

SUMMARY FOR SEPTEMBER
2000.

September was ushered in with rain and only brief periods of sunshine as low pressure became the predominant synoptic feature. Apart from the 3rd, which was sunny and warm with 11.6 hours of bright sunshine and a maximum air temperature of 17.9C [64.2F] the days were generally rather dull and cool as radiation levels began to fall back significantly. The 5th only managed a mean daily radiation level of 60 watts per square metre. Nights were cool; the grass minimum on the 4th falling to 1.5C [34.7F], some local low lying hollows actually experiencing the first ground frost of the autumn. During the week the maximum temperature attained was 20.7C on the 4th, the weather remaining reasonably warm throughout the period.

The second week began with low pressure and light rain, but much of the period remained dry with temperatures reaching 26.4C on the 11th, quite high for September. The dry weather continued until the 13th and 14th when 22.4mm fell over the 2 days. Sunshine for the week amounted to 20.6 hours, the highest daily total being 7.5hrs on the 11th.

The third week continued with the very wet weather, rain falling on 5 out of the 7 days totalling 42.1mm, some 23.6mm of this falling on the 19th. Sunshine was sparse the best day giving only 4.5 hours on the 16th and temperatures also began to fall back somewhat, the maximum for the week being 17.9C on the 16th though night minima held up well falling no lower than 5.2C on the

19th.

The fourth week heralded a rise in temperature again, this peaking at 23.2C on the 23rd with no maximum below 16C. However, it remained unsettled with rain on every day, the worst to a total of 20.1mm on the 25th. In addition thunder was heard on the 26th. The week was however quite sunny totalling 35.1 hours for the week with 9.1 hours on the 23rd.

The month ended dry and fairly sunny as pressure began to build over the UK.

September was a very wet month with 77% above average rainfall, with a total fall of 112mm (4.41ins), the wettest since 1994, which produced 146.4mm (5.76ins). Three days were exceptionally wet, almost an inch falling on each occasion, the 14th, 19th and 25th giving a grand total of 64.2mm (2.53 ins). Rain fell on 18 days, 6 above average, with 12 of these being "wet". In all rain fell for a total of 77.5 hours, at a rate of 28mm (1.10ins) an hour at its worst on the 19th. Thunder

occurred once.

Sunshine was down on average at 115.4 hours (normal 132.8hours), the worst since 1994, which had 114 hours. Three days were totally sunless whilst the best day, the 3rd, produced a total of 11.6 hours, somewhat above normal for September.

Temperatures held up well despite the rain, all means showing positive anomalies ranging from +3.3C for to maximum daily of 26.1C (78.9F) to +0.08 for the mean maximum of 17.7C (63.9F). All soil temperatures continue well above normal with the mean 100cm soil currently at 14.8C (58.6F).

Winds were predominantly from a westerly direction averaging 4.8 knots (5.8mph). Gusts did not exceed gale force on any day during the month, the maximum speed attained being 29 knots (35mph) during the passage of a cold front on the 27th. Fog occurred once and there was no incidence of hail reported.