

Weather conditions during the winter season over Cyprus

The weather over Cyprus during the winter season was wet and very warm.

December 2009

In December the weather was relatively wet. Unstable weather conditions prevailed during the periods 3-8, 10-14, 16-21 and 28-29 of the month, giving local rain, isolated thundery showers, hail and snow over the highest parts of Troodos mountain. The mean air temperature was 1.9 °C above normal and the area average precipitation was 156.6 mm i.e. 148% of normal. Monthly precipitation was above normal in all areas except from some isolated inland areas ranging from 87% to 257% of normal. On the 16th of the month, heavy rain, hail associated with strong winds affected all areas of Cyprus resulting in uprooted trees and damages to houses, mainly in the area of Larnaka. Due to these conditions, two small aircrafts in Larnaka airport overturned, one fire and one passenger aircraft removed from their position and two flights were cancelled.

January 2010

In January the weather was again wet and relatively warm. Unstable weather conditions prevailed on the 3rd and during the periods 12-25 and 28-31 of the month, giving rain, local thunderstorms and snow over the Troodos mountain. The mean air temperature was 2.3 °C above normal and the area average precipitation was 149.5 mm i.e. 146% of normal. Monthly precipitation was mainly above normal in all areas ranging between 91% and 418% of normal. On the 18th of the month, intense rainfall was recorded over the island causing severe problems. In Astromeritis area (inland plain area) a daily rainfall amount of 175.0 mm was recorded. On the 29th, 30th and 31st of the month, suspended dust in the atmosphere was recorded. On the 31st of the month, a tornado was recorded in Oroklini area (southern coastal area) causing local damages.

Air frost was recorded on 1 occasion in the inland areas and on 5 occasions in the mountainous areas. Ground frost was recorded on 1 occasion in coastal areas, on 2 occasions in inland areas and on 6 occasions in the mountainous areas.

February 2010

In February the weather was again wet and warm. Unstable weather conditions prevailed during the periods 1-10 and 24-28 of the month, giving rain, isolated thundery showers, hail and snow over Troodos mountain. The mean air temperature was 2.3 °C above normal and the area average precipitation was 107.5 mm i.e. 132% of normal. Monthly precipitation was below normal in the southern and western coastal areas while in the rest of the island it was above normal. Generally, monthly precipitation ranged from 70% to 300% of normal.

On the 3rd of the month, strong winds affected the island uprooting trees and causing damages to properties. During the period 12-15 of the month, suspended dust in the atmosphere was recorded. On the 27th of the month, heavy rainfall accompanied in some cases by strong winds, lightning and thunders was recorded in all areas during the evening. On the same day, a tornado was recorded in Vasa Koilaniou village (western slopes of Troodos mountain).

Air frost was recorded on 5 occasions in the mountainous areas and on 1 occasion in the inland plain areas. Ground frost was recorded on 9 occasions in the mountainous areas and on 4 occasions in the inland plain areas.

Comments on seasonal statement outlook

With respect to **temperature** the seasonal outlook statement predicted well the temperature conditions in the Eastern Mediterranean region, i.e. warm conditions (above normal) prevailed in the area.

Precipitation outlook was completely wrong at least for the area of Cyprus. As it is indicated above the winter season over the island was extremely wet with precipitation well above normal in the three winter months.

Weather conditions during March and April 2010

March was extremely dry (Area average precipitation 2.6 mm or 4% of normal). Temperature was 3.0 C above normal.

Precipitation in April was again well below normal (about 12.8 mm or 43% of normal) and temperature was well above normal.