

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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SPRING OPENINGS

The opening dates for women's spring and fall apparel have been made the subject of climatic study and published by the Boston Chamber of Commerce. The dates in various frost zones were compiled and compared. In general, the spring dates in the South are February or early March, while those in the North are commonly March and, in a few places, April. The conclusion drawn is that it would be better business to continue the sales of winter goods till spring weather; comes rather than to injure the winter goods market by offering spring goods during winter weather. The fall openings are generally August and September, and appear to have little relation in different sections to the advent of cool weather.

While the real beginning of spring in an agricultural sense dates from the last killing frost, the beginning of spring in the human sense is predicated on a few sunny and mild afternoons coming any time after the first of February. The first few bracing days after mid-August likewise herald the coming of autumn. Thus if spring and fall opening dates are to be set scientifically, one must decide for each region what is considered spring-like or fall-like and then delve into the weather records to find out when these conditions usually first occur and how wide a fluctuation in dates they may have from year to year. And he should foster important studies of the question of what makes the coming of spring vary and to what extent these variations may be forecast.

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