

Weekly Weather & Crop Bulletin

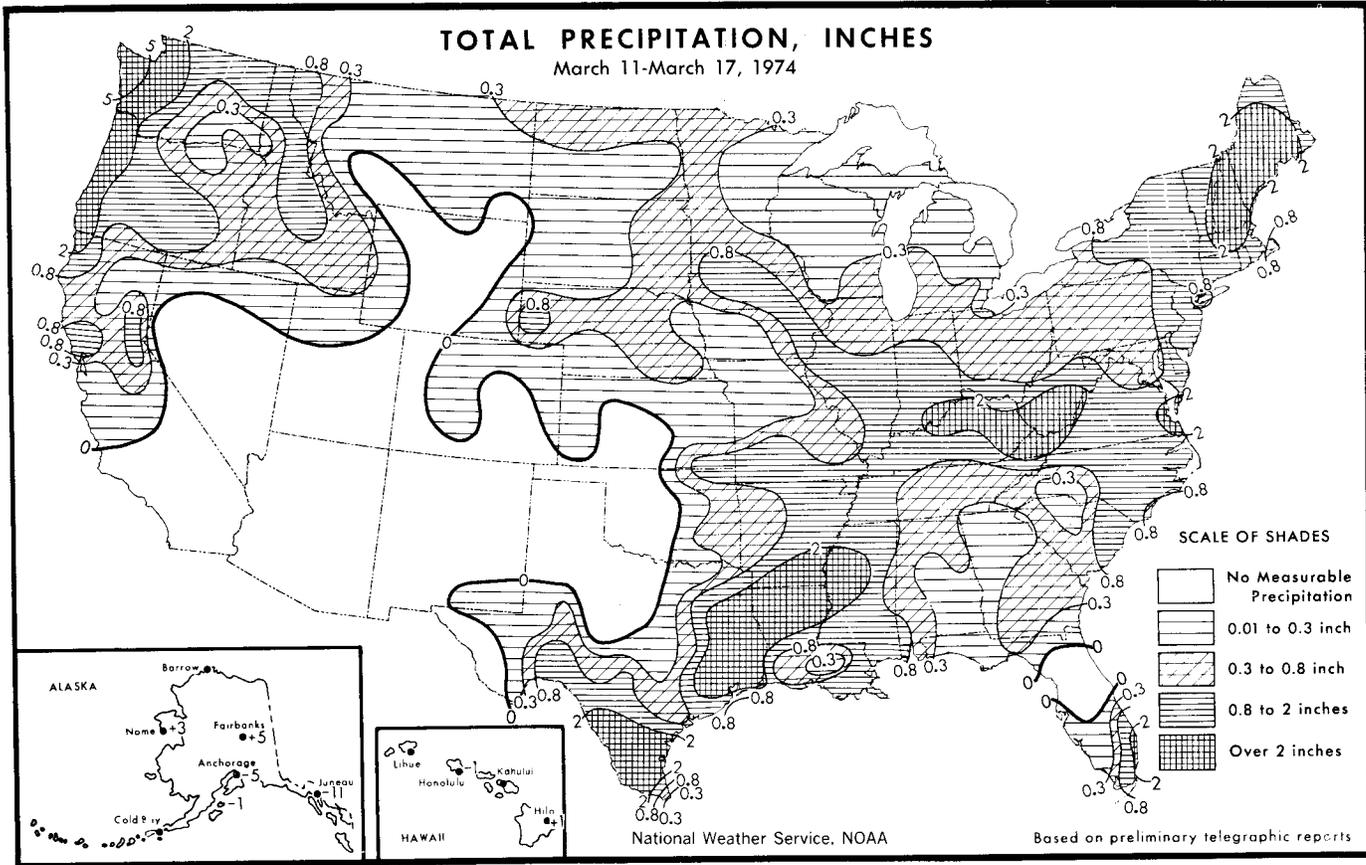
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NATIONAL WEATHER SUMMARY

HIGHLIGHTS: Thunderstorms, with devastating tornadoes, rain, and destructive wind, composed winter's finale last week as a series of storm systems from off the Pacific Northwest Coast drifted eastward across the Nation. The storms dumped heavy precipitation over the Northeast, Southeast and Pacific Northwest. Only the Southwestern sections of the Nation, including both the Texas and Oklahoma Panhandles, remained dry during the week.

Mild temperatures covered most of the Nation for the fourth consecutive week averaging nearly 13 degrees above normal in the West Central Plateau region. However, New England areas reported temperatures about 4 degrees below normal for this time of year.

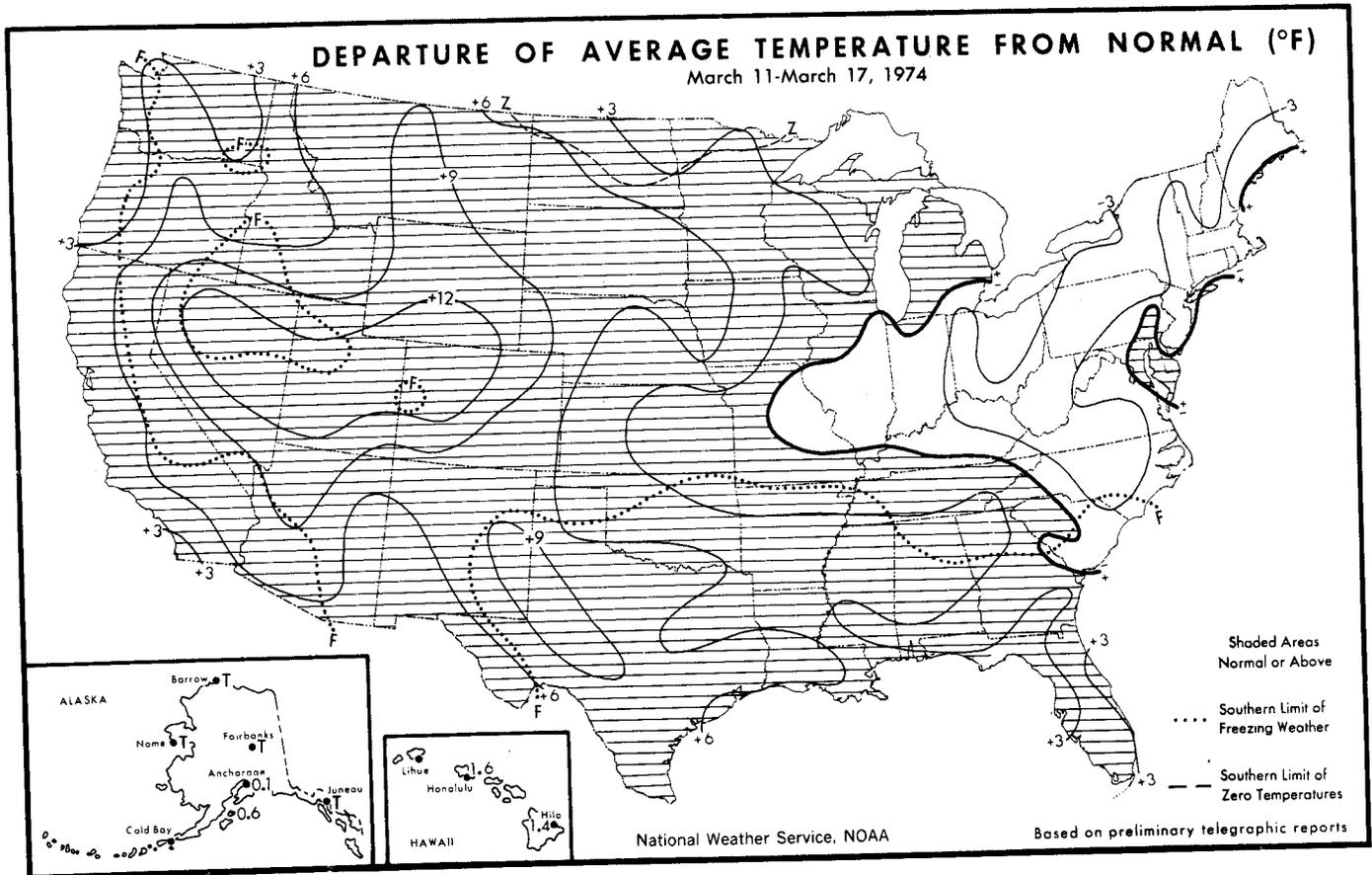
PRECIPITATION: It was a wet and wild week.

As usual the Pacific Northwest Coastal sections reported heavy precipitation with a weekly total

measuring 2.00 to 7.00 in. Southern Florida got it's fair share of precipitation; West Palm Beach measured 2.40 and Miami recorded 2.20 in. for the week. Ending an exceptionally dry winter, thunderstorms dumped generous amounts of much needed rain over southcentral Texas during the week. Del Rio totaled 1.29 in.

Early in the week a Low over Tennessee trailed a cold front along the Gulf Coast reaching into southcentral Texas, triggering thunderstorms, hail and tornadoes. Loma Alta, Tex., was pelted with 1-3/4 in. hail and Bristol, Tenn., got hail the size of hen's eggs, while tornadoes touched down near Charleston, S.C., and Glenville, Ga.

On Thursday a cold front settled over the Nation's midsection curving through the upper Mississippi Valley into northern Texas whipping up snow and wind. Snowfall by evening measured 2.00 in. at Eau Claire, Wis., 2.00 in. at Hibling, Minn., and



3.00 at Willston, N.D.

Friday morning a severe thunderstorm ripped through Kingsville, Tex. Reports indicated ping pong ball size hail, damaging winds and heavy rains struck the city, disrupting electrical power, toppling mobile homes and flooding streets with over 2 feet of water.

During the weekend the cold front moving across the Appalachians and central Gulf Coast States generated snow and thunderstorms with some heavy rains drenching Louisiana. After a six-hour period, rainfall measured 1.82 in. in Boothville, La., and 1.08 at New Orleans, La.

Early Sunday, a fierce storm system moved from the upper Mississippi Valley and western Great Lakes across the Northeast dumping over 3 in. of snow on both Wilmington, Vt., and Rumford, Me. The storm finally drifted off the coast Sunday evening, but a trailing Low settled over Maine stirring up strong winds. Winds were clocked at speeds of 47 mph in

Boston and 58 mph at Altoona, Pa.

TEMPERATURE: Tuesday temperatures warmed to record highs for this date along parts of the Gulf Coast, with Apalachicola, Fla., reaching 81° while Moisant International Airport at New Orleans and Lake Charles, La., both topped the 86° mark.

In sharp contrast, by midweek cool temperatures invaded the Eastern half of the Nation. The 50° line reached into the Tennessee Valley and the Carolinas. Even northern Florida only climbed into the 60's. The coldest spot in the Nation Wednesday morning was Caribou, Me.; the thermometer dipped to the zero mark and the wind gusts topped 40 mph.

On Sunday, a warming trend began in the Plains region. Record high temperatures occurred in many cities. Some examples were: 75° at Denver, Colo.; 80° at Pueblo, Colo.; 65° at Casper, Wyo.; and 88° at Midland, Tex.

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY

AGRICULTURAL HIGHLIGHTS: Another week of warmer than normal temperatures plus adequate soil moisture promoted rapid growth of winter wheat in Kansas and Oklahoma. Fieldwork made good progress in the South. Planting is ahead of last year's progress in southern Texas. Cold damage to early developing fruit orchards in the East appeared minimal. Pastures are greening northward into the North Central States.

SMALL GRAINS: Winter wheat in Kansas and Oklahoma made rapid growth during another week of above normal temperatures. Late wheat in Kansas has now developed adequate ground cover for protection from blowing. Some light rain fell in Kansas and Oklahoma, adding to good rains a week earlier. Wheat conditions in the two States range from fair to good. Subsoil moisture supplies in Kansas are adequate to surplus, but extreme west and southwest counties in Oklahoma remain short of moisture. Oklahoma wheat acreage is 6% jointing compared to 16% a year ago. Cattle are being moved off wheat pastures in the two States.

Wheat and oats responded well to the recent rains in Texas. Some nonirrigated wheat on the Texas High Plains revived and showed moderate growth. In Colorado, winter wheat and barley continued in good condition with light to moderate wind damage in local areas. Several weeks of above normal temperatures are beginning to put green color in wheat fields in Nebraska, in parts of South Dakota and Montana. Condition of wheat in Montana varies from fair to good and wind damage ranges from light to moderate in most areas.

Most wheat growing areas in the Northwest received precipitation again last week but freezing temperatures caused some heaving in saturated wheat fields in Washington. Fall sown wheat in Oregon looks good except for some drowned out spots in low areas. Some reseeding with spring wheat is anticipated.

Winter wheat in Illinois is rated in good to excellent condition with growth showing and little winter damage. Growers in Kentucky are concerned about yellowing in barley and wheat. Spring oats are 50% planted in Kansas versus the 35% average while additional small grain fields in southern Alabama started to head.

OTHER CROPS: Cold, wet weather ended a brief start on fieldwork in some North Central States. Fieldwork made good progress in most Southern States with 3 to 4 days suitable for such activities as plowing and fertilizing. Land preparation is ahead of a year ago in Arkansas and Mississippi.

Planting cotton, corn and sorghum made good progress in the southern half of Texas - Statewide, cotton is 4% planted compared to 2% last year, corn is 25% planted versus 9% last year, and sorghum is 20% planted versus 8% last year.

Tobacco growers in Georgia and South Carolina transplanted plants. Tobacco plant beds are in

fair to good condition in the South Atlantic States.

Sugar beet planting began in Colorado and continued in California where early planted acreage shows good emergence. Arizona sugar beets showed good growth and high sugar content.

Rice is 14% planted in Texas, ahead of a year earlier when no acreage was seeded. A large proportion of rice land in Louisiana and Arkansas is ready for planting and seeding started in some areas.

FRUITS AND NUTS: Fruit bud and bloom development is running from 2 weeks to a month ahead of normal across the South and into the North Central States. Fruit growers continue to be concerned about the risk of damage from cold weather.

In Virginia, damage from subfreezing temperatures ranged from locally severe in early blooming peach varieties to slight in late blooming varieties. The full extent of damage cannot be fully determined now, and crop prospects still depend largely on future weather.

Rain is badly needed for Florida's citrus trees which vary from good to poor condition; bloom varies from swelling bud to petal drop stages.

In California, grape fieldwork was active in the San Joaquin Valley while blooming of fruit trees was widespread with almond tree bloom about over. The Navel orange harvest remained at normal levels with good quality and demand reported.

VEGETABLES: Vegetable shipments remained at a high level from Florida. Tomatoes there are in very heavy supply for this time of year and more increase is possible. Sweet corn was up sharply while peppers, celery, escarole and lettuce held about steady.

Onion harvesting gained momentum and harvest of lettuce, carrots and cabbage remained active in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas. Carrot harvesting is underway at Laredo.

Arizona lettuce harvesting continued in western areas and increased in the central part. In California, lettuce declined in the Imperial Valley and increased in the Palo Verde Valley. South coast celery declined and carrot harvesting was slow.

PASTURES AND LIVESTOCK: Recent rains have improved pastures and ranges in California and Texas. Early season grasses are providing good grazing in Kansas and Oklahoma. Pastures in most Southern States are furnishing a fair amount of grazing. Continued mild temperatures have greened pastures in much of the Corn Belt and into the Pacific Northwest.

Mild weather continued favorable for livestock in northern States with calf and lamb losses less than normal. Livestock remained in good condition with supplemental feeding declining in the South and West.

Temperature and Precipitation Data for the Week Ending Midnight, l.s.t., March 17, 1974

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 . . .	57	+ 5	.2	- 1.2	La. Baton Rouge . . .	66	+ 7	.3	- .8	Youngstown . . .	31	- 3	.6	- .1
Mobile . . .	62	+ 3	.8	- .8	Lake Charles . . .	66	+ 6	.6	- .2	OKLA. Okla. City . . .	52	+ 5	0	- .4
Montgomery . . .	60	+ 4	T	- 1.4	New Orleans . . .	65	+ 5	1.2	- .1	Tulsa . . .	50	+ 3	.2	- .3
ALASKA. Anchorage . .	18	- 5	.1	0	Shreveport . . .	61	+ 5	2.1	+ 1.2	OREG. Astoria . . .	46	+ 2	3.6	+ 2.1
Barrow . . .	-16	0	T	0	MAINE. Caribou . . .	19	- 4	.9	+ .4	Burns . . .	41	+ 6	1.1	+ .9
Fairbanks . . .	13	+ 5	T	- .1	Portland . . .	31	0	1.8	+ 1.0	Medford . . .	47	+ 3	.5	+ .1
Juneau . . .	20	-11	T	- .8	MD. Baltimore . . .	40	- 2	.4	- .4	Pendleton . . .	47	+ 4	.3	+ .1
Kodiak . . .	31	- 1	.6	- .3	MASS. Boston . . .	35	- 2	1.0	+ .1	Portland . . .	47	+ 2	1.5	+ .6
Nome . . .	10	+ 3	T	- .2	Chatham . . .	34	---	.5	---	Salem . . .	47	+ 2	2.7	+ 1.7
ARIZ. Flagstaff . . .	43	+ 9	0	- .4	MICH. Alpena . . .	27	+ 2	T	- .4	PA. Allentown . . .	37	0	1.0	+ .2
Phoenix . . .	67	+ 8	0	- .2	Detroit . . .	33	- 1	.3	- .3	Erie . . .	30	- 2	.7	+ .1
Tucson . . .	63	+ 6	0	- .1	Flint . . .	33	+ 1	.2	- .3	Harrisburg . . .	38	- 2	.7	- .1
Winslow . . .	50	+ 6	0	- .1	Grand Rapids . . .	33	+ 1	.5	- .1	Philadelphia . . .	39	- 2	1.0	+ .2
Yuma . . .	69	+ 6	0	- .1	Houghton Lake . . .	27	+ 2	.1	- .3	Pittsburgh . . .	34	- 3	.6	- .2
ARK. Fort Smith . . .	52	+ 3	.4	- .4	Lansing . . .	32	0	.3	- .2	Scranton . . .	29	- 6	.9	+ .3
Little Rock . . .	54	+ 5	1.0	- .1	Marquette . . .	28	+ 2	T	- .4	R.I. Providence . . .	35	- 1	1.7	+ .8
CALIF. Bakersfield . .	62	+ 6	0	- .2	Muskegon . . .	33	+ 1	.8	+ .3	S.C. Charleston . . .	55	- 1	1.3	+ .2
Eureka . . .	53	+ 5	.8	- .3	S. Ste. Marie . . .	21	- 2	.1	- .3	Columbia . . .	55	+ 2	.3	- .8
Fresno . . .	59	+ 5	T	- .4	MINN. Duluth . . .	25	+ 3	.2	- .2	Greenville . . .	49	- 1	.3	- 1.0
Los Angeles . . .	64	+ 5	0	- .5	INTERNAT. Falls . .	22	+ 3	.3	+ .1	S.D. Aberdeen . . .	33	+ 7	.4	+ .2
Red Bluff . . .	57	+ 4	.1	- .5	Minneapolis . . .	32	+ 5	.2	- .2	Huron . . .	35	+ 7	.4	+ .2
San Diego . . .	59	+ 1	0	- .4	Rochester . . .	30	+ 4	.4	0	Rapid City . . .	38	+ 8	T	- .2
San Francisco . . .	57	+ 4	.2	- .4	St. Cloud . . .	29	+ 4	.3	0	Sioux Falls . . .	35	+ 6	.8	+ .5
Stockton . . .	58	+ 6	.3	- .1	MISS. Jackson . . .	57	+ 2	1.6	+ .3	TENN. Chattanooga . .	52	+ 3	.3	- 1.0
COLO. Denver . . .	48	+12	T	- .3	Meridian . . .	59	+ 4	.6	- .8	Knoxville . . .	52	+ 3	.7	- .4
Grand Junction . . .	53	+13	0	- .1	MO. Columbia . . .	40	- 1	.2	- .4	Memphis . . .	54	+ 4	1.3	+ .2
Pueblo . . .	47	+ 8	0	- .1	Kansas City . . .	42	+ 2	.1	- .5	Nashville . . .	49	+ 1	.7	- .4
CONN. Bridgeport . . .	37	0	1.1	+ .3	St. Louis . . .	41	- 1	.7	0	TEX. Abilene . . .	62	+ 8	0	- .2
Hartford . . .	34	- 1	1.6	+ .8	Springfield . . .	45	+ 2	1.1	+ .5	Amarillo . . .	51	+ 6	0	- .2
D.C. Washington . . .	44	0	.5	- .3	MONT. Billings . . .	40	+ 9	T	- .2	Austin . . .	66	+ 7	.3	- .1
FLA. Apalachicola . .	66	+ 6	.2	- .9	Glasgow . . .	31	+ 7	.2	- .5	Beaumont . . .	66	+ 7	2.0	+ 1.4
Daytona Beach . . .	68	+ 5	T	- .8	Great Falls . . .	37	+ 8	.2	0	Brownsville . . .	76	+ 9	.1	0
Ft. Myers . . .	70	+ 2	T	- .7	Havre . . .	34	+ 9	T	- .1	Corpus Christi . . .	71	+ 7	3.5	+ 3.3
Jacksonville . . .	63	+ 2	T	- .8	Helena . . .	37	+ 8	T	- .1	Del Rio . . .	69	+ 7	1.3	+ 1.2
Key West . . .	74	0	.3	0	Kalispell . . .	36	+ 7	.5	+ .3	El Paso . . .	58	+ 4	0	- .1
Lakeland . . .	70	+ 4	T	- 1.0	Miles City . . .	37	+ 8	T	- .1	Fort Worth . . .	61	+ 7	.1	- .4
Miami . . .	74	+ 3	2.2	+ 1.8	Missoula . . .	39	+ 7	.1	0	Galveston . . .	65	+ 5	.4	- .2
Orlando . . .	68	+ 2	T	- .8	NEBR. Grand Island .	38	+ 4	.4	+ .2	Houston . . .	66	+ 6	2.4	+ 1.8
Tallahassee . . .	63	+ 3	.3	- 1.1	Lincoln . . .	39	+ 4	.4	+ .1	Lubbock . . .	57	+ 9	0	- .2
Tampa . . .	70	+ 4	T	- .9	Norfolk . . .	37	+ 6	.2	- .1	Midland . . .	63	+10	T	- .1
W. Palm Beach . . .	73	+ 3	2.4	+ 1.6	N. Platte . . .	39	+ 6	.2	0	San Angelo . . .	65	+ 9	T	- .2
GA. Atlanta . . .	54	+ 4	.1	- 1.2	Omaha . . .	41	+ 8	.2	- .2	San Antonio . . .	68	+ 8	.8	+ .5
Augusta . . .	53	- 1	.4	- .7	Valentine . . .	37	+ 7	.3	+ .2	Victoria . . .	70	+ 8	.5	+ .1
Macon . . .	58	+ 2	.4	- .8	NEV. Ely . . .	45	+13	0	- .2	Waco . . .	61	+ 5	.3	- .2
Savannah . . .	60	+ 3	.5	- .6	Las Vegas . . .	61	+ 7	0	- .1	Wichita Falls . . .	58	+ 7	T	- .4
HAWAII. Hilo . . .	72	+ 1	1.4	- 1.7	Reno . . .	49	+ 9	T	- .1	UTAH. Blanding . . .	47	+ 9	0	- .2
Honolulu . . .	72	- 1	1.6	+ .8	Winemucca . . .	51	+14	T	- .1	Salt Lake City . . .	51	+12	.1	- .3
Kahului . . .	---	---	---	---	N.H. Concord . . .	29	- 3	2.3	+ 1.7	VT. Burlington . . .	25	- 3	1.0	+ .6
Lihue . . .	---	---	---	---	N.J. Atlantic City . .	40	0	1.1	+ .1	VA. Lynchburg . . .	40	- 5	1.1	+ .3
IDAHO. Boise . . .	46	+ 6	.4	+ .2	Trenton . . .	39	- 1	.9	0	Norfolk . . .	45	- 2	2.1	+ 1.3
Lewiston . . .	47	+ 5	.1	- .1	N.MEX. Albuquerque .	53	+ 8	0	- .1	Richmond . . .	42	- 4	1.8	+ 1.0
Pocatello . . .	42	+ 7	.4	+ .2	Roswell . . .	57	+ 9	0	- .1	Roanoke . . .	41	- 3	1.2	+ .4
ILL. Cairo . . .	47	0	.9	- .2	N.Y. Albany . . .	30	- 2	1.0	+ .4	WASH. Colville . . .	40	+ 3	1.0	+ .7
Chicago . . .	35	- 1	.6	0	Binghamton . . .	27	- 3	.7	+ .1	Omak . . .	40	+ 2	1.0	+ .8
Moline . . .	36	+ 2	.7	+ .1	Buffalo . . .	28	- 3	.4	- .2	Quillayute . . .	42	0	7.7	+ 5.2
Peoria . . .	36	0	.8	+ .2	New York . . .	38	- 2	.8	- .1	Seattle-Tacoma . . .	48	+ 4	2.3	+ 1.5
Rockford . . .	34	+ 1	.4	- .2	Rochester . . .	29	- 3	1.1	+ .5	Spokane . . .	40	+ 3	.8	+ .4
Springfield . . .	38	0	1.0	+ .4	Syracuse . . .	29	- 3	1.2	+ .6	Walla Walla . . .	48	+ 3	.6	+ .3
IND. Evansville . . .	43	0	.9	- .2	N.C. Asheville . . .	46	+ 1	.3	- .8	Yakima . . .	45	+ 4	.3	+ .2
Ft. Wayne . . .	34	- 2	.7	+ .1	Charlotte . . .	48	- 2	.3	- .8	W.Va. Beckley . . .	36	- 3	2.1	+ 1.1
Indianapolis . . .	38	- 1	1.3	+ .5	Greensboro . . .	43	- 4	.8	0	Charleston . . .	40	- 4	2.2	+ 1.3
South Bend . . .	36	+ 2	.5	- .1	Hatteras . . .	48	- 2	1.6	+ .5	Huntington . . .	40	- 3	1.6	+ .6
IOWA. Burlington . . .	36	0	1.1	+ .5	Raleigh . . .	44	- 4	1.1	+ .3	Parkersburg . . .	38	- 4	.5	- .3
Des Moines . . .	37	+ 4	.3	- .2	Wilmington . . .	49	- 5	.6	- .4	WIS. Green Bay . . .	29	+ 2	.1	- .3
Dubuque . . .	33	+ 2	.3	- .4	N.DAK. Bismarck . . .	30	+ 6	.2	+ .1	La Crosse . . .	33	+ 3	.3	- .2
Sioux City . . .	39	+ 7	.3	0	Fargo . . .	26	+ 3	.3	+ .2	Madison . . .	33	+ 4	.4	0
KANS. Concordia . . .	41	+ 3	.1	- .3	Williston . . .	30	+ 7	.3	+ .2	Milwaukee . . .	33	+ 3	.5	0
Dodge City . . .	44	+ 4	T	- .3	OHIO. Akron-Canton .	34	- 1	.7	0	WYO. Casper . . .	41	+11	0	- .2
Goodland . . .	41	+ 6	.1	- .1	Cincinnati . . .	38	- 3	1.6	+ .7	Cheyenne . . .	42	+12	.1	- .1
Topeka . . .	42	+ 2	T	- .5	Cleveland . . .	35	0	.7	0	Lander . . .	41	+11	0	- .2
Wichita . . .	44	+ 2	T	- .4	Columbus . . .	37	- 1	.6	- .2	Sheridan . . .	40	+10	.2	- .1
KY. Lexington . . .	40	- 3	2.0	+ .9	Dayton . . .	35	- 3	.4	- .3	P.R. San Juan . . .	78	+ 2	T	- .4
Louisville . . .	41	- 2	2.2	+ 1.0	Toledo . . .	32	- 3	.2	- .4					

Based on 1941 - 70 normals.

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: No general rains for over 3 weeks. Showers early in week and again Friday provided slight relief to dry central, eastern and south eastern counties. March rainfall averaging 2.00 to 3.00 subnormal most of State. Temperatures above normal early week, but cool latter part. Freezing temperatures north Sunday morning.

Farmers made good to excellent progress with fieldwork, plowing. Application of fertilizer and herbicides carried priority most farms. Soil moisture adequate to surplus all except short few scattered counties, primarily south and central. Corn planting active many localities south. Warm temperatures favored growth of small grains. Additional fields beginning to head lower half State. Irish potatoes in Baldwin County area made good growth with most up to stand. Potato planting for summer harvest made good headway northeast. Native pastures made good growth and provided fair amount of grazing. Cattlemen busy doing pasture improvement work, particularly applying fertilizer.

ARIZONA: High pressure dominated weather. Temperatures near normal Monday to near record highs end of week. All sections 4° to 9° above normal. No precipitation.

Development small grains picking up with beneficial conditions. Many fields desert cropping areas at jointing stage, few areas heading. Higher southeastern areas now developing faster but still very little at jointing stage. Safflower normal progress, some fields developing flower buds. Cotton preparations but very little actual plantings. Ground temperatures still fairly low, especially southeast where virtually no planting yet. Early planting sorghum Yuma, limited basis. Other areas very little activity. Sugar beets continued good growth, samples show high sugar. Haying started desert areas, main activity Yuma.

Lettuce harvest continued west areas, increased central. Harvest mixed vegetables continued. Immature vegetables for later harvest making good progress. Early planted cantaloupes good stands Yuma, Salt River Valley. Valencia orange harvest active. Grapefruit harvest continued, limited basis. Range conditions poor to fair. Stockwater short, hauling in Graham County. Cattle, calves fair to good. Early calving, some marketed. Sheep, lambs poor to good. Some movement to higher ranges.

ARKANSAS: Temperatures near normal, 2° below normal north to 3° above normal central and south. Extremes: 81° at Camden, Texarkana, and Gilbert on 11th and 25° at Gilbert and Greers Ferry on 17th. Warm early week with cooling trend midweek and again late week. Rain midweek generally less than 0.25 in. although locally heavy at El Dorado with 2.29 in. and at Harrison with 1.26 in.

Land preparation ahead of year ago. Most rice acreage ready with few fields seeded. Growers bedding cotton fields, also fertilizing cotton land and other row crop acreage. Small grains making excellent growth, especially in Delta. Winter pastures providing good grazing, some supplemental feeding continues. Nitrogen short for application on winter pastures. Moisture short in scattered areas. Ticks and external parasites becoming a problem. Fruit development a month ahead of normal.

CALIFORNIA: A weather disturbance early in week brought additional precipitation to much of State. Largest amounts concentrated along north coast and over northern interior, none southeast desert region. Temperatures warmed throughout week, only scattered localities reported freezing temperatures early week while desert areas into low 90's by weekend.

Good growth small grains. Wheat, oats, barley heading out. Early planted sugar beets good emergence. Sugar beets, safflower planting continued. Corn, milo, rice ground preparation. Cotton field preparations, some planting. Alfalfa good growth, weevil control measures. Grape fieldwork active in San Joaquin Valley. Some vines treated for cutworm, bud beetles. In Riverside area, most vineyards well leafed out, finger thinning of flowers expected to start in weeks, bunch thinning to start 2 weeks. Almond bloom about over, orchards leafing out. Apricot bloom underway, varies from spotty to full. Pears, peaches blooming, prunes starting bloom, some pesticide application for brown rot, lacy scab. Navel orange harvest at normal levels, good fruit quality and demand. Valencias improving size, color. Lemons grading well, some over-sizing caused by rains.

Artichokes continued good. Asparagus increased in south, beginning in Delta. Broccoli and cauliflower continued strong. Cabbage continued south coast. Carrots slow. Celery declined. Lettuce declined Imperial Valley, increased Palo Verde Valley. Green onions began central coast. Strawberries continued south coast, some damage. Canning tomato planting continued, some replants due to frost Coachella Valley. Field condition generally good for fieldwork. Range, pasture conditions improved by warmer weather, recent rains. Supplemental feeding declined. Many ranchers running low on hay. Sheep shearing underway San Joaquin Valley, lambing, calving active north. Young stock good condition. Feedlot cattle being sold at loss, high cost feeds, declining prices. Bee keepers starting colonies out of almond orchards as bloom ends. Colony strength building rapidly as nectar, pollen supply increase. Young turkey poults doing well in brooder houses.

COLORADO: A cold front midweek brought locally heavy snows in northern mountains and some light precipitation to lower elevations of northwest. Otherwise mostly fair to partly cloudy. Temperatures west warmed steadily from 50's to 70's by end of week. In east, temperatures warmed from 40's and 50's to 50's and 60's and then 70's and 80's by end of week. Highest 81° at both Lamar and La Junta on 17th, lows ranged from upper teens to lower 40's.

Spring snow eastern plains 9th and 10th delayed planting sugar beets and small grains early week. Soil preparation progressing as soil moisture permits. Winter wheat and barley good condition, locally light to moderate wind damage. Planting sugar beets, spring barley, oats, summer potatoes began. Ranges and pastures good, soil moisture adequate. Livestock generally good. Calving and lambing progressing, 33% calves and 20% lambs dropped. Death loss newborn averaging below normal.

FLORIDA: Warm and generally dry except for coastal areas of south where scattered moderate to locally heavy showers occurred Friday. Temperatures averaged well above normal. Soil moisture short most areas. Corn planting underway. Tobacco being set. Some growers delaying because of soil moisture shortage. Small grains fair to good, some wheat and rye heading. Sugarcane harvest continued active. Young plant and stubble cane good condition. Pastures poor to good. Cattle and calves fair to good. Citrus tree condition varies from good to poor depending on irrigation--rain badly needed all areas--bloom varies from swelling buds to petal drop.

Cabbage increased, continuing heavy. Tomatoes in very heavy supply for this point in season, more increase possible. Potatoes increasing seasonally. Sweet corn up sharply. Peppers, celery, escarole, lettuce about steady. Snap beans increased. Cucumbers light, beginning to show some movement. Carrots, radishes fluctuating at high volume. Egg-plant increasing gradually.

GEORGIA: Dry spell continued statewide. Only small amounts fell midweek in north and southeast averaging less than 0.10 in. Temperatures averaged above normal ranging from 6° above southeast to 12° above west. Record highs for date and so early in season Friday 8th thru Sunday 10th. Colder over weekend with light to moderate rain Saturday.

Soil moisture mostly dry to adequate. Some wheat showing signs of disease and in some areas cold weather damage. Land preparation almost complete in north and corn being planted in south. Tobacco plants in good condition, some being transplanted. Pastures, cattle good.

HAWAII: Weather cloudy throughout week. Heavy rain all islands on 12th. Light damage to vegetable crops but beneficial to orchards. Wet fields slowed farm operations. Spraying active to control insects and diseases. Banana and papaya production light. Vegetable supplies increased gradually. Pastures and cattle in good condition. Active harvesting of pineapples for fresh fruit market in progress. Sugar plantations idle because of strike.

IDAHO: Generally fair weather with cool temperatures early week followed by front moving across State midweek bringing showers of rain or snow. Cloudy skies with a warming trend end of week. High temperatures rose to 60's southwest and south-central but lows remained in teens and 20's to average near normal. Precipitation ranged from 0.15 in. east to near 1.00 in. north and central mountains. Snow depths decreased 5 to 10 inches at key stations.

Tillage operations active on light soil in southwest early in period. Rains slowed activities end of week. Elsewhere soils too wet entire week for fieldwork. Calving and lambing active with wet muddy conditions a problem in many lots. Hay supplies short in north. With warmer temperatures pastures starting to green up. Hauling seed potatoes and gleaning grain seed continued active.

ILLINOIS: Temperatures near normal early week, highs from 40's north to 60's south. Cool trend late in week, 40's south. Lows ranged 30's north to 40's south. Precipitation above normal, averaged 0.50 in. Some localities central and south over 2.00 in.

Winter wheat, other small grains, legumes good to excellent. Winter wheat, legumes greening up showing growth due to favorable temperatures, ample moisture. Little winter damage, scattered reports

damage to winter wheat low lying areas due to excessive moisture. Fruit trees budding stage, mostly good condition. Peach trees starting to bloom. Apple, peach trees susceptible to frost damage. Livestock good to excellent. Muddy feedlots most areas. Pastures starting to supply feed. Soil moisture adequate 42%, surplus 58%. Main activities: Machinery repair, livestock care, fertilizer application, preparation spring fieldwork. Fields too wet most areas for tillage. Plowing, grain or legume seeding some areas depending on local conditions.

INDIANA: Wet week. Temperatures averaged near normal but many days cloudy. Temperatures ranged from 21° at South Bend on 14th to 59° in southeast on 15th. Precipitation 0.50 in. in north to 1.80 in. extreme south early and late in period. Some snow in north over weekend.

Fieldwork limited. Conditions remain too soft for equipment. Main activities caring for livestock and preparing for 1974 season. Fruit growers checking orchards for possible damage because of freezing temperatures.

IOWA: Typical March weather during week. Rain on Monday was followed by sunny and mild weather Tuesday and Wednesday with cloudy, windy and cold conditions at week's end. Temperatures averaged near normal east, 4° to 6° above normal west. Extremes: 58° at Sioux City on 14th, 15° at Mason City on 17th. Above normal precipitation recorded in southeast and north-central with at or slightly below normal amounts elsewhere.

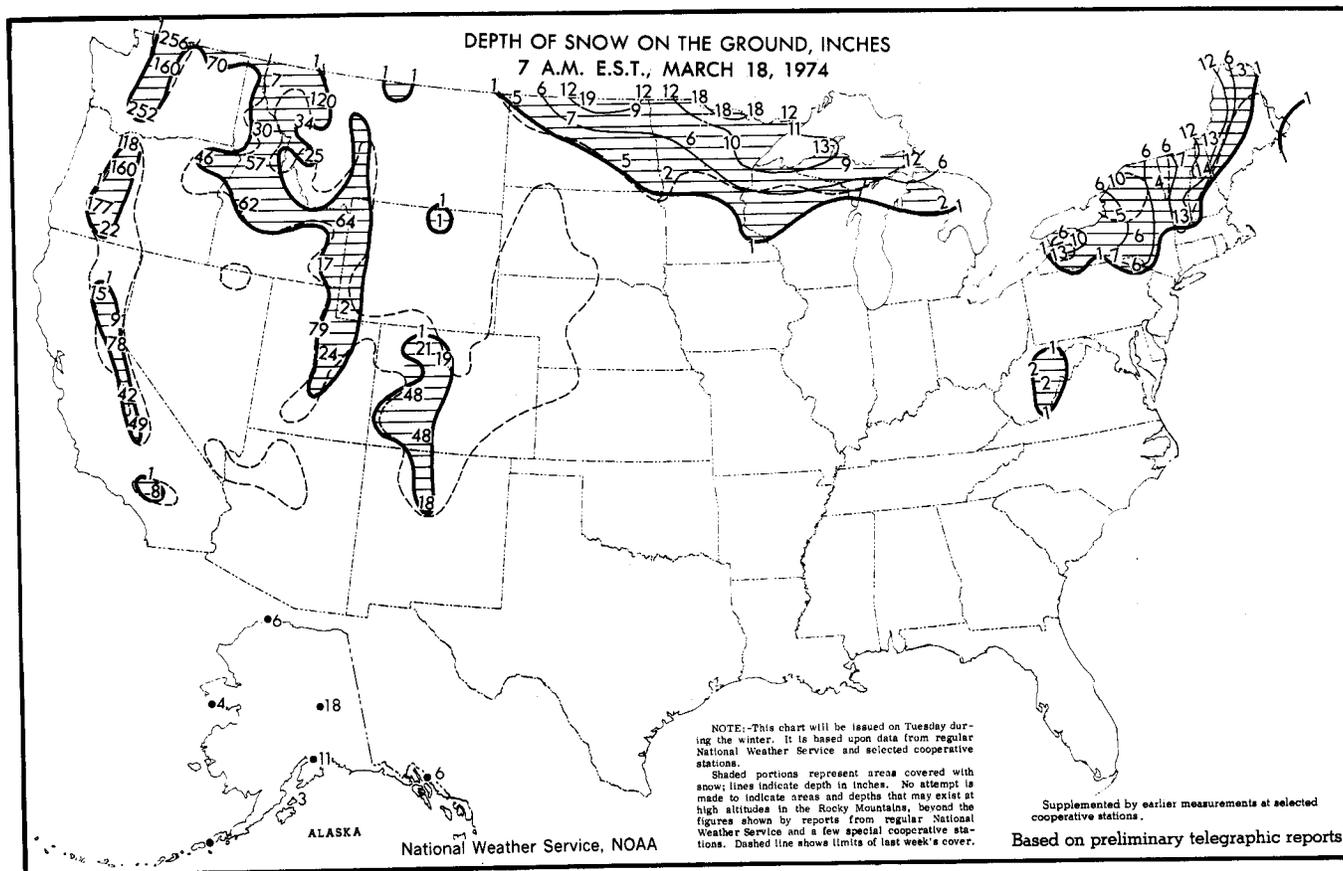
KANSAS: Temperature averages down but above normal, from 3° above normal east to 5° above normal southwest and 7° northwest. Precipitation moderate to heavy in southeast. Most precipitation early week but substantial amounts extreme southeast on 14th and 15th.

Winter wheat crop making excellent growth. Late planted wheat showing adequate ground cover. Army cutworms showing up southwest, no damage. Spring oats acreage 50% planted, 10% a year ago, 35% 10-year average. Spring barley 35% planted, 10% a year ago, 20% 10-year average. Rain slowed fieldwork. Grasses making excellent growth. Subsoil moisture supplies adequate to surplus. Cattle beginning to come off wheat pasture.

KENTUCKY: Considerable cloudiness during period with rain early and again late in week. Some light snow east Saturday night. Precipitation averaged a little above 1.00 in. except for near 2.00 in. over Bluegrass region. Temperatures about normal.

Return of usual March temperatures slowed vegetative growth. Some fruit trees blooming; however, where dormant spray applied most trees not hurt. Wet conditions slowed field activity. Concern over yellowing in barley and wheat, caused by fall and winter buildup of a virus type organism supposedly spread by aphids. Damage most evident in early seeded fields. Pastures green, growth limited past week but development earlier than normal.

LOUISIANA: Very warm early week with some record high temperatures. Average temperatures ranged 2° to 5° above normal. Scattered thundershowers in north 11th, some locally excessive. Cooler Wednesday, scattered showers heaviest in south. Minimum temperatures in 40's Thursday. Extremes: 86° at Lake Charles, New Orleans, Carville, and Jennings on 12th and 35° Ashland on 14th. Precipitation totaled from less than 0.50 in. central to locally near 2.00 in. in south and substantially more in



north. Greatest 1-day total 5.06 in. at Minder on 12th.

Land preparation full swing except northern tier parishes where rain stopped fieldwork. Soil moisture surplus extreme north, short to adequate elsewhere. Fieldwork 4.4 days favorable. Sugarcane farmers cultivating, applying herbicides and fertilizer. Large percent rice land ready for planting, several thousand acres planted. Strawberry harvest slow due to February freeze, will pick up about 2 weeks, quality currently fair to good.

Irish potatoes coming up. Farm gardening active, planting summer vegetables moving northward. Pepper transplanting Hammond area. Vegetables good progress in south. Small grains good to fair. Ideal growing weather. Pasture feed: 6% above average, 77% fair, 17% below average. Cattle fair to good, 4% poor, 48% fair, 48% good. Supplemental feeding discontinued many farms.

MARYLAND AND DELAWARE: Temperatures near normal except 4° subnormal southern Eastern Shore. Highs ranged from low 50's to mid-60's except for high of 72° in western Maryland. Lows ranged from 10° to mid-20's. Precipitation light except in north-central Maryland with 2.05 in. Elsewhere amounts ranged from 0.25 to 0.50 in.

Wheat, barley and rye reported good to excellent, little winterkill but some fields eaten back to crown by wild geese. Plowing and fertilizing for spring crops progressing rapidly. Most tobacco beds seeded, some plants emerging under plastic. Peach buds broke dormancy central and southern areas, little cold weather damage to date. Live-stock good, calving and lambing about 75% complete.

MICHIGAN: Temperatures generally averaged 2° below to 2° above normal with coldest midweek. Precipitation generally totaled 0.30 to 0.80 in. over south lower and around 0.10 in. or less over north lower and upper peninsula falling mainly Friday and Saturday. Two to 4 in. snow fell in a band from near Muskegon to thumb region Friday night.

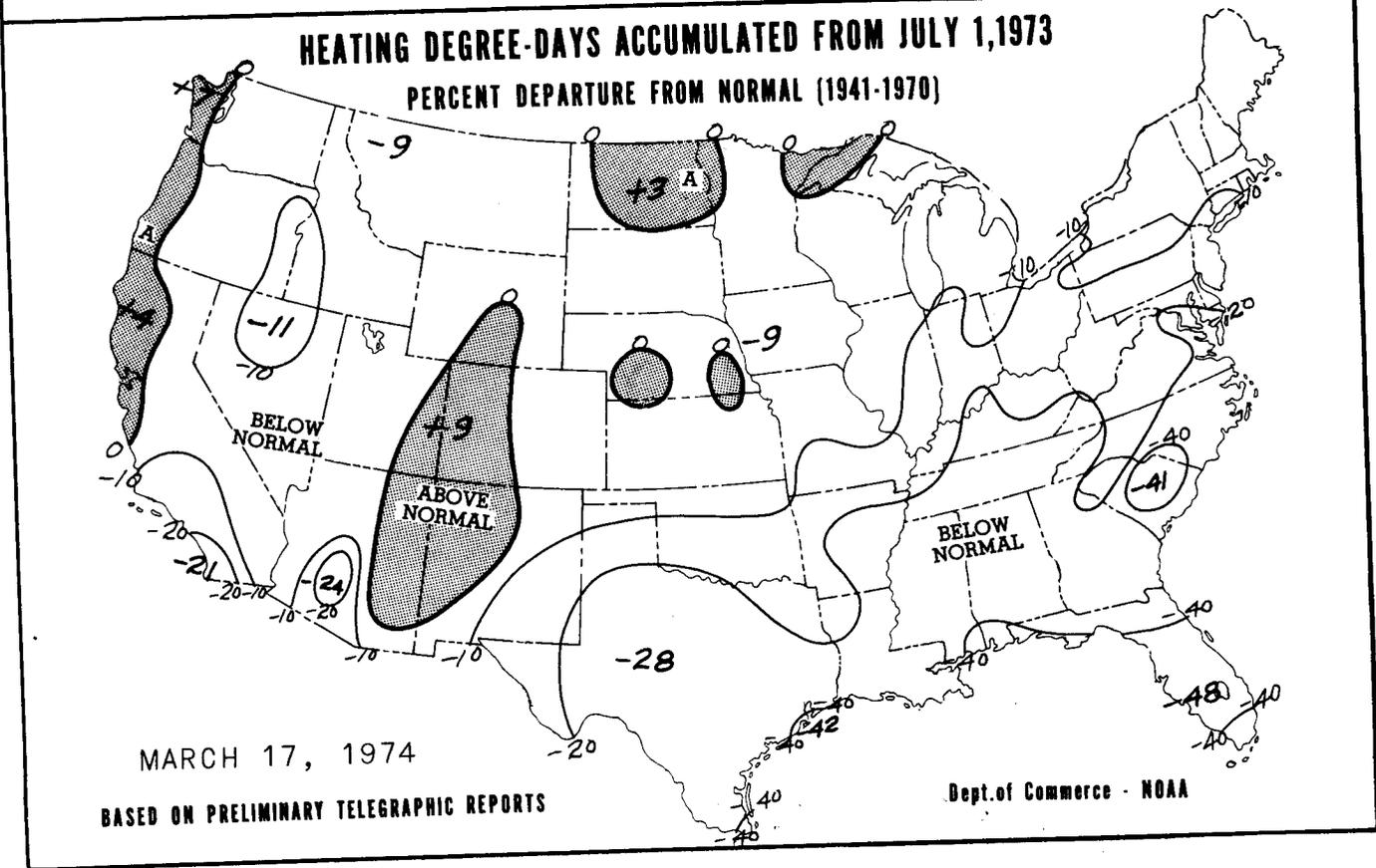
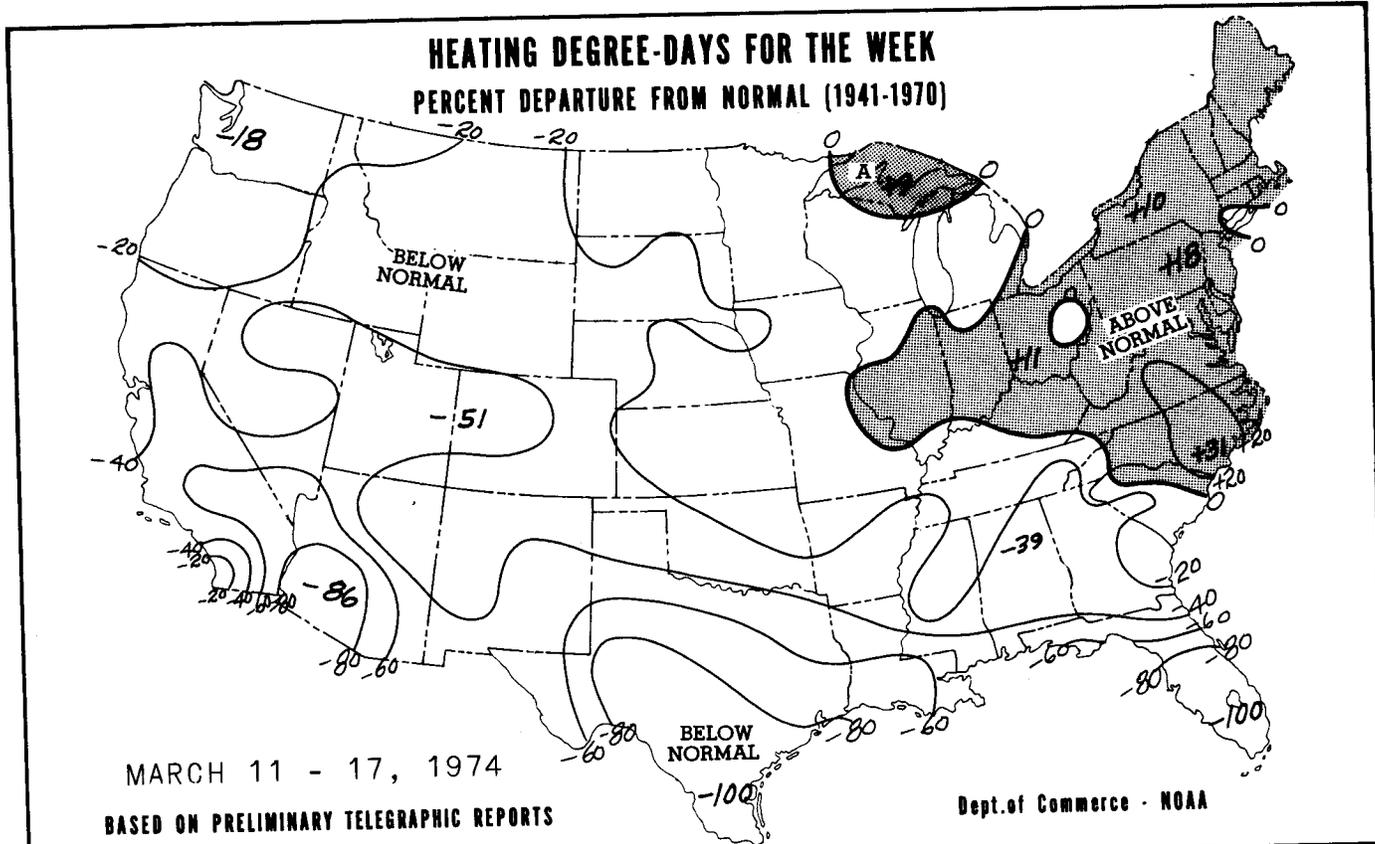
MINNESOTA: Temperatures averaged from slightly below normal in the northwest corner to around 6° above normal southwest. Temperatures mild most of week but, colder air moved southward over weekend with low temperatures falling below zero in North. Precipitation ranged from above normal west half to below normal east. Heaviest precipitation over Southwest and westcentral. New snowfall ranged from 1 to 4 in. with heaviest in northcentral and northeast where total snow depths 8 to 17 in. Snow cover of 1 in. reported again south.

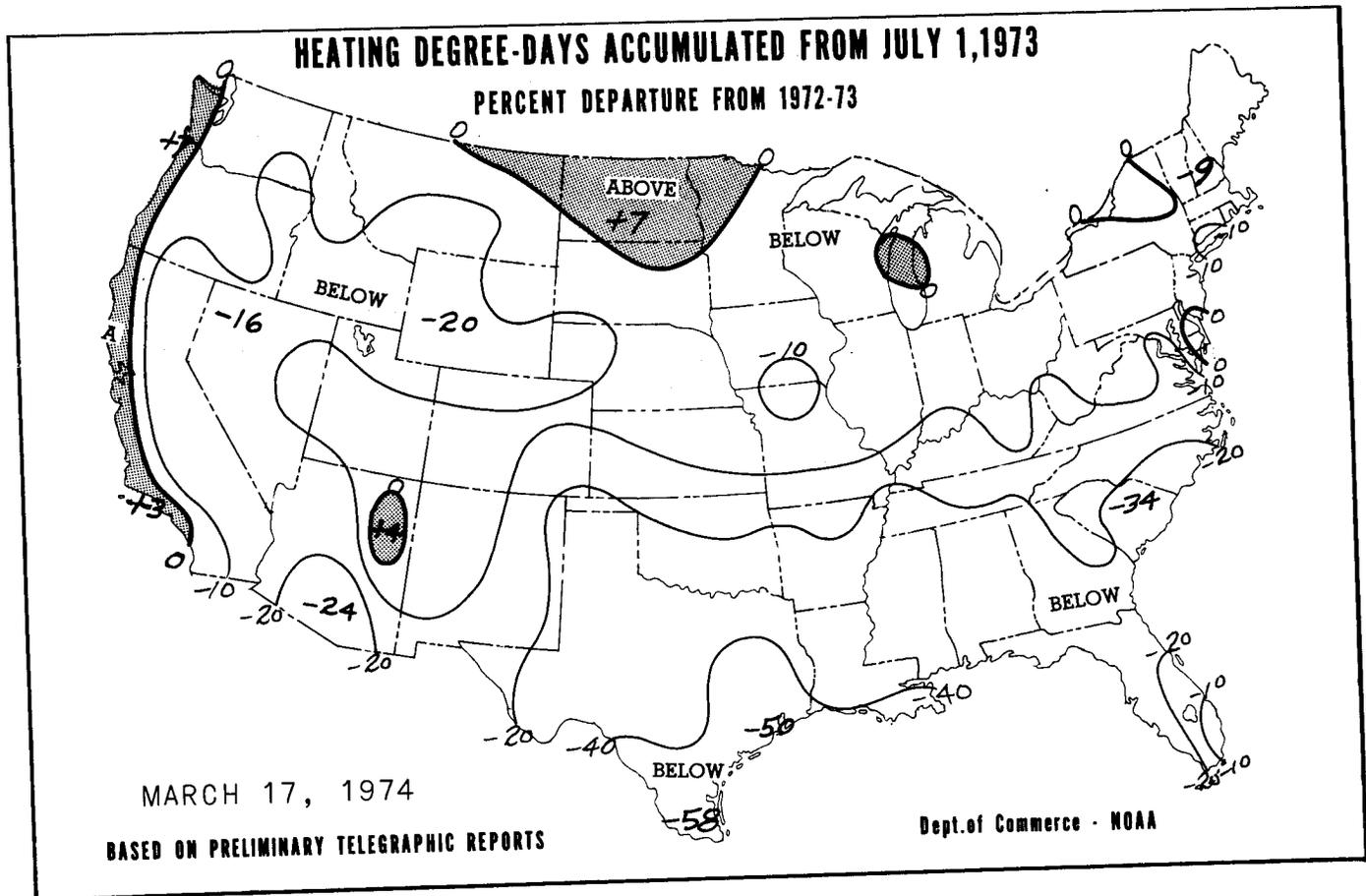
Farm activities continue routine. Conditions were becoming favorable for beginning of fieldwork in southwest but precipitation and colder temperatures this week unfavorable.

MISSISSIPPI: Week began with unseasonably warm afternoons, with midweek showers, and concluded with rather cool mornings. Temperatures averaged 7° warmer than usual. Extremes: 88° at Meridian on 9th, 32° at Tunica on 15th. Greatest 24-hour rainfall 2.20 in. on 12th near Vicksburg. Widely scattered light to occasionally moderate showers on Friday and early Saturday. Remainder of week-end generally fair skies and mild.

Soil moisture mostly adequate. Some surplus

(Continued on Page 10.)





(Continued from Page 7.)

moisture north. Major farm activities: Land preparation, applying fertilizer and chemicals. Fieldwork averaged 4.1 days suitable. Fall and spring plowing 41% completed, compared with 25% previous week and 19% a year ago. Wheat and oats fair to good, 14% of wheat and 23% oats jointing. Irish potatoes 61% planted. Pastures, livestock, truck crops and peaches in fair to good condition.

MISSOURI: Temperatures returned to near normal on 15th after near record warmth preceding week. Lows below freezing over much of State on 3 or 4 days, with readings in the 20's or at least 2 days.

Precipitation heavy across central and south with a number of stations reporting totals of 3.00 to 7.00 in. Flooding occurred on the Osage and many of its tributaries with Missouri River rising 2 to 3 ft. above flood stage below Jefferson City to the mouth. By weekend most rivers again within their banks. Precipitation across northwest averaged less than 0.50 in. but increased to 1.00 to 2.00 in. in northwest quarter.

MONTANA: Temperatures averaged above normal with below normal precipitation all but west and northeast. Highs in upper 50's and 60's early week and again over weekend. Pacific weather front bringing gusty winds caused low chill factors east slopes midweek with brief near blizzard conditions northeast. Numerous showers occurred during week, tapered off on weekend with up to 0.50 in. precipitation west.

Calving and lambing over 25% complete. Shearing almost 25% done. Weather ideal for livestock. Calf and lamb losses same or less than normal. Most

livestock receiving supplemental feed. Field tillage barely starting southcentral and southeast, not started other areas. Winter wheat mostly fair condition northcentral and central, fair to good elsewhere. Topsoil moisture mostly short northcentral and central districts, short to adequate elsewhere. Wind damage to winter wheat none to light northwest and northeast, moderate to heavy central, and light to moderate elsewhere. Winter wheat mostly dormant but beginning to green in numerous counties across State.

NEBRASKA: Rainfall general over State with heaviest amounts in panhandle where 0.75 to 1.00 in. fell, and 0.25 to 0.50 in. remainder of area. Precipitation as snow over western end of State. Temperatures a little above normal.

Wheat fields greening up. Livestock in good condition.

NEVADA: Seedbed preparation progressed local areas where fields dry enough to work. Livestock mostly good. Calving and lambing progressing, some predatory losses. Most lower ranges green.

High temperatures Reno averaged 9° above normal, lows 10° above. Extremes: 84° Las Vegas to 20° Virginia City. Precipitation sporadic, confined to northeast. Greatest amount 0.26 in. Owyhee. No snow on ground any station. Deepest snow depths in Sierras.

NEW ENGLAND: Generally fair weather through Friday except for some snow flurries north on Thursday. Windy through midweek and again over weekend.

Only one winter storm during week. It deposited

6 to 12 in. snow on much of north or 1.00 to 3.00 in. moisture. Temperatures below normal through midweek and below zero readings northern Maine on 12th and 13th.

NEW JERSEY: Cold week, temperatures averaged 2° below normal. Extremes: 62° at Toms River, Buckshuten, and Freehold on 16th and 10° at Charlottsburg and Long Valley on 14th. Substantial rainfall on 16th. Seabrook reported a storm total of 1.32 in. Weekly totals averaged 1.20 in. statewide.

NEW MEXICO: Dry and warm week. Cold most stations early Monday with day to day warming thereafter to near record heat over weekend. Extremes: 3° above at Cuba on 11th, 89° at Hobbs on 16th. Readings averaged 5° to 10° above normal statewide. Some windiness during afternoons but below damaging levels.

Scattered rain except for southern areas. Moisture mostly short, ranges fair, livestock fair. Wheat, barley mostly fair. Field activities continued.

NEW YORK: Frequent strong winds and subnormal temperatures marked a return to winterlike weather this week. Near or below normal temperatures and dry weather through Thursday. A deepening storm moved across State over weekend providing generally heavy precipitation except over southwest where light to moderate amounts fell.

Precipitation began late Friday west and spread across remainder of State Saturday falling mainly as rain south and snow or a mixture north. Snow or flurries Sunday over interior. An average of 5 to 10 in. snow fell from Lake Ontario southeastward to Catskills and in western Mohawk Valley, Adirondacks, and St. Lawrence Valley. Greatest snow depths still in higher terrain of northeast with up to 2 ft.

NORTH CAROLINA: Temperatures averaged above normal with record setting warmth over weekend, turning much colder Monday thru Wednesday. Light to moderate precipitation over most of State. Some light snow in extreme north of Piedmont and mountains. Some frost.

Averaged 3.6 fieldwork days. Soil moisture 86% adequate, 4% surplus, 10% short. Small grains 22% fair, 78% good. Pastures 60% good, 40% fair. Irish potato spring crop 60% planted. Tobacco plant beds 3% excellent, 57% good, 40% fair. Cut worm damage reported. Hay supplies adequate. Setting cabbage plants continued.

NORTH DAKOTA: Temperatures statewide above normal, up to 6° above in southwest. Highest readings for week 57° on 10th and 11th at Watford City. Fortuna had lowest with 5° below zero. Precipitation above normal in northern tier of counties, but below in central and south. Watford City in westcentral received nearly 0.50 inch of snow and rain for week. Central portion received average of only 0.10 in. Storm systems moved rapidly across State with windy, snowy conditions followed by warming to near normal and few places considerably above normal for daily highs.

Icy roads caused some difficulty marketing crops and livestock. Stormy conditions with snow not favorable for calving and lambing but generally of short duration. Some grazing of cured grass in southern areas. Fertilizer and spray chemical supplies tight.

OHIO: Winterlike weather prevailed most of week, lows in teens and 20's, highs varied from 30's

to 60's. Light rain and snow 11th, 13th and 15th. Mostly fair skies 12th and 14th. Low in teens on 13th and highs south in 50's and 60's 12th, 13th and 14th. Weak pressure system and cold frontal passage brought clouds and cold winds over State on weekend with temperatures in 30's and 40's. Cold and rain ended short period of plowing. No damage yet reported to fruit crop despite some early budding previous week.

OKLAHOMA: Temperatures 3° to 9° above normal. Precipitation over east half averaged 0.30 in. Weekend warm and mostly dry except very light showers eastern part.

Small grain growth rapid in most areas. Northeastern counties reported little development due to excessive moisture. Insect problems westcentral counties less acute following beneficial rains. Far west, southwest counties remain in need of moisture. Wheat mostly in good condition, 6% acreage jointing compared 16% year ago, mostly southwest half of State. Spring oats, barley virtually all planted, 65% up to stand compared 35% year ago. Fieldwork slow to resume following heavy rains many areas. Cattle movement from wheat pastures, marketings heavy. Livestock good condition, some lice problems. Early season grasses providing grazing.

OREGON: Temperatures averaged above normal. Highs in mid-40's to mid-60's at midweek. Lows in 30's west, from 6° above at Lakeview to 33° at Pendleton east early week. Most precipitation last half of week. Heaviest along coast. Generally widespread over State.

Fall sown wheat looks good except some drown out in low areas. Some reseeding with spring wheat anticipated. Spraying, fertilizing where ground will support machinery. Orchard pruning well advanced. Potatoes continued moving to processors, fresh market. Lambing and calving continued. Heavy feeding moderating some. Supplies mostly adequate.

PENNSYLVANIA: More seasonable weather returned this week as temperatures dropped some 15° from previous week and averaged 3° to 6° below normal even with abundant sunshine through Friday. Extremes: 4° northeast Thursday morning, 56° southeast Saturday afternoon.

Moderate precipitation mostly as rain Saturday measured up to 1.00 in. extreme southeast and parts of west decreasing to less than 0.20 in. most central Mountains and Susquehanna Valley. Colder air following storm brought snow flurries many sections and up to 6 in. new snow extreme northeast. Very windy with gusts approaching 60 mph Sunday. Some farmers plowing and preparing seedbeds.

PUERTO RICO: Island average rainfall 0.15 in. or 0.42 in. subnormal. Highest weekly total 0.94 in. at Maricao followed by 0.69 in. at Cidra. Highest 24-hour total 0.92 in. at Maricao. Temperatures averaged about 75° on coasts and 70° interior. Extremes: 92° at San Sebastian, 48° at Adjuntas.

Sugarcane harvesting operations continued under favorable weather. Some areas report increase in sugar. Cultivation of coffee trees and drying of beans continued. A good flowering reported all coffee zones. Tobacco zones report harvesting and drying operations progressing under favorable weather all areas. Some areas report plantations in good condition.

In general, weather favored development of

pastures but most areas in northwest, west and south need more rains. Food crops need more rain for good development in some areas in northwest, west and south but elsewhere good weather prevailed for harvesting and preparation of soil for planting. Plantains, bananas and citrus harvested in western-interior zones.

SOUTH CAROLINA: Temperatures about normal in north, a few degrees above normal elsewhere. Freezing temperatures on morning of 14th across north portion, mostly in 30's elsewhere. Rainfall for State below normal ranging from trace in mountains to around 0.75 in. in east. Average rainfall for State less than 0.50 in. Cold front moved southward across State on 10th. Colder air on Wednesday with another cold outbreak at end of week.

Planting snap beans, cabbage, corn along coast. Transplanting tobacco in Pee Dee area. Seedbed preparation, land preparation, herbicide and fertilizer applications elsewhere.

SOUTH DAKOTA: Above normal temperatures for fifth successive week--ranging 2° to 7° above normal. Extremes: 76° at Philip on 17th, 9° at Lemmon on 16th. Some precipitation, heavier amounts of 0.30 to 0.70 in. east. Amounts decreased to the west, but most areas received 0.10 to 0.30 in.

Subsoil moisture generally adequate but more moisture needed. Generally mild winter. Winter wheat has some wind damage but generally in good condition. Some fields beginning to green up. Early lambing about complete, calving just starting. Generally little disease problems or losses due to warm conditions. High feed grain prices, feed and hay supplies generally adequate, but localized shortages.

Some early planting of spring wheat. Most farm activities limited to seed cleaning and preparing machinery for spring fieldwork. Fertilizer supplies short.

TENNESSEE: Cold fronts moved across State early week and at end of week with light to moderate rainfall on Monday or Tuesday and Friday night and Saturday. Rainfall amounts averaged 0.75 in. east and central to more than 1.00 in. west. Temperatures 2° to 3° above normal.

Improving soil moisture conditions allowed farmers in some areas to prepare land for planting spring crops, but overall fieldwork still lags about one week behind normal. Growth of fall sown grains well advanced for so early and wheat not pastured could be hurt by heavy freezes. A number of grain fields damaged by yellow dwarf disease, barley hardest hit. Few low fields also damaged by excess moisture. About 55% of tobacco beds seeded, on schedule with last year but ahead of normal. Peach and pear trees in full bloom, one to two weeks ahead of normal which makes them quite vulnerable to freezing temperatures.

TEXAS: Mild temperatures ruled during week little or no rain northcentral and most of west. Heavy thunderstorms dumped generous rainfall on much of south, east. Locally heavy rains fell over small portion central and northeast and spread into south midweek. Heavy rains portions southcentral caused flash flooding. Temperatures averaged 3° to 10° above normal over entire State, warmest readings south.

Wheat and oats responded well to recent rains across State. Some dryland wheat on high plains revived and showed moderate growth, but little additional grazing expected. Growth excellent

and grazing increased in east Texas. Most live-stock pulled off wheat and oat fields where grain crop expected. Planting cotton, corn and sorghum made good progress in south half. Early stands up and making good growth. Moisture generally adequate across State for planting most crops. Major crops percent planted: Cotton 4, 1973 2; corn 25, 1973 9; sorghum 20, 1973 8; rice 14, 1973 0.

Lower Rio Grande Valley: Onion harvest gain momentum. Other onions continued excellent growth. Harvest of lettuce, carrots and cabbage remained active. Cucumber and tomatoes made good growth. Most cantaloupes and watermelons planted. Coastal Bend: Most watermelons emerged. Nearly all of cucumber acreage planted. Laredo: Carrot harvest underway. Onions continued excellent progress. San Antonio-Winter Garden: Spinach harvest neared completion. Most melons emerged. Onions made good growth. Central: Tomato field setting underway. East: Tomatoes being field set. Sweet potato bedding plants made good growth. Knox-Haskell: Potato seeding about 90% complete. Trans-Pecos: Onions and lettuce continued good growth. High Plains: Most activity centered around planting of onion and potato crops.

Peaches continued to bloom in north half, while in south half most peaches past petal fall stage. Citrus harvest continued active. Fertilization and irrigation active in many groves. Some rain fell but most areas need additional rainfall. Recent rains improved grazing conditions across State. Sheep and goat shearing neared completion. No unusual death losses.

UTAH: Few isolated very light showers early week and scattered areas of rain in valleys and snow in mountains northwest portion over weekend. Accumulated amounts of moisture light to locally moderate. Temperatures averaged up to 12° above normal. Soil temperatures at 4-in. depth ranged from mid-40's in Cache Valley and Richfield to upper 40's Salt Lake City and low 50's St. George.

Last week favorable for plowing, orchard pruning, ditch cleaning, machinery repair, and other spring chores. Soil moisture good in most crop and range lands. Irrigation water storage best ever. Range calving started, some sheep outfits will start lambing next week. Placing of turkey poults in full swing, about 33% completed. Potato and apple marketing from storage about completed. Seed potatoes in short supply. Fertilizer supplies may be delayed in delivery because of rail car shortages.

VIRGINIA: Temperatures averaged a little below normal. Warm beginning of week, much colder with freezing temperatures most sections midweek. Extremes: 86° and 16°. Precipitation averaged about 0.75 in. falling as rain and snow early week and rain near end of week.

Topsoil moisture supply 3% short, 71% adequate, 26% surplus. Fieldwork averaged 3 days suitable. Third consecutive week of 3 or more days suitable. Land preparation, fertilizing, liming, topseeding of pastures, and topdressing small grains made good progress. Some local fertilizer shortages and delayed deliveries reported, causing some concern. Pastures, small grains remained good to excellent. Some spraying of barley to control aphids.

Cold damage to advanced peach crop ranged from locally severe in early blooming varieties to slight damage in late blooming varieties. Full extent of damage cannot now be fully assessed and prospects for crop will depend to large

extent on future weather conditions. Most apple orchards came through with little or no damage. Irish potato planting on Eastern Shore in full swing. Sweet potato plantbed preparation also active. Seeding tobacco beds continued with earlier seeded beds in good condition.

WASHINGTON: West: Temperatures averaged 2° above normal. Highs in 50's, lows in 30's and 40's. Precipitation above normal, from 0.50 to over 6.00 in. Forced rhubarb harvest almost completed. Raspberry canning continued and new fields planted. Lifting of certified strawberries. Nearly finished with chemical weed control on Christmas trees. Cabbage seed crops need warmer weather. Pastures green but wet.

East: Temperatures slightly above normal. Highs in 50's, lows in 30's. Precipitation from 0.20 to 1.00 in. Fertilizing and planting peas, sugar beets, and potatoes. Fruit tree pruning winding down. Tying, trellising of grapes continued. Water deliveries beginning in irrigation canals. Heaving in many saturated dryland grain fields. Main activities weed spraying, fertilizing, plowing, disking, fence repair. Calving, lambing proceeding.

WEST VIRGINIA: Temperatures slightly below normal. Highs in 50's and 60's on Friday. Lows Wednesday and Thursday in teens and 20's except Canaan Valley which dropped to 8°. Rain fell across State Monday and Tuesday. Rain started to fall Friday night and as cold front passed Saturday morning rain changed to snow flurries over most areas. No significant accumulations. Most areas received less than 1.00 in. precipitation for week

except in south and southwest where over 2.00 in. fell.

Outdoor chores were limited with cooler temperature and added moisture to soil. Spring flowers remained dormant this past week with some flowers showing effects of frost.

WISCONSIN: Skies fair to partly cloudy until mid-week except for a little light rain and snow mix in south Monday. Generally cloudy remainder of week and weekend. Snow of 1 to 3 in. northcentral Thursday. Snow again Friday and Saturday, beginning as rain in south. Locally heavier snow of 3 to 5 in. in a band northwest to southeast. Temperatures averaged about normal, being above first part but cooler on weekend.

Mild weather in early March brought most frost out of the ground. Frost depths as of mid-March averaged just 4 in., the least for that date since records began in 1961. Snow depths averaged only 1 in. with most snow confined to far north.

WYOMING: Temperatures well above normal with largest departures in southwest. Moisture widely scattered and light. In lower Platte Drainage early week storm produced moisture that gave weekly totals nearly 0.50 in. over normal. Temperature highs in 50's west to 60's east. Extremes: 67° at Torrington, 6° below zero at Moran.

Mild weather enabled farmers, and ranchers to do some plowing, soil tillage, small grain planting. Also favorable for shearing, calving and lambing. Snow storm in southeast brought needed moisture and stopped soil blowing. Livestock in good condition, feed supplies generally adequate.

Standard copy for the Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin is prepared by: Richard E. Felch, Lyle M. Denny, Orus W. Byrd, National Weather Service, NOAA; Arlon M. Scott, Nancy Burt, Statistical Reporting Service, USDA.

THE WORLD AGRICULTURAL WEATHER WATCH
FEBRUARY 1974

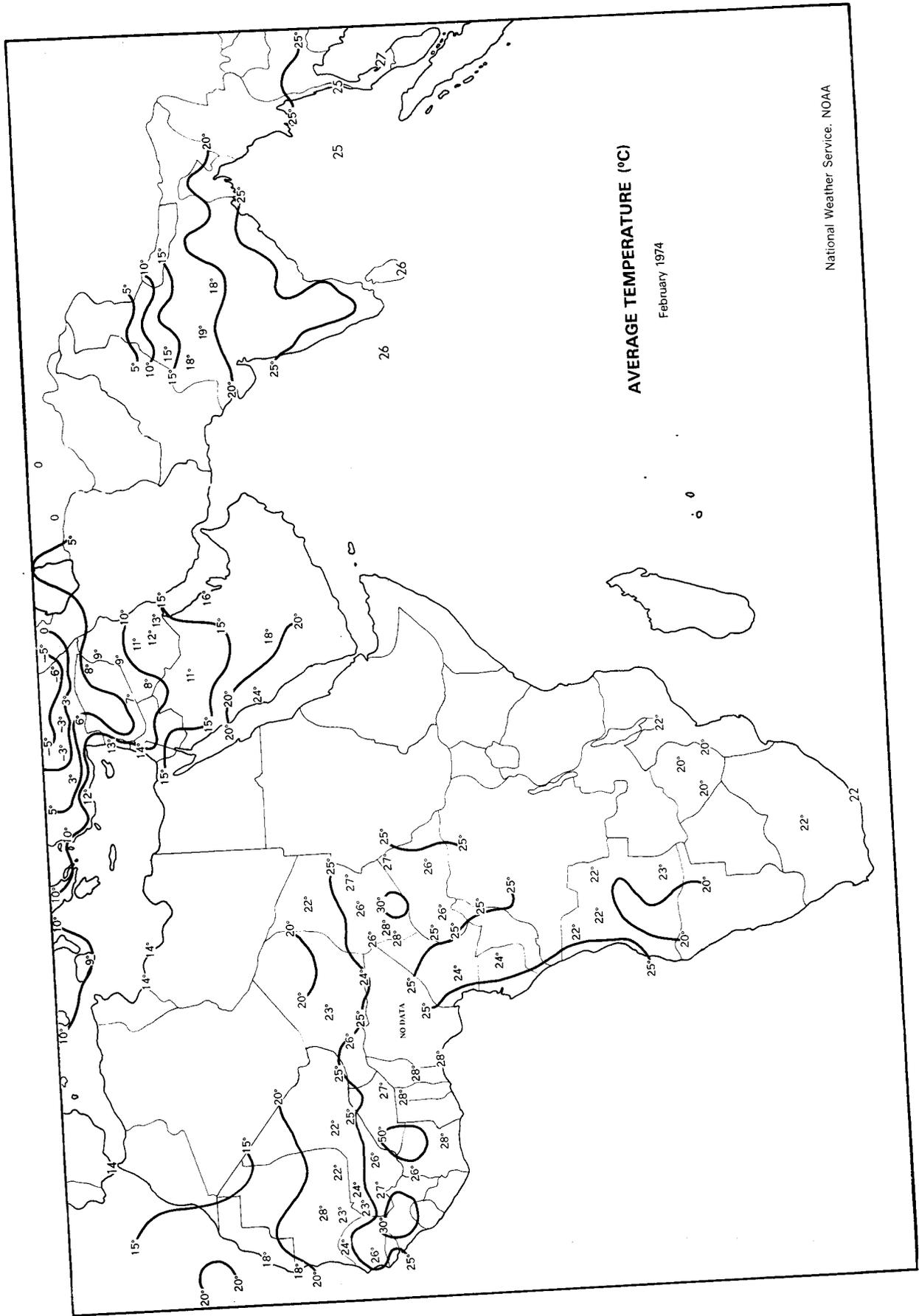
The weather is a key factor in world food production. As world population continues to increase, the need for information on weather conditions around the world becomes imperative, particularly in major crop production areas. For this reason, it was decided to develop a World Agricultural Weather Watch within the National Weather Service, NOAA. The first results of this effort were published in the February 19 issue of the Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin. Those maps showed data for January, 1974.

The maps on the following eight pages show the temperature and precipitation conditions during February, 1974, for two major areas of the world: Africa-India; and, the USSR and Scandinavia. Four maps are presented for each area: Actual monthly mean temperature, °C.; Temperature departure from normal; Total precipitation, mm.; and, Percentage of normal precipitation.

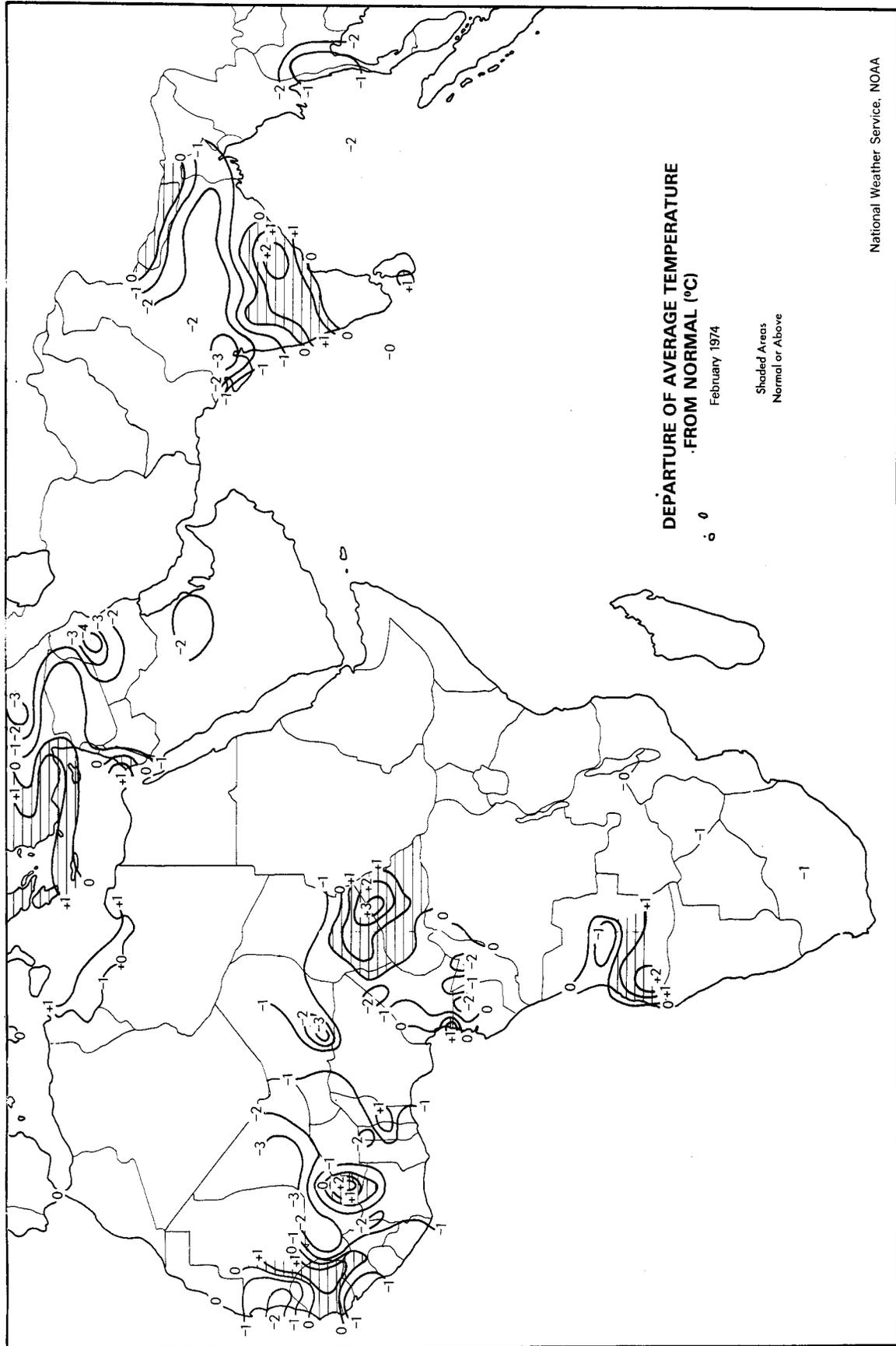
The same series of maps will be published in next week's issue of the Bulletin for Central and South America and Australia. Space considerations necessitated the two issue presentation.

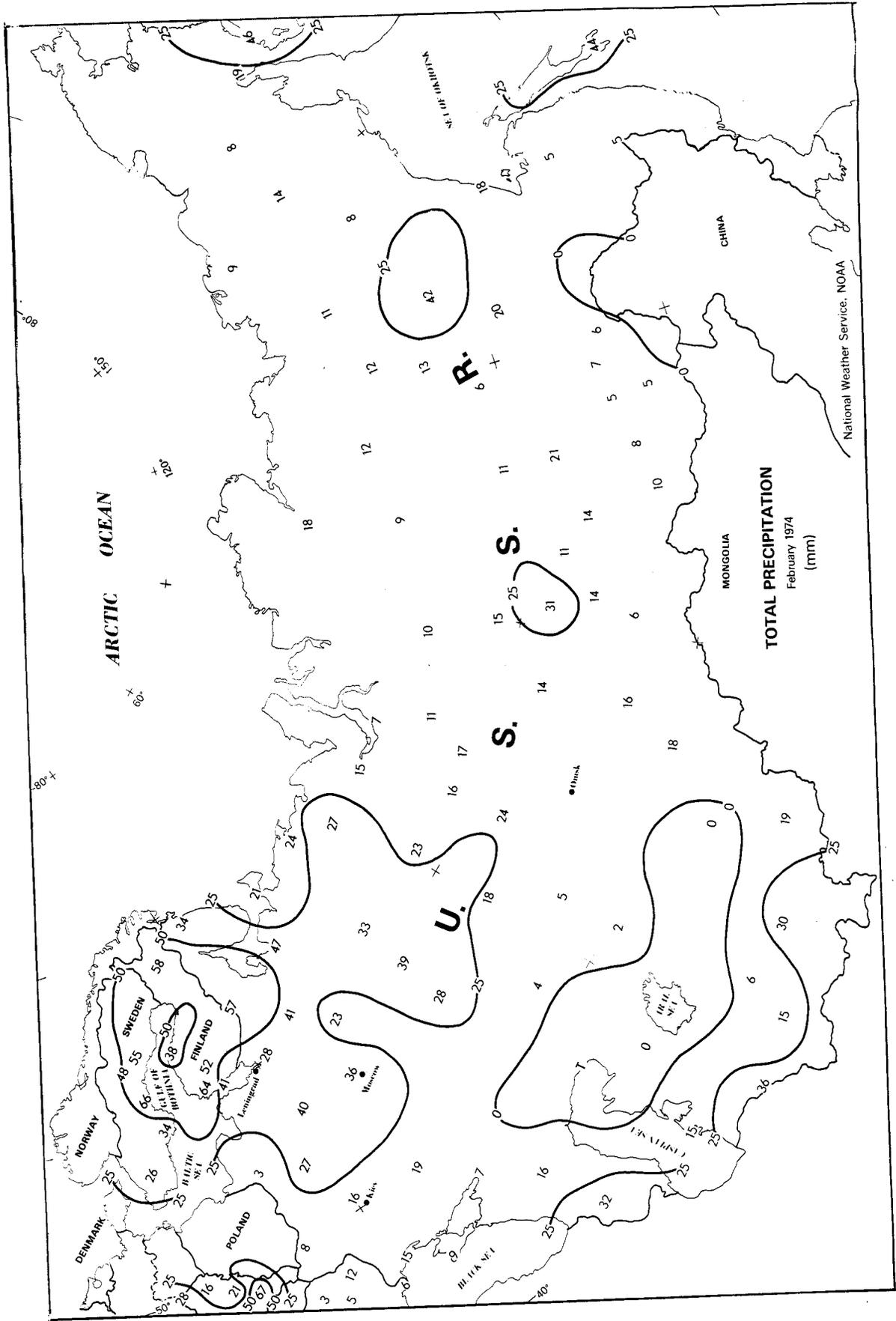
The data used to prepare these maps are routinely prepared by the individual countries and sent out on the Global Telecommunications system. By international convention all units are in the metric system, and we have followed that convention here.

Your comments and suggestions regarding this effort will be greatly appreciated. We have already received several excellent suggestions.

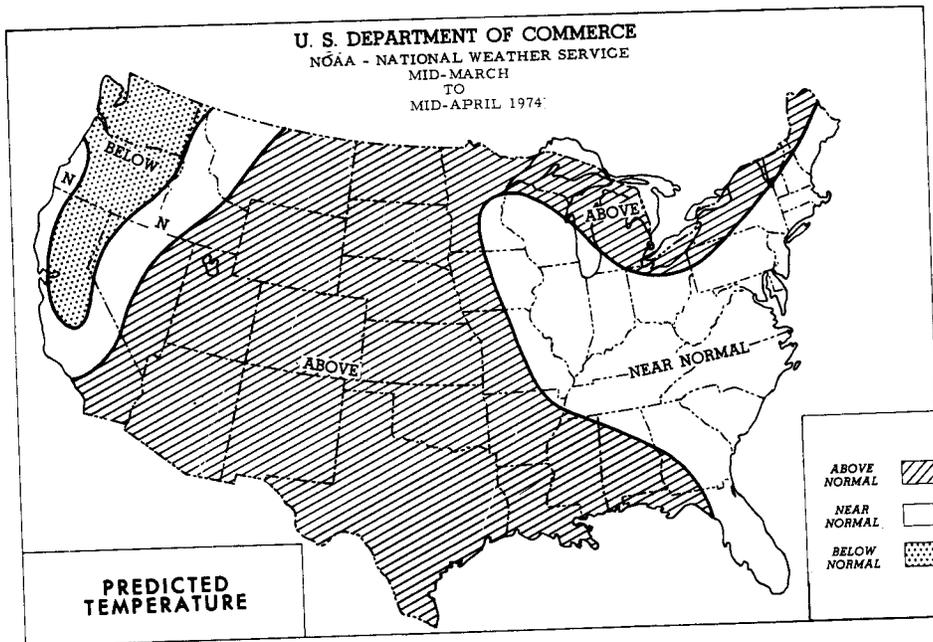
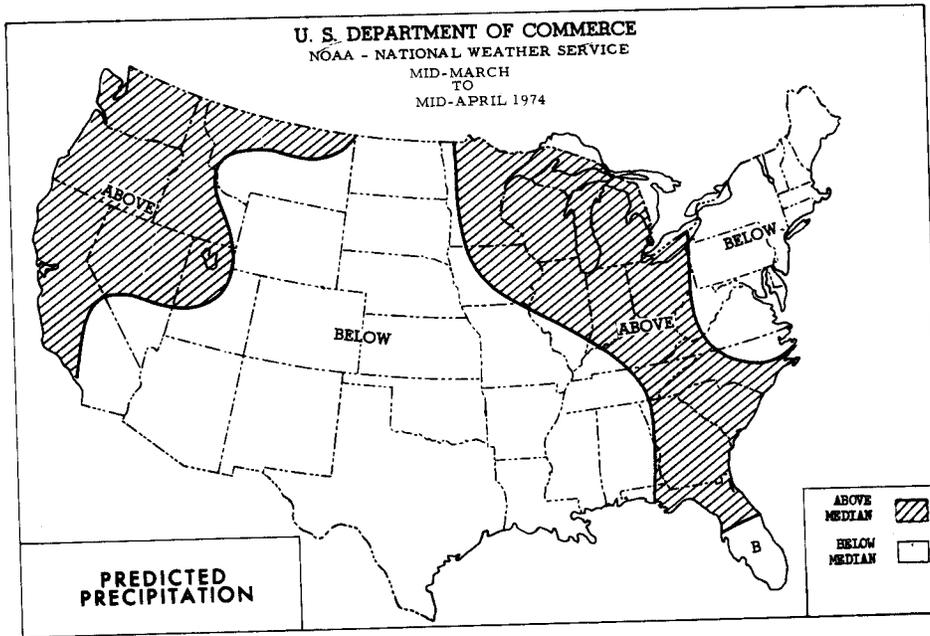


National Weather Service, NOAA





AVERAGE MONTHLY WEATHER OUTLOOK



These prognostic charts show the expected categories of average temperature and total precipitation for the period indicated. They are taken from the Weather Service's publication Average Monthly Weather Outlook which contains additional information necessary for complete interpretation.



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WORLD WEATHER AND AGRICULTURE

DROUGHT WORSENING IN KENYA

The drought conditions which plagued much of Kenya during 1973 appear to be worsening. The following report was issued by the Meteorological Department of Kenya in late December, describing the nature of the current conditions.

"This year the short rains have been very much below average in several areas, with some parts receiving less than 50.0 per cent of their normally expected rainfall during October and November. Reports from some parts of Kitui say young crops have wilted for lack of moisture and others have been slow to shoot up. Much of Eastern and Central Kenya normally experiences two rainy seasons during the year. The second rainy season, often known as the short rains, is important to food production in these areas as they depend on two quick-growing crops a year for food sufficiency - unlike the region west of the Rift Valley which has one long rainy season from about April to September and mostly one crop a year. The areas which have received less than 50.0 per cent of their normally expected rainfall during October and November are potential drought areas, as only local showers may be expected during the three months from the end of December to the end of March, and the warm, sunny days will maintain high rates of evaporation for most of this period.

"These dry areas lie in a wide arc curving from the central Kenya/Somalia border, south-westwards and southwards over central and southern parts of Kenya's Eastern Province to the southern Kenya Rift Valley and Kajiado District; then southwards and south-eastwards over Tanzania's Arusha region, across the Masai steppes to the north Tanzanian coast. Many other areas bordering on this wide arc have recorded between 50.0 and 100.0 per cent of their normal rainfall; their rainfall deficits are therefore, consider-

able, but not as serious as in the areas mentioned above."

POST-MONSOON CONDITIONS FAVORABLE

Rainfall and weather conditions in the post-monsoon period, extending from October 1 through December 31, 1973, have been generally favorable for crop production in most parts of India with a notable exception that major parts of northern India experienced unusually cold weather for about two weeks beginning in mid-December. Temperature reading on certain days during this period was the lowest in the last three decades. As a result of this icy cold wave around three hundred human lives were lost and damage was done to some winter sown crops in the affected areas.

The North East Monsoon, which is of major significance to the main rice crop in south India started in Tamil Nadu on October 20. After an initial heavy rainfall there was a long dry spell in November -- when the bulk of rainfall is received -- which caused apprehensions among farmers. Even though the rainfall distribution was uneven during this season, the cumulative rainfall from October 1 through December 31, 1973, was normal or above in most parts of India including Tamil Nadu. Rainfall was below normal ('deficient' to 'scanty') only in western Karnataka (formerly Mysore), Gujarat, western Madhya Pradesh, eastern Rajasthan, western Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Arunachal Pradesh.

Many areas in the northwestern wheat belt received useful showers during December. Because of abundant soil moisture in this region following good monsoon rains during the June-September period and also because of large areas with assured irrigation facilities in northern India, these additional rains should prove highly beneficial to wheat and other winter crops in this region. With few showers between now and March, another good to excellent winter crop can be expected.