

NATURE'S THERMOMETER IN CANADA 60° NORTH

A 38 YEAR RECORD

For the last 38 years I have been recording various observations of natural phenomena 60° north in western Canada at Fort Nelson B.C. about the level of Oslo, without the benefit of the Gulf Stream.

In spring I have recorded the date leaves come out on the same tree every year since 1973. It precedes the faint flush of green of the whole forest by two days.

The earliest three years of leaf appearance were in 1980, 1998 and 2010 on 20, 18 and 19 April respectively. The latest leaf eruptions were 21 May in 2002 and 16 May 1983 and 1996, over a month difference between the earliest and the latest.

To get rid of the spikes and troughs in the graph that occur on a yearly basis I took the 5 year forward moving average from 1973 to 1977, plotting it under 1973. The 1974 plot covers the forward five years from 1974 to 1978 and so on to 2007 recording 2007 to 2011.

Over the 38 years the average day the leaves have broken out has been 2 May. Sixty percent of the time they erupt during the first three days in May. There was a cold period from 1982 to 1986, that produced a cold spike up in the graph that averaging could not smooth out.

If ten year averaging is done, the average from 1973 to 1983 was 2 May. From 1983 to 1993 it was 2 May. From 1993 to 2003 the leaves came out on 2 May. From 2001 to 2011 again the average was 2 May. There has been no trend of the moving average in the last 40 years.