

June 27

Dull, but driest June since 1976

This summer is gaining a poor reputation, due mainly to its extreme dullness. But we have just had the driest June since the heatwave of 1976.

Sunshine for June has been only 74 per cent, of the expected value at 151 hours, though only 2 days were completely sunless. The month has been noted for its generally cloudy conditions, lack of bright sunshine and cool northerly winds.

COOL AND CLOUDY

Rainfall has, however been markedly below normal at March 31 (1.23 in) only 53 per cent of the usual June value.

Almost two thirds of this fell on the morning of the second in a brief thunderstorm. No substantial rain fell after this, only 12 days in the entire month having any measurable falls.

The pressure pattern over the first fortnight was mainly cyclonic, with frontal systems moving over us from the north west. Their principal effect was to draw in cool and very cloudy air which kept daytime temperatures well down on normal.

WARMEST DAY

Slightly better weather arrived on June 12, as the pressure built from the Atlantic anticyclone. Despite this, cloud still persisted, and maximum temperatures hovered around the 70F mark for only two days until the fourteenth, before cooler conditions again returned.

It was not until June 22, that temperatures reached normal June levels, giving us our warmest day at 24.9C (77F), though the previous day was the sunniest with almost 14 hours unbroken sunshine.

SOIL TEMPERATURES

With the onset of north-westerly winds late on the twenty-second, cool conditions again returned and were to remain until the end of the month. Indeed, a local ground frost occurred in the early hours of Saturday, June 27, around dawn.

The lack of bright sunshine has held all soil temperatures down, and these are currently from 1F to 3F below average.

Air temperatures have also failed to reach average values, the mean maximum being 17.5C (64F) some 1.3C (2F) below expectation.

Skies were completely overcast on 16 mornings and consequently the mean humidity, at 88 per cent, has been almost 9 per cent up on an average June.

Total wind-run at 6405 miles yields a mean daily run of 213.5 miles at 9 mph, itself a little up on expected June speeds.

In all, a rather depressing start to summer with large deficits in both sunshine and warm days.

CC Roberts