

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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RAINFALL OF EASTERN CANADA

The eastern United States is well watered right up to the Canadian border. A detailed map of the rainfall of eastern Canada shows that this ample rainfall is general in southern Canada and northward as far as observing stations have kept adequate records. Cold rather than dryness forms the limit to human occupation founded on vegetation. Along the Atlantic coast, the rainfall on the jutting peninsula of Nova Scotia and the island of Newfoundland is appreciably greater than that on the New England coast.

Most of the outer coast of Nova Scotia receives an average of over 50 inches annually, an amount greater than any on the coast of the United States north of Hatteras. Southern Newfoundland is even wetter, with over 55 inches annually, an amount exceeded on the Atlantic coast only in southeast Florida and from western Florida to Louisiana. These bleak coasts of Nova Scotia and Newfoundland get the brunt of the wet southerly winds attending not only the cyclones coming across the country but also those brushing the coast.

Back from the exposed coasts the rainfall decreases rather sharply, northwestern Nova Scotia having less than 40 inches, and parts of the interior of Newfoundland and the Gaspé Peninsula less than 30 inches. On the bold southern face of the Laurentian upland on the north side of the St. Lawrence estuary, the forced ascent of moist winds again brings the rainfall to considerable quantities, locally in excess of 45 inches. But a short distance beyond, the interior has a precipitation equivalent to less than 25 inches of rain.

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