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A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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LIDS

If you own a kerosene stove, maybe sometime you have been so unfortunate as to have it turned too high. You returned and found a thick cloud of smoke flattened out against the kitchen ceiling. The atmosphere at times provides "ceilings" or "lids" against which dust, smoke or cloud particles collect in somewhat the same way. Such lids occur typically when a warm wind is overrunning a colder layer near the ground. Under these conditions, smoke will rise until it comes to the boundary of the warm air aloft, which constitutes the lid. This warmth stops the upward convectional current, and the smoke stays at this level instead of being dissipated. Or, if clouds start to form they will mushroom out and soon form a sheet and cover the sky. Below the lid it is dark and chilly. Smoky cities especially suffer when unable to take off their lids.

Pick up one column mat 5-8.

(Tomorrow: Fruit and Frost)

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