

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed December 16, 1930

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LIGHTNING RODS ON TREES

According to the Copper and Brass Research Association, the practice of placing lightning rods on trees is spreading rapidly in the United States. Trees that furnish picturesque settings for homes, those that are of historic interest and those that are held in sentimental regard for one reason or another are now thus protected in large numbers.

In still other cases the motive for rodding trees has been to protect valuable horses that take shelter under them during thunderstorms. At Elmendorf, the Kentucky stock farm of Joseph E. Widener, hundreds of trees have been equipped with lightning rods.

It appears that thoroughbred race horses valued at hundreds of thousands of dollars have been destroyed within the last few years when lightning struck unprotected barns and trees in pastures. Lightning struck a barn on the Kentucky stock farm of Senator J. N. Camden and killed 27 two-year-olds that held high promise of becoming winners of American turf events. Fire started by lightning destroyed 25 trotters and pacers - many of them in foal - on another Kentucky stock farm. A barn at the Lexington, Kentucky, race track was struck and 14 horses were killed.

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