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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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CROP REDUCTIONS DUE TO WEATHER

A few years ago the U.S. Department of Agriculture published estimates of the extent to which the more important crops of the country were reduced from "full yield" by various natural influences, including different kinds of adverse weather, during the years 1909 to 1925, inclusive. The estimated average reduction of the corn crop by weather for this period was more than 900,000,000 bushels a year, and in more than half the years the loss from drought alone exceeded 500,000,000 bushels. In six of the 17 years reduction by flood and excessive moisture exceeded 200,000,000 bushels, and in 1915 it was nearly 600,000,000 bushels. In 1917 frost and freezing caused a reduction of more than 600,000,000 bushels. In 1918 the corn crop was reduced 250,000,000 bushels by hot winds.

In 1911 the wheat crop was reduced over 250,000,000 bushels by drought; in 1915, more than 100,000,000 bushels by excessive moisture and floods; in 1917, more than 100,000,000 bushels by frost and freezing; and in 1922, nearly 25,000,000 by hail.

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