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A SCIENCE SERVICE FEATURE

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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EARLY FROSTS

"Considerable damage is occasionally done to unmaturred crops by early frosts, especially in years when vegetation is backward"m said a government bulletin.

"Consquently, the time of occurrence of the first killing frost in fall is of much importance to agricultural interests in practically all parts of the country, especially so in the principal corn and cotton growing states."

Frost maps show that along most of the northern border of the country, killing frost may be expected to occur in half the years by September 20 or earlier. In the higher regions of the west, and even in the higher parts of eastern Canada and the northeastern United States, the first killing frost occurs before September 1, in fact is likely to occur at any time during the summer. On the other hand, along the coast and the shores of the Great Lakes, frost occurs later than inland in the same latitudes, because the air is kept warm by these large bodies of water, which are slow to cool. To the southward, dates become progressively later until in the immediate Gulf coast region killing frost does not occur as a rule before November, and at some points not until after the first of December.

(Tomorrow: Clouds As Sunshades)

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