

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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FOURTH OF JULY WEATHER

"Regular Fourth of July Weather!" is a common remark. If it is hot it is Fourth of July weather; if it is showery it is Fourth of July weather; if it is fine and clear it is Fourth of July weather. And why not? Fourth of July weather is the sort of weather that occurs on the Fourth!

There is rarely a Fourth (or fifth) of July that has the same weather all over the United States. Of course, strictly speaking, the weather is never the same over the country as a whole. But there are some days on which but a very small portion of the United States may be affected by rain, and others on which the rain area may be very great indeed. If one part has particularly fine weather another is likely to be having wet weather. For fine weather comes only with strong high pressure areas, and these cannot exist without corresponding depressions, usually nearby.

Whatever the weather may be, the joy killer can say that the finest days will be featured by the greatest number of accidents typical of a holiday and by the greatest number of fires. A wet holiday is also bad because some people will travel anyway and not a few will skid.

Since the World War showed that the weather did not change according to cannon-ading or mine explosions there has been less heard about the alleged efficacy of the puny fireworks of the Fourth in making thunderstorms. The thunderstorms occur with certain weather conditions marked clearly on our daily weather maps, and they do not appear to have any greater frequency on the Fourth than on the 2nd, 3rd, 5th or 6th. We just notice them more if they occur at this time.

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