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Meteorological Observations

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METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS

Meteorological observations have been systematically made at Rothamsted for many years; these records are being used in the Statistical Department in interpreting crop records. The Station has co-operated in the Agricultural Meteorological Scheme since its inauguration by the Ministry of Agriculture in 1926, and possesses all the equipment required of a Crop-Weather Station.

The following observations under this scheme are taken daily, at 9 a.m. G.M.T.:

Temperatures—maximum and minimum in screen, minimum on grass, 4 inches and 8 inches under bare soil, dry and wet bulb in screen; *Rainfall*—8-inch gauge; *Sunshine*—duration by Campbell-Stokes recorder; *Weather*—Beaufort letters; *Wind*—direction and force; *Visibility*; *State of Ground*.

These, together with notes and observations of crop growth, are used in drawing up the weekly statement for the purpose of the Crop Weather Report of the Ministry of Agriculture.

The above observations are supplemented by the following records, for the use of the Meteorological Office:

Barometer and attached Thermometer; *Solar maximum**; *Temperature*—1 foot under bare soil; *Cloud*—amount, form and direction; *Sunshine*—hourly values of duration. With the exception of the last, all these observations are also taken at 9 a.m. G.M.T.

The following additional observations are also made, to maintain the continuity of the Rothamsted meteorological records:

Temperatures under grass at 4 inches, 8 inches, and 1 foot, taken at 9 a.m. G.M.T.; *Wind*—direction and force at 3 p.m. and 9 p.m., G.M.T., taken from chart of recording anemobiograph; *Rainfall*—5-inch gauge taken at 9 a.m. G.M.T.

Radiation.—A Callendar Radiation Recorder (on loan from the Imperial College of Science) gives a continuous record of the radiant energy falling on a receiver situated on the roof of the laboratory. The records are compared with those for South Kensington, and are also used in plant physiological studies in the Station. Recently, a Gorczyński Radiometer for measuring the radiant energy of the sun has been installed, under the Agricultural Meteorological Scheme.

Rainfall and Drainage.—The rain falling on one-thousandth of an acre is collected in the big gauge erected by Lawes in 1871. Samples of the water are analysed in order to ascertain its nutrient value.

Three drain gauges, each of one-thousandth of an acre in area, originally installed by Lawes in 1870, and fitted with continuous recorders in 1926, give the drainage through 20 inches, 40 inches, and 60 inches of uncropped and undisturbed soil. A continuously recording 6-inch gauge is used in conjunction with these.

*Discontinued October, 1935.

Evaporation.—The amount of water that evaporates in 24 hours from a porous porcelain candle dipping into a bottle of water is measured daily by the loss in weight. This measurement has been found to give a good general indication of the “drying power” of the atmosphere during rainless periods which, being controlled by wind, radiation and humidity, is difficult to compute from standard data.

Atmospheric Pollution.—A gauge for measuring the amount of solid matter deposited from the atmosphere has been in use for some years in connection with the scheme of observations arranged by the Atmospheric Pollution Research Committee of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. In February, 1933, a gauge for measuring atmospheric sulphur dioxide was also set up.

