

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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GOVERNMENT FROST WARNINGS

An important activity of the United States Weather Bureau is the "fruit-frost service", which was organized in a small way in 1917 to investigate methods of frost protection and to improve the accuracy of frost forecasts. The service has been gradually enlarged until, at the present time, eight trained specialists are assigned by the Bureau to the more important fruit-growing districts in the Pacific coast states during the periods when frosts are likely to cause damage. About half the expense of their work is borne by local interests.

One of the tasks of these experts is to supply advice concerning frost problems to the fruit-growers. A large fund of practical knowledge has been acquired on this subject, especially during the past ten years.

"In addition to this advisory work," says the Weather Bureau in a recent statement, "specific frost forecasts are made throughout the frost season. Early in the evening an estimate is made of the probable lowest point which the temperature will reach during the night, so that the fruit-growers may know whether or not orchard heating will be necessary. The general character of the weather to be expected during the night is also described, so that all preparations for fighting the frost can be made in advance. These definite low temperature forecasts are often supplemented by forecasts made about noon, in which the conditions to be expected the following night are outlined in somewhat more general terms. The forecasts are given to the public by telephone and by radio."  
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