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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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FRENCH WINDBREAKS

A hint that may be worth the attention of some gardeners on this side of the Atlantic is contained in David Fairchild's book "Exploring for Plants," which tells, among other things, about a fascinating market-gardening district that the author visited in southern France, south of Avignon. Here, cut up into tiny squares by means of rows of Italian cypresses and tight fences made of cane, were wonderfully tilled patches of winter vegetables, being raised for the Paris market.

"It was February," says Dr. Fairchild, "yet with this slight wind protection they were growing vegetables out of doors. Why so little is done in the use of windbreaks in the trucking regions of America I have been puzzled to find out. I have never seen anywhere else such windbreaks as are to be seen in this region and also on the north coast of Africa, where they run down to the very shores of the Mediterranean. There can hardly be any doubt that much finer plants could be grown if given protection from the winds that blow in winter across the market gardens of America."

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