

May was a stormy month across much of the middle part of the nation and the Ohio Valley was no exception:

- On the <u>7th</u>, small showers and thunderstorms developed over southern Indiana. Despite their size, and the fact that there was hardly even any lightning in them, they managed to spin up two brief EF-0 tornadoes. One of the tiny twisters touched down in a neighborhood near Perry Crossing in Clark County, Indiana, causing damage to several homes. The southern Indiana tornadoes were on the edge of a much larger outbreak across Ohio, eastern Indiana, and southern Michigan.
- The very next day a significantly more widespread outbreak of hail, damaging winds, and tornadoes spread from Missouri through the western half of Kentucky to the Carolinas. In central Kentucky the counties of Logan, Barren, Butler, Hart, Green, and Grayson all experienced golf ball sized hail. The Kentucky Mesonet site in Adair County measured a 59 mph wind gust.
- The largest severe weather event of the month began on the 26th and lasted into the morning hours of the following day. A powerful storm system generated large hail, damaging thunderstorm winds, and tornadoes from the Ozarks through the Ohio Valley to the mid-Atlantic coast. In Kentucky, two main waves of storms passed through. Around midday on the 26th a broken squall line pivoted through the region producing occasional instances of hurricane force winds. Then from just before to just after midnight a second powerful squall line swept through. This one produced several tornadoes, including an EF-1 that was on the ground for 41 miles from Muhlenberg County to Warren County north of Bowling Green. The Meteorologist-in-Charge of NWS Louisville, who surveyed the damage path, said it was the worst EF-1 tornado he had ever surveyed, particularly because of the massive amounts of tree damage, including oaks and hickories.

The frequent storm systems also brought several bouts of rain, with southern Kentucky receiving more than 200% of its normal precipitation for the month. Not only did this eradicate the slight dryness that was present at the beginning of the month, it led to minor river flooding. Unfortunately the rain also had the negative effect of hampering farmers' abilities to get out into their fields for planting and other spring fieldwork.





Averages, Departures, & Records

Station Values

	Average Temperature	Departure from Normal	Precipitation	Departure from Normal	Snow	Departure from Normal
Bowling Green	70.7°	+2.7°	7.26"	+2.23"	0"	0"
Frankfort	68.5°	+3.0°	5.48"	+0.38"		
Lexington	69.3°	+3.9°	5.68"	+0.24"	0"	0"
Louisville Ali	71.9°	+3.6°	6.07"	+0.89"	0"	0"
Louisville Bowman	68.8°	+1.6°	6.31"	+1.15"		

Records

- 4th: Warm low of 65° at Frankfort
- 15th: Precipitation of 2.06" at Lexington

- 9th warmest May on record at Frankfort
- 10th warmest May on record at Lexington



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at Frankfort 1 at Lexington

Source: NWS Louisville Climate



Temperature Maps







National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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Average Temperature (°F): Departure from 1991-2020 Normals May 01, 2024 to May 31, 2024



Precipitation Maps

Accumulated Precipitation (in) May 01, 2024 to May 31, 2024



Accumulated Precipitation (in): Percent of 1991-2020 Normals

May 01, 2024 to May 31, 2024





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Snowfall Maps





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Preliminary Severe Weather Reports

May 1-31, 2024

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Below: 85 mph straight-line winds flipped this camper in Grayson County on the 26th.



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U.S. Drought Monitor Maps & Class Change







Map of monthly average streamflow compared to historical streamflow for the month of the year



Although streamflows started the month low, widespread rains brought river levels up by the second half of May. Flooding occurred on several streams, including the Green River, late in the month.









CPC Monthly Outlook - May 2024

The odds are not tilting in any particular direction for precipitation or temperature in June



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National Weather Service Louisville, KY

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