Vies with July 1983 as warmest month on record

Dry and Sunny

As a low pressure area moved southeastwards across England on 1st an area of high pressure approached Ireland from the west and the period 2nd to 5th was warm and dry with the anticyclone becoming centred to the east of the country. Between 6th and 8th a low pressure area from the continent moved northwards towards England; this caused a north to northeast windflow to develop over us and triggered some thundery showers, especially on 7th (see satellite picture) and early on 8th. The depression over England moved away eastwards on 8th and until 16th the key feature was an anticyclone to the west; during this period winds were predominantly northwesterly and, while weak fronts occasionally gave spots of rain it was mostly dry. During 17th and 18th winds were light and variable as an anticyclone moved slowly across the country.

In the southwesterly which followed a depression approached from the south and moved northwards along the west coast, triggering some thundery showers between 19th and 21st. On 22nd as the low filled there was little shower activity and in a slack pressure area on 23rd and 24th it was dry and warm. From 25th-29th with the main high pressure area to the southwest, the Atlantic rainbelts affected the country from time to time and temperatures dropped gradually as southwesterly or westerly winds prevailed. During 30th and 31st winds became more northwesterly and temperatures continued to fall.

Sustained high daytime temperatures

Most noteworthy were the mean maximum temperatures which, except in some coastal districts, ranged from 3.5°C to 4.8°C above normal. Hottest station was Kilkenny (24.0°C) where the daytime maximum exceeded 20°C between 2nd and 30th.

At Brr the 23.4°C was the highest mean maximum for July since recording began there in 1872. At ten of our fifteen stations the remarkable mean maxima of July 1983 were exceeded or equalled and so the mean maxima of July 1989 rank among the highest on record for any month.

Mean minima were between 1.2°C and 2.0°C above normal but were mostly lower than those of July 1983. Thus, the mean temperatures exceeded or equalled those of July 1983 only at five of our fifteen stations; nonetheless they were between 2.0°C and 3.3°C above normal except near the north and northwest coasts.

Highest temperature was 30.0°C recorded at Shannon Airport on 18th. At most stations the absolute maxima of July 1983 were higher but Roches's Point attained 27.5°C.

Mean Temperature (Difference from 1951-80 normal)

(continued on back page)
July sets new records

- Beaufort:
  - Driest July on record: 24.7 mm
  - Previous minimum 24.9 mm: 1982

- Clones:
  - Sunniest July on record: 252 hours
  - Previous highest 238 hours: July 1955

- Birr:
  - Highest mean maximum temperature on record for July: 23.4°C
  - Previous highest: 23.2°C: July 1983 (records since 1972)

- Dublin Airport:
  - Warmest month on record: mean temperature 17.9°C
  - Previous highest: 17.8°C: July 1983

- Shannon Airport:
  - Highest daily sunshine:
    - on record for July: 18.7 hours on 17th
    - Previous highest: 13.6: 6.7.1971

- Roche's Point:
  - Highest absolute maximum temperature on record for any month: 27.5°C on 17th
  - Previous highest: 26.5°C: 26.8.1971

**Distribution of daily values**

- Rainfall
- Sunshine
- Temperature

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July 1989
Although it was a very dry month generally, heavy rain associated with a thundery depression moved close to the country on 7th as is shown on this infra-red image. Most areas remained dry but southern coastal counties received over half an inch of rain on this day.
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NOTES: Rainfall in millimetres. Temperatures in Degrees Celsius. Sunshine in Hours and Wind in Knots. Gale Gust = Gust of > 33.5 knots. * = days with 0.3mm or more
on 15th, the highest temperature recorded there in any month for over 34 years.

Low Rainfall Totals
After a few showers on 1st, it was dry everywhere until the thundery outbreaks of rain which affected some areas between late on 6th and early on 8th. Between 9th and 16th it was generally dry apart from occasional light rain near northern and western coasts. After dry conditions on 17th and 18th, we again had thundery rain in places between 19th and 21st but amounts were small in most areas. Showers died out during 22nd and it remained dry on 23rd and 24th. A trough moving eastwards on 25th gave widespread rain and in parts of Ulster the rain was thundery. On 26th and 27th rain was mostly confined to coastal areas of Ulster and Connaught but on 29th a cold front trough moving eastwards brought widespread and locally heavy rain, with falls varying between 2 and 17 millimetres. On 30th and 31st there were just well scattered showers.

Rainfall amounts varied between some 7mm (12% of normal) at Kilkenny and 58mm (72% of normal) at Malin Head and were less than 40% of normal in most places. At three stations it was the driest July on record but at others there were drier July's in the 80's. However, at Birr it was the driest July since recording began there in 1872.

High Sunshine Totals
Duration of sunshine ranged from 265 hours at Roches Point to 160 hours at Belmullet. Except at some coastal stations percentage totals exceeded 145% of normal. Clones recorded 202% of normal sunshine (252 hours) and was the only one of our stations which exceeded its total of the very sunny July of 1955. Sunniest spells were 2nd to 5th and 15th to 18th when durations of 14.0 to 15.5 hours were recorded in many areas. Shannon Airport recorded 15.7 hours on 17th, its highest daily total for July since recording began there in 1946.

Strong winds were infrequent and occurred mostly during the final week. Highest gust was 42 knots recorded at Malin Head on 27th.

Fog patches were reported widely during the early hours of 3rd, 15th to 19th and on 24th.

Summary
July was dry, sunny and remarkably warm.