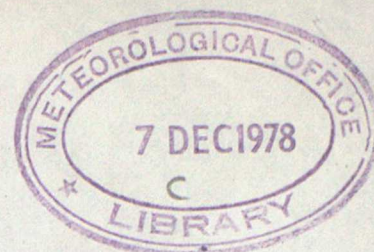


METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

ESTIMATED SOIL MOISTURE DEFICIT AND POTENTIAL
EVAPOTRANSPIRATION OVER GREAT BRITAIN



SOIL MOISTURE DEFICIT AT 0900 GMT on 6 DECEMBER 1978

Despite several days with precipitation, the fortnight has been predominantly dry over most of Britain. The average was exceeded only in Cornwall and west Devon, eastern East Anglia and in north-east Scotland. Less than 25 per cent of average was recorded in the London area and lower Thames valley and in south-east Wales. The south-eastern two-thirds of England and parts of Scotland had less than 75 per cent of average. Heavy rain fell in north-west England and south-east Scotland on 23 November and rainfall was widespread but not exceptionally heavy on 24th. The period 25 November to 2 December was predominantly dry, cold and sunny although wintry precipitation occurred, mainly slight in England and Wales but heavier in northern Scotland. Very heavy rain fell in the south-west peninsula on 1 December with amounts approaching 50 mm on Bodmin Moor. General rainfall occurred again on 3 December when amounts exceeded 10 mm in south-west England, the Isle of Wight and Fylde. The 4th was a wet day in the Aberdeen area.

It is worthy of note that general rainfall over England and Wales for September-November 1978 has been the lowest on record for these months since 1752. The total for August-November 1978 is higher than that for the same period in 1947 but is otherwise the lowest since the mid-eighteenth century.

End-of-November composite soil moisture deficits were the highest on record (since 1941) in parts of the Midlands and over much of southern England. In parts of the south-west deficits far exceed any previous end-of-November values.

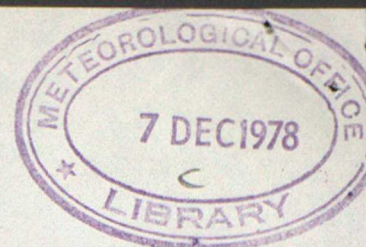
General deficit values have decreased over all river areas particularly in the first week over Norfolk and Suffolk and Wye and in the second week over south-western areas and Hampshire but they are still substantially above average over most of England, except the north-west, and over the rivers of east Wales, except Dee and Clwyd.

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

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

Issued on 7 December 1978



ESTIMATED SOIL MOISTURE DEFICIT (S.M.D.)
AT 09 GMT ON 6 DEC 1978

River Area	Estimated Areal	Change during the week ending 09 GMT on	
	S.M.D. mm	6 Dec 78 mm	29 Nov 78 mm
Northumbrian	13.3	- 3.9	- 5.5
Yorkshire	45.3	- 5.5	- 6.5
Trent	52.6	- 5.4	- 6.4
Lincolnshire	75.6	- 5.8	- 5.7
Welland and Nene	83.8	- 6.3	- 5.1
Great Ouse	90.5	- 5.3	- 6.2
Norfolk and Suffolk	80.8	- 5.1	- 12.2
Essex	112.9	- 4.8	- 4.0
Lee Division	103.9	- 5.3	- 2.5
Thames Conservancy	102.6	- 5.2	- 1.5
London Area	108.4	- 4.4	- 0.3
Kent	111.4	- 4.3	- 1.9
Sussex	104.3	- 7.2	- 0.6
Hampshire	80.9	- 11.4	- 0.1
Isle of Wight	110.6	- 12.1	- 0.4
Upper Thames	94.3	- 4.3	- 1.5
Avon and Dorset	81.3	- 11.2	- 2.0
Devon	45.7	- 15.9	- 2.1
Cornwall	26.6	- 28.7	- 4.0
Somerset	66.1	- 8.2	- 2.4
Bristol Avon	88.0	- 6.1	- 1.5
Severn	54.1	- 5.2	- 8.2
Wye	39.6	- 6.4	- 11.5
Usk	35.3	- 4.2	- 4.7
Glamorgan	18.5	- 4.4	- 1.5
South West Wales	0.7	- 1.9	- 0.7
Gwynedd	0.1	0.0	- 1.4
Dee and Clwyd	1.7	- 1.5	- 3.4
Mersey and Weaver	0.9	- 1.0	- 1.8
Lancashire	0.0	- 0.2	+ 0.2
Cumbria	0.1	- 0.1	+ 0.2

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

