

GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE MONTH.

March was a poor start to Spring being cold and dull, though quite dry. The mean daily temperature of 4.3C (39.7F) was the lowest since 1970, whilst the highest maximum of 12.4C (54.3F) was the lowest since 1984. There were 15 ground and 9 air frosts, both about normal for March, though all soil temperatures are well down on an average March. Current Spring conditions are approximately two weeks behind schedule in terms of temperature.

Rainfall continues well below expectation with only two-thirds of the usual fall over a period of 56.6 hours. Snow or sleet occurred on 2 occasions with snow lying on 2 mornings.

Sunshine was a mere half of the 30-year mean, the dulllest since 1984. In all 14 days were completely without sun, 9 consecutive from the 18th to 26th inclusive, five worse than in 1964 and the second dulllest on record.