

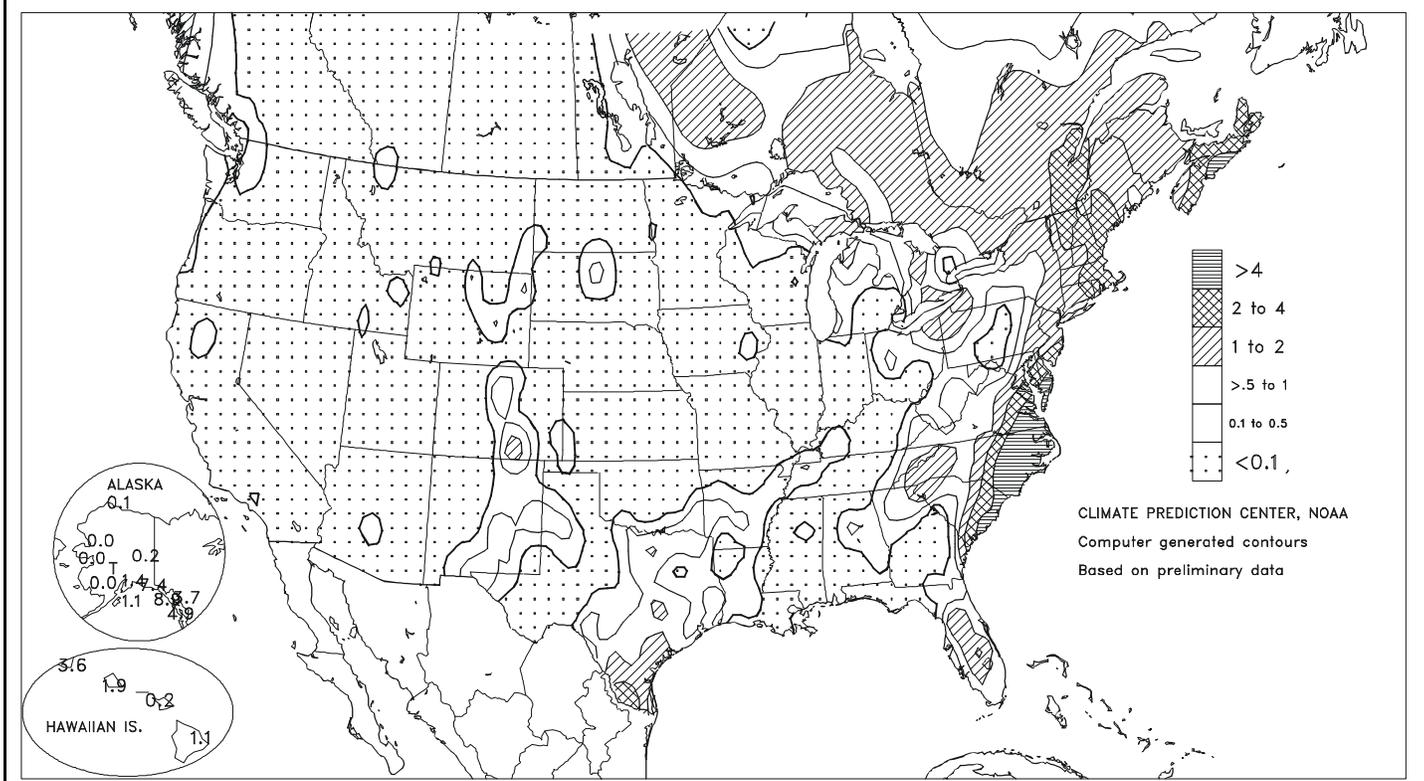
WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP BULLETIN

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)

OCT 17 - 23, 1999



HIGHLIGHTS

October 17 - 23, 1999

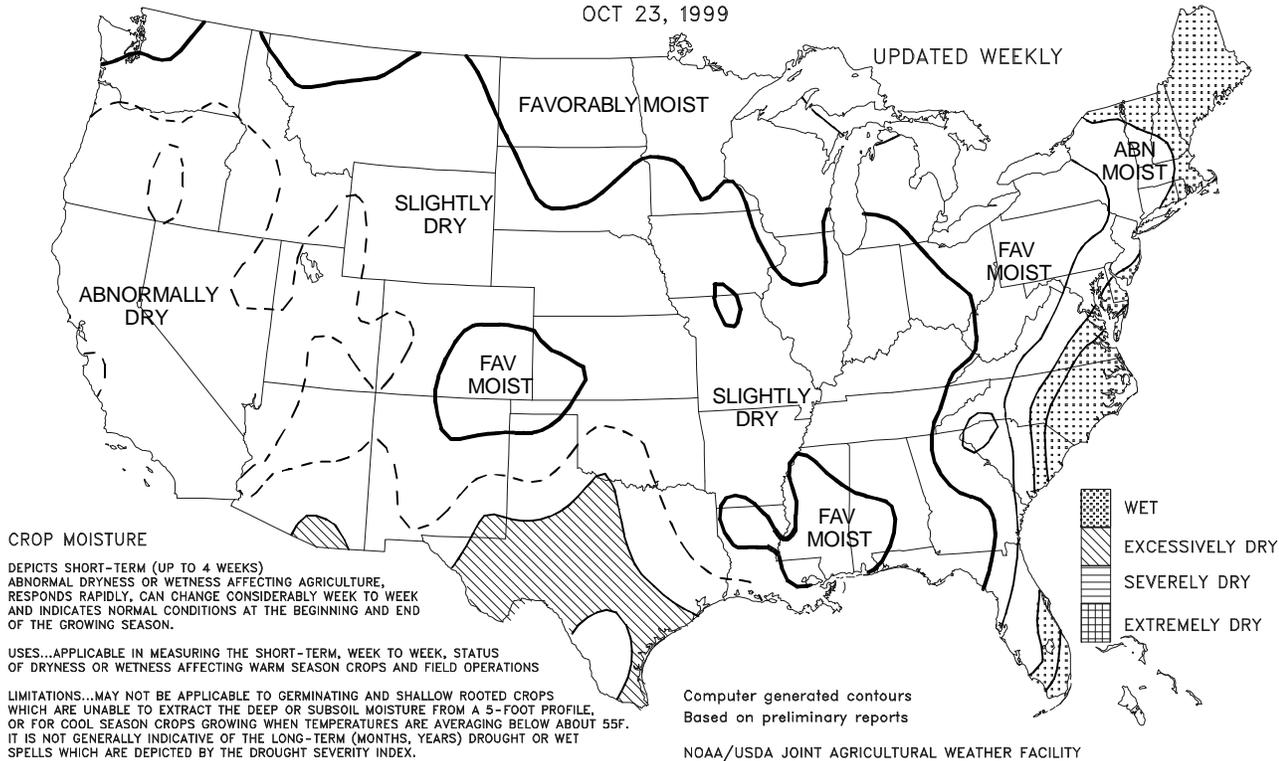
Hurricane Irene veered out to sea on the night of October 17-18, sparing the **Mid-Atlantic region** from another direct strike, but not before dumping an additional 4 to 7 inches of rain on recently flooded areas in **southeastern Virginia** and **eastern North Carolina**. Favorably drier weather returned to the **East** toward week's end, including citrus, sugarcane, and vegetable areas of **southern and eastern Florida** battered by Irene on October 15-16. Meanwhile in **California**, warm (up to 5°F above normal), dry weather favored fieldwork, including cotton harvesting and initial winter wheat planting. In the **Northwest**, however, drought continued to hamper dryland

(Continued on page 5)

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Crop Moisture
SHORT TERM, CROP NEED VS. AVAILABLE WATER IN 5-FT. SOIL PROFILE
OCT 23, 1999



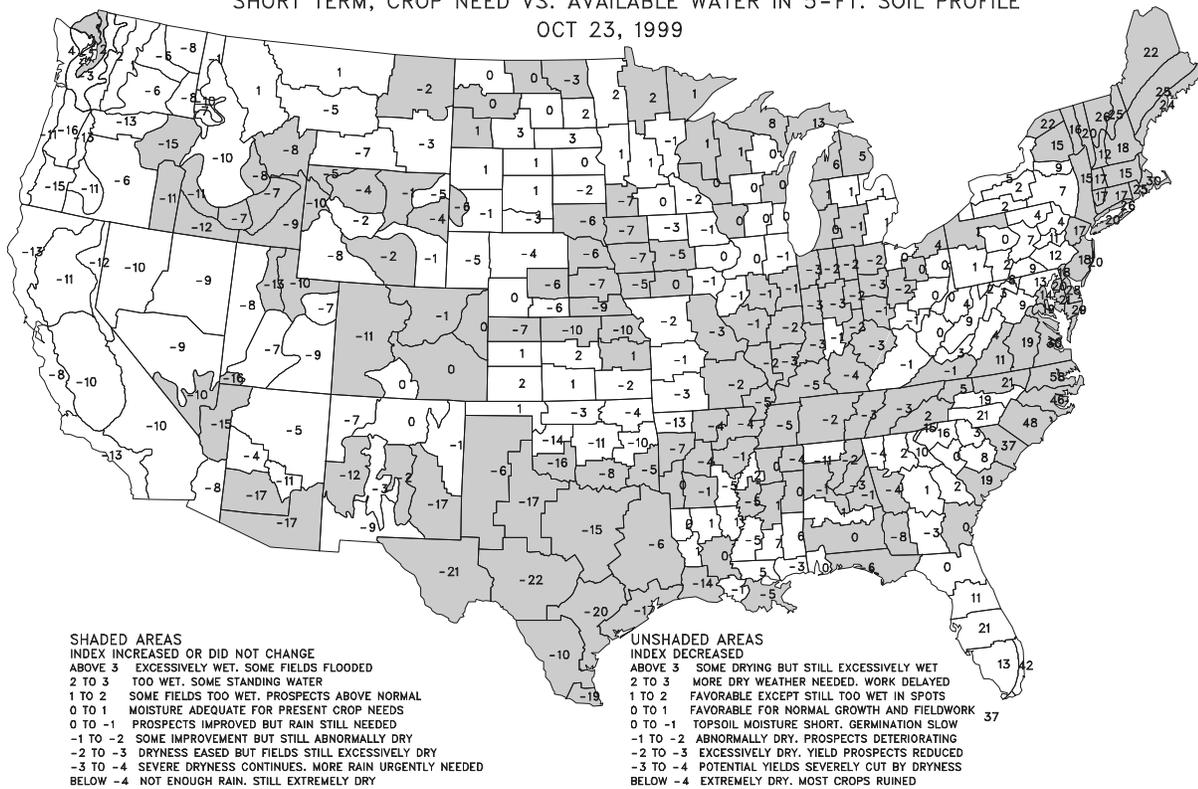
CROP MOISTURE

DEPICTS SHORT-TERM (UP TO 4 WEEKS) ABNORMAL DRYNESS OR WETNESS AFFECTING AGRICULTURE. RESPONDS RAPIDLY, CAN CHANGE CONSIDERABLY WEEK TO WEEK AND INDICATES NORMAL CONDITIONS AT THE BEGINNING AND END OF THE GROWING SEASON.

USES...APPLICABLE IN MEASURING THE SHORT-TERM, WEEK TO WEEK, STATUS OF DRYNESS OR WETNESS AFFECTING WARM SEASON CROPS AND FIELD OPERATIONS

LIMITATIONS...MAY NOT BE APPLICABLE TO GERMINATING AND SHALLOW ROOTED CROPS WHICH ARE UNABLE TO EXTRACT THE DEEP OR SUBSOIL MOISTURE FROM A 5-FOOT PROFILE, OR FOR COOL SEASON CROPS GROWING WHEN TEMPERATURES ARE AVERAGING BELOW ABOUT 55F. IT IS NOT GENERALLY INDICATIVE OF THE LONG-TERM (MONTHS, YEARS) DROUGHT OR WET SPELLS WHICH ARE DEPICTED BY THE DROUGHT SEVERITY INDEX.

Crop Moisture Index
SHORT TERM, CROP NEED VS. AVAILABLE WATER IN 5-FT. SOIL PROFILE
OCT 23, 1999



SHADED AREAS

INDEX INCREASED OR DID NOT CHANGE
 ABOVE 3 EXCESSIVELY WET, SOME FIELDS FLOODED
 2 TO 3 TOO WET, SOME STANDING WATER
 1 TO 2 SOME FIELDS TOO WET, PROSPECTS ABOVE NORMAL
 0 TO 1 MOISTURE ADEQUATE FOR PRESENT CROP NEEDS
 0 TO -1 PROSPECTS IMPROVED BUT RAIN STILL NEEDED
 -1 TO -2 SOME IMPROVEMENT BUT STILL ABNORMALLY DRY
 -2 TO -3 DRYNESS EASED BUT FIELDS STILL EXCESSIVELY DRY
 -3 TO -4 SEVERE DRYNESS CONTINUES, MORE RAIN URGENTLY NEEDED
 BELOW -4 NOT ENOUGH RAIN, STILL EXTREMELY DRY

UNSHADED AREAS

INDEX DECREASED
 ABOVE 3 SOME DRYING BUT STILL EXCESSIVELY WET
 2 TO 3 MORE DRY WEATHER NEEDED, WORK DELAYED
 1 TO 2 FAVORABLE EXCEPT STILL TOO WET IN SPOTS
 0 TO 1 FAVORABLE FOR NORMAL GROWTH AND FIELDWORK
 0 TO -1 TOPSOIL MOISTURE SHORT, GERMINATION SLOW
 -1 TO -2 ABNORMALLY DRY, PROSPECTS DETERIORATING
 -2 TO -3 EXCESSIVELY DRY, YIELD PROSPECTS REDUCED
 -3 TO -4 POTENTIAL YIELDS SEVERELY CUT BY DRYNESS
 BELOW -4 EXTREMELY DRY, MOST CROPS RUINED

Weather Data for Selected Locations in the Delta

Weather Data for the Week Ending October 23, 1999

Data provided by the Mississippi State Delta Research and Extension Center (DREC) and the Southern Regional Climate Center (SRCC).

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 Sep 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Sep 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 BATESVILLE ^x	72	48	84	37	60	0	0.19	-0.51	0.19	3.18	54	--	--	--	--	0	0	1	0
BELZONI ^x	76	48	89	39	62	-1	0.20	-0.83	0.10	--	--	--	--	--	--	0	0	2	0
CLARKSDALE ^x	71	47	84	37	59	-3	0.02	-0.61	0.02	7.92	166	--	--	--	--	0	0	1	0
CLEVELAND ^x	74	46	88	37	60	-1	0.06	-0.49	0.02	1.53	41	--	--	--	--	0	0	3	0
GREENVILLE ^x	74	47	88	37	61	-3	0.02	-0.81	0.02	--	--	--	--	--	--	0	0	1	0
GREENWOOD ^x	72	48	84	39	60	3	0.14	-0.70	0.14	3.37	62	--	--	--	--	0	0	1	0
INDIANOLA 1S	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
INVERNESS 5E	68	47	80	39	58	--	0.19	--	0.19	3.78	--	38.39	--	68	60	0	0	1	0
LYON	68	44	79	36	56	--	0.01	--	0.01	4.36	--	--	--	--	--	0	0	1	0
MOORHEAD ^x	72	49	84	39	61	-3	0.12	-0.61	0.06	6.12	113	--	--	--	--	0	0	2	0
ONWARD	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
ROLLING FORK ^x	76	49	84	39	63	0	0.16	-0.82	0.08	0.73	13	--	--	--	--	0	0	2	0
SIDON	70	46	82	36	58	--	0.14	--	0.14	3.07	--	--	--	62	57	0	0	1	0
TUNICA ^x	73	48	84	37	61	0	0.26	-0.51	0.13	5.49	119	--	--	--	--	0	0	2	0
VICKSBURG ^x	76	50	84	39	63	-2	0.08	-0.98	0.08	2.84	48	--	--	--	--	0	0	1	0
YAZOO CITY ^x	76	50	84	39	63	-1	0.07	-0.98	0.07	--	--	--	--	--	--	0	0	1	0
STONEVILLE [*]	72	48	88	37	60	-2	0.07	-0.63	0.05	2.90	52	42.29	105	74	61	0	0	2	0

Compiled by USDA/OCE/WAOB's Stoneville Field Office.

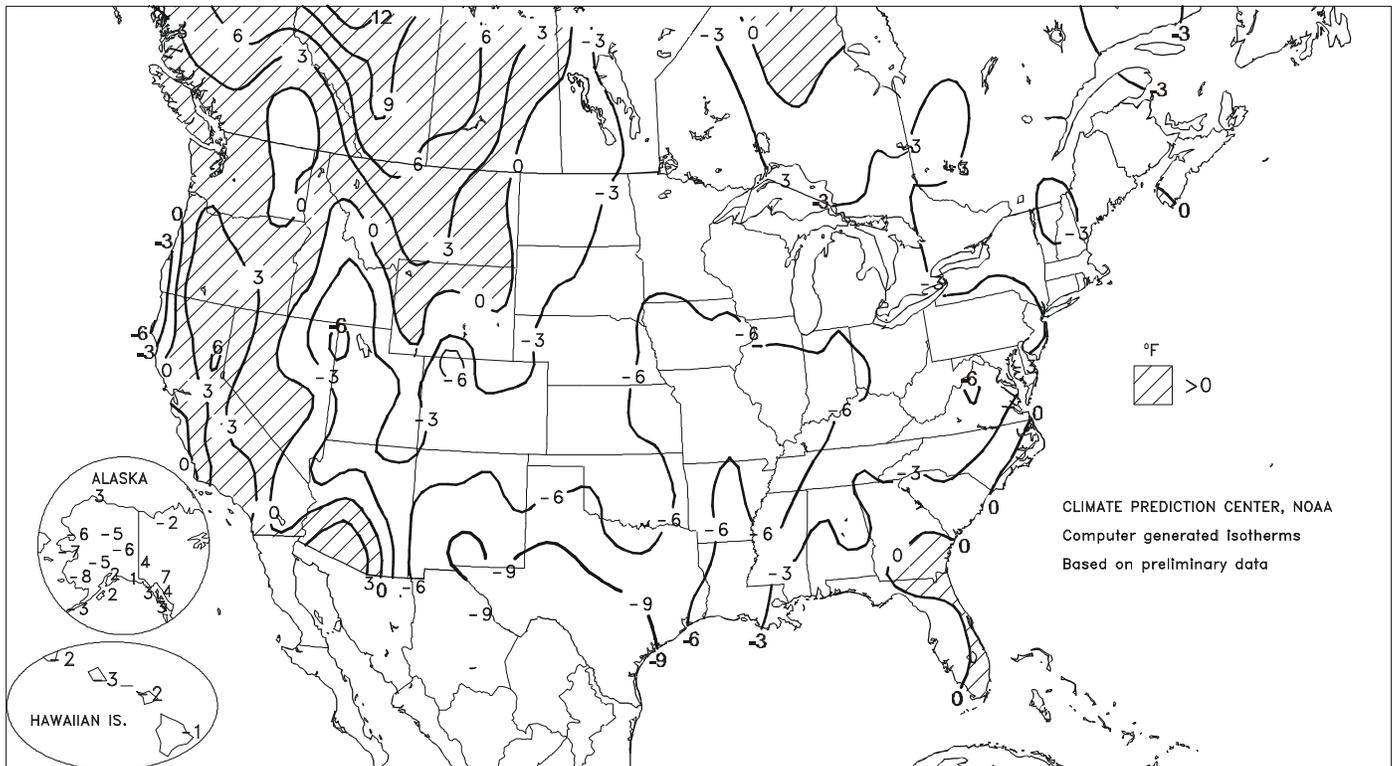
* Based on 1964-93 normals.

x Based on 1961-90 normals.

Delta Weather and Crop Summary: Cotton harvesting continued to progress as seasonably cool conditions were observed throughout the Delta. As boll weevils start to seek shelter in the topsoil, most farmers are hoping temperatures drop below freezing to help reduce next year's population. Precipitation was light and scattered, allowing soil moisture to diminish slightly from the previous week's levels.

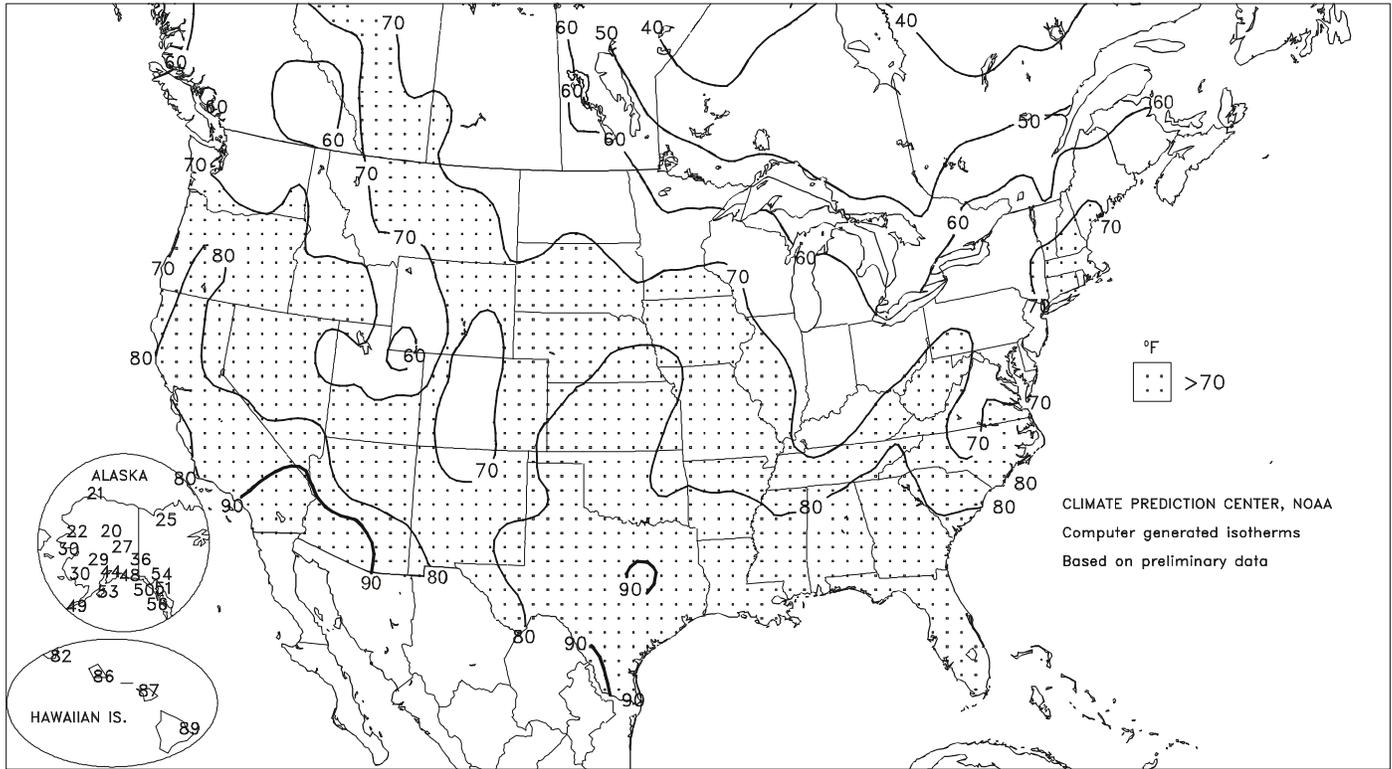
Departure of Average Temperature from Normal (°F)

OCT 17 - 23, 1999



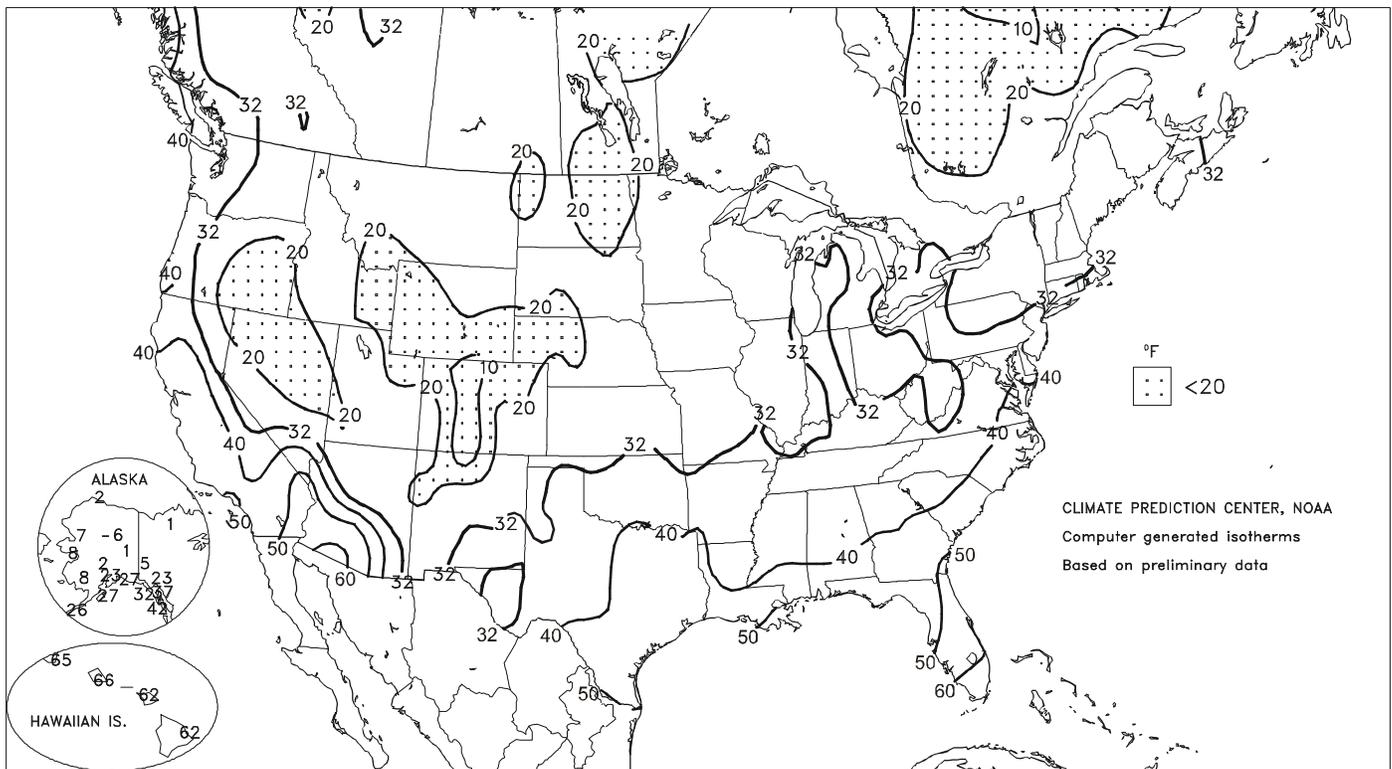
Extreme Maximum Temperature (°F)

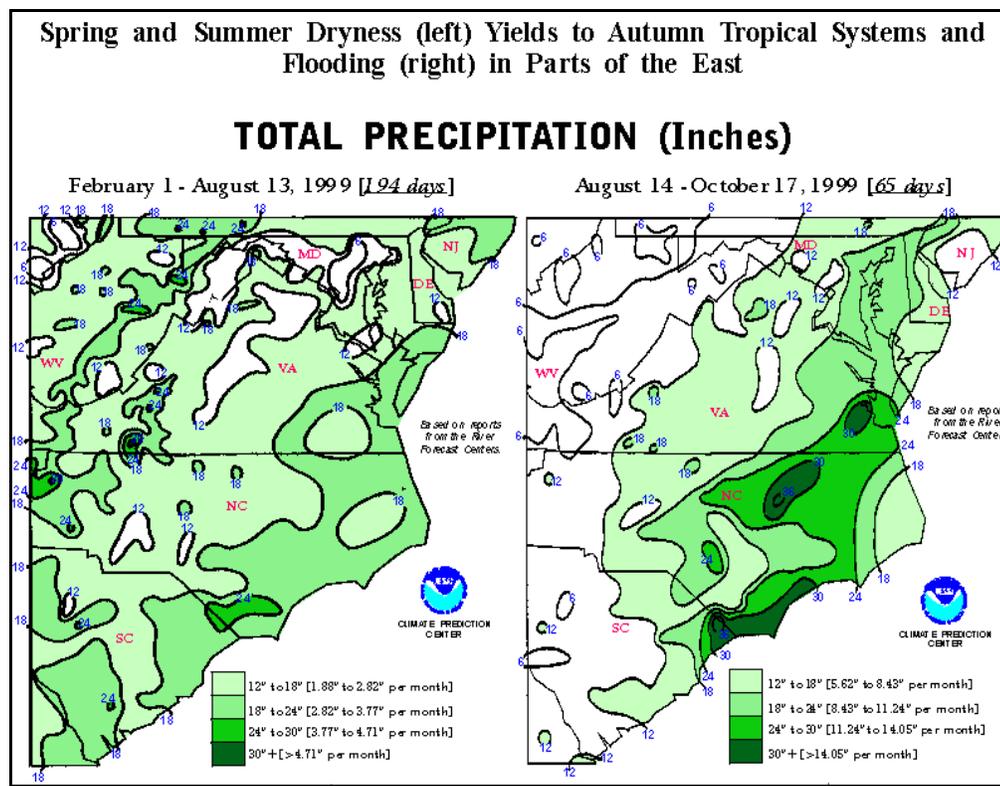
OCT 17 - 23, 1999



Extreme Minimum Temperature (°F)

OCT 17 - 23, 1999





Torrential rainfall from Hurricanes Dennis, Floyd, and Irene since mid-August erased drought conditions that started during Fall 1998 and intensified during February - July 1999 across the mid-Atlantic and Carolinas. Many locations measured more rainfall during the 65-day period (Aug. 14 - Oct. 17) than the previous 194 days (Feb. 1 - Aug. 13), particularly in eastern North Carolina, Virginia, and Maryland. Unfortunately, the copious rains also caused devastating flooding in eastern North Carolina and southeastern Virginia. Below, comparison of total (inches) & percent of normal precipitation between 194-day and 65-day periods:

	Total	%Normal
Wilmington, NC	28.81	89.7
	35.36	338.4
Richmond, VA	20.31	83.9
	19.58	254.3
Washington, DC	13.81	65.4
	16.75	232.0
Philadelphia, PA	18.64	80.0
	20.66	295.1

(Continued from front cover)

winter wheat planting, emergence, and establishment. Dry weather also prevailed in winter wheat areas of the **Ohio Valley**, where early-October rainfall provided only temporary relief from the 15-month drought. Across the **South**, cool, mostly dry weather promoted summer crop harvesting, but continued to stress pastures and fall-sown crops. Season-ending frosts and freezes aided crop dry down from the **central Plains** to the **Midwest**, while scattered late-week frost across the **South** burned back some emerging winter grains. Weekly temperatures averaged as much as 10 °F below normal in **Texas** and 4 to 8°F below normal in the **central Plains** and **Midwest**. Light rain, sleet, and wet snow briefly accompanied early-week temperatures near the freezing mark (32 °F) on the **southern High Plains**. In **southern Texas**, meanwhile, early-week showers benefited fall-sown crops.

Irene, which had produced hurricane-force wind gusts (as high as 85 mph in **Homestead**) while crossing **southeastern Florida** on the afternoon of October 15, emerged the following morning over the **Atlantic Ocean** near **Fort Pierce**. The minimal (Category 1) hurricane moved northward, closing to within about 60 miles of **Edisto Island, SC** by midday on October 17. Irene then turned northeastward, remaining approximately 60 miles offshore while tracking parallel to the **coastal Carolinas**. Storm-total rainfall topped 4 inches in the **eastern Carolinas**, **southeastern Virginia**, and the **Delmarva Peninsula**. Heaviest rainfall (locally as much as 12 inches) was observed in the vicinity of **Norfolk, VA**. On Monday, the interaction of Hurricane Irene and a cold front brought heavy precipitation and high winds to **eastern Massachusetts**, where **Nantucket** reported 5.37 inches of rain and a peak wind gust to 60 mph.

Meanwhile, a strong early-week push of cold air resulted in nearly three dozen daily-record lows, primarily in the **Plains** and **Northwest**. Upslope air flow on the **High Plains** resulted in some lingering light precipitation early in the week. In contrast, late-season warmth intensified across the **West Coast States**, especially after midweek, producing more than three dozen daily-record highs. On Thursday, record highs in **southern California** included 100°F

in **Simi Valley** and 99°F in **Thermal**. Record warmth spread as far north as **Oregon**, reaching areas that had experienced record cold less than a week earlier. In the **Northwest**, the dry, warm conditions aggravated the 7-month drought, further reducing soil moisture for developing winter wheat, following recent burn-back freezes. **LaGrande, OR** posted a daily-record high of 75 °F on October 21, just 2 days after a daily-record low of 19°F. Similarly, **Ukiah, OR** notched consecutive daily-record highs (82 and 81 °F) on October 21-22, following consecutive daily-record lows (8 and 12 °F) and October 16-17.

The cold wave peaked across the **Plains** on October 17-18. On Sunday, lows in **Nebraska** dipped to 11°F in **Alliance** and 14°F in **Scottsbluff**. In **Wyoming**, **Laramie** notched a daily-record low of 6°F. **Lubbock, TX** recorded a low of 32°F on Sunday, accompanied by rain and a trace of snow and sleet, their first frozen precipitation in October since 1996. **Lubbock's** earliest trace of snowfall on record occurred on October 12, 1986. A day later, record lows included 22°F in **Ashland, KS** and 27°F in **St. Joseph, MO**. Meanwhile in **California**, large fires in the **Shasta-Trinity** (more than 130,000 acres) and **Los Padres National Forests** (more than 85,000 acres) were largely contained by week's end. Year-to-date U.S. wildfires have burned more than 5,100,000 acres, although more than half the acreage was consumed in **Alaska** (during July) and the **Great Basin** (during August). Despite the recent large fires, **California's** January 1 - October 24 burned acreage, about 715,000 acres, accounted for only 14 percent of the national total.

Sharply colder weather overspread **interior and western Alaska**, holding weekly temperatures as much as 8 °F below normal. Meanwhile, generally beneficial, locally heavy rainfall fell across **Hawaii's western islands**. On **Oahu**, **Honolulu's** October 1-24 rainfall reached 1.99 inches (114 percent of normal), boosting their year-to-date total to 8.81 inches (60 percent). During the period from November 1, 1997 - October 24, 1999, **Honolulu's** rainfall of 14.61 inches (34 percent of normal) was 28.89 inches below normal. However, only light rain fell in the **eastern islands**, where moisture deficits have been accumulating in many leeward (west-facing) locations for 2 years.

National Weather Data for Selected Cities

Weather Data for the Week Ending October 23, 1999

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

STATES AND STATIONS	TEMPERATURE EF						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 Sep 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Sep 1	TOTAL IN. SINCE Jan 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Jan 1	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	TEMP. EF		PRECIP.	
																90 AND ABOVE	32 AND BELOW	.01 INCH OR MORE	50 INCH OR MORE
AL BIRMINGHAM	71	46	81	38	59	-2	0.74	0.13	0.37	5.19	87	43.11	97	88	33	0	0	2	0
AL HUNTSVILLE	69	44	82	36	56	-3	0.03	-0.69	0.03	2.23	35	39.86	88	88	33	0	0	1	0
AL MOBILE	75	53	84	43	64	-3	0.02	-0.57	0.01	9.15	112	46.69	87	92	49	0	0	2	0
AL MONTGOMERY	74	47	84	37	61	-4	0.05	-0.47	0.03	4.71	80	37.73	87	89	40	0	0	3	0
AK ANCHORAGE	40	30	44	23	35	2	1.35	0.92	0.56	5.55	130	15.53	117	90	62	0	4	3	1
AK BARROW	18	9	21	2	14	2	0.06	-0.04	0.02	0.51	54	3.49	91	88	74	0	7	4	0
AK FAIRBANKS	22	11	27	1	17	-6	0.25	0.06	0.11	2.20	139	9.01	100	89	65	0	7	3	0
AK JUNEAU	49	42	51	37	45	4	3.71	1.94	1.10	20.10	158	59.35	138	98	82	0	0	7	3
AK KODIAK	47	35	53	27	41	2	1.13	-0.48	0.46	19.74	159	60.19	113	91	53	0	2	7	0
AK NOME	25	13	30	8	19	-7	0.00	-0.28	0.00	4.13	118	13.71	107	81	50	0	7	0	0
AZ FLAGSTAFF	64	22	69	17	43	-3	0.00	-0.36	0.00	4.55	141	16.19	90	61	14	0	7	0	0
AZ PHOENIX	89	62	95	58	75	2	0.00	-0.14	0.00	1.31	96	6.65	113	33	11	4	0	0	0
AZ TUCSON	86	55	92	49	70	1	0.00	-0.22	0.00	0.97	39	10.02	100	35	10	3	0	0	0
AZ YUMA	91	64	96	60	77	3	0.00	-0.06	0.00	0.00	0	4.11	173	30	15	5	0	0	0
AR FORT SMITH	71	42	81	35	57	-4	0.00	-0.85	0.00	4.50	76	35.28	107	85	23	0	0	0	0
AR LITTLE ROCK	69	46	81	41	58	-4	0.41	-0.44	0.41	3.20	47	25.09	63	82	34	0	0	1	0
CA BAKERSFIELD	86	53	89	51	69	3	0.00	-0.07	0.00	0.08	23	6.15	143	44	17	0	0	0	0
CA EUREKA	52	43	70	40	47	-7	0.00	-0.69	0.00	0.34	13	28.11	117	89	75	0	0	0	0
CA FRESNO	84	51	87	50	68	4	0.00	-0.13	0.00	0.00	0	6.29	83	79	23	0	0	0	0
CA LOS ANGELES	83	59	95	57	71	5	0.00	-0.09	0.00	0.02	4	7.42	88	80	29	2	0	0	0
CA REDDING	83	42	86	39	63	1	0.00	-0.56	0.00	0.10	4	17.26	79	64	15	0	0	0	0
CA SACRAMENTO	80	45	83	43	63	0	0.00	-0.28	0.00	0.00	0	9.04	76	89	26	0	0	0	0
CA SAN DIEGO	81	57	89	55	69	2	0.00	-0.09	0.00	0.03	7	5.25	78	91	30	0	0	0	0
CA SAN FRANCISCO	71	51	80	47	61	1	0.01	-0.30	0.01	0.28	29	14.69	111	87	51	0	0	1	0
CO ALAMOSA	59	15	67	8	37	-5	0.01	-0.14	0.01	1.32	92	8.05	124	89	19	0	7	1	0
CO CO SPRINGS	59	30	72	21	45	-4	0.10	-0.08	0.10	1.62	82	24.74	164	82	30	0	4	1	0
CO DENVER	61	35	71	21	48	-2	0.04	-0.18	0.04	1.46	73	19.94	146	71	21	0	2	1	0
CO GRAND JUNCTION	65	33	72	29	49	-4	0.00	-0.22	0.00	1.18	76	8.15	115	41	14	0	4	0	0
CO PUEBLO	65	28	78	22	46	-6	0.35	0.23	0.35	0.91	68	14.34	141	92	25	0	6	1	0
CT BRIDGEPORT	59	44	68	37	52	-2	1.85	1.14	0.60	10.20	192	35.97	107	96	56	0	0	7	2
CT HARTFORD	59	38	75	30	49	-2	1.65	0.85	0.56	14.81	232	36.60	104	97	48	0	2	6	1
DC WASHINGTON	61	47	67	39	54	-4	0.85	0.16	0.54	12.46	224	36.93	117	90	54	0	0	3	1
DE WILMINGTON	60	43	67	38	51	-3	1.40	0.77	0.75	16.11	289	42.35	127	95	58	0	0	5	1
FL DAYTONA BEACH	81	64	86	56	73	0	1.91	1.05	1.86	13.87	145	39.50	95	96	58	0	0	4	1
FL JACKSONVILLE	78	60	84	48	69	0	0.90	-0.31	0.20	15.97	169	40.95	89	95	56	0	0	2	0
FL KEY WEST	84	75	87	71	80	0	0.29	-0.65	0.12	19.75	212	42.91	127	87	67	0	0	3	0
FL MIAMI	84	74	88	66	79	1	0.00	-1.20	0.00	21.29	176	60.11	120	95	63	0	0	0	0
FL ORLANDO	83	65	89	54	74	-1	0.27	-0.18	0.25	14.86	186	48.26	112	97	50	0	0	3	0
FL PENSACOLA	77	56	86	47	66	-2	0.01	-0.91	0.01	2.58	30	35.67	67	89	43	0	0	1	0
FL TALLAHASSEE	80	55	87	46	67	0	0.07	-0.54	0.06	7.46	96	45.20	80	94	44	0	0	2	0
FL TAMPA	82	67	87	58	75	1	0.08	-0.27	0.08	8.97	117	32.04	81	92	55	0	0	1	0
FL WEST PALM BEACH	85	70	88	59	77	0	0.76	-0.66	0.73	18.52	136	54.09	104	93	60	0	0	2	1
GA ATHENS	68	51	84	40	59	-1	0.89	0.15	0.80	7.22	125	38.31	93	90	53	0	0	2	1
GA ATLANTA	68	50	80	41	59	-2	0.36	-0.33	0.35	6.65	118	36.32	87	84	44	0	0	2	0
GA AUGUSTA	72	50	80	39	61	-1	0.07	-0.56	0.06	8.26	160	35.87	94	92	54	0	0	2	0
GA COLUMBUS	74	52	85	46	63	-2	0.03	-0.45	0.03	3.65	75	25.22	60	84	44	0	0	1	0
GA MACON	75	50	85	38	62	-1	0.01	-0.46	0.01	6.26	143	32.72	88	97	51	0	0	1	0
GA SAVANNAH	76	57	83	46	67	1	1.03	0.54	0.48	8.59	136	47.37	109	95	56	0	0	4	0
HI HILO	82	67	89	62	74	-1	1.13	-1.11	0.53	8.17	54	93.50	94	96	63	0	0	5	1
HI HONOLULU	82	70	86	66	76	-3	1.93	1.37	1.30	2.19	92	9.78	67	91	64	0	0	2	2
HI KAHULUI	85	67	87	62	76	-2	0.22	-0.09	0.20	0.25	22	6.33	43	90	53	0	0	2	0
HI LIHUE	81	70	82	65	76	-2	3.64	2.58	2.09	6.60	120	26.22	84	91	67	0	0	5	2
ID BOISE	66	38	73	31	52	2	0.00	-0.17	0.00	0.00	0	7.57	84	49	20	0	1	0	0
ID LEWISTON	64	36	70	31	50	0	0.00	-0.21	0.00	0.00	0	7.67	78	71	27	0	1	0	0
ID POCATELLO	64	21	72	16	43	-4	0.00	-0.21	0.00	0.02	1	10.81	113	73	15	0	7	0	0
IL CHICAGO/OHARE	56	37	68	35	47	-4	0.00	-0.52	0.00	4.28	76	33.61	113	76	40	0	0	0	0
IL MOLINE	57	33	73	29	45	-6	0.00	-0.63	0.00	5.28	84	27.75	83	80	38	0	4	0	0
IL PEORIA	58	34	73	29	46	-6	0.00	-0.56	0.00	2.94	50	27.95	92	78	34	0	3	0	0
IL ROCKFORD	55	33	67	28	44	-6	0.00	-0.63	0.00	6.27	105	34.07	110	83	42	0	2	0	0
IL SPRINGFIELD	59	34	73	26	47	-7	0.01	-0.56	0.01	4.27	81	26.67	91	80	33	0	2	1	0
IN EVANSVILLE	60	37	68	31	49	-7	0.00	-0.65	0.00	3.26	65	32.79	94	82	38	0	1	0	0
IN FORT WAYNE	55	36	63	32	45	-6	0.36	-0.20	0.30	3.41	76	24.83	88	93	50	0	1	2	0
IN INDIANAPOLIS	57	37	65	33	47	-6	0.07	-0.52	0.07	2.60	54	28.14	86	78	41	0	0	1	0
IN SOUTH BEND	56	37	66	32	46	-5	0.32	-0.37	0.26	2.66	45	26.04	82	86	44	0	1	3	0
IA BURLINGTON	62	35	78	30	49	-4	0.00	-0.62	0.00	6.15	96	30.59	98	71	30	0	2	0	0
IA CEDAR RAPIDS	55	30	73	25	43	-7	0.00	-0.48	0.00	2.55	45	21.03	71	84	37	0	6	0	0
IA DES MOINES	58	34	78	28	46	-6	0.00	-0.56	0.00	2.74	49	25.85	88	75	32	0	3	0	0
IA DUBUQUE	54	33	70	27	43	-6	0.00	-0.56	0.00	3.06	45	30.74	93	79	38	0	2	0	0
IA SIOUX CITY	58	29	76	22	44	-6	0.00	-0.41	0.00	1.89	43	28.72	122	75	32	0	4	0	0
IA WATERLOO	56	30	77	24	43	-5	0.00	-0.55	0.00	1.46	26	36.44	121	77	31	0	4	0	0
KS CONCORDIA	65	37	83	30	51	-3	0.00	-0.42	0.00	1.16	25	24.32	92	63	21	0	1	0	0
KS DODGE CITY	67	34	84	27	51	-5	0.00	-0.27	0.00	2.76	95	19.97	101	72	23	0	4	0	0
KS GODLAND	64	31	77	21	48	-3	0.00	-0.19	0.00	0.85	37	19.79	118	73	25	0	3	0	0
KS TOPEKA	65	34	83	29	50	-5	0.00	-0.66	0.00	4.63	75	30.96	99	78	23	0	2	0	0

Based on 1961-90 normals

Weather Data for the Week Ending October 23, 1999

STATES AND STATIONS	TEMPERATURE EF						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 Sep 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Sep 1	TOTAL IN. SINCE Jan 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Jan 1	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	TEMP. EF		PRECIP.	
																90 AND ABOVE	32 AND BELOW	.01 INCH OR MORE	.50 INCH OR MORE
KY WICHITA	67	38	84	33	53	-4	0.00	-0.46	0.00	10.69	204	40.63	156	68	23	0	0	0	0
KY JACKSON	60	43	76	37	52	-4	0.19	-0.53	0.13	4.22	71	34.46	86	94	46	0	0	3	0
KY LEXINGTON	59	39	66	32	49	-6	0.00	-0.57	0.00	3.04	60	27.53	75	85	48	0	2	0	0
KY LOUISVILLE	61	42	66	36	51	-5	0.03	-0.58	0.03	3.02	59	29.08	80	84	42	0	0	1	0
KY PADUCAH	63	38	71	31	50	-7	0.03	-0.64	0.02	4.55	77	35.54	90	82	34	0	1	2	0
LA BATON ROUGE	75	50	85	42	63	-5	0.04	-0.71	0.04	8.52	115	37.98	76	93	41	0	0	1	0
LA LAKE CHARLES	76	51	88	43	64	-4	0.15	-0.69	0.13	2.81	32	32.58	73	95	39	0	0	3	0
LA NEW ORLEANS	76	59	85	50	68	0	0.04	-0.59	0.04	7.61	98	41.60	82	87	45	0	0	1	0
LA SHREVEPORT	71	48	87	40	60	-5	0.15	-0.72	0.09	7.06	122	49.08	134	84	39	0	0	2	0
ME CARIBOU	49	32	60	27	41	-1	1.32	0.63	0.92	11.87	208	32.20	111	97	65	0	4	4	1
ME PORTLAND	56	38	72	30	47	0	2.36	1.45	1.20	11.85	203	32.06	96	96	59	0	3	4	3
MD BALTIMORE	60	42	68	37	51	-4	0.90	0.24	0.50	14.03	250	39.65	119	98	57	0	0	4	1
MA BOSTON	58	44	75	35	51	-3	2.38	1.62	0.88	14.22	261	34.61	107	95	58	0	0	4	2
MA WORCESTER	56	40	73	32	48	-1	2.07	1.08	0.65	11.75	163	34.14	90	95	56	0	1	4	3
MI ALPENA	49	34	57	30	42	-4	0.55	0.11	0.25	3.40	72	17.85	74	92	56	0	2	5	0
MI GRAND RAPIDS	54	37	63	33	45	-3	0.23	-0.38	0.15	4.23	67	28.72	98	90	55	0	0	3	0
MI HOUGHTON LAKE	47	35	58	33	41	-4	0.56	0.10	0.20	4.82	95	26.64	113	97	64	0	0	5	0
MI LANSING	53	36	62	32	44	-3	0.09	-0.35	0.08	3.29	64	28.20	112	94	63	0	1	2	0
MI MARQUETTE	43	34	57	30	39	-3	1.57	0.78	0.63	5.78	84	33.03	114	87	58	0	1	3	1
MI MUSKEGON	54	38	62	34	46	-3	0.31	-0.30	0.12	3.41	57	26.94	105	94	57	0	0	3	0
MN DULUTH	45	31	62	23	38	-4	0.07	-0.45	0.05	6.55	113	30.57	116	85	57	0	3	2	0
MN INT'L FALLS	44	28	59	20	36	-5	0.20	-0.21	0.15	6.52	138	29.65	135	89	60	0	5	3	0
MN MINNEAPOLIS	52	33	71	27	43	-4	0.05	-0.43	0.05	3.00	68	25.96	103	80	37	0	4	1	0
MN ROCHESTER	51	31	71	27	41	-6	0.00	-0.49	0.00	0.91	17	31.00	117	86	41	0	6	0	0
MS ST. CLOUD	52	28	67	20	40	-4	0.00	-0.47	0.00	3.07	63	24.95	100	85	37	0	5	0	0
MS JACKSON	72	48	83	39	60	-3	0.02	-0.72	0.02	4.20	72	35.63	82	91	37	0	0	1	0
MS MERIDIAN	74	46	85	38	60	-2	0.05	-0.64	0.03	6.65	116	34.88	77	94	34	0	0	3	0
MS TUPELO	69	44	79	37	56	-4	0.03	-0.75	0.02	1.77	29	44.86	102	83	36	0	0	2	0
MO COLUMBIA	61	36	74	31	49	-6	0.00	-0.70	0.00	2.76	44	23.39	71	76	35	0	2	0	0
MO KANSAS CITY	63	37	80	32	50	-5	0.00	-0.69	0.00	5.87	79	36.63	110	75	29	0	1	0	0
MO SAINT LOUIS	60	39	75	34	50	-7	0.04	-0.57	0.04	3.17	62	32.09	105	86	43	0	0	1	0
MO SPRINGFIELD	63	34	73	27	49	-8	0.09	-0.69	0.09	3.02	41	32.94	94	91	33	0	4	1	0
MT BILLINGS	67	37	75	28	52	4	0.01	-0.24	0.01	2.81	125	13.42	101	54	20	0	1	1	0
MT BUTTE	63	20	72	16	42	2	0.00	-0.14	0.00	0.49	27	11.95	109	80	19	0	7	0	0
MT GLASGOW	60	32	69	26	46	2	0.10	-0.03	0.09	1.45	97	14.84	146	79	34	0	4	2	0
MT GREAT FALLS	66	37	77	31	52	5	0.05	-0.12	0.04	2.02	109	12.04	89	66	24	0	2	2	0
MT KALISPELL	58	23	63	21	40	0	0.00	-0.19	0.00	0.94	49	12.48	94	96	36	0	7	0	0
MT MILES CITY	63	33	74	23	48	2	0.13	-0.06	0.07	1.27	64	12.87	101	80	30	0	3	2	0
MT MISSOULA	58	25	66	23	42	-1	0.00	-0.17	0.00	0.72	43	10.11	89	88	30	0	6	0	0
NE GRAND ISLAND	62	32	81	25	47	-4	0.00	-0.26	0.00	0.61	16	24.09	105	74	26	0	4	0	0
NE LINCOLN	62	30	83	23	46	-6	0.00	-0.43	0.00	1.25	24	26.40	103	75	25	0	4	0	0
NE NORFOLK	60	32	78	24	46	-4	0.00	-0.34	0.00	1.83	49	24.95	108	72	26	0	4	0	0
NE NORTH PLATTE	64	25	79	17	45	-3	0.00	-0.20	0.00	1.34	57	19.66	109	85	24	0	6	0	0
NE OMAHA	60	32	81	26	46	-6	0.00	-0.47	0.00	1.67	30	30.72	114	79	31	0	4	0	0
NE SCOTTSBLUFF	64	28	73	14	46	-2	0.00	-0.17	0.00	2.45	142	16.56	119	80	22	0	4	0	0
NE VALENTINE	61	26	73	17	44	-4	0.00	-0.19	0.00	3.39	151	19.64	115	81	24	0	6	0	0
NV ELY	69	20	73	11	45	0	0.00	-0.19	0.00	0.55	32	6.48	76	46	12	0	7	0	0
NV LAS VEGAS	81	52	85	48	66	0	0.00	-0.06	0.00	0.35	83	4.23	131	23	12	0	0	0	0
NV RENO	75	33	78	29	54	5	0.00	-0.09	0.00	0.25	42	4.96	90	56	15	0	3	0	0
NV WINNEMUCCA	74	22	79	14	48	1	0.00	-0.15	0.00	0.15	19	5.55	89	50	18	0	7	0	0
NH CONCORD	57	34	77	23	45	-1	1.38	0.63	0.57	11.67	227	36.70	128	99	52	0	4	4	1
NJ NEWARK	60	46	71	40	53	-3	1.15	0.47	0.55	12.30	209	38.69	108	90	50	0	0	5	1
NM ALBUQUERQUE	62	38	72	31	50	-5	0.00	-0.19	0.00	0.78	46	8.25	107	78	30	0	1	0	0
NY ALBANY	56	38	73	30	47	-2	0.86	0.22	0.35	13.48	267	32.74	112	96	52	0	1	4	0
NY BINGHAMTON	51	36	67	26	44	-4	0.21	-0.43	0.12	8.04	148	28.86	96	99	63	0	1	3	0
NY BUFFALO	55	39	68	32	47	-3	0.71	0.01	0.42	6.92	120	28.98	96	89	52	0	1	3	0
NY ROCHESTER	56	40	65	35	48	-2	0.54	-0.01	0.39	5.45	114	28.69	112	95	56	0	0	5	0
NY SYRACUSE	55	39	63	28	47	-2	0.40	-0.32	0.22	8.06	130	26.54	85	88	55	0	2	5	0
NC ASHEVILLE	61	43	77	31	52	-3	0.55	-0.25	0.55	5.56	85	36.03	91	92	48	0	1	1	1
NC CHARLOTTE	64	46	73	33	55	-5	0.61	-0.13	0.55	9.76	163	32.94	93	95	56	0	0	2	1
NC GREENSBORO	61	45	69	35	53	-4	0.84	0.05	0.48	11.21	181	41.00	116	92	56	0	0	3	0
NC HATTERAS	71	61	79	52	66	2	3.49	2.36	3.14	10.78	120	45.10	100	89	56	0	0	4	1
NC RALEIGH	64	46	69	37	55	-4	1.97	1.34	1.50	24.28	458	50.88	147	100	53	0	0	3	1
NC WILMINGTON	73	56	80	46	64	0	3.09	2.53	2.76	27.26	383	70.71	151	90	57	0	0	3	1
ND BISMARCK	55	30	68	20	42	-2	0.09	-0.10	0.08	1.75	79	26.87	188	84	39	0	4	2	0
ND DICKINSON	55	29	65	21	42	-3	0.12	-0.07	0.10	2.92	119	16.15	107	85	39	0	5	2	0
ND FARGO	50	30	63	19	40	-4	0.29	-0.08	0.22	7.26	219	18.10	102	88	43	0	5	2	0
ND GRAND FORKS	50	28	66	16	39	-4	0.06	-0.20	0.06	2.67	81	16.04	96	87	39	0	5	1	0
ND JAMESTOWN	52	28	65	18	40	-3	0.11	-0.08	0.09	3.00	118	22.24	141	86	39	0	5	2	0
ND WILLISTON	56	27	70	14	41	-2	0.05	-0.11	0.05	1.72	88	14.76	118	81	36	0	5	1	0
OH AKRON-CANTON	55	38	60	32	47	-4	0.69	0.18	0.46	5.80	114	30.39	101	94	60	0	1	4	0
OH CINCINNATI	57	37	63	29	47	-6	0.04	-0.61	0.04	3.35	68	27.68	82	86	45	0	1	1	0
OH CLEVELAND	55	38	66	31	46	-5	0.91	0.36	0.58	5.04	95	26.35	89	92	53	0	1	3	1
OH COLUMBUS	57	40	62	33	49	-3	0.15	-0.33	0.09	2.88	64	23.33	74	90	49	0	0	2	0
OH DAYTON	57	37	66	33	47	-6	0.05	-0.52	0.03	2.14	49	24.77	83	86	46	0	0	3	0
OH MANSFIELD	54	36	65	28	45	-6	0.40	-0.11	0.20	4.07	80	27.24	84	95	57	0	1	2	0

Based on 1961

Weather Data for the Week Ending October 23, 1999

STATES AND STATIONS	TEMPERATURE EF						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 Sep 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Sep 1	TOTAL IN, SINCE Jan 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Jan 1	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	TEMP. EF		PRECIP.	
																90 AND ABOVE	32 AND BELOW	.01 INCH OR MORE	.50 INCH OR MORE
OK TOLEDO	55	34	61	28	45	-5	0.35	-0.12	0.35	3.40	77	24.19	91	89	46	0	3	1	0
OK YOUNGSTOWN	55	37	62	33	46	-4	0.84	0.26	0.44	6.96	128	36.48	119	93	51	0	0	4	0
OK OKLAHOMA CITY	70	44	82	36	57	-4	0.00	-0.70	0.00	5.15	81	34.74	119	68	25	0	0	4	0
OR TULSA	68	43	78	37	56	-5	0.00	-0.79	0.00	9.69	129	40.81	119	74	27	0	0	0	0
OR ASTORIA	65	42	73	37	54	2	0.32	-1.08	0.29	1.63	24	57.63	131	96	55	0	0	4	0
OR BURNS	70	22	76	13	46	3	0.00	-0.17	0.00	0.00	0	6.81	92	55	16	0	7	0	0
EUGENE	71	36	75	33	54	1	0.00	-0.86	0.00	0.39	10	29.00	93	92	33	0	0	0	0
MEDFORD	78	37	83	36	58	4	0.00	-0.37	0.00	0.22	12	13.20	112	75	19	0	0	0	0
PENDLETON	67	33	71	28	50	-1	0.00	-0.20	0.00	0.19	16	6.91	80	72	27	0	3	0	0
PORTLAND	71	42	75	40	57	3	0.00	-0.65	0.00	1.10	31	28.44	119	91	30	0	0	0	0
SALEM	71	38	77	37	55	3	0.00	-0.73	0.00	0.49	14	32.83	131	91	33	0	0	0	0
PA ALLENTOWN	58	37	68	32	48	-4	0.75	0.10	0.38	14.11	232	31.72	90	96	56	0	1	4	0
ERIE	56	43	69	39	49	-2	0.86	0.03	0.39	8.07	112	26.64	81	90	51	0	0	3	0
MIDDLETOWN	60	41	65	37	50	-3	0.24	-0.41	0.16	11.34	200	33.06	100	94	52	0	0	4	0
PHILADELPHIA	61	46	70	40	53	-1	1.63	1.05	0.80	16.63	311	45.47	134	96	58	0	0	4	1
PITTSBURGH	58	39	67	33	49	-2	0.31	-0.21	0.13	3.45	73	31.38	103	93	45	0	0	5	0
WILKES-BARRE	55	36	66	30	46	-4	0.34	-0.27	0.12	11.43	212	31.18	104	96	58	0	2	4	0
WILLIAMSPORT	56	37	67	31	47	-4	1.14	-0.60	0.06	14.58	251	38.45	116	97	57	0	1	5	0
RI PROVIDENCE	59	42	74	34	51	-2	2.31	1.47	0.96	11.57	188	37.19	104	94	56	0	0	4	2
SC BEAUFORT	74	58	81	47	66	-1	2.66	2.13	1.34	9.06	129	33.57	74	93	58	0	0	4	2
CHARLESTON	74	56	82	45	65	0	5.25	4.64	3.66	14.76	211	41.49	92	97	61	0	0	5	3
COLUMBIA	70	51	77	39	61	-1	0.49	-0.19	0.27	5.78	97	29.54	69	96	56	0	0	3	0
GREENVILLE	66	50	80	40	58	-1	0.44	-0.46	0.39	8.93	129	33.53	79	87	50	0	0	2	0
SD ABERDEEN	55	28	69	21	42	-4	0.03	-0.20	0.03	4.43	161	22.78	132	89	38	0	5	1	0
HURON	58	29	74	19	43	-4	0.01	-0.31	0.01	2.96	103	17.43	94	88	36	0	5	1	0
RAPID CITY	62	31	75	21	47	0	0.05	-0.19	0.05	1.15	55	18.68	122	73	26	0	5	1	0
SIoux FALLS	55	29	71	22	42	-5	0.01	-0.35	0.01	1.21	27	22.89	105	83	33	0	5	1	0
TN BRISTOL	61	39	79	34	50	-5	0.25	-0.33	0.13	3.30	63	29.44	87	91	46	0	0	4	0
CHATTANOOGA	70	47	83	39	58	-1	0.20	-0.51	0.20	4.43	68	42.01	98	84	36	0	0	1	0
KNOXVILLE	63	43	79	40	53	-4	0.29	-0.35	0.21	3.72	73	46.36	122	91	45	0	0	2	0
MEMPHIS	66	45	77	38	56	-6	0.20	-0.48	0.20	2.68	47	38.82	96	80	36	0	0	1	0
NASHVILLE	63	43	71	36	53	-6	0.08	-0.50	0.08	4.01	75	36.13	95	81	37	0	0	1	0
TX ABILENE	70	42	86	33	56	-9	0.12	-0.42	0.09	2.04	39	14.07	66	72	26	0	0	2	0
AMARILLO	66	37	78	32	51	-6	0.16	-0.13	0.16	2.91	95	26.26	145	77	25	0	1	1	0
AUSTIN	75	44	88	37	59	-10	0.62	-0.14	0.60	1.28	22	25.50	95	100	37	0	0	2	1
BEAUMONT	74	53	86	46	64	-5	0.00	-0.91	0.00	6.55	69	30.54	66	92	44	0	0	0	0
BROWNSVILLE	77	54	89	48	66	-9	0.46	-0.06	0.41	4.69	56	20.11	86	91	47	0	0	2	0
CORPUS CHRISTI	75	51	87	47	63	-10	1.47	0.88	1.42	5.72	72	29.03	109	96	45	0	0	3	1
DEL RIO	76	45	86	39	61	-9	0.36	-0.12	0.36	0.39	8	15.34	94	91	30	0	0	1	0
EL PASO	68	41	78	36	54	-8	0.54	0.39	0.54	2.48	106	7.91	102	89	36	0	0	1	1
FORT WORTH	73	49	86	44	61	-5	0.87	0.08	0.72	3.56	58	20.24	70	80	28	0	0	3	1
GALVESTON	73	60	83	56	67	-5	1.85	1.24	1.45	6.86	84	24.87	71	88	52	0	0	3	1
HOUSTON	75	48	87	39	62	-7	0.35	-0.59	0.24	1.73	21	25.30	67	98	44	0	0	2	0
LUBBOCK	66	37	81	32	52	-8	0.49	0.10	0.49	3.86	94	19.41	114	87	32	0	1	1	0
MIDLAND	69	38	83	34	54	-9	0.18	-0.18	0.14	1.22	30	7.65	57	75	26	0	0	2	0
SAN ANGELO	71	39	87	34	55	-10	0.27	-0.23	0.17	1.20	22	13.19	73	84	28	0	0	2	0
SAN ANTONIO	73	47	87	41	60	-9	0.95	0.25	0.75	1.01	17	16.13	62	85	34	0	0	2	1
VICTORIA	75	48	85	42	62	-9	1.13	0.42	1.12	5.06	61	25.09	78	95	38	0	0	2	1
WACO	76	46	94	37	61	-6	0.21	-0.53	0.19	0.72	12	13.91	52	83	31	1	0	3	0
WICHITA FALLS	72	46	84	40	59	-4	0.16	-0.41	0.13	3.40	57	26.58	104	72	28	0	0	2	0
UT SALT LAKE CITY	63	35	68	30	49	-3	0.00	-0.33	0.00	1.75	74	13.29	101	62	18	0	1	0	0
VT BURLINGTON	52	37	61	24	45	-2	1.77	1.13	1.45	13.44	248	30.75	109	92	54	0	2	5	1
VA LYNCHBURG	60	39	67	34	50	-6	0.68	-0.17	0.55	13.51	225	35.33	105	99	57	0	0	4	1
NORFOLK	66	54	71	44	60	0	8.14	7.45	6.76	21.47	341	52.80	140	95	60	0	0	4	3
RICHMOND	63	46	67	38	55	-2	2.01	1.21	1.19	18.85	317	45.82	128	99	55	0	0	3	2
ROANOKE	61	42	68	35	52	-4	0.58	-0.30	0.51	8.63	135	30.72	90	96	58	0	0	2	1
WA WASH/DULLES	60	39	65	35	50	-4	0.92	0.20	0.48	11.90	208	38.93	118	99	56	0	0	4	0
OLYMPIA	65	34	70	31	49	1	0.13	-0.92	0.09	1.90	37	41.91	127	98	50	0	3	5	0
QUILLAYUTE	65	35	74	32	50	1	0.77	-1.78	0.77	6.98	57	80.48	112	100	59	0	2	1	1
SEATTLE-TACOMA	63	43	67	40	53	2	0.03	-0.75	0.03	1.21	30	27.71	114	99	52	0	0	1	0
SPOKANE	63	32	70	28	48	2	0.00	-0.24	0.00	0.10	7	10.63	92	82	28	0	5	0	0
WV YAKIMA	66	28	68	24	47	-2	0.00	-0.11	0.00	0.00	0	5.18	96	90	30	0	7	0	0
BECKLEY	55	37	73	29	46	-5	0.39	-0.24	0.16	6.57	119	31.00	91	96	51	0	1	5	0
CHARLESTON	60	39	77	36	50	-5	0.43	-0.22	0.35	5.22	98	30.98	89	96	50	0	0	4	0
ELKINS	57	30	76	28	44	-5	0.35	-0.34	0.13	7.07	117	30.37	82	99	45	0	5	5	0
HUNTINGTON	60	41	75	33	51	-4	0.07	-0.57	0.04	2.74	55	26.52	78	89	43	0	0	2	0
WI EAU CLAIRE	52	31	71	23	41	-5	0.00	-0.50	0.00	1.88	32	27.25	96	84	44	0	5	0	0
GREEN BAY	51	32	65	26	42	-5	0.00	-0.47	0.00	1.87	36	23.04	94	86	47	0	3	0	0
LA CROSSE	55	35	74	28	44	-4	0.00	-0.45	0.00	3.00	54	18.94	70	76	39	0	3	0	0
MADISON	53	34	66	24	43	-4	0.00	-0.46	0.00	2.46	49	30.15	114	76	42	0	2	0	0
MILWAUKEE	56	38	67	34	47	-2	0.00	-0.52	0.00	5.07	97	34.42	125	74	40	0	0	0	0
WY CASPER	59	29	69	23	44	-1	0.09	-0.13	0.09	1.52	91	10.18	94	77	27	0	5	1	0
CHEYENNE	58	30	70	12	44	-1	0.01	-0.14	0.01	1.46	79	15.36	116	80	33	0	3	1	0
LANDER	56	30	69	13	43	-2	0.06	-0.19	0.06	2.68	137	14.45	127	81	37	0	4	1	0
SHERIDAN	65	29	73	21	47	2	0.08	-0.18	0.08	3.46	152	12.85	101	77	24	0	5	1	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

October 18 - 24, 1999

HIGHLIGHTS

Dry weather prevailed across most of the Nation, aiding harvest progress and fall planting. Hurricane Irene dumped heavy rainfall along the Atlantic Coast from Florida to New England, further delaying harvest progress in the Carolinas. Scattered light showers and snow briefly delayed harvest in the southern Great Plains early in the week. Abundant sunshine promoted wheat emergence and aided growth where

soil moisture levels were adequate, but below-normal temperatures limited development in most areas of the Great Plains and Corn Belt. Above-normal temperatures aided growth of emerged wheat in the northern High Plains and Pacific Northwest, but moisture shortages hindered germination in many dryland fields.

Corn: Seventy-seven percent of the Nation's corn acreage was harvested, 7 percentage points ahead of a year ago, and more than 1 week ahead of the 57-percent average for this date. Progress rapidly advanced in the Corn Belt, with virtually no rain delays. The harvest advanced more than 20 percentage points in most areas of the northern and western Corn Belt, led by Minnesota and Iowa, at 30 and 28 percentage points, respectively. The harvest pace accelerated in the central Great Plains, but remained well behind the 5-year average in Colorado due to slow ripening. Progress also lagged behind normal in the Atlantic Coastal Plains. Slow ripening and scattered showers limited progress in Pennsylvania, while heavy rain and muddy fields hindered progress in North Carolina.

Soybeans: Eighty-six percent of the acreage was harvested, compared with 80 percent last year and the 78-percent average. Nearly ideal harvest weather prevailed in the Corn Belt, lower Mississippi Valley, and most of the Southeast. Harvest neared completion in the western Corn Belt and quickly approached completion in the central and eastern Corn Belt. South Dakota farmers harvested more than 30 percent of their soybean acreage, while farmers in Kansas and Michigan combined more than 20 percent of their soybeans. Below-normal temperatures delayed ripening of double-cropped and other late-planted soybeans in the Ohio and Mississippi River Valleys, but harvest remained well ahead of normal in Kentucky and Tennessee. Harvest also progressed ahead of normal in the Southeast and Mississippi Delta States. Precipitation from Hurricane Irene limited harvest activity in the Atlantic Coastal Plains, but progress remained slightly ahead of the normal pace in North and South Carolina.

Cotton: Fifty-five percent of the acreage was harvested, behind last year's 60-percent pace, but 3 percentage points ahead of the average for this date. In California, where warm, dry weather prevailed, defoliating was nearly complete and picking rapidly accelerated, advancing 30 percentage points. Early-week

showers and snow temporarily halted harvest in the Texas High Plains, but progress resumed by midweek. Harvest was active in Oklahoma and gained momentum in New Mexico due to mostly dry weather. Harvest advanced to 60 percent in Oklahoma, more than twice the normal rate. Progress was slightly slower in the lower Mississippi Valley and Southeast, even though nearly ideal weather prevailed. In the Atlantic Coastal Plains, heavy rainfall limited harvest activity and reduced fiber quality. In North Carolina, harvest progress was only one-third of the 44-percent normal for this date.

Winter Wheat: Eighty-six percent of the acreage was seeded and 67 percent was emerged. Planting progress and crop emergence were equal to the 5-year average and ahead of a year ago. Planting neared completion in the central and northern Great Plains, but lagged behind the 5-year average in Texas. Soft red winter wheat planting rapidly advanced in the Corn Belt, as many farmers finished harvesting row crops and immediately focused their attention on seeding wheat. Sowing rapidly advanced in Oregon, despite severe soil moisture shortages. Irrigated fields rapidly emerged, but dryland fields in Oregon, Montana, and Idaho needed rain to germinate seeds. Adequate moisture supplies aided crop emergence in most of the Corn Belt and Great Plains. However, increasing moisture shortages limited germination in some areas of the Corn Belt, especially in Missouri, where soils were extremely dry. Abundant sunshine promoted crop development where moisture was available, although cooler-than-normal temperatures limited growth.

Other Crops: The sorghum crop was 96 percent mature, and the acreage was 77 percent harvested. Acreage mature was behind last year's progress, but equal to the 5-year average, while harvest progress exceeded last year's 74 percent and the 70-percent average for this date. Harvest activity accelerated in the central and northern Great Plains. Peanut harvest advanced to 69 percent complete, equal to last year's pace, but slightly behind the average for this date.

Crop Progress and Condition

Week Ending October 24, 1999

Winter Wheat Percent Planted				
	Oct 24 1999	Prev Week	Prev Year	5-Yr Avg
AR	40	23	38	40
CA	5	4	2	6
CO	100	99	100	99
GA	7	3	9	9
ID	90	82	93	89
IL	88	66	80	82
IN	84	67	79	82
KS	97	93	92	95
MI	92	83	87	91
MO	67	46	44	61
MT	97	95	97	94
NE	99	99	99	100
NC	25	20	29	30
OH	91	82	95	90
OK	92	84	76	87
OR	61	27	81	77
SD	98	96	100	99
TX	71	67	75	80
WA	93	92	97	96
19 Sts	86	79	82	86

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

Soybeans Percent Harvested				
	Oct 24 1999	Prev Week	Prev Year	5-Yr Avg
AL	53	44	47	36
AR	59	43	59	50
GA	19	14	21	16
IL	92	75	83	86
IN	92	82	87	85
IA	98	90	92	93
KS	80	58	66	71
KY	73	71	74	48
LA	95	90	92	80
MI	87	65	74	72
MN	96	91	94	91
MS	90	82	90	73
MO	74	58	65	63
NE	96	88	86	89
NC	15	13	19	13
OH	87	81	91	83
SC	10	6	10	7
SD	89	58	84	84
TN	63	49	53	35
19 Sts	86	74	80	78

These 19 States harvested 93% of last year's soybean acreage.

Sorghum Percent Mature				
	Oct 24 1999	Prev Week	Prev Year	5-Yr Avg
AR	100	100	100	100
CO	87	81	97	88
IL	99	99	94	93
KS	98	96	99	98
LA	100	100	100	100
MS	100	100	100	100
MO	97	94	100	97
NE	95	92	100	98
NM	91	88	71	69
OK	91	86	94	86
SD	97	89	100	99
TX	94	90	97	97
12 Sts	96	92	98	96

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

Sorghum Percent Harvested				
	Oct 24 1999	Prev Week	Prev Year	5-Yr Avg
AR	100	100	100	98
CO	39	18	39	38
IL	71	69	53	54
KS	74	49	77	69
LA	100	100	100	100
MS	100	100	100	99
MO	80	69	75	68
NE	66	37	74	63
NM	24	14	14	19
OK	57	39	51	35
SD	48	29	73	62
TX	90	87	76	80
12 Sts	77	61	74	70

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

Winter Wheat Percent Emerged				
	Oct 24 1999	Prev Week	Prev Year	5-Yr Avg
AR	15	7	15	19
CA	1	0	0	1
CO	94	85	87	90
GA	3	1	5	5
ID	43	33	62	57
IL	51	20	47	51
IN	52	31	51	52
KS	82	66	75	79
MI	65	50	75	69
MO	32	18	26	37
MT	78	64	78	69
NE	96	89	95	97
NC	15	12	9	9
OH	74	51	73	55
OK	66	54	50	59
OR	18	3	61	48
SD	90	81	94	91
TX	50	45	56	63
WA	82	81	89	83
19 Sts	67	55	64	67

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

Corn Percent Harvested				
	Oct 24 1999	Prev Week	Prev Year	5-Yr Avg
CO	36	19	62	54
GA	100	100	99	97
IL	85	72	71	66
IN	84	70	65	51
IA	86	58	67	56
KS	83	67	91	83
KY	98	96	94	83
MI	60	45	58	32
MN	78	48	78	58
MO	84	76	78	71
NE	74	53	73	54
NC	85	80	100	92
OH	67	56	50	36
PA	37	33	51	41
SD	44	25	53	43
TX	97	94	98	96
WI	63	43	55	38
17 Sts	77	59	70	57

These 17 States harvested 92% of last year's corn acreage.

Crop Progress and Condition

Week Ending October 24, 1999

Cotton Percent Harvested				
	Oct 24 1999	Prev Week	Prev Year	5-Yr Avg
AL	63	52	67	56
AZ	30	22	41	47
AR	87	77	76	69
CA	40	10	5	34
GA	42	30	45	42
LA	97	92	90	86
MS	93	86	93	79
MO	94	90	55	63
NM	13	6	17	22
NC	15	10	68	44
OK	60	41	58	29
SC	41	31	64	45
TN	89	75	82	65
TX	40	35	59	42
14 Sts	55	46	60	52

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

Peanuts Percent Harvested				
	Oct 24 1999	Prev Week	Prev Year	5-Yr Avg
AL	84	80	74	84
FL	95	87	86	54
GA	84	74	77	85
NC	45	41	64	65
OK	60	39	58	58
SC	49	38	70	73
TX	38	27	51	42
VA	86	75	89	93
8 Sts	69	59	69	70

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

VP - Very Poor
 P - Poor
 F - Fair
 G - Good
 EX - Excellent
 * - Revised

Pasture and Range Crop Condition by Percent											
Week Ending October 24, 1999											
	VP	P	F	G	EX		VP	P	F	G	EX
AL	13	26	39	20	2	NH	0	3	60	37	0
AZ	1	1	13	45	40	NJ	0	0	50	50	0
AR	14	37	34	15	0	NM	5	8	35	45	7
CA	10	50	25	10	5	NY	0	0	40	60	0
CO	2	7	27	55	9	NC	2	17	31	47	3
CT	0	2	38	60	0	ND	0	6	26	60	8
DE	0	2	35	55	8	OH	15	27	34	22	2
FL	0	5	40	55	0	OK	6	16	43	34	1
GA	7	16	46	29	2	OR	7	45	30	18	0
ID	2	29	42	26	1	PA	6	22	38	29	5
IL	12	26	42	18	2	RI	0	30	30	40	0
IN	19	31	40	10	0	SC	4	15	43	36	2
IA	13	26	32	26	3	SD	2	4	19	53	22
KS	1	10	38	48	3	TN	29	36	30	5	0
KY	16	35	36	12	1	TX	27	33	29	10	1
LA	9	20	42	25	4	UT	3	18	29	46	4
ME	0	10	10	75	5	VT	3	10	58	29	0
MD	1	7	17	60	15	VA	4	13	33	41	9
MA	5	6	73	12	4	WA	16	35	35	13	1
MI	9	22	35	30	4	WV	7	29	45	15	4
MN	10	21	35	31	3	WI	2	22	35	39	2
MS	10	21	35	31	3	WY	0	2	21	65	12
MO	37	34	21	8	0	48 Sts	11	23	33	29	4
MT	5	19	42	29	5						
NE	9	17	32	37	5	Prev Wk	12	22	32	30	4
NV	3	6	20	70	1	Prev Yr	6	17	34	37	6

State Agricultural Summaries

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

ALABAMA: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.4. Topsoil 15% very short, 42% short, 41% adequate, 2% surplus. Cotton 63% harvested, 67% 1998, 56% avg. Soybeans 95% dropping leaves, 92% 1998, 86% avg. Wheat 17% planted, 33% 1998, 30% avg. Soybean 38% very poor, 34% poor, 16% fair, 12% good, 0% excellent. Pasture feed 9% very poor, 13% poor, 45% fair, 28% good, 5% excellent. Livestock 13% very poor, 26% poor, 39% fair, 20% good, 2% excellent.

ALASKA: NO DATA AVAILABLE UNTIL APRIL 2000.

ARIZONA: Cotton harvest continues throughout most of Areas with the continued dry weather. Alfalfa harvest activity was reported as 34% not being harvested, 10% light, 22% moderate, 34% active. Alfalfa was reported as 6% poor, 23% fair, 59% good, 12% excellent. Range, Pasture feeds shift slightly from excellent to good with the continued lack of rain. Conditions were reported as 1% very poor, 1% poor, 13% fair, 45% good, 40% excellent. Last week central Areas producers shipped cantaloupes, green onions, watermelons. Shipments from eastern areas producers included apples, chile peppers, hot house tomatoes, lettuce, pumpkins. Producers in western areas shipped cantaloupes, honeydews, orange flesh melons. Central Areas citrus producers harvested lemons, western citrus producers harvested lemons, navels last week.

ARKANSAS: Days suitable for fieldwork: 6. Topsoil 15% very short, 36% short, 48% adequate, 1% surplus. Below normal temperatures, statewide. Scattered first frosts in valleys. Below normal rainfall, statewide. Livestock were reported in good condition. Many farmers were feeding supplemental hay early this year because of the summer drought conditions. Brucellosis vaccinations, fall calving, pregnancy checking spring bred cows, selling cull cows, weaning calves underway. The main farm activities were: Harvesting cotton (some second pickings), soybeans, planting wheat. Other activities included: Liming, fertilizing pastures, bush hogging, land leveling, overseeding fall pastures, spraying fields for insects, weeds, preparing land for planting of annual forages such as rye, ryegrass, treating cropland, pastures for armyworms, fields were being subsoiled, plowed, tree fruit harvesting winding down, Corn 100% harvest, Cotton 87% harvested, 1% very poor, 10% poor, 41% fair, 35% good, 13% excellent, Soybeans 86% shedding, 59% harvested, 11% very poor, 18% poor, 29% fair, 31% good, 11% excellent, Sorghum 100% mature, 100% harvested, Wheat 40% planted, 15% emerged, Alfalfa 8% very poor, 26% poor, 33% fair, 33% good, 0% excellent, Other Hay 13% very poor, 34% poor, 36% fair, 17% good, 0% excellent, Range, pastures 14% very, 37% poor, 34% poor, fair, 15% good, 0% excellent.

CALIFORNIA: Field activities progressed rapidly under ideal conditions in most areas. Seedbed preparations for fall-seeded small grains, forage crops were ongoing. Planting of wheat, barley, winter forages, new alfalfa continued in central, southern counties. Sacramento Valley wheat planting was expected to begin in two to three weeks. Rice harvest neared completion in most growing areas, straw was baled from the stubble. Some Sacramento Valley rice fields were cut for hay due to severe head blanking caused by cool temperatures at pollination. Cotton harvest was in full swing on all varieties in the San Joaquin, Sacramento valleys, as well as in the desert areas. First defoliant applications were virtually complete, second treatments on American Pima fields were underway. Plowdown of harvested cotton fields for pink bollworm control immediately followed harvest. Corn for grain, silage, dry beans, sugar beets were harvested. Harvested corn fields were being prepared for winter forage plantings. Alfalfa and sudan grass were cut for hay or green chopped. Some alfalfa fields were sprayed for weeds. The harvest of grapes for fresh consumption continued in the San Joaquin Valley. Varieties picked included Red Globe, Ruby Seedless, Crimson Seedless, Thompson Seedless. Harvesting of grapes for raisins was completed. Picking of wine grapes continued. Harvest of late variety stone fruit was winding down. Fig harvest continued. Apple, olive harvests were in full swing. Asian pear, pomegranate harvests were also active in the San Joaquin Valley. Harvest of pistachios, almonds, walnuts continued. Valencia oranges, lemons were picked in southern areas. New crop navel oranges were maturing well. Harvest of strawberries was slow. Warm weather caused some acceleration in the progress of the fall lettuce crop in the San Joaquin Valley. Fall broccoli, cauliflower crops were experiencing normal growth. Some hot-house broccoli, cabbage, brussels sprouts were suffering with warm daytime temperatures. The garlic harvest was nearing

completion. Cucumbers were benefitting from the warm fall weather; plants were still producing. Processing cantaloupe were still being harvested. The sweet potato harvest continued. Pumpkins were being harvested; many were marketed at roadside stands. Harvest of taro root was expected to begin soon. Sweet peas were forming fruit and harvest is expected to begin shortly. Fields were prepared for planting the year 2000 crops, as this year's harvests were being completed. Winter vegetables were planted in the Imperial valley. Among the vegetable crops harvested were bitter melon, cucumber, sweet corn, eggplant, sugar peas, onions, peppers, tomatoes. Cattle were calving. Most cattle have been moved from upper elevation pastures. Fire hazard remained high. Some supplemental feeding of hay, nutrients was underway. The weather has been ideal for milk production. Large flocks of sheep were in the Imperial valley grazing on sudan grass, alfalfa fields.

COLORADO: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.5. Topsoil 1% very short, 15% short, 75% adequate, 9% surplus. Subsoil moisture 2% very short, 18% short, 74% adequate, 6% surplus. Record or near record high daytime temperatures with limited precipitation prevailed during the week, permitting harvest of late season crops but resulting in some deterioration in the condition of the sugar beets remaining to be harvested. Sugar beets 48% harvested, 66% 1998, 64% avg.; 6% poor, 21% fair, 54% good, 19% excellent. Dry beans 98% harvested, 99% 1998, 97% avg. Alfalfa 77% 4th cutting, 69% 1998, 61% avg.; 1% very poor, 3% poor, 25% fair, 59% good, 12% excellent. Pasture, range feed in mostly good condition.

DELAWARE: Days suitable for fieldwork 3.7. Topsoil 63% adequate, 37% surplus. Subsoil moisture 1% short, 87% adequate, 12% surplus. Field corn 91% harvested for grain, 80% 1998, 79% avg. Soybeans 91% shedding leaves, 79% 1998, 85% avg.; 18% harvested, 19% 1998, 26% avg. Sorghum 55% harvested, 44% 1998, 32% avg. Apples 90% harvested, 99% 1998, 97% avg. Clover, other hay 94% 4th cutting, 82% 1998, 72% avg. Alfalfa hay 92% 4th cutting, 95% 1998, 91% avg.; 30% 5th cutting, 29% 1998, 35% avg. Hay 10% very short, 35% short, 55% adequate. Pasture 2% poor, 35% fair, 55% good, 8% excellent. Barley 100% good; 65% seeded, 64% 1998, 70% avg. Wheat 1% fair, 98% good, 1% excellent; 26% seeded, 27% 1998, 30% avg. Activities: Small grains seeding, row crop harvest slowed from rain.

FLORIDA: Topsoil moisture rest of State mostly short to adequate with some areas very short or surplus. Cooler weather arrived during last part of week when low temperatures across inland areas of northern, central Peninsula dipped into 40s, 50s. Temperatures averaged from 1^o above normal, Tampa, Miami; to 2^o below, Pensacola; most avg normal. Highs mostly 70s, 80s. Scattered storms brought from traces to almost 2.00 in. rain. Moisture southern Peninsula adequate to surplus. Tobacco markets closed October 19. Soybean harvest gaining. Sugarcane grinding was delayed by wet fields. Haying active. Forage growth improving with increased moisture. Cotton harvest active. Ninety-five percent peanuts harvested. Milder weather allowed some vegetables to recover from Hurricane Irene's damage. Tomato picking started, southeastern coast; watermelon, pepper harvesting began, Immokalee. Vegetables marketed: Tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, pickles, squash, sweet corn, okra, eggplant, watermelons. Rain Thursday, clear rest of week citrus areas. Saturday and Sunday low temperatures in 50s. Moisture adequate to surplus, some standing water from Hurricane Irene. Harvest increasing on Navels, Amber sweet, Hamlin oranges, grapefruit, early tangerines, K-Early citrus fruit. Caretakers cutting cover crops, spraying, fertilizing, pushing out dead trees, resetting new trees. Pasture feed 5% poor, 40% fair, 55% good. cattle 5% poor, 25% fair, 70% good. Winter (small grain) forage planting underway in north, Panhandle counties. However, forage planting delayed in Panhandle due to drought. Pasture feed in north declining seasonally. Outbreak of armyworms noted in Lake County. Pastures in west-central, south counties still quite wet from Hurricane Irene; some standing water. Cattle, calves condition fair to good.

GEORGIA: Days suitable for field work 5.4. Soil 3% very short, 20% short, 73% adequate, 4% surplus. Cotton 18% very poor, 24% poor, 34% fair, 22% good, 2% excellent; 95% bolls open, 92% 1998, 92% avg. Hay 8% very poor, 20% poor, 46% fair, 24% good, 2% excellent. Peanuts 93% dug, 90% 1998, 94% avg. Rye 55% planted, 55% 1998, 59% avg. Sorghum 76% harvested for grain, 85% 1998, 72% avg. Soybeans 25% very poor, 26% poor, 35% fair, 13% good, 1% excellent; 87% dropping leaves, 90% 1998,

91% avg. Other small grains 40% planted, 43% 1998, 44% avg. Apples 84% harvested, 93% 1998, 95% avg. Pecans 7% very poor, 15% poor, 32% fair, 39% good, 7% excellent; 12% harvested, 19% 1998, 14% avg. Light rains during the middle of the week, cooler temperatures during the weekend kept soil moisture mostly adequate throughout the State. Soybeans "dropping leaves" stage was at a near normal pace. The soybean condition changed slightly. Cotton harvest was slowed by mid-week rains, but picked back up toward the end of the week. Defoliating the crop continued during the week. Harvesting progress was normal. Condition of the cotton crop was mostly fair. Short staple, low yields have been reported. Peanut digging, harvesting continued at a near normal pace with harvest winding down. Small grain plantings were active last week. Wheat planted was near normal. Other small grain plantings were slightly behind the average pace. Hay, pasture conditions held steady from last week. Haying was active during the week, as farmers were trying to get one more cutting before colder temperatures. Apple harvest continued. The pecan harvest lagged behind 1998. Other activities included: Harvesting of fall vegetables, taking soil, nematode samples for next year, baling hay, the routine care of livestock, poultry.

HAWAII: Weather conditions were mostly fair for agriculture. Low pressure system to the north of the State produced heavy showers over the northern islands on Tuesday. Twenty-four hour readings exceeded two inches in many areas of Kauai, Oahu. The low pressure system also drew moist tropical clouds from the south over Maui, Hawaii islands. As a result, heavy showers occurred on those islands on Wednesday. Shower activity diminished for most parts of the State as the week progressed. Muddy fields hampered fieldwork. Showery weather interrupted regular spraying. The widespread showers benefitted previously dry areas. Pastures are likely to show rejuvenated grass growth in coming weeks. Reservoirs were also replenished. Most crops made fair progress. Banana orchards were in mostly fair to good condition. Showers were welcomed, but cloudy skies slowed crop development. Papaya harvesting active. Crop conditions ranged from mostly good to a few in poor. Spraying to prevent disease outbreaks is anticipated to start when weather permits. Most vegetables in fair condition. Harvesting hampered by muddy field conditions. Spraying suspended in most areas due to frequent showers.

IDAHO: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.9. Topsoil 16% very short, 59% short, 25% adequate. The sixth consecutive week with little precipitation has created extremely dry soil conditions. Winter wheat emergence is behind in most areas of the state. Irrigation supply 17% excellent, 64% good, 16% fair, 3% poor. Corn harvested 98% for silage, 96% 1998, 96% avg. Corn harvested 19% for grain, 28% 1998, 27% avg. Onions 95% harvested, 96% 1998, 98% avg. Apples 47% harvested, 66% 1998, 76% avg. Potatoes 97% harvested, 92% 1998, 93% avg. Sugar beets 63% harvested, 57% 1998, 53% avg. Winter wheat 90% planted, 93% 1998, 89% avg.; 43% emerged, 62% 1998, 57% avg. Activities: Fall ground preparation, planting winter wheat, wrapping up fall harvest, picking apples, winterizing irrigation equipment

ILLINOIS: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.6. Topsoil 9% very short, 34% short, 56% adequate, 1% surplus. Excellent weather last week allowed farmers to nearly finish soybean harvest. Ideal harvest conditions allowed farmers to shell corn at a rapid pace. This is the highest harvested percentage at this time of year since 1991. Other activities for last week included: Applying fertilizer, anhydrous ammonia, hauling grain, caring for livestock. Winter wheat 1% poor, 34% fair, 57% good, 8% excellent.

INDIANA: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.3. Topsoil 14% very short, 37% short, 49% adequate, 0% surplus. Subsoil 31% very short, 48% short, 21% adequate, 0% surplus. Winter wheat seeding, emergence maintains, average pace. Winter wheat 6% very poor, 5% poor, 27% fair, 50% good, 12% excellent. Corn harvest 18 days ahead of avg, 6 days behind the record pace established in 1991. Soybean harvest 7 days ahead of avg, 5 days behind the record pace established in 1964. Harvested corn moisture averaging around 16%, soybeans 11.5% moisture content. Range, pasture feed 19% very poor, 31% poor, 40% fair, 10% good. Livestock mostly good condition. Tobacco stripping, baling continues. Activities: Applying fertilizer, spreading lime, seeding winter wheat, tillage of soils, chopping stalks, hauling grain, feeding hay, caring for livestock.

IOWA: Days suitable for field work 6.9. Topsoil very 43% short, 42% short, 15% adequate. Subsoil moisture 36% very short, 41% short, 23% adequate. Another dry week has harvest all but wrapped up in many sections of state. Reporters indicated storage is getting tight; elevators piling corn on ground. Fall tillage in progress but being slowed by extremely dry conditions. Producers are hoping for a good rain before freezing weather arrives to benefit next year's crops. Corn 86% harvested, 67% 1998, 56% avg. Percent moisture of all field corn 16% avg.; 15% harvested. Corn lodging 38% none, 47% light, 13% moderate, 2% heavy. Corn ear droppage 48% none, 42% light, 10% moderate. Soybeans 98% harvested, 92% 1998, 93%

avg. Winter wheat 81% planted, 70% 1998, 83% avg. Fall 23% tillage, 18% 1998, 15% avg.; fall fertilizer applied 14%, 14% 1998, 13% avg. Grain movement rated 15% none, 36% light, 38% moderate, 11% heavy. Off-farm grain storage availability 44% short, 56% adequate; on-farm storage 44% short, 55% adequate, 1% surplus. Despite some reports of illness, Areas livestock reported in good condition. In northern section of state, cattle grazing on corn stalks or being fed hay due to continued dryness. Range, pasture feed 13% very poor, 26% poor, 32% fair, 26% good, 3% excellent.

KANSAS: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.8. Topsoil 10% very short, 40% short, 50% adequate. Subsoil moisture 5% very short, 26% short, 68% adequate, 1% surplus. Wheat seeding is nearly complete across the State. However, many areas of the State are very dry, need rain for continued wheat germination, growth. Wheat 3% poor, 21% fair, 65% good, 11% excellent. Sorghum 1% very poor, 5% poor, 28% fair, 58% good, 8% excellent. Sunflower 3% poor, 20% fair, 63% good, and 14% excellent. Sunflowers harvested 69%, 87% 1998, Hay, forage supplies 5% short, 83% adequate, 12% surplus. Stock water supplies 2% very short, 8% short, 89% adequate, 1% surplus. Major activities for livestock producers included: Moving cattle to feedlots, row crop stubble or wheat pasture, fall calving, lambing, weaning, marketing calves.

KENTUCKY: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.5. Topsoil 18% very short, 48% short, 34% adequate. Subsoil moisture 10% very short, 37% short, 52% adequate. For the week temperatures averaged 49 °, 7° below normal, 14 ° colder than the previous week. Rainfall for week very limited. Corn harvesting virtually complete. Soybean harvesting active. Tobacco stripping in full swing. Quality of stripped tobacco rated 3% very poor, 15% poor, 44% fair, 31% good, 7% excellent. Wheat seeding nearing 70% complete, 60% 1998, 62% avg. Fall wheat seeded rated 4% poor, 31% fair, 58% good, 7% excellent. Pasture feed 16% very poor, 35% poor, 36% fair, 12% good, 1% excellent. Farmers continue to feed hay due to poor pasture feed in summer months. Majority expect hay shortages during winter feeding.

LOUISIANA: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.1. Soil 10% very short, 25% short, 61% adequate, 4% surplus. Cotton harvest edged closer to completion. Hay 99% final cutting, 91% 1998, 96% avg. Pecans 4% very poor, 7% poor, 42% fair, 43% good, 4% excellent; 27% harvested, 19% 1998, 16% avg. Soybean harvest continued. Sugarcane 1% poor, 15% fair, 50% good, 34% excellent; 25% harvested, 17% 1998, 19% avg. Sugarcane harvest made good progress. Sweet potatoes 77% harvested, 77% 1998, 77% avg. Wheat 35% planted, 40% 1998, 24% avg.; 8% emerged, 22% 1998, 11% avg. Livestock 2% very poor, 8% poor, 32% fair, 49% good, 9% excellent. Vegetables 7% very poor, 12% poor, 37% fair, 37% good, 7% excellent.

MARYLAND: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.7. Topsoil 1% short, 79% adequate, 20% surplus. Subsoil moisture 9% very short, 6% short, 73% adequate, 12% surplus. Corn 80% harvested for grain, 80% 1998, 73% avg. Soybeans 89% shedding leaves, 97% 1998, 95% avg.; 31% harvested, 48% 1998, 37% avg. Sorghum 61% harvested, 53% 1998, 47% avg. Apples 85% harvested, 88% 1998, 85% avg. Tobacco 10% stripped, 10% 1998, 8% avg. Clover, other hays 87% 4th cutting, 93% 1998, 77% avg. Alfalfa 80% 4th cutting, 97% 1998, 95% avg.; 35% 5th cutting, 40% 1998, 46% avg. Wheat 10% fair, 80% good, 10% excellent; 46% seeded, 44% 1998, 45% avg. Barley 12% fair, 79% good, 9% excellent; 83% seeded, 81% 1998, 80% avg. Rye 8% fair, 84% good, 8% excellent; 55% seeded, 65% 1998, 63% avg. Pasture feed 1% very poor, 7% poor, 17% fair, 60% good, 15% excellent. Hay supplies 12% very short, 45% short, 42% adequate, 1% surplus. Activities: Continued small grain seeding, apple, corn, soybean harvesting.

MICHIGAN: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.0. Topsoil 7% very short, 31% short, 59% adequate, 3% surplus. Subsoil 17% very short, 44% short, 37% adequate, 2% surplus. Corn 1% very poor, 4% poor, 27% fair, 51% good, 17% excellent. Winter Wheat 0% very poor, 1% poor, 29% fair, 52% good, 18% excellent. Hay 4th cutting 87%, 76% 1998, 73% avg. Scattered showers occurred throughout State but not enough rainfall to prevent farmers from working. Harvest moving as quickly as possible as cooler weather moved in. Temperatures lower as a slight frost reported in all districts across State. Good harvest weather continued this past week. Corn harvest progressing ahead of normal as over half of crop been harvested. Fourth cutting of hay continued. Soybean harvest went into overdrive as most farmers finished harvesting. Sugarbeet harvest in full swing. Yields fair to good. Dry bean harvest completed. Winter wheat planting continued, wheat looked good in fields that have emerged. Potato harvest continuing with high yields reported. Late season apple varieties being harvested. Harvest should be wrapping up in the next week or two.

MINNESOTA: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.2. Topsoil 3% very short, 27% short, 63% adequate, 7% surplus. Soybeans 11% moisture, 12% 1998, 12%

avg.; 66% stubble worked, 66% 1998, 55% avg. Corn 17%, 18% 1998, 20% avg.; 40% stubble worked, 39% 1998, 27% avg. Dry beans 95% harvested, 99% 1998, 97% avg. Sunflowers 46% harvested, 49% 1998, 70% avg. Potatoes 92% harvested, 95% 1998, 96% avg. Pasture feed 4% very poor, 17% poor, 36% fair, 37% good, 6% excellent. Farmers took advantage of continuing excellent harvest conditions to harvest much of their remaining acreage during the week. As crops come off the fields quickly, the availability of storage, shipping is a widespread concern. Little or no precipitation was recorded at stations across the southern half of the state, only light rains occurred in the northern half. Hard, dry ground was making tillage of stubble fields difficult in some areas. Soil temperatures falling below 50 ° brought on some early application of anhydrous ammonia.

MISSISSIPPI: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.6. Soil moisture 15% very short, 32% short, 49% adequate, 4% surplus. Cotton 93% harvested, 93% 1998, 79% avg. Soybeans 90% harvested, 90% 1998, 73% avg. Sweet potatoes 85% harvested, 83% 1998, 81% avg. Wheat 54% planted, 58% 1998, 50% avg.; 25% emerged, 37% 1998, 28% avg.; 1% very poor, 5% poor, 32% fair, 58% good, 4% excellent. Cattle, 1% very poor, 9% poor, 37% fair, 46% good, 7% excellent. Pasture 10% very poor, 21% poor, 35% fair, 31% good, 3% excellent. Farmers are approaching the end of this harvest season, are beginning to prepare for next year.

MISSOURI: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.7. The topsoil moisture supply was rated as 34% very short, 40% short, 26% adequate. With the cool temperature, dry weather, Areas farmers moved along rapidly with row crop harvesting. Eighty-four percent of the corn was harvested, about a week ahead of the same date 1998, about two weeks ahead of the normal of 71%. The northern third of the State is at slower pace with about 70% harvested, while most farmers in the southern districts finished harvesting corn several weeks. The soybean harvest is 74% complete, four days ahead of 1998, six days ahead of the 5-year average of 63%. The northeast leads all districts with 84% of the soybeans harvested, while progress in the west-central, southwest, south-central districts is 57% or less complete. Only 4% of the soybeans are not yet mature, similar to 1998, but a week ahead of normal. Harvesting of the grain sorghum crop is 80% complete, 4 days ahead of 1998, 8 days ahead of the 5-year average of 68%. The rapid cotton harvest was 94% complete, 3 weeks ahead of 1998, a month ahead of the 5-year average of 63%. Cotton harvest was 90% complete, 3 weeks ahead of 1998, a month ahead of the 5-year average. Fall seeding of winter wheat was 67% complete, well ahead of the 44% seeded a year ago by this date, the 5-year average of 61%. Progress is most advanced in the northwest district with 75% seeded, least advanced in the central, southwest districts. Thirty-two percent of the intended crop has emerged. Pasture, range was rated at 37% very poor, 34% poor, 21% fair, 8% good. Stock water supplies were rated as 34% very short, 27% short, 39% adequate. Over 70% of the reporters, in the central, southwest, south-central districts rated water supplies as short or very short. Supply of hay, other roughages was reported as 10% very short, 20% short, 65% adequate, 5% surplus. The south-central district reported the lowest supply rating with over 60% in very short or short. Hay supplies will depend on the winter months ahead. Precipitation for week ending October 24, 1999 avg. 0.01 inch.

MONTANA: Days suitable for fieldwork were 6.8. Topsoil 17% very short, 48% short, 35% adequate, 0% surplus. Subsoil moisture 18% very short, 44% short, 38% adequate, 0% surplus. Weather conditions last week were very similar to the previous week as temperatures were again slightly cooler across much of the state while either no precipitation or very little moisture was received at most locations. Winter wheat 0% very poor, 13% poor, 30% fair, 47% good, 10% excellent. Sugar beets 97% harvested, 77% 1998, 83% avg. Sugar beet harvest is reported to be going smoothly with no problems. Yields are reported to be above normal with good sugar content. Potatoes 93% harvested, 87% 1998, 86% avg. Cattle, calves moved from summer ranges 73%, 79% 1998, 69% avg. Sheep, lambs moved from summer ranges 77%, 83% 1998, 76% avg. Other farming activities occurring are: Fencing, shipping cattle to market, getting equipment ready for winter.

NEBRASKA: Days suitable for field activities 7.0. Topsoil rated 30% very short, 39% short, 31% adequate. Subsoil moisture 19% very short, 37% short, 44% adequate. Temperatures across areas avg from 2 to 6 ° below normals. Only limited precipitation reported in a few Panhandle counties, elsewhere no accumulation for the week. Corn 74% harvest, near 73% 1998, but nine days ahead of 54% avg. If conditions hold, most producers will complete corn harvest within the next 10 days. Soybean harvest near completion at 96%, ahead of 86% 1998, 89% avg. Sorghum mature 95%, behind 100% 1998, 98% avg.; harvest 66% behind 74% 1998, but near 63% avg. Alfalfa rated 3% very poor, 17% poor, 36% fair, 41% good, 3% excellent; fourth cutting virtually complete. Wheat 3% very poor, 6% poor, 25% fair, 56% good, 10% excellent; emerged 96%, 95% 1998, 97% avg. Emergence delayed in the Southeast due to dry conditions. Proso Millet harvest virtually complete at 96%. Pasture, range feed rated 9% very poor, 17% poor, 32% fair, 37% good, 5% excellent. Fire danger high in some

eastern counties. Dust causing livestock health problems in confined areas. Producer activities included: Harvesting fall tillage, livestock care.

NEVADA: Weather in areas was cool, dry. Some stations reported above normal temperatures for the season, but still had lows well below freezing. Alfalfa hay harvest was completed. Fall planting was completed, winter crops had begun germination. Aided by dry weather over the past few weeks, potato harvest finished ahead of schedule. Movement of livestock continued to fall/ winter range. Fire rehabilitation efforts continued. Main farm, ranch activities: Moving livestock, working livestock, fall improvements, winter preparations, fire rehabilitation.

NEW ENGLAND: Days suitable for fieldwork 5. Topsoil 2% short, 67% adequate, 31% surplus. Subsoil 1% very short, 10% short, 70% adequate, 19% surplus. Pasture feed 2% very poor, % poor, 47% fair, 40% good, 2% excellent. Maine potatoes 99% harvested, 99% 1998, 99% avg.; condition excellent to good. Massachusetts potatoes 95% harvested, 99% 1998, 99% avg.; condition good to fair. Rhode Island potatoes 95% harvested, 95% 1998, 95% avg.; condition fair to poor. Field corn 95% harvested, 95% 1998, 90% avg.; condition good to fair. Second cut hay 95% harvested, 99% 1998, 99% avg.; condition good to fair. Third cut hay 95% harvested, 90% 1998, 90% avg.; condition fair. Apples 95% harvested, 95% 1998, 95% avg.; size average to below avg.; condition good. Pears 100% harvested, 99% 1998, 99% avg.; size below avg, condition fair to poor. Cranberries 90% harvested, 90% 1998, 90% avg , size avg, condition good to excellent. Major farm activities included: Chopping hay, corn; digging potatoes; picking apples, pears; spreading manure, lime; planting winter cover crops; cleaning fields; preparing equipment for winter storage.

NEW JERSEY: Days suitable for field work 5. Temperatures averaged much below normal. Extremes were 69 ° at Atlantic City Marina on the 19th, 25° at Charlotteburg also on the 19th. Weekly rainfall averaged 1.10 inches North, 1.01 inches Central, 1.64 inches South. The heaviest 24 hour total was 1.17 inches at Atlantic City Marina on the 20th to the 21st. Estimated soil moisture, in percent of field capacity, this past week avg 96% North, 98% Central, 97% South. Four inch soil temperatures avg 48 ° North, 52°s Central, 55 ° South. Most areas of the state reported an adequate irrigation water supply. Last week's rains brought excess topsoil moisture to some areas of South, Central Areas. Planting of cover crops continued across the state. Harvest of grain corn, soybeans continued with below avg yields reported. The condition of the remaining grain corn fields is poor across the state. The late planted soybean crop is in fair condition. Hay harvest is virtually finished in most areas. Harvest of peppers, lima beans, eggplants, other summer vegetables is near completion. Harvest of fall cabbage, lettuce, spinach is in full swing, their condition is between good, fair in most areas. Some insect problems have been reported in spinach, cabbage fields. Harvest of sweet potatoes, pumpkins is very active. Sweet potato yields have been reduced by smaller than usual sizes. Harvest of apples continued, good quality has been reported. Harvest of cranberries also continued with good quality being reported.

NEW MEXICO: The week began on the cool side with some spotty precipitation, then turned warm, dry. The statewide temperature avg for the week was 2° below normal. The only precipitation was associated with a winter-type storm that was exiting the state as the week began. Des Moines/Capulin, Raton were the only spots that measured over one quarter of an inch of precipitation. Farmers were either harvesting fall crops or preparing for harvest. Ranchers remained active moving cattle to winter pastures, marketing calves installing fences, pipelines. Red chile harvest slowed during the week. Corn, sorghum for grain harvest continued, cotton harvest started across producing areas. Peanut harvest is in full swing with excellent yields reported. Sorghum, wheat conditions declined slightly during the week to mostly fair to good condition. Pasture, Range feed were reported at 5% very poor, 8% poor, 35% fair, 45% good, 7% excellent. Cattle, sheep were in fair to good condition, with good weight gains being reported.

NEW YORK: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.0. Soil moisture 90% adequate, 10% surplus. Pasture feed 40% fair, 60% good. Soybean, corn for grain harvest continued very active. Potato harvest winding down. Growers grading, moving potatoes into storage. Apple picking tapered off. Crop being moved into storage. Cider making in full swing. Orchard clean-up work underway. Vegetable harvest limited to a few late season crops. Most growers readying machinery for winter storage, seeding cover crops, attending meetings. Grape crushing, wine making were major activities in the states wine producing regions.

NORTH CAROLINA: Days suitable for fieldwork 2.9, 4.3 last week. Experienced typical temperatures, widespread rain as Hurricane Irene brought unwelcomed precipitation to the eastern half of the State. Although isolated portions of the Mountain region continue to experience drought conditions, surplus topsoil moisture levels rose to 64% for the State. Wet

fields continue to slow the planting of small grain crops, becoming a critical factor in harvesting cotton, since a hard freeze could cause boll lock. Corn, peanut, and sweet potato harvests are also behind schedule. Other activities: Grading, harvesting and marketing tobacco; apple harvesting; shearing and marketing Christmas trees; harvesting vegetable crops; field equipment service and repairs; and establishing cover crops.

NORTH DAKOTA: Days suitable for fieldwork 7. Topsoil 2% very short, 16% short, 78% adequate, 4% surplus. Subsoil 1% very short, 14% short, 77% adequate, 8% surplus. Producers made excellent progress on the row crop harvest due to favorable weather during the week. Dry weather prompted fall tillage and chemical applications. Continued dry weather is needed to dry down row crops. Corn for grain 48% harvested, 71% 1998, 56% avg. Flaxseed 96% combined, 100% 1998, 97% avg. Soybeans 89% harvested, 88% 1998, 87% avg. Sunflowers 38% harvested, 66% 1998, 62% avg. Emerged corn for grain 2% very poor, 5% poor, 21% fair, 62% good, 10% excellent; sunflower 2% very poor, 14% poor, 31% fair, 46% good, 7% excellent. Ranchers were busy weaning calves, moving hay for winter feeding. Stock water supplies 2% short, 91% adequate, 7% surplus.

OHIO: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.9. Topsoil 16% very short, 33% short, 50% adequate, 1% surplus. Soybeans harvested 87%, 91% 1998, 83% avg. Corn harvested for grain 67%, 50% 1998, 37% avg. Winter wheat planted 91%, 95% 1998, 90% avg.; emerged 74%, 73% 1998, 55% avg. Fall, winter apples harvested, 89%, 93% 1998, 82% avg. Grapes harvested 97%, 99% 1998. Tobacco stripped 17%, 16% 1998. Pasture feed 15% very poor, 27% poor, 34% fair, 22% good, 2% excellent. Winter wheat 1% poor, 18% fair, 63% good, 18% excellent. Activities: Harvesting corn, soybeans; fall tillage; planting wheat; hauling manure; tiling; hauling grain; spreading lime, fertilizer; pressing cider; cutting firewood; sowing cover crops; weaning calves; emptying waste storage ponds; developing water sources. Killing frost has alleviated some of the weed pressure although ragweed, lambs quarter, foxtail, velvet leaf, Canadian thistle, Johnson grass, chickweed, pigweed were still reported. Reported diseases include white mold in soybeans; gray leaf spot on corn; fly speck, scab on apples; rust, leaf spot, mildew on vegetables. Fruit, vegetable producers continue to harvest pumpkins, apples, pears, squash, tomatoes, beans, peppers, grapes, cabbage. Pasture, grass conditions have improved somewhat with the recent rains although most of the pasture remains short. Livestock producers comment on mostly good conditions although water sources are still short in much of the south, hay stocks are low. Producers continue to sell beef cattle, low producing dairy cows, poultry.

OKLAHOMA: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.7. Subsoil 14% very short, 38% short, 48% adequate. Topsoil 21% very short, 43% short, 36% adequate. Continued dry weather lowers soil moisture supplies for fifth straight week. Wheat 2% very poor, 12% poor, 36% fair, 48% good, 2% excellent. Oats 15% very poor, 2% poor, 30% fair, 48% good, 5% excellent; 81% planted, 82% 1998, 62% avg.; 26% up to stand, 49% 1998, 31% avg. Corn 99% harvested, 100% 1998, 96% avg.; Soybeans 87% mature, 96% 1998, 85% avg.; 58% harvested, 51% 1998, 50% avg. Peanuts 88% mature, 95% 1998, 88% avg.; 50% combined, 42% 1998, 39% avg. Cotton 99% bolls opening, 99% 1998, 84% avg. Alfalfa hay 2% very poor, 8% poor, 38% fair, 47% good, 5% excellent; 90% 4th cutting, 84% 1998, 95% avg.; 30% 5th cutting, 23% 1998, 50% avg. Other hay 83% 2nd cutting, 48% 1998, 86% avg.; Livestock 5% poor, 23% fair, 70% good, 2% excellent. Feeder steer prices unchanged at \$80.50 per cwt.

OREGON: Days suitable for fieldwork 7. Topsoil 41% short, 46% short, 13% adequate. Subsoil 45% very short, 44% short, 11% adequate. Barley planted 47%, 44% 1998, 40% avg. Winter wheat planted 61%, 81% 1998, 77% avg.; emerged 18%, 61% 1998, 48% avg. Range, pasture feed 7% very poor, 45% poor, 30% fair, 18% good. Activities: Field preparation continued, moisture needed for good germination. Producers seeding in dust, hoping for rain. Cooler temperatures helped bring soil moisture up. Haying activities winding down. Sugar beet harvest continued in Klamath Basin. Corn harvest beginning in northeast, well underway in Willamette Valley. Most corn silage in from the field in Willamette Valley. Irrigation required at nurseries, greenhouses because of dry weather on west side. Sales of container, balled trees increasing. Greenhouses busy with fall plants, Christmas poinsettias. Christmas tree marking winding down. Potato harvest wrapping up, average yields reported. Most onions dug. Root crop, some late planted salad vegetables harvests continued. Squash, pumpkins moving to canneries, stores. Sweet corn harvest winding down, cauliflower harvest 50-70% completed. Willamette Valley hazelnut harvest in full swing. Some growers on second sweep. Rogue River Valley pear, apple harvests winding down, grape harvest underway. South coast cranberry harvest continued. Hood River Valley pear harvest completed, Braeburn apple harvest underway. Milton-Freewater area apples being picked. Livestock mostly good, some fair on driest ranges, pastures. Weaning, pregnancy checking continued in east. Gathering cattle off high ranges continued in east, southwest. Range, pasture grasses continued to dry out; recent light rains did not generate

much new growth. Only irrigated pastures have forage available. Supplemental hay feeding required in most areas.

PENNSYLVANIA: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.8. Soil moisture 20% short, 69% adequate, 11% surplus. Corn 84% mature, 91% 1998, 89% avg.; harvested 37% complete, 51% 1998, 41% avg.; 19% very poor, 28% poor, 31% fair, 19% good, 3% excellent. Ensilage corn harvested 98% complete, 95% 1998, 92% avg. Soybeans harvested 16% complete, 28% 1998, 35% avg.; 18% very poor, 32% poor, 25% fair, 23% good, 2% excellent. Potato harvest 92% complete, 87% 1998, 87% avg. Fall plowing 74% complete, 73% 1998, 76% avg. Wheat planted 60% complete, 67% 1998, 76% avg.; emerged 46% complete, 48% 1998. Barley planted 87% complete, 92% 1998, 91% avg. Barley emerged 72% complete, 63% 1998. Alfalfa 4th cutting 80% complete, 82% 1998, 74% avg. Quality of hay made 2% very poor, 8% poor, 49% fair, 33% good, 8% excellent. Grape harvest 99% complete, 93% 1998, 84% avg. Apple harvest 82% complete, 87% 1998, 85% avg. Activities include: Harvesting corn, soybeans, apples, grapes, cool weather vegetables, potatoes, corn silage; planting barley, wheat and cover crops; machinery maintenance; filling silos; hauling, pumping and spreading manure; spreading lime; emptying manure pits; caring for livestock; cutting hay; plowing for the fall; repairing buildings.

SOUTH CAROLINA: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.2. Soil moisture 2% very short, 12% short, 64% adequate, 22% surplus. Apples 83% harvested, 97% 1998, 93% avg. Livestock 5% poor, 32% fair, 50% good, 13% excellent. Pasture feed 4% very poor, 15% poor, 43% fair, 36% good, 2% excellent. Sorghum 95% matured, 97% 1998; 70% harvested, 66% 1998, 73% avg.; 13% very poor, 25% poor, 48% fair, 14% good. Sweet potatoes 58% harvested, 73% 1998, 57% avg.; 22% very poor, 28% poor, 33% fair, 17% good. Tobacco 99% stalks destroyed, 99% 1998, 97% avg. Winter grazings 70% planted, 72% 1998, 66% avg.; 55% emerged, 54% 1998, 46% avg.; 43% fair, 53% good, 4% excellent. Winter wheat 19% planted, 25% 1998, 19% avg.; 12% emerged, 15% 1998, 10% avg. Barley 38% planted, 48% 1998, 39% avg.; 28% emerged, 30% 1998, 26% avg. Oats 50% planted, 50% 1998, 44% avg.; 29% emerged, 32% 1998, 30% avg.; 3% poor, 41% fair, 39% good, 17% excellent. Rye 51% planted, 56% 1998, 48% avg.; 39% emerged, 38% 1998, 33% avg.; 35% fair, 56% good, 9% excellent. Pecans 15% harvested, 29% 1998, 21% avg.; 10% poor, 90% fair.

SOUTH DAKOTA: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.4. Topsoil 7% very short, 19% short, 65% adequate, 9% surplus. Subsoil 3% very short, 19% short, 68% adequate, 10% surplus. Sorghum 7% poor, 32% fair, 53% good, 8% excellent; harvested for silage 88%, 100% 1998, 97% avg. Soybean mature 100%, 100% 1998, 100% avg. Corn 1% very poor, 3% poor, 15% fair, 53% good, 28% excellent; mature 98%, 100% 1998, 100% avg. Sunflower 4% poor, 19% fair, 59% good, 18% excellent; mature 97%, 100% 1998, 100% avg.; harvested 51%, 74% 1998, 68% avg. Winter rye seeded 99%, 100% 1998, 100% avg.; emerged 87%, 97% 1998, 96% avg. Stock water supplies 1% very short, 6% short, 83% adequated 10% surplus. Cattle 8% fair, 64% good, 28% excellent. Sheep 6% fair, 65% good, 29% excellent.

TENNESSEE: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.0. Topsoil 20% very short, 36% short, 43% adequate, 1% surplus. Subsoil 29% very short, 42% short, 29% adequate. Burley 32% stripped, 39% 1998, 35% avg. Pasture feed 29% very poor, 36% poor, 30% fair, 4% good. Winter wheat 44% seeded, 50% 1998, 46% avg. Farmers continued harvesting both cotton, soybeans at a rapid pace last week. Except for a few delays caused by wet weather, growers have had close to ideal harvesting conditions this year. With harvest activities winding down, many producers turned their attention to wheat seeding last week. Producers are rushing to get the crop seeded while the weather is favorable, soil moisture is still available. In addition to these activities, farmers were busy renovating pastures, preparing tobacco for market. Both temperatures, rainfall for the week averaged well below normal across the entire State.

TEXAS: Light rain and snow delayed harvest early in the week across the Plains while mostly cool open weather prevailed elsewhere. Showers occurred in East, South Texas, along the Coastal Bend. Harvest resumed on the Plains by mid week as conditions improved. Land preparation remained slow in most areas as the dry conditions continued. Livestock conditions continued to worsen while supplemental feeding increased, drought conditions became more evident in many areas. Herd reduction continued in many areas as stock ponds dried and forage production became dormant for the winter.

Crops: Small Grains: Seeding of wheat, oats continued, but remained slow in most areas. Seedling death continued in some locations as a result of too little moisture in fields that showed some emergence, while germination has not occurred in others. In a few locations improved growth continued as a result of recent rain showers. Wheat condition 53% of normal compared, 51% 1998. Oats 54%, 1998, 70%, Avg.%. Corn: Harvest of remaining fields continued on the High Plains. Cotton: Harvest was interrupted during early week due to light rain, snow, but continued to expand later in the week as

conditions improved. Some growers are spraying cotton to aid in harvest activity rather than wait for a freeze. Gins remained open in the Coastal Bend while harvest continued to wind down in the Blacklands, Central Texas. Statewide, Cotton stalk destruction continued active in fields that had been harvested. Cotton condition was rated at 57% of normal compared, 51% 1998. Bolls Opening 96%, 96% 1998, 90% avg. Peanuts harvest was inactive on the Plains during early week, escalated after mid week, remained active in Central, South Texas. Peanut condition 75% of normal compared with 49% 1998. Rice harvest of the second crop was winding down. Sorghum harvest continued active on the High Plains during most of the week. Some delay occurred as a result of the light rain, snow at the beginning of the week. Turning color 100%, 100% 1998, 100% avg. Soybeans harvest continued on the High Plains with generally good yields.

Commercial Vegetables: Rio Grande Valley, planting continued for carrots, cabbage, onions while other fall vegetables showed good progress. Harvest began for Bell Pepper, various varieties of greens. Harvest of Citrus was also underway with early supplies of oranges, grapefruit. San Antonio-Winter Garden, cabbage, onion planting neared completion, preparation for other fall vegetables remained active. East Texas, planting of fall crops, gardens continued slowly. Sweet potato harvest remained active, yields were disappointing in some locations. Preparation for more blueberry production continued. Pine tree harvest remained active. High Plains, pumpkin harvest was mostly completed, bean harvest was winding down, both with generally good yields reported. Pecan crop continued to mature, harvest activities increased. Insect damage remained evident. Quality was variable.

Range and Livestock: Livestock conditions continued to decline in most areas. Heard reduction remained active and supplemental feeding increased in many areas as pastures had only limited forage. The market remained weakened. Remaining hay baling activity in isolated areas declined. Fall grazing from wheat and oats remained minimal.

UTAH: Days suitable for fieldwork 7. Topsoil 5% very short, 29% short, 66% adequate. Subsoil 3% very short, 28% short, 69% adequate. Range, pasture feed 3% very poor, 18% poor, 29 fair, 46% good, 4% excellent. Corn mature 90%, 86% 1998, 87% avg.; harvested for grain 40%, 27% 1998, 44% avg. Winter wheat emerged 86%, 82% 1998, 79% avg. Alfalfa hay 4th cutting 91%, 99% 1998, 93% avg. Alfalfa seed harvested 55%, 100% 1998, 93% avg. Apples picked 85%, 84% 1998, 84% avg. Potatoes harvested 96%, 99% 1998, 97% avg. Onions harvested 96%, 85% 1998, 94% avg. Cattle moved from summer range 85%, 87% 1998, 90% avg. Sheep moved from summer range 87%, 89% 1998, 90% avg. Major activities included harvesting alfalfa hay, moving livestock. Lack of rain in the past weeks has caused the fields to be dry, hard to work.

VIRGINIA: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.1. Topsoil 4% very short, 8% short, 62% adequate, 26% surplus. Subsoil 12% very short, 18% short, 54% adequate, 16% surplus. Temperatures across the Commonwealth dropped several degrees during the past week. Overnight lows dropped into the thirties, with many localities experiencing the first frost of the year. The majority of rainfall associated with Hurricane Irene fell over one week ago. Pastures feed 4% very poor, 13% poor, 33% fair, 41% good, 9% excellent. Livestock 1% very poor, 4% poor, 23% fair, 62% good, 10% excellent. Corn for grain 81% harvested, 85% 1998, 77% avg. Soybeans 78% dropping leaves, 81% 1998, 83% avg.; 15% harvested, 21% 1998, 21% avg.; 5% very poor, 12% poor, 30% fair, 42% good, 11% excellent. Winter wheat 18% seeded, 18% 1998, 25% avg. Barley 67% seeded, 50% 1998, 63% avg. Peanuts 86% dug, 89% 1998, 93% avg.; 65% combined, 70% 1998, 80% avg.; 8% very poor, 13% poor, 45% fair, 33% good, 1% excellent. Cotton 19% harvested, 73% 1998, 39% avg.; 5% very poor, 16% poor, 41% fair, 36% good, 2% excellent. Apples, Fall 83% harvested, 80% 1998, 86% avg. Apples, winter 70% harvested, 64% 1998, 69% avg. However standing water, saturated soil continued to limit field work, particularly during the first part of the week. Livestock producers report that pasture conditions remain in mostly good condition. Forage is readily available for winter grazing. Stockpiled fescue continued to make excellent growth during the past week. Fall calving, lambing is presently underway. Corn harvest continued during the past week. Progress is slightly behind 1998 but slightly ahead of the five-year average. Condition of soybean crop continued to improve this past week. Harvest is currently underway with good yields reported thus far. Small grain seedlings progress remained behind schedule due to wet field conditions. Peanut harvest progressed this past week as field conditions permitted. Producers have nearly caught up with 1998, five-year average. Condition of unharvested acres continued to deteriorate. Producers reported concern that frost might have some effect on the quality of unharvested acres. Majority of cotton acres remain unharvested. Producers continued to defoliate from the air, however, fieldwork was limited. As field conditions improve cotton harvest is expected to progress at a rapid pace. Condition of the crop deteriorated slightly from the past week. Vegetable producers continued to harvest tomatoes, greens, broccoli, cabbage, winter squash, etc.

WASHINGTON: Days suitable for fieldwork 7.0. Topsoil 30% very short, 45% short, 25% adequate. Subsoil 30% very short, 50% short, 20% adequate. Winter wheat planted 93%, 97% 1998, 96% avg.; emerged 82%,

89% 1998, 83% avg. Conditions remained very dry in wheat growing regions. Some growers were able to increase drill depths to seed into moisture, other were forced to seed in dry conditions resulting in poorer stands. Precipitation is needed soon to both promote emergence, improve new crop conditions or considerable wheat acreage may have to be re-seeded. Potatoes harvested 95%, 89% 1998, 90% avg. Hay, other roughage 6% short, 69% adequate, 25% surplus. Range, pasture feed 16% very poor, 35% poor, 35% fair, 13% good, 1% excellent. Final alfalfa hay cutting continued. Livestock producers took advantage of mild conditions to mend fences, and move livestock and forages in preparation for winter. Fruit harvests continued under nearly ideal apple and grape harvesting conditions. Good quality fruit has been reported. Sweet corn harvest neared completion in western areas, carrot harvest progressed well. Christmas tree growers continued to prepare for the upcoming harvest season.

WEST VIRGINIA: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.8. Topsoil 3% very short, 53% short, 44% adequate. Planting, harvesting progress are lagging behind schedule. Remaining hay 15% very poor, 40% poor, 35% fair, 9% good, 1% excellent; Hay 3rd cut 70%, 95% 1998, 92% avg. Corn 12% very poor, 22% poor, 38% fair, 25% good, 3% excellent; mature 90%, 95% 1998; harvested 54%, 60% 1998, 61% avg. Soybeans 7% very poor, 12% poor, 34% fair, 42% good, 5% excellent; dropping leaves 99%, 98% 1998, 98% avg.; harvested 35%, 81% 1998, 44% avg. Apples harvest 80%, 93% 1998. Wheat planted 49%, 67% 1998, 65% avg.; wheat emerged 18%, 44% 1998. Cattle 1% very poor, 9% poor, 51% fair, 38% good, 1% excellent. Sheep 3% poor, 69% fair, 27% good, 1% excellent.

WISCONSIN: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.2. Soil moisture 29% very short to short, 70% adequate, 1% surplus. Soybean harvest started to draw to a close in some parts of the State last week, as producers made excellent harvest progress. Soybean harvest progress was over one week ahead of the five-year average. Soybeans harvested 90%, 77% 1998, 76% avg. Corn harvest started to pick up as producers finished their soybeans. Corn for grain harvest progressed to nearly two weeks ahead of normal. Virtually all high moisture corn has been harvested. Reports of storage space shortages have been noted, with a few commercial grain elevators already at capacity. Soybeans, corn have been harvested at low moistures, helped producers save on drying costs. Low humidity levels allowed producers to start harvest early in the day, continue into the evening hours. Small number of producers harvested hay last week before the cold snap. Hay, roughage supplies going into winter have been reported as mostly excellent. Hay, roughage 1% short, 44% adequate, 55% surplus. Potato yields have been reported as very good. Potato harvest nears completion, cold overnight temperatures have forced some growers to wait until mid-day for fields to warm so that potatoes are not damaged during harvest. Cranberry harvest in Wood county should be completed in the next week or two. Early-sowed winter wheat has made good stands, more rainfall is needed for recently planted fields. Fall tillage activities slowed due to the emphasis put on corn, soybean harvest. Fall tillage completed 36% 1999, 35% 1998, 29% avg. Chopping, baling of corn stalks for bedding also took place last week. Farmers wait for showers to complete fall plowing. Pasture feed 2% very poor, 22% poor, 35% fair, 39% good, 2% excellent.

WYOMING: Days suitable for fieldwork 6.8. Topsoil 2% very short, 42% short, 56% adequate. Subsoil 3% very short, 44% short, 53% adequate. Temperatures were generally below normal with scattered light precipitation in the State. Warm, sunny days excellent for harvest. Corn harvested 46%, 34% 1998, 43% avg. Sugar beets harvested 85%, 71% 1998, 81% avg. Range, pasture feed 2% poor, 21% fair, 65% good, 12% excellent. Stock water 10% short, 89% adequate, 1% surplus.

International Weather and Crop Summary

October 17 - 23, 1999

HIGHLIGHTS

FSU-WESTERN: The first significant freeze of the season halted winter grain growth and prompted cold hardening in crops as far south as southern Ukraine and the North Caucasus Region in Russia.

EUROPE: Unseasonably cool, dry weather slowed winter wheat development in northeastern Europe, while showers in southeastern Europe continued to reduce topsoil moisture deficits.

EASTERN ASIA: Seasonably dry weather prevailed across most of China and the Korean Peninsula, favoring summer crop harvesting and winter wheat planting.

AUSTRALIA: Dry weather returned to the winter grain area in South Australia and Victoria, but locally heavy rain covered New South Wales.

MEXICO: Heavy showers exacerbated flooding in southeastern Mexico, while seasonably dry weather aided maturing corn in the Southern Plateau.

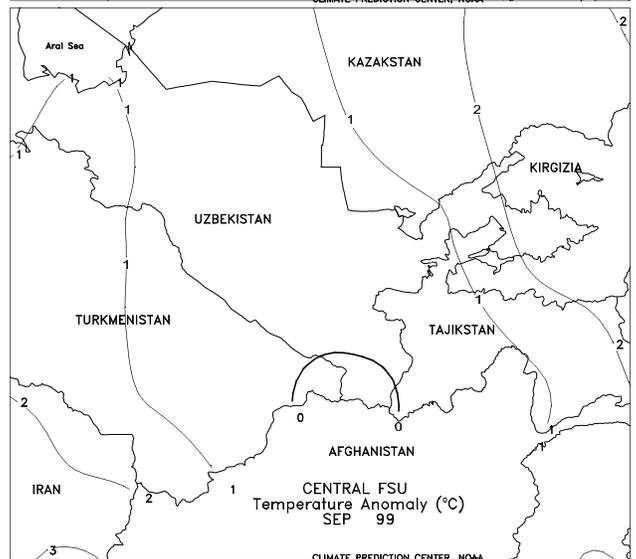
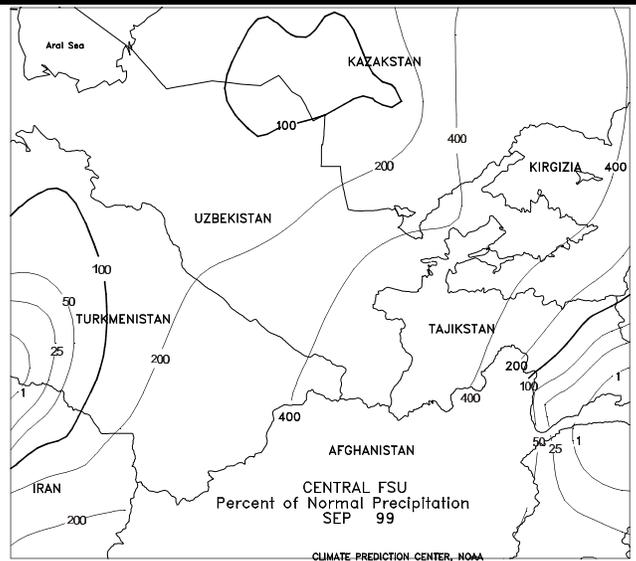
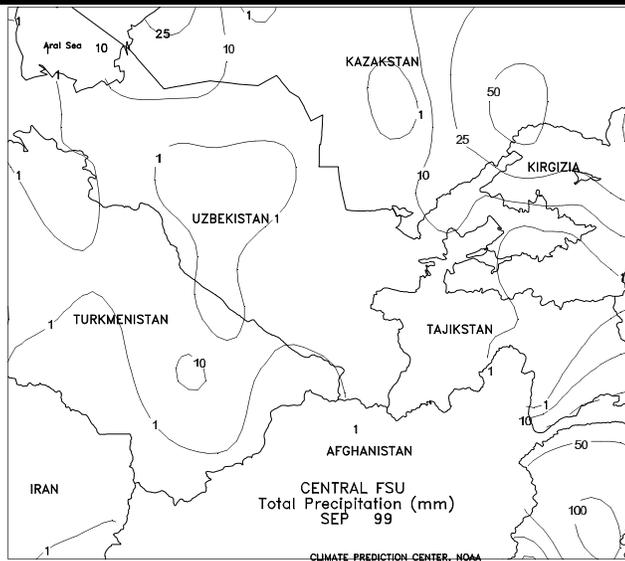
SOUTH ASIA: A tropical cyclone brought very heavy rain and local flooding to rice areas of eastern India and Bangladesh.

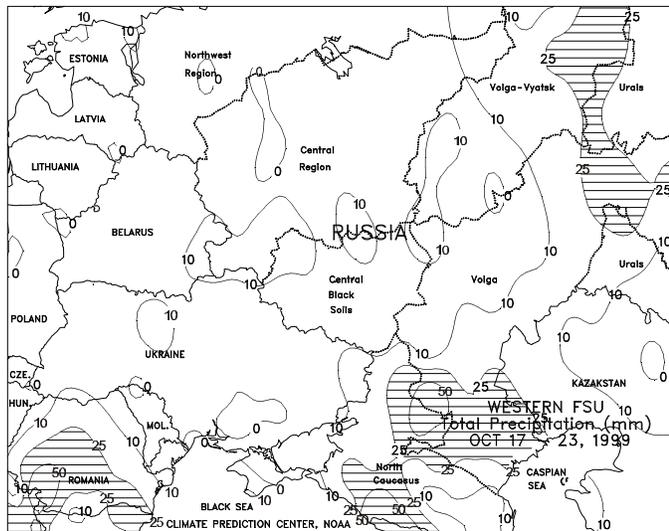
SOUTHEAST ASIA: Mostly dry weather aided rice maturation in Thailand, while showers provided moisture for rice transplanting in Java, Indonesia.

SOUTH AMERICA: Rain boosted topsoil moisture for soybean planting and coffee flowering in south-central Brazil. In central Argentina, dry weather reduced topsoil moisture for reproductive wheat, but adequate subsoil moisture maintained moisture supplies.

NORTHWESTERN AFRICA: Dry weather favored pre-planting fieldwork in Algeria and Tunisia, while light showers caused only brief fieldwork delays in northern Morocco.

SOUTH AFRICA: Widespread, locally heavy rain improved summer crop planting prospects.

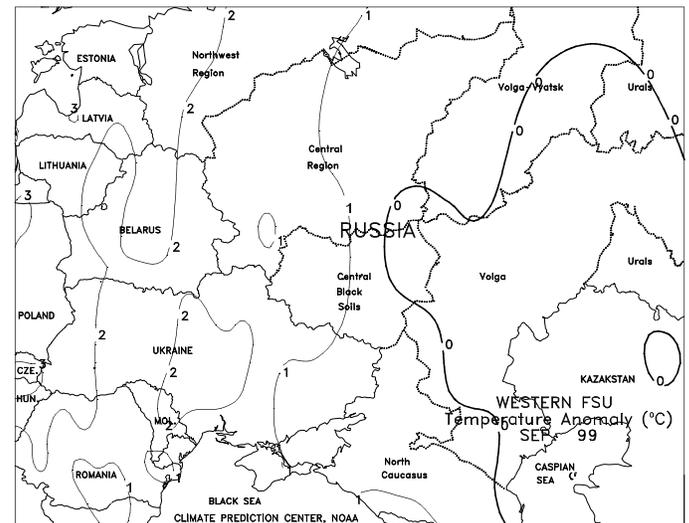
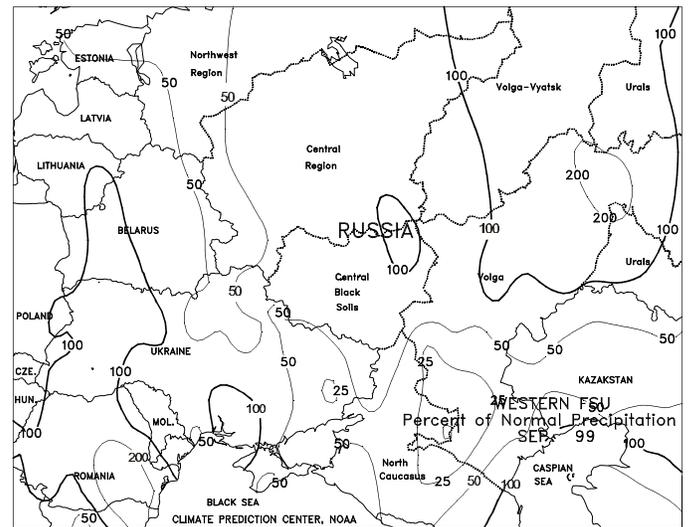
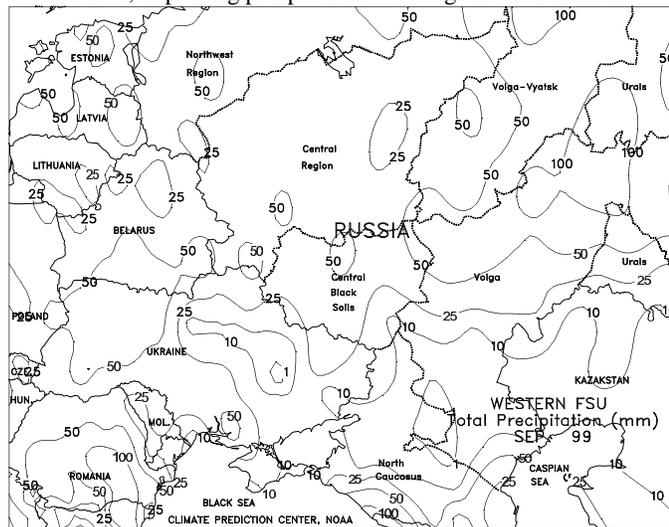


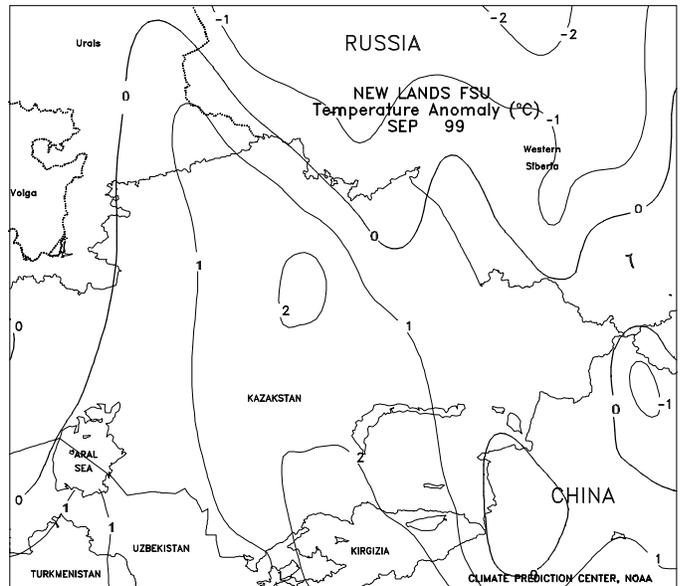
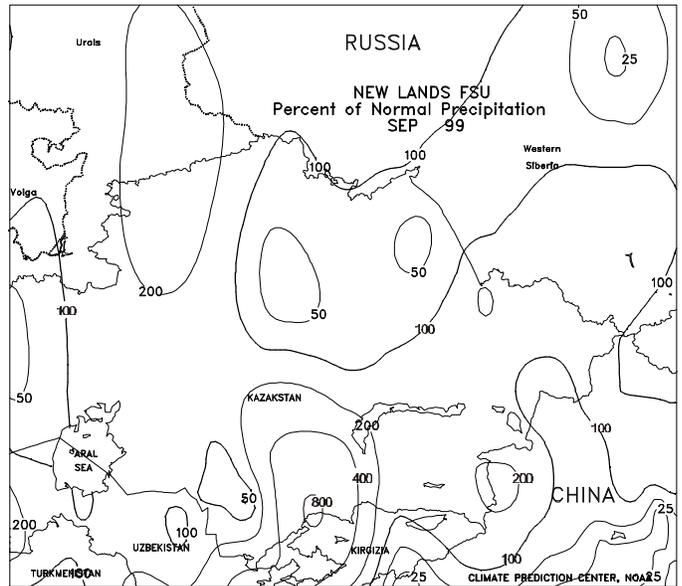
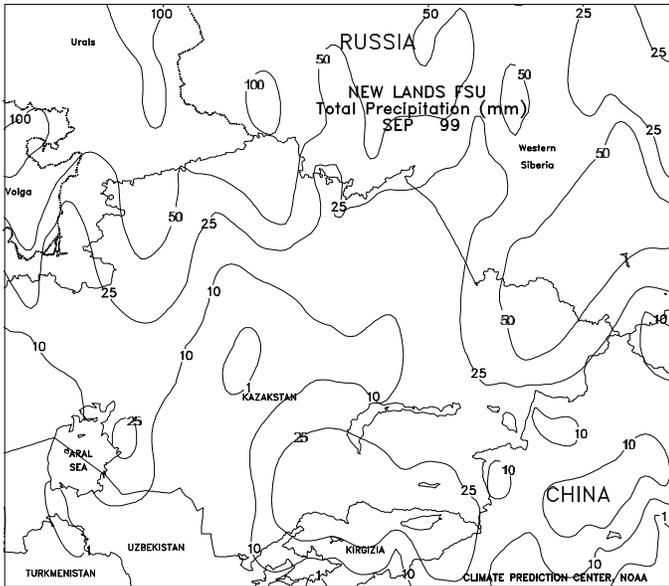


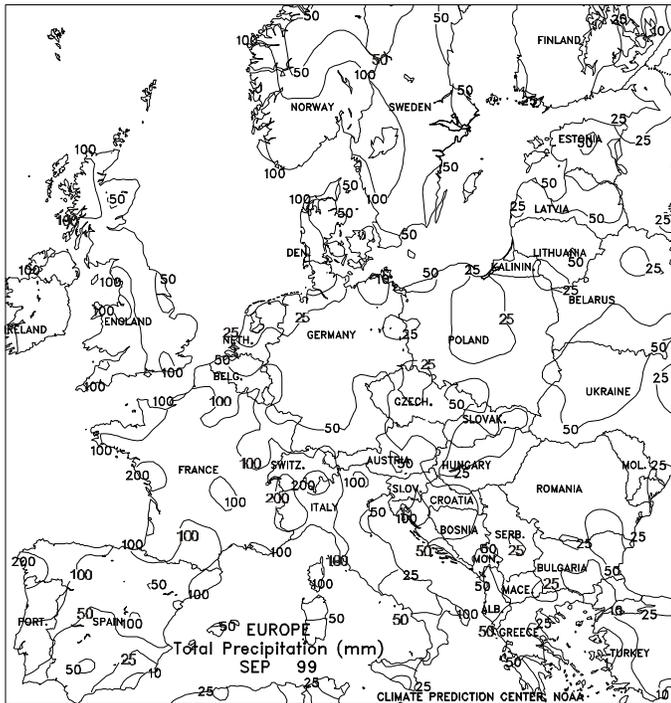
FSU-WESTERN

Following several weeks of unseasonably mild weather, the first significant autumn freeze ended the growing season as far south as southern Ukraine and the North Caucasus Region in Russia. At week's end, minimum temperatures ranged from -3 to -8 degrees C in Ukraine and -1 to -3 degrees C in North Caucasus, Russia. The cold weather halted winter grain growth over most of the region and prompted cold hardening in crops. Typically, winter grains enter dormancy in northern Russia, Belarus, and the Baltics in middle to late October. Farther south, winter grains in Ukraine and southern Russia typically enter dormancy by mid-November. Mostly dry weather prevailed over Ukraine, helping summer crop harvesting. In southern Russia (North Caucasus and lower Volga Valley), late-week rain and snow showers interrupted harvest activities, but continued to boost topsoil moisture for winter grains. Reports as of October 18 indicated that corn for grain and sunflower harvesting in Russia was 35 and 69 percent complete, respectively. In September, beneficially drier weather prevailed in Northern Russia (Northwest Region, Central Region, Volga Vyatsk, and the middle Volga Valley), improving conditions for late spring grain

harvesting and winter grain planting. Furthermore, near- to above-normal September temperatures promoted winter grain germination and favored crop establishment. Farther south, generally dry weather prevailed over major winter wheat-producing areas in eastern Ukraine and southern Russia (North Caucasus, lower Volga Valley, and the southern portion of the Central Black Soils Region), helping corn, sunflower, and sugar beet harvesting. However, the dryness in these areas limited topsoil moisture for winter wheat planting. September is the optimum month for planting winter grains in Ukraine and southern Russia. Due to persistent dryness, planting may have been slowed in some areas as producers waited for significant rain to improve emergence prospects. Elsewhere, dry weather prevailed over Belarus and the Baltic States from September 3-20, reducing soil moisture for developing winter grains. On September 21, showers began in these areas and continued through the remainder of the month, improving prospects for winter grain establishment.

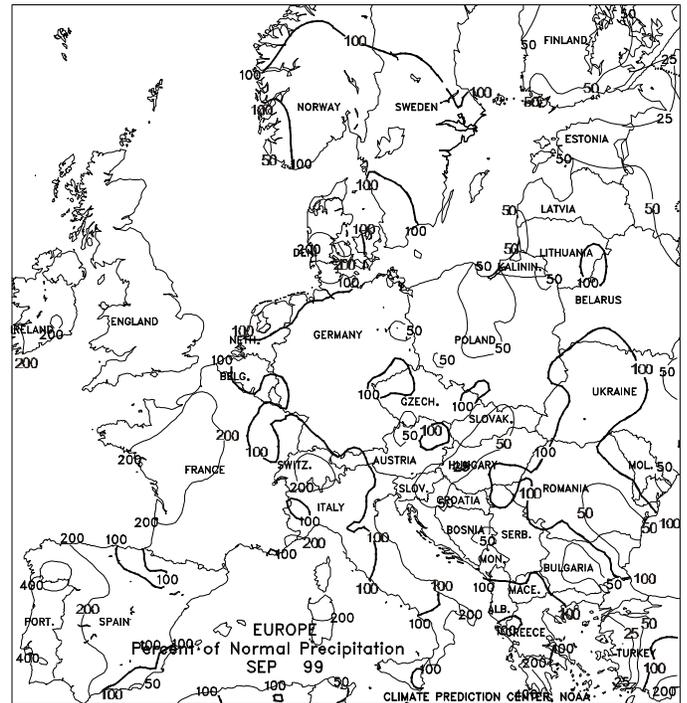


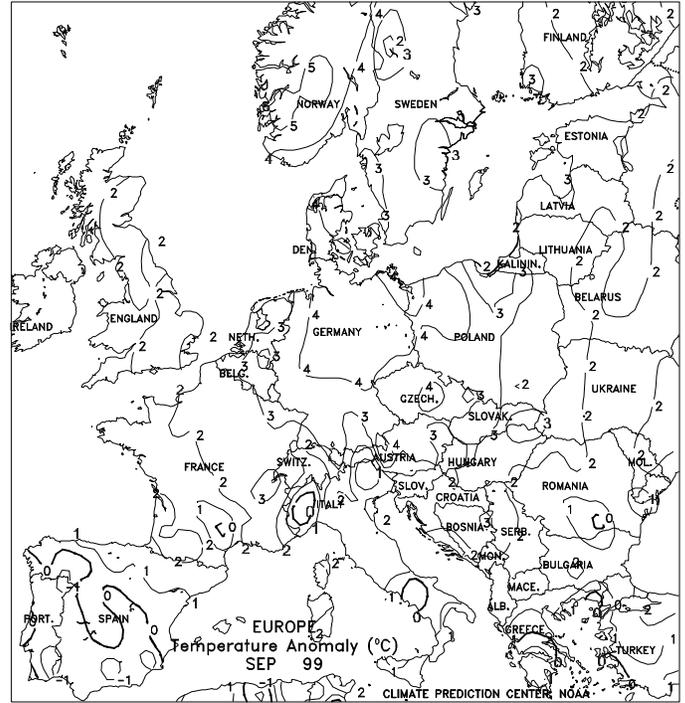




EUROPE

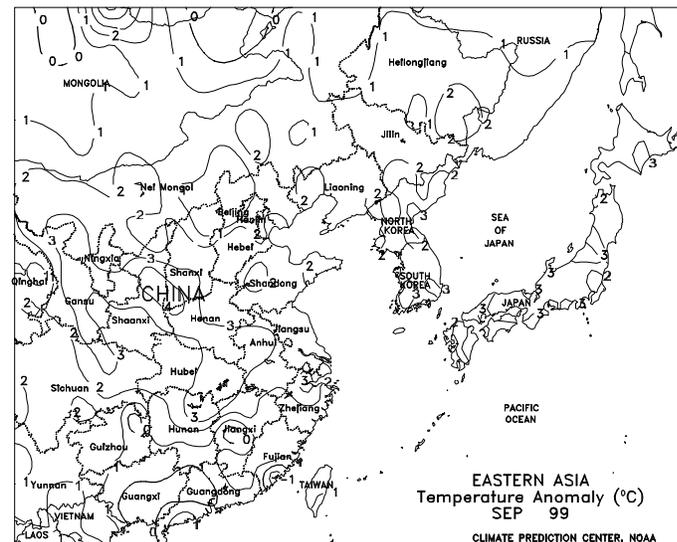
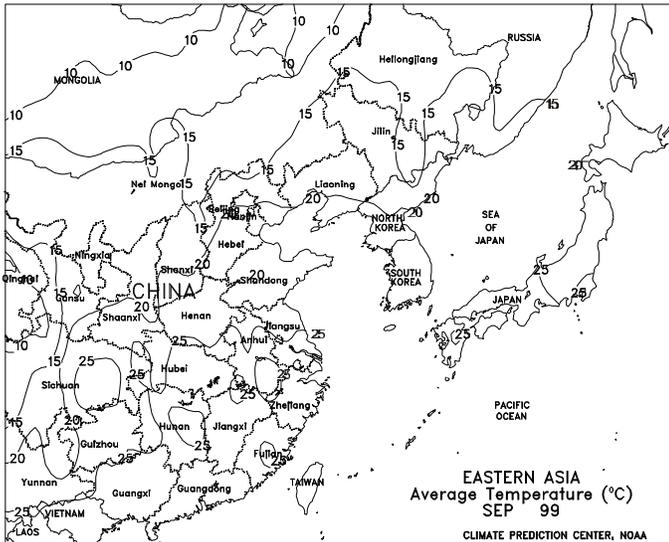
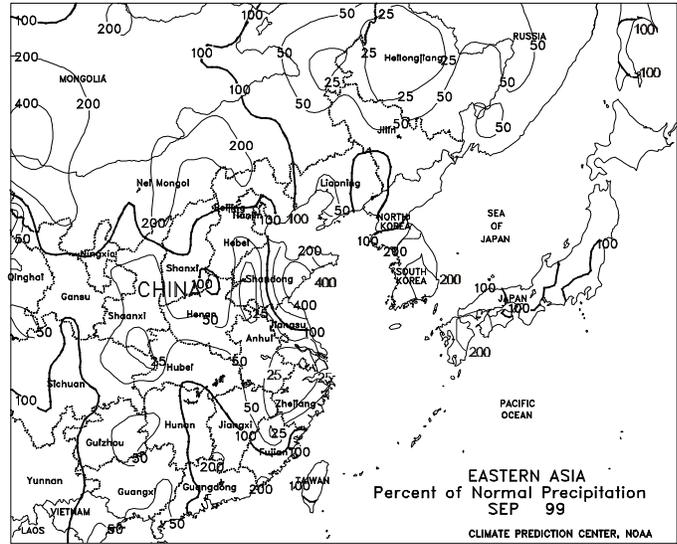
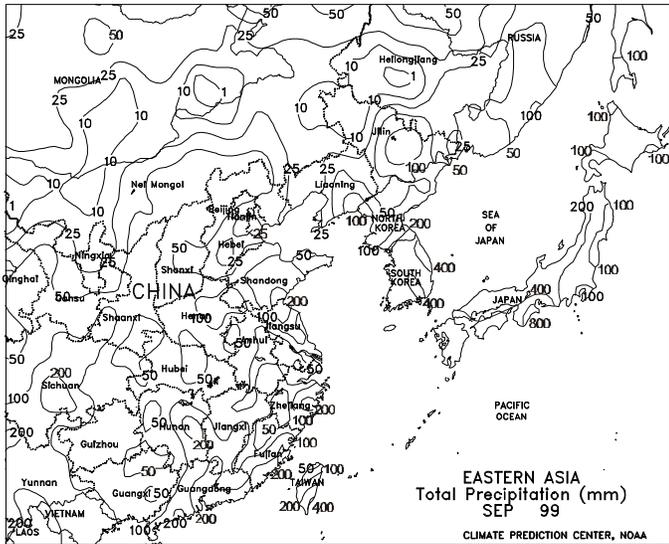
In England and northern France, dry weather early in the week promoted rapid summer crop harvesting and winter wheat planting. During the latter half of the week, scattered showers (10-40 mm) maintained adequate soil moisture for developing winter grains. Farther south, widespread showers (40-110 mm, with locally higher amounts) persisted throughout the week across southern France, most of the Iberian peninsula, and northern Italy, delaying rice, cotton, and soybean harvesting, but benefiting germinating winter wheat. In southeastern Europe, scattered showers (20-40 mm) improved topsoil moisture for developing winter wheat in Romania, Bulgaria, Greece, and the southern Balkans. Elsewhere in central and eastern Europe, dry weather dominated from Germany, Austria, and the northern Balkans eastward, favoring late summer crop harvesting. Unseasonably cool weather (temperatures 3 to 5 degrees C below normal) enveloped north-central and eastern Europe, slowing winter grain development and causing the first widespread freeze of the season in this region (low temperatures ranged from 0 to -5 degrees C). Additional rain and warmer weather are likely needed in northeastern Europe to ensure adequate winter grain establishment prior to dormancy. In September, frequent rains delayed summer crop harvesting across France and England, but aided germinating winter grains. In the Iberian peninsula, heavy showers boosted topsoil moisture depleted by long-term drought, but were infrequent, allowing corn, sunflower, and cotton harvesting to progress. In northern and eastern Europe, below-normal rainfall promoted rapid summer crop harvesting. More rain was needed in this region, however, to help winter grain establishment.

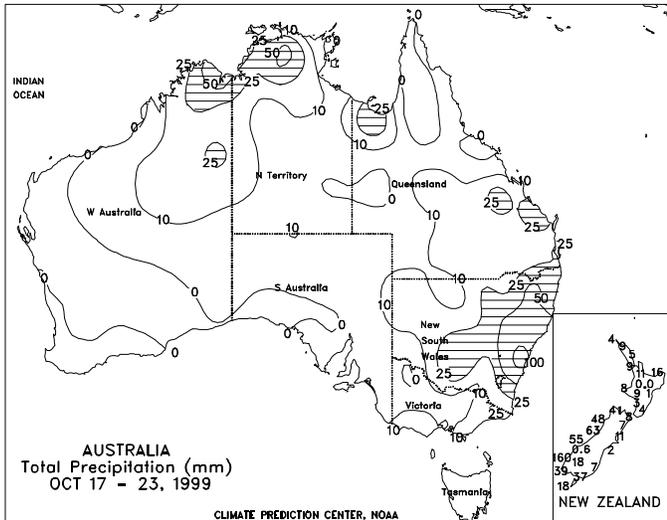




EASTERN ASIA

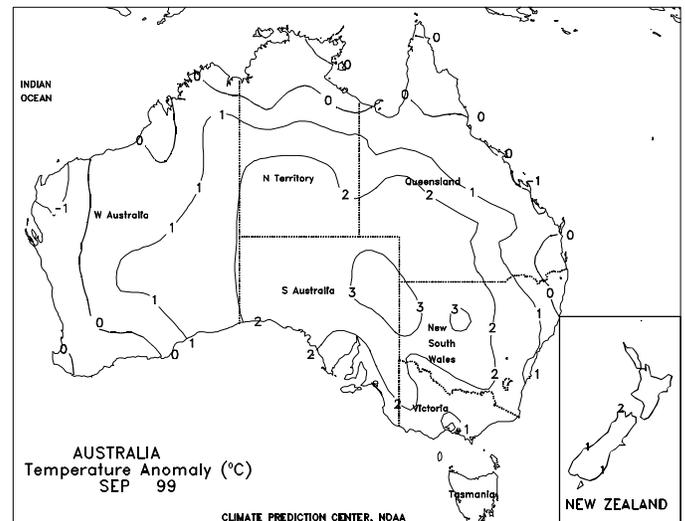
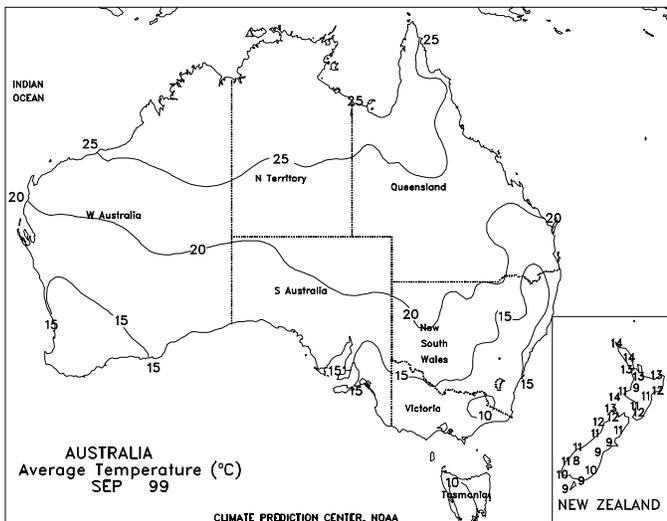
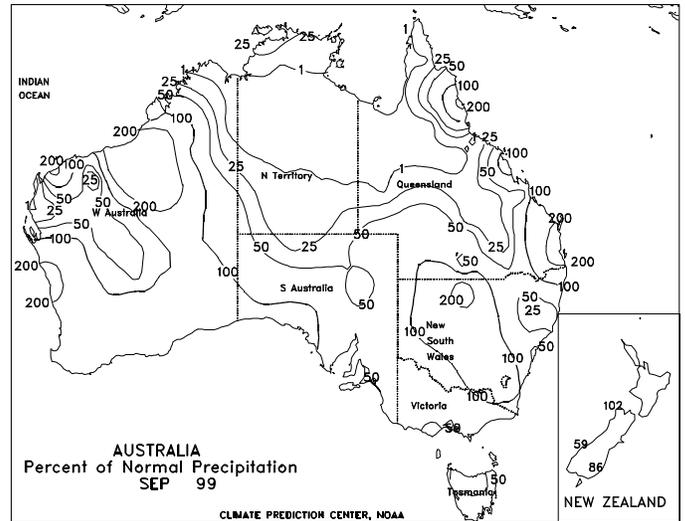
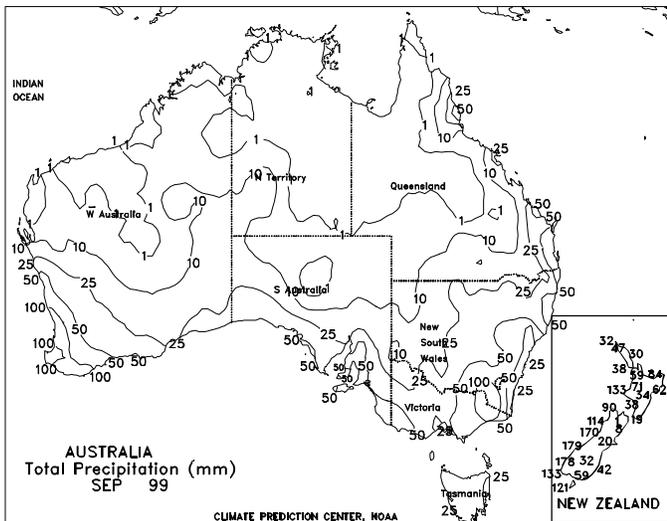
Seasonably dry weather prevailed across most of China and the Korean Peninsula, favoring summer crop harvesting and winter wheat planting. Corn, soybean, and cotton harvesting continued across the North China Plain and Manchuria. In the Yangtze Valley, single-crop rice harvesting continued, while dry, sunny weather aided filling late double-crop rice. Temperatures averaged 1 to 3 degrees C above normal in the North China Plain and near normal across Manchuria and southern China. Mostly light rain (5-30 mm) did not hamper rice harvesting in Japan. During September, tropical storms brought locally heavy rain, flooding, and possible rice damage to South Korea, Japan, and sections of the southern China coast. Drier-than-normal conditions prevailed elsewhere in southern China, with only intermittent disruptions in rice harvesting. In the North China Plain, unseasonably heavy rain late in the month was highly beneficial for winter wheat establishment but was unfavorable for cotton and other maturing summer crops. In Manchuria, a mid-month freeze may have caused localized damage to immature corn, while below-normal rainfall aided filling to maturing summer crops.

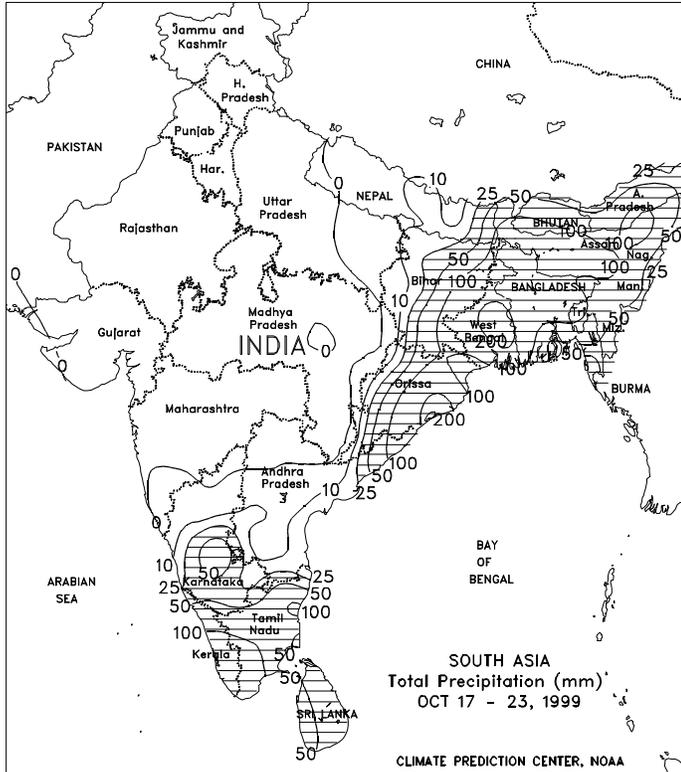




AUSTRALIA

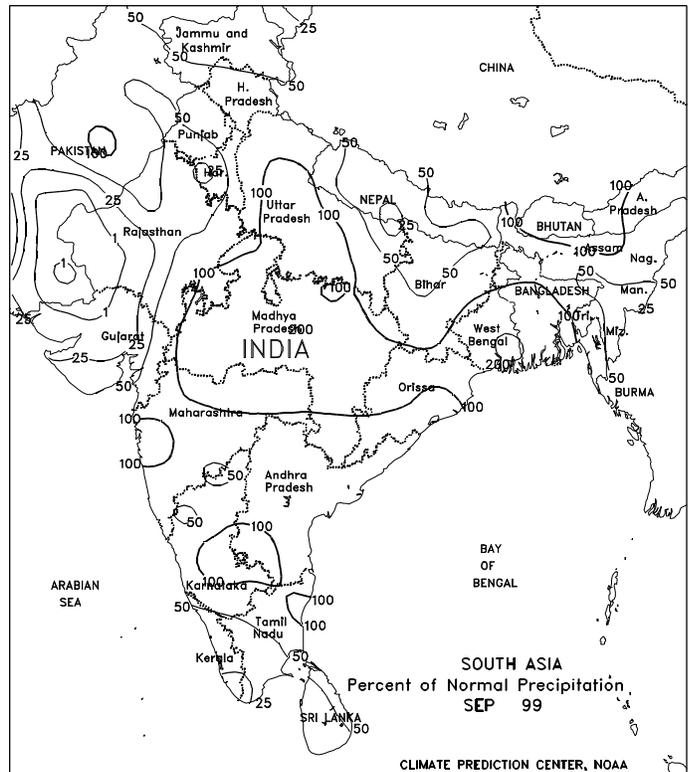
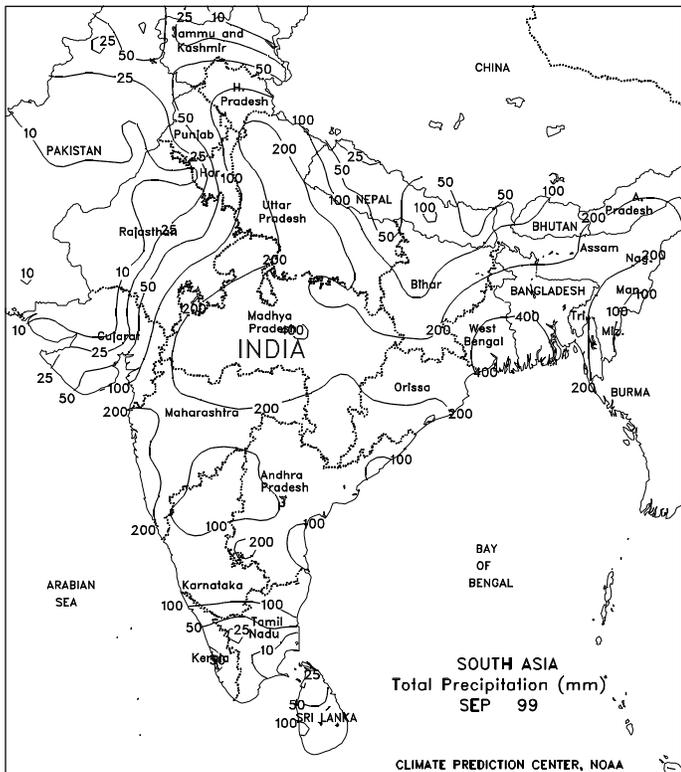
Dry weather returned to much of the southeast (South Australia and Victoria) following last week's highly beneficial rainfall. However, temperatures remained generally seasonable (highs ranging from the middle 20's to lower 30's degrees C), favoring winter grain reproduction and filling. Elsewhere in the east, showery weather (10-25 mm, locally exceeding 50 mm) continued across New South Wales and southern Queensland, possibly hampering harvesting. Scattered showers (10-25 mm or more) also slowed fieldwork over the coastal sugarcane belt. Late-week rain over interior summer crop areas boosted moisture reserves but temporarily slowed cotton and sorghum planting. In Western Australia, dry, seasonably mild weather benefited immature winter grains. In New Zealand, dry weather covered the main agricultural areas. During September, frequent, above-normal rainfall and near-normal temperatures maintained generally favorable conditions for vegetative to reproductive winter grains in Western Australia. Farther east, monthly rainfall was near to above normal over sections of New South Wales and southern Queensland, also helping immature winter crops. Above-normal temperatures hastened crop development. In the southeast (South Australia to southwestern New South Wales), warmer- and drier-than-normal weather brought periodic stress to reproductive wheat and barley.

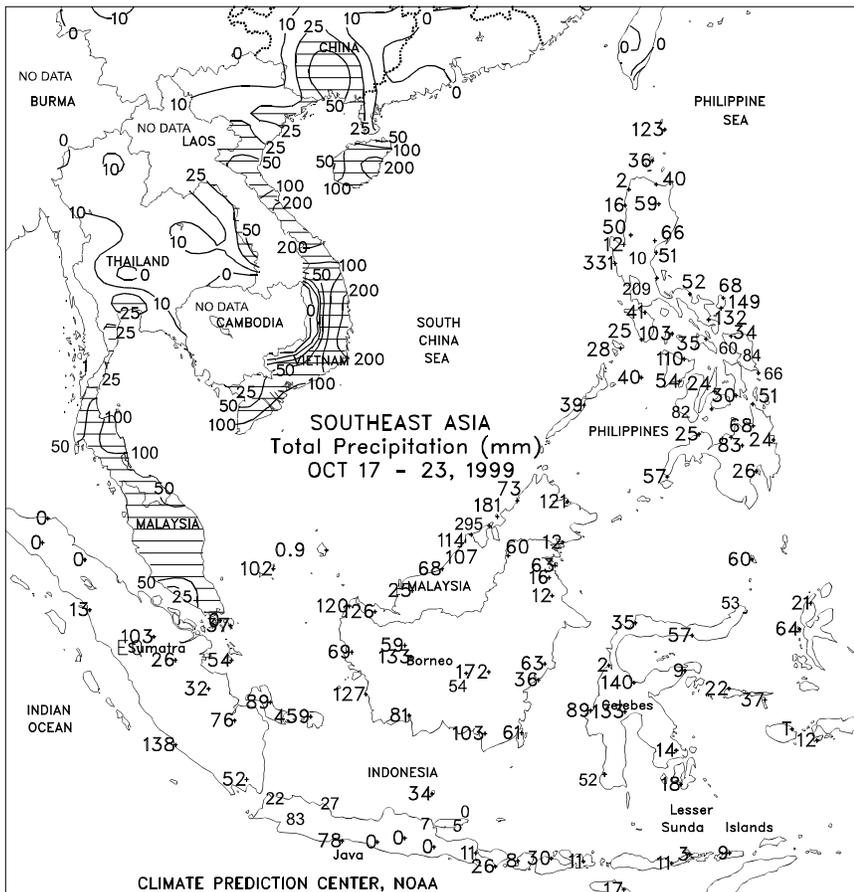
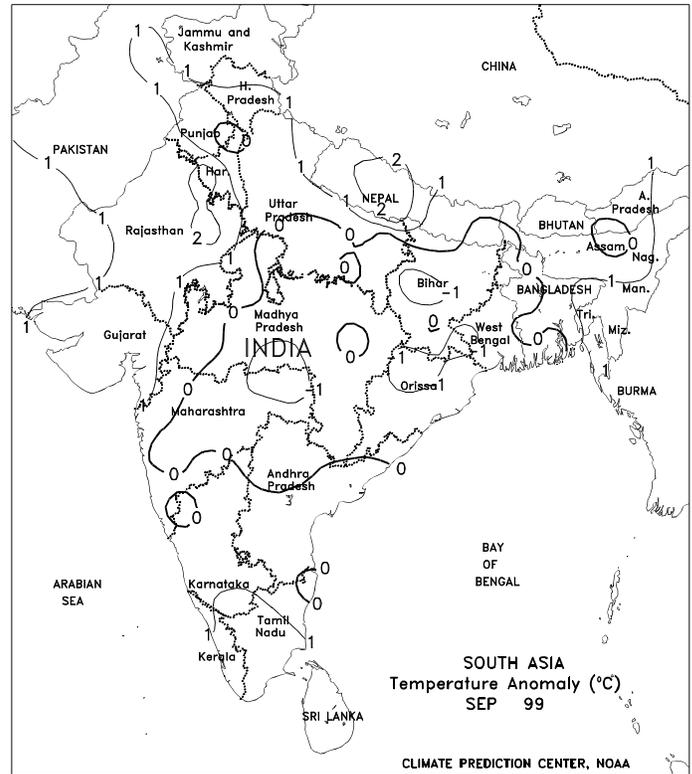
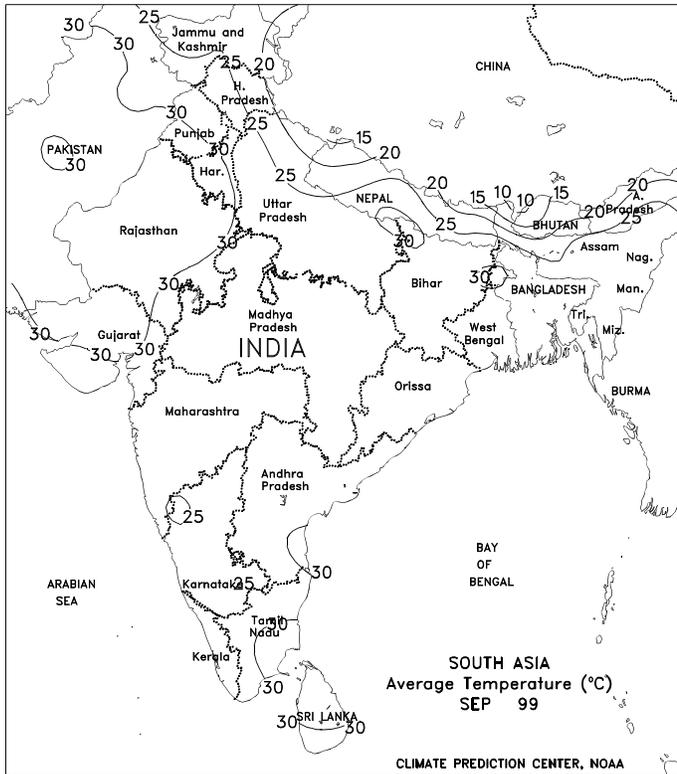




SOUTH ASIA

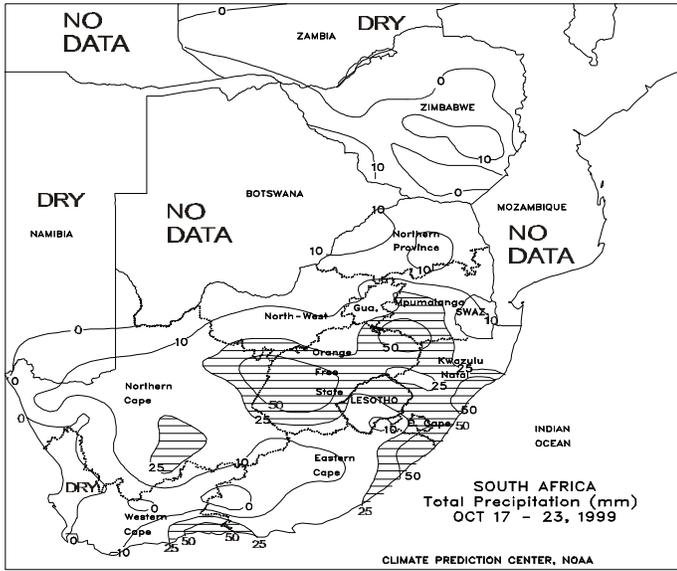
A tropical cyclone struck India's eastern coast with sustained winds of about 100 knots. The storm generated heavy rain (100 mm or more) over important rice areas of eastern India and Bangladesh, causing some flooding and possibly damaging unharvested and newly planted crops. Elsewhere, warm, dry weather favored summer crop dry down and harvesting. The exception was the southern tip of India, where late-week tropical showers (50-100 mm or more) increased irrigation reserves for dry-season rice. Secondary oilseed and grain plantings are likely underway in southern India, where monsoon showers typically last as late as December. Farther north, winter wheat and rapeseed planting should be underway across Pakistan and northern India. During September, the monsoon circulation was generally weak and erratic in northwestern and south-central sections of the region. Drought intensified over Gujarat, an important groundnut and cotton producer in western India. Sporadic shower activity over southern India also raised concerns for cotton and oilseeds in Andhra Pradesh, another major production area. A return to a more normal rainfall pattern at month's end came too late for maturing oilseeds in western and central India, but helped immature summer crops in southern India and boosted moisture for secondary plantings. Conditions were generally favorable in September for rice in central and eastern India and Bangladesh. Late-month showers were untimely for maturing cotton in north-central India but boosted moisture reserves for winter grain and oilseed planting.





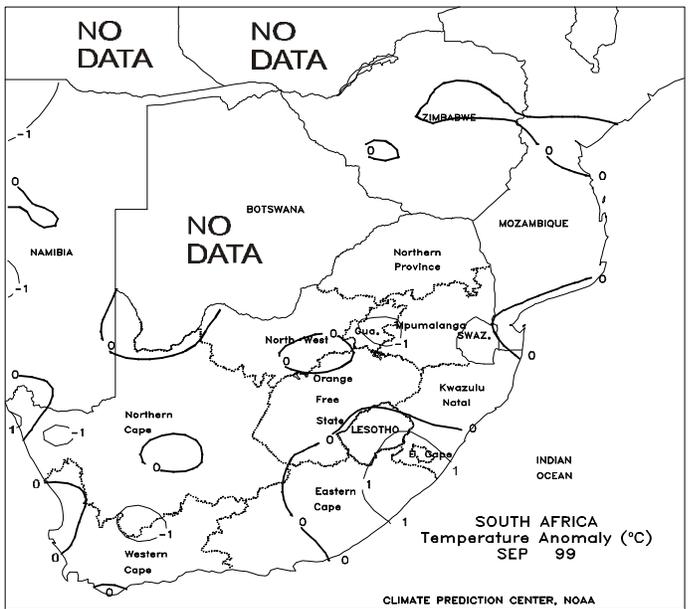
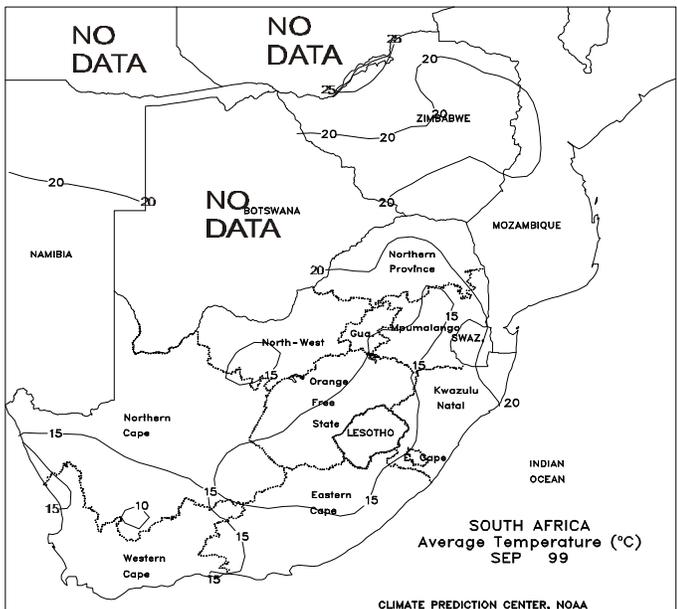
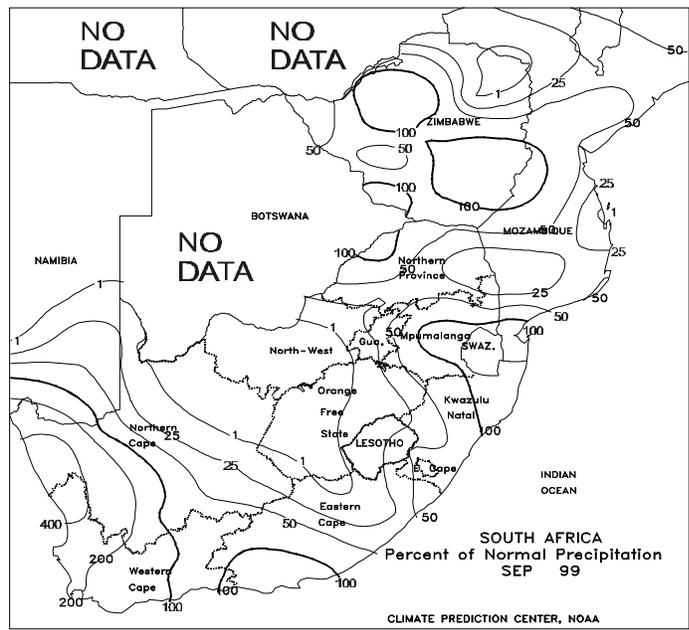
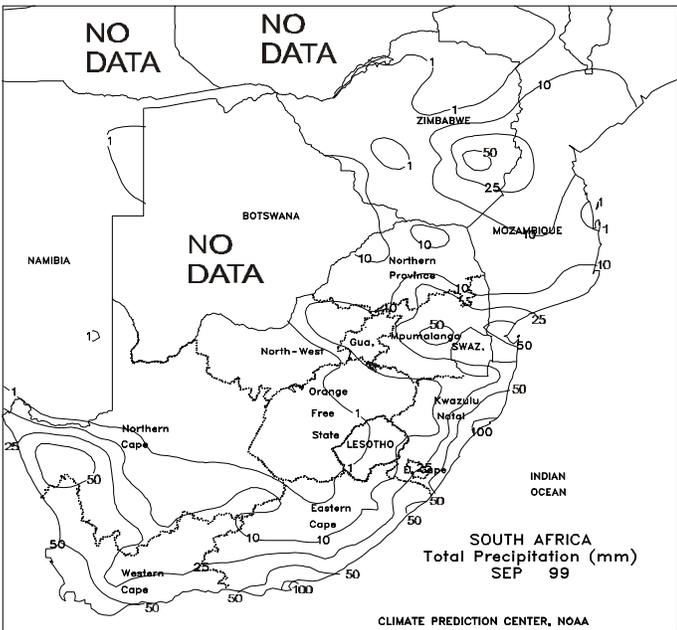
SOUTHEAST ASIA

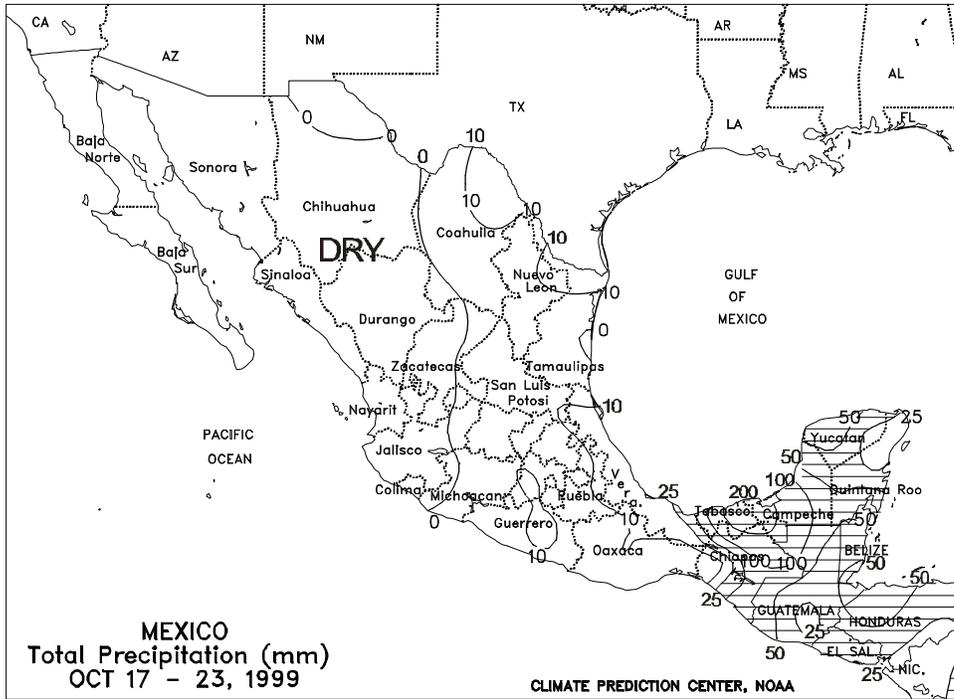
In Java, Indonesia, scattered heavy showers (50-100 mm) continued to boost moisture supplies for main-season rice transplanting. Mostly dry weather (less than 20 mm) favored rice maturation and harvesting in Thailand. Typhoon Eve hit central Vietnam, with sustained winds of 45 knots (52 mph), producing heavy rain (100-300 mm). However, this is not a major rice-growing area of Vietnam. Later in the week, heavy showers (200-300 mm) slowed rice harvesting in south-central Vietnam. In the Philippines, heavy showers (50-300 mm) fell across southern Luzon, disrupting rice harvesting. The continued heavy rain across this region has probably reduced rice quality. Showers (10-40 mm) maintained moisture supplies for oil palm across peninsular Malaysia. In September, near- to below-normal rainfall across Thailand and Vietnam aided early rice harvesting. In the Philippines, near-normal September rainfall helped filling rice. In early October, Typhoon Dan brought heavy rains to northern Luzon, possibly damaging rice. Near-normal rainfall maintained adequate moisture supplies for oil palm in peninsular Malaysia. Relatively dry, sunny weather favored irrigated second-crop rice in Java, Indonesia.



SOUTH AFRICA

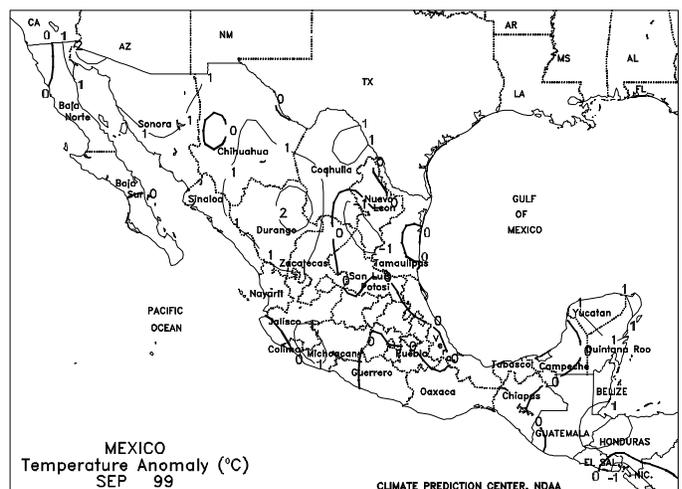
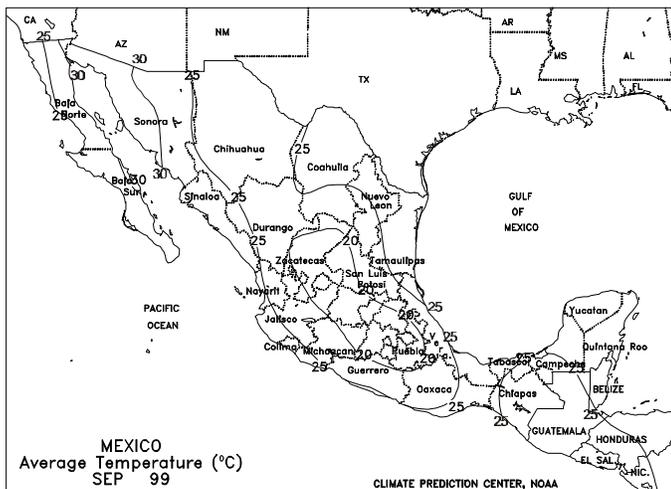
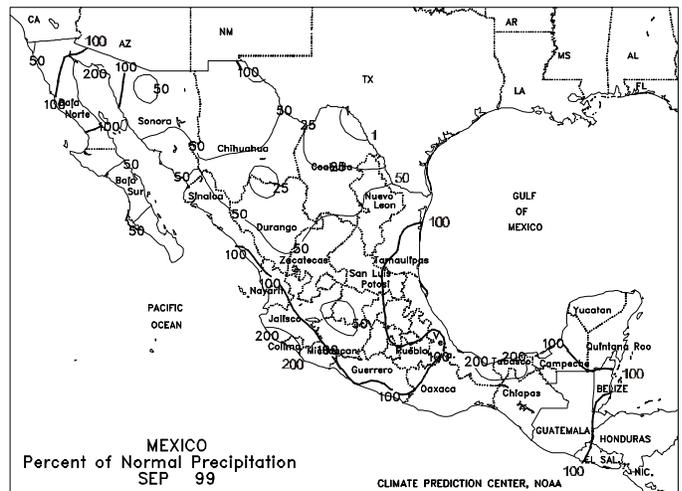
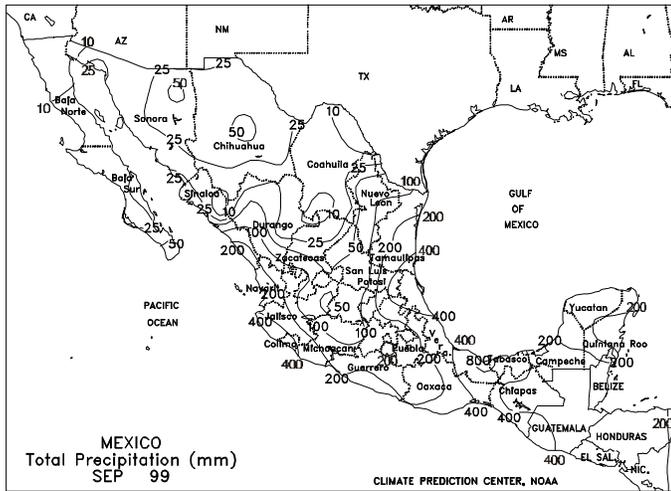
Beneficial rain (20-50 mm or more) covered the corn belt and extended southeastward toward the coast, greatly improving moisture levels for summer crop germination. As a result, planting activities should be well underway by the end of October. This includes coastal sugarcane areas of Kwazulu-Natal, as well as crop areas in Eastern Cape and eastern sections of Western Cape. The moisture was also favorable for immature wheat. Dry, favorably milder weather favored dry down and harvest activities in the winter wheat- and fruit-producing regions of Western Cape. In September, rainfall was below normal (10 mm or less) over much of the western and central corn belt (North West and Free State), with locally heavier amounts (25 mm or greater) confined to easternmost crop areas in Mpumalanga. Moderate to heavy rain (50-100 mm or more) maintained generally favorable moisture levels in the coastal sugarcane areas. Near- to above-normal rainfall benefited reproductive wheat in Western Cape and boosted subsoil moisture reserves in orchards and vineyards.

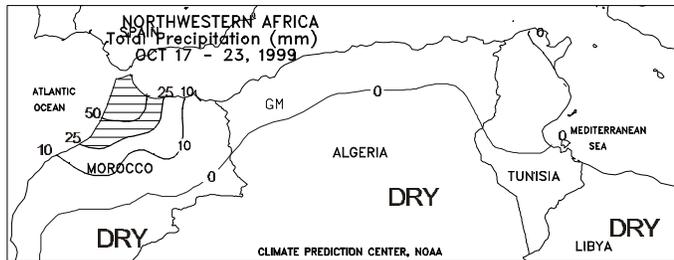
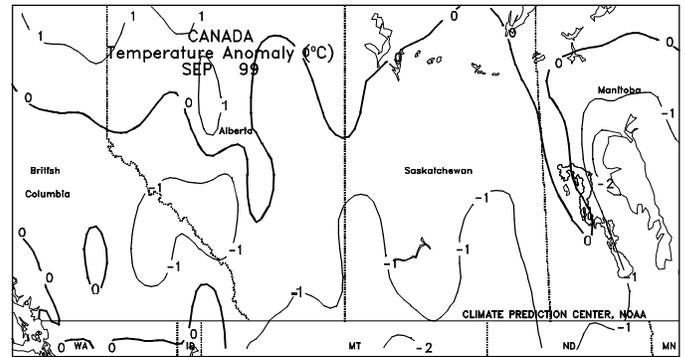
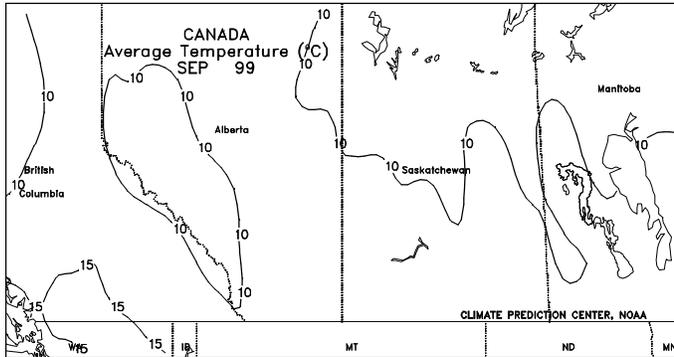
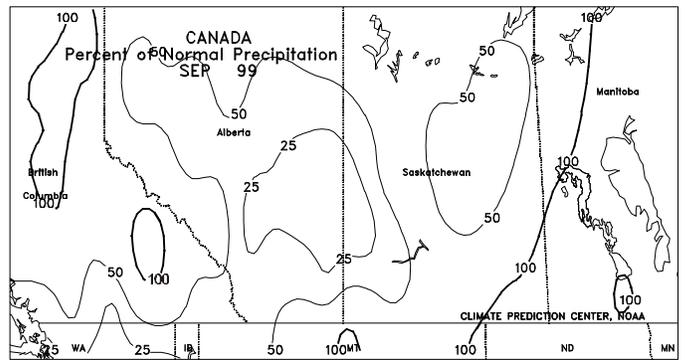
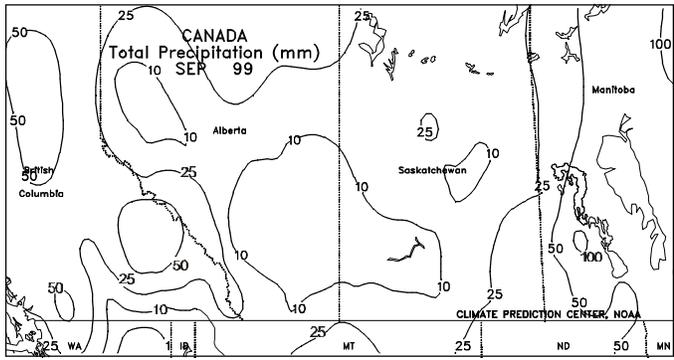




MEXICO

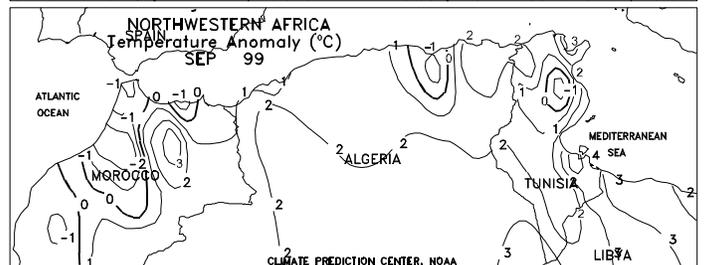
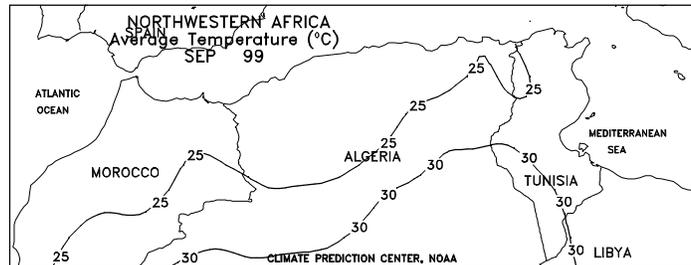
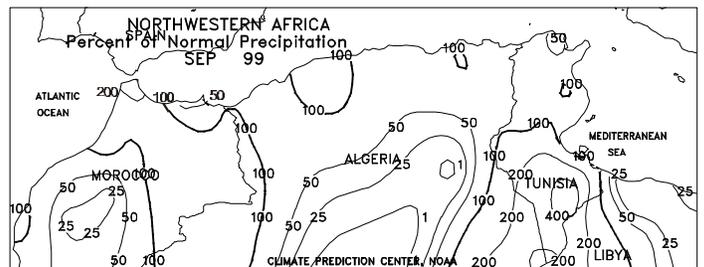
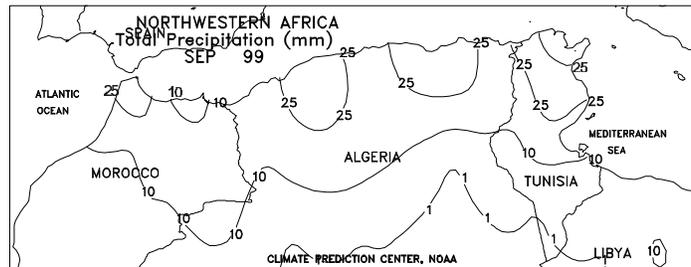
Heavy showers (100-300 mm) continued to exacerbate flooding in southeastern Mexico (Tabasco). Light rain (5-20 mm) fell across Veracruz and Puebla. Dry weather continued to aid corn maturation and harvesting in the Southern Plateau. Drier weather also eased flooding in Central America. During September, below-normal rainfall favored corn filling and maturation across the Southern Plateau. Heavy late-month showers caused flooding in Veracruz and Tabasco. Below-normal rainfall prevailed across northern Mexico.





NORTHWESTERN AFRICA

Most of the region prepared for winter grain planting. Mostly dry weather in Algeria and Tunisia favored pre-planting fieldwork. In Morocco, light showers (8-25 mm) in northern areas boosted topsoil moisture for winter grain planting but slowed fieldwork. Growers throughout most of the region likely await the onset of consistent autumn rains before widespread planting can begin. The bulk of the winter grain crop is typically planted from mid-November to mid-December, although planting can occur as early as late October if soil moisture is sufficient. Weekly temperatures averaged 1 to 3 degrees C above normal in Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia. In September, near-normal precipitation in Algeria, Tunisia, and northern Morocco boosted topsoil moisture. Mostly dry weather prevailed over winter grain areas in southern Morocco.



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

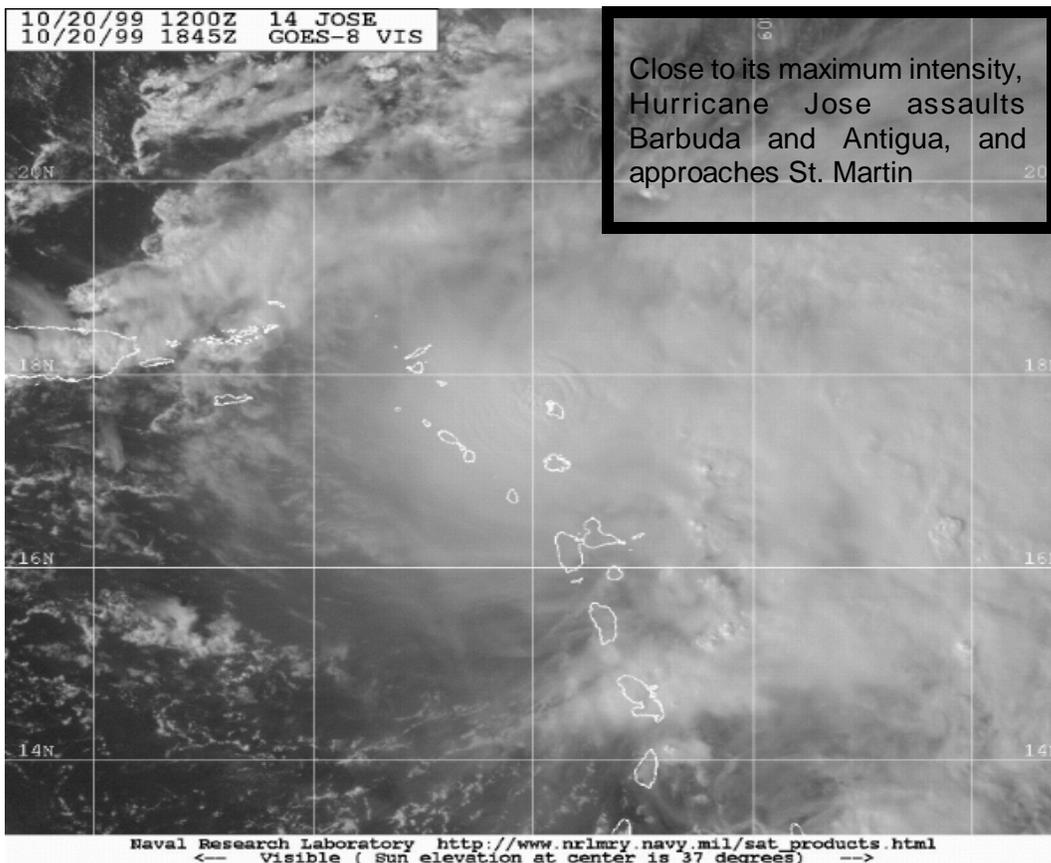
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A sudden mid-October surge in tropical activity across the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Ocean formed the ninth (Irene) and tenth (Jose) named storms of the 1999 Atlantic hurricane season. In the Atlantic, Jose became a tropical depression on October 17 and gradually strengthened into a Category 2 hurricane (sustained winds near 100 mph) as it lashed the northern Leeward Islands. Especially hard-hit were the islands of Antigua and Barbuda. Concern was high in Puerto Rico and even the United States' East Coast, especially in North Carolina, but fortunately, strong upper-air wind shear weakened Jose, and then a deep trough over the eastern U.S. turned Jose to the northeast, away from any possible U.S. landfall.

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