

WEATHER WITHOUT TECHNOLOGY
JULY 2014

PREAMBLE.

I write this on 24th June, Midsummer day, longest day of the year, after a very satisfying weather month for predictions and mumbo- jumbo, the saws I enumerated last month have once again proven correct, and the methodology has again triumphed.

A wonderful month for the hay and pea harvests with of the 24 days so far 21 days have exceeded 20C, rainfall is negligible, no high winds and reasonable sunshine, with at times some really hot days.

So it would appear that 2014 is following the 1990 pattern, as I suggested earlier in the year, which for those that can remember the summer of 1990, an hot dry sunny summer. Some rain to come in July, but very welcome by farmers and the horticulture industry, but I fear not so welcome by the Tour de France organisation. The first week wet, the second wet again, the third changeable and the fourth drier, warmer and the start of a hot dry period that I think will last until about 17th August, with quite possibly a heat wave 10th to 15th August. Not quite the six weeks of baking hot weather as predicted by some, but some hot weather.

One word of caution for the month, the full moon, perigee and highest spring tides all fall within a 48 hour period 12/14th July, therefore for those in tidal areas please take note.

The 4th July is an aphelion day - look it up and enhance your knowledge.

A note of advance caution for the winter to come. I learnt the 'snow' lesson last year the hard way, therefore for the moment I will keep my data to myself. Once bitten - twice shy.

However the brilliant summer of 1990 was followed by a cold winter 1990/1991, in particular February 1991 - really cold, snow and frost. I mention this because there is an infallible reliable saw that states that the hottest days in June give the coldest days in February. This is true even in mild winters as we have just had. So already nature, working 6 months ahead is putting out warning signs, such things are important.

Whilst on the nature trail, have you noticed the abundance of fruit, berries, hips, haws and seeds this year, where-ever you look there is fruit, the result of no May frosts, superb growing conditions, but also I fear another warning from nature, again well ahead of harder times to come.

Not too much rain to come between now and September either, which is why there is only one hay harvest this year . I read of drought conditions too - quite possible, despite the floods earlier in some areas, for some regions over the winter were exceptionally dry, I think the SE will be OK this year, despite the rock hard and cracking ground as I write this.

Finally (no gripes this month either), all things being equal this will be the last monthly bulletin for the website in this format. Hopefully August will see a completely new revamped colourful, informative and modern website, the web-builders are working very hard, but what started as just advance weather predictions now encompasses phenology, botany, bird watching, nature observations and much to do with nature, that all play their part in the methodology. Therefore such data will also be included in a novel monthly format.

This will be a good website, the builders are more than prepared to accept advertising on the site too. For myself, I have no interest nor require any financial gain, it is the knowledge I wish to disseminate through the site.

I am asked how many 'hits,' does the site get - over a month, hundreds, it is a free open source site, if you wish to use the site for advertising please contact me and I am sure the web builders will be pleased to accommodate any such requests. dkingtn8@btinternet will find me.

I wish you all a good July, for those connected with the Tour de France I hope you have most successful event; for those attending the Great Yorkshire Show, it will not be as hot as last year, but neither will it be rained off either - I hope !!!

© David King

Edenbridge, Kent.

24th June 2014

JULY 2014

NEW MOON = 26th @ 2342hrs = Fair
1st QUARTER MOON = 5th @ 1300hrs = Very Rainy
FULL MOON 12th @ 1226 = Very rainy + Supermoon
LAST QUARTER MOON 19th @ 0309hrs = Cold & showers.

DoP = 15th St Swithun

HIGHEST SPRING TIDES 13th to 15th.

- 1st If the first week of July be rainy weather -'twill rain more or less for a full four weeks.
- 2nd St Mary If it rains today it will rain for 4 weeks.
- 3rd St Thomas Rain today, rain for seven weeks. Commencement of Dog Days (to 28/8)- hottest part of the year.
- 4th The first Friday in July is invariably wet.
4th to 16th If fine and summery, the rest of the summer is likely to be fine.
- 10th Celtic Knut the Reaper with hay cutting scythe worshipped. (hay making period).
- 13th Perigee 0828hrs
- 14th St Processus & St Martinian If it rains today it suffocates the corn.
Statistically the day with the highest average temperature.
- 15th St Swithun DoP. Said to mark the weather for 40 days. Lily flowering day.
- 16th Gather bunches of lavender to hang in wardrobes for perfume and to repel insects.
- 20th St Margaret If rain, then talk of Margaret's flood - see below. Poppy flowering day.
- 22nd St Mary Magdalene Alluding to the wet, usually prevalent about the middle of July, the saying is 'St Mary is washing her handkerchief to go to her cousin's St James's, fair (25th). Rose flowering day.
- 25th St James 'Til St James be come and gone, you may have hops and you may have none.
- 28th Apogee 0238hrs.
- 29th -31st Can be very hot days.

MET OFFICE NOTES: None .

BUCHAN NOTES: 12th -15th Warm period,

29th June to 4th July cool period.

Full moon this month is called Buck Moon.

Tree of the month up to 7th is the Oak, thereafter Holly is the tree.

General Notes and Comments

The 'meadow month' or 'hay month' - traditional labour of month being hay-making.

July should be, and quite often is, a month of blazing sunshine and soaring temperatures.

Hay making and harvesting in full swing.

Dog-Days - the moist sultry days in a period of 20 days before and 20 days after the rising of the Dog-Star Sirius. If we are to have a summer at all, this is the most likely time. Roughly from mid-July to the end of August, or, corn harvest time. Sirius is the brightest star in the heavens,

and is one of those in the southern constellation Canis Major.

As the Dog-days commence so they end. Bright and clear indicate a happy year, but accompanied by rain, for better times our hopes are vain.

St Swithuns Day (15th) if thou dost rain, full forty days it will remain.
[this saying never comes true]

If on St Swithuns feast the welkin lours, and ever pent house streams with nasty showers, twice twenty days shall clouds their fleeces drain, and wash the pavements with incessant rain.
[not really acceptable as continuous rain, but acceptable as showers/showery with bright intervals might be acceptable]

St Swithun's day is normally a 'bit of both' day, half sunny & half wet. 'Sunny intervals and showers.' Despite the 40 days rain tag, it is more accurate to say 'sunny intervals and showers.' If it rains on St Swithuns Day. the saint is christening the apples, and they will be sweet and plentiful.

Watch the weather from the 4th to 16th July. If it is fine and summery, the rest of summer is likely to be fine. [this is quite possibly true]

If about St Swithun's (15th) a change of weather takes place, we likely to have a spell of fine or wet weather.

When the sun enters Leo, the greatest heat then arise.

In July, shear your rye.

When the Goats-Beard (wild flower) closes its flowers before mid-day, then there is rain in the air. If it stays late with its petals open, the atmosphere is dry and the weather set fair.

When the clover leaves are shut (even with clear sky and rising glass) and reaching for the sky, reach for your broolly. [very reliable]

St Margaret (20th) - so much rain often falls this day that people speak of Margarets Flood.

A shower in July when the corn begins to fill, is worth a plough of oxen, and that that belongs theretill.

Much thunder in July injures wheat and barley.

In July cut your rye.

What is to thrive in September must be baked in July. [grapes are a perfect example]

When the months of July, August and September are exceptionally hot, January will be the coldest month. [can be confirmed- but not always]

The first Friday in July is invariably wet. [4/5]

Fog in March -Thunder in July. [check previous readings]
A poor forecast for wheat indicates wet weather in July and August.

A swarm of bees is not worth a fly.

FULL MOON THIS MONTH IS CALLED BUCK MOON.
Tree of the month up-to 7th is Oak. Thereafter Holly is the tree.

MONTHLY AVERAGES FOR EDENBRIDGE (USING 1981-2010 FIGURES)

Mean Max: 24C Mean Min: 12.1C Mean Avg: 18.5C
Rainfall: 66.6mm Sunshine: 220.3hrs (day = 7.11hrs)

Whilst I appreciate the above are local figures, it will be an indication of what the averages are, and, of course there will be local variations. Such variations can be found by trawling the various weather websites, or by using the superb data found in the Climatologists Observers Link website.

The following figures are for the average temperature at 12 noon and again at 4pm, taken at the beginning and again at the end of the month.

1 st	18.9C	19.5C
31 st	21.9C	23.4C

