

Released upon receipt  
but intended for use  
July 9, 1930

A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Mailed July 2, 1930

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,  
Authority on Meteorology.

JULY HEAT

There are only minor exceptions to the rule that the weather of temperate North America averages warmer in July than in any other month, and that the crest of the annual temperature curve is passed before the month is over. The chief exceptions are found at points along the Pacific coast, where the general upward trend of temperature continues into August, while at San Francisco the peak is not reached until September.

July is likewise the month in which we most frequently experience those uncomfortable visitations to which the rather inappropriate name of "hot wave" is applied. The hot wave is one of the outstanding features of North American climate, and its economic effects are often extremely serious. One, for example, in the year 1894 was estimated to have caused damage to growing crops in the single state of Iowa amounting to over \$50,000,000, making it a weather disaster of the first rank. Much loss of life also results from these events, though no figures on this subject are available.

The most remarkable American hot wave of recent decades prevailed with special intensity over the lower Missouri and middle Mississippi valleys in 1901, beginning late in June and continuing with scarcely a break until toward the end of July. At many places in Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska the temperature rose to 100 almost every day throughout this period, and on occasions reached 110 or higher. A widespread drought prevailed at the same time, and crops suffered severely.

(All rights reserved by Science Service, Inc.)

---

SCIENCE SERVICE,  
21st and B Sts.,  
Washington, D.C.