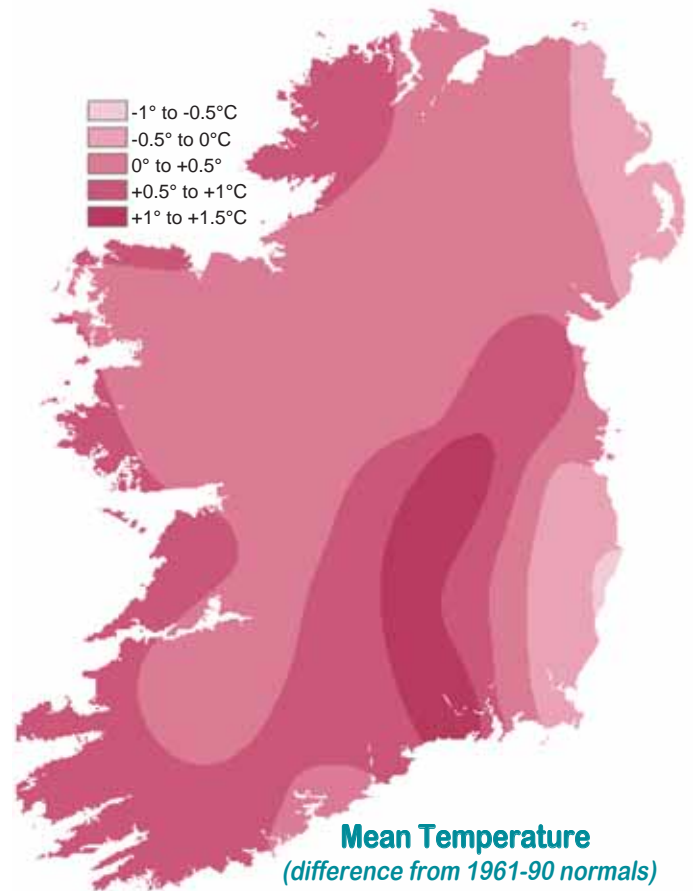
Daily 0-24h rainfall values (mm)



Becoming warm after cool first half

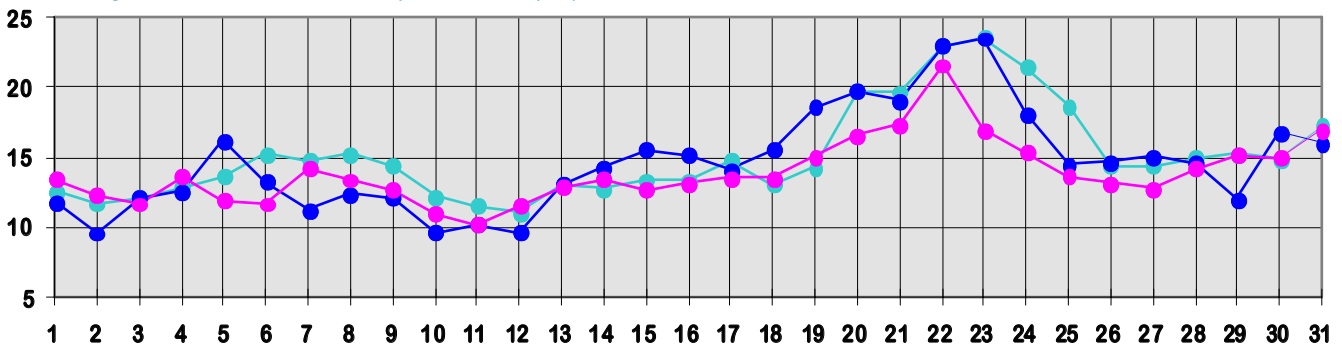
Temperatures were near or a little below normal for much of May, but very warm conditions at times during the final third raised mean monthly values above normal generally. Mean monthly air temperatures varied between 9.9°C at Dublin Airport and 12.1°C at Waterford (Tycor), around half a degree higher than normal in most places, but a little below normal at some eastern and southeastern stations.

The first half of May was relatively cool, with ground frost on many nights, especially between the 8th and 12th, when air frost was also recorded at some stations. The month's lowest air temperature of -2.0°C was recorded at Casement Aerodrome on the 11th, while the lowest grass minimum value of -7.0°C was measured at Straide, Co. Mayo, on the 8th; these were the lowest respective May values at these stations since 1996. There was a total of between 10 and 15 ground frosts during the month in inland areas, well above the normal range for May of between five and seven. Most stations recorded their warmest days of the month on either the 22nd or 23rd; the month's highest temperature of 26.8°C

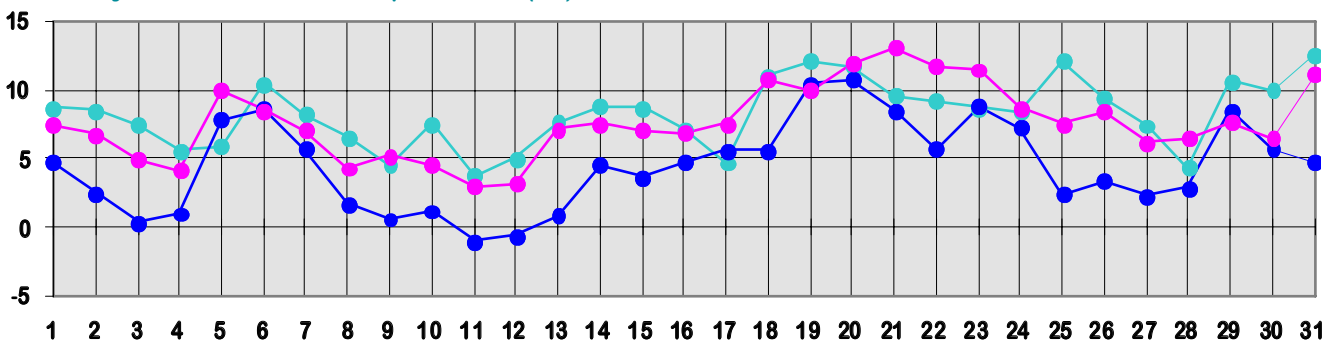


at Ardferf (Lisachane), Co. Kerry, on the 23rd, was its highest May value since 1997.

Daily 0-24h maximum temperatures (°C)



Daily 0-24h minimum temperatures (°C)



● Valentia Observatory ● Dublin Airport ● Belmullet

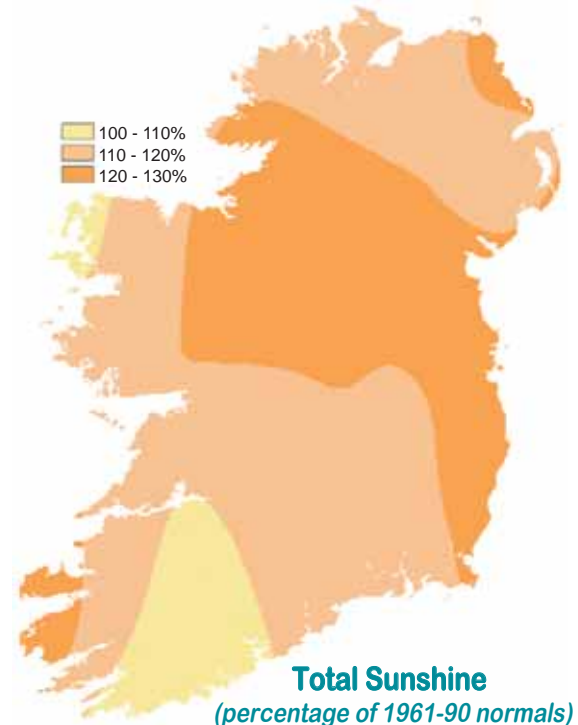
County/ Station	°C											
	Mean max.	Mean min.	Mean/ deviation from 1961-90 average		Highest max./date		Lowest min./date		Lowest grass min./date		Days with air frost ground frost	
CO. CARLOW												
CARLOW (OAK PARK)	15.8	6.1	11.0	0.4	25.6	23	-0.4	11	-4.2	11	1	7
CO. CAVAN												
BALLYHAISE	15.1	5.7	10.4		24.6	22	-0.8	12	-4.9	11	2	13
CAVAN LORETO COLLEGE	15.4	5.7	10.6		24.9	22	-1.5	12	-4.1	11	2	9
CO. CLARE												
SHANNON AIRPORT	16.2	7.3	11.8	0.3	25.2	22	0.8	11	-4.1	11	0	8
CARRON	15.2	6.3	10.8	0.8	25.3	22	1.9	12	-5.2	11	0	13
CO. CORK												
ROCHE'S POINT	14.4	7.9	11.2	0.3	18.6	23	3.8	11	1.1	11	0	0
FERMOY (MOOREPARK)	15.7	6.4	11.1	0.6	22.7	20	0.6	11	-2.0	11	0	4
CORK AIRPORT	14.6	7.0	10.8	0.5	19.4	23	1.7	11	-2.0	11	0	2
SHERKIN ISLAND	15.4	8.4	11.9	0.9	19.8	23	3.0	9	0.6	9	0	0
BALLINCURRIG (PEAFIELD)	16.0	6.0	11.0		22.7	23	0.2	11	0.0	11	0	0
CO. DONEGAL												
MALIN HEAD	12.9	8.1	10.5	0.4	19.0	18	3.4	8	0.5	8	0	0
GLENTIES HATCHERY	15.6	5.5	10.6	0.6	23.3	22	-1.4	12	-4.1	12	3	10
BALLYSHANNON (CATHLEEN'S FALL)	15.1	6.8	11.0	0.5	23.5	22 23	0.0	12			0	
CO. DUBLIN												
DUBLIN (PHOENIX PARK)	15.5	6.0	10.8	0.4	24.6	23	0.3	12	-1.3	11	0	3
DUBLIN AIRPORT	14.7	5.1	9.9		23.5	23	-1.0	11	-4.3	11	2	9
CASEMENT AERODROME	15.2	5.4	10.3	-0.1	24.9	23	-2.0	11	-6.7	11	2	10
DUBLIN (MERRION SQUARE)	14.7	8.4	11.6	0.0	23.1	23	3.3	11			0	
CO. GALWAY												
GALWAY (UNIV. COLL.)	16.8	5.8	11.3	0.2	26.3	22	-0.4	12	-4.1	11	3	10
MAAM VALLEY	16.1	7.0	11.6		25.5	22	2.4	12	-1.5	12	0	3
BALLYGAR	17.0	5.4	11.2		25.9	22	-0.5	12	-4.7	11	1	10
CO. KERRY												
VALENTIA OBSERVATORY	15.2	8.4	11.8	0.8	23.6	23	3.8	11	-4.1	9	0	4
ARDFERT (LISCAHANE)	17.3	6.6	12.0	1.4	26.8	23	-0.4	11	-3.5	11	1	5
CO. LIMERICK												
MOUNT RUSSELL	15.2	6.2	10.7		24.3	20	-0.3	11	-5.5	11	1	8
CO. MAYO												
BELMULLET	13.9	8.0	11.0	0.5	21.6	22	3.0	11	-0.2	11	0	1
STRAIDE	16.2	5.5	10.9	0.6	25.0	22	-0.9	11	-7.0	8	2	15
KNOCK AIRPORT	14.0	6.1	10.1		23.6	22	1.3	12 11	-3.4	11	0	3
DELPHI LODGE II	15.6	7.8	11.7		24.6	22	1.7	9	-2.3	9	0	2
CO. MEATH												
WARRENSTOWN	15.9	6.0	11.0	0.7	25.0	22 23	0.2	11	-2.9	11	0	6
CO. MONAGHAN												
CARRICKMACROSS (DUNOGE)	15.7	5.6	10.7		24.5	23	-1.4	12	-4.4	12	2	14
CO. OFFALY												
DERRYGREENAGH	16.9	5.4	11.2	1.2	26.5	22	-0.2	11	-5.3	11	1	8
CO. SLIGO												
ARDTARMON	15.8	7.3	11.6		22.9	22	1.5	11	-2.4	11	0	4
CO. TIPPERARY												
GURTEEN	15.7	5.4	10.6		25.1	23	-1.0	9	-4.6	9	2	13
FETHARD (PARSONSHILL)	15.8	6.3	11.1		25.0	23	1.2	11	0.1	11	0	0
CO. WATERFORD												
WATERFORD (TYCOR)	16.4	7.7	12.1	1.2	23.6	23	2.1	11			0	
DUNGARVAN (CARRIGLEA)	16.3	6.7	11.5	0.7	23.6	23	1.5	11	-0.9	11	0	1
CO. WESTMEATH												
MULLINGAR	15.6	5.6	10.6	0.5	24.9	22	-0.1	11	-4.7	12	1	9
CO. WEXFORD												
JOHNSTOWN CASTLE	13.2	7.0	10.1	-0.2	16.2	20	2.2	11	2.2	17	0	0
JOHN F. KENNEDY PARK	15.5	6.7	11.1	0.5	22.5	23	2.0	3	-1.3	4	0	3
CLONROCHE (KNOXTOWN)	15.4	5.8	10.6		23.6	22	0.7	13	-2.0	11	0	7

County/ Station	Daily mean (hours/day)	% of average	% of possible	Most in a day/date	
CO. CAVAN					
CAVAN LORETO COLLEGE	6.21		41	13.6	8
CO. CLARE					
SHANNON AIRPORT	6.35	110	40	15.6	23
CO. CORK					
CORK AIRPORT	6.37	106	41	15.5	23
SHERKIN ISLAND	7.09	105	45	14.9	23
BALLINCURRIG (PEAFIELD)	6.22			14.1	25
CO. DONEGAL					
MALIN HEAD	6.96	113	43	12.9	8
BALLYSHANNON (CATHLEEN'S FALL)	6.61	123	41	14.4	25
CO. DUBLIN					
DUBLIN AIRPORT	7.57	125	48	14.3	22
CASEMENT AERODROME	7.09	122	45	14.6	25
CO. GALWAY					
GALWAY (UNIV.COLL.)	6.93	119	44	15.4	25
CO. KERRY					
VALENTIA OBSERVATORY	7.42	128	48	15.3	23
ARDFERT (LISCAHANE)	6.44		41	13.2	23
CO. MAYO					
BELMULLET	6.49	106	41	14.0	8 25
STRAIDE	7.06			15.5	25
KNOCK AIRPORT	6.32			15.3	23
CO. WATERFORD					
DUNGARVAN (CARRIGLEA)	6.94	118	44	14.1	25
CO. WEXFORD					
JOHN F. KENNEDY PARK	6.55	119	42	12.8	23 25
CLONROCHE (KNOXTOWN)	7.21			14.0	25

Another sunny month everywhere

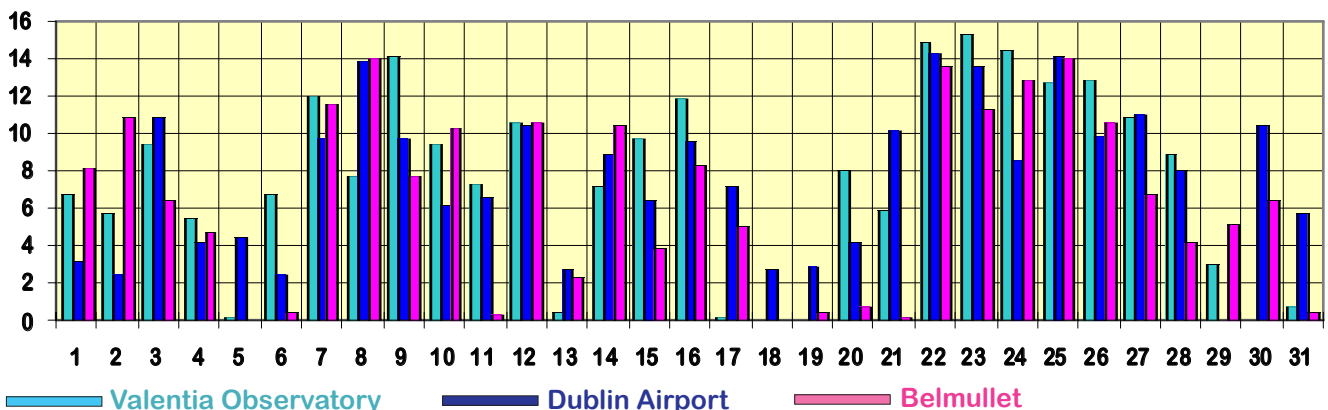
Sunshine totals were above normal everywhere, with highest totals relative to normal in the east, midlands and southwest. Totals ranged from 193 hours at Cavan (Loreto College) to 235 hours at Dublin Airport, with percentage of normal values between 105% of normal at Sherkin Island, Co. Cork, and 128% at Valentia Observatory, where it was the sunniest May since 1997.

The sunniest period of the month was the 22nd to 25th, when up to 15 hours of daily sunshine were recorded; the month's highest daily value of 15.6 hours was measured at Shannon Airport on the 23rd, its highest May value since records began there in 1945. Global solar radiation totals were also above normal, ranging from 107% of normal at Valentia to 111% at Dublin Airport.

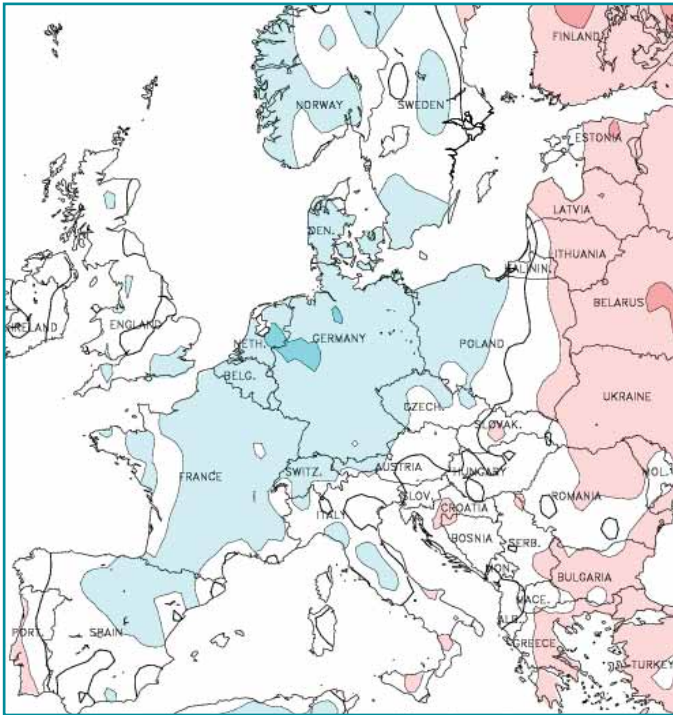
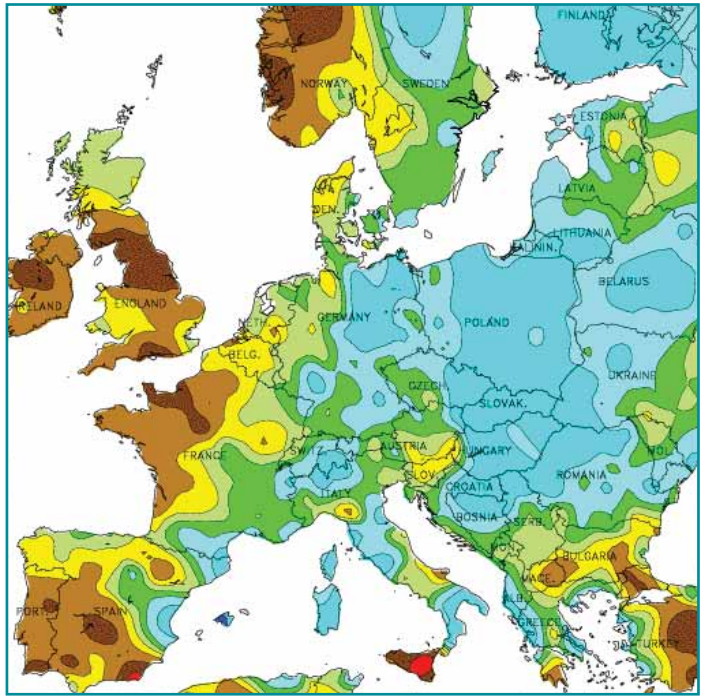
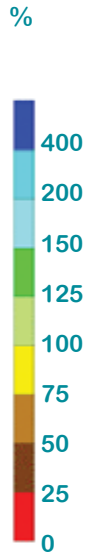


Daily sunshine values(hours)

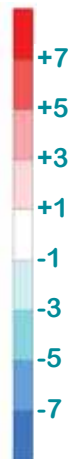
Total Sunshine (percentage of 1961-90 normals)



MAY RAINFALL
(percentage of 1961-1990 normal)



°C



MAY MEAN TEMPERATURE
(difference from 1961-1990 normal)

Data supplied by NOAA
Climate Prediction Centre,
US Department of Commerce

A high pressure system over much of east-central North America brought a heatwave to large areas of the U.S. and Canada between the 23rd and 26th. In Minneapolis, Minnesota, the temperature rose above 32°C on the 24th, breaking its previous record of 31°C, set in 1875. On the 25th, the towns of Timmins and Kapuskasing in northwestern Ontario recorded their highest May temperature since records began in 1955; the temperature reached 34.6°C in Timmins, almost sixteen degrees above normal for this time of year.

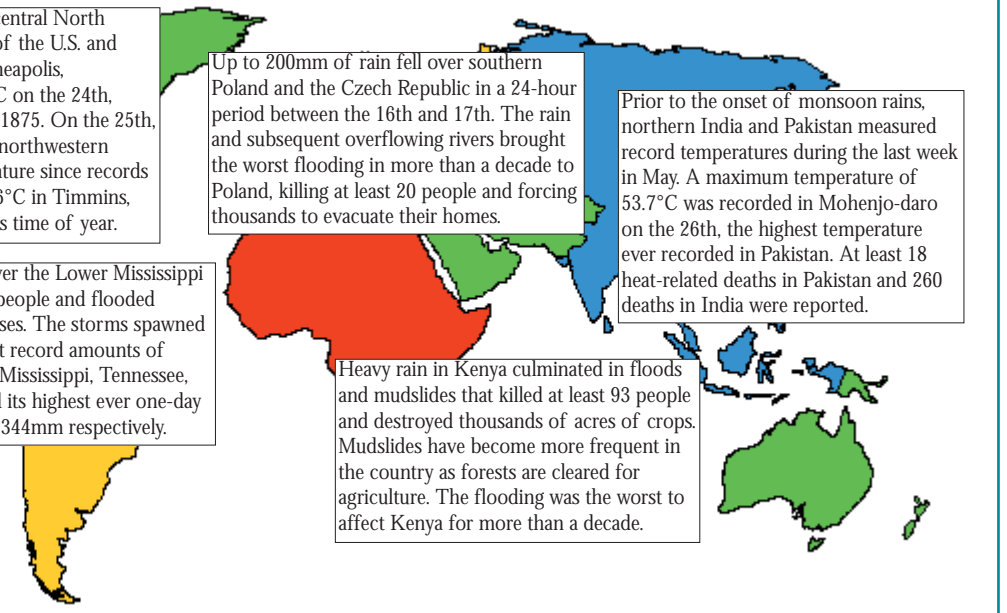
A storm system that stagnated over the Lower Mississippi Valley on May 1st/2nd killed 29 people and flooded thousands of homes and businesses. The storms spawned dozens of tornadoes and brought record amounts of rainfall to numerous locations in Mississippi, Tennessee, and Arkansas. Nashville recorded its highest ever one-day and two-day falls of 184mm and 344mm respectively.

Up to 200mm of rain fell over southern Poland and the Czech Republic in a 24-hour period between the 16th and 17th. The rain and subsequent overflowing rivers brought the worst flooding in more than a decade to Poland, killing at least 20 people and forcing thousands to evacuate their homes.

Prior to the onset of monsoon rains, northern India and Pakistan measured record temperatures during the last week in May. A maximum temperature of 53.7°C was recorded in Mohenjo-daro on the 26th, the highest temperature ever recorded in Pakistan. At least 18 heat-related deaths in Pakistan and 260 deaths in India were reported.

Heavy rain in Kenya culminated in floods and mudslides that killed at least 93 people and destroyed thousands of acres of crops. Mudslides have become more frequent in the country as forests are cleared for agriculture. The flooding was the worst to affect Kenya for more than a decade.

Global weather highlights of the month



The Weather of March, April and May

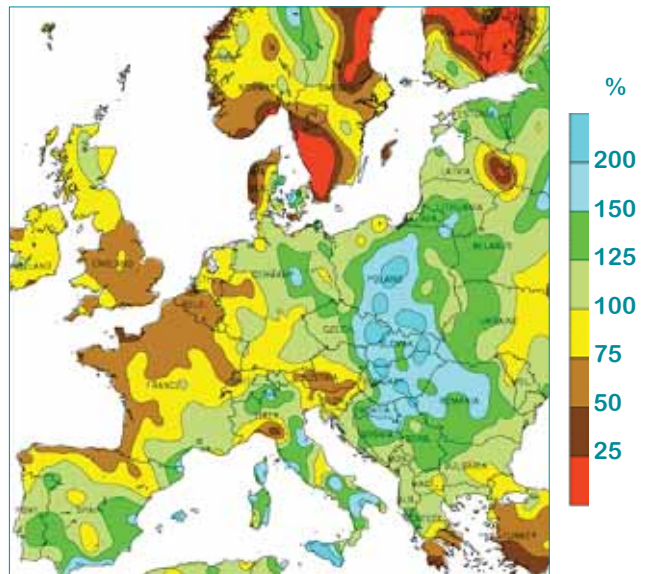
**COLDEST SPRING SINCE 2001
IN PLACES; DRY AND SUNNY**

Mean air temperatures for the season were a little higher than normal, but it was nevertheless the coldest spring since 2001 at a number of stations. March was colder than normal everywhere, while both April and May were a little warmer than normal, despite cold spells each month. The season's lowest temperatures were measured during early March, when air temperatures fell below -5°C and ground temperatures below -10°C in many places. These were the lowest spring values since 2001 in several places, while Casement Aerodrome's grass minimum value of -12.3°C on March 8th was its lowest for spring since 1986. More than 50 days with ground frost were recorded during the season at inland and eastern stations, over twice the normal number for spring. In contrast, maximum values of around 25°C were measured on May 22nd and 23rd, when the highest spring temperatures for many years were recorded in the Dublin area.

Rainfall totals for the season were below normal almost everywhere, with only around three quarters of the seasonal average recorded in many places. Totals at most stations were comparable with the dry spring of 2007, but Belmullet's total of 153mm was its lowest since 1984. The heaviest falls were recorded during late March and early April, particularly on March 29th/30th, when much of the precipitation was in the form of sleet or snow, giving accumulations of snow in places. There were between 27 and 34 wetdays during the 3-month period

over most of the country, compared with the average for spring of 35 to 44 wetdays. Sunshine totals for the season were above normal everywhere and, like the winter season, they were exceptionally high in the west and southwest. It was the sunniest spring on record at Shannon Airport and also at Valentia Observatory, where over a century of sunshine records exist. The same stations measured their highest ever daily sunshine values for spring on May 23rd. Mean windspeeds for the season of between 6 and 13 knots (11 and 24km/h) were below normal everywhere, but Belmullet's gust of 75 knots (139km/h) on April 5th, the highest gust of the season, was the highest for spring at any station since 1986.

Very dry spring over northern Europe



Spring 2010- Percentage of 1961-90 normal
(image: NOAA Climate Prediction Centre, US Dept of Commerce)

County/ Station	RAINFALL (mm)				TEMPERATURE (°C)				SUNSHINE (HOURS)			NO. OF DAYS WITH:							
	Total	% of average	Most in a day amount	date(s)	Mean	diff. from average	Extremes Highest	Lowest	Daily mean	% of average	Most in a day amount	date(s)	Rain	Snow	Air frost	Hail	Thunder	Fog	Gale gusts
CO. CARLOW Carlow (Oak Park)	181.1	110	21.9	6 Apr	8.6	+0.3	25.6	-5.3					36	17					3
CO. CAVAN Ballyhaise	179.7	89	39.3	30 Mar	8.3		24.6	-7.5					42	15					5
CO. CLARE Shannon Airport	208.6	117	28.4	29 Mar	9.3	+0.2	25.2	-4.6	6.32	130	15.6	23 May	41	3	10	4	0	4	6
CO. CORK Cork Airport	184.3	71	22.7	29 Mar	8.4	+0.2	19.4	-1.7	5.95	118	15.5	23 May	41	4	6	1	0	23	9
CO. DONEGAL Roche's Point	154.7	79	21.6	29 Mar	8.9	0.0	18.6	-0.4					40		2				9
CO. DUBLIN Malin Head	185.0	91	37.5	30 Mar	8.6	+0.5	19.0	-2.1	5.64	112	12.9	8 May	48	2	5	5	0	6	19
CO. DUBLIN Dublin Airport	119.5		15.6	29 Mar	7.7		23.5	-7.3	6.30	124	14.3	22 May	35	2	24	2	0	6	5
CO. DUBLIN Casement Aerodrome	136.9	89	19.7	30 Mar	8.1	+0.2	24.9	-5.2	5.80	119	14.6	25 May	32	2	18	7	0	4	6
CO. KERRY Valentia Observatory	276.4	99	26.6	5 Apr	9.7	+0.6	23.6	-3.6	6.60	136	15.3	23 May	46	0	4	4	0	4	12
CO. MAYO Belmullet	152.7	74	15.3	31 May	9.1	+0.3	21.6	-3.2	6.00	116	14.0	8 May	50	1	6	5	0	4	19
CO. MAYO Knock Airport	173.2		21.0	5 Apr	7.9		23.6	-4.0	5.70		15.3	23 May	48	5	10	5	0	13	6
CO. TIPPERARY Gurteen	168.3		23.4	29 Mar	8.3		25.1	-5.8					37		20				5
CO. WESTMEATH Mullingar	177.1	86	26.1	30 Mar	8.2	+0.4	24.9	-5.9					39		16				2
CO. WEXFORD Johnstown Castle	174.4	84	25.8	29 May	8.3	+0.1	16.2	-1.4					41		3				3