

Monthly Weather Bulletin

No. 240
APRIL 2006

BECOMING WARMER AFTER COLD START; MAINLY DRY AND VERY SUNNY

Summary: Cold weather at the beginning of the month was replaced by milder conditions from the 11th onwards. As a result, mean air temperatures overall were above normal everywhere, but it was nevertheless the coolest April since 2001 in most places. The spell of cold weather early in the month was marked by some exceptionally low temperatures for April; Birr's air temperature of -4.4°C on the 5th was its lowest such April value since the station opened in 1954, while record low ground temperatures for April were also measured at both Birr and Valentia Observatory on the same day, with values of -13.2°C and -6.6°C respectively. There was a total of between 16 and 21 ground frosts recorded at inland stations during the month, well in excess of the average number for April of 11 or 12. Rainfall totals were above normal over northern areas, but it was another dry month in the south and southeast. Totals for 2006



Right- The early part of the month was mostly clear, dry and cold. These were the conditions for the International Horse Trials held at Ballindenisk, Co. Cork, on the 8th and 9th. (picture: Irish Examiner)



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Record low temperatures on 5th - page 2



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2005 Global weather summary

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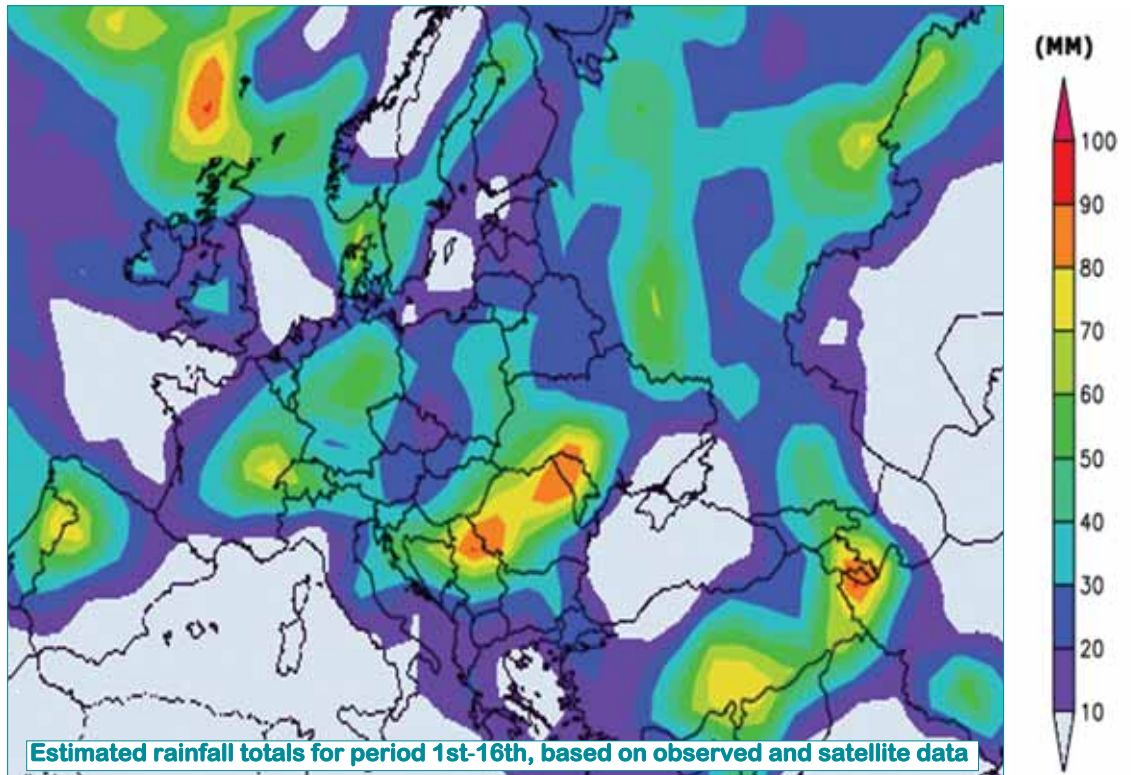
For more information-
tel: +353-1-8064260
fax: +353-1-8064216
climate.enquiries@met.ie
www.met.ie/climate

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

Right

Heavy rainfall and snowmelt produced extensive flooding along the River Danube during the first half of the month. The river reached its highest level in over a hundred years in places. Areas of Hungary, Bulgaria, Serbia and Romania were worst affected, with many roads and bridges in the region damaged and expansive areas of farmland flooded. Thousands of people were displaced from their homes

(image: National Centre for Environmental Protection, NOAA, US Dept of Commerce)



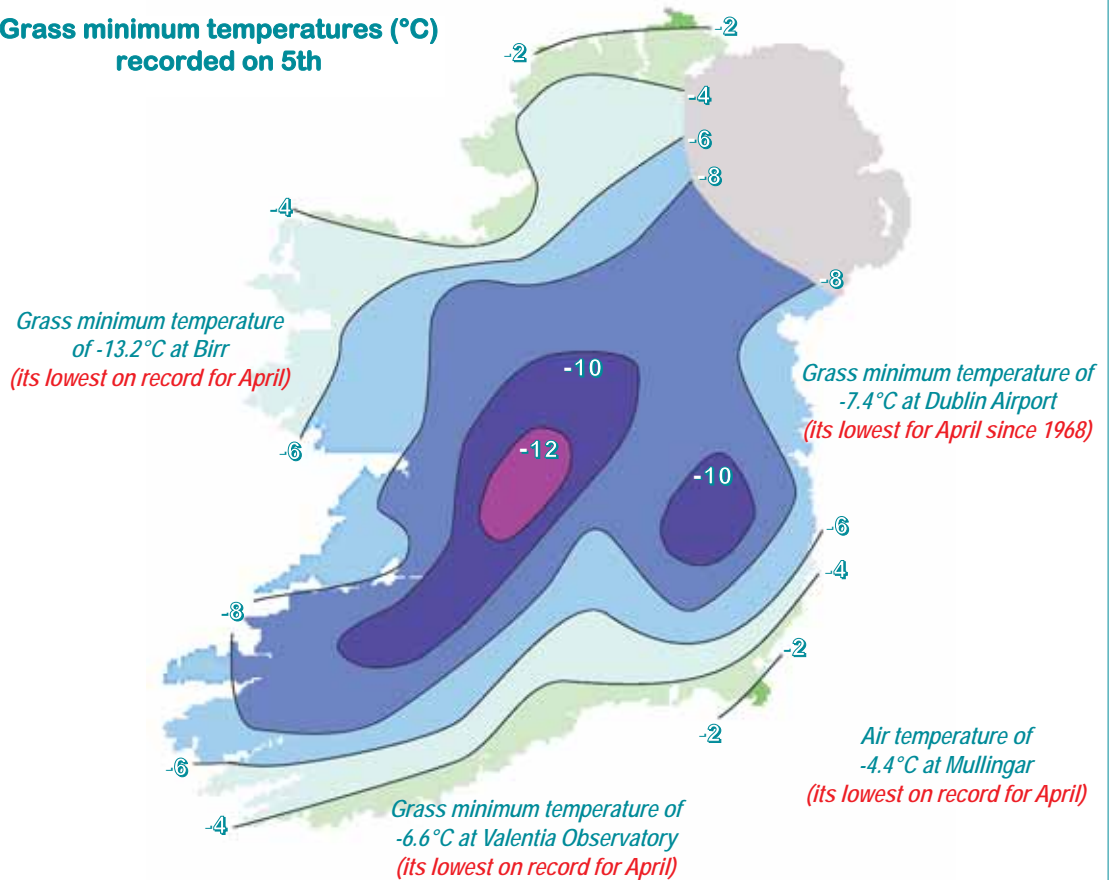
Estimated rainfall totals for period 1st-16th, based on observed and satellite data

so far are well below normal in the east and south; although March was a wet month everywhere, around two-thirds of normal rainfall for the 4-month period has fallen in the east and

southeast, while just over half the normal amount has fallen in the Cork area. Rainfall was distributed fairly evenly through this month, although the total number of wetdays (days with

Very low temperatures on 5th

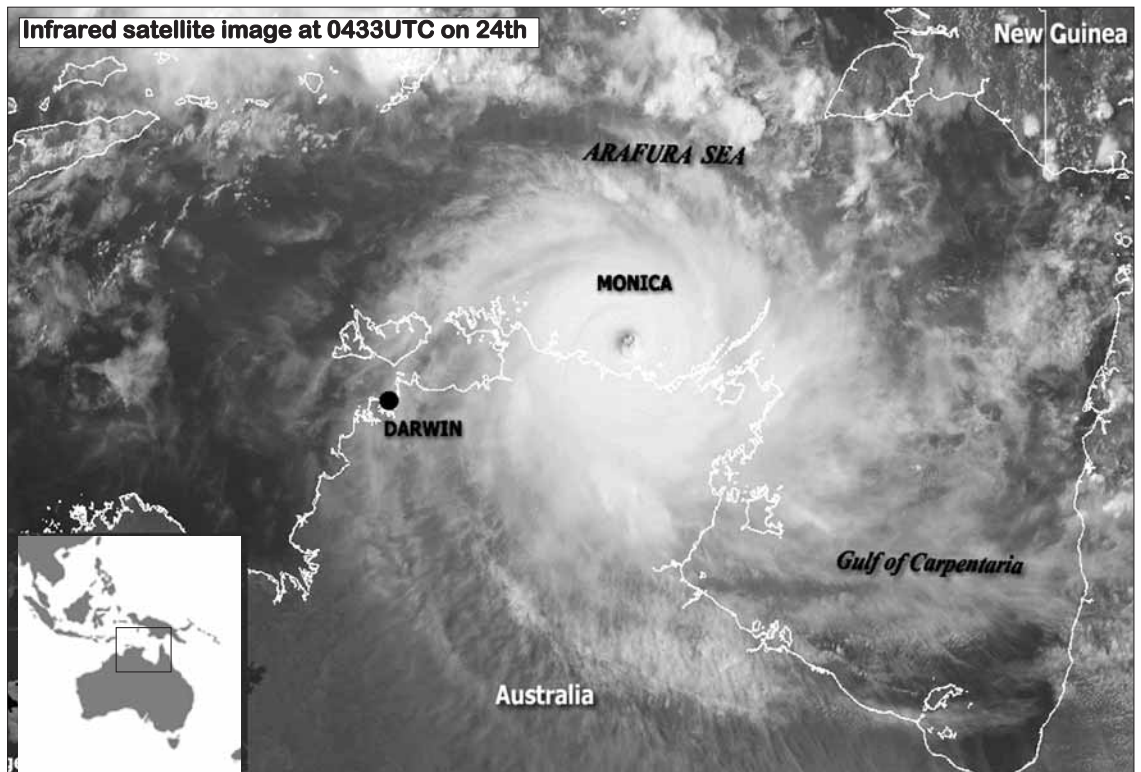
Grass minimum temperatures (°C) recorded on 5th



Right

Tropical cyclone *Monica* developed in the Coral Sea on the 17th and reached Australia's Cape York Peninsula in northern Queensland on the 19th, with maximum sustained winds of 150 km/hr. It was the fourth tropical cyclone to strike Australia since the beginning of March 2006. It re-strengthened over the warm waters of the Gulf of Carpentaria, reaching sustained wind speeds of 290 km/hr before making landfall in the vicinity of Maningrida on the 24th. *Monica* contributed to a record amount of April rainfall at Darwin, where 383mm was recorded up to the 27th: it was the strongest tropical cyclone on record to affect Australia's Northern Territory.

(image: NOAA, US Dept of Commerce)



1mm or more rainfall) ranged widely across the country, from 7 to 9 wetdays in Leinster to 18 at stations in Mayo. Sunshine totals for the month were exceptionally high. It was the sunniest April for at least 50 years of record at both Shannon Airport and Kilkenny, while it was the sunniest for more than 30 years at Dublin, Cork and Birr. The 23rd, 27th and 28th were particularly sunny, when more than 12 hours of daily sunshine were measured in many places.

1st to 10th: Low pressure was the dominant influence, giving a spell of cold and showery weather. As one depression crossed the country at the start of the month, another became centred to the north or northeast later in the period; winds were south to southwesterly at first, veering to a cold west to northwesterly direction and they were strong at times. When winds eased, some severe frost developed under clear skies, especially on the 4th, 5th and 10th. Showers were heavy and thundery at times over eastern areas, but there were also long sunny spells on most days. Snow showers were recorded in western areas on the 7th and 8th.

11th to 30th: A frontal system crossing

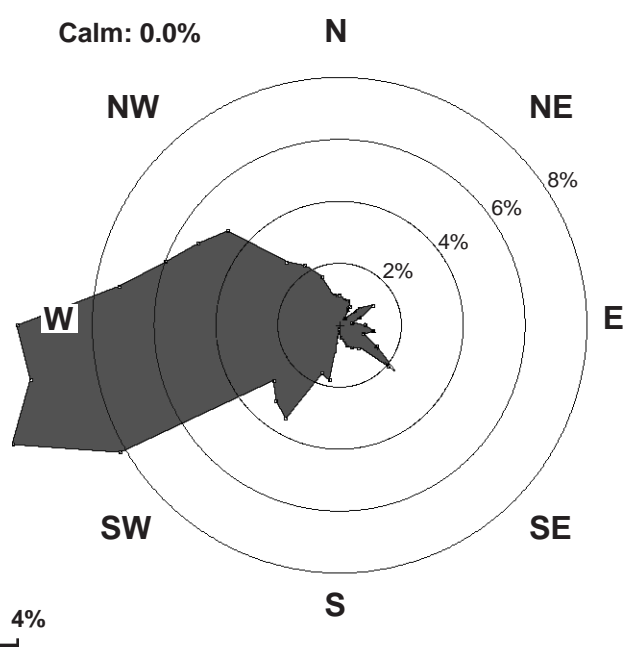
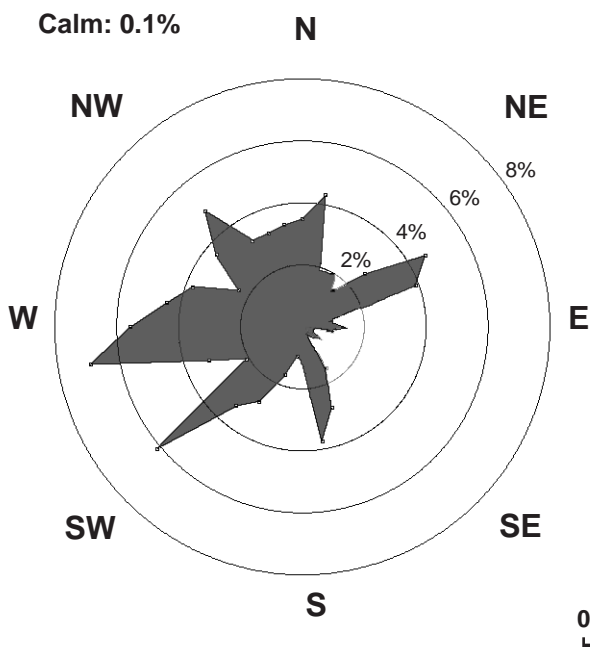
eastwards on the 11th brought a spell of rain to all areas, but also introduced much milder air. There were falls of rain or showers on most subsequent days during this period, but amounts were generally small except over western and northern counties on the 18th, 20th and 30th. There were also days with little or no rainfall and long sunny spells, especially the 21st, 23rd and between the 27th to 29th. Daytime temperatures were near or above normal throughout.

Wind and elements: Mean windspeeds for the month were below normal in the south and above normal in the north; they ranged between 7 and 11 knots (13 and 20km/hour) generally. The first half of the month saw the strongest winds, with the highest gust, 52 knots (96km/hour), measured at Malin Head on the 7th. There was frequent thunderstorm activity early in the month, especially over the eastern half of the country; it was recorded in the periods 1st to 2nd and 7th to 9th. Hail was observed in the periods 2nd to 3rd and 6th to 9th, while Knock Airport recorded snow on the 7th and 8th. Fog was most frequent during the second half of the month, especially in the periods 19th to 21st and 24th to 25th.

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. CLARE SHANNON AIRPORT	9.4	230°	31	1/15	240°	43	1/1357	0	6	13	0	0	0	0	0
		240°	31	2/04											
CO. CORK CORK AIRPORT	9.4	210°	28	1/13	210°	43	1/1240	0	4	12	0	0	2	0	5
CO. DONEGAL MALIN HEAD	14.9	010°	35	9/04	240°	52	7/0914	2	17	145	0	0	5	0	1
		170°	35	24/12											
CO. DUBLIN CASEMENT AERODROME	9.8	210°	27	11/05	210°	39	11/0422	0	6	17	0	0	3	1	1
DUBLIN AIRPORT	10.9	260°	29	13/14	240°	39	7/1612	0	7	13	1	0	1	0	0
					260°	39	13/1259								
CO. KERRY VALENTIA OBSERVATORY	8.5	230°	26	1/13	240°	36	1/1213	0	3	5	0	0	0	0	0
CO. KILKENNY KILKENNY	7.4	210°	25	1/14	210°	38	1/1356	0	2	4	n/a	0	---	n/a	---
CO. MAYO BELMULLET	10.5	190°	32	24/15	190°	46	24/1449	0	9	34	0	0	3	0	0
KNOCK AIRPORT	9.4	280°	24	11/14	290°	40	11/1617	0	6	8	2	0	1	0	4
		260°	24	12/17											
CO. MONAGHAN CLONES	7.6	320°	26	6/14	310°	37	6/1341	0	7	9	n/a	0	---	n/a	---
CO. OFFALY BIRR	7.2	210°	20	1/16	280°	36	2/0656	0	2	3	n/a	0	---	n/a	---
		220°	20	2/04											
CO. WESTMEATH MULLINGAR II	6.8	180°	19	24/14	270°	34	13/1306	0	1	1	n/a	0	---	n/a	---
CO. WEXFORD ROSSLARE	9.2	030°	28	4/18	200°	41	1/1349	0	8	43	0	0	1	1	2
		040°	28	8/18	230°	41	2/0703								

Valentia Observatory

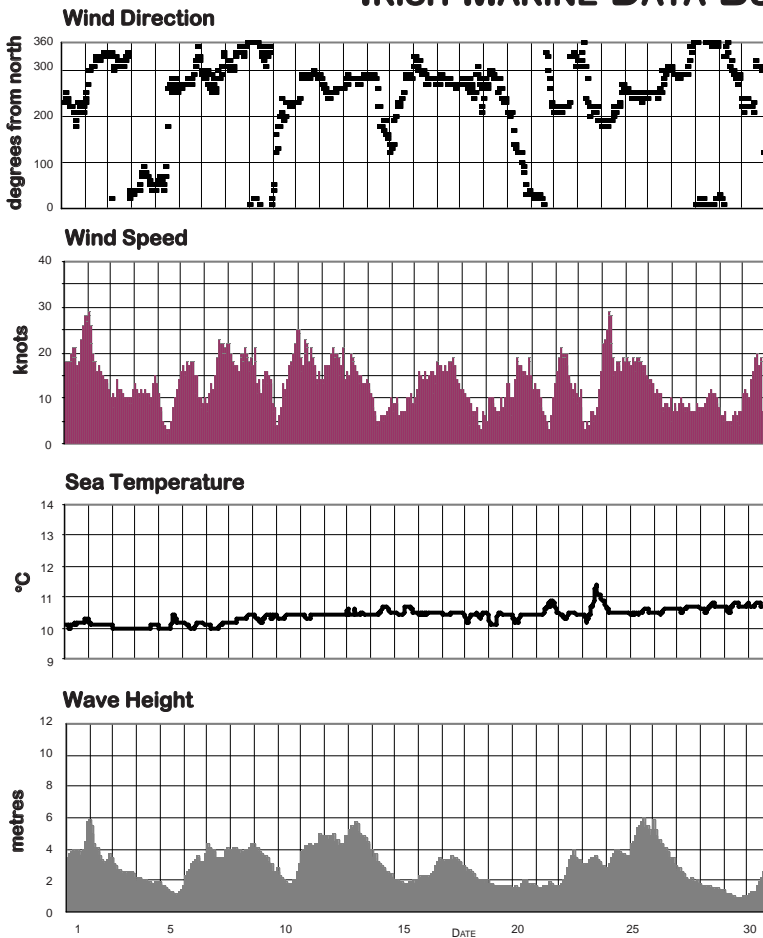
Dublin Airport



0 1 2 3 4%

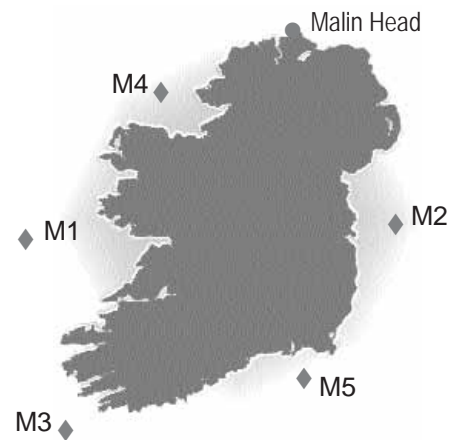
FREQUENCY OF WIND DIRECTION

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.)
M1	10.4	12.7	29	2.8	6.0
M2	8.2	12.9	27	0.9	2.7
M3	10.6	11.3	25	2.6	5.7
M4	8.9	14.4	29	2.8	6.2
M5	9.5	14.5	28	1.0	3.2
Malin Head	8.9 (0.8°C above normal)				

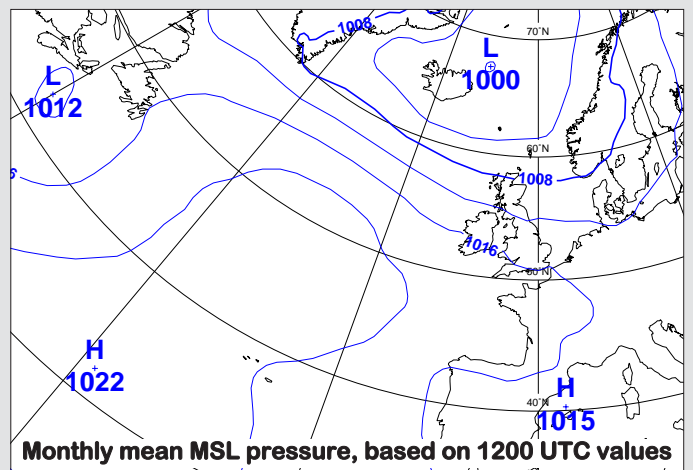
Summary of Mean Monthly Values



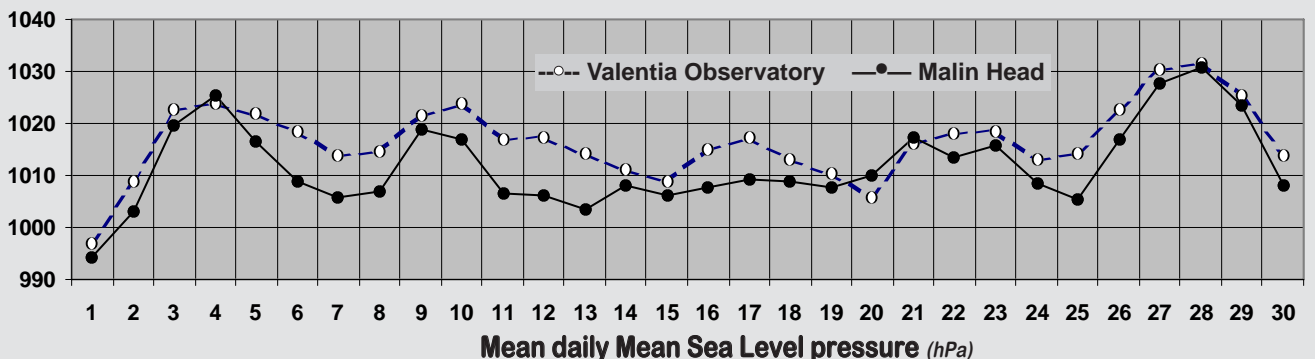
Hourly wind and wave conditions at M1 (53°07'N, 11°12'W)

MEAN ATMOSPHERIC PRESSURE

Mean sea level pressure values for the month ranged from under 1013hPa in the north to almost 1017hPa in the southwest, a little lower than normal for April. Pressure values were close to normal throughout most of April, but the month began with a deep depression close to the west coast. Belmullet measured the lowest pressure of the month at this time, 988.4hPa, on both the 1st and 2nd. The same station recorded the month's highest value, 1034.7hPa on the 28th.

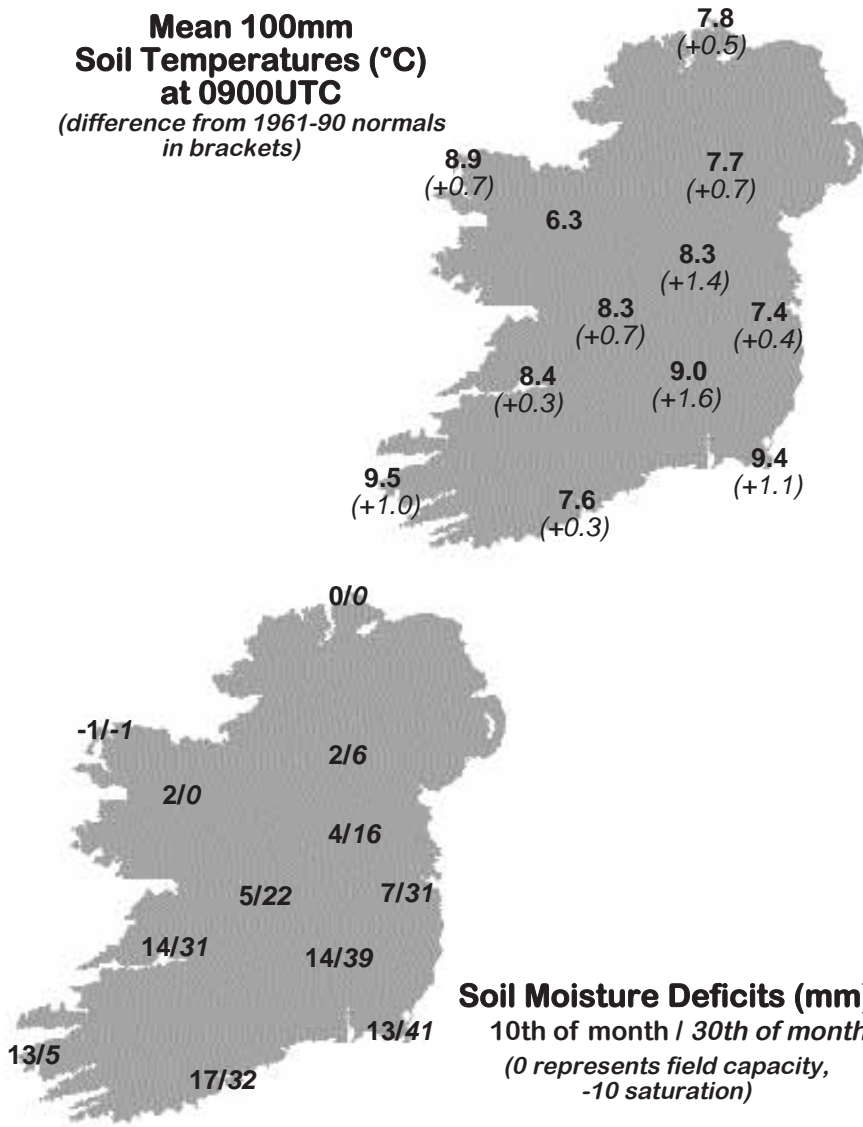


Monthly mean MSL pressure, based on 1200 UTC values



Mean daily Mean Sea Level pressure (hPa)

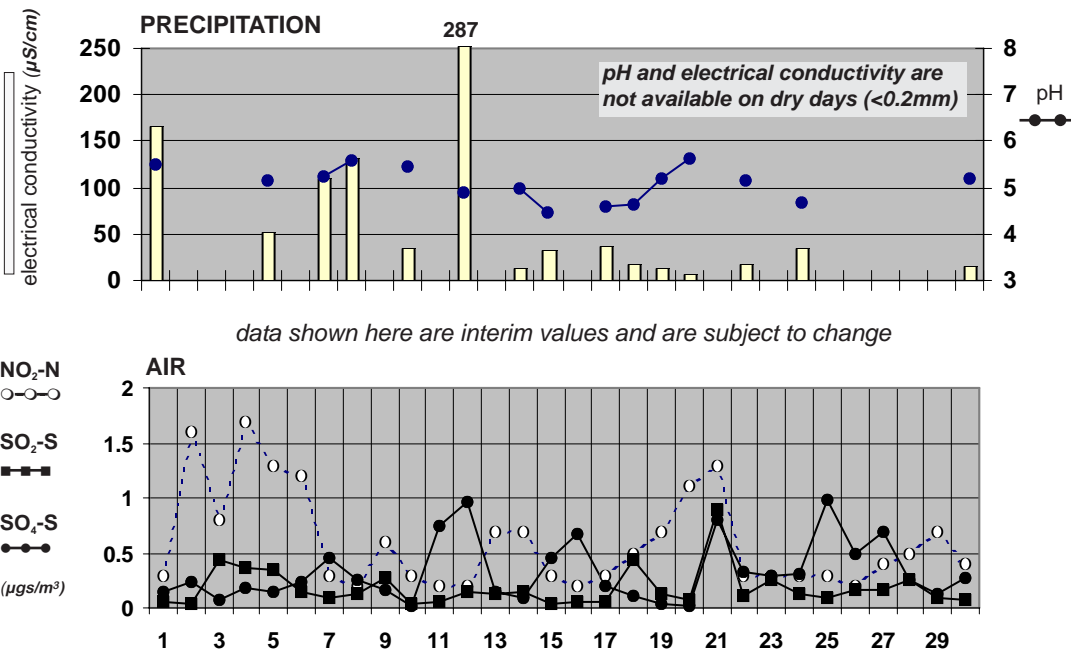
Mean 100mm Soil Temperatures (°C) at 0900UTC
(difference from 1961-90 normals in brackets)



Soil Temperatures at 0900UTC

County/ Station	°C		
	100mm	200mm	300mm
CO. CLARE			
SHANNON AIRPORT	8.4	8.9	9.6
CARRON	8.8		9.5
CO. CORK			
FERMOY (MOORE PARK)	9.4	9.5	9.8
CORK AIRPORT	7.6	8.4	9.3
SHERKIN ISLAND	10.1		10.9
BALLINCURRIG (PEAFIELD)	7.9	8.3	9.5
CO. DONEGAL			
MALIN HEAD	7.8	8.4	9.0
CO. DUBLIN			
DUBLIN AIRPORT	7.4	7.8	8.4
CASEMENT AERODROME	7.4	7.9	8.8
CO. KERRY			
VALENTIA OBSERVATORY	9.5	10.1	11.3
CO. KILKENNY			
KILKENNY	9.0	9.6	10.2
CO. LIMERICK			
MOUNT RUSSELL	7.5	8.3	
CO. LOUTH			
ARDEE (BOHARNAMOE)	8.0	8.4	8.7
CO. MAYO			
BELMULLET	8.9	9.7	10.7
STRAIDE	7.9		
KNOCK AIRPORT	6.3	7.1	7.9
CO. MEATH			
WARRENTOWN	7.4	8.3	9.1
CO. MONAGHAN			
CLONES	7.7	8.3	8.7
CO. OFFALY			
BIRR	8.3	9.0	9.6
CO. TIPPERARY			
FETHARD (PARSONSHILL)	7.1	8.1	
CO. WATERFORD			
DUNGARVAN (CARRIGLEA)		9.3	9.9
CO. WESTMEATH			
MULLINGAR II	8.3	8.8	9.6
CO. WEXFORD			
JOHNSTOWN CASTLE	8.9	8.8	9.4
ROSSLARE	9.4	9.4	10.4
JOHN F. KENNEDY PARK	8.9	9.5	10.5
CLONROCHE (KNOXTOWN)	8.1	8.5	8.9

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				TEMPERATURE												SUNSHINE			
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	22.8	-	9	6	12.6	5.9	9.3	-	-3.0	14	0	49	7	0.0	14	0	-	-	45.1	
	21-end	17.2	-	4	4	14.4	4.9	9.7	-	0.5	27	0	55	13	-1.6	23	2	-	-	58.7	
	month	60.0	-	19	16	12.8	4.0	8.4	-	-4.0	5	3	132	23	-7.5	5	8	-	-	169.6	-
Co. Cork	1-10	8.7	-	5	3	11.4	0.7	6.1	-	-3.1	5	5	27	4	-10.3	5	9	7.0	8.2	90.5	
Fermoy	11-20	13.7	-	7	3	13.3	6.7	10.0	-	4.8	18	0	56	10	-2.0	18	4	10.1	10.0	35.1	
	21-end	5.4	-	3	2	14.7	5.9	10.3	-	1.0	24	0	60	16	-6.0	24	5	11.1	11.3	56.2	
	month	27.8	47	15	8	13.2	4.4	8.8	0.8	-3.1	5	5	143	30	-10.3	5	18	9.4	9.8	181.8	127
Co. Donegal	1-10	45.5	-	9	9	10.4	1.3	5.9	-	-2.6	5	4	23	2	-4.1	5	7	-	-	-	
Glenties	11-20	12.0	-	7	5	12.0	4.5	8.3	-	2.4	18	0	40	5	0.4	18	0	-	-	-	
	21-end	26.5	-	5	4	12.8	4.6	8.7	-	-0.2	21	1	46	7	-0.9	21	1	-	-	-	
	month	84.0	105	21	18	11.7	3.5	7.6	0.1	-2.6	5	5	109	14	-4.1	5	8	-	-	-	-
Co. Kerry	1-10	13.8	-	6	3	12.7	1.5	7.1	-	-2.7	5	3	35	7	-8.5	5	8	-	-	85.6	
Ardfert	11-20	27.3	-	7	6	13.6	6.9	10.3	-	1.7	11	0	59	12	-0.3	14	1	-	-	37.5	
	21-end	7.1	-	3	2	14.6	6.0	10.3	-	3.2	24	0	60	14	-2.2	21	4	-	-	44.0	
	month	48.2	-	16	11	13.6	4.8	9.2	0.8	-2.7	5	3	153	33	-8.5	5	13	-	-	167.1	-
Co. Louth	1-10	12.5	-	6	5	10.6	0.8	5.7	-	-3.5	5	5	24	2	-5.5	5	5	5.9	7.1	-	
Ardee	11-20	10.8	-	5	3	12.7	5.8	9.3	-	1.1	11	0	50	7	-1.2	11	1	8.9	8.9	-	
	21-end	11.0	-	3	2	14.3	4.4	9.4	-	0.3	24	0	52	12	-1.7	24	1	9.3	10.1	-	
	month	34.3	62	14	10	12.5	3.7	8.1	0.6	-3.5	5	5	125	21	-5.5	5	7	8.0	8.7	-	-
Co. Waterford	1-10	6.7	-	5	3	12.3	1.4	6.9	-	-1.5	5	4	33	7	-4.7	5	8	-	8.2	91.7	
Dungarvan	11-20	20.3	-	7	3	14.2	7.0	10.6	-	4.6	18	0	62	14	2.0	18	0	-	10.1	38.8	
	21-end	3.1	-	3	1	15.2	6.3	10.8	-	-0.4	24	1	65	20	-2.4	24	1	-	11.3	62.2	
	month	30.1	-	15	7	13.9	4.9	9.4	0.9	-1.5	5	5	160	41	-4.7	5	9	-	9.9	192.7	110
Co. Wexford	1-10	8.1	-	5	3	11.1	2.7	6.9	-	0.2	10	0	31	4	-2.5	6	6	6.3	7.6	80.4	
Johnstown Castle	11-20	11.3	-	4	3	13.6	6.6	10.1	-	5.0	12	0	57	11	-0.7	17	1	9.4	9.4	37.3	
	21-end	4.2	-	3	1	13.9	6.7	10.3	-	4.0	24	0	59	13	0.2	24	0	11.0	11.1	54.1	
	month	23.6	37	12	7	12.9	5.4	9.2	1.3	0.2	10	0	147	28	-2.5	6	7	8.9	9.4	171.8	104

MEASURED POTENTIAL EVAPOTRANSPIRATION (P.E.) AND SOIL MOISTURE					
County/Station	Period	P.E. (mm)		Soil Moisture (mm)	
		Amount	Deficit	Accum'td	Surplus
Co. Kerry					
Valentia Obs.	1-10	8.6	-	0	1
	11-20	22.2	-	0	20
	21-end	11.9	-	0	8
	month	42.7			
Co. Wexford					
Johnstown Castle	1-10	14.4	7	7	-
	11-20	13.6	4	11	-
	21-end	30.1	25	36	-
	month	57.1			

MONTHLY EVAPORATION (MM) FROM CLASS A PAN			
County	Station	Monthly Rainfall (mm)	Monthly Evaporation (mm)
Clare	Kilmaley	65.3	69.7
Cork	Fermoy (Moorepark)	27.8	69.8
Kerry	Valentia Observatory	79.4	52.1
Kildare	Poulaphuca	51.5	50.4
Mayo	Newport (Furnace)	104.5	45.3
Offaly	Derrygreenagh	38.1	52.7
Waterford	Dungarvan (Carriglea)	30.1	61.2
Wexford	Johnstown Castle	57.1	77.0

P.E. (Penman)				
County/Station	total for month(mm)			
Co. Clare	Shannon Airport 73			
Co. Cork	Cork Airport 70			
Co. Donegal	Malin Head 71			
Co. Dublin	Dublin Airport 68			
Co. Kerry	Casement Aerodrome 64			
Co. Kilkenny	Valentia Obs. 68			
Co. Mayo	Kilkenny 70			
Co. Monaghan	Belmullet 58			
Co. Offaly	Knock Airport 59			
Co. Westmeath	Clones 62			
Co. Wexford	Birr 63			
Rosslare	Mullingar 63			

GLOBAL SOLAR RADIATION (MJ/sq. m.)				
County/Station	10-day totals			Total for month
	1-10	11-20	21-end	
Co. Clare	Shannon Airport 73			
Co. Cork	Cork Airport 70			
Co. Donegal	136.70	142.67	131.31	410.68
Co. Dublin	150.23	123.98	156.36	430.57
Co. Kerry	172.86	124.44	155.57	452.87
Co. Kilkenny	168.45	131.44	162.26	462.15
Co. Mayo	147.98	134.61	126.78	409.37
Co. Monaghan	131.16	127.27	134.34	392.77
Co. Offaly	157.24	131.67	142.72	431.63
Co. Westmeath	Mullingar 63			
Co. Wexford	Rosslare 70			

SEE BACK PAGE OF JANUARY ISSUE FOR NOTES ON THE DATA

Saturday 1st: Scattered showers and sunny spells for the first half of the day, with showers becoming more frequent and heavier in the afternoon, some with thunder. Light south to southwesterly winds overnight increased moderate to fresh and gusty during the morning, decreasing later.

Rainfall: nil to 10mm, heaviest at Belmullet, nil at Rosslare

Temperature: max. 11°C to 13°C, min. 4°C to 7°C, ground temperatures down to -1°C at Kilkenny, Clones and Mullingar

Sunshine: 5 to 10 hours, sunniest at Rosslare, 5 hours at Knock Airport

Sunday 2nd: Rain or showers during the night with mist and fog in many areas. Showers during the day, heavy at times, with some hail and thunder also. The showers became less widespread during the evening. Long sunny periods in the south and west. Some slight to sharp frost by late evening. Winds were light and variable during the night but became northwesterly later, up to gale force in many areas with gusts.

Rainfall: nil to 9mm, heaviest at Dublin Airport, nil at Rosslare

Temperature: max. 9°C to 14°C, min. 2°C to 7°C, ground temperatures down to -1°C at Mullingar and Clones

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

Monday 3rd: Showers persisted in the north and northwest through the night hours, elsewhere a sharp frost developed. The shower activity picked up and spread during the morning and afternoon, affecting the northern half of the country. Sunny countrywide, though cool for the time of year. West or northwesterly winds, light to moderate but strong and squally in the north.

Rainfall: nil to 1mm, heaviest at Clones

Temperature: max. 8°C to 12°C, min. -1°C to 4°C, ground temperatures below zero at all inland stations, down to -6°C at Kilkenny

Sunshine: 8 to 10 hours, sunniest at Malin Head

Tuesday 4th: Apart from a few well-scattered light showers near western and southwestern coasts, it was a cold and frosty night. The frost cleared quickly in the morning and the day was sunny, although cool. Winds were light north to northeasterly, becoming fresh or strong in the southeast, later falling very light inland and variable in direction.

Rainfall: nil to trace generally, <1mm at Belmullet

Temperature: max. 7°C to 11°C, min. -3°C to 4°C, ground temperatures below zero at all inland stations, down to -11°C at Birr

Sunshine: 10 to 12 hours, sunniest at Kilkenny and Mullingar

Wednesday 5th: A dry day generally, however showers affected the northwest and north by late evening. Sunshine in all areas, particularly the south. Very cold again after dark with ground frost becoming widespread. Winds were light and variable in direction.

Rainfall: nil to <1 mm generally, 4mm at Malin Head

Temperature: max. 9°C to 11°C, min. -4°C to 3°C, ground temperatures below zero at all synoptic stations, down to -13°C at Birr

Sunshine: 7 to 12 hours, sunniest in the south, 7 hours at Malin Head

Thursday 6th: The day was cool and breezy with sunny spells and scattered showers, some of hail. The showers largely died during the evening apart from one or two on northwestern and southern coasts. Light to moderate southwesterly winds overnight were fresh and gusty in the northwest. The winds gradually turned more northwesterly and increased moderate to fresh before easing again by evening on all but northwestern coasts.

Rainfall: trace to 5 mm, heaviest at Malin Head, trace at Rosslare

Temperature: max. 9°C to 13°C, min. 0°C to 6°C, ground temperatures down to -5°C at Kilkenny

Sunshine: 3 to 8 hours, sunniest at Cork Airport, 3 hours at Knock Airport

Friday 7th: The day was cool and breezy with scattered showers, some wintry. Sunny spells also. Becoming cold after dark with the wintry showers continuing and ground frost developing in places. West to southwesterly winds were moderate to fresh and gusty, easing in the evening.

Rainfall: 1 to 10 mm, heaviest at Clones, 1mm at Valentia

Temperature: max. 9°C to 13°C, min. 1°C to 5°C, ground temperatures down to -4°C at Kilkenny

Sunshine: 3 to 7 hours, sunniest at Cork Airport, 3 hours at Malin Head

Saturday 8th: Showers in Connacht and parts of Munster during the morning spread countrywide by the afternoon and evening. During the day there were sunny spells everywhere. The showers died out during the evening. Frost again after dark. Winds were moderate northerly.

Rainfall: trace to 6mm, heaviest at Rosslare, trace at Kilkenny

Temperature: max. 9°C to 12°C, min. 0°C to 6°C, ground temperatures down to -6°C at Kilkenny

Sunshine: 8 to 11 hours, sunniest at Kilkenny, 8 hours at Malin Head

Sunday 9th: Early showers in the northwest, but dry elsewhere. A band of heavy showers reached the northwest coast by early afternoon and spread southeastwards, clearing the country by evening. Sunshine in all parts. Winds were light to moderate northerly, easing during the day.

Rainfall: nil to 3mm, heaviest at Malin Head

Temperature: max. 7°C to 10°C, min. -2°C to 6°C, ground temperatures down to -8°C at Kilkenny

Sunshine: 6 to 10 hours, sunniest at Rosslare, 6 hours at Clones

Monday 10th: It was a mostly dry, cool and sunny day, but cloudier along northwestern coasts with the odd light shower. Afternoon temperatures were slightly below normal generally. Becoming cloudier by evening with rain moving onto northwestern coasts. Light variable winds at first became moderate southwesterly, sometimes fresh and gusty in the afternoon.

Rainfall: nil generally, 5mm at Belmullet, 1mm at Malin Head

Temperature: max. 8°C to 11°C, min. -5°C to 3°C, ground temperatures below zero at all inland stations, down to -10°C at Birr

Sunshine: <1 to 12 hours, sunniest at Cork Airport, <1 hour at Malin Head

Tuesday 11th: Rain along western coasts spread eastwards overnight and was heavy at times. The rain cleared the east coast around midday and clearer, drier weather with scattered showers and sunny spells followed from the west. Relatively mild with afternoon temperatures around normal or slightly above. The showers largely died out during the evening. Moderate to fresh and gusty southwesterly winds veered slowly northwesterly during the day.

Rainfall: 2 to 12mm, heaviest at Malin Head

Temperature: max. 10°C to 15°C, min. 4°C to 9°C, ground temperatures down to -1°C at Kilkenny,

Sunshine: 5 to 9 hours, sunniest at Malin Head, 5 hours at Casement Aerodrome

Wednesday 12th: Light rain and drizzle in many areas during the day, although amounts were quite small. Some mist or fog during the evening. Very little sunshine. Temperatures a little higher than recent values. Winds were southwesterly, light initially, increasing up to gale force before easing later.

Rainfall: nil to >1mm, heaviest at Malin Head

Temperature: max. 11°C to 14°C, min. 3°C to 9°C, ground temperatures down to -3°C at Kilkenny

Sunshine: nil to 1 hour generally, 3 hours at Cork Airport

Thursday 13th: Rain and drizzle in the southwest overnight, dry elsewhere. Some drizzle during the morning over the southern half of the country. Dry and mostly sunny during the afternoon in most parts with occasional light showers. Persistent drizzle in southern areas during the evening. Winds were westerly in direction, moderate to strong and gusty.

Rainfall: trace to 4mm, heaviest at Birr, trace at Mullingar

Temperature: max. 10°C to 15°C, min. 4°C to 10°C, no ground frost

Sunshine: 1 to 9 hours, sunniest at Clones, 1 hour at Valentia

Friday 14th: Isolated light showers in the north in the late morning and afternoon. Rain and drizzle began to spread into the south and southwest towards evening, pushing northwards through Munster into Connacht and south Leinster by midnight. The rain was generally light but with some scattered heavier falls. Long spells of sunshine generally. Light westerly or variable winds, backing southeasterly by evening.

Rainfall: nil to 1mm generally, 4mm at Valentia, 2mm at Shannon Airport

Temperature: max. 11°C to 15°C, min. 2°C to 8°C, ground temperatures down to -2°C at Clones and Kilkenny

Sunshine: 3 to 11 hours, sunniest at Malin Head, 3 hours at Valentia

Saturday 15th: Rain and drizzle occurred intermittently during the day, particularly in the west and southwest. This eventually died out during the afternoon and evening. Generally cloudy with just a few sunny spells and warmer than of late. Winds were light and variable at times, although mainly southeasterly in direction.

Rainfall: nil to 5mm, heaviest at Valentia

Temperature: max. 11°C to 14°C, min. 6°C to 9°C, no ground frost

Sunshine: nil to 2 hours, sunniest at Dublin Airport, nil at Malin Head

Sunday 16th: Some rain in southwestern areas overnight but mostly dry elsewhere. The morning was dry apart from isolated scattered showers. Mostly sunny during the afternoon and evening with scattered showers continuing. Winds were light, westerly in direction.

Rainfall: nil to 2mm, heaviest at Knock Airport

Temperature: max. 11°C to 15°C, min. 6°C to 9°C, ground temperatures down to -2°C at Kilkenny

Sunshine: 2 to 9 hours, sunniest at Clones, 2 hours at Casement Aerodrome

Monday 17th Showery in the west overnight, otherwise mainly dry. The showers became more widespread during the morning and afternoon with some heavy falls. Sunny spells in most parts. More persistent rain in parts of the west and northwest during the evening. Light to moderate westerly winds.

Rainfall: nil to 10mm, heaviest at Knock Airport

Temperature: max. 10°C to 15°C, min. 3°C to 10°C, ground temperatures down to -4°C at Kilkenny

Sunshine: 2 to 8 hours, sunniest at Kilkenny, 2 hours at Knock Airport

Tuesday 18th: Rain in the northwest early in the period moved gradually southwards over the country during the day, affecting all parts by evening. The rain was particularly heavy in the southwest. Sunshine in the extreme north, just a few sunny spells elsewhere. Light to moderate westerly winds.

Rainfall: <1 to 15mm, heaviest at Valentia, <1mm at Rosslare and Malin Head

Temperature: max. 9°C to 14°C, min. 5°C to 9°C, ground temperatures down to -2°C at Kilkenny

Sunshine: trace to 3 hours generally, 8 hours at Malin Head

Wednesday 19th: Mist or fog during the night in many areas. Slight to sharp frost in inland areas. Rain in southern areas early in the period and in northern counties during the early afternoon, otherwise generally dry. Long sunny periods throughout. Temperatures around normal. Light variable winds.

Rainfall: nil to 5mm, heaviest at Rosslare

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

Sunshine: 5 to 10 hours, sunniest at Malin Head, 5 hours at Clones

Thursday 20th: Rain or drizzle in many areas during the night, however the east remained mostly dry. Rain and drizzle continued in the south during the day with the rest of the country remaining mainly dry with occasional sunny spells. Temperatures around normal. Winds were light, between northeasterly and southeasterly, a little stronger at times on southwestern coasts.

Rainfall: nil to 15mm, heaviest at Valentia

Temperature: max. 10°C to 14°C, min. 5°C to 9°C, no ground frost

Sunshine: nil to 6 hours, sunniest at Knock Airport

Friday 21st: Mostly dry overnight with some light drizzle near southern and southeastern coasts. Slight frost inland and some fog patches towards morning. A dry and sunny day countrywide. Winds were light throughout, generally northerly, but becoming quite variable in direction during the evening.

Rainfall: nil generally, <1mm at Kilkenny

Temperature: max. 11°C to 17°C, min. 3°C to 9°C, ground temperatures down to -2°C at Birr

Sunshine: 6 to 13 hours, sunniest at Dublin Airport, 6 hours at Cork Airport

Saturday 22nd: Dry during the night with sharp to severe frost where skies cleared. Dry also during the day with the exception of the northwest. Rain progressed slowly southeastwards, reaching all but the south and southeast by late evening. A clearance reached western areas by evening. Winds were mainly southwesterly, light to moderate but occasionally stronger with gale gusts.

Rainfall: trace to 5mm, heaviest at Belmullet, trace at Rosslare

Temperature: max. 10°C to 17°C, min. 2°C to 8°C, ground temperatures down to -4°C at Kilkenny

Sunshine: nil to 3 hours, sunniest at Casement Aerodrome, nil at Knock Airport

Sunday 23rd: Some patchy rain in eastern areas overnight cleared southeastwards by morning. A dry and sunny morning everywhere. The afternoon was again dry and sunny with light winds. Continuing dry into the evening and night with clear periods and some ground frost setting in by late evening. Winds were light and variable in direction.

Rainfall: nil to <1mm

Temperature: max. 11°C to 15°C, min. 2°C to 8°C, ground temperatures down to -5°C at Kilkenny

Sunshine: 8 to 13 hours, sunniest at Malin Head, 8 hours at Knock Airport

Monday 24th: Rain began to move into the west towards noon, spreading countrywide during the afternoon, with heavy falls in the west and northwest. Mainly cloudy and overcast, but there were some sunny spells in Leinster. It continued damp with light rain or drizzle into the evening. Winds were light to moderate southerly, fresh to strong in the west and north for a time.

Rainfall: nil to 7mm, heaviest at Valentia

Temperature: max. 11°C to 15°C, min. -2°C to 7°C, ground temperatures below zero at most inland stations, down to -8°C at Kilkenny

Sunshine: nil to 1 hour generally, 4 hours at Dublin Airport and Casement

Tuesday 25th: Light rain and drizzle cleared eastwards overnight. Light showers followed, mainly in western areas, but some extended further eastwards. The showers died out by afternoon and it remained dry for the rest of the day. Dull in the southwest. A mixture of cloud and sunshine elsewhere, with most sunshine in the south and southeast. Winds were southwesterly, generally light or moderate but fresh at times in the west.

Rainfall: nil to 2mm, heaviest at Malin Head, nil at Casement Aerodrome

Temperature: max. 12°C to 16°C, min. 6°C to 10°C, no ground frost

Sunshine: <1 to 11 hours, sunniest at Cork Airport, <1 hour at Valentia

Wednesday 26th: Mostly dry overnight apart from occasional showers in western areas. The morning was generally sunny with well-scattered showers. Cloudier conditions during the afternoon, with patchy rain in places. Generally dry during the evening and night. Winds were light, westerly in direction.

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

Temperature: max. 11°C to 15°C, min. 6°C to 10°C, no ground frost

Sunshine: nil to 9 hours, sunniest at Malin Head, nil at Valentia

Thursday 27th: Cold at times overnight with slight ground frost in places. Some patches of light rain in the extreme north in the morning. The day was dry, mild and sunny generally with the southern half of the country getting most sunshine. Afternoon temperatures in the south were a degree or two above normal but it was slightly cloudier and cooler in the north. Misty in the north in the evening. Light variable winds overnight increased light to moderate northwesterly during the day.

Rainfall: nil

Temperature: max. 12°C to 17°C, min. 3°C to 9°C, ground temperatures down to -2°C at Birr

Sunshine: 4 to 13 hours, sunniest at Dublin Airport, 4 hours at Belmullet

Friday 28th: A cold start with ground frost, mostly slight but sharp in places, which cleared soon after dawn. The day was dry, warm and sunny everywhere except in the north where it remained dull. Turing misty after dark. Light to moderate northwesterly winds throughout.

Rainfall: nil

Temperature: max. 11°C to 17°C, min. 2°C to 8°C, ground temperatures down to -4°C at Birr

Sunshine: 5 to 13 hours generally, sunniest at Valentia, <1 hour at Malin Head

Saturday 29th: A dry day in all parts of the country. Very sunny in the southwest. Sunny spells in the rest of the country with the exception of the extreme north and northwest. Temperatures up to normal with no ground frost. Winds were generally light, northerly or variable in direction.

Rainfall: nil

Temperature: max. 10°C to 15°C, min. 4°C to 9°C, no ground frost

Sunshine: nil to 13 hours, sunniest at Valentia, nil at Malin Head

Sunday 30th: Patches of light rain or drizzle along western coastal regions overnight but mainly dry elsewhere. The day started off dull and damp with patchy light rain and drizzle. More persistent and heavier rain moved into western areas in the afternoon and moved eastwards across the country in the afternoon and evening. Drier weather with scattered showers and clear spells followed during the evening. Cool with afternoon temperatures a degree or two below normal. Light westerly winds became light to moderate southwesterly in the afternoon, before turning more northwesterly by evening.

Rainfall: 2 to 11mm, heaviest at Belmullet, 2mm at Cork Airport

Temperature: max. 10°C to 12°C, min. 5°C to 8°C, no ground frost

Sunshine: nil to trace generally, 3 hours at Rosslare

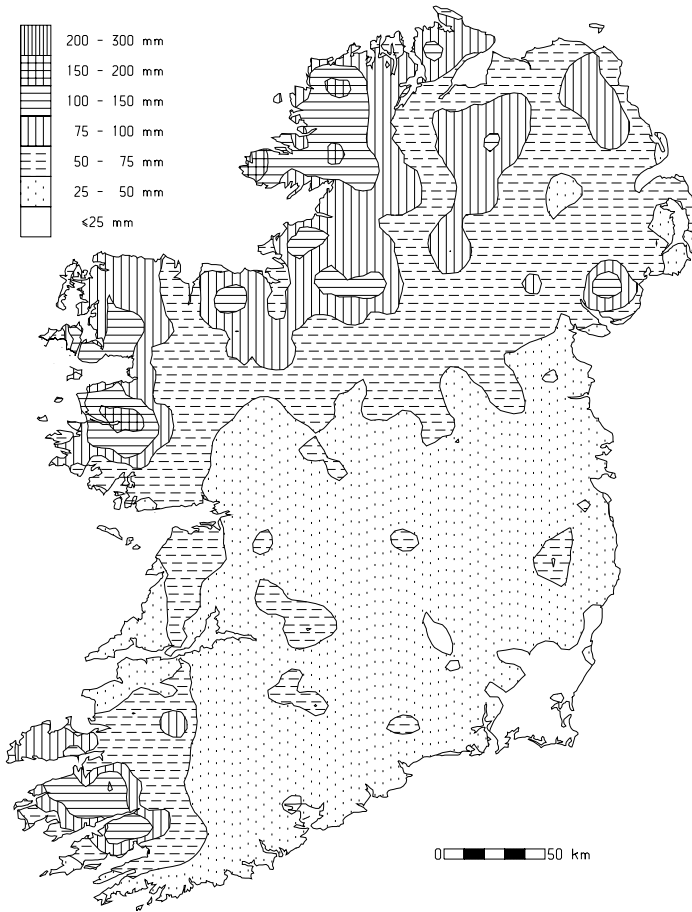
Drier than normal except in parts of west and north

Rainfall totals for April were below normal across most of the country, but it was a wetter than normal month in parts of Connacht and Ulster. It was the driest April for between 6 and 11 years at the majority of stations and the driest since 1980 at Rosslare. Totals ranged from 21mm at Rosslare to 127mm at Maam Valley, Co. Galway, with percentage of normal values between 37% at both Rosslare and Johnstown Castle, Co. Wexford and 168% at Ballyshannon (Cathleen's Fall), Co. Donegal.

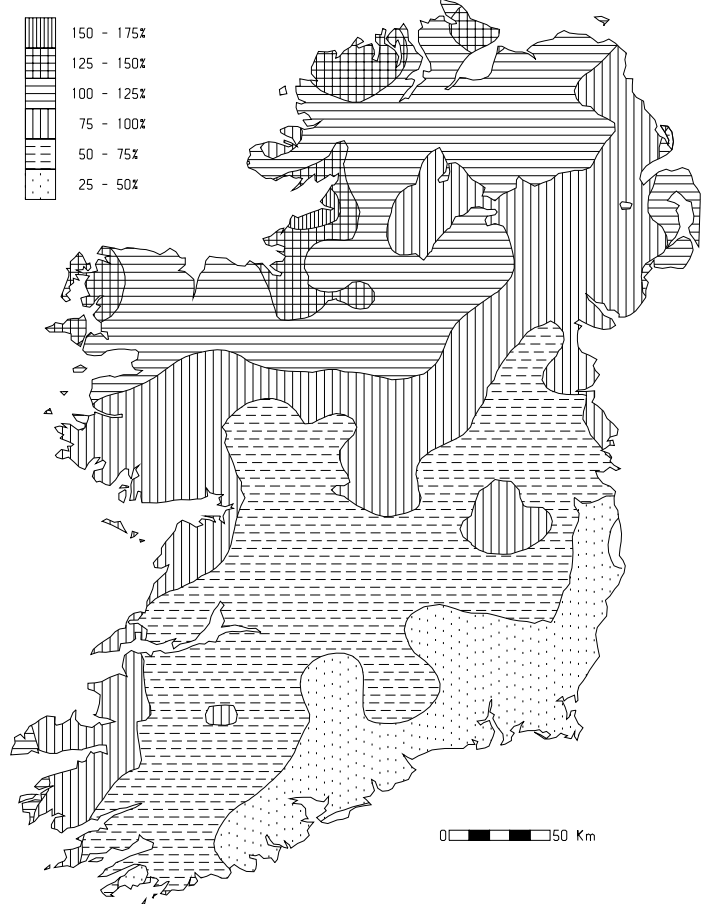
Rain fell on most days during the month, but amounts were generally small. There was a total of around 20 raindays (*days with 0.2mm or more rainfall*) recorded at most stations, but only between 6 and 10 wetdays (*days with 1mm or more rainfall*) were measured at many stations in the east and south. The wettest days in most places were the 18th and 30th, but the highest daily fall of the month, 26.6mm, was recorded at Maam Valley on the 24th.

County/ Station	Total Amount (mm)	% of 1961-90 average	Most in		Number of	
			a day /	date	Raindays (≥0.2mm)	Wetdays (≥1mm)
CO. CAVAN						
CAVAN (LORETO COLLEGE)	60.0		10.8	30	19	16
CO. CLARE						
SHANNON AIRPORT	31.3	56	5.8	10	18	10
CARRON	77.1	90	15.3	10	22	15
CO. CORK						
FERMOY (MOORE PARK)	27.8	47	8.3	18	15	8
CORK AIRPORT	30.0	43	8.0	18	15	11
SHERKIN ISLAND	44.9	69	14.1	20	14	12
BALLINCURRIG (PEAFIELD)	38.1		9.1	18	13	10
CO. DONEGAL						
MALIN HEAD	69.9	121	11.9	30	19	16
BALLYSHANNON (CATHLEEN'S FALL)	95.6	168	16.7	1	23	17
GLENTIES	84.0	105	13.3	30	21	18
CO. DUBLIN						
DUBLIN (PHOENIX PARK)	33.6	63	6.8	30	13	10
DUBLIN AIRPORT	40.8		7.9	30	15	8
CASEMENT AERODROME	27.8	55	5.7	1	12	10
DUBLIN (MERRION SQUARE)	35.6	73	7.1	30	14	8
CO. GALWAY						
GALWAY (UNIV. COLL.)	58.1	87	13.1	10	18	14
MAAM VALLEY	127.0		26.6	24	22	16
CONNEMARA NATIONAL PARK	87.7	106	14.1	24	23	15
BALLYGAR	45.3	74	7.3	30	20	13
CO. KERRY						
VALENTIA OBSERVATORY	79.4	103	13.5	18	17	14
ARDFERT (LISCAHANE)	48.2		11.1	18	16	11
CO. KILKENNY						
KILKENNY	23.0	44	6.3	18	15	8
CO. LIMERICK						
MOUNT RUSSELL	49.4		9.4	18	19	16
CO. LOUTH						
ARDEE (BOHARNAMOE)	34.3	62	8.5	30	14	10
CO. MAYO						
BELMULLET	75.2	132	12.4	1	24	14
STRAIDE	67.4	105	10.3	10	21	12
KNOCK AIRPORT	79.1		11.5	1	22	17
CO. MEATH						
WARRENSTOWN	36.1	62	8.4	30	15	11
CO. MONAGHAN						
CLONES	68.3	122	11.9	7	23	15
CO. OFFALY						
BIRR	37.7	71	5.8	7	17	10
DERRYGREENAGH	38.1	67	9.9	30	17	9
CO. SLIGO						
ARDTARMON	62.0		12.7	30	22	13
CO. TIPPERARY						
FETHARD (PARSONSHILL)	32.2		7.4	18	17	10
CO. WATERFORD						
WATERFORD (TYCOR)	26.2	43	13.7	18	13	7
DUNGARVAN (CARRIGLEA)	30.1		10.9	18	15	7
CO. WESTMEATH						
MULLINGAR II	51.0	86	9.4	30	18	12
CO. WEXFORD						
JOHNSTOWN CASTLE	23.6	37	6.2	18	12	7
ROSSLARE	20.9	37	5.8	8	10	6
JOHN F. KENNEDY PARK	29.1	45	14.1	18	13	7
CLONROCHE (KNOXTOWN)	26.2		9.0	18	16	7

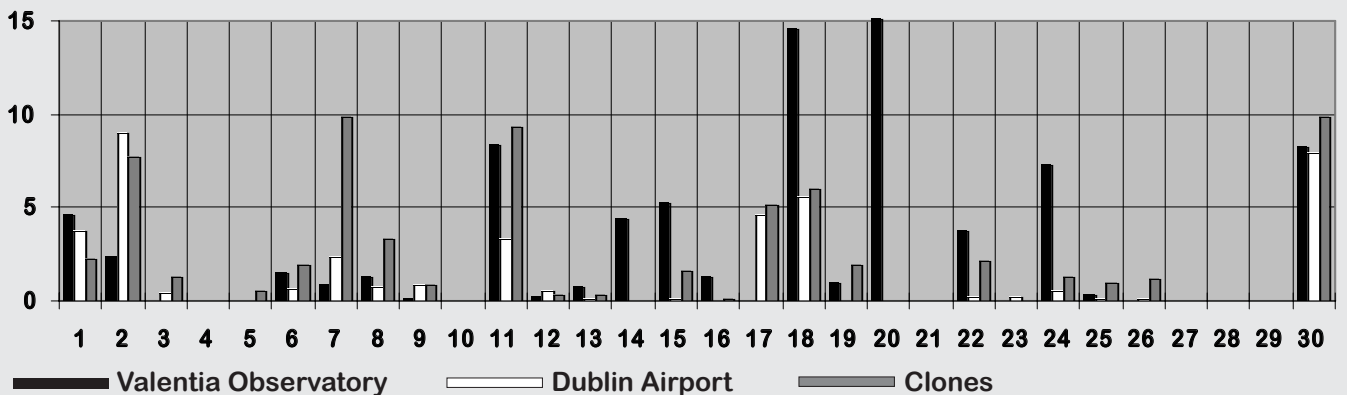
Total rainfall (mm)



Percentage of normal rainfall



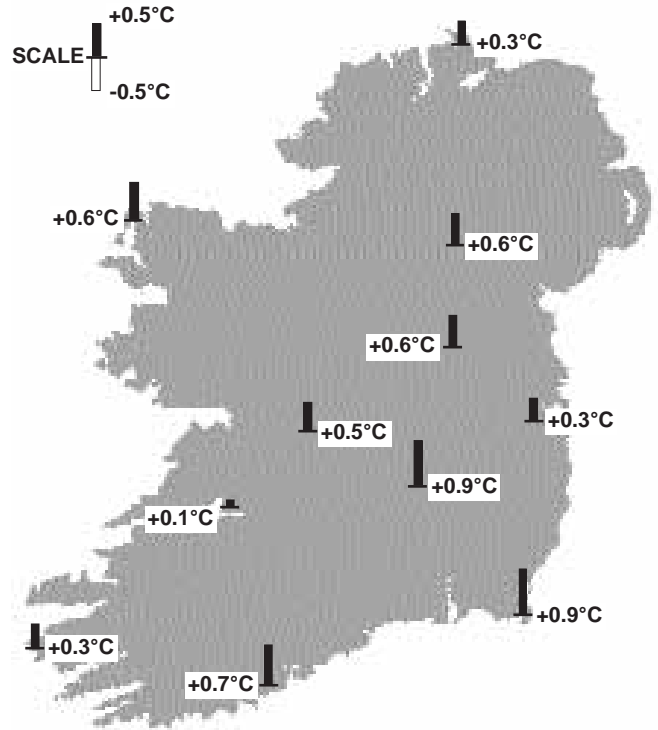
Daily 0-24h rainfall values (mm)



Becoming milder after cool start

Despite a spell of very cold weather early in April, mean air temperatures for the month as a whole were around half a degree above normal in most places and over one degree higher than normal at some stations. They ranged from 7.3°C at Knock Airport to 10.2°C at Waterford (Tycor). It was the coldest April generally for 5 or 6 years.

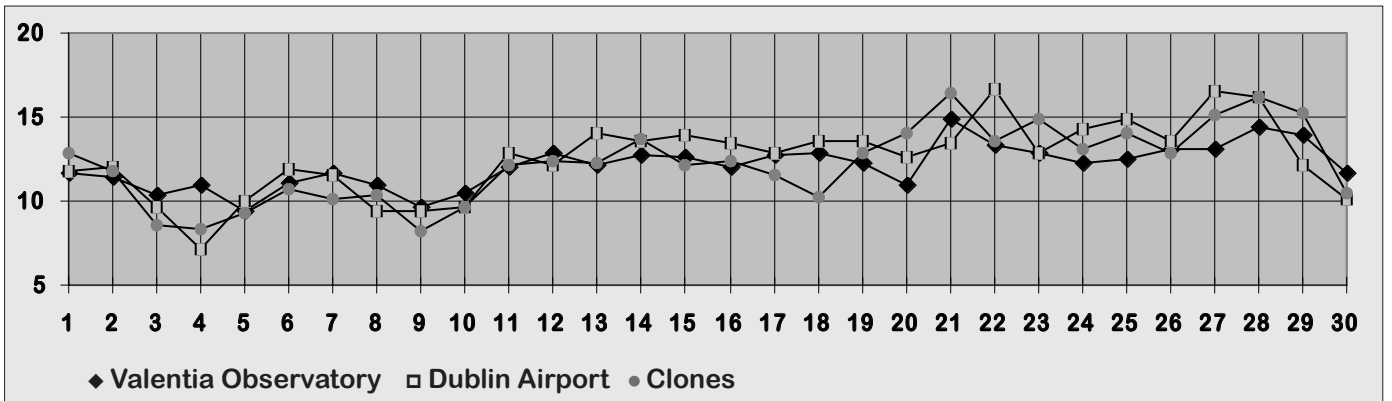
The first week of the month was cold, with a spell of very frosty weather everywhere between the 3rd and 6th and some exceptionally low April temperatures recorded on the 5th (*see page 2*). This frosty weather continued up to the 10th, but was not as widespread. The lowest air temperature of the month, -4.5°C, was recorded at Casement Aerodrome on the 10th, while the lowest grass minimum temperature, -13.2°C, was recorded at Birr on the 5th, the lowest such temperature for April at the station since records began there in 1954. Most inland stations measured between 12 and 18 ground frosts during the month, more than normal for April. Temperatures rose above normal during the second half of the month, particularly during the period



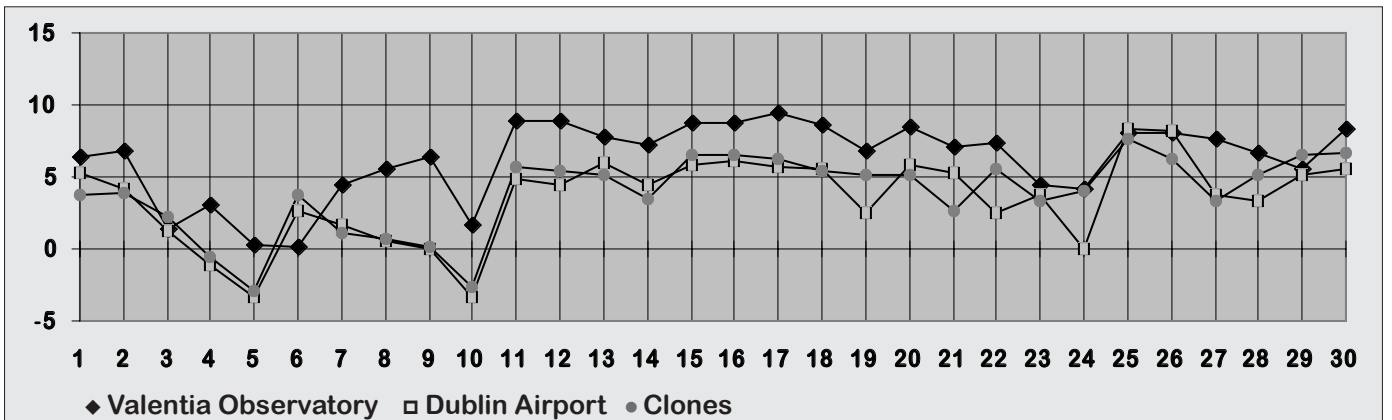
Mean Temperature
(difference from 1961-90 normals)

21st to 29th. The month's highest temperature, 18.0°C, was measured at Galway (University College) on the 21st.

Daily 0-24h maximum temperatures (°C)



Daily 0-24h minimum temperatures (°C)



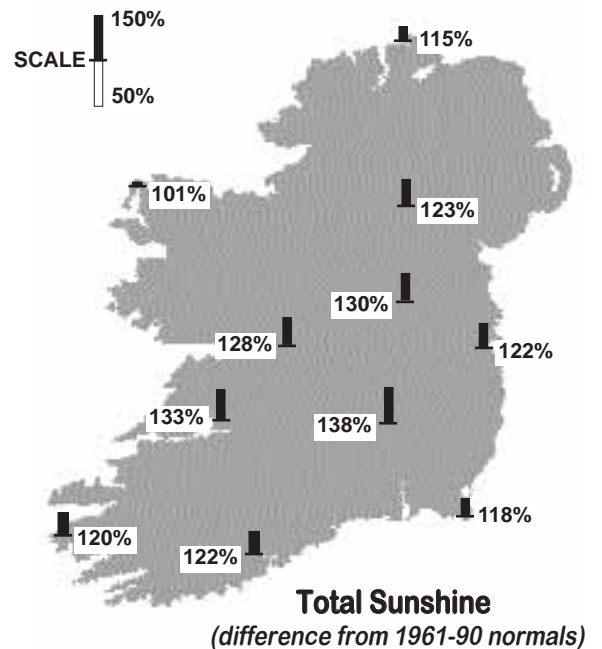
County/ Station	°C										
	Mean max.	Mean min.	Mean/ deviation from 1961-90 average		Highest max./date	Lowest min./date		Lowest grass min./date		Days with air frost ground frost	
CO. CAVAN											
CAVAN (LORETO COLLEGE)	12.8	4.0	8.4		16.6 21	-4.0	5	-7.5	5	3	8
CO. CLARE											
SHANNON AIRPORT	12.7	5.3	9.0	0.1	16.9 28	-2.3	5	-7.2	5	2	7
CARRON	12.1	4.4	8.3	0.6	15.7 21	-2.5	5	-9.8	5	2	16
CO. CORK											
FERMOY (MOORE PARK)	13.2	4.4	8.8	0.8	16.8 28	-3.1	5	-10.3	5	5	18
CORK AIRPORT	12.3	4.8	8.6	0.7	16.3 28	-1.3	5	-4.0	5 24	2	9
SHERKIN ISLAND	13.2	6.6	9.9	1.1	17.5 21	-0.4	5	-3.3	5	1	3
BALLINCURRIG (PEAFIELD)	13.4	3.5	8.5		16.9 25	-3.1	5	-5.4	5	6	9
CO. DONEGAL											
MALIN HEAD	10.6	5.6	8.1	0.3	13.2 25	1.5	5	-1.9	5	0	1
BALLYSHANNON (CATHLEEN'S FALL)	11.2	5.1	8.2	0.3	13.6 21	-1.3	5			3	
GLENTIES	11.7	3.5	7.6	0.1	15.5	-2.6	5	-4.1	5	5	7
CO. DUBLIN											
DUBLIN (PHOENIX PARK)	13.2	4.1	8.7	0.8	17.4 27	-3.2	5	-6.8	5	4	9
DUBLIN AIRPORT	12.6	3.8	8.2		16.7 22	-3.3	5 10	-7.4	5	3	11
CASEMENT AERODROME	12.8	3.2	8.0	0.3	16.4 28	-4.5	10	-7.6	5	5	11
DUBLIN (MERRION SQUARE)	12.8	6.3	9.6	0.7	17.2 22	0.9	5 10			0	
CO. GALWAY											
GALWAY (UNIV. COLL.)	13.3	4.9	9.1	0.4	18.0 21	-3.1	5	-8.0	5	3	11
MAAM VALLEY	12.3	5.3	8.8		17.3 21	-1.3	5	-6.6	5	1	4
CONNEMARA NATIONAL PARK	11.8	5.4	8.6		15.7 21	-0.1	5			1	
BALLYGAR	13.5	3.6	8.6		17.9 28	-3.0	10	-5.6	10	6	9
CO. KERRY											
VALENTIA OBSERVATORY	12.1	6.5	9.3	0.3	14.9 21	0.2	6	-6.6	5	0	6
ARDFERT (LISCAHANE)	13.6	4.8	9.2	0.8	16.8 21	-2.7	5	-8.5	5	3	13
CO. KILKENNY											
KILKENNY	13.6	4.4	9.0	0.9	17.0 27 28	-2.1	5	-10.5	5	3	17
CO. LIMERICK											
MOUNT RUSSELL	12.1	4.4	8.3		16.1 28	-2.2	5	-7.1	5	2	9
CO. LOUTH											
ARDEE (BOHARNAMOE)	12.5	3.7	8.1	0.6	16.8 28	-3.5	5	-5.5	5	5	7
CO. MAYO											
BELMULLET	11.9	6.1	9.0	0.6	15.0 21	-0.6	5	-4.8	5	1	3
STRAIDE	12.4	4.3	8.4	0.3	16.4 21	-4.3	5	-9.0	5	3	14
KNOCK AIRPORT	10.6	4.0	7.3		15.1 21	-1.2	5	-6.5	5	1	6
CO. MEATH											
WARRENTOWN	12.5	4.0	8.3	0.6	16.1 28	-3.9	5	-6.9	5	5	9
CO. MONAGHAN											
CLONES	12.2	4.2	8.2	0.6	16.4 21	-2.9	5	-8.5	5	3	14
CO. OFFALY											
BIRR	12.7	4.3	8.5	0.5	17.4 28	-4.4	5	-13.2	5	3	14
DERRYGREENAGH	13.2	3.8	8.5	1.1	17.5 28	-3.6	5	-8.6	10	3	13
CO. SLIGO											
ARDTARMON	12.0	5.3	8.7		14.8 20	-0.3	5	-2.8	5	1	3
CO. TIPPERARY											
FETHARD (PARSONSHILL)	12.3	3.5	7.9		16.7 28	-2.6	10	-4.6	5	6	8
CO. WATERFORD											
WATERFORD (TYCOR)	14.2	6.2	10.2	1.8	17.4 28	-0.2	5			1	
DUNGARVAN (CARRIGLEA)	13.9	4.9	9.4	0.9	17.6 28	-1.5	5	-4.7	5	5	9
CO. WESTMEATH											
MULLINGAR II	12.5	3.8	8.2	0.6	16.8 28	-4.4	5	-9.1	5	3	12
CO. WEXFORD											
JOHNSTOWN CASTLE	12.9	5.4	9.2	1.3	15.7 25	0.2	10	-2.5	6	0	7
ROSSLARE	12.1	6.4	9.3	0.9	15.4 25	1.9	8 10	-0.5	10	0	2
JOHN F. KENNEDY PARK	13.3	4.6	9.0	0.8	17.0 27 28	-0.4	8	-4.4	5	5	10
CLONROCHE (KNOXTOWN)	12.6	4.0	8.3		16.5 28	-3.0	5	-7.4	5	3	13

County/ Station	Daily mean (hours/day)	% of average	% of possible	Most in a day/date
CO. CAVAN				
CAVAN (LORETO COLLEGE)	5.49		40	11.4 21
CO. CLARE				
SHANNON AIRPORT	6.56	133	47	12.6 28
CO. CORK				
FERMOY (MOORE PARK)	6.06	127	44	12.8 28
CORK AIRPORT	6.38	122	46	12.2 28
SHERKIN ISLAND	7.33	108	53	13.4 28
BALLINCURRIG (PEAFIELD)	6.64			11.8 5
CO. DONEGAL				
MALIN HEAD	5.82	115	41	13.3 23
BALLYSHANNON (CATHLEEN'S FALL)	5.61	118	40	13.2 21
CO. DUBLIN				
DUBLIN AIRPORT	6.66	128	48	13.1 28
CASEMENT AERODROME	5.97	122	43	12.9 27
CO. GALWAY				
GALWAY (UNIV.COLL.)	5.94	120	42	12.6 28
CO. KERRY				
VALENTIA OBSERVATORY	6.01	120	44	13.4 28
ARDFERT (LISCAHANE)	5.57		40	12.2 28
CO. KILKENNY				
KILKENNY	6.70	138	48	12.7 23
CO. MAYO				
BELMULLET	5.32	101	38	12.4 21
STRAIDE	5.30			11.2 4
KNOCK AIRPORT	5.43			12.0 21
CO. MONAGHAN				
CLONES	5.55	123	40	11.8 4 21
CO. OFFALY				
BIRR	5.92	128	42	11.9 27
CO. WATERFORD				
DUNGARVAN (CARRIGLEA)	6.42	110	46	13.1 28
CO. WESTMEATH				
MULLINGAR II	6.29	130	45	12.8 27 28
CO. WEXFORD				
JOHNSTOWN CASTLE	5.73	107	41	12.0 28
ROSSLARE	6.74	118	49	12.7 27 28
JOHN F. KENNEDY PARK	6.76	130	49	12.2 28
CLONROCHE (KNOXTOWN)	6.40			12.9 28

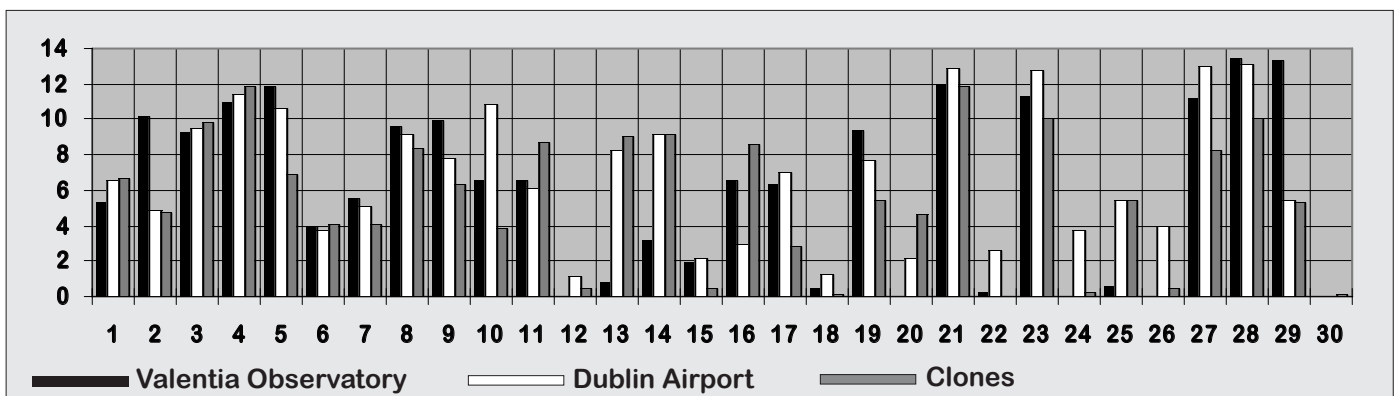
Sunniest April for over 30 years in many places

Sunshine totals were above normal everywhere and it was a particularly sunny month in parts of Leinster and Munster. Totals ranged from 159 hours at Straide, Co. Mayo, to 220 hours at Sherkin Island, Co. Cork, with percentage of normal values between 101% of normal at Belmullet and 138% at Kilkenny. It was the sunniest April for more than 30 years in many places and the sunniest on record at both Shannon Airport and Kilkenny.

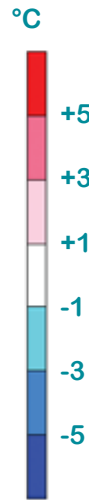
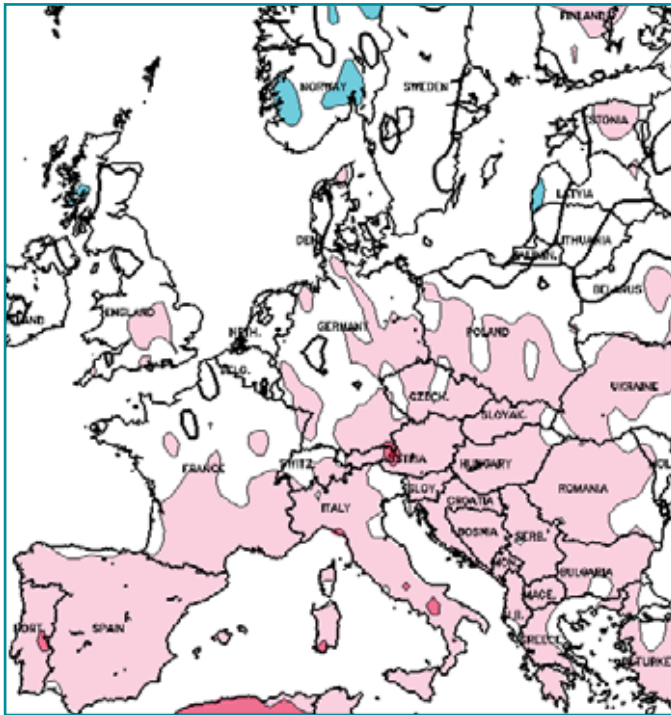
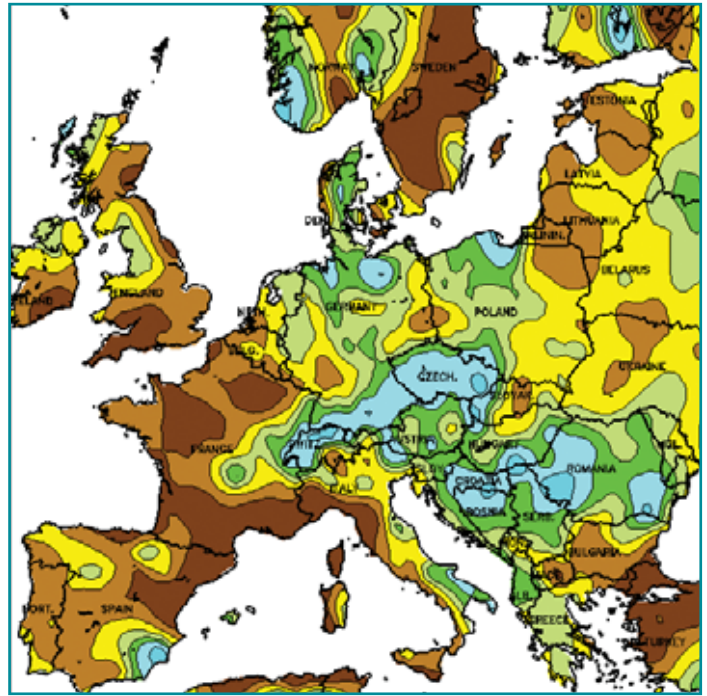
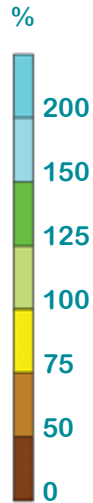
The sunniest parts of the month were during the first and final weeks, especially in the period 27th to 29th. The highest daily value, 13.4 hours, was recorded at both Valentia and Sherkin Island on the 28th. Global solar radiation totals ranged from 103% of normal at Belmullet to 116% at Kilkenny.



Daily sunshine values (hours)



APRIL RAINFALL
(percentage of 1961-1990 normal)



APRIL MEAN TEMPERATURE
(difference from 1961-1990 normal)

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

A world map with several text boxes highlighting global weather highlights for April 2006. The map uses a color-coded background: green for North America, yellow for Europe/Asia, red for Africa, and blue for the Pacific/Indian Oceans.

North America: A major outbreak of severe weather on the 2nd was responsible for 86 reported tornadoes across southern and midwestern US states. Tennessee was the worst affected area, with 19 confirmed deaths; at least 23 deaths were attributed to the storms across the region.

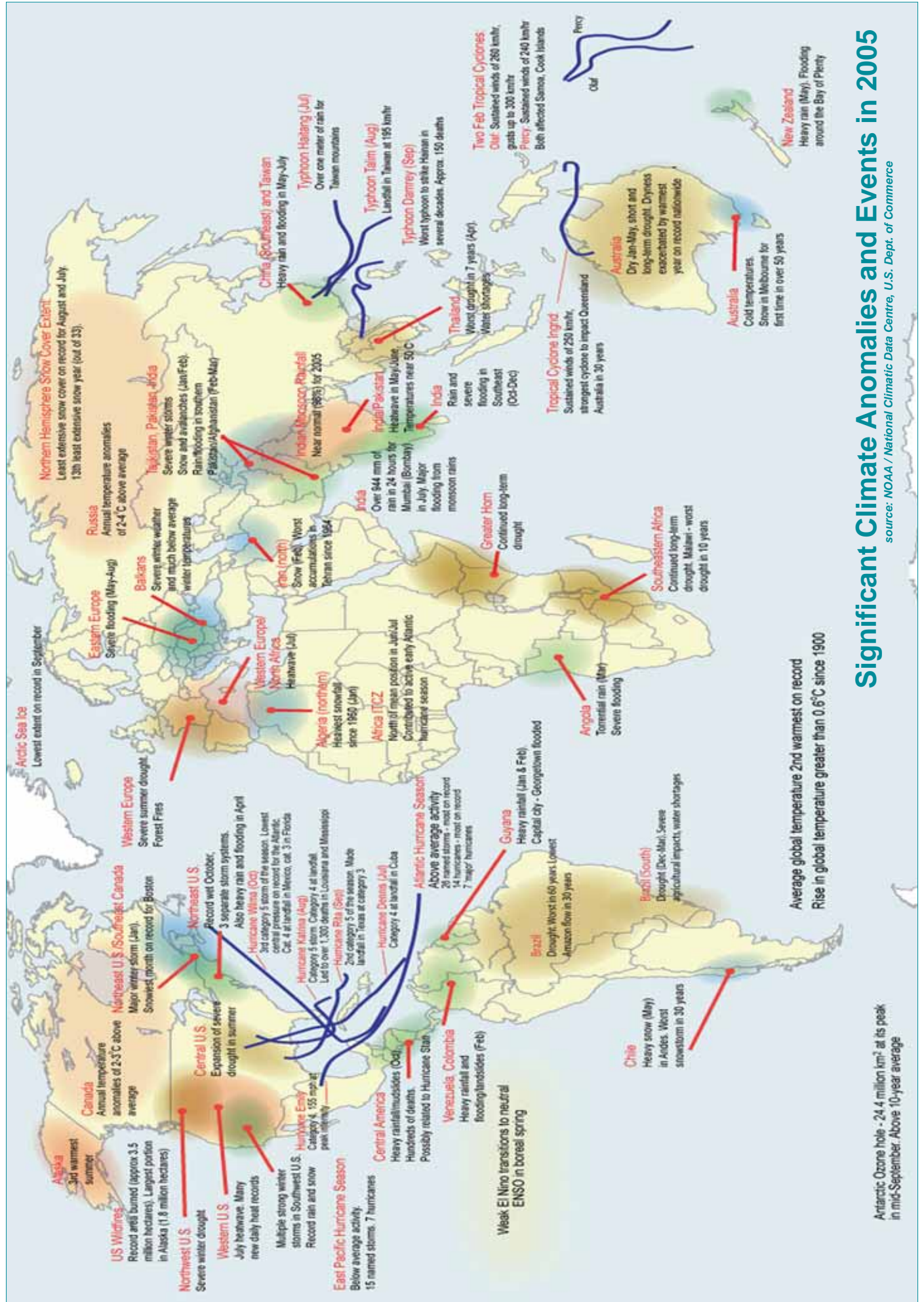
Hawaii: Early April brought an end to a six-week period of daily downpours on Hawaii, fed by a persistent upper level wind and pressure pattern that steered storm systems across the islands. A new all-time monthly rainfall record was set on Mt. Waialeale of 2355mm in March 2006, 92mm higher than the old record set in April 1971.

China/Mongolia border: A sandstorm originating along the China/Mongolia border affected Beijing on the 17th. It was the eighth sandstorm of 2006 in the Chinese capital and reportedly the worst so far this year. Reduced visibilities also spread eastwards as far as the Korean Peninsula.

Colombia: Flooding in Colombia followed heavy rainfall that began in early March and continued through much of April. At least 70 people were killed by flooding and mudslides in this period. The worst disaster occurred along the Pacific coastline near the city of Buenaventura, where a landslide killed 31 people on the 13th. More than 225 homes were destroyed and 2,000 were damaged.

Indonesia: At least 15 people were killed when a landslide and floods triggered by weeks of torrential rain swept through a town on Indonesia's Java island. At least 13 died when a torrent of mud buried homes in the East Java town of Trenggalek, nearly 600km east of Jakarta.

Global weather highlights of the month



Significant Climate Anomalies and Events in 2005