

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT FOR 1985

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The following account and summary of the weather during 1985 has been compiled from Ryde's records. The comparisons and averages now span 68 years since 1st. January, 1918.

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Rainfall

The 1985 total of 26.29 in. (668.2 millimetres) was below the 65-year annual average there of 30.45 in. and compared with totals of 24.23 in. in 1983 and 31.04 in. in 1984.

During 1985 only March (2.56 in.), June (2.19 in.), August (4.32 in.) and December (3.62 in.) had monthly totals in excess of their long term averages.

January (2.85 in.), February (1.64 in.), April (1.39 in.), May (1.65 in.), July (1.69 in.), September (0.84 in.), October (1.18 in.) and November (2.36 in.) all had below average rainfall at Ryde.

The wettest day of 1985 gave 1.38 in. of rain on August 4 in a 24-hour period from 9 a.m. G.M.T.

On average a fall of one inch or more during this 24-hour period occurs about five times in two years – one inch of rain being the equivalent of 101 tons of water to the acre.

During 1985 Ryde had 143 'rain days' compared with an annual average of 156 days (a 'rain day' is defined as a 24-hour period from 9 a.m. G.M.T. during which at least 0.01 in. of rain is recorded).

Sunshine

The 1985 sunshine total at Ryde of 1,832.3 hours was above the 65-year average there of 1,739.1 hours and the 1983 and 1984 totals of 1,764.6 hours and 1,764.2 hours respectively.

Surprisingly it was the sunniest year since 1976.

During 1985 only June (202.6 hours) and December (45.0 hours) had below average monthly totals.

In January (67.0 hours), February (84.0 hours), March (139.9 hours), April (189.1 hours), May (227.2 hours), July (262.1 hours), August (223.5 hours), September (164.1 hours), October (138.9 hours) and November (88.9 hours) monthly totals at Ryde exceeded – generally by a small margin – the long term monthly average.

Of the 64 sunless days (annual average 63), 13 occurred during December, 12 during January, eight during each of February and November and seven during March.

Only four occurred from April to July inclusive.

May 30 with 15.1 hours of sunshine at Ryde and July 6 with 15.2 hours each provided a new daily record there for their respective months.

Temperatures

The maximum shade temperature at Ryde Esplanade reached or exceeded 70°F on only 24 days during 1985 compared with an annual average of 39 such instances.

As many as 16 of these warm days in 1985 occurred during July.

The warmest day of 1985 at Ryde gave a reading of 78.8°F on July 5.

During 1985 minimum air temperatures fell to 32°F or below on 39 days – 16 of these during January and 12 during February.

On average there are 23 air frosts annually at Ryde Esplanade with a record number of 69 during the year of the 'big freeze' in 1963.

The coldest days of 1985 were on January 7 and 16 when the maximum reached only 29.3°F.

The lowest minimum occurred on January 14 with a reading of 22.1°F.

The year's highest minimum temperature came as late as October 3 when a reading of 63°F created a new October record.

A maximum reading of 61.5°F on December 2 gave Ryde its warmest ever December day.

The 1985 mean maximum and mean minimum temperatures at Ryde of 55.7°F and 45.7°F compared with long term annual means of 57°F and 46°F respectively.

Snowfall

Between January 5 and 18 all precipitation fell as snow estimated to have given a cumulative depth of 5 in. – the equivalent of 0.52 in. of rain.

Further snow fell on February 9.

Thunder

Thunder was heard on seven days during 1985 which included one heavy and severe storm on May 25/26.

Gales

While on several days during 1985 the winds approached or reached gale force none were noted as being particularly severe.

Fog

Fog often persisted during the last week of February and again on March 8.

This summary relates to Ryde's official meteorological records and although some variations have naturally occurred at other Island resorts, the general weather pattern depicted broadly indicates that experienced throughout the Island and adjacent mainland coastal areas of central southern England.

Differences would be most marked in regard to rainfall intensities during thundery activity even between weather stations only a few miles apart.

In this connection, while Ryde had only 0.03 in. of rain on June 19, Sandown recorded 1.24 in. during a freak hailstorm when a tornado affected the Arreton Valley.

With regard to temperatures, Ryde's long term averages and extremes closely accord with those of other Island coastal resorts although inland, around Newport and district, minima on the coldest nights can be up to 6°F lower than those on the coast while maxima on the hottest days of summer might well exceed by 3 or 4°F those readings taken on Ryde Esplanade.

Summing up, the most notable memories of 1985 must include the two severely cold spells from January 5 to 19 and from February 9 to 19; a rather cool and rainy summer except for the week ended on June 3 and the first 12 days of July.

A wet and cool August was followed by a pleasantly warm and dry September and October which included a record 22 days without measurable rain.

A cold fortnight during the second half of November was followed by a rainy December which remained exceptionally mild until the last few days of the year.

MONTHLY SUMMARY OF WEATHER AT RYDE, ISLE OF WIGHT – 1985

Month	Hours of Sunshine	Rain mm	Screen Temperatures			Extremes	
			Mean Max °C	Mean Min. °C	Mean Monthly °C	°C From	°C To
January	67.0	72.4	4.5	0.0	2.2	11.0	-5.5
February	84.0	41.8	5.6	1.4	3.5	11.8	-4.5
March	139.9	65.1	8.8	2.9	5.9	14.2	-3.6
April	189.1	35.4	13.1	6.2	9.7	19.0	2.8
May	227.2	41.8	15.9	9.3	12.6	21.0	7.1
June	202.6	55.7	17.6	11.2	14.4	21.5	7.7
July	262.1	43.0	20.9	14.0	17.4	26.0	11.2
August	223.5	109.7	18.7	13.3	16.0	21.1	10.8
September	164.1	21.4	18.6	12.5	15.6	24.0	8.5
October	138.9	30.0	15.0	10.7	12.8	20.7	5.6
November	88.9	60.1	8.9	3.8	6.3	16.0	-1.6
December	45.0	91.8	10.5	6.7	8.6	16.4	-3.1
TOTALS	1832.3	668.2mm (26.29) (25.4mm =1")	Annual Means 13.2°C (55.7°F)	7.6°C (45.7°F)	10.4°C (50.7°F)	Highest max 26.0°C 5th July	Lowest Min. -5.5°C 14th Jan.