

SUMMER 2018 (June to August) ADVANCE PREDICTIONS.

Welcome to the Summer 2018 advance predictions, sadly such as they are, and for certain never a BBQ summer and no real hot periods either; therefore as in 2017, a damp and warm summer. Maybe, just maybe, those on the east coast will be lucky, as for a few very hot dry days in June, July and August 2017, hot dry air will arrive here from the east (NE France).

To put summer into perspective I have to go back to first the winter 2017/8, it was indeed a long hard cold winter, the coldest for many years, but against all perceived expert knowledge, it was indeed just that, therefore 1000 year old technology, correctly applied proved very accurate.

I sit her in mid-March, with newspaper and media telling me that Easter will be very cold with snow and -10C. Maybe some snow-showers north of Birmingham > Norwich line, but of no real consequence, time will tell, all I can say that the methodology does not show anything like that snow that headlines tell us. What however I can say is that winter still has awhile to run, certainly well in April, with, if cold enough, more snow around the 16th, not masses, maybe 3 days or so and then gone – but chaos whilst here.

Therefore with winter still present in April, spring is already a month late. It takes a lot more than a few sunny days to switch spring on too. Current the ground is far too cold (1C) at best, to support growth, it needs to be 6C to support growth; the ground is either, saturated/flooded or frozen in places, this too needs to dry, winter wheat in many cases has been lost in the severe cold/wet and will have to be ploughed in and spring wheat re-sown. Rape is also far behind the normal curve, as is the linseed in places too.

No bluebells, primroses, wood anemones, no spring flowers; the daffodils growing before Christmas have halted growth since, true some beginning to flower, but they do not like snow/ice/frost, so nature holds them back. There are some white blackthorn blossom, some wild plum and wild cherry too visible, but again, precious little; all signs of hard winter, late spring and still more cold to come, with still more berries being produced too.

The predominant wind herein the SE on 21st March (St Benedict) was a raw WNW that will maintain the cold and wet spring until maybe, as late as June 20th, as in both 2015 & 2016. This confirms the cold late spring predicted months ago. It may well be different in your region, but whatever, none of us has a warm period to look forward too before the above June date. The warm pleasant spring of 2017 is but a memory.

On 24th June (St John, Mid-summer) the wind will come from the SW, a warmer dry summer current that should last at least to Michaelmass (29th September).

Therefore gardeners, a lot of cold to come, I might suggest postponing planting out bedding plants until 23rd May – there is a well know cold night on the 20th(Cold Sophie) that brings raw hard frosts and chills the ground.

With winter running well into April (spring normally being March, April and May), spring will be late and short this year. Nature will therefore try to compensate. As the ground is cold the easiest way to warm it, (other than weak sunshine) is to pour copious relatively warm rainfall onto it (the easiest way to warm freezing hands is to immerse into warm water- the same principle applies here); therefore a wet spring for sure; this warms the soil and stimulates growth. There is also in the SE, despite the wet winter, a water shortage and nature will compensate for this too. Water is vital, many birds have died in the cold this year due to the absence of running/drinkable water – it has been frozen. Humans need water just the same. Those in simple terms are the reasons for the wet spring. So May will be cold and very wet.

June, alas is also wet, not a flaming June by any stretch of the imagination, the first real signs commence about the 22nd, then as Mid-summer arrives Warmer weather from the SW.

[I stop here for a moment to use another very old quote I have collected over the years, that, on reflection works quite well too. Hard winters run in 15 year cycles after a very good summer. Summer 1976 gave us the hard winter of 1991.

Summer 2003 was a hot dry brilliant summer; it was therefore obvious to me that the current winter, now ending, was also going to be very cold, long and hard – and this is why, despite all the expert advice to the contrary I held firm 12 months prior and kept the faith for so long. There was no luck involved, it was a pragmatic decision based on experience, skill, knowledge and understanding of how nature works and why. It had nothing to do with any of current meteorological lexicon. For the same reason there is also a sequence of poor summers, and this runs on a 7 year cycle. We are now coming into the last year of the 2011- 2018 cycle of relatively poor summers – which it is why it seems ages since we had a really good run of summers, as in the late 80's into the early 90's.

I work a whole year ahead; this gives me wonderful foresight of what is to come and why the current weather is at it is. Doubtless there are the usual cynics, commentators with precious little knowledge and their inane comments – I am used to such idiots, who will tell you this is impossible.....really. Any reader using this website and/or the book can produce the weather a whole year ahead for exactly where they live with the knowledge that it will be 90% accurate. The methodology is that good.

So back to the cycle, since I work a whole year ahead I can (as I proved on live TV last summer) tell you exactly what Christmas day will be). I can safely say – another really 'out on a limb again' prediction that since I have this knowledge, 2019 will give us a much better summer than for many a year. Why? Because we commence another 7 year cycle of better summers; Tosh – stuff and nonsense, I can hear the words already. I just let the methodology do the talking, and the old saying 'empty vessels make most noise,' rings true.]

So June a washout too – which then brings us into July. Warmer for sure as this warmth will stimulate growth; the spring wheat and later sown wheat too need heat to grow. The start of the month is always damp, which is why Wimbledon tennis (and all those of you

who wrote to me asking me for the weather on 30th June for their wedding) is invariably a period of intermittent rain. The warmer air from the south meets cold air from the east and it rains, it is a Buchan cooler period. ie: a period when the air temperature is lower than the average. This dampness lasts from the 26th June to about the 4th July.

Nature however compensates and Buchan gives a warmer period 12th to the 15th (when the air temperature is higher than average), and the 14th, Bastille Day is accepted as one of the warmest days of the year, this balancing the cooler air early.

The last week in July, now the late grain harvest is approaching harvest time, gives arguable the best week of the summer into about the 5th August, fine dry sunny hot calm conditions. A little rain after this and the middle of the month full grain harvest time, followed, since there was hay harvest to speak of in June due to the cold and wet, a late hay harvest August into September. The beet crop too harvest mid-August. Nature cares for its own, we humans are just spectators, nature is never wrong.

Therefore early August is the best week of summer this year, a warm month, humid even, but nature arranges to get the grain crop in and the hay meadows to grow for the hay crop.

And that readers, is the summary for a not particularly brilliant summer- again. But the reasons are contained above.

I add the caveat, some parts of the UK, like the West Country, the Lake District, some of the Highlands get wetter weather, some like the east coast of Scotland in June, the east coast generally and the SE corner, get dryer weather. Some places are sunnier than others, UK weather is fickle at best, so, unless like snow, I promise weather, then it is always a calculated gamble, I try to give a general prediction.

Observant ones may watch for the arrival of the cuckoo – around 15th April. This year precious few insects around (a few red tailed bees – but they have furry coats to keep them warm) therefore a lack of food, they may arrive later – which also indicates slightly warmer weather mid-July when they depart; these are normally good weather birds, the earlier they arrive the wetter the summer.

I have also added September brief details too for those wishing a September break

The monthly detail follows below:

JUNE 2018

NEW MOON = 13th @ 2145hrs = Rainy

1st QUARTER MOON = 20th @ 1252hrs = Very rainy.

FULL MOON 28th @ 0654hrs = Wind & rain.

LAST QUARTER MOON 6th @ 2034hrs = Rainy

21st June is summer solstice 1107hrs

DoP = 15th St Vitus AND 24th St John + Quarter Day + Mid-summer

Highest Spring tides = 14th to 17th

APOGEE 2nd @ 1736hrs: AND 30th @ 0344hrs. PERIGEE 15th @ 0056hrs

BUCHAN COLD PERIOD 26th to 4th JULY

NO MET OFFICE PERIODS.

To summarise: A cold wet month, with no real warmth until about the 20th.

JULY 2018

NEW MOON = 13th @ 0449hrs = Rain+ SUPER NEW MOON

1st QUARTER MOON = 19th @ 2153hrs = Rainy

FULL MOON 27th @ 2222hrs =Fair + MICRO FULL MOON

LAST QUARTER MOON 6th @ 0952hrs = Changeable.

13th July = Partial solar eclipse (not Europe)

27th July = Total Lunar Eclipse - visible all over Europe + Micro moon

28th + 29th July = Delta Aquarids meteor Shower

DoP = 15th St Swithun

Highest Spring Tides 12th to 15th (**MASSIVE ON 13th**)

APOGEE 27th @ 0645hrs: PERIGEE 13th @ 0930hrs

MET OFFICE NOTES: None .

BUCHAN NOTES: 12th -15th Warm period, 29th June to 4th July cool period

To summarise: A warm but damp month, with arguably the best week of the summer at the end of the month into early August.

AUGUST 2018

NEW MOON = 11th @ 1159hrs = Frequent showers + SUPER NEW MOON

1st QUARTER MOON = 18th @ 0949hrs = Changeable.

FULL MOON 26th @ 1358hrs = Very rainy

LAST QUARTER MOON 4th @ 2019hrs = Rainy.

11th August = Partial Solar Eclipse (extreme northern Europe)

12th + 13th August = Perseids Meteor Shower

DoP = 6th Transfiguration Day(maybe??) AND 24th St Bartholomew.

Highest spring tides 9th to 14th

PERIGEE 10th @ 1906hrs: APOGEE 23rd @ 1225hrs

MET OFFICE NOTES: none.

BUCHAN NOTES: 6th to 11th cool period. 12th to 15th warm period (can be very hot).

To summarise: Warm month, maybe the first 7 days (continuing from late July) dry hot sunny. The middle two weeks quite reasonable for the late grain harvest too.

SEPTEMBER 2018

NEW MOON = 9th @ 2002hrs = Rainy

1st QUARTER MOON = 17th @ 0116hrs = Fair

FULL MOON 25th @ 0454hrs = Rain.

LAST QUARTER MOON 3rd @ 0439hrs = Rain.

DoP = 29th St Michael (Michaelmass) + Quarter Day

Autumnal Equinox 23rd @ 0254hrs.

Highest spring tides 8th to 14th (**MASSIVE ON 11th**) .

APOGEE 20th @ 0155hrs: PERIGEE 8th @ 02231hrs.

MET OFFICE NOTES: 1st to 17th Quiet period. BUCHAN NOTES : none.

To Summarise: I have added September since many like to go away early this month, but as you see above, whilst maybe warm up to the equinox, it may also be damp too. After the equinox autumn storms arrive.