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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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SUMMER FROSTS

Back in 1927, when there was much popular speculation as to whether we were to have another "year without a summer," rivaling 1816, J.B. Kincer, of the U.S. Weather Bureau, published an interesting note to show that if occasional frosts should occur in the United States during the summer months of that year there would be nothing unusual or abnormal in the event.

The summer of 1926 was not popularly regarded as exceptional, and the records show that the temperatures of the summer averaged about normal over the eastern half of the country, and somewhat above normal in the western half. Yet during July, 1926, temperatures of freezing or lower were reported in 17 of the 42 climatic "sections" (states or groups of states) into which the country is divided, and parts of New England had freezing temperatures on July 4. There were 13 sections, including Michigan, New York and New England, that reported temperatures of freezing or lower in every month of the year. Virginia recorded a minimum temperature below freezing during the summer, though it also recorded a maximum of 107. In 23 of the 30 years ending 1926, some parts of Michigan reported temperatures of freezing or lower in every month of the year.

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