

# Weekly Weather & Crop Bulletin

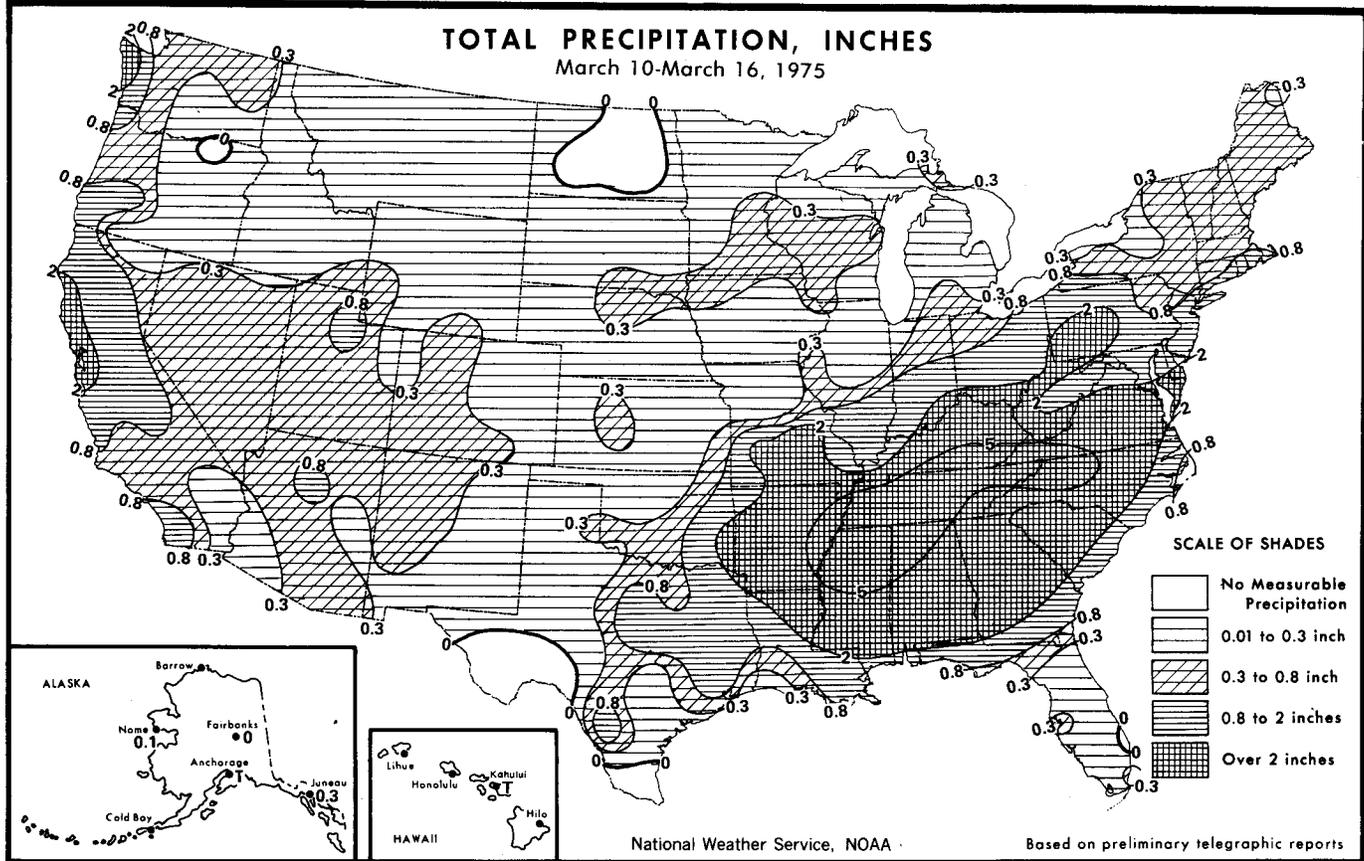
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## NATIONAL WEATHER SUMMARY

For the Week of March 10 - 16

**HIGHLIGHTS:** A series of waves along a front dangling across the South triggered a treacherous combination of rain, snow, sleet and freezing rain across widespread areas from Missouri and Arkansas, over the Appalachians to the Atlantic Seaboard last week.

Two of the wettest cities were: Memphis, Tenn. with 7.74 in. and Greensboro, N.C. with 5.15 in. of precipitation for the week.

The torrential rains during the week flooded rivers from the southern Atlantic Coast to eastern Texas and from the Gulf Coast across the Ohio Valley.

Most of the Nation was colder than normal last week. A Canadian cold air mass dominating the Central Plains kept temperatures there as much as 13° below normal for the week.

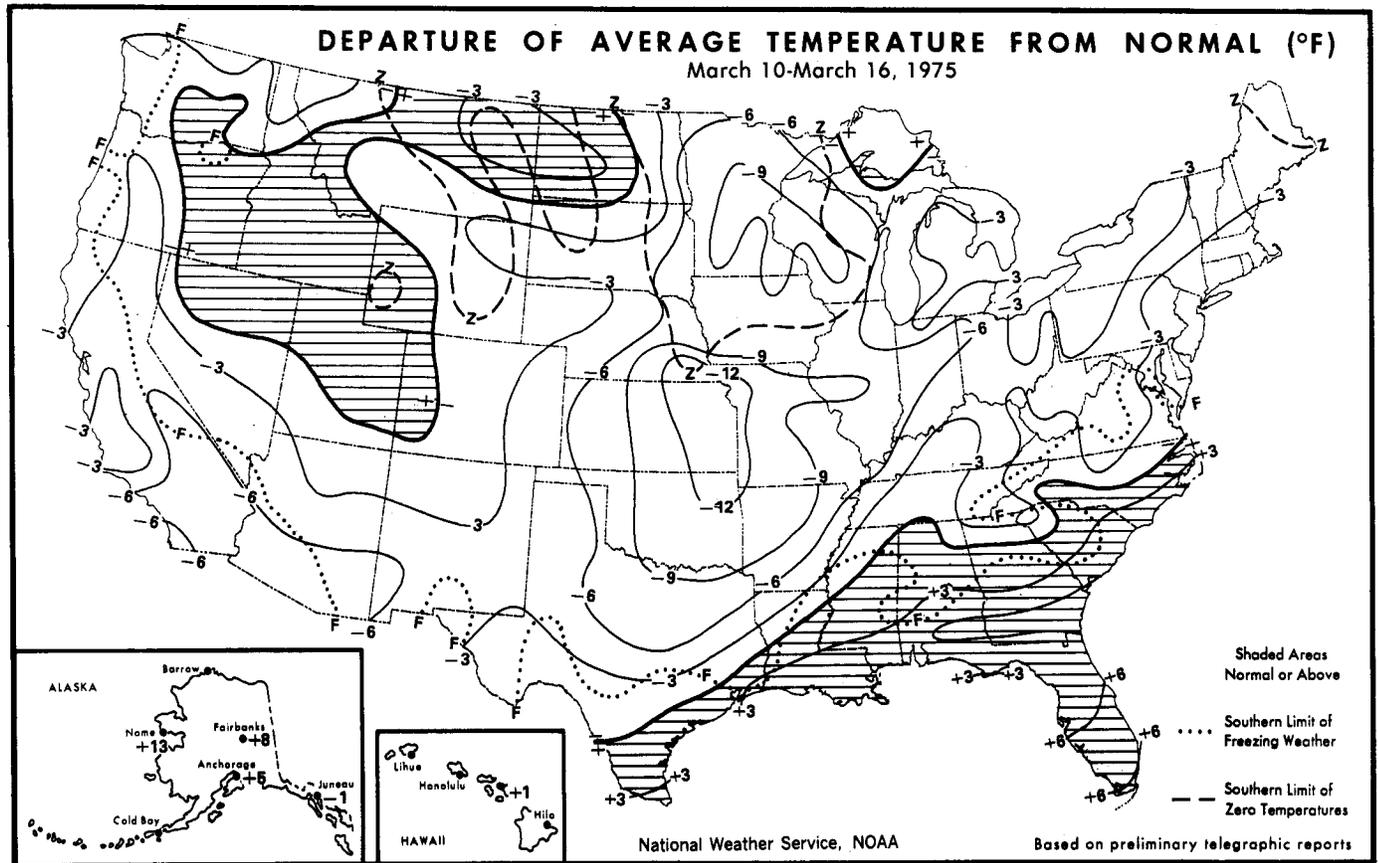
**PRECIPITATION:** Monday, a storm front centered over the South caused widespread precipitation as warm moist air surging upward from the Gulf of

Mexico collided with the cold air to the north. Thunderstorms occurred along the front in Tennessee while snow fell from Ohio westward to Nebraska. Elsewhere, snow fell over Nevada, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana and Idaho. Further west, a cold front triggered showers in California.

The frontal system remained near stationary along the southern Gulf Coast on Tuesday, causing scattered thunderstorms and dense early morning fog. Showers and thundershowers triggered by the front extended eastward across the Gulf Coast States into the Carolinas.

A developing weather system in southern Colorado stirred up a variety of weather over the Rockies, Plains and the Mississippi Valley. The storm brought heavy snow overnight to southern Colorado while warmer air pushed northward bringing rain from the southern Plains into southern Kansas and Missouri.

Wednesday, stormy conditions intensified along a front stretching from southern Lake Michigan



southward and southeastward. Moderate to heavy precipitation fell from Georgia to southern New York and throughout the Lakes area to Minnesota. A total of 18 tornadoes swept across Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee and Georgia.

Elsewhere, another Low center invaded the Pacific Northwest triggering moderate rain along the Washington and Oregon Coast.

Thursday, the cold front moved to eastern New England and meandered south southwestward into the Gulf of Mexico just off Texas. The cold air was marked by a high pressure system centered in southern Minnesota. Moderate and occasionally heavy precipitation, peppered with thunderstorms, fell along and ahead of the front as it moved eastward. Rainfall in excess of an inch was recorded in only six hours in Alabama, Georgia, West Virginia and Tennessee. Golfball size hail struck parts of northern Mississippi, central Arkansas, southwest Louisiana and southeast Texas during the afternoon and evening.

Friday, a deep Low center in western Virginia, gradually drifting eastward, produced moderate to heavy rains across Virginia, northeast to Pennsylvania and westward through Ohio.

Meanwhile, a Low pressure center just off Cape Cod near Nova Scotia packed snow over the northern Atlantic Coast States into the central Appalachians.

The intense Low from Virginia inched along the East Coast causing moderate to heavy snow in New England on Saturday. The storm dumped 3 to 6 in. of snow in parts of western and northern New York, Vermont and Maine.

Sunday, as the Low moved off the East Coast, another Pacific frontal storm system invaded the West Coast. Showers and rain dampened the West from Idaho to the interior portions of southern

California. Elsewhere a lingering front in the southeastern United States spread rain throughout Georgia and northern Florida.

**TEMPERATURE:** Monday afternoon temperatures remained chilly over the north central United States with many readings from the single values into the 20's. In contrast the sun warmed readings into the 70's near the Gulf Coast and over the Florida Peninsula.

Tuesday morning, temperature contrasts ranged from 70° in southern Texas and Florida to below zero in extreme northern Minnesota, Michigan, New York and Maine.

Wednesday, unseasonably cold air covered most of the Nation. Meanwhile temperatures were mild for the season from the Gulf Coast to the lower Great Lakes. Minimum temperatures early in the morning ranged from 15° below zero in Butte, Mont. to 76° parts of Florida.

Most of Iowa and portions of adjacent States set new record lows on Thursday. Des Moines, Iowa dropped to 2° below, Madison, Wis. 4° below and Sioux Falls, S. Dak. 14° below. Spencer, Iowa, one of the coldest towns in the Nation recorded 16° below zero.

Friday, unseasonably cold air replaced unseasonably warm air in the South Atlantic States during the morning. Minimum early morning temperatures ranged from 18° below in Spencer, Iowa to 76° in Miami, Fla.

Saturday morning chilly air again covered most of the Nation. While the only subzero reading of minimum thermometers was 2° below in Alpena, Mich.; Fort Wayne, Ind. set a record low with 3° above.

Temperatures Sunday afternoon reached 25° in Tahoe, Calif. and 89° in Melbourne, Fla.

## NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY

For the Week of March 10 - 16

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Heavy rains on already water soaked soils caused flooding in the South and northeast. Considerable soil erosion occurred on low-lying areas. Spring fieldwork continued slow due to surplus moisture conditions. Subnormal temperatures throughout much of the Nation limited growth on small grains, pastures and rangelands. Supplemental feeding of livestock was prolonged and supplies are becoming critical some areas, resulting in some deaths and heavy culling.

**SMALL GRAINS:** Heavy rains and extensive flooding in Tennessee left several thousand acres of fall sown grains under water. Small grains made good growth in Florida and Alabama but were slowed in Louisiana by water logged fields and cool weather. Fall seeded grains were in fair to good condition in Oregon and New Mexico, while growth continued good in California. Seeding of spring grain lags in many areas. Spring oats and barley in Kansas were less than 5% seeded, normally 35% and 15% respectively, have been seeded. Seeding was underway in Colorado and eastern Washington. In Oklahoma, spring oats were 55% up to stand and barley 53%.

Winter wheat continues favorable in the eastern two-thirds of Kansas and most of Oklahoma. Dry conditions still prevail in southwest Kansas and the western Panhandle of Oklahoma. Below normal temperatures kept winter wheat dormant in most major States and limited growth elsewhere. Excess moisture and cold temperatures plague winter wheat in Illinois, Indiana and Ohio. Wheat fields in southeastern Wyoming need moisture badly, and the moisture shortage was critical in Colorado as wheat breaks dormancy. Winter wheat stands in eastern Washington were filling in, but some reseeded was certain.

**OTHER CROPS:** Corn planting made rapid progress in Texas with 25% done, against 28% in 1974, and 18% normal. Good progress was also made in southern Alabama, California and Florida.

Cotton planting was 4% complete in Texas, versus 5% in 1974. Planting continued in California and increased in Arizona.

Rice seeding was far advanced in Texas with 14% complete, compared with 3% in 1974 and 11% normally. Land preparations were ahead of normal in Louisiana but seeding has been limited.

Sorghum planting was 20% complete in Texas, behind the 22% of 1974, but ahead of the average 9%. Sugarbeet planting was underway in Colorado, Texas and nearing completion in California's San Joaquin Valley. Sugarcane harvest continues strong in Florida, while cultivation and herbicide applications were active in Louisiana. Tobacco seed bed work was lagging in Maryland; heavy damage occurred to seed beds in Kentucky and Tennessee.

Plant beds were in fair to good condition in North Carolina, but ditching was necessary in South Carolina to remove the excess water from the beds. Transplanting was underway in Florida and Georgia.

**FRUITS AND NUTS:** Citrus grove condition continues excellent in Florida, light rains were helpful. Bloom development was active in all areas. Early orange harvest continues to decline.

In California, bloom was past peak for almonds, apricots, and plums continuing strong for cherries, nectarines, and peaches. Citrus harvest was slowed by rain. Fruit drop from earlier freeze continues in Navel and Valencia oranges.

Peaches suffered some damage in Texas on the 14th and 15th when temperatures dropped below freezing as far south as the Hill country. Citrus harvest was rapidly nearing completion. Most groves have a heavy bloom.

Grapefruit, lemon and Valencia orange harvests remain active in Arizona.

Damage to peaches from earlier cold weather appears light in South Carolina and Georgia. Early blooming varieties suffered the most damage.

**VEGETABLES:** Soil moisture was short for vegetables in Florida's central and southern counties and irrigation was active. Vegetable shipments remained at a high level and only the tomato crop was showing a decline.

In Texas, harvest was active on cabbage, carrots, and onions. Cool temperatures slowed growth on several crops and froze the tomatoes already field set in the Central and East areas. Planting was underway for cantaloupes, watermelons, and onions.

Supplies of broccoli, cauliflower, carrots, celery, and lettuce were steady in California.

Broccoli, cabbage, lettuce, and mixed vegetables advanced in Arizona.

Early planting of snap beans and cucumbers was beginning in South Carolina, while harvest of winter vegetables was about over.

**PASTURES AND LIVESTOCK:** Heavy rain, flooding, soft ground conditions, cool temperatures, snow cover or overstocking allowed little or no growth from pastures and ranges throughout much of the Nation. Supplemental feeding was required in most areas and supplies continue to shorten causing above normal death losses and heavy culling. The condition of cattle continues to decrease in many southern States. Excessive rain and flooding drowned a few hundred cattle in Tennessee.

Calving and lambing were progressing in Colorado, Montana, Oregon, South Dakota and Washington. Cold weather was bothersome to new born calves and lambs in North Dakota, but death losses were below normal in most States.

Temperature and Precipitation Data for the Week Ending Midnight, l.s.t., Mar. 16, 1975

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 . . .	54	+ 2	3.6	+2.2	La. Baton Rouge . . .	63	+ 4	1.5	+ .4	Youngstown . . .	31	- 3	1.1	+ .4
Mobile . . .	63	+ 5	1.9	+ .3	Lake Charles . . .	62	+ 3	.1	- .7	OKLA. Okla. City . . .	37	-10	.2	- .2
Montgomery . . .	60	+ 4	4.1	+2.7	New Orleans . . .	64	+ 4	1.3	0	Tulsa . . .	35	-12	.8	+ .3
ALASKA. Anchorage . .	27	+ 5	T	- .1	Shreveport . . .	51	- 5	1.3	+ .4	OREG. Astoria . . .	42	- 2	1.0	- .5
Barrow . . .	15	+ 8	0	- .1	MAINE. Caribou . . .	18	- 4	.2	- .3	Burns . . .	35	0	T	- .2
Fairbanks . . .	30	- 1	.3	- .5	Portland . . .	28	- 3	.7	- .1	Medford . . .	42	- 2	.3	- .1
Juneau . . .	30	- 1	.3	- .5	MD. Baltimore . . .	39	- 3	1.8	+1.0	Pendleton . . .	47	+ 4	T	- .2
Kodiak . . .	19	+13	.1	- .1	MASS. Boston . . .	36	- 1	.7	- .2	Portland . . .	43	- 2	.6	- .3
Nome . . .	30	- 3	1.4	+1.0	Chatham . . .	35	- 1	.8	- .2	Salem . . .	42	- 3	.5	- .5
ARIZ. Flagstaff . . .	53	- 6	.4	+ .2	MICH. Alpena . . .	22	- 3	.2	- .2	PA. Allentown . . .	36	- 1	.8	0
Phoenix . . .	49	- 8	.5	+ .4	Detroit . . .	30	- 4	.1	- .4	Erie . . .	31	- 1	.9	+ .3
Tucson . . .	40	- 4	.3	+ .2	Flint . . .	29	- 2	.1	- .4	Harrisburg . . .	35	- 5	1.7	+ .9
Winslow . . .	56	- 7	.1	0	Grand Rapids . . .	27	- 5	.1	- .3	Philadelphia . . .	39	- 2	1.2	+ .4
Yuma . . .	38	-11	2.3	+1.5	Houghton Lake . . .	24	- 1	.1	- .3	Pittsburgh . . .	35	- 2	2.3	+1.5
ARK. Fort Smith . . .	40	- 9	2.1	+1.0	Lansing . . .	28	- 3	.4	- .1	Scranton . . .	34	- 1	.3	- .3
Little Rock . . .	54	- 2	.4	+ .2	Marquette . . .	27	+ 1	.1	- .3	R. I. Providence . . .	35	- 1	1.0	+ .1
CALIF. Bakersfield . .	46	- 2	1.1	0	Muskegon . . .	28	- 3	.1	- .4	S. C. Charleston . . .	61	+ 5	1.0	- .1
Eureka . . .	48	- 5	1.1	+ .7	S. Ste. Marie . . .	19	- 3	.4	0	Columbia . . .	54	+ 1	2.4	+1.3
Fresno . . .	52	- 7	.7	+ .2	MINN. Duluth . . .	15	- 7	.2	- .2	Greenville . . .	46	- 4	4.9	+3.6
Los Angeles . . .	49	- 4	.9	+ .3	Internatl Falls . . .	13	- 6	T	- .2	S. D. Aberdeen . . .	24	- 1	1.1	- .1
Red Bluff . . .	55	- 3	1.4	+1.0	Minneapolis . . .	18	- 8	.3	- .1	Huron . . .	22	- 5	.1	- .1
San Diego . . .	49	- 4	2.2	+1.6	Rochester . . .	16	-10	.3	- .1	Rapid City . . .	26	- 4	.2	0
San Francisco . . .	49	- 4	2.2	+1.6	St. Cloud . . .	13	-11	.3	0	Sioux Falls . . .	21	- 7	.4	+ .1
Stockton . . .	34	- 2	.2	- .1	MISS. Jackson . . .	57	+ 2	2.1	+ .8	TENN. Chattanooga . . .	44	- 5	4.7	+3.4
COLO. Denver . . .	41	+ 1	.2	+ .1	Meridian . . .	57	+ 2	3.7	+2.3	Knoxville . . .	46	- 3	4.6	+3.5
Grand Junction . . .	36	- 3	.1	0	MO. Columbia . . .	31	- 9	.2	- .4	Memphis . . .	45	- 5	7.7	+6.6
Pueblo . . .	35	- 2	1.1	+ .3	Kansas City . . .	27	-12	.1	- .5	Nashville . . .	46	- 1	7.0	+5.8
CONN. Bridgeport . . .	35	+ 1	.7	- .1	St. Louis . . .	34	- 7	1.1	+ .4	TEX. Abilene . . .	46	- 7	.4	+ .2
Hartford . . .	42	- 2	1.9	+1.1	Springfield . . .	31	-11	2.0	+1.4	Amarillo . . .	40	- 4	.1	0
D. C. Washington . . .	63	+ 3	.4	- .7	MONT. Billings . . .	30	- 1	T	- .2	Austin . . .	55	- 3	.2	- .2
FLA. Apalachicola . .	69	+ 6	.1	- .7	Glasgow . . .	28	+ 5	T	- .1	Beaumont . . .	63	+ 4	.2	- .4
Daytona Beach . . .	75	+ 7	.2	- .5	Great Falls . . .	29	0	T	- .2	Brownsville . . .	70	+ 3	T	- .1
Ft. Myers . . .	64	+ 4	.3	- .5	Havre . . .	24	0	T	- .1	Corpus Christi . . .	66	+ 2	T	- .2
Jacksonville . . .	78	+ 4	T	- .3	Helena . . .	28	- 1	.1	0	Del Rio . . .	61	- 1	0	- .1
Key West . . .	71	+ 5	.1	- .9	Kalispell . . .	26	- 3	.2	0	El Paso . . .	50	- 4	.1	0
Lakeland . . .	77	+ 6	.4	0	Miles City . . .	31	+ 2	.1	0	Fort Worth . . .	47	- 7	.5	0
Miami . . .	70	+ 5	.2	- .6	Missoula . . .	34	+ 2	.1	0	Galveston . . .	62	+ 2	T	- .6
Orlando . . .	64	+ 4	1.8	+ .4	NEBR. Grand Island . .	25	- 9	T	- .2	Houston . . .	60	0	.9	+ .3
Tallahassee . . .	70	+ 5	.3	- .6	Lincoln . . .	23	-12	T	- .3	Lubbock . . .	43	- 5	T	- .2
Tampa . . .	75	+ 6	0	- .8	Norfolk . . .	25	- 6	.2	- .1	Midland . . .	50	- 3	.1	0
W. Palm Beach . . .	51	+ 1	4.3	+3.0	N. Platte . . .	29	- 4	.2	0	San Angelo . . .	52	- 4	.1	- .1
GA. Atlanta . . .	55	+ 1	2.3	+1.2	Omaha . . .	26	- 7	.1	- .2	San Antonio . . .	59	- 1	.2	- .1
Augusta . . .	58	+ 2	4.3	+3.1	Valentine . . .	28	- 2	.3	+ .2	Victoria . . .	63	+ 2	.1	- .3
Macon . . .	64	+ 7	1.3	+ .2	NEV. Ely . . .	30	- 2	.7	+ .5	Waco . . .	48	- 8	.9	+ .4
Savannah . . .	73	+ 1	T	- .7	Las Vegas . . .	50	- 4	.3	+ .2	Wichita Falls . . .	42	- 9	.3	- .1
HAWAII. Hilo . . .	41	+ 1	.3	+ .1	Reno . . .	36	- 4	.4	+ .3	UTAH. Blanding . . .	37	0	.7	+ .5
Honolulu . . .	40	- 2	T	- .2	Winneucca . . .	39	+ 2	.4	+ .3	Salt Lake City . . .	40	+ 1	.8	+ .4
Kahului . . .	36	+ 2	T	- .2	N. H. Concord . . .	28	- 3	.5	- .1	VT. Burlington . . .	25	- 3	.5	+ .1
Lihue . . .	39	- 7	1.8	+ .7	N. J. Atlantic City . . .	39	- 1	2.0	+1.0	VA. Lynchburg . . .	39	- 5	3.7	+2.9
IDAHO. Boise . . .	31	- 4	.2	- .4	Trenton . . .	38	- 2	1.2	+ .3	Norfolk . . .	46	- 1	1.8	+1.0
Lewiston . . .	36	+ 2	T	- .2	N. MEX. Albuquerque . .	42	- 3	.4	+ .3	Richmond . . .	41	- 5	3.0	+2.2
Pocatello . . .	39	- 7	1.8	+ .7	Roswell . . .	46	- 2	.1	0	Roanoke . . .	40	- 4	4.2	+3.4
ILL. Cairo . . .	31	- 8	.2	- .3	N. Y. Albany . . .	29	- 3	.3	- .3	WASH. Colville . . .	35	- 1	.5	+ .2
Chicago . . .	26	- 8	.2	- .4	Binghamton . . .	26	- 4	.5	- .1	Omak . . .	34	- 4	.5	+ .3
Moline . . .	30	- 6	.2	- .4	Buffalo . . .	30	- 1	.3	- .3	Quillayute . . .	40	- 2	3.3	+ .8
Peoria . . .	26	- 7	.1	- .5	New York . . .	38	- 1	.9	0	Seattle-Tacoma . . .	42	- 2	.4	- .4
Rockford . . .	28	-10	.1	- .5	Rochester . . .	31	- 1	.4	- .2	Spokane . . .	34	- 3	.3	- .1
Springfield . . .	37	- 6	1.8	+ .7	Syracuse . . .	31	- 1	.1	- .6	Walla Walla . . .	43	- 2	.1	- .2
IND. Evansville . . .	28	- 7	.5	- .1	N. C. Asheville . . .	45	0	4.8	+3.7	Yakima . . .	42	+ 1	T	- .1
Ft. Wayne . . .	32	- 6	1.3	+ .5	Charlotte . . .	51	+ 1	4.2	+3.1	W. Va. Beckley . . .	38	- 1	2.9	+1.9
Indianapolis . . .	33	- 1	.3	- .3	Greensboro . . .	43	- 4	5.2	+4.4	Charleston . . .	39	- 4	2.0	+1.1
South Bend . . .	27	- 8	.3	- .3	Hatteras . . .	55	+ 5	.4	- .5	Huntington . . .	41	- 2	2.7	+1.7
IOWA. Burlington . . .	24	- 8	.1	- .4	Raleigh . . .	46	- 2	3.9	+3.1	Parkersburg . . .	39	- 3	1.5	+ .7
Des Moines . . .	23	- 8	.3	- .3	Wilmington . . .	57	+ 4	1.0	0	WIS. Green Bay . . .	20	- 7	.3	- .1
Dubuque . . .	23	- 8	.2	- .1	N. DAK. Bismarck . . .	26	+ 3	T	- .1	La Crosse . . .	21	- 8	.4	0
Sioux City . . .	26	-12	.1	- .3	Fargo . . .	15	- 7	T	- .1	Madison . . .	20	- 9	.2	- .2
KANS. Concordia . . .	32	- 8	.3	0	Williston . . .	26	+ 3	T	- .1	Milwaukee . . .	26	- 4	.2	- .3
Dodge City . . .	29	- 6	T	- .2	OHIO. Akron-Canton . . .	34	- 1	1.3	+ .7	WYO. Casper . . .	29	- 1	.3	+ .1
Goodland . . .	27	-13	T	- .4	Cincinnati . . .	36	- 4	2.1	+1.2	Cheyenne . . .	28	- 2	T	- .2
Topeka . . .	31	-11	.1	- .3	Cleveland . . .	33	- 2	1.0	+ .3	Lander . . .	31	+ 1	.2	0
Wichita . . .	39	- 3	3.7	+1.5	Columbus . . .	35	- 3	1.6	+ .8	Sheridan . . .	27	- 3	.2	- .1
KY. Lexington . . .	40	- 3	2.5	+ .8	Dayton . . .	34	- 4	1.4	+ .7	P. R. San Juan . . .	78	+ 3	.1	- .3
Louisville . . .					Toledo . . .	29	- 5	.4	- .2					

Based on 1941-70 Normals

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; DeLon Brown, Nancy J. Burt, Statistical Reporting Service, USDA.

## STATE SUMMARIES OF WEATHER AND AGRICULTURE

These summaries provide brief descriptions of crop and weather conditions important on a national scale. More detailed data are available in Weather and Crop Bulletins published each Monday by SRS State offices in cooperation with the National Weather Service.

**ALABAMA:** Exceedingly wet week. Rains 12th and 13th averaged 5.00 in. plus from Eutaw northeastward to Lake Bankhead. Heaviest accumulations northwestern sections. Hodges 9.35 in. Falkville 7.86 in. for week. All except extreme southwest received over 3.00 in. Temperatures averaged 10° above normal. Weekend cooler, 20's and 30's morning of 15th.

Fieldwork, corn planting made good progress southern areas early in week. Rain stopped fieldwork midweek. Soil moisture adequate to surplus. Small grains made good growth, responding to fertilization. Some aphid and disease. Livestock poor to fair, pastures helping, hay short. Livestock marketings up.

**ARIZONA:** Storms produced precipitation, sub-normal temperatures. Freezing in southeast valleys. South central, southwest deserts remained above freezing. Precipitation less than 0.25 in. extreme southwest to 2.00 in. central, eastern mountains.

Cotton planting increasing. Small grains, safflower good progress. Sugarbeets good development. Alfalfa hay activity increasing. Seedbed preparation sorghum advanced. Lettuce, cabbage, broccoli harvest southwest. Mixed vegetable harvest Salt River Valley. Cantaloup planting central, western areas. Lemon harvest active Salt River Valley. Picking Valencia oranges, grapefruit Maricopa, Yuma. Early grapes budding. Cattle, calves fair. Rain enhanced stock water, soil moisture supplies. Spring feed prospects improved.

**ARKANSAS:** Temperatures cooled midweek, gradual warming weekend. Temperatures below normal. Extremes: 73 and 18°. Precipitation scattered through week. Accumulation 2.00 in. or higher. Highest 6.04 in.

Too wet for field activity. Wheat growing, good color. Cattle poor condition. Feed supplies low. Pastures greening. Cold weather did not hurt fruit bud development.

**CALIFORNIA:** Storms brought general precipitation throughout week. Amounts ranged from 4.00 in. in sections of Sierra Nevada to 2.00 in. along south coast, 1.00 in. most other areas except light amounts southeast desert. Afternoon temperatures cooler than normal under mostly cloudy skies, minimums generally above freezing low valleys. Average temperatures near or slightly below normal all areas except 3 to 6° below southeast deserts.

Land preparation for plantings continues. Small grains showing good growth. Sugarbeet planting nears completion San Joaquin Valley. Planting of corn, cotton, milo continues. Safflower crops progressing well. Alfalfa being cut desert areas. Farmers continue normal fieldwork as weather permitted. Bloom past peak for almonds, apricots, plums; yet to reach peak for cherries, nectarines, peaches. Citrus harvest slowed by rain. Fruit drop from freeze continues in Navel and Valencia oranges. Broccoli and cauliflower good quantity, quality Central Coast, carrots steady, desert. Celery good supply Oxnard, lettuce active Palo Verde, size small. Strawberry slight increase expected South Coast. Rains improved ranges. Cool weather held back grass, supplemental feeding necessary San Joaquin Valley. Lambs doing well rangeland. Bees fairly good condition, rain

cool during almond bloom reduced activity. Egg production increased.

**COLORADO:** Precipitation heaviest south. Colorado River Basin averaged 1.00 in. Rio Grande and Arkansas River basins averaged 0.30 in. and Platte and Kansas River basins 0.10 in. Minimum temperatures averaged near normal west and ranged from 5 to 10° below normal east. Highs, 50's west and 60's east.

Precipitation limited to foothills and locally extreme southeast. Winter wheat remains fair to poor condition eastern plains. Wind damage has occurred across the plains with moderate to severe damage southeast. Soil moisture remains critical as wheat and early grasses break dormancy. Planting sugarbeets, spring barley, oats and summer potatoes but pre-irrigation necessary for germination. Ranges and pastures good condition mountains and west slope but poor eastern plains. Hay supplies average to below average. Livestock generally good condition. Calving and lambing active, losses newborn below normal.

**FLORIDA:** Warmer weather returned with mostly scattered light showers. Temperatures above seasonal normal. Rainfall generally light over the Peninsula, moderate in the Panhandle.

Soil moisture mostly adequate north and west, short south. Land preparation for spring planting active. Corn planting continues. Tobacco transplanting underway. Small grains making good growth. Peach fruit set good. Sugarcane harvest active, young cane making excellent growth. Grazing conditions poor to fair in most areas. Most pasture grasses are green but overstocking is keeping them shorter than normal. Cattle, calves in poor to fair condition. Citrus grove condition continues excellent, light rains helpful. Some irrigation continues. Bloom active all areas. Early orange harvest slowing. Soil moisture short for vegetables central and southern counties. Irrigation active. Crops moving in good volume. Supplies of snap beans, cabbage, carrots, potatoes, lettuce, sweet corn, radishes, eggplant, squash and strawberries increased, while tomatoes declined. Steady volume on celery, chinese cabbage, escarole and peppers.

**GEORGIA:** Rain north 3.00 to 6.00 in., central 1.00 to 3.00 in. and south, less than 0.50 to 2.00 in. Temperatures 2 to 5° below normal north to 3 to 6° above normal south. Moderate rains 15th and 16th.

Soil moisture excessive. Wet weather continues to restrict land preparation. Some freeze damage to early peach varieties mid-State. Midseason and late season varieties apparently unharmed. Small grain condition fair to good. Pasture poor to good condition. Condition of cattle poor to fair, some mortality in north due to poor nutrition. Tobacco transplanting underway.

**HAWAII:** Weather variable throughout State.

Almost daily rains in east Hawaii limited farm operation. Showers light most other Islands. Lee areas remained mostly sunny and favorable for crop progress. Vegetable supplies light. Banana supplies adequate, papaya supplies light. Rains in windward area beneficial to pastures. Pineapple harvesting light, sugar harvesting near full swing.

IDAHO: Showers throughout early week, amounts above normal north and scattered, southwest and south central. Elsewhere precipitation 0.04 to 0.21 in. below normal. Temperatures averaged near to few degrees above normal. Maxima 40's to low 50's east and south central to 50's and low 60's southwest and north. Minima mostly teens east to 20's elsewhere.

Fieldwork still restricted in most areas due to poor weather. Activity gained momentum some areas as fields dry and weather improves. Calving and lambing almost completed in several localities.

ILLINOIS: Temperatures 4 to 10° below normal. Warmer temperatures end of week. Precipitation under 0.50 in. northern two-thirds to over 1.50 in. south. Heavy rains south on 11th and 12th followed by 2 to 4 in. snow on 14th.

Winter wheat fair to good condition. Too much moisture some areas slows growth and causing some blight. Wheat slow to green up. Livestock good condition. Ample moisture promotes pasture growth. Rain, snow, frost prevent fieldwork. Excessive moisture most areas.

INDIANA: Snow storm on 13th and 14th left up to 6 in. of snow central, south and northeast. Travel difficult and some schools closed. Daily high temperature averaged 38°, 7° below normal. Daily low averaged 27°.

Soils thawed except extreme north. Fieldwork continues minimal. Limited chopping of stalks, tilling, spreading fertilizer, and fence mending. Mostly getting equipment and supplies in order to begin the 1975 season.

IOWA: Temperatures 7 to 9° below normal, warming on weekend. Record minima on 13th and 14th. Spencer 18° below zero 13th and 14th. Precipitation below normal statewide. Snow 1 to 3 in. afternoon, night of 11th.

KANSAS: Abnormally cool and cloudy. Temperature 8 to 12° below normal. Light precipitation 1st half and again on weekend.

Wheat condition eastern two-thirds remained favorable. Snow cover forepart of week. Southwest dry, wet fields east. Spring oats and barley less than 5% planted, normal 35% and 15% respectively. Livestock on supplemental feed.

KENTUCKY: Temperatures averaged near 40°, 3 to 5° below normal. Rainfall amounts totaled 5.00 to 10.00 in. south central, 2.00 to 4.00 in. north and 4.00 to 5.00 in. southeast and southwest. Considerable flooding entire southern tier of counties southeast through southwest.

Little or no farm work except livestock chores and inside jobs. Barnlots and feeding areas very muddy due excessive rains. Many creek bottoms and lowlands under water. Considerable erosion on plowed fields. Very little growth of grasses yet, stock still on winter feed and cutting up pastures badly. Heavy rains damaging to early seeded tobacco beds.

LOUISIANA: Temperatures 6° below normal north, 2 to 4° above southeast, near normal elsewhere. Warm first half, cold later in week. Extremes: 86° Alexandria 12th and 29° Ashland on 14th. Precipitation light to moderate south and central, locally excessive north. Totals less than 0.50 in. southwest, 1.00 to 2.00 in. central and southeast, and 1.50 in. to more than 6.00 in. north. Greatest 1-day rain total, 4.39 in. Calhoun on 13th.

Land preparation early week. Rains 12th and 13th stopped all fieldwork. Soil moisture surplus

north, adequate to surplus south. Sugarcane cultivation and herbicide application active. Land preparation for rice ahead of normal. Planting began on limited scale. Strawberry harvest light due to cold damage. Quality excellent. Planting summer vegetables in New Orleans area. Small grains fair, growth slowed by water logged fields, cool weather and lack of fertilization. Pasture feed 72% average or above. Cattle fair.

MARYLAND AND DELAWARE: Temperatures averaged 2 to 5° below normal. Highs low 50's to low 60's. Lows 6° Garrett County, low teens to low 20's elsewhere. Precipitation variable, ranged 0.60 to 3.01 in. Some fieldwork early, but rainsoaked soils stopped activity. Fertilizer and lime spreading behind schedule. Tobacco bed seeding also lagging. Need dry week to catch up.

MICHIGAN: Temperatures averaged from 1 to 5° below normal for the Lower Peninsula and from 0 to 7° below normal for the Upper Peninsula. A warming trend during the latter part of the week caused maximum temperatures to rise into the 40's. Precipitation ranged from 0.35 in., south to less than 0.10 in. central and near 0.20 in. northern Lower Peninsula. Precipitation in the Upper Peninsula ranged from 0.45 in. to near 0.20 in.

Little farm work was accomplished. Some farmers are collecting maple sap from sugar bushes.

MINNESOTA: Temperatures averaged 6 to 11° below normal with extremes 12 to 16° below zero on 10th and 13th. Highs in mid-40's over weekend. Precipitation below normal except above normal southwest to east central, 3 to 5 in. new snow southern one-third on 11th and 12th. Snow on ground at week's end: 20 to 25 in. northeast, 2 to 10 in. west, and 11 to 15 in. southeast.

Farmwork: Mostly livestock care and management.

MISSISSIPPI: Heaviest rain on 12th and 13th. Temperatures ranged from 8° subnormal in northwest to 4° above normal in south. Extremes: 88 and 23°. Greatest 24-hour rainfall was 7.84 in. west of Rolling Fork on 13th.

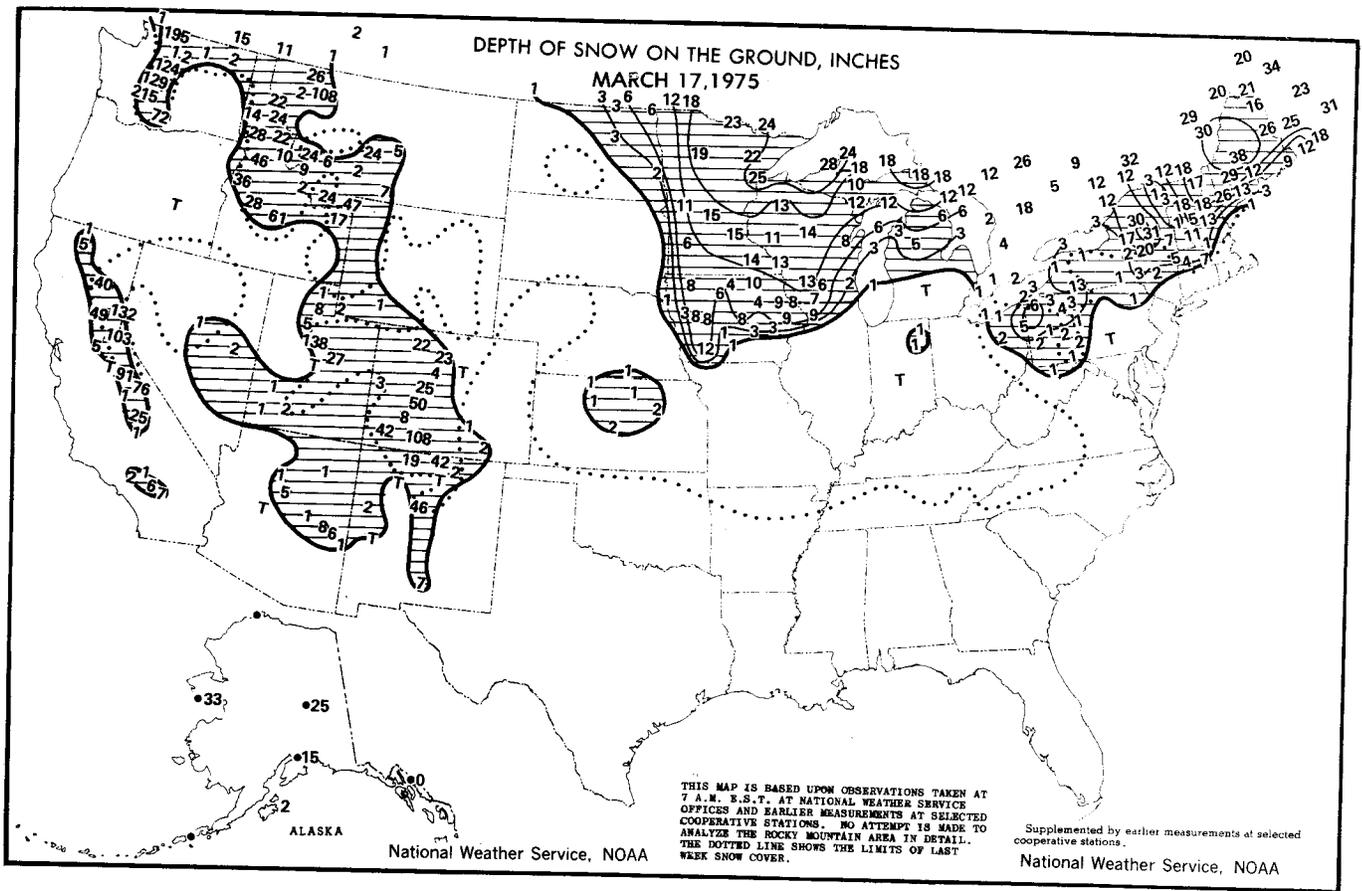
Soil moisture adequate to excessive. Fieldwork: 1.3 days suitable. Condition of wheat, oats fair to good. Condition of livestock and pastures poor to fair.

MISSOURI: Temperatures averaged 10 to 17° below normal with coldest temperatures in the East Ozarks. Precipitation was heavy, ranging from 0.50 in. in the northwest prairie to an average of 2.75 in., in the Bootheel. Heaviest rainfall occurred at Caruthersville with 6.11 in.

MONTANA: Temperatures averaged near normal west and southeast to 10° below normal southwest. Extremes: 40's and 50's. Precipitation above normal southwest, below normal elsewhere. Scattered light amounts on 10th and 16th.

Winter wheat condition fair to good. Soil moisture short most northern, eastern counties. Wind damage to winter wheat mostly light except moderate several northeast counties. Winter wheat still dormant, some greening started scattered areas. No field tillage in progress. Losses newborn calves near normal except north central, central and southeast. Lamb loss about normal. Nearly 30% calving and 25% lambing complete. Shearing about 25% done. Nearly all livestock on supplemental feed.

NEBRASKA: Temperatures averaged 6 to 18° below normal early week, warming 1 to 11° above normal by end of week. Precipitation occurred first half averaging 0.10 in. over Panhandle to 0.66 in. south-



east. Much of snow cover southeast thawed 15th and 16th. Snow drifts still remaining.

Fieldwork hampered by extreme cold early and thawing snow late in east. Zero nighttime temperatures has held most wheat and grass dormant.

**NEVADA:** Pacific storms brought significant precipitation all sections, averaging 0.10 to 0.25 in. northeast and 0.25 to over 0.50 in. west and south. Nearly all precipitation snow. Temperatures near to a few degrees above normal northeast and near normal to 6° below normal elsewhere. Extremes: 73° Logandale, 10° Mountain City.

Seedbed preparation delayed by inclement weather. Lower ranges greening slowly. Calving and lambing progressing. Some losses to coyotes.

**NEW ENGLAND:** Temperatures generally near or above normal except northern New England 10 to 15° below normal. High temperatures for 16th about 10° above normal. Precipitation mostly light, greatest amounts fell on night of 14th and morning of 15th. Greatest snow central 4 to 6 in. At week's end southern New England had an inch or less snowcover, north much more.

**NEW JERSEY:** Cold wet week with temperatures 4 to 6° below normal. North averaged 34°, south averaged 38° and coastal averaged 39°. Extremes: 16° at Newton and 59° at several stations. Rainfall averaged 1.03 in. north, 1.55 in. south and 2.17 in. coastal. Greatest amount at Cape May Court House 2.46 in. Snowfall on 10th and 15th, weekly total 4 in. at Long Valley, over 3 in. at Newton and Flemington.

**NEW MEXICO:** Light rain and snow 11th and 12th and again 14th and 15th. Precipitation was lightest

eastern plains and heaviest northern mountain areas. Chama had a total of 1.50 in. and is already twice normal for the month. Temperatures averaged about 2° below normal with some sub-freezing readings.

Moisture adequate. Alfalfa, winter wheat, barley fair to good. Potato planting started on east side. Vegetables good in Mesilla Valley. Livestock fair to good, some stranded in snows of northern mountains. Calving, lambing about 50% complete. Sheep shearing active. Ranges poor along northeast and southwest borders, fair to good elsewhere. Weed growth active. Activities: Chiseling, discing, plowing, fertilizing, and irrigating.

**NEW YORK:** Temperatures averaged 2° below normal. Precipitation above normal coastal southeast with Bridgehampton 1.38 in., elsewhere amounts below normal averaging 0.40 in. Week began cold, moderated 12th, but colder 13th, then milder as week ended. Heaviest precipitation 14th and 15th. Falling mainly as snow. Amounts ranged to 12 in., in the Adirondacks with 3 to 6 in. southwestern and central areas. Weekly high, 52° New York City and Bridgehampton on 13th and low -2° Massena 11th.

**NORTH CAROLINA:** Temperatures averaged 2 to 6° below normal. Precipitation light to moderate coastal plains, heavy Piedmont and mountains.

Fieldwork averaged 0.6 day. Soil moisture 6% adequate, 94% surplus. Small grain condition declined slightly, now 42% fair, 55% good, 3% excellent. Pastures mostly fair to good. Tobacco plant beds fair to good condition, preparation continues in mountain areas. Spring Irish potatoes 52% planted, condition fair to good. Land preparation behind schedule. Hay and feed grain supplies remain adequate. Labor supplies abundant due to limited field activity.

**NORTH DAKOTA:** Temperatures averaged below normal, ranging from 18° below normal southeast to 4° below normal northwest. Extremes: 50° at Dickinson and Beulah to -20° at Bottineau. Precipitation below normal. Greatest weekly and 24-hour precipitation at Minot with 0.14 in. on 11th. Weekend held warm temperatures and almost no precipitation with only trace at Fargo.

Fertilizer and seed supplies major concern to farmers. Calving and lambing increasing with cold weather bothersome. Livestock generally good condition. Snow depth rapidly decreasing with week-end warm temperatures.

**OHIO:** Heavy rains central southward on 12th. Urban flooding many areas. Late winter storm spread heavy snow, sleet and freezing rain over State on 13th and 14th. Snow from less than 1 in. central and southeast to 9 in. northeast. Sunny on 15th and 16th with temperatures in upper 30's to low 50's.

Excess moisture and varying temperatures causing browning of wheat most areas. Wheat northwest mostly good, all other areas fair to good condition. Very little fieldwork across State.

**OKLAHOMA:** Temperatures much below normal ranging from 9 to 15° subnormal. Precipitation ranged from about 0.25 in., Panhandle to 1.60 in. east central. Weekend cool with rain.

Western Panhandle still dry, elsewhere adequate to excessive soil moisture. Wheat good condition, slow growth. Spring oats 55% up to stand, spring barley 53%. Spraying for green bugs, infestations light. Major activities: Repair of fences, buildings, and machinery, care of livestock. Cattle mostly off wheat pasture, condition fair, supplemental feeding necessary.

**OREGON:** Temperatures near normal. Maximum temperatures ranged from mid-40's to low 60's. Minimum temperatures ranged in 20's to 30's. Precipitation along coast ranged from 0.93 to 1.80 in. Interior valleys 0.25 to 0.50 in. east of Cascades 0.10 in. or less.

Farm activities continue limited scale on unfavorable ground and weather conditions. Some plowing, seeding, fertilizing began on dryer land. Fall grains fair to good. Clover fields fair, grass starting to grow. Spraying clovers, grains, orchards. Pruning orchards, cool nights slowing bud development. Seed potatoes moving. Potato movement slow, some going to livestock feed. Feed supplies adequate, feeding normal to heavy rates. Calving and lambing continues.

**PENNSYLVANIA:** Cool, mostly cloudy, wet week. Although no extremely low readings during period, temperatures averaged 2 to 6° below normal. Extremes: 57 and 8°. Fast moving weather systems brought precipitation all but one day as rain, drizzle, snow or sleet. Melted precipitation totaled 0.50 in. north central and parts northeast to 2.25 in. southwest with most areas 0.75 to 1.50 in. Late winter storm brought 3 to 6 in. new snow most areas midweek.

Farmers doing routine late winter chores.

**PUERTO RICO:** Island average rainfall 0.78 in. Highest weekly total 4.79 in. at Lares. Highest 24-hour total 4.30 in. at Hacienda Constanza. Temperatures averaged about 75° on coasts and 70° interior. Extremes: 90 and 42°.

Weather favored harvesting and transporting of sugarcane to mills. Showers over north coastal areas helped development of ratoons but more rains needed south coast due dryness of soil. Favorable weather for cultivation and drying of coffee bean

in most areas. Good flowering of trees. Conditions favored tobacco drying in the shed. Dry weather affecting pastures mainly south coast and southern slopes. Farmers preparing soil for planting of food crops, more rains needed to start planting.

**SOUTH CAROLINA:** Temperatures averaged above normal, ranging from below normal first and last of week to much above normal near midweek. Rainfall was heavy except southeast coast where below normal amounts were recorded. Extensive flooding developed in head waters of streams toward end of week. Worst flooding in years developing on Broad, Congaree and Pee Dee Rivers over weekend.

Frequent showers and thundershowers interrupted most farming activities. Ditching necessary to get water off some tobacco beds. Insecticides being applied to control flea beetles. Some peach tree pruning and spraying between showers in Piedmont and Midlands. Damage from earlier cold weather appears light; however, full extent not yet determined. Early blooming varieties suffered most damage. Early planting snap beans and cucumbers beginning in Beaufort-Charleston area. Winter vegetable harvest about over.

**SOUTH DAKOTA:** Cloudy and cold beginning of week and warmer by weekend. Extremes: -21° Flandreau 13th, 61° Philip 13th. Snowfall: 4 to 5 in. east with 0.40 in. moisture content, 2 in. west with 0.10 in. moisture content. Since the first of the year, most locations north received more than normal precipitation. The excess ranges from 0.25 to 1.00 in. In the south, the deficiency was generally less than 0.60 in.

Calving, lambing and farrowing progressing with normal results. Some scour problems with calves. Sheep shearing started in west. Some winter wheat is greening up, but stands generally poor.

**TENNESSEE:** Prolonged heavy rainfall on 12th and 13th brought extensive flooding over west and mid-portion. Snow and sleet of 1 to 3 in. over the northwest on 13th. Temperatures averaged 8° below normal west and 2 to 3° below normal elsewhere.

All fieldwork stopped by excessive rainfall and flooding. Spring plowing and planting will be late. Damage to plowed fields, tobacco beds, fences, farm roads and bridges extensive. Few hundred cattle drowned. Thousands of acres of fall sown grains under water. Hay and roughage supplies short. Cattle poor condition. Tobacco beds 30% seeded, 55% 1974, 47% normal. Much reseeding necessary.

**TEXAS:** Cold fronts caused showers, scattered thunderstorms, north, east. Cooler temperatures except extreme south. Temperatures 6 to 10° below normal northern two-thirds, south, near normal temperatures. Rainfall near normal west; north and east above normal; south below normal.

Good progress oat fields where grain crop expected. Movement livestock off grain fields peaked. Planting cotton, corn, sorghum rapid progress in South, seedbed preparation nearing completion. Planting peanuts, rice, sugarbeets and sunflower underway. Major crops percent planted: Rice 1975 14, 1974 3, average 11; Cotton 1975 4, 1974 5, average 4; Corn 1975 25, 1974 28, average 18; Sorghum 1975 20, 1974 22, average 9; Peanuts 1975 --, 1974 3, average --. Lower Rio Grande Valley: Cabbage, carrot harvest active. Cool temperatures temporarily slowed growth tomatoes, cantaloups, watermelons. Onion supplies available light volume. Coastal Bend: Watermelons, cucumbers beginning to vine. San Antonio-Winter Garden: Cabbage, carrot, onion plants harvest continued. Potatoes,

good growth Laredo: Onions good progress. Central: Few acres tomatoes already field set lost were to freeze. East: Wet fields, cool weather delayed land preparation. Tomatoes already field set lost to freeze. Watermelon planting continued, weather permitting. Trans-Pecos: Canteloup planting underway. Land preparation continues. High Plains: Onion, potato planting continues. Land preparation for other summer vegetables progressing forward. Some damage to peaches 14th and 15th as temperatures dropped below freezing mark as far south as Hill country. Damage most areas, but full extent not yet known. Pecan trees budding as far north as central areas. Central harvest rapidly nearing completion. Most groves have a heavy bloom.

Movement off wheat, oat fields to feedlots peaked. Burden on native pastures critical, feed prices prohibit feedlots absorbing movement. Livestock condition fair to poor, grazing short many areas. Heavy culling underway north, east; death losses above normal.

UTAH: Recurring periods rain or snow. Accumulated amounts of moisture generally moderate but locally heavy over and near Wasatch Mountains. Average temperatures variable, ranging from 5° below normal extreme south central to 5° above northern mountains. Snow cover melted most lower elevations end of week, but weekend storm brought additional snow to many sections.

Weather was favorable for plowing, orchard pruning, machinery repair and other spring chores in lower valleys. Irrigation water storage about average. Range calving started. Placing of turkey poults in full swing. Potatoes and apple marketing from storage about completed.

VIRGINIA: Temperatures 4° below normal. Extremes: 71 and 10°. Precipitation heavy, 2.00 to 3.00 in. Greatest amounts southwest. Wet snow west, north early in week.

Fieldwork: .7 days favorable. Topsoil moisture 90% surplus, 10% adequate. Minimum progress land preparation, behind normal statewide. Livestock generally good condition except southwest where some are in poor condition due to feed shortage.

Spot shortages in feed supply other areas. Harsh winter primarily wet, muddy conditions feeding areas. A few cattle deaths reported. Pruning and spraying orchards, new fruit trees planted, building fence, machinery repair, and planning and obtaining supplies for 1975.

WASHINGTON: West: Average temperatures subnormal. Extremes: 50°s, 30°s. Precipitation total amounts

from 0.20 to 2.00 in.

Warmer, drier weather needed before farm activities can begin or crops show spring growth. Pruning and training of canberries underway. Digging and sorting certified strawberries. Vegetable growers preparing fields and applying fertilizer. Some early vegetable planting. Harvest of forced rhubarb tapering off. Lambing almost completed locally. East: Average readings subnormal. Extremes: 50°s, 20°s. Precipitation 2 to 3 days with total amounts from a trace to 0.50 in.

Pruning of tree fruits and grapes continued, but late for season. Other activities: Spraying pear psylla, installing overtree sprinklers, clean-up orchards and hop yards. Planting potatoes, green peas, red clover, alfalfa and spring wheat. Pasture harrowing, fertilizing, plowing, discing, spraying continued. Fall seeded wheat stands filling in but some reseeding certain. Moisture excellent, but short on some recrop ground. Low ranges started to green. Calving, lambing in full swing. Cattle still on feed and supplies are becoming short for some cattlemen.

WEST VIRGINIA: Temperature below normal. Precipitation well above normal.

Fieldwork: Suitable 2.1 days. Soil moisture adequate to surplus. Cattle generally in good condition. Some grain being fed to aid short hay supplies. Farm activities limited to feeding and care of livestock.

WISCONSIN: Temperatures below normal until warm trend on weekend. Record and near record below zero readings on mornings of 13th and 14th due to heavy snow cover and ideal radiation conditions. Daytime highs are in 20°s and 30°s until reaching low 40°s on 16th. Sunny skies prevail except on 11th and 12th when cloud cover brought 3 to 5 in. of snow all areas, except southeast and extreme northwest where 1 to 3 inches fell. Frost depths as of the 14th averaged 19 in., 1 in. less than 2 weeks earlier. Snow depths averaged 16 in., an increase of 2 in. Snow cover settling with warm temperatures.

WYOMING: Temperatures below seasonal normal with exception of southwest corner. Precipitation above normal with exception of lower Platte Drainage.

Cold, snow detrimental as calving, lambing progressed. Shearing farm flocks underway. Supplemental feeding continued. Hay supplies appear adequate for remainder of winter and spring. Moisture conditions continued to improve except southeast where winter wheat, ranges need moisture badly. Spring fieldwork not started.

## FARMERS PLAN FEWER ACRES FOR 1975

United States' farmers indicate they'll plant slightly fewer acres this season than they did in 1974. The U. S. Department of Agriculture's Crop Reporting Board, in a March 17th summary of producers' 1975 acreage plans, stated that there likely would be downturns for corn, spring wheat other than durum, rice, cotton, potatoes, and dry edible beans and peas.

On the plus side of the acreage equation, it looks at this time as though farmers will expand land being used for sorghum, oats, barley, soybeans, tobacco, durum wheat, flaxseed, peanuts, and sugarbeets.

The overall total is estimated near 218.4 million acres for the 16 major crops reported in the March Prospective Plantings release. This estimate includes acreages planted last fall to winter wheat and rye for harvest this year. A year ago the planted acreage tally was put at 220.1 million acres. As things turned out in 1974, farmers harvested closer to 209 million.

This report was based on the voluntary responses of 95,000 farmers across the country contacted in a mail survey conducted about March 1. Each grower reported planting intentions for his own farm.

The published acreage intentions are interpretations of farmers' reported plans based on past relationships between their March 1 plans and final planted acreage estimates. Acreages actually planted may vary from those indicated in this summary because of the weather, economic conditions, availability of production inputs, farm programs, and the effect of this report itself on farmers' actions.

Corn growers intend to plant 75.3 million acres, down from the 76 million indicated in a survey taken in January for the same 35 States and 3 percent short of last year. Plantings may be up in all areas, except the important producing North Central States.

Prospective sorghum plantings are indicated for 18.9 million acres, a gain of 6 percent from 1974.

Total feed grains---corn, oats, barley, and sorghum---are expected to be planted on 122.5 million acres, off slightly from last year's 122.7 million.

On the other hand, food grains---wheat, rye, and rice---show a 3 percent expansion to 78.9 million acres. This estimate includes the 55.5 million acres of winter wheat and 3.2 million for rye. Durum wheat is likely for 4.3 million acres, up 5 percent but only about half the increase expected in January; while other spring wheat may be down 9 percent to 13.4 million acres for a decline about twice as large as that indicated in January.

Cotton growers are cutting back sharply from their 1974 acreages---off 29 percent---and are now indicating they'll plant only 10 million acres against the almost 14 million of last year.

Soybean farmers are pointing toward 56.6 million acres for a rise of 6 percent from last year. In January, producers had been expected to boost acreage 8 percent in the 27 reporting States.

Oilseeds, which include cotton, flaxseed, peanuts, and soybeans, are expected to hit 69.9 million acres, 1 percent less than last season.

The sharpest gain in acreage came with sugarbeets which are showing a 23 percent jump from 1974 at 1.5 million acres.

### PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS - PLANTED ACRES, UNITED STATES

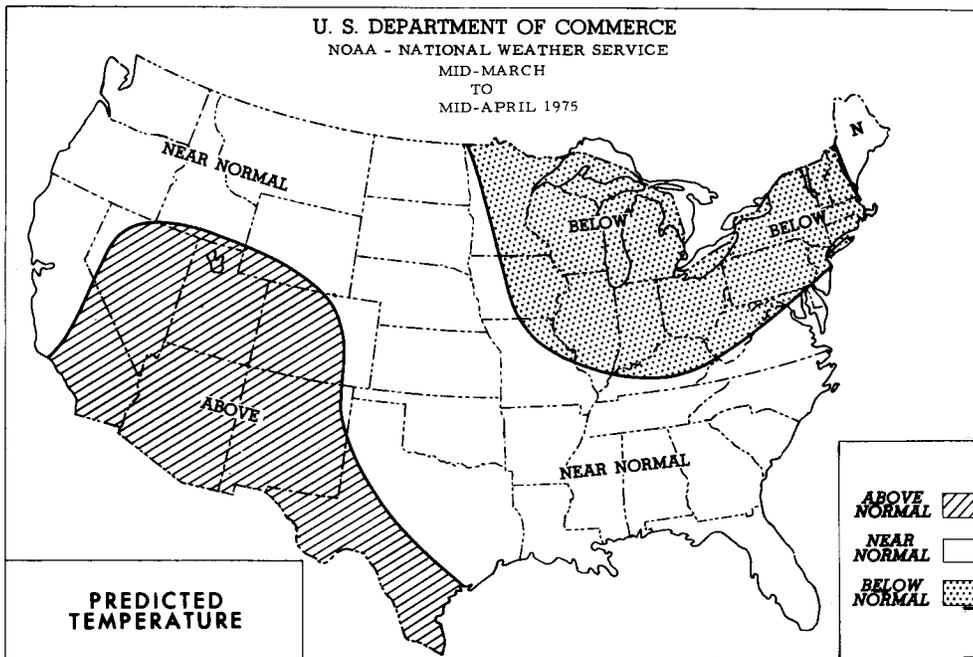
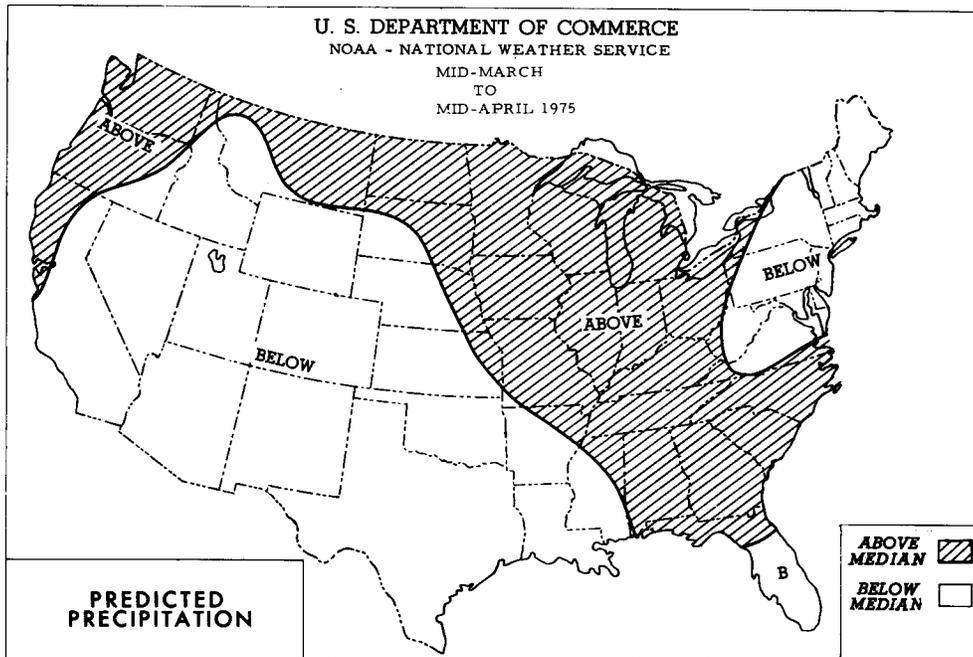
	1974	Indicated 1975	1975 as % of 1974
	1,000 Acres		Percent
All Corn	77,746	75,290	96.8
All Sorghums	17,733	18,855	106.3
Oats	18,100	18,189	100.5
Barley	9,117	10,184	111.7
Durum Wheat	4,074	4,294	105.4
Other Spring Wheat	14,688	13,384	91.1
Rice	2,588.0	2,561.0	99.0
Soybeans	53,580	56,632	105.7
Flaxseed	1,739	1,795	103.2
Peanuts	1,521.6	1,528.7	100.5
Cotton	13,979.1	9,951.6	71.0
Potatoes <sup>2/</sup>			
Winter	13.9	14.6	105.0
Spring	100.7	84.0	83.0
Summer	135.1	120.1	89.0
Fall	1,161.2	1,098.4	95.0
Total	1,410.9	1,317.1	93.0
Sweetpotatoes	122.9	121.4	98.8
Tobacco <sup>3/</sup>	961,800	1,070,050	111.3
Dry Beans	1,647.4	1,515.4	92.0
Dry Peas	220.0	201.0	91.4
Hay <sup>3/</sup>	60,546	61,018	100.8
Sugarbeets	1,254.1	1,546.9	123.3

<sup>1/</sup>Indicated March 1.

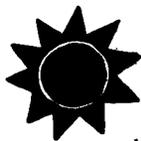
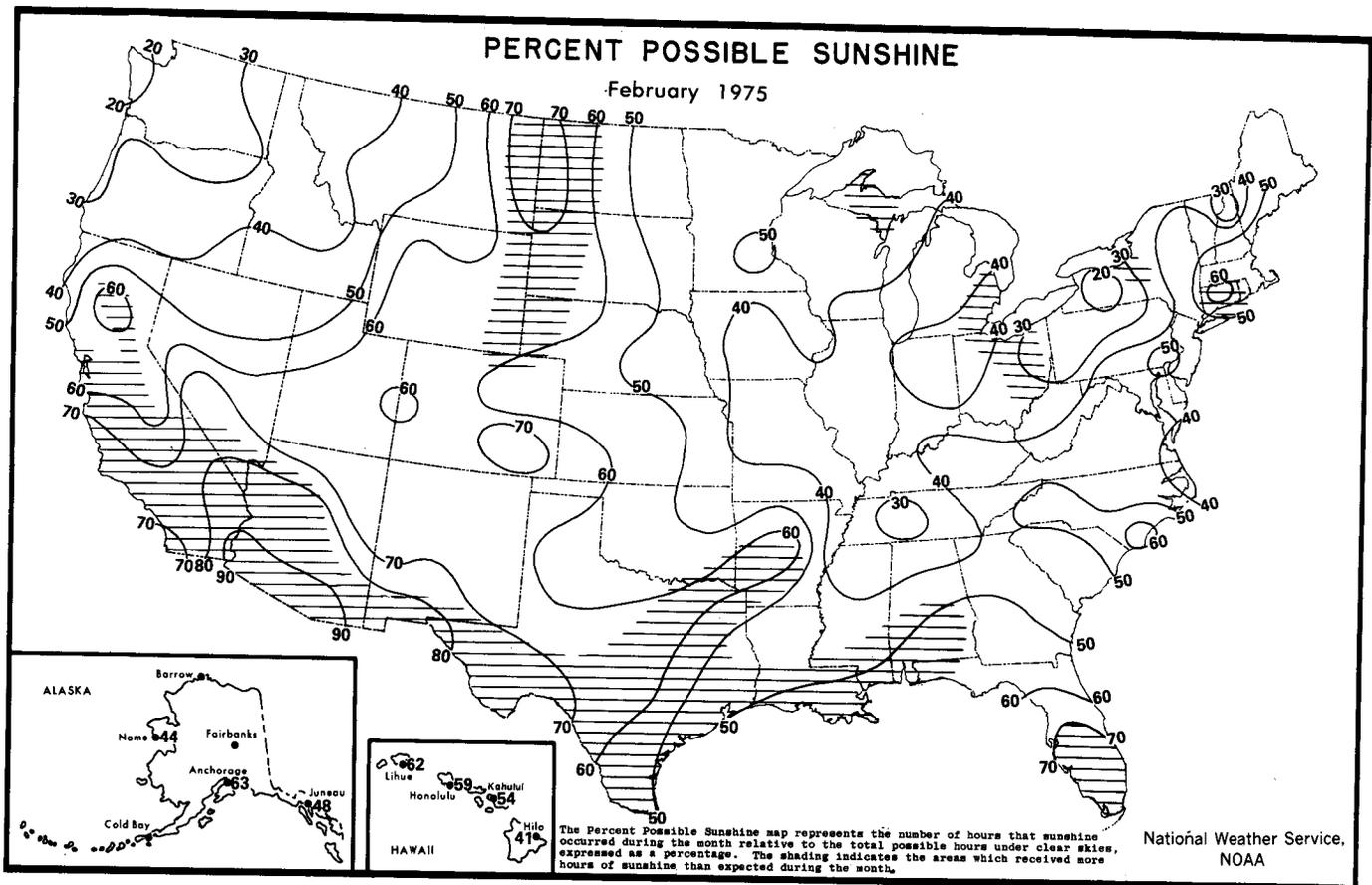
<sup>2/</sup>1975 Winter-planted; spring-planted and intended plantings as of March 1; summer and fall-intended acreage as of March 1.

<sup>3/</sup>Harvested acreage.

AVERAGE MONTHLY WEATHER OUTLOOK



AGRICULTURAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE AVERAGE MONTHLY OUTLOOK: The precipitation pattern predicted for the next 30 days produces mixed reactions. Above median precipitation in the Deep South would produce delays in corn and cotton planting and allow already existing problems due to excess moisture to persist. The additional moisture through Tennessee, Kentucky and the eastern Corn Belt would encourage further flooding and delay spring field work. Moisture in the western Corn Belt would still be beneficial if it does not persist to far into April. Above median precipitation across the Dakotas and Montana would benefit spring wheat. The below median precipitation in the west central Great Plains could cause crop damage. Below normal temperatures across the eastern Corn Belt, combined with the additional moisture expected creates a potential problem area for spring field preparations. Above normal temperatures in the Southwest, combined with the below normal precipitation will result in moisture shortages.



## WEATHERING HIGHS & LOWS

The vagaries of the weather constantly bring sharp changes and interesting records to various parts of the country. Periodically, this column will note some of these extremes as they are reported by the National Weather Service stations.

**Nome, Alaska---** A record 1.69 in. of precipitation fell during February, with 0.77 in. of it falling on the 3d and 4th, as 9 in. of snow. Both 24 hour totals were records. At Fairbanks only 0.49 in. of precipitation fell, the driest February since 1947. King Salmon experienced its coldest February since 1954 with an average temperature of only 3.8°, 12.8° below normal.

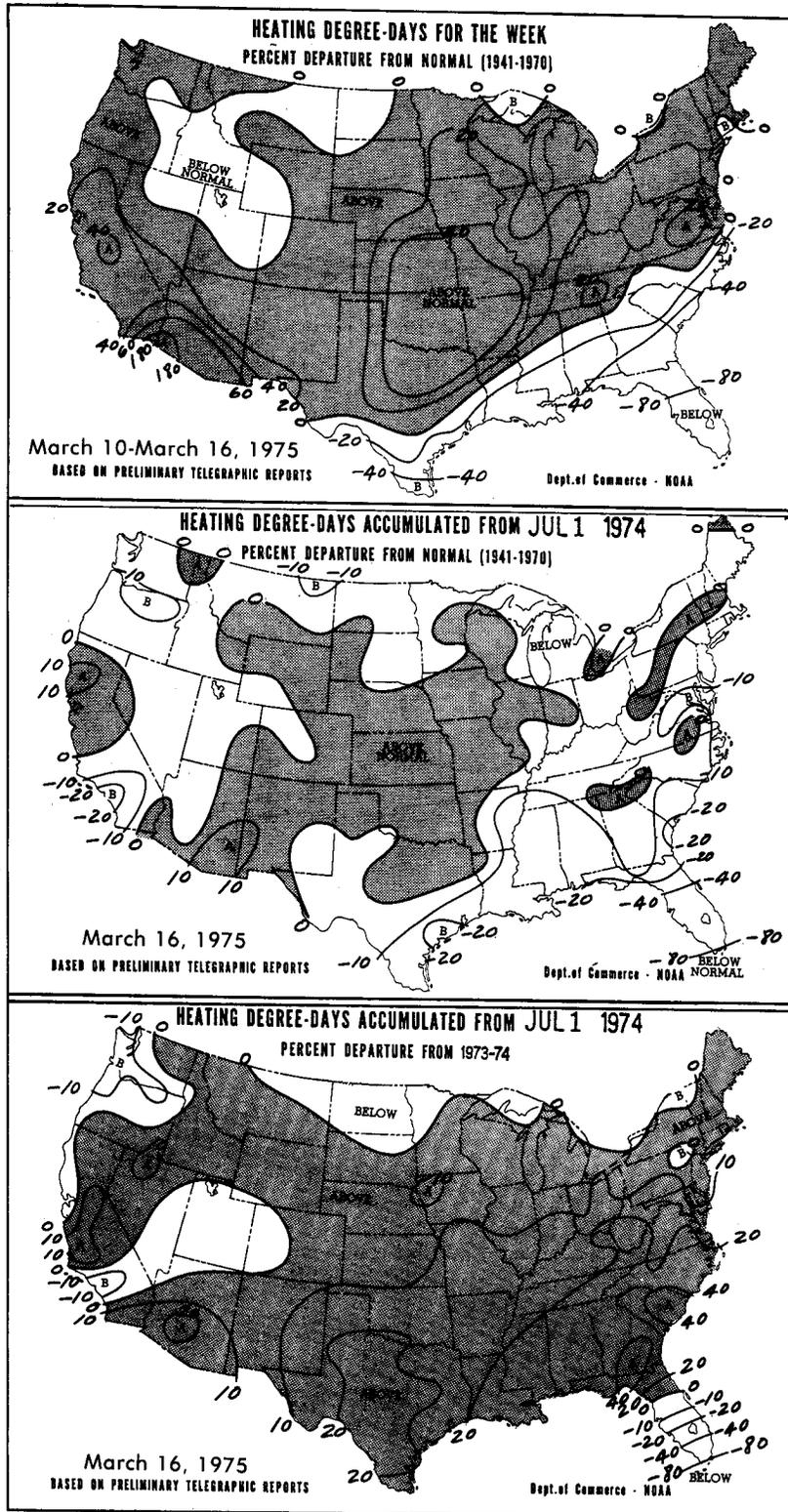
**West Palm Beach, Florida---** Winter visitors enjoyed the 6th warmest February on record as temperatures averaged 72.1°, which is 6.0° above normal. Key West received 1.61 in. of precipitation, which is only slightly below normal, but this is the ninth consecutive month below normal. Lakeland averaged 68.1°, the warmest February since 1959. Fort Myers measured only 0.27 in. of precipitation, the driest since only 0.08 in. in 1950.

**Pocatello, Idaho---** As did all of the State, Pocatello received well above normal precipitation in February. Pocatello measured 1.51 in., the greatest February total since 1940. Boise received 2.62 in., the wettest since 1930 when 2.63 in. fell.

**Cairo, Illinois---** February was wet and cloudy as the percent possible sunshine averaged only 33%, the lowest since records began in 1946. Precipitation totaled 4.45 in., 0.68 in. above normal. The average wind speed was 9.0 mph, the lowest since 8.7 in 1969 and only the 4th time since 1931 that the average wind speed was 9.0 mph or less. At Peoria, where 2.85 in. of precipitation fell, it was the wettest February since 1951.

**Louisville, Kentucky---** As a finale to the second warmest winter in 20 years, February temperatures averaged 40.1°, which is 4.3° above normal, and the warmest since 1957. Lexington received 5.70 in. of precipitation, the greatest since 7.24 in. in 1962.

**Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania---** It was unusually warm and wet in many parts of the State during February. Pittsburgh averaged 32.1° and received 4.64 in. of moisture, the warmest since 1961 and the wettest since 1956. Erie was both the warmest and wettest since 1961. Wilkes-Barre, Scranton averaged 32.1° which is the warmest since 1954.



These maps give the percentage difference in heating degree-day accumulations for the indicated period. A positive departure (shaded) indicates that the current heating degree-day accumulation is greater so that temperatures have been colder.

Heating Degree Days (Base 65°) For Week Ending Mar. 16, 1975

States and Stations	Weekly			Seasonal † Accumulation			States and Stations	Weekly			Seasonal † Accumulation			States and Stations	Weekly			Seasonal † Accumulation		
	TOTAL	Departure*	Departure*	TOTAL	Departure*	Departure From 1973-74		TOTAL	Departure*	Departure*	TOTAL	Departure*	Departure From 1973-74		TOTAL	Departure*	Departure*	TOTAL	Departure*	Departure From 1973-74
ALA. Birmingham	82	-13	2273-280	393			Portland.	260	20	5600-288	223		Tulsa.	212	84	3387	128	445		
Mobile	35	-19	1257-304	349			MD. Baltimore.	184	21	3594-394	-7		OREG. Astoria	158	11	3515	-312	-531		
Montgomery	48	-25	1768-300	333			MASS. Boston	202	6	4314-206	176		Burns.	211	3	5342	-230	-23		
ARIZ. Flagstaff	247	26	5452-63	338			MICH. Alpena	298	16	6276-356	28		Medford.	158	13	3618	-237	116		
Phoenix.	83	38	1355-65	271			Detroit	244	27	5292-65	341		Pendleton.	125	-28	3466	-764	-395		
Tucson	109	52	1828-290	276			Flint	254	17	5392-268	162		Portland	152	13	3210	-482	-243		
Winslow.	172	24	4339-367	266			Grand Rapids.	270	37	5797-295	539		Salem.	162	22	3372	-311	-373		
Yuma	60	37	1002-56	99			Houghton Lake	287	7	6374-250	154		PA. Allentown	201	5	4589	-215	346		
ARK. Fort Smith	189	74	3184-187	518			Lansing	260	25	5560-32	178		Erie	236	3	5190	-201	423		
Little Rock.	172	57	2705-301	411			Marquette	266	-7	6152-298	-93		Harrisburg	204	27	4387	-24	529		
CALIF. Bakersfield.	79	16	1786-123	160			Muskegon.	256	20	5388-93	71		Philadelphia	180	10	3748	-323	77		
Eureka	134	15	3304-12	-76			S. Ste. Marie	323	25	7081-47	40		Pittsburgh	209	12	4589	-314	412		
Fresno	116	35	2308-49	167			MINN. Duluth	351	49	7876-155	143		Scranton	219	7	4727	-426	-259		
Los Angeles.	81	18	941-373	-127			Internat'l Falls	364	40	8218-297	9		R.I. Providence	208	4	4585	-179	275		
Red Bluff.	109	22	2457-221	108			Minneapolis	329	58	6688-155	273		S.C. Charleston	41	-33	1717	-239	529		
San Diego.	67	18	1012-121	122			Rochester	338	65	6839-95	357		Columbia	74	-14	2086	-277	701		
San Francisco.	114	30	2323-75	-30			St. Cloud	363	77	7409-136	343		Greenville	128	19	2812	4	483		
Stockton	112	22	2456-114	293			MISS. Jackson.	64	-13	1844-255	326		S. DAK. Aberdeen	286	8	6604	-489	-439		
COLO. Denver.	215	11	4854-86	144			Meridian	61	-15	1904-277	529		Huron.	299	35	6475	-179	203		
Grand Junction	163	-11	4810-84	-351			MO. Columbia	237	62	4675-348	609		Rapid City	270	23	5856	66	342		
Pueblo	205	21	4483-11	179			Kansas City	262	82	4721-311	511		Sioux Falls.	307	50	6434	-45	345		
CONN. Bridgeport.	205	8	4150-196	262			St. Louis	218	53	4354-273	446		TENN. Chattanooga	146	29	3203	110	767		
Hartford	209	-6	4981-205	338			Springfield	235	76	4074-158	658		Knoxville.	132	15	2979	-83	556		
DEL. Wilmington	186	14	3887-234	305			MONT. Billings	242	6	5853-116	484		Memphis.	142	30	2575	-316	396		
D.C. Washington	159	12	3200-417	377			Glasgow	259	-33	6556-712	-347		Nashville.	136	8	2995	-267	484		
FLA. Apalachicola	23	-21	954-314	232			Great Falls	248	-3	5988-1	172		TEX. Abilene.	125	38	2479	126	521		
Daytona Beach.	9	-21	535-304	58			Havre	283	0	6467-657	-108		Amarillo	172	28	3616	55	442		
Ft. Myers	0	-12	146-299	-87			Helena.	259	9	6492-49	322		Austin	63	8	1512	-97	270		
Jacksonville	26	-18	1074-166	249			Kalispell	270	20	6504-190	396		Brownsville.	8	-14	503	-118	65		
Key West	0	0	7-55	-34			Miles City.	235	-19	6047-371	181		Corpus Christi	24	-6	788	-99	149		
Lakeland	0	-21	364-280	-5			Missoula.	217	-13	5920-337	120		Del Rio.	32	-8	1351	-97	310		
Miami	0	-6	59-147	-72			NEBR. Grand Island	292	75	5677-340	375		El Paso.	98	18	2485	25	153		
Orlando.	3	-19	377-291	-16			Lincoln	294	83	5632-400	334		Fort Worth	123	41	2063	-98	298		
Tallahassee	26	-20	1422-41	459			Norfolk	278	40	5854-49	370		Galveston.	29	-18	834	-300	127		
Tampa.	2	-20	381-299	-17			North Platte.	255	30	5777-280	167		Houston.	42	-5	1093	-248	33		
W. Palm Beach.	0	-7	107-190	-64			Omaha	274	67	5480-358	385		Lubbock.	146	23	3123	9	593		
GA. Atlanta	97	-11	2544-200	558			Valentine	251	4	5842-73	258		Midland.	99	14	2209	-175	237		
Augusta.	76	-9	2368-56	664			NEV. Las Vegas	241	10	5795-140	-67		Baumont.	34	-16	1245	-164	177		
Macon.	56	-17	1866-187	495			San Antonio	99	20	2197-136	-111		San Angelo	92	22	2078	25	483		
Savannah	29	-34	1410-381	287			Reno.	201	23	4728-79	337		San Antonio.	39	-8	1443	24	266		
IDAHO. Boise.	164	-9	4381-289	151			Winnemucca.	177	-20	5032-101	447		Victoria	29	-11	897	-257	124		
Lewiston	169	9	4051-346	-107			N.H. Concord	257	20	6187-268	368		Waco	110	42	2012	119	467		
Pocatello.	204	-10	5563-21	127			N.J. Atlantic City	173	-2	3931-166	358		Wichita Falls.	154	53	2612	3	465		
ILL. Cairo	181	48	3396-0	435			Trenton	187	12	3851-261	151		UTAH. Salt Lake C	170	-15	4542	-293	78		
Chicago.	239	32	5059-8	289			N.MEX. Albuquerque	157	15	3995-299	192		VT. Burlington.	277	15	6022	-316	-63		
Moline	272	55	5412-42	327			Roswell	130	12	3195-95	449		VA. Lynchburg	180	35	3658	21	576		
Peoria	242	38	5189-68	383			N.Y. Albany	248	17	5707-70	211		Norfolk.	136	8	2659	-329	374		
Rockford	275	47	5681-12	406			Binghamton.	270	24	5878-54	594		Richmond	170	32	3403	-12	603		
Springfield.	225	35	4684-33	405			Buffalo	244	4	8114-380	-28		Roanoke.	174	28	3634	-32	633		
IND. Evansville	195	38	3865-130	577			New York.	184	4	3824-217	188		WASH. Quillayute.	173	12	4096	-209	498		
Fort Wayne	259	49	5099-20	325			Rochester	234	0	5231-159	272		Seattle-Tacoma	158	11	3676	-237	22		
Indianapolis	231	44	4680-9	680			Syracuse	238	5	5278-94	79		Spokane.	212	13	5518	108	261		
South Bend	211	-6	4841-438	346			N.C. Asheville	139	-2	3405-189	597		Walla Walla.	150	9	3668	-305	43		
IOWA. Burlington	261	54	5251-76	419			Hatteras	68	-41	1966-337	402		Yakima	160	-7	4532	-355	75		
Des Moines	284	54	5516-105	419			Charlotte	97	-15	2885-32	531		W.VA. Beckley	186	4	4502	-113	747		
Dubuque	311	70	6161-142	422			Greensboro.	151	20	3119-221	257		Charleston	181	27	4092	179	858		
Sioux City	290	55	5936-101	634			Raleigh	135	14	3083-1	721		Huntington	169	14	3859	-76	668		
KANS. Concordia	274	83	4816-91	258			Wilmington.	62	-25	1988-202	531		Parkersburg.	182	19	4109	28	628		
Dodge City	231	55	4289-42	258			N. Dak. Bismarck.	268	-24	7361-26	-229		WIS. Green Bay.	312	46	6535	-9	392		
Goodland	248	37	5049-85	160			Fargo	349	50	7109-506	-683		LaCrosse	307	57	6222	44	380		
Topeka	262	84	4585-119	281			Williston	273	-23	7144-314	-287		Madison.	315	60	6022	-280	122		
Wichita	234	73	4235-203	263			OHIO. Akron-Canton	215	5	4767-309	409		Milwaukee.	275	30	5685	-257	291		
KY. Lexington	178	17	3900-131	637			Cleveland	225	14	4835-152	579		WYO. Casper	251	3	6170	296	304		
Louisville	174	15	3722-252	592			Columbus.	208	19	4466-288	495		Cheyenne	259	16	5835	276	370		
LA. Baton Rouge	38	-14	1311-250	344			Cincinnati.	199	27	4293-15	510		Lander	234	-10	6210	6	188		
Lake Charles	37	-13	1218-180	213			Dayton.	213	22	4506-199	347		Sheridan	266	18	6282	233	449		
New Orleans.	34	-12	1166-201	309			Toledo.	251	37	5214-12	190									
Shreveport	94	22	2033-49	326			Youngstown.	235	18	5112-100	400									
MAINE. Caribou.	327	28	7649-80	175			OKLA. Okla City.	196	67	3326	66	439								

\* Based on 1941-70 Normals.

† Accumulation July 1, 1974

## WORLD AGRICULTURE WEATHER SUMMARY

February 1 - March 15, 1975

**HIGHLIGHTS:** The unseasonably mild winter continued through February and into mid-March in Europe. Freezing temperatures were rare except in the extreme north and east portions. Even the lowest temperatures experienced were not sufficient to cause any significant damage. Snow cover has been adequate when and where cold weather occurred in Europe and the USSR. After five very wet months February and early March has been relatively dry and field conditions are steadily improving in Europe. There is concern for fruit throughout Europe which has advanced prematurely because of the mild winter and which is extremely vulnerable to frost.

In the Mediterranean Basin rains have brought significant relief from the prolonged drought in many of the western Basin countries. The Eastern Mediterranean has continued to receive timely rains.

Rainfall was even less than usual for this time of year in Pakistan and most of India. Some shower activity did occur in the eastern half of India during the second week of March. Beneficial rains during February were limited to the central corridor and northern border of India.

Timely rains have favored corn and soybean crops in Argentina. Well above normal rainfall fell across most of Australia except in the southeast and south central portions. Typhoon Allison dumped excessive rains in the southeast during the first half of March. Press reports indicate 5.00 in. of rain fell in 90 minutes in Sydney.

China has experienced a moderate winter in contrast to last year's drought and severe cold.

**GRAIN:** February and March rains have turned dismal winter cereal prospects upward throughout the western Mediterranean Basin. The rains have arrested the prolonged drought in Portugal, Spain, Italy, Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia. Though too late to save all winter crops--Morocco expects its worst winter wheat crop in 30 years--the moisture will provide a good start for spring planted crops. Wheat prospects in most of the Eastern Mediterranean continue good from timely rainfall through the season.

In Europe, February to mid-March precipitation was

most abundant where needed and least where needed least. Relatively dry weather west of the Volga permitted soils to dry out somewhat and farmers made good progress in preparations for spring planting. Above normal precipitation east of the Volga helped to make up for earlier deficiencies. Soil moisture remains short in Bulgaria.

Temperatures averaged above normal in Europe except near normal in the European USSR. Severe cold was limited to the USSR where snow cover was mostly adequate. Winterkill should not have been a major problem.

Crop reports are conflicting from India. There have been official tones of optimism toward the rabi, or spring harvested, crop. Yet rainfall through the key growing states has been below normal throughout the growing season. February was well below normal in most of these States and rainfall activity during March has been limited to the eastern areas.

In China's major winter wheat areas, late winter precipitation was rather light but soil moisture is generally good from earlier precipitation. Furthermore, winter has been much more favorable than the dry and frequently cold conditions of last year.

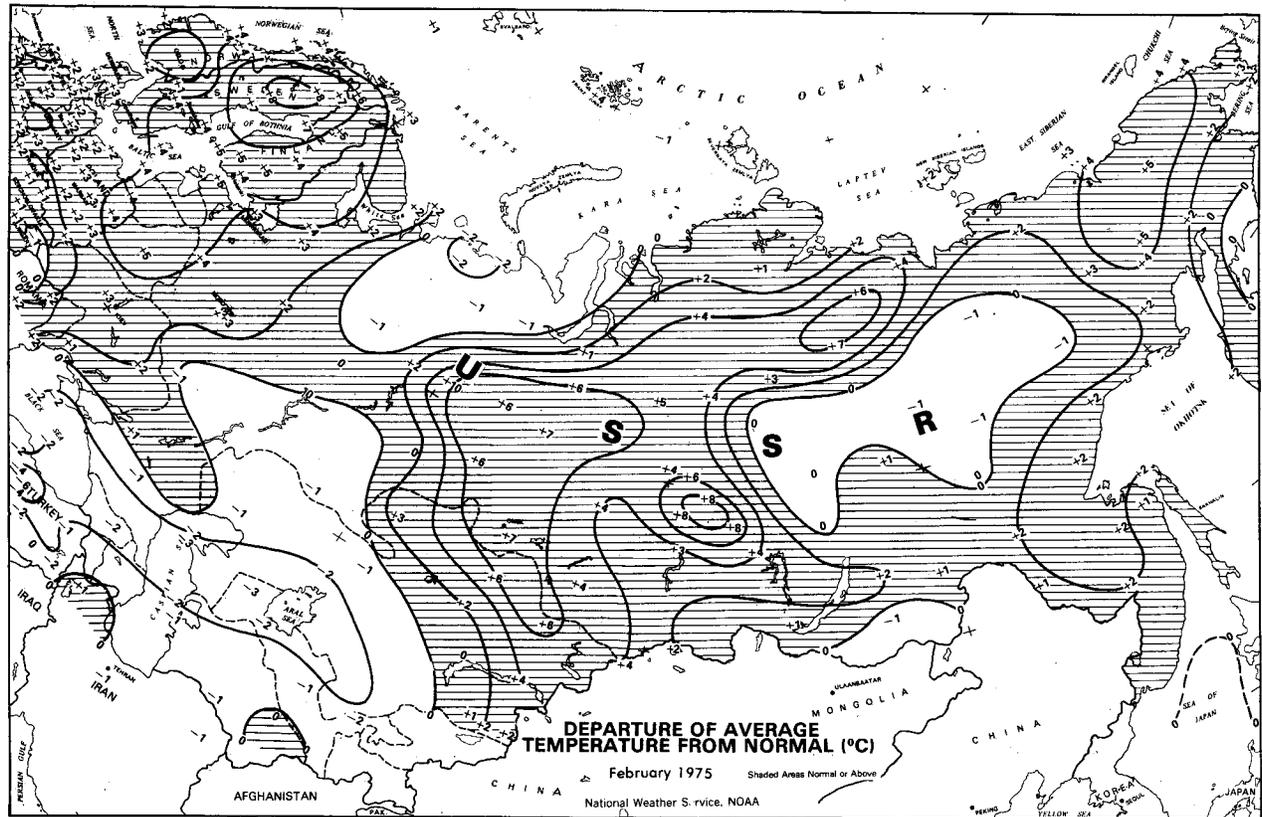
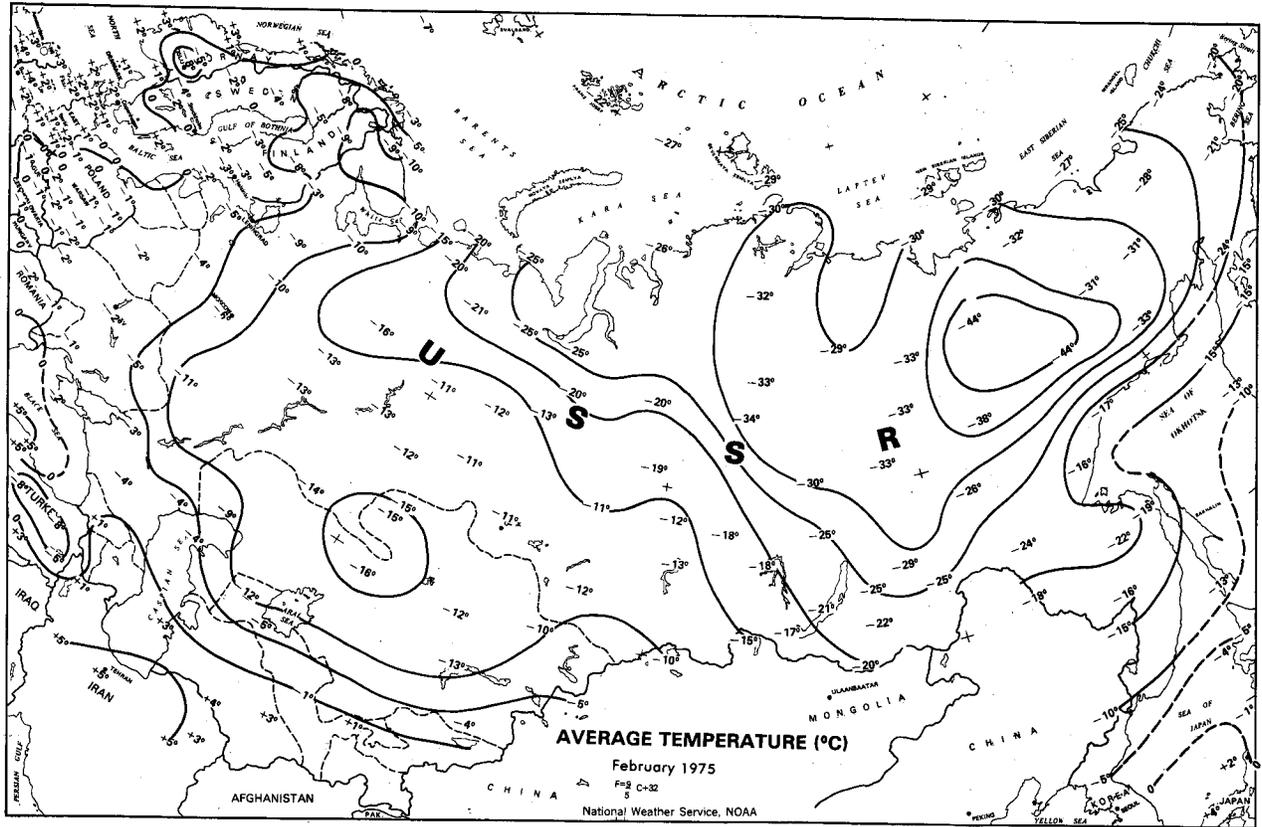
Excessive rains have caused some concern about course grains in South Africa and Rhodesia. Some losses undoubtedly occurred, but the rains will produce an overall beneficial effect.

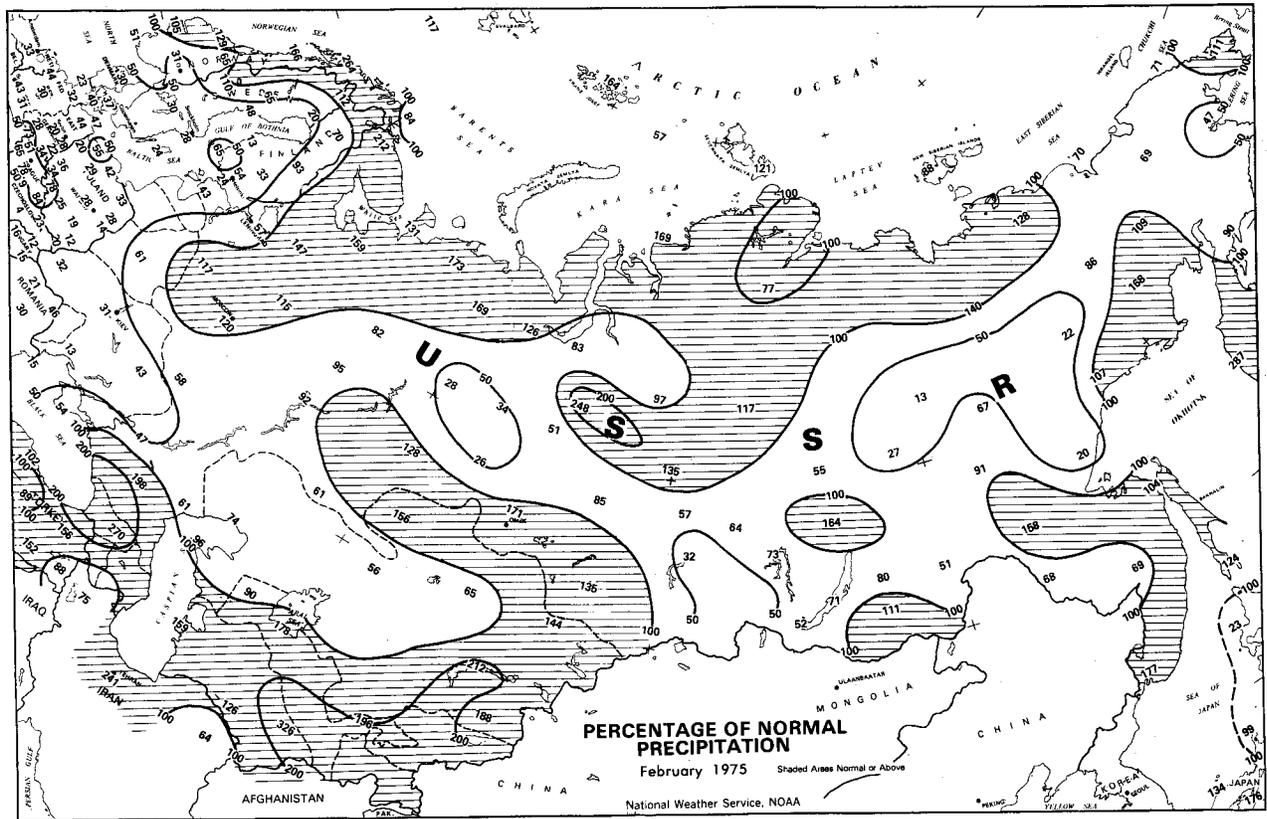
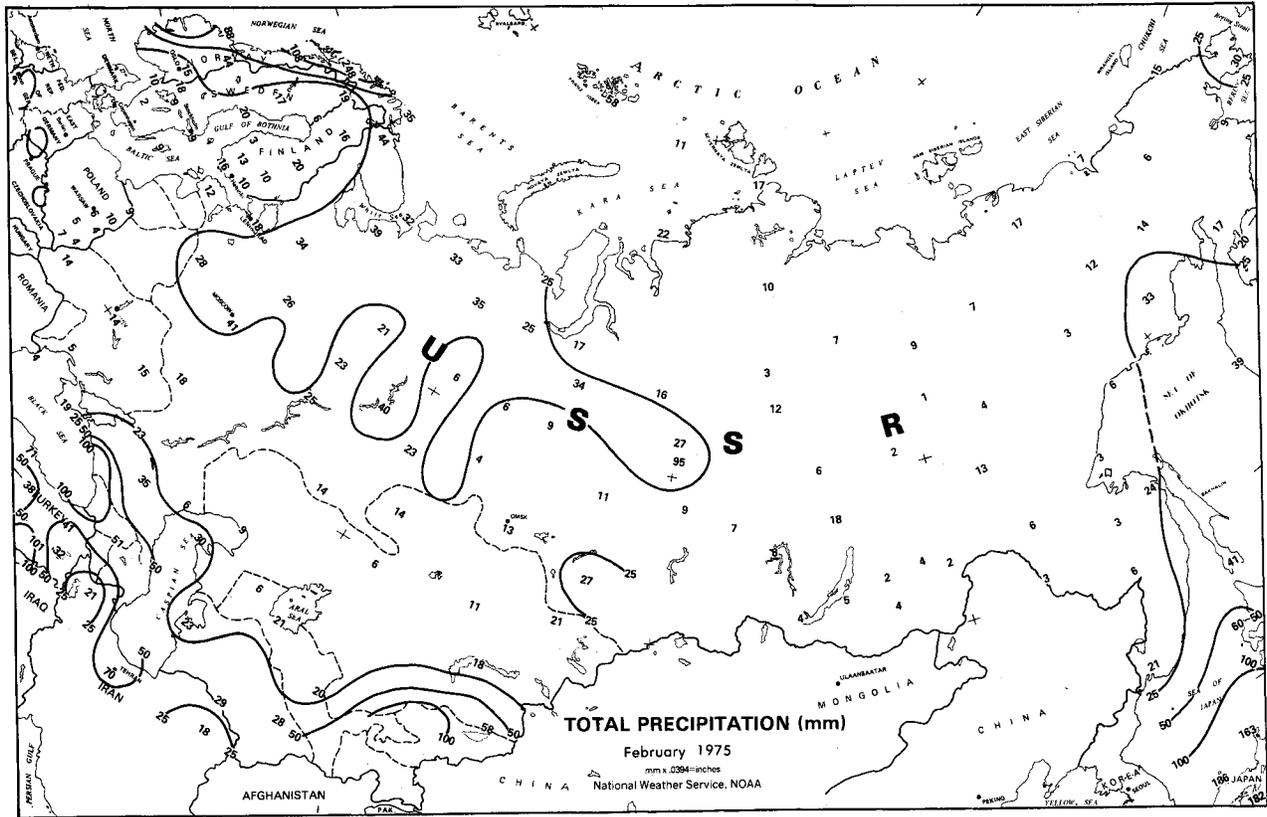
North American winter cereals have progressed well. Many spring wheat areas have remained below normal and precipitation will be needed prior to planting.

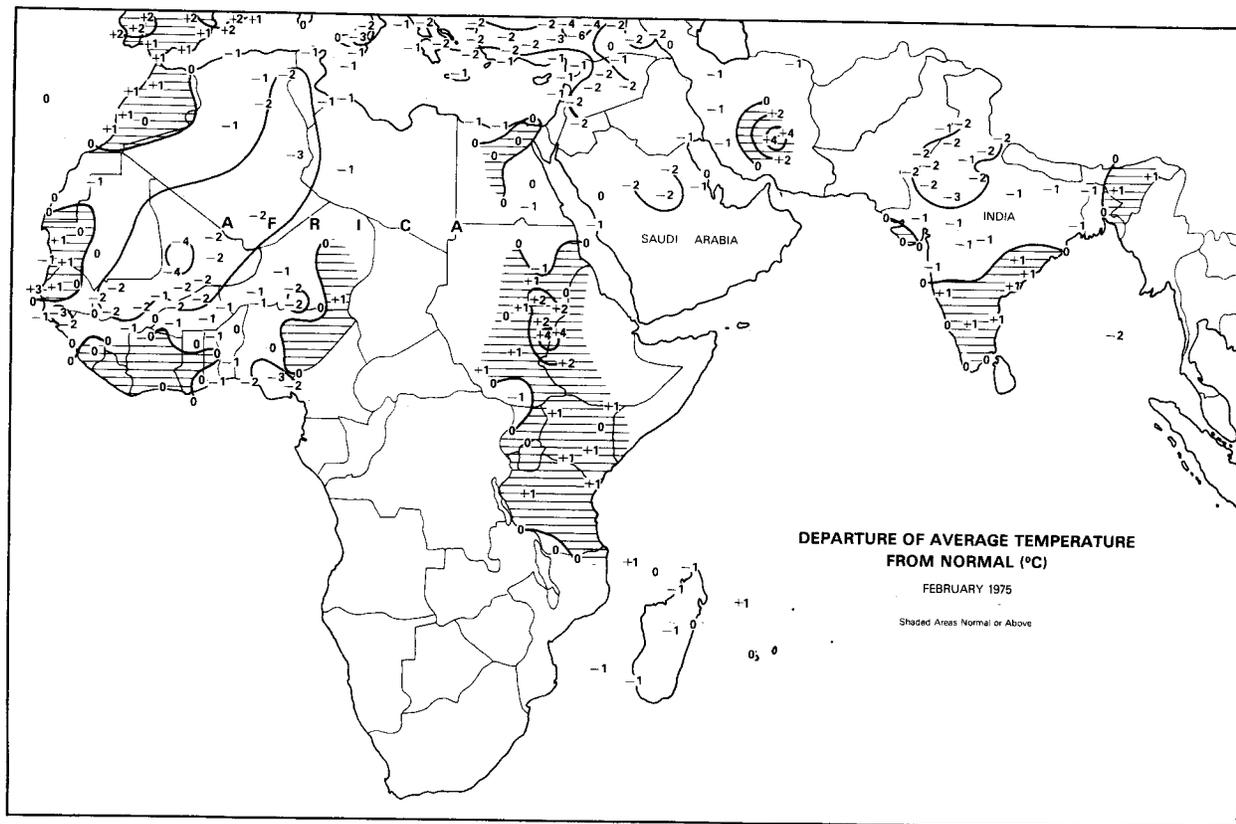
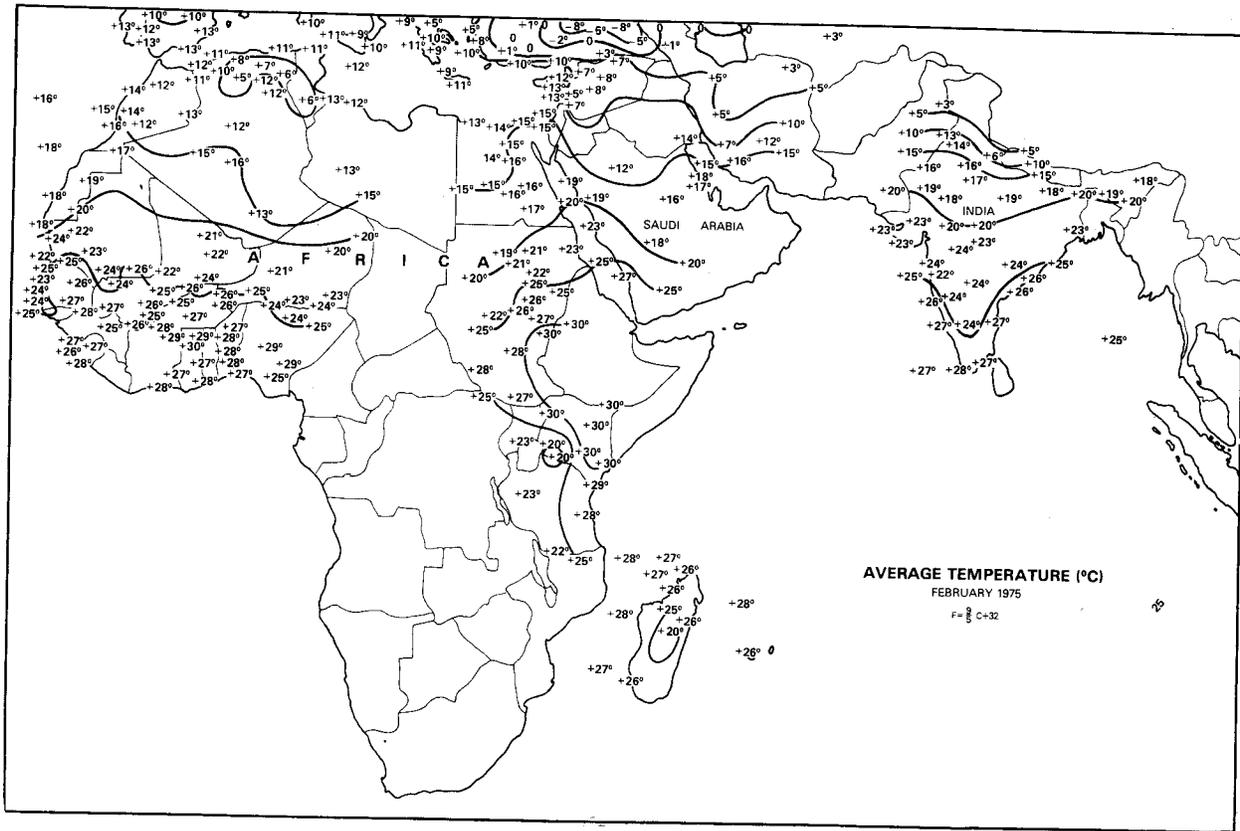
**OTHER CROPS:** The mild winter has fruit growers concerned in much of Europe. Bloom is expected early because of the mild winter and the danger of killing temperatures is extremely high. The mild winter will also encourage disease and pest problems.

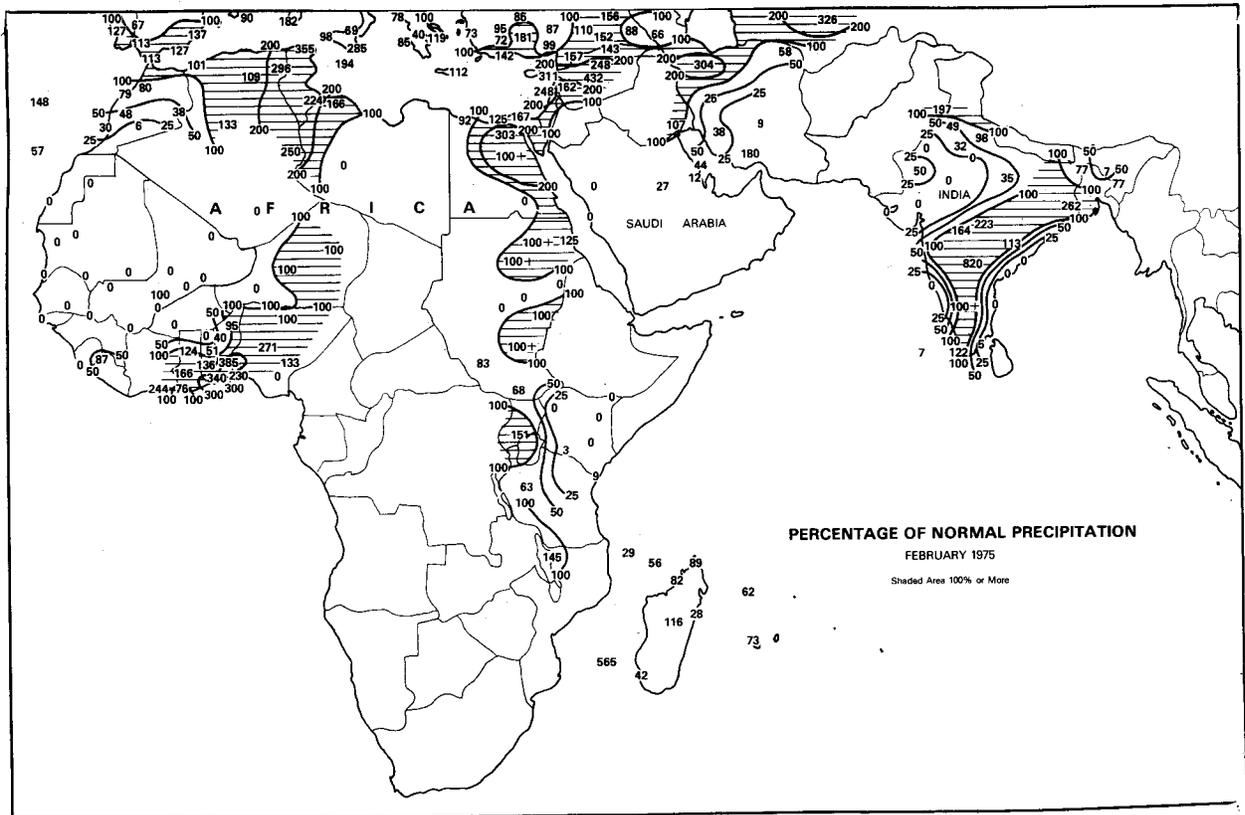
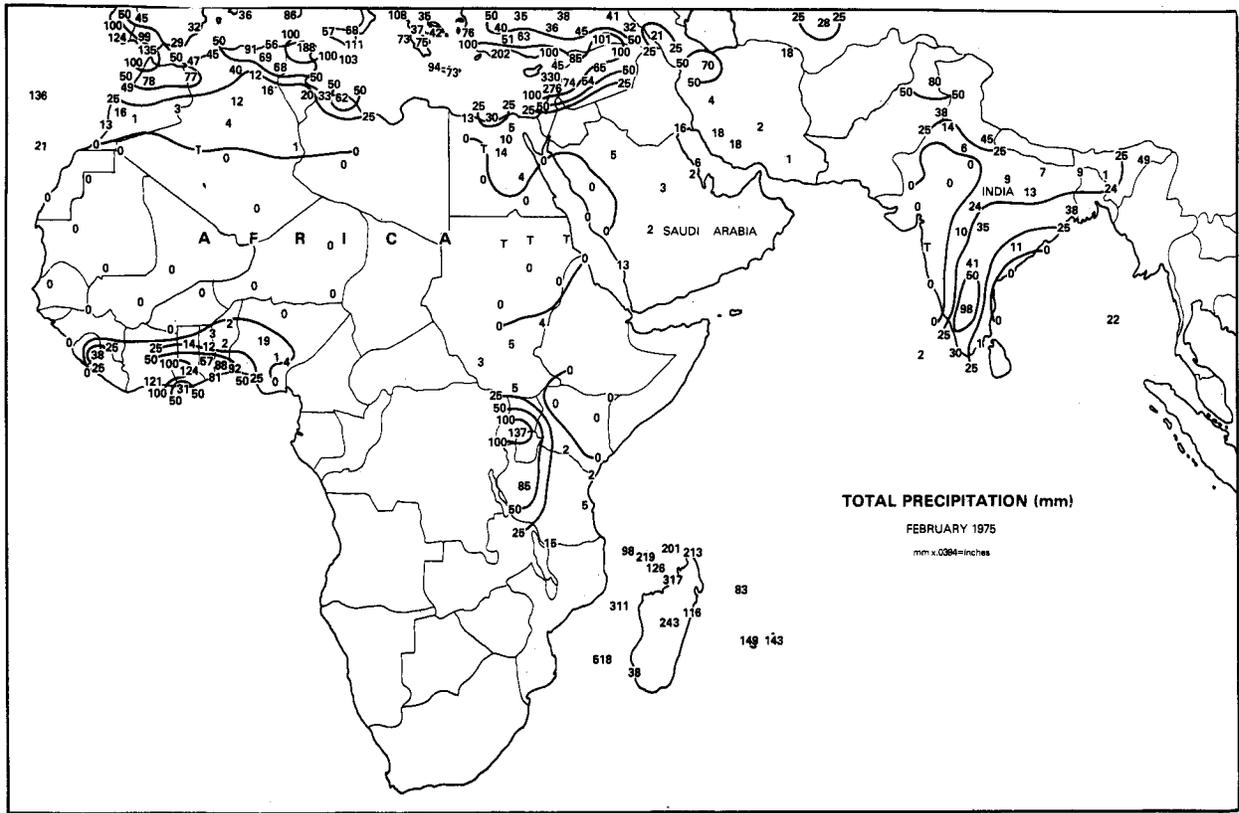
Recent rains have benefitted pastures and fruit in Australia and New Zealand. Heavy rains relieved the drought in Peru's central Sierra. Some flooding has occurred in the Acre region of Brazil.

W.J. Cremins  
Foreign Agricultural Service  
March 17, 1975











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