

Oct 79

October weather report

Although the past month broke no long-standing weather records, it was appreciably warmer than the average October. This was due in the main to winds from a southerly quarter blowing for 25 out of the 31 days of the month.

The first week was very warm for October, the maximum air temperature not falling below 15C (59F) at all. Nights were also generally warm, though clearing skies and calm winds on October 5 and 6 did result in grass temperatures falling near to the freezing point.

Monday, October 8, was the

warmest day, the air temperature of 21.3C (70F) doing justice to any June afternoon. Tuesday, October 2, however, saw the highest radiation temperature achieved, when clear air enabled the thermometer to touch 44.4C (112F) by mid-afternoon.

FROSTS

These light winds during the latter part of the month, coupled with clear skies, did result in a lowering of both grass and air temperatures. Four ground frosts were recorded, on October 21, 22, 27 and 28, the lowest grass

temperature of 1.9C (29F) being reached on October 21 and 27. In spite of these cool conditions, no air frost was noted, the lowest air temperature being 0.5C (33F) on October 21.

Rainfall at 54 mm (2.11 ins) was normal for October, though rain occurred on three days more than usual.

THE SOIL

Sea-level barometric pressures have been much below the October norms, averaging 29.82 inches of mercury. The barometer was at its highest, 30.37 inches on October 21, and its lowest, 29.32 inches, on October 14.

Contrary to all expectations, soil temperatures have now gone above average for the first time this year. All temperatures down to three feet are up on the average by amounts varying from 1C (2F) at 8 inches, to 0.2C (0.5F) at one foot. However, the soil at both the surface and two inches depth has fallen below 5.6C (42.F), the "growth" temperature, seven times on the surface, and twice at two inches.

For those with digging to undertake, now is the ideal time to get this done. The soil one spit deep is at 10C (50F) with the surface 8.5C (47F).