

Chicago, IL

Information About the Gloomy Month of April 2011 for Chicago

IT WAS A GLOOMY APRIL IN CHICAGO. WITH REGARD TO PRECIPITATION...CHICAGO-OHARE FINISHED THE MONTH WITH 4.90 INCHES OF PRECIPITATION...WHICH IS 1.22 INCHES ABOVE NORMAL. HOWEVER...THIS VALUE WAS NOT ALL THAT EXCEPTIONAL IN THAT IT DOES NOT EVEN RANK IN THE TOP 20 FOR RAINIEST APRILS IN THE PERIOD OF RECORD. WHAT WAS NOTABLE ABOUT APRIL WAS THE VERY FREQUENT OCCURRENCE OF PRECIPITATION. AT LEAST A TRACE OF PRECIPITATION OCCURRED ON 20 OUT OF THE 30 DAYS IN APRIL AT CHICAGO O'HARE...WITH AT LEAST 0.01 INCHES RECORDED ON 17 OUT OF THE 30 DAYS AND 13 DAYS WITH AT LEAST 0.10 OF PRECIPITATION RECORDED. THE APRIL NORMAL FOR DAYS WITH AT LEAST 0.01 INCHES OF PRECIPITATION IS 13 AND THE NORMAL FOR DAYS WITH AT LEAST 0.10 INCHES OF PRECIPITATION IS 7.

THE FREQUENT PRECIPITATION LED TO PERSISTENT CLOUD COVER FOR MUCH OF THE MONTH. ACCORDING TO MIDWAY OBSERVER FRANK WACHOWSKI'S MONTHLY RECORDS OF PERCENTAGE OF POSSIBLE SUNSHINE EXPERIENCED...APRIL 2011 WAS THE CLOUDIEST APRIL...WITH ONLY 32 PERCENT OF POSSIBLE SUNSHINE (WITH RECORDS DATING BACK TO 1893).

DESPITE PROBABLE PUBLIC PERCEPTION THAT IT WAS ALSO UNUSUALLY COOL IN APRIL...TEMPERATURES WERE ACTUALLY NEAR NORMAL ACROSS NORTHERN ILLINOIS AND NORTHWEST INDIANA. AVERAGE MAXIMUM TEMPERATURES AT CHICAGO-O'HARE WERE 1.9 DEGREES BELOW NORMAL...BUT AVERAGE MINIMUM TEMPERATURES WERE 1.7 DEGREES ABOVE NORMAL...LEAVING THE MONTHLY AVERAGE TEMPERATURE JUST 0.1 DEGREES BELOW THE 1971-2000 NORMAL OF 47.8. THIS OWES TO THE PERSISTENT CLOUD COVER AND FREQUENT PRECIPITATION THAT IN GENERAL KEPT DAYS COOLER AND NIGHTS Milder.

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