

# WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP BULLETIN

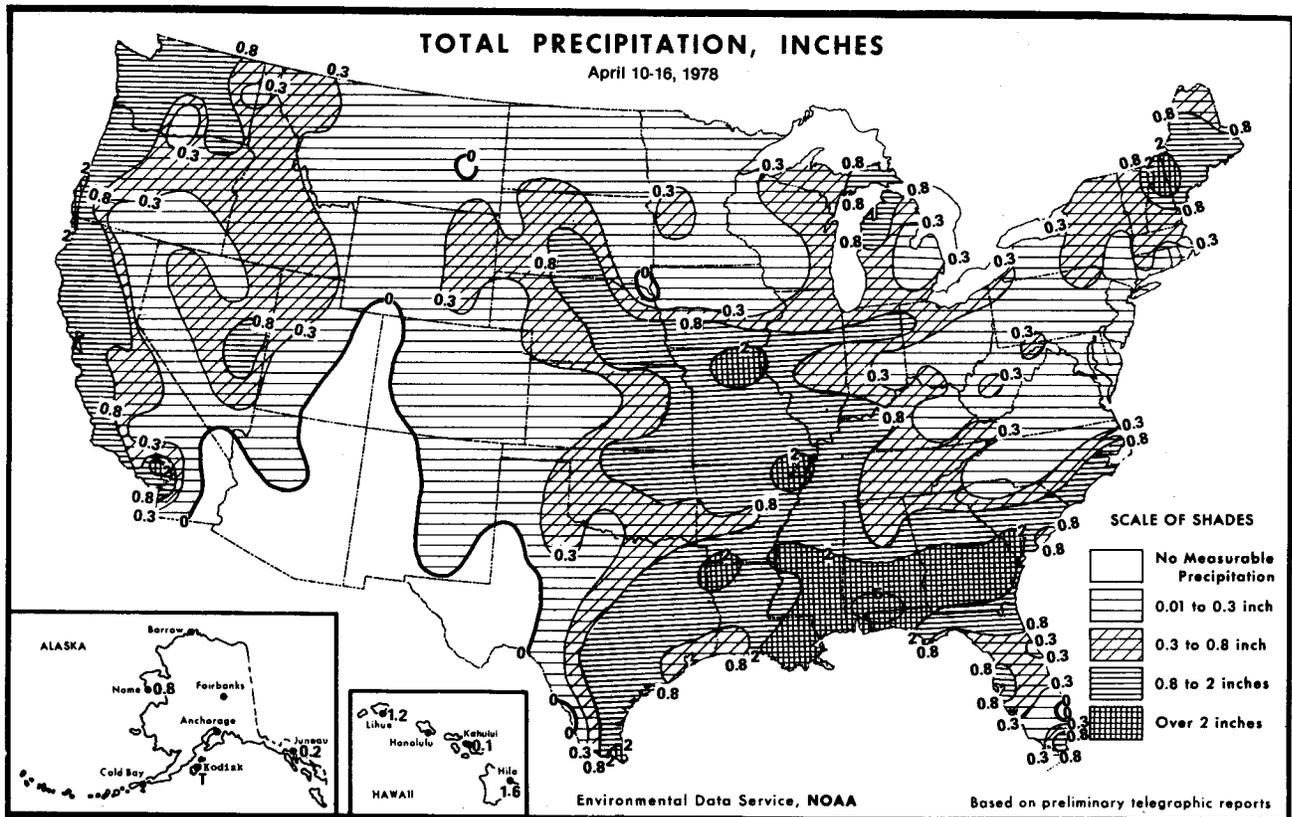
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
Environmental Data Service, NOAA

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Economics, Statistics, and Cooperatives Service

Volume 65, No. 16

Washington, D.C.

April 18, 1978



## National Weather Summary

April 10 - 16

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Some moisture fell in nearly all the Nation except the Southwest. Much of the previously dry Southeast got hefty amounts of rain to dampen soils. Moderate rains fell in the formerly saturated Corn Belt, but some clear days permitted fields to dry somewhat. Normal and better rains accumulated over most of western California.

Warm air in the early part of the week gave way to cool temperatures from the Plains southward and eastward bringing a chill to spring.

An eastward-moving cold front dumped heavy rains on the middle Mississippi and Tennessee Valleys on Monday. Morning amounts showed 2 to 3.5 inches in sections of Iowa and Missouri. By

afternoon, storms along the front carried more than an inch of rain to eastern Louisiana, most of Arkansas, Mississippi, southern Illinois, and the western portions of Tennessee and Kentucky.

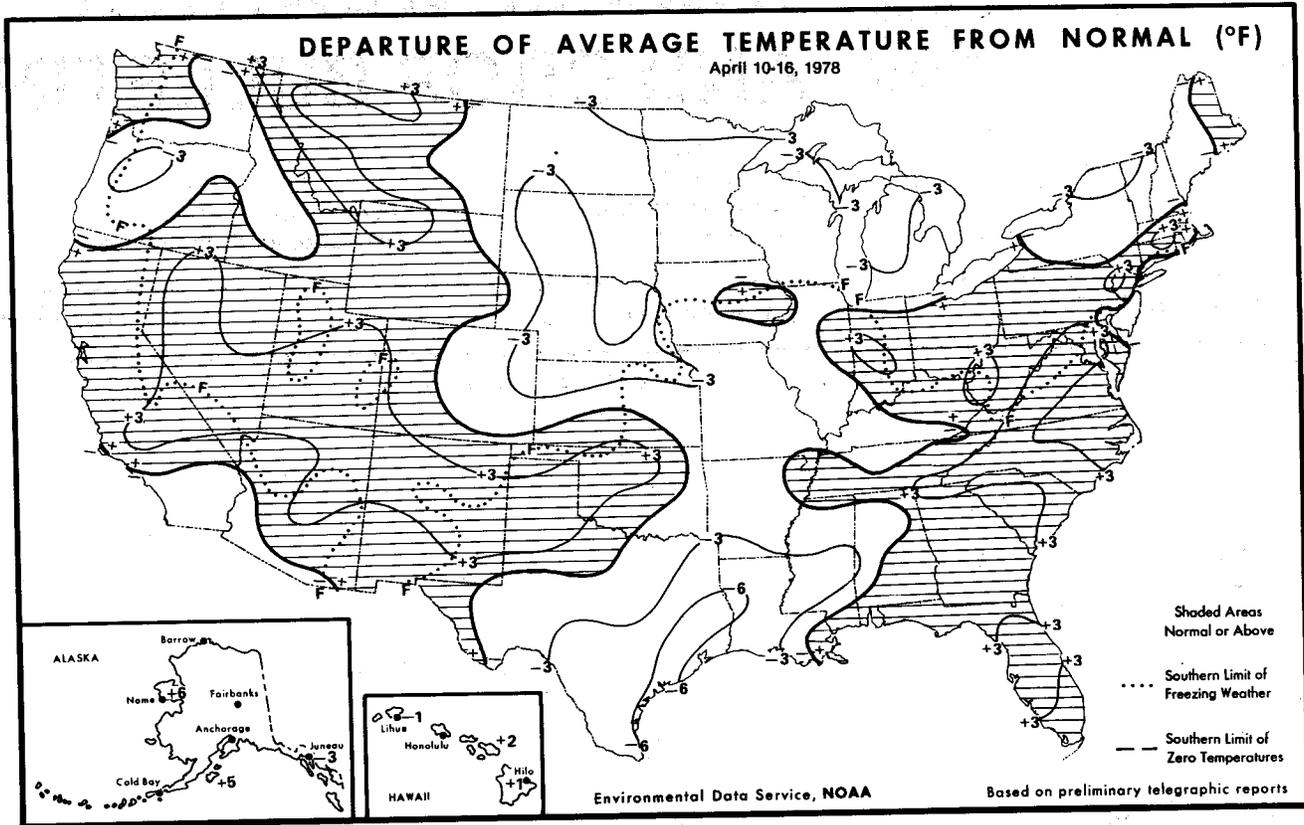
Isolated areas of Mississippi were soaked by more than 2 inches. Rainfalls of one to 1.5 inches dotted East Texas while moderate precipitation dampened the Great Lakes region and upper Midwest.

Frontal systems extended from the Great Lakes along the Appalachians to the central Gulf and from Canada through New Jersey. Tuesday's weather disturbances also included rain over the Pacific Northwest.

One-inch rains drenched Brownsville, Texas, and Anniston, Ala., while half-inch amounts covered most of the Deep South. Nearly an inch fell on some New Jersey points.

The Red River in the Nation's northern tier continued overflowing along its entire length. At Grand Forks, N. Dak., she rose 18 feet above flood stage.

Record high temperatures for the day warmed Raleigh, N.C., 89°, and Norfolk, Va., 88°.



Intense low pressure over Minnesota triggered snow, rain, and high winds over the State on Wednesday. Snow also blanketed upper New England where Maine's Caribou gathered 4 inches and Eastport, 3 inches. Meantime heavy rain spread from Texas across the Gulf coastal area to Florida; half-inch to one inch of rain dampened Texas stations. New Orleans and Mobile, Ala., counted about an inch and a third, and Biloxi, Miss., weathered 2.15 in.

Record temperatures included a new high reading at Daytona Beach, Fla., 92°, toppling the 1972 mark of 87°. In contrast, Olympia, Wash., shivered through 26°, undercutting 1971's 29°.

A frontal system spanning the South from the Carolinas to Alabama triggered heavy rains on Thursday. Downpours of two or more inches soaked Dothan, Ala., Macon, Ga., and Valparaiso, Fla. More than an inch drenched parts of the Carolinas. By day's end, thunderstorms rumbled over the central Plains.

Temperatures were unseasonably cool from the northern Rockies northeastward to Minnesota; readings below 20° chilled several towns.

Friday's weather was generally serene with pockets of thundershowers scattered over various sections of the country. The heaviest rainfall

amounted to about one and one-half inches at Brookings, Oreg., and slightly more than an inch at Miami. About three-quarters inch dampened the central Plains while a third inch fell in parts of the Midwest and northern California.

Saturday was rather dismal along the upper half of the West Coast where a strong Pacific front touched off rains of nearly an inch or more at several stations. A stationary frontal system from Oklahoma to New Mexico was responsible for some light rain over the Plains; portions of Nebraska got about a third-inch. The Plateau Region received some snow and light rain.

The Pacific system chugged across the Plateau Region into the Rockies leaving rain and snow. Seattle notched an inch of rain and Walla Walla got 1.20 in. Cold air combined with the precipitation in the mountains to bring back a taste of winter's snow.

Showers over the Plains dropped a half-inch of moisture on Kansas City and Tulsa.

Chilly temperatures covered a large area east of the Mississippi River. A record low reading of 21° was reported at Alpena, Mich. Lansing, Mich., tied its 1935 mark at 22°, and Atlantic City, N.J., also equaled its record low for the day of 31°.



## National Agricultural Summary

April 10 - 16

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Rains increased soil moisture supplies in the Southeast where it was needed, and also parts of the Midwest where soils were saturated. Land preparation and planting lagged except in the South and West. Corn planting exceeded the usual progress in southern areas, but got off to a slow start in the Corn Belt. Cotton planting reached 11% in the 11 southern States, 2 points ahead of both 1977 and the average. Sorghum seeding moved northward from Texas into Oklahoma; none was planted in other major producing States. Spring wheat seeding was hardly underway; last year almost 20% was sown. Rice planting advanced ahead of normal and last year except in Arkansas. Winter wheat rated fair to good, with headings in southern areas and in the joint stage as far north as Kansas. Pastures scored fair to good and were improving as spring weather moved into northern areas. Fruit trees budded in northern orchards; peaches sized in the South.

**SMALL GRAINS:** Winter wheat greened and grew in all northern areas. Development ranged from coloring in extreme southern regions to jointing in the central Plains. Conditions rated fair to good except dryland stands in the Texas and Oklahoma Panhandles where soil moisture was critically short.

Kansas wheat rated good to excellent but showed some drought stress in the west. Slightly over 10% reached the jointing stage lagging 1977's 20% and the 25% normal. Oklahoma wheat rated good with 66% jointed, short of last year's 80%. Texas wheat fields on the Plains needed rain; some dryland stands were critically short of water and could be lost. Wheat in other Texas areas rated fair to good and growing rapidly. Wheat headed in Florida, Alabama, and Mississippi. Some Arizona fields turned yellow, approaching maturity. Indiana wheat grew to 4 in., short of 1977's 5 in. and the usual 7 in.

Spring wheat seeding reached 2%; only Idaho growers at 30% made significant progress among the 5 major producing States. Last year at this time 19% was planted and normally 12%. North Dakota and Minnesota growers planted no spring wheat, but last year 52% was planted in Minnesota. Low temperatures and wet soils held planting in check.

Oats planting also lagged in the major producing States including Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, and the Dakotas. No oats was planted in Minnesota compared with 47% in 1977 and 27% average. South Dakota planting reached 5%, also short of 1977's 42% and the 29% average. Barley planting also lagged in similar fashion.

**CORN:** Planting in the southern States surpassed both last year and the average in almost every comparison. Early plantings emerged to good stands. Corn sowing advanced in Kansas, Missouri, and Ohio, but progress lagged in these areas. Progress was well under 5% in all three States; last year Ohio and Kansas growers reached 5% and Missouri 16%. The long term average planting for Ohio was 1%, Missouri 11%, and Kansas 5%.

**COTTON:** Planting reached 11% in the 11 southern States, ahead of 9% for 1977 and the average. Texas planting was well ahead of recent years. Seeding in the Delta States lagged last year and the average. Southeastern States tended to lag 1977 but not the average.

Texas cotton stands rated fair to good. Low temperatures slowed growth in southern areas. Drying winds and hard rain may require replanting some stands. Land preparation continued in the Texas Panhandle. Planting continued in New Mexico, Arizona, and California; southern California plantings emerged.

**OTHER CROPS:** Sorghum planting among the seven major producing States was limited to Texas and Oklahoma. Oklahoma's early planted fields were up to stand. Texas planting reached 61%, exceeding 1977's 53% and the 49% average. Seeding extended into all areas of Texas except the High Plains where growers prepared land for later plantings.

Rice seeding surpassed the halfway mark in the Delta States and equaled or exceeded last year and the average except Arkansas where wet soils prevented as swift progress. Mississippi growers reached 51%, Louisiana 65%, Texas 79%, and Arkansas 23%.

Peanut planting lagged in Georgia, Alabama, and Texas. Progress was only half of last year in Georgia and Texas, and generally less than the average.

**FRUITS AND NUTS:** Deciduous trees budded in extreme northern orchards. Peaches neared bloom in New Jersey; bloom ended in southern areas. Southern Texas peaches set and began sizing. Georgia and South Carolina peaches rated good. Apple trees bloomed in the southern half of the Nation. Washington producers fired-up orchard heaters to ward off frost. Grapes budded in northern areas. California pears bloomed.

Florida citrus rated very good to excellent. Growers irrigated to supplement inadequate rainfall. Bloom ended and fruit set began. Valencia harvest increased. Texas citrus bloom ended. Arizona growers harvested Valencias and sprayed to control insects. California Navel picking almost ended and Valencia increased.

**VEGETABLES:** Summer vegetable planting advanced into Virginia. Florida vegetables rated good to excellent; growth, quality, and fruit set was very good. Shipments increased seasonally for most crops; only carrots and peppers were down. Strawberry harvest peaked. Texas rains interrupted vegetable harvests in many areas; growers planted cucumbers, melons, tomatoes, peas, and beans. Arizona lettuce and cabbage harvests tapered off. California asparagus harvest increased; broccoli and cauliflower picking was moderate. Lettuce harvest was still light. Strawberry harvest increased.

**PASTURES AND LIVESTOCK:** Grasslands rated fair to good and improving. Soil moisture shortages developed in some southern areas; showers would improve pastures in these areas. Western ranges rated good to excellent; high elevation pastures greened. Cattlemen moved herds to ranges. Florida pastures grew slowly; soil moisture was short. Texas rains improved pastures. Livestock producers moved cattle to grass, but continued feeding extra rations. Arizona and California ranges were the best in years producing abundant grazing.

Temperature and Precipitation Data for the Week Ending Midnight, l.s.t., April 16, 1978

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 . . .	61	- 2	.7	-. 4	LA. Baton Rouge . . .	65	- 3	2.9	+ 1.7	Youngstown . . . . .	48	+ 1	.2	-. 6
Mobile . . . . .	68	+ 1	4.0	+ 2.7	Lake Charles . . . . .	64	- 4	.5	-. 5	OKLA. Okla. City . . .	63	+ 3	.5	-. 3
Montgomery . . . . .	67	+ 2	2.0	+ .9	New Orleans . . . . .	69	+ 1	3.4	+ 2.4	Tulsa . . . . .	63	+ 3	1.3	+ .3
ALASKA Anchorage . . .	---	---	---	---	Shreveport . . . . .	61	+ 5	2.3	+ 1.1	OREG. Astoria . . . . .	48	+ 1	1.1	0
Barrow . . . . .	---	---	---	---	MAINE Caribou . . . . .	37	+ 1	.5	+ .1	Burns . . . . .	44	0	.2	+ .1
Fairbanks . . . . .	---	---	---	---	Portland . . . . .	41	+ 1	.9	+ .1	Medford . . . . .	49	- 1	.2	0
Juneau . . . . .	35	- 3	.2	-. 5	MD. Baltimore . . . . .	56	+ 3	.3	-. 6	Pendleton . . . . .	49	- 1	.7	+ .5
Kodiak . . . . .	41	+ 5	T	-. 9	MASS. Boston . . . . .	50	+ 2	.3	-. 5	Portland . . . . .	49	- 1	1.1	+ .6
Nome . . . . .	23	+ 6	.8	+ .6	Chatham . . . . .	36	- 3	-. 2	-. 1	Salem . . . . .	47	- 2	.8	+ .3
ARIZ. Flagstaff . . . . .	43	+ 2	.2	-. 1	MICH. Alpena . . . . .	46	- 1	.4	-. 3	PA. Allentown . . . . .	52	+ 3	.1	-. 8
Phoenix . . . . .	70	+ 3	0	-. 1	Detroit . . . . .	46	- 1	.4	-. 4	Erie . . . . .	46	+ 2	.5	-. 3
Tucson . . . . .	65	0	0	-. 1	Flint . . . . .	45	0	.1	-. 6	Harrisburg . . . . .	52	0	.2	-. 5
Winslow . . . . .	56	+ 3	0	-. 1	Grand Rapids . . . . .	43	- 3	.6	-. 2	Philadelphia . . . . .	52	0	.1	-. 7
Yuma . . . . .	70	- 1	0	0	Houghton Lake . . . . .	38	- 3	.3	-. 3	Pittsburgh . . . . .	53	+ 4	.1	-. 7
ARK. Fort Smith . . . . .	61	- 1	.8	-. 3	Lansing . . . . .	43	- 3	.2	-. 5	Scranton . . . . .	48	0	.2	-. 5
Little Rock . . . . .	61	0	.5	-. 7	Marquette . . . . .	37	- 3	.5	-. 1	R. I. Providence . . . .	47	0	.3	-. 6
CALIF. Bakersfield . . .	65	+ 3	T	-. 2	Muskegon . . . . .	42	- 3	.5	-. 3	S. C. Charleston . . . .	68	+ 4	.4	-. 3
Eureka . . . . .	50	+ 1	1.2	+ .5	S. Ste. Marie . . . . .	32	- 5	.8	+ .3	Columbia . . . . .	66	+ 2	2.0	+ 1.2
Fresno . . . . .	61	+ 1	.5	+ .2	MINN. Duluth . . . . .	37	- 1	.2	-. 4	Greenville . . . . .	63	+ 3	.3	-. 8
Los Angeles . . . . .	60	+ 1	.8	+ .5	Internatl Falls . . . .	32	- 5	.2	-. 2	S. D. Aberdeen . . . . .	42	- 1	.2	-. 3
Red Bluff . . . . .	60	+ 1	1.1	+ .7	Minneapolis . . . . .	43	- 1	.2	-. 2	Huron . . . . .	43	- 2	.2	-. 3
San Diego . . . . .	64	+ 4	.2	0	Rochester . . . . .	43	- 1	.1	-. 5	Rapid City . . . . .	41	- 3	.3	-. 2
San Francisco . . . . .	56	+ 1	1.2	+ .8	St. Cloud . . . . .	41	- 1	.3	-. 2	Sioux Falls . . . . .	44	- 1	T	-. 5
Stockton . . . . .	60	+ 2	.3	-. 1	MISS. Jackson . . . . .	62	- 3	1.4	+ .3	TENN. Chattanooga . . .	63	+ 3	.7	-. 4
COLO. Denver . . . . .	46	- 1	.1	-. 3	Meridian . . . . .	61	- 4	3.0	+ 1.8	Knoxville . . . . .	61	+ 1	.5	-. 4
Grand Junction . . . . .	54	+ 3	T	-. 3	MO. Columbia . . . . .	54	0	1.8	+ .9	Memphis . . . . .	63	+ 1	.8	-. 5
Pueblo . . . . .	50	- 1	T	-. 3	Kansas City . . . . .	51	- 3	1.3	+ .5	Nashville . . . . .	59	- 1	.4	-. 6
CONN. Bridgeport . . . .	47	- 1	T	-. 3	St. Louis . . . . .	54	- 2	1.0	+ .1	TEX. Abilene . . . . .	65	0	T	-. 5
Hartford . . . . .	50	+ 3	.1	-. 8	Springfield . . . . .	54	- 2	1.4	+ .4	Amarillo . . . . .	59	+ 3	.1	-. 2
D. C. Washington . . . .	60	+ 4	.1	-. 5	MONT. Billings . . . . .	45	+ 1	.2	-. 2	Austin . . . . .	65	- 3	1.6	+ .8
FLA. Apalachicola . . . .	69	+ 1	.5	-. 4	Glasgow . . . . .	42	0	T	-. 1	Beaumont . . . . .	66	- 3	.3	-. 7
Daytona Beach . . . . .	74	+ 5	T	-. 6	Great Falls . . . . .	43	0	.2	-. 1	Brownsville . . . . .	70	- 5	2.4	+ 2.1
Ft. Myers . . . . .	76	+ 3	.1	-. 4	Havre . . . . .	46	+ 3	T	-. 2	Corpus Christi . . . . .	66	- 6	1.4	+ .9
Jacksonville . . . . .	70	+ 2	1.7	+ 1.0	Helena . . . . .	46	+ 4	.1	-. 1	Dallas . . . . .	---	---	---	---
Key West . . . . .	80	+ 2	T	-. 5	Kalispell . . . . .	43	+ 2	.7	+ .5	Del Rio . . . . .	69	- 3	.1	-. 3
Lakeland . . . . .	76	+ 4	.5	-. 1	Miles City . . . . .	44	0	T	-. 3	El Paso . . . . .	64	+ 1	0	-. 1
Miami . . . . .	76	+ 1	1.3	+ .5	Missoula . . . . .	46	+ 3	.3	+ .1	Fort Worth . . . . .	64	- 1	.7	-. 3
Orlando . . . . .	76	+ 5	.5	-. 2	NEBR. Grand Island . . .	47	- 2	1.4	+ .8	Galveston . . . . .	65	- 4	.5	-. 1
Tallahassee . . . . .	69	+ 2	1.3	+ .3	Lincoln . . . . .	48	- 3	1.5	+ .9	Houston . . . . .	63	- 6	.3	-. 5
Tampa . . . . .	76	+ 4	.8	+ .3	Norfolk . . . . .	46	- 2	.5	0	Lubbock . . . . .	63	+ 4	T	-. 1
W. Palm Beach . . . . .	74	0	T	-. 8	N. Platte . . . . .	43	- 4	.4	0	Midland . . . . .	63	- 1	0	-. 1
GA. Atlanta . . . . .	63	+ 2	1.6	+ .5	Omaha . . . . .	48	- 1	1.0	+ .4	San Angelo . . . . .	65	- 2	T	-. 4
Augusta . . . . .	65	+ 2	1.8	+ 1.0	Valentine . . . . .	40	- 5	.8	+ .4	San Antonio . . . . .	65	- 4	1.5	+ .9
Macon . . . . .	67	+ 2	3.2	+ 2.4	NEV. Ely . . . . .	43	- 2	1.0	+ .7	San Antonio . . . . .	65	- 5	.9	+ .3
Savannah . . . . .	69	+ 3	1.8	+ 1.1	Las Vegas . . . . .	66	+ 3	T	-. 1	Victoria . . . . .	66	- 1	1.0	+ .1
HAWAII. Hilo . . . . .	73	+ 1	1.6	- 1.5	Reno . . . . .	47	+ 1	T	-. 1	Waco . . . . .	63	- 1	.2	-. 5
Honolulu . . . . .	---	---	---	---	Winnemucca . . . . .	49	+ 5	.5	+ .4	Wichita Falls . . . . .	50	+ 3	T	-. 2
Kahului . . . . .	76	+ 2	.1	-. 2	N. H. Concord . . . . .	42	- 1	.3	-. 4	UTAH. Blanding . . . . .	63	- 1	T	-. 2
Lihue . . . . .	72	- 1	1.2	+ .4	N. J. Atlantic City . . . .	50	- 1	T	-. 8	Salt Lake City . . . . .	50	+ 2	.3	-. 2
IDAHO. Boise . . . . .	48	0	.5	+ .2	Trenton . . . . .	52	+ 1	.1	-. 6	VT. Burlington . . . . .	60	+ 4	.1	-. 5
Lewiston . . . . .	49	- 1	.5	+ .2	N. MEX. Albuquerque . . .	59	+ 4	0	-. 1	VA. Lynchburg . . . . .	60	+ 4	.1	-. 5
Pocatello . . . . .	45	0	.3	+ .1	Roswell . . . . .	64	+ 5	T	-. 1	Norfolk . . . . .	59	+ 2	.2	-. 4
ILL. Cairo . . . . .	60	0	1.1	+ .1	N. Y. Albany . . . . .	45	- 1	.2	-. 4	Richmond . . . . .	59	+ 2	.1	-. 5
Chicago . . . . .	48	- 1	.6	-. 3	Binghamton . . . . .	44	0	.4	-. 3	Roanoke . . . . .	59	+ 4	.1	-. 5
Moline . . . . .	51	+ 1	.7	-. 2	Buffalo . . . . .	44	0	T	-. 5	WASH. Colville . . . . .	46	0	.4	+ .2
Peoria . . . . .	50	- 1	1.1	0	New York . . . . .	51	0	T	-. 8	Omak . . . . .	47	- 1	1.2	+ 1.0
Rockford . . . . .	46	- 1	.5	-. 4	Rochester . . . . .	46	+ 1	.1	-. 5	Quillayute . . . . .	46	+ 1	1.6	-. 4
Springfield . . . . .	52	0	.8	-. 2	Syracuse . . . . .	44	- 2	.5	-. 3	Seattle-Tacoma . . . . .	49	+ 1	1.6	+ 1.0
IND. Evansville . . . . .	55	- 1	1.0	+ .1	N. C. Asheville . . . . .	59	+ 4	.1	-. 7	Spokane . . . . .	45	0	.3	+ .1
Ft. Wayne . . . . .	49	0	1.1	+ .3	Charlotte . . . . .	64	+ 4	.2	-. 6	Walla Walla . . . . .	52	0	1.1	+ .7
Indianapolis . . . . .	55	+ 3	.2	-. 7	Greensboro . . . . .	60	+ 2	.2	-. 6	Yakima . . . . .	49	0	.1	0
South Bend . . . . .	47	0	.5	-. 5	Hatteras . . . . .	60	+ 2	1.1	+ .4	W. Va. Beckley . . . . .	53	+ 2	.1	-. 7
IOWA. Burlington . . . . .	50	- 1	1.2	+ .3	Raleigh . . . . .	62	+ 3	.3	-. 4	Charleston . . . . .	58	+ 3	.3	-. 5
Des Moines . . . . .	49	0	.3	-. 4	Wilmingon . . . . .	66	+ 3	1.7	+ 1.0	Huntington . . . . .	58	+ 3	.1	-. 6
Dubuque . . . . .	47	0	.2	-. 8	N. DAK. Bismarck . . . . .	40	- 2	.1	-. 3	Parkersburg . . . . .	55	+ 1	.1	-. 7
Sioux City . . . . .	46	- 3	T	-. 5	Fargo . . . . .	39	- 2	T	-. 5	WIS. Green Bay . . . . .	40	- 3	.5	-. 1
KANS. Concordia . . . . .	49	- 3	.3	-. 2	Williston . . . . .	49	+ 1	.2	-. 6	La Crosse . . . . .	44	- 3	T	-. 6
Dodge City . . . . .	53	0	T	-. 4	OHIO. Akron-Canton . . . .	53	0	.3	-. 5	Madison . . . . .	44	- 1	.1	-. 5
Goodland . . . . .	44	- 4	T	-. 3	Cincinnati . . . . .	49	+ 1	.4	-. 4	Milwaukee . . . . .	44	0	.6	-. 1
Topeka . . . . .	52	- 2	.8	-. 1	Cleveland . . . . .	52	+ 2	.2	-. 6	WYO. Casper . . . . .	42	0	.2	-. 1
Wichita . . . . .	57	+ 1	.4	-. 3	Columbus . . . . .	52	+ 2	.2	-. 6	Cheyenne . . . . .	42	0	.2	-. 2
KY. Lexington . . . . .	57	+ 2	.3	-. 6	Dayton . . . . .	52	+ 1	.3	-. 5	Lander . . . . .	44	+ 2	.1	-. 5
Louisville . . . . .	57	+ 2	.6	-. 4	Toledo . . . . .	46	- 2	.3	-. 4	Sheridan . . . . .	46	+ 3	T	-. 5
										P. R. San Juan . . . . .	79	+ 2	5.3	+ 4.6

Based on 1941-70 normals

Publication of the Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin began in 1872 as the Weekly Weather Chronicle. It is issued under general authority of the Act of January 12, 1895 (44 USC 213), 53d Congress, 3d Session. Contents of the Bulletin may be reprinted freely, with proper credit.

Standard copy for the Bulletin is prepared by Donald J. Haddock, Lyle Denny, and O. W. Byrd, Environmental Data Service, National Oceanic and

Atmospheric Administration; Harry DeLong and Jim Carlin, Economics, Statistics, and Cooperatives Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. Yearly subscription rate: \$5.00 domestic and \$11.25 foreign airmail. Order from the Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin, South Building Mail Unit, Room 1248, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250. Make checks payable to Department of Commerce, NOAA.

## 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 ESCS State offices in cooperation with the National Weather Service.

**ALABAMA:** Showers and cooler temperatures. Readings 2° above normal. Rains averaged 1.00 to 2.00 in. Fieldwork made some progress; 3.2 days suitable. Corn 43% planted, 44% 1977, 27% average. Cotton 14% planted, 16% 1977, 12% average. Peanuts 4% planted. Wheat fair condition, 25% headed, 38% 1977. Pastures providing seasonally short grazing.

**ARIZONA:** Fair, mild except cool 10th and 16th. Temperatures near normal. Pacific storm brought scattered, light showers northern areas 15th and 16th.

Excellent weather, field conditions near perfect. Cotton planting full swing, nearing completion Yuma area. Land preparations, planting grain sorghum active, emergence good earlier plantings. Wheat, barley marked color break. Safflower flowering underway early fields. Sugarbeet taproot development very good. Warmer temperatures aided spring vegetables. Cultivation, thinning, reshaping melon beds. Progress of crop satisfactory. Harvest lettuce, cabbage tapering off. Harvest Valencias very active. Spraying underway for thrips and citrus red mite. Harvest other citrus seasonally slow. Cattle, calves gaining weight from abundant grass. Soil moisture mostly adequate. Ranges greening up higher elevations.

**ARKANSAS:** Temperatures moderate. Extremes: 87 and 32°, Precipitation amounts averaged 1.00 in.

Fieldwork progressed rapidly; 5.5 days available for seedbed preparation and crop plantings. Soil moisture adequate. Rice plantings 23%; cotton 2%; corn 29%; sorghum 19%. Soybean seedbed preparation active. Wheat and oats good condition; in joint stages. Fruit good to excellent condition; strawberries setting fruit. Tomato transplanting nearly complete, fair to good condition. Hay good condition, alfalfa near first cutting. Pastures average to above average condition; growth rapid central and north. Cattle improving; fair to good condition.

**CALIFORNIA:** Small amounts of rain along south coast early week; late week some rain in northern coast and northern mountains. Amounts less than 0.50 in. Temperatures above normal except south coast and interior where averages near or slightly below normal.

Field preparation, planting delayed by rains, high soil moisture. Cotton planting continued; young stands emerged south. Oats green chopped for hay, silage. Safflower planted and emerged. Small grains heading out. Sugarbeets planted; harvesting overwintered crop thinning. Fruit and nuts developing normally; spraying to control pests. Apples chemically thinned. Pears in bloom; citrus bloom progressing. Grapefruit harvested Riverside. Lemon quality increased with harvest, some fruit overripe due to inaccessible fields. Navel orange harvest almost over; Valencia harvest slowly increasing. Almonds sizing well. Walnuts progressing well; late varieties in bloom, early varieties leafing out. Asparagus harvest increasing. Broccoli and cauliflower harvest moderate. Lettuce harvest still light central coast; active San Joaquin Valley. Digging spring potatoes very slow. Strawberry harvest increasing south coast; very light central coast, San Joaquin Valley. Range, pasture excellent; best in many years. Livestock good condition.

**COLORADO:** Precipitation early week, foothills and plains along Platte River. Some moisture in mountains, very little southeast. Remainder of week dry. Snowpacks melting below 10,000 ft. Temperatures near or slightly above normal; wide variations.

Winter wheat poor to good; foot rot major problem. Moderate wind damage southeast. Oats 54% seeded, 46% 1977, 54% average. Spring barley 35% seeded, 48% 1977, 53% average. Sugarbeet 70% seeded, 37% 1977, 35% average. Summer potatoes 24% seeded, 22% 1977, 23% average. Corn seeding underway eastern plains. Fieldwork: 5 days suitable. Ranges and pastures poor to fair. Live-stock good. Lambing and calving progressing favorably.

**FLORIDA:** Temperatures 3 to 6° above normal. Rains 13th to 15th of more than 3.00 in. in Panhandle and more than 2.00 in. to southeast coast with lesser amounts central area.

Soil moisture mostly short. Some improvement north and west after recent rains. Land preparation active. Planting corn, peanuts active. Early corn fair condition. Small grains heading. Sugar-cane good condition. Rainfall extreme north and some south beneficial; elsewhere insufficient to alleviate dry soil. Irrigation heavy. Pasture growth slow. Cattle condition varies poor to good depending on availability of grazing. Citrus very good to excellent. Some rain many areas; more needed. Irrigation very active. Bloom completed; fruit set now going on. Valencia harvest increasing. Vegetables generally good to excellent; growth quality, fruit set very good. Overall shipments up from previous week. Volume up seasonally most crops. Cabbage, escarole, potato volume steady. Carrots, pepper volume down, should increase this week. Strawberry harvest peaked, seasonal decline expected. Watermelon crop making good progress; largest size melons 12 to 15 pounds. First harvest expected early May.

**GEORGIA:** Temperatures ranged from near 60° mountains to low 70's south; 4 to 8° above normal. Rainfall ranged from around 1.00 in. north to over 3.00 in. west central. Amounts in south and east central averaged around 2.0 in. Weekend sunny and warm daytime, fair and cool at night.

Soil moisture considerably improved, now adequate, moisture aided all crops. Fieldwork: 4 days suitable. Corn 66% planted, 74% last year, 41% average; fair to mostly good. Peanuts 8% seeded, 15% last year, 7% average. Tobacco 68% transplanted, 86% last year, 78% average; fair to good. Cotton 23% planted, 25% last year, 13% average. Soybean planting still light; 1% same as last year. Watermelon planting 79%, 81% last year. Small grains fair to good. Peaches mostly good, apples good; peach bloom ending, spraying continues in fruit and pecan orchards. Pastures and cattle fair to mostly good and improving.

**HAWAII:** Weather favorable. Beneficial rains continue all islands. Winds occasionally gusty Oahu.

Banana orchards, vine crops exposed areas slightly damaged. Regular spray program maintaining fair to good crop progress. Vegetable supplies mostly adequate. Bananas, papayas, pineapple supplies light. Sugar active. Pasture moisture level increasing; forage growth improving.

IDAHO: Temperatures near normal, however, readings generally higher than normal during the day and lower than normal at night. Some precipitation but heaviest in south.

Spring wheat and barley seeding about 30% complete with 10% emerged. Sugarbeet planting 45% complete. Potato planting making good progress in southwest but limited to a few localities in east. Winter wheat in good condition. Fieldwork: 4 days suitable.

ILLINOIS: Temperatures near normal. Precipitation west and south 1.00 to 1.25 in.; elsewhere 0.25 to 0.75 in.

Winter wheat fair to good. Oats seeding 25% complete, 94% 1977, 84% average. Plowing 1978 corn and soybean land 60% complete, 1977 92%, average 88%. Pastures fair to mostly good. Soil moisture adequate to surplus. Fieldwork: 1 day suitable.

INDIANA: Near normal temperatures ranged from 27 to 81°. Rainfall 0.30 in. southeast, 0.50 to 0.70 in. elsewhere except 1.00 in. extreme southwest. Soil temperatures and evaporation rates above normal south, near or below normal north.

Fieldwork averaged 2 days. Topsoil and subsoil moisture adequate to mostly surplus. Spring planted cropland 47% plowed, 1977 70%, average 55%. Oats 15% seeded, 1977 75%, average 45%. Clover 40% seeded, 1977 90%. Summer potatoes 30% planted, 1977 45%. Wheat fair; 4 in. high, 1977 5 in., average 7 in. Pasture improved, mostly fair.

IOWA: Cool with scattered showers west and south central. Temperatures 1 to 3° subnormal.

Topsoil and subsoil moisture mostly adequate, to surplus. Plowing 45% complete, last year 81%, normal 63%. Wheat and pasture condition fair to good. Oats planted 33%, last year 85%, normal 51%. Fertilizer application 33% complete. Fieldwork: 2.3 days suitable. Livestock condition good.

KANSAS: Substantial rains east and north; continued dry southwest. Moisture averaged 0.10 to 0.20 in. southwest, 0.50 in. northwest, 0.75 in. central and southeast, 1.33 in. northeast. Temperatures 47° northwest to 58° southeast or 1° above normal southeast to 1 to 3° below normal west and north.

Wheat conditions good to excellent, showing drought stress west. Slightly over 10% jointing stage, normal 25%, last year 20%. Soil moisture short west half; adequate to surplus east half; southeast mostly surplus. Little progress in planting corn; less than 5% planted, last year and normal 5%. Planting limited to south central and southeast. Oat seeding 70%, normal 80%, last year virtually completed. Barley seeding 80%, equals normal, last year 100%. Sugarbeet planting nearly completed.

KENTUCKY: Warm with adequate moisture west but mild and quite dry east. Rainfall 1.00 in. west to only 0.13 in. east.

Fieldwork: 5 days suitable. Soil moisture surplus west; adequate to short elsewhere. Plowing behind last year and normal. Tobacco plants in beds 15% up, 52% last year and 49% average. Corn planting underway, 7% planted, 11% last year and 7% average. Pastures made good growth. Some winter damage to clover. Little winter damage to apples; peach trees considerable damage.

LOUISIANA: Temperatures 2° below normal west to normal east. Extremes: 41 and 86°. Heavy rain northwest and southeast.

Activities: Fertilizing pastures, land preparation, herbicide application, corn and rice planting. Fieldwork: 3.3 days suitable. Soil moisture generally adequate. Corn 70% planted, 71% last year, 47% average. Rice 65% planted, 54% last year, average 45%. Cotton planting 3%. Sugarcane emerging and growing slow. Vegetable planting active. Strawberry harvest active. Small grains, cattle fair to good condition. Pastures fair.

MARYLAND & DELAWARE: Temperatures 5° above normal. Highs in upper 70's to low 80's; lows in low 30's. Precipitation very light; generally less than 0.25 in.

Farmwork progressed rapidly, however, still generally behind normal. Plowing for corn, spreading fertilizer, manure, and lime major activities. Tobacco beds in good condition. Vegetable planting picking up momentum. Small grains fair to good condition. Fruit growers pruning and spraying orchards.

MICHIGAN: Temperatures normal to 4° below normal Lower and 2 to 5° below normal over Upper. Precipitation 0.20 to 0.50 in. over southeast half and 0.40 to 1.30 in. over northwest half of Lower. Over Upper amounts ranged from near 0.90 in. east to around 0.20 in. extreme west.

Harvesting corn not picked last fall in progress. Spring plowing and early planting beginning drier areas. Fruit trees budding southwest. Maple sirup season ending.

MINNESOTA: Temperatures normal south and 2 to 5° below normal north. Extremes: 64 and 16°. Precipitation 0.10 to 0.40 in. north and extreme south and 0.40 to 1.10 in. central. Snowfall restricted to extreme northeast where up to 1 in. fell.

Fieldwork just beginning south, none north. Small grain seeding very limited. Most fields still too wet. Seeded: Spring wheat 0%, 1977 52%, normal 27%; oats 0%, 1977 47%, normal 27%; barley 0%, 1977 24%, normal 15%.

MISSISSIPPI: Temperatures near normal. Extremes: 33 and 90°.

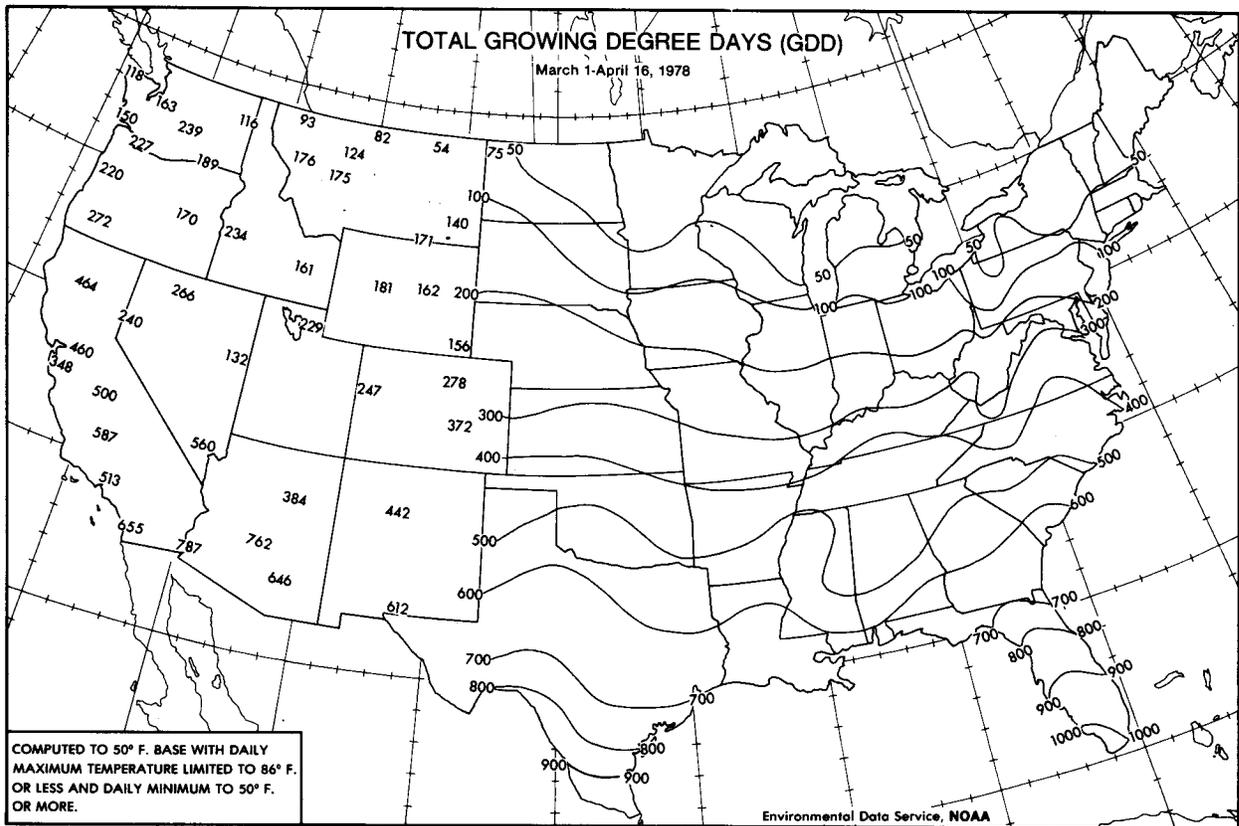
Soil moisture adequate. Fieldwork: 2.9 days suitable. Acreage plowed 77%, 76% 1977. Cotton 2% planted, 8% 1976. Rice 51% planted, 30% 1977; 14% up to stand. Corn 51% planted, 49% 1977, 24% average; 25% up to stand, 24% 1977. Winter wheat 70% jointing, 91% 1977; 3% headed, 20% 1977. Oats 67% jointing, 86% 1977; 4% headed, 26% 1977. Crops and pastures in good to fair condition.

MISSOURI: Temperatures slightly above normal. Precipitation general, with 1.00 to 3.00 in. received in extreme north and south.

Fieldwork: 1.6 days suitable. Oats 13% sown, last year 95%. Corn 3% planted, last year 16%, normal 11%. Cotton 1% planted, last year 5%, normal less than 1%. Condition of winter wheat fair to good. Condition of pasture fair to good. Soil moisture supply adequate to surplus.

MONTANA: Mild with temperatures near or little above normal. Precipitation light and spotty through 15th. Frontal system 16th caused strong winds, thunderstorms and hail, with heavy showers west; rain or wet snow along east slopes.

Soil moisture adequate except northeast; south-west short to adequate. Winter wheat good condition; greening and growing. Winterkill light except northeast some heavy loss. Fieldwork started all areas, active west and south. Seeding completed: Spring wheat just starting, 1977 15%, average 10%; barley 5%, 1977 5%, average 10%; oats just starting, 1977 10%, average 5%; sugar-



beets 15%, 1977 30%, average 15%. Ranges growing slowly, livestock fair to good condition.

**NEBRASKA:** Precipitation ranged 0.50 in. Panhandle to 1.50 in. southeast. Temperatures near to below normal.

Winter wheat rated good; year ago mostly fair. Oats 40% seeded; 70% year ago; 55% normal. Barley 30% planted, 75% year ago, 60% normal. Topsoil moisture rated surplus to mostly adequate. Subsoil moisture adequate. Rainfall cut days suitable for fieldwork to less than 4.

**NEVADA:** Cold beginning and ending; warm midweek. Moist air end of week central and east. Temperatures above normal. Extremes: 87 and 16°. Good progress fieldwork. Cutting alfalfa hay confined to extreme southern valleys. Small number livestock moved to ranges.

**NEW ENGLAND:** Rainfall ranged from 0.25 in. over southern areas to near 1.00 in. over far north. Temperatures soared into 70's throughout southern areas 13th with highest 80°. Average readings fluctuated from a little below to a bit above normal.

**NEW JERSEY:** Temperatures close to normal. Extremes: 27 and 76°. Rainfall 0.22 in. north, 0.10 in. central, and 0.04 in. south. Soil moisture in percent of field capacity: 93% north, 84% central, and 81% south. Soil temperature 42° north, 45° central, and 48° south. Fieldwork: 5.5 days suitable. Spring vegetable planting continued. Cool temperatures slowing crop progress. Peach bloom to peak next week. Potato planting well advanced. Spring oat seeding increasing. Warmer weather needed for pasture growth. Light well-drained soils need rain.

**NEW MEXICO:** Temperatures 1 to 5° warmer than normal. Very light shower activity northern mountains and eastern plains 10th.

Alfalfa, grains, vegetables, fruits and livestock in good condition. Ranges fair. Cotton planting started, but not yet active. Alfalfa growing well in areas with water. About 20% of winter wheat jointed. Almost all barley planted and up. Corn planting just beginning. Many apple orchards in bloom. Calving about 75% completed.

**NEW YORK:** Above normal precipitation in St. Lawrence Valley, below normal elsewhere. Near normal temperatures mainly in 40's except 30's in Adirondacks and Catskills. Extremes: 75 and 3°.

Early spring fieldwork getting underway.

**NORTH CAROLINA:** Temperatures 3 to 5° below normal. Precipitation light; averaging 0.55 in.

Fieldwork: 5.2 days suitable. Soil moisture short to adequate. Condition wheat, oats, barley, rye, pasture and truck crops, fair to mostly good. Tobacco plants and Irish potatoes mostly fair to good. Planted: Corn 52%, 1977 43%, average 34%; cotton 18%, 1977 9%, average 12%; sorghum, soybeans, and flue-cured tobacco just underway.

**NORTH DAKOTA:** Frequent scattered showers; precipitation generally light and averaged from 0.10 to 0.30 in. Light snow 12th, but generally under 2 in. Temperatures near normal to 3° below normal. Extremes: 63 and 13°.

Conditions excellent for calving and lambing. Drying weather needed for fieldwork.

**OHIO:** Temperatures 2 to 5° above normal. High 80's southeast; below freezing north. Growing degree days accumulation since April 1 slightly

above normal due to warm afternoons. Precipitation 0.33 in. north and west; below normal.

Fields drying; plowing not yet on schedule. Planting of all spring crops is late. Condition of winter wheat poor to good. Fruit trees showing some damage due to quick freeze in early fall and high winds. Corn planted 1%, 5% 1977, 1% average. Oats planted 20%, 50% 1977, 45% average. Sugarbeets planted less than 10%, 40% 1977, 35% average. Tobacco beds seeded 88%, 85% 1977, 70% average. Land plowed 60%, 75% 1977, 65% average. Fieldwork: 3 days favorable. Soil moisture adequate to surplus.

OKLAHOMA: Temperatures near normal; highs in 70's and 80's, highest temperature 87°. Precipitation trace in Panhandle, 0.96 in. southeast. Maximum soil temperatures climbed to 70's, low 80's in south, 60's in north. Soil temperatures very close to April 1977.

Moisture conditions improved except Panhandle. Topsoil and subsoil moisture conditions adequate. Winter wheat mostly good condition; 66% jointed, 80% last year. Dry conditions prevail in Panhandle. Small grains mostly good to fair condition. Alfalfa good condition; spraying for weevil control. Over 50% of row crop seedbeds worked and prepared. Some early fields of corn and sorghum up to stand. Prewatering corn ground began in Panhandle. Pecan groves and bermuda sprigging underway. Pastures and ranges rated mostly good to fair. Grasses growing well.

OREGON: Rainfall below seasonal normal; 0.25 to 0.75 in. along coast and 0.20 to 0.40 in. in western valleys. Temperatures near normal except northeast which was below average. Extremes: low 80's, high 20's west; low 80's, high teens east.

Soil moisture good. Fall grains in good condition. Plowing, fertilizing continue. Spring grains 75% seeded west; 60% seeded east. Fruits blooming early. Vegetable plantings in full swing; onions, peas, table beets going in, snap beans to start soon. Potatoes being planted low elevation areas. Cattle, calves, sheep, poultry in good shape. Pasture and ranges in excellent condition.

PENNSYLVANIA: Mild and breezy with light rain beginning; sunny with seasonable temperatures midweek; partly cloudy, very windy and cool weekend. Temperatures near normal. Extremes: 75 and 20°. Precipitation less than 0.25 in. except north where up to 1 in. snow extreme northeast 15th.

Fieldwork: 4 days suitable. Soil moisture adequate to surplus. Activities: Picking corn; chopping stalks, spreading fertilizer; plowing land; orchard pruning and spraying. Plowing 16%, 29% last year. Potatoes under 5% planted, 7% last year. Tobacco beds 54% sown. Oats 7% sown, 22% 1977. Alfalfa hay stands mostly good to fair. Early grape buds swelling.

PUERTO RICO: Island average rainfall 2.41 in. or 1.48 in. above normal. Temperatures about 78° on coasts and 72° interior. Extremes: 92 and 59°.

SOUTH CAROLINA: Temperatures little above normal with highs early, weekend cooler. Several days rainfall midweek gave first substantial relief from drought.

Fieldwork: 4 days suitable. Tobacco good; 23% transplanted, 45% last year, 49% average. Corn good; 80% planted, 80% last year, 51% average. Cotton fair; 24% planted, 31% last year, 15% average. Peaches, apples good fruit set. Vegetables fair to good; some cucumber replanting.

SOUTH DAKOTA: Temperatures near normal or below due to cooler air and occasional cloudiness.

Extremes: 15 and 79°. Precipitation widespread; heaviest amounts central and south central.

Cool weather and wet fields delaying fieldwork. Spring plowing 3% complete, 1977 23%, normal 16%. Oats 5% seeded, 1977 42%, normal 29%. Spring wheat 10% seeded, 1977 34%, normal 27%. Barley 4% seeded, 1977 32%, normal 22%.

TENNESSEE: Less than normal rainfall; drying conditions good. Temperatures normal west, 3 to 5° above normal mid and east. Highs in 70's and lows 50's west and 40's east. Precipitation up to 1.00 in. west, 0.25 to 0.50 in. east.

Fieldwork: 4.8 days suitable. Soil moisture short to adequate. Pastures, oats, and wheat mostly fair. Spring plowing 68% complete, 1977 80%, average 65%. Tobacco plant beds 95% seeded, 1977 and average 98%. Corn planted 20%, 1977 28%, average 14%. Cotton planted 2%, 1977 6%, average 5%.

TEXAS: Temperatures near normal south, Trans-Pecos; 2 to 8° above normal north; 1 to 3° below normal along upper Gulf Coast. Rainfall near normal in Trans-Pecos, south central, and central Gulf Coast; above normal lower Valley; below normal elsewhere.

Most of east received rain; elsewhere scattered showers and very dry. Areas receiving rains now show good crop development. Cotton stands fair to good. Growth slow due to cool nights in south. Some southern fields need to be replanted because of the hard rain and hail, and drying winds. Cotton 16% planted; 10% 1977; 10% average. American pima planting well underway in Trans-Pecos. Land preparation continues in Panhandle. Sorghum planting active except High Plains where land preparation continues. Early stands generally good. Greenbugs and chinch bugs in many areas. Sorghum 61% planted; 53% 1977; 49% average. Corn planting active in plains; virtually complete elsewhere. Corn 37% planted; 34% 1977; 50% average. Wheat fields in plains need rain; many dryland fields critically dry. Other areas generally fair to good and growing rapidly. Oat fields now in boot stage, early fields heading. Oat stands fair to good condition, many fields providing grazing. Peanut planting 9%, 19% 1977, 15% average. Rice planting 79%, 76% 1977, 79% average. Sugarbeets 83% planted, 82% 1977, 70% average.

Rain interrupted harvest of lettuce, cabbage, carrot, onions. Citrus bloom near completion. Rains improved growing conditions on watermelon crop. Planting cucumbers, melons, tomatoes, peas, beans continued. Pecan trees leafing out; on High Plains budding was beginning. Peaches in south continue to size well.

Livestock fair to good condition. Rains improved pastures, more cattle being moved to grasses. Most areas still continue supplemental feeding. Stock tanks low. Sheep shearing continues.

UTAH: Scattered showers rain or snow in valleys and snow in mountains latter half, amounts generally moderate to heavy. Temperatures near normal ranging from 5° below to 5° above.

Soil moisture adequate most range and dryland crop areas. Spring work slowed by wetness. Fruit prospects good with varying stages of bloom. Alfalfa hay and winter wheat in good condition. Spring planted crops lagging due to storms. Range feed generally good.

VIRGINIA: Temperatures in low 60's; several degrees above normal. Cooler weather by weekend. Extremes: 89 and 31°. Rainfall very light, averaging about 0.10 in. midweek.

Topsoil moisture short to adequate. Fieldwork: 5.8 days suitable. Corn 25% planted, 20% 1977, 9% average. Small grains good, need rain. Tobacco plant beds good, growth slow, irrigation active. Eastern Shore potatoes 98% seeded, 80% 1977. Snaps, cukes planted Eastern Shore. Fruit good. Peaches blooming to petal fall and shuck stage. Apple buds starting to open. Pastures good, growth slow, need rain. Livestock fair to good; still feeding north.

WASHINGTON: West: Temperatures near normal to 2° below normal. Precipitation normal to 0.70 in. subnormal.

Raspberry and strawberry plants growing well. Spinach and beets for seed being planted.

East: Temperatures averaged 2 to 3° below normal. Precipitation 0.10 to 0.30 in. subnormal.

Fruit growers activated orchard heating systems under impending frost. Grape plants at bud stage. Irrigation of some crops starting.

WEST VIRGINIA: Temperatures well above normal daytime, freezing to below freezing nights. Precipitation below normal.

Fieldwork: 4.8 days suitable. Soil moisture short to mostly adequate. Field activities: Plowing, seeding, fence repair. Planting: Potatoes 27%, 30% 1977; oats 24%, 29% 1977; tobacco beds

79%, 77% 1977; all crops slightly behind average. Pastures and hay mostly fair; light shower would generally benefit condition.

WISCONSIN: Temperatures near normal. Highs 50's and 60's; lows 20's and 30's. Extremes: 69 and 22°. Scattered showers 10th, light snow extreme north 11th. Precipitation generally 0.50 in. or less. Sunny and windy remainder of week.

Spring planting and land preparation slowed by wet fields. Fieldwork: less than 1 day suitable. Oats 1% seeded, 1977 25%, normal 15%. Spring plowing 1% done, 1977 25%, normal 15%. Most activity limited to lighter soils. Some potatoes planted central and south, a few early peas planted. Farmers harvesting 1977 corn not completed last year. Topsoil moisture supplies adequate to surplus. Streamflow heavier than year ago and near normal.

WYOMING: Temperatures above normal. Precipitation generally below normal.

Soil moisture short to adequate. Acreage planted: Spring wheat 25%; oats 25%; sugarbeets 22%; barley 32%. Alfalfa prospects mostly good. Winter wheat prospects good; some wind damage mid-week. Fieldwork: 5 days suitable. Good weather for calving and lambing. No unusual death losses. Spring calves born 70%. Range ewes lambed 39%; farm flock ewes lambed 78%; range sheep shorn 42%; farm flock sheep shorn 76%. Pastures and ranges in fair to good condition.



FARMERS' PROSPECTS CALL FOR LESS GRAIN OUTLOOK

Indications point to a decline of acreage planted to most grains this year compared with 1977. Based upon surveys conducted by USDA's Crop Reporting Board in late March and early April, U.S. farmers may be planting less corn, sorghum, oats, barley, and spring wheat other than durum. Growers also expect to seed less cotton, flaxseed, and tobacco in 1978.

All regions project a decline in corn planting. Most of the sorghum acreage shift since January occurred in Kansas, Missouri, and Texas. Of six major oats growing States, only Wisconsin and Texas plan increases. Barley intentions in the four major States show only one upturn---the Minnesota crop.

NOTE: Planting intentions shown in the original Prospective Plantings Report are based upon replies from about 48,000 farmers reporting their plans during the period March 27 - April 4. Farmers had little opportunity to consider any changes in their plans that may be based upon the program changes announced by USDA on March 29. The effects of such changes will be reflected in the Crop Reporting Board's Acreage Report issued June 30, 1978.

If current plans hold forth, durum wheat and soybeans would be planted to more fields. Other crops that may be on the upswing include rice, peanuts, sugarbeets, hay, and sunflowers.

Farmers intend to plant 123 million acres to feed grains this year, a decline of 4 percent. Corn acreage, at about 80 million acres, is expected to dip 3 percent, while sorghum and barley may be off 6 percent each, and oats down 8 percent.

Planting of all wheat is forecast to decline 12 percent to 65.5 million acres. Durum prospects boast a 29 percent surge to a bit more than 4 million acres; however, spring wheat other than durum may slip 15 percent to 13.2 million acres.

Cotton growers hope to plant nearly 13 million acres in 1978. If realized, the acreage would decrease 6 percent from the year before. Although farmers intend to plant more acres to cotton in

(continued on next page)

California, Arizona, and New Mexico, the increase would be more than offset by declines in the Southeast, Delta States, and southern Plains.

Flaxseed intentions dropped off 33 percent to slightly more than one million acres.

Tobacco fields may reach only 944 thousand acres, a 2 percent downturn from 1977.

On the upswing, soybean acreage may climb to a record high 63.7 million acres, up 8 percent from 1977 which was a record year. Farmers project increases in 24 of the 30 States.

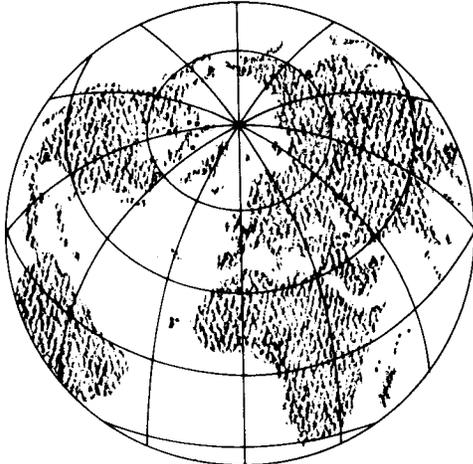
Rice intentions, at nearly 2.6 million acres, rose 15 percent, while peanut farmers expect a slight gain to 1.55 million acres.

Sugarbeets may grow on 1.33 million acres, a 4 percent jump. Hayland could rise one percent to nearly 61 million acres. Fields put to sunflower seeds are estimated at 2.7 million acres, up 17 percent from 1977.

All acreage planted, however, may vary because of weather, economic conditions, availability of production inputs, and the effect of this report on farmers' actions.

## World Weather and Crop Update

March 1978 Review - April 17



**USSR.** March precipitation was generally above normal in European USSR, but below normal in the Volga Valley and the principal spring wheat regions of western Siberia and northern Kazakhstan. Estimated soil moisture at the end of March was above normal in almost all agricultural areas. Well above normal temperatures that continued into early April resulted in rapid snow melt, and by the end of the month, snow cover had disappeared over most of the important agricultural regions. Temperatures were seasonal during the first half of April. Short periods of frost were recorded in the Ukraine, Moldavia, and the North Caucasus; developing winter grains may have been hurt in some localized areas where night temperatures fell to  $-6^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Fruit trees and vineyards in the southern regions also may have been damaged by the freezing temperatures. Spring fieldwork advanced rapidly. Sowing of row crops, mainly sugarbeets and sunflowers, resumed after being temporarily set back by the early April cold snap which was accompanied by precipitation and strong winds. Cotton planting in central Asia and the Transcaucasus neared completion.

**ASIA.** Favorable conditions in the People's Republic of China continued with normal precipitation for most areas. A mid-month cold snap in the North China Plain, however, may have resulted in limited damage to wheat and barley in some areas. Winter grains were particularly vulnerable to freezing temperatures this spring because the unusually mild winter had reduced the winter hardiness of plants. Early rice crop transplanting is underway in the rice-growing provinces in the south; heavy rains and dull weather in the latter half of March continued into April causing localized problems with rice seedling rot before transplanting. March weather in India featured well above normal precipitation in the northern

wheat growing regions. Good precipitation and cool weather materially helped the development of wheat and other rabi crops (spring and early summer harvested). Harvesting is now underway in these areas.

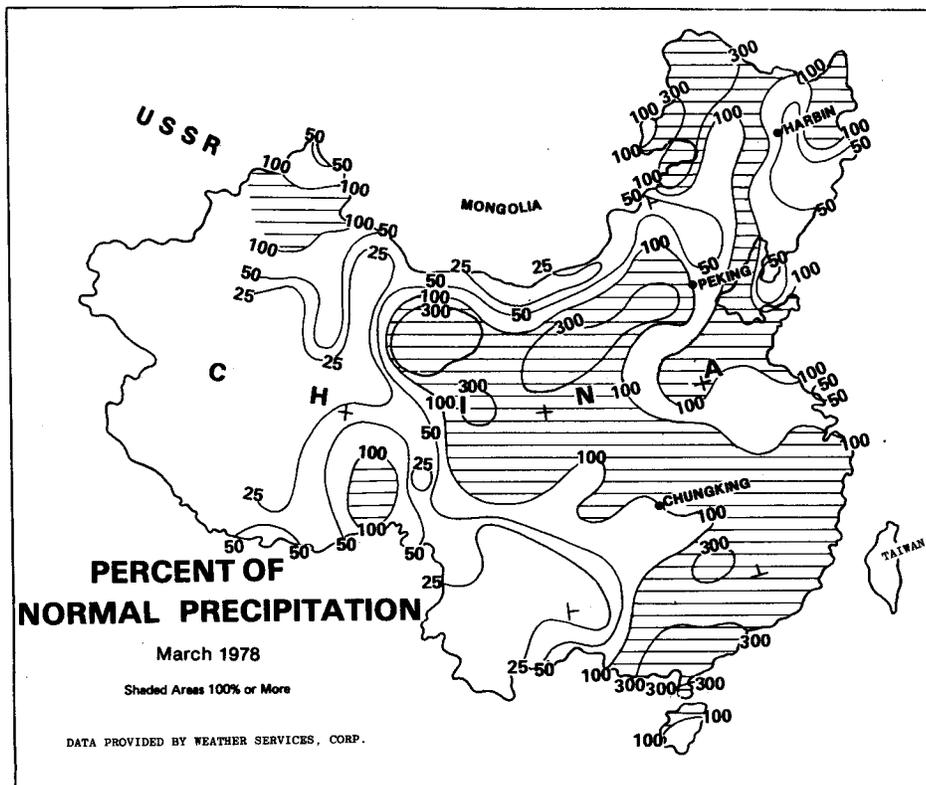
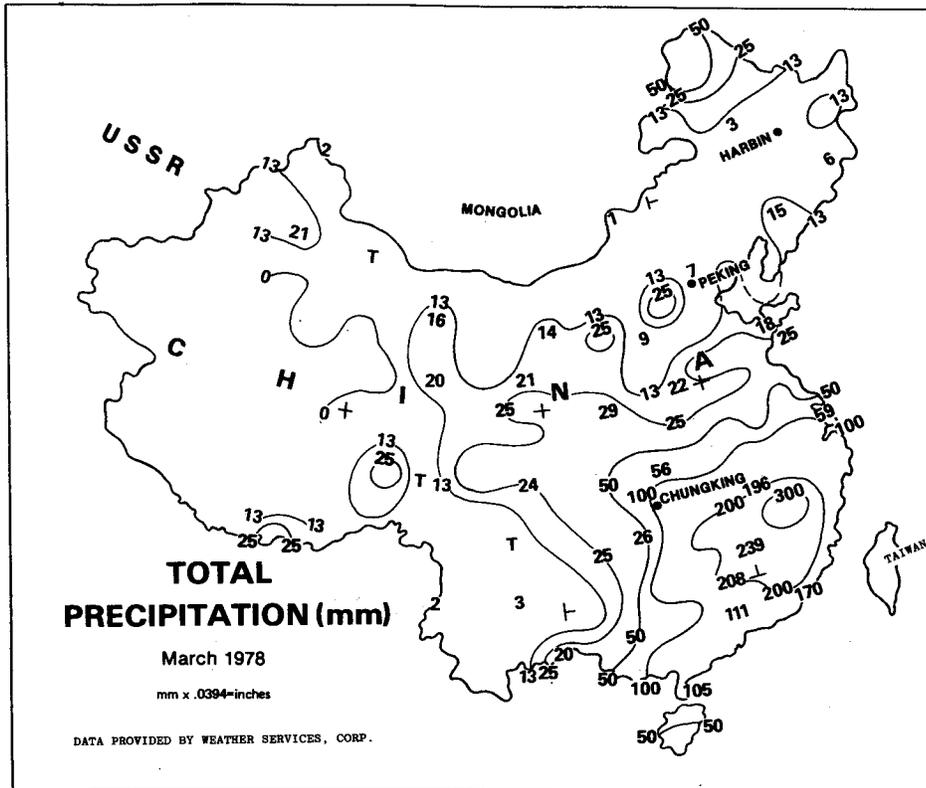
**AFRICA.** In North Africa, March rainfall was well above normal in the grain areas of Tunisia and eastern Algeria, but precipitation accumulated to about half the normal amount in Morocco and western Algeria. Timely rains have fallen throughout most of the principal North African grain areas in April, enhancing crop prospects in these countries. Conditions continued favorably in the principal agricultural regions of South Africa during March with generally well above normal rainfall in the maize triangle. Precipitation in April has been adequate to sustain good conditions for maturing crops.

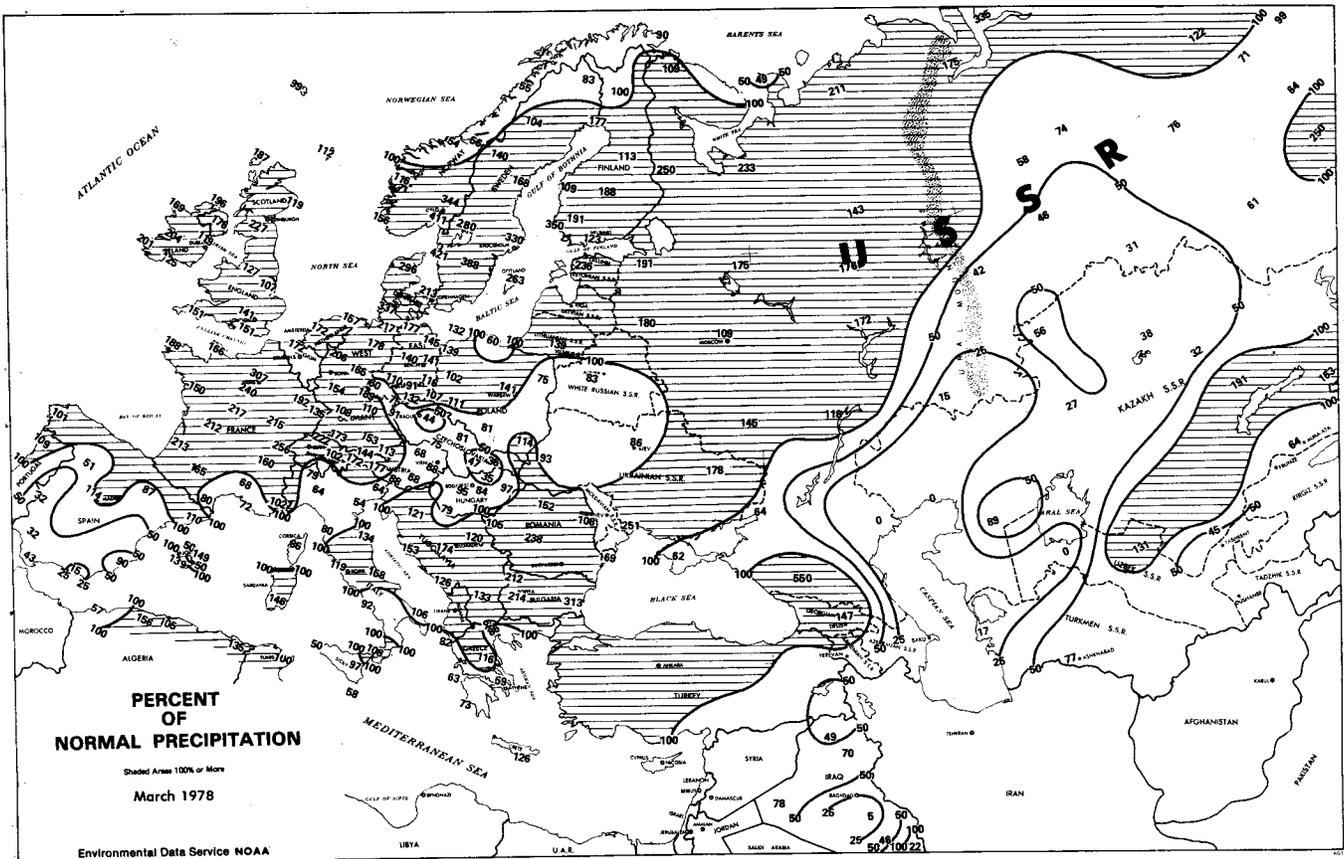
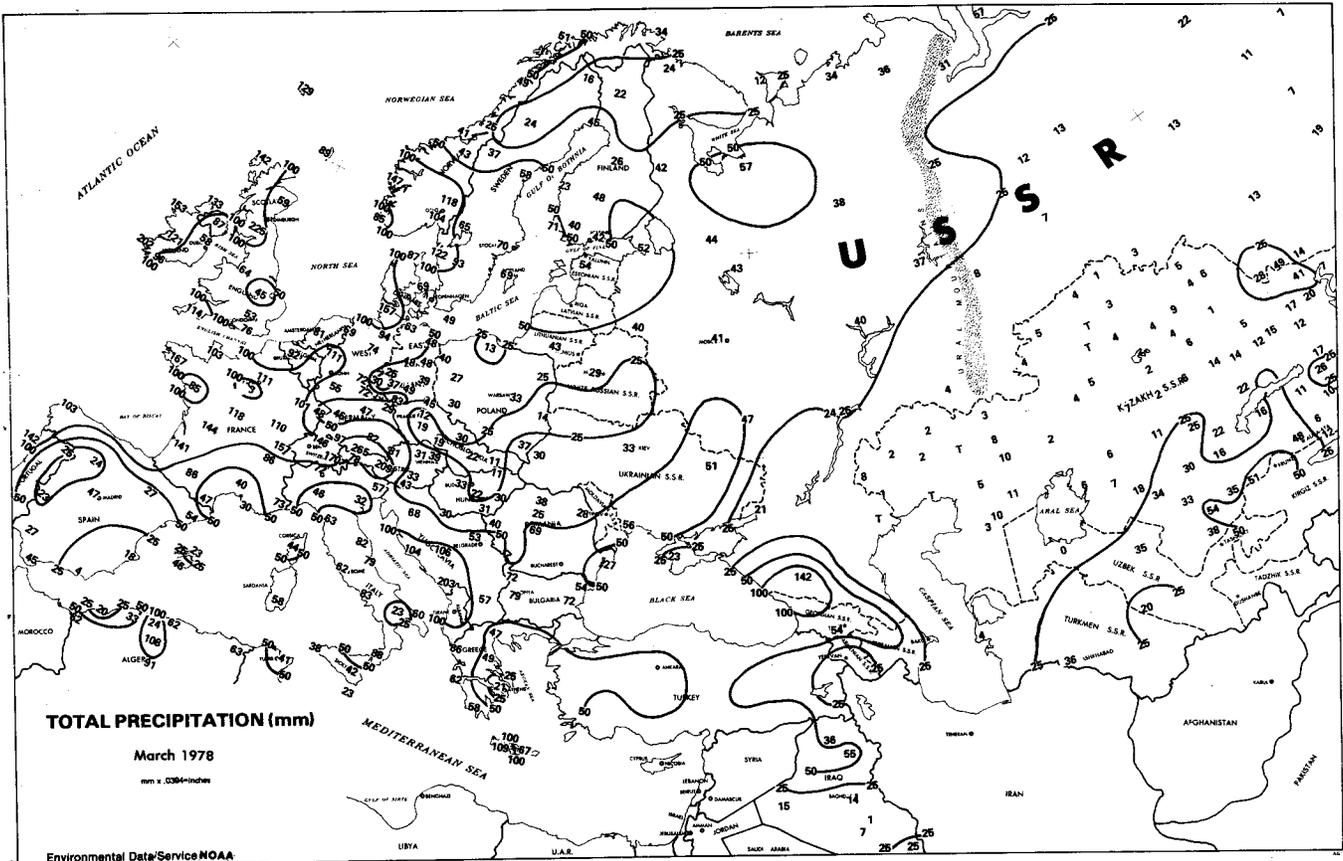
**AUSTRALIA.** Heavy March rains brought substantial relief to significant areas in New South Wales and Victoria that had been suffering from drought. However, March rainfall measured well below average in South Australia which continues to be severely affected by drought. Heavy soaking rains are badly needed to replenish surface moisture supplies, but only scanty moisture has been recorded thus far in April.

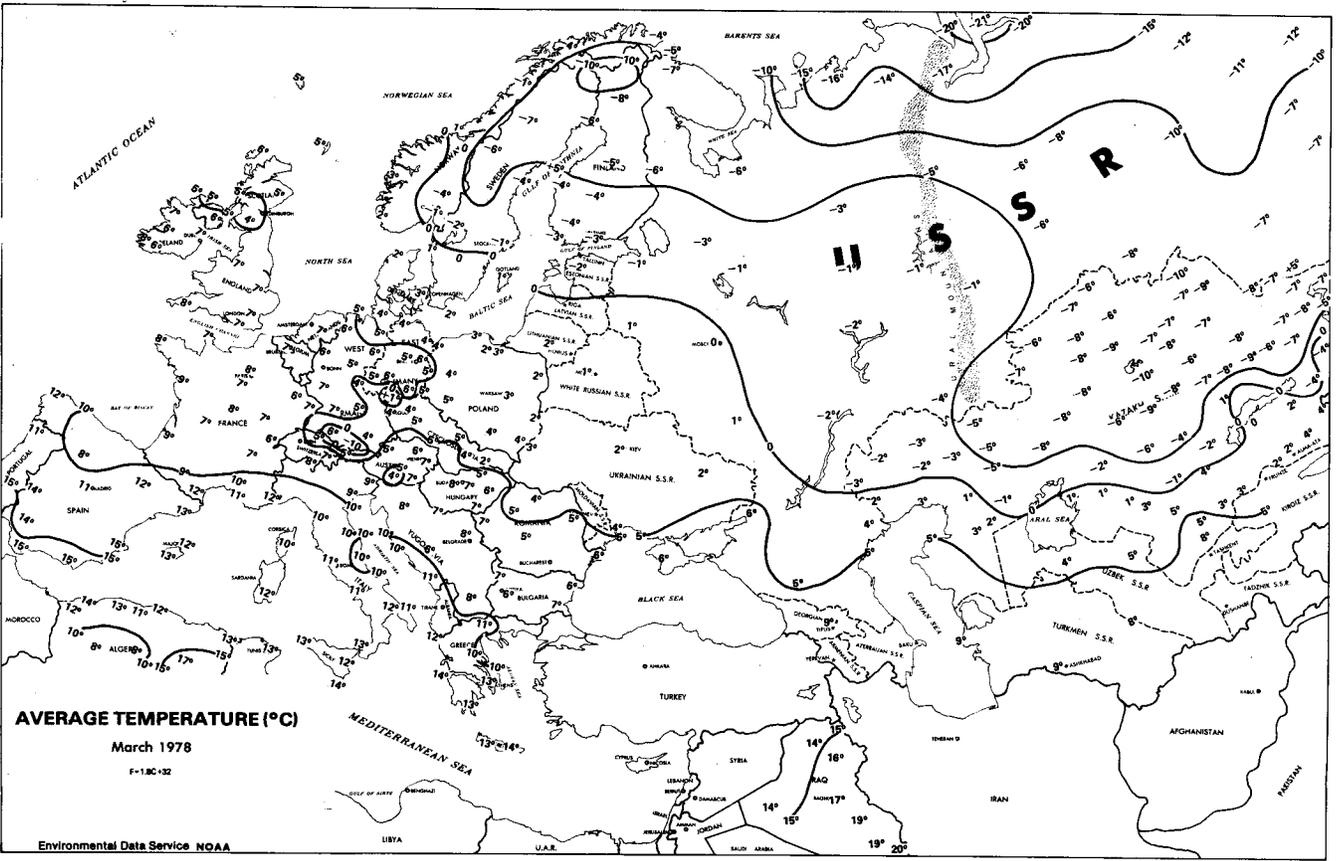
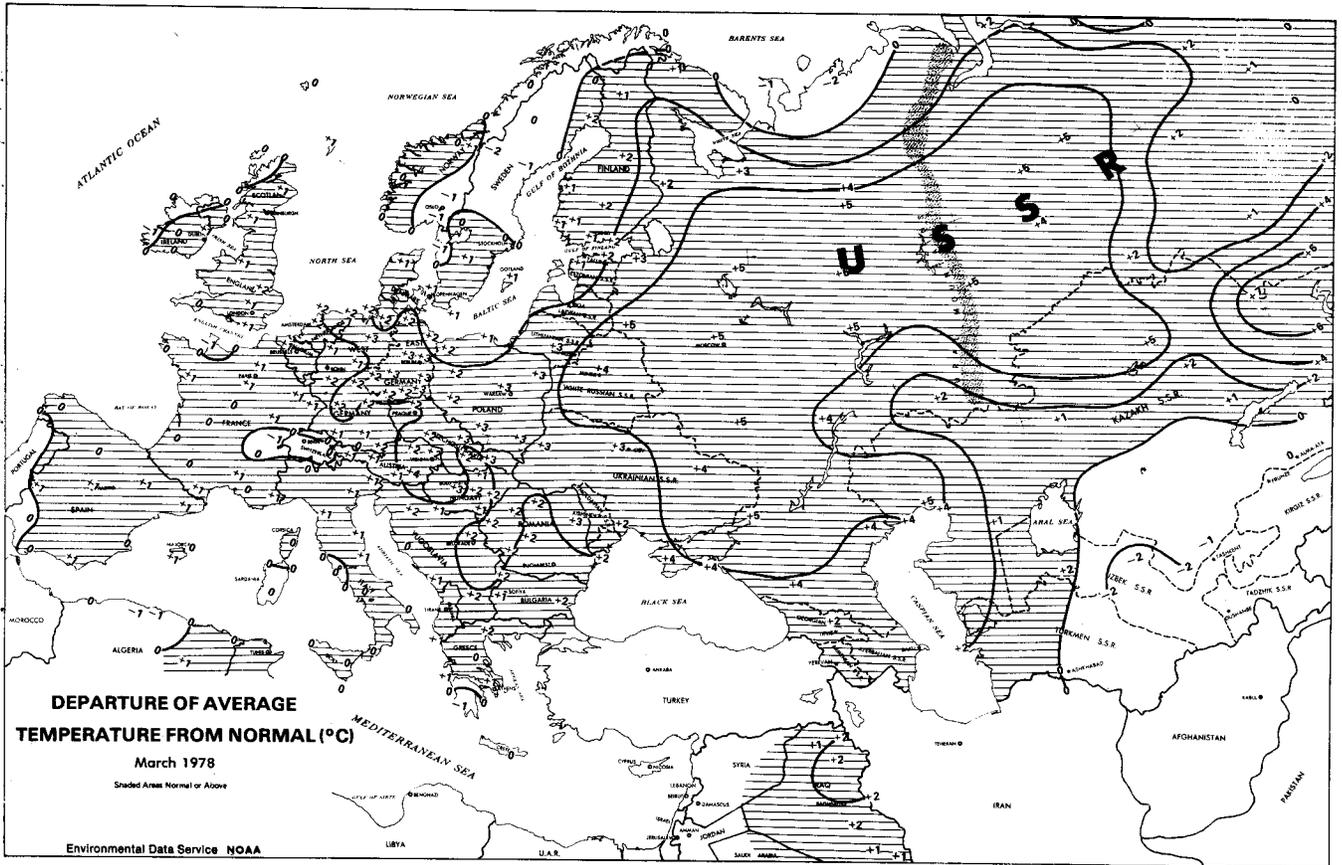
**EUROPE.** Cool, damp weather dominated much of western Europe during the latter half of March and continued into April. The unseasonable weather has retarded field activities, and planting reportedly is some 2 to 4 weeks behind normal in some areas. In eastern Europe, temperatures were well above normal in March with fieldwork progressing rapidly. March precipitation was well above normal in Romania and Bulgaria, and beneficial rains have fallen in most areas up to mid-April. March weather was generally favorable in Turkey. Substantial rains continued to improve soil moisture and increase the level of reservoirs. However, wet conditions delayed cotton planting to some extent and frost in the first half of the month damaged vineyards in the Aegean sector.

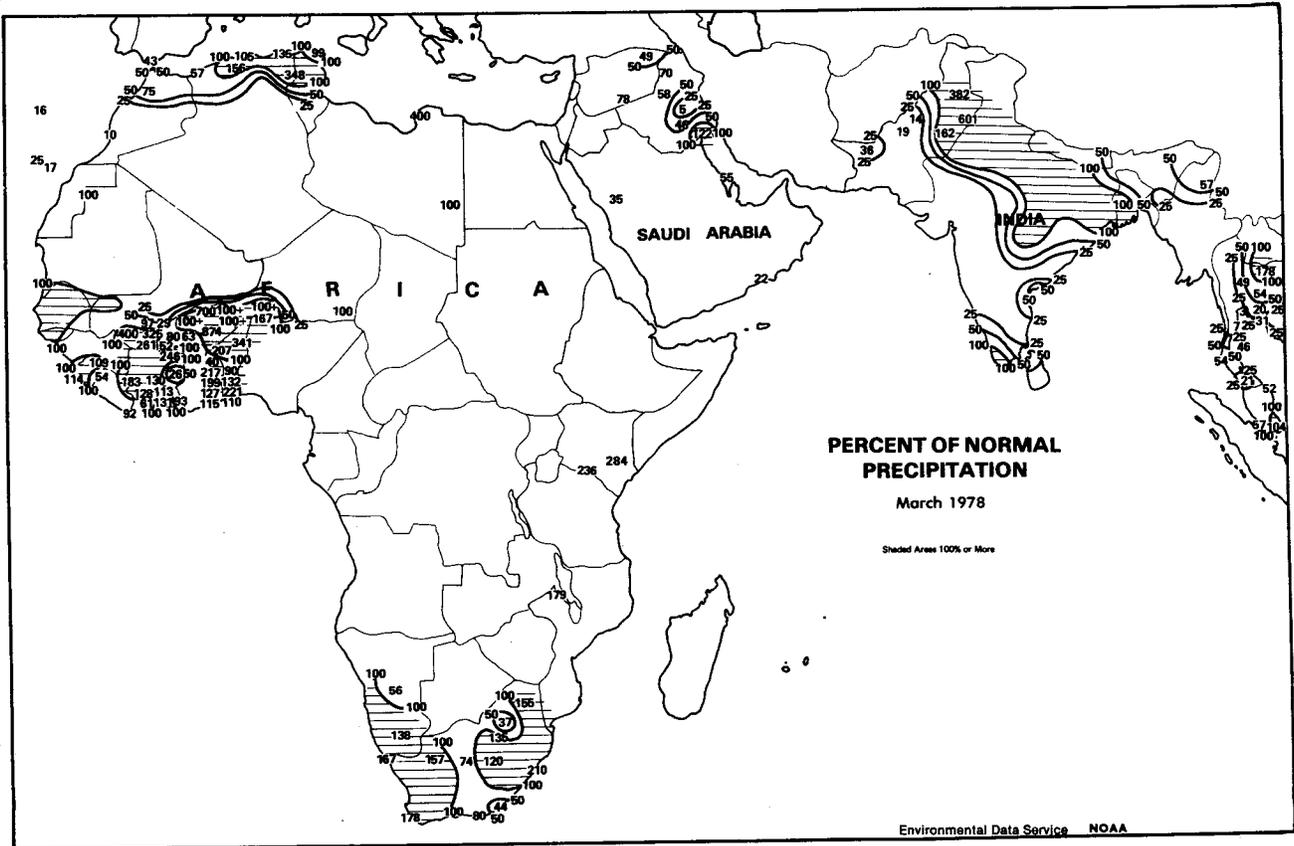
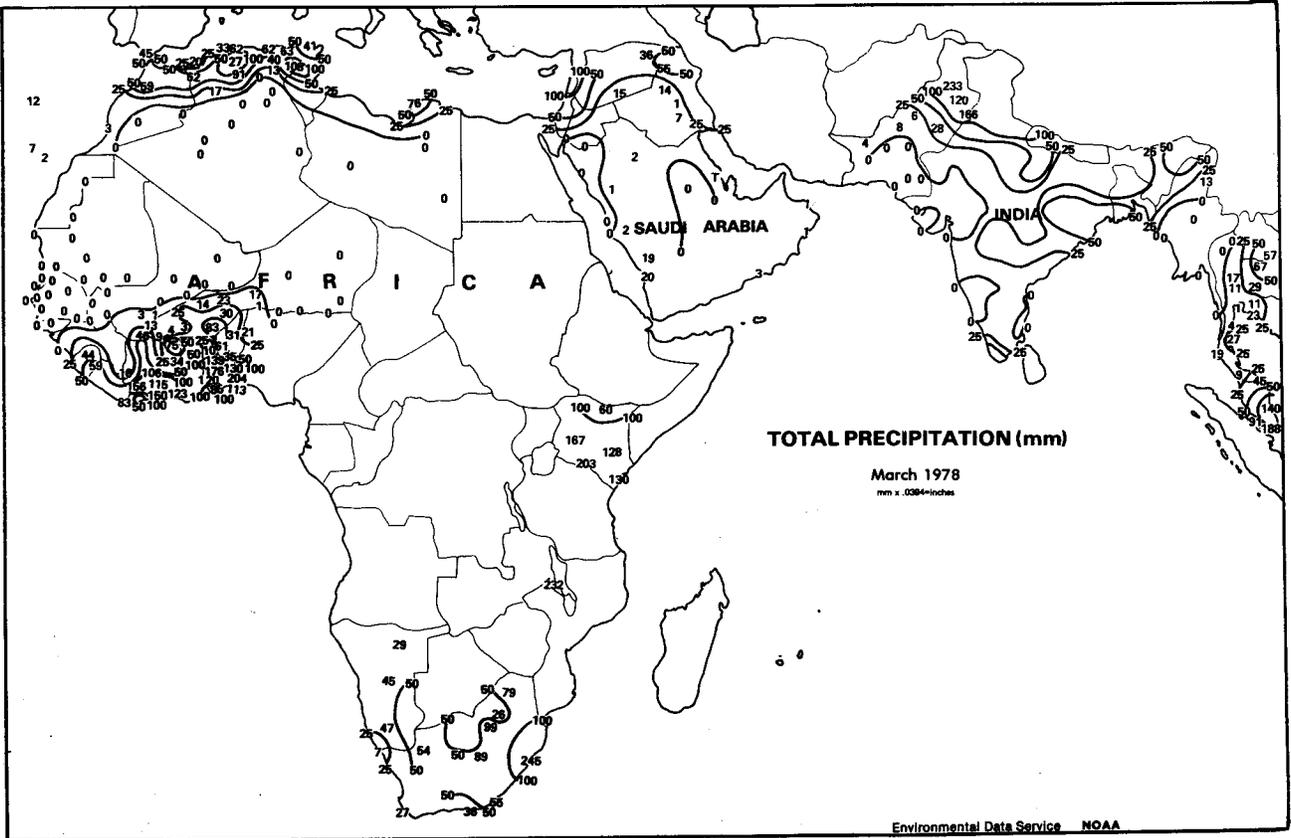
**AMERICAS.** March rainfall measured well above normal over most of the principal agricultural areas in Argentina. The heavy rains during the second half of the month, however, damaged oilseed crops in the provinces of Santa Fe, Entre Rios, and Cordoba. Weather thus far in April has been favorable for harvesting. Drought continued to plague crops and pastures over much of Brazil's important agricultural states in the south. Warm, dry weather also has prevailed in April over most of the drought affected areas. Precipitation in Canada's Prairie Provinces during the winter season was well below normal. However, soil moisture reserves at the end of March reportedly were optimal in most areas over both stubble and fallow fields because of the heavy rains in late summer and fall of last year. Useful rains also have fallen through mid-April.

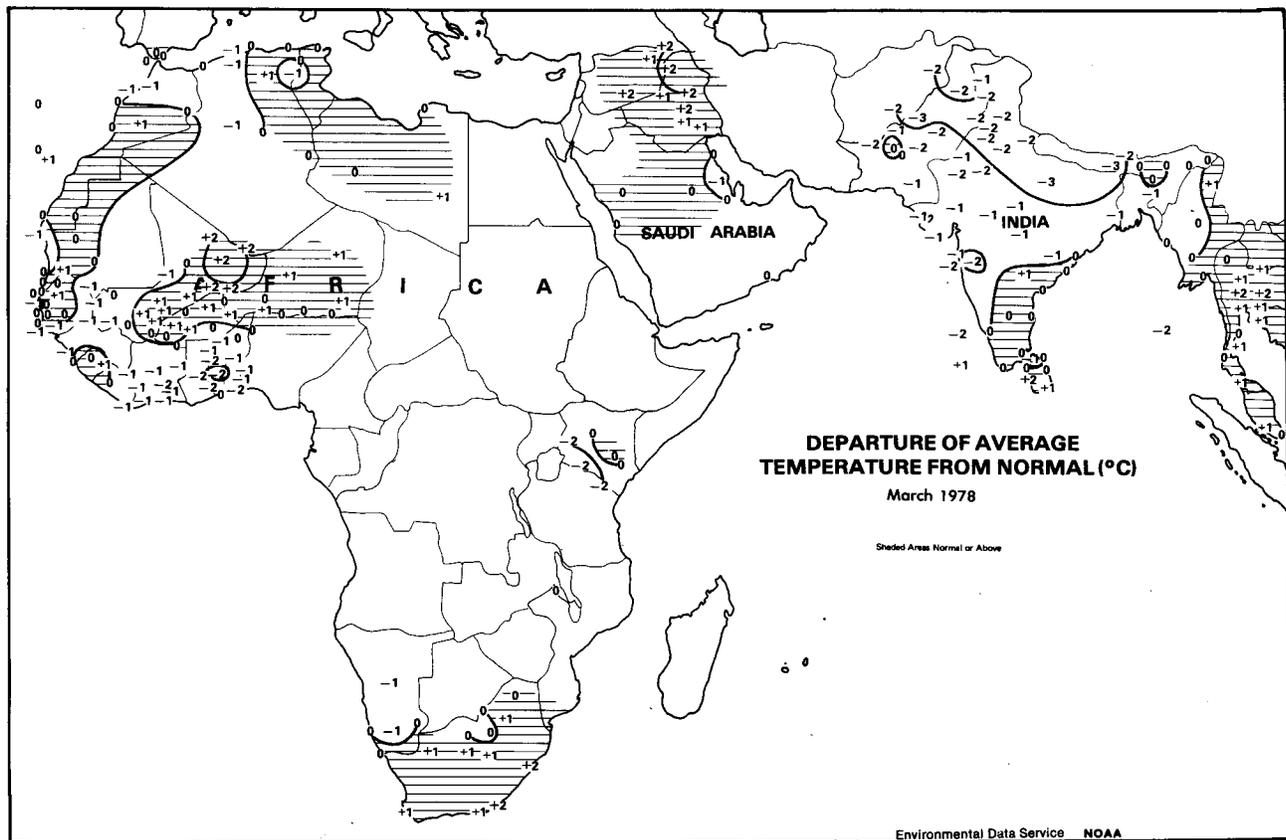
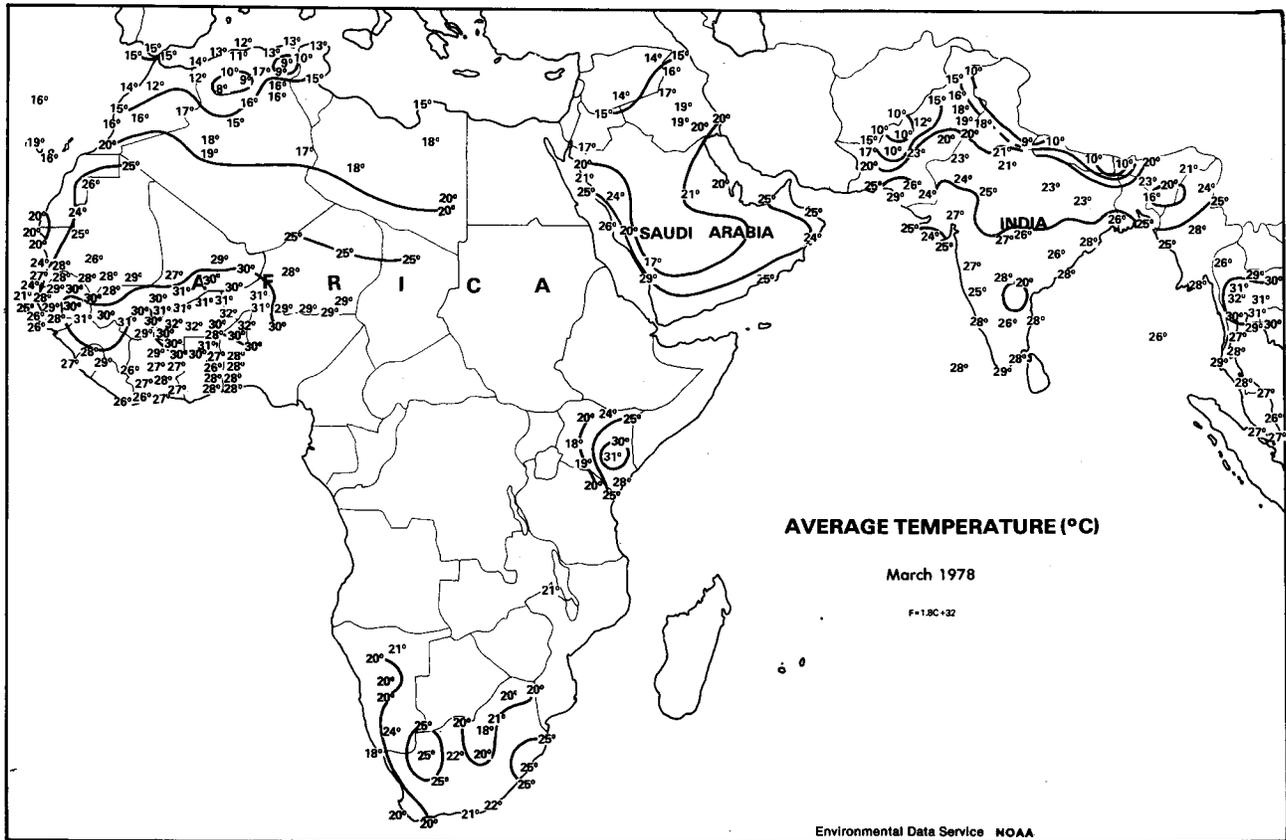
### China Precipitation

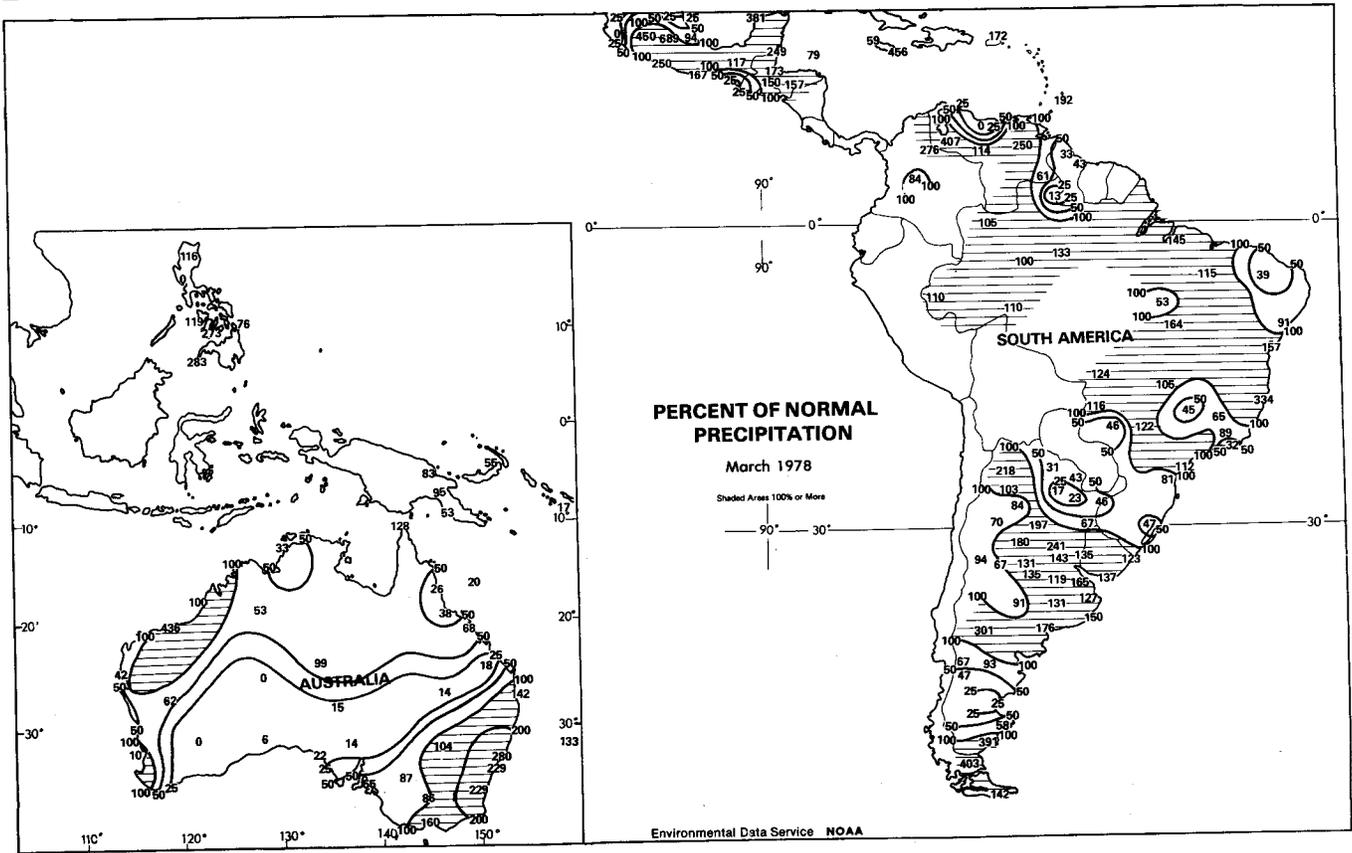
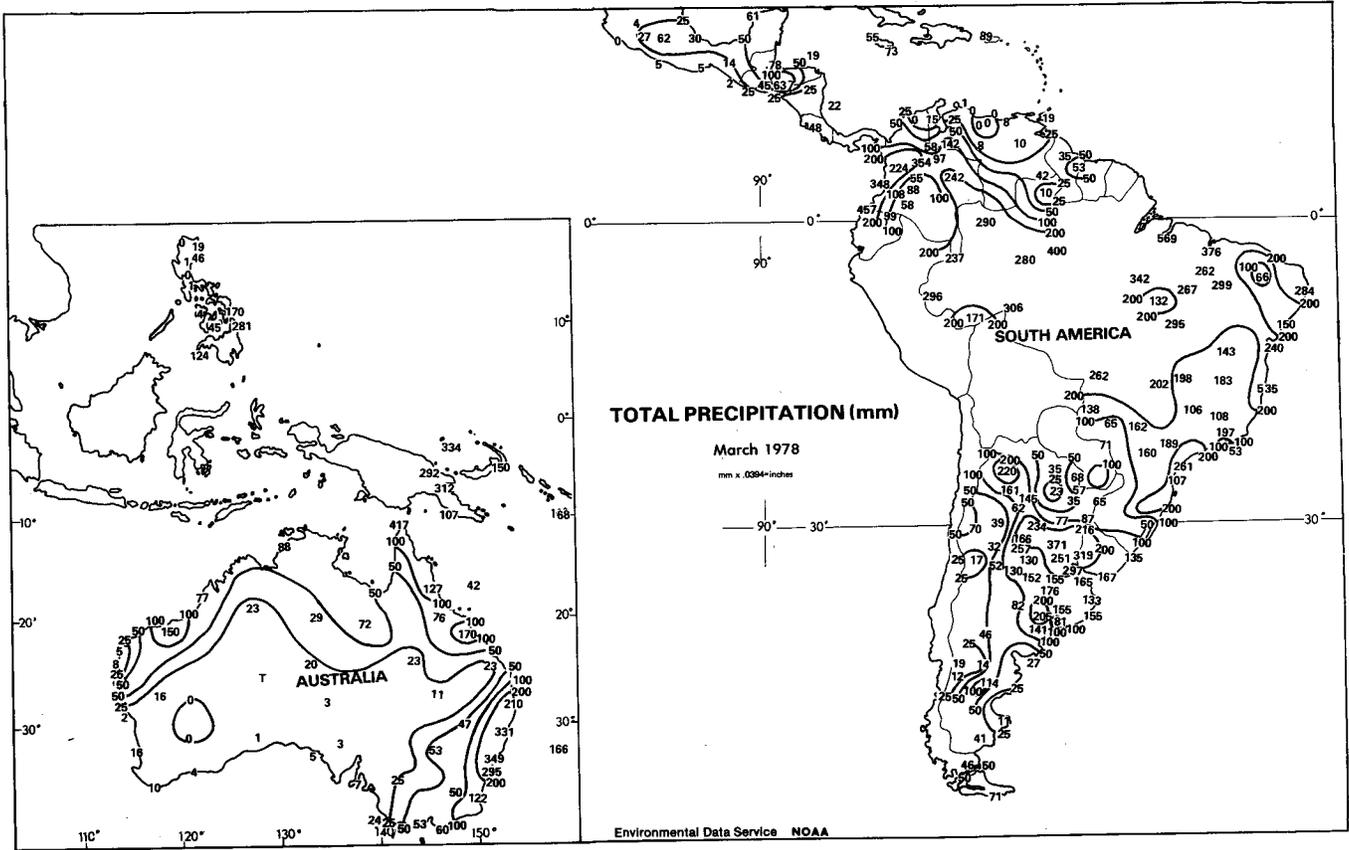


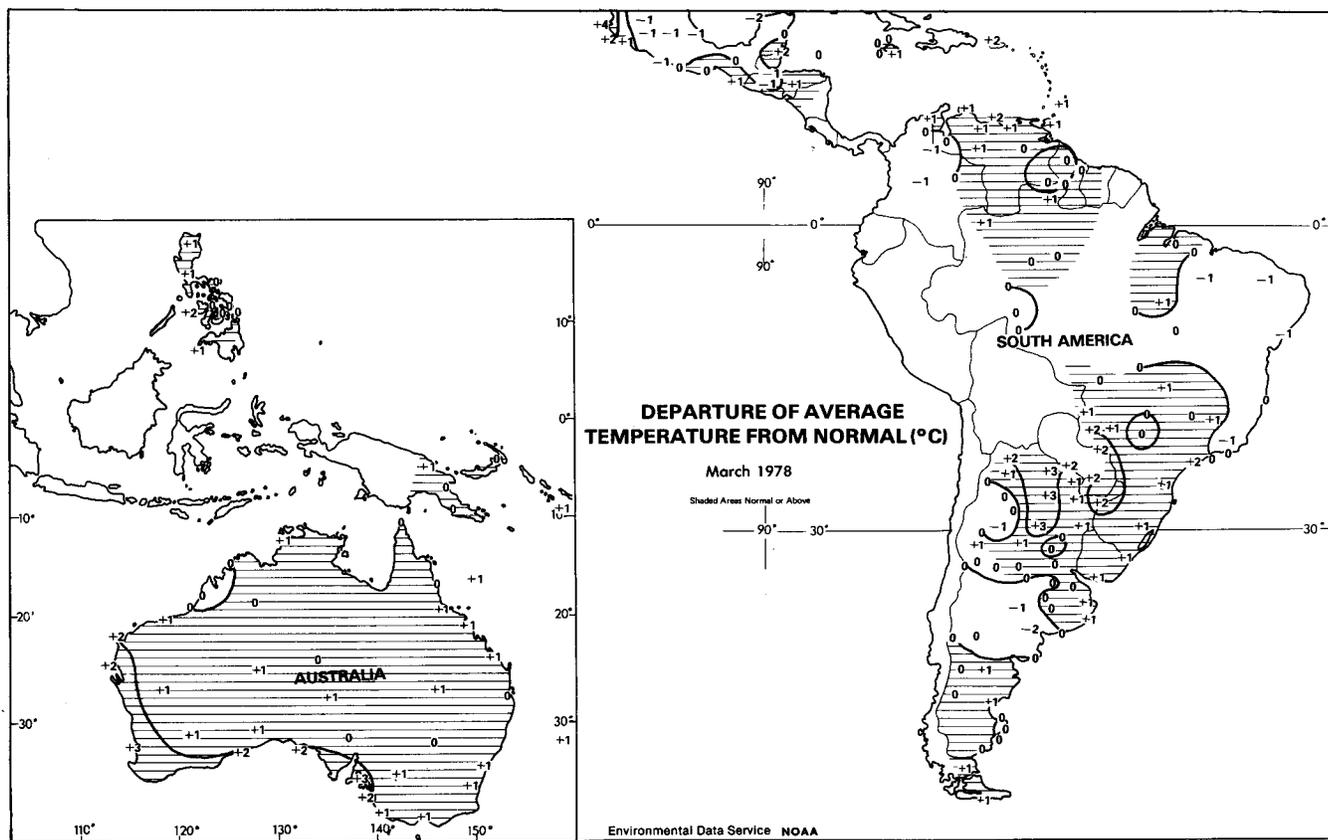
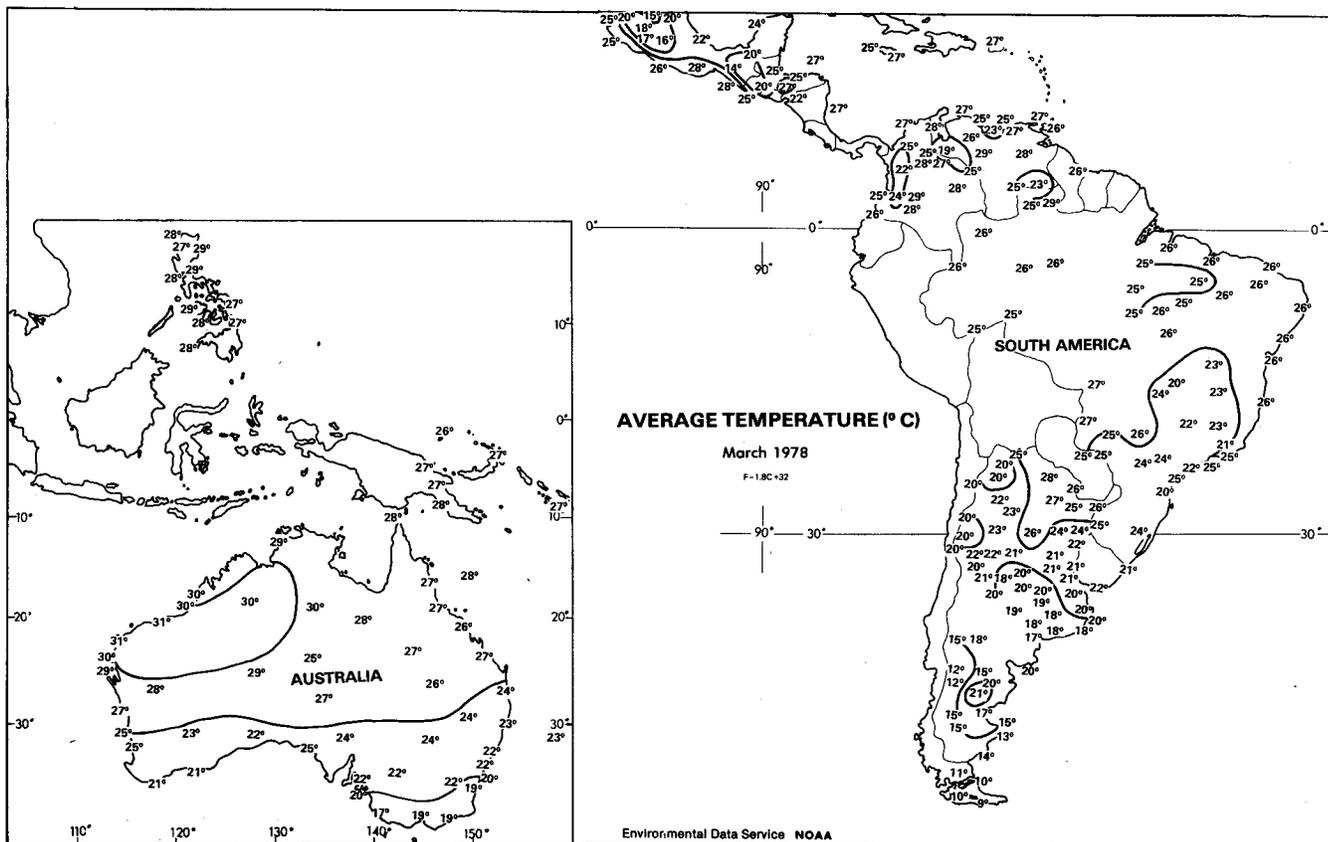


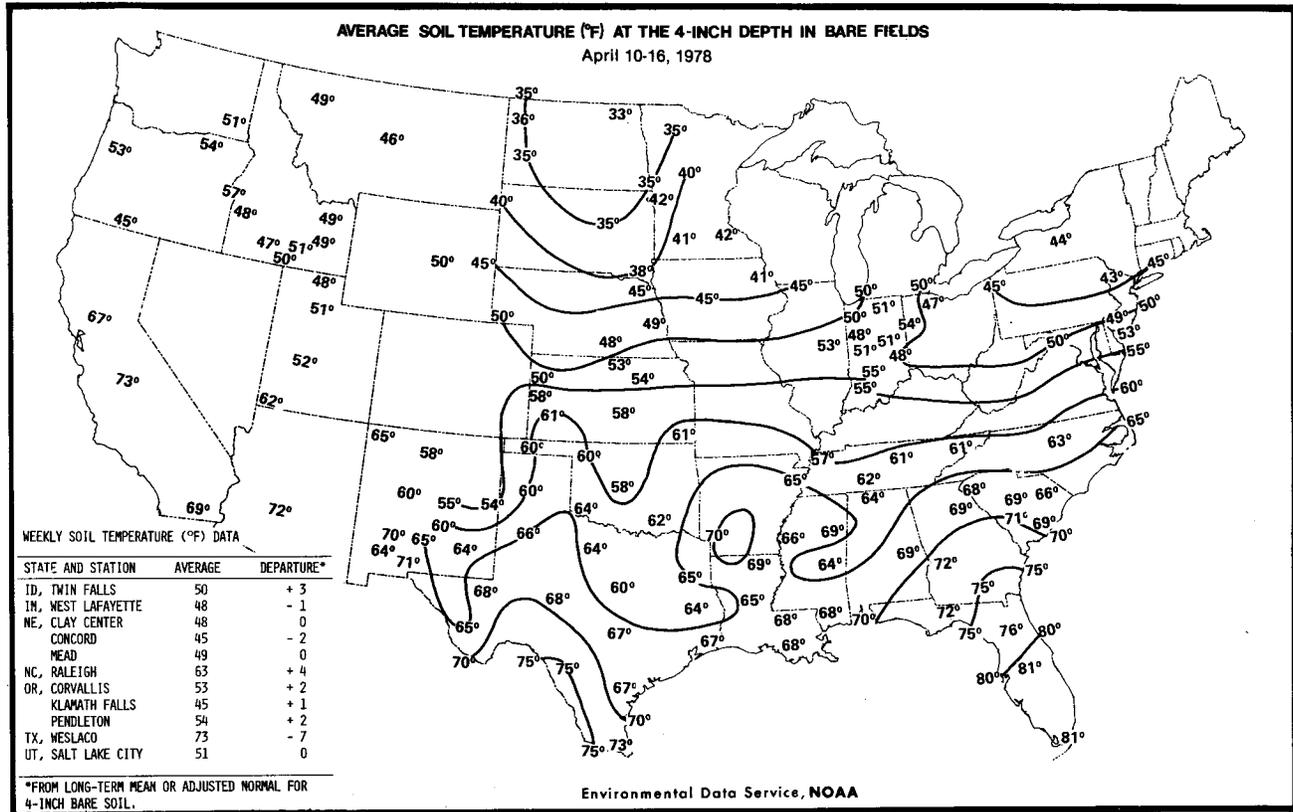












### SEEDING PROGRESS

For week ending April 17

#### SPRING WHEAT

	1978	1977	Avg.
Idaho	30	45	20
Minn	0	52	27
Mont	1/	15	10
N Dak	0	1/	NA
S Dak	10	34	27
5 States	2	19	12

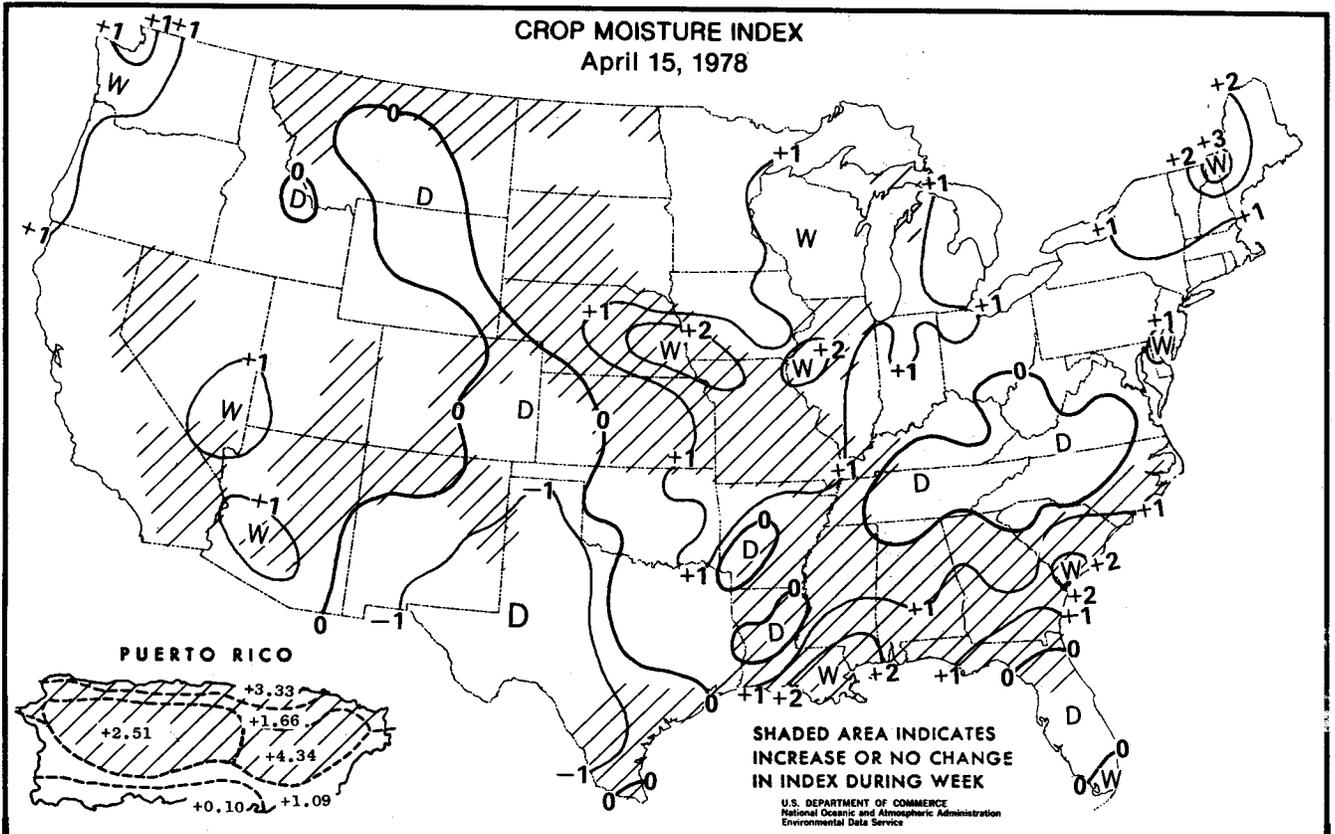
These 5 States produced 97% of the 1977 U.S. Spring Wheat crop excluding durum.

1/ Less than 5%.  
NA Not Available.

#### COTTON

	1978	1977	Avg.
Ala	14	16	12
Ark	2	7	7
Ga	23	25	13
La	3	4	3
Miss	2	8	NA
Mo	1	5	1/
N C	18	9	12
Okla	0	0	0
S C	24	31	15
Tenn	2	6	5
Tex	16	10	10
11 States	11	9	9

These 11 States produced 72% of the 1977 U.S. cotton crop.



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 AREAS: 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

## Average Monthly Weather Outlook

