

May 2026/Spring Weather Summary

Temperature Overview

While the past two months have been very warm, May 2026 came in right around average with no notable records or top-10 performances. Most long-term climate sites and select COOP sites were within +/- 1 degree of the climatological average temperature for the month. While there was one well above normal stretch from May 17-20th, multiple episodes of cold-air damming set-ups and frontal passages lead to either near or below normal temperatures for a good portion of the month. This balanced out the warmer than average stretch to lead to the overall near normal averages. While no record highs were set during the month, a few record high minimums were set or tied at Richmond (tied 71° on the 19th) and at Salisbury (tied 70° on the 19th, set 71° on the 20th).

Despite May being right around average in terms of temperatures, Spring (March-April-May) 2026 came in at well above normal due to the very warm March and April we experienced. All of the long-term climate sites ranked in the top 10 warmest springs on record, with rankings as follows: Richmond (3rd), Norfolk (4th), Salisbury (5th), Elizabeth City (4th). The COOP stations at Ashland and Williamsburg recorded their 2nd warmest Spring on record, and Edenton, NC was the warmest on record. Most locations recorded Spring departures of 2-4°, with Ashland and Wakefield being more than 4° warmer than normal.

May 2026/Spring Weather Summary

Precipitation Overview

May was much more fruitful in terms of rainfall, and all long-term climate sites saw an average precipitation departure of +/- 0.35", with only Salisbury seeing a much larger negative departure of 1.81" below normal rainfall for the month. All sites saw an average number of days of precipitation of both 0.01" and 0.10" or rainfall. A few of the climate and COOP sites across far SE VA and NE NC received their highest rainfall accumulation on May 7th as a slow moving cold front brought a few thunderstorms to the area. Norfolk set their daily precipitation rainfall record this day with a rainfall total of 1.47". The remainder of the sites saw their highest rainfall total days between May 25-27th as an unsettled weather pattern persisted across the area. With precipitable water values nearing or exceeding 2" and an unstable airmass in place, storms were able to develop across the area, bringing much needed rainfall to the area. A COOP site in Williamsburg recorded an impressive 3.21" of rainfall on the 25th. The bullseye for heaviest rainfall was actually just to the north of this area, where some places measure 4-6" of rainfall.

As with temperatures, May saw a deviation from the rest of spring in regard to monthly rainfall totals. Overall spring total precipitation was well below normal, with all long-term climate sites measuring at least 3" below normal for the season. The Eastern Shore climate sites saw rainfall deficits measuring between approximately 5.5-6" below normal, and at the Wakefield station, just 5.46" was recorded for the entire Spring, which is more than 6" below average (and less than 50% of normal). This large rainfall deficit has led to a widespread drought across the region.

The following table on page 3 shows detailed temperature and precipitation statistics for May 2026 at many locations within the Wakefield CWA. The table on page 4 shows the detailed temperature and precipitation statistics for Spring 2026. On page 5 and 6, daily average temperature departures are shown at Richmond (5) and Norfolk (6), followed by monthly precipitation maps (page 7), with daily records set during the month at our 4 main long-term sites on the last page.

Tabular Summary of Data for Selected Climate Sites (May):

May 2026 Temperature Summary Data <small>* also on other dates All Normals are 1991-2020</small>																		
Site	Avg Max		Avg Min		Avg Temp		Daily Highs					Daily Mins					Remarks	
	(°F)		(°F)		(°F)		Warmest (°F)			Coldest (°F)		Warmest (°F)			Coldest (°F)			
	Actual	Dep	Actual	Dep	Actual	Dep	Actual	Date	Dep	Actual	Date	Dep	Actual	Date	Dep	Actual		Date
Richmond	78.1	0.3	54.7	-1.0	66.4	-0.3	96	*20th	4	61	23rd	1	71	19th	2	41	*12th	-1
Norfolk	76.5	-0.9	58.6	-0.5	67.6	-0.7	94	*20th	2	59	2nd	0	71	*26th	0	49	12th	2
Salisbury	74.6	0.2	52.8	-0.4	63.7	-0.1	94	*20th	4	58	23rd	1	71	20th	4	37	12th	0
Wallops Island	72.9	0.2	54.7	-0.8	63.8	-0.3	92	18th	4	60	*23rd	2	65	*27th	-2	40	*12th	-2
Elizabeth City	77.8	-0.2	57.4	-1.0	67.6	-0.6	92	18th	1	57	2nd	-5	73	26th	2	41	12th	-3
Ashland, VA	78.8	2.3	54.8	0.1	66.8	1.2	96	19th	7	59	23rd	0	71	27th	3	38	1st	-1
Cape Charles, VA	72.9	0.5	56.7	-0.8	64.8	-0.1	90	20th	4	58	2nd	0	71	*20th	1	40	11th	-4
Louisa, VA	78.6	2.6	51.8	-0.2	65.2	1.2	97	19th	7	57	23rd	-3	68	27th	2	36	*8th	2
Wakefield, VA	79.4	0.8	53.4	-1.3	66.4	-0.2	97	*20th	6	60	2nd	0	72	26th	4	36	12th	-3
Williamsburg, VA	77.8	0.6	55.9	-1.1	66.9	-0.2	96	*20th	5	60	2nd	-1	71	20th	2	42	12th	0
Edenton, NC	79.3	0.0	59.5	0.1	69.4	0.0	91	*20th	1	59	2nd	-5	74	27th	4	44	12th	0

May 2026 Precipitation <small>* also on other dates All Normals are 1991-2020</small>														
Site	Total Pre	# Pre Days	# Pre Days	Greatest	Total Snow	# Snow Days	# Snow Days	Greatest		Remarks				
	(in.)	(≥0.01")	(≥0.10")	(in.)	(in.)	(≥0.1")	(≥1.0")	(in.)	(in.)					
	Actual	Dep	Actual	Dep	Act	Date	Act	Dep	Act		Dep	Daily	Date	Storm
Richmond	3.97	-0.03	12	1	8	1	1.03	25th						
Norfolk	4.08	0.30	10	-1	5	-2	1.47	7th						
Salisbury	1.92	-1.81	12	0	5	-2	0.59	25th						
Wallops Island	2.86	-0.34	10	-1	5	-1	1.28	25th						
Elizabeth City	3.93	0.25	11	0	9	2	0.87	27th						
Ashland, VA	3.34	-0.90	11	1	7	0	1.09	25th						
Cape Charles, VA	3.66	0.19	10	-2	7	1	1.81	25th						
Louisa, VA	3.58	-0.39	9	-3	7	-1	1.56	22nd						
Wakefield, VA	2.41	-1.74	11	0	5	-2	0.68	26th						
Williamsburg, VA	5.57	1.68	12	1	8	1	3.21	25th						
Edenton, NC	2.32	-1.40	8	-1	7	0	0.52	7th						

* **“Dep”= Departure** from the 30-year normals (1991-2020). Temperature departures are shaded orange for 1 F or more warmer than average (dark red for 4 F or greater anomalies) and blue for 1 F or more cooler than average (dark blue for 4 F or more below normal). Similarly, precipitation departures are shaded green for 0.50” or more wetter than average (dark green for 2.00” or more) and tan for 0.50” or more drier than average (dark brown for 2.00” or more drier). Snowfall departures are shaded purple for 1” or more above average and tan for 1” or more below average. *****Rankings in Remark section are included for Co-op sites where a complete period of record is of sufficient duration.**
N/A in Remarks section indicates sites with a shorter period of record, leading to rankings being of less significance

Tabular Summary of Data for Selected Climate Sites (Spring 2026):

Spring (Mar-Apr-May) 2026 Temperature Summary Data															* also on other dates		All Normals are 1991-2020		
Site	Avg Max		Avg Min		Avg Temp		Daily Highs			Daily Mins			Remarks						
	(°F)		(°F)		(°F)		Warmest (°F)		Coldest (°F)		Warmest (°F)			Coldest (°F)					
	Actual	Dep	Actual	Dep	Actual	Dep	Actual	Date	Dep	Actual	Date	Dep		Actual	Date	Dep			
Richmond	74.6	5.3	48.4	1.9	61.5	3.7	96	*5/20	4	44	3/2	5	71	5/19	2	27	3/18	5	3rd Warmest
Norfolk	72.7	3.5	52.5	2.3	62.6	2.9	94	*5/20	2	40	3/18	0	71	*5/26	0	32	3/13	5	4th Warmest
Salisbury	69.5	4.2	45.6	1.4	57.5	2.8	94	*5/20	4	40	3/2	4	71	5/20	4	24	3/3	5	5th Warmest
Wallops Island	67.1	3.3	47.7	1.6	57.4	2.4	92	5/18	4	39	3/18	2	65	5/27	-2	28	3/13	6	***7th Warmest***
Elizabeth City	74.1	4.1	51.9	2.5	63.0	3.3	92	5/18	1	44	3/18	1	73	5/26	2	30	3/29	5	4th Warmest
Ashland, VA	74.7	5.5	48.9	3.7	61.8	4.6	96	5/19	7	43	3/3	4	71	5/27	3	25	3/18	6	***2nd Warmest***
Cape Charles, VA	68.3	4.3	50.8	2.9	59.5	3.6	90	5/20	3	40	3/18	2	71	5/20	0	29	3/13	4	N/A
Wakefield, VA	76.0	5.6	48.0	2.8	62.0	4.2	97	*5/20	6	44	3/2	4	72	5/26	4	26	3/29	7	N/A
Williamsburg, VA	73.7	4.7	50.0	2.3	61.9	3.5	96	*5/20	5	43	3/2	2	71	5/20	2	30	3/29	7	***2nd Warmest***
Edenton, NC	75.3	3.8	53.4	2.9	64.4	3.4	91	*5/20	1	45	3/18	1	74	5/27	4	30	3/18	4	*** #1 Warmest ***

Spring (Mar-Apr-May) 2026 Precipitation Summary Data															* also on other dates		All Normals are 1991-2020		
Site	Total Pre		# Pre Days		# Pre Days		Greatest		Total Snow		# Snow Days		# Snow Days		Greatest		Remarks		
	(in.)		(≥0.01")		(≥0.10")		(in.)		(in.)		(≥0.1")		(≥1.0")		(in.)				
	Actual	Dep	Actual	Dep	Actual	Dep	Act	Date	Act	Dep	Act	Dep	Act	Dep	Daily	Date		Storm	Date
Richmond	6.66	-4.52	27	-5	16	-4	1.03	5/25	2.0	0.9	1		1		2.0	3/12	2.0	3/12	9th Driest
Norfolk	6.86	-3.98	24	-8	11	-9	1.47	5/7	T						T	3/12	T	3/12	
Salisbury	5.31	-6.01	28	-6	11	-10	0.93	4/5	0.5	-0.5	1				0.5	3/12	0.5	3/12	2nd Driest
Wallops Island	4.79	-5.44	24	-8	11	-8	1.28	5/25	0.2	-0.5	1				0.2	3/12		3/12	***3rd Driest***
Elizabeth City	7.46	-2.97	26	-5	16	-4	0.94	4/5	0.0	N/A									
Ashland, VA	5.47	-5.97	25	-5	14	-7	1.09	5/25	1.3	-0.5	1		1		1.3	3/12	1.3	3/12	***4th Driest***
Cape Charles, VA	9.82	-0.54	32	-2	18	-1	1.81	5/25											N/A
Wakefield, VA	5.46	-6.67	25	-7	11	-11	1.10	3/16	0.8	0.4	1				0.8	3/12	0.8	3/12	N/A
Williamsburg, VA	8.61	-3.51	26	-6	13	-8	3.21	5/25	0.3	-0.2	1				0.3	3/12	0.3	3/12	
Edenton, NC	5.89	-5.13	19	-7	16	-4	0.75	3/16	0.0	-0.2									***6th Driest***

* **“Dep”= Departure** from the 30-year normals (1991-2020). Temperature departures are shaded orange for 1 F or more warmer than average (dark red for 4 F or greater anomalies) and blue for 1 F or more cooler than average (dark blue for 4 F or more below normal). Similarly, precipitation departures are shaded green for 0.50” or more wetter than average (dark green for 2.00” or more) and tan for 0.50” or more drier than average (dark brown for 2.00” or more drier). Snowfall departures are shaded purple for 1” or more above average and tan for 1” or more below average. *****Rankings in Remark section are included for Co-op sites where a complete period of record is of sufficient duration.** **N/A in Remarks section indicates sites with a shorter period of record, leading to rankings being of less significance**

Daily Average Temperature Departures at Richmond, VA (May)

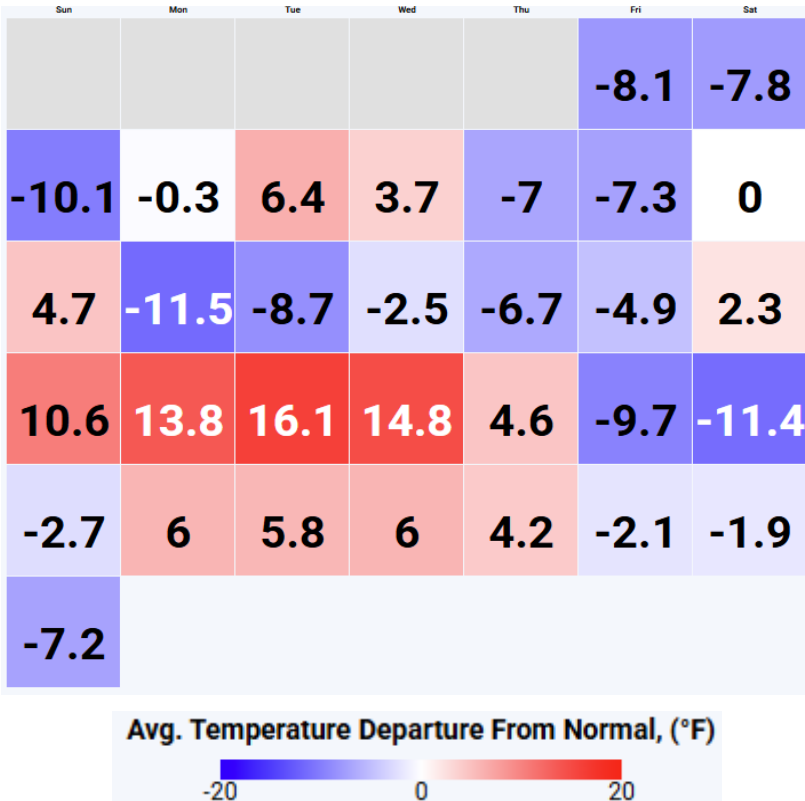


Figure 1: Daily Average Temperature Departures at RIC

Daily Average Temperature Departures at Norfolk, VA (May)

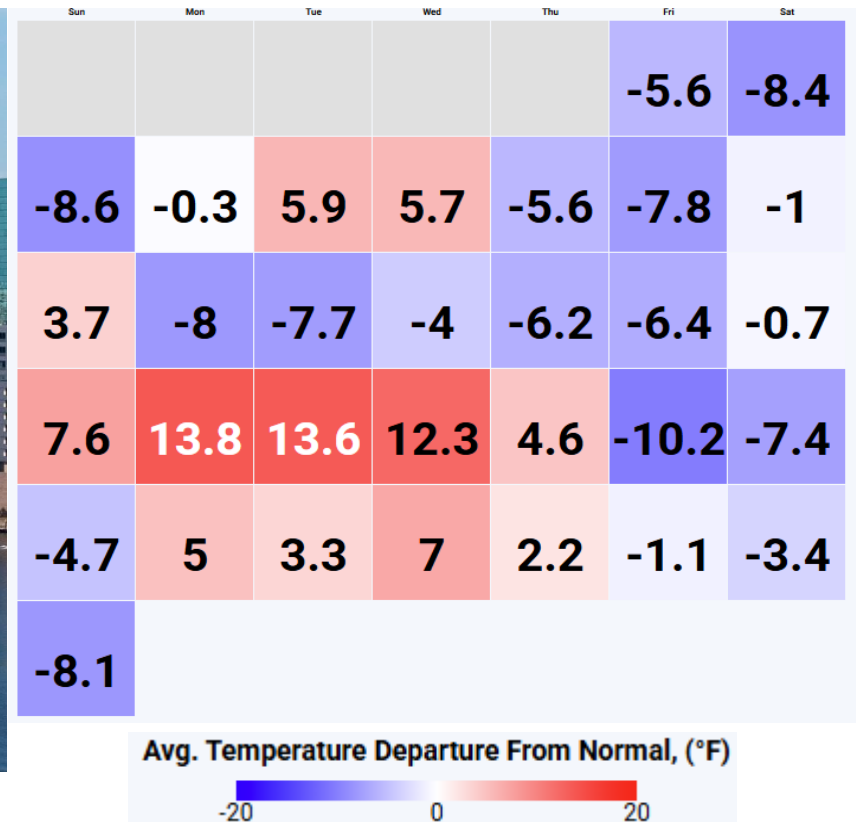


Figure 2: Daily Average Temperature Departures at ORF

Regional Precipitation Maps: May 2026

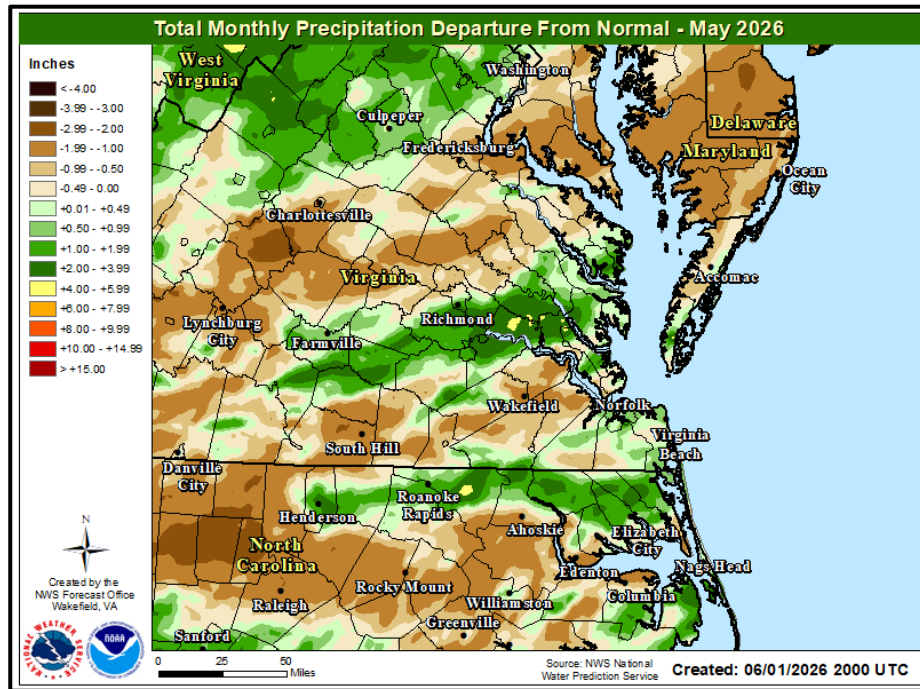
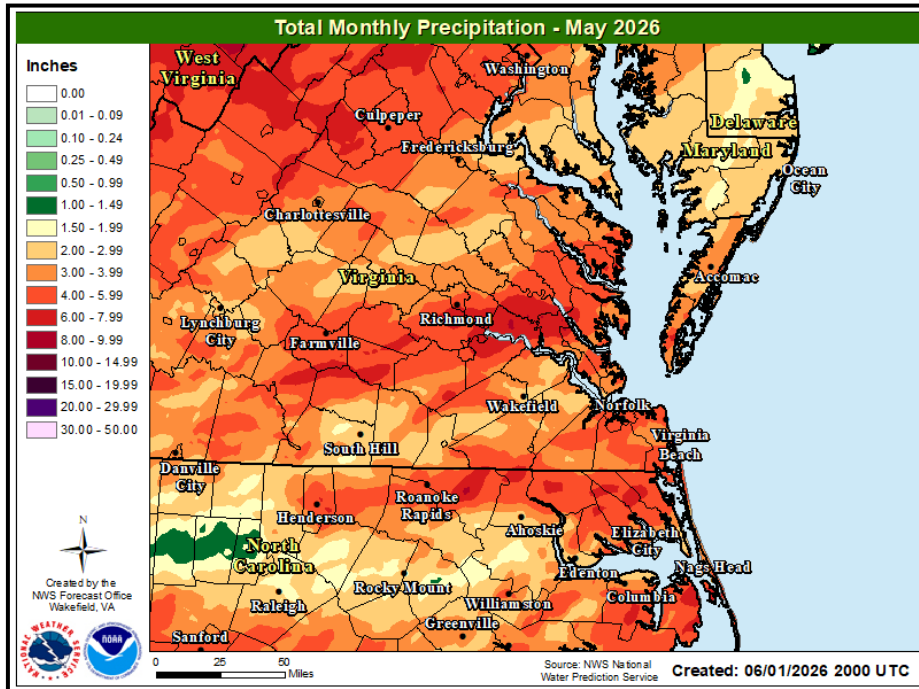


Figure 3: *Total Precipitation* for the month is shown in the map on the left. *Departure* from the 30-year normals (1991-2020) is shown on the map on the right.

Daily Records for Long Term Sites (May):

Norfolk, VA Records (Period of Record 153 yrs./1874-2026)

**tie*

Record Highs: none set.

Daily Snowfall: none set.

Record Low Maximums: none set.

Record Lows: none set.

Record High Minimums: none set.

Daily Precipitation: 1.47" (7th)

Richmond, VA Daily Records (Period of Record 130 yrs./1897-2026)

**tie*

Record Highs: 96° (18th).

Daily Snowfall: none set.

Record Low Maximums: none set.

Record Lows: none set.

Record High Minimums: *71° (19th)

Daily Precipitation: none set.

Salisbury, MD Daily Records (Period of Record 120 yrs./1907-2026)

**tie*

Record Highs: none set.

Daily Snowfall: none set.

Record Low Maximums: none set.

Record Lows: none set.

Record High Minimums: *70° (19th), 71° (20th).

Daily Precipitation: none set.

Elizabeth City, NC Daily Records (Period of Record 93 yrs./1934-2026)

**tie*

Record Highs: none set.

Daily Snowfall: none set.

Record Low Maximums: none set.

Record Lows: none set.

Record High Minimums: none set.

Daily Precipitation: none set.