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A Science Service Feature

May 7

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Dr. Charles F. Brooks,
of Clark University,
tells of

AVERAGE MAY WEATHER

May is, in general, about 10 degrees Fahrenheit warmer than April and 10 degrees cooler than June throughout a larger part of the United States and southern Canada. In the South, and on the Pacific coast, however, the difference between the average monthly temperatures of May and April, or May and June, is only about 5 degrees Fahrenheit. The contrast between the temperatures of the northern and southern parts of the country is consequently slightly less than in April. This contrast is always greatest in winter and least in summer.

• Frost usually occurs in May throughout most of New England, New York, part of New Jersey and Pennsylvania, running south into the highlands of West Virginia. So, too, frost is expected in May in the interior plains regions as far south as northern Ohio, Indiana and Illinois, central Iowa, and southern Nebraska, and quite generally in the Rockies. On the Pacific coast, May frosts are usual only in the mountain regions and far to the north.

The rainfall of May in the northeast is similar to that of April. In the southern states and over the northern and western Great Plains, rainfall is heavier in May. The Pacific coast, however, is somewhat drier than in April. May generally has a greater number of hours of sunshine daily than April on account of the lengthening day. In the northern plains regions, however, this difference is somewhat offset by the increased daytime cloudiness attending the greater raininess of May.

(Tomorrow: Rainmaking)
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Science Service,
Rooms 327-330 - Northwest Corner,
B and Twenty-first Sts.,
Washington, D.C.