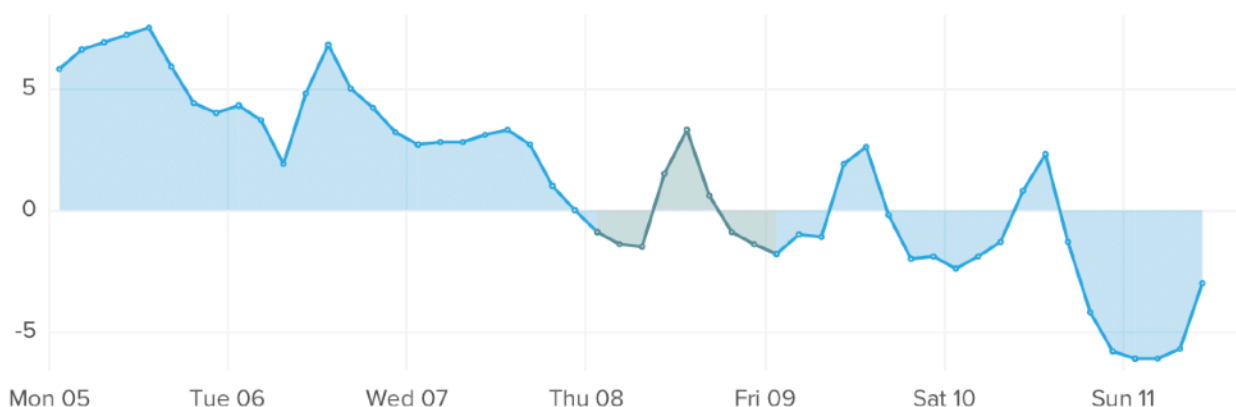


Weather for the Winter Quarter 2022/23

December began mild and wet, just as November had ended, but as we got into the second week the skies cleared giving us a couple of very sunny days. The temperature then fell rapidly as the winds (fortunately light) moved to the north reaching a low of -6.4°C on Sunday 11th.

TEMPERATURE - December 2022



Frequent wintery showers blew in from the North Sea, but there was no significant amount of rain/sleet/snow. The weather continued cold but Tuesday 13th was also miserably dull, which resulted in the temperature remaining below zero for the whole of the day. This was the first complete 24 hours below 0°C since February 2018. As compensation the following day was brilliantly clear and the temperature reached the heady heights of 3.6°C at 1 o'clock. Altogether there were 10 consecutive nights of below zero temperatures from the 8th to the 17th.

But on the 18th there was a dramatic change from crisp and cold to warm and damp as fronts swept in from the Atlantic. Despite very occasional brightness the skies remained dull in the run up to Christmas and the second part of the month was much wetter. There were several notably wet days when the rain seemed to be continuous.

Christmas had brought a major cold spell across Canada and the United States with heavy snowfall, power failures and many deaths. We are so lucky that we don't suffer from such weather extremes.

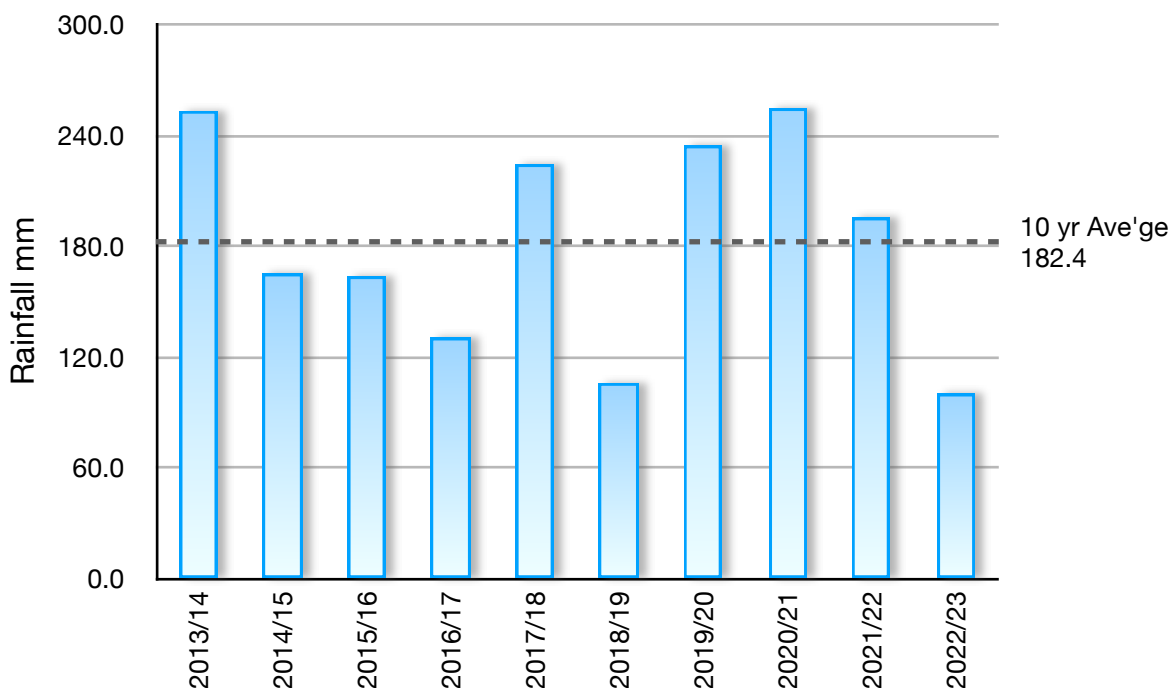
In Wickham Market New Year's day dawned reasonably bright, but by midday the clouds had rolled in to give us a grey start to the new year. Weather was very mixed in the first week, but surprisingly warm - temperature records for January were broken across Europe. In Wickham Market we reached 13.6°C on 4th, as once again strong southerly/southwesterly winds brought warm air from much further south.

Altogether the first half of January was cloudy and wet but the second half gave us clearer skies, less rain - and consequently cooler nights. The rain at 49.3 mm was still below the 10-year average of 58.9 mm, but was more than three times the rain that fell in January 2022.

February proved to be rather chilly, but generally dry. We had a good deal of high pressure that sometimes give us clear skies and sunshine, but more often trapped cloud gave us dullness. When the skies were clear at night we had more than the usual share of temperatures below 0°C, but there were no seriously prolonged cold spell such as we had in December. There was just 2.2mm of rain for the whole month, way below the 10-year average of 55.2 mm. This gave us a total of just 100 mm for the whole of the winter quarter when we might have expected 182.4 mm.

None of this has been good growing conditions in the garden - cold and dry with not enough sunshine. Let's hope that March brings us better.

Winter (Dec, Jan and Feb) Rainfall 2022/23



Average Maximum and Minimum Temperatures

