

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE,
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT
METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE
CY-1418 NICOSIA

4 March 2003

MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT

THE WEATHER IN FEBRUARY 2003

General Weather Conditions: In February the weather was relatively cool and wet. Unstable weather conditions prevailed during the periods 2-9, 11-15 and 17-27 of the month giving rain, hail, thundery showers and snow over the Troodos mountains and low-lying areas. The mean air temperature for the month was about 1°C below normal, while the area average precipitation was well above normal.

Abnormal Weather Conditions: Heavy rains accompanied by severe thunderstorms and hail occurred on the 12th of the month, causing floods in various locations of the island. Extremely high precipitation was recorded on that day, with rainfall amounts exceeding 100 mm in some locations of the eastern Troodos mountains. The highest daily rainfall amounts occurred at Politiko (181 mm), Ayios Ioannis Mal. (140 mm), Lythrodondas (140 mm) and Lefkara Dam (135 mm), which were the highest ever recorded, since measurements began at these stations. As a result of the severe storms, the Gialias river flooded causing the death of a man at Pera Chorio Nisou.

Exceptionally cool weather associated with heavy snowfall even in plain areas was recorded in the 24th of the month. The depth of the accumulated snow over the highest parts of Troodos mountains reached the value of 50 cm during the period 21-24 of the month. By the end of the month the accumulated depth of snow over the highest parts of Troodos mountains exceeded the 1 m height.

Precipitation: According to preliminary estimates the area average precipitation in February was about 149 mm, i.e. 183% of normal. Precipitation was above normal in all areas and ranged mainly between 120 and 280% of normal. Hail was recorded in various locations on the 2nd, 4th, 7th, 8th, 12th, 19th and during the period 24-27 of the month. Snow fell on the Troodos mountains during the periods 2-3, 8-9, 12th and 19-27 of the month. Snow also fell on Pentadaktylos range and low-lying areas on the 24th of the month.

The cumulative area average precipitation during the period October-February was about 403 mm i.e. 107% of normal. The cumulative precipitation was slightly above normal in most areas and ranged mainly between 90 and 150% of normal.

Temperature: The mean air temperature for the month was about 1°C below normal. Mean daily temperatures were above normal during the first week of the month and below normal during the rest of the month. The greater deviations below normal occurred during the last week of the month when maximum and minimum temperatures were on the average 4 to 7 °C below normal. Most stations recorded their highest maximum temperature at the beginning of the month and their lowest minimum temperature on the 27th of the month.

Slight ground frost was recorded in the plain areas. However, air and ground frosts were more frequent in the mountainous areas. Air frost occurred at Prodomos on 18 occasions, while ground frost occurred on 23 occasions.

The 5-day averages of air temperature and their differences from normal at various places are shown in Table 1 and the extreme temperatures are shown in Table 2.

FEBRUARY 2003

FIVE-DAY TEMPERATURES AND DIFFERENCES FROM NORMAL (C)

STATION	***** MEAN MAXIMUM *****								MEAN DIF/NCE
	LEFKOSIA		LARNAKA A/P		PAFOS A/P		PRODRAMOS		
DATES	ACTUAL	DIF/NCE	ACTUAL	DIF/NCE	ACTUAL	DIF/NCE	ACTUAL	DIF/NCE	
1-5	18	2	19	3	18	1	6	0	2
6-10	16	0	18	2	16	0	4	-2	0
11-15	13	-3	15	-1	16	-1	4	-2	-2
16-20	15	-1	17	0	16	-1	5	-2	-1
21-25	10	-7	12	-5	12	-5	0	-7	-6
26-28	13	-4	15	-2	15	-2	3	-4	-3
MONTH	14	-2	16	-1	16	-1	4	-3	-2

STATION	***** MEAN MINIMUM *****								MEAN DIF/NCE
	LEFKOSIA		LARNAKA A/P		PAFOS A/P		PRODRAMOS		
DATES	ACTUAL	DIF/NCE	ACTUAL	DIF/NCE	ACTUAL	DIF/NCE	ACTUAL	DIF/NCE	
1-5	8	2	8	1	10	3	2	1	2
6-10	7	2	8	1	11	3	0	0	2
11-15	6	1	6	-1	8	0	-1	-1	0
16-20	7	2	7	0	9	1	0	-1	1
21-25	3	-3	4	-4	4	-4	-4	-5	-4
26-28	2	-4	3	-4	4	-4	-4	-6	-4
MONTH	6	0	6	-1	8	0	-1	-2	0

Table No. 1

EXTREME TEMPERATURES								
STATION	NICOSIA		LARNAKA A/P		PAFOS A/P		PRODRAMOS	
	C	DATE	C	DATE	C	DATE	C	DATE
HIGHEST MAXIMUM	21,1	1	20,0	1&2	20,5	1	9,2	17
LOWEST MINIMUM	0,6	26	1,3	25	2,4	25	-6,0	25

Table No. 2