

WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP BULLETIN

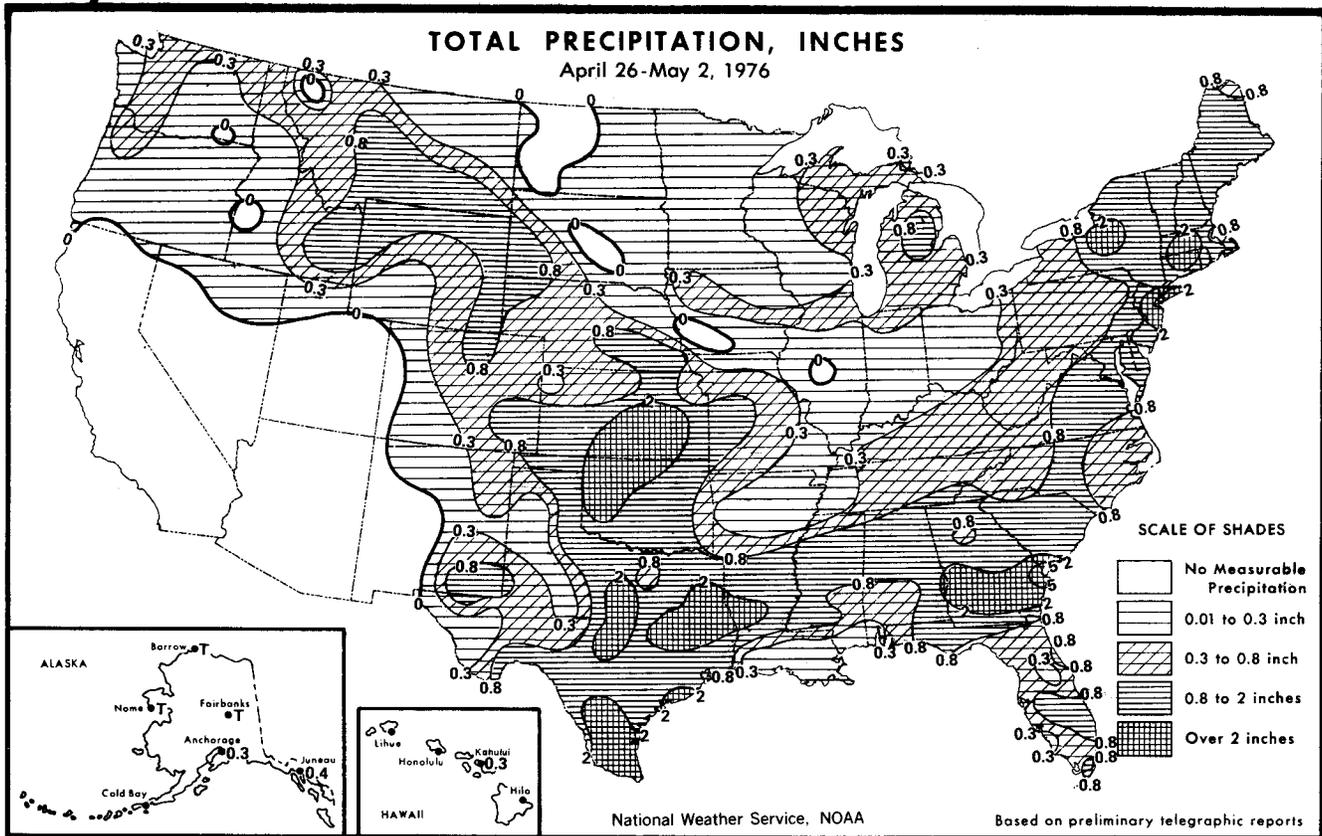
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National Weather Summary

For the week of April 26 - May 2

HIGHLIGHTS: Winterlike weather focused its return on central U.S. but permitted few areas of the Nation to escape unseasonably cool temperatures. Weekly readings averaging to 12° below normal produced record lows in the middle Mississippi and Ohio Valleys. In the South, target of most mid-week precipitation, severe weather erupted in southern Texas. Rains then shifted northeastward, reaching into the Mississippi Valley and Great Lakes region.

Wintry weekend weather extended its stay throughout western U.S. Moving slowly across the Rockies on Monday, the intense winter storm threatened young livestock as it sent chilling rains and snow from northeast Colorado through Wyoming into Montana. Cold and rain also spilled into western portions of the Great Plains and South Dakota.

Heavier snowfall made the news in Pocatello, Idaho, where 4 inches in only 6 hours put the city

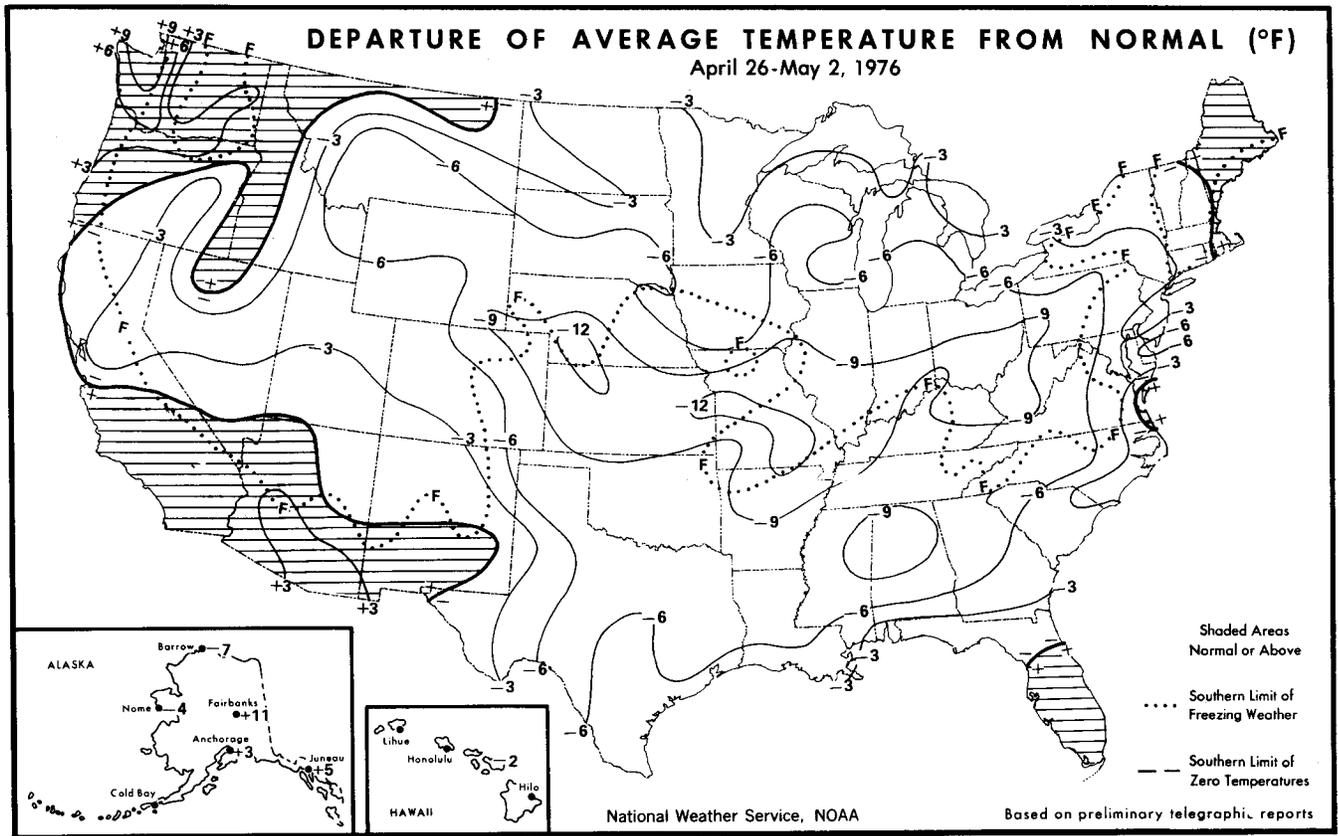
under more than a half foot of snow and in Montana, where Great Falls measured an extra 3 inches of snow.

Near record low temperatures touched the middle Mississippi Valley and crept into the central Plains and western Ohio Valley. At daybreak Joplin, Mo. measured only 25° and frost iced portions of Arkansas. Daytime readings stalled in the 30's or low 40's throughout most of the Great Lakes region and New England.

In the Northeast snow accompanied the frigid air along the Great Lakes region and from the upper Ohio Valley into New England; snowfalls up to 4 inches slowed traffic in the Vermont mountains.

On Tuesday morning, cool air settled over much of the Nation. Record low readings ranged up to 20° below normal in the northeast quarter of the Nation. From the lee side of the central Rockies through portions of Virginia, the mercury stalled in the 40's.

Wintry weather kept a foothold from the upper



Mississippi Valley into the central Rockies. As much as 2 feet of snow capped some Montana mountain peaks. At day's end the wintry force finally weakened, but only after spreading cold and rain across the area. Frost and freezing temperatures gripped areas from the upper Great Lakes region into the middle Atlantic Coast States and Carolina mountains.

Nighttime precipitation patterns traced a broken line of fairly intense thunderstorms from southwest Kansas to southwest Texas. Showers and thunderstorms were scattered throughout the east central Plains and southern portions of the middle Mississippi Valley. Rain--mixed with snow over New York--streamed into New England.

The midweek weather check showed a morning spring chill extending from the northern Rockies to the southeast Atlantic Coast. Claiming record low readings, Indianapolis, Ind. measured 28°; Charleston, W. Va., 29°; and Raleigh, N.C., 32°. Carrier of the cold, a large high pressure system also kept the East Coast and much of the Midwest dry.

Afternoon brought a return to weather patterns more typical of late April. Light rain, drizzle, and fog cut a wide path from the northern Rockies through the central Plains with snow restricted to higher elevations. Many area temperatures pushed into the 50's and 60's, though low clouds and moisture held some afternoon readings in the 40's.

As Thursday's high pressure system dug its heels deeper into the upper Midwest, morning lows skidded into the upper 20's and mid 30's.

Texas captured most of the early morning precipitation. Three twisters that struck the southeast portion of the State just after sunrise caused some damage. In the afternoon severe weather staged a

comeback in south central Texas and erupted off the Galveston Coast as well. Heavy thunderstorms drenched portions of southern Texas, where more than 7 inches soaked an area northwest of Brownsville. At the same time the Copano Bay area clocked wind gusts to 100 mph.

Friday's end-of-April showers focused mostly on the South. Thundershowers rumbled across the lower Mississippi Valley through the Carolina Coast. Showers, mostly light, dotted the central Mississippi Valley, northern Plains, and upper Great Lakes region. Heavy rains came just in time to Savannah, Ga. to add 5 inches of precipitation to its April total, which previously stood at only a trace for the entire month.

Heavy downpours moved into the Northeast on Saturday. Thundershowers traced the Atlantic Coast from southern Florida to Maine and ranged up the Mississippi Valley into the Great Lakes region and parts of the northern Plains.

Meantime, top notch weather favored the Rockies and Far West, thanks to a massive high pressure centered over Colorado, which also kept a Pacific cold front stalled off the Coast.

Cold Canadian air plunging southward brought more cold weather to a large section of the Nation on Sunday. Most temperatures plummeted into the upper 20's and low 30's in northern portions of the Rockies and Plains and into the central Plains. Two chilly exceptions, Glasgow, Mont. and Williston, N.Dak. registered only 20°. Cool air penetrating southward brought record low readings to Houston, Tex., 45° and Meridian, Miss., 44°. Evening frost preyed upon orchards in central U.S. as the cold front advanced into southern portions of the Mississippi Valley and Plains.

National Agricultural Summary

For the week of April 26 - May 2

HIGHLIGHTS: Unseasonably cool weather with temperatures plunging as much as 12° below normal slowed crop development and grassland growth throughout most of the Nation. Dry weather hampered planting activities, especially along the Atlantic Coast, until weekend rains relieved near drought conditions and provided topsoil moisture for germination. Small grain prospects improved in the important central Plains States. Spring planting remained far ahead of normal. Clear weather prevailed most of the week in the North Central States. Fruit crop development was well advanced and peach harvest began in southern areas. Soil moisture was adequate except, along the eastern seaboard, the extreme north central Plains, and most of the West.

SMALL GRAINS: Spring oats and wheat planting were far ahead of previous years. Planting of spring wheat was 66% complete, compared with 4% in 1975 and 39% average. Previous mild weather permitted an earlier start but almost 20% of the crop was planted last week alone.

Frost in the central Plains caused no damage. Precipitation helped the winter wheat crop in the southern Great Plains for the second consecutive week. In Kansas, cool, damp weather encouraged wheat growth; 80% of the crop was jointed compared with 60% in 1975 and 75% normal. Meanwhile, 15% of the crop was headed compared with none last year and 10% average. Greenbugs and mites appeared throughout the State and crop disease was evident in central areas. In Oklahoma, 72% of the winter wheat crop was headed, 20% in 1975 and 53% average. Some fields approached the dough stage. Weeds were excessive in some thin stands. In Texas the first fields were harvested in southern areas.

CORN: Nationwide, 32% of the corn crop was planted, putting it two and a half times ahead of last year, when only 13% of the crop was planted. Normally about 18% of the crop is planted by this time. Planting in every major State was well ahead of last year and only Iowa fell behind the average because cool temperatures and wet soils slowed planting activities. In the east North Central States planting was 31% complete, 5% in 1975 and 9% average. The Indiana corn crop suffered some freeze damage. The west North Central States were 18% complete, 5% last year and 13% average. Other areas of the United States ranged from 50% to 90% complete and only the Florida corn crop reached 100% planted.

COTTON: The cotton crop was 39% planted, 23% in 1975 and 24% average. In most areas planting was well over half complete but the Texas crop was only 22% complete, 1 point less than last year and 5% above average. In Texas, rains, delayed planting and caused some flooding; some replanting will be required. Stands made excellent progress and insect control sprays were applied. In Arkansas cool soil temperatures reduced germination. Some growers may need to replant some fields. In Arizona planting progress lagged 3 weeks behind normal. In South Carolina and Georgia, cotton was in poor to fair condition.

OTHER CROPS: Sorghum planting was underway in Kansas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and California.

In Arkansas planting was 69% complete and in Missouri was 12% finished. In both States this was double last year's rate. In Texas, some early stands headed out in the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

Soybean planting started and advanced to 5% complete in Ohio the same as last year and average. In South Carolina planting was 6% complete; last year and the average were under 5%.

Rice planting ranged from 75 to 94% complete, ahead of 1975 and average. Mississippi's planting, at 75% finished, was twice 1975's 36%. In Arkansas planting was 86% complete, over 20 points ahead of last year. Farmers were flushing fields. Along the Gulf Coast in Texas and Louisiana planting was only slightly ahead of 1975 and average.

Flue-cured tobacco transplanting advanced in North Carolina to 46% compared with 33% in 1975 and 32% average. Farther south, transplanting was complete and in northern areas field planting was just beginning. In Virginia and Kentucky plant beds needed water. Wisconsin growers seeded beds.

FRUITS AND NUTS: Deciduous fruit trees were in full bloom from Pennsylvania to southern New England, and in Washington and Oregon. In the Carolinas the peach crop was fair; spraying and thinning were active. Frost damaged some of the Michigan fruit crop. Peach harvest began in southern Georgia and Texas. In California grape and Bing cherry harvests were expected to begin May 20. In Florida dry conditions forced growers to irrigate but some wilt and leaf drop were observed. Harvest neared completion in Texas and rains benefited trees and next year's crop. In California citrus bloom ended in early production areas and began in late areas. Valencia harvest was active in Florida, Texas, and California.

VEGETABLES: In the Atlantic Coast States soil moisture was short but weekend rains relieved the problem in most vegetable production areas. Early season vegetable planting was active into New England. Harvests of asparagus, lettuce, and greens were active. In Florida tomato harvest increased and all vegetable volume advanced 22% from the previous week. In Michigan frost severely damaged some crops. Strawberry harvest started in Arkansas and was almost complete in Louisiana. Lettuce harvest was active in Arizona. In Texas, rains slowed onion, cabbage, carrot, and cucumber harvests in southern areas. Elsewhere in Texas vegetables made satisfactory progress. In California harvests of artichokes, broccoli, carrots, lettuce, onions, and strawberries were active. Canning tomatoes were growing well.

PASTURES AND LIVESTOCK: Pasture and range growth was slowed by subnormal temperatures and in the southern Atlantic Coast States, dry soils caused poor grazing conditions, but recent rains improved pastures. In California dry weather kept grass growth short. Hay condition was fair to good. First cuttings were in progress in the southern half of the United States. Alfalfa weevils were sprayed in Maryland and Iowa. Cattle were in good condition except in some extreme northern areas, where sudden cold weather put stress on livestock and caused abnormally high calf and lamb losses.

Temperature and Precipitation Data for the Week Ending Midnight, l.s.t., May 2, 1976

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	-10	1.0	+ .1	La. Baton Rouge . . .	66	- 6	.1	-1.1	Youngstown . . .	46	- 6	.4	- .5
Mobile . . .	69	- 2	.1	-1.0	Lake Charles . . .	67	- 5	.2	- .9	OKLA. Okla. City . . .	57	- 7	1.1	+ .1
Montgomery . . .	61	- 8	.7	- .2	New Orleans . . .	68	- 4	.1	- .3	Tulsa . . .	57	- 8	1.0	- .1
ALASKA Anchorage . . .	44	+ 3	.3	+ .2	Shreveport . . .	62	- 8	1.2	- .1	OREG. Astoria . . .	56	+ 6	.1	- .7
Barrow . . .	1	- 7	T	0	MAINE Caribou . . .	46	+ 3	.6	+ .0	Burns . . .	43	- 5	.1	- .1
Fairbanks . . .	49	+11	T	- .1	Portland . . .	49	+ 2	1.4	+ .6	Medford . . .	53	0	T	- .3
Juneau . . .	47	+ 5	.4	- .3	MD. Baltimore . . .	55	- 3	1.5	+ .8	Pendleton . . .	59	+ 5	.1	- .2
Kodiak . . .	11	- 1	T	- .1	MASS. Boston . . .	55	+ 2	.8	0	Portland . . .	58	+ 5	.3	- .1
Nome . . .	22	- 4	T	- .2	Chatham . . .	49	- 1	1.1	- .1	Salem . . .	55	+ 3	.3	- .1
ARIZ. Flagstaff . . .	48	+ 2	0	- .2	MICH. Alpena . . .	44	- 1	.4	- .2	PA. Allentown . . .	51	- 4	1.0	+ .1
Phoenix . . .	76	+ 4	0	- .1	Detroit . . .	46	- 6	.2	- .6	Erie . . .	44	- 5	.4	- .4
Tucson . . .	73	+ 4	0	- .1	Flint . . .	45	- 6	.3	- .4	Harrisburg . . .	52	- 6	.5	- .3
Winslow . . .	57	- 1	0	- .1	Grand Rapids . . .	44	- 7	.6	- .2	Philadelphia . . .	56	- 2	1.8	+1.1
Yuma . . .	75	0	0	0	Houghton Lake . . .	42	- 5	.8	+ .2	Pittsburgh . . .	46	- 9	.3	- .5
ARK. Fort Smith . . .	57	- 9	.3	- .9	Lansing . . .	43	- 8	.3	- .4	Scranton . . .	49	- 4	.5	- .3
Little Rock . . .	57	- 9	T	-1.3	Marquette . . .	41	- 4	.5	- .1	R.I. Providence . . .	52	0	1.5	+ .7
CALIF. Bakersfield . . .	67	+ 1	0	- .1	Muskegon . . .	42	- 8	.4	- .3	S.C. Charleston . . .	64	- 4	1.5	+ .9
Eureka . . .	61	0	T	- .6	S. Ste. Marie . . .	40	- 3	.3	- .3	Columbia . . .	65	- 3	1.0	+ .2
Fresno . . .	65	+ 1	0	- .2	MINN. Duluth . . .	41	- 3	.1	- .5	Greenville . . .	58	- 7	.7	- .1
Los Angeles . . .	64	+ 1	0	- .2	Internat Falls . . .	41	- 3	.1	- .4	S.D. Aberdeen . . .	47	- 3	.2	- .3
Red Bluff . . .	62	- 1	0	- .3	Minneapolis . . .	48	- 3	.1	- .5	Huron . . .	45	- 7	T	- .5
San Diego . . .	63	+ 1	0	- .1	Rochester . . .	46	- 4	.1	- .5	Rapid City . . .	42	- 8	1.2	+ .6
San Francisco . . .	57	0	0	- .2	St. Cloud . . .	46	- 3	.1	- .5	Sioux Falls . . .	46	- 6	.2	- .4
Stockton . . .	58	- 4	0	- .2	MISS. Jackson . . .	62	- 7	.7	- .8	TENN. Chattanooga . . .	57	- 7	.9	0
COLO. Denver . . .	46	- 6	.8	+ .2	Meridian . . .	60	- 9	.7	- .3	Knoxville . . .	56	- 8	.7	- .1
Grand Junction . . .	52	- 5	0	- .2	MO. Columbia . . .	49	-11	.4	- .6	Memphis . . .	59	- 8	.1	-1.1
Pueblo . . .	51	- 5	.7	+ .3	Kansas City . . .	48	-12	.5	- .3	Nashville . . .	57	- 7	.4	- .5
CONN. Bridgeport . . .	50	- 3	1.0	+ .2	St. Louis . . .	51	-10	.1	- .8	TEX. Abilene . . .	62	- 7	.8	0
Hartford . . .	52	- 1	2.1	+1.3	Springfield . . .	52	- 9	.5	- .6	Amarillo . . .	54	- 7	.1	- .3
D.C. Washington . . .	57	- 4	1.4	+ .7	MONT. Billings . . .	43	- 7	1.3	+ .9	Austin . . .	67	- 5	1.1	+ .2
FLA. Apalachicola . . .	69	- 2	.4	- .3	Glasgow . . .	51	+ 2	T	- .2	Beaumont . . .	67	- 5	.9	+ .2
Daytona Beach . . .	72	0	1.1	+ .7	Great Falls . . .	43	- 6	.9	+ .5	Brownsville . . .	72	- 5	2.7	+2.3
Ft. Myers . . .	75	0	.2	- .3	Havre . . .	50	0	T	- .3	Corpus Christi . . .	71	- 5	1.3	+ .7
Jacksonville . . .	69	- 2	.5	- .1	Helena . . .	42	- 6	.6	+ .3	Dallas . . .	68	- 7	.9	+ .4
Key West . . .	79	0	.5	0	Kalispell . . .	49	+ 2	T	- .3	Del Rio . . .	68	0	T	- .1
Lakeland . . .	75	+ 1	.8	+ .2	Miles City . . .	46	- 5	.5	+ .1	El Paso . . .	68	0	T	- .1
Miami . . .	78	+ 2	.7	- .3	Missoula . . .	47	- 1	.3	0	Fort Worth . . .	63	- 6	.5	- .7
Orlando . . .	75	+ 1	.2	- .3	NEBR. Grand Island . . .	47	- 8	1.0	+ .3	Galveston . . .	69	- 4	1.2	+ .6
Tallahassee . . .	69	- 2	1.1	+ .3	Lincoln . . .	49	- 8	.8	- .2	Houston . . .	65	- 8	1.0	0
Tampa . . .	75	+ 1	.8	+ .4	Norfolk . . .	49	- 5	.1	- .5	Lubbock . . .	61	- 3	.1	- .4
W. Palm Beach . . .	76	0	1.4	+ .5	N. Platte . . .	41	-12	.5	- .1	Midland . . .	64	- 4	.4	+ .1
GA. Atlanta . . .	58	- 7	.8	- .1	Omaha . . .	52	- 4	T	- .8	San Angelo . . .	63	- 8	.3	- .2
Augusta . . .	63	- 5	1.5	+ .8	Valentine . . .	44	- 7	.2	- .3	San Antonio . . .	69	- 4	.9	+ .2
Macon . . .	63	- 7	1.2	+ .4	NEV. Ely . . .	42	- 3	T	- .2	Victoria . . .	69	- 5	1.1	+ .3
Savannah . . .	65	- 4	6.2	+5.5	Las Vegas . . .	68	0	0	0	Waco . . .	65	- 6	1.1	0
HAWAII. Hilo . . .	---	---	---	---	Reno . . .	47	- 3	0	- .1	Wichita Falls . . .	61	- 7	1.2	+ .3
Honolulu . . .	---	---	---	---	Winnemucca . . .	51	+ 2	T	- .2	UTAH. Blanding . . .	50	- 1	0	- .2
Kahului . . .	73	- 2	.3	+ .1	N.H. Concord . . .	47	- 2	1.5	+ .8	Salt Lake City . . .	50	- 4	T	- .5
Lihue . . .	---	---	---	---	N.J. Atlantic City . . .	50	- 6	1.5	+ .7	VT. Burlington . . .	48	- 1	1.5	+ .9
IDAHO. Boise . . .	54	+ 1	T	- .3	Trenton . . .	55	- 2	2.1	+1.3	VA. Lynchburg . . .	54	- 7	1.6	+1.0
Lewiston . . .	56	+ 2	T	- .3	N.MEX. Albuquerque . . .	58	- 2	0	- .1	Norfolk . . .	64	+ 2	.4	- .3
Pocatello . . .	44	- 6	1.3	+1.0	Roswell . . .	64	0	.8	+ .7	Richmond . . .	58	- 4	.9	+ .2
ILL. Cairo . . .	54	-11	.3	- .8	N.Y. Albany . . .	49	- 3	.9	+ .2	Roanoke . . .	53	- 7	.7	0
Chicago . . .	47	- 8	.3	- .5	Binghamton . . .	45	- 5	.9	+ .1	WASH. Colville . . .	51	0	.3	0
Moline . . .	48	- 8	.3	- .6	Buffalo . . .	46	- 4	.3	- .5	Omak . . .	54	+ 1	.3	+ .1
Peoria . . .	47	- 9	T	-1.0	New York . . .	55	- 1	2.3	+1.5	Quillayute . . .	54	+ 6	.1	-1.4
Rockford . . .	45	- 8	.3	- .6	Rochester . . .	49	- 2	.4	- .3	Seattle-Tacoma . . .	62	+11	.4	- .1
Springfield . . .	49	- 9	T	- .9	Syracuse . . .	48	- 3	2.3	+1.6	Spokane . . .	53	+ 3	.3	0
IND. Evansville . . .	51	-10	T	-1.0	N.C. Asheville . . .	53	- 7	.6	- .2	Walla Walla . . .	57	+ 1	0	- .4
Ft. Wayne . . .	47	- 7	.1	- .8	Charlotte . . .	59	- 6	.7	0	Yakima . . .	53	0	T	- .1
Indianapolis . . .	48	- 9	.1	- .8	Greensboro . . .	57	- 6	.9	+ .2	W.Va. Beckley . . .	46	- 9	.5	- .3
South Bend . . .	46	- 7	.4	- .5	Hatteras . . .	61	- 2	.7	0	Charleston . . .	49	-11	.7	- .1
IOWA. Burlington . . .	47	- 9	T	- .8	Raleigh . . .	57	- 6	.8	+ .1	Huntington . . .	51	- 9	.4	- .4
Des Moines . . .	51	- 4	T	- .8	Wilmington . . .	64	- 3	.7	0	Parkersburg . . .	50	- 9	.5	- .3
Dubuque . . .	46	- 7	.2	- .8	N.DAK. Bismarck . . .	46	- 3	T	- .4	WIS. Green Bay . . .	43	- 6	.3	- .4
Sioux City . . .	49	- 6	T	- .6	Fargo . . .	44	- 5	T	- .5	La Crosse . . .	46	- 7	.1	- .6
KANS. Concordia . . .	49	- 9	.5	- .2	Williston . . .	46	- 3	T	- .3	Madison . . .	46	- 5	.2	- .5
Dodge City . . .	49	-10	1.8	+1.3	OHIO. Akron-Canton . . .	46	- 6	.3	- .5	Milwaukee . . .	46	- 3	.3	- .3
Goodland . . .	44	-10	.3	- .1	Cincinnati . . .	50	- 8	.1	- .7	WYO. Casper . . .	43	- 5	.4	0
Topeka . . .	50	- 9	.5	- .3	Cleveland . . .	46	- 7	.2	- .6	Cheyenne . . .	39	- 9	1.1	+ .6
Wichita . . .	50	-11	2.7	+1.9	Columbus . . .	46	-10	.1	- .8	Lander . . .	42	- 6	.2	- .4
KY. Lexington . . .	50	-10	.5	- .4	Dayton . . .	47	- 9	.1	- .7	Sheridan . . .	42	- 7	1.1	+ .6
Louisville . . .	53	- 7	.2	- .7	Toledo . . .	46	- 7	.2	- .5	P.R. San Juan . . .	80	+ 2	.7	- .5

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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, NOAA.

ALABAMA: Cool temperatures 7° below normal. Cold front 30th brought rain. 5 days suitable fieldwork. Cotton 74% planted, 56% 1975, average 55%. Corn 72% planted, 64% 1975, average 53%. Peanuts 50% planted, 56% 1975, average 61%. Dryness slowed plantings. Soybean planting started. Some insect and disease in wheat. Pastures fair to good.

ARIZONA: Dry weather, low humidity, winds drying soil. Temperatures near normal, 6° below north to 4° above south.

Planting, replanting cotton. Cotton season 3 weeks behind. Planting Pima County complete, established fields excellent progress. Wheat, barley fields being irrigated, progressing satisfactorily. Wheat mostly headed, maturing rapidly. Sugarbeet harvesting Yuma County. Harvesting, grazing of alfalfa. Lettuce harvest central tapering off. Cantaloups good growth. Deciduous fruit thinning nearly complete. Harvest valencias, grapefruit, kinnows active. Development range grasses good, ample water supplies. Condition cattle, calves improved. Cattle outshipments above last year, inshipments lower. Fat lamb shipments seasonal levels.

ARKANSAS: Cool with variable precipitation. Temperature extremes 84 and 30°. Precipitation ranged 0.00 to 0.85 in.

Soybean planting 8% complete, 3% last year, average 6%. Cotton fields expected to be replanted due to cool ground temperatures. Cotton 52% planted, 19% year ago, average 17%. Rice seeding 86% complete, 65% last year, average 50%. Flushing continued. Corn acreage 86% planted, 83% 1975. Sorghum planting 69% complete, 33% last year. Wheat and oats rated good condition. Barley yellow dwarf many fields. Peach producers continuing spray schedule. Strawberry harvest continued. Hay harvest underway.

CALIFORNIA: Fair with some coastal low cloudiness. Windy early week Central Valley. Warming late week highs into 80s Central Valley and Inland Coastal Valleys and 90s low southeast Deserts. Lows mostly 40s Central Valley, upper 30s and low 40s Inland Coastal Valleys and 50s low southeast Deserts. Averages near or slightly below normal most areas except 3 to 7° below extreme northeast.

Small grain maturing short of moisture. New crop sugarbeets digging Imperial Valley. Rice, corn, milo, cotton planting continues. Alfalfa cutting near normal. Cultivation, irrigation, chemical weed control and pesticide application primary orchard activities. Early table grape harvest expected 20th. Early cherries ripening. Bings expected 20th. Thinning stone fruit increasing. Apple bloom in various stages. Citrus bloom about complete early areas, just beginning latest areas. Valencia orange harvest increasing as fruit gains size and maturity. Harvest of artichokes, broccoli, carrots, lettuce, heavy; onion, strawberries increasing. Canning tomatoes growing well. Range pasture improve higher elevations. Valley, Central Valley poor condition. Soil moisture. Ponds deficient. Cattle, sheep move markets earlier lighter.

COLORADO: Intermittent rain and snow 26th through 30th. Precipitation 0.13 in. to 2.09. Temperatures well below normal east. Slightly below normal west.

Winter wheat condition continues very poor southeast. Fair to good elsewhere. Sugarbeets 59% planted, 77% 1975, 63% average. Spring barley 83% seeded, 83% 1975, 77% average; 62% emerged, condition very good. Oats 73% seeded, 73% 1975, 71% average. Corn 23% planted, 26% 1975, 17% average. Soil moisture short. Livestock condition good. Ranges and pastures very poor southeast, fair to good elsewhere.

FLORIDA: Temperatures near normal with two rain-producing cold fronts moving through. Rainfall heaviest southern half with some stations reporting over 2.00 in.

Soil moisture improved. Rain over weekend very beneficial. Corn good condition but some fields showing drought stress. Tobacco fair condition. Peanut planting active. Cotton planting underway. Land preparation active for planting soybeans. Peach harvest continues. Sugarcane good condition. Grazing conditions very poor to good. Panhandle pastures good. Pastures in north fair, central and south poor to fair. Citrus groves continue dry, rain needed. Irrigation used all areas. Some wilt and leaf drop. Valencia harvest active. Tomato production declining southern sections; increasing in important west central. Northern vegetable areas remain dry. Harvest activity slowed on 1st, 2nd. Locally heavy rain southern sections. Spring vegetable harvest increased 22% over previous week. Crops increasing were sweet corn, potatoes, tomatoes, eggplant, chinese cabbage, peppers, snap beans, and watermelons. Holding steady were carrots, celery, escarole, cabbage, and cucumbers. Crops declining were radishes, squash, lettuce, and strawberries. Watermelon movement increased sharply.

GEORGIA: Dry spell broken showers occurred 25th and 26th. General rains 30th. Totals 0.30 in. to 1.00 in. Seasonable temperatures, except cool midweek. Lows 40's on 27th, except near 30° in mountains with frost. Rains 30th continued into 1st with heavy amounts excess 5 in. Savannah area.

Prior to 30th, soil moisture very short south and southeast, mostly short to very short north, with narrow band of adequate across central. Fieldwork: 5 days suitable. Dry soils interrupted planting slowing germination stands and growth. Weekend showers helpful but more needed. Corn fair to good, planting 88% complete, last year 71%, average 75%. Tobacco transplanting virtually complete, same as last year and average, condition fair to mostly good. Cotton condition mostly fair to good, planted 69%, last year 34%, average 55%. Dry soils affecting germination and stands, 38% up to stand, last year 18%, average 24%. Peanuts mostly fair to good, 57% planted, last year 42%, average 57%, spraying active. Soybeans fair to good, 5% planted, last year 5%, average 6%. Small grains fair to good, some heads light. Peaches good, need moisture, harvest underway South. Apples fair to mostly good, light frost damage north. Watermelons fair to mostly good, little planting progress. Pastures fair. Cattle fair to mostly good. Hogs good.

HAWAII: Weather variable. Flash flood Kona Hawaii partially damaged newly planted cucumbers. No other serious damage. Elsewhere weather favorable to crop growth. Spray program kept up. Disease declining. Leaf crops recovering from disease

damage. Production back to normal. Head cabbage and dry onion production active. Bananas, papayas, pineapple, supply light. Pastures good condition.

IDAHO: Late season snow storm, cold temperatures, heavy precipitation extreme and southeast. Temperatures 3 to 10° below normal over south and precipitation heaviest southeast. Precipitation near normal.

Fieldwork east halted by heavy snow and adverse weather. Other areas planting activities continued normal pace. Soil moisture supplies adequate. Spring barley and spring wheat 35% planted 20 and 25% respectively 1975. Oats 40% planted, 25% 1975. Sugarbeet 55% planted, 45% 1975. Mixed grain 60% seeded 40% 1975. Potatoes 15% planted 5% 1975. Planting onions complete. Livestock east showing stress adverse weather. Some high death losses newborn calves. Cattle on summer pastures except high elevation ranges. Grass growth retarded cool weather.

ILLINOIS: Temperatures 7 to 11° below normal. Frost many sections. Precipitation: Trace south, 0.30 in. north.

Corn 43% planted, 13% 1975, 9% average. Soybean planting begun. Winter wheat 30% headed, none 1975 or average. Winter wheat 24% excellent, 71% good, 5% fair. Oats 16% excellent, 71% good, 13% fair. Alfalfa and red clover hay mostly good. Pastures mostly good, supplying 72% livestock roughage requirements. Soil moisture 21% short, 54% adequate, 25% surplus. Fieldwork: 3.25 days suitable.

INDIANA: Cold, air temperatures 8° below normal. Freezing temperatures, high 20's, except along Ohio River. Rainfall short central and south. Soil temperatures and evaporation near normal.

Fieldwork: 4 days suitable. Topsoil and subsoil moisture short to mostly adequate. Corn and soybean land 95% plowed, 1975 85%, average 60%. Corn 30% planted, 1975 10%, average 5%. Some freeze damage to early stands. Oats 4 in. high, 2 in. 1975. Wheat 14 in. high, 1975 11 in., 10 in. average; 55% jointed; 10% headed, 0 for 1974 and average. Condition fair to mostly good, some freeze damage. Barley 70% headed, rye 50%. Tomatoes 30% seeded. Pastures mostly fair to good.

IOWA: Temperatures 5° below normal west to 8° below normal southeast. Precipitation generally light, areas reporting 0.50 in. for greatest amounts.

Cool temperatures, wet fields slowed fieldwork progress. Some flooding, minor soil erosion southeast. Light frost, little damage. Plowing complete, 65% last year, 78% average. Corn planting progress slow, with 13% complete, 5% last year, 15% average. Planting most advanced northwest, west central. Cool weather slowed germination, emergence. Oats emerged all districts, condition mostly good. Growth slow. Winter wheat condition mostly good. Alfalfa weevil mainly south. Topsoil moisture 5% short, 65% adequate, 30% surplus. Subsoil moisture 9% short, 79% adequate, 12% surplus. Greatest shortages northwest, west central. Fieldwork: Under 3 days suitable. Livestock in good condition. Calving, lambing, farrowing progressing smoothly. Pasture condition mostly good, growth slow.

KANSAS: Temperatures 50 to 54° or 4° below normal northwest, 7 to 9° below normal elsewhere. Intermittent showers and thunderstorms. Heavy rains south central, southeast and extreme south 27th. Precipitation 0.25 to 0.50 in. north and west central to 2.80 in. south central.

Cool, damp weather encouraged wheat growth; 80% jointed, 60% last year, 75% normal; 15% headed,

none last year, 10% average. Greenbugs, brown mites in wheat. Streak and soil borne mosaic central area. Frost across many areas 3d. Damage to wheat unlikely. Corn 25% planted, 10% last year, 25% average. Sorghum and soybean planting starting.

KENTUCKY: Temperatures below normal with rain occurring through the week but below normal amounts.

Fieldwork: 5 days favorable. Soil moisture short, except west. Corn planting 59% completed, 16% a year ago and 25% average. Corn 28% emerged, two weeks ahead normal. Tobacco plants slowed by low temperatures, but 25% of plants have leaves half-dollar size. About 40% size of dime or less. Most beds need watering, still good condition. Wheat advancing rapidly but heading out short. 74% of crop heading or already in bloom. Earliest of record. Pasture growth slowed but grazing supplies adequate.

LOUISIANA: Temperatures 4 to 8° below normal. Extremes: 86 and 43°. Scattered showers 29th and 30th.

Fieldwork: 5.4 days suitable. Soil moisture adequate northwest, north central; short elsewhere. Cotton 52% planted, 12% last year, 35% average. Rice 82% planted, 79% last year, 77% average. Corn 88% planted, 63% last year. Sugarcane fertilization and cultivation continued active; stands and growth good; rain needed. Strawberry harvest virtually finished. Transplanting sweetpotatoes gained momentum. Small grains maturing. Pastures average. Cattle fair to good.

MARYLAND & DELAWARE: Temperatures normal to 5° below normal. Extremes: mid 20's, mid 80's. Precipitation tract to 0.86 in. Heaviest in north central Maryland. Weekend cool with rain.

Corn over 50% planted; 12% last year, 37% average. Many fields emerging, stands good. Few soybeans planted. Small grains fair condition, effects of dry weather. Recent rains should help. Alfalfa sprayed for alfalfa weevil.

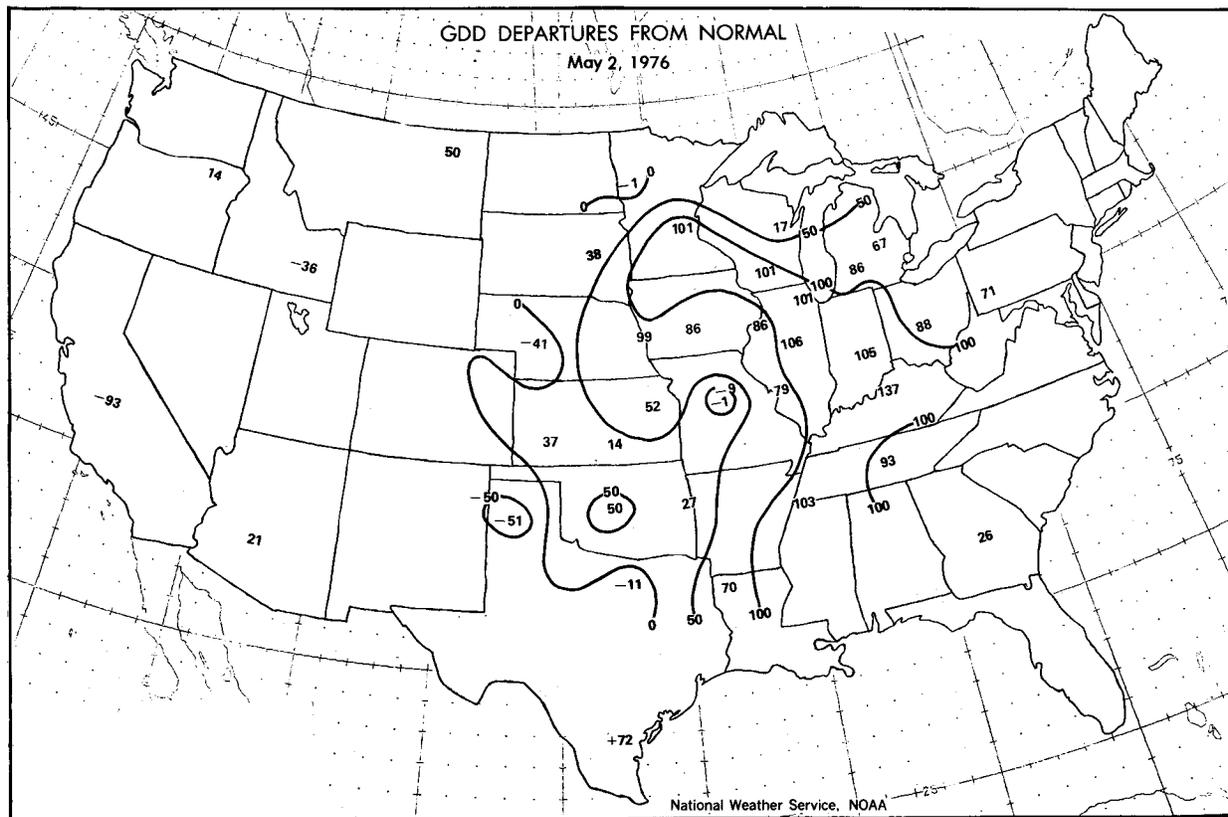
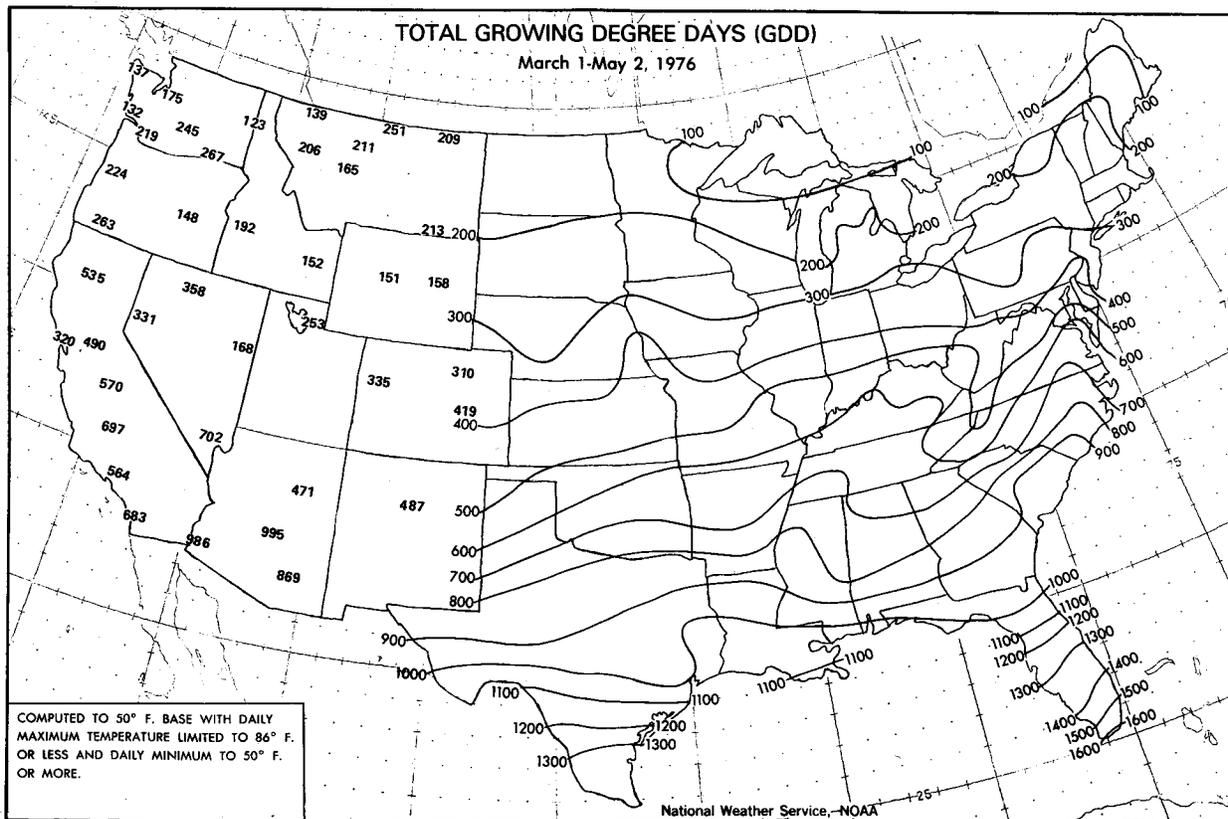
MICHIGAN: Temperatures below normal. Average at mid 40's. Freezing beginning, wet and warmer end. Precipitation 0.80 in. to 0.90 in. Some severe thunderstorms southwest Lower.

Wet weather delayed fieldwork. Freezing temperatures severely damaged fruit and vegetable crops southwest. Fieldwork: 2 days suitable. Corn 10% planted, none last year and 4% average. Oat seeding 80% complete 30% last year and 41% normally. Sugarbeets 88% seeded, 8% last year and 38% average. Potato planting 30% completed, 4% last year and 13% average. Most fruits central and northwest are in delayed dormant to prepink stage.

MINNESOTA: Cool with temperatures 3° below normal northeast to 6° below normal west and south. Extremes: 69 and 22°. Precipitation well below 0.50 in. normal with averages ranging from traces to 0.20 in.

Good progress planting small grains, corn. Frost damage minimal over weekend. Need warmer temperatures. Moisture short across central areas. Percent planted; spring wheat 80%, 1975 3%, normal 26%; oats 84%, 1975 1%, normal 44%; barley 63%, 1975 2%, normal 28%. Corn land 62% prepared, 1975 1%, normal 31%; 25% planted, 1975 0%, normal 8%. Soybean land 35% prepared, 1975 0%, normal 14%. None planted. Sugarbeets 79% planted, normal 6%.

MISSISSIPPI: Temperatures 7° subnormal. Extremes: 89 and 36°. Greatest 24-hour rainfall 3.66 in. at Corinth 25th.



Soil moisture adequate to surplus north short to adequate central, short south. Fieldwork: 4.5 days suitable. Cotton 58% planted, 15% 1975, 36% average; 10% up to stand, 3% 1975, 9% average. Rice 75% planted, 36% 1975, 12% up to stand, 7% 1975. Corn 75% planted, 39% 1975, 45% average; 44% up to stand, 21% 1975. Winter wheat 95% headed, 85% 1975. Oats 91% headed, 83% 1975. All crops fair to good condition.

MISSOURI: Temperatures 9 to 13° below normal. Precipitation averaged 0.50 in. East Ozarks, 0.75 in. to 1.00 in. elsewhere.

Fieldwork: 1 day suitable. Corn planting 53% completed, 1975 19%, 31% average. Cotton planting Bootheel intense with 52% completed, 1975 18%, 17% average. Grain sorghum planting 12% completed, 1975 6%, average 7%. Wheat 38% headed, 10 days ahead of normal. Corn condition fair. Wheat and pasture condition fair to good. Soil moisture 6% short, 74% adequate, and 20% surplus.

MONTANA: Cold with precipitation moderate to heavy. Warming and drying week's end. Temperatures 5° below normal south central and southeast, near normal elsewhere.

Winter wheat growing well. Condition good to excellent. Favorable growing conditions overcoming winter's wind damage. Spring seeding moving fast in spite of early week's snow and rain. Nearly 65% spring wheat seeded, last year under 5%, normal 35%. Barley and oats 60%, last year 10%, normal 30%. Sugarbeets 65% planted, last year 5%, normal 45%. Dry beans 20% seeded, corn 15%, potatoes planting just starting. Soil moisture adequate. Ranges growing, about 20% livestock on summer ranges. About 60% cattle and 50% sheep on supplemental feed. Calf and lamb losses to date lighter than normal.

NEBRASKA: Temperatures 5 to 12° below normal. Showers and thunderstorms week. Freezing temperatures 2d.

Crop conditions improve, fieldwork slowed. Topsoil moisture supplies continued to improve. Winter wheat condition poor 15%, fair 58%, good 27%. Corn 10% planted, 5% normal and last year. Oats and barley 95% seeded, 65% planted a year ago. Alfalfa and wild hay condition fair to good. Pasture and range feed supplies improving, need warmer weather.

NEVADA: Two weak cold fronts brought brief surges cool air but little precipitation. Temperatures slightly below normal. Extremes: 95 and 15°. Precipitation spotty and confined to north.

Seedbed preparation and seeding progressing. Vegetative growth slowed by low night temperatures. Calving and lambing normal progress.

NEW ENGLAND: Temperatures averaged normal, but fluctuated sharply over and under. Rain 1.00 in. Maine, 2.00 to 2.50 in. central and south 25th, 26th and 1st. Snow higher elevations.

Season 2 weeks early. South fruit trees in bloom, north not as advanced. Planting early season vegetables. Soil preparation for corn, potatoes underway. Pastures greening.

NEW JERSEY: Temperatures 3 to 5° below normal. Scattered frost central and northern sections 30th. Extremes: 31 and 76°. Weekly rainfall 1.58 in. north, 1.51 in. central and 1.24 in. south. Estimated soil moisture in percent of field capacity, past week averaged: 98% north, 94% central and 91% south. Four in. soil temperature averaged: 56° north and 60° south.

Weekend rain beneficial. Cool temperatures slowing crop development but season ahead of normal. Vegetable planting advancing. Harvest of asparagus slowed by cool weather. Lettuce harvest begun. Harvest of spinach and "greens" continues. Apple pollination poor. Small grains in good condition. Barley and rye heading.

NEW MEXICO: Warm and dry early week. Cooling 29th and 30th with showers east. Snow northern mountains and central highlands 30th.

Soil moisture short, ranges, and livestock fair, calving and lambing approached completion. Cotton planting 80% complete south. Alfalfa good. Dryland winter wheat poor, being grazed extensively. Irrigated winter wheat and barley fair east, good elsewhere. Durum wheat good. Corn and sorghum plantings continue. Onions fair to good. Lettuce Mesilla Valley started. Apples good, blooming complete.

NEW YORK: Cool trend continued. Temperatures 2 to 6° below normal. Extremes: 73 and 21°. Rainfall near to below normal over southwest and part of Hudson Valley: above normal elsewhere. Unseasonably cool wet weather first. Snow mixed with rain north and west. Temperatures moderated midweek, wet again by weekend, temperatures continued mild.

Unfavorable weather slowed fieldwork most areas. Corn planting increasing. Oat planting 50% complete, 20% last year. Some early oats up. Light lettuce and onion replanting. Celery transplants, strawberries being irrigated. Grape tying 90% complete, no spring freeze injury. Peaches, pears, cherries in full bloom west, pollination conditions fair. Soil moisture adequate to surplus.

NORTH CAROLINA: Temperatures 1 to 4° below normal. Low temperature records set 27th and 28th. Frost or freezing temperatures in Piedmont and Mountains. First heavy rains in almost month fell on 1st totaling 0.50 in. to 1.00 in.

Fieldwork: 5.8 days suitable. Soil moisture 82% very short, 18% short before weekend rains. Tobacco in fields poor to fair condition. Flue-cured 46% transplanted, 1975 33%, average 32%. Plant supplies short. Corn 79% planted, 1975 67%, average 58%. Sorghum grain 21% planted, 1975 6%. Peanuts 14% planted, 1975 6%. Cotton 52% planted, 1975 38%. Soybeans 6% planted, 1975 4%, average 6%. Wheat condition 21% poor, 72% fair, 7% good. Other small grains poor to mostly fair. Irish potatoes, peaches and pastures poor to fair.

NORTH DAKOTA: Temperatures close to normal. Northern above normal, central and south below normal. Extremes: 68 to 23°. Precipitation below normal. Most reporting points less than 0.05 in. Strong gusty winds and heavy snow showers 1st.

Hard red spring wheat 50% planted compared with 31% average and 1% last year. Durum 26% planted, 18% average and less than 0.5% last year.

OHIO: Snow flurries northeast, 26th. Showers and thunderstorms 1st and 2d. Range: 0.48 in. southeast to 0.06 in. southwest. Freezing temperatures 26th to 29th. Temperatures 8 to 11° below normal. Extremes: 73 and 29°.

Planting completion: corn - 35%, 15% 1975 and 25% normal; soybeans - 5%, equal to 1975 and normal; sugarbeets - virtually complete, 95% 1975 and 70% normal; potatoes - 65%, 50% 1975 and 40% normal. Wheat: Height, 9", 20% jointed. Soil moisture supplies adequate. Fieldwork: 4 days suitable.

OKLAHOMA: Temperatures 8 to 10° below normal. Precipitation 0.39 in. southeast to 1.56 in. northeast. Weekend cool to mild with light rain most areas.

Rains held planting and seedbed preparation near standstill. Top moisture supplies adequate. Wheat 72% headed, 20% year ago, 53% average. Some fields at or near dough stage. Weeds in thin stands problem. Oats 61% headed, 22% year ago, 50% average. Much of acreage will be cut for hay. Barley 65% headed, 5 points ahead of average. Corn 35% planted, little changed from year ago and average. Sorghum planting underway, but no cotton, soybeans or peanuts planted to date. Seedbeds will be reworked many areas because of rains. Alfalfa cuttings caught by rain, 10% first cutting complete. Range grasses making rapid growth, will provide abundant feed soon. Cattle condition up slightly.

OREGON: Temperatures 1 to 6° below normal. Extremes: high 70's, mid-30's west; high 70's, mid 20's east. Precipitation averaged 0.50 in. west, 0.25 in. east and Southwestern Valley.

Fall seeded crops in good condition. Spraying and fertilizing of fall grains virtually complete. Much spring grains have been planted. Cherries in full bloom to past full bloom. Pears in pre-bloom to petal fall stage. Prunes in petal fall stage. Bloom on strawberries. Onions and bushberries being planted. Potatoes emerging. Livestock are fair to good condition. Feed short in east. Pastures improving. Some irrigation.

PENNSYLVANIA: Cool temperatures 4 to 8° below normal. Daytime highs 30's and 40's beginning 60's and 70's weekend. Overnight lows 20's and 30's early, 30's and 40's weekend. Extremes: 74 and 24°. Few showers and snow flurries north and west beginning. General rainfall 1st. Weekly totals over 1.50 in. southeast to under 0.25 in. central. Up to 1.00 in. snow higher elevations 27th.

Soil moisture short to adequate. Fieldwork: 5 days suitable. Activities: plowing, grape tying, spreading lime and fertilizer, seeding alfalfa and oats, planting corn and potatoes plus orchard spraying. Plowing 82%, 2 weeks ahead of 62% 1975. Oats 87% planted, 60% last year. Potatoes 45% planted, one week ahead of last year's 34%. Corn 19% planted, last year 3%. Barley 18% boot, last year 2%--some headed in southern area. Wheat 9% boot, 9 days ahead 1975. Condition of hay stands fair to good, need rain and warm nights for growth. Feed from pastures average to below. All fruit 2 weeks ahead of 1975. Full bloom: peaches 83%; cherries 91%; apples 78%. Pulling asparagus, green peas and strawberries blooming.

PUERTO RICO: Island rainfall 1.76 in. or 0.40 in. above normal. Highest weekly total 9.80 in. Temperatures 78° on coasts and 73° interior. Extremes: 93 and 56°.

SOUTH CAROLINA: Temperatures 5 to 10° below normal. Rainfall, scattered showers about normal except southern where in excess of 5.00 in. Scattered, localized rainfall occurred 1st, general rains 30th, 1st.

Condition of most crops fair before rain. Planting activities before rain remained slow. Tobacco stands mostly fair. Flea beetle, budworm in many fields. Replanting continues, plant supply adequate, plants large. Wind, weather damage many areas. Corn condition fair to good, least hurt by drought. Cotton condition poor.

Small grains turning color prematurely due to drought, seriously hurt by dry weather. Pastures, grain hays hurt. Peach condition fair to good, growers spraying and thinning trees. Tobacco planted: 1976, 95%; 1975, 88%; average 83%. Corn planted: 1976, 91%; 1975, 80%, average 78%. Cotton planted: 1976, 67%; 1975, 49%, average, 54%. Soybeans planted: 1976, 6%; 1975 less than 5%; average, less than 5%.

SOUTH DAKOTA: Temperatures 3 to 8° below normal. Extremes: 73 and 17°. Frosts 1st, 2d. Lows 17 to 27°. Snow and rain fell mainly west. Freeze damage not known but could be substantial to alfalfa.

Topsoil moisture short northeast, central, south central. Adequate elsewhere. Recent rains improved winter wheat. Spring grains off to good start. Fieldwork slowed by rain. Spring plowing 77% complete, 1975 26%, normal 50%. Corn 5% planted, 1975 1%, normal 3%. Spring wheat 98% seeded, 1975 18%, normal 72%. Oats 98% seeded, 1975 35%, normal 75%. Barley 96% seeded, 1975 24%, normal 68%. Livestock good condition. Wet, cool weather caused scours. Pastures short, need rain and warm weather.

TENNESSEE: North winds caused temperatures to average in 50's, 7 to 10° below normal. Dry over past week. Rainfall normal extreme east and southeast but much below normal in middle and west. Amounts over 0.50 in. east but less than 0.50 in middle and west.

Corn and cotton planting made rapid progress. Corn planted nearly 70%, 35% last year and average. Cotton planted 60%, 30% last year and average. Small grains maturing rapidly, short straw and small heads. Wheat headed 85%, 40% last year, 50% average. Oats 70% headed, 35% last year and average. Barley 85% headed, 55% last year, 60% average. Plowing for spring planted crops nearly 90%, 79% last year and average. Pastures poor due to cool, dry weather. Soil moisture reported 65% short, 32% adequate, 3% surplus. Fieldwork: 5 days suitable. Soybean planting and tobacco transplanting beginning.

TEXAS: Cold front brought rains, below normal temperatures. Precipitation west 26th, 27th spread central, eastern, southern 29th ended 30th. Above normal rainfall except far west. Temperatures 4° above normal Panhandle, 1 to 3° below normal elsewhere.

Wheat, oats, flax maturing rapidly; some stands ready harvest. Early stands wheat harvested south. Planting cotton, corn, sorghum, peanuts generally on schedule with last year some replanting necessary because flooding; most early stands making excellent growth. Wheat: first fields harvested south. Oats: Maturing southern half but general harvest several weeks future. Cotton: Planting delayed by widespread rains during week. Some flooding occurred Blacklands, east, south central where replanting necessary. Coastal Bend, Lower Rio Grande Valley early stands excellent progress; insect control necessary. Corn: Planting good progress high plains, farmers generally ahead schedule. Stands making excellent progress low plains southward. Sorghum: Planting satisfactory progress before rain halted seeding operations. Replanting some stands necessary Blacklands, east, south central because flooding. Stands excellent growth Coastal Bend, Lower Rio Grande Valley where early stands heading out.

Onion, cabbage and carrot harvest slowed due to rains. Most watermelons making good growth. High Plains: Potatoes and onions continue to make satisfactory progress. Cucumber and carrot planting underway. Peaches continue to make good to excellent growth. Harvest underway in South Texas. Citrus: Harvest in final stages. General rains throughout Valley will benefit trees, as well as, next year's fruit crop. Ranges, pastures showing excellent growth as moisture conditions improve. Livestock condition reflects improved grazing. Predator losses increased Cross-Timbers, Edwards Plateau, Trans-Pecos. Confirmed screwworm cases spreading south, west. First cuttings hay baled Trans-Pecos to East. Good prospects for later crops.

UTAH: Storm front moderate to severe intensity moved across northern half. Moisture generally moderate to heavy. Little or none southern half. Temperatures near normal to 9° below normal. Minimums dropped below freezing all but warmest areas following storm. Some frost damage few areas.

Spring wheat and barley 75%, oats 65% planted. Some potatoes planted, few processing potatoes planted. Sugarbeet planting lags. Fruit prospects good despite recent freeze. Calving about 85% completed. Wool shearing about 75%. Lambing progress varied from just starting to 75% completed.

VIRGINIA: Temperatures 3° below normal. Extremes: 93 and 21°. Precipitation very light. Averaged 0.10 in. Fieldwork: 5.9 days suitable. Topsoil moisture 99% short, 1% adequate. Corn plantings 50% complete, 1975 30%, average 28%. Soybean, peanut planting progressing rapidly. Small grains heading out short. Tobacco plant beds irrigated. Some flue-cured transplanting started. Potatoes in excellent condition. Other vegetables slowed by dry weather. Fruit damage varied depending on area. Pasture, hay growth reduced. Hay yields short. Some hay fed to cattle on pasture.

WASHINGTON: West: Temperatures 1 to 4° above normal. Precipitation 0.10 in. to 0.80 in. subnormal.

Harvesting field rhubarb. Early green peas up. Sweet corn planting to begin shortly. Caneberries showing new growth. Planting new strawberries, silage corn. Green chopping underway. Cattle going on pasture.

East: Readings near normal. Precipitation

0.10 in. to 0.20 in. subnormal.

Seeding potatoes, alfalfa, dry beans, sugarbeets, field corn. Asparagus being cut. Cherries, peaches, apricots, pears past full bloom and into green stage. Apples almost in full bloom. Other orchard activities: Pre-pink spraying, grafting, applying herbicides, orchard renewal, planting. Hay supplies running short and cattle being moved to pasture. Farmers preparing seedbeds, fertilizing, seeding and reseeding spring crops. Some yellow dwarf virus showing up.

WEST VIRGINIA: Temperature 7° below normal. Precipitation normal north and central and below normal elsewhere.

Fieldwork: 5.0 days suitable. Soil moisture short to adequate. Condition of growing crops fair. Planted: Oats 89%, potatoes 83%, corn 19%, tobacco beds 61% emerged. Spring planting ahead of last year. Farm activities: Fencing, plowing and gardening. Cattle in good condition.

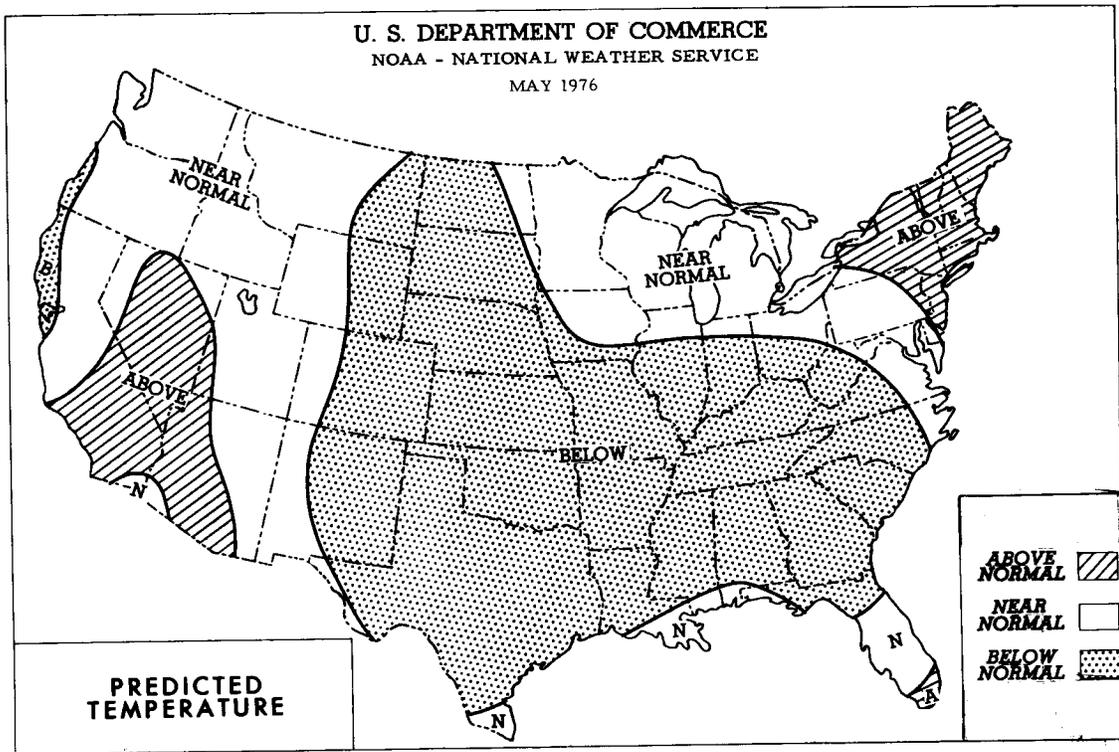
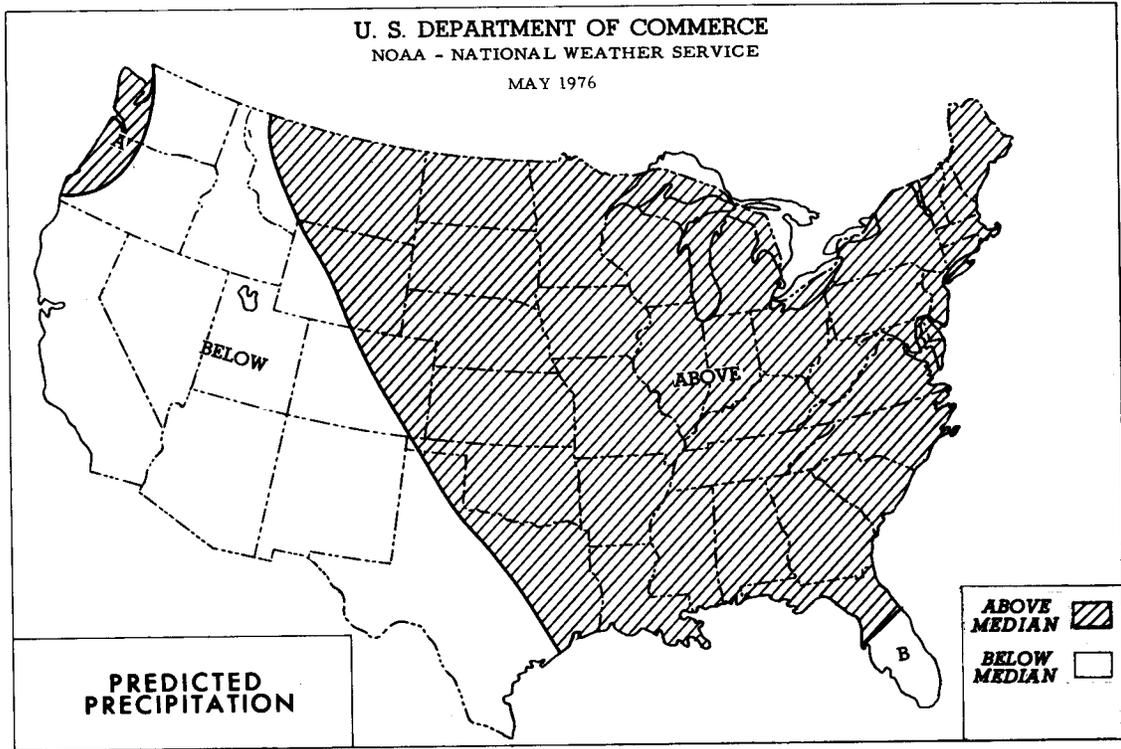
WISCONSIN: Cooler and drier. Temperatures 5° subnormal. Highs 50's and 60's. Frost with lows in 20's. Generally fair skies until 29th, scattered showers west, continuing over State 30th but amounts less than 0.50 in. Colder air weekend but cloudiness and brisk winds kept evening temperatures up. Snow 2d central and north central, with some local accumulations.

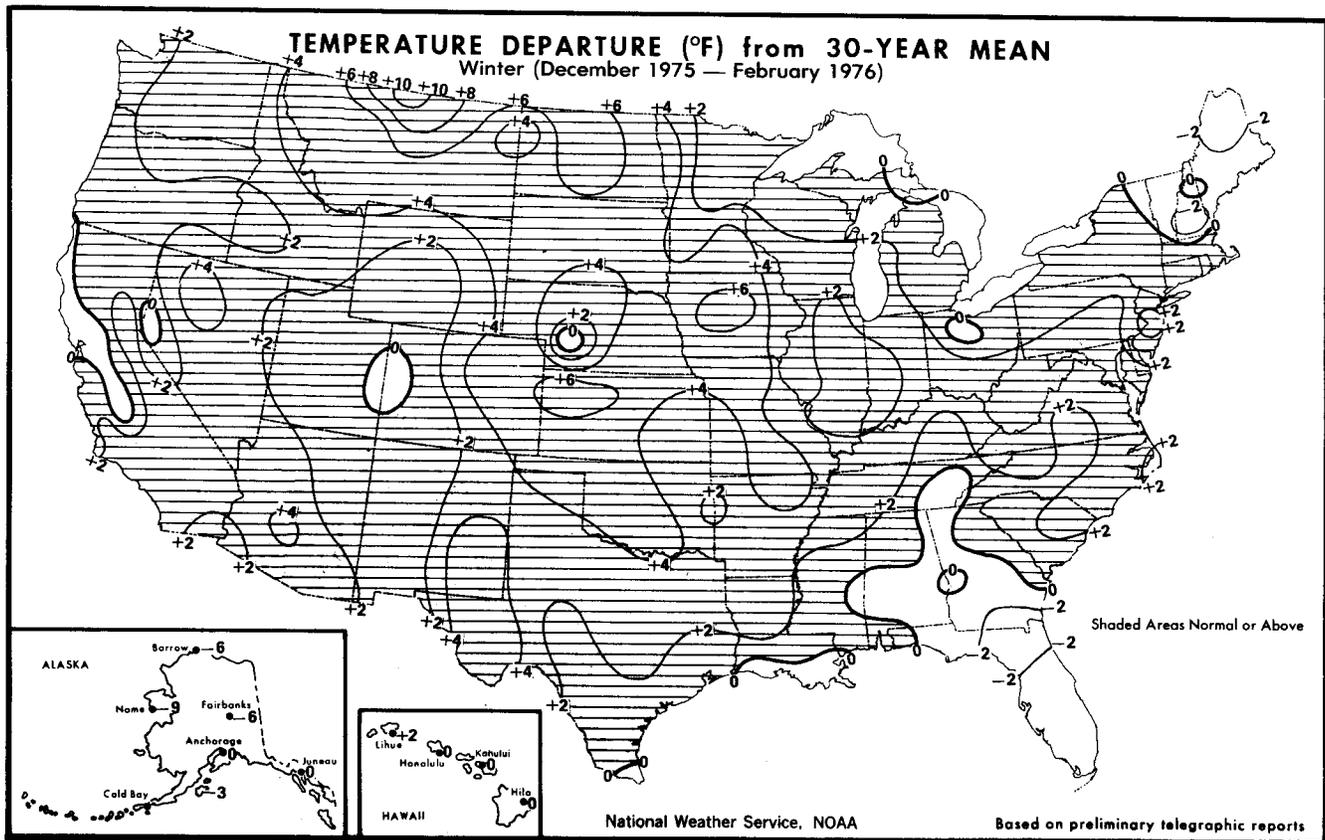
Fieldwork resumed midweek. Oats 55% seeded, 1975 8%, normal 45%. Early seeded small grains and winter wheat look good. Spring plowing 45% done, 1975 10%, normal 35%. Corn ground being prepared. Corn 5% planted, 1975 none, normal 2%. Hay and pastures good condition but growth slowed by cold temperatures. Tobacco beds being seeded. Potato planting well advanced central but lagging northeast. Some frost damage to fruit trees in south where in bloom. Soil moisture 65% adequate, 35% surplus, wettest east and southeast.

WYOMING: Temperatures below normal except northern half. Precipitation above normal most areas with greatest central and southeast. Snow mixed with rain most areas but melted.

Major activities: Calving, row crop seedbed preparations and seeding. Planting ahead of normal. Topsoil moisture adequate. Crops aided by moisture. Sugarbeets 79% seeded, spring wheat 66%, oats 54%, barley 77%, potatoes and corn negligible. Sheep lambed: Farm flocks 87%, range sheep 51%. Calving 83% completed. Sheep shorn: Farm flocks 90%, range sheep 64%.

Average Monthly Weather Outlook





Winter Weather Review

HIGHLIGHTS: From New Mexico and Colorado eastward to the Atlantic Coast, the Nation's winter season was drier than normal. The driest areas, the Texas and Oklahoma Panhandles, measured only 10 to 25% of normal precipitation. Other portions of the southern and central Plains received only 30 to 60% of normal rain or snow. Snow cover was lighter and less extensive than usual. Accompanying the dry weather, frequent periods of strong wind eroded soils and destroyed part of the winter grain crop. Nationwide the average temperature was generally above normal. Montana and the western Plains ran 4 to 6° above normal with parts of Montana departing as much as 11°. Florida and the California Coast reported near or slightly below normal seasonal readings.

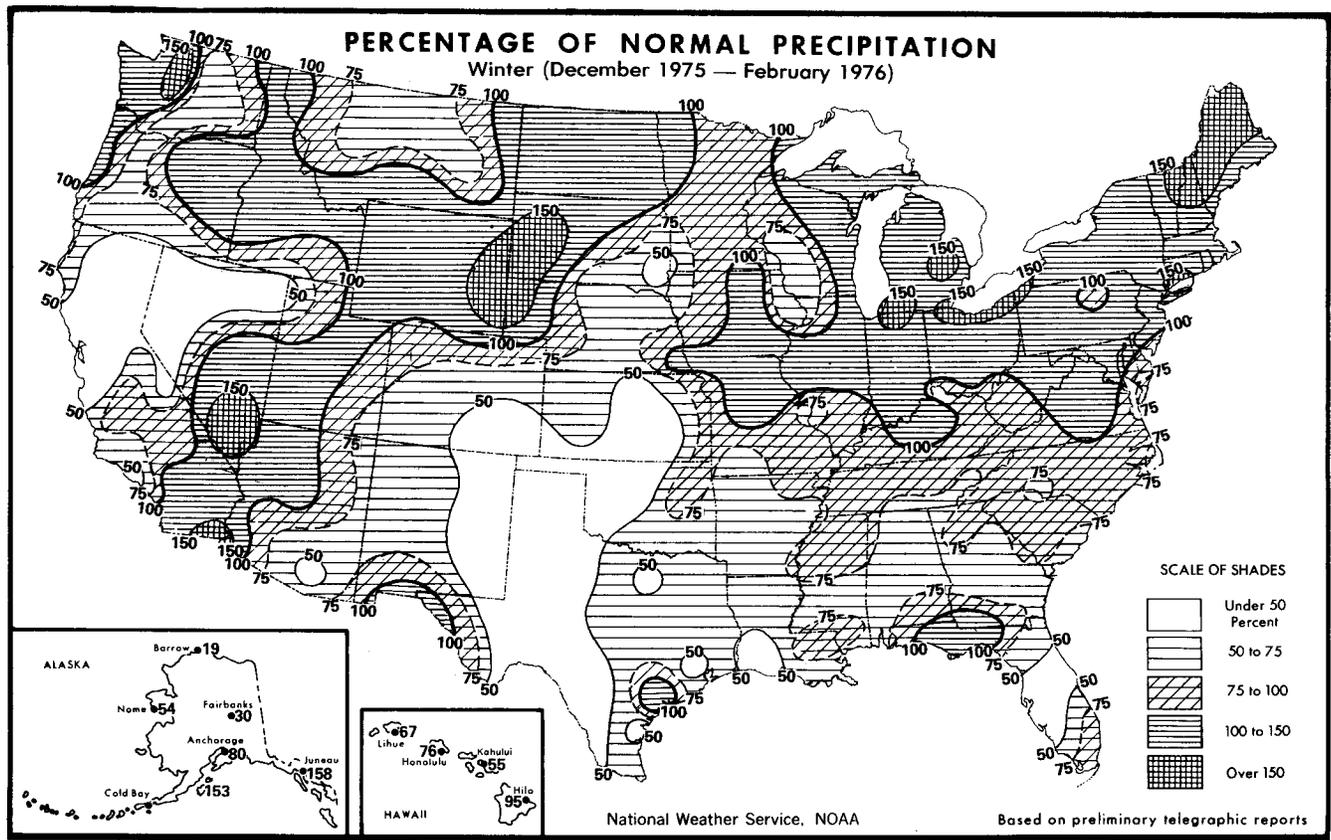
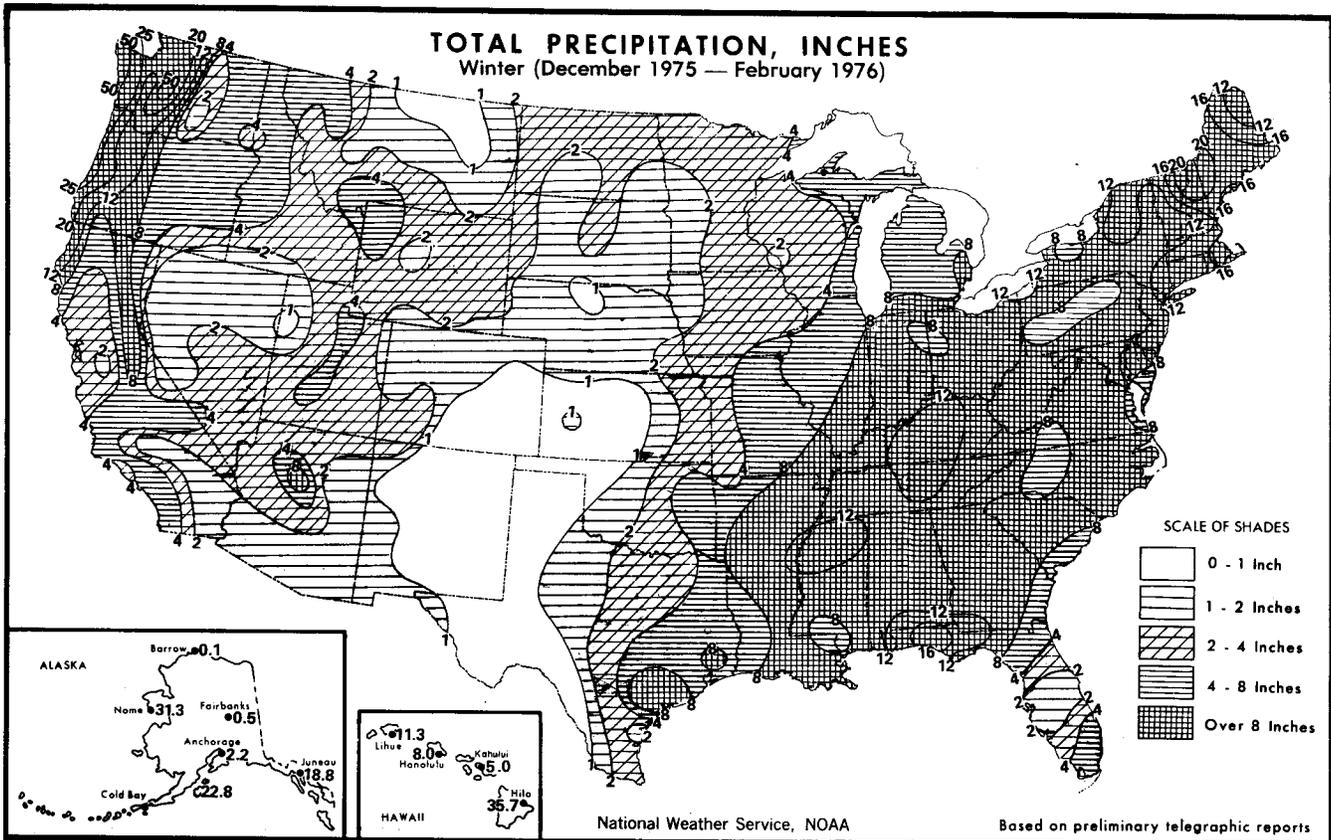
Sharply below normal temperatures wound up autumn in the Plains and all but the middle portion of the Eastern States. However, in December--the first of the winter months--temperatures averaged above normal throughout most of the Nation. Considerable snowmelt early in the month added needed moisture to the soil but growth response was insignificant since even the above normal temperature was below the lowest growth temperature for most plants. Frigid arctic air chilled the West early in the month and the East warmed. As the cold air moved eastward, though, the East grew cold and the West became warm by the end of the month.

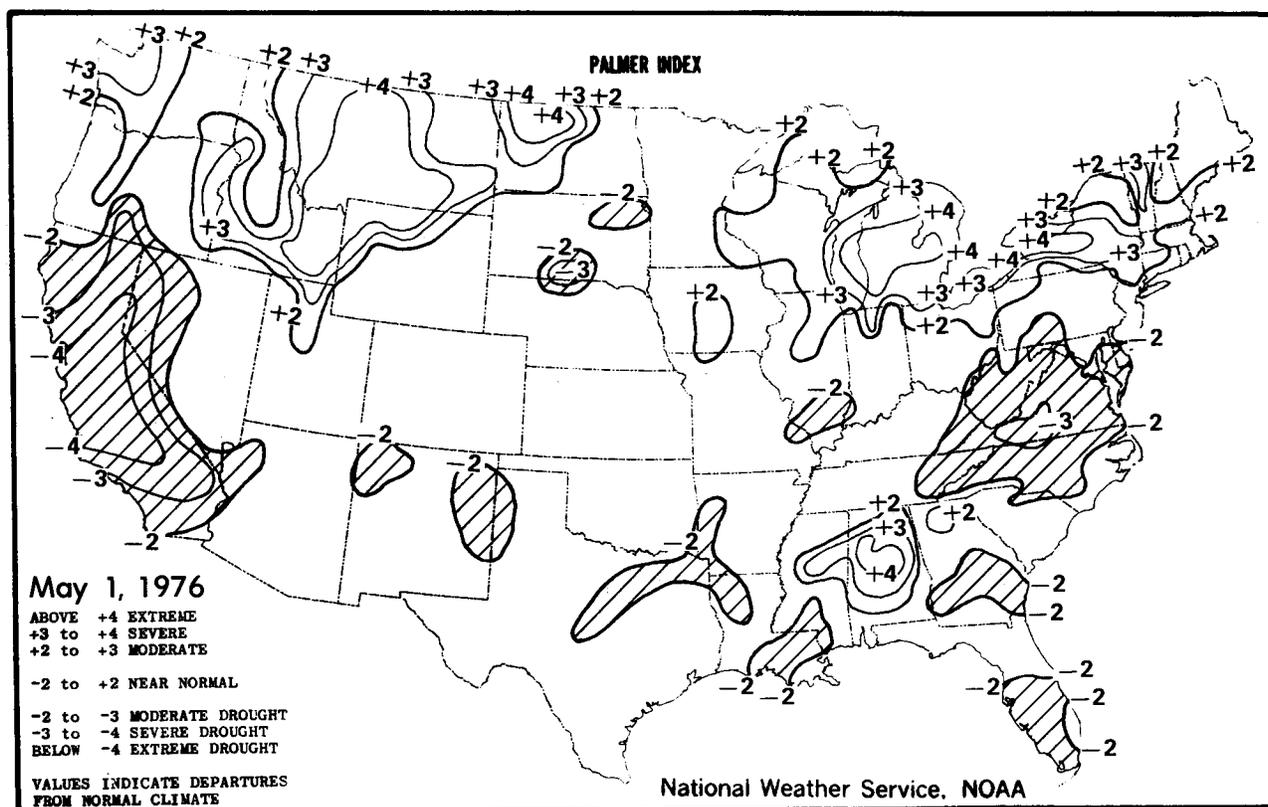
Precipitation was much below normal from southwest Texas through northern Minnesota and in all of California. In fact, most of these areas received no moisture in December. The Florida Peninsula also complained of dry weather in December.

The midwinter month of January continued dry for most of the Nation. Critical grain areas of the central and southern Plains reported only 10% or less of the expected precipitation and lack of snow cover left areas vulnerable to wind erosion, which was already taking its toll on the winter wheat, which had a very poor start in the fall. Rain and snow were also scarce in California, where nearly all of the annual precipitation normally falls in the winter. California counts on snowpack usually stored in the mountains to supply irrigation water for the rest of the year.

Monthly temperatures from eastern Texas through the western Great Lakes region and eastward ranged 2 to 4° above normal, except in the Florida Peninsula, where temperatures were normal. Meantime Pacific Northwest readings ranged up to 12° above normal. In the Southwest and central U.S., temperatures were near normal.

February wrapped up the winter season with comparatively warm weather across most of the Nation. Temperatures in central areas ranged 8 to 12° above normal. At the same time the Nation's midsection remained dry; precipitation concentrated on the Mississippi and Ohio Valleys and northeastward and the West. California and the mountains of the Southwest received their first significant precipitation of the year. Most of the rain fell from central California southward and abundant snow occurred in the southern Sierras. Though welcome, the moisture didn't make up for dryness in December and January but satisfied current needs. Meanwhile the central Plains still needs rain or snow to stabilize soil and provide moisture for soon-to-emerge grains and grasses.





Using the Palmer and Crop Moisture Indexes

The Palmer Index evaluates the scope, severity, and frequency of prolonged periods of abnormally wet or dry weather. For this purpose it works reasonably well. However, it does not provide a measure of the current status of agricultural drought, such as the effects of short periods of very dry weather. For this purpose the Crop Moisture Index was developed to respond rapidly to changes in the soil moisture situation and to reflect only those moisture factors that affect vegetation and field operations.

The Palmer Index provides the best evaluation of the overall soil moisture situation since it reflects the effects of the weather over weeks and even months. The Crop Moisture Index is the most useful in determining the availability of moisture to meet current demands. For example, a recent rain may replenish the soil enough to meet current demands. But if the Palmer Index value is highly negative the overall soil moisture situation could still be very poor.

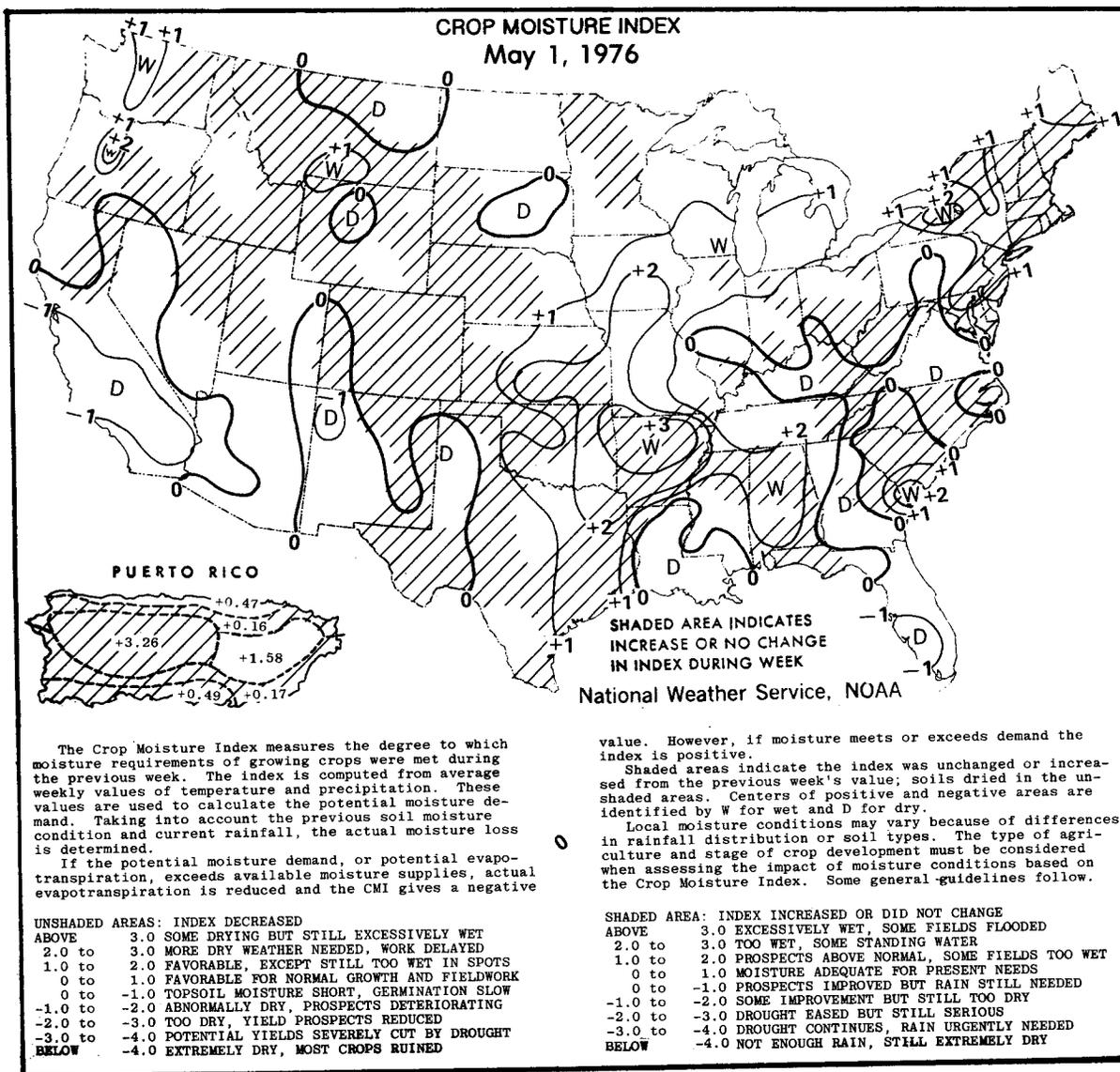
Negative CMI values mean that the demand for moisture, or the potential evapotranspiration, exceeded available supplies, and thus reduced actual

transpiration. On the other hand, positive CMI values mean either that actual evapotranspiration was greater than expected, or that recent rainfall exceeded crop moisture requirements and additional moisture went into the soil or was regarded as runoff.

Negative Palmer Index values imply negative abnormalities of evapotranspiration, moisture stored in or added to the soil, runoff, or a combination of all these types of moisture shortages. In other words, negative PI values indicate abnormally dry weather but do not reflect the exact effects of dry weather.

Positive PI values indicate that the moisture supply either from current or previous rainfalls exceeds the amount needed to sustain soil moisture at a level considered normal and appropriate for the climate of the area.

In brief, Palmer Index values are based on all aspects of the moisture situation, but Crop Moisture values refer only to the current moisture requirements. PI values show long-term moisture conditions, whereas CMI values are more responsive to recent rainfall or its absence.



World Weather and Crop Update

Ever since the fall of 1974, when heavy, incessant rains poured across the area, much of western Europe has had trouble getting rain. Spring and summer of 1975 were very dry. Fall rains were adequate to start over-winter crops but were followed by mostly dry weather.

Hardest hit by April's below normal rainfall was the North Sea region, where dry weather limited growth of forage, caused erratic emergence of newly seeded crops, and resulted in shortages of water for household and industrial use. Winter grain crops could be especially vulnerable if the dry weather continues for several weeks. In addition, some of the coldest weather ever recorded for so late in the season in northern Europe occurred the last week of April.

Much of southern France, Spain, and Portugal received generous April rainfall to boost already favorable crop prospects.

Eastern Europe, on the other hand, tended to be dry in April, especially in East Germany,

Czechoslovakia, and Poland, but closer to normal in the Balkan countries.

Precipitation was timely and adequate in much of the USSR winter wheat region but not up to crop needs in the North Caucasus and parts of the southern Ukraine. Conditions improved in most of the mixed wheat regions of the Volga although rainfall continued to lag below normal at many stations. Moisture shortages continue to plague the Urals.

April precipitation was mostly below normal in Siberia, trending to above normal in southern Kazakhstan of central Asia. Precipitation was above normal in most of northeast Kazakhstan.

In Canada, monthly precipitation through the 28th averaged 102% of normal in Manitoba, 95% in Saskatchewan, and 73% in Alberta.

Timely and mostly above normal April precipitation benefited spring wheat in the People's Republic of China's Manchurian Plain. Rainfall was much more erratic in the North China Plain.



FIRST CLASS MAIL

PLANTING PROGRESS

PERCENT OF ACREAGE PLANTED
 (as of May 2)

corn				cotton				wheat			
	1976	1975	Avg.		1976	1975	Avg.		1976	1975	Avg.
Ga.	88	71	75	Ala.	74	56	55	Minn.	80	3	36
Ill.	43	13	9	Ark.	52	19	17	Mont.	65	5	35
Ind.	30	10	5	Ga.	69	34	55	N. Dak.	50	1	31
Iowa	13	5	15	La.	52	12	35	S. Dak.	98	18	72
Kans.	25	10	25	Miss.	58	15	36				
Ky.	59	16	25	Mo.	52	18	17	4-States	66	4	39
Mich.	10	0	4	N. C.	52	38	N.A.				
Minn.	25	0	8	Okla.	0	0	0				
Mo.	53	19	31	S. C.	67	49	54				
Neb.	10	5	5	Tenn.	60	30	30				
N. C.	79	67	58	Tex.	22	23	17				
Ohio	35	15	25								
S. Dak.	5	1	3	11-States	39	23	24				
Wis.	5	0	2								
U. S.	32	13	18								

These 4-States produced 88% of the Nation's spring wheat (other than durum) in 1975.

These 11 States produced 68% of the Nation's cotton in 1975.

These 14 States produced 89% of the Nation's corn in 1975.