

CLIMATE SUMMARY

Vol. 1, Issue 1

May / 2021

Precipitation

According to the National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI), the statewide average May precipitation was 3.69 inches, 0.55 inches *below* the long-term mean (1991-2020). This was 1.42 inches less than May 2020 but 0.88 inches more than April 2021. May 2021 ranks as the 58th driest on record (1895-2021; Table 1).

Table 1: Ohio May Precipitation Ranking

Period	Value	Average	Anomaly	Rank	Wettest/Driest Since	Record Year
May 2021	3.69"	4.24"	-0.55"	58 th Driest	Driest since: 2016 Wettest since: 2020	0.87" (1934) 7.73" (1968)

Most of Ohio, excluding extreme southeastern and northwestern parts of the region, averaged 3 to 6 inches of precipitation in May. The aforementioned areas averaged between 1.5 inches to 3 inches (Fig. 1). Ohio generally experienced below average precipitation (1991-2020), with a few areas across the north receiving above average precipitation (Fig. 2).

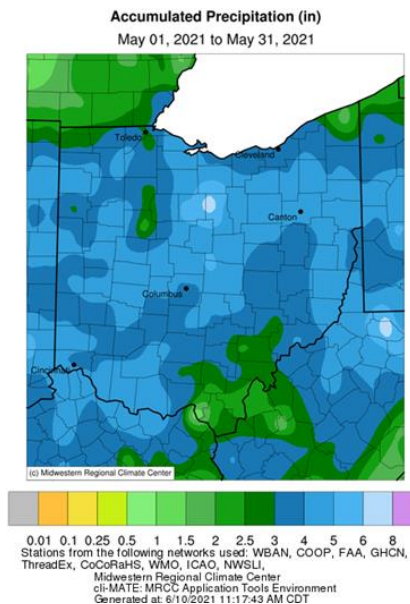


Figure 1: Accumulated May precipitation (inches). Courtesy of the Midwest Regional Climate Center.

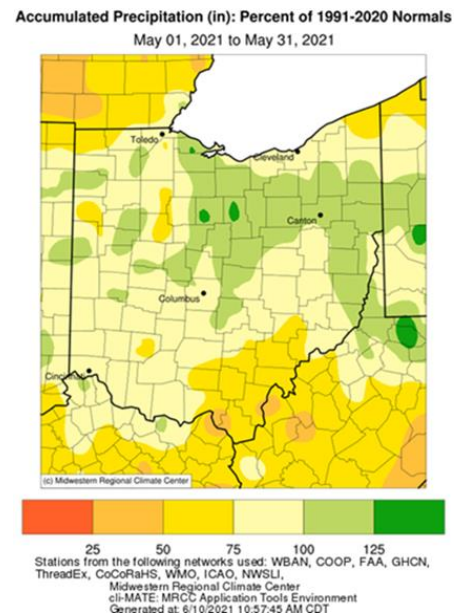


Figure 2: Percent of Normal Accumulated Precipitation in Inches for the Month of May. Courtesy of the Midwest Regional Climate Center.

Richland County accrued the greatest precipitation accumulation in May with 5.32 inches of precipitation, making this the 23rd wettest May for that county in the 127-year period (Fig. 3). Ottawa County was the driest county during May, with an accumulation of 2.28 inches of precipitation, making it the 24th driest May. Gallia County also had its 24th driest May on record, while Lawrence County claims the driest relative to the 127-year period as the 22nd driest May with 2.33 inches. Looking at historical trends from 1895-2021, Ohio has a positive long-term trend of +0.77 inches during the May (Fig. 4). The lowest recorded precipitation during this period was 0.87 inches in 1934 with the greatest occurring in 1968 at 7.73 inches.

Figure 3: Ohio County Precipitation Ranking (NCEI, NOAA)

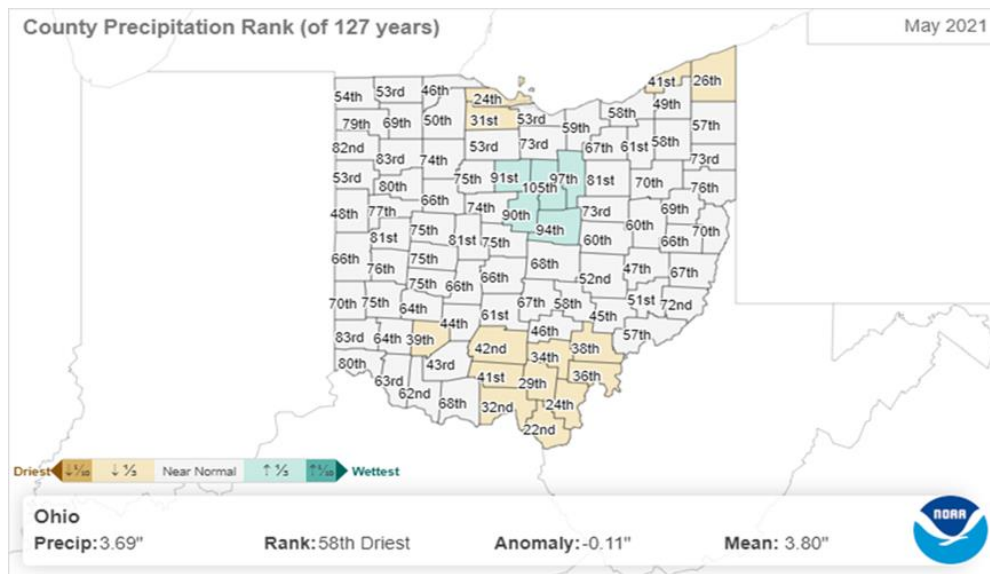
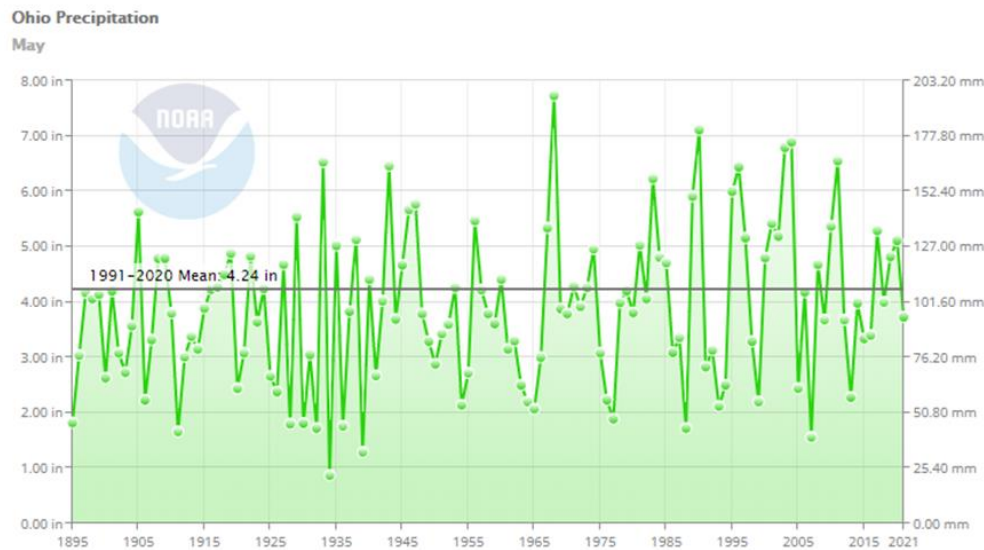


Figure 4: Ohio Historical Precipitation Time Series (NCEI, NOAA)



A partnership between OSU Extension, Byrd Polar and Climate Research Center, and the State Climate Office of Ohio

Temperature

The average state temperature for Ohio during the month of May was 58.9°F, which was 7.4°F warmer than last month, April 2021, and is 0.5°F warmer than May 2020. The average May temperature was 2.2°F cooler than the 1991-2020 average. This makes May 2021 the 47th coolest May in the 127-year record (Table 2).

Table 2: Ohio May Temperature Ranking

Period	Value	Average	Anomaly	Rank	Coollest/Warmest Since	Record Year
May 2021	58.9°F	61.1°F	-2.2°F	47 th Coolest	Coollest since: 2020 Warmest since: 2019	53.4°F (1917) 68.0°F (2018)

Looking at Figure 5, notice that everywhere except for parts of southern Ohio were consistently between 55° and 60°F, with southern Ohio being warmer at around 60° to 65°F (Figure 5). Trends continue to show that May was cooler than the normals in Figure 6. The western region of Ohio, specifically the southwest, averaged around 3°F cooler than the normal values. A majority of Ohio was around 2°F cooler than normal, with no regions of the state having higher than normal temperature values (Figure 6).

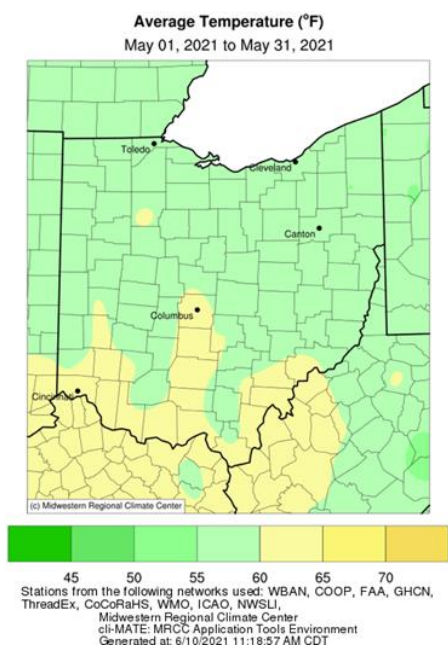


Figure 5: Average May Temperature in °F. Courtesy of the Midwest Regional Climate Center.

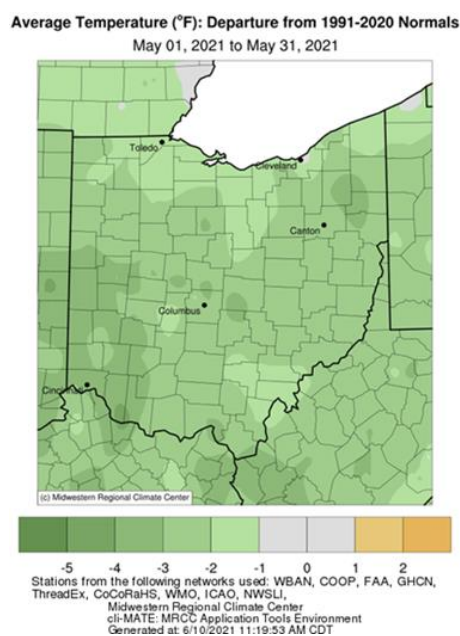


Figure 6: Departure from Normal Average May Temperature in °F. Courtesy of the Midwest Regional Climate Center.

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The hottest county in Ohio during the month of May was Hamilton County, with a temperature of 60.9°F, making it the 41st coldest May for this county. Ashtabula County was the coldest county, with a recorded temperature of 56.4°F, making it the 62nd coldest May for the county (Figure 7). The coldest recorded temperature during this period was 53.4°F in 1917 and the warmest recorded temperature was 68.0°F in 2018 (Figure 8).

Figure 7: Ohio County Temperature Ranking (NCEI, NOAA)

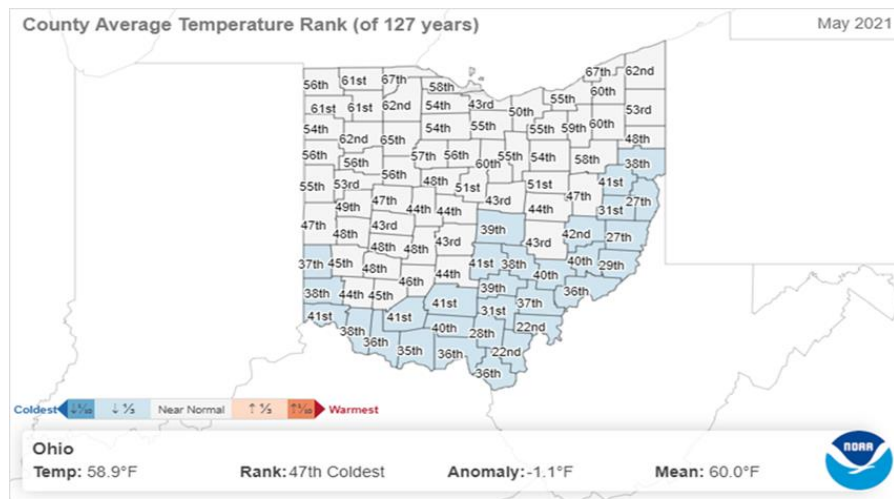
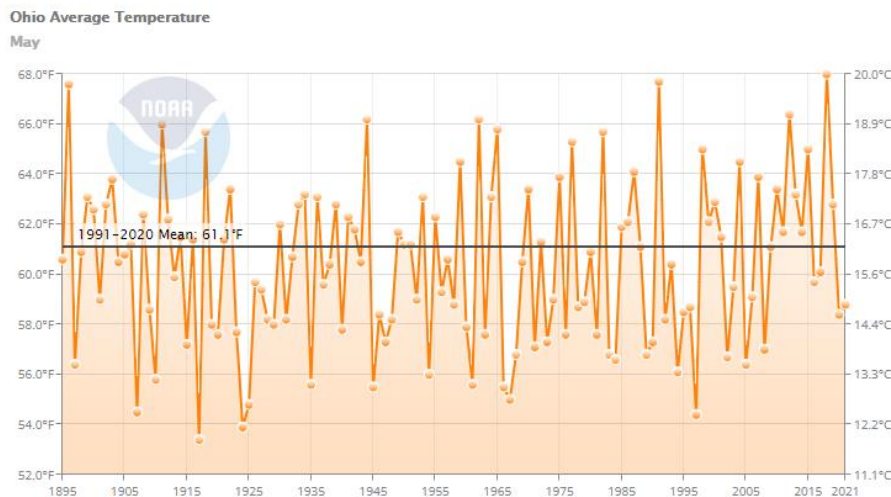


Figure 8: Ohio Historical Temperature Time Series (NCEI, NOAA)



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