

**Radcliffe Meteorological Station**  
School of Geography - University of Oxford  
Monthly Summary of Weather at Oxford for *May 2024*.

			Difference from 1991-2020 average
<b>Temperature</b>			
Mean air temperature	°C	14.4	<b>+1.5</b>
Mean daily maximum temperature	°C	18.9	<b>+1.3</b>
Mean daily minimum temperature	°C	9.8	<b>+1.6</b>
Highest maximum temperature	°C	26.0	<b>+1.0</b>
Lowest maximum temperature	°C	12.0	<b>+0.4</b>
Highest minimum temperature	°C	13.3	<b>-0.3</b>
Lowest minimum temperature	°C	5.4	<b>+3.3*</b>
Air frosts (screen minimum < 0 °C)	days	0	<b>-0.1</b>
Mean minimum grass temperature	°C	8.0	<b>+2.8*</b>
Lowest grass minimum temperature	°C	2.9	<b>+5.0*</b>
Ground frosts (grass minimum < 0 °C)	days	0	<b>-2.8</b>
Mean concrete minimum temperature	°C	10.1	<b>+2.5*</b>
Lowest concrete minimum temperature	°C	4.9	<b>+3.5*</b>
Mean soil temperature at 30 cm at 0900 UTC	°C	15.8	<b>+1.7*</b>
Mean soil temperature at 100 cm at 0900 UTC	°C	13.6	
<b>Precipitation</b>			
Total precipitation	mm	66.6	117 %
Wettest day	mm	18.8	118 %
No. of rain days (0.2 mm or more rainfall)	days	13	<b>-0.1</b>
No. of wet days (1.0 mm or more rainfall)	days	11	<b>+1.3</b>
<b>Sunshine duration</b>			
Total bright sunshine	hours	190.2	95 %
Mean daily bright sunshine	hours	6.14	<b>-0.33</b>
Sunniest day	hours	13.8	
Mean wind speed at 0900 UTC (at 10 m)	knots	5.2	
No. of days with fog at 0900 UTC	days	0	<b>-0.10</b>
No. of days with snow lying at 0900 UTC	days	0	0.00

**Bold** denotes anomalies in excess of **one** standard deviation above/below the long-term mean, while **bold** with an asterisk (\*) denotes two standard deviations above/below, and bold with two asterisks (\*\*) denotes three standard deviations above/below. Standard deviations are not reported for counts (N. of days), lowest maximum/highest minimum temperature, wettest day and mean daily bright sunshine.

#### Notes

Popular wisdom had it that May was particularly cold and wet, so it's interesting to see that our temperature observations at the Radcliffe Meteorological station don't agree. This disparity was true nationally; many perceived the month as wet and dull while the UK actually had its warmest May on record according to provisional Met Office figures. In Oxford, May 2024 was the 2<sup>nd</sup> warmest on record with a mean air temperature of 14.38°C, which was 1.5°C and one standard deviation above the 1991-2020 average. This was a tiny margin from breaking a 176-year record; May 1848 had a mean air temperature of 14.44°C. Our observations do support consensus that May was wetter than average, but not significantly so – the month received 66.6mm of rainfall, 117% of that expected during the month. Bright sunshine hours were also less than expected for the time of year at 190.2 hours.

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Charlie Knight (15.06.2024)

**Radcliffe Meteorological Observer**