

METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

ESTIMATED SOIL MOISTURE DEFICIT AT 0900 GMT

ON 11 AUGUST 1976 OVER GREAT BRITAIN

Between the last issue (29 July 1976) and 3 August most areas (except the south and south-west of England and Wales) had small falls of rain. From then on, Britain has been mainly dry but with occasional small falls mostly over the western and northern Isles and north-west Scotland during 4th to 6th. Thundery showers were reported over parts of East Anglia and eastern England on 3rd. The largest reported falls of rain were 16 mm at Kinloss on 2 August and 19 mm at Marham on 3rd.

Over England and Wales, the 15 month period May 1975 to July 1976 is easily the driest such period since records began in 1727. The rainfall recorded over England and Wales during the first 7 months of 1976 (280 mm) is the lowest for this period since 1784 and the first 10 days of August have brought only 3% of the average rainfall for the month. So far this year less than 125 mm of rain has fallen over much of south-west and central southern England, with less than 100 mm in the London area.

Deficits continue to increase over much of Britain but at a much slower pace over England and Wales due to soil moisture deficits being close to the maximum values. The largest calculated deficits are to be found at Cambridge (145 mm and 151 mm respectively for short rooted and composite land uses). The smallest deficits of about 10 mm exist in north-western parts of Scotland.

RATES OF SUBSCRIPTION: £9.00 per season (post free)

Apply to: Director-General
Meteorological Office, Met O 8c
London Road
Bracknell
Berkshire, RG12 2SZ

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ESTIMATED SOIL MOISTURE DEFICIT (S.M.D.)

AT 09 GMT ON 11 AUG 1976

| River Area | Estimated Areal S.M.D. MM | Change during the Week Ending 11 Aug 76 MM | 09 GMT on 4 Aug 76 MM |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| Northumbrian | 108.2 | + 1.3 | + 4.8 |
| Yorkshire | 124.9 | + 3.5 | + 2.9 |
| Trent | 132.3 | + 2.6 | + 2.2 |
| Lincolnshire | 140.4 | + 2.6 | 0.0 |
| Welland and Nene | 141.3 | + 2.2 | + 0.5 |
| Great Ouse | 141.3 | + 3.7 | - 0.9 |
| Norfolk and Suffolk | 135.5 | + 1.5 | - 3.0 |
| Essex | 142.7 | + 1.5 | + 0.9 |
| Lee Division | 141.0 | + 1.7 | + 2.7 |
| Thames Conservancy | 139.6 | + 1.7 | + 1.8 |
| London Area | 141.2 | + 1.8 | + 1.6 |
| Kent | 141.2 | + 1.9 | + 1.5 |
| Sussex | 140.5 | + 1.9 | + 1.8 |
| Hampshire | 139.6 | + 2.0 | + 1.7 |
| Isle of Wight | 145.9 | + 2.1 | + 2.3 |
| Avon and Dorset | 138.9 | + 1.9 | + 1.7 |
| Devon | 135.6 | + 3.7 | + 4.3 |
| Cornwall | 132.7 | + 4.4 | + 4.9 |
| Somerset | 137.3 | + 2.3 | + 2.8 |
| Bristol Avon | 137.8 | + 1.6 | + 1.8 |
| Severn | 131.6 | + 2.7 | + 2.8 |
| Wye | 131.6 | + 3.7 | + 4.9 |
| Usk | 123.8 | + 5.5 | + 7.5 |
| Glamorgan | 117.8 | + 7.6 | + 9.1 |
| South West Wales | 121.0 | + 8.0 | + 6.8 |
| Gwynedd | 106.9 | + 4.7 | + 6.5 |
| Dee and Clwyd | 109.3 | + 5.8 | + 6.6 |
| Mersey and Weaver | 117.3 | + 6.9 | + 6.0 |
| Lancashire | 100.9 | + 7.6 | + 5.3 |
| Cumbrian | 88.0 | + 8.4 | + 6.2 |

N.B. Apart from normal changes these differences also reflect retrospective adjustments after receipt of additional data.



