

SIGNIFICANT FEATURES OF THE MONTH:

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.

MAY 1996 WITH ITS MEAN DAILY OF ONLY 9.2C WAS THE COLDEST SINCE RECORDS