

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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AUTUMN'S PROGRESS

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Autumnal cooling, like spring warming, spreads fitfully over the land, with many halts and temporary retreats. The irregularity of its movement becomes more pronounced as the season advances and the weather comes more and more under the control of barometric depressions -- the "lows" of the weather map -- whose paths are now swinging southward. The passage of these disturbances causes abrupt changes of temperature, such as are rare in summer and early fall.

The average date on which, in any locality, cool weather may be expected to set in is partly, of course, a question of latitude, but it also depends in a marked degree upon other factors, including topography, altitude and distance from large bodies of water. Striking evidence on this subject may be found in a large chart published by the United States Weather Bureau showing the average dates of the first killing frost in autumn in all parts of the United States. There is, I believe, no corresponding chart for Canada.

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