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A Science Service Feature

April 1

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Dr. Charles F. Brooks,
of Clark University,
discusses:

AVERAGE APRIL WEATHER

Throughout much of the central and eastern United States, April is, on the average, about 10 degrees Fahrenheit warmer than March. It may be noticed at once, though, that the temperature contrasts between the northern and southern portions of the country are considerably less than in March. March average temperatures range from 60 degrees Fahrenheit in the southern part of the Gulf States to 20 degrees Fahrenheit in northern North Dakota, Minnesota, and Maine, making an average difference of 40 degrees; in April this contrast dwindles to 25 degrees. The northern region has warmed 20 degrees Fahrenheit to an average temperature of 40 degrees Fahrenheit, while the rise in the lower Gulf States has been only 5 degrees. This decrease in temperature contrasts is significant: it means that April is much less stormy and windy than March.

In April, killing frosts still occur pretty generally except in the Gulf States and parts of California and Arizona. In the eastern and central portions of the United States some snow usually falls during April.

Precipitation in April is slightly less than in March in the eastern and southern United States and on the Pacific Coast. The spring showers of the Great Plains, however, make the April rainfall of that region often nearly double the precipitation of March.

(Tomorrow: Winter's Closing Blasts)

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