

Radcliffe Meteorological Station
School of Geography - University of Oxford
Monthly Summary of Weather at Oxford for *May 2026*.

			Difference from 1991-2020 average
Temperature			
Mean air temperature	°C	14.8	+1.9
Mean daily maximum temperature	°C	20.6	+3.0*
Mean daily minimum temperature	°C	9.0	+0.8
Highest maximum temperature	°C	33.7	+8.7***
Lowest maximum temperature	°C	13.5	+1.9
Highest minimum temperature	°C	16.4	+2.8
Lowest minimum temperature	°C	1.3	-0.8
Air frosts (screen minimum < 0 °C)	<i>days</i>	0	-0.1
Mean minimum grass temperature	°C	6.5	+1.3
Lowest grass minimum temperature	°C	-1.9	+0.2
Ground frosts (grass minimum < 0 °C)	<i>days</i>	4	+1.2
Mean concrete minimum temperature	°C	8.8	+1.2
Lowest concrete minimum temperature	°C	1.2	-0.2
Mean soil temperature at 30 cm at 0900 UTC	°C	15.4	+1.3
Mean soil temperature at 100 cm at 0900 UTC	°C	13.3	
Precipitation			
Total precipitation	<i>mm</i>	23.5	41 %
Wettest day	<i>mm</i>	6.9	43 %
No. of rain days (0.2 mm or more rainfall)	<i>days</i>	8	-5.1
No. of wet days (1.0 mm or more rainfall)	<i>days</i>	6	-3.7
Sunshine duration			
Total bright sunshine	<i>hours</i>	234.1	117 %*
Mean daily bright sunshine	<i>hours</i>	7.6	+1.1
Sunniest day	<i>hours</i>	14.1	
Mean wind speed at 0900 UTC (at 10 m)	<i>knots</i>	5.1	
No. of days with fog at 0900 UTC	<i>days</i>	0	-0.1
No. of days with snow lying at 0900 UTC	<i>days</i>	0	0.0

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, bold with two asterisks (**) denotes three standard deviations above/below and bold with three asterisks (***) denotes four 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

May was a warm month in Oxford, with the mean air temperature 1.9 °C above the 1991-2020 average. Most remarkably, the highest maximum temperature record for May was broken on two consecutive days on the 25th (33.4 °C) and 26th (33.7 °C). This resulted in a new record that is 3.1 °C higher than the previous record of 30.6 °C recorded in 1944 and again in 1947. This exceptional anomaly has led to a new symbol category in the table above, denoted by bold text and three asterisks, indicating a value four standard deviations above/below the long-term mean.

Prior to May 2026, there were only four days in the RMS's record when temperatures reached 30 °C and above in May. Remarkably, the month of May 2026 alone recorded four such days during the five-day heatwave that occurred towards the end of the month. This included the 24th of May which is the earliest day in the year that the 30 °C threshold has been exceeded. In addition to maximum temperatures, the minimum temperature of 16.4 °C recorded on the 26th of May was 0.3 °C off the record for the highest May minimum temperature. This is the second highest minimum temperature ever recorded in May with the record of 16.7 °C standing since 1945. Otherwise, the month was dry and sunny with 41 % of the expected precipitation and 117 % of the expected bright sunshine.

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.

Alice Jardine (04.06.2026)

Radcliffe Meteorological Observer