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A Science Service Feature

May 5

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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HAIL IN SPRING

Spring is the hailiest season in the Middle Atlantic states, the Middle West, the South and the Pacific coast states. In the higher portions of the West and in the cooler regions of the northeast and north, summer has more hail than spring. The obvious reason, that hail is favored by the cooler weather of spring, is not the whole explanation. Paradoxically, the worst hailstorms in any region or season tend to come on the hottest days. But hot days in spring are usually more productive of hail than correspondingly hot days in summer. In spring the height at which freezing temperatures may be found is not so great as in summer. Thus, at this season, temperatures low enough for hail are more within reach of convection or rain-bearing updrafts from lower levels. Also the contrasts between different levels when the lower air gets much heated are greater. With such great contrasts vertical displacement of air fast enough not only to carry drops upward but also to sustain hailstones may readily occur. That is why, taking the country as a whole May is the month with most hail. On the Pacific coast April has more hail, in the Rockies June more, in the Gulf region and the Ohio Valley April slightly more, and in the Middle Atlantic states June has more hail than May. Elsewhere, May stands highest.
(Pick up one column mat 5-5.)

(Tomorrow: Cloudy Weather Thunderstorms)

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