Disappointing start to Summer

For the third year in succession June proved a dull and disappointing month. The poor weather conditions experienced during the month were due to the Atlantic low pressure systems moving eastwards across or just to the south of Ireland, instead of taking their more usual path to the north of the country. In the intervals between the arrivals of these Atlantic depressions winds were generally between northerly and northeasterly in direction and conditions were often showery. Towards the end of the month the main depression in the Atlantic took the more usual track near to Iceland rather than Ireland and while the weather remained unsettled temperatures rose considerably. The extreme northwest fared best during the month merely by having near normal totals of sunshine and rainfall, as most areas were dull and wet.

EXTREMELY DULL MONTH

It was an extremely dull June: the dullest since 1955 at many of our stations in the midlands east and south. The lowest sunshine total recorded was 78-0 hours (44% of normal) at BIRR. This made it the dullest June since records began at BIRR in 1860. Malin Head, the most northerly point in the country had the highest sunshine total for the month with 174-6 hours. On the 17th, 18th, 22nd and 28th Malin enjoyed more than 10 hours of sunshine while many areas in the south and east had little or no sun. The sunniest day was the 19th when everywhere except the southwest had more than 10 hours of sun and KILKENNY recorded 14-6 hours, the highest daily total for the month. The number of days with more than 5 hours of sunshine ranged from 16 at Malin Head to 4 at BIRR.

LOW TEMPERATURES

Mean maximum temperatures ranged from 13·5°C at Malin Head to 16·0°C at Shannon Airport and were generally between 1°C and 2°C below their June averages; at a number of stations these were the lowest mean maxima to be recorded since the remarkably cool June in 1972. Indeed, no air temperature in excess of 20°C was recorded at the synoptic stations until the 25th of the month. There was a major change towards the end of the month when a very warm, humid airmass dominated our weather. This produced temperatures of 25°C or more at a number of stations on Saturday the 27th (fair weather for the U2 concert at Croke Park) and a series of high nighttime temperatures giving very warm humid evenings and a more pleasant "summery" aspect to the end of the month.

Between 5th and 18th daytime

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Cloudy over the country on the 16th - 'Bloomsday'.

In a day typical of the months weather, Tuesday the 16th saw rainbelts crossing Ireland in a cool westerly airflow. Apart from the east and south which had a dry start with a little sunshine in the morning, it was a cloudy day with rain on and off in most places. This was heaviest in the west and northwest, but light elsewhere. The highest temperatures for the day were 12 to 15 degrees Celsius, about 4 or 5 degrees below normal for mid-June. The satellite picture was taken by Meteosat at 1300 and shows the widespread thunderstorms over England that day.
temperatures were markedly low and maximum
nighttime temperatures of less than 12°C were
recorded even at some inland stations where normal
June values are 18°C to 19°C. Low nighttime
temperatures occurred in the period 7th – 16th and
some ground frost was recorded, mainly between
10th and 15th. Clones, Cork Airport and Dublin
Airport recorded their lowest air temperatures for
10 to 12 years during this period. Mean monthly
minimums ranged from 0.3°C above normal at
Cahirciveen (Valentine Observatory) to 0.9°C below
normal in parts of the north-west. Mean
temperatures ranged from 0.4°C to 1.2°C below
normal, having risen by about 1°C because of
conditions during the last week. Nonetheless, these
were the lowest mean temperatures for 15 years at
Balmullin, Claremorris and Clones.

HIGH RAINFALL

Totals ranged from just about normal in
the extreme northwest to over twice the normal
rainfall over much of the east and south. At most
stations June 1982 was wetter but at Dublin,
Mullingar, Clones and Cahirciveen it was the wettest
June for 20 to 50 years and at Brr it was the
wettest since 1935. There was widespread heavy rain
during the periods 2nd-3rd and 5th-6th. With slack
northerly winds predominant between 7th and 14th
there were scattered showers which on 11th, 13th
and 14th were accompanied by hail or thunder in
places. Sunday the 21st and Thursday the 25th were
also marked by some very heavy showers. On Monday
the 22nd (while in England heavy rain stopped the
first days play at Wimbledon) persistent rain
occurred in the south of the country but parts of
the north escaped lightly; this was also the case on
the 18th, 24th and 26th.

WINDS

Winds were slack for much of the time
and only on 5th and 6th as a deepening depression
came up from the southwest and moved north-eastwards
across the country, were there widespread strong winds with gusts of between 35
and 50 knots.

Fog was reported during the periods 2nd
to 4th and 25th to 27th.

MIDSUMMER'S DAY

On the 21st of June 1982 a couple of weak
troughs crossed the country from the west bringing
a fair amount of cloud but little rain. The sun
appeared at some stage everywhere but whereas the
west had up to 6 hours of sunshine it lasted less
than an hour in the Dublin area. Temperatures were
generally up on normal for June. The same day last
year was notable for outbreaks of heavy thundery
rain that occurred over the southern half of
the country. The west and north had the best of the
weather this day last year while in 1987 the west
and south fared best.