

GENERAL REMARKS

Kindly insert here notes on conditions of stock, crops, insect, or bird life, growth and flowering of plants, and general characteristics of season

Met. 301

The dry spell has continued throughout March. High evaporation figures accentuated the already dry conditions and the feed situation is approaching a critical level with bare paddocks except where irrigation is available.

On the other hand the dry warm weather has been welcomed by the horticultural section after the rather poor growing season. Tomatoes have ripened well and good yields have resulted despite the hail losses in January.

Strawberries have yielded good quality late fruit and the pip fruits are being harvested in good conditions although hail damage effects a large percentage.

Summer and autumn crops of onions, parsnips and brassicas are doing well. All areas have received irrigation when necessary and the irrigation pump has been going both day and night for much of the month.

Drought Report

Due to thunderstorms in December/January, Lincoln has not suffered to the same extent as nearby Christchurch.

Since August 1968 11.43 inches of rain has fallen. This compares to 10.24 inches in 1931-2. During this same period in 1968-69 there have been 44.693 inches of evaporation which represents a very high level.

For the January/March period the rainfall for 1969 is 3.48 inches compared to 3.79 inches as recently as 1964, 3.66 inches 1952 and 2.33 inches in 1939.

The March rainfall of 0.57 inches has been less on many occasions especially in the 1920's and 30's. In 1948 0.65 inches was recorded, 1933 0.22 inches while the record is 0.19 inches in 1911.

The drought at Lincoln is therefore not unprecedented at present but does indicate a return to the rather drier conditions of the early part of the century.

BEAUFORT LETTERS AND SYMBOLS FOR RECORDING WEATHER PHENOMENA

1. APPEARANCE OF SKY—

- b Blue sky (cloud amount 0, 1 eighths).
- bc Partly cloudy (" " 2, 3, 4 ").
- c Cloudy (" " 5, 6, 7 ").
- o Overcast (" " 8 ").
- g Dull, gloomy.
- u Ugly, threatening sky.

2. PRECIPITATION—

- p Showers of rain.
- r_o Light rain.
- r Moderate rain.
- r₂ Heavy rain.
- d Drizzle.
- h Hail.
- s Snow.
- rs Sleet (rain and snow together or partly melted snow)
- ps Showers of snow.

3 WIND—

- ☃ Gale (Force 8 or above).
- q Squalls.

4 ELECTRICAL PHENOMENA—

- t Thunder
- l Lightning.
- tl Thunderstorm.

5. ATMOSPHERIC OBSCURITY—

- f Fog.
- m Mist.
- z Haze or smoke haze.
- v Abnormal visibility.
- y Dry air (relative humidity less than 60 per cent.).

6. GROUND PHENOMENA—

- w Dew.
- x Hoar frost.

Other less common phenomena should be reported in full, for example:—

- Shallow (or ground) fog.
- Frost fog.
- Dust devil.
- Glazed frost.
- Rime.
- Snowdrift.
- Snow lying (more than half the country in sight covered with snow).

- Solar corona.
- Solar halo.
- Lunar corona.
- Lunar halo.
- Rainbow.
- Aurora.
- Mirage.
- Zodiacal light.

The exponents 0 or 2 applied to symbols indicate respectively light and heavy. Thus r₂ indicates heavy rain and r_o light rain. The letter i is used to denote occasional or intermittent phenomena. Thus ir indicates intermittent rain. Similarly j is used for phenomena not occurring at the observer's station but visible from it; jp, for example, denotes showers visible in the distance.

BEAUFORT WIND SCALE

Beaufort No.	Explanatory Titles	Specification of Beaufort Scale for Use on Land	LIMITS OF VELOCITY	
			Miles per Hour	Knots
0	Calm	Calm; smoke rises vertically	Less than 1	Less than 1
1	Light air	Direction of wind indicated by smoke drift, but not by wind vanes	1-3	1-3
2	Slight breeze	Wind felt on face; leaves rustle; ordinary vane moved by wind	4-7	4-6
3	Gentle breeze	Leaves and small twigs in constant motion; wind extends light flag	8-12	7-10
4	Moderate breeze	Raises dust and loose paper; small branches moved	13-18	11-16
5	Fresh breeze	Small trees in leaf begin to sway, wavelets form on inland waters	19-24	17-21
6	Strong breeze	Large branches in motion; whistling heard in telegraph wires; umbrellas used with difficulty	25-31	22-27
7*	Near gale	Whole trees in motion; inconvenience felt when walking against wind	32-38	28-33
8	Gale	Breaks twigs off trees; generally impedes progress	39-46	34-40
9	Strong gale	Slight structural damage (chimney pots and slates removed)	47-54	41-47
10	Storm	Seldom experienced inland; trees uprooted; considerable structural damage occurs.	55-63	48-55
11	Violent Storm	Very rarely experienced; accompanied by widespread damage	64-72	56-63
12	Hurricane		Above 72	Above 63

*For the purpose of statistical summaries winds of force 7 are not regarded as gales. (The velocity equivalents refer to a height of approximately 10 metres above level ground free from obstruction.)

INTERNATIONAL SCALE OF VISIBILITY

Distance at Which Standard Object is Visible	Code Number	Description
Less than 50 yds.	0	Dense fog.
50 yds.	1	Thick fog.
200 yds.	2	Fog.
500 yds.	3	Moderate fog.
1,000 yds.	4	Mist, haze, or very poor visibility.
2,000 yds.	5	Poor visibility.
2½ miles	6	Moderate visibility.
6 miles	7	Good visibility.
12 miles	8	Very good visibility.
30 miles	9	Excellent visibility.