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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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SUNSET SIGNS OF SUMMER RAIN

Summer rain is usually preceded by thunderstorm tops, for much of summer rainfall is associated with thunderstorms. The day before rain, thunderstorm tops may sometimes be seen in the west or some other direction, at evening or may cast their shadows in the sunset. These thunderstorm tops are sharply defined, high towering clouds, with a tendency toward anvil shape, and with marked local differences in density. If the upper winds are rapid, the clouds may be long drawn out. Often they are accompanied by heavy sheets of falling snow. When these thunderstorm tops are moving from WNW or NW towards the observer, they are most likely to indicate rain.

Other indications of rain are a falling barometer, a rising dewpoint, and a southerly wind that does not stop at sunset, or that springs up again after a brief calm at sunset. Southern storms, originating from tropical cyclones and moving up the Atlantic coast approach from a different direction from the thunderstorm rains. They first show their rising bank of clouds to the south, with their long ribs of high thin cirrus streamers converging in the South or Southeast.

(Tomorrow: Morning rains - Afternoon Showers)

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