

GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE MONTH.

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APRIL WAS GENERALLY AN UNSETTLED MONTH WITH RAINFALL ALMOST DOUBLE THE NORMAL AND TEMPERATURES MARKEDLY DOWN. ALL AIR TEMPERATURES SHOWED DEFICITS BY AS MUCH AS 3 DEG., THOUGH SOIL TEMPERATURES HELD UP WELL. IN FACT WE HAVE TO GO BACK TO 1978 TO FIND A LOWER DAILY MAXIMUM AND TO 1968 TO FIND A LOWER NIGHT MINIMUM THAN RECORDED THIS MONTH. AIR FROST WAS TWO AND A HALF TIMES NORMAL AND GROUND FROST ONE AND A HALF TIMES NORMAL.

THOUGH SUNSHINE WAS ONLY marginally BELOW EXPECTATION, IT DID LITTLE TO RAISE TEMPERATURES, THE SUNNIEST DAY RECORDING 10.4 HOURS.

THE MONTH WAS ALSO WINDY, GUSTS REACHING 62 KT (71 MPH) ON THE 11TH WHEN STRUCTURAL DAMAGE OCCURRED. IN ALL THERE WERE 504 GUSTS TO GALE FORCE WITH 6 ABOVE 48 KT (55 MPH).