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A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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LATE SNOW FLURRIES

The conditions that in winter bring cold snow become softened in late spring into chilly, blustery weather, with some snow now and then. Strong "lows" occasionally assert themselves in late April and May with accompanying northerly winds from the lingering snow and ice fields not far distant. But the ground is rather warm and, in consequence, keeps warming the lower portion of any cold wind. In the resulting instability the air bounces high in going over rather minor bumps of the land surface. Here and there enough of the wind is warmed while in contact with the ground to make a large mass go up together. This forms a great cloud, and if this is cold enough, snow is likely to form and fall from it.

Such a quantity may fall as to chill the air enough to let some of the snow reach the ground unmelted, and we experience a late snow flurry.

(Pick up one column matrix 4-22.)

(Tomorrow: How Air Temperatures are Obtained)

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