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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed June 14, 1933

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JUNE WEATHER

In England many people will tell you that summer begins the middle of May. In America the first of June is generally regarded as its starting point, though astronomers, on both sides of the Atlantic, have a notion of their own on this subject. They insist upon the paradox that summer begins when it is half over. In other words, they reckon as its first day the summer solstice, generally June 21, when the sun begins to travel southward in the sky, the daytime period to shorten, and the amount of solar heat received in the north temperate zone to diminish.

The average trend of temperature in June is upward through the month, and as a rule there is plenty of warmth and vivifying sunshine for the crops of field and garden. The farmer has more to fear from drought than from cold weather. Generally speaking, in the eastern United States and Canada there is about one year in ten when the rainfall in June is less than half the normal amount. The dry weather west of the Rockies during this month is not classed as drought because it is the normal state of affairs. The dry -- almost rainless -- season has now definitely begun in California, and the interior valleys of that state are basking in sunshine that frequently sends the mercury up to 100 -- and then some. Meanwhile the California coast remains about as cool as the coast of Maine.

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