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? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed May 22, 1930.

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SPECIALIZED WEATHER FORECASTS

Specialized weather forecasts are probably issued in greater variety by the United States Weather Bureau than by any other official meteorological service in the world. These forecasts are designed to serve the needs of particular industries, rural or otherwise. One example is the shippers' forecast, which states the temperatures expected to prevail on the transportation routes leading in different directions out of the cities where the forecasts are issued during a specified period, so that perishable goods may be shipped and packed with due regard to extreme temperature conditions.

Fruit-spray forecasts give the orchardist three days' notice of the coming of rain, as a guide to the right time for spraying fruit trees. The Weather Bureau issues such forecasts in certain districts of New York, Michigan, Indiana and Wisconsin.

Fruit-frost forecasts are issued in connection with orchard-heating in certain districts, mainly in the West.

Special rain forecasts are issued for the benefit of raisin growers in the San Joaquin valley of California during the raisin-drying season, when an unforeseen shower would be ruinous to the fruit.

Alfalfa harvest forecasts issued in Utah warn of the first frosts that make it necessary to cut the crop. More or less similar services are rendered to tobacco-growers in New England, rice-growers in Arkansas and Louisiana, etc.

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