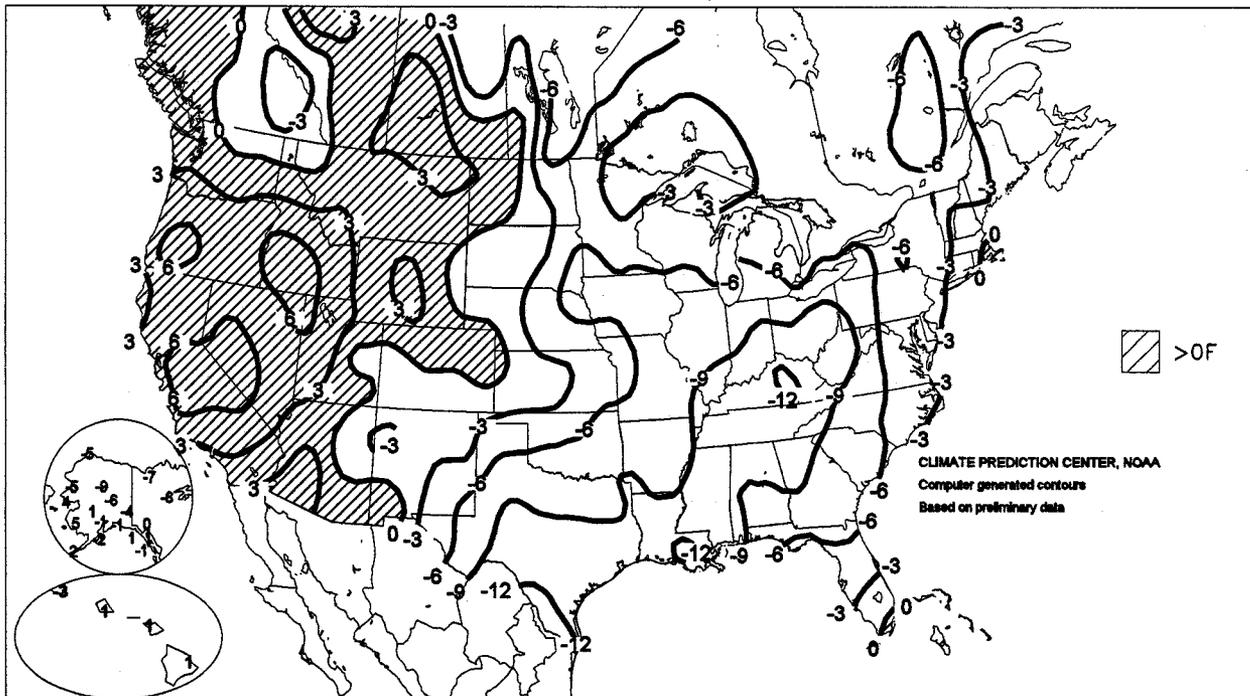
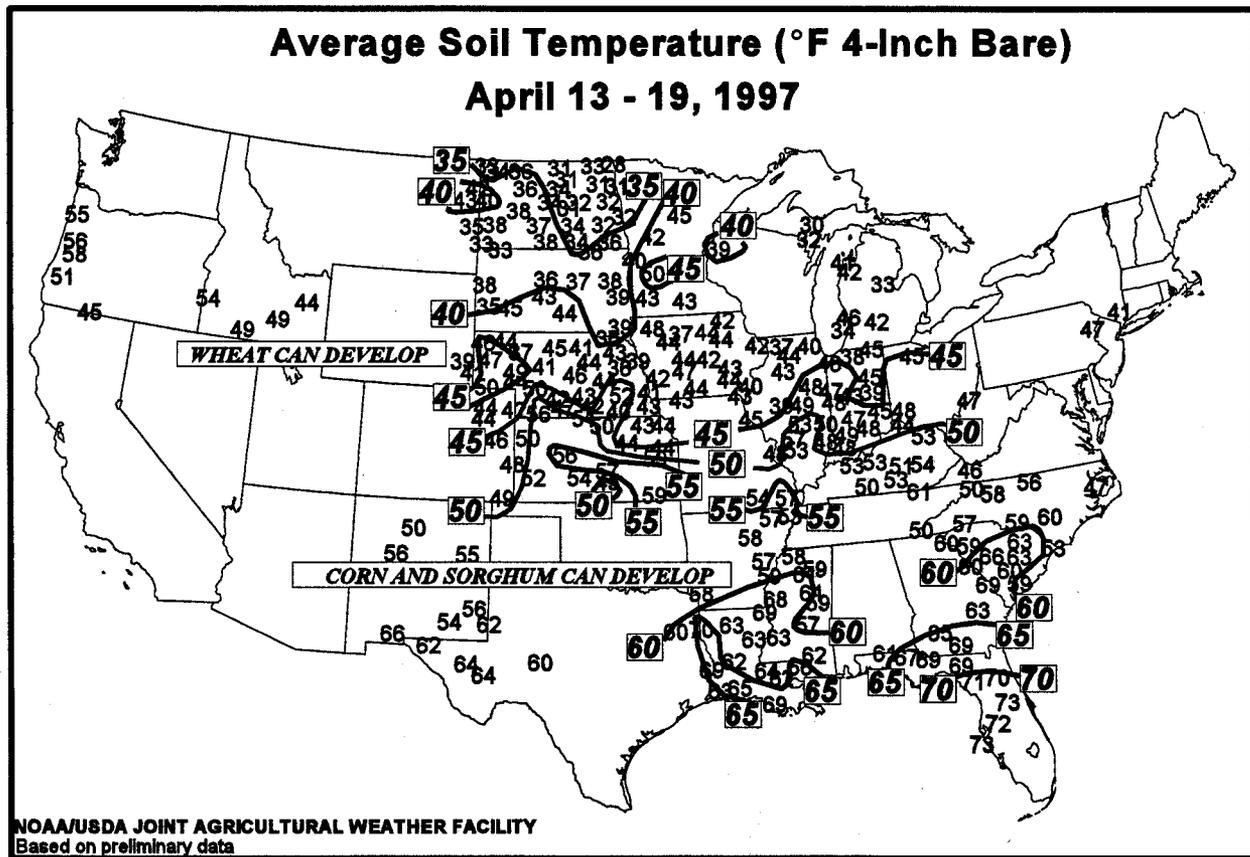


Departure of Average Temperature from Normal (°F) APR 13 - 19, 1997

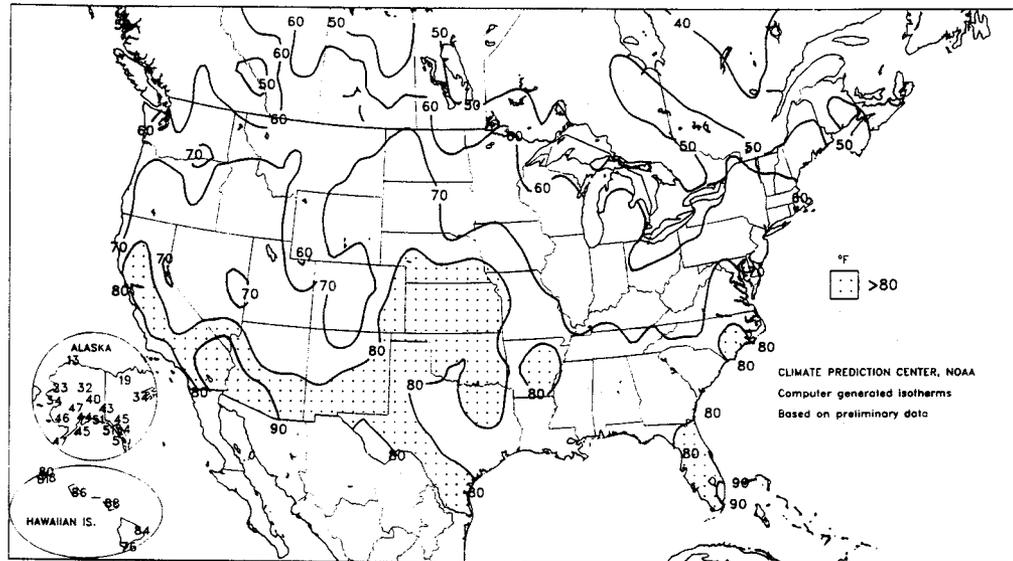


Average Soil Temperature (°F 4-Inch Bare) April 13 - 19, 1997



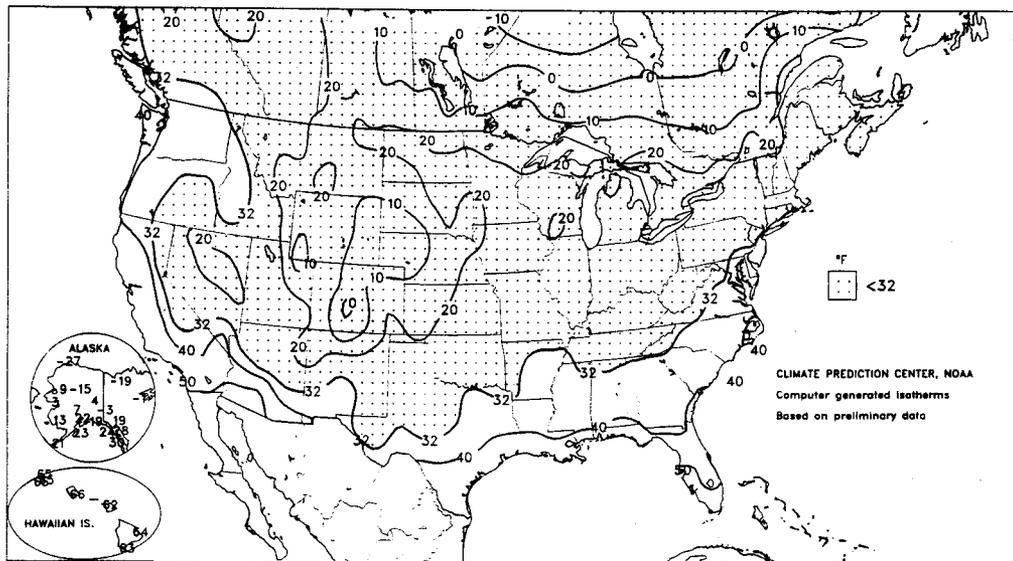
Extreme Maximum Temperature (°F)

APR 13 - 19, 1997



Extreme Minimum Temperature (°F)

APR 13 - 19, 1997



(Continued from front cover) air helped to hold weekly temperatures 5 to 13°F below normal from the western Gulf Coast into the Midwest and Southeast. Temperatures averaged up to 7°F above normal in the West.

Early in the week, cold air shifted eastward, but not before delivering more than 50 additional daily-record lows. In Texas, Abilene's minimum of 27°F on Sunday was their lowest so late in the spring. Dallas-Ft. Worth notched 32°F, tying a 1957 record for their latest spring freeze. Elsewhere on the Plains, lows on Sunday included -2°F in Scottsbluff, NE, 10°F in Tribune, KS, and 23°F in Amarillo, TX. A day later, San Angelo, TX (27°F) noted their latest sub-28°F reading, while temperatures dipped to 32°F in Tupelo, MS and Camden, AR. By Tuesday, the chill shifted into the East, where lows fell to 28°F in Asheville, NC and at Virginia's Dulles Airport. Meanwhile in California, maxima of 78°F in San Francisco and 85°F in San Jose were the locations' highest of the year-to-date.

Beneficial showers preceded and accompanied a cold front's trek across Florida, highlighted by a daily-record rainfall of 1.31 inches in Melbourne on Wednesday. In Georgia, however, March 1 - April 19 precipitation totaled only 1.34 inches (19 percent of normal) in Macon, 2.41 inches (30 percent) in Athens, and 2.84 inches (42 percent) in Augusta. Farther north, the Red River crest passed Wahpeton, ND (9.2 feet above flood stage) on April 15, reaching Grand Forks, ND (about 26.0 feet above flood stage) 6 days later. In Fargo, ND, the river reached its highest level this century, topping the April 1969 level by 2.2 feet, but fell 0.6 feet shy of its April 1897 high-water mark. The level in Grand Forks shattered the April 1979 record by an astounding 5.2 feet, overtopping many flood barriers and forcing the evacuation of nearly the entire city. Meanwhile, major flooding continued along the James River, including a late-week record crest (7.1 feet above flood stage, breaking the April 1969 record) near Columbia, SD.

Late in the week, the second "nor'easter" in 2 weeks pounded the Northeast, while wet weather overspread the Northwest. More than 2 inches of rain fell from eastern Massachusetts to southern Maine, and more than a foot of snow blanketed parts of the interior Northeast. Totals included 17 inches in East Jewett, NY and 14 inches in South Woodstock, VT. On April 18, 8.5 inches fell in Burlington, VT, their greatest 1-day total so late in the spring. In eastern New England, wind gusts on Saturday reached 87 mph in Nantucket, MA, 51 mph in Boston, MA, and 48 mph in Providence, RI. The storm drew cool air into the Southeast, resulting in nearly three dozen daily-record lows on April 18-19. On Friday, lows bottomed out at 33°F in Atlanta, GA, and Jackson, MS. A day later, lows in Florida included 41°F in Melbourne and 42°F in Lakeland. Meanwhile in Washington, Spokane netted a 1-day, April-record rainfall of 0.96 inches on Saturday. Throughout the Northwest, rainfall and snowmelt runoff combined to produce minor flooding. Farther south, wet weather continued in southern Texas. In Brownsville, measurable rain fell on 11 of the first 17 days of the month, boosting their rainfall since March 1 to 10.59 inches (790 percent of normal).

Spring Flood Update

Snowmelt from the early-April blizzard delivered a second crest to the upper Red River basin, and added to already unprecedented water levels farther downstream. In Wahpeton, ND, the river crested 9.2 feet above flood stage on April 15, matching the April 6 level. Both crests surpassed the April 1989 record by 1.2 feet.

Farther north, the Red River at Fargo, ND peaked 2.2 feet above the April 1969 level, but 0.6 feet below the high-water mark of April 1897. By April 21, the river rose to an historic 26.0 feet above flood stage in East Grand Forks, MN, 5.2 feet higher than the 1969 crest.

Very high water levels persisted on the James River in eastern South Dakota. Near Columbia, the river was holding steady on April 21 at a record 7.1 feet above flood stage. Farther downstream, in the vicinity of Ashton and Redfield, the river remained within 1 to 2 feet of records established between April 4 and 7.

On the Mississippi River, a broad crest arrived in the vicinity of Burlington, IA (4.0 feet above flood stage) on April 21. From Anoka, MN southward to Lansing, IA, the river crested between April 10 and 15, surpassing June 1993 levels, but remaining 2.1 to 4.6 feet below all-time records set in April 1965.

1997 Record Flooding Updated through April 21, 1997

<u>Red River Basin</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Crest (ft. above flood stage)/Date</u>	<u>Former Record/Date</u>
Red River	Wahpeton, ND	9.2 feet on April 6 & 15	8.0 feet on April 5, 1989
	Fargo, ND	22.5 feet on April 17	20.3 feet on April 15, 1969
	Halstad, MN	16.7 feet on April 19	15.0 feet on April 22, 1979
	E. Grand Forks, MN	26.0 feet on April 21 (cresting)	20.8 feet on April 26, 1979
	Drayton, ND	12.5 feet on April 21 (rising)	11.7 feet on April 28, 1979
Marsh River	Shelly, MN	10.7 feet on April 20	8.4 feet on April 19, 1979
Pembina River	Walhalla, ND	7.0 feet on April 20	5.2 feet on April 18, 1950
	Neche, ND	6.5 feet on April 21 (ice-affected)	5.6 feet on April 20, 1979
Sheyenne River	Kindred, ND	6.0 feet on April 9	5.7 feet on July 6, 1975
	Fargo, ND	6.7 feet on April 10	5.0 feet on July 26, 1993
	Harwood, ND	8.0 feet on April 10 & 17	6.7 feet on April 13, 1996
Maple River	Mapleton, ND	6.0 feet on April 9	6.0 feet on July 2, 1975
Buffalo River	Hawley, MN	3.7 feet on April 7	3.4 feet on July 18, 1993
	Dilworth, MN	15.1 feet on April 6	15.1 feet on July 2, 1975
Wild Rice River	Twin Valley, MN	6.4 feet on April 6	4.2 feet on April 5, 1989
	Hendrum, MN	16.7 feet on April 18	15.3 feet on April 21, 1979
Wild Rice River	Abercrombie, ND	16.4 feet on April 7	14.6 feet on April 11, 1969
Red Lake River	Crookston, MN	13.1 feet on April 17	12.3 feet on April 12, 1969
Two Rivers	Hallock, MN	8.6 feet on April 21 (past crest)	7.5 feet on April 23, 1996
Snake River	Alvarado, MN	4.6 feet on April 21 (past crest)	4.6 feet on April 20, 1979
Mississippi River Basin			
<u>Minnesota River</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Crest (ft. above flood stage)/Date</u>	<u>Former Record/Date</u>
Minnesota River	Montevideo, MN	9.9 feet on April 7	7.7 feet on April 12, 1969
Missouri River Basin			
<u>Big Sioux River</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Crest (ft. above flood stage)/Date</u>	<u>Former Record/Date</u>
Big Sioux River	Watertown, SD	2.1 feet on April 6	1.1 feet in June 1991
	Castlewood, SD	2.2 feet on April 7	0.7 feet in March 1986
James River	Columbia, SD	7.1 feet on April 21 (steady)	6.1 feet on April 22, 1969
	Ashton, SD	13.0 feet on April 4	9.4 feet on May 18, 1995
	Redfield, SD	10.3 feet on April 7	6.3 feet on May 15, 1995
	Huron, SD	10.1 feet on April 5	5.9 feet on May 19, 1995
	Forestburg, SD	8.3 feet on April 7	5.3 feet on April 22, 1995
	Mitchell, SD	8.6 feet on April 7	6.4 feet on April 23, 1995
	Turtle Creek	Redfield, SD	11.1 feet on March 30

Source: National Weather Service flood statements and spring flood outlooks. All crest information is preliminary and subject to change.

National Weather Data for Selected Cities

Weather Data for the Week Ending April 19, 1997

STATES AND STATIONS	TEMPERATURE °F						PRECIPITATION							RELATIVE HUMIDITY, PERCENT		NUMBER OF DAYS					
	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	EXTREME HIGH	EXTREME LOW	AVERAGE	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	WEEKLY TOTAL, IN.	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	GREATEST IN 24-HOUR, IN.	TOTAL IN., SINCE Mar 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Mar 1	TOTAL IN., SINCE Jan 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Jan 1	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	90 AND ABOVE	92 AND BELOW	TEMP, °F		PRECIP.	
																		01 INCH OR MORE	50 INCH OR MORE		
AL BIRMINGHAM	67	38	77	32	53	-9	0.00	-1.14	0.00	5.54	59	16.66	87	-	-	0	2	0	0		
HUNTSVILLE	65	38	78	33	51	-10	0.06	-1.06	0.06	7.54	77	18.28	92	79	32	0	0	2	0		
MOBILE	70	46	77	40	58	-10	0.00	-1.00	0.00	8.81	95	19.36	99	83	31	0	0	0	0		
MONTGOMERY	69	43	77	37	56	-8	0.00	-0.99	0.00	3.98	43	16.91	87	87	36	0	0	0	0		
AK ANCHORAGE	41	29	44	22	36	-1	0.24	0.07	0.22	0.25	22	0.88	32	80	50	0	5	2	0		
BARROW	1	-15	13	-27	-7	-5	0.06	0.00	0.06	0.16	52	0.23	44	82	72	0	7	2	0		
FAIRBANKS	33	16	40	4	25	-6	0.01	-0.07	0.01	0.08	16	0.68	48	70	38	0	7	1	0		
JUNEAU	47	34	54	28	40	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	3	-	-		
KODIAK	44	28	45	23	36	-2	0.02	-0.94	0.01	10.39	144	27.30	137	82	56	0	6	2	0		
NOME	27	15	34	3	21	4	0.00	-0.17	0.00	1.00	103	2.89	122	82	67	0	7	0	0		
AZ FLAGSTAFF	82	24	86	18	43	0	0.02	-0.32	0.02	0.64	18	4.87	63	-	-	0	7	1	0		
PHOENIX	87	59	92	52	73	3	0.00	-0.04	0.00	0.24	22	1.70	70	48	12	4	0	0	0		
PRESCOTT	70	36	79	27	53	4	0.00	-0.18	0.00	0.76	31	3.81	70	-	-	0	2	0	0		
TUCSON	82	52	89	44	67	1	0.00	-0.06	0.00	0.49	53	2.10	85	51	16	0	0	0	0		
YUMA	90	61	94	56	76	4	0.00	-0.03	0.00	0.02	6	0.48	53	-	-	4	0	0	0		
AR FORT SMITH	69	39	80	30	54	-7	0.06	-0.86	0.06	6.89	105	13.74	126	93	39	0	2	1	0		
LITTLE ROCK	70	42	83	37	58	-6	0.00	-1.30	0.00	12.05	148	19.32	130	-	-	0	0	0	0		
CA BAKERSFIELD	83	53	87	45	68	5	0.00	-0.13	0.00	0.21	14	2.98	69	69	17	0	0	0	0		
EUREKA	58	48	62	43	51	1	0.13	-0.62	0.07	2.98	40	14.36	79	94	36	0	0	3	0		
FRESNO	82	55	87	49	68	7	0.00	-0.22	0.00	0.12	5	3.60	55	75	15	0	0	0	0		
LOS ANGELES	68	55	71	53	61	1	0.00	-0.16	0.00	0.00	0	4.21	57	91	42	0	0	0	0		
REDDING	74	51	84	43	62	4	1.50	1.04	1.38	3.81	61	13.32	81	-	-	0	0	2	1		
SACRAMENTO	79	54	86	46	67	-	0.24	-	0.23	0.80	-	8.18	-	-	-	0	0	2	0		
SAN DIEGO	69	58	72	55	64	2	0.00	-0.18	0.00	0.29	12	3.66	62	86	39	0	0	0	0		
SAN FRANCISCO	69	52	78	48	61	5	0.26	-0.05	0.22	0.60	12	8.29	71	93	48	0	0	2	0		
ALAMOSA	59	19	67	8	39	-2	0.00	-0.11	0.00	0.11	14	1.47	113	81	18	0	7	0	0		
CO. SPRINGS	64	30	76	8	47	0	0.02	-0.25	0.02	0.43	27	0.86	38	-	-	0	2	1	0		
DENVER	65	33	76	19	49	1	0.01	-0.39	0.01	0.78	34	1.45	43	-	-	0	3	1	0		
GRAND JUNCTION	67	34	76	19	50	-2	0.00	-0.17	0.00	2.22	160	2.93	120	68	18	0	2	0	0		
PUEBLO	71	28	82	11	49	-3	0.07	-0.13	0.06	0.92	70	1.51	78	71	14	0	4	2	0		
CT BRIDGEPORT	55	39	65	34	47	-2	0.73	-0.15	0.48	6.94	113	12.04	97	-	-	0	0	3	0		
HARTFORD	56	37	66	30	47	-2	0.80	0.00	0.50	5.27	87	9.83	77	81	41	0	2	4	1		
DC WASHINGTON	61	41	72	38	51	-6	0.22	-0.39	0.22	4.87	101	9.87	96	68	40	0	0	1	0		
DE WILMINGTON	57	40	66	37	48	-4	0.23	-0.55	0.21	4.13	74	7.79	68	-	-	0	0	2	0		
FL DAYTONA BEACH	74	56	85	43	65	-4	0.71	0.21	0.35	3.06	71	5.55	55	-	-	0	0	3	0		
JACKSONVILLE	73	50	79	39	62	-7	0.71	0.15	0.58	2.61	50	6.79	55	85	44	0	0	2	1		
KEY WEST	80	72	85	61	76	-1	0.57	0.18	0.44	3.38	126	7.71	118	85	69	0	0	3	0		
MIAMI	82	67	89	54	74	-1	0.32	-0.32	0.15	3.95	100	7.18	89	88	54	0	0	4	0		
ORLANDO	75	59	86	46	67	-4	1.19	0.80	0.96	4.95	114	8.46	87	89	56	0	0	3	1		
TAMPA	75	60	82	51	67	-4	1.14	0.92	1.10	4.14	111	6.76	86	89	59	0	0	2	1		
VALPARAISO	72	50	77	45	61	-5	0.00	-1.25	0.00	4.30	48	16.42	94	-	-	0	0	0	0		
WEST PALM BEACH	79	64	88	49	72	-3	2.37	1.72	0.97	7.53	166	16.23	164	90	54	0	0	4	3		
GA ATHENS	68	38	79	33	53	-9	0.34	-0.56	0.34	2.37	29	13.22	77	84	33	0	0	1	0		
ATLANTA	66	39	78	33	52	-9	0.02	-0.95	0.02	3.31	39	15.95	88	75	33	0	0	1	0		
AUGUSTA	71	42	80	35	57	-6	0.23	-0.52	0.23	2.94	43	11.44	76	84	30	0	0	1	0		
COLUMBUS	70	45	76	40	57	-8	0.00	-0.98	0.00	2.37	28	12.47	69	-	-	0	0	0	0		
MACON	70	41	78	36	56	-9	0.00	-0.79	0.00	1.69	24	12.16	74	85	29	0	0	0	0		
SAVANNAH	72	47	79	37	59	-7	0.00	-0.69	0.00	1.45	26	6.85	55	84	31	0	0	0	0		
HI HILO	82	66	84	63	74	2	1.21	-2.42	0.62	22.68	95	32.84	75	89	65	0	0	4	1		
HONOLULU	84	68	86	66	76	1	0.10	-0.25	0.10	5.60	174	13.47	150	83	56	0	0	1	0		
KAHULUI	85	65	88	62	75	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	81	53	0	0		
LIHUE	78	69	78	65	71	-3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	88	70	0	0		
ID BOISE	68	46	76	39	57	8	0.45	0.16	0.43	1.08	51	3.95	86	65	26	0	0	2	0		
LEWISTON	60	46	68	40	53	2	0.91	0.65	0.45	2.96	163	6.49	164	-	-	0	0	5	0		
POCATELLO	65	34	72	22	49	4	0.02	-0.26	0.01	0.89	44	2.86	72	70	25	0	4	2	0		
IL CHICAGO/O'HARE	54	32	66	26	43	-6	0.17	-0.68	0.08	2.67	54	8.46	108	90	44	0	5	4	0		
MOLINE	56	32	66	24	44	-7	0.09	-0.83	0.09	2.94	58	8.43	103	-	-	0	4	1	0		
PEORIA	58	33	67	25	46	-7	0.29	-0.80	0.15	3.90	68	8.86	120	89	43	0	3	2	0		
ROCKFORD	52	30	66	24	41	-7	0.42	-0.45	0.34	2.51	53	6.47	90	-	-	0	6	2	0		
SPRINGFIELD	59	32	69	23	45	-8	0.08	-0.77	0.08	2.74	49	6.84	77	-	-	0	5	1	0		
IN EVANSVILLE	57	35	63	29	46	-11	0.24	-0.67	0.21	9.59	132	16.56	127	88	40	0	3	2	0		
FORT WAYNE	52	30	61	24	41	-8	0.03	-0.77	0.03	4.08	81	9.83	112	84	43	0	5	1	0		
INDIANAPOLIS	54	33	62	28	44	-9	0.36	-0.49	0.16	6.16	100	13.56	124	82	41	0	3	3	0		
SOUTH BEND	52	28	64	23	40	-9	0.20	-0.71	0.10	3.02	54	7.82	81	-	-	0	7	3	0		
IA BURLINGTON	55	31	66	23	43	-9	0.02	-0.80	0.02	3.58	71	9.83	130	-	-	0	4	1	0		
CEDAR RAPIDS	55	28	66	21	42	-8	0.06	-0.70	0.06	1.86	39	5.35	85	-	-	0	5	1	0		
DES MOINES	58	31	72	24	45	-6	0.00	-0.85	0.00	2.56	59	3.45	80	80	30	0	4	0	0		
DUBUQUE	50	30	59	20	40	-8	0.48	-0.41	0.44	2.22	43	6.00	78	85	37	0	5	3	0		
SIOUX CITY	58	27	74	17	43	-8	0.00</														

Weather Data for the Week Ending April 19, 1997

STATES AND STATIONS	TEMPERATURE °F						PRECIPITATION						RELATIVE HUMIDITY, PERCENT		NUMBER OF DAYS						
	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	EXTREME HIGH	EXTREME LOW	AVERAGE	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	WEEKLY TOTAL, IN.	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	GREATEST IN 24-HOUR, IN.	TOTAL IN, SINCE Mar 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Mar 1	TOTAL IN, SINCE Jan 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Jan 1	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	90 AND ABOVE	92 AND BELOW	TEMP. °F		.01 INCH OR MORE	.50 INCH OR MORE
																		01 INCH OR MORE	.50 INCH OR MORE		
KY	WICHITA	67	38	82	22	53	-5	0.00	-0.65	0.00	4.15	96	6.67	106	81	33	0	2	0	0	0
	JACKSON	55	36	70	29	45	-12	0.25	-0.86	0.19	10.43	143	16.39	110	-	-	0	2	3	0	0
	LEXINGTON	53	33	67	27	43	-12	0.29	-0.59	0.20	13.93	203	21.92	170	94	43	0	4	2	0	0
	LOUISVILLE	57	37	65	32	47	-10	0.37	-0.59	0.24	18.39	251	27.05	200	91	45	0	1	3	0	0
LA	PADUCAH	60	35	66	30	48	-10	0.03	-1.13	0.03	10.18	126	18.11	119	-	-	0	3	1	0	0
	BATON ROUGE	69	44	76	38	56	-13	0.00	-1.27	0.00	9.56	116	23.19	124	-	-	0	0	0	0	0
	LAKE CHARLES	69	47	76	44	58	-10	0.00	-0.75	0.00	5.52	106	18.79	141	87	41	0	0	0	0	0
	NEW ORLEANS	68	51	76	48	60	-9	0.01	-1.04	0.01	4.36	56	16.94	90	73	38	0	0	1	0	0
ME	SHREVEPORT	70	43	75	36	56	-9	0.00	-0.91	0.00	16.95	264	29.51	200	89	37	0	0	0	0	0
	CARIBOU	42	28	50	22	35	-3	0.33	-0.23	0.31	2.98	76	8.81	106	79	46	0	7	2	0	0
MD	PORTLAND	51	32	61	25	42	-2	3.38	2.42	2.74	7.61	121	12.65	96	89	49	0	3	4	1	0
	BALTIMORE	61	38	70	32	49	-4	0.13	-0.59	-	6.44	122	11.51	101	-	-	0	2	-	-	-
MA	BOSTON	53	40	60	34	46	-2	1.46	0.61	0.50	7.22	121	10.72	81	84	56	0	0	4	1	0
	WORCESTER	51	34	60	27	43	-2	1.15	0.24	0.42	7.46	116	12.52	92	-	-	0	1	4	0	0
MI	ALPENA	49	26	63	21	38	-4	0.23	-0.29	0.18	3.45	99	9.59	149	86	28	0	7	3	0	0
	GRAND RAPIDS	53	29	62	26	41	-5	0.23	-0.57	0.20	2.76	58	9.49	118	82	34	0	6	3	0	0
	HOUGHTON LAKE	51	26	60	22	38	-4	0.23	-0.29	0.13	2.64	78	6.91	114	81	30	0	7	3	0	0
	LANSING	52	26	61	20	39	-6	0.21	-0.48	0.19	3.22	80	8.29	124	-	-	0	6	2	0	0
MN	MARQUETTE	49	24	58	17	36	0	0.02	-0.59	0.01	4.10	92	11.70	140	85	39	0	3	2	0	0
	MUSKEGON	48	30	58	25	39	-6	0.16	-0.53	0.12	2.13	49	7.41	90	74	39	0	6	2	0	0
	DULUTH	44	26	50	19	35	-4	0.00	-0.52	0.00	1.26	39	2.76	62	81	42	0	7	0	0	0
	INT'L FALLS	50	25	66	17	38	-2	0.05	-0.32	0.05	2.30	116	3.21	92	82	34	0	6	1	0	0
MS	MINNEAPOLIS	54	30	67	21	42	-5	0.11	-0.45	0.11	2.01	58	3.62	73	81	35	0	5	1	0	0
	ROCHESTER	52	28	62	22	40	-5	0.59	-0.06	0.59	2.96	87	5.40	109	84	31	0	5	1	1	0
	ST. CLOUD	54	29	67	22	42	-2	0.00	-0.56	0.00	1.71	61	3.68	88	85	34	0	5	0	0	0
	JACKSON	68	41	75	35	54	-10	0.00	-1.27	0.00	4.43	47	15.61	79	88	32	0	0	0	0	0
MO	MERIDIAN	69	39	77	34	54	-10	0.00	-1.26	0.00	6.15	59	16.73	80	98	35	0	0	0	0	0
	TUPELO	67	38	79	32	52	-10	0.00	-1.21	0.00	9.32	99	20.03	105	-	-	0	1	0	0	0
	COLUMBIA	61	34	75	27	48	-6	0.30	-0.55	0.25	3.94	74	11.07	129	85	38	0	3	3	0	0
	KANSAS CITY	64	37	84	25	50	-4	0.01	-0.71	0.01	4.77	110	8.08	124	78	33	0	2	1	0	0
MT	SAINT LOUIS	61	37	70	29	49	-8	0.51	-0.29	0.48	4.84	81	11.41	118	82	33	0	2	2	0	0
	SPRINGFIELD	62	35	76	27	49	-7	0.00	-0.91	0.00	6.14	98	11.26	113	80	33	0	3	0	0	0
	BILLINGS	58	37	69	27	49	2	0.21	-0.19	0.07	1.34	62	2.31	62	75	43	0	2	4	0	0
	BUTTE	56	29	67	15	42	4	0.23	0.02	0.16	1.72	135	3.86	175	-	-	0	4	3	0	0
NE	GLASGOW	64	32	73	20	48	3	0.00	-0.15	0.00	0.72	95	1.07	76	74	23	0	4	0	0	0
	GREAT FALLS	60	34	71	28	47	3	0.11	-0.21	0.07	1.42	75	1.85	55	79	38	0	3	3	0	0
	KALISPELL	54	31	65	22	42	-1	0.15	-0.10	0.08	2.39	148	5.43	129	89	48	0	5	3	0	0
	MILES CITY	64	35	73	18	50	3	0.02	-0.30	0.02	1.18	86	1.48	62	-	-	0	4	1	0	0
NV	MISSOULA	56	34	69	24	45	0	0.45	0.23	0.14	2.82	172	5.06	142	91	47	0	3	6	0	0
	GRAND ISLAND	64	31	82	17	48	-3	0.00	-0.58	0.00	0.65	19	1.71	38	86	32	0	4	0	0	0
	LINCOLN	64	31	85	24	48	-4	0.00	-0.64	0.00	2.02	54	2.95	59	-	-	0	4	0	0	0
	NORFOLK	59	30	75	17	45	-5	0.03	-0.50	0.02	1.80	50	2.58	58	86	37	0	4	2	0	0
NH	NORTH PLATTE	66	27	81	10	46	-2	0.00	-0.46	0.00	0.70	30	1.37	44	89	31	0	5	0	0	0
	OMAHA	61	32	80	22	46	-6	0.05	-0.56	0.05	2.68	75	3.84	76	86	29	0	4	1	0	0
	SCOTTSBLUFF	63	27	77	-2	45	-1	0.00	-0.36	0.00	3.72	189	4.34	149	-	-	0	5	0	0	0
	VALENTINE	62	27	77	5	45	-2	0.09	-0.30	0.09	1.49	77	2.00	76	82	29	0	4	1	0	0
NM	ELY	64	29	72	18	46	5	0.00	-0.22	0.00	0.43	28	2.31	79	71	20	0	6	0	0	0
	LAS VEGAS	62	55	90	44	69	5	0.00	-0.06	0.00	0.04	7	0.24	16	31	12	1	0	0	0	0
	RENO	69	38	74	26	54	5	0.02	-0.06	0.02	0.21	22	4.23	140	70	27	0	1	1	0	0
	WINNEMUCCA	69	35	76	18	52	5	0.10	-0.09	0.06	0.59	45	2.24	84	75	23	0	2	2	0	0
NY	CONCORD	52	31	63	22	41	-3	2.01	1.32	1.31	5.72	126	11.16	116	-	-	0	4	4	2	0
	NEWARK	58	40	69	33	49	-4	0.32	-0.56	0.17	7.08	113	12.73	100	-	-	0	0	2	0	0
	ALBUQUERQUE	68	41	77	31	54	-1	0.00	-0.11	0.00	1.15	125	1.82	100	59	17	0	1	0	0	0
	ALBANY	51	32	64	25	41	-5	1.06	0.37	0.86	5.09	106	7.45	79	86	50	0	5	3	1	0
NC	BINGHAMTON	46	31	61	25	38	-6	0.12	-0.61	0.06	4.17	87	7.04	74	85	60	0	5	5	0	0
	BUFFALO	46	32	60	27	39	-6	0.53	-0.13	0.32	5.65	126	12.65	135	92	56	0	4	5	0	0
	ROCHESTER	48	32	63	27	40	-6	0.33	-0.28	0.19	4.94	126	9.46	117	-	-	0	2	3	0	0
	SYRACUSE	48	32	67	26	40	-6	0.24	-0.55	0.13	4.17	86	7.59	81	87	53	0	3	4	0	0
ND	ASHEVILLE	59	33	69	28	46	-10	0.05	-0.82	0.05	7.72	94	17.37	105	-	-	0	4	1	0	0
	CHARLOTTE	67	41	74	35	54	-5	0.00	-0.59	0.00	3.94	64	11.31	83	68	26	0	0	0	0	0
	GREENSBORO	63	37	70	32	50	-6	0.00	-0.63	0.00	5.74	105	11.52	96	78	30	0	1	0	0	0
	HATTERAS	62	51	70	44	56	-2	0.42	-0.38	0.42	4.94	75	12.43	77	76	45	0	0	1	0	0
OH	RALEIGH	66	37	75	33	52	-8	0.01	-0.57	0.01	4.14	77	10.08	80	79	30	0	0	1	0	0
	WILMINGTON	69	44	81	38	57	-4	0.02	-0.66	0.02	3.03	47	9.88	64	-	-	0	0	1	0	0
	BISMARCK	58																			

Weather Data for the Week Ending April 19, 1997

STATES AND STATIONS	TEMPERATURE °F						PRECIPITATION						RELATIVE HUMIDITY, PERCENT		NUMBER OF DAYS				
	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	EXTREME HIGH	EXTREME LOW	AVERAGE	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	WEEKLY TOTAL, IN.	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	GREATEST IN 24-HOUR, IN.	TOTAL IN, SINCE Mbr 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Mbr 1	TOTAL IN, SINCE JAN 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE JAN 1	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	90 AND ABOVE	92 AND BELOW	PRECIP.	
																		01 INCH OR MORE	50 INCH OR MORE
OK TOLEDO	53	31	60	27	42	-6	0.01	-0.68	0.01	2.89	64	9.50	119	83	37	0	4	1	0
OK YOUNGSTOWN	49	30	58	25	40	-9	0.61	-0.11	0.30	4.98	98	6.36	69	84	45	0	6	3	0
OK OKLAHOMA CITY	69	40	80	27	55	-6	0.14	-0.48	0.14	3.56	82	6.17	88	85	39	0	2	1	0
OR TULSA	69	42	83	28	55	-7	0.40	-0.45	0.40	5.31	94	8.97	98	80	36	0	2	1	0
OR ASTORIA	56	47	59	41	52	3	2.78	1.72	1.32	18.95	185	35.09	126	94	61	0	0	6	2
OR BURNS	62	33	69	23	48	5	0.28	0.14	0.16	0.60	42	3.42	108	83	37	0	4	2	0
OR EUGENE	62	46	74	37	54	3	1.06	0.36	0.70	8.39	109	16.39	77	96	55	0	0	6	1
OR MEDFORD	68	47	82	41	58	6	0.17	-0.09	0.14	1.18	45	5.71	79	86	40	0	0	3	0
OR PENDLETON	62	46	72	42	54	3	0.50	0.25	0.19	1.67	90	3.09	69	84	46	0	0	4	0
OR PORTLAND	61	48	72	42	54	3	1.33	0.79	0.54	8.83	171	17.61	123	90	56	0	0	5	1
PA SALEM	61	47	72	37	54	5	1.49	0.96	0.85	9.23	158	20.37	125	83	42	0	0	5	1
PA ALLENTOWN	55	37	65	30	46	-4	0.06	-0.75	0.06	4.46	82	8.44	73	83	42	0	2	1	0
PA ERIE	47	33	62	28	40	-6	0.52	-0.24	0.42	7.36	146	12.66	133	84	47	0	3	3	0
PA MIDDLETOWN	58	39	68	32	48	-3	0.00	-0.75	0.00	3.84	73	7.31	66	84	47	0	3	3	0
PA PHILADELPHIA	58	40	66	35	49	-4	0.58	-0.27	0.37	5.83	102	11.30	96	76	47	0	0	3	0
PA PITTSBURGH	53	30	63	26	41	-9	0.13	-0.59	0.09	4.24	79	7.31	71	84	41	0	5	3	0
PA SCRANTON	51	33	64	25	42	-6	0.12	-0.57	0.09	3.54	81	6.14	71	82	46	0	3	2	0
PA WILLIAMSPORT	54	34	67	27	44	-5	0.00	-0.74	0.00	3.95	64	5.97	57	90	42	0	2	0	0
RI PROVIDENCE	54	39	62	32	46	-1	1.89	0.73	0.50	7.31	110	13.42	95	79	53	0	1	4	1
SC BEAUFORT	71	49	79	43	60	-6	0.00	-0.63	0.00	3.27	55	7.67	59	88	42	0	0	0	0
SC CHARLESTON	71	48	78	38	59	-6	0.00	-0.59	0.00	3.85	80	8.53	67	79	30	0	0	0	0
SC COLUMBIA	69	43	75	38	56	-7	0.11	-0.63	0.11	1.95	28	11.08	71	77	28	0	0	1	0
SC GREENVILLE	67	38	72	34	53	-7	0.00	-0.87	0.00	3.57	45	14.44	88	76	28	0	0	0	0
SD ABERDEEN	53	29	67	21	41	-4	0.09	-0.34	0.07	2.83	130	5.05	149	89	37	0	5	2	0
SD HURON	56	31	67	22	44	-3	0.01	-0.47	0.01	1.65	57	2.99	75	84	44	0	5	1	0
SD RAPID CITY	60	29	75	7	45	-1	0.02	-0.42	0.02	3.89	183	4.76	158	76	31	0	4	1	0
SD SIOUX FALLS	55	28	68	14	41	-7	0.02	-0.57	0.02	1.89	60	3.67	85	89	36	0	5	1	0
TN BRISTOL	56	34	67	28	45	-10	0.28	-0.48	0.16	7.15	124	15.22	122	88	40	0	2	2	0
TN CHATTANOOGA	64	38	74	35	51	-8	0.26	-0.72	0.14	7.01	79	18.39	99	90	33	0	0	2	0
TN KNOXVILLE	60	37	70	31	49	-9	0.24	-0.60	0.16	8.08	107	18.16	115	88	40	0	2	2	0
TN MEMPHIS	66	43	78	34	55	-8	0.00	-1.27	0.00	14.26	180	26.26	155	88	40	0	0	0	0
TN NASHVILLE	62	36	75	28	49	-10	0.10	-0.90	0.08	10.13	133	17.21	115	83	36	0	2	2	0
TX ABILENE	70	46	77	27	58	-8	0.22	-0.22	0.21	3.06	125	6.64	143	82	39	0	2	2	0
TX AMARILLO	69	37	81	23	53	-4	0.00	-0.22	0.00	2.21	149	3.31	128	88	29	0	2	0	0
TX AUSTIN	70	50	78	39	60	-10	0.00	-0.59	0.00	4.02	123	8.98	126	80	44	0	0	0	0
TX BEAUMONT	70	48	76	45	59	-10	0.04	-0.76	0.04	5.67	107	16.29	121	88	44	0	0	1	0
TX BROWNSVILLE	69	59	80	46	64	-11	1.82	1.46	0.61	10.59	790	11.62	293	95	37	0	0	7	1
TX CORPUS CHRISTI	70	57	79	47	63	-10	0.36	-0.04	0.31	10.56	571	11.94	216	89	40	0	0	3	0
TX DEL RIO	73	52	84	41	63	-9	0.60	0.12	0.30	3.82	208	6.06	181	79	42	0	0	2	0
TX EL PASO	76	46	84	37	61	-3	0.03	-0.03	0.03	0.68	155	1.39	110	84	24	0	0	1	0
TX FORT WORTH	70	47	78	33	58	-6	0.02	-0.63	0.02	6.53	126	14.20	151	86	46	0	0	1	0
TX GALVESTON	67	56	72	48	62	-8	0.41	-0.15	0.41	14.33	392	21.30	232	88	46	0	0	1	0
TX HOUSTON	71	47	77	43	59	-10	0.03	-0.70	0.03	11.89	245	20.35	184	84	40	0	0	1	0
TX LUBBOCK	69	41	80	31	55	-6	0.00	-0.21	0.00	3.00	221	4.58	188	82	32	0	1	0	0
TX MIDLAND	71	44	81	31	57	-8	0.10	-0.06	0.07	0.88	107	2.77	149	85	37	0	2	2	0
TX SAN ANGELO	71	42	79	28	56	-11	0.08	-0.31	0.06	3.59	198	8.47	230	89	42	0	2	2	0
TX SAN ANTONIO	71	49	80	39	60	-9	0.04	-0.55	0.03	5.44	187	8.16	127	82	42	0	0	2	0
TX VICTORIA	69	51	76	42	60	-11	0.11	-0.45	0.08	22.59	790	28.02	398	94	47	0	0	2	0
TX WACO	70	45	78	32	57	-10	0.00	-0.74	0.00	5.55	132	15.96	201	92	43	0	1	0	0
TX WICHITA FALLS	71	44	80	29	57	-6	0.00	-0.70	0.00	2.34	59	5.55	86	87	36	0	1	0	0
UT SALT LAKE CITY	69	41	79	27	55	6	0.00	-0.50	0.00	1.41	43	5.30	94	60	21	0	1	0	0
VT BURLINGTON	49	30	62	21	39	-5	0.76	0.11	0.66	3.74	95	6.62	90	86	48	0	5	3	1
VA LYNCHBURG	61	36	71	33	49	-7	0.02	-0.69	0.02	6.18	114	12.85	114	81	28	0	0	1	0
VA NORFOLK	63	42	73	40	53	-5	0.07	-0.62	0.06	3.74	67	8.62	67	75	39	0	0	2	0
VA RICHMOND	64	40	74	34	52	-6	0.31	-0.36	0.26	3.82	70	9.46	80	67	26	0	0	2	0
VA ROANOKE	61	37	72	32	48	-7	0.00	-0.74	0.00	4.01	73	9.56	86	76	29	0	1	0	0
VA WASH./DULLES	60	35	70	28	48	-5	0.12	-0.60	0.12	5.42	107	9.08	86	73	29	0	2	1	0
WA HANFORD	65	44	73	40	55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	67	33	0	0	0	0
WA OLYMPIA	57	45	63	39	51	4	1.66	0.90	1.29	13.54	188	27.52	131	88	44	0	0	4	1
WA QUILLAYUTE	54	41	60	37	48	1	5.66	3.96	1.81	27.30	184	54.03	124	98	64	0	0	6	4
WA SEATTLE-TACOMA	56	46	63	43	51	2	2.19	1.66	1.19	10.44	204	19.46	134	98	56	0	0	5	1
WA SPOKANE	56	37	65	32	47	1	1.09	0.81	0.93	3.49	155	6.56	115	85	53	0	2	3	1
WA YAKIMA	63	39	70	32	51	2	0.00	-0.11	0.00	0.60	57	1.94	65	79	41	0	1	0	0
WV BECKLEY	52	29	65	24	41	-11	0.21	-0.59	0.10	6.83	124	11.36	100	85	42	0	6	4	0
WV CHARLESTON	58	33	72	29	45	-10	0.25	-0.51	0.20	9.15	161	12.42	107	89	35	0	3	3	0
WV ELKINS	53	25	65	19	39	-9	0.54	-0.34	0.27	8.33	134	12.46	101	81	33	0	7	4	0
WV HUNTINGTON	57	35	70	28	46	-7	0.12	-0.71	0.12	8.80	153	12.38	104	81	33	0	2	1	0
WI EAU CLAIRE	54	31	61	22	42	-3	0.08	-0.59	0.08	2.04	61	3.83	75	86	36	0	4	1	0
WI GREEN BAY	53	28	66	24	40	-4	0.02	-0.54	0.01	2.23	63	4.83	85	86	36	0	6	2	0
WI MADISON	50	30	63	15	40	-7	0.16	-0.60	0.14	2.67	65	6.09	96	86	30	0	5	2	0
WI MILWAUKEE	50	32	66	28	41	-3	0.18	-0.65	0.11	1.46	30	5.44	69	86	30	0	3	4	0
WI CASPER	59	28	72	14	44	1	0.02	-0.35	0.02	1.11	60	2.22	74	79	31	0	5	1	0
WI CHEYENNE	58	31	72	7	44	2	0.00	-0.31	0.00	1.51	84	2.22	86	71	31	0	2	0	0
WI LANDER	61	32	70	18	47	3	0.00	-0.50	0.00	1.21	51	1.80	52	65	23	0	3	0	0
WI SHERIDAN	59	30	68	10	44	0	0.26	-0.14	0.15	0.98	50	1.89	56	78	34	0	4	2	0

In an effort to improve the quality of the Selected Cities table, we have changed the station library. Nevertheless, the data are preliminary and subject to change. Due to automated observing equipment, totals from a number of stations are incomplete.

National Agricultural Summary

April 14 - 20, 1997

HIGHLIGHTS

A warming trend brought seasonal temperatures to the western half of the United States, but temperatures in the East remained below normal. Farmers and ranchers in the Red River Valley battled rising floodwaters. Moving livestock to dry ground, feeding livestock, and removing carcasses were high priorities as flooding further delayed fieldwork in North Dakota, South Dakota, and Minnesota. The southern Plains experienced below-freezing temperatures early in the week but warmed to over 80 degrees by week's end.

Low temperatures and frost in the Southeast slowed planting progress and crop development. Late-week heavy rains fell in the Northwest, slowing planting of spring crops. Wet snow fell in New England as a late-week storm with high winds moved across the northern Atlantic coast. Beneficial showers fell in Florida, although some local areas remained dry. An area extending from the Florida Panhandle northward to North Carolina received scattered showers, but overall remained dry as it has for several weeks.

Winter Wheat: The condition of the Nation's winter wheat crop declined significantly from last week but remained mostly good to fair. Nine percent (%) of the crop was headed, compared with 6% last year at this time, and the 5-year average of 8%. Farmers and agronomists were in fields throughout the southern Plains evaluating the effects of last week's freeze, but the full extent of the damage remains unknown. In Kansas, the freeze damage was mostly in southern areas where more wheat was jointed and snow cover was lacking. Damage reports in Oklahoma vary from light to moderate in northern areas to moderate to severe in southern areas. Many producers in Texas have stopped irrigation operations until damage is more evident. Georgia also reported significantly lower wheat condition as dry, windy, cold weather and insects stressed the crop.

Corn: Corn planting advanced to 7% complete as growers in Illinois, Kentucky, and North Carolina made good progress. Last year, planting was 9% complete, and on average, 7% of the crop is in the ground. Corn planting progressed well in central Illinois, but cool soils in the south and wet soils in the north allowed only limited planting. Corn planting accelerated late in the week as warmer weather moved into the remainder of the Corn Belt.

Cotton: Nationwide, cotton planting was 14% complete, 1 percentage point ahead of last year, but 1 point behind the average. Cotton planting in Arizona and New Mexico continued rapidly as warm, dry weather prevailed. Some cotton fields in California had to be replanted due to earlier wind storms. Some planting occurred in central and north-central Texas. Planting in the other

major cotton-producing States was behind normal because of cold or wet weather.

Rice: Rice seeding progressed to 25% complete, 7 points behind last year, and 9 points behind the average. Planting and growth were slowed by cool weather in Louisiana. Rice growers in Mississippi made good progress despite lower than normal temperatures. Planting in Texas remained well behind normal. However, growers made some progress early in the week.

Other Small Grains: Spring wheat planting was 3% complete, just 1% behind 1996 but well behind the average. No spring wheat was planted in the Dakotas or Minnesota because of flooding and wet fields. Farmers in Idaho and Montana seeded some spring wheat, but progress was still behind normal. Planting in all major barley-producing States was behind normal because of continued wet weather and flooding. Barley planting reached 8% complete, equaling planting at this time 1 year ago, but well behind the average of 18%. Seeding of oats progressed to 21% complete, compared with 20% in 1996 and the average of 24%. Growers in the eastern Great Lakes and western Corn Belt made good progress, while growers in the Dakotas were kept out of wet fields.

Other Crops: Sorghum planting progressed to 16%, behind both the 18% last year and average of 19%. Planting operations increased in central Texas during the week. Lower-than-normal temperatures in the Southeast caused peanut-planting progress to lag behind normal levels. As of April 20, planting was 3% complete, 1 point behind 1996, and 3 points behind the average.

Crop Progress and Condition

Week Ending April 13, 1997

Winter Wheat Percent Headed				
	Apr 20 1997	Prev Week	Prev Year	5-Yr Avg
AR	41	26	14	23
CA	90	70	87	82
CO	0	0	0	0
GA	89	78	36	56
ID	0	0	0	0
IL	0	0	0	0
IN	0	0	0	0
KS	0	0	0	0
MI	0	0	0	0
MO	2	0	0	1
MT	0	0	0	0
NE	0	0	0	0
NC	21	10	9	17
OH	0	0	0	0
OK	16	7	5	19
OR	0	0	0	0
SD	0	0	0	0
TX	25	14	25	24
WA	0	0	0	0
ALL	9	5	6	8

These 19 States produced 92% of the 1996 winter wheat crop.

Corn Percent Planted				
	Apr 20 1997	Prev Week	Prev Year	5-Yr Avg
CO	5	2	18	6
GA	90	89	84	86
IL	12	2	12	6
IN	5	1	3	3
IA	0	0	2	3
KS	6	4	21	14
KY	26	10	11	20
MI	0	0	0	0
MN	0	0	0	2
MO	17	13	40	21
NE	0	0	3	3
NC	60	32	56	52
OH	6	2	2	3
PA	1	0	0	0
SD	0	0	0	0
TX	57	50	60	60
WI	0	0	0	0
ALL	7	4	9	7

These 17 States produced 90% of the 1996 corn crop.

Cotton Percent Planted				
	Apr 20 1997	Prev Week	Prev Year	5-Yr Avg
AL	15	9	19	20
AZ	63	49	74	56
AR	2	0	3	3
CA	70	50	41	46
GA	9	5	4	9
LA	3	0	4	9
MS	3	1	2	8
MO	0	0	1	1
NM	37	15	18	27
NC	4	2	3	4
OK	0	0	0	1
SC	6	4	5	6
TN	0	0	1	3
TX	12	7	15	16
ALL	14	9	13	15

These 14 States produced 99% of the 1996 cotton crop.

Sorghum Percent Planted				
	Apr 20 1997	Prev Week	Prev Year	5-Yr Avg
AR	24	21	24	26
CO	0	0	0	0
IL	0	0	0	0
KS	0	0	0	0
LA	19	17	34	22
MS	39	22	46	33
MO	1	0	3	3
NE	0	0	0	0
NM	0	0	0	0
OK	2	0	2	3
SD	0	0	0	0
TX	43	37	49	54
ALL	16	13	18	19

These 12 States produced 99% of the 1996 sorghum crop.

Rice Percent Planted				
	Apr 20 1997	Prev Week	Prev Year	5-Yr Avg
AR	19	8	21	32
CA	1	0	0	0
LA	61	53	64	57
MS	55	26	46	40
TX	12	6	69	54
ALL	25	16	32	34

These 5 States produced 96% of the 1996 rice crop.

Oats Percent Planted				
	Apr 20 1997	Prev Week	Prev Year	5-Yr Avg
IA	53	38	57	57
MI	24	18	2	4
MN	3	0	2	11
NE	54	38	76	59
ND	0	0	0	4
OH	63	46	26	26
PA	48	35	21	27
SD	1	1	11	27
WI	8	1	4	10
ALL	21	14	20	24

These 9 States produced 56% of the 1996 oat crop.

Peanuts Percent Planted				
	Apr 20 1997	Prev Week	Prev Year	5-Yr Avg
AL	5	2	3	7
FL	3	0	4	NA
GA	4	3	6	10
NC	0	0	0	0
OK	0	0	0	0
SC	11	10	7	8
TX	0	0	4	1
VA	0	0	0	1
ALL	3	2	4	6

These 8 States produced 99% of the 1996 peanut crop.

Barley Percent Planted				
	Apr 20 1997	Prev Week	Prev Year	5-Yr Avg
ID	30	21	36	46
MN	0	0	0	5
MT	6	2	2	23
ND	0	0	0	4
SD	0	0	3	22
WA	34	22	37	57
ALL	8	5	8	18

These 6 States produced 82% of the 1996 barley crop.

(Continued on backcover)

State Agricultural Summaries

These summaries, issued weekly in April through November and monthly in the other months, 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/> or from JAWF at <http://www.usda.gov/occe/waob/jawf>.

ALABAMA: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.0. Topsoil 5% very short, 21% short, 73% adequate, 1% surplus. Spring plowing complete 77%, 63% 1996, 67% avg. Corn planted 79%, 65% 1996, 64% avg. Wheat headed 63%, 32% 1996, 42% avg.; 3% poor, 35% fair, 58% good, 4% excellent. Livestock 1% poor, 33% fair, 57% good, 9% excellent. Cool weather slowed peanuts, cotton planting schedules.

ARIZONA: Cotton planting continued rapidly as warm, dry weather prevailed throughout the week. Small grains 94% heading, 96% 1996, 90% avg.; 60% good, 40% excellent. Alfalfa harvest activity 0% light, 36% moderate, 44% active, 20% not being harvested; 7% fair, 45% good, 48% excellent. Western vegetable season coming to a close. Declining volume of cabbage, spinach, salad savoy, iceberg, Romaine lettuces shipped. Central growers harvesting broccoli, beets, cabbage, carrots, kale, kohlrabi, iceberg, Romaine and leaf lettuces, green onions, greens, radishes, spinach, Swiss chard. Digging of table stock potatoes in the central area underway. Dry onion harvest getting underway in central, western areas. Valencia orange volume continues to increase; grapefruit harvest steady; tangerine, tangelo, lemon harvest complete. Light volume of peaches from the western area.

ARKANSAS: Main farming activities: Planting preparation, planting of row crops, fertilizing pastures, wheat. Field preparation for row crops, planting of rice, corn, soybeans, sorghum reported by several counties. Fertilizing, applying herbicides to wheat reported by several counties. A few counties report field preparation delays due to excess soil moisture. Livestock good condition.

CALIFORNIA: Field activities were slowed by late week rainfall in central, northern counties. Elsewhere, fieldwork progressed normally. Small grains were headed out, maturing rapidly, except at higher elevations. High winds continued to cause lodging in some fields. Some dryland wheat fields in the southern San Joaquin Valley received inadequate moisture for grain development, will be plowed under. Rice planting was underway in the Sacramento Valley. Seedbed preparation, flooding and fertilizer applications were ongoing where conditions permitted. Some fields were sprayed for water weevils. Cotton planting was in full swing in the San Joaquin, Sacramento valleys. Some fields had to be replanted due to earlier wind storms. Spring sugar beet harvest was winding down in most areas, while new crop fields were growing well. Corn was planted in the central, southern San Joaquin Valley. Safflower planting was nearing completion. Germination, emergence of early seeded corn, cotton, safflower had been slowed by cool weather in many areas. Growth improved considerably as temperatures warmed. Sunflower planting was underway in Colusa County. Alfalfa, oats, winter forage were cut for hay or green chopped. Stone fruit trees were sprayed for scale, worms, twig borer. Fruit was thinned. Cooler weather slowed sizing. Early variety freestone peach harvest was beginning in the San Joaquin Valley. Apples were sprayed for codling moths. Apple bloom was nearly complete in San Joaquin Valley. Almond trees were being propped up. San Joaquin Valley early season walnuts were sizing normally, mid-season varieties have completed bloom, late season varieties were approaching full bloom. Navel orange harvest continued to wind down. Many remaining navels have developed stain. Valencia harvest was increasing, sizes were small. Olive trees were beginning to bloom. Harvesting of spinach continued in Tulare, Stanislaus counties. Leaf, head lettuce harvests proceeded. Sweet corn, beans were irrigated, thinned. Peppers, onions were progressing well. Broccoli, cauliflower, sugar peas, green onions were harvested. Broccoli was treated for diamondback moths, aphids. Insecticides, fungicides were applied to tomato, pea fields. Sweet potato fields were fumigated. On the west side of Fresno County, late variety melons were planted. Early melons started sprouting. Cool nights have delayed the zucchini harvest in Fresno County. Harvesting of asparagus continued. Rangeland condition was generally fair. End of week rainfall in northern, central areas provided badly needed moisture. Livestock were in good condition. Many

feeders, stockers were moved to market, adjusting herd size to compensate for quality, quantity of rangeland feed.

COLORADO: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.8. Topsoil 30% very short, 36% short, 34% adequate. Subsoil 20% very short, 31% short, 49% adequate. Spring barley 73% seeded, 75% 1996, 41% avg.; 30% emerged, 26% 1996, 14% avg. Oats 56% seeded, 54% 1996, 39% avg.; 42% emerged, 24% 1996, 15% avg. Summer potatoes 80% planted, 63% 1996, 46% avg. Sugar beets 74% planted, 95% 1996, 59% avg. Dry onions 90% planted, 95% 1996, 64% avg.; 19% fair, 74% good, 7% excellent. Cows 83% calved, 88% 1996, 82% avg. Ewes 80% lambing, 85% 1996, 83% avg. Livestock mostly in good to fair condition.

DELAWARE: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.1. Subsoil 82% adequate, 18% surplus. Topsoil 71% adequate, 29% surplus. Winter wheat 1% poor, 15% fair, 76% good, 8% excellent. Corn 10% planted, 3% 1996, 7% avg. Barley 1% poor, 14% fair, 76% good, 9% excellent; 7% headed, 0% 1996, 7% avg. Potatoes 65% planted, 49% 1996, 52% avg. Green peas 70% planted, 35% 1996, 52% avg. Watermelons 5% planted, 0% 1996, 0% avg. Cantaloupes 5% planted, 0% 1996, 0% avg. Sweet corn 9% planted, 2% 1996, 9% avg. Apples 24% bloomed, 2% 1996, 13% avg. Peaches 91% bloomed, 28% 1996, 52% avg. Strawberries 34% bloomed, 3% 1996, 13% avg. Hay supplies 38% short, 61% adequate, 1% surplus. Range, pasture feed 5% poor, 22% fair, 70% good, 3% excellent. Activities: Cool weather slowing corn planting, continued field preparation.

FLORIDA: Topsoil moisture was short to adequate throughout the State, with scattered areas of surplus moisture. Slight frost was in the Panhandle on the 18th. Tobacco transplanting was complete. Three percent of peanuts were planted. Field preparation for spring-planted crops was active. Showers delayed some vegetable harvesting, with activity becoming quite busy during clearer weather. Vegetable volume leaders were tomatoes, sweet corn, peppers, potatoes, cabbage, and cucumbers. All areas had rain on 3 days. Citrus trees were in very good condition. New crop of fruit was progressing normally for mid-April. Trees were dropping excessive little green fruit. Remaining Valencias were in good condition. Valencia harvest was active in all areas. All grapefruit movement was strong in most areas. Temple and honey tangerine harvests were slowing. Caretakers were cutting cover crops, hedging, topping, and spraying. Pasture feed was 10% poor, 50% fair, and 40% good. Beneficial rains were received. Some local areas were still dry, while a few have surplus moisture. Cattle condition was 55% fair and 45% good.

GEORGIA: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.3. Soil moisture 30% very short; 41% short, 28% adequate, 1% surplus. Corn 1% very poor, 6% poor, 29% fair, 59% good, 5% excellent. Cotton 2% very poor, 20% poor, 48% fair, 29% good, 1% excellent. Hay 3% very poor, 18% poor, 34% fair, 43% good, 2% excellent. Peanuts 13% poor, 64% fair, 23% good. Sorghum 5% planted, 7% 1996, 10% avg. Tobacco 2% very poor, 14% poor, 39% fair, 40% good, 5% excellent; 97% transplanted, 91% 1996, 89% avg. Wheat 99% jointing, 98% 1996, 98% avg.; 96% boot, 80% 1996, 86% avg. Onions 35% fair, 63% good, 2% excellent; 32% harvested, 1% 1996, 4% avg. Watermelons 2% very poor, 13% poor, 34% fair, 46% good, 5% excellent; 91% planted, 71% 1996, 83% avg. Apples 6% poor, 21% fair, 73% good; 96% blooming, 81% 1996, 75% avg. Peaches 3% poor, 19% fair, 34% good, 44% excellent. Pasture feed 4% very poor, 18% poor, 34% fair, 41% good, 3% excellent. Dry conditions with windy, cold weather slowed planting. Conditions of all field crops down. Major portion of peanut belt very dry soils. Tobacco diseases, insects on increase. Wheat conditions also declined, diseases, cold temperatures and insects. Blowing sand hurting seedlings. Activities: Irrigated, resetting tobacco, preparing land, harvesting onions, fertilizing pastures.

HAWAII: Farming, crop progress benefitted from mostly sunny skies. Warm temperatures made fieldwork uncomfortable, slowed development of cool-weather crops. Banana production seasonally light to moderate. Overall papaya production steady, favorable progress made. Maui onion harvest active, crop made good growth. Head cabbage production moderate. Watermelon, sweet corn plantings continue to increase. Sugarcane harvesting active on Kauai, Maui.

IDAHO: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.1. Topsoil 29% surplus, 58% adequate, 13% short. Winter wheat jointed 13%. Spring wheat emerged 17%, 24% 1996, 26% avg. Barley emerged 10%, 13% 1996, 19% avg. Potatoes planted 8%, 11% 1996, 11% avg. Sugar beets planted 87%, 78% 1996, 68% avg.; emerged 16%, 16% 1996, 24% avg. Dry peas planted 13%, 13% 1996, 26% avg.; emerged 4%, 5% 1996, 4% avg. Oats planted 26%, 25% 1996, 32% avg.; emerged 8%, 8% 1996, 12% avg. Onions planted 100%, 96% 1996, 77% avg.; emerged 46%, 38% 1996, 26% avg. Lentils planted 3%, 2% 1996, 23% avg.; emerged 0%, 0% 1996, 5% avg. Irrigation water supply 71% excellent, 28% good, 1% fair. Pasture feed, range 18% excellent, 48% good, 31% fair, 3% poor. Hay, roughage supplies 2% surplus, 44% adequate, 27% short, 27% very short. Calving completed 94%. Lambing completed 93%. Activities: Planting small grains, corn, potatoes, dry peas, sugar beets, moving cattle to summer pasture, irrigating, hauling seed potatoes, weed control, fertilizing.

ILLINOIS: Days suitable for fieldwork 3.7. Topsoil 6% short, 77% adequate, 17% surplus. Corn planted progressed in the central region of the State, cool soils in the north kept planters in the shed, wet soils in the south allowed only limited fieldwork. Planting was near the halfway point in the west southwest district, was less than 5% northern, southern districts. Damage from the extreme cold to wheat, alfalfa, fruit crops became evident last week but did not appear severe as first anticipated. Replanting vegetable crops began in north, seeding of oats continued. Other farm activities: Applying fertilizer, herbicides, hauling grain, spreading manure, tending livestock. Alfalfa hay 1% very poor, 4% poor, 32% fair, 55% good, 8% excellent. Pasture feed 1% very poor, 7% poor, 36% fair, 49% good, 7% excellent. Oats planted 78%, 83% 1996, 61% avg.

INDIANA: Days suitable for fieldwork 3.5. Topsoil 1% short, 73% adequate, 26% surplus. Subsoil 1% short, 73% adequate, 26% surplus. Fields are finally drying out enough to allow tillage operations. Corn planting is ahead of average, even though soil temperatures remain low. Winter wheat 27% jointed, 8% 1996, 22% avg. Range, pasture feed 3% very poor, 11% poor, 35% fair, 45% good, 6% excellent. Activities: Spreading fertilizer, applying anhydrous, applying herbicide, field preparation, corn planting, caring for livestock.

IOWA: Days suitable for fieldwork 1.5. Topsoil short 1%, adequate 78%, surplus 21%. Subsoil very short 1%, short 3%, adequate 82%, surplus 14%. Snow storm kept farmers from the fields until late in week. 1997 row crops primary seedbed preparation completed 49%, 66% 1996, 56% avg.; fertilizer application completed 56%, 69% 1996, 59% avg. Good progress of oat seeding in the northeast brought the State average closer to normal for this date. Oats planted 53%, 57% 1996, 57% avg. Winter wheat 1% very poor, 5% poor, 37% fair, 51% good, 6% excellent. Percent crop lost to winterkill 4% winter wheat, 9% alfalfa hay, 5% red clover hay. Farmers are anxious to get into the fields, are waiting for soil temperatures to increase. Significant calf losses, incidents of scours were experienced due to the snow storm last week, especially in the south central, southeast.

KANSAS: Days suitable for fieldwork 2.2. Topsoil 1% very short, 8% short, 80% adequate, 11% surplus. Subsoil 1% very short, 6% short, 84% adequate, 9% surplus. Wheat jointing 59%, 30% 1996, 56% avg.; wind damage 4% moderate, 9% light, 87% none; freeze damage 14%, severe, 26% moderate, 24% light, 36% none. It is too early to evaluate last weeks freeze damage. Freeze damage mostly in southern areas where more wheat has jointed, snow cover was lacking. Corn planted 6%, 21% 1996, 14% avg. Insect, disease infestations minimal. Pasture feed 5% poor, 27% fair, 61% good, 7% excellent. Major field activities included seedbed preparation, corn planting. Livestock activities moving, working cattle.

KENTUCKY: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.0. Topsoil 6% very short, 18% short, 62% adequate, 14% surplus. Subsoil 1% very short, 10% short, 69% adequate, 20% surplus. Below normal temperatures, rainfall. Record low

temperatures. Some cold injury to outside tobacco beds. Tobacco bed seeding 95% complete, 90% 196, 91% avg. Plants up in 67% of beds, 55% 1996, 61% avg. Producers report tobacco plants size range from just seeded to several inches high. Winter wheat crop has deteriorated somewhat. Freeze damage still unknown at present. Wheat 1% very poor, 3% poor, 29% fair, 55% good, 12% excellent. Barley 10% poor, 32% fair, 55% good, 3% excellent. Pasture, hay growth slowed by cold temperatures. Pastures need moisture, warmer temperatures to spur growth. Pasture feed 2% very poor, 12% poor, 37% fair, 42% good, 7% excellent. Alfalfa hay average height 7 inches, about 5-6 in. 1996. Peach crop is expected to be significantly reduced by recent freezes. Early blooming apples also damaged, growers still expect a good crop from later varieties. Strawberries in many areas severely damaged by the freezes, damage extent unknown.

LOUISIANA: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.3. Soil moisture 2% short, 77% adequate, 21% surplus. Corn 2% poor, 45% fair, 51% good, 2% excellent; 98% planted, 97% 1996, 93% avg.; 89% emerged, 90% 1996, 78% avg. Corn planting was winding down as most producers were either finished planting or had decided to plant other crops. Cotton 0% emerged, 0% 1996, 2% avg. Hay 5% first cutting, 6% 1996, 3% avg. Rice 41% emerged, 46% 1996, 40% avg. Rice growth was slowed by cool temperatures. Sorghum 9% emerged, 6% 1996, 9% avg. Spring plowing 68% plowing, 93% 1996, 77% avg. Sugarcane 5% poor, 29% fair, 50% good, 16% excellent. Sugarcane producers remained busy with weed control. Sweet potatoes 1% planted, 0% 1996, 1% avg. Wheat 1% very poor, 7% poor, 46% fair, 44% good, 2% excellent; 89% headed, 71% 1996, 76% avg.; 5% turning color, 3% 1996, 7% avg. Livestock 6% poor, 35% fair, 54% good, 5% excellent. Cattlemen were weaning fall calves. Vegetables 10% poor, 40% fair, 47% good, 3% excellent. A light frost 18th damaged emerging watermelons. Pasture feed 4% poor, 31% fair, 59% good, 6% excellent. Pasture growth slowed due to cool temperatures.

MARYLAND: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.4. Subsoil 1% short, 85% adequate, 14% surplus. Topsoil 7% short, 82% adequate, 11% surplus. Winter wheat 2% very poor, 3% poor, 17% fair, 64% good, 14% excellent. Barley 2% very poor, 3% poor, 18% fair, 57% good, 20% excellent; 4% headed, 0% 1996, 5% avg. Rye 1% poor, 22% fair, 64% good, 13% excellent; 10% headed, 2% 1996, 3% avg. Field corn 8% planted, 11% 1996, 7% avg. Cantaloupes 1% headed, 2% 1996, 1% avg. Sweet corn 17% planted, 8% 1996, 11% avg. Tomatoes 5% planted, 3% 1996, 4% avg. Apples 35% bloomed, 2% 1996, 13% avg. Peaches 89% bloomed, 7% 1996, 31% avg. Continued reports of damages of peaches due to freezing temperatures throughout the State. Strawberries 34% bloomed, 12% 1996, 20% avg. Hay supplies 6% very short, 20% short, 71% adequate, 3% surplus. Range, pasture feed 2% poor, 21% fair, 55% good, 22% excellent. Activities: Continued preparation for planting, many reports of cool weather slowing planting.

MICHIGAN: Cold temperatures, wet weather stalled fieldwork this past week. A few farmers began planting sugar beets, preparing fields for corn, bean crops. Major activities included: Hauling fertilizer, chiseling for corn, financial management, preparing equipment for planting. Livestock conditions were good. Lambing, calving continued. Feed was said to be in short supply, since the cold temperatures delayed pasture growth.

MINNESOTA: Days suitable for fieldwork 1.1. Topsoil 3% short, 45% adequate, 52% surplus. Subsoil 2% short, 47% adequate, 51% surplus. Corn 2% ground prepared, 1% 1996, 7% avg.; 0% planted, 0% 1996, 2% avg. Soybeans 1% ground prepared, 0% 1996, 1% avg. Spring wheat 0% planted, 2% 1996, 9% avg. Oats 3% planted, 2% 1996, 11% avg. Barley 0% planted, 0% 1996, 5% avg. Sugar beets 0% planted, 0% 1996, 2% avg. Green peas 2% planted, 0% 1996, 6% avg.

MISSISSIPPI: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.2. Soil moisture 14% short, 79% adequate, 7% surplus. Corn 88% planted, 86% 1996, 70% avg.; 60% emerged, 50% 1996, 45% avg.; 4% poor, 33% fair, 53% good, 10% excellent. Rice 55% planted, 46% 1996, 40% avg.; 6% emerged, 21% 1996, 18% avg.; 1% poor, 56% fair, 41% good, 2% excellent. Soybeans 16% planted, 15% 1996, 7% avg. Wheat 100% jointing, 92% 1996, 93% avg.; 72% heading, 35% 1996, 42% avg.; 2% very poor, 15% poor, 36% fair, 43% good, 4% excellent. Peanuts 2% planted, 5% 1996, 9% avg. Sweet potatoes 7% planted, 5% 1996, 4% avg. Watermelons 70% planted, 51% 1996, 49% avg.; 4% poor, 24% fair, 56% good, 16% excellent. Cattle 4% poor, 21% fair, 56% good, 19% excellent. Pasture feed 6% poor, 20% fair, 57% good,

17% excellent. Activities: Planting cotton, soybeans, other crops. Cool weather conditions have delayed seed germination, emergence for most crops.

MISSOURI: Days suitable for fieldwork 2.4. Topsoil 1% short, 65% adequate, 34% surplus. Wet weather, field conditions limited most farmers from performing significant field operations during the past week. Fieldwork across the northern third of State was extremely limited, although some progress was made elsewhere in the State. Good corn planting progress was made southwest, some southeast. Recent overnight low temps near freezing may have caused some minor damage to the wheat crop. Fortunately, most State wheat had yet to reach the growth stage where a light freeze would be critical. Most favorable winter wheat condition ratings are found north central, west central, east central, southwest, while less favorable ratings exist across the southeast region of the State. Minimal amount of the wheat crop has reached the heading stage, largely limited to the extreme Bootheel. Oats sown 79%, 91% 1996, 73% avg. Ground tilled for spring crops 62%, 82% 1996, 65% avg. Pasture, range feed 1% very poor, 6% poor, 30% fair, 55% good, 8% excellent. Cold spring temperatures have limited early pasture growth.

MONTANA: Days suitable for fieldwork 2.7. Topsoil 17% surplus, 78% adequate, 5% short. Subsoil 7% surplus, 79% adequate, 12% short, 2% very short. Warmer temperatures by weekend allowed more fieldwork to be done. Planting of spring grains behind normal. Field tillage work in progress 68% none, 30% just started, 2% well under way. Oats 2% planted, 5% 1996, 15% avg.; sugar beets 6% planted, 8% 1996, 31% avg. Winter wheat spring stages 21% still dormant, 65% greening, 14% green and growing. Winter wheat wind damage 22% none, 62% light, 15% moderate, 1% heavy. Freeze damage to winter wheat 31% none, 48% light, 15% moderate, 6% heavy. Calving 84% complete, lambing 63% complete. Livestock receiving supplemental feed: Cattle 92%, sheep 94%.

NEBRASKA: Day suitable for fieldwork 2.3. Topsoil 4% short, 87% adequate, 9 surplus. Subsoil 9% short, 87% adequate, 4% surplus. Fieldwork activities were limited last week across much of the State due to the 10th, 11th storm. Additional soil moisture supplies were welcomed, have caused corn planting to be delayed due to wet soils, cool soil temperatures. Winter wheat 1% very poor, 9% poor, 33% fair, 50% good, 7% excellent; 1% jointed, 3% 1996, 9% avg.; crop has shown signs of freeze, wind damage to leaves; however, this damage was considered only to be cosmetic; army cutworms were reported in some south central fields. Oats 54% seeded, 76% 1996, 59% avg.; 13% emerged, 20% 1996. Cattle: 90% cows calved since January 1, 89% 1996; greatest calf losses reported in the Panhandle, scours had been reported in many areas; warmer temperatures would improve livestock health, encourage pasture growth. Pasture feed, range 3% poor, 30% fair, 63% good, 4% excellent. Activities: Limited oats seeding, spring tillage, fertilizer applications; producers focused on spring equipment preparation, livestock care.

NEVADA: Above normal temperatures made good conditions for seeding, crop development. Sod harvest continued in the extreme south. Spring grain planting was in full swing, field preparations continued. Irrigation began, spraying of grain crops commenced. Calving, branding, castrating, vaccinating were active. Pasture feed, range fair to poor as many native forages remain dormant. Main farm, ranch activities: Ditch repair, working livestock, grain planting, irrigating, spraying.

NEW ENGLAND: Maple sugaring activities almost done. Operators tending livestock, fixing fences, assisting spring calvings. Spreading stacked manure on well drained fields. Growers moving apples, potatoes out of storage. Garden centers, greenhouses starting sales of spring plants. Southern areas beginning to "green up".

NEW JERSEY: Days suitable for fieldwork 4. Topsoil adequate to surplus. Farmers are busy tilling land, planting, pruning, harvesting, implementing pest control measures, repairing equipment. Strawberries are blooming. Apples are in half green stage. Planting of corn, potatoes, cabbage, lettuce, sweet corn, snap beans, early soybeans. Harvesting of asparagus, kale, arugula, leeks, spinach.

NEW MEXICO: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.6. Soil moisture 1% very short, 25% short, 70% adequate, 4% surplus. Farmers in the south continue to plant cotton, 37% complete, 18% 1996, 27% avg.; continue planting chile, 92% complete. Chile 3% poor, 10% fair, 83% good, 4% excellent. Lettuce 4% fair, 60% good, 36% excellent. Onion 2% fair, 78% good, 20% excellent. First cutting of alfalfa began last week in the southern part of the State. Alfalfa 9% poor, 28% fair, 58% good, 5% excellent. Elsewhere in the State farmers continued land preparation for spring planting, fertilizing, irrigating. Some areas farmers began planting corn 20% complete, 7% 1996, 5% avg. Winter wheat 1% very poor, 10% poor, 51% fair, 35% good, 3% excellent. Ranchers beginning to move livestock to spring pastures, while calving, branding, sheep shearing continues. Cattle, sheep mostly fair to good. Range, pasture feed 1% very poor, 8% poor, 44% fair, 40% good, 7% excellent.

NEW YORK: Days suitable for fieldwork 3.5. Soil moisture adequate to surplus except in south central areas where supplies are short. Pasture feed fair to good. Oat planting underway. Emergence slow due to coolness. Wheat fair to good. Some winterkill evident. Sidedressing well along. Onion planting active, slowed by cool, wet conditions. Apple growers beginning spring repairs, cleanup. Early April snowstorm damaged trees in Hudson Valley. Production of peaches, sweet cherries likely to be affected. Coolness delaying growth of all fruit.

NORTH CAROLINA: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.8. Frost was reported in many counties. Light damage was reported to the vegetable, fruit crops as well as some frost burn on pastures, corn in the mountain regions. Fortunately, for most areas reporting frost, frost was on crops for a brief time, caused little damage. Soil moisture 1% very short, 25% short, 71% adequate, 3% surplus. Activities included: Planting corn, tobacco; preparation of tobacco, peanut, cotton land for planting; maintaining pastures; tending livestock; repairing equipment; general farm maintenance.

NORTH DAKOTA: Floodwater has delayed fieldwork, halted most activity in the eastern portion of the State. Average snow depth below 1 inch. Expected statewide average start of fieldwork is May 4, behind 1996, average. No durum plantings were reported, same as 1996, 1% avg. Problems of scours, pneumonia have been reported, though cattle condition improved slightly with warmer temperatures. Cattle 3% very poor, 14% poor, 35% fair, 46% good, 2% excellent; sheep 2% very poor, 9% poor, 31% fair, 54% good, 4% excellent. Cattle, calf death loss: 95% above normal; sheep and lamb death loss: 43% above normal. Spring calving 73% complete, lambing 75%. Pastures, ranges 93% remain dormant; 65% open for grazing.

OHIO: Days suitable for fieldwork 3.3. Topsoil 2% short, 76% adequate, 22% surplus. Wet conditions limited fieldwork early in the week, but by mid-week, fields dried out enough to allow farmers to resume ground preparations. Planting of oats made good progress, many farmers felt that ground temperatures were too cold for planting corn. However, temperatures warmed up late in the week, corn planting accelerated. Some soybeans were reported planted as well. Other work includes repairing machinery; spreading manure; applying lime, anhydrous ammonia, dry fertilizer, herbicides; tile, waterway repairs; field tillage; top dressing winter wheat. Southern districts, cabbage, sweet corn planting continues, tomato beds are being prepared, tobacco beds are 88% seeded. Potato planting is at 8% compared to 4% last week, 6% 1996, 5% avg. Oats emerged is at 15% of intended acreage, compared to 5% 1996, 11% avg. Apples 18% very poor, 13% poor, 32% fair, 33% good, 4% excellent. Peach 38% very poor, 22% poor, 20% fair, 17% good, 3% excellent. Hay 1% very poor, 8% poor, 37% fair, 47% good, 7% excellent. Pasture growth slow due to low temperatures. Condition is 1% very poor, 9% poor, 36% fair, 48% good, 6% excellent.

OKLAHOMA: Wheat condition declines as freeze damage begins showing up. Days suitable for fieldwork 3.4. Topsoil 88% adequate, 12% surplus. Subsoil 1% short, 94% adequate, 5% surplus. Wheat 97% jointing, 66% 1996, 86% avg. Oats 61% jointing, 29% 1996, 47% avg.; 14% heading, 1% 1996, 7% avg. Corn 98% seedbed prepared, 96% 1996, 91% avg.; 19% planted, 22% 1996, 32% avg.; 8% up-to-stand, 13% 1996, 13% avg. Sorghum 22% seedbed prepared, 20% 1996, 34% avg. Soybeans 50% seedbed prepared, 59% 1996, 46% avg.; 7% planted, 15% 1996, 9% avg.; 0% up to stand, 4% 1996, 2% avg. Peanuts 44% seedbed prepared, 63% 1996, 57% avg. Cotton 67% seedbed prepared, 44% 1996, 64% avg. Alfalfa hay 2% 1st cutting, 0% 1996, 7% avg. Livestock 4% poor, 19% fair, 74%

good, 3% excellent. Prices of feeder steers, heifers were \$1 to \$2/cwt higher for the week.

OREGON: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.3. Topsoil 20% short, 73% adequate, 7% surplus. Subsoil 7% short, 88% adequate, 5% surplus. All barley 76% planted, 45% 1996, 62% avg. Pasture feed 3% poor, 31% fair, 63% good, 3% excellent. Activities: Western winter wheat crop responded to fertilizer, pesticides, some spring small grains planting continued. Eastern small grains producers continued planting, fertilizing, fieldwork. Klamath Basin sugar beet seeding continued. Spring nursery activities continued. Easter lily growers plowed, applied fertilizer, cultivate, southern coast. Christmas tree planting continued. Willamette Valley: Vegetable ground preparation underway, onion planting started, some early peas emerged, strawberries beginning to bloom, caneberry growth increased. Mid-Columbia: Green peas planting underway, cherries full bloom. Hood River Valley: Winter pears full bloom in lower valley, upper valley pears cluster bud, pink stage, Bartlett pears first bloom. Rogue River Valley: Winter pear bloom winding down, no orchard heating due to warm evenings. Southern coast: Cranberry early shoot growth continued, some beds hook stage. Livestock good condition. Calving winding down, branding & spring range turnout underway. Eastern supplemental feeding continued. Western livestock on ranges, lowlands very wet.

PENNSYLVANIA: Good week for fieldwork. Some fields in the northern counties still have a snow cover. Some new snow received last week. Days suitable for fieldwork 5.1. Soil moisture 2% very short, 27% short, 63% adequate, 8% surplus. Plowing 52% complete, 26% 1996, 28% avg. Oats planted 48% complete, 21% 1996, 27% avg. Potatoes planted 8% complete, 7% 1996, 8% avg. Tobacco beds planted 100% complete, 90% 1996, 71% avg. Wheat 4% poor, 20% fair, 66% good, 10% excellent. Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand 1% very poor, 3% poor, 30% fair, 55% good, 11% excellent. Timothy clover stand 2% very poor, 7% poor, 22% fair, 63% good, 6% excellent. Peaches 50% pink, 19% 1996, 19% avg.; 25% full bloom or past, 0% 1996, 2% avg. Cherries 45% pink, 16% 1996, 15% avg.; 24% full bloom or past, 0% 1996, 3% avg. Apples 40% pink, 9% 1996, 7% avg.; 10% full bloom or past, 0% 1996, 0% avg. Activities: Some plowing, planting of oats; fixing fences; machinery maintenance; hauling manure; caring for livestock.

SOUTH CAROLINA: Soil moisture 6% very short, 46% short, 47% adequate, 1% surplus. Cantaloupes 93% planted, 76% 1996, 64% avg.; 1% very poor, 18% poor, 60% fair, 21% good. Corn 96% planted, 84% 1996, 84% avg.; 2% poor, 39% fair, 55% good, 4% excellent. Cucumbers 92% planted, 58% 1996, 62% avg.; 5% fair, 50% good, 45% excellent. Hay 36% harvested, 27% 1996, 15% avg.; 2% very poor, 3% poor, 36% fair, 52% good, 7% excellent. Rye 85% headed, 45% 1996, N/A avg.; 13% turn color, 3% 1996, 5% avg.; 2% poor, 28% fair, 65% good, 5% excellent. Snap beans 75% planted, 33% 1996, 47% avg.; 30% fair, 40% good, 30% excellent. Tobacco 78% planted, 57% 1996, 51% avg.; 10% poor, 36% fair, 54% good. Tomatoes 84% planted, 63% 1996, 86% avg.; 11% poor, 28% fair, 32% good, 29% excellent. Watermelons 97% planted, 73% 1996, 73% avg.; 4% poor, 33% fair, 60% good, 3% excellent. Winter wheat 79% headed, 21% 1996, 35% avg.; 2% poor, 25% fair, 65% good, 8% excellent. Barley 65% headed, 3% 1996, N/A avg.; 8% fair, 62% good, 30% excellent. Peaches 2% poor, 36% fair, 27% good, 35% excellent.

SOUTH DAKOTA: Temperatures below normal, precipitation light to moderate. Topsoil 36% adequate, 64% surplus. Subsoil 36% adequate, 64% surplus. Expected date to start fieldwork 28th. Winter wheat acreage 67% breaking dormancy, winter rye 51% breaking dormancy. Winter freeze damage for winter wheat 15% none, 29% light, 31% moderate, 25% severe. Winter freeze damage for winter rye 47% none, 34% light, 19% moderate. Winter rye 3% poor, 45% fair, 34% good, 18% excellent. Livestock 1% very poor, 9% poor, 33% fair, 51% good, 6% excellent. Calving 60% complete. Newborn calf death losses 6% below average, 58% average, 36% above average. Lambing 66% completed. Newborn lamb death losses 7% below average, 60% average, 33% above average. Feed supplies 10% very short, 20% short, 64% adequate, 6% surplus. Stock water 59% adequate, 41% surplus.

TENNESSEE: Frosts had varying effects on fruit crop. Apple, peach crops were not significantly affected in west, middle areas, strawberries suffered some loss, damage. However, the strawberry crop in eastern area remains good, while apples, peaches have received damage. Cool temperatures have also taken a toll on other crops. Corn emergence on early planted corn, as

well as pasture, hay growth has been delayed. Outdoor tobacco plant beds are beginning to show signs of stress from the cold, cereal leaf beetle larvae are present on wheat. Despite the affects of last week's frosts, crop progress remains at or above a normal pace, as cotton, sorghum planting gets started on a limited scale. Days suitable for fieldwork 5.0. Topsoil 20% short, 69% adequate, 11% surplus. Subsoil 9% short, 78% adequate, 13% surplus. Corn 52% planted, 44% 1996, 38% avg. Tobacco 88% plants up, 70% 1996, 76% avg. Wheat 5% poor, 29% fair, 48% good, 18% excellent; 94% jointed, 76% 1996, 76% avg.; 12% headed, 1% 1996, 12% avg. Cotton 0% planted, 1% 1996, 3% avg. Sorghum 2% planted, 1% 1996, 7% avg. Apples 95% blooming or beyond, 85% 1996, 73% avg. Pasture feed 5% poor, 26% fair, 58% good, 11% excellent. Alfalfa hay 3% poor, 34% fair, 52% good, 11% excellent.

TEXAS: Return to mild, open weather conditions occurred in many parts of the State. Measurable rainfall occurred along parts of the Upper Coast and Rio Grande Valley. Planting operations are getting underway in the Plains. Planting progress along the Upper Coast was slow. However, some progress was made. Planting operations also increased in central areas of the State. Damage to the wheat crop in the High Plains from last week's freeze is being assessed. Early appraisals point to significant loss.

Crops: Stem and head freeze damage to wheat plants in the High Plains caused significant yield loss. However, the total extent is unknown. Many producers stopped irrigation operations until the damage was more evident. Damage also occurred in fields in the Low Plains and north-central areas as many fields are heading. A return to open, sunny weather should help crops in the central and southern areas. Crop condition was 25% headed, compared with the 25% of 1996 and 24% 5-year average. Corn planters are beginning to roll in the High Plains and should be in full swing by next week, weather permitting. Field portions of the north-central areas are showing slight frost damage. Fields in the central areas look good, with only slight yellowing showing. Planted fields along the Upper Coast and Rio Grande Valley are beginning to show disease problems. Limited chemical activity occurred because of prolonged wet conditions. Statewide condition was 75% normal, compared with the 49% of 1996; 57% planted, compared with the 60% of 1996 and the 60% average. Some cotton planting occurred in the central and north-central areas. Emergence was slow in many areas. However, some fields were showing good stands. Planting remained behind schedule along the Upper Coast and Rio Grande Valley, with some producers considering a change to other crops because of lateness. The crop was 12% planted, compared with the 15% of 1996 and 16% average. Grain sorghum planting operations increased in the central areas. Early stands looked good. Some yellowing occurred in scattered fields. Land preparations were winding down in the Plains. Statewide the crop was 74% normal, compared with 47% of 1996 and 43% planted, compared with 49% in 1996 and 54% average. Rice planting remained behind normal. However, some progress was made early in the week. Planted fields have been slow to emerge with 2% emerged, compared with 52% in 1996 and 28% avg. Soybeans planting increased in the north-central areas, and some planting also occurred along the Upper Coast with 16% planted, compared with 26% in 1996 and 13% average. Sugar beets planting continued with some emergence problems occurring in some fields because of dry, crusting conditions. Crops were 54% planted compared with 68% in 1996 and 65% average.

Commercial Vegetables: Rio Grande Valley, prolonged wet fields were causing rotting in onion and cabbage fields. Cantaloup progress also has been hampered by wet conditions. San Antonio-Winter Garden melon fields needed dryer, sunny weather for further progress. High Plains, onion and potato plants were damaged by last week's freezing temperatures. However, extent of loss has not been determined. In the east, sweetpotato and watermelon beds were prepared. Progress on other vegetables was slowed by prolonged wet conditions. Trans-Pecos chili peppers were making good progress. Producers were thinning crop in parts of the east and central areas. No freeze damage was reported to the Hill Country crop. Damage was extensive in some north-central areas. Pecan freezing temperatures caused damage some north central areas; however, total damage unknown. Trees continued leaf out many other areas. Early expectations were good many areas.

Range and Livestock: Livestock conditions remained good across the State. A very good lamb crop was occurring in the Hill Country where producers were busy marking and shearing. Cattle market remained good on all classes. Ranges and pastures need open, sunny weather for further improvement in many areas. Some pastures were fertilized, and weeds were sprayed.

UTAH: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.3. Topsoil 26% short, 64% adequate, 10% surplus. Subsoil 12% short, 72% adequate, 16% surplus. Winter wheat 4% poor, 44% fair, 32% good, 20% excellent. Fall barley 4% very poor, 2% poor, 16% fair, 71% good, 7% excellent. Pasture feed, range 2% very poor, 7% poor, 32% fair, 55% good, 4% excellent. Spring wheat planted 76%, 81% 1996, 76% avg.; emerged 40%, 52% 1996, 40% avg. Barley planted 80%, 81% 1996, 75% avg.; emerged 38%, 51% 1996, 40% avg. Oats planted 36%, 37% 1996, 43% avg.; emerged 11%, 22% 1996, 22% avg. Corn planted 8%. Alfalfa hay height 3 inches. Sweet cherries full bloom or past 23%, 84% 1996. Peaches full bloom or past 60%. Apples full bloom or past 4%, 25% 1996. Pears full bloom or past 17%, 84% 1996. Cattle, calf 25% fair, 69% good, 6% excellent. Sheep, lamb 14% fair, 79% good, 7% excellent. Cows calved 80%, 85% 1996, 84% avg. Ewes lambd on farm 81%, 88% 1996, 86% avg.; on range 40%, 57% 1996, 55% avg. Sheep sheared on farm 77%, 79% 1996, 82% avg.; on range 59%, 62% 1996, 64% avg. Major farm, ranch activities: Spring planting, spring tillage, fixing irrigation equipment, shearing sheep, lambing, calving. Last week's warm weather was beneficial for all crops, lambing, calving.

VIRGINIA: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.0. Topsoil 18% short, 74% adequate, 8% surplus. Subsoil 5% short, 85% adequate, 10% surplus. Corn 20% planted, 16% 1996, 19% avg. Cotton 0% planted, 8% 1996, 9% avg. Winter wheat 5% poor, 25% fair, 60% good, 10% excellent. Barley 5% poor, 30% fair, 60% good, 5% excellent. Apples 25% poor, 70% fair, 5% good. Peaches 33% very poor, 23% poor, 37% fair, 7% good. Tobacco greenhouses 40% good, 60% excellent. Tobacco plant beds 5% poor, 20% fair, 65% good, 10% excellent. Peanuts 0% planted, 0% 1996, 1% avg. Summer potatoes 99% planted, 100% 1996. Pasture feed 5% poor, 35% fair, 55% good, 5% excellent. Alfalfa 20% fair, 70% good, 10% excellent. Other Hay 35% fair, 55% good, 10% excellent. Below normal temperatures and a dusting of snow hit western counties mid-week, mild temperatures returned for the weekend. Extent of damage from the cold to State fruit crop, some plants in cold frames will not be known for several weeks. Strong winds causing dry soil surface, and cool conditions slowed grass growth, small grain germination. Short first cutting of hay might result. Land preparation continues for corn, cotton, soybean, peanut planting. Potato planting nearing completion. Farmers fertilizing, reseeding pastures, spraying small grains for cereal leaf beetle, powdery mildew. Minor tobacco greenhouse disease problems noted. Tomato, snapbean, sweet corn planting underway. Livestock getting sufficient grazing, need little supplemental feeding. Calving, lambing continue.

WASHINGTON: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.8. Topsoil 4% short, 61% adequate, 35% surplus. Subsoil 1% short, 86% adequate, 13% surplus. Irrigation water supplies 99% adequate, 1% surplus. Spring grains seeding continued. Cold weather slowed development of field crops. Potato planting continued. Wet, cold weather slowed fieldwork. On the west side, pesticide applications and late pruning continued. Cranberries neared bloom stage, strawberries bloomed, and raspberries leafed out. Stone fruit bloomed and apple trees leafed out. Christmas tree weed control began, as planting ended. Sod producers reported brisk sales. Growers applied herbicides between rain storms. On the east side, severe frost threatened fruit trees with damage being reported. Asparagus harvest was delayed by cold, wet weather. Pea, sweet corn, onion, and radish planting continued. Range, pasture feed 2% very poor, 3% poor, 31% fair, 62% good, 2% excellent. West of the Cascades, pasture growth was excellent. On the east side,

cool, wet weather continued to retard growth. Hay, other roughage 3% very short, 32% short, 64% adequate, 1% surplus.

WEST VIRGINIA: Dry conditions allowed producers to get into fields, warmer temperatures, more rain needed to promote crop progress. Days suitable for fieldwork 4.6. Topsoil 19% short, 79% adequate, 2% surplus. Wheat 1% poor, 27% fair, 59% good, 13% excellent. Apple 19% poor, 75% fair, 6% good. Peach 18% poor, 82% good. End of period favorable for activity of tarnished plant bug, which causes catfacing injury on peaches, nectarines. Producers continued to check for bloom loss/bud kill from previous week's freeze. Hay 6% poor, 40% fair, 52% good, 2% excellent. Cool nights hindered growth of hay pastures. Intended Acreage Prepared for Spring planting 60%, 44% 1996. Corn planted 5%, 4% 1996. Oats planted 52%, 29% 1996, 36% avg.; emerged 16%, 15% 1996, 18% avg. Tobacco beds seeded 90%, 63% 1996, 78% avg.; beds emerged 47%, 51% 1996, 46% avg. Cattle 14% fair, 80% good, 6% excellent; 88% calved. Sheep 9% fair, 85% good, 6% excellent; 94% lambd. Hay, roughage supplies 2% very short, 12% short, 81% adequate, 5% surplus. Feed grain supplies 12% short, 84% adequate, 4% surplus. Activities: Field preparation, seeding tobacco beds, turning out cattle to grass, repairing fences, calving, lambing, general maintenance

WISCONSIN: Days suitable for fieldwork 3.2. Soil moisture: 10% short, 80% adequate, 10% surplus. Last week offered some time to disk or plow fields during the warmer days. Farmers in the east central district tilled only 4% of the ground, while farmers in the southwest district had 16% of the ground worked. As of April 20, spring tillage was 10% complete, same as the 5-yr. average. Oat plantings were 8% in the ground, ahead of 1996 5%, behind 10% avg. In 1994, State had one-third of the oat acreage planted. Most of the oats/peas acreage was planted in Rock county. Winter wheat, alfalfa looked good in Kenosha County. A reporter from Grant county commented that alfalfa was definitely showing some freeze damage. In Fond du Lac county the winter wheat looked good so far. Pasture feed 15% very poor, 28% poor, 31% fair, 25% good, 1% excellent. Many reporters observed that pastures were starting to green up, warm rain and warmer temperatures would help. A reporter from Vilas County noted some cranberry beds were still under water. Maple syrup season was about over with less than normal yields in Lincoln county. Potatoes were being planted in Barron, Pepin, Marquette, Waushara, Chippewa counties. Apple growers in Ozaukee county were trimming trees.

WYOMING: Days suitable for fieldwork 3.3. Topsoil 8% short, 79% adequate, 13% surplus. Winter wheat 42% fair, 55% good, 3% excellent. Barley 73% planted, 68% 1996, 67% avg.; 14% emerged, 5% 1996, 23% avg. Oats 23% planted, 27% 1996, 31% avg.; 1% emerged, 3% 1996, 5% avg. Spring wheat 34% planted, 31% 1996, 33% avg.; 1% emerged, 6% 1996, 8% avg. Sugar beets 49% planted, 36% 1996, 49% avg.; 0% emerged, 0% 1996, 3% avg. Range, pasture feed 24% fair, 72% good, 4% excellent. Prospective irrigation water supplies mostly adequate. Spring calves born 84%, 81% 1996, 81% avg. Farm flock ewes lambd 90%, 90% 1996, 88% avg.; shorn 84%, 88% 1996, 87% avg. Range flock ewes lambd 19%, 21% 1996, 24% avg.; shorn 48%, 54% 1996, 57% avg. Calf, lamb loss mostly normal with continued heavy losses reported in the east due to Spring blizzards early in the month. Disaster declarations in the eastern half of the State.

International Weather and Crop Summary

April 13 - 19, 1997

HIGHLIGHTS

FSU-WESTERN: Light to moderate precipitation provided generous topsoil moisture, while continued unseasonably cool weather in the west and south slowed crop development.

NORTHWESTERN AFRICA: Unusually warm, dry weather in Morocco hastened maturity in winter grains.

EUROPE: Light to moderate showers eased prolonged dryness in Spain and Portugal, while chronic dryness persisted in France, England, and Italy's Po Valley.

AUSTRALIA: Mostly dry weather prevailed throughout the region, favoring summer crop harvesting and field preparations for winter grain planting.

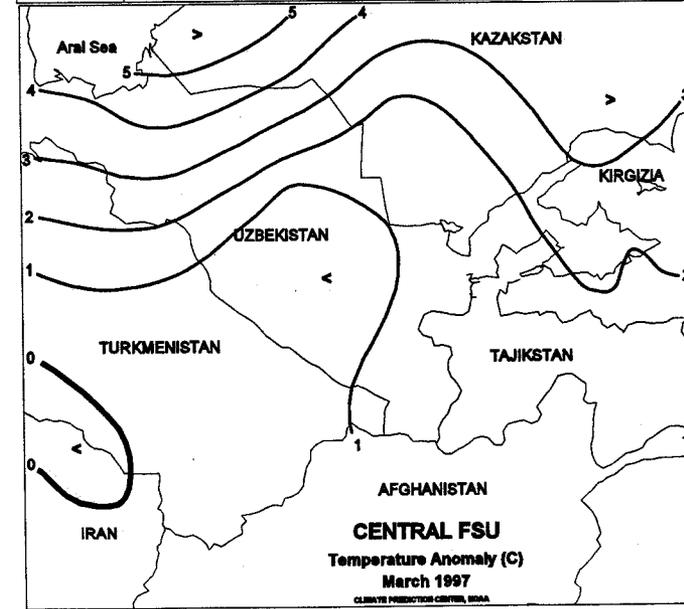
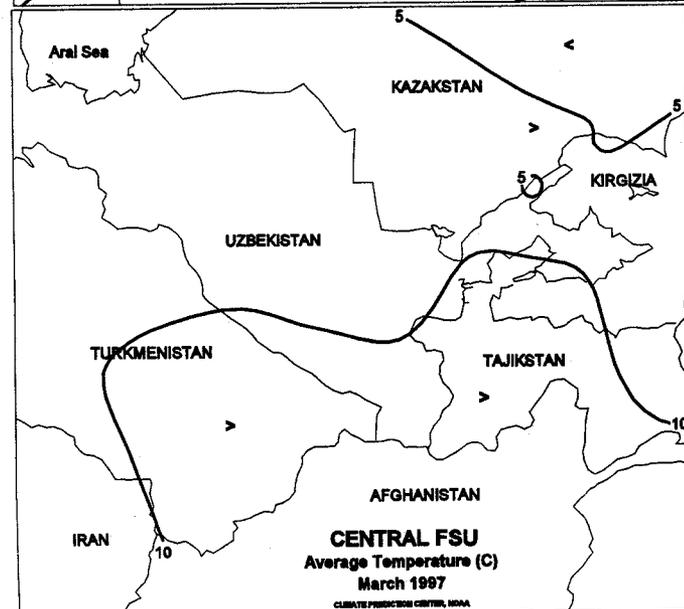
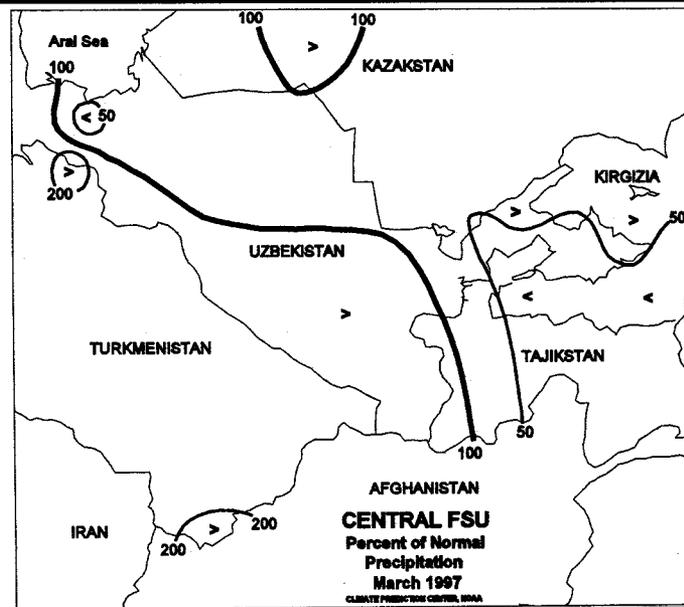
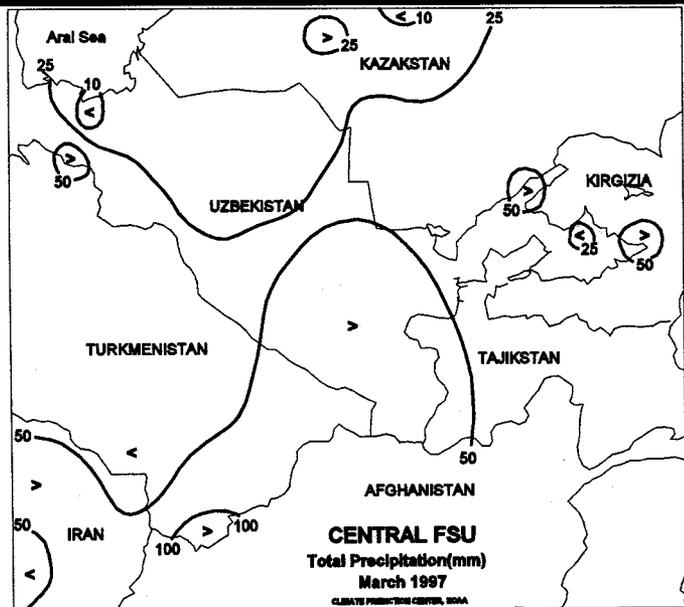
SOUTH AFRICA: Scattered showers caused minor delays in early corn harvesting.

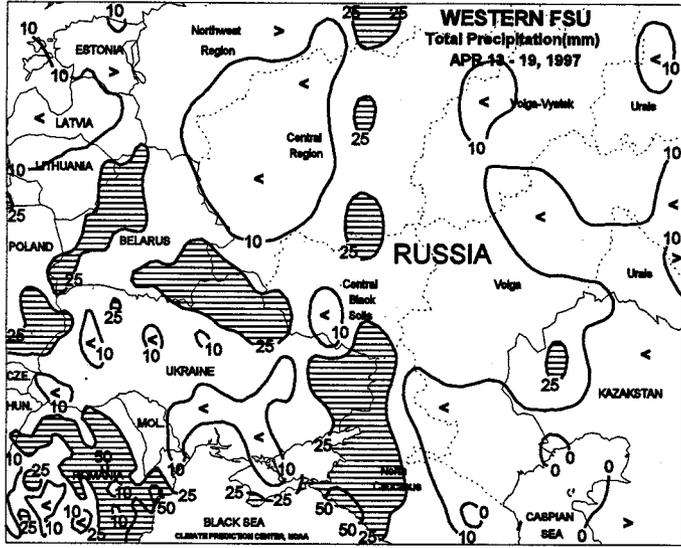
SOUTHEAST ASIA: Moderate to heavy showers delayed main-season rice harvesting across Java.

EASTERN ASIA: Adequate moisture supplies existed for winter wheat and early rice, but sunnier weather is needed for early rice development.

SOUTH AMERICA: Showers slowed soybean harvesting across the region.

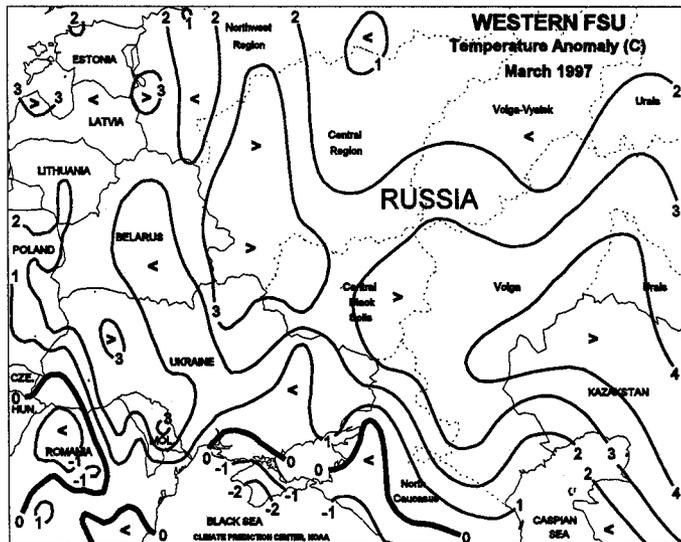
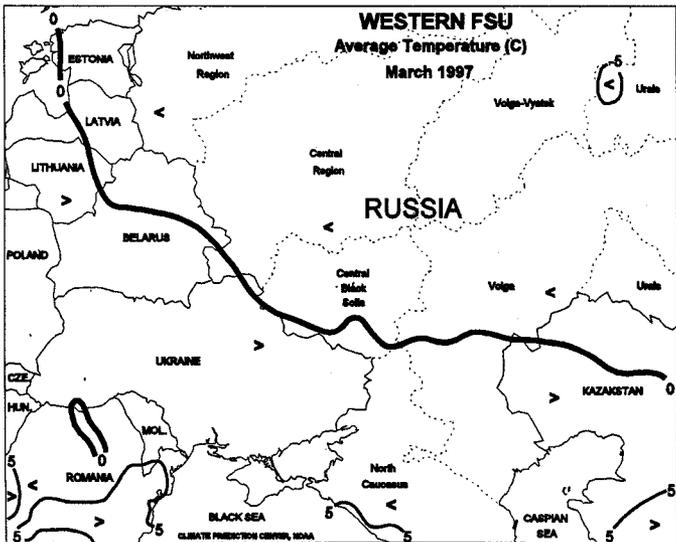
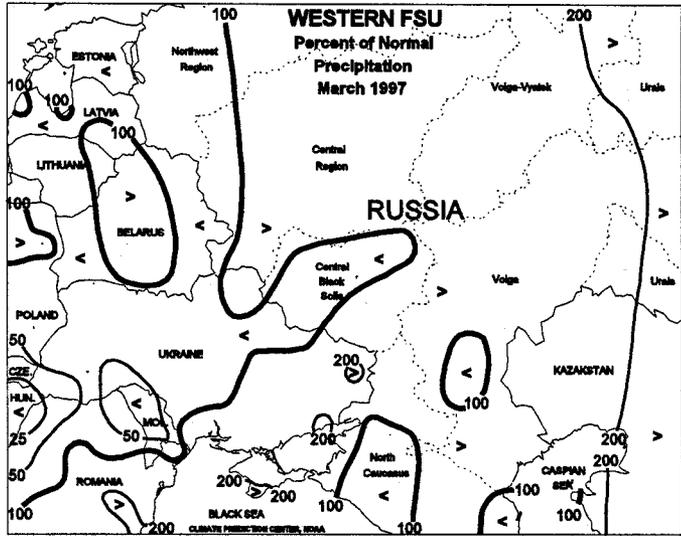
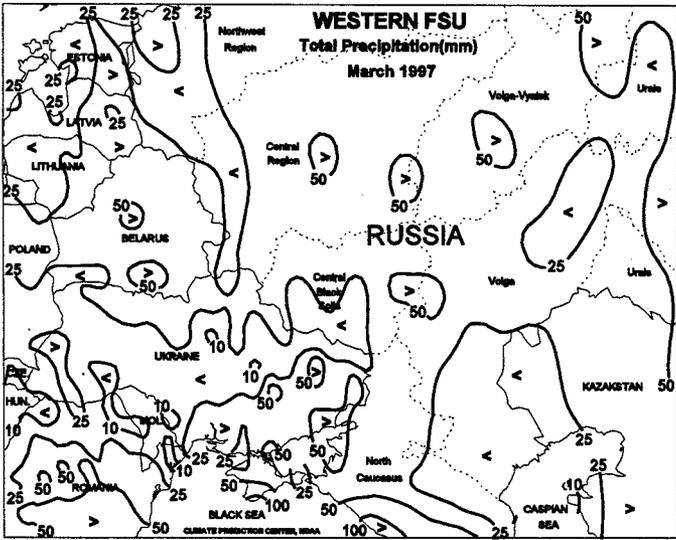
MEXICO: Early-season showers continued to boost irrigation supplies in northeastern Mexico.

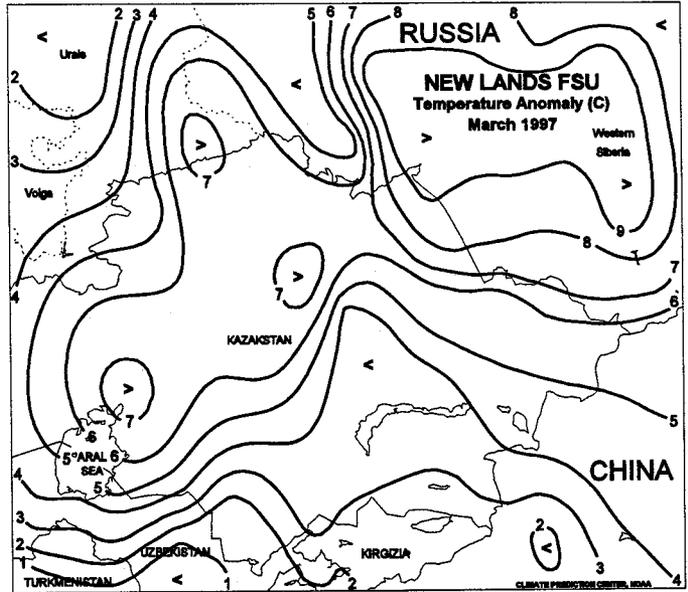
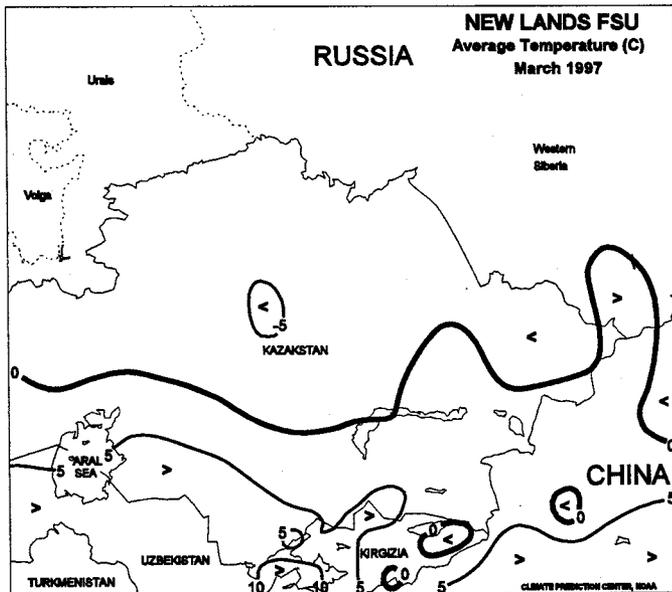
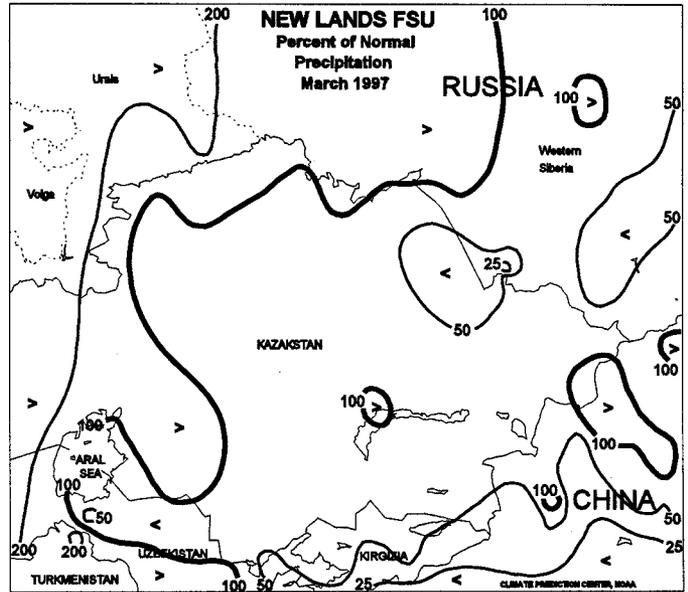
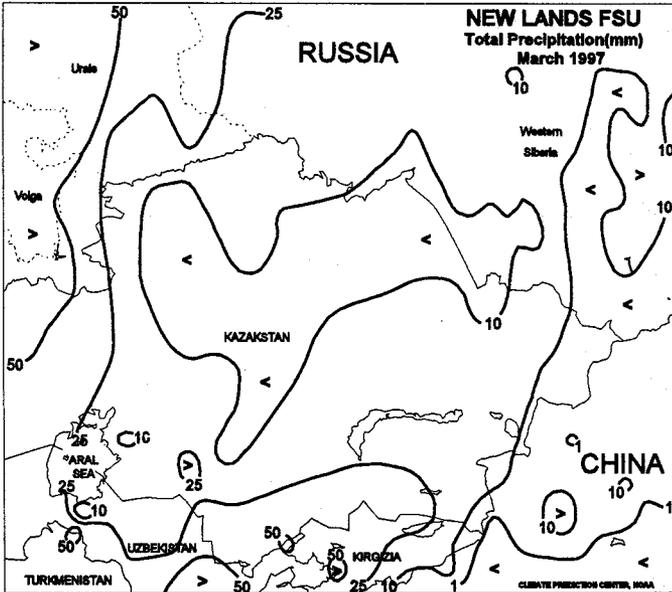


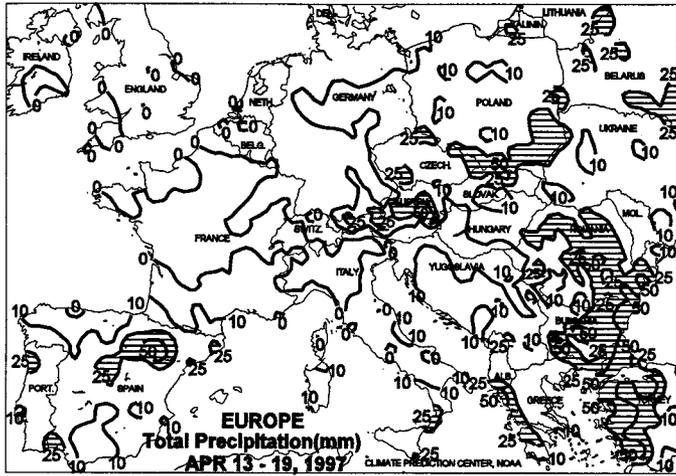


FSU-WESTERN

Light to moderate precipitation (10-34 mm, with local amounts in excess of 40 mm) fell in Ukraine, most of Russia, Belarus, and the Baltics, maintaining favorable topsoil moisture for spring growth. Winter grains were tillering in Ukraine and southern Russia, while crops in northern Russia, northern Belarus, and the Baltics remained dormant. Winter grain development in Ukraine, southern Russia, Belarus, and the Baltics is about 2 weeks behind normal due to continued unseasonably cool weather. Weekly temperatures in these areas averaged 1 to 4 degrees C below normal. Reports as of April 14 indicated spring grain planting in Ukraine and Russia was progressing well ahead of last year's delayed pace. However, spring grain planting in Russia is running slightly behind the average sowing pace. In March, unusually mild, dry weather continued over most areas during the first half of the month, prompting early greening of winter grains in southwestern Ukraine and favoring fieldwork for early spring grain planting in Ukraine and southern Russia. Precipitation in March was above normal in most of Russia, the eastern half of Ukraine, most of Belarus, and Latvia. Below-normal precipitation occurred in western Ukraine and Lithuania.

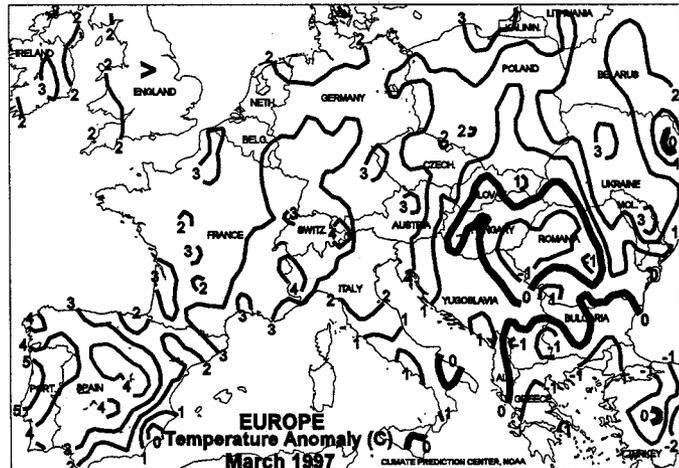
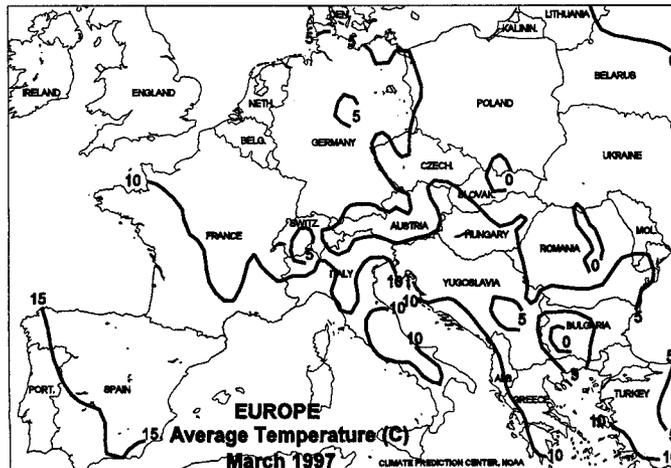
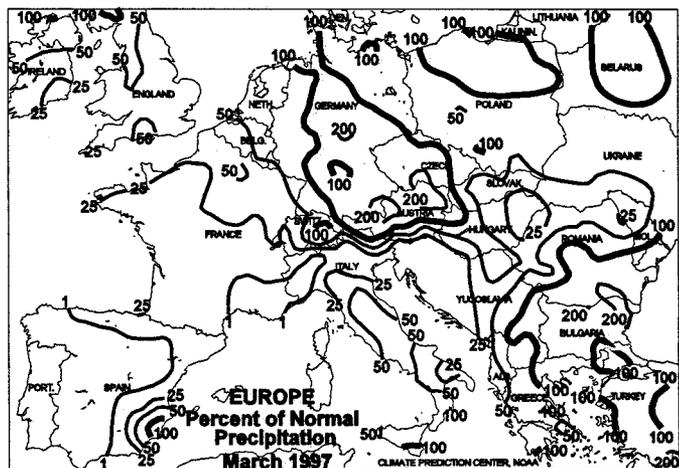
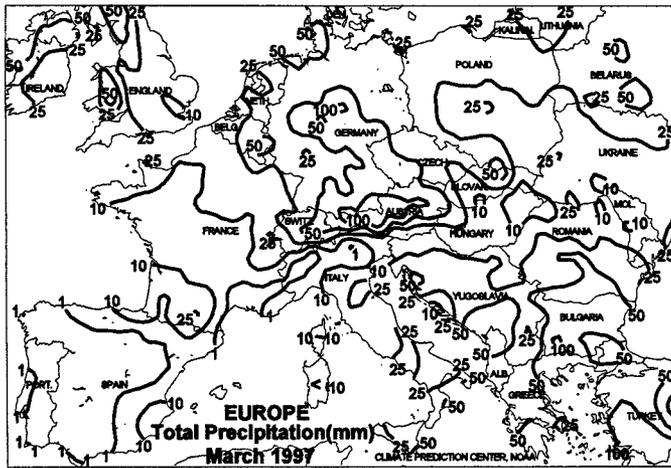




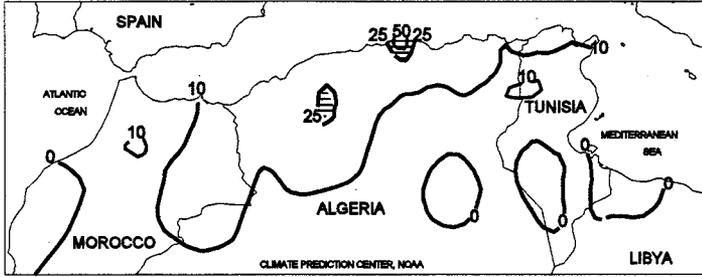


EUROPE

Much-needed rain (10-25 mm, with local amounts in excess of 40 mm) fell in the Iberian peninsula, easing long-term dryness. The rain came too late to significantly improve prospects for filling winter grains in Portugal and southern Spain. However, it benefited reproductive winter grains in northern Spain as well as spring-planted crops throughout the region. Elsewhere, only light, scattered showers (less than 10 mm) fell in southern France, while unfavorable dryness persisted in northern France, England, the Benelux countries, and northern Italy. Although a lack of moisture in these areas has worsened conditions for winter grains in the jointing stage and newly emerged spring grains, unseasonably cool weather lowered crop-water requirements. In eastern Europe, unseasonably cool, wet weather (10-50 mm) slowed winter grain development and spring-crop planting. Weekly temperatures in eastern Europe averaged 4 to 8 degrees C below normal. In addition, sub-freezing temperatures (-1 to -8 degrees C) may have caused localized damage to newly emerged sugar beets, necessitating replanting. In March, little if any precipitation occurred in Spain, Portugal, France, England, and Italy's Po Valley. Although the dryness favored rapid spring grain planting, it created a lack of moisture for developing winter grains and emerging spring grains. Crop prospects for winter grains worsened in Portugal and southern Spain, where crops were in or nearing reproduction. In eastern Europe, cool, damp weather, especially in the southeast, slowed winter grain development and spring grain planting. Precipitation amounts were above normal in southern Romania, Bulgaria, and northern Poland, with below-normal precipitation occurring elsewhere in eastern Europe.



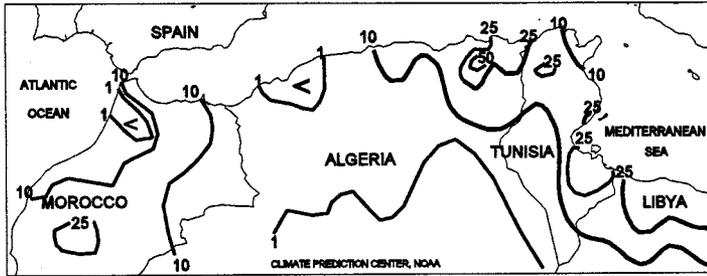
NORTHWEST AFRICA Total Precipitation (mm)
APR 13 - 19, 1997



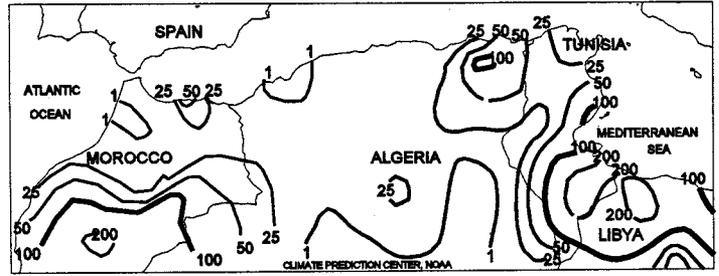
NORTHWESTERN AFRICA

Winter grains were in the filling stage over most of the region, with more advanced crop areas in southern Morocco approaching maturity. Unusually warm, dry weather returned to crop areas in Morocco, hastening maturity in winter grains. Farther east, light showers (7-22 mm) in Algeria and Tunisia came too late to help drought-stricken winter grains, but improved moisture conditions for pastures and summer crop planting. Weekly temperatures averaged 2 to 4 degrees C above normal over Morocco and Algeria and 1 to 3 degrees C below normal in Tunisia. In March, drought continued over Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia, reducing yield prospects for winter grains in or nearing reproduction.

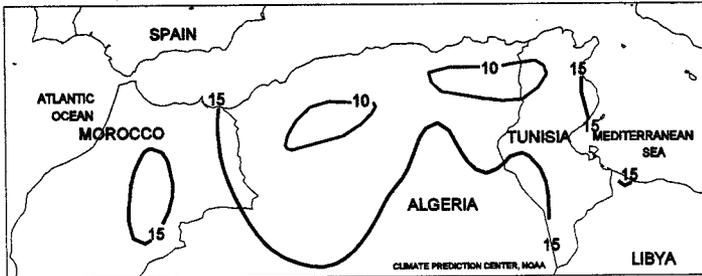
NORTHWEST AFRICA Total Precipitation (mm)
March 1997



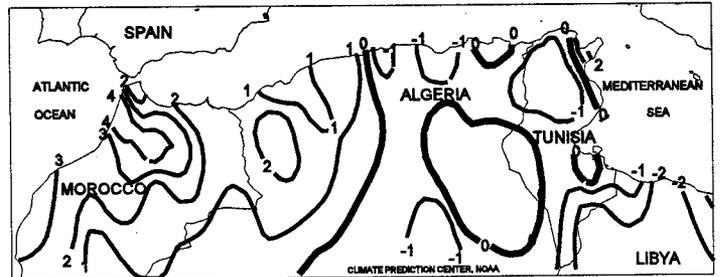
NORTHWEST AFRICA Percent of Normal Precipitation
March 1997

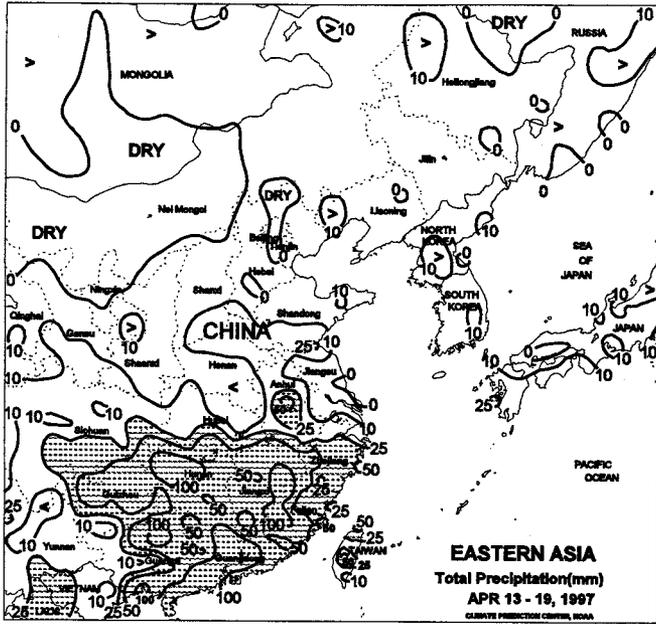


NORTHWEST AFRICA Average Temperature (C)
March 1997



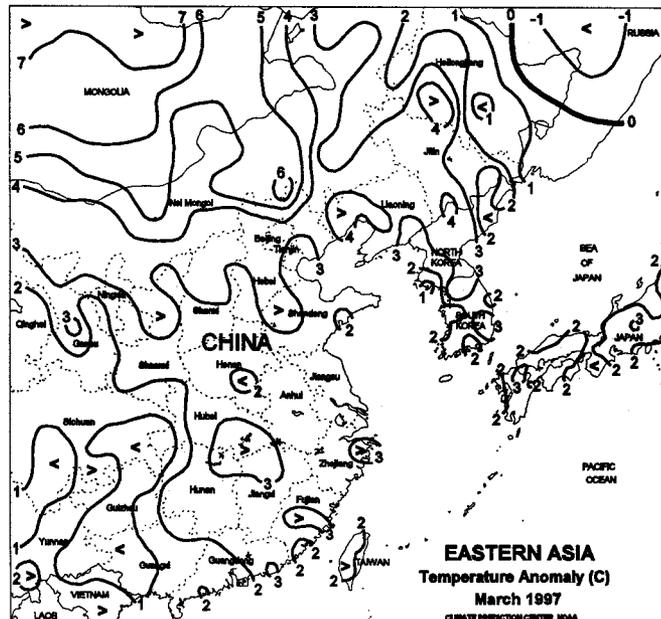
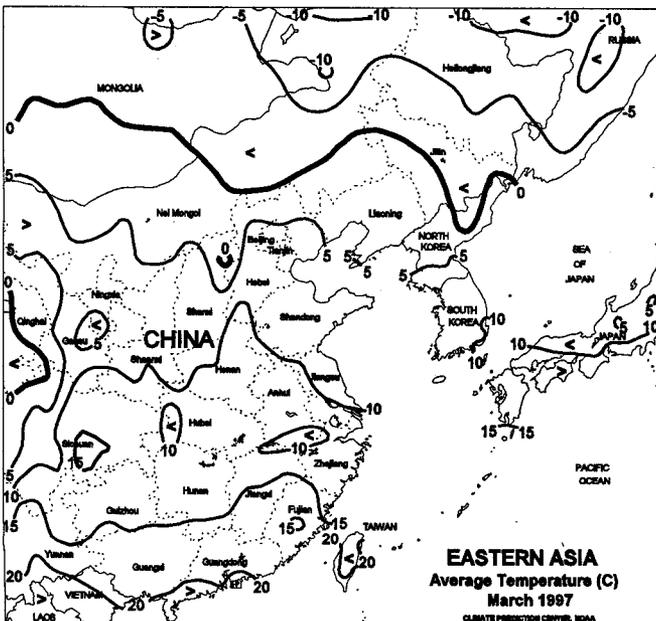
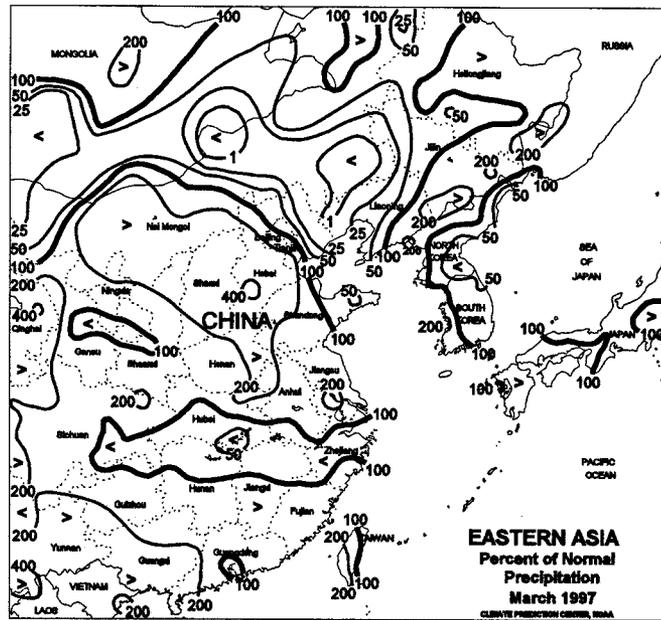
NORTHWEST AFRICA Temperature Anomaly (C)
March 1997





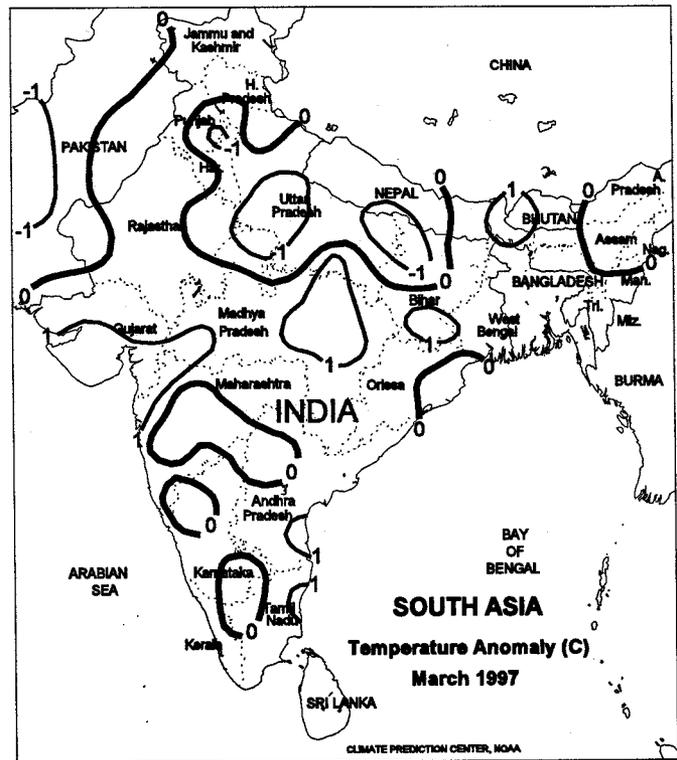
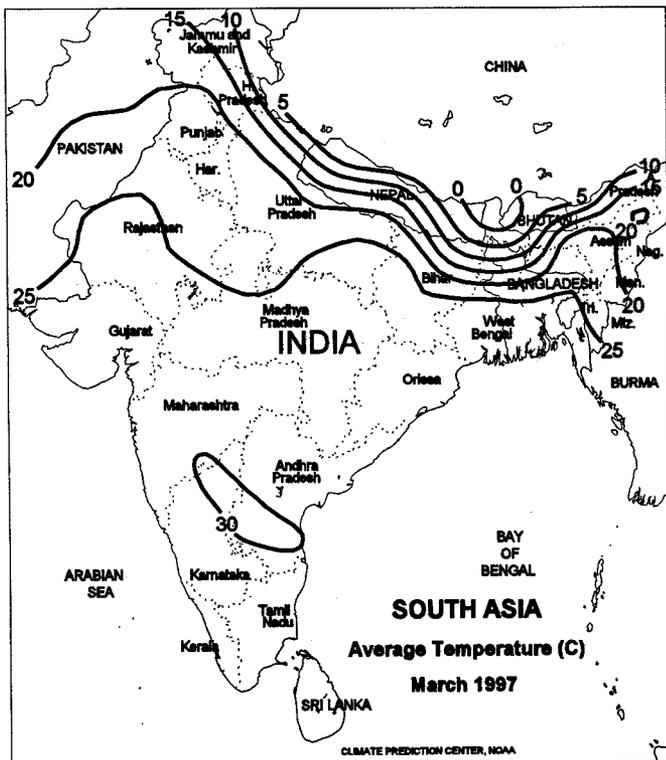
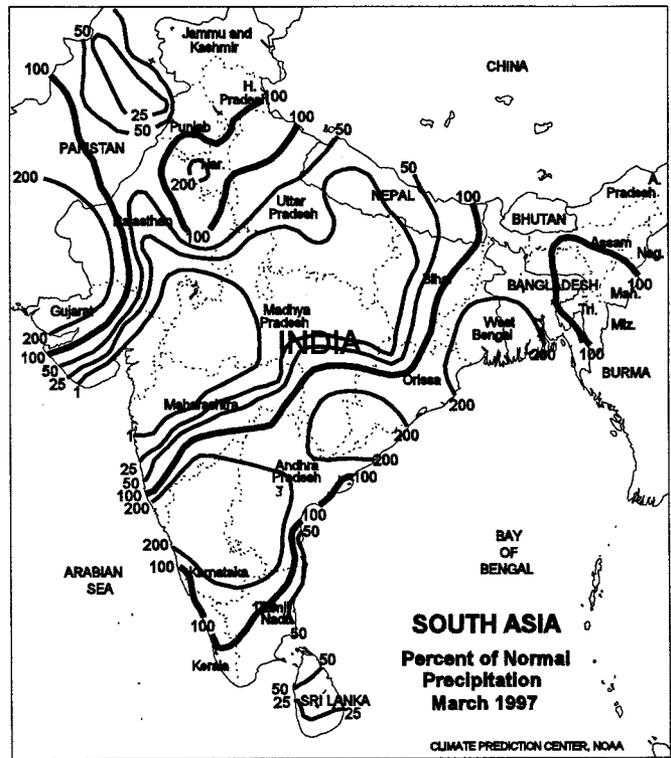
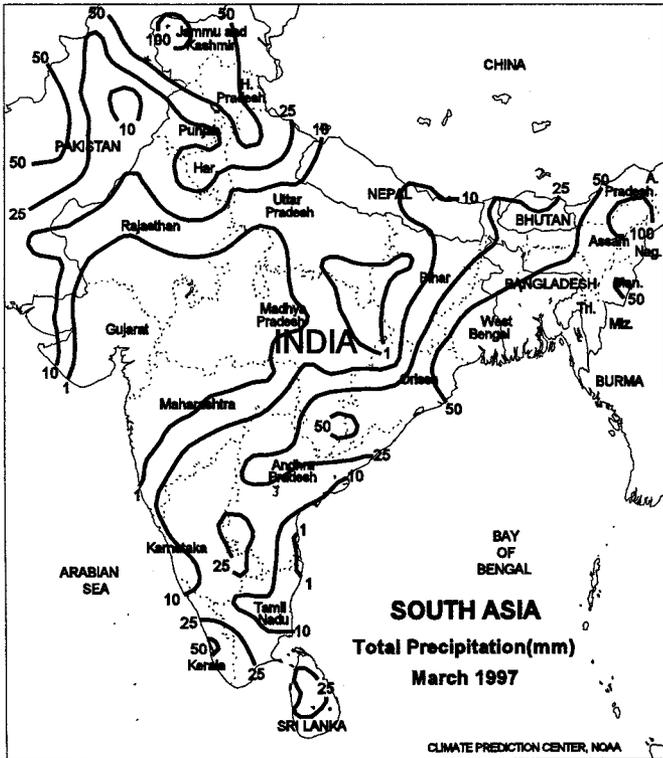
EASTERN ASIA

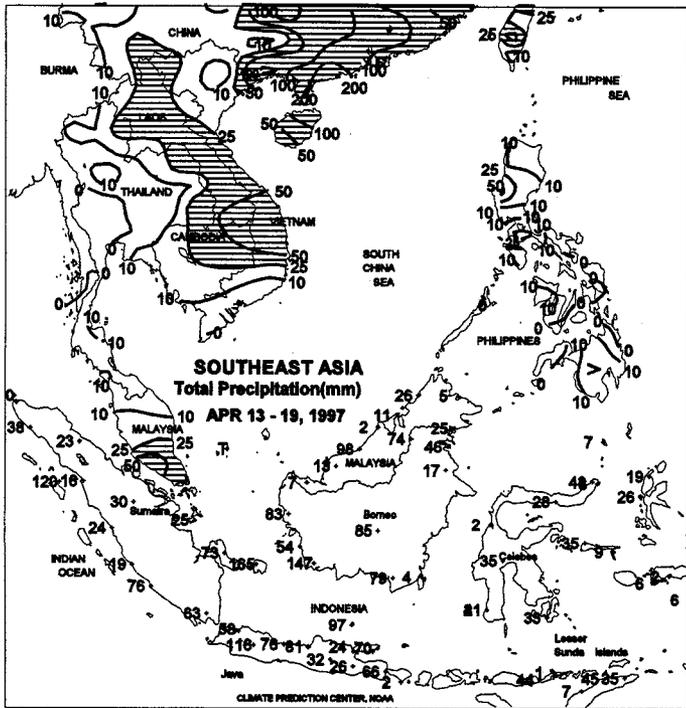
Light to moderate rain (5-20 mm) fell across the North China Plain, favoring vegetative winter wheat. With the above- to much-above-normal March rainfall (150-300 percent of normal) across the region, abundant moisture supplies exist as the winter wheat crop enters reproduction from now until mid-May. Soil temperatures should be warm enough (above 5 degrees C) for spring wheat planting to be fully underway across Manchuria. Rain is needed for topsoil moisture as March rainfall averaged below normal. Across the Yangtze Valley and southern China, widespread rain (20-75 mm, with isolated amounts greater than 100 mm) boosted irrigation supplies for summer rice, but slowed winter grain and oilseed harvesting. Due to the persistent rain and clouds during the past few weeks, sunnier weather is needed for adequate early double-crop rice development across the region. During March, southern China received above-normal rainfall, while portions of the Yangtze Valley reported 60 to 80 percent of normal rainfall.



SOUTH ASIA

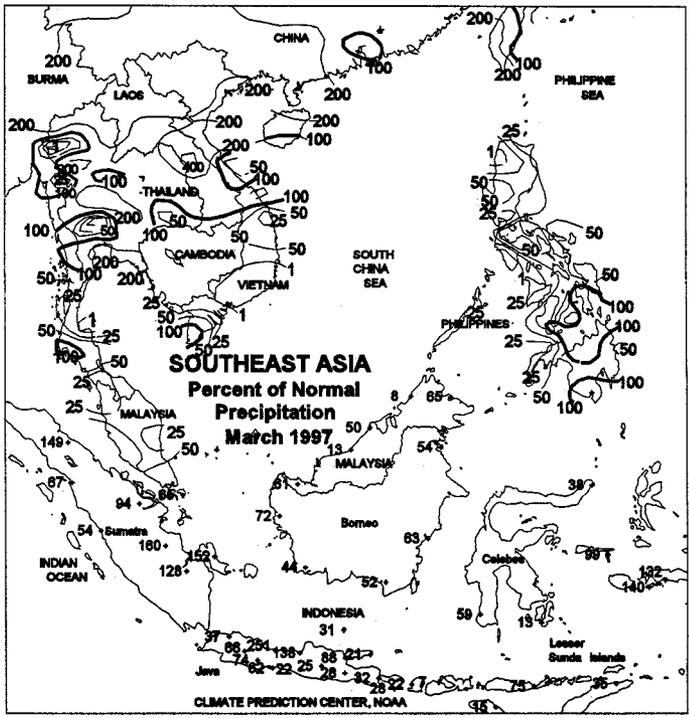
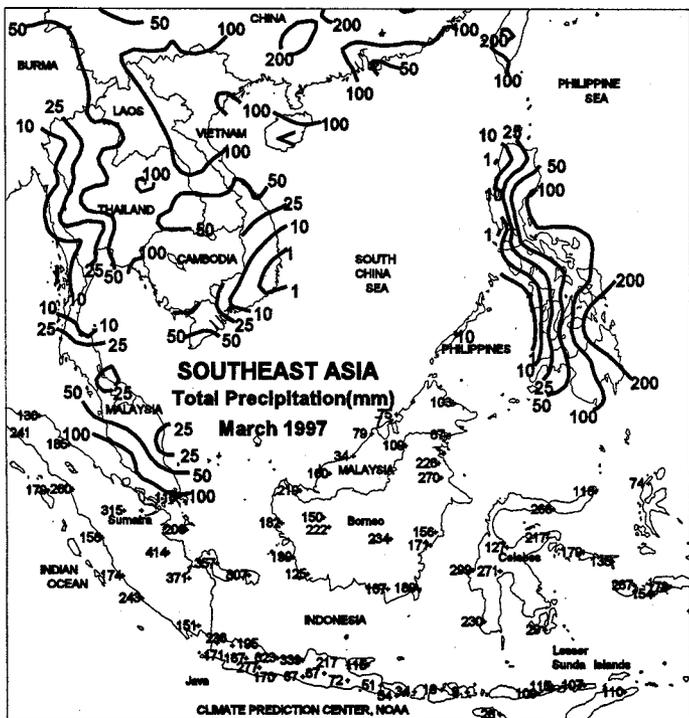
During March and early April, unseasonable showers in the northern winter wheat areas of Pakistan and India raised quality concerns. Locally heavy downpours and, reportedly, hail may have caused some crop damage during the April storms. Above-normal March rainfall in the southern interior boosted moisture reserves but in the east, local heavy rain (25-50 mm, exceeding 100 mm) hampered rice activities and may have caused some early flooding.

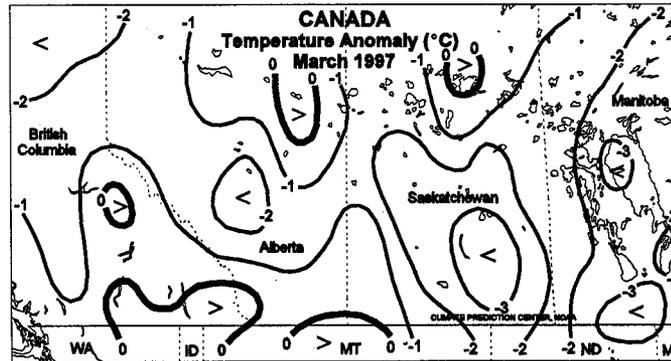
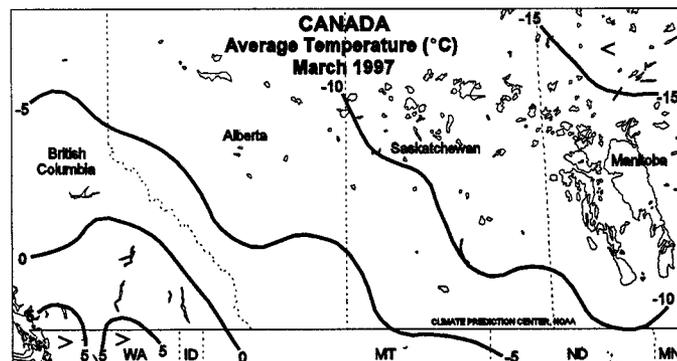
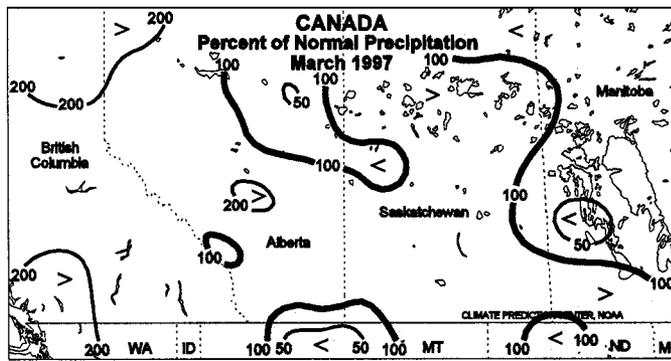
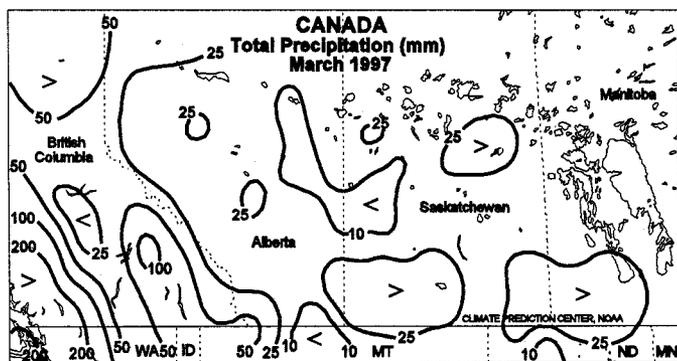
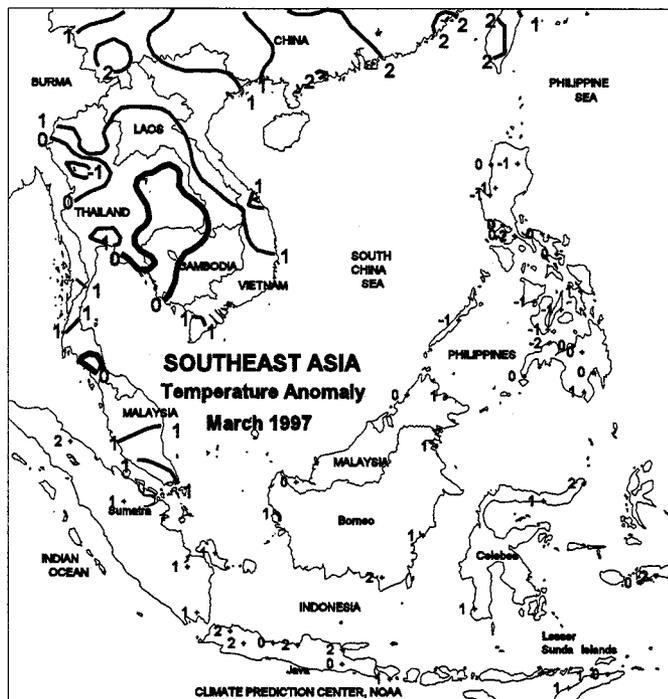
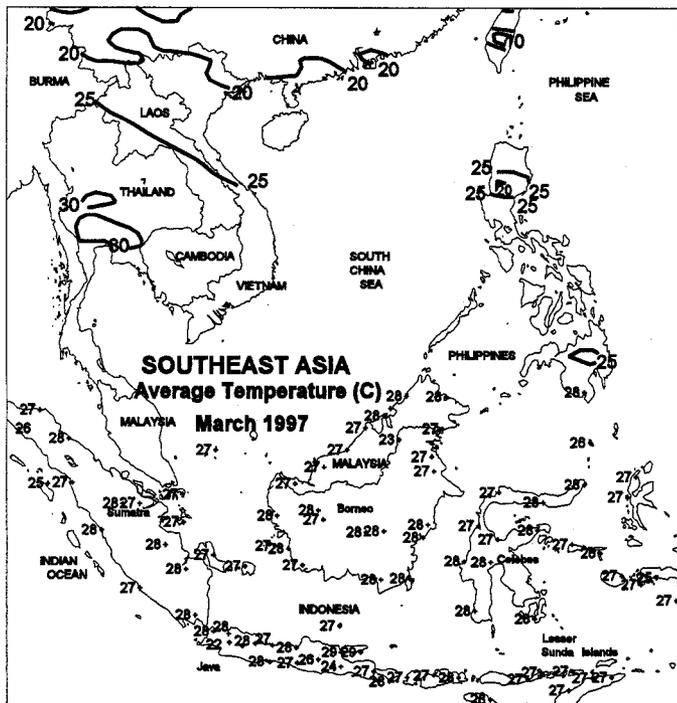


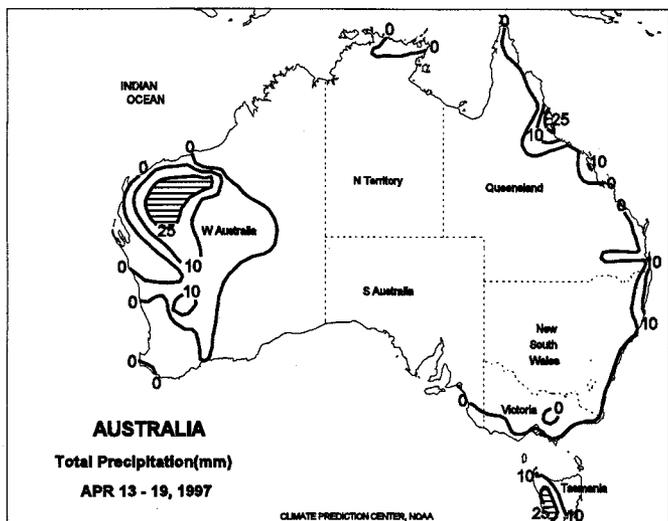


SOUTHEAST ASIA

Moderate to heavy showers (30-130 mm) in Java delayed main-season rice harvesting. Early-season showers (5-30 mm) were confined to northern and eastern Thailand, slowing second-crop harvesting. Dry weather favored harvesting in the south. In Vietnam, light showers (10-20 mm) prevailed in the north, while heavier showers (20-40 mm) were reported in central crop regions. Rainfall was light (10 mm or less) in the Mekong Delta, favoring harvesting. In the Philippines, scattered, light showers (1-30 mm) were insufficient for main-season rice transplanting. During March, below-normal rainfall favored main-season rice in Java. Rain during late-March and early-April favored rainfed second-crop rice in northern and central Thailand, but slowed harvesting in the east. Below-normal March rainfall prevailed across peninsular Malaysia and most of the Philippines, reducing moisture supplies.

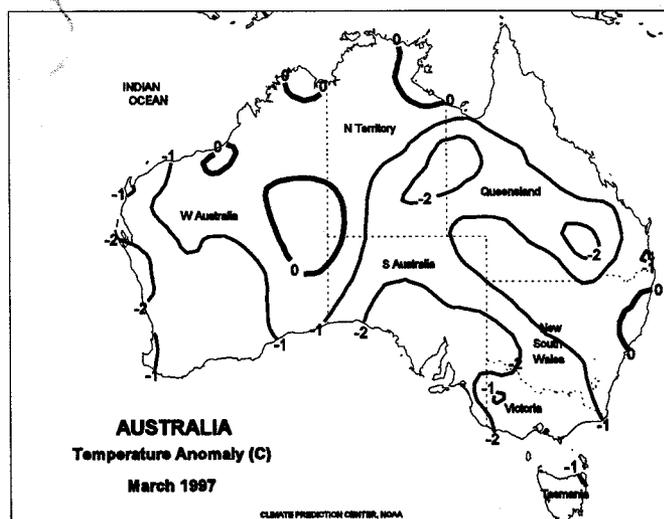
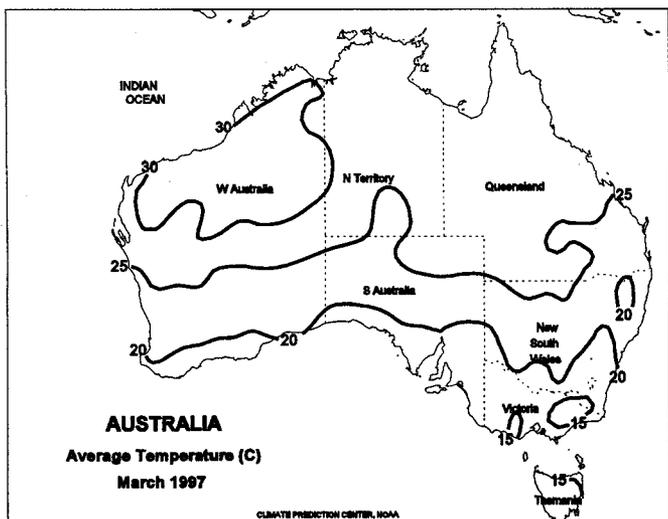
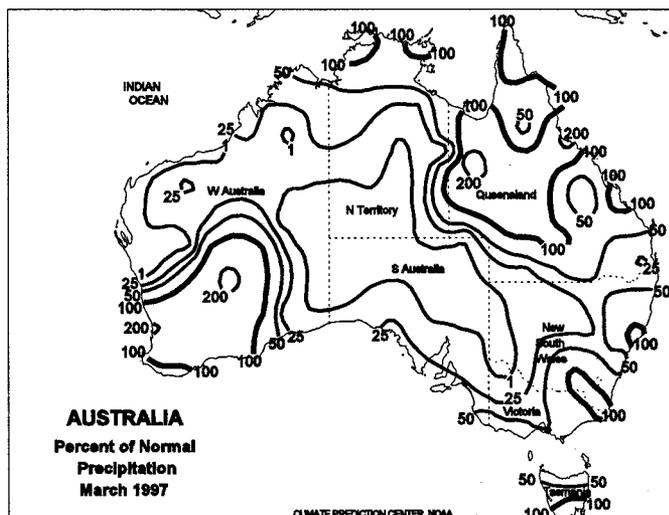
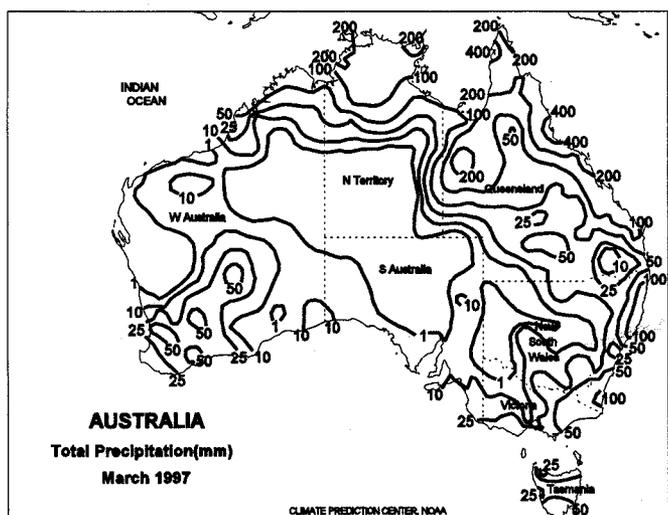


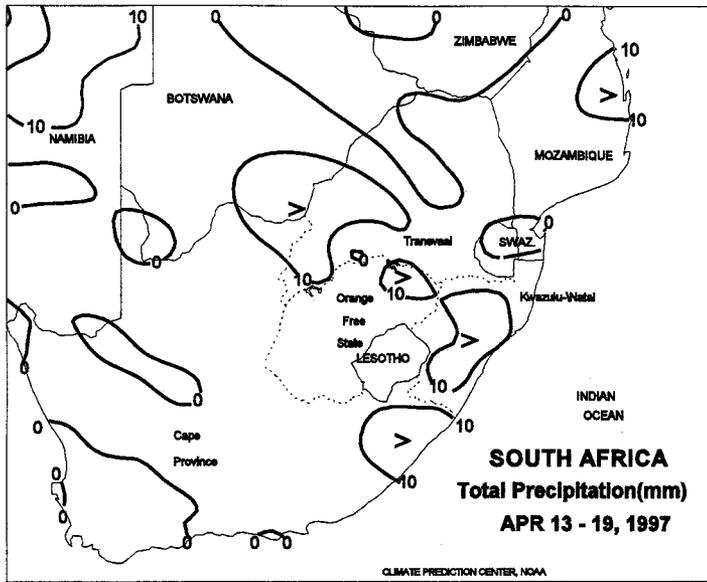




AUSTRALIA

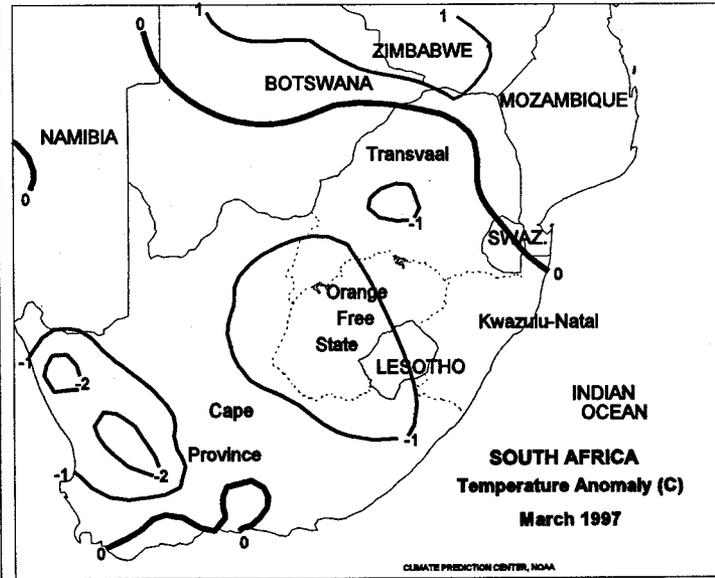
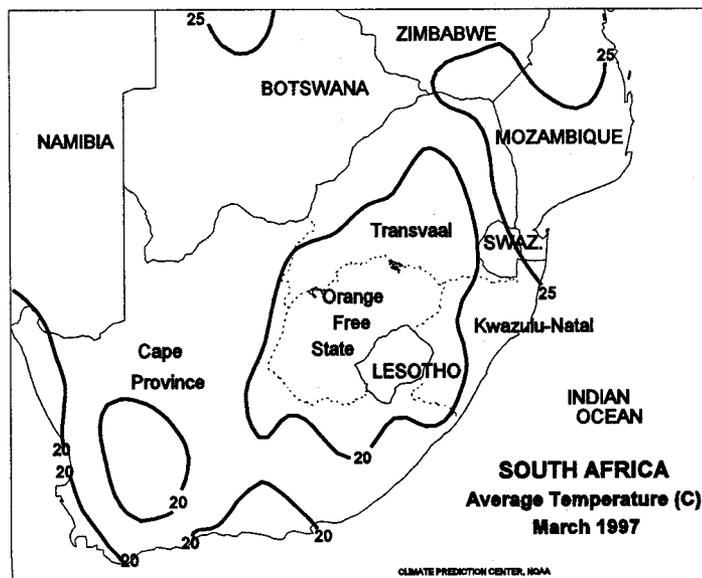
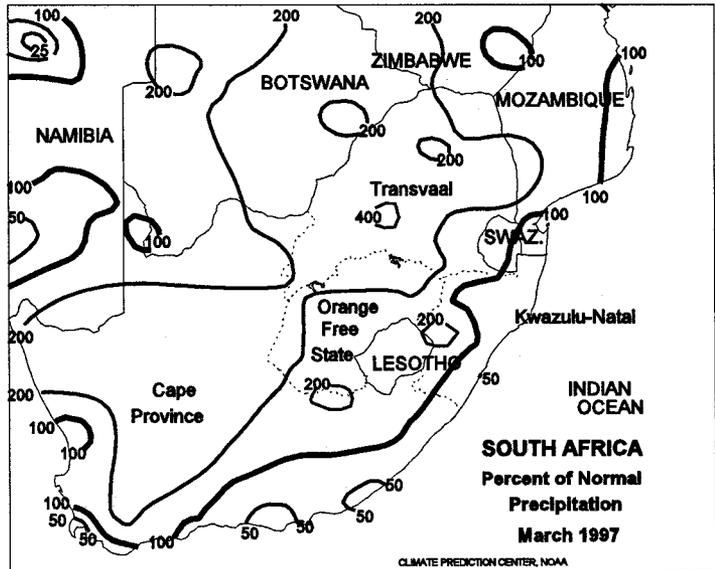
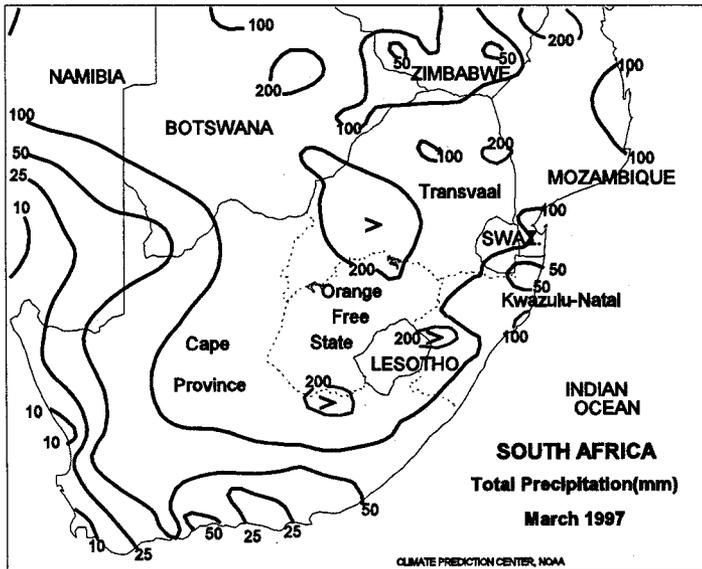
Drier weather returned to Western Australia's winter grain belt, with local showers confined to northern and eastern growing areas. Mostly dry conditions also prevailed throughout the east, favoring summer crop harvests. During March, unfavorable rain lingered early in the month over the main sorghum and cotton areas, threatening quality of maturing crops. Generally drier weather the remainder of the month favored crop development. Cyclone Justin struck Queensland's coast during the third week in March, reportedly causing some local damage to sugarcane. Continuing rain the following week hampered recovery efforts and brought unwelcome rain to northernmost cotton and sorghum areas. In Western Australia, late-month showers signaled the beginning of a 3-week wet spell in the winter grain belt. Southeastern winter wheat and barley areas remained dry, as did most pasture and grazing lands.

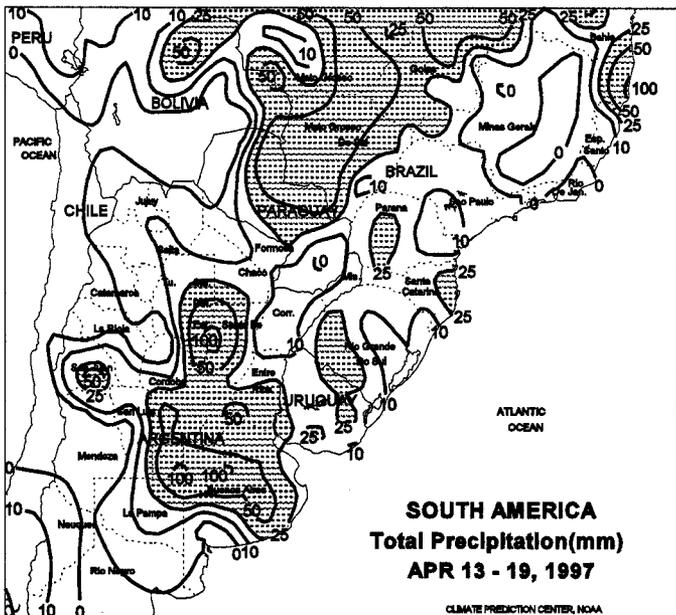




SOUTH AFRICA

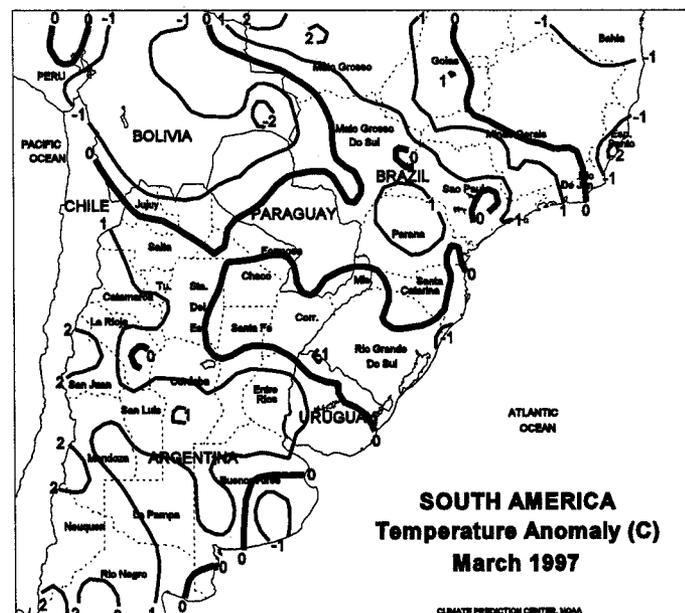
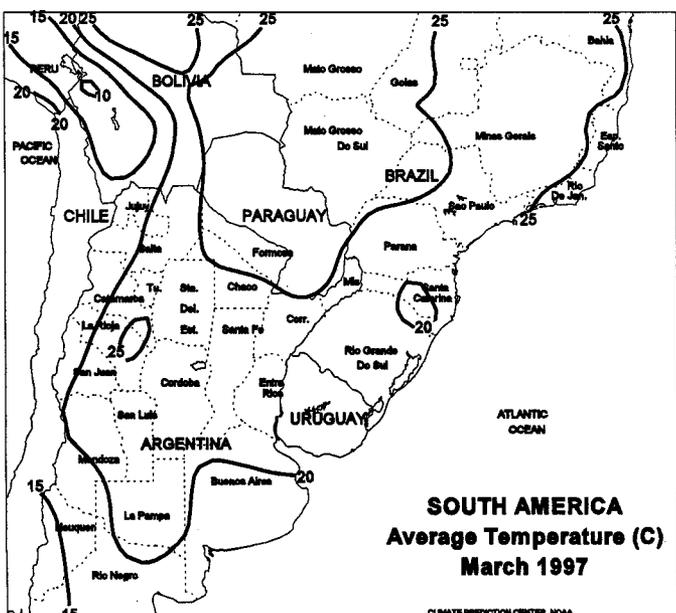
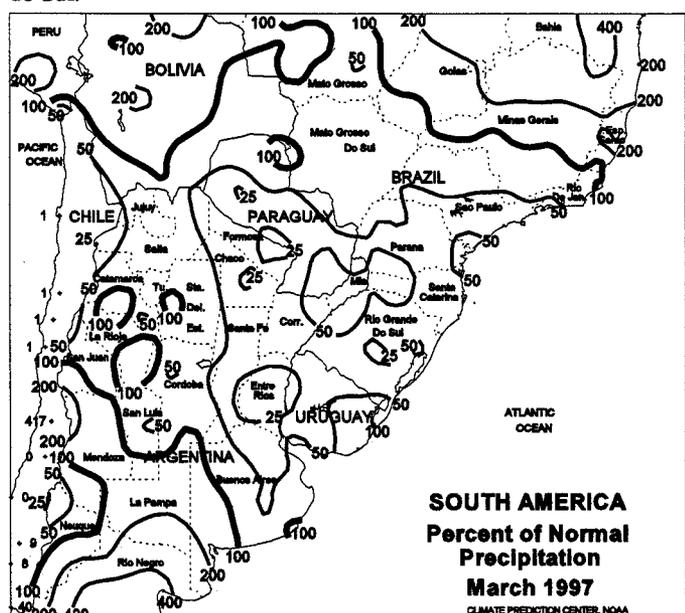
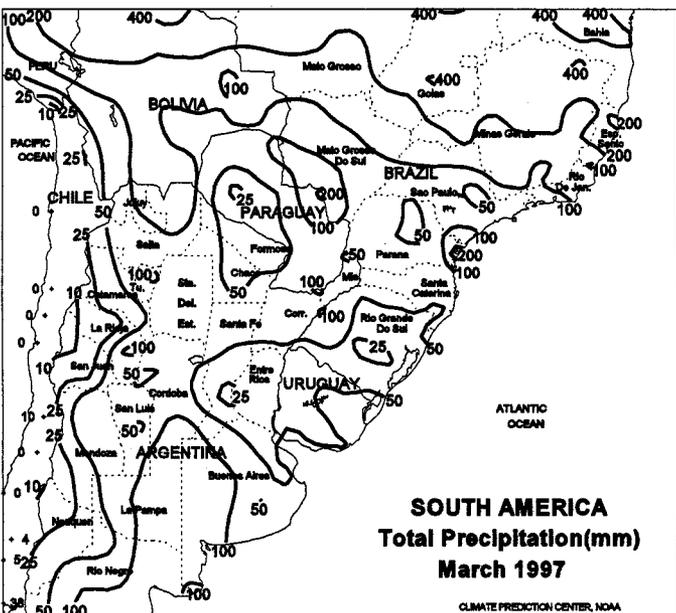
Scattered light to moderate showers (2-14 mm) across the corn belt caused minor fieldwork delays. Temperatures averaged near normal, aiding crop maturation, with lows remaining above freezing (2-8 degrees C). Elsewhere, drier weather covered the main crop areas of Kwazulu-Natal and the southern Cape Provinces, encouraging fieldwork (cane harvesting and wheat planting). During March, frequent, above-normal rainfall improved moisture reserves for late-planted corn and the upcoming winter wheat crop. However, the moisture came too late for the bulk of summer crops and by month's end, persistent rain threatened quality and hampered maturation. March rainfall was near to below normal in sugarcane areas of Kwazulu-Natal and the wheat region of Western Cape Province, punctuated by periods of timely, heavy showers. Monthly temperatures averaged near to below normal in the major crop areas.

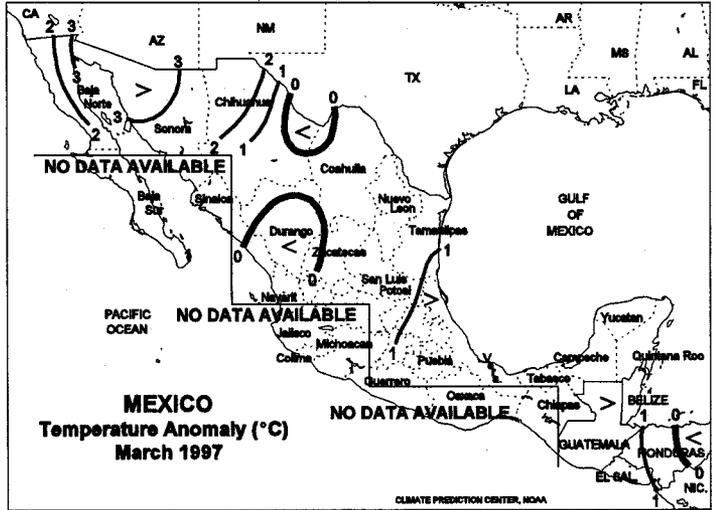
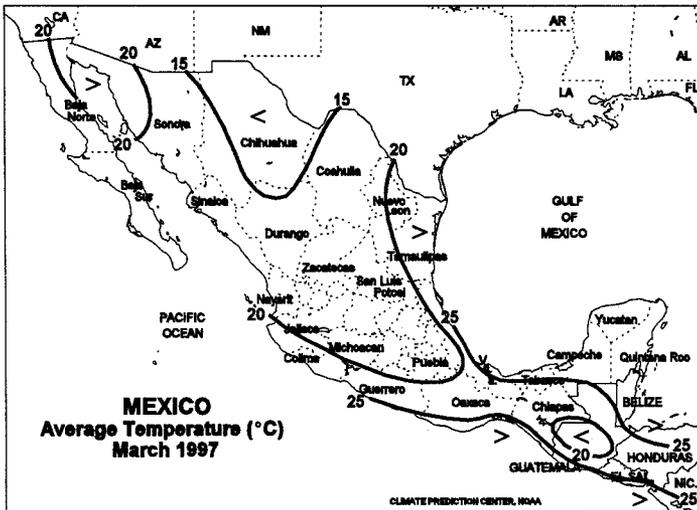
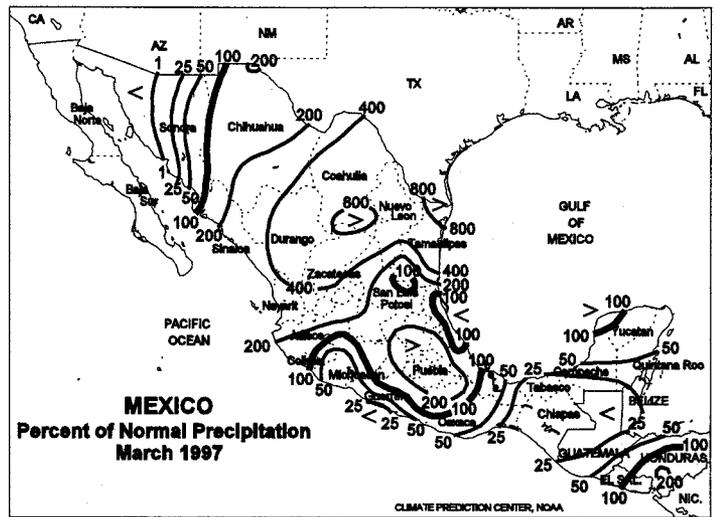
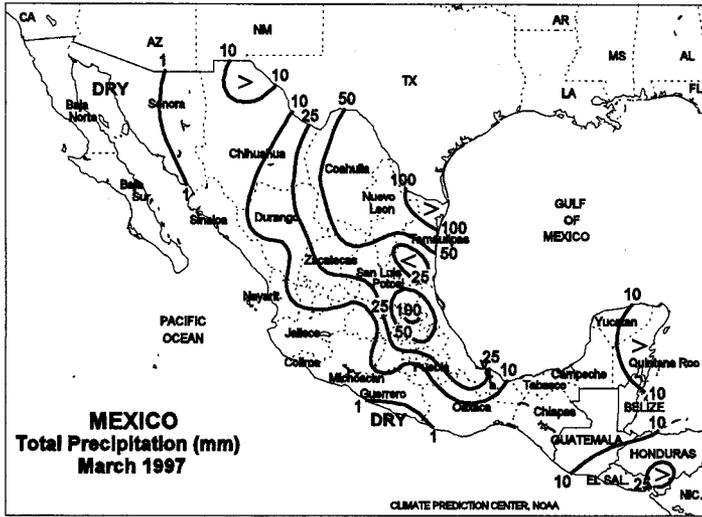




SOUTH AMERICA

Moderate to heavy showers (25-60 mm, exceeding 100 mm locally) covered central Argentina, slowing corn, sunflower, and early soybean harvesting. The rain continued to stabilize second-crop soybean yields in southern Santa Fe. As of early April, 40 percent of the corn crop has been harvested, 85 percent of sunflowers, and 8 percent of the soybeans. Light showers (5-25 mm) slowed cotton harvesting in northern Argentina. In southern Brazil, light to moderate showers (10-50 mm) slowed soybean harvesting across most areas. As of April 10, about 70 percent of the total soybean crop had been harvested, with over 55 percent completed in Rio Grande do Sul. During March in central Argentina, rainfall ranging from 20 to 50 percent of normal reduced soybean yields (especially second-crop soybeans) in southern Santa Fe and southern Cordoba. The dry weather, however, aided sunflower and corn harvesting. Farther south, in northern Buenos Aires, rainfall averaged 50 to 90 percent of normal, favoring immature soybeans, which had adequate subsoil moisture. In southern Brazil, below-normal March rainfall benefited soybean harvesting, but stressed late-filling soybeans in Rio Grande do Sul.





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(Continued from page 9)

Spring Wheat Percent Planted				
	Apr 20 1997	Prev Week	Prev Year	5-Yr Avg
ID	51	40	60	58
MN	0	0	2	9
MT	5	1	2	19
ND	0	0	0	5
SD	1	1	8	28
ALL	3	2	4	13

These 5 States produced 96% of the 1996 spring wheat crop.

Winter Wheat Crop Condition by Percent					
	VP	P	F	G	EX
AR	3	20	48	25	4
CA	0	5	10	50	35
CO	4	12	31	46	7
GA	7	14	36	40	3
ID	1	4	17	60	18
IL	1	4	21	61	13
IN	2	7	34	49	8
KS	5	17	38	37	3
MI	4	9	32	32	23
MO	0	9	33	46	12
MT	1	14	44	36	5
NE	1	9	33	50	7
NC	0	2	24	68	6
OH	3	12	39	37	9
OK	16	8	34	38	4
OR	0	1	18	71	10
SD	9	22	31	34	4
TX	10	20	38	27	5
WA	0	8	43	48	1
ALL	5	13	35	40	6
Prev Wk	1	8	28	53	10
Prev Yr	18	27	27	23	5

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

National crop conditions for selected States are weighted based on 1996 planted acres.

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