

From the Southern Agriculturalist.

PROGNOSTICS OF THE WEATHER.

The subjoined prognostics of the weather have been taken from authors of approved experience, and in some instances of much learning. Many, indeed none of their works have as I believe, been republished in this country, for the editions from which I have drawn my information, are English.* This last conviction induces me to send you this article, which I had compiled for my own use. The space allotted prohibits me from giving the causes of the respective prognostics—in each instance, however, the prognostic can be explained by the laws of nature.

I.—SIGNS FROM VAPORS OR MISTS.

1. If a white mist in an evening or night spread over a meadow, wherein there is a river, it promises the next day to be bright.
2. When the mist hanging over the lower lands draws towards the hills of a morning, and rolls up their sides until the tops be covered, there will be no rain.
3. In some places, if the mist hangs upon the hills, and drags along the woods, instead of over-spreading the lower grounds, in a morning, it will turn to rain.
4. If mists rise in low grounds, and soon vanish, fair weather.
5. If they rise to the hill tops, rain in a day or two. (One of Mr. Worlidge's rules.)
6. A general mist before the sun rises near the full moon; fine weather.

II.—FROM CLOUDS.

1. It is a symptom of fair weather when clouds dissolve into air: otherwise when they are collected out of the air.
2. When heavy rains are about to fall every cloud rises bigger than the former, and all the clouds are in a growing state.
3. When clouds are fleecy, deep, and dense towards the middle, and very white at the edges, with the sky very bright and blue about them, they are of a frosty coldness, and will soon fall either in hail, snow or hasty showers or rain.
4. When clouds breed high in the air in thin white trains, like locks of wool or the tails of horses, there will soon be wind below, and probably a rain with it.
5. When clouds as they come forward seem to diverge from a point in the horizon, a wind may be expected from that quarter, or the opposite.
6. When a general cloudiness covers the sky above, and small black fragments of clouds, like smoke, fly underneath, rain is not far off, and it will probably be lasting.
7. No surer sign of rain than two different currents of clouds, especially if the undermost flies fast before the wind: and if two such appear in hot summer, a thunder storm is gathering.
8. Clouds like large rocks; great showers.
9. If small clouds increase; much rain.
10. If large clouds decrease; fair weather.
11. In summer, when the wind has been South two or three days, and it grows very hot, and clouds rise with white tops, like towers, as if one were on the top of another, joined together with black on the nether side, there will be thunder and rain suddenly.
12. If two such clouds rise one on either hand; rain.
13. Dappled white clouds, (called a mackerel sky) generally predict rain.
14. Small black clouds of a clear evening; undoubted signs of rain.
15. Blue or black clouds near the sun any time of the day, or near the moon by night; signs of rain.
16. Small waterish clouds on the tops of hills; rain.
17. If clouds grow or appear suddenly, the air otherwise free from clouds; tempests at hand, especially if they appear to the South or West.
18. Clouds setting on the tops of mountains; hard weather.

III.—DEWS.

Dew plentifully on the grass after a fair day, foretells the next day fair; but if after such a day no dew is on the ground, and no wind stirring, rain may be expected.

IV.—FROM SKIES.

1. Between a red evening and grey morning, is commonly a heavy dew or a mist over the ground, but if a red morning succeeds, there is no dew.
2. When a lowering redness spreads too far upwards from the horizon in the morning or evening, rains or winds follow, and often both.
3. When such a redness, together with a raggedness of the clouds, extends towards the zenith in the evening, the wind will be high from the West or Southwest, with rain.
4. When the sky in a rainy season is tinged with sea-green color, when it ought to be blue, the rain will continue and increase.
5. If it is a deep dead blue, the weather will be showery.
6. A dark thick sky, lasting for sometime, either without sun or rain, always becomes fair, then foul—that is, a clear sky before rain.

* Lord Bacon, Best, the shepherd of Banbury, Worlidge and Claridge.

V.—FROM SUN.

1. When the air is hazy, and sun's light fades by degrees, and his orb looks whitish and ill defined; one of the most certain signs of rain.
2. If the rays of the sun breaking through the clouds, irradiate and are visible in the air, rain soon.
3. White at his setting; bad weather.
4. Shorn of his rays; bad weather.
5. Going down into a bank of clouds which lie in the horizon; bad weather.
6. If he rise red and fiery; wind and rain.
7. If he rise cloudy, and clouds decrease; certain fair weather.

VI.—FROM MOON.

1. When moon and stars grow dim, with a hazy air and ring or halo around it; rain follows.
2. If moon appear pale and dim, expect rain.
3. If red, a sign of wind.
4. If of its natural color, and the sky clear, fair weather.
5. If the moon is rainy throughout her course, it will clear up at the ensuing change, and the rain will probably commence in a few days after, and continue; if, on the contrary, the moon has been fair throughout, and it rains at the change, the fair weather will probably be restored about the fourth or fifth day of the moon, and continue as before.
6. If new moon does not appear till the fourth day, a troubled air for the whole month.
7. If the moon, either at her first appearance, or within a few days after, has her lower horn obscure, or dusky, or any wise sullied, it denotes foul weather before the full.
8. If discolored in the middle, storms are to be expected about the full, or about the wane, if her upper horn is affected in like manner.
9. When on her fourth day she appears spotless, her horn unblunted, and neither flat nor quite erect, but betwixt both, it promises fair weather for the greatest part of the month.
10. An erect moon is generally threatening and unfavorable, but particularly denotes wind; though if she appear with short and blunted horns, rain may rather be expected.

VII.—FROM WINDS.

1. When the wind veers about uncertainly to several points of the compass, rain is pretty sure to follow.
2. Some have remarked, that if the wind, as it veers about, follows the course of the sun, from the East towards the West, it brings fair weather; if the contrary foul; but there is no sign of rain more infallible, than a whistling or howling noise of the wind.
3. Wind turning to North-East, continuing there two days, without rain, and not turning South the third day, or not raining the third day, will likely continue North-East for 8 or 9 days fair, and then come South again.
4. If it turn again out of the South to the North-East, with rain, and continue in the North-East two days, without rain, and neither turns South or rains the third day, it is likely to continue North-East two or three months.
5. After a Northerly wind, for the most of two months or more, and then coming South, there are usually three or four fair days at first, and then on the fourth or fifth day comes rain, or else the wind turns North again, and continues dry.
6. If it returns to the South within a day or two, without rain and turns Northward with rain, and returns to the South in one or two days, as before, two or three times together after this sort, then it is likely to be in the South or South-West two or three months together, as it was in the month before.
7. Fair weather for a week with a Southerly wind, is likely to produce a great drought, if there has been much rain out of the South before. The wind usually turns from the North to South with a quiet wind without rain; but returns to the North, with a strong wind and rain. The strongest wind is, when it turns from South to North by West.
8. If you see a cloud rise against the wind or with wind, when that cloud comes up to you, the wind will blow the same way the cloud came.
9. When the wind varies for a few hours, and afterwards begins to blow constant, it will continue for many days.
10. What ever wind begins to blow in the morning, usually continues longer than that, which rises in the evening.
11. If the wind be East or North-East in the fore part of the summer, the weather is likely to continue dry; and if Westward towards the end of the summer, then it will also continue dry.
12. If in great rains the winds rise and fall, it signifies the rain will forthwith cease.
13. If the South wind begins for two or three days, the North will suddenly blow after it; but if the North blows for the same number of days, the South will not rise till after the East has blown for some time.
14. A change in the warmth of weather is generally followed by a change of wind.

VIII.—METEORS.

When meteors, or the aurora borealis, appear after some warm day, it is generally succeeded by a coldness of the air.

IX.—FROM ANIMAL CREATION.

Swallows, when they fly aloft after their prey, a serene sky—when they skim the ground or the water, rain not far off—their appearance a sign of spring set in. When the notes of the whip-poor-will are heard, spring has set in—when sheep wind up the hills in the morning to their pastures, and feed near the top, an indication of the clearing of clouds, or drizzly weather,—dogs grow sleepy and stupid before rain, and by refusing their food and eating grass, show their stomachs out of order—water owl dive and wash themselves more than ordinarily before rain—flies are particularly troublesome, and seem more hungry than usual—toads are seen crawling across the road or beaten path in the evening—moles work harder than usual, and sometimes come forth; so do worms—ants are observed to stir and bustle about, and then return to their burrows—bees stir not far, and betake themselves to their hives—swine discover uneasiness, as do likewise sheep, cows, etc. all appearing more eager in pasture than usual—birds of all sorts are in action, and more earnest after prey—fleas bite harder than common—spiders crawl abroad. On the contrary,—spiders webs on the trees, or in the air, indicate fair and hot weather—so do bees, when they fly far and come home late—likewise, a more than usual appearance of glow worms, by night. If gnats play up and down in the open air, near sunset, they presage heat; if in the shade, warm and mild showers; but if they join in stinging those that pass by them, cold weather and much rain may be expected. In men, frequently, aches, corns and wounds, are more troublesome, either towards rain or frost. The crow cawing and walking alone on the seashore, or on the banks of rivers or pools, presages rain. Birds that change countries at certain seasons, if they come early, show the temper of the weather, according to the country whence they came; *as in winter, woodcocks, pigeons, etc. if they come early, show a cold winter.

X.—FROM VEGETABLE CREATION.

1. Most vegetables expand their flowers and down in sun-shiny weather, towards the evening; and against rain close them again—as in the down of Dandelion. The rule is, if the flowers are close shut up, it betokens rain; if they are spread abroad, fair weather.
2. All wood, even the hardest and most solid, swells in moist weather.
3. The speedy drying of the earth's surface, is a sign of a Northerly wind and fair weather; and its becoming moist, of a Southerly wind; and rain.
4. When sounds are more plainly heard than usual—rain.
5. If wainscots or walls that used to sweat be drier than usual in the beginning of winter, or the eaves of houses drop more slowly than ordinary, it portends a hard and frosty winter.
6. When there are but few nuts, cold and wet harvests generally follow; when a great show of them, hot, heavy and dry harvests succeed.
7. If the oak bears much mast, it presages a long and hard winter. The same of hops and haws.

XI.—FROM RAIN.

1. Sudden rains never last long; but when the air grows thick by degrees, and the sun, moon and stars shine dimmer and dimmer, it usually rains six hours.
2. If it begins to rain from the South with a high wind, for two or three hours, and the wind falls, but the rain continues, it is likely to rain twelve hours, or more; and does usually rain until a strong North wind clears the air; these long rains seldom hold above twelve hours.
3. If it begins to rain an hour or two before sun rising, it is likely to be fair before noon, and continue so that day; but if the rain begins an hour or two after sun rising, it is likely to rain all that day, except the rainbow be seen before it rains.

XII.—FROM SEASONS.

1. Generally a moist and cold summer portends a hard winter.
2. A hot and dry summer and autumn, especially if the heat and drought extend far into September, portend an open beginning of winter, and cold to succeed towards the latter part and beginning of spring.
3. A warm and open winter portends a hot and dry summer, for the vapors disperse into the winter showers; whereas cold and frost keep them in, and convey them to the late spring. So saith my Lord Bacon.
4. A severe autumn denotes a windy winter; a windy winter a rainy spring; a rainy spring a serene summer; a serene summer, a windy autumn; so that the air, in a balance is seldom debtor to itself; nor do the seasons succeed each other in the same tenor for two years, together. So also saith my Lord Bacon.
5. At the beginning of winter, if the South wind blow, and then the North, it is likely to be a cold winter; but if the North wind blow first and then the South, it will be a warm and mild winter.

BARNWELL.

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