

WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP BULLETIN

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration,
National Weather Service

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
National Agricultural Statistics Service and
World Agricultural Outlook Board

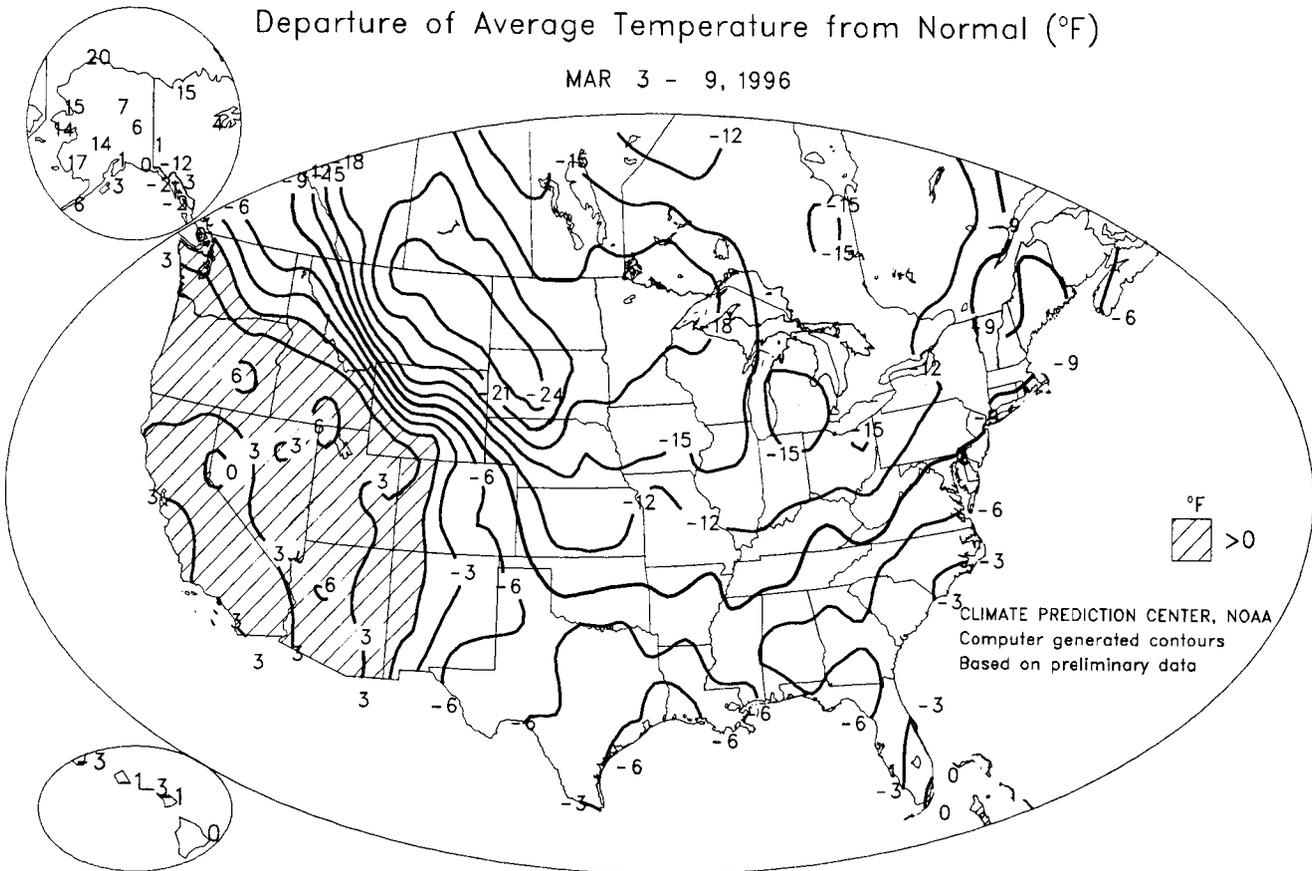
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Washington, D.C.

March 12, 1996

Departure of Average Temperature from Normal (°F)

MAR 3 - 9, 1996



CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA
Computer generated contours
Based on preliminary data

HIGHLIGHTS

March 3 - 9, 1996

The winter wheat area of the **central and southern Plains**--having completed its second driest October-February on record (37 percent of normal precipitation), and driest since 1966-67--endured another sharp temperature drop, accompanied by high winds and little or no snowfall. The core of the Arctic high-pressure system crossed the Canadian border into **Montana** on Thursday, reaching the **Southeast** by week's end. The cold air was responsible for nearly 200 daily records and a handful of March-record lows after midweek, and forced a strong cold front across the **Southeast**, sparking heavy rain and spawning more than two dozen tornadoes. Farther north, snow added to seasonal-record totals from the **central Appalachians** to **New England**. Meanwhile in the **West**, warm, dry conditions superseded early-week storminess.

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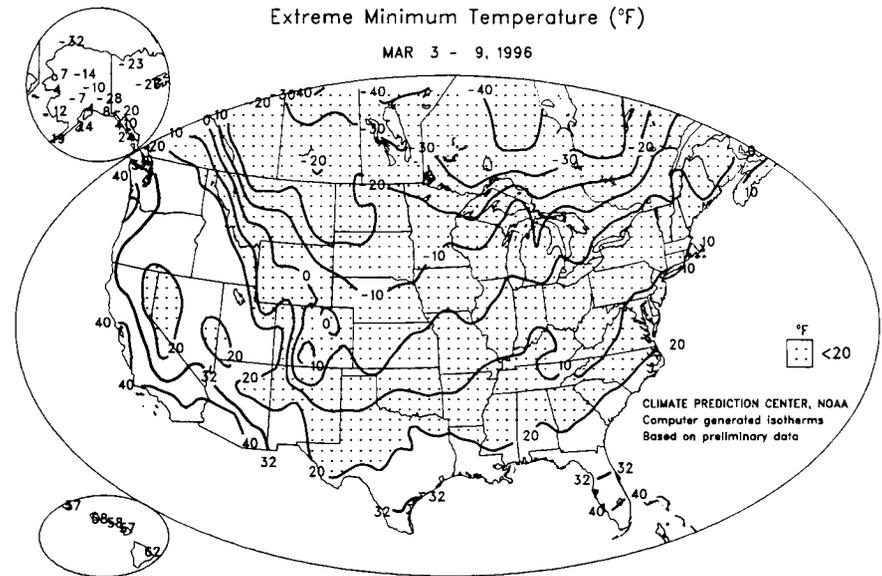
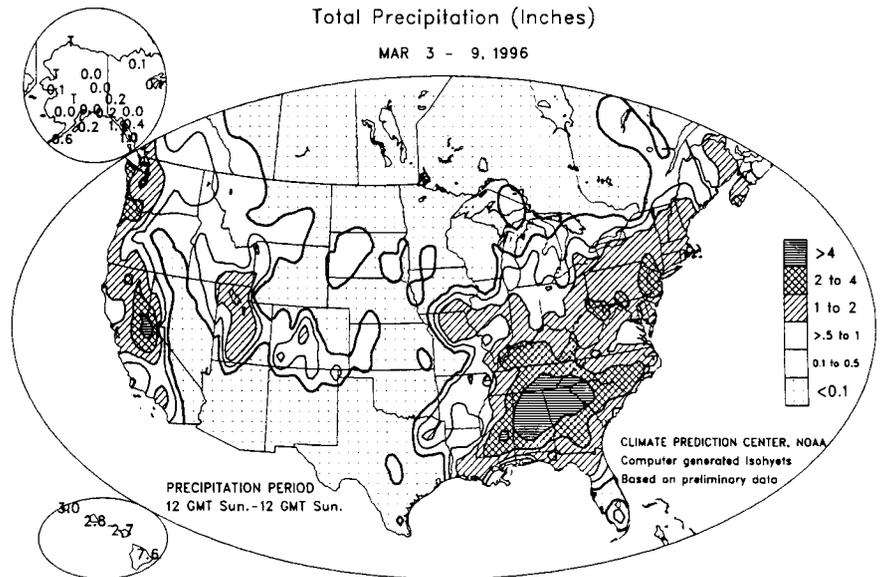
Early in the week, a high-pressure system briefly chilled the eastern half of the Nation. On Sunday, daily records included -28°F in **International Falls, MN** and -1°F in **Rockford, IL**.

A day later, **Elkins, WV** noted -7°F. On March 3-4, lake-enhanced snowfall in the **Northeast** totaled 10.6 inches in **Erie, PA** and 4.4 inches in **Syracuse, NY**. Farther west, a sharp north-south temperature gradient became established across the **Plains**, resulting in a midweek range from -30°F in **Havre, MT** to 99°F in **McAllen, TX**. As a cold front punched through the **central and southern Plains** on Wednesday, winds that 2 days earlier had gusted from the south or southwest to 46 mph in **Wichita, KS** and 40 mph in **Lubbock, TX** were clocked from the north at 45 and 51 mph, respectively. In **Dodge City, KS**, the Arctic intrusion lowered temperatures 84°F, from a high of 79°F on Monday to a low of -5°F on Thursday.

Daily-record cold appeared in the **northern Plains** on Wednesday, including a low to -26°F in **Bismarck, ND**. Two days later, more than five dozen records were set from the **Plains** into the **Southeast**. A low of -21°F in **Rapid City, SD** set a March record, while readings dipped to -5°F as far south as **Hill City and Colby, KS**. About 100 records were established on Saturday morning, including March-record lows in **Calico Rock, AR** (6°F) and **Monroe, LA** (18°F). Tree blooms and ground crops across the **Southeastern and Gulf Coast States** were threatened by lows in the teens and 20's, but **central Florida** escaped with near-freezing temperatures. Nevertheless, **Florida's** daily records for March 9 included 32°F in **Lakeland** and 33°F in both **Tampa and Orlando**.

Rainfall in the **Southeast** boosted monthly totals through March 7 to 6.75 inches in **Birmingham, AL**; 4.66 inches in **Meridian, MS**; and 3.80 inches in **Atlanta, GA**. **Birmingham** registered consecutive daily-rainfall records on March 6-7, including a 4.03-inch total on Wednesday. Farther north, heavy snow overspread the **North-east** on March 5 and again on March 7-8. Four-day (March 5-8) snowfall reached 17.3 inches in **Albany, NY**; 12.4 inches in **Boston, MA**; and 12.2 inches in **Windsor Locks, CT**. Meanwhile, cold air edged as far west as **eastern Washington**, where heavy snow (13.1 inches) blanketed **Spokane** on March 3-5. At midweek, light snow (0.2 inches) fell as far south as **Albuquerque, NM**. But warmer air overspread the **West** after midweek, fueling daily-record highs in **California** at **San Diego** (85°F on Friday) and the **L.A. Civic Center** (89°F on Saturday).

In **Hawaii**, an early-week deluge yielded to tranquil, cool conditions. On Sunday, rainfall totaled 7.56 inches in **Hilo**. **Lihue's** daily-record low (57°F on Friday) followed a 3.01-inch rainfall on March 3-4. Meanwhile, above-normal temperatures continued for a second consecutive week in **Alaska**, with departures of +14 to +20°F across western and northern areas.



Seasonal Snowfall Records, 1995-96 (updated through March 10)

<u>Location</u>	<u>Total (Inches)</u>	<u>Date Broken</u>	<u>Previous / Season</u>
Sault Ste. Marie, MI	202.9	Jan. 30	178.6 in 1976-77
Charleston, WV	94.7	Feb. 2	76.6 in 1977-78
Dulles Airport (IAD), VA	58.7	Feb. 2	44.4 in 1966-67
Windsor Locks, CT	107.7	Feb. 16	84.9 in 1993-94
Danbury, CT	n/a	Feb. 16	not available
Providence, RI	93.2	Feb. 16	75.6 in 1947-48
Philadelphia, PA	63.1	Feb. 16	55.4 in 1898-99
Baltimore (BWI), MD	62.5	Feb. 16	51.8 in 1963-64
Wilmington, DE	59.2	Feb. 16	49.5 in 1957-58
Lynchburg, VA	56.4	Feb. 16	46.7 in 1895-96
Jackson, KY	52.1	Feb. 16	48"+ in 1993-94
National Airport (DCA), VA	46.0	Feb. 16	40.4 in 1957-58
N.Y. Central Park, NY	70.8	Mar. 2	63.2 in 1947-48
Kennedy Airport (JFK), NY	n/a	Mar. 2	58.4 in 1960-61
Boston, MA	100.3	Mar. 7	96.3 in 1993-94
Elkins, WV	126.7	Mar. 8	125.1 in 1993-94
Hollywood, MD	59.2	Mar. 8	55.0 in 1898-99

National Weather Data for Selected Cities

Weather Data for the Week Ending March 9, 1996

STATES AND STATIONS	TEMPERATURE °F						PRECIPITATION						RELATIVE HUMIDITY, PERCENT		NUMBER OF DAYS								
	AVERAGE	MAXIMUM	MINIMUM	EXTREME HIGH	EXTREME LOW	AVERAGE	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	WEEKLY TOTAL, IN.	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	GREATEST IN 24-HOUR, IN.	TOTAL, IN., SINCE Mar 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Mar 1	TOTAL, IN., SINCE Jan 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Jan 1	AVERAGE	MAXIMUM	MINIMUM	90 AND ABOVE	32 AND BELOW	TEMP. °F		PRECIP.	
																				.01 INCH OR MORE	.50 INCH OR MORE		
AL BIRMINGHAM	59	34	78	15	46	-5	5.42	4.03	4.02	6.75	381	19.43	165	83	45	0	0	4	2	2	2		
MOBILE	64	39	78	22	52	-6	0.58	-0.91	0.52	0.58	30	11.22	91	90	45	0	0	3	3	1	1		
MONTGOMERY	63	36	81	20	50	-4	4.77	3.33	3.66	4.77	258	15.99	130	80	43	0	0	3	2	2	2		
AK ANCHORAGE	34	14	39	4	24	1	0.00	-0.17	0.00	0.00	0	2.52	140	71	56	0	0	7	0	0	0		
BARROW	14	-9	29	-32	3	20	0.04	0.01	0.03	0.04	100	0.15	56	90	80	0	0	7	2	0	0		
FAIRBANKS	27	-5	33	-10	11	6	0.00	-0.08	0.00	0.04	36	1.77	174	84	44	0	0	7	0	0	0		
JUNEAU	35	21	44	10	28	-3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	65	34	0	0	7	...	...	...
KODIAK	41	28	47	24	35	3	0.24	-0.84	0.18	0.24	17	5.17	36	77	48	0	0	7	3	0	0		
NOME	28	12	35	-4	20	14	0.06	-0.05	0.05	0.08	57	3.00	192	84	65	0	0	7	2	0	0		
AZ PHOENIX	77	52	86	47	65	4	0.00	-0.22	0.00	0.00	0	1.26	75	42	12	0	0	4	0	0	0		
PRESIDENT	62	34	72	27	48	7	0.00	-0.44	0.00	0.00	0	1.05	28	58	21	0	0	4	0	0	0		
TUCSON	74	47	84	38	61	4	0.00	-0.17	0.00	0.00	0	0.81	46	40	13	0	0	0	0	0	0		
YUMA	79	53	89	49	66	3	0.00	-0.06	0.00	0.00	0	0.18	28	36	12	0	0	0	0	0	0		
AR FORT SMITH	55	27	79	10	40	-8	0.01	-0.84	0.01	0.01	1	4.42	78	68	35	0	0	5	1	1	0		
LITTLE ROCK	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.82	-0.27	...	0.82	62	4.94	61	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
CA BAKERSFIELD	70	45	75	37	57	1	0.06	-0.19	0.04	0.06	19	3.61	158	95	50	0	0	0	2	0	0		
FUREA	60	46	65	34	53	3	1.58	0.32	1.16	1.59	99	20.42	163	90	61	0	0	0	4	4	1		
FRESNO	67	45	74	38	56	2	0.40	-0.04	0.28	0.40	70	5.37	123	90	39	0	0	0	2	2	0		
LOS ANGELES	69	52	83	49	61	3	0.88	0.37	0.58	0.88	131	6.99	124	89	24	0	0	0	2	2	1		
REDDING	64	44	79	31	54	3	0.60	-0.47	0.31	0.60	48	19.31	161	92	44	0	0	1	2	2	0		
SACRAMENTO	64	46	74	39	55	2	0.63	0.00	...	0.63	79	10.03	134	93	52	0	0	0	2	2	0		
SAN DIEGO	70	55	85	52	62	3	0.24	-0.17	0.24	0.24	45	2.64	67	77	19	0	0	0	1	0	0		
SAN FRANCISCO	63	49	70	41	56	3	1.61	0.87	1.32	1.64	171	14.58	170	90	54	0	0	0	3	3	1		
CO DENVER	49	16	61	5	33	-4	0.02	-0.23	0.02	0.02	6	0.31	22	77	20	0	0	6	1	1	0		
GRAND JUNCTION	55	30	63	25	43	1	0.30	0.07	0.18	0.30	100	0.31	142	68	28	0	0	6	2	2	0		
FURBIO	53	11	68	-5	32	-8	0.18	0.02	0.18	0.18	90	0.51	61	85	30	0	0	7	1	0	0		
CT BRIDGEPORT	35	23	51	10	29	-7	1.61	0.80	0.64	2.03	195	10.46	141	77	30	0	0	6	4	1	0		
HARTFORD	33	18	40	9	25	-9	0.94	0.74	0.67	1.93	191	11.83	152	86	57	0	0	7	4	1	1		
DC WASHINGTON	45	27	66	17	36	-8	0.97	0.25	0.46	1.07	116	8.07	125	77	40	0	0	3	4	0	0		
FL PANAMA CITY	62	41	71	25	52	-6	1.22	-0.08	1.22	1.36	81	7.56	62	91	54	0	0	1	1	1	0		
DAYTONA BEACH	71	48	85	32	60	-3	0.44	-0.26	0.42	2.14	238	9.03	131	91	42	0	0	1	2	0	0		
JACKSONVILLE	68	42	84	27	55	-6	1.23	0.35	1.23	2.94	258	5.14	62	90	41	0	0	2	1	1	1		
KEY WEST	75	65	83	54	70	-2	0.00	-0.39	0.00	0.11	22	1.23	28	82	64	0	0	0	0	0	0		
MIAMI	77	64	86	46	70	0	0.00	-0.52	0.00	0.35	52	3.48	72	82	54	0	0	0	0	0	0		
ORLANDO	74	50	87	33	62	-3	0.20	-0.59	0.20	2.06	202	8.97	139	89	45	0	0	0	1	0	0		
TALLAHASSEE	66	37	78	25	51	-7	1.28	-0.21	1.27	2.03	106	8.53	68	81	45	0	0	3	2	1	1		
TAMPA	71	50	80	33	61	-4	0.66	-0.59	0.18	1.16	116	7.39	120	81	45	0	0	0	1	0	0		
WEST PALM BEACH	76	61	85	43	69	-1	0.66	-0.63	0.06	0.32	36	2.34	37	84	55	0	0	0	1	0	0		
GA ATLANTA	57	36	74	16	47	-4	3.79	2.47	2.69	3.79	224	15.82	138	67	42	0	0	3	3	2	2		
AUGUSTA	62	33	77	19	48	-5	1.02	-0.08	0.99	1.02	72	6.26	63	87	39	0	0	3	2	1	1		
Macon	61	35	75	19	48	-6	2.25	1.12	1.61	2.25	155	8.01	73	85	42	0	0	4	2	2	2		
SAVANNAH	65	41	77	24	53	-4	1.34	0.48	0.93	1.74	157	5.11	63	84	43	0	0	2	2	1	1		
HI HILO	80	65	84	62	72	0	7.56	4.64	7.56	9.30	250	35.40	146	83	56	0	0	0	1	1	1		
HONOLULU	81	64	83	58	73	-1	2.81	2.29	2.35	2.81	419	7.30	112	84	59	0	0	0	2	1	1		
KAHULUI	79	64	81	57	72	-1	2.73	2.10	1.79	2.73	337	8.24	104	85	63	0	0	0	2	2	2		
LIHUE	77	61	81	57	69	-3	3.01	2.10	2.34	3.28	280	12.61	120	84	57	0	0	0	2	2	2		
ID BOISE	55	36	67	27	46	5	0.47	0.19	0.40	0.47	134	2.41	83	85	42	0	0	2	2	0	0		
LEWISTON	50	36	61	31	43	1	0.05	-0.19	0.03	0.05	17	3.33	132	91	65	0	0	2	2	0	0		
POCATELLO	48	30	59	20	39	5	0.67	0.39	0.56	0.67	191	2.50	107	89	49	0	0	5	2	1	1		
IL CHICAGO	27	9	37	1	18	-15	0.44	-0.07	0.24	0.44	68	2.64	73	85	48	0	0	7	3	0	0		
MOLINE	26	9	41	-2	18	-16	0.99	0.42	0.55	0.99	138	4.41	124	77	52	0	0	7	3	1	1		
PEORIA	31	11	50	0	21	-14	0.89	0.33	0.84	0.89	125	3.14	84	80	52	0	0	7	3	1	1		
QUINCY	33	12	54	0	23	-14	0.89	0.25	0.87	0.89	111	3.65	99	85	51	0	0	7	2	1	1		
ROCKFORD	25	6	35	-3	15	-16	0.15	-0.31	0.09	0.15	26	2.06	67	81	50	0	0	7	2	0	0		
SPRINGFIELD	34	14	58	2	24	-13	0.70	0.04	0.66	0.70	84	3.22	76	78	48	0	0	6	2	1	1		
IN EVANSVILLE	41	22	61	9	31	-13	1.36	0.27	1.22	1.41	101	6.37	80	78	49	0	0	6	2	1	1		
FORT WAYNE	29	12	46	3	21	-13	0.78	0.18	0.74	0.82	108	4.59	99	82	48	0	0	7	2	1	1		
INDIANAPOLIS	34	16	57	7	25	-13	0.70	-0.11	0.47	0.70	68	5.72	97	82	47	0	0	6	2	0	0		
SOUTH BEND	27	11	36	4	19	-15	0.77	0.15	0.50	0.84	108	4.58	92	86	46	0	0	7	5	1	1		
IA DES MOINES	30	6	47	-5	18	-15	0.03	-0.37	0.02	0.03	6	1.45	58	79	43	0	0	7	2	0	0		
SIOUX CITY	27	2	42	-10	14	-17	0.00	-0.39	0.00	0.00	0	1.06	60	79	41	0	0	7	0	0	0		
WATERLOO	27	4	38	-5	16	-14	0.03	-0.41	0.03	0.03	5	2.25	91	82	44	0	0	7	1	0	0		
KS COMCORDIA	39	10	57	-2	24	-14	0.00	-0.45	0.00	0.00	0	0.55	28	74	33	0	0	7	0	0	0		
DODGE CITY	46	11	79	-5	28	-12	0.18	-0.12	0.18	0.18	47	0.65	43	73	34	0	0	7	1	0	0		
GOODLAND	43	10	60	-2	27	-10	0.00	-0.24	0.00	0.00	0	0.26	24	79	33	0	0	7	0	0	0		
TOPEKA	41	13	65	1	28	-13	0.00	-0.48	0.00	0.00	0	0.94	35	72	32	0	0	6	0	0	0		
WICHITA	45	16	70	2	30	-12	0.00	-0.53	0.00	0.00	0	0.16	6	68	29	0	0	5	0	0	0		
KY BOWLING GREEN	44	24	67	10	34	-10	2.16	1.01	1.68	2.16	147	11.12	116	85	47	0	0	5	3	1	1		
LEXINGTON	39	21	61	10	30	-12	1.93	0.96	0.87	1.93	156	8.31	112	87	49	0	0	6	3	2	2		
LOUISVILLE	41	24	62	12	33	-10	1.49	0.47	0.80	1.49	115	7.63	100	76	44	0	0	6	3	1	1		
LA BATON ROUGE	65	41	76	23	53	-6	0.84	-0.25	0.44	0.84	60	9.54	79	88	46	0	0	2	3	0	0		
LAKE CHARLES	63	42	75	26	52	-6	0.13	-0.64	0.07	0.13	13	4.24	46	89									

Weather Data for the Week Ending March 9, 1996

STATES AND STATIONS	TEMPERATURE °F						PRECIPITATION						RELATIVE HUMIDITY, PERCENT	NUMBER OF DAYS					
	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 Mar 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Mar 1	TOTAL, IN., SINCE Jan 1		PCT. NORMAL SINCE Jan 1	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	TEMP. °F		PRECIP.
													90 AND ABOVE				32 AND BELOW	.01 INCH OR MORE	.50 INCH OR MORE
ME CARIBOU	20	4	31	-4	12	-8	0.59	0.06	0.38	0.98	146	7.70	152	81	47	0	7	3	0
PORTLAND	27	13	34	4	20	-10	1.10	0.30	0.49	1.48	145	9.43	118	86	54	0	7	4	0
MD BALTIMORE	42	22	65	11	32	-9	0.91	0.14	0.54	1.13	114	10.30	141	86	43	0	6	3	1
SALISBURY	44	24	65	12	34	-8	0.94	-0.01	0.48	0.94	77	9.17	109	86	49	0	5	3	0
MA BOSTON	33	22	39	13	27	-9	1.69	0.86	0.63	2.00	189	12.62	150	84	55	0	7	5	1
CHATHAM	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
MI ALPENA	21	3	29	-5	12	-13	0.04	-0.40	0.04	0.15	27	3.08	87	80	46	0	7	1	0
DETROIT	25	10	33	3	18	-15	0.26	-0.27	0.20	0.28	42	3.90	92	75	49	0	7	2	0
FLINT	22	4	30	-4	13	-17	0.17	-0.25	0.12	0.31	58	3.62	112	84	55	0	7	2	0
GRAND RAPIDS	22	4	30	-7	13	-18	0.07	-0.45	0.05	0.22	34	2.20	55	86	54	0	7	3	0
HOGHTON LAKE	22	1	29	-13	11	-13	0.55	-0.14	0.26	0.77	148	4.01	123	86	50	0	7	5	0
LANSING	22	3	30	-7	13	-16	0.36	-0.07	0.17	0.52	96	2.10	64	86	54	0	7	4	0
MARQUETTE	16	-9	32	-15	4	-16	0.16	-0.43	0.07	0.17	23	8.32	176	81	45	0	7	4	0
MUSKOGEE	23	7	32	-6	15	-15	0.37	-0.13	0.11	0.62	97	3.65	80	88	51	0	7	5	0
SAULT ST. MARIE	15	-4	23	-15	5	-15	0.08	-0.41	0.04	0.32	51	6.59	136	79	50	0	7	3	0
NH ALEXANDRIA	12	-7	19	-16	2	-20	0.06	-0.20	0.04	0.06	19	2.39	123	85	60	0	7	2	0
DULUTH	15	-8	26	-16	4	-17	0.03	-0.35	0.03	0.03	6	2.49	98	70	36	0	7	1	0
INT'L FALLS	13	-19	28	-28	-3	-21	0.00	-0.20	0.00	0.00	0	3.24	180	83	42	0	7	0	0
MINNEAPOLIS	19	1	27	-6	10	-16	0.12	-0.26	0.07	0.12	25	2.23	95	76	44	0	7	2	0
ROCHESTER	20	0	29	-7	10	-15	0.10	-0.23	0.07	0.10	24	2.31	117	80	50	0	7	2	0
MS GREENWOOD	58	33	80	15	46	-7	0.07	-1.21	0.07	0.07	4	6.37	57	91	42	0	3	1	0
JACKSON	60	34	80	16	47	-6	3.10	1.79	1.58	3.10	185	13.96	115	86	44	0	4	3	2
MERIDIAN	63	35	81	18	49	-5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
MO CAPE GIRARDEAU	44	24	65	10	34	-10	0.94	-0.16	0.65	0.94	67	5.48	71	82	44	0	6	2	1
COLUMBIA	38	14	64	2	26	-12	0.40	-0.23	0.39	0.40	50	3.22	77	83	48	0	6	2	0
KANSAS CITY	39	13	65	0	26	-13	0.18	-0.32	0.12	0.18	29	1.52	53	80	43	0	7	3	0
SAINT LOUIS	39	19	64	6	29	-12	0.53	-0.23	0.50	0.53	55	4.32	87	74	42	0	6	3	1
SPRINGFIELD	44	19	72	2	31	-11	0.00	-0.79	0.00	0.00	0	3.13	66	73	37	0	6	0	0
MT BILLINGS	21	7	44	-1	14	-19	0.29	0.07	0.18	0.29	104	1.70	91	85	60	0	7	4	0
GLASGOW	9	-12	22	-27	-2	-27	0.12	0.04	..	0.14	126	0.75	102	85	61	0	7	..	..
GREAT FALLS	19	2	47	-16	10	-21	0.32	0.10	0.11	0.32	114	0.92	51	87	68	0	7	5	0
HAVRE	11	-14	38	-30	-1	-29	0.14	0.01	0.08	0.19	112	1.13	106	86	62	0	7	2	0
HELENA	23	7	43	2	15	-16	0.08	-0.06	0.02	0.08	44	0.63	50	83	56	0	7	4	0
KALISPELL	26	14	40	6	20	-11	0.24	0.02	0.16	0.24	83	4.77	162	85	58	0	7	2	0
MILES CITY	15	-5	38	-28	5	-25	0.20	0.09	0.13	0.26	186	1.76	153	90	69	0	7	3	0
MISSOULA	34	21	49	14	28	-6	0.22	-0.00	0.10	0.22	79	3.11	132	86	57	0	7	4	0
NE GRAND ISLAND	32	6	46	-5	19	-15	0.00	-0.37	0.00	0.00	0	1.07	63	80	37	0	7	0	0
LINCOLN	33	7	50	-4	20	-15	0.14	-0.26	0.14	0.14	28	1.22	68	79	38	0	7	1	0
NORFOLK	28	4	44	-7	16	-16	0.05	-0.32	0.03	0.05	11	1.02	57	77	41	0	7	3	0
NORTH PLATTE	36	5	54	-6	21	-13	0.00	-0.22	0.00	0.05	18	0.56	50	77	37	0	7	0	0
OMAHA	31	7	46	-4	19	-15	0.05	-0.34	..	0.05	10	1.56	76	72	39	0	7	..	..
SCOTTSBLUFF	38	7	62	-2	23	-11	0.10	-0.11	0.08	0.10	38	0.93	75	84	43	0	7	2	0
VALENTINE	20	-3	43	-16	8	-25	0.04	-0.22	0.04	0.04	12	0.72	53	87	62	0	7	1	0
NV ELY	51	25	62	18	38	5	0.12	-0.08	0.12	0.12	46	1.57	94	76	33	0	6	1	0
LAS VEGAS	69	47	76	37	58	3	0.05	-0.06	0.04	0.05	36	0.33	30	45	21	0	0	2	0
RENO	53	28	62	18	41	-1	1.04	0.85	0.86	1.04	433	4.14	175	89	40	0	5	3	1
WINNEMUCA	55	29	68	19	42	3	0.34	0.17	0.23	0.34	162	3.09	192	86	38	0	5	3	0
NH CONCORD	26	10	30	0	18	-11	0.76	0.15	0.35	1.06	136	8.50	144	85	53	0	7	4	0
NJ ATLANTIC CITY	40	22	63	10	31	-8	1.43	0.64	0.78	1.69	167	7.09	93	84	45	0	5	4	1
NM ALBUQUERQUE	57	31	65	23	44	-1	0.00	-0.11	0.00	0.00	0	0.35	32	58	18	0	5	0	0
CLOVIS	58	24	75	10	41	-4	0.00	-0.14	0.00	0.00	0	0.36	33	60	17	0	5	0	0
ROSWELL	61	28	77	13	45	-5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
NY ALBANY	26	14	36	8	20	-11	0.91	0.27	0.32	0.91	112	4.87	88	92	57	0	7	6	0
BINGHAMTON	24	10	39	0	17	-12	0.66	0.05	0.26	0.66	86	4.76	85	88	61	0	7	4	0
BUFFALO	22	11	31	5	17	-14	0.90	0.32	0.77	0.93	126	5.60	96	83	60	0	7	4	0
NEW YORK	39	24	62	14	31	-8	1.51	0.73	0.55	1.88	190	8.10	116	78	50	0	5	4	2
ROCHESTER	23	13	33	4	18	-13	1.12	0.62	0.65	1.21	189	6.02	123	92	56	0	7	7	1
SYRACUSE	24	14	34	8	19	-12	1.02	0.44	0.54	1.11	150	5.50	104	87	62	0	7	5	1
NC ASHEVILLE	48	26	68	8	37	-9	1.00	-0.31	0.69	1.00	60	10.92	107	82	43	0	5	3	1
CHARLOTTE	54	34	68	16	44	-4	2.19	1.14	1.52	2.19	162	8.80	97	71	38	0	3	2	2
GREENSBORO	51	29	67	12	40	-6	1.47	0.62	1.01	1.47	134	7.70	100	73	40	0	5	2	1
HATTERAS	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
NEW BERN	58	39	73	22	48	-3	2.88	1.95	1.95	3.58	298	9.56	97	80	42	0	3	3	2
RALEIGH	54	31	72	17	42	-6	1.66	0.75	0.86	1.66	142	8.44	100	77	42	0	5	3	2
WILMINGTON	60	38	72	22	49	-1	0.97	-0.08	0.87	1.76	130	5.91	56	90	46	0	3	3	1
ND BISMARCK	15	-12	29	-26	2	-23	0.10	-0.03	0.07	0.10	63	1.72	159	83	51	0	7	2	0
FARGO	10	-9	21	-17	1	-20	0.00	-0.19	0.00	0.00	0	2.76	197	79	62	0	7	0	0
GRAND FORKS	11	-9	21	-18	1	-18	0.00	-0.18	0.00	0.03	13	1.62	113	78	55	0	7	0	0
WILLISTON	14	-11	31	-24	2	-23	0.07	-0.06	0.07	0.08	50	1.04	90	78	53	0	7	1	0
OH AERON-CANTON	26	12	46	4	19	-16	0.99	0.27	0.88	1.04	113	3.55	66	82	56	0	7	2	1
CINCINNATI	36	19	58	7	27	-12	0.57	-0.35	0.51	0.57	49	6.14	94	85	48	0	6	3	1
CLEVELAND	26	13	46	6	20	-15	0.76	0.14	0.59	0.80	100	5.09	100	84	53	0	7	5	1
COLUMBUS	31	16	53	6	24	-11	1.08	0.41	0.79	1.08	127	7.03	137	82	49	0	6	3	1
DAYTON	30	15	52	5	22	-15	0.95	0.23	0.79	0.95	103	6.03	114	84	56	0	7	2	1

Based on 1961-90 normals.

Weather Data for the Week Ending March 9, 1996

STATES AND STATIONS	TEMPERATURE °F						PRECIPITATION						RELATIVE HUMIDITY, PERCENT	NUMBER OF DAYS						
	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 Mar 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Mar 1	TOTAL, IN., SINCE Jan 1		PCT. NORMAL SINCE Jan 1	AVERAGE	MAXIMUM	MINIMUM	TEMP. °F		PRECIP.
													90 AND ABOVE					32 AND BELOW	.01 INCH OR MORE	.50 INCH OR MORE
OH TOLEDO	25	12	33	4	19	-14	2.40	1.84	1.80	2.40	343	5.23	123	82	53	0	0	7	3	2
OH YOUNGSTOWN	26	12	48	5	19	-14	1.05	0.38	0.89	1.10	129	5.81	114	84	54	0	7	4	1	1
OK OKLAHOMA CITY	51	26	72	11	38	-9	0.00	-0.58	0.00	0.00	0	0.06	2	67	28	0	5	0	0	0
OK TULSA	49	23	74	7	36	-11	0.00	-0.72	0.00	0.00	0	0.63	14	70	28	0	5	0	0	0
OR ASTORIA	53	44	60	42	49	3	2.48	0.79	0.60	2.48	114	26.11	130	97	80	0	0	6	2	2
OR BURNS	51	30	62	26	41	6	0.11	-0.12	0.03	0.11	37	2.88	137	96	53	0	6	3	0	0
OR MEDFORD	62	41	73	29	51	6	0.09	-0.35	0.04	0.09	16	8.48	162	91	45	0	2	4	0	0
OR PENDLETON	48	36	59	30	42	-1	0.32	0.04	0.16	0.32	91	3.79	125	99	77	0	1	5	0	0
OR PORTLAND	54	44	59	40	49	2	1.85	1.00	0.79	1.85	170	18.30	176	92	67	0	0	0	4	2
OR SALEM	54	44	60	38	49	4	1.77	0.76	0.99	1.82	140	23.07	194	95	69	0	0	5	1	1
PA ALLENTOWN	36	17	58	8	27	-10	1.27	0.55	0.50	1.34	146	9.66	135	75	44	0	6	4	0	0
PA ERIE	25	13	43	8	19	-14	0.70	0.06	0.47	1.02	126	6.33	117	85	57	0	7	4	0	0
PA HARRISBURG	36	22	55	12	29	-9	1.10	0.36	0.59	1.10	78	8.74	129	76	50	0	6	5	4	1
PA PHILADELPHIA	39	22	63	12	31	-8	1.50	0.74	0.65	1.80	186	6.82	90	87	57	0	6	4	2	2
PA PITTSBURGH	32	14	56	5	23	-13	1.40	0.66	0.55	1.53	163	7.79	131	80	50	0	6	5	1	1
PA SCRANTON	32	14	50	3	23	-11	1.33	0.78	0.46	1.33	190	9.11	181	84	51	0	7	5	0	0
RI PROVIDENCE	35	19	51	10	27	-8	1.54	0.65	0.80	1.85	162	8.99	103	82	55	0	7	5	0	0
SC CHARLESTON	63	41	77	25	52	-4	0.78	-0.23	0.46	1.18	91	3.59	44	83	44	0	2	3	0	0
SC COLUMBIA	60	36	76	20	48	-5	3.42	2.30	1.91	3.42	238	7.52	74	78	27	0	3	2	2	2
SC FLORENCE	61	37	75	19	49	-4	1.56	0.61	1.27	1.56	128	5.85	72	84	44	0	3	2	1	1
SC GREENVILLE	57	32	70	16	45	-5	3.53	2.29	2.16	3.53	222	12.83	125	68	38	0	5	2	2	2
SD ABERDEEN	13	-6	20	-13	4	-21	0.09	-0.12	0.06	0.09	35	2.17	145	83	52	0	7	2	0	0
SD HURON	18	-4	31	-17	7	-21	0.22	-0.11	0.11	0.22	54	1.57	103	83	56	0	7	3	0	0
SD RAPID CITY	18	-2	42	-13	8	-23	0.41	0.22	0.27	0.52	226	1.41	123	88	67	0	7	2	0	0
SD SIOUX FALLS	23	-1	41	-11	11	-18	0.11	-0.19	0.06	0.11	29	1.28	82	81	46	0	7	2	0	0
TN CHATTANOOGA	53	31	71	15	42	-6	4.43	3.05	1.81	4.43	252	14.06	121	82	42	0	5	3	3	3
TN KNOXVILLE	49	30	68	12	40	-7	1.93	0.76	0.76	1.93	130	12.11	123	80	42	0	5	3	2	2
TN MEMPHIS	51	31	74	16	41	-9	1.59	0.41	1.31	1.59	105	9.81	101	72	40	0	4	2	1	1
TN NASHVILLE	48	26	69	11	37	-11	1.49	0.41	0.77	1.49	108	7.89	88	84	40	0	5	3	1	1
TX ABILENE	61	34	83	17	48	-6	0.00	-0.28	0.00	0.00	0	0.75	29	59	15	0	4	0	0	0
TX AMARILLO	58	22	77	6	40	-4	0.00	-0.22	0.00	0.00	0	0.31	22	62	18	0	5	0	0	0
TX AUSTIN	64	40	80	26	52	-7	0.05	-0.37	0.05	0.05	9	0.71	16	74	34	0	3	1	0	0
TX BEADMONT	63	42	74	28	52	-7	0.06	-0.68	0.04	0.06	6	3.73	40	86	54	0	2	2	0	0
TX BROWNSVILLE	74	55	90	37	64	-2	0.00	-0.11	0.00	0.00	0	0.21	8	84	45	1	0	0	0	0
TX CORPUS CHRISTI	70	47	92	33	59	-5	0.00	-0.23	0.00	0.00	0	0.09	2	72	39	1	0	0	0	0
TX DEL RIO	69	43	88	30	56	-3	0.00	-0.22	0.00	0.01	4	0.41	14	67	29	0	3	0	0	0
TX EL PASO	64	34	73	24	49	-4	0.00	-0.08	0.00	0.00	0	0.31	33	31	13	0	3	0	0	0
TX FORT WORTH	61	37	87	20	49	-4	0.00	-0.65	0.00	0.00	0	1.28	25	66	28	0	3	0	0	0
TX GALVESTON	60	50	70	35	55	-5	0.00	-0.50	0.00	0.00	0	0.77	12	78	53	0	0	0	0	0
TX HOUSTON	66	43	79	29	54	-4	0.02	-0.71	0.02	0.02	2	2.19	26	78	42	0	2	1	0	0
TX LUBBOCK	60	26	77	11	43	-5	0.00	-0.19	0.00	0.00	0	0.28	21	55	16	0	5	0	0	0
TX MIDLAND	62	29	78	12	46	-8	0.00	-0.11	0.00	0.00	0	0.08	7	62	14	0	5	0	0	0
TX SAN ANGELO	64	34	84	15	49	-6	0.00	-0.19	0.00	0.00	0	0.30	14	63	17	0	4	0	0	0
TX SAN ANTONIO	67	40	85	25	54	-6	0.02	-0.31	0.02	0.02	5	0.71	18	71	32	0	3	1	0	0
TX VICTORIA	67	43	82	29	55	-5	0.00	-0.52	0.00	0.00	0	0.32	5	80	38	0	2	0	0	0
TX WACO	64	36	86	16	50	-5	0.01	-0.49	0.01	0.01	2	1.01	23	75	31	0	3	1	0	0
TX WICHITA FALLS	61	32	81	16	47	-4	0.00	-0.52	0.00	0.00	0	0.10	2	63	16	0	4	0	0	0
UT CEDAR CITY	57	27	68	17	42	4	0.11	-0.19	0.09	0.11	29	1.74	87	83	27	0	6	2	0	0
UT SALT LAKE CITY	55	34	65	30	44	5	0.53	0.13	0.37	0.53	106	5.17	177	78	36	0	4	2	0	0
VT BURLINGTON	21	12	31	5	17	-10	0.35	-0.11	0.25	0.35	59	4.88	119	81	48	0	7	4	0	0
VA NORFOLK	52	32	71	20	42	-4	0.86	0.01	0.41	1.30	118	9.80	116	77	34	0	4	3	0	0
VA RICHMOND	49	26	68	14	38	-8	0.46	-0.37	0.31	0.53	50	5.94	78	75	44	0	5	3	0	0
VA ROANOKE	48	25	71	12	37	-7	0.41	-0.37	0.23	0.41	41	9.42	139	74	32	0	5	3	0	0
WA QUILLAYUTE	52	42	59	39	47	4	2.35	-0.41	0.97	2.35	66	28.16	91	94	68	0	0	6	2	2
WA SEATTLE-TACOMA	54	43	63	36	48	3	0.57	-0.28	0.31	0.57	52	16.24	153	91	66	0	0	5	0	0
WA SPOKANE	36	25	49	19	30	-6	0.53	0.17	0.25	0.53	115	5.53	139	96	77	0	6	3	0	0
WA YAKIMA	49	38	60	34	43	2	0.04	-0.13	0.04	0.04	19	3.15	144	83	69	0	0	1	0	0
WV BECKLEY	39	18	58	3	29	-10	1.11	0.36	0.42	1.16	121	9.94	138	89	47	0	5	4	0	0
WV CHARLESTON	41	21	61	10	31	-12	1.41	0.60	0.74	1.41	136	9.28	131	89	49	0	5	5	1	1
WV HUNTINGTON	40	22	60	10	31	-9	1.40	0.62	0.58	1.42	142	9.19	128	87	46	0	5	5	2	2
WV PARKERSBURG	36	17	58	5	27	-12	1.18	0.34	0.70	1.18	110	9.37	130	91	43	0	6	4	1	1
WI GREEN BAY	19	3	27	-4	11	-15	0.22	-0.19	0.19	0.22	42	2.76	100	70	44	0	7	3	0	0
WI LACROSSE	24	4	31	-4	14	-14	0.09	-0.28	--	0.12	--	3.56	150	76	43	0	7	-	-	-
WI MADISON	25	2	33	-6	14	-16	0.19	-0.22	0.19	0.20	39	3.26	118	78	43	0	7	1	0	0
WI MILWAUKEE	25	9	32	0	17	-13	0.13	-0.39	0.10	0.13	20	2.13	56	73	47	0	7	2	0	0
WI WAUSAU	19	-1	26	-10	9	-16	0.07	-0.30	0.07	0.07	15	2.70	116	77	38	0	7	1	0	0
WY CASPER	36	9	59	-2	23	-8	0.16	-0.02	0.12	0.16	70	1.35	97	82	45	0	7	2	0	0
WY CHEYENNE	40	12	58	-1	26	-6	0.03	-0.17	0.03	0.03	12	0.62	59	78	36	0	7	1	0	0
WY LARAMIE	38	13	55	4	25	-6	0.00	-0.20	0.00	0.00	0	1.22	91	78	40	0	7	0	0	0
WY SHERIDAN	27	6	51	-4	17	-15	0.21	0.03	0.13	0.45	196	1.28	78	85	57	0	7	4	0	0
PR SAN JUAN	85	72	88	71	78	1	0.59	0.11	0.36	0.60	98	8.81	156	86	58	0	0	4	0	0

Based on 1961-90 normals.

February Weather and Crop Summary

Weather

Winter wheat in the central and southern Plains continued to be stressed by high winds; lack of precipitation; and a severe cold snap (February 3-4), followed by monthly record warmth (February 21-22). Cold weather again at month's end threatened sensitive-stage tree blooms from California to Texas. Peninsular Florida experienced its worst of the season-to-date's three cold mornings on February 5, damaging some ground crops, followed by a less severe freeze on February 17. The early-month chill also spilled into the Northwest, threatening fruit trees with bud injury, but leaving snow-covered wheat unscathed. Days later, heavy rain, high freezing levels, and subsequent flooding--the worst in Oregon's Willamette Valley since late-December 1964--struck the Northwest, peaking on February 8-10. Farther south, less intense and better spaced precipitation events boosted the Sierra Nevada snowpack to normal levels by month's end, up from about 85 percent of normal on February 1. Meanwhile in the Northeast, early- and mid-month storms pushed seasonal snowfall to all-time records at nearly a dozen locations.

Despite the early-February cold blast, monthly temperatures averaged up to 5°F above normal across the Plains. Only the Northwest, where departures were as low as -5°F, held onto sub-normal February temperatures. In contrast, neither cold air nor storm systems infiltrated the Southwest until month's end, leaving monthly temperatures 4 to 8°F above normal.

A late-month flurry of precipitation pushed monthly totals above normal in some areas of the Southwest and across parts of the Nation's northern tier. But a vast area from the Plains to the Mississippi Valley received little moisture during the month. In contrast, February-record rainfall was measured in western Oregon, while above-normal totals were observed elsewhere in the Northwest. Despite continued above-normal snowfall in the East--including an early-month storm across the Southeastern and Gulf Coast States--near- to below-normal precipitation covered the region. Along the immediate southern Atlantic Coast, rain fell infrequently.

Only a trace of precipitation fell at many Plains locations, including North Platte, NE, Concordia, KS, and Wichita Falls, TX. In San Antonio, TX, the year's first rain (0.69 inches) fell on February 29, ending their second-longest dry spell (60 days) on record. In contrast, February-record totals were noted in Oregon at Portland (10.03 inches), Salem (13.01 inches), and Eugene (16.89 inches).

In the Northeast, monthly snowfall of 20.6 inches in Windsor Locks, CT and 14.2 inches in Charleston, WV helped to sweep away former seasonal records. Toward month's end, heavy snow in the Western and Northern States helped to boost February totals above 20 inches in locations such as Salt Lake City, UT (22.6 inches); Butte, MT (22.0 inches); and Duluth, MN (21.3 inches). Little or no snow, however, fell across the Plains or Midwest, with monthly totals less than 1 inch in many locations, including Dubuque, IA, Milwaukee, WI, Omaha, NE, and Chicago, IL.

The year's first triple-digit heat appeared in southern Texas on February 20. A day later, San Antonio marked a high of 100°F

nearly 2 weeks earlier than ever recorded at that site. On February 22, monthly records were established as far north as Oklahoma City, OK (92°F) and Wichita, KS (87°F). The heat stood in stark contrast to the early-month cold wave that tied or set all-time records in Minnesota (-60°F) on February 2; Iowa (-47°F) and Illinois (-35°F) on February 3; and possibly Rhode Island (-25°F) on February 5.

Stormy, wet weather across Alaska abruptly ended a winter-long "snow drought." Anchorage's 52.1-inch total, 474 percent of normal, broke their February snowfall record. Juneau collected 8.43 inches of liquid equivalent, just 0.05 inches shy of their February record. Among the series of storms to rake the State were a powerful snow-and-wind storm over the interior on February 17-18 and a record-setting wind storm across the south on February 22. The former system dropped more than 14 inches of wind-driven snow on Fairbanks, while the latter produced an all-time, record-tying gust to 83 mph in Kodiak.

Fieldwork

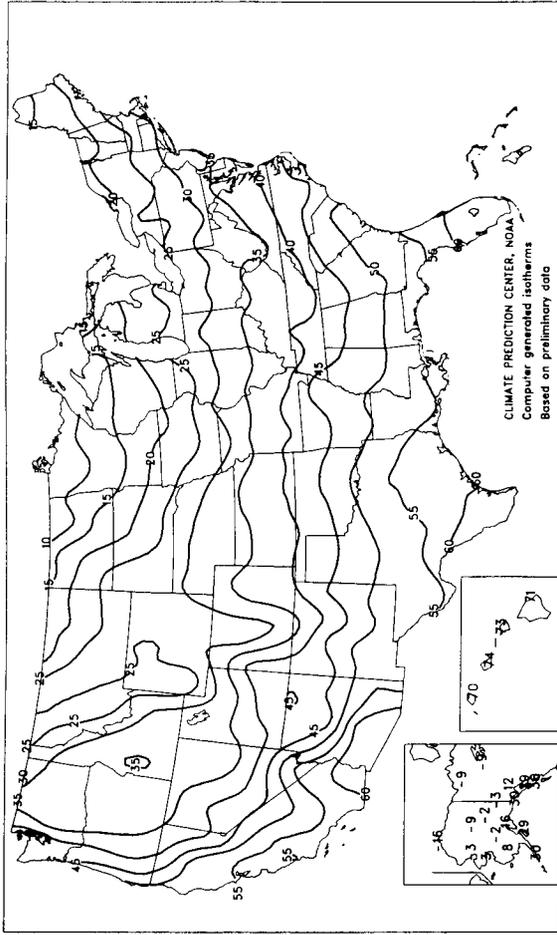
February started with record-low temperatures that threatened small grains across the central Great Plains. Throughout most of the month, dry soil conditions combined with windy weather stressed winter wheat in the central and southern Great Plains. In the central Great Plains, inadequate snow cover allowed cold weather and blowing soil to damage the unprotected wheat. Many wheat producers in the central Plains resorted to using chisels to rough-up fields or till strips across fields to reduce further wind erosion. Cold winds on February 4 and near-freezing temperatures the following day forced Florida vegetable growers to harvest some produce early to minimize damage. Protective measures did not effectively protect strawberries from injury, but warmer weather on following days helped some plants to recover. Rain in California saturated fields, limited fieldwork, and slowed wheat growth.

By mid-February, unseasonably warm weather melted the snowpack in the Pacific Northwest and caused flooding that damaged farm buildings and machinery. Losses to hay and livestock were widespread. Persistently dry conditions in the southern Great Plains brought land preparation for planting to a halt. The warm weather allowed wheat to break dormancy, but the dry soil conditions did not promote good development. Below-freezing temperatures in Florida's citrus belt damaged some leaves, but the overall damage was not considered significant.

The above-normal temperatures at the end of February raised Southeastern wheat producers' hopes that the condition of late-planted small grains would improve. Range fires in Texas destroyed thousands of acres of grazing land, while temperatures climbed to record-high levels in south Texas. Some areas in central Texas had 5 months with little or no significant precipitation prior to the summer crop planting season. The heat wave in the southern Great Plains aggravated the prolonged dry conditions. Soil temperatures warmed across the south-central Great Plains, greening wheat where soil moisture was available. The warm weather at the end of February allowed cotton producers to begin planting in California and the Southeast. Heavy rain in the Southeastern States at month's end stopped most fieldwork.

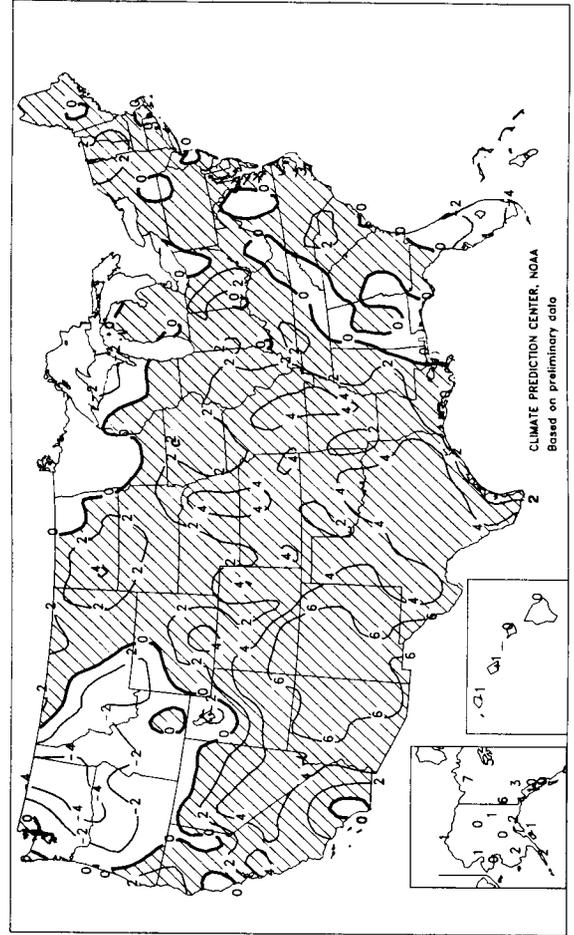
Average Temperature (°F)

FEB 1996



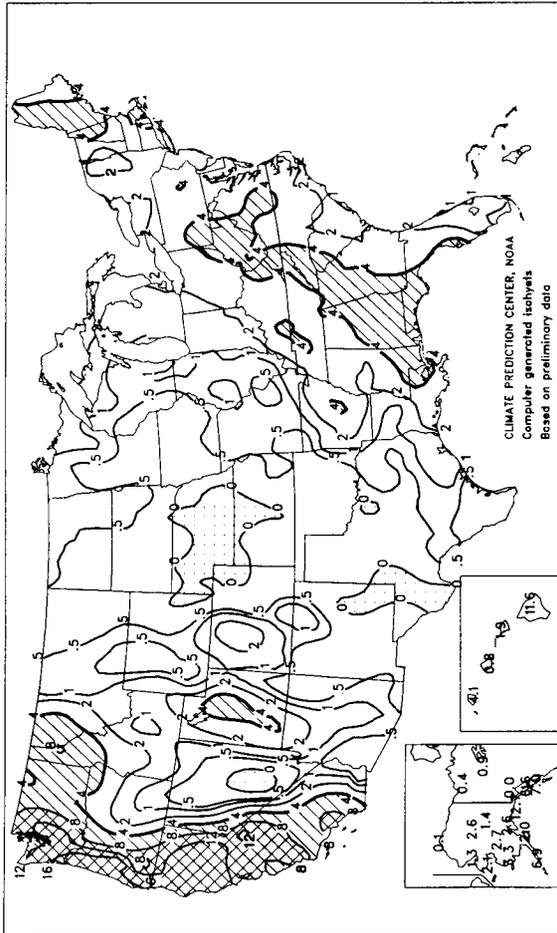
Departure of Average Temperature from Normal (°F)

FEB 1996



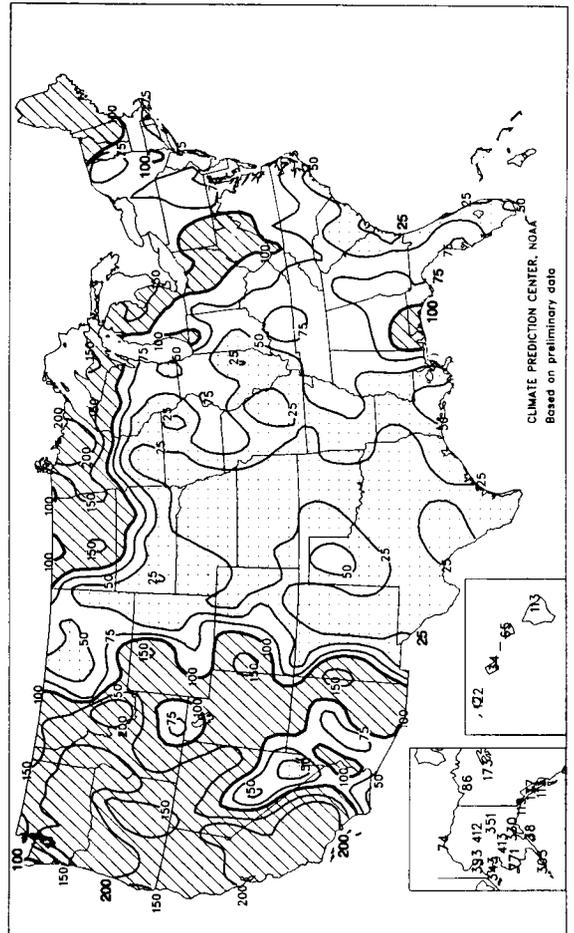
Total Precipitation (inches)

FEB 1996



Percent Of Normal Precipitation

FEB 1996



International Weather and Crop Summary

March 3 - 9, 1996

HIGHLIGHTS

FSU-WESTERN: Widespread snow continued to maintain a moderate to deep snow cover over winter grain areas in Ukraine and Russia.

EUROPE: Unseasonably cold, dry weather covered most winter grain areas.

NORTHWESTERN AFRICA: Light to moderate rain over Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia continued to benefit winter grains in or nearing the heading stage.

EASTERN ASIA: Warmer weather spurred winter grain greening across the southern North China Plain. Light rain favored vegetative winter grains and oilseeds across the Yangtze Valley and Sichuan.

SOUTH AFRICA: Unfavorably heavy rain persisted in the eastern corn belt and returned to coastal sugarcane areas.

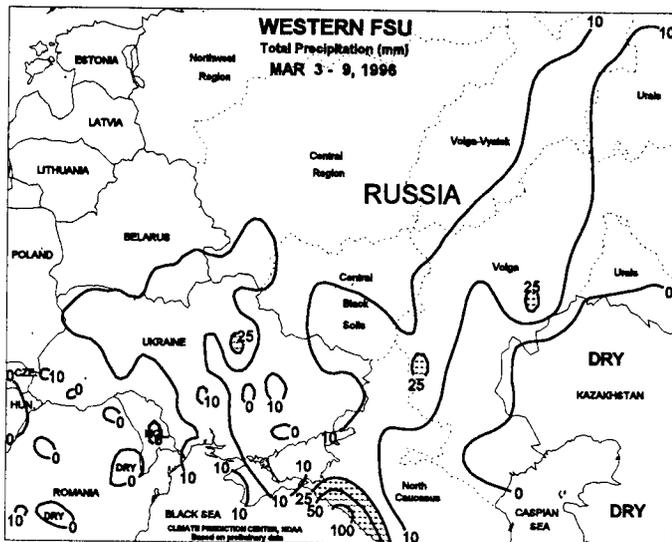
SOUTHEAST ASIA: Across Java, seasonable showers maintained irrigation supplies for main-season rice, while unseasonably dry weather prevailed across the oil palm areas of the Malay Peninsula.

SOUTH AMERICA: Dry weather prevailed across central Argentina, forcing summer crops to depend on soil moisture from previous rainfall. In southern Brazil, widespread showers slowed early soybean harvesting across the northern growing areas.

AUSTRALIA: Dry weather dominated the main summer crop zones, but inundating rain hit Queensland's northernmost sugarcane areas.

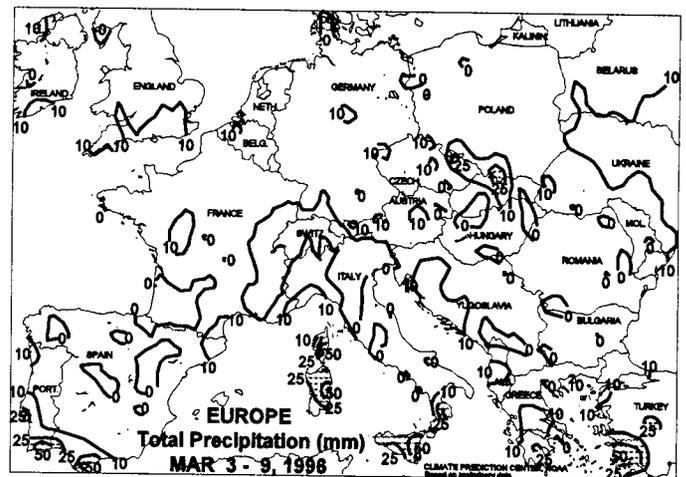
FSU-WESTERN

Light to moderate snow fell over Ukraine, Russia, and Belarus, increasing snow cover. Greatest amounts of moisture (10-25 mm, with local amounts in excess of 25 mm) fell over Ukraine and eastern areas in Russia (North Caucasus, southern Black Soils Region, and the Volga Valley). Typically, snow cover begins retreating northward over Ukraine and southern areas in Russia during March. Weekly temperatures averaged 1 to 3 degrees C below normal in Russia and 3 to 5 degrees C below normal in Ukraine, Belarus, and the Baltics. Lowest temperatures during the week ranged from -17 to -22 degrees C in northern Russia, Belarus, and the Baltics, -9 to -17 degrees C in Ukraine, and -4 to -10 degrees C in the North Caucasus region in Russia.

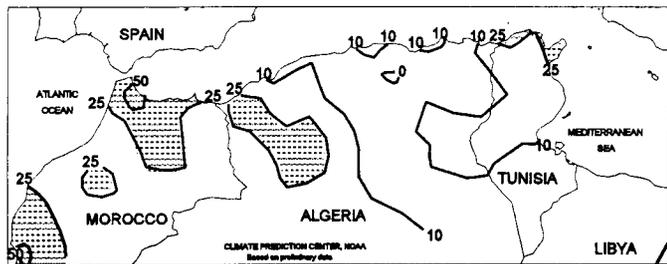


EUROPE

Unseasonably cold, dry weather covered winter grain areas across the region. The cold weather in England and northern France slowed greening of winter grains. Although bitterly cold weather (extreme minimum temperatures ranging from -10 to -20 degrees C) threatened winter crops in eastern Europe, snow cover provided adequate protection from widespread winterkill. Precipitation amounts for the week were less than 10 mm over most areas. Significant rainfall (10-25 mm) was confined to extreme southern Spain and Italy, and parts of Greece. Weekly temperatures averaged 1 to 4 degrees C below normal in western and northern Europe and 4 to 8 degrees C below normal in eastern Europe.



NORTHWEST AFRICA Total Precipitation (mm)
MAR 3 - 9, 1996

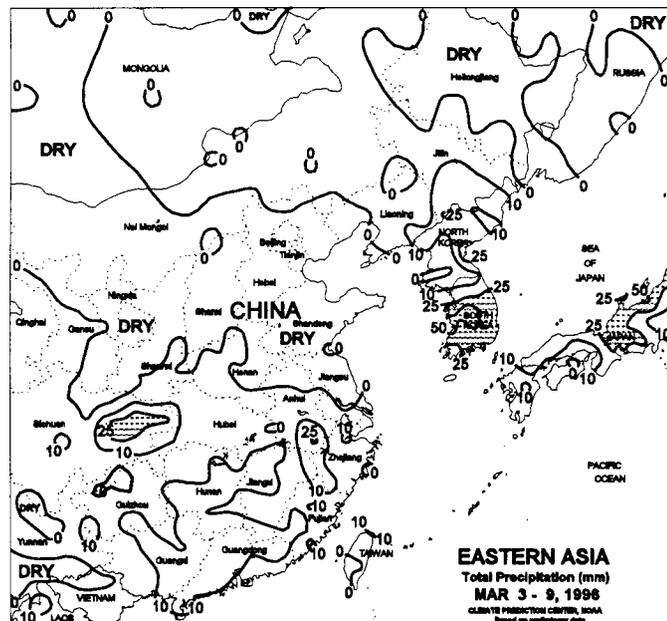


NORTHWESTERN AFRICA

Light to moderate rain continued over Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia, benefiting winter grains in or nearing the heading stage. Precipitation amounts ranged from 10 to 50 mm in Morocco and western Algeria, and 5 to 25 mm in central and eastern Algeria and Tunisia. Winter grains over the region typically advance through the highly moisture-sensitive reproductive phase in late March and early April. Timely rain will then be needed to maintain the current favorable outlook for crops in Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia.

EASTERN ASIA

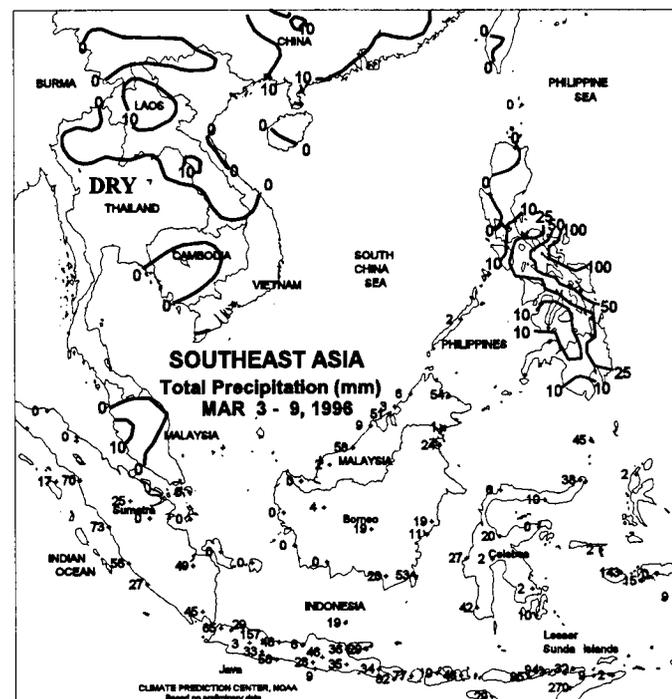
Warmer weather (average temperatures 2-4 degrees C above normal) spurred winter wheat to break dormancy across the southern North China Plain. Another week of similar temperatures will prompt winter wheat to break dormancy across the rest of the North China Plain. Light rain (5-15 mm) covered southern China, aiding vegetative winter grains and oilseeds. Heavier rain (10-40 mm) favored winter crops in the Sichuan Basin.



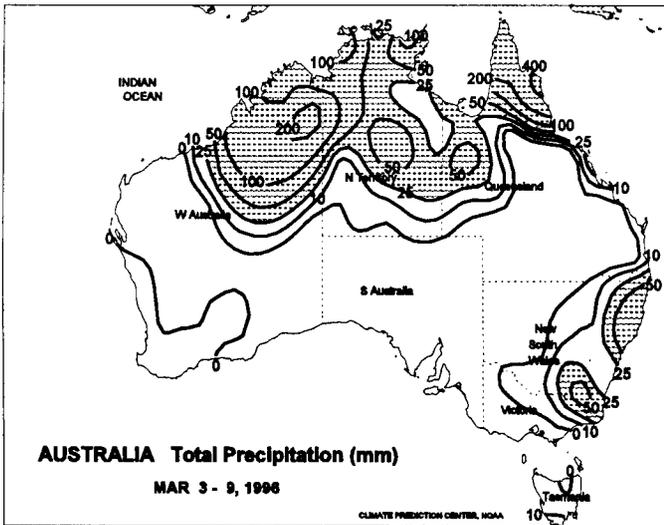
EASTERN ASIA
Total Precipitation (mm)
MAR 3 - 9, 1996
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA
Based on preliminary data.

SOUTHEAST ASIA

In Java, seasonable showers (20-50 mm, with isolated amounts greater than 100 mm) maintained moisture supplies for main-season rice. Heavy showers (50-150 mm) fell across the east-central Philippines, causing some flooding in the copra areas, but missing the major sugarcane, rice, and corn areas. Elsewhere in the Philippines, seasonably light showers (5-25 mm) prevailed. For the second consecutive week, unseasonably dry weather prevailed across the oil palm areas of peninsular Malaysia. During March, this region should typically receive 30 to 40 mm a week.

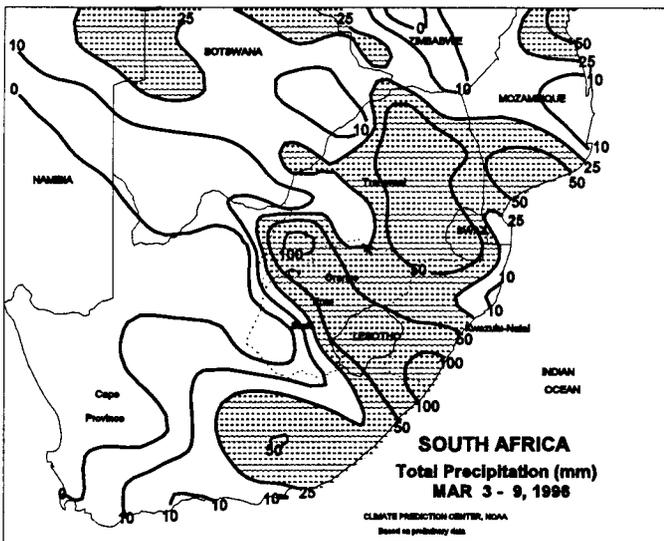


SOUTHEAST ASIA
Total Precipitation (mm)
MAR 3 - 9, 1996
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA
Based on preliminary data.



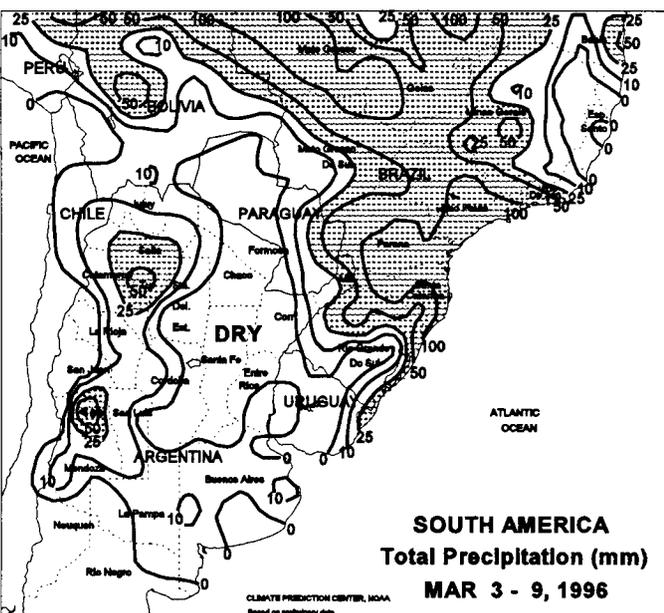
AUSTRALIA

Dry weather returned to eastern Australia's main summer crop areas. In southern Queensland, near- to below-normal temperatures accompanied the dryness, with highs generally in the lower 30's C favoring crop development. Inundating rain (200-300 mm or more) over the Cape York Peninsula extended southward into the sugarcane belt, causing flooding and possibly damaging northernmost crops. More seasonable amounts of rain (10-25 mm or more) continued in southeastern Australia, benefiting pastures and boosting moisture reserves for the next winter grain crop. In New Zealand, dry weather dominated the main pasture areas.



SOUTH AFRICA

Unseasonably heavy rain (50 mm or greater) persisted over sections of the eastern corn belt, keeping filling crops unfavorably wet. Rainfall was generally lighter (5-25 mm or more) over the remainder of the corn belt, although isolated heavy rain (103 mm) was reported in the northwest. Temperatures averaged 1 to 3 degrees C below normal, with lows of 5 to 10 degrees C common in interior crop areas. In southern Kwaluzu-Natal, heavy rain (50-122 mm) ended 2 weeks of favorably drier weather, likely renewing flooding problems in the areas around Durban.



SOUTH AMERICA

Dry weather prevailed in central Argentina, forcing summer crops to depend on soil moisture from last week's rainfall. Maximum temperatures ranged from 30 to 33 degrees C, averaging 1 to 2 degrees C above normal. Continued rainfall is still needed across the region, as second-crop soybeans flower and first-crop soybeans fill during the next several weeks. Beneficially drier weather favored cotton harvesting across northern Argentina. In southern Brazil, widespread showers (40-75 mm) benefited late-planted soybeans in Rio Grande do Sul and filling soybeans elsewhere across the south. In Mato Grosso and Goias, seasonably heavy showers (75-150 mm) slowed early soybean harvesting. Rain (10-50 mm) benefited cocoa in Bahia, which had been tending dry. In southern Paraguay, moderate showers (30-60 mm) slowed cotton harvesting in the east, while drier weather (less than 10 mm) aided fieldwork in the west.

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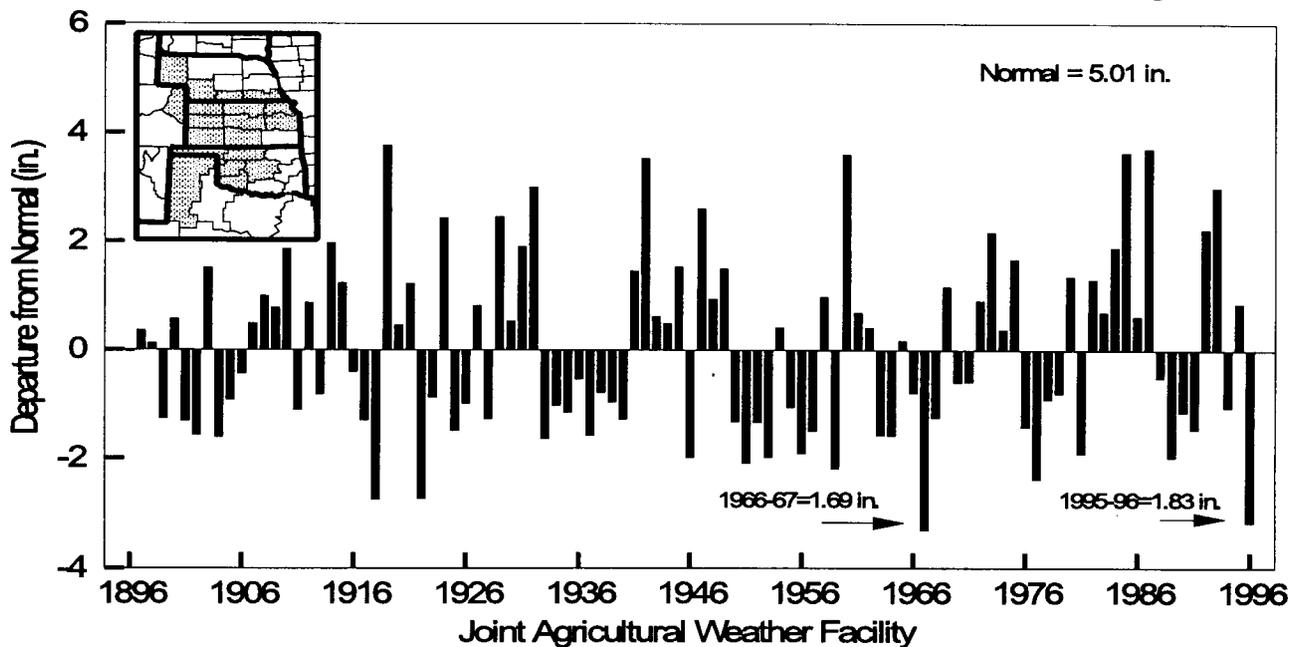
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Hard Red Winter Wheat Precipitation Departure from Normal, October-February



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