

MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT

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Unsettled in the north; thundery in the south

High pressure systems affected the British Isles periodically, alternating with fronts from the Atlantic. After mid-month frontal weather was confined mainly to northern areas but widespread thundery activity developed at times in the vicinity of slow-moving fronts over England and Wales.

Weather

Periods of mostly dry and sunny weather were more prolonged in the south and east than in the north and west. Between dry spells rainfall was sometimes heavy and thundery with occasional hail and there was even a little snow in northern Scotland. After mid-month severe thunderstorms were occasionally widespread in eastern and southern England and the Midlands and tornadoes were reported in Bedfordshire and just south of the Wash on the 26th.

Wind

Although mainly light or moderate, winds were occasionally fresh or strong and there were a few local gales mostly in exposed places in Northern Ireland, Scotland, northern England and north Wales. A gust of 72 kt was recorded at Stornoway (Ross and Cromarty) on the 12th and another of 51 kt occurred at Belfast Harbour on the 13th. Strong to gale force winds affected parts of the Midlands and northern and western districts of England and Wales on the 20th.

Temperature

In parts of eastern Scotland and south-east England mean monthly temperatures exceeded average by 1 to 1.5 degC but elsewhere they were within 1 degC of average. It was generally cool for a few days but later in the first week temperatures rose and thereafter remained mostly near or above average. From the 6th to 9th and from time to time after mid-month it was very warm and occasionally hot by day especially in eastern and southern districts. At Mayfield, Dundee (Angus) on the 6th the temperature reached 28.7°C the highest June temperature measured there since records began in 1915. On the 16th a maximum temperature of 28.1°C was recorded at Aldenham School (Hertfordshire) and temperatures just exceeded 27°C at a number of other places in east and south-east England and the Midlands. There were few reports of air frost but ground frost was a little more widespread.

Rainfall

Monthly rainfall was above average in most of the north-western half of Scotland and the south-eastern half of England and Wales. It exceeded twice the average in parts of the North West Highlands and was over three times the average in small areas of the Midlands. Other districts were drier and

rainfall was less than half of average in almost all of Wales, and in parts of north-west England, east Scotland and south-east Ulster. Rain or showers, occasionally accompanied by hail and thunder, occurred at times in Scotland and Northern Ireland and there were a few reports of snow in northern Scotland. Rain was especially heavy in northern and western Scotland on a few days during the second and third weeks and some notable falls were recorded. In the 24 hours from 09 GMT on the 11th a fall of 130.5 mm measured at Culdoran (Ross and Cromarty) and in the same period 109.5 mm of rain fell at Glenfinnan (Inverness-shire). On the 12th a 'daily' fall of 65.0 mm was reported from Onich (Inverness-shire) and on the 18th there was a 'daily' fall of 71.5 mm at Braeleny (Perthshire). Much of the rain in England and Wales fell during thunderstorms which occurred in the Midlands and eastern and southern districts after mid-month. Hail was also reported at times. Thunderstorms were particularly widespread and severe in these areas on the 19th. There were press reports of a man injured by lightning in Woolwich, of buildings damaged by lightning and of floods caused by intense rainfall in the London area and in some southern counties. Severe thunderstorms were again widespread on the 24th, 26th and 27th and there were further reports of lightning damage and local flooding. Tornadoes developed in association with one or two large thunderstorms on the 26th and severe but localized damage occurred in a few eastern districts. Among the intense falls of rain reported were: 63.0 mm in 4 hours 25 minutes on the 19th at Chessington (Surrey) and 66.5 mm in 6 hours on the 27th at Drayton Sewage Works near Abingdon (Berkshire). Both these falls are classified as 'remarkable'. On the 26th hailstones 1.5 to 2 cm in diameter fell during a large thunderstorm which passed over the Royal Aircraft Establishment near Bedford.

Sunshine

In England and Wales sunshine amounts were near or above average and the sunniest areas were in the east and south where totals of about 300 hours were recorded at some coastal stations. In south-eastern Ulster and south-western Scotland and along the east coast south of Aberdeen sunshine amounts were just above average but remaining districts of Northern Ireland and Scotland were less sunny. At Stornoway where 114.7 hours of sunshine were recorded it was the dullest June since 1942.

Fog

Overnight fog on lower ground occurred most frequently in the Midlands, eastern and southern England. The fog was mainly patchy and short-lived but occasionally it was more widespread and persistent. Hill fog was reported at times and was often extensive in the west and north. Many coastal areas were affected by sea fog at some time during the month but it most persistent around northern Scotland, south-western England and the Channel Islands.

Miscellaneous Phenomena

On the 26th two tornadoes passed over Cranfield (Bedfordshire) with an interval of 20 minutes between them. The second tornado completely destroyed the wind laboratory of the Electrical Research Association at 1304 GMT. A maximum gust of 76 kt was measured at a distance of about 50 yd from the line taken by the second tornado but it is probable that the wind speed nearer the centre of the disturbance was much greater. Later, at about 17 GMT according to the press, a tornado caused severe damage to buildings and trees as it passed over the villages of Parson Drove and Tydd St Giles (both in Cambridgeshire) and Tydd St Mary (Lincolnshire).

Table 1 District values

June 1973

District	air temperature °C					mean 30-cm earth temp °C	rain- days	rainfall	sun- shine
	Highest	Lowest	max.	min.	mean				
	Max. †	Min. †	difference from average						
0 Scotland N	21.5	1.1	0.0	—0.3	—0.1	—	0	122	70
1 Scotland E	28.7	3.4	+1.5	+1.0	+1.2	+0.6	—2	71	90
2 England N E	25.5	1.8	+1.2	+0.7	+0.9	+0.8	—3	119	114
3 England E	27.0	2.7	+0.9	+0.2	+0.6	+0.2	—5	140	130
4 Midland Counties	27.2	2.0	+0.8	+0.3	+0.5	+1.0	—4	159	124
5 England S E	28.0	1.9	+0.8	+0.2	+0.4	+0.4	—6	148	116
6 Scotland W	24.1	—0.4	—0.1	0.0	0.0	+0.1	0	100	88
7 Eng N W & Wales N	24.8	2.0	+0.6	+0.6	+0.6	0.0	—5	48	105
8 Eng S W & Wales S	25.9	0.1	+0.5	—0.1	+0.2	0.0	—3	90	102
N Ireland	24.5	0.2	+0.7	—0.1	+0.3	—	—2	56	93
Scotland	28.7	—0.4	+0.5	+0.2	+0.4	—	—1	98	83
England & Wales	28.0	0.1	+0.8	+0.3	+0.5	—	—4	114	115

† Highest max. and lowest min. of the District Value Stations