

A Science Service Feature

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! WHY THE WEATHER !

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THE LATE NORTHEAST

The Lake Region, the northeastern states and eastern Canada must suffer from a chronic lateness of spring. Vegetation generally awakens first when the mean daily temperature reaches 43 degrees Fahrenheit. On this basis of temperature, tomorrow is the average date for the beginning of spring in Richmond and day after tomorrow in Cairo, Ill. Yesterday was the average date for Seattle. Spring begins on the average at the end of March in the latitude of New York City. While Chicago, Grand Rapids, Cleveland, Albany and Boston warm up by April, Nantucket, Portland, Me., Oswega, Buffalo, Port Huron, Grand Haven and Milwaukee, with cold water near by, must wait another week. In fact, northern Montana, 300 miles farther north and 3000 feet higher, has spring temperatures no later. In the United States, Eastport, Me., April 29, northern Michigan, April 28-29, and Duluth, May 3, have the latest dates.

The retardation of spring in the Lake region and Northeast is due principally to the large cold bodies of water with their remnant ice floes and to the large winter accumulation of snow that usually does not disappear till late April or in May. In years when the Lakes and the Atlantic are not so cold as usual at the close of winter, and when the snow accumulation has been reduced early, there is an opportunity for the normal amount of sunshine for these latitudes to make a better job of warming the air and thus to offset some of the tendencies for lateness in spring. In other words, what we call an ordinarily early spring in these parts is simply what we should have at these latitudes if there weren't so much snow, ice and cold water.

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