



Growing inspiration in your garden...

## PRESS RELEASE

### Mr Fothergill's new weather station to provide worthwhile data on trials (MRF596)

Mr Fothergill's has installed a state-of-the-art weather station on its Kentford, west Suffolk, trial ground, which it believes will provide a database of useful information relating to the scores of genera and species it grows every year. The station has been providing information to the company's horticultural team since April 2016. The system measures temperature, humidity, dew-point, wind direction, speed and chill factor; it includes a barometer, a record of daily rainfall, rain rate and storm total. It also states sunrise and sunset time.

It comprises two pieces of kit - the actual physical weather station and a console connected to a computer, and with benefit of batteries in the console, data will continue to be collected even during a power-cut. The apparatus collects data at regular intervals and a database of all previous months' weather means all aspects and their impact on the trial ground can be monitored. The plan is to build data over time to check the performance of different genera and species in different conditions.

For instance, in May 2016 temperatures ranged from -0.6°C to 25.6°C, and two very notable issues have already been highlighted. The first is the amount of rainfall, which for a relatively dry site has been surprising. Up until 2 August 2016 the site has received 191.6mm, of which 94.6mm fell in June, with 37.8mm falling on the 23rd alone; on 20 June the rain rate was more than 180mm per hour.

Equally remarkable are the fluctuations in temperature in July, with the lowest 8.9°C and the highest 30.3°C, which is also the highest so far in 2016. In July there were three nights when the temperature dipped below 10°C, when the cucumber trial in the polytunnel clearly showed which varieties had the best cold tolerance. Overall mean temperature through the months has been recorded, with April 6.9°C, May 12.8°C, June 15.2°C, and July 18.1°C. Trial ground manager Brian Talman believes the cooler weather in late spring kept plants back for a several weeks, but, fortunately, July has put them back on track for a good display in August.

For more information on Mr Fothergill's range, or to request a catalogue, please visit [www.mr-fothergills.co.uk](http://www.mr-fothergills.co.uk), telephone 0845 371 0518 or write to Mr Fothergill's, Gazeley Road, Kentford, Suffolk CB8 7QB.

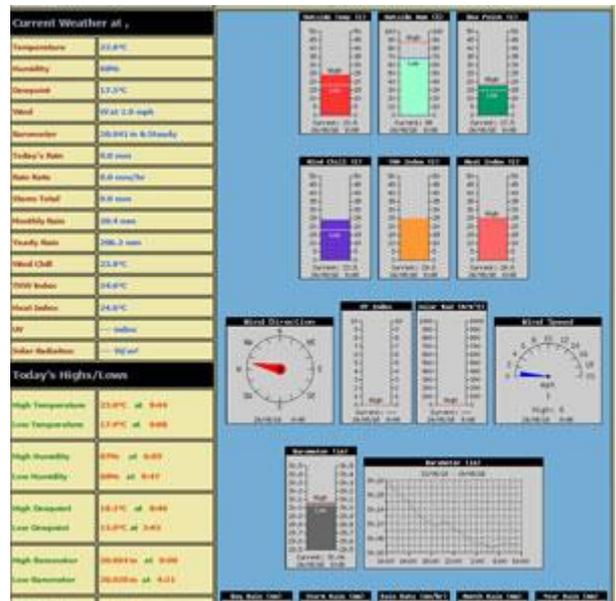
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For further information, please e-mail Colin Hambidge on [colin.hambidge@mr-fothergills.co.uk](mailto:colin.hambidge@mr-fothergills.co.uk)

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