



Suburb Rainfall

The first four months of 2010 have experienced extremes of rainfall. Although January's total of 2.6 inches was about average, February's total of 5 inches was the highest recorded since these records began. Usually, February's rainfall, with a mean of 2.1 inches, is the lowest of the year. This year it was more like an exceptional October figure. It was followed by a dry March, 1.56 inches compared with an average of 2.71 inches and then an even drier April. In that month there was only 0.93 inches, compared with a norm of 2.15 inches. The gardens were really dry before the near record 3.04 inches hit us in 36 hours on May 1st and May 2nd. As mentioned in this column in last year's September edition, on the 22nd August, 1992, 3.08 inches was recorded in the writer's Mill Hill garden, but this year's continuous rainfall

in early May is the second highest. The 2.5 inches in 2 hours in June last year was then worthy of comment, because these amounts really are exceptional. Could the occurrence of two within nine months be the kind of extreme weather we may come to expect with global warming? There was, of course, flooding in our area. Even the rain gauge was flooded, needing a major operation to record the amount!

Winter rainfall as a whole, from October to March was well above average. A total of 20.45 inches fell compared with a mean of 14.5 inches. As the first third of the year also experienced an inch above average, there was plenty of water in the soil to produce the splendid display of spring flowers and the very considerable growth of shrubs and trees when our unusually cold winter finally ended.

DIANA IWI

Your garden in June

☼ Deadhead old blooms to encourage more flowers. Roses and border perennials are at their best in June. To prolong the display, cut off the old blooms as soon as they fade, cutting them back to just above a healthy leaf. Pick off and burn any leaves with black spot.

☼ Prune spring-flowering shrubs: deutzias, weigelia, brooms, flowering currant, philadelphus, and forsythia can all be pruned back as soon as they have finished flowering. Cut all the stems that have flowered back to strong young shoots lower down.

☼ Feed tomatoes. For the best crops of tomatoes, feed them regularly when you water with Homebase Liquid Tomato Feed or Phostrogen Tomato Food (Which Best Buys). Remember to nip out side growths and tie the plants to their supports regularly.

☼ Propagation: Take cuttings of semi-ripe side shoots of clematis, deutzias, cotoneasters, fuchsias and philadelphus and root in a cold frame. Take heel cuttings of viburnums. Take rosemary, sage and thyme cuttings.

☼ Summer pruning of fruit trees: Plums, apples and pears often produce too much fruit which is shed naturally in 'the June drop'. You still need to thin what remains after the June drop or the trees will be exhausted and the crop will suffer. With plums (and greengages) thin to 8cm (3in) apart. With apples and pears leave one fruit in the cluster if the crop is heavy, or two if it is light. Remove any malformed fruits at the same time.

☼ Vegetables and herbs: sow French beans, peas and salad crops, either in the ground or in containers for a succession of healthy, fresh food. Weed, hoe and water regularly in dry weather.

Your garden in July

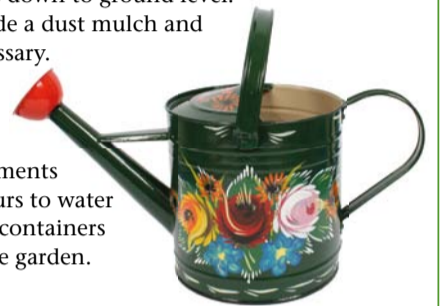
☼ Water only if needed: If the weather is dry, don't panic and water everything. Established plants should be fine, as will lawns which will quickly turn green again once the rain returns. Containers and anything that has been planted in the last month or so will need to be watered. Check gro-bags daily as they dry out fast. It's better to give a good soak once a week than daily dribbles. Try to recycle household grey water or invest in a waterbutt from Barnet council.

☼ Continue to deadhead roses and cut back early flowering perennials. Gaps can be filled with late summer flowering dahlias and annuals.

☼ Lift and split bearded irises: after a few years the clumps become congested. Dig them up and gently pull the rhizomes apart, discarding the old woody growth in the centre. Cut back the leaves by about half to avoid wind-rock and replant in a shallow dip so that the rhizome sits slightly proud of the soil level. A sprinkle of bonemeal and a good watering will ensure speedy new growth.

☼ Vegetables and fruit: Summer prune apples and pears. Cut fruited raspberry canes down to ground level. Hoe regularly to provide a dust mulch and spot water where necessary.

☼ Holiday help! Before going away on holiday, make arrangements for friends or neighbours to water your plants and move containers into a shady part of the garden.



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Proms at St Jude's
19th June - 27th June 2010
St Jude-on-the-Hill • Central Square • London NW11 7AH

Concerts: Lunchtime Free • Evening tickets £10 to £22
Light refreshments: sandwiches, snacks, beer, wine, tea & coffee available

SATURDAY 19th	12.45	Classical Accordion Recital – Ksenija Sidorova
	7.45	Gala Opening Night – Covent Garden Chamber Orchestra. Robert Max conductor and Charles Owen piano. Nicolai Merry Wives of Windsor Overture; Schumann Piano Concerto; Brahms Second Symphony
SUNDAY 20th	7.45	Grand Opera Night – London International Orchestra. Toby Purser conductor, Hye-Youn Lee soprano, Victoria Simmonds mezzo-soprano, Jesús León tenor and Changhan Lim baritone. Operatic highlights from Rossini, Mozart, Donizetti, Puccini, Lehár, Bizet, Verdi and others
MONDAY 21st	12.45	Hampden String Quartet
	7.45	The Endellion String Quartet – Haydn Op 33 No 1; Britten String Quartet No 1 in D; Beethoven Quartet No 10 in E flat ('Harp')
TUESDAY 22nd	12.45	Violin and Piano Recital – Litsa Tunnah and Alissa Tavdidishvili
	7.45	John Lill Piano Recital – Haydn Sonata No 52 in E flat; Schumann 'Carnaval'; Chopin Ballade No 4; Brahms Variations and Fugue on a Theme by Handel
WEDNESDAY 23rd	12.45	Roman Cello Quartet – Roman Broide, Vashti Hunter, Jessica Hayes and Jo Keithley. Music for four cellos.
	7.45	Music from the Silver Screen – BBC Elstree Concert Band with Andrew Morley director. Music from Indiana Jones, Psycho, Pirates of the Caribbean, A Chorus Line, 633 Squadron, Les Parapluies de Cherbourg and others
THURSDAY 24th	12.45	Children's Concert – Nonesuch Orchestra, William Carslake conductor
	7.45	Sir Willard White Song Recital – 'Paul Robeson Re-Explored'. Sir Willard White bass-baritone, Neal Thornton piano and Richard Bolton guitar
FRIDAY 25th	12.45	Organ Recital – Samuel Rathbone (in the Free Church, North Square NW11 7AG)
	7.45	The Choir of Clare College Cambridge – Timothy Brown conductor, Maud Millar soprano, Grace Durham mezzo-soprano, Dominic Sedgwick baritone, Ashok Gupta organ and piano and Daniel Pailthorpe flute. French choral music by Duruflé, Franck, Fauré, Debussy and others
SATURDAY 26th	12.45	Sasha Gracheva piano
	7.45	Jazz Night – 'The Great British Songbook' with Clare Teal and her Band
SUNDAY 27th	7.45	Last Night of the Proms – Southbank Sinfonia, Simon Over conductor, Robert Cohen cello and John Cunningham bass-baritone. Suppé Light Cavalry, Schumann Cello Concerto, songs and arias by Handel, Mozart, Sullivan and Edward German, plus traditional Last Night items

Proms at St Jude's reserves the right to make changes to the programme in unforeseen circumstances

Box Office: 020 8458 8798 Open 2pm - 6pm, Mon - Sat from 1st June
www.promsatstjudes.org.uk

Guided Walks: Proms Heritage Walks & Visits: June 19th, 20th, 23rd & 25th – £7 each

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