

MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE.

SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS COMPILED FROM RETURNS OF OFFICIAL STATIONS AND VOLUNTEER OBSERVERS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, AND AT GIBRALTAR AND MALTA, WITH A CHART OF RAINFALL CONTRIBUTED BY THE BRITISH RAINFALL ORGANIZATION.

ISSUED BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE METEOROLOGICAL COMMITTEE.

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Warm, dry, and moderately sunny.

As a whole the month was very changeable, but, with winds blowing mainly from a westerly quarter, the temperature, although fluctuating greatly from day to day, was of a seasonable character. In England the first six or seven days were dull and rainy, the weather thereafter becoming summer-like until about the 25th, when conditions again deteriorated, and continued unsettled until the close of the month. Throughout the period mist, which at times increased to fog, was very prevalent, especially along the south and west coasts, the amount of sunshine recorded being considerably reduced thereby. At some of the inland stations heavy dews were experienced. Among other outstanding features of the month in England were the high temperatures on the 22nd, the great fall in temperature on the following day, and the heavy rains round about the 5th and 25th. In Scotland a practically rainless type of weather had characterised the last few days of July, and this persisted until August 3rd. On the 5th rather heavy rains occurred in the South West, and from the 11th onwards at some points in the West rain fell on every day, though frequently the amounts were small. Except on the 10th and 11th, and here and there on the 20th, and in some western localities early in the month, the days were only moderately warm, and Scotland did not share in the unusual outburst of heat experienced in England during the third week. Generally, the last week was the most unsettled of the month. In Ireland, although the daily amounts of rain were only occasionally large, there were many rain-days, and the weather generally was cool, showery, and changeable.

The Reports of the Board of Agriculture on conditions in England and Wales state that the fine weather which prevailed through most of August was everywhere very favourable to harvest operations, and a great deal of corn was got in under excellent conditions, and the rain, which occurred mostly towards the end of the month, caused little delay or damage. In the North the harvest was naturally not so far advanced, and there were more reports of the corn having been laid. Summarising the returns and expressing an average crop by 100, the appearance of the crops on September 1st indicated probable yields which may be expressed by the following percentages:—

Wheat ...	106	Beans ...	99	Turnips ...	89
Barley ...	99	Peas ...	99	Mangolds ...	95
Oats ...	99	Potatoes ...	103	Hops ...	74

The following notes supplied by observers illustrate the general character of the month:—*Allans Green, Northumberland*.—August has been, on the whole, good for getting the crops ripe, and a deal of corn is already cut in the valleys, and most of it in good ripe condition. Roots have also grown well, especially the early-sown ones. There has been an abundance of grass and aftermath in the meadows, and cattle and sheep have had a full bite, and are doing well. *Ipswich, Suffolk*.—Up to the 25th, when it turned wet, there was a magnificent spell of harvest weather, and most of the crops are now in fine condition. The rapid rise to the very brief spell of heat, 20th to 22nd, was remarkable, culminating as it did, after no previous warmth worth mentioning, with the highest maximum (30.4a) since 1911. *Weston Turville, Bucks*.—The drought covering the second and third weeks of great value for securing corn. Subsequent rains equally valuable and welcome for pasture and roots. *Rochford, Worcester*.—Very dry, warm month, but with cooler nights towards the end, one or two nights having quite a frosty air. Great dearth of apples, pears, plums, and damsons; not a dozen pounds weight in an orchard here of nearly three acres. *Tenbury, Worcester*.—A remarkably fine, dry and warm month, and—but for the heavy rain on the 25th, when 32 mm. fell in 3½ hours, bringing to an end a drought of 18 days—the driest August on record. Splendid weather for the harvest, which began on the 7th. The crops are the best for many years. *Bromyard, Hereford*.—Splendid weather for the corn harvest. The best crops for years. *Dublin (City)*.—A warm, changeable month, with preponderating winds from westerly points, often blowing freshly. The mean temperature was 0.8a above the normal. *Carrigrohane, Co. Clare*.—Most gloomy, showery weather has prevailed throughout the month. The total rainfall about normal, but it was distributed in an aggravating sort of way all through the month, with only an occasional dry, hot day. Violent and cold northerly winds blew on many days. *Hurdlestown, Co. Clare*.—The rainfall during the month was 14 mm. below the normal, and the rain-days one above. A fairly good August, but slow for farm work on account of the large number of rain-days; but not much damage was done by the rain to either hay or corn. *Fethard, Waterford*.—The driest August for some years. The precipitation figures, however, hardly represent the moisture for the month, as fog and overcast skies prevailed to such an extent that the absence of rain was not felt, and the ground was seldom dry. Strong winds from South West to North West predominated, only one day being recorded as calm.

Air Pressure.—As shown by the map on p. 87, the mean monthly pressure was above the normal. The general run of the isobars was East and West, the barometric gradient being rather steep. At the telegraphic reporting stations the departures from normal varied from + 4.1 mb. at Scilly to 0.0 mb. at Stornoway and Tynemouth. Depressions which passed across the British Isles or in their immediate neighbourhood were frequent, and had a considerable effect on the general character of the month's weather, their influence being especially marked as regards the excessive rainfall recorded in the North of Scotland. Many of the depressions, however, were comparatively shallow, so that gales were rare.

Temperature.—In all districts the temperature was above the normal, the excess ranging from 1.2a in England North East and North West and in the Midland Counties to 0.3a in the English Channel. Of the individual readings, the highest values recorded were 30.7a at Canterbury and 30.6a at Cambridge and Norwich on the 22nd, the high temperatures recorded on this day being associated with a southerly wind in front of a depression, while the subsequent rapid fall occurred with a northerly wind in rear of it. The lowest values were 27.5a at Garforth (Yorks) and 27.6a at Gwernyfed (Brecknock). The effects of local conditions at the individual stations were very marked, the contrasts in the range of temperature during the month being notable. Thus, at Cambridge and Wokingham, the range was as much as 2.7a, but at Pembroke, Portland Bill, and Scilly it was only 0.9a. In Scotland, with rather cloudy skies and restricted terrestrial radiation, night temperatures were unusually high and the mean daily range much less than the normal. At the end of the month there was a sharp incursion of cold, with a reading at Crathes, in Kincardineshire, on the night of the 31st of 27.6a in the screen and 27.2a in the open. In Ayrshire, at Colmonell and Kilmarnock, the mean monthly temperature was 2.1a above the normal; but at Lerwick, where the maximum reading throughout the month was only 28.9a, it was 0.6a below.

Precipitation.—Except in Scotland North, where there was an excess of 37 mm., the rainfall was below the normal in all districts, the deficiency ranging from 34 mm. in Ireland South to 11 mm. in the English Channel. The largest monthly aggregate was 143 mm. in Scotland North, and the smallest 42 mm. in England East and South East. The heaviest falls in a day were 59 mm. at Ledlanet (Kinross) on the 25th, 48 mm. at Princetown on the 5th, 47 mm. at Cargen (Kirkcudbright) on the 25th, 45 mm. at Darwen (Lancs.) on the 5th, and 42 mm. at Scilly on the 2nd and at Wick on the 31st. In Scotland there were heavy local falls on the 5th, 22nd, 25th, and 31st. The amounts recorded on the last date brought the aggregates in northern localities considerably above the normal, and in the extreme North the month, following a July which had been the wettest on record, appears to have been the wettest August since 1889. At Dumfries one-third of the total fell on the 25th (39 mm.), and, generally speaking, there were few falls of much importance except around the dates indicated.

Sunshine.—Except in England North East and East, where there were very slight excesses of 0.16 hr. and 0.10 hr. respectively, the mean daily amount of sunshine was below the normal in all Districts, the deficit varying from 1.23 hr. in Ireland South to 0.15 hr. in England North West. The sunniest district was the English Channel (7.02 hr. per day), and the least sunny Scotland North (3.29 hr. per day). As regards the individual stations, the variation between them was very great, and the daily mean ranged from 2.26 hr. at Cardross (Dumbarton) to 8.23 hr. at Guernsey (Villa Carey). At Markree Castle (Sligo) the corresponding figure was 2.87 hr., the lowest value ever recorded in August at this station. At Valencia Observatory the figure was only 3.23 hr., but at Shoeburyness, in nearly the same latitude, it was as high as 7.39 hr. Completely overcast days were rare, there being, as a rule, some sunshine at all stations every day, the sunniest period occurring during the second week.

Thunderstorms were not numerous, the most frequent dates of occurrence being the 5th, 12th, and 25th. **Hail** was still more rare, but fell here and there in Scotland on the 31st.

Optical Phenomena.—Solar halos were frequently seen, most commonly on the 11th and between the 15th and 23rd. Lunar halos and lunar coronæ were observed during the last week; and solar coronæ at Holyhead on the 16th and at Tenbury on the 17th.

Aurora was seen at Ballater, Dublin, Eskdalemuir, Haverfordwest, Holyhead, Meltham, and Southport on the 31st, and also at Eskdalemuir on the 15th.