

JUNE DATA.

May passed into June with little change in the weather that remained unsettled with a markedly westerly flow and periods of rain or heavy showers, and sunny periods. The 1st saw 14.7 hours of sunshine, the best to date this year, though the Jubilee celebrations looked like suffering from rain in many parts of the country. The 2nd produced a maximum temperature of 24.9°C/76.8°F, a shade under the magical 25°C/77°F that denotes a "hot" day. The lowest maximum for the week was 17.1°C/62.8°F on the 7th. Over the same period minimum temperatures ranged from 13.0°C/55.4°F on the 7th to 6.6°C/43.9°F on the 4th with a grass minimum of 3.3°C/37.9°F on this latter date also.

Radiation temperatures peaked at 56.4°C/133.5°F on the 4th, a day that also saw radiation levels peaking at 1.128 kilowatts per square metre. Total radiation for the week amounted to 1563.9 kilowatts per square metre. Rainfall totalled 23.0mm/0.91in with a maximum fall of 11.4mm/0.45 in on the 5th. Over the same period sunshine totals were 40.1 hours with a maximum daily duration of 14.2 hours on the 1st. The entire period was dominated by low-pressure systems crossing the Atlantic and then trailing their associated fronts across the U.K., the occluded fronts hovering for hours on end and giving persistent and often heavy rain in places.

The onset of the second week promised little change in the persistent pattern of low-pressure systems, fronts and periods of rain. However, it did remain relatively warm, at least overnight with grass minima falling no lower than 4.5°C/40.1°F on the 11th with a corresponding air minimum of 6.9°C/44.4°F. Day maxima were not inspiring for June climbing no higher than 19.6°C/67.3°F on the 8th after which it was a gradual regression during the remainder of the week. Minimum temperatures for the week ranged from 11.6°C/52.9°F on the 14th to a low of 6.9°C/44.4°F on the 11th whilst the minimum over grass for the same period was 4.5°C/40.1°F, there being little here to instil any idea of summer. Radiation levels continued high in the clear Polar air, a maximum of 1.240 kilowatts per square metre occurring on the 10th whilst the maximum black bulb radiation temperature of 52.3°C/126.1°F occurred on the 8th.

Winds were predominantly westerly and light, a peak gust of 25 knots/30mph occurring on the 10th. Rain fell on every day though amounts were low, the week's total amounting to 14.9mm/0.59 in with a maximum daily fall of 7.1mm/0.28 in being recorded on the 9th. Over the same period a total of 30.7 hours of bright sunshine was recorded with a maximum daily total of 11.3 hours being notched up on the 11th. One occurrence of hail was reported at 1242 UTC on the 10th.

The start of the third week saw a gradual rise in temperature, though the weather remained, in general, unsettled with periods of rain as frontal systems crossed the country. Pressure did begin a gradual rise from 1012.2hPa on the 15th to 1023.0hPa on the 19th from whence further falls began. Air maximum temperatures were not good for the time of year, rising from 18.7°C/60.7°F on the 15th to a peak of 22.5°C/72.5°F on the 17th. Over the same period minimum temperatures ranged from 14.3°C/57.7°F on the 17th to 9.3°C/48.7°F on the 19th with a grass minimum of 6.5°C/43.7°F on the 20th. Rain fell on just 2 days totalling 1.7mm/0.07 in of which 1.4mm/0.06 in fell on the 15th. In contrast sunshine was recorded every day totalling 54.4 hours with 3 days classed as "sunny" with over 9 hours each daily. This brought radiation levels up appreciably, values exceeding 1.000 kilowatt per square metre every day, peaking at 1.182 kilowatts per square metre on the 17th though the peak radiation temperature of 57.8°C/136.0°F did not occur until the 20th.

Winds were generally westerly and light gusting to 22 knots/26mph on the 15th and 18th. No thunder or hail was noted during the week and cloud amounts at 09 hr in the morning were high on just 3 days. By the end of the week pressure was again rising to the south west of the country with the prospects of a sunny, warm and relatively dry week in store.

The transition to the fourth week saw little change in general conditions with pressure remaining high as a ridge from the Azores anticyclone nosed north eastwards bringing settled weather. Daytime maxima were reasonable with rainfall low and sunshine good, values ranging from a high of 22.8°C/73.0°F on the 26th to a daytime-low of 17.0°C/62.6°F on the 28th. Night minima held up well, the lowest being 7.0°C/48.6°F on the 26th that also saw the lowest over grass at 4.2°C/39.6°F. The weather was quite pleasant with light winds from the WSW peaking at 26knots/31 mph on the 27th. Cloud amounts were relatively low allowing high radiation levels to be attained again, 5 days producing values in excess of 1 kilowatt per square metre, the peak of 1.166 kilowatts per square metre occurring on the 25th. This day also saw the highest radiation temperature when the mercury peaked at 56.8°C/134.2°F.

Rainfall for the week totalled no more than a trace occurring over a time period of just 0.88 hour, whilst sunshine for the same period amounted to 67.6 hours with a maximum daily total of 14.3 hours on the 26th. At no time was there any hail or thunder.

The final few days saw a gradual decline in conditions as pressure began to fall with the approach of Atlantic depressions. After a dry period light rain fell on the 30th giving a total of 1.2mm/0.05in the first substantial fall for well over a week. It also became considerably cooler and less sunny, the end of the month bringing a marked change to low pressure from the Atlantic. All in all a very mixed summer month and not one which showed much promise.