

THE WINTER OF 1994/1995

Despite appearances to the contrary, in overall conditions the Winter season has been a fairly average one, lying around 17th in the last 40 years. That said, it has been both mild and wet compared with the the 1961 to 1990 means.

Rainfall was 89.2mm (3.51ins) above the mean, the wettest since 1990 and the 4th wettest in 40 years. Rain fell on 63 of the 90 days (70%), the highest on record, with 21 days wet (more than 5mm).

Surprisingly, sunshine has also been above normal by some 20 hours, the 7th best on record for Winter, with 33 totally sunless days from a norm of 37. February 26th produced 9 hours of bright sunshine just outside the record 9.4 hours of February 28th 1963.

The incidence of snow and sleet continued the pattern of recent years with a deficit of almost 6 days over the season. Snow lay on only 6 days when we could have expected 12.

Similarly, air frosts at 20 were also well down (norm 33) though ground frost was almost average at 51. Thunder was heard on 2 occasions, somewhat above expectation.

Temperatures were well up, making it a mild season. The mean daily of 5.4C (42F) was 1.7C above normal, whilst the mean night minimum at 2.2C (36F) was 1.2C above normal. All soil temperatures are well above expectation by as much as 1.4C at 20 cm depth.

All in all, another very open Winter.