

WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP BULLETIN

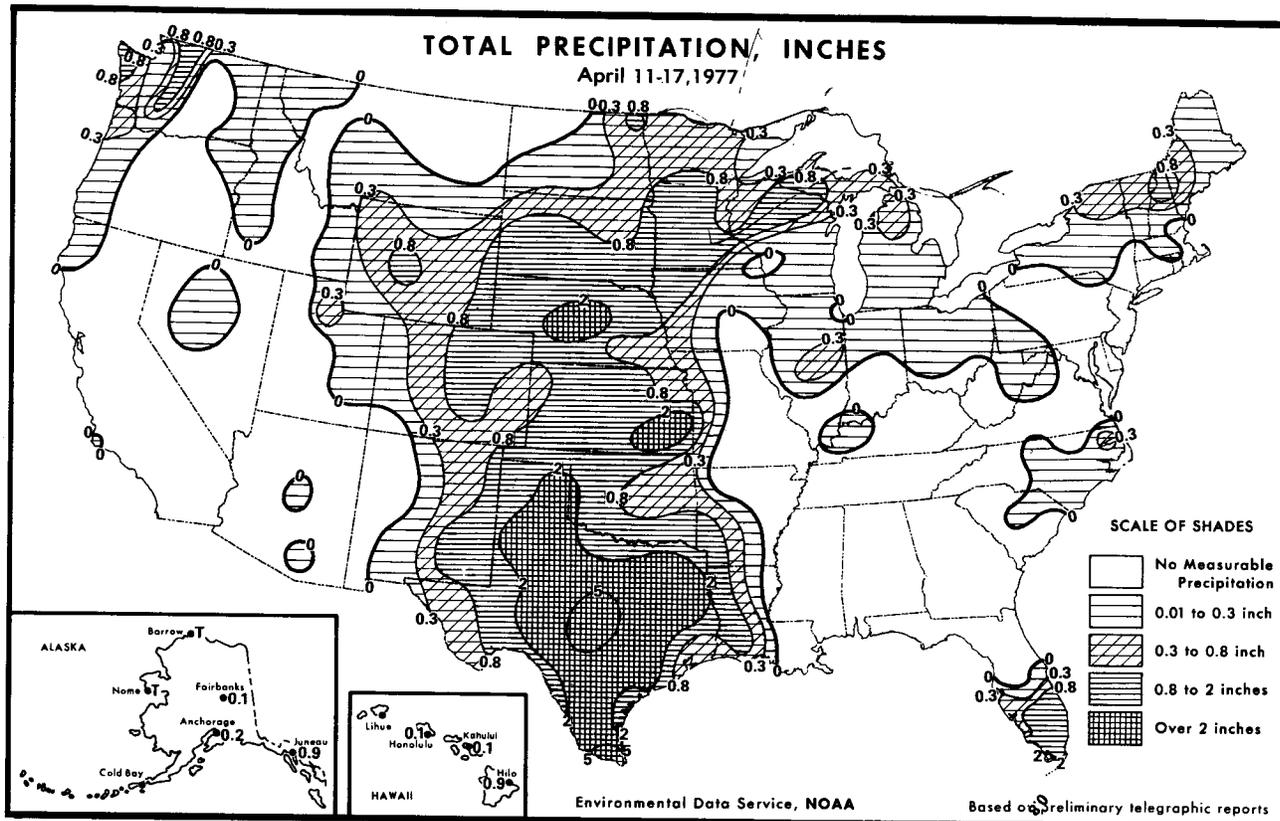
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National Weather Summary

For the Week of April 11-17

HIGHLIGHTS: Stagnating weather patterns produced moderate to heavy precipitation from Texas northward to South Dakota and into the Great Lakes. Rain was especially welcome in the Texas and Oklahoma Panhandles, eastern Colorado, Kansas, and Nebraska. The winter wheat farmers in this area enjoyed much-needed moisture from the timely rainfall. Intense thunderstorms caused flooding in central and south central Texas. The upper tier of the northern Great Plains remained dry and below average seasonal precipitation.

This week, the mercury climbed to record high temperatures from Minnesota and Iowa to the Atlantic Coast. Grand Rapids, Mich., broke an 81-year old record with a top reading of 81° on Tuesday. Baltimore sweltered at 88° on the same day. Rockford, Ill., scored new highs of 86° on Saturday and Sunday.

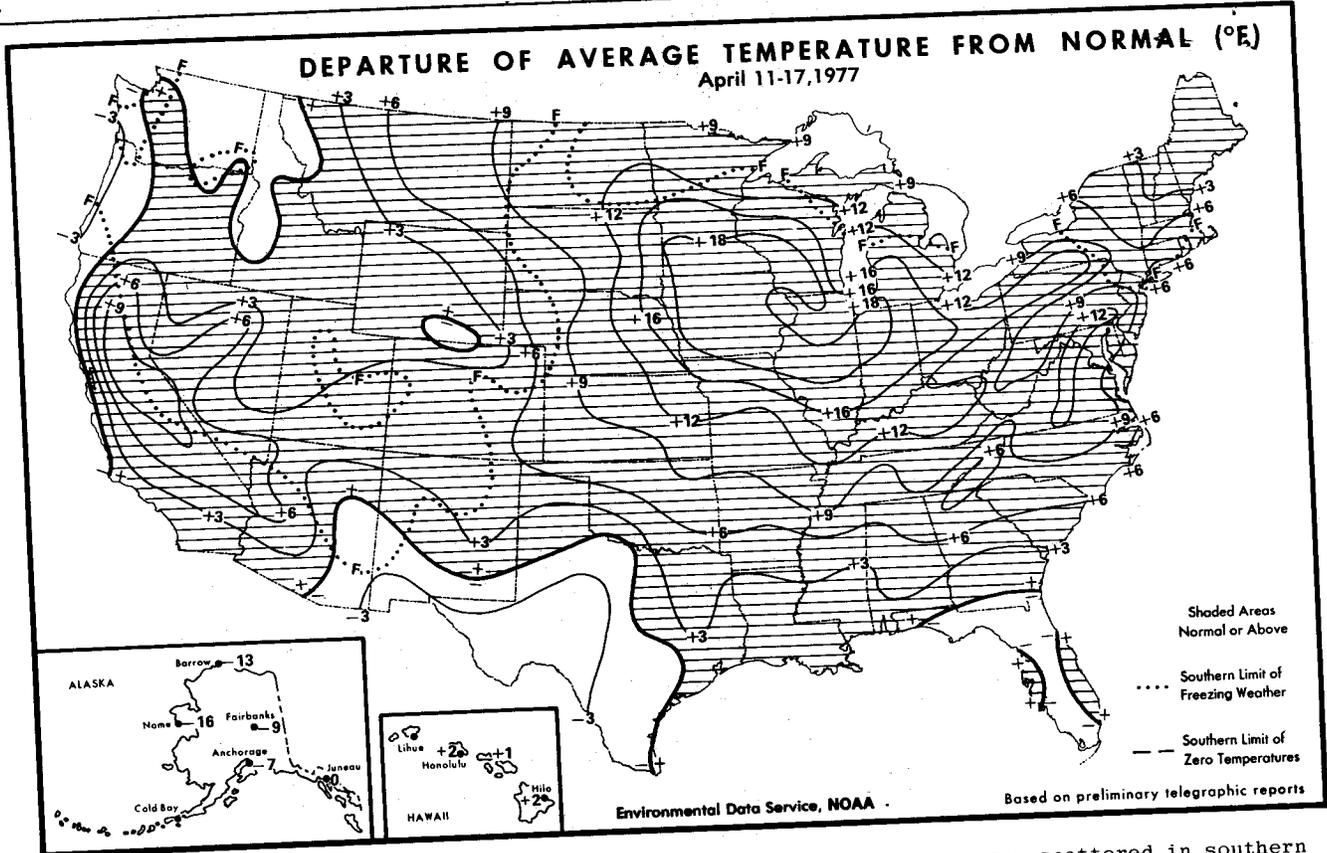
Southern Florida set a record springtime period of 31 days without rain before more than

one inch fell during the week. However, northern Florida suffered a continuing dry spell.

Flood waters receded in the southern Appalachians and Ohio Valley, and allowed the cleanup to begin.

Monday was dampened by scattered showers and thundershowers in the northern and central Rockies eastward into the plains. Some severe thunderstorms, hail, and a tornado hit Colorado. A few showers dotted the southern Rockies and southern Florida.

A high pressure area off the southern Atlantic Coast pumped warm winds into the eastern third of the Nation northward to New York. Summer-like temperatures were notched from Iowa to Virginia, including some new high readings. New England shivered though a wintry morning; Concord, N.H., marked 15°, a new low temperature for April 12.



Widely scattered areas of showers and thunderstorms continued over much of the Great Plains region. A line of heavier activity extended from southwestern Kansas to southeastern Minnesota. Severe thunderstorms, hail, and tornadoes ripped central Kansas and southern Nebraska on Tuesday. Another pocket of precipitation was welcomed in extreme southern Florida.

Fair skies and seasonable temperatures prevailed from the West Coast to the Rockies.

There was no relief from the spring heat wave that stretched from southern Michigan to the middle Atlantic Coast States. Previous record temperatures melted in the afternoon sun; Washington, D.C., and New York City registered 90°.

A developing low pressure center over Wisconsin triggered showers and thundershowers on Wednesday in the Midwest and along a trailing frontal system to northeastern New Mexico. Intensity picked up in midmorning as hail and heavy rains hit portions of Kansas, New Mexico, and Texas. Rain reached across the lower Great Lakes into northern New England. Scattered showers spread from the Pacific Northwest into Nevada and Montana. For the fourth straight day, southern Florida experienced light rain.

The East chalked up more record high temperatures; the South worked to repair damages as the previous week's flood waters receded.

Southern Texas awoke to a Thursday of heavy rain, flash flooding, hail, and tornadoes. Some areas were swamped by more than five inches of rain. Western Texas, southeastern New Mexico, and the Oklahoma Panhandle were lashed by thunderstorms. Showers and thunderstorms covered the northeastern Great Plains and the Upper Mississippi

Valley. Rainshowers were scattered in southern Florida and the central Appalachians, and snow flurries fell over the northern Rockies.

A cold front pushed through the northern Atlantic Coast States southward, and brought isolated showers and mild temperatures.

Central Texas bore the brunt of heavy rains, wind, and hail early Friday morning, and flooding compounded the problem as precipitation continued through the day. Showers and thunderstorms were scattered between the Great Lakes and the Rockies. Rain, with some snow in the mountains, spread from the Pacific Northwest inland. Fair skies were common over the Atlantic Coast States, the Southwest, and most areas west of the Rockies.

The slow-moving upper air disturbance that had plagued Texas this week produced more rain and hail on Saturday. Two tornadoes clipped the upper Coastal Plains of the State. A band of thunderstorms moved over eastern New Mexico southeastward to the Rio Grande. Showers and thundershowers fell over the central and southern Plains, the upper Mississippi Valley and Great Lakes, the northern Rockies, and the Carolinas.

The East, Southeast, and most locales from the West Coast to the Rocky Mountains basked under sunny skies once again.

Locally heavy rains diminished in most parts of Texas. Sunday's rain extended from the Texas Panhandle into central Kansas, then through eastern Oklahoma to Louisiana. The Nation's midsection was under the influence of a nearly stationary frontal system which combined with moist southerly winds to produce showers and thundershowers.

Warm and sunny weather prevailed in the West, parts of the Midwest, Southeast, and East.

National Agricultural Summary

For the week of April 11 - 17

HIGHLIGHTS: Rains throughout the Great Plains perked up the winter wheat crop. In the eastern part of the Nation, high temperature and clear weather gave farmers nearly the entire week to prepare land and plant fields. Producers made good progress in southern areas, equalling last year's corn planting rate and far surpassing the average. Cotton planting reached 8% complete, lagging behind the 12% for 1976 and the average. A few of the earliest soybean fields were planted in North Carolina and Arkansas. Sorghum planting advanced quickly in Texas and Arkansas. Peaches bloomed across northern production areas. Soil moisture was mostly adequate in the eastern part of the Nation, but some areas slipped into the short category after no rain and high temperatures. Pastures improved except in the West where soil moisture was short. Dry conditions intensified in California.

SMALL GRAINS: Rains helped most of the winter wheat crop throughout the Great Plains except Oklahoma where crop condition declined. The winter wheat crop ranged from the soft dough stage in southern areas to some jointing in Kansas. The crop was in good condition except in the West.

Rains stimulated Kansas winter wheat growth; 20% of the State's acreage reached the jointing stage. Farmers sprayed to control weeds. Insects multiplied rapidly, but caused no serious damage. Oklahoma rains did not ease the topsoil moisture shortage; the rapidly growing winter wheat crop suffered. About 80% of the wheat acreage jointed and 5% headed in the South and Southwest. It was too early to assess the impact of rain on the Panhandle dryland wheat crop. Moisture-stressed wheat on the Texas northern High Plains received some needed rain; wheat grew well in other areas. Stands in the Low Plains southward ranged from the milk to soft dough stages. Colorado wheat improved from poor to fair condition although soil moisture remained short. In the eastern part of the Nation, winter wheat rated mostly good; the Mountain and Pacific Coast States rated poor to fair except in irrigated areas. Some of the California dryland crop will be a total loss.

Spring wheat seeding advanced in the five major producing States and exceeded the average planting rate, but fell behind the 1976 pace. North Dakota farmers seeded less than 5% of the spring wheat acreage. Planting ranged from 15 to 45% complete in other major States.

CORN: Farmers planted corn in the important North Central States. Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, and Ohio showed the most progress. Progress was 18% complete in Missouri, 10% in Kansas, and 5% in Ohio and Illinois. The pace equalled or exceeded the average, but generally fell short of 1976. In the southern half of the Nation, corn planting neared the halfway mark, exceeding the average in almost all States, plus last year's pace in about half the States.

COTTON: Farmers planted 8% of the 1977 cotton crops in the 11 southern States lagging behind

the 12% planted in 1976 and the average. New Mexico farmers began planting cotton; Arizona producers finished planting in western areas and were 40-50% complete elsewhere. Planting was well along in California. About 6% of the Georgia crop was up.

OTHER CROPS: Farmers in Georgia and North Carolina began planting sorghum. In Arkansas, producers planted 23% of the crop, 10 points less than last year, but edging ahead of the 22% average. Texas growers reached 53% complete, equalling 1976 and surpassing the 44% average. Rains stopped planting from the Blacklands southward. A few fields were planted on the southern Low Plains, but did not germinate yet. Moisture was good to excellent for planting.

Texas rice growers were on schedule at 76% complete, equal to 1976 and a point less than average. Louisiana growers reached 56%; 12 points ahead of 1976. Arkansas and Mississippi rice growers lagged behind last year. Overnight low temperatures slowed growth of early Texas stands. Arkansas growers constructed levees.

Soybean producers planted only a few early fields in North Carolina and Arkansas.

Peanut planting advanced into North Carolina where growers seeded some of the earliest fields. Planting reached 15% complete in Georgia, 17% in South Carolina, and 19% in Texas. Progress was ahead of the 1976 rate in Texas, however, it lagged in the Atlantic Coast States.

FRUITS AND NUTS: Peaches reached full bloom in several States including New Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland. About 24% of Pennsylvania peaches reached the pink stage. Frost damaged some fruit crops in the Northeast. The Michigan fruit crops developed faster than normal. Florida citrus growers irrigated groves and picked Valencias; trees were setting new crop fruit. Growers also picked citrus fruit in Texas, Arizona and California; California apples and walnuts were in bloom. Oregon orchards bloomed as growers sprayed trees. Washington orchards were in various stages of bloom where growers protected the crop from frost and chemically thinned.

VEGETABLES: Florida vegetable volume increased 20%. Leading gainers were sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, okra, peppers, potatoes and tomatoes. Other crops held steady or declined. Wind damaged some fields, and irrigation demands were heavy. Texas vegetable growers harvested carrots, onions, and cabbage; okra, peas, sweet corn, beans and melons were planted. California broccoli, carrot, and lettuce volumes were heavy. Onion and strawberry harvests increased, celery declined.

PASTURES AND LIVESTOCK: Grasslands in the eastern half of the Nation were in fair to good condition and improving; only Florida pastures were dry. Some pastures were overgrazed because hay supplies ran low and farmers turned cattle out early. In most Mountain States and California, ranges were poor, reflecting the dry soil. California grasses went to seed. Cattle were in good condition, however, California ranchers culled herds.

April 17, 1977

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

Table with columns for States and Stations, Temperature (Average, Departure), and Precipitation (Total, Departure) in degrees Fahrenheit and inches. Includes data for various states like ALA, ARIZ, ARK, CALIF, COLO, CONN, D.C., FLA, GA, HAWAII, ILL, IND, IOWA, KANS, KY, LA, MAINE, MD, MASS, MICH, MINN, MISS, MO, MONT, NEBR, NEV, N.H., N.J., N.MEX., N.Y., N.C., N.DAK., OHIO, OKLA., OREG., PA., R.I., S.C., S.D., TENN., TEX., UTAH, VA., VT., WASH., W.VA., WIS., WYO., and P.R.

Based on 1941-70 normals

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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.

ALABAMA: Temperatures 7° above normal. No rain-fall.

Fieldwork: 5.7 days suitable. Corn 44% planted, 38% 1976, 21% average. Cotton 16% planted, 21% 1976, 16% average. Small grains fair to good. Wheat 33% headed. Irish potatoes good. Pastures fair to good, showing improvement. Soil moisture short to adequate, shortages in south.

ARIZONA: Mostly dry, low humidity. Scattered rain, snow eastern half. Temperatures 4° below to 5° above normal.

Early planted cotton stands good. Planting nearing completion west, 40 to 50% complete remainder. Small grains heading. Sugarbeets good condition. Haying activity accelerating. Lettuce harvest complete Yuma, seasonal volume central, south central, begin soon southeast. Cantaloups, watermelons growing well. Grapes, deciduous fruit good progress. Grapefruit, valencia orange picking active. Dry conditions continued. Warmer weather aided forage growth. Soil moisture short. Stockwater supplies short. Livestock fair to good.

ARKANSAS: Temperatures 3 to 10° above normal. Extremes: 89 and 44°. Rainfall sparce with 0.17 in. the greatest.

Soil moisture short west, adequate elsewhere. Fieldwork: 6 days suitable. Some early soybean fields planted. Cotton planting 7% complete, 9% last year, average 5%. Rice seeding 28% complete, 42% year ago, average 34%. Levees being surveyed and constructed. Corn planting 51% complete, 61% last year, average 46%. Sorghum crop 23% planted, 33% 1976, average 22%. Wheat and oats good condition. Pastures providing adequate feed. Most cattle herds making good gains.

CALIFORNIA: Very small amounts rain to extreme north. Temperatures slightly above normal at coast and well above normal in central valley and mountains.

Dryland small grain poor condition. Some total loss. Some being sheeped off or cut for hay. Cotton planting well along. Corn planting increasing, rice planting started. Grapefruit, lemon, and orange harvest continues. Apples, avocados, and walnuts in bloom. Cherry set better than average. Artichoke harvest at peak. Broccoli, carrot, lettuce volume heavy. Celery lighter. Onion, strawberry harvest increasing. Extreme drought continues. Grasses gone to seed. Stock water supplies far below normal. Supplemental feeding continues; ranchers thinning herds. Cattle fair.

COLORADO: Over 2.00 in. rain portions of eastern plains, around 0.50 in. on western slope, about 12 in. new snow in mountains. Temperatures 8° above normal; 90's in southwest, 80's elsewhere. Mountains in mid-50's.

Winter wheat improved from poor to fair condition. Soil moisture improved but remains mostly short. Spring seeding: Oats 46% 1977, 65% 1976; sugarbeets 37% 1977, 10% 1976, average 24%; summer potatoes 22% 1977, 37% 1976, average 20%. Corn planting started. Range and pasture fair to poor. Livestock in mostly good condition. Calving 75% completed; lambing 63%.

FLORIDA: Dry and mild Panhandle, northern Peninsula with temperatures averaging near to slightly below normal. Moderate to heavy scattered thundershowers brought much needed rains to central, southern Peninsula. Amounts ranged from none to over 6.00 in. Temperatures averaged near normal central, south.

Soil moisture short. Corn planting nearing completion. Cotton, peanut, tobacco planting continues. Land preparation for seeding soybean active. Early corn good condition. Wheat, oats headed, very good condition. Sugarcane good condition. Tobacco especially in need of moisture. Peach and nectarine prospects good. Pasture condition mostly fair, declining Panhandle; poor, Peninsula due to soil moisture shortage. Cattle condition good most Panhandle, extreme northern areas; poor north central; and varies from poor to good southern areas. Citrus groves good condition but dry; irrigation active all areas. Some old crop fruit softening, new crop fruit still setting. Valencia harvest very active. Spring vegetable harvest gaining momentum. Total volume rose 20%. Sweet corn, cucumber, eggplant, okra, pepper, potato, tomato movement increased sharply. Snap bean, cabbage, carrot, celery, lettuce, radish, squash held steady. Chinese cabbage, escarole, strawberries declined in supply. Wind damaged some fields. Irrigation remains heavy. Spray programs active. Watermelon growth good. Fruit sizing well. First harvest expected 25th.

GEORGIA: Temperature 5 to 7° above normal north and near normal south. Near or below freezing 9th and 10th over mountain.

Soil moisture short south, short to mostly adequate north. Fieldwork: 6 days suitable. Planting extremely active. Corn 74% planted, last year 73%, average 35%; condition fair to mostly good. Tobacco 86% transplanted, last year 92%, average 79%; condition fair to mostly good. Watermelon 81% planted, last year 83%; condition much improved fair to mostly good. Cotton 25% seeded, last year 35%, average 11%; condition fair to mostly good; 6% up to stand. Peanuts 15% planted, last year 16%, average 6%; condition fair to good. Sorghum 2% planted, last year 6%, average 0%. Soybeans 1% planted, last year and average 0%. Small grains good. Both apple and peaches fair to mostly good. Pasture and cattle fair to mostly good. Hogs good.

HAWAII: Weather favorable; rainfall light low lying area moderate some higher elevation.

Spraying frequent to control insect and disease damage. Winds gusty at times damaging crops exposed areas. Vegetable supplies adequate. Banana, pineapple and papaya supplies light. Sugar harvesting active. Forage growth improving.

IDAHO: Light precipitation north and southwest. Temperatures near normal.

Seedbed preparation, planting slow slightly by light storm. Planting to 2 weeks ahead of normal. Livestock moving to ranges. Calving nearing completion. Percent crops planted, this year and a year ago: Spring wheat 45%, 20%; barley 45%, 20%; oats 35%, 25%; sugarbeets 50%, 35%.

ILLINOIS: Temperatures up to 20° above normal. Precipitation extremely light most areas, heavier central.

Corn 5% planted, 12% 1976, 5% average. Winter wheat good. Oats 95% seeded, 100% 1976, 79% average. Corn and soybean acreage 92% plowed, 98% 1976, 84% average. Pastures good. Soil moisture short. Livestock water supplies adequate. Fieldwork: 6.4 days suitable.

INDIANA: Warm, dry, practically no precipitation. Temperatures, both air and soil, 10 to 15° above normal. Humidity low and evaporation rates very high.

Fieldwork: 6 days suitable. Topsoil moisture adequate, subsoil moisture short to mostly adequate. Land for spring planted crops 75% plowed, 1976 85%, average 55%. Oats 80% seeded, 1976 90%, average 45%. Wheat 6 in. tall, 1976 9 in. Wheat 5% jointed, 1976 30%. Pastures mostly fair to good.

IOWA: Unseasonably warm with temperatures averaging 15 to 18° above normal. Moderate precipitation over west and north central, other areas dry.

Fieldwork: 5.9 days suitable. Plowing 84% complete, oats seeding 92% complete, and corn planting just beginning. Soil moisture dropped with warm dry winds: Topsoil adequate. Subsoil short. Pastures in fair condition with little growth. Livestock in good condition.

KANSAS: Frequent rains averaged 0.20 in. northeast and 0.50 to 1.00 in. elsewhere. Temperatures averaged from 59° northwest and 66 to 68° east and from 7° above normal south central to 13° above normal northeast.

Rains stimulated wheat growth; 20% acreage reached jointing stage. Weeds becoming problem many areas, spraying continues. Insects rapidly multiplying; no appreciable damage thus far. Planting corn reached 10%; wet fields delayed efforts somewhat. still ahead 5% seeding average. Livestock remain on wheat pasture, native pastures continue to improve with moisture. Seedbed preparation, irrigating, weed spraying and fertilizing kept farmers busy.

KENTUCKY: Temperatures above normal averaging about 67°. Precipitation averaged only trace.

Fieldwork: 6 days suitable. Soil moisture short to adequate. Excellent progress plowing and land preparation; spring plowing 73% complete, 80% last year and 60% average. Practically all tobacco plant beds seeded, 56% with plants up, 74% last year, and 55% average. Most beds in good condition. Corn planting accelerated; 12% in ground, behind last year's record pace of 24% but above 8% average. About 28% wheat jointing. Pasture overgrazing due to hay shortage.

LOUISIANA: Temperatures 1 to 2° above normal. Extremes: 45 and 86°. Scattered showers 10th and 15th developing into widespread rain by 17th.

Fieldwork: 5.7 days suitable. Main activities: Seedbed preparation, planting, and weed and insect control practices. Rice 56% planted, 44% last year. Corn 72% planted, 70% last year. Cotton 6% planted, same as year ago. Sugarcane stands good but growth behind last year. Small grain condition good. Wheat 54% headed; oats 42% headed. First hay cut. Irish potatoes growing well. Planting active for assortment of truck crops. Pastures average. Cattle condition fair to good.

MARYLAND & DELAWARE: Temperatures above normal. Highs well above normal and lows about equal to normal. Precipitation negligible.

Plowing for corn 75% complete, slightly ahead of normal. Planting to being next week. Seeding oats 80% complete south, just underway north. Small grains poor to fair condition. Planting tobacco beds complete. Growers marketing last year's crop at auction. Peaches reached full bloom. Damage to apples and peaches from freezes not serious.

MICHIGAN: Temperatures 15 to 20° above normal southwest Lower and 10 to 15° northeast Lower and Upper. Warmest temperatures rose to 80's over southern Lower early week and weekend. Colder temperatures midweek ranging mid-20's to mid-30's northern Lower and Upper to mid-30's and 40's southern Lower. Precipitation ranged between 0.10 and 0.50 in. Lower and from 0.10 to 1.50 in. Upper.

Weather conditions ideal for land preparation and planting. Oat seeding nearing completion south. Sugarbeets 50% planted. Early potato planting well underway. Very small acreage corn planted on lighter soils. Some asparagus picked. Fruit developing faster than normal.

MINNESOTA: Temperatures 10° above normal north to 20° above normal south. Extremes: 87 and 23°. Precipitation less than 0.25 in. extreme northeast, northwest and southeast and 0.25 to 1.00 in. elsewhere except 1.00 to 2.00 in. central through south central.

Small grain seeding good progress south, underway in Red River Valley. Some southern fields emerged. Corn ground preparation beginning in south; only few fields planted. Topsoil moisture sufficient for germination, early growth. Subsoil remains short. Corn 11% ground prepared, 1976 27%, normal 8%. Percent planted: Spring wheat 32%, 1976 42%, normal 18%; oats 39%, 1976 56%, normal 21%; barley 13%, 1976 23%, normal 11%; sugarbeets 6%, 1976 5%, normal 2%; potatoes 2%, 1976 3%, normal 1%; green peas for processing 18%, 1976 19%, normal 6%.

MISSISSIPPI: Temperatures 1 to 5° above normal. Extremes: 37 and 85°. No rainfall.

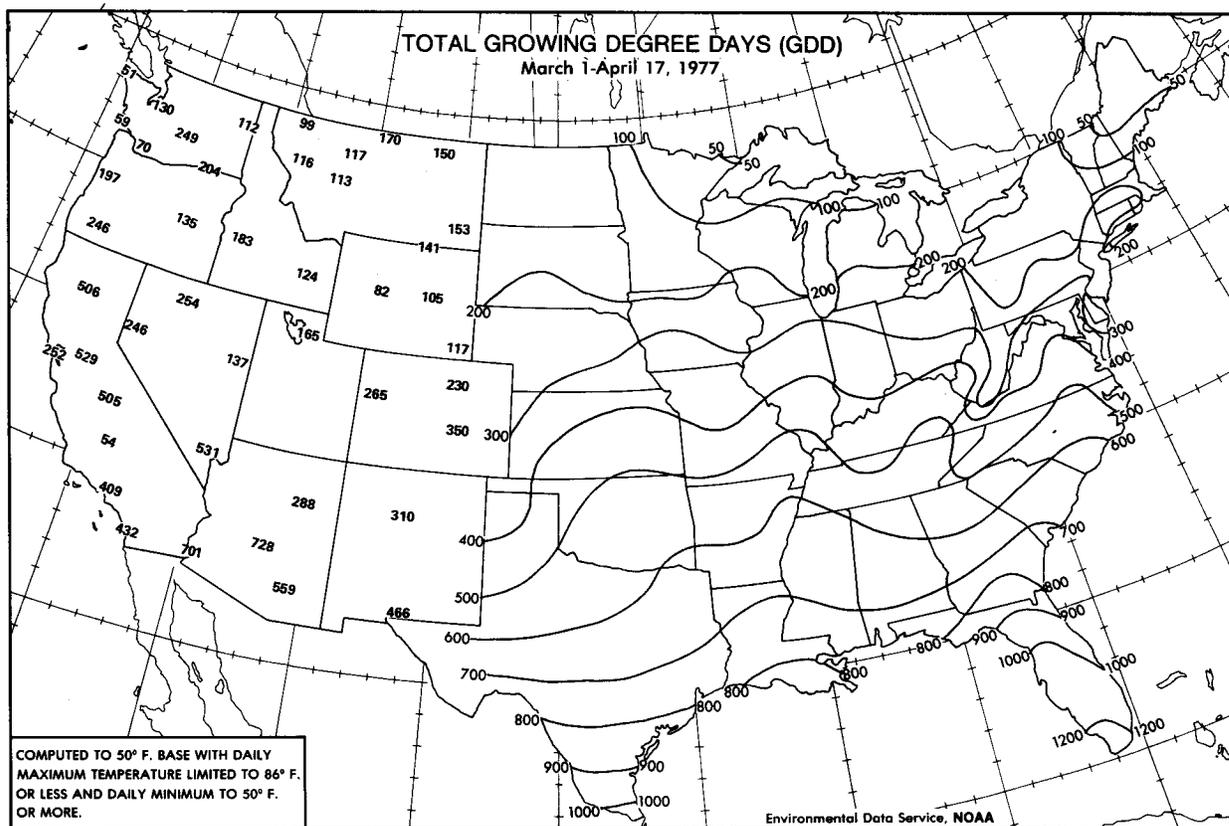
Soil moisture adequate. Fieldwork: 5.9 days suitable. Acreage plowed 76%, 74% 1976. Cotton 8% planted, 12% 1976. Rice 30% planted, 50% 1976. Corn 49% planted, 46% 1976, 25% average; 24% up to stand, 22% 1976. Winter wheat 91% jointing, 88% 1976; 20% headed, 46% 1976. Oats 86% jointing, 91% 1976; 26% headed, 41% 1976. Crops in good to fair condition.

MISSOURI: Temperatures reached high 70's to low 80's averaging 10 to 15° above normal. Dry weather prevailed with no rainfall east Ozarks and Bootheel. Northeast prairie and west Ozarks averaged only 0.01 in. while west central plains averaged 0.09 in. and the northwest prairie averaged 0.15.

Plowing 86% complete, 90% last year. Oats 97% sown, 63% normal. Corn 18% planted, 33% last year, 10% normal. Cotton 4% planted, 2% normal. Wheat condition fair to good. Pasture condition fair. Livestock condition fair. Soil moisture supply short. Fieldwork: 5.9 days suitable.

MONTANA: Warm, dry except below normal temperatures west. Sparse precipitation midweek and end of week. Cooler temperatures weekend. Below normal precipitation.

Topsoil moisture short north, generally adequate elsewhere. Winter wheat condition fair to good. Spring seeding conditions poor drier



areas. About 15% spring wheat, barley and oats seeded--nearly half of last year's progress, but 5 points ahead normal. Field tillage and seeding operations just starting north, well underway southern areas. Calving 75%, lambing 70%, shearing 60% complete.

NEBRASKA: Temperatures 5 to 15° above normal. Precipitation 0.25 to 1.00 in.

Farmers continuing spring fieldwork. Topsoil moisture supplies adequate. Subsoil moisture supply short. Winter wheat mostly fair condition. Oats and barley nearly 75% planted. Pasture and range feed supplies short. Pastures greening. Calving continues.

NEVADA: Mild and dry. Temperatures 2 to 3° above normal. Extremes: 12 to 91°.

Good progress fieldwork; warm weather promoted winter grain growth. Alfalfa haying confined to southern valleys. Limited movement livestock to ranges.

NEW ENGLAND: Record low temperatures 11th 10 to 20° below normal. Rapid warming 12th and 13th; temperatures in 80's. Light precipitation 13th with some sections of south receiving none at all. Heaviest amounts in northern Vermont and northern New Hampshire.

NEW JERSEY: Temperatures averaged 5 to 10° above normal. Extremes: 28 and 89°. Little or no rainfall. Soil moisture in percent of field capacity 87 north, 76 central and 71 south. Soil temperature 49° north, 52° central and 56° south.

Minimal peach damage from low night temperatures. Small grains improving slightly. Plowing very active. Potato planting nearing completion. Peaches in full bloom.

NEW MEXICO: Very good rains east of Rio Grande Valley last of week with many totals of more than 1.00 in. Rains tapered off 17th with gradual clearing eastern sections.

Soil moisture short. Cotton and corn planting began. Dryland winter wheat poor to fair condition, irrigated crops fair to good. Lettuce, onions and barley, fair to good condition. Ranges poor north, fair south. Livestock fair to good.

NEW YORK: Temperatures 40's north, 50's south; 3 to 11° above normal. Extremes: 7 and 88°. Light precipitation ranged up to 0.50 in.

Conditions quite dry. Limited plowing underway.

NORTH CAROLINA: Temperatures averaged 7° above normal. Precipitation well below normal.

Soil moisture adequate. Fieldwork: 5.5 days suitable. Main farm activities: Land preparation and corn planting. Conditions: Irish potatoes, wheat, rye and tobacco in field are fair to good. Pasture, tobacco plant beds and truck crops are mostly good. Oats and barley are mostly fair. Planting: Corn 45% complete, 1976 50%, average 25%; cotton 9%, 1976 10%, average 8%. Transplanting: Tobacco about 5% complete, 1976 10%, average 9%. Peanuts, sorghum and soybean planting just beginning.

NORTH DAKOTA: Temperatures above normal. Extremes: 91 and 25°. Precipitation below normal. Small grain seeding general but less than 5% complete. Livestock fair to good condition.

OHIO: Total rainfall light. Ranging from a trace south to 0.12 in. north. Temperatures above normal.

Condition for seed germination and plant growth good. Plowing 80% done, 90% 1976, 65% normal. Tobacco 90% sown, 75% 1976, 70% normal. Planting completed: Oats 55%, 80% 1976, 40% average; potatoes 20%, 30% last year, 15% normal; sugarbeets 45%, 65% 1976, 30% average; corn 5%, equal to 1976, normal is less than 5%. Wheat condition mostly good. Apples fair to mostly good. Peaches poor south fair to good elsewhere. Soil moisture adequate. Fieldwork: 6 days suitable. Pasture fair to good.

OKLAHOMA: Temperatures above normal except southeast and ranged from 9° above normal over the northeast to 6° below normal over the southeast. Substantial rainfall. Southwest had most rainfall with an average of 1.95 in. Northeast had least with an average of 0.61 in.

Rains not sufficient to ease short topsoil moisture. Rapid growing small grain crops lost some condition, as 80% wheat acreage now jointing and 5% heading in south and southwest. Greenbug population remains heavy west central but natural predators effective in southwest. Too early to assess value of fair to good rains in Panhandle to dryland crops there. First corn planted in Panhandle as planting elsewhere lags. Ground preparation for row crops about normal. Early watermelons emerging in south central. Range condition fair but needs more rain for good growth. Cattle condition improved, with stock on wheat graze-out making good gains.

OREGON: Rainfall averaged 0.50 in. Willamette Valley and 0.75 in. along coast. Elsewhere amounts 0.10 in. or less with most of east remaining very dry. Temperatures averaged near normal.

Major farm activities: Spring land preparation and fertilizing. Some spring grains being seeded, mostly in west. Winter wheat in poor condition dryland, summer fallow areas and in fair to good condition elsewhere. Orchard crops blooming and sprays applied. Strawberries starting to bud. Vegetable plantings continue. Onions coming up. Livestock, calves and lambs in particular, in excellent shape. Pastures and ranges short of moisture east. Stock water situation poor.

PENNSYLVANIA: Sunny, warm and dry. Temperatures 10 to 15° above normal. Very warm first half, seasonable thereafter. Extremes: 92 and 22°. Light and widely scattered showers 13th provided only rainfall measuring 0.50 in. or less most places.

Fieldwork: 5 days suitable. Moisture adequate. Activities: Plowing, fertilizing, orchard pruning and spraying, grape trimming and tying, planting oats, potatoes, red clover. Plowing 33%, last year near 60%. Oats 25% sown, behind last year's 44%. Potatoes 9% planted, last year 27%. Tobacco beds sown. Barley, wheat and hay condition good. Feed from pastures average. Peaches 24% pink stage, apples under 5%. Cherries 13% pink. Slight frost damage to early peach varieties.

PUERTO RICO: Island average rainfall 0.74 in. or 0.19 in. below normal. Temperatures averaged about 77° on coasts and 71° interior. Extremes: 94 and 52°.

Drought affecting agriculture mostly south. Irrigation used; water rationed some areas. Sugarcane and tobacco harvest active. Dry weather benefited maturity of cane and tobacco harvesting and drying. Good blooming coffee trees and good harvest expected if it rains. Few showers north relaxed drought effects on pasture and food crops but rest of island suffering due dryness. Milk

production diminishing; cattle losing weight. Farmers planting some interior areas taking advantage of few rains.

SOUTH CAROLINA: Temperatures normal. Rain nil, few scattered showers 15th. Some frost northwest.

Moisture and plant condition in tobacco plant beds fair. Tobacco transplanting nearly half complete. Young transplanted plants need rainfall. Small grains good condition, need rain. Corn, watermelon planting nearing completion. Around 86% of land prepared for spring planting. Other activities: Transplanting, staking tomatoes; harvesting greens; hoeing, sidedressing, cultivating, squash, cucumbers, tomatoes; planting snap beans; thinning peaches, spraying peach trees for disease. Corn planted: 80% 1977, 78% 1976, 47% average. Cotton planted: 31% 1977, 27% 1976, 12% average. Tobacco planted: 45% 1977, 80% 1976, 54% average. Watermelons planted: 91% 1977, 82% 1976, 70% average. Peanuts planted: 17% 1977, 28% 1976, 19% average. Sweetpotatoes planted: 5% 1977.

SOUTH DAKOTA: Precipitation ranged up to 1.88 in. Above average precipitation for year ranging from 0.25 to 3.00 in. Temperatures above normal. Extremes: 27 and 89°.

Fieldwork ahead of normal, temporary delays from showers. Percent seeded: Oats 45%, 1976 86%, normal 32%; spring wheat 36%, 1976 87%, normal 30%; barley 35%, 1976 80%, normal 25%. Early corn planting to begin soon. Winter wheat poor to fair condition, spot reseeding in winter-killed patches. Topsoil moisture adequate. Subsoil moisture short. Damp weather caused above normal losses in newborn livestock. Large feed shipments to move into State. Warm weather and more rain needed to aid rapid recovery of pastures.

TENNESSEE: Temperatures to 10° above normal. Trace precipitation.

Fieldwork: 5.2 days suitable. Soil moisture adequate. Tobacco beds up to good stand in many areas. Corn 30% planted, cotton 5%. Wheat, oats, pasture condition good, but need rain. Plowing 80% complete. Livestock good condition with face flies causing problems. Fruit and vegetable crops good condition.

TEXAS: Thunderstorms, heavy rain ranging from 1.00 to 4.50 in. Temperatures near normal. Soil temperatures 70's south to mid-50's north. Soils warm enough to plant most crops except Panhandle.

Moderate to heavy rains provided moisture all areas. Dryland wheat, oats have sufficient moisture carry to maturity, except northern High Plains. Planting activity halted, will resume as soil temperature conditions permit. Cotton planting rapid early progress Blacklands. South central, upper Gulf Coast rain stopped operations latter part week. Some replanting necessary. Farmers High, Low Plains rapid pace. Corn planting little progress High Plains; rain, cool weather held farmers back. Sorghum planting on schedule. Rains stopped operations Blacklands southward. Few fields planted southern Low Plains; no stands emerged. Moisture conditions good to excellent most areas where planting is not complete. Rice planting rapid progress, on schedule. Cool night temperatures caused slow growth early stands. Wheat northern High Plains received needed rain where fields stressed for moisture; other areas excellent. Stands Low Plains southward from milk to soft dough stage. Cotton planted 10% 1977, 18% 1976, 18% average. Corn planted 34% 1977, 61% 1976, 62% average. Sorghum planted 53% 1977, 53% 1976, 44%

average. Peanuts planted 19% 1977, 12% 1976, 11% average. Rice planted 76% 1977, 76% 1976, 77% average.

Citrus, carrots, onions, cabbage being harvested. Okra, peas, sweet corn, beans, melons being planted. Widespread rains boosted range conditions. Pastures greening, furnishing light to adequate grazing allowed ranchers quit supplemental feeding. Livestock condition fair to excellent promises continued improvement. Shearing delayed by rain, cool weather.

UTAH: Few isolated light showers latter part of week and weekend. Drought conditions extreme. Average temperatures ranged from near normal to 7° above.

Spring planting ahead of schedule mainly because anticipated water shortages reduced acreages. Small grain 60% planted. Limited sugarbeet crop 30% planted. Winter wheat needs moisture for growth. Some acreage plowed in southern areas. Fruit prospects fair. Apricots in full bloom. Sweet cherries and peaches about to bloom. Range feed prospects poor. Herd reductions anticipated. New crop calves and lambs 70% on the ground. Sheep shearing continues about 30% complete.

VIRGINIA: Temperatures well above normal. Extremes: 87 and 27°. No significant rainfall.

Topsoil moisture: short to adequate. Wheat fair condition. Corn 20% planted, 17% in 1976, 6% average. Pasture good condition. Freeze damage to apples and peaches heavy in some localities. Tobacco plants doing well. Some flooded burley plant beds reseeded. Livestock good condition. Land preparation and corn planting main activities.

WASHINGTON: West: Temperatures and precipitation below normal.

Green pea planting underway. Cool, wet weather slowed seedbed preparation. Applying fertilizer to pastures.

East: Temperatures and precipitation below normal. Preparation for planting corn and other crops. Ditch water now available for irrigation. Some frost control needed on fruit. Chemical thinning active lower Yakima Valley as apples reach full bloom. Cherries east Wenatchee full bloom. Pears and apples approaching full bloom Wenatchee. Scattered rain but not enough to alleviate dry soil

in dryland areas. Warm weather and wind dried ground considerably. Winter wheat generally looks good but some fields showing yellowing and stress due to unfavorable conditions. Planting spring grains, fertilizing, working fallow fields, spraying weeds and insects active. Range and pastures conditions rated poor. Some cattle on spring pastures.

WEST VIRGINIA: Temperatures well above normal. High, upper 80's; low, teens. Rainfall very light and spotty.

Fieldwork: 5.2 days suitable. Soil moisture average. Planting progress: Irish potatoes 39% complete, 1976 56%; oats 29%, 1976 49%; tobacco beds 77%, 38% emerged. Crop conditions: Wheat fair, barley good to fair, pastures fair, hay fair. Fruit trees: Peaches fair to poor, apples good to fair. Cool nights and frost hurt peach prospects.

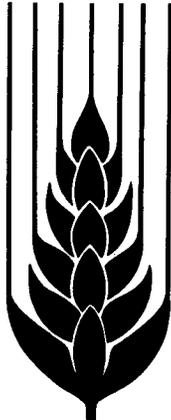
WISCONSIN: Temperatures 15° above normal. Unseasonably warm beginning and end of week with record highs in 80's. Cooler midweek as cold front passed through. Rainfall limited mostly to north and west. Thunderstorms 12th brought 0.50 to 1.00 in. rain north. Additional showers north 14th but little or none south.

Planting season off to good start. Oats 25% seeded, 1976 30%, normal 10%. Some farmers done seeding oats southern half. Spring wheat and barley being sown. Spring plowing 25% done, 1976 25%, normal 10%. Farmers in south plowing for corn. Plowing and land preparation going good as topsoil has moisture and ground works up mellow. Early peas and potatoes being planted. Tobacco beds being steamed. Feed and bedding supplies short some farms. Hay fields and pastures green and growing. Winter survival of new seedings better than expected. Soil moisture short to adequate. More rain needed for subsoils.

WYOMING: Temperatures well above normal and precipitation above normal east.

Topsoil moisture adequate. Precipitation received many dry areas, more needed to improve subsoil deficits. Most spring planting behind normal. Percent of acreage planted: Spring wheat 16%; oats 16%; sugarbeets 14%, barley 41%. Prospects for alfalfa and winter wheat, fair to good. Spring calving and lambing progressing normally. Death losses light to normal. Sheep shearing progressing, nearly 75% finished on farm flocks. Pasture and range conditions fair.

Oilseed Prospects Up Says Crop Board



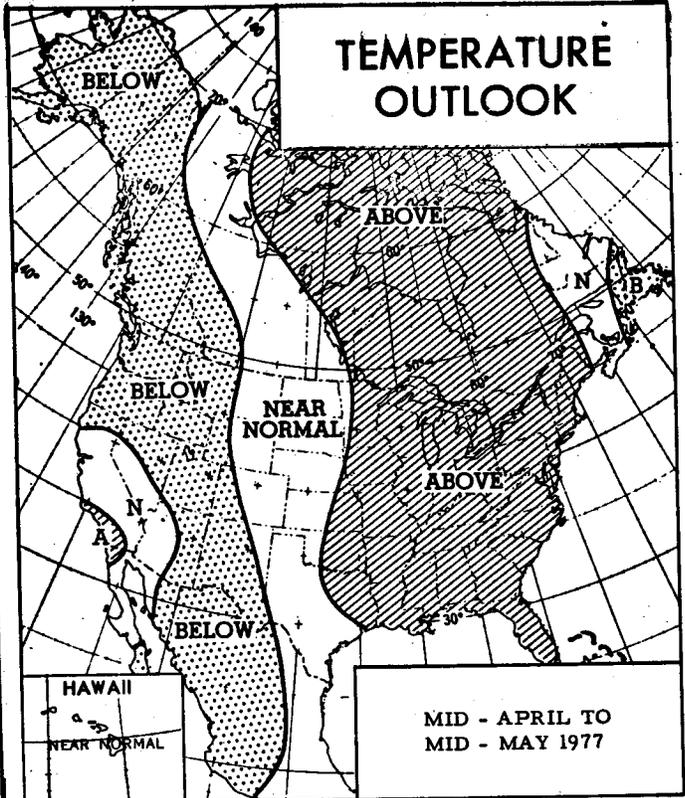
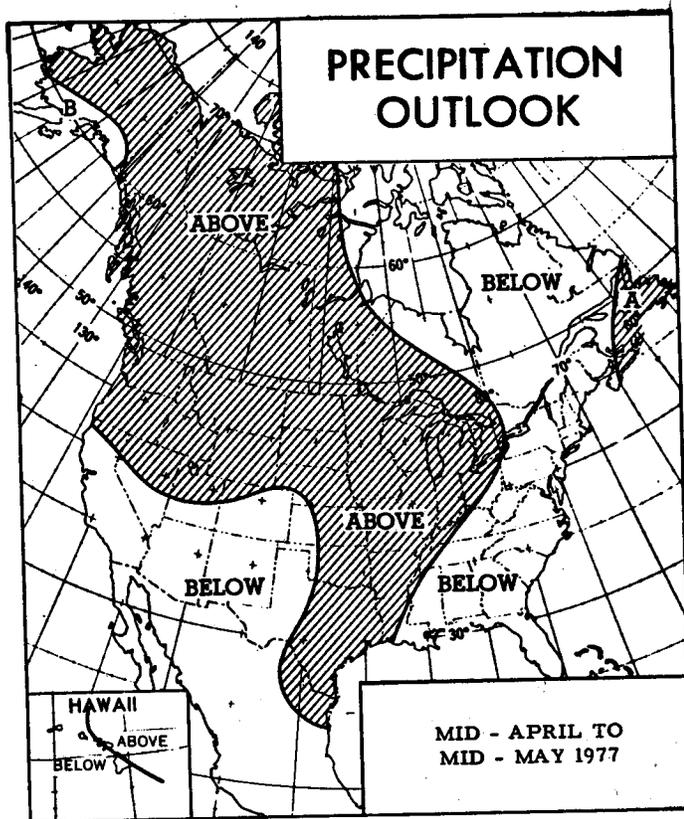
U.S. farmers are expected to boost oilseed acreages by 12% this year, mostly with an increase for soybeans. A marginal drop in food grains is anticipated, and feed grain acreage may match the 1976 level.

USDA's Crop Reporting Board announced 72.5 million acres of oilseeds (soybeans, cotton, peanuts, and flaxseed) may be planted this spring. Soybean acreage will likely rise 5% from the estimate made in January, and 11% from last season to hit a near record 56 million acres. Each major soybean producing area is expected to exceed last year's acreage.

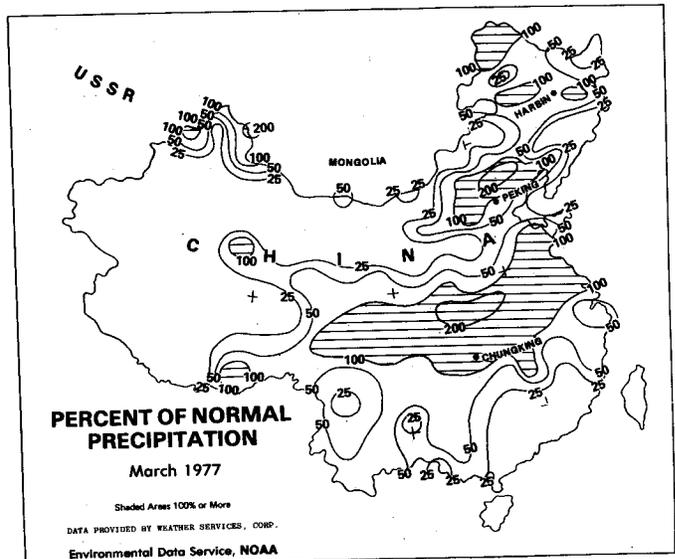
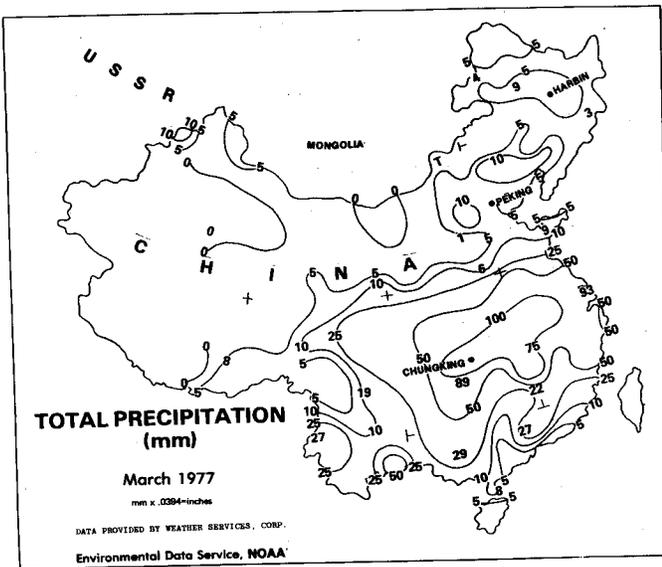
Cotton growers foresee 14 million acres, potentially 17% over last year and 44% above the 1975 output. Upland cotton may exceed January 1 estimates by 6%, the major increases showing in

(continued on Page 20)

Average Monthly Weather Outlook



China Precipitation



World Weather and Crop Update

USSR. The early spring in the USSR, with well above normal temperatures since mid-February, resulted in an early snow thaw and an early resumption of growth of winter grains and rapid advance of spring fieldwork. As of mid-April, growth of winter grains and spring fieldwork were some 10 to 20 days ahead of normal over much of that country. Spring seeding, likewise, is proceeding ahead of normal schedule although recent heavy, persistent rains in the western part of European USSR have probably temporarily slowed up spring sowing in the Baltics and Bielorussia. Soil moisture conditions were good over most of the principal winter grain areas. Excellent rains in the Ukraine were especially beneficial in the southern and eastern parts of that republic. Precipitation in portions of the Volga Valley, especially the middle and lower regions, and the southern Urals, however, was significantly below normal in March although soil moisture in these regions is still relatively good at this time. There was some improvement in the moisture situation in western and eastern Siberia and northern Kazakhstan as recent moderate, locally heavy, showers fell over much of these regions.

EUROPE. Spring also arrived early over most of Europe following a mild, wet winter that eradicated the moisture deficit of last year's severe drought in western Europe. Persistent precipitation, however, has retarded spring field work in some parts of western Europe, especially in the United Kingdom and France. Moreover, late March and early April freezes have resulted in considerable losses to vineyards, deciduous fruits, certain vegetable crops and rapeseed in parts of France and Spain. By mid-April, condition of winter grains over most of western Europe was generally good, but persistently wet conditions posed some problems in some areas. Temperatures tended to be below normal over much of western Europe as of mid-April with night temperatures near freezing in many areas. In eastern Europe, conditions have generally been favorable for winter grains with adequate precipitation in most areas. March precipitation in Bulgaria and Romania was only about two-thirds of normal, but timely moderate to heavy showers fell on both countries in mid-April. Soil moisture conditions in East Germany are still somewhat below normal, but the situation was considerably improved by above normal March precipitation, moderate rains have fallen in the first half of April. Light to locally moderate showers fell on Greece during the middle of April, but much more is needed to improve significantly the moisture deficit in that country. Prospects for winter grains continue favorable in Turkey as timely showers, locally heavy, fell over the principal grain-producing areas.

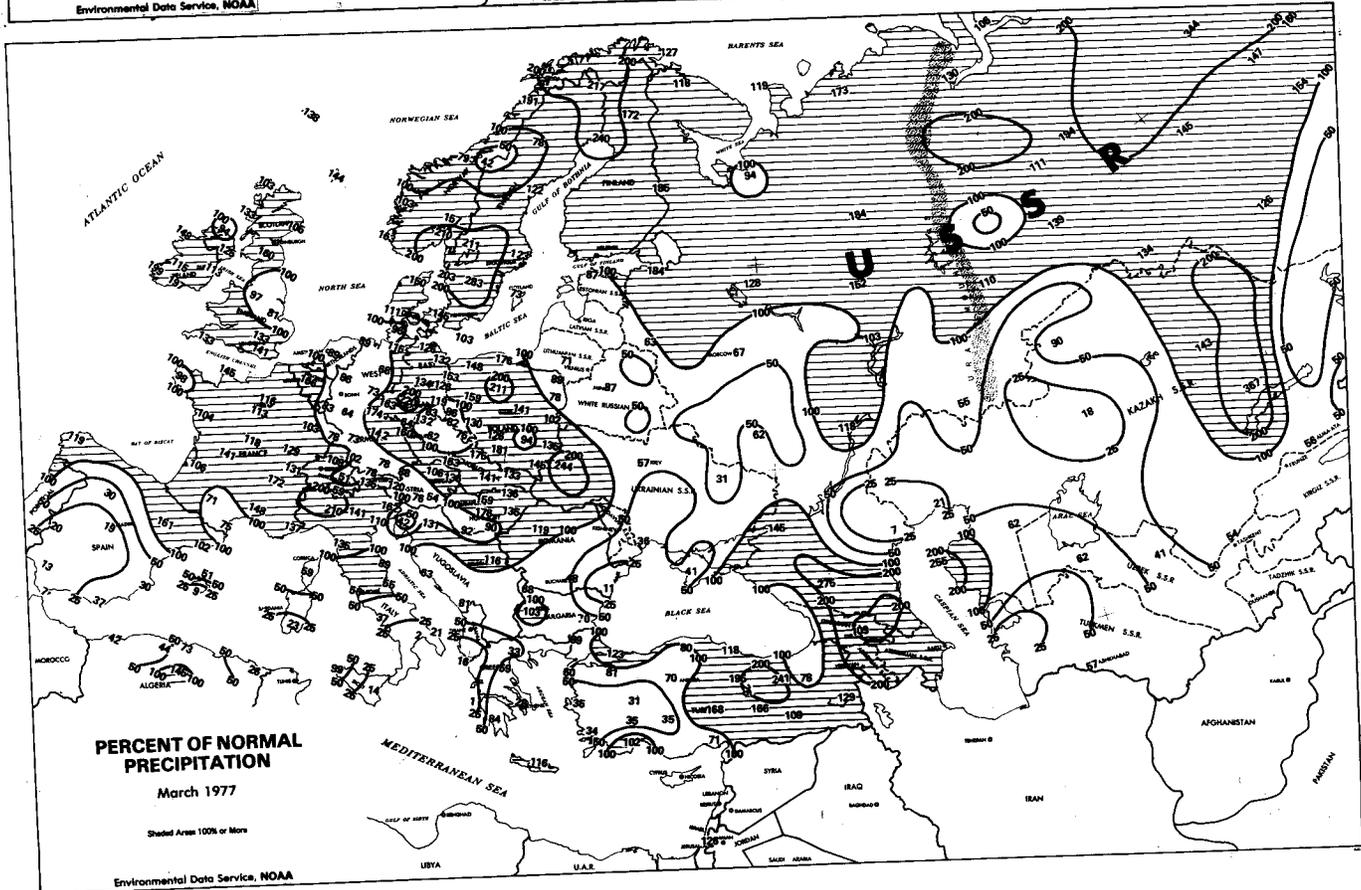
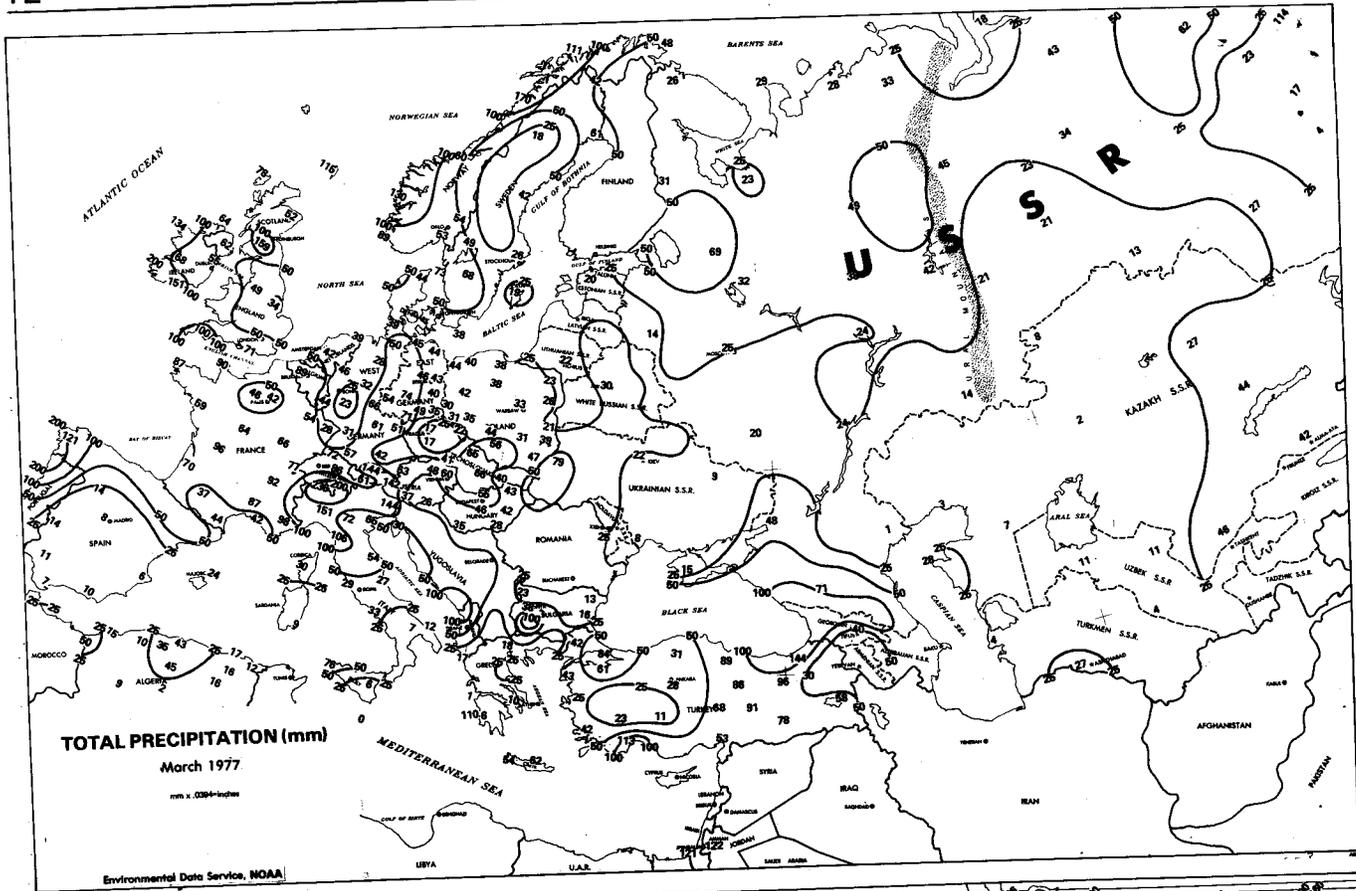
AFRICA. There was some improvement in the moisture situation in North Africa over the past month, but it was probably insufficient to overcome the adverse effects of the late winter dry spell on winter grains and pastures. March precipitation was generally 50% or less of normal in Morocco and Algeria. Only northern Tunisia had normal rainfall for March, but winter grains were severely damaged during the dry spell when light precipitation was accompanied by above normal temperatures. South Africa received ample precipitation over the

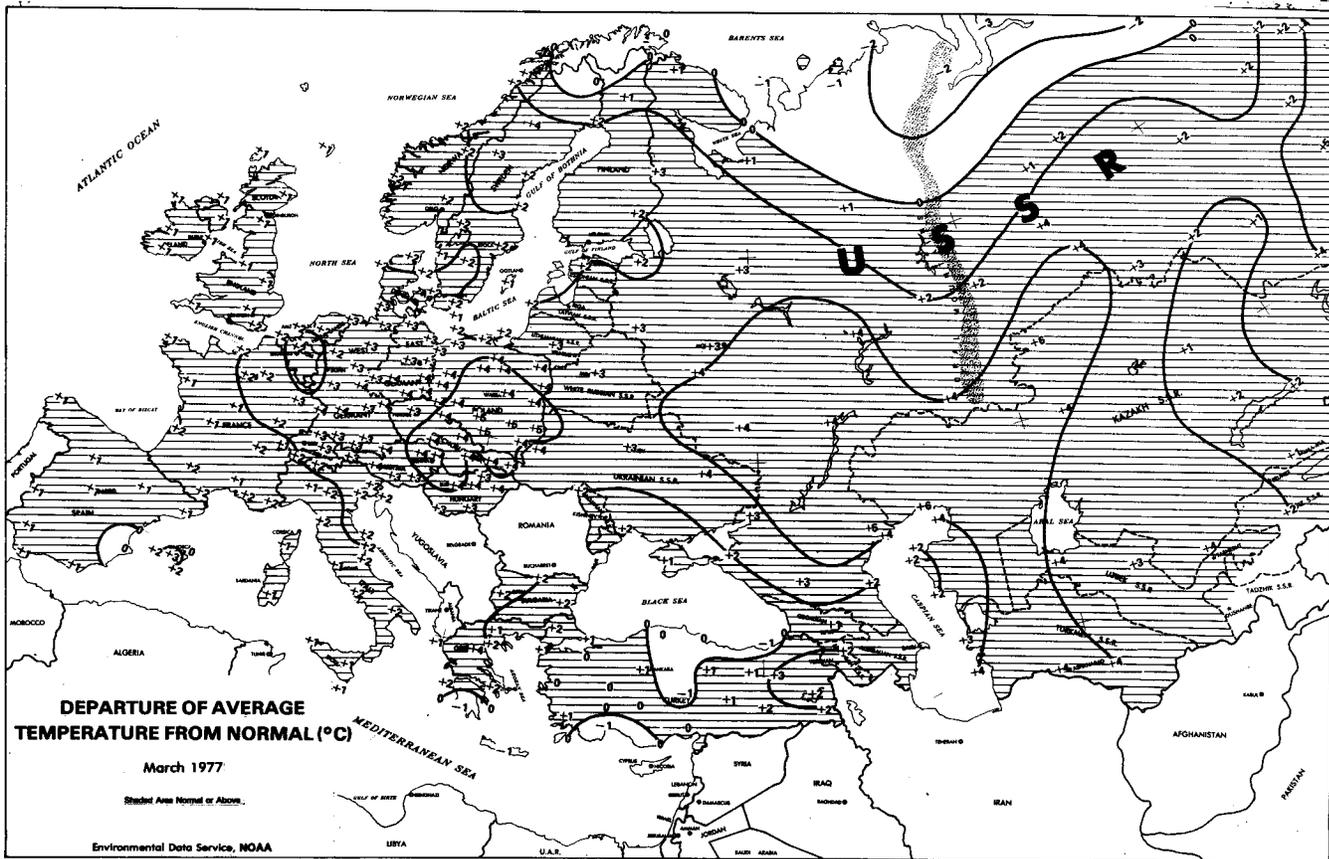
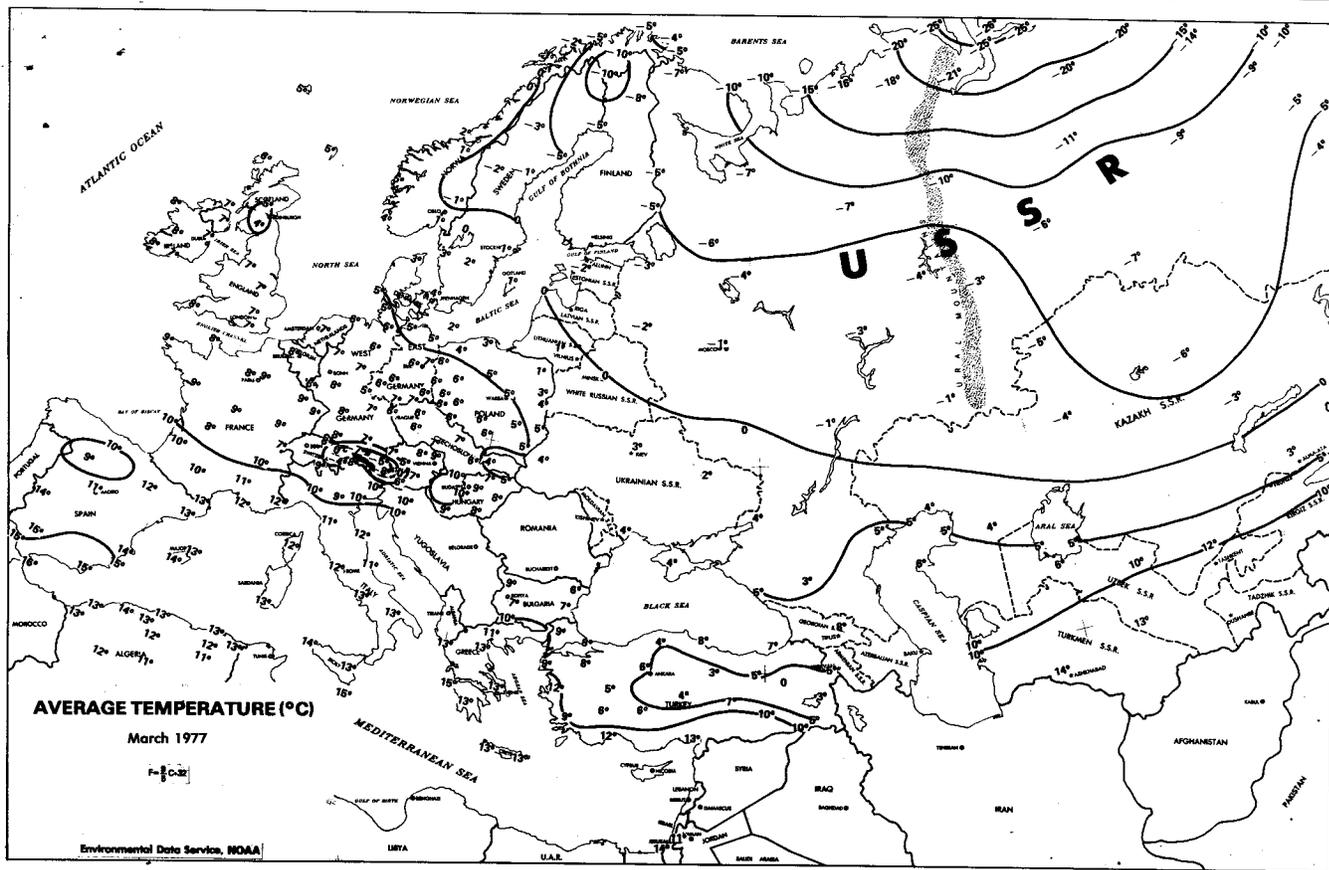
principal agricultural areas in March, and rainfall for the first half of April has been adequate for maturing crops. Crop prospects are quite favorable at this time.

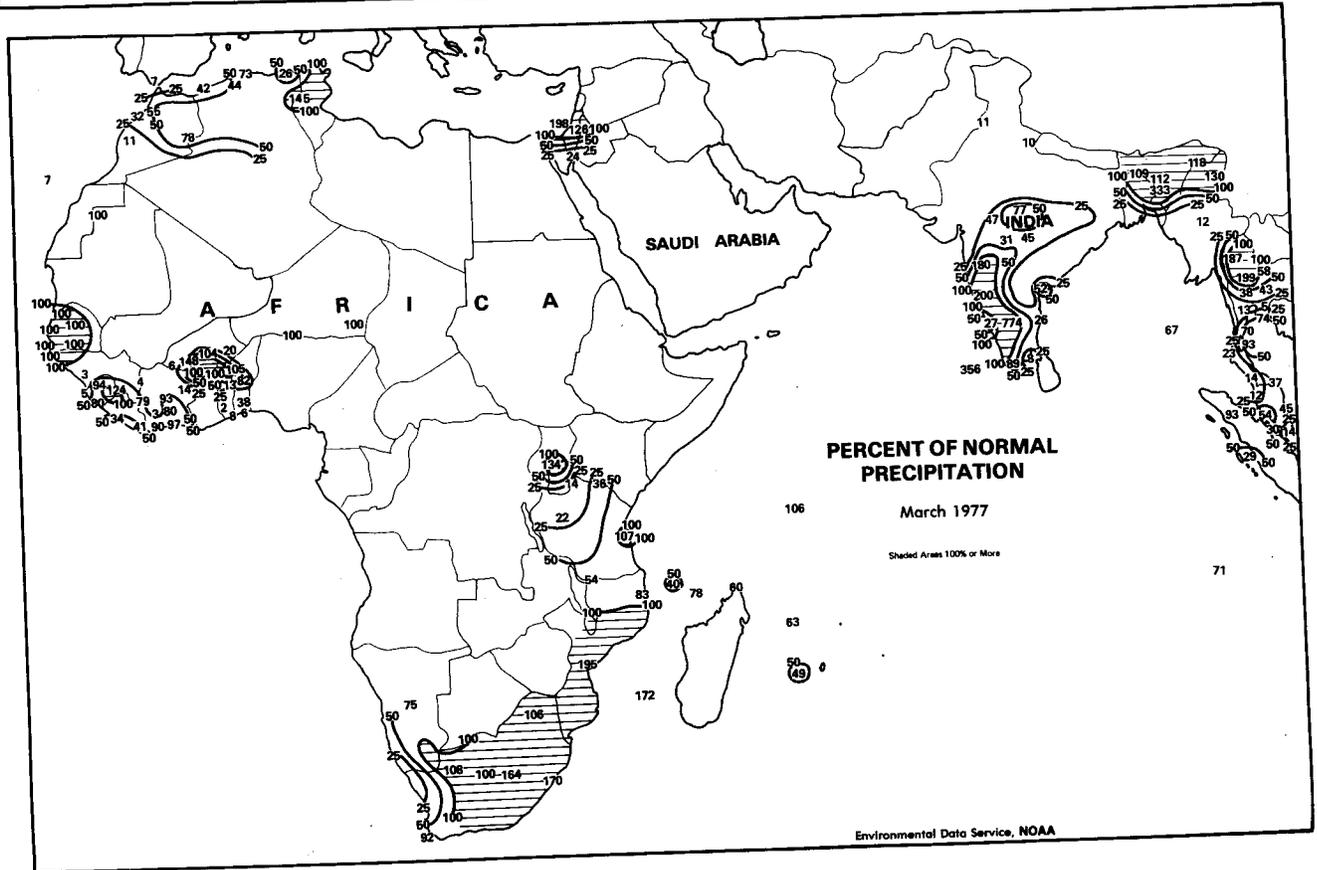
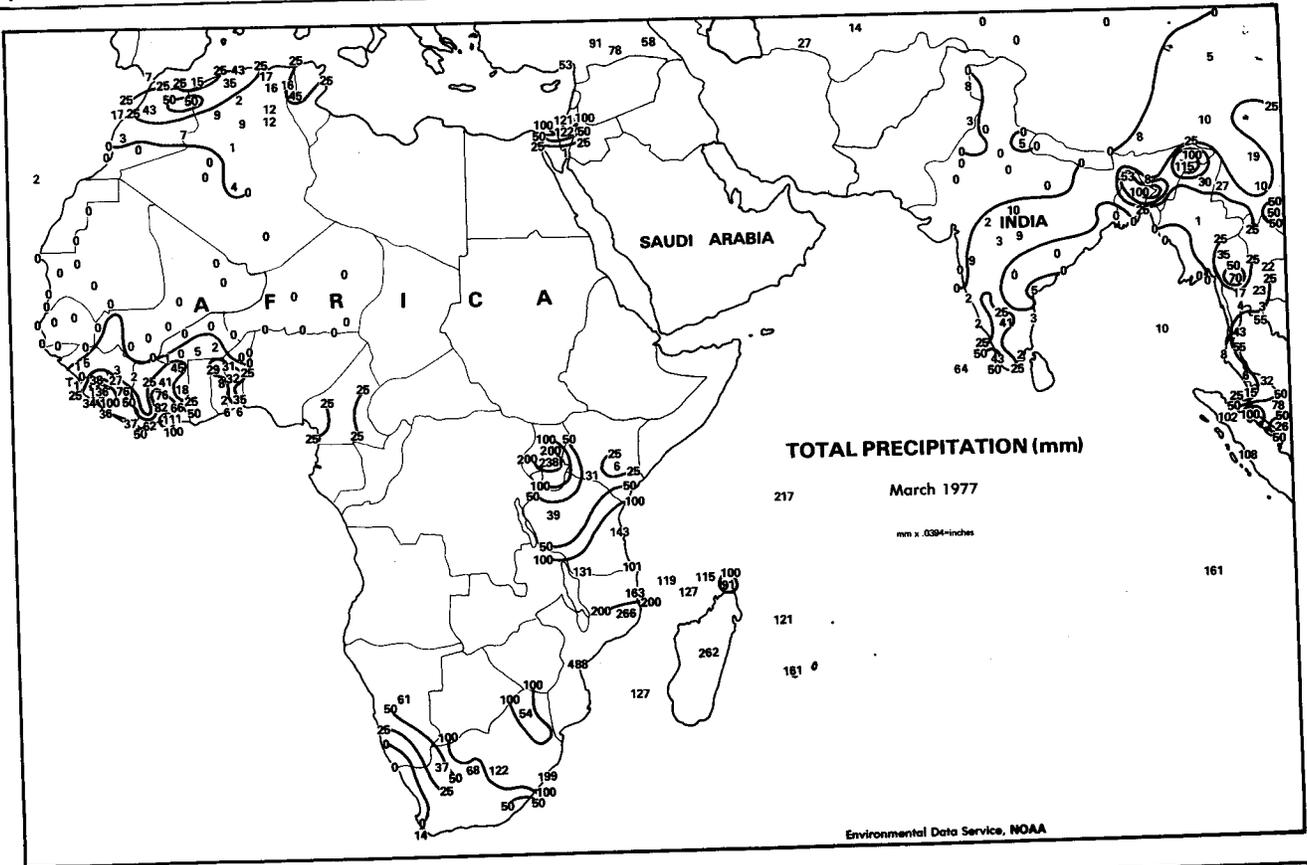
ASIA. March precipitation was well below normal in the People's Republic of China, but ample rains over most of the southern half of that country in recent weeks have largely corrected the moisture deficit in most areas. In fact, heavy rains in parts of central China may impede the sowing of dry land crops. Chief trouble spots include a major portion of winter wheat acreage in the provinces of Hopeh, Shantung, Shansi, northern Honan and northern Shensi where rainfall continued to be below normal through mid-April. The southern third of the major winter wheat belt, however, continued to receive timely rainfall, but conditions remain generally dry over the remainder of the wheat area. Transplanting of the early rice crop in southern Kwangtung, the PRC's most important rice producing province, has been delayed in some areas by a shortage of irrigation water. Precipitation has been seasonally light in the northeast provinces of Heilungkiang and Kirin, major producers of spring wheat, coarse grains and soybeans, but heavier amounts have fallen in Liaoning. In India, March precipitation was well below normal over India except in the northeast and scattered areas in the southwest. Sparse precipitation combined with temperatures in the 90's and low 100's to place unirrigated crops under heavy stress in many areas. In Australia, moisture conditions were generally good throughout the main wheat producing areas in Queensland, New South Wales, and Victoria as fall planting time approaches. However, precipitation in south and southwest Australia was well below normal for several months, and sowing conditions are considerably less favorable.

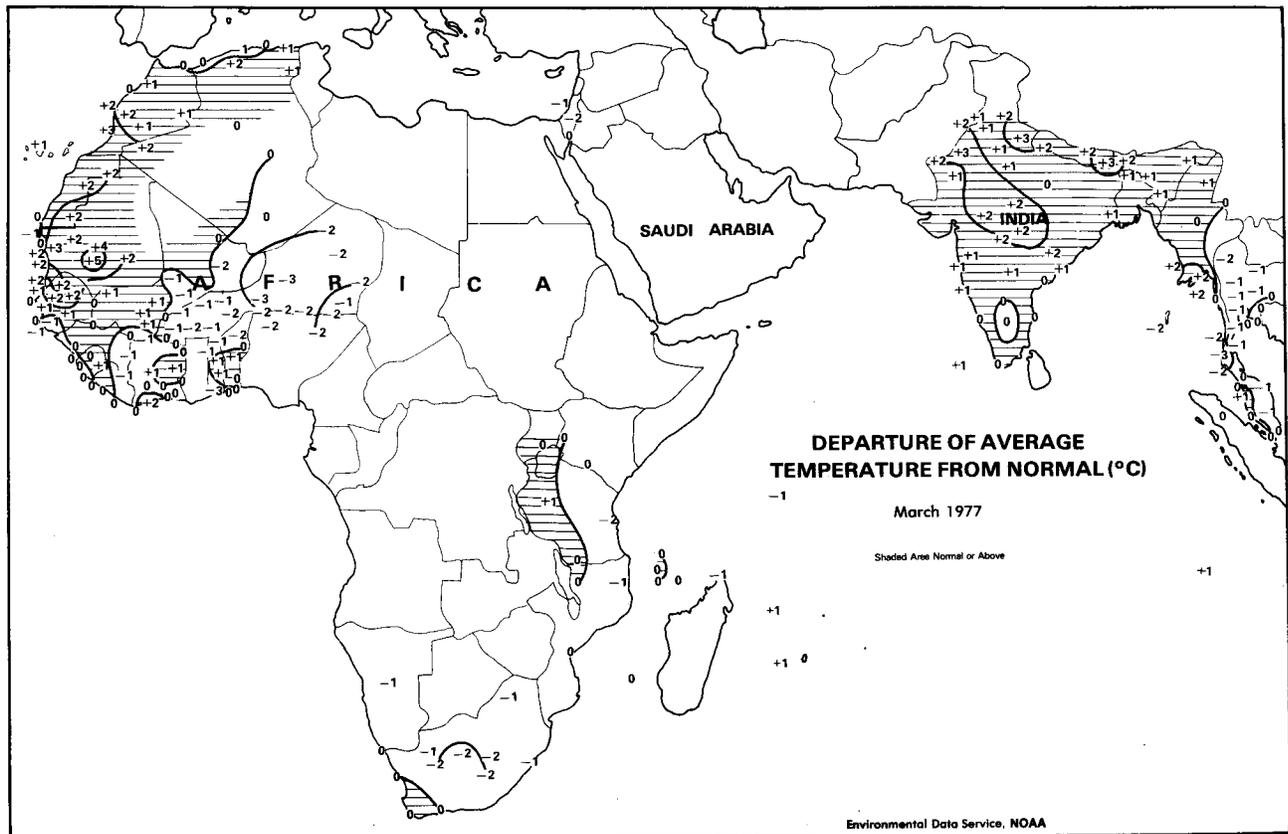
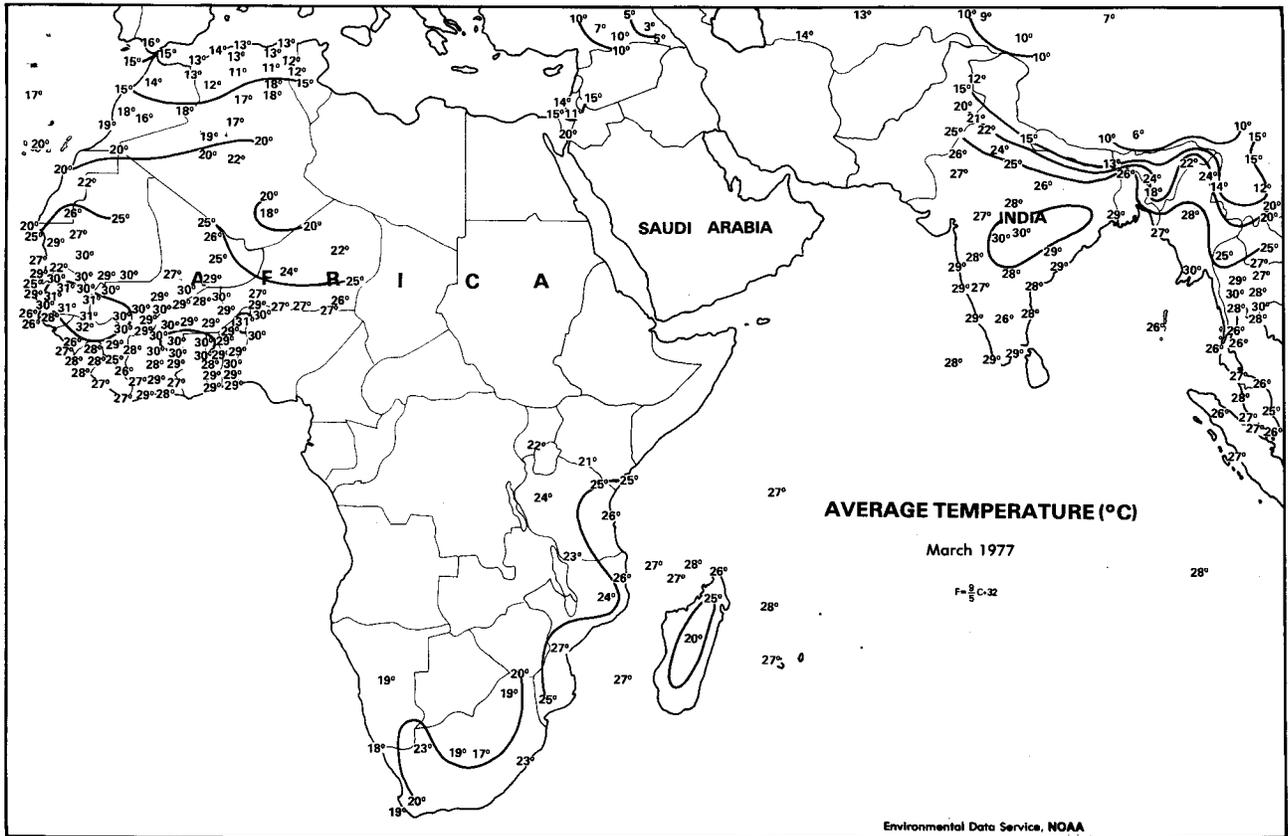
NORTH AMERICA. The past month has witnessed a substantial change in the agricultural scene east of the Rocky Mountains in the United States. Heavy rains have added substantially to soil moisture in the corn belt States, and timely rains have fallen over the center of the hard winter wheat belt of Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska and Colorado which improved crop prospects somewhat in those drought-plagued states. Conditions were less favorable, however, in the spring wheat producing States in the northern Great Plains, and in the adjacent prairie provinces of Canada. There was little improvement in the drought situation in California where the shortage of irrigation water in some areas is a dire threat to crop production. Precipitation continued to be well below normal in the coastal areas of the Pacific Northwest where the shortage of water will have adverse consequences on agriculture as well as other facets of the economy if uncorrected.

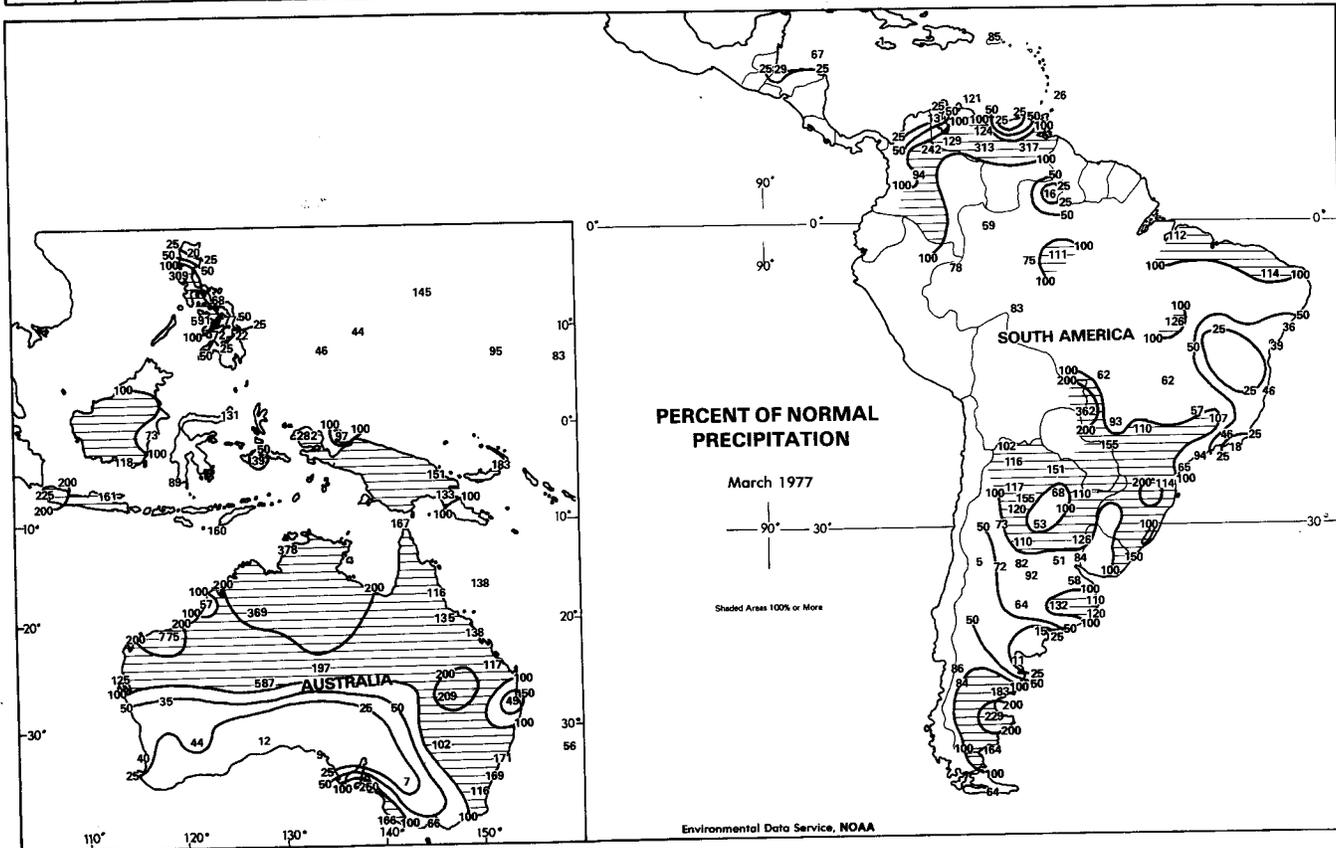
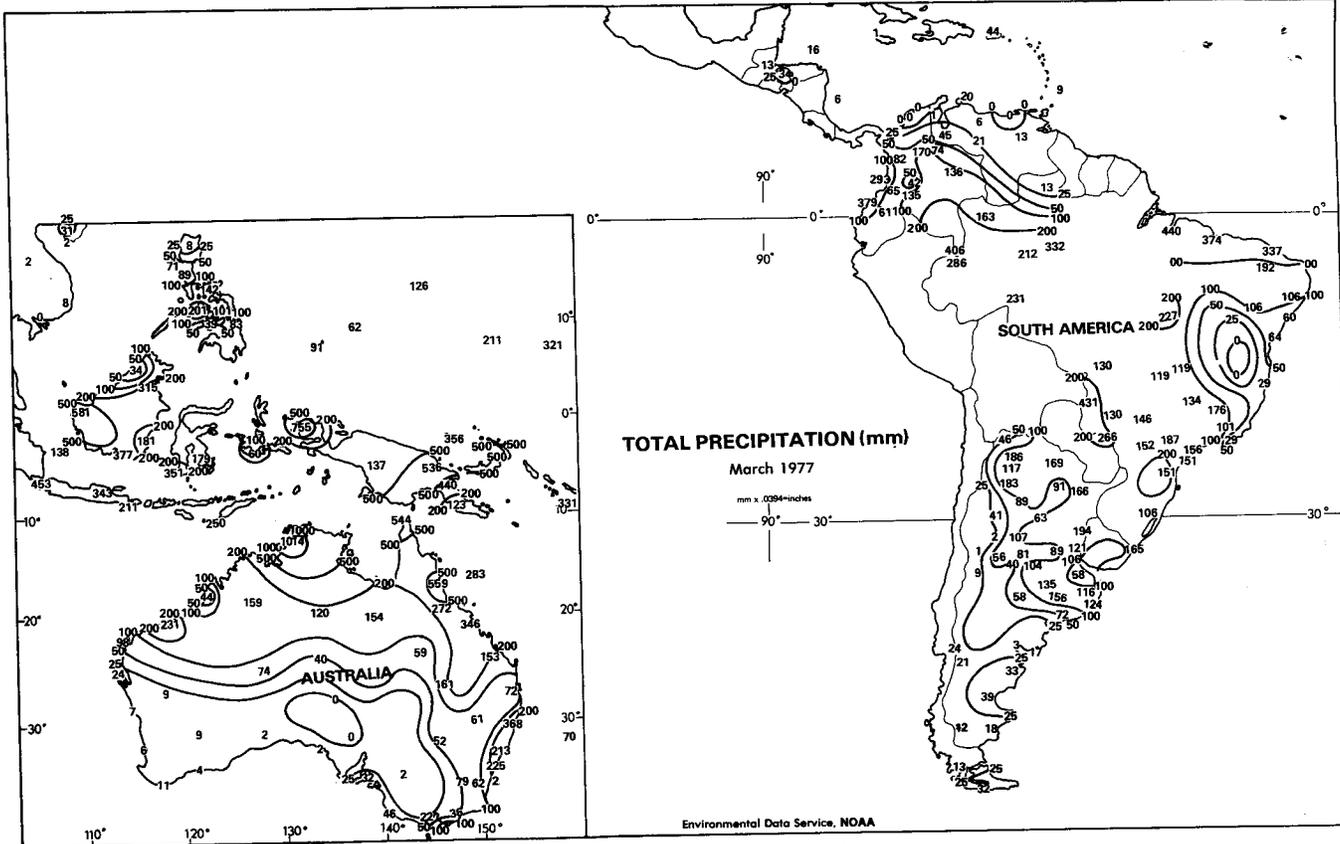
SOUTH AMERICA. In Argentina, conditions are generally favorable for the planting of winter grain crops currently underway in that country. Heavy rains in the latter half of March may have impeded corn harvesting in some areas. Temperatures during March were generally below normal, and frost, with record low temperatures for the time of year, occurred in Buenos Aires province in early April. In Brazil, heavy rains over the past month have repeatedly struck the principal corn and soybean states in the South inflicting some losses and reducing crop quality in some areas.

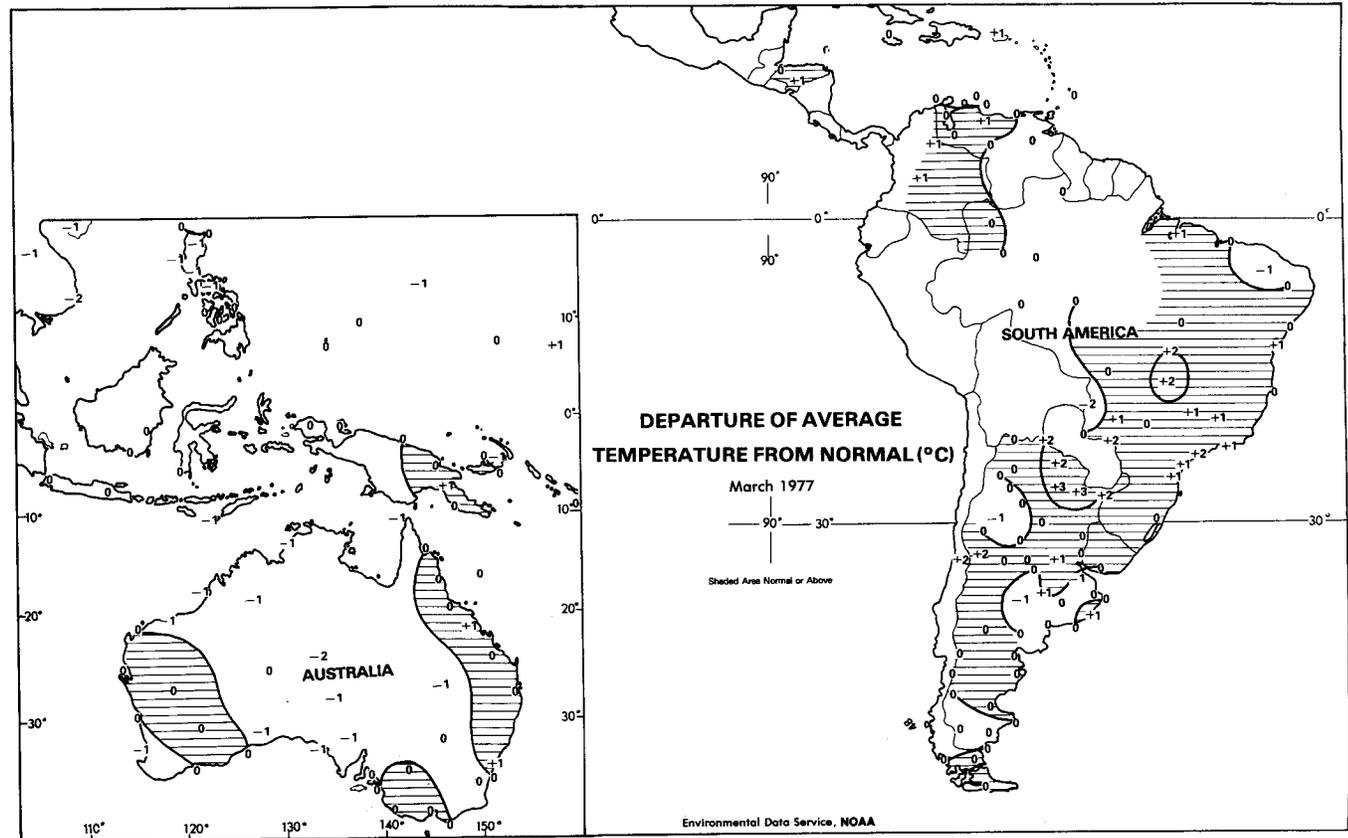
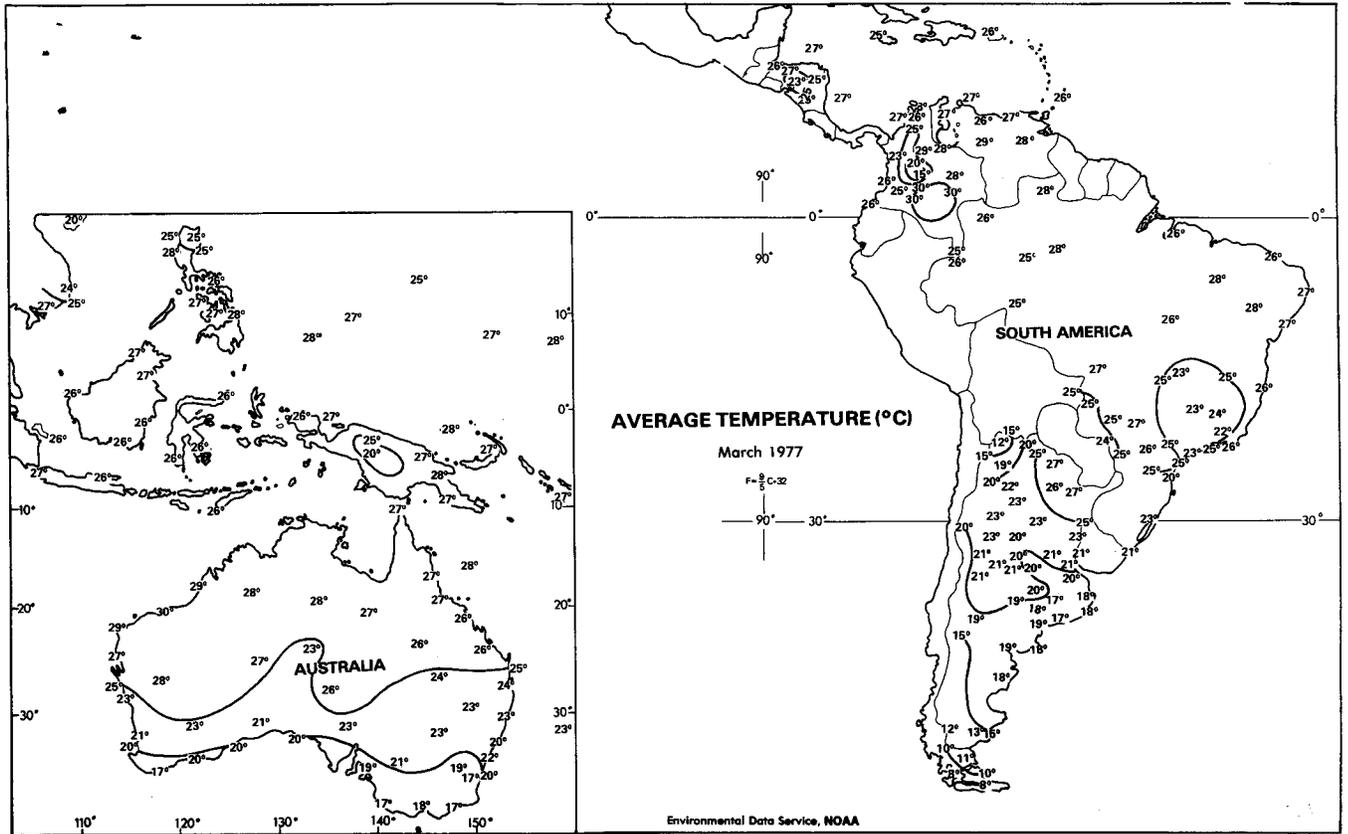






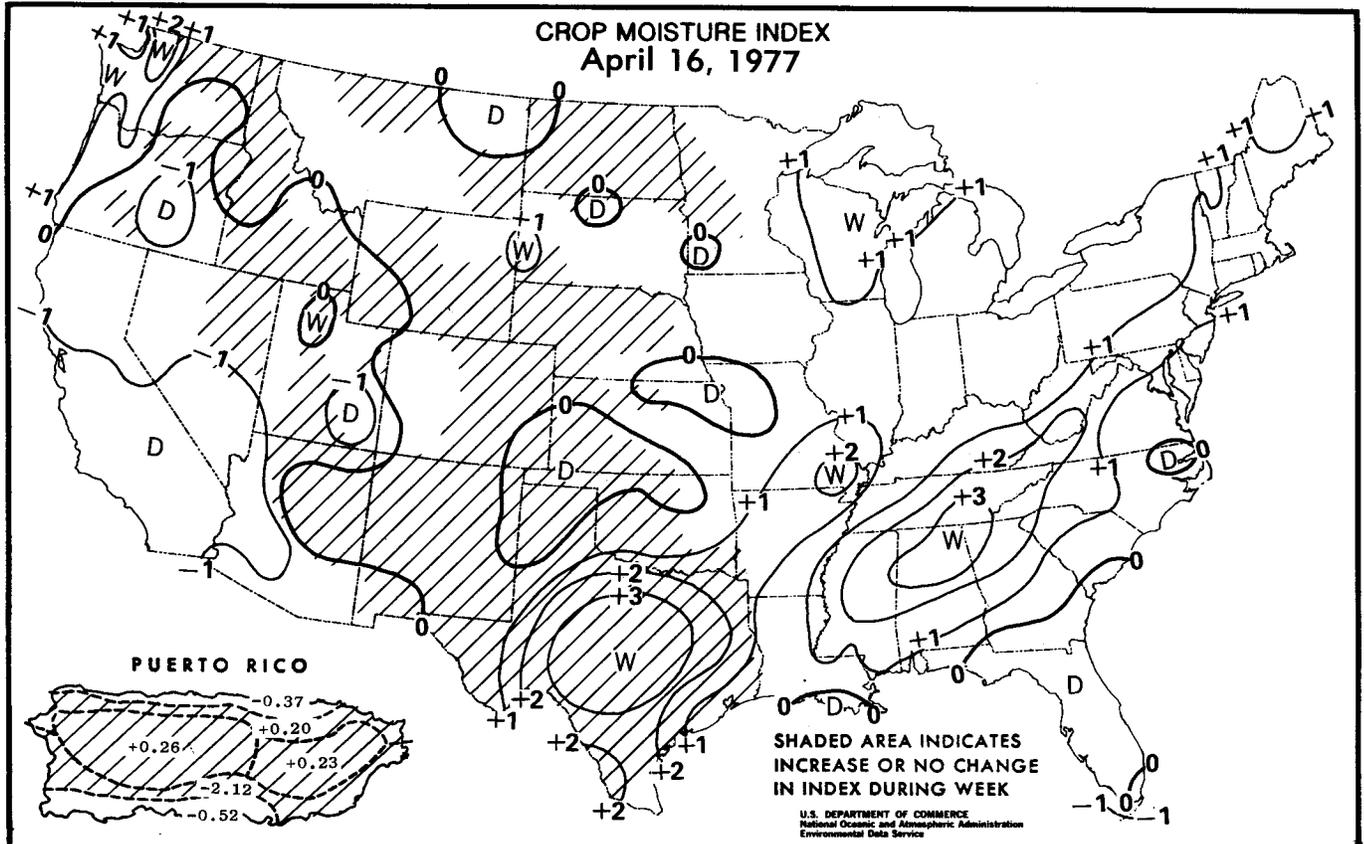






HEATING DEGREE DAYS (BASE 65°) FOR WEEK ENDING APR. 17, 1977.

STATES AND STATIONS	WEEKLY			SEASONAL ACCUMULATION +			STATES AND STATIONS	WEEKLY			SEASONAL ACCUMULATION +			STATES AND STATIONS	WEEKLY			SEASONAL ACCUMULATION +		
	TOTAL	DEPARTURE*	DEPARTURE FROM 1975-76	TOTAL	DEPARTURE*	DEPARTURE FROM 1975-76		TOTAL	DEPARTURE*	DEPARTURE FROM 1975-76	TOTAL	DEPARTURE*	DEPARTURE FROM 1975-76		TOTAL	DEPARTURE*	DEPARTURE FROM 1975-76	TOTAL	DEPARTURE*	DEPARTURE FROM 1975-76
ALA. BIRMINGHAM...	27	3488	691	957	2400	720	MAINE. CARIBOU...	201	12	9140	471	270	OKLA. OKLAHOMA CITY	57	66	7049	1105	1579		
MOBILE...	27	2400	720	1013	3038	927	PORTLAND...	149	10	7462	703	796	OKLA. TULSA...	40	40	3839	223	884		
MONTGOMERY...	17	3038	793	927	342	542	MD. BALTIMORE...	22	60	4940	433	1091	OREG. ASTORIA...	139	17	4110	328	171		
ARIZ. FLAGSTAFF...	21	6032	342	123	10771	468	MASS. BOSTON...	64	54	5492	292	893	BURNS...	17	17	6102	229	171		
PHOENIX...	11	10771	468	198	5634	507	MICH. ALPENA...	10	71	7829	205	695	MEDFORD...	11	11	4547	124	101		
TUCSON...	11	5634	507	158	911	90	FLINT...	45	79	6750	755	1188	PENDLETON...	10	10	4703	41	41		
WINSLON...	11	911	90	158	342	542	GRAND RAPIDS...	28	28	1228	877	1235	PORTLAND...	10	10	4557	177	71		
YUMA...	11	342	542	158	1038	820	HOUGHTON LAKE...	28	28	1228	877	1235	SALEM...	10	10	4557	177	71		
ARK. FORT SMITH...	31	4096	805	194	318	194	LANSING...	10	10	3227	155	778	PA. ALLENTOWN...	50	59	5908	448	968		
LITTLE ROCK...	31	3590	290	318	3883	235	MARQUETTE...	10	10	3227	155	778	ERIE...	70	70	6769	557	1124		
CALIF. BAKERSFIELD	32	1801	318	194	132	519	MUSKOGON...	10	10	3227	155	778	HARRISBURG...	70	70	6769	557	1124		
EUREKA...	12	3883	235	194	132	519	S. STE. MARIE...	12	7	9047	852	1013	PHILADELPHIA...	71	71	6828	561	1212		
FRESNO...	12	2308	132	194	132	519	MINN. DULUTH...	11	72	9310	528	716	PITTSBURGH...	71	71	6828	561	1212		
LOS ANGELES...	29	969	171	194	132	519	INTERNATL FALLS...	11	81	10044	421	700	SCRANTON...	71	71	6828	561	1212		
RED BLUFF...	29	2024	511	194	132	519	MINNEAPOLIS...	11	119	7800	183	1046	R. I. PROVIDENCE...	70	54	6035	552	885		
SAN DIEGO...	31	2753	551	194	132	519	ROCHESTER...	11	119	7800	183	1046	S. C. CHARLESTON...	1	13	2702	574	870		
SAN FRANCISCO...	31	2269	383	194	132	519	ST. CLOUD...	39	118	8669	444	784	COLUMBIA...	1	13	2702	574	870		
STOCKTON...	50	383	582	194	132	519	MISS. JACKSON...	1	17	3177	812	816	GREENVILLE...	1	13	2702	574	870		
COLO. DENVER...	24	5258	237	192	127	427	MERIDIAN...	1	17	3177	812	816	S. DAK. ABERDEEN...	1	13	2702	574	870		
GRAND JUNCTION...	24	5418	102	192	127	427	MO. COLUMBIA...	1	73	5781	929	1445	HURON...	1	13	2702	574	870		
PUEBLO...	29	5312	228	192	127	427	KANSAS CITY...	1	73	5781	929	1445	RAPID CITY...	1	13	2702	574	870		
CONN. BRIDGEPORT...	33	5540	506	226	837	837	SPRINGFIELD...	1	61	5033	647	1205	SIoux FALLS...	1	13	2702	574	870		
HARTFORD...	33	5540	506	226	837	837	DELA. WILMINGTON...	39	54	5206	520	1029	TENN. CHATTANOOGA...	3	3	4113	704	787		
DEL. WILMINGTON...	39	5206	520	1029	361	1142	D.C. WASHINGTON...	9	54	4420	361	1142	KNOXVILLE...	3	3	4113	704	787		
D.C. WASHINGTON...	9	4420	361	1142	361	1142	FLA. APALACHICOLA...	2	5	2004	645	657	MEMPHIS...	3	3	4113	704	787		
FLA. APALACHICOLA...	2	2004	645	657	114	149	DAYTONA BEACH...	2	5	2004	645	657	NASHVILLE...	3	3	4113	704	787		
DAYTONA BEACH...	2	114	149	149	2061	679	FORT WERS...	2	5	2004	645	657	TEXAS. ABILENE...	2	2	3210	635	855		
FORT WERS...	2	2061	679	679	114	149	JACKSONVILLE...	2	5	2004	645	657	AMARILLO...	2	2	3210	635	855		
JACKSONVILLE...	2	114	149	149	2061	679	KEY WEST...	2	5	2004	645	657	AUSTIN...	2	2	3210	635	855		
KEY WEST...	2	2061	679	679	114	149	MIAMI...	2	5	2004	645	657	BEAUMONT...	2	2	3210	635	855		
MIAMI...	2	114	149	149	2061	679	LAKELAND...	2	5	2004	645	657	BROWNSVILLE...	2	2	3210	635	855		
LAKELAND...	2	2061	679	679	114	149	MIAMI...	2	5	2004	645	657	CORPUS CHRISTI...	2	2	3210	635	855		
MIAMI...	2	114	149	149	2061	679	ORLANDO...	2	5	2004	645	657	DEL RIO...	2	2	3210	635	855		
ORLANDO...	2	2061	679	679	114	149	TALLAHASSEE...	2	5	2004	645	657	FEL PASO...	2	2	3210	635	855		
TALLAHASSEE...	2	114	149	149	2061	679	TAMPA...	2	5	2004	645	657	FORT WORTH...	2	2	3210	635	855		
TAMPA...	2	2061	679	679	114	149	MONT. BILLINGS...	28	41	5992	51	499	GARVESTON...	2	2	3210	635	855		
MONT. BILLINGS...	28	5992	51	499	28	41	GLASSBORO...	28	41	5992	51	499	HOUSTON...	2	2	3210	635	855		
GLASSBORO...	28	5992	51	499	28	41	GREAT FALLS...	28	41	5992	51	499	LUBBOCK...	2	2	3210	635	855		
GREAT FALLS...	28	5992	51	499	28	41	HAVRE...	28	41	5992	51	499	MIDLAND...	2	2	3210	635	855		
HAVRE...	28	5992	51	499	28	41	HELENA...	28	41	5992	51	499	SAN ANGELO...	2	2	3210	635	855		
HELENA...	28	5992	51	499	28	41	MILES CITY...	28	41	5992	51	499	SAN ANTONIO...	2	2	3210	635	855		
MILES CITY...	28	5992	51	499	28	41	MISSOULA...	28	41	5992	51	499	VICTORIA...	2	2	3210	635	855		
MISSOULA...	28	5992	51	499	28	41	NEBR. GRAND ISLAND...	28	41	5992	51	499	RICHITA FALLS...	2	2	3210	635	855		
NEBR. GRAND ISLAND...	28	5992	51	499	28	41	LINCOLN...	28	41	5992	51	499	UTAH. SALT LAKE CITY...	107	7	5370	119	16		
LINCOLN...	28	5992	51	499	28	41	NORFOLK...	28	41	5992	51	499	VT. BURLINGTON...	125	32	7726	484	818		
NORFOLK...	28	5992	51	499	28	41	NORTH PLATTE...	28	41	5992	51	499	VA. LYNCHBURG...	19	6	4734	667	1022		
NORTH PLATTE...	28	5992	51	499	28	41	OMAHA...	28	41	5992	51	499	NORFOLK...	11	11	4389	360	1461		
OMAHA...	28	5992	51	499	28	41	VALENTINE...	28	41	5992	51	499	ROANOKE...	2	6	4883	768	1302		
VALENTINE...	28	5992	51	499	28	41	NEV. ELI...	154	31	2350	407	138	WASH. QUILLAYUTE...	153	16	4673	319	307		
NEV. ELI...	154	2350	407	138	154	31	LAS VEGAS...	154	31	2350	407	138	SEATTLE-TACOMA...	114	11	3699	816	633		
LAS VEGAS...	154	2350	407	138	154	31	WINNEHUCCA...	154	31	2350	407	138	SPOKANE...	103	1	5977	174	20		
WINNEHUCCA...	154	2350	407	138	154	31	N.H. CONCORD...	126	23	7731	973	573	HALLA HALLA...	103	1	5977	174	20		
N.H. CONCORD...	126	7731	973	573	126	23	J. ATLANTIC CITY...	59	38	5574	902	1499	W. VA. BECKLEY...	17	79	6131	925	1623		
J. ATLANTIC CITY...	59	5574	902	1499	59	38	TRENTON...	22	70	5355	672	1177	CHARLESTON...	1	5	5488	1112	1655		
TRENTON...	22	5355	672	1177	22	70	N. MEX. ALBUQUERQUE...	53	15	4761	614	467	HUNTINGTON...	1	5	5488	1112	1655		
N. MEX. ALBUQUERQUE...	53	4761	614	467	53	15	ROSWELL...	19	25	3469	159	710	PARKERSBURG...	1	5	5488	1112	1655		
ROSWELL...	19	3469	159	710	19	25	N.Y. ALBANY...	93	36	6989	579	1019	WIS. GREEN BAY...	58	93	8319	879	1275		
N.Y. ALBANY...	93	6989	579	1019	93	36	BINGHAMTON...	74	70	7448	579	1019	LACROSSE...	21	119	7527	554	1064		
BINGHAMTON...	74	7448	579	1019	74	70	BUFFALO...	91	70	6698	679	1078	MADISON...	61	83	7353	570	1528		
BUFFALO...	91	6698	679	1078	91	70	NEW YORK...	91	70	6698	679	1078	MILWAUKEE...	61	83	7353	570	1528		
NEW YORK...	91	6698	679	1078	91	70	ROCHESTER...	85	47	6806	647	912	WYO. CASPER...	139	19	6636	137	115		
ROCHESTER...	85	6806	647	912	85	47	SYRACUSE...	85	47	6806	647	912	CHEYENNE...	141	16	6540	82	326		
SYRACUSE...	85	6806	647	912	85	47	N.C. ASHEVILLE...	21	4	4755	722	970	LANDER...	141	16	6540	82	326		
N.C. ASHEVILLE...	21	4755	722	970	21	4	CHARLOTTE...	17	1	4934	679	1078	SHERIDAN...	118	35	6856	75	348		
CHARLOTTE...	17	4934	679	1078	17	1	GREENSBORO...	17	1	4934	679	1078								
GREENSBORO...	17	4934	679	1078	17	1	HATTERAS...	17	1	4934	679	1078								
HATTERAS...	17	4934	679	1078	17	1	WILMINGTON...	17	1	4934	679	1078								
WILMINGTON...	17	4934	679	1078	17	1														



The Crop Moisture Index measures the degree to which moisture requirements of growing crops were met during the previous week. The index is computed from average weekly values of temperature and precipitation. These values are used to calculate the potential moisture demand. Taking into account the previous soil moisture condition and current rainfall, the actual moisture loss is determined.

If the potential moisture demand, or potential evapotranspiration, exceeds available moisture supplies, actual evapotranspiration is reduced and the CMI gives a negative

value. However, if moisture meets or exceeds demand the index is positive.

Shaded areas indicate the index was unchanged or increased from the previous week's value; soils dried in the unshaded areas. Centers of positive and negative areas are identified by W for wet and D for dry.

Local moisture conditions may vary because of differences in rainfall distribution or soil types. The type of agriculture and stage of crop development must be considered when assessing the impact of moisture conditions based on the Crop Moisture Index. Some general guidelines follow.

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

SHADED AREA:		INDEX INCREASED OR DID NOT CHANGE
ABOVE	3.0	EXCESSIVELY WET, SOME FIELDS FLOODED
	2.0 to 3.0	TOO WET, SOME STANDING WATER
	1.0 to 2.0	PROSPECTS ABOVE NORMAL, SOME FIELDS TOO WET
	0 to 1.0	MOISTURE ADEQUATE FOR PRESENT NEEDS
	0 to -1.0	PROSPECTS IMPROVED BUT RAIN STILL NEEDED
	-1.0 to -2.0	SOME IMPROVEMENT BUT STILL TOO DRY
	-2.0 to -3.0	DROUGHT EASED BUT STILL SERIOUS
	-3.0 to -4.0	DROUGHT CONTINUES, RAIN URGENTLY NEEDED
BELOW	-4.0	NOT ENOUGH RAIN, STILL EXTREMELY DRY



FIRST CLASS MAIL

Texas and Oklahoma. Farmers in the Delta States expect a 4% acreage decrease, 1% less than the January outlook. Land preparation is well underway, however, recent rain interrupted field work, but provided a bonus by firming up seed beds.

Forecasters call for a food grain drop of 7% to 79.5 million acres. This includes the nearly 56 million acres of winter wheat planted last fall, which was down 3% from a year earlier. Farmers say they'll put 3.3 million acres into durum wheat, off 31% from last year. However, this outlook reflects a 14% increase over January 1 prospects. Other spring wheat plantings may dip 14%; seedings planned in Minnesota and the Dakotas are 10 to 20% below last year. Rice estimates are down 14% from 1976 to 2.16 million acres.

In feed grains, 129.6 million acres may be planted. Corn is expected to cover 84 million acres, virtually the same as 1976, but slightly below January 1 readings. The South Central States anticipate an 8% increase, followed by 3% in the West and 2% in the North Atlantic States. The

important North Central States gauge a 1% downturn for the season. Generally, farmers were on their corn planting schedule, except in Texas where progress was slow. Sorghum plantings may be off 11% from a year ago and 4% under January 1 intentions. Acreage shift is one reason; growers in Texas, the largest producer, plan more land for cotton. A 4% jump in oat production is anticipated which would mean 18.2 million acres. A combination of autumn and spring barley plantings may provide an upturn of 18% to 11 million acres.

Sugarbeet farmers look for a 12% drop to 1.3 million acres this year. Low prices at the market and lack of water are major factors in the 34% decline in California, historically the largest supplier.

Prospective plantings for all seasonal potato groups may drop 4% in 1977. Indications put 1.35 million acres under the plow. A slight fall in sweetpotato production is expected.

Tobacco acreage may slide below one million this year, off 9% from 1976.

PERCENT OF ACREAGE PLANTED
 As of April 17

Spring Wheat				Cotton			
	1977	1976	Avg		1977	1976	Avg
Idaho	45	20	NA	Ala.	16	21	16
Minn.	32	42	18	Ark.	7	9	5
Mont.	15	30	10	Ga.	25	35	11
N. Dak.	1/	NA	NA	La.	6	6	NA
S. Dak.	36	87	30	Miss.	8	12	NA
				Mo.	4	6	2
				N. C.	9	10	8
				Okla.	0	0	0
				S. C.	31	27	12
				Tenn.	5	NA	NA
				Texas	10	18	18
				11-States	8	12	12

1/ Less than 5%.

These 11 States produced 67% of the cotton in 1976.