

For Release
April 17, 1939

By Maj. A. H. Thiessen
Science Service Meteorologist

The growing season! The length of the growing season, while not the only factor in the selection of crops, is a very important one, since the very character of farming is dependent upon it. Its length is estimated as beginning with the average date of last killing frost in spring and ending with the first killing frost in the fall. It varies from over 240 days in the South to 90 days in the extreme northern part of the country and southeastern Canada. Not only latitude but also topography is important in limiting the season. The effect of topography is twofold: first, the higher the land the shorter the season; second, the character of the slope, as it affects air drainage causing a certain "spottiness" of frost occurrence.
