

SIGNIFICANT FEATURES OF THE MONTH:

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MAY CAN BE A PROBLEM MONTH FOR GARDENERS REGARDING GROUND FROSTS. ON AVERAGE WE CAN EXPECT 1 AIR AND 4.5 GROUND FROSTS IN MAY. 1979 SAW 5 AIR FROSTS AND 1971, 12 GROUND FROSTS. THE MOST SEVERE GROUND FROST WAS -8.3C ON MAY 18 1970. A PARTICULARLY HARD AND EXTENSIVE GROUND FROST ON MAY 31 1975 CAUSED WIDESPREAD DAMAGE TO TENDER PLANTS AND BLOSSOM.

SNOW HAS BEEN RECORDED ON 8 OCCASIONS IN MAY, THE LAST TIME IN 1983. THUNDER ALSO BEGINS IN EARNEST IN MAY, AVERAGING 2.3 OVER THE MONTH. IN 1979 THERE WERE 9 STORMS.

THERE HAVE BEEN 14 OCCASIONS IN MAY WHEN THE MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE HAS EXCEEDED 25C (77F), THE LONGEST PERIOD BEING FROM MAY 27 TO MAY 31 IN 1978.

NEW RECORDS IN: MEAN MAXIMUM AIR TEMPERATURE OF 19.6; MEAN DAILY AIR TEMPERATURE OF 13.7 AND SUNSHINE TOTAL OF 257.8 HOURS.