

May has been the third month this year, and the eighth month out of the last twelve, to have had below average rainfall. The total of 16.2mm (0.63in) was only a quarter of expectation giving the driest May in almost half a century in Halesowen.

The Spring months of March, April and May have registered only a total of 63.9mm (2.52in) out of a possible 30 year average of 175.6mm (6.91in), a deficit of 4.4in. This can only lead to water supply problems, especially if the trends continue into the Summer. The Spring has been the driest in well over a century in this area.

Temperatures have also been well above expectation, the mean maximum of 19.3C (66F) being 3.7C above average. The hottest day was the 3rd. with 27F, (81F). All soil temperatures at 9 a.m. were well up on normal, ranging at the surface from 35.8C (90F) on the 5th., to minus 0.2C (32F) on the 10th. The extreme solar radiation temperature was recorded on the 27th at 52.3C (126F).

Sunshine again continued well above expectation, by as much as 35%, the total of 242.6 hrs giving the sunniest May on record in Halesowen, no day being completely sunless, the daily average reaching 7.9 hrs.

Other significant features of the month were the light winds and the absence of any air frost. Cloud cover was also the lowest on record and some afternoons registered exceptionally low humidity levels.