

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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PLANT WEATHER

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The responses of plants to weather cannot be determined accurately unless we have measurements of weather conditions in their immediate vicinity, where these conditions may differ greatly from those observed at some meteorological station a few miles away amid quite different surroundings. Such measurements have generally been lacking in the past, but in the early years of the present century a Russian meteorologist, the late Prof. P.I. Brounov, established a large number of special stations for obtaining them in the different agricultural regions of Russia. At these stations the weather instruments were installed within a few feet of the plants under observation, and their work led to a number of interesting discoveries.

At present the same idea of studying the distribution of weather in minute detail -- as distinguished from the conventional plan of assuming the observations at a single station to apply to an extensive surrounding region -- is embodied in a new development of meteorology known as "micrometeorology"; or, in reference to its climatic bearings, as "microclimatology." This subject is now attracting much attention throughout the world and its most important applications are in the field of agricultural meteorology, though it has others, such as to the investigation of climatic diversities occurring within the limits of a large town.

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