

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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BAD WEATHER FOR CITIES

The happy medium in weather is hard to find. We are not, however, quite so pessimistic as the Yankee who declared that New England has only two seasons, winter and the 4th of July. Every location has its weather handicaps. Even too much sunshine is a bad thing, as dwellers in tropics can testify. Cities in middle latitudes are more concerned over lack of sunlight at this time of year. Too much cloudiness, fog, or smoke, means a reduction in the health-promoting ultra-violet rays particularly; and the air is polluted. The darker it is, the more coal is burned and the more smoke is produced.

Cities with heavy rainfall do not need to feel concern about their water supply but the excess rain leads to other difficulties, notably muds, floods, and breeding pools for mosquitoes. Much money is spent not only for umbrellas but for sewer and gutter construction. But where the rainfall is light, dust and the inadequate water supply furnish the theme for complaint. In the same way, high humidity favors moulding and rusting, swelling of furniture and difficulty in drying cloths. But cities with low humidity are not wholly content, for the fire danger is ever at hand.

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