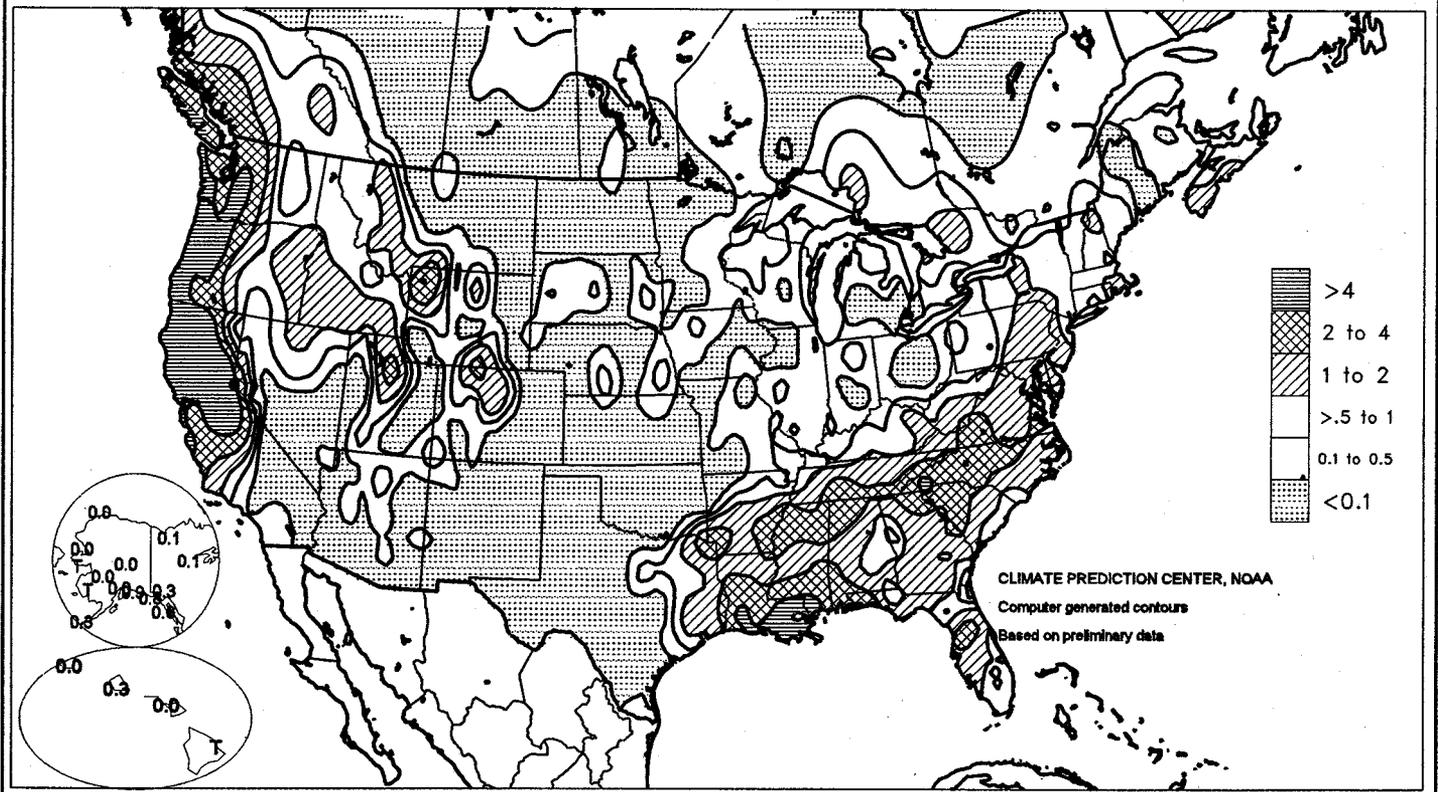


WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP BULLETIN

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

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

Total Precipitation (Inches)
JAN 11 - 17, 1998



HIGHLIGHTS

January 11 - 17, 1998

Arctic air made its strongest push of the winter into the northern Plains, Northwest, and upper Midwest, while a series of storms dropped heavy precipitation from Washington to central California. The storms later traversed the Southeastern and Atlantic Coast States, resulting in cloudy, mild weather with periods of rain and snow. Weekly temperatures ranged from 2 to 13°F below normal in the areas engulfed by cold air, but averaged up to 9°F above normal in the Southeast and as much as 11°F above normal in the West.

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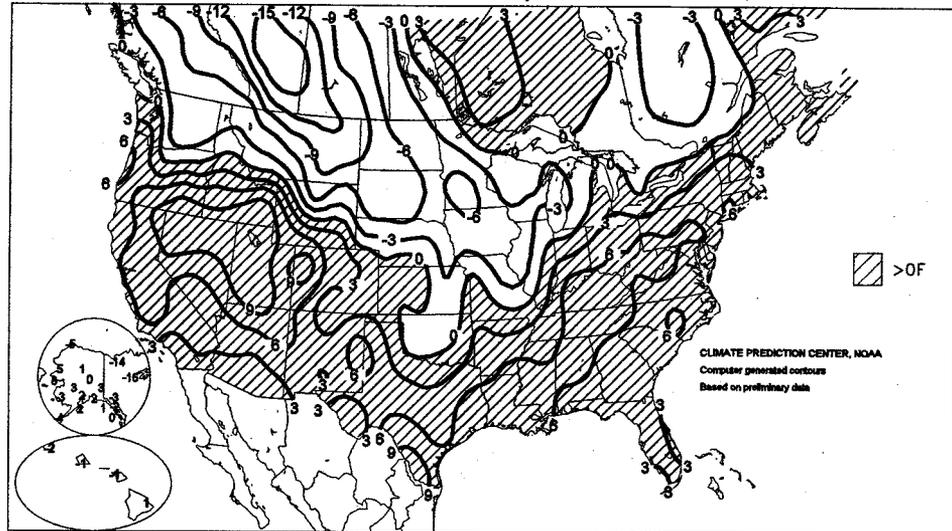
(Continued from front cover)

Early in the week, Pacific moisture overran Arctic air entrenched across the Northwest, resulting in snow and freezing rain. January 9-11 snowfall totaled 17 inches in **The Dalles, OR**, 13 inches in **Enterprise, OR**, and 11 inches near **Centralia, WA**. On Monday in **Oregon**, **Portland's** high of 28°F was their lowest on record for the date. Snow also fell across winter wheat areas of eastern **Washington**, but only after low temperatures ranged from -5 to 5°F on January 11-12. **Spokane, WA** registered -2°F on Monday. The procession of storms gradually eroded the cold air, changing snow to heavy rain. **Yakima, WA** recorded 1.84 inches for the week, 23 percent (%) of their normal annual total. Along the **Oregon** coastline on Wednesday, wind gusts were clocked to 82 mph on **Cape Blanco**. Farther south, very heavy precipitation belted northern and central **California**. Along the coast, **Eureka** received 4.59 inches during the week. January 11-17 totals reached 12.87 inches at **Blue Canyon** (central **Sierra Nevada** foothills) and 9.33 inches at **Shasta Dam**, near **Redding**.

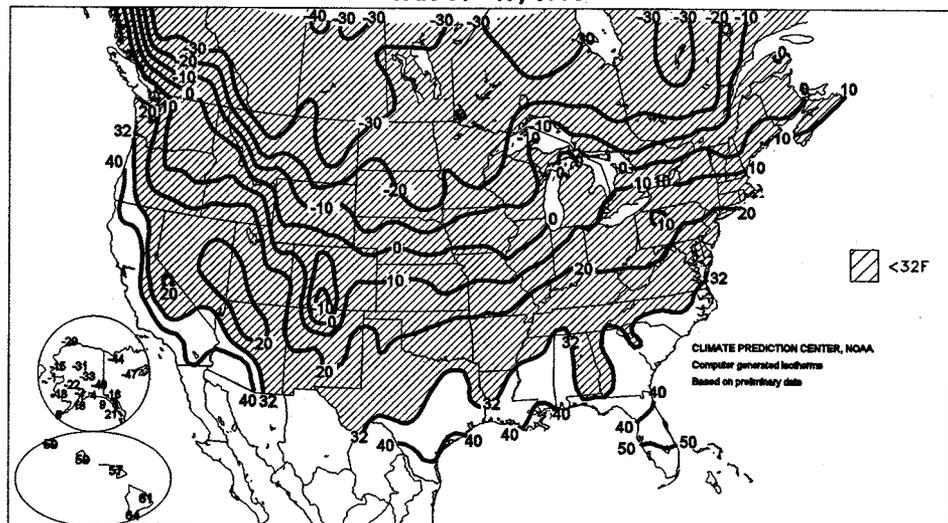
Farther east, 4 to 8 inches of rain soaked the central **Gulf Coast** region. Through January 17, month-to-date rainfall reached 16.04 inches (605% of normal) in **New Orleans, LA** and 13.52 inches (524%) in **Mobile, AL**. Additional wet weather in central **Florida** was highlighted by a daily-record total (2.55 inches on Thursday) in **Daytona Beach**. Meanwhile, **Baltimore, MD** also notched a daily-record rainfall (1.06 inches) for January 15. Inland, up to a half-inch of ice accumulated from the **Middle Atlantic States** to southern **New England**. Meanwhile, January 16-17 snowfall totaled 10 inches in **Haverhill, MA**, and 11 inches at both **Burlington, VT** and **Lake Placid, NY**. During the same period, a small portion of the northern **Delta** also saw heavy snow, with up to 7 inches in northern **Mississippi**. By Friday morning, snow depths stood at 3 inches in **Memphis, TN** and **Tupelo, MS**.

In **Little Rock, AR**, no sun shone on 9 consecutive days from January 6-14. In

Departure of Average Temperature from Normal (°F)
JAN 11 - 17, 1998



Extreme Minimum Temperature (°F)
JAN 11 - 17, 1998



addition, **Little Rock's** temperature averaged 9.8°F above normal during the first 2 weeks of January, remaining above freezing during that period for the first time since 1907. In **Oklahoma**, **Tulsa** weathered 10 consecutive days without any sunshine, their longest such period this half-century. The record had been 9 days, set from January 25 - February 2, 1983. **Oklahoma City** experienced only 28 minutes of sun from January 4-14, their least during any 11-day period on record. Both **Oklahoma City** and **Tulsa** recorded less than 5% of the possible sunshine during the first 2 weeks of January.

Farther north, the early-week cold blast gradually subsided. Nevertheless, lows in **Montana** on Monday plummeted to -40°F in **Jordan** and -35°F, a daily record, in **Miles City**. Snow cover on the northern **Plains'** winter wheat generally ranged from 2 to 4 inches during the coldest weather. On January 11-12, temperatures dipped below 0°F as far south and east as southern **Nebraska**, southern **Iowa**, and northern **Illinois**, the lowest in many cases since late-January 1997. Meanwhile, cold weather eased in **Alaska**, where weekly departures ranged from -5° to +8°F, and dry weather continued in **Hawaii**, allowing for large temperature swings. In **Honolulu**, where December 1 - January 17 rainfall was only 1.19 inches (20% of normal), readings ranged from a daily-record low (59°F) on Sunday to a daily-record high (87°F) on Thursday.

National Weather Data for Selected Cities

Weather Data for the Week Ending January 17, 1998

Data Provided by the Climate Prediction Center (301-763-8000 EXT. 7511) and the Southern Regional Climate Center

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 Dec 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Dec 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	01 INCH OR MORE	50 INCH OR MORE
AL BIRMINGHAM	53	40	60	30	47	6	1.11	-0.05	0.68	10.10	127	6.00	210	95	76	0	1	4	1	1	1
HUNTSVILLE	50	39	62	30	44	6	1.75	0.58	1.12	9.59	109	6.29	214	98	80	0	1	6	1	1	1
MOBILE	63	46	66	37	54	5	3.47	2.41	2.07	17.56	222	13.18	503	97	71	0	0	6	2	0	0
MONTGOMERY	58	42	66	31	50	4	0.10	-0.95	0.10	6.24	80	1.73	67	94	70	0	1	1	0	0	0
AK ANCHORAGE	22	10	30	-2	16	1	0.00	-0.18	0.00	1.98	128	0.33	72	84	69	0	7	0	0	0	0
BARROW	-14	-21	-3	-29	-18	-5	0.00	-0.03	0.00	0.08	42	0.00	0	76	71	0	7	0	0	0	0
FAIRBANKS	-2	-19	8	-33	-11	0	0.00	-0.11	0.00	2.05	183	0.00	0	80	68	0	7	0	0	0	0
JUNEAU	27	16	37	8	22	-2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	93	69	0	7	-	-	-	-
KODIAK	36	28	39	18	32	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	94	81	0	4	-	-	-	-
NOME	22	8	36	-1	15	8	0.03	-0.16	0.03	1.74	132	0.79	168	78	51	0	7	1	1	0	0
AZ FLAGSTAFF	43	23	52	11	33	4	0.00	-0.46	0.00	3.12	88	1.27	110	95	53	0	6	0	0	0	0
PHOENIX	65	46	69	43	55	2	0.00	-0.15	0.00	1.18	86	0.35	90	84	40	0	0	0	0	0	0
PRESCOTT	52	30	61	21	41	5	0.00	-0.35	0.00	3.22	131	0.76	87	90	45	0	6	0	0	0	0
TUCSON	65	39	73	34	52	1	0.04	-0.15	0.04	3.04	194	0.16	31	87	36	0	0	1	0	0	0
YUMA	70	49	74	46	59	3	0.01	-0.07	0.01	2.83	429	0.04	20	79	39	0	0	1	0	0	0
AR FORT SMITH	48	34	60	23	41	4	0.04	-0.37	0.03	7.23	176	2.72	254	96	75	0	3	2	0	0	0
LITTLE ROCK	51	36	60	25	43	4	1.09	0.32	0.69	7.62	117	3.87	216	96	71	0	2	4	1	0	0
CA BAKERSFIELD	62	49	65	43	56	8	0.32	0.13	0.23	2.11	199	1.01	230	96	70	0	0	2	0	0	0
EUREKA	59	51	62	48	55	7	4.59	3.19	-	12.53	-	7.80	-	99	79	0	0	6	3	0	0
FRESNO	58	47	64	38	52	7	1.42	0.98	0.65	3.26	133	2.31	220	98	80	0	0	5	1	0	0
LOS ANGELES	62	52	66	48	57	0	0.18	-0.36	0.16	6.41	221	2.67	214	97	79	0	0	2	0	0	0
REDDING	53	47	57	43	50	5	5.52	4.12	1.74	11.07	124	7.81	229	99	89	0	0	7	4	0	0
SACRAM/MCCLELL	58	52	68	46	55	-	2.92	-	0.95	6.90	-	4.46	-	99	87	0	0	5	3	0	0
SAN DIEGO	64	55	65	52	59	2	0.47	0.06	0.22	3.43	132	2.08	208	96	73	0	0	4	0	0	0
SAN FRANCISCO	59	52	63	47	56	7	2.47	1.48	1.23	10.40	190	5.12	214	97	83	0	0	6	2	0	0
CO ALAMOSA	33	-2	37	-10	16	1	0.00	-0.08	0.00	0.19	31	0.00	0	92	55	0	7	0	0	0	0
CO SPRINGS	48	17	55	12	32	4	0.00	-0.06	0.00	0.10	16	0.00	0	80	30	0	7	0	0	0	0
DENVER	44	21	51	15	33	3	0.00	-0.11	0.00	0.59	64	0.00	0	76	42	0	7	0	0	0	0
GRAND JUNCTION	42	29	46	23	35	11	0.03	-0.11	0.03	0.54	57	0.39	118	94	60	0	7	1	0	0	0
PUEBLO	49	16	63	6	32	3	0.06	-0.02	0.06	0.66	105	0.28	140	91	38	0	7	1	0	0	0
CT BRIDGEPORT	40	28	46	22	33	5	0.24	-0.50	0.12	4.22	79	0.87	48	89	63	0	7	2	0	0	0
HARTFORD	36	23	49	16	30	5	0.63	-0.14	0.30	4.17	72	1.98	103	83	50	0	7	3	0	0	0
DC WASHINGTON	45	34	53	28	40	6	0.94	0.33	0.73	3.01	65	1.27	84	81	54	0	2	5	1	0	0
DE WILMINGTON	43	29	50	23	36	6	0.75	0.06	0.65	3.98	76	1.41	82	89	69	0	6	4	1	0	0
FL DAYTONA BEACH	69	50	75	43	60	2	2.57	1.96	2.55	11.90	295	4.14	284	98	61	0	0	2	1	0	0
JACKSONVILLE	67	46	70	37	57	4	0.21	-0.53	0.15	11.23	252	1.49	86	99	63	0	0	4	0	0	0
KEY WEST	76	67	79	55	72	2	1.84	1.37	1.67	6.33	201	1.91	169	87	69	0	0	3	1	0	0
MIAMI	76	63	79	56	70	3	0.24	-0.21	0.24	5.94	203	0.68	63	84	58	0	0	1	0	0	0
ORLANDO	72	53	77	47	63	3	0.43	-0.07	0.40	14.16	423	1.52	128	96	56	0	0	3	0	0	0
TAMPA	72	57	76	50	64	5	0.85	0.22	0.84	17.82	562	2.26	221	93	61	0	0	2	1	0	0
VALPARAISO/EGLIN	64	47	68	34	55	3	4.31	3.36	1.85	10.27	157	4.77	205	96	71	0	0	4	3	0	0
WEST PALM BEACH	76	58	80	50	67	2	0.74	0.11	0.64	6.38	160	1.35	89	90	55	0	0	2	1	0	0
GA ATHENS	53	38	65	33	46	4	1.40	0.35	0.49	9.18	139	3.28	130	97	62	0	0	5	0	0	0
ATLANTA	51	38	61	33	45	4	1.27	0.20	0.69	8.40	121	3.35	129	94	75	0	0	5	1	0	0
AUGUSTA	58	39	66	30	49	5	2.24	1.33	1.66	10.13	182	3.19	147	94	61	0	1	4	1	0	0
COLUMBUS	57	43	66	34	50	5	0.26	-0.77	0.10	8.17	109	1.45	57	96	65	0	0	3	0	0	0
MACON	56	40	66	32	48	3	1.63	0.61	1.02	10.02	148	2.74	110	95	72	0	1	3	1	0	0
SAVANNAH	62	44	71	33	53	4	1.04	0.21	0.87	5.94	120	1.95	99	96	62	0	0	3	1	0	0
HI HILO	81	64	83	61	72	1	0.02	-2.20	0.02	8.96	51	0.11	2	88	58	0	0	1	0	0	0
HONOLULU	82	62	87	59	72	-1	0.28	-0.55	-	1.19	20	0.75	35	89	50	0	0	-	0	0	0
KAHULUI	82	59	84	57	71	-1	0.00	-0.96	0.00	1.83	33	0.33	14	90	55	0	0	0	0	0	0
LIHUE	77	62	80	59	70	-2	0.00	-1.39	0.00	5.71	67	3.12	92	89	59	0	0	0	0	0	0
ID BOISE	43	30	52	24	37	8	1.21	0.88	0.25	2.64	123	1.99	249	93	63	0	4	7	0	0	0
LEWISTON	38	23	54	13	30	-3	0.37	0.07	0.16	1.29	66	0.69	93	88	61	0	6	5	0	0	0
POCATELLO	36	29	44	24	34	11	1.62	1.37	0.77	2.70	159	2.04	340	91	68	0	7	6	1	0	0
IL CHICAGO/O'HARE	27	13	32	-1	20	-1	0.18	-0.17	0.18	3.93	116	2.44	262	87	67	0	7	1	0	0	0
MOLINE	21	9	28	-1	15	-5	0.00	-0.36	0.00	3.45	109	1.69	180	87	70	0	7	0	0	0	0
PEORIA	24	12	30	1	18	-3	0.26	-0.08	0.26	4.44	133	2.50	275	88	69	0	7	1	0	0	0
ROCKFORD	22	9	29	-5	16	-2	0.09	-0.20	0.09	2.32	82	1.49	191	87	68	0	7	1	0	0	0
SPRINGFIELD	28	17	32	6	22	-2	0.24	-0.10	0.23	4.01	110	2.26	246	91	78	0	7	2	0	0	0
IN EVANSVILLE	40	29	58	22	35	5	0.14	-0.45	0.08	4.18	81	1.84	122	88	70	0	6	4	0	0	0
FORT WAYNE	30	21	39	11	25	3	0.36	-0.06	0.15	5.40	135	3.67	331	89	72	0	7	4	0	0	0
INDIANAPOLIS	34	24	45	17	29	4	0.21	-0.31	0.09	3.41	73	2.07	153	88	67	0	7	4	0	0	0
SOUTH BEND	28	16	33	3	22	-1	0.18	-0.33	0.12	5.60	121	3.51	264	91	72	0	7	3	0	0	0
IA BURLINGTON	29	13	40	1	21	-	0.31	0.03	0.26	3.58	131	2.06	275	78	48	0	7	4	0	0	0
CEDAR RAPIDS	20	4	25	-5	12	-5	0.15	-0.06	-	1.76	81	0.60	102	89	67	0	7	2	0	0	0
DES MOINES	22	8	29	-2	15	-4	0.05	-0.17	0.05	1.77	95	0.41	73	87	66	0	7	1	0	0	0
DUBUQUE	20	6	26	-7	13	-3	0.11	-0.17	0.06	1.80	67	0.72	97	84	68	0	6	2	0	0	0
SIOUX CITY	23	8	36	-9	15	-2	0.18	0.06	0.18	0.39	35	0.18	56	86	67	0	7	1	0	0	0
WATERLOO	19	2	23	-7																	

Weather Data for the Week Ending January 17, 1998

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 Dec 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Dec 1	TOTAL IN, SINCE Jan 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Jan 1	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	90 AND ABOVE	92 AND BELOW	.01 INCH OR MORE		.50 INCH OR MORE	
																		01 INCH OR MORE	50 INCH OR MORE		
KY WICHITA	35	20	50	10	27	-2	0.01	-0.17	0.01	3.18	192	0.53	115	94	74	0	7	1	0	0	
JACKSON	46	33	57	24	39	7	0.79	-0.06	0.25	4.98	76	2.78	131	92	67	0	4	6	0	0	
LEXINGTON	45	31	55	22	38	7	0.64	0.00	0.34	6.09	108	3.41	207	94	69	0	4	6	0	0	
LOUISVILLE	46	32	59	25	38	7	0.33	-0.31	0.12	4.91	94	2.39	148	92	67	0	4	5	0	0	
PADUCAH	42	29	56	25	35	3	0.29	-0.43	0.17	4.65	71	2.19	118	94	71	0	6	5	0	0	
LA BATON ROUGE	64	49	70	36	57	7	5.68	4.48	4.41	17.95	218	11.64	431	99	71	0	0	4	1	2	
LAKE CHARLES	65	49	71	34	57	7	2.38	1.34	1.41	13.64	179	7.92	306	99	73	0	0	5	2	1	
NEW ORLEANS	65	51	69	40	58	7	7.24	6.11	3.84	18.58	218	16.02	580	95	75	0	0	4	3	3	
SHREVEPORT	61	42	69	29	52	7	0.96	0.08	0.69	10.35	166	4.24	198	96	63	0	1	3	1	0	
ME CARIBOU	20	-1	32	-8	10	1	0.25	-0.31	0.24	5.06	109	2.26	158	87	60	0	7	2	0	0	
PORTLAND	31	17	42	10	24	3	0.86	0.06	0.82	6.39	97	3.82	189	82	54	0	7	3	1	1	
MD BALTIMORE	45	29	53	23	37	5	1.23	0.54	1.06	3.57	70	1.52	89	87	56	0	5	6	1	1	
MA BOSTON	36	23	47	16	30	1	0.82	0.01	0.55	4.72	79	2.40	120	80	55	0	7	3	1	1	
WORCESTER	31	19	43	13	25	3	0.66	-0.17	0.27	4.61	75	2.30	112	87	50	0	7	3	0	0	
MI ALPENA	24	13	29	6	18	1	0.97	0.59	0.39	3.40	114	2.68	279	89	73	0	7	6	0	0	
GRAND RAPIDS	25	15	32	1	20	-2	0.13	-0.30	0.06	3.59	91	2.62	234	88	77	0	7	3	0	0	
HOUGHTON LAKE	22	11	27	5	16	0	0.34	-0.01	0.21	2.11	75	1.78	198	88	73	0	7	3	0	0	
LANSING	26	13	33	0	19	-1	0.24	-0.10	0.19	3.65	113	2.76	310	89	75	0	7	3	0	0	
MARQUETTE	15	0	25	-11	8	-4	0.56	0.07	-	4.42	114	2.02	160	96	61	0	7	3	0	0	
MUSKEGON	25	16	32	6	20	-3	0.16	-0.39	0.11	3.20	72	1.98	140	88	73	0	7	2	0	0	
MN DULUTH	12	-2	28	-20	5	-2	0.14	-0.14	0.07	0.70	35	0.30	42	88	68	0	7	4	0	0	
INTL FALLS	13	-5	36	-23	4	4	0.10	-0.10	0.04	0.69	51	0.48	90	84	68	0	7	4	0	0	
MINNEAPOLIS	15	-4	23	-22	6	-6	0.16	-0.06	0.09	0.65	40	0.34	63	83	65	0	7	4	0	0	
ROCHESTER	16	-1	22	-12	8	-3	0.13	-0.05	0.12	0.89	60	0.51	113	86	74	0	7	2	0	0	
ST. CLOUD	11	-7	22	-22	2	-8	0.39	0.22	0.09	0.65	52	0.42	102	86	67	0	7	6	0	0	
MS JACKSON	60	44	68	36	52	8	1.10	-0.10	0.81	10.34	116	4.66	153	96	84	0	0	2	1	0	
MERIDIAN	60	41	68	33	50	6	1.94	0.78	1.30	13.31	148	8.60	297	98	67	0	0	4	2	2	
TUPELO	50	38	58	30	44	4	2.06	0.95	1.19	8.80	98	5.08	180	96	81	0	3	5	2	2	
MO COLUMBIA	29	20	42	11	25	-3	0.24	-0.08	0.18	3.21	97	1.44	169	92	75	0	7	4	0	0	
KANSAS CITY	33	20	50	7	26	1	0.00	-0.25	0.00	2.76	124	0.43	66	87	66	0	7	0	0	0	
SAINT LOUIS	31	20	35	13	26	-3	0.33	-0.07	0.29	4.59	112	2.74	256	94	72	0	7	2	0	0	
SPRINGFIELD	39	25	52	21	32	1	0.04	-0.36	0.02	5.50	130	2.36	223	98	76	0	7	2	0	0	
MT BILLINGS	24	9	41	-14	17	-6	0.70	0.48	0.41	1.34	102	0.77	143	80	58	0	6	2	0	0	
BUTTE	28	4	42	-23	16	0	0.22	0.08	0.16	0.65	81	0.50	152	88	57	0	7	2	0	0	
GLASGOW	9	-13	41	-33	-2	-12	0.00	-0.08	0.00	0.21	34	0.20	87	82	66	0	7	0	0	0	
GREAT FALLS	27	6	44	-30	17	-4	0.06	-0.16	0.04	0.59	43	0.26	48	80	58	0	7	2	0	0	
KALISPELL	26	7	40	-21	16	-4	0.29	-0.07	0.13	1.12	43	0.54	60	84	63	0	7	4	0	0	
MILES CITY	18	-6	40	-35	6	-9	0.00	-0.13	0.00	0.17	18	0.16	48	83	68	0	7	0	0	0	
MISSOULA	26	12	41	-9	19	-3	0.33	0.04	0.23	1.33	71	1.00	139	82	66	0	7	5	0	0	
NE GRAND ISLAND	31	11	46	-3	21	-1	0.04	-0.07	0.04	0.46	46	0.04	15	91	63	0	7	1	0	0	
LINCOLN	27	7	39	-2	17	-4	0.21	0.10	0.21	1.03	87	0.30	97	92	71	0	7	1	0	0	
NORFOLK	27	6	39	-8	16	-2	0.10	-0.01	0.10	0.51	50	0.14	48	85	56	0	7	1	0	0	
NORTH PLATTE	34	8	47	0	21	0	0.09	0.01	0.06	0.30	46	0.11	55	92	56	0	7	3	0	0	
OMAHA	25	10	36	-1	18	-3	0.29	0.12	-	1.11	75	0.62	135	88	67	0	7	2	0	0	
SCOTTSBLUFF	33	9	50	-8	21	-3	0.10	-0.01	0.08	0.50	60	0.18	67	89	59	0	7	2	0	0	
VALENTINE	26	3	44	-10	15	-4	0.10	0.04	0.05	0.13	25	0.10	71	91	65	0	7	3	0	0	
NV ELY	39	25	50	12	32	8	0.16	-0.01	0.08	0.44	39	0.21	53	92	60	0	7	4	0	0	
LAS VEGAS	57	43	63	37	50	5	0.00	-0.11	0.00	0.26	41	0.19	70	78	43	0	0	0	0	0	
RENO	51	34	58	27	42	10	0.22	-0.03	0.15	1.06	67	0.48	80	90	57	0	2	3	0	0	
WINNEMUCCA	46	34	56	27	40	11	0.97	0.80	0.31	1.68	128	1.42	330	92	64	0	3	5	0	0	
NH CONCORD	32	18	41	11	25	6	0.85	0.09	0.32	4.21	92	2.26	160	84	45	0	7	3	0	0	
NJ NEWARK	42	30	50	24	36	5	0.85	0.08	0.69	6.50	122	2.34	124	78	50	0	4	3	1	1	
NM ALBUQUERQUE	49	27	54	22	38	4	0.12	0.01	0.12	1.16	153	0.16	59	83	39	0	7	1	0	0	
NY ALBANY	30	19	41	13	25	4	0.16	-0.38	0.09	3.63	85	2.16	160	91	67	0	7	3	0	0	
BINGHAMTON	32	19	38	12	25	4	0.51	-0.03	0.17	5.35	122	2.54	185	91	68	0	7	4	0	0	
BUFFALO	31	18	46	13	24	1	0.78	0.16	0.59	7.35	140	4.40	278	87	67	0	7	4	1	1	
ROCHESTER	31	19	42	16	25	2	0.62	0.15	0.41	7.30	187	4.43	372	87	69	0	7	5	0	0	
SYRACUSE	31	18	43	10	24	2	1.27	0.74	0.57	7.77	170	3.66	269	89	67	0	7	6	1	1	
NC ASHEVILLE	50	35	58	32	42	7	1.85	1.13	1.14	9.75	185	6.77	387	98	64	0	2	4	2	2	
CHARLOTTE	52	38	63	34	45	6	1.72	0.89	1.01	7.06	129	2.98	148	89	65	0	0	4	2	2	
GREENSBORO	49	35	62	31	42	6	1.46	0.74	1.22	6.07	119	3.90	223	91	60	0	2	4	1	1	
HATTERAS	53	44	60	37	49	4	3.38	2.17	2.11	9.32	124	3.67	125	99	84	0	0	3	1	1	
RALEIGH	50	38	59	30	44	5	2.42	1.64	1.47	6.35	124	3.60	191	90	61	0	1	4	2	2	
WILMINGTON	58	41	66	35	50	5	0.81	-0.27	0.36	7.36	128	2.52	118	95	63	0	0	3	0	0	
ND BISMARCK	10	-7	21	-23	1	-7	0.05	-0.06	0.03	0.13	17	0.05	19	83	66	0	7	2	0	0	
DICKINSON	17	-5	43	-19	6	-7	0.02	-0.06	0.02	0.06	11	0.03	15	82	62	0	7	1	0	0	
FARGO	10	-4	29	-21	3	-3	0.03	-0.14	0.02	0.74	71	0.30	75	77	63	0	7	2	0	0	
GRAND FORKS	5	-6	17	-24	0	-4	0.02	-0.15	0.02	0.74	71	0.18	45	81	71	0	7	1	0	0	
JAMESTOWN	7	-1	18	-15	3	-4	0.08	-0.06	0.05	0.42	51	0.14	42	80	79	0	7	3	0	0	
WILLISTON	9	-16	37	-32	-3	-12	0.07	-0.05	0.04	0.14	16	0.12	39	80	66	0	7	2	0	0	
OH AKRON-CANTON	36	21	46	10	28	4	0.26	-0.23	0.17	5.20	124	3.13	250	92	65	0	7	3	0	0	
CINCINNATI	40	27	53	19	34	6	0.33	-0.25	0.12	5.81	121	2.83	194	95	63	0	6	5	0	0	
CLEVELAND	35	22	47	16	28	4	0.26	-0.20	0.19	5.67	132	3.23	271	91	68	0	7	4	0	0	
COLUMBUS	40	26	49	15	33	7	0.19	-0.30	0.08	4.14	101	2.01	161	8							

Weather Data for the Week Ending January 17, 1998

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 Dec 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Dec 1	TOTAL, IN., SINCE Jan 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Jan 1	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	90 AND ABOVE	32 AND BELOW	TEMP. °F		PRECIP.	
																		01 INCH OR MORE	50 INCH OR MORE	01 INCH OR MORE	50 INCH OR MORE
OK TOLEDO	31	20	40	10	25	3	0.25	-0.15	0.12	4.60	115	2.52	238	89	67	0	7	4	0	0	
OK YOUNGSTOWN	35	21	47	12	28	5	0.38	-0.10	0.23	6.48	155	3.75	302	88	64	0	7	3	0	0	
OK OKLAHOMA CITY	42	27	58	22	35	-1	0.00	-0.25	0.00	4.41	223	2.40	414	96	73	0	7	0	0	0	
OK TULSA	39	28	58	25	34	-1	0.08	-0.25	0.04	7.05	233	2.78	321	96	75	0	7	3	0	0	
OR ASTORIA	51	41	55	32	46	4	4.81	2.51	1.22	18.21	112	9.77	171	93	79	0	1	7	5	0	
OR BURNS	39	24	43	19	32	9	1.10	0.88	0.35	2.41	140	1.51	265	97	74	0	6	7	0	0	
OR EUGENE	53	40	57	31	47	6	3.55	1.72	0.91	7.38	58	5.15	113	88	71	0	1	7	3	0	
OR MEDFORD	52	40	57	36	46	9	2.01	1.39	1.18	4.70	96	3.35	212	96	67	0	0	6	1	1	
OR PENDLETON	38	22	55	5	30	-3	0.97	0.62	0.28	2.53	102	1.48	170	91	69	0	6	5	0	0	
OR PORTLAND	43	34	56	24	38	-1	2.39	1.15	0.78	7.52	81	4.50	145	93	79	0	3	7	2	2	
OR SALEM	49	39	58	26	44	5	3.39	2.03	0.91	8.22	80	5.08	148	87	58	0	2	7	4	4	
PA ALLENTOWN	39	26	48	18	33	6	0.58	-0.14	0.55	4.07	77	1.70	96	83	53	0	6	3	1	1	
PA ERIE	35	23	49	17	29	4	0.42	-0.08	0.29	9.00	183	4.13	315	90	66	0	7	4	0	0	
PA MIDDLETOWN	41	28	50	23	35	6	1.01	0.38	-	4.87	98	2.66	174	83	50	0	5	3	1	1	
PA PHILADELPHIA	44	31	50	25	37	7	0.57	-0.17	0.51	4.44	85	1.35	75	89	62	0	4	4	1	1	
PA PITTSBURGH	40	25	50	14	32	6	0.34	-0.24	0.20	4.36	100	3.07	213	92	58	0	7	3	0	0	
PA SCRANTON	34	23	37	16	28	6	0.71	0.29	0.62	4.58	126	2.33	208	93	69	0	5	3	0	0	
PA WILLIAMSPORT	36	25	44	18	31	6	0.47	-0.10	0.28	2.41	54	0.95	67	88	54	0	7	4	0	0	
RI PROVIDENCE	37	23	49	17	30	2	1.11	0.23	0.49	5.88	89	3.05	139	83	53	0	7	3	0	0	
SC BEAUFORT	60	44	70	34	52	4	0.54	-0.31	0.38	5.50	105	1.57	76	98	66	0	0	3	0	0	
SC CHARLESTON	60	44	66	37	52	4	0.40	-0.39	0.30	7.16	142	1.98	105	97	63	0	0	4	0	0	
SC COLUMBIA	56	38	65	31	47	3	1.47	0.46	0.98	7.53	125	3.14	130	98	60	0	1	4	1	1	
SC GREENVILLE	53	37	62	32	45	5	1.50	0.59	0.73	8.13	127	3.88	173	97	63	0	2	4	2	2	
SD ABERDEEN	12	-6	25	-31	3	-6	0.28	0.20	0.15	0.50	83	0.32	160	83	69	0	7	4	0	0	
SD HURON	15	-2	30	-25	7	-6	0.04	-0.04	0.04	0.27	40	0.05	25	82	65	0	7	1	0	0	
SD RAPID CITY	25	4	45	-11	15	-7	0.09	0.01	0.04	0.17	25	0.08	45	90	61	0	7	5	0	0	
SD SIOUX FALLS	19	-1	32	-20	9	-4	0.15	0.04	0.09	0.43	43	0.18	62	86	68	0	7	3	0	0	
TN BRISTOL	48	35	55	29	41	8	0.57	-0.15	0.39	4.26	83	2.09	118	99	72	0	2	5	0	0	
TN CHATTANOOGA	49	39	59	31	44	7	2.17	1.06	1.43	9.48	120	6.18	226	95	77	0	1	6	1	1	
TN KNOXVILLE	48	39	56	32	44	8	1.10	0.16	0.57	4.58	66	2.21	94	94	76	0	1	6	1	1	
TN MEMPHIS	50	37	61	27	44	4	1.83	1.00	1.03	10.19	129	5.66	262	94	77	0	3	3	2	2	
TN NASHVILLE	49	37	61	30	43	7	0.75	-0.06	0.50	4.97	75	2.78	136	93	73	0	1	4	1	1	
TX ABILENE	62	32	73	23	47	4	0.00	-0.22	0.00	3.30	212	0.14	26	89	40	0	3	0	0	0	
TX AMARILLO	52	24	60	19	38	4	0.00	-0.11	0.00	2.79	410	0.87	248	86	42	0	7	0	0	0	
TX AUSTIN	65	44	74	37	54	6	0.02	-0.36	0.02	5.85	210	1.80	178	92	62	0	0	1	0	0	
TX BEAUMONT	66	50	76	34	58	8	0.75	-0.35	0.67	10.39	139	3.77	139	99	75	0	0	4	1	1	
TX BROWNSVILLE	75	57	80	43	66	7	0.24	-0.12	0.22	0.82	39	0.37	44	98	67	0	0	3	0	0	
TX CORPUS CHRISTI	72	50	81	34	61	6	0.08	-0.30	0.08	0.82	29	0.42	48	98	63	0	0	1	0	0	
TX DEL RIO	72	43	78	37	58	8	0.01	-0.10	0.01	0.63	71	0.04	15	85	29	0	0	1	0	0	
TX EL PASO	61	34	68	25	48	5	0.00	-0.08	0.00	1.45	177	0.04	17	69	33	0	3	0	0	0	
TX FORT WORTH	55	36	68	32	46	3	0.56	0.15	0.58	11.85	416	4.92	497	94	61	0	2	1	1	1	
TX GALVESTON	64	55	70	43	60	7	0.04	-0.72	0.02	9.49	175	4.80	245	97	78	0	0	3	0	0	
TX HOUSTON	67	47	75	34	57	7	0.45	-0.29	0.19	9.28	175	3.86	210	96	63	0	0	4	0	0	
TX LUBBOCK	58	27	69	19	43	4	0.00	-0.08	0.00	1.75	236	0.00	0	78	31	0	7	0	0	0	
TX MIDLAND	63	32	73	26	48	5	0.00	-0.08	0.00	1.36	177	0.01	5	81	28	0	4	0	0	0	
TX SAN ANGELO	67	32	76	27	49	6	0.01	-0.16	0.01	1.43	121	0.04	10	88	29	0	4	1	0	0	
TX SAN ANTONIO	68	45	74	34	56	7	0.02	-0.37	0.01	4.72	197	1.18	129	90	53	0	0	2	0	0	
TX VICTORIA	68	48	78	40	58	6	0.10	-0.40	0.08	2.29	71	0.66	55	97	63	0	0	3	0	0	
TX WACO	60	40	72	33	50	5	0.03	-0.33	0.01	15.76	579	5.94	683	92	61	0	0	3	0	0	
TX WICHITA FALLS	50	31	63	23	40	1	0.00	-0.22	0.00	5.34	295	1.22	230	93	61	0	4	0	0	0	
UT SALT LAKE CITY	46	32	56	27	39	11	0.72	0.47	0.27	1.86	91	1.23	195	94	60	0	4	6	0	0	
VT BURLINGTON	24	10	39	3	17	1	0.77	0.36	0.40	4.90	141	3.25	307	85	56	0	7	4	0	0	
VA LYNCHBURG	46	32	61	26	39	5	0.63	0.00	0.35	5.38	111	2.68	168	94	56	0	3	4	0	0	
VA NORFOLK	50	39	58	33	45	6	2.65	1.80	1.21	5.38	101	2.71	132	93	72	0	0	4	2	2	
VA RICHMOND	46	33	60	28	39	4	1.34	0.60	0.84	4.55	90	2.19	121	89	64	0	3	5	1	1	
VA ROANOKE	48	33	59	26	39	5	1.44	0.86	1.10	6.14	140	3.77	264	89	59	0	2	5	1	1	
WA WASH/DULLES	43	29	53	25	36	5	1.03	0.42	0.82	3.40	72	1.48	98	91	54	0	6	4	1	1	
WA HANFORD	34	20	55	7	27	-	0.71	0.53	0.34	1.26	89	0.95	244	91	62	0	6	4	0	0	
WA OLYMPIA	44	34	51	25	39	1	3.77	1.92	1.14	13.27	105	7.13	158	98	82	0	2	7	3	3	
WA QUILLAYUTE	45	36	52	23	41	1	3.77	0.49	1.54	21.63	92	6.13	76	92	74	0	2	6	2	2	
WA SEATTLE-TACOMA	44	35	51	23	39	0	1.65	0.41	0.86	6.50	72	3.87	125	88	67	0	3	6	1	1	
WA SPOKANE	29	17	44	-2	23	-4	0.71	0.25	0.51	1.96	55	0.95	83	91	76	0	7	4	1	1	
WA YAKIMA	30	14	52	0	22	-7	1.84	1.56	-	2.34	111	2.15	307	92	70	0	7	-	-	-	
WV BECKLEY	41	28	46	19	34	8	0.80	0.14	0.35	4.03	83	1.83	112	98	72	0	6	4	0	0	
WV CHARLESTON	46	32	53	21	39	7	0.67	0.01	0.30	3.48	89	1.91	117	97	69	0	4	4	0	0	
WV ELKINS	44	28	49	15	36	9	0.74	0.04	0.33	5.20	99	2.67	153	94	64	0	4	4	0	0	
WV HUNTINGTON	45	32	53	22	38	6	0.83	0.19	0.35	4.94	100	3.38	213	92	66	0	3	4	0	0	
WI EAU CLAIRE	15	0	26	-19	8	-3	0.59	0.37	0.35	1.27	76	1.03	181	89	72	0	7	4	0	0	
WI GREEN BAY	18	5	28	-11	12	-2	0.38	0.12	0.27	1.97	90	1.37	204	86	71	0	7	3	0	0	
WI MADISON	19	5	28	-7	12	-3	0.24	0.00	0.23	2.67	108	1.42	218	90	66	0	7	2	0	0	
WI MILWAUKEE	23	11	29	-4	17	-1	0.44	0.07	0.31	3.52	107	2.20	232	86	66	0	7	4	0	0	
WY CASPER	28	10	44	-9	19	-3	0.15	0.03	0.12	1.13	115	0.17	53	85	60	0	7	4	0	0	
WY CHEYENNE	41	18	45	0	29	3	0.00	-0.08	0.00	0.66	108	0.07	35	78	42	0	7	0	0	0	
WY LANDER	31	7	42	-2	19	0	0.06	-0.05	0.04	1.91	230	0.08									

National Agricultural Summary

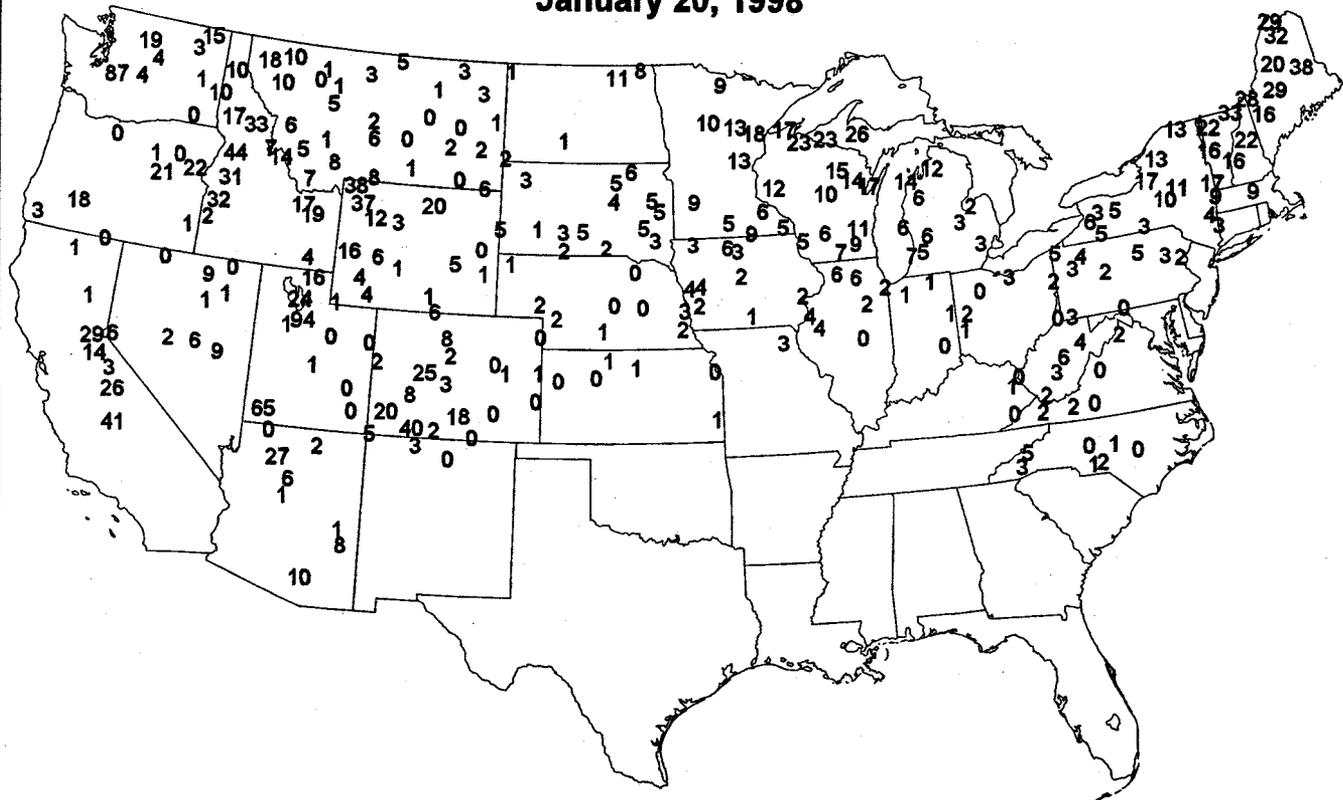
January 12 - 18, 1998

HIGHLIGHTS

Mild temperatures prevailed over most of the United States, except for early-week bitterly cold weather along the Northern Tier States and upper Midwest. New England farmers, especially dairymen, had difficulty recovering from the previous week's severe ice storm. Field activities along the Pacific Coast were hampered again this week by an onslaught of storms bringing snow, ice, and rain. In northern California, over 4 inches of rain fell in many locations, halting fieldwork. The preparation for, and planting of, spring vegetable crops continued where weather and soils permitted. The storms tracked eastward, bringing precipitation into the central and northern Rocky Mountain States. Little precipitation fell in the Plains

while limited amounts fell in the Corn Belt. High winds sapped soil moisture in some parts of the southern Plains, but most areas still have ample moisture supplies. On the Texas High Plains, adequate moisture from previous rainfall and mild temperatures prompted good winter wheat growth, and most fields provided excellent grazing. In the Southeast, wet weather continued as storms again brought precipitation to the region, especially in eastern Louisiana, where month-to-date rainfall totals over 600 percent of the normal amount in New Orleans. Late-week rain fell in all Florida citrus areas and slowed some harvest crews. Wet fields continued to delay some field preparations for spring vegetable planting.

Snow Depth (Inches) January 20, 1998



Experimental product based on preliminary data
NOAA/USDA JOINT AGRICULTURAL WEATHER FACILITY

The NWS co-operative observer network is the principal source of the snow depth reports.

International Weather and Crop Summary

January 11 - 17, 1998

HIGHLIGHTS

FSU-WESTERN: Snow cover continued to diminish in Ukraine, Belarus, and the Baltics, leaving winter grains vulnerable to potential extreme cold.

EUROPE: Unseasonably mild weather continued over the region, keeping most winter grain areas snow free and likely prompting some greening of crops in the north and east.

NORTHWESTERN AFRICA: Light, scattered precipitation dampened winter grain areas in Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia.

SOUTHEAST ASIA: Widespread showers favored rice in southern Sumatra and Java, while drought continued across the northern and western Philippines.

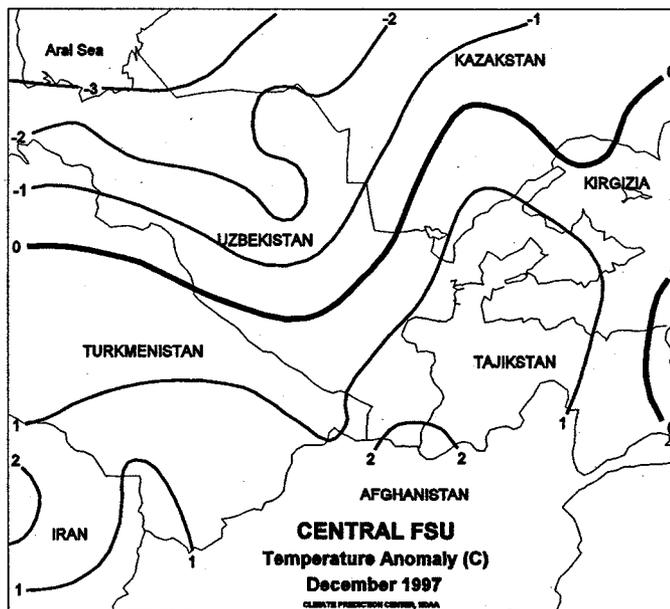
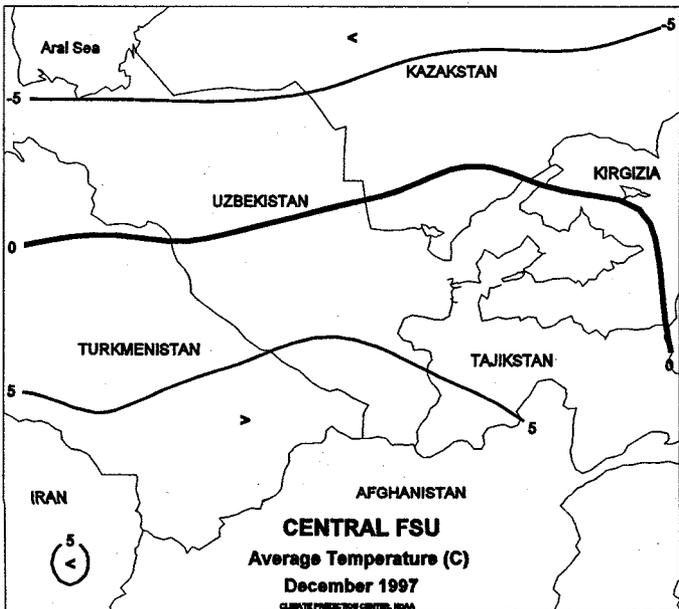
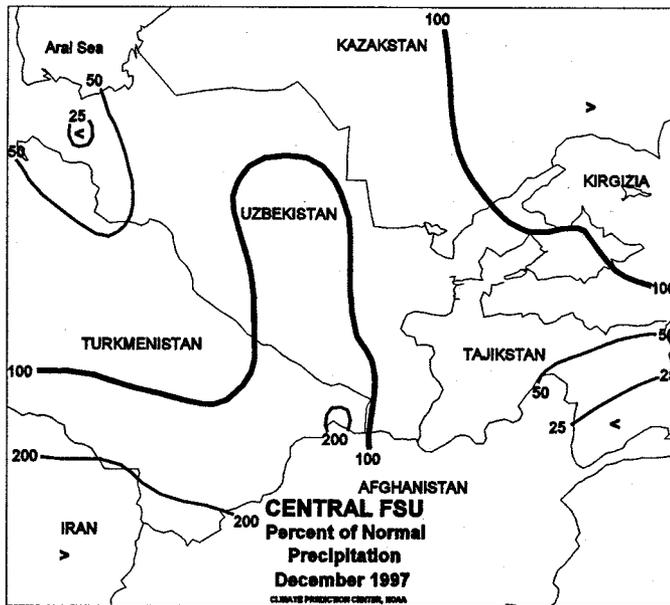
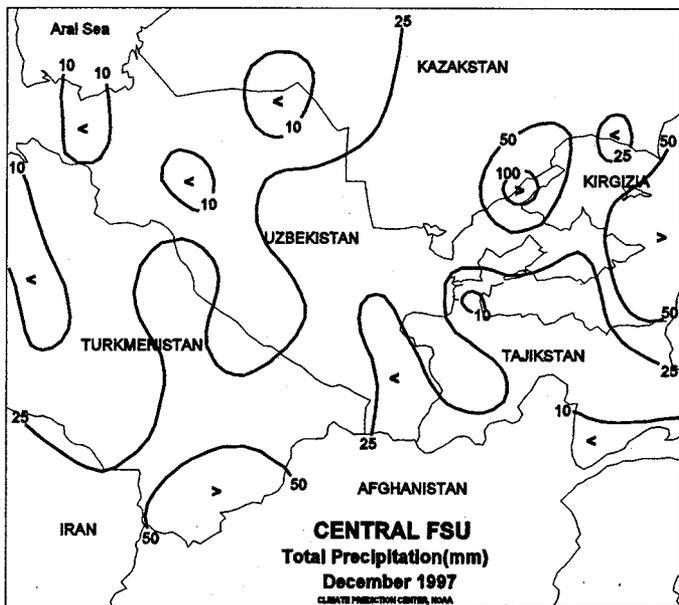
SOUTH AFRICA: Drier weather returned to the corn belt, aiding corn growth.

SOUTH AMERICA: Excellent weather continued in central Argentina, while more rain is needed in Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil.

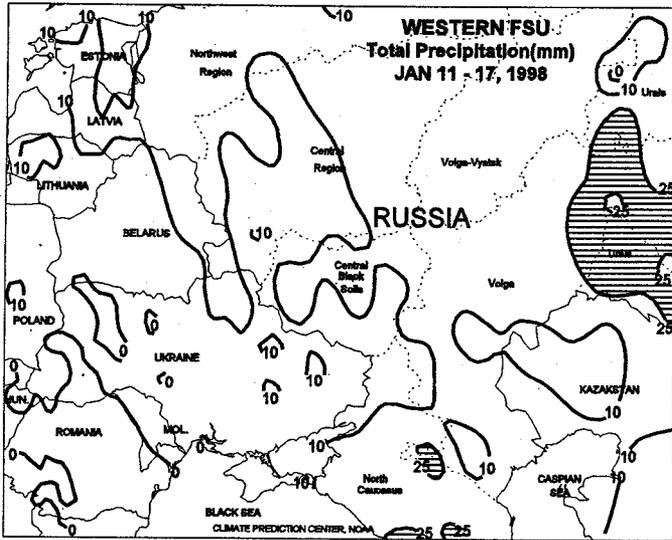
AUSTRALIA: A tropical cyclone contributed to the east's locally heavy rainfall.

CHINA: Seasonably cool weather kept winter wheat dormant across the North China Plain.

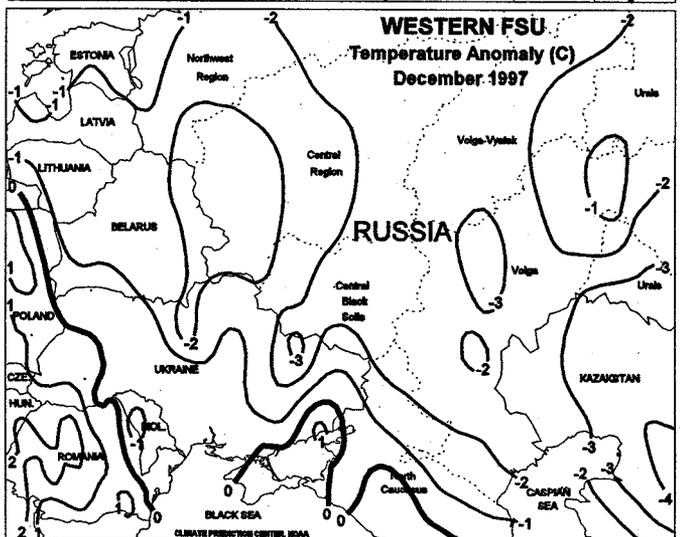
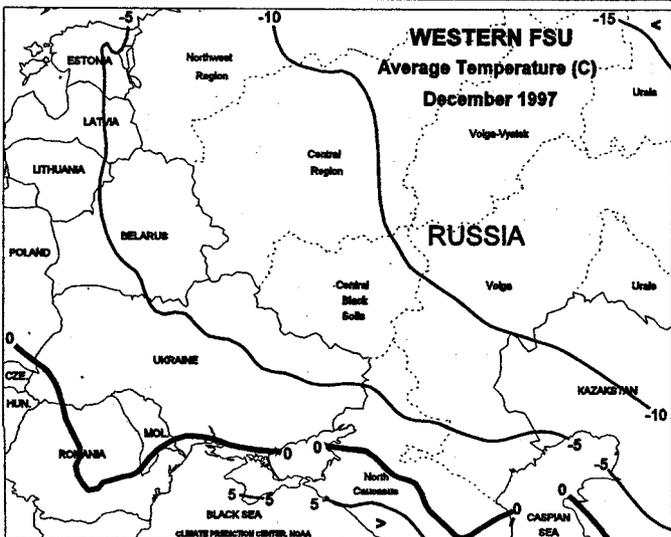
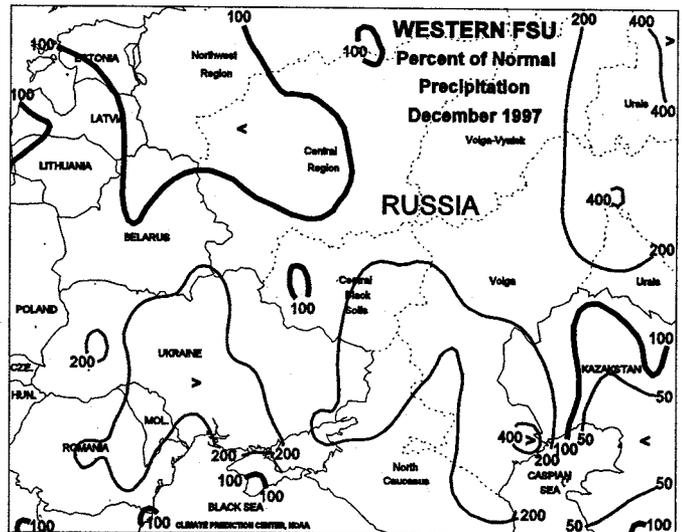
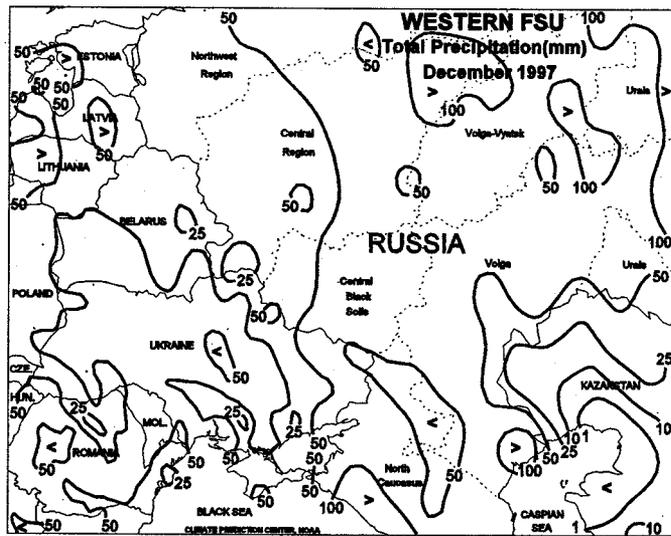
SOUTH ASIA: Seasonable warmth and dryness continued throughout the region.

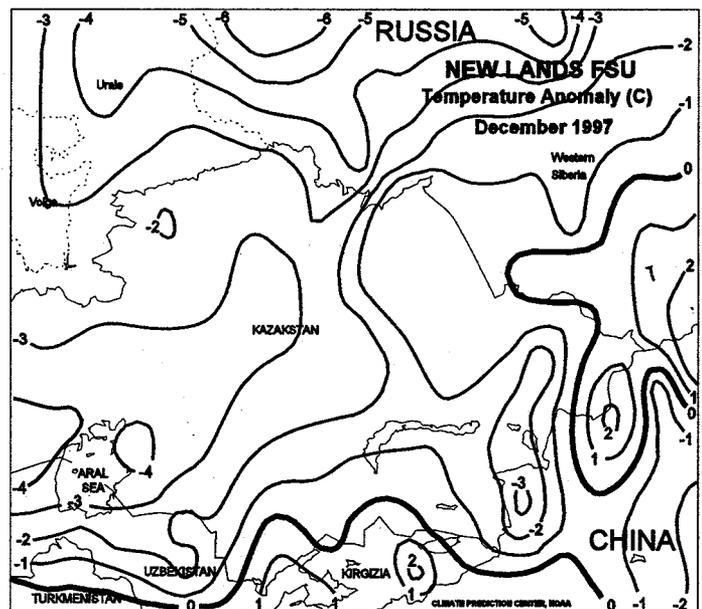
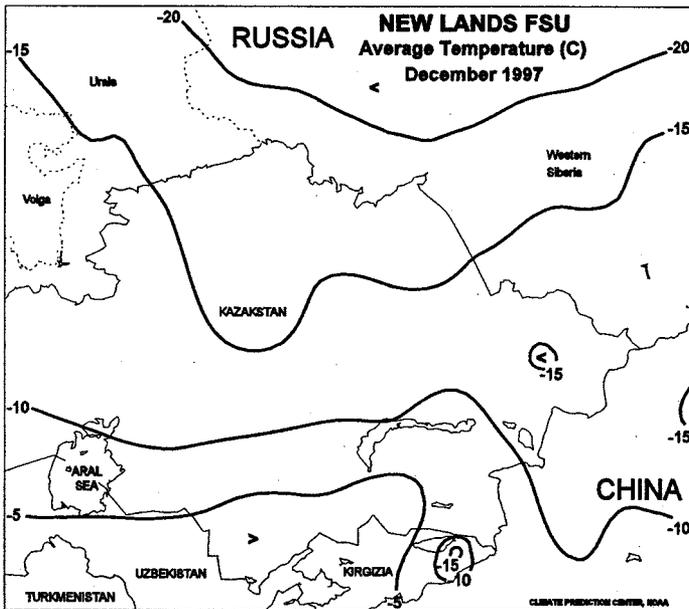
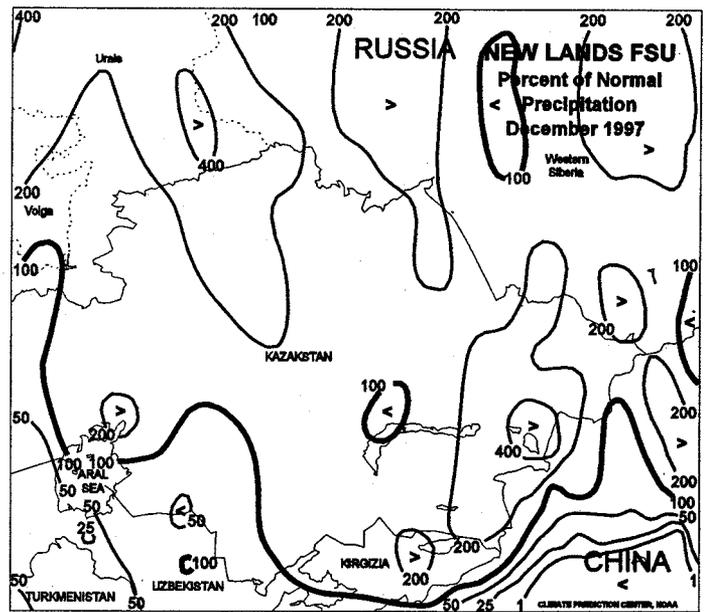
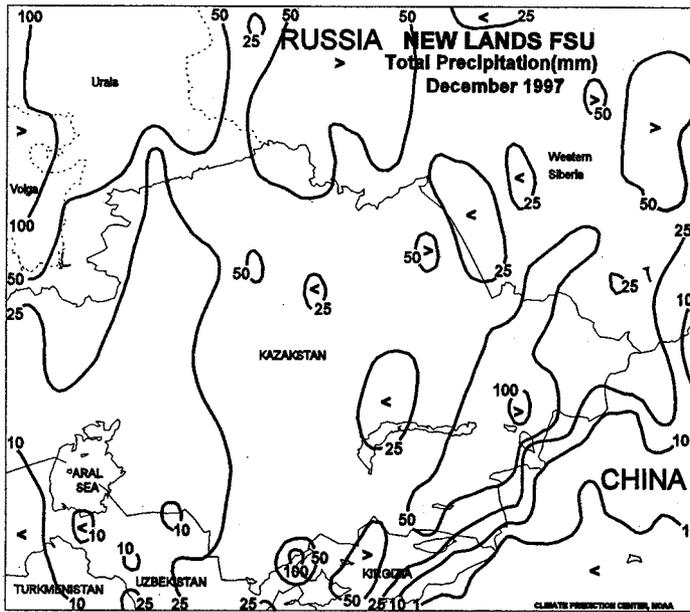


FSU-WESTERN



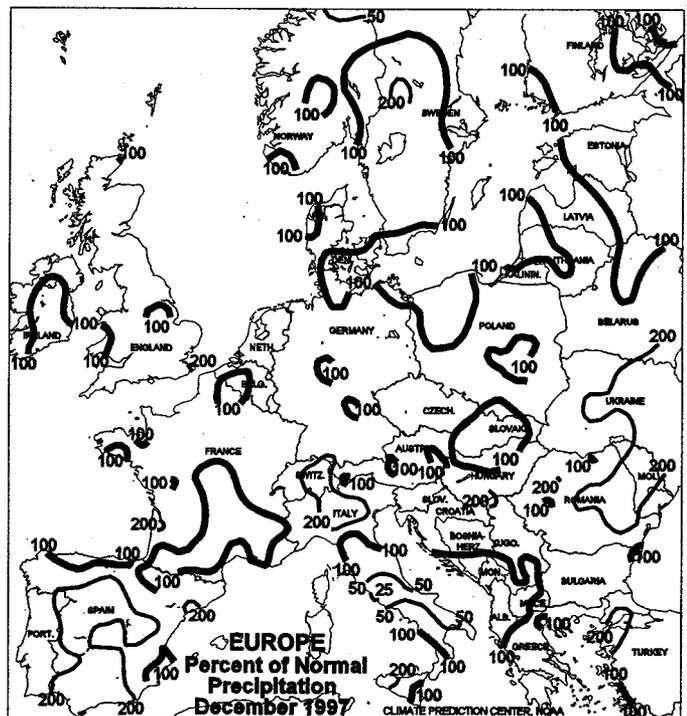
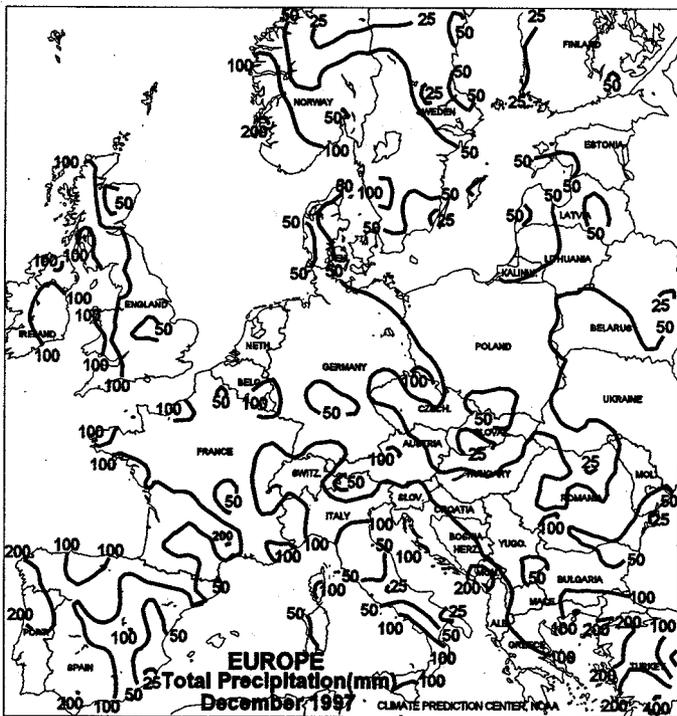
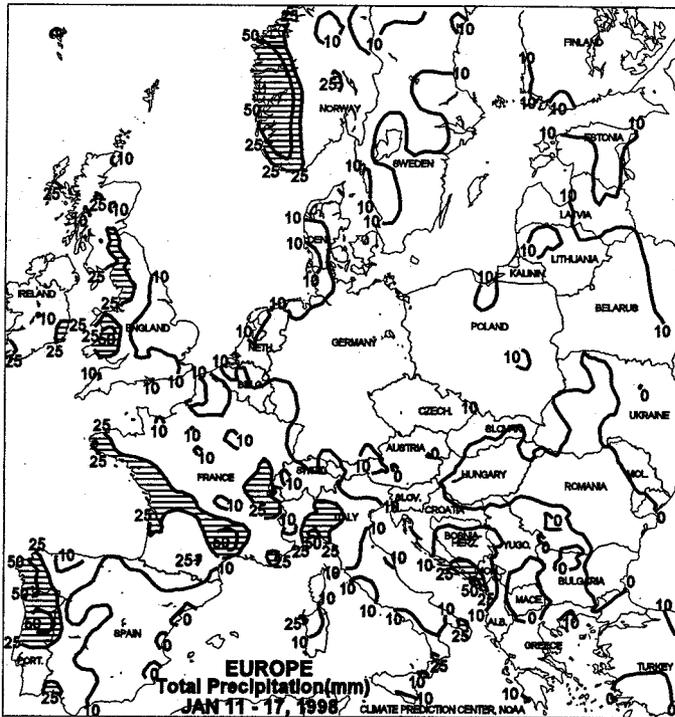
The third consecutive week of unusually mild weather (weekly temperatures averaging 3 to 9 degrees C above normal) maintained favorable overwintering conditions for winter grains in Ukraine, the Baltics, and Belarus. Winter wheat in most of Ukraine, the Baltics, and Belarus remained snow free during the week. At week's end, much colder weather spread west and south over winter grains in Russia and extreme eastern Ukraine. Minimum temperatures dropped to as low as -27 degrees C in northeastern crop areas of Russia. Temperatures in major winter wheat-producing areas in southern Russia ranged from -6 to -19 degrees C. In most areas, snow (4-20 mm liquid equivalent) accompanied the cold snap, providing a fresh layer of protective snow cover over winter grains. In December, above-normal precipitation fell in Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, and Lithuania, increasing moisture reserves. During December 15-18, temperatures fell sharply in most areas, threatening winter grains. Lowest temperatures during the period ranged from -17 C to less than -30 C, exceeding the threshold for potential winterkill. Temperatures as low as -33 C were observed in eastern Ukraine and central Russia near Moscow. An adequate snow cover protected winter grains from the Baltics eastward through most of northern Russia as well as the northern half of Ukraine. However, snow cover in key winter wheat-producing areas in the southern half of Ukraine and southern Russia (southern and central North Caucasus region, and lower Volga Valley) was thin or patchy. Winter grains, especially winter barley, likely sustained some damage in these vulnerable areas. However, the full extent of the damage will not be apparent until crops begin breaking dormancy in the spring. Beginning on December 19, temperatures moderated quickly, improving overwintering conditions.

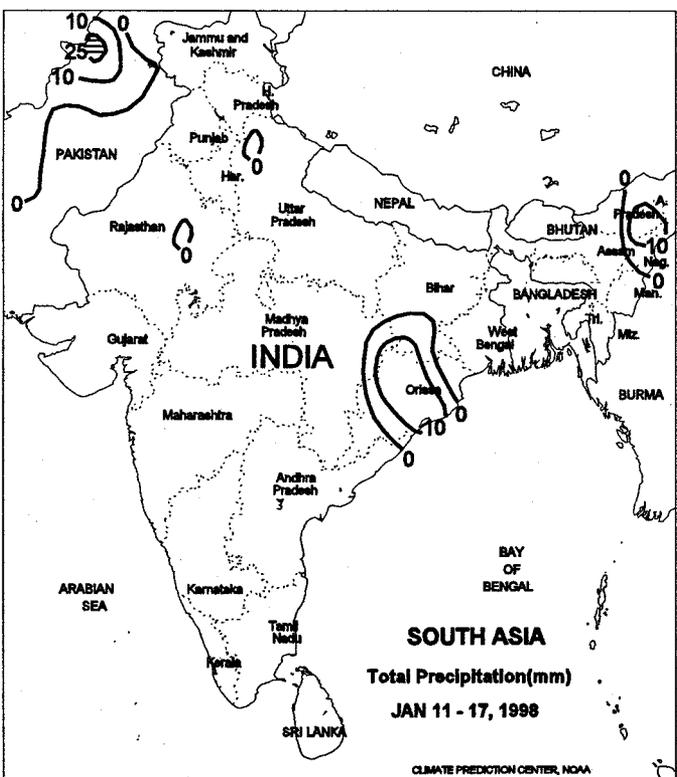
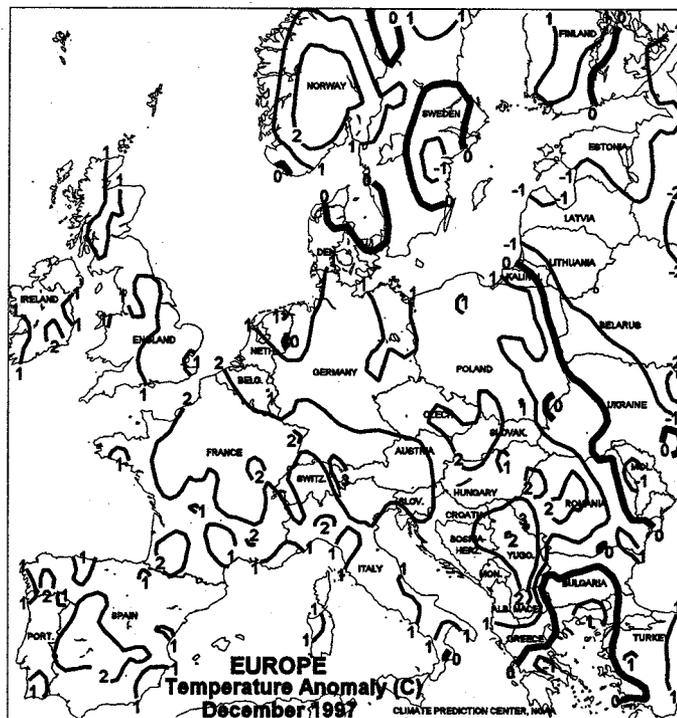




EUROPE

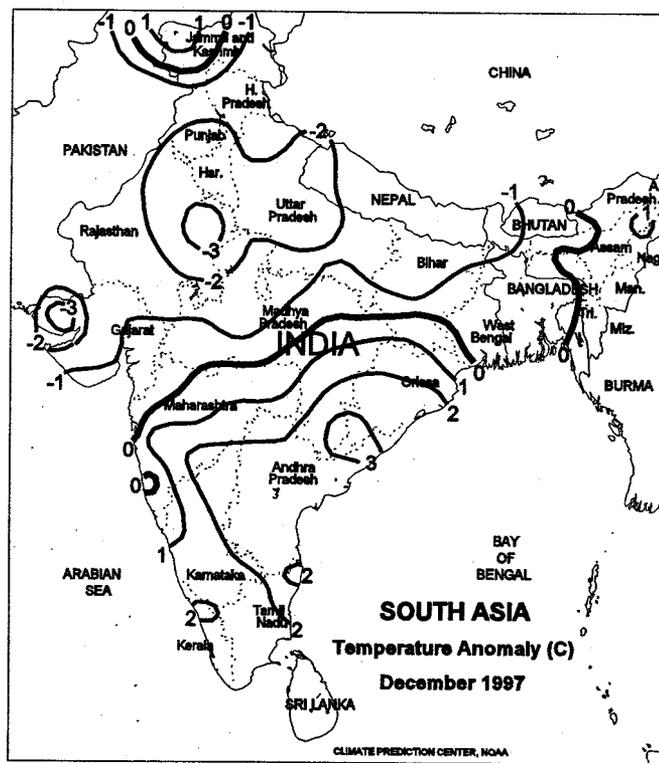
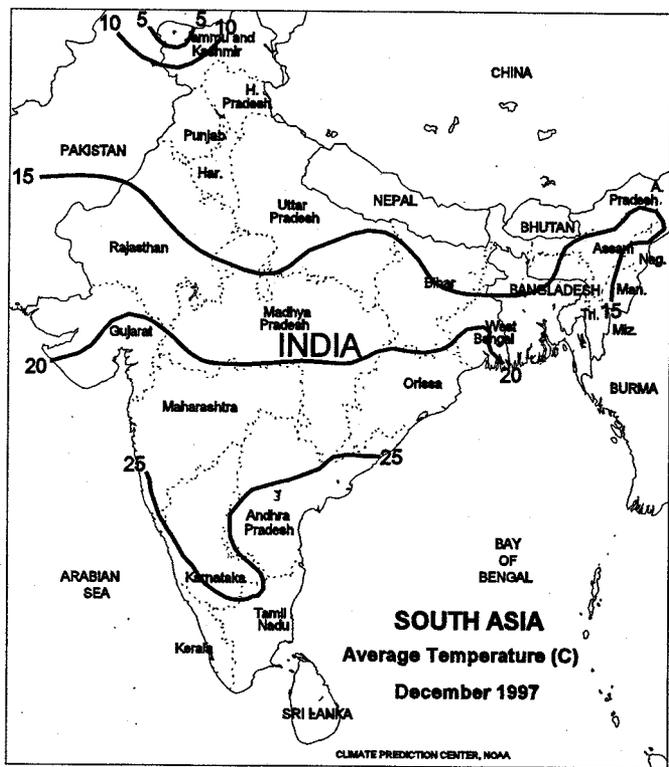
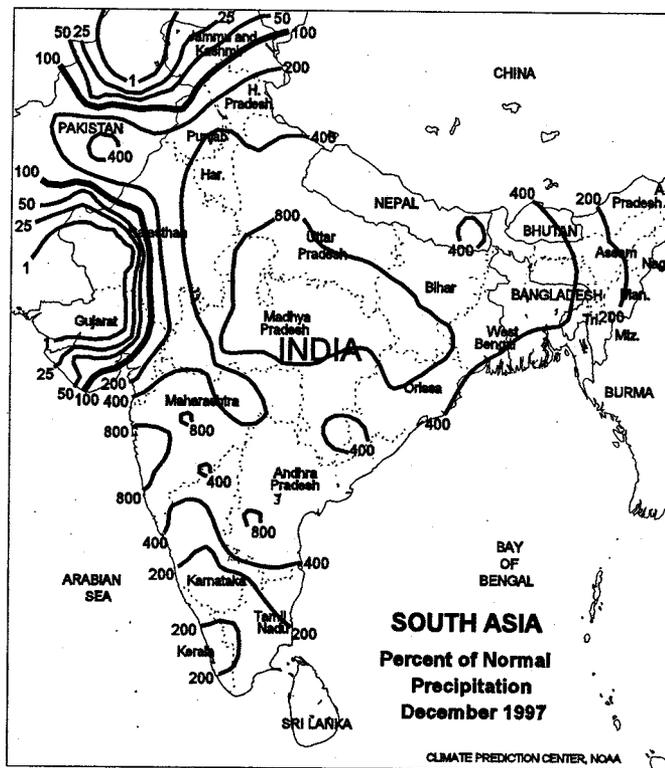
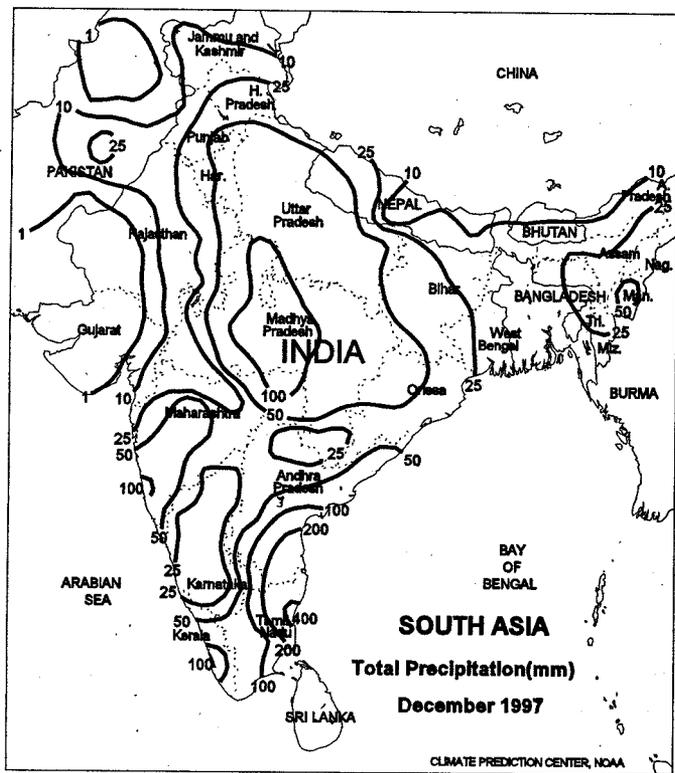
High pressure dominated the region early in the week but weakened with a transition to a stormier pattern, especially in the west. Widespread light to moderate precipitation (10-25 mm, with local amounts in excess of 25 mm) fell mainly as rain in the United Kingdom, France, western Germany, Portugal, western Spain, and northern Italy. In eastern Europe, light scattered precipitation (less than 10 mm) fell in Poland and the Czech Republic, while mostly dry weather prevailed farther south in southeastern Europe. Unseasonably mild weather continued over most winter grain areas in Europe, with weekly temperatures averaging 3 to 6 degrees C below normal. The continued mild weather in Europe has diminished protective snow cover in most areas and may have prompted some greening of crops in the north and east. In December, above-normal precipitation fell in most of Europe, boosting soil moisture reserves. Greatest amounts of precipitation (100-200 mm, with locally greater amounts) fell in Portugal and southern Spain, causing some flooding and delays in winter grain planting. There was a period of bitterly cold weather from December 16 to 19 that threatened winter grains in eastern Europe. Extreme minimum temperatures ranged from -15 to -19 degrees C in most of Poland, southern and eastern Romania, and Bulgaria. Temperatures below -19 degrees C were restricted to extreme eastern Poland and small areas in southeastern Romania and Bulgaria. While temperatures in these areas approached the threshold for potential winterkill, extreme cold was of short duration and was preceded by snow, minimizing the threat for widespread damage.



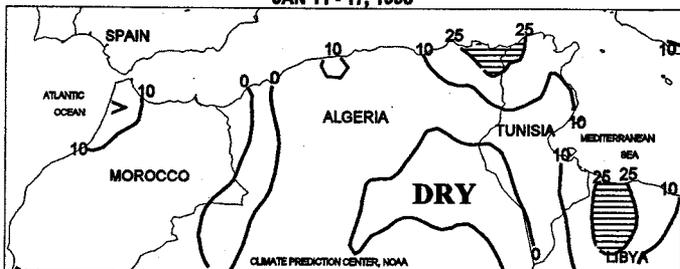


SOUTH ASIA

Seasonable dryness maintained generally favorable conditions for cotton and other mature summer crops. Temperatures averaged near to above normal in most areas, promoting winter grain and oilseed development. In December, persistent, unseasonable shower activity finally subsided over central India. However, a significant portion of the region received an additional 25 to 100 mm of rainfall (4-10 times the normal amount) early in the month, hampering seasonal fieldwork and keeping mature cotton, oilseeds, and coarse grains unfavorably wet. Below-normal temperatures associated with the wetness slowed early winter grain development from central India to Pakistan. Weekly coverage of South Asia will resume in June with the arrival of the southwest monsoon. A monthly summary will appear in the interim, coinciding with the publication of monthly analyses in the *Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin*.



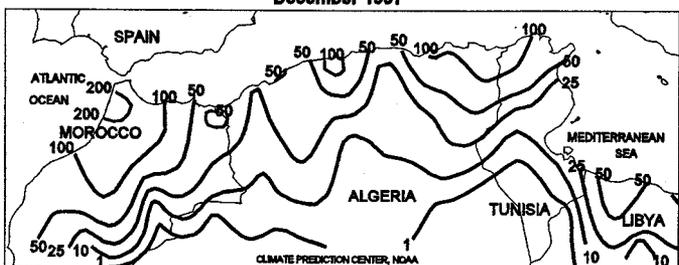
NORTHWEST AFRICA Total Precipitation (mm)
JAN 11 - 17, 1998



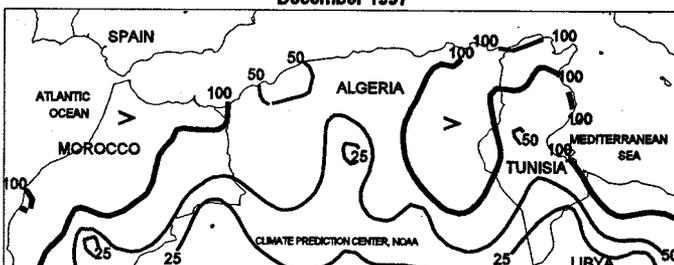
NORTHWESTERN AFRICA

Light, scattered precipitation dampened winter grains in the vegetative stage in Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia. Greatest amounts of moisture (10-27 mm) fell in northeastern Algeria and northern Tunisia, with lesser amounts of precipitation (generally less than 10 mm) falling over remaining crop areas in Algeria and Morocco. Temperatures during the week were 2 to 4 degrees C above normal in most areas, spurring crop growth but increasing evaporation rates. In December, above-normal precipitation in Morocco, eastern Algeria, and Tunisia provided beneficial moisture for winter grain emergence and early establishment. Precipitation tapered off to below normal in winter grain areas of western and central Algeria. While December's below-normal precipitation pattern in these areas allowed the swift completion of winter grain planting, crops had to rely on soil moisture reserves to sustain early growth. Moisture reserves are becoming depleted in these areas and significant rain is needed soon to prevent a deterioration in crop conditions.

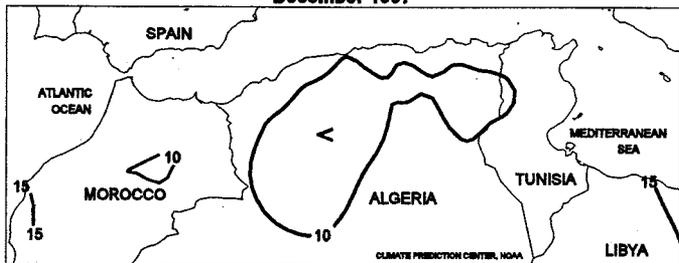
NORTHWEST AFRICA Total Precipitation (mm)
December 1997



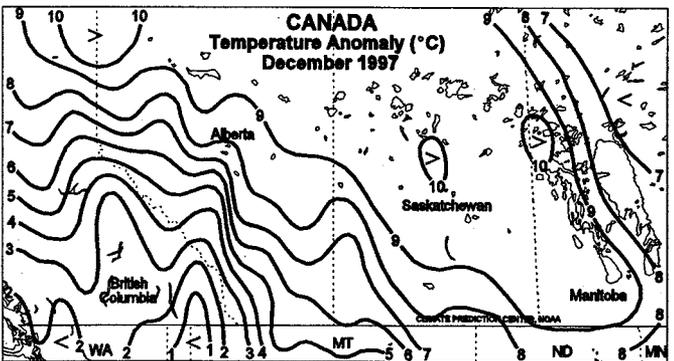
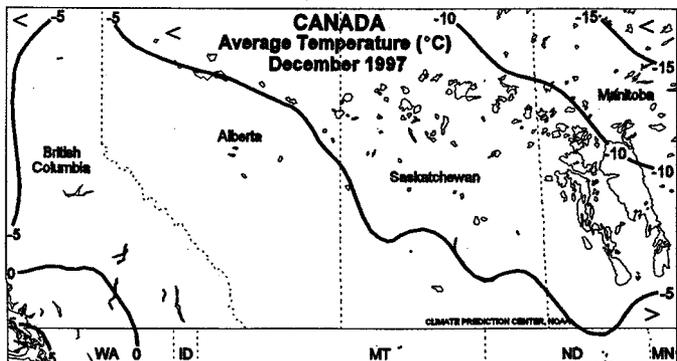
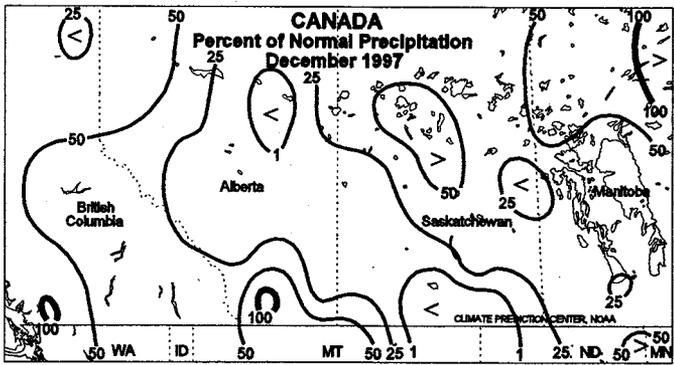
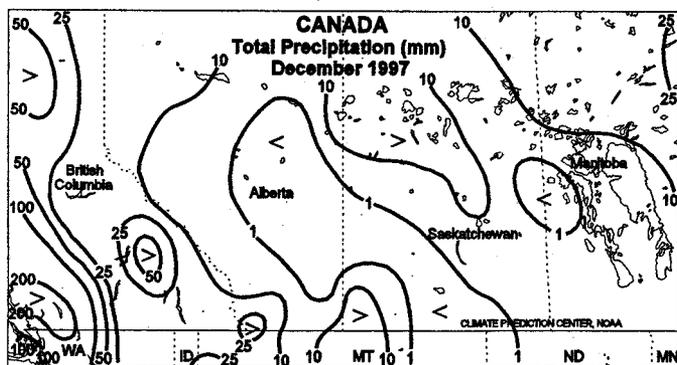
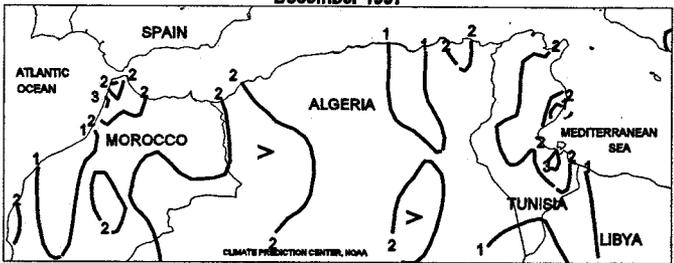
NORTHWEST AFRICA Percent of Normal Precipitation
December 1997

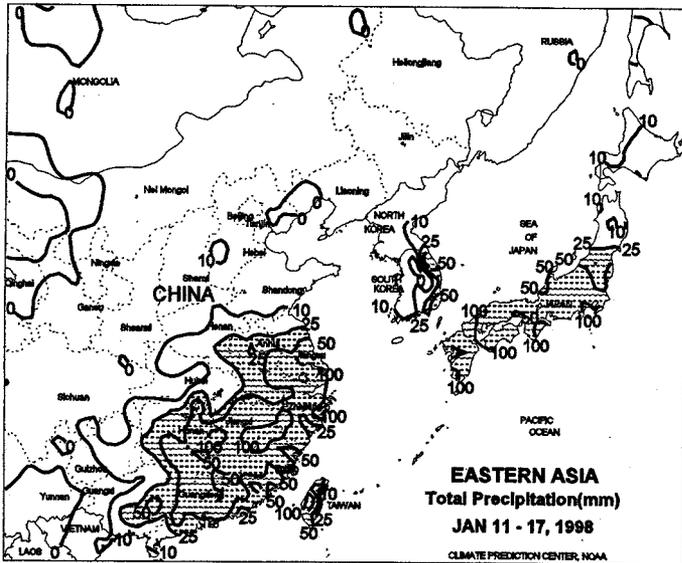


NORTHWEST AFRICA Average Temperature (C)
December 1997



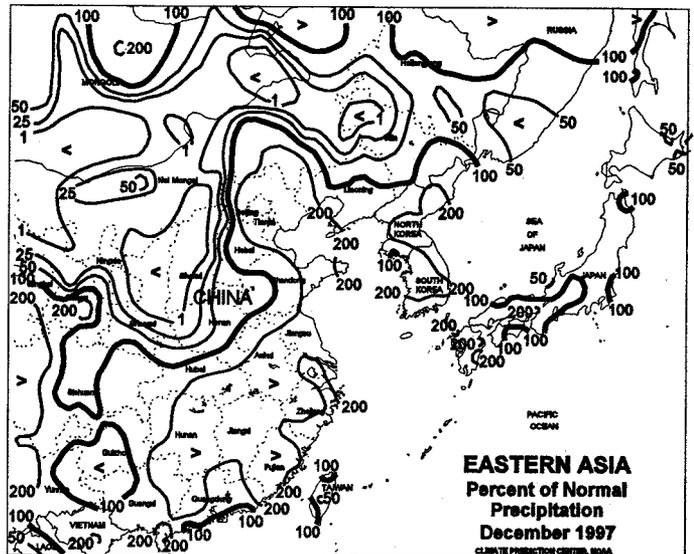
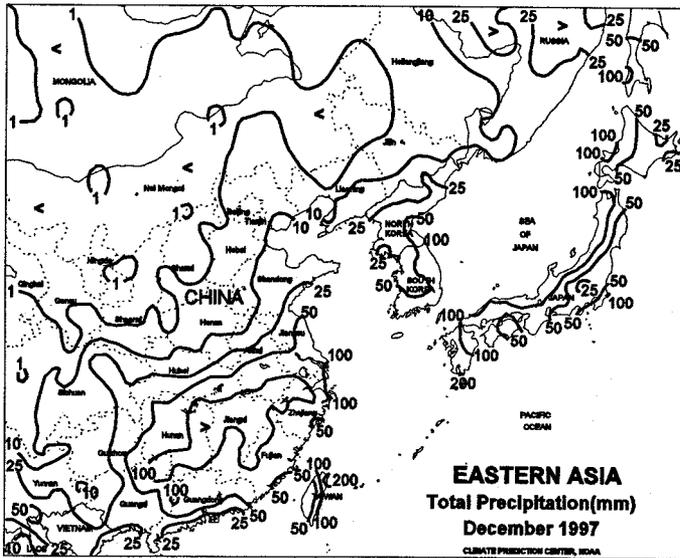
NORTHWEST AFRICA Temperature Anomaly (C)
December 1997

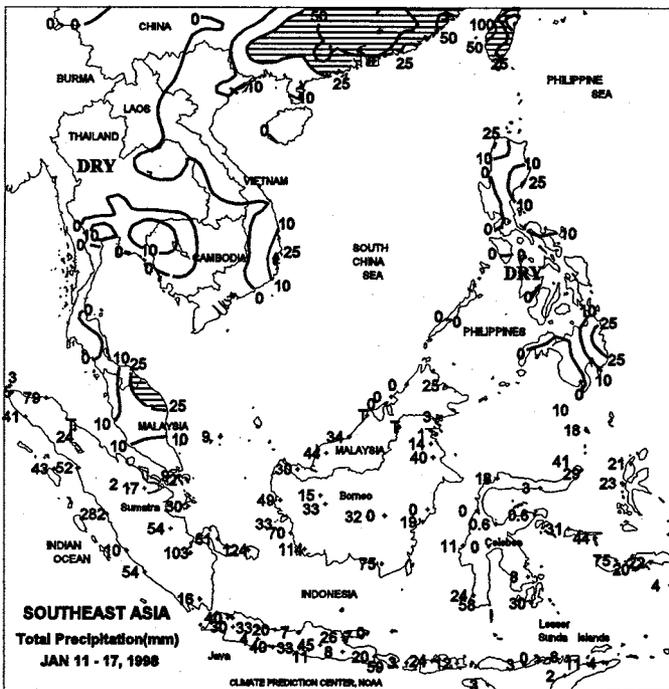
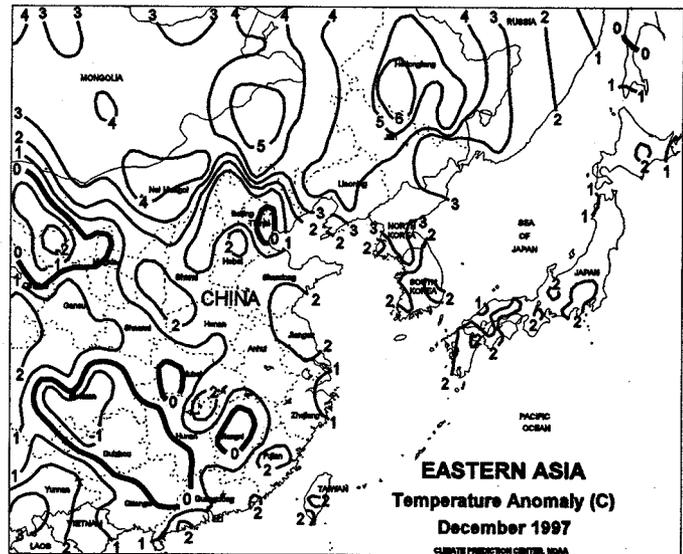
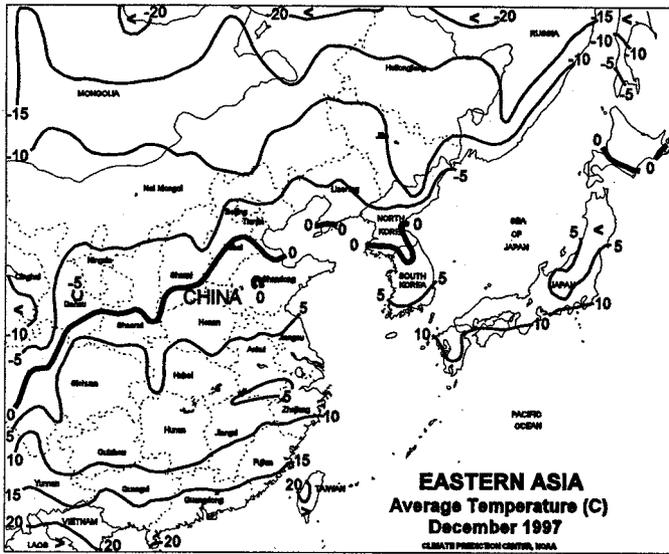




EASTERN ASIA

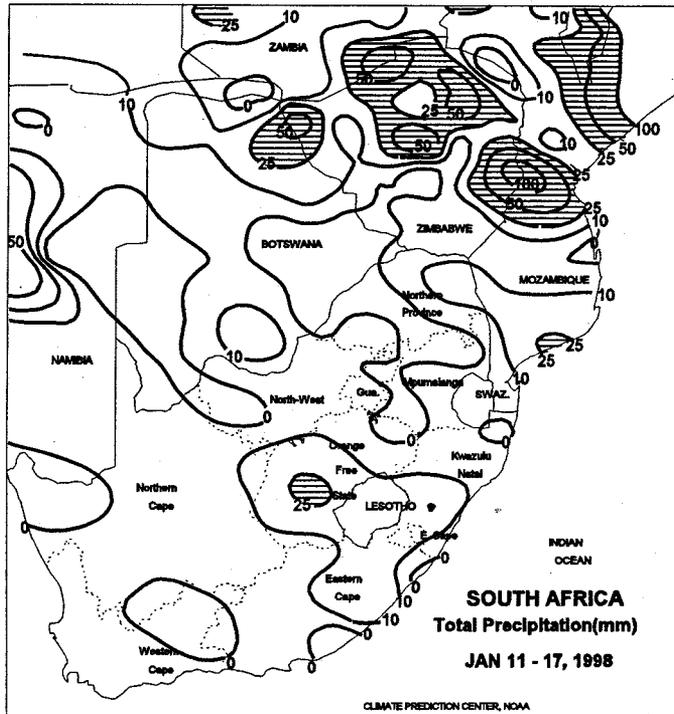
Seasonably cold weather (minimum temperatures -5 to -10 degrees C) kept wheat dormant across the North China Plain. Light precipitation (1-10 mm) in the main wheat belt of the North China Plain and moderate rain (15-40 mm) in northern Anhui and Jiangsu boosted moisture supplies. Across the Yangtze Valley and southern China, widespread rain (20-75 mm, with isolated amounts greater than 100 mm) favored vegetative winter grains and oilseeds. This is the continuation of the December rainfall pattern where rainfall averaged greater than 200 percent of normal from the southern North China Plain to southern China. Monthly temperatures averaged 1 to 2 degrees C above normal, but were still cool enough for winter wheat to enter dormancy.





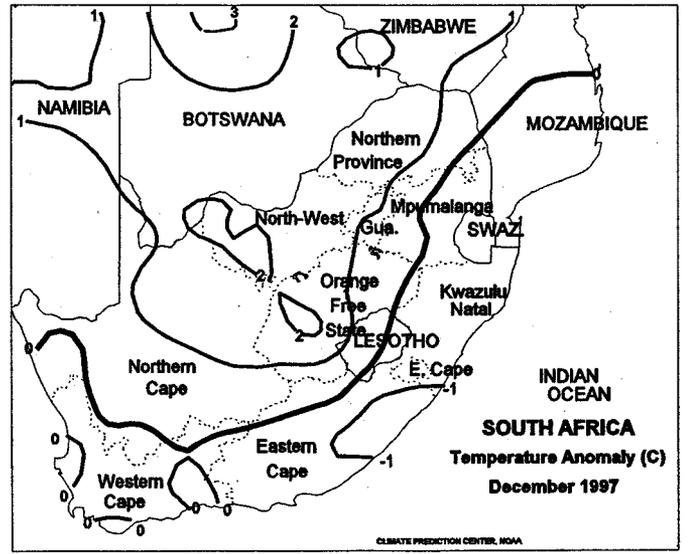
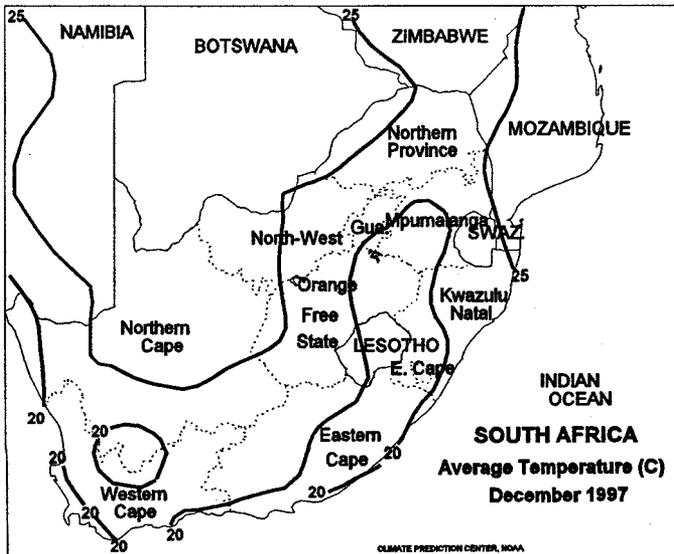
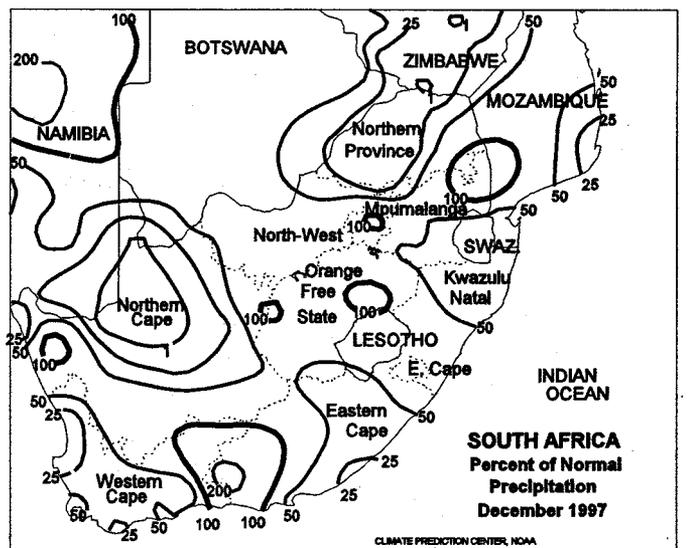
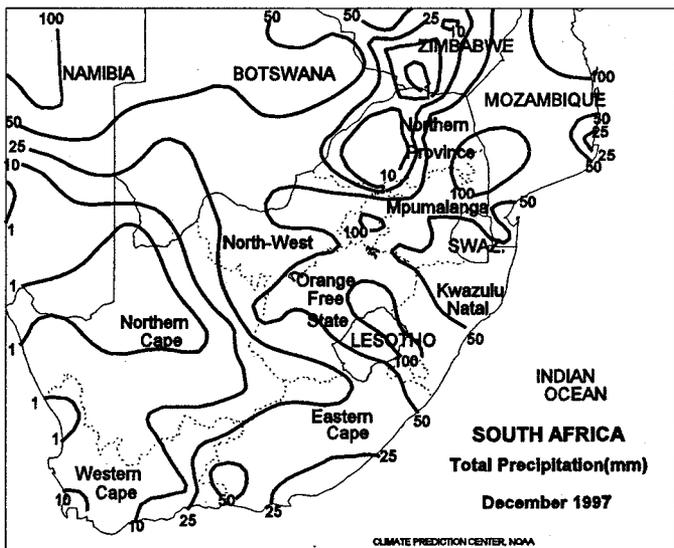
SOUTHEAST ASIA

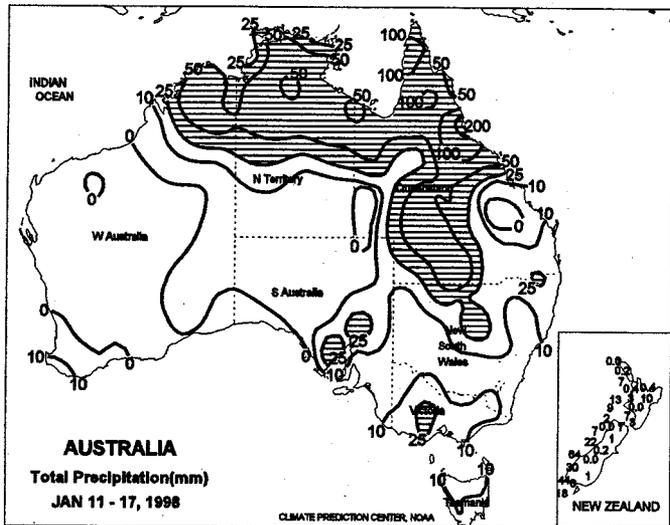
Widespread showers continued across southern Sumatra (20-100 mm) and Java (10-45 mm), aiding main-season rice. In the Philippines, drought worsened due to continued mostly dry, warm weather (rainfall less than 15 mm; temperatures averaging 2-3 degrees C above normal). Much drier weather (less than 15 mm) brought relief from excessive moisture to peninsular Malaysia. In December, near-to slightly below-normal December rainfall aided main-season rice across southern Sumatra and Java. Much-below-normal rainfall (less than 50 percent of normal) worsened drought across the northern Philippines. Above-normal December rainfall favored oil palm across the Malay Peninsula, but caused some local flooding.



SOUTH AFRICA

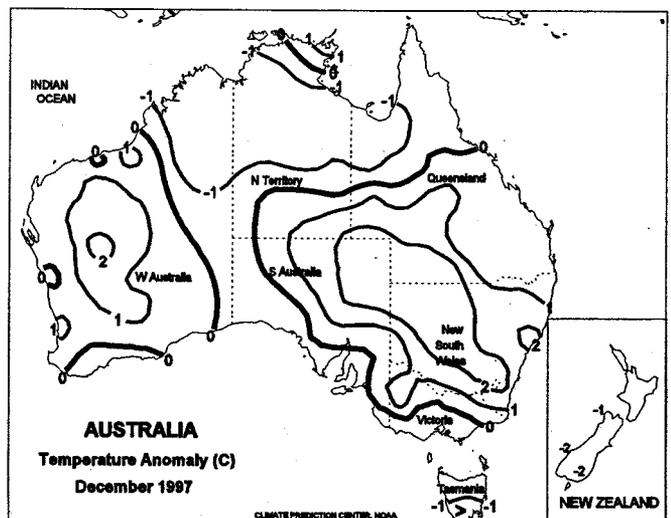
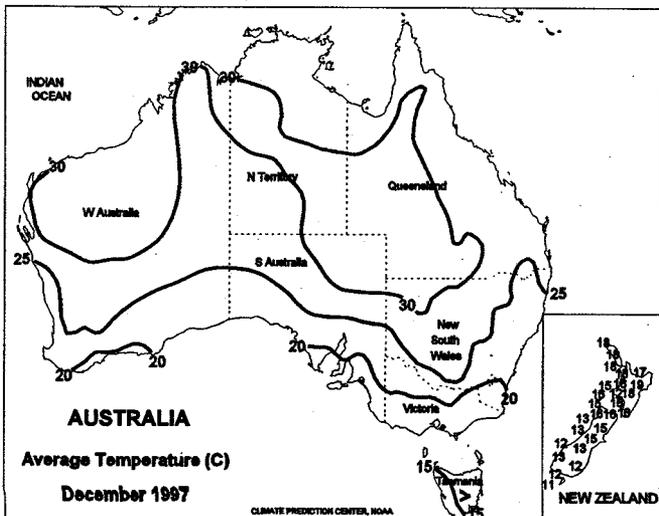
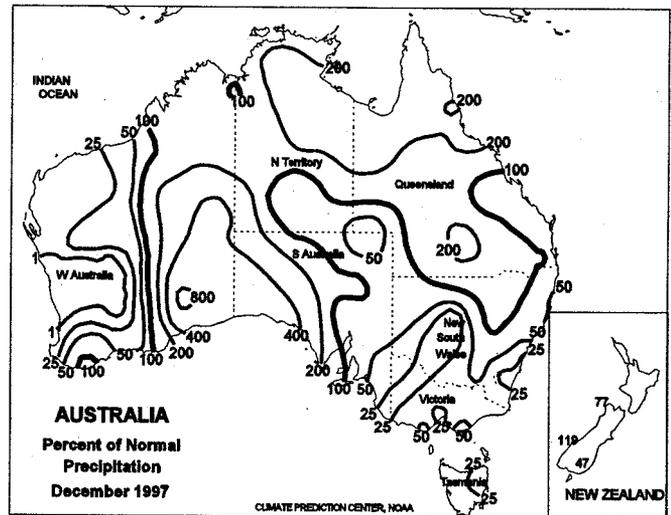
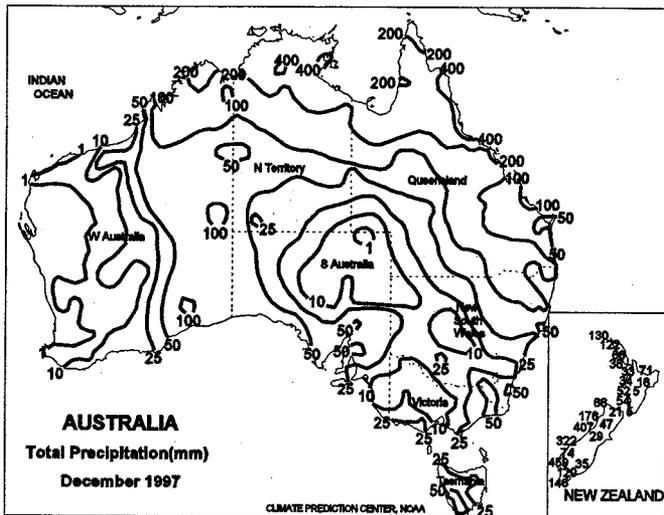
A drier, but still mild weather pattern dominated the region, with rainfall generally ranging from 4 to 18 mm across the corn belt. Light to moderate rain also covered crop areas in the coastal provinces, including the primary sugarcane region. Temperatures continued to average below normal (1-3 degrees C below normal, highs ranging from the mid 20's to lower 30's C), reducing crop moisture demands. Corn development varied from the newly emerging (primarily in the west) to the reproductive (prevalent in the east) stage. Highly beneficial rainfall of the past few weeks and the absence of oppressive heat has greatly improved crop prospects. However, long-term moisture deficits remain high in western growing areas, necessitating steady doses of rain for the remainder of the growing season. In fact, December rainfall averaged about 50 percent of normal (25-50 mm) in the heart of the corn belt, with much of that coming late in the month. Temperatures averaged near to above normal, with episodes of unseasonable heat exacerbating evaporative losses. Reports from within South Africa indicate that a significant portion of the crop (more than half) was not planted prior to the rains of late December.

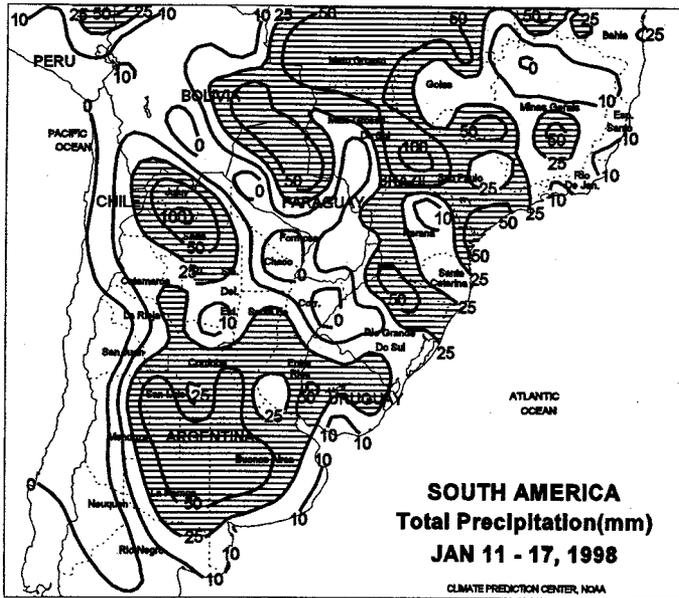




AUSTRALIA

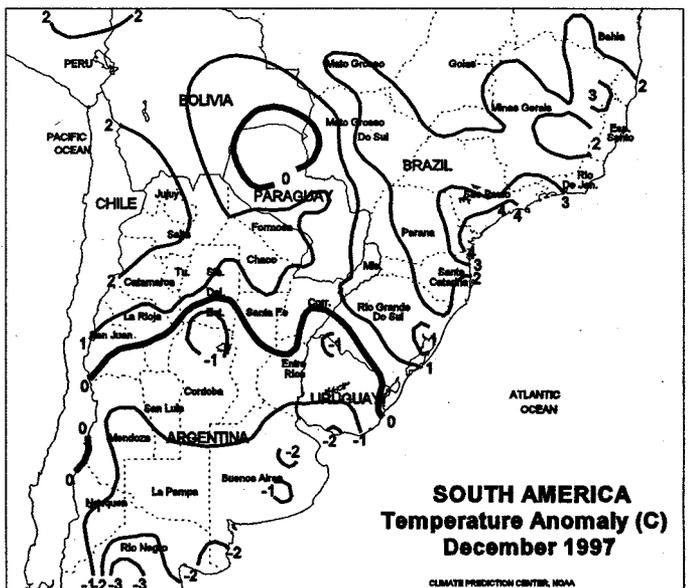
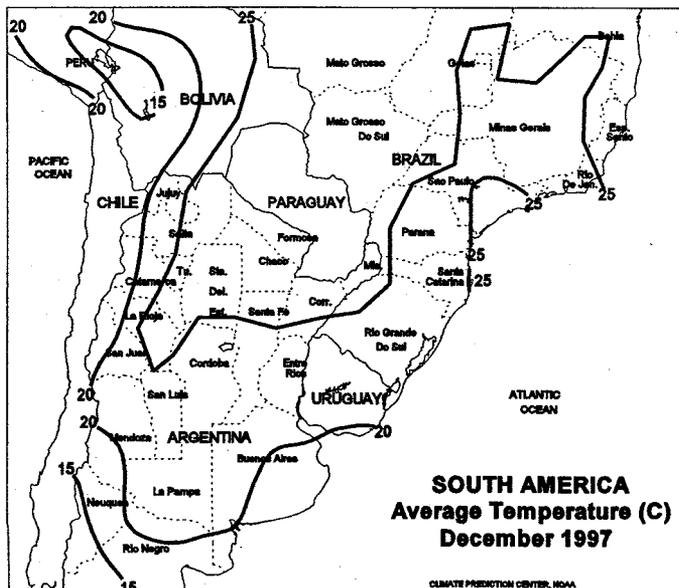
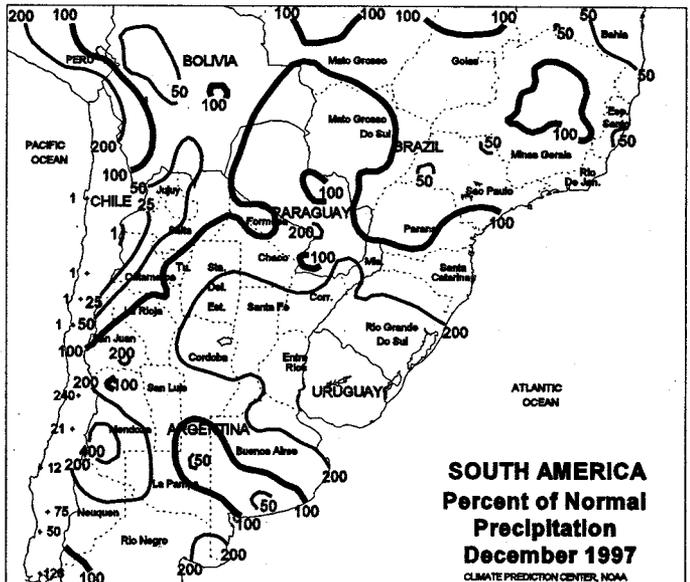
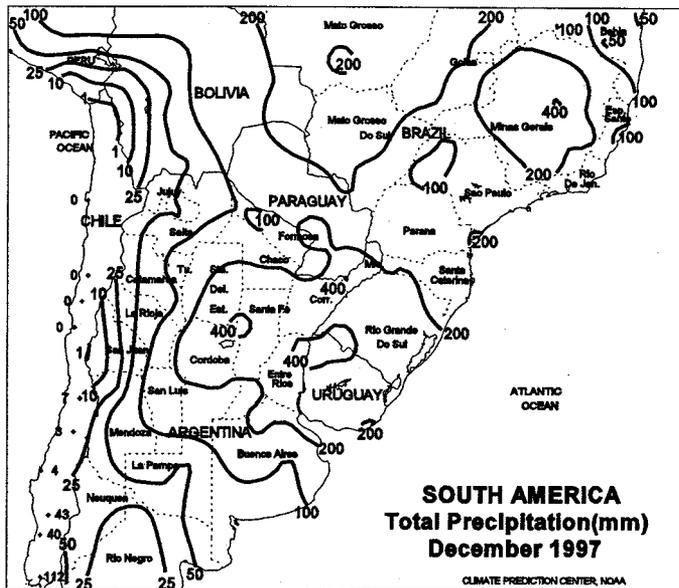
Widespread, locally heavy rain continued throughout the east. Rainfall totaled 15 to 50 mm or more in western summer crop and grazing areas of New South Wales and Queensland. Showers were lighter (5-15 mm) in eastern crop areas from Darling Downs northward. Temperatures averaged near to below normal, but highs reached the upper 30's C at many locations. Farther north, very heavy rain (100-300 mm) continued in Queensland's northern sugarcane area. This week's rainfall was due partly to a tropical cyclone that grazed the coast late in the week, partially fueling an already active monsoon. During December, rainfall was near to above normal across the main summer crop areas, due mainly to the high frequency of rainfall early in the month. By late December, a more tropical pattern dominated the region, with monsoonal rain covering much of the north, including northern sections of Queensland's sugarcane areas. In contrast, near- to below-normal December rainfall benefited late winter grain harvests in the west and southeast, although showers disrupted fieldwork early in the month in South Australia.





SOUTH AMERICA

Widespread showers (15-50 mm, with isolated amounts greater than 75 mm) covered most major soybean areas of southern Brazil, maintaining adequate soil moisture for vegetative soybeans. In Mato Grosso do Sul, however, light rainfall (7-22 mm) limited soil moisture for developing soybeans. In central Argentina, excellent weather continued for reproductive corn and vegetative soybeans. Rain (35-80 mm) kept soil moisture levels high, and cool weather (temperatures 1-3 degrees C below normal) reduced crop water use. Light to moderate rain (15-30 mm) slowed winter wheat harvesting in southern Buenos Aires. In December, near- to above-normal rainfall and cool weather (monthly temperatures 1-2 degrees C below normal) provided ideal weather for corn and soybeans in central Argentina. In southern Brazil, above-normal rainfall in Rio Grande do Sul and near-normal rainfall elsewhere aided soybeans.



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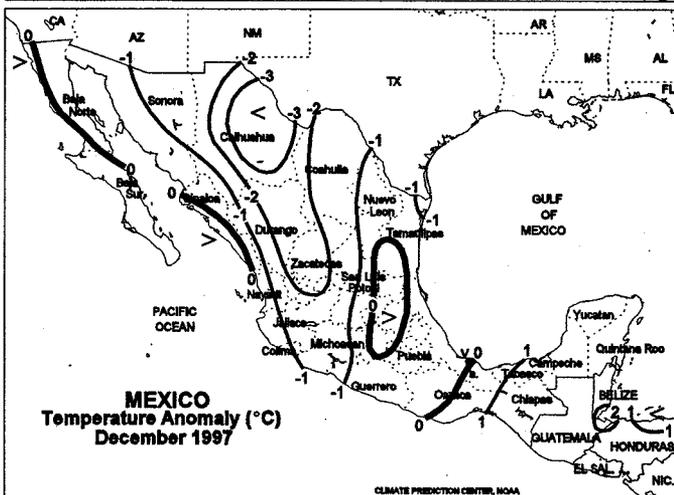
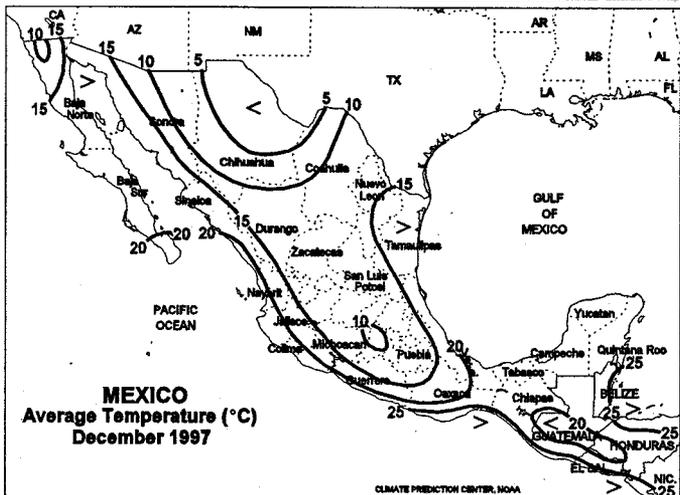
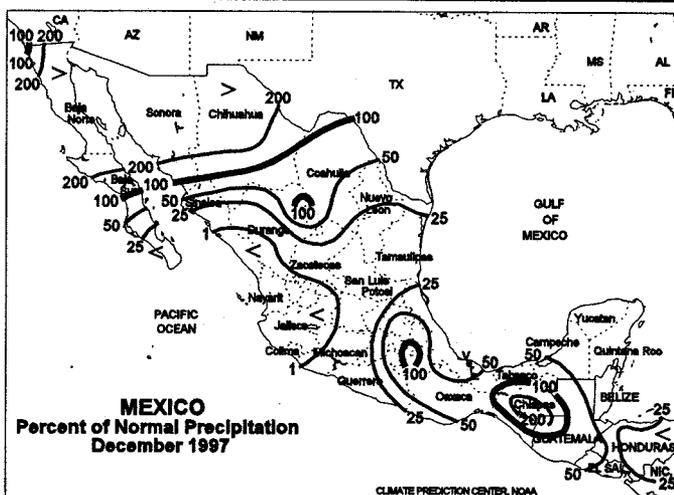
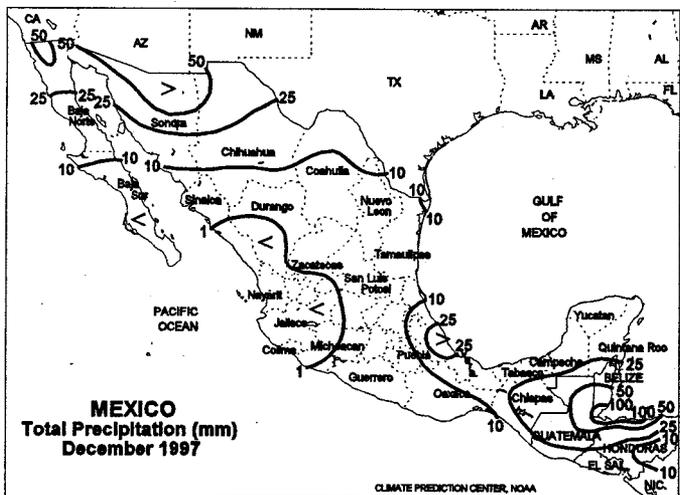
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