

# 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

Mild, sunny conditions existed for most of the month, producing 195.2 hours of sunshine which was the highest for April since 1906 when 203 hours 50 minutes were recorded. Although the mean temperature for the month was average, as the result of a few low minimum temperatures, the general effect appeared to be one of warmth because of several very high maximum temperatures. One of these rose to 84.5 degrees on 16th. Although several degrees in excess of the usual highest maximum for April it was not a record, for as recently as 1955 84.9 degrees were recorded. Below average rainfall for the month was 1.29 inches and fell on 8 days.

The mild sunny conditions, although not bringing about a recovery of pasture, did arrest what appeared last month to be the start of an early winter. Some lucerne was taken for seed on the warm days, and harvesting of potatoes proceeded throughout. Potato crops dug to date on the drier land have returned good yields and samples; on some wetter soil types yields have been disappointing.

Cultivation and general farm maintenance programmes have proceeded unhindered. Stock health has been good, although in some cases lambs have not thrived as well as expected. Opportunity has been afforded the home gardeners to complete autumn plantings, early winter digging and general pre-winter tidying up.

## 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<sub>o</sub> Light rain.
- r Moderate rain.
- r<sub>2</sub> Heavy rain.
- d Drizzle.
- h Hail.
- s Snow.
- rs Sleet (rain and snow together or partly melted snow).
- ps Showers of snow.

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).

### 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.

- 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 r<sub>2</sub> indicates heavy rain and r<sub>o</sub> 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	Fresh 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.