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The weather during August

After a period of cool, unsettled weather during the first fortnight, conditions improved considerably in the second half of the month during which there was little or no rain, daytime temperatures were well up to or above normal August levels and most places enjoyed good sunny periods. Most crops made good progress and harvesting of the earliest cereals got under way under generally favourable weather conditions during the last ten days although morning fog caused some delays in places.

Rainfall during the month was below normal everywhere except in some areas in the extreme north; in Malin Head, total rainfall for the month was 85.4 millimetres (104% of normal) but of this total nearly 40% fell on one day (8th). In most inland districts, rainfall was less than 70% of normal and in some places in the Dublin area rainfall over the month was less than 30% of the normal August total. The period 13th - 31st was almost completely dry everywhere and soil moisture levels which had remained high throughout most of the Summer were greatly reduced during this dry spell.

Although daytime temperatures were above normal for most of the second half of the month, these were more than balanced by low night temperatures throughout the month and below-average day temperatures during the first fortnight. Mean air temperatures over the month as a whole were thus below average everywhere; deviations from normal ranged from -0.9°C at Dublin Airport to -1.8°C at Cahirciveen. Totals of degree-days above 10°C accumulated over the month were about 20% lower than the average of the August totals over the past ten years; degree-day totals over the May-August period this year were only 75% - 80% of the 1962-1971 averages for the same period. Consequently, crops such as maize and sugar-beet which have a high heat requirement were still quite backward at the end of the month; the ultimate yields of these crops will be largely dependent on temperatures during the remainder of the growing season.

The data contained in this Bulletin are provisional. Some of the material in Table 1 will be published in its final form later in the Monthly Weather Report; final values of Solar Radiation at stations marked "e" in Table 2 will be published in the Annual Summary of Solar Radiation.

TABLE 1. (Continued)

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE, SUNSHINE AND WIND

AUGUST 1972

STATION	PERIOD	RAINFALL				TEMPERATURE										BRIGHT SUNSHINE		WIND			
		Amount	Percentage of Average	No. of Rain Days	No. of Wet Days	AIR					GROUND		SOIL (10 cm)			Mean Daily	Percentage of Average	Mean Speed	No. of Days with Gale Gusts		
						Mean Daily	Difference from Average	Lowest Minimum	Day	No. of Days with Air Frost	Degree Days Above 4.4°C	Degree Days Above 6.0°C	Lowest Grass Minimum	Day	No. of Days with Ground Frost					Mean Daily	Difference from Average
Clonroche Co. Wexford	1-10	39.0	-	6	6	13.7	-	+5.8	10	0	92.9	77.0	-0.1	10	1	-	-	4.52	-	5	-
	11-20	4.1	-	3	2	13.9	-	+4.1	11	0	94.6	79.0	-1.6	11	2	-	-	4.86	-	3	-
	21-end	0.0	-	0	0	14.4	-	+5.4	21	0	109.6	92.2	-2.3	21	1	-	-	5.72	-	3	-
	Month	43.1	-	9	8	14.0	-	+4.1	11	0	297.1	248.2	-2.3	21	4	-	-	5.05	-	4	-
Johnstown Castle Co. Wexford	1-10	37.8	-	7	6	13.7	-	+6.2	03	0	93.1	77.1	-1.2	03	1	-	-	4.87	-	8	-
	11-20	1.5	-	1	1	13.8	-	+6.0	11	0	94.3	78.3	-2.0	18	2	-	-	5.94	-	6	-
	21-end	0.0	-	0	0	14.3	-	+8.0	23	0	108.9	91.3	+1.0	23	0	-	-	6.55	-	4	-
	Month	39.3	48	8	7	14.0	-	+6.0	11	0	296.3	246.7	-2.0	18	3	-	-	5.81	-	6	-
Rosslare e Co. Wexford	1-10	50.6	-	8	7	14.1	-	+7.9	10	0	97.3	81.3	+5.0	10	0	15.8	-	5.46	-	11	2
	11-20	1.1	-	1	1	14.1	-	+6.3	11	0	96.8	80.8	+3.9	11	0	17.2	-	7.24	-	8	0
	21-end	0.0	-	0	0	14.6	-	+8.6	23	0	112.6	95.0	+6.3	23	0	17.7	-	6.01	-	10	0
	Month	51.7	75	9	8	14.3	-1.1	+6.3	11	0	306.7	257.1	+3.9	11	0	16.9	-0.4	6.23	97	10	2

TABLE 2. SOLAR RADIATION (GLOBAL), POTENTIAL EVAPOTRANSPIRATION (P.E.) AND SOIL MOISTURE

STATION	PERIOD	SOLAR RADIATION	P.E.	SOIL MOISTURE		
		Amount	Amount	Deficit	Accumulated Deficit	Surplus
Carlow (Oak Park) Co. Carlow	1-10	Joules/cm ²	mm	mm	mm	mm
	1-10	-	19	0	27	2
	11-20	-	17	13	40	0
	21-end	-	29	26	66	0
Month	-	65	-	-	-	
Kinsealy Co. Dublin	1-10	15706	21	0	79	12
	11-20	15549	32	11	90	0
	21-end	18408	41	14	104	0
	Month	49663	94	-	-	-
Cahiriveen e (Valentia Obsy.) Co. Kerry	1-10	14884	15	0	0	34
	11-20	11885	16	0	0	18
	21-end	18665	22	22	22	0
	Month	45434	53	-	-	-
Kilkenny e Co. Kilkenny	1-10	16392	-	-	-	-
	11-20	14477	-	-	-	-
	21-end	17982	-	-	-	-
	Month	48851	-	-	-	-
Ballinamore Co. Leitrim	1-10		13	0	0	39
	11-20	NA	11	0	0	2
	21-end		22	22	22	0
	Month		46	-	-	-
Glenanoy Co. Mayo	1-10	13724	19	0	25	22
	11-20	11126	16	6	31	0
	21-end	17582	27	25	56	0
	Month	42432	62	-	-	-
Birr e Co. Offaly	1-10	14733	-	-	-	-
	11-20	12096	-	-	-	-
	21-end	17170	-	-	-	-
	Month	43999	-	-	-	-
Johnstown Castle Co. Wexford	1-10		18	0	0	20
	11-20		22	21	21	0
	21-end		26	26	47	0
	Month		66	-	-	-

See January issue of Bulletin for explanatory notes on the tables.