

The Weather of March, April and May

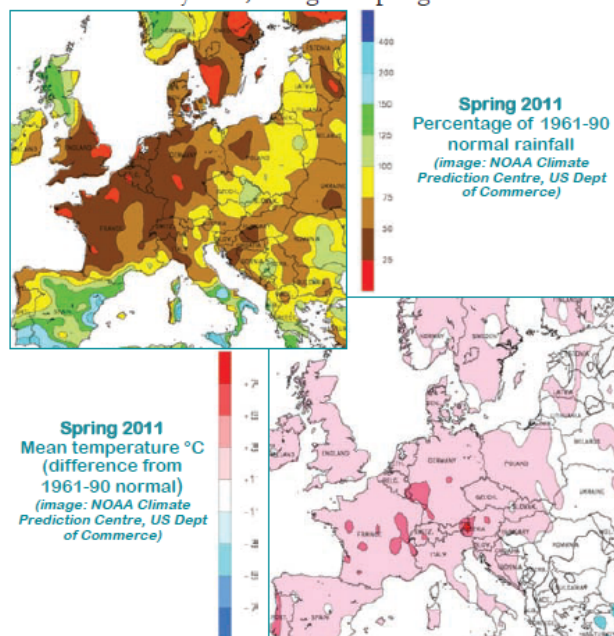
SUNNY AND DRY, WARMER THAN AVERAGE EVERYWHERE

Mean air temperatures were above normal for the season, by between one and two degrees across the country. Periods of high pressure dominated during the three-month period, bringing the warmest spring on record since 1997 to the west of the country, while Casement Aerodrome had its warmest spring since records began there in 1964. Overall, the mean temperature values for spring were between 8.9°C and 10.6°C. Unusually for spring, the highest daily values at most stations were measured during April, with the highest spring temperature of 22.7°C recorded at Shannon Airport on the 21st of that month. All minimum temperatures for spring were recorded during March, with the lowest air temperature of -5.4°C recorded at Dublin Airport on March 3rd. There was an above normal number of ground frosts recorded during the season, with a total of between 10 and 36 at most stations, the vast majority of which were recorded in March.

Rainfall totals for spring were below normal almost everywhere, with the exception of stations near the Atlantic coast. Dry weather dominated during March and April, but May was a wet month except in the east and southeast. Dublin Airport had its driest spring since 1990, recording only 84.8mm of rainfall during the three-month period. The heaviest daily falls during the season were measured in the south during the first week of May, with Valentia Observatory recording the highest daily fall of 43.6mm on May 7th, its highest daily fall for spring since 2005. Between 24 and 49 wetdays were recorded during the three-month period, with a slightly above average number of wetdays in the south and west, whilst the number of wetdays over the remainder of the country was below average.

Sunshine totals for the season were above normal everywhere. The highest daily value for spring measured at a synoptic station was recorded at Belmullet on May 2nd, with 14.2 hours of sunshine. With sunnier than average spring seasons over the past few years, however, 2011 was the dullest spring in over five years in Belmullet in the west of the country.

Mean windspeeds for spring were about average for the season. Spells of windy weather during the three-month period brought gusts of over 40 knots in most areas, but the highest mean windspeeds were measured in May. The highest gust, 78 knots (144 km/h), was measured at Belmullet on May 23rd, its highest spring value since 1986.



County/ Station	RAINFALL (mm)			TEMPERATURE (°C)			SUNSHINE			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	86.7	53	7.4 6 May	9.8	+1.5	21.6 -3.6				41	13				7
CO. CAVAN															
Ballyhaise	156.7	77	15.1 11 Mar	9.4		20.1 -4.0				55	11				5
CO. CLARE															
Shannon Airport	169.8	95	15.3 21 May	10.3	+1.2	22.7 -2.8	5.36	110	13.4 29 Apr	52	1	8	1	0	9 10
CO. CORK															
Cork Airport	197.7	76	33.8 2 May	9.5	+1.3	18.2 -1.0	5.25	105	13.8 29 Apr	43	1	1	0	0	23 14
Roche's Point	148.9	76	28.4 2 May	10.0	+1.1	17.4 0.5				43		0			18
CO. DONEGAL															
Malin Head	225.4	110	13.8 6 Apr	9.7	+1.6	20.8 0.4				60					39
CO. DUBLIN															
Dublin Airport	84.8		12.6 2 Apr	9.4		20.3 -5.4	6.05	119	13.9 28 Apr	45	0	14	3	1	5 17
Casement	96.5	63	13.1 7 May	9.8	+1.9	21.8 -4.9	5.98	123	13.8 28 Apr	45	0	9	5	2	1 18
CO. KERRY															
Valentia Observatory	292.3	105	43.6 7 May	10.6	+1.5	22.5 -1.9	4.87	100	12.5 18 Apr	61	0	2	2	0	5 18
CO. MAYO															
Belmullet	272.9	132	17.9 1 Apr	10.5	+1.7	20.6 1.3	5.39	106	14.2 2 May	60	4	0	8	1	3 35
Knock Airport	237.8		20.9 1 Apr	8.9		19.7 -1.0	4.81		13.8 2 May	53	4	5	7	0	13 21
CO. TIPPERARY															
Gurteen	150.2		11.6 9 May	9.3		20.9 -4.6				48		12			11
CO. WESTMEATH															
Mullingar	138.7	67	11.8 11 Mar	9.3	+1.2	20.6 -4.7				54		12			4
CO. WEXFORD															
Johnstown Castle	98.1	47	13.9 13 Apr	9.8	+1.6	18.1 -1.5				40		2			3