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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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

STEAMING AFTER RAIN

It is unusual to see a fog or mist forming along the ground in the middle of a hot day. Under certain conditions this may occur. A sudden heavy shower of cold rain or hail may cool the air and nearly "saturate" it with moisture, and yet not cool the ground sufficiently to prevent active evaporation. After the rain stops, the hot moist ground or pavement may steam vigorously - the mist extending two or three feet high. Sometimes this midday steaming of roads or gardens is so thick as to suggest smoke from a bonfire out of sight. Although it has been known to continue over half an hour after the cessation of the rain, usually the steaming does not last so long. A corresponding mode of fog formation is often observed over wooded valleys; in such locations the fog rises in ragged wisps above the trees.

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(Tomorrow: Convection)

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