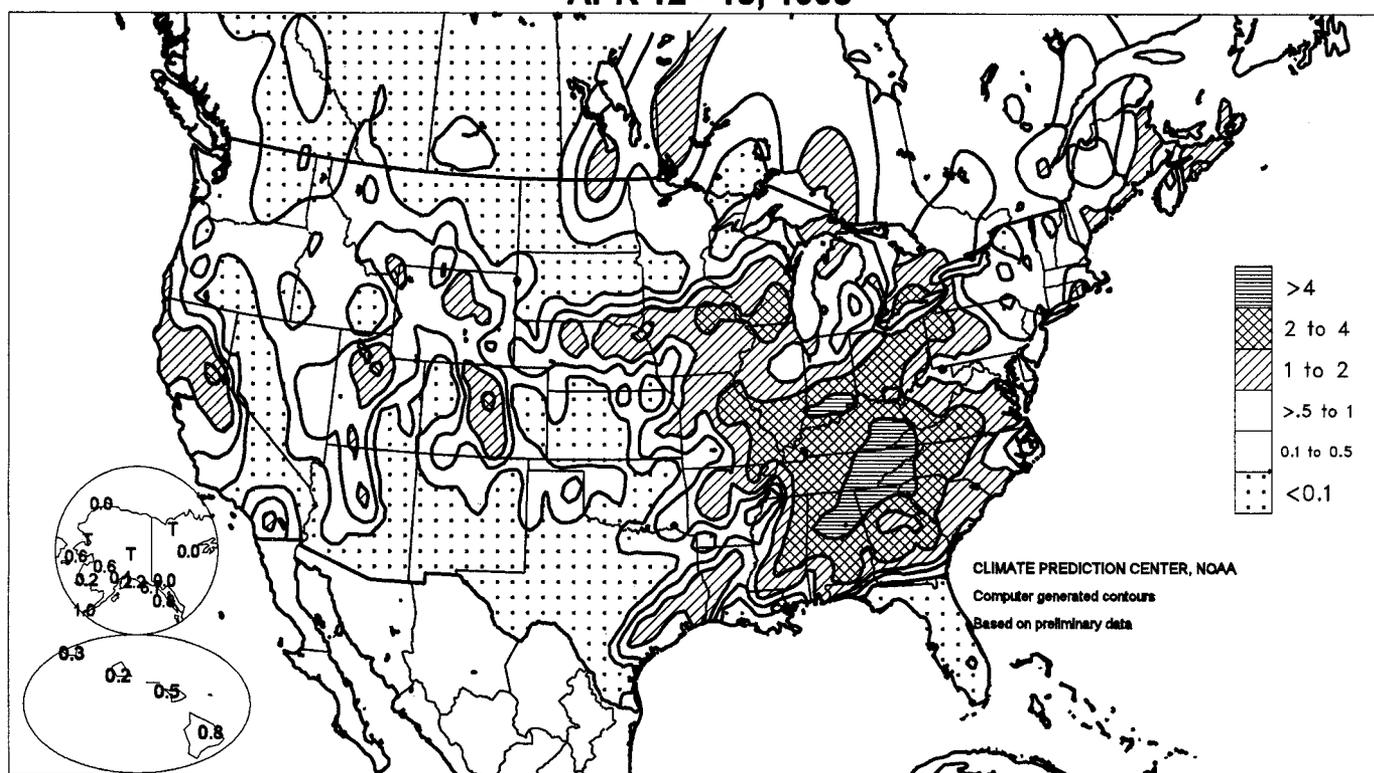


WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP BULLETIN

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 12 - 18, 1998



HIGHLIGHTS

April 12 - 18, 1998

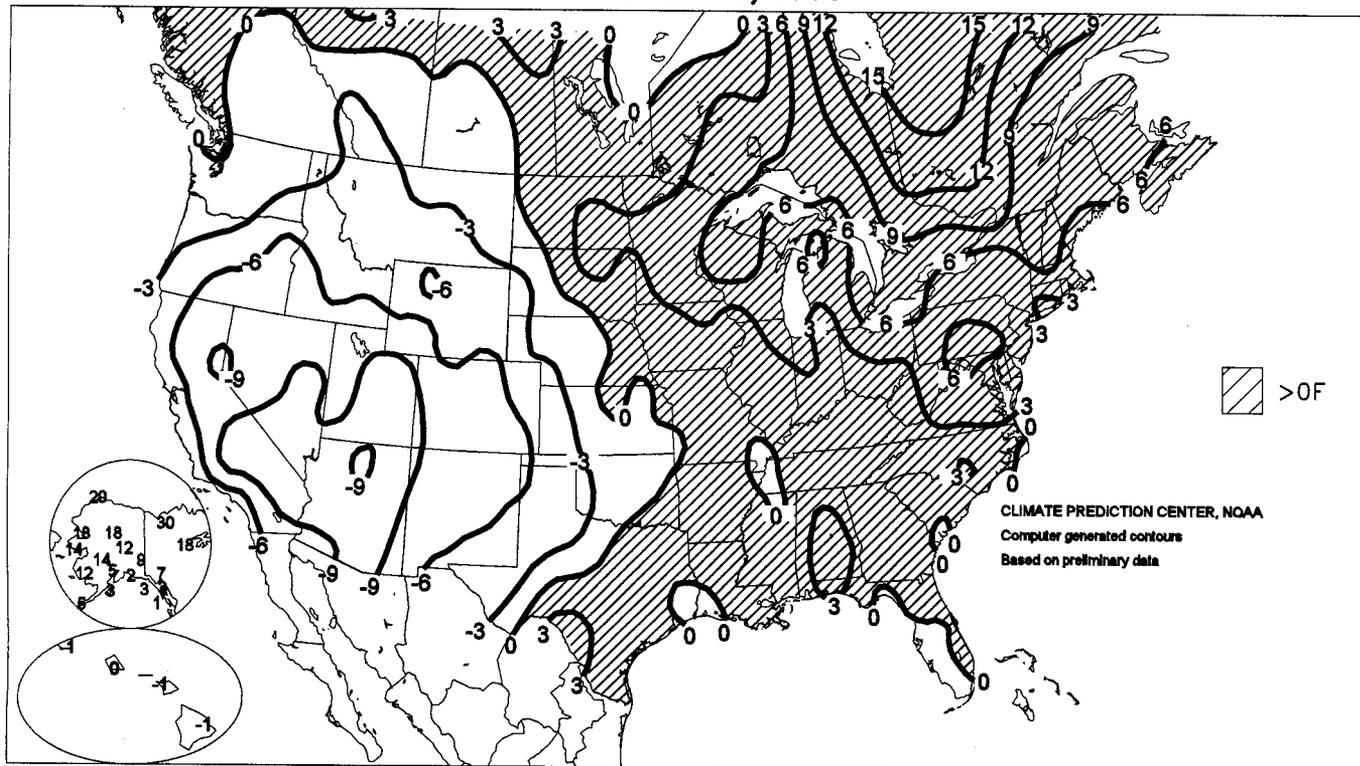
Hheavy rain struck parts of the **Midwest** and **Southeast** for the third consecutive week, maintaining soil saturation and pushing rivers into minor to moderate flooding. The **Southeastern** wetness was part of a long-term wet spell that dates back more than 6 months, to mid-October 1997. In contrast, short-term dryness stretched to 4 weeks across the **southern Plains**, immediate **Gulf Coast**, and most of **Florida**. On April 18, temperatures dipped slightly below freezing as far south as **eastern New Mexico** and **northern Texas**, where winter wheat was approaching or entering the heading stage. Meanwhile, **California** and the **Southwest** experienced late-week improvement from 3 weeks of very cool,

(Continued on page 3)

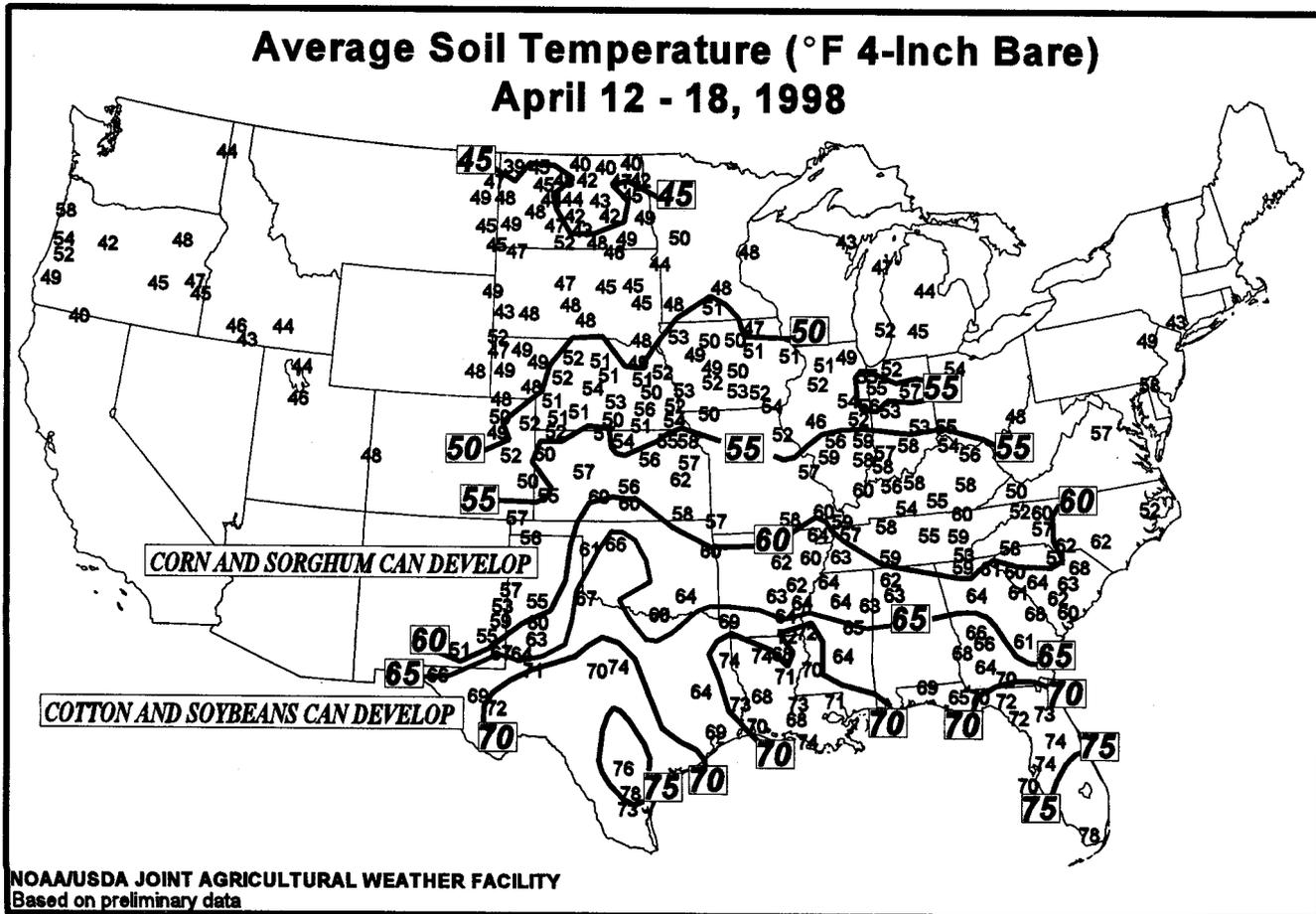
Contents

Temperature Departure & Soil Temperature Maps	2
Extreme Maximum & Minimum Temperature Maps	3
National Weather Data for Selected Cities	4
National Agricultural Summary	7
Crop Progress and Condition Tables	8
State Agricultural Summaries	9
International Weather and Crop Summary & March Temperature/Precipitation Maps	14
Subscription Information & Pan Evaporation Map	28

Departure of Average Temperature from Normal (°F) APR 12 - 18, 1998



Average Soil Temperature (°F 4-Inch Bare) April 12 - 18, 1998



(Continued from front cover)

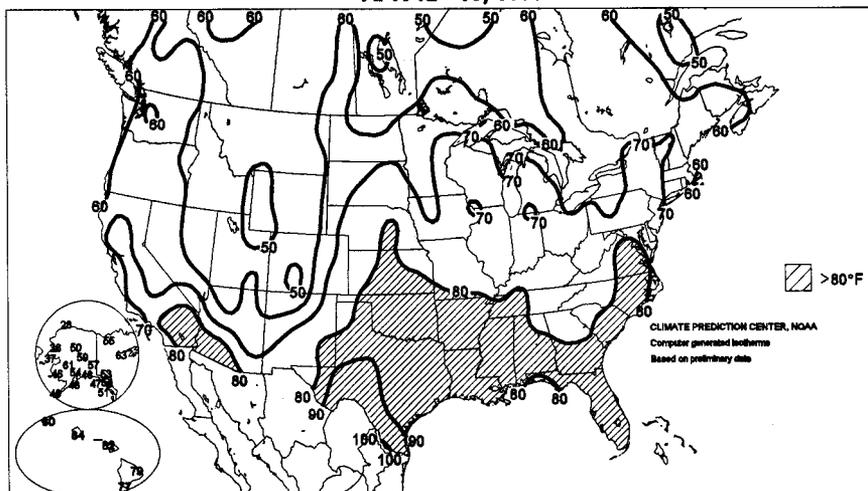
damp weather. Weekly temperatures ranged from 6 to 10°F below normal in the Southwest to as much as 8°F above normal in the Great Lakes States and New England.

Early in the week, warm, windy weather prevailed across the Nation's mid-section in advance of a series of low-pressure systems. On Sunday, southerly winds gusted to 54 mph in **Manhattan, KS**, 55 mph in **Sioux Falls, SD**, and 59 mph in **Ottumwa, IA**. In contrast, cool weather lingered in the East and continued across the West. Daily-record lows were established on Sunday in **Tallahassee, FL** (35°F) and **San Luis Obispo, CA** (34°F). Waves of cool air continued to overspread the West until the late-week period, resulting in more than a dozen daily records. In **California's San Joaquin Valley**, **Bakersfield** not only notched daily-record lows of 38°F on both April 14 and 16, but also posted a daily-record rainfall (0.12 inches) on April 15. Inland, daily-record lows included 13°F in **Ely, NV** (on Tuesday), 29°F in **Albuquerque, NM** (Thursday), and 18°F in **Cedar City, UT** (Friday).

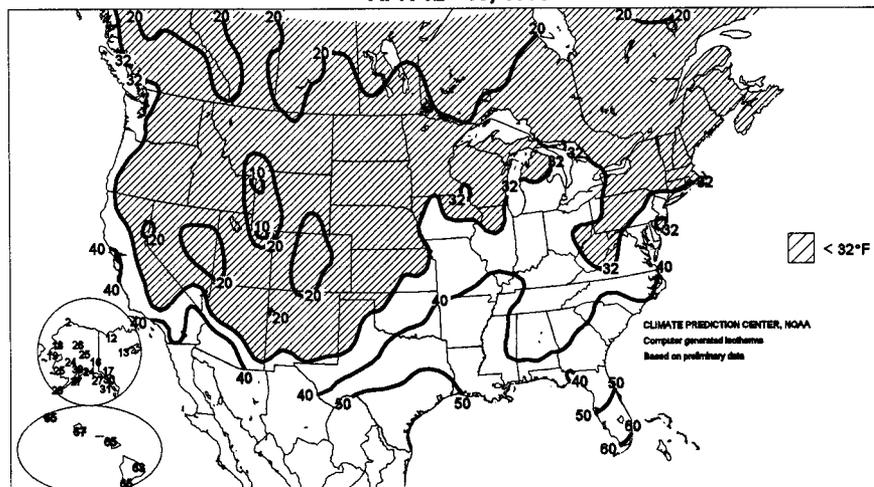
Heavy snow fell in parts of the West. In **Wyoming's Big Horn Mountains**, totals locally topped 3 feet on April 14-15. By week's end, April snowfall reached 16.3 inches in **Flagstaff, AZ** and 10.1 inches in **Cheyenne, WY**. The monthly total rose to 9.5 inches in **Colorado Springs, CO**, aided by a daily-record total (6.7 inches) on Wednesday. Late in the week, cold air spilled onto the central and southern Plains, producing a half-dozen daily-record lows. On Friday, lows fell to 18°F in both **Tribune, KS** and **Yuma, CO**. A day later, **Midland, TX** recorded 34°F, while readings dipped below freezing in locations such as **Roswell, NM** (29°F) and **Lubbock, TX** (31°F). On the Texas Coast, **Corpus Christi's** high on Saturday (64°F) was lower than their low temperature on Wednesday (74°F).

Farther east, weekly rainfall topped 4 inches in and near the southern Appalachians. In **Union County, TN**, 10.77 inches fell at **Big Ridge**. Twenty-four hour totals on April 16-17 reached 6.32 inches in **Tazewell, TN**. Also in **Tennessee**, **Knoxville's** monthly rainfall reached 9.70 inches through April 19, second on record in April to their 17.32-inch total in 1874. A tornado outbreak on Thursday battered downtown **Nashville, TN** and left five people dead (three in **Tennessee** and two in **Arkansas**), pushing the Nation's 1998 tornado death count to 103 (the highest since 1984). In **South Carolina**, **Anderson** received 4.60 inches on Friday, breaking their calendar-day

Extreme Maximum Temperature (°F)
APR 12 - 18, 1998



Extreme Minimum Temperature (°F)
APR 12 - 18, 1998



record for April. Farther north, weekly rainfall totaled 2 to 5 inches in most of the **Ohio River Valley** and 1 to 3 inches from north-central **Nebraska** to **Lake Michigan**.

By Monday, April 20, water levels on the lower **Ohio River** ranged from 1.7 feet above flood stage (afs) at **Paducah, KY** to 9.0 feet afs at **Cairo, IL**, and continued to rise. Back water from the **Mississippi River** caused the higher stage at **Cairo**. On the **Mississippi River**, a crest passed **Moline, IL** (2.34 feet afs) on April 12 and **Keithsburg, IL** (5.71 feet afs) on April 14. The crest reached **Chester, IL**, just north of the **Ohio River** confluence, on Saturday night, producing a stage 8.1 feet afs. (According to data released on April 20, the crest is expected to reach **Caruthersville, MO** (7.5 feet afs) on April 25, and **Baton Rouge, LA** (2.5 feet afs) on May 7. These forecasts are based on current conditions and may be affected by future rainfall in the basin.)

Extremely mild spring weather continued in **Alaska**, where weekly temperatures ranged from 2 to 20°F above normal. **McGrath** posted daily-record highs on Thursday (55°F) and Saturday (61°F). On April 17, **Nenana's** high of 60°F was their earliest such occurrence. In **Barrow**, where temperatures averaged 15°F above normal during the 7 weeks ending April 18, temperatures were last below normal on March 5. Meanwhile in **Hawaii**, dryness stretched toward a sixth consecutive month. In **Honolulu**, rainfall totaled 0.19 inches during the week, but only 2.80 inches (18 percent of normal) from November 1, 1997, to April 18, 1998.

National Weather Data for Selected Cities

Weather Data for the Week Ending April 18, 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	90 AND ABOVE	32 AND BELOW	TEMP. °F		PRECIP.	
																		01 INCH OR MORE	.50 INCH OR MORE		
AL BIRMINGHAM	74	58	78	39	66	3	4.08	2.98	1.99	13.01	141	29.59	155	92	63	0	0	0	5	4	
HUNTSVILLE	73	54	80	37	64	3	1.89	0.56	1.34	7.89	81	22.46	114	89	53	0	0	5	1		
MOBILE	78	60	81	42	69	1	0.61	-0.39	0.28	12.43	136	33.63	174	94	64	0	0	5	0		
MONTGOMERY	79	57	82	38	68	3	0.75	-0.29	0.28	7.91	87	21.80	113	91	50	0	0	5	0		
AK ANCHORAGE	47	34	54	29	41	5	0.11	-0.06	0.06	0.30	27	0.93	35	85	46	0	2	2	0		
BARROW	23	11	28	2	17	20	0.00	-0.06	0.00	0.04	14	0.04	8	96	82	0	7	0	0		
FAIRBANKS	53	31	69	25	42	12	0.02	-0.06	0.02	0.02	3	0.10	7	86	32	0	5	1	0		
JUNEAU	48	38	54	30	43	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	90	80	0	2	-	-		
KODIAK	45	35	48	27	40	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	91	70	0	1	-	-		
NOME	35	27	37	19	31	14	0.55	0.38	0.17	2.73	287	3.95	168	92	77	0	8	4	0		
AZ FLAGSTAFF	42	25	54	19	33	-9	0.48	0.13	0.32	5.31	148	8.75	113	87	50	0	7	4	0		
PHOENIX	72	51	80	46	61	-8	0.17	0.12	0.17	1.93	179	5.21	214	61	20	0	0	1	0		
PRESCOTT	50	31	61	25	41	-9	0.23	0.05	0.12	3.28	137	6.10	112	79	37	0	5	2	0		
TUCSON	69	44	75	39	57	-9	0.00	-0.07	0.00	1.99	216	5.36	218	60	21	0	0	0	0		
YUMA	75	52	86	48	63	-8	0.00	-0.03	0.00	0.31	94	1.57	176	55	20	0	0	0	0		
AR FORT SMITH	75	51	86	45	63	2	1.10	-0.80	0.08	5.48	88	16.28	151	83	46	0	0	2	0		
LITTLE ROCK	74	54	85	45	64	2	0.40	0.21	-	6.02	75	16.23	110	86	48	0	0	-	-		
CA BAKERSFIELD	64	41	75	38	53	-10	0.30	0.17	0.20	3.03	210	9.70	289	86	39	0	0	3	0		
EUREKA	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.63	-	-	9.71	-	36.96	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
FRESNO	63	43	74	40	53	-8	0.31	0.09	0.31	4.73	185	12.93	205	89	40	0	0	1	0		
LOS ANGELES	63	49	70	47	56	-4	0.00	-0.17	0.00	4.26	168	21.32	287	81	51	0	0	0	0		
REDDING	62	38	72	33	50	-7	0.29	-0.19	0.21	8.22	141	37.66	230	89	37	0	0	3	0		
SACRAM/MCCLELL	66	44	73	39	55	-	0.27	-	0.20	2.74	-	21.92	-	93	41	0	0	2	0		
SAN DIEGO	64	52	74	49	58	-4	0.41	0.23	0.24	2.89	124	13.22	232	79	46	0	0	3	0		
SAN FRANCISCO	59	46	63	43	53	-3	0.65	0.33	0.34	4.02	99	25.90	223	89	64	0	0	3	0		
ALAMOSA	48	24	54	21	35	-8	0.34	0.23	0.28	0.94	127	0.98	77	72	33	0	7	3	0		
CO SPRINGS	47	29	64	22	38	-9	1.03	0.77	0.94	4.02	256	4.39	195	81	46	0	6	3	1		
DENVER	51	31	66	21	41	-7	0.38	-0.03	0.15	2.91	131	3.18	97	86	42	0	4	5	0		
GRAND JUNCTION	53	36	58	32	44	-8	0.24	0.07	0.16	1.83	135	2.78	115	87	37	0	1	6	0		
PUEBLO	56	33	70	26	44	-7	0.88	0.68	0.40	3.58	280	3.85	203	81	37	0	4	3	0		
CT BRIDGEPORT	57	42	64	36	50	2	0.55	-0.33	0.50	8.86	147	17.48	142	84	57	0	0	3	1		
HARTFORD	65	39	69	29	52	3	0.28	-0.84	0.25	7.13	120	13.62	108	82	42	0	2	2	0		
DC WASHINGTON	71	50	79	41	60	4	0.53	-0.08	0.52	8.68	184	19.31	190	84	44	0	0	2	1		
DE WILMINGTON	70	46	74	34	58	6	0.82	-0.16	0.58	6.92	127	14.67	129	91	52	0	0	3	1		
FL DAYTONA BEACH	81	56	87	47	69	-1	0.00	-0.50	0.00	3.99	95	15.57	155	92	45	0	0	0	0		
JACKSONVILLE	80	56	85	44	68	1	0.01	-0.82	0.01	5.89	106	20.29	161	93	45	0	0	1	0		
KEY WEST	80	71	82	63	76	-1	0.00	-0.39	0.00	3.13	119	10.42	161	77	62	0	0	0	0		
MIAMI	81	68	84	59	74	-1	0.00	-0.63	0.00	5.97	155	13.62	171	70	50	0	0	0	0		
ORLANDO	82	57	88	48	70	-1	0.00	-0.39	0.00	5.39	125	16.12	168	93	43	0	0	0	0		
TAMPA	81	63	87	50	72	1	0.00	-0.22	0.00	5.32	144	20.78	237	85	51	0	0	0	0		
VALPARAISO/EGLIN	76	64	79	45	70	5	0.00	-1.26	0.00	6.54	74	22.38	130	88	64	0	0	0	0		
WEST PALM BEACH	80	67	84	56	74	0	0.00	-0.83	0.00	4.07	77	21.48	200	71	51	0	0	0	0		
GA ATHENS	71	52	77	38	62	0	1.72	0.81	0.98	11.83	149	26.42	160	93	61	0	0	5	2		
ATLANTA	70	53	75	43	62	0	0.82	-0.16	0.49	9.88	117	22.87	127	90	55	0	0	5	0		
AUGUSTA	74	55	79	39	64	2	1.28	0.53	0.70	11.50	172	25.37	169	96	57	0	0	4	1		
COLUMBUS	77	57	84	42	67	2	1.29	0.30	1.17	6.86	79	14.10	79	90	52	0	0	4	1		
MACON	74	54	80	39	64	0	1.53	0.74	1.10	9.72	140	21.68	133	90	57	0	0	3	1		
SAVANNAH	77	55	82	43	66	0	0.87	0.18	0.87	8.49	152	22.88	184	99	54	0	0	1	1		
HI HILO	78	65	79	63	72	-1	0.82	-2.83	0.33	4.89	21	7.33	17	87	60	0	0	7	0		
HONOLULU	82	70	84	67	76	0	0.19	-0.16	0.12	0.54	17	1.52	17	73	44	0	0	3	0		
KAHULUI	80	66	82	65	73	-1	0.54	0.11	0.13	1.23	31	2.09	19	84	52	0	0	6	0		
LIHUE	78	69	80	65	73	-1	0.31	-0.50	0.21	1.78	28	5.72	37	79	60	0	0	3	0		
ID BOISE	53	32	59	27	43	-6	0.11	-0.19	0.09	1.52	73	5.65	124	78	32	0	3	2	0		
LEWISTON	54	38	60	33	46	-4	0.29	0.03	0.24	1.88	109	3.99	102	82	44	0	0	4	0		
POCATELLO	48	29	53	22	38	-8	0.06	-0.22	0.04	1.90	96	5.32	135	85	44	0	6	2	0		
IL CHICAGO/O'HARE	62	45	73	34	53	5	0.68	-0.17	0.33	6.41	132	10.78	139	84	49	0	0	3	0		
MOLINE	62	43	75	32	53	2	1.11	0.20	0.71	7.34	140	13.03	162	90	48	0	1	4	1		
PEORIA	63	44	72	32	54	2	0.83	-0.25	0.63	6.78	132	11.97	148	86	46	0	1	1	1		
ROCKFORD	59	42	72	29	50	3	1.32	0.45	0.87	6.23	135	10.16	144	91	51	0	1	3	1		
SPRINGFIELD	65	45	73	33	55	2	0.89	-0.16	0.67	6.56	121	11.70	134	90	47	0	0	2	1		
IN EVANSVILLE	67	47	74	40	57	1	3.38	2.47	1.74	7.80	110	12.74	99	91	48	0	0	4	2		
FORT WAYNE	63	41	70	34	52	3	1.22	0.42	0.87	9.31	190	14.71	169	86	52	0	0	4	1		
INDIANAPOLIS	64	45	70	37	55	2	1.09	0.24	0.52	8.48	141	12.20	113	88	51	0	0	4	1		
SOUTH BEND	62	42	69	31	52	3	0.70	-0.21	0.49	6.15	113	11.84	122	85	50	0	1	3	0		
IA BURLINGTON	66	46	77	37	56	5	2.03	1.19	1.60	9.04	184	14.42	198	78	41	0	0	4	1		
CEDAR RAPIDS	59	41	73	31	50	2	0.73	-0.04	0.38	6.75	161	10.06	162	78	38	0	1	3	0		
DES MOINES	61	42	72	32	52	1	0.42	-0.37	0.23	5.12	120	7.89	121	84	43	0	1	4	0		

Weather Data for the Week Ending April 18, 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	AVERAGE MINIMUM	90 AND ABOVE	92 AND BELOW	TEMP. °F		PRECIP.	
																		.01 INCH OR MORE	.50 INCH OR MORE		
KY WICHITA	88	45	81	33	56	0	0.12	-0.42	0.12	4.86	128	6.21	112	78	35	0	0	1	0		
KY JACKSON	87	49	74	41	58	1	4.04	3.13	1.97	10.15	142	18.36	124	81	50	0	0	5	2		
KY LEXINGTON	86	50	72	36	57	3	0.88	0.00	0.43	5.57	83	12.14	95	80	55	0	0	4	0		
KY LOUISVILLE	88	50	74	42	59	3	2.77	1.79	-	8.09	113	16.35	122	85	48	0	0	4	1		
KY PADUCAH	88	50	77	41	59	1	2.05	0.89	1.52	6.65	84	14.46	98	90	50	0	0	3	2		
LA BATON ROUGE	77	61	83	45	69	0	0.89	-0.38	0.84	5.12	64	25.66	139	91	62	0	0	0	3		
LA LAKE CHARLES	74	61	82	47	68	0	1.61	0.87	1.32	5.38	106	20.52	158	95	67	0	0	4	1		
LA NEW ORLEANS	78	64	82	49	71	2	0.04	-1.01	0.04	6.11	80	29.66	159	95	67	0	0	1	0		
LA SHREVEPORT	76	57	85	48	66	0	0.16	-0.69	0.16	4.63	81	17.66	130	91	54	0	0	1	0		
ME CARIBOU	57	34	63	24	45	8	0.46	-0.10	0.39	4.53	117	11.22	137	77	35	0	4	2	0		
ME PORTLAND	59	37	67	27	48	5	0.65	-0.31	0.39	5.46	89	16.01	123	87	44	0	3	2	0		
MD BALTIMORE	72	45	81	32	58	5	0.77	0.05	0.63	8.13	155	20.18	177	92	41	0	1	4	1		
MA BOSTON	57	44	65	35	51	3	0.49	-0.36	0.49	5.75	98	16.05	123	81	46	0	0	1	0		
MA WORCESTER	61	40	64	32	51	6	1.73	0.82	1.46	9.35	149	17.11	127	66	41	0	1	2	1		
MI ALPENA	58	34	71	25	45	5	0.76	0.24	0.56	6.53	249	13.07	206	88	50	0	3	2	1		
MI GRAND RAPIDS	59	40	69	32	49	3	0.75	-0.05	0.48	6.28	135	11.88	150	80	49	0	1	4	0		
MI HOUGHTON LAKE	57	36	71	30	47	5	0.76	0.24	0.44	5.27	159	8.28	138	86	50	0	1	4	0		
MI LANSING	62	39	71	35	50	4	0.47	-0.19	0.28	5.31	133	10.80	158	82	48	0	0	4	0		
MI MARQUETTE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6.25	143	10.10	122	-	-	-	-	-	-		
MI MUSKEGON	57	39	72	35	48	3	0.07	-0.62	0.04	4.13	97	8.48	105	86	55	0	0	2	0		
MN DULUTH	53	34	70	29	44	5	0.23	-0.29	0.19	3.59	112	8.05	154	78	43	0	3	2	0		
MN INT'L FALLS	53	30	69	20	41	2	0.34	-0.03	0.21	1.08	58	2.78	81	88	46	0	5	3	0		
MN MINNEAPOLIS	59	42	73	33	51	4	0.17	-0.39	0.09	5.58	168	8.00	158	87	40	0	0	2	0		
MN ROCHESTER	58	40	72	30	49	4	1.25	0.61	0.62	4.89	147	7.74	160	82	45	0	1	4	1		
MN ST. CLOUD	58	39	70	29	49	5	0.34	-0.21	0.31	2.85	105	4.43	108	81	38	0	2	2	0		
MS JACKSON	73	57	80	44	65	1	2.23	0.93	1.38	8.72	95	23.75	124	94	64	0	0	5	1		
MS MERIDIAN	75	56	82	37	65	2	2.54	1.26	1.32	7.54	87	26.52	128	95	61	0	0	5	2		
MS TUPELO	71	53	82	38	62	0	1.78	0.65	1.89	8.00	74	20.18	107	91	55	0	0	4	1		
MO COLUMBIA	66	45	77	37	56	1	2.65	1.97	2.42	8.23	154	13.95	162	82	43	0	0	3	1		
MO KANSAS CITY	65	47	76	35	56	1	0.21	-0.49	0.21	4.01	95	6.07	95	76	46	0	0	1	0		
MO SAINT LOUIS	68	49	76	37	57	1	1.99	1.19	1.22	8.75	156	14.56	152	85	44	0	0	3	2		
MO SPRINGFIELD	68	44	78	36	56	0	0.20	-0.78	0.12	7.23	114	14.18	137	87	44	0	0	2	0		
MT BILLINGS	49	33	54	30	41	-5	0.64	0.24	0.52	3.08	146	3.87	105	96	50	0	1	3	1		
MT BUTTE	43	25	52	18	34	-4	0.47	0.27	0.22	2.63	212	3.93	181	92	50	0	7	4	0		
MT GLASGOW	55	31	62	25	43	-1	0.05	-0.09	0.05	1.05	142	1.48	108	77	27	0	4	1	0		
MT GREAT FALLS	49	28	59	24	38	-5	0.22	-0.09	0.12	1.54	84	2.72	82	88	41	0	7	3	0		
MT KALISPELL	51	30	57	22	41	-3	0.14	-0.11	0.09	2.89	183	4.20	100	81	34	0	4	2	0		
MT MILES CITY	55	36	57	29	45	-1	0.02	-0.29	0.02	1.35	102	1.98	85	73	32	0	2	1	0		
MT MISSOULA	50	32	58	24	41	-3	0.19	-0.02	0.13	2.39	160	4.17	118	85	39	0	3	3	0		
NE GRAND ISLAND	82	40	81	27	51	0	0.36	-0.21	0.35	6.50	199	7.37	165	80	38	0	3	2	0		
NE LINCOLN	85	39	77	25	52	0	1.12	-0.51	0.05	4.35	120	6.33	129	83	40	0	1	3	0		
NE NORFOLK	60	40	79	28	50	1	0.24	0.72	0.83	5.31	170	5.82	132	78	38	0	2	2	1		
NE NORTH PLATTE	58	34	74	20	46	-2	0.52	0.07	0.48	1.85	83	2.53	83	83	32	0	3	4	0		
NE OMAHA	64	42	73	32	53	1	0.92	0.33	-	7.19	208	8.79	177	83	41	0	1	3	0		
NE SCOTT'S BLUFF	53	32	69	25	43	-4	0.65	0.30	0.61	2.84	148	3.69	129	83	39	0	5	2	1		
NE VALENTINE	57	35	76	26	46	0	1.17	0.79	1.13	1.89	100	2.08	81	83	38	0	2	3	1		
NV ELY	42	21	53	13	32	-9	1.06	0.84	0.61	3.72	246	5.83	201	91	49	0	7	4	1		
NV LAS VEGAS	65	46	72	39	55	-8	0.02	-0.04	0.02	1.10	193	4.18	277	59	25	0	0	1	0		
NV RENO	52	28	68	21	40	-9	0.06	-0.02	0.04	3.00	323	6.69	222	85	31	0	7	3	0		
NV WINNEMUCCA	49	26	62	20	38	-8	0.14	-0.05	0.05	2.72	213	5.99	226	91	42	0	7	3	0		
NH CONCORD	65	35	68	26	50	6	0.35	-0.33	0.25	4.45	100	10.55	111	85	34	0	4	2	0		
NJ NEWARK	65	47	74	39	56	4	0.45	-0.43	0.33	8.64	140	18.34	146	79	46	0	0	2	0		
NM ALBUQUERQUE	60	37	67	29	49	-7	0.00	-0.11	0.00	2.34	289	3.14	180	54	17	0	1	0	0		
NY ALBANY	65	37	71	28	51	5	0.28	-0.41	0.20	4.46	95	10.84	118	94	45	0	3	2	0		
NY BINGHAMTON	61	38	68	32	50	5	0.22	-0.51	0.13	5.83	125	13.42	143	78	46	0	1	2	0		
NY BUFFALO	60	42	71	31	51	6	1.25	0.59	0.67	5.75	131	13.64	145	88	51	0	1	4	1		
NY ROCHESTER	65	40	71	31	52	7	0.36	-0.25	0.27	4.59	120	12.56	157	87	51	0	1	3	0		
NY SYRACUSE	65	38	73	28	52	6	0.29	-0.49	0.20	4.33	91	12.25	133	81	42	0	1	3	0		
NC ASHEVILLE	68	47	77	33	58	3	3.00	2.25	2.09	8.31	125	24.65	179	93	52	0	0	6	1		
NC CHARLOTTE	73	55	79	44	64	5	1.92	1.33	0.83	8.77	145	18.33	135	83	51	0	0	5	2		
NC GREENSBORO	68	50	77	38	59	2	2.18	1.53	1.15	8.05	150	19.32	163	85	50	0	0	5	2		
NC HATTERAS	60	53	67	47	57	-2	0.85	0.04	0.71	4.85	75	22.31	141	90	75	0	0	3	1		
NC RALEIGH	71	51	79	35	61	2	0.72	0.14	0.31	10.60	199	23.88	191	93	48	0	0	4	0		
NC WILMINGTON	73	54	83	39	64	1	1.29	0.86	0.78	6.05	109	24.58	187	91	50	0	0	4	1		
ND BISMARCK	57	32	64	21	45	2	0.22	-0.17	0.20	0.61	36	2.37	92	88	38	0	5	2	0		
ND DICKINSON	54	31	58	24	43	0	0.04	-0.40	0.04	1.89	99	4.09	168	78	35	0	4	1	0		
ND FARGO	58	35	71	26	46	3	0.12	-0.31	0.09	1.54	74	3.85	120	82	41	0	4	2	0		
ND GRAND FORKS	55	33	65	26	44	2	0.41	0.10	0.36	1.11	68	3.04	106	88	49	0	5	2	0		
ND JAMESTOWN	57	37	64	28	47	5	0.25	-0.11	0.25	0.72	41	2.72	96	85	43	0	2	1	0		
ND WILLISTON	55	31	65	20	43	0	0.00	-0.29	0.00	0.37	27	2.48	106	79	34	0	4	0	0		
OH AKRON-CANTON	63	42	71	32	52	4	2.33	1.61	1.69	6.82	132	13.03	136	83	44	0	1	4	2		
OH CINCINNATI	65	45	73	37	55	2	3.33	2.48	1.73	8.22	127	14.53	124	81	51	0	0	4	2		
OH CLEVELAND	63	44	73	37	54	6	1.94	1.21	1.48	6.91	145	12.72	142	81	45	0	0	3	1		
OH COLUMBUS	66	44	73	35	55	4	2.48	1.72	2.16	6.53	126	11.30	118	81	42	0	0	5	1		
OH DAYTON	64	44	72	38	54	3	2.43	1.63	1.69	7.68	140	13.30	136	80	48	0	0	4	2		
OH MANSFIELD	62	41	71	31	52	3	1.94	1.10	1.53	5.73	106	11.19	119	80	47	0	1	3	1		

Based on 1961-90 normals

Weather Data for the Week Ending April 18, 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	32 AND BELOW	.01 INCH OR MORE		.50 INCH OR MORE
																		TEMP, °F	PRECIP.	
OK TOLEDO	63	40	73	32	52	4	1.11	0.42	0.51	6.09	137	12.82	182	81	49	0	1	4	1	
OK YOUNGSTOWN	64	42	72	30	53	8	2.39	1.87	1.41	7.31	147	14.04	154	83	39	0	1	5	2	
OK OKLAHOMA CITY	71	48	83	40	60	-1	0.01	-0.80	0.01	6.46	155	10.87	166	78	38	0	0	1	0	
OK TULSA	72	49	84	38	60	-1	0.00	-0.84	0.00	7.96	144	11.74	130	80	38	0	0	0	0	
OR ASTORIA	54	38	57	32	46	-2	0.85	-0.42	0.42	12.20	121	38.92	141	96	64	0	1	5	0	
OR BURNS	48	26	60	24	37	-8	0.08	-0.08	0.07	2.18	155	7.40	234	90	38	0	7	2	0	
OR EUGENE	58	38	62	33	47	-3	0.08	-0.63	0.06	6.99	92	21.29	101	87	45	0	0	2	0	
OR MEDFORD	58	35	68	31	47	-5	0.30	0.03	0.19	4.37	170	12.42	172	90	38	0	2	4	0	
OR PENDLETON	55	36	62	30	45	-5	0.57	0.32	0.50	1.87	103	5.66	127	87	48	0	1	3	1	
OR PORTLAND	58	43	63	40	50	-1	0.13	-0.42	0.06	4.84	95	16.89	118	89	49	0	0	3	0	
OR SALEM	57	38	63	33	47	-2	0.07	-0.48	0.04	6.22	108	21.48	132	92	49	0	0	3	0	
PA ALLENTOWN	68	42	75	32	55	5	0.41	-0.40	0.32	7.14	134	14.41	128	90	48	0	2	4	0	
PA ERIE	62	44	74	36	53	7	1.58	0.83	0.93	6.37	129	13.01	138	82	48	0	0	3	1	
PA MIDDLETOWN	70	46	77	35	58	7	0.36	-0.39	0.33	6.73	131	16.27	149	79	37	0	0	2	0	
PA PHILADELPHIA	70	46	77	37	58	6	0.44	-0.41	0.41	5.78	103	13.27	114	86	45	0	0	2	0	
PA PITTSBURGH	65	43	72	32	54	4	0.80	0.08	0.59	4.09	77	10.28	101	83	39	0	1	4	1	
PA SCRANTON	67	42	70	30	55	6	0.33	-0.37	-	5.82	137	11.89	137	-	-	-	-	-	-	
RI WILLIAMSPORT	67	42	70	30	55	6	0.12	-0.62	0.10	6.14	120	16.67	160	83	35	0	1	2	0	
RI PROVIDENCE	60	41	68	30	51	4	1.54	0.58	1.53	9.46	145	21.86	156	82	38	0	1	2	1	
SC BEAUFORT	74	58	81	44	66	0	0.00	-0.64	0.00	10.44	178	28.70	208	98	84	0	0	0	0	
SC CHARLESTON	78	58	83	42	66	1	0.42	-0.17	0.41	9.20	154	26.95	212	94	54	0	0	2	0	
SC COLUMBIA	73	58	81	39	65	2	2.17	1.42	1.57	9.47	137	22.63	146	91	53	0	0	5	1	
SC GREENVILLE	71	52	80	39	61	2	1.98	1.08	1.32	10.25	132	23.96	147	91	53	0	0	5	1	
SD ABERDEEN	60	35	74	25	48	3	0.00	-0.45	0.00	1.96	90	3.34	102	86	36	0	4	0	0	
SD HURON	62	38	78	29	50	4	0.09	-0.39	0.09	2.81	99	3.78	96	84	38	0	2	1	0	
SD RAPID CITY	53	31	68	22	42	-3	0.14	-0.30	0.08	1.60	78	2.24	78	77	38	0	5	3	0	
SD SIOUX FALLS	58	37	74	24	47	0	0.40	-0.19	0.18	5.74	187	8.91	164	84	41	0	2	4	0	
TN BRISTOL	68	45	78	31	57	1	2.49	1.74	2.07	8.57	151	15.88	128	94	64	0	1	4	1	
TN CHATTANOOGA	72	52	79	37	62	3	3.10	2.12	0.93	11.87	136	24.43	133	97	60	0	0	5	3	
TN KNOXVILLE	70	50	77	34	60	3	4.39	3.54	2.51	12.10	184	19.43	124	92	53	0	0	4	2	
TN MEMPHIS	73	55	97	45	64	1	0.15	-1.13	0.07	8.15	93	20.42	121	84	50	1	0	3	0	
TN NASHVILLE	70	50	79	38	60	1	3.16	2.18	1.52	7.84	102	15.43	104	90	52	0	0	4	2	
TX ABILENE	77	51	89	40	64	-1	0.00	-0.43	0.00	3.19	134	5.04	110	77	28	0	0	0	0	
TX AMARILLO	66	39	78	29	52	-5	0.21	0.00	0.21	2.67	184	5.43	212	71	26	0	1	1	0	
TX AUSTIN	79	62	84	58	70	1	0.01	-0.56	0.01	3.48	109	9.41	133	85	47	0	0	1	0	
TX BEAUMONT	74	63	85	54	68	0	1.25	0.48	1.20	6.47	125	20.33	153	92	70	0	0	4	1	
TX BROWNSVILLE	82	69	93	58	75	0	0.04	-0.32	0.04	0.66	52	2.75	71	88	63	1	0	1	0	
TX CORPUS CHRISTI	80	68	88	58	74	2	0.03	-0.36	0.03	2.50	140	6.22	114	83	52	0	0	1	0	
TX DEL RIO	88	63	96	55	75	4	0.00	-0.47	0.00	1.07	60	1.46	45	73	28	4	0	0	0	
TX EL PASO	71	45	80	35	58	-5	0.00	-0.08	0.00	0.18	42	0.38	30	43	19	0	0	0	0	
TX FORT WORTH	77	57	86	47	67	2	0.04	-0.78	0.04	4.49	95	12.78	148	87	39	0	0	1	0	
TX GALVESTON	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.51	-0.05	0.50	2.28	63	12.71	139	-	-	0	0	2	1	
TX HOUSTON	75	62	87	53	68	0	0.68	-0.04	0.41	3.08	66	13.28	122	88	59	0	0	2	0	
TX LUBBOCK	71	42	84	30	57	-5	0.03	-0.17	0.02	1.36	102	3.22	135	62	23	0	1	2	0	
TX MIDLAND	79	47	89	34	63	-2	0.00	-0.18	0.00	0.42	42	1.16	58	52	13	0	0	0	0	
TX SAN ANGELO	81	53	93	43	67	0	0.00	-0.38	0.00	1.85	106	3.08	85	77	20	2	0	0	0	
TX SAN ANTONIO	80	62	84	54	71	2	0.02	-0.55	0.02	2.88	102	9.48	149	85	42	0	0	1	0	
TX VICTORIA	77	64	86	50	71	0	0.44	-0.10	0.43	2.56	92	7.56	109	83	61	0	0	2	0	
TX WACO	80	59	88	49	69	2	0.00	-0.73	0.00	2.68	66	12.83	164	88	40	0	0	0	0	
TX WICHITA FALLS	75	49	87	39	62	-1	0.01	-0.68	0.01	3.85	99	8.61	135	84	36	0	0	1	0	
UT SALT LAKE CITY	48	34	53	32	41	-9	1.44	0.94	0.43	5.19	163	11.71	211	95	59	0	2	5	0	
VT BURLINGTON	66	35	70	28	51	7	0.20	-0.45	0.16	4.98	130	11.95	164	76	33	0	2	2	0	
VA LYNCHBURG	69	46	78	33	58	2	2.98	2.28	1.89	11.05	208	24.98	223	92	43	0	0	5	2	
VA NORFOLK	69	51	81	38	60	3	0.30	-0.39	0.21	7.55	137	21.78	171	93	51	0	0	3	0	
VA RICHMOND	71	50	81	37	60	3	1.04	0.38	1.02	10.43	196	23.04	196	88	42	0	0	2	1	
VA ROANOKE	70	47	78	35	58	3	1.40	0.66	1.08	8.38	155	24.33	220	88	40	0	0	5	1	
WA WASH/DULLES	72	44	80	31	58	5	0.41	-0.30	0.37	7.84	158	19.08	182	93	44	0	1	3	0	
WA HANFORD	64	37	70	30	51	-	0.00	-0.10	0.00	0.55	82	2.94	141	64	33	0	1	0	0	
WA OLYMPIA	58	35	62	29	46	-1	0.37	-0.40	0.20	6.84	93	23.68	113	89	50	0	2	5	0	
WA QUILLAYUTE	55	35	58	32	45	-1	0.88	-0.86	0.42	9.70	59	40.82	94	96	61	0	1	4	0	
WA SEATTLE-TACOMA	56	41	59	37	49	0	0.02	-0.52	0.02	4.38	87	14.84	103	91	48	0	0	1	0	
WA SPOKANE	54	33	58	29	44	-2	0.00	-0.28	0.00	1.72	78	5.37	95	78	33	0	3	0	0	
WA YAKIMA	60	35	65	27	48	-2	0.01	-0.13	0.01	1.15	112	4.95	166	73	33	0	2	1	0	
WV BECKLEY	65	43	71	30	54	3	1.68	0.88	0.78	7.18	133	16.98	151	81	52	0	1	5	1	
WV CHARLESTON	69	45	76	32	57	2	1.06	0.30	0.55	6.77	121	14.43	125	94	48	0	1	5	1	
WV ELKINS	67	40	73	23	53	5	0.67	-0.21	0.32	5.80	95	12.61	104	88	34	0	2	4	0	
WV HUNTINGTON	67	44	75	33	56	1	1.82	1.04	0.79	5.70	100	14.31	125	91	41	0	0	5	2	
WI EAU CLAIRE	61	42	79	31	51	6	0.61	-0.05	0.23	7.11	217	11.04	222	78	39	0	1	4	0	
WI GREEN BAY	58	39	73	30	49	5	1.31	0.76	0.76	5.24	152	8.25	147	85	49	0	2	4	1	
WI MADISON	58	42	72	32	50	5	2.29	1.62	1.53	8.87	232	12.55	210	87	46	0	1	3	2	
WI MILWAUKEE	57	41	68	33	49	5	1.50	0.67	0.89	6.53	137	12.32	157	89	58	0	0	5	1	
WY CASPER	47	29	59	22	38	-5	0.49	0.13	0.39	1.57	88	2.62	89	91	52	0	5	4	0	
WY CHEYENNE	44	29	58	22	36	-6	0.57	0.26	0.21	2.09	119	2.46	97	92	51	0	6	5	0	
WY LANDER	48	30	58	22	38	-5	0.72	0.23	0.44	4.74	205	5.44	161	84	49	0	6	4	0	
WY SHERIDAN	45	31	52	24	38	-5	1.03	0.63	0.50	3.13	165	3.61	109	94	68	0	5	5	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 13 - 19, 1998

HIGHLIGHTS

Rain continued to delay spring field preparations, and muddy fields delayed the traditional beginning of the corn-planting season across most of the Corn Belt. Strong thunderstorms caused localized flooding and delayed fieldwork in parts of the Southeast. In the central and northern Plains, rainfall was considerably lighter, allowing farmers to make substantial progress in their fields while also benefiting the winter wheat crop and helping earlier planted crops to emerge. Planting and fieldwork also advanced in the Delta States. The southern Plains remained dry, and rain was needed to help germinate recently planted

crops. Most of Florida also remained in a dry pattern, but moisture reserves were adequate. Farmers in the Northeast enjoyed dry weather most of the week and made rapid progress preparing fields for planting. Weather conditions in California and the Southwest improved slightly, but wet soils and unseasonably low temperatures, especially at night, continued to cause delays in planting the cotton crop. Crop emergence and growth were slowed by cool weather and snow in the Rocky Mountain and Intermountain Plateau regions.

Winter wheat: Winter wheat headed increased to 8 percent, slightly ahead of the 5-year average. The crop was most advanced in California, but development was more than 20 percent behind normal. Development remained ahead of normal in Texas and Oklahoma, but not nearly as advanced as the wheat crop in Arkansas, where nearly half of the crop was heading, double the normal progress for this date. In Kansas, the crop was also developing ahead of normal despite a late-week freeze. Most of the Kansas crop was in the jointing stage, with none reported headed. In the northern Plains, nearly all of the crop had broken dormancy, but growth was slowed in the High Plains by cool weather. The soft red winter wheat crop continued to develop up to 2 weeks ahead of normal in parts of the eastern Corn Belt, where conditions were mostly good to excellent despite excessive moisture in some areas. Nationally, the crop condition was nearly unchanged from a week earlier, but windy, dry weather caused a modest decline in the Texas crop.

Corn: Five percent of the intended corn crop has been planted, slightly behind this time last year and the 5-year average. Frequent rains have kept fields too wet to plant in the Corn Belt. Illinois and Nebraska farmers planted 1 percent of their intended acreage, but virtually no corn was planted elsewhere in the Corn Belt. Excluding the Southern States, normal progress ranged mostly from 2 to 5 percent. Planting progress jumped 10 percent in Kansas, slightly ahead of normal for this date. Planting was also ahead of the 5-year average in Texas, where planting continued in the High Plains. Recently planted fields were emerging with good stands, but rain was needed to assist growth of young seedlings. In Missouri, planting was behind normal due to wet conditions in the northern third of the State, but rapid progress in the Bootheel partially offset the delays.

Cotton: Ten percent of the Nation's cotton crop has been planted, 4 percent behind this time last year and the 5-

year average. Progress continued slightly ahead of normal across most of the South despite heavy rains and flooding in the southern Appalachians and Tennessee Valley late in the week. Cotton planting in the Southwest fell further behind normal due to cool, wet soils. Delays were especially evident in California, where only lighter, well-drained fields were planted. In Arizona, growers made respectable planting progress, but were still considerably behind normal. Texas farmers were slightly ahead of the normal planting pace, but cool soils in some areas and dry soils in others prevented faster progress. Germination continued to be hampered by low nighttime temperatures.

Rice: Rice farmers nearly doubled their planting to 41 percent of the intended acreage, 14 percent ahead of the 5-year average. Planting was substantially ahead of normal in Texas and Louisiana, but Mississippi growers were a few days behind normal for this date.

Other crops: Sorghum planting advanced to 17 percent completed, equal to the 5-year average. Progress continued to be limited to Texas and the Mississippi Delta States. Spring wheat seeded advanced to 12 percent, twice the normal progress by this date. South Dakota farmers made excellent progress from the previous week, advancing to 38 percent seeded, well ahead of this time last year and the 5-year average. Oats seeded advanced to 20 percent of intended acres, 5 percent ahead of normal. Farmers in Iowa and Nebraska made some progress but continued to be limited by muddy fields. More than half of the intended seedings were complete in Ohio and Pennsylvania. Barley planted was at 15 percent, slightly ahead of normal. Planting was most advanced in Washington, but South Dakota farmers were also substantially ahead of normal. Peanut planting was just getting started.

Crop Progress and Condition

Week Ending April 19, 1998

Winter Wheat Percent Headed

	Apr 19 1998	Prev Week	Prev Year	5-Yr Avg
AR	47	19	39	23
CA	60	40	87	81
CO	0	0	0	0
GA	43	20	87	60
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	1	0	2	1
MT	0	0	0	0
NE	0	0	0	0
NC	20	8	19	16
OH	0	0	0	0
OK	12	3	15	11
OR	0	0	0	0
SD	0	0	0	0
TX	28	9	23	21
WA	0	0	0	0
ALL	8	3	9	7

These 19 States produced 91% of last year's winter wheat acreage.

Corn Percent Planted

	Apr 19 1998	Prev Week	Prev Year	5-Yr Avg
CO	2	1	5	5
GA	77	77	90	85
IL	1	0	11	5
IN	0	0	4	2
IA	0	0	0	2
KS	12	1	6	10
KY	27	15	24	18
MI	0	0	0	0
MN	0	0	0	2
MO	14	6	16	18
NE	1	0	0	2
NC	46	25	56	49
OH	2	1	5	3
PA	1	0	1	0
SD	0	0	0	0
TX	60	49	56	57
WI	0	0	0	0
ALL	5	3	7	6

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

Cotton Percent Planted

	Apr 19 1998	Prev Week	Prev Year	5-Yr Avg
AL	19	5	14	15
AZ	31	19	61	57
AR	0	0	2	2
CA	10	6	67	46
GA	8	5	8	8
LA	1	0	3	6
MS	2	1	3	6
MO	0	0	0	1
NM	10	6	34	24
NC	7	5	4	4
OK	0	0	0	0
SC	4	0	6	6
TN	0	0	1	2
TX	16	12	11	15
ALL	10	7	14	14

These 14 States produced 98% of last year's cotton acreage.

Sorghum Percent Planted

	Apr 19 1998	Prev Week	Prev Year	5-Yr Avg
AR	31	12	24	19
CO	0	0	0	0
IL	0	0	0	0
KS	0	0	0	0
LA	22	0	19	17
MS	23	9	37	33
MO	0	0	1	1
NE	0	0	0	0
NM	0	0	0	0
OK	2	0	2	3
SD	0	0	0	0
TX	48	45	42	50
ALL	17	15	15	17

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

Spring Wheat Percent Planted

	Apr 19 1998	Prev Week	Prev Year	5-Yr Avg
ID	41	30	49	49
MN	3	0	0	3
MT	16	5	4	9
ND	3	0	0	1
SD	38	16	1	9
ALL	12	4	3	6

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

Oats Percent Planted

	Apr 19 1998	Prev Week	Prev Year	5-Yr Avg
IA	22	5	51	49
MI	24	3	23	7
MN	16	1	3	6
NE	38	20	52	50
ND	2	0	0	1
OH	64	47	61	32
PA	50	30	46	26
SD	28	12	1	9
WI	10	4	7	9
ALL	20	8	16	15

These 9 States produced 57% of last year's oat acreage.

Rice Percent Planted

	Apr 19 1998	Prev Week	Prev Year	5-Yr Avg
AR	37	9	17	20
CA	0	0	1	0
LA	77	60	60	55
MS	35	26	51	40
TX	73	59	11	43
ALL	41	23	24	27

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

Barley Percent Planted

	Apr 19 1998	Prev Week	Prev Year	5-Yr Avg
ID	30	NA	29	34
MN	3	NA	0	2
MT	13	NA	5	12
ND	1	NA	0	1
SD	26	NA	0	6
WA	73	NA	32	43
ALL	15	NA	8	12

These 6 States produced 83% of last year's barley acreage.

Peanuts Percent Planted

	Apr 19 1998	Prev Week	Prev Year	5-Yr Avg
AL	6	NA	5	NA
FL	1	NA	3	NA
GA	2	NA	4	NA
NC	1	NA	0	NA
OK	1	NA	0	NA
SC	0	NA	11	NA
TX	0	NA	0	NA
VA	1	NA	0	NA
ALL	2	NA	2	NA

These 8 States produced 99% of last year's peanut acreage.

(Continued on back cover)

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/oc/waob/jawf>.

ALABAMA: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.8. Topsoil 9% short, 68% adequate, 23% surplus. Scattered showers slowed planting in some counties. Farmers increased momentum in land preparation for planting corn, cotton, soybeans, peanuts. Wheat heading continues to gain ground with warmer weather. Some producers started thinning peach groves in central areas. Acreage prepared 70%, 75% 1997, 69% avg. Corn planted 71%, 78% 1997, 64% avg. Wheat headed 43%, 61% 1997, 42% avg.; 1% very poor, 2% poor, 32% fair, 46% good, 19% excellent. Livestock 2% poor, 32% fair, 56% good, 10% excellent.

ARIZONA: Lack of continuous warm weather has continued to delay cotton planting. Alfalfa harvest continued throughout the State last week. Harvest activity was reported as 28% not being harvested, 14% light, 46% moderate, 12% active. Alfalfa condition was mixed, with some conditions improving, some declining. Condition was reported as 11% fair, 69% good, 20% excellent. Small grains continued to progress from emerged toward headed. As of April 19, 84% was reported as headed. This compares with 93% 1997, 91% avg. Small grain 7% fair, 40% good, 53% excellent. Range, pasture feed 7% poor, 22% fair, 44% good, 27% excellent. Growers in central, western areas continued to ship a variety of vegetables last week. Vegetables shipped by central area growers included artichokes, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cilantro, iceberg, leaf and romaine lettuce, kale, mixed greens, parsley, spinach, Swiss chard and turnips. Vegetables harvested in western areas included broccoli, cauliflower, celery, salad savoy, speciality leaf and spinach. Lettuce shipped from the western area included iceberg, leaf and romaine lettuce. Central and western citrus shipments showed considerable slowing last week. Central area groves shipped Valencias, grapefruit, while valencias, lemons were harvested in the west.

ARKANSAS: Days suitable for fieldwork 6. Topsoil 18% short, 73% adequate, 9% surplus. Main farming activities: Planting was underway for corn, sorghum, rice. Cotton fields were being hipped in preparation for planting. Pastures were being fertilized, sprayed for weeds. Some counties reported fungicide applications to wheat fields, while many counties reported scouting wheat. Tomatoes were being staked in south-central areas, being planted in northern areas. Peaches, grapes, apples were being sprayed for disease and/or pests. Livestock were in good condition statewide. Poultry houses were being cleaned, herd health maintenance continued.

CALIFORNIA: Field activities gradually resumed as drier conditions, warmer weather prevailed in most areas. Previously flooded small grain fields began to show signs of recovery from water stress. Wheat head development gained momentum in most fields. Severe lodging from earlier storms in the southern San Joaquin Valley was expected to reduce grain yields. Full extent of the damage will not be known until harvest time. Seedbed preparations for planting corn, cotton and dry beans were slowly increasing as soils dried. Cotton planting resumed on lighter, sandier soils in the central, southern San Joaquin Valley. Most of the cotton ground in other areas was still too wet for seedbed preparation. Overflow from the Tule River has flooded approximately 13,000 acres of cropland in the southern San Joaquin Valley. This will significantly reduce cotton acreage in the area. Desert area cotton fields were squaring, beginning to set bolls. Rice fields in the Sacramento Valley remained too wet for tillage, planting. Sugar beets were thinned, hand weeded in the San Joaquin Valley. Harvest of sugar beets continued in the Imperial Valley. Cut flowers were harvested in Kern County. Alfalfa, oats were cut for hay or green chopped. Normal cultural activities continued in orchards, vineyards. Herbicides, fungicides were applied in deciduous orchards. Some growers were thinning early varieties of stone fruit. Pistachio, fig trees were leafing out. Scattered hail storms occurred in the San Joaquin Valley. It was too early to assess the damage to fruit. Apples were pushing bloom. Kiwifruit were beginning to show bud swell. Navel orange picking was winding down, while Valencia orange picking gathered momentum. Grapefruit, lemons, tangerines were also harvested. Vegetable fieldwork increased as fields dried. Broccoli,

cauliflower were harvested in coastal valleys and the San Joaquin Valley. Head, leaf lettuce harvest progressed in central counties. Late-spring lettuce was weeded, thinned, sprayed to control mildew, loopers, aphids. Asparagus harvest continued. Planting of tomatoes, beans was halted because of wet conditions in the Sacramento Valley. Tomato planting increased in the southern counties. Pepper planting in the Gilroy-Hollister area was behind schedule, may be too late for some farmers. Spring melon harvest progressed in the Imperial, Coachella Valleys. Sweet corn planting has been delayed. Cabbage was harvested in the Imperial, San Joaquin Valleys. Sweet potato seedbed preparation has halted in Merced County. Spinach was harvested in Stanislaus County. Other crops harvested included potatoes, cilantro, parsley, mushrooms, carrots, onions, radishes. Pasture, rangeland conditions were excellent over most of the State, with grasses, other forage vegetation growing well. Some early annual species were maturing, drying in the lower foothills after the warmer, drier weather. Ranged cattle continued to make good weight gains on abundant, high-quality forage. Bees were still actively pollinating apple orchards; some hives were being moved into citrus groves.

COLORADO: Days suitable for fieldwork 3.7. Topsoil 3% very short, 18% short, 68% adequate, 11% surplus. Subsoil 2% very short, 15% short, 78% adequate, 5% surplus. Freeze damage to the commercial peach, apricot crops on the western slope minimal, full crops are still expected this year. Spring barley 50% seeded, 73% 1997, 46% avg.; 25% emerged, 30% 1997, 15% avg. Oats 41% seeded, 56% 1997, 40% avg.; 25% emerged, 42% 1997, 18% avg. Dry onions 76% planted, 90% 1997, 68% avg.; 2% fair, 65% good, 33% excellent. Sugar beets 53% planted, 74% 1997, 67% avg. Summer potatoes 40% planted, 80% 1997, 46% avg. Spring wheat 37% planted, 65% 1997, 28% avg.; 20% emerged, 25% 1997, 10% avg. Cows 82% calved, 83% 1997, 83% avg. Ewes 85% lambled, 80% 1997, 82% avg. Livestock in mostly fair to good condition.

DELAWARE: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.0. Subsoil moisture 67% adequate, 33% surplus. Topsoil moisture 57% adequate, 43% surplus. Winter wheat 2% very poor, 4% poor, 19% fair, 60% good, 15% excellent. Barley 2% very poor, 7% poor, 25% fair, 60% good, 6% excellent; 50% headed, 6% 1997, 5% avg. Potatoes 85% planted, 62% 1997, 48% avg. Green peas 76% planted, 68% 1997, 49% avg. Sweet corn 9% planted, 8% 1997, 7% avg. Cucumbers 11% planted, 0% 1997, 0% avg. Cantaloupes 13% planted, 4% 1997, 1% avg. Watermelons 13% planted, 4% 1997, 1% avg. Apples 75% bloomed, 23% 1997, 9% avg. Strawberries 44% bloomed, 31% 1997, 16% avg. Peaches 98% bloomed, 90% 1997, 54% avg. Hay supplies 50% short, 48% adequate, 2% surplus. Pasture feed 3% poor, 14% fair, 80% good, 3% excellent. Activities: Wet fields continued to be a problem, field preparation was still behind schedule, barley has headed way ahead of schedule.

FLORIDA: Dry, warm weather continued. Virtually all major stations recorded no measurable rain. Temperatures within a degree of normal. Daytime highs mostly 80's. Nighttime lows mostly upper 50's and mid to upper 60's, with Daytona Beach, Jacksonville, Orlando, Valparaiso recording at least one low in 40's. Topsoil moisture Panhandle, northern Peninsula mostly short, to adequate. Central, southern Peninsula topsoil moisture mostly short to adequate, scattered areas very short. Sugarcane growth normal. Sugarcane mills closed for season. Corn planting virtually complete. Wheat looks good. Field preparation for spring planted crops active. Peanuts planted 1%. Dry conditions allowed vegetable work to progress normally. Major vegetables shipped: Snap beans, blueberries, cabbage, carrots, celery, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, endive, escarole, lettuce, okra, parsley, peppers, potatoes, radishes, squash, strawberries, tomatoes. Hot, dry all citrus areas, irrigation in use. Bloom complete, little new growth except in well cared for groves. Valencia harvest very active for processing. Movement of all seedless grapefruit most active on the lower east coast. Temple, Honey tangerine harvests almost over. Caretakers cutting cover

crops, applying herbicides, spraying. Pasture feed very poor 5%, poor 15%, fair 45%, good 35%. Condition of cattle poor 15%, fair 30%, good 50%, excellent 5%. Pastures central, southern part of Peninsula could use some rain. Condition of pastures relatively unchanged. Water in flooded pastures receded, central area, grass still short. West-central: dry conditions aided brush fires. Pastures southeast on dry side.

GEORGIA: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.0. Soil moisture 4% short, 51% adequate, 45% surplus. Corn 3% poor, 23% fair, 62% good, 12% excellent; 58% emerged. Cotton 4% very poor, 8% poor, 55% fair, 31% good, 2% excellent. Hay 3% poor, 29% fair, 61% good, 7% excellent. Peanuts 1% poor, 65% fair, 32% good, 2% excellent. Sorghum 4% planted, 5% 1997, 8% avg. Tobacco 3% poor, 26% fair, 60% good, 11% excellent; 58% transplanted, 96% 1997, 87% avg. Wheat 88% jointing, 99% 1997, 98% avg.; 73% boot, 95% 1997, 86% avg. Onions 14% poor, 29% fair, 48% good, 9% excellent; 5% harvested, 29% 1997, 8% avg. Watermelons 5% poor, 31% fair, 52% good, 12% excellent; 68% planted, 90% 1997, 82% avg. Apples 1% very poor, 1% poor, 14% fair, 46% good, 38% excellent; 63% blooming, 95% 1997, 72% avg. Peaches 18% very poor, 16% poor, 26% fair, 24% good, 16% excellent. Pasture feed 4% poor, 25% fair, 62% good, 9% excellent. Heavy rains, intense winds, tornado warnings near week's end limited fieldwork. Rainfall fluctuated throughout the State, with reports of as much as 7 in. in some areas. Cooler temperatures, wet conditions slowing some crop progress. Some damage due to erosion. Slight improvement in crop conditions. Tobacco transplanting advancing, still 2 weeks behind normal. Wheat development slowly improving, about a week behind normal. Cereal leaf beetle found in northern section of the State in wheat fields. Pastures greening up. Activities included: Planting cotton, corn, peanuts. Preparing land, spraying pecans, vegetables. Fertilizing pastures.

HAWAII: Weather conditions improved. Gusty winds subsided by midweek. Frequency of rain also decreased. Farmers catching up on spray programs were hampered by previously strong winds, rain. Banana orchards in fair to good condition, depending on exposure to wind, rain. Harvesting continues in all areas. Papaya shows improved growth due to added rainfall. Plantings have stepped up. Harvesting activity is light. Fruit gap may mean lighter supplies this summer. Watermelon harvesting to increase. Moderate supplies are expected from fields on Oahu. Head cabbage in mostly good condition. Insect, disease incidences were generally light. Cucumber harvesting will increase from some areas. Tomato harvesting is heavy, with reportedly good quality.

IDAHO: Days suitable for fieldwork 3.5. Topsoil 39% surplus, 58% adequate, 3% short. Calving is 94% complete, lambing 93%. Throughout the State, unseasonably cool temperatures, rain, snow are slowing crop emergence. Hail in southwestern areas caused no major damage. Stone fruits are in bloom or post-bloom stages, while apples are yet to bloom. Hay, roughage supply 16% surplus, 71% adequate, 12% short, 1% very short. Irrigation supply 48% excellent, 52% good. Dry peas 20% planted, 13% 1997, 12% avg.; 7% emerged, 4% 1997, 4% avg. Lentils 5% planted, 3% 1997, 7% avg.; 0% emerged, 0% 1997, 2% avg. Oats 25% planted, 24% 1997, 23% avg.; 8% emerged, 7% 1997, 7% avg. Onions 85% planted, 100% 1997, 76% avg.; 23% emerged, 43% 1997, 29% avg. Potatoes 6% planted, 7% 1997, 9% avg. Barley 10% emerged, 9% 1997, 10% avg. Spring wheat 16% emerged, 15% 1997, 17% avg. Winter wheat 7% jointed. Sugar beets 62% planted, 83% 1997, 62% avg.; 12% emerged, 15% 1997, 15% avg. Activities: Planting small grains, dry peas, lentils, onions, sugar beets, shipping seed potatoes, calving, lambing, feeding livestock, branding calves, fencing, field preparation, fertilizing, weed control, irrigation, preparing machinery.

ILLINOIS: Days suitable for fieldwork 1.1. Topsoil 38% adequate, 62% surplus. Rainy conditions, wet ground continued to delay most field activities. Wheat looks good considering the excess moisture, some standing water. Alfalfa hay and pastures appear favorable as well. Activities this past week included last-minute machinery preparation, fertilizer application, moving stored grain. Oats 46% planted, 76% 1997, 58% avg. Alfalfa hay 1% very poor, 1% poor, 7% fair, 68% good, 23% excellent. Pasture feed 1% very poor, 2% poor, 10% fair, 63% good, 24% excellent.

INDIANA: Days suitable for fieldwork 1.3. Topsoil 32% adequate, 68% surplus. Subsoil 2% short, 50% adequate, 48% surplus. Corn planting began, however, less than 1% of the crop is in the ground. Farmers had to contend with heavy rains again, with some areas reporting as much as 7

inches of rainfall. Winter wheat 70% jointed, 25% 1997, 19% avg. Wheat crop is still about 2 weeks ahead of normal maturity. Range, pasture feed 2% poor, 18% fair, 57% good, 23% excellent. Activities: Spreading fertilizer, applying burn-down herbicide, field preparation, caring for livestock.

IOWA: Days suitable for fieldwork 1.3. Little fieldwork accomplished this week due to wet soil, frequent rain. Topsoil adequate 36%, surplus 64%. Subsoil short 2%, adequate 48%, surplus 50%. Saturated fields have led to soil erosion in south-central, southeastern areas. The 1998 row crops primary seedbed preparation has been completed (includes fall tillage) 65%, 48% 1997, 52% avg.; fertilizer application completed (includes fall application) 59%, 55% 1997, 56% avg. Oats planted 22%, 51% 1997, 49% avg. Winter wheat 1% very poor, 7% poor, 36% fair, 46% good, 10% excellent. Pasture feed 1% very poor, 10% poor, 29% fair, 48% good, 12% excellent. Muddy feedlots continue to be stressful for cattle; above-normal calf losses; numerous reports of scours.

KANSAS: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.0. Topsoil 1% short, 82% adequate, 17% surplus. Subsoil 3% short, 80% adequate, 17% surplus. Wheat jointing 68%, 58% 1997, 50% avg. Wheat wind damage 1% moderate, 8% light, 91% none. Wheat freeze damage 5% moderate, 6% light, 89% none. Oats seeded 87%, 100% 1997, 91% avg. Temperatures dipped below thirty-two degrees Fahrenheit Friday night. The extent of the damage to wheat is unknown at this time. Insect, disease infestations were reported as minimal. Major field activities were seedbed preparation, spraying fields, applying fertilizer, planting corn. Pasture feed 4% poor, 18% fair, 65% good and 13% excellent. Major livestock activities included: Calving, lambing, moving cattle to summer pasture. The wind has helped to improve feedlot conditions. Burning of pastures continues in the eastern half of the State.

KENTUCKY: Days suitable for fieldwork 2.7. Topsoil 1% short, 42% adequate, 57% surplus. Subsoil 2% short, 62% adequate, 36% surplus. Pasture feed 3% poor, 28% fair, 51% good, 18% excellent. Cooler temperatures returned, combined with above-average rainfall throughout the State. Tornadoes, hail caused some property damage, resulted in a few fatalities. About 95% of tobacco beds sown 94% 1997, 90% avg. Corn planting slowed by the wet field conditions. Winter wheat 3% very poor, 16% poor, 33% fair, 41% good, 7% excellent. Average height for alfalfa was 8 inches. Barley 21% poor, 54% fair, 25% good. Damage to peaches not as bad as originally thought. Cattle reported to be in good shape. Pasture feed 3% poor, 28% fair, 51% good, 18% excellent.

LOUISIANA: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.8. Soil moisture 5% very short, 57% short, 38% adequate. Corn 4% poor, 31% fair, 65% good; 100% planted, 97% 1997, 93% avg.; 95% emerged, 90% 1997, 79% avg. Dry weather aided completion of planting. Cotton 0% emerged, 0% 1997, 1% avg. Hay 4% first cutting, 5% 1997, 3% avg. Rice 60% emerged, 40% 1997, 38% avg. Planting made excellent progress. Sorghum 8% emerged, 11% 1997, 7% avg. Spring plowing 88% plowing, 66% 1997, 73% avg. Sugarcane 4% poor, 16% fair, 62% good, 18% excellent. Fertilization active in most areas. Sweet potatoes 1% planted, 1% 1997, 1% avg. Wheat 1% very poor, 7% poor, 36% fair, 53% good, 3% excellent; 98% headed, 86% 1997, 74% avg., 14% turning color, 5% 1997, 6% avg. Livestock 5% poor, 34% fair, 55% good, 6% excellent. Vegetables 8% poor, 33% fair, 54% good, 5% excellent. Pasture feed 5% poor, 34% fair, 56% good, 5% excellent.

MARYLAND: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.8. Subsoil 77% adequate, 23% surplus. Topsoil 59% adequate, 41% surplus. Winter wheat 2% very poor, 5% poor, 21% fair, 48% good, 24% excellent; 12% headed, 0% 1997, 0% avg. Barley 3% very poor, 5% poor, 15% fair, 56% good, 21% excellent; 43% headed, 4% 1997, 4% avg. Rye 2% poor, 14% fair, 59% good, 25% excellent; 33% headed, 9% 1997, 3% avg. Field corn 14% planted, 8% 1997, 6% avg. Sweet corn 13% planted, 16% 1997, 11% avg. Potatoes 100% planted, 94% 1997, 63% avg. Green peas 44% planted, 68% 1997, 56% avg. Tomatoes 13% planted, 5% 1997, 4% avg. Cantaloupes 8% planted, 1% 1997, 1% avg. Watermelons 6% planted, 0% 1997, 1% avg. Snap beans 5% planted, 4% 1997, 3% avg. Peaches 92% bloomed, 82% 1997, 36% avg. Apples 69% bloomed, 35% 1997, 12% avg. Strawberries 35% bloomed, 33% 1997, 21% avg. Pasture feed 2% poor, 14% fair, 64% good, 20% excellent. Hay supplies 21% very short, 37% short, 42% adequate. Activities: Corn planting for some counties began last week, small grains were treated for aphids.

MICHIGAN: Days suitable for fieldwork 3.0. Continued wet soil and rain later in the week kept farmers out of the fields in many areas of the State. Precipitation was in the form of snow in the Upper Peninsula where it halted barley planting. In drier areas, sugar beets, oats were planted. Other activities included spreading fertilizer, chisel plowing, discing, spraying fruit trees. Sweet cherries just started to bloom in the southeast.

MINNESOTA: Days suitable for fieldwork 2.7. Topsoil 1% very short, 3% short, 70% adequate, 26% surplus. Relatively warm, dry conditions aided access to fields. Pastures, hayfields greening up. Corn 10% ground prepared, 2% 1997, 4% avg. Soybeans 3% ground prepared, 1% 1997, 1% avg. Spring wheat 3% planted, 0% 1997, 3% avg. Oats 16% planted, 3% 1997, 6% avg. Barley 3% planted, 0% 1997, 2% avg. Sugar beets 3% planted, 0% 1997, 1% avg. Green peas 10% planted, 2% 1997, 3% avg.

MISSISSIPPI: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.5. Soil moisture 1% very short, 8% short, 65% adequate, 26% surplus. Corn 72% planted, 87% 1997, 71% avg.; 50% emerged, 58% 1997, 47% avg.; 2% poor, 23% fair, 59% good, 16% excellent. Rice 35% planted, 51% 1997, 40% avg. Soybeans 11% planted, 14% 1997, 9% avg. Wheat 86% jointed, 100% 1997, 94% avg.; 32% heading, 69% 1997, 43% avg.; 3% very poor, 7% poor, 39% fair, 48% good, 3% excellent. Watermelons 23% planted, 66% 1997, 49% avg.; 3% poor, 31% fair, 60% good, 6% excellent. Blueberries 4% very poor, 23% poor, 35% fair, 37% good, 1% excellent. Cattle 1% very poor, 6% poor, 24% fair, 56% good, 13% excellent. Pasture feed 2% very poor, 5% poor, 27% fair, 55% good, 11% excellent. Activities: Main farming activities for the week were planting corn, rice, soybeans. Farmers continued to prepare land, apply fertilizers as weather permitted.

MISSOURI: Days suitable for fieldwork 2.3. Topsoil 1% short, 46% adequate, 53% surplus. Saturated field conditions limited most northern area farmers from performing any significant field operations during the past week. Operators across the southern third of the State were able to make significant corn planting progress. Corn planting in the Bootheel is most advanced at 69%. Reporters in all districts except the southeast rated wheat predominately in good condition. Wheat in the Bootheel ranges mostly from poor to good condition. Oats sown 43%, 79% 1997, 70% avg. Ground tilled for spring crops 51%, 61% 1997, 62% avg. Precipitation for the past week averaged 1.29 in. State, ranging from 0.22 in. southwest district to 2.08 in. east-central district. Pasture feed 5% poor, 15% fair, 65% good, 15% excellent.

MONTANA: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.8. Topsoil 4% very short, 17% short, 73% adequate, 6% surplus. Subsoil 8% very short, 27% short, 62% adequate, 3% surplus. Fieldwork in progress was rated 30% none, 46% just started, 24% well underway. Winter wheat emergence 3% still dormant, 31% greening, 66% green and growing. Winter wheat wind damage 1% heavy, 6% moderate, 50% light, 43% none. Freeze, drought damage to winter wheat 4% heavy, 5% moderate, 37% light, 54% none. Oats planted 8%, 2% 1997, 7% avg. Sugar beets planted 31%, 5% 1997, 21% avg. Calving is 84% complete, lambing is 70% complete. Supplemental feeding continues, with 92% of cattle and calves, 84% of sheep and lambs receiving supplemental feeding.

NEBRASKA: Day suitable for fieldwork 2.9. Topsoil 6% short, 72% adequate, 22% surplus. Subsoil 6% short, 82% adequate, 12% surplus. Wet, cool weather conditions once again delayed spring fieldwork activities last week. Extended wet conditions delayed spring tillage activities 1 to 2 weeks in parts of eastern Nebraska. Moisture supplies limited in southwestern counties, rain is needed to encourage plant growth. Winter wheat condition 1% very poor, 5% poor, 21% fair, 60% good, 13% excellent; 4% jointed, 1% 1997, 4% avg.; army cutworms Panhandle, southwestern, central counties. Corn 1%, 0% 1997, 25% avg. Oats 38% seeded, 52% 1997, 50% avg. Alfalfa army cutworms in many portions of the State. Pasture feed 3% poor, 23% fair, 65% good, 9% excellent. Calving 88% complete; calf losses mostly average; however, eastern counties indicated above-normal calf losses due to wet, cold conditions. Activities: Limited oats seeding, spring tillage, fertilizer application, equipment preparation, grain marketing, tax, AG census paperwork, livestock care.

NEVADA: Wet weather gave way to the first signs of spring toward the weekend. Heavy snowpack in the Sierra remained. Rains through the early part of the week continued to hamper field activities. Wet weather

encouraged excessive weed growth. Spring grain planting resumed at the end of week in central valleys, was beginning in the north. Pastures were being dragged, fertilizer applied. Calving, lambing were underway with some livestock being moved to spring pasture. Branding, shearing were also underway. Main farm, ranch activities: Field preparation, fertilizing, planting, working livestock, shearing.

NEW ENGLAND: Most areas received approximately 1/2 inch of rain. Rhode Island received at least 1.5 inches. Above-average temperatures over the past week. Fields continue to dry out, with the arrival of warm temperatures. Farmers continue to prepare drier ground for planting. Greenhouse workers preparing vegetable plants for transplant. Pastures greening up. Major farm activities: Plowing, fertilizing fields; caring for livestock

NEW JERSEY: Days suitable for fieldwork 6. Farmers are active planting, plowing, discing, spreading fertilizer, implementing pest control measures, seeding and transplanting. Farmers are planting cabbage, snap beans, spinach, sweet corn, peas, endive, escarole, lettuce. Harvesting of asparagus, dandelion, kale, parsley, cilantro, spinach, mint, leeks occurring. Peaches are in the petal fall stage, with some entering the shuck split stage. Some pruning of apple, peach trees reported. Apples are entering the petal fall stage in the south. Blueberries, strawberries are in bloom. Pasture feeds good condition.

NEW MEXICO: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.2. Topsoil 3% very short 27% short 69% adequate, 1% surplus. Unseasonably cool weather continued throughout State last week, with temperatures 8 degrees below normal statewide. Winter wheat 1% poor, 28 fair, 68% good, 3% excellent; 0% headed. Cotton planting remained behind schedule, last week 10% was in the ground, 34% 1997, 24% avg.; 15% fair, 85% good. Farmers began to plant corn last week; 13% planted, 19% 1997; 32% fair, 68% good. Alfalfa suffered some minor frost damage last week; 4% poor, 25% fair, 58% good, 13% excellent. Chile planting was almost completed; 94% planted, 92% 1997; 3% fair, 25% fair, 72% good. Lettuce 10% fair, 60% good, 30% excellent. Onions 5% fair, 75% good, 20% excellent. Cattle, sheep were mostly in good condition. Pasture, range feed 1% very poor, 8% poor, 32% fair, 50% good, 9% excellent.

NEW YORK: Mild weather permitted outside activities to rapidly progress until rain at week's end halted work. Ideal spring conditions were conducive to early planting. Apple trees in southern areas bloomed. Spring pruning was still underway in orchards in northern regions. Grape vines were being tied in vineyards across the State. Oat seeding started. Pastures greened as warm weather and spring showers promoted growth. Spring plowing made good progress. Producers in the northeast were accessing ice damage to hay fields. Some fields may require replanting. Debris was still being removed from fields and fence repairs were underway.

NORTH CAROLINA: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.3. Continued rainfall during the week slowed farmers, made some fields too wet to work. Soil moisture 1% short, 66% adequate, 33% surplus. Activities included: Planting corn, cotton, peanuts, soybeans; transplanting flue-cured tobacco, cabbage; preparing, tending tobacco beds; tending livestock; repairing equipment.

NORTH DAKOTA: Seasonable temperatures, dry conditions allowed producers to make excellent progress on small grain planting. Drier weather during the week aided conditions for newborn calves, isolated reports of scours still remained a concern. Starting date for fieldwork was April 18, compares with 1997 start of May 3, (1993-1997) average of April 26. Statewide, operators were busy applying anhydrous, spreading granular herbicides, performing tillage operations, picking rocks. Producers were also busy lining up spring supplies, cleaning grain, preparing equipment for this year's planting season. Favorable weather conditions allowed producers to actively plant in most areas of the State. Sugar beets 3% planted, 2% 1997, 3% avg. Most livestock were in good condition, with calving, lambing seasons near completion. Calving was 79% complete, while lambing 78% complete. Cattle condition: 15% fair, 77% good, 8% excellent; calves: 1% poor, 18% fair, 74% good, 7% excellent; sheep: 1% poor, 9% fair, 79% good, 11% excellent; lambs: 2% poor, 11% fair, 78% good, 9% excellent. Supplemental feeds were fed to 93% of the sheep, cattle. Hay, roughage supplies were 1% very short, 5% short, 89% adequate, 5% surplus. Grain,

concentrates were 3% short, 94% adequate, 3% surplus. Pastures were still 63% dormant, but 87% were open for grazing.

OHIO: Days suitable for fieldwork 2.0. Topsoil 1% short, 30% adequate, 69% surplus. Corn planted behind last year, 5-year avg. Soybeans planted ahead of 1997 and avg. Winter wheat 46% jointed, 12% 1997, 7% avg. Oats planted 3 points ahead of 1997, 32 points above avg.; 26% emerged, 14% 1997, 8% avg. Potatoes 16% planted, 7% 1997, 5% avg. Tobacco beds 89% seeded, 53% plants up. Apples 85% green tip; peaches 95% green tip, 80% full bloom. Winter wheat 2% poor, 13% fair, 51% good, 34% excellent. Hay 2% poor, 14% fair, 54% good, 30% excellent. Pasture feed 2% poor, 15% fair, 51% good, 32% excellent. Apples 1% poor, 20% fair, 60% good, 19% excellent. Peaches 3% poor, 19% fair, 63% good, 15% excellent. Activities: Applying fertilizer, anhydrous ammonia, top dressing winter wheat, spreading lime, hauling manure; applying pre-emergence herbicides, burn down applications; pruning fruit trees; spraying fruit trees; plowing, discing, chiseling; plowing tobacco patches, seeding tobacco beds; seeding alfalfa, pastures; repairing, preparing machinery for planting; shearing sheep; repairing, building new fences; fixing buildings; repairing tile; moving cattle onto pastures; buying seed; selling last year's grain.

OKLAHOMA: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.8. Topsoil 1% very short, 15% short, 82% adequate, 2% surplus. Subsoil 6% short, 93% adequate, 1% surplus. Warm, sunny weather encouraged wheat growth, row crop seedbed preparation. Wheat 90% jointing, 96% 1997, 84% avg. Oats 66% jointing, 61% 1997, 42% avg.; 15% heading, 12% 1997, 5% avg. Corn 82% seedbed prepared, 96% 1997, 92% avg.; 17% planted, 19% 1997, 27% avg.; 5% up-to-stand, 8% 1997, 11% avg. Sorghum 26% seedbed prepared, 22% 1997, 30% avg. Soybeans 46% seedbed prepared, 48% 1997, 44% avg.; 5% planted, 7% 1997, 10% avg. Peanuts 59% seedbed prepared, 44% 1997, 52% avg. Cotton 74% seedbed prepared, 66% 1997, 64% avg. Alfalfa hay 8% 1st cutting, 2% 1997, 5% avg. Other hay 1% 1st cutting, 0% 1997, 5% avg. Livestock 2% poor, 15% fair, 79% good, 4% excellent. Feeder steer prices down 50 cents per cwt.

OREGON: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.1. Topsoil 2% short, 76% adequate, 22% surplus. Subsoil 3% short, 82% adequate, 15% surplus. Winter wheat 9% fair, 59% good, 32% excellent. Range, pasture feed 11% fair, 74% good, 15% excellent. Barley planted 73%, 76% 1997, 57% avg. Spring wheat planted 72%. Activities: Western grain, grass seed, hay fields being fertilized, sprayed. Some spring crops seeded during sunny weather. Klamath Basin, Malheur Counties' growers planting sugar beets, seeding small grains. Cold weather in Mid-Columbia area slowed plant growth, may have damaged some plant leaf tissue. Ground preparation for field corn started Northeast, some early fields planted. Nurseries, greenhouses planting, rotating containers, performing other spring activities. Heavy shipments of large trees, shrubs, balled, burlapped, other container materials continued. South coast Easter lily growers completed long delayed fieldwork. Christmas tree planting continued. Western growers showed many cool weather vegetables planted. North Willamette Valley rhubarb harvest continued. Some beans, cucumbers planted under crop covers on sandy soils. Northwest asparagus harvest started. Potatoes, onions being planted in Malheur County, field preparation underway in Klamath Basin. Willamette Valley first blossom on strawberries, canberries greening up, buds showing. Apples, sweet cherries, pears blooming. Grapes budding, nearing bloom stage. Warmer weather brought on pollination. Spraying continued on fruit, hazelnuts. Hazelnut growth underway. Rogue River Valley fruit trees were blooming, berries starting to green. Lower Hood River Valley Apples in pink stage, pears blooming. Upper Hood River Valley pears approaching pink stage. Apples in Milton-Freewater blossoming. Livestock condition fair to excellent. Feeding continued in Klamath Basin, Rogue River Valley, other mountain areas. Most cattle on valley pastures southern Oregon, limited turn out to irrigated pastures occurred in Klamath Basin. Cool, wet weather delayed cattle turn out to summer ranges in Malheur county, remainder of east. Spring calving, lambing ongoing in Rogue River Valley. Western valleys lighter animals grazing, generally pastures too wet. Grass growth about normal most areas waiting for warmer, sunnier conditions for faster growth.

PENNSYLVANIA: Days suitable for fieldwork 3.9. Fair week for fieldwork. Soil moisture 2% very short, 4% short, 72% adequate, 22% surplus. Plowing 50% complete, 50% 1997, 28% avg. Potatoes planted 4% complete, 8% 1997, 6% avg. Oat 2% poor, 18% fair, 75% good, 5% excellent. Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand 4% poor, 13% fair, 63% good, 20% excellent. Timothy

clover stand 2% very poor, 6% poor, 14% fair, 65% good, 13% excellent. Peaches 82% pink, 46% 1997, 23% avg. 74% full bloom or past, 22% 1997, 5% avg. Cherries 88% pink, 41% 1997, 19% avg. 75% full bloom or past, 21% 1997, 6% avg. Apples 55% pink, 36% 1997, 13% avg. 27% full bloom or past, 9% 1997, 2% avg. Activities: Planting small grains; spreading lime; plowing fields; discing and chopping corn stalks; machinery maintenance; hauling manure; caring for livestock.

SOUTH CAROLINA: Soil moisture 42% adequate, 58% surplus. Apple 17% bloom, 33% 1997; 100% good. Barley 25% headed, 63% 1997, 13% avg.; 1% poor, 24% fair, 40% good, 35% excellent. Cantaloupe 69% planted, 92% 1997, 68% avg.; 15% poor, 21% fair, 61% good, 3% excellent. Corn 79% planted, 95% 1997, 84% avg.; 66% emerged; 2% very poor, 5% poor, 17% fair, 71% good, 5% excellent. Cotton 4% planted, 6% 1997, 6% avg.; 1% poor, 40% fair, 59% good. Cucumbers 60% planted, 91% 1997, 66% avg.; 100% fair. Hay 16% harvested, 35% 1997, 18% avg.; 25% fair, 75% good. Oats 31% headed, 83% 1997, 49% avg.; 1% very poor, 2% poor, 27% fair, 62% good, 8% excellent. Peaches 20% fair, 80% good. Rye 38% headed, 83% 1997, 25% avg.; 2% turned color, 12% 1997, 5% avg.; 1% very poor, 4% poor, 31% fair, 58% good, 6% excellent. Snapbeans 57% planted, 74% 1997, 53% avg.; 20% fair, 80% good. Sorghum 12% planted, 14% 1997, 5% avg.; 100% fair. Tobacco 39% transplanted, 75% 1997, 54% avg.; 5% poor, 20% fair, 73% good, 2% excellent. Watermelons 77% planted, 96% 1997, 75% avg.; 2% very poor, 1% poor, 47% fair, 43% good, 7% excellent. Winter wheat 37% headed, 78% 1997, 42% avg.; 1% very poor, 11% poor, 37% fair, 47% good, 4% excellent.

SOUTH DAKOTA: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.0. Topsoil 7% short, 74% adequate, 19% surplus. Subsoil 3% short, 74% adequate, 23% surplus. Fieldwork started April 14, 1998. Major activities include: Seeding small grains, calving, lambing, general maintenance. Small grain seeding is well ahead of the five year average. However, 4 out of the last 5 years have been late. Winter wheat 1% poor, 9% fair, 58% good, 32% excellent. Statewide 96% winter wheat acreage has broken dormancy, along with 98% winter rye. Winter wheat freeze damage 23% light, 4% moderate, winter rye freeze damage 34% light, 5% moderate to heavy. Livestock 7% fair, 67% good, 26% excellent. Lambing 70% complete compared to 66% 1997, calving 66% complete compared to 60% 1997. Calf deaths 30% below normal, 68% normal, 2% above normal. Lamb deaths 33% below normal, 66% normal, 1% above normal. Producers have moved 21% of the cattle to pasture. Feed supplies 1% very short, 3% short, 83% adequate, 13% surplus. Stock water supplies 1% short, 84% adequate, 15% surplus. Range, pasture feed 3% poor, 15% fair, 63% good, 19% excellent.

TENNESSEE: By week's end, topsoil moisture levels 40% adequate, 60% surplus. Subsoil moisture 59% adequate, 41% surplus. Rain, hazardous weather conditions struck the State during mid to late last week. Prior to 16th, producers pushed ahead continuing corn planting, fertilizer, pesticide applications on wheat, hay, pastures. Tobacco producers were able to stay on pace with seeding beds. Cotton planting started in a few areas, but less than 1% of 1998's intentions. Some counties experienced wind damage, missing livestock and flash flooding due to adverse weather conditions. Overall, producers were able to stay on pace and in some cases exceed the five-year average with their various field activities.

TEXAS: Warm, windy conditions continued dry the state, but late week cool front brought cooler temperatures. Temperatures dropped into low thirties Plains with some snow reported, cooled considerably other areas. Rainfall limited, with greatest amounts reported East, Southeast areas over weekend. Land preparation, planting operations active for most week in Plains. Cultivation, chemical applications occurred most other areas. Windy conditions caused some problems. Livestock conditions remained good most areas. Ranges, pastures continued show good progress despite drying conditions.

Crops: Corn planting activity active until late week Plains. Early planted fields Plains emerging to good stands. Fields most other areas continued show good progress, however good rain needed. Cutworms have caused problems some fields. Cultivation, chemicals applied during week some fields. Statewide corn condition rated 78% normal, 75% 1997; 46% emerged. Cotton land preparations mostly complete Plains. Soil temperatures remained too cool for planting, but should begin soon as warmer temperatures return. Producers North Central areas need planting moisture. Fields emerging slowly some fields Blacklands. Producers cultivating fields in Coastal Bend, along Upper Coast. Grain Sorghum

planting continued North Central areas most week. Rain needed on these fields to insure good emergence. Most planting been completed Blacklands with fields emerging to good stands. Rain needed in this area also. Cultivating activity occurred Central, Coastal Bend, along Upper Coast. Aphids causing problems with some spraying underway. Statewide grain sorghum 77% normal, 74% 1997. Peanuts: Land preparations winding down most areas with planting expected begin soon. Rice good growth reported fields along Upper Coast. Planting, flushing activity continued. Rice 81% of normal; 42% emerged, 2% 1997, 22% avg. Soybeans additional rainfall needed along Upper Coast for planting to continue. Early planted fields showed good growth for week. Planting continued Blacklands with early fields emerging good stands. 40% planted, 15% 1997, 15% avg. Small grains irrigation activity continued Plains. Fields rapidly heading out North Central fields. Some fields cut for hay, silage. Fields need rain fill heads Central. Fields turning color South, Coastal Bend.

Commercial Vegetables: Rio Grande Valley, irrigation activity remained steady due prolonged dry conditions. Harvest operations moved ahead without delay. San Antonio- Winter Garden, crops made good progress for week. East, planting activity continued during week without much delay. High Plains, onions, potatoes made good progress. Trans Pecos, cantaloups continued make good progress. High winds caused some problems. Pecan trees continued make good progress all areas. The first zinc sprays applied some areas during week. Nut set begun South Texas while trees Central, parts of Blacklands blooming. Peaches in Hill Country crop continued make good progress, some fruit thinning underway. Some foliar sprays completed during week.

Range and Livestock: Ranges, pastures continued green up despite drying conditions many areas. Some producers begun cut hay. Livestock conditions remained good most areas. Producers able put out fertilizers some pastures.

UTAH: Days suitable for fieldwork 2. Topsoil 67% adequate, 33% surplus. Subsoil 1% short, 71% adequate, 28% surplus. Winter wheat 18% fair, 61% good, 21% excellent. Fall barley 34% fair, 57% good, 9% excellent. Pasture feed, range 9% poor, 19% fair, 64% good, 8% excellent. Spring wheat: planted 85%, 73% 1997, 70% avg.; emerged 38%, 37% 1997, 36% avg. Barley planted 75%, 78% 1997, 70% avg.; emerged 35%, 36% 1997, 36% avg. Oats planted 26%, 35% 1997, 36% avg.; emerged 15%, 10% 1997, 17% avg. Apples full bloom or past 4%, 3% 1997. Peaches full bloom or past 50%, 51% 1997. Pears full bloom or past 18%, 15% 1997. Sweet cherries full bloom or past 30%, 20% 1997. Cows calved 80%, 79% 1997, 81% avg. Ewes lambled on farm 79%, 80% 1997, 83% avg.; on range 49%, 39% 1997, 52% avg. Sheep sheared on farm 79%, 75% 1997, 78% avg.; on range 60%, 56% 1997, 60% avg. Major farm, ranch activities were: Spring planting, shearing sheep, lambing, trying to stay dry.

VIRGINIA: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.0, limited due to wet conditions. Topsoil 50% adequate, 50% surplus. Subsoil 64% adequate, 36% surplus. Corn 20% planted, 18% 1997, 16% avg. Cotton 2% planted, 5% avg. Tobacco greenhouses 6% fair, 55% good, 39% excellent; plant beds 8% poor, 23% fair, 56% good, 13% excellent. Winter wheat 6% poor, 27% fair, 53% good, 14% excellent. Barley 3% poor, 23% fair, 58% good, 16% excellent. Summer potatoes 98% planted, 98% 1997, 86% avg. Apples 6% fair, 70% good, 24% excellent. Peaches 25% fair, 73% good, 2% excellent. Pasture feed 2% poor, 13% fair, 68% good, 17% excellent. Alfalfa 1% poor, 9% fair, 64% good, 26% excellent. Other hay 1% poor, 12% fair, 68% good, 19% excellent. Rainfall again hampered planting, other field activities last week. Some producers continue to make great progress in getting their corn planted despite saturated field conditions for about half the State. Some producers were able to plant cotton in drier localities. Barley, rye silage harvest is in full swing. Producers are scouting, treating small grains for cereal leaf beetles as well as powdery mildew. Producers are expecting a good hay crop this year as the mild winter, sufficient rainfall has allowed rapid growth. Alfalfa is in mostly good to excellent condition, however, some producers are finding alfalfa weevils. Other producers are concerned with inadequate weed control due to impassible fields during application.

Pastures were mostly in good to excellent condition as most livestock are on full grazing. Apples were in heavy bloom, mostly good to excellent condition despite the mid-March frost. Other farming activities included land preparation for vegetables, tobacco, bedding sweet potatoes, planting tomatoes.

WASHINGTON: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.6. Topsoil 8% short; 71% adequate, 21% surplus. Subsoil 15% short, 80% adequate, 5% surplus. Field activity increased as drier conditions prevailed across the State. Winter wheat dryland 10% fair, 75% good, 15% excellent; irrigated 15% good, 85% excellent. Spring wheat 75% planted, 55% 1997, 54% avg.; 45% emerged, 25% 1997, 27% avg. Spring wheat dryland 20% fair, 80% good; irrigated 10% good, 90% excellent. Barley 73% planted, 32% 1997, 43% avg.; 25% emerged, 17% 1997, 23% avg. Planting of spring cereal grains continued to progress about one week ahead of normal with emergence slowed by cool temperatures. Potatoes 36% planted, 45% 1997, 41% avg.; 13% emerged, 7% 1997, 8% avg. Hay, other roughage supplies, 5% short, 75% adequate, 20% surplus. Range, pasture feed 10% fair, 80% good, 10% excellent. Dairy farmers made the first cutting of green chop for the year. Stone fruits were in bloom with some early apples approaching the blossom stage. Cool temperatures caused frost, pollination problems in some fruit growing areas. Carrots, onions, sweet corn planting progressed, vegetable planting was delayed in some areas due to cool temperatures. Asparagus harvest continued.

WEST VIRGINIA: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.0. Topsoil 1% short, 70% adequate, 29% surplus. Spring field activities, crop planting were hindered by rainy weather conditions across the State. Wheat 4% fair, 56% good, 40% excellent. Apples 90% fair, 5% good, 5% excellent. Peaches 100% fair. Hay 8% poor, 29% fair, 57% good, 6% excellent. Intended acreage prepared for spring planting 50%, 60% 1997, 45% avg. Corn planted 5%, 5% 1997, 7% avg. Oats planted 23%, 52% 1997, 41% avg.; emerged 13%, 16% 1997, 18% avg. Tobacco beds seeded 74%, 90% 1997, 83% avg.; emerged 32%, 47% 1997, 49% avg. Cattle 1% poor, 18% fair, 73% good, 8% excellent; 86% calved. Sheep 31% fair, 65% good, 4% excellent; 86% lambled. Hay, roughage supplies 5% very short, 9% short, 83% adequate, 3% surplus. Feed grain supplies 3% very short, 3% short, 94% adequate. Activities: Field preparation, planting corn; oats, seeding tobacco beds; calving, lambing, general maintenance.

WISCONSIN: Days suitable for fieldwork 3.0. Soil moisture 1% short, 61% adequate, 38% surplus. Spring tillage 12% complete, 9% 1997, 9% avg. Wet conditions continued to affect fieldwork throughout most of State last week, and reporters in the west central, central, east central districts were surprised by as much as 7 inches of wet snow. Observers continued to be optimistic about the condition of winter wheat, hay after the winter, although a reporter in Pepin County observed some severe winter wheat damage in his area. Winter wheat freeze damage 71% none, 24% light, 5% moderate. Wood County, cranberry vines were being cut for new plantings, more production is expected in 1998. Maple syrup production in Lincoln 50% of normal. Pasture feed 2% very poor, 10% poor, 17% fair, 58% good, 13% excellent.

WYOMING: Days suitable for fieldwork 2.8. Topsoil 80% adequate, 20% surplus. Winter wheat 9% fair, 53% good, 38% excellent. Barley seeded 59%, 72% 1997, 65% avg. Oats seeded 16%, 21% 1997, 26% avg. Spring wheat seeded 36%, 32% 1997, 27% avg. Sugar beets planted 13%, 43% 1997, 42% avg. Range, pasture feed 1% poor, 25% fair, 60% good, 14% excellent. Livestock 10% fair, 74% good, 16% excellent. Spring calves born 81%, 83% 1997, 87% avg. Farm flock ewes lambled 90%, 89% 1997, 88% avg. Farm flock sheep shorn 88%, 83% 1997, 87% avg. Range flock ewes lambled 28%, 18% 1997, 21% avg. Range flock sheep shorn 45%, 47% 1997, 52% avg. Calf losses 28% light, 68% normal, 4% heavy. Lamb losses 10% light, 87% normal, 3% heavy. Spring storms prevented farmers from getting much fieldwork done, caused some locally heavy calf, lamb losses for ranchers. Some early signs of grasshoppers, Mormon crickets have been reported.

International Weather and Crop Summary

April 12 - 18, 1998

HIGHLIGHTS

FSU-WESTERN: Scattered showers in Ukraine and southern Russia caused only brief delays in spring grain planting, while wet, cold weather farther north in central Russia prevented fieldwork.

EUROPE: Cold, wet weather in the western two-thirds of Europe slowed winter grain development and summer crop planting.

NORTHWESTERN AFRICA: Insufficient moisture in winter grain areas of southern Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia caused further declines in crop conditions.

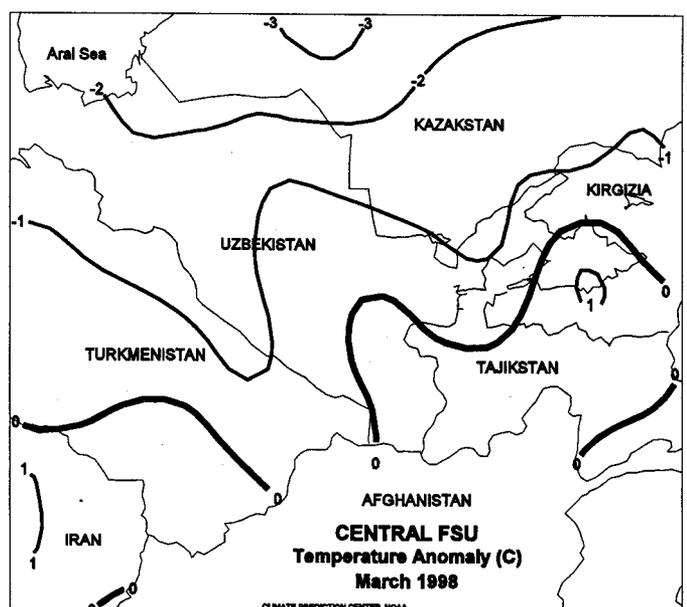
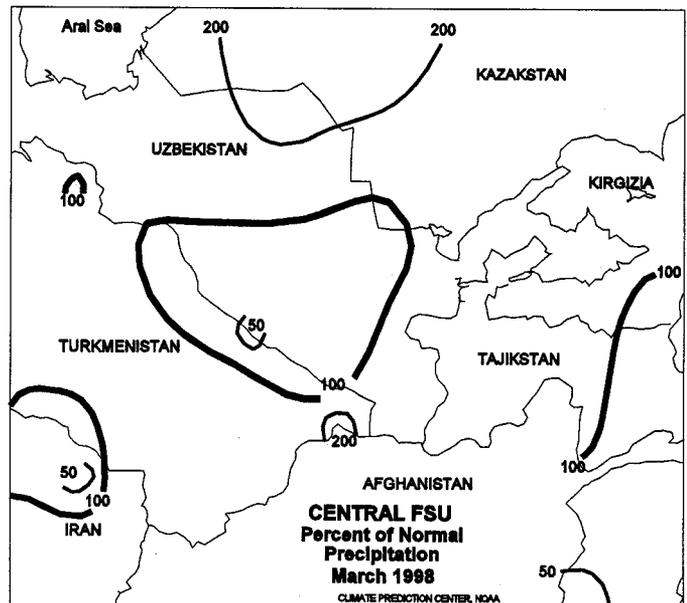
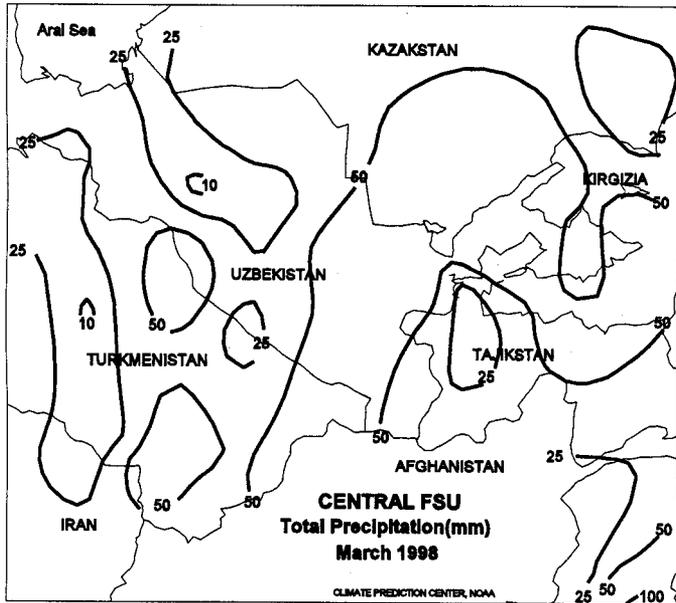
AUSTRALIA: Beneficial rain covered primary winter grain areas.

SOUTH AFRICA: Warmth and dryness favored maturing summer crops.

SOUTHEAST ASIA: Drought continued across the eastern Philippines, while showers replenished long-term moisture supplies in Java.

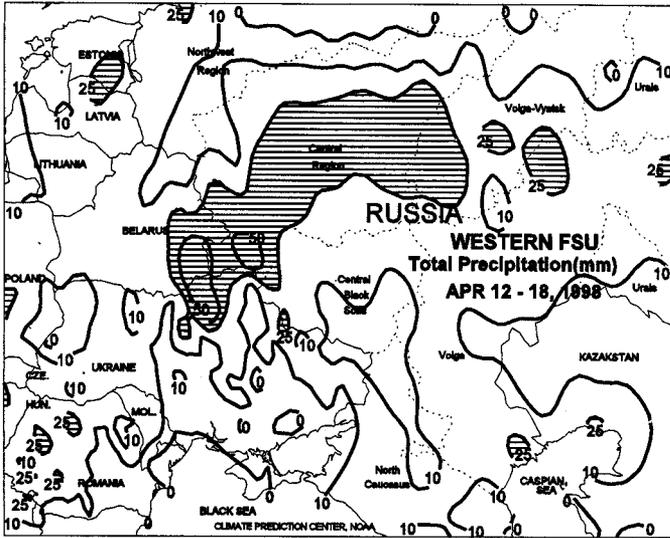
EASTERN ASIA: Mostly dry weather favored planting in Manchuria and the North China Plain.

SOUTH AMERICA: In northern Argentina and southern Paraguay, excessive showers caused flooding and some damage to mature cotton.

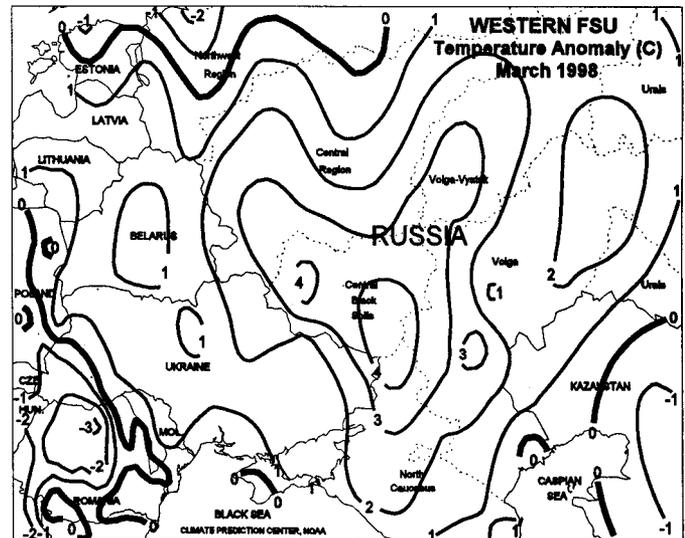
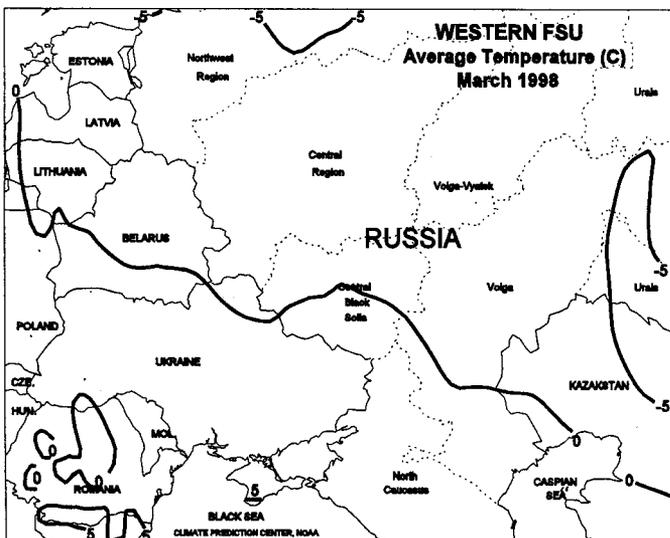
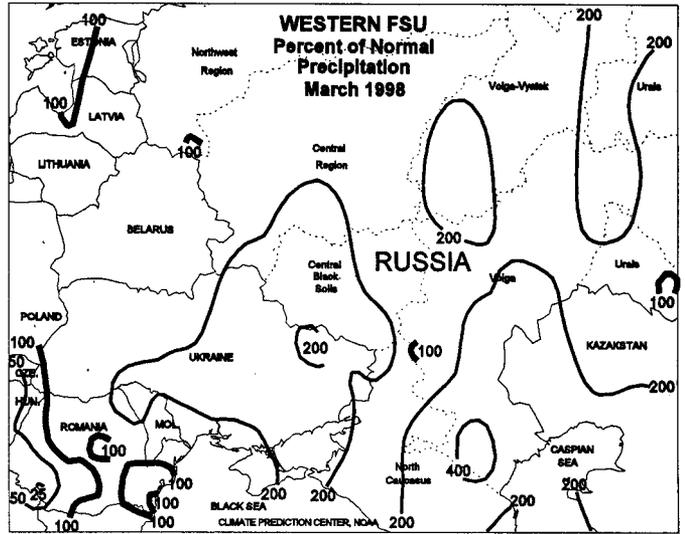
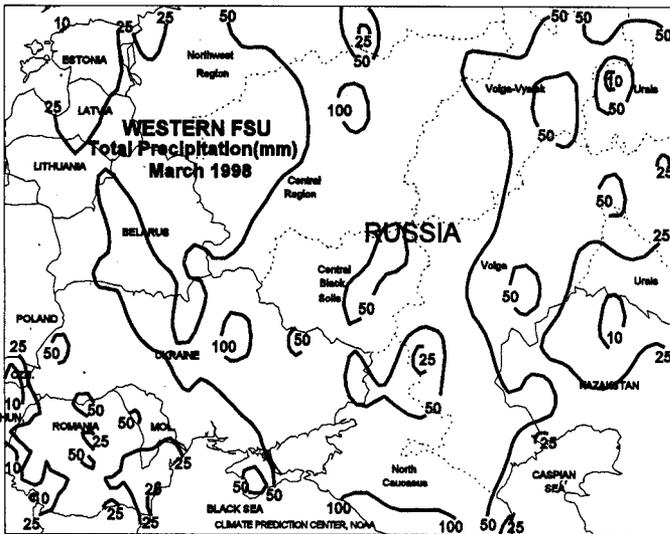


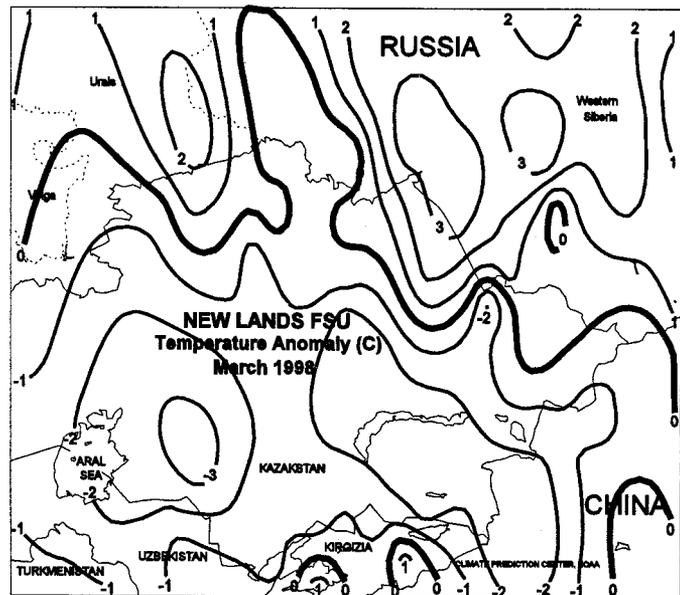
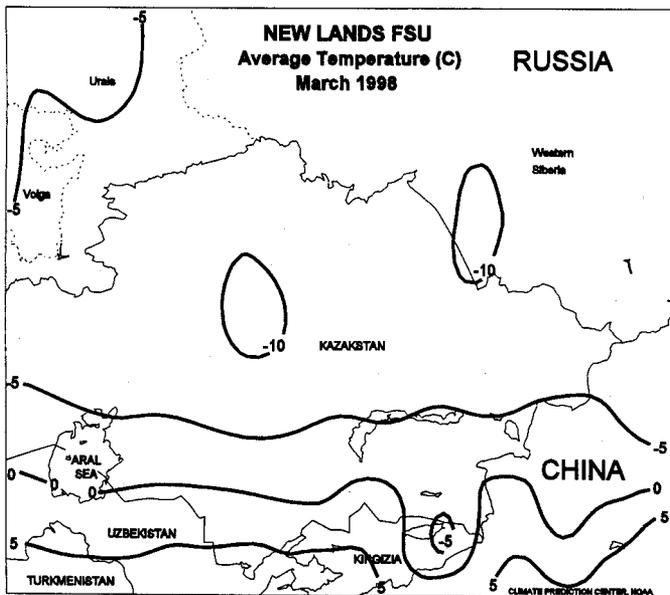
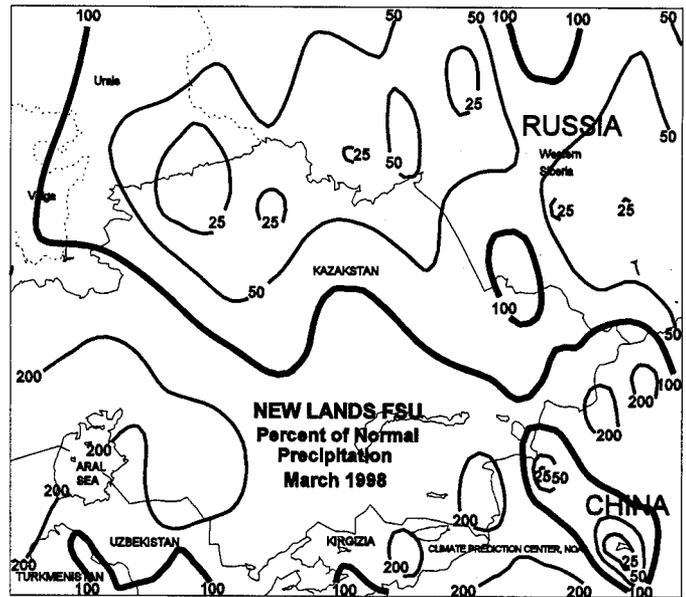
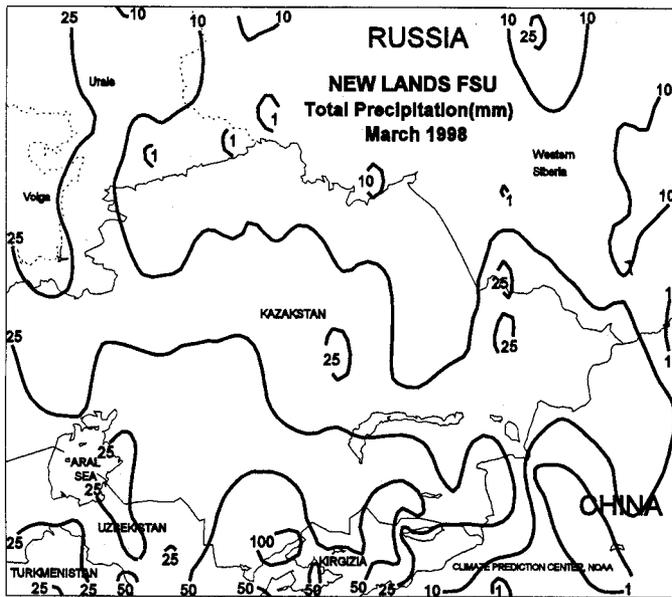
FSU-WESTERN

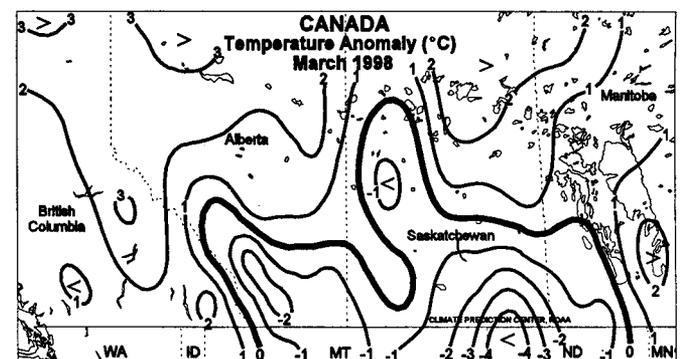
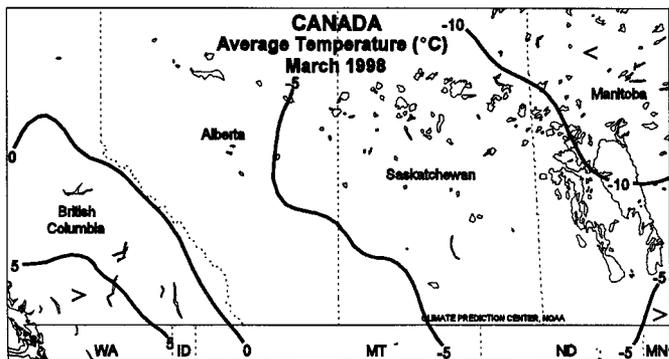
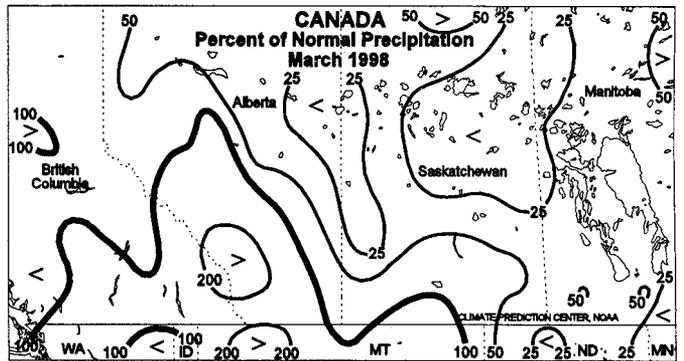
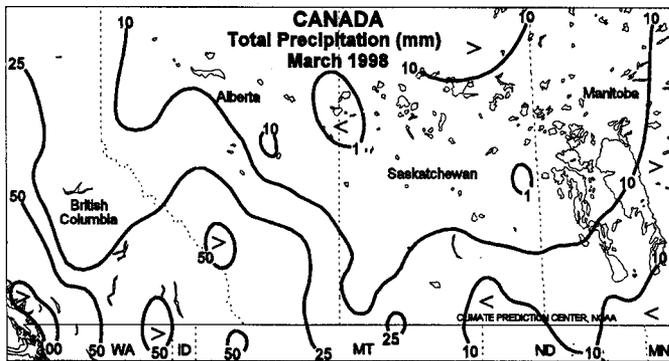
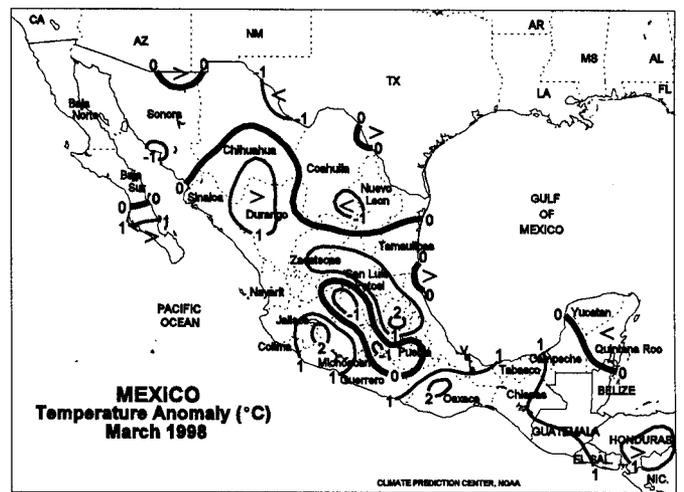
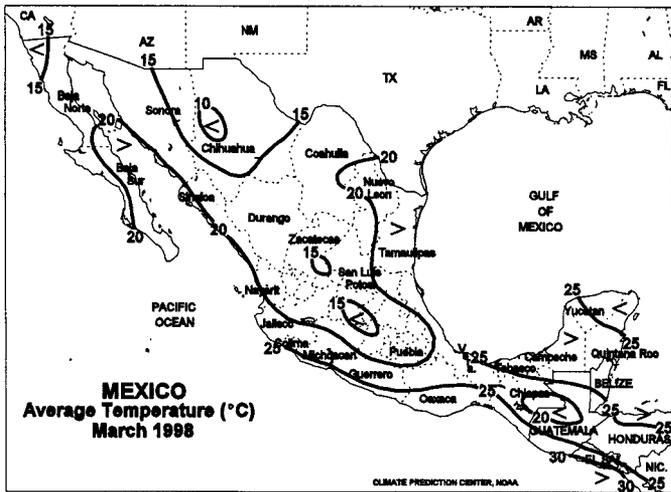
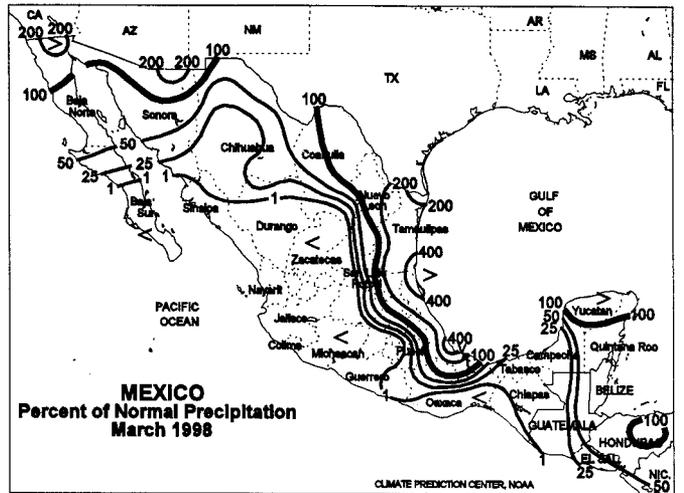
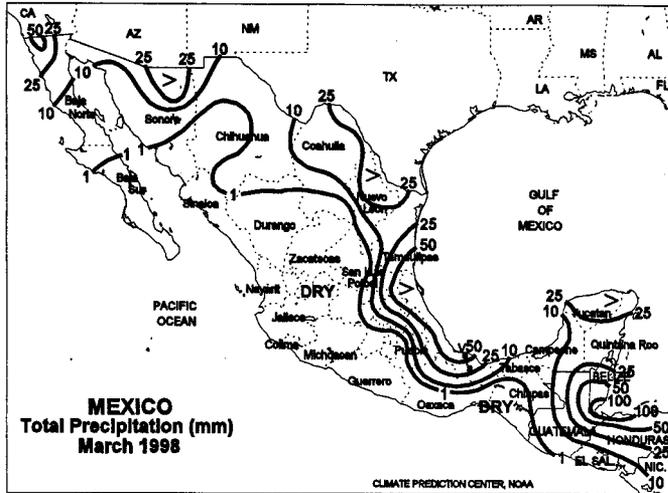
Scattered showers (3-20 mm) fell in most of Ukraine and southern Russia (North Caucasus region and the lower Volga Valley) during the week, causing only brief delays in spring grain planting. Unseasonably warm weather favored winter grain development and crop emergence in these areas. Highest weekly temperatures ranged from 32 to 35 degrees C in North Caucasus and extreme eastern Ukraine, promoting rapid development in winter grains and increasing soil temperatures for upcoming summer crop planting. Elsewhere in Ukraine, maximum temperatures ranged from 15 to 20 degrees C. Farther north, cold, wet weather continued over central and northern Russia, keeping winter grains dormant and delaying spring grain planting, which typically begins in these areas in mid-April. Elsewhere, although near-normal temperatures favored further greening of winter grains in Belarus and the Baltics, light to moderate showers (10-30 mm) slowed early-season fieldwork. In March, unseasonably mild weather early in the month in Russia, Ukraine, the Baltics, and Belarus was followed by a pattern of unusually cold weather that began about March 10 and persisted until month's end.



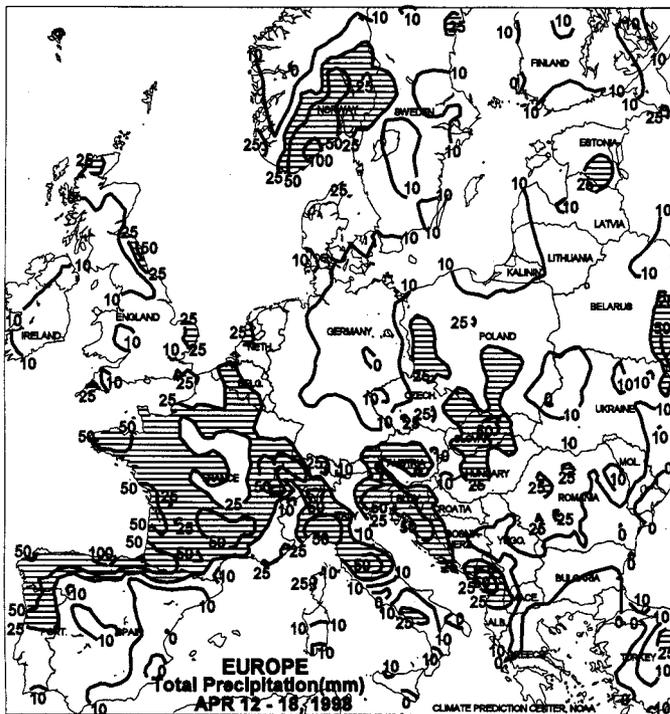
The colder weather pattern was accompanied by snow, producing an unusually late snow cover as far south as the Black Sea Coast and keeping winter grains dormant in most areas. Above-normal precipitation occurred in most areas in March, with over twice the normal amount of moisture falling in the eastern half of Ukraine and a large portion of Russia. The cold, wet weather pattern halted early-spring grain planting in southern Ukraine and the North Caucasus region in Russia. In March 1997, a similar cold spell occurred in Ukraine and Russia, interrupting spring grain planting.



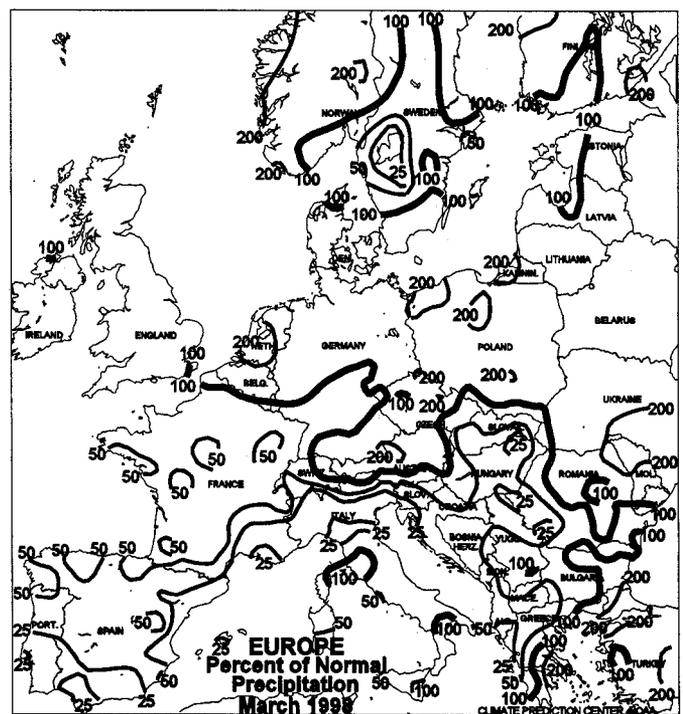
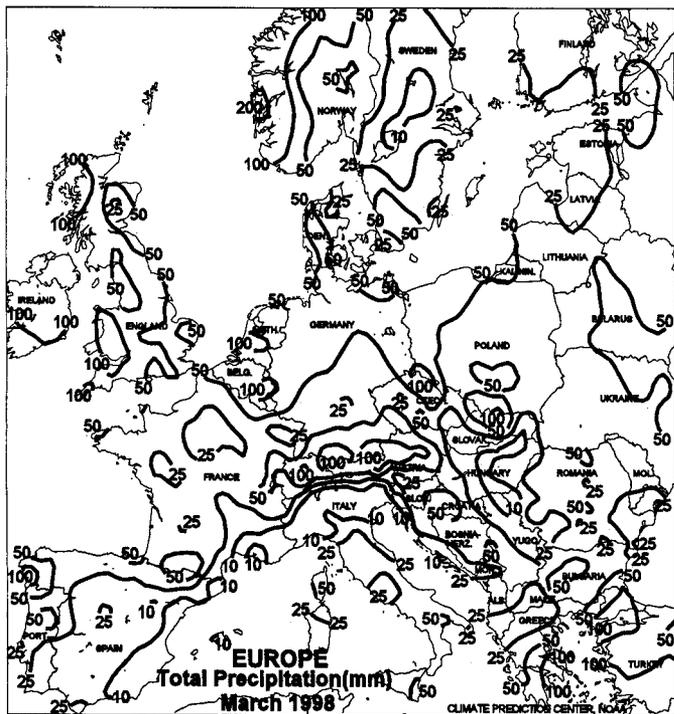


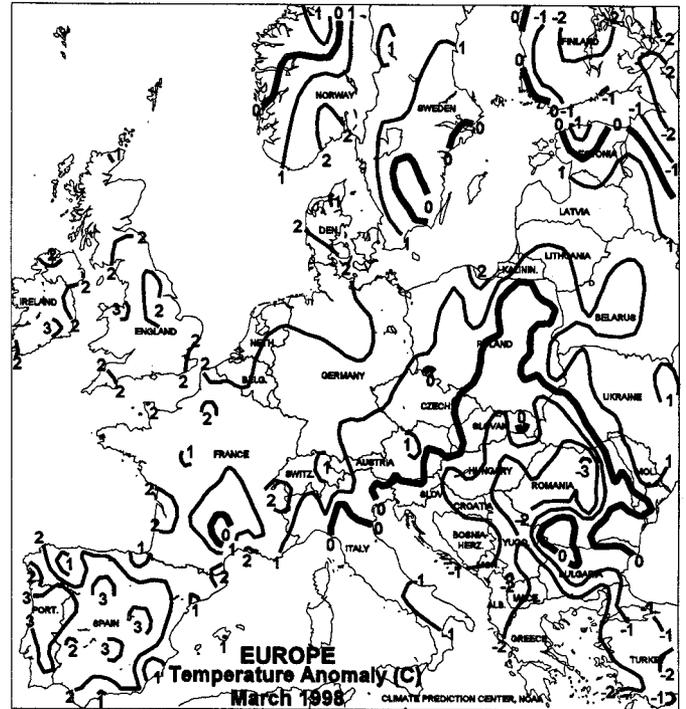


EUROPE

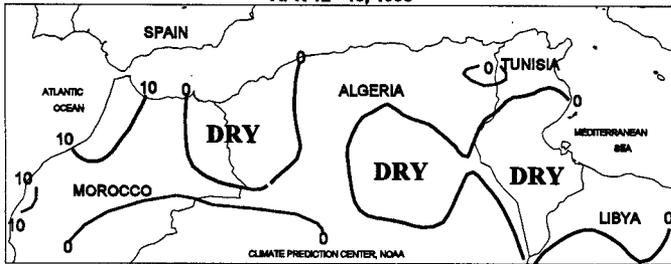


Unseasonably cold, rainy weather prevailed in England, France, western Spain, northern Italy, and Germany, slowing crop development and disrupting fieldwork. Precipitation amounts ranged from 10 to 25 mm in England, western Spain, and Germany, with 20 to more than 50 mm of rain falling in France and northern Italy. Extreme minimum temperatures at many locations in these areas fell at or slightly below freezing (0 to -3 degrees C), creating the potential for some damage of newly emerging summer crops and winter oilseeds. Elsewhere, widespread rain (10-30 mm) in Hungary, Slovakia, and parts of northern Yugoslavia continued to ease long-term dryness, improving moisture conditions for winter grain development and emergence prospects for spring-planted crops. In extreme southeastern Europe, unseasonably warm, dry weather favored cotton planting in Greece and early corn planting in Bulgaria. In March, unseasonably mild weather prevailed in western and northern Europe, promoting rapid development in winter grains. Crop progress for winter grains ranged from 1 to 3 weeks ahead of normal in these areas. Although below-normal precipitation favored spring grain and sugar beet planting in France and Spain, a lack of rain reduced topsoil moisture. Periodic showers produced near- to above-normal precipitation in England, the Netherlands, Belgium, and Germany, causing some interruptions in fieldwork but maintaining favorable moisture conditions for winter grains. In eastern Europe, below-normal precipitation in Hungary and Slovakia exacerbated long-term dryness in these areas. In Italy, below-normal precipitation in the Po Valley continued to limit moisture for winter grain development. Periodic freezes reportedly damaged Italy's sugar beet crop, necessitating replanting in some areas.





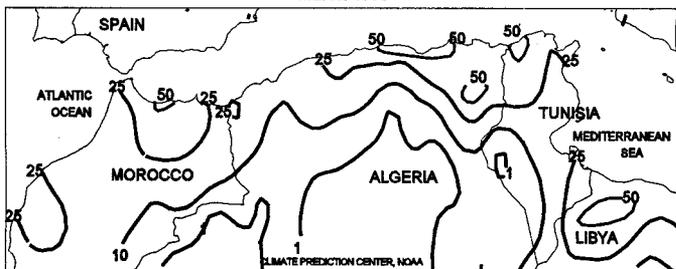
NORTHWEST AFRICA Total Precipitation (mm) APR 12 - 18, 1998



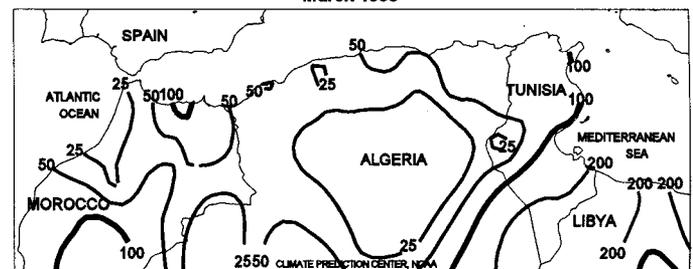
NORTHWESTERN AFRICA

In Morocco, light rain (around 10 mm) in the north continued to stabilize conditions for winter grains in the filling stage. However, only light scattered precipitation fell in southern crop areas, where crop conditions continued to decline. In Algeria, drought conditions continued to worsen, reducing prospects for winter grains. In Tunisia, the third consecutive week of dryness prevailed over the region, causing further declines in crop conditions. Weekly temperatures averaged 1 to 3 degrees C below normal over Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia, lowering heat stress on crops. In March, winter grains in Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia continued to receive below-normal precipitation, worsening conditions for winter grains that entered the reproductive phase of development.

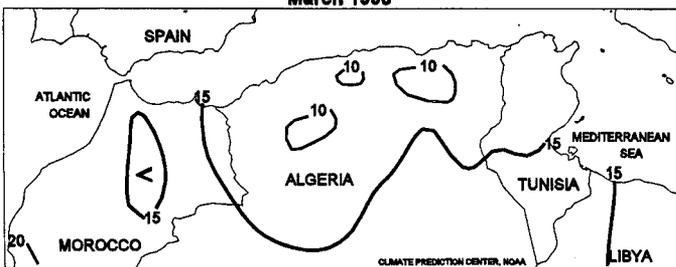
NORTHWEST AFRICA Total Precipitation (mm) March 1998



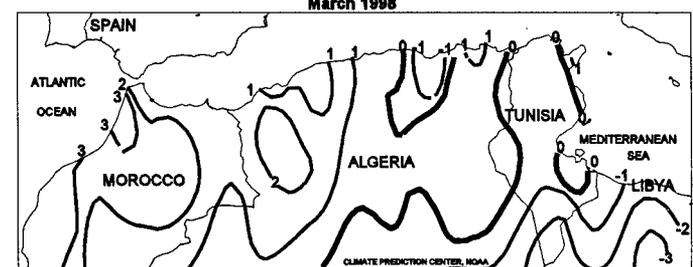
NORTHWEST AFRICA Percent of Normal Precipitation March 1998

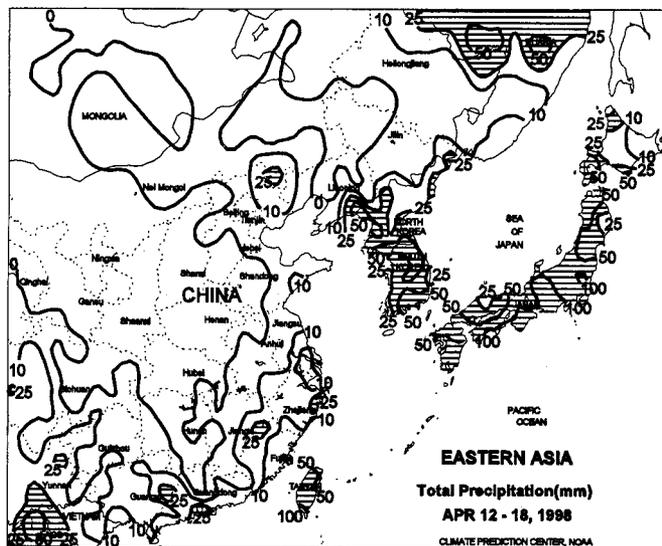


NORTHWEST AFRICA Average Temperature (C) March 1998



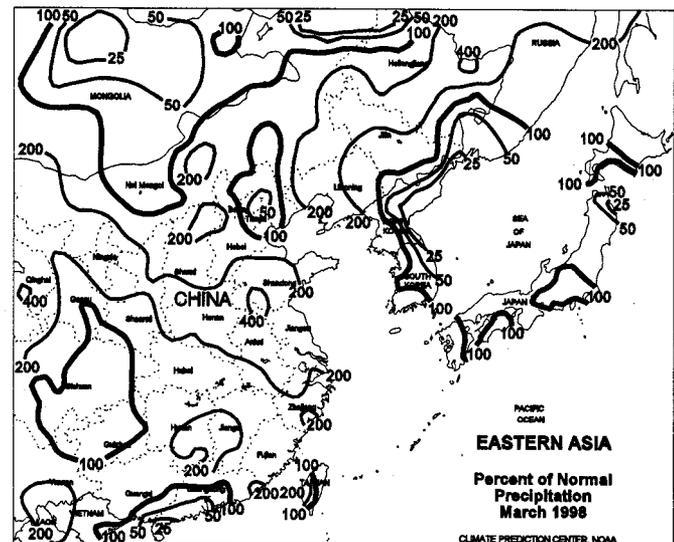
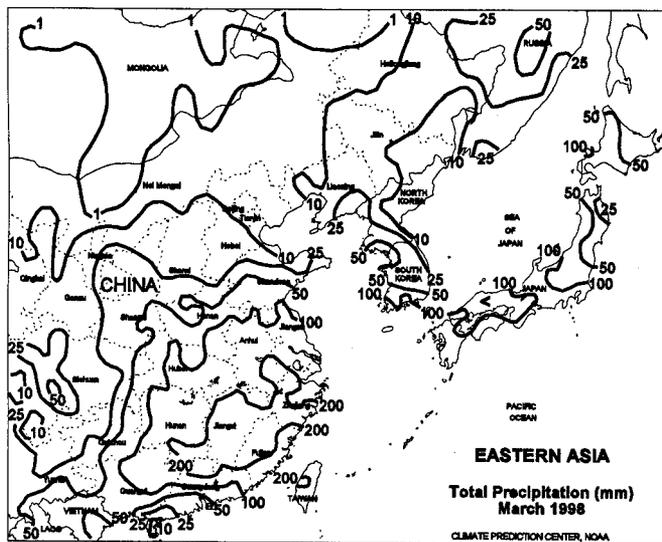
NORTHWEST AFRICA Temperature Anomaly (C) March 1998

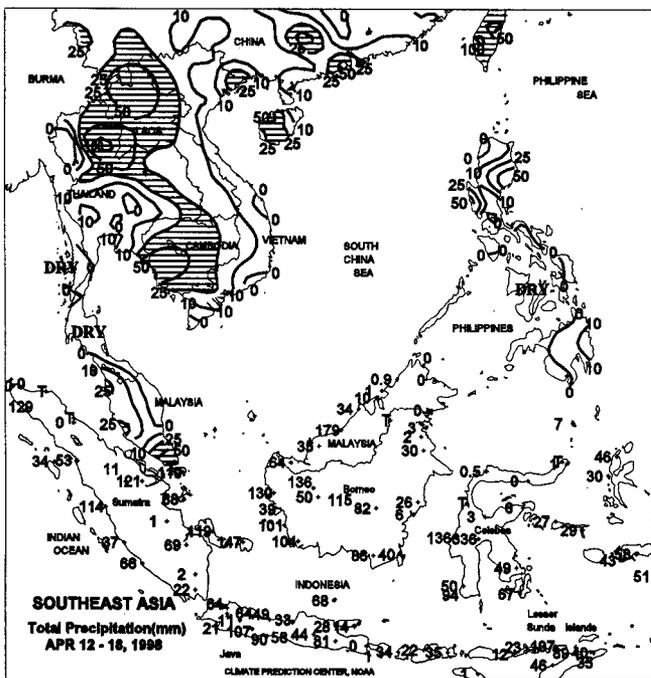
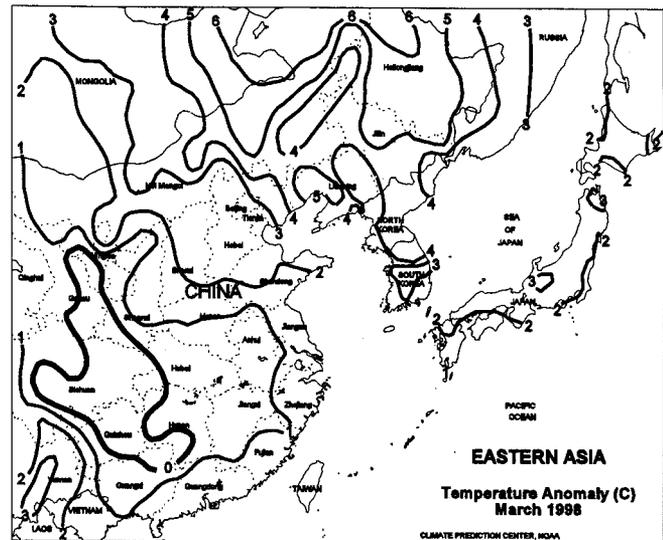
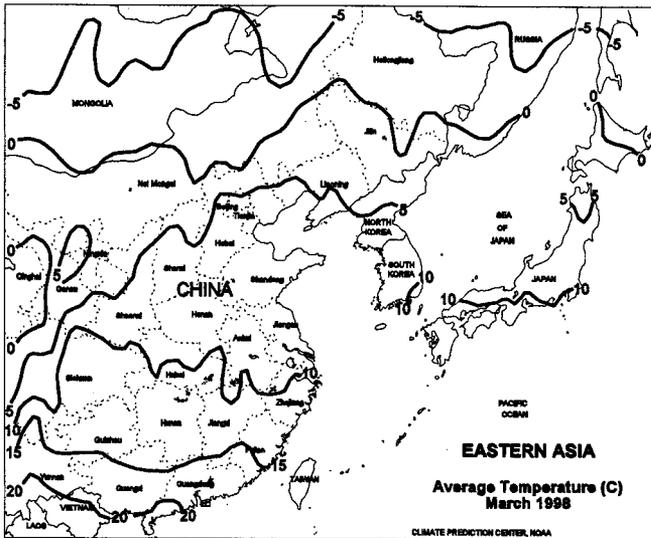




EASTERN ASIA

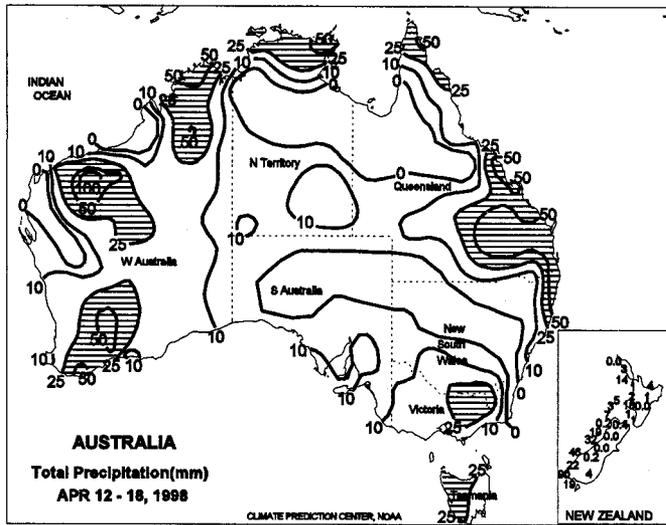
Mostly dry weather (less than 10 mm) favored spring wheat planting in Manchuria and summer crop planting across the North China Plain. Drier weather alleviated wetness across the Yangtze Valley, aiding winter oilseeds and heading winter wheat. Widespread rain (25-75 mm) boosted pre-planting rice moisture across the Korean Peninsula and Japan. In March, above-normal rainfall favored vegetative winter wheat across the North China Plain and Yangtze Valley. Freezing temperatures, however, during late March burned back winter wheat. Across southern China, above-normal monthly rainfall provided adequate to abundant moisture for early double-crop rice.





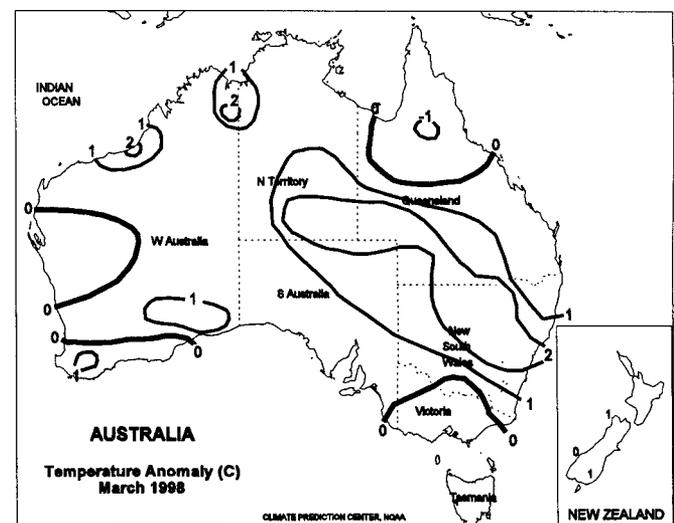
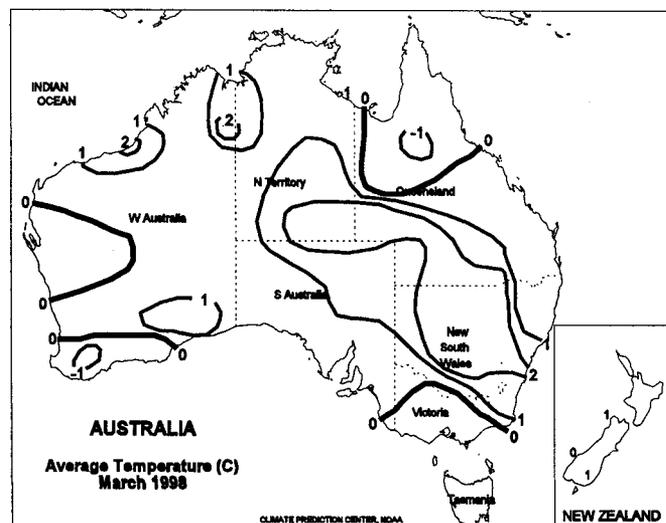
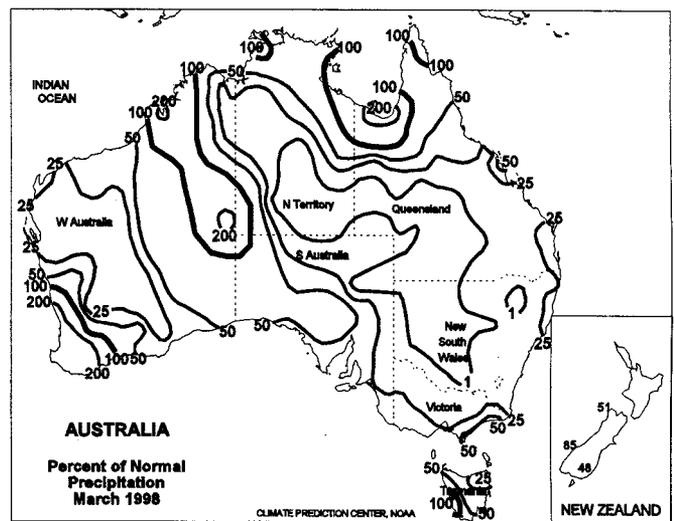
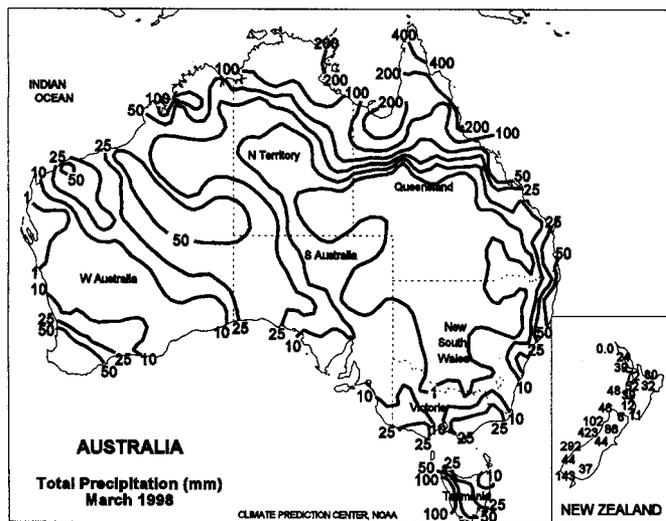
SOUTHEAST ASIA

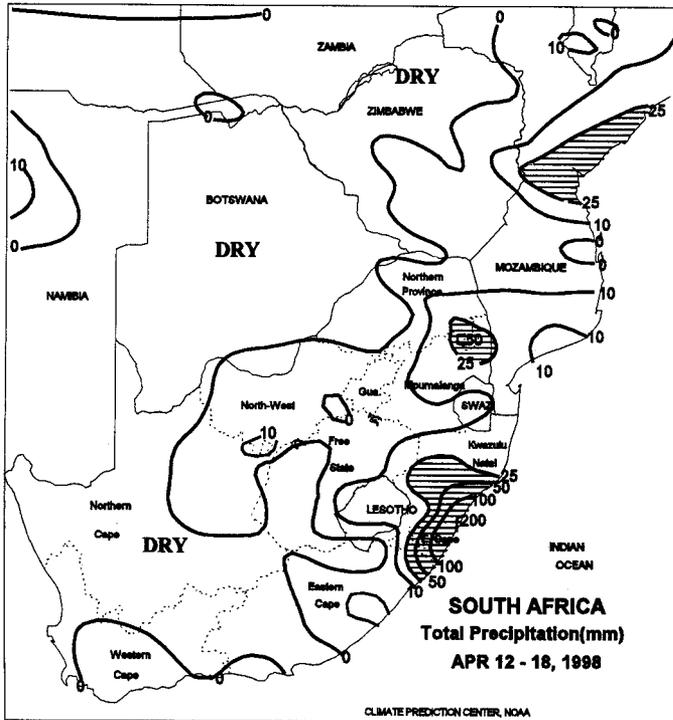
In Java and southern Sumatra, showers (10-60 mm, with isolated amounts greater 75 mm) continued to benefit main-season rice and replenish long-term moisture supplies. Little or no rain was reported across the Philippines, as drought continued to stress crops. Dry weather prevailed across eastern peninsular Malaysia, reducing moisture for oil palm. Moderate to heavy showers (20-75 mm, with isolated amounts greater than 100 mm) boosted moisture supplies across northern and eastern Thailand. During March, near to above-normal rainfall favored main-season rice across Java and southern Sumatra. Drought continued across the eastern Philippines and portions of eastern Malaysia. Below-normal March rainfall reduced moisture for oil palm across the Malay Peninsula. Above-normal March temperatures (1-3 degrees C above normal) increased rice irrigation demands in Thailand and southern Vietnam.



AUSTRALIA

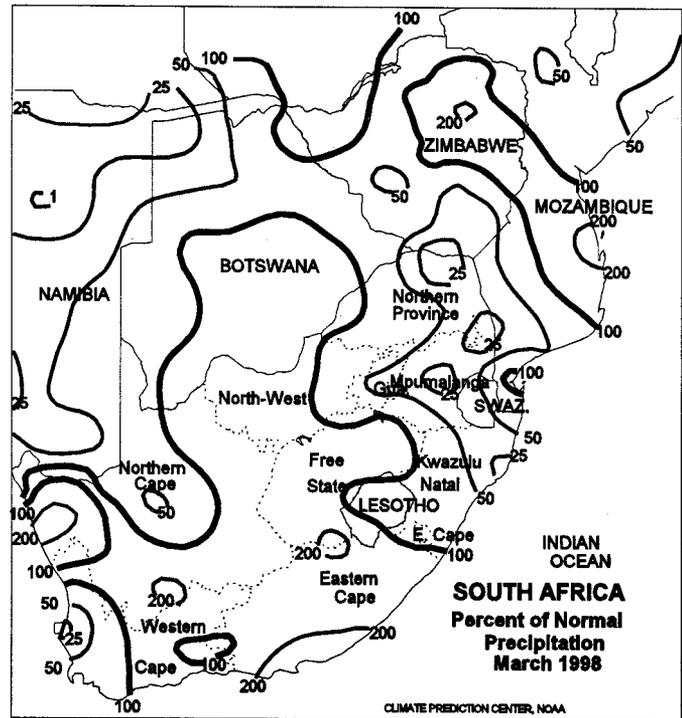
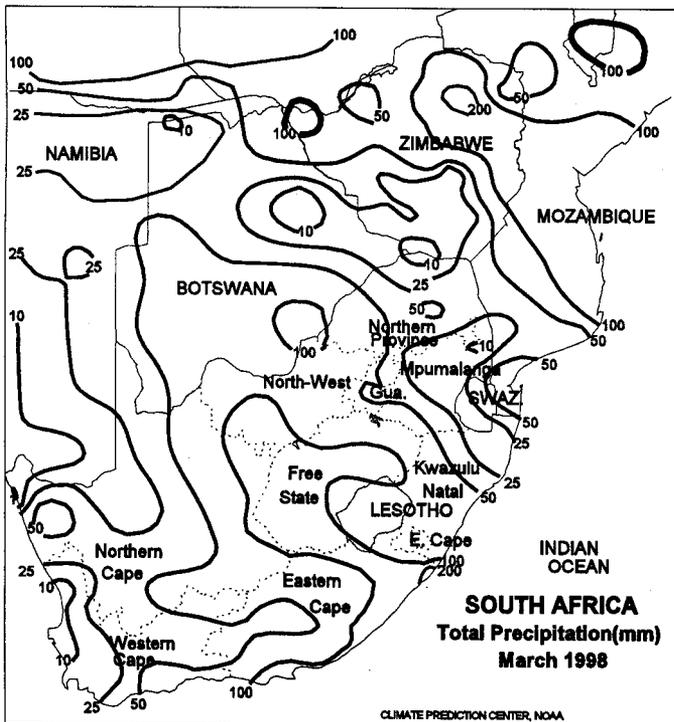
Moderate to heavy showers (10-50 mm or more) fell in the northeastern and southern winter grain areas, raising pre-planting moisture reserves. Rainfall was especially timely in Queensland, following months of dry, warm weather. Planting should begin soon in the more northerly crop areas. This week's rainfall in Western Australia and Victoria, in conjunction with last week's heavy rain in South Australia, has resulted in highly favorable moisture for the upcoming winter grain crop. Planting in the southern crop areas typically begins in June. Unseasonable warmth and dryness persisted over much of New South Wales, including the Darling Downs area. During March, warmer- and drier-than-normal weather dominated the eastern half of the nation, aiding sorghum and cotton drydown and harvesting. However, most sugarcane areas needed additional moisture for normal development. In addition, topsoils had become unfavorably dry for winter grain development, a situation that continues over much of New South Wales. Out west, mid-month storms brought locally heavy rain to Western Australia's southern agricultural areas.

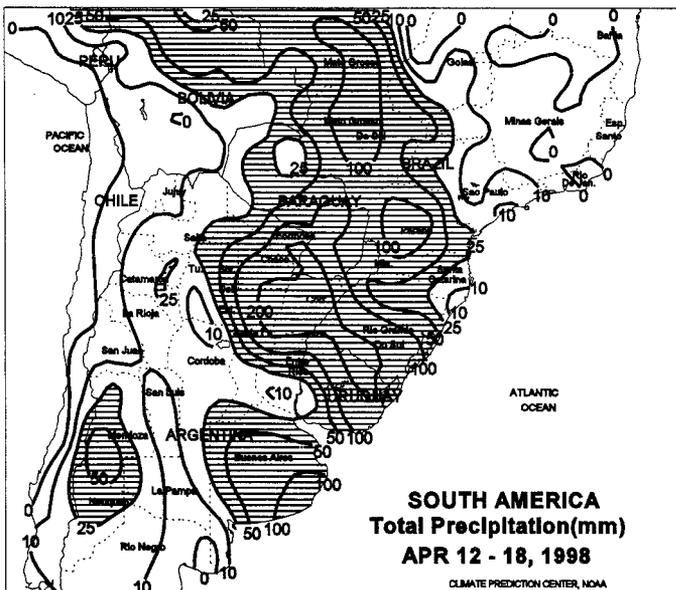
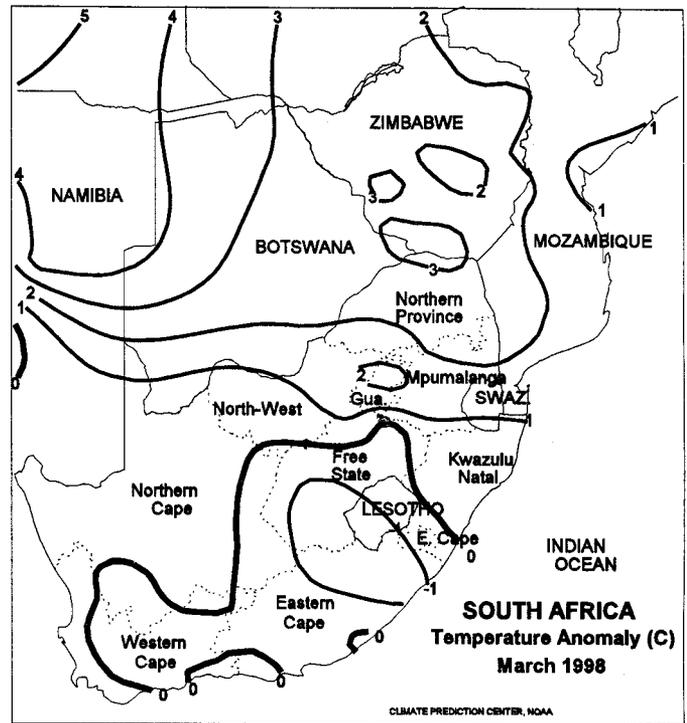
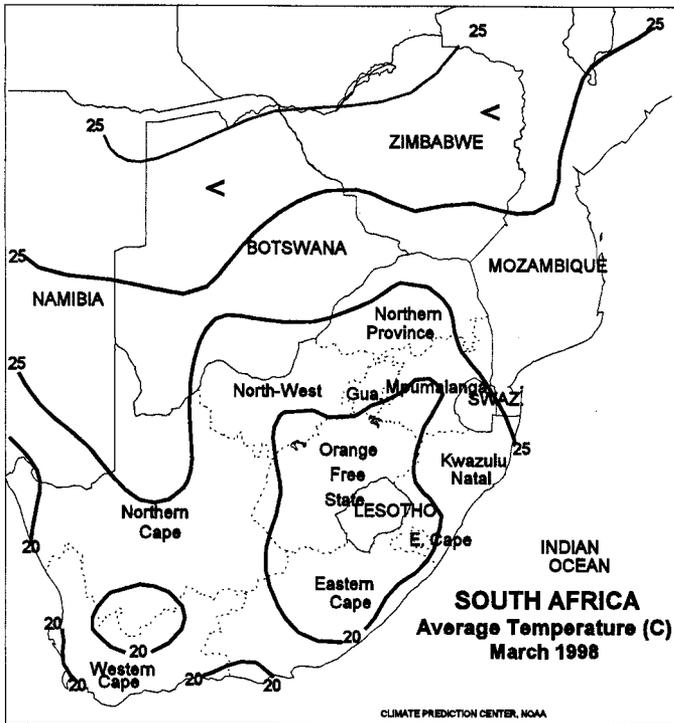




SOUTH AFRICA

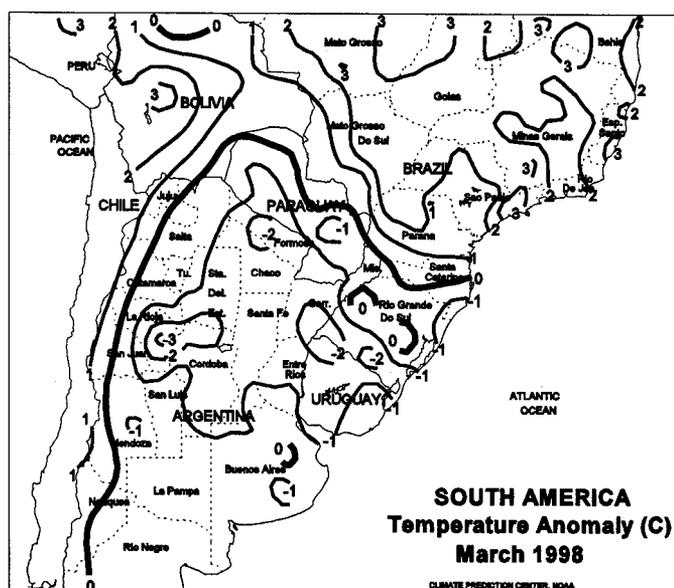
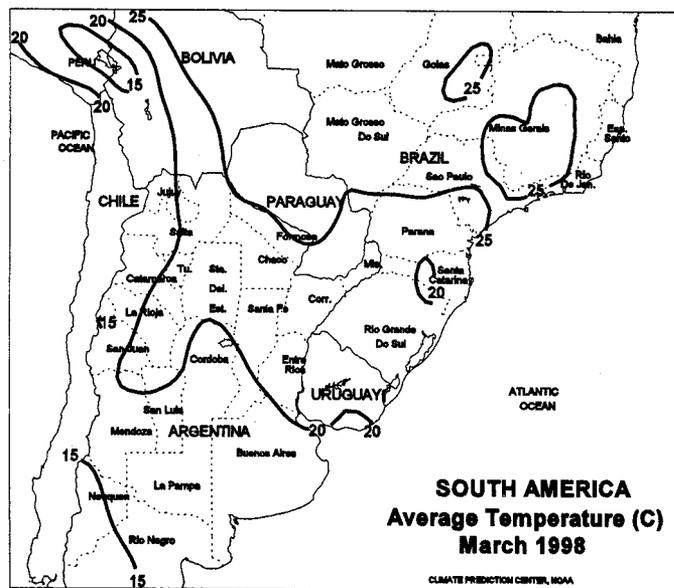
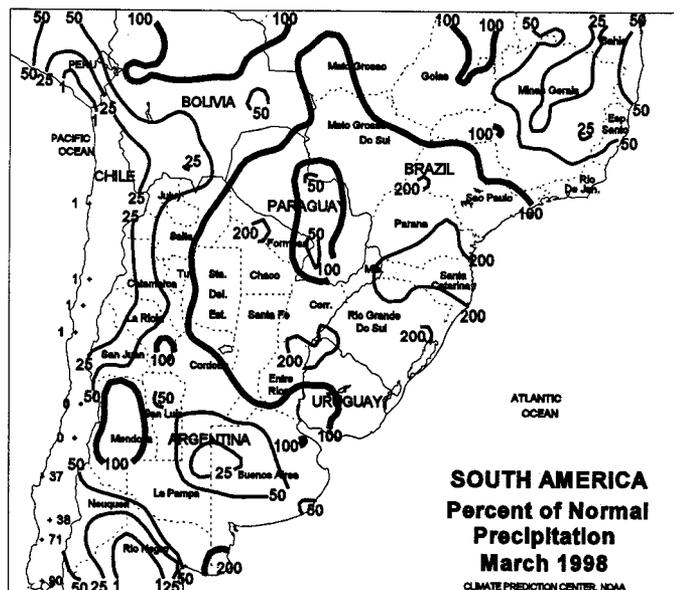
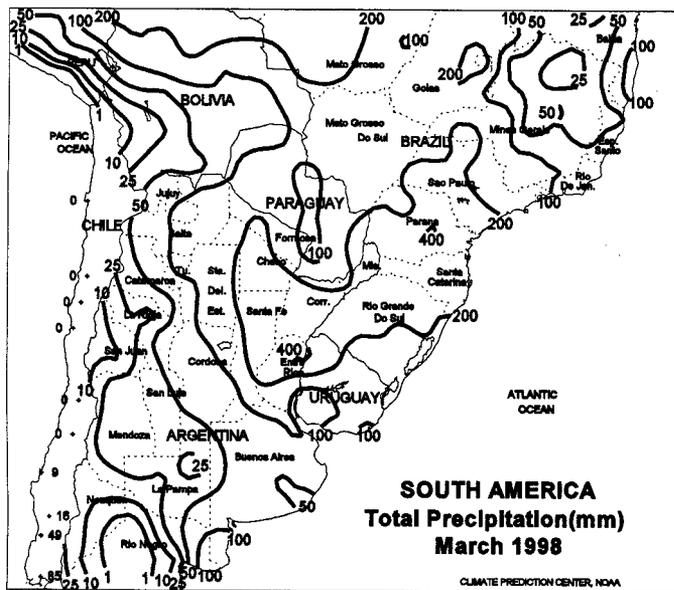
Dry, warm weather aided summer crop maturation across the corn belt while fostering favorable conditions for wheat planting. Locally heavy rain (25-50 mm, exceeding 100 mm at a few locations) hampered sugarcane harvesting in southern sections of Kwazulu-Natal. During March, rainfall was near to above normal in central and western sections of the corn belt, favoring late-planted corn and sunflowers. The trend of below-normal rainfall continued in eastern sections of the corn belt centered around Mpumalanga. March temperatures were near to below normal in the wetter areas of the corn belt, raising concern for those portions of the crop facing the threat of freeze damage. Elsewhere in southern Africa, dryness dominated this week's weather. In March, rainfall was near to above normal over much of the region from Zambia southeastward to southern Mozambique. However, the current drying trend, which began in late March, has reduced moisture for late-planted summer crops in Zimbabwe.





SOUTH AMERICA

In northern Argentina and southern Paraguay, excessive showers (50-200 mm, with one isolated amount greater than 300 mm) caused flooding and some damage to mature cotton. Rainfall has been above normal since February across this region, exacerbating current flooding. Drier weather is needed to stabilize cotton quality and harvest losses. In central Argentina, moderate to heavy showers (20-90 mm) slowed summer crop harvesting. According to reports as of April 8, Argentine cotton, soybean, and corn crops were 10, 16, and 38 percent harvested, respectively. Last year at this time, cotton, soybean, and corn crops were 21, 17, and 45 percent harvested, respectively. In southern Brazil, widespread moderate to heavy showers (25-100 mm) covered the major soybean-growing areas, slowing fieldwork. According to reports as of April 16, the Brazilian soybean crop was 67 percent harvested, compared with the 5-year average of 64 percent. During March, below-normal rainfall favored corn and sunflowerseed maturation and harvesting. In Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, excessive rainfall slowed soybean harvesting and reduced soybean quality.



SOUTH ASIA

March rainfall was above normal over much of the region, excluding southern and western sections of India and most of Pakistan from Lahore southward. The rainfall in the north (25-50 mm or more) increased moisture available to immature winter grains and oilseeds and boosted irrigation reserves in the upper Indus and Ganges basins. In the east, heavier rainfall (50-100 mm or more) centered around Bangladesh, accompanied by local severe weather, likely resulted in some flooding and hampered seasonal rice fieldwork.

