

SEPTEMBER SUMMARY.

August gave way to September with little change in the patterns of weather, the UK being sandwiched between high pressure to the west and low to the east of the country. Days continued generally unsettled with periods of rain, mostly light, interspersed with spells of sunshine. Maximum temperatures during the first week ranged from 20.8C [69.4F] on the 1st to 16.6C [61.9F] on the 6th whilst the night minima covered the range 8.0C [46.4F] on the 5th to 14.4C [57.9F] on the 2nd.

Rainfall for the week amounted to 10.9mm [0.43in] with the 4th being the sole totally dry day. During one heavy shower on the 2nd rain was falling at a rate of 41mm [1.61ins] per hour at 14.32. During the same period sunshine totalled 29.5 hours with 11.2 hours of this coming on the 4th no day being totally sunless.

Winds remained mainly westerly with a northerly component on several days, and were generally light at around 6 or 7 knots [7 or 8 mph]. Solar radiation is by now falling off, the levels over the week being between 470 and 976 watts per square metre giving black bulb radiation temperatures between 33.5C [92.3F] and 53.2C [127.8F].

The pressure pattern of high to the west and low to the east was still much in evidence at the beginning of the second week of September. This led to a continuation of the broadly northerly airflow over the UK with its inherent cool conditions. Maximum air temperatures began with 16.4C [61.5F] on the 8th followed by a gradual fall. Though there was no heavy fall of rain some occurred from time to time making days miserable. The 10.6 hours of sunshine on the 8th made it a pleasant day as well as the sunniest of the week. Sunshine totals for the week amounted to 32.2 hours, no day being sunless. Rainfall for the period amounted to 13.8mm [0.54in], the heaviest fall of 6.9mm [0.27in] occurring on the 12th. Temperatures ranged from a maximum of 17.6C [63.7F] on the 11th to a night minimum of 6.1C [43.0F] on the 14th, with a low on the grass of 2.3C [36.1F], also on the 14th.

The start of the 3rd week saw a deep depression move from NW to SE across the UK bringing with it its frontal systems, strong winds and quite heavy showers, winds remaining in a broadly northerly quarter. The weather became decidedly autumnal with northerly winds, occasionally fresh, regular rain showers, cool days and little in the way of sunshine. The day maximum of 12.1C [53.8F] on the 17th made it a "cold" day for the time of year. The week as a whole remained unsettled with a broadly northerly airflow across the country leading to very cool conditions for the time of the year. The maximum temperature for the week was 17.7C [63.5F] on the 20th with a night-time low of 7.5C [45.5F] on the 17th. Rain fell on every day totalling 8.0mm [0.3in], the heaviest fall being of just 3.5mm [0.14in] on the 19th. It was thus not a sunny week, just 20.7hrs being recorded, the best day, the 16th yielding 6.5 hours.

Broadly similar weather continued into the fourth week with high pressure to the west and low to the east drawing in very cool northerly air. There was some precipitation every day, though much of it was only light as there was also some sunshine on every day even though the best day saw just 6 hours on the 26th. The weekly rain was 12.7mm [0.50in] and the total sunshine 12.5 hrs. Winds were generally light and variable in direction turning from a northerly component at the start of the period to a southerly at the end. Temperatures in the air ranged from a maximum of 22.0C [71.6F] on the 28th to a minimum of 4.2C [39.6F] on the 23rd, the end of the week being quite balmy for late September. Radiation levels were by now falling appreciably with a maximum of 575 watts per square metre on the 25th.

The final two days of the month saw the weather turn much more autumnal with a vigorous depression approaching from the south west and strengthening winds though the temperature on the 29th still managed to reach 20.0C [68.0F]. The 30th was a totally sunless day as this deep depression pushed an active front across the country overnight on the 30th/1st giving a total of 12.0mm of rain, by far the heaviest fall of the month.