

May 82

May's wide range of temperatures

The exceptionally dry weather of April continued right through May, only 33 per cent of the normal rain falling over a period of just 14 hours total rainfall duration.

At 21mm (0.82in) May's rainfall was the second lowest in 36 years at Halesowen, bettered only by the 18mm (0.71in) of May 1956.

Temperatures, too, have been exceptional ranging from minus 2.6C (27F) on May 5, to 25.6C (78F) on May 31, the latter giving the second warmest May afternoon in 26 years.

In contrast, the low temperature recorded on the 5th was itself the second coldest over the same period. Quite extreme temperatures!

Indeed, the severe ground

frost of May 5 at minus 5C (23F) must have caused widespread problems for many gardeners.

Sunshine has been 17 per cent above normal with a total of 231 hours, May 29 providing over 14 hours.

The clear skies were responsible for both the high sunshine totals and extreme temperatures, May having almost double the number of customary ground frosts.

Winds were predominantly easterly and light. As these veered south easterly at the end of the month, hot, humid conditions with widespread thunder encroached from France to conclude a month of very dry weather and extreme temperatures.