

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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By Dr. Charles F. Brooks  
of Clark University

OUTSTANDING WEATHER OF 1926

Though the beginning of the year seems long, long ago, there are some features of the weather of the Northeast which we can still readily recall. January was exceptionally lacking in snow-cover, though it was a stormy month. The South got deluges of rain. With the beginning of February, however, great quantities of snow fell eastward from Wisconsin and northeastward from northern Virginia, and excessive storminess continued on the Atlantic. Late February was quieter and milder, but March and the first half of April were cold and snowy. The Mid-West now had its turn at being buried in snow.

A peculiar hot wave that swept the northern part of the United States and southern Canada in April gave false promise of the temperatures to follow. May and particularly the first three-quarters of June made some people begin to wonder where summer was, as they scraped their coal bins. Plenty of heat was turned on, however, the last part of June, and July <sup>was</sup> but little below normal in the Northeast. Some extremely hot weather occurred in the latter half of summer, but the general level of temperature was lower than usual.

The outstanding feature of the months July to October was the great number of tropical cyclones, three of which were of such exceptional violence that they caused very great loss of life and damage to property in the Bahamas, Florida and Cuba. As a sequel, perhaps, to the first tropical cyclone, the Mid-west suffered unprecedented rainfall in late summer and early autumn causing great floods that did not subside until November.

Early cold weather and heavy snows occurred in November in the Mid-West, but not in the East. December, however, brought winter in full force, with widespread zero weather and snowfall.

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