

CLIMATOLOGICAL TABLE—Summary of the Records of Temperature, Rainfall, and Sunshine for December 1975—continued
LATE RETURNS AND CORRECTIONS—continued

Station	Height of Station Above M.S.L.	Air Temperatures in Degrees (Celsius)								Rainfall in Millimetres					Bright Sunshine
		Means of		Mean of A and B	Difference From Normal	Absolute Maximum and Minimum				Total Fall	No. of Rain Days	Difference From Normal	Maximum Fall		
		A Max.	B Min.			Maximum	Date	Minimum	Date				Amount	Date	
	Metres	°C	°C	°C	°C	°C		°C		mm		mm	mm		Hrs
Eyrewell Forest, October 1975	158	16.5	5.0	10.8	-0.2	24.2	22	-1.5	10	87	13	+13	46	18	..
Eyrewell Forest, November 1975	158	18.1	5.1	11.6	-1.6	28.2	26	-1.0	24	65	16	-9	14	26	..
Christchurch Airport, June 1975	30	10.9	0.6	5.8	-0.1	17.6	5	-5.9	30	119	11	+63	52	15	145
Christchurch Airport, Site B, June 1975	30	10.7	-0.6	5.1	..	17.4	5	-7.2	30	124	11	..	55	15	..
Herbert Forest, November 1975	61	17.1	3.6	10.4	-1.1	27.8	26	1.0	23	75	13	-12	27	6	..
Borland Burn, November 1975	183	16.1	3.7	9.9	..	21.0	15	-3.5	22	45	19	..	9	29	..
Clyde, November 1975	183	19.4	6.0	12.7	..	26.5	25	-1.0	22	23	4	..	7	18	..
Mahinerangi Dam, November 1975	396	14.0	4.1	9.1	-1.0	24.0	25	-0.9	22	77	14	-12	17	13	..
Woodlands, October 1975	47	14.6	4.2	9.4	-0.8	21.9	12	-1.0	5	65	23	..	12	26	..
Campbell Island, November 1975	15	9.5	4.0	6.8	-0.4	13.6	25	-0.5	21	127	30	+20	18	19	95

The "normal" refers to the present site of the instruments. Standard period for normals is 1941-70.
No normals are available for stations with only short records.

*Indicates that the sunshine recorder is not located at the station but is in the near vicinity.

A rain day is a day with rainfall equal to or greater than 0.1 mm.

Where the extremes of temperature and rainfall have occurred more than once during the month, the date of the first occurrence is given.

NOTES ON THE WEATHER FOR DECEMBER 1975

General—December was a cool month and dry over the greater part of the country. During the first 3 weeks westerly conditions prevailed, with little or no rain in most districts apart from the West Coast. The holiday week from Christmas to the end of the month was marred by cold southerly to easterly winds with cloudy wet weather in the east. Many farmers found the first 3 weeks too dry, and dairy production fell in some areas.

Rainfall—Rainfall was mainly only half to three-quarters of the normal value. Central Marlborough received less than a quarter of the normal.

However, rainfall was above normal over nearly the whole area east of the ranges in the North Island, and also in most of Southland and parts of Otago. Considerable areas of Gisborne and Hawke's Bay received more than double the normal value, but nearly all this rain fell during the last 3 days, during which up to 307 mm were recorded, of which up to 160 mm fell on the 31st.

Hail fell in many parts of the North Island on the 25th and 26th, and some of it was comparatively large.

Temperatures—Temperatures were mainly below normal, with departures averaging 1°C over the South Island and somewhat less over the North Island. Some very warm days were reported in eastern districts during the first 3 weeks. On the 13th the maximum temperature at Christchurch was 35.0°C, the highest ever recorded there in December. By contrast, snow was reported to comparatively low levels in both Islands on the 25th and 26th. Light falls were even reported at an altitude of about 300 m in Southern and Central Hawke's Bay.

Sunshine—Over most of the country sunshine was close to average. However, it was above normal by up to 65 hours in Canterbury and the Nelson-Motueka area and by up to 85 hours in Central Otago.

Weather Sequence—The first 24 days of December continued the pattern of the last week of November and were predominantly westerly with a large number of days with high-wind gusts in exposed areas. Over the last 7 days of the month the airflow was between south and east with very low temperatures for the time of year.

The month began with a frontal zone lying east-west near Northland and an anticyclone over most of New Zealand. There was several millimetres of rain over the north of the North Island on the 1st and this was the only significant rain in the North Island until the 10th and 11th. Over the South Island troughs in the westerlies brought rain on the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th but from the 6th to the 8th there was no rain.

On the 9th, 10th, and 11th a major trough of low pressure crossed the whole country bringing some rain to most areas and especially western areas. The flow continued westerly behind this trough and during the 12th to 15th a further trough crossed the country but the rain accompanying it was scattered and light except on the West Coast.

On the morning of the 12th Mr Dalglish a rainfall observer of Le Bons Bay (Banks Peninsula) reported seeing more than 20 water-spouts 1 to 8 kilometres to the east.

During the 5 days from the 16th to the 21st a series of quite active frontal zones moved over New Zealand bringing some rain to all parts of the country though once again the heaviest falls were in the west.

The period from the 21st to 24th experienced a similar weather pattern to that of the first 5 days of the month with a series of shallow troughs in the westerlies bringing some rain to the south and west of the South Island each day. There was little or no rain elsewhere.

On the 25th a depression developed on a cold front over central New Zealand and it deepened rapidly as it moved south-eastwards to a position south of the Chatham Islands. A very cold moist southerly flow with large areas of low cloud became established over the country on the 26th. This flow persisted for several days but on the 29th an anticyclone moved onto the South Island and the flow over the North Island turned easterly. On the 30th and 31st the anticyclone continued to cover the South Island and the flow remained easterly over the North Island.

During the period 25th to 31st areas in the east from Kaikoura to East Cape experienced cold overcast conditions with large areas of drizzle, and some regions of heavy rain. Over much of the country temperatures 3°C to 6°C below normal were experienced during these 7 days.

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