

BANK HOLIDAY BLUES.

In total contrast to Easter, which broke records for sunshine and high temperatures, the Spring Bank Holiday was a washout. After 22 days without rain, gardeners heaved sighs of relief with the onset of wet weather on May 15th. However, on May 21st a fall of 26mm [1.03in] occurred in a little over 9½ hours which did much to boost the month's total to 63.6mm [2.50ins], yet this was still only half of last May's near-record fall. As the Bank Holiday arrived, so did a wide band of rain, and from Friday to Monday, 12.3mm [0.48in] fell, not in itself an excessive amount. What was depressing however, was the low mirky cloud and the fact that it rained for almost 31 hours over the weekend.

Temperatures over the month were slightly below normal, ranging from minus 0.9C [30F] on the 9th., to 22.2C [72F] on the 24th. Nights were, however, cold, with two air and six ground frosts, the worst of the latter being minus 4.8C [23F] on the 14th.

winds were mainly from an easterly quarter, continuing the pattern set in February, and were light, averaging 7m.p.h. Gusts to 37 m.p.h. occurred on the 22nd. which was the windiest day.

Sunshine has been only 78% of normal, much of this coming in the first two weeks of the month when we had conditions of drought. The sunniest day was the 13th. with 13.6 hours of bright sunshine. However, only 5 days were completely without sun.

In summary, a variable month having both drought and heavy rainfall, warm days yet cold nights, howbeit, one which has measured approximately up to average with no records broken