

THE WEATHER OF AUTUMN 2011

THE WEATHER OF SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER

WARM AND DULL; WET IN MOST PLACES

All mean air temperatures for Autumn were above normal with all three months of the season recorded higher than normal temperatures, with November having the greatest differences above average. Most stations in the east and midlands reported Autumn 2011 as the warmest on record, with Phoenix Park, Co. Dublin reporting an Autumnal mean temperature of 12.3°C, its warmest in over 150 years. Mean air temperature differences in the south and southwest were less, but it was still the warmest in a number of years with Shannon Airport and Sherkin Island recording their warmest Autumns since 2001 (10 years).

Most of the highest maximum air temperatures for Autumn were recorded during September, with most stations measuring seasonal maximums on the 9th and 28th. The highest temperature during Autumn was recorded at Phoenix Park with 25.7°C on September 28th, the highest temperature recorded at a synoptic station in 2011 and the highest Autumn temperature recorded at the site since Autumn 1929 (82 years). The majority of lowest minimum air temperatures for Autumn were recorded during November, with some stations in the western half of Ireland reporting their highest ever autumnal minimum temperatures. Belmullet and Valentia Observatory reported minimum temperatures of 4.0°C and 2.9°C, the highest minimum temperatures recorded during the Autumn months since 1956 (55 years) and 1939 (72 years), respectively.

Rainfall totals for Autumn were above normal in most parts, except for some stations in the south and southeast. Above average rainfall was experienced almost everywhere during September, with below normal rainfall in a few eastern, southern and coastal locations in October and November. Dublin Airport reported its wettest Autumn since 2002 (9 years) and Belmullet reported its wettest autumn since 2006 (5 years) with 139% of its long-term average. The highest daily fall of the season was 106.6mm at Delphi Lodge II, the areas highest daily fall during Autumn, since records began in 1994 (17 years). Even though totals were below normal in some parts, the number of wetdays (*days with 1 mm or more*) recorded across the country was above average for Autumn.

Sunshine totals for Autumn were below normal, with November being the only month to record above average sunshine for the time of year. All stations reported the dullest Autumn in a number of years, with Cork Airport and Valentia Observatory recording their dullest Autumns since sunshine records began in 1962 (49 years) and 1893 (118 years), respectively. Dublin Airport received the highest total sunshine for the season, recording over 280 hours of sunshine and 95% of its long-term average, but it was still the dullest Autumn since 1993 (18 years).

Mean windspeeds for the season were mostly above average, with Dublin Airport reporting the highest mean windspeed for Autumn since 1943 (68 years). The highest gust of the season was at Malin Head with 66

County/ Station	RAINFALL (mm)			TEMPERATURE (°C)				SUNSHINE (HOURS)			NO. OF DAYS WITH:						
	Total	% of average	Most in a day amount	date(s)	Mean	diff. from average	Extremes Highest Lowest	Daily mean	% of average	Most in a day amount	date(s)	Rain	Snow	Air frost	Hail	Thunder	Fog
CO. CARLOW																	
Oak Park	277.0	123	46.5	30 Sep	11.9	2.0	21.1 -2.1					59	0	3	0	0	15
CO. CAVAN																	
Ballyhaise	410.6	156	23.8	29 Nov	10.8		20.8 -1.4					73	0	2	0	0	12
CO. CLARE																	
Shannon Airport	280.3	103	28.0	29 Nov	12.3	1.5	21.4 1.3	2.28	82	8.1	19 Oct	66	0	0	3	0	6 26
CO. CORK																	
Cork Airport	355.7	107	32.9	17 Nov	11.3	1.0	20.1 2.6	2.23	74	8.8	18 Oct	72	0	0	0	1	32 24
Roche's Point	253.8	95	21.4	23 Oct	12.3	1.2	19.5 2.5					61	0	0	0	0	0 30
CO. DONEGAL																	
Malin Head	412.4	123	22.4	17 Oct	11.7	1.4	23.4 2.5					69	0	0	0	0	0 54
CO. DUBLIN																	
Dublin Airport	283.2		69.1	24 Oct	12.0		24.1 -2.0	3.09	95	10.4	28 Sep	49	0	2	0	1	5 29
Casement Aerodrome	297.0	153	82.2	24 Oct	12.1	2.1	24.4 -1.3	3.01	97	10.6	28 Sep	45	0	2	1	0	4 31
CO. KERRY																	
Valentia Observatory	651.1	152	54.9	22 Oct	12.7	1.5	19.0 2.9	1.90	73	7.0	19 Oct	79	0	0	2	1	5 34
CO. MAYO																	
Belmullet	511.5	139	23.0	17 Oct	11.9	1.5	20.1 4.0	2.31	88	8.6	7 Nov	80	0	0	5	0	1 56
Knock Airport	538.5		32.7	17 Oct	10.1		20.6 1.8	1.74	63	8.1	5 Nov	82	0	0	3	0	28 33
CO. TIPPERARY																	
Gurteen	294.3	85	18.1	29 Nov	11.6		20.6 0.4					68	0	0	0	0	0 18
CO. WESTMEATH																	
Mullingar	357.9	134	19.2	29 Nov	11.2	1.9	22.2 -2.3					71	0	4	0	0	0 7
CO. WEXFORD																	
Johnstown Castle	261.2	86	22.4	24 Oct	12.2	1.8	19.2 3.0					62	0	0	0	0	0 22