Meteorological data summary for January 2022 for the Blenheim Meteorological station located at the Grovetown Park campus of the Marlborough Research Centre.

Weekly temperatures, rainfall and sunshine during January 2022

	Mean Max (°C)	Mean Min (°C)	Mean (°C)	Rainfall (mm)	Sunshine (hours)	Wind-Run (km)
1st - 7th	23.8 (+0.2)	13.8 (+1.0)	18.8 (+0.6)	0.0	66.1	182.1
8th - 14th	24.2 (+0.6)	13.1 (+0.3)	18.7 (+0.5)	0.0	65.5	211.4
15th - 21st	22.7 (-0.9)	11.1 (-1.7)	16.9 (-1.3)	5.4	81.9	233.3
22nd - 28th	24.1 (+0.5)	14.0 (+1.2)	19.0 (+0.8)	7.2	65.6	192.6
29th – 31st (3 days)	24.5 (+0.9)	12.0 (-0.8)	18.3 (+0.1)	0.0	34.7	211.3
1st – 31st January	**23.8 (+0.2°C)**	**12.9 (+0.1°C)**	**18.3 (+0.1°C)**	**12.6 (30%)**	**313.8 119%**	**205.5 76%**
LTA 1986-2021	23.6	12.8	18.2	42.2	264.3	270.4 (1996-2021)

January 2022 rainfall was markedly below average. Wind-run was below average. Mean temperature was slightly above average. Sunshine hours were well above average.

Air Temperature

The mean temperature of 18.3°C was 0.1°C above the long-term average temperature (LTA) for January of 18.2°C (1986-2021).

January 2021 mean temperature was 18.4°C
January 2020 mean temperature was 17.5°C
January 2019 mean temperature was 20.7°C
January 2018 mean temperature was 20.7°C

There were 10 days during January when the daily maximum was above 25.0°C, well above the LTA daily maximum of 23.6°C. However, none of the weeks experienced consistently hot days. There were also 16 days when the daily maximum temperature was below the LTA.

The highest maximum temperature of 31.0°C was recorded on Wednesday 19 January. This was the only day during January when Blenheim exceeded 30.0°C. The Woodbourne met station exceeded 30°C on 5 days during January.
Blenheim recorded 2 days greater than 30.0°C in January 2021.
Blenheim recorded 2 days greater than 30.0°C in January 2020.
Blenheim recorded 10 days greater than 30.0°C in January 2019.

Most people would probably think that temperatures in January were warmer than they actually were. If January's temperatures were not out of the ordinary, why did January seem like a great summer month? The lack of consistently hot days was made up for by high sunshine hours and low rainfall. The weather was great for getting outdoors while on holiday.

Sunshine

313.8 hours sunshine for January is 119% of the LTA for January of 264.3 hours. This is now the fifth highest January sunshine total on record for Blenheim for the 93 years 1930 to 2022

January 2021 sunshine was 309.0 hours
January 2020 sunshine was 245.0 hours
January 2019 sunshine was 317.9 hours (2nd highest January total on record)
January 2018 sunshine was 243.6 hours

Sunniest towns for January 2022

New Plymouth	359.1 hours (Provisional total)
Richmond	344.9 hours
Whakatane	342.5 hours
Appleby	334.5 hours
Paraparaumu	330.6 hours
Levin	323.6 hours
Tekapo	322.6 hours
Auckland	322.1 hours
Nelson	317.5 hours
Blenheim	313.8 hours

While Blenheim experienced a very sunny January, so did all the other towns that are normally in the running for sunniest town. Blenheim's January total was only in 10th place.
New Plymouth looks like it wants to keep the sunniest town title it earned in 2021, as it recorded an extremely high sunshine total in January 2022.
To put the New Plymouth's January sunshine total of 359.1 hours into perspective, Blenheim's highest ever monthly total from 1930 to 2022 is 335.3 hours recorded in January 1957; i.e. New Plymouth exceeded that total by 23.8 hours. Richmond's highest ever monthly total is 355.1 hours recorded in January 2019.

Rainfall

Rainfall total of 12.6 mm is 30% of the LTA for January of 42.2 mm. While this is a low total there are 18 other years from 1930 to 2022 when January has recorded a lower rainfall total. This is the fourth year in a row when January has recorded low rainfall.

January 2021 rainfall was 7.8 mm – 10th lowest on record
January 2020 rainfall was 0.2 mm – 2nd lowest on record
January 2019 rainfall was 3.8 mm – 5th equal lowest on record
January 1978 rainfall was 0.0 mm – lowest on record

Wind-run

Average daily wind-run in January 2022 was 205.5 km, 76% of the LTA of 270.4 km; i.e. it was a very calm month. There was only one day in January when the daily wind-run exceeded the LTA of 270.4 km. The windiest day was 19 January with 302 km wind-run. Maximum wind speed during the month was 46.8 km/hr recorded on 19 January.

Potential evapotranspiration

Total potential evapotranspiration for January 2022 was 152.5 mm, 105% of the LTA of 144.6 mm.

Potential water deficit

This is the difference between monthly rainfall and potential evapotranspiration.
12.6 mm rainfall – 152.5 mm potential evapotranspiration = -139.9 mm potential water deficit
This water deficit of -139.9 mm is 133% of the LTA of -105.2 mm.

Shallow soil moisture (topsoil)

Average shallow soil moisture (0 to 35 cm) at the Grovetown Park weather station for January 2022 was 19.3%. This was slightly below the LTA of 20.6%. However, soil moisture fell sharply during the month. Shallow soil moisture on 1 January was 25.1; 3.4% above average. On 31 January shallow soil moisture was 16.6%; 1.7% below average.

Plant & Food Research / Marlborough Research Centre
rob.agnew@plantandfood.co.nz