

THE WEATHER OF AUGUST 1991.

GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE MONTH.

August was a much better month than usual, sunny, dry and warm. It was the driest in 36 years and the second driest since at least 1946 with only 26mm (1.02in) of rain. This contrasts with the 142mm (5.59in) in August 1962 and the 186mm (7.32in) in August 1946, the wettest on record. That year saw corn stooks sprouting in the fields. August is, on average, the second wettest month of the year behind December. So much for "High Summer".

Temperatures were also well up on normal, by as much as 2C in the air. The warmest day was the 31st with 27C (81F) and three days were hot (maximums above 25C). In 1976 13 days were hot, 6 of them consecutive, though the highest maximum recorded here is the 34.7C (95F) of August 3rd last year.

Sunshine, at 211 hours, was 43 hours above average though still well below the record levels of 1989 and 1990. 1976 holds the sunshine record with over 220 hours and 15 days above 9 hours.

Past Augusts have produced unusual weather. In 1952 there were 12 continuous days of rain from the 1st to 12th whilst in 1949 there were 19 continuous dry days from the 10th to 28th. August 1957 produced only 120 hours of sunshine, about half of that recorded in 1976. The 19th August 1970 saw almost 3 inches of rain in the day whilst 1982 had rain on 23 of the 31 days .