

METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE

METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE,
ROSSLARE,
CO. WEXFORD.



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AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

MAY 1979

The Weather of May

A northwest airflow being established, May began cold and wet. There were scattered hail showers and rainfall was heavy on the 1st, 3rd and 6th, particularly in the West and in the North-Midlands. Record low air temperatures for May occurred in this period. Slow moving troughs affected the country from the 7th, as the weather gradually changed from being cool and wet to being warm, humid and very wet. A slack southwest airflow prevailed. Rain was widespread and very heavy, particularly in the south on the 10th.

A ridge developed from West Europe on the 11th and a short fine spell occurred from 11th-14th. This spell was warm, sunny and mostly dry.

The entire second half of the month was broken and rather cold. Maximum temperatures were usually some 3 to 4 °C below normal, and from 17th-21st they were some 6 °C below normal. Winds were mostly light variable or westerly. Heavy showers were widespread. Hail and scattered thunderstorms occurred on several days, notably on the 22nd, 27th, 28th and 31st. Ground frost was not significant however, except on the 22nd, when it was sharp inland.

Daily maximum temperatures began to recover from the 28th of the month.

Mean Monthly Amounts of Precipitation was above normal everywhere, ranging from over 180% of average in the West to about 125% in the south. It exceeded 150% of average in most places except regions north Midlands, East and South. It was the wettest May since records began at Shannon Airport (1937) and Belmullet (1957). The number of wet days was from 50 to 100% above average.

Mean Monthly Air Temperatures, between 1.5 °C and 2.5 °C below average, were the lowest this century at Birr and in the south, and the lowest since 1917 at Dublin. Air frost occurred most nights up to the 6th. Sharp ground frost also occurred on the 9th and 19th. Soil temperatures (10 cm) which were mostly 1.5 to 2.0 °C below normal for the month, exceeded normal in the short period 11-15th.

Mean Duration of Bright Sunshine was below average everywhere particularly in the mid west (71%) and south midland regions (64%). Northwest regions were the brightest having up to 90% of normal.

Strong Winds were infrequent. Strongest winds occurred on the 1st, 2nd and 19th and 28th and mostly affected the west and north.

Summary. It was cold and wet month. The first 6 days were unusually cold, and the second half of the month was very broken.

The data contained in this Bulletin are provisional. Some of the material in Table 1 will be published in its final form later in the Monthly Weather Report; final values of Solar Radiation at stations; marked "e" in Table 2 will be published in the Annual Summary of Solar Radiation.

TABLE 1

May, 1979

STATION	PERIOD	RAINFALL (MM.)				TEMPERATURE °C								BRIGHT SUNSHINE		WIND			
		AMOUNT	% OF AVERAGE	RAIN DAYS	WET DAYS	MEAN MAX.	MEAN MIN.	MEAN DAILY AND DIFFERENCE FROM AVERAGE	LOWEST MIN.	DATE	DAY WITH AIR FROST DEGREE DAYS ABOVE 4.4°C	DAY WITH AIR FROST DEGREE DAYS ABOVE 10.0°C	GROUND	SOIL(10 CM)	MEAN DAILY (HRS.)	% OF AVERAGE	MEAN SPEED (ms ⁻¹)	MEAN SPEED (ms ⁻¹)	
Carlow (Oak Park) Co. Carlow	1-10	31.8		8	8	10.5	2.2	6.3			-1.6 04	4 21 1	-6.5 04	6			4.46	4	
	11-20	18.3		5	5	14.8	7.2	11.0			0.5 19	0 66 16	-3.7 19	1			4.21	4	
	21-end	40.1		7	7	13.7	5.2	9.4			2.7 25	0 56 5	0.0 25	0			4.91	3	
	Month	90.2		20	20	13.0	4.9	8.9			-1.6 04	4 143 22	-6.5 04	7			4.54	4	
Shannon Airport Co. Clare	1-10	59.1	-	9	9	10.9	4.0	7.4	-	0.3 03	0 30 1	-3.0 04	5	9.5	-	4.75	5	1	
	11-20	18.1	-	4	3	15.7	8.3	12.0	-	2.3 19	0 76 23	-2.1 19	1	13.1	-	5.09	5	0	
	21-end	28.5	-	11	7	14.6	6.7	10.6	-	4.9 26	0 70 11	0.3 21	0	13.1	-	5.56	4	0	
	Month	105.7	165	24	19	13.7	6.3	10.0	-1.5	0.3 03	0 176 35	-3.0 04	6	11.9	-1.3	5.15	81	5 1	
Fermoy (Moore Park) Co. Cork	1-10							NOT AVAILABLE											
	11-20																		
	21-end																		
	Month																		
Mallow Co. Cork	1-10	24.5	-	7	5	11.2	3.6	7.4			-1.8 03	3 32 3	-6.2 03	5			3.99		
	11-20	25.1	-	6	6	14.3	7.3	10.8			-1.2 19	1 64 15	-3.0 19	1			3.72		
	21-end	52.1	-	10	8	13.9	4.8	9.3			2.3 23	0 54 6	-0.8 22	2			3.96		
	Month	101.7	134	23	19	13.1	5.2	9.2			-1.8 03	4 150 24	-6.2 03	8			3.89		
Roche's Point Co. Cork	1-10	34.6	-	7	4	10.6	4.5	7.6	-	0.8 02	0 32 0	-2.6 06	5	9.6	-	4.65	6	2	
	11-20	15.1	-	7	5	12.4	7.7	10.0	-	2.9 19	0 56 6	-2.6 19	1	11.4	-	3.50	6	3	
	21-end	31.1	-	8	5	12.1	7.1	9.6	-	5.4 25	0 57 3	0.6 21	0	12.0	-	7.29	4	1	
	Month	80.8	124	22	14	11.7	6.4	9.1	-2.2	0.8 02	0 145 9	-2.6 19	6	11.1	-1.8	5.22	78	5 6	
Glencolumbkille Co. Donegal	1-10	30.9		9	9	9.7	1.3	5.5			-1.3 04	3 15 1	-4.0 04	6			7.12	3	
	11-20	60.9		9	8	12.0	6.2	9.1			1.5 19	0 47 6	-2.6 19	1			2.59	3	
	21-end	36.6		9	6	13.3	5.1	9.2			2.6 27	0 53 4	-1.2 21	1			6.45	3	
	Month	128.4		27	23	11.7	4.2	8.0			-1.3 04	3 115 11	-4.0 04	8			5.42	3	
Glenties Co. Donegal	1-10	40.4	-	9	9	9.3	-1.9	3.7			-5.6 04	8 7 0	-9.7 04	9			6.07		
	11-20	61.7	-	7	6	12.7	4.7	8.7			-2.2 19	1 43 4	-5.6 19	3			2.36		
	21-end	46.0	-	8	7	13.6	2.3	8.0			-2.2 21	3 40 1	-6.4 23	7			5.61		
	Month	148.1	166	24	22	11.9	1.7	6.8			-5.6 04	12 90 5	-9.7 04	19			4.71		

Notes on the tables in January issue

TABLE 1 (Continued)

May, 1979

STATION	PERIOD	RAINFALL (MM.)				TEMPERATURE °C										BRIGHT SUNSHINE		WIND			
		AMOUNT	% OF AVERAGE	RAIN DAYS	WET DAYS	MEAN MAX.	MEAN MIN.	MEAN DAILY	AIR DIFFERENCE FROM AVERAGE	LOWEST MTH.	DATE	DAYS WITH AIR FROST	DEGREE DAYS ABOVE 4.4°C	DEGREE DAYS ABOVE 10.0°C	GROUND	SOIL (10 CM)	MEAN DAILY (HRS.)	% OF AVERAGE	MEAN SPEED (ms⁻¹)	DAYS WITH GALE GUSTS	
Tralee Lisdara Co. Kerry	1-10	56.3		9	9	11.1	4.2	7.7		-1.0	02	2	35	4	-5.3	02	4		4.41		
	11-20	33.7		5	5	15.2	8.3	11.8		0.0	19	0	74	22	-4.9	19	1		NA		
	21-end	45.8		11	11	14.0	5.6	9.8		3.7	22	0	60	6	-1.6	21	4		4.60		
	Month	135.8		25	25	13.5	6.0	9.7		-1.0	02	2	169	32	-5.3	02	9		-		
Ballymore Co. Fildare	1-10	36.9		9	7	10.0	0.7	5.4		-3.6	04	6	16	0	-9.2	04	7		4.51		
	11-20	17.3		5	4	15.2	6.8	11.0		-1.1	19	1	66	18	-5.9	19	1		4.07		
	21-end	34.3		10	7	NA	4.0	-		0.9	25	0	NA	NA	-2.0	25	2		4.05		
	Month	88.5		24	18	-	3.9	-		-3.6	04	7	-	-	-9.2	04	10		4.20		
Kilkenny Co. Kilkenny	1-10	35.7	-	8	7	10.9	2.1	6.5	-	-3.0	04	4	23	1	-7.9	04	6	8.8	-	3.94	-
	11-20	9.6	-	5	3	15.1	7.6	11.3		-0.4	19	1	70	19	-5.0	19	1	13.2	-	4.32	-
	21-end	53.7	-	8	8	13.8	4.8	9.3	-	-0.1	22	1	54	5	-3.8	22	5	12.0	-	4.23	-
	Month	99.0	155	21	18	13.3	4.8	9.0	-2.1	-3.0	04	6	147	25	-7.9	04	12	11.3	-1.7	4.16	64
Mooncoin (Silverspring) Co. Kilkenny	1-10	37.3		9	8	11.0	2.8	6.9		-2.2	04	4	26	1	-8.6	06	5		4.21		
	11-20	17.3		7	3	14.2	7.6	10.9		0.0	19	0	65	15	NA				3.75		
	21-end	36.2		7	6	13.5	5.6	9.5		2.0	24	0	57	4	-2.0	24	4		5.20		
	Month	90.8		23	17	12.9	5.4	9.1		-2.2	04	4	148	20	-	-	-		4.41		
Ballinamore Co. Leitrim	1-10	45.4		10	7	10.1	0.5	5.3		-4.4	04	6	13	0	-8.6	04	7		6.01	3	
	11-20	36.1		8	4	14.1	6.5	10.3		-0.7	19	1	60	12	-6.1	19	1		2.98	3	
	21-end	42.8		10	8	14.5	5.0	9.8		-0.2	21	1	59	7	-3.7	21	3		6.32	2	
	Month	124.3		28	19	13.0	4.0	8.5		-4.4	04	8	132	19	-8.6	04	11		5.14	3	
Ardee (Boharnamoe) Co. Louth	1-10	28.5		9	5	8.7	0.1	4.4		-2.9	04	6	7	0	-7.9	04	7				
	11-20	19.9		7	5	14.6	6.0	10.3		-0.6	19	1	64	15	-3.3	19	1				
	21-end	27.5		8	7	14.7	4.8	9.7		1.1	26	0	59	7	-1.9	25	5				
	Month	75.9		24	17	12.7	3.6	8.2		-2.9	04	7	130	22	-7.9	04	13				
Ballinrobe (Greagh) Co. Mayo	1-10	46.5		9	7	10.4	NA	-		NA	-	-	-	-	NA	-		5.29	3		
	11-20	34.9		11	6	13.2	NA	-		NA	-	-	-	-	NA	-		3.44	4		
	21-end	50.3		7	9	14.2	NA	-		NA	-	-	-	-	NA	-		7.82	3		
	Month	131.7		27	22	12.6	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-		5.59	3		

Notes on the tables in January issue

TABLE 1 (Continued)

May, 1979

STATION	PERIOD	RAINFALL (MM.)				TEMPERATURE °C										BRIGHT SUNSHINE		WIND	
		AMOUNT	% OF AVERAGE	RAINY DAYS	NET DAYS	AIR					GROUND			SOIL (10 CM)		MEAN DAILY (HRS.)	% OF AVERAGE	MEAN SPEED (ms⁻¹)	DAYS WITH GALE GUSTS
						MEAN	DAILY	MEAN	DAILY	MEAN	DAILY	DEGREE DAYS ABOVE 4.4°C	DEGREE DAYS ABOVE 10.0°C	MEAN DAILY	Difference FROM AVERAGE				
Inniscarrow (Balligoggin) Co. Waterford	1-10	31.8	-	8	7	11.0	3.6	7.3	/	-1.3	04	2	30	2	-4.5	04	4.07	3	
	11-20	26.9	-	7	5	14.2	8.4	11.3	/	1.5	19	0	69	16	NA		3.64	2	
	21-end	49.2	-	8	5	13.7	6.2	9.9	/	4.0	25	0	61	6	NA		6.46	2	
	Month	107.9	-	23	17	13.0	6.1	9.5	/	-1.3	04	2	160	24	-		4.78	2	
Mullinahone Co. Westmeath	1-10	54.9	-	10	8	9.6	1.4	5.6	/	-2.6	04	3	17	0	-6.1	04	5.32	-	4 1
	11-20	30.2	-	6	4	14.7	7.1	10.9	/	-1.2	19	1	66	18	-3.4	19	4.37	-	5 0
	21-end	22.9	-	7	5	13.9	4.7	9.3	/	2.1	21	0	54	6	-1.6	22	6.17	-	4 0
	Month	108.0	154	23	17	12.8	4.4	8.6	-1.8	-2.6	04	4	137	24	-6.1	04	12	10.4	-2.0
Carraigle (Ballynoe) Co. Wexford	1-10	37.7	-	9	7	10.3	2.8	6.5	/	-1.7	04	3	23	1	-7.1	04	4.50	-	
	11-20	16.8	-	6	5	13.5	7.1	10.3	/	1.5	19	0	59	9	-2.9	20	3.85	-	NA
	21-end	37.8	-	9	7	12.6	6.0	9.3	/	3.6	24	0	54	3	-2.3	21	5.76	-	
	Month	92.3	-	24	19	12.1	5.3	8.7	/	-1.7	04	3	136	13	-7.1	04	10	4.74	-
Glomoech Co. Wexford	1-10	40.2	-	8	6	10.3	1.7	6.0	/	-2.6	04	5	19	0	-9.5	04	4.58	-	3
	11-20	16.0	-	5	5	13.6	6.4	10.0	/	-0.3	19	1	56	8	-5.3	19	3.43	-	3
	21-end	47.3	-	7	7	12.6	5.0	8.8	/	1.7	22	0	48	2	-4.0	25	5.72	-	3
	Month	103.5	-	20	18	12.1	4.4	8.3	/	-2.6	04	6	123	10	-9.5	04	12	4.61	-
Johnstown Castle Co. Wexford	1-10	44.3	-	9	9	9.9	2.9	6.4	/	-1.6	04	4	22	0	-6.2	04	5.24	-	4
	11-20	23.8	-	6	5	12.6	7.1	9.8	/	3.0	19	0	54	6	0.0	19	3.92	-	4
	21-end	29.2	-	7	5	12.6	6.6	9.6	/	5.0	25	0	58	3	-0.6	22	6.73	-	4
	Month	97.3	133	22	19	11.7	5.6	8.6	/	-1.6	04	4	134	9	-6.2	04	7	5.34	-
Rosslare Co. Wexford	1-10	48.2	-	9	6	9.8	3.7	6.8	-	-0.3	04	1	24	0	-2.9	04	5.37	-	5 2
	11-20	12.5	-	4	4	12.8	7.8	10.3	-	5.1	19	0	59	7	2.2	19	4.50	-	6 1
	21-end	39.6	-	6	6	12.7	7.4	10.1	-	5.6	21	0	63	5	2.2	21	8.07	-	5 1
	Month	100.3	157	19	16	11.8	6.4	9.1	-2.1	-0.3	04	1	146	12	-2.9	04	5	11.6	-1.7
																	81	5	4

Notes on the tables in January issue

TABLE 2

SOLAR RADIATION (GLOBAL), POTENTIAL EVAPOTRANSPIRATION (P.E.) AND SOIL MOISTURE May, 1979

STATION	PERIOD	SOLAR RADIATION	P.E. (mm)	SOIL MOISTURE (mm)		
		Amount Joule/cm ²	Amount	Deficit	Accumulated Deficit	Surplus
Carlow (Oak Park) Co. Carlow	1-10		16	NA	0	NA
	11-20	-	15	2	2	-
	21-end		20	-	0	25
	Month		51	-	-	-
Kinsealy* Co. Dublin	1-10	14495	12	-	0	30
	11-20	15888	12	3	3	-
	21-end	20418	19	-	0	23
	Month	50801	43	-	-	-
Cahirciveen (Valentia Obsy.) Co. Kerry	1-10	14384	19	-	0	32
	11-20	14871	13	-	0	34
	21-end	23092	17	-	0	10
	Month	52347	49	-	-	-
Kilkenny Co. Kilkenny	1-10	15062				
	11-20	16506	-	-	-	-
	21-end	20097	-	-	-	-
	Month	51665	-	-	-	-
Ballinamore Co. Leitrim	1-10		14	-	0	33
	11-20	-	14	-	0	26
	21-end		17	-	0	16
	Month		45	-	-	-
Glenamoy/ Co. Mayo	1-10		8	NA	0	NA
	11-20	-	8	-	0	34
	21-end		15	-	0	19
	Month		31	-	-	-
Birr Co. Offaly	1-10	14561				
	11-20	16018	-	-	-	-
	21-end	19345	-	-	-	-
	Month	49924	-	-	-	-
Johnstown Castle Co. Wexford	1-10		20	-	0	22
	11-20	-	19	-	0	5
	21-end		16	-	0	13
	Month		55	-	-	-

*, /, See notes in January issue.