



Wet Weather Ahead? Consult Your Local Onion.

Since people are affected by changes in the weather they have sought ways to predict its very unpredictable nature. Almanacs, issued annually, reported the coming year's weather day by day. But these publications were by no means the only source people used to plan their year "weatherwise." They took clues from animals, birds, and bugs. They were aware of what was around them and developed ways to judge the weather from what they saw, heard, and smelled.

Mark Breen, meteorologist at the Fairbanks Museum in St. Johnsbury, tells us that the onion, although not a very reliable predictor of weather to come, was once used to foretell certain weather patterns. On New Year's day, cut six onions in half. Then scoop out the centers of the twelve halves and line them up in a row. Each half represents one of the twelve months. The one on the far left is January and the one on the far right is December. Next dump a spoonful of salt into each of the onion cups and wait to see what happens. The months represented by the onions in which the salt dissolves will be wet ones. The other months will tend to be dry.



Do you believe this method is an accurate way of telling what kind of weather we have in store for us? Try it for fun and compare your results with what really happens. Don't forget to do it on January 1 because we're told it only works if you do it on the first day of the new year. What do you think about that?