

Climate and Weather Summary for May 2022

Temperatures in May averaged well-above normal at San Angelo and Abilene. Precipitation was well-below normal at both locations. Table 1 summarizes May 2022 temperature, precipitation, and departure from normal for Abilene and San Angelo.

Site	Average Temperature (°F)	Departure from Normal (°F)	Normal Average Temperature (°F)	Total Precipitation (In.)	Departure from Normal (In)	Normal May Precipitation (In.)
Abilene	81.0°	6.9°	74.1°	0.76"	-2.45"	3.21"
San Angelo	81.6°	6.1°	75.5°	1.51"	-1.54"	3.05"

Table 1: May Climate Data for Abilene and San Angelo.

Additional temperature and precipitation data for Abilene and San Angelo is summarized in Table 2.

Site	Warmest High Temperature (°F)	Warmest Low Temperature (°F)	Coollest High Temperature (°F)	Coldest Low Temperature (°F)	Maximum Daily Precipitation (In.)
Abilene	107° May 7, 8, 19	78° on May 8	69° on May 24	51° on May 25	0.49" May 24
San Angelo	107° May 7, 8, 19	77° on May 9	80° on May 25	52° May 6, 26	1.12" May 24

Table 2: Additional May Climate Data for Abilene and San Angelo.

- Warmest May on record at San Angelo and Abilene.
- At Abilene, 9th driest May on record.
- Abilene set a new record for the highest number of days in May with 100 degree temperatures (14 days).
- San Angelo set a new record for the highest number of days in May with 100 degree temperatures (15 days).
- At Abilene, daily record high temperatures were set or tied on 10 days in May. Record warm low temperatures were tied or set on 8 days.

- At San Angelo, daily record high temperatures were set or tied on 7 days in May.

Maps of total precipitation and percentage of normal precipitation, for May, are shown in Figures 1 and 2 (next page).

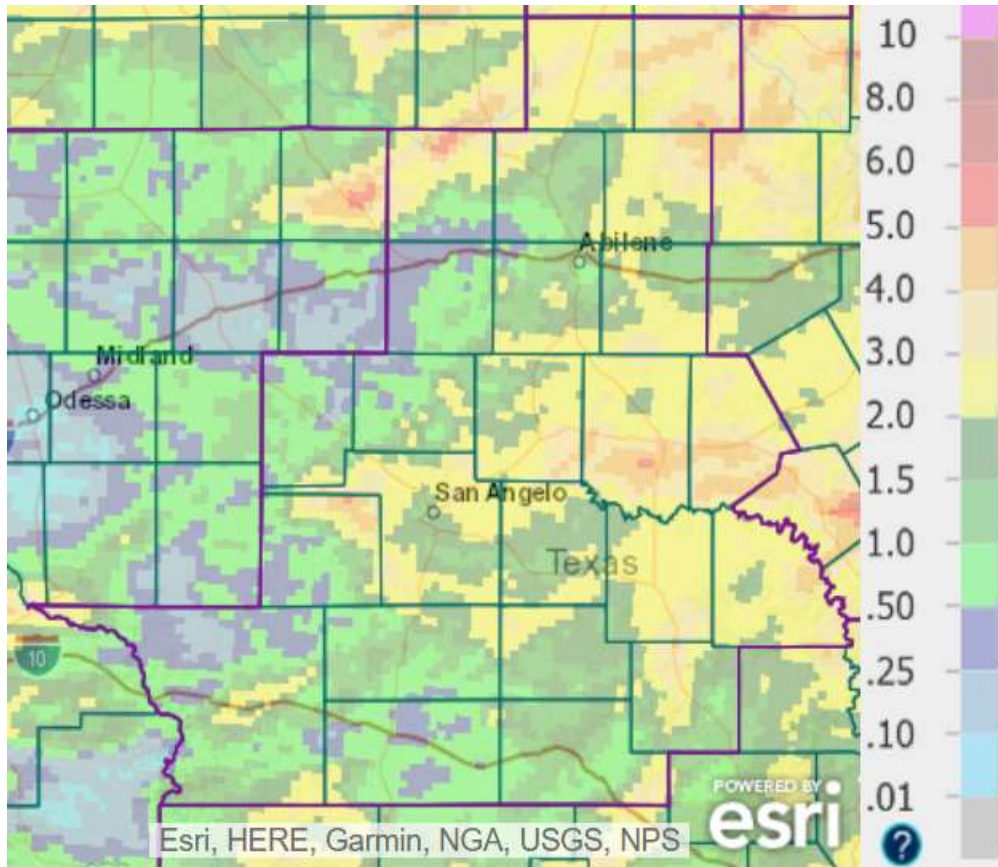


Figure 1: Total Precipitation for May.

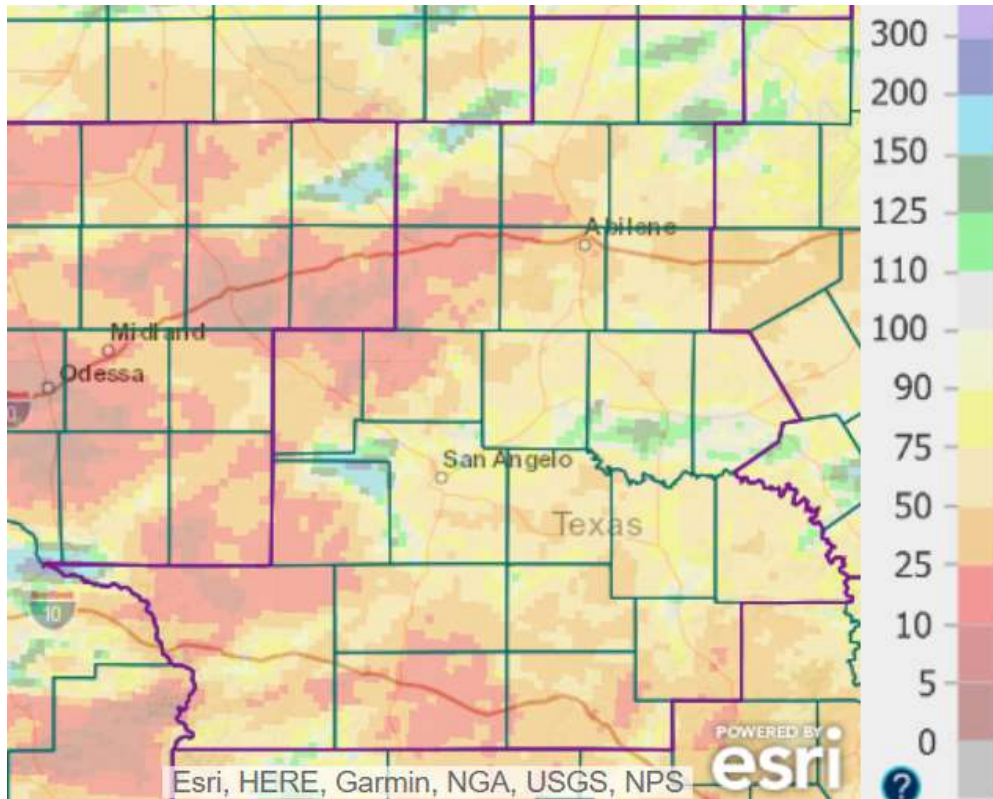


Figure 2: Percentage of Normal Precipitation for May.

Precipitation for May was well-below normal across much of the area, with pockets of above normal precipitation (Fig. 2). The monthly rainfall varied widely across the area, from less than one-half inch to more than 5 inches (Fig. 1).

May 2022 Weather Highlights

Severe weather occurred on a few occasions early in the month. With a moderately unstable airmass on May 2, scattered strong to severe thunderstorms with large hail moved east across the northern half of west-central Texas. Quarter size hail was reported in the vicinity of Abilene. Hail up to golfball size fell just north of Stamford (Jones County). Golfball size hail was also reported in southern Coleman County (6 miles south of Santa Anna). The largest hail reported was baseball size at Brooksmith, in southern Brown County. This hail broke a windshield and caused siding damage. Rainfall for this event is shown in Fig. 3.

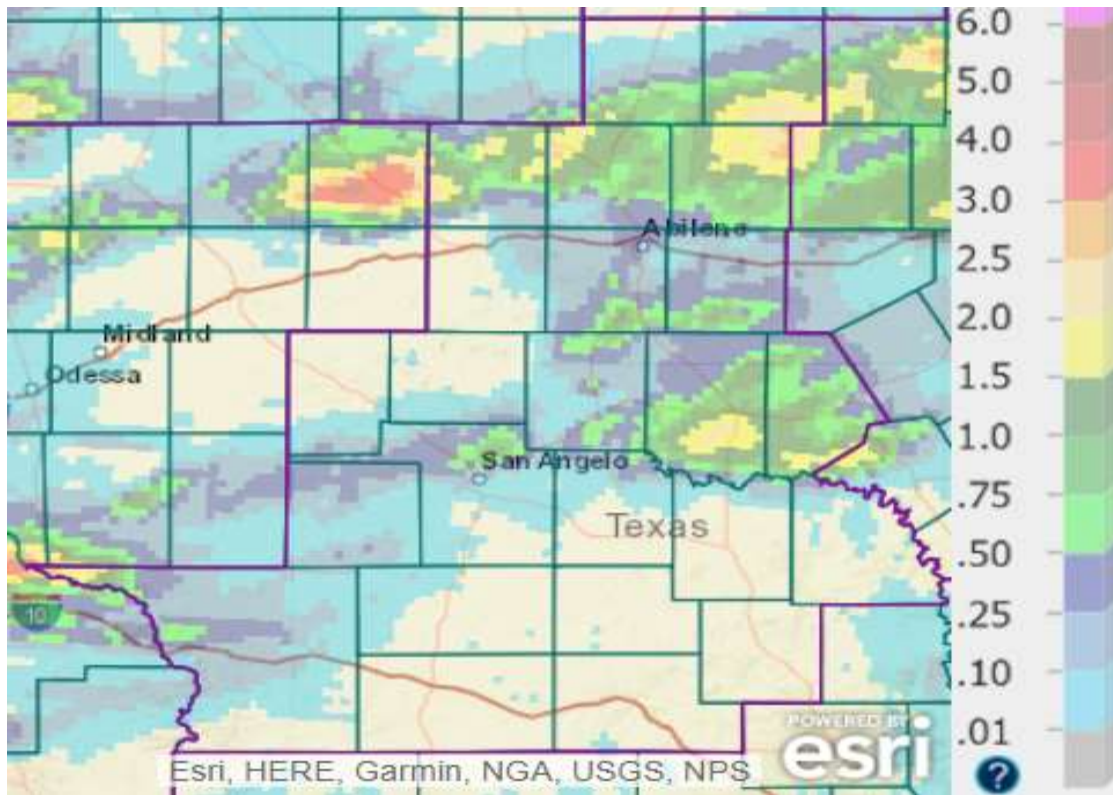


Figure 3: Rainfall amounts for the 24-hour Period ending at 7 AM, May 3.

Where the storms occurred, rainfall was locally heavy. A west to east swath in the Big Country, along with parts of Coleman and Brown Counties, received 1-2 inches.

With strong instability ahead of a dryline, a small cluster of strong to severe thunderstorms tracked east-northeast across the Big Country (north of Interstate 20) on the evening of May 4. Quarter size hail and a 61 mph wind gust occurred 5 miles west of Rotan (Fisher County). Farther to the south a few hours later, an isolated severe storm in Crockett County produced 1.5 inch diameter hail just north of Ozona. While the coverage was low, locally heavy rainfall (in excess of one inch) accompanied these storms.

Scattered showers and thunderstorms occurred across the area mainly west of a Haskell to Mason line, on the late evening and nighttime hours of May 10. Gusty winds accompanied some of the storms. A downburst wind from a severe thunderstorm produced a 73 mph wind gust at the San Angelo Airport. Rainfall amounts mostly varied under one-half inch, but a few locations in the southern half of the area received one-half to one inch.

The daily highs were well-above normal May 6-10. New record high temperatures were set for 3 consecutive days at Abilene and 2 at San Angelo. A dryline shifted east across the area May 6-7, and across the western half of the area May 8-9. The dryline retreated west of the area during the nighttime hours, resulting in warm and humid conditions during the overnight and morning hours. Behind the dryline, temperatures soared above 100 degrees May 6-9.

At Abilene, new record highs were set on May 7-8 (107 degrees), and on May 9 (103 degrees). New record warm low temperatures were set on May 8 (78 degrees), May 9 (76 degrees), and May 10 (77 degrees).

At San Angelo, new record highs were set on May 7 (107 degrees) and May 8 (105 degrees). A new record warm low temperature was set on May 9 (77 degrees).

Thunderstorms brought much needed rainfall to localized parts of the area on May 13, but some of the storms were strong to severe in the Big Country. During the late afternoon and early evening, scattered to numerous showers and thunderstorms developed east of a Haskell to Sweetwater to Big Lake line, just ahead of a dryline. Between 6 PM and Midnight, the showers and storms moved east-southeast across the Big Country, Concho Valley and Heartland areas. Several of the storms in the Big Country contained large hail. Hen egg to tennis ball size hail was the largest hail reported, in and near Throckmorton. Golfball size hail was reported in Clyde, View, and Hamby. In Brown County, wind damage was reported 5 miles north-northwest of Lake Brownwood. Redevelopment of showers and storms occurred in the southern Concho Valley around Midnight, and moved into the Northwest Hill Country during the overnight hours. Figure 2 shows rainfall amounts for the 24-hour period ending at 7 AM, May 14.

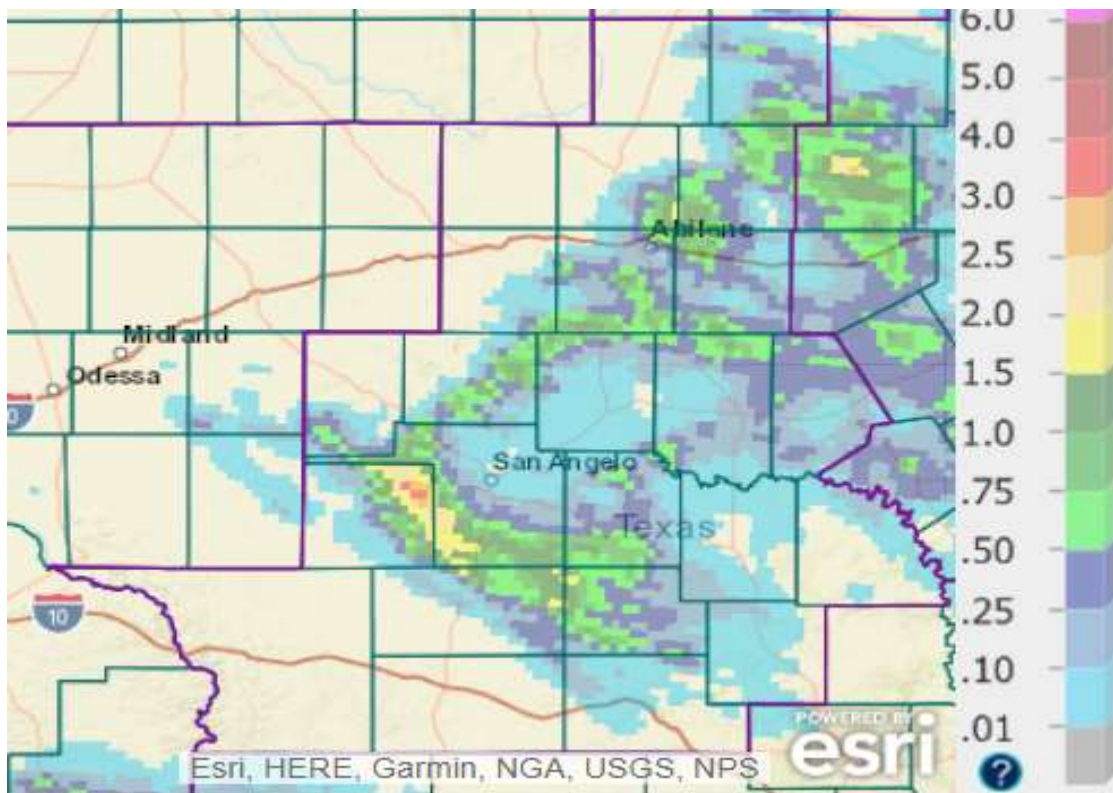


Figure 3: Rainfall amounts for the 24-hour Period ending at 7 AM, May 14.

The highest rainfall (2-4 inches) occurred in northeastern Irion and the western edge of Tom Green County. Other scattered locations received 1-2 inches of rainfall.

Widely scattered showers and thunderstorms occurred on the afternoon into the evening of May 14, mainly east of a line from Anson to Abilene to San Angelo to Roosevelt. Quarter size hail was reported with one of the storms in San Saba County (5 miles northeast of Chappell, near Bend).

Very hot daytime temperatures occurred May 15-20, with several record or near record highs.

San Angelo: New record highs set May 15 (104 degrees), May 18 (107 degrees), May 19 (107 degrees), May 20 (105 degrees). Record high tied May 16 (103 degrees).

Abilene: New record highs set May 15 (106 degrees), May 17 (103 degrees), May 18 (106 degrees), May 19 (107 degrees), May 20 (105 degrees).

With hot and dry conditions combined with very dry vegetation, a few grass and brush fires occurred in May. The largest of these was the Mesquite Heat fire, which affected parts of Taylor County west of Buffalo Gap and southwest of Abilene. The size of this fire reached 10,960 acres, according to the Texas A&M Forest Service. This fire burned 20 homes and 7 outbuildings.

The 6-day streak of 100 degree temperatures ended with a cold frontal passage on May 21.

A [severe weather event](#) occurred on May 24, when a strong upper level disturbance interacted with a dryline entering the area from the west, and a cold front moving across the area from the north. With this setup, two areas of thunderstorms moved east and southeast across west-central Texas, during the evening and nighttime hours. Large hail (up to baseball and teacup size) and damaging winds occurred with the leading area of thunderstorms, while strong winds accompanied the second thunderstorm complex. In all, a total of 31 severe weather reports were received for this event. Heavy (and much needed) rainfall accompanied the thunderstorm complexes. Localized flooding was reported in Brown County (4 miles south-southeast of Brownwood) and Tom Green County (1 mile north of Mereta). Rainfall for this event is shown in Fig. 4.

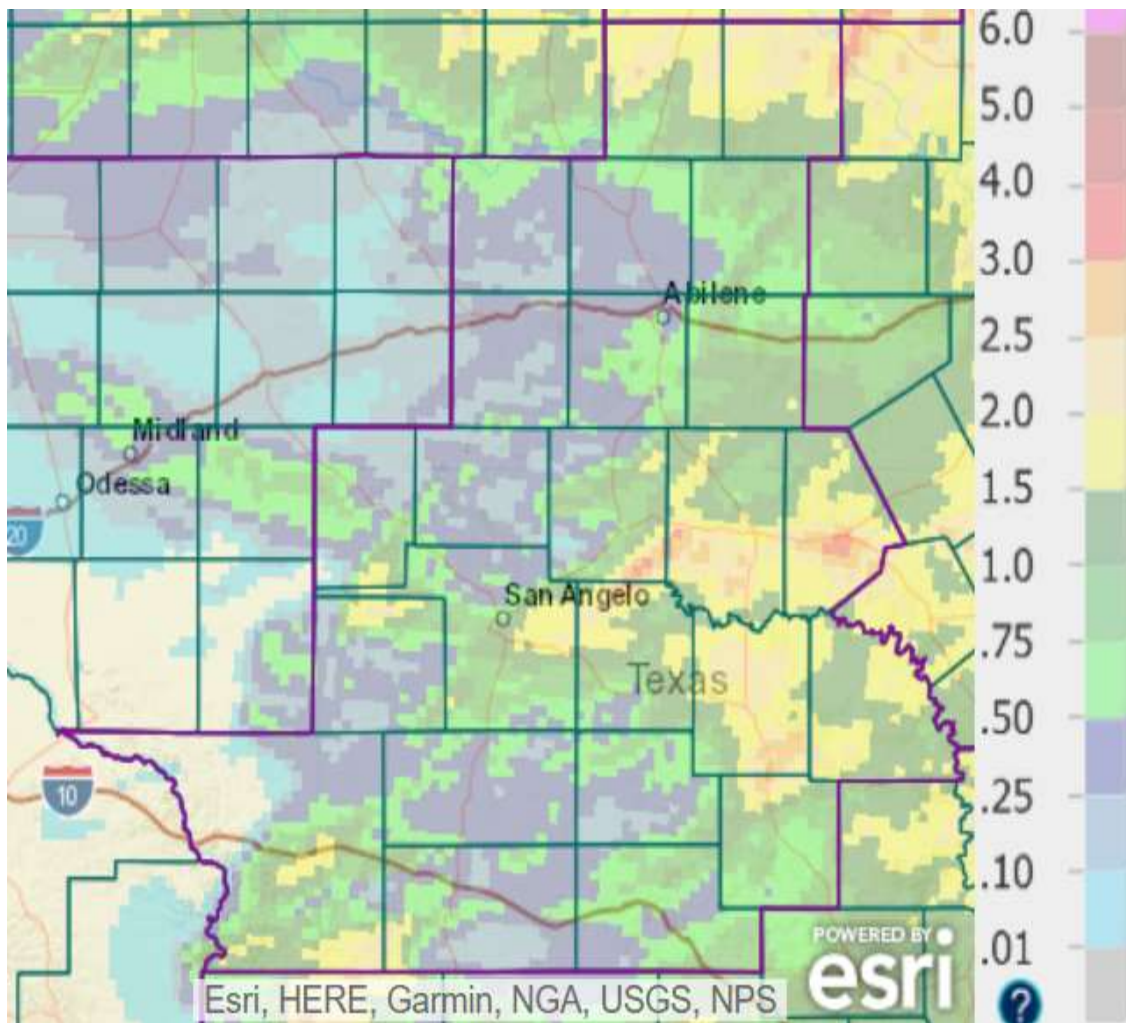


Figure 4: Rainfall amounts for the 24-hour Period ending at 7 AM, May 25.

A cooler airmass settled into the area after a cold frontal passage on May 24. Clear skies, dry air and light winds allowed temperatures to drop into the upper 40s and 50s for morning lows on May 26. At San Angelo, a record low temperature was tied (52 degrees) on May 26.

The month ended with hot and dry conditions, with temperatures well-above normal.

[Additional Tabular and Graphical Daily Climate Data](#)