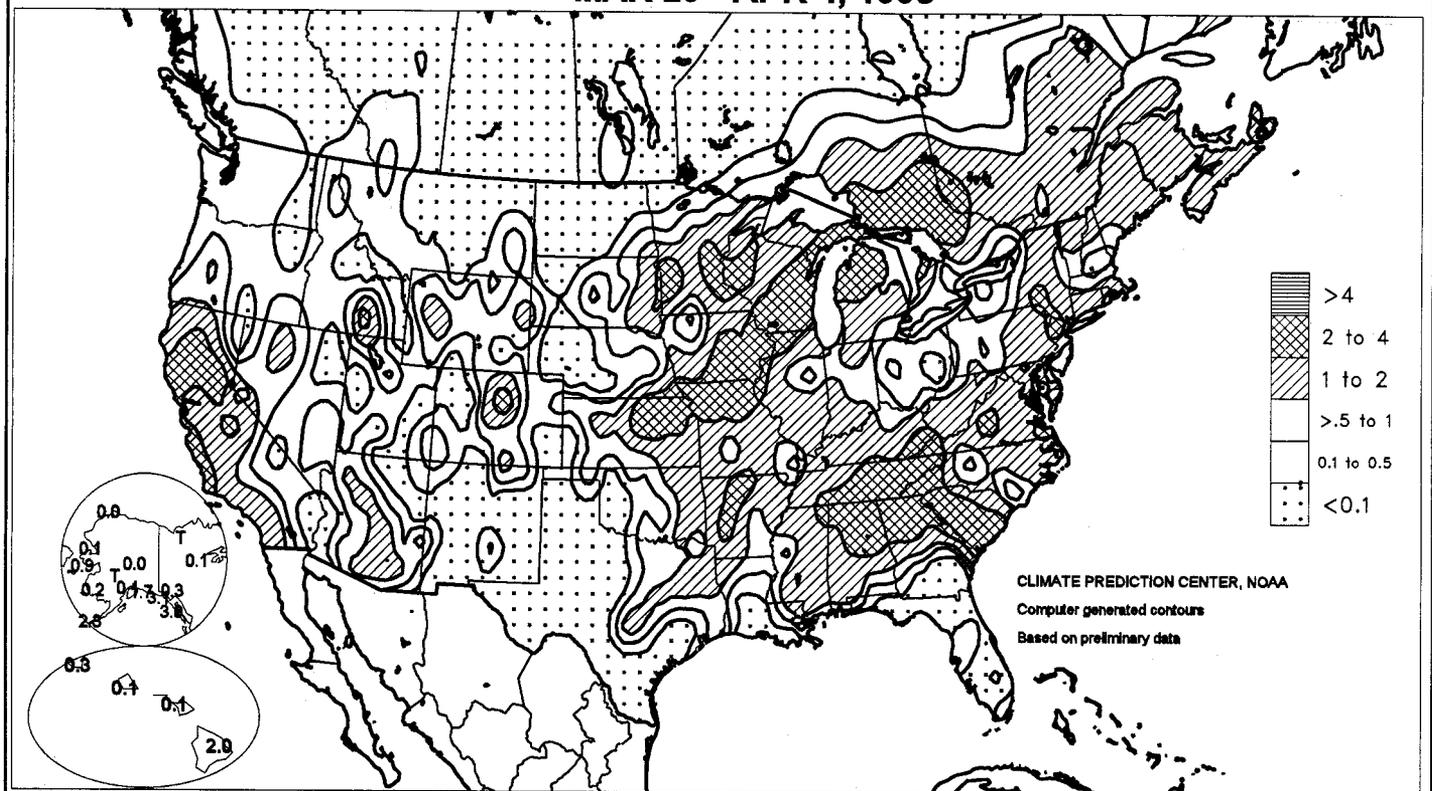


WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP BULLETIN

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)
MAR 29 - APR 4, 1998



HIGHLIGHTS

March 29 - April 4, 1998

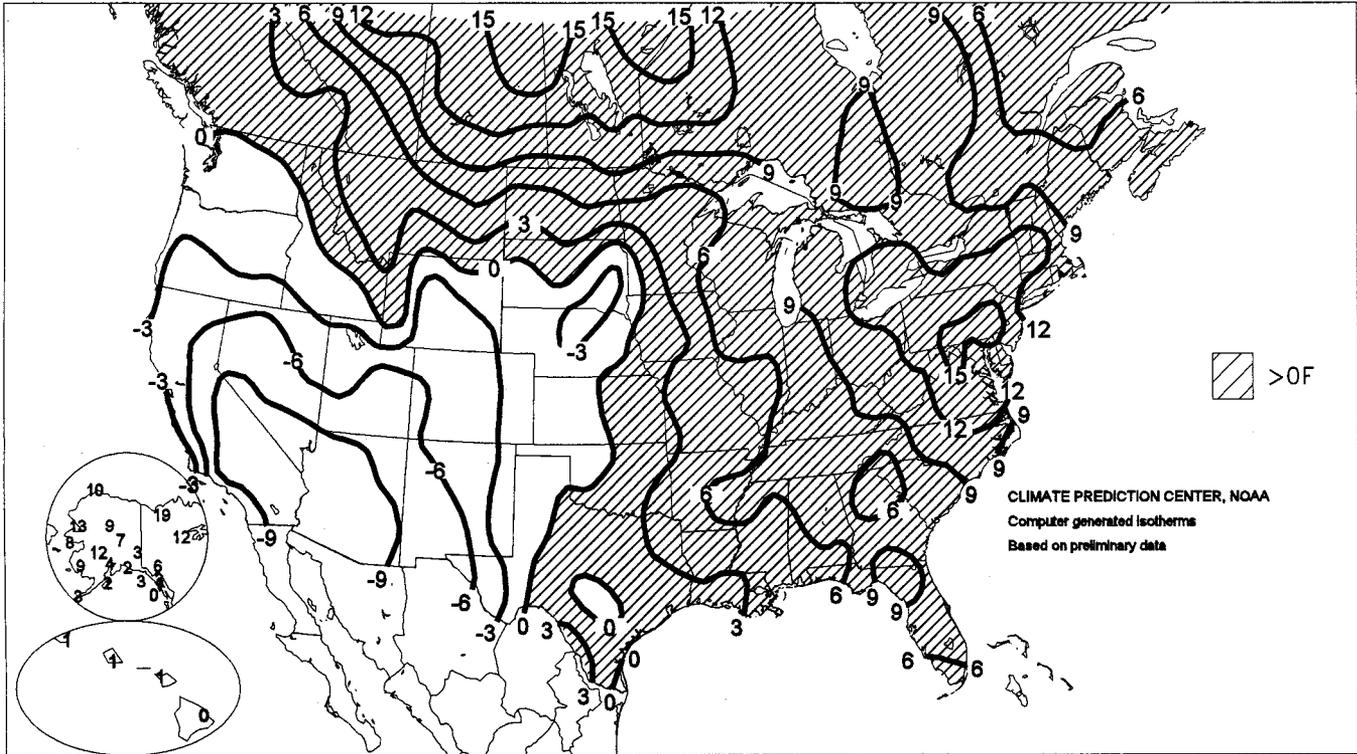
Warmth continued in the East through midweek, setting nearly 100 additional daily-record highs and boosting weekly temperatures to as much as 16°F above normal. In addition, at least 19 locations notched March-record highs. Meanwhile, a major storm system dumped heavy precipitation on the central Plains, upper Midwest, and Great Lakes region. Farther west, wet, cool weather persisted across California and the Southwest (weekly temperatures as much as 12°F below normal), slowing fieldwork and planting. During the mid- to late-week period, wet conditions returned to the Southeastern and Mid-Atlantic States, ending a week-long period of favorably warm, dry weather.

(Continued on back cover)

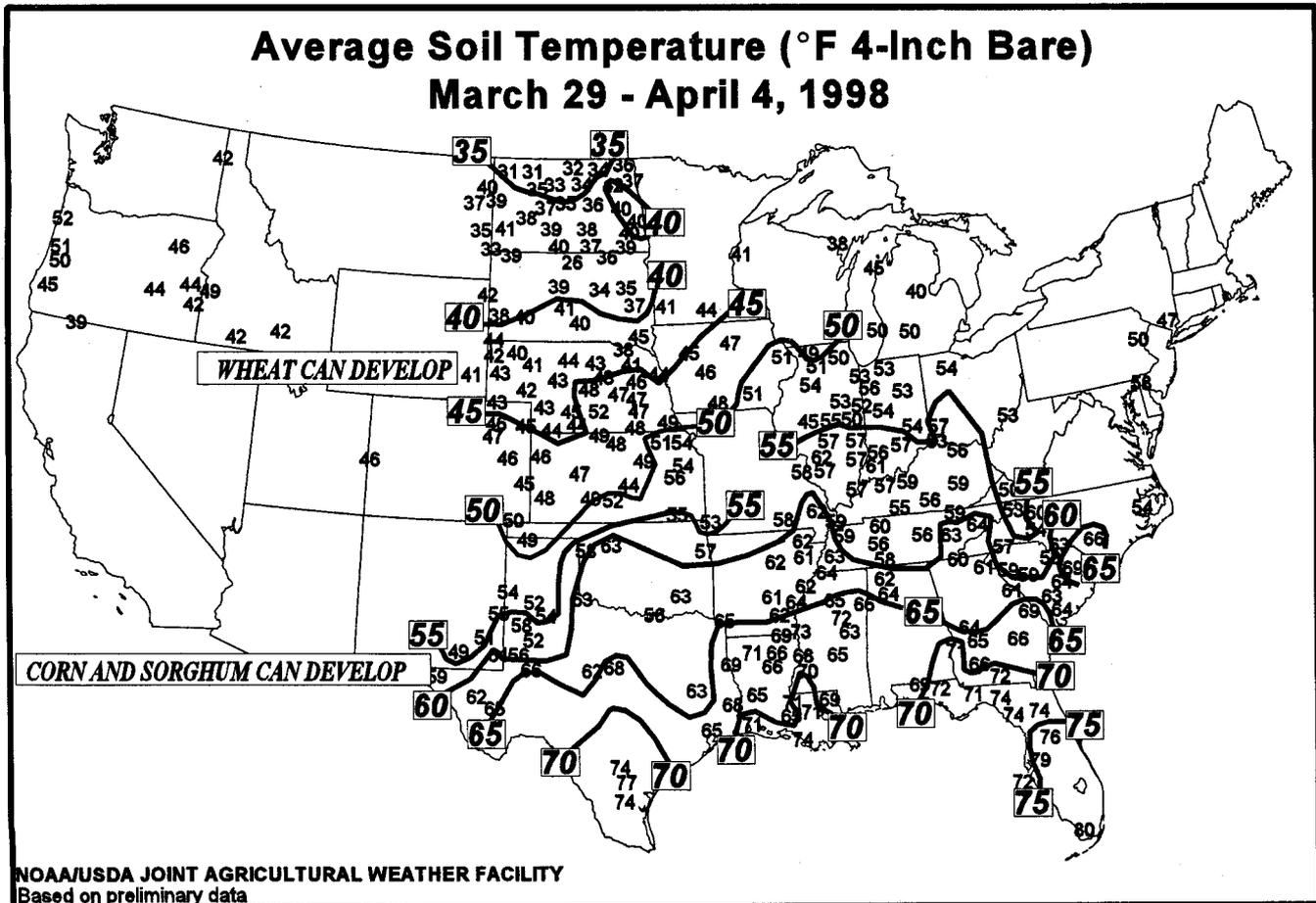
Contents

Temperature Departure & Soil Temperature Maps	2
Extreme Maximum & Minimum Temperature Maps	3
National Weather Data for Selected Cities	4
SNOTEL Drainage Basin Averages	7
March Weather and Crop Summary	8
March Precipitation and Temperature Maps ..	10
March Weather Data for Selected Cities	11
National Agricultural Summary	12
Crop Progress and Condition Tables	13
State Agricultural Summaries	14
International Weather and Crop Summary & March Temperature/Precipitation Table	19
Subscription Information	24

Departure of Average Temperature from Normal (°F) MAR 29 - APR 4, 1998



Average Soil Temperature (°F 4-Inch Bare) March 29 - April 4, 1998



National Weather Data for Selected Cities

Weather Data for the Week Ending April 4, 1998

Data Provided by Climate Prediction Center (301-763-8000 EXT. 7511)

STATES AND STATIONS	TEMPERATURE °F						PRECIPITATION						RELATIVE HUMIDITY, PERCENT		NUMBER OF DAYS				
	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	EXTREME HIGH	EXTREME LOW	AVERAGE	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	WEEKLY TOTAL, IN.	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	GREATEST IN 24-HOUR, IN.	TOTAL IN., SINCE Mar 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Mar 1	TOTAL IN., SINCE Jan 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Jan 1	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	NUMBER OF DAYS			
																90 AND ABOVE	82 AND BELOW	.01 INCH OR MORE	.50 INCH OR MORE
AL BIRMINGHAM	77	53	85	45	65	7	2.28	0.98	-	7.17	104	23.75	142	95	44	0	0	-	-
AL HUNTSVILLE	76	52	85	44	64	8	1.71	0.38	0.89	5.97	81	20.54	118	91	43	0	0	3	2
AL MOBILE	77	58	81	49	68	3	1.38	0.17	0.57	11.73	166	32.93	191	97	63	0	0	5	2
AL MONTGOMERY	80	54	85	48	67	6	1.15	-0.10	0.59	6.81	98	20.71	121	90	44	0	0	3	2
AK ANCHORAGE	40	29	46	22	34	4	0.07	-0.08	0.05	0.12	15	0.78	32	84	53	0	6	2	0
AK BARROW	6	-7	14	-22	0	10	0.00	-0.06	0.00	0.05	29	0.05	12	86	72	0	7	0	0
AK FAIRBANKS	41	15	47	-1	28	7	0.00	-0.08	0.00	0.00	0	0.08	6	85	35	0	7	0	0
AK JUNEAU	43	34	46	29	39	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	97	73	0	2	-	-
AK KODIAK	42	32	46	30	37	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	89	55	0	3	-	-
AK NOME	27	13	35	-9	20	8	0.87	0.72	0.50	1.85	298	3.07	152	91	78	0	7	5	1
AZ FLAGSTAFF	37	16	48	1	26	-12	0.52	0.03	0.30	4.23	150	7.67	110	91	55	0	7	3	0
AZ PHOENIX	63	46	73	43	55	-11	0.68	0.55	0.40	1.59	166	4.87	211	80	33	0	0	2	0
AZ PRESCOTT	49	27	57	22	38	-8	0.46	0.15	0.34	2.85	143	5.67	112	90	50	0	7	3	0
AZ TUCSON	62	38	74	34	50	-12	1.49	1.37	1.08	1.99	262	5.36	232	87	33	0	0	4	1
AZ YUMA	69	49	77	41	59	-9	0.03	-0.03	0.02	0.31	111	1.57	187	67	32	0	0	2	0
AR FORT SMITH	73	50	82	42	61	4	0.74	-0.17	0.69	5.00	112	15.80	176	85	47	0	0	3	1
AR LITTLE ROCK	75	53	82	43	64	6	0.87	-0.50	0.67	4.82	82	14.83	120	84	42	0	0	1	1
CA BAKERSFIELD	61	42	68	35	52	-8	0.29	0.10	0.21	2.41	211	9.09	297	94	49	0	0	4	0
CA EUREKA	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.09	-	-	7.91	-	35.18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CA FRESNO	57	41	62	37	49	-9	1.14	0.80	0.42	4.20	204	12.40	214	92	56	0	0	4	0
CA LOS ANGELES	59	44	81	42	51	-7	0.96	0.66	0.68	3.52	164	20.58	282	92	64	0	0	4	1
CA REDDING	56	42	66	38	49	-5	1.24	0.49	0.64	6.10	128	35.53	233	83	53	0	0	6	1
CA SACRAM/MCCLELL	59	44	64	37	52	-	1.29	-9.99	0.63	2.34	-	21.52	-999	96	57	0	0	4	1
CA SAN DIEGO	60	49	84	44	55	-6	0.72	0.41	0.27	2.17	113	12.50	237	80	54	0	0	4	0
CA SAN FRANCISCO	56	46	80	41	51	-3	1.80	1.07	0.52	2.97	89	24.85	229	87	63	0	0	6	1
CO ALAMOSA	46	20	58	14	33	-4	0.06	-0.06	0.06	0.69	113	0.82	58	89	28	0	7	1	0
CO CO SPRINGS	50	27	61	19	39	-3	0.22	-0.01	0.12	2.54	237	2.91	166	83	34	0	7	3	0
CO DENVER	51	28	63	20	39	-4	1.15	0.82	1.07	1.93	132	2.20	87	88	38	0	7	5	1
CO GRAND JUNCTION	50	33	62	23	41	-6	0.22	0.02	0.13	1.56	151	2.51	121	90	46	0	4	4	0
CO PUEBLO	56	30	71	23	43	-4	0.31	0.12	0.20	1.94	218	2.20	146	86	29	0	5	3	0
CT BRIDGEPORT	61	44	80	38	53	9	1.85	0.97	1.86	6.74	158	15.36	146	87	61	0	0	1	1
CT HARTFORD	67	43	89	36	55	11	0.96	0.09	0.67	5.83	141	12.32	114	90	50	0	0	2	1
DC WASHINGTON	75	54	87	41	64	12	1.52	0.86	0.77	6.92	197	17.58	196	80	43	0	0	2	2
DE WILMINGTON	73	51	86	40	62	14	0.30	-0.48	0.20	5.15	133	12.90	131	84	50	0	0	3	0
FL DAYTONA BEACH	84	66	88	61	75	8	0.08	-0.48	0.06	3.99	124	15.57	172	96	58	0	0	2	0
FL JACKSONVILLE	84	62	87	55	73	9	0.01	-0.70	0.01	2.65	65	17.28	153	95	52	0	0	1	0
FL KEY WEST	82	75	84	71	79	3	0.12	-0.22	0.12	3.13	168	10.42	182	88	72	0	0	1	0
FL MIAMI	84	72	89	70	78	5	0.32	-0.21	0.25	5.97	222	13.82	201	87	61	0	0	5	0
FL ORLANDO	85	66	87	62	75	6	0.13	-0.40	0.08	5.39	154	16.12	183	98	54	0	0	3	0
FL TAMPA	83	69	85	63	78	7	0.16	-0.25	0.16	5.32	168	20.78	252	97	68	0	0	1	0
FL VALPARAISO/EGLIN	78	62	79	52	69	7	0.00	-1.32	0.00	6.50	104	22.34	152	95	58	0	0	0	0
FL WEST PALM BEACH	84	72	89	68	78	6	0.05	-0.64	0.06	4.07	101	21.48	226	86	61	0	0	1	0
GA ATHENS	73	52	83	43	63	5	3.79	2.70	3.51	8.70	144	22.29	148	93	46	0	0	4	1
GA ATLANTA	73	54	81	42	63	6	2.55	1.39	1.28	8.35	130	21.36	134	87	43	0	0	4	2
GA AUGUSTA	77	54	84	46	65	6	3.16	2.26	2.78	9.20	179	23.07	171	98	45	0	0	3	1
GA COLUMBUS	80	56	86	49	68	7	0.63	-0.54	0.25	4.97	78	12.41	78	88	42	0	0	3	0
GA MACON	78	55	83	46	67	6	0.63	-0.10	0.51	5.95	112	17.89	123	96	47	0	0	4	1
GA SAVANNAH	81	61	83	56	71	8	1.05	0.28	0.72	5.04	120	19.43	176	98	53	0	0	3	1
HI HILO	78	67	80	65	72	0	1.99	-1.60	0.93	3.56	22	6.00	17	87	65	0	0	5	2
HI HONOLULU	82	71	84	68	76	1	0.15	-0.29	0.08	0.17	7	1.15	14	76	49	0	0	3	0
HI KAHULUI	80	68	81	67	74	1	0.14	-0.41	0.07	0.26	9	1.13	11	86	58	0	0	2	0
HI LIHUE	79	69	81	68	74	1	0.28	-0.63	0.13	0.59	13	4.53	33	87	60	0	0	5	0
ID BOISE	54	37	58	28	45	0	0.17	-0.13	0.12	1.16	79	5.29	133	74	43	0	1	3	0
ID LEWISTON	54	37	57	31	46	-2	0.05	-0.20	0.04	0.87	71	2.98	87	76	39	0	2	2	0
ID POCATELLO	49	31	56	23	40	-1	0.54	0.25	0.28	1.54	108	4.96	146	91	54	0	6	4	0
IL CHICAGO/O'HARE	60	43	79	34	52	8	1.09	0.31	0.91	4.47	142	8.84	146	88	55	0	0	2	1
IL MOLINE	60	44	81	36	52	7	2.07	1.24	0.98	5.18	149	10.87	174	88	61	0	0	4	2
IL PEORIA	61	44	79	36	52	7	0.64	-0.17	0.53	4.77	141	9.96	157	86	59	0	0	3	1
IL ROCKFORD	59	42	80	34	51	9	1.87	0.92	1.19	3.54	122	7.47	140	89	59	0	0	4	1
IL SPRINGFIELD	61	45	81	34	53	5	1.10	0.27	0.59	5.26	141	10.40	148	89	63	0	0	3	1
IN EVANSVILLE	67	47	81	35	57	6	0.97	-0.04	0.71	3.33	63	8.28	75	90	48	0	0	3	1
IN FORT WAYNE	63	44	78	32	53	10	0.76	0.01	0.37	5.12	153	10.52	148	89	55	0	1	4	0
IN INDIANAPOLIS	65	46	80	36	56	8	0.76	-0.12	0.53	5.72	133	9.46	104	88	51	0	0	4	1
IN SOUTH BEND	61	43	78	32	52	8	0.97	0.12	0.51	4.32	120	9.81	127	86	58	0	1	3	1
IA BURLINGTON	61	47	83	39	54	8	2.31	1.54	-	5.47	143	10.85	174	78	57	0	0	-	-
IA CEDAR RAPIDS	56	40	80	33	48	5	3.24	2.58	2.45	5.01	184	8.32	175	95	67	0	0	3	2
IA DES MOINES	55	38	79	32	47	2	2.03	1.34	1.87	4.11	150	6.68	139	94	67	0</			

Weather Data for the Week Ending April 4, 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 Mar 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Mar 1	TOTAL IN., SINCE Jan 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Jan 1	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	90 AND ABOVE	92 AND BELOW	TEMP, °F		PRECIP.	
																		01 INCH OR MORE	50 INCH OR MORE		
KY WICHITA	62	44	77	38	53	2	0.53	-0.02	0.39	4.23	155	5.58	124	86	52	0	0	3	0		
KY JACKSON	72	53	85	40	62	10	1.67	0.67	0.81	4.52	86	12.73	99	73	41	0	0	4	1		
LALEXINGTON	68	48	81	36	58	8	0.72	-0.23	0.61	3.51	71	10.08	92	79	46	0	0	3	0		
LOUISVILLE	70	51	83	38	60	8	0.94	-0.10	0.48	4.71	90	12.97	114	82	42	0	0	3	0		
PADUCAH	69	50	81	37	59	6	1.32	0.16	0.66	4.18	75	11.99	94	88	45	0	0	2	2		
LA BATON ROUGE	78	56	83	45	67	2	0.58	-0.59	0.40	4.21	76	24.75	155	95	55	0	0	2	0		
LA LAKE CHARLES	78	57	85	44	68	3	0.02	-0.67	0.01	3.76	102	18.91	161	90	49	0	0	2	0		
LA NEW ORLEANS	78	61	81	51	70	5	0.24	-0.81	0.21	5.99	109	29.54	178	94	62	0	0	4	0		
LA SHREVEPORT	78	55	86	46	67	5	0.94	0.14	0.94	4.28	106	17.31	146	86	36	0	0	1	1		
ME CARIBOU	42	31	55	27	36	5	1.13	0.57	0.38	4.04	147	10.73	151	98	73	0	6	5	0		
ME PORTLAND	58	38	88	31	48	10	0.57	-0.34	0.35	4.80	114	15.35	139	92	61	0	1	3	0		
MD BALTIMORE	76	51	89	37	63	14	0.76	0.03	0.39	6.32	166	18.37	184	82	38	0	0	3	0		
MA BOSTON	64	45	89	35	54	11	0.69	-0.15	0.57	4.85	117	15.15	133	86	55	0	0	2	1		
MA WORCESTER	61	42	84	32	52	12	1.00	0.09	0.54	6.82	153	14.58	126	88	55	0	1	2	1		
MI ALPENA	53	37	72	30	45	10	3.29	2.78	1.70	7.77	324	12.31	231	94	64	0	2	5	2		
MI GRAND RAPIDS	59	44	74	35	52	12	1.41	0.87	0.83	5.14	168	10.78	170	88	58	0	0	3	1		
MI HOUGHTON LAKE	55	37	70	30	46	11	2.33	1.83	1.54	4.51	196	7.52	151	95	58	0	1	3	2		
MI LANSING	59	43	78	29	51	11	0.89	0.28	0.75	4.11	154	9.60	174	90	57	0	1	3	1		
MI MARQUETTE	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.77	1.14	-	5.60	179	9.46	134	-	-	-	-	-	-		
MI MUSKEGON	59	42	75	35	51	11	1.31	0.65	1.18	3.78	131	8.13	121	89	55	0	0	2	1		
MN DULUTH	42	30	48	23	36	4	1.36	0.87	0.55	2.61	119	7.07	168	92	51	0	6	4	1		
MN INTL FALLS	49	25	57	22	37	6	0.28	-0.02	0.23	0.53	43	2.23	81	90	33	0	7	2	0		
MN MINNEAPOLIS	49	37	56	32	43	4	2.16	1.66	1.23	4.89	211	7.13	176	88	60	0	1	3	2		
MN ROCHESTER	50	37	68	31	44	6	1.01	0.47	0.71	3.32	158	6.17	170	93	70	0	1	4	1		
MN ST. CLOUD	47	34	56	28	41	5	1.67	1.23	0.92	1.92	114	3.50	115	90	59	0	1	4	2		
MS JACKSON	78	55	85	46	67	8	2.10	0.75	1.99	6.28	95	21.31	129	92	41	0	0	3	1		
MS MERIDIAN	79	54	86	44	67	6	1.47	0.02	1.10	4.60	61	23.58	130	95	39	0	0	3	1		
MS TUPELO	76	52	83	44	64	5	1.64	0.33	1.43	6.20	91	18.38	112	92	40	0	0	3	1		
MO COLUMBIA	63	45	81	36	54	5	1.25	0.45	0.60	5.26	145	10.98	159	82	51	0	0	5	1		
MO KANSAS CITY	80	43	77	37	52	3	0.87	0.24	0.59	3.53	123	5.59	110	82	56	0	0	4	1		
MO SAINT LOUIS	64	47	81	36	55	4	1.27	0.44	0.74	6.74	166	12.55	157	81	51	0	0	3	2		
MO SPRINGFIELD	65	45	77	33	55	4	0.96	0.00	0.59	6.80	153	13.75	164	89	53	0	0	4	1		
MT BILLINGS	53	33	63	23	43	2	0.14	-0.19	0.14	1.87	139	2.66	91	89	48	0	3	1	0		
MT BUTTE	50	25	56	14	38	4	0.20	0.02	0.20	1.08	127	2.38	133	88	37	0	7	1	0		
MT GLASGOW	80	31	68	23	45	8	0.00	-0.10	0.00	0.73	159	1.14	104	76	25	0	4	0	0		
MT GREAT FALLS	55	29	63	27	42	4	0.04	-0.23	0.03	1.11	90	2.29	84	79	38	0	6	2	0		
MT KALISPELL	55	29	62	19	42	4	0.19	-0.03	0.09	2.42	218	3.73	100	84	34	0	5	3	0		
MT MILES CITY	59	33	67	26	46	6	0.09	-0.12	0.09	1.20	160	1.83	105	81	36	0	4	1	0		
MT MISSOULA	57	30	65	22	43	3	0.22	0.02	0.15	1.21	112	2.98	95	82	38	0	5	3	0		
NE GRAND ISLAND	52	35	78	28	44	-1	0.13	-0.37	0.10	3.08	142	3.95	117	91	53	0	2	3	0		
NE LINCOLN	55	36	78	26	45	0	0.36	-0.20	0.33	3.15	131	5.13	140	93	57	0	2	2	0		
NE NORFOLK	52	32	79	23	42	-1	0.33	-0.14	0.28	2.44	115	2.95	87	95	55	0	4	4	0		
NE NORTH PLATTE	53	28	67	21	40	-2	0.12	-0.23	0.07	1.30	92	1.97	89	91	46	0	6	2	0		
NE OMAHA	56	37	80	28	46	1	0.52	0.01	-	3.51	151	5.11	133	93	57	0	2	4	0		
NE SCOTTSBLUFF	52	28	66	25	40	-1	0.33	0.04	0.21	1.42	114	2.26	103	86	45	0	6	2	0		
NE VALENTINE	49	29	57	23	39	-1	0.15	-0.13	0.13	0.70	59	0.89	47	89	51	0	7	2	0		
NV ELY	42	26	48	17	34	-4	0.36	0.14	0.14	1.57	147	3.69	150	90	50	0	7	5	0		
NV LAS VEGAS	80	42	86	38	51	-9	0.12	0.05	0.05	1.08	235	4.14	298	81	36	0	0	3	0		
NV RENO	48	29	56	23	39	-7	1.18	1.06	0.67	2.71	357	6.40	225	85	43	0	5	5	1		
NV WINNEMUCCA	44	27	53	8	35	-7	1.77	1.58	0.72	2.28	253	5.55	244	98	64	0	6	6	1		
NH CONCORD	63	37	89	28	50	12	0.40	-0.25	0.21	4.10	132	10.20	125	91	50	0	2	3	0		
NJ NEWARK	71	51	86	38	61	14	1.90	1.01	1.89	6.04	138	15.74	146	81	49	0	0	2	1		
NM ALBUQUERQUE	57	33	71	30	45	-6	0.10	-0.03	0.09	2.34	403	3.14	207	69	20	0	3	2	0		
NY ALBANY	66	41	89	36	53	13	0.94	0.25	0.68	3.82	115	10.20	128	92	57	0	0	2	1		
NY BINGHAMTON	63	45	82	31	54	15	0.83	0.13	0.67	4.09	127	11.68	147	87	51	0	1	5	1		
NY BUFFALO	58	43	78	36	51	11	0.24	-0.41	0.20	4.10	134	11.99	148	89	60	0	0	2	0		
NY ROCHESTER	60	42	83	36	51	11	0.44	-0.13	0.26	3.94	151	11.91	175	91	60	0	0	3	0		
NY SYRACUSE	64	45	85	35	55	15	0.78	0.06	0.69	3.83	120	11.74	153	89	52	0	0	3	1		
NC ASHEVILLE	69	45	79	39	57	6	1.12	0.23	0.81	4.63	91	20.98	171	93	43	0	0	3	1		
NC CHARLOTTE	78	56	87	46	67	11	1.69	0.91	1.18	4.70	97	14.26	115	86	41	0	0	2	2		
NC GREENSBORO	74	52	82	45	63	9	1.00	0.28	0.62	4.61	113	15.89	150	81	38	0	0	4	1		
NC HATTERAS	64	58	66	48	61	6	0.71	-0.18	0.52	2.66	60	20.32	143	96	77	0	0	6	1		
NC RALEIGH	75	55	84	46	65	10	0.67	-0.02	0.28	7.97	192	21.25	188	92	48	0	0	4	0		
NC WILMINGTON	78	60	84	45	69	10	0.55	-0.19	0.32	2.58	60	21.09	178	94	53	0	0	4	0		
ND BISMARCK	54	26	61	21	40	4	0.00	-0.28	0.00	0.39	41	2.15	116	87	35	0	7	0	0		
ND DICKINSON	54	27	62	20	40	4	0.08	-0.22	0.08	0.39	44	2.79	174	86	34	0	7	1	0		
ND FARGO	49	31	58	28	40	5	0.18	-0.16	0.16	0.99	79	3.30	137	91	48	0	5	2	0		
ND GRAND FORKS	52	28	59	24	40	7	0.00	-0.26	0.00	0.08	7	2.02	89	88	42	0	7	0	0		
ND JAMESTOWN	52	31	59	28	41	6	0.00	-0.29	0.00	0.36	34	2.36	111	88	43	0	5	0	0		
ND WILLISTON	56	25	61	18	41	4	0.00	-0.22	0.00	0.28	35	2.39	134	83	31	0	6	0	0		
OH AKRON-CANTON	64	45	80	32	55	11	0.37	-0.38	0.35	3.06	82	9.27	114	87	48	0	1	2	0		
OH CINCINNATI	68	49	81	39	58	10	0.66	-0.25	0.40	3.80	80	10.11	101	81	46	0	0	3	0		
OH CLEVELAND	63	49	81	36	56	13	0.31	-0.39	0.28	3.54	107	9.35	124	82	49	0	0	3	0		
OH COLUMBUS	67	48	83	34	57	11	0.54	-0.22	0.28	2.33	63	7.10	87	79	43	0	0	4	0		
OH DAYTON	66	47	81	34	56	10	0.58	-0.23	0.47	3.09	80	8.71	107	80	46	0	0	3	0		
OH MANSFIELD	63	44	80	29	54	10	0.22	-0.59	0.22	2.19	58	7.65	99	83	48	0	2	1	0		

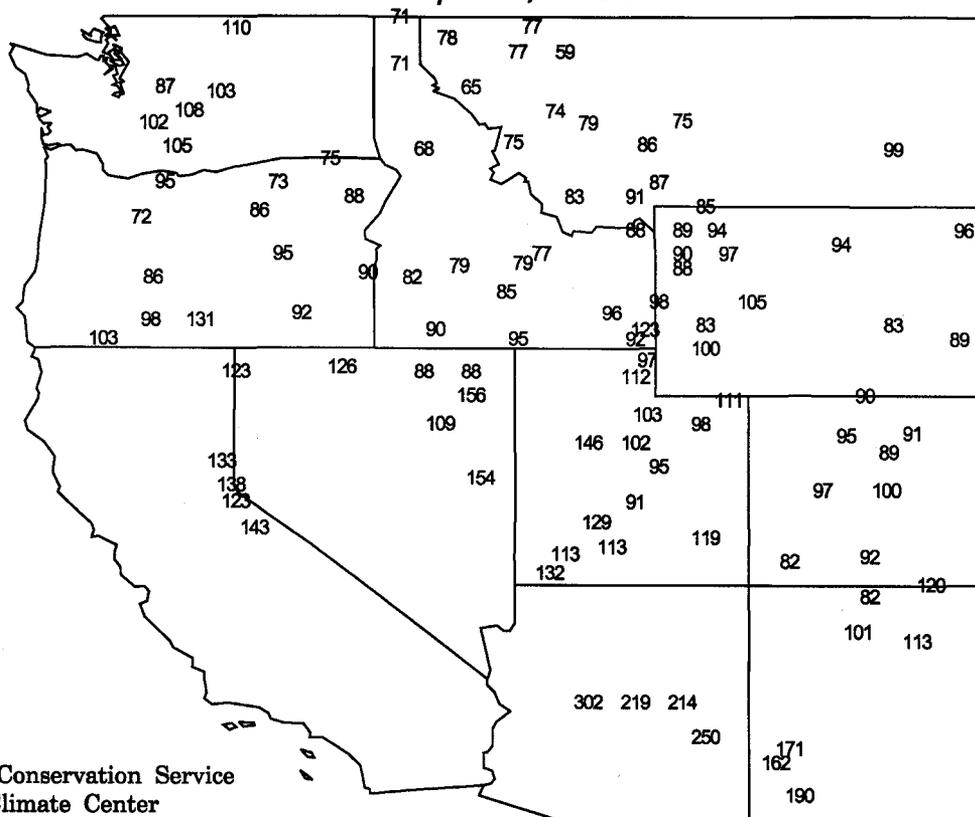
Based on 1961-90 normals

Weather Data for the Week Ending April 4, 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 Mar 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Mar 1	TOTAL IN, SINCE Jan 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Jan 1	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	TEMP, °F		PRECIP.	
																90 AND ABOVE	32 AND BELOW	.01 INCH OR MORE	.50 INCH OR MORE
OK	64	45	81	34	54	12	0.51	-0.17	0.31	3.52	115	10.25	157	84	47	0	0	2	0
	63	47	80	36	55	13	0.31	-0.42	0.28	3.13	89	9.86	128	85	48	0	0	3	0
	68	47	79	37	57	1	1.27	0.68	1.27	6.45	214	10.66	187	82	43	0	0	1	1
	68	48	79	40	58	1	1.01	0.20	0.68	7.57	194	11.35	153	84	47	0	0	3	1
OR	52	37	55	31	45	-2	0.63	-0.73	0.30	10.35	132	37.07	146	95	61	0	1	3	0
	48	30	50	22	39	-1	0.66	0.45	0.30	1.89	167	7.11	247	86	56	0	6	5	0
	53	37	56	29	45	-4	0.38	-0.62	0.19	5.23	86	19.53	100	87	53	0	1	4	0
	53	37	57	28	45	-4	0.91	0.57	0.27	3.21	160	11.26	170	88	49	0	2	5	0
	53	35	57	26	44	-3	0.20	-0.05	0.12	1.16	87	4.94	124	90	53	0	1	3	0
	53	40	58	32	47	-2	0.37	-0.31	0.14	4.21	107	16.26	124	94	54	0	1	4	0
	53	39	58	30	46	-1	0.44	-0.32	0.21	5.18	113	20.42	136	90	58	0	1	4	0
PA	72	47	87	37	60	15	0.80	0.03	0.79	4.68	125	11.93	121	83	43	0	0	2	1
	62	48	82	39	55	14	0.61	-0.12	0.57	3.60	105	10.24	129	83	58	0	0	2	1
	75	50	87	39	63	18	0.53	-0.20	0.53	4.89	133	14.43	152	80	37	0	0	1	1
	73	51	86	41	62	15	0.38	-0.45	0.29	4.31	109	11.80	119	84	38	0	0	3	0
	67	48	82	34	58	13	0.26	-0.51	0.26	2.17	58	8.35	95	80	40	0	0	1	0
	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.05	0.42	-	3.69	123	9.46	132	-	-	-	-	-	-
	69	45	87	37	57	13	1.70	0.96	0.92	3.80	105	14.33	161	85	41	0	0	2	2
RI	65	44	85	38	55	12	1.12	0.17	1.04	6.98	152	19.38	160	90	52	0	0	2	1
SC	78	58	82	51	68	5	2.78	1.99	2.18	8.76	193	25.02	217	98	59	0	0	3	2
	80	59	83	53	70	8	2.08	1.30	1.24	7.49	158	25.24	220	96	50	0	0	6	2
	78	55	84	49	67	7	1.67	0.74	1.51	5.93	111	19.09	137	97	45	0	0	3	1
	75	53	83	43	64	8	1.80	0.74	1.46	5.89	99	19.59	135	89	40	0	0	3	1
SD	48	29	54	23	39	1	1.25	0.85	1.16	1.54	98	2.92	121	94	51	0	6	3	1
	44	30	49	24	37	-3	0.58	0.14	0.48	2.61	137	3.56	119	93	62	0	5	3	0
	50	27	65	24	38	-1	0.46	0.13	0.33	1.40	113	2.04	98	86	52	0	7	3	0
	45	30	65	23	38	-3	1.53	1.04	1.32	4.11	213	5.28	171	94	73	0	5	3	1
TN	71	47	81	39	59	8	1.59	0.81	0.91	5.32	128	12.58	116	87	44	0	0	4	1
	75	52	85	46	63	8	2.29	1.09	1.22	8.69	130	21.24	130	86	44	0	0	4	2
	72	53	84	44	63	9	2.18	1.16	0.98	6.70	119	14.02	101	80	43	0	0	3	2
	75	55	84	47	65	7	1.43	0.15	0.85	7.00	114	19.27	135	86	43	0	0	2	2
	76	51	83	45	63	8	1.88	0.82	0.97	4.09	75	11.89	93	87	39	0	0	2	2
TX	77	49	84	37	63	2	0.00	-0.35	0.00	3.19	204	5.04	134	65	25	0	0	0	0
	65	36	80	28	50	-2	0.06	-0.13	0.06	2.46	232	5.22	242	74	20	0	3	1	0
	78	54	83	45	66	0	0.67	0.23	0.59	3.07	145	9.00	150	84	38	0	0	2	1
	78	57	84	47	67	2	0.65	-0.07	0.63	5.21	142	19.07	181	93	53	0	0	2	1
	82	62	86	50	72	-1	0.00	-0.19	0.00	0.62	95	2.71	83	90	42	0	0	0	0
	83	59	89	45	71	2	0.00	-0.24	0.00	2.47	227	6.19	130	86	38	0	0	0	0
	85	55	93	48	70	2	0.00	-0.31	0.00	1.06	120	1.45	81	54	20	2	0	0	0
	67	38	79	30	53	-7	0.06	0.00	0.06	0.18	58	0.38	33	55	22	0	1	1	0
	74	53	83	43	64	2	0.40	-0.29	0.40	4.45	140	12.74	177	74	37	0	0	1	0
	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.32	-0.19	-	1.75	70	12.20	152	-	-	-	-	-	-
	79	54	84	44	66	2	0.09	-0.56	0.08	2.40	73	12.60	132	93	39	0	0	2	0
	70	39	83	30	55	-2	0.00	-0.18	0.00	1.33	140	3.19	159	68	15	0	1	0	0
	78	45	90	36	61	0	0.00	-0.13	0.00	0.42	62	1.16	69	54	11	1	0	0	0
	78	50	87	37	64	1	0.00	-0.28	0.00	1.85	175	3.08	105	57	19	0	0	0	0
	80	51	87	40	66	0	0.04	-0.37	0.03	2.85	162	9.45	179	84	34	0	0	2	0
	80	56	84	46	68	1	0.04	-0.36	0.04	2.07	116	7.07	119	92	43	0	0	1	0
	78	53	86	45	66	3	0.31	-0.29	0.26	2.39	89	12.55	196	82	39	0	0	2	0
	72	47	84	36	60	1	0.30	-0.29	0.30	3.84	151	8.80	171	75	35	0	0	1	0
UT	51	36	59	32	43	-2	1.13	0.65	0.49	3.35	153	9.87	216	89	48	0	2	5	0
VT	59	37	84	32	48	10	1.07	0.48	0.56	4.75	185	11.74	195	93	62	0	1	7	1
VA	74	50	86	38	62	11	2.29	1.55	1.64	7.30	188	21.22	217	80	43	0	0	4	1
	75	58	86	45	67	14	2.69	1.93	1.52	6.84	168	21.07	188	89	48	0	0	2	2
	78	56	88	44	66	13	1.60	0.87	1.43	8.32	207	20.93	201	84	41	0	0	3	1
	74	53	84	43	64	12	1.21	0.45	0.71	6.41	164	22.37	234	74	33	0	0	3	1
	75	51	89	38	63	15	0.79	0.09	0.40	6.40	180	17.64	194	87	41	0	0	2	0
WA	58	37	62	31	48	-	0.19	0.12	0.18	0.53	104	2.92	152	76	44	0	1	2	0
	53	35	57	25	44	-1	0.28	-0.68	0.13	5.59	102	22.63	117	99	57	0	3	5	0
	53	31	57	26	42	-2	0.40	-1.78	0.38	6.95	55	37.87	96	96	58	0	5	3	0
	51	39	54	32	45	-2	0.24	-0.44	0.16	3.99	102	14.45	109	94	54	0	1	4	0
	52	33	56	28	43	0	0.04	-0.25	0.02	1.25	75	4.90	96	83	49	0	4	2	0
WV	55	32	59	26	44	-2	0.33	0.19	0.16	1.04	139	4.84	179	87	47	0	4	4	0
	69	47	81	34	58	11	1.03	0.28	0.39	4.77	125	14.55	150	80	34	0	0	3	0
	74	51	87	37	62	11	1.23	0.44	0.63	4.84	114	12.30	123	83	40	0	0	3	1
	69	38	83	27	54	10	0.68	-0.21	0.36	4.01	92	10.83	104	89	37	0	2	3	0
	71	53	85	38	62	11	0.83	0.03	0.62	2.81	68	11.42	116	78	38	0	0	3	1
WI	51	37	58	29	44	6	3.74	3.21	2.09	6.17	307	10.11	271	94	64	0	1	4	2
	53	36	67	30	44	7	2.21	1.69	1.22	3.66	158	6.67	147	93	66	0	1	3	2
	55	39	78	33	47	8	3.65	3.05	2.78	5.55	220	9.23	198	91	65	0	0	4	2
	54	38	73	37	46	7	1.25	0.48	0.98	3.31	106	9.10	147	95	70	0	0	4	1
WY	46	24	58	14	35	-3	0.31	0.03	0.25	0.53	48	1.58	70	91	52	0	6	3	0
	44	24	57	17	34	-4	0.72	0.48	0.27	1.23	105	1.59	82	92	42	0	7	5	0
	39	24	49	12	32	-7	1.41	1.02	0.79	3.85	279	4.55	186	93	67	0	6	5	1
	51	27	63	18	39	0	0.41	0.11	0.38	1.16	101	1.85	65	90	54	0	6	3	0

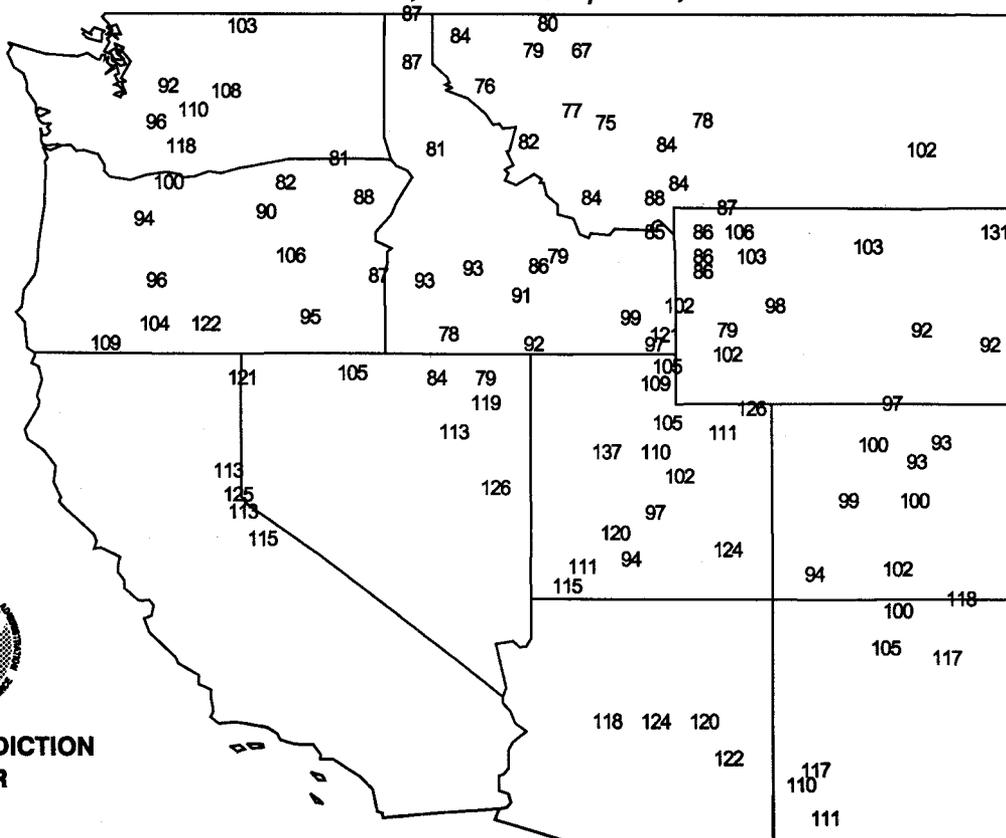
NOTE: These data are preliminary and subject to change. In the past, precipitation totals from a number of stations have been incomplete.

SNOTEL Basin-Average Percent of Normal Snow Water Content On April 1, 1998



Natural Resources Conservation Service
Western Regional Climate Center

SNOTEL Basin-Average Percent of Normal Precipitation October 1, 1997 - April 1, 1998



CLIMATE PREDICTION
CENTER

March Weather and Crop Summary

Weather

March's weather featured an impressive cold outbreak (about 150 daily-record lows from March 7-13) followed by a summer-like warm spell (about 200 daily-record highs and more than 20 monthly record highs from March 22-31). The Arctic outbreak produced the coldest weather of the season in many locations across the Central and Southeastern States in an otherwise mild winter. Snow cover protected winter wheat on the central and northern Plains, but in the Southeast, tender vegetation and peach blooms were damaged by three consecutive freezes (March 11-13). March temperatures ranged from 2 to 7°F below normal on the Plains to as much as 5°F above normal in the Great Lakes and Northeastern States. Monthly readings averaged within 2°F of normal in California and the Southwest, although sharply cooler air arrived at month's end, in conjunction with a renewed series of storms.

In California, a month-long stretch without torrential rain--which allowed for recovery from the February deluge--was replaced by cold, wet conditions toward month's end. Monthly rainfall totaled more than 200 percent of normal across parts of southern California, the Southwest, and the southern Plains. In California, Bakersfield's seasonal (July 1, 1997, to date) rainfall reached an all-time-record 11.82 inches, breaking their 1977-78 standard of 11.73 inches. Rainfall of 7.34 inches in Tulsa, OK was their third-highest March total on record, and greatest since 11.94 inches fell in 1973. Wet conditions were also noted across the upper Midwest and much of the East. March precipitation records were established in Alpena, MI (7.32 inches), Madison, WI (5.46 inches), and Sioux Falls, SD (4.08 inches). Alpena also tallied a March-record snowfall (46.6 inches).

An active storm track across the Central and Midwestern States helped to provide abundant snowfall. Monthly totals of 13.6 inches in Wichita, KS and 12.3 inches in Norfolk, NE represented more than 50 percent of their respective season-to-date totals. On March 8, Des Moines, IA received 11.0 inches of snow, their greatest calendar-day total on record in March. Little more than a week later, on March 17-19, another storm dumped 40.1 inches in Coal Creek Canyon, CO, west of Denver. The storm helped to lift monthly snowfall to 17.5 inches in Colorado Springs, CO and 18.5 inches in Dodge City, KS. Snow returned to the Western and North Central States toward month's end, helping to boost monthly snowfall to 35.8 inches in Flagstaff, AZ and 21.4 inches in Sioux Falls, SD. On southern California's Mt. Laguna, the snow depth reached 19 inches on March 29. The last two weather systems also produced a wide variety of severe weather, including several tornadoes. On March 20, a total of 15 people were killed in Georgia and North Carolina. Nine days later, two people in Minnesota died in separate tornadoes.

During a 96-hour period early in the month (March 4-8), 4 to 12 inches of rain inundated parts of the Southeast. The downpours,

a culmination of a 5-month wet spell, sent rivers to near-record levels in parts of Alabama, Georgia, and western Florida. In southeastern Alabama, the Pea River at Elba crested at 9.20 feet above flood stage on March 9, 2 days after overwhelming a levee and flooding much of the town. The crest was Elba's third highest on record, 10 inches above the July 1994 (Tropical Storm Alberto) level. Other gauging points that approached record stages included the Apalachicola River at Blountstown, FL (third highest on record), the Withlacoochee River at Valdosta, GA (fourth highest), and the Choctawhatchee River at Newton, AL (fourth highest). In addition, severe flooding occurred along parts of Georgia's Flint River. Meanwhile in Virginia, a continuation of wet conditions through most of the month resulted in record January-March precipitation in locations such as Roanoke (21.17 inches; 232 percent of normal) and Richmond (19.33 inches; 193 percent).

On March 9, streaks of above-normal temperatures ended at 47 days in Moline, IL and 53 days in Milwaukee, WI. During the Arctic outbreak of March 7-13, monthly records were established in Rawlins, WY (-23°F on the 8th) and Hastings, NE (-15°F on the 11th). On the 11th in South Dakota, Rapid City's low of -18°F was their second-lowest reading in March, behind -21°F on March 8, 1996. Other lows included -27°F in Valentine, NE and -28°F in Williston, ND. March-record barometric readings were established in Wichita, KS (30.91 inches), Des Moines, IA (30.90 inches), St. Louis, MO (30.81 inches), and Columbia, MO (30.80 inches). A day later in Iowa, lows of -24°F in Bedford and Guthrie Center ranked as the State's fourth-lowest March readings. In Omaha, NE, a low of -11°F represented the latest occurrence of the season's lowest temperature. Kansas City, MO posted a low of -7°F, their latest sub-zero reading during any winter season.

Across the Southeast, a 3-day spell of damaging cold commenced on March 11. Total durations of sub-28°F cold reached 10 to 34 hours across northern Georgia and the northwestern half of South Carolina. By March 13, sub-freezing readings were noted as far south as the Florida cities of Gainesville (29°F) and Ocala (30°F). Other minima in the Southeast included 20°F at both Augusta, GA and Columbia, SC.

In the East, the late-month record warmth came just a few days after a significant snowstorm. On March 22, 5.0 inches fell in New York's Central Park, boosting the season-to-date snowfall to 5.5 inches. Nine days later, the Park posted a March-record-tying high of 86°F. Other totals during the March 21-22 storm included 13 inches in Conway, NH and 16 inches in Essex, VT. But on the last 4 days of the month, highs soared to March-record levels in more than 20 locations. On the 31st, highs reached 89°F in Boston, MA, Concord, NH, Albany, NY, and Hartford, CT. In Portland, ME, a high of 88°F on the 31st was not only a monthly record, but also represented a March-record 84-degree swing from their low of 4°F on the 13th.

Monthly temperatures ranged from 1 to 14°F above normal in Alaska. Especially mild readings were observed across the western half of the State, but very stormy conditions prevailed in the extreme west and south. Departures reached +12.6°F in Nome, second only to March 1981, and +10.5°F in McGrath, the third-highest March value on record. Juneau posted a March-record high of 61°F on the 21st. Kodiak netted March-record precipitation (12.73 inches, or 275 percent of normal), fueled by daily-record totals on the 7th, 13th, 16th, 17th, and 19th. Their 24-hour rainfall of 2.28 inches on March 16-17 represented a March record. In the Aleutians, Cold Bay clocked wind gusts at or above 40 mph on the last 10 days of the month, including a March-record gust to 88 mph on the 23rd. In contrast, Anchorage marked their second-driest March on record (only a trace fell in 1983), receiving only 0.07 inches of precipitation.

Serious drought continued in Hawaii through March. On Oahu, Honolulu experienced their third-driest March (0.03 inches; 1 percent of normal) and January-March (1.01 inches; 13 percent) periods on record. At the major reporting stations, 6-month rainfall ranged from 4.86 inches (28 percent of normal) in Honolulu to 16.68 inches (59 percent) in Lihue. Hilo received 37.47 inches (47 percent of normal) from October to March, but only 6.21 inches (18 percent) since January 1, 1998.

March-Record Highs (°F)

<u>Location</u>	<u>High/Date</u>	<u>Former Record/Date</u>
Concord, NH	86 on March 28	85 in March 1977
Blue Hill Obs., MA	86 on March 28	85 on March 29, 1945
Atlantic City, NJ	87 on March 30	87 on March 29, 1945
Harrisburg, PA	87 on March 30	86 on March 29, 1945
Allentown, PA	87 on March 30	86 on March 29, 1945
Wilmington, DE	86 on March 30	86 on March 21, 1948
Scranton, PA	84 on March 30	84 on March 29, 1905
Binghamton, NY	82 on March 30	82 on March 30, 1977
Flint, MI	79 on March 30	79 on March 28, 1945*
Boston, MA	89 on March 31	86 on March 29, 1945
Concord, NH	89 on March 31	86 on March 28, 1998
Albany, NY	89 on March 31	86 on March 30, 1986
Hartford, CT	89 on March 31	87 on March 30, 1977
Union Village, VT	88 on March 31	not available
Portland, ME	88 on March 31	86 on March 29, 1946
Williamsport, PA	87 on March 31	87 on March 30, 1986
Central Park, NY	86 on March 31	86 on March 29, 1945
Scranton, PA	85 on March 31	84 on March 30, 1998*
Massena, NY	85 on March 31	not available
Burlington, VT	84 on March 31	84 on March 29, 1946
Worcester, MA	84 on March 31	84 on March 29, 1946
St. Johnsbury, VT	83 on March 31	not available
Binghamton, NY	82 on March 31	82 on March 30, 1998*
Montpelier, VT	80 on March 31	not available

* The record also occurred on at least one earlier occasion.

Fieldwork

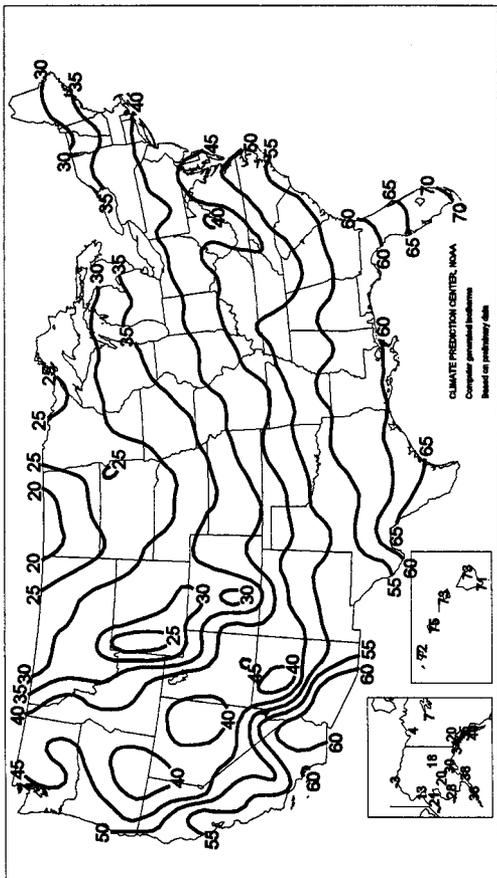
Cold weather slowed winter wheat development in the central Great Plains and Southeast early in the month. Considerable leaf burn resulted from a mid-month blast of cold air that brought sub-zero temperatures as far south as Kansas. However, permanent damage from the strong winds and freezing temperatures was expected to be minor. Farther north, snow cover helped protect the crop from the windy, cold conditions. As the cold air retreated, growth resumed, accelerating late in the month when record-high temperatures pushed northward into the High Plains. By the end of the month, over half of the crop had reached the jointing stage in Oklahoma, and the crop was beginning to head in Texas and Louisiana.

Warm, dry weather during the last week of the month allowed farmers in the Corn Belt and northern Plains to begin spring tillage operations. Some oats were seeded in Illinois, and Colorado producers made good progress on their small grain seedings. In the Southeast, rain caused flooding, delaying corn planting and keeping farmers out of their fields until late in the month. In Georgia, a few cotton and soybean fields remained unharvested from last year's crop. Corn planting accelerated during the final week of the month, but remained behind normal. A sugarcane plant in Florida expected to remain in operation until April to finish processing the late-harvested crop.

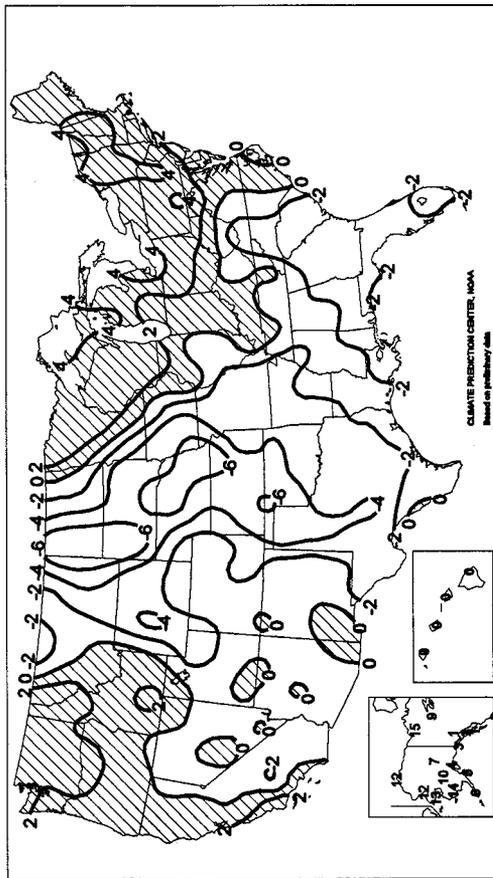
Peach orchards suffered frost damage when sub-freezing temperatures reached the Gulf coast and northern Florida for three straight nights. Blooms were killed on some early varieties. Strawberry and blueberry growers also struggled to save their crops. In Texas, some pecan trees lost blooms to the cold weather.

The Pacific Coast States began the month with a continuation of below-normal temperatures, but the earlier stormy pattern abated in California and allowed fieldwork to resume in most areas. Most small grain and alfalfa fields recovered from earlier flooding, but some low-lying wheat and barley fields remained wet and growth was stunted. Sunny weather assisted pollination of almonds and stone fruits. Some cotton was planted in the San Joaquin Valley, but soil temperatures were still too low in most areas.

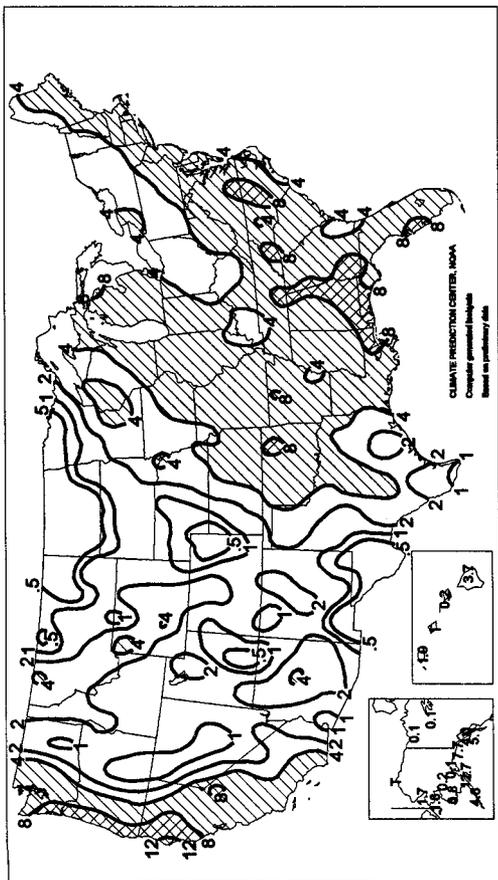
Average Temperature (°F)
March 1998



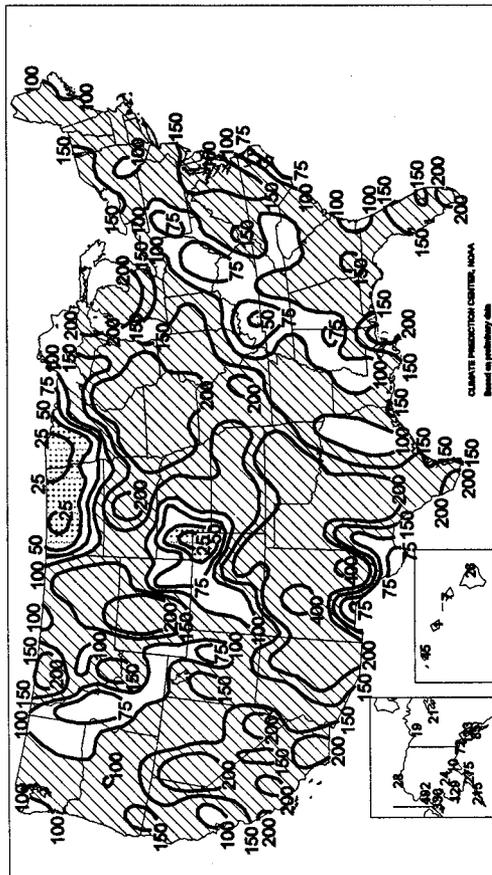
Departure of Average Temperature from Normal (°F)
March 1998



Total Precipitation (Inches)
March 1998



Percent of Normal Precipitation
March 1998



TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION SUMMARY

March 1998

STATES AND STATIONS	TEMP. °F		PRECIP.		STATES AND STATIONS	TEMP. °F		PRECIP.		STATES AND STATIONS	TEMP. °F		PRECIP.	
	AVERAGE	DEPARTURE	TOTAL	DEPARTURE		AVERAGE	DEPARTURE	TOTAL	DEPARTURE		AVERAGE	DEPARTURE	TOTAL	DEPARTURE
AL BIRMINGHAM	53	-2	6.36	0.17	ME CARIBOU	27	3	3.51	1.07	RI SCRANTON	42	4	2.54	-0.01
AL HUNTSVILLE	51	-1	5.15	-1.47	ME PORTLAND	37	4	4.23	0.56	RI WILLIAMSPORT	41	3	2.88	-0.31
AL MOBILE	57	-3	10.92	4.51	MD BALTIMORE	46	2	5.56	2.18	RI PROVIDENCE	41	4	5.98	1.83
AL MONTGOMERY	55	-2	6.25	-0.01	MA BOSTON	41	3	4.16	0.47	SC BEAUFORT	55	-4	5.99	1.86
AK ANCHORAGE	30	4	0.07	-0.62	MA WORCESTER	38	3	5.82	1.87	SC CHARLESTON	56	-2	5.51	1.18
AK BARRROW	-3	12	0.05	-0.09	MI ALPENA	30	2	7.31	5.20	SD COLUMBIA	63	-2	4.28	-0.56
AK FAIRBANKS	18	7	T	-0.37	MI GRAND RAPIDS	38	2	4.93	2.30	SD GREENVILLE	49	-2	4.31	-1.08
AK JUNEAU	35	2	4.04	0.78	MI HOUGHTON LAKE	31	3	4.38	2.34	SD ABERDEEN	26	-5	1.54	0.20
AK KODIAK	38	5	12.73	8.10	MI LANSING	35	2	3.97	1.67	SD HURON	28	-4	2.53	0.87
AK NOME	21	13	1.78	1.24	MI MARQUETTE	25	1	5.35	2.58	SD RAPID CITY	28	-6	1.32	0.29
AZ FLAGSTAFF	34	-2	3.84	1.29	MI MUSKEGON	36	3	3.65	1.13	SD SIOUX FALLS	28	-4	4.08	2.44
AZ PHOENIX	62	0	1.31	0.41	MI DULUTH	28	1	2.18	0.27	TN BRISTOL	45	-2	3.85	0.14
AZ PRESCOTT	46	2	2.41	0.58	MI INTL FALLS	28	4	0.30	-0.78	TN CHATTANOOGA	51	0	7.29	1.25
AZ TUCSON	58	0	1.64	0.94	MI MINNEAPOLIS	32	1	4.56	2.62	TN KNOXVILLE	49	0	4.75	-0.35
AZ YUMA	65	0	0.30	0.06	MI ROCHESTER	30	0	3.27	1.49	TN MEMPHIS	52	-2	6.14	0.73
AR FORT SMITH	50	-2	4.99	1.04	MI ST. CLOUD	30	3	2.78	1.37	TX NASHVILLE	49	-1	3.12	-1.73
AR LITTLE ROCK	62	-1	4.57	-0.40	MS JACKSON	58	-1	6.17	0.35	TX ABILENE	53	-3	3.19	1.83
CA BAKERSFIELD	55	-2	2.51	1.47	MS MERIDIAN	55	-1	4.22	-2.63	TX AMARILLO	44	-4	2.46	1.50
CA EUREKA	50	2	7.85	2.53	MO TUPELO	52	-2	5.99	-0.09	TX AUSTIN	59	-2	3.07	1.20
CA FRESNO	58	1	3.44	1.57	MO COLUMBIA	41	-3	4.80	1.43	TX BEAUMONT	80	-1	5.19	1.95
CA LOS ANGELES	58	0	3.24	1.28	MO KANSAS CITY	39	-4	3.44	0.93	TX BROWNSVILLE	68	-1	0.62	0.09
CA REDDING	53	0	5.59	1.20	MO SAINT LOUIS	43	-2	6.00	2.42	TX CORPUS CHRISTI	65	-1	2.47	1.53
CA SACRAM/MCCLELL	58	-	1.41	-	MO SPRINGFIELD	42	-4	6.54	2.65	TX DEL RIO	63	0	1.06	0.37
CA SAN DIEGO	59	0	2.21	0.45	MT BILLINGS	33	-3	1.87	0.71	TX EL PASO	54	-1	0.18	-0.11
CA SAN FRANCISCO	55	2	2.01	-1.05	MT BUTTE	31	2	0.88	0.12	TX FORT WORTH	55	-2	4.45	1.68
CA ALAMOSA	33	0	0.53	0.08	MT GLASGOW	28	-2	0.73	0.32	TX GALVESTON	61	0	1.74	-0.49
CA CO SPRINGS	35	-2	2.42	1.48	MT GREAT FALLS	32	-2	1.10	0.00	TX HOUSTON	80	-1	2.32	-0.80
CA DENVER	37	-1	0.86	-0.40	MT KALISPELL	35	2	2.23	1.21	TX LUBBOCK	48	-3	1.33	0.44
CA GRAND JUNCTION	42	-2	1.38	0.48	MT MILES CITY	29	-5	1.20	0.58	TX MIDLAND	54	-2	0.42	-0.16
CA PUEBLO	38	-4	1.74	0.96	MT MISSOULA	38	2	0.99	0.02	TX SAN ANGELO	55	-3	1.85	0.84
CT BRIDGEPORT	41	2	4.89	1.14	NE GRAND ISLAND	32	-5	3.07	1.18	TX SAN ANTONIO	60	-2	2.85	1.33
CT HARTFORD	40	3	4.87	1.24	NE LINCOLN	32	-6	3.15	1.08	TX VICTORIA	61	-2	2.07	0.52
DC WASHINGTON	47	0	5.40	2.23	NE NORFOLK	30	-6	2.40	0.54	TX WACO	56	-2	2.39	0.06
DE WILMINGTON	44	2	4.86	1.43	NE NORTH PLATTE	33	-4	1.30	0.10	TX WICHITA FALLS	51	-3	3.84	1.63
FL DAYTONA BEACH	81	-3	3.87	1.07	NE OMAHA	33	-6	3.49	1.45	VT SALT LAKE CITY	41	-1	2.97	1.06
FL JACKSONVILLE	59	-2	2.64	-1.04	NE SCOTTSBLUFF	35	-2	1.30	0.21	VA BURLINGTON	34	3	3.81	1.58
FL KEY WEST	71	-3	3.13	1.42	NV VALENTINE	29	-5	0.70	-0.34	VA LYNCHBURG	45	-2	5.05	1.58
FL MIAMI	69	-2	5.97	3.58	NV ELY	34	-1	1.22	0.28	VA NORFOLK	51	2	4.15	0.45
FL ORLANDO	64	-3	5.26	2.05	NV LAS VEGAS	57	0	1.03	0.61	VA RICHMOND	48	0	6.72	3.11
FL TAMPA	64	-2	5.16	2.15	NV RENO	42	0	2.21	1.50	VA ROANOKE	46	-1	5.20	1.72
FL VALPARAISO/EGLIN	58	-1	6.50	0.98	NH WINNEMUCCA	40	0	1.23	0.44	VA WASH/DULLES	48	2	5.80	2.43
FL WEST PALM BEACH	68	-2	4.10	0.44	NH CONCORD	37	4	3.70	0.98	WA HANFORD	48	-	0.50	0.03
GA ATHENS	51	-3	4.99	-0.47	NJ NEWARK	45	3	4.14	0.27	WA OLYMPIA	45	1	5.71	0.76
GA ATLANTA	50	-3	6.25	0.48	NM ALBUQUERQUE	47	0	2.34	1.80	WA QUILLAYUTE	45	2	6.82	-4.66
GA AUGUSTA	53	-3	6.10	1.45	NY ALBANY	38	4	2.88	-0.05	WA SEATTLE-TACOMA	47	1	3.96	0.42
GA COLUMBUS	55	-2	4.50	-1.27	NY BINGHAMTON	36	4	3.28	0.48	WA SPOKANE	42	3	1.21	-0.28
GA MACON	54	-3	5.14	0.35	NY BUFFALO	36	2	3.86	1.17	WV YAKIMA	44	1	0.96	0.28
GA SAVANNAH	58	-3	3.99	0.21	NY ROCHESTER	38	4	3.50	1.22	WV BECKLEY	41	-1	3.74	0.35
HI HILO	73	1	3.87	-10.25	NY SYRACUSE	38	4	3.06	0.29	WV CHARLESTON	48	0	3.41	-0.22
HI HONOLULU	75	1	0.03	-2.17	NC ASHEVILLE	44	-3	3.71	-0.92	WV ELKINS	40	0	3.33	-0.50
HI KAHULUI	73	0	0.18	-2.54	NC CHARLOTTE	52	1	3.01	-1.42	WI HUNTINGTON	47	1	1.99	-1.70
HI LIHUE	72	-1	1.87	-2.30	NC GREENSBORO	48	-1	3.62	-0.09	WI EAU CLAIRE	33	3	6.03	4.33
ID BOISE	44	2	0.99	-0.30	NC HATTERAS	49	-3	2.15	-2.15	WI GREEN BAY	33	3	3.66	1.61
ID LEWISTON	45	2	0.82	-0.27	NC RALEIGH	50	0	7.31	3.54	WI MADISON	34	2	5.48	3.29
ID POCATELLO	37	1	1.18	-0.08	NC WILMINGTON	55	0	2.08	-1.82	WI MILWAUKEE	38	2	3.18	0.51
IL CHICAGO/O'HARE	39	2	4.29	1.80	ND BISMARCK	24	-4	0.39	-0.38	WI CASPER	32	-2	0.52	-0.43
IL MOLINE	39	1	5.01	2.03	ND DICKINSON	22	-7	0.42	-0.29	WI CHEYENNE	33	-1	0.69	-0.34
IL PEORIA	39	0	4.67	1.76	ND FARGO	26	1	0.97	-0.09	WI LANDER	29	-5	3.31	2.16
IL ROCKFORD	38	3	3.39	0.93	ND GRAND FORKS	24	0	0.08	-0.94	WI SHERIDAN	31	-3	1.15	0.18
IL SPRINGFIELD	40	0	4.63	1.39	ND JAMESTOWN	25	-2	0.37	-0.51	PR SAN JUAN	-	-	3.48	1.17
IN EVANSVILLE	46	0	3.07	-1.64	ND WILLISTON	20	-8	0.28	-0.41					
IN FORT WAYNE	40	2	4.98	2.08	OH AKRON-CANTON	39	1	2.69	-0.84					
IN INDIANAPOLIS	42	1	5.49	1.70	OH CINCINNATI	44	1	3.52	-0.72					
IN SOUTH BEND	39	1	3.94	0.02	OH CLEVELAND	41	4	3.25	0.34					
IA BURLINGTON	41	2	5.71	2.86	OH COLUMBUS	43	3	1.88	-1.39					
IA CEDAR RAPIDS	35	0	4.91	2.59	OH DAYTON	42	1	2.98	-0.44					
IA DES MOINES	34	-4	4.10	1.77	OH MANSFIELD	40	2	1.97	-1.33					
IA DUBUQUE	35	1	5.43	2.54	OH TOLEDO	40	4	3.32	0.66					
IA SIOUX CITY	31	-5	4.01	2.05	OH YOUNGSTOWN	40	4	2.84	-0.27					
IA WATERLOO	34	0	5.05	2.75	OK OKLAHOMA CITY	47	-3	6.45	3.74					
KS CONCORDIA	36	-5	3.75	1.55	OK TULSA	47	-4	7.34	3.88					
KS DODGE CITY	38	-6	2.73	1.17	OR ASTORIA	47	1	10.23	3.16					
KS GOODLAND	37	-2	0.16	-1.02	OR BURNS	38	2	1.34	0.33					
KS TOPEKA	38	-5	2.88	0.42	OR EUGENE	47	0	5.13	-0.39					
KS WICHITA	41	-5	4.22	1.79	OR MEDFORD	47	0	2.73	0.91					
KY JACKSON	47	0	2.86	-1.91	OR PENDLETON	48	1	1.01	-0.15					
KY LEXINGTON	45	0	3.40	-1.00	OR PORTLAND	49	2	4.08	0.50					
KY LOUISVILLE	48	0	4.35	-0.31	OR SALEM	47	2	4.98	0.79					
KY PADUCAH	47	0	3.52	-1.40	PA ALLENTOWN	43	3	3.86	0.58					
LA BATON ROUGE	58	-3	4.03	-0.78	PA ERIE	40	4	2.99	-0.01					
LA LAKE CHARLES	60	-1	3.74	0.56	PA MIDDLETOWN	45	4	4.36	1.08					
LA NEW ORLEANS	60	-2	5.97	1.07	PA PHILADELPHIA	45	3	3.93	0.47					
LA SHREVEPORT	58	-1	4.28	-0.89	PA PITTSBURGH	42	3	1.91	-1.50					

Based on 1961-90 normals.

National Agricultural Summary

March 30 - April 5, 1998

HIGHLIGHTS

Continued warm weather enabled farmers in the South to complete much-needed fieldwork. Winter wheat benefited from generally good soil moisture and mild temperatures. Corn Belt farmers attempted to prepare

fields for the planting season, but sporadic rains limited their efforts. A cool, wet pattern returned to the Southwestern States, delaying many farming activities, especially in California.

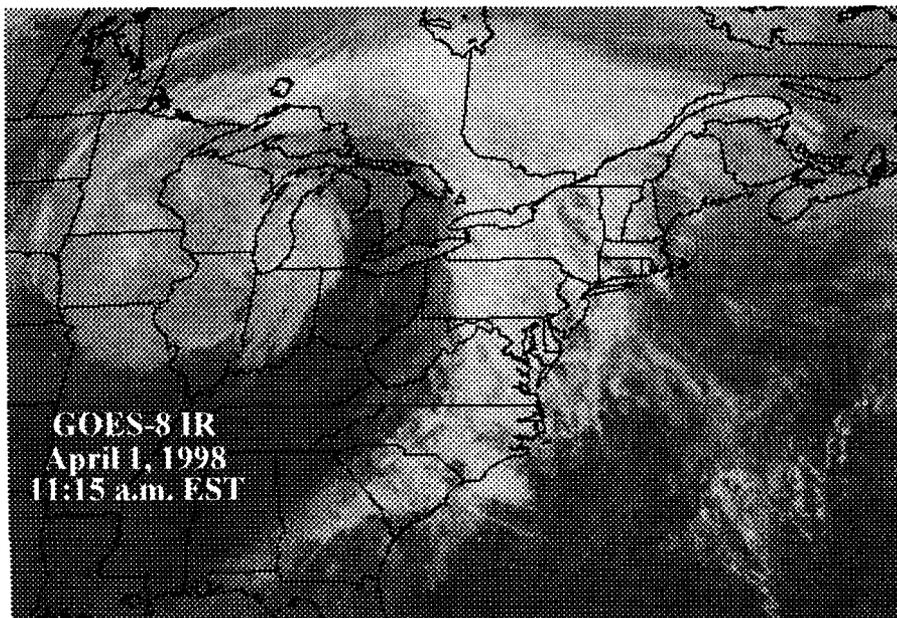
Winter wheat: The mild winter left the crop in mostly good condition, and nearly a fifth of the crop was rated excellent. In Kansas and Oklahoma, 86 percent of the crop was in good or excellent condition. Soil moisture and temperatures were generally favorable for crop development in most States. As a result, jointing was ahead of normal in many areas of the southern Plains, Southeast, and eastern Corn Belt. Development in Kansas and Georgia was less advanced, with jointing progress approximately a week behind normal. Heading development was progressing at a normal pace, with 2 percent of the crop at that stage. In California, nearly a third of the crop was headed, well ahead of the 5-year average.

fields limited spring tillage operations, particularly in Iowa, where virtually no fieldwork was done. However, field preparation delays have not affected the planting schedule so far.

Cotton: Warm, dry weather arrived in the Gulf Coast States just as the planting season began, allowing Southern cotton growers to begin their planting on schedule. Nationally, planting progress was slightly behind the 5-year average. Farmers in the Southwest cotton regions experienced frequent delays caused by repeated storms that kept most fields too wet to plant. Cold soils were also blamed for planting delays.

Corn: Favorable weather allowed planting to progress quickly in Texas and Georgia, where farmers typically have about half of their corn crop planted by this date. Good progress was also made in the Bootheel of Missouri and in North Carolina. In recently planted Texas corn fields, seedlings were emerging, aided by warm weather. In the major Corn Belt States, soils were wet and cold. Muddy

Other crops: Sorghum planting has been delayed by wet fields in most of the Southern States except Texas, where farmers continued planting on schedule. Nationally, progress is only slightly behind the 5-year average. Rice growers made good planting progress, with 10 percent of the crop seeded, equal to the 5-year average. Farmers in Idaho have planted 21 percent of their spring wheat in spite of intermittent showers.



After several days of record warmth in the East, showers, thunderstorms, and cooler conditions return to the region. Across the western Corn Belt, meanwhile, a low-pressure system drops additional precipitation on already saturated soils.

Crop Progress and Condition

Week Ending April 5, 1998

Winter Wheat Percent Headed				
	Apr 5 1998	Prev Week	Prev Year	5-Yr Avg
AR	8	NA	13	4
CA	30	NA	14	22
CO	0	NA	0	0
GA	6	NA	48	19
ID	0	NA	0	0
IL	0	NA	0	0
IN	0	NA	0	0
KS	0	NA	0	0
MI	0	NA	0	0
MO	0	NA	0	0
MT	0	NA	0	0
NE	0	NA	0	0
NC	6	NA	4	3
OH	0	NA	0	0
OK	3	NA	5	1
OR	0	NA	0	0
SD	0	NA	0	0
TX	7	NA	6	6
WA	0	NA	0	0
ALL	2	NA	3	2

These 19 States produced 92% of last year's winter wheat acreage.

Corn Percent Planted				
	Apr 5 1998	Prev Week	Prev Year	5-Yr Avg
CO	0	NA	0	0
GA	56	NA	76	60
IL	0	NA	0	0
IN	0	NA	0	0
IA	0	NA	0	0
KS	0	NA	3	2
KY	0	NA	0	2
MI	0	NA	0	0
MN	0	NA	0	0
MO	5	NA	6	4
NE	0	NA	0	0
NC	13	NA	10	9
OH	0	NA	0	0
PA	0	NA	0	0
SD	0	NA	0	0
TX	41	NA	38	44
WI	0	NA	0	0
ALL	2	NA	2	2

These 17 States produced 90% of last year's corn acreage.

Cotton Percent Planted				
	Apr 5 1998	Prev Week	Prev Year	5-Yr Avg
AL	1	NA	0	1
AZ	15	NA	25	25
AR	0	NA	0	0
CA	5	NA	28	10
GA	2	NA	1	1
LA	0	NA	0	0
MS	0	NA	0	0
MO	0	NA	0	0
NM	0	NA	4	2
NC	1	NA	0	0
OK	0	NA	0	0
SC	0	NA	1	0
TN	0	NA	0	0
TX	10	NA	6	10
ALL	5	NA	5	6

These 14 States produced 99% of last year's cotton acreage.

Sorghum Percent Planted				
	Apr 5 1998	Prev Week	Prev Year	5-Yr Avg
AR	0	NA	9	6
CO	0	NA	0	0
IL	0	NA	0	0
KS	0	NA	0	0
LA	0	NA	3	3
MS	0	NA	9	9
MO	0	NA	0	0
NE	0	NA	0	0
NM	0	NA	0	0
OK	0	NA	0	2
SD	0	NA	0	0
TX	39	NA	30	40
ALL	13	NA	10	14

These 12 States produced 99% of last year's sorghum acreage.

Spring Wheat Percent Planted				
	Apr 5 1998	Prev Week	Prev Year	5-Yr Avg
ID	21	NA	22	22
MN	0	NA	0	0
MT	1	NA	0	1
ND	0	NA	0	0
SD	3	NA	1	1
ALL	1	NA	1	1

These 5 States produced 96% of last year's spring wheat acreage.

Oats Percent Planted				
	Apr 5 1998	Prev Week	Prev Year	5-Yr Avg
IA	1	NA	26	21
MI	1	NA	0	0
MN	0	NA	0	1
NE	14	NA	33	24
ND	0	NA	0	0
OH	19	NA	16	10
PA	20	NA	14	7
SD	2	NA	1	1
WI	1	NA	0	0
ALL	3	NA	6	5

These 9 States produced 54% of last year's oat acreage.

Rice Percent Planted				
	Apr 5 1998	Prev Week	Prev Year	5-Yr Avg
AR	0	NA	6	4
CA	0	NA	0	0
LA	39	NA	37	30
MS	4	NA	10	7
TX	32	NA	2	21
ALL	10	NA	11	10

These 5 States produced 97% of last year's rice acreage.

Winter Wheat Crop Condition by Percent					
	VP	P	F	G	EX
AR	0	6	35	50	9
CA	0	0	30	40	30
CO	2	7	14	50	27
GA	2	9	32	49	8
ID	0	1	10	55	34
IL	1	3	16	68	12
IN	0	2	18	63	17
KS	0	2	12	62	24
MI	1	6	33	49	11
MO	0	11	30	49	10
MT	1	8	34	53	4
NE	1	5	25	55	14
NC	1	9	36	48	6
OH	1	2	14	56	27
OK	0	0	14	77	9
OR	0	2	6	42	50
SD	0	4	16	60	20
TX	1	7	37	41	14
WA	0	0	9	57	34
ALL	0	4	20	57	19
Prev Wk	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Prev Yr	1	5	24	55	15

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: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.1. Topsoil 8% short, 77% adequate, 15% surplus. Acreage prepared 46%, 49% 1997, 47% avg. Corn planted 55%, 50% 1997, 41% avg. Wheat headed 22%, 39% 1997, 23% avg. Wheat 1% very poor, 2% poor, 25% fair, 64% good, 8% excellent. Livestock 1% very poor, 9% poor, 35% fair, 49% good, 6% excellent. Other activities included general care of livestock, poultry, catfish.

ARIZONA: Cotton 15% planted, 23% 1997, 16% avg. Harvest activity 34% not being harvested, 4% light, 32% moderate, 30% active. Alfalfa 1% poor, 17% fair, 86% good, 14% excellent. Small grains, 38% headed, 52% 1997, 48% avg. Small grain 1% very poor, 6% poor, 25% fair, 57% good, 11% excellent. Range, pasture feed 1% very poor, 7% poor, 20% fair, 48% good, 24% excellent. High elevation pastures mainly good to excellent. Lower elevations primarily good, while mid-elevation pastures mixed. Livestock fair to good. Soil moisture, stock water adequate. Insect damage minimal. Central growers shipped artichokes, broccoli, cabbage, Caloundra, dill, green onions, iceberg, leaf, romaine lettuce, kale, mixed greens, parsley, spinach, Swiss chard. Western growers shipped anise, broccoflower, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, celery, endive, escarole, flowering kale, leeks, salad savoy, speciality leaf, spinach. Western lettuce included boston, iceberg, leaf, romaine. Central citrus harvested valencias, grapefruit; western harvest included lemons, valencias.

ARKANSAS: Days suitable for fieldwork 4. Topsoil 1% short, 72% adequate, 27% surplus. Livestock are reported good. Main farming activities: Planting preparation, planting of row crops, fertilizing pastures, wheat. Other activities: Field preparation for tomatoes, spraying of peach orchards for diseases, spraying pastures for weed, applying burn-down herbicides.

CALIFORNIA: Steady rains, wind continued to cause more small grain lodging in the southern San Joaquin Valley. Wheat, barley head development was ongoing in central, southern counties. Where conditions permitted, aerial applications of fertilizers, herbicides were still being done in wheat fields. Ground preparation for planting corn, cotton and dry beans was at a virtual standstill until soils dry. A few early seeded corn fields were emerging in southern counties. Cotton planting was delayed by the rain, cool soil temperatures in the San Joaquin, Sacramento Valleys. Many previously seeded cotton fields will be reseeded, due to poor germination caused by low soil temperatures, excessive moisture. Desert area cotton planting was completed. Sugar beets were thinned, hand weeded. Rice fields were still too wet to cultivate in the Sacramento Valley. Alfalfa, sudan grass and winter forages were cut for hay or green chopped before the storms. Growers continued work in orchards, vineyards when weather permitted. Unfavorable weather hampered pollination of late tree fruit and walnuts. Herbicide, fungicide application continued in tree, vine crops. Late varieties of stone fruit were blooming. Walnut orchards were blooming, grapes were budding. Almond growers reported set lighter than last year. Oranges, tangelos, lemons were harvested. Now that most navel oranges have been picked, handlers were moving to valencias. Olive, citrus pruning continued as weather permitted. Field activities delayed in the San Joaquin, Sacramento Valleys, due to wet weather. Asparagus harvest ended in the Imperial, Coachella Valleys, as harvest progressed in the coastal, San Joaquin Valleys. Broccoli, cauliflower were harvested in the coastal area. Spring lettuce was weeded, thinned, sprayed for mildew control. Spring melons progressed in the Imperial, Coachella Valleys. Cantaloupe, honeydew melon harvest began in the desert valleys. Rain halted sweet potato planting in

Merced County. Sweet corn was planted; previously planted fields were doing well. Garlic, onion crops were growing well. Harvesting of artichokes continued along the coast. Cabbage was harvested in the Imperial, San Joaquin Valleys. Other crops harvested were potatoes, cilantro, parsley, mushrooms, carrots, onions, radishes. Pasture, rangeland were in excellent condition throughout most of the State. Weather conditions were perfect for the growth of pasture, rangeland vegetation. Range animals made good weight gains on abundant forage. Cold, muddy conditions continued to stress dairy animals. Bees were pollinating cherry orchards.

COLORADO: Days suitable for fieldwork 3.0. Topsoil 2% very short, 17% short, 73% adequate, 8% surplus. Subsoil 1% very short, 18% short, 77% adequate, 4% surplus. Spring barley 70% seeded, 32% 1997, 24% avg. Oats 32% seeded, 43% 1997, 26% avg. Dry onions 55% planted, 54% 1997, 43% avg. Sugar beets 9% planted, 22% 1997, 23% avg. Spring wheat 21% planted, 20% 1997, 12% avg. Winter wheat 7% pastured, 5% 1997, 6% avg. Cows 65% calved, 70% 1997, 70% avg. Ewes 78% lambed, 67% 1997, 72% avg. Livestock in mostly fair to good.

DELAWARE: Wet ground continues to delay pea, potato planting. Some low lying small grain field may suffer damage due to standing water. Fruit crop was doing well, may be a couple of weeks ahead of schedule, making it susceptible to a late freeze. Livestock, poultry fair to good. Wet feed lots presented some problems with livestock. Hay, feed good. Activities: Spreading chicken manure, top-dressing small grains, broadcasting fertilizer for row crops, planting of peas, potatoes.

FLORIDA: Topsoil in Panhandle, northern Peninsula mostly short to adequate. Central Peninsula, soil moisture adequate to surplus, with southern Peninsula mostly adequate with scattered areas of short moisture. Dry, warm weather reduced flooding. Sugarcane growth normal. Sugarcane mills closing for season. Tobacco transplanting winding down. Corn planting active. Wheat looks good. Field preparations for spring planted crops active. Warmer temperatures are boosting vegetable growth, aiding recovery from recent adverse weather. Vegetables harvested during week include snap beans, cabbage, carrots, celery, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, endive, escarole, lettuce, parsley, peppers, potatoes, radishes, squash, strawberries, tomatoes. In citrus areas, warm temperatures, little rain most of week until 3rd night, 4th morning. Abundant new growth, new full open bloom. Valencia orange harvest very active all areas. Grapefruit harvest most active lower east coast for both fresh, process use. Temple, Honey tangerine movement slowing. Caretakers cutting cover crops, post bloom spraying, with hedging, topping continuing. Dry, warm weather has helped flood waters to recede. Warm temperatures helped warm season pastures green up, but there has not been much growth yet. In many areas, cattle are on short grass so supplemental feeding active. In Panhandle, some pastures in need of rain. Pasture feed very poor 15%, poor 5%, fair 50%, good 30%. Cattle poor 15%, fair 50%, good 35%.

GEORGIA: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.4. Soil moisture 6% short, 76% adequate, 18% surplus. Corn 7% poor, 22% fair, 63% good, 8% excellent; 56% planted, 76% 1997, 60% avg.; 29% emerged. Cotton 1% planted, 1% 1997, 1% avg. Hay 1% very poor, 6% poor, 39% fair, 48% good, 6% excellent. Peanuts 0% planted, 1% 1997, 1% avg. Tobacco 1% poor, 31% fair, 61% good, 7% excellent; 27% transplanted, 68% 1997, 43% avg. Wheat 2% very poor, 9% poor, 32% fair, 49% good, 8% excellent; 81% jointing, 97% 1997, 92% avg.; 43% boot, 77% 1997, 50%

avg.; 7% headed, 48% 1997, 19% avg. Onions 9% poor, 29% fair, 58% good, 4% excellent. Watermelons 1% poor, 39% fair, 52% good, 8% excellent; 44% planted, 69% 1997, 50% avg. Apples 2% very poor, 5% poor, 37% fair, 55% good, 1% excellent; 36% blooming, 43% 1997, 20% avg. Peaches 17% very poor, 18% poor, 34% fair, 26% good, 5% excellent; 99% blooming, 100% 1997, 97% avg. Pasture feed 2% very poor, 6% poor, 35% fair, 50% good, 7% excellent. Activities: Fieldwork progressed well. Rain in some parts of the State was beneficial to planted corn. Tobacco transplanting. Wheat development improving. Watermelon planting. Farm activities: Applying fertilizer to pastures, hayfields; spraying for weeds. Disease, insect threat on vegetables, tobacco have some farmers spraying crop protectants. Other activities: Spraying pecan trees, setting out vegetables, general livestock work.

HAWAII: Weather conditions variable for agriculture. High pressure systems north of State dominated weather. Gusty winds associated with high pressure system brought windward showers on all islands. Warm days, cool nights. Mostly sunny and dry in leeward areas. Irrigated crops made favorable growth. Non-irrigated crops in need of rain. Soil moisture low to adequate. Banana orchards improved with rains, some leaf shredding. Papaya harvesting seasonally light. Dry conditions affecting some leeward Hawaii macadamia nut orchards.

IDAHO: Day suitable for fieldwork 3.6. Topsoil 3% very short 65% adequate, 32% surplus. Calving is 79% complete, lambing 80%. Field preparation throughout State was slowed by intermittent rain showers. South-central areas halted fieldwork due to a late-winter snow storm. Stone fruits commence bloom, apricots post bloom. Hay, roughage supply 10% surplus, 85% adequate, 5% short. Irrigation supply 46% excellent, 54% good. Dry peas planted 10%, 1997 3%, avg. 3%. Lentils planted 2%. Oats planted 10%, 1997 4%, avg. 6%. Onions planted 48%, 1997 81%, avg. 53%; emerged 4%, 1997 6%, avg. 3%. Potatoes planted 2%, 1997 2%, avg. 1%. Barley planted 12%, 1997 14%, avg. 16%; emerged 3%, 1997 3%, avg. 3%. Spring wheat emerged 5%, 1997 4%, avg. 5%. Sugar beets planted 25%, 1997 37%, avg. 25%; emerged 4%, 1997 6%, avg. 2%. Activities: Planting small grains, dry peas, lentils, onions, sugar beets, shipping seed potatoes, calving, lambing, feeding livestock, branding calves, fertilizing, disking, repairing machinery.

ILLINOIS: Days suitable for fieldwork 1.3. Topsoil 1% short, 56% adequate, 43% surplus. Wet conditions across the State last week made it difficult for farmers to begin spring fieldwork. When weather conditions cooperated, activities included planting oats, applying nitrogen to the wheat crop, spreading manure. Muddy lots were a problem throughout the State, making it difficult to tend livestock. Fruit trees are beginning to bloom, and there is some concern over the amount of damage caused by the late frost. Other farm activities included preparing field equipment, hauling grain. Alfalfa hay 1% very poor, 1% poor, 11% fair, 77% good, 10% excellent. Pasture range 1% very poor, 4% poor, 20% fair, 61% good, 14% excellent.

INDIANA: Days suitable for fieldwork 2.0. Topsoil 1% short, 53% adequate, 46% surplus. Subsoil 2% very short, 10% short, 69% adequate, 19% surplus. Winter wheat 25% jointed, 2% 1997, 2% avg. The mild winter has left the wheat in good condition and about 1 to 2 weeks ahead of normal maturity. Range, pasture 5% poor, 37% fair, 49% good, 9% excellent. Activities: Spreading fertilizer, marketing grain, livestock, repairing machinery, caring for livestock.

IOWA: Days suitable for fieldwork 0.2. Topsoil short 1%, adequate 43%, surplus 56%. Subsoil very short 1%, short 8%, adequate 55%, surplus 36%. 1998 row crops primary seedbed preparation completed (includes fall tillage) 54%, 40% 1997, 41% avg.; fertilizer application completed (includes fall application) 50%, 45% 1997, 42% avg. Oats planted 1%, 26% 1997, 21% avg. Winter wheat 3% poor, 37% fair, 51% good, 9% excellent. Percent crop lost to winter kill 1% winter wheat, 4% alfalfa hay, 3% red

clover hay. Cooler than normal, mud a major problem for calving. Above-avg. calf losses due to mud, scours.

KANSAS: Topsoil 1% short, 50% adequate, 49% surplus. Subsoil 2% short, 69% adequate, 29% surplus. Wheat jointing 18%, 42% 1997, 24% avg. Wheat wind damage 1% moderate, 5% light, 94% none. Wheat freeze damage 1% moderate, 7% light, 92% none. Oats seeded 67%, 100% 1997, 83% avg. Winter wheat mostly good to excellent. Insect infestations were light, with a few reports of army cutworms, winter grain mites. Disease infestations were also light, with some reports of leaf rust, speckled leaf blotch, wheat streak mosaic. Field activities were limited due to wet fields. Pasture feed 1% very poor, 4% poor, 22% fair, 65% good, 8% excellent. Major livestock activities calving, lambing, moving cattle off wheat pastures. Muddy conditions persist.

KENTUCKY: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.6. Topsoil 9% short, 85% adequate, 6% surplus. Subsoil 12% short, 77% adequate, 11% surplus. Pasture feed 1% very poor, 12% poor, 31% fair, 46% good, 10% excellent. Above-average temperatures were felt throughout the State for the first week of April. Land was being prepared for corn planting, tobacco beds were being seeded. About 60% of tobacco beds were seeded and corn planting was underway in the western part of the State. Clean up sales for burley are being held the week of April 6. Producers reported a 15% loss in winter wheat, barley acreage due to winter kill.

LOUISIANA: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.7. Soil moisture 1% very short, 7% short, 81% adequate, 11% surplus. Corn 96% planted, 82% 1997, 81% avg.; 71% emerged, 50% 1997, 50% avg. Corn planting is nearing completion. Rice 20% emerged, 19% 1997, 14% avg. Rice planting progressed well, with good stands reported. Spring plowing 71% plowing, 44% 1997, 59% avg. Sugarcane 5% poor, 20% fair, 57% good, 18% excellent. Wheat 3% very poor, 7% poor, 35% fair, 53% good, 2% excellent; 73% headed, 49% 1997, 35% avg. Livestock 8% poor, 37% fair, 51% good, 5% excellent. Vegetables 2% very poor, 13% poor, 33% fair, 49% good, 3% excellent. Vegetable planting has begun although high winds have reportedly damaged some transplanted crops. Pasture 7% poor, 34% fair, 53% good, 6% excellent.

MARYLAND: Drier weather aided the advance of field preparation for spring planting. Farmers were busy with nitrogen applications, field preparations for corn planting. Warmer than normal temperatures, overall mild winter has fruit trees blooming ahead of normal, making them susceptible to a late freeze. The hay, feed supply for the Lower Eastern shore rated good, however for the upper Eastern shore, the Western shore, hay supplies rated very poor to fair. Pastures have made good progress which may alleviate some short hay supplies. In general the small grain crops are in fair to good condition. Activities: Fertilizing small grains and plowing fields (when condition allows).

MICHIGAN: Wheat has come through the winter in good condition. Frozen ground in early March allowed farmers to top dress wheat fields. Mild temperatures in late March accelerated wheat growth and fruit development. With the mild weather, farmers are looking to an early sugar beet planting. Feed is in good supply. Major activities for the month were repairing equipment, planning for spring, hauling manure, spreading fertilizer, and caring for livestock.

MINNESOTA: Parts of southern State spent the week recovering from the tornadoes that occurred 29th. Precipitation continued early in the week, which hampered the clean-up efforts of those devastated by the strong storm. Also, significant snowfall was received in western and central regions of the State. Much of the state enjoyed above-normal temperatures, drier conditions during the latter part of the week.

MISSISSIPPI: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.4. Soil moisture 2% short, 67% adequate, 31% surplus. Corn 52% planted, 54% 1997, 42% avg.; 19% emerged, 21% 1997, 17% avg. Rice 4% planted, 10% 1997, 7% avg. Wheat 76% jointed, 79% 1997, 78% avg.;

10% heading, 17% 1997, 8% avg.; 3% very poor, 7% poor, 47% fair, 41% good, 2% excellent. Watermelons 16% planted, 30% 1997, 21% avg. Cattle 1% very poor, 5% poor, 25% fair, 53% good, 16% excellent. Pasture feed 1% very poor, 11% poor, 30% fair, 45% good, 13% excellent. Activities: Planting corn, applying fertilizer, preparing fields, feeding cattle.

MISSOURI: Days suitable for fieldwork 1.0. Topsoil 35% adequate, 65% surplus. Extremely wet weather across the State prevented most early fieldwork operations from being performed during the month of March. Corn intended acreage is 5% in the ground. Corn planting progress was made in the Bootheel, where 22% is planted, all other areas are still too wet for fieldwork. Condition winter wheat ranges from about 41% good to excellent in the southeast to 50% or more in all other districts. Oats sown 20%, 55% 1997, 48% avg. Ground tilled for spring crops 40%, 50% 1997, 49% avg. Precipitation for the past week averaged 1.53 in. and for the month of March averaged 5.93 in. This has been the wettest March in over 10 years. Pasture feed 4% very poor, 7% poor, 23% fair, 49% good, 17% excellent.

MONTANA: Days suitable for fieldwork 3.1. Fieldwork in progress 79% none, 18% just started, 3% well underway. Fields in some areas remain too wet to work in. At the end of the week, topsoil 9% very short, 22% short, 64% adequate, 5% surplus. Subsoil 12% very short, 36% short, 50% adequate, 2% surplus. Winter wheat emergence 15% still dormant, 54% greening, 31% green and growing. Winter wheat 1% very poor, 8% poor, 34% fair, 53% good, 4% excellent. Winter wheat wind damage 1% heavy, 5% moderate, 36% light, 58% none. Freeze, drought damage to winter wheat 1% heavy, 16% moderate, 24% light, 59% none. Seeding of spring wheat 1% complete, barley 2% complete, oats 1% complete, sugar beets 1% complete. Livestock good to excellent, with minimal calving and lambing losses. Mild winter has left feed supplies in good shape. Calving is 63% complete, lambing is 42% complete. Supplemental feeding continues with 96% of cattle and calves and 92% of sheep and lambs receiving supplemental feeding.

NEBRASKA: Day suitable for fieldwork 1.5. Topsoil 1% very short, 6% short, 61% adequate, 32% surplus. Subsoil 8% short, 81% adequate, 11% surplus. Fieldwork was limited last week due to snow, rainfall across most of the State. Winter wheat 1% very poor, 5% poor, 25% fair, 55% good, 14% excellent; army cutworms Panhandle, southwestern counties; southwest producers spraying for control. Oats 14% seeded, 33% 1997, 24% avg. Pasture feed 3% poor, 24% fair, 66% good, 7% excellent. Calving 76% complete. Activities: Limited oats seeding, spring tillage, stalk shredding, spring equipment preparation, grain marketing, tax, Ag census paperwork, livestock care.

NEVADA: Cool, rainy weather prevailed throughout the week across most of State. Record snowpack in the Sierra was further bolstered. Rains delayed fieldwork, cool temperatures deterred range, crop growth. Flood potential remains for small streams, low-lying areas along the eastern Sierra as warmer rains threaten to accelerate snow melt. Spring grain planting was interrupted by rainfall in central valleys, yet to begin in the north. Cooler weather slowed hay growth, while crop good. Calving was underway, some livestock were being moved to spring pasture. Lambing, shearing were underway. Sod was being cut in the extreme south. Weed burning underway. Main farm, ranch activities: Ditch repair, cleanup, working livestock, grain planting, field leveling.

NEW ENGLAND: Heavy thunderstorms in northern areas combined with snowmelt from well-above-normal temperatures on 31st caused flooding in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont. Maple production winding down. Farmers in southern New England preparing ground for planting. Beef cows starting to calf. Major farm activities: Plowing fields; fixing fences; caring for livestock.

NEW JERSEY: Days suitable for fieldwork 6. Farmers are active plowing, discing, caring for livestock, preparing, organizing records

for tax, census purposes. Harvesting of spinach, dandelion, cilantro, leeks occurring. Planting of potatoes, peas, cabbage, romaine and Boston lettuce reported in areas of southern areas. Planting of sweet corn beginning in certain areas of southern areas. Peach trees are in full bloom. Apple trees buds are beginning to swell. Greenhouse workers are preparing vegetable plants for transplant. Nursery workers are digging, shipping plant material.

NEW MEXICO: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.9. Temperatures again dropped below average statewide as State continued to be hit by winter storms. A powerful late-winter storm that moved across the State early in the week was followed by a second winter system late 1st, 2nd. Precipitation was reported at most stations, except extreme south, southeast portions of the State. High winds produced from storm systems continued to hamper fieldwork, causing light-to-moderate wind damage. Light-to-moderate freeze damage again reported to fruit trees. Alfalfa 1% poor, 50% fair, 44% good, 5% excellent. Chile 12% fair, 80% good, 8% excellent; 60% planted. Lettuce 20% fair, 60% good, 20% excellent. Onions 2% fair, 50% good, 48% excellent. Cattle, sheep mostly fair to good condition. Pasture feed, range 6% poor, 36% fair, 54% good, 4% excellent.

NEW YORK: Rain during the middle of the week improved soil moisture. Temperatures were seasonable. Fieldwork progressed where soils allowed. Northern maple syrup producers are still collecting sap. Recent above-normal temperatures have put fruit trees in a precarious situation by accelerating bud development.

NORTH CAROLINA: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.0. Another great week helped farmers recover from the lack of dry days earlier in the planting season. Significant progress was made in planting corn, preparing tobacco beds. Soil moisture 1% short, 74% adequate, 25% surplus. Activities included: Planting Irish potatoes, corn; transplanting cabbage; preparing and tending tobacco beds; tending livestock; repairing equipment.

NORTH DAKOTA: Majority of the State was still too wet for fieldwork, despite above-normal temperatures, below-normal precipitation. Statewide average starting date for fieldwork is expected to be April 17. This compares with last year's late start of May 3 and the 5-year (1993-1997) average of April 26. Before the weekend's rain showers, there were limited reports of anhydrous applications along with tillage operations. No plantings were reported as of April 5, same as last year and the 5-year average. Livestock were generally in good condition and the mild winter did not deplete feed supplies. The wet, muddy conditions have also caused some scour problems in newborn calves. Calving was 55% complete, while lambing was 61% complete. Cattle condition: 1% poor, 17% fair, 76% good, 6% excellent; calves: 1% poor, 18% fair, 74% good, 7% excellent; sheep: 1% poor, 13% fair, 76% good, 10% excellent; lamb: 2% poor, 14% fair, 73% good, 11% excellent. Supplemental feeds were fed to 99% of the sheep, 97% of the cattle. Hay, forage supplies 1% very short, 5% short, 90% adequate, 4% surplus. Grain and concentrates 2% short, 95% adequate, 3% surplus. Pastures still 95% dormant but 79% were open for grazing.

OHIO: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.3. Topsoil 5% short, 76% adequate, 19% surplus. Corn, potato planting is under way. Oats planted 3 points ahead of last year. Tobacco beds 42% seeded, 8% plants up. Winter wheat 1% very poor, 2% poor, 14% fair, 56% good, 27% excellent. Hay 2% poor, 16% fair, 58% good, 24% excellent. Pasture feed 1% very poor, 2% poor, 18% fair, 55% good, 24% excellent. Apples 1% very poor, 1% poor, 24% fair, 63% good, 11% excellent. Peaches 4% very poor, 7% poor, 22% fair, 57% good, 10% excellent. Activities: Applying fertilizer; top dressing winter wheat; spreading lime; hauling manure; applying pre-emergence herbicides, spraying burn down applications; plowing, discing, chiseling; repairing, preparing machinery for planting; repairing, building new fences; fixing buildings; installing, repairing tile; moving cattle; selling grain; burning brush; picking rocks. Northwestern district, growers planting carrots. Northeastern district, growers digging nursery stock. In Ashtabula,

grapes starting to bloom. Southeastern district, growers are planting cabbage transplants, sweet corn. Reporters also mentioned peaches, pears, plums, cherries are starting to bloom.

OKLAHOMA: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.1. Topsoil 2% short, 82% adequate, 16% surplus. Subsoil 1% short, 83% adequate, 16% surplus. Drier weather led to an increase of fieldwork activity. Wheat 82% jointing, 81% 1997, 64% avg. Oats 28% jointing, 55% 1997, 29% avg. Corn 60% seedbed prepared, 83% 1997, 77% avg.; 15% planted, 16% 1997, 14% avg.; 0% up-to-stand, 3% 1997, 2% avg.; Sorghum 22% seedbed prepared, 18% 1997, 25% avg. Soybeans, 26% seedbed prepared, 24% 1997, 36% avg.; 1% planted, 3% 1997, 2% avg. Peanuts 18% seedbed prepared, 37% 1997, 39% avg. Cotton 37% seedbed prepared, 52% 1997, 48% avg. Livestock 4% poor, 24% fair, 68% good, 4% excellent.

OREGON: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.9. Topsoil 1% short, 77% adequate, 22% surplus. Subsoil 1% short, 79% adequate, 20% surplus. Winter wheat 2% poor, 6% fair, 42% good, 50% excellent. Range, pasture feed 19% fair, 77% good, 4% excellent. Barley planted 60%, 69% 1997, 39% avg. Activities: Western grain crops greening up, growing well after fertilizer, weed sprays applied. No winter damage apparent. Spring oats seeded. Eastern areas fieldwork, fertilizing underway. Conditions good for spring seeding activity, barley planting completed in some areas. Mint being planted Mid-Columbia. Sugar beets being planted Malheur County. Nurseries shipping, lifting, planting nursery stock. Bareroot activity nearing end. Greenhouse crops in good condition, shipment of plants to garden centers underway. Weather excellent for planting Christmas trees. Eastern onions being planted and potato planting underway. Willamette Valley planting early salad crops. Onion and processing vegetable fields need to dry out. Green peas planted. Willamette Valley: strawberries and canberries greening up. Pears and peaches blooming. Cherries and apples showing first stages of blooming. Rogue River Valley: peaches and pears in bloom and grapes budding. No frost damage evident. South coast cranberry grower applying fertilizer materials. Hood River Valley: pruning being finished in upper valley, early pear bloom showing in lower valley. Mid-Columbia cherries starting bloom. Statewide warm weather needed for pollination. Livestock came through winter good and spring calving underway in all parts of the State. Western pastures growing rapidly, still too wet to pasture heavily. Supplement feeding reduced but still needed. Eastern pastures growing, but cold weather and nights limiting growth to lower elevation pastures.

PENNSYLVANIA: Days suitable for field work 4.1. Soil moisture 5% short, 80% adequate, 15% surplus. Plowing 23% complete, 17% 1997, 9% avg. Corn planted 0% complete. Oats planted 20% complete, 14% 1997, 7% avg. Tobacco beds planted 95% complete, 79% 1997. Wheat 1% heading or headed. Wheat crop condition is not yet available. Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand 5% poor, 25% fair, 55% good, 15% excellent. Timothy clover stand 2% poor, 20% fair, 65% good, 13% excellent. Peaches 35% pink; 15% full bloom or past. Cherries 20% pink, 1% 1997, 1% avg. Apples 10% pink, 1% 1997, 0% avg. Activities: Planting small grains; spreading lime; plowing fields; machinery maintenance; hauling manure; caring for livestock.

SOUTH CAROLINA: Soil moisture 1% short, 62% adequate, 37% surplus. Cantaloupe 18% planted, 20% avg. Corn 55% planted, 74% 1997, 49% avg; 3% poor, 22% fair, 75% good. Cucumbers 50% planted, 39% 1997, 29% avg. Hay 10% harvested, 24% 1997, 6% avg. Oats 10% headed, 49% 1997, 16% avg.; 3% very poor, 6% poor, 38% fair, 53% good. Peaches 1% very poor, 9% poor, 35% fair, 46% good, 9% excellent. Rye 24% headed, 49% 1997, 10% avg.; 5% very poor, 6% poor, 46% fair, 41% good, 2% excellent. Snap beans 40% planted, 34% 1997, 36% avg. Tobacco 11% transplanted, 9% 1997, 6% avg. Watermelons 47% planted, 64% 1997, 40% avg. Winter wheat 7% headed, 39% 1997, 9% avg.; 2% very poor, 14% poor, 46% fair, 35% good, 3% excellent.

SOUTH DAKOTA: Producers believe that fieldwork will begin April 15, 1998, except in some isolated areas of the State where spring wheat planting is 3% complete. Other major activities include calving, lambing and general maintenance. Winter wheat condition was rated 4% poor, 16% fair, 60% good, and 20% excellent. Statewide 81% of the winter wheat acreage has broken dormancy along with 46% of the winter rye acreage. Topsoil conditions were rated as 3% short, 57% adequate and 40% surplus, while subsoil was 1% very short, 5% short, 60% adequate, and 28% surplus. Livestock rated 1% poor, 8% fair, 66% good, and 25% excellent. Calving and lambing season are well under way, with lambing 54% complete and calving 43% complete. Calf deaths were rated 24% below normal, 71% normal and 5% above normal. Lamb deaths were rated 21% below normal, 77% normal and 2% above normal. Producers have moved 18% of the cattle to pasture. Feed supplies were rated 4% short, 86% adequate, and 10% surplus. Stock water supplies were 2% short, 82% adequate, and 16% surplus.

TENNESSEE: With 4 days suitable for fieldwork, farmers took every opportunity between showers to plant corn and seed tobacco beds. Producers were able to plant 13 percent of the State's corn acreage last week, which is a few days ahead of normal. Tobacco bed seeding is on pace with the 5-year average and plant growth is responding well to adequate moisture and warm temperatures. Development of the winter wheat crop is 2 to 3 weeks ahead of pace with 86 percent jointed. Wheat growers have top dressed over 90 percent of the acreage with nitrogen. Apple and peach trees are developing ahead of schedule, but the trees suffered moderate-to-severe freeze damage in mid-March. As of Friday evening, topsoil moisture levels were rated 1 percent short, 68 percent adequate, and 31 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture levels were rated 2 percent short, 78 percent adequate and 20 percent surplus.

TEXAS: Warm, windy conditions continued all areas allowing field activity to make good progress. High winds depleted soil moisture in Plains, as result, irrigation increased. Warm weather improved emergence on recent planted fields most areas. Increased growth, greening on native pastures during week further decreased need for supplemental feeding many areas. Livestock conditions remained good across State.

Crops: Corn: Planting got underway few fields in High Plains, with more planting expected next week as soil temperatures increase. Planting increased North Central fields during week. Planting winding down Blacklands where emergence of newly planted fields good under warm conditions. Excellent emergence reported Central, along Upper Coast. High winds continued cause some problems to young plants. Cotton: Planting began few fields Central Texas by late week. Planting continued along Upper Coast, was winding down Coastal Bend. Emergence good most fields under warm temperatures. Land preparations winding down in Plains where planting expected to begin soon. Grain Sorghum: Planting operations underway North Central fields during week. Planting winding down most Blacklands, with good emergence occurring. Planting operations winding down Coastal Bend, along Upper Coast. Some cultivating activity occurred during week. Land preparations winding down Plains. Rice: Planting activity made rapid increase last week along Upper Coast under ideal conditions, with flushing occurring some fields. Soybeans: Planting underway in Blacklands during week, with early fields emerging good stands. Early varieties emerging to good stands along Upper Coast. Planting operations increased during week. Small Grains: High winds in Plains depleted soil moisture, irrigation increased some fields. Most fields look very good at this time. Fields continued to head many Central, Southern areas. Progress good for week these areas.

Commercial Vegetables: Rio Grande Valley, progress good on most vegetables. San Antonio- Winter Garden, wind damage continued show up on young watermelon plants with some replanting necessary. Other vegetables made good progress for week. East, bedding for sweet potatoes continued. Planting activity other vegetables increased after several weeks wet conditions. High Plains, onion planting continued. Land

preparations continued for other crops. Trans Pecos, chilies emerging, with some problems reported from high winds. Pecans: Trees leafing out Central, Southern groves. Buds swelling in Trans Pecos. Peaches: Damage to East crop may not have been as heavy as earlier thought some groves. Trees blooming in Hill Country. Fruit setting Central groves.

Range and Livestock: Ranges, pastures all areas showed increased greening, growth for week. Supplemental feeding activity slowed many areas. Spring calving, lambing activity continued without many problems reported. Livestock condition good all areas although flies becoming a problem.

UTAH: Days suitable for fieldwork 2. Top soil moisture 1% short, 56% adequate, 43% surplus. Subsoil moisture 46% adequate, 54% surplus. Winter wheat: condition 9% fair, 37% good, 54% excellent; freeze damage 51% none, 49% light. Fall barley: condition 4% fair, 75% good, 21% excellent; freeze damage 53% none, 43% light, 4% moderate. Pasture, range condition 12% poor, 29% fair, 51% good, 7% excellent. Spring wheat: planted 73%, 41% 1997, 37% avg; emerged 22%, 14% 1997, 15% avg. Barley: planted 65%, 44% 1997, 37% avg; emerged 15%, 32% 1997, 15% avg. Oats: planted 11%, 14% 1997, 16% avg; emerged 10%. Apricots full bloom or past 80%. Cows calved 65%, 49% 1997, 57% avg. Ewes lambed: on farm 55%, 44% 1997, 60% avg; on range 19%, 9% 1997, 25% avg. Sheep sheared: on farm 36%, 33% 1997, 46% avg; on range 14%, 4% 1997, 27% avg. Major farm, ranch activities were: spring planting, spring tillage, spraying fruit, pruning fruit, shearing sheep, lambing, and calving.

VIRGINIA: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.0. Topsoil moisture 51% adequate, 49% surplus. Subsoil moisture 52% adequate, 48% surplus. Corn 6% planted, 2% 1997, 2% avg. Tobacco greenhouses 98% seeded, 100% 1997, 100% avg; 4% fair, 67% good, 29% excellent. Tobacco plantbeds 96% seeded, 95% 1997, 94% avg; 5% poor, 26% fair, 61% good, 8% excellent. Winter Wheat 1% very poor, 6% poor, 27% fair, 55% good, 11% excellent. Barley 4% poor, 24% fair, 59% good, 13% excellent. Summer potatoes 88% planted, 80% 1997, 74% avg. Apples 8% fair, 72% good, 20% excellent. Peaches 1% poor, 28% fair, 71% good. Livestock 1% poor, 14% fair, 76% good, 9% excellent. Pasture 3% poor, 18% fair, 66% good, 13% excellent. Alfalfa 1% poor, 18% fair, 59% good, 22% excellent. Unseasonably warm temperatures earlier during the week, aided in drying down many fields. As the condition of previously saturated fields improved, many producers were able to continue preparing their soils as well as other field activities. Some localities received scattered rainfall on Wednesday, putting a halt to field activities. Widespread rains were received by most localities over the weekend. Standing water and muddy field conditions continue to hinder field activities in some eastern and southeastern localities. Some small grains that were seeded in early October, over-fertilized, or had high levels of residual nitrogen were damaged by a late frost last month. Other producers reported thin stands in their late seeded small grains, as reduced yields are anticipated. Some wheat producers are treating for cereal leaf beetles as well as powdery mildew. Warmer weather have caused good growth in pastures and hay in most localities, although some are stunted from excessive moisture. Peaches were in full bloom and are in mostly good condition. Other farming activities included land preparation for vegetables, bedding sweet potatoes, spraying for alfalfa weevils, tending to livestock.

WASHINGTON: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.4. Planting and field preparation were about 7-10 days ahead of normal. Topsoil moisture 10% short; 70% adequate and 20% surplus; subsoil 10% short, 80% adequate, and 10% surplus. Winter Wheat, dryland

10% fair, 60% good, and 30% excellent; irrigated 30% good and 70% excellent. Overall conditions of the wheat crop were good with some early grass weed problems reported. Spring wheat 35% planted, 25% 1997, 27% avg; 15% emerged, 9% 1997, 8% avg. Temperatures dropping into the 20's were not expected to impact spring crops other than slowing emergence. Spring Wheat, dryland 5% fair, 95% good; irrigated 30% good and 70% excellent. Barley 30% planted, 13% 1997, 21% avg.; 10% emerged, 4% 1997, 7% avg. Potatoes 15% planted, 16% 1997, 14% avg. Hay and other roughage supplies, 10% short, 70% adequate, 20% surplus. Range and pasture, 20% fair, 78% good and 2% excellent. Grazing began on some ranges and early pastures. West of the Cascades, raspberry fields were pruned and tied, blueberry fields were sprayed, Christmas tree growers fertilized, early rhubarb was harvested and daffodil harvest neared completion. East of the Cascades fruit blossoms continued 7-10 days ahead of normal. Apricots were nearly done blooming, peaches and nectarines were just beginning to bloom, cherry bloom should start this week, and apple full bloom was predicted to start by April 21. Some frost did light damage in the coldest areas, but no significant damage was reported on fruit crops. Potato, sweet corn, onion and carrot planting continued.

WEST VIRGINIA: Dry conditions allowed producers to get into fields, but warmer weather and more rain needed to promote crop progress. Days suitable for fieldwork 5.0. Topsoil moisture 3% short, 87% adequate, 10% surplus. Wheat 4% fair, 60% good, 36% excellent. Apple condition 100% fair. Peach condition 100% fair. Hay 10% poor, 32% fair, 50% good, 8% excellent. Intended acreage prepared for spring planting 27%, 34% 1997 and 25% 5-year avg. Corn planted 1%, 0% 1997 and 1% 5-year avg. Oats planted 15%, 26% 1997 and 13% 5-year avg; Oats emerged 0%, 1% 1997 and 2% 5-year avg. Tobacco beds seeded 51%, 74% 1997 and 58% 5-yr avg. Tobacco beds emerged 7%, 15% 1997 and 16% 5-yr avg. Cattle 3% poor, 18% fair, 73% good, 6% excellent; 75% calved. Sheep 44% fair, 54% good, 2% excellent; 76% lambed. Hay and roughage supplies 5% very short, 11% short, 80% adequate, 4% surplus. Feed grain supplies 2% short, 61% adequate, 37% surplus. Activities: Field preparation, spreading manure, checking and repairing fences, calving, lambing and general maintenance.

WISCONSIN: Days suitable for fieldwork 1.1. Soil moisture: 1% short, 37% adequate, and 62% surplus. Spring tillage 2% complete, 2% 1997, 3% avg. Abundant rains and soggy fields over most of Wisconsin were keeping many tractors in the shed. Reporters were generally optimistic about the winter wheat and hay crops surviving the winter. Overall, maple syrup production was average, although an observer in Chippewa County reported a disappointing season. Honey bees in Juneau County survived the winter well with little no loss by the end of March. Lime and fertilizer spreading was going strong in potato and vegetable fields in Portage County. Other activities included spreading manure and some last-minute equipment maintenance.

WYOMING: Precipitation received across most of State. Farm flock ewes lambing and shearing ahead of last year and the 5-year pace. Topsoil moisture supplies 13% short, 54% adequate, 33% surplus. Range and pasture conditions slipped slightly to 23% fair, 66% good, 11% adequate. Stock water supplies 95% adequate, 5% surplus. Statewide 3 days suitable for fieldwork. Statewide small grains planted; barley 26%, oats 7%, spring wheat 13%. 64% of spring calves born. Calf losses 25% light, 72% normal, 3% heavy. Lamb losses 9% light, 91% normal.

March 1998
MONTHLY DATA FROM SELECTED FOREIGN CITIES
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER-NCEP-NWS-NOAA
 *** DATA NOT AVAILABLE

International Weather and Crop Summary

March 29 - April 4, 1998

HIGHLIGHTS

FSU-WESTERN: Milder weather in southern winter grain areas enabled crops to begin breaking dormancy.

EUROPE: Rain in the west benefited winter grains, especially in Spain, but slowed spring crop plantings.

NORTHWESTERN AFRICA: Despite light showers across the region, more rain was needed for reproductive winter grains.

AUSTRALIA: High temperatures aided summer crop dry down as scattered showers returned to the east.

SOUTH AFRICA: Light rain lingered over the corn belt but seasonable warmth favored immature corn.

SOUTHEAST ASIA: Showers benefited main-season rice in Java, while scattered showers provided some drought relief across the eastern Philippines.

EASTERN ASIA: Widespread rain favored vegetative winter wheat across the North China Plain.

SOUTH AMERICA: In southern Brazil, showers continued to slow soybean harvesting. Dry weather benefited summer crop harvesting in central Argentina.

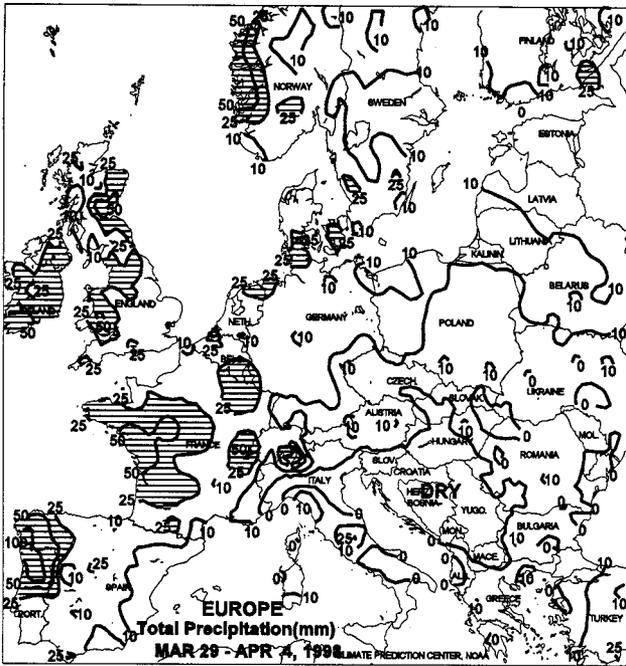
COUNTRY CITY	TEMPERATURE (C)					PRECIPITATION (MM)		
	AVG MAX	AVG MIN	HI MAX	LO MIN	AVG	DPART F/NRM	TOTAL	DPART F/NRM
NORWAY OSLO	3	-5	13	-18	-1	1.2	53	0
SWEDEN STOCKHOLM	3	-4	13	-17	0	-0.4	0	-26
FINLAND HELSINKI	0	-9	6	-18	-4	-1.4	24	-10
UKINGDO GLASGOW	10	4	14	-3	7	1.0	76	5
EDINBURGH	11	4	16	-5	7	2.0	47	-4
BIRMINGHAM	**	**	17	1	**	**	**	**
LONDON	12	5	18	-3	9	2.6	68	8
IRELAND DUBLIN	11	5	16	0	8	1.8	67	14
ICELAND REYKJAVIK	1	-3	8	-14	-1	-1.5	101	19
DENMARK COPENHAGEN	6	-1	16	-7	3	1.1	39	7
LUXEMBO LUXEMBOURG	10	3	21	-4	6	1.9	62	-7
SWITZERL ZURICH	9	2	21	-4	6	1.3	76	4
GENEVA	12	2	22	-4	7	2.1	21	-58
FRANCE PARIS/ORLY	12	5	22	-2	9	**	22	**
STRASBOURG	12	3	24	-5	8	2.0	17	-20
BOURGES	13	4	22	-3	9	1.8	27	-33
BORDEAUX	17	6	24	-1	12	3.1	55	-21
TOULOUSE	16	5	22	-2	11	2.2	20	-38
MARSEILLE	16	6	22	1	11	1.2	32	-12
SPAIN VALLADOLID	18	5	23	0	11	3.4	11	-22
MADRID	20	5	24	-1	12	2.4	9	-38
SEVILLE	25	10	29	6	17	2.4	22	-71
PORTUGA LISBON	21	11	26	6	16	2.6	32	-67
GERMANY HAMBURG	9	3	19	-5	6	2.3	70	14
BERLIN	9	2	20	-4	5	1.0	61	23
DUSSELDORF	11	4	23	-4	8	1.8	79	38
LEIPZIG	9	2	19	-4	6	1.9	34	-1
DRESDEN	8	1	19	-5	5	1.4	58	21
STUTT GART	10	2	23	-5	6	1.4	37	-4
NURNBERG	9	1	22	-7	5	1.4	22	-24
AUSTRIA VIENNA	10	1	18	-8	5	0.3	28	-3
INNSBRUCK	10	0	23	-7	5	0.3	85	37
CZECHRE PRAGUE	8	0	20	-9	4	0.7	25	-3
POLAND WARSAW	6	-2	17	-8	2	-0.3	41	13
LODZ	6	-2	18	-8	2	0.0	46	10
KATOWICE	6	-2	17	-10	2	0.0	48	10
PRZEMYSL	5	-2	15	-7	1	-1.0	33	-1
HUNGARY BUDAPEST	10	0	18	-11	5	-0.7	9	-20
YUGOSLA BELGRADE	11	1	21	-5	6	-1.3	19	-33
ROMANIA BUCHAREST	10	0	22	-8	5	1.2	42	10
BULGARIA SOFIA	8	-2	22	-7	3	-1.6	29	-11
ITALY MILAN	16	4	22	0	11	2.5	11	-67
VERONA	15	4	21	-1	9	0.9	4	-53
VENICE	13	4	29	-1	8	0.6	3	-54
GENOA	16	9	21	4	12	0.8	5	-82
ROME	16	4	20	0	10	-0.8	22	-42
NAPLES	15	5	21	-1	10	-0.7	51	-33
GREECE THESSALONIKA	12	3	19	-3	7	-2.2	12	-34
LARISSA	13	1	21	-6	7	-2.3	26	-12
ATHENS	14	7	20	2	10	-2.2	205	171
TURKEY ISTANBUL	9	4	19	-1	6	-0.2	134	71
ANKARA	8	-4	17	-12	2	-2.7	55	28
CYPRUS LARNACA	19	8	21	3	14	0.0	25	-14
ESTONIA TALLINN	1	-7	8	-18	-3	-0.9	23	-5
LITHUANI KAUJAS	4	-3	15	-10	0	0.6	42	9
BELARUS MINSK	3	-4	11	-19	-1	0.5	51	11
RUSSIA KAZAN	0	-6	5	-13	-3	1.9	36	11
MOSCOW	2	-5	9	-10	-1	1.1	64	31
YEKATERINBURG	1	-7	7	-17	-3	0.8	19	4
OMSK	-4	-15	2	-25	-9	-1.1	13	-1
NOVOSIBIRSK	-2	-12	4	-24	-7	4.1	8	-7
BARNAUL	-1	-13	7	-26	-7	0.1	6	-13
KHABAROVSK	1	-9	8	-16	-4	3.1	44	27
VLADIVOSTOK	5	-2	15	-11	1	3.6	9	-15
SARATOV	0	-5	5	-11	-3	1.6	87	67
VOLGOGRAD	2	-2	10	-8	0	2.9	58	27
ASTRAKHAN	6	-2	14	-7	2	0.5	50	35
KRASNODAR	10	2	21	-3	6	2.4	96	40
ORENBURG	-2	-9	4	-16	-6	0.2	18	-5
KAZAKHS TSELINOGRAD	-3	-13	3	-20	-8	0.0	25	11

Based on Preliminary Reports

March 1998

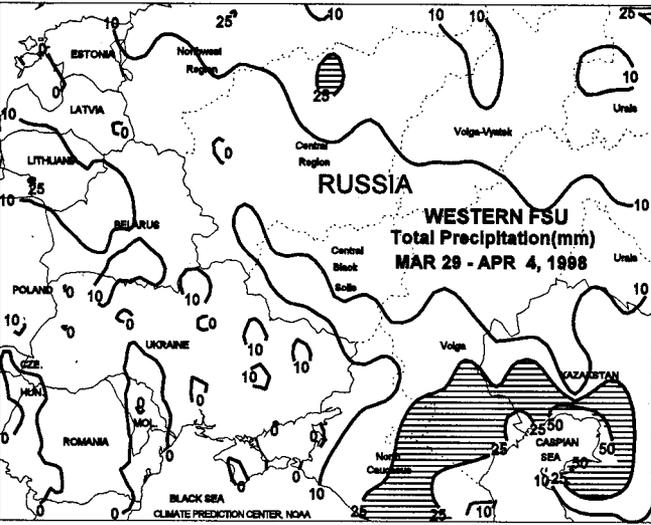
COUNTRY CITY	TEMPERATURE (C)						PRECIPITATION (MM)		COUNTRY CITY	TEMPERATURE (C)						PRECIPITATION (MM)	
	AVG MAX	AVG MIN	HI MAX	LO MIN	AVG	DPART F/NRM	TOTAL	DPART F/NRM		AVG MAX	AVG MIN	HI MAX	LO MIN	AVG	DPART F/NRM	TOTAL	DPART F/NRM
KARAGANDA	-4	-13	3	-24	-9	-2.3	41	23	ZIMBABW HARARE	28	17	32	14	23	2.9	212	114
GEORGIA TBILISI	13	2	21	-6	7	0.4	27	-2	S AFRICA PRETORIA	29	18	34	15	23	2.6	49	-31
UZBEKIST TASHKENT	13	4	26	-5	8	-0.4	121	49	JOHANNESBURG	25	14	29	9	20	1.7	26	-64
TURKMENI ASHKHABAD	16	4	29	-6	10	0.3	45	6	BETHAL	26	13	31	10	20	1.9	35	-52
SYRIA DAMASCUS	17	4	26	-1	11	-0.6	31	10	DURBAN	27	21	31	18	24	0.2	85	-43
ISRAEL JERUSALEM	14	5	22	0	10	-1.8	153	62	CAPE TOWN	25	15	29	8	20	0.8	12	-10
PAKISTAN KARACHI	32	21	40	16	27	2.2	0	-13	CANADA TORONTO	6	-2	25	-14	2	2.9	79	22
INDIA AMRITSAR	25	11	31	6	18	-1.2	13	-29	MONTREAL	3	-5	20	-17	-1	1.5	74	7
NEW DELHI	27	14	33	10	21	-1.6	31	16	WINNIPEG	-1	-10	13	-26	-5	1.5	4	-19
AHMEDABAD	35	19	41	14	27	0.0	0	0	REGINA	-2	-13	15	-31	-7	-1.2	11	-6
INDORE	34	17	39	12	26	0.5	3	-1	SASKATOON	-1	-13	15	-29	-7	-0.1	4	-12
CALCUTTA	31	20	36	15	25	-2.0	295	273	LETHBRIDGE	3	-9	16	-23	-3	-2.6	35	9
VERAVAL	30	20	35	17	25	0.4	0	0	CALGARY	0	-9	13	-24	-5	-2.1	48	34
BOMBAY	33	21	39	16	27	0.3	0	0	EDMONTON	2	-7	15	-25	-2	1.1	4	-14
POONA	36	16	39	10	26	0.0	0	-3	VANCOUVER	11	5	16	-2	8	1.6	67	-42
BEGAMPET	36	23	40	20	29	1.3	0	-15	MEXICO GUADALAJARA	**	**	27	4	**	**	0	-6
VISHAKHAPATNAM	31	26	32	23	28	**	2	**	MEXICO CITY	26	11	32	5	19	2.9	0	-9
MADRAS	34	25	36	24	29	0.8	0	-6	ACAPULCO	32	23	33	19	27	1.0	0	-4
MANGALORE	35	24	36	21	29	1.2	0	-9	BERMUJA ST. GEORGES	20	16	22	10	18	-0.2	100	-13
HONGKO KINGS PEAK	21	16	28	7	19	**	59	**	BAHAMAS NASSAU	25	19	29	12	22	0.0	104	64
N KOREA PYONGYANG	**	**	13	-7	**	**	**	**	JAMAICA KINGSTON	31	24	33	21	27	1.3	88	68
S KOREA SEOUL	12	3	19	-3	8	4.2	52	-4	P RICO SAN JUAN	29	22	32	21	26	0.0	88	30
JAPAN SAPPORO	5	-2	15	-8	2	1.9	83	1	GUADELOUPE RAIZET	31	23	32	18	27	2.2	50	5
NAGOYA	15	6	25	0	11	2.8	96	-11	MARTINIQ LAMENTIN	30	24	32	17	27	2.5	35	-40
TOKYO	14	7	25	1	10	1.9	115	15	BARBADO BRIDGETOWN	30	24	31	21	27	1.3	38	2
YOKOHAMA	14	7	24	1	10	2.0	137	18	TRINIDAD PORT OF SPAIN	33	23	34	18	28	2.1	20	-11
KYOTO	15	6	25	1	10	2.7	93	-15	COLOMBI BOGOTA	20	**	23	4	**	**	35	-24
OSAKA	15	8	24	3	11	2.6	66	-36	VENEZUE CARACAS	30	23	33	20	26	1.5	56	33
THAILAND PHETCHABUN	39	24	42	19	31	2.9	6	-40	F GUIANA CAYENNE	31	24	32	22	27	1.6	167	-194
BANGKOK	35	27	38	23	31	1.9	0	-28	BRAZIL RECIFE	32	25	33	23	28	1.9	84	-175
MALAYSIA KUALA LUMPUR	35	25	36	23	30	3.3	178	-38	BELO HORIZONTE	30	21	34	19	25	1.9	67	-89
VIETNAM HANOI	23	19	31	12	21	1.1	34	-4	FRANCA	28	20	30	18	24	5.4	103	-78
CHINA HARBIN	6	-6	18	-16	0	6.5	21	12	RIO DE JANEIRO	30	25	36	22	28	1.5	59	-66
HAMI	11	-2	18	-12	5	0.2	16	15	LONDRINA	29	20	34	14	**	**	247	106
LANCHOW	12	1	22	-10	6	1.3	11	2	SANTA MARIA	27	18	35	8	22	-0.1	257	105
BEIJING	13	3	22	-3	8	2.6	4	-5	PORTO ALEGRE	27	19	36	10	23	-0.5	215	126
TIENTSIN	14	2	26	-5	8	2.2	5	-3	PERU LIMA	31	23	33	23	27	4.8	2	1
LHASA	11	-2	17	-8	5	-0.1	20	18	BOLIVIA LA PAZ	17	4	20	0	11	1.8	80	3
KUNMING	22	9	27	4	16	3.1	20	4	CHILE SANTIAGO	26	11	32	8	19	1.1	0	-2
CHENGCHOW	14	4	27	-1	9	1.5	69	44	ARGENTIN IGUAZU	29	20	35	9	24	**	278	**
YEHCHANG	14	7	24	0	11	0.4	111	54	FORMOSA	29	21	36	11	25	-0.6	153	-8
HANKOW	14	8	27	-1	11	0.8	165	80	CERES	26	17	36	9	22	-1.1	133	-1
CHUNGKING	17	11	27	4	14	**	15	**	CORDOBA	24	14	36	7	19	-1.0	58	-59
CHIHKIANG	14	8	28	1	11	0.5	72	-2	RIO CUARTO	23	15	33	7	19	-0.7	62	-57
WU HU	13	6	27	-2	10	**	215	**	ROSARIO	25	15	34	5	20	-0.4	164	-2
SHANGHAI	12	7	23	0	10	**	112	**	BUENOS AIRES	25	14	34	4	20	-0.4	124	17
NANCHANG	13	9	29	1	11	0.3	260	109	SANTA ROSA	26	12	33	0	19	-0.5	9	-79
TAIPEI	22	17	30	12	19	2.3	212	38	TRES ARROYOS	25	12	32	5	18	0.1	30	-53
CANTON	22	16	30	8	19	1.7	43	-42	NEW CAL NOUMEA	30	24	33	21	27	1.2	125	-10
NANNING	21	16	32	8	18	0.7	64	16	FIJI NAUSORI	29	24	32	21	27	0.8	156	-257
CANARY I LAS PALMAS	25	18	29	15	21	2.9	1	-10	SAMOA PAGO PAGO	32	27	35	20	30	2.2	230	-65
MOROCC CASABLANCA	23	12	29	7	17	3.2	14	-37	TAHITI PAPEETE	32	26	34	24	29	1.9	173	-22
MARRAKECH	26	13	34	5	19	3.3	27	-11	AUSTRALI DARWIN	31	25	34	23	28	0.3	588	250
ALGERIA ALGER	19	6	26	0	13	-0.5	36	-23	BRISBANE	29	20	31	17	24	0.4	51	-89
BATNA	15	2	23	-7	8	-0.5	19	-24	PERTH	31	17	39	12	24	1.0	29	15
TUNISIA TUNIS	18	10	24	6	14	0.3	30	-14	CEDUNA	26	13	41	8	20	-0.3	8	-12
NIGER NIAMEY	37	23	42	17	30	-0.7	0	-5	ADELAIDE	25	15	38	11	20	-0.4	7	-14
MALI TIMBUKTU	35	**	42	18	**	**	0	0	MELBOURNE	23	12	39	7	17	-1.1	6	-28
BAMAKO	38	25	42	21	31	0.7	1	-2	WAGGA	29	14	38	9	22	0.8	2	-38
MAURITAN NOUAKCHOTT	34	19	40	12	26	1.9	0	0	CANBERRA	27	11	36	6	19	1.2	3	-50
SENEGAL DAKAR	27	20	34	10	24	2.7	0	0	INDONESI DJAKARTA	**	**	34	21	**	**	**	**
CHAGOS DIEGO GARCIA	**	**	33	25	**	**	**	**	PHILIPPI MANILA	33	26	35	24	29	1.7	14	4
LIBYA TRIPOLI	19	8	28	1	14	-1.8	47	14									
BENGHAZI	16	10	22	1	13	-2.5	69	45									
EGYPT CAIRO	21	12	32	8	17	-1.0	1	-5									
ASWAN	26	**	34	9	**	**	0	0									
ETHIOPIA ADDIS ABABA	**	12	27	9	**	**	39	-28									
KENYA NAIROBI	27	16	29	11	21	0.6	44	-26									
TANZANIA DAR ES SALAAM	32	24	34	22	28	1.1	93	-40*									
GABON LIBREVILLE	32	24	34	20	28	0.7	155	-250									
TOGO LOME	35	27	36	25	31	2.7	19	-51									
BURKINA OUAGADOUGOU	38	23	41	19	31	0.1	0	-6									
COTE D'I ABIDJAN	34	27	35	22	30	2.7	6	-93									
MOZAMBI MAPUTO	31	23	37	19	27	1.2	98	9									
ZAMBIA LUSAKA	**	**	31	17	**	**	**	**									

Based on Preliminary Reports



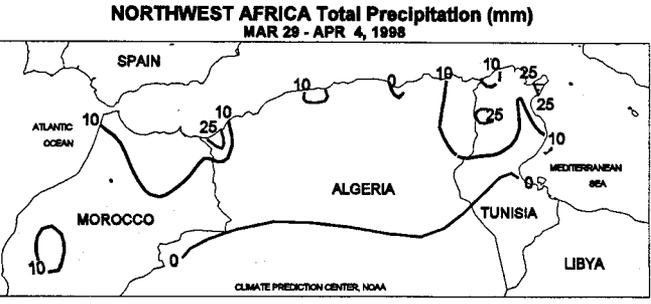
EUROPE

Widespread, locally heavy rain (10-50 mm or more) swept into the west, boosting moisture reserves for winter grain development but hampering fieldwork for spring and summer crops. The moisture was especially welcomed in Spain, where amounts generally totaled 5 to 25 mm. However, a pocket of heavier rain (50 - 100 mm or more) was centered over the border with northern Portugal, possibly causing some localized flooding. Heavy rain (50 mm or greater) also fell in sections of western France. In contrast, a mostly dry pattern continued to dominate eastern Europe, although light showers (5-15 mm) were scattered across Poland and its neighbors. Temperatures averaged near to above normal across Europe, with warmth moving from west to east as the week progressed. The exception was Greece, which remained cooler than normal but became favorably drier for cotton planting. By week's end, very warm weather (highs in the mid 20's C) had moved into the southeast, likely necessitating additional moisture as winter grains become more active in their growth cycle.



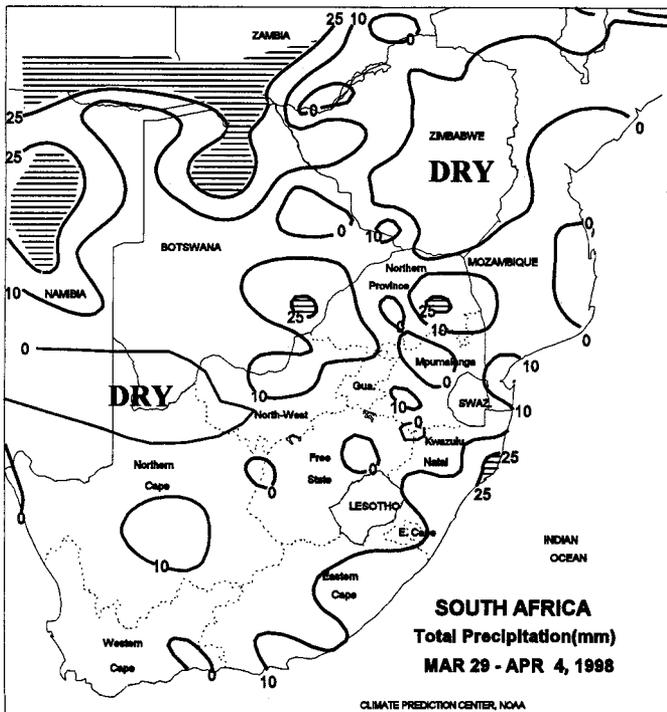
FSU-WESTERN

A warming trend over the western and southern winter grain areas ended a cold snap that had prevented crops from breaking dormancy. Temperatures averaged 2 to 5 degrees C above normal across Ukraine and Moldova, although sub-freezing lows were common at many locations. Mostly light, scattered precipitation (1-19 mm) kept topsoils moist in these countries but likely allowed some spring planting, especially in the warmer locations near the Crimean Peninsula. Elsewhere, temperatures averaged near to below normal over Russia, Belarus, and the Baltics, although winter cold (minimum temperatures of -2 to -12 degrees C) kept winter grains dormant and precluded spring field activities. A band of moderate precipitation (10-25 mm) stretched from Latvia and Lithuania southeastward to the Caspian Sea, with somewhat heavier amounts (25-45 mm) centered over the Lower Volga. In cotton regions of south-central FSU, mostly dry weather favored early fieldwork in the warmer, southerly locations. Moderate precipitation (exceeding 10 mm) in northeastern sections boosted irrigation reserves.



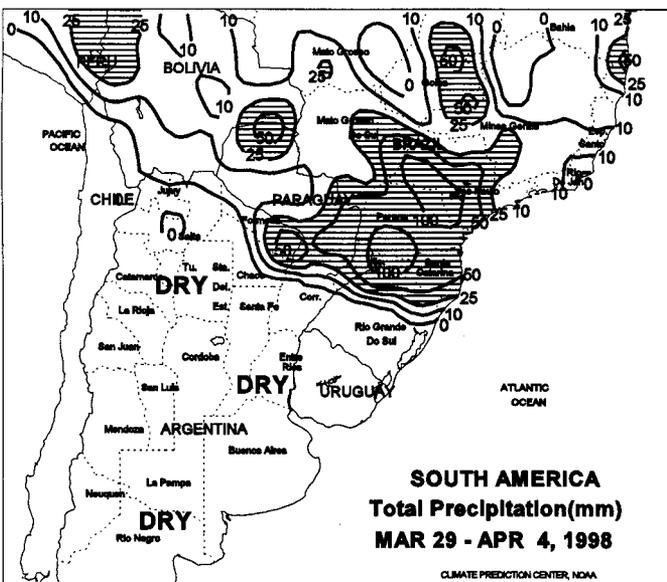
NORTHWESTERN AFRICA

Despite variable showers across the region, more rain was needed to stabilize crop prospects for reproductive winter grains. Showers (5-25) brought some relief to reproductive winter grains across Morocco. Drought continued in the western and central winter grain areas of Algeria, causing further declines in crop conditions. Rain (5-30 mm) favored winter grains in extreme eastern Algeria and Tunisia. Hot weather (temperatures averaging 2-5 degrees C above normal) increased moisture demands for already stressed crops in these regions.



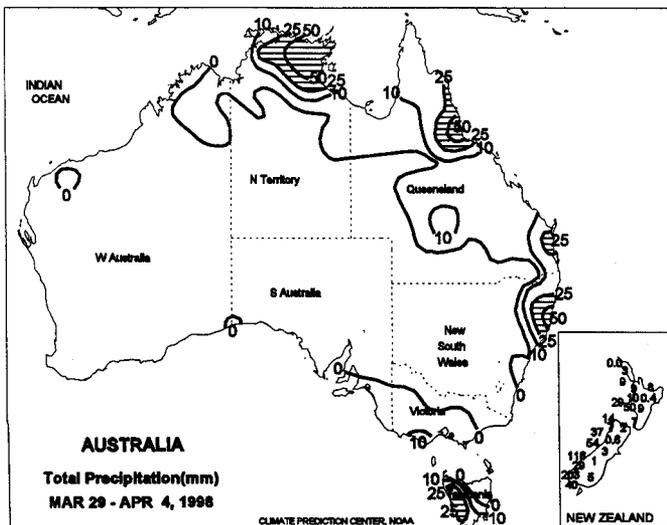
SOUTH AFRICA

Drier weather returned to the region, with most of the corn belt receiving less than 10 mm. Moderate showers (25-35 mm) were confined to north-coastal sections of Kwazulu-Natal, keeping sugarcane well watered but impeding early harvests. Temperatures (highs in the mid- to upper-20's C) favored development of corn and other summer crops, especially those planted after the Christmas rains. The average dates of the first autumn freeze for traditionally cooler sections of North West and Free State are just a few weeks away. Elsewhere in southern Africa, warm, dry weather remained entrenched over Zimbabwe and surrounding countries, aiding summer crop maturation but further reducing moisture reserves.



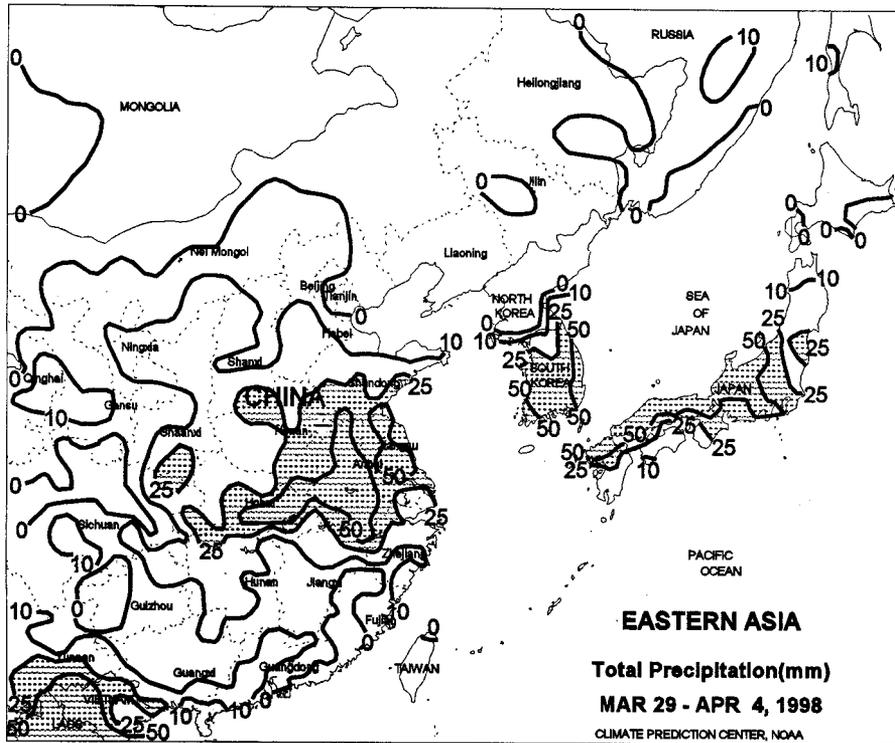
SOUTH AMERICA

Moderate to heavy showers (30-100 mm) continued to slow soybean harvesting in Rio Grande do Sul and Parana, Brazil. Late-week dry weather helped to reduce disease problems for mature soybeans. Elsewhere in southern Brazil, scattered showers (10-50 mm) caused only minor harvesting delays. According to reports as of April 2, Brazilian soybean harvesting was 39 percent complete compared with 49 percent last year. In northern Argentina, isolated heavy showers (70-100 mm) slowed early cotton harvesting, but late-week dry weather eased wetness. Dry weather favored summer crop harvesting in central Argentina. According to reports as of March 27, Argentine cotton, soybean, and corn crops were 5, 5, and 21 percent harvested, respectively.



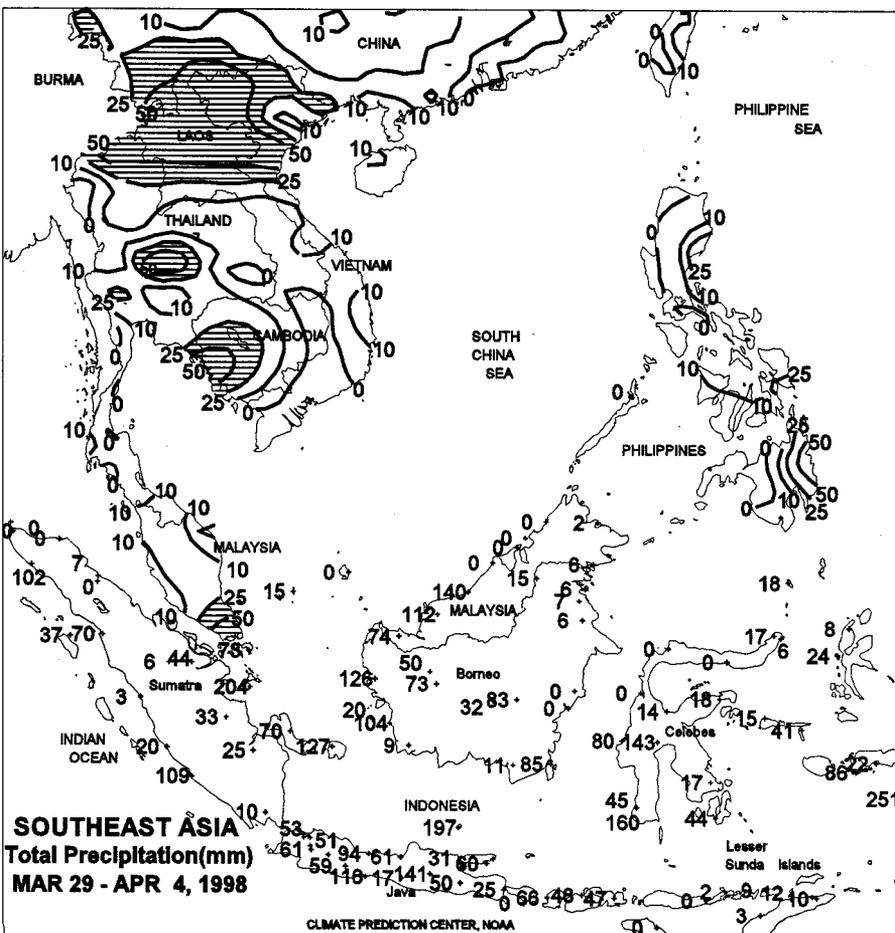
AUSTRALIA

Scattered, mostly light showers (2-29 mm) covered Queensland's southern crop areas. The rain came too late to benefit maturing sorghum and cotton and was generally not heavy enough to cause widespread concern for crop quality. Moderate showers (25 mm or greater) extended southeastward into the sugarcane region of northern New South Wales. The remaining sugarcane areas were mostly dry, except for northern locations that experienced locally heavy tropical showers (50-100 mm). Temperatures remained unseasonably warm throughout the east, with highs ranging in the mid-30's C across interior crop areas. Warm, dry weather dominated the southern winter grain belts. In New Zealand, moderate rain (25 mm or more) fell over south-central North Island, but other primary pasture locations received only light, scattered showers.



EASTERN ASIA

Widespread rain (10-40 mm) benefited vegetative winter wheat across the North China Plain. Cool weather (minimum temperatures near freezing) burned back some wheat growth. Heavier showers (20-60 mm) fell across the Yangtze Valley. Mostly dry weather (less than 10 mm) favored early double-crop rice transplanting across extreme southern China. Dry weather favored spring wheat planting across Manchuria.



SOUTHEAST ASIA

In Java and southern Sumatra, seasonal showers (10-60 mm) continued to benefit main-season rice and replenish long-term moisture supplies. Scattered, light showers (10-40 mm) provided some drought relief to the eastern Philippines. Typically across the Philippines, April is the month when the Northeast Monsoon ends and the Southwest Monsoon starts, auguring the beginning of main-season rice planting. In eastern Malaysia, showers (74-140 mm) benefited plantation crops in Sarawak but drought continued in Sabah. Below-normal rainfall the past few weeks has reduced moisture supplies for oil palm across peninsular Malaysia. Scattered showers (5-60 mm) and near-normal temperatures increased moisture supplies in Thailand.

The *Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin* (ISSN 0043-1974) is published weekly and jointly prepared by the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Publication began in 1872 as the *Weekly Weather Chronicle*. It is issued under general authority of the Act of January 12, 1895 (44-USC 213), 53rd Congress, 3rd Session. NOAA is responsible for managing, printing, and distributing the bulletin. The contents may be reprinted freely, with proper credit.

Annual subscriptions: domestic first class \$45, foreign \$55 (in U.S. funds by international money order or check drawn on U.S. bank) payable to U.S. Department of Commerce, NOAA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: **Climate Prediction Center, W/NP52, Attn: *Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin*, NOAA/NWS/NCEP, 4700 Silver Hill Road, Stop 9910, Washington, DC 20233-9910.** Order subscriptions from the office and address listed above. First-class postage paid at Washington, DC, and other mailing offices. Correspondence to the meteorologists should be directed to: **Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin, NOAA/USDA, Joint Agricultural Weather Facility, USDA South Building, Room 5844, Washington, DC 20250.** Internet URL: <http://www.usda.gov/oc/waob/jawf/>; E-mail address: wwcb@jawfsrv.wwb.noaa.gov

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
fax (301) 763-8125

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Economic Research Service
E.R.S. Editor **Sharon Lee**
National Agricultural Statistics Service
Agricultural Statistician **Mark E. Miller** (202) 720-7621
State Summaries Editor **Klara Haskins** (202) 720-8033
World Agricultural Outlook Board
International Editor **Tom Puterbaugh**
Agricultural Weather Analysts **Ray Motha**
..... **Mark Brusberg and Bob Stefanski**
Secretary **Teressa Davis** (202) 720-9807

(Continued from front cover)

Early in the week, readings dipped nearly to the freezing mark as far south as **southern California**, setting nearly a dozen daily-record lows. On March 29-30, consecutive daily-records were established in **Chatsworth** (34 and 33°F) and **Simi Valley** (36 and 33°F). Prior to the arrival of the coldest air, **Sacramento** (in central California) reported a trace of snow on March 28, their first flakes since February 27, 1996. At the 6,220-foot level on **Mt. Laguna**, snow accumulated to a depth of 19 inches by Sunday afternoon. By month's end, season-to-date (since July 1, 1997) rainfall reached 11.82 inches in **Bakersfield** (207 percent of their annual normal), surpassing their record of 11.73 inches, set in 1977-78.

Farther inland, storm-total (March 28-30) snowfall topped 3 feet on parts of **Arizona's Mongollon Rim**. **Mt. Lemmon**, near **Tucson**, recorded 36 inches during a 48-hour period ending Monday afternoon. On Sunday, a high of 53°F in **Phoenix** was their lowest in March since March 10, 1935. In the storm's wake, **Flagstaff, AZ** tallied a daily-record low of 1°F on Monday. Heavy snow also fell in the **central Rockies**, and rain changed to snow across the **upper Midwest**. In **South Dakota**, the last day of March featured snowfall of 12.8 inches in **Huron** and 9.3 inches in **Sioux Falls**. The storm lifted monthly precipitation to March-record levels in **Sioux Falls** (4.08 inches), **Madison, WI** (5.46 inches), and **Alpena, MI** (7.32 inches). In **Minnesota**, seven tornadoes struck on Sunday, only the seventh March

outbreak in State history. One of the twisters had a path length of 62 miles across parts of five counties.

Meanwhile, record warmth continued to expand across the **eastern half of the Nation**. On Sunday in **Indiana**, **Indianapolis** experienced their earliest occurrence of 80-degree warmth since March 8, 1974. A day later, March records were tied or broken in locations such as **Atlantic City, NJ** (87°F), **Harrisburg, PA** (87°F), **Wilmington, DE** (86°F), and **Flint, MI** (79°F). The final day of the month featured **Vermont's** highest March reading on record (88°F in **Union Village**), breaking a standard that had stood since March 29, 1946 (84°F in **Burlington**). Highs soared to 89°F in **Concord, NH**, **Boston, MA**, **Albany, NY**, and **Hartford, CT**, establishing March records. In **Maine**, **Portland** registered 88°F on the 31st, higher than their former March record (86°F in 1946), April record (85°F), and highest reading during the summer of 1996 (86°F). Sharply cooler air arrived in the **East** after midweek, however, accompanied by rain.

Severely dry conditions continued in **Hawaii**. On **Oahu**, **Honolulu** netted only 0.03 inches (1 percent of normal) during the month, their third-driest March on record. Elsewhere, March rainfall totaled 0.18 inches (7 percent of normal) in **Kahului**, 1.87 inches (45 percent) in **Lihue**, and 3.67 inches (26 percent) in **Hilo**. Farther north, mild weather continued in **Alaska**, with stormy conditions across the extreme south. Weekly temperatures averaged 0 to 13°F above normal. On Friday, **McGrath** (51°F) posted a daily-record high.

Climate Prediction Center, W/NP52
Attn: *Weekly Weather & Crop Bulletin*
NOAA/NWS/NCEP
4700 Silver Hill Road
Stop 9910
Washington, DC 20233-9910

WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN
FIRST CLASS

FIRST CLASS MAIL
POSTAGE & FEES PAID
NOAA
PERMIT NO. G-19

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300