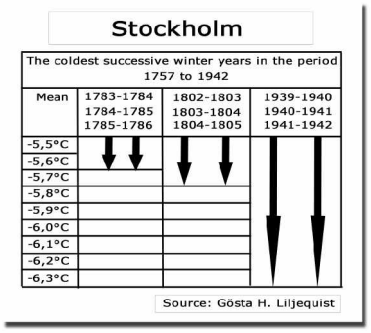
Low Temperatures

Sweden

As already indicated above, G. Liljequist observed: Three successive ice winters are very rare[i]. After almost 200 years of weather observation in Stockholm, there are only two periods that come close to the most recent one in 1939-42. But none of the previous 'three-winter periods' (we take into account the average temperature of three coldest months) had been as cold as the winters of 1939-42, which were 0.6°C colder than the winter-group 1802-1805.



Kew Observatory/UK

Even during the „Cold Epoch" (ca. 1810–1850), when 9 winters out of 42 were colder at Kew Observatory/UK than the 1939/40 "winter package", none of these winters was so closely followed by subsequent cold winters as during the winters of 1939/40, 1940/41 and 1941/42[ii], which were furthermore commented upon: "The present century has been marked by such a widespread tendency towards mild winters that the 'old-fashioned winters', of which one had heard so much, seemed to have gone for ever. The sudden arrival, at the end of 1939, of what was to be the beginning of a series of cold winters was therefore all the more surprising. Since the winters of 1878/79, 1879/80 and 1880/81, there have never been three winters in a row as severe as those of 1939/40, 1940/41 and 1941/42."

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i Gösta Liljequist, Liljequist, Gösta H. (1941/42); ‚Isvintern 1941/42'; in: Staten Meteorologisk – Hydrografiska Anstalt, No.4, 1942, pp.2-15.

ii A.J. Drummond.; ‚Cold winters at Kew Observatory, 1783-1942'; Quarterly Journal of Royal Met. Soc., No. 69, 1943, pp 17-32, and: Drummond, A.J.; Discussion of the paper: ‚Cold winters at Kew Observatory, 1783-1942'; Quarterly Journal of Royal Met. Soc., 1943, p. 147ff.