

**MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW - ARMIDALE NSW
MAY 2011**

May 2011 was a cool and cloudy month with good falls of rain.

The rainfall total of 60.2 millimetres was 17 mm higher than the average with most of it falling in the last third of the month. The highest daily fall was 32.2 mm on the 23rd.

Temperatures were unusually low with maximums averaging at their lowest since 1983.

There was a greater incidence of frosts than normal with temperatures dropping to -4.0 degrees or lower degrees on five mornings.

Prevailing winds were light to moderate west to south-westerlies.

Notable events:

9th - A brief shower of hail at 3.40pm with small hailstones partly whitened the ground for a few minutes. The hail was caused by a trough moving through the region which brought widespread showers to the Northern Tablelands.

12th - A severe cold front passed through overnight on the 11th/12th bringing gusty winds and drizzle. There was no snow in Armidale, but there were a few flakes in some of the higher areas of the Northern Tablelands around Black Mountain, Ebor, and the area south of Walcha. Strong south-westerly winds on the 12th kept wind chill temperatures uncomfortably low with a maximum of just 10.6C.

15th - The minimum of -7.2C was the lowest for May since 30th May 2006 (-7.8C). This was caused by cold dry air from the south following a cold front which passed through on the 14th, and clear skies overnight. Frosty mornings continued on the 16th (-5.6C), 17th (-7.0C) and 18th (-4.6C).

23rd - A cold front passed through early in the morning with thunderstorms and moderate to heavy rain. 32.2 mm fell at the city weather station between 4am and 9am, and 45.8 mm at the airport. Minor flooding occurred in Dumaresq Creek.

25th - Very cold south-westerly winds following the front on the 23rd produced a very wintry overcast and drizzle day with a maximum of just 8.3C. This was the lowest for May since 29th & 30th May 2000 (6.5C both days). An even lower maximum of 8.0C was recorded on the 30th during a day of rain.

MAY STATISTICS (long term averages in brackets):

Rainfall: 60.2 mm (43.3 mm)

Rain days: 10 (8)

2011 rainfall total Jan to May: 376.2 mm (344.7 mm)

Average maximum temp: 15.1 deg (16.3 deg)

Average minimum temp: 0.6 deg (3.2 deg)

Highest maximum temp: 20.2 deg on the 22nd

Lowest maximum temp: 8.0 deg on the 30th

Highest minimum temp: 8.9 deg on the 4th

Lowest minimum temp: -7.2 deg on the 15th

Fine sunny days: 12 (15)

Ideal weather days: 2 (4)

Days with thunderstorms: 1 (1)

Days with frosts: 18 (13) light: 6, moderate: 8, severe: 4

Days with fogs: 5 (5) early morning: 4, evening: 1

Wind direction at 3pm & number of days: SW: 9, W: 7, E: 6, SE: 5, S: 2, NW: 1, NE: 1

Average daily evaporation: 1.4 mm (1.6 mm)

Thunderstorm details:

23rd: 4.30-6.00am - slight storms