

June 25

## ? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Dr. Charles F. Brooks,  
Secretary, American Meteorological Society  
describes:

THE SUMMER NORTHEASTER

The summer northeaster is a localized disturbance, differing in many respects from the fierce northeast gale of winter, which sweeps up the length of the Atlantic coast, accompanied by heavy snow on the northern coast and rain and snow to the southward. The hot weather variety is very different indeed. The "highs" and "lows" of summer pass more deliberately, and their pressure contrasts are not so great.

Occasionally in summer a "low" gets stalled off the New England coast, most often off the shores of southern New England, coincident with the presence of an area of high pressure to the north and northeast, over the northeastern portion of the continent and the Labrador current. The air, cold from contact with the ice fields, pours southwestward around the low. As a wedge it lifts the warmer air in its path, and produces clouds, then rain. With an increased flow of the northeast wind the overriding southwesterly wind becomes stronger, and then for a day or more copious rain may fall from the expansionally cooling warm wind rising over the cool wedge at the surface.

While the summer northeaster has little of the violence of its winter counterpart, it is much longer protracted, sometimes lasting for three and even four days. So local is the type that, for instance, while the territory from eastern Massachusetts to New York city may be heavily overhung with raining clouds, the country to the northward is bathed in sunshine.

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(Tomorrow: Truthful Weather Doggerel.)

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