

GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE MONTH.

\*\*\*\*\*

May ended as the coldest on record here with a mean daily temperature of only 9.2C (48.6F). Ground frost occurred on 10 nights, worst to -5.4C (22.3F) and 4 air frosts. Air temperature deficits were in the region of -2C.

Winds were predominantly NE bringing in cold air from Scandinavia and as a result all soil temperatures are well down on the 30-year means.

Rainfall was again below average by 32%, falling over 12 days. No snow or sleet was recorded, though hail was noted once, with thunder, on the 21st.

Sunshine was marginally below average at 175.8 hours with 3 days totally sunless. The best day, with 13.9 hours, was the 14th.

The previous coldest May was in 1968 with a mean daily temperature of 9.5C (49.1F). The coldish May and early June last year were followed by an exceptionally hot and dry summer.