WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP BULLETIN

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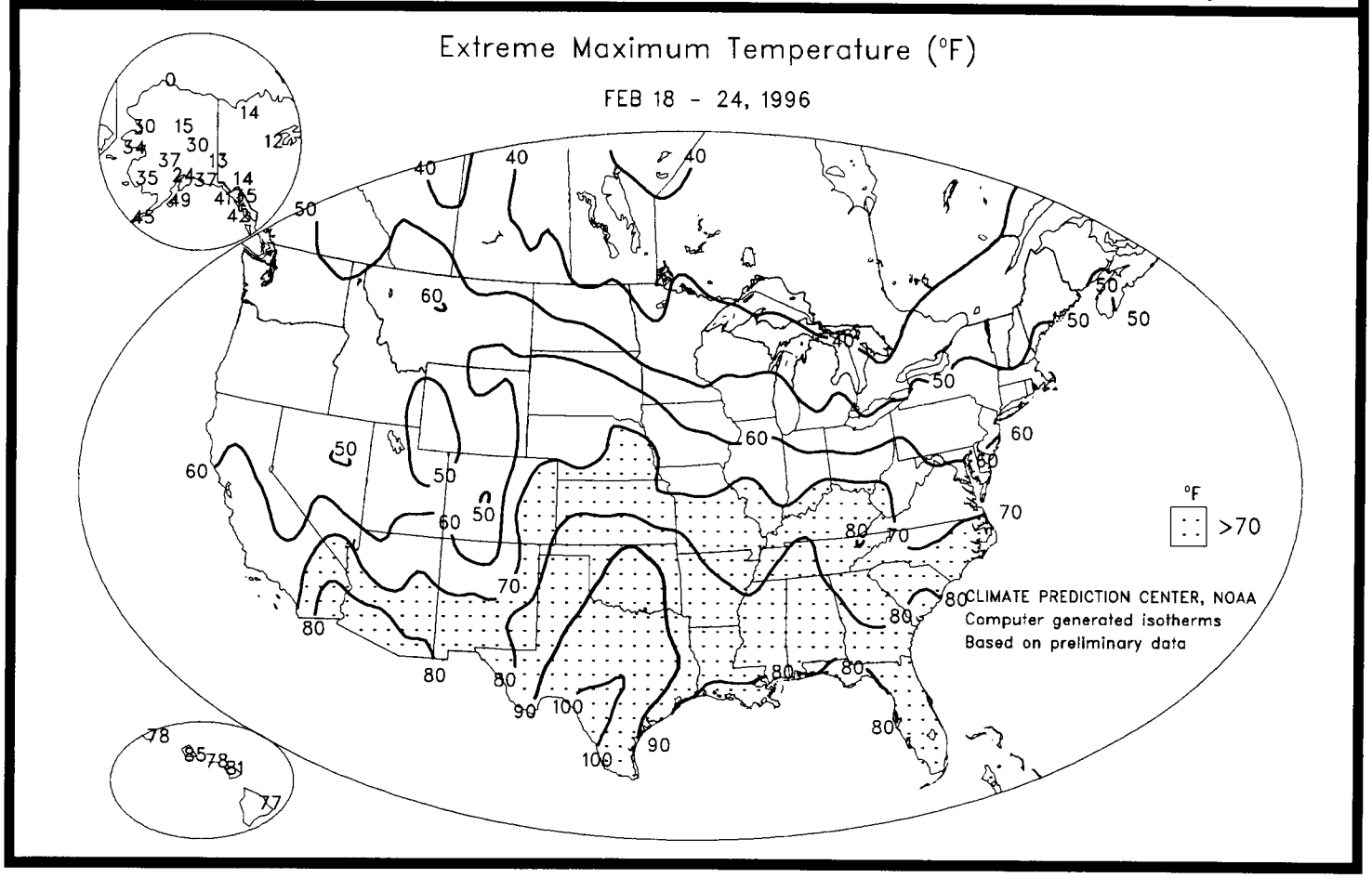


HIGHLIGHTS

February 18 - 24, 1996

February-record heat, breezy conditions, and the continuation of a 20-week dry spell further stressed wheat and sparked wildfires across the **central and southern Plains**. Nearly half of the warm spell's 130 daily records and 15 February records were set in **Texas**. Farther west, a series of storms dumped copious mountain snowfall from **California** to **Colorado**, totaling more than 10 inches of water equivalent in parts of the **Sierra Nevada**. Heavy rain fell along the **West Coast** as far south as **Los Angeles**. In the **East**, an early-week chill yielded to rain, with 1- to 3-inch totals observed in many areas from the **central Gulf Coast** region to **New England**.

On Sunday, cold air lingered across **Florida**, producing daily records in locations such as **Melbourne** (30°F) and **Ft. Myers** (36°F). In

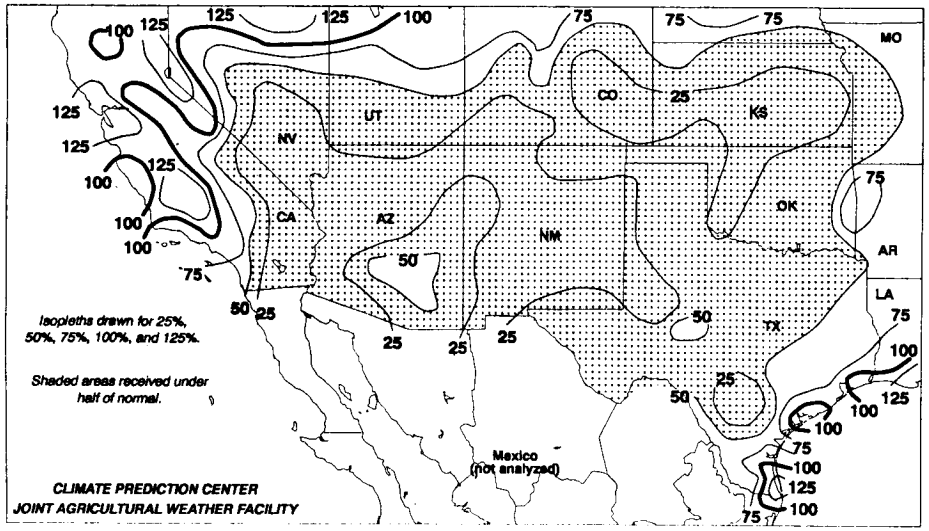
(Continued on page 3)

Contents

	Page
Highlights & Extreme Maximum Temperature Map	1
Long-Term Plains Dryness and Northwest Wetness	**2**
Monthly Record Warmth, February 21-23, 1996	**3**
Temperature Departure & Extreme Minimum Temperature Maps	4
National Weather Data for Selected Cities	5
National Agricultural Summary & Snow Cover Map	8
International Weather and Crop Summary	9
Subscription and Mailing Permit Information & Total Precipitation Map	12

PERCENT OF NORMAL PRECIPITATION

October 1, 1995 – February 24, 1996 [147 days]



Selected Precipitation (Inches) and Percent of Normal Precipitation

Plains/Southwest:

Location	Oct. 1, 1995 - Feb. 25, 1996	Jan. 1 - Feb. 25	Feb. 1 - 25
North Platte, NE	1.47 (52%)	0.50 (69%)	Trace (0%)
Tucson, AZ	1.98 (46%)	0.54 (36%)	0.53 (87%)
Concordia, KS	2.18 (42%)	0.64 (54%)	Trace (0%)
Lubbock, TX	1.24 (30%)	0.25 (26%)	0.06 (10%)
Topeka, KS	2.20 (27%)	0.76 (42%)	Trace (0%)
Midland, TX	0.87 (22%)	0.08 (8%)	Trace (0%)

Northwest:

Location	Oct. 1, 1995 - Feb. 25, 1996	Jan. 1 - Feb. 25	Feb. 1 - 25
Hanford, WA	6.87 (188%)	2.64 (198%)	1.22 (226%)
Eugene, OR	58.05 (174%)	31.24 (241%)	16.50 (325%)
Portland, OR	37.49 (163%)	17.18 (195%)	10.03 (290%)
Salem, OR	41.69 (160%)	21.27 (213%)	13.01 (321%)
Seattle, WA	36.39 (152%)	15.69 (174%)	8.35 (232%)
Medford, OR	17.52 (140%)	8.40 (189%)	2.96 (169%)
Astoria, OR	59.48 (138%)	23.61 (140%)	14.53 (212%)

Plains Dryness and Northwest Wetness

While the Northwest has experienced two major floods this winter, little precipitation has fallen in the Nation's southwestern quadrant. Flooding first developed west of

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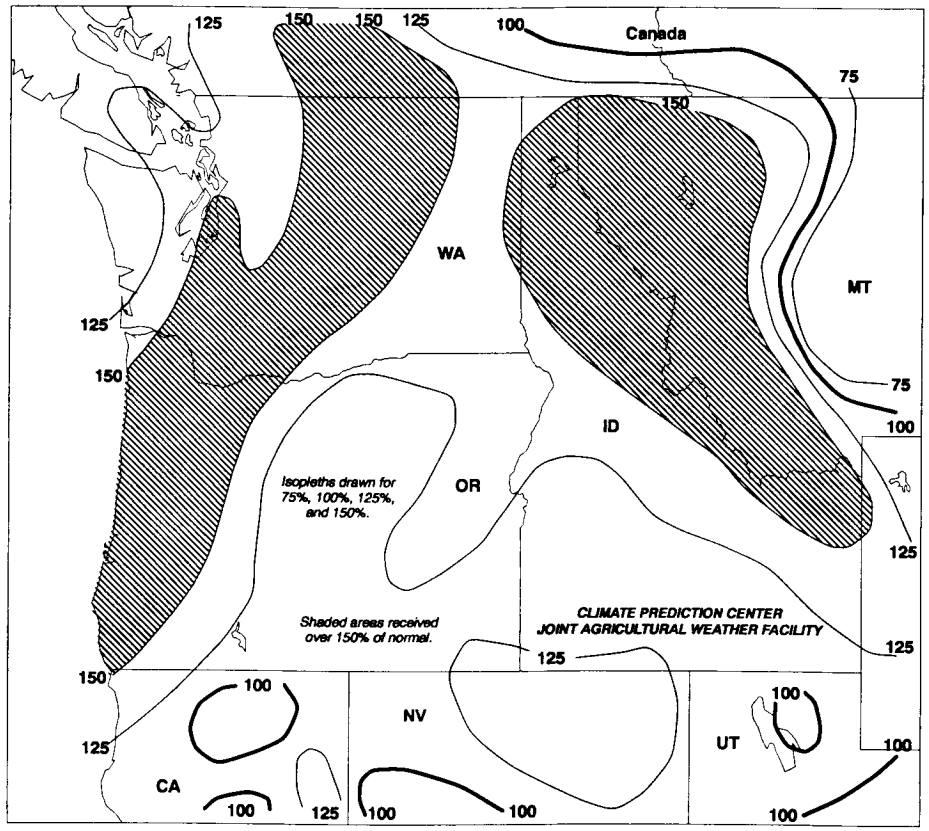


the Cascades on November 8, setting the stage for a late-November flood that was the worst in 5 years across western Washington. Above-normal precipitation continued in the Pacific Northwest in December 1995 and January 1996, leaving the region vulnerable to the heavy rain and high freezing levels that arrived in early February. During the latter event, some river basins in western Oregon carried their highest crests since late December 1964.

Meanwhile, portions of the central and southern Plains have received less than 25 percent of normal precipitation during the last five months, leaving winter wheat stands poorly established and exposed to cold and wind. The season's coldest weather occurred on February 3-4 across the central Plains, preceded by minimal snowfall. In addition, winds frequently raised dust over the central and southern Plains during November and again in the wake of a powerful mid-January storm.

Monthly Record Warmth, February 21-23, 1996

Location	High/Date	Previous/Date
San Antonio, TX	100°F, Feb. 21	97°F, Feb. 20, 1986
Austin, TX	99°F, Feb. 21	97°F, Feb. 20, 1986
College Stn., TX	99°F, Feb. 21	95°F, February 1986
Del Rio, TX	99°F, Feb. 21	not available
San Angelo, TX	97°F, Feb. 22	95°F, Feb. 25, 1917
Waco, TX	96°F, Feb. 21, 22	95°F, February 1918
Wichita Falls, TX	93°F, Feb. 22	92°F, Feb. 14, 1979
Okla. City, OK	92°F, Feb. 22	90°F, Feb. 1, 1911, Feb. 28, 1904
Tulsa, OK	90°F, Feb. 22	90°F, Feb. 1, 1911
Fayetteville, AR	87°F, Feb. 22	not available
Wichita, KS	87°F, Feb. 22	84°F, Feb. 9, 1976
Knoxville, TN	83°F, Feb. 23	83°F, Feb. 26, 1977
Birmingham, AL	83°F, Feb. 23	83°F, Feb. 13, 1962
Lexington, KY	80°F, Feb. 23	76°F, Feb. 15, 1945, Feb. 26, 1944
Jackson, KY	79°F, Feb. 23	74°F, Feb. 19, 1994, Feb. 23, 1982

(Continued from front cover)

Michigan, Marquette (-21°F) also noted a daily-record low. Meanwhile, a vast area of warmth over **western North America** shifted southeastward, resulting in weekly temperature departures of +10°F or more throughout the **Plains**. On Sunday, record warmth stretched as far north as **Alaska**, where **Kodiak** registered 49°F. By February 21, however, temperatures plunged below -40°F in **interior Alaska**, where **Fairbanks**' low of -44°F represented a 3-day drop of 74°F.

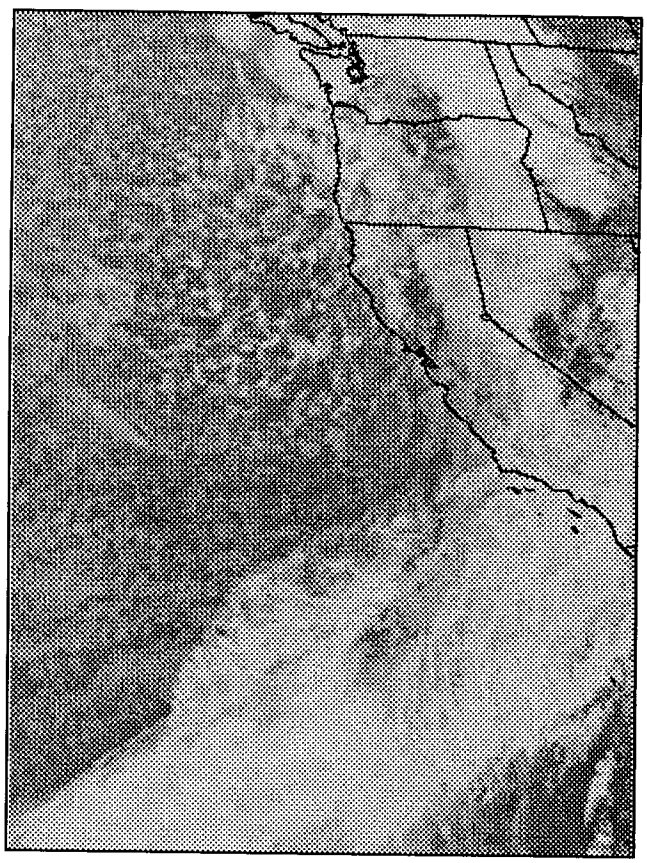
Rainfall quickly developed and expanded across the **East** on Monday, boosting weekly totals above 2 inches in locations such as **Panama City, FL** and **Portland, ME**. Severe weather, including a half-dozen tornadoes in **Mississippi**, raked the **South** on Monday. Meanwhile, very heavy rain drenched the **West Coast**, causing localized flooding. In **southern California's San Gabriel Mountains**, 72-hour (February 19-22) rainfall totaled 13.77 inches atop **Mt. Wilson** and 8.65 inches in **Wrightwood**. At the **L.A. Civic Center**, 3.44 inches fell on February 20-21. In **California's Sierra Nevada** foothills, **Blue Canyon** received 9.07 inches during the week, including a 19-inch snow accumulation as temperatures fell. At higher elevations, the **Sierra Nevada** snowpack approached normal for this time of year, having rebounded from about one-third of normal in early January.

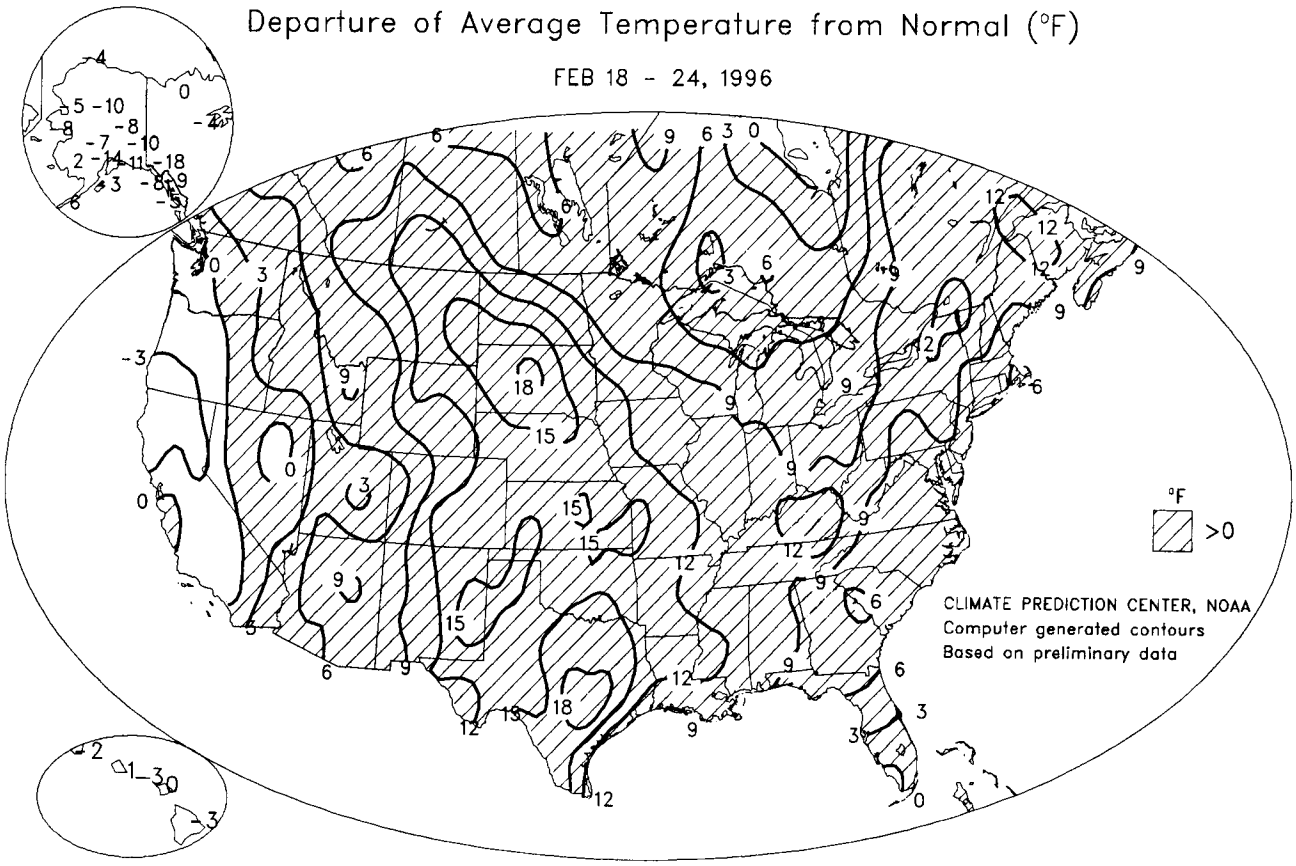
Farther north, nearly 2 inches of rain pelted **Portland, OR**, boosting their monthly total to a February-record 10.03 inches. As colder weather arrived, snow accumulated in **Medford, OR** (0.9 inches on February 20-21) for the first time this winter. Toward week's end, snow fell at sea-level in **western Washington**, where **Seattle** measured a half-inch on February 23-24. East of the **Washington Cascades**, a 1- to 3-inch snowfall helped to protect winter wheat from colder weather and late-week winds that gusted to 55 mph in **Hanford**. In **western Montana**, snowfall on February 23-24 totaled 13.2 inches at **Butte**.

The Nation's first 100-degree reading of the year occurred on Tuesday in **McAllen, TX**. A day later, the heat wave peaked across **southern and eastern Texas**, resulting in a high of 100°F in **San Antonio**, their earliest triple-digit heat (formerly March 6, 1991). February-record highs reached 99°F in **College Station** and Austin, shattering marks set in 1986. On Thursday, the heat edged northward, breaking February records in **Oklahoma City, OK** (92°F) and **Wichita, KS** (87°F). In addition to the heat, southwesterly winds on Thursday gusted to 48 mph in **Lubbock, TX** and 30 mph in **Wichita**. Furthermore, measurable rain has not yet fallen this year in parts of **southern Texas**, where **San Antonio's** 56-day dry spell (through February 24) ranked as their second longest on record. According to media accounts, wildfires during 1996 have charred nearly 300 square miles of rangeland and forest in the **South-Central States**. At week's end, a burning ban continued across **Texas**, while a fire emergency was placed into effect in **Oklahoma**.

A cold front traversed the **central and southern Plains** on Friday, generating gusty northwesterly winds. Peak winds were clocked at 41 mph at both **Lubbock** and **Wichita**. Winds reversed again at week's end across primary hard red winter wheat areas, becoming southerly and gusting at 30 to 50 mph in advance of a developing storm over the **West**. Meanwhile, warmth spread into the **Southeast**. On February 23, highs of 83°F in **Knoxville, TN** and **Birmingham, AL** tied monthly records. Farther north, a low-pressure system spread late-week rain showers through the **Northeast**. On the storm's southern edge, westerly winds on Saturday howled at 53 mph in **Buffalo, NY** and 54 mph in **Wilmington, DE**.

GOES-9 IR
February 21, 1996, 20:30 UTC

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FEB 18 - 24, 1996
°F
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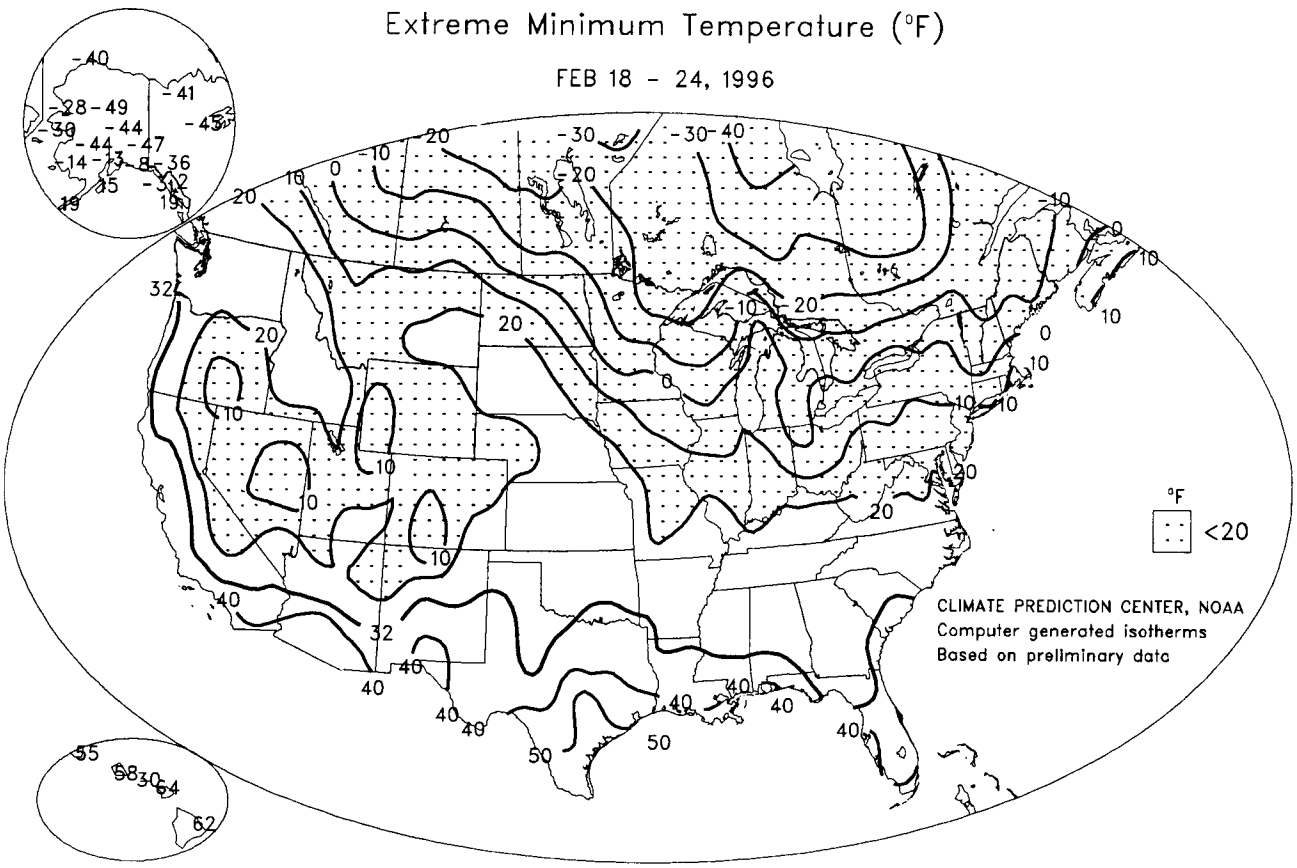
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA
Computer generated contours
Based on preliminary data


Extreme Minimum Temperature (°F)
FEB 18 - 24, 1996
°F
<20
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA
Computer generated isotherms
Based on preliminary data

National Weather Data for Selected Cities

Weather Data for the Week Ending February 24, 1996

STATES AND STATIONS	TEMPERATURE °F						PRECIPITATION							RELATIVE HUMIDITY, PERCENT		NUMBER OF DAYS			
																TEMP. °F		PRECIP.	
	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	EXTREME HIGH	EXTREME LOW	AVERAGE	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	WEEKLY TOTAL, IN.	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	GREATEST IN 24-HOUR, IN.	TOTAL, IN., SINCE Dec 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Dec 1	TOTAL, IN., SINCE Jan 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Jan 1	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	90 AND ABOVE	32 AND BELOW	.01 INCH OR MORE	.50 INCH OR MORE
AL BIRMINGHAM	70	46	83	23	58	11	0.98	-0.24	0.98	17.09	120	12.31	135	93	46	0	1	1	1
MOBILE	73	54	79	39	64	9	1.40	-0.04	1.40	18.11	124	9.25	99	95	57	0	0	1	1
MONTGOMERY	73	47	83	31	60	11	1.23	-0.15	1.23	15.83	108	9.65	102	92	45	0	1	1	1
AK ANCHORAGE	14	-3	24	-13	6	-14	0.06	-0.13	0.03	2.48	98	2.39	165	76	59	0	7	4	0
BARROW	-14	-30	0	-40	-22	-4	0.00	-0.03	0.00	0.06	18	0.00	0	78	70	0	7	0	0
FAIRBANKS	6	-23	30	-44	-9	-8	0.59	0.48	0.58	1.73	104	1.66	198	78	56	0	7	2	1
JUNEAU	27	14	35	2	21	-9	0.24	-0.65	0.16	12.26	100	8.20	105	96	57	0	7	2	0
KODIAK	37	19	49	15	28	-3	0.30	-0.92	0.14	16.18	86	4.74	39	69	41	0	6	5	0
NOME	7	-16	34	-30	-5	-8	0.49	0.35	0.36	2.98	137	2.39	181	81	57	0	7	3	0
AZ PHOENIX	74	55	80	47	65	6	0.00	-0.19	0.00	0.79	36	0.78	63	48	16	0	0	0	0
PRESCOTT	61	40	68	22	50	10	0.00	-0.40	0.00	0.49	11	0.32	11	73	29	0	2	0	0
TUCSON	74	50	80	45	62	7	0.00	-0.17	0.00	0.73	29	0.51	35	51	17	0	0	0	0
YUMA	77	56	84	47	66	5	0.00	-0.06	0.00	0.18	18	0.16	30	52	17	0	0	0	0
AR FORT SMITH	73	39	81	23	56	12	0.88	0.16	0.88	8.11	114	3.95	98	90	30	0	1	1	1
LITTLE ROCK	--	--	--	--	--	--	0.86	-0.12	--	7.45	75	3.47	56	--	--	-	-	-	-
CA BAKERSFIELD	61	45	71	32	53	-2	1.17	0.89	1.02	4.54	191	2.51	143	97	59	0	1	4	1
EUREKA	54	42	60	35	48	-2	3.73	2.56	1.23	27.80	173	16.23	161	89	52	0	0	7	3
FRESNO	59	44	68	33	52	-1	1.49	1.05	0.51	6.41	131	4.54	130	94	53	0	0	6	1
LOS ANGELES	63	52	67	44	57	0	3.29	2.67	2.05	7.76	125	5.60	123	90	53	0	0	3	2
REDDING	54	42	59	32	48	-3	3.32	2.26	1.13	27.31	177	16.50	167	95	58	0	1	5	4
SACRAMENTO	58	46	66	37	52	0	3.16	2.49	--	14.12	162	8.98	145	92	55	0	0	-	-
SAN DIEGO	64	54	69	45	59	0	0.13	-0.26	0.07	2.75	58	1.87	60	85	41	0	0	2	0
SAN FRANCISCO	58	47	64	39	53	0	3.06	2.32	1.15	18.44	181	12.02	169	92	43	0	0	7	2
CO DENVER	61	30	65	22	45	11	0.05	-0.12	0.05	0.33	21	0.29	31	63	19	0	4	1	0
GRAND JUNCTION	54	33	62	23	44	5	0.99	0.83	0.55	2.26	137	1.70	175	81	31	0	2	3	1
PUEBLO	67	27	74	16	47	11	0.00	-0.09	0.00	0.23	23	0.23	41	54	15	0	6	0	0
CT BRIDGEPORT	44	30	57	14	37	5	1.07	0.30	0.54	9.88	106	7.94	137	90	67	0	3	5	1
HARTFORD	44	26	53	1	35	6	1.05	0.24	0.60	11.94	119	9.62	156	91	65	0	3	3	1
DC WASHINGTON	53	39	62	25	46	7	0.67	-0.03	0.48	9.11	112	6.94	138	92	64	0	2	3	0
FL PANAMA CITY	69	53	74	35	61	7	2.05	0.72	1.94	7.90	55	5.70	60	99	75	0	0	2	1
DAYTONA BEACH	76	51	84	32	64	4	0.00	-0.80	0.00	9.72	122	6.28	116	97	47	0	1	0	0
JACKSONVILLE	76	50	82	32	63	6	0.00	-0.99	0.00	4.05	43	1.85	29	92	46	0	1	0	0
KEY WEST	77	60	82	45	69	-2	0.00	-0.44	0.00	4.05	72	1.12	31	94	66	0	0	0	0
MIAMI	79	59	85	40	69	0	0.41	-0.11	0.41	3.98	71	3.13	83	94	52	0	0	1	0
ORLANDO	78	54	84	35	66	4	0.00	-0.80	0.00	7.66	109	6.91	142	96	52	0	0	0	0
TALLAHASSEE	74	48	83	25	61	7	1.70	0.24	0.99	9.75	67	5.97	63	95	55	0	1	2	2
TAMPA	74	57	78	43	66	3	0.00	-0.82	0.00	6.40	95	5.37	117	96	65	0	0	0	0
WEST PALM BEACH	79	56	83	37	67	0	0.03	-0.71	0.03	3.59	50	2.02	41	95	54	0	0	1	0
GA ATLANTA	69	47	78	31	58	12	0.44	-0.80	0.40	15.00	114	11.44	130	84	44	0	1	2	0
AUGUSTA	69	39	77	29	54	6	0.24	-0.85	0.24	9.07	82	4.54	59	90	52	0	2	1	0
MACON	70	42	78	27	56	6	0.51	-0.69	0.27	6.74	52	4.37	51	94	47	0	1	2	0
SAVANNAH	74	49	82	34	62	9	0.06	-0.75	0.06	4.13	44	3.24	51	90	45	0	0	1	0
HI HILO	73	64	77	62	69	-3	3.65	0.95	1.16	23.32	76	19.23	104	93	68	0	0	6	3
HONOLULU	80	68	85	58	74	1	0.00	-0.50	0.00	3.59	39	3.59	66	65	45	0	0	0	0
KAHULUI	77	67	81	64	72	0	0.03	-0.64	0.03	4.88	49	2.75	41	74	55	0	0	1	0
LIHUE	74	66	78	55	70	-2	0.00	-0.76	0.00	13.11	94	6.34	72	70	54	0	0	0	0
ID BOISE	49	34	58	26	42	4	0.34	0.09	0.15	4.06	110	1.92	82	86	43	0	3	3	0
LEWISTON	50	35	59	29	43	2	0.51	0.29	0.40	4.35	133	3.09	150	96	47	0	2	4	0
POCATELLO	45	31	52	24	38	7	0.38	0.14	0.12	3.66	126	1.69	93	80	53	0	3	5	0
IL CHICAGO	45	27	58	9	36	9	0.01	-0.37	0.01	2.16	42	1.56	59	94	58	0	4	1	0
MOLINE	48	26	60	9	37	10	0.06	-0.29	0.06	2.87	60	2.40	95	94	60	0	5	1	0
PEORIA	51	29	65	11	40	12	0.01	-0.39	0.01	1.91	37	1.59	60	90	59	0	3	1	0
QUINCY	52	29	66	11	41	10	0.00	-0.43	0.00	2.63	54	2.40	95	91	57	0	3	0	0
ROCKFORD	43	25	57	2	34	9	0.00	-0.32	0.00	1.89	44	1.42	64	96	65	0	6	0	0
SPRINGFIELD	54	30	70	16	42	11	0.00	-0.50	0.00	2.88	51	1.55	52	94	57	0	3	0	0
IN EVANSVILLE	58	36	70	18	47	9	0.03	-0.90	0.03	6.82	71	3.64	62	92	57	0	1	1	0
FORT WAYNE	45	28	58	2	37	9	0.00	-0.52	0.00	4.04	64	2.80	81	92	72	0	2	0	0
INDIANAPOLIS	51	33	65	13	42	11	0.03	-0.64	0.03	6.87	89	4.15	95	95	61	0	3	1	0
SOUTH BEND	47	29	58	5	38	10	0.01	-0.49	0.01	4.28	60	2.39	63	90	64	0	2	1	0
IA DES MOINES	48	27	64	12	37	10	0.11	-0.18	0.10	1.18	37	1.18	66	91	54	0	5	2	0
SIOUX CITY	51	27	69	19	39	13	0.07	-0.15	0.05	1.37	73	1.06	97	91	50	0	6	2	0
WATERLOO	41	25	57	8	33	11	0.05	-0.26	0.05	2.36	80	2.20	133	93	64	0	6	1	0
KS CONCORDIA	62	34	73	26	48	15	0.00	-0.24	0.00	0.81	41	0.55	48	67	25	0	3	0	0
DODGE CITY	70	34	83	29	52	15	0.00	-0.19	0.00	1.04	64	0.44	45	54	15	0	2	0	0
GOODLAND	65	30	75	27	47	14	0.00	-0.12	0.00	0.40	37	0.26	39	60	17	0	6	0	0
TOPEKA	62	31	70	21	46	12	0.00	-0.31	0.00	1.34	42	0.75	42	76	24	0	3	0	0
WICHITA	72	32	87	25	52	14	0.00	-0.34	0.00	0.71	23	0.08	5	71	20	0	4	0	0
KY BOWLING GREEN	61	39	80	23	50	11	1.84	0.75	1.81	10.37	84	8.02	110	94	52	0	1	2	1
LEXINGTON	58	39	80	17	48	12	0.94	0.08	0.56	8.58	90	5.86	106	91	52	0	1	3	1
LOUISVILLE	59	40	77	21	50	12	1.09	0.20	0.93	8.74	94	5.44	97	87	50	0	1	3	1
LA BATON ROUGE	77	55	80	35	66	12	0.05	-1.33	0.05	10.55	69	5.25	54	97	51	0	0	1	0
LAKE CHARLES	74	54	77	39	64	9	0.01	-0.85	0.01	9.41	74	2.96	39	96	62	0	0	1	0
NEW ORLEANS	76	57	80	40	66	11	0.24	-1.27	0.24	10.92	68	5.84	57	91	51	0	0	1	0
SHREVEPORT	79	49	87	32	64	13	0.00	-1.03	0.00	7.46	59	2.28	29	86	34	0	1	0	0

Based on 1961-90 normals.

Weather Data for the Week Ending February 24, 1996

STATES AND STATIONS	TEMPERATURE °F						PRECIPITATION							RELATIVE HUMIDITY, PERCENT		NUMBER OF DAYS			
																TEMP. °F		PRECIP.	
	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	EXTREME HIGH	EXTREME LOW	AVERAGE	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	WEEKLY TOTAL, IN.	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	GREATEST IN 24-HOUR, IN.	TOTAL, IN., SINCE Dec 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Dec 1	TOTAL, IN., SINCE Jan 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Jan 1	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	90 AND ABOVE	32 AND BELOW	.01 INCH OR MORE	.50 INCH OR MORE
ME CARIBOU	33	20	43	-13	27	13	0.67	0.19	0.41	7.74	106	5.94	147	91	74	0	3	3	0
PORTLAND	40	24	52	-3	32	7	2.06	1.22	0.84	12.02	110	7.89	124	90	68	0	4	4	2
MD BALTIMORE	51	38	61	19	44	8	0.61	-0.19	0.21	11.78	129	9.10	159	95	73	0	2	4	0
SALISBURY	54	38	63	13	46	8	0.99	0.10	0.42	9.44	92	6.75	103	96	61	0	2	4	0
MA BOSTON	44	31	50	14	37	6	1.41	0.50	0.78	13.71	128	10.52	157	85	60	0	3	3	2
CHATHAM	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	-	-	-	-
MI ALPENA	35	14	45	-10	24	5	0.19	-0.15	0.13	3.98	84	2.63	97	90	60	0	6	4	0
DETROIT	41	27	53	0	34	7	0.21	-0.25	0.16	3.27	54	2.41	75	89	69	0	5	3	0
FLINT	41	25	51	-3	33	8	0.14	-0.20	0.08	4.00	88	2.85	117	90	68	0	5	2	0
GRAND RAPIDS	41	26	49	2	34	8	0.09	-0.29	0.04	3.17	54	1.63	54	92	68	0	5	3	0
HOUGHTON LAKE	36	22	44	4	29	10	0.45	0.14	0.22	4.33	98	2.94	119	89	65	0	6	4	0
LANSING	41	24	49	-10	32	10	0.08	-0.24	0.05	2.17	48	1.10	45	95	70	0	4	2	0
MARQUETTE	31	6	44	-21	19	4	0.27	-0.18	0.18	9.46	152	6.98	192	91	68	0	7	3	0
MUSKEGON	40	26	48	0	33	8	0.11	-0.26	0.06	4.29	65	2.40	67	92	65	0	4	2	0
SAULT ST. MARIE	31	8	36	-15	19	4	0.79	0.36	0.46	12.26	181	6.00	154	86	53	0	7	3	0
MN ALEXANDRIA	33	16	40	-8	25	9	0.08	-0.09	0.08	2.93	135	2.21	150	90	60	0	7	1	0
DULUTH	31	13	44	-16	22	8	0.52	0.30	0.38	3.67	117	2.12	113	84	58	0	7	3	0
INT'L FALLS	30	3	45	-24	16	6	0.54	0.37	0.43	3.86	170	2.60	183	86	54	0	7	2	0
MINNEAPOLIS	38	22	50	4	30	10	0.09	-0.16	0.05	3.22	118	2.06	124	82	53	0	6	3	0
ROCHESTER	36	23	48	2	29	10	0.06	-0.15	0.06	2.81	117	2.18	159	90	62	0	6	1	0
MS GREENWOOD	73	48	82	30	60	12	0.05	-1.12	0.05	10.59	73	4.80	55	92	40	0	1	1	0
JACKSON	75	48	83	30	61	13	0.85	-0.36	0.85	16.12	102	10.69	112	93	42	0	1	1	1
MERIDIAN	73	46	84	27	60	9	1.05	-0.38	1.05	9.14	58	6.22	64	98	46	0	1	1	1
MO CAPE GIRARDEAU	58	40	72	28	49	10	0.33	-0.58	0.33	7.80	77	4.13	73	94	52	0	1	1	0
COLUMBIA	59	33	71	17	46	13	0.00	-0.50	0.00	4.14	74	2.52	85	82	43	0	3	0	0
KANSAS CITY	60	33	69	21	46	13	0.00	-0.32	0.00	1.38	39	1.02	52	71	36	0	3	0	0
SAINT LOUIS	61	37	77	23	49	13	0.00	-0.60	0.00	6.26	95	3.41	96	84	47	0	1	0	0
SPRINGFIELD	66	35	76	19	50	13	0.00	-0.56	0.00	5.05	84	2.57	78	88	36	0	4	0	0
MT BILLINGS	52	31	61	23	42	11	0.15	-0.02	0.10	1.37	61	1.02	70	72	32	0	4	2	0
GLASGOW	43	25	50	16	34	14	0.02	-0.04	0.02	0.90	96	0.52	87	95	59	0	7	1	0
GREAT FALLS	48	30	59	13	39	10	0.06	-0.08	0.06	0.57	25	0.46	33	68	33	0	4	1	0
HAVRE	48	25	62	16	36	13	0.00	-0.08	0.00	1.34	98	0.83	100	85	47	0	6	0	0
HELENA	45	25	58	12	35	7	0.04	-0.07	0.04	0.89	57	0.54	55	90	48	0	7	1	0
KALISPELL	42	28	52	20	35	7	0.20	-0.05	0.14	6.73	160	4.52	182	96	50	0	7	3	0
MILES CITY	53	30	61	23	42	16	0.10	-0.01	0.07	1.56	101	1.28	138	88	36	0	5	2	0
MISSOULA	45	27	57	22	36	5	0.16	-0.03	0.08	4.50	146	2.89	149	94	51	0	7	4	0
NE GRAND ISLAND	58	31	70	24	44	15	0.00	-0.22	0.00	1.33	76	1.07	103	85	37	0	5	0	0
LINCOLN	57	29	71	22	43	14	0.04	-0.18	0.04	1.32	67	1.06	98	82	37	0	5	1	0
NORFOLK	53	29	70	23	41	15	0.04	-0.20	0.03	1.43	77	0.96	86	88	45	0	5	2	0
NORTH PLATTE	61	25	67	15	43	13	0.00	-0.13	0.00	0.50	42	0.50	70	81	25	0	6	0	0
OMAHA	53	30	70	21	42	12	0.14	-0.09	--	2.05	86	1.51	113	84	51	0	5	-	-
SCOTTSBLUFF	60	26	70	19	43	11	0.00	-0.13	0.00	1.38	97	0.83	98	75	20	0	7	0	0
VALENTINE	58	30	66	23	44	15	0.00	-0.17	0.00	0.68	49	0.62	70	85	32	0	5	0	0
NV ELY	46	22	53	1	34	3	0.73	0.56	0.30	1.62	81	1.16	91	88	34	0	4	4	0
LAS VEGAS	64	47	73	32	56	3	0.10	-0.01	0.10	0.23	19	0.22	25	59	26	0	1	1	0
RENO	46	27	57	16	36	-3	1.22	0.98	0.82	5.30	180	3.05	156	91	41	0	5	4	1
WINNEMUCCA	49	28	57	12	39	1	0.41	0.24	0.11	4.01	186	2.40	188	89	35	0	4	5	0
NH CONCORD	41	23	49	-4	32	9	1.99	1.36	1.44	9.43	120	7.46	160	92	51	0	4	4	1
NJ ATLANTIC CITY	51	34	61	8	43	8	0.51	-0.26	0.18	6.91	74	5.41	89	92	61	0	2	4	0
NM ALBUQUERQUE	64	41	70	34	53	11	0.00	-0.11	0.00	0.51	38	0.35	40	48	17	0	0	0	0
CLOVIS	73	41	79	36	57	15	0.00	-0.14	0.00	0.56	41	0.36	45	48	13	0	0	0	0
ROSWELL	77	46	85	36	62	15	0.00	-0.11	0.00	--	--	--	--	39	16	0	0	0	0
NY ALBANY	41	26	51	-1	33	8	0.69	0.10	0.44	5.25	73	3.83	89	92	67	0	2	4	0
BINGHAMTON	39	27	48	5	33	9	0.76	0.16	0.39	4.69	64	3.71	85	91	70	0	3	4	0
BUFFALO	42	27	55	6	35	9	0.35	-0.23	0.27	7.52	90	3.85	82	91	67	0	3	4	0
NEW YORK	51	36	57	21	43	9	0.85	0.12	0.38	8.32	94	6.16	113	88	55	0	2	5	0
ROCHESTER	42	27	53	9	35	9	0.76	0.23	0.64	5.88	89	4.39	113	93	66	0	4	2	1
SYRACUSE	43	27	52	5	35	10	0.22	-0.34	0.12	5.83	79	3.94	95	90	68	0	4	4	0
NC ASHEVILLE	60	37	74	26	49	8	0.51	-0.68	0.48	11.28	93	9.86	129	91	49	0	3	2	0
CHARLOTTE	63	42	74	25	52	8	0.45	-0.54	0.45	7.76	74	6.54	94	91	46	0	2	1	0
GREENSBORO	57	39	66	24	48	7	0.30	-0.55	0.30	7.61	81	6.23	104	89	55	0	2	1	0
HATTERAS	--	--	--	--	--	--	1.80	0.81	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	-	-	-	-
NEW BERN	67	41	78	29	54	7	0.38	-0.67	0.32	6.93	60	5.37	67	94	50	0	2	2	0
RALEIGH	61	40	68	26	51	8	0.99	0.05	0.99	8.68	88	6.78	102	89	35	0	2	1	1
WILMINGTON	66	42	76	28	54	7	0.32	-0.75	0.32	5.73	46	3.66	43	98	49	0	2	1	0
ND BISMARCK	44	24	55	17	34	16	0.04	-0.07	0.02	1.78	135	1.23	148	92	54	0	7	2	0
FARGO	33	15	43	-3	24	10	0.10	-0.02	0.08	2.80	165	2.05	192	87	63	0	7	2	0
GRAND FORKS	30	11	42	-6	21	8	0.19	0.07	0.11	1.94	111	1.17	105	90	63	0	7	3	0
WILLISTON	44	24	51	16	34	16	0.03	-0.08	0.03	1.54	103	0.86	95	90	57	0	7	1	0
OH AKRON-CANTON	42	28	56	8	35	6	0.38	-0.22	0.30	3.14	45	2.27	57	90	67	0	2	2	0
CINCINNATI	52	36	72	13	44	11	0.58	-0.14	0.31	7.85	99	4.45	93	94	58	0	2	4	0
CLEVELAND	43	29	59	11	36	7	0.07	-0.51	0.03	4.73	68	3.28	85	92	72	0	3	3	0
COLUMBUS	47	32	60	7	39	10	0.72	0.12	0.43	6.72	99	4.76	125	89	62	0	2	3	0
DAYTON	47	31	65	5	39	8	0.20	-0.39	0.11	5.08	74	3.86	98	96	70	0	2	2	0

Based on 1961-90 normals.

Weather Data for the Week Ending February 24, 1996

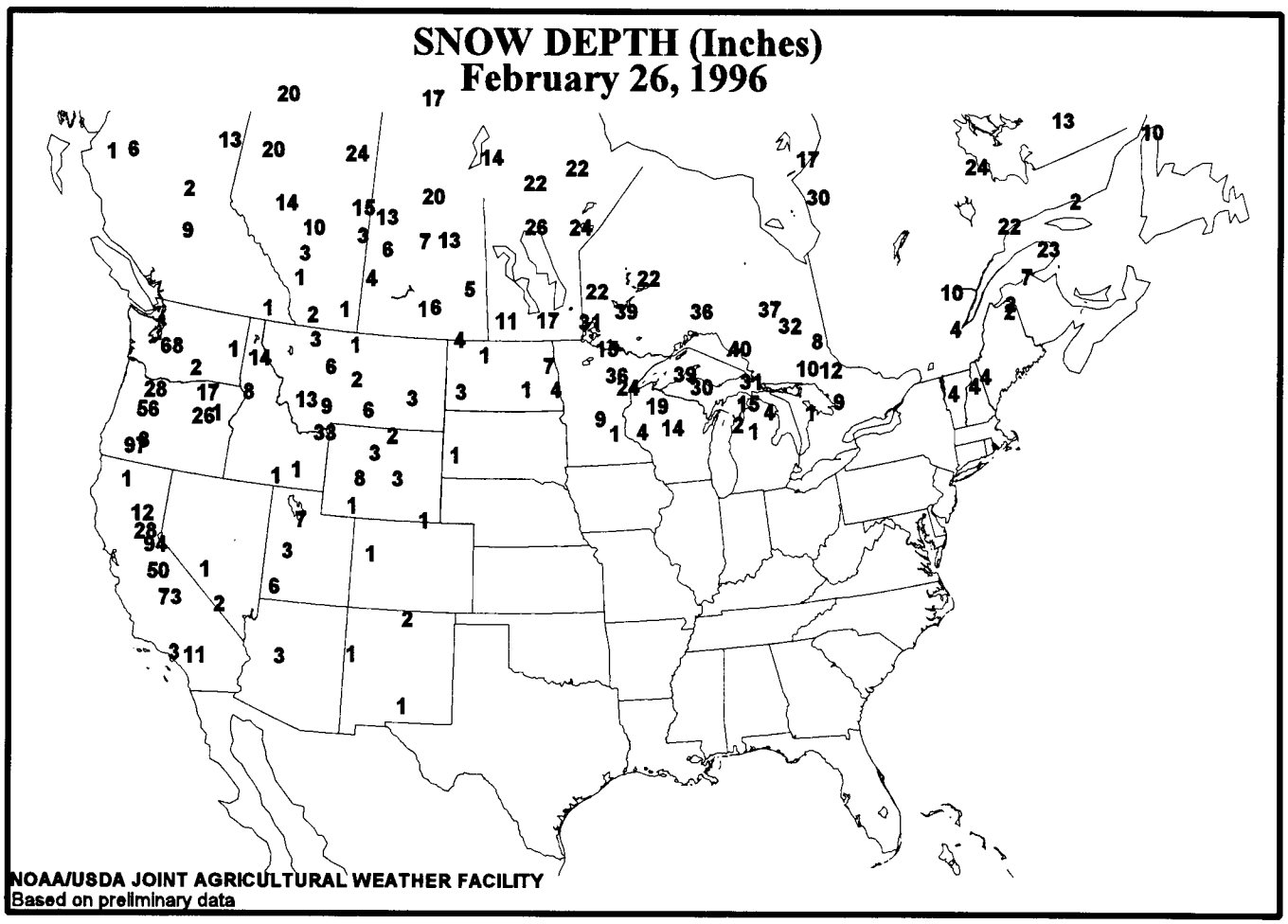
STATES AND STATIONS	TEMPERATURE °F						PRECIPITATION							RELATIVE HUMIDITY, PERCENT		NUMBER OF DAYS			
																TEMP. °F		PRECIP.	
	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	EXTRME HIGH	EXTREME LOW	AVERAGE	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	WEEKLY TOTAL, IN.	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	GREATEST IN 24-HOUR, IN.	TOTAL, IN., SINCE Dec 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Dec 1	TOTAL, IN., SINCE Jan 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Jan 1	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	90 AND ABOVE	32 AND BELOW	.01 INCH OR MORE	.50 INCH OR MORE
TOLEDO	42	27	56	1	34	8	0.04	-0.42	0.04	2.89	47	2.26	71	93	73	0	4	1	0
YOUNGSTOWN	42	28	54	8	35	8	0.55	0.01	0.45	5.38	79	3.77	98	89	70	0	2	3	0
OK OKLAHOMA CITY	75	38	92	28	57	14	0.00	-0.44	0.00	2.42	64	0.06	3	61	18	1	1	0	0
TULSA	74	37	90	23	55	13	0.00	-0.56	0.00	2.32	44	0.55	18	66	21	1	1	0	0
OR ASTORIA	48	37	55	30	43	-2	4.05	2.25	1.20	33.02	122	21.72	131	96	79	0	1	6	3
BURNS	42	26	51	10	34	3	0.29	0.10	0.14	5.24	186	2.72	165	97	54	0	5	3	0
MEDFORD	51	35	61	29	43	-1	1.46	1.00	0.63	15.95	207	8.28	189	91	44	0	2	5	1
PENDLETON	52	36	61	28	44	3	0.40	0.12	0.24	5.16	126	3.39	136	86	41	0	4	4	0
PORTLAND	50	38	59	30	44	-1	1.98	1.07	1.03	22.51	152	16.44	189	93	58	0	1	6	2
SALEM	50	38	58	33	44	0	2.32	1.25	1.20	27.38	165	20.10	205	95	66	0	0	6	1
PA ALLENTOWN	46	34	54	12	40	9	1.00	0.26	0.45	9.63	105	8.17	144	91	62	0	2	4	0
ERIE	43	27	57	6	35	8	0.19	-0.41	0.10	7.31	95	4.08	99	93	63	0	4	2	0
HARRISBURG	48	32	58	16	40	7	0.72	-0.03	0.63	9.93	116	7.39	138	90	59	0	3	2	1
PHILADELPHIA	50	37	59	16	44	10	0.86	0.09	0.46	7.17	74	5.02	82	93	63	0	2	4	0
PITTSBURGH	48	32	62	12	40	10	0.82	0.19	0.66	6.90	93	5.28	116	86	56	0	2	5	1
SCRANTON	46	32	53	10	39	11	0.75	0.20	0.41	8.87	138	7.65	194	89	61	0	2	5	0
RI PROVIDENCE	45	31	51	5	38	7	1.32	0.41	0.73	9.15	81	6.99	101	87	62	0	2	2	2
SC CHARLESTON	72	47	81	36	59	8	0.16	-0.69	0.16	3.26	35	2.23	36	88	40	0	0	1	0
COLUMBIA	70	42	79	28	56	8	0.23	-0.81	0.23	5.81	50	3.62	46	88	44	0	1	1	0
FLORENCE	69	42	78	29	55	7	1.19	0.36	1.19	5.67	60	3.98	64	94	42	0	2	1	1
GREENVILLE	65	40	76	26	53	8	1.40	0.25	1.35	11.30	94	9.24	118	88	44	0	1	2	1
SD ABERDEEN	43	23	56	11	33	14	0.09	-0.07	0.08	2.15	134	1.68	151	92	57	0	7	2	0
HURON	46	27	63	18	37	15	0.04	-0.17	0.03	1.39	100	1.11	119	90	52	0	7	2	0
RAPID CITY	60	27	68	23	43	15	0.00	-0.15	0.00	0.96	75	0.82	102	82	29	0	6	0	0
SIOUX FALLS	48	26	65	14	37	15	0.04	-0.15	0.03	1.25	73	1.14	112	90	50	0	7	2	0
TN CHATTANOOGA	63	39	75	25	51	8	0.36	-0.89	0.20	13.09	93	9.27	104	92	49	0	2	2	0
KNOXVILLE	64	40	83	25	52	10	0.12	-0.93	0.12	12.22	101	9.69	128	84	44	0	2	1	0
MEMPHIS	66	47	76	28	57	11	1.71	0.55	1.71	12.87	98	7.28	99	88	49	0	1	1	1
NASHVILLE	63	42	83	26	52	10	1.11	0.11	1.06	7.95	70	5.70	84	90	51	0	1	2	1
TX ABILENE	83	47	93	34	65	16	0.00	-0.30	0.00	0.98	32	0.75	37	50	15	2	0	0	0
AMARILLO	75	39	84	31	57	16	0.00	-0.17	0.00	0.98	70	0.39	39	41	12	0	2	0	0
AUSTIN	88	55	99	47	71	17	0.00	-0.55	0.00	0.62	11	0.13	4	83	20	4	0	0	0
BEAUMONT	76	55	82	43	65	10	0.00	-0.78	0.00	13.92	111	2.78	36	100	63	0	0	0	0
BROWNSVILLE	86	63	93	56	75	11	0.00	-0.22	0.00	1.24	33	0.25	10	95	44	2	0	0	0
CORPUS CHRISTI	86	59	93	49	73	13	0.00	-0.46	0.00	0.72	15	0.09	3	96	38	3	0	0	0
DEL RIO	90	52	99	42	71	16	0.00	-0.34	0.00	0.49	14	0.00	0	61	17	4	0	0	0
EL PASO	74	51	80	45	63	13	0.00	-0.11	0.00	0.51	37	0.27	35	35	15	0	0	0	0
FORT WORTH	83	47	95	34	65	17	0.00	-0.65	0.00	3.14	53	1.09	28	64	19	2	0	0	0
GALVESTON	69	60	74	55	65	8	0.00	-0.52	0.00	6.34	72	0.77	15	97	72	0	0	0	0
HOUSTON	85	56	90	44	70	16	0.00	-0.89	0.00	6.04	52	1.05	15	92	32	1	0	0	0
LUBBOCK	78	40	87	33	59	14	0.00	-0.19	0.00	0.65	44	0.20	21	51	10	0	0	0	0
MIDLAND	82	47	88	37	64	14	0.00	-0.14	0.00	0.31	21	0.08	8	49	13	0	0	0	0
SAN ANGELO	86	43	97	31	65	15	0.00	-0.28	0.00	0.38	15	0.18	10	56	14	2	1	0	0
SAN ANTONIO	89	52	100	45	71	16	0.00	-0.44	0.00	0.63	13	0.00	0	80	19	4	0	0	0
VICTORIA	85	56	88	49	70	14	0.00	-0.65	0.00	2.93	33	0.05	1	98	39	0	0	0	0
WACO	86	45	96	33	66	14	0.00	-0.55	0.00	2.04	39	1.00	29	79	20	3	0	0	0
WICHITA FALLS	79	44	93	31	61	15	0.00	-0.53	0.00	0.85	19	0.10	3	71	16	2	1	0	0
UT CEDAR CITY	52	32	61	17	42	6	0.07	-0.17	0.05	1.19	56	0.91	64	70	32	0	3	2	0
SALT LAKE CITY	51	33	57	21	42	6	0.73	0.40	0.50	5.30	148	4.10	191	90	47	0	3	5	1
VT BURLINGTON	40	25	50	-2	33	13	0.21	-0.21	0.09	7.07	126	4.42	139	91	64	0	3	4	0
VA NORFOLK	58	42	69	25	50	8	0.77	-0.08	0.41	9.85	99	7.98	119	90	58	0	2	4	0
RICHMOND	54	38	65	17	46	6	0.59	-0.22	0.34	7.09	77	5.39	91	94	40	0	2	3	0
ROANOKE	52	38	65	21	45	6	0.19	-0.60	0.15	11.30	139	8.99	174	92	53	0	2	3	0
WA QUILLAYUTE	45	36	52	29	40	-2	4.44	1.37	1.60	39.60	97	25.66	102	97	82	0	4	6	4
SEATTLE-TACOMA	47	38	55	32	42	-2	1.44	0.50	0.63	22.05	149	15.67	177	95	72	0	1	7	1
SPOKANE	44	31	51	23	37	2	1.32	0.96	0.58	7.57	134	4.93	151	98	62	0	4	5	1
YAKIMA	49	31	58	23	40	2	0.18	0.01	--	3.96	121	3.11	166	94	52	0	4	2	0
WV BECKLEY	51	34	64	18	43	9	0.24	-0.51	0.14	10.28	119	7.84	145	89	52	0	2	3	0
CHARLESTON	56	37	73	22	47	9	0.80	0.01	0.38	9.37	106	7.33	134	90	50	0	2	4	0
HUNTINGTON	56	39	76	21	48	13	0.77	-0.02	0.47	10.38	113	7.55	135	93	51	0	2	3	0
PARKERSBURG	53	34	68	16	43	9	0.97	0.24	0.86	7.68	90	5.84	104	89	56	0	2	3	1
WI GREEN BAY	38	20	50	-4	29	9	0.07	-0.22	0.05	3.23	92	1.97	99	83	61	0	7	3	0
LACROSSE	39	26	53	3	33	10	0.06	-0.20	--	4.07	138	3.25	195	87	55	0	5	.	.
MADISON	41	24	56	2	33	10	0.04	-0.25	0.03	3.42	94	2.65	131	86	59	0	6	2	0
MILWAUKEE	41	28	56	9	34	10	0.00	-0.39	0.00	2.02	39	1.55	56	89	58	0	5	0	0
WAUSAU	36	16	48	-12	26	7	0.07	-0.18	0.07	3.36	109	2.36	145	86	46	0	7	1	0
WY CASPER	51	27	57	14	39	11	0.72	0.55	0.72	2.03	119	1.68	162	76	33	0	7	1	1
CHEYENNE	52	28	59	19	40	10	0.00	-0.12	0.00	0.71	65	0.51	74	72	30	0	5	0	0
LANDER	50	28	57	15	39	12	0.00	-0.16	0.00	0.98	64	0.67	71	60	27	0	6	0	0
SHERIDAN	54	26	61	18	40	12	0.00	-0.17	0.00	0.96	47	0.67	52	84	30	0	6	0	0
PR SAN JUAN	85	71	86	70	78	1	0.99	0.47	0.68	12.06	129	8.21	176	90	61	0	0	3	1

Based on 1961-90 normals.

National Agricultural Summary

HIGHLIGHTS for February 19 - 25, 1996

Range fires in Texas destroyed thousands of acres of grazing land and some farm buildings. Temperatures climbed to record high levels in south Texas, where cotton producers started planting. Row crop planting was beginning in central Texas even though some areas have gone five months without significant precipitation. A heat wave in the south-central Great Plains aggravated prolonged dry conditions but raised soil temperatures and greened wheat where soil moisture was available. Field activities from California's San Joaquin Valley northward were limited by rain and wet soils. Cotton fields were prepared for planting in the Sacramento Valley, while planting was underway in the Imperial Valley. Florida's citrus growers applied low volume irrigation to stimulate growth following the previous month's cold weather. Due to balmy conditions in south Florida, vegetables recovered from the previous cold.



International Weather and Crop Summary

February 18 - 24, 1996

HIGHLIGHTS

FSU-WESTERN: Unseasonably warm weather spread over Ukraine and Russia, providing favorable overwintering conditions for winter grains but melting some protective snow cover.

EUROPE: Wintry weather prevailed over winter crops in parts of western and northern Europe.

NORTHWESTERN AFRICA: Light rain maintained favorable moisture conditions for winter grains in Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia.

SOUTH AFRICA: Early-week warmer, drier weather favored filling corn and sugarcane, but unwelcomed rain returned to the northern corn belt on the 23rd.

AUSTRALIA: Dry weather dominated the main summer crop and pasture areas, but beneficial rain was scattered throughout coastal sugarcane.

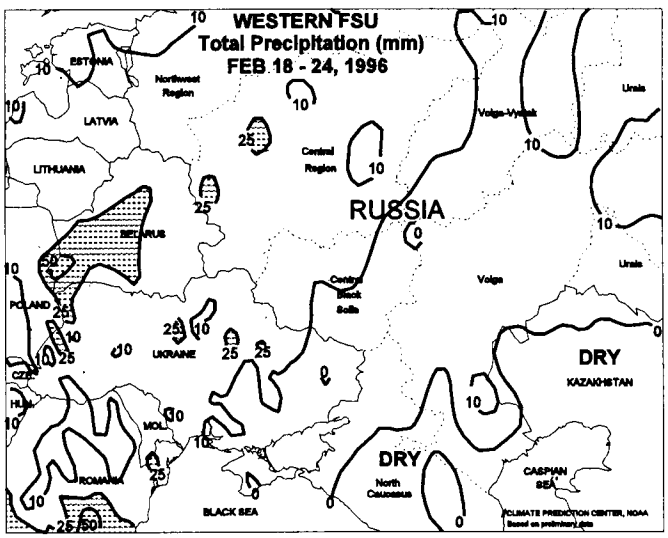
EASTERN ASIA: Cold weather extended throughout China, slowing winter grain greening.

SOUTHEAST ASIA: In northern Thailand, unseasonable rain hampered rice and sugarcane fieldwork, but boosted reservoir levels.

SOUTH AMERICA: Widespread rain brought relief to reproductive soybeans in Argentina. In southern Brazil, showers continued to benefit immature soybeans, but slowed early harvesting.

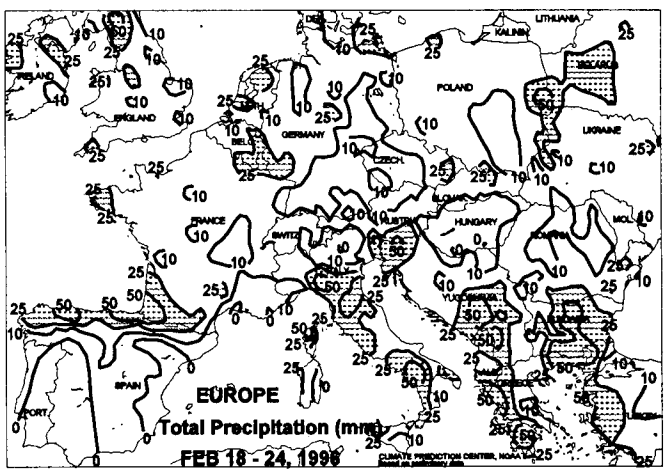
FSU-WESTERN

Unseasonably warm weather covered Russia and Ukraine, providing favorable overwintering conditions for winter grains. Weekly temperatures, averaging 2 to 8 degrees Celsius (C) above normal, melted some protective snow cover, especially in southern Ukraine and North Caucasus, Russia, where daytime highs rose well above freezing. Widespread rain and snow (10-39 mm) fell in Ukraine, northwestern Russia, Belarus, and the Baltics, boosting winter moisture accumulations. Elsewhere, dry weather prevailed over eastern winter grain areas in Russia (Volga Valley and North Caucasus).

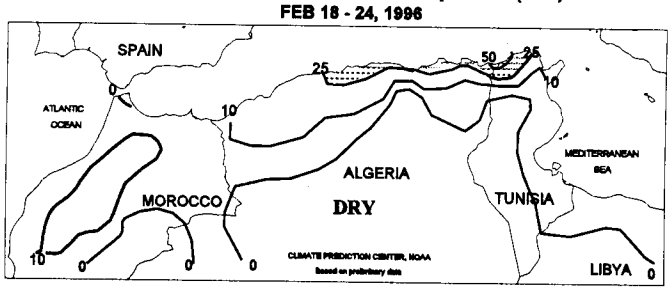


EUROPE

Wintry weather covered parts of western and northern Europe, where snow fell over most winter grain areas. Weekly temperatures averaged 2 to 5 degrees C below normal over England, France, the Benelux countries, northern Spain, and Germany, keeping winter grains dormant. Snow cover was widespread over western and northern Europe, providing a protective blanket for overwintering crops. Farther south, welcomed drier weather prevailed over Portugal and southern Spain, following the heavy rainfall of previous weeks. Wet weather (15-50 mm, with local amounts in excess of 50 mm) covered Italy, former Yugoslavia, and Bulgaria, boosting moisture reserves. Light precipitation (around 10 mm) and near-normal temperatures favored dormant winter grains in Slovakia, Hungary, and Romania.

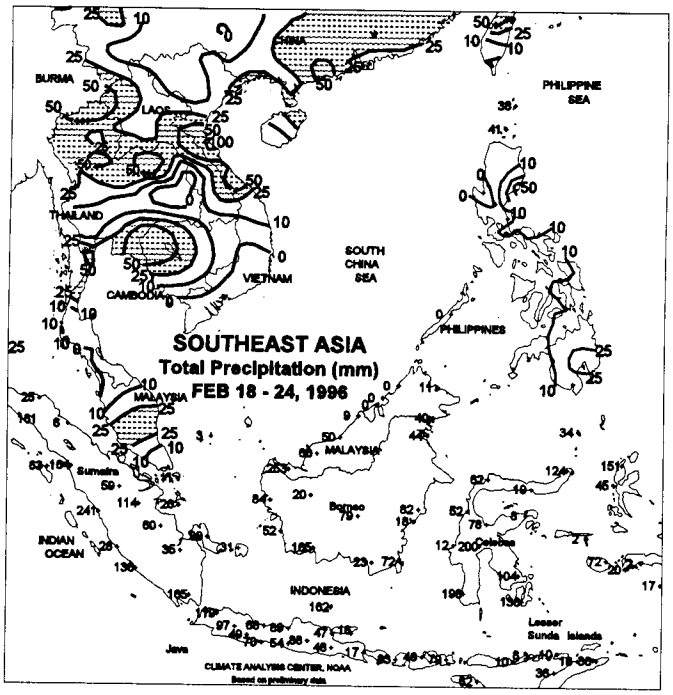


NORTHWEST AFRICA Total Precipitation (mm)
FEB 18 - 24, 1996



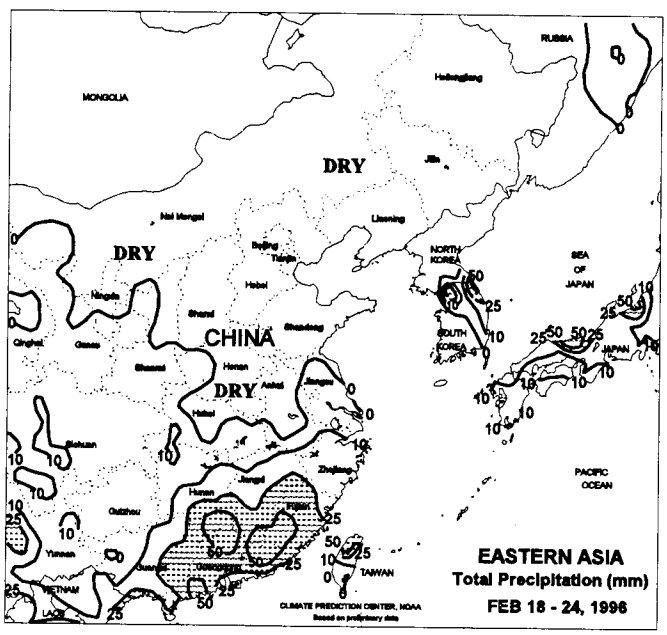
NORTHWESTERN AFRICA

Light to moderate showers covered winter grain areas in Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia, maintaining favorable moisture conditions for crop development. Precipitation amounts ranged from 7 to 18 mm in Morocco, 14 to 36 mm in Algeria, and 8 to 42 mm in Tunisia. Below-normal temperatures over northern Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia slowed crop growth. Typically, winter grains over the region enter the highly weather-sensitive heading stage in March, when moisture conditions become most critical in determining crop prospects.



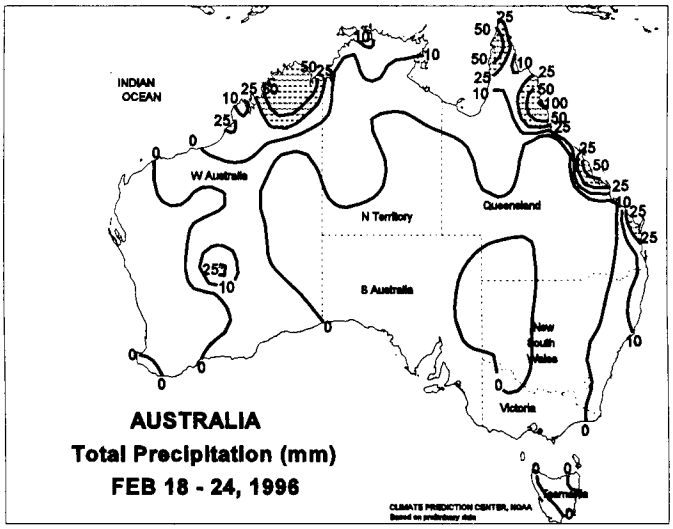
SOUTHEAST ASIA

In northern Thailand, unseasonable rain (20-40 mm, with isolated amounts greater than 75 mm) hampered rice transplanting and sugarcane fieldwork, but increased reservoir levels. Typically, at this time of year weekly rainfall amounts average than less than 5 mm across that region. Southern Thailand received lighter amounts of 5 to 20 mm, which is not as unusual. Moderate to heavy showers (50-150 mm) fell across north-central Vietnam, boosting irrigation supplies for winter-spring rice. Mostly light showers (less than 25 mm) fell across the Philippines. Widespread showers (50-100 mm) covered Java, keeping irrigation supplies adequate for main-season rice.



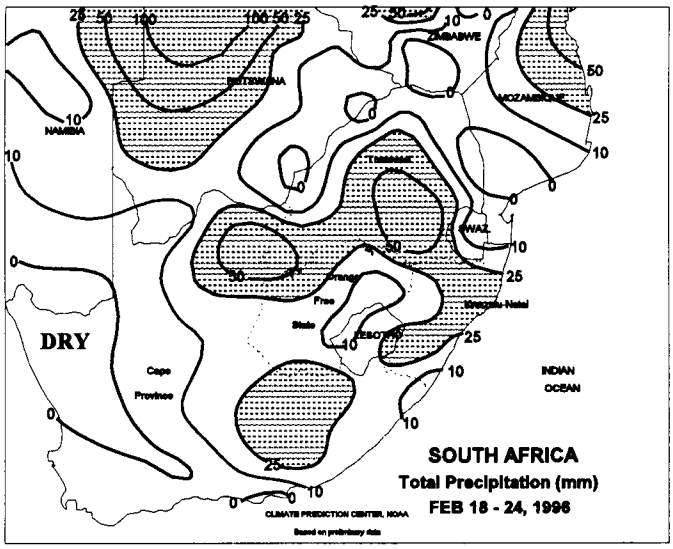
EASTERN ASIA

Cold weather prevailed across most of China, slowing winter grain greening across the North China Plain and the Yangtze Valley. Temperatures averaged 3 to 4 degrees C below normal across the North China Plain and 6 to 9 degrees C below normal across the Yangtze Valley and southern China. Freezing temperatures reached as far south as northern Guangdong and Guangxi, but failed to reach the major sugarcane regions. Widespread rain (10-40 mm) covered southern China, boosting reservoir levels.



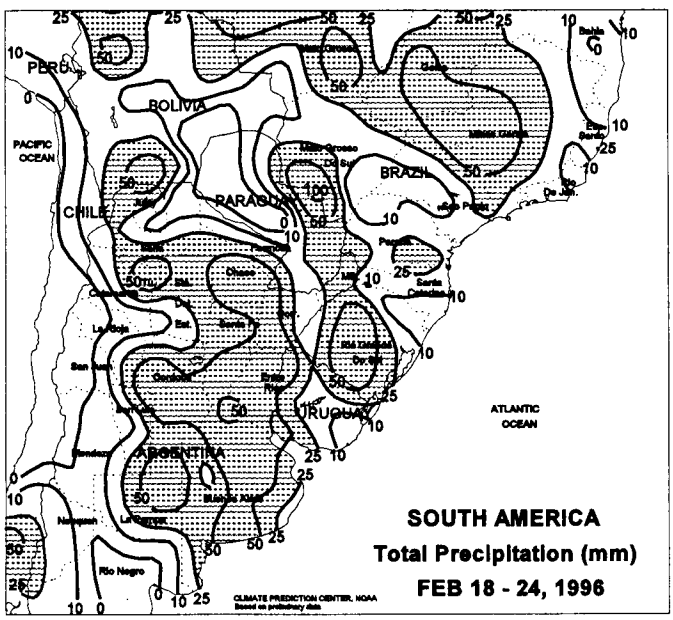
AUSTRALIA

Dry weather covered eastern Australia's main summer crop and pasture areas for the second week. Sorghum and cotton was reproductive to filling. Moderate to heavy showers (10-50 mm) were scattered along the coast, benefiting sugarcane. Australia's main summer crop areas are in the midst of a drying trend that began in early January. While the dryness was initially beneficial, more rain is needed for rainfed crops and irrigation supplies, especially in western and northern summer crop areas. Highs ranged from the mid 30's to low 40's C, increasing evapotranspiration rates and evaporative losses. Dry, warm weather also persisted in pasture areas of Western Australia and the southeast. In New Zealand, moderate to heavy rain (25-50 mm or more) covered pastures in central North Island and northwestern South Island.



SOUTH AFRICA

Drier, warmer weather dominated the region early in the week, bringing some relief to areas hard hit by last week's inundating rain. Through the 22nd, rainfall was patchy and light (10 mm or less) in most corn and sugarcane areas, and highs from the mid 20's to low 30's C aided the drying process. On the 23rd, moderate showers (25-50 mm or more) moved into the northern half of the corn belt, including saturated locations in the east. The heaviest rain missed Orange Free State and the southern coast of Kawzulu-Natal, where weekly rainfall totaled 15 mm or less. Cooler weather accompanied the rain, with highs generally in the low to mid 20's C for the remainder of the week. Corn was filling across the region, and needs warmer and drier weather the next few weeks for normal development.



SOUTH AMERICA

Widespread rain (15-75 mm) covered central Argentina, bringing much needed relief to reproductive soybeans and immature corn. The rain was especially beneficial since temperatures averaged 2 to 3 degrees C above normal. In northern Argentina and southern Paraguay, moderate rain (20-50 mm, with isolated amounts greater 75 mm) slowed early cotton harvesting. In southern Brazil, variable rain (5-65 mm) aided filling soybeans across Rio Grande do Sul and Parana. Farther north, in Mato Grosso and Goias, moderate showers (25-75 mm) slowed early soybean harvesting. Temperatures averaged 1 to 2 degrees C above normal across southern Brazil.

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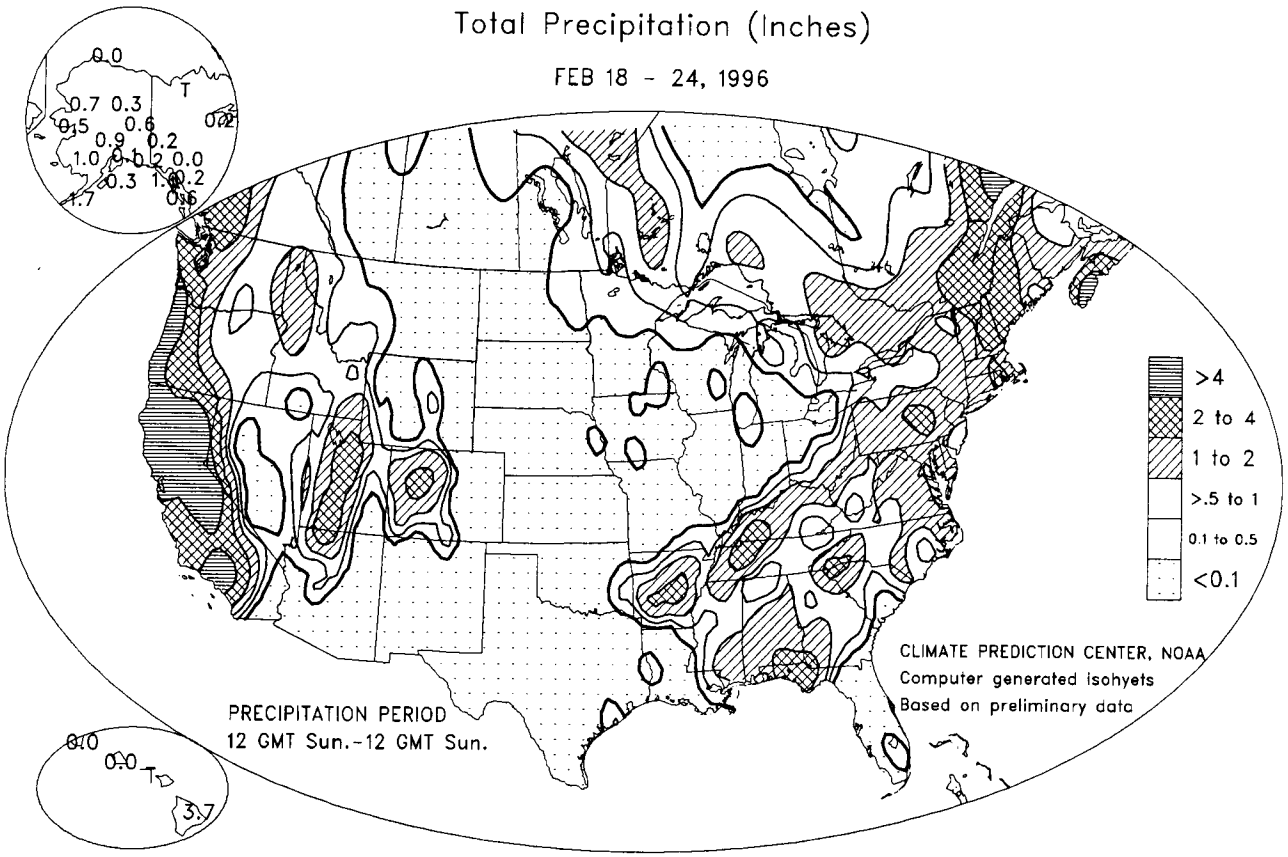

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