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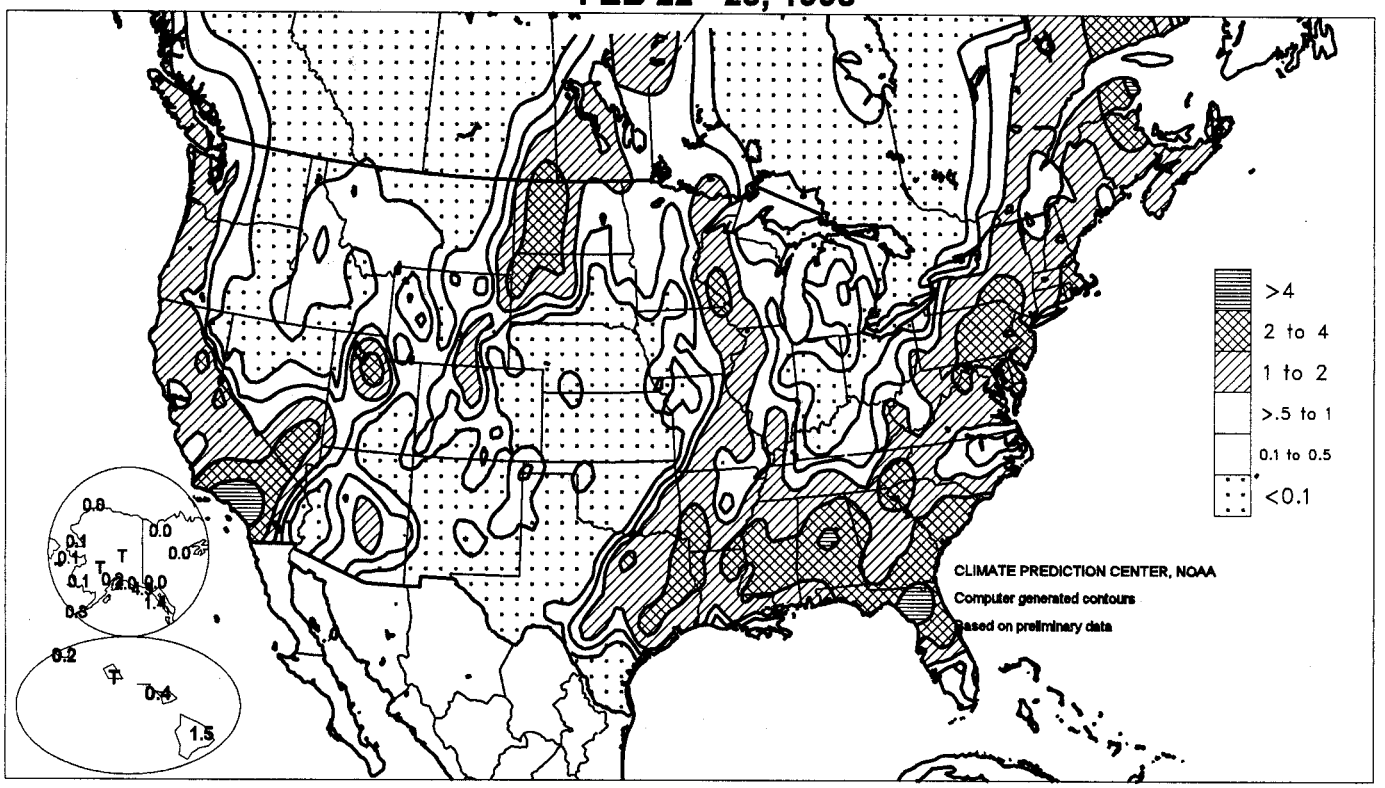
WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP BULLETIN

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)
FEB 22 - 28, 1998



HIGHLIGHTS

February 22 - 28, 1998

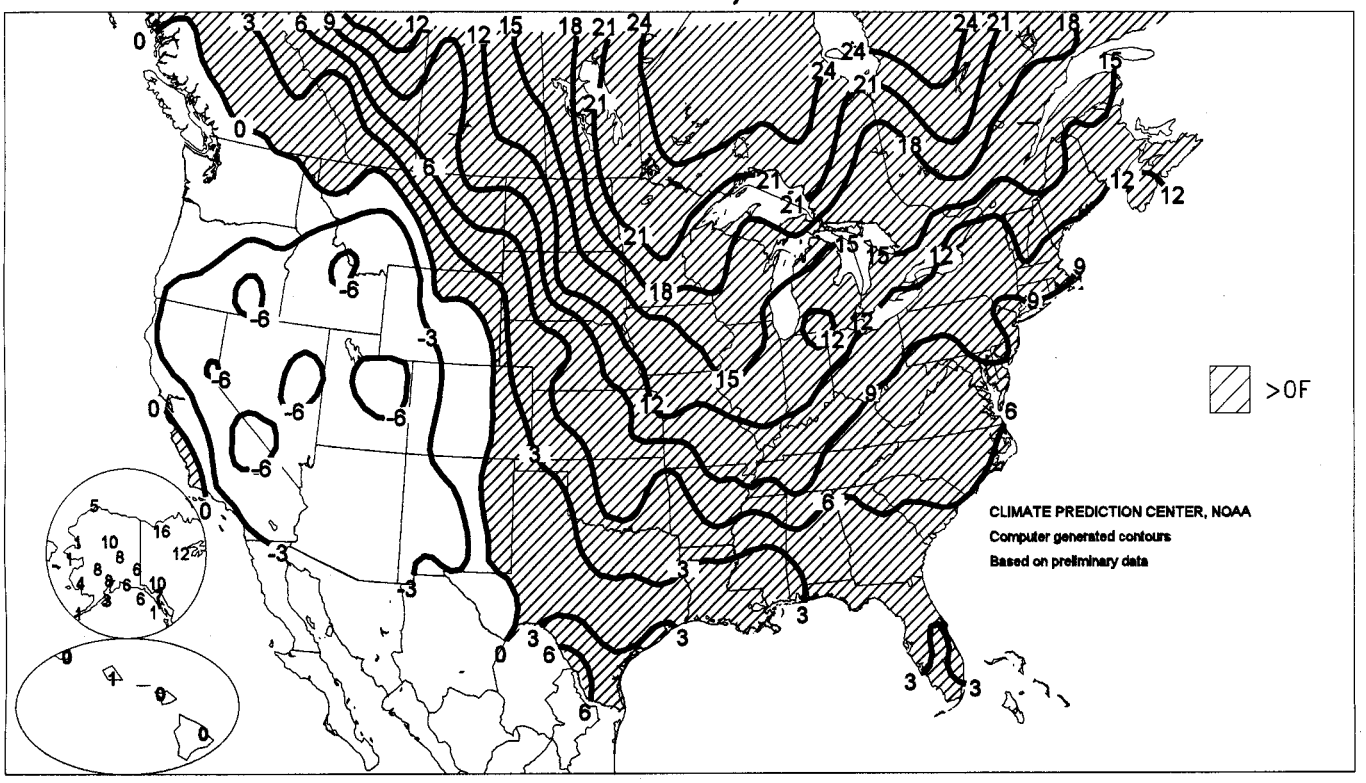
A major weather-pattern change allowed **California** to dry out after an early-week deluge, but led to the development of blizzard conditions on parts of the **northern Plains**. In the **Southeast,** another major low-pressure system sparked a tornado outbreak in **central Florida** on the night of February 22-23, leaving 38 people dead, and soaked the **Gulf and Atlantic Coast States** with a 1- to 5-inch rainfall. Heavy snow fell farther inland. Late in the week, the storm responsible for the blizzard also produced showers and thunderstorms from **eastern Texas** to the **western Great Lakes States**. Much colder air settled into the **West** during the week, resulting in temperatures as much as 7°F below normal. Farther east, mild weather prevailed for the sixth consecutive week from the **Midwest** into the **Northeast,** as temperatures averaged 8 to 22°F above normal.

(Continued on page 3)

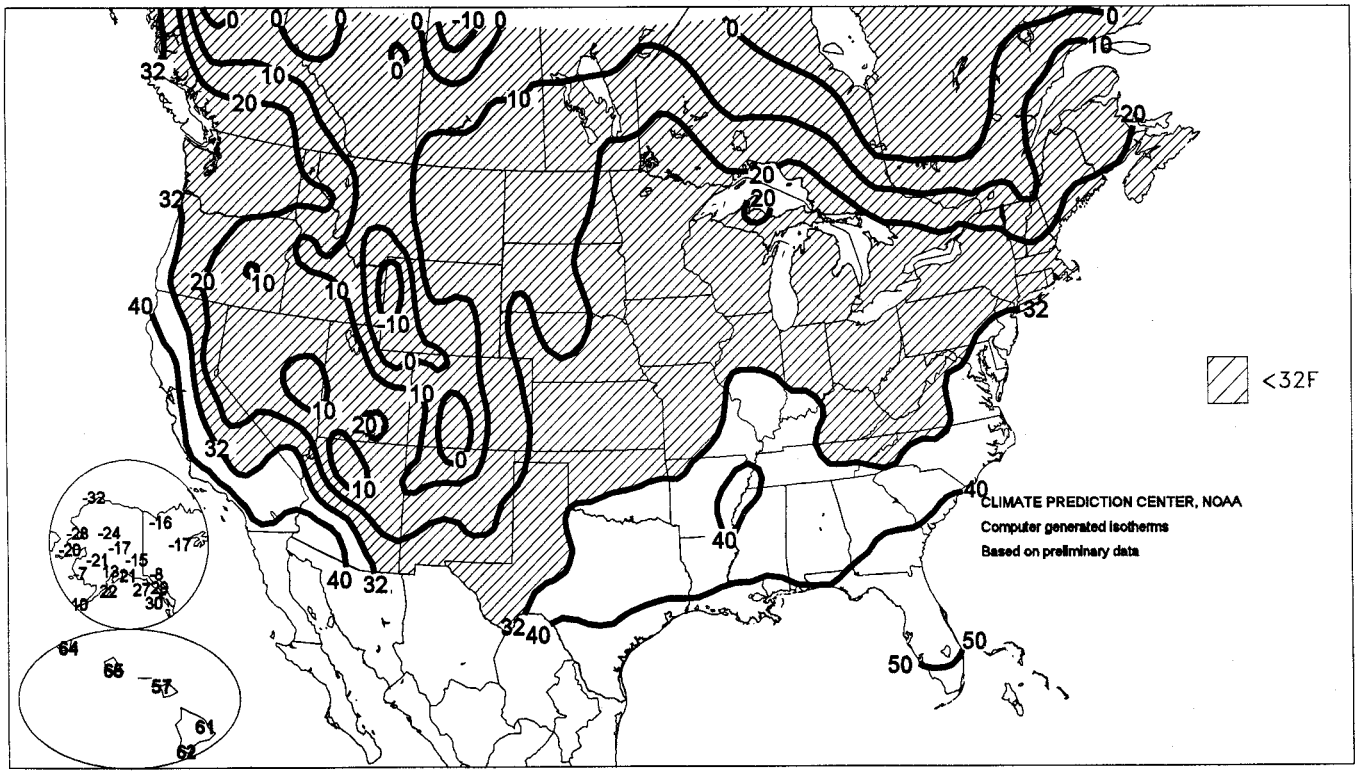
Contents

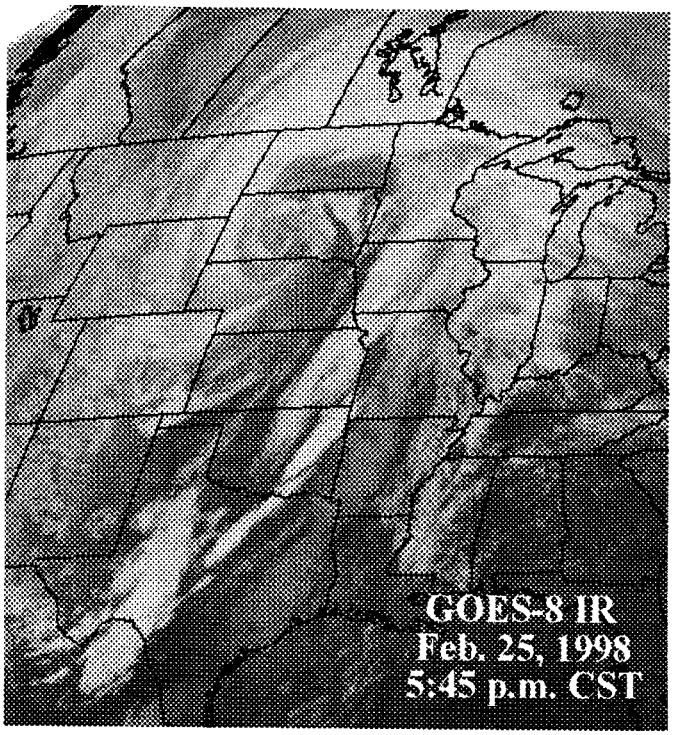
Temperature Departure & Extreme Minimum Temperature Maps 2
National Weather Data for Selected Cities 4
National Agricultural Summary & Snow Cover Map 7
February State Agricultural Summaries 8
International Weather and Crop Summary 12
Subscription Information 16

Departure of Average Temperature from Normal (°F)
FEB 22 - 28, 1998



Extreme Minimum Temperature (°F)
FEB 22 - 28, 1998





Impressive Storm: The same system that dumped 10.12 inches of rain on California's Mount Wilson in 24 hours (February 22-23) later spun through the northern Plains with a central pressure as low as 28.85 inches (977 millibars). By March 1, after 5 days of blizzard conditions, storm-total snowfall reached 84 inches in Galena, SD. The storm also dumped 19.4 inches of snow on Salt Lake City, UT (on February 24-25), propelling the city to its wettest winter month on record (4.89 inches).

(Continued from front cover)
The system in the **South** and **East**, the latest in a 20-week series of storms, traveled from near the **Mississippi Delta** on Sunday to the **New England Coast** by midweek. The storm padded February-record rainfall totals in **Wilmington, NC** (11.22 inches), **Norfolk, VA** (8.21 inches), and **Roanoke, VA** (8.00 inches). Farther inland, snowfall reached 18 inches in **northeastern Pennsylvania** and 12 inches in **Vermont**. In **New York**, February 24 totals included 18.5 inches in **Binghamton** and 13.0 inches in **Syracuse**, and storm-total snowfall reached 30 inches in **Broome County**. February 24 wind gusts were clocked to 63 mph in **Milton, MA** (Blue Hill Observatory) and 72 mph on **Maine's Matinicus Rock**. To the south, nearly a dozen tornadoes swept across **central Florida** on Sunday night, becoming the State's deadliest outbreak. Previously, 17 died in **Santa Rosa County** during the outbreak of March 31, 1962. The storm also boosted monthly record totals in **Florida** to 10.82 inches in **Tampa** and 11.12 inches in **Jacksonville**. **Tampa's** winter (December-February) precipitation was 31.03 inches, more than double the former record (14.86 inches in 1936-37), and 430 percent of normal.

On Tuesday, highs briefly surged into the 70's and lower 80's across the **central and southern High Plains**, including 77°F in **Lamar, CO** and 81°F in **Midland, TX**. Farther north, more than a dozen daily-record highs were set across the **Great Lakes States** and **Northeast**. On Thursday, highs reached 63°F in **Chicago, IL** and 68°F in **Indianapolis, IN**. Two days later, records were tied or broken in locations such as **Flint, MI** (56°F) and **St. Johnsbury, VT** (54°F). In **Omaha, NE**, temperatures remained above freezing for 10 consecutive days (February 14-23), breaking their February record of 8 days, set in 1930. Similarly, readings remained above 32°F for 12 days in a row (February 15-26) in **Des Moines, IA**, besting their previous February record of 5 days, set in 1983, 1981, and 1915. In **Wisconsin**, above-normal temperatures prevailed on 84 of the winter's 90 days in **LaCrosse**, while the winter ended with 45 consecutive days of above-normal readings in **Milwaukee**.

Farther west, **Medford, OR** had a single freeze during the month, breaking their February record of 3 days, set in 1958.

The last in a month-long series of storms struck **California** early in the week, causing additional flooding and mudslides. In the south, 24-hour rainfall rates on **Mt. Wilson** reached 10.12 inches on February 22-23. On the **San Dieguito River**, water flow over the **Lake Hodges Dam** crested at 18.64 inches above the spillway on February 24. Despite a few dry days at month's end, season-to-date rainfall through March 1 stood at 160 to 250 percent of normal at the major reporting stations. Downtown **San Francisco** netted 38.48 inches from July 1, 1997, to February 28, 1998, their highest seasonal total this century. The previous highest was 38.17 inches in 1982-83. In the **Sierra Nevada**, water content of the snowpack stood at 40 inches (165 percent of normal) on March 1, up from 20 inches (107 percent) at the end of January and 9 inches (74 percent) on January 1, 1998.

As the storm moved inland, heavy precipitation fell in the **Southwest**. In **Tucson, AZ**, monthly rainfall increased to 3.20 inches, their second-highest February total. In **Nevada, Las Vegas'** monthly total rose to 2.89 inches, surpassing their February record of 2.52 inches, set in 1993. During a 48-hour period on February 24-26, 48.5 inches of snow fell in **Alta, UT**. **Salt Lake City, UT** experienced its fourth-greatest storm-total snowfall (19.4 inches on February 24-25). Across a sliver of the **North Central States**, meanwhile, blizzard conditions developed on Wednesday, continuing through week's end. The low-pressure system deepened to 28.85 inches (977 millibars) near the **Nebraska-South Dakota border** on February 25. The same day, winds gusted to 74 mph in **Sidney, NE** and at **Ellsworth A.F.B.**, near **Rapid City, SD**. Wind chills dipped as low as -15 to -30°F in the **western Dakotas, northwestern Nebraska, eastern Wyoming**, and **eastern Montana**. By Sunday, March 1, storm-total snowfall in **western South Dakota** reached 84 inches in **Galena** and 68 inches near **Lead**, with drifts estimated at 12 feet. In **North Dakota, Minot** had 25 inches on the ground.

National Weather Data for Selected Cities

Weather Data for the Week Ending February 28, 1998

Data Provided by 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			
																	TEMP, °F		PRECIP.	
		AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	EXTREME HIGH	EXTREME LOW	AVERAGE	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	WEEKLY TOTAL, IN.	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	GREATEST IN 24-HOUR, IN.	TOTAL, IN., SINCE Dec 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Dec 1	TOTAL, IN., SINCE Jan 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Jan 1	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	90 AND ABOVE	32 AND BELOW	.01 INCH OR MORE	.50 INCH OR MORE
AL	BIRMINGHAM	65	42	74	34	54	5	2.55	1.27	1.68	20.68	138	16.58	169	99	43	0	0	3	2
	HUNTSVILLE	64	41	71	36	53	7	1.65	0.31	1.24	17.84	112	14.55	145	95	43	0	0	3	1
	MOBILE	69	46	72	38	58	2	1.21	-0.27	1.01	25.63	165	21.26	208	94	45	0	0	3	1
	MONTGOMERY	67	44	76	41	55	3	2.13	0.65	1.09	17.93	117	13.41	132	89	43	0	0	2	2
AK	ANCHORAGE	34	23	40	13	29	8	0.22	0.03	0.19	2.29	86	0.63	40	88	60	0	7	3	0
	BARROW	-6	-20	4	-32	-13	5	0.00	-0.03	0.00	0.10	29	0.02	9	80	72	0	7	0	0
	FAIRBANKS	20	-3	32	-17	9	8	0.02	-0.09	0.02	2.14	124	0.09	10	91	70	0	7	1	0
	JUNEAU	41	34	45	29	38	7	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	92	67	0	2	-	-
	KODIAK	38	30	42	22	34	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	84	60	0	5	-	-
	NOME	15	-5	31	-20	5	1	0.10	-0.04	0.05	2.17	96	1.22	87	79	64	0	7	3	0
AZ	FLAGSTAFF	35	16	43	-6	25	-7	0.80	0.23	0.70	5.29	81	3.44	83	91	49	0	7	3	1
	PHOENIX	63	44	73	41	54	-6	0.22	0.03	0.22	3.93	169	3.10	230	79	31	0	0	1	0
	PRESCOTT	48	28	57	20	38	-2	0.55	0.14	0.55	5.28	114	2.82	92	87	40	0	4	1	1
	TUCSON	62	41	76	33	52	-4	0.12	-0.05	0.12	6.22	238	3.34	215	82	29	0	0	1	0
	YUMA	70	49	78	45	59	-3	0.00	-0.06	0.00	4.05	397	1.26	225	74	33	0	0	0	0
AR	FORT SMITH	63	41	73	34	52	6	0.81	0.03	0.54	15.32	203	10.82	240	94	54	0	0	3	1
	LITTLE ROCK	64	43	72	37	54	7	0.83	-0.16	--	13.96	122	10.21	151	94	46	0	0	-	-
CA	BAKERSFIELD	59	42	64	39	51	-5	1.55	1.27	0.88	7.81	307	6.70	349	95	59	0	0	4	2
	EUREKA	55	44	60	41	49	0	1.08	-0.11	--	31.48	189	26.75	250	99	68	0	0	6	1
	FRESNO	59	41	62	36	50	-3	0.55	0.10	0.38	8.36	162	7.42	198	97	55	0	0	2	0
	LOS ANGELES	62	50	69	46	56	-2	3.47	2.87	1.62	21.30	325	17.58	359	80	54	0	0	3	3
	REDDING	54	40	62	37	47	-5	1.21	0.16	1.10	32.75	205	29.47	281	92	58	0	0	4	1
	SACRAM/MCCLELL	58	44	63	36	51	--	0.37	--	0.37	21.63	--	19.17	--	100	62	0	0	1	0
	SAN DIEGO	63	52	68	49	57	-2	1.46	1.07	1.26	11.69	236	10.34	308	92	62	0	0	3	1
	SAN FRANCISCO	58	48	60	43	53	0	0.88	0.14	0.71	27.30	257	22.03	293	89	64	0	0	5	1
CO	ALAMOSA	39	12	50	-2	25	-1	0.01	-0.07	0.01	0.22	22	0.04	7	85	29	0	7	1	0
	CO SPRINGS	45	20	60	10	33	-1	0.00	-0.14	0.00	0.38	33	0.28	41	71	20	0	7	0	0
	DENVER	47	22	64	15	35	-1	0.00	-0.19	0.00	0.86	50	0.27	25	64	21	0	7	0	0
	GRAND JUNCTION	43	26	62	17	35	-4	0.33	0.18	0.28	1.10	66	0.96	91	89	47	0	5	4	0
	PUEBLO	54	21	68	12	37	0	0.85	0.74	0.85	1.65	157	1.26	203	76	16	0	7	1	1
CT	BRIDGEPORT	48	36	55	33	42	9	0.98	0.18	0.60	12.00	123	8.65	138	84	58	0	0	3	1
	HARTFORD	50	33	59	29	42	11	0.80	-0.03	0.51	8.68	82	6.50	98	78	47	0	3	4	1
DC	WASHINGTON	54	41	62	35	48	7	1.25	0.54	1.00	12.43	145	10.69	197	79	49	0	0	3	1
DE	WILMINGTON	52	39	60	36	45	9	1.40	0.64	1.18	10.34	109	7.77	130	78	50	0	0	3	1
FL	DAYTONA BEACH	75	54	82	47	65	4	1.46	0.67	1.18	18.49	219	10.73	183	92	53	0	0	3	1
	JACKSONVILLE	72	52	81	44	62	5	4.21	3.22	2.53	20.45	206	10.72	148	95	51	0	0	3	2
	KEY WEST	77	68	82	56	72	1	0.55	0.11	0.55	11.42	195	7.00	183	86	65	0	0	1	1
	MIAMI	79	64	84	54	72	2	0.28	-0.26	0.24	12.92	218	7.65	187	92	60	0	0	2	0
	ORLANDO	76	54	83	46	65	3	2.76	1.95	1.54	23.70	317	11.07	208	93	56	0	0	3	3
	TAMPA	74	58	80	50	66	3	0.82	-0.01	0.57	30.77	427	15.20	301	87	60	0	0	2	1
	VALPARAISO/EGLIN	69	49	73	39	59	4	0.30	-0.84	0.30	21.34	169	15.84	188	85	46	0	0	1	0
	WEST PALM BEACH	78	61	84	50	70	2	1.27	0.53	1.15	21.24	267	16.20	296	88	57	0	0	2	1
GA	ATHENS	66	43	74	38	54	6	1.49	0.31	0.76	19.54	149	13.63	151	89	45	0	0	4	2
	ATLANTA	63	43	73	37	53	6	1.75	0.47	0.84	18.12	130	13.07	137	90	47	0	0	4	2
	AUGUSTA	66	43	76	35	54	5	2.04	0.93	0.99	20.80	177	13.86	167	95	55	0	0	5	2
	COLUMBUS	68	45	75	38	57	5	1.29	-0.01	0.79	14.03	97	7.31	78	92	44	0	0	4	1
	MACON	69	44	76	35	56	5	1.52	0.31	0.80	19.31	142	12.03	129	93	45	0	0	5	2
	SAVANNAH	70	48	76	40	59	5	2.43	1.60	1.45	18.32	187	14.33	210	97	49	0	0	4	2
HI	HILO	79	64	81	61	71	0	1.53	-1.30	0.46	11.29	35	2.44	12	90	62	0	0	7	0
	HONOLULU	80	68	82	65	74	1	0.01	-0.49	0.01	1.42	15	0.98	17	77	52	0	0	1	0
	KAHULUI	81	63	85	57	72	0	0.37	-0.29	0.28	2.35	23	0.86	12	86	58	0	0	3	0
	LIHUE	78	66	79	64	72	0	0.17	-0.61	0.07	6.53	45	3.94	43	87	63	0	0	4	0
ID	BOISE	43	28	49	22	35	-3	0.31	0.04	0.31	4.82	125	4.17	167	84	45	0	7	1	0
	LEWISTON	47	31	53	27	39	-2	0.06	-0.16	0.05	2.72	80	2.13	97	87	48	0	5	2	0
	POCATELLO	34	22	42	9	28	-4	0.39	0.14	0.31	3.98	130	3.32	169	91	62	0	7	3	0
IL	CHICAGO/O'HARE	53	35	63	31	44	15	0.27	-0.15	0.15	5.88	109	4.38	151	87	49	0	3	5	0
	MOLINE	52	36	59	29	44	15	1.44	1.03	0.89	7.45	149	5.69	205	94	61	0	2	4	1
	PEORIA	54	37	60	30	45	15	0.78	0.33	0.64	7.12	132	5.18	176	94	53	0	3	3	1
	ROCKFORD	52	33	61	29	43	16	0.64	0.28	0.53	4.69	104	3.85	158	91	55	0	4	3	1
	SPRINGFIELD	55	39	62	33	47	14	0.76	0.20	0.73	6.89	114	5.13	155	92	52	0	0	2	1
IN	EVANSVILLE	60	37	69	32	49	11	0.16	-0.76	0.08	7.03	74	4.69	81	86	40	0	1	4	0
	FORT WAYNE	52	32	58	26	42	13	0.17	-0.38	0.13	7.17	107	5.44	144	94	58	0	4	3	0
	INDIANAPOLIS	58	36	68	31	47	13	0.07	-0.65	0.04	5.02	62	3.69	77	88	43	0	3	2	0
	SOUTH BEND	52	31	57	24	41	12	0.41	-0.13	0.24	7.63	103	5.53	134	89	53	0	4	3	0
IA	BURLINGTON	55	40	64	32	47	17	1.25	0.85	0.91	6.90	158	5.38	224	85	58	0	1	3	1
	CEDAR RAPIDS	49	35	58	27	42	15	1.37	1.03	0.67	4.47	123	3.31	163	94	69	0	3	4	1
	DES MOINES	49	36	58	26	42	14	0.34	-0.02	0.13	3.65	108	2.29	111	90	63	0	2	6	0
	DUBUQUE	48	35	54	27	41	16	1.86	1.43	0.90	5.06	112	3.98	155	92	66	0	1	4	2
	SIOUX CITY	48	31	63	24	40	12	0.05	-0.21	0.04	1.41	69	1.20	96	86	58	0	4	2	0
	WATERLOO	48	36	56	26	42	18	0.73	0.37	0.45	3.17	100	2.52	135	91	71	0	2	6	0
KS	CONCORDIA	52	33	67	27	43	8	0.02	-0.28	0.02	4.13	191	2.38	180	88	51	0	3	1	0
	DODGE CITY	56	31	69	25	43	6	0.00	-0.22	0.00	3.67	207	1.07	96	80	35	0	3	0	0
	GOODLAND	49	28	63	24	39	4	0.00	-0.15	0.00	1.30	111	0.76	100	72	35	0	5	0	0
	TOPEKA	56	37	69	30	47	11	0.10	-0.25	0.09	4.07	119	1.67	84	87	46	0	1	2	0

Based on 1961-90 normals

Weather Data for the Week Ending February 28, 1998

STATES AND STATIONS		TEMPERATURE °F						PRECIPITATION							RELATIVE HUMIDITY, PERCENT		NUMBER OF DAYS			
																	TEMP, °F		PRECIP.	
		AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	EXTREME HIGH	EXTREME LOW	AVERAGE	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	WEEKLY TOTAL, IN.	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	GREATEST IN 24-HOUR, IN.	TOTAL, IN., SINCE Dec 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Dec 1	TOTAL, IN., SINCE Jan 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Jan 1	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	90 AND ABOVE	32 AND BELOW	.01 INCH OR MORE	.50 INCH OR MORE
	WICHITA	57	35	70	25	46	8	0.00	-0.35	0.00	4.00	135	1.35	77	82	40	0	2	0	0
KY	JACKSON	58	39	76	30	49	9	0.64	-0.39	0.22	10.52	88	8.31	109	85	43	0	1	5	0
	LEXINGTON	58	38	72	30	48	10	0.23	-0.68	0.12	9.23	92	6.55	108	90	47	0	2	5	0
	LOUISVILLE	61	39	70	34	50	11	0.21	-0.73	–	11.58	118	8.26	134	88	50	0	0	3	0
	PADUCAH	62	40	69	35	51	10	1.10	0.02	1.06	10.16	86	7.70	107	89	46	0	0	2	1
LA	BATON ROUGE	67	45	76	40	56	0	2.22	0.86	1.33	27.02	169	20.70	198	97	54	0	0	3	2
	LAKE CHARLES	67	45	73	40	56	0	2.08	1.24	1.12	20.92	159	15.20	188	98	56	0	0	4	2
	NEW ORLEANS	69	49	74	46	59	2	1.79	0.31	1.51	26.13	155	23.58	213	90	52	0	0	2	1
	SHREVEPORT	67	44	74	38	56	3	2.50	1.54	1.93	19.14	160	13.04	167	91	40	0	0	2	2
ME	CARIBOU	36	24	43	6	30	15	0.87	0.37	0.71	9.26	122	6.44	148	94	79	0	5	4	1
	PORTLAND	44	32	51	22	38	12	1.46	0.61	1.18	12.66	111	10.09	147	87	63	0	2	2	1
MD	BALTIMORE	54	37	61	30	45	8	2.01	1.21	1.56	14.12	147	12.07	195	85	51	0	2	4	1
MA	BOSTON	46	35	53	31	41	8	2.75	1.84	2.24	12.73	113	10.41	144	89	70	0	1	4	1
	WORCESTER	44	32	55	28	38	11	1.99	1.10	0.82	15.33	137	13.01	182	88	58	0	4	5	2
MI	ALPENA	40	29	52	23	34	14	0.02	-0.34	0.02	5.15	104	4.42	151	93	64	0	6	1	0
	GRAND RAPIDS	49	30	54	25	39	13	0.24	-0.18	0.17	6.43	105	5.45	167	94	58	0	5	4	0
	HOUGHTON LAKE	43	27	52	20	35	14	0.31	-0.02	0.27	3.42	74	3.08	115	96	58	0	6	3	0
	LANSING	49	27	56	22	38	12	0.33	-0.07	0.17	6.52	126	5.63	198	94	58	0	6	3	0
	MARQUETTE	42	27	46	18	34	18	0.06	-0.41	–	6.25	96	3.85	99	94	54	0	5	-	-
	MUSKEGON	50	31	57	24	41	14	0.84	0.43	0.51	5.54	81	4.32	112	92	51	0	5	4	1
MN	DULUTH	39	32	49	30	36	20	2.13	1.88	1.03	4.52	138	4.12	204	94	74	0	3	5	2
	INT'L FALLS	41	31	47	27	36	24	0.68	0.51	0.29	1.76	74	1.53	101	94	71	0	4	5	0
	MINNEAPOLIS	46	35	54	29	40	18	0.77	0.49	0.49	2.72	94	2.41	132	91	68	0	3	5	0
	ROCHESTER	44	33	52	25	38	17	0.63	0.38	0.35	2.79	109	2.41	159	91	71	0	4	4	0
	ST. CLOUD	47	35	55	29	41	22	0.63	0.43	0.51	1.76	80	1.54	113	91	61	0	2	4	1
MS	JACKSON	64	43	73	37	53	3	1.53	0.30	1.00	19.53	123	13.76	139	96	50	0	0	4	2
	MERIDIAN	66	41	73	34	53	2	0.66	-0.82	0.52	21.07	126	16.36	154	98	44	0	0	3	1
	TUPELO	64	43	71	36	54	6	1.30	0.02	0.88	15.91	101	12.20	127	95	42	0	0	3	1
MO	COLUMBIA	56	39	66	30	47	12	0.60	0.03	0.59	6.73	117	4.95	150	89	56	0	1	2	1
	KANSAS CITY	56	39	66	32	48	12	0.04	-0.33	0.04	4.28	113	1.94	88	83	47	0	2	1	0
	SAINT LOUIS	58	40	66	36	49	11	0.70	0.06	0.69	7.65	110	5.80	148	83	48	0	0	2	1
	SPRINGFIELD	56	36	65	27	46	7	0.99	0.31	0.57	10.12	142	6.97	176	90	52	0	3	2	1
MT	BILLINGS	41	25	51	17	33	1	0.22	0.04	0.22	1.43	61	0.86	55	84	34	0	6	1	0
	BUTTE	33	5	43	-9	19	-5	0.23	0.12	0.13	1.48	106	1.33	143	91	49	0	7	3	0
	GLASGOW	41	25	53	17	33	11	0.02	-0.05	0.02	0.42	41	0.41	64	79	43	0	6	1	0
	GREAT FALLS	37	16	47	5	26	-4	0.23	0.07	0.15	1.37	59	1.04	70	90	50	0	7	2	0
	KALISPELL	39	24	45	20	31	2	0.09	-0.16	0.03	1.90	44	1.33	51	92	53	0	7	5	0
	MILES CITY	40	24	54	19	32	5	0.28	0.17	0.14	0.68	42	0.66	67	85	54	0	7	2	0
	MISSOULA	37	24	42	15	30	-1	0.07	-0.12	0.06	2.11	66	1.78	87	90	56	0	7	2	0
NE	GRAND ISLAND	48	31	65	23	39	8	0.04	-0.22	0.03	1.24	65	0.83	69	88	52	0	5	2	0
	LINCOLN	52	32	69	25	42	11	0.00	-0.27	0.00	2.74	129	2.01	161	88	50	0	4	0	0
	NORFOLK	47	30	68	22	38	10	0.05	-0.23	0.05	0.90	45	0.53	41	88	50	0	4	1	0
	NORTH PLATTE	46	27	57	19	37	6	0.02	-0.13	0.02	0.65	51	0.45	56	86	44	0	6	1	0
	OMAHA	51	34	64	25	42	12	0.07	-0.21	–	2.09	83	1.60	106	88	57	0	3	-	-
	SCOTTSBLUFF	45	24	62	19	35	3	0.34	0.19	0.34	1.14	75	0.83	87	79	43	0	7	1	0
	VALENTINE	45	24	63	17	35	7	0.02	-0.13	0.02	0.22	21	0.19	28	90	56	0	7	1	0
NV	ELY	33	12	42	2	23	-9	1.02	0.84	0.69	2.34	110	2.11	152	88	60	0	7	3	1
	LAS VEGAS	56	43	62	36	49	-4	0.71	0.60	0.71	3.17	244	3.10	333	67	35	0	0	1	1
	RENO	44	24	54	12	34	-6	0.41	0.19	0.41	4.30	141	3.72	178	86	46	0	7	1	0
	WINNEMUCCA	41	26	47	18	33	-5	0.14	-0.03	0.07	3.52	156	3.27	239	92	53	0	7	4	0
NH	CONCORD	44	29	53	21	37	12	1.01	0.36	0.76	8.08	98	6.13	121	81	54	0	4	2	1
NJ	NEWARK	51	38	60	35	45	9	1.39	0.59	0.77	13.88	140	9.72	151	78	50	0	0	3	2
NM	ALBUQUERQUE	50	27	68	17	39	-4	0.00	-0.11	0.00	1.78	125	0.78	84	66	22	0	5	0	0
NY	ALBANY	44	30	54	26	37	10	0.65	0.04	0.40	7.29	96	5.81	125	90	58	0	7	4	0
	BINGHAMTON	40	28	45	23	34	9	3.18	2.57	2.27	10.90	141	8.09	171	95	63	0	6	4	2
	BUFFALO	44	31	56	26	38	11	0.56	-0.03	0.35	10.83	124	7.86	157	91	59	0	7	3	0
	ROCHESTER	44	29	50	24	37	10	1.14	0.60	0.66	10.83	157	7.95	190	92	61	0	6	2	1
	SYRACUSE	41	28	44	20	35	8	1.80	1.23	1.08	12.07	157	7.95	177	92	59	0	5	4	2
NC	ASHEVILLE	59	37	68	27	48	6	0.95	-0.12	0.46	19.31	181	16.33	228	86	41	0	1	4	0
	CHARLOTTE	65	45	75	39	55	10	0.87	-0.15	0.47	13.61	123	9.54	126	82	37	0	0	3	0
	GREENSBORO	59	40	67	30	50	7	0.71	-0.16	0.54	12.89	131	10.72	165	77	43	0	1	2	1
	HATTERAS	54	45	58	40	50	2	1.71	0.72	1.02	23.11	166	17.46	186	91	66	0	0	3	2
	RALEIGH	62	40	71	30	51	6	0.64	-0.30	0.46	16.04	154	13.28	185	83	43	0	1	4	0
	WILMINGTON	65	43	71	36	54	5	1.82	0.88	0.66	23.37	209	18.53	245	86	53	0	0	3	3
ND	BISMARCK	38	24	54	18	31	11	1.18	1.06	0.46	1.88	135	1.80	198	93	70	0	6	5	0
	DICKINSON	37	22	54	15	29	6	2.08	1.98	0.85	2.59	240	2.56	361	91	65	0	7	5	2
	FARGO	42	33	47	27	37	21	0.77	0.64	0.57	2.85	160	2.41	210	92	73	0	4	3	1
	GRAND FORKS	41	31	47	25	36	22	0.64	0.50	0.46	2.00	109	1.44	121	97	79	0	4	4	0
	JAMESTOWN	38	30	46	19	34	16	0.76	0.63	0.28	2.20	140	1.92	179	95	79	0	4	5	0
	WILLISTON	36	21	54	15	28	8	1.55	1.44	0.69	2.08	133	2.06	210	92	64	0	7	5	1
OH	AKRON-CANTON	48	32	60	25	40	10	0.57	-0.07	0.47	8.13	111	6.05	138	90	61	0	4	3	0
	CINCINNATI	58	33	68	26	45	10	0.03	-0.76	0.02	9.01	107	6.24	119	89	47	0	4	2	0
	CLEVELAND	48	34	61	29	41	11	0.17	-0.44	0.11	8.11	111	5.69	135	94	62	0	3	2	0
	COLUMBUS	52	37	65	29	45	12	0.18	-0.45	0.08	6.94	95	4.81	109	84	54	0	1	3	0
	DAYTON	54	36	61	29	45	12	0.18	-0.45	0.08	7.30	101	5.15	120	87	49	0	2	4	0
	MANSFIELD	49	33	66	25	41	11	0.44	-0.16	0.41	7.65	108	5.33	133	89	58	0	2	2	0

Based on 1961-90 normals

Weather Data for the Week Ending February 28, 1998

STATES AND STATIONS		TEMPERATURE °F						PRECIPITATION							RELATIVE HUMIDITY, PERCENT		NUMBER OF DAYS			
																	TEMP, °F		PRECIP.	
		AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	EXTREME HIGH	EXTREME LOW	AVERAGE	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	WEEKLY TOTAL, IN.	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	GREATEST IN 24-HOUR, IN.	TOTAL, IN., SINCE Dec 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Dec 1	TOTAL, IN., SINCE Jan 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Jan 1	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	90 AND ABOVE	32 AND BELOW	.01 INCH OR MORE	.50 INCH OR MORE
	TOLEDO	49	32	60	26	41	12	0.24	-0.26	0.12	8.86	138	6.79	196	92	58	0	4	3	0
	YOUNGSTOWN	47	34	55	30	40	12	0.27	-0.31	0.24	9.39	132	6.69	160	93	64	0	2	2	0
OK	OKLAHOMA CITY	62	39	75	31	50	6	0.00	-0.48	0.00	6.22	152	4.21	157	75	34	0	1	0	0
	TULSA	60	41	69	33	50	7	0.00	-0.61	0.00	8.08	143	3.78	108	81	44	0	0	0	0
OR	ASTORIA	50	35	52	30	43	-2	2.06	0.28	1.10	35.02	124	26.57	151	97	62	0	2	6	1
	BURNS	36	14	39	7	25	-7	0.42	0.21	0.30	6.04	208	5.22	298	94	62	0	7	4	0
	EUGENE	51	35	55	29	43	-3	0.78	-0.54	0.26	16.45	74	14.22	105	87	59	0	2	4	0
	MEDFORD	49	37	57	32	43	-1	0.53	0.09	0.18	9.46	119	8.11	176	93	58	0	1	5	0
	PENDLETON	49	31	54	25	40	-2	0.10	-0.18	0.06	4.85	114	3.80	143	83	48	0	4	3	0
	PORTLAND	50	36	55	31	43	-2	0.84	-0.05	0.59	15.06	98	12.03	131	95	59	0	2	4	1
	SALEM	50	35	54	29	42	-2	1.32	0.26	0.75	18.39	107	15.22	146	95	61	0	3	5	1
PA	ALLENTOWN	51	36	64	31	44	12	1.45	0.70	0.95	9.63	100	7.26	119	82	50	0	1	3	1
	ERIE	43	33	54	29	38	10	0.12	-0.51	0.10	11.50	142	6.65	148	95	72	0	2	3	0
	MIDDLETOWN	51	37	64	32	44	10	1.68	0.91	1.04	11.55	128	9.54	165	85	51	0	1	3	2
	PHILADELPHIA	53	39	62	35	46	10	2.70	1.98	2.40	12.05	128	8.96	149	84	50	0	0	3	1
	PITTSBURGH	48	34	58	28	41	9	0.65	-0.01	0.41	7.50	96	6.21	126	94	65	0	3	4	0
	SCRANTON	46	32	57	26	39	9	1.34	0.78	1.11	6.80	110	5.89	139	89	48	0	6	3	1
	WILLIAMSPORT	50	34	58	27	42	11	2.18	1.45	1.00	11.43	137	9.97	188	88	48	0	3	3	3
RI	PROVIDENCE	50	34	57	30	42	10	2.49	1.57	1.81	15.91	134	13.07	175	87	58	0	3	4	2
SC	BEAUFORT	68	48	75	42	58	4	1.73	0.87	1.14	19.63	193	15.69	224	95	53	0	0	3	2
	CHARLESTON	69	48	79	42	59	6	1.85	0.95	1.21	22.92	232	17.73	264	93	47	0	0	4	1
	COLUMBIA	67	42	76	34	55	5	1.46	0.39	0.61	17.56	145	13.17	154	95	44	0	0	4	1
	GREENVILLE	64	43	73	36	53	7	2.02	0.82	0.98	18.35	145	14.10	166	78	37	0	0	4	2
SD	ABERDEEN	42	29	51	21	35	14	0.31	0.14	0.13	1.58	127	1.40	167	93	75	0	5	4	0
	HURON	45	29	59	22	37	14	0.03	-0.21	0.03	0.97	63	0.75	70	87	59	0	5	1	0
	RAPID CITY	42	24	59	20	33	4	0.78	0.62	0.74	1.39	101	1.31	147	83	52	0	7	3	1
	SIOUX FALLS	44	30	58	21	37	13	0.12	-0.10	0.09	1.41	76	1.17	102	93	60	0	4	3	0
TN	BRISTOL	60	36	73	27	48	8	0.29	-0.60	0.20	9.48	94	7.31	110	89	40	0	3	5	0
	CHATTANOOGA	63	40	73	33	52	7	1.49	0.19	0.74	15.49	104	12.19	126	95	43	0	0	3	2
	KNOXVILLE	62	40	74	31	51	8	0.38	-0.71	0.21	9.51	74	7.14	87	87	41	0	2	4	0
	MEMPHIS	63	46	71	43	55	8	0.96	-0.24	0.85	16.79	121	12.27	152	87	40	0	0	2	1
	NASHVILLE	64	41	72	33	52	9	0.74	-0.30	0.32	9.95	83	7.76	105	88	31	0	0	5	0
TX	ABILENE	67	40	85	32	54	3	0.00	-0.30	0.00	5.02	156	1.86	85	77	29	0	2	0	0
	AMARILLO	57	30	75	20	43	2	0.00	-0.18	0.00	4.85	319	2.73	246	81	26	0	4	0	0
	AUSTIN	72	49	81	41	60	5	0.93	0.39	0.88	10.20	177	5.94	153	80	34	0	0	2	1
	BEAUMONT	68	49	72	42	58	2	2.07	1.30	1.23	20.50	159	13.88	170	95	61	0	0	2	2
	BROWNSVILLE	80	55	87	50	68	3	0.01	-0.18	0.01	2.54	66	2.09	80	95	42	0	0	1	0
	CORPUS CHRISTI	75	53	81	45	64	3	0.15	-0.27	0.08	3.98	81	3.78	103	98	48	0	0	4	0
	DEL RIO	79	46	89	39	62	4	0.12	-0.10	0.06	1.05	49	0.47	31	75	20	0	0	2	0
	EL PASO	61	38	80	22	50	-1	0.00	-0.10	0.00	1.61	114	0.20	24	50	22	0	1	0	0
	FORT WORTH	66	45	77	39	56	5	1.25	0.66	1.15	15.26	260	8.33	207	87	44	0	0	4	1
	GALVESTON	66	55	72	49	61	4	0.77	0.27	–	15.35	170	10.45	169	97	65	0	0	-	-
	HOUSTON	70	47	77	40	59	3	1.52	0.80	1.52	15.35	158	9.93	159	96	45	0	0	1	1
	LUBBOCK	60	33	76	24	47	1	0.07	-0.12	0.07	3.62	226	1.87	176	77	24	0	3	1	0
	MIDLAND	67	38	81	29	52	2	0.00	-0.17	0.00	2.09	131	0.74	73	64	17	0	1	0	0
	SAN ANGELO	68	38	82	32	53	2	0.03	-0.23	0.03	3.22	122	1.83	98	83	23	0	1	1	0
	SAN ANTONIO	73	45	81	38	59	3	0.92	0.49	0.83	10.20	203	6.65	188	84	35	0	0	3	1
	VICTORIA	72	50	78	43	61	3	0.70	0.25	0.67	6.65	107	5.02	120	95	46	0	0	3	1
	WACO	67	44	76	39	55	3	0.84	0.29	0.77	19.07	342	9.26	248	94	49	0	0	3	1
	WICHITA FALLS	64	41	81	34	52	5	0.00	-0.43	0.00	8.90	235	4.78	192	79	36	0	0	0	0
UT	SALT LAKE CITY	39	23	46	11	31	-6	2.91	2.55	1.20	7.16	189	6.52	276	98	69	0	7	6	2
VT	BURLINGTON	39	28	51	22	34	12	0.81	0.37	0.54	8.65	148	7.00	203	89	64	0	7	2	1
VA	LYNCHBURG	55	36	65	27	45	5	0.83	0.03	0.72	16.45	180	13.73	234	89	48	0	2	5	1
	NORFOLK	61	42	72	36	52	8	1.07	0.20	1.05	15.11	144	12.46	172	86	52	0	0	2	1
	RICHMOND	60	38	72	32	49	7	1.06	0.24	0.92	14.93	154	12.57	196	85	43	0	1	3	1
	ROANOKE	55	40	67	34	47	7	1.15	0.34	0.99	18.44	214	16.07	284	71	41	0	0	5	1
	WASH/DULLES	54	36	62	29	45	8	1.32	0.58	1.02	12.99	149	11.07	201	89	54	0	1	3	1
WA	HANFORD	52	30	55	22	41	–	0.03	-0.11	–	2.70	111	2.39	170	74	40	0	6	-	-
	OLYMPIA	49	31	52	27	40	-2	1.02	-0.29	0.61	22.05	101	15.91	115	99	59	0	4	5	1
	QUILLAYUTE	48	32	50	26	40	-3	2.99	-0.05	1.07	46.65	110	31.14	116	98	66	0	4	6	3
	SEATTLE-TACOMA	48	37	50	32	42	-2	0.61	-0.31	0.41	12.96	85	10.33	110	92	58	0	1	4	0
	SPOKANE	41	26	46	22	33	-2	0.19	-0.17	0.10	4.69	80	3.69	107	93	61	0	7	2	0
	YAKIMA	49	26	52	22	38	-1	0.01	-0.13	0.01	3.99	119	3.80	195	90	48	0	7	1	0
WV	BECKLEY	52	33	65	28	43	8	0.64	-0.13	0.43	12.04	132	9.84	168	93	54	0	5	4	0
	CHARLESTON	54	37	72	29	46	7	0.99	0.18	0.69	8.70	93	7.13	120	92	59	0	2	4	1
	ELKINS	50	31	64	22	41	8	1.04	0.24	0.71	9.39	98	6.85	113	91	58	0	4	3	1
	HUNTINGTON	56	38	69	29	47	8	0.97	0.18	0.51	9.87	109	8.31	145	88	50	0	3	4	1
WI	EAU CLAIRE	45	34	49	30	39	19	1.66	1.44	0.80	4.16	148	3.90	227	98	69	0	3	5	2
	GREEN BAY	48	31	54	25	39	17	0.42	0.10	0.35	3.97	107	3.36	153	93	59	0	5	3	0
	MADISON	50	32	59	27	41	17	0.68	0.34	0.41	5.01	126	3.76	176	91	58	0	5	4	0
	MILWAUKEE	46	31	48	26	38	12	0.82	0.38	0.55	7.02	130	5.72	188	95	67	0	6	4	1
WY	CASPER	37	17	56	4	27	-2	0.37	0.20	0.37	1.53	86	1.05	93	81	46	0	7	1	0
	CHEYENNE	38	22	54	14	30	-1	0.04	-0.10	0.03	1.04	87	0.50	64	77	43	0	7	2	0
	LANDER	34	18	44	7	26	-3	0.23	0.05	0.11	2.48	152	0.63	59	86	40	0	7	3	0
	SHERIDAN	36	23	46	16	29	0	0.08	-0.09	0.07	1.12	53	0.49	35	84	61	0	7	2	0

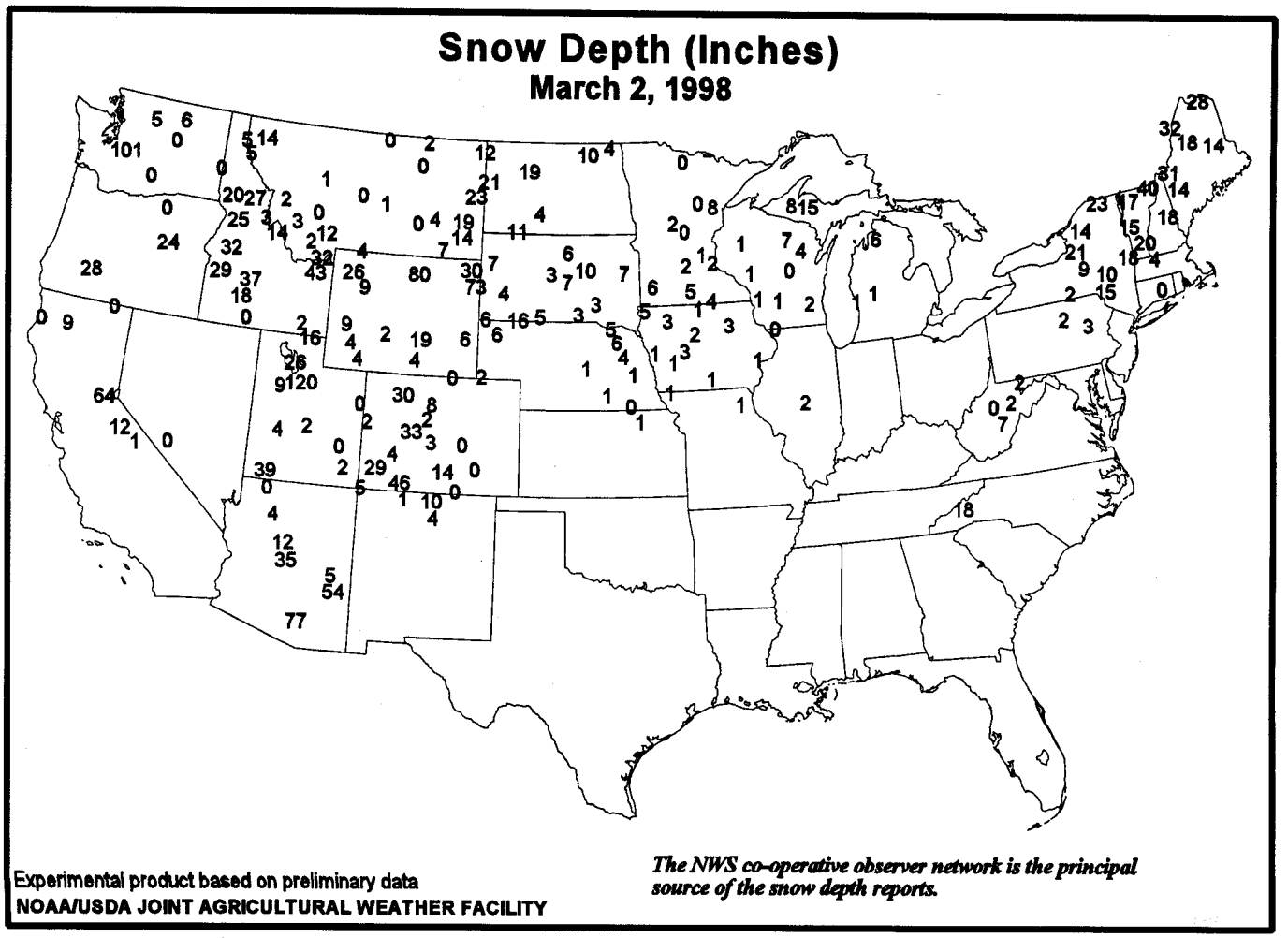
NOTE: These data are preliminary and subject to change. In the past, precipitation totals from a number of stations have been incomplete.

National Agricultural Summary

February 23 - March 1, 1998

HIGHLIGHTS

Most of the Eastern United States, from the Great Plains to the Atlantic Coast, continued to experience above-normal temperatures, especially the northern Corn Belt. A blizzard struck the northern High Plains, bringing a sudden return of winter to an area that had been experiencing very mild weather. Despite the extreme weather change, no damage to the winter wheat crop was reported. There were no early reports of storm-related livestock losses, but heavy snowfall combined with high winds closed roads, isolating many herds from ranchers and making feeding chores difficult. Mild temperatures aided winter wheat development in the southern Plains. In the Coastal Bend region of Texas, some corn and cotton fields were planted on well-drained soils. Early-planted corn fields were emerged with good stands reported. Storms that had been hitting southern California subsided, allowing flooded fields to begin draining, but progress of field activities remained slow due to wet soils. Flood-stressed plants showed signs of recovery. Rice growers began draining fields in preparation for planting, and where conditions permitted, cotton fields were sprayed and prepared for planting. The Gulf and Atlantic Coast States continued to be very wet. Early-week severe storms in northern and central Florida slowed fieldwork and stressed livestock, but no crop damage was reported.



February State Agricultural Summaries

These summaries, issued weekly through the summer growing season, provide brief descriptions of crop and weather conditions important on a national scale. More detailed data are available in Weather and Crop Bulletins published each Monday by NASS State Statistical Offices in cooperation with the National Weather Service. The crop weather reports are also available on the Internet through the NASS Home Page on the World Wide Web at http://www.usda.gov/nass/ or from JAWF at http://www.usda.gov/oce/waob/jawf.

ALABAMA: Wet weather continued in all areas during February. Wet fields continue to prevent seedbed preparation for early spring planting. Land preparation is at a critical stage for planting corn, peanuts. Chill hours required for peach blooms have been adequately met for all commercial varieties in central areas. Bloom development is running from 5 to 10 days ahead of 1997. Winter wheat 41% fair, 59% good. Other activities included general care of livestock, poultry, catfish.

ARIZONA: Farmers began planting cotton in the Yuma area. At the beginning of February, no cotton had been planted. By the end on the month, 2% had been planted. Virtually all of the planted small grains have emerged. Alfalfa hay harvest was beginning in some areas of the State. At the beginning of the month, most of the harvest was green chop. By the end of the month, the harvest cycle was well under way. Harvest activity was reported as 16% light, 17% moderate. Sheeping off held steady over the month. Widespread rains and snow have improved the pasture conditions throughout most of the State. This did not affect livestock. At the beginning of the month, range, pasture 6% poor, 73% fair, 20% good, 1% excellent. At the end of the month, that had improved to 9% poor, 30% fair, 56% good, 5% excellent.

ARKANSAS: Weather reports indicated temperatures and precipitation were above normal for March 1998. Temperatures have ranged from 1 to 4 degrees F above normal for most reporting stations during the month. Precipitation amounts from 1/2 to 2 inches above normal. Extension personnel report this weather was favorable to winter wheat growth during the month. First fertilizations have been completed. Crop about two weeks ahead of normal. Concern exist for late season temperatures below 28 degrees. No reports of adverse conditions to livestock were reported.

CALIFORNIA: El Niño continued to batter State throughout the short month of February. Wet, wet weather contrasted sharply with the warm, dry memories of February 1997. Precipitation records were broken in many areas. Progress of field activities was at a virtual standstill in most areas, due to continued heavy rains, high winds, and wet soils. Low-lying fields of wheat, barley, oats and alfalfa remained in standing water from the San Joaquin Valley northward. Plants were yellowing, growth was becoming severely stunted in some fields. Mid-month's sustained winds caused lodging problems in wheat fields in the southern San Joaquin Valley. Small grain, alfalfa fields received aerial applications of fertilizer, herbicides where conditions permitted. Cotton fields were sprayed with preplant herbicides between storms. Imperial Valley's wheat, sugar beets were progressing rapidly as month's end neared, weather conditions improved. At times throughout February, seed alfalfa, sugar beet growers in Fresno County resorted to pumping water out of flooded fields. Wet weather continued to hamper State growers conducting cultural activities in orchards and vineyards. Pollination of almond trees was hindered by the wet, windy weather. Citrus growers fell behind schedule in picking this month. Wind damage, crease, puff were problems in citrus crops, with some fruit blown to the ground. By the end of the month, the weather began to clear up and the desert area Valencia orange harvest was underway. It was a difficult month for State vegetable growers. Moisture levels were substantially higher than normal, to the detriment of many crops. Asparagus was harvested in the desert valleys, Kern County. Broccoli, cauliflower were harvested in the Imperial, Coachella Valleys, where conditions permitted in Stanislaus County. Broccoli harvest in Fresno County was delayed by rainfall, wet soils. Lettuce harvest continued in the desert valleys. Spring lettuce was weeded, thinned, sprayed to control mildew in the San Joaquin Valley. Celery harvest continued in Monterey, Riverside counties. Tomato planting was postponed; processing schedules may be affected. Tulare County spinach fields showed signs of stunting, yellowing attributable to extended rainfall, lack of sunshine. Carrot harvest was ongoing in the San Joaquin Valley. Cabbage was harvested in the Imperial, San Joaquin Valleys. Winter potato harvest continued in Riverside County. Sweet potato fields were still being fumigated. Spring potatoes, carrots were planted in Kern County. Other crops harvested were peas, lima beans, green beans, onions, radishes, vineseed. Pasture, rangeland was in generally good to excellent condition across the State. Forage growth was slowed in many areas because of low temperatures, rain-saturated soil, lack of sunshine. Some low-lying pastures were flooded with runoff from heavy rains. Runoff from higher elevations caused erosion damage to foothill pastures. Sheep, range cattle were doing well, gaining weight on lush grasses in drier foothill pastures. Cold, muddy conditions in dairy pens were worsened by the heavy rains, resulting in stress on dairy animals, reductions in milk production. Beekeepers continued moving hives into plum, almond orchards as the trees came into bloom, weather conditions slowed bee activity. Skies began to clear in the last week, February 1998 ended on a warm, sunny day.

COLORADO: February was generally mild with only brief periods of low temperatures. Mountains received additional snowfall, portions of the far eastern plains received snow and/or rain early in the month. Following mild temperatures in January, some of the wheat was beginning to green up. Conditions remain mostly dry along the Front Range, where some early fieldwork was started in preparation for planting onions, spring grain crops. Calving, lambing are active under generally favorable weather conditions, other major activities include attending producer meetings, assembling tax records, filling out the Census of Agriculture questionnaire.

DELAWARE: Warmer-than-normal temperatures continued for the month of February. Warm weather could be good for early growth of small grains. However, large amounts of rain might cause damage to small grains due to standing water. In Sussex County, respiratory problems with poultry seem to be improving with warmer weather. Activities: No field activity being reported due to large amounts of precipitation.

FLORIDA: Temperatures were mostly normal during February. Topsoil remained mostly adequate to surplus throughout the State. Frequent rains followed by short periods of sun were predominate throughout the month. Sugarcane harvest, other fieldwork were delayed by the rains. Sugarcane growth was normal. Tobacco farmers maintained tobacco beds. Pasture conditions were reported poor to fair in many areas due to flood. Vegetable, strawberry harvests were active when possible throughout the month, interrupted many times by rainfall. Most of State's citrus groves had intermittent rain, harvest was active throughout the month.

GEORGIA: Soil moisture adequate to mostly surplus statewide. Temperatures averaged above normal. Rain, wet soils continue to hamper all field activities. Some open weather late in the month allowed limited field operations. Land preparations still behind schedule, very little progress northern half, southern areas 10 to 20% complete. Limited cotton harvest during month, progress ranges 92 to 100% complete, overall about 97 to 98% picked. Soybeans deteriorating, harvest around 97% finished. Wheat, rye,

other small grains fair to good, some poor to very poor. Waterlogged soils lacking oxygen, preventing adequate small grain growth. Nitrogen applications also behind schedule, 50 to 60% complete. Corn planting underway extreme South, continued wet conditions could reduce acreage. Peaches fair to mostly good, 75 to 80% blooming south, about 50% central, 25% north. Tobacco plants mostly good to excellent, some in southeast poor to fair. Plants ahead of land preparation could be rather large at transplanting time. Pastures muddy, conditions poor to fair. Cattle, hogs fair to good. Main activities: limited field preparations, mowing cotton stalks, small grain fertilizer applications, taking care of livestock.

HAWAII: Days suitable for fieldwork 7.0. Weather conditions were generally favorable for agriculture. Moderate showers Sunday (2/22) helped replenish reservoirs. Water conservation efforts remain in effect. Mostly sunny; occasional showers in windward areas, high elevations. Light winds, higher daytime temperatures aided crop growth. Irrigated crops made good progress. Non-irrigated crops in fair condition. Banana orchards benefited from added rainfall. Harvesting will be steady. Papaya also benefited from showers, more rain is needed. Harvesting steady from Hawaii, Kauai, Oahu. Head cabbage crop condition is good. Harvesting heavy with good quality. Tomato harvesting active, supplies heavy, peak harvesting in some areas. Ginger root harvesting steady, young plantings benefited from arrival of rain.

IDAHO: Mild weather has aided calving, lambing. Soil cultivation has started in some areas of the State. Isolated reports of sugar beet, small grain plantings were also received. Calving is 6% complete, lambing 15%. Hay, roughage supply 9% surplus, 66% adequate, 23% short, 2% very short. Winter wheat condition 8% excellent, 81% good, 11% fair. Activities: Repairing machinery, calving, lambing, feeding livestock, farm planning, working on taxes.

ILLINOIS: The continued El Niño weather brought above-normal temperatures, precipitation throughout the State during February. Snow cover was lacking, because of the warm weather, winter wheat fields were greening up. If wheat continues to grow, it could reach the stage where it is vulnerable to freeze injury. As of February 27, the winter wheat 28% excellent, 57% good, 12% fair, 2% poor, 1% very poor. Wet conditions made it difficult to apply nitrogen or spread manure. As of February 27, topsoil 19% surplus, 76% adequate, 5% short. Livestock producers contended with muddy lots, cattle dealt with respiratory stress.

INDIANA: Weather conditions were very mild during February, as temperatures averaged about 10 degrees F above normal across the State. Precipitation was below average for the month, was received primarily in the form of rain. Winter wheat is greening up, looks very good, although some farmers are concerned that the warm weather are bringing it out of dormancy too early. Nitrogen is being applied to the crop as soil conditions allow. Some tillage work has been completed in isolated areas. However, most areas remain too wet to support heavy machinery. Warm weather has provided excellent conditions for calving, lambing. Major activities: Applying nitrogen to wheat, marketing grain, livestock, attending farm shows, meetings, hauling manure, repairing machinery, buildings, preparing taxes, calving, lambing.

IOWA: Unseasonably warm weather continued through the month, with precipitation falling as rain rather than snow. Average depth of snow cover 0 inches, 1997 3 inches; average depth of frost penetration 2 inches, 1997 18 inches. Soil erosion rated greater than in January at 78% light to none, 21% moderate, 1% severe. Warm weather, rains softened rural roads, limiting grain, livestock deliveries. Grain movement 9% none, 47% light, 40% moderate, 4% heavy. Availability of hay, roughage for livestock feed, 11% short, 84% adequate, 5% surplus. Quality of hay, roughage poor 9%, fair 54%, good 37%. Utilization of stubble fields for grazing 20% none, 27% light, 38% moderate, 15% extensive. Lack of frost left cattle feedlots, pastures, fields muddy all across the State. Mud was a concern as calving got underway, some scours, aborting was reported. Cattle, calf losses 22% below average, 74% average, 4% above average. Hog condition ok, some reports of PRRS, pneumonia, TGE. Hog, pig losses 20% below average, 78% average, 2% above average.

KANSAS: Winter wheat experienced mild conditions during February, is breaking dormancy in mostly good to excellent condition across the State, according to Agricultural Statistics, Kansas State University Extension Service. Over-all winter wheat 19% excellent, 58% good, 21% fair, 2% poor. Conditions at the beginning of February had been rated 17% excellent, 64% good, 17% fair, 2% poor. Crop appears to have suffered little damage during the winter from freeze, wind damage. Army cutworm in the north-central, winter grain mites in the central, south-central have been reported. Wet field conditions continue to be the norm as farmers were top-dressing wheat and pastures where possible. Some fields of wheat were underwater in the central part of the State. Topsoil moisture 24% surplus, 75% adequate, 1% short. Calving is well underway, as is lambing. Muddy conditions throughout the State continue to be a problem for livestock producers. Grazing of field stubble and wheat pastures continues. Some cattle are being moved to pastures.

KENTUCKY: Mild temperatures, frequent rain showers prevailed through much of February. An early-month snowfall covered the eastern three-fourths of the State with 18 to 24 inches. The storm left many areas without electricity, limited transportation of tobacco, grains, livestock to market for several days. Some barns, tobacco warehouses collapsed under the weight of the heavy snow. Soil moisture continued to be rated adequate to mostly surplus across the State. Rains kept fields muddy, maintained high-water levels in stock ponds, streams. Winter wheat was showing some early growth mainly from above-normal temperatures experienced during the month. Burley tobacco markets will remain open into April in hopes that late-curing crops will be dried sufficiently for sale. State gross sales totaled 477.1 million pounds, and averaged $189.60 per hundred pound at the end of February. Pasture conditions were generally poor, producers continued to feed hay, extra grain. Cattle were in mostly fair to good condition despite muddy conditions.

LOUISIANA: Days suitable for fieldwork for the month were 8.0. Soil moisture throughout the State was in surplus for each week due to above-normal precipitation for the month. Temperatures were also slightly above normal. Most fieldwork was hindered by wet conditions. However, machinery work was active throughout the month. Corn: Growers applied burndown herbicides in preparation for planting. Sugarcane: Cane fields were drained, some weed control measures were used by ground, air. Equipment repair was active. Wheat: Fertilization, some top dressing of wheat occurred during the month. Vegetables: Some vegetables were harvested regardless of wet conditions, some early planting occurred, most was hampered by rain. Livestock: Cattle were being fed hay, some grazed ryegrass pastures. Spring calving was getting into full swing. Pasture fertilization was active. Crawfish: Crawfish catches were lighter than normal but prices were higher. Rice: Water leveling was active in all areas.

MARYLAND: Warmer-than-normal temperatures being reported for the month of February. Large amounts of precipitation are causing problems with fertilizer, manure spreading on small grains. Hay supplies are reported as very limited as many livestock operators are heading to Pennsylvania to purchase hay. Pasture was reported as being in bad condition on the upper eastern shore. Activities: Almost non-existent as standing water in fields halts any activities.

MICHIGAN: Mild weather prevailed during February. Mean temperatures across the state have averaged 5 to 8 degrees above normal since the beginning of December. These temperatures should put the winter of 1997-98 in the record books as one of the mildest of the century. Farmers were concerned about the lack of frost, its impact on the winter wheat crop. Farming activities included preparing machinery, hauling corn, grain to market, spreading manure, pruning trees. Muddy conditions hampered fieldwork, some farmers harvested corn, plowed during February.

Livestock enjoyed the mild temperatures, were in good condition. Calves have faired well, early lambing was almost complete. Hay prices were higher than normal, feed supplies were adequate.

MINNESOTA: February average temperatures were generally record warm across the State. By the end of the month, most of the State had no snow cover, snow depths over 2 inches were confined to the extreme northeastern tip of the State. Precipitation, mainly in the form of rain, occurred primarily during the last week of the month. Fluctuations in temperature, with no snow cover, have some potential for damage to hayfields. Livestock are in good condition, having benefited from the lack of normal winter stresses. Gains have been excellent in feedlots, livestock production costs have been moderate as grain, forage have been in adequate supply, energy expenditures are way down from their high level during the severe winter a year ago.

MISSISSIPPI: Main farming activities for the month of February were equipment maintenance, feeding, tending livestock. Wet conditions delayed some farmers from fertilizing, preparing fields, planting corn. However, because of the mild temperatures, ryegrass grew exceptionally well, in some areas, wet conditions did not allow farmers to graze cattle. Hay supply was mostly short to adequate across the State. Cattle were in mostly good condition. Wheat was in mostly fair to good condition. Both rainfall, temperatures were still above normal.

MISSOURI: Topsoil 2% short, 57% adequate, 41% surplus. Winter wheat 8% poor, 28% fair, 50% good, 14% excellent. Supply of hay, other roughage 6% short, 68% adequate, 26% surplus. Condition of livestock 1% poor, 10% fair, 74% good, 15% excellent. Stock water supplies 2% short, 80% adequate, 18% surplus. Extremely wet weather characterized the month of February. Most areas too wet to spread fertilizer or do other early fieldwork. Precipitation for the month averaged 3.00 inches, compared with the 30-year avg. of 1.90 inches.

MONTANA: Winter wheat 2% very poor, 15% poor, 54% fair, 28% good, 1% excellent. Winter wheat is hard to judge with much of it being covered with snow, ice. Winter wheat wind damage 2% heavy, 15% moderate, 64% light, 19% none. Snow fall during the last week of February increased the protectiveness of snow cover. Some areas received 12 to 18 inches of snow. Winter wheat protectiveness of snow cover 12% very poor, 67% poor, 7% fair, 12% good, 2% excellent. Livestock reported in good to excellent condition. The mild winter has left feed supplies in good shape. No shortage of hay is reported. There are reports of limited grazing in counties because of lack of grass growth last summer. Calving is 17% complete and lambing is 11% complete. Supplemental feeding continues with 96% of cattle and calves receiving supplemental feeding, and 93% of sheep and lambs. Livestock grazing 29% closed, 14% difficult, 57% open.

NEBRASKA: Above-normal temperatures during most of February provided continued open conditions for livestock grazing but left wheat unprotected. Winter wheat 3% poor, 35% fair, 48% good, 14% excellent. Feed grain supplies 2% short, 88% adequate, 10% surplus. Hay, forage supplies 11% short, 84% adequate, 5% surplus. Calving 18% complete. Activities during January: tax and ag. census paper work, attending meetings, delivering grain to elevators, livestock care, equipment repair.

NEVADA: Frequent storms throughout February built mountain snow packs well in excess of normal. Potential for spring flooding, particularly in the Carson, Walker River watersheds, once again present. Surface irrigation to commence soon Smith, Mason Valleys. Fields were being prepared for planting in the extreme south. Grazing of hay fields continued. Calving gaining momentum. Sheep shearing getting underway. Farm flock lambing underway; range flock lambing to begin soon. Main farm, ranch activities: Ditch cleanup, livestock feeding, calving, equipment maintenance, attending meetings, preparing taxes.

NEW ENGLAND: Above-average temperatures, precipitation in southern areas. Above-average temperatures, normal precipitation in northern areas. Damage assessment continues from last month's ice storms. Maple producers starting to tap maple trees. Major farm activities: Clearing debris, fixing fences; caring for livestock.

NEW JERSEY: Temperatures, precipitation continue to average above normal. Most of the precipitation fell in the form of rain. The greatest 24-hour snowfall reported was 2.0 inches at Charlotteburg on the 4th to 5th. Farmers were active maintaining equipment, caring for livestock, preparing, organizing records for tax, census purposes. Some farmers participated in seminars concerning business management, the usage of pesticides. Some nursery operations were digging, shipping plant material. Spraying of alfalfa to combat weeds, field preparation for planting peas occurring in southern areas.

NEW MEXICO: After weeks of dry weather, the first half of February was dominated by light precipitation across the State. During the last part of the month, a series of storm systems swept over the State. However, rain and snow amounts remained light. Average temperatures for the State remained within 2 to 3 degrees of normal throughout February. Ranchers continued to haul water to livestock, while supplemental feeding continued to take place in most counties. Fruit producers were attentively watching weather patterns, late last month, as warmer weather was bringing trees, plants out of dormancy. Farmers were turning under crop stubble, preparing land for spring crops.

NEW YORK: Temperatures averaged well above normal, making outside activities easier. Fruit growers not concerned about warm weather during February. If it continues into March, trees could sustain frost damage as buds would be pushing. In northern areas, producers continued cleaning up from the ice storm that hit in January. Varying amounts of damage to alfalfa fields is evident due to ice. Fields with sufficient snow cover escaped damage. Maple producers prepared tubing in anticipation of an early sap flow. Severe damage to some sugar bushes in northern areas will prevent trees from being tapped. Many meetings, farm shows were held during the month.

NORTH CAROLINA: Month was filled with rain in the Peidmont, coastal regions, snow in the mountains. However, there were several days of spring weather. Shop work, other indoor activities predominated, there were several days of nice weather for fieldwork. Soil moisture 22% adequate, 78% surplus. Activities for the week included: Indoor shop work; preparing tobacco beds; tending livestock; repairing equipment.

NORTH DAKOTA: An extended snowstorm with high winds the last half week of February ended a month of above-normal temperatures. Heavy snow, some areas in excess of 20 inches, fell in the western and north-central districts of the State. Livestock were reported in generally good condition, while calving, lambing were just beginning. Warm weather during the month, the snow, rain made yards, roads muddy, slowing grain movement producing stress on livestock. State average snow depth is 8.9 in., down substantially from 14.6 inches last year. Snow cover at present time is sufficient to protect 74% of the alfalfa. Cattle condition: 1% poor, 21% fair, 72% good, 6% excellent; sheep: 1% poor, 16% fair, 77% good, 6% excellent. All livestock were receiving supplemental feed. Hay, forage supplies were 5% short, 92% adequate, 3% surplus. Cattle sales: 6% below normal, 91% normal, 3% above normal.

OHIO: Precipitation, temperatures were above average. There is no snow cover. A few reporters mentioned thunder storms toward the end of February. Winter wheat is greening up. A few growers were top dressing winter wheat in dryer areas. Slight water damage was being reported as the standing water subsides. One reporter said there was slight heaving in the winter wheat, alfalfa ground. Local tobacco markets closed for the season, but a reporter mentioned there would be a clean up sale in March. There is still some wet tobacco hanging in barns. Some pastures were reported short due to cattle grazing. Fruit growers are concerned about the

buds swelling early on their peach trees. Livestock are having more illness than normal for this time of year due to warm humid weather. One reporter mentioned that a few cattle were in muddy lots causing some stress. Activities: Grain hauling; spreading manure; some field tillage; fencing; equipment repair, maintenance; attending insurance, recertification, conservation meeting.

OKLAHOMA: Dry weather, high winds produced fire danger. Wheat 50% grazed, 48% 1997, 39% avg. Feeder cattle prices down $3 to $4 per cwt. from preceding week. Top-dressing continued. Demand moderate for feeder cattle.

OREGON: Activities: Temperatures mild for this time of year compared to average. Winter pruning winding down. Winter grains look good. Nurseries digging, container movement continued. Some fruit budding underway in the Willamette Valley. Eastern cattle mostly in winter quarters, supplemental feed. Western pastures greening up, supplemental feeding continued.

PENNSYLVANIA: Unseasonably warm weather, above-normal precipitation continued to create some difficulty in hauling manure as the ground thawed. There was some concern for the effects that the warm weather would have on pests, weeds in the coming summer. Activities: Hauling manure; fixing fences; caring for livestock; buying seed, other supplies; attending farm, organization meetings.

SOUTH CAROLINA: February temperatures were above normal as a few days saw highs in the 60's to low 70's. Precipitation was well above average as some locations throughout the State had possible record rainfall. Regular, heavy rainfall caused some flooding. Small grains were in fair to good condition, although wet fields could delay normal fertilizer applications. Pastures, livestock were in fair to good condition. Farmers continued to do maintenance activities as they prepared for upcoming planting activities.

SOUTH DAKOTA: The month of February continued the mild weather patterns of January with less snow, higher temperatures than normal. Most producers are taking advantage of the mild conditions to prepare machinery, supplies for spring seeding. Statewide, the average snow depth was 2 inches. Winter wheat, rye crops are in fair to excellent condition. However, with very little to no snow cover there are many areas of the State where fall seeded crops are coming out of dormancy, posing a risk to winterkill if colder weather prevail. The general opinion is that winter crops are not damaged yet, since temperatures for the month of February, January were unusually mild. As of the end of February, 71% of the alfalfa was under poor snow cover, 26% under adequate cover, 3% under excellent cover. Seventy-one percent of the winter wheat crop was under poor snow cover, 29% under adequate cover. Sixty-four percent of the winter rye crop was under poor snow cover, 16% under adequate cover, 20% under excellent cover. Livestock are in good to excellent condition, with the weather milder than usual. Calving season has just started, lambing season is well under way. During February, calf deaths were 24% below average, 75% normal, 1% above normal. Lamb deaths 21% below average, 78% normal, 1% above normal. With the mild weather, producers have been able to capitalize on open grazing conditions, allowing them to use less of their feed stocks. Grain, concentrates supplies 6% short, 79% adequate, 15% surplus, while hay, roughage supplies 1% short, 81% adequate, 18% surplus. Stock water supplies 1% short, 92% adequate, 7% surplus.

TENNESSEE: Normal rainfall, above-normal temperatures characterized the weather during February throughout most of the State. The only exception being the Cumberland Plateau, which received 6 to 12 inches of snow on February 6th, 7th. Wheat continues to be rated in mostly good to excellent condition. Top dressing was in progress and wheat had begun to joint, ahead of schedule. Cattle were in mostly good condition. Hay supplies were generally adequate.

TEXAS: February proved to be a wet month in most areas with El Niño-driven storms combining with Gulf moisture. Land preparations, planting activity experienced numerous delays in Central areas, along the Upper Coast. Small grain conditions improved during the month in most areas beginning the month at 70% of normal, ending the month at 74%. Livestock conditions remained good for the month, with steady markets, prices reported. Persistent wet conditions caused feeding problems in many areas. Cattle were being moved off wheat for grain during the last part of February.

UTAH: Major farm, ranch activities during the month of February included feeding farm animals, spreading fertilizer, repairing and servicing equipment, calving, soil sampling, planning for the upcoming crop season. Wet weather had increased calf loss and made manure management in feedlots difficult. However, range as well as livestock conditions remained good.

VIRGINIA: Wet, muddy field conditions prevailed again this month. Precipitation during the month of February reached record levels in many localities. Most fields remained completely saturated, causing slight flooding. Fields in some western, southwestern localities were covered with snow for most of the month. Unseasonably warm weather aided in melting the remaining snow cover, creating muddy conditions in these areas as well. Small grains were mostly in fair to good condition. However, 18% of the crop was in poor condition due to excessive rainfall. Some producers are concerned with standing water in small grain fields. Some portions of grain fields have been underwater for 7 to 10 days. Small grains are beginning to show nitrogen stress as top dressing continues to be delayed. Some small grain producers are expecting a 10-percent yield reduction due to nitrogen deficiency. Warm weather has been pushing the development of fruit trees. Some peach trees are prematurely budding, causing concern for potential frost damage at this critical stage. Livestock were in mostly good condition for the month of February. A mild winter for some localities has helped stretch hay supplies. Hay supplies for other localities are limited as producers search for other sources. Muddy pastures continue to make feeding very difficult for most livestock producers. Farming activities included orchard pruning, dormant oil spray on fruit, tending to livestock, tax preparation, attending producer meetings.

WASHINGTON: Topsoil 6% short, 74% adequate, 20% surplus; subsoil 13% short, 85% adequate, 2% surplus. Hay and other roughage supplies, 93% adequate, 7% surplus. Mild winter weather conditions continued. West of the Cascade Mountain range, winter wheat was beginning to grow. Strawberry, blueberry plants were showing signs of buds. Garlic emerged. Pastures were green, growing. Field activity was very slow. Eastern areas reported good moisture conditions, with most areas normal to slightly above for the year to date. Snow cover has melted throughout most of the State. Winter wheat looked good for the most part, with some cheat grass, barley yellow dwarf problems reported. Some producers are reseeding to spring wheat or barley. Spring wheat, pea planting was underway. Some early fertilizer application was reported. Pruning, trellising, removal operations were progressing well ahead of schedule. Warm winter conditions were bringing fruit trees out of dormancy earlier than normal. Some concerns were expressed for the possibility of a late freeze. Grazing conditions were better than normal, hay supplies were holding very well due to the mild winter. Herds were reported to be in excellent condition. Spring calving was well underway. Muddy conditions were reported in some confinement operations.

WEST VIRGINIA: Activities for the month of March: Muddy conditions continue to be a problem in most areas as farmers tried to do fieldwork, feed livestock. Wet field conditions limited plowing for tobacco bud seedings, spreading manure. Mild weather has helped improve wheat conditions, been good for feed grain supplies.

(Continued on back cover)

International Weather and Crop Summary

February 22 - 28, 1998

HIGHLIGHTS

FSU-WESTERN: Unusually mild weather kept winter grain areas in the west and south snow-free and caused a further loss of cold hardiness.

EUROPE: Continued unusually mild weather prompted early greening of winter grains in the east.

NORTHWESTERN AFRICA: Wet weather eased persistent dryness in Algeria and Tunisia, improving conditions for winter grains in the jointing stage.

AUSTRALIA: Dryness and warmth benefited maturing cotton and sorghum.

SOUTH AFRICA: Drier, warmer weather across the corn belt favored development of immature summer crops.

SOUTHEAST ASIA: In Java, widespread showers continued to benefit main-season rice and eased long-term moisture deficits. Drought continued across the eastern Philippines and eastern Malaysia.

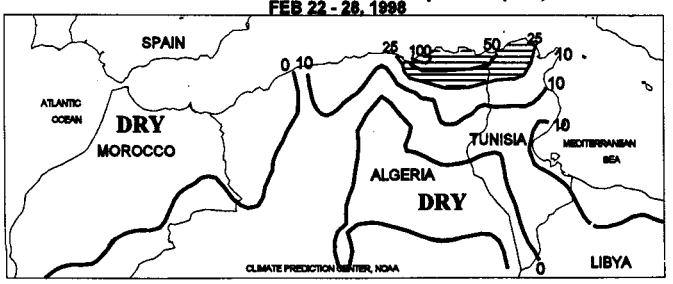
EASTERN ASIA: Warm weather prompted winter wheat to begin breaking dormancy across the North China Plain.

SOUTH AMERICA: In southern Brazil, excessive showers caused local flooding and increased disease potential for filling to maturing soybeans.

EUROPE

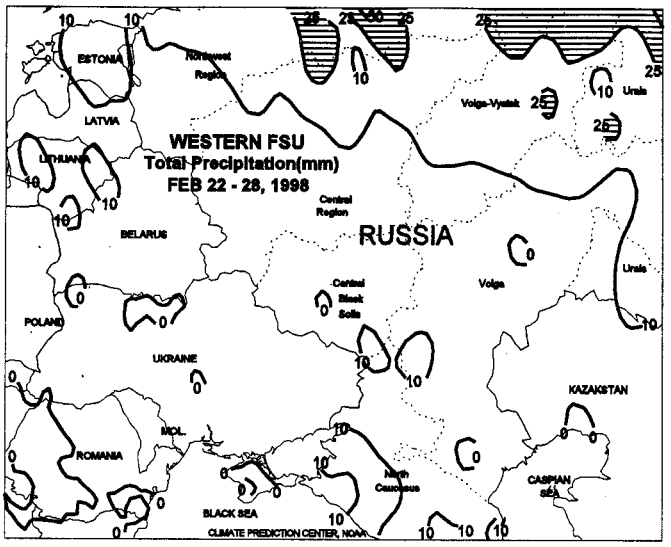
The third consecutive week of unusually mild weather continued over Europe. Weekly temperatures averaged 1 to 5 degrees C above normal in the west and 4 to 8 degrees C above normal in the east. Extreme maximum temperatures ranged from 10 to 15 degrees C in northern Europe and 15 to 20 degrees C in the south. The continued mild weather pattern has likely prompted greening in winter grains in most of eastern Europe, leaving crops vulnerable to potential damage in the event of a cold snap. Winter grains in western and southern areas were rapidly developing. Light, intermittent showers (10-25 mm) fell in England, France, southern Germany, and Italy, benefiting winter grains. Elsewhere, dry weather in Spain, Portugal, and most of eastern Europe favored early spring fieldwork.

NORTHWEST AFRICA Total Precipitation (mm)
FEB 22 - 28, 1998



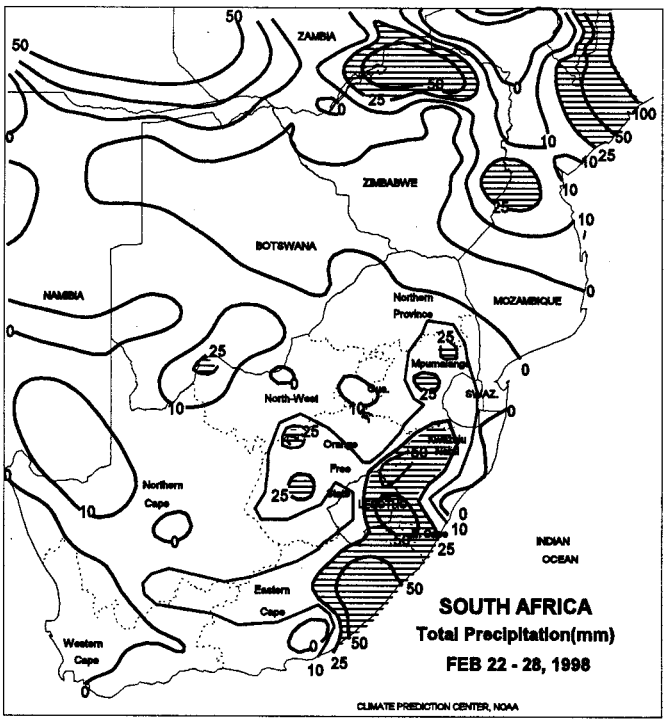
NORTHWESTERN AFRICA

Rain (10-50 mm, with local amounts in excess of 50 mm) fell in Tunisia and the eastern half of Algeria, improving moisture conditions for winter grains previously stressed by persistent dryness. Farther west, however, the third consecutive week of dryness prevailed over crop areas in Morocco and western Algeria. The dryness in these areas has lowered soil moisture reserves, and rain is needed soon to prevent a deterioration in crop conditions. Weekly temperatures averaged near normal in Morocco and 1 to 3 degrees C below normal in Tunisia.



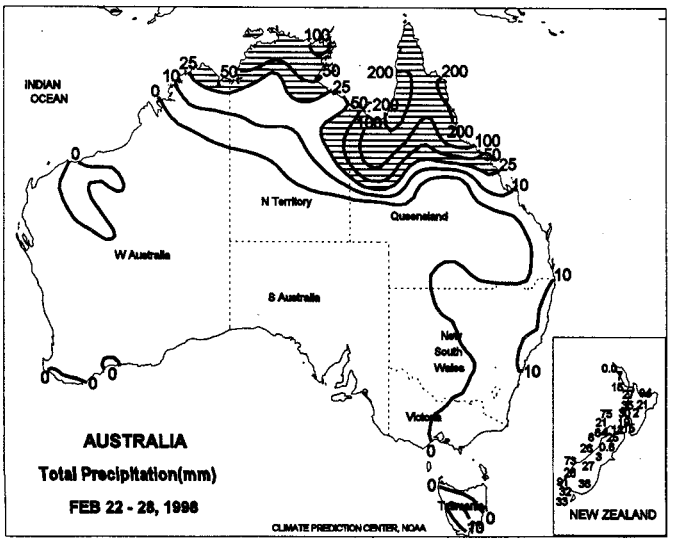
FSU-WESTERN

Unseasonably mild weather prevailed over most of the region, causing further melting of protective snow cover. Winter grain areas in Ukraine, the Baltics, Belarus, and the North Caucasus region in Russia remained snow-free. Furthermore, the mild weather in these areas caused a further loss of cold hardiness in winter grains, leaving them highly vulnerable to potential extreme cold. Weekly temperatures averaged 4 to 8 degrees C above normal in most areas. Extreme maximum temperatures exceeded 10 degrees C in Belarus, Ukraine, and the southern portion of the North Caucasus region in Russia. Light, if any, precipitation (less than 10 mm) prevailed over Belarus, Ukraine, and southern Russia. The combination of unusually mild and mostly dry weather in southern Ukraine and the North Caucasus region in Russia favored early-season fieldwork, including early-spring fertilizer applications.



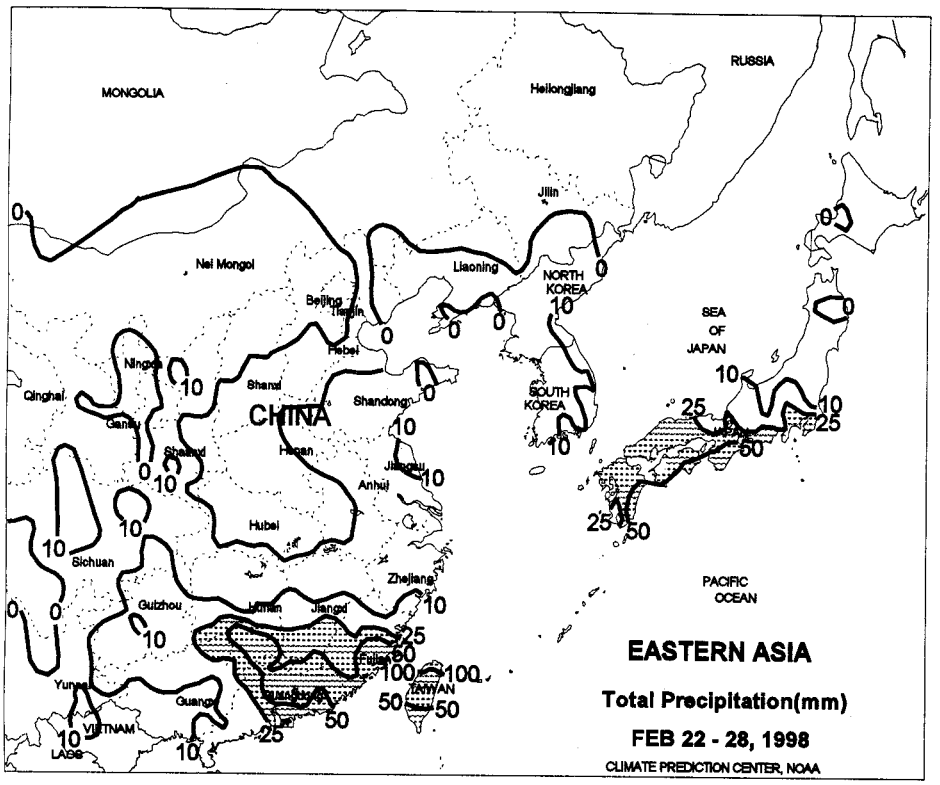
SOUTH AFRICA

Showers tapered off across the corn belt, with most locations receiving less than 10 mm. The exception was a section of the east centered over the border between Free State and Kwazulu-Natal, where rainfall ranged from 25 to 97 mm. This band of wetness extended southward into Eastern Cape but missed primary sugarcane areas, allowing some recovery from recent excessive rainfall. Temperatures averaged near to above normal, spurring growth of reproductive to filling corn. A continuation of warm weather and sunny skies would greatly improve the chances of corn and sunflowers escaping damage from an autumn (April-May) freeze. In Western Cape, dry weather continued over the main winter wheat areas. Winter plantings in the southwest typically begin during April. Elsewhere in southern Africa, warm, dry weather continued over sections of southern and central Zimbabwe, reducing moisture available to immature corn. Scattered showers (10-25 mm, locally exceeding 50 mm) continued north and east of Harare, as well as most areas in Zambia, Malawi, and northern Mozambique.



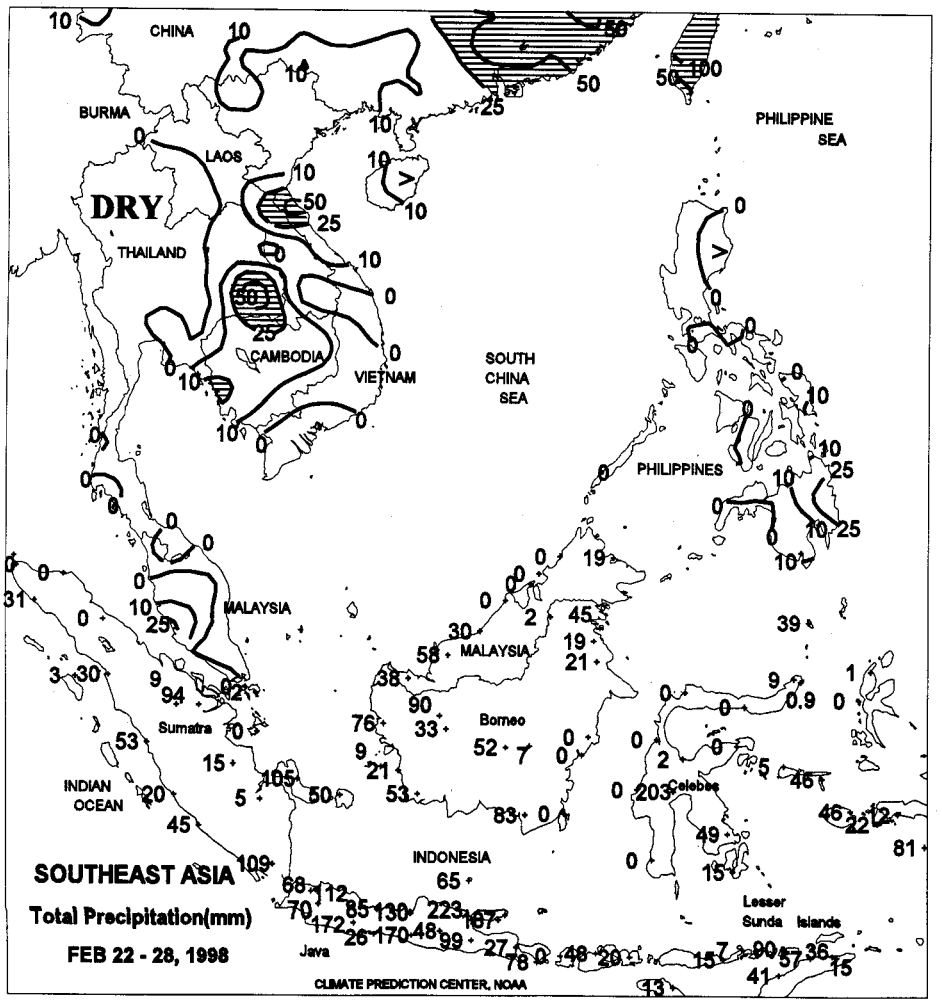
AUSTRALIA

Warm, dry weather covered eastern Australia's primary summer crop region. The weather favored maturation and early harvesting of cotton and sorghum and improved prospects for higher crop quality. The dryness was unfavorable for sugarcane in the main growing areas, but locally heavy tropical rains (100-300 mm or more) returned to northernmost areas in the Cape York Peninsula. In New Zealand, light to moderate rain (3-35 mm) fell in the main agricultural zones.



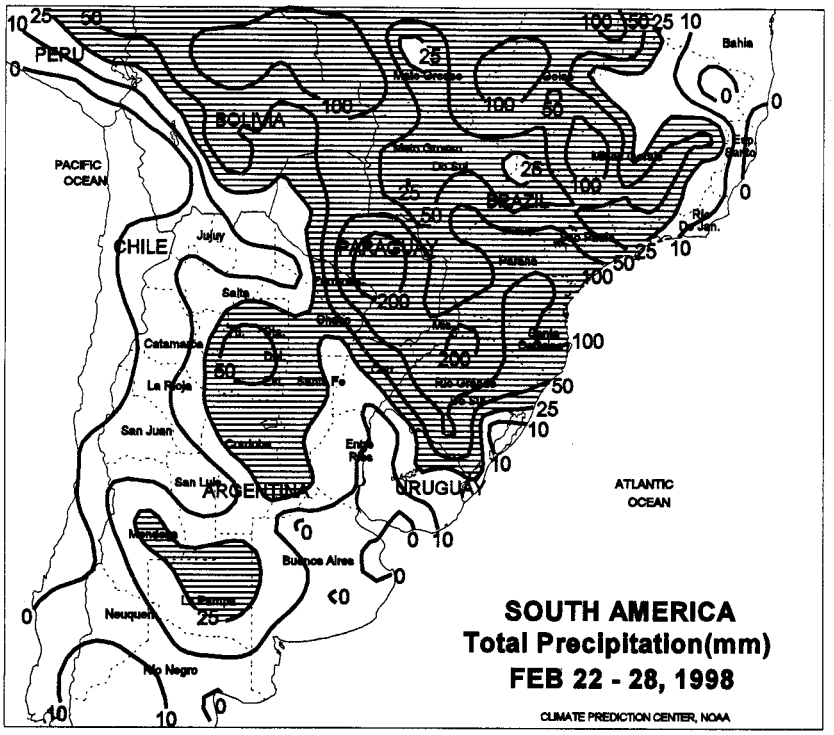
EASTERN ASIA

Warm weather prompted winter wheat to begin breaking dormancy across the North China Plain. Temperatures averaged 2 to 4 degrees C above normal, with highs ranging from 15 to 20 degrees C. Light rain (less than 10 mm) benefited greening wheat across the region. Moderate rain (15-50 mm) provided moisture for early double-crop rice transplanting across southern China.



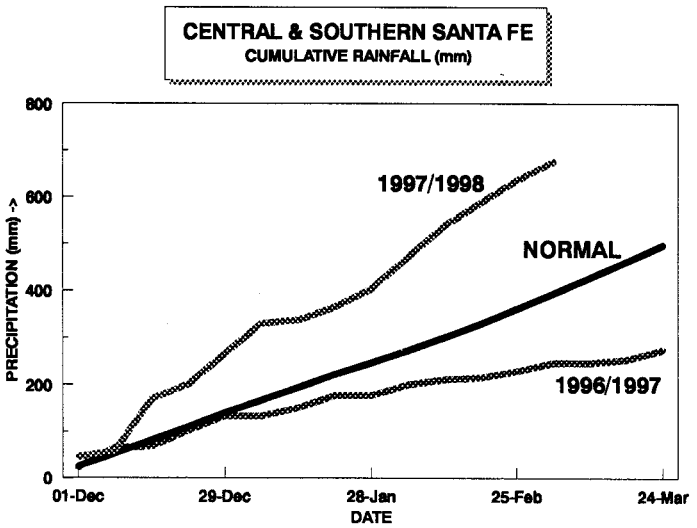
SOUTHEAST ASIA

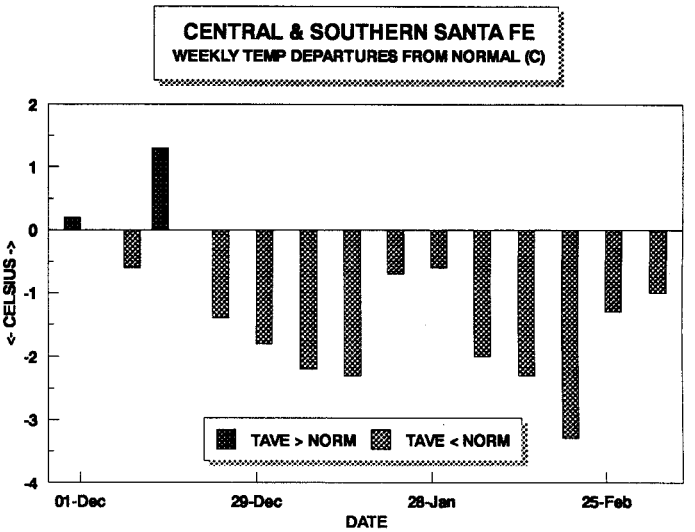
In Java and southern Sumatra, widespread heavy showers (50-170 mm) continued to benefit main-season rice and reduce long-term moisture deficits. Drought stressed second-season crops in the eastern Philippines and oil palm in eastern Malaysia (Sarawak and Sabah). Mostly dry weather prevailed across eastern peninsular Malaysia.



SOUTH AMERICA

In southern Brazil, excessive showers (140-300 mm) in Rio Grande do Sul caused local flooding and increased disease potential for filling to maturing soybeans. Heavy showers (100-200 mm) also caused flooding in southern Paraguay. Elsewhere in southern Brazil, moderate showers (30-100 mm) maintained favorable moisture for filling to maturing soybeans. Drier weather will be needed in the coming weeks across southern Brazil for maturing soybeans. In central Argentina, light to moderate rain (5-30 mm) benefited reproductive to filling soybeans. Late-week dry weather aided maturing corn and sunflower. Temperatures averaged near normal across central Argentina, and 1 to 2 degrees C above normal in southern Brazil.





Wet and cool weather has been the norm for most of Argentina during their summer season. Weekly temperatures in southern and central Santa Fe have been below-normal for 11 consecutive weeks, while rainfall was 171 percent of normal. The wet conditions extend to northern Argentina and southern Brazil, where soil moisture is abundant.

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Weather Service/Climate Prediction Center
Managing Editor . . . . . ***Douglas Le Comte*** (202) 720-7919
fax (202) 720-1455
Editor . . . . . ***Brad Rippey*** (202) 720-1444
Meteorologists . . . . . ***Jeff Savadel and Brian Morris***
Special Requests . . . . . (202) 720-7917
Subscriptions . . . . . ***John Kopman*** (301) 763-8227, ext. 7534
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(Continued from page 11)

WISCONSIN: As of late February, frost depths averaged 1.5 inches, compared with the 36-year average of 17.6 inches. One year ago, the frost depth was 10.4 inches. The snow depth averaged 0.4 inch, compared with the normal average of 8.3 inches. One year ago, the snow depth was 8.2 inches. Soil moisture conditions were very wet statewide. Mild weather created muddy conditions for livestock. Some farmers started plowing, disking.

WYOMING: Topsoil 17% short, 81% adequate, 2% surplus. Subsoil 31% short, 69% adequate. Average depth of snow cover: 6 inches. Winter wheat 12% fair, 76% good, 12% excellent. Winter wheat wind damage 51% none, 43% light, 6% moderate. Winter wheat freeze damage 88% none, 8% light, 4% moderate. Cattle, sheep in mostly good condition. Hay, roughage supplies 3% short, 85% adequate, 12% surplus. Twenty percent of spring calves have been born. Calf and lamb losses mostly normal. Farm flock ewes lambed 30%, last year 26%, 5-year average 28%. Farm flock sheep shorn 28%, last year 30%, 5-year average 29%.

El Niño Graphics from the Agricultural Outlook Forum

Graphics from the poster exhibit, "El Niño: Truth and Consequences," presented February 23-24, 1998, at the Agricultural Outlook Forum 98 in Washington, D.C., are now available on the Joint Agricultural Weather Facility Web site: www.usda.gov/oce/waob/jawf.

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