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A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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

LATE AUTUMNS ON LAKE SHORES

Though for several weeks we have been reading of killing frosts over large regions, favored localities, such as those along the shores of the Great Lakes, have escaped till late. This is because the shores of large and deep lakes are decidedly milder in autumn than interior areas. The lake waters and the air over and about them cool/<sup>very</sup>slowly because of the great amount of heat which must be given off to reduce the temperature even a moderate amount.

In the Great Lakes region, the first killing frosts in autumn come much earlier in the northern interior of the lower peninsula of Michigan than on the neighboring shores, the difference being more than 20 days. A large portion of the interior has its first killing frosts on the average before Sept. 21, while along the shore on the east the average date is after October 1 and on the west even after October 11. The occurrence of killing frosts 10 days later on the west side of the northern part of the peninsula than on the east side, is owing to the fact that in the coolest fall weather the winds are generally from the northwest, so that the west side receives its air somewhat warmed after passage across the lake, while the east side is affected by air cooled over the interior of the peninsula. On account of the tempering influence of Lake Michigan fruit raising is an important industry in the western tier of counties while it is negligible in the eastern tier.

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(Tomorrow: Old Moon in New Moon's Arms)  
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