

April 4

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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

PLANTING AND FROST DATES

The dates advisable for planting of garden truck in any locality are often estimated from the average date of the last killing frost. For example, in about the latitude of New York and Chicago, this date is May 1. Such crops as early cabbage plant, radishes, onions, early peas, and potatoes may generally be safely planted about two weeks before the average date of the last killing frost, or about April 15.

Beets, carrots, lettuce, and spinach, and early corn are planted at about the average frost date, or May 1 in the same regions. String beans and cucumbers are not usually planted, nor tomato plants set out, until about two weeks later; while lima beans, peppers, egg plants, and melons should wait until the ground is well warmed up, or about a month after the average date of last killing frost.

Since, however, seasons persist in differing from the average, wild plants are used by many to furnish a guide to planting fitted to the individual place and season. When the silver maples begin to put forth their leaves and the catkins appear on willows and poplars, it is time to plant the group of early vegetables. The story runs that a friendly Indian, Squanto, taught the Pilgrims to plant corn when oak leaves were the size of squirrel's ears, a correlation which still holds good. When blackberries blossom, it is warm enough to sow beans. For many farmers and gardeners the blossoming of fruit trees and ornamental shrubs also serves to indicate the advance of the season.

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(Tomorrow: Slim Storms)

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