

DURLSTON COUNTRY WEATHER RECORDS

ANNUAL SUMMARY 2008

Although all four seasons were wet, spring and autumn in particular, the 891.2mm (35.1in) total precipitation for the year was close to the average for Durlston.

A mild and wet winter ended with an exceptionally dry February. Vigorous depressions with gale-storm force winds, maximum gust 64 mph, in January were offset by very high pressure and a long dry period in February. March was windy, particularly at the spring equinox. A maximum gust of 67mph with nearly an inch of rain on the 10th came from a deep low pressure system, 951mb. March was also mild at the beginning and the end, but frosty on the 4th and the 21st, and an early Easter was cold. Snow flurries followed in April, and a burst of cold Arctic air. There were two thunderstorms this month and a warm, very wet ending. May was also warm, maximum temperatures exceptionally above 21.6C (71F) between the 10th and the 13th. and this spring warmth continued into summer. June was warmer and drier than average with a maximum temperature of 24.2C (75.6F) on the 8th (the highest maximum this year) although the summer solstice was cool and damp. June was relatively dry, but July was very changeable. Very wet weather at first, a recording of 48mm (nearly 2 inches) of rain between the 8th and 10th, was followed by a long, dry period. Summer ended with a very wet August, the accompanying cloud cover keeping temperatures below average. September was very wet and windy at first, drier, quiet and warm at the autumn equinox. October and November, frequently wet and very windy from a succession of Atlantic depressions, brought a turbulent autumn to a close. December began exceptionally cold, with stormy Arctic air behind cold fronts. A milder period ensued leading up to a sunny Christmas, only to be replaced by bitterly cold continental air and hard frost finally.

- Jan. Mild, wet, windy (64mph gust) from Atlantic depressions, then high pressure, cold frosty nights.
- Feb. Mild, spring-like, dry., high pressure
- Mar. Wet, windy (deep low pressure, 67mph gust); gales at equinox; mild at times, cold in between.
- Apr. Spells of cold northerly winds, snow flurries, ending mild, wet, thundery
- May Warm winds off continent, high temperatures 11-16th, wet final week
- Jun. Warmer, highest max. of year (24.2C), and drier than average, but frost on 11th; summer solstice cool and wet
- Jul. Changeable; wet, cool, windy, then long dry, warmer period
- Aug. Very wet and cool end to summer.
- Sep. Began very wet, warm and windy, ended dry, quiet, cooler; autumn equinox mild.
- Oct. Wet again and windy, ending with cold Arctic winds
- Nov. Cool, wet (some heavy downpours), windy (59mph gust), with sunny spells between
- Dec. Very cold beginning, warmer sunny Christmas, bitterly cold end

%average rainfall: winter 119% spring 152% summer 131.7% autumn 178.1%
annual total 96.5%