

## May 2024 weather summary

### Wet, mild but duller than normal – records broken

**Rainfall:** 82.6mm (173% of normal).

May was wetter than normal and the 17<sup>th</sup> wettest in the past 123 years. It also continued the trend of wetter than normal months making it the 11<sup>th</sup> in a row. However, it was only the wettest since 2021.

The wet May places 2024 as the 5<sup>th</sup> wettest start to a year (January to May) in the last 123 years with 413.0mm, the wettest was 2014 (487.9mm). It was also the **10<sup>th</sup> wettest Spring** in 123 years. Interestingly, 4 of the top 10 wettest Springs are since the year 2000, 2000, 2001, 2023 and 2024, but 1979 retains the top spot with 379mm.

The wettest day was 20.5mm on 16<sup>th</sup>, the 4<sup>th</sup> wettest day since 1991, when 17.2mm of rainfall fell in just 1 hour, causing extensive flooding locally. The number of rain days (0.2mm or more), were 15 (2 days more than average). The number of wet days (1.0mm or more) was 14 days (5 days more than normal).

The maximum rate of rainfall was 107mm/hr on 1<sup>st</sup>. In fact, 100mm/hr was reached or exceeded on 3 days 2<sup>nd</sup>, (107mm/hr), 16<sup>th</sup> (100mm/hr) and 22<sup>nd</sup> (102mm/hr). The highest duration (0.2mm/hr or more) in a 24-hour rainfall day was 5.8 hours (09hr 6<sup>th</sup> to 09hr 7<sup>th</sup>).

The longest 'dry spell' was 6 days 7<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>.

### Temperature:

A mild month overall, with mean maxima 18.9c (+1.0c above normal) but only the mildest since 2020 on local records and the 9<sup>h</sup> mildest since 1981 (43 years), but equal with two other years.

The highest temperature recorded was 26.1c (12<sup>th</sup>), but this doesn't feature in the top 10 temperatures since 1981 or even this millennium, with the highest temperature 29.2c (27<sup>th</sup>) 2005.

The lowest maximum temperature was 13.0c (3<sup>rd</sup>) and the lowest since 2021. The lowest since 1981 was 8.5c (28<sup>th</sup> 2007).

Since 1981 (43 years) the Spring of 2024 has been the 10<sup>th</sup> mildest for mean maxima.

The **mean minima** were 9.6c (+1.8c above normal). It was the highest since at least 1981 (43 years).

The highest temperature was 13.2c (14<sup>th</sup>) and the mildest night since 2018.

There were zero nights with an air frost, (normally one night in every 3 years, the last being in 2021). The last air frost this year was on 4<sup>th</sup> March. Since 1981, the latest air frost has been on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2010, and previous to this year the earliest last frost was 20<sup>th</sup> March 1994. Therefore, 2024 has set a **record** for this period.

Since 1981 (43 years) the Spring of 2024 has been the mildest **on record** for mean minima for this period.

The **mean temperature** 14.2c (+1.4c above normal) and the mildest since 2020. It was the 5<sup>th</sup> mildest in the past 43 years.

Since 1981 (43 years) the Spring of 2024 has been the mildest **on record** for mean minima for this period (equal with 2007).

There were zero ground frosts and lowest grass minimum recorded was 1.1c (5<sup>th</sup>).

**Sunshine:** A duller May than normal with 176.5 hours (89% of normal) and the duller since 2021

However, there was 5 sunless days, the highest number since 2008 (equal with 2 other years) and 3 days higher than normal. The number of days with 10 hours or more was only 10 days, 3 higher than normal and the lower than 2023.

**Thunder;** there was 1 day with thunder heard.

**Hail;** there were zero days with hail (>6mm).

**Snow falling** was 0 days with snow falling. **Snow lying** at 0900 GMT 0 days.

**Fog;** at the 0900am observation there were zero days with fog observed. However, early morning fog was observed on 1<sup>st</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> (see photo).

**Named Storms;** There were no named storms this May.

**Wind gusts 50km/hr or more;** zero days reached this criteria,

**Aurora Borealis**

There was a fantastic display of the Aurora Borealis on the night of 10<sup>th</sup> May.



**Photo: Sunrise over Woosehill, Wokingham with low lying fog (7<sup>th</sup> May) credit to Paul Rosier**