

May 2023 weather summary

Rainfall below average, temperature slightly above normal and sunshine above average

Rainfall: 38.2mm (80% of normal).

After the wettest March in 102 years, and a slightly above normal April May continued wet for the first half of the month, but then it turned dry with a no measurable rainfall for the 2nd half of the month. This was only the 3rd time in the past 102 years that zero rainfall has been recorded during the 2nd part of May along with 2020 and 1961.

Overall, this was the 7th driest May this millennium, and the driest since 2020, which was the driest in over 102 years.

The number of rain days (0.2mm or more), were 10 (3 less than average), and the lowest since 2020. The number of wet days (1.0mm or more) was 8 days (1 less than normal), is also the lowest since 2020.

The wettest day was 12.3mm on 9th. However, the combined 8th and 9th accounted for 58% of the total for the month.

The longest period with no measurable rainfall was 17 days, from 15th May until 31st May.

The last 3 months total, covering March to May 2023 totals 229.8mm 161% of normal, and the wettest Spring since 1983 and the 6th wettest in 102 years.

The 12-month period (June 2022 to May 2023) now totals 731.6mm (105%).

Temperature:

Overall, the mean maxima was 18.5c (+ 0.6c above normal), making it the 10th mildest since 1991. The highest temperature was 23.0c (28th), making it the lowest recorded since 2015. The lowest maximum temperature was 14.2 (6th). This was the highest since 2019. However, the late Spring Bank Holiday 18.6c had the lowest temperature recorded since 2016, but not as low as 2007 when it only reached 8.5c.

There were 9 days reaching 20c or more, this was 1 day above normal, but the temperature failed to reach 25c or more only for the 6th time this millennium.

The mean minima was 8.2c (+0.4c above normal) and was the 10th mildest temperature since 1991.

The lowest minimum temperature was 3.0c (3rd) but does not enter the coldest 10 nights since 1991 as these were all air frosts. The mildest night was 12.2c (5th).

The mean temperature was 13.4c (+0.4c above normal), making it the 10th mildest in the past 32 years, but only the 7th mildest this millennium.

There were 2 ground frosts and lowest grass minimum recorded was -1.1c (3rd).

The last 3 months covering the Spring season (March, April and May), the mean maxima was 14.6c (minus 0.1c below normal), placing it in 16th position since 2000. The mean minima was 8.2c (+0.5c

above normal). This placed it in 3rd position (equal with 2007) since 2000. Therefore, the mean temperature for Spring was 10.2c placing it in 10th position (equal with 2002) since 2000.

Sunshine: 22.9 hours (116% of normal)

It was the 6th sunniest May since 1991 (32 years), but recent years 2018 and 2020 (highest total on record) were sunnier. There were 2 sunless days (which is normal), but 22 days with 5 hours or more (5 days more than normal) and 12 days with 10 hours or more (5 days above normal).

However, the first 15 days 66.6 hours were the dullest start to a May since 2012, but the 2nd half of the month was the 3rd sunniest in 32 years.

The sunniest day was 15.0 hours (27th).

Thunder; there was 1 day with thunder heard.

Hail; there were 0 day with hail (<5mm).

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

Fog; at the 0900am observation there were 0 days with fog observed.

Storms

There were no named storms during the month.

Wind gusts 50km/hr or more; no days reached this criteria,



Photo: A shower observed to the southwest of Winnersh on 11th May