

May 2022 Review

Overview

May 2022 featured a lot of changeable weather with hot and dry conditions alternating with cool wet weather. Monthly average temperatures were slightly warmer than normal, mostly ending up 1 to 2 degrees above the long term means, though a few places near the coast were less than one degree above average. Looking at low and high temperatures individually revealed that the warmth was mostly a result of warmer low temperatures that averaged 2 to 3 degrees above normal while highs were close to average. The daily high temperatures did show more variability than in a typical May as most locations recorded at least 3 days during the month with a high at or above 90 degrees as well as multiple dates with highs only in the 50s and 60s. The variation shows up well on page 3 of this write-up where daily high departures from normal are color coded at Richmond and Norfolk. Sunday May 8th (Mother's Day) was particularly cool with highs mostly in the lower to mid 50s (20 to 25 degrees below normal for the date). Conversely, Richmond recorded daily record highs on the 20th and 21st, the high of 97 degrees on the 20th being the hottest May temperature recorded since 98F on May 31, 2011.

Monthly precipitation totals in May were generally close to normal (within 1 inch of normal values) though some locally higher amounts brought a few sites across the north to more than 2 inches above average for the month. The number of days with measureable rainfall was generally well above average, occurring on 14 to 16 days at most of our sites. This was primarily in association with the days that featured a cool onshore flow, low clouds, and persistent light to moderate rain. While there were a few instances of heavier rainfall and localized flash flooding, overall this was not a common occurrence during the month.

The following table shows detailed temperature and precipitation statistics for May 2022.

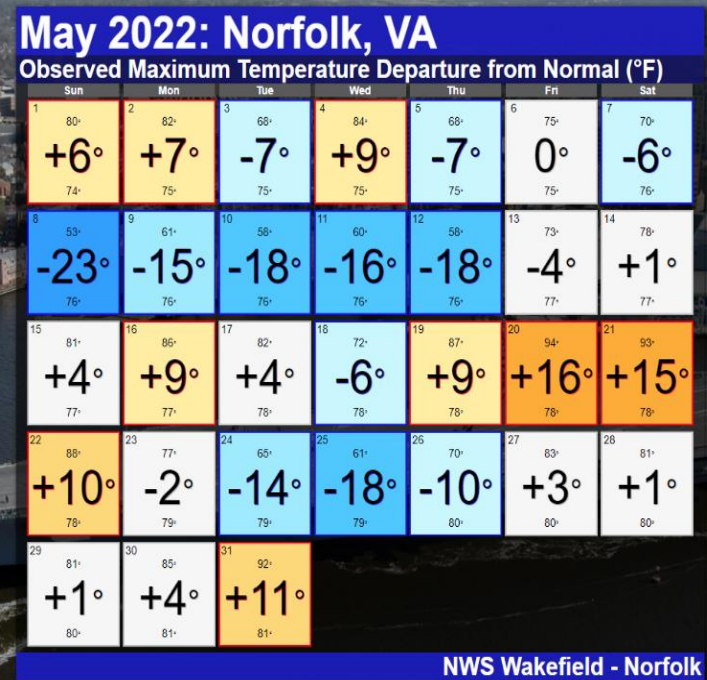
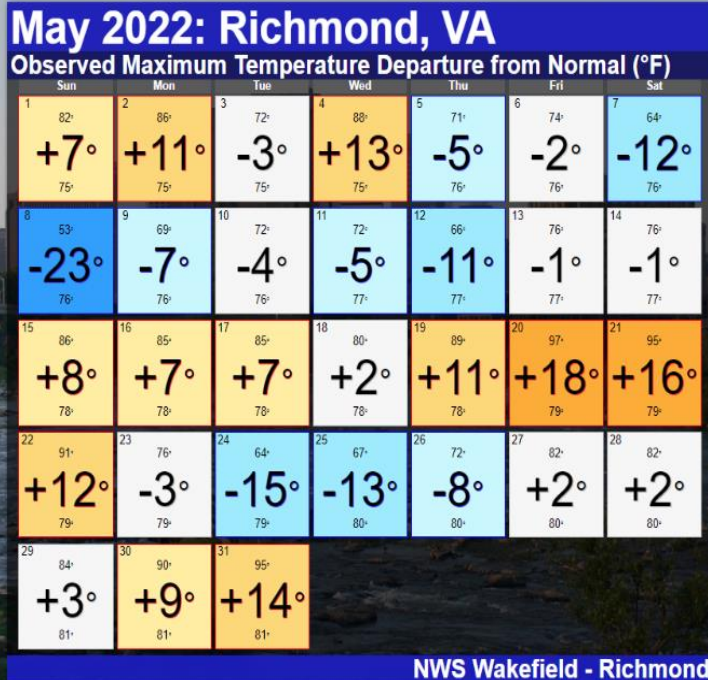
Tabular Summary of Data for Selected Climate Sites (May):

May 2022 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 (if Top Ten List, etc.)		
	(°F)		(°F)		(°F)		Warmest (°F)			Coldest (°F)			Warmest (°F)			Coldest (°F)			
	Actual	Dep	Actual	Dep	Actual	Dep	Actual	Date	Normal	Actual	Date	Normal	Actual	Date	Normal	Actual		Date	Normal
Richmond	78.7	0.9	58.3	2.6	68.5	1.8	97	20th	(92)	53	8th	(60)	70	21st	(69)	41	9th	(42)	5 days 90F+
Norfolk	75.7	-1.7	60.0	0.9	67.8	-0.5	94	20th	(92)	53	8th	(59)	72	*21st	(71)	49	*9th	(47)	3 days 90F+
Salisbury	75.1	0.7	57.0	3.8	66.0	2.2	95	31st	(90)	51	8th	(57)	72	21st	(67)	39	1st	(37)	3 days 90F+
Wallops Island	71.6	-1.1	57.6	2.1	64.6	0.5	91	31st	(88)	50	8th	(58)	69	31st	(67)	43	1st	(42)	2 days 90F+
Elizabeth City	78.3	0.3	61.2	2.8	69.7	1.5	93	*21st	(91)	56	8th	(62)	74	21st	(71)	48	9th	(44)	3 days 90F+
Ashland, VA	77.9	1.4	57.1	2.4	67.5	1.9	93	20th	(89)	52	8th	(59)	73	21st	(68)	38	9th	(39)	3 days 90F+
Corbin, VA	75.5	0.1	55.0	1.5	65.3	0.8	93	*31st	(90)	53	8th	(58)	71	21st	(67)	37	9th	(37)	4 days 90F+
Louisa, VA	77.1	1.1	54.2	2.2	65.6	1.6	93	31st	(90)	52	8th	(60)	67	*22nd	(66)	32	9th	(34)	4 days 90F+
Painter, VA	75.5	-0.2	57.9	2.2	66.7	1.0	91	*31st	(88)	59	8th	(60)	75	21st	(70)	41	1st	(42)	2 days 90F+
Wakefield, VA	78.8	0.2	57.8	3.1	68.3	1.7	96	*21st	(91)	49	8th	(60)	68	*31st	(68)	40	9th	(39)	6 days 90F+
Williamsburg, VA	76.3	-0.9	58.9	1.9	67.6	0.5	94	20th	(91)	51	8th	(61)	70	31st	(69)	45	9th	(42)	4 days 90F+
Edenton, NC	80.0	0.7	62.2	2.8	71.1	1.7	92	*22nd	(90)	62	10th	(64)	74	21st	(70)	47	9th	(44)	3 days 90F+

May 2022 Precipitation Summary Data																	
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	Actual	Date	
Richmond	3.86	-0.14	15	4	4	-3	1.32	24th									
Norfolk	4.50	0.72	15	4	10	3	0.86	6th									
Salisbury	5.93	2.20	15	3	10	3	1.61	16th									
Wallops Island	3.97	0.77	13	2	11	5	0.98	13th									
Elizabeth City	4.19	0.51	16	5	7	0	0.85	4th									
Ashland, VA	4.05	-0.19	13	3	6	-1	1.39	24th									
Corbin, VA	6.63	2.50	12	2	7	0	1.58	20th									
Louisa, VA	4.59	0.62	15	3	8	0	1.41	24th									
Painter, VA	3.21	-0.44	14	4	8	1	0.54	7th									
Wakefield, VA	3.63	-0.52	16	5	9	2	0.72	6th									
Williamsburg, VA	4.31	0.42	15	4	9	2	1.12	24th									
Edenton, NC	4.36	0.64	16	7	10	3	0.85	14th									

* **“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.

Daily High Temperature Departures at Richmond & Norfolk, VA



Daily Records for Long Term Climate Sites (May):

Norfolk, VA Records (Period of Record 149 yrs./1874-2022)

**tie*

Record Highs: none set.

Record Low Maximums: none set.

Record Lows: none set.

Record High Minimums: none set.

Daily Precipitation: none set.

Richmond, VA Daily Records (Period of Record 126 yrs./1897-2022)

**tie*

Record Highs: 97 (20th), 95 (21st),

Record Low Maximums: none set.

Record Lows: none set.

Record High Minimums: none set .

Daily Precipitation: none set.

Salisbury, MD Daily Records (Period of Record 116 yrs./1907-2022)

**tie*

Record Highs: none set.

Record Low Maximums: none set.

Record Lows: none set.

Record High Minimums: 72 (21st).

Daily Precipitation: none set.

Elizabeth City, NC Daily Records (Period of Record 89 yrs./1934-2022)

**tie*

Record Highs: none set.

Record Low Maximums: *62 (9th), 58 (11th).

Record Lows: none set.

Record High Minimums: 74 (21st), 73 (22nd).

Daily Precipitation: none set.