

Figure 1: April daily average temperatures compared to the long-term averages.

April 2026

Temperature

Day-to-day temperatures this month are shown in Fig. 1, overlain on the averages since 2002. This monthly average temperature this year was 10.67 °C. The long-term average monthly average temperature is 9.6 °C. There were three wonderfully warm days this month. Tbl. 1 lists them with their maximum temperatures. On the other side of the scale, the temperature fell to -0.1 °C on the morning of 16 April. This was (very likely!) the last day with freezing temperatures we'll have until next Fall.

Day	Maximum
06	22.5 °C
20	21.9 °C
30	21.3 °C

Table 1: Days with maximum temperature greater than 20 °C.

Aside, 2004 and 2016 were exceptionally warm Aprils

2026 was the fourth warmest April at UVic since 2002. That sits high in the list of April monthly temperatures, but is far from the two years at the top of the list.

The top ten warmest years are tabulated in Table 2 (and visualised in Fig. 2). Take note of the two warmest years. They are exceptional. This year was 11% warmer than the average, but 2004 and 2016 were more than 25% warmer.

Typically, El Niño would be a plausible explanation for those two extremes. We tend to have warmer winters at UVic during such an event. Sure enough, 2016 was a very strong El Niño year. 2004, however, was neutral, so El Niño is not a satisfying explanation. We cannot call on the PDO (Pacific Decadal Oscillation) for that year either. When the PDO is in its positive phase in winter it tends to lead to warmer temperatures for us. However, the PDO was negative leading up to April 2004, and actually zero for that month in particular. For the record, the PDO was strongly positive in April 2016. We have two (exceptionally) warm Aprils in the record and no obvious explanation that fits both. For now, I will assign “natural variability” as the explanation of 2004.

Year	Minimum °C	Mean °C	Maximum °C
2016	8.4	12.30	17.1
2004	7.4	11.97	17.2
2005	7.1	10.70	15.4
2026	6.2	10.67	15.6
2025	6.2	10.47	15.6
2021	5.8	10.27	15.3
2019	6.7	10.13	14.0
2014	6.6	9.91	14.1
2006	6.6	9.85	13.8
2020	5.8	9.81	14.4

Table 2: The warmest ten Aprils at UVic (Ian Stewart Complex).

Year	Count	Year	Count	Year	Count
		11	0	21	6
02	1	12	0	22	0
03	2	13	0	23	2
04	6	14	1	24	0
05	7	15	1	25	1
06	1	16	6	26	3
07	1	17	0		
08	0	18	2		
09	2	19	9		
10	0	20	0		

Table 3: Count of days with maximum temperature greater than 20°C.

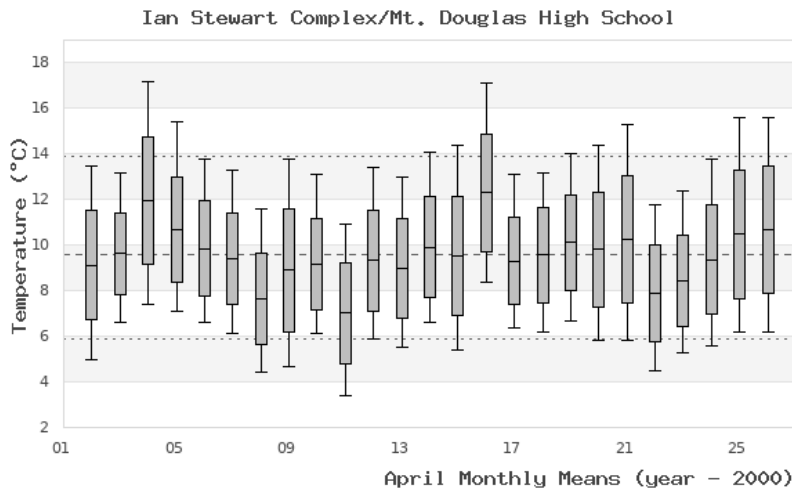


Figure 2: April average temperature.

Precipitation

This year we recorded 29.2 mm of rain over seven days versus the monthly average of 35 mm on 12 days. So, overall a relatively dry month. Almost all of the rain we observed came as part of two days with strong springtime convective instability, April 14 and 15. The 14th saw 15.8 mm, and the 15th another 5.6 mm. That's more than two-thirds of the month's rain. The remainder this month was spread across five days with small amounts of rain.

April 15 was specially interesting because some of the precipitation came in the form weather drama: scattered hail throughout the afternoon. The weather forecast for the day indicated a possibility of thunderstorms, though I can't report being aware of any nearby lightning. Fig. 4 shows an image from my rooftop camera and a photo of the hail, with a ruler for scale. These hail stones were as large as any I've seen in the region but are not exceptional compared to other parts of the world with bigger thunderstorms and related weather systems. Hail that falls into the precipitation gauge on the weather is recorded as rain when the ice melts.

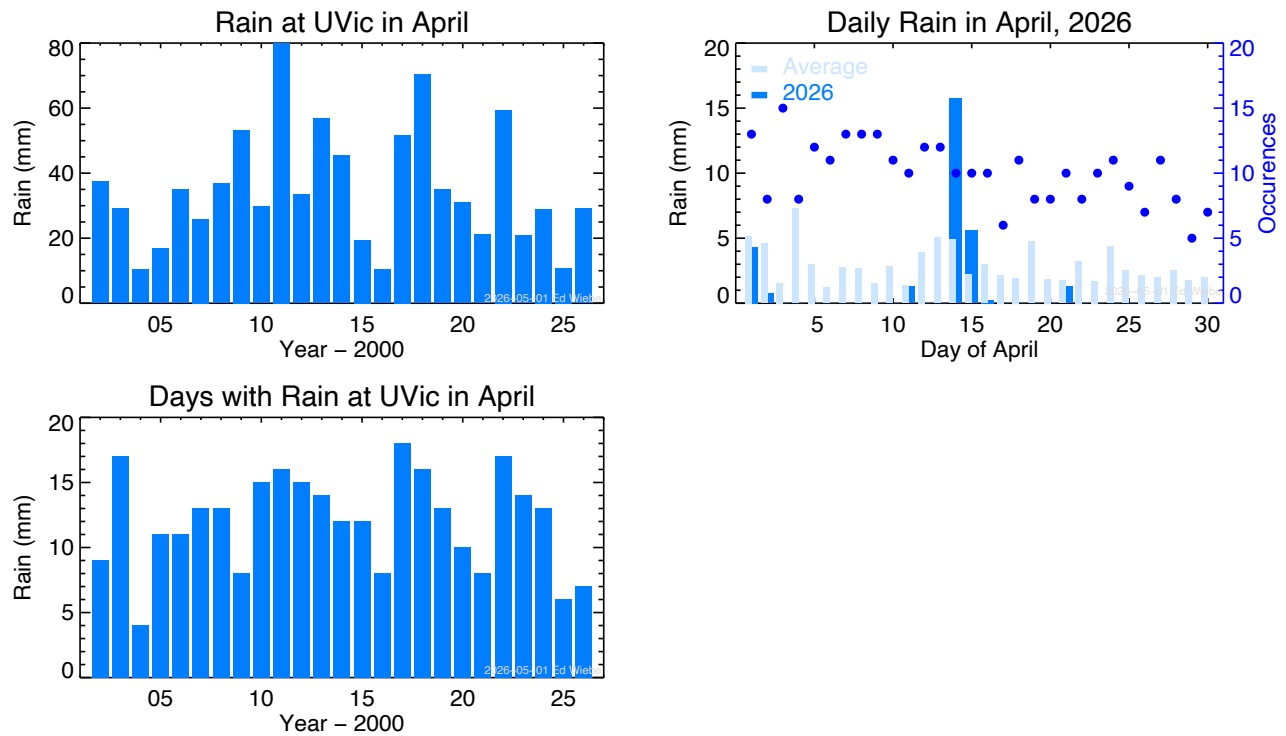


Figure 3: April rain at UVic.



Figure 4: Hail observed near UVic, 2026-04-15.

Alerts

I recorded only one alert this month, for strong winds.

Day	Type
5	Greater Victoria; wind

Table 4: Weather alerts in April, 2026.