

June 24

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Dr. Charles F. Brooks,  
of Clark University,  
Discusses

DISTRIBUTION OF HAIL

June is the month when most damage to crops from hail may be anticipated. Although July has more thunderstorms than June, because the lower air is hotter, June thunderstorms are more likely to be accompanied by hail. For the occurrence of hail, cold air aloft is necessary. Consequently in the Gulf States, although there are plenty of late summer thunderstorms, hail does not occur after July, because the upper air levels are not cold enough to produce frozen pellets of sufficient size to reach the ground as ice. For the same reason, in the north the percentage of thunderstorms accompanied by hail decreases quite commonly from April to July. However, as the total number of thunderstorms in Spring is small, June becomes the month of most frequent hail.

Cheyenne, Wyoming has the distinction of being the "hailiest" Weather Bureau station in the United States. At Cheyenne 23 per cent. of June thunderstorms, but only 10 per cent. of July thunderstorms bring hail. Regions of most frequent thunderstorms are not necessarily the regions of most frequent hail. Thus Cheyenne, noted for hail, has an annual average of 53 days with thunderstorms and 9-1/2 with hail. In thunderstorms it is surpassed by Montgomery, Alabama, with 62 thunderstorm days; but Montgomery has an average of only 1-1/2 days with hail in the year. East of the Mississippi there is generally little hail, even in the north, the average being two hail days or less a year. The eastern part of the country is moister than the western plains and Rockies; thunderstorms start with less heating and their convection is consequently less violent and does not commonly reach such great heights.

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(Tomorrow: Hail Damage)

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