

June 80

Just for the record — it was such a wet June!

The outstanding feature of the weather of June has been its wetness. As opposed to the usual fall of 59mm (2.32 in) we had 111mm (4.36in), a surplus of 52mm (2.05in) or 188 per cent of the normal June rainfall.

With only six days rain-free, June 1980 has been the wettest regarding the number of days with rain, since records began at the Halesowen Climatological Station in 1946.

NEW RECORD

As to total fall, the month was the third wettest in the same 34 year period, exceeded only by 117mm (4.61in) in 1958 and

127mm (5.00 in) in 1968, the wettest on record.

This has been due to series of low pressure areas either passing directly over us, or skirting the north of Scotland. The results have been days with either continuous rain, or very heavy and frequent showers. In fact, the warm sea level pressure of 101mbs (29.83 in Hg) has itself been the lowest since at least 1956 and has created a new "low" June record.

Despite the dreary, depressing days, temperatures have been, surprisingly, above normal for June.

The warmest day, June 4, produced a maximum of 28.3C

(83F), which was 3C above normal.

The lowest night temperature of 5.3C (41.5F) on June 25 was also higher than one would expect, though on the same night grass temperatures fell almost to freezing at 2.5C (36.5F)

DUST FREE!

With so much rain, the air has been relatively dust-free and solar-radiation temperatures have been high, averaging 41.9C (107F).

The highest daily value of 53.8C (129F) was on June 4 when the visibility was also in the region of 20 miles.

Thunder was recorded on four days, June 5, 7, 16 and 24. With hail on June 23. This gave double the number of thunderstorms for a normal June.

It is during these storms that the heaviest rainfall normally occurs, but in this instance the most torrential downpour was on June 30 when rain was falling at the rate of 33mm (1.29in) per hour at 8.45 pm.

LIGHT WINDS

Winds were generally light and south westerly, the highest gusts of 28 knots (32 mph) being registered on June 16 in a thunderstorm, and on June 19. During the last week winds turned north westerly and we had a period of much cooler weather with widespread and heavy showers.

The "best" of the weather was confined to the first week when days were reasonably warm and the pressure was at its highest level.

Rain only occurred on three of the first seven days and this was generally light. By June, however, a very unsettled spell began which was to continue until the end of the month.

COOL

As time passed, the lack of bright sunshine depressed temperatures and the coolest weather was consequently towards the end of the month. In fact, soil temperatures began to decline about the middle of the month and continued, with little interruption, until the end.

In summary, the other main features of June were as follows: Rain fell on 24 days, with 17 being "wet" and 10 "very wet." The duration for which rain was falling was 52 hours, 12 hours above normal, with the most prolonged spell of 9.4 hours on June 14. This day also produced the heaviest fall of 13.5mm (0.52in).

The mean maximum air temperature was 18.3C (65F), with the mean in minimum 9.4C (49F), giving a mean daily of 13.9C (57F), all about average for June.

Soil temperatures are down on normal by 1.8C (3F) at 2ins and 0.8C (1F) at 4 ins.

The month was totally frost free, but was more cloudy than usual and the mean humidity (wetness of air) was almost 9 per cent above usual at 87.3 per cent. A very depressing start to summer