

## Reading on Your Own

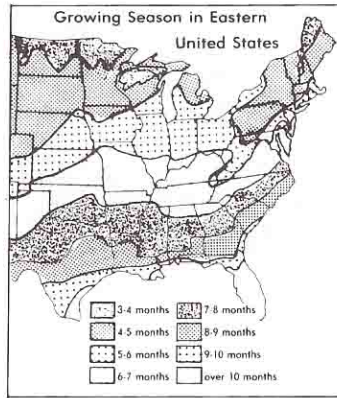
God has done still more to give us a harvest. He has provided a *growing season* for plants. The growing season is the time when the ground stays warm enough for seeds to germinate and plants to grow. The growing season begins after the last heavy frosts in the spring. It ends with the first heavy frosts in the fall.

Some parts of the world have a short growing season. In these areas, it is warm for only a short part of the year. It is cold for many months of the year.

The people there live in a cold *climate*. They must grow crops that will grow in a cold climate. They may raise wheat, oats, potatoes, and carrots. These crops ripen quickly enough to be harvested at the end of a short growing season.

Other parts of the world have a long growing season. In these areas, it is warm and rainy most of the year. Because of this mild, wet climate, the people who live there can raise many kinds of fruits and vegetables. They can raise oranges, bananas, pineapples, rice, and sugar cane.

The growing season where you live may not be very long or very short. Your climate may be warm part of the year and cold part of the year. But whatever the climate, we raise only crops that are suitable for it. We grow plants that will become ripe before the growing season is over.



The length of the growing season is from the last killing frost in the spring to the first killing frost in the fall.

We can be very glad that God gave us a growing season. He did not make the earth like the moon. On the moon, every day is broiling hot. Every night is bitter cold. If the earth were like the moon, all the plants would either burn or freeze. We could not have a harvest.

Why do we need a harvest? We need a harvest because it gives us food. If we had no food, we would starve.

How thankful we should be for each harvest! How glad we should be for such a faithful God! Today He is still keeping the promise He made long ago to Noah: "While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest . . . shall not cease."