

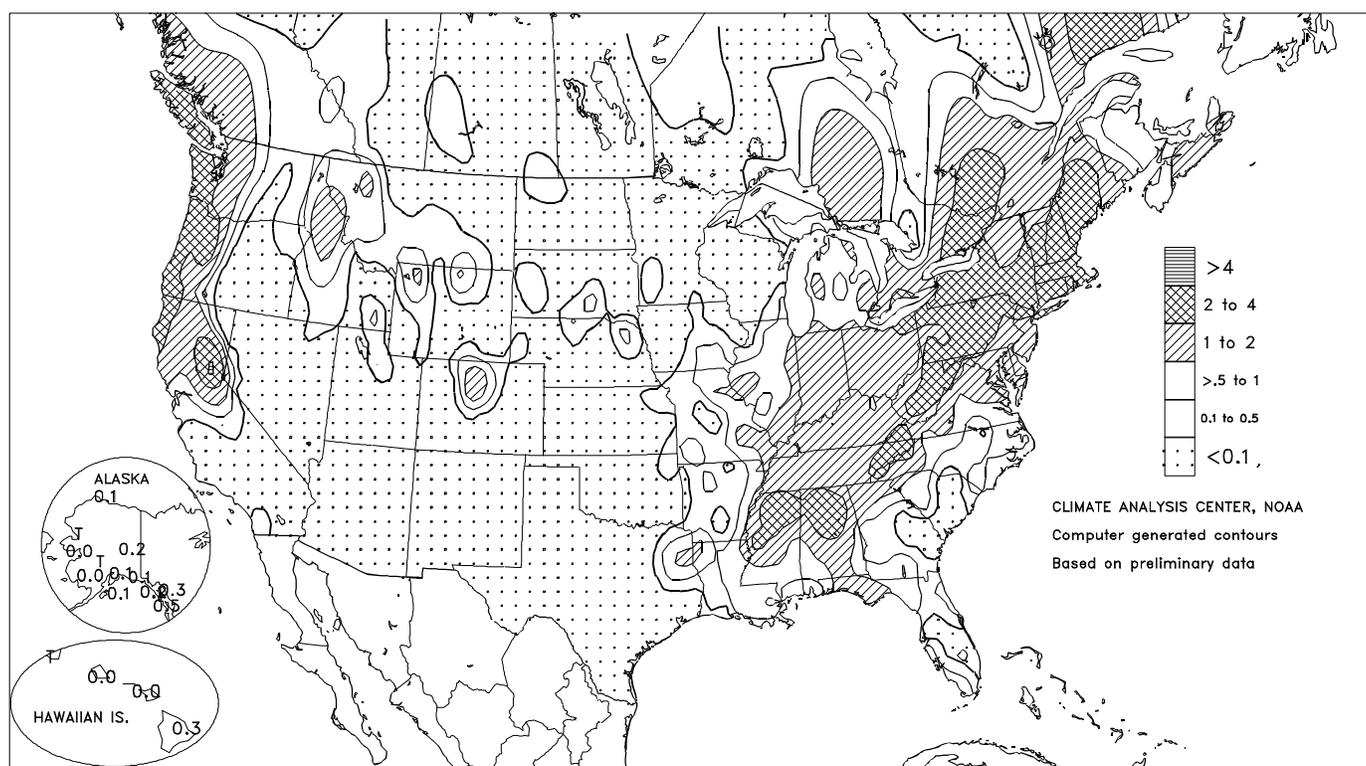
WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP BULLETIN

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

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

Total Precipitation (Inches)

FEB 28 - MAR 6, 1999



HIGHLIGHTS

February 28 - March 6, 1999

Following 4 months of unusually wet weather, favorably drier conditions overspread the **Pacific Northwest** after midweek, allowing lowland flooding to subside **west of the Cascades**. Soil moisture remains favorable, however, in soft white winter wheat areas of the **interior Northwest**. Farther south, early-week rain and a 6th consecutive week of cool weather restricted fieldwork in **northern California**. Meanwhile, warm weather prevailed on the **Plains** for an 8th consecutive week, promoting hard red winter wheat growth as far north as **southern and western Nebraska**, but reducing topsoil moisture. On the **southern Plains**, significant precipitation last fell in late January. More serious dryness continued to

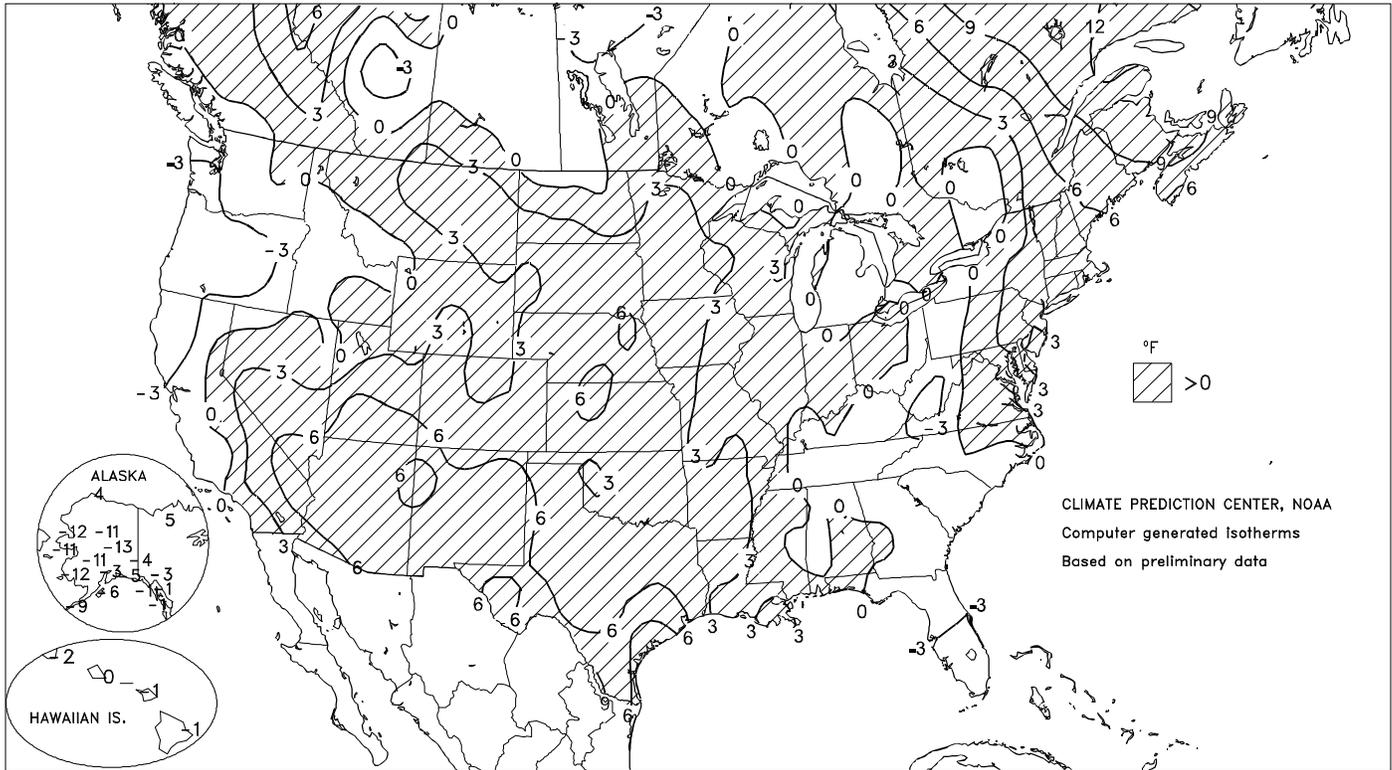
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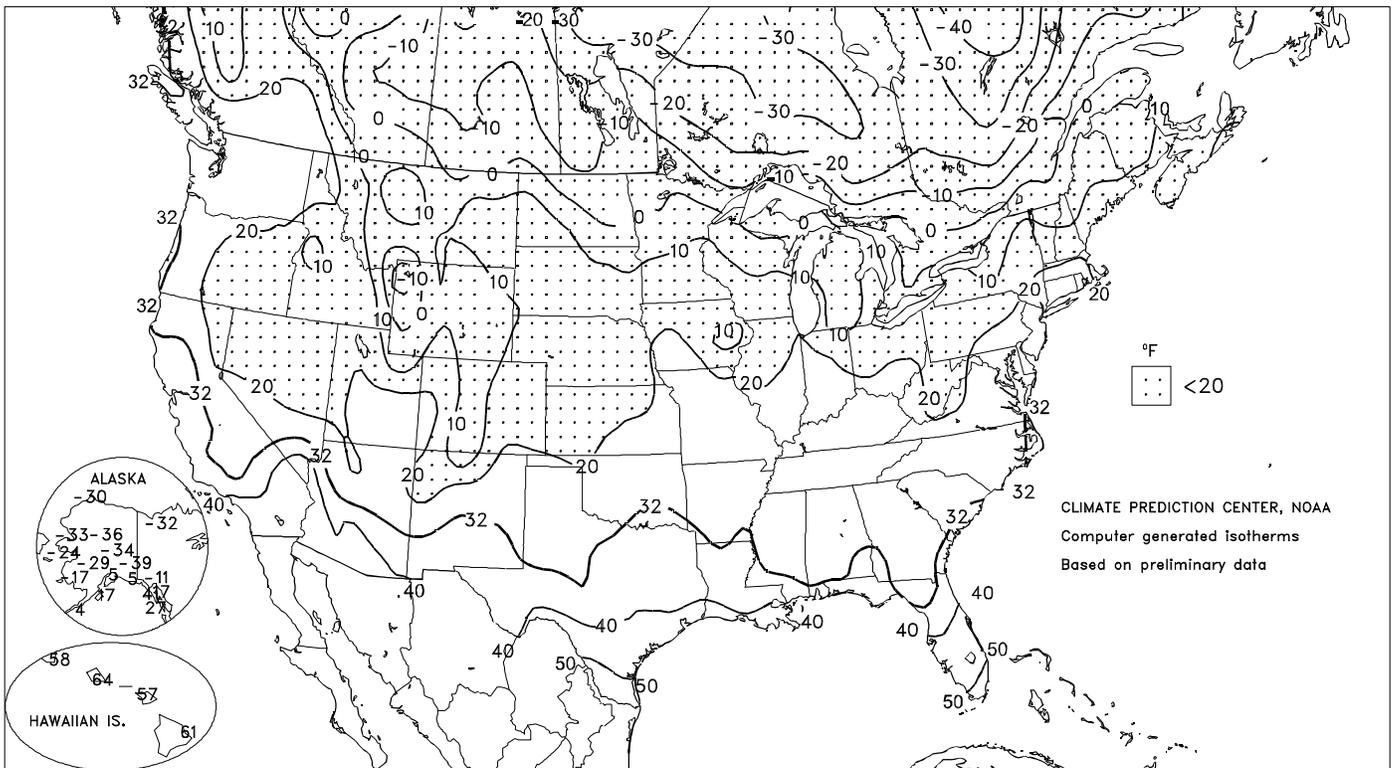
Departure of Average Temperature from Normal (°F)

FEB 28 - MAR 6, 1999



Extreme Minimum Temperature (°F)

FEB 28 - MAR 6, 1999



Weather Data for Selected Locations in the Delta

Weather Data for the Week Ending March 6, 1999

Data provided by the Mississippi State Delta Research and Extension Center and compiled by USDA/OCE/WAOB's Stoneville Field Office

STATES AND STATIONS	TEMPERATURE °F							PRECIPITATION							4-INCH SOIL TEMP. °F		NUMBER OF DAYS			
	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	EXTREME HIGH	EXTREME LOW	AVERAGE	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	WEEKLY TOTAL, IN.	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	GREATEST IN 24-HOUR, IN.	TOTAL IN. SINCE Mar 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Mar 1	TOTAL IN. SINCE Jan 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Jan 1	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	TEMP. °F		PRECIP.		
																90 AND ABOVE	32 AND BELOW	0.1 INCH OR MORE	5.0 INCH OR MORE	
MS INDIANOLA 1S †	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
INVERNESS 5E	68	45	76	36	57	--	1.16	--	0.94	1.03	--	--	--	60	54	0	0	3	1	
LYON	63	40	71	31	52	--	0.83	--	0.74	0.83	--	11.54	--	--	0	1	3	1		
ONWARD	68	44	76	34	56	--	1.09	--	1.09	1.09	--	11.39	--	57	53	0	0	1	1	
SIDON	67	44	77	35	56	--	2.16	--	1.21	1.38	--	13.55	--	61	54	0	0	3	2	
STONEVILLE *	67	39	75	31	53	3	0.50	-0.67	0.24	0.26	26	15.36	149	62	50	0	1	4	0	

* Based on 1964-93 normals.

† Automated station was off-line during the week.

Delta Weather and Crop Summary: Pre-planting fieldwork continued throughout the Mississippi Delta as weekly temperatures remained slightly above normal. Scattered showers developed as the week progressed, providing favorable soil moisture in some areas.

(Continued from front cover)

develop across **southern Texas**, where corn, cotton, and sorghum planting is well underway. Farther east, scattered showers and thunderstorms improved pre-planting moisture from the **Delta** to the **middle and southern Atlantic Coast**. Widespread frost and near- to slightly below-freezing temperatures occurred in the **Southeast** on March 4-5, slowing winter grain and fruit tree development, but causing minimal damage. Heavy snow blanketed the **Great Lakes and Northeastern States** after midweek, increasing livestock stress and slowing spring fieldwork preparations. Weekly temperatures averaged as much as 4°F below normal in **Florida** and **northern California**, but ranged generally from 3 to 7°F above normal on the **Plains**. Departures reached +9°F from the **Southwest** to **southern Texas**.

Nearly two dozen daily-record highs were established during the week from the **Southwest** to **Texas**. On Sunday, **Delta, UT** recorded 74°F. A day later **Del Rio, TX**, registered 93°F. Heat peaked across **southern Texas** on Tuesday, when highs soared to 99°F in **McAllen** and 98°F in **Corpus Christi**. Meanwhile, cooler air briefly settled across the **central Plains**. By Wednesday morning, lows ranged from 10 to 20°F as far south as **western Kansas**. The cool air reached the **Southeast**

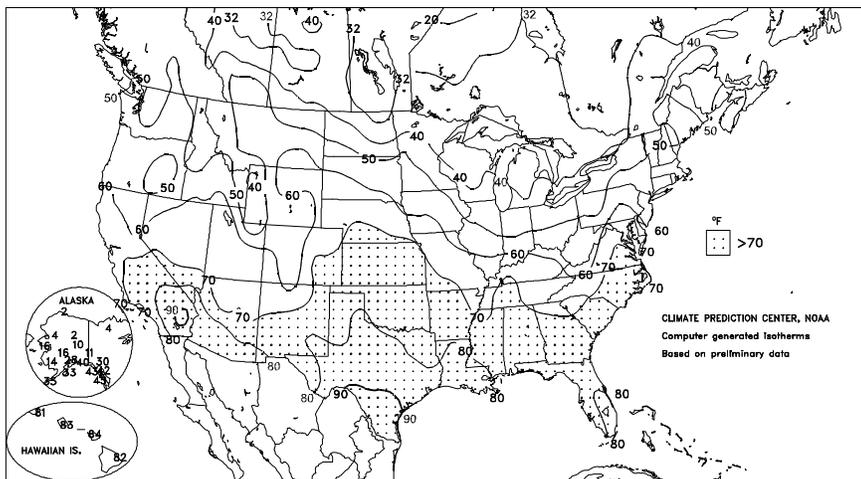
on March 4-5, producing lows of 28°F in **Meridian, MS** (on the 4th) and 29°F in **Tallahassee, FL** (on the 5th).

Farther west, the last in a series of energetic storm systems reached the **Northwest**. High winds and very heavy surf accompanied rain along the coast. Late on March 2, 46-foot seas were reported at the **Stonewall Bank Buoy**, moored about 15 miles west of **Newport, OR**. During the morning of March 3, peak wind gusts in coastal areas reached 79 mph on **northwestern Washington's Tatoosh Island (Cape Flattery)** and 92 mph in **Tillamook, OR**. In and near **Washington's Puget Sound**, gusts peaked at 60 mph in **Seattle** and 50 mph in **Tacoma**. In the **Washington Cascades**, ridgetop winds (elevation 6,000 feet) near **White Pass** were clocked to 129 mph.

Weekly precipitation topped 1 inch in most areas from **Mississippi** and **Alabama** into the **Northeast**, the result of three fast-moving storm systems. Totals ranged from 2 to 4 inches from the **central Appalachians** to **New England**, including significant mid- to late-week snowfall. On March 4, high winds accompanied heavy rain in **eastern New England**, gusting to 69 mph in **Milton (Blue Hill Observatory), MA** and 52 mph in **Windsor Locks, CT**. Farther inland, separate storms buried **Rochester, NY** with 24.3 inches (driven by 45 mph wind gusts) on March 3-4 and 18.4 inches (39 mph gusts) on March 6. The 24.3-inch total was **Rochester's** second-greatest 24-hour accumulation, behind a 29.8-inch total on March 1, 1900. **Rochester's** snow depth rose to 36 inches by week's end, breaking their record of 34 inches, set on February 1, 1966. Prior to reaching the **Northeast**, the earlier storm also dumped more than 1 foot of snow across the highest elevations of the **southern Appalachians**. The latter system dropped 12.0 inches of snow in **Rapid City, SD** on March 5, their fourth-greatest 24-hour snowfall in March. Farther east, storm-total snowfall reached 20 inches in **Bethel, VT** and 18 inches in **Malone, NY**. In **Pennsylvania**, snowfall from the two storms totaled 32.0 inches on **Mt. Davis** (elevation 3,213 feet). Elsewhere in the **eastern Great Lakes region**, March 1-6 snowfall totaled 13.2 inches in **Flint, MI** and 10.3 inches in **Youngstown, OH**.

Extreme Maximum Temperature (°F)

FEB 28 - MAR 6, 1999



CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA
Computer generated isotherms
Based on preliminary data

National Weather Data for Selected Cities

Weather Data for the Week Ending March 6, 1999

Data Provided by Climate Prediction Center (301-763-8000 EXT. 7503)

STATES AND STATIONS	TEMPERATURE °F						PRECIPITATION							RELATIVE HUMIDITY PERCENT		NUMBER OF DAYS				
	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	EXTREME HIGH	EXTREME LOW	AVERAGE	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	WEEKLY TOTAL, IN.	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	GREATEST IN 24-HOUR, IN.	TOTAL IN. SINCE Dec 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Dec 1	TOTAL IN. SINCE Jan 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Jan 1	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	TEMP. °F		PRECIP.		
																90 AND ABOVE	32 AND BELOW	.01 INCH OR MORE	.50 INCH OR MORE	
AL	BIRMINGHAM	65	37	75	29	51	1	2.55	1.20	0.88	2.52	217	13.41	122	80	24	0	1	5	3
	HUNTSVILLE	60	35	72	27	47	-1	2.07	0.63	0.60	2.07	167	14.06	125	93	31	0	1	4	3
	MOBILE	71	44	80	32	58	0	0.70	-0.78	0.29	0.46	36	6.75	59	93	40	0	1	4	0
	MONTGOMERY	69	39	77	28	54	1	1.79	0.34	0.59	1.79	146	6.66	58	85	27	0	1	4	1
AK	ANCHORAGE	25	14	28	5	19	-3	0.13	-0.04	0.10	0.13	93	0.77	45	76	44	0	7	2	0
	BARROW	-8	-20	2	-30	-14	4	0.05	0.02	0.01	0.04	200	0.20	77	80	72	0	7	4	0
	FAIRBANKS	5	-22	10	-34	-9	-12	0.15	0.06	0.09	0.12	171	0.57	59	86	63	0	7	3	0
	JUNEAU	35	24	42	17	29	-1	0.26	-0.54	0.22	0.25	37	10.98	122	94	59	0	7	5	0
	KODIAK	30	22	33	17	26	-5	0.08	-1.03	0.00	0.06	6	11.73	86	74	49	0	7	4	0
	NOME	5	-15	16	-24	-5	-11	0.00	-0.11	0.00	0.00	0	2.16	145	86	65	0	7	0	0
AZ	FLAGSTAFF	57	23	64	20	40	6	0.00	-0.58	0.00	1.26	18	0.76	16	18	70	0	7	0	0
	PHOENIX	81	54	85	51	68	8	0.00	-0.22	0.00	0.00	0	0.18	12	38	12	0	0	0	0
	TUCSON	80	46	85	42	63	6	0.00	-0.17	0.00	0.00	0	0.01	1	31	8	0	0	0	0
	YUMA	81	55	87	50	68	5	0.00	-0.06	0.00	0.00	0	0.60	98	60	21	0	0	0	0
AR	FORT SMITH	68	38	78	29	53	6	0.12	-0.70	0.00	0.12	17	3.41	65	80	25	0	2	1	0
	LITTLE ROCK	66	40	74	31	53	4	0.24	-0.76	0.23	0.24	28	9.06	115	82	30	0	1	2	0
CA	BAKERSFIELD	64	41	72	33	52	-3	0.00	-0.25	0.00	0.00	0	4.38	206	88	46	0	0	0	0
	EUREKA	54	38	65	31	46	-4	1.74	0.50	1.10	0.64	60	15.33	130	92	59	0	1	4	2
	FRESNO	63	43	72	37	53	0	0.08	-0.36	0.00	0.08	21	4.09	99	90	41	0	0	1	0
	LOS ANGELES	63	51	68	50	57	0	0.02	-0.52	0.01	0.01	2	2.42	45	93	57	0	0	2	0
	REDDING	58	37	63	32	47	-4	0.51	-0.56	0.26	0.25	27	11.02	96	87	38	0	1	5	0
	SACRAMENTO	60	40	66	34	50	-2	0.23	-0.41	0.12	0.11	20	7.51	105	97	45	0	0	2	0
	SAN DIEGO	64	54	70	52	59	0	0.09	-0.32	0.08	0.09	26	2.33	63	88	56	0	0	2	0
	SAN FRANCISCO	57	45	62	41	51	-1	0.17	-0.57	0.09	0.17	27	7.75	95	88	49	0	0	2	0
CO	ALAMOSA	55	11	61	7	33	5	0.00	-0.08	0.00	0.00	0	0.07	11	75	13	0	7	0	0
	CO SPRINGS	53	26	67	17	39	5	0.00	-0.17	0.00	0.00	0	0.17	20	60	17	0	5	0	0
	DENVER	54	23	69	16	39	3	0.12	-0.11	0.11	0.12	60	0.66	52	66	19	0	6	1	0
	GRAND JUNCTION	58	29	65	23	44	4	0.00	-0.18	0.00	0.00	0	0.37	31	59	15	0	5	0	0
	PUEBLO	60	21	76	14	41	2	0.00	-0.14	0.00	0.00	0	0.12	16	67	18	0	7	0	0
CT	BRIDGEPORT	47	31	55	28	39	4	2.28	1.48	1.19	1.09	160	11.54	166	94	49	0	6	5	2
	HARTFORD	45	27	56	22	36	3	2.19	1.40	0.62	1.70	254	10.46	143	84	40	0	6	5	2
DC	WASHINGTON	52	36	68	32	44	2	1.36	0.65	0.68	0.68	111	8.64	143	80	40	0	1	5	1
DE	WILMINGTON	49	34	59	27	42	3	1.41	0.66	0.66	0.75	117	9.69	147	85	45	0	3	5	1
FL	DAYTONA BEACH	72	46	76	39	59	-3	1.24	0.52	1.24	0.00	0	6.63	102	91	34	0	0	1	1
	JACKSONVILLE	71	42	76	32	56	-2	0.38	-0.53	0.29	0.09	12	6.22	78	84	27	0	1	2	0
	KEY WEST	74	62	79	56	68	-4	0.71	0.30	0.71	0.71	203	4.79	115	87	58	0	0	1	1
	MIAMI	76	58	81	54	67	-3	0.05	-0.48	0.05	0.05	11	3.30	73	83	40	0	0	1	0
	ORLANDO	75	47	81	42	61	-3	0.05	-0.75	0.03	0.02	3	3.28	55	94	31	0	0	2	0
	PENSACOLA	70	48	74	40	59	2	0.88	-0.48	0.47	0.47	41	7.10	63	90	41	0	0	2	0
	TALLAHASSEE	70	39	77	30	54	-3	1.24	-0.24	0.79	0.90	71	6.82	59	94	26	0	1	3	1
	TAMPA	73	53	77	44	63	-2	0.17	-0.62	0.16	0.01	1	3.34	58	88	41	0	0	2	0
GA	WEST PALM	75	54	80	49	64	-4	0.12	-0.69	0.01	0.12	17	8.53	138	86	41	0	0	1	0
	ATHENS	63	37	71	29	50	0	0.70	-0.52	0.28	0.64	61	8.78	87	84	33	0	2	4	0
	ATLANTA	62	37	72	29	49	0	0.84	-0.47	0.31	0.82	73	8.12	76	79	22	0	2	5	0
	AUGUSTA	66	34	72	25	50	-2	0.38	-0.71	0.28	0.36	39	8.44	91	87	27	0	3	3	0
	COLUMBUS	67	41	76	33	54	0	0.45	-0.86	0.22	0.40	36	6.24	59	80	23	0	0	4	0
	MACON	66	38	74	28	52	-1	0.56	-0.58	0.20	0.44	45	8.61	84	86	28	0	2	4	0
	SAVANNAH	68	39	74	30	54	-2	0.25	-0.60	0.16	0.09	12	8.16	108	81	25	0	1	2	0
HI	HILO	78	63	82	61	70	-2	0.30	-2.53	0.21	0.28	12	36.44	161	90	61	0	0	4	0
	HONOLULU	81	66	83	64	74	0	0.00	-0.51	0.00	0.00	0	2.86	46	83	52	0	0	0	0
	KAHULUI	82	60	84	57	71	-1	0.00	-0.64	0.00	0.00	0	4.04	53	91	51	0	0	0	0
	LIHUE	77	64	81	58	71	-2	0.01	-0.86	0.01	0.00	0	5.68	57	92	66	0	0	1	0
ID	BOISE	48	32	54	22	40	0	0.42	0.14	0.39	0.03	12	3.40	124	79	36	0	4	3	0
	LEWISTON	47	32	50	26	40	-2	0.31	0.09	0.12	0.19	100	2.08	87	92	42	0	4	4	0
	POCATELLO	44	25	57	18	34	1	0.21	-0.05	0.08	0.16	70	2.81	128	84	46	0	7	4	0
IL	CHICAGO/O'HARE	39	27	45	20	33	1	0.40	-0.07	0.19	0.31	76	6.42	195	89	58	0	6	3	0
	MOLINE	40	25	49	11	33	1	0.41	-0.10	0.34	0.41	91	4.46	139	94	55	0	6	3	0
	PEORIA	43	28	53	19	35	2	0.60	0.08	0.48	0.60	133	4.83	142	95	55	0	4	3	0
	ROCKFORD	37	24	43	8	31	1	0.28	-0.13	0.22	0.22	61	4.50	161	93	59	0	6	2	0
	SPRINGFIELD	43	28	54	20	36	1	0.65	0.04	0.39	0.65	123	4.74	124	85	54	0	4	2	0
IN	EVANSVILLE	50	31	67	23	40	0	0.99	0.00	0.69	0.91	107	8.85	133	87	48	0	5	4	1
	FORT WAYNE	39	27	44	12	33	1	0.91	0.34	0.46	0.86	176	6.17	144	93	69	0	5	4	0
	INDIANAPOLIS	44	30	47	24	37	1	1.25	0.48	0.37	1.05	157	10.97	202	91	57	0	5	5	0
	SOUTH BEND	37	25	44	7	31	-1	1.30	0.72	0.75	1.14	228	5.84	126	94	67	0	6	5	1
IA	BURLINGTON	45	28	58	21	37	3	0.18	-0.32	0.08	0.18	41	4.92	174	83	50	0	4	3	0
	CEDAR RAPIDS	39	23	52	9	31	1	0.11	-0.30	0.10	0.11	31	3.98	168	94	61	0	7	2	0
	DES MOINES	44	25	61	19	35	3	0.23	-0.18	0.21	0.23	66	2.45	102	88	47	0	7	3	0
	DUBUQUE	35	22	43	10	29	1	0.07	-0.45	0.03	0.07	16	3.19	106	88	58	0	7	3	0
	SIOUX CITY	43	26	57	19	35	5	0.08	-0.27	0.08	0.08	27	1.22	79	86	51	0	7	1	0
	WATERLOO	39	23	55	15	31	3	0.05	-0.36	0.03	0.05	14	2.25	101	89	55	0	7	2	0
KS	CONCORDIA	56	26	74	17	41	5	0.01	-0.39	0.01	0.01	3	0.78	47	74	33	0	7	1	0
	DODGE CITY	63	28	78	17	46	6	0.00	-0.27	0.00	0.00	0	1.97	146	66	21	0	4	0	0
	GOODLAND	54	24	72	17	39	4	0.00	-0.22	0.00	0.00	0	0.57	59	77	21	0	6	0	0
	TOPEKA	56	29	75	23	43	4	0.30	-0.14	0.21	0.30	79	2.41	102	81	32	0	6	2	0

Based on 1961-90 normals

Weather Data for the Week Ending March 6, 1999

STATES AND STATIONS	TEMPERATURE °F						PRECIPITATION							RELATIVE HUMIDITY PERCENT		NUMBER OF DAYS					
	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	EXTREME HIGH	EXTREME LOW	AVERAGE	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	WEEKLY TOTAL, IN.	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	GREATEST IN 24-HOUR, IN.	TOTAL IN, SINCE Dec 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Dec 1	TOTAL IN, SINCE Jan 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Jan 1	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	90 AND ABOVE	32 AND BELOW	TEMP. °F		PRECIP.	
																		04 INCH OR MORE	50 INCH OR MORE	04 INCH OR MORE	50 INCH OR MORE
KY WICHITA	60	32	76	23	46	6	0.00	-0.46	0.00	0.00	0	1.74	80	75	28	0	3	0	0	0	
KY JACKSON	52	29	62	26	40	-2	1.55	0.49	0.85	1.27	140	10.89	128	90	38	0	7	5	1	1	
KY LEXINGTON	50	30	61	26	40	0	1.25	0.31	0.39	1.04	128	9.53	139	91	46	0	5	5	0	0	
KY LOUISVILLE	52	33	64	26	42	1	1.11	0.12	0.29	0.88	104	10.50	150	90	51	0	4	5	0	0	
KY PADUCAH	54	32	68	21	43	0	1.09	0.03	0.89	1.09	121	9.46	117	89	42	0	4	2	1	1	
LA BATON ROUGE	73	45	83	35	59	2	0.75	-0.40	0.68	0.75	79	7.72	68	96	33	0	0	3	1	1	
LA LAKE CHARLES	72	48	83	41	60	3	0.52	-0.26	0.51	0.52	79	7.28	83	98	48	0	0	2	1	1	
LA NEW ORLEANS	72	51	81	43	61	3	0.33	-0.91	0.30	0.31	30	4.43	37	88	40	0	0	3	0	0	
LA SHREVEPORT	71	45	79	35	58	4	0.85	0.00	0.83	0.85	118	14.23	166	89	35	0	0	2	1	1	
ME CARIBOU	37	18	48	3	28	9	0.40	-0.12	0.13	0.36	82	5.32	111	90	52	0	6	5	0	0	
ME PORTLAND	42	26	50	18	34	5	2.46	1.66	1.54	0.92	137	10.93	145	87	46	0	6	5	1	1	
MD BALTIMORE	50	34	64	24	42	2	1.34	0.56	0.64	0.70	106	8.05	118	89	44	0	3	4	1	1	
MA BOSTON	46	30	55	25	38	3	1.83	0.99	0.71	1.12	158	10.31	130	92	43	0	5	5	1	1	
MA WORCESTER	43	28	54	23	35	6	2.51	1.64	0.94	1.57	212	10.96	139	85	42	0	6	5	2	2	
MI ALPENA	27	16	35	2	22	-1	0.99	0.58	0.42	0.57	158	4.32	131	91	66	0	7	6	0	0	
MI GRAND RAPIDS	34	23	40	10	28	-1	0.80	0.33	0.39	0.64	156	5.66	154	92	60	0	7	5	0	0	
MI HOUGHTON LAKE	28	17	34	7	23	0	0.62	0.23	0.33	0.29	85	3.44	114	93	66	0	7	5	0	0	
MI LANSING	34	20	41	5	27	-1	0.74	0.31	0.32	0.64	173	3.95	123	96	64	0	7	5	0	0	
MI MARQUETTE	24	5	34	-13	15	-4	0.70	0.14	0.18	0.61	127	8.70	198	88	66	0	7	6	0	0	
MI MUSKOGON	33	23	38	13	28	0	0.74	0.27	0.34	0.40	98	4.11	97	94	63	0	6	5	0	0	
MN DULUTH	26	12	34	1	19	0	0.07	-0.26	0.01	0.07	23	1.58	68	92	57	0	7	2	0	0	
MN INT'L FALLS	27	11	35	0	19	3	0.13	-0.06	0.08	0.13	76	0.71	42	88	53	0	7	2	0	0	
MN MINNEAPOLIS	35	22	45	16	28	4	0.07	-0.28	0.00	0.07	23	3.14	147	83	51	0	7	2	0	0	
MN ROCHESTER	33	21	43	14	27	3	0.01	-0.29	0.00	0.01	4	3.08	173	91	59	0	7	1	0	0	
MN ST. CLOUD	33	20	44	12	26	5	0.06	-0.17	0.04	0.06	30	0.97	62	85	54	0	7	1	0	0	
MS JACKSON	69	39	76	29	54	1	0.62	-0.63	0.59	0.62	58	11.13	101	90	37	0	1	3	1	1	
MS MERIDIAN	69	37	77	28	53	0	0.52	-0.97	0.29	0.52	41	8.32	70	96	29	0	2	3	0	0	
MO TUPELO	62	38	70	28	50	0	3.31	1.99	2.45	3.31	293	17.78	166	88	37	0	1	4	2	2	
MO COLUMBIA	51	29	62	23	40	2	0.44	-0.17	0.29	0.44	85	5.04	132	90	44	0	5	2	0	0	
MO KANSAS CITY	53	29	69	22	41	4	0.36	-0.10	0.28	0.36	90	4.41	170	83	36	0	5	2	0	0	
MO SAINT LOUIS	52	31	60	22	41	1	0.48	-0.24	0.28	0.48	77	9.09	200	85	41	0	4	2	0	0	
MO SPRINGFIELD	55	30	71	23	43	1	0.63	-0.13	0.51	0.63	97	6.48	141	88	33	0	4	2	1	1	
MT BILLINGS	46	25	61	11	36	3	0.78	0.58	0.53	0.78	433	1.85	106	74	28	0	6	2	1	1	
MT BUTTE	36	12	51	-3	24	-1	0.22	0.08	0.09	0.21	175	1.12	107	90	42	0	7	5	0	0	
MT GLASGOW	34	21	42	12	28	4	0.18	0.10	0.08	0.16	229	1.54	220	95	67	0	7	6	0	0	
MT GREAT FALLS	43	23	57	13	33	3	0.10	-0.10	0.07	0.10	56	0.80	48	77	36	0	6	2	0	0	
MT KALISPELL	40	26	47	15	33	3	0.89	0.66	0.57	0.32	160	2.89	102	95	51	0	7	6	1	1	
MT MILES CITY	46	28	63	22	37	9	0.09	-0.02	0.04	0.05	56	0.67	61	88	38	0	6	3	0	0	
MT MISSOULA	40	25	45	15	33	0	0.59	0.38	0.33	0.26	137	2.31	103	95	47	0	7	5	0	0	
NE GRAND ISLAND	51	24	68	15	38	5	0.10	-0.23	0.08	0.10	34	0.74	50	80	40	0	7	2	0	0	
NE LINCOLN	51	27	69	18	39	6	0.05	-0.30	0.05	0.05	16	1.69	108	79	37	0	6	1	0	0	
NE NORFOLK	48	26	66	18	37	7	0.10	-0.24	0.09	0.10	33	0.95	60	83	42	0	7	2	0	0	
NE NORTH PLATTE	53	20	72	13	36	4	0.07	-0.13	0.00	0.07	41	0.68	69	93	26	0	7	1	0	0	
NE OMAHA	48	28	65	21	38	5	0.12	-0.23	0.12	0.12	39	2.11	115	89	47	0	6	1	0	0	
NE SCOTTSBLUFF	49	22	65	15	36	3	0.29	0.10	0.25	0.29	171	0.59	53	86	26	0	7	2	0	0	
NE VALENTINE	46	22	64	13	34	5	0.15	-0.03	0.11	0.15	100	1.02	121	93	41	0	7	2	0	0	
NV ELY	52	21	62	11	37	4	0.00	-0.19	0.00	0.00	0	0.81	52	79	19	0	6	0	0	0	
NV LAS VEGAS	74	50	79	44	62	8	0.00	-0.11	0.00	0.00	0	0.08	8	31	13	0	0	0	0	0	
NV RENO	55	31	65	23	43	2	0.02	-0.18	0.01	0.00	0	2.01	89	71	21	0	5	1	0	0	
NV WINNEMUCCA	52	26	63	20	39	1	0.01	-0.16	0.01	0.01	7	2.06	136	83	28	0	5	1	0	0	
NH CONCORD	42	24	53	18	33	5	1.86	1.25	0.78	1.08	208	9.30	167	89	40	0	6	5	1	1	
NJ NEWARK	49	35	55	29	42	5	1.59	0.77	0.76	0.83	119	10.81	152	89	40	0	2	5	1	1	
NM ALBUQUERQUE	65	36	70	32	51	7	0.00	-0.11	0.00	0.00	0	0.12	12	40	12	0	1	0	0	0	
NY ALBANY	41	24	54	18	32	3	1.75	1.13	0.46	1.36	257	7.74	150	96	49	0	6	5	0	0	
NY BINGHAMTON	37	22	49	7	30	2	1.67	1.07	0.55	1.32	259	7.61	145	97	57	0	7	6	1	1	
NY BUFFALO	34	24	43	11	29	0	1.98	1.40	0.87	1.75	357	8.63	156	95	63	0	6	7	2	2	
NY ROCHESTER	35	25	45	13	30	0	3.26	2.76	1.32	3.10	721	7.71	167	92	61	0	6	7	3	3	
NY SYRACUSE	38	24	53	10	31	2	2.38	1.82	0.59	1.88	392	8.63	174	89	58	0	6	7	2	2	
NC ASHEVILLE	53	29	64	22	41	-2	0.83	-0.24	0.33	0.70	77	10.37	129	89	38	0	4	5	0	0	
NC CHARLOTTE	61	33	69	22	47	0	0.33	-0.71	0.28	0.29	33	6.48	77	79	28	0	3	3	0	0	
NC GREENSBORO	57	32	65	25	45	0	0.41	-0.45	0.31	0.34	47	7.24	100	89	40	0	4	3	0	0	
NC HATTERAS	56	44	64	41	50	1	0.68	-0.31	0.63	0.64	75	6.83	67	84	49	0	0	3	1	1	
NC RALEIGH	60	34	72	25	47	0	0.29	-0.63	0.17	0.12	15	7.85	99	84	36	0	4	2	0	0	
NC WILMINGTON	64	38	75	30	51	0	0.42	-0.49	0.22	0.20	26	7.00	84	85	43	0	3	2	0	0	
ND BISMARCK	35	19	49	13	27	5	0.03	-0.09	0.01	0.03	30	1.55	155	93	64	0	7	2	0	0	
ND DICKINSON	39	22	54	19	30	6	0.00	-0.09	0.00	0.00	0	1.24	157	93	60	0	7	0	0	0	
ND FARGO	30	16	41	1	23	4	0.05	-0.12	0.00	0.05	33	1.40	109	89	66	0	7	2	0	0	
ND GRAND FORKS	25	10	31	-9	17	0	0.07	-0.09	0.03	0.07	50	1.29	97	92	72	0	7	3	0	0	
ND JAMESTOWN	28	12	39	-2	20	0	0.12	-0.02	0.12	0.12	100	1.75	146	95	76	0	7	1	0	0	
ND WILLISTON	32	17	41	13	24	2	0.22	0.11	0.10	0.22	244	2.51	235	92	72	0	7	4	0	0	
OH AKRON-CANTON	39	26	48	17	32	-1	2.01	1.32	0.68	1.86	315	8.17	164	97	71	0	6	6	2	2	
OH CINCINNATI	47	29	57	23	38	0	1.32	0.45	0.54	1.14	150	9.57	159	89	51	0	6	5	1	1	
OH CLEVELAND	39	26	49	17	33	0	1.66	1.05	0.55	1.46	281	7.17	151	94	66	0	6	6	1	1	
OH COLUMBUS	44	29	50	20	36	0	1.55	0.87	0.72	1.36	234	7.00	140	97	59						

Weather Data for the Week Ending March 6, 1999

STATES AND STATIONS	TEMPERATURE °F						PRECIPITATION							RELATIVE HUMIDITY PERCENT		NUMBER OF DAYS			
	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	EXTREME HIGH	EXTREME LOW	AVERAGE	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	WEEKLY TOTAL, IN.	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	GREATEST IN 24-HOUR, IN.	TOTAL IN. SINCE Dec 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Dec 1	TOTAL IN. SINCE Jan 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Jan 1	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	TEMP. °F		PRECIP.	
																90 AND ABOVE	32 AND BELOW	0.1 INCH OR MORE	5.0 INCH OR MORE
OK	38	26	44	13	32	1	0.77	0.24	0.37	0.73	162	5.56	141	94	61	0	6	5	0
OK	37	24	46	15	31	0	2.50	1.87	0.88	1.92	349	9.33	198	96	64	0	6	6	3
OK	65	39	78	32	52	6	0.00	-0.55	0.00	0.00	0	3.01	95	71	28	0	2	0	0
OK	64	36	78	29	50	4	0.07	-0.62	0.01	0.07	12	4.34	106	72	25	0	1	1	0
OR	48	36	51	29	42	-3	1.99	0.28	0.49	1.50	103	33.56	176	99	73	0	1	6	0
OR	38	22	43	13	30	-4	0.08	-0.14	0.06	0.02	11	3.61	184	93	59	0	6	3	0
OR	48	35	56	30	42	-4	0.93	-0.39	0.27	0.66	58	18.35	125	95	66	0	2	4	0
OR	52	35	64	28	44	-2	0.88	0.44	0.49	0.37	97	8.34	167	93	43	0	2	5	1
OR	51	33	56	27	42	-1	0.17	-0.10	0.08	0.09	39	2.12	74	87	38	0	4	4	0
OR	49	37	54	32	43	-3	1.78	0.92	0.50	1.28	175	16.63	167	94	56	0	1	5	1
OR	47	35	53	27	41	-3	2.30	1.28	0.80	1.75	201	22.76	201	95	67	0	1	5	2
PA	46	29	57	24	38	3	1.00	0.28	0.34	0.80	131	8.90	132	80	43	0	5	5	0
PA	37	25	45	17	31	0	1.21	0.58	0.63	0.90	170	7.69	153	91	65	0	6	7	1
PA	47	33	63	27	40	4	1.06	0.33	0.49	0.57	92	7.41	116	85	44	0	3	4	0
PA	50	34	61	29	42	4	1.36	0.63	0.55	0.81	129	8.65	130	90	50	0	3	5	1
PA	40	25	49	16	33	-2	1.51	0.80	0.59	1.06	174	8.33	150	97	57	0	6	6	1
PA	44	28	57	17	36	4	1.46	0.92	0.38	1.10	239	7.35	155	93	50	0	5	5	0
PA	43	28	60	16	35	2	2.57	1.87	1.50	2.17	368	9.05	154	92	49	0	5	6	1
RI	48	28	57	25	38	5	2.98	2.09	1.51	1.47	193	13.62	165	89	39	0	6	5	2
SC	66	41	73	33	53	-2	0.09	-0.83	0.09	0.00	0	4.94	63	81	31	0	0	1	0
SC	66	40	73	33	53	-1	0.08	-0.90	0.08	0.00	0	6.97	92	82	30	0	0	1	0
SC	65	37	72	26	51	-1	0.04	-1.07	0.02	0.01	1	6.31	66	80	27	0	3	2	0
SC	60	34	67	26	47	-1	0.61	-0.62	0.45	0.58	55	7.26	76	81	30	0	3	4	0
SD	39	22	55	13	30	7	0.07	-0.15	0.02	0.07	37	0.89	86	89	52	0	7	2	0
SD	42	22	57	12	32	6	0.00	-0.30	0.00	0.00	0	0.65	49	89	51	0	7	0	0
SD	43	19	64	9	31	0	0.40	0.23	0.30	0.40	267	0.65	63	90	48	0	7	3	0
SD	41	21	58	13	31	5	0.02	-0.25	0.02	0.02	9	0.65	47	91	48	0	7	1	0
TN	53	29	60	25	41	-2	1.21	0.36	0.89	1.02	142	8.92	121	94	41	0	5	4	1
TN	59	33	67	26	46	-1	1.28	-0.07	0.43	1.19	103	14.74	136	95	32	0	5	5	0
TN	55	31	64	25	43	-2	1.98	0.84	1.39	1.55	158	11.07	120	92	39	0	4	4	1
TN	61	42	69	33	51	2	1.22	0.05	0.92	1.22	123	9.47	104	82	32	0	0	3	1
TN	56	33	71	24	45	-1	1.54	0.48	0.84	1.54	171	13.10	158	84	32	0	3	4	1
TX	72	44	80	33	58	6	0.00	-0.28	0.00	0.00	0	1.93	79	61	20	0	0	0	0
TX	65	31	78	25	48	5	0.00	-0.20	0.00	0.00	0	2.67	209	62	17	0	4	0	0
TX	77	53	87	42	65	7	0.02	-0.43	0.02	0.02	5	0.26	6	77	30	0	0	1	0
TX	74	52	84	43	63	5	0.00	-0.75	0.00	0.00	0	4.22	48	94	48	0	0	0	0
TX	82	61	91	56	71	6	0.02	-0.10	0.01	0.02	20	1.78	65	95	52	1	0	2	0
TX	81	55	98	45	68	5	0.00	-0.28	0.00	0.00	0	0.78	20	89	40	1	0	0	0
TX	83	49	93	44	66	6	0.00	-0.13	0.00	0.00	0	0.04	2	64	20	1	0	0	0
TX	73	46	78	37	60	8	0.00	-0.08	0.00	0.00	0	0.10	11	34	14	0	0	0	0
TX	72	44	81	36	58	5	0.00	-0.57	0.00	0.00	0	1.92	43	77	30	0	0	0	0
TX	72	60	77	54	66	7	0.00	-0.50	0.00	0.00	0	3.36	56	90	52	0	0	0	0
TX	77	51	85	37	64	6	0.00	-0.67	0.00	0.00	0	2.92	43	89	36	0	0	0	0
TX	69	34	79	29	52	4	0.00	-0.19	0.00	0.00	0	1.35	110	53	14	0	3	0	0
TX	75	41	81	32	58	6	0.00	-0.14	0.00	0.00	0	0.33	29	49	12	0	1	0	0
TX	76	43	84	33	60	6	0.00	-0.20	0.00	0.00	0	0.62	30	66	16	0	0	0	0
TX	78	50	91	40	64	6	0.01	-0.33	0.01	0.01	4	0.10	3	77	28	1	0	1	0
TX	78	53	88	44	65	5	0.01	-0.36	0.01	0.01	3	2.58	58	92	41	0	0	1	0
TX	74	43	82	35	59	5	0.00	-0.50	0.00	0.00	0	2.37	57	78	34	0	0	0	0
TX	69	38	78	30	54	5	0.00	-0.43	0.00	0.00	0	2.56	90	72	27	0	1	0	0
UT	52	31	63	20	41	3	0.17	-0.21	0.14	0.17	53	2.42	90	78	34	0	4	3	0
VT	36	21	49	11	28	4	1.36	0.92	0.51	1.12	295	5.77	151	91	53	0	6	5	1
VA	54	32	68	22	43	1	0.86	0.08	0.42	0.51	77	7.69	118	87	36	0	4	3	0
VA	58	40	72	35	49	4	0.64	-0.22	0.54	1.0	14	5.94	75	77	36	0	0	2	1
VA	57	35	71	25	46	2	0.82	0.00	0.51	0.55	79	6.72	95	87	39	0	2	4	1
VA	52	34	61	27	43	0	0.61	-0.17	0.35	0.43	65	6.28	100	79	36	0	3	3	0
VA	51	33	69	29	42	4	1.48	0.77	0.61	0.87	145	8.87	145	85	40	0	4	4	2
WA	46	32	51	25	39	-4	3.17	1.95	1.21	2.55	245	30.31	205	10	71	0	3	5	3
WA	47	32	50	24	40	-3	3.51	0.68	1.38	2.90	121	44.24	151	99	65	0	4	6	2
WA	47	36	50	30	41	-3	1.26	0.39	0.47	0.79	107	14.58	144	95	59	0	1	5	0
WA	43	29	50	23	36	0	0.27	-0.09	0.12	0.15	48	5.26	140	93	48	0	5	4	0
WA	49	27	55	20	38	-2	0.03	-0.14	0.02	0.02	14	2.73	131	94	35	0	5	2	0
WV	43	22	50	16	33	-5	2.16	1.41	0.93	1.47	230	9.77	150	96	54	0	7	6	2
WV	49	29	56	25	39	-2	2.18	1.38	1.15	1.66	241	9.14	138	98	51	0	6	6	2
WV	42	21	51	6	32	-4	1.77	0.96	0.58	1.23	176	10.00	147	94	55	0	7	5	2
WV	50	29	57	26	40	-2	1.74	0.94	0.99	1.50	221	8.56	134	94	38	0	6	6	1
WI	33	21	42	13	27	4	0.05	-0.22	0.00	0.05	21	2.76	142	87	52	0	7	2	0
WI	35	22	42	14	28	4	0.10	-0.28	0.03	0.07	21	2.56	102	81	56	0	6	3	0
WI	36	23	45	18	29	3	0.03	-0.31	0.02	0.03	10	3.65	171	83	47	0	7	2	0
WI	35	23	41	8	29	2	0.18	-0.21	0.09	0.12	36	3.13	127	83	51	0	6	3	0
WI	35	26	43	16	30	2	0.22	-0.26	0.08	0.20	49	5.56	161	88	57	0	6	4	0
WY	44	18	59	5	31	1	0.14	-0.03	0.09	0.14	100	0.67	52	85	33	0	6	3	0
WY	43	22	59	12	32	1	0.21	0.03	0.19	0.21	131	0.69	74	78	30	0	6	2	0
WY	46	20	59	10	33	3	0.00	-0.19	0.00	0.00	0	0.74	61	69	18	0	7	0	0
WY	45	17	63	0	31	0	0.31	0.14	0.21	0.31	221	0.91	59	86	39	0	7	3	0

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

National Agricultural Summary

March 1 - 7, 1999

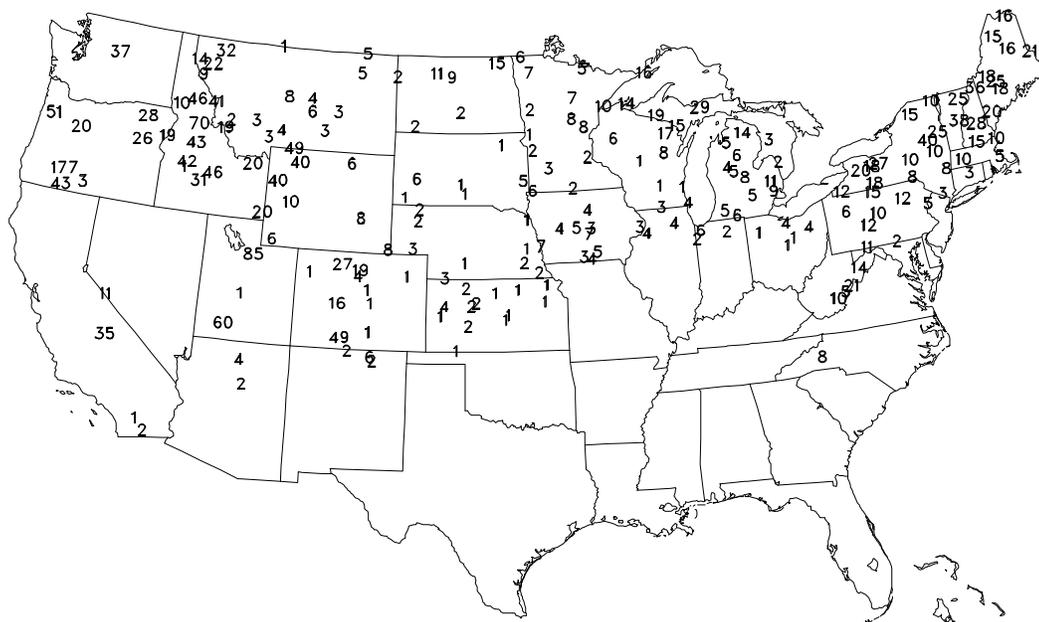
HIGHLIGHTS

Windy conditions continued to deplete soil moisture reserves in the Great Plains, as most areas received no precipitation. Development of small grains in the central and southern Plains was limited by dry conditions, but most fields maintained good color due to warm weather. Field preparations continued throughout the Plains; corn, sorghum, and cotton planting remained active in southern and eastern Texas; and a few rice and soybean fields were planted in the Upper Coast. Some earlier planted corn and cotton fields emerged despite the shortage of soil moisture. The Pacific Northwest remained in a stormy pattern, but rainfall was lighter in most coastal areas. In California, seedbed preparations were active as dry conditions prevailed in all but a few northern areas. Cotton planting progressed

in the Imperial Valley. Small grains, forage crops, and sugarbeets were growing well, but dryland wheat fields in the southern San Joaquin Valley need rain. Temperatures averaged below normal in most of the Southeast, where temperatures fell below freezing as far south as northern Florida. Frost damage was limited due to the short duration of sub-freezing temperatures. The Atlantic Coastal Plains and areas along the Gulf Coast remained dry, while heavy rainfall kept soils saturated in the Appalachians. The Ohio and Tennessee River Valleys received a mixture of rain, freezing rain, and snow. In the eastern Corn Belt and Northeast, most precipitation came in the form of snow. The central and western Corn Belt, Great Lakes States, and most of the lower Mississippi Valley were mostly dry.

Snow Depth (Inches)

Mar 08, 1999



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

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

February Weather and Crop Summary

Weather

The Nation's precipitation patterns were largely governed by the ongoing La Niña, featuring exceptionally wet weather in the Pacific Northwest and dry conditions across much of the South, particularly along the Gulf Coast, in Texas, and across the Southwest. Monthly precipitation topped 200 percent (%) of normal in much of Washington, Oregon, and northwestern California, but was less than 25% of normal in most areas from southern California to Texas and western portions of Kansas and Oklahoma. Beneficially drier conditions returned to the Ohio Valley, allowing excess moisture to drain from soft red winter wheat fields and lowland flooding to subside. Near-normal precipitation fell in much of the Corn Belt, including significant late-month snowfall in western areas.

Monthly temperatures ranged from 6 to 12°F above normal on the Plains, and were generally 2 to 6°F above normal in the East and Southwest. Colder air overspread the Southeast after mid-month, however, ending a 5-week stretch of unusually warm weather, but beneficially slowing fruit tree bud development and winter grain growth. Sub-freezing temperatures were reported north of a line from central Louisiana to northern Florida on February 14-15 and 22-23. In contrast, the month ended with a 7th consecutive week of above-normal temperatures on the Plains, pushing hard red winter wheat out of dormancy as far north as southern and western Nebraska, and leaving the crop vulnerable to possible March cold outbreaks. Generally below-normal temperatures prevailed along the West Coast beginning in late January and continuing through February, resulting in a 5-week run of below-normal temperatures across northern and central California. Monthly temperatures were as much as 5°F below normal in northern California.

The Mid-Atlantic and Southeastern States, still recovering from varying degrees of drought during 1998, slipped back into a drier-than-normal regime during February. In Baltimore, MD, the 8-month (July 1998 - February 1999) rainfall deficit grew slightly to 12.49 inches. Monthly rainfall totaled only 0.42 inch (third driest February on record) in Shreveport, LA and 0.29 inch (fifth driest February) in Tampa, FL. In the coastal Northeast, however, the month began with heavy rain and ended with a major snow storm. In Rhode Island, Providence netted their greatest 24-hour February rainfall (2.64 inches on February 2-3) and their heaviest February snowfall (11.4 inches on February 25-26) since 1978. During the late-month storm, blizzard conditions engulfed eastern Massachusetts, where wind gusts topped 40 mph and snowfall reached 2 feet (in Harwich). Elsewhere east of the Rockies, the western Corn Belt was one of the few areas to receive substantial snowfall. From February 17-23, Omaha, NE measured 15.8 inches, accounting for 61% of their season-to-date total.

In the West, the Sierra Nevada proved to be the boundary zone between heavy precipitation to the north and minimal amounts to the south. According to the California Department of Water Resources, the northern Sierra Nevada collected 16 inches of precipitation during the month, boosting the snow pack's water equivalent to 145% of normal on March 1. In contrast, only 6

inches fell in the southern Sierra Nevada, where the March 1 water equivalent stood at 79% of normal. For the Sierra Nevada as a whole, the snow pack's water equivalent reached 29 inches (116% of normal) by month's end, up from 17 inches (90%) at the end of January.

In western Washington, persistently wet weather resulted in several new February and November to February precipitation records:

Record-High February Precipitation (Inches)

<u>Location</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Normal</u>	<u>Former Record/Year</u>
Quillayute	26.20	12.59	20.60 in 1982
Olympia	15.50	5.77	13.18 in 1961

Record-High Nov.-Feb. Precipitation (Inches)

<u>Location</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Normal</u>	<u>Former Record/Year</u>
Quillayute	88.93	57.16	not available
Olympia	55.70	29.95	42.03 in 1949-50
Seattle	34.39	21.11	32.46 in 1995-96

During the November to February period (120 days), measurable precipitation fell in Seattle on 90 days, breaking their 1958-59 standard by 3 days. Olympia's 4-month total (55.70 inches) surpassed their normal annual rainfall (50.59 inches), and represented their first occurrence of 4 consecutive months with more than 10 inches of precipitation. Wetter-than-normal conditions extended as far east as eastern Montana, where Glasgow reported above-normal precipitation (0.56 inch, or 207% of normal). Glasgow's October-February total reached 5.72 inches, eclipsing their 1924-25 record of 5.54 inches.

In sharp contrast, very dry conditions dominated the South, setting or tying several February rainfall records, and becoming the driest February in many years at numerous other sites:

Record-Low February Precipitation (Inches)

<u>Location</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Normal</u>	<u>Former Record/Year</u>
Midland, TX	0.00	0.62	0.00 in 1947
Abilene, TX	0.00	1.16	0.00 in 1907 and 1909
Mobile, AL	1.09	5.46	1.16 in 1855
Montgomery, AL	1.11	5.48	1.32 in 1938

Lowest February Precipitation (Inches) Since...

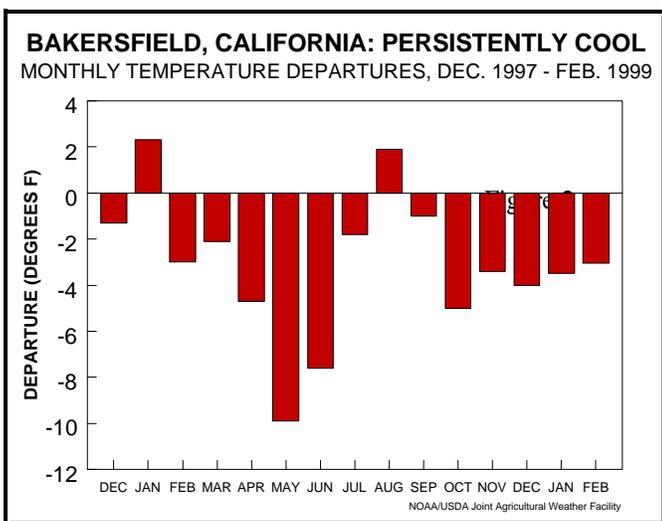
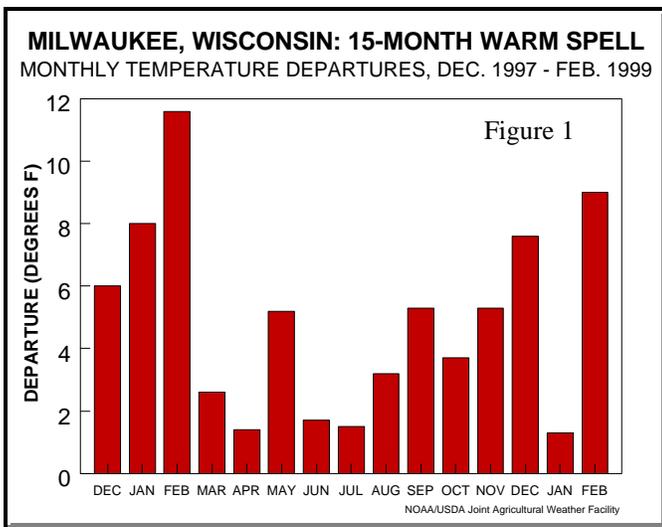
<u>Location</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Normal</u>	<u>Driest Since...</u>
Amarillo, TX	trace	0.61	trace in 1995
Del Rio, TX	0.02	0.95	0.01 in 1976
Lubbock, TX	trace	0.68	0.00 in 1955
Pensacola, FL	0.76	5.40	0.63 in 1950
Waco, TX	0.07	2.09	trace in 1926
San Antonio, TX	0.01	1.81	0.01 in 1916
Austin, TX	0.03	2.17	0.00 in 1916

Unusual warmth accompanied the dryness across the South Central States. Austin's monthly average temperature of 62.3°F (9.5°F above normal) was their highest on record during February, shattering a 1976 record by 1.0°F. Many other locations observed their warmest February in more than 20 years:

Highest Feb. Average Temperature (°F) Since...

Location	Average	Warmest Since...
Del Rio, TX	62.9	63.0 in 1976
Waco, TX	57.7	59.0 in 1976
Dallas-Ft. Worth, TX	55.5	58.4 in 1976
Midland, TX	54.2	56.2 in 1976
Amarillo, TX	47.3	47.8 in 1976
Wichita, KS	45.1	45.5 in 1976
San Antonio, TX	61.8	62.8 in 1962
Valentine, NE	36.3	40.8 in 1954

Long streaks of above-normal monthly temperatures continued in parts of the Plains and Midwest, reaching 8 months in Glasgow, MT, 10 months in Wichita, KS and Houston, TX, and 15 months in Milwaukee, WI. Wichita's streak (May 1998 - February 1999) is their longest since February to November 1963; Milwaukee's (fig. 1) is their longest since a record-setting 16-month warm spell from December 1937 to March 1939. In contrast, below-normal temperatures prevailed in Bakersfield, CA for the 12th time in the last 13 months (fig. 2). Average temperatures at Bakersfield were last above normal during 2 consecutive months in December 1996 and January 1997.



The month's most impressive warm spell, from February 6-12, resulted in nearly 250 daily-record highs. On February 11, nine cities in the Great Lakes region noted monthly record highs, including Indianapolis, IN (75°F), Columbus, OH (74°F), and Detroit, MI (70°F). Detroit's high also represented their earliest occurrence of 70-degree warmth, which previously had been March 7, 1987. Across southern Texas, temperatures soared toward month's end. On the 27th, highs reached 94°F in McAllen and 87°F (a daily record) in Austin.

Exceedingly cold weather gripped Alaska during the first half of February, only to be replaced by warmer-than-normal conditions thereafter. In Fairbanks, a high of -19°F on February 11 ended their longest spell (16 days) with temperatures at or below -20°F since January 14-31, 1971 (18 days). In addition, Fairbanks endured their lowest temperature (-55°F on February 4) since January 6, 1975, and their longest streak on record with minimum temperatures below -35°F (19 days from January 26 to February 13). A monthly record low was established in Galena (-64°F on February 2), and an all-time-record low was tied at Denali National Park (-54°F on February 5). Kodiak noted an average temperature of 21.7°F (8.8°F below normal), their lowest February value since 1896. McGrath reported a range of 90°F during February, from a low of -62°F on the 2nd to a high of 28°F on the 20th. Very heavy snowfall buried southeastern Alaska, including a February-record total (84.0 inches) in Yakutat, 72.1 inches of which fell during the first half of the month. Juneau received 34.2 inches of snow (179% of normal), boosting their seasonal total to 116.5 inches (137%).

Correction: Previous issues of the *Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin* (Vol. 86, No. 3, page 3 and Vol. 86, No. 6, pages 3 and 8) listed a State-record low temperature for Maine (-55°F in Allagash on January 14, 1999). Upon further investigation by the National Weather Service, the measuring equipment was determined to be inaccurate at extremely low temperatures. After re-calibrating the thermometer, Allagash's low temperature was declared -38°F, leaving intact the State record (-48°F in Van Buren on January 19, 1925).

Fieldwork

Temperatures averaged above normal across most of the Nation during February. Only areas along the Pacific Coast and adjacent areas of the Rocky Mountains experienced below normal average temperatures. In the Pacific Northwest and points as far south as central California, storms repeatedly pounded coastal areas causing flooding, erosion, and mud slides. Farther inland, at higher elevations of the Cascade and Sierra Ranges, additional snow accumulations increased the risk of avalanches. Interior areas of the Rocky Mountains also received precipitation, but the area from the High Plains eastward into the northern Corn Belt and Great Lakes Region remained dry. Parts of the Corn Belt and adjacent areas of the Great Plains received beneficial precipitation.

The southern Plains experienced near-record temperatures early in the month that spurred small grain development, especially in the Texas High Plains. Growers began planting corn in the
(Continued on page 12)

TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION SUMMARY

February 1999

STATES AND STATIONS	TEMP, °F		PRECIP.		STATES AND STATIONS	TEMP, °F		PRECIP.		STATES AND STATIONS	TEMP, °F		PRECIP.	
	AVERAGE	DEPARTURE	TOTAL	DEPARTURE		AVERAGE	DEPARTURE	TOTAL	DEPARTURE		AVERAGE	DEPARTURE	TOTAL	DEPARTURE
AL BIRMINGHAM	51	5	2.34	-2.38	ME CARIBOU	17	5	1.38	-0.54	RI WILKES-BARRE	31	5	1.41	-0.75
AL HUNTSVILLE	49	5	2.69	-2.18	ME PORTLAND	29	5	3.87	0.54	RI WILLIAMSPORT	32	4	1.96	-0.80
AL MOBILE	57	4	1.09	-4.38	MD BALTIMORE	37	2	2.65	-0.47	RI PROVIDENCE	35	5	5.45	1.85
AL MONTGOMERY	53	4	1.11	-4.37	MA BOSTON	33	3	3.51	-0.11	SC BEAUFORT	53	2	1.59	-1.69
AK ANCHORAGE	8	-11	0.28	-0.49	MA WORCESTER	31	6	3.38	-0.08	SC CHARLESTON	53	3	2.01	-1.28
AK BARROW	-15	4	0.08	-0.03	MI ALPENA	24	6	1.43	0.14	SC COLUMBIA	50	3	2.35	-1.78
AK FAIRBANKS	-17	-13	0.21	-0.23	MI GRAND RAPIDS	31	7	1.49	0.06	SD GREENVILLE	47	4	2.84	-1.57
AK JUNEAU	29	0	2.66	-1.08	MI HOUGHTON LAKE	26	8	1.29	0.12	SD ABERDEEN	25	12	0.21	-0.26
AK KODIAK	22	-9	2.77	-2.51	MI LANSING	30	7	1.02	-0.34	SD HURON	32	12	0.23	-0.45
AK NOME	-2	-6	0.75	0.15	MI MARQUETTE	22	7	3.15	1.41	SD RAPID CITY	36	10	0.05	-0.47
AZ FLAGSTAFF	36	4	0.48	-1.63	MI MUSKEGON	32	7	1.39	-0.11	SD SIOUX FALLS	30	10	0.28	-0.36
AZ PHOENIX	60	2	0.17	-0.52	MN DULUTH	21	9	0.64	-0.15	TN BRISTOL	40	3	3.50	0.06
AZ TUCSON	56	2	0.00	-0.68	MN INT'L FALLS	19	12	0.49	-0.14	TN CHATTANOOGA	47	6	3.76	-1.05
AZ YUMA	62	1	0.46	0.24	MN MINNEAPOLIS	28	10	0.40	-0.49	TN KNOXVILLE	44	3	2.91	-1.15
AR FORT SMITH	51	9	1.17	-1.43	MO ROCHESTER	27	9	1.00	0.26	TN MEMPHIS	51	7	2.10	-2.26
AR LITTLE ROCK	52	7	1.27	-2.34	MO ST. CLOUD	25	11	0.07	-0.56	TN NASHVILLE	46	5	2.32	-1.49
CA BAKERSFIELD	50	-3	0.46	-0.60	MS JACKSON	54	6	2.04	-2.66	TX ABILENE	56	8	0.00	-1.16
CA EUREKA	47	-2	10.32	5.59	MS MERIDIAN	53	4	2.34	-3.10	TX AMARILLO	47	8	0.00	-0.62
CA FRESNO	50	-2	1.17	-0.61	MO TUPELO	50	6	2.89	-1.82	TX AUSTIN	62	10	0.03	-2.14
CA LOS ANGELES	56	-2	0.56	-1.94	MO COLUMBIA	42	9	2.15	0.31	TX BEAUMONT	61	7	1.13	-2.25
CA REDDING	45	-5	7.66	3.22	MO KANSAS CITY	41	10	1.71	0.60	TX BROWNSVILLE	69	6	1.50	0.44
CA SACRAMENTO	-48	-2	4.54	1.67	MO SAINT LOUIS	42	8	3.52	1.40	TX CORPUS CHRISTI	66	8	0.33	-1.62
CA SAN DIEGO	57	-1	0.70	-0.85	MO SPRINGFIELD	44	8	1.90	-0.27	TX DEL RIO	63	8	0.02	-0.93
CA SAN FRANCISCO	50	-2	4.57	1.40	MT BILLINGS	38	9	0.16	-0.49	TX EL PASO	53	5	0.00	-0.43
CO ALAMOSA	28	5	0.00	-0.28	MT BUTTE	26	4	0.49	0.13	TX FORT WORTH	55	8	0.48	-1.70
CO CO SPRINGS	38	6	0.05	-0.35	MT GLASGOW	26	8	0.56	0.30	TX GALVESTON	63	8	1.14	-1.13
CO DENVER	39	5	0.15	-0.42	MT GREAT FALLS	35	7	0.36	-0.21	TX HOUSTON	61	7	0.80	-2.16
CO GRAND JUNCTION	37	2	0.28	-0.21	MT KALISPELL	32	5	1.30	0.21	TX LUBBOCK	50	7	0.00	-0.68
CO PUEBLO	40	5	0.01	-0.29	MT MILES CITY	35	12	0.13	-0.31	TX MIDLAND	54	7	0.00	-0.63
CT BRIDGEPORT	34	4	4.02	1.00	MT MISSOULA	32	3	1.35	0.55	TX SAN ANGELO	56	7	0.01	-1.07
CT HARTFORD	31	4	3.50	0.27	NE GRAND ISLAND	37	10	0.29	-0.43	TX SAN ANTONIO	62	8	0.01	-1.80
DC WASHINGTON	41	3	2.54	-0.18	NE LINCOLN	37	11	1.28	0.56	TX VICTORIA	63	7	1.94	-0.06
DE WILMINGTON	37	3	3.51	0.59	NE NORFOLK	34	10	0.62	-0.16	TX WACO	58	8	0.07	-2.02
FL DAYTONA BEACH	62	3	1.81	-1.30	NE NORTH PLATTE	37	9	0.26	-0.18	TX WICHITA FALLS	53	8	0.19	-1.27
FL JACKSONVILLE	58	3	1.70	-2.22	NE OMAHA	35	9	1.40	0.62	UT SALT LAKE CITY	37	3	0.96	-0.28
FL KEY WEST	71	1	1.88	0.08	NE SCOTTSBLUFF	38	7	0.22	-0.24	VT BURLINGTON	24	6	1.13	-0.49
FL MIAMI	69	1	0.27	-1.80	NV VALENTINE	36	11	0.72	0.28	VA LYNCHBURG	40	2	2.64	-0.40
FL ORLANDO	63	2	0.36	-2.66	NV ELY	31	1	0.38	-0.29	VA NORFOLK	44	3	2.33	-1.13
FL PENSACOLA	58	4	0.76	-4.65	NV LAS VEGAS	53	2	0.08	-0.36	VA RICHMOND	42	3	1.47	-1.69
FL TALLAHASSEE	56	3	1.64	-3.92	NV RENO	40	2	1.25	0.26	VA ROANOKE	42	4	2.14	-0.90
FL TAMPA	64	2	0.29	-2.78	NV WINNEMUCCA	36	0	0.77	0.14	VA WASH/DULLES	37	3	2.62	-0.19
FL WEST PALM BEACH	66	0	1.90	-0.79	NH CONCORD	28	6	2.84	0.31	WA OLYMPIA	40	-1	15.50	9.72
GA ATHENS	48	3	2.74	-1.70	NJ NEWARK	38	5	3.11	0.07	WA QUILLAYUTE	41	-1	26.20	13.61
GA ATLANTA	49	5	1.97	-2.85	NM ALBUQUERQUE	44	4	0.00	-0.44	WA SEATTLE-TACOM	42	-1	6.95	2.96
GA AUGUSTA	50	2	2.51	-1.76	NY ALBANY	28	4	1.59	-0.70	WA SPOKANE	35	1	3.26	1.77
GA COLUMBUS	53	4	1.77	-3.07	NY BINGHAMTON	27	5	1.55	-0.78	WA YAKIMA	38	2	1.34	0.60
GA MACON	51	3	1.83	-2.91	NY BUFFALO	31	6	1.10	-1.23	WV BECKLEY	35	3	2.73	-0.21
GA SAVANNAH	54	2	1.95	-1.28	NY ROCHESTER	31	5	0.69	-1.42	WV CHARLESTON	39	3	2.67	-0.37
HI HILO	69	-3	21.31	11.02	NY SYRACUSE	29	5	1.43	-0.73	WV ELKINS	33	3	2.49	-0.51
HI HONOLULU	74	1	0.74	-1.46	NC ASHEVILLE	42	3	3.29	-0.62	WV HUNTINGTON	39	4	2.55	-0.35
HI KAHULUI	71	-1	2.03	-0.85	NC CHARLOTTE	46	3	2.32	-1.51	WV EAU CLAIRE	27	11	1.03	0.30
HI LIHUE	71	-1	1.23	-2.10	NC GREENSBORO	43	3	1.50	-1.82	WI GREEN BAY	28	10	1.08	0.04
ID BOISE	36	1	1.96	0.89	NC HATTERAS	47	1	1.20	-2.92	WI LACROSSE	31	11	0.78	-0.13
ID LEWISTON	40	1	1.31	0.41	NC RALEIGH	45	3	1.96	-1.73	WI MADISON	31	10	0.91	-0.16
ID POCATELLO	31	2	1.15	0.24	NC WILMINGTON	41	3	2.00	-1.69	WI MILWAUKEE	32	9	0.98	-0.47
IL CHICAGO/OHARE	34	9	1.64	0.27	ND BISMARCK	25	9	0.39	-0.06	WI CASPER	33	6	0.31	-0.28
IL MOLINE	35	10	1.22	-0.01	ND DICKINSON	30	11	0.47	0.12	WI CHEYENNE	35	5	0.13	-0.28
IL PEORIA	36	10	1.16	-0.27	ND FARGO	22	10	0.20	-0.26	WI LANDER	31	6	0.65	0.08
IL ROCKFORD	32	10	1.17	0.02	ND GRAND FORKS	17	7	0.23	-0.25	WI SHERIDAN	35	8	0.10	-0.56
IL SPRINGFIELD	37	8	2.15	0.38	ND JAMESTOWN	20	6	0.31	-0.15					
IN EVANSVILLE	41	6	1.94	-1.18	ND WILLISTON	22	6	0.46	0.02					
IN FORT WAYNE	33	7	2.51	0.60	OH AKRON-CANTON	33	6	2.78	0.55					
IN INDIANAPOLIS	37	7	3.57	1.11	OH CINCINNATI	37	5	3.66	0.98					
IN SOUTH BEND	33	6	1.58	-0.33	OH CLEVELAND	34	7	2.07	-0.13					
IA BURLINGTON	38	11	0.96	-0.21	OH COLUMBUS	37	7	2.76	0.52					
IA CEDAR RAPIDS	33	10	1.71	0.69	OH DAYTON	35	6	3.97	1.80					
IA DES MOINES	35	11	1.17	0.06	OH MANSFIELD	33	5	2.57	0.54					
IA DUBUQUE	32	10	0.94	-0.37	OH TOLEDO	33	8	1.67	-0.06					
IA SIOUX CITY	32	9	0.81	0.10	OH YOUNGSTOWN	32	6	2.82	0.78					
IA WATERLOO	33	12	0.59	-0.49	OK OKLAHOMA CITY	51	10	1.20	-0.36					
KS CONCORDIA	42	11	0.11	-0.64	OR TULSA	50	10	1.26	-0.71					
KS DODGE CITY	44	9	0.05	-0.57	OR ASTORIA	44	0	18.21	10.62					
KS GOODLAND	39	7	0.12	-0.27	OR BURNS	26	-4	1.94	1.16					
KS TOPEKA	43	11	0.94	-0.10	OR EUGENE	43	-1	10.03	4.39					
KY WICHITA	45	10	0.39	-0.58	OR MEDFORD	42	-1	4.32	2.39					
KY JACKSON	41	5	3.06	-0.75	OR PENDLETON	42	3	1.22	0.08					
KY LEXINGTON	40	5	2.38	-0.83	OR PORTLAND	44	0	8.73	4.89					
KY LOUISVILLE	42	6	2.37	-0.93	OR SALEM	43	0	11.40	6.90					
KY PADUCAH	44	7	1.94	-1.96	PA ALLENTOWN	33	4	2.67	-0.28					
LA BATON ROUGE	58	5	1.78	-3.75	PA ERIE	34	8	1.82	-0.46					
LA LAKE CHARLES	59	6	1.32	-2.27	PA MIDDLETOWN	36	5	1.90	-1.04					
LA NEW ORLEANS	61	7	0.92	-5.09	PA PHILADELPHIA	38	4	2.95	0.15					
LA SHREVEPORT	57	8	0.42	-3.51	PA PITTSBURGH	33	5	2.43	0.05					

Based on 1961-90 normals.

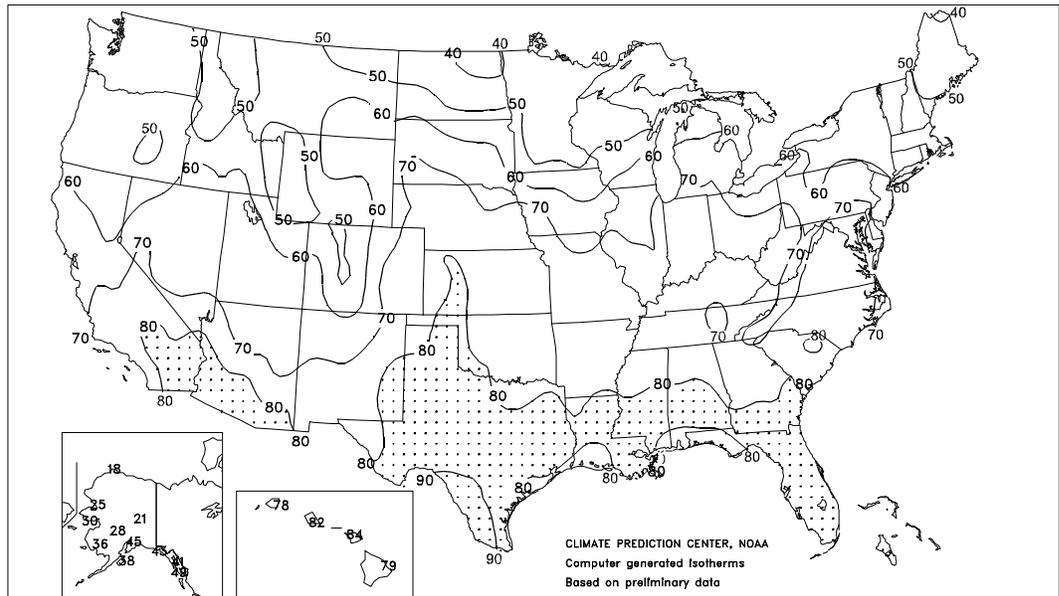
(Continued from page 9)

Coastal Bend to take advantage of available subsoil moisture supplies. As the month progressed, corn and sorghum planting gained momentum until a cold front temporarily deterred planting near mid-month. After warmer weather returned, winter wheat conditions improved in the southern Plains, but a shortage of soil moisture hindered growth, especially in Texas. During the last half of the month, corn, cotton, and sorghum planting progressed in central, southern, and coastal parts of the State with only brief, isolated rain delays. Strong winds near the end of the month further depleted moisture supplies in already dry soils, but winter wheat fields remained green due to mild temperatures. As the end of the month approached, more winter wheat fields broke dormancy in the central and southern Great Plains, Mississippi Delta, and southern Corn Belt due to continued mild weather. Some early-planted corn and cotton fields emerged in Texas, despite dry soils and the brief mid-month cold spell.

In California, the rain, wet soils, and below-normal temperatures prevailed in northern areas most of the month. Field activities were frequently delayed, but did not hinder growth of small grains, alfalfa, forage crops, and sugarbeets. Where conditions were drier, producers applied herbicides, insecticides, and fertilizers; prepared soils for spring crops; replanted freeze-damaged sugar beet fields; and finished planting wheat. In southern California, citrus producers continued harvest activities. Despite below-normal temperatures, almonds and early peach and nectarine varieties began budding. Cotton planting began in the Imperial Valley near the end of the month.

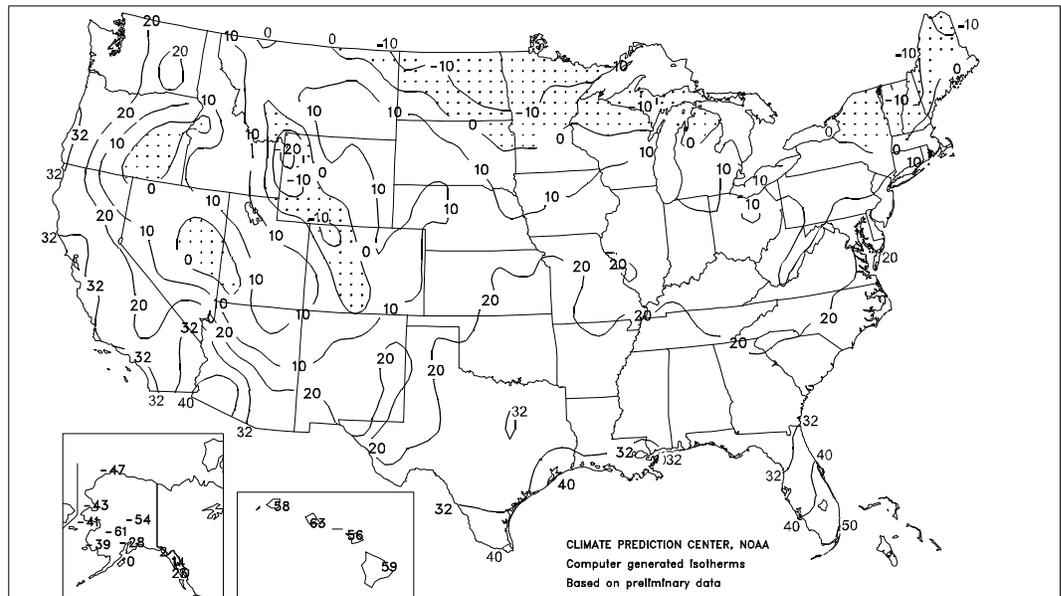
Extreme Maximum Temperature (°F)

February 1999



Extreme Minimum Temperature (°F)

February 1999



In Florida, warm, dry weather aided sugarcane harvest and field preparations for spring crops. However, winter grains were stressed by moisture shortages. Near mid-month, a frost accompanied by strong winds caused some minor citrus leaf burn and bloom bud damage. Crews rapidly harvested the early- and mid-season orange crop. Vegetable growth was normal and quality was mostly good. However, citrus groves needed rain to sustain growth and healthy bloom bud development.

International Weather and Crop Summary

February 28 - March 6, 1999

HIGHLIGHTS

FSU-WESTERN: Unusually mild weather diminished protective snow cover in Ukraine and North Caucasus and caused winter grains to lose cold hardiness.

EUROPE: Showers and mild weather promoted rapid greening of winter grains in the west and caused crops in the east to lose cold hardiness.

NORTHWESTERN AFRICA: Drier weather returned to winter grain areas in Morocco, following last week's beneficial rains.

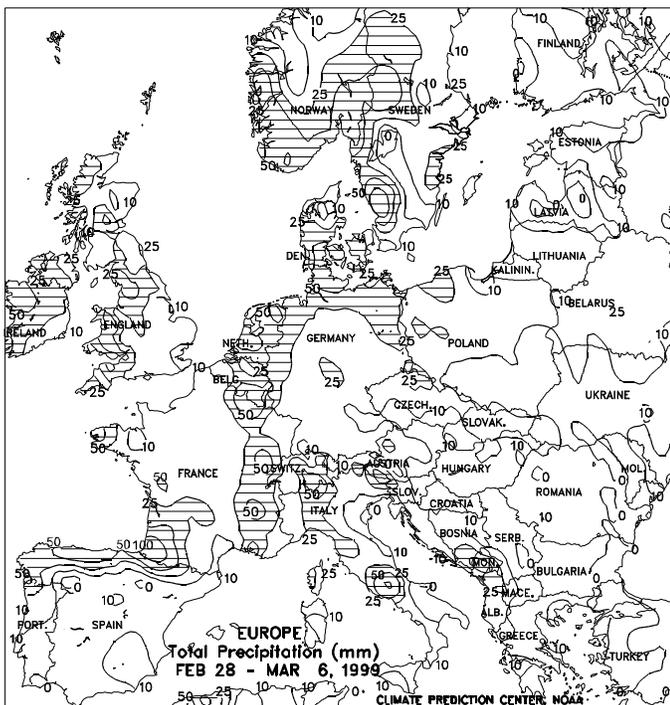
AUSTRALIA: Very heavy rain stalled fieldwork in the main cotton and sorghum areas.

SOUTH AFRICA: Hot, dry weather stressed immature corn and other summer crops and accelerated crop development.

SOUTHEAST ASIA: Heavy showers and flooding returned to the eastern Philippines, and showers slowed rice harvesting in Java, Indonesia.

EASTERN ASIA: Rain benefited vegetative winter wheat across the southern North China Plain as wheat continued to break dormancy across the region.

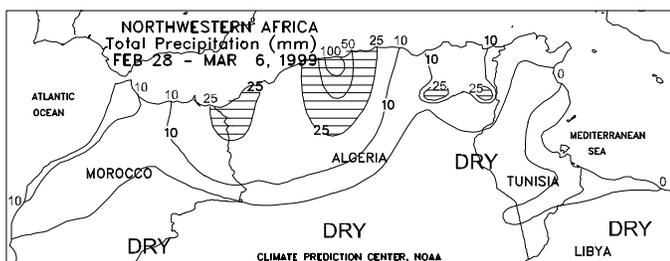
SOUTH AMERICA: Timely showers aided summer crops in central Argentina and southern Brazil.



EUROPE

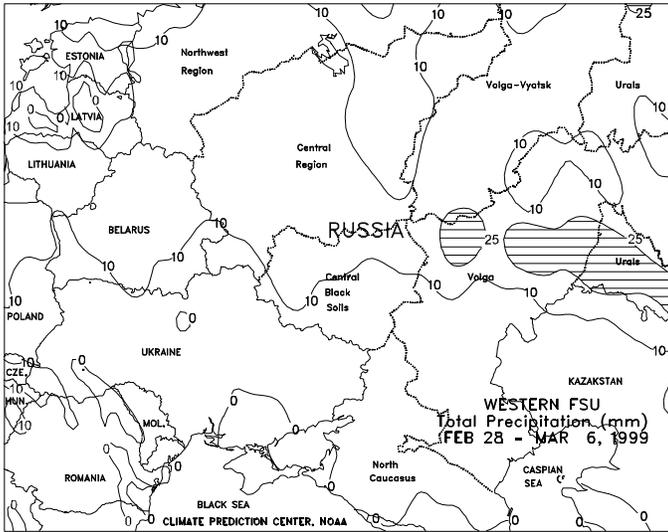
Unseasonably mild weather continued over most of the region, keeping winter grain areas snow-free. The combination of mild weather and light showers (10-25 mm) in England and France prompted rapid greening of winter grains. Farther east, winter grains in Germany began easing out of dormancy, especially in western areas. Scattered showers (3-19 mm) and near-normal temperatures in southern portions of Spain and Portugal continued to bring some relief to winter grains previously stressed by prolonged dryness. Wet weather favored winter grains in northern and central Italy and boosted soil moisture for sunflower, corn, and soybean planting just underway in central Italy.

In eastern Europe, generally dry weather eased flooding in Hungary and northwestern Romania, and favored early-season fieldwork in southern Romania and Bulgaria. Light showers (10-25 mm) in northern Poland, the Czech republic, and Slovakia continued to boost soil moisture for the upcoming growing season. Although winter grains likely remained dormant in eastern Europe, weekly temperatures averaged 5 to 9 degrees C above normal, causing crops to rapidly lose cold hardiness.



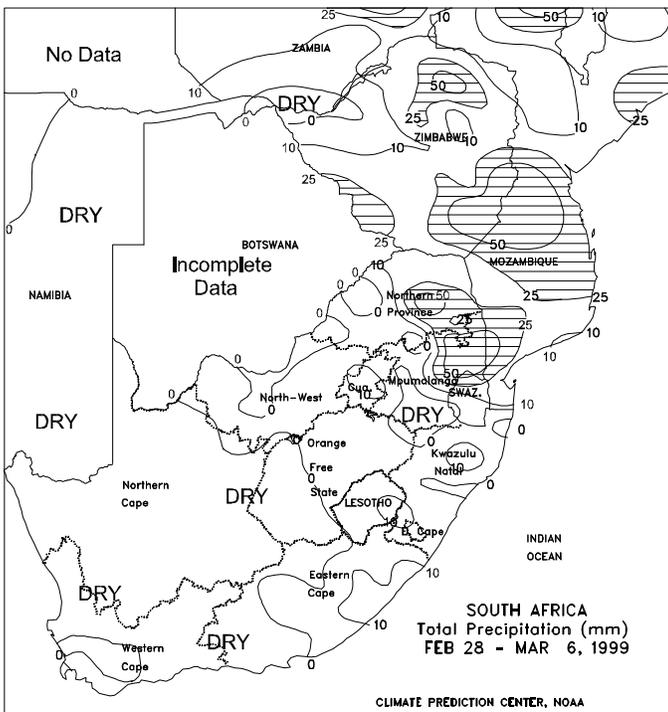
NORTHWESTERN AFRICA

Drier weather returned to winter grain areas in Morocco, following last week's beneficial rains. Southernmost winter grain areas in Morocco were likely approaching the heading stage, when moisture conditions become most critical in determining yield prospects. Farther east, widespread rain (15-45 mm) benefited vegetative winter grains in Algeria. Mostly dry weather in Tunisia continued a drying trend that has persisted since the beginning of February. Subsoil moisture reserves are likely limited throughout Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia, necessitating timely rains during the remainder of the growing season to prevent significant declines in yield prospects. Weekly temperatures averaged 1 to 2 degrees C below normal in Morocco and Algeria and were near normal in Tunisia.



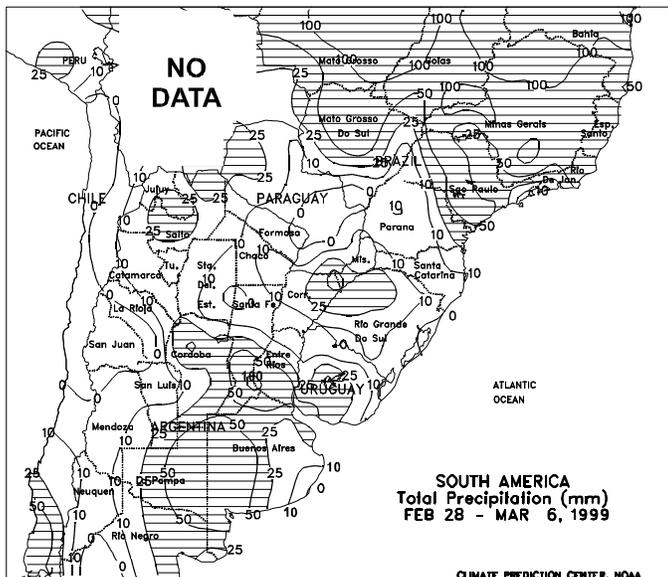
FSU-WESTERN

Unseasonably warm weather continued to prevail over most of the region, diminishing protective snow cover in Ukraine and southern Russia and causing winter wheat to lose cold hardiness. The mild weather also melted some deep snow cover in northern Russia. The combination of above-freezing temperatures and rain (10-25 mm) in Lithuania and Belarus caused rapid snow-melt, creating the potential for localized flooding. Weekly temperatures averaged 4 to 8 degrees C above normal in the Baltics, Belarus, and northern Russia, and 8 to 10 degrees C above normal over Ukraine and southern Russia. Winter grains remained dormant in most areas. However, winter grains may have greened some in crop areas along the Black Sea Coast, where weekly temperatures averaged 5 to 10 degrees C the past 2 weeks. Typically, winter grains break dormancy in Ukraine and the North Caucasus region in Russia in early April. Generally dry weather (precipitation amounts less than 7 mm) prevailed over Ukraine and southern Russia, allowing early-season fieldwork.



SOUTH AFRICA

Hot, dry weather gripped the region, stressing corn and other summer crops while accelerating crop development. Temperatures averaged 3 to 5 degrees C above normal across the corn belt, with highs hitting the middle 30's degrees C at many locations. These included important white corn areas of Free State and North West, as well as traditionally milder locations in the far eastern corn belt. Rainfall was very sparse in the hottest areas, with just a few locations receiving more than 5 mm. This was by far the overall warmest week of the season, but most summer crops had fortunately advanced past the highly moisture- and temperature-sensitive reproductive stages of development. However, crops were still vulnerable to heat and moisture stress, especially in the wake of a prolonged dry spell that has persisted since late-January. Elsewhere, the warmth and dryness over crop areas of the coastal provinces (KwaZulu-Natal to Western Cape) increased irrigation demands of sugarcane and orchards.

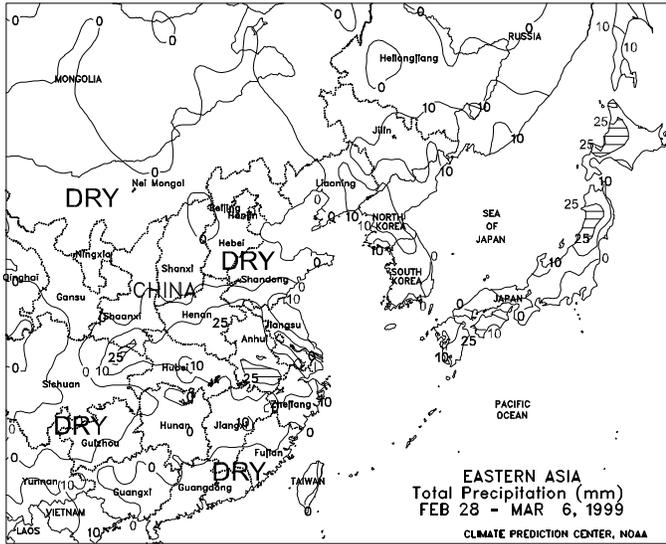


SOUTH AMERICA

In central Argentina, widespread timely showers (20-65 mm, with isolated amounts greater than 100 mm) benefited summer crops, especially reproductive second-crop soybeans. This rain boosted soil moisture, which was becoming limited due to warm, dry weather during the past 2 to 3 weeks. The previous dry weather favored filling to maturing corn. Mostly dry weather (isolated showers less than 25 mm) prevailed in northern Argentina, aiding filling to maturing cotton. According to reports as of February 26, corn was 3 percent harvested compared with 2 percent last year, and sunflower was 18 percent harvested compared with 12 percent last year. Soybean and cotton harvesting began in northern Argentina. In southern Brazil, beneficial rain (30-50 mm) aided filling soybeans in Rio Grande do Sul. Drier weather favored maturing soybeans in Parana. Elsewhere in southern Brazil, showers (25-100 mm) slowed corn and early soybean harvesting. According to reports as of March 5, Brazil's soybean crop was 8 percent harvested compared with 9 percent last year. Harvesting ranged from 17 to 18 percent complete in Mato Grosso and Goias to 9 percent in Parana. Soybean harvesting has not yet started in Rio Grande do Sul. Temperatures averaged 2 to 4 degrees C above normal in central Argentina and most of southern Brazil, favoring maturing summer crops. Mostly dry weather (less than 10 mm) aided maturing soybeans and cotton in southern Paraguay.

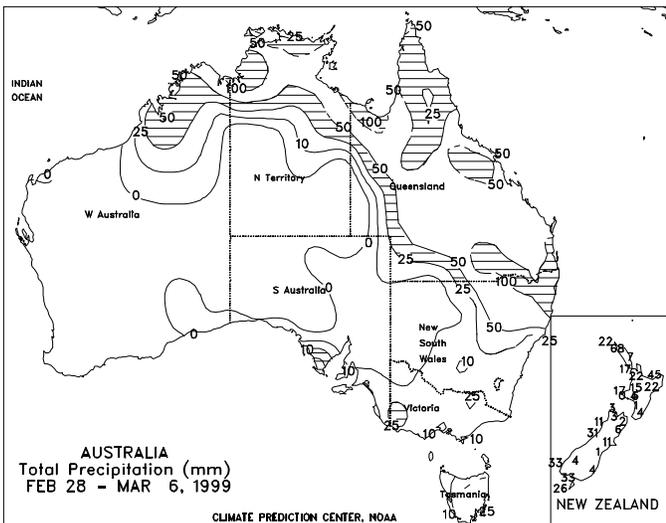
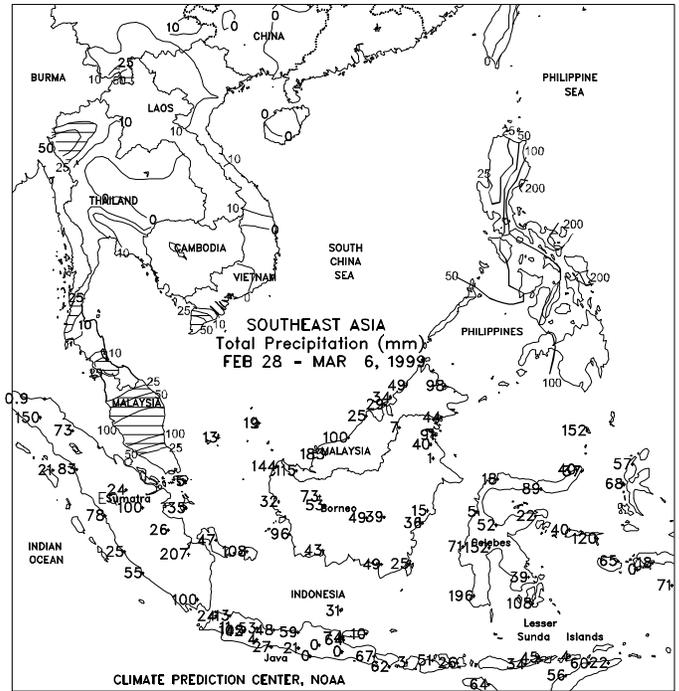
EASTERN ASIA

Much-needed rain (5-25 mm) fell across the southern North China Plain (central and southern Henan and northern Anhui and Jiangsu), favoring vegetative winter wheat. Seasonably dry weather prevailed elsewhere in the North China Plain, where supplemental irrigation will be needed. Continued mild weather (temperatures averaged 4-7 degrees C above normal, with highs ranging from 15-18 degrees C and lows 5-8 degrees C) caused winter wheat to break dormancy across all of the North China Plain. Due to the warmer-than-normal late winter, wheat broke dormancy 1 to 2 weeks ahead of normal. Light to moderate rain (5-40 mm) provided moisture for winter grains and oilseeds in the Yangtze Valley. However, rainfall across southern China (south of the Yangtze Valley) was below normal during the past several weeks, reducing moisture for early double-crop rice transplanting.



SOUTHEAST ASIA

Heavy showers (100-300 mm) covered the eastern Philippines, causing some flooding and hampering second-crop grain harvesting. In Vietnam, seasonably light rain (5-12 mm) favored winter-spring rice transplanting in the Red River Delta, but moisture supplies were limited in the upland rice areas of the north. In southern Vietnam, winter-spring rice harvesting is beginning. Mostly dry weather prevailed across Thailand, except for some unseasonable showers (30-60 mm) in northwest Thailand. Heavy showers (50-125 mm) boosted moisture supplies for oil palm in peninsular Malaysia, but slowed fieldwork. In Java, Indonesia, moderate showers (25-60 mm) slowed second-crop rice harvesting.



AUSTRALIA

Heavy, soaking rain (50-100 mm or more) slowed early cotton and sorghum harvests in primary summer crop areas of eastern Australia. The excessive moisture also worsened yield prospects, especially in chronically wet sections of southern Queensland. In addition, flooding returned to the Darling Downs area as well as coastal sugarcane areas of northern New South Wales. Farther south, showers were generally scattered and light (10 mm or less in most areas) over pasture and grazing lands of western New South Wales, western Victoria, and South Australia, with above-normal temperatures maintaining high moisture demands on livestock. Warm, dry weather continued in Western Australia's agricultural areas. In New Zealand, late-week showers (15 mm or less in most areas, with heavier showers along the northern and western coasts) brought some relief from long-term dryness. However, most interior farmlands required much more to significantly ease drought conditions.

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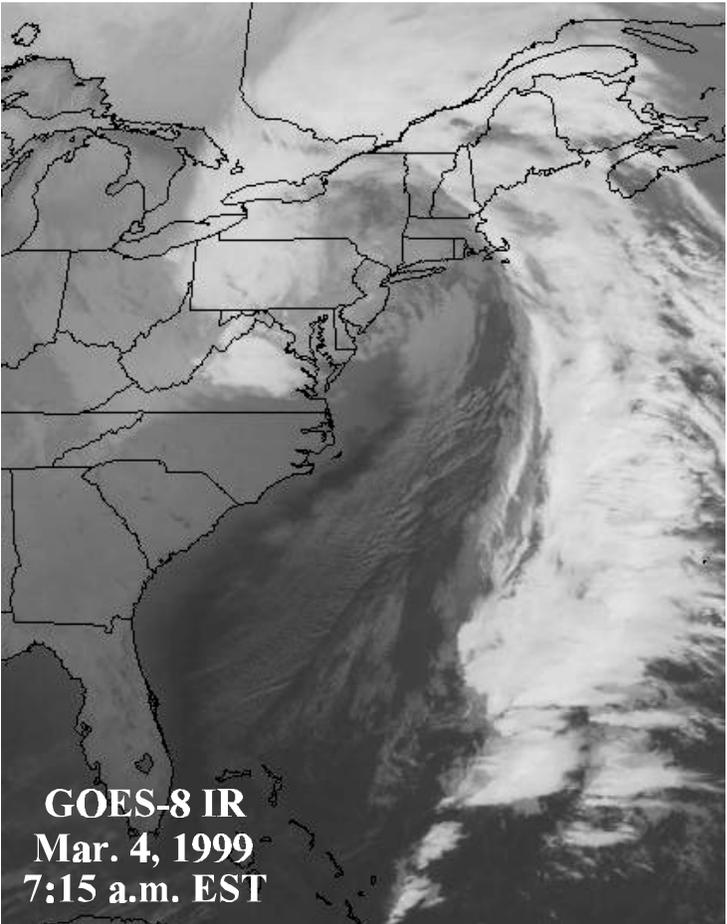
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On March 2, the last in a series of storm systems approaches the Pacific Northwest (above), bearing high winds and heavy precipitation. Two days later in the East, a different system highlights an increasingly stormy pattern across the eastern Great Lakes and Northeastern States.

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