

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE WEATHER AND
PLANT GROWTH.

A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THE LAST TWO SPRINGS.

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During the spring of 1902 and that of 1903—that is to say from the latter part of March to the latter part of June—I have observed about 360 wild plants in bloom in and around Ottawa, 300 of which are natives. I have selected about half, or 170 (all but 27 being natives), as being the most accurately observed during both years as regards their first coming into bloom. For purposes of accurate comparison I have divided each month into periods of ten days, and shall call these periods the first, middle and last periods of the month. When the month has thirty-one days the last part contains eleven.

Of the 170 plants, I find I observed 33 to come into bloom on the same date each year, namely 9 in the middle and 8 in the last part of April; 5 in the first, 5 in the middle and one in the last part of May; and 4 in the first and one in the middle part of June. It will be observed that the synchronous observations are especially numerous in April, half occurring then, and become less numerous as the season advances, there being only six during the last part of May and the month of June. If this were all the evidence we had, we might surmise that the two seasons ran more nearly parallel during the first half than during the last, which is unusual.

But the other observations establish this in a more exact and satisfactory manner. Of the remaining 137 plants under discussion only 39 bloomed earlier in 1902, while 98 bloomed earlier in 1903. And of the 39 which bloomed earlier in 1902, 31, or about 80 per cent of them, bloomed in March, April and the first part of May, while of the 98 which bloomed earlier in 1903, only 11 bloomed in the corresponding period. The table given herewith will make this plainer. It shows in a striking way that the season of 1903 overtook and passed that of 1902 before the middle of May.