

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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ONE OF THE WEATHERMAN'S JOBS

One of the United States Weather Bureau's odd jobs is looking after bananas in transit on the railroads. Bananas are received at New Orleans, Mobile and other southern ports and shipped all over the country in ventilator cars. They are very subject to injury from cold, and are sometimes chaperoned en route by attendants whose duty it is to adjust the ventilators and keep the bananas generally comfortable. In many cases, however, care of the ventilators must be left to the fruit company's agents at specified stations on shipping routes. The errors of these agents, who are not forecasters, have proved costly. In recent years, therefore, shipping routes have been divided into zones under the supervision of local Weather Bureau offices. Whenever a drop to temperatures injurious to bananas is expected within 24 or 36 hours, a telegram is sent, at the fruit company's expense, to the agents in the area involved, and the bananas are protected.

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