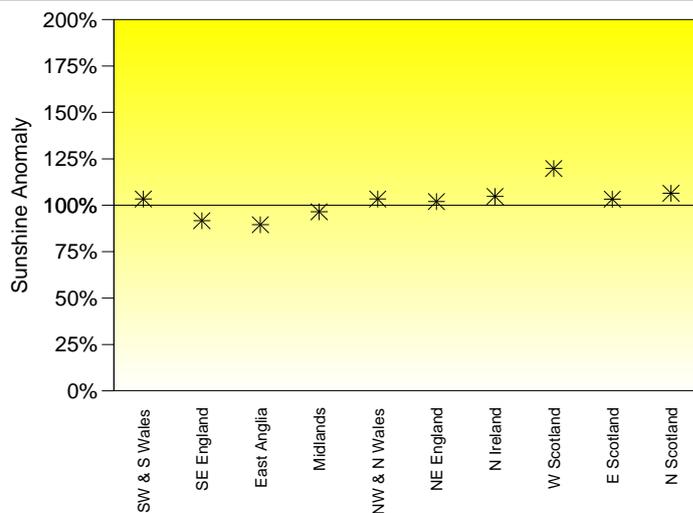
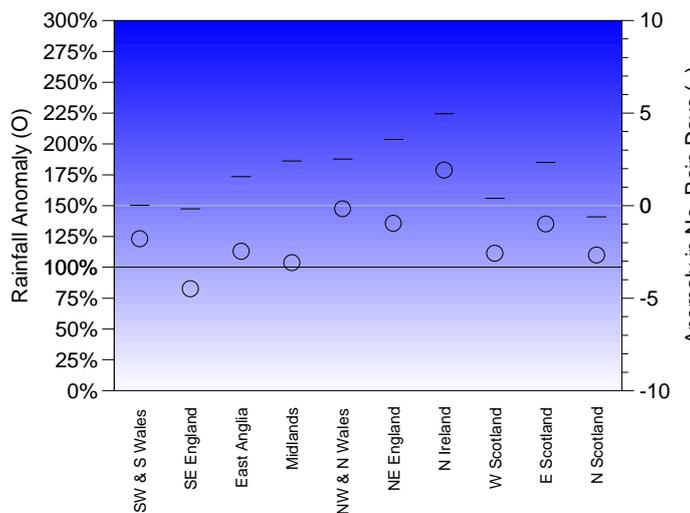


Extremes for September 2010	
Hottest:	25.0°C Culford, Suffolk, 22nd
Coldest:	-4.4°C Tyndrum No 3, Perthshire, 26th
Most Rain:	84.0mm Lough Fea Waterworks, County Fermanagh,
Most Sun:	13.2hrs Kinloss, Grampian, 2nd
Windiest:	63mph Foula No 2, Shetland, 16th
Warmest:	15.8°C Scilly St. Mary's SAWS, Cornwall
Coolest:	10.2°C Dalwhinnie No 2, Tayside
Wettest:	327.9mm Blaenau Ffestiniog, Gwynedd
Driest:	27.6mm Winchcombe Sudeley Castle, Gloucestershire
Sunniest:	230.0hrs Radstock, Somerset
Dullest:	66.7hrs Swaffham, Norfolk



September marks the start of autumn proper and mist and fog is slower to clear in the mornings as the sun's strength wanes. Stormy weather may also occur as the remnants of Atlantic hurricanes become caught up in vigorous depressions, blowing the first leaves from trees.

September began fine and dry under an anticyclone but as this began to transfer to Scandinavia on the 4th and 5th, fronts edging in from the south-west heralded rather more changeable conditions for the next week. Some places reported thunder on the 7th and strong easterly winds and high tides caused problems along the east coast of Scotland. The 12th was a sunny, crisp autumn day under a weak ridge but rain reached western Scotland and Northern Ireland late in the day, and the following 5 days were windy and unsettled as a deep depression transferred to Scandinavia. Blustery showers or longer spells of rain battered most places and there was a gust of 68mph at Capel Curig (Conwy) on the 15th. Arctic air was drawn down across Scotland on the 16th and 17th, and snow showers fell on the high Cairngorms. Exeter airport recorded a minimum of 2°C (36°F) early on the 18th. A warmer spell then followed, as winds turned southerly. Maxima in excess of 21°C (70°F) were widespread across England and Wales on the 22nd in golden autumn sunshine, and Gravesend (Kent) reported 24.6°C (77°F)! Conditions for Scotland and Northern Ireland were rather more changeable and Hunterston (Ayrshire) was deluged by 67mm of rain in 24 hours to 0900 on the 23rd. On the 24th, it turned much cooler everywhere as winds reverted from the north. Snow fell again on the Scottish mountains, and the temperature fell to -4.4C (25F) at Tyndrum (Stirling) on the 26th and Kinbrace (Highland) on the 27th. As September drew to a close there were cloudy, damp conditions for most as fronts penetrated from the west, but made only sluggish progress against a persistent Scandinavian anticyclone. For the month as a whole, temperatures were close to normal, but a little above normal for Northern Ireland and northern England. Rainfall was well above average for Northern Ireland, parts of eastern Scotland and northern England, but much of south-east England and the south Midlands was dry. Sunshine was generally close to or a little above average nationwide.

In Europe, Ireland's Knock airport recorded 87mm of rain on 6th - its wettest day since local records began in 1988. On the 17th, hailstorms battered Spain's Caceres province leaving cars trapped by hail and properties flooded. Sudden early season snowfalls in Switzerland and the French Alps overnight 23rd-24th closed 5 mountain passes. Across the Atlantic, hurricane Earl reached its peak on the 2nd with sustained winds of 145 mph. Earl sped north-northeastward close to the eastern U.S. seaboard, eventually making landfall on the 4th in Nova Scotia, Canada. It pounded Halifax, the region's largest city, leaving nearly 1 million residents without power. In contrast, under hot, dry, and windy conditions, a major wildfire broke out in Fourmile Canyon near Boulder, Colorado on the 6th. The fire scorched an estimated 6,400 acres of land and destroyed 166 homes, becoming the most destructive blaze in Colorado's history. A macroburst (a sudden violent windstorm), tore through New York City on the 16th. Winds peaked at 125 mph and 2 tornadoes also touched down, adding to the mayhem. One person was killed, tens of thousands were left without power, and an estimated 3,000 trees were uprooted. In the Caribbean, hurricanes Igor and Julia became simultaneous Category 4 storms on the 15th - the first such instance since 1926. However, Hurricane Karl, which formed east of the Yucatan Peninsula on September 14th, ultimately proved more destructive as it made landfall in Veracruz, Mexico on the 17th with 115 mph winds. 15 people were killed by the storm in Mexico as oil rigs were evacuated and the country's nuclear power facility was shut down. In Texas, Corpus Christi received 182 mm of rain on the 19th - a daily record, with 248mm over two days. A car and its occupant were swept away by raging waters. Category 2 typhoon Fanapi tore into southern Taiwan on the 19th packing 100mph winds and dumping more than 1m of rainfall over Majia, in Pingtung County. Fanapi made landfall in China on the 20th in Fujian Province, and Yangchun City recorded 530 mm of rain in 24 hours - triggering flooding and landslides which were responsible damage costing at least \$250M.

Heavy snow and ice wreaked havoc in Australia's southern state of Tasmania on the 16th and winds gusted to 88 mph at Cape Bruny. Enormous swells were generated off the coast, and a near record 18.4 m (60ft) wave was witnessed off Cape Sorrell. New Zealand was hit the following day, and the capital, Wellington, recorded winds of 80mph whilst snow and blizzard conditions affected South Island - where it was feared that up to one million lambs perished.