

Weekly Weather & Crop Bulletin

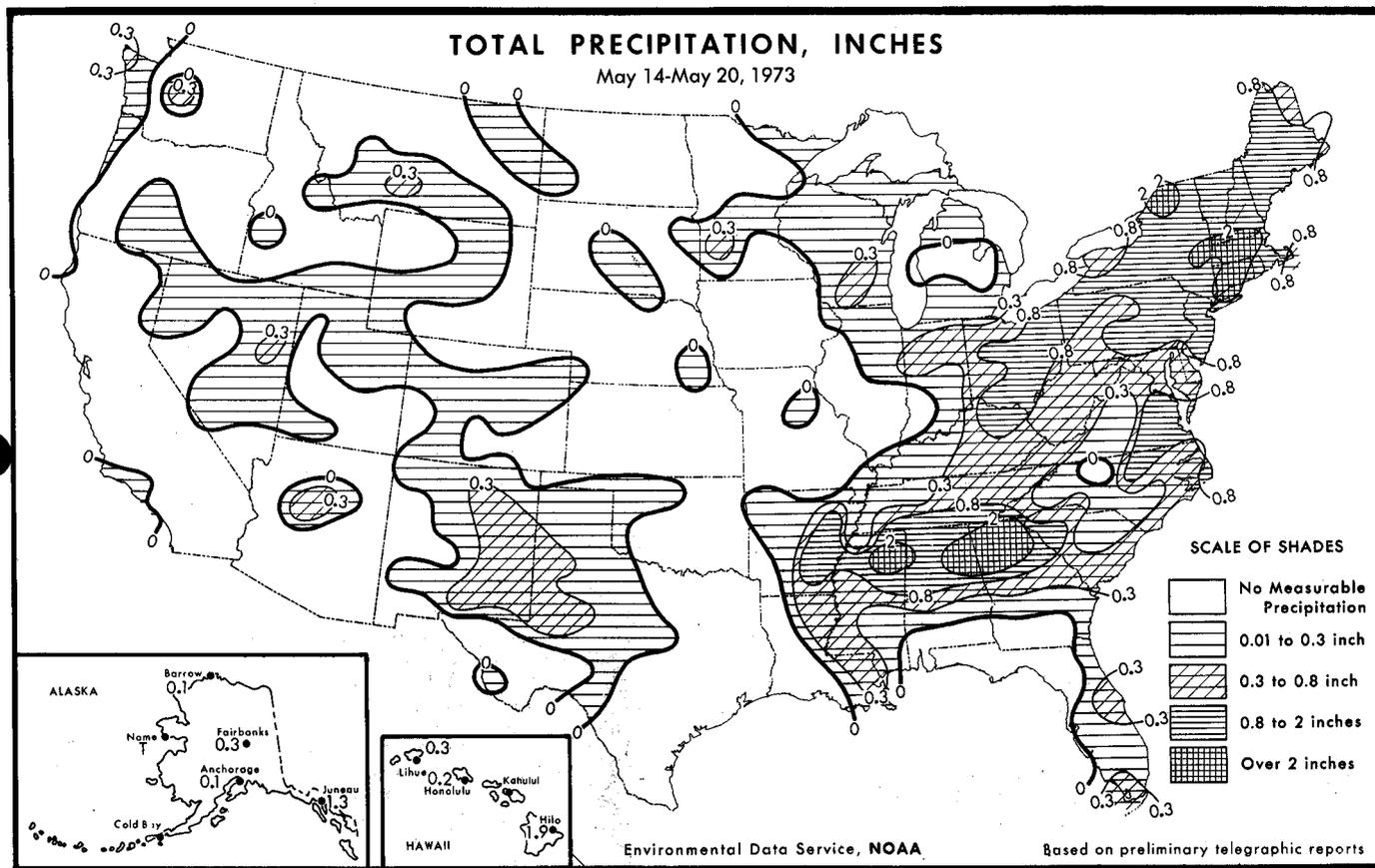
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NATIONAL WEATHER SUMMARY

HIGHLIGHTS: The western Corn Belt and the Great Plains were dry; less than 0.75 in fell on large areas of the eastern Corn Belt. Parts of the Nation's midsection have now had 10 badly needed days of dry weather. While the Mississippi dropped considerably, large areas remained flooded.

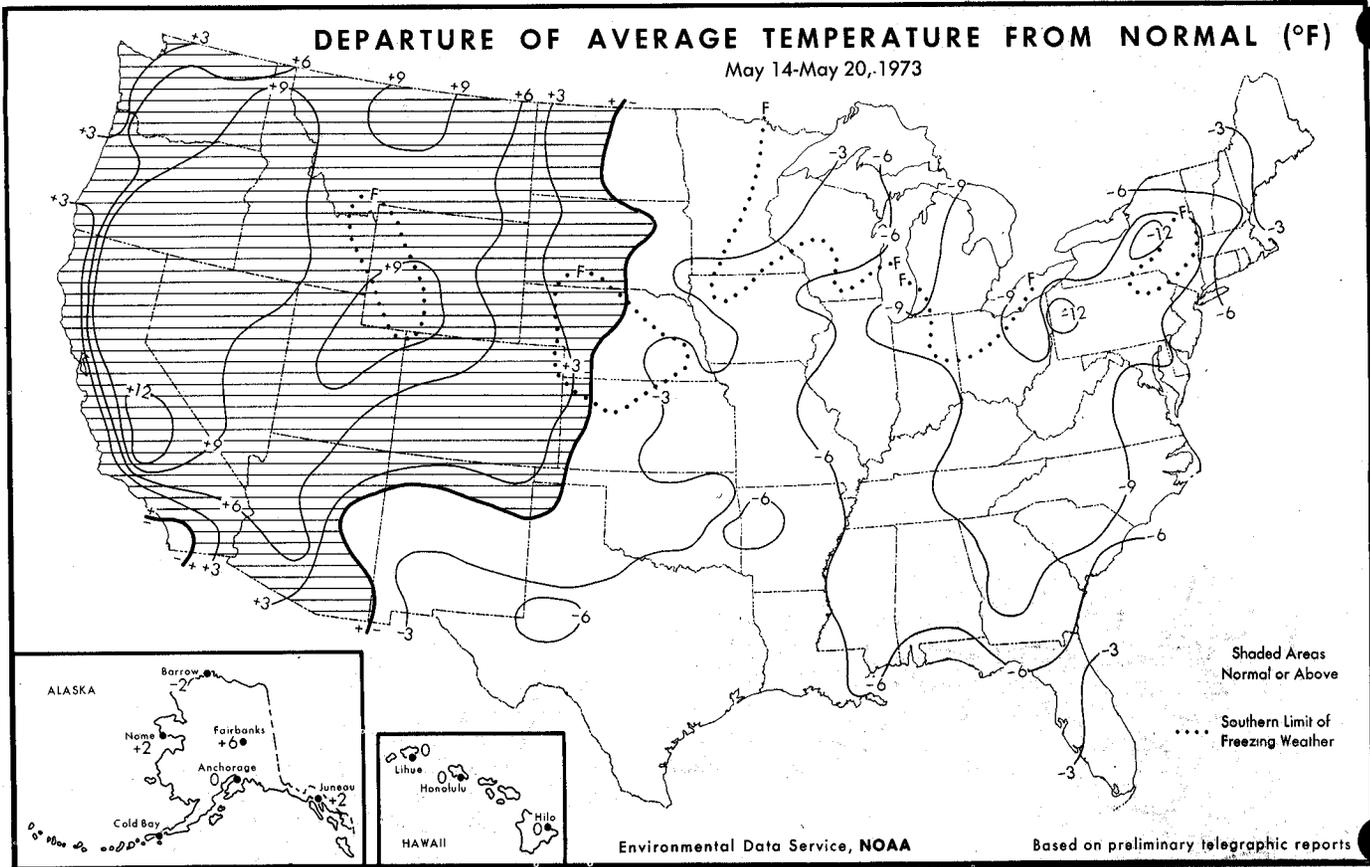
PRECIPITATION: Three High pressure systems dominated the week's weather. The first moved in over the Great Plains from Canada on Monday and cleared skies. A weak low pressure system to the east, however, did bring light rain to the Ohio and middle Mississippi Valleys. These showers spread eastward on Tuesday. Scattered thunderstorms also occurred over the South as the High pressure system moved southeastward.

On Wednesday the second High pushed its way into the Dakotas. A few traces of rain preceded

it, but nothing of consequence. Rain was confined mostly to New York and New England.

On Thursday sunshine graced most of the Nation; however, a cold front extending from a Low situated in Canada pushed its way across the Appalachians and Upstate New York. While lower temperature in some sections caused unseasonable snows late Thursday and early Friday, drenching rains fell on New York and New England areas, Rome and Albany, N.Y., measured 1.0 in of rain Thursday-Friday. Hartford, Conn., measured 1.00 in in 6 hours Friday morning.

In the northern Plains, several Low pressure systems produced cloudiness on Friday but negligible rain. Consolidating into a single system Saturday, it was pushed eastward by the third High, which gave most of the Corn Belt a rather clear Sunday. As the Low moved eastward it spread



the heaviest rains of the week over the Deep South. Tornadoes touched down in Alabama, while golf-ball sized hail struck scattered locations from Arkansas to Georgia on Saturday. As the weekend waned, thunderstorms drenched the South--Anniston, Ala., recorded 3.87 in rain-- thunderstorms occurred the Midwest, and the East remained cloudy, with intermittent thunderstorms.

TEMPERATURE: It was unseasonably warm in the Nation's western third. Most of the area ranged from 6° to 12° above normal. The mercury hit over 100° in some desert areas; western Washington and Oregon recorded unusually high temperatures in the 80's and low 90's.

In contrast, the East experienced a cold, almost winterlike week. Most of the Nation east of the Mississippi remained 6° to 12° below the norm. Temperatures fell to 46° at New Orleans, La., and 39° at Atlanta, Ga., Wednesday. From 5 to 6 in of snow fell in parts of New York and Pennsylvania on Thursday.

A bizarre temperature distribution marked Monday. Heavy clouds kept areas in the Texas Panhandle 30° below normal. The afternoon high at Lubbock, Tex., hit only 53°. Afternoon temperatures from there to New England remained in the 50's and 60's. However, warmer air flowing from southwestern deserts invaded the Pacific Northwest, where afternoon readings soared into the 80's, 20° above normal.

A High centered over the Plains kept Tuesday cold over most of the Nation's middle. Ft. Smith, Ark., recorded 38°, the lowest ever for so late in the season. To the north a High and a Low,

in combination over Canada, drove cold air into the Upper Mississippi Valley. The front passed through North Dakota during midafternoon. Fargo reported 81° at 2:00 pm, while 80 miles north Grand Forks reported 59°. The cold continued to invade eastwards. Bradford, Pa., hit 22° Wednesday, for the Nation's low. Record low temperatures were recorded at many points, such as 25°, Elkins, W.Va., and Roanoke, Va., 34°. Later in the day a series of cold fronts swept the eastern two-thirds of the Nation, chilling off northern Michigan enough for a little snow. More springlike weather dominated to the south, while extreme heat marked the West, with desert areas in California topping 100°.

Early Thursday the mercury dipped to 37° at Chicago, a new record low for the date. In the Northeast it remained cold; it hovered near the freezing mark at Syracuse, N.Y. all day. The Southeast enjoyed a springlike day with afternoon temperatures from the 60's to the 80's.

Friday dawned on record low temperatures throughout most of the Nation's eastern third. Oneonta, N.Y. received 6 in of icy, which downed trees and power lines. By mid-afternoon the area remained cold: Utica recorded 40° at 2 p.m. In the West, intense heat continued. In California, Thermal baked at 109°, as did Elmer and Needles. However, to the north, the hot spell in Washington and Oregon broke when cool, Pacific air pushed inland.

Over the weekend, it heated up considerably in Texas. Del Rio reached 102° at Angelo 102°. The heat embraced most of the area, but it remained on the chilly side throughout the Northeast.

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY

AGRICULTURAL HIGHLIGHTS: Corn planting made tremendous headway in the Corn Belt. * Cotton planting advanced rapidly in the South. * Soybean planting slowly gaining. * Winter wheat developed favorably in the southern Great Plains. * Small grains showing stress on drylands of Pacific Northwest.

SMALL GRAINS: Winter wheat in the southern Great Plains continued to develop favorably under a week of dry, mild weather. Soil moisture reserves ranged from adequate in Kansas and Nebraska to short in the Dakotas. The crop is maturing rapidly in Texas and Oklahoma. About 25 percent of the Oklahoma wheat acreage is in the dough stage compared to 67 percent a year earlier. The Kansas wheat crop is 25 percent headed compared to 72 percent both last year and average. Streak mosaic is evident in many Western Kansas counties. Wheat is beginning to head in Southern Nebraska and Colorado. Dry, windy weather depleted topsoil moisture in the Dakotas and slowed crop growth. About 10 percent of the South Dakota wheat crop is in the boot stage. Montana winter wheat condition ranged from fair to good during a warm, dry week. The Pacific Northwest drought intensified under abnormally hot, dry conditions and dryland small grain acreage is showing stress. Considerable oat seeding progress was made in lagging Corn Belt States last week. Spring wheat planting is virtually completed in the important producing States.

CORN: Corn planting made tremendous headway in the Corn Belt last week advancing 37 points to 58 percent complete as of May 20. Normal progress is 68 percent planted while last year at this time, the Corn Belt crop was 55 percent planted. The weather stayed dry all week providing 10 consecutive days of drying conditions. Farmers worked long, hard hours to get the crop seeded, trying to make up for time lost in early May. Planting completion ranged from 25 percent in Missouri to about 80 percent in Minnesota and Nebraska. In Iowa and Illinois, the leading corn producing States, about one-half of the intended corn acreage was planted during last week. Corn planting completion reached 64 percent in Iowa and 65 percent in Illinois compared to average progress of 85 percent and 71 percent respectively. A few farmers in Nebraska ran out of fuel. Corn planting in the South advanced to 73 percent complete, behind both last year's progress of 79 percent.

COTTON: Cotton planting from Texas and Oklahoma east to the Atlantic Coast made rapid progress, advancing 26 points to 55 percent complete as of May 20. Planting is still behind last year's progress of 72 percent for this date. Mostly sunny, dry weather during the week enabled farmers in the flood plagued Mississippi River Delta States to accomplish the most fieldwork since last October as they pushed cotton planting to 53 percent complete compared to 89 percent last year. The Mississippi cotton crop is 50 percent planted, Arkansas 65 percent.

Texas cotton growers made excellent progress with 51 percent of the intended acreage now planted compared to 56 percent normally planted. Early cotton in South Texas is growing well. Flood waters started receding from fields which had

been under water for many weeks in the Delta, but prospects are poor for planting cotton on such acreage. Paradoxically, a few light showers would help overcome cloddy soil and crusting on recently planted fields in Arkansas and Louisiana. Cotton planting in the South Atlantic States is about 90 percent completed and is nearly completed in the Western States.

SOYBEANS: Soybean planting increased in both the North and South but most growers focused their efforts on getting corn and cotton planted. Corn Belt soybean acreage was 15 percent planted as of May 20 compared to 22 percent a year earlier and normal progress of 30 percent. The Southern crop is 10 percent planted compared to 22 percent last year and normal progress of 25 percent. Soybean planting in Illinois is 15 percent complete, well behind the usual 35 percent planted by this time. Iowa soybean acreage is 10 percent planted versus an average of 37 percent. Planting is well ahead of normal in Minnesota at 42 percent, but well behind normal in Missouri at 3 percent completed. Arkansas soybean growers have 8 percent of their crop planted compared to the usual 31 percent.

OTHER CROPS: Sorghum planting went rapidly in Texas and at 65 percent complete is equal to normal progress. Planting is behind average in other important Central States. Kansas sorghum is 3 percent planted, Nebraska 19 percent, Oklahoma 8 percent and Missouri 4 percent. Tobacco transplanting is complete in South Carolina and just starting in Kentucky. Flue-cured tobacco transplanting ranged from 78 percent set in North Carolina to 25 percent set in Virginia. Peanut planting made record breaking progress in the South Atlantic States. Virginia acreage is 71 percent planted, North Carolina 82 percent, Georgia 90 percent. Potato planting is underway in Aroostook County, Maine. Sugar beet planting is nearly complete in Idaho and 81 percent completed in Colorado. Rice in Texas is 82 percent seeded while the Arkansas crop is 71 percent seeded.

Fruits and Nuts: Harvest of cherries, freestone peaches, nectarines, and apricots is underway in California while Valencia orange and lemon harvesting continues. Peach picking is also underway in extreme southern Georgia. The Texas citrus harvest is nearing completion while harvest remains active in Florida. Pecan crop prospects in Texas range from light to heavy.

Vegetables: Cool, wet weather slowed vegetable planting in the North Atlantic States. Considerable planting progress was made in Wisconsin. Vegetable crops in southern Florida are finishing rapidly as harvest activity shifts northward. The Laredo, Texas onion harvest is nearing completion but continues strong in the Winter-Garden area. Many California vegetables are moving in good volume.

PASTURES AND LIVESTOCK: Pasture growth was good with above average conditions prevailing. Exceptions include the Dakotas, Montana, and the drought plagued Pacific Northwest. Feedlots in Nebraska are dry for the first time in months. More dairy herds were put out to pasture in New England.

Temperature and Precipitation Data for the Week Ending Midnight, l.s.t., May 20, 1973

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 . . .	62	- 8	1.5	+ .7	La. Baton Rouge . . .	71	- 3	0	- .8	Youngstown . . .	47	-12	.9	0
Mobile . . .	71	- 4	0	-1.1	Lake Charles . . .	71	- 5	T	-1.0	OKLA. Okla. City . . .	67	- 1	0	-1.2
Montgomery . . .	66	- 7	.1	- .7	New Orleans . . .	69	- 6	.4	- .6	Tulsa . . .	67	- 1	0	-1.2
ALASKA Anchorage . . .	46	0	.1	0	Shreveport . . .	69	- 4	0	-1.1	OREG. Astoria . . .	56	+ 3	.2	- .5
Barrow . . .	17	- 2	.1	+ .1	MAINE Caribou . . .	49	- 2	.7	+ .1	Burns . . .	65	+11	T	- .5
Fairbanks . . .	54	+ 6	.3	+ .2	Portland . . .	51	- 3	1.8	+1.0	Medford . . .	69	+11	0	- .3
Juneau . . .	48	+ 2	1.3	+ .5	MD. Baltimore . . .	55	-10	.5	- .4	Pendleton . . .	70	+11	0	- .2
Kodiak . . .	41	- 2	1.7	- .1	MASS. Boston . . .	56	- 3	1.8	+1.0	Portland . . .	65	+ 7	T	- .5
Nome . . .	38	+ 2	T	- .2	Chatham . . .	52	- 10	.8	- .1	Salem . . .	61	+ 4	T	- .5
ARIZ. Flagstaff . . .	55	+ 4	.6	+ .5	MICH. Alpena . . .	43	-10	.2	- .4	PA. Allentown . . .	52	- 9	1.0	+ .1
Phoenix . . .	85	+ 8	0	0	Detroit . . .	49	- 9	T	- .8	Erie . . .	46	-11	1.0	+ .2
Tucson . . .	76	+ 2	.1	+ .1	Flint . . .	48	- 9	T	- .8	Harrisburg . . .	53	-10	1.4	+ .5
Yuma . . .	65	0	T	- .1	Grand Rapids . . .	49	- 8	.1	- .7	Philadelphia . . .	56	- 7	.9	+ .1
ARK. Fort Smith . . .	84	+ 4	0	0	Houghton Lake . . .	44	- 9	.1	- .5	Pittsburgh . . .	50	-10	1.7	- .2
Little Rock . . .	66	- 5	.3	- .9	Lansing . . .	47	-10	T	- .8	Scranton . . .	48	-11	1.0	+ .1
CALIF. Bakersfield . . .	84	+13	T	0	Marquette . . .	44	- 6	.1	- .5	R.I. Providence . . .	54	- 4	1.6	+ .8
Eureka . . .	52	- 1	T	- .5	Muskegon . . .	48	- 7	T	- .7	S.C. Charleston . . .	67	- 5	.4	- .4
Fresno . . .	80	+12	T	- .1	S. Ste. Marie . . .	41	- 8	.2	- .4	Columbia . . .	62	-11	.2	- .6
Los Angeles . . .	65	+ 4	0	0	MINN. Duluth . . .	49	- 1	T	- .7	Greenville . . .	60	-11	.6	- .1
Red Bluff . . .	79	+10	0	- .3	Internatl Falls . . .	51	0	T	- .6	S.D. Aberdeen . . .	58	+ 1	T	- .5
San Diego . . .	63	- 1	T	0	Minneapolis . . .	56	- 2	T	- .7	Huron . . .	57	- 1	T	- .5
San Francisco . . .	60	+ 1	0	- .1	Rochester . . .	53	- 4	T	- .8	Rapid City . . .	59	+ 3	T	- .6
Stockton . . .	77	+10	0	- .1	St. Cloud . . .	54	- 2	T	- .8	Sioux Falls . . .	56	- 3	T	- .8
COLO. Denver . . .	61	+ 4	T	- .6	MISS. Jackson . . .	67	- 6	.1	- .8	TENN. Chattanooga . . .	58	- 9	1.3	+ .5
Grand Junction . . .	68	+ 6	T	- .1	Meridian . . .	66	- 7	.1	- .8	Knoxville . . .	58	-11	.5	- .3
Pueblo . . .	65	+ 4	T	- .4	MO. Columbia . . .	59	- 6	T	-1.0	Memphis . . .	65	- 6	T	-1.0
CONN. Bridgeport . . .	54	- 5	2.6	+1.8	Kansas City . . .	61	- 4	T	-1.0	Nashville . . .	60	- 9	.2	- .6
Hartford . . .	55	- 4	2.4	+1.7	St. Louis . . .	58	- 8	T	- .8	TEX. Abilene . . .	68	- 4	.2	- .8
D.C. Washington . . .	59	- 7	.3	- .7	Springfield . . .	60	- 5	T	-1.2	Amarillo . . .	65	0	.1	- .6
FLA. Apalachicola . . .	72	- 3	0	- .5	MONT. Billings . . .	64	+ 8	.1	- .3	Austin . . .	72	- 3	0	- .9
Daytona Beach . . .	72	- 3	.2	- .7	Glasgow . . .	63	+ 8	T	- .3	Beaumont . . .	70	- 5	0	-1.2
Ft. Myers . . .	74	- 4	T	- .7	Great Falls . . .	64	+10	0	- .4	Brownsville . . .	74	- 4	T	- .6
Jacksonville . . .	70	- 6	.1	- .7	Havre . . .	65	+10	T	- .4	Corpus Christi . . .	74	- 5	T	- .7
Key West . . .	78	- 1	.7	+ .1	Helena . . .	61	+ 8	T	- .3	Dallas . . .	76	- 3	.1	- .5
Lakeland . . .	74	- 3	T	- .7	Kalspell . . .	80	+ 7	T	- .3	Del Rio . . .	67	- 5	0	- .1
Miami . . .	77	- 1	.2	-1.2	Miles City . . .	64	+ 6	T	- .4	El Paso . . .	67	- 3	T	-1.1
Orlando . . .	76	0	.3	- .4	Missoula . . .	61	+ 8	0	- .4	Fort Worth . . .	70	- 5	0	- .7
Tallahassee . . .	68	- 7	T	- .8	NEBR. Grand Island . . .	59	- 3	0	- .9	Galveston . . .	72	- 4	0	- .2
Tampa . . .	73	- 4	T	- .5	Lincoln . . .	59	- 4	.1	- .7	Houston . . .	71	- 5	T	-1.1
W. Palm Beach . . .	76	- 2	.2	- .5	Norfolk . . .	59	- 2	T	- .8	Lubbock . . .	67	- 1	.3	- .4
GA. Atlanta . . .	59	-11	2.6	+1.9	N. Platte . . .	59	0	T	- .7	Midland . . .	67	- 7	.4	- .1
Augusta . . .	63	- 9	.3	- .3	Omaha . . .	61	0	T	- .8	San Angelo . . .	70	- 5	.2	- .6
Macon . . .	64	-10	.4	- .4	Valentine . . .	59	+ 1	0	- .6	San Antonio . . .	72	- 3	T	- .8
Savannah . . .	69	- 5	.1	- .7	NEV. Ely . . .	57	+ 6	.3	+ .1	Victoria . . .	74	- 3	T	-1.0
HAWAII. Hilo . . .	73	0	1.9	- .3	Las Vegas . . .	81	+ 7	T	0	Waco . . .	70	- 5	T	-1.1
Honolulu . . .	76	0	.2	0	Reno . . .	65	+11	.1	0	Wichita Falls . . .	68	+ 4	0	-1.1
Kahului . . .	-	-	-	-	Winemucca . . .	65	+11	.2	0	UTAH. Blanding . . .	62	+ 5	0	- .2
Lihue . . .	75	0	.3	- .3	N.H. Concord . . .	49	- 7	1.1	+ .4	Salt Lake City . . .	68	+ 9	.3	0
IDAHO. Boise . . .	69	+11	.1	- .2	N.J. Atlantic City . . .	55	- 7	.9	+ .1	VT. Burlington . . .	50	- 5	1.0	+ .3
Lewiston . . .	70	+11	0	- .4	Trenton . . .	55	- 8	.7	- .1	VA. Lynchburg . . .	57	- 9	.1	+ .6
Pocatello . . .	63	+ 8	T	- .3	N.MEX. Albuquerque . . .	64	- 1	.1	- .1	Norfolk . . .	68	- 5	.9	+ .1
ILL. Cairo . . .	63	- 7	.1	- .9	Roswell . . .	64	- 3	.6	+ .3	Richmond . . .	60	- 8	1.2	+ .3
Chicago . . .	51	-10	.2	- .7	N.Y. Albany . . .	49	-10	2.4	+1.6	Roanoke . . .	56	-10	.3	- .5
Moline . . .	59	- 2	T	- .9	Binghamton . . .	46	-11	1.0	+ .2	WASH. Colville . . .	62	+ 6	T	- .3
Peoria . . .	54	- 8	T	-1.0	Buffalo . . .	49	- 6	.5	- .2	Omak . . .	64	+ 5	T	- .2
Rockford . . .	53	- 7	.1	- .8	New York . . .	56	- 7	1.0	+ .2	Quillayute . . .	55	+ 3	0	- .7
Springfield . . .	56	- 7	T	- .9	Rochester . . .	49	- 8	.3	- .3	Seattle-Tacoma . . .	62	+ 6	T	- .4
IND. Evansville . . .	59	- 6	T	- .9	Syracuse . . .	46	-12	1.6	+ .9	Spokane . . .	66	+10	0	- .3
Ft. Wayne . . .	50	-10	.6	- .2	N.C. Asheville . . .	54	-11	.1	- .5	Walla Walla . . .	72	+11	0	- .3
Indianapolis . . .	55	- 7	T	- .9	Charlotte . . .	59	-11	.5	- .2	Yakima . . .	66	+ 7	0	- .1
South Bend . . .	50	- 9	.2	- .6	Greensboro . . .	58	- 9	T	- .8	W. Va. Beckley . . .	49	-12	.6	- .4
IOWA. Burlington . . .	57	- 5	0	- .9	Hatteras . . .	63	- 5	1.4	+ .5	Charleston . . .	54	-11	.9	+ .2
Des Moines . . .	59	- 3	0	- .9	Raleigh . . .	59	- 9	.9	+ .1	Huntington . . .	56	- 9	.9	+ .1
Dubuque . . .	52	- 7	.2	- .7	Wilmington . . .	64	- 7	.4	- .4	Parkersburg . . .	55	-10	.7	- .1
Sioux City . . .	61	0	T	- .7	N.DAK. Bismarck . . .	56	0	T	- .4	WIS. Green Bay . . .	55	+ 3	.2	- .5
KANS. Concordia . . .	61	- 3	0	- .8	Fargo . . .	55	- 1	0	- .4	La Crosse . . .	58	- 5	T	- .8
Dodge City . . .	62	- 2	0	- .7	Williston . . .	59	+ 3	T	- .3	Madison . . .	51	- 5	T	- .3
Goodland . . .	62	+ 3	T	- .3	OHIO. Akron-Canton . . .	51	- 7	.8	- .1	Milwaukee . . .	47	- 10	.2	- .5
Topeka . . .	59	- 6	0	-1.0	Cincinnati . . .	53	-11	.8	0	WYO. Casper . . .	59	+ 5	T	- .5
Wichita . . .	61	- 5	T	- .9	Cleveland . . .	50	- 8	1.0	+ .2	Cheyenne . . .	59	+ 5	T	- .6
KY. Lexington . . .	54	-11	.8	- .1	Columbus . . .	53	-10	.7	- .2	Lander . . .	61	+ 7	T	- .5
Louisville . . .	57	- 8	.1	- .8	Dayton . . .	52	-10	.8	0	Sheridan . . .	61	+ 7	T	- .6
					Toledo . . .	48	-11	.2	- .5	P.R. San Juan . . .	63	+ 2	.2	-1.3

CONDENSED STATE SUMMARIES

The Bulletin capsulizes nationally important weather and crop conditions. Every Monday SRS publishes more detailed data in State Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletins in cooperation with the National Weather Service, NOAA. Voluntary weather observers, crop reporters, and county extension agents contribute weekly observations for these reports.

ALABAMA: Mostly dry and sunny, unseasonably cool temperatures: 6° normal. Heavy rains, severe weather across north Saturday. Rains of 1.00 to locally 3.00 in northeast. Excellent progress planting corn, cotton, peanuts. Week-end rains delayed planting in several northern counties. Cotton planting took priority, about 75% complete, slightly over 90% last year. Cotton emerging to uneven stands, considerable acreage being replanted. Corn planting nearly 75% complete, more advanced south and central but lags north where farmers making effort to get cotton in ground. Slightly less than 80% peanuts planted, growers cultivated and applied herbicides to earliest acreage. Soybean planting slightly over 10% complete. Small grains underway several southern counties. Cutting hay, mostly small grains and pastures, active many farms.

ALASKA: Freezing nearly all areas early week, definite trend warmer later. High temperatures low 70's lower Tanana and Matanuska Valleys. Unusually heavy rainfall over Kenai Peninsula and Kodiak Island. Drying of fields improved with generally warm temperatures throughout Railbelt. Some planting of small grain, majority of planting expected next few weeks. A few growers awaiting fertilizer shipments. Pastures greening rapidly. High winds made farming difficult, especially in Matanuska Valley.

ARIZONA: Temperatures above normal from 8° northwest to near normal southeast. Heavy showers about mid-week over northcentral mountains, Mogollon Rim and White Mountains. Light showers near mountains, northwest and southeast. Cotton crop fair to good, later last year. Yuma 100% emergence, other areas 50%. Small grains normal, approaching maturity. Harvesting beginning Yuma County, favorable yields. Good progress sorghum, early plants boot stage, Yuma County. Safflower satisfactory, blooms developing southwest, yield prospects favorable. Sugarbeet harvest continues Yuma County, good yields. First cutting alfalfa hay continues southeast. Maricopa, Yuma Counties good yields second cutting. Harvest lettuce continued, central, nearing completion. Lettuce Cochise County good, harvest expected end May. Harvest other mixed vegetables continued. Harvest potatoes, dry onions nearing full volume. Cantaloupes Yuma area, good, harvest expected May 28. Picking grapefruit, Valencia oranges continued Yuma, Salt River Valley. Ranges mostly good. High and low elevation grasses green. Desert ranges drying up due to hot weather. Stockwater adequate. Cattle, calves mostly good, calving active. Sheep, lambs fair to good.

ARKANSAS: Mean temperatures low 70's southwest to low 60's extreme north with departures 3° to 7° subnormal. Lowest 33°. Rainfall western third from 0 to 0.15 in. Largest totals southeastern quarter Pine Bluff 1.68 in. Most rain weekend. Fieldwork active. Planting progress rapid. Topsoil cloddy and crusty. Light showers, warmer temperatures needed for germination. Some land still flooded. Cotton 65% planted, early

fields emerging. Rice 71% seeded, flushing to get a stand. Soybean planting about 8% planted, normal 31%. Sorghum planting increasing. Wheat and oats ripening. Oats being cut for hay. Haying very active. Apple and grape prospects good. Peaches fair to good. Strawberry crop short. Tomatoes fair to good. Watermelons planted. Cucumber and okra planting active. Pastures good to excellent.

CALIFORNIA: Temperatures well above normal interior sections, south coast and extreme northwest coast only areas subnormal. Harvest small grain hay active due favorable weather most State. Wheat and barley good. Barley harvest started San Joaquin Valley. Field corn excellent progress, planting near complete. Planting milo active, earlier plantings good growth. Early seeded rice emerging. Spraying for tadpole shrimp. Sugar beets good growth, development. Planting cotton continues, normal activities all areas, sulfuring for mites started. Safflower and dry beans good condition. Alfalfa second cutting beginning most areas. Harvest cherry crop active. Bings underway Stockton area, large crop. Sulfuring grapes control mites, mildew. Harvesting freestone peaches southern San Joaquin Valley active. Thinning clingstone underway. Picking nectarines started May 14. Light picking plums expected. Harvest early variety apricots started. Almonds continue size, appear normal. Control codling moth walnuts continues. Prune crop normal. Harvest Valencia oranges south active. Lemon harvest active south. Most asparagus to processors. Broccoli good volume Salinas, Santa Maria. Cauliflower normal Salinas. Celery heavier south, beginning Santa Maria. Carrot digging peak level Imperial, Santa Maria start next week. Sweet corn started Coachella. Lettuce decreased Salinas, Santa Maria supplies limited. Onion peak level desert; beginning Stockton, Fresno. Kern County potato increasing. Sweet potato planting active Merced. Strawberry picking increasing central coast, southern California mostly processors. Pink tomatoes picked Imperial. Low elevation ranges drying rapidly, feed plentiful. Few cattle moving to summer pastures, stockwater abundant. Livestock good. Sheep shearing near completion central valley. Turkeys make good progress on ranges. San Joaquin Valley bee colonies moving from citrus areas.

COLORADO: Precipitation sparse. Temperatures slightly above normal. Highest 89°, lowest 18°. Planting spring crops made rapid progress. Warmer temperatures enhanced seed germination and plant emergence. Condition all crops improving. Soil moisture supplies generally adequate. Fall seeded grains good growth, condition good to excellent. Winter wheat 73% jointing, 5% headed. Insects and streak mosaic causing light damage. Winter barley 55% jointing, 3% headed. Oats 80% seeded, 59% emerged. Spring barley 84% seeded, 47% emerged. Corn 52% planted, 9% emerged. Sorghum 18% seeded. Sugar beets 81% planted, 33% emerged, small acreage blocked. Late summer potatoes 59% seeded, 18% emerged. Fall potatoes planting good progress, emergence slow. Condition alfalfa improving, cutting for dehydration

very limited Arkansas Valley. Range and pasture grass good growth. Livestock improving, supplemental feeding limited to local areas.

FLORIDA: Very warm followed by cooler most areas after midweek, warmer on weekend. Record or near record minimum temperatures Thursday morning. A few locations established daily record lows. Temperatures subnormal north and central and near normal south. Rainfall mostly early week. Heaviest northeast and south, averaged near 0.66 to 1.33 in, northeast and south. Moisture short most locations. Cotton and soybean planting continues. Wheat harvest waiting for kernels to dry to storage levels. Sugarcane harvest nearly complete, new growth excellent. Pastures declining, cattle good with few fair. Citrus trees, new crop fruit excellent. Remaining Valencias excellent quality. Moisture short but not critical, not much irrigation. Harvest active but labor short. Vegetable crops finishing rapidly south, harvest activity shifting to central, north. Potatoes about steady. Tomatoes peaking late May. Sweet corn steady, peppers continue heavy. Snap beans, cabbage, squash declining. Lettuce, other leaf crops seasonally light. Watermelons peak supply southwest, early melons moving from westcentral.

GEORGIA: Moderate to excessive rainfall most north, thunderstorms Saturday. No significant rainfall elsewhere. Very cool central and north and mild to cool remainder until warming trend south Saturday and north Sunday. Many record lows 16th and 18th, Blairsville 28° and Clayton 30° on 18th. Temperature 8° to 11° subnormal north, 5° to 7° south. Soil moisture mostly adequate except local areas southeast. Cotton fair, 84% planted, 50% up to stand. Corn mostly fair to good, 90% seeded. Tobacco fair, transplanting completed. Soybeans 30% planted. Peanuts fair, 90% planted. Peaches fair, harvest underway extreme south. Truck crops fair. Wheat and oats good, maturing rapidly. Some combining underway south. Pastures and cattle good. Cool temperatures slowed crop growth.

HAWAII: Growing conditions favorable. Showers light--crop progress fair to good, heavy irrigation. Sugarcane, pineapple harvesting active. Supplies of papayas, watermelons heavy, bananas, vegetables adequate. Insect infestations heavy some crops--control measures keeping damage minimum. Dry weather affecting lowland pastures--necessitating supplementary feeding. Cattle poor to fair in dry areas but fair to good elsewhere.

IDAHO: Dry, hot week. No measurable precipitation. Temperatures ranged from 5° to 15° above normal, several stations reached upper 90's. A squall line moved through Saturday afternoon bringing a few thundershowers and general cooling. Crops excellent growth because of warm, dry weather. Topsoil moisture short, north, southwest. Rains needed for pasture and range growth, grass heading short. Seeding small grains complete except east where 25% not planted. Small grains 90% emerged north, southwest, southcentral, 50% east. Potato planting 95% done southwest, 75% southcentral, 60% east. Potato emergence 60% southwest, 15% southcentral. Sugar beet planting complete except east with 10% remaining--thinning, blocking 20% southwest, just starting southcentral. Corn planting 75% complete southwest, 65% southcentral, 40% east. Dry bean planting 30% done southwest, 20% southcentral.

ILLINOIS: Cool, relatively dry week. Temperatures 5° to 9° subnormal. Corn planting 65% complete--last 66%, average (1970-1972) 71%. Most advanced central, southern area behind. Seedbeds poor some areas. Soybean planting 15% complete--last year 34%, average 35%. Nearly 80% land plowed, last year 90%, average 93%. Oat seeding nearly 100%, last year 98%, average 99%. New seedings fair to good. Winter wheat mostly good, 80% heading, last year 76%, average 69%. Nearly 40% heads filling, same as 1972, average 25%. Red clover, alfalfa good to excellent. First cutting alfalfa 5% complete. Pastures good to excellent. Soil moisture 32% surplus, 63% adequate, 5% short. Main activities plowing, discing, oat seeding, fertilizer application, corn and soybean planting. Averaged 6 days suitable fieldwork.

INDIANA: Cool, dry week 7° to 12° subnormal. Freeze problems in north and east four mornings. Coldest in mid to upper 20's north central and northeast. Damage to ground level crops and some tree fruits. Rainfall light averaging .10 to .30 in. Rainfall past 4 weeks now subnormal all areas except south. Afternoon humidity in 30's through week and high evaporation. Fieldwork: 5 days suitable. Topsoil and subsoil moisture mostly adequate. Fieldwork 10 days late. Plowing 70% complete. Corn 40% planted, 45% average, 35% in 1972. Soybeans 10% planted, 15% average, 10% in 1972. Oats 90% seeded. Sorghum 10% planted, 5% 1972. Wheat 25% headed, 25% average, 1972. Clover 90% seeded. Alfalfa 5% cut first time.

IOWA: Temperatures around normal southwest to subnormal east. Negligible precipitation for a week of welcome drying. Excellent progress, nearly 7 days suitable fieldwork. Plowing 80%, behind 95% 1972 and 1967-1971 average 99%. Oats seeding 95%, behind virtual completion 1972 and normal. About 64% corn planted, 68% 1972 and average 85%. Corn 4% emerged, 1972 8%. Soybean planting 10%, 19% 1972 and average 37%. Condition of growing crops (oats, clover and alfalfa hay, pastures) mostly good. Topsoil moisture 24% surplus, 69% adequate, 7% short.

KANSAS: Dry, pleasant, minimum of storms. Precipitation spotty, very light. Temperatures averaged 2°-3° below normal east to near normal southwest; 3° above normal northwest. Scattered frost north 15th and northeast 17th. Row crop field preparation and corn planting moved ahead rapidly. Corn 34% planted, 55% year ago, 74% average. Sorghum 3% planted, 10% year ago, 19% average. Alfalfa first cutting 12% complete by May 19, 17% last year, range 7% to 51% other recent years. Alfalfa weevil damage moderate to severe east and south. Most early wheat varieties headed south, statewide 25% headed, 72% both last year and average. Soil moisture adequate, a few local shortages surface moisture southwest and southcentral. Wheat streak mosaic western counties. Cattle getting 86% roughage from grazing, somewhat ahead of year ago. Young stock good progress.

KENTUCKY: Fair, cool early week. Scattered showers midweek, some heavy thunderstorms week's end. Rainfall less than 0.50 in west to over 0.67 in east. Temperatures 5° to 10° subnormal. Fieldwork rapid. First good week for outdoor work in several months, averaging 5 days fieldwork. Soil moisture 70% adequate, 30% surplus--first week in season that soil moisture has not been

primarily surplus. Corn planting extremely active, 38% intended corn acreage planted, 61% year ago and 5-year average 73%. Planting progress about 10 days to 2 weeks later than usual. Soybean planting began last week, 5% complete, 16% year ago and 23% for 1968-72 average. Tobacco plants highly variable size, 15% reaching 4 in. or greater. About 50% plants less than 2 in. tall. Tobacco setting to begin late week, active about June 1. Wheat looking better and 80% of fields headed or heading. Barley turning some fields showing definite freeze damage. About 25% alfalfa fields cut first time. Pastures excellent.

LOUISIANA: Temperatures 3° to 7° subnormals. Several record low temperatures. Gradual warming over weekend. Extremes: 89°, 39°. Precipitation: Scattered showers late week south. Drying very good. Fieldwork generally active except flood areas and on land along levees affected by seepage. Rivers crested and were beginning to recede slowly. Backwater areas unworkable for 4 to 6 weeks, some will not be planted. Land preparation soybeans, planting cotton, rice, corn and sweetpotatoes good progress. Cotton 50% planted, rice 80%, corn 50%, sweet potatoes 40%, sorghum grain 25%, soybeans 5%. Cool nights slowed germination. Topsoil getting very dry and more moisture needed many areas to obtain satisfactory stands. Cultivation and application of herbicides active in sugarcane. Wheat and oats fair to good -- nearly ready for harvest. Haying more active. Pastures about average except in flooded areas. Livestock fair to good, some displaced cattle very thin.

MARYLAND AND DELAWARE: Temperatures: 3° to 5° below normal Delmarva, and 6° to 9° over central and west Maryland. Extreme highs low 70's Delmarva. Lows near 30 west and central Maryland, near 40 Delmarva. Rain: .50 to .80 in northern Delaware and northeast Maryland; .20 to .50 in elsewhere. Good progress between showers. Corn planting averages 68%, about normal. Soybean planting started all areas. Tobacco setting under 10%, plants plentiful. Barley starting to turn south. First cuttings yielding well, progress slowed by showers in north. Vegetables good progress. Strawberry harvest to peak May 25 Southern Shore.

MICHIGAN: Cold, rather dry. Daily and/or seasonal record lows established upper and lower. Temperatures: 5° to 10° subnormal. Lows: 20's. Weekend temperatures moderated. Precipitation: .10 to .20 in upper and west lower to less than .01 in southeast lower. Brief heavy snow upper and north lower. Fieldwork speeded as fields dried. Soil moisture adequate to surplus. Averaged 4.5 days suitable fieldwork. About 59% acreage intended for spring crops plowed, 67% last year, 87% in 1971. Oats 82% planted, normal 87%. Sugar beets 84% planted, normal 88%. Potatoes 39% planted, normal 51%. Corn 37% planted, normal 49%. Soybeans 5% planted, normal 14%. Early planted oats and sugar beets good stands. Cool weather slowing wheat, hay and pasture growth. Pasture feed supplies near average. Frost hurt tart cherries and some other fruit and froze some grapes. Considerable acreage of tomatoes and some asparagus frozen.

MINNESOTA: Temperatures: Normal to 2° subnormal north; 3° to 5° subnormal south until weekend when all areas had afternoon temperatures above

normal. Extremes: Low 80's west to low and middle 20's northwest and north central. Precipitation: None or less than 0.2 in. Soil moisture east two-thirds generally adequate except excessive parts southeast. Supplies short to very short north-west corner and some westcentral areas. Topsoil short southwest. Fieldwork rapid, 5 to 7 days possible. Plant growth fair. Pastures, hayfields fair. Winter wheat, rye good. Corn emergence lagging 1 week. Corn land 88% prepared, 80% normal. Corn 79% planted, 69% normal; 12% emerged, 31 normal. Soybean land 65% prepared, 59% normal. Soybeans 42% planted, 29% normal; 3% emerged, 5% normal. Barley 95% planted, 73% normal, 76% emerged. Flax 78% planted, 54% normal. Potatoes 62% planted, 29% normal. Sugar beets 71% planted, 44% normal processing peas 81%, processing sweet corn 49%, sunflowers 46% planted. Oats 83% emerged, 66% normal.

MISSISSIPPI: Mild days and unseasonably cool nights. Temperatures: Around 10° subnormal. Extremes: 93°, 36°. Severe thunderstorms, mainly Saturday night less than .50 in, most areas. Golf ball-sized hail, vegetation damage in Lee, Union, and Sharkey Counties. Best fieldwork since October, averaging 5.2 days, 2.8 days last week and 3.5 days last year. Cotton 50% planted, 92% year ago, normally 88%, 18% up to stand. Corn 52% planted, last year 81%, normally 74%, 35% up to stand. Soybeans 3%, last year 11%, normally 25%. Rice 55% seeded, 95% last year, normally 80%. Sorghums 14%, year ago 44%, normally 40%. Sweet potatoes 32%, 39% last year, normally 38%. Wheat 45% and oats 50% ripe. Hay harvest very active. Field crops fair to good. Pastures and livestock good.

MISSOURI: Dry, cool week. Temperature: 5° to 10° subnormal. Low: 29°, frost. Weekend highs: 80's. Missouri and Mississippi Rivers receded from April record floods and the Missouri was within banks to mouth by the 18th. The Mississippi is expected to be within banks to the Bootheel by late month. Fieldwork: 5 days suitable. Plowing 38% complete, other methods land preparation being substituted. Corn 25% planted, 70% year ago. Soybeans 3% planted, 22% last year. Grain sorghum 4% planted, 24% year ago. Cotton planting 43% complete compared 92% year ago. First cutting alfalfa 12% harvested, behind last year's 30%. Wheat 53% headed, last year 83% fair condition. Pastures good. Soil moisture adequate.

MONTANA: Mostly dry and warm: Highs in 80's. Pacific system brought showers and cooler temperatures weekend. Most significant precipitation southcentral and southern part southwest. Topsoil moisture mostly short western third and north-central, short to adequate elsewhere. Winter wheat good eastern third and southcentral, fair to good elsewhere. Seeding spring wheat 90% complete, barley 85%, oats 80%, corn 60%, potatoes 50%, dry beans 70%, sugar beets 95%. Prospective supplies irrigation water mostly below average. Hay and range grass growth slower than average to average. Stockwater supplies short to adequate. Supplemental feeding to 40% cattle, 35% sheep. Cattle 50%, sheep 55% moved to summer ranges.

NEBRASKA: Frost or freeze on mornings of 14th and 15th. Temperatures 4° to 11° subnormal early week warming 11° to 20° above normal late. Tremendous progress fieldwork, now ahead of normal; 7 days

suitable. A few farmers have run out of fuel. Fieldwork consisted preparing seedbeds, planting corn, soybeans, grain sorghum, applying fertilizer, herbicides, breaking crusts so seeded crops could emerge. Corn planting 80% complete, 50% year earlier, 74% normal. Some corn up. Soybean planting 21% complete, 9% year ago, 19% normal. Sorghum 19% planted, 10% 1972, normal 24%. Rain needed to germinate row crops and soften soil surfaces for emergence. Some planting delayed, dry topsoils. Topsoil moisture adequate to short, subsoil moisture adequate to surplus. Limited freeze damage early week. Sugar beet planting about completed, early plantings excellent stands, late plantings need moisture to germinate. Winter wheat generally good to fair. Wheat near heading south. Alfalfa and wild hay good to excellent. First cutting alfalfa for dehydrators begun. Range and pasture condition continues above normal. All feedlots dry first time in many months.

NEVADA: Temperatures: north 10° to 15° above normal, south 8° to 10° above normal. High 103°. Coldest 20°. General precipitation last of week advantageous to ranges. Winter grains and range feed supplies good to excellent. Planting spring crops complete except north, east and central high valleys. Second cutting alfalfa for green chop underway extreme southern valleys. Treatment for alfalfa weevil underway several areas. Livestock remain good, normal death losses.

NEW ENGLAND: Temperatures 2° to 4° subnormal north, 4° to 8° subnormal south. Rain frequent, heaviest Vermont, Connecticut, West Mass. 1.00 in plus, 0.50 in elsewhere. Crop development and planting slowed by cool, wet weather. Apples in higher elevations blooming. Some alfalfa in south almost ready to cut. Strawberries full bloom most areas. More dairy herds put out to pasture. Grazing good most areas. Potato planting underway Aroostook County, Maine.

NEW JERSEY: Cold, wet alternately mild and cold. Below freezing north. Temperatures about 7° subnormal. Extremes: low 70's, to near 30°. Precipitation: from 0.50 in central to over 1.75 in extreme north. Cool weather delayed crop development. Some frost 19th, no damage reported yet. Soil moisture excessive on heavy soils. Planting tomatoes, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, peppers as weather permits. Very light movement iceberg lettuce, escarole begun. Potato planting complete, early plantings cultivated. Sweet potato transplanting increasing. Fruit tree spraying active. Showers delayed field corn, soybean planting.

NEW MEXICO: Temperatures near 20° subnormal, extensive rain early week. Some rainfall near 1.00 in east and south. Drying, warming through last half, high temperatures about 10° above normal by Saturday and slight cooling on Sunday. Ideal weather conditions statewide. Planting cotton, sorghum, cutting hay, thinning apple orchards primary activities. Cotton for State 95% planted, Mesilla Valley 100%, east 30% to 40% planted. Overall 80% up good stands, slight army worm infestation spotted southern Dona Ana County. Corn planting underway. Alfalfa south first cutting virtually complete, good yields; north beginning cutting. Grain sorghum 15% planted overall. Wheat good to excellent, 95% headed, none turning yet. Lettuce, onions good. Cutting lettuce increasing Mesilla Valley. Apples full bloom, thinning active. Cattle and calves good, recuperating rapidly spring storm losses northeast. Ranges good, making excellent progress.

NEW YORK: Cool and wet week. Temperatures: Mostly between 6° and 11° subnormal. Precipitation averaged up to 0.25 in subnormal west plateau and Great Lakes area. Elsewhere however, precipitation frequent and plentiful. Hudson Valley amounts 1.00 in or more above normal. Wet snow fell Thursday-Friday portions central, up to 7 in higher terrain east and north plateaus. Weather hampered planting and other fieldwork; third consecutive week of cold and wet. Most areas surplus soil moisture. Wheat, hay and pastures continue good growth. Early corn development slowed, about 25% planted. About 70% oats crop seeded, emerged most areas. Surplus moisture limited planting vegetable crops most week. Potato planting slowed Upstate. In the Steuben, Livingston, and Wyoming areas about 40% crop was in. Onion planting complete. Lettuce planting schedule delayed Oswego County. Fruit development slowed. Tree fruits ahead of normal. Sweet cherries set fairly well, tart cherries now setting. Grape development no longer ahead of normal.

NORTH CAROLINA: Temperatures subnormal. Unseasonably cold mornings, some frost. Lows: 20's mountains, 30's and low 40's elsewhere. Record late spring lows some areas. Daytime temperatures mild, highs mostly in 70's. A few showers inland, more numerous on coast. Totals mostly 0.25 in or less except up to 1.00 in on coast. Cool nights and frost slowed crop growth. Some vegetables, especially tomatoes damaged mountain areas. Farmers averaged 4.6 days fieldwork. Soil moisture generally adequate, but shortages appearing several areas. Corn planting finished many farms, overall 86%, average 80%. Cultivating, spraying active. Flue-cured tobacco 78% set, average 65%. Soybean planting in high gear at 28% done, 10-year average 36%. Cool nights hurt cotton; planting 90% complete average 86%. Small grains good but rust and smut increasing. Haymaking active. Peanut planting at record-breaking pace -- 82% done, average 70%.

NORTH DAKOTA: Temperatures near normal northwest to subnormal southeast. Early week freezing temperatures. Extremes: 20°, 86°. Very dry all week. Light scattered showers. Small grain seeding near completion. Row crop planting well underway. Percent planted: hard red spring wheat, oats and barley 95, durum 85, flax 45, corn 25. Percent planted last year this date: hard red spring wheat 61, durum 55, oats 58, barley 60, flax 8, corn 7. Ten-year average percent planted: hard red spring wheat 81, durum 73, oats and barley 71, flax 29, corn 20. Moisture needed east, adequate west.

OHIO: Cool, scattered showers, thunderstorms almost every day. Frost reported. Hail extreme southwest. Overnight lows frequently in 30's and 40's. Extremes: 29°, 76°. Farm work progressed rapidly as strong, drying winds enabled farmers to work day and night many areas. Only northeast had less than 4 days favorable fieldwork. Statewide, farmers averaged almost 5 days in fields; far-and-away best week this spring. Soil moisture supplies 63% surplus, 32% adequate, and 5% short. Plowing for corn and soybeans 75% complete, last year 90%. 5-year (1968-72) average 95%. Corn planting 40% finished, normally 60%. About 20% soybeans planted, normal 25%, 1972 progress 15%. Oat acreage 80% seeded. Potatoes nearly 50% planted, normal 70%. Sugar beets 80% planted. Barley nearly 25% headed. Winter wheat continues fair to good.

OKLAHOMA: Temperatures: 3° subnormal northeast to 8° subnormal northcentral and eastcentral.

MAY 20 PLANTING PROGRESS IN MAJOR PRODUCING STATES



Because of the current interest in planting progress, the Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin composed special tables from the State summaries for this issue.

PERCENT OF ACREAGE PLANTED

SOYBEANS

	<u>Average</u>	<u>1972</u>	<u>1973</u>
Ohio	25	15	20
Ind.	15	10	10
Ill.	35	34	15
Minn.	29	29	42
Iowa	37	19	10
Mo.	25	22	3
Nebr.	19	9	21
Kans.	72	6	1
N. C.	36	28	28
S. C.	25	24	20
Ky.	23	16	5
Tenn.	20	20	5
Miss.	25	11	3
Ark.	31	33	8
La.	25	25	5

These 15 States produced 93% of the Nation's soybeans in 1972.

COTTON

	<u>1972</u>	<u>1973</u>
N. C.	90	90
S. C.	94	94
Ga.	95	90
Tenn.	70	45
Ala.	90	75
Mo.	92	43
Miss.	92	50
Ark.	95	65
La.	85	50
Okla.	25	20
Texas	56	51
N. M.	95	95
Ariz.	99	95
Calif.	95	95

These 14 States produced 99.8% of the Nation's cotton in 1972.

CORN

SPRING WHEAT OTHER THAN DURUM

	<u>Average</u>	<u>1972</u>	<u>1973</u>
Minn.	82	57	100
N. Dak.	81	61	95
S. Dak.	100	95	100
Mont.	90	90	90

These four States produced 94% of the Nation's spring wheat other than durum and 27% of all wheat in 1972.

Average 1972 1973

Ohio	60	45	40
Ind.	45	35	40
Ill.	71	66	65
Mich.	49	45	37
Wisc.	45	60	45
Minn.	69	62	79
Iowa	85	68	64
Mo.	72	70	25
S. Dak.	63	24	70
Nebr.	74	50	80
Kans.	74	55	34

These 11 States produced 87% of the Nation's corn in 1972.

Precipitation light statewide averaging from trace to 0.20 in. Weekend warm with scattered light showers. Wheat maturing rapidly under sunny skies, 25% crop at dough compared 67% year earlier. South-west and central maturity faster than desired but northern counties nearly ideal. Oats and barley conditions mostly good, 25% and 33% crops respectively at dough stage. Seedbed preparation made good progress during dry week. West needs rain to soften hard top crust. Sorghum 8% seeded, 37% year ago. Cotton planting near 20% complete, 25% year ago and normal. Soybean seedbed preparation in east still lagging with no planting to date. Pastures and ranges improving with ample subsoil moisture.

OREGON: Unseasonably warm week. Temperatures: 8° to 15° above normal except along central and south coast. There: from 6° above to 1° below. Highs in 90's common both sides of Cascades. Lows in 40's, lowest 28°. Rainfall mostly nonexistent. Soil moisture very short. Dry land crops and pastures showing stress. Fall wheat heading out early areas. Summerfallow work full swing, fertilizing. Potato planting continues central Oregon, Klamath Counties. Early green peas nearing harvest west, in bloom east, vine growth short. Fruit spraying continues. Walnut freeze damage becoming more evident. Filberts starting to develop. Rhubarb harvest complete. Processing vegetable planting continues on schedule. Irrigation underway. Sheep shearing underway -- wool sales slow, lamb sales increasing. Range dry.

PENNSYLVANIA: Cold and wet. Temperatures 10° to 12° subnormal. Extremes 76°, 20°. Frost Saturday most areas. Almost daily precipitation totaled 1 to 1.50 in generally, up to 2.50 in northeast. North tier counties 2 to 5 in snow Friday. Scattered frost, subfreezing caused some spotty damage to apples. Wet weather continues to hamper fieldwork. Topsoil moisture 75% surplus, 25% adequate. Spring plowing 75% finished. Oats 80% seeded, potatoes 50%, corn 25%. Winter barley 33% headed. Winter wheat 40% boot stage, remainder preboot. Alfalfa 75% good, remainder fair. Erie County Concord grape shoots 4 to 6 in.

PUERTO RICO: Generally dry islandwide except for a few heavy rainshowers northwest and southeast. Average: 1.30 in or 0.82 in below normal. Temperatures: averaged 80° coast, 78° interior. Extremes: 95°, 58°. Dry weather favored continuation sugarcane harvest although sucrose content low, but prevented preparation of soil and planting. Favorable weather for cultivation and planting of coffee but lack of rain affected bean development some areas. Tobacco drying in shed continued, favored by dry weather. Pastures affected by drought. In south and southwest, farmers feeding cattle with grain and molasses. Pastures recovering satisfactorily other areas due to rainshowers. Minor crops affected by dry weather some areas but benefited by rains other areas.

SOUTH CAROLINA: Temperatures: 10° subnormal. Rainfall: from less than .10 in west to .50 in or more northeast coast. Farming active. Cool temperatures hampered growth. Tobacco stands good; 98% transplanted, about same last year. Cotton stands fair to good, 94% planted, about same last year. Corn stands good, 96% planted, about same last year. Soybeans 20% planted, 24% last year. Sorghum 18% planted, 32% last year. Small grains fair to good. Wheat 89% headed, 34% turning color, 1% ripe. Oats 88% headed, 37% turning

color, 5% ripe. Grain hays good, 43% harvested, 40% last year. Peanuts 80% harvested, 77% last year. Sweet potatoes 32% transplanted, 44% last year. Peaches good, some harvesting underway. Pastures good. Vegetable crops fair to good.

SOUTH DAKOTA: Temperatures: from 5° above normal west to 3° subnormal southeast. All areas freezing early week. Most areas no measurable precipitation. Dry, windy weather depleted topsoil moisture throughout State. Crop and pasture growth slow. Some frost damage to alfalfa and small grains, especially north. Spring plowing hampered by dry soil. Corn planting good progress. Moisture needed for germination of corn, soybeans and sorghum. Winter wheat 10% in boot. Rye 12% in boot. Spring plowing 90% complete, normal 90%, last year 67%. Flax seeding 75% complete, normal 74%, last year 24%. Corn planting 70% complete, normal 63%, last year 24%. Soybean planting 27% complete, normal 27%, last year 7%. Sorghum planting 16% complete, normal 9%, last year 1%. Most stock on pasture but supplemental feeding continued due to short grass.

TENNESSEE: Severe weather. Precipitation: in excess 1.00 in some areas. Temperatures: 7° to 10° subnormal. Average of 4.6 days suitable fieldwork -- first time since mid-October more than 3 days suitable. Cold nights, frosts and freezes slowed growth of crops and retarded germination. Corn and cotton 45% planted with indications that some of intended acreage of both crops will not be planted. Normally 75% corn and cotton planted. Wheat poor condition, barley and oats slightly better. Tobacco transplanting started week behind normal.

TEXAS: Unusually cool early week. By weekend, temperatures soared above normal. Record breaking lows. Rainfall below normal over the entire State. Highest weekly total .65 in. Wheat, oat and flax harvest active southern half. Wheat rapidly maturing high and low plains. Cotton, corn, sorghum and peanut seeding rapid progress. Early cotton, corn and sorghum good progress southern half. Cotton blooming Lower Rio Grande Valley and much sorghum headed out south. Major crops percent planted: cotton 51, year ago 56, average 55; corn 96, year ago, 96, average 96; sorghum 65, year ago 60, average 65; soybeans 14, year ago 4; peanuts 21, year ago 23; rice 82, year ago 100. Major crops percent harvested: wheat 1, year ago 1; oats 4, year ago 7; flax 38, year ago 99. Lower Rio Grande Valley moderate supplies onions remain available. Potato and tomato supplies beginning to increase. Some wind damage noted bell peppers. Watermelons and cantaloupes sizing well with some early harvesting expected to begin within a week. Laredo onion harvest nearing completion. Coastal Bend harvest of last onion fields underway. Cucumber and squash harvest active. Dryland watermelons need rain to help sizing. Winter Garden-San Antonio area onion harvest continues strong with good market. Light supplies of cabbage available. Cucumber harvest underway. Cantaloupes blooming. Potato digging active. Melons sizing. East Texas tomatoes beginning to set fruit. In North Texas cool temperatures slowed watermelon and cantaloupe growth. Knox-Haskell area potatoes are past full bloom. Watermelons and cantaloupes need warm weather to stimulate growth. In Trans-Pecos area lettuce harvest nearing completion in El Paso County. High Plains onions and potatoes both showing good growth. A good pecan crop is developing along the Red River and upper coast with only a light to moderate crop forming in central and south-central Texas. Early varieties of peaches now

ripening central and east. Citrus harvest nearing completion with many packing sheds and processing plants closing for the season.

UTAH: Scattered showers weekend. Temperatures: 2° to 10° above normal. Rate of growth crops, alfalfa hay, range grasses increased considerably last 2 weeks with much warmer weather. All 7 days suitable for fieldwork, weather dry, no freeze damage. Alfalfa hay fair to good. First cutting June 1 to 15 most areas. Planting completed: field corn 80%, sweet corn 75%, tomatoes 55%, potatoes in northern Utah 70%--only 10 to 15% main southern Utah areas. Sugar beets, green peas all planted. Range pasture feed supplies fair to good. Completion 90% calving, 95% shearing, 85% lambing. Movement to spring range lands now 80% completed cattle and sheep.

VIRGINIA: Temperature: 8° subnormal. Subfreezing readings. Highs in 70's and 80's. Rainfall: 0.25 in and 0.33 in in thunderstorms. Topsoil moisture 85% adequate. About 4.9 days suitable for fieldwork. Best week for fieldwork since September. Freeze damage confined primarily to gardens. Crop growth slowed. Corn 70% planted, Tidewater mostly completed, other areas 60% or more. Soybeans 14% seeded, peanuts 71%, cotton mostly done. Flue-cured tobacco 25% set, fire-cured 13%. Burley setting began, burley and sun-cured 5% set. Pasture growth slowed but provided abundant feed. Sheared sheep. Harvested strawberries. Set tomatoes and cabbage.

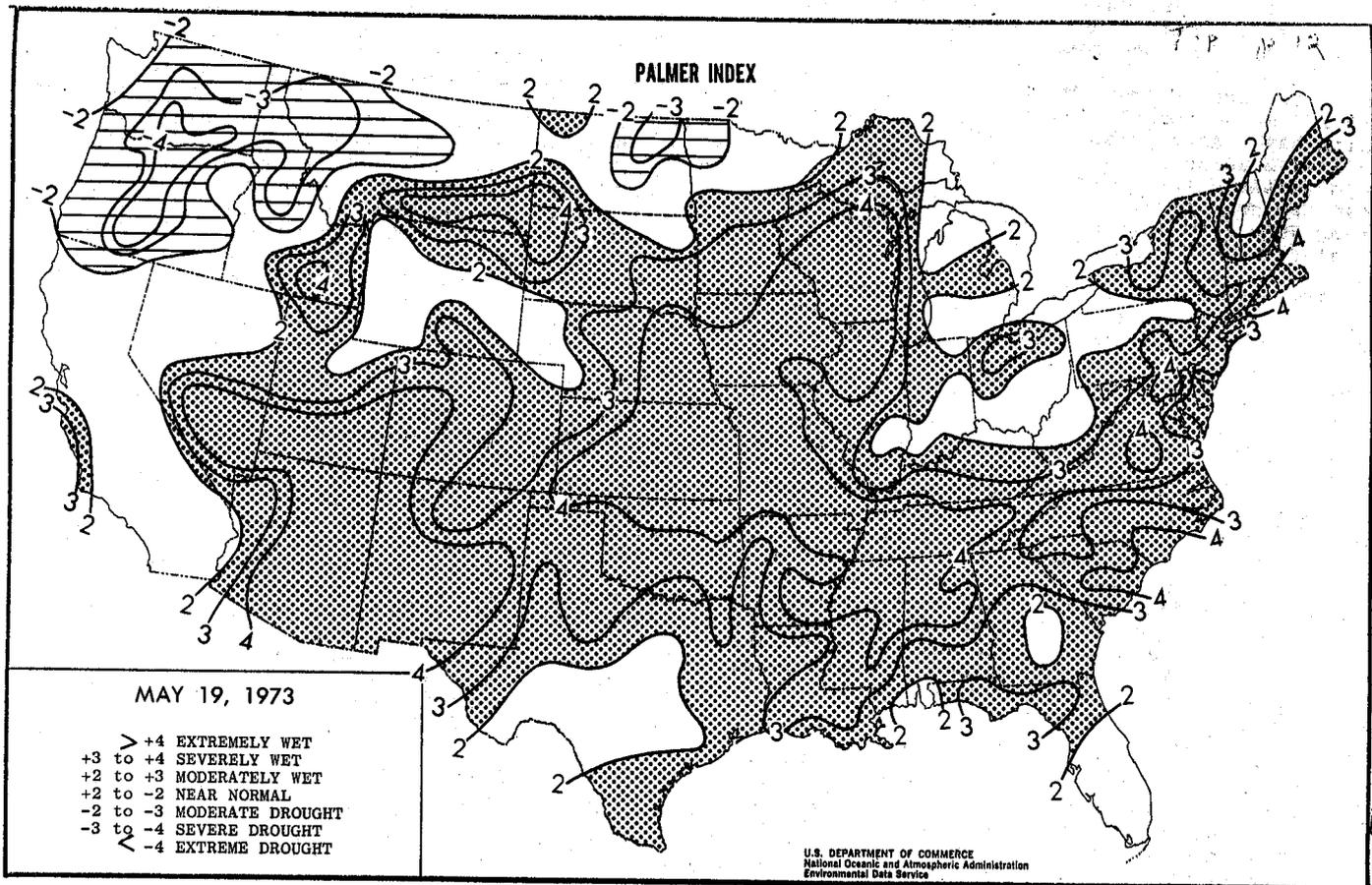
WASHINGTON: Western Washington: Temperatures 3° to 10° above normal, no rain. Planting green peas, sweet and silage corn. Early fields up with good growth. Strawberries full bloom, raspberries begin. Growth pastures, hay good. First cuttings alfalfa, grass hay underway. Green chopping rye continued. Soils becoming dry. Eastern Washington: Hot, dry. Soil moisture poor. Planting sweet, silage corn, dry beans. Reseeding frozen alfalfa fields. Thinning sugar beets, cutting

asparagus. Chemical thinning apples, spraying for pear psylla. Grain crops under moisture stress, especially on shallow soils. Grasshoppers bumper crop, some areas epidemic. First cuttings alfalfa. Pastures only fair, ranges drying rapidly.

WEST VIRGINIA: Unseasonably cold. Highs: into the 70's. Frost and freeze. Lows: into high 20's and low 30's. Several record lows established. Showers Wednesday and Thursday. Cold but drier weather gave farmers opportunity of 3.5 days favorable for fieldwork long delayed. Planting corn, oats and potatoes most active followed by land preparation and gardening. Soil moisture 67% adequate, 33% surplus. About 80% spring oats and potatoes planted, 40% corn. Condition of growing crops down as frost and freeze took its toll.

WISCONSIN: Cool, mostly dry, temperatures 5° subnormal. Record low temperatures with two light frosts. Rainfall mostly less than .50 in. Snow north. An active week for planting crops. Considerable progress on corn, oats, potatoes, vegetable crops. Oats 75% seeded, last year 100%, normal 100%. Corn 45% planted, last year 60%, normal 45%. Spring plowing 65% done, last year 80%, normal 75%. A few soybeans planted. Lowlands still too wet to work. Early oats, winter grains doing well. Pastures, hay fields slowed by cool temperatures. Some concern over first crop hay as new seedings spotty. Orchards in bloom but behind schedule. Soil moisture 35% adequate, 65% surplus.

WYOMING: Dry, warm. Temperatures: above normal. Extremes: from 87°, 17°. Almost no measurable rainfall. Planting rapid but still behind last year. Spring wheat 85%, oats 75%, nearly all sugar beets, spring barley 75% planted. Corn planting moving ahead rapidly. Soil moisture adequate most areas, short in northeast. Most range ewes shorn lambing nearly complete. Warmer temperatures needed to bring crops.



The index values, described in the legend of this map, refer to departures from normal or expected conditions. Therefore the word "wet" describing the positive departures may be misinterpreted. Unfortunately there is no antonym for the word drought in the English language. In the map, an area described as wet, may not be muddy as the term might indicate--it may even be dusty and seemingly dry--but it is wetter than would normally be expected at this time of year.

In most areas the positive index values are decreasing, indicating that the rain is getting near normal and that the normal evaporation is increasing. The word, drought, better describes the negative areas of the north central and the Northwestern States. The most serious drought exist in central Oregon and eastern Washington where severe drought is occurring with some areas experiencing extreme drought.

WORLD WEATHER AND AGRICULTURE

APRIL WEATHER IN ARGENTINA

Heavy rains and flooding continued during April in many areas of Argentina. Rainfall for the first four months of 1973 has been abnormal. In many areas the accumulated rainfall during the first four months of 1973 has approached and even exceeded the average annual rainfall. These conditions have delayed the harvesting of crops as well as delayed land preparation for winter crops. Although the rains early in the year produced excellent pasture conditions, the nutritive value of the grass has been reduced substantially.

The rainfall situation is shown in the table below which compares the rainfall during the first three months of the year with the 1951-60 average precipitation

Province-State	Jan. 1 - March 31	
	1951-60	1973
	-millimeters-	
Buenos Aires:		
Pergamina	302	702
Trenque Lauquen	293	442
Bragado	348	462
Coronel Dorrego	247	163
Santa Fe:		
Rosario	391	549
Reconquista	271	605
Cordoba		
Marcos Juarez	366	515
Cordoba	306	504
Rio Cuarto	288	359
La Pampa:		
Trenel	216	383
Chaco:		
Resistencia	446	936
Entre Rios:		
Concordia	321	434

DRY WEATHER HURTS MOROCCAN GRAINS

Current unofficial estimates indicate a 30 percent drop in total production of the four principal Moroccan grains from last year due to inadequate rainfall in some areas during February and March. While timely and abundant rainfall early in the season created near-ideal conditions for seeding and growth, rainfall was insufficient to sustain growth and development during the critical February/March period in some western and southwestern provinces. The hardest hit provinces are traditionally heavy barley producers, but serious durum and bread wheat losses also occurred in these areas. While there was some rain in April, it came too late to benefit crops in the drought affected regions. Crops in most northern, eastern and southeastern producing areas continue to progress satisfactorily.

USSR EXTENDED FORECAST
SUMMER 1973

On May 7, 1973, the Deputy Director of the Hydrometeorological Service of the USSR reported the May thru September forecast in IZVESTIYA. Some of the highlights of this forecast include the following:

(a) Conditions this year are expected to resemble those of last year, although they will be moderate and nearer to normal. Waves of warmer temperatures will occur but, in general, the summer weather is expected to be much better than in 1972, with fewer extremes. Last summer daily temperatures averaged from 7° to 9° above normal, but this year are expected to average 2° to 4° above normal.

(b) During May and June, temperatures are expected to be 2° to 4° above normal in the southern Ukraine, Caucasus, Southern Urals, Kazakhstan and central Asia, while they should be about normal in the Baltic Region and northwestern Oblasts. In the North Caucasus and Rostov Oblast, precipitation will be near normal or a little below. In general, small deficits will occur in Byelorussia, in the Ukraine, in the North Caucasus, parts of Saratove and Kuybyshev Oblast, Bashkir ASSR, and in parts of Central Chernozem Oblasts.

(c) In the southern parts of western Siberia and northern Oblasts of Kazakhstan, where May and June precipitation is a key to grain yields, the weather is forecast to be warmer with temperatures 2° to 4° above normal and precipitation ranging from near normal to slightly below.

(d) During July and August, areas west of the line formed between Archangel and Astrakhan will be 2° to 4° above normal, while in the Volga-Vyatka Rayon and Volga region temperatures will be about normal. Some rainfall deficiencies are forecast in the Ukraine, Byelorussia and western parts of the Central Chernozem Oblasts. In the eastern parts of the central Chernozem Oblasts, Caucasus, Lower Volga, Central and northwestern Oblasts and Baltic region, precipitation will be near normal.

SWEDISH GRAIN PROSPECTS FAVORABLE

Recent weather in Sweden has been most favorable for grain production. Winterkill was very light. Favorable weather permitted the completion of spring seedings 2 to 3 weeks ahead of normal. Ample precipitation during April alleviated many soil moisture shortages which had been caused by below normal winter precipitation. In central Sweden, however, cold weather in April prevented seedings ahead of normal. The prospects are for national yields to be somewhat above average.

TRINIDAD SUGAR CROP DOWN

A harsh drought and an unprecedented number of cane fires have reduced the sugar making potential of the 1973 sugarcane crop in Trinidad. Despite the early start of the harvest, in December as opposed to the customary January, sugar production to date has fallen behind last year's production levels.

For the first time, sugarcane harvest was started in December rather than in January. Good sunshine in December and the need to complete sugarcane harvesting before the onset of rain in May, favored the early start of this year's harvest.

The dry weather at the start of harvest worsened into a severe drought which stunted growth and dried out canes earmarked to be harvested later in the season. In addition, an unprecedented number of unscheduled cane fires also triggered a rise in the quantity of stale cane, with low sugar content, delivered to the factories.

AUSTRALIAN WHEAT PLANTING PROSPECTS

During the last week in April, the Australian wheat belt received excellent pre-planting rains. Provided good follow-up rains are received, wheat and winter feed grain plantings in South Australia and Victoria could be near record levels. However, little rain has been received in the central and northern New South Wales wheat areas and in Queensland.

GUYANA SUGAR CROP AFFECTED BY DROUGHT

Guyana's 1973 sugar production is forecast to be slightly greater than last years production. However, the present drought is having adverse effects on the crop, and if these conditions persist much longer, production will start to drop. Normally, Guyana has 29 inches of rainfall between November and February; however, between November 1972 and February 1973, only 15 inches have been received.

Unlike other Caribbean countries, Guyana produces both a spring and autumn crop because of the rainfall pattern. The former usually is harvested between February and May, and the latter between July and December. The spring crop traditionally represents about 1/3 of the year's total output, and normally amounts to about 125,000 tons.

WHEAT PROSPECTS GOOD IN YUGOSLOVIA

Prospects for the 1973 wheat harvest in Yugoslavia have improved considerably since last winter. Nice weather during February and March permitted farmers to apply mineral fertilizers to most of the wheat fields. Adequate soil moisture content combined with mineral fertilizers and favorable weather conditions are reflected in the good condition of the wheat crop, even on fields that were planted later than normal last year.

Most of the fields which could not be planted to wheat last fall due to the bad weather conditions will be planted to corn this year. However, this will depend mainly on the weather and soil conditions during May, since April was not favorable for seeding. In fact, most of the area planted to corn was below 11° C. after planting and the seed did not germinate. Considerable area will require replanting but reports indicate seed is plentiful and there should be no problems.

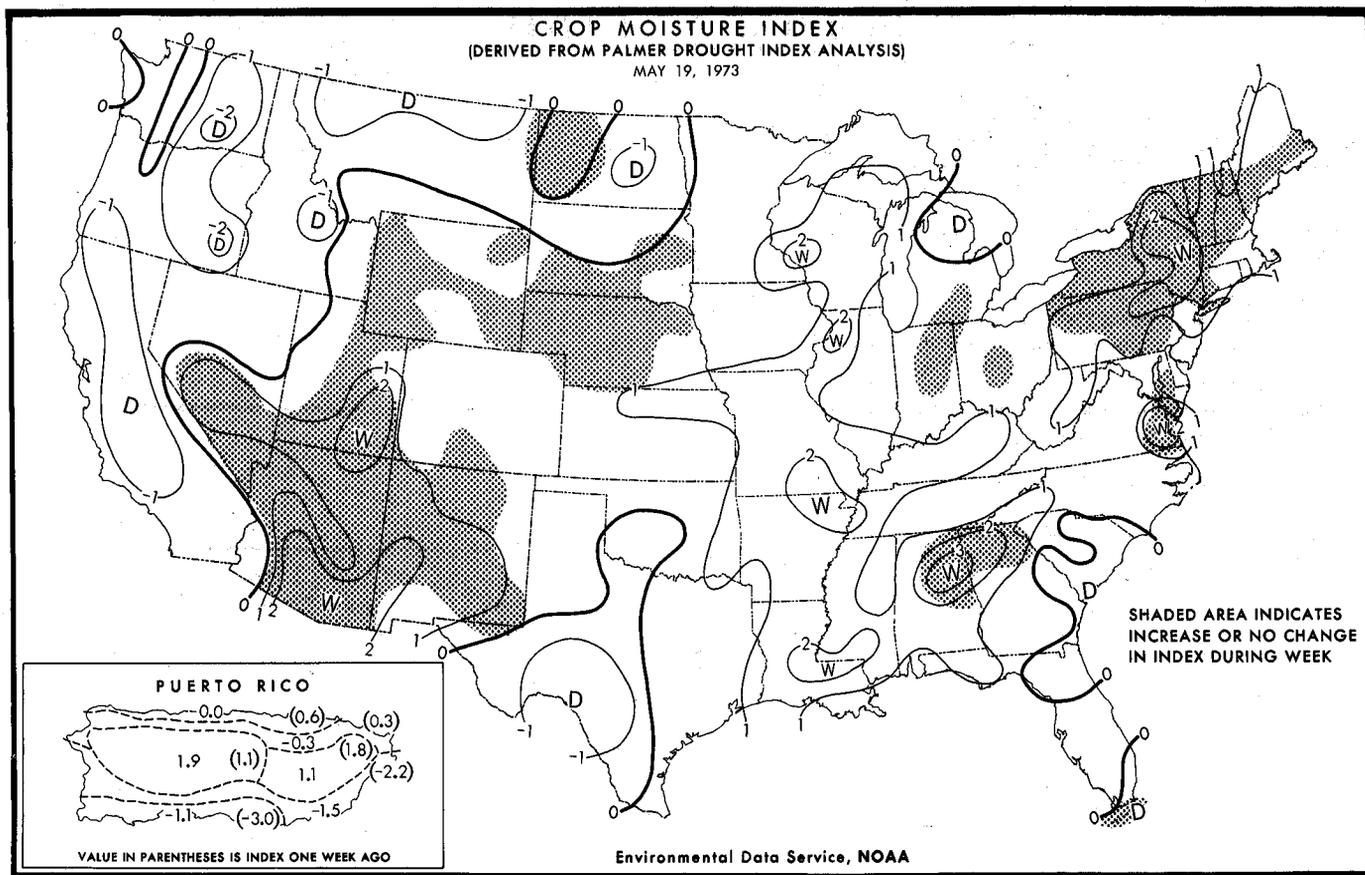
APRIL CROP WEATHER IN ENGLAND AND WALES

April was much cooler than normal and towards the end of the month there were spells of heavy rainfall in England and Wales. This brought relief to the dry conditions which had developed over the winter months. Temperatures were sufficiently cool to delay plant growth. Frost occurred several nights in some areas.

Autumn-sown cereal crops had come through the winter in good condition, but the cool weather in April inhibited growth. Spring sowing made good progress, and planting was completed about three weeks ahead of schedule. By the end of the month, all but 3 percent of the potato crop was planted. Good progress was also made in planting sugarbeets, but the cold weather held back germination.

Pasture growth was retarded in all areas by the cool weather. Nevertheless the rain during the second half of the month was very beneficial. Livestock are in good condition.

The weather in early May has continued cool with heavy outbreaks of rain. Soil moisture and water supplies are still deficient for this time of the year. Additional moisture is needed in many areas. The continuing prevalence of strong cool winds continued to be a hindrance to both moisture conservation and crop growth.



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.

The map above is based on weekly areal mean values of temperature and precipitation for 350 climatological divisions. Weather during previous weeks has been taken into account through successive weekly computations of both topsoil and subsoil moisture. The map shows recent crop moisture conditions; i.e., areas in which crops have been hindered by abnormal dryness or wetness, and areas where moisture conditions have been favorable.

This is a generalized picture; local variations caused by the occurrence or absence of heavy rain or by soil differences are not shown. Shallow rooted crops and crops in areas with poor soils are likely, on occasion, to suffer more than indicated. Conditions may be better than shown in areas having exceptionally good soils.

The legend applies primarily to growing rather than matured vegetation. Interpretation of the

effects on crops and native vegetation must, therefore, take account of the stage of growth as well as the status and trend of moisture conditions. The trend is indicated by the shading which denotes areas where the index did not decrease below its value of a week previous; i.e., conditions did not become noticeably drier during the week. A trend toward drier occurred in the unshaded regions. The lines show the crop moisture situation according to the computed index values which may be interpreted using the legends above. One legend applies to the unshaded areas, the other to the shaded. Centers of relative maximum and minimum index values are marked for easier recognition - W for wet and D for dry. In irrigated regions the index values merely reflect departures from ordinary irrigation requirements.

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