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A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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

SPRING TEMPERATURES OF 1924

The spring of 1924 has been marked generally with an excess of cool, cloudy weather. On the north Atlantic coast, temperatures below normal have prevailed, especially during April and May. The South and central plains were cooler than normal in March also. Southern truck crops have consequently been delayed, and are likely to be less in advance of northern spring vegetables than usual. On the Pacific coast, in the Rockies, and northern plains, however, April and May temperatures have been above normal.

The Why of this particular weather is rather hard to discover. One might say that May was cold in the northeast because of unusual cloudiness and because of the late melting of snow and ice during April, but that merely refers the matter to April. In the absence of definite information, only the pure speculator will look far afield and try to fix the blame on the Gulf Stream, possibly warmer than normal, or the solar constant which is lower than usual. A warmer Gulf Stream would tend to lower the pressure south of New England and the Maritime Provinces, while the lower solar constant would favor less heating and expansion of air in the South, and in consequence, a southward encroachment of northeastern high pressure areas. A lowering of pressure over the Gulf Stream and a southward shift of high pressure areas would act together in producing an unusual prevalence of chilly northeasterly winds in eastern North America, and at the same time, favor southerly winds and high temperatures on the northern plains.

(Tomorrow: Recent Course of Solar Heat)

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