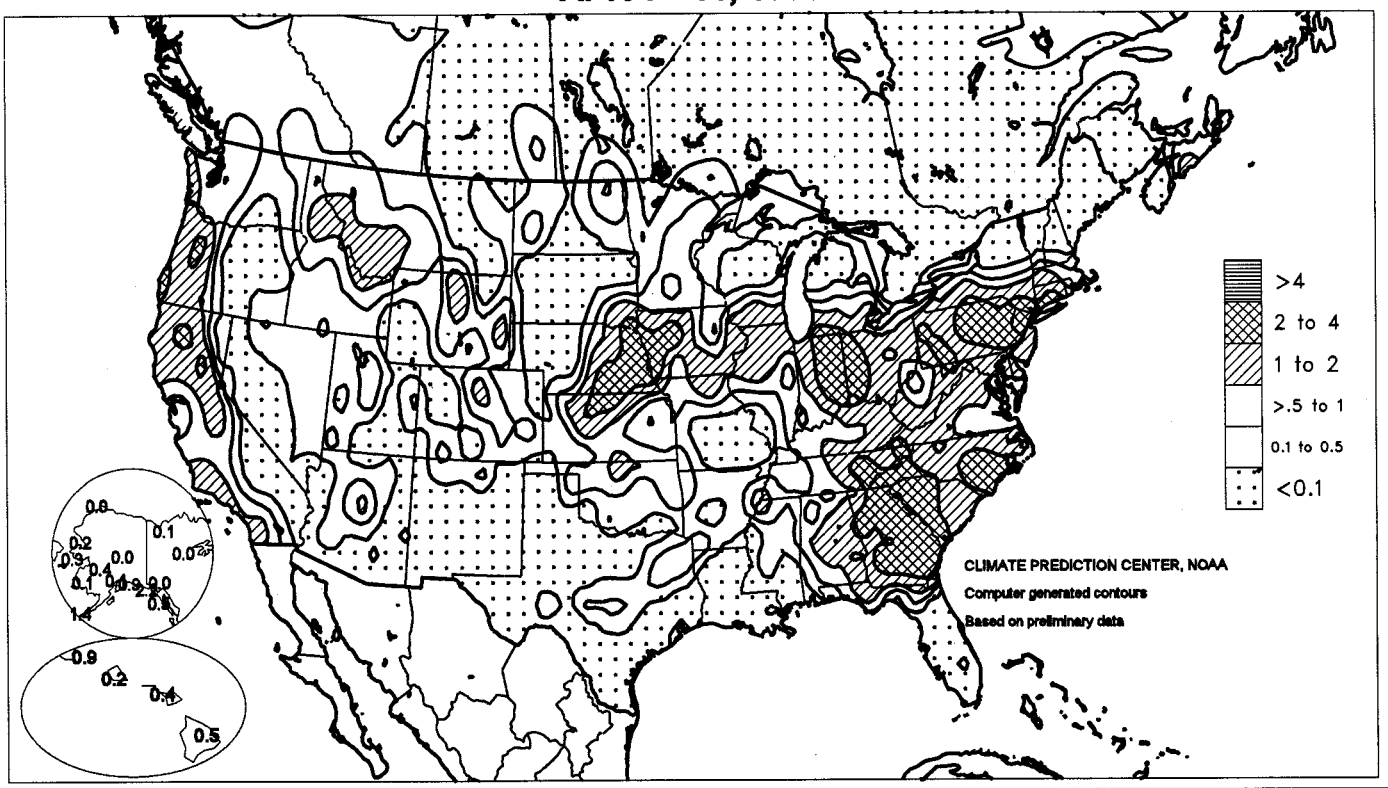
Volume 85, No. 15 April 14, 1998

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)
APR 5 - 11, 1998



HIGHLIGHTS

April 5 - 11, 1998

Another strong spring storm traversed the Nation, sparking a deadly tornado outbreak across the **Southeast** and further saturating soils across parts of the **western Corn Belt**. Areas from **Alabama** and **Georgia** to the **northern Mid-Atlantic region** experienced a second consecutive wet week. Farther west, cool (as much as 8°F below normal), showery weather continued across **California** for the second week in a row, slowing fieldwork and crop development. Late in the week, warm, windy weather spread into the **upper Midwest**, helping to evaporate excess moisture and to boost weekly temperatures as much as 7°F above normal. The same late-week conditions spurred winter wheat development on the **Plains**, but began to deplete topsoil moisture in southern areas (**western Oklahoma** and **northern Texas**), where little rain has fallen in the last 3 weeks.

(Continued on page 3)

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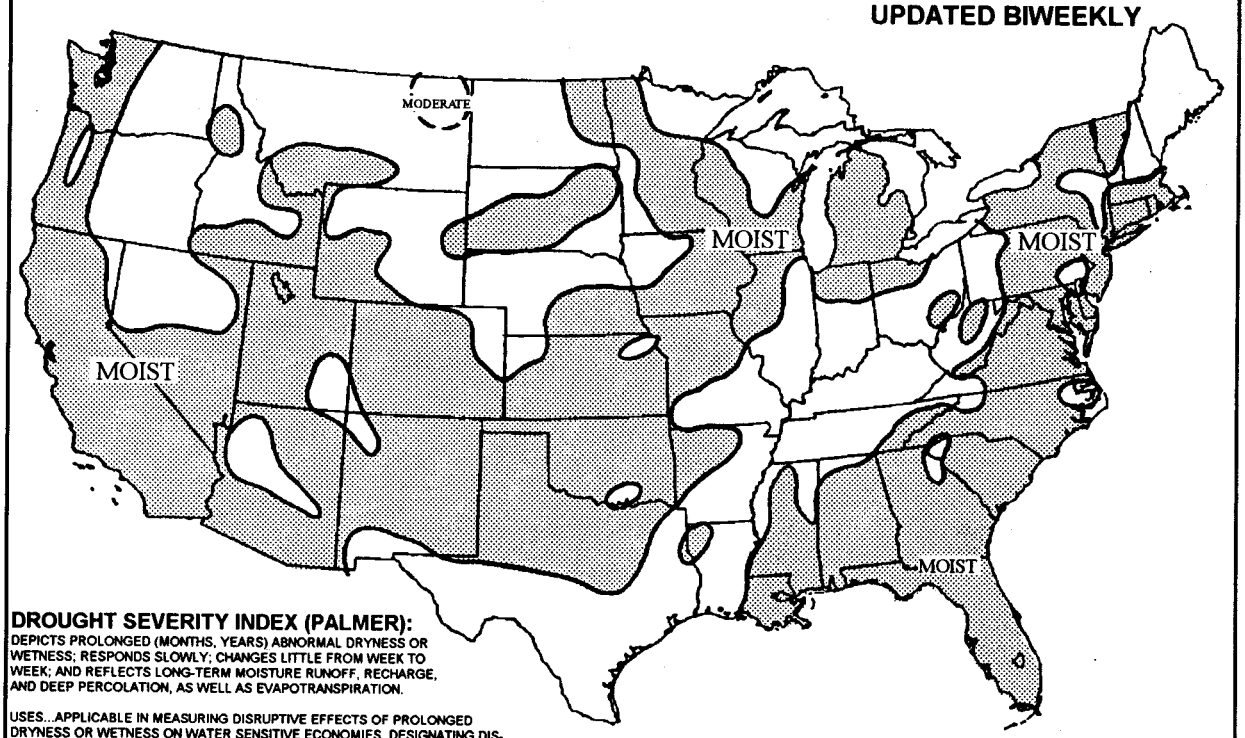
DROUGHT SEVERITY
(LONG TERM, PALMER)
April 11, 1998

UPDATED BIWEEKLY



DROUGHT SEVERITY INDEX (PALMER):
DEPICTS PROLONGED (MONTHS, YEARS) ABNORMAL DRYNESS OR WETNESS; RESPONDS SLOWLY; CHANGES LITTLE FROM WEEK TO WEEK; AND REFLECTS LONG-TERM MOISTURE RUNOFF, RECHARGE, AND DEEP PERCOLATION, AS WELL AS EVAPOTRANSPIRATION.

USES...APPLICABLE IN MEASURING DISRUPTIVE EFFECTS OF PROLONGED DRYNESS OR WETNESS ON WATER SENSITIVE ECONOMIES, DESIGNATING DISASTER AREAS OF DROUGHT OR WETNESS; AND REFLECTING THE GENERAL LONG-TERM STATUS OF WATER SUPPLIES IN AQUIFERS, RESERVOIRS, AND STREAMS.

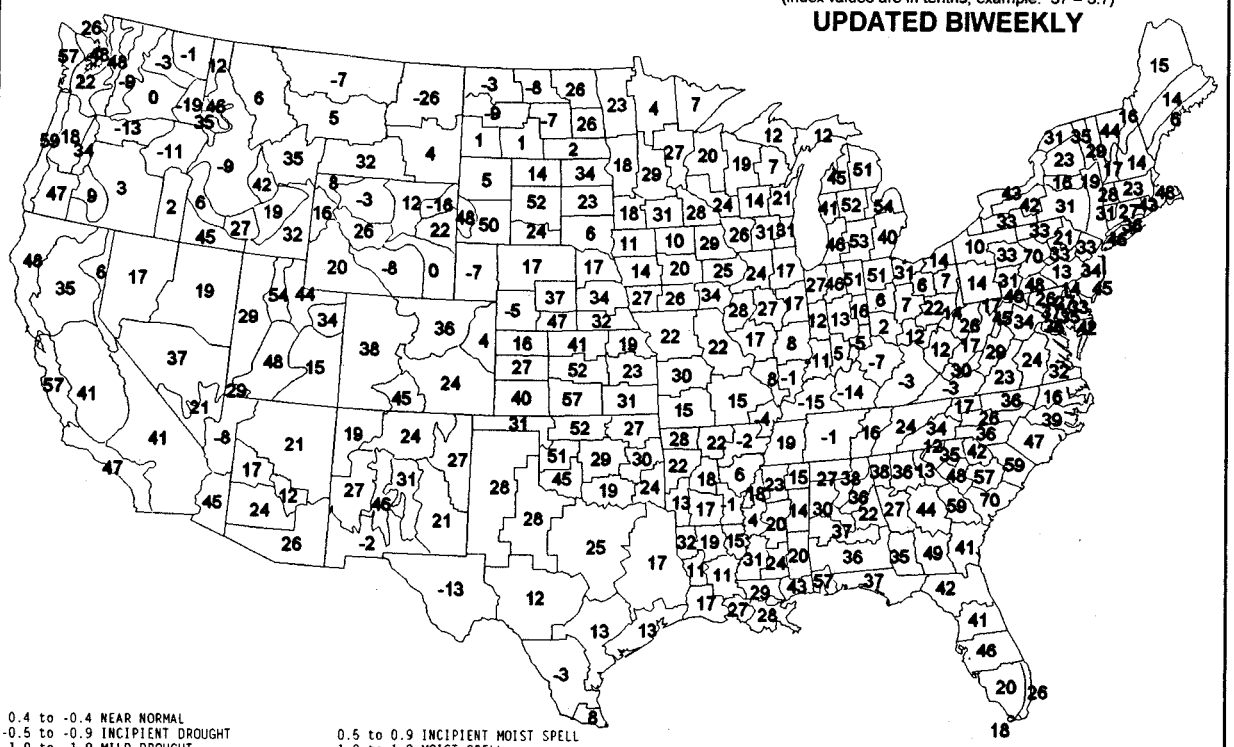
LIMITATIONS...IS NOT GENERALLY INDICATIVE OF SHORT-TERM (FEW WEEKS) STATUS OF DROUGHT OR WETNESS SUCH AS FREQUENTLY AFFECTS CROPS AND FIELD OPERATIONS (THIS IS INDICATED BY THE CROP MOISTURE INDEX).

NOAA/USDA JOINT AGRICULTURAL WEATHER FACILITY Based on preliminary reports

DROUGHT SEVERITY INDEX BY DIVISION
(LONG TERM, PALMER)
April 11, 1998

(Index values are in tenths; example: 37 = 3.7)

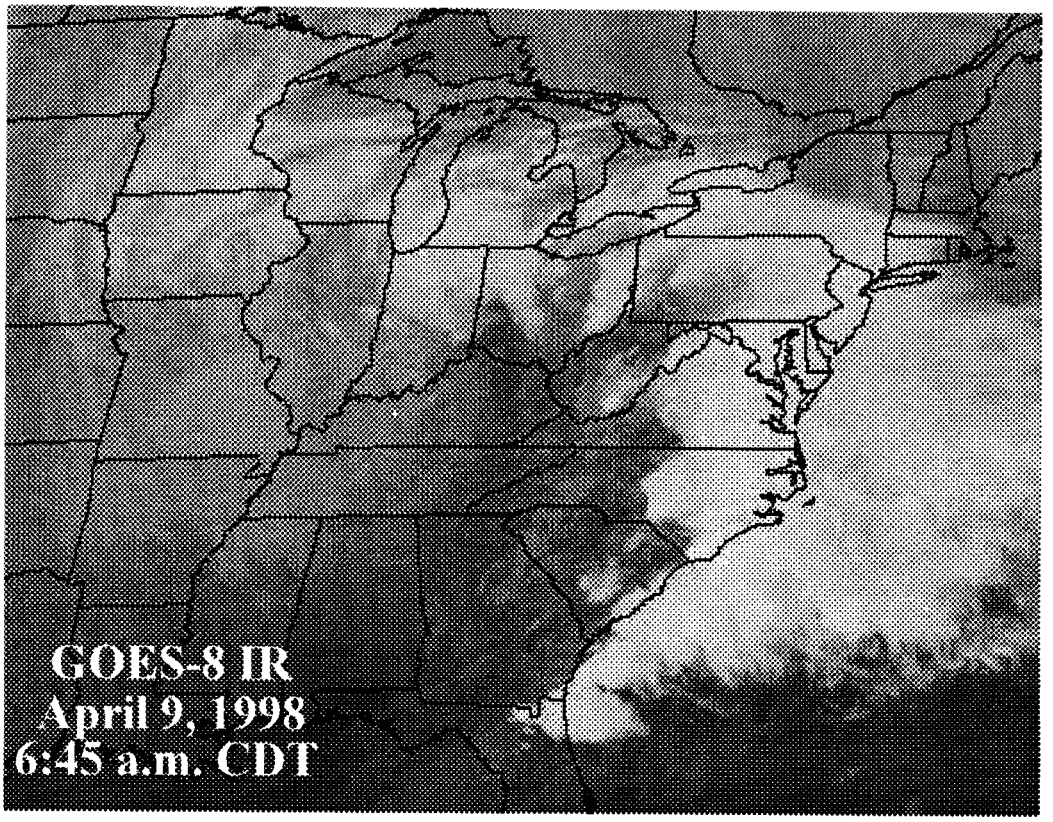
UPDATED BIWEEKLY



0.4 to -0.4 NEAR NORMAL
-0.5 to -0.9 INCIPIENT DROUGHT
-1.0 to -1.9 MILD DROUGHT
-2.0 to -2.9 MODERATE DROUGHT
-3.0 to -3.9 SEVERE DROUGHT
BELOW -4.0 EXTREME DROUGHT

0.5 to 0.9 INCIPIENT MOIST SPELL
1.0 to 1.9 MOIST SPELL
2.0 to 2.9 UNUSUAL MOIST SPELL
3.0 to 3.9 VERY MOIST SPELL
ABOVE 4.0 EXTREME MOIST SPELL

NOAA/USDA JOINT AGRICULTURAL WEATHER FACILITY Based on preliminary reports



The morning after tornadoes across the Southeast left 39 people dead--31 in Jefferson County, Alabama, alone--thunderstorms continue to rumble along the East Coast. Meanwhile, another rainstorm winds down across the western Corn Belt, where cool, saturated soils continue to prevent spring fieldwork and planting preparations.

(Continued from front cover)

Early in the week, a developing low-pressure system emerged from the **West**, crossing the **central Plains**. On Sunday, **Ely, NV** (0.41 inches) noted a daily-record rainfall. A day later, **Grand Island, NE** notched their first of two consecutive daily-record totals (0.75 inches on April 6 and 1.93 inches on April 7). Storm-total rainfall topped 2 inches in a band from **north-central Kansas** to **western Iowa**. As a result of recent heavy rainfall, minor to moderate river flooding developed across much of the **middle and upper Mississippi River basin**. In advance of the storm's cold front, a daily-record high was set in **Galveston, TX** (86°F on Wednesday), where March 1 - April 11 rainfall was only 1.75 inches (57 percent of normal).

On Tuesday afternoon and evening, the low-pressure system produced a rash of severe weather in the **Midwest**. In **central Illinois**, preliminary reports indicated that 28 tornadoes occurred. Twenty-four hours later, numerous tornadoes swept across the **Southeast**, killing 39 people (33 in **Alabama**, five in **Georgia**, and one in **Mississippi**). During its 21-mile rampage, a single F5 (estimated winds in excess of 260 mph) tornado killed 31 people in **Jefferson County, AL**.

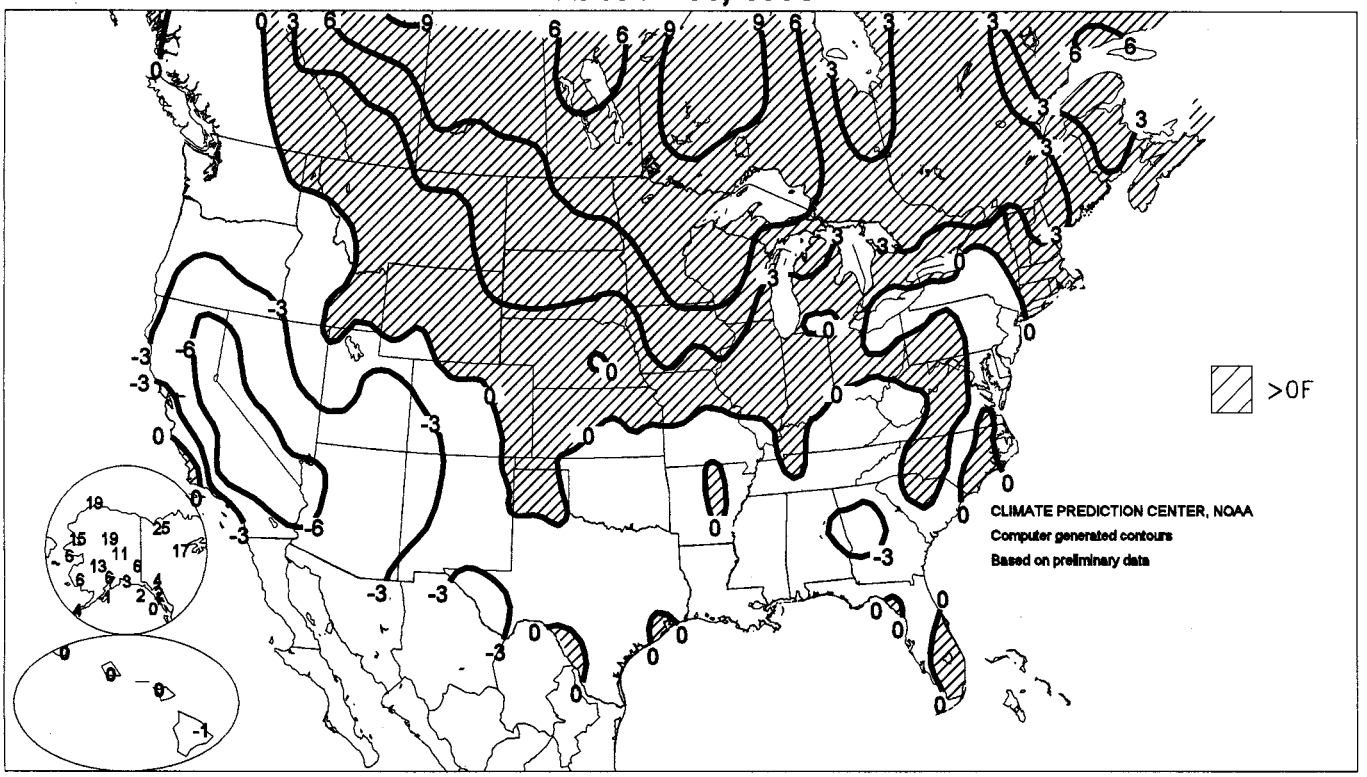
Rainy, windy weather arrived in the **East** at midweek as the storm center drifted eastward across the **Great Lakes States**. **Jacksonville, FL** posted a daily-record rainfall (1.92 inches) on Wednesday, followed a day later by record totals at **Harrisburg, PA** (1.23 inches) and **Virginia's Dulles Airport** (1.02 inches). In **New York's Central Park**, a 2.15-inch rainfall was accompanied by wind gusts to 51 mph. In **New England**, gusts reached 63 mph in **Nantucket, MA** and 51 mph on **Block Island, RI**. Rain changed to snow at storm's end in higher elevations, accumulating 5 inches at **New Jersey's High Point**. By Saturday morning, temperatures dipped into the lower to middle 30's as far south as **Rome, GA** (32°F) and **Meridian, MS** (36°F), while a hard freeze occurred in much of the Northeast.

Meanwhile, wind and warmth overspread the **Plains** and **upper Midwest**. On Saturday, daily-record highs were set in locations such as **Douglas, WY** (76°F), **Yuma, CO** (83°F), and **Goodland, KS** (85°F). On the **southern Plains**, winds gusted to 48 mph in **Childress, TX** and 46 mph in **Boise City, OK**.

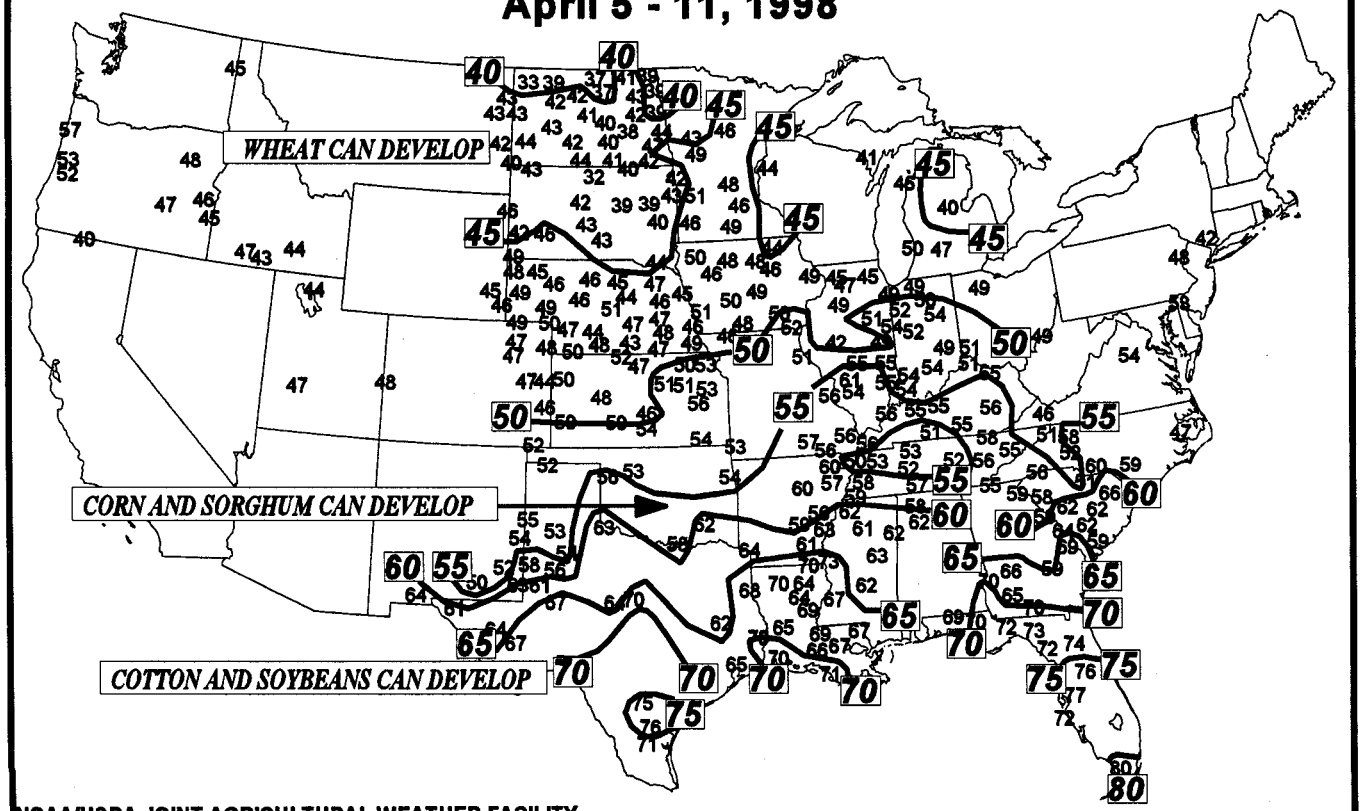
With an average high temperature of 66.4°F (12.5° below normal), **Phoenix, AZ** experienced their coolest March 26 - April 8 daytime readings on record. In **California, Fresno** reported their lowest high temperature on record (53°F on April 11) for the date. In addition, seasonal rainfall continued to mount across **California**. Downtown **San Francisco** observed 42.52 inches from July 1 to April 11, their highest total since 45.85 inches fell in 1889-90. During a 48-hour period on April 10-12, rainfall reached 1.99 inches on **southern California's Palomar Mountain**.

Mild weather continued in **Alaska**, where readings ranged from near normal across the south to as much as 19°F above normal in the north. With an average temperature of 29.9°F, **Fairbanks** wrapped up their warmest March 13 - April 11 period on record. Meanwhile in **Hawaii**, drought continued despite widespread light rain showers. With 0.18 inches during the week, **Honolulu's** year-to-date total improved to 1.33 inches (15 percent of normal).

Departure of Average Temperature from Normal (°F)
APR 5 - 11, 1998

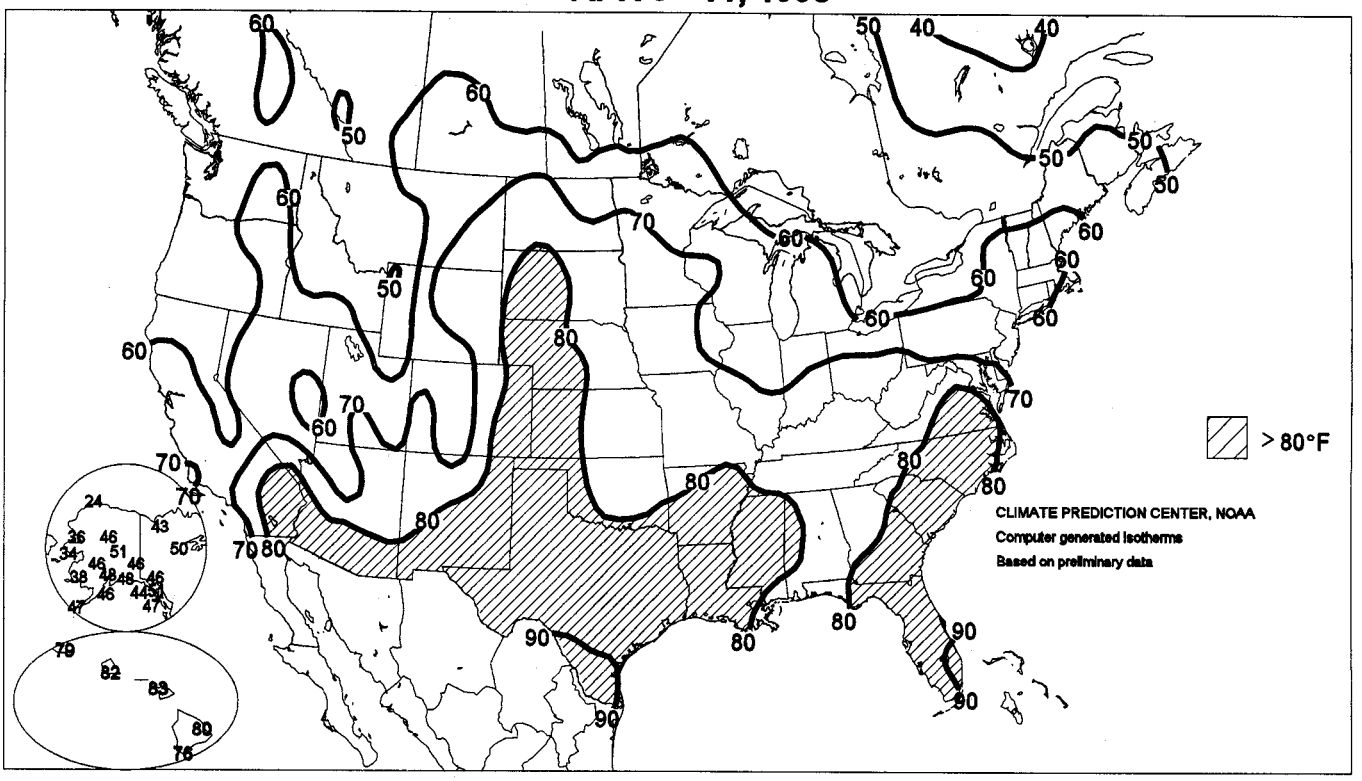


Average Soil Temperature (°F 4-Inch Bare)
April 5 - 11, 1998

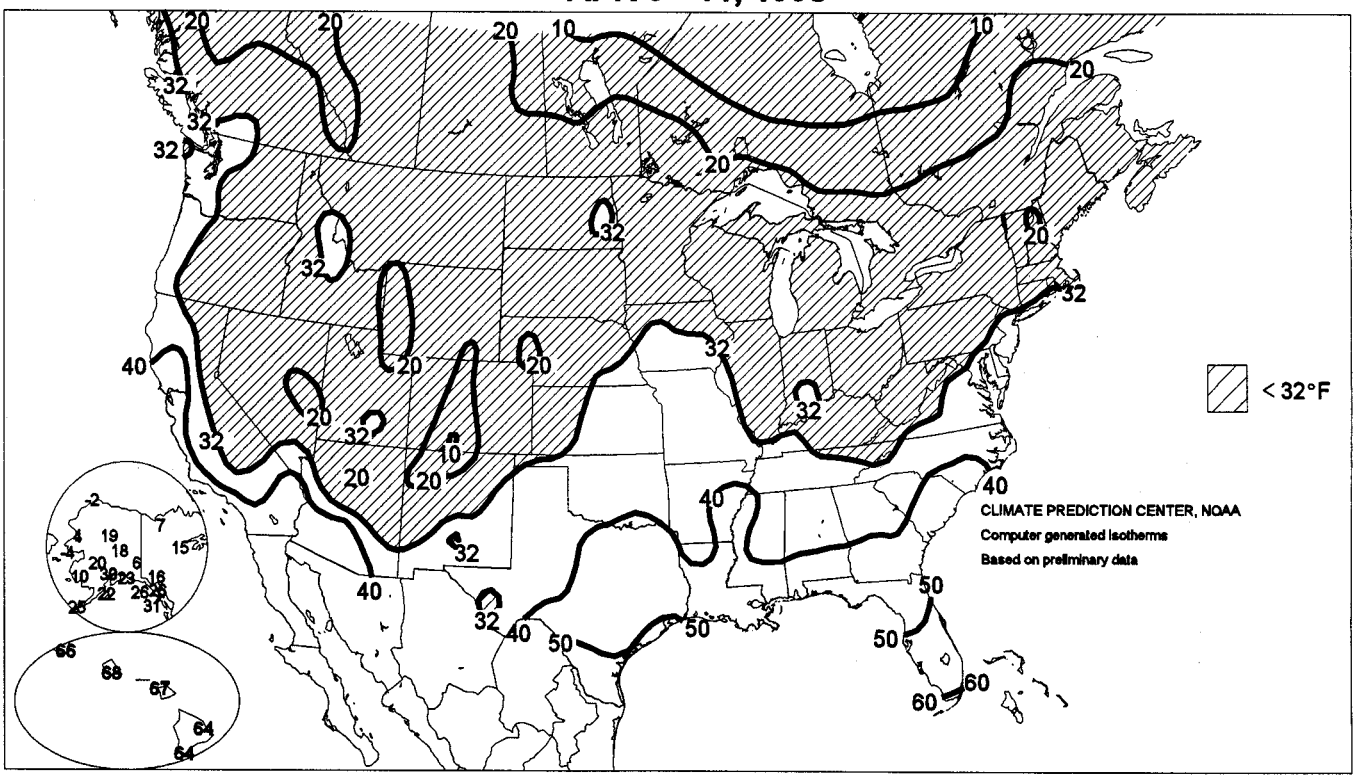


NOAA/USDA JOINT AGRICULTURAL WEATHER FACILITY
Based on preliminary data

Extreme Maximum Temperature (°F)
APR 5 - 11, 1998



Extreme Minimum Temperature (°F)
APR 5 - 11, 1998



National Weather Data for Selected Cities

Weather Data for the Week Ending April 11, 1998

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

STATES AND STATIONS		TEMPERATURE °F						PRECIPITATION							RELATIVE HUMIDITY, PERCENT		NUMBER OF DAYS			
																	TEMP, °F		PRECIP.	
		AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	EXTREME HIGH	EXTREME LOW	AVERAGE	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	WEEKLY TOTAL, IN.	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	GREATEST IN 24-HOUR, IN.	TOTAL, IN., SINCE Mar 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Mar 1	TOTAL, IN., SINCE Jan 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Jan 1	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	90 AND ABOVE	32 AND BELOW	.01 INCH OR MORE	.50 INCH OR MORE
AL	BIRMINGHAM	70	48	79	35	59	-1	1.76	0.56	1.76	8.93	110	25.51	142	90	50	0	0	1	1
	HUNTSVILLE	69	46	80	33	57	-1	0.24	-0.96	0.24	6.20	72	20.78	112	86	45	0	0	1	0
	MOBILE	74	52	79	43	63	-3	0.10	-0.96	0.08	11.83	146	33.03	180	94	48	0	0	2	0
	MONTGOMERY	72	48	77	40	60	-2	0.35	-0.78	0.23	7.17	89	21.06	115	88	49	0	0	2	0
AK	ANCHORAGE	45	32	48	29	39	6	0.06	-0.11	0.04	0.19	20	0.82	33	85	50	0	5	3	0
	BARROW	19	5	24	-2	12	19	0.00	-0.06	0.00	0.04	18	0.04	9	92	84	0	7	0	0
	FAIRBANKS	48	26	51	18	37	11	0.00	-0.08	0.00	0.00	0	0.08	6	82	30	0	7	0	0
	JUNEAU	47	34	51	26	40	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	94	57	0	3	-	-
	KODIAK	42	29	46	22	36	-1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	86	55	0	4	-	-
	NOME	26	12	34	-3	19	6	0.33	0.16	0.27	2.18	279	3.40	156	88	72	0	7	3	0
AZ	FLAGSTAFF	47	21	59	12	34	-6	0.60	0.19	0.28	4.83	149	8.27	112	91	37	0	7	3	0
	PHOENIX	75	53	85	48	64	-4	0.00	-0.07	0.00	1.59	153	4.87	204	63	20	0	0	0	0
	PRESCOTT	58	32	70	26	45	-2	0.19	-0.04	0.11	3.04	137	5.86	111	73	28	0	4	2	0
	TUCSON	73	46	86	41	59	-5	0.00	-0.09	0.00	1.99	234	5.36	223	67	19	0	0	0	0
	YUMA	79	54	89	48	66	-4	0.00	-0.03	0.00	0.31	103	1.57	180	53	21	0	0	0	0
AR	FORT SMITH	73	45	80	38	59	-1	0.37	-0.51	0.36	5.37	101	16.17	164	88	40	0	0	2	0
	LITTLE ROCK	74	47	84	39	60	0	0.00	-1.27	0.00	4.62	68	14.83	110	80	32	0	0	0	0
CA	BAKERSFIELD	64	43	70	37	54	-8	0.32	0.16	0.21	2.73	210	9.41	292	94	50	0	0	3	0
	EUREKA	--	--	--	--	--	--	1.17	--	--	9.08	--	38.33	--	--	--	-	-	-	-
	FRESNO	63	46	69	42	55	-4	0.22	-0.06	0.17	4.42	190	12.82	208	89	48	0	0	4	0
	LOS ANGELES	62	49	65	47	56	-4	0.70	0.47	0.70	4.23	178	21.29	293	95	66	0	0	1	1
	REDDING	58	45	62	43	52	-5	1.83	1.24	0.77	7.94	148	37.37	235	92	57	0	0	6	1
	SACRAM/MCCLELL	62	48	66	46	55	--	0.12	--	0.08	2.46	--	21.84	--	91	53	0	0	4	0
	SAN DIEGO	64	53	66	50	58	-3	0.17	-0.07	0.12	2.34	108	12.67	230	78	58	0	0	2	0
	SAN FRANCISCO	59	49	61	44	54	-1	0.40	-0.02	0.23	3.37	90	25.25	224	89	62	0	0	5	0
CO	ALAMOSA	54	21	69	14	37	-2	0.02	-0.09	0.02	0.61	97	0.84	55	76	23	0	7	1	0
	CO SPRINGS	57	31	75	26	44	0	0.42	0.18	0.26	2.96	226	3.33	167	76	27	0	4	3	0
	DENVER	58	32	78	26	45	-1	0.60	0.24	0.52	2.54	140	2.81	97	83	31	0	4	2	1
	GRAND JUNCTION	58	36	77	32	47	-3	0.04	-0.13	0.04	1.60	133	2.55	113	78	32	0	1	1	0
	PUEBLO	64	32	83	28	48	-1	0.76	0.57	0.41	2.70	250	2.97	175	84	24	0	4	3	0
CT	BRIDGEPORT	53	37	60	34	45	-1	1.57	0.69	1.37	8.31	162	16.93	149	72	39	0	0	2	1
	HARTFORD	57	35	65	29	46	0	1.04	0.16	0.85	6.87	137	13.36	115	73	31	0	1	3	1
DC	WASHINGTON	63	42	77	38	53	-2	1.22	0.61	1.18	8.14	198	18.78	196	70	42	0	0	2	1
DE	WILMINGTON	59	38	67	34	49	-1	1.15	0.38	1.03	6.31	136	14.06	133	80	47	0	0	3	1
FL	DAYTONA BEACH	78	58	87	50	68	0	0.00	-0.51	0.00	3.99	107	15.57	163	83	46	0	0	0	0
	JACKSONVILLE	75	53	84	45	64	-1	3.02	2.36	1.92	5.67	120	20.28	170	87	48	0	0	2	2
	KEY WEST	80	71	85	65	75	-1	0.00	-0.35	0.00	3.13	139	10.42	171	83	65	0	0	0	0
	MIAMI	82	69	90	59	76	1	0.00	-0.54	0.00	5.97	184	13.62	186	80	49	1	0	0	0
	ORLANDO	79	59	86	49	69	-1	0.00	-0.43	0.00	5.39	137	16.12	174	86	44	0	0	0	0
	TAMPA	77	62	83	56	70	0	0.00	-0.27	0.00	5.32	153	20.78	244	83	53	0	0	0	0
	VALPARAISO/EGLIN	74	55	79	45	64	0	0.04	-1.27	0.04	6.54	86	22.38	140	86	45	0	0	1	0
	WEST PALM BEACH	81	66	90	56	74	1	0.00	-0.61	0.00	4.07	88	21.48	213	82	48	1	0	0	0
GA	ATHENS	70	44	78	37	57	-3	1.41	0.45	1.06	10.11	144	23.70	147	90	44	0	0	2	1
	ATLANTA	67	46	76	39	57	-3	0.68	-0.36	0.41	9.04	121	22.04	130	83	46	0	0	3	0
	AUGUSTA	73	47	81	39	60	-1	1.01	0.21	0.64	10.21	172	24.08	169	91	39	0	0	2	1
	COLUMBUS	72	50	78	44	61	-2	0.41	-0.65	0.38	5.38	72	12.81	76	88	45	0	0	2	0
	MACON	71	47	80	40	59	-3	2.24	1.39	2.20	8.19	133	20.13	130	89	45	0	0	2	1
	SAVANNAH	73	51	82	41	62	-3	2.58	1.88	2.15	7.62	155	22.01	187	94	43	0	0	2	1
HI	HILO	77	66	80	64	71	-1	0.51	-3.21	0.21	4.06	21	6.50	16	88	63	0	0	5	0
	HONOLULU	81	69	82	68	75	0	0.18	-0.19	0.11	0.35	12	1.33	15	78	52	0	0	3	0
	KAHULUI	80	67	83	67	74	0	0.43	-0.06	0.25	0.69	20	1.56	15	82	57	0	0	3	0
	LIHUE	78	68	79	66	73	0	0.90	0.05	0.34	1.46	26	5.40	37	84	63	0	0	6	0
ID	BOISE	55	38	60	31	47	0	0.25	-0.05	0.13	1.41	79	5.54	129	83	42	0	1	4	0
	LEWISTON	55	40	61	35	48	-1	0.74	0.49	0.39	1.59	109	3.70	101	86	53	0	0	3	0
	POCATELLO	53	33	62	25	43	0	0.31	0.03	0.16	1.86	109	5.28	144	87	41	0	3	3	0
IL	CHICAGO/O'HARE	56	37	66	29	47	1	1.26	0.42	0.81	5.72	143	10.09	146	82	43	0	1	3	1
	MOLINE	58	41	68	29	50	2	1.04	0.17	0.58	6.23	144	11.92	168	89	55	0	1	3	1
	PEORIA	60	41	67	30	50	2	1.38	0.51	0.94	6.15	144	11.34	157	87	52	0	1	3	1
	ROCKFORD	58	37	66	27	47	3	1.37	0.55	0.89	4.91	132	8.84	143	84	46	0	2	3	1
	SPRINGFIELD	62	40	71	30	51	1	0.61	-0.24	0.51	5.87	128	11.01	140	92	52	0	1	2	1
IN	EVANSVILLE	65	41	73	30	53	-1	1.07	0.14	0.94	4.41	71	9.36	78	89	47	0	1	4	1
	FORT WAYNE	59	35	69	29	47	1	2.97	2.20	2.56	8.09	197	13.49	171	91	42	0	3	3	1
	INDIANAPOLIS	62	41	71	33	51	2	1.66	0.81	1.15	7.38	143	11.12	112	87	48	0	0	3	1
	SOUTH BEND	57	34	64	26	46	-1	1.13	0.22	0.93	5.45	121	10.94	127	84	39	0	4	3	1
IA	BURLINGTON	62	44	71	36	53	4	1.54	0.74	--	7.02	173	12.39	192	80	52	0	0	-	-
	CEDAR RAPIDS	58	39	68	31	48	2	1.01	0.31	0.71	6.02	176	9.33	171	92	55	0	1	3	1
	DES MOINES	61	41	73	35	51	3	0.58	-0.17	0.44	4.70	135	7.27	131	90	55	0	0	3	0
	DUBUQUE	56	39	65	32	48	3	1.28	0.45	0.68	6.80	163	10.78	160	80	48	0	1	3	1
	SIOUX CITY	60	37	77	30	49	2	1.99	1.50	1.43	6.10	224	7.38	186	92	55	0	2	4	1
	WATERLOO	59	39	71	30	49	4	0.34	-0.38	0.23	5.58	164	8.23	156	87	51	0	2	4	0
KS	CONCORDIA	61	41	76	35	51	1	1.49	1.02	1.28	5.99	203	8.36	196	89	62	0	0	3	1
	DODGE CITY	68	39	81	32	53	1	0.60	0.17	0.59	3.37	152	4.45	134	89	35	0	1	2	1
	GOODLAND	62	33	85	24	48	1	0.11	-0.11	0.10	0.77	51	1.52	67	88	38	0	2	2	0
	TOPEKA	63	42	76	34	53	0	0.21	-0.45	0.13	3.91	112	5.47	100	88	53	0	0	2	0

Based on 1961-90 normals

Weather Data for the Week Ending April 11, 1998

STATES AND STATIONS		TEMPERATURE °F						PRECIPITATION							RELATIVE HUMIDITY, PERCENT		NUMBER OF DAYS			
																	TEMP, °F		PRECIP.	
		AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	EXTREME HIGH	EXTREME LOW	AVERAGE	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	WEEKLY TOTAL, IN.	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	GREATEST IN 24-HOUR, IN.	TOTAL, IN., SINCE Mar 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Mar 1	TOTAL, IN., SINCE Jan 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Jan 1	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	90 AND ABOVE	32 AND BELOW	.01 INCH OR MORE	.50 INCH OR MORE
	WICHITA	64	42	77	34	53	-1	0.51	-0.01	0.51	4.74	146	6.09	121	86	50	0	0	1	1
KY	JACKSON	63	42	77	32	53	-2	1.59	0.66	0.70	6.11	98	14.32	103	82	44	0	1	3	2
	LEXINGTON	63	41	75	30	52	-1	1.19	0.28	0.83	4.70	80	11.27	95	85	46	0	2	3	1
	LOUISVILLE	66	43	75	34	54	0	0.61	-0.37	–	5.32	86	13.58	110	84	42	0	0	3	0
	PADUCAH	67	42	76	31	55	-1	0.42	-0.74	0.38	4.61	68	12.42	89	89	44	0	1	2	0
LA	BATON ROUGE	77	52	84	42	64	-3	0.02	-1.23	0.02	4.23	63	24.77	144	92	44	0	0	1	0
	LAKE CHARLES	78	53	85	46	65	-1	0.00	-0.68	0.00	3.76	86	18.91	152	86	43	0	0	0	0
	NEW ORLEANS	74	56	79	48	65	-2	0.07	-0.99	0.07	6.06	92	29.61	168	87	53	0	0	1	0
	SHREVEPORT	76	49	85	42	63	-1	0.20	-0.61	0.20	4.48	92	17.50	138	92	36	0	0	1	0
ME	CARIBOU	43	27	51	22	35	0	0.02	-0.53	0.02	4.06	123	10.75	141	78	48	0	6	1	0
	PORTLAND	54	34	62	29	44	3	0.00	-0.96	0.00	4.80	93	15.35	128	73	36	0	3	0	0
MD	BALTIMORE	63	37	73	32	50	-1	1.03	0.31	0.92	7.35	163	19.40	181	81	39	0	2	3	1
MA	BOSTON	53	39	65	34	46	0	0.41	-0.44	0.16	5.26	105	15.56	127	71	38	0	0	3	0
	WORCESTER	52	34	61	30	43	2	0.80	-0.11	0.39	7.62	142	15.38	123	72	31	0	2	3	0
MI	ALPENA	53	27	62	22	40	2	0.00	-0.50	0.00	7.77	268	12.31	211	79	27	0	5	0	0
	GRAND RAPIDS	56	34	62	29	45	2	0.37	-0.41	0.35	5.51	143	11.13	157	82	32	0	4	2	0
	HOUGHTON LAKE	55	28	62	22	42	3	0.00	-0.50	0.00	4.51	161	7.52	137	80	25	0	5	0	0
	LANSING	53	31	61	24	42	-1	0.74	0.08	0.63	4.85	146	10.34	167	84	35	0	5	3	1
	MARQUETTE	--	--	--	--	--	--	0.00	-0.63	0.00	5.60	149	9.45	123	--	--	-	-	0	0
	MUSKEGON	55	33	65	26	44	2	0.28	-0.41	0.26	4.06	114	8.41	113	79	29	0	4	2	0
MN	DULUTH	50	31	65	23	40	5	0.76	0.26	0.73	3.36	125	7.82	166	76	41	0	3	3	1
	INT'L FALLS	54	30	64	25	42	7	0.21	-0.12	0.16	0.74	47	2.44	79	80	36	0	5	3	0
	MINNEAPOLIS	60	38	70	28	49	6	0.70	0.18	0.54	5.39	196	7.83	171	75	44	0	1	2	1
	ROCHESTER	59	38	69	29	48	7	0.32	-0.27	0.16	3.63	135	6.48	154	77	47	0	2	3	0
	ST. CLOUD	59	35	72	27	47	7	0.59	0.09	0.59	2.51	115	4.09	116	83	44	0	1	1	1
MS	JACKSON	74	49	84	40	62	-1	0.20	-1.12	0.20	6.48	82	21.51	121	86	42	0	0	1	0
	MERIDIAN	74	47	82	36	60	-2	0.39	-0.97	0.39	4.99	56	23.97	123	94	44	0	0	1	0
	TUPELO	70	47	82	36	58	-2	0.03	-1.20	0.03	6.23	78	18.41	104	81	43	0	0	1	0
MO	COLUMBIA	63	42	74	37	53	1	0.12	-0.71	0.09	5.39	121	11.11	143	84	42	0	0	3	0
	KANSAS CITY	64	43	76	35	53	1	0.27	-0.38	0.14	3.80	108	5.86	103	83	49	0	0	2	0
	SAINT LOUIS	66	43	77	33	54	0	0.02	-0.78	0.02	6.76	139	12.57	143	83	43	0	0	1	0
	SPRINGFIELD	63	41	72	33	52	-2	0.24	-0.72	0.24	7.04	130	13.98	149	91	47	0	0	1	0
MT	BILLINGS	55	36	67	32	45	2	0.56	0.20	0.20	2.43	142	3.22	98	99	53	0	2	5	0
	BUTTE	46	30	49	26	38	2	1.07	0.89	0.69	2.16	208	3.45	176	96	60	0	5	6	1
	GLASGOW	54	35	67	27	44	3	0.27	0.13	0.20	1.00	167	1.41	114	88	48	0	1	3	0
	GREAT FALLS	51	32	59	24	41	0	0.20	-0.08	0.13	1.32	87	2.50	83	90	48	0	3	4	0
	KALISPELL	51	32	52	19	42	1	0.34	0.12	0.18	2.76	208	4.07	103	89	50	0	3	3	0
	MILES CITY	58	37	73	32	48	4	0.10	-0.16	0.10	1.33	130	1.96	98	92	45	0	1	1	0
	MISSOULA	51	35	57	30	43	1	1.00	0.81	0.48	2.21	173	3.98	120	89	53	0	1	6	0
NE	GRAND ISLAND	57	36	79	30	46	-1	3.05	2.53	1.93	6.13	228	7.00	180	91	64	0	2	3	2
	LINCOLN	60	38	77	30	49	1	1.08	0.49	0.61	4.22	141	6.20	146	93	62	0	2	3	1
	NORFOLK	57	37	77	30	47	1	1.63	1.15	1.24	4.07	157	4.58	118	93	60	0	2	3	1
	NORTH PLATTE	61	32	81	21	46	1	0.04	-0.35	0.04	1.34	74	2.01	77	92	39	0	4	1	0
	OMAHA	62	41	77	32	51	3	2.76	2.21	1.69	6.27	218	7.87	180	91	58	0	1	4	1
	SCOTTSBLUFF	60	32	83	27	46	2	0.77	0.46	0.65	2.19	140	3.03	121	86	34	0	5	2	1
	VALENTINE	60	32	82	26	46	3	0.02	-0.29	0.02	0.72	48	0.91	41	88	41	0	4	1	0
NV	ELY	49	27	59	22	38	-2	0.51	0.29	0.41	2.09	162	4.20	157	84	41	0	6	3	0
	LAS VEGAS	69	47	80	42	58	-4	0.00	-0.06	0.00	1.08	208	4.14	287	62	25	0	0	0	0
	RENO	51	29	58	23	40	-7	0.24	0.16	0.24	2.95	347	6.64	227	84	37	0	6	1	0
	WINNEMUCCA	50	29	61	24	40	-4	0.30	0.11	0.11	2.57	236	5.85	238	92	51	0	6	4	0
NH	CONCORD	57	31	64	22	44	3	0.00	-0.66	0.00	4.10	109	10.20	116	74	27	0	4	0	0
NJ	NEWARK	58	40	67	37	49	0	2.15	1.27	1.89	8.19	156	17.89	153	67	30	0	0	3	1
NM	ALBUQUERQUE	64	40	79	35	52	-1	0.00	-0.12	0.00	2.34	334	3.14	193	46	16	0	0	0	0
NY	ALBANY	55	35	61	27	45	2	0.37	-0.32	0.24	4.19	104	10.57	122	81	41	0	1	2	0
	BINGHAMTON	49	33	57	30	41	0	1.52	0.80	1.03	5.61	142	13.20	152	80	42	0	5	2	1
	BUFFALO	49	33	58	28	41	-1	0.40	-0.26	0.28	4.50	121	12.39	142	86	43	0	4	2	0
	ROCHESTER	51	33	57	28	42	-1	0.29	-0.31	0.20	4.23	132	12.20	165	85	35	0	3	2	0
	SYRACUSE	52	33	57	28	43	0	0.21	-0.56	0.17	4.04	102	11.96	141	77	38	0	4	2	0
NC	ASHEVILLE	65	40	77	30	52	-1	0.68	-0.11	0.66	5.31	90	21.66	166	87	37	0	1	2	1
	CHARLOTTE	74	48	84	39	61	3	2.15	1.51	1.81	6.85	125	16.41	126	79	31	0	0	2	1
	GREENSBORO	69	43	80	36	56	0	1.27	0.62	0.70	5.89	124	17.16	153	86	34	0	0	3	2
	HATTERAS	62	51	68	38	56	-1	1.14	0.31	1.08	4.00	71	21.46	143	88	62	0	0	3	1
	RALEIGH	69	42	82	31	56	-1	1.90	1.31	0.92	9.87	208	23.15	194	92	38	0	1	3	2
	WILMINGTON	73	50	82	43	62	1	2.19	1.54	1.07	4.76	97	23.28	186	93	34	0	0	3	2
ND	BISMARCK	57	32	78	23	44	5	0.00	-0.35	0.00	0.39	30	2.15	98	91	48	0	3	0	0
	DICKINSON	56	34	77	29	45	6	1.26	0.88	1.17	1.65	130	4.05	205	89	52	0	2	5	1
	FARGO	55	37	72	32	46	7	0.43	0.05	0.20	1.42	87	3.73	134	93	58	0	1	3	0
	GRAND FORKS	52	36	68	31	44	6	0.61	0.33	0.41	0.69	50	2.63	103	92	64	0	1	2	0
	JAMESTOWN	53	37	72	33	45	6	0.11	-0.22	0.07	0.47	34	2.47	100	91	61	0	0	3	0
	WILLISTON	56	32	73	28	44	4	0.09	-0.17	0.03	0.37	35	2.48	121	89	49	0	4	4	0
OH	AKRON-CANTON	58	33	70	26	46	0	1.42	0.70	0.80	4.48	101	10.69	121	83	35	0	3	4	1
	CINCINNATI	62	39	73	29	51	0	1.10	0.22	0.57	4.90	87	11.21	103	89	47	0	3	4	1
	CLEVELAND	54	33	66	26	44	-1	1.42	0.70	1.00	4.96	123	10.78	131	89	47	0	4	4	1
	COLUMBUS	62	38	74	30	50	2	1.74	1.02	0.83	4.07	92	8.84	100	83	35	0	2	4	2
	DAYTON	60	39	73	29	50	1	2.16	1.36	1.10	5.25	112	10.87	121	87	44	0	1	3	2
	MANSFIELD	57	33	69	27	45	-1	1.60	0.78	0.69	3.79	83	9.25	108	84	40	0	4	4	2

Based on 1961-90 normals

Weather Data for the Week Ending April 11, 1998

STATES AND STATIONS		TEMPERATURE °F						PRECIPITATION							RELATIVE HUMIDITY, PERCENT		NUMBER OF DAYS			
																	TEMP, °F		PRECIP.	
		AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	EXTREME HIGH	EXTREME LOW	AVERAGE	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	WEEKLY TOTAL, IN.	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	GREATEST IN 24-HOUR, IN.	TOTAL, IN., SINCE Mar 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Mar 1	TOTAL, IN., SINCE Jan 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Jan 1	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	90 AND ABOVE	32 AND BELOW	.01 INCH OR MORE	.50 INCH OR MORE
	TOLEDO	58	35	67	29	46	1	1.45	0.76	1.21	4.97	133	11.70	162	86	40	0	3	2	1
	YOUNGSTOWN	57	32	71	24	45	0	1.79	1.07	1.20	4.92	116	11.65	138	90	41	0	4	3	2
OK	OKLAHOMA CITY	70	44	79	38	57	-1	0.00	-0.56	0.00	6.45	181	10.66	170	84	39	0	0	0	0
	TULSA	69	45	79	37	57	-2	0.38	-0.41	0.24	7.96	170	11.74	143	83	39	0	0	2	0
OR	ASTORIA	53	40	56	36	47	-1	1.19	-0.01	0.37	11.53	128	38.25	144	93	60	0	0	7	0
	BURNS	49	30	58	25	39	-2	0.21	0.07	0.11	2.10	165	7.32	242	94	42	0	5	5	0
	EUGENE	56	38	59	35	47	-2	1.69	0.86	0.40	6.93	101	21.22	104	88	53	0	0	7	0
	MEDFORD	54	39	59	35	47	-3	0.85	0.55	0.22	4.07	176	12.12	175	93	53	0	0	7	0
	PENDLETON	58	37	66	32	48	-1	0.15	-0.10	0.14	1.31	83	5.09	121	82	41	0	1	2	0
	PORTLAND	56	43	58	38	50	0	0.51	-0.09	0.17	4.72	104	16.76	122	90	44	0	0	5	0
	SALEM	55	38	58	33	47	-1	0.98	0.34	0.35	6.15	118	21.39	137	94	52	0	0	7	0
PA	ALLENTOWN	58	36	65	29	47	0	2.07	1.28	1.88	6.73	149	14.00	132	75	38	0	3	3	1
	ERIE	49	33	58	27	41	-2	1.20	0.46	1.20	4.80	115	11.44	132	86	51	0	4	1	1
	MIDDLETOWN	61	38	67	33	49	0	1.48	0.78	1.23	6.37	146	15.91	157	76	34	0	0	3	1
	PHILADELPHIA	59	41	68	39	50	0	1.03	0.20	0.84	5.34	112	12.83	119	67	41	0	0	3	1
	PITTSBURGH	60	35	69	27	48	0	1.13	0.39	0.59	3.30	72	9.49	100	83	31	0	3	4	1
	SCRANTON	–	–	–	–	–	–	1.90	1.25	–	5.49	154	11.36	145	–	–	-	-	-	-
	WILLIAMSPORT	57	34	64	28	46	-1	2.22	1.48	1.72	6.02	138	16.56	171	76	25	0	3	2	2
RI	PROVIDENCE	56	38	66	34	47	2	0.95	-0.01	0.65	7.92	142	20.32	156	69	33	0	0	3	1
SC	BEAUFORT	72	53	81	46	62	-2	1.68	1.00	1.37	10.44	200	26.70	218	90	45	0	0	2	1
	CHARLESTON	74	51	82	44	63	-1	1.29	0.64	0.89	8.78	163	26.53	219	91	39	0	0	3	1
	COLUMBIA	74	49	81	39	61	0	1.36	0.55	0.73	7.30	119	20.45	139	84	34	0	0	2	2
	GREENVILLE	70	45	79	39	58	0	2.40	1.46	1.26	8.29	120	21.99	143	79	33	0	0	2	2
SD	ABERDEEN	53	35	75	31	44	3	0.42	-0.01	0.34	1.96	98	3.34	118	96	64	0	1	4	0
	HURON	56	38	76	32	47	4	0.12	-0.33	0.09	2.72	115	3.67	107	91	60	0	1	3	0
	RAPID CITY	59	32	82	25	46	3	0.06	-0.33	0.04	1.46	90	2.09	83	84	41	0	3	2	0
	SIOUX FALLS	57	36	74	26	46	3	1.24	0.69	0.94	5.35	216	6.52	180	89	54	0	1	2	1
TN	BRISTOL	64	39	77	29	51	-2	0.76	-0.01	0.43	6.08	124	13.34	115	92	44	0	1	3	0
	CHATTANOOGA	68	45	79	33	57	0	0.08	-0.98	0.08	8.76	113	21.32	122	87	43	0	0	1	0
	KNOXVILLE	66	42	80	34	54	-2	1.03	0.13	0.87	7.72	118	15.05	102	90	46	0	0	3	1
	MEMPHIS	69	49	78	43	59	-2	1.00	-0.30	0.93	8.00	107	20.27	131	76	43	0	0	2	1
	NASHVILLE	67	45	73	35	56	-1	0.39	-0.63	0.39	4.48	69	12.29	89	82	45	0	0	1	0
TX	ABILENE	77	47	81	39	62	-1	0.00	-0.39	0.00	3.19	164	5.04	122	74	29	0	0	0	0
	AMARILLO	71	39	79	35	55	0	0.00	-0.19	0.00	2.46	198	5.22	222	77	20	0	0	0	0
	AUSTIN	79	55	86	50	67	-1	0.40	-0.09	0.39	3.47	133	9.40	145	84	34	0	0	2	0
	BEAUMONT	78	54	87	49	66	-1	0.02	-0.71	0.02	5.23	119	19.09	152	89	47	0	0	1	0
	BROWNSVILLE	82	61	87	52	71	-2	0.00	-0.27	0.00	0.62	67	2.71	77	96	51	0	0	0	0
	CORPUS CHRISTI	82	58	91	50	70	-1	0.00	-0.31	0.00	2.47	176	6.19	122	88	42	1	0	0	0
	DEL RIO	84	56	86	45	70	1	0.01	-0.41	0.01	1.07	82	1.46	52	74	28	0	0	1	0
	EL PASO	74	44	88	36	59	-2	0.00	-0.06	0.00	0.18	47	0.38	32	39	18	0	0	0	0
	FORT WORTH	76	51	84	46	64	0	0.00	-0.74	0.00	4.45	114	12.74	161	81	33	0	0	0	0
	GALVESTON	–	–	–	–	–	–	0.00	-0.54	0.00	1.75	57	12.20	142	–	–	-	-	-	-
	HOUSTON	79	52	87	45	66	-1	0.00	-0.66	0.00	2.40	61	12.60	124	93	39	0	0	0	0
	LUBBOCK	74	41	79	34	58	-1	0.00	-0.17	0.00	1.33	119	3.19	146	65	18	0	0	0	0
	MIDLAND	79	45	83	35	62	-1	0.00	-0.14	0.00	0.42	51	1.16	63	58	14	0	0	0	0
	SAN ANGELO	80	46	84	37	63	-2	0.00	-0.31	0.00	1.85	135	3.08	95	67	19	0	0	0	0
	SAN ANTONIO	79	53	84	46	66	-2	0.01	-0.47	0.01	2.86	127	9.46	164	83	37	0	0	1	0
	VICTORIA	81	53	90	46	67	-2	0.04	-0.42	0.04	2.11	95	7.11	111	95	42	1	0	1	0
	WACO	78	51	86	43	64	-1	0.29	-0.37	0.28	2.68	80	12.83	181	89	36	0	0	2	0
	WICHITA FALLS	74	44	81	39	59	-2	0.00	-0.64	0.00	3.84	120	8.60	151	84	33	0	0	0	0
UT	SALT LAKE CITY	54	39	69	34	46	-1	0.40	-0.10	0.15	3.75	139	10.27	203	84	51	0	0	5	0
VT	BURLINGTON	52	31	59	28	42	1	0.02	-0.60	0.02	4.76	149	11.75	177	76	29	0	5	1	0
VA	LYNCHBURG	68	38	82	30	53	-1	0.78	0.08	0.57	8.07	176	22.00	210	90	33	0	2	3	1
	NORFOLK	63	46	82	38	55	0	0.40	-0.31	0.34	7.25	150	21.48	178	90	56	0	0	2	0
	RICHMOND	66	41	83	35	54	-1	1.06	0.38	1.03	9.38	200	21.99	198	89	38	0	0	3	1
	ROANOKE	66	41	81	35	54	0	0.55	-0.19	0.47	6.96	149	22.93	223	76	30	0	0	3	0
	WASH/DULLES	62	36	74	28	49	-1	1.02	0.35	1.02	7.44	175	18.68	191	83	42	0	2	1	1
WA	HANFORD	64	37	66	31	50	–	0.02	-0.04	0.02	0.55	96	2.94	148	76	38	0	1	1	0
	OLYMPIA	54	34	56	28	44	-3	0.67	-0.19	0.18	6.26	99	23.30	116	99	54	0	2	6	0
	QUILLAYUTE	53	34	56	29	43	-2	1.88	-0.06	1.05	8.82	60	39.74	96	97	55	0	5	6	1
	SEATTLE-TACOMA	52	40	55	34	46	-1	0.36	-0.25	0.13	4.35	96	14.81	107	92	53	0	0	5	0
	SPOKANE	53	35	59	29	44	0	0.46	0.18	0.16	1.72	89	5.37	99	90	48	0	2	5	0
	YAKIMA	58	34	59	26	46	-2	0.10	-0.04	0.09	1.14	128	4.94	174	82	36	0	3	2	0
WV	BECKLEY	59	36	75	28	48	-1	0.72	-0.05	0.46	5.50	120	15.28	146	85	41	0	2	3	0
	CHARLESTON	66	39	80	30	53	0	1.06	0.30	0.39	5.70	118	13.36	124	95	43	0	2	3	0
	ELKINS	60	31	72	22	46	0	1.12	0.24	0.69	5.13	98	11.94	106	89	33	0	5	3	1
	HUNTINGTON	65	40	78	31	53	0	1.07	0.30	0.56	3.88	79	12.49	117	90	39	0	2	3	1
WI	EAU CLAIRE	64	38	74	26	51	9	0.33	-0.27	0.17	6.50	249	10.44	241	75	30	0	2	3	0
	GREEN BAY	56	33	67	26	45	4	0.27	-0.28	0.27	3.93	136	6.94	137	79	36	0	3	1	0
	MADISON	57	35	65	27	46	3	1.04	0.40	0.54	6.58	208	10.26	194	85	44	0	2	3	1
	MILWAUKEE	49	34	62	28	42	0	1.72	0.90	0.72	5.04	128	10.82	155	84	53	0	3	3	2
WY	CASPER	54	29	72	24	42	1	0.55	0.23	0.24	1.08	76	2.13	83	86	40	0	6	5	0
	CHEYENNE	52	29	73	27	41	1	0.29	0.02	0.29	1.52	106	1.88	85	86	38	0	7	1	0
	LANDER	54	30	67	23	42	1	0.17	-0.27	0.16	4.02	221	4.72	164	80	33	0	6	2	0
	SHERIDAN	54	31	71	26	43	1	0.94	0.59	0.58	2.11	141	2.59	89	94	54	0	5	4	1

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

National Agricultural Summary

April 6 - 12, 1998

HIGHLIGHTS

Strong thunderstorms across most of the Corn Belt continued to delay spring field preparations. A combination of rain, soggy soils, and low soil temperatures kept farmers in the Southwest behind schedule, mostly affecting cotton planting. Fieldwork was also limited by rainy weather in the Atlantic Coast States. Weather conditions were nearly ideal in the Great Plains and Southeast, promoting crop development and planting and tillage operations.

Winter wheat: The winter wheat crop was rated mostly good as warm weather and adequate soil moisture continued to provide nearly ideal growing conditions. Warm weather has coaxed most of the crop out of dormancy in the northern Plains and allowed the soft red winter wheat crop to develop up to 2 weeks ahead of normal in parts of the eastern Corn Belt. Insect and disease problems were light in the central Plains States, where most of the crop had reached the jointing stage. Nationally, heading development was progressing at a normal pace, with 3 percent of the crop at that stage. The crop is most advanced in California, where 40 percent of the crop has headed, but that was well behind the 5-year average. Arkansas was the only State with heading progress substantially ahead of normal. In Texas, rain was needed after high winds quickly depleted soil moisture.

Corn: Nationally, 3 percent of the intended corn crop has been planted, equal to the progress normally made by this date. Dry conditions allowed Southern corn growers to plant at a near-normal pace, but heavy rains kept most Corn Belt farmers out of their fields. Planting delays had not occurred, but field preparations were at a virtual standstill, especially in the western half of the Corn Belt. A few isolated fields were reported to be planted in the eastern Corn Belt. In Texas, planting moved into the High Plains, and fields farther south were emerging with good stands. Georgia farmers advanced to 75 percent of intended acreage planted.

Cotton: Nationally, 7 percent of the cotton crop has been planted, slightly behind the 5-year average and 2 percent behind last year. Dry weather aided farmers in the major Southern and Southeastern cotton-producing States, where planting proceeded on or ahead of schedule in most areas. Cotton planting in the Southwest continued to lag well behind normal due to a combination of rain, wet soils from earlier storms, and continued cool weather. Plants have been slow to emerge due to low temperatures at night.

Other crops: Sorghum planting was not a high priority, but still advanced to 15 percent completed, 3 percent ahead of last year's pace, and equal to the 5-year average. So far progress has been limited to the Mississippi Delta States. Rice farmers more than doubled their planting progress to 23 percent of the intended crop seeded, 6 percent ahead of the 5-year average. Four percent of the spring wheat crop has been seeded, compared with 1 percent the previous week and 2 percent normally seeded by this time. South Dakota farmers made excellent progress from the previous week, advancing to 16 percent planted, well ahead of this time last year and the 5-year average. Oats planted progressed to 8 percent, but remained behind normal due to muddy conditions that slowed progress in Iowa and Nebraska. Progress was more than double the normal rate in Ohio.

Crop Progress and Condition

Week Ending April 12, 1998

Winter Wheat Percent Headed

	Apr 12 1998	Prev Week	Prev Year	5-Yr Avg
AR	19	8	24	11
CA	40	30	62	56
CO	0	0	0	0
GA	20	*7	74	39
ID	0	0	0	0
IL	0	0	0	0
IN	0	0	0	0
KS	0	0	0	0
MI	0	0	0	0
MO	0	0	0	0
MT	0	0	0	0
NE	0	0	0	0
NC	8	6	9	7
OH	0	0	0	0
OK	3	*0	7	3
OR	0	0	0	0
SD	0	0	0	0
TX	9	7	13	11
WA	0	0	0	0
ALL	3	2	5	3

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

Corn Percent Planted

	Apr 12 1998	Prev Week	Prev Year	5-Yr Avg
CO	1	0	2	1
GA	77	56	87	75
IL	0	0	2	1
IN	0	0	1	0
IA	0	0	0	0
KS	1	0	4	4
KY	15	0	9	8
MI	0	0	0	0
MN	0	0	0	0
MO	6	5	12	10
NE	0	0	0	0
NC	25	13	29	25
OH	1	0	2	1
PA	0	0	0	0
SD	0	0	0	0
TX	49	41	49	50
WI	0	0	0	0
ALL	3	2	4	3

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

Cotton Percent Planted

	Apr 12 1998	Prev Week	Prev Year	5-Yr Avg
AL	5	1	8	6
AZ	19	15	46	38
AR	0	0	0	0
CA	6	5	47	22
GA	5	*1	4	3
LA	0	0	1	1
MS	1	0	1	1
MO	0	0	0	0
NM	6	0	13	11
NC	5	1	2	1
OK	0	0	0	0
SC	0	0	4	2
TN	0	0	0	0
TX	12	10	7	12
ALL	7	5	9	8

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

Sorghum Percent Planted

	Apr 12 1998	Prev Week	Prev Year	5-Yr Avg
AR	12	*3	20	12
CO	0	0	0	0
IL	0	0	0	0
KS	0	0	0	0
LA	0	0	15	9
MS	9	0	20	18
MO	0	0	0	0
NE	0	0	0	0
NM	0	0	0	0
OK	0	0	0	2
SD	0	0	0	0
TX	45	39	36	45
ALL	15	13	12	15

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

Spring Wheat Percent Planted

	Apr 12 1998	Prev Week	Prev Year	5-Yr Avg
ID	30	21	38	37
MN	0	0	0	1
MT	5	1	1	3
ND	0	0	0	0
SD	16	3	1	2
ALL	4	1	2	2

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

Oats Percent Planted

	Apr 12 1998	Prev Week	Prev Year	5-Yr Avg
IA	5	1	36	35
MI	3	1	15	3
MN	1	0	0	2
NE	20	14	38	36
ND	0	0	0	0
OH	47	19	42	21
PA	30	20	32	15
SD	12	2	1	2
WI	4	1	1	5
ALL	8	3	11	9

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

Rice Percent Planted

	Apr 12 1998	Prev Week	Prev Year	5-Yr Avg
AR	9	*2	8	9
CA	0	0	0	0
LA	60	39	51	43
MS	26	4	24	21
TX	59	32	5	34
ALL	23	11	16	17

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

Winter Wheat Crop Condition by Percent

	VP	P	F	G	EX
AR	0	7	36	48	9
CA	0	0	50	20	30
CO	2	4	16	46	32
GA	1	7	28	54	10
ID	0	1	7	57	35
IL	1	3	18	63	15
IN	0	1	11	59	29
KS	0	2	15	62	21
MI	1	4	25	55	15
MO	0	7	33	46	14
MT	1	7	31	50	11
NE	1	5	23	59	12
NC	1	15	38	44	2
OH	0	2	13	53	32
OK	0	0	16	78	6
OR	0	0	10	70	20
SD	0	3	10	63	24
TX	1	7	25	49	18
WA	0	0	8	66	26
ALL	0	3	19	60	18
Prev Wk	0	4	19	58	19
Prev Yr	1	8	28	53	10

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

* Revised

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 4.7. Scattered showers, tornadoes interrupted farmers' momentum in land preparation, planting corn, cotton. Some wheat fields are showing damage from cold, wet weather. Peach crop in southern Alabama looks excellent despite some damage from weather. Topsoil 7% short, 72% adequate, 21% surplus. Acreage prepared 58%, 63% 1997, 58% avg. Corn planted 57%, 64% 1997, 50% avg. Wheat headed 30%, 46% 1997, 30% avg. Wheat 1% very poor, 3% poor, 37% fair, 57% good, 2% excellent. Livestock 3% poor, 44% fair, 47% good, 6% excellent. Other activities included general care of livestock, poultry, catfish.

ARIZONA: Both rain and the lack of continuous warm weather has delayed cotton planting. Scattered rains last week slowed alfalfa harvest throughout some of the State, but other areas were unaffected. Harvest activity was reported 24% not being harvested, 15% light, 33% moderate, 28% active. Alfalfa 1% poor, 14% fair, 59% good, 26% excellent. Small grains continued to progress from emerged toward headed 74% as of April 12th; this compares with 87% last year, 5-year avg. 83%; 2% poor, 19% fair, 61% good, 18% excellent. Range, pasture 7% poor, 22% fair, 44% good, 27% excellent. Central, western Arizona growers continued to ship an assortment of vegetables last week, mainly in the Central area growers shipped many vegetables including artichokes, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cilantro, dill, green onions, iceberg, leaf, romaine lettuce, kale, mixed greens, parsley, spinach, swiss chard, turnips. Vegetables harvested in western Arizona included anise, broccoflower, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, celery, flowering kale, leeks, salad savoy, speciality leaf, spinach. Lettuce shipped from the western area included Boston, iceberg, leaf, romaine lettuce. Central areas groves also shipped valencies, grapefruit while valencies were harvested in the west.

ARKANSAS: Days suitable for fieldwork 5. Topsoil 2% short, 72% adequate, 19% surplus. Livestock good with early spring health maintenance in progress. Main farming activities: Planting preparation, planting of row crops, fertilizing pastures, transplanting tomatoes. Other activities include cleaning poultry houses, spraying peach orchards for diseases, spraying pastures for weed, applying burn-down herbicides.

CALIFORNIA: Field activities were slowed by light rains, wet soils from earlier storms in most areas. The persistent wet conditions continued to cause lodging in small grain fields in the southern San Joaquin Valley. The barley, oat fields were more noticeably affected than the wheat fields. A few aerial herbicide applications were still ongoing in small grains where conditions permitted. Some oat fields were cut for silage between storms. Wheat head development continued in the San Joaquin, Imperial and Coastal Valleys, was just beginning in the Sacramento Valley. Seedbed preparations for planting corn, cotton, dry beans, rice were again slowed by the wet soils. Emerging corn fields showed signs of stress from excessive moisture, some replanting will be necessary. Cotton planting made virtually no progress due to the unseasonably cool weather, wet fields. Sugarbeets were thinned, hand weeded. Safflower, sugarbeet planting were underway on lighter, sandier soils in the Sacramento Valley. Sugarbeet harvest began in the Imperial Valley. Cut flowers were harvested in Kern County. New alfalfa was growing well in the southern San Joaquin Valley. Established alfalfa was treated for weevils. Growers continued work in their orchards and vineyards where conditions permitted. Apricots and early variety nectarines and plums were thinned. Fungicides were applied to stone fruit trees for brown rot control, and grapes were treated for powdery mildew. Fig trees were leafed out. Navel orange harvest was winding down. Valencia orange, grapefruit, lemon and tangerine harvests were ongoing. Most vegetable crops were behind schedule due to the cold, wet weather. Soggy soil conditions suspended ground preparation and vegetable planting operations in northern and central counties. Broccoli and cauliflower were harvested in the Coastal and San Joaquin Valleys. Head lettuce harvest began in Monterey County. Asparagus harvest continued. Spring lettuce was weeded, thinned and sprayed to control mildew, loopers and aphids. In the Sacramento Valley, planting of tomatoes and beans was halted because of the wet conditions. Tomato planting continued in the southern counties. Spring melon harvest progressed in the Imperial and Coachella Valleys. Sweet corn planting continued, and previously planted fields were rapidly growing. Cabbage was harvested in the Imperial and San Joaquin Valleys. Onions and garlic were growing well. Sweet potato seedbed preparation was ongoing in Fresno and Merced Counties. Rain continued to slow the spinach harvest. Other crops harvested included potatoes, cilantro, parsley, mushrooms, carrots, onions and radishes. Pasture and rangeland were in excellent condition in most areas. Weather conditions promoted growth of rangeland vegetation, although growth was slower at higher elevations. Range animals continued to gain weight from abundant forage. The cold, muddy conditions continued to stress dairy cattle, and milk production was below normal. Bees were active in apple and cherry orchards.

COLORADO: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.0. Topsoil 1% very short, 12% short, 80% adequate, 7% surplus. Subsoil 2% very short, 16% short, 78% adequate, 4% surplus. Spring barley 45% seeded, 37% 1997, 31% avg.; 22% emerged, 13% 1997, 8% avg. Oats 37% seeded, 49% 1997, 34% avg.; 21% emerged, 19% 1997, 11% avg. Dry onions 69% planted, 64% 1997, 56% avg.; 2% fair, 96% good, 2% excellent. Sugar beets 23% planted, 42% 1997, 48% avg. Corn 1% planted, 2% 1997, 1% avg. Summer potatoes 27% planted, 34% 1997, 13% avg. Spring wheat 32% planted, 33% 1997, 19% avg.; 15% emerged, 12% 1997, 5% avg. Winter wheat 10% pastured, 5% 1997, 5% avg.; 9% jointed, 8% 1997, 7% avg.; 2% very poor, 4% poor, 16% fair, 46% good, 32% excellent. Cows 76% calved, 77% 1997, 78% avg. Ewes 83% lambed, 74% 1997, 77% avg. Livestock mostly fair to good.

DELAWARE: Days suitable for fieldwork 3.4. Subsoil 69% adequate, 31% surplus. Topsoil 44% adequate, 56% surplus. Winter wheat 2% poor, 21% fair, 73% good, 4% excellent. Barley 20% fair, 74% good, 6% excellent. Potatoes 42% planted, 41% 1997, 33% avg. Green peas 36% planted, 58% 1997, 33% avg. Apples 60% bloomed, 16% 1997, 4% avg. Strawberries 30% bloomed, 14% 1997, 7% avg. Peaches 93% bloomed, 80% 1997, 32% avg. Hay supplies 28% short, 70% adequate, 2% surplus. Pasture 13% fair, 80% good, 7% excellent. Activities: Rains received on previous weekend slowed up farming activities. Some soil preparations for planting.

FLORIDA: Topsoil in Panhandle, northern Peninsula mostly short to adequate, scattered areas very short moisture. Central Peninsula topsoil adequate, southern Peninsula mostly short to adequate. Dry, warm weather reduced wet field problems. Sugarcane growth normal. Sugarcane mills closing for season. Blue mold problems in plant beds slowing completion of tobacco planting. Corn planting winding down. Wheat looks good at this time. Field preparation for spring planted crops active. Vegetable harvesting increased to meet holiday demand. Strong winds affected vegetable growth, some southeastern, southern Peninsula localities, causing increase in need for irrigation. Major crops shipped include snap beans, blueberries, cabbage, carrots, celery, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, endive,

escarole, lettuce, parsley, peppers, potatoes, radishes, squash, strawberries, tomatoes. Hot, dry week followed by cool, windy weekend. Moisture generally adequate; however, some irrigation on sand hills, dry groves. Full open bloom this week. Valencia harvest very active. Grapefruit movement starting to slow down. Temple, Honey tangerine harvest about over. Caretakers cutting cover crops, post bloom spraying, irrigating. The dry, warm weather has helped flood waters recede. More pastures greening up so supplemental feeding of cattle has been reduced. Black flies have been numerous this year, causing irritation to livestock. In Panhandle, some pastures need rain. Pastures: Poor 15%, fair 50%, good 35%, Cattle: Poor 10%, fair 45%, good 40%, excellent 5%.

GEORGIA: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.4. Soil moisture 1% short, 53% adequate, 46% surplus. Corn 6% poor, 23% fair, 58% good, 13% excellent; 46% emerged. Hay 1% very poor, 3% poor, 32% fair, 56% good, 8% excellent. Peanuts 1% planted, 3% 1997, 2% avg. Sorghum 1% planted, 4% 1997, 3% avg. Tobacco 4% poor, 24% fair, 59% good, 13% excellent; 39% transplanted, 87% 1997, 70% avg. Wheat 88% jointing, 98% 1997, 96% avg.; 67% boot, 90% 1997, 73% avg. Onions 9% poor, 19% fair, 70% good, 2% excellent; 2% harvested, 9% 1997, 2% avg. Watermelons 2% very poor, 7% poor, 30% fair, 56% good, 5% excellent; 56% planted, 82% 1997, 69% avg. Apples 1% very poor, 4% poor, 13% fair, 75% good, 7% excellent; 61% blooming, 81% 1997, 41% avg. Peaches 24% very poor, 14% poor, 33% fair, 21% good, 8% excellent. Pasture feed 1% very poor, 4% poor, 27% fair, 57% good, 11% excellent. Severe thunderstorms with heavy rains, damaging hail, tornadoes limited fieldwork at midweek. Temperatures cooler, slowing growth. Weekend dry, warmer. Conditions improved slightly. Tobacco transplanting slow, week behind normal, more than 2 weeks behind last year. Wheat development slow, about a week behind normal. Activities: Planting corn, cotton, peanuts. Transplanting tobacco. Preparing land, applying fertilizer, herbicides. Fertilizing pastures.

HAWAII: Weather conditions remained wet, windy. Showers were beneficial for agriculture; restoring soil moisture, reservoir levels. Gusty winds hampered crop growth, spraying, and bruised exposed crops. The wind and rain allowed most crops to make fair progress. Soil moisture adequate in most areas. Banana orchards benefited from rains, leaf stripping common due to gusty winds. Harvesting steady. Papaya harvesting steady. Rainy weather likely to increase disease. New plantings started with arrival of rain. Head cabbage harvesting heavy. Crop mostly good. Tomato harvesting heavy, good. Sweet corn harvesting increasing. Watermelon harvesting picking up, good.

IDAHO: Days suitable for fieldwork 3. Topsoil 57% adequate, 43% surplus. Calving is 88% complete, lambing 91%. Field preparation throughout State has been slowed by spoty showers, lingering snow, below-normal temperatures. Alfalfa stands, rapeseed fields are showing early indications of cutworm damage. Stone fruits in bloom or through bloom, cherries pre-bloom. Hay Roughage Supply 15% surplus, 71% adequate, 13% short, 1% very short. Irrigation supply 70% excellent, 30% good. Dry peas planted 19%, 1997 11%, avg. 7%; emerged none, 1997 2%, avg. 1%. Lentils planted 2%, 1997 1%, avg. 2%; emerged none, 1997 none, avg. 1%. Oats planted 14%, 1997 12%, avg. 14%; emerged none, 1997 2%, avg. 3%. Onions planted 73%, 1997 96%, avg. 69%, emerged 8%, 1997 24%, avg. 15%. Potatoes planted 3%, 1997 4%, avg. 4%. Barley planted 20%, 1997 20%, avg. 25%; emerged 7%, 1997 5%, avg. 6%. Spring wheat emerged 8%, 1997 6%, avg. 9%. Sugarbeets planted 39%, 1997 58%, avg. 44%; emerged 6%, 1997 9%, avg. 6%. Activities: Planting small grains, dry peas, lentils, onions, sugarbeets, shipping seed potatoes, calving, lambing, feeding livestock, branding calves, fertilizing, disking, preparing machinery irrigation equipment.

ILLINOIS: Days suitable for fieldwork 1.0. Topsoil 1% short, 45% adequate, 54% surplus. Rain continued to fall over most of Illinois last week, making it extremely difficult for any fieldwork to be done. The wet conditions combined with warm temperatures has helped the wheat crop grow quickly this year, with a few fields already turning dark green. When there was a break in the rain, activities included applying fertilizer to wheat fields and seeding oats. Muddy lots are making it hard on livestock, especially for cows calving. Other farm activities included preparing field equipment, hauling grain, spreading manure, picking up seed, chemicals for the planting season. Alfalfa hay was rated 1% poor, 17% fair, 66% good, 16% excellent. Pasture was 2% poor, 19% fair, 64% good, 15% excellent.

INDIANA: Days suitable for fieldwork 2.0. Topsoil 34% adequate, 66% surplus. Subsoil 1% very short, 4% short, 52% adequate, 43% surplus. There have been a few isolated reports of corn planting; however, less than 1% of the crop has been planted statewide. Winter wheat 42% jointed, 11% 1997, 9% avg. The wheat crop is about 2 weeks ahead of normal maturity due to mild weather. Range, pasture 2% poor, 24% fair, 57% good, 17% excellent. Activities: Spreading fertilizer, applying anhydrous, field preparation, repairing machinery, caring for livestock.

IOWA: Days suitable for fieldwork 0.2. Virtually no fieldwork begun due to cold, wet, muddy conditions. Gravel road conditions preventing grain movement. Topsoil very 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. Percentage crop lost to winterkill 1% winter wheat, 4% alfalfa hay, 3% red clover hay. Cooler-than-normal weather and mud major problems for calving. Above-avg. calf losses due to mud, scours.

KANSAS: Days suitable for fieldwork 1.6. Topsoil 2% short, 54% adequate, 44% surplus. Subsoil 2% short, 72% adequate, 26% surplus. Wheat jointing 40%, 49% 1997, 35% avg. Wheat wind damage 1% moderate, 9% light, 90% none. Wheat freeze damage 2% moderate, 7% light, 91% none. Oats seeded 77%, 100% 1997, 87% 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, leaf blotch, wheat streak mosaic. Field activities limited due to wet fields. Pasture 5% poor, 23% fair, 64% good 8% excellent. Major livestock activities included calving, lambing, moving cattle off wheat pastures. Muddy conditions persist. Burning of pastures has begun.

KENTUCKY: Days suitable for fieldwork 3.4. Topsoil 3% short, 70% adequate, 27% surplus. Subsoil 6% short, 75% adequate, 19% surplus. Pasture 1% very poor, 4% poor, 27% fair, 58% good, 10% excellent. Return to near-normal temperatures were felt throughout the State, with above avg. rainfall except in western part of the State. Land, equipment were being prepared for planting season. About 88% of tobacco beds were sown compared with 84% last year, 77% for the avg. Corn planting has spread Statewide but is more advanced in the western part where the field conditions were drier. Winter wheat 7% very poor, 13% poor, 33% fair, 41% good, 6% excellent. Average height for winter wheat was 12 inches. About 70% of the fruit trees were reported to be budding or in bloom. Wide variety of damage to peach crop reported from little to complete loss.

LOUISIANA: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.7. Soil moisture 2% very short, 27% short, 67% adequate, 4% surplus. Corn 99% planted, 84% 1997, 87% avg.; 94% emerged, 67% 1997, 65% avg. Corn planting is nearly complete. Rice 46% emerged, 30% 1997, 26% avg. Rice planting was active, some fields have already emerged. Spring plowing 84% plowing, 57% 1997, 66% avg. Sugarcane 3% poor, 14% fair, 61% good, 22% excellent. Wheat 6% poor, 50% fair, 40% good, 4% excellent,; 88% headed, 69% 1997, 56% avg. Livestock 6% poor, 33% fair, 52% good, 9% excellent. Vegetables 9% poor, 33% fair, 50% good, 8% excellent. Pasture 5% poor, 32% fair, 54% good, 9% excellent.

MARYLAND: Days suitable for fieldwork 3.9. Subsoil moisture 71% adequate, 29% surplus. Topsoil 68% adequate, 32% surplus. Winter wheat 2% very poor, 5% poor, 12% fair, 63% good, 18% excellent; 11% headed. Barley 1% very poor, 1% poor, 9% fair, 73% good, 16% excellent; 10% headed, 1% 1997. Rye 2% very poor, 2% poor, 13% fair, 72% good, 11% excellent; 2% headed. Field corn 6%

planted, 7% 1997, 3% avg. Sweet corn 11% planted, 8% 1997, 6% avg. Potatoes 80% planted, 89% 1997, 41% avg. Green peas 30% planted, 60% 1997, 41% avg. Tomatoes 10% planted, 3% 1997, 1% avg. Peaches 76% bloomed, 40% 1997, 21% avg. Apples 44% bloomed, 31% 1997, 10% avg. Strawberries 13% bloomed, 22% 1997, 14% avg. Pasture 1% very poor, 3% poor, 11% fair, 67% good, 18% excellent. Hay supplies 25% very short, 37% short, 37% adequate, 1% surplus. Activities: Soil being prepared for planting. Lower Eastern shore reported delayed planting due to wet weather.

MICHIGAN: Days suitable for fieldwork 1.5. Lingering moisture from the previous week, rain in the middle of the week kept farmers out of fields over much of the State. Some oats, beets, potatoes, carrots were planted before the rain arrived. Wheat was generally good. Some wheat fields were sidedressed. Other activities included spreading manure, preparing equipment, pruning fruit trees.

MINNESOTA: Days suitable for fieldwork 0.5. Topsoil 1% short, 60% adequate, 39% surplus. Subsoil 2% very short, 6% short, 61% adequate, 31% surplus. Corn 3% ground prepared. Soybeans 1% ground prepared. Spring wheat 1% avg. Oats 1% planted, 2% avg. Approximate date fieldwork will begin is April 21st. Precipitation over the last few weeks has kept most spring fieldwork from beginning. Soil temperatures are gradually warming up around the State as the frost is quickly disappearing, where it still exists.

MISSISSIPPI: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.3. Soil moisture 13% short, 73% adequate, 14% surplus; corn 60% planted, 76% 1997, 58% avg.; 33% emerged, 43% 1997, 32% avg.; 3% poor, 33% fair, 53% good, 11% excellent. Rice 26% planted, 24% 1997, 21% avg. Wheat 83% jointed, 95% 1997, 87% avg.; 23% heading, 48% 1997, 24% avg.; 3% very poor, 10% poor, 46% fair, 38% good, 3% excellent. Watermelons 21% planted, 40% 1997, 33% avg.; 3% poor, 36% fair, 59% good, 2% excellent. Cattle 1% very poor, 6% poor, 30% fair, 51% good, 12% excellent. Pasture 2% very poor, 5% poor, 34% fair, 47% good, 12% excellent. Activities: The main farming activities for the week were preparing land, planting corn, rice, watermelons. Producers were also applying fertilizer, weed control, feeding cattle.

MISSOURI: Days suitable for fieldwork 1.6. Topsoil 46% adequate 54% surplus. Continued wet weather across the State delayed progress with spring planting, fertilizer application. Corn planting progress was in the southern third of State, with the Bootheel most advanced at 33%. Fields in the northern two-thirds of the State are still too wet to plant. Condition winter wheat ranges from nearly 50% good to excellent in the northeast, southeast to over 80% in the southwest, southeast districts. Oats sown 27%, 73% 1997, 62% avg. Ground tilled for spring crops 41%, 56% 1997, 56% avg. Precipitation for the past week avg. 0.32 inch. Pasture 1% very poor, 5% poor, 24% fair, 57% good, 13% excellent.

MONTANA: There were 3.2 days suitable for fieldwork. Fieldwork 60% none, 35% just started, 5% well underway. At the end of the week, topsoil moisture was rated 4% very short, 22% short, 67% adequate, 7% surplus, subsoil 9% very short, 38% short, 48% adequate, 5% surplus. Winter wheat emergence 5% still dormant, 44% greening, 51% green, growing. Winter wheat wind damage 1% heavy, 7% moderate, 55% light, 37% none. Freeze, drought damage to winter wheat 1% heavy, 6% moderate, 44% light, 49% none. Seeding of oats 2%, 0% 1997, 3% avg., sugar beets 7%, 11% avg. Livestock good to excellent, minimal calving, lambing losses. Feed supplies in good shape. Calving is 71% complete, lambing is 54% complete. Supplemental feeding continues with 93% of cattle, calves, 88% of sheep, lambs receiving supplemental feeding.

NEBRASKA: Day suitable for fieldwork 2.5. Topsoil 1% very short, 7% short, 53% adequate, 39% surplus. Subsoil 8% short, 74% adequate, 18% surplus. Fieldwork activities were once again limited due to rainfall, wet field. Winter wheat 1% very poor, 5% poor, 23% fair, 59% good, 12% excellent; army cutworms Panhandle, southwestern counties. Oats 20% seeded, 38% 1997, 36% avg. Pasture 3% poor, 25% fair, 64% good, 8% excellent. Calving 82% complete; health problems in young calves due to wet, cold. Activities: limited oats seeding, spring tillage, stalk shredding, spring equipment preparation, grain marketing, tax, ag census paperwork, livestock care.

NEVADA: Cool, wet weather remained prevalent across most of Nevada throughout the week. Record snowpack in the Sierra continued to increase. Rains continued to hamper field activities, the cool temperatures slowed range, crop growth. Flood potential remains for small streams, low-lying areas along the eastern Sierra with the continued moisture. Spring grain planting was delayed due to rainfall, while winter wheat was ahead of schedule. Cooler weather slowed hay growth, while crop condition continued to rate good. Calving, lambing were underway, with some livestock being moved to spring pasture. Branding, shearing were also underway. Main farm, ranch activities: Ditch repair, cleanup, working livestock, grain, onion planting, field preparation.

NEW ENGLAND: Dry week in northern part of State, more rain in southern part, with seasonable temperatures over the past week. New England's wet, muddy fields have begun to dry out with the arrival of warm weekend weather. Farmers in southern new England preparing drier ground for planting. Maple production winding down. Greenhouse workers preparing vegetable plants for transplant. Pastures greening up. Beef cows starting to calf. Major farm activities: Plowing, fertilizing fields; caring for livestock.

NEW JERSEY: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.0. Farmers are active planting, plowing, discing, spreading fertilizer, implementing pest control measures, seeding, transplanting. Planting of cabbage, sweet corn, potatoes, peas, endive, escarole, lettuce. Harvesting of spinach, dandelion, cilantro, asparagus, kale, parsley, mint, leeks occurring. Peach trees are in full bloom in the central part of the State, entering the petal fall stage in the south. Some pruning of peach trees reported. Apples, blueberries are beginning to bloom, while strawberries are in bloom. Nursery workers continued to be very active digging, shipping plant material.

NEW MEXICO: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.4. Precipitation was light and limited to northern part of State. Topsoil 2% very short 32% short 64% adequate, 2% surplus. Winter wheat 18% fair, 79% good, 3% excellent;. Cotton planting started behind schedule, last week 6% was in the ground, 13% 1997, 11% avg.; 5% fair, 94% good, 1% excellent. With sorghum planting still a month away, many farmers were making last minute preparations to begin planting corn. Alfalfa 2% poor, 39% fair, 49% good, 10 excellent. Chile 78% planted, 86% 1997, 67% avg.; 15% fair, 84% good, 1% excellent. Lettuce improved to 18% fair, 45% good, 37% excellent. Onions 11% fair, 59% good, 30% excellent. Cattle, sheep mostly fair to good. Pasture, range feed 10% poor, 34% fair, 55% good, 1% excellent.

NEW YORK: Field activities were picking up this week due to mild temperatures. Primary tillage has begun on well-drained soils. Oat seedings, top dressing wheat were the important field crop activities. Hay is experiencing rapid growth due to warm weather. Farmers were busy spreading manure. Some early sweet corn is being planted under plastic. Onion planting in southern counties was more than half done due to warm, dry conditions.

NORTH CAROLINA: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.8. The above avg. rainfall during the week did not excessively hinder farmers. Farmers made good progress in planting corn, are finishing planting Irish potatoes. Soil moisture 2% short, 65% adequate, 33% surplus. Activities for the week included: Planting Irish potatoes, corn, cotton; transplanting cabbage; preparing, tending tobacco beds; tending livestock; repairing equipment.

NORTH DAKOTA: Fieldwork had begun in isolated areas throughout the State, as well as the seeding of spring wheat, barley, oats. No measurable percentage had been seeded yet. The statewide avg. starting date for fieldwork is expected to be April 18. This compares to last year's late start of May 3 and the 5-year (1993-1997) avg. of April 26th. Before the weekend's rain showers, some operators were applying anhydrous, spreading granular herbicides, performing tillage operations. No plantings were reported as of April

12th, same as last year, the 5-year avg. Most livestock good. The drying weather during the previous week aided conditions for newborn calves, but isolated scours remained a concern. Calving 68% complete; lambing 69% complete. Cattle 1% poor, 15% fair, 78% good, 6% excellent; calves: 1% poor, 18% fair, 75% good, 6% excellent. sheep: 1% poor, 11% fair, 82% good, 6% excellent; lamb: 2% poor, 12% fair, 81% good, 5% excellent. Supplemental feeds were fed to 96% of the sheep, 95% of the cattle. Hay, roughage supplies 1% very short, 4% short, 91% adequate, 4% surplus. Grain, concentrates 2% short, 94% adequate, 4% surplus. Pastures were still 80% dormant but 83% were open for grazing.

OHIO: Days suitable for fieldwork was 3.6 days. Topsoil 3% short, 52% adequate, 45% surplus. Corn planted ahead of last year, same as 5-year avg. Winter wheat 32% jointed, 8% 1997, 2% avg. Oats planted 5 points ahead of last year, 26 points above five-year avg.; 9% emerged, 6% 1997, 3% avg. Potatoes 11% planted, 3% 1997, 2% avg. Tobacco beds 77% seeded, 31% plants up. Apples 79% green tip; peaches 90% green tip, 70% full bloom. Winter wheat 2% poor, 13% fair, 53% good, 32% excellent. Hay 1% poor, 15% fair, 63% good, 21% excellent. Pasture 2% poor, 16% fair, 60% good, 22% excellent. Apples 1% poor, 24% fair, 59% good, 16% excellent. Peaches 3% very poor, 3% poor, 19% fair, 57% good, 18% excellent. Activities: Applying fertilizer, anhydrous ammonia; top dressing winter wheat; spreading lime; hauling manure; applying pre-emergence herbicides, spraying burn down applications, insecticides, fungicides; plowing, discing, chiseling; pruning fruit trees; seeding alfalfa and pastures; repairing, preparing machinery for planting; repairing, building new fences; fixing buildings; repairing tile; moving cattle; selling grain; burning brush; picking rocks. Northwestern district, growers planting sugarbeets, carrots, sweet corn. Southeastern district growers are wrapping up transplanting cabbage.

OKLAHOMA: Warm, sunny weather encouraged wheat growth, row crop seedbed preparation. Days suitable for fieldwork 4.7. Topsoil 6% short, 88% adequate, 6% surplus. Subsoil 2% short, 95% adequate, 3% surplus. Wheat 83% jointing, 90% 1997, 74% avg.; oats 65% jointing, 59% 1997, 34% avg. Corn 81% seedbed prepared, 84% 1997, 83% avg.; 16% planted, 16% 1997, 19% avg; 4% up-to-stand, 6% 1997, 6% avg. Sorghum 24% seedbed prepared, 20% 1997, 28% avg. Soybeans 44% seedbed prepared, 39% 1997, 37% avg.; 2% planted, 4% 1997, 4% avg. Peanuts 36% seedbed prepared, 40% 1997, 45% avg. Cotton 71% seedbed prepared, 62% 1997, 56% avg. Alfalfa Hay 1% 1st cutting, 2% avg; other hay 2% avg. Livestock 3% poor, 19% fair, 75% good, 3% excellent.

OREGON: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.2. Topsoil 1% short, 78% adequate, 21% surplus. Subsoil 1% short, 76% adequate, 23% surplus. Winter wheat 10% fair, 70% good, 20% excellent. Range, pasture 17% fair, 60% good, 23% excellent. Barley planted 72%, 60% 1997, 45% avg. Activities: Western crops yellowing slightly from too much moisture, most grains good. Plant growth moderate due to cooler temperatures. Field activities slowed by rain. Eastern producers continued limited field preparation. Soils still too cool to promote growth. Fertilizer operations underway in northeast. Nurseries, greenhouses extremely busy planting, transplanting, potting, moving pots, digging, balling nursery stock. South coast Easter lily growers doing weed control, roguing fields to remove off-type plants. Easter lily fields bruised by a hail storm, but leaves not stripped off. Weather excellent for planting Christmas trees. Western vegetable growers still waiting for fields to dry out. North Willamette Valley reported green peas being planted for processors, fresh market growers continued to harvest rhubarb, overwintered root crops. Some planting of cool weather vegetables. Onion fields being prepared. Malheur County onion planting continued, potato planting began. Willamette Valley strawberries beginning to blossom , raspberries breaking bud. Peaches nearing completion of bloom. Early apples, pears, cherries full bloom. Eastern filbert blight sprays being applied, hazelnuts dropped catkins, starting to leaf out. Rogue River Valley peaches, apricots, cherries finishing blossom. Pears, plums full bloom. South Coast blueberries full bloom. Hood River Valley early cherries blooming. Lower valley pears blooming, upper valley pears early pink. Apples tight cluster to pink. Statewide warm pollination weather still needed. Livestock reported good to excellent condition. All areas of State reported branding underway, with some early turnout onto lower level pastures. Western pastures rapidly growing but generally too wet to pasture. Eastern pastures growing but cold weather, cool nights still limiting growth to lower elevation pastures.

PENNSYLVANIA: Days suitable for field work 4.0. Soil moisture 2% very short, 3% short, 80% adequate, 15% surplus. Plowing 36% complete, 36% 1997, 18% avg. Potatoes planted 2% complete, 4% 1997, 3% avg. Tobacco beds planted 100% complete, 87% 1997, 50% avg. Alfalfa, alfalfa mixtures stand 5% poor, 15% fair, 60% good, 20% excellent. Timothy clover stand 1% very poor, 7% poor, 12% fair, 65% good, 15% excellent. Peaches 75% pink, 17% 1997, 9% avg; 65% full bloom or past, 4% 1997, 1% avg. Cherries 75% pink, 16% 1997, 6% avg.; 65% full bloom or past, 1% 1997. Apples 15% pink, 13% 1997, 4% avg. Activities: Planting small grains; spreading lime; plowing fields; machinery maintenance; hauling manure; caring for livestock.

SOUTH CAROLINA: Soil moisture 73% adequate, 27% surplus. Apple 5% bloom, 2% 1997; 100% good. Barley 10% headed, 47% 1997, 9% avg.; 36% fair, 64% good. Cantaloupe 51% planted, 71% 1997, 51% avg.; 9% poor, 23% fair, 68% good. Corn 74% planted, 90% 1997, 68% avg.; 52% emerged; 4% poor, 22% fair, 73% good, 1% excellent. Cucumbers 55% planted, 79% 1997, 52% avg.; 100% fair. Hay 15% harvested, 26% 1997, 9% avg.; 2% poor, 42% fair, 51% good, 5% excellent. Oats 12% headed, 71% 1997, 30% avg.; 3% poor, 37% fair, 60% good. Peaches 1% very poor, 2% poor, 32% fair, 65% good. Rye 30% headed, 66% 1997, 17% avg.; 5% poor, 31% fair, 57% good, 7% excellent. Snapbeans 50% planted, 65% 1997, 46% avg.; 20% fair, 80% good. Sorghum 8% planted, 9% 1997, 2% avg; 100% fair. Tobacco 19% transplanted, 49% 1997, 26% avg.; 7% poor, 17% fair, 76% good. Watermelons 65% planted, 87% 1997, 60% avg.; 4% poor, 51% fair, 45% good. Winter wheat 17% headed, 67% 1997, 22% avg.; 1% very poor, 18% poor, 44% fair, 33% good, 4% excellent.

SOUTH DAKOTA: Days suitable for fieldwork 1.0. Topsoil 1% short, 59% adequate, 40% surplus. Subsoil 2% short, 64% adequate, 34% surplus. Barley planted 23%, 2% avg. Statewide fieldwork has or will begin April 15th. Major activities include calving, lambing, general maintenance. Winter wheat 3% poor, 10% fair, 63% good, 24% excellent. Statewide 93% of the winter wheat acreage has broken dormancy, along with 79% of the winter rye acreage. Winter wheat freeze damage is 22% light, 3% moderate, while winter rye freeze damage is 6% light, 6% moderate. Livestock 1% poor, 8% fair, 68% good, 23% excellent. Calving, lambing season are well under way, lambing 63% complete, calving 54% complete. Calf deaths 23% below normal, 75% normal, 2% above normal. Lamb deaths 24% below normal, 75% normal, 1% above normal. Producers have moved 20% of the cattle to pasture. Feed supplies 3% short, 84% adequate, 13% surplus. Stock water supplies 1% short, 81% adequate, 18% surplus. Range, pasture 16% excellent, 62% good, 14% fair, 7% poor, 1% very poor.

TENNESSEE: Throughout the State producers made good progress on various activities like planting corn, seeding tobacco beds, top dressing wheat with nitrogen, and making preparations for planting cotton, vegetables. Corn growers made excellent progress in the West. Tobacco producers are on schedule with seeding beds. Wheat growers have basically finished applying nitrogen, are applying insecticides where needed. Topsoil 66% adequate, 34% surplus. Subsoil 69% adequate, 31% surplus.

TEXAS: Mild, windy conditions dominated weather most areas during week. Some areas received light rain midweek. The winds worked to further deplete topsoil moisture, making necessary to increase irrigation where available. Planted fields need rain to ensure continued good progress. Field activities moved ahead most areas without serious delays. However, extremely high winds some areas discouraged activities. Livestock conditions remained good across the State.

Crops: Corn: Planting activity increased High Plains. Midweek rains isolated areas kept some producers from beginning. Planting activity moved ahead north-central areas, with little delay. Planting activity winding down Blacklands, Central with good emergence, growth reported. Planting activity winding down along Upper Coast, in Coastal Bend. Irrigation activity increased these areas, south fields. Early growth good to this point, but rainfall will be needed soon for further progress, 35% emerged. Cotton: Pre-watering activity continued in plains as planting time neared. Most other land preparation been completed. Producers awaiting higher soil temperatures begin planting. Planting activity getting underway Central, Blacklands. Emergence slow due cool nights. Most planting completed Coastal Bend. Planting, irrigation activity increased along Upper Coast. Grain sorghum: Land preparation continued High Plains. Planting operations increased north-central, Blacklands. Early fields off good start. Good emergence also reported central. However, high winds drying soil moisture quickly. Most planting completed during week along Upper Coast. Rice: Planting activity along Upper Coast rapidly increased last week. Flushing some fields continued. However, high winds caused some problems; 26% emerged, 1% 1997, 13% avg. Soybeans: Land preparations winding down in High Plains by end. Planting activity increased in northern Blacklands. Planting continued along Upper Coast, with good emergence, stands reported; 23% planted, 7% 1997, 6% avg. Small Grains: Warm weather promoted growth all areas during week. Rain needed some dryland fields in High Plains. Fields continued head out Central, Blackland fields. Wheat began turn color south fields.

Commercial Vegetables: Rio Grande Valley, onion harvest winding down many fields. Citrus harvest also coming to end most groves. San Antonio- Winter Garden, onion, carrot harvest winding down. East, planting activity increased during week. High Plains, early-planted onion, potato fields made good progress for week. Trans Pecos, cantaloup planting continued. Pecans: Trees central, southern areas continued leaf out, show good progress. Many producers preparing for zinc spraying. Peaches: The Hill Country crop continued make very good progress. East producers still hoping for partial crop.

Range and Livestock: Ranges, pastures continued show good progress nearly all areas. Livestock good most areas. Flies, lice continued cause minor problems some herds.

UTAH: Days suitable for fieldwork 3. Topsoil 2% short, 64% adequate, 34% surplus. Subsoil 6% short, 67% adequate, 27% surplus. Winter wheat 8% fair, 84% good, 8% excellent. Fall barley 3% fair, 76% good, 21% excellent%. Pasture, range 2% very poor, 6% poor, 23% fair, 50% good, 19% excellent. Spring wheat: planted 85%, 55% 1997, 54% avg.; emerged 30%, 16% 1997, 23% avg. Barley: Planted 75%, 60% 1997, 54% avg.; emerged 22%, 23% 1997, 23% avg. Oats: Planted 16%, 26% 1997, 25% avg.; emerged 15%, 5% 1997, 12% avg. Apricots full bloom or past 100%. Cows calved 76%, 67% 1997, 71% avg. Ewes lambed: on farm 67%, 71% 1997, 75% avg.; on range 38%, 31% 1997, 39% avg. Sheep sheared: on farm 59%, 61% 1997, 64% avg.; on range 43%, 35% 1997, 43% avg. Major farm, ranch activities were: Spring planting, spring tillage, spraying fruit, shearing sheep, lambing, calving.

VIRGINIA: Days suitable for fieldwork 3.7. Topsoil 73% adequate, 27% surplus. Subsoil 77% adequate, 23% surplus. Corn 15% planted, 5% 1997, 5% avg. Tobacco greenhouses 99% seeded, 100% 1997, 100% avg.; 6% fair, 55% good, 39% excellent. Tobacco plantbeds 99% seeded, 99% 1997, 98% avg.; 2% very poor, 4% poor, 19% fair, 55% good, 20% excellent. Winter Wheat 1% very poor, 8% poor, 27% fair, 49% good, 15% excellent. Barley 1% very poor, 5% poor, 22% fair, 58% good, 14% excellent. Summer potatoes 94% planted, 89% 1997, 78% avg. Apples 8% fair, 85% good, 7% excellent. Peaches 35% fair, 53% good, 12% excellent. Pasture 4% poor, 20% fair, 59% good, 17% excellent. Alfalfa 1% poor, 11% fair, 69% good, 19% excellent. Other hay 1% poor, 20% fair, 61% good, 18% excellent. Rainfall again hampered planting, other field activities last week. Temperatures were much cooler by the end of the week, with frost in some Piedmont, Western localities. These cooler temperatures caused potential damage to tobacco plantbeds. Some Virginia producers have made great progress in getting their corn planted early last week during the brief period of open weather. Small grains are beginning to grow rapidly. However, reduced yields for late-seeded wheat remain a concern for some producers as wheat stands are thin. Wheat producers continue to treat for cereal leaf beatles as well as powdery mildew. Most pastures good to excellent. Livestock being moved to graze. Some livestock are still being fed supplemental hay. Other farming activities included land preparation for vegetables, tobacco, bedding sweet potatoes, spraying for alfalfa weevils, tending to livestock.

WASHINGTON: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.9. Topsoil 5% short; 65% adequate, 30% surplus; subsoil 5% short, 80% adequate, 15% surplus. Winter wheat, dryland 9% fair, 71% good, 20% excellent; irrigated 30% good, 70% excellent. Some leaf diseases appeared, winter wheat look very good. Spring wheat 55% planted, 39% 1997, 42% avg.; 30% emerged, 16% 1997, 18% avg. Spring wheat, dryland 10% fair, 90% good; irrigated 10% good, 90% excellent. Barley 45% planted, 21% 1997, 31% avg.; 11% emerged, 9% 1997, 13% avg. Planting progressed well, but low soil temperatures slowed crop emergence, development for spring planted cereal grains. Potatoes 25% planted, 25% 1997, 27% avg.; 5% emerged, 3% 1997, 4% avg. Hay, other roughage supplies, 2% short, 58% adequate, 40% surplus. Range, pasture, 9% fair, 80% good, 11% excellent. West of the Cascades, turfgrass growers continued mowing, fertilizing, Christmas tree growers were shearing Noble fir trees. East of the Cascades, apricots finished the bloom stage with below-avg. set in many orchards. Cherries approached full bloom. Early apple varieties were in bloom, with full apple blossom predicted to occur about a week ahead of normal. Frost protection was necessary in many orchards. Asparagus harvest was slowed by cool weather. Carrot, onion, sweet corn planting continued.

WEST VIRGINIA: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.0. Topsoil 84% adequate, 16% surplus. Wheat 5% fair, 95% good. Apple 76% fair, 24% good. Peach 84% fair, 16% good. Hay 11% poor, 34% fair, 53% good, 2% excellent. Intended acreage prepared for spring planting 43%, 50% 1997, 35% 5-year avg. Corn planted 1%, 2% 1997, 5% 5-year avg. Oats planted 17%, 40% 1997, 22% 5-year avg.; oats emerged 2%, 12% 1997, 6% 5-year avg. Tobacco beds seeded 64%, 88% 1997, 76% 5-year avg. Tobacco beds emerged 9%, 29% 1997, 30% 5-year avg. Cattle 1% poor, 16% fair, 75% good, 8% excellent; 77% calved. Sheep 9% fair, 87% good, 4% excellent; 77% lambed. Hay, roughage supplies 15% short, 80% adequate, 5% surplus. Feed grain supplies 7% short, 93% adequate. Activities: Field preparation, planting, calving, lambing, general maintenance.

WISCONSIN: Days suitable for fieldwork 2.8. Soil moisture 62% adequate, 38% surplus. Spring tillage 5% complete, 3% 1997, 5% avg. Last week's showers, the heavy rains received 2 weeks ago impacted fieldwork in many regions. Reporters continued to be optimistic about the condition of winter wheat and hay after the winter. Maple syrup production reports were mixed. Dunn and Pepin Counties observers reported average seasons, while Chippewa, Shawano Counties reporters noted the season was short with less production. Potato, vegetable plantings were underway in Portage, Waushara, Adams Counties. Fruit trees were budding in Walworth County. Farmers were spreading manure, where possible, soil sampling was conducted in some areas.

WYOMING: Days suitable for fieldwork 3.7. Topsoil 9% short, 72% adequate, 19% surplus. Subsoil moisture 15% short, 78% adequate, 7% surplus. Winter wheat 13% fair, 70% good, 17% excellent. Barley seeded 46%, 67% 1997, 52% avg. Oats seeded 11%, 11% 1997, 15% avg. Spring wheat seeded 31%, 19% 1997, 17% avg. Calves born 74%, 76% 1997, 74% avg. Farm flock lambs born 84%, 84% 1997, 82% avg. Farm flock sheep shorn 84%, 81% 1997, 81% avg. Range flock lambs born 15%, 12% 1997, 15% avg. Range flock sheep shorn 35%, 37% 1997, 41% avg. Calf losses 32% light, 68% normal. Lamb losses 10% light, 90% normal. Range, pasture 22% fair, 65% good, 13% excellent. Stock water 1% short, 93% adequate, 7% surplus.

International Weather and Crop Summary

April 5 - 11, 1998

HIGHLIGHTS

FSU-WESTERN: Unseasonably mild weather accompanied several days of dryness in Ukraine and the North Caucasus region in Russia, prompting rapid greening in winter grains and favoring fieldwork.

EUROPE: Widespread rain provided abundant moisture for crop development in England, France, and Germany and eased long-term dryness in Italy's Po Valley, Hungary, and Slovakia.

NORTHWESTERN AFRICA: Insufficient moisture in Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia worsened conditions for winter grain development.

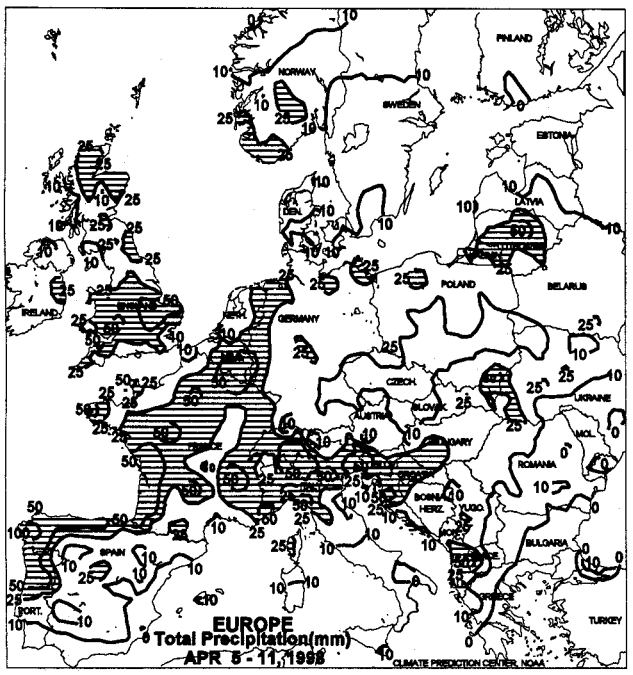
AUSTRALIA: Beneficial rain swept across the southern winter grain belts.

SOUTH AFRICA: Showery, cool weather caused minor disruptions in autumn fieldwork, including early corn harvesting.

SOUTHEAST ASIA: Drought continued to stress crops across the eastern Philippines and eastern Malaysia. In Java, showers continued to benefit main-season rice.

EASTERN ASIA: Warmer weather and light rain favored winter wheat development across the North China Plain.

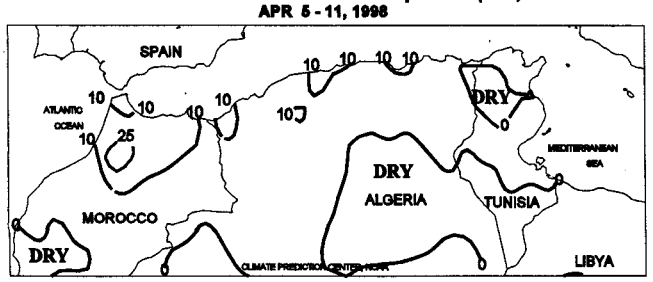
SOUTH AMERICA: In southern Brazil and central Argentina, early-week showers slowed harvesting, but subsequent drier weather favored fieldwork.



EUROPE

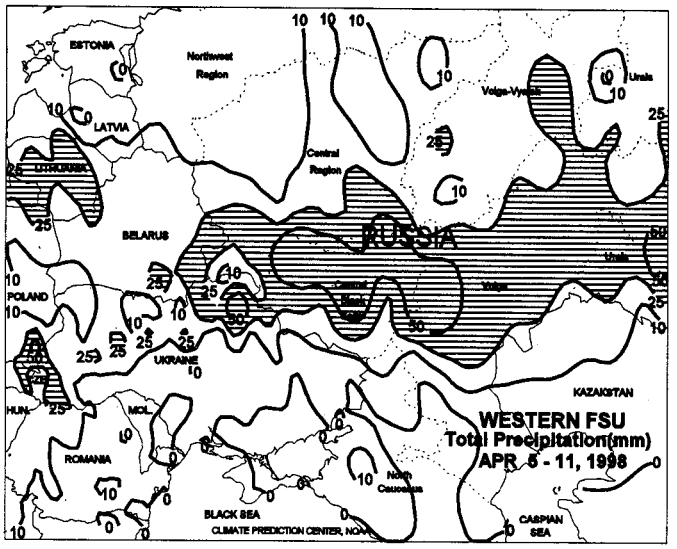
Widespread showers frequently fell during the week, except in extreme southeastern Europe, where the weather was mostly dry. Precipitation amounts ranged from 10 mm to locally more than 50 mm in the United Kingdom, France, Spain, and Germany, providing abundant moisture reserves for winter grain development, but causing localized flooding and hampering spring grain and summer crop planting. Elsewhere, rain (10-45 mm) eased long-term dryness in Italy's Po Valley, Hungary, Slovakia, and northern Yugoslavia, and maintained adequate moisture for early winter grain development in Poland and Romania. Warm, dry weather in Greece favored cotton planting, delayed by previous cold weather. Weekly temperatures averaged 1 to 4 degrees C below normal in the United Kingdom, France, and Spain, slowing crop development. On April 11, extreme minimum temperatures fell at or slightly below freezing at a few locations in northern Spain and southern France. Although temperatures in these areas did not fall low enough to threaten winter grains in the jointing stage, some damage to newly emerged summer crops was possible. Weekly temperatures averaged 3 to 10 degrees C above normal in eastern Europe, promoting winter grain development and warming topsoils for spring grain planting.

NORTHWEST AFRICA Total Precipitation (mm)
APR 5 - 11, 1998



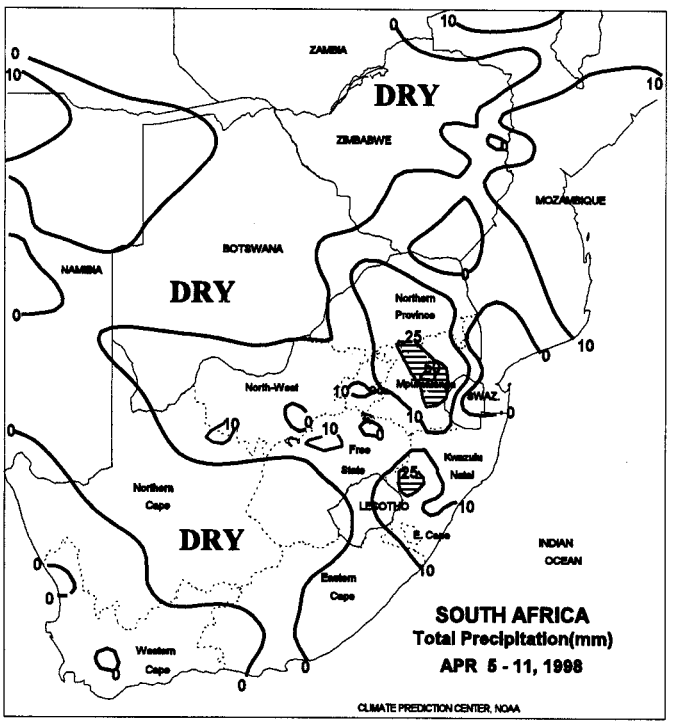
NORTHWESTERN AFRICA

Winter grains continued to advance through the reproductive phase of development and were likely filling in southernmost areas. In Morocco, light rain (10-25 mm) stabilized conditions for winter grains in northern areas. However, insufficient moisture (less than 5 mm) fell in southern Morocco, where crop conditions continued to decline. In Algeria, drought continued to negatively affect winter grains. Light, scattered showers (3-10 mm) were confined to western areas. In Tunisia, dry weather returned to winter grain areas, causing crops to rely on limited moisture reserves to sustain normal development. Weekly temperatures averaged near normal in Morocco and 1 to 4 degrees C above normal in Algeria and Tunisia.



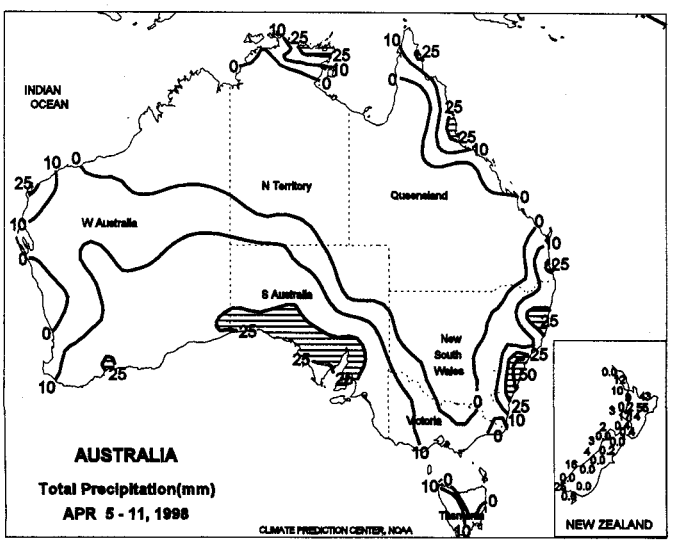
FSU-WESTERN

Unseasonably warm weather continued over Ukraine and the North Caucasus region in Russia, prompting rapid greening in winter grains. Weekly temperatures averaged 4 to 9 degrees C above normal in these areas, with highest weekly temperatures ranging from the middle to upper 20's C. Winter grains in extreme southern Ukraine and southern North Caucasus likely advanced into the jointing stage of development. Furthermore, several days of dryness accompanied the mild weather, favoring spring grain planting. Farther north, wet weather (10 to more than 50 mm) spread eastward from Lithuania and Belarus into the extreme northern tip of Ukraine and central areas in Russia (southern portion of the Central Region, Central Black Soils Region, and the middle and upper Volga Valley). The precipitation in these areas maintained adequate to excessive topsoil moisture, hampering early fieldwork for spring grain planting. Near- to below-normal temperatures in these areas kept winter grains dormant. In cotton-growing areas of Central Asia, early cotton planting continued to progress. Seasonable temperatures and generally dry weather favored planting in most areas. The exception was in southern Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, where heavy rain (more than 50 mm) may have caused some localized washouts, necessitating replanting. Typically, most of the cotton crop is planted from mid-April through May.



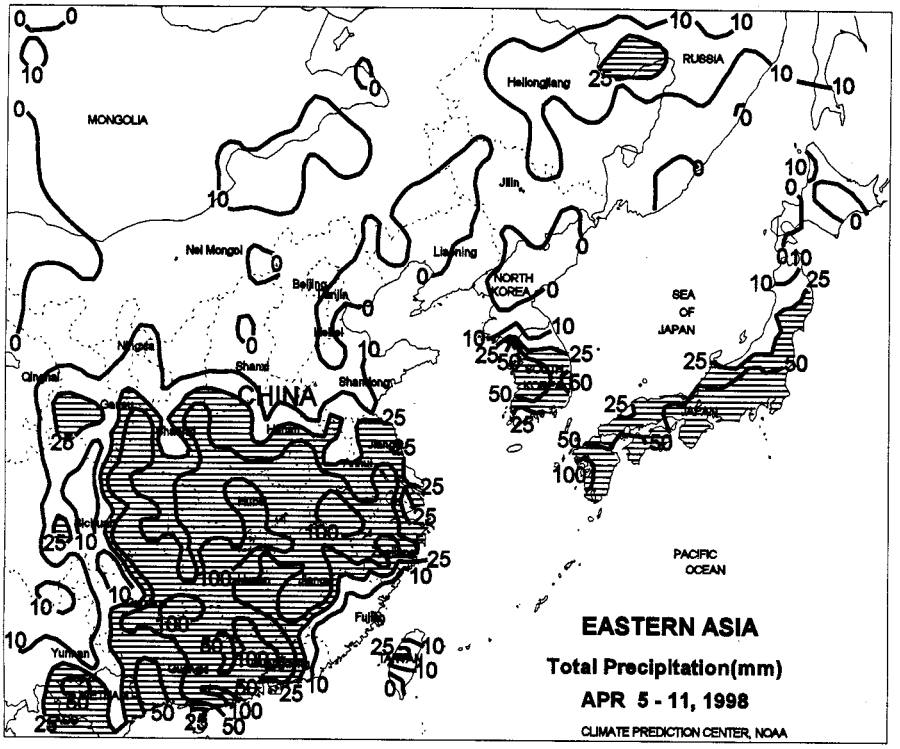
SOUTH AFRICA

Light to moderate showers (2-15 mm, reaching 25 mm at a few locations) caused some minor delays in autumn fieldwork from North West to coastal sugarcane areas of Kwazulu-Natal. Early corn and sugarcane harvesting and field preparations for wheat planting were underway. Temperatures averaged near to below normal in the traditionally cooler areas of Free State, with lows reaching 3 degrees C. Most late-planted corn requires a few more weeks without a killing freeze to safely reach maturity. In Western Cape, scattered light showers (5 mm or less) and below-normal temperatures kept topsoils moist in the main wheat areas. Planting should be in full swing in a few weeks. Elsewhere in southern Africa, warm, dry weather persisted over Zimbabwe and neighboring locations in Zambia and Mozambique. Moderate to heavy showers (10-25 mm or more, locally exceeding 50 mm), however, were concentrated over Malawi and adjacent sections of Zambia and Tanzania.



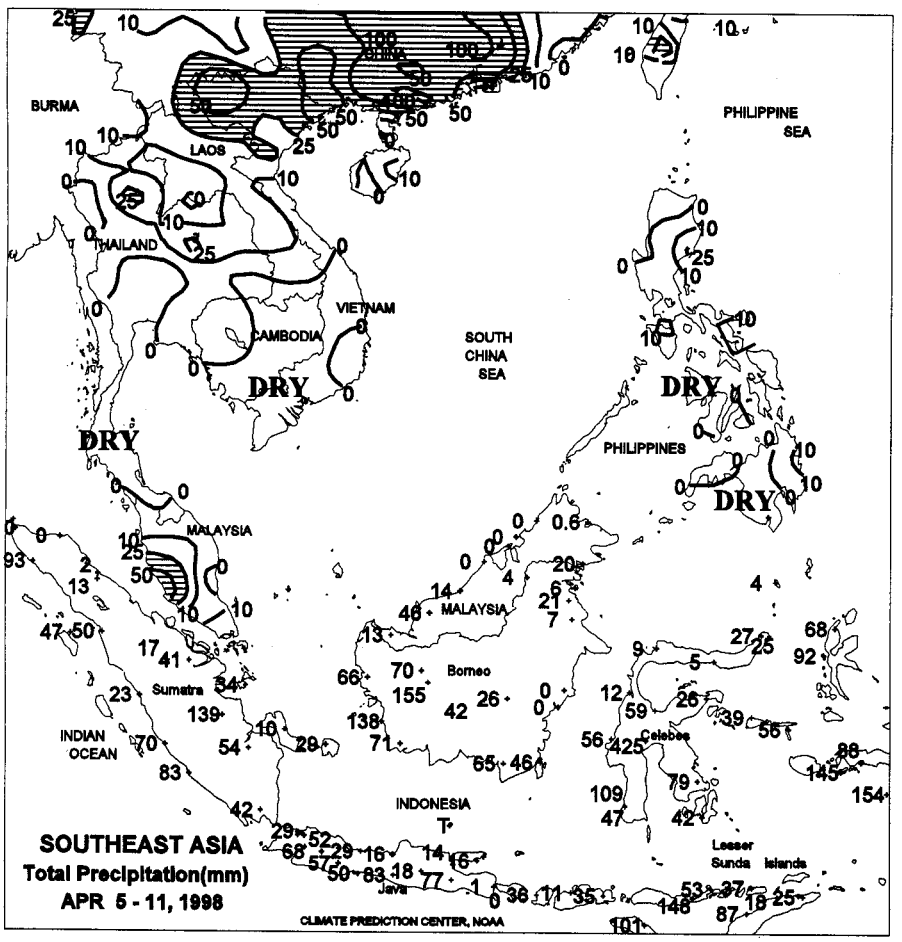
AUSTRALIA

Light to moderate rain (5-40 mm) covered winter grain areas of Western Australia, South Australia, and Victoria. The long-awaited moisture will help to condition soils in preparation for wheat and barley sowing, but was not heavy enough to increase long-term moisture reserves. Planting in the traditionally cooler locations of southern Australia can last into July, so most areas should have plenty of time to accumulate needed soil moisture. In the east, dry weather again dominated the primary crop regions of New South Wales and Queensland, although scattered showers (3-30 mm) fell over the sugarcane areas south of Brisbane. The continuing dry, warm conditions have favored sorghum and cotton harvesting, but topsoils have become unfavorably dry for winter grain germination. Wheat and barley planting in southeastern Queensland can begin in May if moisture reserves are adequate. In New Zealand, mostly dry weather continued in the main agricultural areas.



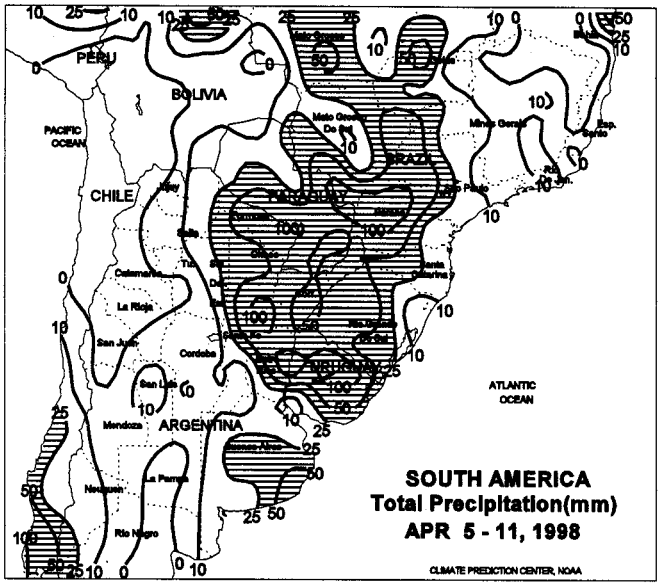
EASTERN ASIA

Warmer weather and light rain (2-10 mm) favored winter wheat across Hebei and Shandong. Farther south, in Henan, Anhui, and Jiangsu, moderate rain (25-50 mm) aided vegetative winter wheat. Temperatures averaged 2 to 4 degrees C above normal across the North China Plain. Warmer weather (temperatures 7-9 degrees C above normal) favored spring wheat planting across Manchuria. Widespread rain (30-80 mm, with isolated amounts greater than 100 mm) covered central and southern China, boosting moisture supplies for early double-crop rice.



SOUTHEAST ASIA

In Java and southern Sumatra, seasonal showers (20-60 mm) continued to benefit main-season rice and replenish long-term moisture supplies. Across Java, rainfall typically averages 45 mm per week during mid-April and decreases to 25 mm per week by late May. Drought (isolated showers less than 20 mm) continued to stress crops across the eastern Philippines and eastern Malaysia (Sabah). Dry weather reduced moisture supplies for oil palm across eastern peninsular Malaysia, while moderate showers favored oil palm in the west. Scattered showers (5-30 mm) fell across northern Thailand, but warm, dry weather (temperatures 1-2 degrees C above normal) prevailed elsewhere in Thailand.



SOUTH AMERICA

In southern Brazil, early-week showers (50-100 mm) slowed soybean and cotton harvesting across Rio Grande do Sul and Parana. However, the remainder of the week was dry, allowing some fieldwork. Elsewhere in southern Brazil, moderate showers (10-60 mm) allowed soybean harvesting to progress without significant delays. According to reports as of April 9, Brazilian soybeans were 57 percent harvested, compared with the 5-year average of 51 percent. In northern Argentina and southern Paraguay, early-week showers (25-75 mm, with isolated amounts greater than 100 mm) slowed cotton harvesting. However, subsequent dry weather favored cotton maturation and some harvesting. Drier weather is needed across the region to allow flooded areas to dry. In central Argentina, showers (25-40 mm) were confined to central and southern Buenos Aires, aiding second-crop soybeans, but slowing summer crop harvesting. Drier weather favored fieldwork in southern Cordoba and Santa Fe. According to reports as of April 3, Argentine cotton, soybean, and corn crops were 6, 9, and 30 percent harvested, respectively.

Latest El Niño Advisory

The following is derived from the El Niño/Southern Oscillation (ENSO) Diagnostic Advisory 98/4 issued by the Climate Prediction Center/National Centers for Climate Prediction (NCEP) on April 10, 1998.

Very strong warm (ENSO) episode conditions continued to dominate the tropical Pacific during March, as tropical Pacific sea surface temperatures (SST's) remained well above normal east of the date line. SST anomalies exceeded +2.0°C in the equatorial Pacific east of 140°W and +3°C from 120°W eastward, with actual SST's near 29°C observed across the entire equatorial Pacific. Note that although anomalies in the Niño regions again decreased during the month, this does not indicate a weakening of warm episode conditions. Instead, it reflects the normal annual cycle in SST, which produces increases in the climatological mean temperatures across the eastern half of the equatorial Pacific at this time of the year.

Tropical convection and precipitation during March were again greatly enhanced across the central and eastern equatorial Pacific, and suppressed over Indonesia and the western Pacific. This overall pattern has persisted since June 1997.

The latest NCEP forecasts indicate a continuation of warm episode conditions through April-June 1998, followed by a return toward normal during July-September. The rate at which the warm episode decays will depend on a return to near-normal or stronger-than-normal low-level easterlies over the equatorial Pacific. Through March, the easterlies continued to be much weaker than normal across the east-central and eastern tropical Pacific.

Based on current conditions in the tropical Pacific, the NCEP SST predictions, and results from historical studies on the effects of ENSO, we expect drier-than-normal conditions to continue over Indonesia and northern South America during the next couple of months. Wetter-than-normal conditions should continue over the central and eastern equatorial Pacific, along the coasts of Ecuador and northern Peru, and over southeastern South America. A return to wetter-than-normal conditions is also possible over central Chile as the jet stream over the eastern South Pacific continues to be stronger than normal. Also, recurrent periods of significant storm activity and precipitation across California and the southern tier of the United States are likely to continue through April.

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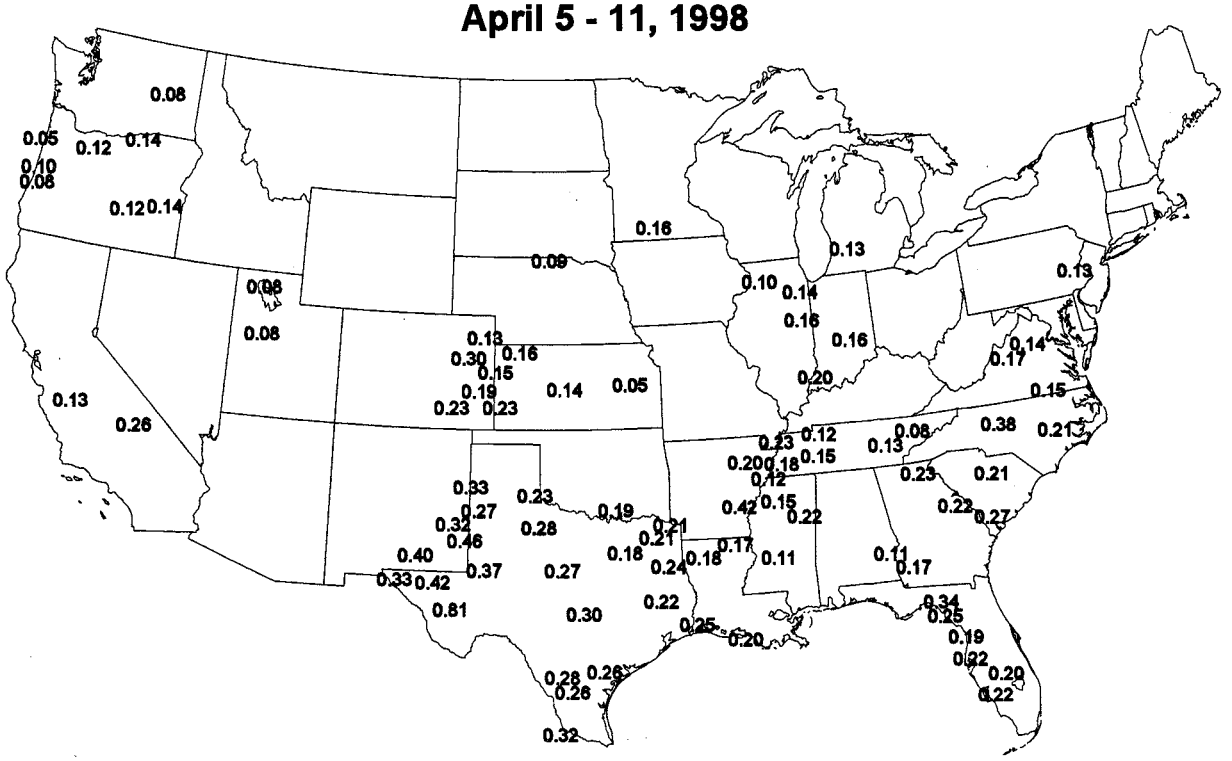
Average Pan Evaporation (Inches/Day)

April 5 - 11, 1998



NOAA/USDA JOINT AGRICULTURAL WEATHER FACILITY
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