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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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UPS AND DOWNS OF RAINFALL

Rainfall is an element of climate that keeps the farmer guessing. How erratic may be its fluctuations during the season when crops are likely to suffer from either an excess or a deficiency of moisture is illustrated in a recent case reported by the United States Weather Bureau.

The village of Dresden, in northwestern Tennessee, lies in a region where the average rainfall in June is about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches and that of July about  $3\frac{3}{4}$  inches. Last summer the Weather Bureau station at this place registered 18.67 inches of rain in June. This is the largest amount ever recorded in a single month at any place in the state since the beginning of Weather Bureau observations. During the month of July the record at the same station shows only traces of rainfall. In other words, there were a few sprinkles of rain, but no amount large enough to be measured on any day of the month!

In a less marked degree other localities in the state experienced extreme drought in July following a very wet June, though the July drought did not extend over the whole state.

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