

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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BASEBALL HAIL

Hailstones of baseball size recently damaged Dallas, Texas, to an estimated extent of \$2,000,000. A heavy thunder-cloud came out of the west early in the evening of May 8, and threw down a sprinkling of big marble hail about an inch in diameter - a valuable preliminary warning it proved. People sought shelter none too soon.

"Crash!" came a flattened hailstone of solid ice the size of a tennis ball, then another and another. Automobile tops were dented, cracked or perforated, and bodies badly dented and their plate glass destroyed. Thicker came the pelting hail, even bigger - the size of baseballs - and a terrific din arose - a combination of crashing hailstones and breaking glass. In a single building 3000 panes were shattered.

Hail of this size, fortunately, is exceedingly rare at any place, though almost every year an occurrence of baseball-sized hail is reported from some part of the country east of the Rockies. Wyoming, Nebraska, Wisconsin, Illinois, Alabama, Maryland, and Massachusetts, are some of the states locally affected during the past dozen years.

Rabbits, hens, pigs, even cattle have been killed, and people have been at least injured by the impact of such large hail. In fact, less than two days after these big hailstones fell on Dal^{las}, another hailstorm nearby was reported to have killed four negroes and damaged crops and buildings over a path seven miles wide and 30 miles long. Houses have not only lost windows and roofing but have had their clapboards knocked off.

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