

METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

ESTIMATED SOIL MOISTURE DEFICIT AND POTENTIAL
EVAPOTRANSPIRATION OVER GREAT BRITAIN

SOIL MOISTURE DEFICIT AT 0900 GMT ON 11 MAY 1977

Since the issue of the previous bulletin (27 April 1977) the weather over Great Britain has been generally unsettled; showers (which were sometimes thundery) or longer periods of rain occurred widely, on most days. The wettest day over England and Wales in this period was 2 May and the only mainly dry day was 10 May. Over Scotland the wettest days were 3rd and 6th with only 1st and 8 May being mainly dry. The largest rainfalls (those of 15mm and above) occurred at Eskdalemuir and Prestwick (16mm) on 27 April, Cape Wrath (18mm) on 28 April, Binbrook (21mm) on 2 May, Dyce (20 and 21mm) on 3rd and 5 May respectively and Cape Wrath (38mm) on 6 May.

During the first week of this period deficits generally decreased except in East Anglia and Cornwall, where small increases occurred. Many parts of Wales and North West England returned to field capacity from previously small deficits. However during the second week, with now smaller rainfall amounts being registered, deficits began to increase slowly in most places; South West and Southern England were the exception. Over the whole of England and Wales composite land use deficits are generally well below average for this time of year. The largest estimated deficits are at Leuchars, Fife (43 and 35mm respectively, for short rooted and composite land uses).

RATES OF SUBSCRIPTION: £10.00 per season (post free)

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ESTIMATED SOIL MOISTURE DEFICIT (S.M.D.)
AT 09 GMT ON 11 MAY 1977

River Area	Estimated Areal	Change during the week ending 09 GMT on	
	S.M.D. mm	11 May 77 mm	4 May 77 mm
Northumbrian	7.5	+ 4.1	- 8.7
Yorkshire	4.8	+ 1.8	- 7.2
Trent	7.5	+ 4.5	- 5.1
Lincolnshire	11.3	+ 1.2	- 5.6
Welland and Nene	16.2	+ 2.4	- 2.2
Great Ouse	16.3	- 0.4	+ 0.1
Norfolk and Suffolk	14.3	- 3.4	+ 1.9
Essex	27.6	+ 1.3	+ 1.7
Lee Division	22.6	- 0.3	+ 0.8
Thames Conservancy	10.2	- 1.3	- 5.7
London Area	16.6	- 3.8	- 2.2
Kent	14.7	- 6.0	+ 0.9
Sussex	12.1	- 5.8	- 1.7
Hampshire	10.9	- 5.2	- 6.2
Isle of Wight	28.2	+ 2.9	+ 0.5
Avon and Dorset	8.7	- 3.7	- 8.3
Devon	6.6	- 2.4	- 3.1
Cornwall	2.6	- 3.4	+ 3.3
Somerset	10.8	- 1.8	- 5.6
Bristol Avon	7.0	+ 0.6	- 9.8
Severn	6.6	+ 4.1	- 4.1
Wye	3.3	+ 3.3	- 1.3
Usk	5.0	+ 2.4	- 1.3
Glamorgan	6.7	+ 2.4	- 1.7
South West Wales	2.6	+ 2.6	- 1.3
Gwynedd	5.8	+ 5.8	- 1.0
Dee and Clwyd	4.6	+ 4.4	- 1.4
Mersey and Weaver	5.0	+ 4.9	- 1.1
Lancashire	5.3	+ 5.2	- 1.5
Cumbria	2.9	+ 2.9	- 1.8

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

ESTIMATED SOIL MOISTURE DEFICIT

0900 GMT 11 May 1977

Areas with no soil moisture deficit are shaded. Remaining areas bounded by 0, 12 & 25mm lines
SHORT ROOTED VEGETATION



