

GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE MONTH.

December was cold but still continued the recent pattern of dry and sunny months. Most air temperatures were down on normal. The maximum of 11.2C (52.2F) on the 3rd was the lowest since 1981 (10.3C), and 1.4C below average. Nights were also cold, the minimum of -6.4C (20.5F) on the 26th being the coldest in a decade. The mean daily at 2.4C (36.3F), though above last year, was the third worst since 1981. Frost occurred in the air on 17 nights, 7 above normal and the worst since 1981, with 21 on the grass, 5 above normal and the worst since 1988.

Rainfall continued below average the fall of 47.2mm (1.86ins) showing a deficit of 36%. This fell over a period of 56.5 hours, also well down on normal. Rain fell on 12 days of which 5 were wet and 3 very wet, all well down.

Sunshine at 46.6 hours was slightly above expectation, though the number of sunless days at 14 was slightly up on a normal year.