

Coldest April since 1922

April 1986 was the coldest since the foundation of the state in 1922. Although the month ended on a fairly warm and sunny note, during the month temperatures were more like a typical late February or early March than an average April. The problem was that winds from the north, northwest and northeast were more frequent than usual for this time of year and kept both daytime and nighttime temperatures well below normal. These northerly winds also made the northern half of the country a much wetter place during April than the southern half.

No warmer than March

April temperatures were pretty similar to those in March but bear in mind that March temperatures were well below average everywhere and you can see just how bad April was. Average temperatures for the month ranged from 1.7 C to 2.6 C below normal. At Roche's Point in Co. Cork the average for the month was only 6.4 C, making it the coldest April there in more than 120 years. Kilkenny had the highest temperature with 14.5 C on the 25th, while Birr in Co. Offaly had the lowest, -3.3 C on the 11th.

North gets most rain

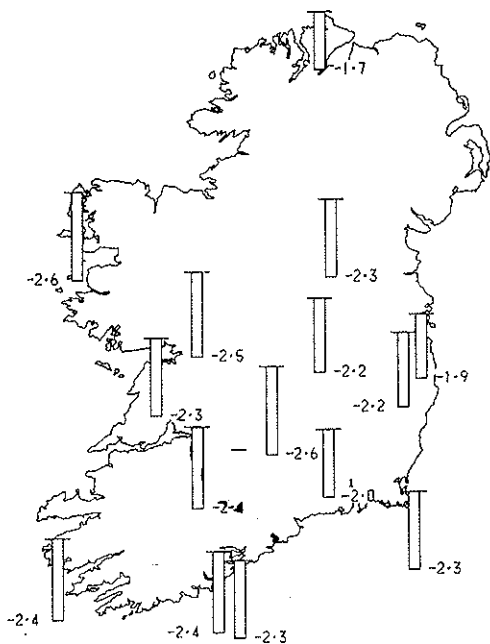
Everywhere north of a line from Dublin to Galway had above average rainfall. Aldergrove Airport outside Belfast reported two and a half times its normal. Clones had its wettest April in 20 years. The south did rather better with Cork Airport recording only about half its April average. The rest of the country was fairly near to normal.

Fairly sunny month

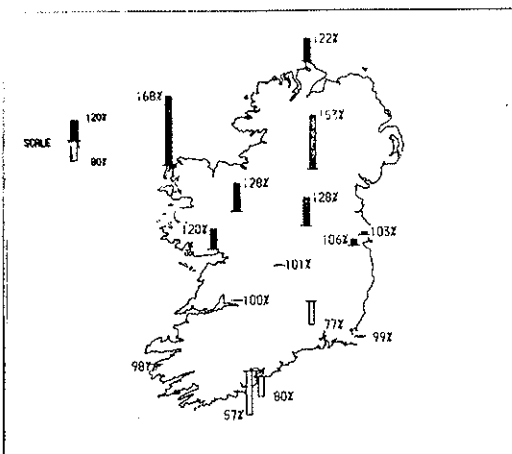
Most places got a bit more sunshine than is usual for April. Cahirciveen in Kerry was the sunniest with an average of more than 6 hours a day, which is 20% up on normal. Casement Aerodrome near Dublin got only 91% of its normal April sunshine, and generally the east didn't do as well as the rest of the country.

Still some snow around

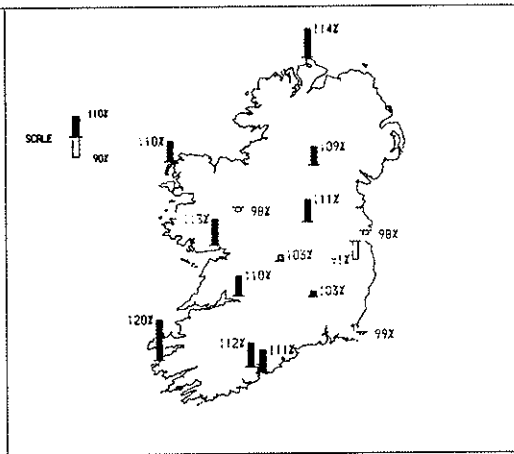
Hail showers were fairly frequent while snow and sleet fell on a number of days during the first half of the month. There were some thunderstorms on the 22nd.



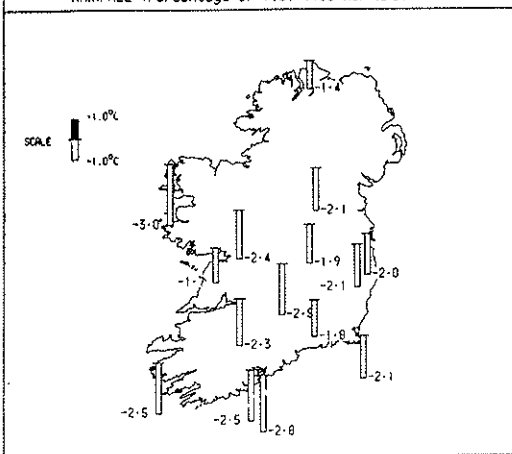
This map shows the extent to which mean temperatures in April fell short of the long-term averages.



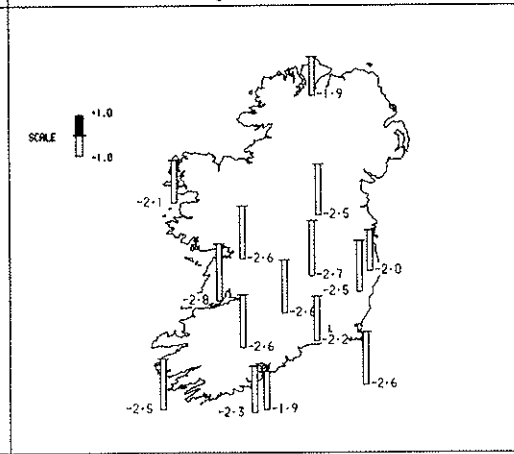
RAINFALL (Percentage of 1951-1980 normals)



SUNSHINE (Percentage of 1951-1980 normals)



MEAN MAX. TEMPERATURE (Deviation From 1951-1980 normals)



MEAN MIN. TEMPERATURE (Deviation From 1951-1980 normals)

APRIL MAY 1986

Station	Rainfall				Air Temperature						Sunshine Duration				
	Total	Raindays*	Most in a Day Amount	Most in a Day Date(s)	Means of		Extreme Temperature		Total	Daily Mean	Most in a Day Amount	Most in a Day Date(s)			
					Max	Min	Mean	Highest	Date(s)	Lowest	Date(s)				
Belmullet	71.1	12	13.5	9	12.0	6.6	9.3	15.0	6	4.3	4	39.3	3.28	11.4	8
Birr	54.6	10	12.1	3	12.6	7.0	9.8	16.8	9	3.2	4	29.8	2.48	11.7	1
Cahirivaon	92.1	11	17.6	1	12.0	7.1	9.6	14.5	8	3.4	4	38.3	3.19	8.6	8
Casement	27.1	9	8.0	3	14.0	6.9	10.5	18.4	9	2.9	4	49.9	4.16	13.7	1
Claremorris	68.3	10	15.7	3	12.5	6.1	9.3	15.5	1	3.2	4	26.9	2.24	8.4	1
Clones	29.2	9	7.7	3	13.3	6.8	10.1	15.9	1	4.0	4	42.5	3.54	12.6	1
Cork Airport	68.2	11	19.1	2	11.2	6.6	8.9	13.3	8	4.0	2	34.2	2.85	10.5	8
Dublin Airport	25.5	10	10.1	3	13.4	7.1	10.3	17.6	9	4.6	4	47.0	3.92	13.9	1
Galway	82.1	10	20.9	3	12.4	7.0	9.7	15.2	1	4.1	4	38.6	3.22	10.4	1
Kilkenny	46.7	11	8.7	5	13.1	6.8	10.0	16.8	9	3.7	2	26.8	2.23	11.4	1
Malin Head	36.3	9	7.6	9	12.2	7.6	9.9	17.2	1	5.5	4	48.9	4.08	13.3	1
Mullingar	52.1	11	15.2	3	12.6	6.4	9.5	16.5	9	3.6	4	40.2	3.35	12.8	1
Roche's Point	50.2	11	12.4	2	11.4	7.4	9.4	12.8	8, 10	5.9	2	53.3	4.44	10.3	8
Rosslare	23.4	9	5.7	9	11.6	7.8	9.7	13.2	10	6.5	4, 5	60.4	5.03	10.6	8
Shannon Airport	62.0	12	24.2	2	12.8	7.7	10.3	15.6	8, 9	4.5	4	34.1	2.84	9.0	1, 8

* * days with 0.2mm or more

NOTES: Rainfall in millimetres, Temperatures in Degrees Celsius, and Sunshine Duration in Hours