

CLIMATOLOGICAL TABLE—Summary of the Records of Temperature, Rainfall, and Sunshine for May 1979—continued
LATE RETURNS AND CORRECTIONS—continued

Station	Height of Station Above M.S.L.	Air Temperatures in Degrees (Celsius)								Rainfall in Millimetres					Bright Sunshine
		Means of		Mean of A and B	Difference From Normal	Absolute Maximum and Minimum				Total Fall	No. of Rain Days	Difference From Normal	Maximum Fall		
		A Max.	B Min.			Maximum	Date	Minimum	Date				Date	Date	
	Metres	°C	°C	°C	°C	°C		°C		mm		mm	mm		Hrs
Chateau, Mount Ruapehu, April 1979	1,119	12.2	3.7	8.0	+0.0	16.0	2	-4.0	27	281	..	+57	..	..	..
Tauherenikau, Alloa, April 1979	43	18.9	8.5	13.7	+0.6	22.9	3	0.3	27	37	10	-42	21	11	..
Makaretu, April 1979	335	17.8	7.0	12.4	-0.1	22.4	6	-2.4	27	33	15	..	8	30	..
Wharite Peak, March 1979	914	15.6	9.3	12.5	+2.0	20.9	8	2.9	1	427	..	+280	77	20	..
Wharite Peak, April 1979	914	11.0	6.0	8.5	+0.5	15.5	4	0.0	14	79	..	-71	28	11	..
Turoa, Mount Ruapehu, March 1979	1,628	..	7.4	..	..	..	..	-1.6	31	246	..	..	..	..	..
Turoa, Mount Ruapehu, April 1979	1,628	7.8	2.5	5.2	..	12.0	19	-2.5	27	253	17	..	62	11	..
Springs Junction, April 1979	421	14.1	4.8	9.5	..	19.3	2	-2.4	14	187	18	-4	27	25	..
Franz Josef, April 1979	122	16.1	7.0	11.6	-0.1	20.0	5	0.0	26	614	17	+213	108	7	..
Puysegur Point, April 1979	43	14.6	8.6	11.6	..	20.5	4	4.5	13	242	27	+29	59	16	..
Craigieburn Forest, April 1979	914	13.9	3.7	8.8	+0.5	18.3	22	-3.3	26	92	15	-30	47	24	..
Lake Coleridge, April 1979	364	16.7	..	..	..	21.3	5	..	..	35	13	-41	14	24	..
Ashley Forest, April 1979	107	17.2	7.5	12.4	+0.3	23.5	5	1.0	27	10	6	-64	2	8	188
Christchurch, April 1979	7	17.9	7.0	12.5	+0.3	25.0	22	0.2	26	11	8	-47	2	29	..
Moa Creek, April 1979	427	15.9	1.1	8.5	+0.2	20.6	5	-6.5	14	39	..	+11	..	..	..
Alexandra, April 1979	141	17.5	4.8	11.2	+0.5	24.1	5	-2.5	14	34	15	+6	13	27	169
Winton, April 1979	44	16.6	5.5	11.1	+0.5	22.4	21	-1.4	27	128	17	+54	37	11	130
Tautuku, April 1979	61	15.7	7.3	11.5	..	22.6	4	2.3	27	127	..	..	24	11	..
Rarotonga Airport, April 1979	7	28.4	22.5	25.5	+0.4	30.1	3	19.2	22	207	20	+24	50	25	123
Campbell Island, February 1979	15	10.9	6.6	8.8	-0.4	13.5	16	3.5	9	125	25	+11	23	14	77
Campbell Island, March 1979	15	10.7	6.5	8.6	+0.1	12.9	22	2.3	29	106	23	-24	23	3	60
Nandi Airport, Fiji, April 1979	15	30.8	21.1	26.0	+0.0	32.8	1	17.8	22	146	13	..	36	19	197
Totokoitu, Rarotonga, April 1979	9	27.9	22.3	25.1	..	30.7	3	19.8	22	313	19	..	80	25	..

The "normal" refers to the present site of the instruments. Standard period for normals is 1941-1970. No normals are available for stations with only short records.

*Indicates that the sunshine recorder is not located at the station but is in the near vicinity.

A rain day is a day with rainfall equal to or greater than 0.1 mm.

Where the extremes of temperature and rainfall have occurred more than once during the month, the date of the first occurrence is given.

WEATHER NOTES FOR MAY 1979

General—During May pressures were near normal over New Zealand and higher than usual to the south of the country. North-west winds were slightly more frequent than usual over the north of the country, and there was a greater frequency of south-west winds in the south. Throughout most of New Zealand, May was a wet, cloudy month with cooler temperatures than normal.

Heavy hail in eastern areas of Bay of Plenty on the 15th damaged fruit crops, and smashed windows in some buildings at Thornton. It was reported that in some areas the hail accumulated into drifts 15 cm in depth.

Grass growth in most districts was good at the beginning of the month but cooler temperatures later slowed growth. Although the ground was very wet in most areas, stock condition was reported to be good.

Rainfall—The only areas with rainfall below normal for the month were Northland, Auckland, parts of Bay of Plenty, Poverty Bay, Hawke's Bay, inland Wairarapa, and Nelson. Some localities in Hawke's Bay and Nelson were below normal by more than 50 percent. The wettest areas were parts of Canterbury, Otago, and Southland, where more than double the usual monthly totals were recorded.

At New Plymouth widespread flooding occurred on the 13th when a severe thunderstorm in the morning was followed by torrential rain in the early evening. Between 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. nearly 41 mm were recorded.

On the 14th cars and buses were stranded on the Te Anau-Milford Road when the Southland region experienced heavy rain and snow. Between 30 and 45 cm of snow were reported to be lying on the road which was blocked by fallen trees. At Invercargill 48 mm of rain were recorded in 48 hours up to 9 a.m. on the 16th, and flooding closed the airport. The heaviest falls were between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. in the 14th. Some stations in Southland recorded between 50 and 100 mm in the 48 hour period.

Temperatures—Apart from Northland, Nelson, and parts of Auckland, Bay of Plenty, Taranaki, Manawatu, and Wairarapa, temperatures were generally below normal by almost ½°C. The first 2 weeks of the month were slightly warmer than usual, but from the 17th to 24th daytime maximum temperatures were below normal by 5°C or more in eastern districts of the North and South Islands.

Sunshine—The only districts with above normal sunshine hours were on the West Coast and parts of Northland and Bay of Plenty. Some areas in the northern half of the North Island were slightly below normal. The greatest departures were in the Wellington and Southland regions. At Kelburn, Wellington, only 84 hours were recorded and this is the lowest May total since 1942 (67 hours). Invercargill had 59 hours sunshine this being only 63 percent of their normal sunshine for the month.

WEATHER SEQUENCE

At the beginning of May a ridge of high pressure extended onto New Zealand from an anticyclone in the Tasman Sea. By the morning of the 2nd an anticyclone had become established over the country, and this persisted until the morning of the 4th. Some areas in both Islands had isolated showers, but the weather was mainly fine and warm in most districts. On the 4th a cold front moved onto the South Island bringing heavy rain to Fiordland and later to Westland as it moved northwards. Some parts of the West Coast had more than 150 mm of rain in 24 hours.

A depression formed to the west of the country on the 5th and moved slowly eastwards across the South Island. The situation became complex on the 6th when another depression also moved from the Tasman Sea onto the country. By the 7th pressures were low in the central Tasman Sea, and the cold fronts associated with the complex system moving over New Zealand brought heavy rain to many areas. The heaviest falls were in Canterbury, Marlborough, and Westland, where some areas had 24 hour falls