

**Radcliffe Meteorological Station**  
 School of Geography - University of Oxford  
 Monthly Summary of Weather at Oxford for *May 2021*

		Difference from long period mean
Mean air temperature (°C)	10.8	-0.8
Absolute maximum air temperature (°C)	23.6 (31 <sup>st</sup> )	-0.6
Lowest maximum air temperature (°C)	11.5 (1 <sup>st</sup> )	
Mean maximum air temperature (°C)	15.7	-1.2
Absolute minimum air temperature (°C)	0.9 (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	-0.6
Mean minimum air temperature (°C)	6.6	-0.7
Absolute minimum grass temperature (°C)	-3.9 (1 <sup>st</sup> )	-1.2
Mean minimum grass temperature (°C)	3.4	<b>-1.3</b>
Absolute minimum concrete temperature (°C)	1.1 (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	-0.4
Mean minimum concrete temperature (°C)	6.3	<b>-1.3</b>
Mean soil temperature at 30 cm (°C)	12.4	-0.8
Mean soil temperature at 100 cm (°C)	11.2	
Highest daily rainfall (mm)	18.5 (13 <sup>th</sup> )	
Total rainfall (mm)	94.5	<b>43.1</b>
Total bright sunshine (hours)	159.4	-33.7
Mean daily bright sunshine (hours)	5.1	
Mean wind speed (knots)	10.2	<b>1.7</b>
No. of rain days (0.2 mm or more rainfall)	22.0	<b>8.5</b>
No. of wet days (1.0 mm or more rainfall)	17.0	
No. of days with minimum temperature less than 0°C	0.0	-0.3
No. of days with ground temperature less than 0°C	6.0	2.4
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

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**Bold** denotes anomalies in excess of **one** standard deviation above/below the long-term mean for May.

May 2021 was another colder-than-average month at the RMS, continuing on the theme of unusually cold weather for this year. The mean air temperature of 10.8°C means that May 2021 was the coldest May in Oxford since 2008, while the mean maximum air temperature of 15.7°C was the coldest for a May since 1994. The month was particularly unsettled, as the influence of low pressure systems from the Atlantic took hold. The rainfall total of 94.5 mm was almost double the usual amount, lying within the top 10<sup>th</sup> percentile for May months. There were 22 rain days, which is the joint 4<sup>th</sup> most for a May on record. The month was particularly dull, with only 159.4 sunshine hours observed. Intriguingly, May 2020, which was the sunniest month on record, had over double the amount of sunshine than May 2021. This May was also particularly windy, with 10.2 knots recorded. Unfortunately, our 10 cm soil thermometer was accidentally broken this month, and observations are temporarily unavailable while we seek a replacement.

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

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**Radcliffe Meteorological Observer**