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Cooling thunderstorms! There seem to be only two causes for the cooling associated with thunderstorms: the cold rain chilling the air, and evaporation -- for evaporation is a cooling process. Cold rain chilling the air can have only a slight effect, so it is believed that evaporation is the principal cause. There is usually plenty of evaporation: heavy showers have been known to leave the clouds and never reach the ground. At such times the air is warmer and drier than during ordinary showers. So the cold rain and the evaporation cool the air, make it heavier, and thus cause a downrush which underruns the warmer surface air.
