

WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP BULLETIN

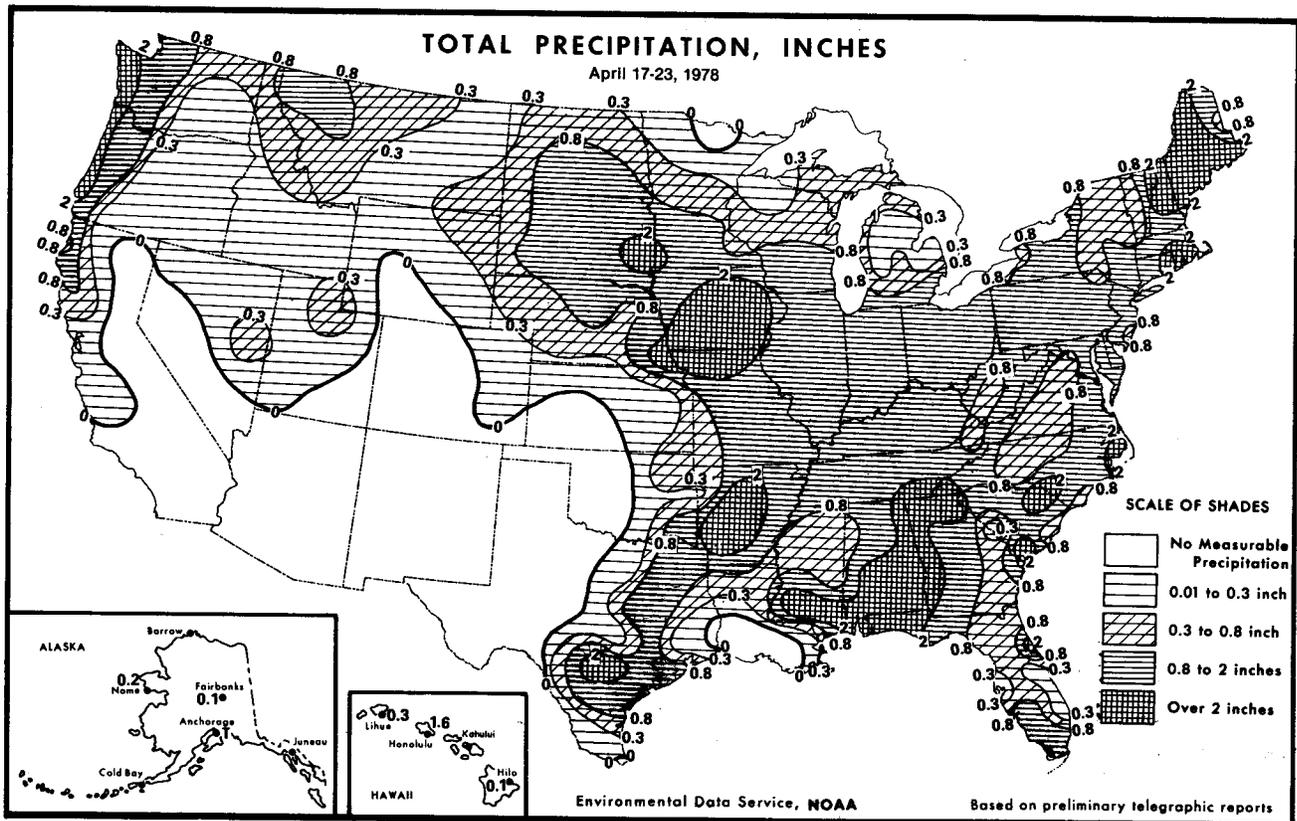
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Environmental Data Service, NOAA

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

Volume 65, No. 17

Washington, D.C.

April 25, 1978



National Weather Summary

April 17 - 23

HIGHLIGHTS: The important corn and soybean areas of the Midwest received additional moisture, keeping soils generally wet and planting behind schedule. Seasonal thunderstorms persisted over much of the South while little or no rain fell from West Texas across the Southwest and northward through the central Rockies. Rains again soaked the Pacific Northwest, especially along the coast.

Temperatures ranged below normal over nearly the entire Nation; only isolated regions along the southern border and part of California's San Joaquin Valley saw the mercury rise above readings expected this time of year. The central Plains and parts of the Southeast averaged 9 to 11° cooler than normal.

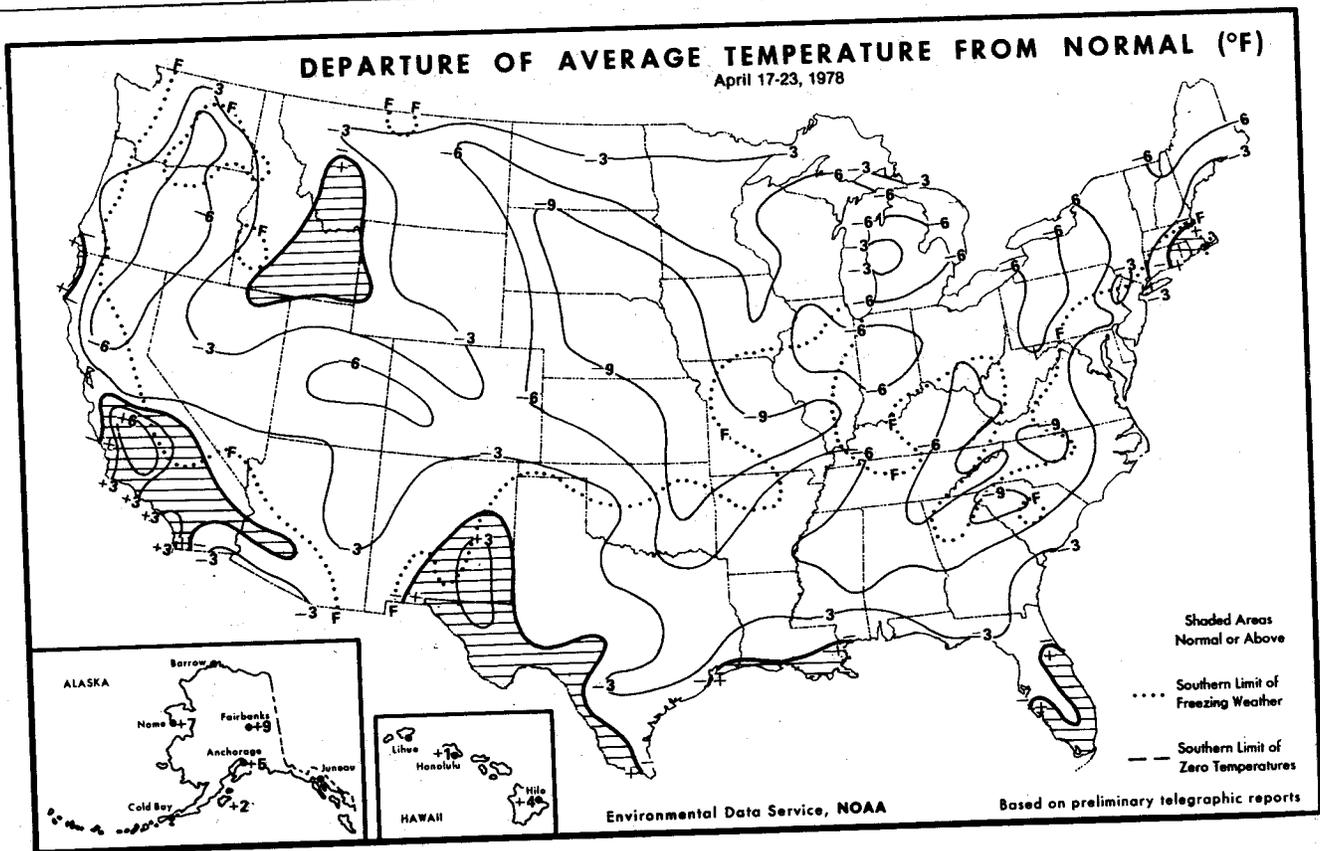
On Monday, frontal systems extended from Montana to Texas and from Oklahoma across the Georgia coast.

Thunderstorms intensified over the Plains and Mississippi Valley dumping heavy rains and hail, and triggering several tornadoes.

One to three and one-half inches of rain drenched points in Nebraska, Kansas, Iowa, and Arkansas. Tornadoes damaged buildings in Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, Arkansas, and Louisiana. Tennis ball-sized hail pummeled Ponca City, Okla.

Cold air followed the frontal system through Montana bringing snow to the Rockies. Temperatures dipped to the 20's in a large area of the Plateau Region and the Rockies; Ely, Nev., recorded 16°.

Severe storms plagued the Nation's midsection and South on Tuesday. Seventeen tornadoes roared through the Midwest and Deep South; four deaths were reported in Mississippi. More than 2 inches of rain soaked Mobile, Ala., and Daytona Beach, Fla. Many other stations noted at least an inch. Some waterways topped their banks in Indiana causing lowland flooding. Cold air blew into the



upper half of the Plains bringing 4 inches of snow to the Nebraska Panhandle and Moberidge, S. Dak. Snow also dusted Michigan.

Record temperatures included 23° for a new low at Alpena, Mich., while a record high reading of 88° warmed the Jefferson County Airport near Beaumont, Tex.

Severe weather covered the southern Atlantic Coastal States on Wednesday. More than a half dozen tornadoes touched down in Florida; two twisters whirled through North Carolina and one was reported near Richmond, Va. Large hail pelted points in the three States. Further north on the Atlantic Seaboard, rain of a half-inch to an inch and a third dampened most sections.

The Red River continued above flood stage along the North Dakota/Minnesota border. Minor overflow spread over parts of Iowa, Illinois, Missouri, and Arkansas.

New Orleans, at 86°, tied its record high temperature for the day.

Rain fell lightly over some parts of the country on Thursday; the heaviest accumulation amounted to just over an inch in Eastport, Maine. Snow whitened several stations in New England, West Virginia, Minnesota, Nevada, and Washington.

The cold air that carried cool springtime readings reached over a large portion of the Nation. Shreveport, La., set a new low temperature of 39°; record-equaling readings showed 31° in Wichita and 35° in Fort Smith, Ark. By contrast, Miami Beach escaped the chill posting a record high of 90°, topping the 1942 mark by 3.

Cold air provided most of the weather news on Friday. Precipitation was generally on the light side. Rainfall stayed below an inch in the Pacific Northwest, the Rockies, the Plains, and the Northeast. Salt Lake City measured 2 inches of snow, but it melted quickly. A tornado was spotted in North Carolina.

Frosty readings again stretched over much of the country. Houston dipped 6 degrees below its former low mark to 42°; low temperatures tied records in Springfield, Mo., 28°, and Nashville, 35°.

A crazy quilt of weather highlighted the picture on Saturday. A line of thunderstorms formed along a cold front moving from the West over the Plains to the Mississippi Valley. A bit of snow dusted points in South Dakota and Nebraska. Meantime seven tornadoes, hail, and heavy rains battered the southern Plains and Arkansas. Tornadoes and hail clipped areas in Texas near Fort Worth and Carswell AFB while another twister dashed past southeastern Little Rock. Large hail pummeled southeastern Kansas and southwestern Arkansas.

Downpours dumped one to 2 inches of rain on San Antonio, Waco, and Galveston in Texas. Two-thirds inch dampened Brookings, Oreg.

More than 15 stations from the Midwest to the Southeast notched record low temperatures. Atlanta's 31° fell 9 degrees below the 1901 mark, and represented the lowest temperature ever recorded there this late in spring.

Generally spotty rainfall held through most of Sunday. The heaviest totals covered sections in the Midwest, South, and Rockies; however, none reached an inch. Scattered regions in Idaho and Montana gathered a couple of inches of snow.

By late afternoon and evening, some intense weather broke out over the Ohio Valley and southern Florida. Four tornadoes and hail hit Indiana while 3 funnels ripped through lower Florida. Nearly an inch of rain drenched Homestead, Fla.

East of the Mississippi, temperatures remained well below normal. More than a half-dozen stations called in new or tying records. They ranged from 21° at Alpena, Mich., to 43° at Florence, S.C.



National Agricultural Summary

April 17 - 23

HIGHLIGHTS: Low temperatures and heavy rains delayed land preparation, planting, and growth of previously seeded crops and pastures. Plowing in the north central States lagged last year by 30 to 40 points; land preparation was nearly complete in many areas in 1977 by this time. Plowing also was late in the South but not nearly as much. Soil moisture rated adequate to surplus except in some extreme southern areas. Winter wheat rated fair to good; dryland stands in the southern Great Plains needed moisture. Spring wheat seeding stood at 4%, one-tenth of 1977's fast pace. Oats seeding also fell far behind last year and average. Corn planting advanced to 6%, well behind 1977 and the average. Cotton seeding reached 18%, ahead of 1977 and the average by 4 points. Rice planting moved very rapidly staying ahead of most recent years in the Delta area. Soybean planting just began in southern areas.

SMALL GRAINS: Winter wheat rated fair to mostly good. Growth lagged last year, and development fell short of most recent years. Stands headed in southern areas, and some Arizona fields began turning color as the crop matured. One gloomy area stood out--dryland stands on the southern Great Plains from Texas to western Kansas and into Colorado.

Kansas wheat development stood a week behind average; 30% was in the jointing stage, last year and the average was 50%. Dry soils stressed western stands, but condition was unchanged statewide. Texas dryland wheat on the Plains needed moisture; irrigated fields were in good condition. Most wheat in the Texas Panhandle reached the joint stage. Colorado wheat was poor to fair; moderate to severe wind damage hit the eastern Plains. Dry conditions aggravated wheat foot rot. Oklahoma wheat rated fair to good as 79% jointed compared with 90% in 1977 and average. About 2% of Oklahoma's acreage headed, far short of 1977's 28% and the 18% average. Nebraska's crop rated good. Arizona growers windrowed some wheat; early stands changed color. Ohio wheat was fair; average growth reached 3.5 in., last year the figure was 6 in.

Spring wheat seeding stood at 4%, far behind the 42% in 1977 and the 29% average. North Dakota farmers did not plant any spring wheat, last year 28% was in the ground. Minnesota growers planted only 1% compared with 63% last year. Low temperatures and wet soils delayed progress in all major production areas. Oats planting also lagged; in 1977, planting was almost complete. Precipitation and wet soils held farmers at bay; some northern areas got light snow.

CORN: Farmers planted 6% of the Nation's corn compared with 15% in 1977 and the 10% average. The Corn Belt was far behind most recent years; only southern areas of the Nation contributed significantly to the progress.

Planting in the eastern north central States was less than 1%, last year 12% and the average 8%. Indiana, Ohio, and Illinois lagged most from their 1977 rate.

In the western north central States, also less than 1% was planted; only Missouri planted much corn at 5%; most other States planted none and Kansas had not reached 5%. Last year these States planted 7% and on the average 4%.

COTTON: Producers in the 11 southern States planted 18% of the cotton acreage compared with 14% for both 1977 and the average. Progress in Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi exceeded last year and the average, elsewhere planting lagged 1977. Low night temperatures slowed growth in Texas. Growers planted American-pima cotton in the Trans-Pecos.

Planting began in Arizona and New Mexico. California planting continued; early seedings emerged.

OTHER CROPS: Sorghum planting advanced into Missouri where growers seeded 2% of the acreage, less than 1977's 5%. Texas planting progressed into the southern Low Plains. Planting was nearly complete from the Blacklands southward; fields rated good and growing rapidly. Texas seeding reached 64%, surpassing 1977's 55% and the 56% average. Oklahoma seedbed preparation, at 56%, exceeded both 1977 at 41% and the 31% average. Arkansas sorghum planting attained 20%, less than half 1977's 41% and the 44% average.

Rice seeding advanced rapidly in the Delta region; all States surpassed the previous year and average except Arkansas which equaled both figures at 45%. Texas planting reached 94% compared with 87% in 1977 and the 90% average. Louisiana stood at 77% exceeding last year's 65% and the 59% average. Mississippi growers planted 68%, far ahead of 1977's 45% and the 38% average; 23% of the acreage emerged.

Peanut planting in eastern areas managed 8% in Alabama, 21% in Georgia, and 3% in Virginia. Overall planting progress generally lagged last year. Texas growers planted 10%, almost half 1977's 19%; the average was 17%. Growers need rain in central areas before planting begins in 2 weeks.

FRUITS AND NUTS: Low temperatures brought frost as far south as the Carolinas near the end of the week. In most areas, there was little or no damage. South Carolina orchards suffered hail damage in scattered areas of the Piedmont scarring some fruit and knocking peaches off trees. Peaches bloomed in New Jersey. Virginia peaches entered the petal fall stage. Washington and Oregon orchards progressed to full bloom. Michigan and Pennsylvania fruit growers pruned trees. California Freestone peach picking should begin around May 1.

Florida citrus groves rated excellent; irrigation held off stress due to dryness. Texas citrus bloom almost ended. Valencia harvests continued in Florida and California.

VEGETABLES: Asparagus harvest began slowly in New Jersey and Michigan; California growers diverted part of the crop to processors. Vegetable planting became widespread and extended northward into Maryland. Florida vegetable shipments increased 17% from the previous week. Volume increased seasonally or held steady for most crops; only supplies of radishes and strawberries declined. Texas growers harvested carrots, onions, cabbage, and lettuce. California onion and strawberry harvests increased.

PASTURES AND LIVESTOCK: Grasslands rated fair to good throughout most of the Nation. Low temperatures slowed growth in northern areas. Ranges in California and Arizona rated excellent; a long period of mild temperatures and adequate rain provided the near-ideal conditions. Southern Florida and parts of Texas remained dry. Some Texas cattlemen gave supplemental feed to herds.

Temperature and Precipitation Data for the Week Ending Midnight, l.s.t., April 23, 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 . . .	59	- 6	1.2	+ .2	LA. Baton Rouge . . .	68	- 2	T	- 1.2	Youngstown . . .	42	- 8	.9	+ .1
Mobile . . .	67	- 2	3.1	+ 1.9	Lake Charles . . .	69	- 1	T	- 1.1	OKLA. Okla. City . . .	59	- 3	T	- .9
Montgomery . . .	62	- 5	2.5	+ 1.5	New Orleans . . .	72	+ 2	T	- .9	Tulsa . . .	53	-10	.6	- .4
ALASKA. Anchorage . . .	42	+ 5	T	- .1	Shreveport . . .	63	- 8	.5	- .8	OREG. Astoria . . .	47	- 1	3.3	+ 2.3
Barrow . . .	-	-	-	-	MAINE. Caribou . . .	31	- 8	1.1	+ .5	Burns . . .	39	- 7	.2	0
Fairbanks . . .	41	+ 9	-	0	Portland . . .	42	- 2	2.0	+ 1.2	Medford . . .	48	- 3	T	- .2
Juneau . . .	-	-	-	-	MD. Baltimore . . .	52	- 0	1.0	+ .3	Pendleton . . .	46	- 6	.1	- .9
Kodiak . . .	40	+ 2	.3	- .6	MASS. Boston . . .	45	- 0	1.2	+ .4	Portland . . .	50	- 1	1.4	+ .9
Nose . . .	28	+ 7	.2	+ .1	Chatham . . .	45	- 0	1.9	- .4	Salem . . .	48	- 3	1.3	+ .8
ARIZ. Flagstaff . . .	41	- 2	0	- .3	MICH. Alpena . . .	34	- 8	.5	- .1	PA. Allentown . . .	49	- 3	1.0	+ .1
Phoenix . . .	69	0	0	- .1	Detroit . . .	44	- 6	.8	0	Erie . . .	40	- 7	.7	- .1
Tucson . . .	65	- 2	0	- .1	Flint . . .	43	- 5	.2	- .5	Harrisburg . . .	48	- 7	1.2	+ .5
Winslow . . .	51	- 4	0	0	Grand Rapids . . .	45	- 3	.3	- .5	Philadelphia . . .	49	- 6	1.2	+ .4
Yuma . . .	69	- 3	0	- .1	Houghton Lake . . .	40	- 4	.1	- .5	Pittsburgh . . .	46	- 6	.9	+ .1
ARK. Fort Smith . . .	56	- 8	.2	- 1.0	Lansing . . .	43	- 5	.7	0	Scranton . . .	44	- 6	.8	+ .1
Little Rock . . .	58	- 5	2.5	+ 1.2	Marquette . . .	44	- 3	.5	- .3	R.I. Providence . . .	49	0	2.1	+ 1.3
CALIF. Bakersfield . . .	71	+ 7	0	- .2	Muskegon . . .	38	- 2	.3	- .3	S.C. Charleston . . .	62	- 4	.8	+ .3
Bureka . . .	51	+ 1	.7	+ .1	S. Ste. Marie . . .	37	- 4	.2	- .4	Columbia . . .	58	- 8	1.1	+ .3
Fresno . . .	67	+ 6	.1	- .2	MINN. Duluth . . .	40	- 1	T	- .4	Greenville . . .	54	- 9	1.1	+ .1
Los Angeles . . .	63	+ 1	0	- .2	Internatl Falls . . .	43	- 5	1.2	+ .7	S.D. Aberdeen . . .	40	- 7	1.5	+ 1.0
Red Bluff . . .	54	- 7	.2	- .2	Minneapolis . . .	41	- 6	.5	- .1	Huron . . .	38	-10	1.8	+ 1.3
San Diego . . .	64	+ 3	0	- .2	Rochester . . .	41	- 4	.4	- .2	Rapid City . . .	41	- 6	.7	+ .2
San Francisco . . .	54	- 2	.1	- .2	St. Cloud . . .	41	- 4	.5	- .1	Sioux Falls . . .	38	- 11	2.2	+ 1.6
Stockton . . .	56	- 4	0	- .3	MISS. Jackson . . .	63	- 4	1.2	+ .1	TENN. Chattanooga . . .	57	- 5	2.5	+ 1.5
COLO. Denver . . .	48	- 1	T	- .5	Meridian . . .	60	- 7	.4	- .7	Knoxville . . .	56	- 6	1.2	+ .4
Grand Junction . . .	47	- 6	T	- .2	MO. Columbia . . .	49	- 8	.9	0	Memphis . . .	61	- 5	1.0	- .3
Pueblo . . .	50	- 4	0	- .3	Kansas City . . .	47	-10	.9	+ .1	Nashville . . .	55	- 7	1.1	+ .2
CONN. Bridgeport . . .	48	- 2	1.5	+ .7	St. Louis . . .	50	- 9	1.4	+ .4	TEX. Abilene . . .	67	- 0	0	- .7
Hartford . . .	50	0	1.2	+ .4	Springfield . . .	48	-10	.9	- .2	Amarillo . . .	57	- 2	1	- .3
D.C. Washington . . .	55	- 3	.9	+ .2	MONT. Billings . . .	43	- 4	.1	- .3	Austin . . .	68	- 1	0	- .8
FLA. Apalachicola . . .	66	- 3	1.6	+ .8	MONT. Glasgow . . .	40	- 6	.3	+ .1	Beaumont . . .	71	+ 1	T	- 1.1
Daytona Beach . . .	71	0	3.3	+ 2.8	Great Falls . . .	41	- 5	.7	+ .4	Brownsville . . .	76	0	T	- .3
Ft. Myers . . .	75	+ 1	1.3	+ .9	Havre . . .	44	- 2	.6	+ .3	Corpus Christi . . .	73	- 1	.8	+ .2
Jacksonville . . .	67	- 2	.6	- .1	Helena . . .	46	+ 1	.3	+ .1	Dallas . . .	74	+ 1	0	- .4
Key West . . .	79	0	.7	+ .1	Kalispell . . .	42	- 2	1.3	+ 1.0	Del Rio . . .	66	+ 1	0	0
Lakeland . . .	72	- 1	.8	+ .2	Miles City . . .	43	- 5	.2	- .1	El Paso . . .	63	- 4	.1	- 1.0
Miami . . .	76	+ 0	1.0	+ .1	Missoula . . .	44	- 2	.7	+ .4	Fort Worth . . .	70	0	1.1	+ .5
Orlando . . .	74	+ 2	1.1	- .5	NEBR. Grand Island . . .	43	- 9	.8	+ .2	Galveston . . .	66	- 5	.2	- .7
Tallahassee . . .	65	- 4	1.0	+ .1	Lincoln . . .	43	-11	1.9	+ 1.3	Houston . . .	61	- 1	0	- .3
Tampa . . .	73	+ 0	.1	- .7	Norfolk . . .	41	-10	.8	+ .3	Lubbock . . .	65	- 1	0	- .2
W. Palm Beach . . .	77	+ 2	.1	- .7	N. Platte . . .	41	- 9	.4	- .1	Midland . . .	68	- 1	0	- .4
GA. Atlanta . . .	55	- 8	1.2	+ .2	Omaha . . .	41	-11	1.6	+ .9	San Angelo . . .	67	- 4	2.1	+ 1.5
Augusta . . .	59	- 6	.2	- .6	Valentine . . .	38	-10	1.0	+ .5	San Antonio . . .	70	- 2	1.0	+ .3
Macon . . .	61	- 6	1.0	+ .2	NEV. Ely . . .	39	- 4	.4	+ .1	Victoria . . .	68	- 1	1.0	0
Savannah . . .	65	- 2	.8	+ .2	Las Vegas . . .	63	- 2	0	- .1	Waco . . .	62	- 4	0	- .8
HAWAII. Hilo . . .	76	+ 4	.1	- 2.9	Reno . . .	43	- 5	T	- .1	Wichita Falls . . .	62	- 1	0	- .2
Honolulu . . .	76	+ 1	1.6	+ 1.3	Winnemucca . . .	46	0	.1	- .1	UTAH. Blanding . . .	45	- 4	0	- .2
Kahului . . .	-	-	-	-	N.H. Concord . . .	42	- 4	.9	+ .2	Salt Lake City . . .	47	- 4	.5	0
Lihue . . .	74	0	.3	- .4	N.J. Atlantic City . . .	49	- 4	.7	- .1	VT. Burlington . . .	40	- 5	.3	- .3
IDAHO. Boise . . .	47	- 3	.1	- .2	Trenton . . .	49	- 5	.9	+ .2	VA. Lynchburg . . .	51	- 7	.5	- .1
Lewiston . . .	49	- 3	.2	- .1	N.MEX. Albuquerque . . .	55	- 2	0	- .1	Norfolk . . .	54	- 5	.9	+ .3
Pocatello . . .	48	+ 1	.1	- .2	Roswell . . .	65	+ 4	0	- .1	Richmond . . .	54	- 5	.9	+ .3
ILL. Cairo . . .	56	- 6	1.3	+ .3	N.Y. Albany . . .	45	- 4	.7	+ .1	Roanoke . . .	50	- 7	.7	+ .1
Chicago . . .	45	- 7	1.2	+ .3	Binghamton . . .	40	- 7	.5	- .3	WASH. Colville . . .	47	- 1	.3	+ .1
Moline . . .	47	- 6	.9	0	Buffalo . . .	42	- 5	.7	- .1	Omak . . .	47	- 3	.4	+ .2
Peoria . . .	48	- 5	1.0	- .1	New York . . .	49	- 4	1.5	+ .7	Quillayute . . .	47	0	2.2	+ .4
Rockford . . .	45	- 5	1.0	+ .1	Rochester . . .	42	- 6	1.3	+ .7	Seattle-Tacoma . . .	48	- 2	1.4	+ .9
Springfield . . .	49	- 6	.9	- .1	Syracuse . . .	41	- 7	.5	- .2	Spokane . . .	45	- 3	.3	+ .1
IND. Evansville . . .	51	- 8	1.6	+ .7	N.C. Asheville . . .	52	- 5	.8	0	Walla Walla . . .	52	- 3	.2	- .2
Ft. Wayne . . .	45	- 6	2.0	+ 1.2	Charlotte . . .	55	- 7	.4	- .4	Yakima . . .	47	- 4	.1	0
Indianapolis . . .	44	- 6	1.0	0	Greensboro . . .	51	- 9	.3	- .4	W. Va. Beckley . . .	47	- 6	.9	+ .2
South Bend . . .	47	- 6	1.5	+ .6	Hatteras . . .	56	- 4	2.4	+ 1.7	Charleston . . .	51	- 7	.6	- .2
IOWA. Burlington . . .	44	- 8	2.8	+ 2.1	Raleigh . . .	53	- 8	.8	+ .1	Huntington . . .	52	- 5	1.1	+ .4
Des Moines . . .	44	- 6	1.9	+ .9	Wilmington . . .	60	- 5	.7	+ .1	Parkersburg . . .	48	- 8	.9	+ .1
Dubuque . . .	41	- 11	1.4	+ .8	N.DAK. Bismarck . . .	41	- 6	1.1	+ .7	WIS. Green Bay . . .	38	- 8	.4	+ .2
Sioux City . . .	46	- 9	.3	- .3	Fargo . . .	41	- 4	.5	0	La Crosse . . .	45	- 5	1.0	+ .4
KANS. Concordia . . .	51	- 5	T	- .4	Williston . . .	41	- 4	.2	- .1	Madison . . .	41	- 7	1.2	+ .6
Dodge City . . .	44	- 7	.1	- .3	OHIO. Akron-Canton . . .	43	- 7	1.0	+ .2	Milwaukee . . .	39	- 8	1.5	+ .8
Goodland . . .	48	- 9	.2	- .7	Cincinnati . . .	48	- 8	1.4	+ .6	WYO. Casper . . .	41	- 4	.1	- .3
Topeka . . .	48	- 7	T	- .7	Cleveland . . .	44	- 6	1.3	+ .5	Cheyenne . . .	41	- 5	T	0
Wichita . . .	52	- 7	T	- .7	Columbus . . .	47	- 6	1.5	+ .6	Lander . . .	41	- 4	0	- .6
KY. Lexington . . .	51	- 6	1.0	+ .1	Dayton . . .	47	- 6	1.8	+ 1.1	Sheridan . . .	42	- 4	.3	- .2
Louisville . . .	51	- 7	1.6	+ .7	Toledo . . .	42	- 8	1.5	+ .8	P.R. San Juan . . .	80	+ 2	.7	- .2

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 (44USC 213), 53d Congress, 3d Session. Contents of the Bulletin may be reprinted freely, with proper credit.

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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: Temperatures 4° below normal. Rain most areas on 18th and 19th.

Fieldwork: 3 days suitable. Cotton 37% planted, 43% 1977, 34% average. Corn 57% planted, 55% 1977, 40% average. Peanuts 3% planted. Wheat fair to good condition; 41% headed, 64% 1977. Livestock and pastures fair to good condition.

ARIZONA: Sunny, no precipitation. Temperatures normal to 6° below normal.

Cotton planting full swing; early cotton progressing well. Sorghum planting continues. Wheat, barley good progress, early fields showing color. Few wheat fields windrowed; lodging increased. Safflower flowering continues; early plantings setting seed. Sugarbeet preharvest operations underway. Taproots developing satisfactorily. Hay growth ahead of normal. Harvest lettuce, carrots, cauliflower, broccoli, cabbage, mixed vegetables active. Lettuce harvest near completion Yuma area. Valencia orange harvest full swing; spraying thrips, citrus red mites. Lemon harvest winding down. Grapefruit harvest gaining momentum. Citrus groves good condition. Ranges provide excellent supply forage in desert areas. Forage growth slow mountains due to cool temperatures. Cattle good to excellent condition. Stock water tanks near capacity.

ARKANSAS: Temperatures cool. Rainfall general; heaviest in northwest, 1.00 in. common, light in southeast. Highest normal 65°, lowest 59°. Highest mean 64°, lowest 52°. Highest temperature 83°, lowest 29°.

Plantings and seedbed preparation slowed due to cool temperatures. Fieldwork: 5 days suitable. Soil moisture adequate. Soybeans 1% planted, 3% last year and average. Cotton planting 11%, 15% last year and average. Rice planting 45%, same as last year and average. Corn planting 50%, 63% last year 73% average. Sorghum planting 20%, 41% last year, 44% average. Wheat and oats good condition. Strawberries good to excellent. Fruit good condition. Tomatoes fair to good. Watermelons fair. Pastures average. All hay good condition. Cattle good condition.

CALIFORNIA: Precipitation statewide; north half more than 1.00 in. Temperatures 8° or more below normal.

Alfalfa hay harvested. Corn planted. Cotton planting continued; stands emerging. Grain hay harvested. Safflower in various stages of development. Small grains continue to head out. Rice fields being worked. Excess moisture caused some diseases in barley. Avocado, lemon and orange harvests continue. Freestone peach harvest to begin around May 1. Heavy fungus problems in most crops due to wet weather. Diversion of asparagus to freezers started delta area. Onion harvest increasing Imperial Valley; curing still slow. Digging spring potatoes increasing. Strawberry harvest increasing; some going to processors. Ranges, pastures continue best development years. Stock water supplies more than adequate. Cattle, sheep good condition.

COLORADO: Cool, windy, and dry conditions. Temperatures averaged 2 to 4° below normal, freezing fruit area of western slope. Trace to no precipitation.

Winter wheat poor to fair; moderate to severe wind damage eastern plains, dry condition aggra-

vates wheat foot rot. Oats seeded 67%, 57% 1977, 65% average. Spring barley 48% seeded, 66% 1977, 68% average. Summer potatoes seeded 36%, 26% 1977, 24% average. Sugarbeet seeding 87%, 52% 1977, 48% average. Corn seeding underway; 16% complete. Fieldwork: 4 days suitable. Freezing caused moderate to severe damage to fruit on west slope. Ranges and pastures poor to fair. Livestock mostly good.

FLORIDA: Temperatures near normal west, north; 2 to 3° above normal elsewhere. Rainfall 1.00 in. or better west, south; elsewhere 0.25 to 0.50 in.

Soil moisture adequate Panhandle, upper east coast; excessive in north but mostly short in central, south. Corn planting continues but nearing completion. Peanut planting active. Young corn and peanuts mostly good condition. Tobacco transplanting about complete; replanting underway. Land preparation for planting soybeans active. Small grains good condition; most headed. Sugarcane making good growth. Heavy rains north restoring soil moisture; low-lying pastures under water. Dry conditions continue central, south where permanent pasture growth is slow. Fertilization very active. Cattle condition poor to good. Citrus grove condition very good; some stress showing due to lack of rain. Most growers irrigating. Old crop Valencias holding very well. Some heavy grapefruit droppage. Vegetables continue good to excellent condition; some declining seasonally. Growth, quality, fruit set improving. Fruit sizing well. Overall shipments up 17% from previous week. Volume increasing seasonally most crops. Shipments cabbage, chinese cabbage, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, peppers, squash, tomatoes increased. Volume steady snap beans, carrots, celery, escarole, lettuce, okra, potatoes. Supplies radishes down, strawberries declining seasonally. Watermelon crop progressing well; first light harvest anticipated early May.

GEORGIA: Temperatures near normal, ranging from low 60's north, mid-50's mountains to upper 60's south. Rainfall mainly during midweek with amounts over 2.00 in. north to 0.50 in. southeast.

Soil moisture adequate to excessive. Wet fields, cool weather hampered land preparation and planting. Fieldwork: 3 days suitable. Corn 80% planted, 88% last year, 54% average; fair to mostly good. Peanuts 21% seeded, 38% last year, 18% average; fair to good. Tobacco 87% transplanted, 93% last year, 91% average; fair to mostly good. Cotton 39% planted, 50% last year, 25% average; mostly fair to good. Soybeans 1% planted, 2% last year, 1% average. Watermelons 85% planted, same as last year. Small grains fair to mostly good. Peaches and apples good. Pastures and cattle good; improved. Hogs good.

IDAHO: Temperatures below normal, precipitation above normal. Extremes: 78 and 20°.

Fieldwork slowed by wet, cold weather. Fieldwork: 4 days suitable. Spring planting behind last year's accelerated pace but ahead of recent years. Spring wheat 40% seeded, last year 65%, normal about 30%. Barley 40% seeded, sugarbeets 65% planted and potatoes 10%. Soil moisture adequate. Livestock and ranges in good condition.

ILLINOIS: Temperatures 5 to 8° below normal. Precipitation heavy, mostly 1.00 to 2.00 in.

Winter wheat mostly good to fair. Oats seeding 45% complete, 100% 1977, 94% average. Alfalfa

mostly good. Plowing 1978 corn and soybean acreage 60% complete, 1977 100%, average 95%. Corn planting 1% complete, 1977 20%, average 16%. Pasture condition good. Fieldwork: 1.5 days suitable. Soil moisture adequate to mostly surplus.

INDIANA: Wet, cold; temperatures 6° below normal. Daily lows near 40° and highs mostly in 50's. Rainfall 1.10 in. northwest to 1.40 in. south. Solar radiation 35% of possible.

Fieldwork: 2 days suitable. Topsoil and subsoil moisture mostly surplus. Spring planted cropland 50% planted, 1977 85%, average 60%. Oats 30% seeded, 1977 95%, average 60%. Clover 50% seeded, 1977 95%. Corn 1% planted, 1977 10%, average 0%. No sorghum planted. Wheat fair. No barley and rye headed. Pasture mostly fair.

IOWA: Cold, wet. Temperatures 7° subnormal east to 11° subnormal west and precipitation varied between twice and four times the normal expectancy.

Topsoil moisture adequate to mostly surplus. Subsoil moisture mostly adequate to surplus. Plowing 47% complete, last year 91%, normal 72%. Condition of oats, wheat, clover hay, alfalfa hay, and pasture fair to good. Oats acreage planted 43%, last year 99%, normal 68%. Oats acreage emerged 8%, last year 67%, normal 38%. Fertilizer application 36% complete. Fieldwork: 1.1 days suitable. Live-stock condition fair to good.

KANSAS: Substantial rains east, local amounts over 2.00 in.; less than 0.10 in. west; little to none southwest. Strong winds and blowing dust west 18th and 22d. Winds over 70 mph northwest 18th. Temperatures averaged from 46° northwest to 53° south central; 5° below normal west, 8° below normal east.

Wheat development week behind average, 30% jointing stage, last year and average 50%. Wheat condition little change. Moisture stress in west. Soil moisture short west, adequate to surplus east. Very little corn planted, less than 5%, last year and average 10%. Oat seeding over 75% complete, last year 100%, average 90%. Sugarbeet germination slowed by cold.

KENTUCKY: Cool, wet; temperatures averaged 10° below normal with heavy frost on 22d. Precipitation mostly 0.50 to 1.00 in. with some western totals nearly 2.00 in.

Fieldwork: less than 3 days suitable. Spring progress 1 week behind. Plowing 61% complete; behind last year and average. Tobacco beds seeded, but germination and growth slow. Corn 12% planted compared with 20% average. Alfalfa weevil infestation heavy; spraying active. Pastures in good condition, but warm weather needed to stimulate growth.

LOUISIANA: Temperatures 5° below normal north, normal elsewhere. Extremes: 39 and 88°. Showers north, eastcentral.

Activities: Fertilizing pastures, land preparation, herbicide application; cotton, corn, and rice planting. Fieldwork: 4.9 days suitable. Soil moisture short central, adequate elsewhere. Corn 79% planted, 78% last year, 56% average. Rice 77% planted, 65% last year, average 59%. Cotton 17% planted, 11% last year, average 7%. Sugarcane slow growth. Vegetable planting active. Strawberry harvest active. Small grains fair to good, 20% headed. Cattle fair to good. Pastures fair.

MARYLAND & DELAWARE: Temperatures 5° below normal. Highs low 60's; lows upper 30's. Western areas cooler. Precipitation widespread; mostly 0.50 to 1.00 in.

Fieldwork progressed rapidly until midweek when rain slowed activities. Fieldwork: 4.1 days suitable. Soil moisture adequate. Pastures supplying average amounts of feed. Plowing for corn 65% complete, well behind last year. Early planting expected this week, full scale planting expected in early May. Small grains fair to good condition. Vegetable planting active. Tobacco growers stripping and marketing last year's crop. Fruit growers pruning and spraying orchards.

MICHIGAN: Temperatures 3 to 8° below normal Lower and 2 to 6° Upper. Warming trend late in week. Minimums in teens, maximums near 60°. Precipitation 0.25 in. to near 1.00 in. Most fell middle and end of week. Some snow 21st southern Lower.

Cool, wet weather delaying fieldwork. Plowing behind last year and normal. Fieldwork: 2 days suitable. No corn planted, 4% last year, 1% normal. Oats 5% sown, normal 22%. Sugarbeets planted 1%, normal 30%. Planted potatoes 1%, 20% normal. Asparagus harvest behind schedule; expected harvest May 7. Main fruit activity, planting, trimming, fertilizing. Vegetable planting delayed.

MINNESOTA: Temperatures normal to 4° below normal north half and 4 to 8° below normal south half. Extremes: 64 and 17°. Precipitation less than 0.50 in. north half and 0.50 to 1.50 in. south half except 1.50 to 2.30 in. extreme south and southwest. Snowfall totaled 1 to 3 in. midweek southern half.

Rain, snow, wet fields, cold temperatures hampering fieldwork. Most fields very wet after weekend rains. Fieldwork limited to well-drained soils. Fieldwork: 1 day possible. Seeded: Spring wheat 1%, 1977 63%, normal 42%; oats 2%, 1977 68%, normal 44%; barley 0%, 1977 47%, normal 28%. Virtually no corn, soybean ground prepared for planting.

MISSISSIPPI: Temperatures slightly below normal. Extremes: 32 and 88°.

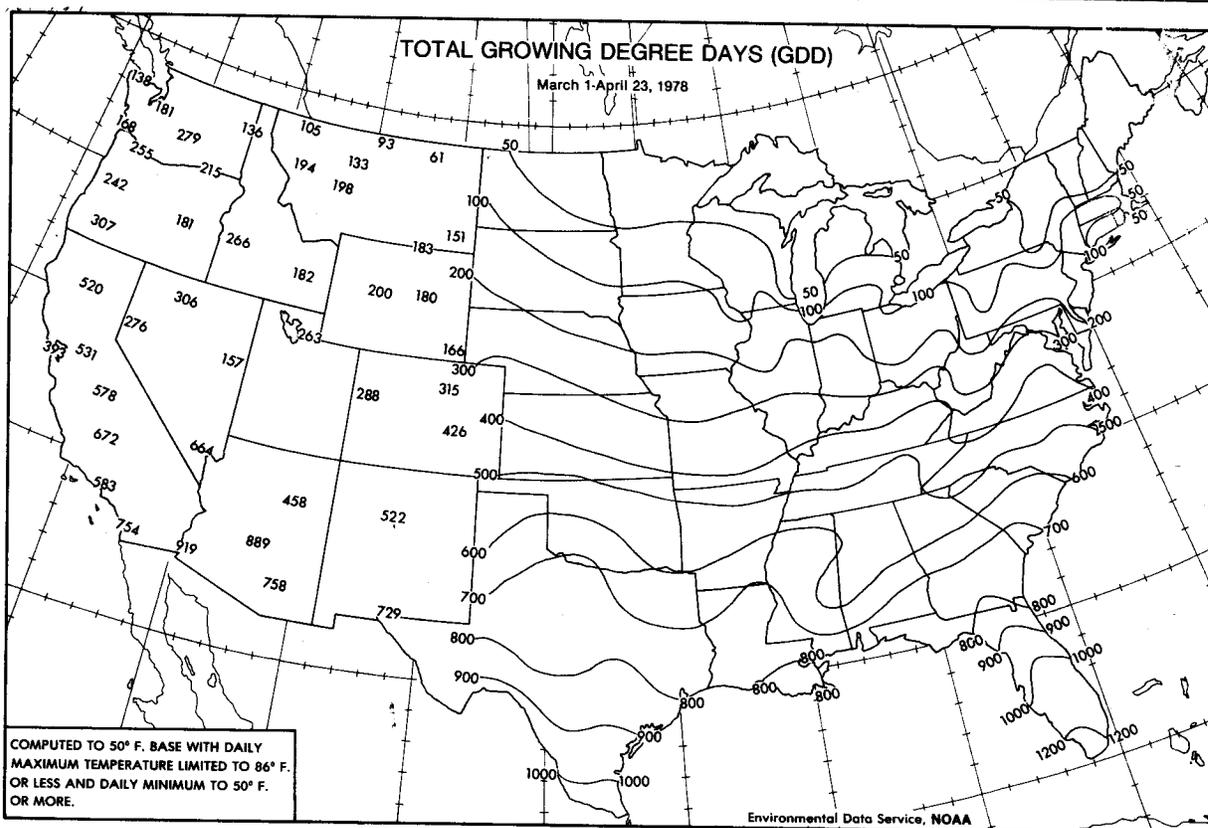
Soil moisture adequate. Fieldwork: 4.1 days suitable. Acreage plowed 81%, 80% 1977. Cotton 14% planted, 13% 1977, 13% average. Rice 68% planted, 45% 1977, 38% average; 23% up to stand. Corn 68% planted, 62% 1977, 33% average; 39% up to stand, 34% 1977. Peanuts 4% planted. Winter wheat 86% jointing, 97% 1977; 19% headed, 32% 1977. Oats 86% jointing, 94% 1977; 23% headed, 40% 1977. Crops and pastures in good to fair condition.

MISSOURI: Temperatures cooled off by midweek and averaged 9° below normal. Morning lows reached 30's with scattered frost. Precipitation heavy, averaging over 2.00 in. north and central; 0.50 to 0.75 in. south.

Fieldwork: 1.0 day suitable. Corn 5% planted, last year 33%, normal 23%. Grain sorghum 2% planted, last year 5%, normal less than 5%. Cotton 3% planted, last year 14%, normal 15%. Oats 76% sown, last year over 95%. Condition of winter wheat mostly fair to good. Pasture condition mostly fair to good. Soil moisture supply mostly adequate to surplus.

MONTANA: Cool, wet with temperatures 6° below normal. Precipitation general throughout week; some amounts totaling well over 1.00 in. west, north central and central.

Crop and range growth slow. Soil moisture adequate. Winter wheat condition good to excellent except parts northeast condition poor to good due to winter kill. Spring seeding slow--about 10% spring wheat, oats and barley sown, 1977 35%, average 25%. Sugarbeet seeding 35% done, 1977 65%, average 40%. Fieldwork: 3.5 days suitable. Range



feed mostly short. Calving 80% complete, about average. Lambing 70% and shearing 60% complete.

NEBRASKA: Temperatures 3 to 11° below normal. Precipitation 1.00 to 2.00 in. except southwest portion 0.25 in.

Winter wheat good condition. Oats planting 45% complete, year ago 75%, normal 70%. Barley seeding 35% complete, year ago 85%, normal 75%. Sugarbeet planting near completion. No corn planted, year ago less than 5%, normal less than 5%. Topsoil moisture surplus to adequate. Subsoil adequate. Fieldwork: less than 1.5 days suitable; only work in Panhandle.

NEVADA: Precipitation with well below normal afternoon temperatures. Temperatures 4° below normal. Extremes: 83 and 15°.

Livestock movement to summer ranges gaining momentum. Some small grain seeding southern valleys. Preparing potato fields for planting active.

NEW ENGLAND: Widespread rains with amounts averaging between 1.00 and 2.00 in. Temperatures near normal with highs in .50's and overnight lows in 30's.

NEW JERSEY: Cold with frost 18th, 19th, 23d, and 24th. Temperatures 3 to 7° below normal. Extremes: 25 and 65°. Rainfall 1.45 in. north, 1.28 in. central, and 1.01 in. south. Soil moisture in percent of field capacity 97% north, 94% central and 90% south. Cool temperatures delayed crop growth. Fieldwork: 4.9 days suitable. Very limited asparagus cutting begun. Vegetable planting continues. Peaches in bloom. Strawberries beginning to bloom. Soil preparations underway for field corn. Liming, fertilizing and fruit spraying active on calm days.

NEW MEXICO: Dry with mostly sunny days. Cold 17th warming through midweek then moderate cooling again 22d.

Soil moisture short. Cotton planting in progress; full swing next week. Irrigated winter wheat fair to good; dryland poor to fair. Barley fair to good. Corn planting about 50% complete. Onions and lettuce good condition. East side potato crop up. Livestock fair to good. Ranges fair but need rain soon.

NEW YORK: Rainfall above normal southeast, near normal elsewhere. Temperatures to 6° below normal.

Limited plowing, many wet fields. Oats planting less than 5% done, 30% 1977. Some of last year's corn being picked. Winter wheat fair to poor. Maple season started late, short duration. Long Island potatoes 40% planted. Limited Upstate planting of vegetable crops. Fruit growth about 3 weeks behind normal. Mouse damage in apple orchards. Hudson Valley apple buds strong.

NORTH CAROLINA: Temperatures 3 to 9° subnormal. Rain heaviest east 1.00 to 2.00 in.; elsewhere moderate, 0.25 to 0.75 in.

Fieldwork: 4 days suitable. Soil moisture mostly adequate. Pasture, barley and rye fair to mostly good. Wheat, oats, tobacco plants, Irish potatoes, tobacco in fields, and truck crops, fair to good. Corn 70% planted, 1977 70%, average 39%; cotton 20%, 1977 29%, average 14%; flue-cured tobacco 7%, 1977 16%, average 12%; peanuts, soybeans and sorghum just underway.

NORTH DAKOTA: Cool, wet; temperatures below normal. Snow early with up to 6 in. southwest, south central.

Snow early plus cool, cloudy, rainy delayed start fieldwork. Spring wheat less than 1% planted, 28% 1977, 18% average. Durum wheat less

than 1% planted, 21% 1977, 9% average. Oats less than 1% planted, 21% 1977, 12% average. Barley less than 1% planted, 26% 1977, 12% average. Wet, cool weather tough on newborn calves, lambs. Some stress on livestock.

OHIO: Temperatures 5 to 8° below normal. Frost on 22d. Highest temperatures in 60's; above 70 extreme south. Precipitation over 1.00 in.

Soils saturated, dry weather needed badly. Condition of winter wheat fair; height 3.5 in., 6 in. year ago. Condition of most other crops fair to good. Freeze 22d did very little damage. Development of fruit, especially tart cherries, 10 to 14 days behind year ago. Early planted oats beginning to emerge. Land plowed 65%, 95% 1977, 70% average. Corn planted less than 5%, 10% 1977, 10% average. Oats planted 30%, 75% 1977, 65% average. Sugarbeets planted less than 10%, 80% 1977, 70% average. Tobacco beds sown 90%, 100% 1977, 90% average. Fieldwork: less than 3 days favorable. Soil moisture surplus.

OKLAHOMA: Temperatures near normal southwest, 4 to 7° below normal elsewhere. Precipitation fell in east and south with the southeast receiving an average of 0.74 in.

Topsoil and subsoil moisture adequate. Wheat good to fair condition with 79% jointing, 90% 1977 and normal. Heading on 2% of acreage, 28% 1977 and 18% normal. Oats and barley good to fair condition. Seedbed preparations: Sorghum 56%, 41% 1977, 31% normal; soybeans 49%, 64% 1977, 35% normal; cotton 67%, 54% 1977, 33% normal; peanuts 63%, 60% 1977, and 39% normal; corn 12% seeded, 16% 1977 and 19% normal. Alfalfa good condition, first cutting 14% complete, 3% 1977, and 6% normal. Native pastures good to fair condition. Livestock good condition.

OREGON: Wet, cool. Rainfall along coast ranged from 2.50 to 5.50 in. Precipitation in western valleys ranged from 0.25 to 1.71 in. East of Cascades 0.33 to over 0.50 in. Temperatures 2 to 5° below normal. Extremes: mid-60's, mid-30's west; low 60's, mid-20's east.

Soil moisture adequate. Fall grains and field crops good condition. Spring seeding at various stages of completion, fieldwork slowed by rains. Fruit bloom continuing; sprays being applied. Cranberries developing well. Vegetable planting continues. Potatoes and onions underway. Ranges and pasture growth slowed by weather. Livestock in good condition. Branding season underway, calves being turned out.

PENNSYLVANIA: Cool, wet; temperatures 3 to 7° below normal. Extremes: 19 and 66°. Rain, drizzle, fog and few thundershowers 19th through 21st with up to 2.00 in. new snow north 21st. Sunny, but cool, 22d with springlike conditions 23d.

Fieldwork: 3 days suitable. Soil moisture adequate to surplus. Activities: Shelling corn; disking; plowing; spreading lime, manure and fertilizer; planting, oats, alfalfa and potatoes; vineyard preparation; pruning fruit trees. Plowing 32%, last year 57%. Oats 29% planted, last year 50%. Potatoes planted 8%, last year 22%. Tobacco beds 70% sown. Hay condition mostly good to fair. Feed from pastures below average.

PUERTO RICO: Island rainfall 0.74 in. or 0.37 in. below normal. Temperatures about 78° on coasts and 73° interior. Extremes: 94 and 54°.

SOUTH CAROLINA: Temperatures below normal except south near normal. Rainfall lightest in west central averaging only 0.50 in. Most sections

received normal to above normal amounts. Scattered frost, some locations heavy 21st, 22d.

Fieldwork: 4 days suitable. Tobacco good, 44% transplanted, 72% last year, 68% average. Corn good; 17% cultivated; 90% planted, 94% last year, 56% average. Cotton poor to fair; 38% planted, 66% last year, 32% average. Soybean planting just starting. Peaches, apples good to excellent condition except scattered orchards in Piedmont hit hard by hail on 19th. Fruit scarred in affected orchards, some peaches knocked from trees. Grapes in prebloom stage suffered less. Small grains good condition. Vegetable crops fair to good.

SOUTH DAKOTA: Cloudy, windy and wet. Temperatures 6 to 13° below normal east and 4 to 8° below normal west. Extremes: 13 and 61°. Precipitation as snow and rain; amounts 0.25 in. west and 1.00 to more than 2.00 in. east.

Fieldwork at standstill; spring plowing and small grain seeding behind pace of any year in the last 15 years. Spring plowing 3% complete, 1977 41%, normal 30%. Oats 5% seeded, 1977 61%, normal 51%. Spring wheat 10% seeded, 1977 58%, normal 48%. Barley 4% seeded, 1977 50%, normal 43%. Less than half day suitable for fieldwork.

TENNESSEE: Showers early week; cool temperatures and showers end of week. Temperatures 3 to 8° below normal. Average readings in 50's. Precipitation 0.75 to over 2.00 in. in some places.

Soil moisture adequate. Pastures, wheat, and oats fair condition. Fieldwork: 3.3 days suitable. Spring plowing 75% complete, 83% 1977, 70% normal. Corn 34% planted, 45% 1977, 25% normal. Cotton planting 9% complete, 20% 1977, 11% normal.

TEXAS: Temperatures 5 to 7° above normal southwest and lower Rio Grande Valley; elsewhere 1 to 3° above normal. Rainfall ranged from less than 0.10 in. over far west to near 1.00 in. over northeast.

Sunny, dry weather prevailed creating ideal conditions for irrigated crops but slowing development in moisture stressed non-irrigated fields. Moisture needed in most areas, non-irrigated fields in plains in critical moisture situation. Sorghum planting progressed as far north as the southern Low Plains; planting nearly complete from Blacklands south. Land preparation continues in High Plains. Early planted fields in south in good condition, growing rapidly. Sorghum 64% planted 55% 1977, 56% average. Cotton in early planted fields in good condition. In south growth slow due to cool evenings. American-pima planting in full swing in Trans-Pecos. Land preparation continues in Plains. Cotton 19% planted, 11% 1977, 14% average. Corn planting accelerated in High Plains; earlier planted fields good condition. Corn 46% planted, 36% 1977, 57% average. Dryland wheat in Plains badly in need of moisture; irrigated fields in good condition. Some wheat grazed out. Most wheat in Panhandle in joint stage. Oat stands fair to good condition; some fields grazed out or cut for hay. Peanuts 10% planted, 19% 1977, 17% average. Central producers expect planting within two weeks but need more moisture before beginning. Rice stands in good condition; 94% planted, 87% 1977, 90% average. Alfalfa hay fair to good condition; first cutting in southern High Plains and Low Plains. Flax completed blooming; some areas poor pod development due to dry conditions. Sugarbeets 93% planted, 83% 1977, 87% average.

Citrus bloom nearing completion. Melons, cucumbers, bell peppers, potatoes, cabbage and onions continue good growth. Carrot, onion, cabbage and lettuce harvests active. Moisture shortages causing problems non-irrigated fields. Peaches central southward continuing to size well, although some fruit drop because of dry weather

and heavy fruit set on some trees. Pecan trees continuing to leaf out with trees in north and central in catkin stage.

Livestock mostly fair to good condition. Some small grain fields being grazed. Supplemental feeding continues. Livestock in east central gaining some weight. Stock tanks continue low. Sheep shearing active.

UTAH: Scattered areas rain or snow in valleys and snow in mountains; accumulated amounts generally light to moderate. Temperatures ranged from near normal to 8° below.

Soil moisture adequate. Fieldwork: 4 to 5 days suitable. Most areas received frost damage, but fruit areas mostly light. Winter wheat condition good, average height 6 to 8 in. Spring planting: Barley 45%, spring wheat 40%, oats 25%, sugarbeets 30%. Apricots past bloom and apples about to bloom. Pasture and feed supplies fair to good. Calving 75% finished; range lambing 33% done. Shearing 50% finished.

VIRGINIA: Temperatures averaged near 50°, several degrees below normal with mild days, cool nights. Extremes: 80 and 25°. Scattered light frost in some locations. Precipitation moderate averaging 0.75 in., occurring last half of week. Light snow extreme southwest 21st.

Topsoil moisture mostly adequate; some surplus east, southwest. Planting progress: Corn 36%, 34% 1977, 22% average; soybeans 2%, 3% 1977, 1% usual; peanuts 3%, 2% 1977, 1% average. Wheat good. Spring oats seeding continues. Tobacco plant damage from cool winds limited. Hay, pastures good; growth short. Fruit good; apples, pears in heavy bloom; peaches, nectarines in petal fall. Potatoes emerging on Eastern Shore. Fieldwork: 4.6 days suitable.

WASHINGTON: West: Temperatures near normal. Precipitation 0.60 to 1.00 in. above normal.

Vegetable crops seeded between rains. Pastures planted, growing well.

East: Temperatures 2° subnormal. Precipitation 0.10 to 0.60 in. above normal.

Apples, cherries, pears in full bloom. Transplanting, grafting continues. Potato crops emerging while planting continues. Hop stringing, sugarbeet blocking, asparagus harvest continuing. Spring wheat and barley planting from 5 to 95% complete. Pastures making excellent growth.

WEST VIRGINIA: Temperatures below normal. Precipitation below normal northeast, south; above normal elsewhere. Up to 4 in. snow higher elevations 21st. Farmwork: 3.1 days suitable. Soil moisture adequate. Main activities: Plowing, planting. Planting progress: Potatoes 41%; 1977 65%, average 53%; spring oats 38%; 1977 53%, average 48%; tobacco beds 94%; 1977 97%; corn 3%; 1977 13%. Crop condition small grains mostly good. Potatoes fair. Pastures, hay, tobacco beds fair.

WISCONSIN: Temperatures 5° below normal. Extremes: 65 and 17°. Cloudy, cool and wet until 21st. Rain and snow 17th to 20th, with amounts heaviest west and south at 1.00 to 2.00 in. Hail and thunderstorms south 18th. Highs 30's and 40's until weekend when reached 50's and 60's.

Fieldwork delayed by wet soils and cold temperatures. Oats 5% seeded, 1977 50%, normal 25%. Seeding of small grains limited to light soils. Spring plowing 5% done, 1977 40%, normal 20%. Fieldwork: 2 days suitable. Some potatoes planted central sandy area. A few early peas planted. Hay fields and pastures greening but growth slow in contrast to 1977. Hay fields appear to have wintered well. Soil moisture supplies adequate to surplus.

WYOMING: Temperatures mostly below normal especially central and east. Precipitation generally below normal. Remaining snow cover ranged from 3 to 23 in.

Soil moisture adequate. Acreage planted: Spring wheat 41%, oats 43%, barley 56%, sugarbeets 44%. Acreage emerged: Spring wheat 11%, oats 5%, barley 12%. Winter wheat prospects remain good despite high winds and deteriorating moisture supply. Fieldwork: 4 days suitable. Spring calves born 76%. Range ewes lambing 45%; farm flock ewes lambing 82%; range sheep shorn 57%; farm flock sheep shorn 78%. Ranchers plan to start moving livestock to summer range around May 1.

World Weather and Crop Update

April 17 - 23

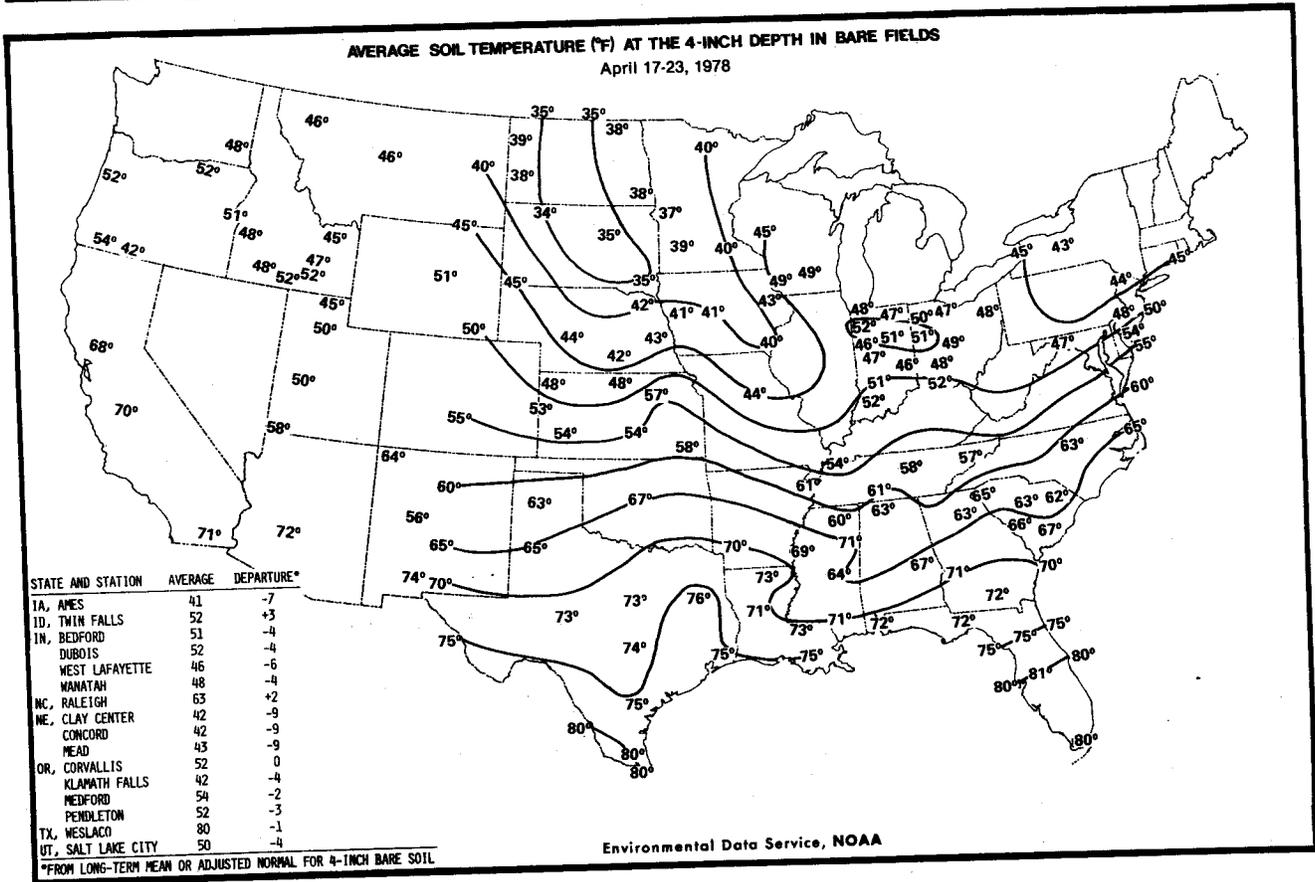
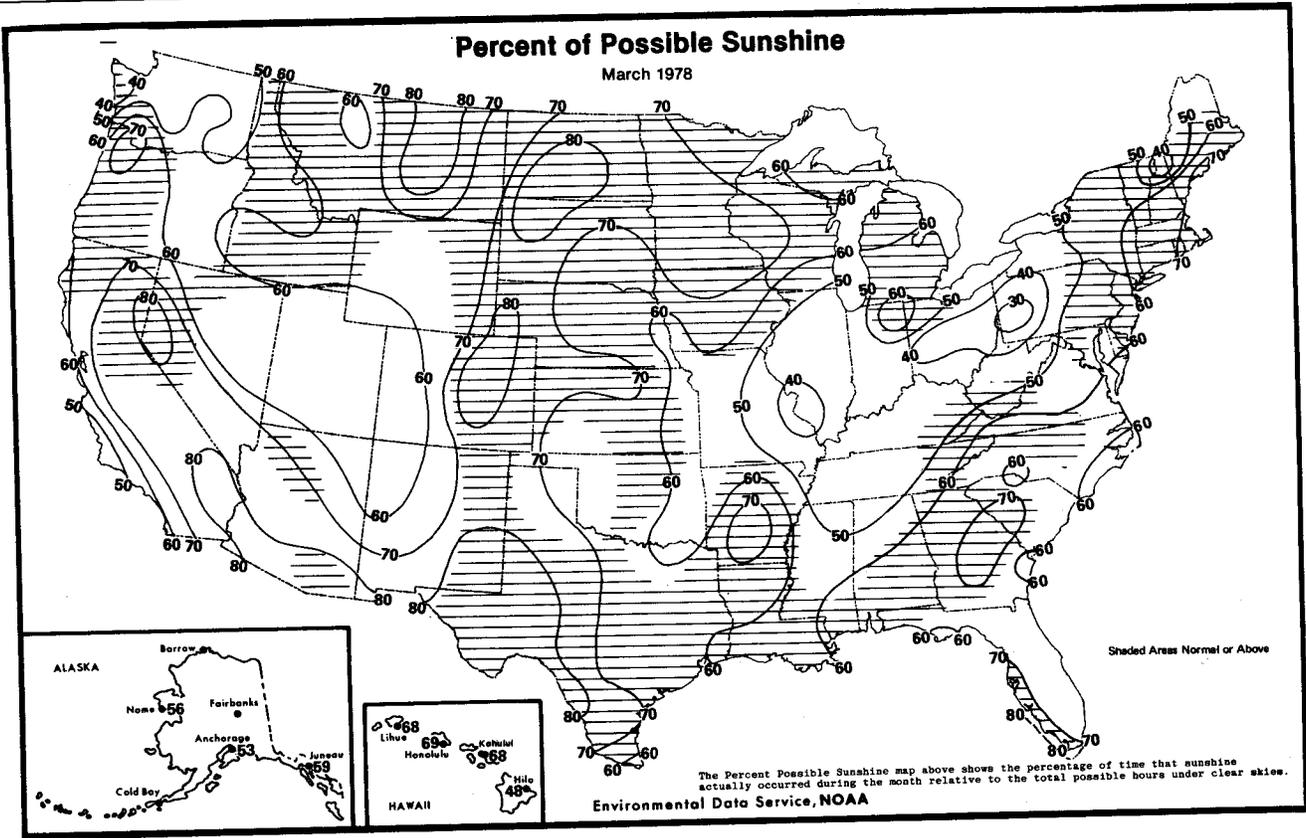
USSR. Temperatures returned to a seasonal mode. Moderate to heavy precipitation, which hampered fieldwork in some areas, accumulated in Bielorussia, Moldavia, parts of the North Caucasus, and most of the Ukraine except the eastern regions. Very light precipitation favored fieldwork in the central non-Black Soil and central Black Soil zones and throughout the Volga Valley. Light to moderate rain fell in the spring wheat areas of western Siberia and northern Kazakhstan. Fieldwork was general throughout all of the principal agricultural areas. Despite the early spring, cold rainy weather during the first half of April impeded fieldwork in European USSR, and by April 17 sowing had been completed on only 20 million hectares. Sowing of row crops---sunflowers, sugarbeets, and corn---is well underway in the southern regions while soybean planting progressed in the Far East. Cotton sowing neared completion in central Asia and the Transcaucasus.

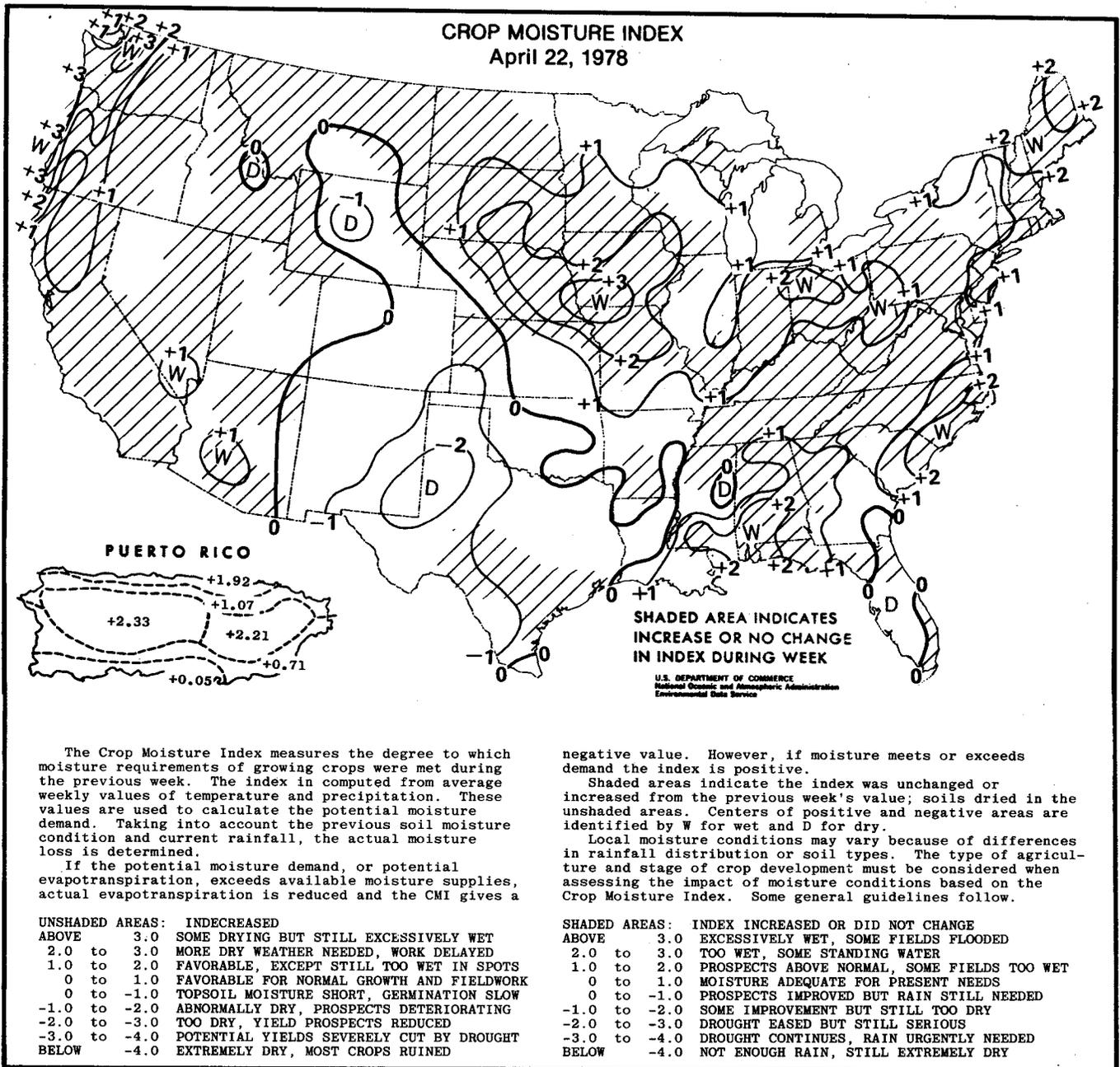
ASIA. In the People's Republic of China, temperatures were normal in the winter wheat areas of North China following the abnormally hot weather of the previous week. Non-irrigated crops in this

region may be under some stress from the high temperatures combined with well below normal rainfall of recent weeks. Heavy precipitation continued over most of the rice-producing provinces in South China. However, Kwangtung, the PRC's most important rice-growing province, had a welcome respite from the heavy rains of recent weeks that had hindered the transplanting of early rice and the harvesting of winter crops. Official complaints of drought in Kweichow province in the southwest and scattered parts of Szechwan province continued to surface in the Chinese news media. Moderate to heavy showers soaked scattered areas in India including the southwest coast, south central region, and portions of eastern India. Elsewhere, seasonally hot temperatures prevailed with little significant precipitation.

AFRICA. In North Africa, light scattered showers fell in Tunisia, but no significant rainfall touched Morocco or Algeria. Heavy showers and thunderstorms drenched the Orange Free State in South Africa's maize triangle, while light to moderate precipitation moistened scattered parts of the Transvaal. Heavy rains also fell along the east coast.

(continued on last page)







FIRST CLASS MAIL

SEEDING PROGRESS

Percent of Acreage Planted as of April 23

SPRING WHEAT				COTTON				CORN			
	1978	1977	Avg.		1978	1977	Avg.		1978	1977	Avg.
Idaho	40	65	30	Ala	37	43	34	Ga	80	88	54
Minn	1	63	42	Ark	11	15	15	Ill	1	20	16
Mont	10	35	25	Ga	39	50	25	Ind	1	10	0
N Dak	0	28	18	La	17	11	7	Iowa	0	10	4
S Dak	10	58	48	Miss	14	13	13	Kans	1/2	10	10
				Mo	3	14	15	Ky	12	28	20
5 States	4	42	29	N C	20	29	14	Mich	0	4	1
				Okla	0	0	0	Minn	0	0	0
These 5 States produced				S C	38	66	32	Mo	5	33	23
97% of the 1977 U. S.				Tenn	9	20	11	Nebr	0	1/2	1/2
spring wheat crop,				Tex	19	11	14	N C	70	70	39
excluding durum.								Ohio	1/2	10	10
				11 States	18	14	14	Pa	NA	NA	NA
								S Dak	0	0	0
				These 11 States produced				Tex	46	36	57
				72% of the 1977 U. S.				Wisc	0	1	0
				cotton crop.				U. S.	6	15	10
								These 16 States produced			
								94% of the 1977 U. S.			
								corn crop.			
								1/ less than 5%			
								NA Not Available			

(continued from page 9)

AUSTRALIA. Moderate rainfall covered the western territory, but little significant precipitation fell in the other principal grain areas. As planting time for winter grain nears, moisture conditions remain fairly good in most areas except South Australia which continues to suffer from a severe drought.

EUROPE. Cool weather dominated Europe during the first half of the week, but temperatures had moderated by weekend. Light to moderate precipitation was registered in western Europe and northern Spain. Moderate to locally heavy showers dampened northern Italy, but moisture was light and scattered in other regions of that country. Precipitation in eastern Europe was generally

light to moderate---5 to 12 mm---with somewhat higher amounts recorded in Romania and Greece. Below normal temperatures with moderate precipitation prevailed in Turkey.

SOUTH AMERICA. Moderate to heavy showers dampened Buenos Aires province, but generally dry weather favored harvesting and other fieldwork elsewhere in Argentina. Harvesting of corn and soybeans in Brazil's southern states proceeded under warm and dry conditions. Moderate rain fell in the coffee-growing areas of Sao Paulo while moderate to heavy precipitation soaked the eastern half of Minas Gerais, Bahia, and Rio de Janeiro. Heavy rains drenched the northeast coast.