

A Science Service Feature

Released upon receipt
but intended for use
November 23, 1932

? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed November 16, 1932

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Authority on Meteorology.

FOREST ICE STORMS

The ice storm is a perennial scourge of our North American forests. "Over some regions," writes W.W. Ashe, of the United States Forest Service, "as on the Massanutten and Shenandoah Mountains of Virginia, the general appearance of the forest seems to indicate that practically all of it has been injured by ice during some period of its existence. It is frequently the case that ice damage occurred so many years ago that the trees have replaced their stripped crowns. There are several signs, however, which indicate that a forest has passed through such a crisis, even though it may have been remote. In the case of poplar, cucumber, chestnut and some other species having comparatively brittle wood, the stubs of the larger branches which were broken are tipped or feathered with numerous small, mostly adventitious branches. Oaks and hickories, having tougher wood, frequently have the entire upper portion of their crowns destroyed by the breaking of their central stems. The ultimate result of this is the development of very broad and flat mushroom-like crowns on trees that have been so mutilated."

The effects of ice storms that occurred more than a century ago are apparent to the practiced eye of the forester.

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