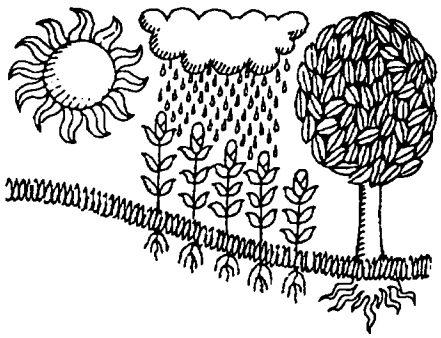

WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP BULLETIN

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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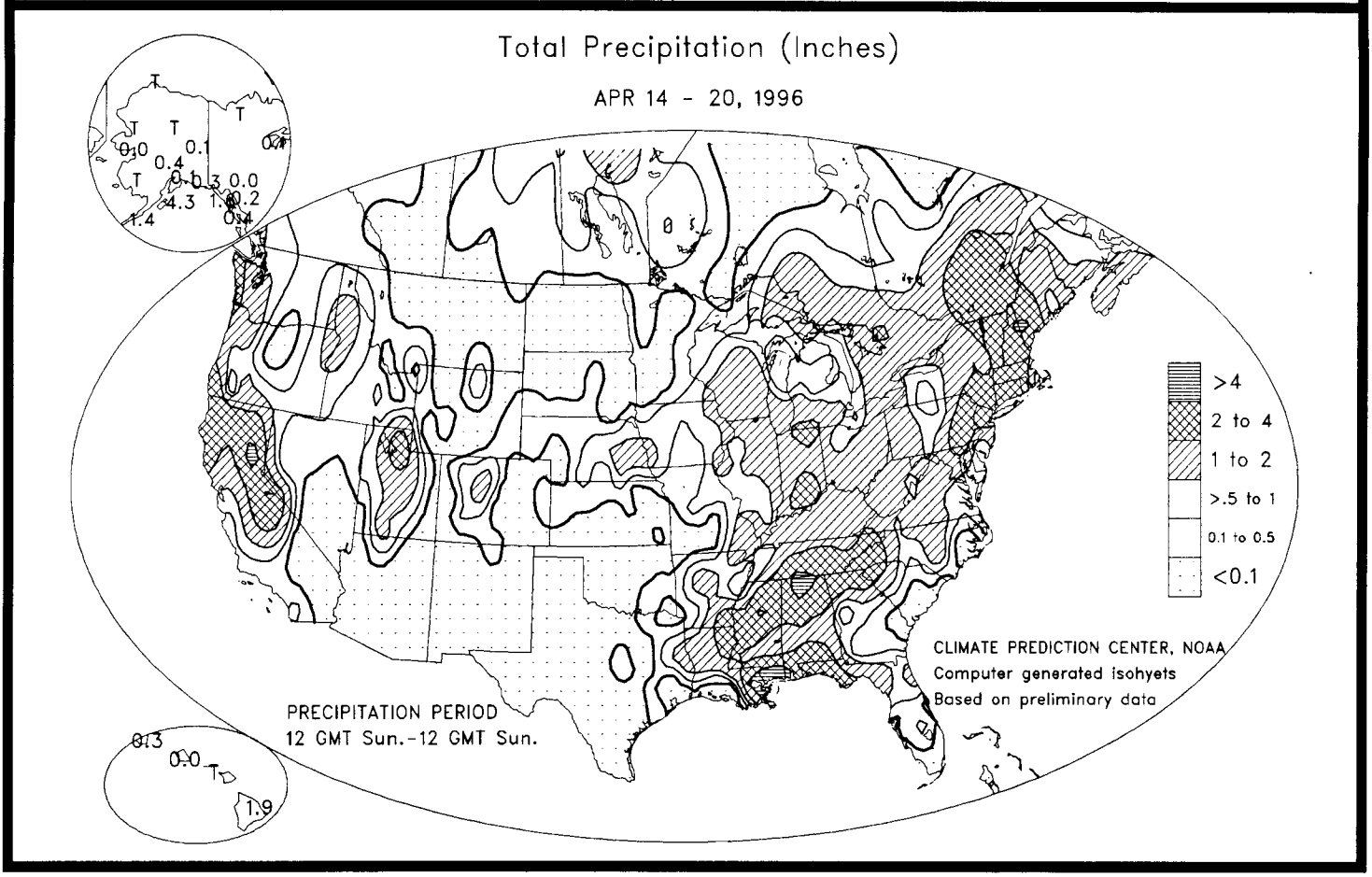


HIGHLIGHTS

April 14 - 20, 1996

Energetic early- and late-week storms delivered beneficial moisture to the **Corn Belt**, but spawned nearly 100 tornadoes from the **Midwest** southward. The first storm also dumped 2 to 6 inches of rain on **New England**, causing flooding. Between storms, temperatures dipped to freezing as far south as **Texas' northern panhandle** on April 15, threatening drought-stressed wheat with additional injury. Later in the week, however, warmth dominated the **East**, reversing a 6-week trend and raising soil temperatures. On Friday, highs in **south-central Texas** topped 100°F. In contrast, cool, wet weather prevailed along the **West Coast**. Meanwhile, a snowmelt-induced crest--more than 10 feet above flood stage--pushed northward along the **Red River (ND/MN border)** from near **Fargo** to north of **Grand Forks**. On April 21, the river crested 17.82 feet above flood stage at **East Grand Forks, MN**.

(Continued on page 2)

Contents

	Page
Highlights & Total Precipitation Map	1
Temperature Departure & Extreme Maximum Temperature Maps	2
Growing Degree Day Maps	3
National Weather Data for Selected Cities	4
National Agricultural Summary	7
Crop Progress and Condition Tables	8
Soil Temperature Map	9
State Agricultural Summaries	10
International Weather and Crop Summary & **March Temperature/Precipitation Maps**	15
Subscription and Mailing Permit Information & **Seasonal Snowfall Records, 1995-96**	28

(Continued from front cover)

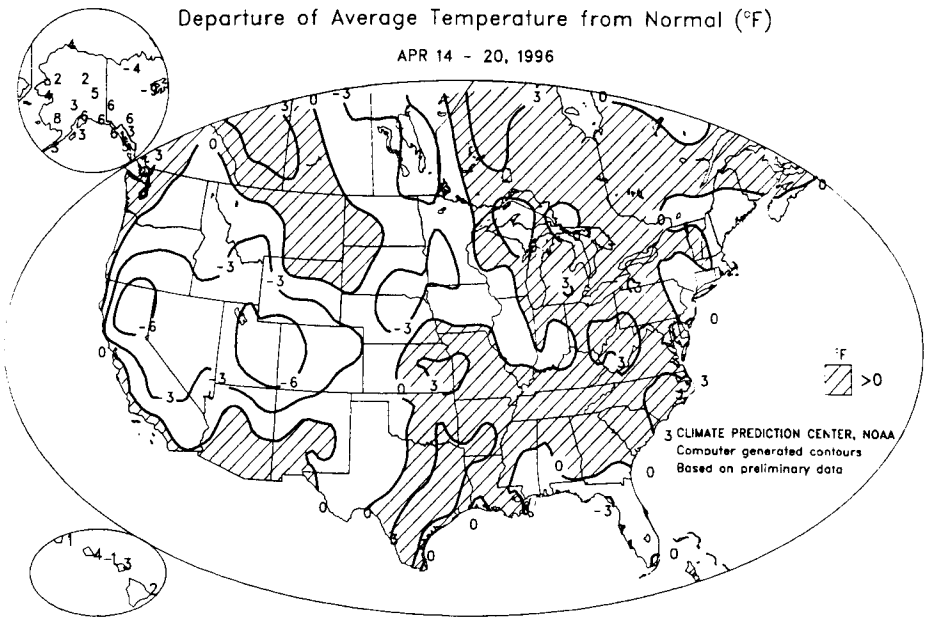
Early in the week, a late-season snowstorm blanketed a stripe across the **North-Central States**. In **Nebraska**, Sunday's snowfall of 7.0 inches in **Grand Island** represented more than 20 percent of their season-to-date total. Storm-total snowfall reached 5.5 inches in **Green Bay, WI** and 5.9 inches in **Marquette, MI**, raising their respective seasonal totals to 76.3 inches (sixth highest total on record) and 231.6 inches (third highest). Farther south, northerly winds raised dust across the **central and southern Plains**, where gusts reached 49 mph in **Lubbock, TX** and 45 mph in **Dodge City, KS**. In the storm's wake, lows on Monday dipped to 32°F in **Amarillo, TX** and a daily-record-tying 20°F in **Pueblo, CO**.

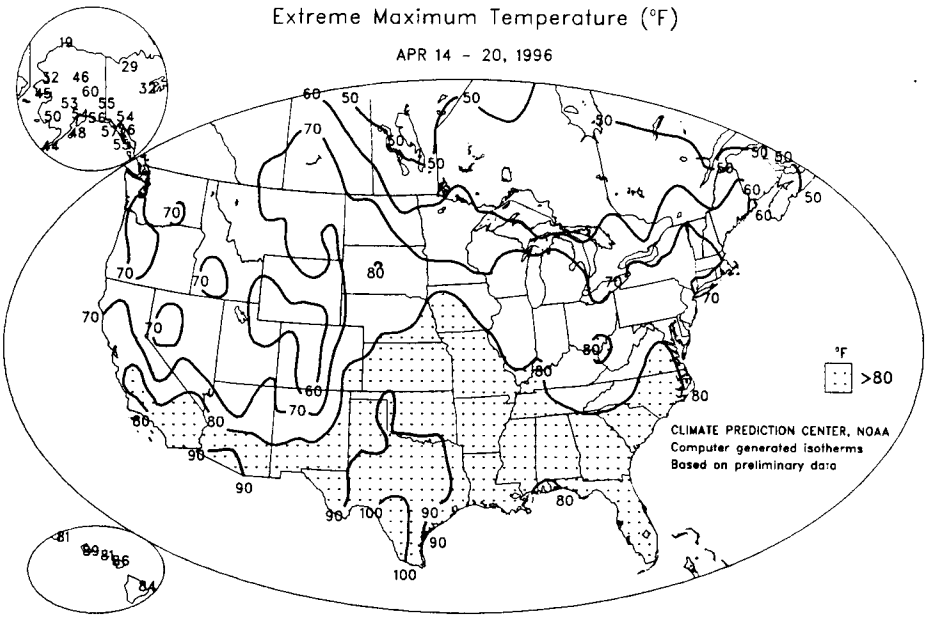
Wet weather persisted in the **Northeast** through midweek, fueling rapid river rises. On Tuesday, rainfall reached 6.10 inches in **East Haven, CT** and 3.35 inches in **Portland, ME**. Precipitation ended as snow in interior sections, further boosting seasonal-record totals. **Binghamton, NY** recorded a 1.4-inch snowfall on April 17, lifting their seasonal total to 133.4 inches. Main-stem rivers in **New England** crested by Thursday, including the **Connecticut**, which rose to 5.4 feet above flood stage at **Middletown, CT**. Farther south, early-week downpours caused localized flooding, as totals reached 6.65 inches in **Ponchatoula, LA** and 7.73 inches near **Pascagoula, MS**.

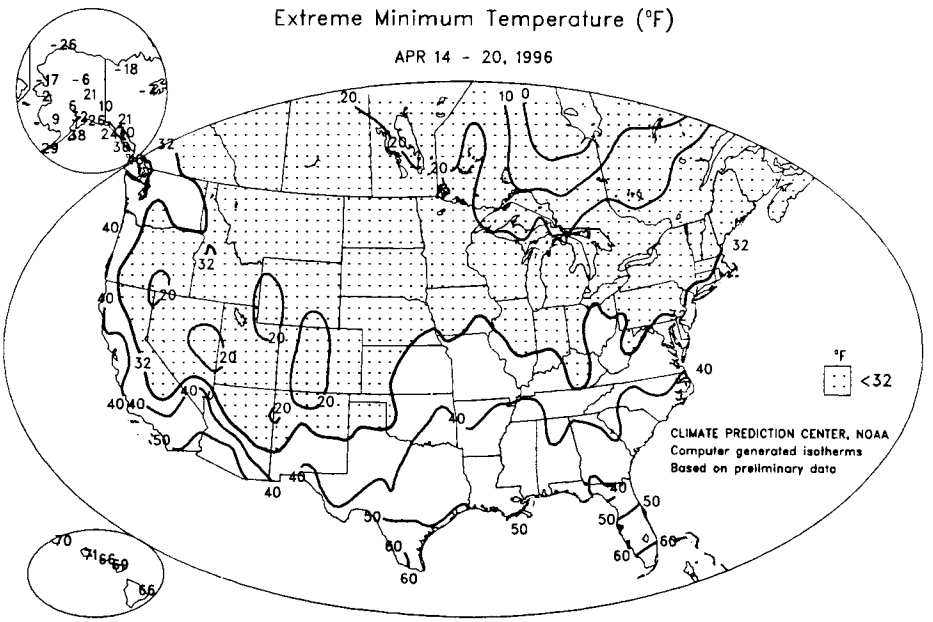
Weekly rainfall in **northern California** totaled 0.87 inches in **Sacramento** and 4.43 inches in the **Sierra Nevada foothills** at **Blue Canyon**. Weekly temperatures averaged 9°F below normal in **Redding, CA**, including a daily-record low of 33°F on Thursday. Meanwhile, April 16-20 snowfall reached 42 inches in **Utah's Wasatch Range** at **Alta**. Farther north, late-week snowfall totaled 6.7 inches in **Butte, MT**, 6.0 inches in **Casper, WY**, and 1.0 inch in **Spokane, WA**. In contrast, daily-record heat reached the **southern Plains** on Thursday, peaking a day later. On April 19 in **Texas, Laredo** recorded 105°F, while **San Antonio** logged 101°F, breaking by 1°F a monthly record most recently attained on April 20, 1984. Winds again rose across the region on Friday, reaching 45 mph in **Lubbock** and 43 mph in **Amarillo**.

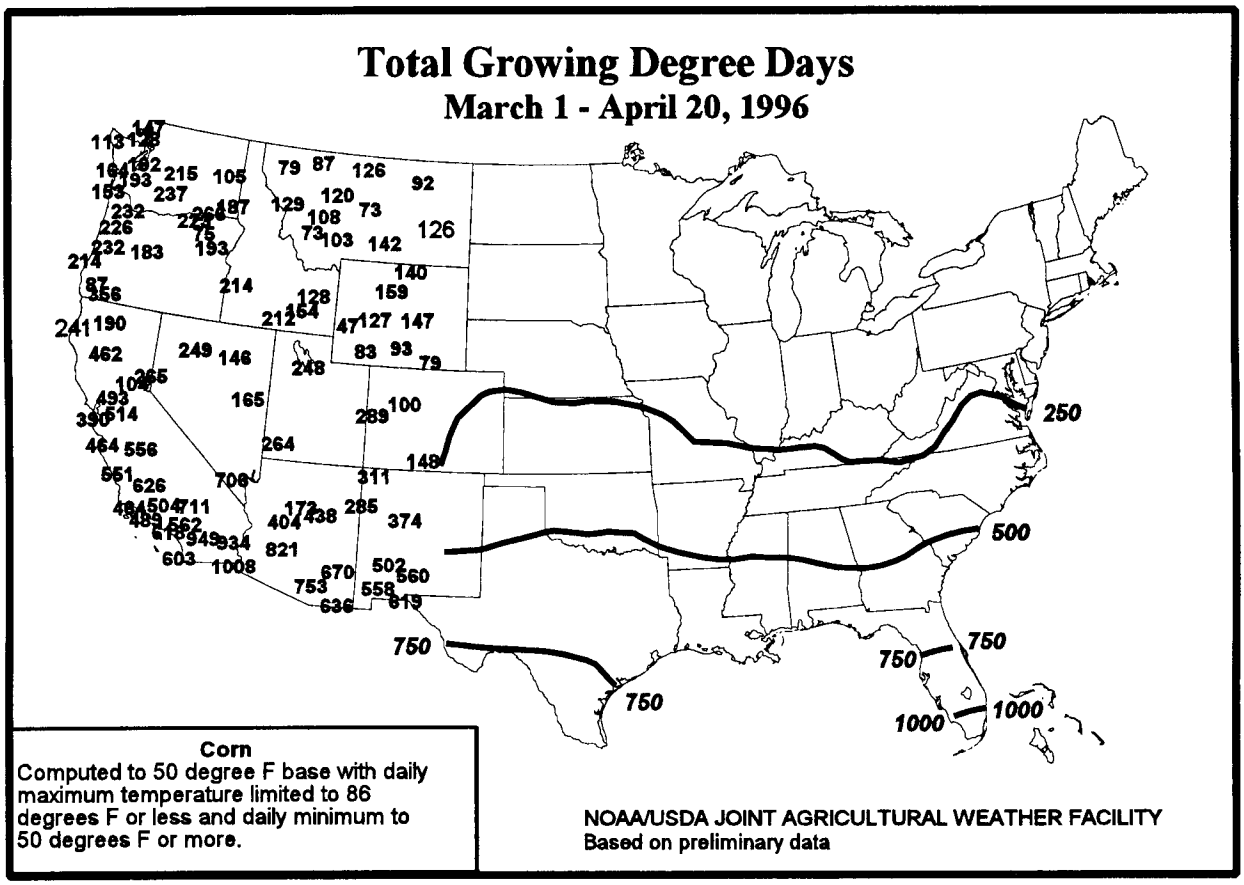
The early-week storm dropped about a dozen tornadoes on the **Southeast**, including one in **Arkansas** on April 14 that left seven people dead. The latter system produced an explosion of severe weather across the **Midwest** and **Southeast** on April 19-20, including single-fatality tornadoes in **Illinois** and **Mississippi**. More than five dozen tornadoes battered the **Corn Belt** on Friday; another dozen twisters were spotted from **Texas** to **North Carolina** on Saturday. Despite severe weather, the **Corn Belt** benefited from weekly rainfall that topped an inch in many areas, including **Omaha, NE** (1.49 inches) and **Peoria, IL** (1.67 inches).

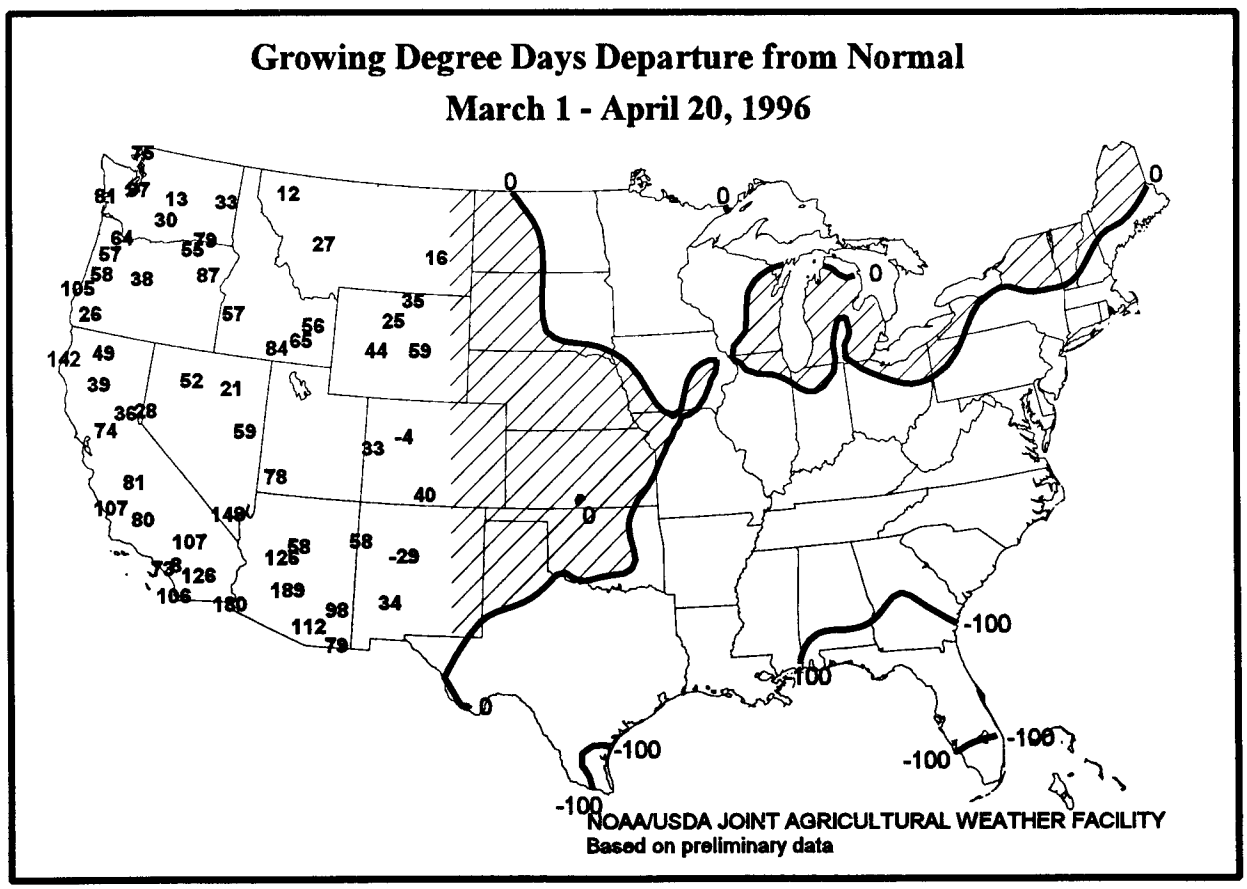
Warm weather prevailed across **Hawaii** and much of **Alaska**. In **Hawaii, Honolulu** notched four more daily records, raising their month-to-date total to 13, including highs of 89°F on April 18-19. In **Alaska**, daily-record warmth spread as far north as **Fairbanks** (60°F) on Wednesday. But colder air invaded from the northwest after midweek, producing a low of -17°F in **Kotzebue** on April 19.








Total Growing Degree Days
March 1 - April 20, 1996
250
500
750
750
750
750
1000
1000
Corn
Computed to 50 degree F base with daily maximum temperature limited to 86 degrees F or less and daily minimum to 50 degrees F or more.
NOAA/USDA JOINT AGRICULTURAL WEATHER FACILITY
Based on preliminary data


Growing Degree Days Departure from Normal
March 1 - April 20, 1996
0
0
0
0
-100
-100
-100
-100
-100
NOAA/USDA JOINT AGRICULTURAL WEATHER FACILITY
Based on preliminary data

National Weather Data for Selected Cities

Weather Data for the Week Ending April 20, 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 Mar 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Mar 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	.05 INCH OR MORE
AL	BIRMINGHAM	75	50	84	39	63	0	1.71	0.59	0.86	12.55	131	25.23	129	94	47	0	0	4	1
	MOBILE	74	57	80	45	65	-3	1.51	0.52	1.44	11.63	125	22.27	113	94	58	0	0	4	1
	MONTGOMERY	76	53	83	40	65	0	0.98	0.02	0.69	11.16	121	22.38	114	87	48	0	0	2	1
AK	ANCHORAGE	50	35	54	32	43	6	0.05	-0.12	0.05	0.51	44	3.02	109	89	48	0	2	1	0
	BARROW	10	-5	19	-26	3	4	0.02	-0.04	0.02	0.17	57	0.26	52	89	76	0	7	1	0
	FAIRBANKS	50	25	60	21	38	5	0.05	-0.03	0.04	0.58	97	2.31	152	79	38	0	7	2	0
	JUNEAU	51	35	56	30	43	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	98	56	0	3	-	-
	KODIAK	44	39	48	38	41	3	4.25	3.27	1.76	8.65	118	13.58	67	95	77	0	0	7	4
	NOME	30	15	45	2	23	4	0.00	-0.17	0.00	0.48	48	3.39	140	69	53	0	7	0	0
AZ	PHOENIX	84	60	90	53	72	1	0.00	-0.04	0.00	0.55	52	1.81	74	27	8	1	0	0	0
	PRESCOTT	67	39	74	31	53	3	0.00	-0.17	0.00	0.48	20	1.53	28	45	16	0	2	0	0
	TUCSON	82	50	88	43	66	0	0.00	-0.06	0.00	0.32	35	1.13	45	26	7	0	0	0	0
	YUMA	86	61	89	55	73	1	0.00	-0.03	0.00	0.43	130	0.61	67	41	9	0	0	0	0
AR	FORT SMITH	79	48	89	39	63	1	0.04	-0.89	0.04	5.46	83	9.87	88	82	26	0	0	1	0
	LITTLE ROCK	--	--	--	--	--	--	1.16	0.13	0.66	6.88	81	11.00	73	--	--	-	-	-	-
CA	BAKERSFIELD	75	45	87	38	60	-4	0.00	-0.12	0.00	0.60	41	4.15	122	77	25	0	0	0	0
	EUREKA	60	46	67	42	53	3	1.98	1.36	0.63	6.76	91	25.60	140	84	37	0	0	6	2
	FRESNO	71	49	84	42	60	-2	0.96	0.76	0.66	2.69	104	7.66	120	89	24	0	0	2	1
	LOS ANGELES	72	54	79	50	63	3	0.34	0.20	0.18	2.54	101	8.65	115	86	23	0	0	3	0
	REDDING	80	40	73	33	60	-9	0.93	0.50	0.48	3.33	57	22.03	133	95	52	0	0	4	0
	SACRAMENTO	66	44	76	40	55	-3	0.87	0.63	--	4.23	124	13.63	134	94	46	0	0	-	-
	SAN DIEGO	71	57	79	54	64	2	0.32	0.16	0.31	1.46	62	3.87	67	84	26	0	0	2	0
	SAN FRANCISCO	64	48	72	45	56	0	0.62	0.34	0.36	4.28	105	17.22	147	87	34	0	0	3	0
CO	DENVER	59	32	71	20	45	-4	0.03	-0.38	0.03	1.02	43	1.31	38	63	19	0	4	1	0
	GRAND JUNCTION	59	34	71	28	47	-8	0.05	-0.17	0.05	1.33	78	3.06	109	66	28	0	2	1	0
	PUEBLO	68	31	78	22	49	-3	0.00	-0.21	0.00	1.44	107	1.77	89	59	15	0	5	0	0
CT	BRIDGEPORT	55	41	66	34	48	-1	3.96	3.08	3.91	9.70	164	18.13	143	83	53	0	0	2	1
	HARTFORD	60	38	77	30	49	-1	1.63	0.72	1.49	5.56	90	15.44	119	83	41	0	1	2	1
DC	WASHINGTON	68	48	79	41	58	1	1.10	0.48	0.89	6.06	124	13.06	125	83	41	0	0	2	1
FL	PANAMA CITY	74	58	78	48	66	-1	2.19	1.34	2.19	9.38	115	15.57	83	98	66	0	0	1	1
	DAYTONA BEACH	80	56	86	49	68	-2	0.88	0.38	0.88	13.07	302	19.96	194	99	45	0	0	1	1
	JACKSONVILLE	80	54	87	43	67	-2	0.56	0.01	0.56	7.45	142	9.66	78	97	43	0	0	1	1
	KEY WEST	80	72	82	69	76	-2	0.00	-0.41	0.00	3.56	129	4.67	70	80	61	0	0	0	0
	MIAMI	82	69	87	66	76	0	0.00	-0.67	0.00	4.29	105	7.41	90	74	49	0	0	0	0
	ORLANDO	84	60	90	53	72	1	0.15	-0.24	0.15	9.83	226	16.75	171	90	42	1	0	1	0
	TALLAHASSEE	78	52	86	36	65	-2	0.95	0.14	0.95	9.74	112	16.24	84	93	46	0	0	1	1
	TAMPA	82	60	86	52	71	-1	0.00	-0.22	0.00	4.74	128	10.98	124	90	42	0	0	0	0
	WEST PALM BEACH	81	65	84	56	73	-1	0.00	-0.69	0.00	5.91	127	7.93	78	80	51	0	0	0	0
GA	ATLANTA	77	53	84	43	65	3	0.55	-0.41	0.47	7.49	87	19.52	106	75	35	0	0	2	0
	AUGUSTA	81	51	88	38	66	3	0.14	-0.60	0.10	5.38	78	10.61	69	93	36	0	0	2	0
	MACON	79	51	87	39	65	0	0.44	-0.34	0.22	7.09	100	12.85	78	97	43	0	0	3	0
	SAVANNAH	79	55	87	46	67	1	0.04	-0.65	0.04	4.73	82	8.10	64	89	42	0	0	1	0
HI	HILO	82	67	84	66	74	2	1.93	-1.65	0.51	20.38	83	46.48	103	94	64	0	0	7	1
	HONOLULU	87	73	89	71	80	4	0.00	-0.34	0.00	3.02	93	7.51	83	75	48	0	0	0	0
	KAHULUI	83	71	86	69	77	3	0.04	-0.37	0.02	6.90	171	12.41	111	81	61	0	0	2	0
	LIHUE	79	71	81	70	75	1	0.27	-0.53	0.24	4.62	71	13.95	88	80	64	0	0	2	0
ID	BOISE	58	37	70	32	48	-2	0.60	0.32	0.25	2.87	133	4.80	102	89	29	0	2	4	0
	LEWISTON	59	40	66	35	49	-2	1.07	0.80	0.76	3.26	180	6.54	162	89	45	0	0	3	1
	POCATELLO	53	31	64	22	42	-4	0.51	0.23	0.44	2.27	110	4.09	101	77	30	0	5	4	0
IL	CHICAGO	59	39	76	27	49	0	1.79	0.94	0.71	2.77	54	4.96	61	97	52	0	2	5	1
	MOLINE	61	38	76	30	49	-2	0.92	-0.01	0.62	2.37	42	5.79	69	94	43	0	2	3	1
	PEORIA	63	38	77	32	50	-2	1.67	0.78	0.91	3.71	68	5.96	70	94	46	0	1	4	1
	QUINCY	66	42	81	33	54	0	0.05	-0.83	0.05	1.96	35	4.72	55	83	35	0	0	1	0
	ROCKFORD	59	39	75	30	49	0	1.21	0.33	0.90	1.72	35	3.63	49	98	52	0	2	3	1
	SPRINGFIELD	64	40	77	30	52	-2	1.74	0.89	0.86	3.72	65	6.24	69	91	45	0	1	3	2
IN	EVANSVILLE	69	44	81	36	57	-2	1.08	0.12	0.57	7.14	92	12.10	84	88	46	0	0	3	1
	FORT WAYNE	63	39	76	27	51	1	0.85	-0.15	0.35	3.06	59	6.83	76	87	44	0	1	4	0
	INDIANAPOLIS	65	41	79	30	53	0	1.95	1.10	1.42	5.72	91	10.75	96	86	49	0	1	3	1
	SOUTH BEND	61	38	77	28	50	0	1.15	0.24	0.39	2.70	47	6.44	65	87	41	0	3	3	0
IA	DES MOINES	62	39	81	28	50	-1	0.62	-0.25	0.43	1.89	42	3.31	50	80	38	0	3	2	0
	SIOUX CITY	64	35	83	27	49	-2	0.56	0.01	0.45	1.69	49	2.75	58	86	34	0	3	2	0
	WATERLOO	58	36	77	29	47	-2	1.07	0.28	0.64	2.06	46	4.28	67	92	50	0	3	5	1
KS	CONCORDIA	69	42	85	33	56	2	0.11	-0.43	0.11	1.09	30	1.64	33	73	25	0	0	1	0
	DODGE CITY	70	40	88	32	55	0	0.02	-0.46	0.02	1.97	69	2.44	61	68	22	0	1	1	0
	GOODLAND	63	34	79	27	48	-2	0.73	0.43	0.73	1.20	64	1.46	55	82	28	0	4	1	1
	TOPEKA	72	43	83	31	58	2	0.16	-0.57	0.16	1.66	37	2.59	40	73	25	0	1	1	0
	WICHITA	73	45	83	35	59	0	0.05	-0.62	0.05	1.92	43	2.08	32	63	23	0	0	1	0
KY	BOWLING GREEN	72	47	76	35	59	1	1.05	0.06	0.98	9.57	120	18.54	115	91	52	0	0	2	1
	LEXINGTON	66	44	77	30	55	-1	1.59	0.70	1.14	7.09	102	13.49	102	88	45	0	1	3	1
	LOUISVILLE	68	46	78	34	57	0	1.29	0.33	0.87	7.39	99	13.53	98	83	47	0	0	3	1
LA	BATON ROUGE	78	60	85	45	69	-1	0.24	-1.03	0.18	10.76	128	19.46	102	96	61	0	0	3	0
	LAKE CHARLES	77	59	82	40	68	-1	0.04	-0.74	0.03	1.71	32	5.82	43	95	59	0	0	2	0
	NEW ORLEANS	77	62	83	48	69	0	2.58	1.53	2.28	5.99	76	12.27	64	88	52	0	0	4	1
	SHREVEPORT	80	55	87	38	67	1	0.67	-0.26	0.64	4.44	68	7.20	48	87	45	0	0	2	1

Based on 1961-90 normals

Weather Data for the Week Ending April 20, 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 Mar 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Mar 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	.06 INCH OR MORE
ME	CARIBOU	47	33	61	29	40	1	0.61	0.04	0.28	3.67	91	10.38	123	90	54	0	3	4	0
	PORTLAND	49	35	54	32	42	-2	3.80	2.84	3.36	7.87	122	15.81	118	93	62	0	1	3	1
MD	BALTIMORE	67	43	81	31	55	1	1.68	0.96	1.37	6.51	120	15.68	134	93	47	0	1	2	1
	SALISBURY	69	44	78	32	56	2	0.64	-0.08	0.64	6.88	109	15.11	112	87	40	0	1	1	1
MA	BOSTON	55	39	71	35	47	-2	1.60	0.77	1.56	5.58	92	16.20	121	87	54	0	0	2	1
	CHATHAM	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	-	-	-	-
MI	ALPENA	55	32	73	23	43	2	0.54	0.02	0.30	2.00	56	4.93	75	94	45	0	3	3	0
	DETROIT	62	40	77	30	51	3	1.35	0.66	0.66	3.72	82	7.34	91	82	37	0	2	4	2
	FLINT	60	37	74	28	48	1	0.49	-0.20	0.18	3.50	84	6.80	99	85	44	0	3	3	0
	GRAND RAPIDS	58	37	75	27	48	0	1.13	0.33	0.55	2.62	53	4.59	56	88	45	0	3	3	1
	HOUGHTON LAKE	55	33	73	25	44	1	0.79	0.27	0.39	3.08	88	6.31	101	89	44	0	4	5	0
	LANSING	62	39	75	26	50	4	1.23	0.54	0.44	3.51	84	5.09	74	86	42	0	2	3	0
	MARQUETTE	48	26	61	9	37	-2	1.20	0.59	0.73	5.90	130	14.05	165	92	50	0	4	6	1
	MUSKEGON	56	35	75	24	46	0	1.15	0.46	0.77	2.74	61	5.77	69	90	46	0	3	4	1
	SAULT ST. MARIE	44	29	48	15	36	-3	1.25	0.70	0.53	3.66	94	9.93	122	96	60	0	5	4	1
MN	ALEXANDRIA	50	32	64	27	41	-3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	90	56	0	3	-	-
	DULUTH	47	32	54	23	39	-1	0.32	-0.21	0.28	1.35	40	3.81	70	82	45	0	4	2	0
	INT'L FALLS	47	30	63	25	39	-2	0.19	-0.19	0.11	0.76	37	4.00	111	85	52	0	5	3	0
	MINNEAPOLIS	56	35	70	30	45	-2	0.46	-0.11	0.22	1.87	53	3.98	74	83	44	0	3	3	0
	ROCHESTER	54	34	70	29	44	-2	0.94	0.29	0.39	3.65	102	5.86	114	91	50	0	5	4	0
MS	GREENWOOD	78	56	87	43	66	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	94	54	0	0	-	-
	JACKSON	77	52	86	39	65	0	2.53	1.26	2.49	12.41	129	23.27	116	94	46	0	0	2	1
	MERIDIAN	76	53	86	39	65	0	1.74	0.50	1.54	11.13	106	20.44	97	98	55	0	0	4	1
MO	CAPE GIRARDEAU	73	50	83	39	62	3	0.95	-0.07	0.95	5.66	71	10.20	71	86	47	0	0	1	1
	COLUMBIA	71	44	87	35	58	3	0.47	-0.40	0.47	3.08	56	5.90	67	75	32	0	0	1	0
	KANSAS CITY	70	43	84	33	56	1	0.16	-0.58	0.16	1.43	32	2.77	41	72	29	0	0	1	0
	SAINT LOUIS	69	47	80	37	58	0	0.52	-0.29	0.48	3.61	61	7.39	74	73	37	0	0	3	0
	SPRINGFIELD	74	42	86	34	58	1	0.00	-0.92	0.00	1.98	31	5.11	50	77	26	0	0	0	0
MT	BILLINGS	61	36	74	30	49	2	0.13	-0.29	0.07	1.64	73	3.05	79	70	26	0	3	3	0
	GLASGOW	62	34	77	26	48	2	0.00	-0.17	0.00	0.66	83	1.27	89	86	34	0	4	0	0
	GREAT FALLS	56	28	70	21	42	-2	0.02	-0.31	0.02	2.00	102	2.59	74	79	24	0	5	1	0
	HAVRE	63	33	75	28	48	3	0.00	-0.23	0.00	1.21	98	2.15	100	86	25	0	4	0	0
	HELENA	58	29	71	23	43	-1	0.01	-0.22	0.01	1.33	100	1.88	79	80	26	0	5	1	0
	KALISPELL	56	29	66	22	42	-2	0.17	-0.09	0.11	3.57	215	8.09	187	89	34	0	5	2	0
	MILES CITY	60	36	64	30	48	1	0.04	-0.29	0.04	1.86	127	3.36	136	84	30	0	2	1	0
	MISSOULA	56	30	67	27	43	-2	0.23	0.01	0.17	2.63	169	5.52	152	88	43	0	5	3	0
NE	GRAND ISLAND	64	34	79	28	49	-3	0.40	-0.20	0.25	0.91	26	1.98	42	91	34	0	4	2	0
	LINCOLN	68	41	83	32	54	2	1.30	0.64	0.93	2.76	71	3.84	74	87	36	0	1	2	1
	NORFOLK	63	35	80	27	49	-2	0.43	-0.11	0.34	1.03	31	1.99	43	87	36	0	3	2	0
	NORTH PLATTE	63	33	80	24	48	-1	0.23	-0.25	0.23	0.69	28	1.19	37	82	31	0	4	1	0
	OMAHA	66	40	84	31	53	0	1.49	0.86	0.92	--	--	4.17	80	86	35	0	1	2	2
	SCOTTSBLUFF	60	31	71	26	45	-2	0.07	-0.31	0.07	1.46	71	2.29	75	83	27	0	5	1	0
	VALENTINE	60	33	79	24	46	-4	0.50	0.00	0.50	1.21	45	1.89	51	94	34	0	3	1	1
NV	ELY	52	25	63	13	39	-4	0.39	0.16	0.15	1.37	86	2.82	94	84	25	0	6	3	0
	LAS VEGAS	74	55	78	48	65	0	0.00	-0.06	0.00	0.12	21	0.39	26	28	7	0	0	0	0
	RENO	58	32	71	24	45	-4	0.21	0.13	0.10	1.87	199	4.98	163	82	27	0	4	3	0
	WINNEMUCCA	58	32	71	22	45	-2	0.28	0.09	0.28	1.48	110	4.23	154	75	26	0	5	1	0
NH	CONCORD	54	31	71	25	43	-2	2.80	2.11	2.38	6.03	129	13.47	138	89	51	0	4	3	1
NJ	ATLANTIC CITY	62	40	74	31	51	0	1.64	0.81	1.17	8.71	145	14.11	112	85	47	0	1	3	1
NM	ALBUQUERQUE	70	42	79	37	56	0	0.00	-0.11	0.00	0.04	5	0.39	22	25	8	0	0	0	0
	CLOVIS	73	42	86	32	57	0	0.00	-0.19	0.00	0.05	5	0.41	21	50	11	0	1	0	0
	ROSWELL	79	47	88	37	63	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	42	13	0	0	-	-
NY	ALBANY	56	38	72	28	47	0	1.47	0.78	0.87	5.19	106	9.15	95	88	52	0	1	3	1
	BINGHAMTON	53	36	69	28	44	-1	1.30	0.56	0.78	6.20	127	10.30	106	85	54	0	5	2	2
	BUFFALO	59	37	74	31	48	2	1.18	0.51	0.43	5.91	128	10.58	109	90	51	0	2	4	0
	NEW YORK	58	46	68	41	52	-1	1.68	0.80	1.48	8.13	132	14.35	118	75	50	0	0	2	1
	ROCHESTER	60	38	77	30	49	2	0.58	-0.03	0.28	4.44	111	9.25	112	88	49	0	3	6	0
	SYRACUSE	57	37	73	26	47	0	0.95	0.15	0.38	4.20	84	8.59	90	87	48	0	3	5	0
NC	ASHEVILLE	70	45	78	36	57	1	0.52	-0.34	0.47	3.97	48	13.89	83	84	38	0	0	3	0
	CHARLOTTE	75	52	79	44	63	3	0.61	0.03	0.42	6.08	99	12.69	92	83	34	0	0	4	0
	GREENSBORO	72	48	79	40	60	2	0.95	0.31	0.61	6.99	126	13.22	109	86	42	0	0	3	1
	HATTERAS	69	55	74	45	62	3	0.77	-0.03	0.77	7.49	113	--	--	89	59	0	0	1	1
	NEW BERN	79	54	86	42	66	4	0.00	-0.73	0.00	6.60	111	12.58	86	87	39	0	0	0	0
	RALEIGH	74	49	83	36	61	2	0.22	-0.36	0.16	5.20	96	11.99	94	90	42	0	0	2	0
	WILMINGTON	77	55	83	41	66	5	0.10	-0.58	0.05	5.65	88	9.80	63	97	44	0	0	2	0
ND	BISMARCK	59	33	78	25	46	1	0.03	-0.38	0.03	1.39	75	3.01	109	83	38	0	4	1	0
	FARGO	51	32	66	24	42	-3	0.00	-0.44	0.00	0.45	20	3.21	94	86	57	0	4	0	0
	GRAND FORKS	50	34	64	30	42	-1	0.02	-0.30	0.02	1.13	63	2.72	90	89	61	0	3	1	0
	WILLISTON	56	34	72	29	45	1	0.08	-0.23	0.04	0.81	54	1.78	72	87	45	0	3	2	0
OH	AKRON-CANTON	61	39	75	31	50	1	0.75	0.02	0.59	3.95	73	6.46	65	87	44	0	2	3	1
	CINCINNATI	64	40	76	29	52	-2	1.65	0.80	0.91	8.17	121	13.74	113	89	51	0	2	4	2
	CLEVELAND	61	41	76	33	51	2	1.17	0.43	0.52	4.91	98	9.20	99	87	45	0	0	4	2
	COLUMBUS	64	43	78	33	54	4	1.40	0.58	0.73	5.78	105	11.73	120	88	44	0	0	4	1
	DAYTON	62	41	76	32	52	0	1.75	0.96	0.98	6.75	118	11.83	117	87	48	0	2	4	1

Based on 1961-90 normals

Weather Data for the Week Ending April 20, 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 Mar 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Mar 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	.05 INCH OR MORE
	TOLEDO	62	40	76	32	51	2	0.76	0.07	0.41	4.10	88	6.93	85	87	43	0	1	4	0
	YOUNGSTOWN	60	38	74	28	49	1	1.10	0.38	0.87	5.02	97	9.73	103	86	46	0	3	4	1
OK	OKLAHOMA CITY	76	46	86	37	61	0	0.00	-0.64	0.00	2.32	53	2.42	34	66	24	0	0	0	0
	TULSA	78	50	88	40	64	1	0.00	-0.87	0.00	2.09	36	2.72	29	60	19	0	0	0	0
OR	ASTORIA	56	44	68	38	50	1	2.48	1.47	0.75	9.98	97	33.60	119	93	68	0	0	8	2
	BURNS	52	26	62	21	40	-4	0.31	0.17	--	2.23	156	5.00	156	89	38	0	5	-	0
	MEDFORD	60	38	73	32	49	-3	0.16	-0.10	0.08	2.27	87	10.66	146	92	37	0	1	3	0
	PENDLETON	63	39	72	33	51	0	0.23	-0.02	0.11	2.00	106	5.46	119	83	34	0	0	4	0
	PORTLAND	59	44	72	40	51	0	1.03	0.50	0.33	6.00	116	22.45	155	93	60	0	0	5	0
	SALEM	58	41	71	37	49	0	1.28	0.76	0.50	5.81	99	27.07	165	94	63	0	0	5	1
PA	ALLENTOWN	60	36	74	25	48	-2	1.97	1.14	1.06	8.04	144	16.36	139	79	44	0	2	3	2
	ERIE	59	40	76	31	50	3	1.20	0.44	0.60	4.54	88	9.86	101	86	47	0	1	4	1
	HARRISBURG	69	42	81	32	56	3	1.43	0.67	1.12	6.52	122	13.95	125	86	37	0	2	-	1
	PHILADELPHIA	63	43	74	36	53	1	1.06	0.16	0.58	7.37	122	12.39	98	87	45	0	0	2	1
	PITTSBURGH	66	42	77	33	53	3	1.31	0.59	0.56	6.89	126	13.15	125	86	41	0	0	5	1
	SCRANTON	57	39	72	29	48	-1	1.18	0.48	0.67	5.42	121	13.20	149	83	53	0	2	3	1
RI	PROVIDENCE	56	39	70	35	47	-1	2.01	1.05	2.00	7.16	105	14.30	99	90	50	0	0	2	1
SC	CHARLESTON	79	56	88	45	68	2	0.00	-0.58	0.00	4.28	70	6.69	52	87	36	0	0	0	0
	COLUMBIA	79	52	86	40	65	2	0.27	-0.46	0.23	7.59	108	11.69	74	91	31	0	0	2	0
	FLORENCE	79	53	84	42	66	2	0.02	-0.58	0.02	3.88	65	8.17	64	95	35	0	0	1	0
	GREENVILLE	73	48	79	38	61	0	1.35	0.49	0.94	9.33	117	18.63	112	89	41	0	0	3	1
SD	ABERDEEN	58	31	72	22	44	-1	0.00	-0.44	0.00	0.98	43	3.06	87	88	38	0	4	0	0
	HURON	60	31	72	24	46	-2	0.00	-0.49	0.00	0.81	27	2.16	52	89	35	0	4	0	0
	RAPID CITY	61	33	73	28	47	1	0.28	-0.18	0.24	2.59	116	3.47	110	83	36	0	4	2	0
	SIOUX FALLS	60	31	75	19	45	-3	0.02	-0.59	0.02	1.15	35	2.32	52	86	36	0	4	1	0
TN	CHATTANOOGA	75	47	81	41	61	1	2.02	1.06	1.52	10.99	123	20.61	109	92	43	0	0	4	1
	KNOXVILLE	72	46	78	34	59	1	1.77	0.94	1.10	7.17	94	17.35	109	89	40	0	0	3	1
	MEMPHIS	75	53	85	40	64	1	0.67	-0.60	0.67	6.57	72	14.80	85	83	37	0	0	1	1
	NASHVILLE	74	48	79	40	61	1	1.28	0.27	1.19	6.83	88	13.24	87	77	40	0	0	3	1
TX	ABILENE	80	52	91	39	66	0	0.00	-0.46	0.00	3.30	130	4.05	85	55	17	1	0	0	0
	AMARILLO	73	39	87	32	56	-1	0.00	-0.23	0.00	0.24	16	0.55	21	52	16	0	1	0	0
	AUSTIN	87	62	97	52	74	4	0.02	-0.60	0.02	1.34	40	2.00	27	86	26	2	0	1	0
	BEAUMONT	79	63	84	52	71	1	0.04	-0.79	0.02	1.04	19	4.71	34	91	61	0	0	2	0
	BROWNSVILLE	85	65	94	51	75	-1	0.00	-0.39	0.00	0.12	8	0.33	8	91	44	3	0	0	0
	CORPUS CHRISTI	86	63	91	48	74	1	0.00	-0.42	0.00	1.36	70	1.44	25	88	46	2	0	0	0
	DEL RIO	89	59	100	49	74	2	0.00	-0.57	0.00	0.63	25	1.03	20	59	15	3	0	0	0
	EL PASO	79	52	86	44	66	2	0.00	-0.06	0.00	0.80	182	1.11	87	22	6	0	0	0	0
	FORT WORTH	81	55	93	44	68	3	0.00	-0.88	0.00	4.01	75	5.29	55	75	23	2	0	0	0
	GALVESTON	76	67	78	58	72	2	0.00	-0.57	0.00	0.99	26	1.76	19	87	61	0	0	0	0
	HOUSTON	84	61	92	41	73	4	0.00	-0.81	0.00	0.33	6	2.50	20	82	35	2	0	0	0
	LUBBOCK	77	45	89	33	61	-1	0.00	-0.23	0.00	0.18	13	0.46	18	59	11	0	0	0	0
	MIDLAND	80	48	90	35	64	-2	0.00	-0.18	0.00	1.33	155	1.41	73	53	9	1	0	0	0
	SAN ANGELO	82	52	93	42	67	-1	0.00	-0.41	0.00	2.32	121	2.62	69	58	14	2	0	0	0
	SAN ANTONIO	88	60	101	43	74	4	0.00	-0.61	0.00	0.74	24	1.43	22	76	21	3	0	0	0
	VICTORIA	85	62	92	48	73	3	0.00	-0.64	0.00	0.63	16	0.95	9	82	35	1	0	0	0
	WACO	84	56	97	42	70	2	0.00	-0.76	0.00	2.56	59	3.56	44	81	21	2	0	0	0
	WICHITA FALLS	80	49	91	38	64	0	0.00	-0.70	0.00	1.98	46	2.08	27	58	19	1	0	0	0
UT	CEDAR CITY	57	31	64	23	44	-4	0.08	-0.17	0.08	1.94	92	3.56	96	73	20	0	4	1	0
	SALT LAKE CITY	56	36	65	30	46	-4	1.68	1.18	0.75	4.85	145	9.49	165	83	34	0	1	4	1
VT	BURLINGTON	54	36	73	33	45	0	2.22	1.56	0.97	4.65	115	9.19	122	90	51	0	0	5	1
VA	NORFOLK	70	50	77	41	60	2	1.64	0.96	1.40	7.30	128	15.81	121	86	51	0	0	3	1
	RICHMOND	73	47	81	34	60	2	0.43	-0.24	0.26	4.89	88	10.29	85	83	28	0	0	2	0
	ROANOKE	69	48	80	37	59	2	0.24	-0.51	0.19	4.40	78	13.41	118	79	37	0	0	4	0
WA	QUILLAYUTE	54	42	68	37	48	2	3.30	1.63	0.97	13.54	81	39.35	89	95	67	0	0	7	4
	SEATTLE-TACOMA	58	44	74	38	51	1	0.89	0.37	0.30	3.88	75	19.56	134	86	54	0	0	5	0
	SPOKANE	55	36	63	31	45	-1	0.92	0.64	0.39	2.74	120	7.74	134	86	45	0	3	3	0
	YAKIMA	61	34	70	28	48	-2	0.07	-0.04	0.05	0.71	70	3.82	128	86	34	0	5	2	0
WV	BECKLEY	63	43	76	33	53	1	1.17	0.37	0.89	6.22	110	14.60	126	87	45	0	0	4	1
	CHARLESTON	68	45	81	33	56	1	1.15	0.38	0.82	6.77	117	14.64	123	88	41	0	0	3	1
	HUNTINGTON	69	46	81	32	57	4	1.12	0.28	0.84	7.31	124	15.08	125	89	40	0	1	3	1
	PARKERSBURG	70	47	79	35	58	4	0.80	-0.03	0.77	5.37	86	13.56	110	81	38	0	0	2	1
WI	GREEN BAY	58	36	76	28	46	1	1.68	1.12	0.70	3.95	109	6.49	110	90	54	0	4	5	1
	LACROSSE	58	40	71	33	49	0	1.11	0.42	--	3.26	84	6.70	118	88	41	0	0	-	-
	MADISON	56	36	74	23	46	-1	1.63	0.87	0.50	2.58	60	5.63	86	96	53	0	4	4	1
	MILWAUKEE	57	39	74	27	48	2	1.83	1.00	0.99	2.88	57	4.87	60	90	49	0	1	4	1
	WAUSAU	57	36	72	25	47	2	0.97	0.31	0.41	2.57	69	5.21	93	96	42	0	3	4	0
WY	CASPER	53	30	67	22	41	-2	0.26	-0.11	0.20	1.35	70	2.54	82	79	34	0	6	2	0
	CHEYENNE	52	30	64	23	41	-2	0.01	-0.32	0.01	2.56	136	3.15	118	75	28	0	6	1	0
	LANDER	55	30	66	22	43	-1	0.00	-0.51	0.00	2.13	86	3.36	93	64	24	0	5	0	0
	SHERIDAN	61	33	75	29	47	2	0.07	-0.36	0.06	2.20	107	3.03	87	80	27	0	4	2	0
PR	SAN JUAN	84	72	86	71	78	-1	0.32	-0.59	0.17	5.69	122	13.90	143	84	59	0	0	4	0

Based on 1961-90 normals

National Agricultural Summary

HIGHLIGHTS for April 15 - 21, 1996

Lack of moisture stressed small grains in the southern Great Plains. The dry soil and summer-like weather allowed fieldwork to progress rapidly but lessened producers' expectations for wheat yield. Frequent showers and thunderstorms in the Delta States slowed fieldwork. Rain, snow, and low temperatures delayed field activities in the Northern States, where warmer weather was needed before significant fieldwork could begin. Snowmelt in the Dakotas left fields saturated, curtailed land preparation, and caused flooding in the Red River Valley. Northern Iowa reported that frost was still present at a depth of 6 to 12 inches, and was delaying ground preparation. Rain over the Corn Belt brought much-needed pre-planting moisture for row crops. Wet, cool weather from northern California to the Pacific Northwest slowed fieldwork and crop development. In the Southeast, last month's cold snaps damaged the fruit trees, with over half of the peach crop reported as lost.

The Nation's **winter wheat** crop was evenly split between poor and fair conditions with 6 percent (%) of the acreage heading. In Illinois, wheat condition was mostly very poor to poor. Winter wheat condition in Texas and Kansas was mostly poor to fair. The effects of winterkill in the middle Mississippi and Ohio Valleys were observed as warmer weather stimulated growth. Some wheat fields in Indiana with severe winterkill were tilled. Cold weather and short soil moisture supplies left wheat progress in Kansas behind normal, while in southern Kansas, insect activity remained active. In western Nebraska, some wheat fields with wind damage were abandoned. Freezing temperatures early in the week threatened wheat that was jointing in western Kansas and Oklahoma. The previous cool weather left wheat headed behind normal in the Southeastern States.

Spring wheat seeding was 4% complete, up 2 percentage points from last week and 16 points below the average. Spring wheat planting in South Dakota was 32 points behind the 5-year average due to saturated fields and cool weather. Low soil temperatures and wet fields prevented farmers from planting small grains in the Dakotas. In Montana, 2% of the acreage was seeded, 25 points behind the average.

Corn planted was 9% complete for the 17 major producing States, 3 points ahead of last year and 1 point ahead of the average. Corn planting progress in Illinois, at 14% complete, made significant headway, despite some producers who were waiting for higher soil temperatures. Cool weather in Arkansas caused corn emergence problems, and some fields were replanted. Corn planting proceeded at an unhurried pace in Arkansas due to wet fields, but planting progress was active where conditions permitted. In Missouri, clear weather permitted farmers to plant 44% of the corn crop, up 26 points from the previous week and 24 points ahead of the average. Patches of snow and frozen soil prevented corn planting in the Great Lakes region.

Cotton planting was 13% complete, up 5 points from last week and 3 points behind the average for the Nation. Cotton planting in California was 45% complete, up 25 points from last week but 5 points behind the average. Cotton planting in California was active despite some delays from rain and cool weather. New Mexico cotton planting was 20% complete, 16 points behind the average. Texas cotton planting progressed to 15% complete, up 3 points from last week, 1 point behind normal. Cotton producers in Texas prepared fields and applied pre-planting herbicides. Warm, dry weather in the Southeastern States prompted cotton planting early in the week, but weekend rainfall halted further progress.

Sorghum planting was 16% complete for the 12 major producing States, up 2 points from last week and 2 points below the average. In Texas, sorghum planting reached the halfway mark, 6 points behind normal. Producers continued to plant fields in Texas, but the continued dry soil conditions slowed planting progress.

Rice seeding was 35% complete, up 10 points from last week and 1 point ahead of the average for the five major producing States. Texas rice planting was 70% complete, up 9 points from last week and 15 points ahead of the average. Rice fields were burned in California in preparation for planting, but progress was hampered by wet conditions.

Crop Progress and Condition

Week Ending April 21, 1996

Winter Wheat Percent Headed

	Apr 21 1996	Prev Week	Prev Year	5-Yr Avg
AR	15	5	57	28
CA	90	70	84	81
CO	0	0	0	0
GA	39	18	77	69
ID	0	0	0	0
IL	0	0	0	0
IN	0	0	0	0
KS	0	0	1	1
MI	0	0	0	0
MO	0	0	4	1
MT	0	0	0	0
NE	0	0	0	0
NC	9	7	33	26
OH	0	0	0	0
OK	6	1	28	32
OR	0	0	0	0
SD	0	0	0	0
TX	27	10	27	27
WA	0	0	0	0
ALL	6	3	12	11

These 19 States produced 92% of the 1995 winter wheat crop.

Corn Percent Planted

	Apr 21 1996	Prev Week	Prev Year	5-Yr Avg
CO	21	0	2	4
GA	86	71	93	89
IL	14	3	4	6
IN	4	0	2	3
IA	2	0	0	4
KS	24	6	9	18
KY	13	2	48	21
MI	0	0	0	0
MN	0	0	0	3
MO	44	18	24	20
NE	4	0	1	4
NC	60	29	63	55
OH	2	1	2	3
PA	0	0	2	1
SD	0	0	0	0
TX	61	55	58	63
WI	0	0	0	0
ALL	9	4	6	8

These 17 States produced 91% of the 1995 corn crop.

Cotton Percent Planted

	Apr 21 1996	Prev Week	Prev Year	5-Yr Avg
AL	21	10	29	24
AZ	80	40	59	51
AR	3	1	5	3
CA	45	20	27	50
GA	4	1	17	11
LA	4	1	13	10
MS	2	1	17	11
MO	1	0	2	1
NM	20	5	19	36
NC	4	0	10	6
OK	0	0	2	1
SC	5	2	9	7
TN	0	0	8	3
TX	15	12	14	16
ALL	13	8	15	16

These 14 States produced 99% of the 1995 cotton crop.

Sorghum Percent Planted

	Apr 21 1996	Prev Week	Prev Year	5-Yr Avg
AR	26	14	27	25
CO	0	0	0	0
IL	0	0	0	0
KS	0	0	0	0
LA	38	10	22	26
MS	50	20	40	31
MO	3	0	5	3
NE	0	0	0	0
NM	0	0	0	0
OK	2	0	8	5
SD	0	0	0	0
TX	50	45	52	56
ALL	16	14	17	18

These 12 States produced 98% of the 1995 sorghum crop.

Oats Percent Planted

	Apr 21 1996	Prev Week	Prev Year	5-Yr Avg
IA	61	33	44	61
MI	2	0	0	0
MN	2	0	1	16
NE	80	51	33	62
ND	0	0	0	8
OH	28	*11	47	42
PA	22	13	47	34
SD	12	4	1	39
WI	5	1	4	13
ALL	21	11	16	29

These 9 States produced 98% of the 1995 oat crop. *Revised

Peanuts Percent Planted

	Apr 21 1996	Prev Week	Prev Year	5-Yr Avg
AL	3	NA	NA	NA
FL	4	NA	NA	NA
GA	7	NA	NA	NA
NC	0	NA	NA	NA
OK	0	NA	NA	NA
SC	0	NA	NA	NA
TX	4	NA	NA	NA
VA	0	NA	NA	NA
ALL	4	NA	NA	NA

These 8 States produced 99% of the 1995 peanut crop.

Barley Percent Planted

	Apr 21 1996	Prev Week	Prev Year	5-Yr Avg
ID	37	31	42	52
MN	0	0	0	12
MT	2	0	14	30
ND	0	0	0	11
SD	3	0	1	31
WA	38	*32	43	65
ALL	8	6	12	25

These 6 States produced 82% of the 1995 barley crop. *Revised

Spring Wheat Percent Planted

	Apr 21 1996	Prev Week	Prev Year	5-Yr Avg
ID	61	56	60	59
MN	2	0	0	16
MT	2	0	11	27
ND	0	0	0	12
SD	9	2	1	41
ALL	4	2	5	20

These 5 States produced 96% of the 1995 spring wheat crop.

Rice Percent Planted

	Apr 21 1996	Prev Week	Prev Year	5-Yr Avg
AR	23	11	47	31
CA	0	0	0	0
LA	66	54	61	55
MS	49	30	63	35
TX	70	61	56	55
ALL	35	25	45	34

These 5 States produced 96% of the 1995 rice crop.

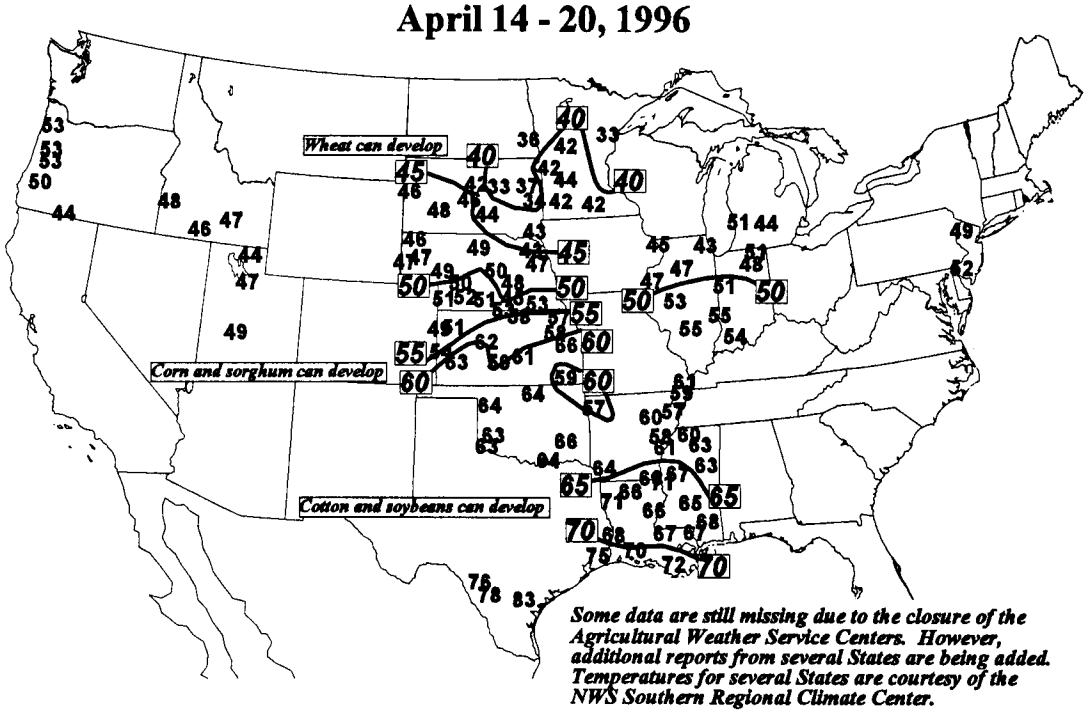
Crop Progress and Condition

Week Ending April 21, 1996

Winter Wheat Crop Condition by Percent					
	VP	P	F	G	EX
AR	1	6	26	56	11
CA	0	0	10	60	30
CO	18	22	34	23	3
GA	1	5	26	61	7
ID	1	1	7	54	37
IL	37	29	26	7	1
IN	17	35	35	12	1
KS	28	30	29	13	0
MI	7	17	31	40	5
MO	22	35	30	12	1
MT	0	4	26	59	11
NE	11	25	43	21	0
NC	0	5	28	61	6
OH	10	23	37	27	3
OK	23	38	27	12	0
OR	0	0	3	47	50
SD	6	16	37	39	2
TX	21	47	27	5	0
WA	0	0	7	65	28
ALL	18	27	27	23	5
Prev Wk	16	27	30	22	5
Prev Yr	4	9	27	48	12

VP - Very Poor
P - Poor
F - Fair
G - Good
EX - Excellent

Average Soil Temperature (°F 4-Inch Bare)
April 14 - 20, 1996



Some data are still missing due to the closure of the Agricultural Weather Service Centers. However, additional reports from several States are being added. Temperatures for several States are courtesy of the NWS Southern Regional Climate Center.

NOAA/USDA JOINT AGRICULTURAL WEATHER FACILITY
Based on preliminary data

State Agricultural Summaries

These summaries, issued weekly through the summer growing season, 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 NASS State Statistical Offices in cooperation with the National Weather Service. The crop weather reports are also available on the Internet through the NASS Home Page on the World Wide Web at "http://www.usda.gov/nass/."

ALABAMA: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.8. Topsoil 10% short, 73% adequate, 17% surplus. Spring plowing 70% complete, 79% 1995, 71% avg. Corn 68% planted, 77% 1995, 66% avg. Wheat 34% headed, 57% 1995, 51% avg.; 18% poor, 48% fair, 25% good, 9% excellent. Pasture feed 2% very poor, 14% poor, 57% fair, 21% good, 6% excellent. Livestock 1% very poor, 8% poor, 65% fair, 24% good, 2% excellent. Activities: Planting row crops and cool season vegetables, ground preparation for spring planting, general care of livestock, poultry, catfish.

ARIZONA: Cotton condition declined, due to cooler temperatures, wind. Small grains headed 97%, 94% 1995, 90% avg.; 2% fair, 50% good, 48% excellent. Alfalfa harvest 1% light, 37% moderate, 43% active, 19% not being harvested; 4% fair, 38% good, 58% excellent. Quality increasing. Cabbage, head lettuce, salad savoy, leaf lettuce, dry onions, romaine, celery, potatoes harvested by western growers. Central growers harvested cabbage, head lettuce, potatoes, broccoli, carrots, mixed greens, green onions, parsley, artichokes, turnips, kale, spinach, radishes. Tomatoes harvested eastern areas. Central, western citrus growers harvested grapefruit, lemons, tangerines, Valencia oranges. Peaches harvested western growing areas.

ARKANSAS: Main farm activities: Planting, field preparation for planting of cotton, corn, rice, sorghum, early soybeans, fertilizing wheat, cool season grasses. Fertilizing, applying herbicides to wheat were reported by several counties. Corn emergence problems due to cool weather were noted by several counties. Corn was being replanted in Poinsett county. Some counties reported crop planting was hampered due to soil moisture surplus. Tomato, strawberry planting were reported by a number of counties. Livestock reported in good condition. Hay shortage remains a concern.

CALIFORNIA: Field activities were slowed by 16th rain in central, northern counties. Elsewhere, fieldwork progressed normally. Small grains were irrigated, treated for aphids. High winds caused some lodging in Fresno, Kern counties. Higher elevation planting neared completion. Wheat harvest was underway in the Imperial Valley. Cotton planting remained active in the Sacramento, San Joaquin valleys, despite some minor delays due to the rain. Growers applied insecticides, fungicides with the seed. Earlier seeded fields showed good germination, emergence. Rice field burning, ground preparation were hampered by the wet conditions in the Sacramento Valley. Limited planting began in Glenn County. Sugar beets were harvested in lighter soiled areas. Corn, safflower planting continued. Garbanzo beans were blooming in Fresno County. Seed alfalfa was cut, baled. Oats, winter forage, alfalfa were cut for hay or green chopped. Ground preparation for planting corn, cotton, safflower was ongoing in the Sacramento, San Joaquin valleys. Mowing, discing, fertilizing, irrigating, spraying continued in orchards, vineyards. Thinning of stone fruit continued. Almond set was light to near-normal. Walnuts were sprayed for blight, worms. Cherries were sprayed for cutworm, twig borer. Grapes, almonds, peaches, cherries were sprayed with fungicides. Navel orange bloom was nearly over. Valencia orange harvest continued. Lemon picking was ongoing in the central valley, south coast areas. The pace of spring head, leaf lettuce harvesting slowed in the Fresno County area. Lettuce harvest in the Imperial Valley continued with some Rib Blight present. Fresh, freezer broccoli, cabbage harvests continued. Bell pepper, watermelon, fresh market tomatoes were irrigated. Melon planting continued. Carrots were being planted, harvested in various locations. Tomatoes being seeded or transplanted in the San Joaquin Valley. Because of cool soil temperatures, some emergence problems were reported in early planted tomato fields. Imperial Valley farmers were preparing ground for planting peppers, watermelon, cantaloupe, other melons. Previously planted melon, tomato fields were treated for white fly and thrips. Sweet corn was treated for earworms. Other vegetables harvested, packed included turnips, spinach, cauliflower, bok choy, zucchini, daikon, sugar pea leaves. Rangeland, pastures were in very good condition in most areas. Supplemental feeding was reportedly light, since most livestock were feeding on spring grasses. Cattle, sheep were in good condition. Calving, lambing were active. Spring branding was also active. Bees were moved into orange groves.

COLORADO: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.9. Topsoil 13% very short, 40% short, 45% adequate, 2% surplus. Subsoil 11% very short, 37% short, 50% adequate, 2% surplus. Spring barley 78% seeded, 30% 1995, 35% avg.; 28% emerged, 8% 1995, 14% avg. Oats 55% seeded, 29% 1995, 38% avg.; 26% emerged, 13% 1995, 17% avg. Dry onions 97% planted, 58% 1995, 58% avg.; 1% very poor, 1% poor, 9% fair, 78% good, 11% excellent. Spring wheat 48% planted, 10% 1995, 16% avg.; 20% emerged, 4% 1995, 4% avg. Sugar beets 98% planted, 84% 1995, 56% avg.; 1% very poor, 1% poor, 11% fair, 77% good, 10% excellent. Winter wheat 5% pastured, 3% 1995, 5% avg.; 8% jointed, 31% 1995, 13% avg. Summer potatoes 74% planted, 21% 1995, 40% avg. Pasture, range feed 7% very poor, 20% poor, 40% fair, 32% good, 1% excellent. Cows 88% calved, 81% 1995, 79% avg. Ewes 85% lambed, 80% 1995, 82% avg. Livestock death losses are average. Stored feed supplies are rated as adequate. Western slope received frost damage to the fruit crops on three consecutive nights from 19th through 21st. Significance of the damage won't be known until the fruit starts to bear, develop. Location, variety will also determine damage significance.

DELAWARE: Days suitable for fieldwork 2.7. Topsoil 52% adequate, 48% surplus. Subsoil 53% adequate, 47% surplus. Winter wheat 9% very poor, 5% poor, 39% fair, 35% good, 12% excellent. Barley 2% very poor, 7% poor, 48% fair, 41 good, 2% excellent. Rye 7% poor, 51% fair, 42% good. Potatoes 51% planted 79% 1995, 61% avg. Green peas 39% planted, 78% 1995, 60% avg. Peaches 32% bloomed, 54% 1995, 68% avg. Hay supplies 17% very short, 58% short, 25% adequate. Acreage prepared for spring planting 31%. Activities: Preparation for spring planting continues; planting continues to lag behind normal for many crops; bloom in apple, peach orchards, as well as strawberries, is running behind average.

FLORIDA: Topsoil mostly adequate throughout State. Peanuts 4% planted. Growers planting field corn, making preparations for spring planted crops. Mostly sunny skies prevailed over the southern Peninsula with warmer temperatures boosting growth of vegetables. Low temperatures were mostly in the 50s to 60s with 40s recorded on 1 or 2 mornings in the Palmetto-Ruskin, southwest regions. Highs were mostly in the 80s. Very little rain fell over southern localities with an unofficial total of a half inch or less reported for the Palmetto-Ruskin area. Cold temperatures, frost delaying some vegetable plantings in northern areas. Vegetable volume leaders: Tomatoes, peppers, potatoes, sweet corn, cabbage, cucumbers, celery, snap beans, squash, carrots. Citrus tree very good, little rain, more rain needed. Bloom complete, currently trees setting new crop fruit. Valencia harvest active. Grapefruit movement slowing. Temple, Honey tangerine harvest almost over. Caretakers cutting cover crops, nutritional spraying. Pasture feed poor 10%, fair 50%, good 40%. Cattlemen still feeding hay in some areas due to poor pasture conditions. Pasture growth late due to earlier frosts, cool weather, lack of rain. Condition of cattle herds poor 5%, fair 50%, good 45%.

GEORGIA: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.8. Soil moisture 1% very short, 17% short, 76% adequate, 6% surplus. Corn 4% poor, 42% fair, 53% good, 1% excellent. Cotton 1% very poor, 2% poor, 58% fair, 39% good. Hay 3% very poor, 18% poor, 42% fair, 37% good. Peanuts 2% poor, 64% fair, 34% good. Sorghum 8% planted, 8% 1995, 13% avg. Tobacco 10% poor, 40% fair, 45% good, 5% excellent; 94% transplanted, 91% 1995, 92% avg. Onions 11% very poor, 18% poor, 43% fair, 28% good; 1% harvested, 6% 1995, 9% avg. Watermelons 2% very poor, 14% poor, 46% fair, 36% good, 2% excellent; 75% planted, 91% 1995, 88% avg. Apples 2% very poor, 12% fair, 86% good; 91% blooming, 97% 1995, 81% avg. Peaches 73% very poor, 19% poor, 6% fair, 2% good. Pasture feed 1% very poor, 13% poor, 44% fair, 41% good, 1% excellent. Excellent planting progress late in week, weekend. Land preparation also very active. Thunderstorms over weekend north, beneficial. Overall spring fieldwork still behind normal. Warmer weather improved row crops. Pasture showing improved growth. Some tobacco hurt by cool temperatures. Activities: Planting corn, cotton, peanuts, tobacco, grain sorghum. Preparing land, applying fertilizer, herbicides. Fertilizing, weed control in pastures. Irrigating onions.

HAWAII: Crop conditions fair to good. Daily showers, longer day length helped crops. Head cabbage in good condition; production to increase. Sweet corn increase seasonally. Banana orchards continue recovery; production to remain light. Papaya production will remain light. First watermelon harvest.

IDAHO: Days suitable for fieldwork 3.1. Fieldwork delayed by rain, snow, cooler temperatures. Topsoil 68% adequate, 32% surplus. Potatoes planted 12%, 10% 1995, 13% avg. Spring wheat emerged 26%, 20% 1995, 27% avg. Barley planted 37%, 42% 1995, 52% avg.; emerged 14%, 11% 1995, 22% avg. Oats planted 25%, 24% 1995, 33% avg.; emerged 8%, 5% 1995, 13% avg. Dry peas planted 13%, 25% 1995, 31% avg.; emerged 5%, 4% 1995, 3% avg. Sugar beets planted 81%, 59% 1995, 72% avg.; emerged 17%, 11% 1995, 25% avg. Field corn planted 2%, 4% 1995, 4% avg. Lentils planted 2%, 0% 1995, 25% avg. Onions planted 98%, 79% 1995, 78% avg. Onions emerged 41%, 14% 1995, 21% avg. Calving 96% complete. Lambing 95% complete. Hay, roughage supply 17% short, 70% adequate, 13% surplus. Pasture feed, range 76% good, 24% excellent. Irrigation water supply 1% fair, 35% good, 64% excellent. Activities: Planting barley, spring wheat, sugar beets, potatoes, moving livestock to low elevation ranges, preparing for irrigation, sorting, cutting, and hauling seed potatoes, fertilizing.

ILLINOIS: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.6. Topsoil 5% very short, 27% short, 64% adequate, 4% surplus. Corn planting made good progress this past week, some farmers are still waiting for warmer soil temperatures. Most farmers with wheat are still waiting to decide what to do with poor wheat crop, while others have reported some winter wheat plowed under. Warmer weather will show the true possibilities of the wheat crop that can be salvaged. Much-needed rainfall was a help but more is needed in the northern districts. Hay, pastures have been slow to green but now look fairly good. Oats 85% seeded, 53% 1995, 60% avg. Alfalfa 3% very poor, 14% poor, 56% fair, 26% good, 1% excellent. Pasture feed 6% very poor, 26% poor, 46% fair, 19% good, 3% excellent. Farmers who have not begun planting are preparing fields, spraying chemicals, spreading, hauling manure, tending livestock.

INDIANA: Days suitable for fieldwork 3.9. Topsoil 4% very short, 24% short, 61% adequate, 11% surplus. Subsoil 4% very short, 35% short, 54% adequate, 7% surplus. Winter wheat 9% jointed, 47% 1995, 27% avg. A few winter wheat fields, which sustained too much winter kill, have been tilled up. Vegetative growth far behind normal. Range, pasture feed 8% very poor, 27% poor, 48% fair, 16% good, 1% excellent. Livestock improving. Calving, lambing active. Activities: Applying anhydrous ammonia, spreading fertilizer, seeding oats, discing, chisel plowing, purchasing supplies, repairing tile, hauling manure, care of livestock.

IOWA: Days suitable for fieldwork 3.8. Topsoil very short 7%, short 36%, adequate 53%, surplus 4%. Subsoil very short 9%, short 40%, adequate 49%, surplus 2%. Northern part of State continues to report minimal fieldwork being done due to frost which is still being found at a depth of 6.00 to 12.00 in. Manure, dry fertilizer application continue to be the main activities reported in north. In central, southern parts of state, fieldwork is progressing rapidly. A few reports from the central district indicated that soil temperature at 4.00 in. was still in the mid to upper 40s range. Farmers in the central, southern districts have begun planting corn. Southwest district reports that a few soybeans have been planted. 1996 row crops primary seedbed preparation completed 66%, 49% 1995, 56% avg.; fertilizer application completed 70%, 54% 1995, 58% avg. Oats emerged 3%, 8% 1995, 19% avg. Winter wheat 4% very poor, 18% poor, 49% fair, 28% good, 1% excellent. Percent crop lost to winterkill 8% winter wheat, 7% alfalfa hay, 5% red clover hay. Across the State, calving continues with few problems. Most reporters indicate the calving season going very well thanks to dry weather. A few sick calves due to cold weather were reported. Southwest district reports a reduction in hog herds, cattle being sent to market at lighter weights. Southwest continues to experience a hay shortage, with little precipitation and lack of warmer weather, pastures have not grown enough to support grazing.

KANSAS: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.7. Topsoil 31% very short, 48% short, 21% adequate. Wheat progress is well behind normal due to cold weather and lack of moisture. Wheat jointing is 34%, 91% 1995, 65% avg.; 28% very poor, 30% poor, 29% fair, 13% good. Wheat has been hurt by wind, freezing temperatures, extremely dry conditions. Brown wheat mites, armyworms, greenbugs remain active in the southern areas. Wind damage 8% severe, 25% moderate, 28% light, 39% no damage. Freeze damage 10% severe, 16% moderate, 28% light, 46% no damage. Insect infestation 5% severe, 10% moderate, 22% light, 63% none. Oats seeded 100%, 100% 1995, 91% avg. Barley seeded 99%, 100% 1995, 90% avg. Corn planted 24%, 9% 1995, 18% avg. Even though pastures are short, cattle are being moved to grass because hay supplies are running out. Pasture feed 18% very poor, 29% poor, 41% fair, 12% good. Activities: Corn planting, spring tillage, chemical application, spraying wheat for insects, caring for livestock.

KENTUCKY: Days suitable for fieldwork 3.8. Topsoil 1% short, 72% adequate, 27% surplus. Subsoil 3% short, 71% adequate, 26% surplus. Temperatures warmed, frequent rainfall, wet soils limited field activities. Field activities included plowing land for tobacco, corn, spreading fertilizer, manure, applying herbicides to winter wheat, renovating legumes, pastures as weather, soil conditions permitted. Tobacco 92% sowed, 96% 1995, 95% avg. Tobacco plants up 58%, 80% 1995, 70% avg.; 1% very poor, 6% poor, 34% fair, 52% good, 7% excellent. Winter wheat 9% very poor, 18% poor, 37% fair, 33% good, 3% excellent. Barley 16% very poor, 16% poor, 38% fair, 30% good. Alfalfa about 5 in tall, 12 in 1995. No alfalfa weevil reported. Pasture feed 5% very poor, 23% poor, 42% fair, 27% good, 3% excellent. Farmers still feeding hay as needed.

LOUISIANA: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.5. Soil moisture 2% very short, 16% short, 66% adequate, 16% surplus. Corn 2% poor, 40% fair, 54% good, 4% excellent; 98% planted, 86% 1995, 93% avg.; 91% emerged, 80% 1995, 79% avg. Most corn fields had completely recovered from last month's freeze. Cotton 0% emerged, 4% 1995, 3% avg. Hay first cutting 7%, 3% 1995, 3% avg. Rice 48% emerged, 43% 1995, 40% avg.; farmers made good progress planting. Sorghum 5% emerged, 11% 1995, 17% avg.; planting gained momentum. Soybeans 4% planted, 2% 1995, 0% avg.; growers began planting. Spring plowing 93% plowing, 75% 1995, 73% avg. Sugarcane 10% very poor, 21% poor, 36% fair, 30% good, 3% excellent; producers continued to report losses from last month's freeze. Sweet potatoes 0% planted, 0% 1995, 2% avg. Slip production from seed sweet potatoes had not progressed to a point where producers could begin transplanting. Wheat 8% very poor, 21% poor, 40% fair, 29% good, 2% excellent; 74% headed, 85% 1995, 80% avg.; 4% turning, 15% 1995, 10% avg. Wheat continued to improve, some fields were still showing the effects of last month's cold

snap. Livestock 4% very poor, 14% poor, 46% fair, 33% good, 3% excellent. Poultry producers were busy cleaning chicken houses, spreading poultry litter. Vegetables 2% very poor, 17% poor, 45% fair, 35% good, 1% excellent. Strawberry harvest picked up with warmer temperatures. Pasture feed 4% very poor, 15% poor, 44% fair, 36% good, 1% excellent.

MARYLAND: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.0. Topsoil 74% adequate, 26% surplus. Subsoil 78% adequate, 22% surplus. Winter wheat 17% very poor, 12% poor, 29% fair, 39% good, 3% excellent. Barley 18% very poor, 9% poor, 21% fair, 45% good, 7% excellent. Rye 5% very poor, 7% poor, 31% fair, 51% good, 6% excellent. Corn 12% planted, 10% 1995, 7% avg. Sweet corn 9% planted, 24% 1995, 13% avg. Potatoes 95% planted, 79% 1995, 53% avg. Hay supplies 16% very short, 39% short, 44% adequate, 1% surplus. Acreage prepared for spring planting 25%. Peaches 8% bloomed, 54% 1995, 50% avg. Strawberries 13% bloomed, 49% 1995, 27% avg. Activities: Preparation for spring planting, planting of some crops continues; Some crops rebounding from slow start (such as potatoes, cantaloupe, snap beans, cucumbers) while others still lagging behind normal.

MICHIGAN: Not much field activity occurred. Rains returned toward the end of the week, leaving the fields wet. Barley, oat planting was just beginning. Wheat 45% good to excellent. Sugar beet planting to begin soon. Livestock conditions were normal with no unusual problems. Feed supplies remain adequate. Calving, lambing were in full swing. Major activities for the month were caring for livestock, hauling manure, spreading fertilizer, some spring tilling where weather permits. Some pruning, spraying of fruit trees continues as weather permits.

MINNESOTA: Days suitable for fieldwork 0.5. Topsoil 48% adequate, 52% surplus. Subsoil 56% adequate, 44% surplus. Corn 1% ground prepared, 1% 1995, 8% avg. Soybeans 0% ground prepared, 0% 1995, 2% avg. Spring wheat 2% planted, 0% 1995, 15% avg. Oats 2% planted, 1% 1995, 16% avg. Barley 0% planted, 0% 1995, 11% avg. Sugar beets 0% planted, 0% 1995, 3% avg. Green peas 0% planted, 1% 1995, 9% avg.

MISSISSIPPI: Main farming activities: Planting corn, rice, sorghum, soybeans. Warm, drier weather will permit more cotton to be planted. Weekend rainfall in some areas of the State stopped planting, land preparation for most crops. Cattle, pasture conditions are beginning to improve.

MISSOURI: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.9. Topsoil 15% very short, 39% short, 45% adequate, 1% surplus. Notable shortages exist in the northwest, west-central, central, southwest districts which all report 60% or more very short or short. Favorable weather conditions enabled farmers to continue to make significant corn planting progress during the past week. Strong thunderstorms moved across parts of State over the weekend, providing beneficial rain where moisture supplies were short. Corn planted 19% northeast to 77% southeast, with State planting progress the most advanced for this date on record. Sorghum planting is just beginning in the state, led by 5% reported planted in the Bootheel. Condition of the wheat crop is poorest in the southwest district which reports 48% very poor, 45% poor; the best wheat crop ratings are found in the south central, southeast districts which report 35% or more as good or better. Oats sown 94%, 87% 1995, 73% avg. Ground tilled for spring crops 83%, 74% 1995, 65% avg. Pasture, range feed 21% very poor, 37% poor, 34% fair, 8% good.

MONTANA: Days suitable for fieldwork 2.2. Topsoil 1% short, 87% adequate, 12% surplus. Subsoil 5% short, 84% adequate, 11% surplus. Weather still delaying fieldwork. Most farmers expect to be going this week. Fieldwork in progress 79% none, 19% just started, 2% well underway. Oats 1% planted, 4% 1995, 19% avg. Corn 0% planted, 7% 1995, 6% avg. Sugar beets 9% planted, 11% 1995, 40% avg. Dry beans 0% planted, 1% 1995, 1% avg. Potatoes 0% planted, 1% 1995, 2% avg. Calving 87% complete. Lambing 63% complete. Cattle, calves moved to summer ranges 3%. Sheep, lambs moved to summer ranges 1%.

NEBRASKA: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.3. Topsoil 21% very short, 45% short, 34% adequate. Subsoil 17% very short, 42% short, 40% adequate, 1% surplus. Much needed precipitation early last week slowed fieldwork activities; however, producers welcomed the moisture, by mid-week spring fieldwork activities were moving at a rapid pace. Significant moisture was received in many areas, more is needed in virtually all districts particularly the Panhandle, southwest wheat districts. Wheat 3% jointed, 14% 1995, 11% avg.; few fields of wind damage wheat have been abandoned in the west. Some winterkill loss was apparent in the south, east with the extent of acreage lost to be determined soon. Signs of infestation from army cutworms were seen in some western fields. Corn planting activities were most advanced in the southeast part of the State. Oats 80% planted, 33% 1995, 62% avg.; 22% emerged. Sugar beet planting continued in the Panhandle. Pasture, range feed 2% very poor, 25% poor, 52% fair, 18% good, 3% excellent. Activities: Fertilizer applications, seeded preparations, corn and oat planting, grain marketing, livestock care.

NEVADA: Spring grain planting progressed, was well along in most areas. Fall seeded grains remained in good to excellent condition in the north, fair to excellent in the extreme south. Rains alleviated irrigation demands in the north, while the South remained parched. Hay fields were being sprayed, fertilized statewide. First cutting of alfalfa continued in the extreme south. Spring calving continued with progress well along. Branding and vaccinating was underway. Sheering, lambing continued. Ditch cleaning was undertaken in some northern districts in preparation for the start of the irrigation season. Main farm, ranch activities: Spring planting, fertilizing, plowing, field leveling, ditch cleaning, alfalfa harvest, calving, lambing.

NEW ENGLAND: Major farm activities: Heavy rains fell throughout the region this past week resulting in flooding in low lying areas. But by the end of the week more seasonable weather returned to the area. Most sugar houses are finished boiling maple sap; the quantity of syrup seems to be above last years production, with more medium and dark amber syrup than usual. Potato planting continues in southern areas, sweet corn is still being sown under plastic. Orchardists continue to assess damage from the past winter.

NEW JERSEY: Days suitable for fieldwork 3 to 4. Topsoil adequate to surplus. Planting, other activities still about 2 weeks behind. Peaches are approaching full bloom. Vegetable farmers were busy planting asparagus, potatoes, sweet corn, peas, lettuce, cabbage, turnips, spinach, snap beans, tomatoes. Light harvest has begun for asparagus, kale, arrugula, leeks, spinach. All growers were implementing pest control measures, repairing equipment.

NEW MEXICO: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.2. Soil 66% very short, 26% short, 8% adequate. Corn planting held up some days by windy, dusty conditions; only 7% planted, 6% previous week, 20% 1995. Alfalfa 8% poor, 32% fair, 52% good, 8% excellent. Chile planting slowed up with only 90% complete, 89% last week; 1% poor, 15% fair, 69% good, 15% excellent. Winds continued to dry soils, dry wheat remains nearly a total loss at 99% very poor, 1% poor. Irrigated wheat, 3% very poor, 50% poor, 33% fair, 12% good, 2% excellent. Wheat headed 1%, 0% last week, 3% 1995, 9% avg. Lettuce 82% good, 18% excellent. Onions 2% fair, 60% good, 38% excellent. Cattle condition deteriorating at 12% very poor, 14% poor, 50% fair, 23% good, 1% excellent. Ranchers continued heavy supplemental feeding, watering; many stock wells drying up.

NEW YORK: Spring plowing widespread as fields dry. Livestock producers tending animals, spreading manure. Feed supplies tight. Oat planting started in a few areas, will pick up as weather warms. Vegetable planting active. Warm, dry weather at end of week should allow fieldwork to gain momentum.

NORTH CAROLINA: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.5. Soil moisture 1% very short, 9% short, 79% adequate, 11% surplus. Cabbage 98% transplanted, 88% 1995, 90% avg. Crop condition: Oats 12% poor, 26% fair 59% good, 3% excellent; barley 4% poor, 23% fair, 70% good, 3% excellent; rye 2% poor, 6% fair, 82% good, 10% excellent; pasture feed 1% very poor, 7% poor, 33% fair, 56% good, 3% excellent; greenhouse tobacco plant beds 4% fair, 66% good, 30% excellent; outside tobacco plant beds 1% poor, 32% fair, 58% good, 9% excellent; potatoes 1% poor, 3% fair, 95% good, 1% excellent; peaches 60% very poor, 18% poor, 12% fair, 10% good; truck crops 2% poor, 71% fair, 26% good, 1% excellent; tobacco plant supply 7% short, 90% adequate, 3% surplus; hay and roughage supply 7% very short, 41% short, 51% adequate, 1% surplus; feed grain supplies 3% very short, 25% short, 71% adequate, 1% surplus. Activities: Planting corn; ripping, bedding cotton; transplanting frasier fir; fertilizing ornamentals; transplanting flue-cured tobacco; preparing fields for planting; pasture maintenance; tending livestock; repairing equipment, general farm maintenance.

NORTH DAKOTA: Warmer, dry weather needed before significant fieldwork can begin. Statewide average start of fieldwork is 28th; avg. 18th. Isolated plantings of small grains were reported, none amounting to 1%. Cattle conditions improved slightly from last week, remained fair to mostly good. Cows 2% poor, 23% fair, 71% good, 4% excellent. Calves 2% poor, 25% fair, 69% good, 4% excellent. Hay, forage supplies 1% very short, 11% short, 83% adequate, 5% surplus. Grains, concentrates 2% very short, 9% short, 87% adequate, 2% surplus. Pastures, ranges 94% dormant; 78% open for grazing. Pasture feed 8% very poor, 9% poor, 24% fair, 54% good, 5% excellent.

OHIO: Days suitable for fieldwork 2.8. Topsoil 2% short, 63% adequate, 35% surplus. Corn planting is still proceeding slowly, accelerating where conditions permit. Heaving is still reported to be a problem in alfalfa. Planting of sugar beets is 10% complete. Seeding of tobacco beds is more than three quarters complete. Livestock is improving, cattle are beginning to find pickings as pastures slowly begin to come out of dormancy.

OKLAHOMA: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.1. Topsoil 50% very short, 32% short, 18% adequate. Subsoil 35% very short, 44% short, 21% adequate. Wheat 68% jointing, 98% 1995, 93% avg.; oats 30% jointing, 59% 1995, 53% avg.; 1% heading, 10% 1995, 10% avg.; corn 98% seedbed prepared, 95% 1995, 92% avg.; 23% planted, 22% 1995, 39% avg.; 14% up to stand, 14% 1995, 14% avg.; sorghum 30% seedbed prepared, 59% 1995, 45% avg.; soybeans 61% seedbed prepared, 41% 1995, 50% avg.; 16% planted, 8% 1995, 8% avg.; 5% up to stand, 2% 1995, 1% avg.; peanuts 66% seedbed prepared, 50% 1995, 57% avg. Cotton 46% seedbed prepared, 67% 1995, 70% avg.; Alfalfa 2% very poor, 20% poor, 52% fair, 25% good. Livestock 2% very poor, 10% poor, 49% fair, 39% good. Feeder steers, heifers were $2 to $4/cwt lower.

OREGON: Days suitable for fieldwork 3.8. Topsoil 92% adequate, 8% surplus. Subsoil 2% short, 92% adequate, 6% surplus. Barley 45% planted, 67% 1995, 68% avg. Pasture feed 3% poor, 5% fair, 74% good, 18% excellent. Activities: Cool, wet weather slowed fieldwork, crop growth, western sections. Sugar beet planting, fertilizing underway, eastern sections. Nurseries, greenhouses still very busy supplying vegetable, flower flats to retail outlets. Container rotation continued, digging, balling of trees nearly completed. Christmas trees buds opening, spraying nearly completed. Vegetable fieldwork slowed wet conditions, some upland onions planted some sweet corn may be replanted cool, wet conditions; Willamette Valley. Onion emergence underway, Malheur County. Cherry bloom, pollination good, earlier frost damage appeared less serious than suspected; Mid-Columbia. Bartlett pear bloom poor, Anjou pear, apple bloom good, Hood River Valley. Pears at petal fall doing well, blossoms gone on other fruits except apples; Rogue River Valley. Most cherries, peaches, pears, prunes, plums bloomed; apples bloom underway; cool, rainy weather hampered pollination; blackberries leaf out underway; Willamette Valley. Blueberry bloom continued, cranberry development mostly roughneck stage; southern coast. Livestock good to excellent condition. Pasture feed excellent when night temperatures warm up, eastern sections. Pasture feed growing, still very muddy, supplemental feeding continued, western sections.

PENNSYLVANIA: Days suitable for fieldwork 2.5. Soil moisture 1% short, 68% adequate, 31% surplus. Plowing 28% complete, 52% 1995, 34% avg. Oats planted 22% complete, 47% 1995, 34% avg. Potatoes planted 8% complete, 10% 1995, 12% avg. Tobacco beds planted 92% complete, 84% 1995, 69% avg. Wheat 2% very poor, 12% poor, 43% fair, 38% good, 5% excellent. Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand 3% very poor, 16% poor, 39% fair, 39% good, 3% excellent. Timothy clover stand 7% very poor, 8% poor, 40% fair, 43% good, 2% excellent. Peaches 21% pink, 41% 1995, 31% avg.; 0% full bloom or past, 3% 1995, 9% avg. Cherries 18% pink, 37% 1995, 26% avg.; 0% full bloom or past, 14% 1995, 9% avg. Apples 10% pink, 20% 1995, 13% avg.; 0% full bloom or past, 3% 1995, 2% avg. Activities: Plowing and planting of oats; fixing fences; machinery maintenance and storing; hauling manure; caring for livestock.

PUERTO RICO: No weather data available.

SOUTH CAROLINA: Days suitable for fieldwork and other outdoor activities 5.9. Soil moisture 20% short, 72% adequate, 8% surplus. Warmer temperatures promoted row crop field activities. Rain needed for small grain head filling. Corn 88% planted, 90% 1995, 85% avg.; 5% poor, 19% fair, 66% good, 10% excellent. Tobacco 62% planted, 54% 1995, 58% avg.; 1% very poor, 4% poor, 16% fair, 76% good, 3% excellent. Recent cold snaps nearly demolished State fruit crops. Peach loses 80%. Apple production low expectations. Peach 65% very poor, 25% poor, 8% fair, 2% good. Vegetable, melon planting increases. Watermelon 79% planted, 75% 1995; 76% avg.; 9% poor, 50% fair, 39% good, 2% excellent. Cantaloup 80% planted, 62% 1995; 64% avg.; 9% poor, 35% fair, 56% good. Wheat 24% headed, 50% 1995, 47% avg.; 5% poor, 25% fair, 59% good, 11% excellent. Rye 49% headed, N/A 1995, N/A avg.; 2% very poor, 25% poor, 23% fair, 45% good, 5% excellent.

SOUTH DAKOTA: Days suitable for fieldwork 2.3. Topsoil 2% short, 74% adequate, 24% surplus. Subsoil 1% short, 71% adequate, 28% surplus. Winter rye 2% very poor, 6% poor, 37% fair, 50% good, 5% excellent. Warm temperatures helped small grain seeding make a little progress, light precipitation across most of the State resulted in a short week for fieldwork. Producers in the northern areas of the State need another week of warm weather until they can begin fieldwork. Most of the seeding that has been done has been in the south central area of the State. Livestock 2% poor, 17% fair, 71% good, 10% excellent. Fluctuating temperatures continue to cause health problems among newborn calves, lambs. Pasture feed 1% very poor, 9% poor, 35% fair, 51% good, 4% excellent. Pasture growth has been very slow with limited days of high temperatures. Cattle moved to pasture 9%. Calving 70% completed, lambing 79% completed. Feed supplies 2% very short, 8% short 81% adequate, 9% surplus. Most producers still have plenty of hay on hand, some are running short because of the long winter. Stock water supplies 1% very short, 1% short, 70% adequate, 28% surplus.

TENNESSEE: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.4. Topsoil 4% very short, 17% short, 72% adequate, 7% surplus. Subsoil 4% very short, 9% short, 78% adequate, 9% surplus. Corn 48% planted, 73% 1995, 33% avg. Tobacco 96% seeded, 99% 1995, 97% avg.; 73% plants up, 91% 1995, 81% avg. Wheat 6% very poor, 16% poor, 37% fair, 38% good, 3% excellent; 80% jointed, 98% 1995, 80% avg.; 1% headed, 58% 1995, 16% avg. Apples 90% blooming or beyond, 99% 1995, 78% avg. Peaches 92% blooming or beyond, 99% 1995, 98% avg. Alfalfa hay 1% poor, 12% very poor, 54% fair, 31% good, 2% excellent. Pasture feed 1% very poor, 19% poor, 50% fair, 27% good, 3% excellent. Cattle 1% very poor, 14% poor, 52% fair, 29% good, 4% excellent.

TEXAS: Above average temperatures windy conditions prevailed over much of State. Lack of rain continued to cause very dry conditions, several fires occurred in Plains. Electrical blackout which covered most north west Texas shut down irrigation systems causing some damage to lines, stand pipes. Fieldwork continued summer like conditions. Ranchers continued culling down herds due to low hay supplies, lack of rain for pasture growth.

Crops: Small grains: Wheat irrigation, insect spraying in High Plains continued. Dry conditions continued to hurt wheat production prospects. Small grain outlook stabilized but all areas desperate for rain, yields were expected to be low. Wheat 34% normal compared, 59% 1995. Corn planting, pre-irrigation, herbicide, fertilizer applications continued in High Plains. Corn 49% normal compared, 92% 1995. Grain sorghum planting geared up in many western areas, lack of moisture slowed planting progress. Statewide 47% normal compared, 94% 1995. Cotton producers prepared cotton ground for planting, put out herbicides in Plains. Planting active in parts of North Central Texas. Cotton ground being pre-irrigated to help where needed. Rice emerging, fields continued to make good progress along Upper Coast. Rice 79% normal compared, 91% 1995. Peanut planting activities continued to increase. Soybean planting continued in Upper Coast, North Central Texas.

Commercial Vegetables: In Rio Grande Valley, irrigating, fertilizing onions, cantaloupes ongoing. In San Antonio-Winter Garden, vegetable planting in full swing as growers took advantage of warmer temperatures. Cabbage harvest ongoing. In East Texas, planting of tomatoes, watermelon continued in some areas. Land preparation continued for vegetables. In High Plain, potato, onion planting continued in a few fields. In Trans-Pecos, melon, onion planting proceeded increased irrigation activity. Pecans trees across State showed good progress, still in need of rain. Leaf, budding continued while producers were putting out zinc, doing other spraying. Peach producers were evaluating their peaches. Some counties reported small losses while others reported near total losses due to earlier freezing temperatures.

Range and Livestock: Ranges remain very dry, hay supplies were very low. Ranchers still supplemental feeding livestock on native pasture. Pastures greening up very slowly. Increasing feed prices continued to cause a number of ranchers to liquidate. Sheep producers beginning to shear their sheep.

UTAH: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.0. Topsoil 6% very short, 8% short, 63% adequate, 23% surplus. Subsoil 22% short, 66% adequate, 12% surplus. Winter wheat 11% poor, 21% fair, 47% good, 21% excellent. Fall barley 31% fair, 59% good, 10% excellent. Spring wheat planted 82%, 74% 1995, 78% avg.; emerged 55%, 45% 1995, 44% avg. Barley planted 82%, 73% 1995, 76% avg.; emerged 54%, 47% 1995, 40% avg. Oats planted 39%, 36% 1995, 49% avg.; emerged 23%, 27% 1995, 24% avg. Corn planted 9%, 4% 1995, 11% avg. Alfalfa height 4.0 in. Apples full bloom and past 28%, 11% avg. Pears full bloom and past 95%, 82% 1995. Sweet cherries full bloom and past 94%, 95% 1995. Tart cherries full bloom and past 95%, 30% 1995. Range, pasture feed 1% very poor, 5% poor, 20% fair, 59% good, 15% excellent. Cattle, calf 1% poor, 15% fair, 70% good, 14% excellent. Cows calved 85%, 81% 1995, 85% avg. Sheep 1% poor, 24% fair, 67% good, 8% excellent. Ewes lambed on farm 89%, 83% 1995, 86% avg.; on range 58%, 50% 1995, 57% avg. Sheep sheared on the farm 80%, 83% 1995, 83% avg.; on the range 63%, 62% 1995, 67% avg. Major farm, ranch activities: Spring tillage, planting small grains, alfalfa, some corn, spraying for weeds, calving, lambing, shearing sheep.

VIRGINIA: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.0. Topsoil 13% short, 68% adequate, 19% surplus. Subsoil 8% short, 78% adequate, 14% surplus. Corn 18% planted, 24% 1995, 22% avg.; 7% fair, 93% good. Winter wheat 4% poor, 34% fair, 50% good, 12% excellent. Barley 3% poor, 27% fair, 64% good, 6% excellent. Cotton 9% planted, 15% 1995, 16% avg. Alfalfa 4% fair, 29% fair, 64% good, 3% excellent. Other hay 8% poor, 29% fair, 58% good, 5% excellent. Summer potatoes 100% planted, 100% 1995, 100% avg. Tobacco in greenhouses 3% fair, 48% good, 49% excellent.; in plantbeds 3% poor, 24% fair, 63% good, 10% excellent. Pasture feed 5% poor, 45% fair, 43% good, 7% excellent. Apples 42% good, 58% excellent. Peaches 2% poor, 38% fair, 49% good, 11% excellent. Activities: Drier weather enabled farmers to catch up on fieldwork, especially corn planting, that had been delayed because of the generally wet, cool spring. Growers are continuing with early season vegetable planting. Cotton planting is now underway. Summer potato planting is complete.

WASHINGTON: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.2 Topsoil 12% short, 61% adequate, 27% surplus; subsoil 19% short, 80% adequate, 1% surplus. Cool, wet weather limited fieldwork. Seeding grains, vegetables major field activity. Winter wheat, dryland 7% fair, 65% good, 28% excellent; irrigated, 69% good, 31% excellent. Hay, other roughage supplies 12% short, 88% adequate. Pasture feed 8% poor, 32% fair, 59% good, 1% excellent. Livestock on pastures and early ranges where possible. Barley 38% planted, 43% 1995, 65% avg.; 16% emerged, 23% 1995, 40% avg. Potatoes 38% planted, 35% 1995, 46% avg.; 9% emerged, 13% 1995, 10% avg. Spring wheat 42% planted, 53% 1995, 73% avg.; 26% emerged, 28% 1995, 48% avg. Apples, cherries, pears in bloom. Cranberry weed control underway. Vegetable seeding ongoing. Asparagus harvest continued.

WEST VIRGINIA: Days suitable for fieldwork 3.9. Topsoil 1% short, 80% adequate, 19% surplus. Wheat 9% poor, 69% fair, 21% good, 1% excellent. Hay 13% very poor, 23% poor, 44% fair, 20% good. Spring planting 44%, 69% 1995. Corn planted 4%, 18% 1995. Oats planted 29%, 38% 1995, 45% avg.; 15% emerged, 22% 1995, 22% avg. Tobacco beds seeded 63%, 73% 1995, 81% avg.; 51% emerged, 37% 1995, 45% avg. Pasture feed 3% very poor, 19% poor, 53% fair, 24% good, 1% excellent. Cattle 2% very poor, 9% poor, 27% fair, 60% good, 2% excellent; 89% calved. Sheep 15% poor, 34% fair, 50% good, 1% excellent; 85% lambed. Hay, roughage supplies 17% very short, 32% short, 51% adequate. Feed grain 10% very short, 22% short, 68% adequate. Apples 76% fair, 24% good. Peaches 82% fair, 18% good. Activities: Plowing, planting where conditions allowed, top dressing hay fields, seeding, liming pastures, seeding tobacco beds. Hauling manure, building, repairing fences, turning out cattle to pasture, feeding livestock, calving, lambing, general maintenance.

WISCONSIN: Days suitable for fieldwork 1.8. Soil moisture 6% short, 60% adequate, 34% surplus. Spring tillage 7%, 5% 1995, 12% avg. Some patches of snow and frost still in the ground held the number of fieldwork days statewide. Sunday evening left some wet snow statewide to enhance the moisture levels. Pasture feed 40% poor, 39% fair, 21% good. Reporters commented that some grass was greening up; however, there was little feed value in the pastures. Some winter wheat damage has been observed, especially in the southern, eastern parts of the State. In many areas, alfalfa winterkill was hard to spot yet. Southwest district reporters were somewhat concerned with damage to older alfalfa stands, the price of hay increasing, short supplies available. Maple syrup this year was reported fair to good, with a comment in the north on the color being dark. Apple growers were busy pruning trees for the new season. Tobacco beds were being prepared in the south.

WYOMING: Days suitable for fieldwork 2.7. Topsoil 100% adequate or surplus. Cooler temperatures, precipitation slowed seeding of small grains, other fieldwork at the end of the week. Barley 69% planted, 77% 1995, 69% avg.; 6% emerged 36% 1995, 30% avg. Oats 28% planted, 52% 1995, 35% avg.; 3% emerged, 17% 1995, 7% avg. Spring wheat 32% planted, 36% 1995, 37% avg.; 6% emerged, 5% 1995, 10% avg. Sugar beets 40% planted, 73% 1995, 57% avg.; 0% emerged, 0 % 1995, 6% avg. Irrigation water supplies 99% adequate or surplus. Calving 82% complete, 84% 1995, 82% avg. Farm flock ewes lambed 90%, 84% 1995, 89% avg.; shorn 88%, 92% 1995, 86% avg. Range flock ewes lambed 22%, 16% 1995, 29% avg.; shorn 56%, 61% 1995, 59% avg. Lamb losses mostly normal. Range, pasture feed 8% fair, 73% good, 19% excellent.

International Weather and Crop Summary

April 14 - 20, 1996

HIGHLIGHTS

FSU-WESTERN: Light to moderate precipitation benefited greening winter wheat in Ukraine and southern Russia but interrupted spring grain planting.

EUROPE: Persistent dryness in the north limited moisture for winter grain growth and slowed spring grain emergence.

NORTHWESTERN AFRICA: Unseasonably warm, dry weather prevailed over winter wheat areas in Morocco, while light showers covered crop areas in eastern Algeria and Tunisia.

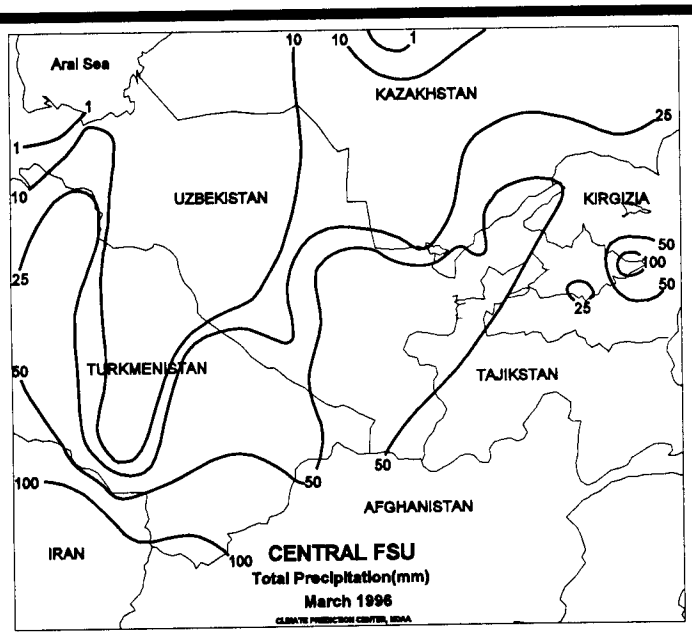
SOUTH AFRICA: Cold, wet weather worsened quality prospects for maturing corn.

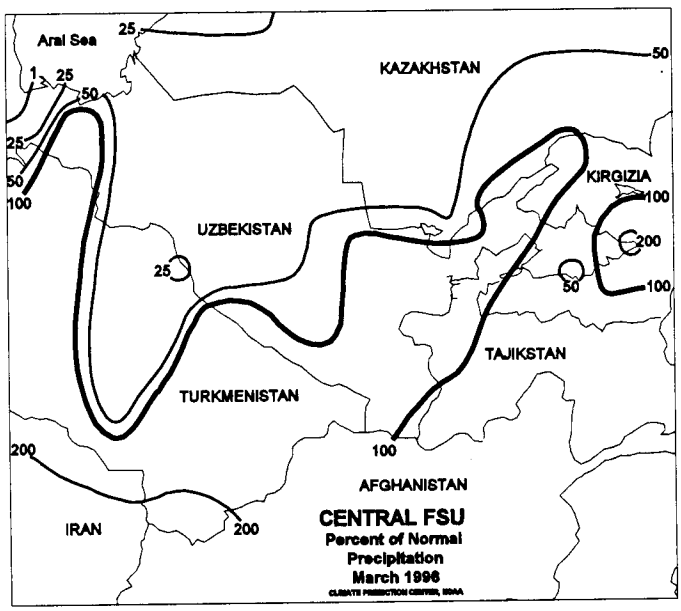
AUSTRALIA: Beneficial rain increased topsoil moisture in the winter grain belt as dry, albeit cool weather favored summer crop harvesting.

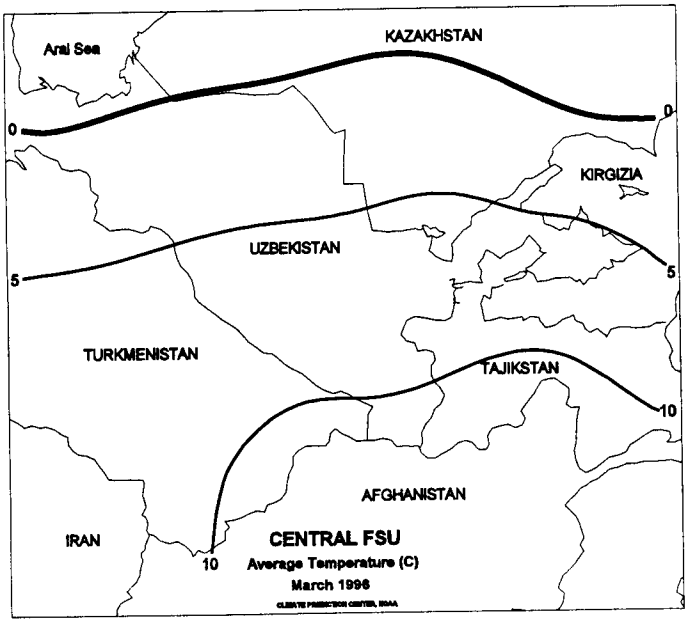
EASTERN ASIA: Rain and warmer weather favored spring wheat planting across Manchuria. Rain continued to cover southern China, boosting irrigation supplies.

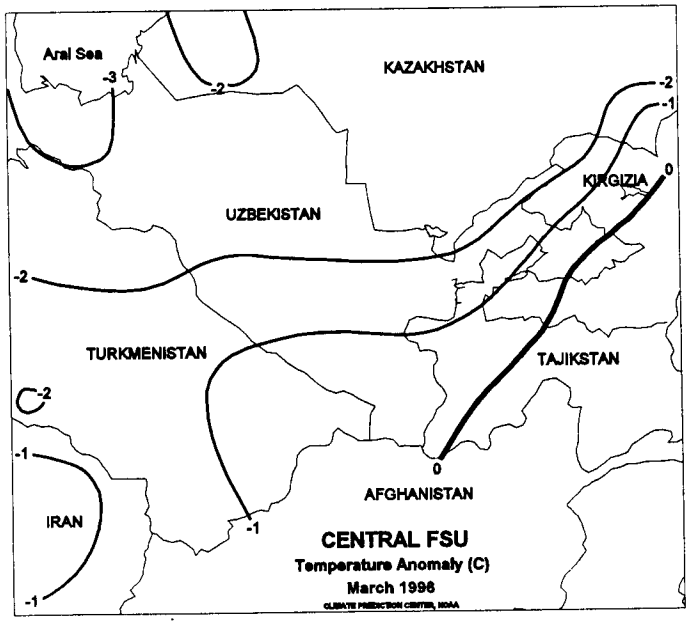
SOUTHEAST ASIA: Showers aided rice in northern Vietnam but slowed harvesting in Java. Drier weather eased flooding across the Philippines.

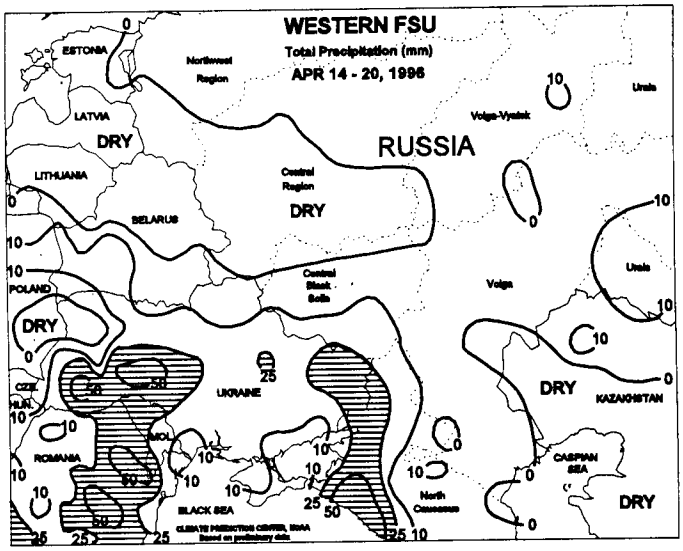
SOUTH AMERICA: Showers slowed harvesting across Argentina and southern Brazil. Scattered frost in western Buenos Aires possibly harmed immature soybeans.





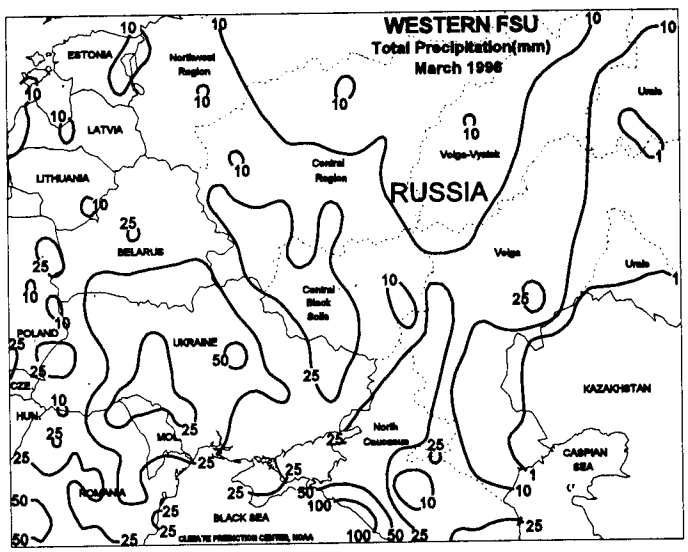


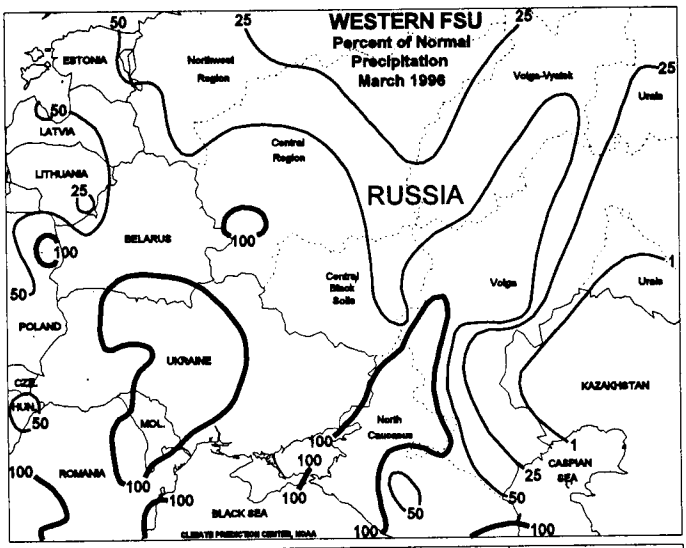


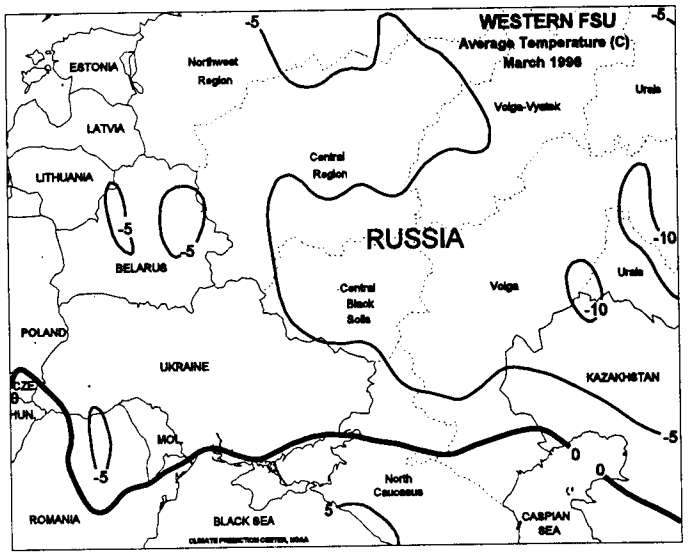


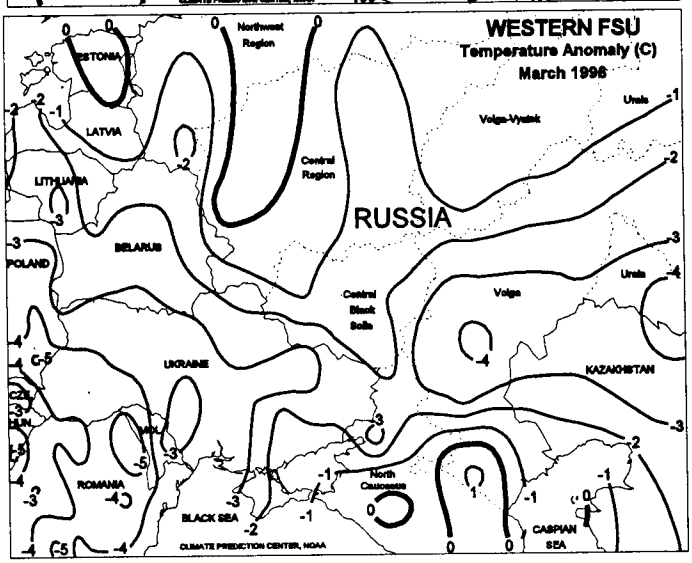
FSU-WESTERN

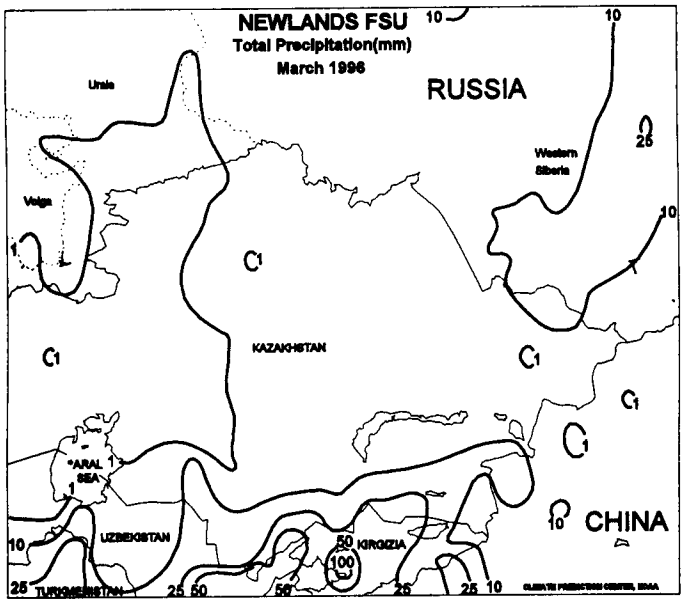
Light to moderate precipitation (10-50 mm, with local amounts in excess of 50 mm) fell over Ukraine, and the North Caucasus region in Russia, moistening topsoils for spring growth. Winter grains continued greening throughout Ukraine and southern Russia. Winter grains remained dormant over northern Russia, the Baltics, and Belarus despite above-normal temperatures that melted most of the snow cover. Spring grain planting was off to a slow start in Ukraine and southern Russia due to a late spring along with this past week's precipitation. In March, unusually cold weather persisted over winter wheat areas, maintaining a moderate to deep snow cover as far south as southern Ukraine and the northern tip of the North Caucasus region in Russia. Typically, snow cover begins retreating northward in Ukraine and southern Russia in March. The persistent snow cover kept winter grains dormant and prevented early-season fieldwork for spring grain planting. However, the absence of snow cover in the western and southern portion of Russia's North Caucasus region likely permitted some timely fieldwork.

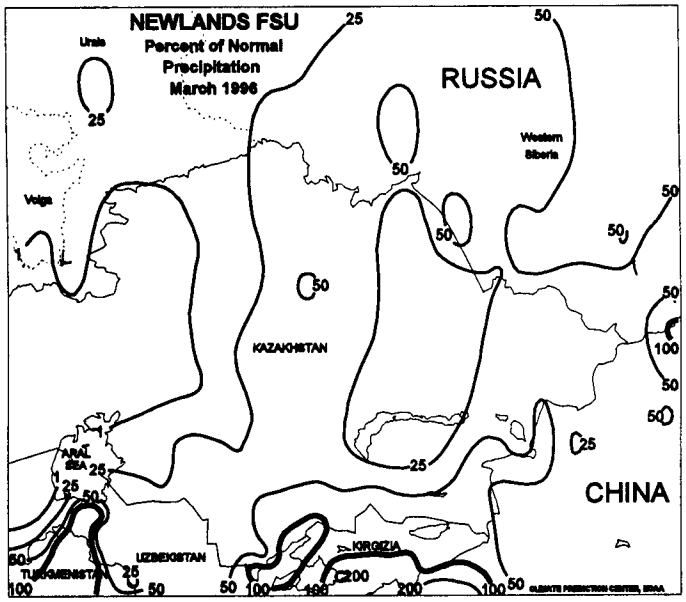


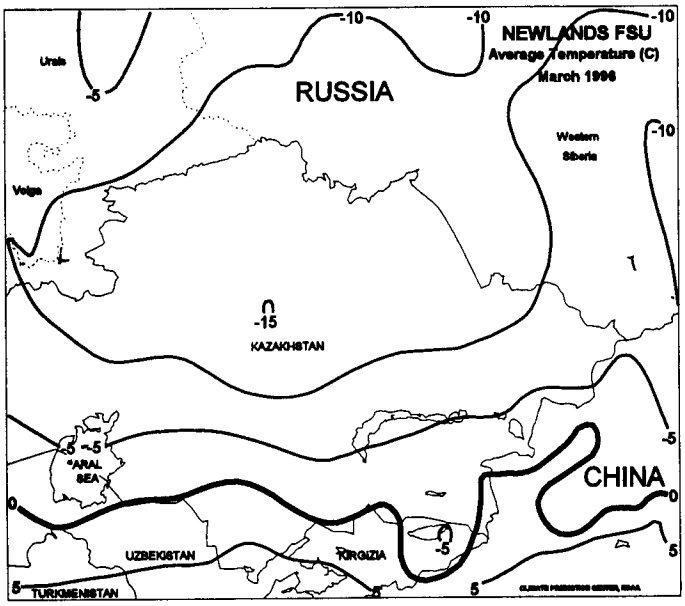


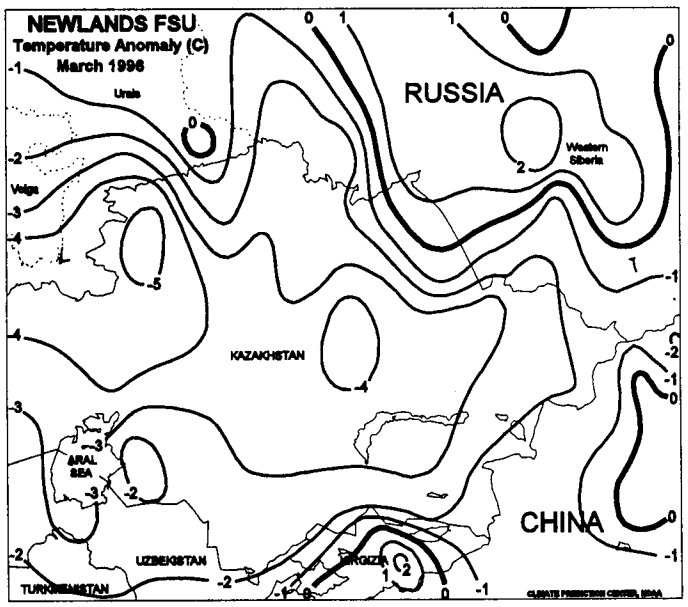


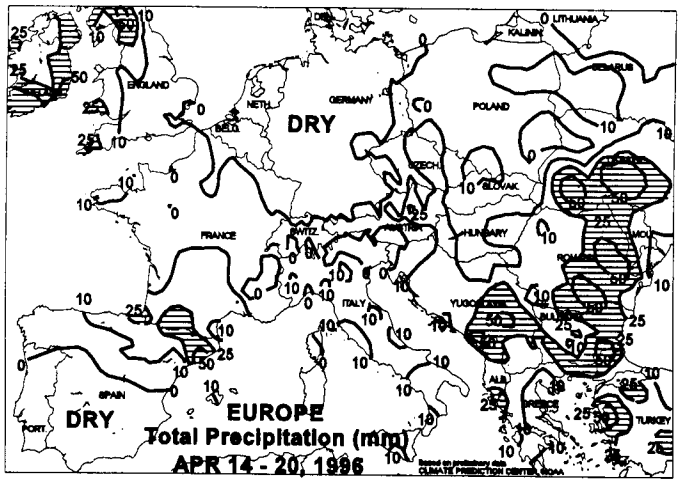



NEWLANDS FSU
Total Precipitation(mm)
March 1996
RUSSIA
Urals
Volga
Western Siberia
KAZAKHSTAN
ARAL SEA
UZBEKISTAN
KIRGIZIA
TURKMENISTAN
CHINA


NEWLANDS FSU
Percent of Normal Precipitation
March 1996
RUSSIA
Urals
Volga
Western Siberia
KAZAKHSTAN
ARAL SEA
UZBEKISTAN
KIRGIZIA
TURKMENISTAN
CHINA

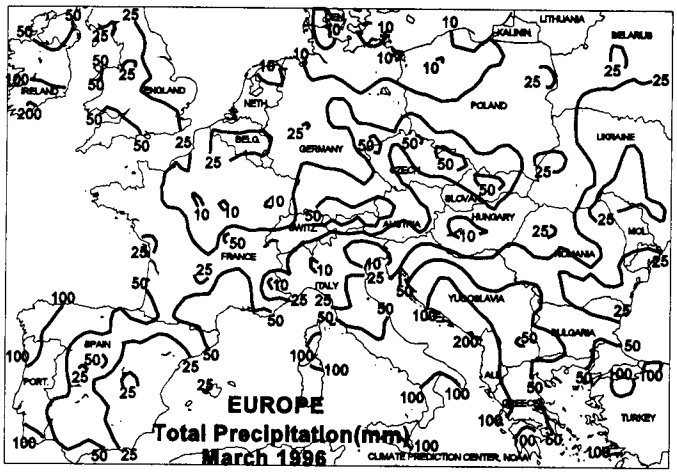

NEWLANDS FSU
Average Temperature (C)
March 1996
RUSSIA
Urals
Volga
Western Siberia
KAZAKHSTAN
ARAL SEA
UZBEKISTAN
KIRGIZIA
TURKMENISTAN
CHINA

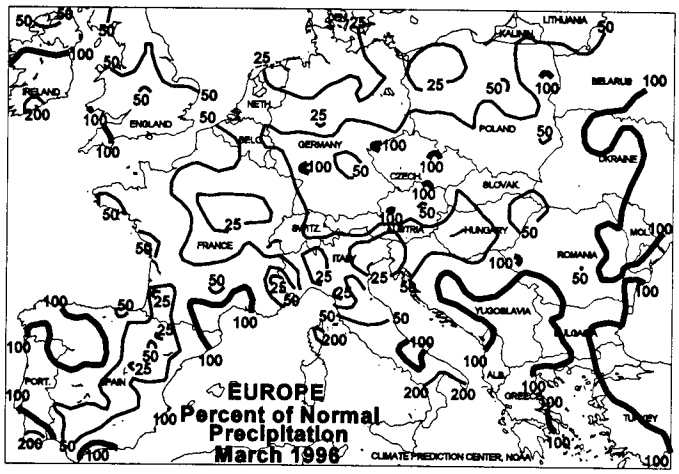

NEWLANDS FSU
Temperature Anomaly (C)
March 1996
RUSSIA
Urals
Volga
Western Siberia
KAZAKHSTAN
ARAL SEA
UZBEKISTAN
KIRGIZIA
TURKMENISTAN
CHINA

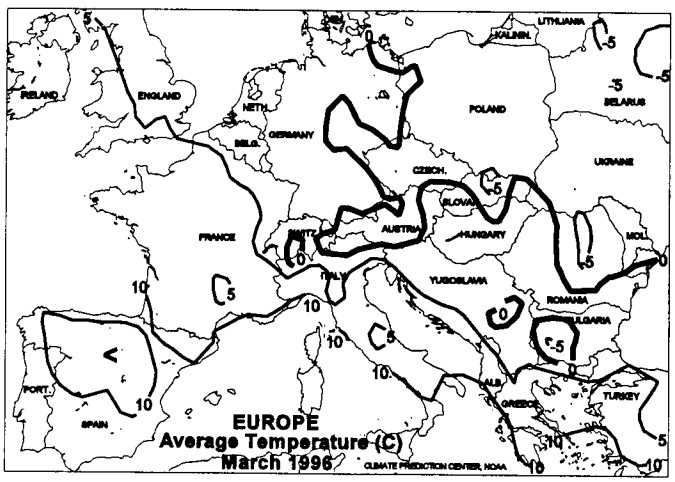


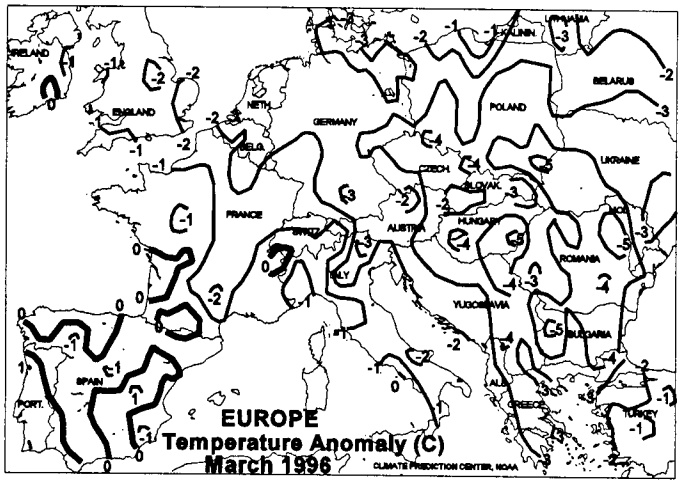
EUROPE

Little or no precipitation fell over eastern England, northern France, the Benelux countries, and Germany, where soil moisture deficits continued to increase. The combination of persistent dryness, along with unseasonably mild weather this past week, worsened growing conditions for winter grains in these areas. In addition, dry topsoils have delayed spring grain emergence in Germany, and slowed early plant development in northern France. Showers (10-25 mm) fell over southern France, increasing topsoil moisture for corn planting. Elsewhere, dry weather prevailed over Italy, where weather conditions favored crop development. In southeastern Europe, cold, wet weather (10-60 mm), including some snow, covered Romania and Bulgaria. Weekly temperatures averaged 2 to 4 degrees C below normal over southeastern Europe. In March, unseasonably cold weather prevailed over most of Europe, with near- to above-normal temperatures confined to western France and parts of the Iberian Peninsula. The cold weather slowed winter crop development in the north and maintained snow cover in the east later than usual. Below-normal precipitation fell over most of Europe in March. Well-below-normal amounts of moisture (less than 50 percent of normal) fell from northern France eastward through northern Germany, continuing the winter's below-normal precipitation pattern in these areas. March's drier weather was welcomed in Spain and Portugal, following excessive wetness in some areas during the winter months.

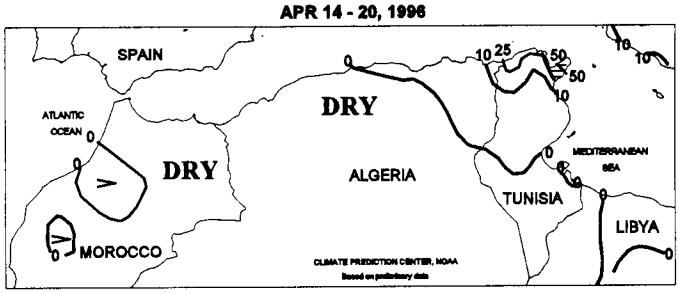








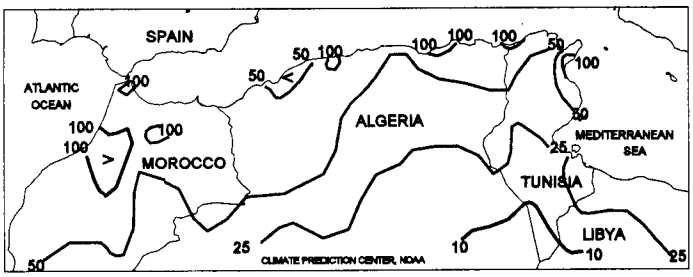
NORTHWEST AFRICA Total Precipitation (mm)
APR 14 - 20, 1996



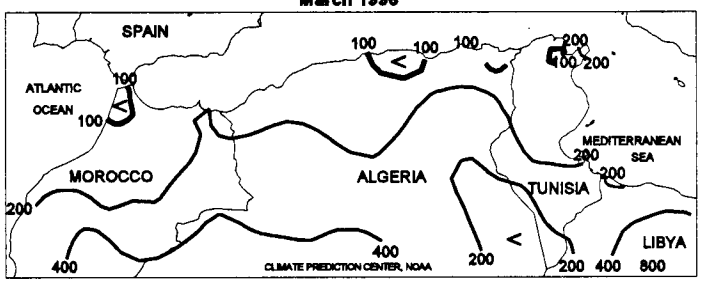
NORTHWESTERN AFRICA

The second consecutive week of unseasonably warm, dry weather covered winter grain areas in Morocco. Weekly temperatures in Morocco averaged 2 to 4 degrees C above normal, accelerating crop development. Farther east, dry weather prevailed over western Algeria, while light showers (4-25 mm) benefited filling winter grains in eastern Algeria and northern Tunisia. In March, above-normal precipitation covered winter grain areas in Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia. Most of March's precipitation fell during the first half of the month, benefiting winter grains in or nearing reproduction. Since mid-March, however, precipitation has tapered off over most areas and crops have had to rely on soil moisture reserves for normal development. Additional rains would still benefit winter grains, mostly in the filling stage.

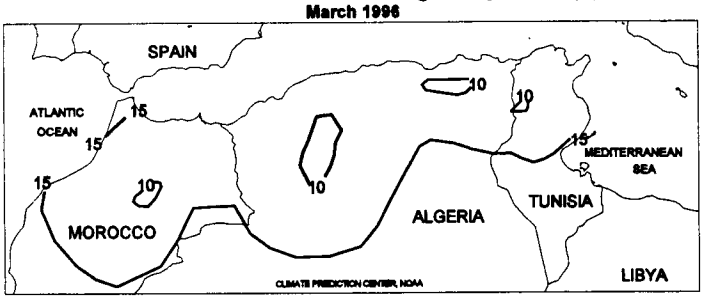
NORTHWEST AFRICA Total Precipitation (mm)
March 1996



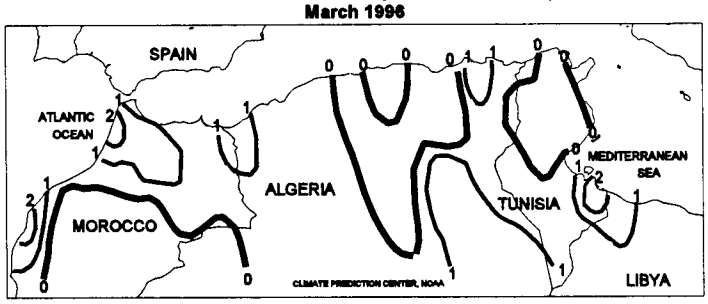
NORTHWEST AFRICA Percent of Normal Precipitation
March 1996

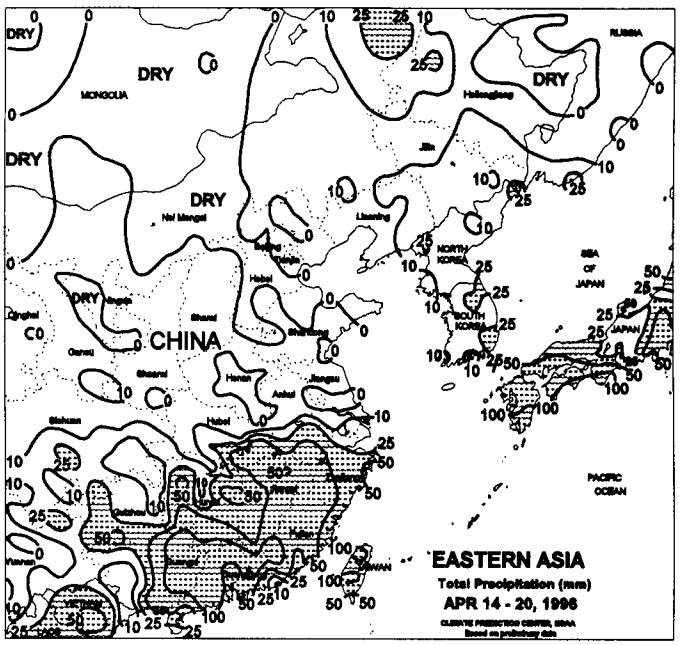


NORTHWEST AFRICA Average Temperature (C)
March 1996



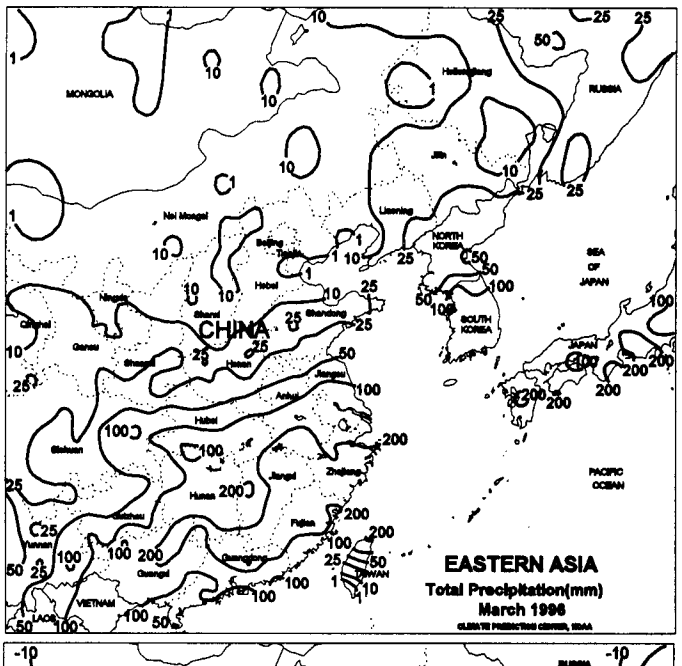
NORTHWEST AFRICA Temperature Anomaly (C)
March 1996

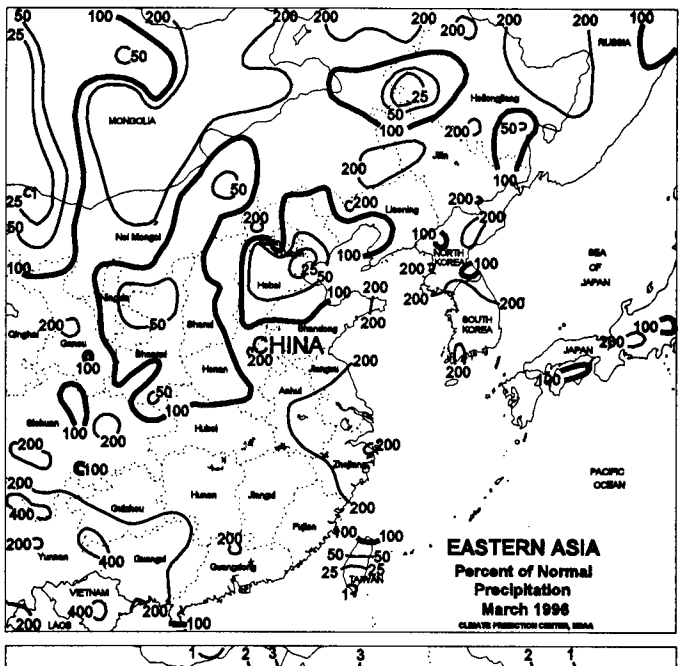


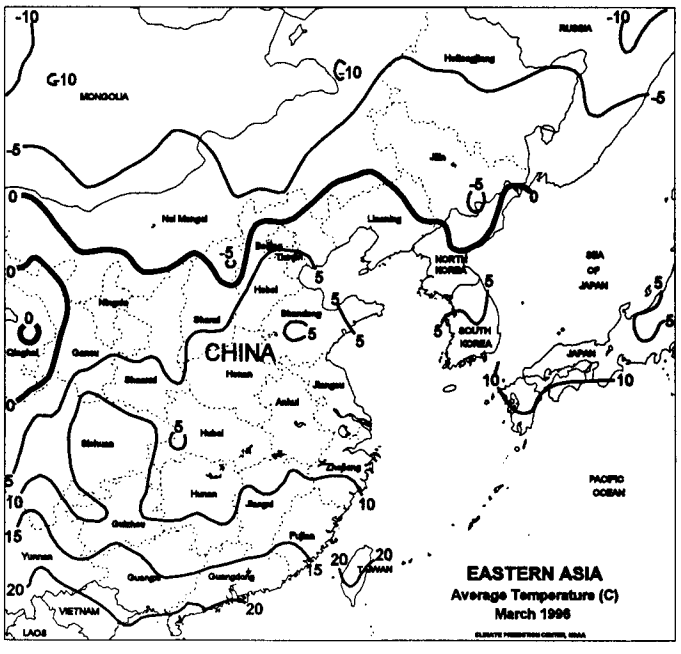


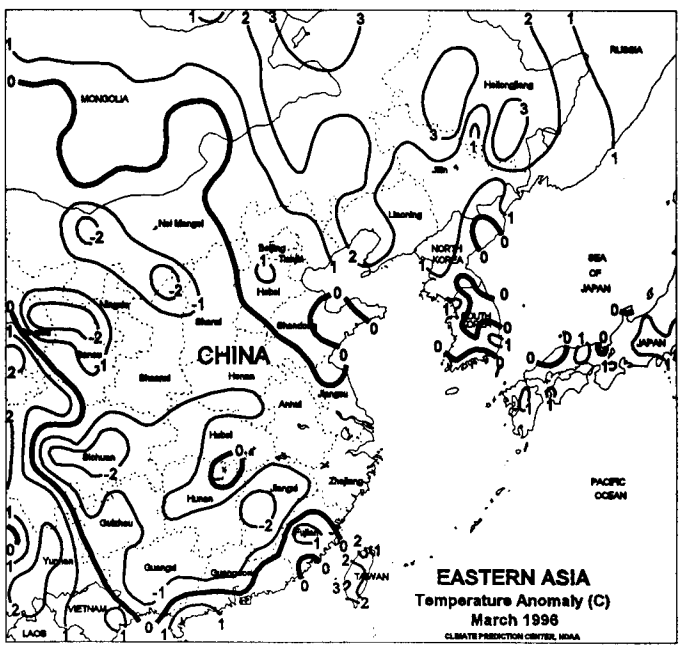
EASTERN ASIA

Seasonably warmer weather and light to moderate rain (5-15 mm, with isolated amounts greater than 25 mm) spurred spring wheat planting across Manchuria. Across the North China Plain, dry weather favored summer crop planting, as winter wheat began to enter reproduction. Southern China received widespread rain (25-75 mm), increasing irrigation reserves for rice. Heavier rain (100-130 mm) was confined to Guangxi and Guangdong. During March, rainfall averaged above normal across most of China. The lower Yangtze Valley (Zhejiang, southern Anhui, and Jiangsu) and southwest China (Guangxi and Yunnan) received much-above-normal rainfall (200-300 percent of normal). Portions of North China Plain (Hebei, western Henan, Shaanxi, and Shanxi) received 50 to 75 percent of normal March rainfall, where March rainfall typically averages 20 to 25 mm.



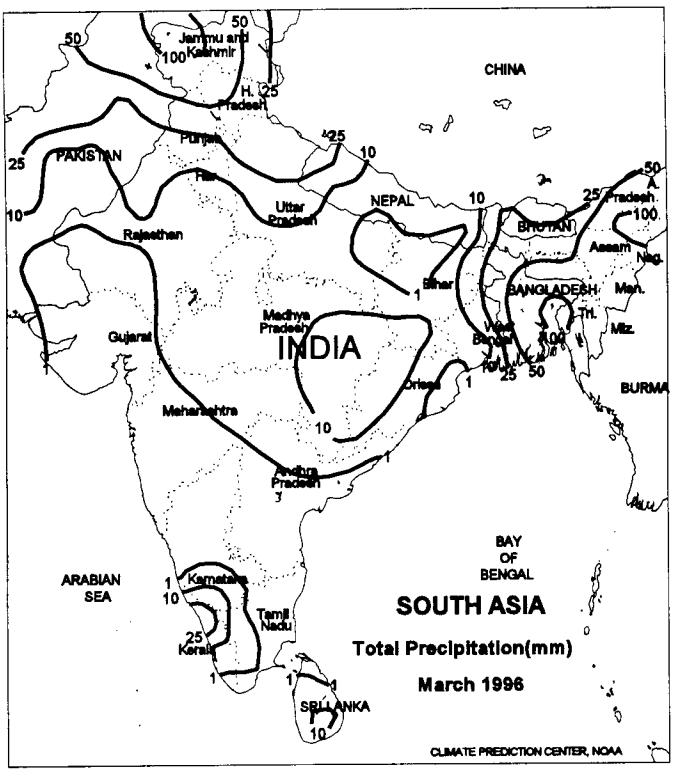


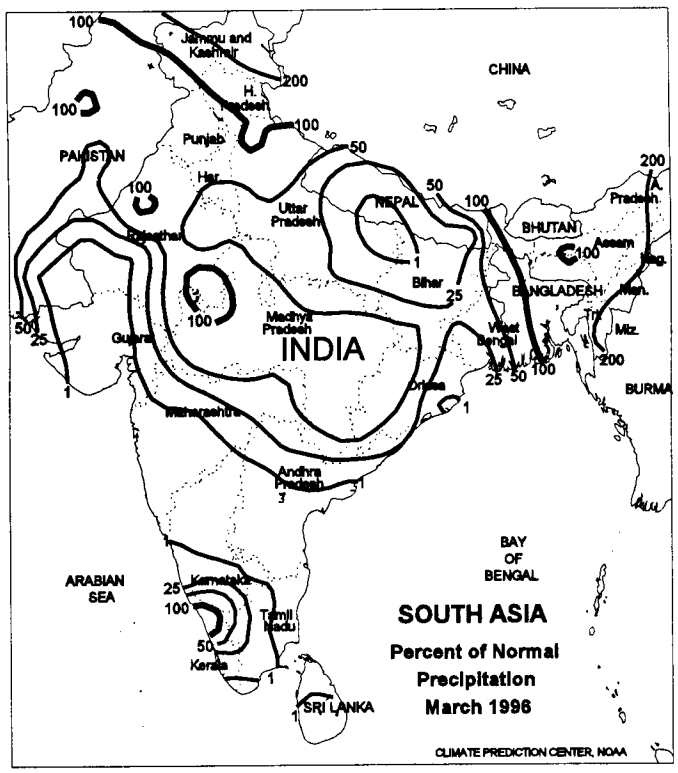


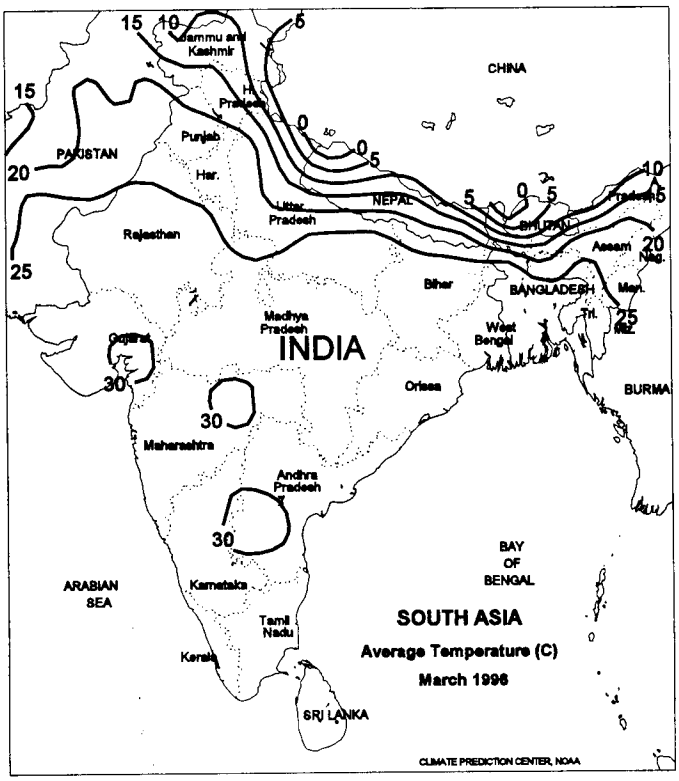


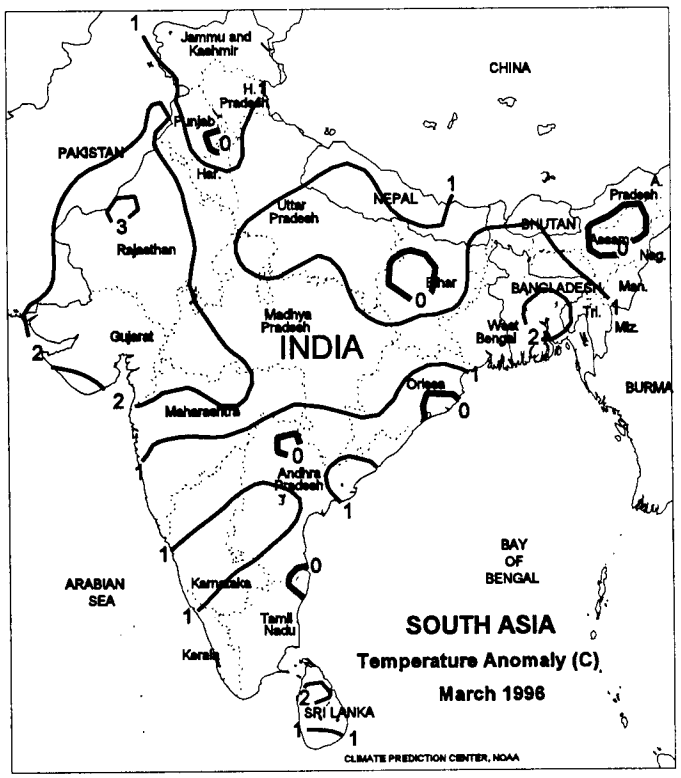
SOUTH ASIA

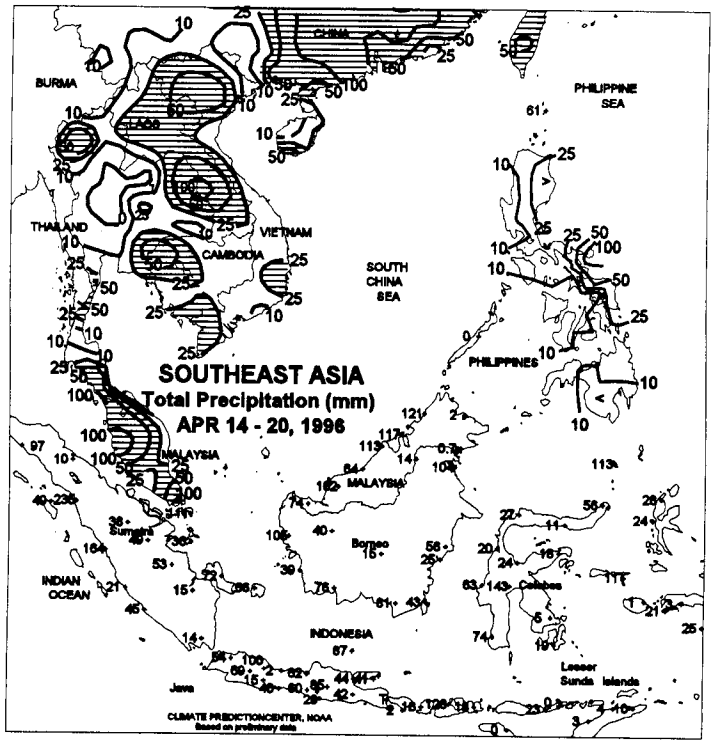
During March, generally warm, dry weather across the region favored maturing winter grains and oilseeds. Mid-month moderate showers (10-25 mm or more), confined to northernmost crop areas, benefited immature crops. In early April, harvesting advanced under favorable conditions.





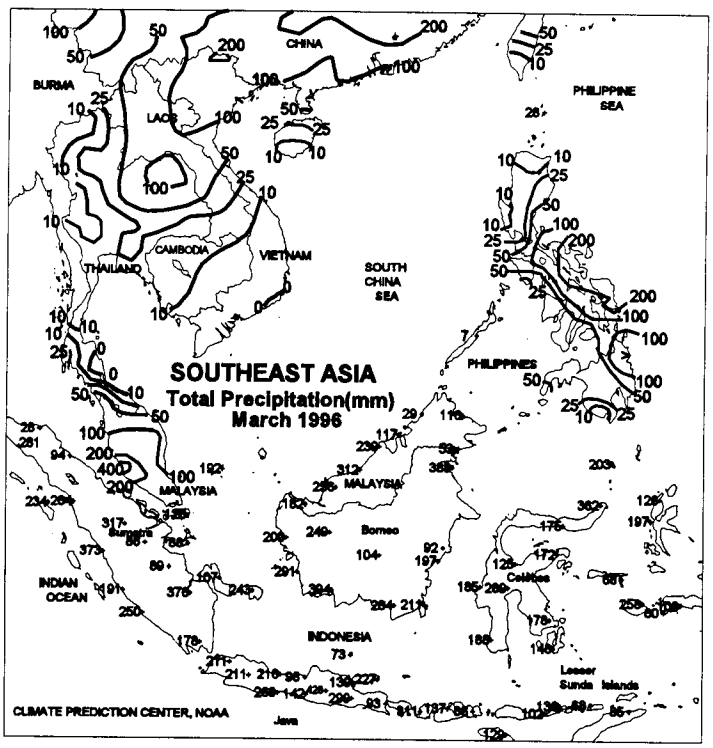


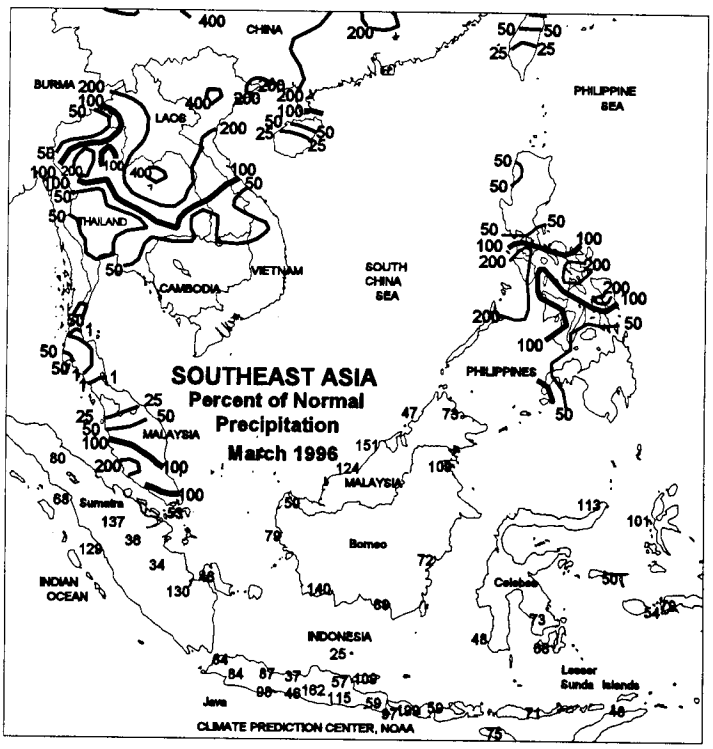


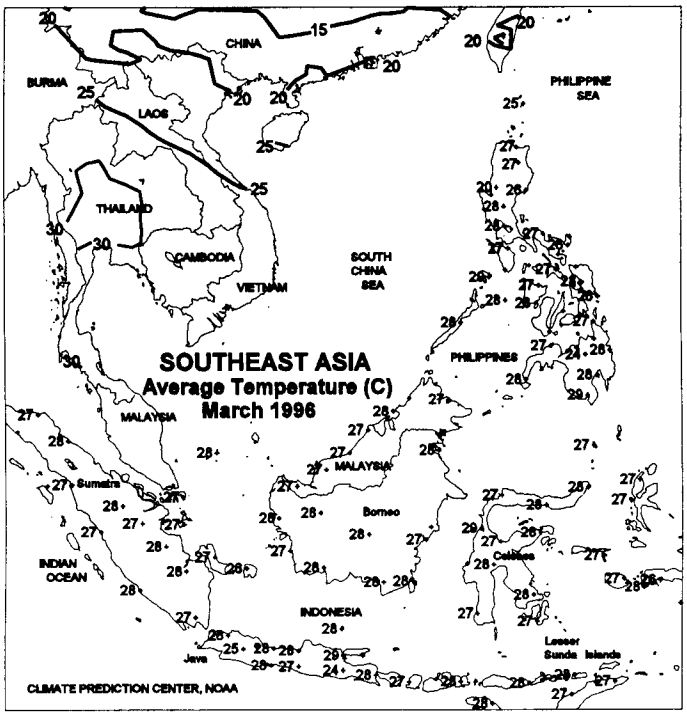


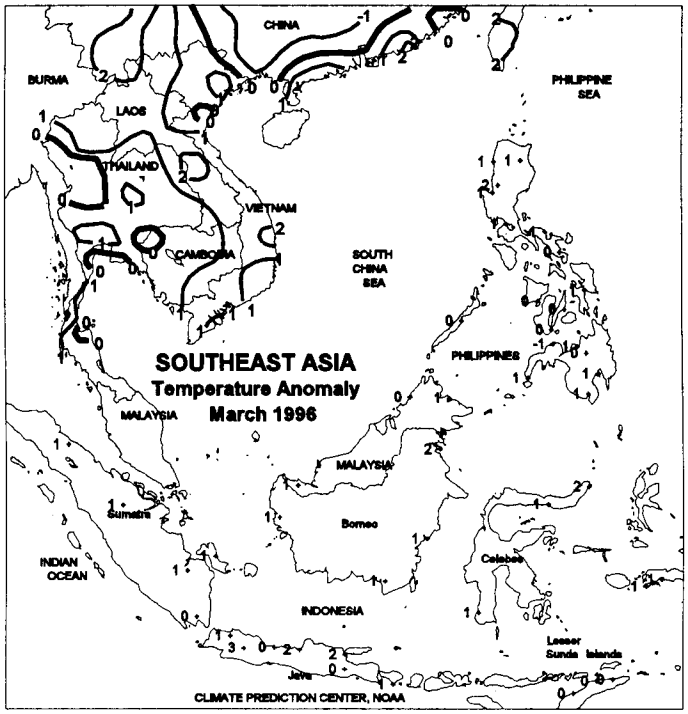
SOUTHEAST ASIA

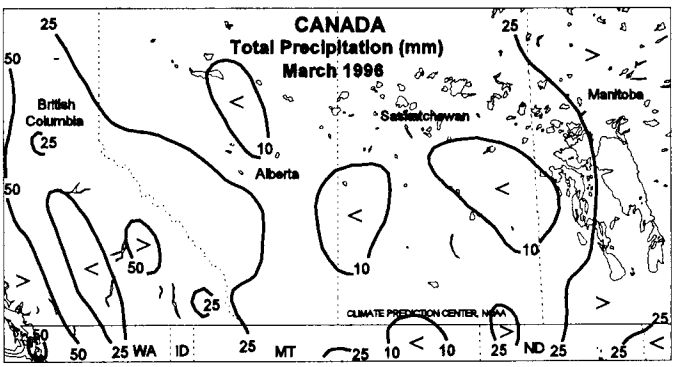
Moderate to heavy showers (25-90 mm) fell across northern Vietnam and northern Laos, increasing irrigation supplies and favoring vegetative winter-spring rice. Widespread showers (20-80 mm) slowed main-season rice harvesting across Java. Drier weather (less than 25 mm) prevailed across the central Philippines, easing flooding from last week's heavy rain. Only extreme southeastern Luzon received heavy rain (150-225 mm), exacerbating flooding. In March, much-above-normal rainfall (greater than 200 percent of normal) covered most of northern Vietnam, Laos, and northeastern Thailand, boosting rice irrigation supplies. The remainder of Thailand received near-normal rainfall. In Java, March rainfall averaged near to slightly above normal, maintaining moisture supplies for main-season rice. Most of peninsular Malaysia received below-normal rainfall, with only the southwestern portions reporting near- to above-normal rainfall. The central Philippines received near- to above-normal rainfall, while the rest of the Philippines reported below-normal rainfall.

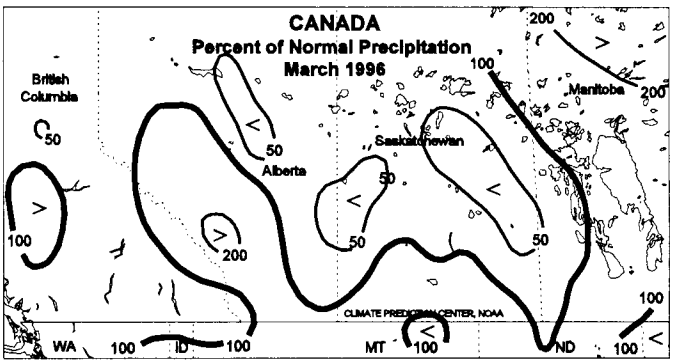


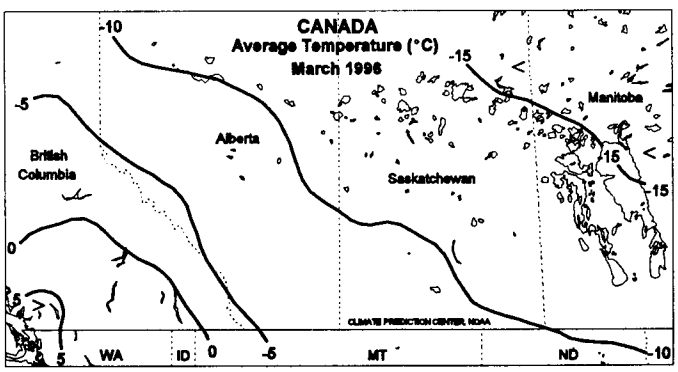


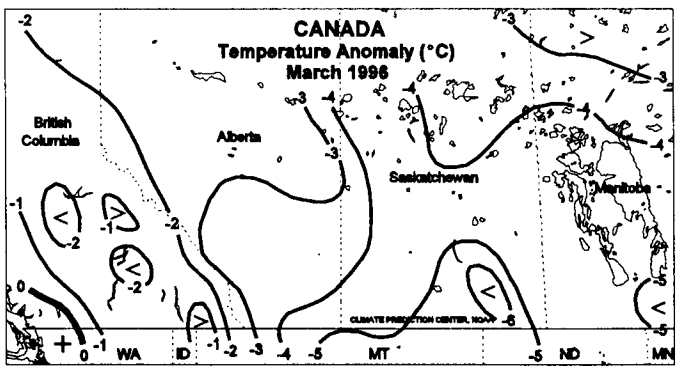

SOUTHEAST ASIA
Average Temperature (C)
March 1996
CHINA
BURMA
LAOS
THAILAND
CAMBODIA
VIETNAM
SOUTH CHINA SEA
PHILIPPINE SEA
PHILIPPINES
MALAYSIA
Sumatra
Borneo
Celebes
INDIAN OCEAN
INDONESIA
Java
Lesser Sunda Islands
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA

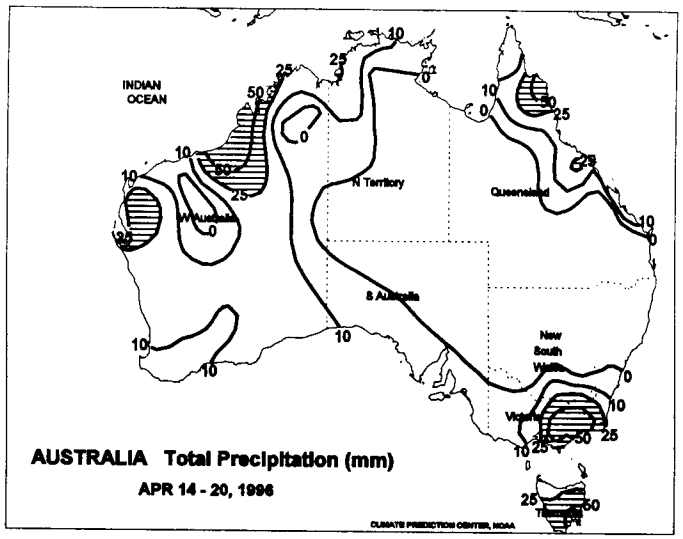

SOUTHEAST ASIA
Temperature Anomaly
March 1996
CHINA
BURMA
LAOS
THAILAND
VIETNAM
CAMBODIA
SOUTH CHINA SEA
PHILIPPINE SEA
PHILIPPINES
MALAYSIA
Sumatra
Borneo
Celebes
INDIAN OCEAN
INDONESIA
Java
Lesser Sunda Islands
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA


CANADA
Total Precipitation (mm)
March 1996
British Columbia
Alberta
Saskatchewan
Manitoba
WA
ID
MT
ND
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA


CANADA
Percent of Normal Precipitation
March 1996
British Columbia
Alberta
Saskatchewan
Manitoba
WA
ID
MT
ND
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA

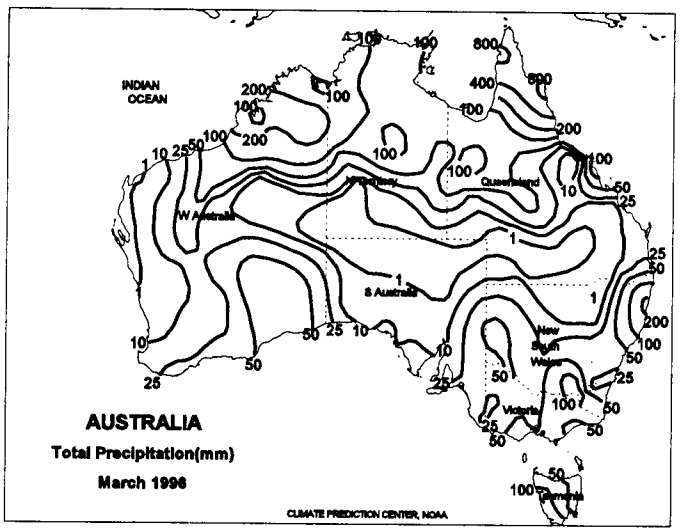

CANADA
Average Temperature (°C)
March 1996
British Columbia
Alberta
Saskatchewan
Manitoba
WA
ID
MT
ND
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA

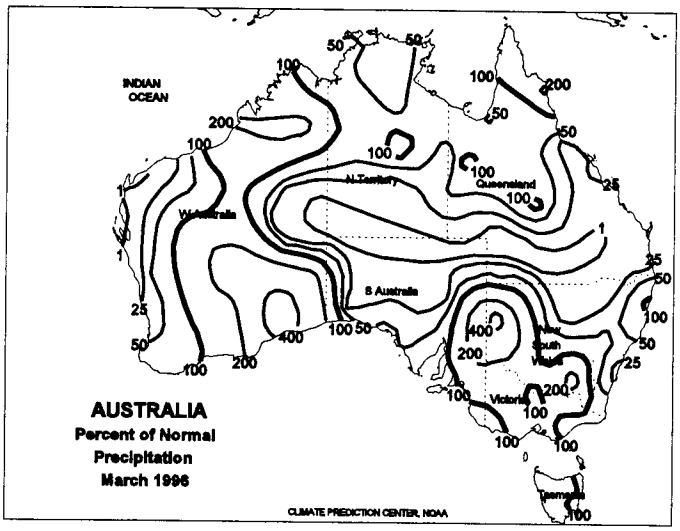

CANADA
Temperature Anomaly (°C)
March 1996
British Columbia
Alberta
Saskatchewan
Manitoba
WA
ID
MT
ND
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA

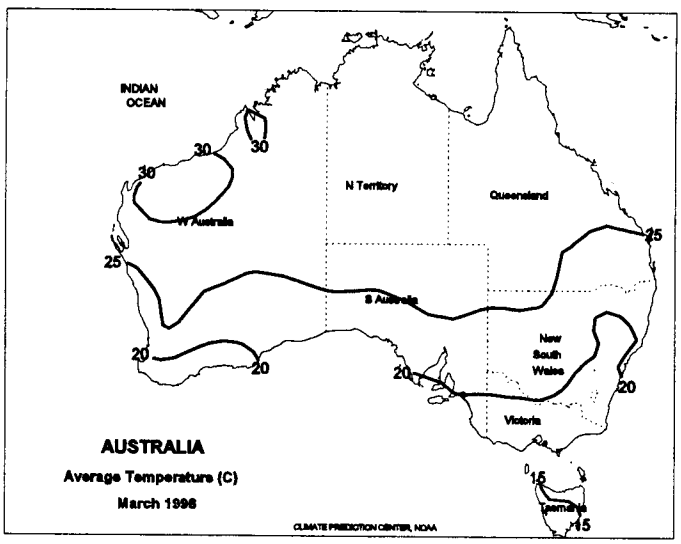


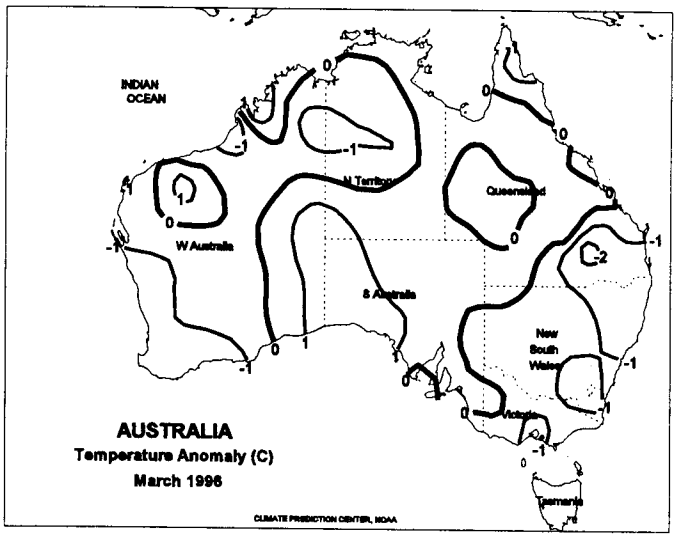
AUSTRALIA

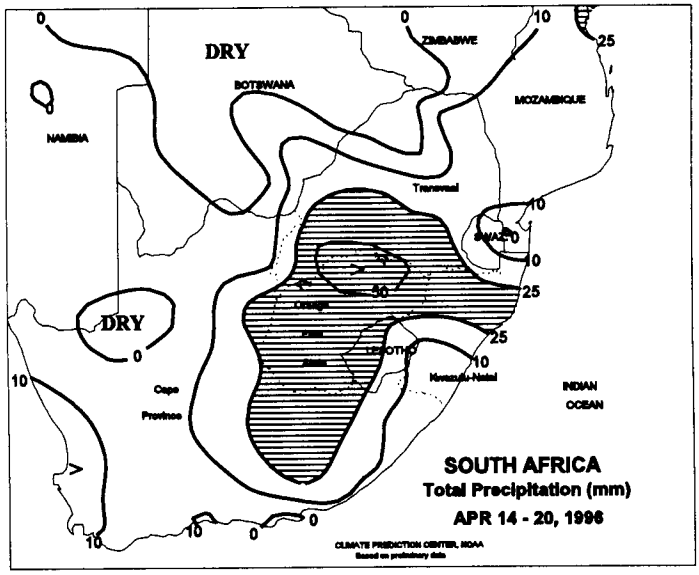
In the west, moderate rain (5-28 mm) increased pre-planting topsoil moisture for the upcoming winter grain crops. Scattered, light showers (15 mm or less) continued over Victoria, with the heaviest rain (15-65 mm) falling east of the main crop areas. Farther north, cool, dry weather favored sorghum and cotton harvesting. Lows dipped below 5 degrees C in the crop areas surrounding Darling Downs, but sub-freezing temperatures were limited to higher elevations south of the main crop areas. In New Zealand, heavy rain (25-50 mm or more) covered the main pasture lands of North Island, but only light rain (10 mm or less) was reported in pasture areas of eastern South Island. During March, dry weather dominated the main sorghum and cotton areas and the southern sugarcane areas. The unseasonable dryness favored drydown prior to harvest but reduced moisture for immature crops, especially sugarcane. Eastern Australia's western pasture areas received a shot of beneficial rain (10-50 mm or more) at mid-month but were generally dry at other times during March. That rain also boosted topsoil moisture in southeastern winter wheat areas.





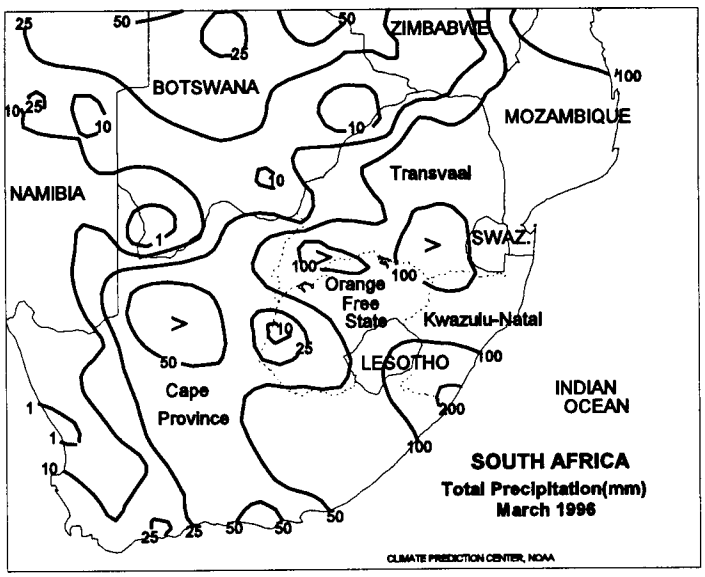


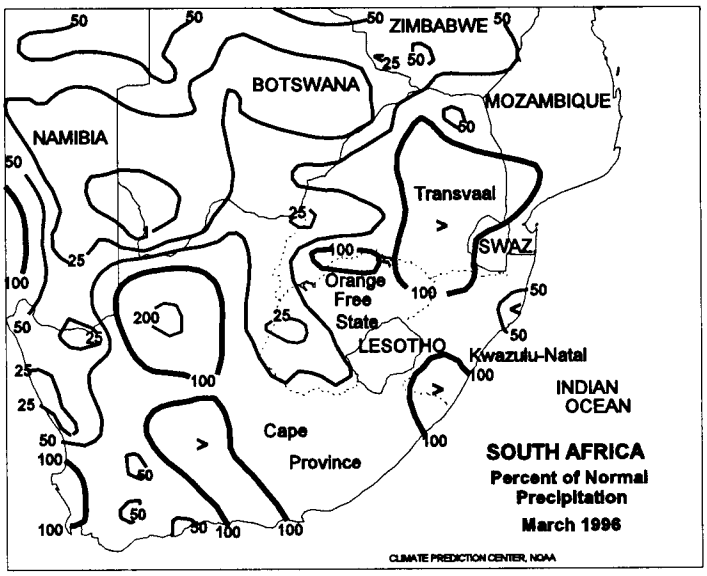


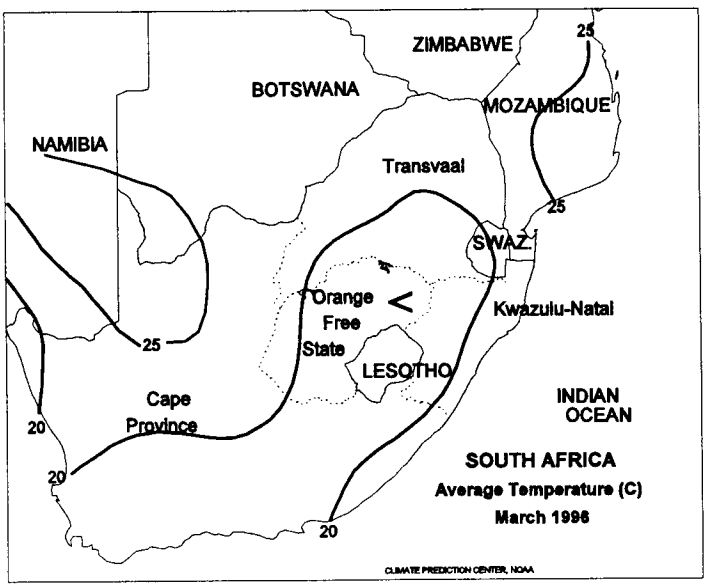


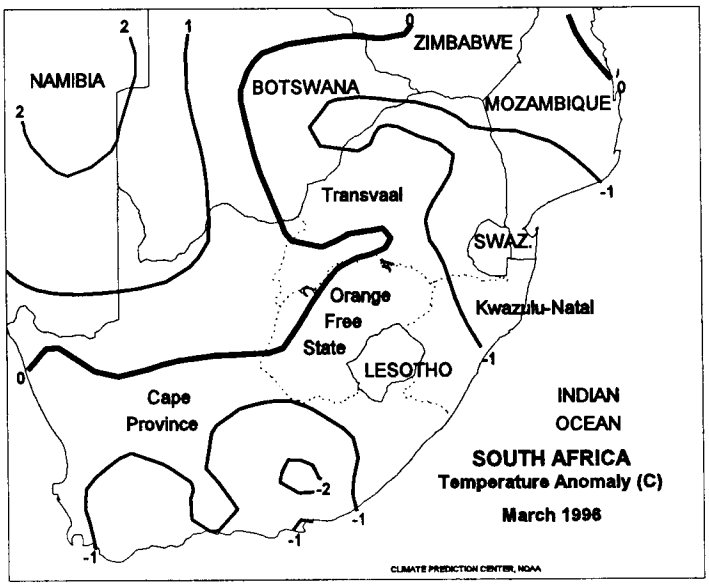
SOUTH AFRICA

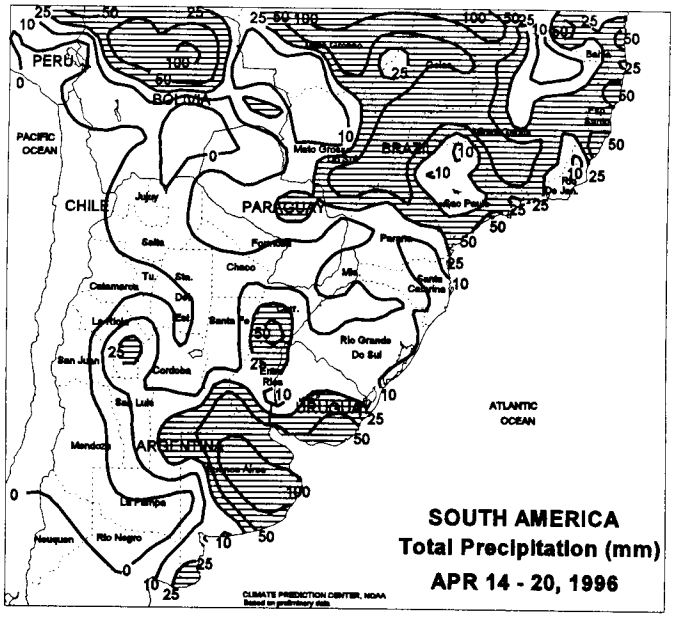
A cold front brought unseasonable rain (25-65 mm) to most of the corn belt, halting harvesting and intensifying quality problems. Minimum temperatures reached zero to 1 degree C at week's end in sections of the central corn belt, resulting in some patchy frost. Elsewhere, rainfall was generally scattered and light, including winter wheat areas of Western Cape that need rain to ensure good moisture at planting. March rainfall was near to above normal in the eastern corn belt and main sugarcane areas. However, most of the rain fell early in the month. Cool weather accompanied the rain, raising concerns for quality and pest problems. Drier, warmer weather the remainder of the month was timely for crop maturation. In the western corn belt, warmer, drier conditions prevailed for much of the month, with periodic showers benefiting immature crops. March rainfall was below normal in winter wheat areas of Western Cape.





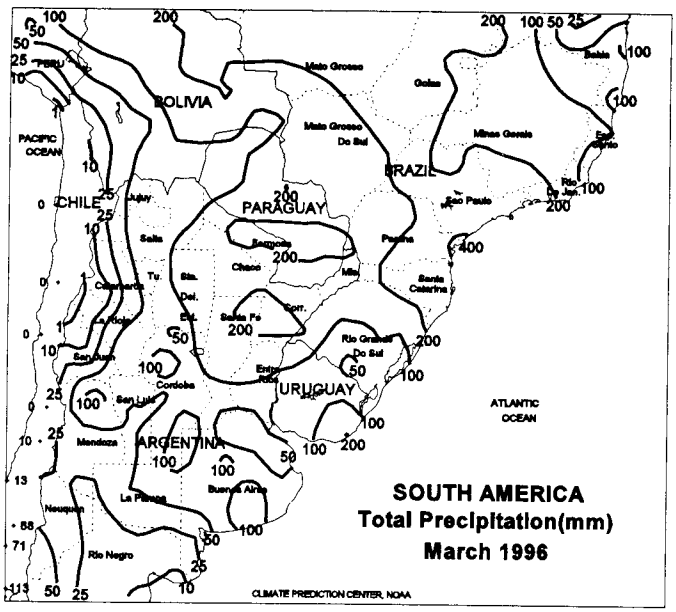


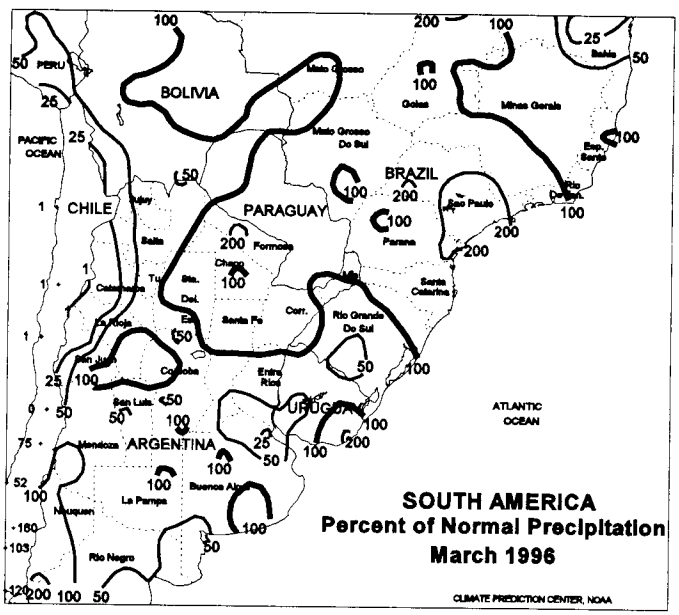


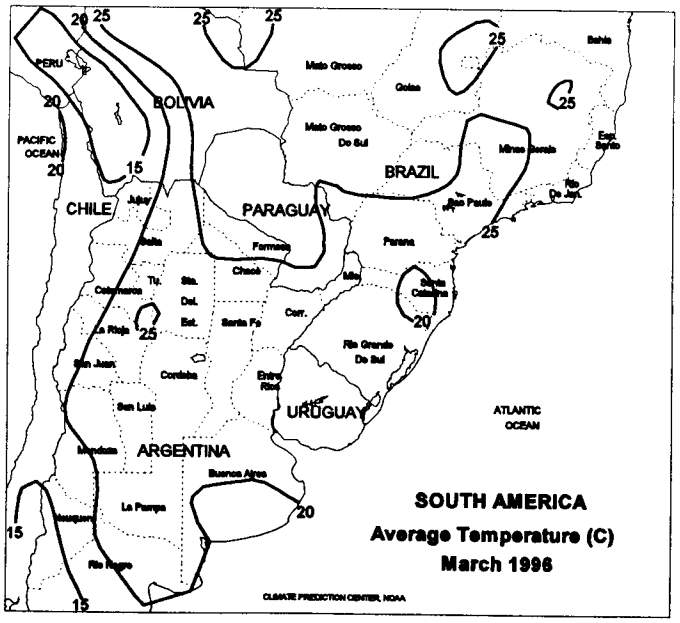


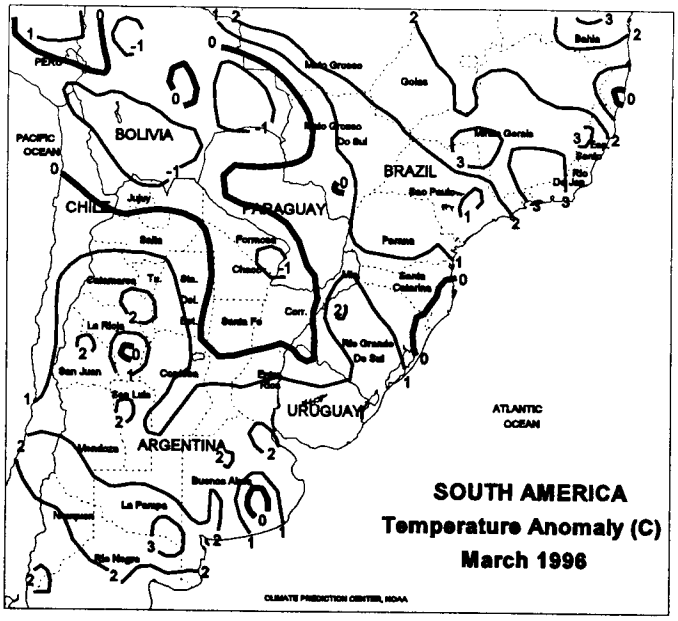
SOUTH AMERICA

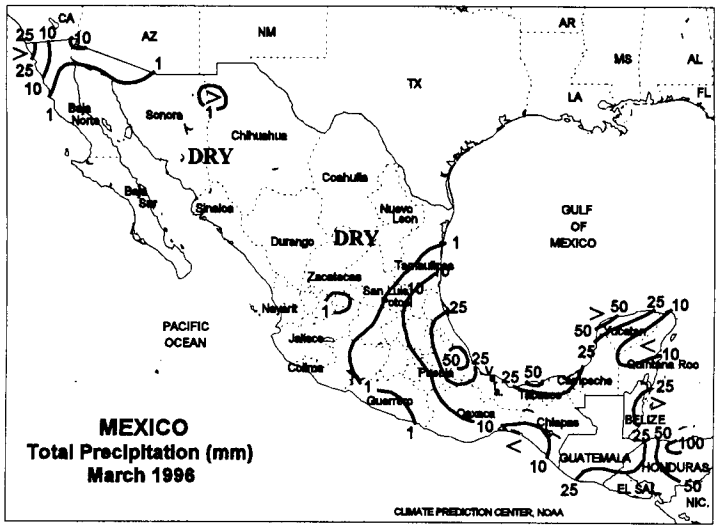
In central Argentina, early-week heavy showers (30-80 mm, with scattered amounts greater than 100 mm) slowed summer crop harvesting, but aided immature soybeans. Drier weather the rest of the week allowed fieldwork to resume. Scattered frost was reported in western Buenos Aires, causing local damage to immature soybeans. Drier weather (less than 15 mm) prevailed across northern Argentina and southern Paraguay, allowing cotton harvesting to progress. Across most of southern Brazil, widespread showers (30-80 mm) slowed soybean harvesting. In Rio Grande do Sul, light rain (less than 10 mm) did little to impede soybean harvesting. During March, rainfall averaged less than 50 percent of normal across east-central Argentina, stressing soybeans. Elsewhere in central Argentina, near-normal rainfall aided soybeans. Above-normal rainfall across northern Argentina, southern Paraguay, and most of southern Brazil slowed summer crop harvesting.

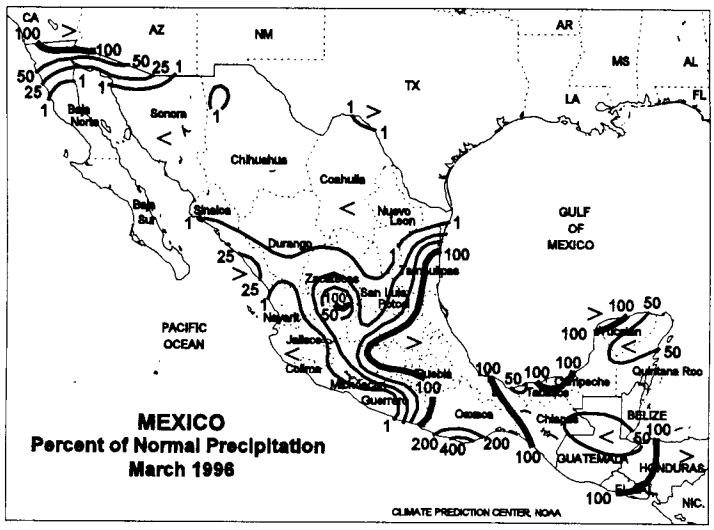


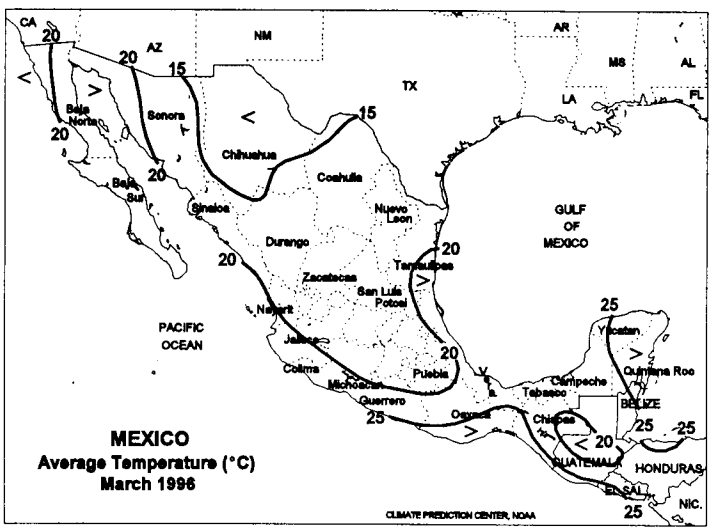


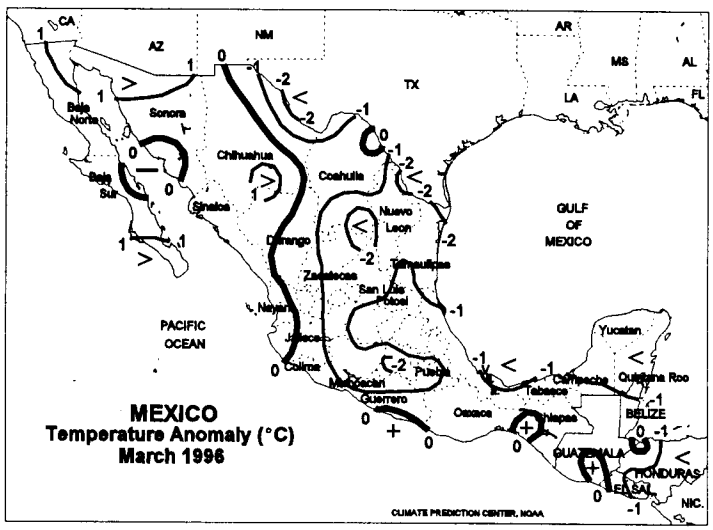





MEXICO
Total Precipitation (mm)
March 1996
DRY
DRY
PACIFIC OCEAN
GULF OF MEXICO
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA


MEXICO
Percent of Normal Precipitation
March 1996
PACIFIC OCEAN
GULF OF MEXICO
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA


MEXICO
Average Temperature (°C)
March 1996
PACIFIC OCEAN
GULF OF MEXICO
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA


MEXICO
Temperature Anomaly (°C)
March 1996
PACIFIC OCEAN
GULF OF MEXICO
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA

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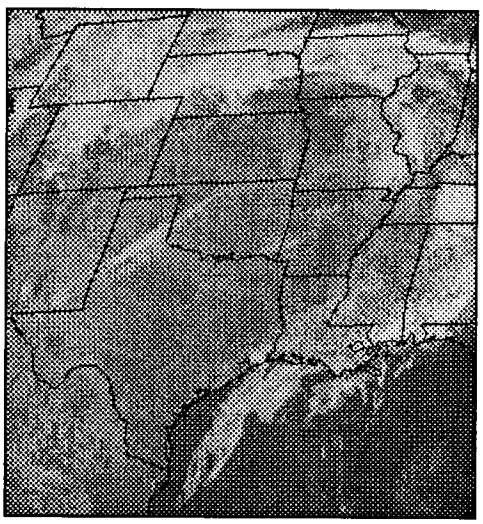
Seasonal Snowfall Records, 1995-96 (updated through April 22)

Location	Total (Inches)	Date Broken	Previous / Season
Sault Ste. Marie, MI	214.8	Jan. 30	178.6 in 1976-77
Charleston, WV	105.9	Feb. 2	76.6 in 1977-78
Dulles Airport (IAD), VA	61.9	Feb. 2	44.4 in 1966-67
Windsor Locks, CT	115.2	Feb. 16	84.9 in 1993-94
Providence, RI	106.1	Feb. 16	75.6 in 1947-48
Philadelphia, PA	63.1	Feb. 16	55.4 in 1898-99
Jackson, KY	62.7	Feb. 16	48.3 in 1993-94
Baltimore (BWI), MD	62.5	Feb. 16	51.8 in 1963-64
Wilmington, DE	n/a	Feb. 16	49.5 in 1957-58
Lynchburg, VA	n/a	Feb. 16	46.7 in 1895-96
National Airport (DCA), VA	46.0	Feb. 16	40.4 in 1957-58
N.Y. Central Park, NY	75.6	Mar. 2	63.2 in 1947-48
Kennedy Airport (JFK), NY	69.0	Mar. 2	58.4 in 1960-61
Boston, MA	107.6	Mar. 7	96.3 in 1993-94
Elkins, WV	136.6	Mar. 8	125.1 in 1993-94
Mansfield, OH	89.0	Mar. 20	77.6 in 1977-78
Williamsport, PA	87.7	Mar. 28	83.6 in 1977-78
Newark, NJ	78.4	Mar. 29	75.2 in 1867-68
Binghamton, NY	133.4	Apr. 8	131.3 in 1993-94
Blue Hill Observatory, MA	143.8	Apr. 10	136.0 in 1947-48
Worcester, MA	132.9	Apr. 10	120.1 in 1992-93
Bridgeport, CT	76.8	Apr. 10	71.3 in 1933-34
Duluth, MN	133.7	Apr. 12	131.6 in 1949-50

Note: Records have also been toppled at several other locations, including: Danbury, CT (Feb. 16); Beckley, WV (date n/a); Hollywood, MD (Mar. 8); New Brunswick, NJ (Mar. 8); Allentown, PA (date n/a); and Brookhaven Nat'l Laboratory, NY (April 7).

GOES-8 Visible
April 19, 1996
19:15 UTC



Another rain-free day in the central and southern Plains.

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