

Welcome to the May 2013 preamble, and even a hint of some better weather too, however, before that, a recap back to March 21st - a Quarter day/Day of Prediction /St Benedict, where the wind blows this Day so will be the predominant wind direction to St Urban, 25th May,[and as in the previous years of 2011 and 2012 may well continue until 10th June.]

The wind direction on this day was easterly, therefore a cold wind, but thankfully not such a wet wind as the south westerlies that have dominated since the recent winter.

A major danger this month weather-wise for fruit growers, nurserymen and those whose main concern is plants; the period 11th to 14th May and 19th May being known as the Ice-Maidens, that give us dry warmish clear fine days but sharp devastating frosts at night- acute frosts that will kill all blossoms, tender plants and shoots in very short order too.

With this warning you should make serious efforts to protect your stock, fleeces, fine mist sprays, braziers – what ever your methods, but take the warning. In 1991 these frosts destroyed 66% of the whole French wine production for that year disappeared in one such night.

There is a full moon 25th, spring tide and the following day 26th a perigee, therefore heeding the warning of combination of all three may well lead to a natural disaster somewhere in the world, those here in the UK who have the influence of tidal waters as a problem, please heed this notice.

May is an uncertain month with variable temperatures and rainfall.

Since there were two fogs in March, there is, especially in London, a distinct possibility of two frosts in this month.

Pentecost, 19th May, should be dry and warm, however the following day, Whit Monday is likely to be wet.

MAY 2013

DAY OF PREDICTION: 25th LAST QUARTER: 2ND = 11.15 hrs = Rain

NEW: 10th = 00.29 hrs = Fair /Dry 1st Quarter: 18th = 04.35 hrs = Rain

FULL: 25th = 04.26 hrs = Rain LAST QUARTER: 31st = Fair.

ANNULAR SOLAR ECLIPSE: 10th: PENUMBRAL LUNAR ECLIPSE: 25th SUPERMOON: 25th 04.26 hrs

| | | |
|------------------|---|--|
| 1st | May Day Blackthorn | Hoar frost today indicates good harvest. Plants in full growth. The later the blooms after 1 st May, the better the rye. |
| 3rd | Holy Cross St Philip & St James | Crowfoot blossom time. If it rains, and/or a fertile year maybe expected, and/or fortells a wet harvest. |
| 6 th | MAY DAY BHL | |
| 9 th | Ascension Day | As the weather this day, so may be the entire autumn |
| 11th | St Mamertus | Ice Saint - beware of frost. } un-seasonally cold and/or |
| 12th | St Pancras | Ice Saint - beware of frost. } wet weather. Chestnut Sunday |
| 13th | St Servatius | Ice Saint - beware of frost. } Ice Maidens. Apogee 1332hrs |
| 14th | St Boniface | Ice Saint - beware of frost } |
| 19th | St Dunstan Pentecost | Said to have the characteristics to the Ice-maidens. }Cold Sophie extra cold weather this day If the sun shines on Easter Day (31st March) so it will be at Whitsuntide. |
| | Strawberries at thunder and lightning at Whitsuntide is said to Whitsuntide rain is blessing | Whitsuntide = good wine. If it happens to rain on Whitsunday, would follow. (Thunder yes, but 'much rain' is doubtful) Rain make the wheat mildew. Whitsuntide wet - Christmas fat. for wine. |
| 20th | Whit Monday | The weather today reflects that of Maundy Thursday (28 th March) |
| 22nd | | Dandelion picking day East Anglia for dandelion wine. |
| 24th | | Celtic celebration day for bringing prosperity and good harvest. |
| 25th | St Urban | Summer starts. Day of Prediction up to 15th June. |
| 26 th | Perigee 01.46 hrs | Trinity Sunday |
| 27 th | Spring Bank Holiday | |
| 30 th | Corpus Christi | Clear gives a good year, if rain, the rye granary will be light. |

General Notes and Comments.

If you are looking for a good summer, the best May weather you need should be cold and rainy.

May can be/likely to be cold, but nothing strange in this.

He who dofts his coat on a winter's day will gladly put it on in May.

A cold May gives full barns and empty churchyards.

Goddess of Spring. Sacred Hawthorn tree blossoms this month.

Severe gales are very much the exception to the rule, though boisterous breezes are fairly common.

E/NE winds reach their greatest frequency during April and May.

SE England, London in particular, suffers from more short intense storms than any other part of the country.

April and May are the best time to visit Scotland.

The later the Blackthorn in bloom after the 1st May, the better the rye and harvest.

He who shears his sheep before St Mamertus Day (11th) loves his wool more than his sheep.

If rough winds do shake the darling buds of May, and summer's lease hath all too short a stay.

A cold wet May is good for corn and hay, a dry May foretells a wholesome summer.

Flowers in May good cocks of hay. Water in May - bread all year.

Rain in May makes plenty of hay.

A cold May and windy, a full barn will find ye.

St Urban (25th) gives the summer.

[this does give an indication, a fair indication - it can however be ambiguous or a little optimistic]

Ne're cast a clout till May be out, button to chin till June be in,

if you change in June you change too soon.

Change in July? You'll catch a cold bye and bye.

Change in August if you must.

Be sure to remember change back in September.

Mist in May, heat in June, puts the harvest right in tune/makes the harvest come right soon.

A leaky May and dry June makes harvest come right soon.

A May flood never did anyone any good.

Who sows his oats in May has little to repay.

A swarm of bees in May is worth a load of hay.

When bees leave their hive then it's good to be alive, when they all go home again then it's surely going to rain.

When the Mulberry tress begins to shoot, the last frost has gone. [impeccable reference]

Spring will not settle properly until the cowslips have died down.

When September has been rainy, the following May is generally dry; and when May is dry, September is apt to be wet. [check previous readings in each case] [the above however is not really reliable - however - If May is well above the average for rain then the same can be said for September being above average for rain too.

AND If May is drier than average then September is likely to be drier than average too. ALL THE ABOVE FROM LOCAL READINGS.

Fogs in March - frosts in May.[this is quite accurate. In London there on average, four foggy mornings in March and an average of four nights of ground frost in May. Check local readings]

Franklins Frost strikes Devon 19th, 20th & 21st May.

To conclude. May is a most uncertain month. A month of variable temperatures and rainfall.

Northerly winds over northern Europe reach their highest frequency around 15th June. But are rare after 20th June.

Meanwhile SW winds blow comparatively infrequently from late March until 10th June, but are very much more common during the rest of June.

From the same research, taking England & Wales as a whole, the driest months of the year are:- March, April & May, and occasionally February and June. These months are also the months when long drags of unsettled westerly winds are unlikely to occur.>>>

Monthly rainfall is between 2.3/2.6 ins (58/66mms) for each month from February to June.

From July onwards 3.2/3.8ins (81/96mms).

The hay crop is harvested at the end of May & June, so any reference to a good hay crop implies good weather then.

A hot May makes a fat churchyard.

A May wet was never kind yet, a May flood never did good.

Mud in May, grain in August.

Cool & evening due in May, brings wine and much hay.

The more thunder in May, the less in August and September.

NO MET OFFICE NOTES.

BUCHAN NOTES:- 9th - 14th Cold period.

FULL MOON THIS MONTH KNOWN AS FLOWER MOON.

Willow tree up-to 12th. Thereafter Hawthorn from 13th.

FUTURE NOTES:

MONTHLY AVERAGES FOR EDENBRIDGE (USING 1981-2010 FIGURES)

| | | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------|
| Mean Max: | 19.3C | Mean Min: | 7.1C | Mean Avg: | 13.2C |
| | Rainfall: | 58.9mm | Sunshine: | 197.8hrs | |

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 | 15.76C | 16.77C |
| 31 st | 18.66C | 19.71C |

MAY 2013 (easy reference spreadsheet)

| Date | Moon/Weather | Met Off | Buchan | Other Day | Singularities |
|------|--------------|---------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | Wed | Changeable?frost | | | |
| 2 | Thu | <i>Last Quarter</i> | | | |
| 3 | Fri | Rain | | | |
| 4 | Sat | Rain | | | |
| 5 | Sun | Rain | | | |
| 6 | Mon | Rain | | | |
| 7 | Tue | Rain | | | |
| 8 | Wed | Rain | | | |
| 9 | Thu | Rain | | Ascension day | 9-14 th cold |
| 10 | Fri | <i>New</i> | Cold period | | Cold period |
| 11 | Sat | Fair/dry | 9-14 th | | Cold period |
| 12 | Sun | Fair/dry | Cold period | Chestnut Sunday | Cold period |
| 13 | Mon | Fair/dry | Cold period | Apogee | Cold period |
| 14 | Tue | Fair/dry | Cold period | | Cold period |
| 15 | Wed | Fair/dry | | | |
| 16 | Thu | Fair/dry | | | |
| 17 | Fri | Fair/dry | | | |
| 18 | Sat | <i>First Quarter</i> | | | |
| 19 | Sun | Rain | | Pentecost | |
| 20 | Mon | Rain | | | |
| 21 | Tue | Rain | | | |
| 22 | Wed | Rain | | | |
| 23 | Thu | Rain | | | |
| 24 | Fri | Rain | | | |
| 25 | Sat | <i>Full</i> | | St Urban | |
| 26 | Sun | <i>Rain</i> | | Perigee | |
| 27 | Mon | Rain | | | |
| 28 | Tue | Rain | | | |
| 29 | Wed | Rain | | | |
| 30 | Thu | Rain | | Corpus Christ | |
| 31 | Fri | <i>Last Quarter. Fair</i> | | | |

Annular Solar Eclipse 10th. Penumbral Lunar Eclipse 25th. Supermoon 25th.

Day of Prediction 25th. No Met Office notes this month.

@ David King

Edenbridge.