The Weather during August

High pressure dominated the weather charts in the vicinity of Ireland and gave a very dry month. During the first week the centre of the anticyclone was west of the country and winds were from the west or northwest. The north started cloudy with temperatures about normal. From 7th to 9th it was warm and fine as the high pressure centre shifted to the east of Ireland. Between 10th and 12th the Atlantic rainbelts tried to push eastwards across the country and triggered occasional outbreaks of thundery rain. From 13th to 22nd we were in a ridge of high pressure which stretched from Scandinavia to the Azores. Winds were mainly westerly and the weather was fine and warm. On 23rd and 24th the ridge of high pressure over us came under attack by a rainbelt approaching from the south. This caused some showers in parts of the south and west. However the anticyclone centre to the north-east of Ireland intensified. This pushed the front back southwards and from 25th to 28th the weather was dry with northeast winds. On 29th a trough developed in the northeasterly, giving rain in all but some western areas. At the end of the month a high pressure area in mid Atlantic became the dominant feature in determining our weather. We ended the month, as we began it, in a cool westerly windflow with just a little rain at times.

Rainfall for the month was very low. Amounts were generally between 8% and 16% of normal but the northwest had about 23% of normal. Parts of the southeast had only 4% of normal rainfall. Roche's Point had 37% of normal but over half the monthly total fell in one hour, during a thunderstorm, on 29th. At Birr it was the driest August for over a century. Soil moisture deficits rose from three to four inches in the Midlands and east. Conditions were ideal for harvesting but very poor for growth. In western areas soil moisture deficits rose from one to three inches during the course of the month and grass growth became progressively poorer as the month wore on.

Mean air temperatures were 1°C to 1.5°C above normal in most areas and were over 2°C above normal at Shannon Airport. The hottest spell was from 14th to 27th when maximum air temperatures ranged 20°C to 28°C inland. Air temperatures of over 29°C were recorded on 26th. No widespread ground frost occurred but a few places had ground frost on 1st, 4th, 13th, 21st and 31st.

Sunshine amounts ranged from 120% to 170% of normal. It was the sunniest August since 1947. Consequently mean four inch soil temperatures were 2°C to 3°C above normal.

Summary. August was warm, sunny and very dry.
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See January issue of Bulletin for explanatory notes on the tables.
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See January issue of Bulletin for explanatory notes on the tables.
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See January issue of Bulletin for explanatory notes on the tables.
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