

Radcliffe Meteorological Station
 School of Geography - University of Oxford
 Monthly Summary of Weather at Oxford for *May 2020*

		Difference from long period mean
Mean air temperature (°C)	13.4	1.8
Absolute maximum air temperature (°C)	26.9 (20 th)	2.7
Lowest maximum air temperature (°C)	11.8 (11 th)	
Mean maximum air temperature (°C)	20.0	3.2*
Absolute minimum air temperature (°C)	-0.3 (12 th)	-1.8
Mean minimum air temperature (°C)	7.6	0.3
Absolute minimum grass temperature (°C)	-4.9 (12 th , 14 th)	-2.3
Mean minimum grass temperature (°C)	3.7	-1.0
Absolute minimum concrete temperature (°C)	-0.3 (12 th)	-1.9
Mean minimum concrete temperature (°C)	7.3	-0.3
Mean soil temperature at 30 cm (°C)	15.2	2.1
Mean soil temperature at 100 cm (°C)	13.2	
Highest daily rainfall (mm)	1.7 (1 st , 23 rd)	
Total rainfall (mm)	3.5	-48.1
Total bright sunshine (hours)	331.7	139.7**
Mean daily bright sunshine (hours)	10.7	
Mean wind speed (knots)	9.0	0.5
No. of rain days (0.2 mm or more rainfall)	2.0	-11.6*
No. of wet days (1.0 mm or more rainfall)	2.0	
No. of days with minimum temperature less than 0°C	1.0	0.7
No. of days with ground temperature less than 0°C	6.0	2.5
No. of days with fog at 0900 GMT	0.0	-0.1
No. of days with snow lying at 0900 GMT	0.0	0.0

Bold denotes anomalies in excess of **one** standard deviation above/below the long-term mean for May, while **bold with an asterisk (*)** denotes **two** standard deviations. **Bold with two asterisks (**)** denotes **three** standard deviations.

Notes

May 2020 was the sunniest calendar month recorded in the 140 years of sunshine data at the RMS, beating the previous record set in July 1911 by over 20 hours, also capping off the sunniest spring (March, April and May) on record. It was the driest May since 1795, with two brief showers delivering the entirety of the month's rainfall. Extraordinary weather also included the joint highest mean maximum temperature on record, though this value is subject to further analysis as the station is temporarily relying on a mercury maximum thermometer. Minimum temperatures were low for the time of year, indicating a large diurnal range.

All available reports can be found on our website (www.geog.ox.ac.uk/research/climate/rms). Please contact rms@ouce.ox.ac.uk for further information or to request data from the weather station.

Thomas Caton Harrison (22/06/2020)
Radcliffe Meteorological Observer