

SUMMARY FOR MAY 2000.

May was a fairly average month with rainfall, sunshine and temperature all slightly above normal. The mean daily temperature of 11.8C was the lowest in 3 years though it remained 0.7C above the 30 year mean. The mean minimum at 6.9C was well down on recent years by as much as 1.3C on last year. No day was above 25C, giving a “hot” day, the maximum being to 24.8C on the 14th.

After a dry start, the month ended wet with frequent, and heavy, showers occurring on most days during the last two weeks. However, there was only one incident of thunder, with quite heavy hail reported on 2 days. Rain fell for 15 days with 11 classed as “wet” [above 1mm for the day].

Sunshine still managed to end slightly above average at 195.4 hours with 9 days having over 9 hours daily and 2 days over 12 hours daily. Again, May was not as sunny as in recent years.

Winds were predominantly ENE on 10 days and averaged 5.9 knots. No gale force gusts were recorded, the maximum being to 32 knots on the 27th during a squall. There were 3 ground frosts, slightly below normal for May [4.3], though no air frost occurred.

Radiation temperatures peaked at 58.1C on the 14th with the maximum radiation of 1.2Kw/sq metre occurring on the 28th. The total global radiation for the month ended at 7156.4Kw/sq metre making May rather an unsettled spring month.