

SEPTEMBER SUMMARY.

September has been an excellent early autumn month with ample sunshine, little rain and good warm, or very warm, days.

With just 16.6mm/0.65in of rain falling over the entire month it was the driest September since 1996 [11.3mm/0.44in]. In all only 5 days saw measurable rain, the best figures since 1986. An absolute drought [15days with no measurable rain] occurred from the 10th to the 24th inclusive and with only 8 days having appreciable rain since August 9th we have had an exceptional spell of dry, weather.

Sunshine totalled 175.4 hours for the month, almost a third above the expected total and the best figures since 1991. Just 3 days were sunless, about average for the month, though the 11 “sunny” days [above 9 hours sunshine daily] was the best since 1999. The sunniest day, September 1st with its 11.5 hours sunshine was well below the record 12.4 hours set on September 1st 1993.

Temperatures have held up well, all showing positive anomalies by as much as +5.2°C for the soil surface. The mean maximum of 19.2°C/66.6°F was 1.4°C above the 30-year mean and the highest value since 1999. The mean daily temperature of 14.2°C/57.6°F was 0.7°C above expectation.

No ground frost was recorded, in line with recent years, the last occurrence being in 1996. Winds were also light and from an easterly quarter, quite unlike most Septembers, the maximum gust being to 28knots/34mph on the 6th. Mean cloud cover of 4.8 oktas was similar to 1997 but appreciably down on the 30-year mean of 5.5 oktas. The mean humidity was also well below expectation at 78.1%, the best figures since 1986.

In general, these figures paint a picture of a very pleasant autumn month and one, which stands out in a year, that has not seen such good weather as has been experienced in the immediate past.