The Sun Shone...

Although the early part of the month was a continuation of the cool, unsettled weather of June, high pressure became the dominant influence from about the 10th or 11th and a long spell of hot summer days began, so that overall July was warm, fairly dry, and very sunny.
Continental influence dominant after unsettled start

From the 1st to the 9th Atlantic low pressure systems dominated the weather charts in the vicinity of Ireland and the unsettled, cool conditions of June continued. However, from the 10th to the 25th, high pressure was dominant and the weather was mainly dry and warm, if at times hazy. The period from the 26th to the 29th was unsettled but still fairly warm. Dry, warm weather returned before the end of the month.

On the 1st and 2nd a cool westerly to northwesterly windflow affected the country. Active frontal systems arrived from the Atlantic late on the 2nd and early on the 4th, with their parent depression crossing the north of Ireland during the evening of the 4th. The stiff northwesterly wind that followed moderated gradually on the 5th.

On the 6th a humid southwesterly windflow developed and persisted during the 7th. As the main depression moved eastwards to the north of Scotland, a fresher, blustery westerly airflow developed on the 8th. Pressure rose steadily during the 9th and on the 10th an anticyclone moved eastwards just to the south of Ireland. During the 11th southwesterly winds became variable as a high pressure cell developed over the country with a weak front separating fresher Atlantic air from the warmer, more humid airmass in the south. As the high cell moved slowly northeastwards on the 12th the front became active over Ulster giving up to 40mm of rain in places.

The period from the 13th and the 24th was dominated by high pressure, which was centred to the east or northeast of Ireland for much of the time. Thus we had dry, if at times hazy weather with winds mainly between northeast and southeast in direction. On both the 15th and the 19th Atlantic ridges approached from the west as the high to the east weakened temporarily. Minor troughs crossed the country on both days, triggering thundery activity in places and causing brief excursions into slack westerlies before the general pattern of easterly winds resumed.

During the 25th and 26th the high to the east weakened and a low pressure area, extending from Spain northwards towards Iceland, began to edge slowly towards Ireland. Late on the 26th and during the 27th a low pressure centre moved eastwards along the south coast before turning northwards to be centred north of Ireland by the end of the day. The low caused a change of windflow from north-easterly to westerly and varying amounts of rainfall, ranging from less than 10mm to 19mm.

During the 28th the flow backed southerly as a warm front approached the west coast and the 29th started humid if breezy. A cold front moving eastwards in the afternoon caused some thundery activity, chiefly in the west and south of the country. The following day saw just a few showers in a southwest windflow as pressure rose steadily. The month with an anticyclone just to the southeast maintaining a warm southerly airflow over Ireland and a slow-moving rainbelt off the west coast.

The only report of hail during the month came from Clones on
the 2nd. There was a thunderstorm at Belmullet on the 19th and another on the 29th during the passage of a cold front. Burren and Shannon Airport also reported thunder on the 29th.

Fog was a feature of the settled period from the 11th to the 20th, particularly along southern and eastern coasts. Both Cork Airport and Roche's Point had 6 days with fog during that period while there were 5 such days at Rosslare. Cork Airport also reported fog on the 7th, along with Belmullet, and again on the 27th. There was no fog during the month at Clones or Malin Head.

Winds were fairly slack during the settled period in mid-month, but there were quite a few blustery days earlier on and towards the end of the month. The windiest days were the 1st, 4th, 5th, 8th, 9th and 29th. Most stations reported gale gusts on between 3 and 6 days during the month, but in coastal areas there were between 8 and 12 windy days. The strongest gust of the month, 51 knots, was recorded at Roche's Point on the 29th.

Mainly dry, but some heavy falls

In spite of all the good weather there were a few days with moderate or heavy falls of rain during the month. The result was that total amounts ended up generally between 70% and 90% of normal. Eastern and some northern areas were a bit drier, while amounts were close to normal in parts of the south and west.

Totals for the month ranged from 36mm at Rosslare to over twice that amount at Belmullet. It rained in the midlands, west and north on between 13 and 17 days during the month; there were between 8 and 12 rain days in the east and south. Rain fell somewhere in the country on each of the first 9 days of the month, most notably on the 4th and 6th. The 4th was the wettest day of the month at most stations, with falls of 20 to 30mm in the north and east. Dublin Airport and Mullingar measured totals of 32mm, providing both stations with their wettest July day for 23 years.

The dry period was interrupted by rain on the 15th. Amounts were generally small however, although 7 to 9mm fell in the Cork area. It remained generally dry until the 26th, when rain reached southern and western areas, spreading to much of the rest of the country on the 27th, when up to 15mm fell in parts of the west. There were some heavy bursts of rain on the 29th, which was Cork's wettest day, with 28mm measured at the airport.
Warm, especially in the west

Mean temperatures for the month ranged from 15.1°C at Malin Head to 17.1°C at Shannon Airport. The west was warmest, with values up to 1.5°C above normal. Mean values in eastern and southern coastal areas were between 0.5°C and 1°C above.

It was the high daily maximum values of the second half of the month that made all the difference. At the end of the first week temperatures were a degree or two below normal. By the middle of the month, mean values had only just crept above normal in the west but elsewhere they were still down to half a degree below. The change began around the 11th; the fortnight that followed saw daily maximum values of 20°C and above at most stations, the exceptions being some coastal locations.

The highest temperature of the month, 27.7°C, was recorded at Cahersiveen on the 13th, making it the hottest July day there since the summer of 1976. Temperatures above 25°C were recorded on the 13th, 14th, 19th, 25th, and 26th. Mean maximum values in the Midlands and west were more than 2°C above normal. However, the influence of the onshore wind kept temperatures that bit lower along southern, eastern, and northern coasts. The 3rd was generally the coolest night of the month, the temperature dropping to 3.6°C at Claremorris, the coldest July value recorded there since 1994.

Sunniest in the southeast

Sunshine was well above average everywhere. It was the sunniest month of the summer so far and the sunniest July on record at Rosslare, where the sun shone for an average of 9.3 hours each day. Most stations enjoyed daily averages of between 6 and 8 hours of sun, although the average drops to 5.3 hours at Claremorris. Overall it was a sunnier month even than July of last year.

Over much of the Midlands, east and south, there was around 50% more sunshine than normal for the month of July. Clones basked in 66% more sunshine than usual, but over in the west and northwest amounts ranged from 25% to 41% above. It was the sunniest July in Malin Head since 1958 and at Shannon Airport since 1971.

The sun shone for close to 15 hours at most stations on the 21st, which was generally the sunniest day of the month. There were good amounts of sunshine on most days, especially from the 13th onwards. The few duller days were the 6th, 7th, 12th and 22nd, although eastern and southern stations had some sunshine every day. There were 2 or 3 completely dull days in the Midlands, west and north.
Dublin's Urban Climate

Dublin's weather and climate are the result of the interaction of a number of different influences. The changeable nature of Ireland's weather, with the frequent passage of depressions and their associated rainfalls, means that for much of the time, the general weather situation is the dominant influence. But Dublin's location, topography, and the very fact that it is a large built-up area, also play a part in determining the city's weather and climate, and during more settled spells - such as occurred recently - when there is little or no wind, when the days are sunny and the sky at night is clear, these local effects can have a major impact on the city's weather.

Approximately one million people live in the 922 square kilometres of the city and county of Dublin, which is bounded by the sea to the east, mountains to the south, and fairly flat land to the west and north. These topographical features influence the city's weather, as does the fact that Dublin is a large city. Hundreds of square kilometres of what used to be green fields have been replaced by the concrete, brick and asphalt of city buildings and streets. These man-made structures and surfaces respond to the heat of the sun, to wind and to rain, in ways that are very different to those of natural landscape.

The clearest manifestation of the impact of urbanisation is the heat island effect of a city. Air over built-up areas is generally warmer than in adjacent rural areas, particularly during spells of settled weather and most noticeably during the night. The main reason for this is that the materials of which the city is constructed soak up more of the sun's heat during the day than soil or vegetation-covered surfaces, releasing this stored heat slowly at night. Other contributory factors are (1) the heat generated by the consumption of energy for domestic, industrial and transportation purposes, (2) the fact that less heat is used for evaporation due to the more rapid drainage of rainfall in urban areas and the relative lack of vegetation, and (3) the reduction in wind speed and hence cooling effect in built-up areas.

The greatest difference between city and country temperatures usually occurs a few hours after sunset. It is most noticeable after a warm day, due to the more rapid cooling in rural areas. Differences of 3°C are quite common. The size of a city, usually expressed in terms of its population, provides a rough guide to the intensity of its heat island effect (see graph). The build-up of the heat island effect is partly dependent on there being little or no cloud-cover, thus facilitating the escape into space of long-wave radiation from rural areas, with the result that these areas cool rapidly. However the main weather control on heat island development is the speed of the wind. Above a certain threshold wind speed - which varies with city size - mixing of air will largely inhibit the local heat island effect.

Analysis of temperature records for the Dublin area show the urban heat island effect quite clearly (see maps). It is especially evident in the map of mean daily minimum temperatures, with a 2°C difference between the city centre and the surrounding countryside. It is also illustrated by the fact that the city has a longer period free of frost each year than neighbouring rural areas. The detailed structure of Dublin's urban heat island is described in an article by John Sweeney. Temperature observations on relatively calm, clear nights during the winter of 1983/84 showed a maximum heat island intensity of 6.5°C, which fits reasonably well with the relationship between population and intensity shown in the graph below. The results of these observations are shown in the two maps on the following page, (reproduced by kind permission of the author and editor of Irish Geography). A notable feature is the crowding of isotherms on the leeward side of the city, common in well-developed heat islands in...
The overall result nonetheless is that with the exception of the high ground to the south, Dublin has one of the lowest average annual rainfall totals in the country. The incidence of fog in Dublin is also mainly influenced by topography. Upland areas are affected by low cloud or hill fog, coastal areas by sea fogs blown in by onshore winds, and lowland areas in the county by radiation fog due to cooling during clear, calm nights. However there is a generally higher incidence of fog in urban areas, due to the increased amount of pollutants in the air.

As with urban areas generally, Dublin city gets less sunshine than surrounding rural areas, 8% less than Dublin Airport, for example, the losses mainly occurring at low solar elevations during the early morning and late evening. The reduction is due to the scattering and absorption of radiation from the sun by pollution particles suspended in the city's atmosphere. Those same scattering and absorption processes also reduce visibility in the city, particularly during winter smog episodes and periods of easterly or southeasterly winds during the summer, when photochemical pollution products from industrial sources on the continent are transported across to this country, causing the type of hazy conditions experienced in recent weeks.

This article draws mainly on The Climate of Dublin, Meteorological Service, 1982; The Urban Climate, H. E. Landberg, 1891; Technical Notes nos. 134 and 159 of the World Meteorological Organization, which deal with urban climatology; The Urban Heat Island of Dublin City; John Sweeney, Irish Geography, 20, 1967; and The Influence of Range-long Transport of Air Pollution on Summer Visibility of Dublin, Marian Leaney and John Sweeney, International Journal of Climatology, 10, 1990.
Sunday 1st: A strong northwesterly airflow covered the country. Winds fresh to strong, up to gale force in the north. Rain or showers in most places.
Rainfall: 3.4mm in north, 0.2mm in south.
Temperature max: 18.7°C, min: 10.3°C
Sunshine: 4.5 hours in north, 6.0 hours in south.

Monday 2nd: Moderate to fresh northwesterly winds brought showers to all areas, some heavy and some with hail. Winds eased to light late in the day. Cold sunny spells, especially in the northwest and north.
Rainfall: 0.3mm in north, 0.2mm in south.
Temperature max: 18.4°C, min: 9.1°C
Sunshine: 2.5 hours in north, 5.0 hours in south.

Tuesday 3rd: Light to moderate (in the west), mainly southwesterly winds backed southeasterly in the east as rain arrived before midnight. Otherwise dry with sunshine earlier in the day and the cold southerly in the west.
Rainfall: 0.1mm in north.
Temperature max: 16.0°C, min: 4.0°C
Sunshine: 3.0 hours

Wednesday 4th: A depression moved east across Ulster late in the day. Associated warm and cold fronts crossed the country during the night and morning bringing some heavy rain followed by showers than more rain. Southwesterly winds, moderate to fresh in strength, veered southwesterly and increased to gale force in places. Winds over the north were moderate to fresh, variable cyclical.
Wind gusts: 10-15m/s.
Temperature max: 15.0°C, min: 10.0°C
Sunshine: 2.5 hours in north and west, 6.0 hours in south and east.

Thursday 5th: The depression continued to move eastwards. Rain in many areas, heaviest early in the northern half of the country. A cool northwest to northerly airflow followed. Showers, mostly light, again most of them in northern areas, drying out by late afternoon except in the north. Northwesterly winds, fresh to strong and gusty, abated slowly during the afternoon and evening.
Rainfall: 0.5mm in north,
Temperature max: 15.7°C, min: 10.2°C
Sunshine: 4.5 hours

Friday 6th: A fresh westerly, later southerly airflow covered the country as a frontal system approached from the Atlantic. Rain reached the west coast around dawn and spread to all parts by midday. Warm sector conditions from late evening onwards.
Rainfall: 6.3mm in north, 12.7mm in south.
Temperature max: 16.8°C, min: 8.1°C
Sunshine: 6.5 hours in Dublin and parts of the Midlands.

Saturday 7th: A broad humid warm sector covered the country. Winds fresh southwesterly. Fog in south and southwest, light rain or drizzle elsewhere at times.
Rainfall: 0.2mm in north, 1.2mm in south.
Temperature max: 17.4°C in west, 20.6°C in south.
Sunshine: 3.0 hours.

Sunday 8th: West to southwesterly airflow. Winds moderate to fresh at first, later fresh to strong with gale gusts. Some drizzle or light rain at night - showers later.
Rainfall: 3.4mm in north, 0.2mm in south.
Temperature max: 16.0°C, min: 11.0°C
Sunshine: 6.0 hours generally, 6.0 hours in west and southeast.

Monday 9th: A strong northwesterly airflow eased as ridge approached from the west. Winds, generally moderate to fresh with showers, but gale force in the north. Showery.
Rainfall: 2.6mm.
Temperature max: 15.5°C, min: 10.5°C
Sunshine: 3.0 hours generally, 6.0 hours in west and southeast.

Tuesday 10th: With pressure high to the south, weak fronts affected northern parts in a moderate southwesterly flow. Light rain or drizzle affected western areas.
Rainfall: 1.2mm.
Temperature max: 16.0°C, min: 10.0°C
Sunshine: 4.5 hours generally.

Wednesday 11th: A weak frontal trough was slow-moving over the country. Drizzle or fog persisted in many areas.
Wind gusts: 10-15m/s.
Temperature max: 16.0°C, min: 10.0°C
Sunshine: 3.0 hours.

Thursday 12th: High cell over the country moving north.
Warm front came up from the south and gave rise to rain in the north and northwest. Some coastal fog in the south. Winds light anticyclonic.
Rainfall: 1.2mm.
Temperature max: 16.0°C in north-west, 18.0°C in coastal areas.
Sunshine: 2.5 hours.

Friday 13th: Anticyclone to the northeast. After some overnight rain further fog patches, all areas had a warm sunny day, though somewhat cloudy in northern areas.
Winds southeasterly, light to moderate in strength.
Rainfall: 1.2mm.
Temperature max: 15.0°C, min: 10.0°C
Sunshine: 5.0 hours in north and northwest, 6.0 hours in south.

Saturday 14th: Dry, clear and sunny everywhere with light to moderate southwesterly winds. Warm front moved east into Kerry late in the day.
Rainfall: 0.2mm.
Temperature max: 18.0°C, min: 10.0°C
Sunshine: 4.5 hours in north and northwest, 6.0 hours in south.

Sunday 15th: St. Swithin’s day. Cloud and rain moved slowly eastwards, followed by mostly clear skies. Winds light to variable.
Rainfall: 0.3mm generally.
Temperature max: 16.0°C, min: 9.0°C
Sunshine: 3.0 hours in east and southeast, 6.0 hours in west and southwest.

Monday 16th: Ridge of high pressure moving slowly clockwise.
Rainfall: 0.2mm.
Temperature max: 16.0°C in coastal areas, 18.0°C inland.
Sunshine: 3.0 hours.

Tuesday 17th: The anticyclone over Britain moved over the UK with strong southwesterly winds.
Temperature max: 19.0°C, min: 11.0°C
Sunshine: 6.0 hours.

Wednesday 18th: Slow-moving anticyclone centred over Britain. Light to moderate variable mainly southerly winds. Haze over fog along the coast.
Rainfall: 0.2mm.
Temperature max: 16.0°C, min: 11.0°C
Sunshine: 4.5 hours generally.

Thursday 19th: An anticyclone developing to the west causing light to moderate southerly, later south-westerly winds.
A cold front with showers gave rain and thunder in the northwest and west. Haze with fog along south coast.
Rainfall: 0.2mm.
Temperature max: 10.0°C, min: 6.0°C
Sunshine: 1.0 hour.

Friday 20th: A weak cold front was slow moving over eastern areas but disappeared during the afternoon.
After overnight mist and fog patches in the east and south it was a warm dry day with good sunny spells.
Rainfall: 0.2mm.
Temperature max: 16.0°C in north-west and central coastal areas.
Sunshine: 3.0 hours.

Saturday 21st: Anticyclone over north-west. Light north to northwesterly winds, later becoming moderate to fresh on some coasts. Dry, warm and sunny, haze in places.
Rainfall: 0.2mm.
Temperature max: 24.0°C generally, 18.0°C in coastal areas.
Sunshine: 7.0 hours in east.

Sunday 22nd: The anticyclone just north of Scotland maintained a light to moderate east-northerly airflow over the country giving dry, warm and mostly sunny west-country by day and somewhat misty by night.
Rainfall: 0.2mm.
Temperature max: 16.0°C along eastern and northern coasts, 18.0°C elsewhere.
Sunshine: 5.0 hours.

Monday 23rd: A cold front overwestern airflow over the country was maintained as the anticyclone over northern Scotland was quasistationary. All areas had a dry, warm day with some light sunshine, dulled in the east and sunnier in the north.
Rainfall: 0.2mm.
Temperature max: 16.0°C, min: 11.0°C
Sunshine: 6.0 hours.

Tuesday 24th: High to centre slowly eastwards and downwards. Light southerly or southeasterly winds.
Rainfall: 0.2mm.
Temperature max: 20.0°C, min: 16.0°C
Sunshine: 6.0 hours.

Wednesday 25th: Strong southerly airflow.
Rainfall: 0.2mm.
Temperature max: 21.0°C, min: 16.0°C
Sunshine: 6.0 hours.

Thursday 26th: Light to no cloud over most of the country but cloud and rain spread into north-east and spread very slowly in north-east. Light to moderate westerly.
Rainfall: 0.2mm.
Temperature max: 18.0°C, min: 12.0°C
Sunshine: 6.0 hours.

Friday 27th: A low moved north during the day. Rain spread ahead of it, the clearance to showers reaching Kerry in the late morning. Light southerly or westwesterly winds became light to moderate westerly, fading up light southwesterly.
Rainfall: 0.2mm.
Temperature max: 20.0°C, min: 15.0°C
Sunshine: 3.0 hours.

Saturday 28th: A southerly airflow covered the country as troughs progressed from the west. Moderate to fresh southerly winds.
Warm and sunny.
Rainfall: 0.2mm.
Temperature max: 20.0°C, min: 15.0°C
Sunshine: 6.0 hours.

Sunday 29th: A cold front with waves crossed the country, replacing the very mild, humid airmass ahead of it with cooler, unstable air.
Strong and gusty southeasterly winds became fresh to strong south-westerly later. Some thundery showers near the cold front.
Rainfall: 0.2mm.
Temperature max: 15.0°C, min: 10.0°C
Sunshine: 5.0 hours.

Monday 30th: Fresh to strong south-westerly airflow moderated as pressure rose. Bright with a few showers.
Rainfall: 0.2mm.
Temperature max: 21.0°C, min: 16.0°C
Sunshine: 7.0 hours.

Tuesday 31st: Anticyclone centred just to southeast of the country. Fairly still southerly airflow. Cold front off west coast was slow-moving.
Rainfall: 0.2mm.
Temperature max: 15.0°C, min: 10.0°C
Sunshine: 7.0 hours.
## Meteorological Summary

### Rainfall

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<th>Most in a Day</th>
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<th>Mean</th>
<th>Extreme Temperature</th>
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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 0.2mm or more.

Annual subscription £2.1 All data published in this bulletin are provisional.