

GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE MONTH.

March was a cold start to Spring with 23 ground and 13 air frosts, well above normal and the worst since 1987. Snow or sleet occurred on 9 days, 75% above average and again the worst since 1987. Three days had snow lying, the 3rd., 4th., and 28th.

Mean temperatures were down on the 30-year means, by 1.1C for the minimum and 0.2C for the daily. Soil temperatures were depressed, though at depths below 30cm they held up well.

Rainfall was below expectation by almost a quarter, rain falling on 19 days somewhat above expectation.

Sunshine was well up by almost three fifths, with only 2 sunless days, the best in 5 years, the 23rd providing almost 11 hours and 6 days more than 9 hours each, equal best with 1973, 1965 and 1961.

Hail was 4 times as frequent as normal with 1 day of thunder.
