

METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

ESTIMATED SOIL MOISTURE DEFICIT AND POTENTIAL
EVAPOTRANSPIRATION OVER GREAT BRITAIN

SOIL MOISTURE DEFICIT AT 0900 GMT ON 26 APRIL 1978

Snowy weather continued for a few days after the publication of the last bulletin (12 April 1978) and amounts were particularly large in southeast England and the Midlands on 13th. A generally dry spell began on 14th and weather remained fairly dry over Scotland, although snow fell in parts of that country on 25th. An unsettled, wet spell intervened over southern Britain from 17th to 20th with some heavy rainfall in south-west England and South Wales on 19th and again in South Wales on 20th. Weather became drier from 21st and, for the first time for many weeks, rather warm for a few days. More unsettled weather returned on 25th and deficits were reduced in the south by fairly heavy rain in the early hours of the 26th.

Deficits have increased substantially in northern Britain in the past fortnight, particularly in Scotland, but have remained steady in the south and, in some areas, notably in South Wales and on the North Downs, soils have been returned to capacity: the distribution pattern is unusual. In general deficits over most of England and Wales are lower than average for the time of year (ie soils are moister than average), particularly over the Midlands, Thames Valley, Kent, Sussex and South Wales. Deficits are much above average over Cumbria and Northumbria and probably over much of Scotland.

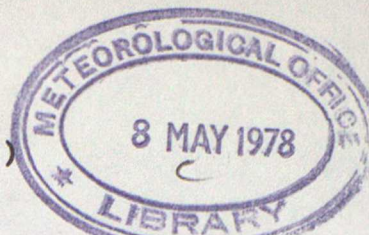
RATES OF SUBSCRIPTION: £15.00 per season (post free)

Apply to:

Director-General
Meteorological Office, Met O 8c
London Road
Bracknell
Berkshire
RG12 2SZ

Issued on 26 April 1978

ESTIMATED SOIL MOISTURE DEFICIT (S.M.D.)
AT 09 GMT ON 26 APRIL 1978



River Area	Estimated Areal	Change during the week ending 09 GMT on	
	S.M.D. mm	26 April 1978 mm	19 April 1978 mm
Northumbrian	22.3	+ 6.7	+ 7.9
Yorkshire	15.0	+ 3.7	+ 3.8
Trent	9.6	+ 1.9	+ 0.5
Lincolnshire	18.3	+ 3.2	+ 2.4
Welland and Nene	13.8	+ 2.5	+ 1.4
Great Ouse	11.8	+ 3.3	- 0.2
Norfolk and Suffolk	15.0	+ 6.0	- 2.1
Essex	11.5	+ 0.4	- 0.6
Lee Division	5.6	- 1.5	+ 0.1
Thames Conservancy	7.4	- 1.2	+ 1.6
London Area	4.7	- 3.0	+ 0.5
Kent	2.3	- 4.2	+ 1.6
Sussex	3.4	- 2.2	+ 0.2
Hampshire	3.4	- 1.4	- 1.9
Isle of Wight	7.6	- 0.7	+ 1.2
Upper Thames	12.4	- 0.2	+ 3.2
Avon and Dorset	7.6	- 2.2	+ 0.1
Devon	9.0	- 1.2	+ 1.6
Cornwall	4.8	+ 2.0	- 0.8
Somerset	8.9	- 3.3	+ 2.2
Bristol Avon	11.9	- 1.9	+ 3.3
Severn	10.2	+ 1.8	+ 2.0
Wye	5.8	- 5.2	+ 2.9
Usk	2.4	- 9.7	+ 2.3
Glamorgan	0.9	- 10.6	+ 1.3
South West Wales	2.3	- 9.3	+ 2.5
Gwynedd	5.1	- 0.6	+ 1.4
Dee and Clwyd	8.4	+ 2.6	+ 2.4
Mersey and Weaver	11.1	+ 4.0	+ 3.0
Lancashire	11.9	+ 4.7	+ 3.7
Cumbria	16.1	+ 5.7	+ 4.4

N.B. Apart from normal changes these differences also reflect retrospective adjustments after receipt of additional data.

F142

