

Sep 79

Friday, October 12, 1979

Only 17 hours of rain during 'dry' September

September marks the beginning of autumn as lengthening nights lead to ground frosts and shallow mists around dawn.

This September saw four ground frosts recorded at the Halesowen Climatological Station, twice the usual for the month. The most severe was on September 22 with a grass temperature of -1.3C (30F).

The three others occurred around dawn on September 15, 24 and 29.

SUNNY DAYS

Despite the clear skies and calm conditions, no air frost was recorded, though the 7 am air temperature on September 22 was only 0.6C above freezing at 33F .

The month as a whole was pleasant with relatively warm and sunny days brought about by predominantly anticyclonic conditions.

The warmest day was September 5, when the afternoon temperature was 23C (73F), though the highest radiation temperature of 50C (121F) occurred on the second.

The warm days were offset by cool nights, especially when cloud cover was minimal. Average night temperatures were in the region of 8C (46F), some 1.3C (2F) below normal.

The clear and calm conditions led to early morning mists on several occasions, with fog recorded on September 24.

ONLY HALF

Rainfall at 34mm (1.32in) was only 50 per cent of that likely in a normal September.

Of this total, 13mm (0.52in) fell in just under five hours on the first of the month. Measurable rain fell on only 11 days, concentrated into two periods from September 1 to 8 and September 18 to 26.

The total time for which rain was falling amounted to only 17 hours, which was only 31 per cent of normal.

Winds were very light, averaging six knots, and were predominantly westerly.

The windiest day was September 17 when the average over 24 hours was 11 knots.

On this day the run of wind past the climatological station was 301 miles.

For the month as a whole, the run of wind was 4755 miles, a figure which will no doubt surprise many readers.

NO HAIL

Contrary to most Septembers, no hail or thunder was recorded during the month. The sky was completely overcast at 8 am on 12 mornings, compensated for by a further 12 mornings with negligible cloud cover.

Pressure was well above average, the highest station pressure being 1015.7mb (30.00in) on September 28, and the lowest 992.2mb (29.30in) on September 18.

GARDENING NOTE

For keen gardeners, the soil temperatures down to 2 inches have now started to fall below 5.6C (44F), the temperature at which good growth ceases, for the first time since last May.

Apart from the 4 inch and 8 inch depths, all soil temperatures are up to 1F below normal for the time of the year.

These are now averaging as follows: surface 9C (49F), 2 inch 9.4C (49F), 4 inch, 10C (50F), 8 inch, 11C (52F), 1 foot 14C (57F) and 3 feet 13C (55F).

HAYLEY GREEN

52°26'N 02°04'W 155m AMSL

CGRoberts