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The Weather of September 1985

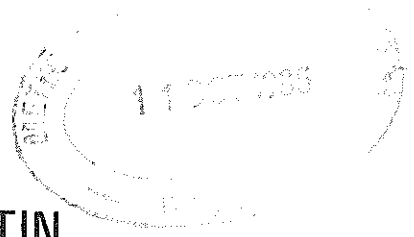
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METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE



SEPTEMBER 1985

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN



The Weather of September

Changeable conditions, with frontal depressions over the country on 2nd and 4th and northwesterly showery winds on 1st, 3rd and 5th, were followed on the 6th by the first signs of a recovery of high pressure since the beginning of June. The linking of a cell of high pressure south of Iceland with the Azores high was interrupted by the presence of a frontal system straddling the country on the 7th. There were, however, spells of rain and drizzle especially as this frontal system retreated northwards on the 8th and 9th due to the influence of intensifying pressure from the southeast. A slow decline of high pressure permitted the return of very mild southwesterly winds and a frontal trough to the west and north on the 11th. Its passage over the country on the 12th was followed by a temporary recovery of the Azores high on 13th.

Frontal systems and extensive warm sector conditions from the Atlantic with an extended high pressure zone from the Azores to France became the dominant features subsequently. Towards the end of the month the orientation of the high cell was north-south over the east of England and France. Pressure over Ireland was for the most part reasonably high but early moderate to fresh southwest to west winds, which later became strong southerly, prevailed to the end of the month. Much rain and drizzle continued to occur in northern and western areas. Despite minor changes of airmasses from time to time, the weather to the end of the month remained very close and humid. Very warm spells developed, especially in the south and east where the influence of the high was greatest. There was extensive hill and coastal fog.

Precipitation:

There was a wide variation in rainfall amounts during the month; the west and north were particularly wet while the south and east were very dry. The midlands and mid-western areas had about normal rainfall. Amounts varied from 214% at Malin Head to 50% at Rosslare. Wettest days throughout the country were 2nd, 4th, 18th and 21st, while in the north and west the 6th, 12th to 14th, 20th in particular, 25th and 30th were also affected. Extensive spells favouring the spread of potato blight occurred from the 8th of the month. The soil moisture position reflected the rainfall pattern, there being considerable surpluses at stations in the north and west and moderate deficits in the south and east (see Table 3). After the very wet summer, this position fairly reflected the different harvesting conditions during the month although improved conditions towards the end of the month gave welcome relief.

Temperature:

Mean air temperature was well above normal and values were generally higher than those of August. Values ranged from 1.7°C above normal at Kilkenny to normal at Belmullet. The warmest spell occurred at the end of the month when even night-time minima varied from 13°C to 16°C and daytime maxima exceeded 20°C to 23°C. Ground frost occurred in a few places on 6th and 20th.

Sunshine and Radiation:

Sunshine duration was below normal generally and well below normal in the west and north; near normal values occurred at Dublin and Shannon Airports. Amounts varied from 98% at Shannon Airport to 72% at Belmullet. The last ten-day interval was the dullest. Global radiation was near average but 109% of average at Dublin Airport.

Wind:

Gales occurred in the west and north on the 13th and 14th. Strong winds with gale gusts occurred on 1st to 3rd, 13th to 16th, 20th/21st and 30th.

Summary:

September ranged from being very wet in the north and west to fairly dry in the south and east. It was the third consecutive month in which the 100 year record for rainfall was broken at Malin Head. The month was warm but generally dull.

The data contained in this Bulletin are Provisional. Some of the material in Table 1 will be published in its final form in the Monthly Weather Report; final values of Global Radiation at stations in Table 2 will be published in the annual Solar Radiation Observations.

TABLE 1

SEPTEMBER 1985

STATION	PERIOD	RAINFALL (mm)				TEMPERATURE (°C)														BRIGHT SUNSHINE		WIND				
		AMOUNT	% OF AVERAGE	RAIN DAYS	WET DAYS	AIR							GROUND			SOIL (10cm)				TOTAL NO. OF HOURS	% OF AVERAGE	MEAN SPEED (ms ⁻¹)	DAYS WITH GALE GUSTS	P.E. (PENMAN) (mm)		
						MEAN MAX.	MEAN MIN.	MEAN DAILY	DIFFERENCE FROM AVERAGE	LOWEST MIN.	DATE	DAYS WITH AIR FROST	DEGREE DAYS ABOVE 4.4°C	% OF AVERAGE	DEGREE DAYS ABOVE 10.0°C	% OF AVERAGE	LOWEST "GRASS-MIN"	DATE	DAYS WITH GROUND FROST						MEAN DAILY	DIFFERENCE FROM AVERAGE
Carlow (Oak Park) Co. Carlow	1-10	33.7	-	4	4	17.5	10.0	13.7	-	4.0	6	0	93	-	40	-	-1.0	6	1	-	-	42.6	-	3.4	-	-
	11-20	9.0	-	6	4	17.1	10.5	13.0	-	5.0	20	0	94	-	40	-	3.0	20	0	-	-	34.0	-	4.6	-	-
	21-END	2.0	-	4	1	18.9	12.4	15.6	-	9.4	21	0	112	-	57	-	5.3	28	0	-	-	30.4	-	3.6	-	-
	MONTH	44.7	59	14	9	17.8	11.0	14.4	-	4.0	6	0	300	-	137	-	-1.0	6	1	-	-	107.0	-	3.9	-	42
Shannon Airport Co. Clare	1-10	23.0	-	6	5	18.1	10.8	14.5	-	9.0	6	0	101	-	45	-	3.9	2	0	14.6	-	51.2	-	3.5	3	-
	11-20	38.2	-	9	6	16.9	11.5	14.2	-	0.9	20	0	98	-	43	-	6.3	20	0	14.5	-	32.2	-	5.1	2	-
	21-END	7.0	-	5	3	19.9	14.0	17.0	-	11.8	24	0	126	-	70	-	10.0	24	0	15.7	-	27.0	-	4.3	0	-
	MONTH	69.0	77	20	14	18.3	12.1	15.2	+1.5	8.9	20	0	325	111	159	126	3.9	2	0	14.9	+0.3	110.4	98	4.3	5	49
Cork Airport Co. Cork	1-10	33.9	-	6	4	16.0	9.9	13.4	-	6.6	6	0	90	-	36	-	2.6	6	0	14.3	-	53.0	-	6.0	3	-
	11-20	12.0	-	7	3	16.1	10.2	13.2	-	7.4	15	0	88	-	34	-	2.0	20	0	14.3	-	36.0	-	6.5	2	-
	21-END	30.3	-	6	3	14.0	11.6	13.2	-	0.0	29	0	92	-	42	-	0.0	29	0	13.3	-	16.5	-	6.1	2	-
	MONTH	77.0	67	19	10	15.9	10.6	13.2	+0.3	0.0	29	0	270	102	112	113	0.0	29	0	13.9	+0.3	107.1	69	6.2	7	30
Fermoy (Coolnakilla) Co. Cork	1-10	42.3	-	5	4	16.4	9.1	12.7	-	5.0	6	0	83	-	31	-	5.3	6	0	-	-	50.1	-	4.6	-	-
	11-20	17.6	-	8	4	15.7	10.1	12.9	-	6.0	20	0	85	-	32	-	2.0	20	0	-	-	30.2	-	5.0	-	-
	21-END	22.3	-	0	7	16.6	11.8	14.2	-	9.6	21	0	98	-	42	-	7.2	24	0	-	-	21.4	-	4.6	-	-
	MONTH	82.2	-	21	15	16.2	10.3	13.3	-	5.6	6	0	266	-	105	-	2.0	20	0	-	-	101.7	-	4.7	-	20
Fermoy (Moore Park) Co. Cork	1-10	30.5	-	4	4	18.2	9.4	13.0	-	2.7	6	0	95	-	42	-	0.1	6	0	-	-	52.0	-	2.3	-	-
	11-20	15.9	-	6	3	17.1	10.4	13.0	-	3.6	20	0	94	-	41	-	1.2	20	0	-	-	27.0	-	2.6	-	-
	21-END	11.1	-	6	4	18.5	12.8	15.6	-	9.4	21	0	112	-	57	-	0.0	28	0	-	-	N/A	-	2.0	-	-
	MONTH	57.5	63	16	11	17.9	10.9	14.4	-	2.7	6	0	301	-	139	-	0.1	6	0	-	-	N/A	-	2.3	-	N/A
Roches Point Co. Cork	1-10	33.6	-	5	4	16.4	10.6	13.5	-	7.3	6	0	91	-	36	-	4.0	6	0	14.7	-	54.5	-	6.0	3	-
	11-20	9.2	-	5	3	16.3	11.1	13.7	-	8.0	20	0	93	-	30	-	4.6	13	0	14.7	-	32.7	-	6.2	4	-
	21-END	22.0	-	5	3	16.4	13.5	14.9	-	12.2	24	0	105	-	49	-	10.0	24	0	15.0	-	20.6	-	5.6	1	-
	MONTH	65.6	73	15	10	16.4	11.7	14.0	+0.3	7.3	6	0	289	99	124	104	4.0	6	0	14.0	+0.3	107.0	85	6.0	8	43
Glencolumbkille Co. Donegal	1-10	96.1	-	7	7	15.1	9.6	12.4	-	7.0	4	0	80	-	26	-	1.0	4	0	-	-	32.1	-	3.1	-	-
	11-20	140.0	-	10	9	15.0	9.7	12.4	-	9.0	15	0	80	-	25	-	3.0	11	0	-	-	N/A	-	4.9	-	-
	21-END	83.3	-	8	6	17.9	12.5	15.2	-	0.0	21	0	108	-	52	-	6.0	21	0	-	-	25.7	-	3.3	-	-
	MONTH	320.2	-	25	22	16.0	10.6	13.3	-	7.0	4	0	268	-	103	-	1.0	4	0	-	-	N/A	-	3.0	-	N/A

NOTES ON THE TABLES IN JANUARY ISSUE

TABLE 1 (CONTINUED)

SEPTEMBER 1985

STATION	PERIOD	RAINFALL (mm)				TEMPERATURE (°C)														BRIGHT SUNSHINE		WIND				
		AMOUNT	% OF AVERAGE	RAIN DAYS		AIR							GROUND			SOIL (10cm)				TOTAL NO. OF HOURS	% OF AVERAGE	MEAN SPEED (ms ⁻¹)	DAYS WITH GALE GUSTS	P.E. (PENMAN) (mm)		
				RAIN	WET	MEAN MAX.	MEAN MIN.	MEAN DAILY	DIFFERENCE FROM AVERAGE	LOWEST MIN.	DATE	DAYS WITH AIR FROST	DEGREE DAYS ABOVE 4.4°C	% OF AVERAGE	DEGREE DAYS ABOVE 10.0°C	% OF AVERAGE	LOWEST "GRASS-MIN"	DATE	DAYS WITH GROUND FROST						MEAN DAILY	DIFFERENCE FROM AVERAGE
				WET	WET																					
Genties Co. Donegal	1-10 11-20 21-END MONTH	N/A N/A N/A N/A	- - - N/A	N/A N/A N/A N/A	N/A N/A N/A N/A	N/A N/A N/A N/A	N/A N/A N/A N/A	- - - -	N/A N/A N/A N/A	N/A N/A N/A N/A	N/A N/A N/A N/A	- - - -	N/A N/A N/A N/A	- - - -	N/A N/A N/A N/A	N/A N/A N/A N/A	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	
Malin Head Co. Donegal	1-10 11-20 21-END MONTH	78.4 93.9 44.2 216.5	- - - 214	9 9 5 23	5 9 5 19	14.8 15.0 17.6 15.8	10.2 10.4 12.6 11.1	12.5 12.7 15.1 13.4	- - - +0.4	8.4 8.2 9.5 8.2	7 20 21 20	0 0 0 0	81 83 107 271	- - - 101	26 28 51 105	- - - 107	5.8 6.4 8.3 5.8	6 19 21 6	0 0 0 0	13.3 12.9 14.4 13.5	- - - +0.4	26.6 34.7 20.9 82.2	- - - 74	5.9 9.6 6.8 7.4	4 7 3 14	- - - 41
Casement Aerodrome Co. Dublin	1-10 11-20 21-END MONTH	18.2 14.8 4.1 37.1	- - - 54	5 9 4 18	3 6 1 10	17.5 16.9 20.5 18.3	10.0 9.7 11.8 10.5	13.7 13.3 16.2 14.4	- - - +1.4	6.0 6.3 6.4 6.0	6 20 28 6	0 0 0 0	93 89 118 300	- - - 110	40 36 62 138	- - - 124	3.0 4.0 5.4 3.0	6 20 28 6	0 0 0 0	13.7 13.5 14.8 14.0	- - - -	39.6 31.6 34.4 105.6	- - - 85	5.2 7.0 5.1 5.8	2 6 2 10	- - - 51
Dublin Airport Co. Dublin	1-10 11-20 21-END MONTH	20.8 13.3 4.1 38.2	- - - 52	5 7 4 16	3 2 3 8	17.6 16.9 19.8 18.1	10.5 10.0 12.9 11.1	14.0 13.4 16.4 14.6	- - - +1.4	5.6 6.4 11.5 5.6	6 20 28 6	0 0 0 0	96 90 120 306	- - - 110	42 37 64 142	- - - 127	5.0 4.6 7.4 4.6	6 20 28 20	0 0 0 0	14.6 14.5 15.4 14.8	- - - +0.8	49.4 38.9 33.3 121.6	- - - 95	4.3 5.5 3.6 4.5	3 2 2 7	- - - 51
Kinsealy Co. Dublin	1-10 11-20 21-END MONTH	20.5 14.3 2.0 36.8	- - - 52	6 6 3 15	3 2 1 6	17.6 17.2 18.8 17.9	9.7 9.4 11.5 10.2	13.6 13.3 15.2 14.0	- - - -	5.0 5.4 7.8 5.0	6 20 28 6	0 0 0 0	92 89 108 289	- - - 128	39 36 52 -	- - - -	2.2 0.7 5.4 0.7	6 20 28 20	0 0 0 0	- - - -	- - - -	47.4 40.1 37.1 124.6	- - - -	3.1 4.3 2.8 3.4	- - - 43	
Galway Co. Galway	1-10 11-20 21-END MONTH	23.9 73.9 27.7 125.5	- - - 113	7 9 7 23	5 9 5 19	16.5 16.2 18.9 17.2	10.6 10.9 13.0 11.5	13.6 13.6 15.9 14.3	- - - +1.0	8.3 8.2 10.0 8.2	5 19 24 19	0 0 0 0	92 92 115 298	- - - 133	37 36 59 -	- - - -	5.0 5.5 7.0 5.0	5 19 24 5	0 0 0 0	14.4 14.3 15.5 14.7	- - - -	40.0 44.0 21.4 105.4	- - - 88	4.7 6.6 4.8 5.4	0 3 2 5	- - - 46
Killarney (Muckross House) Co. Kerry	1-10 11-20 21-END MONTH	38.3 27.1 8.2 73.6	- - - 54	5 10 6 21	3 6 3 12	17.0 16.8 19.0 17.6	10.5 11.6 13.4 11.8	13.7 14.2 16.2 14.7	- - - -	4.9 6.6 9.9 4.9	6 20 24 6	0 0 0 0	93 98 118 310	- - - -	39 43 62 -	- - - -	1.4 2.2 4.6 1.4	6 20 24 6	0 0 0 0	- - - -	- - - -	54.5 27.3 39.5 121.3	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	

NOTES ON THE TABLES IN JANUARY ISSUE

151

TABLE 1 (CONTINUED)

SEPTEMBER 1985

STATION	PERIOD	RAINFALL (mm)				TEMPERATURE (°C)														BRIGHT SUNSHINE		WIND				
		AMOUNT	% OF AVERAGE	RAIN DAYS		AIR					GROUND			SOIL (10cm)			TOTAL NO. OF HOURS	% OF AVERAGE	MEAN SPEED (ms ⁻¹)	DAYS WITH GALE GUSTS	P.E. (PENMAN) (mm)					
				WET	DAYS	MEAN MAX.	MEAN MIN.	MEAN DAILY	DIFFERENCE FROM AVERAGE	LOWEST MIN.	DATE	DAYS WITH AIR FROST	DEGREE DAYS ABOVE 4.4°C	% OF AVERAGE	DEGREE DAYS ABOVE 10.0°C	% OF AVERAGE						LOWEST "GRASS-MIN"	DATE	DAYS WITH GROUND FROST	MEAN DAILY	DIFFERENCE FROM AVERAGE
Ballinrobe (Creagh) Co. Mayo	1-10	24.1	-	6	5	17.0	9.8	13.4	-	7.1	4	0	90	-	37	-	0.6	6	0	-	-	37.2	-	2.7	-	-
	11-20	84.7	-	8	7	16.8	10.1	13.5	-	6.0	20	0	91	-	36	-	-1.9	20	1	-	-	N/A	-	4.2	-	-
	21-END	94.7	-	7	7	18.2	11.2	14.7	-	7.6	28	0	103	-	47	-	3.8	28	0	-	-	15.5	-	2.9	-	-
	MONTH	203.5	172	21	19	17.3	10.4	13.9	-	6.0	20	0	284	-	121	-	-1.9	20	1	-	-	N/A	-	3.3	-	N/A
Belmullet Co. Mayo	1-10	24.8	-	5	3	15.4	9.8	12.6	-	7.1	4	0	82	-	28	-	3.0	4	0	14.3	-	35.6	-	5.7	2	-
	11-20	121.3	-	10	8	14.8	10.2	12.5	-	8.3	19	0	81	-	26	-	6.7	19	0	13.8	-	29.4	-	7.6	6	-
	21-END	59.6	-	8	6	17.2	12.5	14.9	-	10.5	26	0	105	-	49	-	7.1	28	0	14.7	-	18.6	-	6.1	2	-
	MONTH	205.7	194	23	17	15.6	10.8	13.3	+0.0	7.1	4	0	268	98	103	98	3.0	4	0	14.2	+0.4	83.6	72	6.5	10	37
Claremorris Co. Mayo	1-10	21.8	-	6	5	16.3	9.2	12.8	-	5.6	6	0	84	-	32	-	1.0	6	0	13.6	-	27.1	-	4.4	2	-
	11-20	81.7	-	9	8	16.7	9.3	13.0	-	6.2	20	0	86	-	33	-	2.0	19	0	13.8	-	33.9	-	5.7	3	-
	21-END	47.1	-	7	6	18.4	12.5	15.4	-	11.2	26	0	110	-	54	-	9.0	28	0	14.8	-	16.4	-	4.6	1	-
	MONTH	150.6	141	22	19	17.1	10.3	13.7	+1.3	5.6	6	0	280	110	118	122	1.0	6	0	14.1	+0.8	77.4	79	4.9	6	36
Glenamoy Co. Mayo	1-10	48.3	-	8	5	15.7	10.3	13.0	-	5.6	6	0	86	-	32	-	2.0	6	0	-	-	33.4	-	3.0	-	-
	11-20	134.9	-	10	8	15.6	10.4	13.0	-	8.0	20	0	86	-	31	-	4.5	19	0	-	-	27.0	-	4.7	-	-
	21-END	88.8	-	6	6	17.3	12.3	14.8	-	10.2	21	0	104	-	48	-	9.0	26	0	-	-	24.0	-	2.8	-	-
	MONTH	272.0	211	24	19	16.2	11.0	13.6	-	5.6	6	0	276	-	112	-	2.0	6	0	-	-	84.4	-	3.5	-	33
Dunsany (Grange) Co. Meath	1-10	26.2	-	6	5	17.3	9.5	13.4	-	4.3	6	0	90	-	37	-	2.0	6	0	-	-	N/A	-	-	-	-
	11-20	30.2	-	7	7	16.3	9.4	12.8	-	5.5	20	0	84	-	32	-	4.6	13	0	-	-	N/A	-	-	-	-
	21-END	5.3	-	6	2	19.3	12.8	16.1	-	10.5	24	0	117	-	61	-	N/A	0	-	-	-	26.0	-	-	-	-
	MONTH	61.7	76	19	14	17.6	10.6	14.1	-	4.3	6	0	291	-	130	-	N/A	0	-	-	-	N/A	-	-	-	-
Clones Co. Monaghan	1-10	15.7	-	7	2	16.1	9.9	13.0	-	5.2	6	0	86	-	33	-	-0.4	6	1	13.5	-	30.5	-	3.1	0	-
	11-20	58.3	-	8	8	16.0	9.3	12.7	-	5.0	20	0	83	-	30	-	2.3	20	0	13.1	-	33.7	-	4.6	1	-
	21-END	21.9	-	6	5	18.9	11.8	15.3	-	9.7	24	0	109	-	53	-	8.2	24	0	14.5	-	17.1	-	3.9	2	-
	MONTH	95.9	113	21	15	17.0	10.3	13.7	+1.4	5.0	20	0	278	110	116	122	-0.4	6	1	13.7	+0.4	81.3	83	3.9	3	37
Birr Co. Offaly	1-10	22.7	-	4	3	17.3	9.7	13.5	-	6.0	6	0	91	-	38	-	1.3	6	0	14.7	-	32.5	-	3.2	1	-
	11-20	23.7	-	8	5	16.4	9.9	13.2	-	6.5	20	0	89	-	34	-	0.4	20	0	14.4	-	33.0	-	4.4	1	-
	21-END	8.2	-	5	4	19.3	13.0	16.1	-	9.8	24	0	117	-	62	-	4.5	24	0	15.6	-	21.5	-	3.6	1	-
	MONTH	54.6	69	17	12	17.7	10.9	14.3	+1.3	6.0	6	0	296	110	134	123	0.4	20	0	14.9	+0.9	87.0	79	3.7	3	42

NOTES ON THE TABLES IN JANUARY ISSUE

TABLE 1 (CONTINUED)

SEPTEMBER 1985

STATION	PERIOD	RAINFALL (mm)				TEMPERATURE (°C)														BRIGHT SUNSHINE		WIND						
		AMOUNT	% OF AVERAGE	RAIN DAYS	WET DAYS	AIR							GROUND			SOIL (10cm)				TOTAL NO. OF HOURS	% OF AVERAGE	MEAN SPEED (ms ⁻¹)	DAYS WITH GALE GUSTS	P.E. (PENMAN) (mm)				
						MEAN MAX.	MEAN MIN.	MEAN DAILY	DIFFERENCE FROM AVERAGE	LOWEST MIN.	DATE	DAYS WITH AIR FROST	DEGREE DAYS ABOVE 4.4°C	% OF AVERAGE	DEGREE DAYS ABOVE 10.0°C	% OF AVERAGE	LOWEST "GRASS-MIN"	DATE	DAYS WITH GROUND FROST						MEAN DAILY	DIFFERENCE FROM AVERAGE		
Dundrum (Knockavilla) Co. Tipperary	1-10	30.8	-	4	4	17.9	9.3	13.6	-	6.5	6	0	92	-	40	-	-1.6	6	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	11-20	24.2	-	7	6	16.8	10.3	13.5	-	4.4	20	0	91	-	38	-	-3.5	20	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	21-END	4.2	-	2	2	19.1	12.4	15.7	-	8.7	21	0	113	-	58	-	3.5	28	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	MONTH	59.2	-	13	12	17.9	10.7	14.3	-	4.4	20	0	297	-	136	-	-3.5	20	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dungarven (Carriglea) Co. Waterford	1-10	32.2	-	5	3	18.4	9.7	14.1	-	4.3	7	0	97	-	44	-	4.2	7	0	-	-	48.8	-	2.0	-	-	-	
	11-20	19.5	-	5	4	18.0	10.5	14.2	-	4.4	20	0	98	-	45	-	4.0	20	0	-	-	N/A	-	2.4	-	-	-	
	21-END	10.0	-	5	4	18.5	13.3	15.9	-	11.4	21	0	115	-	59	-	N/A	N/A	-	-	-	31.7	-	2.3	-	-	-	
	MONTH	61.7	60	15	11	18.3	11.2	14.7	-	4.3	7	0	310	-	148	-	N/A	N/A	-	-	-	N/A	-	2.2	-	N/A	-	
Mullingar Co. Westmeath	1-10	29.5	-	6	4	16.5	9.5	13.0	-	6.1	6	0	86	-	33	-	3.2	6	0	13.6	-	30.2	-	3.3	2	-	-	
	11-20	65.9	-	9	8	16.1	9.5	12.8	-	5.4	20	0	84	-	31	-	3.3	20	0	13.5	-	37.4	-	4.6	2	-	-	
	21-END	11.6	-	6	6	19.1	12.1	15.6	-	8.7	28	0	112	-	56	-	7.6	28	0	14.9	-	26.1	-	3.9	0	-	-	
	MONTH	107.0	119	21	18	17.2	10.3	13.8	+1.4	5.4	20	0	281	108	121	117	3.2	6	0	14.0	+0.4	93.7	85	3.9	4	38	-	
J.F.K. Park Co. Wexford	1-10	31.2	-	5	5	16.9	10.0	13.5	-	4.2	6	0	91	-	37	-	-1.4	6	1	-	-	40.5	-	4.2	-	-	-	
	11-20	10.5	-	4	3	17.0	10.7	13.9	-	5.6	20	0	95	-	41	-	-1.4	20	1	-	-	34.3	-	5.0	-	-	-	
	21-END	12.1	-	5	4	17.2	12.9	15.1	-	11.4	24	0	107	-	51	-	7.9	24	0	-	-	24.4	-	4.7	-	-	-	
	MONTH	53.8	55	14	12	17.1	11.2	14.1	-	4.2	6	0	292	-	129	-	-1.4	6	2	-	-	99.2	-	4.6	-	41	-	
Clonroche Co. Wexford	1-10	33.3	-	4	4	17.7	9.1	13.4	-	4.1	6	0	90	-	38	-	-2.1	6	1	-	-	40.7	-	1.9	-	-	-	
	11-20	11.2	-	6	4	17.1	9.6	13.3	-	4.3	20	0	89	-	37	-	-2.8	20	2	-	-	32.4	-	2.3	-	-	-	
	21-END	14.5	-	5	5	17.8	11.9	14.9	-	9.2	21	0	105	-	49	-	3.5	29	0	-	-	26.0	-	1.7	-	-	-	
	MONTH	59.0	54	15	13	17.5	10.2	13.9	-	4.1	6	0	284	-	124	-	-2.8	20	3	-	-	99.1	-	2.0	-	34	-	
Johnstown Castle Co. Wexford	1-10	33.3	-	5	4	16.6	10.4	13.5	-	6.6	6	0	91	-	36	-	2.0	2	0	-	-	47.4	-	4.0	-	-	-	
	11-20	6.1	-	6	1	16.5	10.6	13.6	-	7.2	15	0	92	-	38	-	1.1	15	0	-	-	36.4	-	4.4	-	-	-	
	21-END	11.7	-	5	3	17.0	12.7	14.9	-	11.2	21	0	105	-	49	-	6.0	24	0	-	-	31.9	-	3.6	-	-	-	
	MONTH	51.1	55	16	8	16.7	11.2	14.0	-	6.6	6	0	287	-	123	-	1.1	15	0	-	-	115.7	-	4.0	-	38	-	
Rosslare Co. Wexford	1-10	26.7	-	4	3	16.7	10.9	13.8	-	6.4	6	0	94	-	39	-	3.7	6	0	14.7	-	48.9	-	5.3	2	-	-	
	11-20	3.2	-	4	1	16.7	11.0	13.9	-	8.0	20	0	95	-	40	-	5.3	20	0	14.9	-	39.5	-	5.8	2	-	-	
	21-END	9.4	-	4	1	17.0	13.7	15.3	-	12.6	24	0	109	-	53	-	8.1	28	0	15.7	-	33.9	-	5.1	2	-	-	
	MONTH	39.3	50	12	5	16.8	11.9	14.3	+0.6	6.4	6	0	298	101	132	109	3.7	6	0	15.1	+0.2	122.3	85	5.4	6	47	-	

NOTES ON THE TABLES IN JANUARY ISSUE

TABLE 2 GLOBAL (SOLAR) RADIATION

STATION	PERIOD	AMOUNT MJ/m ²
Malin Head Co. Donegal	1-10	89.08
	11-20	93.84
	21-end	65.41
	Month	248.33
Dublin Airport Co. Dublin	1-10	118.28
	11-20	93.90
	21-end	80.78
	Month	292.96
Cahirciveen (Valentia Obs.) Co. Kerry	1-10	135.02
	11-20	86.19
	21-end	70.29
	Month	291.50
Kilkenny Co. Kilkenny	1-10	130.57
	11-20	96.91
	21-end	76.25
	Month	303.73
Belmullet Co. Mayo	1-10	106.53
	11-20	87.64
	21-end	58.57
	Month	252.74
Clones Co. Monaghan	1-10	90.78
	11-20	84.16
	21-end	66.43
	Month	241.37
Birr Co. Offaly	1-10	125.55
	11-20	99.96
	21-end	81.82
	Month	307.33

Notes on the tables in January issue

TABLE 3 POTENTIAL EVAPOTRANSPIRATION (P.E.) AND SOIL MOISTURE

STATION	PERIOD	P.E. (mm)		SOIL MOISTURE (mm)	
		Amount	Deficit	Accumulated Deficit	Surplus
Carlow (Oak Park) Co. Carlow	1-10	18.3	-	0	15
	11-20	22.7	14	14	-
	21-end	10.4	8	22	-
	Month	51.4	-	-	-
Kinsealy Co. Dublin	1-10	15.4	-	0	5
	11-19	17.3	9	9	-
	20-end	14.0	6	15	-
	Month	46.7	-	-	-
Cahirciveen (Valentia Obs.) Co. Kerry	1-10	9.6	-	0	44
	11-20	10.8	-	0	30
	21-end	4.0	-	0	17
	Month	24.4	-	-	-
Ballinamore Co. Leitrim	1-10	5.2	-	0	16
	11-19	5.3	-	0	53
	*22-end	3.7	-	0	14
	Month	14.2	-	-	-
Glenamoy Co. Mayo	1-10	9.5	-	0	39
	11-19	7.8	-	0	55
	*21-end	8.2	-	0	80
	Month	25.5	-	-	-
Johnstown Castle Co. Wexford	1-10	17.5	-	0	16
	11-20	13.1	7	7	-
	21-end	11.4	-	7	0
	Month	42.0	-	-	-

*overflows occurred.

TABLE 4 SOIL CLIMATE (MULLINGAR)

BARE SOIL TYPE	PERIOD	Mean Temperature °C at 100mm			TEMPERATURE GRADIENT (to 200mm)	SOIL WATER POTENTIAL (hPa) (at depths)	
		Max.	Daily	Min.		75mm	200mm
Peat	1-10	14.9	14.0	12.8	+0.3	64	67
	11-20	14.8	13.9	13.1	+0.4	73	77
	21-end	15.1	14.4	13.4	-0.2	65	64
Mineral	1-10	15.1	13.4	11.6	-0.5	65	69
	11-20	15.6	13.4	11.8	-0.2	80	87
	21-end	15.8	14.6	13.0	-0.5	66	60

special topic

THE RAINFALL CLIMATE OF MAY TO SEPTEMBER 1985 (some comparisons with 1958 and 1980)

The persistently wet season, May to September 1985, has had a serious impact on farming. Farm output with respect to the provision of winter fodder and the harvesting of crops suffered greatly. Most losses occurred in hay, winter wheat and in the pea crop. From a fodder point of view worst affected areas were in the west and northwest, particularly in Donegal and Sligo, and in areas extending eastwards towards Mullingar. Hay crops were very variable but ranged from 100% saved in some farms to about 50% in others. Areas not dependent on hay, were more self-sufficient although silage cutting was also made difficult.

The most seriously affected cereal crop was winter wheat and losses in this crop outweighed any other individual crop. The quality was affected by a tendency to sprout, depending on variety, and lodging was common under a high input regime. The crop tended to be harvested at high moisture content which incurs a penalty for the farmer and yield was down, varying from 7.2 to 6.2 tonnes/hectare. Virtually all the crop was unsuitable for milling and less than 20% was purchased for seed.

Spring wheat also suffered in quality but yield was not affected and about 50% was accepted for milling. The major crop, spring barley, was also little affected although there was a drop in quality and farmers suffered a penalty because of high moisture content. Peas, a major growth crop increasing from 1,500 hectares in 1984 to 5,250 hectares in 1985, were also badly hit. Yield was down 30% and quality was down significantly, with up to 20% written off, at a loss of £250 per hectare to the farmer. Oil seed rape suffered serious losses from wind and rain due to shedding with up to 20% losses.

The season was also very favourable to the spread of potato blight and many areas, especially the east, were particularly affected by a blight epidemic early in July. A good spray programme subsequently brought the blight under control although spraying conditions were difficult and the very wet conditions were washing spores down into the soil with a risk of tuber infection. Flooding was widespread in the west and west midlands. The wet conditions also favoured the prevalence of liver fluke in cattle and sheep. Bord na Mona reported that only 31% of normal production was possible. The harvesting of home-produced turf in the northwest was particularly disrupted. Poaching became a serious problem in September in western areas.

Weather Summary:

May was wet and particularly wet in western areas, rather cold and dull. June was very cold and dull, except in the south and east and there was above normal rainfall. The first 10 days however were relatively dry, particularly in the west, with an opportunity for silage making. Generally wet and broken weather occurred in July although the south and southwest was not as wet. The July weather was also dull and humid and favoured rapid spread of potato blight in all regions. Widespread and spectacular thunderstorms occurred on July 26th/27th with accompanying large hail. This event centred on a line through Kilkenny and Drogheda caused extensive crop damage in the midlands and east and badly damaged several thousand hectares of cereals. A wet August followed so that the summer was the wettest since records began except in the midlands and east where 1958 was wetter. Harvesting conditions became critical. September rainfall amounts over the country were very variable. Amounts varied from over 200% of normal in the extreme west and northwest coastal areas to generally normal rainfall in the west midlands but only 50% of normal in the south and east. Harvesting went ahead and late silage was made in some farms of the west in extremely difficult conditions. Harvesting is now completed south of a line from Wicklow to Galway.

A climatological table summarising May to September rainfall distribution and giving some comparisons with the weather conditions in 1958 and 1980 will be published in the next issue. The data in the table indicate that, apart from the south and east, 1985 was worst. However, in many respects, e.g. numbers of wet days and sequences of dry days, 1958 is shown to be worse in some regions.

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(to be continued)