

2003

SEPTEMBER SUMMARY.

September 2003 was a month in which we saw a marked differentiation between the weather associated with "high summer" and that of "early autumn". In terms of temperature the early month saw really high values peaking at 26.7C/80.1F on the 16th, a figure more akin to mid-summer than early autumn. The temperature range was from 26.7C/80.1F to 0.8C/33.4F, some 25.9C. On the grass, 3 frosts occurred to as low as -2.0C/28.4F on the 24th whilst radiation temperatures peaked at 58.9C/138.0F on the 16th. The mean maximum ended 2.3C above normal at 20.1C/68.2F, the same as in 1991 and the 2nd highest on record [1956]. The mean minimum was 0.6C down at 8.5C/47.3F and the mean daily was up by 0.8C at 14.3C/57.7F the same as in 2000. Soil and earth temperatures continue to show above-average values by as much as 1.5C at 5cm and 100cm depths whilst the mean soil surface

ended 3.2C above normal at 17.4C/63.3F.

Rainfall has again been well below normal by 52.5% with a fall of 33mm/1.30in for the month. This was up on last year [16.6mm/0.65in] giving

the 3rd lowest September rainfall in 13 years. Rain fell over 10 days of which 6 were "wet" [$>1\text{mm}/0.04\text{in}$] and 1 "very wet" [$>10\text{mm}/0.39\text{in}$]. With a monthly evaporation total of 77.9mm/3.07in we now have a September water deficit of 44.9mm/1.77in. Only the first 2 months of the year had rainfall exceeding evaporation and the year's deficit in water now stands at 233.2mm/9.18ins, which is quite a serious deficiency at this stage of the year.

Sunshine has again been exceptional with a surplus over normal of 31.3%. The total of 178 hours was the best since 1991 and the 3rd highest on record [1956]. Only 2 days have been totally sunless whilst 7 were classed as "sunny" with over 9 hours daily. The sunniest day was the 23rd with 11.8hours, just 12 minutes below the value

to classify it as a "very sunny" day.

Winds were generally from the SW and were light averaging 5.3kn/6.4mph with a maximum gust of 33kn/38mph again giving a month with no gusts exceeding gale force [34kn/41mph]. Thunder occurred just once and there was no incidence of hail. Air pressure remained about average with a mean sea level pressure of 1020.4hPa over the month.