

SUMMARY FOR MAY IN FULL.

May was a very pleasant spring month: sunny, warm and dry. Sunshine totalled 212 hours, 13% above the monthly average and the sunniest since 1997 [256.6hrs]. Only one day was sunless, one third of expectation and the sunniest day, the 29th, produced 14.9 hours of bright sunshine.

Rainfall was well down at 70% of expectation with a fall of 38.5mm [1.52ins] of which 6.8mm [0.27in] fell on the 14th. In all 10 days saw rain, well below average and just 4 days were classed as “wetter” days with a fall of 5mm [0.20in] or above. Despite this it was still the wettest May since 1993 which had 88.1mm [3.47ins].

Temperatures were well above normal by as much as 1.8C for the mean maximum of 18.1C [64.6F]. The warmest day, the 13th, produced a maximum of 24.7C [76.5F] just missing the “magical” 25C [77F] by 0.3C! In fact 9 days produced maxima in excess of 21C [70F], very good for a late spring month.

Ground temperatures are also well up on average, the mean surface at 9.0 am standing at an astounding 22C [71.6F], good growing weather for a change!

However, the month was not frost-free, 5 ground and 1 air frost occurring, the last on the grass being on the 8th. Thunder was heard on 3 occasions though no hail was observed. Winds were generally from an easterly quarter averaging 6 knots [7.2mph] and peaked at 30 knots [36mph] on the 17th.

All-in-all a very pleasant end to mechanism.