

CLIMATOLOGICAL TABLE—Summary of the Records of Temperature, Rainfall, and Sunshine for December 1979—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
Mount Bruce Reserve, November 1979	305	18.9	8.5	13.7	+1.7	22.5	25	0.5	16	123	..	..	..	..	..
Waingawa, Masterton, November 1979	114	20.8	8.7	14.8	+1.2	25.0	25	1.8	5	71	10	+2	37	14	202
Wharerata Forest, November 1979	439	17.7	10.1	13.9	..	25.2	27	5.0	6	83	8	..	25	1	..
Kapiti Island, August 1979	16	11.6	7.4	9.5	-0.2	14.4	1	3.4	8	112	23	+18	15	13	..
Kapiti Island, October 1979	16	15.3	10.2	12.8	+0.3	19.8	30	5.9	23	169	17	+70	31	12	..
Kairanga, Palmerston North, November 1979	15	19.5	10.3	14.9	+1.1	22.5	18	4.6	11	92	13	..	26	14	213
Grasslands, Palmerston North, November 1979	34	19.4	11.2	15.3	+1.1	23.3	25	5.0	16	105	11	+26	37	14	202
Foxton, November 1979	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	81	12	+15	30	14	..
Porirua, November 1979	94	17.9	..	..	..	20.4	12	..	..	99	11	+27	54	14	..
Cape Egmont, November 1979	8	18.7	12.0	15.4	+1.1	21.0	28	5.6	6	92	21	-10	23	11	..
Manaia Dem. Farm, November 1979	98	18.4	9.5	14.0	+0.7	22.5	29	3.3	16	57	14	-34	10	14	242
Wanganui Airport, November 1979	9	20.1	10.8	15.5	..	25.2	13	3.6	5	56	10	..	22	19	..
Puysegur Point, November 1979	43	14.9	9.3	12.1	..	19.5	21	6.3	13	62	16	-141	12	1	..
Waihopai Power Station, November 1979	262	19.4	8.7	14.1	+0.5	23.9	25	5.2	16	78	14	+2	27	19	..
Craigieburn Forest, November 1979	914	15.6	5.1	10.4	+0.9	20.0	25	1.0	10	105	18	-35	28	18	..
Winchmore, November 1979	160	18.5	8.4	13.5	+1.0	24.5	27	1.5	10	67	11	+1	21	18	..
Ashley Forest, November 1979	107	18.1	8.8	13.5	+0.2	23.5	12	4.5	10	54	10	-12	16	14	184
Akaroa, November 1979	3	19.7	9.2	14.5	..	27.0	27	2.8	10	29	4	..	10	19	..
Adair, November 1979	85	17.4	9.6	13.5	+0.8	25.5	27	5.7	6	43	8	-13	12	18	..
Herbert Forest, November 1979	61	17.4	7.3	12.4	+0.9	29.0	27	3.8	16	43	13	-44	8	2	..
Cherry Farm Hospital, November 1979	6	17.5	7.9	12.7	+0.8	27.3	27	2.5	15	38	13	-20	10	2	..
Invermay, Taieri, November 1979	30	18.0	7.9	13.0	..	26.2	27	2.3	15	41	17	..	12	13	166
Ophir, November 1979	305	19.5	7.3	13.4	+1.0	25.4	26	0.4	16	26	9	-12	11	16	..
Moa Creek, November 1979	427	19.3	5.3	12.3	+1.5	25.0	27	-0.5	16	25	..	-13	9	20	..
Alexandra, November 1979	141	21.4	8.8	15.1	+1.3	27.6	27	4.0	16	29	13	-4	8	20	205
Gore, November 1979	123	17.4	8.2	12.8	+1.2	23.7	13	2.5	16	15	21	..	4	16	176
Owaka, November 1979	5	17.2	7.2	12.2	..	25.0	13	-0.1	4	11	12	..	3	1	..
Totokoitu, Rarotonga, November 1979	9	..	20.2	..	..	..	..	14.8	9	139	13	..	42	3	..
Scott Base, Antartica, September 1979	16	-21.4	-33.4	-27.4	+0.8	-11.2	5	-45.0	17	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scott Base, Antarctica, October 1979	16	-19.8	-32.0	-25.9	-3.1	-12.2	12	-39.5	6	..	..	..	..	..	..

The "normal" refers to the present site of the instruments. Standard period for normals is 1941-1970. 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.

WEATHER NOTES FOR DECEMBER 1979

General—In December pressures were below normal over the whole of New Zealand, more especially in the South Island. Winds were predominantly from a westerly quarter, with a greater frequency than usual of strong gusty winds. At Kelburn, Wellington there were 11 days with gusts of at least 96 km/h (52 knots), and this is the greatest number recorded in any December since records began at this station in 1953. Conditions were wetter than usual throughout most of the country, with temperatures slightly above normal.

In the North Island rain at the end of the month helped to revive grass growth which earlier had been slow. Haymaking and shearing were behind schedule owing to wet weather in many areas, but in Hawke's Bay and Bay of Plenty ground conditions had become very dry. Throughout the South Island grass growth was good in most districts apart from Canterbury where north-west winds had dried pastures. Stock was reported to be in good condition in most districts of New Zealand.

Rainfall—The only areas with rainfall below normal for the month were, parts of Bay of Plenty, northern Hawke's Bay and coastal Canterbury. Some areas in these districts had less than 50 percent of their usual December total. The wettest areas were Poverty Bay, inland Canterbury, Otago, and parts of Southland where rainfalls of more than 100 percent above normal were recorded. Apart from heavy rain in the South Island at the beginning of the month, the wettest period in most districts was from the 26th until the end of the month.

On the 2nd heavy rain fell in many western and southern districts of the South Island. The heaviest falls were mainly during the afternoon and evening. At Otira 215 mm were recorded in 12 hours and at the Hermitage, Mount Cook 537 mm in the 24-hour period to 9 a.m. on the 3rd, this being the highest one day total recorded in any month at this station since October 1942 (559 mm). The Waimakariri and Rakaia rivers reached their highest peak since 1957 after this period of heavy rain.