

Weekly Weather & Crop Bulletin

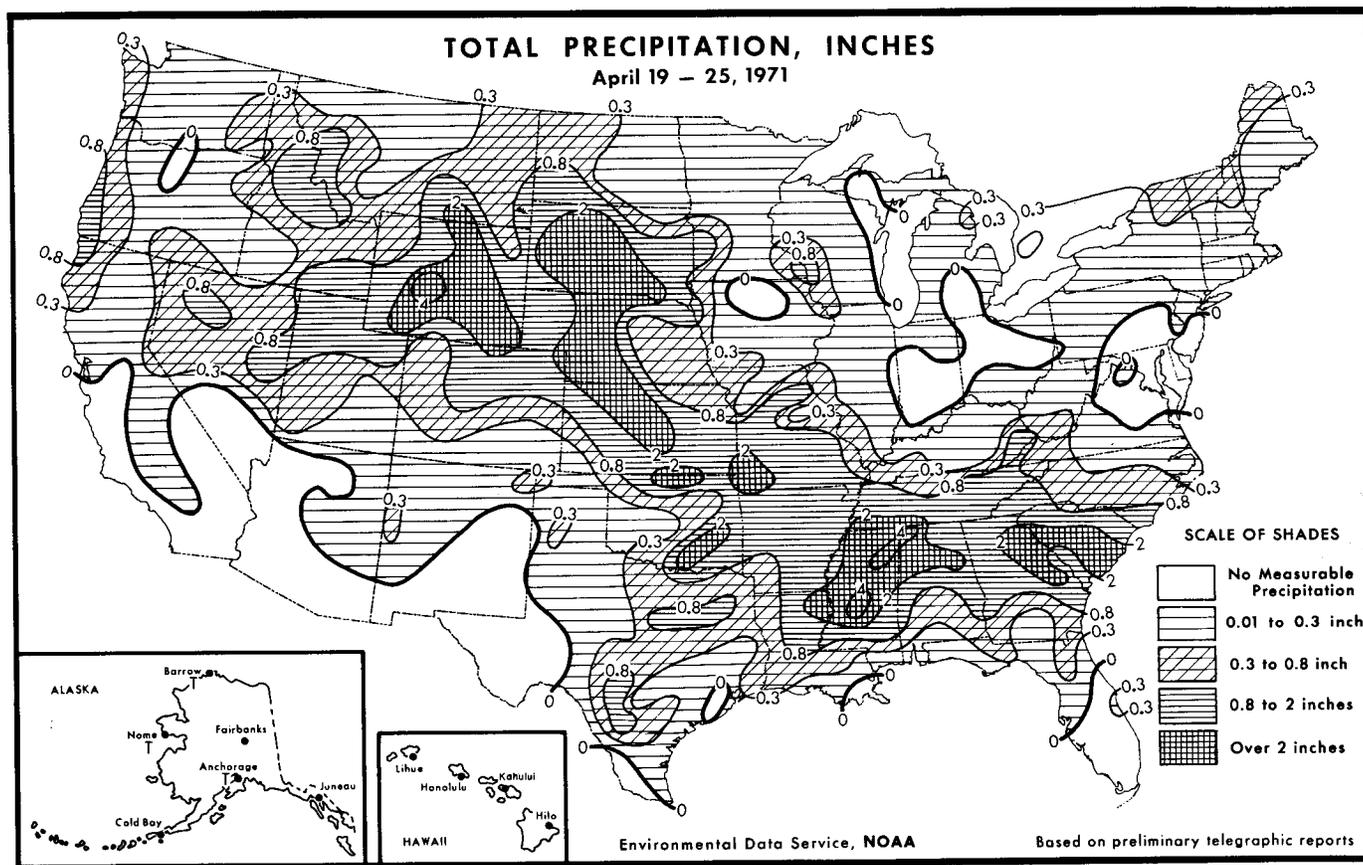
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Edited by Lucius W. Dye

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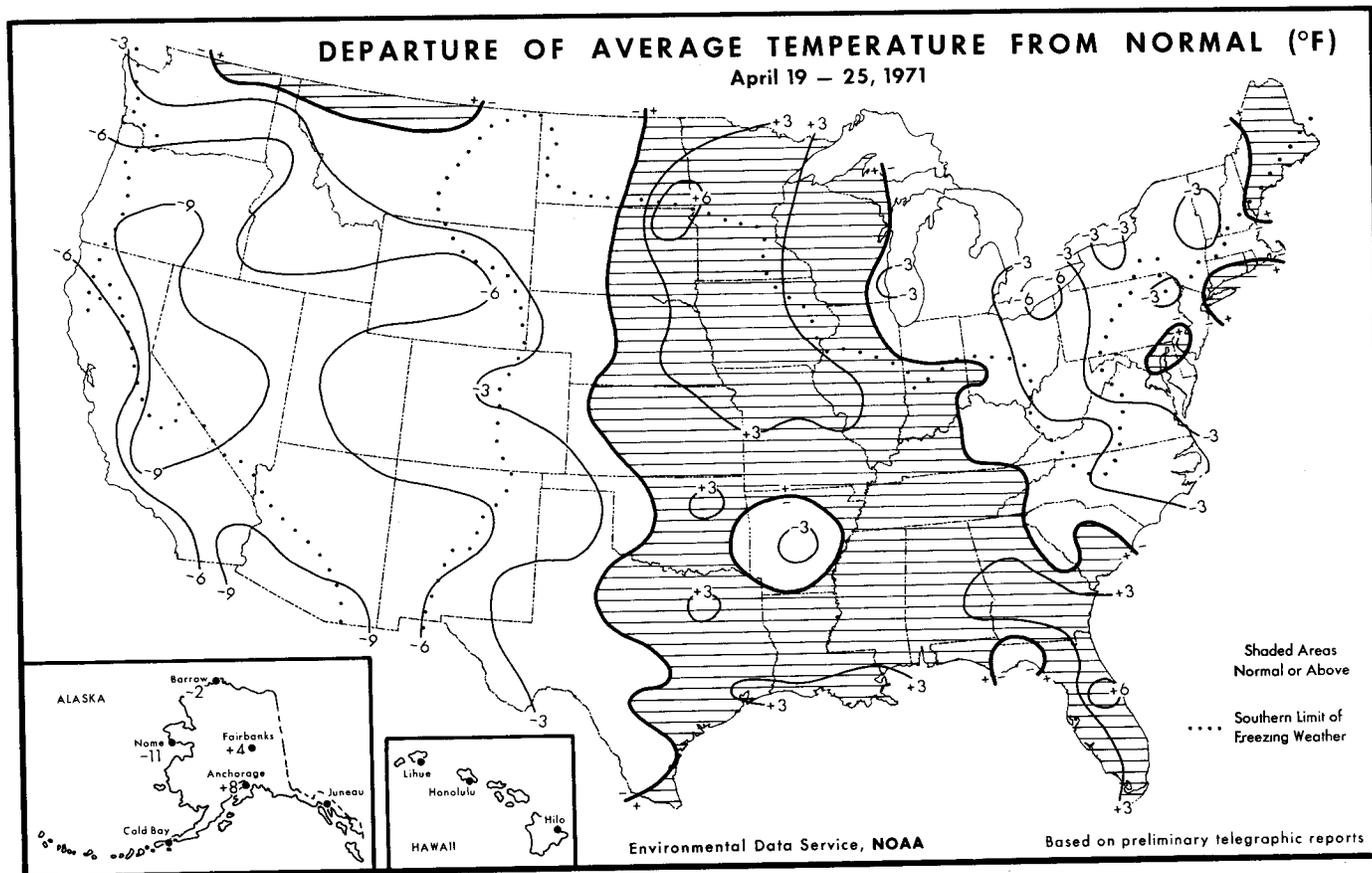
NATIONAL WEATHER SUMMARY

HIGHLIGHTS: Generous rains fell in parts of the central Great Plains and much of the Southeast. A weekend storm dumped heavy snow in Wyoming with lighter amounts in nearby States. Southern Florida continues dry. The West was unusually cool.

PRECIPITATION: A storm centered over the central Rocky Mountains early in the week spread a variety of stormy weather from the intermountain region to the Mississippi River Valley. Several inches of snow fell in the mountains in Wyoming and Colorado with lighter amounts in Utah, Nevada, Arizona, and New Mexico. Snow flurries occurred at El Paso, Tex., early Monday morning. Snow is unusual in April in El Paso. The storm brought heavy rain to La Junta, Colo., 3.12 inches in the 24 hours ending at noon Monday. Heavy thunderstorms occurred in portions of the central and

southern Great Plains and a few tornadoes struck western Texas. Hail as large as tennis balls fell at La Pryor, Tex., and 1-inch hail fell at Cotulla, Tex. The heavy rains spread northward to the northern Great Plains and continued in the central and southern Great Plains Monday night and Tuesday. Numerous localities received from 1.00 to over 2.00 inches. Local flooding occurred in south-eastern Oklahoma and 3-inch rains pushed some streams in south-central Nebraska out of their banks. Gusty winds in portions of California and the intermountain region raised clouds of sand and dust. At Daggett, Calif., the winds gusted to 61 m.p.h. and the visibility dropped to 1/2 mile.

The generous rains eased the serious drought that has prevailed in many areas but other localities continued dry. Chicago, Ill., has received only 0.29 inch of rain since April 1. This is extremely unusual for Chicago. The stormy



weather over mid-America was interrupted briefly at midweek when a high pressure area extended from Hudson Bay to the middle Mississippi River Valley. Showers continued across the South. Rain also fell in the Great Lakes region and in the northern and central Rocky Mountains with snow at the higher elevations. As the weekend approached, a low pressure system brought numerous thundershowers to the Deep South. Strong winds or tornadoes caused property damage in northern Alabama early Friday morning. Hail up to about 3 inches in diameter fell in the Montgomery, Ala., vicinity. A tornado at Ideal, Ga., killed 1 person, injured 15, and caused some damage.

The storm in the West intensified over the weekend. It dumped heavy rain at the lower elevations and heavy snow in parts of the intermountain region and in the Rocky Mountains in Wyoming. More than a foot of snow fell at Lander, Wyo., and several inches at other locations in Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Utah, Wyoming, and Colorado. Snow mixed with rain fell along the western edge of the Great Plains. The heaviest precipitation totals fell in Wyoming and the northern portions of Mississippi and Alabama. No rain or only light scattered showers fell from the southwestern deserts to western Texas.

TEMPERATURE: Subfreezing weather occurred Monday morning, April 21, over a large area including most of the Great Basin and the Rocky Mountains. Among the coldest temperatures were 18° at Ely, Nev., and 15° at Bryce Canyon, Utah. Mild temperatures prevailed over the Great Plains ranging generally from the 40's and 50's in North Dakota to the 80's in southern Texas. Warming continued over the Great Plains with maximums in the 60's in North Dakota to the 90's along the Rio Grande Thursday afternoon. Laredo, Texas registered 96° Thursday afternoon. The mercury at Truckee, Calif., dropped to 13° Wednesday morning this being one of the coldest temperatures recorded during the week. Winter temperatures came during the weekend over the Far West. In contrast summer heat prevailed over southern Texas and along the Gulf coast to Florida. Galveston, Texas, recorded 86° Friday afternoon. There is no record of any higher temperature at Galveston. South Miami, Fla., registered 96° Friday setting a new record for the month of April. Cool weather prevailed over the Northeast.

In general, temperatures averaged cooler than normal over the West and Northeast and warmer than normal from Minnesota and Wisconsin to the Gulf of Mexico and across the Deep South.

L. W. Dye

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY

AGRICULTURAL HIGHLIGHTS: Widespread rains aided fall-seeded grains on the Great Plains. * Corn planting at near record pace. * Excellent week for fieldwork in the East. * Cold temperatures slowing pasture growth. * Florida pastures becoming over grazed.

SMALL GRAINS: The condition of winter wheat improved on the Great Plains. Widespread rainfall and normal temperatures gave crop prospects a big boost during the week. Much of the central and northern Plains received 1 inch of rainfall, with many areas getting over 2 inches. However, the drought areas of western Oklahoma and Texas received little moisture. Many wheat growers in southwestern Oklahoma are being forced to graze out or abandon wheat fields.

The grain crop is heading out in the southern Plains, this is considerably ahead of the last 2 years. Moving into the central Plains wheat is growing vigorously and starting to joint. Some wheat acreage was lost in South Dakota due to wind erosion. But rain showers helped control severe blowing in North Dakota. The Colorado acreage is in excellent shape.

Grain crops in the Pacific Northwest are doing well, but warmer weather would be a blessing. California grains look good. The 1971 grain harvest started with barley combining underway in the Imperial Valley. In the southeast part of the Nation grains are heading out. Some Alabama fields are starting to ripen. Growth is slow in the north central States as moisture is becoming scarce.

Planting of spring grains was slowed by wet weather in the northern Plains and northern Rockies, however acreage seeded is well ahead of last year. Oats are nearly all seeded from Iowa to Ohio, with planting rapid in the Lake States.

OTHER CROPS: It was an excellent week for fieldwork in the eastern half of the Nation. Field preparations and planting were extremely heavy. Planting progress is well ahead of normal. Rain (and snow) combined with cold temperatures stopped seeding in the northwestern part of the Country.

Corn: Corn Belt farmers are off to a fast start in planting this year's corn crop. Progress is 1 to 2 weeks ahead of average in Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Missouri. Kentucky growers are setting a record and have 35% of their acreage in. Planting also made good headway in the Southeastern States. Cultivating early acreage began in South Carolina. Moving West, seedbed preparation and planting made little progress in Oklahoma. While in California some early acreage was nipped by frost.

Cotton: Cotton planting remains behind schedule in Texas. Only 16% of the acreage is in. California and Arizona growers continue to plant, however some poor fields were replanted. Rains slowed planting in Mississippi and Louisiana, but the improved moisture conditions spurred activity in Arkansas. Planting lags behind last year in Georgia and the Carolinas.

Tobacco: Transplanting was active in the Carolinas and Georgia. Cool nights have slowed plant growth. Cold dry weather delayed plant bed growth in Kentucky and Virginia. However, good rains aided seedbeds in Tennessee. Dry weather continued to plague sorghum farmers in Texas as only 34% of the crop is seeded, compared with 41% last year. Long Island, New York potato growers have 80% of their acreage planted, with Upstate growers getting started. Planting also made good headway in Pennsylvania, Ohio and Wisconsin. Digging new crop potatoes started in the Kern District of California. Potato shipments are also heavy from Florida.

Fruits and Nuts: Freezing temperatures in California damaged grapes and walnuts along the North Coast. Some damage also occurred in San Joaquin Valley vineyards. Florida citrus trees are in generally good condition, despite the widespread drought.

Fruit trees are in good condition in New York, with bud development in the green tip stage in western areas. Sweet cherry trees are blooming in Pennsylvania. Near freezing temperatures are a threat to blossoming fruit trees in southern Ohio. No major freeze damage has occurred to Oregon fruit trees. Washington State apples are starting to bloom in the lower Yakima Valley.

Vegetables: Vegetable shipments from Florida continue to show their seasonal increase. Cabbage, tomatoes, and celery are the most plentiful. Lettuce supplies are increasing from Salinas Valley, California with onion digging to increase in the Imperial Valley. Onion harvest is past peak in the Lower Valley of Texas. Onion growers in Orange County, N. Y., have nearly finished seeding their 1971 acreage. Onion planting is getting underway in western and central muck areas. In New Jersey asparagus and spinach are moving to market. Seeding of sweet corn, cucumbers and tomatoes is active on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Strawberry picking is active in the South with blossoming started in southern New Jersey.

Pastures and Livestock: Cold wet weather was hard on calving and lambing in the West. Most western States are forced to continue supplemental feeding as growth of pastures was slow due to cold temperatures or drought. Pasture growth was also slow in the North Central States where moisture is becoming short.

Pastures improved in Texas after last week's rain, thus livestock shipments declined. Some ranchers were forced to sell animals in southwestern Oklahoma. Florida pastures are becoming overgrazed as the drought continues. Supplemental feeding is widespread.

Steve Pscodna
Agricultural Statistician

Temperature and Precipitation Data for the Week Ending Midnight, l.s.t., April 25, 1971

States and Stations	Temperature °F		Precipitation Inches		States and Stations	Temperature °F		Precipitation Inches		States and Stations	Temperature °F		Precipitation Inches	
	Average	Departure*	Total	Departure*		Average	Departure*	Total	Departure*		Average	Departure*	Total	Departure*
ALA. Birmingham . . .	66	+ 1	1.9	+1.0	New Orleans . . .	75	+ 5	T	-1.1	OKLA. Okla. City . .	64	+ 1	.2	- .6
Mobile . . .	72	+ 2	.1	-1.2	Shreveport . . .	69	+ 1	.5	-.6	Tulsa . . .	65	+ 3	.6	- .4
Montgomery . . .	69	+ 3	.5	-.5	MAINE. Caribou . . .	41	+ 1	.3	-.3	OREG. Astoria . . .	46	- 4	.5	- .6
ALASKA. Anchorage . .	47	+ 8	T	-.1	Portland . . .	48	+ 2	.3	-.5	Burns . . .	40	- 9	.2	0.0
Barrow . . .	3	- 2	T	0.0	MD. Baltimore . . .	57	- 0	T	-.8	Medford . . .	44	- 9	.6	+ .3
Fairbanks . . .	38	+ 4	T	-.1	MASS. Boston . . .	49	- 2	.2	-.6	Pendleton . . .	47	- 7	.5	+ .2
Juneau . . .	---	---	---	---	Chatnam . . .	45	---	.1	---	Portland . . .	48	- 6	.1	- .4
Nome . . .	14	-11	T	-.1	MICH. Alpena . . .	42	- 1	.4	-.2	Salem . . .	46	- 7	.2	-.3
ARIZ. Flagstaff . . .	38	- 8	.1	-.2	Detroit . . .	48	- 3	T	-.7	PA. Allentown . . .	51	- 2	T	-.9
Phoenix . . .	62	- 8	T	-.1	Flint . . .	47	0	.1	-.6	Erie . . .	43	- 6	.1	-.8
Tucson . . .	58	-10	T	-.1	Grand Rapids . . .	48	- 1	T	-.7	Harrisburg . . .	54	- 1	T	-.7
Winslow . . .	51	- 8	.1	0.0	Houghton Lake . . .	43	- 1	.1	-.5	Philadelphia . . .	56	+ 1	T	-.8
Yuma . . .	63	-10	0.0	0.0	Lansing . . .	48	- 1	T	-.8	Pittsburgh . . .	48	- 4	T	-.7
ARK. Fort Smith . . .	63	- 1	1.4	+ .3	Marquette . . .	43	0	.1	-.6	Scranton . . .	49	- 3	.1	-.7
Little Rock . . .	62	- 3	1.1	0.0	Muskegon . . .	47	- 1	T	-.7	R.I. Providence . . .	50	0	.2	-.7
CALIF. Bakersfield . .	56	- 9	T	-.2	S. Ste. Marie . . .	41	- 1	.3	-.2	S.C. Charleston . . .	68	+ 1	2.7	+2.1
Eureka . . .	46	- 5	.8	+ .2	MINN. Duluth . . .	45	+ 4	.1	-.5	Columbia . . .	67	+ 1	2.3	+1.4
Fresno . . .	54	- 9	.1	-.2	Internatl Falls . . .	45	+ 3	T	-.4	Greenville . . .	63	- 1	1.1	+ .2
Los Angeles . . .	58	- 5	0.0	-.2	Minneapolis . . .	53	+ 5	.2	-.3	S. DAK. Aberdeen . .	55	+ 7	.2	-.3
Red Bluff . . .	54	- 6	.2	-.2	Rochester . . .	51	+ 3	.6	+ .1	Huron . . .	52	+ 3	1.1	+ .6
San Diego . . .	58	- 5	T	-.1	St. Cloud . . .	50	+ 3	.1	-.4	Rapid City . . .	47	- 2	2.3	+1.9
San Francisco . . .	51	- 6	T	-.3	MISS. Jackson . . .	68	+ 1	4.3	+3.3	Sioux Falls . . .	54	+ 4	.8	+ .2
Stockton . . .	56	- 5	T	-.2	Meridian . . .	67	0	.8	-.4	TENN. Chattanooga .	64	+ 1	1.1	+ .2
COLO. Denver . . .	47	- 2	1.7	+1.2	MO. Columbia . . .	61	+ 3	.3	-.5	Knoxville . . .	62	+ 1	1.1	+ .2
Grand Junction . . .	50	- 5	.4	+ .3	Kansas City . . .	63	+ 4	.3	-.6	Memphis . . .	65	+ 1	2.0	+1.0
Pueblo . . .	50	- 4	.3	0.0	St. Louis . . .	61	+ 3	.7	-.2	Nashville . . .	64	+ 1	.7	-.2
CONN. Bridgeport . . .	52	+ 1	.1	-.7	Springfield . . .	60	+ 1	2.0	+1.0	TEX. Abilene . . .	68	+ 1	.1	-.5
Hartford . . .	51	0	T	-.7	MONT. Billings . . .	48	- 1	.7	+ .4	Amarillo . . .	56	- 4	.3	0.0
D.C. Washington . . .	59	0	T	-.7	Glasgow . . .	47	- 1	.4	+ .1	Austin . . .	70	0	T	-1.0
FLA. Apalachicola . .	73	+ 3	0.0	-1.0	Great Falls . . .	46	- 1	T	-.2	Beaumont . . .	74	+ 4	.5	-.5
Ft. Myers . . .	75	+ 1	0.0	-.6	Havre . . .	48	+ 1	.1	-.1	Brownsville . . .	77	+ 1	T	-.4
Jacksonville . . .	74	+ 3	.3	-.5	Helena . . .	45	- 2	.4	+ .2	Corpus Christi . . .	74	0	.2	-.3
Key West . . .	80	+ 3	0.0	-.6	Kalispell . . .	48	0	.1	-.2	Dallas . . .	70	+ 3	.5	-.5
Lakeland . . .	75	+ 2	.1	-.7	Miles City . . .	48	- 2	.7	+ .4	Del Rio . . .	72	- 2	.1	-.2
Miami . . .	79	+ 4	0.0	-1.0	Missoula . . .	47	- 1	1.6	+1.4	El Paso . . .	61	- 5	0.0	-.1
Orlando . . .	79	+ 6	T	-.8	NEBR. Grand Island .	56	+ 3	.7	+ .1	Fort Worth . . .	67	0	.7	-.2
Tallahassee . . .	69	- 1	.7	-.5	Lincoln . . .	59	+ 4	.4	-.2	Galveston . . .	73	+ 2	T	-.7
Tampa . . .	75	+ 2	.1	-.5	Norfolk . . .	55	+ 3	.5	0.0	Houston . . .	72	+ 3	T	-.8
GA. Atlanta . . .	65	+ 3	1.8	+ .9	North Platte . . .	50	- 1	2.9	+2.4	Lubbock . . .	61	- 1	.2	-.1
Augusta . . .	64	- 1	1.7	+ .9	Omaha . . .	58	+ 5	.3	-.3	Midland . . .	65	- 2	0.0	-.2
Macon . . .	71	+ 3	1.4	+ .6	Valentine . . .	50	0	2.2	+1.7	San Angelo . . .	68	- 1	.2	-.4
Savannah . . .	71	+ 3	1.4	+ .5	NEV. Ely . . .	36	- 9	1.0	+ .8	San Antonio . . .	71	+ 1	.1	-.6
HAWAII. Hilo . . .	70	- 2	17.0	+14.4	Las Vegas . . .	59	- 8	0.0	0.0	Victoria . . .	73	+ 1	.2	-.3
Honolulu . . .	75	0	2.1	+1.9	Reno . . .	40	-10	.6	+ .5	Waco . . .	70	+ 1	.2	-.8
Kahului . . .	---	---	---	---	Winnemucca . . .	41	- 7	.9	+ .7	Wichita Falls . . .	69	+ 2	.6	-.1
Lihue . . .	75	+ 2	3.6	+3.0	N. H. Concord . . .	45	- 2	.2	-.6	UTAH. Blanding . . .	46	- 4	.2	0.0
IDAHO. Boise . . .	48	- 5	.2	0.0	N. J. Atlantic City .	53	- 1	T	-.8	Salt Lake City . . .	47	- 6	1.5	+1.1
Lewiston . . .	47	- 7	.2	-.1	Trenton . . .	54	- 1	T	-.8	VT. Burlington . . .	42	- 3	.6	0.0
Pocatello . . .	43	- 6	1.7	+1.5	N. MEX. Albuquerque .	50	- 8	.2	+ .1	VA. Lynchburg . . .	56	- 3	.1	-.6
ILL. Cairo . . .	---	---	---	---	Roswell . . .	58	- 3	T	-.2	Norfolk . . .	58	- 3	.2	-.6
Chicago . . .	51	- 1	.1	-.6	N. Y. Albany . . .	46	- 3	.1	-.6	Richmond . . .	57	- 4	T	-.8
Moline . . .	53	0	T	-.7	Binghamton . . .	45	- 2	.1	-.6	Roanoke . . .	57	- 2	.1	-.6
Peoria . . .	56	+ 2	.2	-.8	Buffalo . . .	44	- 2	.3	-.4	WASH. Colville . . .	49	0	.2	0.0
Rockford . . .	52	+ 1	.1	-.7	New York . . .	54	0	.1	-.7	Omak . . .	52	0	.2	0.0
Springfield . . .	60	+ 3	T	-.9	Rochester . . .	44	- 4	.1	-.5	Quillayute . . .	46	- 3	.7	-.7
IND. Evansville . . .	61	+ 1	T	-.9	Syracuse . . .	48	- 1	.3	-.4	Seattle-Tacoma . . .	49	- 2	.1	-.4
Fort Wayne . . .	50	- 2	.3	-.4	N. C. Asheville . . .	58	- 1	1.0	+ .3	Spokane . . .	45	- 5	.6	+ .4
Indianapolis . . .	55	+ 1	0.0	-.9	Charlotte . . .	62	- 1	.6	-.2	Walla Walla . . .	48	- 9	.4	+ .1
IOWA. Burlington . . .	49	- 2	.1	-.7	Greensboro . . .	56	- 4	.3	-.5	Yakima . . .	48	- 5	.1	0.0
South Bend . . .	58	+ 4	T	-.8	Hatteras . . .	56	- 5	.1	-.4	W. VA. Beckley . . .	51	- 3	.4	-.2
Des Moines . . .	57	+ 5	.2	-.4	Raleigh . . .	57	- 5	.4	-.4	Charleston . . .	54	- 4	.1	-.7
Dubuque . . .	52	+ 2	.4	-.4	Wilmington . . .	63	- 2	1.0	+ .3	Huntington . . .	56	- 2	.1	-.7
Sioux City . . .	58	+ 5	.9	+ .3	N. DAK. Bismarck . .	47	- 1	.2	-.1	Parkersburg . . .	53	- 4	.1	-.6
KANS. Concordia . . .	58	+ 2	.8	+ .2	Fargo . . .	53	+ 6	T	-.5	WIS. Green Bay . . .	48	+ 1	T	-.6
Dodge City . . .	57	0	1.0	+ .5	Williston . . .	45	- 2	.5	+ .2	La Crosse . . .	53	+ 2	.9	+ .3
Goodland . . .	51	0	1.6	+1.2	OHIO. Akron-Canton .	48	- 4	T	-.8	Madison . . .	49	+ 1	.2	-.5
Topeka . . .	61	+ 3	.8	-.2	Cincinnati . . .	55	- 2	T	-.8	Milwaukee . . .	43	- 3	T	-.6
Wichita . . .	61	+ 1	2.0	+1.4	Cleveland . . .	44	- 6	T	-.8	WYO. Casper . . .	39	- 7	2.3	+1.9
KY. Lexington . . .	55	- 2	.1	-.8	Columbus . . .	51	- 3	T	-.8	Cheyenne . . .	41	- 4	2.1	+1.6
Louisville . . .	58	+ 1	.2	-.7	Dayton . . .	54	+ 1	T	-.8	Lander . . .	38	- 8	4.8	+4.2
LA. Baton Rouge . . .	73	+ 3	.4	-.7	Toledo . . .	49	- 1	T	-.7	Sheridan . . .	44	- 3	3.3	+2.8
Lake Charles . . .	73	+ 3	.4	-.6	Youngstown . . .	45	- 5	T	-.9	P. R. San Juan . . .	81	+ 4	0.0	-1.0

* Departures are from 30-year means (1931-60). Based on preliminary reports.

CONDENSED STATE SUMMARIES

These summaries provide brief descriptions of condition and activities important on a national scale. Detailed reports of crop and weather conditions during the growing season are contained in State issues of Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletins published by field offices of the Statistical Reporting Service, U.S.D.A. in cooperation with NOAA State Climatologists.

ALABAMA: Partly cloudy and warm weather early in period. A few showers began Tuesday increasing and becoming general on Thursday and Friday. Hail and high winds in scattered areas Friday. Clearing and cooler over weekend. Rainfall generally heavy north, moderate central, and light south portions. Average temperatures for week above normal. Farmers planted large acreages cotton, corn, and peanuts. Open weather with needed showers favored planting. Timely moisture aided seed germination and plant growth. More rain needed central, few southern sections. Overall fieldwork about on schedule. Cotton 33%, corn 37% and peanuts 43% planted, each a little ahead last year. Crops mostly emerging to good stands. Limited soybeans planted. Small grains heading statewide, few fields turning yellow south. Good progress planting home gardens and commercial vegetables. Tomatoes blooming Houston-Geneva Counties. Livestock condition improving.

ARIZONA: Temperatures were much below normal over most of State. Light widely scattered showers fell on 19th and 21st but measurable totals limited mostly to mountains in central and eastern parts of State. Strong winds and blowing dust in most agricultural areas. Cotton emergence, growth slowed by cold, windy weather. Some replanting necessary. Small grains making good progress. Early fields beginning to color. Considerable lodging barley. Early-planted sorghum making good growth. Land preparation, planting continues. Weeds some fields fall-planted sugar beets. Spring lettuce harvest continued Salt River Valley, Harquahala Valley, Pinal and Pima Counties. Lettuce growing well Cochise County. Cantaloupe crown set developing well Yuma area. Vines good condition. Limited grapefruit, Valencia orange harvest Yuma, Salt River Valley areas. Ranges poor to fair condition. Lower elevation, desert ranges supplying less than adequate feed. Supplemental feeding continues most areas. Widespread water hauling to supplement low stock tank supplies. Heavy culling. Calving continues, many reports indicate lower calf crop percentage.

ARKANSAS: Weekly temperatures averaged near normal ranging in 60's. Daily extremes 34° to 88°. Showers general over State with heaviest central sections midweek. Judsonia weekly total high with 3.05 inches and Hope low with 0.29 inch. Soil moisture situation much improved, heavy planting underway. About 15% cotton and nearly 75% rice seeded. Plants emerging earliest fields. Soybean planting minor thus far. Most corn planted. Small grains improved with rains and beginning to head. Fruit and vegetable prospects mostly favorable. Tomatoes making good recovery from earlier frost damage. Picking strawberries expected to begin next week. Pastures improving, but growth still below normal due to dry weather earlier. Livestock condition satisfactory.

CALIFORNIA: Very cold week, with all areas 5° to 10° below normal. Most maximums 10° to 15° below long term averages and minimums near normal to 10° below normal. Freezing temperatures coastal valleys on 21st and 22d. Several rainy days except desert but amounts generally less than 0.50 inch. Rain, hailstorm central and southern San

Joaquin Valley April 17 with cold frosty nights first of week central and north. Earlier-planted field corn nipped slightly by frost; cultivating to break soil crust caused by rain and wind. Cotton planting continues; some fields being replanted due rain. Small grains look good. Frost caused minor damage spotted locations. First combining barley Imperial Valley. Sugar beet crop making good growth; some digging activity started Imperial Valley April 16. Many rice fields being planted. Continuing cool weather slowed growth fruit and nuts. Hail April 17 caused damage plums, nectarines, peaches, and grapes San Joaquin Valley. April 20 freezing temperatures caused light to moderate damage north coast grapes and walnuts. Spotty frost damage San Joaquin Valley vineyards. Thinning and brown rot control progress peaches and apricots. Harvest valencia oranges increasing slowly; fruit color and quality excellent. Picking navel oranges declining rapidly. Lemon picking slow. Rains benefitted low elevation ranges. Some livestock movement to summer ranges and feedlots. Delta asparagus shipments declined due cool weather. Broccoli harvesting active Santa Maria and Salinas Valley. Considerable diversion processors. Cauliflower shipments light Santa Maria and Salinas. Imperial carrot harvest declined; expected increase next week. Lettuce harvest Salinas Valley increasing volume; Kern, Santa Maria also active. Harvesting new potatoes started Kern. Strawberry harvesting active southern California; San Jose and Salinas areas increasing. Tomato growth retarded cool weather.

COLORADO: Temperatures cool mountains and west, near normal east. General moderate to heavy precipitation. Rain and snow in mountains and 2 to 3 inches snow some lower elevations melting as it fell or soon after. Thunderstorms eastern plains, some local heavy rain and hail. Precipitation totals 1.00 to 2.00 inches most of eastern plains and central and northern mountains. Field preparation and seeding progressed rapidly until interrupted by rain and snow near midweek. Spring barley 81% seeded, 33% emerged. Oats 82% planted, 42% emerged. Corn acreage 10% seeded. Sugar beets 71% planted, 11% emerged. Late summer potatoes 32% in. Condition emerged acreage spring-planted crops good to excellent. Winter wheat, barley, and rye condition excellent. Winter wheat 18% and winter barley 9% jointed. Insect damage light. Spraying wheat fields isolated areas for cut worms. Soil moisture greatly improved. Livestock condition good. Limited wheat and rye being pastured. Ranges and pastures greening rapidly.

FLORIDA: Temperatures averaged near or slightly above normal. Rainfall continues sparse with an average of 0.50 inch in Panhandle and 0.20 northern and central sections. Little or no rainfall southern sections. Precipitation fell mainly as showers on April 21 and 22 with heaviest showers and 1.00 inch rainfall in Panhandle. All crops progressing well. Sidedressing corn and tobacco active. Peanut planting full swing shortly. Germination retarded some by dry weather. Sugar-cane still needs rain. Drought restricted growth of grasses. Many pastures over-grazed. Supplemental feeding widespread. Livestock fair.

Citrus generally good condition. Rain needed. Drought affecting all areas. New crop fruit condition good despite drought. Vegetable shipments continued seasonal increase. Most commodities available. Cabbage, potatoes, tomatoes, celery leading commodities shipped. Planting practically complete. Weather warm, windy, dry. Irrigation necessary. Spring potatoes, melon harvest underway.

GEORGIA: Light rain Wednesday and moderate to heavy on Friday ended a 15- to 16-day statewide rainless period. Friday rains were heaviest north and central where some totals exceeded 4.00 inches. Parts of south had only light amounts and continued dry at end of week. Damaging winds and hail at several places Friday. Hot first of week with highs mostly mid- to high 80's and a few 90's. All areas enjoyed sunny mild weather during weekend. Average temperatures were 2° to 4° above normal. Soil moisture short middle period, but improved later. Land preparation and planting active. Plants slowed about midweek due dry soils. Tobacco transplanting about 98% complete. Corn 69% seeded, with light replantings. Cotton 38% planted, 10% up. Peanuts 46% planted. Soybeans seeding light to date. Small grains and pastures fair to good. Truck crops about 2 weeks later than normal. Considerable reseeding melons. Cattle mostly good.

HAWAII: Rainfall light to locally heavy all Islands. Wet fields hampered field operations, progress crops continued fair to good. Sugar-cane harvesting normal. Picking pineapples light, increasing seasonally. Supplies bananas and papayas light. Vegetable supplies adequate. Harvesting watermelons on uptrend. Cattle and pasture continued fair to good.

IDAHO: Temperatures averaged 3° to 8° below normal. Cool beginning and end of week. Precipitation general but variable light to heavy; heaviest amounts, 1.00 to 2.00 inches, locally south central and east. Some totals above normal each division. Crop growth slow. Showers interrupted crop seeding and land preparation. Irrigation underway. Forage supplies ample. Winter wheat stands good. Warm weather needed for emerged crops. Spring cereals 25% planted north and east; nearly 75% south-central and southwestern areas.

ILLINOIS: Precipitation totals varied widely but were mostly less than 0.25 inch north and central and 0.25 to 0.75 inch south. Temperatures averaged from near normal north to 3° above central and south. Topsoil becoming very dry. Small grains growing slowly, pasture and legumes developing slowly. Corn 15% planted, last year less than 5% planted. Land 90% plowed for corn and soybeans. All oats planted, but need rain, germinating slowly. Winter wheat good condition, dry weather slowing growth. Red clover and alfalfa hay fair to good. Pastures good supplying 55% roughage requirement. Soil moisture reported short by 75% and adequate by 25%. About 6 1/2 days suitable fieldwork. Main activities planting corn, plowing, disking, applying fertilizer.

INDIANA: Dry and sunny. One or two tenths of rain on April 22. In last 4 weeks only 0.60 inch in north-central, 1.50 inches in southwest. Amounts about 2.50 to 3.00 inches below normal. Temperatures in high 20's in north, 40's in south on 23d. Soil temperatures in 50's except 7° colder near Lake Michigan. Relative humidity low. Six days suitable for fieldwork. Soil moisture

short to adequate. Corn and soybean land 85% plowed, 50% average. Corn 5% seeded, week ahead of average. Oats 90% seeded, 65% average. Wheat 6 inches high, 7 inches average. Pastures mostly fair.

IOWA: A warm dry week. April precipitation to date about 10% to 30% of normal. Fieldwork progress rapid with 6 days suitable. Oats 95% seeded. North-central and northeast about 80% seeded. Last year's State average 80%, 5-year average 75%. Corn planting started, over 5% planted. Last year less than 5% planted and none for 5-year average. About 90% 1971 corn crop acreage plowed. Last year and 5-year average 70%. One third reports pasture feed supply below average, 2/3 average. Topsoil moisture 35% short, 65% adequate. Year ago 85% adequate, 15% surplus.

KANSAS: Rain entire State early in week. Generally 0.25 to 1.00 inch southwest and northeast divisions, 1.00 to 3.00 inches elsewhere. Locally over 4.00 inches northwest. Weekly mean temperatures averaged normal to above normal. Crop and pasture prospects received big boost from general rains. Most of extreme southwest still short moisture, elsewhere greatly improved. Wheat growing vigorously and showing about average jointing progress. Insect infestation and soil borne mosaic problems reduced, however few cases wheat streak mosaic visible. Mustard week in wheat still troublesome, some sprayed. Most oat and barley seeding completed. Corn 25% planted, last year 9%, average 14%. Seedbed preparations for soybean and sorghum planting active. Alfalfa showed good seasonal development, but still bothered by aphids. Pastures greatly improved by new moisture, but lack sufficient growth to sustain cattle without supplemental feeding. Spring calving nearly complete, good farrowing progress.

KENTUCKY: Light to heavy showers with some scattered thunderstorm activity 21st and 23d. Other days mostly sunny. Rainfall totals variable and summerlike in pattern, ranging from less than 0.10 inch to about 1.50 inches, heaviest in parts of southwest and east. Temperature for week 1° to 4° above normal western half, and near to 4° above normal eastern half. Unseasonably warm 19th and 20th, maximums in 70's and 80's. Afternoon temperatures on cool side 22d and 23d, warm to seasonal or above over weekend. Early morning readings on cool side 22d to 25th. Fieldwork progressed rapidly with over 5 days favorable. Soil moisture 74% short and 26% adequate. Shortages topsoil moisture becoming serious scattered areas. Plowing 84% complete, 2 weeks ahead normal. Corn planting 35% complete, the most advanced of any year on record. Tobacco plant beds fair to good. Watering plant beds common practice as dry weather prevails. Plants up in 60% beds. Small grains good condition, but growth limited. Pastures making slow growth. Tree fruit and strawberry prospects favorable.

LOUISIANA: Generous thunderstorms much of State. Weekly rain totals exceeded 2.00 inches locally northern parishes, 0.40 to 1.00 inch central and south but less than 0.10 extreme south. Weekend mild and pleasantly dry but temperatures averaged 2° to 4° above normal for week central and south. Temperature extremes: 92° at Jennings Friday, 48° shreveport Saturday and Alexandria Sunday. Greatest 24-hour rain, 2.49 inches at Tallulah at 8 a.m. Wednesday. Fieldwork active although midweek rains temporarily halted activities many areas. Rains relieved moisture shortage all

areas except southeast; moisture remains short southern and some northern areas. Corn 65% planted compared 80% year ago, 80% and 70%, cotton 20% and 30%, respectively. Planting soybeans and sweet potatoes less than 5% completed. Wheat and oats heading out, conditions fair to good. Strawberry harvest active, yield and quality good. Pasture feed mostly average, but short dry areas. Livestock mostly good condition.

MARYLAND AND DELAWARE: Continued dry with near normal temperatures. Strong drying winds also bringing about a more rapid depletion of moisture. Temperature extremes mostly mid-70's to low 80's, 30's. No measurable rainfall during period. Topsoil moisture short all areas. Some plowing southern shore areas. Subsoil moisture still adequate. Hay and pasture crops showing limited growth. Small grain straw growth short, rye and barley starting to head southern Eastern Shore counties. Corn 5% planted, 1% last year. Potatoes, green peas, and spring snapbeans nearly planted. Seeding sweet corn, cucumbers, tomatoes, and watermelons starting Southern Shore.

MICHIGAN: There were frequent fluctuations in temperatures during the week, but the general trend was from mild conditions early in week to a cold period at close of week. Temperatures averaged near normal for period, with a few stations reporting slightly below normal while others were slightly above normal. Winter returned briefly to parts of Michigan, as light snow and snow flurries reported late Friday and Saturday with 1 to 3 inches falling in northwest Lower Michigan. Total precipitation in Michigan for week was insignificant with amounts of around 0.25 inch in northeast Lower Michigan and in eastern Upper Peninsula. Elsewhere, amounts were 0.10 inch or less. Fieldwork moved ahead at fast pace. Soil moisture short southwest, short to adequate elsewhere. State averaged nearly 5 days suitable fieldwork. About 1/3 acreage plowed for spring-planted crops. Oats 43%, sugar beets 27%, and potatoes 10% planted. Corn planting started southern counties, planting early vegetables underway. Winter damage to wheat above average east-central and southeast, average elsewhere.

MINNESOTA: Temperatures averaged 4° above normal. Extremes: 84°, 17°. Precipitation, scattered showers of 1.00 inch or more in the very northwest and southeast counties and several locations in central district; rest of State received generally 0.25 inch or less. Most lakes north of a line from Duluth to Bemidji 50% to 100% ice covered. About 12 inches of snow remains in heavy forests in northeast. Seeding small grains approaching completion west-central and southwest districts, and beginning in other districts. Corn and soybean land being prepared. Percent small grain seeded: Spring wheat 35, normal 17; oats 43, normal 25; barley 22, normal 11; flax 19, normal 7. Topsoil moisture still short west-central, northern part southwest district, adequate elsewhere. Winter wheat, rye, hay fields, and pastures generally fair to good; dormant north.

MISSISSIPPI: Generally 2 or 3 days with rain and most weekly totals between 1.00 and 2.50 inches. Some totals under 0.30 inch in coastal division. Both Charleston and Jackson had over 4.00 inches. A 1-day amount of 4.52 inches measured Wednesday morning at Bruce. Thursday some pea to golf ball size hail in central Mississippi with some damage. Weekly temperature averages mostly 2° to 5° above

normal. Over the weekend: 0.04 inch rain measured Saturday morning at Laurel; elsewhere lesser amounts and mostly sunny. Soil moisture short to adequate lower Delta, south-central, and south-east, all other areas adequate to surplus. Average 3 days suitable fieldwork. Corn 35% and cotton 7% planted. Winter wheat 46%, oats 50% headed. Winter wheat, oats, pastures and livestock fair to good condition. Irish potatoes, peaches, and truck crops fair to good.

MISSOURI: Recordbreaking warmth on Monday, April 19, followed by cool subnormal temperatures during last half of week. Light showers across State Tuesday, April 20, and heavier showers, with precipitation amounts generally over 1.00 inch occurred Friday and Saturday, April 23 and 24, south of Missouri River. Five days suitable for fieldwork. Plowing 90% complete, corn planting well ahead of previous years at 40% complete. Wheat mostly fair condition, while soil moisture reported adequate.

MONTANA: Heavy precipitation southern 1/3, mostly moderate elsewhere. Heavy snowfall southern mountains added more to excessive existing snow-packs. Cool for season except northwest, small day-to-day changes under persistently cloudy skies. Topsoil moisture adequate. Winter wheat condition generally good. Wind damage light. Spring wheat 20% planted. Barley 25% and oats 15% planted. Sugar beets 55% in the ground. Newborn calves and lambs good, with light losses. Calving 80% complete. Lambing and shearing 75% complete. Seventy-five percent range cattle and 85% range sheep receiving supplemental feed.

NEBRASKA: Cloudy with frequent showers that were moderate in Panhandle, heavy in southwest and north-central, and light in east. Condition winter wheat improved with much of major wheat producing area receiving timely moisture. Topsoil moisture adequate, except portions southwest. Corn planting started few eastern areas. Sugar beet planting over 75% complete. Early plantings emerging. Condition hay crops and pasture grasses improved in areas of significant precipitation. Livestock condition good.

NEVADA: Very cold week. All divisions averaged 7° to 9° below normal. Las Vegas 8° below normal to 12° below normal in Sheldon. Light to moderate precipitation in northwest averaging 0.20 inch. Moderate to heavy in northeast averaging 0.60 inch. Local amounts, 1.02 inches at Austin and Ely. Trace south. Light snowfall general in north first and last part of week. Cold weather and spring snow flurries delayed fieldwork and planting many northern areas. Planting cotton in progress Pahrump Valley. First cutting alfalfa hay continues southern valleys. Movement cattle to ranges delayed by adverse weather. Livestock good condition, with calving and lambing progressing satisfactorily. Death losses light to normal.

NEW ENGLAND: Temperature near normal except 3° to 5° below normal in Vermont. Precipitation subnormal for 2d week in a row, with totals mostly 0.05 to 0.30 inch except some over 0.50 inch in north. Snow in northern Connecticut April 24 with local totals of 1 to 4 inches. Snowcover in north melted rapidly with much bare ground but still much snow in heavier woods and higher elevations. Maple sap flow very spotty as below normal temperatures continue northern areas.

NEW JERSEY: A very dry week. Only a few stations reported measurable rain. There has been no sig-

nificant rain in State since April 7th. Temperatures for week averaged near or a little below normal. Afternoon readings ranged from low 50's to upper 70's while overnight lows varied from the mid-20's to upper 40's. Dry windy weather continues topsoil moisture short. Good rain needed. Irrigation being applied where available. Asparagus harvest has begun. Limited volumes spinach and greens moving. Weather conditions hurting quality. Peaches in heavy bloom. Some early strawberries blooming in south, irrigation necessary. Oat planting advancing. Fall-seeded grains growing well.

NEW MEXICO: Showers in north until weekend with light to moderate amounts. Total more than 1.00 inch at Chama. Warming trend through week with average temperatures for week near 5° below normal. Freezing temperatures early in week except in eastern plains. Above-normal temperatures on weekend. Scattered rain and snow. Top- and sub-soil conditions very short to adequate north, short to very short south. Land preparation continues. Cotton planting increasing. Wheat dry-land continuous cropping poor, summer fallow fair. Irrigated wheat fair to good, green bug damage. Spring lettuce good, harvest Mesilla Valley expected to begin late week. Onion crops good. Alfalfa good, general harvest south expected next week. Apple trees showing limited frost damage many areas. Livestock condition poor to fair. Ranges generally fair.

NEW YORK: Below normal temperatures followed mild weather early week. Maximums 60's to near 70° on 19th and 20th ranging down to low 40's by 25th. Precipitation midweek, totals 0.30 to 0.50 inch northern half and increased to 7 inches of snow in Adirondacks. Elsewhere week was dry with totals mostly from trace to 0.15 inch. Precipitation 1.50 to 2.50 inches below normal western half in 4 weeks ending April 23. Plowing and fitting underway throughout State. Oat planting all areas with 5% planted. Muck soil dry and blowing, has hindered some planting activity. Onion seed planting underway western and central areas and nearly complete Orange County. Lettuce seeding just underway west, while earliest seeded lettuce emerged Orange County. Sweet corn planting active Hudson Valley and western areas. Early planting cabbage also underway scattered areas. Potato plantings Long Island 80% complete, while Upstate areas getting underway. Fruit good condition. Bud development green tip stage western New York.

NORTH CAROLINA: Scattered showers midweek with amounts light but a few thundershowers with light hail. Rain again afternoon and evening of 23d. Totals 0.25 inch to 2.00 inches averaging 1.00 inch mountains and 0.50 inch elsewhere. Temperatures averaged near normal with range 30's to 80's. As reported April 23, soil moisture diminished to mostly short, except adequate north and central Piedmont and southern Coastal Plain. Planting operations accelerated with corn 50% planted and flue-cured tobacco 10% set. Cotton, peanuts, soybeans, and milo planting increased. Flue-cured tobacco plant beds improved to mostly good with supply adequate. Tobacco set is in mostly good condition, but cool nights slowing growth. Small grains and vegetables mostly good. Peaches and pastures fair to good.

NORTH DAKOTA: Temperatures averaged 2° below normal northwest to 5° above normal southeast. Precipitation averaged about 0.10 inch southeast and north-central to 1.40 inches southwest several

stations west half reported weekly totals greater than 1.50 inches. Light to heavy showers first half of week over western half and some north-eastern areas caused temporary delay fieldwork. Other areas fieldwork progressing rapidly. Rain showers helped control severe blowing and drying of topsoil. Pastures, rye, alfalfa and wheat greening up. Calving and lambing coming along well.

OHIO: The dry spell which began mid-March 1971 has become most acute in the north-central, west-central, central, south west, and south-central portions of State. During past 5 weeks, most of these areas have received less than 0.75 inch of precipitation. This week light showers fell 20th or 21st throughout State but rainfall from these showers average less than 0.10 inch. Snow flurries were reported in northeast 24th. Temperatures were generally above normal through 21st and below normal remainder of week. Freezing or near freezing temperatures a hazard to fruit trees already in blossom southern half Ohio. Days favorable for fieldwork, 6. Soil moisture supplies 3/4 short. 1/4 adequate. Plowing for corn and soybean 90% completed, last year 65, normal 60. Corn planting 20% finished, 10 days ahead last year, 2 weeks ahead 1965 to 1969 average. Seeding oats 95% completed, last year 55%, normal 65%. Potato planting 50% finished, last year 20%, normal 30%. Sugar beet planting over 95% completed, usual progress 50%, last year only 15%. Tobacco beds 95% seeded, last year and usual progress 90%. Livestock obtaining 1/6 of forage requirement from pasture.

OKLAHOMA: Rainfall ranged from 0.10 inch Panhandle up to 1.40 inches north-central, east-central, and southeast. Dry southwest area averaged 0.30 inch. Temperatures averaged 1° to 3° above normal. Extremes: 94° and 35°. Recent rains improved prospects wheat and other small grains eastern 2/3 State, but insufficient or too late to benefit wheat western 1/3 Oklahoma. Many grazing wheat out and considerable acreage abandoned southwest. Wheat rated 63% poor, 21% fair, 16% good. Wheat 26% headed, considerably ahead last 2 years. Some hail damage north-central localities. Seed-bed preparation and planting row crops little progress, lags behind last year. Alfalfa growth slow due dry weather and heavy insect damage. Surface moisture short western 1/3, short to adequate elsewhere. Growth native range grasses late and short, but good growth rain area. Supplemental feeding and some forced livestock selling continues.

OREGON: Cool cloudy week with daily rains permitting brief sunshine early midweek. Northern 2/3 of State averaged temperatures 4° to 7° below normal, southern 1/3, 8° to 10° below normal. Weekly minima 20° to 38° with fruit valleys mostly 29° to 32°. Maxima 55° to 58° on coast, 56° to 71° elsewhere. Rain and showers 1 to 4 days east of Cascades totaled 0.10 to 0.30 inch except 0.50 to 1.10 inches northeast and south-central border. Rain on 4 to 7 days westside totaled 0.40 to 0.90 inch western valleys and 1.50 to 2.20 inches along coast. Below-normal temperatures and wet weather continue to hamper crop planting and development. Onions and sugar beets up at Ontario, stands look good. No major frost damage to orchards so far. Brown rot sprays going on. Very little vegetable planting due weather. Pasture and range growth remains minimal.

PENNSYLVANIA: A cool dry week. Temperatures averaged 3° to 5° below normal across the north-west half of State and 1° to 2° below normal

over southeast half. Quite mild at start of week with highs on Monday reaching well into 60's over the northern tier counties and to 70's elsewhere. Dry cold front Wednesday brought cold air which dominated remainder of week. High 78° at Huntingdon on 20th and low 25° at Philipsburg on 24th. Precipitation was slight with no station reporting more than 0.20 inch total for week. Windy and dry weather continues to reduce topsoil moisture. Additional moisture needed to improve soil working conditions, and for good seed germination. Fieldwork made good progress and ahead of last year. Corn planting began on limited basis. Winter grains and hay crops making slow growth. Peach buds swelling. Sweet cherries blooming. Potato planting made good progress.

PUERTO RICO: Heavy rain showers interior section early in week with some minor flooding. Little or no rain western coast. Average rainfall 1.36 inches or 0.16 inch above normal. Highest weekly total 7.20 inches central interior. Southerly winds with temperatures averaging 77° on coast and 72° interior divisions. Crop moisture conditions near normal, except some interior sections too wet for fieldwork. Sugarcane harvesting and transplanting operations progressed normally in favorable weather. Coffee plantations active fertilizing, seeding, and cultivating. Tobacco zones good progress harvesting and drying. Pastures good to excellent all zones, except southwest too dry. Minor crops active cultivating and seeding all zones, except some central sections too wet.

SOUTH CAROLINA: Mostly warm and sunny. Scattered showers on 21st and 22d brought 0.30 to 0.60 inch in outer coastal plain and less than 0.25 inch elsewhere. Lows in 40's and 50's, highs in 70's and 80's. General rains beginning as week ended. Soil moisture generally adequate. Tobacco transplanting active, 60% set. Condition mostly good. Applying pesticides. Corn 66% planted, cultivation underway southeast. Condition mostly good. Cotton 41% planted. Soybean planting underway. Small grains, pastures, hay crops mostly good condition. Peach condition good, thinning active ridge area. Apple conditions good. Spring vegetable planting near completion. Cutting cabbage latter part week. Crops improving. Watermelons 80% planted, virtually complete Allendale, Barnwell, and Bamberg areas. Peanuts 20% planted.

SOUTH DAKOTA: Weekly temperatures averaged from near normal in west to 6° above normal in east. Extremes ranged from 27° at Watertown on 25th to 84° at Aberdeen on 20th. Precipitation fell as locally heavy showers and thundershowers statewide first half of week. Snow fell in southwest and Black Hills end of week with 3 inches reported at Rapid City and greater amounts in higher elevations. Total precipitation amounts ranged from less than 0.10 inch in northeast to over 4.00 inches in Black Hills. Most areas of State received from about 1.00 to 3.00 inches. An unofficial amount of 6.00 inches was reported at White River. Topsoil moisture adequate or above, except for northeast where short. Rain halted fieldwork from 1 day to several days various areas. Plowing 45% completed, 32% ahead of last season and 4% above average. Spring planting progressed somewhat slower but 76% spring wheat, 67% barley, 76% oats and 12% flax planted, slightly ahead normal and well ahead last year. Southeastern counties furthest along spring planting. South-central area reports substantial acreage winter wheat lost due wind erosion. Livestock good condition with light movement to pasture.

TENNESSEE: Warm sunny days first of week, cooling at midweek, turning warm again on weekend. Extremes: 89°, 38°. Rain on 23d and 24th ended a 2-week dry spell. Totals variable but mostly 0.75 inch to 1.00 inch. Locally to 2.00 inches in west. Rain beneficial to crops. Land preparation and planting progress should pick up speed with aid of few sunny days. Small grains fair to good. Wheat 10%, oats 15% and barley 45% headed. Pastures good condition. Tobacco plant beds helped by rain. Plowing 80% complete. Corn planting 45% complete. Cotton 15% planted. Fieldwork days 4.8. Soil moisture short 53%, adequate 40% and surplus 7%.

TEXAS: Light to moderate showers fell in north-central and northeast Texas Tuesday and Thursday. A few heavier amounts of 0.75 to 1.00 inch Thursday. Little or no precipitation elsewhere. Severe meteorological drought continues throughout the central portion of State from Low Plains through South Texas despite rains of previous week. Although scattered showers continue, drought still prevails over most of State. Benefits from last week's showers becoming more noticeable as farmers renew planting activities and runs of livestock at local auctions return to near normal numbers. Forest fires and rangeland fires continue. Pre-plant operations, planting of spring crops, tending livestock, main farm and ranch activities. Percent planted to date: cotton 16, 22 year ago; corn 65, 71 year ago; sorghum 34, 41 year ago; rice 90, 60 year ago; peanuts 7, 15 year ago. Onion harvest past peak Lower Valley, about 62% crop shipped. Heavy movement expected current weekend with declining shipments early May. Onion harvest active Laredo, Coastal Bend, gets underway Winter Garden current week. Cabbage, carrot harvest declining South Texas, but light to moderate supplies available Lower Valley, Winter Garden, Lower Valley, Winter Garden digging potatoes. Harvest early fields tomatoes, sweet corn underway Lower Valley with harvest cucumbers beginning. Cantaloupe harvest expected start current week, with harvest watermelons, honeydews, green peppers to start mid-May. Irrigated vegetables good progress South Texas, but dryland watermelon condition poor. High Plains potatoes, onions good progress with other vegetables being planted. Citrus harvest seasonal decline. Peach prospects poor, because late freezes. Pecans blooming.

UTAH: After 16 days without measurable precipitation, many stations reported measurable rain every day during past week. Accumulated amounts are variable ranging from less than 0.25 inch extreme southwest and south-central sections, 0.25 to 1.00 inch western desert, and 1.00 to 2.00 inches most of remainder. A few stations over and near northern Wasatch Mountains recorded over 2.50 inches during the period. Temperatures averaged 2° to 8° below normal. Soil temperatures at 4-inch depth range from upper 40's extreme north to mid-50's central and low 60's extreme southwest. While rain and snow benefitted crop and rangeland, cold weather limited growth crops and range grasses and restricted bee activity necessary to pollinate fruit crops. Fortunately no freeze damage of consequence to fruit or other crops to date. Farmers hopeful clearing weather will not bring temperature drop low enough to cause freeze damage. Cold wet weather adverse for calving, lambing, and shearing. Percent completion estimated: calving 77, shearing 55 and only 20 for range outfit lambing.

VIRGINIA: Temperatures normal to above except below normal Thursday and Friday. Rain and showers Wednesday to early Saturday in southwest and extreme south. Fieldwork progressed well and 2 to 3 days ahead last year. Topsoil quite dry. Plant growth slow with cool dry weather. Rain needed by growing crops. Corn planting moved ahead rapidly east of Blue Ridge. Cotton planting well started. Pastures short, but most providing adequate feed. Tobacco plant bed growth delayed. Spraying for alfalfa weevils. Shenandoah Valley peaches full bloom and early blooming apple varieties pink stage. Apples full bloom Roanoke and Albemarle-Nelson areas.

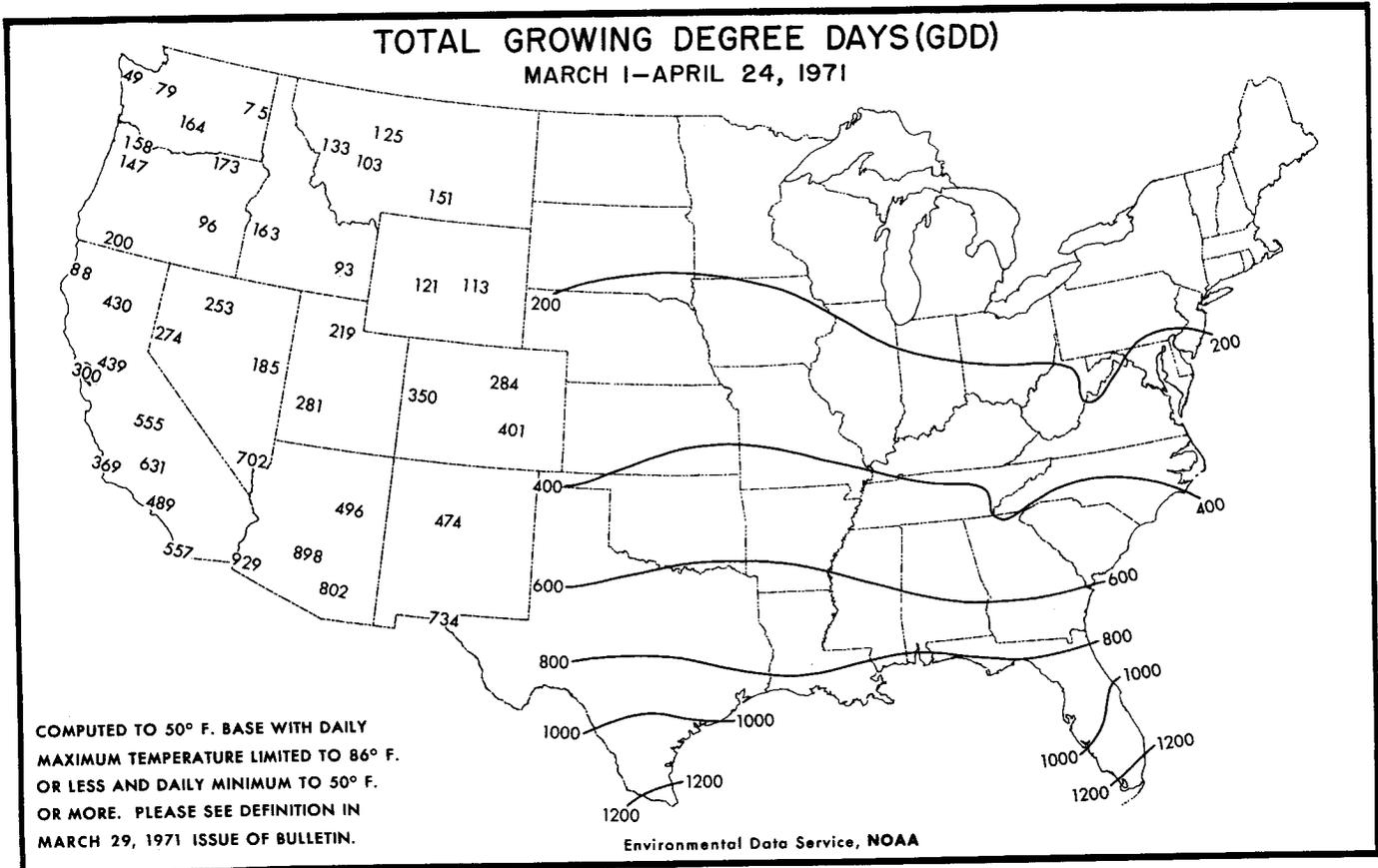
WASHINGTON: West of Cascades: Average temperatures 3° to 5° below normal. Below freezing 1 night colder agricultural areas. Showers during week. Precipitation amounts 0.25 to 0.75 inch. Fieldwork underway most areas. Strawberries, raspberries and currants showing good growth. Field rhubarb being harvested. East of Cascades: Average temperatures 4° to 6° below normal. Below freezing 1 or more nights most localities. Scattered light showers. Precipitation trace to 0.25 inch. Fieldwork increasing. Planting corn, potatoes, and cutting asparagus continues. Winter wheat doing well. Wenatchee Valley peaches blooming, some cherry and pear buds opening. Apples starting bloom lower Yakima Valley. Cattle being placed on ranges. Grass short and growth slow.

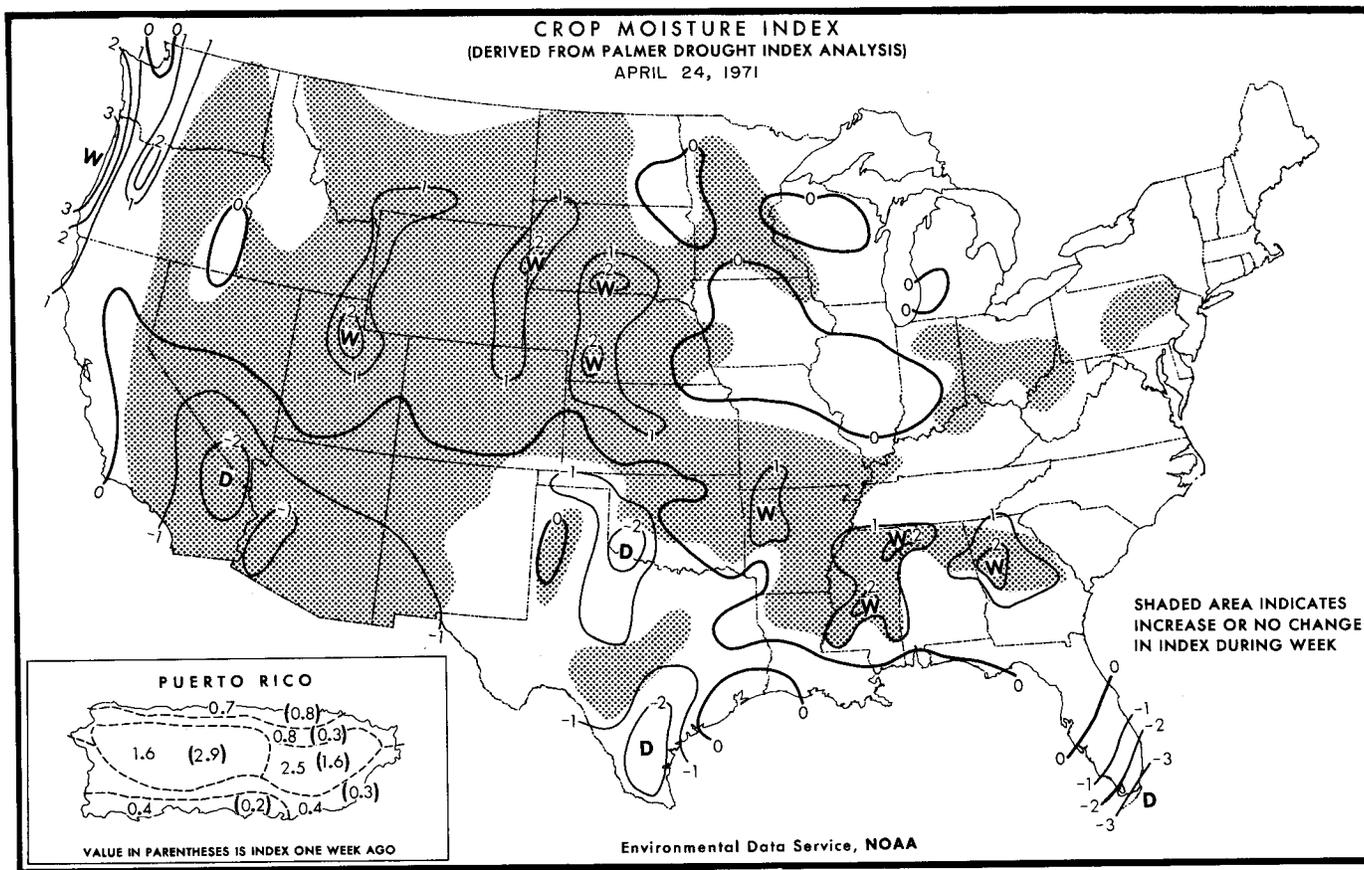
WEST VIRGINIA: Dry windy week. Light showers April 21 and 24. Temperatures in high 70's, low 80's April 20 but below normal temperatures after midweek. Main fair activities preparing

soil for seeding, fence repairing, and livestock care. Days suitable for field work, 6. Soil moisture short over most of State. Oats about 50% seeded and potatoes 60% planted. Tobacco 40% emerged.

WISCONSIN: Another sunny and dry week. Temperatures mild most days. Cold and windy briefly Friday evening with snow flurries over eastern areas. Extremes: 84° and 22°. Good week for fieldwork. Oats about 1/3 planted. Spring plowing about 1/3 completed. Corn ground being prepared. Peas and potatoes going in. Tobacco beds steamed. New seedlings look real good. Could use warm rain as topsoils becoming dry. Much manure left to haul. Many fences to repair after snowy winter. Soil moisture 20% short, 75% adequate and 5% surplus.

WYOMING: Beneficial rain and snow occurred over most of Wyoming, amounts generally 1.00 to 3.00 inches. Parts of the Bighorn Basin and upper Platte drainages ran short of this. The greatest moisture amount was 4.04 inches at Glenrock. Two small tornadoes reported in southeast Wyoming Monday. Temperatures averaged near to a little below normal, warmest early week. Maxima were mostly 55° to 65° west of Divide and upper Platte drainage, 65° to 75° elsewhere. Minima were mostly 15° to 30° west of Divide, 20° to 35° east. Temperature extremes were 78° at Torrington and 14° at Farson. Spring planting stopped most areas by midweek. About 40% oats acreage and half of barley and sugar beets planted. Calving and lambing continue with 65% calves, 75% farm flock lambs, and 30% range lambs born. Shearing range sheep 40% complete, farm flocks 65%.





INDEX DECREASED DURING WEEK
(Unshaded Areas)

INDEX INCREASED OR DID NOT CHANGE DURING WEEK
(Shaded Areas)

INDEX

ABOVE 3.0	SOME DRYING, BUT STILL EXCESSIVELY WET.
2.0 to 3.0	MORE DRY WEATHER NEEDED, WORK DELAYED.
1.0 to 2.0	FAVORABLE, EXCEPT STILL TOO WET IN SPOTS.
0 to 1.0	FAVORABLE FOR NORMAL GROWTH AND FIELDWORK.
0 to -1.0	TOPSOIL MOISTURE SHORT, GERMINATION SLOW.
-1.0 to -2.0	ABNORMALLY DRY, PROSPECTS DETERIORATING.
-2.0 to -3.0	TOO DRY, YIELD PROSPECTS REDUCED.
-3.0 to -4.0	POTENTIAL YIELDS SEVERELY CUT BY DROUGHT.
BELOW -4.0	EXCEPTIONALLY DRY, MOST CROPS ABOUT RUINED

INDEX

ABOVE 3.0	EXCESSIVELY WET, SOME FIELDS FLOODED.
2.0 to 3.0	TOO WET, SOME STANDING WATER.
1.0 to 2.0	PROSPECTS ABOVE NORMAL, SOME FIELDS TOO WET.
0 to 1.0	MOISTURE ADEQUATE FOR PRESENT NORMAL NEEDS.
0 to -1.0	PROSPECTS IMPROVED, BUT RAIN STILL NEEDED.
-1.0 to -2.0	SOME IMPROVEMENT, BUT STILL TOO DRY.
-2.0 to -3.0	DROUGHT EASED, BUT STILL SERIOUS.
-3.0 to -4.0	DROUGHT CONTINUES, RAIN URGENTLY NEEDED.
BELOW -4.0	NOT ENOUGH RAIN, STILL EXCEPTIONALLY DRY.

DROUGHT CONTINUES IN FLORIDA AND SOUTHWEST

The southern Florida drought area received no rain last week as extremely dry conditions continued. Scattered showers fell in parts of western Texas and in the mountainous regions of northern New Mexico and Arizona, but generally were light and provided no lasting relief from the drought. Very dry conditions persisted in southwest Oklahoma where crop prospects are poor, and in southern Texas where non-irrigated vegetables are making slow progress.

Topsoils are becoming dry over much of the Corn Belt, but the dry weather of recent weeks has allowed field preparations and planting to move along ahead of normal.

In scattered areas from North Dakota and Nebraska southeast to Mississippi and Georgia fieldwork was temporarily delayed by local heavy showers.

J. J. Rahn



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HIGHLIGHTS—MARCH 1971

