

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

			Difference from 1991-2020 average
Temperature			
Mean air temperature	°C	20.2	+2.4*
Mean daily maximum temperature	°C	26.4	+3.9*
Mean daily minimum temperature	°C	13.9	+0.9
Highest maximum temperature	°C	37.1	+8.2**
Lowest maximum temperature	°C	19.8	+2.7
Highest minimum temperature	°C	19.2	+1.8
Lowest minimum temperature	°C	9.1	+0.8
Air frosts (screen minimum < 0 °C)	days	0	0.0
Mean minimum grass temperature	°C	10.8	+0.8
Lowest grass minimum temperature	°C	4.5	+0.5
Ground frosts (grass minimum < 0 °C)	days	0	0.0
Mean concrete minimum temperature	°C	13.4	+1.1
Lowest concrete minimum temperature	°C	8.4	+1.4
Mean soil temperature at 30 cm at 0900 UTC	°C	22.4	+3.3***
Mean soil temperature at 100 cm at 0900 UTC	°C	20.8	
Precipitation			
Total precipitation	mm	37.7	63 %
Wettest day	mm	22.6	135 %
No. of rain days (0.2 mm or more rainfall)	days	7	-5.6
No. of wet days (1.0 mm or more rainfall)	days	5	-4.1
Sunshine duration			
Total bright sunshine	hours	273.7	142 %*
Mean daily bright sunshine	hours	8.8	+2.6
Sunniest day	hours	14.2	
Mean wind speed at 0900 UTC (at 10 m)	knots	4.4	
No. of days with fog at 0900 UTC	days	0	-0.3
No. of days with snow lying at 0900 UTC	days	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

August rounded off a hot and sunny summer at the RMS with the station's August maximum temperature record broken on two consecutive days. The August maximum air temperature record was broken first on the 12th (36.0 °C) and then on the 13th with 37.1 °C. The second occurrence exceeded the previous record of 35.1 °C by 2 °C. It was the third warmest August on record with a mean air temperature of 20.2 °C. Only 2022 and 1997 had higher monthly mean temperatures with 20.4 °C and 20.3 °C respectively. Similarly, it was the third sunniest August at the RMS with 273.7 hours of bright sunshine across the month. As in July, the mean soil temperature at 30 cm at 0900 UTC was remarkably four standard deviations above the 1991-2020 long-term mean.

The 2026 summer season at the RMS was the warmest and sunniest on record. The mean air temperature across June, July and August was 20.1 °C, surpassing the previous record of 19.0 °C set in 2025 and standing 2.8 °C above the 1991-2020 summer mean at the RMS. There were also 39 heatwave days (daily maximum temperature ≥ 27 °C) and 18 days when maximum temperatures equalled or exceeded 30 °C across the summer months. Put differently, 42.4 % of days were classed as heatwave days and 19.6 % of days had a maximum temperature ≥ 30 °C. There were 849.9 hours of bright sunshine recorded across the summer exceeding the previous record of 794.3 hours from 1989 by 55.6 hours.

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 (07.09.2026)

Radcliffe Meteorological Observer