



Monthly Weather Summary

The Weather of May 2007

Warm and sunny everywhere; drier than normal over most of the country

The exceptionally dry, warm and sunny weather of April continued into the early part of this month, but conditions became more unsettled after the first week. Rainfall totals for the month were below normal generally, however, while in common with the previous months of spring, it was sunnier and warmer than normal at all stations. Mean air temperatures for May were around half a degree above normal in parts of the midlands, but were closer to two degrees higher than normal in the southeast. It was the warmest May for between 6 and 9 years in many places. Daytime temperatures rose above 20°C in midland and western areas between the 1st and 4th, while the month's warmest weather was recorded on the 17th, when maxima of over 25°C were measured in the south; Rosslare recorded 22.3°C on this day, the highest May value at the station since it opened in 1956. In contrast, Birr recorded an unusually late air frost on the 29th of the month, while there were between 9 and 13 ground frosts observed at inland stations, twice the average number for May. Rainfall totals were between 60% and 90% of normal over most of Leinster and Munster, but totals were above normal in parts of the north and west. There were no very high daily falls, but over 50mm of rain was measured at Malin Head in the 5-day period from the 16th to the 20th. Between 10 and 17 wetdays were recorded during the month (days with 1mm or more rainfall), slightly fewer than normal for May. Sunshine totals were high at all stations and it was the sunniest May generally for 6 or 7 years. Over ten hours of daily sunshine were widely recorded in the periods 1st to 4th, 19th to 21st and 27th to 29th.

1st to 5th: An anticyclone centred north of Ireland brought dry and settled conditions. It became very warm in western areas, but light easterly winds kept eastern counties cooler. Little or no cloud over Ireland gave almost unbroken sunshine by day, but nights were cool with some ground frost. Cloudier weather with light rain spread into northern areas late in the period.

6th to 20th: As the anticyclone moved away eastwards, frontal systems associated with Atlantic depressions crossed over Ireland, bringing spells of rain or showers each day. Most rain was recorded in the north and west of the country, especially on the 7th and in the period 16th to 20th. There were also isolated heavy showers on a number of days, some of which were accompanied by thunder. A deep depression moving north of Ireland on the 18th and 19th brought a spell of very strong southwesterly winds, with gale gusts in all areas.

21st to 25th: A ridge of high pressure extended over Ireland from an anticyclone to the southwest. Apart from some showers near western and northern coasts, this period was dry. After very sunny conditions on the 21st, subsequent days were generally cloudy but mild. Winds were light southwest to westerly.

26th to 31st: Low pressure was again the dominant influence, bringing rain or showers each day; some of these showers were thundery with hail. Although generally sunny, this period was cool with widespread ground frost.

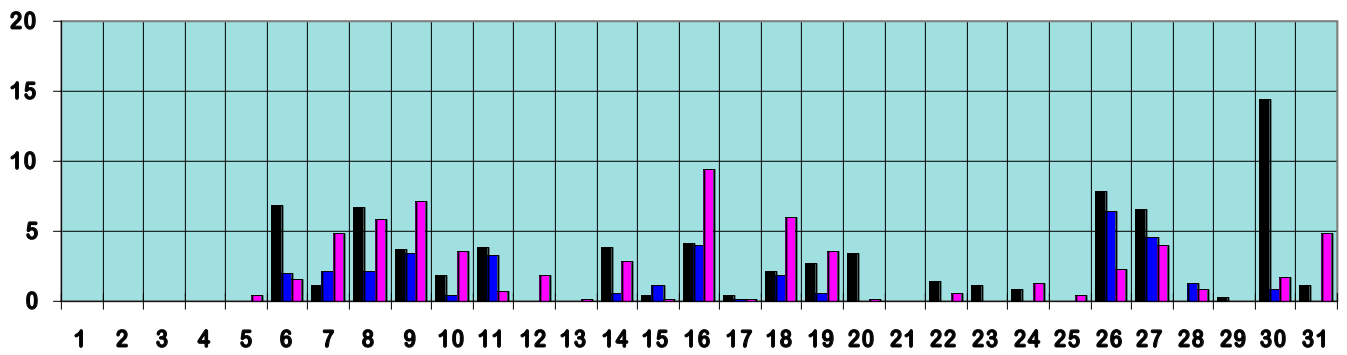
Wind and elements: Mean windspeeds for the month of between 7 and 12 knots generally (*13 and 22 km/hour*) were close to normal for May. The strongest winds of the month were recorded in the periods 6th to 10th and 18th to 19th, with the highest gust of 57 knots (*105 km/hour*) recorded at Belmullet on the 18th. Thunder was recorded on the 14th, 18th and 28th, while hail showers were observed on the 18th and between the 25th and 28th. Fog was mostly confined to the periods 3rd to 5th, 16th to 18th and 25th to 27th.

Extreme values

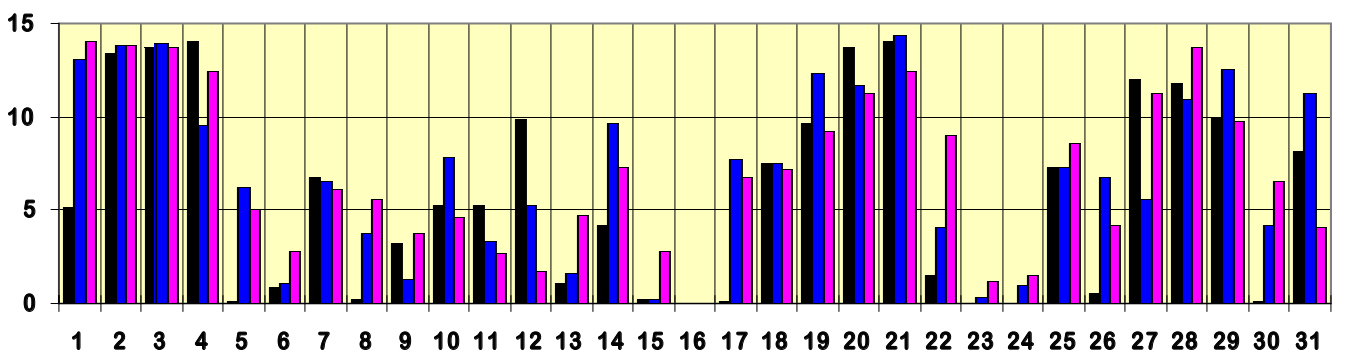
Rainfall	Highest total: 110mm at Knock Airport Lowest total: 35mm at Dublin Airport (<i>its driest May since 1998</i>) Highest daily rainfall: 19mm at Knock Airport on 16th
Temperature	Highest mean monthly temperature: 12.2°C at Rosslare (<i>its warmest May since 1998</i>) Lowest mean monthly temperature: 10.1°C at Knock Airport Highest temperature: 23.5°C at Cork Airport on 17th (<i>its highest May temperature since 1991</i>) Lowest air temperature: -0.4°C at Birr on 29th Lowest grass minimum temperature: -7.0°C at Birr on 29th
Sunshine	Highest monthly total: 251 hours at Malin Head Lowest monthly total: 180 hours at Valentia Observatory Highest daily sunshine: 15.2 hours at Casement Aerodrome on 29th (<i>its highest daily value for May since 1985</i>)

May 2007 Daily values at selected synoptic stations

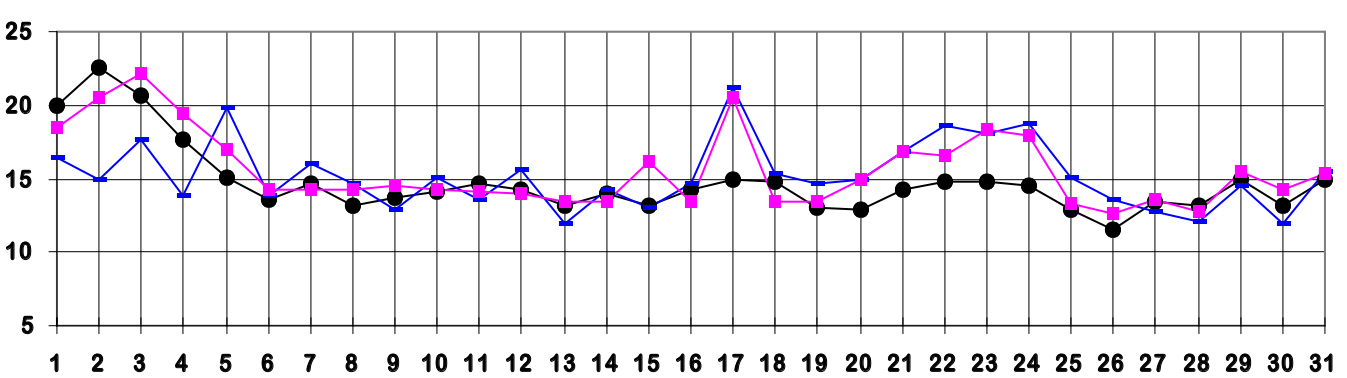
Rainfall (mm)



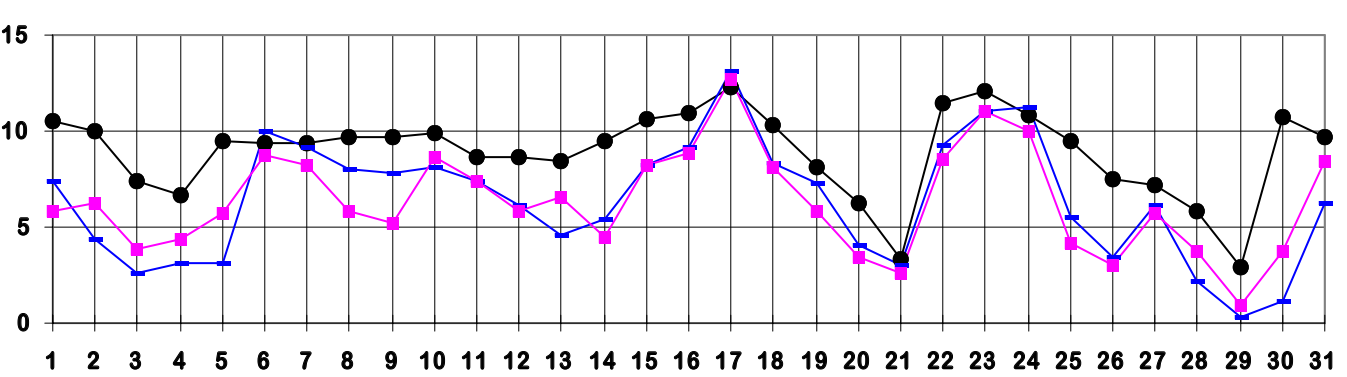
Sunshine (hours)



Maximum temperature (°C)



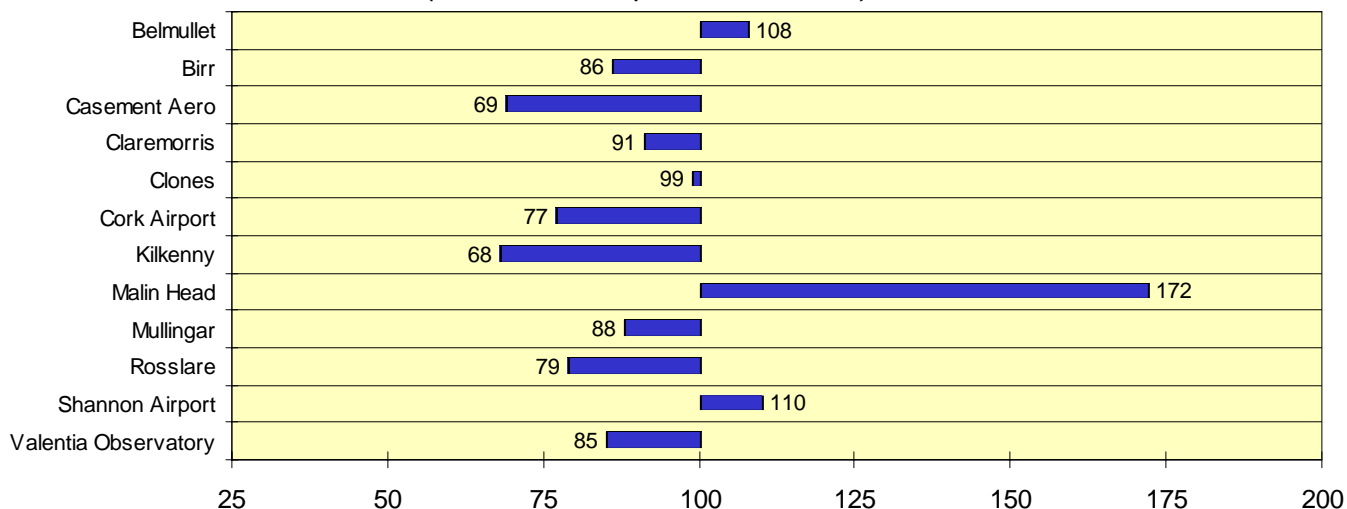
Minimum temperature (°C)



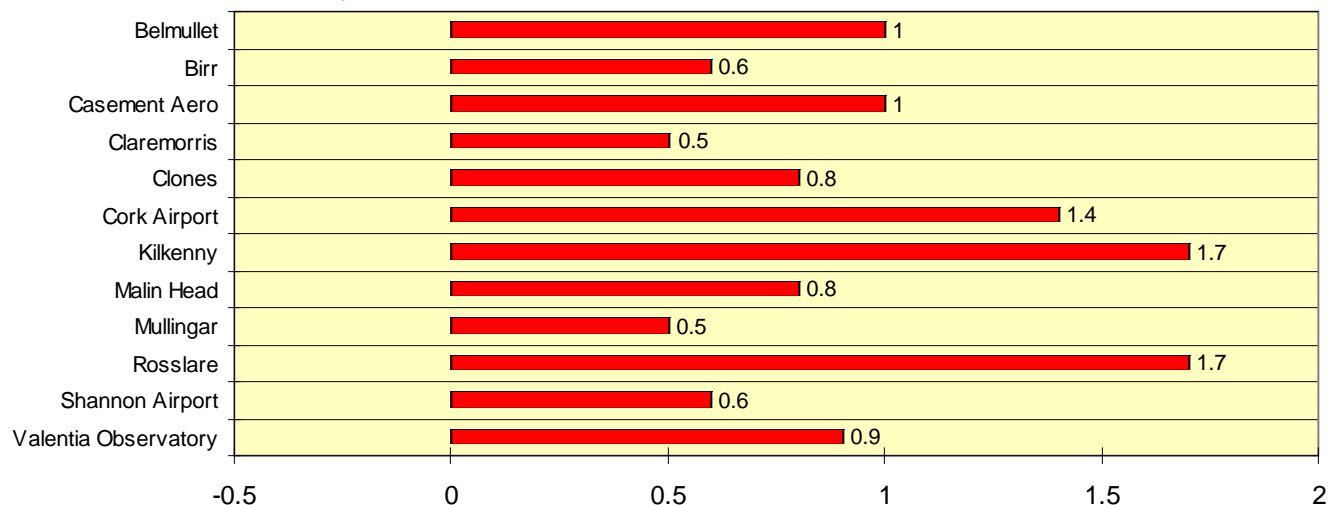
● Valentia Observatory - Dublin Airport ■ Clones

May 2007 Percentage / Difference from 1961-90 monthly normals

Rainfall (% of normal for period 1961-1990)



Temperature (°C difference from normal for period 1961-1990)



Sunshine (% of normal for period 1961-1990)

