

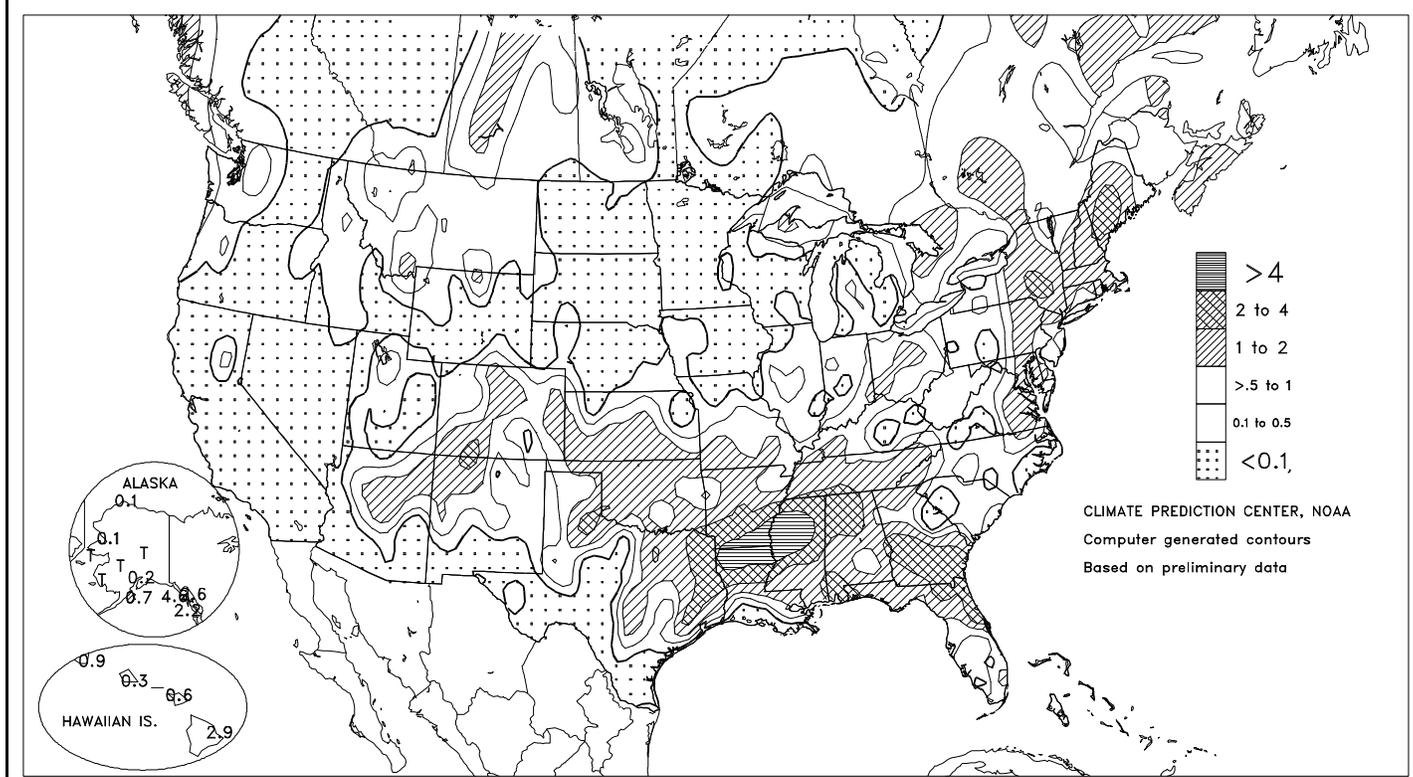
WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP BULLETIN

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

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

Total Precipitation (Inches)

MAR 26 - APR 1, 2000



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

HIGHLIGHTS

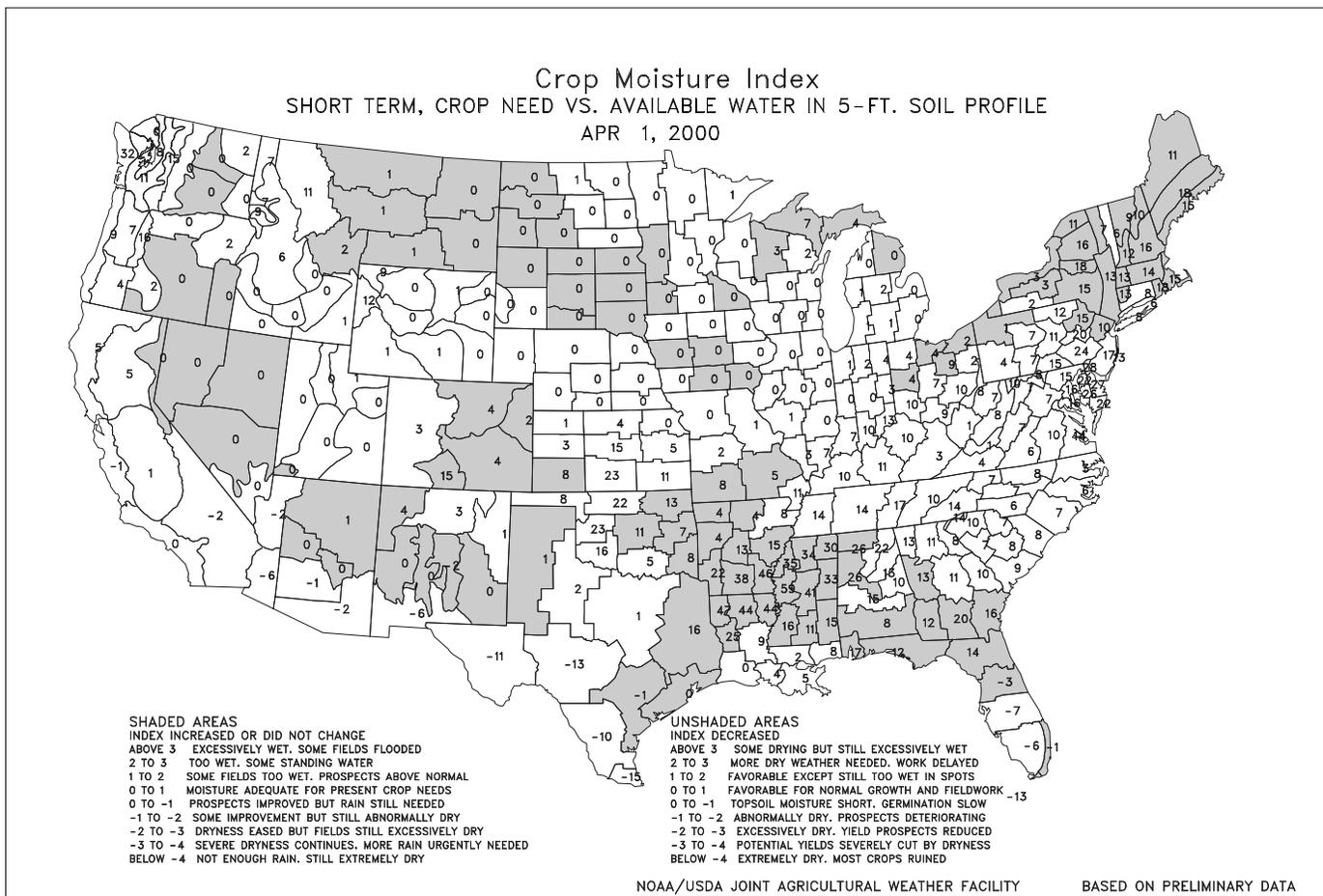
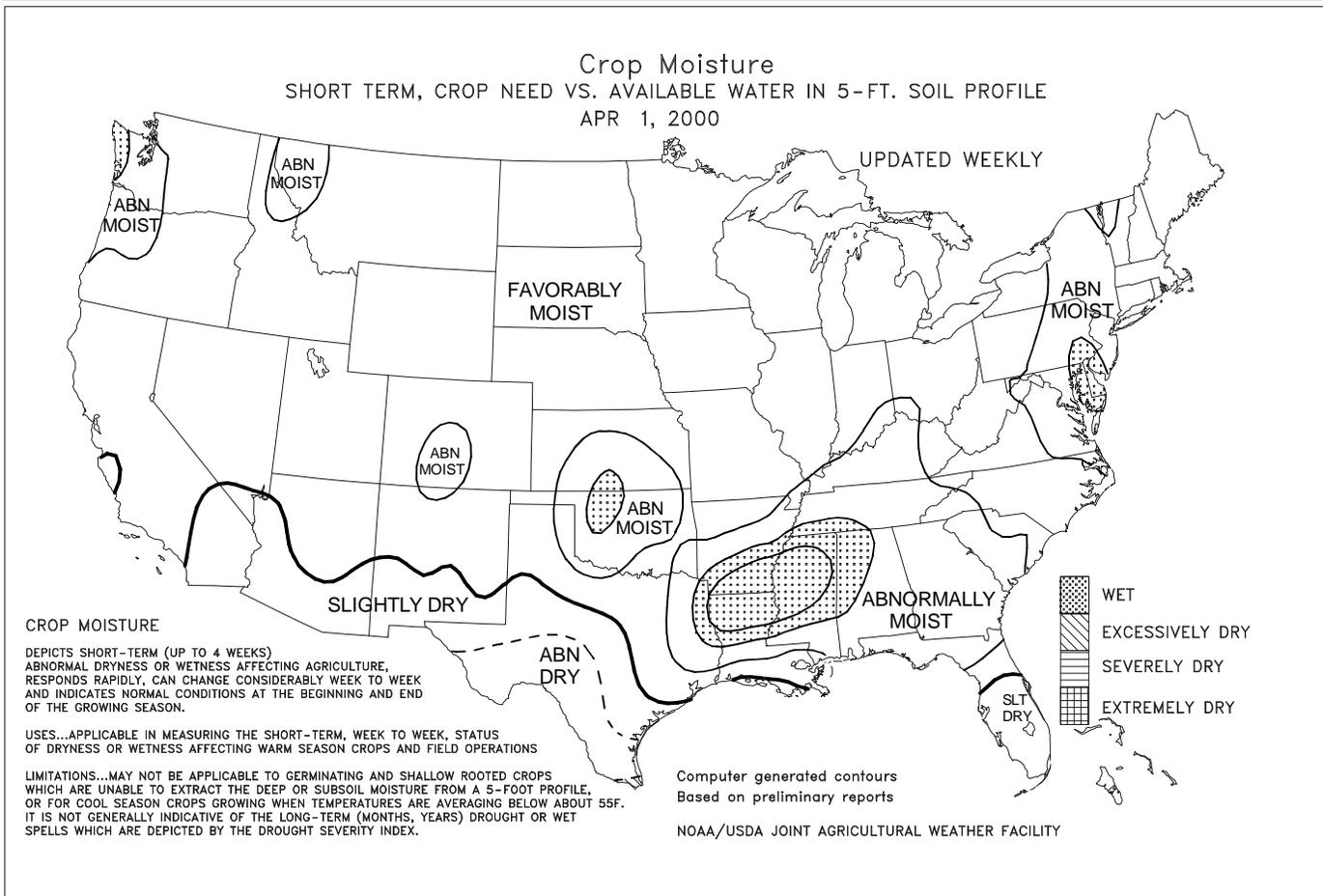
March 26 - April 1, 2000

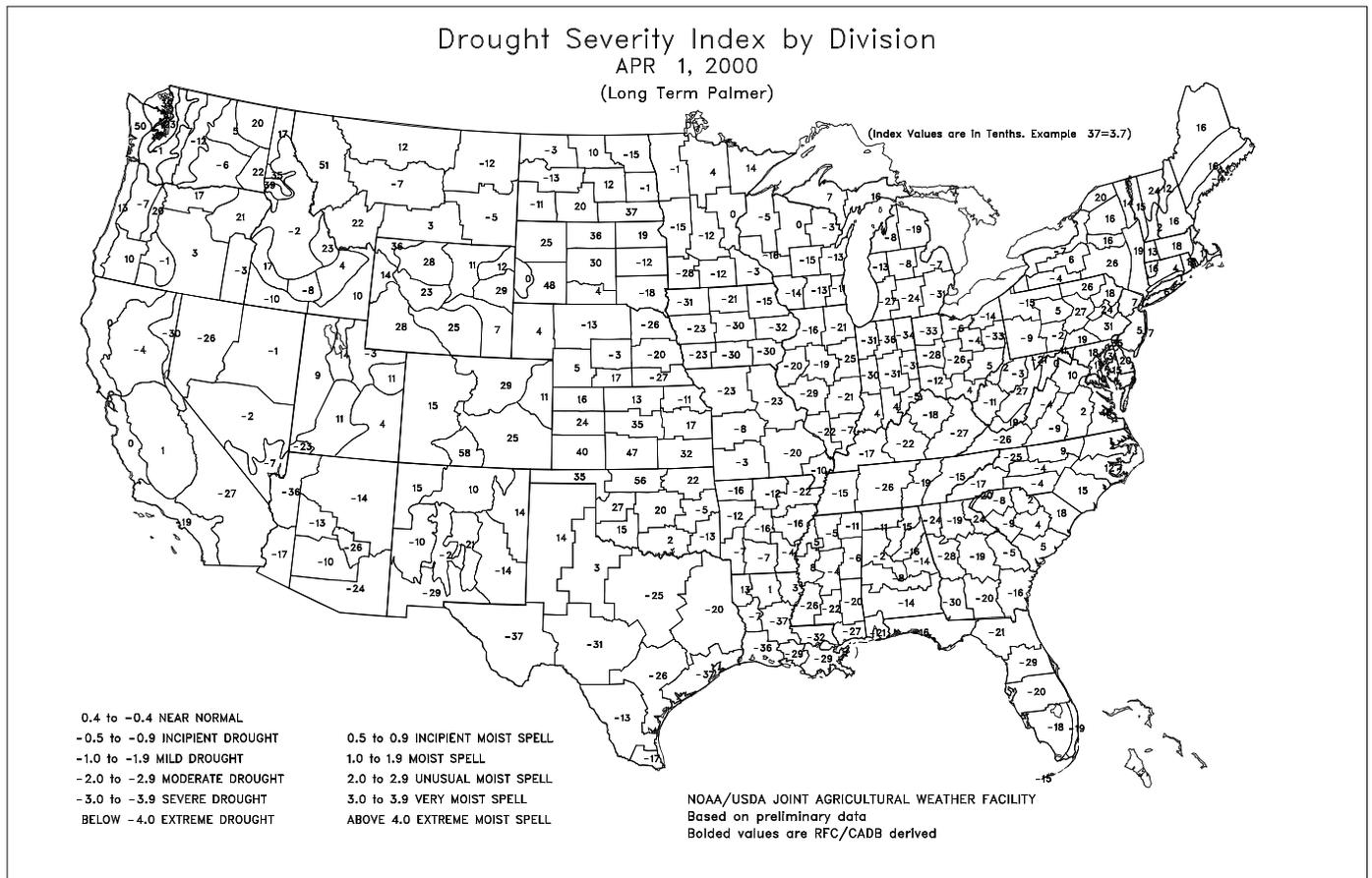
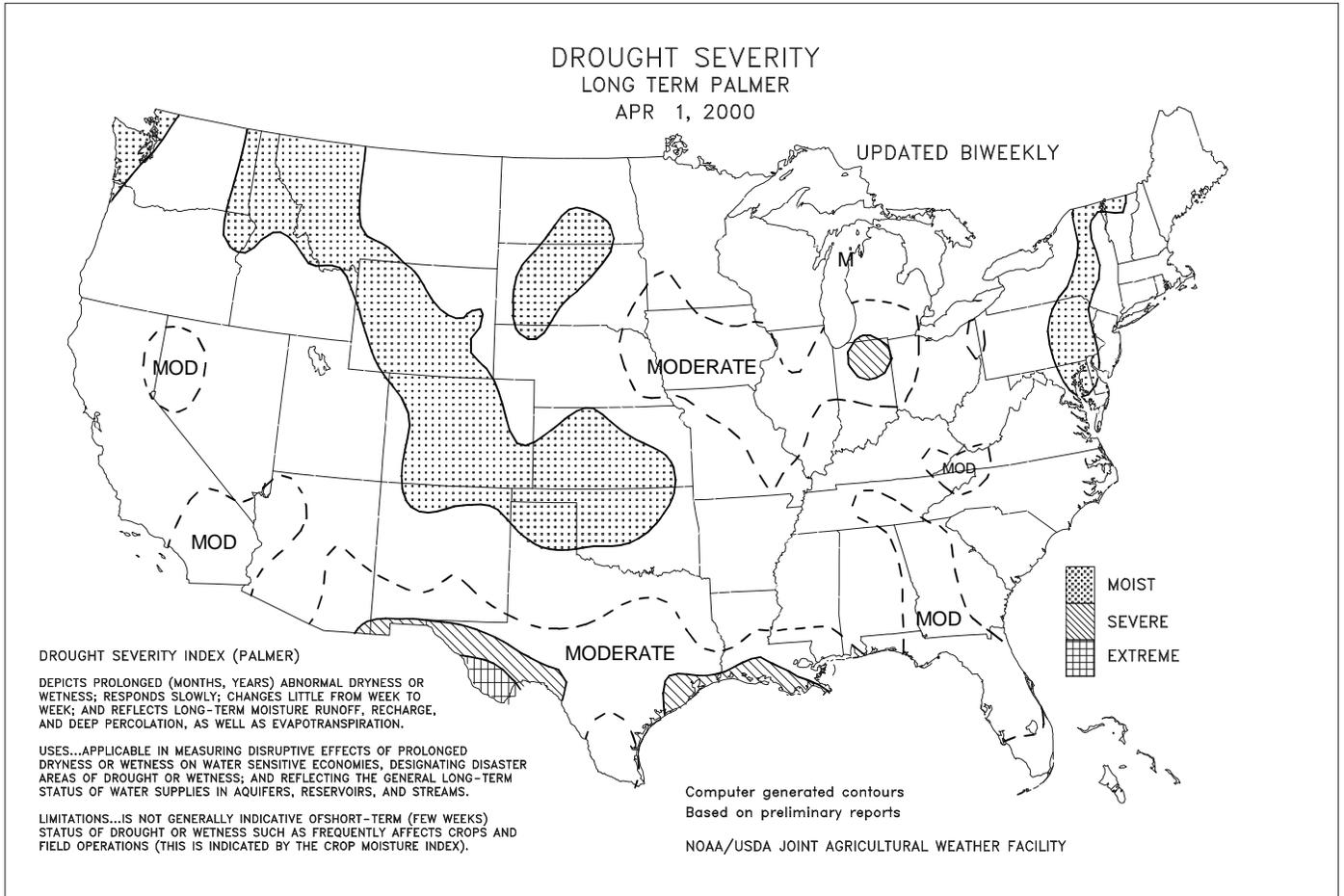
Continuing a month-long trend across the **South**, significant rainfall further eased long-term drought and aided pastures and recently planted summer crops. Unfavorably dry conditions persisted in a few areas, however, including **southern Texas**, where hot, dry weather offset the benefits of mid-March rainfall, and **southern Florida**. Meanwhile, showery weather further boosted soil moisture for pastures and winter wheat from **Kansas** southward into **northern and eastern Texas**, although some areas in **southern Kansas** and **northern Oklahoma** remained too wet. Beneficial precipitation also fell in the **eastern Corn Belt**, **Four Corners States**, and

(Continued on page 5)

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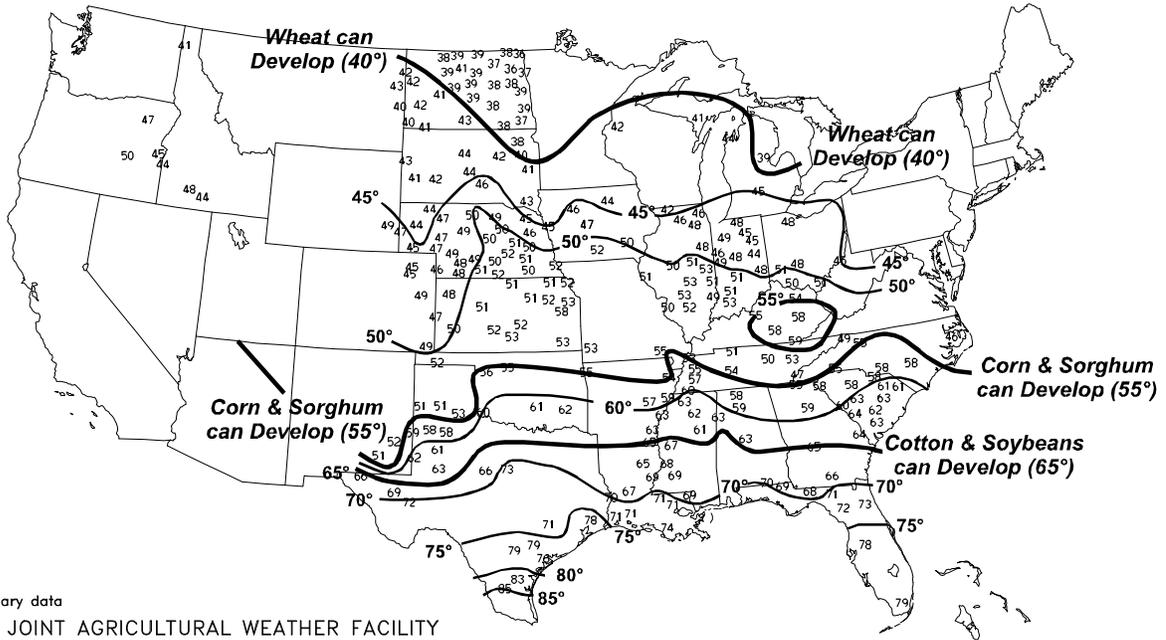
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Average Soil Temperature (°F, 4" Bare)

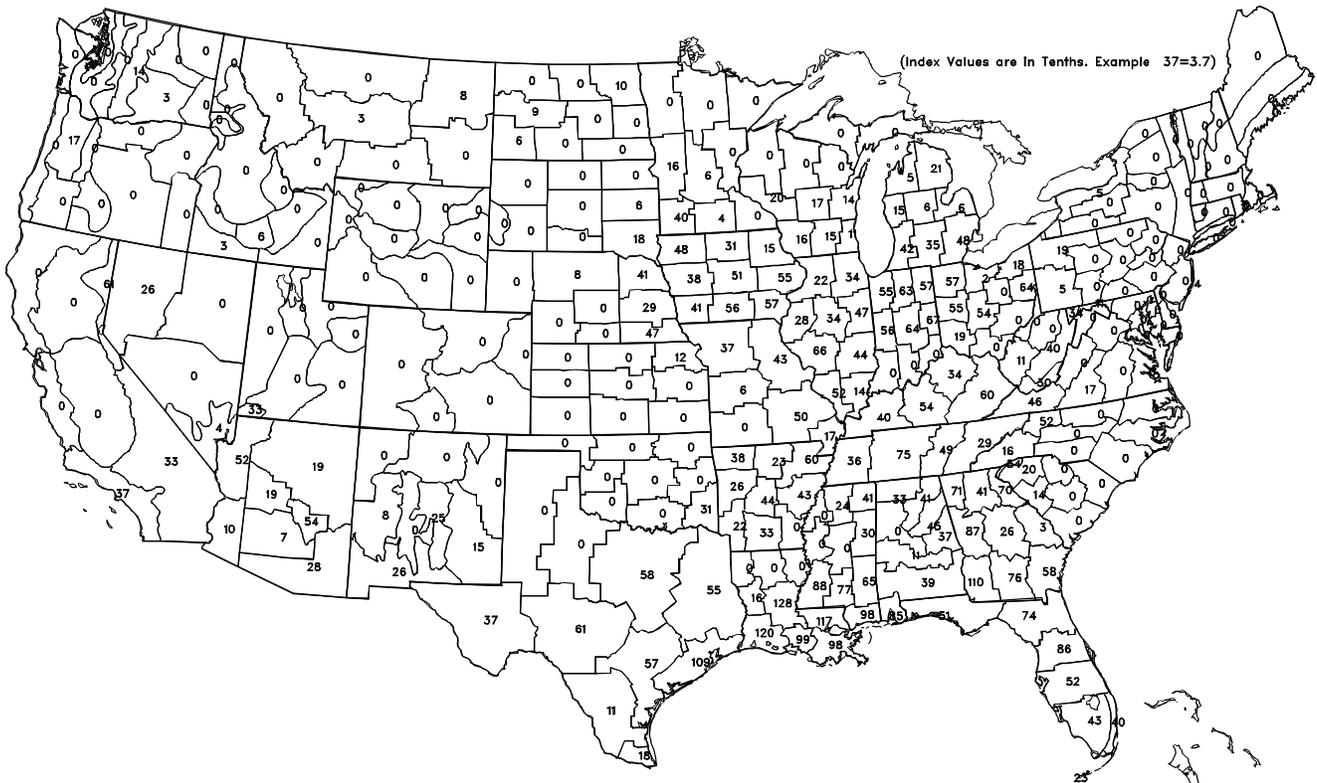
MAR 26 - APR 1, 2000



Additional Precipitation Needed to Bring Index Near Zero

APR 1, 2000

(Long Term Palmer)



(Continued from front cover)

northern High Plains, while warm, dry weather favored fieldwork, including summer crop planting, in **California**. In the **western Corn Belt**, however, another week of mostly dry weather reduced topsoil moisture and brought further long-term drought intensification. Weekly temperatures averaged as much as 4°F below normal in a band from the **central and southern Plains** to the **Ohio Valley**, but were near to above normal elsewhere. Temperatures averaged up to 6°F above normal in **California**, and generally 3 to 10°F above normal along and near the **Gulf Coast** and from the **northern Plains** to **New England**.

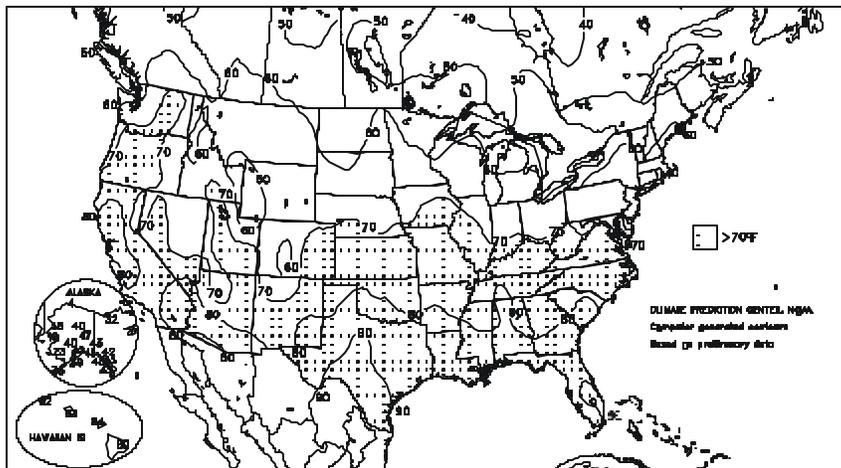
Mid- to late-week showers provided much-needed moisture (locally 2 to 5 inches or more) to parts of the **lower Southeast**, including **southern Georgia** and **northern Florida**. **Daytona Beach, FL** netted 7.46 inches on March 30-31, nearly all of which fell in less than 12 hours. However, extremely dry conditions persisted across much of **central and southern Florida**, where March rainfall totaled only 0.35 inch (15 percent of normal) in **Miami** and 0.42 inch (14 percent) in **Tampa**. Through March, **Tampa's** year-to-date total stood at 2.67 inches, or 33 percent of normal. In **Jackson, MS**, December-March rainfall was only 14.03 inches (64 percent of normal), despite a 4.41-inch total (76 percent) during March. Another 3.69 inches of rain soaked **Jackson** during the first 2 days of April.

Farther west, **Amarillo, TX** registered their wettest March on record. **Amarillo's** monthly total, 4.14 inches (431 percent of normal), surpassed their March 1922 sum of 4.06 inches. In **Kansas**, monthly precipitation reached 5.99 inches in **Wichita** (247 percent of normal; wettest March since 7.57 inches fell in 1984) and 4.97 inches in **Dodge City** (319 percent; wettest March since 8.84 inches fell in 1973). In the **Midwest**, however, **Iowa's** statewide precipitation for September 1999 - March 2000 averaged only 7.52 inches (56 percent of normal), their lowest total since 1955-56 and only slightly above the 1939-40 record of 7.13 inches. In the **Northwest**, moisture conditions showed significant improvement from last year's levels. For example, January-March precipitation in **Pendleton, OR** totaled 7.36 inches (193 percent of normal), compared with 2.77 inches (73 percent) during the same period in 1999. During 1999, **Pendleton's** year-to-date precipitation reached 7.36 inches on November 5.

During the mid- to late-week period, warmth intensified across the **South** and along the **West Coast**, resulting in about three dozen daily-record highs. On Wednesday, highs in **southern Texas** soared to 94°F in **San Antonio** and 92°F in **Corpus Christi**. A day later, **Orlando, FL** posted a record high of 91°F. Records on Friday included 93°F in **Hollywood, FL** and 84°F in **Los Angeles (LAX), CA**. April 1 featured record warmth in the **West Coast States**, including 76°F in **Kennewick, WA**, 78°F in **Hermiston, OR**, and 88°F in **Santa Rosa, CA**. Meanwhile, cooler air overspread the **Plains**. On most of the **central and southern Plains**, the week's lowest temperatures were

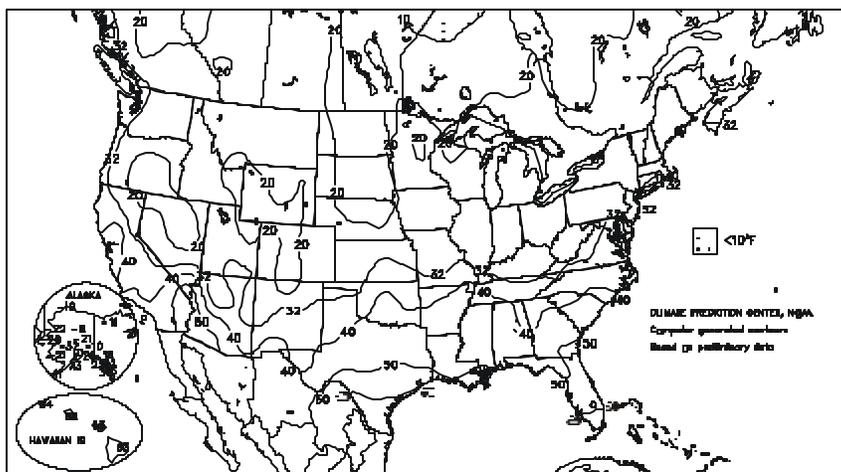
Extreme Maximum Temperature (°F)

MAR 26 - APR 1, 2000



Extreme Minimum Temperature (°F)

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recorded on March 30, when readings included 24 °F in **Goodland, KS** and 32°F in **Amarillo, TX**. The temperatures were not low enough to adversely affect the winter wheat crop, which was 44 percent jointing in **Kansas** at week's end.

Weekly temperatures averaged as much as 16°F below normal across **interior southern Alaska**, abruptly ending the region's 10-week mild spell. On March 28, **McGrath, AK** notched a daily-record low of -32°F. Meanwhile, **Hawaii's** most significant rainfall in more than 2 months provided limited relief from long-term drought.

Weather Data for Selected Locations in the Delta

Weather Data for the Week Ending April 1, 2000

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

STATES AND STATIONS	TEMPERATURE EF						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 24-HOUR, IN.	TOTAL IN. SINCE Mar 1	PCT. NORM. SINCE Mar 1	TOTAL IN. SINCE Jan 1	PCT. NORM. SINCE Jan 1	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	90 AND ABOVE	32 AND BELOW	.01 INCH OR MORE	.50 INCH OR MORE
MS BATESVILLE *	70	50	77	44	60	5	3.21	2.09	2.51	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	2	2
BELZONI *	71	50	79	45	61	2	7.68	6.56	6.50	12.78	212	-	-	-	-	0	0	4	2
CLARKSDALE *	69	51	75	45	60	4	2.23	1.31	1.38	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	2	2	
CLEVELAND *	70	51	76	46	61	5	4.77	4.04	3.35	8.60	180	14.31	103	-	-	0	0	4	3
GREENVILLE *	71	52	80	47	62	3	7.65	6.63	5.75	13.38	306	-	-	-	-	0	0	4	3
GREENWOOD *	71	51	79	46	61	2	7.42	6.36	3.81	12.89	240	17.21	134	-	-	0	0	4	3
INDIANOLA 1S	69	52	77	49	61	-	5.97	-	4.44	11.67	-	-	-	61	58	0	0	5	3
INVERNESS 5E	70	52	78	49	61	-	5.83	-	4.10	12.02	-	16.26	-	-	-	0	0	6	3
LYON	69	51	77	45	60	-	2.31	-	1.18	7.55	-	12.22	-	-	0	0	4	2	
MOORHEAD *	71	54	78	49	63	4	9.53	8.48	7.91	15.07	328	17.19	128	-	-	0	0	4	3
ONWARD	70	53	81	49	62	-	2.60	-	1.22	7.57	-	-	-	70	61	0	0	4	2
ROLLING FORK *	73	52	82	47	63	4	5.69	4.62	3.55	8.33	171	11.55	83	-	-	0	0	4	4
SIDON	70	52	79	49	61	-	3.47	-	2.36	8.35	-	12.79	-	-	0	0	5	2	
TUNICA *	69	50	77	46	60	4	2.18	1.05	1.58	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	3	2	
VICKSBURG *	72	56	82	52	64	3	3.17	2.07	1.75	9.30	135	-	-	-	-	0	0	3	3
YAZOO CITY *	74	50	78	43	62	2	2.95	1.83	1.53	8.83	146	16.98	111	-	-	0	0	3	3
STONEVILLE *	71	51	78	47	61	3	1.43	0.24	0.69	7.72	142	12.84	94	69	58	0	0	4	2

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

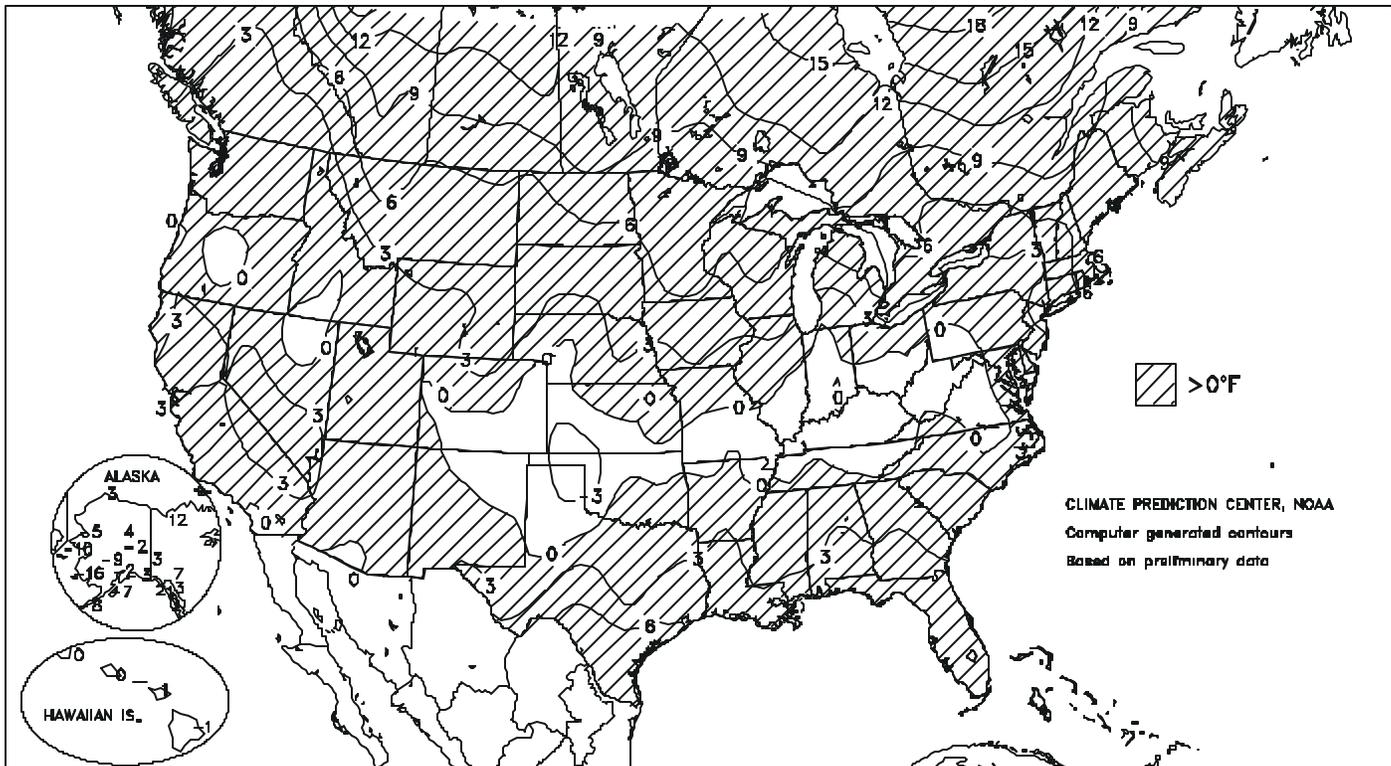
* Based on 1964-93 normals.

x Based on 1961-90 normals.

Delta Weather and Crop Summary: Moderate to locally heavy rainfall soaked the Mississippi Delta, aiding pastures and summer crops, but causing flash flooding and fieldwork delays. Farmers welcomed the rains but were anxious to resume fieldwork. Above-normal temperatures prevailed throughout the region. Corn was emerging and reached the two- to four-leaf stage.

Departure of Average Temperature from Normal (°F)

MAR 26 - APR 1, 2000



National Weather Data for Selected Cities

Weather Data for the Week Ending April 1, 2000

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 Mar 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Mar 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	48	78	40	60	2	3.67	2.32	1.14	11.81	185	19.70	122	93	43	0	0	5	3
HUNTSVILLE	70	48	82	43	59	3	2.11	0.70	1.95	7.70	113	14.55	86	81	51	0	0	4	1
MOBILE	78	56	84	44	67	3	3.50	2.22	3.02	6.94	105	10.91	65	98	58	0	0	4	1
AK MONTGOMERY	75	51	79	43	63	2	0.74	-0.55	0.30	3.34	52	9.26	56	93	51	0	0	4	0
ANCHORAGE	34	22	42	10	28	-2	0.20	0.05	0.09	0.57	80	2.69	118	87	74	0	7	3	0
BARROW	-4	-12	4	-19	-8	3	0.05	0.00	0.01	0.10	56	0.54	108	83	79	0	7	4	0
FAIRBANKS	31	4	47	-21	18	-2	0.02	-0.06	0.02	0.02	5	1.99	159	82	66	0	7	1	0
JUNEAU	42	34	45	32	38	2	2.61	1.93	0.96	5.75	171	12.13	104	93	85	0	2	5	2
KODIAK	34	22	39	13	28	-7	0.72	-0.26	0.52	6.44	135	14.61	84	81	65	0	6	4	1
NOME	9	-6	19	-20	1	-11	0.03	-0.12	0.02	0.20	36	3.70	190	78	73	0	7	2	0
AZ FLAGSTAFF	49	28	64	24	39	1	0.85	0.34	0.27	3.17	121	5.10	76	94	39	0	7	6	0
PHOENIX	75	56	83	49	66	1	0.23	0.08	0.18	2.98	331	2.99	133	63	34	0	0	3	0
TUCSON	74	48	82	46	61	-1	0.08	-0.05	0.08	0.93	126	1.22	53	49	22	0	0	1	0
YUMA	78	57	83	53	68	0	0.00	-0.06	0.00	0.30	136	0.39	49	45	34	0	0	0	0
AR FORT SMITH	68	48	79	41	58	2	0.17	-0.75	0.12	3.11	76	6.11	71	83	44	0	0	2	0
LITTLE ROCK	68	49	76	45	58	1	1.38	0.16	0.81	4.63	91	8.65	71	89	47	0	0	2	2
CA BAKERSFIELD	72	47	81	44	59	-1	0.00	-0.20	0.00	1.29	121	3.86	129	77	54	0	0	0	0
EUREKA	57	40	66	38	49	-1	0.01	-0.89	0.01	2.81	53	19.52	122	81	62	0	0	1	0
FRESNO	72	48	81	45	60	3	0.00	-0.36	0.00	1.35	70	10.63	186	84	60	0	0	0	0
LOS ANGELES	68	54	84	49	61	2	0.00	-0.33	0.00	2.40	119	7.94	115	78	66	0	0	0	0
REDDING	74	45	85	37	59	5	0.00	-0.80	0.00	4.15	93	21.10	141	62	38	0	0	0	0
SACRAMENTO	73	47	84	43	60	5	0.00	-0.47	0.00	2.26	86	18.39	199	78	36	0	0	0	0
SAN DIEGO	66	55	79	51	61	1	0.00	-0.33	0.00	1.00	55	4.86	95	81	68	0	0	0	0
SAN FRANCISCO	66	50	81	44	58	4	0.00	-0.56	0.00	1.77	57	16.15	152	75	59	0	0	0	0
CO ALAMOSA	50	20	65	14	35	-2	0.28	0.17	0.16	0.45	96	0.70	69	82	40	0	7	2	0
CO SPRINGS	51	33	71	27	42	1	0.18	-0.06	0.09	1.97	203	2.88	173	84	33	0	3	3	0
DENVER	53	32	73	25	43	0	0.71	0.38	0.42	1.72	129	2.23	93	84	31	0	4	3	0
GRAND JUNCTION	58	37	69	31	47	0	0.05	-0.16	0.04	1.26	135	3.31	168	69	37	0	1	2	0
PUEBLO	57	33	80	28	45	-1	0.71	0.52	0.34	2.95	364	3.33	231	84	47	0	3	4	0
CT BRIDGEPORT	57	39	64	33	48	5	0.43	-0.45	0.29	4.00	103	8.05	79	82	47	0	0	3	0
HARTFORD	59	36	65	28	47	4	0.95	0.09	0.79	3.69	98	8.12	78	86	41	0	2	4	1
DC WASHINGTON	64	43	69	40	54	2	0.94	0.27	0.89	3.98	122	9.05	104	78	32	0	0	2	1
DE WILMINGTON	62	37	65	32	50	3	0.09	-0.70	0.08	9.14	258	14.82	156	88	33	0	1	2	0
FL DAYTONA BEACH	80	61	89	54	70	3	7.62	7.05	4.64	8.48	285	10.93	124	98	51	0	0	4	2
JACKSONVILLE	79	56	85	50	67	3	1.21	0.48	0.55	1.79	47	5.73	52	10	52	0	0	4	1
KEY WEST	84	71	86	65	78	3	1.10	0.75	1.10	1.48	84	2.64	47	88	67	0	0	1	1
MIAMI	86	69	91	62	78	5	0.03	-0.51	0.03	0.35	14	2.12	32	88	50	1	0	1	0
ORLANDO	85	60	91	51	73	4	0.08	-0.50	0.07	0.45	14	2.04	24	95	48	1	0	2	0
PENSACOLA	78	58	86	46	68	4	2.77	1.66	1.32	3.93	68	8.24	52	93	67	0	0	5	2
TALLAHASSEE	82	56	84	46	69	6	1.28	0.09	0.50	3.36	53	7.28	44	98	55	0	0	5	2
TAMPA	83	66	89	59	74	5	0.31	-0.16	0.29	0.42	14	2.67	33	92	55	0	0	2	0
WEST PALM	84	66	89	57	75	3	0.00	-0.74	0.00	2.00	53	3.76	41	97	59	0	0	0	0
GA ATHENS	70	47	77	41	59	2	0.24	-0.90	0.17	3.46	62	9.85	67	86	51	0	0	3	0
ATLANTA	69	48	75	42	59	2	0.71	-0.49	0.28	3.79	64	9.94	64	86	52	0	0	3	0
AUGUSTA	75	45	80	40	60	1	0.06	-0.88	0.05	2.92	61	10.58	81	87	47	0	0	2	0
COLUMBUS	72	54	79	43	63	2	4.65	3.44	2.93	7.27	123	12.46	81	88	45	0	0	5	2
MACON	74	53	79	46	64	4	1.31	0.35	0.87	5.20	106	10.78	76	96	57	0	0	5	1
SAVANNAH	75	54	82	45	65	3	1.11	0.31	0.82	4.31	111	8.59	80	96	57	0	0	5	1
HI HILO	78	65	80	63	71	-1	2.85	-0.66	1.95	5.08	35	23.47	68	93	82	0	0	5	1
HONOLULU	81	69	83	68	75	0	0.30	-0.15	0.16	0.38	17	1.72	21	84	76	0	0	4	0
KAHULUI	82	67	84	63	74	0	0.56	0.00	0.41	0.59	21	1.65	17	85	78	0	0	2	0
LIHUE	78	68	82	64	73	0	0.92	-0.01	0.40	1.01	23	3.62	27	83	75	0	0	7	0
ID BOISE	59	33	66	26	46	1	0.02	-0.28	0.01	1.69	127	5.26	137	72	45	0	3	2	0
LEWISTON	57	36	61	30	46	-1	0.05	-0.20	0.04	0.97	86	4.09	124	79	58	0	3	2	0
POCATELLO	56	26	69	19	41	1	0.01	-0.29	0.01	0.81	62	3.76	115	77	42	0	6	1	0
IL CHICAGO/O'HARE	56	34	68	26	45	2	0.21	-0.54	0.13	1.18	42	4.50	79	79	43	0	3	3	0
MOLINE	60	32	73	24	46	2	0.09	-0.72	0.04	0.85	27	5.55	95	83	40	0	5	3	0
PEORIA	59	35	71	26	47	2	0.22	-0.58	0.20	1.63	54	4.26	71	79	34	0	2	2	0
ROCKFORD	57	31	69	24	44	3	0.13	-0.59	0.08	1.09	42	4.55	91	87	43	0	5	3	0
SPRINGFIELD	61	34	71	28	48	1	0.51	-0.32	0.51	2.80	83	4.61	69	87	42	0	3	1	1
IN EVANSVILLE	63	36	71	28	49	-2	0.29	-0.75	0.14	3.23	67	14.84	140	77	41	0	1	3	0
FORT WAYNE	55	33	65	27	44	1	0.42	-0.32	0.25	2.01	67	4.83	71	92	48	0	3	3	0
INDIANAPOLIS	59	35	67	27	47	0	0.07	-0.83	0.05	1.64	42	6.57	76	79	37	0	1	2	0
SOUTH BEND	54	31	64	20	42	-1	0.29	-0.54	0.25	1.81	56	5.84	79	84	49	0	3	3	0
IA BURLINGTON	60	34	71	26	47	2	0.06	-0.70	0.03	0.82	28	4.28	80	78	26	0	3	2	0
CEDAR RAPIDS	59	29	73	22	44	2	0.03	-0.61	0.02	0.73	30	3.29	74	91	31	0	6	2	0
DES MOINES	61	34	74	25	48	4	0.14	-0.52	0.14	0.49	20	3.15	70	72	35	0	2	1	0
DUBUQUE	56	32	69	26	44	4	0.05	-0.73	0.04	0.94	31	3.77	68	78	41	0	4	2	0
SIoux CITY	63	30	68	21	46	4	0.00	-0.49	0.00	0.71	35	1.87	57	72	29	0	4	0	0
WATERLOO	60	29	69	22	45	4	0.01	-0.63	0.01	1.33	56	3.40	80	80	37	0	6	1	0
KS CONCORDIA	61	37	73	26	49	2	0.31	-0.22	0.28	3.35	148	5.42	151	75	49	0	1	2	0
DODGE CITY	57	34	77	28	46	-3	1.14	0.73	0.95	4.97	307	5.63	206	90	51	0	2	2	1
GOODLAND	54	30	71	26	42	-1	0.65	0.40	0.35	2.37	196	3.35	167	89	50	0	5	3	0
TOPEKA	62	38	77	27	50	1	0.09	-0.55	0.05	2.63	103	4.82	106	82	51	0	2	3	0

Weather Data for the Week Ending April 1, 2000

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 Mar 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Mar 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	60	41	77	37	51	1	0.84	0.27	0.64	6.11	244	9.75	229	86	60	0	0	3	1
KY JACKSON	64	41	77	33	52	0	0.16	-0.87	0.08	1.94	40	8.10	65	72	27	0	0	3	0
KY LEXINGTON	59	36	73	30	47	-3	0.15	-0.83	0.09	3.91	86	12.12	114	77	49	0	3	3	0
KY LOUISVILLE	64	41	76	35	52	1	0.68	-0.38	0.43	4.02	84	16.15	147	79	43	0	0	3	0
LA PADUCAH	65	38	75	33	51	-2	0.79	-0.37	0.48	4.32	85	15.89	130	86	31	0	0	4	0
LA BATON ROUGE	79	56	83	47	67	2	1.39	0.26	1.23	3.36	67	6.79	44	10	54	0	0	2	1
LA LAKE CHARLES	81	58	84	50	69	5	0.63	-0.07	0.39	2.26	67	4.57	40	99	54	0	0	2	0
LA NEW ORLEANS	80	60	83	51	70	5	0.51	-0.53	0.49	2.41	48	6.47	40	96	68	0	0	3	0
LA SHREVEPORT	74	55	85	48	64	3	2.47	1.67	1.62	8.61	233	13.52	118	97	51	0	0	4	2
ME CARIBOU	45	32	50	29	39	8	0.36	-0.21	0.32	1.86	74	7.68	112	92	58	0	6	3	0
ME PORTLAND	55	35	64	26	45	7	0.32	-0.58	0.31	3.66	96	9.96	93	89	48	0	2	2	0
MD BALTIMORE	63	35	69	30	49	1	1.19	0.45	1.07	4.34	125	9.99	104	84	35	0	3	2	1
MA BOSTON	58	42	64	38	50	7	1.15	0.32	0.99	3.59	94	8.91	81	77	46	0	0	2	1
MA WORCESTER	54	36	60	33	45	7	1.15	0.24	1.08	3.82	94	9.53	85	81	38	0	0	3	1
MI ALPENA	51	30	57	25	41	7	0.14	-0.38	0.05	0.77	35	4.67	91	86	37	0	6	4	0
MI GRAND RAPIDS	52	32	58	24	42	2	0.23	-0.48	0.13	1.23	45	3.78	63	81	48	0	3	3	0
MI HOUGHTON LAKE	50	31	59	21	41	7	0.19	-0.31	0.16	1.17	56	4.09	86	81	47	0	4	3	0
MI LANSING	54	28	63	18	41	2	0.49	-0.12	0.41	1.21	51	3.28	63	90	54	0	6	2	0
MI MUSKEGON	51	33	59	23	42	4	0.26	-0.39	0.13	1.17	45	3.27	51	81	54	0	3	4	0
MI TRAVERSE CITY	51	31	61	21	41	6	0.32	-0.14	0.24	1.08	60	3.91	75	87	39	0	4	2	0
MN DULUTH	49	28	58	21	38	7	0.01	-0.48	0.01	2.64	133	4.56	114	86	50	0	7	1	0
MN INT'L FALLS	47	26	60	21	36	6	0.00	-0.29	0.00	0.73	66	1.56	60	86	50	0	7	0	0
MN MINNEAPOLIS	56	34	62	28	45	7	0.04	-0.46	0.02	1.12	56	3.08	80	80	35	0	3	2	0
MN ROCHESTER	55	29	63	25	42	5	0.16	-0.36	0.16	0.87	47	3.62	107	82	44	0	6	1	0
MN ST. CLOUD	55	27	63	21	41	6	0.03	-0.39	0.03	1.60	108	3.39	119	84	36	0	6	1	0
MS JACKSON	71	51	81	43	61	0	1.53	0.18	0.93	5.34	89	8.51	53	97	62	0	0	4	1
MS MERIDIAN	73	49	81	40	61	1	1.37	-0.11	0.44	4.21	61	8.78	50	94	61	0	0	4	0
MS TUPELO	70	49	77	46	60	2	2.15	0.81	2.14	7.28	116	14.30	90	75	46	0	0	2	1
MO COLUMBIA	63	37	75	28	50	1	0.79	-0.01	0.75	2.38	73	6.54	100	74	36	0	2	2	1
MO KANSAS CITY	62	38	76	25	50	2	0.13	-0.51	0.10	2.94	113	5.61	117	74	39	0	1	3	0
MO SAINT LOUIS	63	39	74	32	51	0	0.48	-0.37	0.48	1.88	51	6.22	82	83	48	0	1	1	0
MO SPRINGFIELD	61	38	72	33	50	-1	1.13	0.17	0.51	2.99	74	5.84	73	83	50	0	0	4	1
MT BILLINGS	57	33	68	27	45	5	0.62	0.30	0.58	0.80	66	3.61	131	70	24	0	3	3	1
MT BUTTE	52	24	64	19	38	6	0.23	0.04	0.23	0.64	82	1.54	91	84	24	0	7	1	0
MT GLASGOW	55	29	63	24	42	6	0.46	0.36	0.31	0.65	155	0.88	83	81	39	0	6	4	0
MT GREAT FALLS	53	30	67	26	42	5	0.23	-0.04	0.14	0.78	68	1.81	69	82	32	0	6	4	0
MT KALISPELL	53	28	64	24	41	3	0.31	0.09	0.25	1.03	98	2.65	72	94	58	0	6	3	0
MT MILES CITY	59	31	68	27	45	6	0.41	0.21	0.40	0.50	77	1.55	94	83	22	0	4	2	0
MT MISSOULA	55	30	66	24	43	3	0.12	-0.09	0.12	0.32	32	2.78	92	78	45	0	5	1	0
NE GRAND ISLAND	60	32	68	21	46	2	0.04	-0.46	0.03	1.33	68	2.93	93	79	32	0	3	2	0
NE LINCOLN	62	32	71	21	47	2	0.12	-0.44	0.08	0.96	44	2.61	76	79	39	0	3	2	0
NE NORFOLK	61	32	66	20	47	5	0.00	-0.47	0.00	1.14	59	2.46	76	79	29	0	3	0	0
NE NORTH PLATTE	57	25	71	18	41	-1	0.00	-0.34	0.00	1.22	98	1.99	98	93	34	0	6	0	0
NE OMAHA	62	33	70	22	48	3	0.18	-0.35	0.09	0.90	43	3.02	83	77	42	0	3	2	0
NE SCOTTSBLUFF	56	29	70	23	43	3	0.02	-0.27	0.02	1.08	96	2.23	106	79	40	0	7	1	0
NE VALENTINE	58	25	65	13	41	2	0.00	-0.28	0.00	0.68	63	2.07	115	78	32	0	7	0	0
NV ELY	55	23	65	15	39	2	0.00	-0.22	0.00	0.62	63	2.89	124	65	28	0	7	0	0
NV LAS VEGAS	74	54	80	51	64	5	0.00	-0.07	0.00	0.21	49	1.80	129	39	26	0	0	0	0
NV RENO	63	32	71	27	48	3	0.00	-0.12	0.00	0.38	52	3.50	125	50	27	0	5	0	0
NV WINNEMUCCA	62	23	70	15	42	0	0.00	-0.19	0.00	0.88	109	3.78	174	74	35	0	6	0	0
NH CONCORD	57	30	63	25	44	6	1.28	0.64	1.21	4.25	151	9.34	119	88	36	0	4	3	1
NJ NEWARK	60	43	66	40	52	5	0.92	0.02	0.71	3.43	86	8.36	80	79	41	0	0	3	1
NM ALBUQUERQUE	61	41	71	35	51	0	0.20	0.08	0.12	1.27	227	1.87	128	72	29	0	0	2	0
NY ALBANY	53	31	62	27	42	2	1.02	0.33	1.00	3.80	125	10.06	131	89	42	0	6	3	1
NY BINGHAMTON	48	31	58	26	40	2	0.90	0.22	0.44	3.25	111	9.56	125	79	51	0	4	4	0
NY BUFFALO	47	33	58	28	40	1	0.15	-0.49	0.12	2.12	77	6.52	84	87	48	0	2	2	0
NY ROCHESTER	51	35	62	31	43	3	0.12	-0.44	0.08	2.04	86	6.99	107	74	48	0	2	4	0
NY SYRACUSE	51	33	62	26	42	3	0.77	0.07	0.35	2.23	77	7.41	101	84	44	0	3	4	0
NC ASHEVILLE	64	39	70	32	51	0	0.14	-0.80	0.12	3.82	80	9.25	78	83	49	0	1	3	0
NC CHARLOTTE	68	44	75	31	56	1	0.31	-0.53	0.26	3.59	79	10.25	85	89	36	0	1	3	0
NC GREENSBORO	65	42	73	38	54	1	0.41	-0.35	0.26	2.95	77	8.45	82	86	35	0	0	3	0
NC HATTERAS	64	53	70	48	59	4	0.06	-0.85	0.05	2.71	61	12.40	90	88	51	0	0	2	0
NC RALEIGH	67	41	73	39	54	0	0.13	-0.60	0.09	1.76	46	9.99	91	91	47	0	0	2	0
NC WILMINGTON	70	49	77	41	60	2	0.50	-0.27	0.42	2.61	66	8.58	74	93	40	0	0	2	0
ND BISMARCK	53	27	56	16	40	5	0.02	-0.24	0.01	1.28	158	3.41	202	84	47	0	6	2	0
ND DICKINSON	53	28	57	22	40	5	0.06	-0.21	0.05	0.76	100	1.98	133	86	27	0	7	2	0
ND FARGO	51	29	64	23	40	6	0.01	-0.31	0.01	1.75	158	3.09	139	85	48	0	5	1	0
ND GRAND FORKS	50	26	64	19	38	6	0.02	-0.23	0.01	0.56	57	2.33	106	90	41	0	6	2	0
ND JAMESTOWN	51	27	60	19	39	5	0.01	-0.26	0.01	0.82	89	3.23	161	89	43	0	6	1	0
ND WILLISTON	52	27	58	23	40	5	0.10	-0.10	0.05	0.64	89	1.48	89	80	42	0	6	3	0
OH AKRON-CANTON	53	33	65	28	43	0	0.33	-0.43	0.16	2.09	61	7.06	90	80	56	0	3	3	0
OH CINCINNATI	58	35	70	30	46	-2	0.92	-0.04	0.39	3.51	80	13.67	142	81	43	0	2	3	0
OH CLEVELAND	53	33	65	29	43	1	0.22	-0.48	0.22	1.57	52	6.25	86	79	50	0	3	1	0
OH COLUMBUS	56	36	65	30	46	0	0.26	-0.50	0.21	2.66	79	8.98	115	83	47	0	3	3	0
OH DAYTON	56	35	66	30	45	-1	0.49	-0.33	0.33	2.33	66	7.68	98	77	40	0	2	3	0
OH MANSFIELD	52	32	64	26	42	-1	0.58	-0.23	0.36	2.27	67	7.88	106	89	41	0	3	3	0

Based on 1961-90 normals

*** Not Available

Weather Data for the Week Ending April 1, 2000

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 Mar 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Mar 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	64	29	45	3	0.29	-0.38	0.28	1.84	67	4.62	74	80	41	0	3	2	0
OK YOUNGSTOWN	53	33	66	28	43	1	0.19	-0.55	0.16	1.86	58	6.00	81	75	51	0	4	2	0
OK OKLAHOMA CITY	66	47	82	43	57	2	0.87	0.26	0.48	3.60	129	5.82	106	84	51	0	0	2	0
OK TULSA	63	46	73	39	55	-1	0.43	-0.39	0.26	3.79	106	6.01	85	80	55	0	0	4	0
OR ASTORIA	56	38	65	34	48	1	0.54	-0.87	0.30	5.46	75	22.23	89	96	73	0	0	3	0
OR BURNS	57	23	69	17	40	1	0.00	-0.20	0.00	0.91	88	4.43	159	77	41	0	7	0	0
OR EUGENE	60	34	72	28	47	-2	0.05	-1.01	0.04	2.37	42	17.92	93	92	70	0	3	2	0
OR MEDFORD	66	35	79	29	50	1	0.00	-0.36	0.00	1.52	81	9.28	143	87	37	0	3	0	0
OR PENDLETON	60	36	73	32	48	1	0.00	-0.25	0.00	2.42	202	7.41	192	75	57	0	2	0	0
OR PORTLAND	61	39	73	34	50	1	0.08	-0.63	0.08	3.21	88	13.38	104	88	65	0	0	1	0
OR SALEM	61	35	74	31	48	1	0.06	-0.74	0.04	2.98	70	16.96	115	92	68	0	3	2	0
PA ALLENTOWN	59	32	68	27	46	2	0.94	0.17	0.62	5.04	149	9.78	103	89	38	0	4	2	1
PA ERIE	50	34	62	28	42	1	0.21	-0.51	0.12	2.04	66	6.47	85	79	52	0	2	2	0
PA MIDDLETOWN	62	36	68	30	49	3	1.16	0.42	1.15	6.06	179	10.40	114	88	30	0	1	2	1
PA PHILADELPHIA	62	40	68	37	51	4	0.25	-0.58	0.25	6.41	179	11.67	122	81	40	0	0	1	0
PA PITTSBURGH	56	32	68	28	44	0	0.19	-0.59	0.13	2.26	64	6.49	77	81	38	0	4	2	0
PA WILKES-BARRE	54	32	62	26	43	1	0.73	0.11	0.44	2.85	108	7.33	106	81	36	0	4	3	0
PA WILLIAMSPORT	58	32	66	27	45	2	0.28	-0.46	0.21	3.61	109	7.99	93	79	34	0	4	3	0
RI PROVIDENCE	58	39	65	33	49	7	1.68	0.74	1.54	5.37	128	12.30	105	76	46	0	0	3	1
SC BEAUFORT	73	55	81	50	64	2	0.07	-0.76	0.01	2.70	64	5.63	50	92	49	0	0	1	0
SC CHARLESTON	73	54	81	50	64	3	0.33	-0.51	0.18	3.66	82	9.71	87	92	47	0	0	2	0
SC COLUMBIA	73	47	79	43	60	1	0.08	-0.90	0.08	3.95	80	14.01	104	82	40	0	0	1	0
SD GREENVILLE	70	46	76	37	58	3	0.09	-1.02	0.08	4.35	79	9.94	71	88	31	0	0	2	0
SD ABERDEEN	57	24	64	19	41	4	0.00	-0.38	0.00	1.21	86	2.17	97	82	40	0	7	0	0
SD HURON	60	25	67	14	43	5	0.00	-0.44	0.00	0.35	20	1.13	40	80	28	0	5	0	0
SD RAPID CITY	57	27	66	22	42	3	0.05	-0.27	0.04	1.31	121	1.84	92	73	25	0	7	2	0
SD SIOUX FALLS	59	26	66	18	42	3	0.00	-0.47	0.00	0.91	53	2.63	92	77	28	0	6	0	0
TN BRISTOL	63	36	74	30	49	-2	0.56	-0.24	0.28	3.84	101	9.33	89	90	36	0	2	4	0
TN CHATTANOOGA	69	45	78	39	57	3	0.46	-0.79	0.36	4.57	74	12.08	76	88	50	0	0	3	0
TN KNOXVILLE	64	42	75	33	53	0	1.24	0.18	0.75	4.37	84	12.93	96	91	44	0	0	4	1
TN MEMPHIS	68	51	78	47	59	1	1.13	-0.15	0.91	5.32	95	12.06	88	73	39	0	0	4	1
TN NASHVILLE	64	41	77	34	53	-2	0.57	-0.52	0.28	3.46	69	10.73	87	78	37	0	0	4	0
TX ABILENE	76	50	91	42	63	2	0.35	0.00	0.35	1.23	87	1.84	51	79	52	2	0	1	0
TX AMARILLO	61	38	79	32	50	-2	0.81	0.61	0.62	4.33	442	4.61	221	92	46	0	1	2	1
TX AUSTIN	80	56	91	51	68	2	0.28	-0.16	0.15	1.07	55	6.04	104	89	59	1	0	4	0
TX BEAUMONT	80	59	82	53	70	5	0.54	-0.19	0.49	2.90	87	5.30	46	96	53	0	0	2	0
TX BROWNSVILLE	88	70	96	65	79	7	0.24	0.07	0.23	2.89	516	4.03	127	94	62	2	0	2	0
TX CORPUS CHRISTI	84	68	92	62	76	7	0.00	-0.22	0.00	3.68	376	4.80	103	98	70	1	0	0	0
TX DEL RIO	86	61	94	57	74	7	0.01	-0.25	0.01	0.29	39	1.27	56	84	47	4	0	1	0
TX EL PASO	76	50	80	43	63	4	0.28	0.22	0.28	0.34	113	0.37	33	42	21	0	0	1	0
TX FORT WORTH	74	53	84	46	64	3	1.58	0.89	1.23	3.10	108	7.99	116	83	52	0	0	3	1
TX GALVESTON	77	67	80	63	72	7	0.05	-0.47	0.04	1.92	83	5.37	69	95	69	0	0	2	0
TX HOUSTON	82	59	88	50	70	6	0.16	-0.49	0.12	1.47	49	5.04	54	95	64	0	0	2	0
TX LUBBOCK	66	44	81	38	55	-1	1.46	1.27	0.75	3.49	384	3.54	179	81	48	0	0	2	2
TX MIDLAND	74	48	86	43	61	1	0.29	0.16	0.19	0.95	158	1.56	96	77	37	0	0	3	0
TX SAN ANGELO	81	54	91	47	67	5	0.09	-0.15	0.09	0.86	91	1.17	41	78	46	2	0	1	0
TX SAN ANTONIO	82	61	94	54	72	7	0.32	-0.07	0.32	1.23	78	4.83	95	92	48	1	0	1	0
TX VICTORIA	85	64	91	57	74	7	0.04	-0.34	0.04	2.20	137	6.62	115	96	64	1	0	1	0
TX WACO	76	54	88	46	65	3	0.74	0.15	0.36	1.96	81	8.55	139	94	65	0	0	4	0
TX WICHITA FALLS	70	47	86	41	59	1	0.84	0.26	0.47	2.98	130	4.91	102	90	66	0	0	2	0
UT SALT LAKE CITY	57	34	71	29	46	1	0.31	-0.17	0.16	0.84	42	4.81	111	74	36	0	3	3	0
VT BURLINGTON	51	35	60	28	43	6	0.49	-0.08	0.33	1.35	58	5.92	103	84	46	0	3	4	0
VA LYNCHBURG	64	36	72	31	50	-1	0.13	-0.63	0.10	2.51	70	7.68	81	84	41	0	1	3	0
VA NORFOLK	64	45	75	37	55	3	0.60	-0.18	0.44	2.40	63	8.60	78	89	40	0	0	4	0
VA RICHMOND	66	40	72	35	53	1	0.28	-0.48	0.24	3.67	99	9.26	92	82	40	0	0	2	0
VA ROANOKE	64	39	73	35	52	1	0.15	-0.61	0.05	2.86	80	6.63	72	68	42	0	0	3	0
WA WASH/DULLES	63	34	69	29	48	0	0.63	-0.08	0.53	3.35	102	7.04	80	91	37	0	4	2	1
WA OLYMPIA	58	35	67	30	46	1	0.19	-0.79	0.18	5.09	100	19.09	101	92	68	0	4	2	0
WA QUILLAYUTE	55	35	62	30	45	1	1.20	-1.06	0.78	10.34	88	32.31	83	97	75	0	3	5	1
WA SEATTLE-TACOMA	56	40	64	35	48	1	0.10	-0.60	0.06	2.82	78	11.84	91	87	71	0	0	3	0
WA SPOKANE	55	31	66	27	43	1	0.02	-0.29	0.02	1.62	106	5.13	103	82	49	0	6	1	0
WA YAKIMA	63	31	78	27	47	1	0.00	-0.14	0.00	0.60	87	3.47	131	77	44	0	5	0	0
WV BECKLEY	58	34	72	29	46	0	0.32	-0.45	0.19	2.46	70	7.00	75	65	36	0	2	2	0
WV CHARLESTON	63	35	77	28	49	-1	0.29	-0.51	0.24	2.66	71	8.32	86	84	40	0	2	2	0
WV ELKINS	56	24	72	19	40	-4	0.62	-0.28	0.38	3.25	82	9.07	90	95	38	0	7	3	0
WV HUNTINGTON	62	37	75	29	49	-2	0.31	-0.51	0.17	2.71	72	10.03	105	77	33	0	1	2	0
WI EAU CLAIRE	54	27	62	19	41	4	0.07	-0.44	0.05	0.86	48	3.61	104	87	37	0	5	2	0
WI GREEN BAY	54	30	64	23	42	6	0.21	-0.31	0.12	0.98	46	2.89	67	82	41	0	6	3	0
WI LA CROSSE	58	32	67	25	45	5	0.00	-0.57	0.00	1.38	67	3.75	96	83	30	0	4	0	0
WI MADISON	55	31	65	24	43	5	0.18	-0.41	0.17	1.17	52	3.97	90	78	44	0	5	2	0
WI MILWAUKEE	52	35	63	28	44	5	0.14	-0.60	0.06	1.14	41	4.00	69	76	47	0	2	4	0
WY CASPER	54	26	66	20	40	2	0.03	-0.24	0.03	0.58	59	1.60	75	79	38	0	7	1	0
WY CHEYENNE	50	31	67	23	40	3	0.53	0.26	0.47	1.48	138	2.42	130	79	54	0	4	4	0
WY LANDER	54	28	65	20	41	3	0.04	-0.32	0.04	0.80	66	1.07	47	64	30	0	5	1	0
WY SHERIDAN	56	28	68	25	42	4	0.08	-0.21	0.04	0.79	78	2.92	123	82	34	0	7	2	0

Based on 1961-90 normals

*** Not Available

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

Crop Progress and Condition

Week Ending April 2, 2000

Winter Wheat Percent Headed				
	Apr 2 2000	Prev Week	Prev Year	5-Yr Avg
AR	6	NA	1	3
CA	35	NA	24	16
CO	0	NA	0	0
ID	0	NA	0	0
IL	0	NA	0	0
IN	0	NA	0	0
KS	0	NA	0	0
MI	0	NA	0	0
MO	0	NA	0	0
MT	0	NA	0	0
NE	0	NA	0	0
NC	15	NA	14	5
OH	0	NA	0	0
OK	8	NA	1	1
OR	0	NA	0	0
SD	0	NA	0	0
TX	11	NA	6	6
WA	0	NA	0	0
18 Sts	4	NA	2	1

These 18 States planted 91% of last year's winter wheat acreage.

Corn Percent Planted				
	Apr 2 2000	Prev Week	Prev Year	5-Yr Avg
CO	0	NA	0	0
GA	0	NA	1	0
IL	0	NA	0	0
IN	0	NA	0	0
IA	0	NA	1	0
KS	1	NA	0	0
KY	0	NA	0	0
MI	0	NA	0	0
MN	5	NA	3	3
MO	0	NA	0	0
NE	5	NA	11	8
NC	0	NA	0	0
OH	0	NA	0	0
PA	0	NA	0	0
SD	0	NA	0	0
TN	14	NA	3	0
TX	53	NA	50	42
WI	0	NA	0	0
18 Sts	2	NA	2	1

These 18 States planted 92% of last year's corn acreage.

Cotton Percent Planted				
	Apr 2 2000	Prev Week	Prev Year	5-Yr Avg
AL	0	NA	1	0
AZ	1	NA	9	19
AR	0	NA	0	0
CA	10	NA	2	7
GA	0	NA	1	1
LA	0	NA	0	0
MS	0	NA	0	0
MO	0	NA	0	0
NM	0	NA	0	0
NC	0	NA	0	0
OK	0	NA	0	0
SC	0	NA	0	0
TN	9	NA	9	8
TX	0	NA	0	0
14 Sts	4	NA	4	4

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

Sorghum Percent Planted				
	Apr 2 2000	Prev Week	Prev Year	5-Yr Avg
AR	4	NA	2	3
CO	0	NA	0	0
IL	0	NA	1	0
KS	0	NA	0	0
LA	0	NA	0	0
MO	0	NA	0	0
NE	0	NA	0	0
NM	0	NA	0	0
OK	0	NA	0	2
SD	0	NA	0	0
TX	38	NA	34	35
11 Sts	13	NA	12	12

These 11 States planted 99% of last year's sorghum acreage.

Rice Percent Planted				
	Apr 2 2000	Prev Week	Prev Year	5-Yr Avg
AR	1	NA	0	2
CA	0	NA	0	0
LA	40	NA	35	29
MS	1	NA	2	5
TX	46	NA	27	23
5 Sts	11	NA	9	9

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

Oats Percent Planted				
	Apr 2 2000	Prev Week	Prev Year	5-Yr Avg
IA	15	NA	41	15
MN	7	NA	0	0
NE	66	NA	30	20
ND	0	NA	0	0
OH	23	NA	21	12
PA	8	NA	7	8
SD	14	NA	8	2
WI	7	NA	13	3
8 Sts	11	NA	11	5

These 8 States planted 52% of last year's oat acreage.

Spring Wheat Percent Planted				
	Apr 2 2000	Prev Week	Prev Year	5-Yr Avg
ID	20	NA	18	17
MN	4	NA	0	0
MT	3	NA	1	1
ND	1	NA	0	0
SD	19	NA	10	2
WA	25	NA	21	20
6 Sts	6	NA	3	2

These 6 States planted 98% of last year's spring wheat acreage.

Barley Percent Planted				
	Apr 2 2000	Prev Week	Prev Year	5-Yr Avg
ID	13	NA	13	12
MN	4	NA	0	1
MT	2	NA	4	2
ND	1	NA	0	0
WA	16	NA	21	18
5 Sts	5	NA	6	5

These 5 States planted 78% of last year's barley acreage.

(Continued on page 11)

National Agricultural Summary

March 27 - April 2, 2000

HIGHLIGHTS

Field preparations and spring planting gained momentum, as warm, dry weather prevailed across most of the Nation. A band of heavy rain temporarily halted fieldwork in parts of the southern Great Plains, lower Mississippi Valley, and Southeast. Most areas welcomed the precipitation that improved soil moisture levels. However, some areas received damaging winds and hail, and flooding along some streams. In

parts of the central and southern Great Plains, soils were saturated by excessive rainfall, and water was standing in some low-lying fields. In the Corn Belt, farmers rapidly prepared corn and soybean fields for planting. Small grain seeding rapidly progressed in the Great Plains and gained momentum in the Corn Belt. Field activities steadily progressed in California. Moisture shortages remained in most of Florida.

Winter Wheat: Four percent of the Nation's winter wheat was at the heading stage, compared with 2 percent last year and the 1-percent average for this date. Above-normal temperatures promoted rapid development in the southern Great Plains and Southeast. In Texas, winter wheat was 11 percent headed, nearly double the 5-year average. Eight percent of the Oklahoma wheat acreage was heading and 84 percent was at the jointing stage. Both stages were well ahead of last year and the 5-year average, even though temperatures were cooler-than-normal in parts of the State. Development was also ahead of normal in Louisiana, where 7 percent of the crop was turning color and in Kansas, where 44 percent was jointing. Winter wheat was 15 percent headed in North Carolina, three times the 5-percent average.

Other crops: Rice planted, at 11 percent, was 2 percentage points ahead of normal due to rapid progress along the western Gulf Coast. Some inland areas of the Mississippi Delta were too wet to plant rice and in California, soil temperatures were too cold. Thirteen percent of the sorghum acreage was planted, compared with the 12 percent normally planted by this date. Planting was delayed by dry soils in the southern High Plains, and wet weather limited progress in the Mississippi Delta.

Rain provided much-needed moisture for crop development in Texas, but rainfall varied significantly, and hail and strong winds damaged some fields. Adequate moisture aided wheat development in most areas of Oklahoma and Kansas. However, some wheat fields were yellowing due to saturated soils and standing water. Foliar diseases increased in Oklahoma, due to cool, wet conditions.

Corn: Nationally, 2 percent of the corn acreage was planted, equal to last year's and slightly ahead of the 5-year average. More than half of the acreage was planted in Texas, where rain delays were mostly brief. Planting was complete in southern regions of the State, but remained active in the High Plains and north-central Texas. Dry weather provided ideal planting conditions along the Ohio River Valley in the southern Corn Belt and Tennessee River Valley. Progress was ahead of normal in Missouri, Kentucky, and Tennessee. Dry conditions also aided field preparations in the Corn Belt. Field tillage rapidly progressed throughout the Corn Belt, and fertilizer applications were more than 50 percent complete in Iowa.

Cotton: Planting was 4 percent complete, equal to last year and the average. Progress was slightly ahead of normal in California and Texas, but dry soils hindered progress in Arizona. Some California growers were waiting for warmer weather. In Texas, planting advanced northward where soil moisture and temperature was adequate. Heavy rain delayed planting in isolated areas of eastern Texas. In the High Plains region, soils were mostly too dry to plant. Field preparations were delayed by rain in parts of the lower Mississippi Valley and Southeast, but continued with few delays in the Atlantic Coastal Plains.

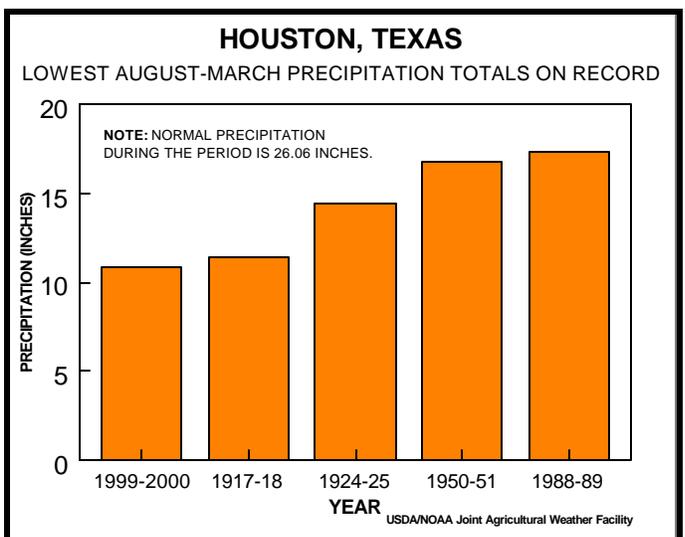
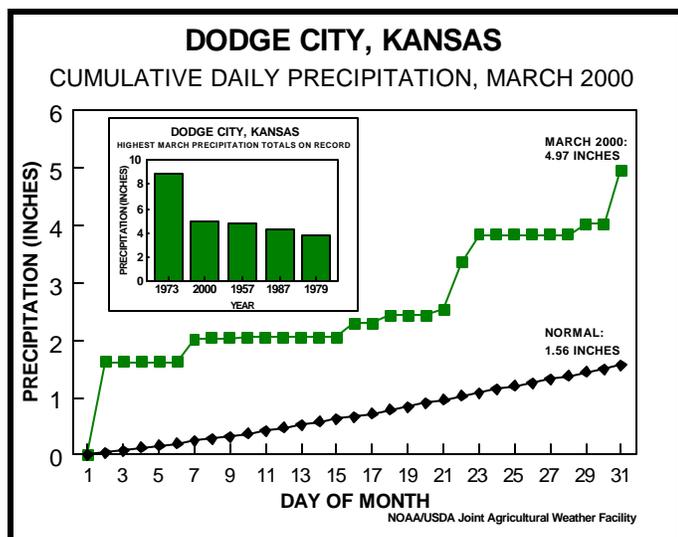
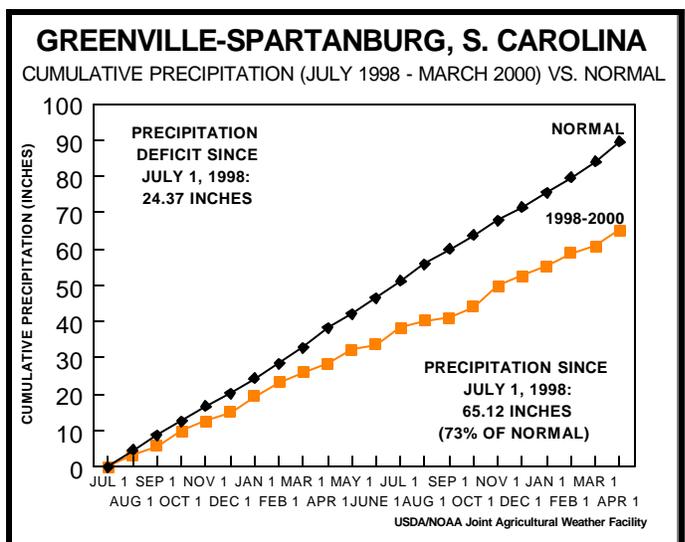
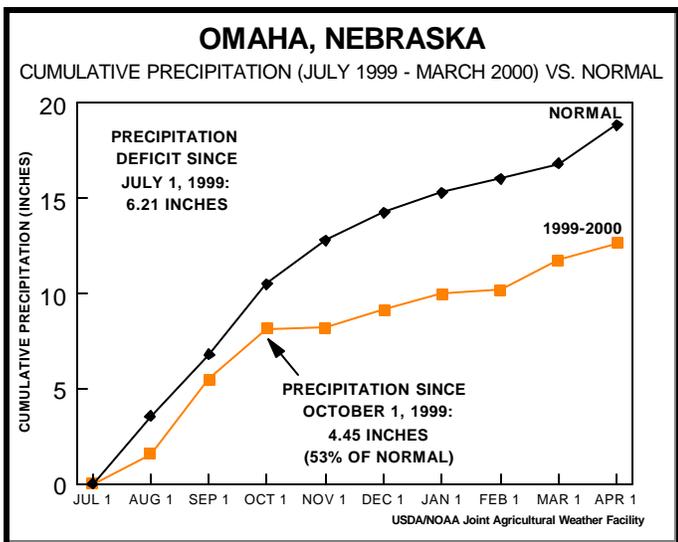
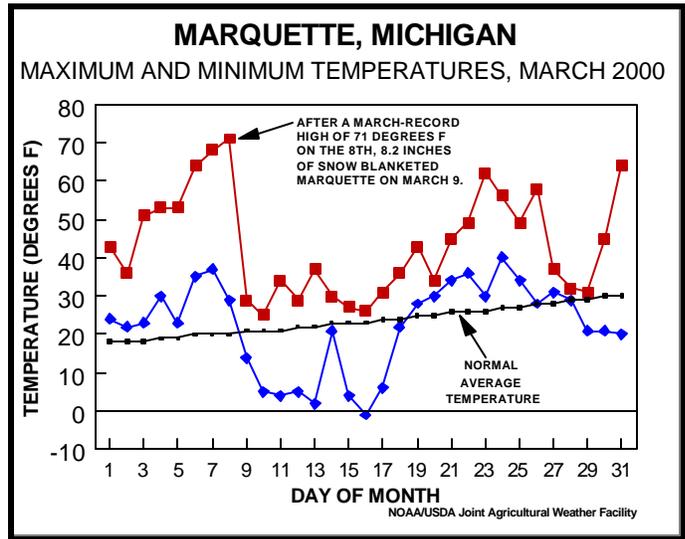
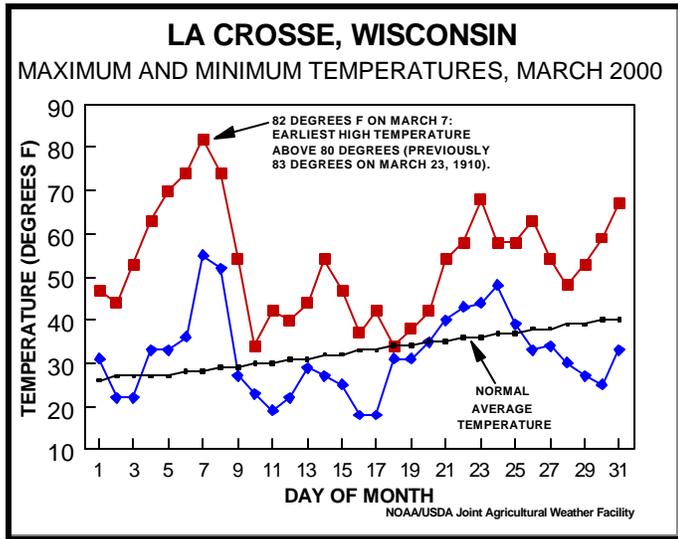
Small grains: Oat seeding advanced to 11 percent, equal to last year's rapid early-season progress, and ahead of the 5-percent average for this date. Dry weather aided progress in the central Great Plains. The barley acreage was 5 percent seeded, equal to the 5-year average, but slightly behind last year's pace. Progress was aided by dry weather in the Pacific Northwest. Spring wheat planting was 6 percent complete, ahead of the 2-percent average and last year's 3-percent progress.

(Continued from page 10)

Winter Wheat Crop Condition by Percent					
	VP	P	F	G	EX
AR	0	1	18	56	25
CA	0	0	20	60	20
CO	1	3	16	60	20
ID	0	2	18	66	14
IL	0	5	18	55	22
IN	2	5	23	55	15
KS	2	8	36	43	11
MI	0	2	15	50	33
MO	0	3	34	49	14
MT	2	8	35	52	3
NE	3	8	31	51	7
NC	0	1	14	75	10
OH	0	2	14	50	34
OK	0	4	19	61	16
OR	0	0	23	76	1
SD	0	5	25	59	11
TX	28	31	29	12	0
WA	0	3	14	69	14
18 Sts	5	9	26	48	12
Prev Wk	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Prev Yr	1	5	26	55	13

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

March Weather: Selected Graphs



State Agricultural Summaries

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

ALABAMA: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.4. Topsoil moisture 1% very short, 25% short, 61% adequate, 13% surplus. Corn 31% planted, 21% 1999, 28% avg. Wheat 0% very poor, 2% poor, 17% fair, 59% good, 22% excellent. Pasture feed 1% very poor, 5% poor, 36% fair, 50% good, 8% excellent. Livestock 2% very poor, 6% poor, 25% fair, 58% good, 9% excellent. Farmers are making soil preparations, planting corn. Some farmers in the northern portion of the state are switching to no-till cotton this year.

ARIZONA: Area continued to record above average temperatures with modest precipitation during the month of March. Weather conditions have minimal impact on crop, vegetable production due to irrigation. Livestock was reported to be in fair condition. Stock Water was reported as short to adequate while Soil Moisture was reported as short. Insect Damage was reported as none to light. Last week temperatures in Area were generally cooler than normal. Producers in central areas continued to ship a variety of vegetables including: Broccoli, cabbage, cilantro, dandelion, dill, endive, escarole, flowering kale, green onions, kale, kohlrabi, mixed greens, napa, parsley, spinach, swiss chard. Lettuce shipments included: Leaf, romaine. Eastern Areas producers shipped hot house tomatoes. Producers in western areas also shipped a wide variety of vegetables including: Anise, broccoflower, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, celery, endive, escarole, mixed greens, napa, parsley, salad savoy, spinach, swiss chard. Western lettuce, salad/salad mixes shipments included: Boston, iceberg, leaf, romaine, spring mix. Central Areas citrus producers harvested lemons, navels, grapefruit, minneolas, fairchild tangerines, tangelos. Western citrus producers harvested grapefruit, lemons, tangelos last week.

ARKANSAS: Days suitable for fieldwork: 4.0. Soil moisture 17% short, 61% adequate, 22% surplus. Rice 1% planted, 0% 1999, 2% 5 yr. avg. Sorghum 4% planted, 2% 1999, 3% 5 yr. avg. Corn 36% planted, 1999, and 5 yr. avg not applicable; Wheat 6% headed, 1% 1999, 3% 5 yr. avg; wheat condition: 1% poor, 18% fair, 56% good, 25% excellent. Other Hay 4% very poor, 8% poor, 42% fair, 42% good, 4% excellent. Pasture, Range 1% very poor, 8% poor, 39% fair, 43% good, 9% excellent. Livestock good condition. The main farm Activities: Row crop ground preparation, planting corn, rice, sorghum, wheat disease scouting, fertilizing wheat fields, pastures, vaccinating cattle. Slight hail damage, Extreme western Area Valley.

CALIFORNIA: Field activity picked up speed as the ground continued to dry. Fertilizers, herbicides were applied. Some insecticides were applied by air for weevil control. Dryland wheat, oats could use more rain to carry the crop through to full maturity. Small grain, winter forage crops were progressing well; some fields were heading. Irrigation was applied to ensure good soil moisture levels. In some areas wheat, oats were cut for silage. Damaged spots resulting from poor drainage during the rainy season remained obvious. Some fields of barley, wheat were still in the soft dough or boot stages. Alfalfa was being cut, chopped for feeding, silage, baled hay. Occasional fields of alfalfa were treated for aphids. Cotton planting continued; some growers were waiting for warmer temperatures. Many fields were being worked in preparation for cotton, corn planting. Several fields of corn for green chop were planted; earlier planted fields were emerging. Ground preparation for rice, wild rice was in full swing in many fields. Rice planting was expected to begin in most areas this month. A few fields of rice straw awaited burning. Pre-plant weed treatments were applied to fields of sunflower, safflower. Several fields of safflower were planted. Sunflower planting was expected to begin next week. Spring sugarbeet harvest began in the earliest planted fields. The warm, sunny weather permitted fruit, nut growers to plant new trees, vines. Weed control, fungicide applications were some of the activities ongoing in stone fruit, almond orchards. Nut trees, stone fruit trees, grape vines were leafing. Picking of grapefruit, lemon crops was active in southern areas. The harvest of valencia oranges in the desert areas was active. San Joaquin Valley navel orange picking continued. Growers remained concerned about puff, crease, soft fruit. Minneola tangelos were also being picked. Strawberry fields were blooming, setting fruit. Vegetable field activities were in full swing through the week of dry weather. Ground preparation, weed treatments, planting of processing tomato seed, transplants continued. Northern areas

honeydew melon, watermelon planting was expected to start within the next couple of weeks. Watermelon planting had already begun in Merced County. Radicchio harvesting, planting of new fields continued. Field work, harvesting was active in Monterey County artichokes, broccoli, asparagus fields. Fresno County growers were planting summer vegetables. Beans, onions, tomatoes, garlic fields were weeded, irrigated. The head lettuce crop was looking good, with only a few isolated problems. Sweet corn was being planted. Seedlings have emerged in the earlier planted fields. Harvesting of spinach, cauliflower, broccoli continued in Tulare County. Other crops being harvested this week included: Green, Napa cabbage, cilantro, mushrooms, parsley, radishes, turnips. Supplemental feeding of hay, nutrients was minimal, as forage growth has been good. Cattle are showing good weight gains. Additional cattle were being moved onto lower elevation pastures. Ranchers looked for some additional rain before dry weather establishes itself for the season. Conditions for milk production have improved as paddocks were dry. Sheep were moved to summer grazing areas. Preparations were being made to move bees out of prune, plum, almond orchards. Some hives were being placed in orange groves.

COLORADO: Days suitable for fieldwork 3.0. Topsoil 0% very short 5% short, 86% adequate, 9% surplus. Subsoil moisture 4% very short, 17% short, 76% adequate, 3% surplus. Winter wheat condition improved as snowstorms delivered additional moisture to most areas of the state. Recent field inspections detected higher than usual aphid populations as a result of the mild winter. Spring barley 30% seeded, 44% 1999, 31% avg. Dry onions 52% seeded, 53% 1999, 51% avg. Sugar beets 13%, 27% 1999, 17% avg. Spring wheat 16% planted, 40% 1999, 19% avg. Cows 65% calved, 62% 1999, 67% avg. Ewes 49% lambled, 52% 1999, 64% avg.

DELAWARE: Days suitable for fieldwork 3.5. Topsoil 69% adequate, 31% surplus. Subsoil moisture 100% adequate. Percent of acreage prepared for 18% planting of spring crops. Winter wheat 1% poor, 8% fair, 83% good, 8% excellent. Barley 3% poor, 11% fair, 78% good, 8% excellent. Potatoes 15% planted, 30% 1999, 33% avg. Green peas 24% planted, 30% 1999, 25% avg. Peaches 65% bloomed, 0% 1999, 33% avg. Strawberries 11% bloomed, 15% 1999, 6% avg. Pasture feed 26% fair, 69% good, 5% excellent. Hay supplies 17% very short, 47% short, 36%, adequate. Activities: Potato, pea planting continued, farmers spreading nitrogen on fields.

FLORIDA: Warm temperatures, spotty storms continued. Temperatures averaged 3 to 6° above normal for week. Most highs 70s, 80s. Most lows 50s, 60s. Miami, Orlando recorded at least one high at 91. Several Panhandle, northern, north central localities recorded at least one low in 40s. Storms brought varying amounts of rain. Pierson, Daytona Beach, southeastern coast reported 5.00 to over 7.00 in. However, most rain totals ranged from traces to 3.00 in. West Palm Beach reported no rain for week. Moisture in Panhandle, northern Peninsula short to adequate. Central, southern Peninsula moisture very short or short with scattered areas of adequate moisture. Sugarcane grinding virtually complete. Field corn planting active. Farmers starting to plant cotton, peanuts. Tobacco transplanting active. Rains have decreased wild fire index in some areas. Potato digging underway, West Central. Tomato harvesting slowing, Dade County, Southwest. Major vegetables available: Potatoes, tomatoes, peppers, endive, escarole, cabbage, celery, cucumbers, lettuce, radishes, snap beans, squash, strawberries, sweet corn, eggplant. Some rain most citrus areas, more moisture needed, growers irrigating. Lakes, ponds, streams very low levels. Early, mid orange harvest all but complete. Valencia, grapefruit movement increasing. Most Temples being processed. Honey tangerines being shipped for fresh use. Caretakers cutting cover crops, spraying, hedging, topping. Few burn permits issued due to dry conditions. Pasture feed 15% poor, 80% fair, 5% good. Cattle 5% poor, 85% fair, 10% good.

GEORGIA: Days suitable for field work 4.3. Soil moisture 4% very short, 16% short, 62% adequate 18% surplus. Corn 26% fair, 67% good, 75% excellent; 58% emerged. Hay 1% very poor, 7% poor, 39% fair, 49%

good, 4% excellent. Sorghum 3% planted. Tobacco 22% fair, 69% good, 9% excellent; 24% transplanted. Wheat 89% jointing, 62% boot. Onions 4% poor, 18% fair, 72% good 6% excellent. Watermelons 2% poor, 62% fair, 33% good, 3% excellent; 39% planted. Apples 32% fair, 59% good, 9% excellent; 17% blooming. Peaches 22% fair, 43% good, 35% excellent; 89% blooming. Rains fell on much of the State last week, temporarily improved soil moisture. They also helped improve irrigation ponds. The rains slowed fieldwork in some areas. Rye crop was heading. Farmers scouted for cereal leaf beetles in wheat. Small grain disease pressure was high in some areas. The rains delayed tobacco, pepper planting in some areas. This may help relieve Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus pressure. Fertilizer, weed control chemicals were applied to pecan orchards. Routine care of livestock continued. Farmers were planting hayfields. Pastures were greening up, offered limited grazing. Other activities included: Preparing land for truck crop vegetables.

HAWAII: Weather conditions were fair for agriculture. A late-season cold front brought some much needed rain to the State. Windward areas of all the islands received between one to four inches of rain over the weekend. The heavy showers helped to relieve drought conditions in those areas. Leeward areas remained relatively dry, are in need of rain. Despite the recent showers, water conservation measures remained in effect for the entire island of Areas, the Upcountry area of Maui, parts of Molokai. Banana orchards benefitted from the added moisture. Strong, gusty winds behind the cold front shredded leaves, bruised fruits in exposed areas. Papaya harvesting is steady. Most orchards were in fair to good condition. Spraying to prevent disease outbreaks will start once weather permits. Head cabbage harvesting heavy and steady. Most of the crop in good condition. Dry onion harvesting increasing. Ginger root harvesting very active.

IDAHO: Days suitable for field work 4.6. Topsoil 2% very short, 8% short, 60% adequate, 30% surplus. The weather has been cool but relatively dry across the state. Eastern Areas received new snow mixed with rain last week. Spring work is progressing slowly but well. Calving is 84% complete, lambing 87%. Hay, roughage supplies were reported to be 11% very short, 7% short, 77% adequate, 5% surplus. Irrigation supply 40% excellent, 45% good, 13% fair, 2% poor. Onions 40% planted, 49% 1999, 41% avg. Dry peas 1% planted, 11% 1999, 5% avg. Oats 2% planted, 4% 1999, 5% avg. Potatoes 1% planted, 1% 1999, 1% avg. Sugarbeets 10% planted, 14% 1999, 17% avg. Activities: Planting sugarbeets, spring wheat, spring barley, onions, potatoes, dry peas, lentils, oats, sorting, shipping seed potatoes, feeding, caring for livestock, field preparation.

ILLINOIS: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.1. Topsoil 18% very short, 48% short, 32% adequate, 2% surplus. Oats 59% planted, 55% 1999, 24% avg. Alfalfa 2% poor, 26% fair, 63% good, 9% excellent. Pasture 1% very poor, 8% poor, 35% fair, 50% good, 9% excellent. Farmers last week were seeding oats, forage crops along with working their fields in preparation for corn, soybean planting. There were reports from various areas of the state that some farmers had begun planting corn, soybeans on a limited number of acres. Most areas of the state received some minor rain showers last week but the dryness of the soil accompanied by gusty winds quickly dried the topsoil out again. Dry subsoils continue to be the greatest concern of farmers right now, there will be enough moisture to get a crop planted but there is little reserve in the subsoil to sustain the crop during a short dry period. The southeast region of the state is primarily the only region where reports of excessive soil moisture were received. Vegetable planting has begun in the north, peaches, nectarines were blooming in the south. Other activities for the last week of March included: Applying fertilizer, herbicides, preparing equipment for planting, waiting for soil temperatures to warm up, visiting local FSA offices to certify wheat acres, sign up for the oilseed program and fill out LDP, price support applications.

INDIANA: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.6. Topsoil 16% very short, 35% short, 47% adequate, 2% surplus. Subsoil 33% very short, 45% short, 22% adequate. Warm temperatures prevailed during the week. Soils are dry. Lack of precipitation, major concern. Farmers are plowing, tilling soils. Application of fertilizer, nitrogen continues. A few corn fields are planted, mostly southwest. Winter wheat 2% very poor, 5% poor, 23% fair, 55% good, 15% excellent. Winter wheat 18% jointed. Pastures greening up, growing. Range, pasture 13% very poor, 26% poor, 35% fair, 25% good, 1% excellent. Hay supplies mostly adequate. Farmers continue to purchase inputs. Livestock are in mostly good condition, calving, lambing active. Major activities: Tillage of soils, spreading chemicals, lime, preparing equipment, selling grain, ditching, seeding oats, hauling manure, feeding, caring for livestock.

IOWA: Very favorable, warm, dry weather, fieldwork running ahead of schedule. Corn planted 0%, 1999 0%, avg 0%, some farmers have fields ready, but waiting for more appropriate date to plant. Oats planted 15%, 99 57% avg. 15%. Fertilizer applied (including fall applications) 42%. Seedbed preparation (including fall preparation) 49%

KANSAS: Days suitable for fieldwork 2.1. Topsoil 5% short, 69% adequate, 26% surplus. Subsoil moisture 2% very short, 14% short, 73% adequate, 11% surplus. Winter wheat condition continued to improve with warmer weather, recent rains. Wheat 2% very poor, 8% poor, 36% fair, 43% good, 11% excellent. Wheat jointing 44% 30% 1999, 24% avg. Winterkill 88% none, 11% light, 1% moderate. Wind damage 87% none, 11% light, 2% moderate. Freeze damage 92% none, 7% light, 1% moderate. Range, Pasture 1% very poor, 6% poor, 36% fair, 51% good, 6% excellent. Oats seeded 71%, 92% 1999, 86% avg.

KENTUCKY: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.2. Topsoil moisture 2% very short, 19% short, 75% adequate, 4% surplus. Subsoil moisture 7% very short, 33% short, 57% adequate, 3% surplus. Pasture feeds 2% very poor, 11% poor, 41% fair, 37% good, 9% excellent. Above average temperatures were felt throughout the State for the 1st week of April. Land was being prepared for corn planting, tobacco beds were being seeded. About 65% of tobacco for transplants were seeded, corn planting began in the Southwestern part of the State. Areas gross sales through March totaled 413.7 million pounds, averaged \$189.82 per hundred pounds. Producers reported 3% loss in winter wheat, barley acreage due to winter kill. Alfalfa 3% loss, 5% red clover loss. Cattle in mostly good condition, with adequate hay supplies.

LOUISIANA: Days suitable for fieldwork 3.9. Soil moisture 3% very short, 12% short, 64% adequate, 21% surplus. Corn 61% planted, 49% 1999, 70% avg.; 58% emerged, 23% 1999, 38% avg. Rice 29% emerged, 11% 1999, 11% avg. Rice producers continued to plant. Spring plowing 71% plowing, 63% 1999, 62% avg. Sugarcane 1% poor, 11% fair, 46% good, 42% excellent. Sugarcane farmers were fertilizing, cultivating. Wheat 5% poor, 27% fair, 58% good, 10% excellent; 85% headed, 45% 1999, 34% avg.; 7% turning color, 0% 1999, 0% avg. Livestock 1% very poor, 6% poor, 41% fair, 42% good, 10% excellent. Vegetables 9% poor, 45% fair, 42% good, 4% excellent. Pastures 2% very poor, 15% poor, 34% fair, 42% good, 7% excellent. Pasture feed improved, providing much needed forage for livestock producers.

MARYLAND: Days suitable for fieldwork 3.8. Topsoil 11% short, 71% adequate, 18% surplus. Subsoil moisture 1% very short, 18% short, 72% adequate, 9% surplus. Percent of acreage prepared for 28% planting of spring crops. Winter wheat 1% poor, 16% fair, 61% good, 22% excellent. Barley 1% poor, 14% fair, 64% good, 21% excellent. Rye 1% poor, 13% fair, 71% good, 15% excellent. Potatoes 21% planted, 25% 1999, 15% avg. Green peas 32% planted, 40% 1999, 15% avg. Tobacco beds 88% planted, 80% 1999, 85% avg. Tomatoes 5% planted, 2% 1999, 1% avg. Apples 18% bloomed, 10% 1999, 6% avg. Peaches 60% bloomed, 25% 1999, 19% avg. Strawberries 18% bloomed, 15% 1999, 6% avg. Pasture feed 1% very poor, 3% poor, 21% fair, 61% good, 14% excellent. Hay supplies 9% very short, 37% short, 54% adequate. Activities: Potato, pea planting continued, tobacco auctions taking place in Southern Areas farmers spreading nitrogen on fields.

MICHIGAN: Soil moisture reserves across the state were at their lowest levels since the spring of 1988. Abnormally mild, dry weather has dominated the month with precipitation levels ranging from near normal down to little more than half of the monthly average. At the same time the temperature has ranged from 2° above normal in the southeast corner of the state to 7° above normal in the northwest area of the state. Many farmers took advantage of the nice weather by getting a jump on their spring field work top-dressing fertilizer, hauling manure, doing some tillage, repairing field tile, soil sampling. Some oats, sugarbeets were planted. The lambing season was coming to a close while calving is in progress throughout the state. Livestock were in good condition. Other activities occurring throughout the state have included: Boiling maple syrup, packing apples, pruning fruit trees, preparing equipment, obtaining supplies for spring planting.

MINNESOTA: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.2. Topsoil 20% very short, 32% short, 39% adequate, 9% surplus. Subsoil 26% very short, 31% short, 33% adequate, 10% surplus. Corn 4% ground prepared, 0% 1999,

5% avg. Soybeans 2% ground prepared, 0% 1999, 4% avg. Spring wheat 4% planted, 0% 1999, 0% avg. Oats 7% planted, 0% 1999, 0% avg. Barley 4% planted, 0% 1999, 1% avg. Green peas 3% planted, 0% 1999, 2% avg. Small grain planting began relatively early this year due to the mild dry weather this spring. Rains would be welcome across the state. Many are concerned about damage to overwintered crops due to the lack of snow cover for the majority of the winter, the early spring conditions. Calving, lambing have been doing extremely well with the mild weather, non-muddy conditions.

MISSISSIPPI: Days suitable for fieldwork 2.5. Soil moisture 2% very short, 16% short, 49% adequate, 33% surplus. Corn 67% planted, 42% 1999, 41% avg.; 52% emerged, 15% 1999, 15% avg. Rice 1% planted 2% 1999, 5% avg. Wheat 83% jointing, 78% 1999, 74% avg.; 24% heading, 6% 1999, 5% avg.; 2% poor, 15% fair, 63% good, 20% excellent. Watermelons 28% planted, 17% 1999, 18% avg. Blueberries 4% poor, 26% fair, 52% good, 18% excellent. Cattle 1% very poor, 8% poor, 24% fair, 57% good, 10 excellent. Pasture 2% very poor, 10% poor, 32% fair, 47% good, 9% excellent. Most parts of the state received rainfall. Many parts of the state are waiting for dry conditions to continue planting of row crops.

MISSOURI: Mild weather conditions throughout most of the State allowed for farmers to have access to their fields. An average of 4.9 days were suitable for fieldwork during the week of Monday, March 27th through Sunday, April 2nd. This ranged from 6 days in the northern third to 3.3 days in the Bootheel west-central districts. By the end of the week 53% of the ground had been worked at least once for spring crops, excluding no-till, compared with 42% last year. The topsoil moisture supplies were rated at 14% very short, 34% short, 48% adequate, 4% surplus. Districts with the highest ratings were the west-central, the Bootheel with over 70% adequate, some surplus. Hay supply was reported as 7% very short, 26% short, 61% adequate, and 6% surplus. Stock water supplies were rated 16% very short, 37% short, 45% adequate, and 2% surplus. Five percent of the corn was planted, slightly ahead of the 3% 1999. The Bootheel led all districts with 23% planted. Winter wheat 3% poor, 34% fair, 49% good, and 14% excellent. West-central and east-central districts reported the best conditions with over 75% in the good to excellent category. The weekly precipitation averaged 0.34 inch with the most precipitation reported in the southwest district at 0.90 inch.

MONTANA: Days suitable for fieldwork were 3.9. Topsoil 15% very short, 45% short, 39% adequate, 1% surplus. Subsoil moisture 25% very short, 50% short, 25% adequate, 0% surplus. Some producers in some southern areas of the state are seeding crops while others are spreading fertilizer. Fieldwork in progress was rated 70% none, 23% just started, 7% well underway. Winter wheat emergence was 12% still dormant, 70% greening, 18% green, growing. The overall lack of snow cover over the winter in combination with little moisture, high winds has taken its toll on the winter wheat crop. Wind damage to winter wheat 51% none, 36% light, 11% moderate, 2% heavy. Freeze, drought damage to the winter wheat crop is minimal, is rated 52% none, 36% light, 8% moderate, 4% heavy. Oats 1% planted, 1% 1999, 0% avg. Sugar beets 0% planted, 4% 1999, 1% avg. As a result of the continued fairly mild conditions, livestock is reported to be in very good condition. Calving, lambing is making good progress as few problems have occurred, death losses are minimal. Calving 64% completed, 63% 1999, 67% avg. Lambing 53% completed, 33% 1999, 41% avg. Producers are continuing to give supplemental feed to meet nutritional needs. At the end of the week, 97% of the cattle, calves, 88% of the sheep, lambs were receiving supplemental feed. There is a concern of a shortage of water for livestock as a result of below normal precipitation. There are some reports of ponds, reservoirs being either low or empty due to a lack of snowfall, runoff.

NEBRASKA: Topsoil moisture supplies were mostly short to adequate while subsoil moisture supplies were mostly very short to short. Temperatures across the State averaged about 2 to 5° above normals during the week. Precipitation ranged from traces to sixty hundredths. Winter Wheat 3% very poor, 8% poor, 31% fair, 51% good, 7% excellent. Oat seedings were 66% complete, compared to 30% 1999, 20% avg. Pasture, range 12% very poor, 20% poor, 44% fair, 22% good, 2% excellent. Calving was 78% complete, ahead of 1999 at 67%. Producer activities included: Crop planting preparations, livestock care.

NEVADA: The week began with temperatures averaging above normal, most locations received a trace of precipitation. Temperatures cooled to

below normal midweek, then rose to well above normal at week's end. Water equivalent of the snowpack remained below normal at most watersheds, ranging from 73% of normal at the Carson River to 101% of normal for eastern Areas. Irrigation water supplies rated mostly adequate. Deliveries of surface irrigation water began in the Lovelock area. The mild, mostly open weather allowed early season fieldwork to advance rapidly. Field preparation was active, spring grain planting was underway. Spring grains had emerged in Lyon County, crop condition was mostly good. Weed control was underway. Range conditions were generally good, except where burned in last summer's wild fires. Calving, lambing continued. Some turnout to lower grazing allotments underway. Main farm, ranch activities: Field preparation, grain planting, weed control, branding, working cattle.

NEW ENGLAND: Temperatures above average for the week. Maple sugaring activities were winding down throughout the region. Darker syrup was being reported in some areas due to the content of the sap which may have been affected by the drought from 1999. Farmers tending livestock, repairing machinery, bringing tractors, trucks, implements out of storage in preparation of the spring planting season. Manure spreading by dairy farmers continues. Garden centers gearing up for spring.

NEW JERSEY: Temperatures continue above normal. Land preparation activities include: Plowing, seed bed preparation. Fertilizer application on wheat, barley. Cumulative rainfall for year 2000 as much as 25% more than 1999 in the southern part of the state. Planting of peas, spinach, lettuce, cabbage, potatoes throughout the state. Apple, peach trees are being pruned with some peach trees beginning to bloom. Cutting of dandelions, leeks, spinach reported.

NEW MEXICO: Days suitable for field work. 5.2 Topsoil moisture was 30% very short, 18% short, 49% adequate, 3% surplus. For the second week in a row, an intense winter storm moved across area. Most of the precipitation was confined to the northern half, with only a few spots receiving over a tenth of an inch in the south. In the north, Farmington, Chama, Raton, Capulin/Des Moines, Red River all collected over one inch (water equivalent). While conditions improved, more moisture is still needed, especially in the southeast, southwest areas of the State. Main farm activities during the week were: Planting chile, alfalfa, oats, land preparation for spring planting. Onions remained in mostly good to excellent condition. Chile was 60% planted, was in fair to excellent condition. Both irrigated, dryland wheat improved as a result of the moisture during the week. Ranchers were still having to supplement feed for cattle. Cattle continued in fair to good condition, while sheep were in poor to good condition. Pasture, range conditions improved last week are 14% very poor, 29% poor, 50% fair, 7% good.

NEW YORK: Days suitable 2.0. Soil moisture 50% adequate, 50% surplus. Pasture feed very poor. Pastures are dormant, not used this time of year. As they dry, begin to grow livestock will be moved onto them. Maple syrup making complete in all but northern most areas. Producers reported good sap runs in majority of state. Clean-up work was active. Machinery was being readied for upcoming season. Very little plowing done yet. Onions being planted in Orange County. Other major activities: Tending livestock, spreading manure, finalizing plans for this season.

NORTH CAROLINA: Days suitable for field work were 4.5 compared to 4.2 last week. Widespread rainfall continued in areas through the last week of March as most areas in the State received precipitation. The 4th fourth consecutive week of precipitation has pushed statewide soil moisture to it's current rating of 1% very short, 3% short, 80% adequate, 16% surplus. The moisture again limited outdoor activities Farmers who were able to get in the field continue to prepare land for corn, cotton, tobacco. Activities: Tilling land, applying burn down to no-till acres. Irish potato, cabbage plantings are both over 90% complete, well ahead of schedule. Other activities included: Scouting for pests, equipment maintenance, tending livestock.

NORTH DAKOTA: Cooler temperatures, light rains last week halted any fieldwork that was started. The average starting date for fieldwork is April 9th. Topsoil 5% very short, 20% short, 70% adequate, 5% surplus. Subsoil moisture was 5% very short, 17% short, 72% adequate, 6% surplus. No durum wheat was planted. Cattle 0% very poor, 1% poor, 15% fair, 73% good, 11% excellent. Calf 0% very poor, 0% poor, 16% fair, 70% good, 14% excellent. Calving was 56% complete. 94% of the cattle were receiving supplemental feed. Sheep 0% very poor, 0% poor,

12% fair, 75% good, 13% excellent. Lamb 0% very poor, 0% poor, 14% fair, 72% good, 14% excellent. Lambing was 64% complete, shearing was 78% complete. 85% of the sheep were receiving supplemental feed. Hay, roughage supplies were 0% very short, 3% short, 86% adequate, 11% surplus. Pasture, ranges were 75% open, 93% dormant.

OHIO: Days suitable for fieldwork was 3.2 days. Topsoil moisture 4% very short, 23% short, 64% adequate, 9% surplus. Oats 23% planted, 21% 1999, 12% avg. Winter wheat 9% jointed, 3% 1999. Tobacco 31% beds seeded, 25% 1999. Tobacco beds having 6% plants up, 4% 1999. Potatoes 5% planted, 2% 1999, 1% avg. Pasture 3% very poor, 10% poor, 33% fair, 44% good, 10% excellent. Winter wheat 0% very poor, 2% poor, 14% fair, 50% good, 34% excellent. Activities throughout the state included : Applying anhydrous ammonia, fertilizer, lime, hauling manure, plowing, chiseling, discing, applying pre-emergence herbicides, burning brush, clearing fence rows, equipment maintenance, preparation, installing tile, moving grain, sowing oats, alfalfa seedlings, planting grasses, legumes, buying seed. A Pickaway county reporter mentioned that pastures are starting to green up, but that stands are significantly reduced from the dry weather 1999. A Richland county reporter said that several pastures need to be re-seeded due to grass, legumes burning up during 1999 drought. Livestock producers reported good to excellent conditions with few exceptions. Mild winter weather conditions caused respiratory problems, death in cattle in portions of northern area.

OKLAHOMA: Days suitable for fieldwork 3.1. Topsoil 1% very short, 7% short, 61% adequate, 31% surplus. Subsoil moisture 6% very short, 14% short, 67% adequate, 13% surplus. Wheat 4% poor, 19% fair, 61% good, 16% excellent; 84% jointing, 83% 1999, 67% avg.; 8% headed, 1% 1999, 1% avg. Oats 2% very poor, 5% poor, 28% fair, 57% good, 8% excellent; 96% planted, 98% 1999, 99% avg.; 45% jointing, 47% 1999, 34% avg. Corn 65% seedbed prepared, 60% 1999, 67% avg.; 15% planted, 12% 1999, 11% avg. Sorghum 20% seedbed prepared, 28% 1999, 26% avg. Soybeans 50% seedbed prepared, 31% 1999, 30% avg. Peanuts 27% seedbed prepared, 37% 1999, 29% avg. Cotton 52% seedbed prepared, 54% 1999, 38% avg.; Pasture 1% very poor, 10% poor, 34% fair, 48% good, 7% excellent; Livestock 4% poor, 26% fair, 59% good, 11% excellent.; Cattle marketings average.

OREGON: Days suitable for fieldwork 6. Topsoil 3% short, 88% adequate, 9% surplus. Subsoil 13% short, 73% adequate, 14% surplus. Barley 71% planted, 52% 1999, 50% avg. Barley 23% fair, 77% good. Spring wheat 48% planted, 22% 1999. Winter wheat 23% fair, 76% good, 1% excellent. Range, pasture 15% poor, 32% fair, 45% good, 8% excellent. Activities: Oregon's mild winter has been good for hay, grains planted last fall with fields starting to green. The mild winter was good for weeds, most winter cereals are being sprayed for weeds. More moisture needed for dryland crops. Spraying, Spring seeding dominated field work last week. Canola, sugarbeet planting started in eastern areas of the State. In western regions growers busy fertilizing, spraying grain crops, grass seed fields. Tillage underway for spring seedings. Good weather kept field work on schedule. Central valley mint, sugarbeet for seed fields looking rough; red clover, alfalfa growing well. Nurseries, greenhouses busy meeting demand brought by spring weather. Most of vegetable fields across State being prepared for planting. Activity mostly limited to soil preparation, fertilizer applications, application of pre-plant herbicides. In eastern areas, potato planting in full swing in Umatilla County with onion planting to begin in three weeks. Malheur County reported onions planted, potato planting to be in two weeks. In most of the Willamette Valley, vegetable planting slow due to wet fields. Some planting going on by truck gardens, lots of fields preparation for later plantings. Vegetable transplants growing in greenhouses, supplies of spring vegetables available for most needs. Corn ground preparation started. Snap peas up, doing well. Clackamas County reported rhubarb emerging. In Willamette Valley, fruit trees in various stages of bloom from just breaking to full bloom. Josephine County reported heavy frosts damaged peach, pear, plum trees that were in bloom, two nights of orchard heating reported from Jackson County. Dormant sprays completed, pink sprays started on early varieties of fruit. Vineyards still being pruned, cleaned. Berry crops coming out of dormancy, some cultivation underway; blueberry, cranberry growers hand weeding. Hazelnuts reported at kernel stage, being sprayed for Eastern Blight. Fruit trees in Umatilla County looked good though buds slow to emerge; no frost damage reported. More areas reporting livestock, pastures that are in good condition than there are areas reporting poor conditions.

PENNSYLVANIA: Days suitable for field work 2.6. Soil moisture 5% very short, 12% short, 65% adequate, 18% surplus. Plowing 20% complete, 15% 1999, 10% avg. Oats 8% planted complete, 7% 1999, 8%

avg. Wheat 2% poor, 8% fair, 76% good, 14% excellent. Oat 3% very poor, 53% fair, 44% good. Alfalfa, alfalfa mixtures stand 1% very poor, 2% poor, 15% fair, 65% good, 17% excellent. Timothy clover stand 4% very poor, 5% poor, 15% fair, 59% good, 17% excellent. Peaches 39% pink, 0% 1999, 4% avg. Cherries 12% pink, 0% 1999, 2% avg. Activities include: Spring plowing, planting oats, tobacco, fixing fences, machinery maintenance, ordering supplies, spreading lime, manure, caring for livestock, spraying herbicides, pruning trees, planting alfalfa.

SOUTH CAROLINA: Soil moisture 12% short, 86% adequate, 2% surplus. Barley 5% headed, 8% fair, 50% good, 42% excellent. Cantaloupe 20% planted, 17% 1999, 12% avg. Corn 50% planted, 43% 1999, 45% avg. Cucumbers 25% planted, 46% 1999, 32% avg. Grain hay 9% harvested, 8% 1999, 8% avg. Oats 15% headed, 16% 1999, 15% avg.; 21% fair, 69% good, 10% excellent. Peaches 6% fair, 43% good, 51% excellent. Rye 20% headed, 26% 1999, 19% avg.; 23% fair, 71% good, 6% excellent. Snap beans 30% planted, 29% 1999, 33% avg. Soybeans 1% planted. Sorghum 3% planted, 6% 1999, 2% avg. Soybeans 1% planted. Tobacco 6% transplanted, 5% 1999, 5% avg. Tomatoes 35% planted, 21% 1999, 33% avg. Watermelon 41% planted, 43% 1999, 37% avg. Winter grazing 1% poor, 34% fair, 55% good, 10% excellent. Winter wheat 6% headed, 14% 1999, 11% avg.; 1% poor, 12% fair, 78% good, 9% excellent.

SOUTH DAKOTA: Days suitable for field work 4.6. Winter wheat 5% poor, 25% fair, 59% good, 11% excellent; breaking dormancy 95%. Winter rye 8% poor, 27% fair, 49% good, 16% excellent; breaking dormancy 74%. Oats 1% emerged. Spring wheat 3% emerged. Range, pasture 2% very poor, 4% poor, 29% fair, 55% good, 10% excellent. Stock water supplies 1% very short, 13% short, 76% adequate, 10% surplus. Cattle 4% fair, 71% good, 25% excellent; moved to pasture 3%. Sheep 2% fair, 73% good, 25% excellent. Lambing 48%. Calving 41%. Calf deaths 48% below avg.; 51% avg.; 1% above avg. Sheep, lamb deaths 57% below avg.; 42% avg.; 1% above avg. Light showers across the state the middle of last week slowed spring seeding, tillage, without appreciably increasing soil moisture. Many reports of seeding into dry soil.

TENNESSEE: Days suitable for fieldwork 5. Topsoil 3% very short, 12% short, 75% adequate, 10% surplus. Subsoil moisture 10% very short, 32% short, 55% adequate, 3% surplus. Corn 14% planted, 3% 1999, 7% average. Tobacco 82% seeded, 71% 1999, 75% avg.; 50% plants up, 63% 1999, 43% avg. Wheat 1% very poor, 2% poor, 15% fair, 50% good, 32% excellent; 55% jointed, 41% 1999, 47% avg.; 96% top-dressed, 87% 1999. Apples 93% budding or beyond, 59% 1999, 65% avg.; 34% blooming or beyond, 27% 1999, 28% avg. Peaches 95% budding or beyond, 90% 1999, 84% avg.; 75% blooming or beyond, 77% 1999, 66% avg. Pastures 9% poor, 37% fair, 48% good, 6% excellent. Cattle 5% poor, 26% fair, 60% good, 9% excellent. Hay Stocks, 13% very short, 30% short, 53% adequate, 4% surplus. Ideal spring weather has allowed producers to make excellent progress with early season field work. Corn planting is progressing well, cotton planting should begin within the next few weeks, if weather cooperates. Livestock producers are currently fertilizing pasture land.

TEXAS: A weather front brought another round of thunder storms producing a few tornadoes, high winds, hail, rain with varied amounts to many areas of the state. Several hundred miles of fences were lost as a result of the storms. Considerable amounts of hail damage was received in some areas, replanting of some crops will be necessary. Land preparation continued but progress remained limited in areas where rains fell. Some areas missed the rain event entirely, others received only trace amounts of moisture. Pasture green up continued in areas where earlier rains fell, began in others with the aid of the recent rain showers. Supplemental feeding continued to decline in the wetter areas, but showed little change in other areas as the drought conditions prevailed. Livestock body condition was still not at optimum levels in many herds. Stock water was replenished in some areas as adequate run-off was received, however some stock ponds remained extremely low, others were dry. Cattle movement continued in areas where hay stocks, water reserves continued to be depleted. In the Rio Grande Valley, Winter Garden areas, vegetables continued to make good progress. Small Grains: Conditions for small grains remained varied throughout the state. Irrigated fields remain promising and recent rain showers benefitted some remaining dryland fields but some hail damage was also received. Hail damage was devastating in some locations. Statewide wheat 37% of normal compared with 69% 1999 year. Corn planting was complete in southern areas but remained active in the High Plains, North Central Areas. The planted crop was progressing nicely, however some hail

damage was received re-planting may be necessary in a few locations, the 1st cultivation began for some growers. Statewide corn at 86% of normal compared with 77% 1999. Emerged Published 47%, 1999 41%, Average NA. Cotton: Planting continued to move northward where soil moisture, temperature was adequate, however activity slowed in some areas as rains fell. More moisture will be needed in some High Plains areas before planting can begin. Where earlier planting's occurred, emergence was favorable. Rice: Planting continued for some growers, flushing of some planted fields began for others. Emerged Published 27%, 1999 6%, Average 4%. Sorghum: Planting was mostly completed in the southern areas while planting continued to move northward as weather conditions allowed. Cultivation began in earlier planted fields, continued rainfall in many parts of the state aided the prospects for a good growing season. Soybeans: Land preparation continued where possible, planting remained active along the upper Coast, South Central Areas. Emerged beans were making good progress, stands were favorable. Published 11%, 1999 14%, Average 6%. Commercial Vegetables, Fruit and Pecans: In the Rio Grande Valley, harvest remained active for greens, carrots, onions, cabbage. Spinach harvest was completed. Cantaloupe and melon planting continued, earlier planted fields were making good progress. Some citrus remained to be harvested. San Antonio-Winter Garden, potatoes were making good progress, watermelon planting remained active, however some re-planting was necessary as a result of wind damage. Harvest remained active for cabbage, carrots, broccoli. Planting of green beans and chili peppers continued. East Texas, planting of onions, cabbage, potatoes and commercial tomatoes was nearing completion. Strawberry and watermelon planting continued, some fields were damaged by hail. In the High Plains, potato and onion planting was mostly completed. Land preparation remained slow where rains fell. Fruit trees continued to bloom in many locations. Peaches: Trees were in full bloom, leafing out in the southern areas. Fruit setting continued in these areas, however earlier frost damage became more evident. The amount of chill hours needed for good production is still a concern for some varieties. Pecans: Bud break continued to move northward and the first applications of zinc were applied by some producers. Bag worms remained a problem in some orchards. Range and Livestock: Many areas of the state received additional rainfall along with high winds, hail in some locations. Some livestock was lost in a few areas as a result of flood waters. Green-up of range, pasture continued with the aid of the recent rains. Grass lost from dry conditions were planted in some locations. Run off was considerable in some locations where the rains fell. Supplemental feeding continued to decline where green-up was favorable. Hauling water to livestock remained necessary in a few locations.

UTAH: Days suitable for field work 6. Topsoil 10% short, 86% adequate, 4% surplus. Subsoil moisture 10% short, 89% adequate, 1% surplus. Winter wheat 1% poor, 21% fair, 72% good, 6% excellent.; freeze damage 90% none, 10% light. Fall barley 29% fair, 65% good, 6% excellent.; freeze damage 88% none, 11% light, 1% moderate. Pasture, range 7% poor, 33% fair, 59% good, 1% excellent. Spring wheat 34% planted, 1% emerged. Barley 32% planted, 1% emerged. Oats 6% planted. Apricots 97% full bloom or past. Cows 60% calved. Ewes lambing 58% on farm, 15% on range. Sheep sheared 45% on farm, 16% on range. Major farm, ranch activities included: Spring planting, spring tillage, spraying fruit, pruning fruit, shearing sheep, lambing, calving. Many counties have benefitted from the recent snow, rain storms.

VIRGINIA: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.0. Topsoil 15% short, 74% adequate, 11% surplus. Subsoil moisture 3% very short, 36% short, 54% adequate, 7% excellent. Pastures 1% very poor, 9% poor, 32% fair, 49% good, 9% excellent. Livestock 1% very poor, 4% poor, 18% fair, 63% good, 14% excellent. Other Hay 3% poor, 37% fair, 52% good, 8% excellent. Alfalfa Hay 1% poor, 24% fair, 61% good, 14% excellent. Corn for Grain 2% planted, 9% 1999, 5% avg. Winter Wheat 1% very poor, 5% poor, 23% fair, 56% good, 15% excellent. Barley 6% poor, 21% fair, 51% good, 22% excellent. Tobacco greenhouse 98% planted, 98% 1999, 98% avg.; 1% poor, 3% fair, 74% good, 22% excellent. Tobacco plantbeds 99% planted, 96% 1999, 93% avg.; 4% poor, 30% fair, 66% good. Potatoes, Summer 90% planted, 81% 1999, 73% avg. Apples 28% fair, 46% good, 26% excellent. Peaches 9% very poor, 4% poor, 33% fair, 49% good, 5% excellent. Temperatures across the Commonwealth last week, were a few degrees above normal for most localities. Rainfall only allowed for four days of fieldwork in most areas, however, precipitation levels continue to be below normal. Pasture, hay conditions showed a slight improvement from the previous week, but remain in mostly fair to good condition. Wheat, barley are in mostly fair to excellent condition, progressing ahead of normal. Corn planting, due to weather conditions,

has gotten off to a slow start this year. Many producers are working in between showers to prepare the land for planting. Tobacco plantbeds were rated in mostly fair to good condition, while tobacco greenhouses were rated in good to excellent condition. Nearly all the tobacco greenhouses, plantbeds had been seeded. Vegetable farmers continue to lay plastic, greenhouses have begun selling potted, bedded plants. Other activities for the week included: Applying fertilizer, lime, seeding grass, clover, spraying mulch on no-till vegetables, applying herbicides for no-till cotton, scouting, topdressing small grains.

WASHINGTON: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.6. Topsoil was 10% short, 70% adequate, 20% surplus; subsoil moisture 15% short, 84% adequate, surplus 1%. Winter wheat dryland 3% poor, 16% fair, 66% good, 15% excellent; irrigated 100% good. The 2000 winter wheat crop was generally off to a good start. However, the mild winter facilitated the growth of pests such as downy brome that required herbicide treatments. Spring wheat, dryland 1% poor, 92% fair, 7% good; irrigated 100% good. Planted 25%, 21% 1999, 20% avg. Barley, dryland 1% poor, 91% fair, 8% good; irrigated 100% good. Planted 16%, 21% 1999, 18% avg. Planting of the spring cereal grains were well underway and conditions were reportedly good. Potatoes planted 15%, 4% 1999; 5% emerged, 0% 1999. Hay, roughage 1% short, 99% adequate. Range, Pasture 25% poor, 40% fair, 35% good. Spring planting, activities were underway throughout Washington. Pasture growth was improving due to the increase of the temperatures. Spray programs had been started by pear growers due to the high populations of pests that were not killed throughout the winter. Christmas tree growers were finishing planting, applying fertilizers, herbicides. Turf grass growers were busy harvesting. Dairymen were preparing equipment for the upcoming season, calving was well underway.

WEST VIRGINIA: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.0. Topsoil 5% very short, 37% short, 55% adequate, 3% surplus. Despite much needed rainfall, producers made good progress preparing fields for spring planting. Wheat 25% fair, 60% good, 15% excellent. Hay 5% very poor, 20% poor, 45% fair, 30% good. Intended Acreage Prepared for Spring 40% Planting, 27% 1999, 30% 5-yr avg. Corn 0% planted, 0% 1999, 1% 5-yr avg. Oats 20% Planted, 12% 1999, 18% 5-yr avg.; 5% emerged, 0% 1999, 2% 5-yr avg. Tobacco beds 60% seeded, 61% 1999, 54% 5-yr avg. Tobacco beds 25% emerged, 7% 1999, 6% 5-yr avg. Cattle 2% very poor, 10% poor, 25% fair, 60% good, 3% excellent.; 75% calved. Sheep 1% poor, 13% fair, 80% good, 6% excellent; 85% lambing. Feed grain supplies 5% very short, 15% short, 80% adequate. Hay, roughage supplies 15% very short, 50% short, 35% adequate. Activities: Field preparation, planting, calving, lambing, general maintenance.

WISCONSIN: Days suitable for fieldwork 4.4. Soil moisture 10% very short, 44% short, 45% adequate, 1% surplus. Spring tillage completed 11% 2000, 9% 1999, 3% 5-year average. The 2000 growing season has started with all regions of the state reporting relatively dry conditions. The need for rain was caused by below normal snowfall during the winter, dry conditions during March. March is usually characterized by a state average rainfall of 1.74 inches, but this year only 1.20 inches fell. Scattered, light showers the beginning of last week were not enough to help raise moisture levels. Most of the fieldwork that has occurred has been in the southern two-thirds of the state. Many producers were waiting for rain before tilling. Frost has been reported as mostly out of the ground, except in shady areas of fields in the north. Alfalfa, winter wheat have been reported as coming through winter in good condition with very little winterkill. Both crops were greening-up, beginning to break dormancy, but were in need of moisture. Comments on maple syrup production were mixed. Warm weather at the end of February, in early March caused intermittent flows, decreased yields, sugar content. Many farmers continued to haul manure, spread lime, fertilize pastures, wheat fields.

WYOMING: Days suitable for fieldwork 5.0. Topsoil 7% very short, 42% short, 47% adequate, 4% surplus. Barley 42% planted, 59% 1999, 35% avg. Oats 5% planted, 17% 1999, 7% avg. Spring wheat 8% planted, 25% 1999, 13% avg. Spring calves 61% born, 60% 1999, 60% avg. Farm flock ewes 68% lambing, 66% 1999, 70% avg. Farm flock sheep 64% shorn 72% 1999, 74% avg. Range flock ewes 14% lambing, 9% 1999, 8% avg. Range flock sheep 30% shorn, 31% 1999, 29% avg. Range, pasture 2% poor, 56% fair, 38% good, 4% excellent. Hay, roughage supplies 63% adequate, 37% surplus. Calves, lambs in good condition.

International Weather and Crop Summary

March 26 - April 1, 2000

HIGHLIGHTS

EUROPE: Showers in northern and central Italy further improved soil moisture for jointing winter grains.

FSU-WESTERN: Unseasonably mild weather prompted greening of winter grains in Ukraine and southern Russia, and raised soil temperatures to favorable levels for early-spring grain planting.

AUSTRALIA: Dry weather aided cotton and sorghum harvests.

SOUTH AMERICA: In central Argentina and southern Brazil, early-week showers slowed summer crop harvesting, but drier weather favored fieldwork later in the week.

EASTERN ASIA: Across the North China Plain, warm weather favored early vegetative wheat growth, but increased irrigation demands. Across the northern Yangtze Valley, rain is needed for wheat development.

SOUTHEAST ASIA: Heavy showers hampered fieldwork and caused local flooding across peninsular Thailand and Malaysia, while showers caused no major rice harvest delays in Java.

SOUTH AFRICA: Wet weather hampered corn maturation but increased moisture for winter wheat planting.

NORTHWESTERN AFRICA: Drought continued to reduce yield prospects for winter grains in the reproductive to filling stages.

March 2000

MONTHLY DATA FROM SELECTED FOREIGN CITIES CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER-NCEP-NWS-NOAA

*** DATA NOT AVAILABLE

COUNTRY CITY	TEMPERATURE (C)					PRECIPITATION (MM)		
	AVG MAX	AVG MIN	HI MAX	LO MIN	AVG	DPART F/INRM	TOTAL	DPART F/INRM
NORWAY OSLO	5	-3	13	-10	1	3.1	30	-23
SWEDEN STOCKHOLM	6	-3	14	-11	2	1.6	***	**
FINLAN HELSINKI	2	-4	11	-12	-1	2.0	37	3
UKINGD ABERDEEN	10	3	17	-4	7	2.0	39	-19
MANCHESTER	11	5	17	-1	8	1.9	39	-20
NOTTINGHAM	11	4	15	-1	7	1.3	29	-8
SOUTHAMPTON	12	6	16	1	9	2.0	16	-37
IRELAN DUBLIN	11	4	15	-2	8	1.1	22	-31
ICELAN REYKJAVIK	3	-1	10	-8	1	0.5	70	-12
DENMAR COPENHAGEN	7	1	14	-3	4	2.0	50	18
LUXEMB LUXEMBOURG	9	2	16	-4	6	1.4	68	0
SWITZE ZURICH	10	3	17	-2	7	2.2	93	21
GENEVA	12	3	20	-3	8	2.4	63	-16
FRANCE PARIS/LEBOURG	12	5	18	-1	9	1.9	30	-23
STRASBOURG	12	4	19	-4	8	2.2	42	5
BOURGES	12	3	18	-2	8	1.0	45	-15
BORDEAUX	16	5	20	-1	10	1.7	78	2
TOULOUSE	15	5	22	-1	10	1.5	47	-11
MARSEILLE	17	7	21	1	12	1.8	62	18
SPAIN VALLADOLID	16	3	23	-1	10	1.9	32	-2
MADRID	18	4	23	-1	11	1.3	42	-5
SEVILLE	23	10	29	7	17	1.7	24	-69
PORTUG LISBON	19	11	25	8	15	1.9	17	-82
GERMAN HAMBURG	8	3	13	-2	6	1.8	99	43
BERLIN	9	3	15	-2	6	1.7	94	56
DUSSELDORF	10	4	17	-2	7	1.3	62	21
LEIPZIG	8	3	15	-2	6	2.2	68	34
DRESDEN	8	2	15	-2	5	1.8	115	78
STUTTGART	10	3	17	-4	6	1.7	66	25
NURNBERG	9	2	18	-4	6	1.8	78	33
AUGSBURG	9	2	17	-4	5	1.1	101	57
AUSTRI VIENNA	10	3	18	-5	7	1.5	82	51
INNSBRUCK	11	1	18	-5	6	1.5	168	120
CZECHR PRAGUE	7	1	15	-3	4	1.4	89	61
POLAND WARSAW	7	1	14	-10	4	1.5	37	9
LODZ	7	1	15	-5	4	2.0	82	46
KATOWICE	7	1	15	-7	4	1.8	99	61
PRZEMYSL	7	1	16	-6	4	1.4	70	37
HUNGAR BUDAPEST	10	3	18	-3	6	0.8	41	12
YUGOSL BELGRADE	13	5	24	-2	9	2.1	24	-28
ROMANI BUCHAREST	13	1	21	-7	7	2.7	44	12
BULGAR SOFIA	11	0	22	-6	6	0.9	37	-4
ITALY MILAN	17	5	26	0	11	3.0	59	-18
VERONA	14	3	17	-5	8	0.0	40	-16
VENICE	13	5	16	0	9	1.2	30	-27
GENOA	15	10	18	7	12	0.8	42	-45
ROME	15	7	18	0	11	0.2	60	-4
NAPLES	19	10	23	5	15	3.8	46	-38
GREECE THESSALONIKA	14	3	21	-3	9	-0.9	4	-42
LARISSA	16	1	24	-5	9	-0.7	22	-15
ATHENS	16	8	23	2	12	-0.3	2	-33
TURKEY ISTANBUL	12	5	24	0	8	1.7	62	-1
ANKARA	9	-3	21	-13	3	-2.1	26	-1
CYPRUS LARNACA	18	7	21	3	13	-0.6	27	-12
ESTONI TALLINN	3	-3	12	-8	0	2.2	39	11
RUSSIA ST.PETERSBURG	2	-3	10	-11	0	1.7	40	8
LITHUA KAUNAS	5	-1	11	-5	2	2.4	49	16
BELARU MINSK	4	-1	8	-5	1	2.7	40	-1
RUSSIA KAZAN	-1	-8	5	-17	-4	0.9	23	-3
MOSCOW	3	-4	9	-12	-1	1.8	47	13
YEKATERINBURG	2	-5	8	-11	-2	2.3	15	0
OMSK	-1	-10	5	-20	-6	2.4	11	-3
KRASNOYARSK	1	-7	11	-16	-3	***	17	**
NOVOSIBIRSK	-1	-9	7	-21	-5	6.8	16	1
BARNAUL	0	-10	8	-24	-5	2.4	22	3
KHABAROVSK	-3	-13	4	-22	-8	-1.4	16	-2
VLADIVOSTOK	2	-4	8	-13	-1	1.0	15	-9
UKRAIN KIEV	5	-1	11	-4	2	1.2	34	-3
LVOV	6	0	15	-7	3	1.7	74	33
KIROVOGRAD	5	-1	11	-10	2	2.0	42	18

Based on Preliminary Reports

March 2000

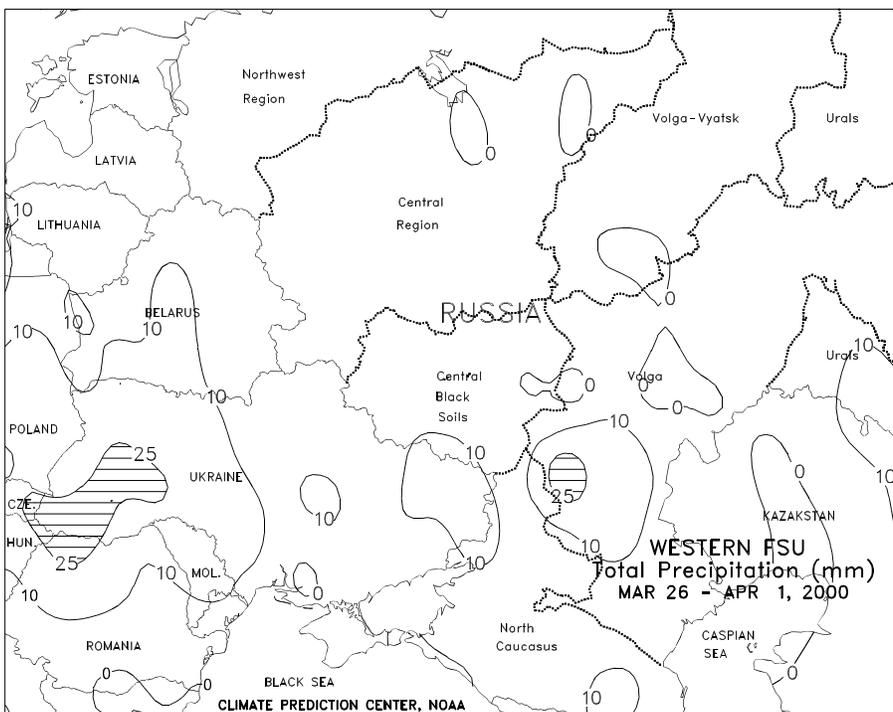
COUNTRY CITY	TEMPERATURE (C)					PRECIPITATION (MM)			COUNTRY CITY	TEMPERATURE (C)					PRECIPITATION (MM)		
	AVG MAX	AVG MIN	HI MAX	LO MIN	AVG	DPART F/NRM	TOTAL	DPART F/NRM		AVG MAX	AVG MIN	HI MAX	LO MIN	AVG	DPART F/NRM	TOTAL	DPART F/NRM
RUSSIA ODESSA	8	2	19	-2	5	2.1	12	-17	ETHIOP ADDIS ABABA	23	12	26	5	18	0.2	11	-56
RUSSIA YALTA	9	3	21	-2	6	-0.2	60	18	KENYA NAIROBI	30	15	40	11	22	1.8	62	-8
RUSSIA VORONEZH	2	-3	6	-10	0	***	56	**	TANZAN DAR ES SALAAM	31	23	34	22	27	0.2	125	-8
RUSSIA SARATOV	2	-3	6	-9	-1	3.8	38	18	GABON LIBREVILLE	31	25	33	22	28	0.8	208	-197
RUSSIA VOLGOGRAD	5	-2	9	-12	1	4.4	49	18	TOGO LOME	33	26	34	21	**	***	87	17
UKRAIN ZDANOV	4	0	8	-9	2	1.8	76	46	BURKIN OUAGADOUGOU	38	23	42	19	31	-0.2	0	-6
RUSSIA ASTRAKHAN	10	0	15	-8	5	3.3	6	-9	COTE D ABIDJAN	32	26	38	23	29	1.7	61	-39
RUSSIA KRASNODAR	10	1	20	-6	5	1.8	54	-2	MOZAMB MAPUTO	30	23	32	21	26	0.7	372	282
KAZAKS ATBASAR	-4	-14	3	-23	-9	2.2	24	9	MALAWI CHILEKA	28	20	31	19	24	0.9	48	-95
RUSSIA ORENBURG	-1	-9	5	-18	-5	1.1	13	-9	ZIMBAB HARARE	26	17	29	16	22	2.0	218	120
KAZAKS KARAGANDA	-2	-11	8	-23	-6	0.4	9	-9	S AFRI PRETORIA	26	17	30	15	22	1.0	178	99
GEORGI TBILISI	11	2	20	-4	7	-0.4	19	-10	KROONSTAD	26	16	29	12	21	***	86	**
UZBEKI TASHKENT	16	5	32	-2	10	1.6	36	-35	JOHANNESBURG	22	13	26	10	18	-0.4	155	65
TURKME ASHKHABAD	16	5	28	-1	10	0.6	13	-30	BETHAL	24	14	28	9	19	1.0	175	88
SYRIA DAMASCUS	18	3	26	-4	11	-0.6	18	-3	DURBAN	28	22	31	18	25	1.1	148	21
ISRAEL JERUSALEM	15	6	23	2	10	-1.4	98	7	CAPE TOWN	26	15	33	0	21	1.4	10	-11
INDIA AMRITSAR	27	10	33	5	18	-0.6	0	-42	CANADA TORONTO	9	0	21	-7	5	5.2	19	-38
INDIA NEW DELHI	30	15	38	11	22	-0.3	21	6	MONTREAL	6	-3	17	-14	2	3.9	63	-4
INDIA AHMEDABAD	36	18	42	9	27	-0.5	0	0	WINNIPEG	6	-6	17	-19	0	6.9	68	45
INDIA INDORE	34	16	41	12	25	0.3	0	-3	REGINA	7	-7	18	-20	0	5.9	11	-5
INDIA CALCUTTA	33	22	36	16	27	0.0	0	-22	SASKATOON	4	-7	13	-22	-2	5.2	41	25
INDIA VERAVAL	31	20	39	17	26	0.5	0	0	LETHBRIDGE	7	-4	17	-16	2	2.3	47	21
INDIA BOMBAY	33	20	41	16	26	-0.1	0	0	CALGARY	5	-6	16	-15	0	2.0	26	11
INDIA POONA	35	14	39	10	25	-1.2	0	-3	EDMONTON	3	-6	13	-16	-1	2.3	9	-9
INDIA BEGAMPET	36	20	38	16	28	0.0	1	-14	VANCOUVER	10	4	13	-1	7	0.7	108	-2
INDIA KAKINADA	33	23	36	20	28	0.2	0	-12	MEXICO GUADALAJARA	29	12	32	4	21	1.4	0	-6
INDIA MADRAS	33	23	35	19	28	-0.2	13	7	MEXICO CITY	**	**	28	10	***	**	4	-4
INDIA MANGALORE	34	23	36	21	28	0.2	0	-9	ACAPULCO	29	21	33	17	25	-1.1	0	-4
HONGKO KINGS PEAK	22	17	28	10	19	***	42	**	BERMUD ST. GEORGES	21	16	24	12	18	0.3	63	-50
N KORE NAMPO	9	1	16	-5	5	2.1	2	-16	BAHAMA NASSAU	27	19	31	14	23	0.7	37	-3
S KORE SEOUL	11	2	19	-5	7	3.1	3	-53	CUBA HAVANA/MARTI	29	17	32	11	23	-0.2	0	-25
JAPAN SAPPORO	3	-3	11	-10	0	0.1	105	23	JAMAIC KINGSTON	31	22	33	21	27	0.4	1	-19
JAPAN NAGOYA	13	3	17	-3	8	0.3	110	0	P RICO SAN JUAN	28	21	31	19	25	-0.9	15	-44
JAPAN TOKYO	14	6	20	2	10	1.0	88	-12	GUADEL RAIZET	29	21	31	18	25	0.3	41	-5
JAPAN YOKOHAMA	13	5	18	0	9	1.2	116	-3	MARTIN LAMENTIN	28	22	30	18	25	0.5	92	18
JAPAN KYOTO	13	4	18	-1	8	0.6	104	-4	BARBAD BRIDGETOWN	29	23	29	20	26	-0.1	54	17
JAPAN OSAKA	13	6	19	0	9	0.8	96	-6	TRINID PORT OF SPAIN	**	22	33	19	***	**	34	4
THAILA PHITSANULOK	35	22	37	18	29	-0.9	3	-24	COLOMB BOGOTA	19	9	22	1	14	0.0	73	14
THAILA BANGKOK	34	26	37	23	30	0.8	44	16	F GUIA CAYENNE	29	23	31	21	26	0.4	268	-93
MALAYS KUALA LUMPUR	33	24	36	21	29	1.9	176	-40	BRAZIL FORTALEZA/PINT	31	25	32	22	28	0.6	221	-69
VIETNA HANOI	23	19	31	9	21	0.7	35	-4	RECIFE	30	23	32	20	27	0.2	163	-96
CHINA HARBIN	3	-7	11	-17	-2	4.1	5	-5	BELO HORIZONTE	27	20	32	18	24	0.0	131	-25
CHINA HAMI	14	-2	26	-9	6	1.9	0	-1	CAMPO GRANDE	31	22	35	20	26	1.3	223	83
CHINA LANCHOW	14	1	26	-4	7	2.1	5	-4	FRANCA	27	19	30	17	23	4.3	146	-34
CHINA BEIJING	14	2	24	-3	8	3.0	9	0	RESENDE	28	19	33	16	24	0.2	211	-1
CHINA TIENTSIN	14	3	24	-2	9	2.8	3	-4	LONDRINA	28	19	32	15	23	-0.4	159	18
CHINA LHASA	11	-1	19	-5	5	0.4	9	7	SANTA MARIA	27	17	34	8	22	0.2	247	96
CHINA KUNMING	20	9	26	6	15	2.0	45	29	PORTO ALEGRE	29	19	34	9	24	0.4	10	-79
CHINA CHENGCHOW	18	6	25	2	12	4.0	0	-25	PERU LIMA	25	18	28	16	22	-0.6	0	0
CHINA YEHCHANG	19	9	31	4	14	3.4	40	-17	BOLIVI LA PAZ	14	4	18	1	9	0.3	97	20
CHINA HANKOW	18	10	27	5	14	4.2	29	-56	CHILE SANTIAGO	28	9	31	4	18	0.5	0	-2
CHINA NEIJIANG	18	11	29	8	15	0.1	26	-1	ARGENT FORMOSA	31	21	37	13	26	0.5	41	-121
CHINA CHIHKIANG	16	10	28	3	13	2.6	191	118	POSADAS	31	20	34	11	25	1.0	63	-80
CHINA NANJING	16	7	26	1	11	3.0	25	-43	CERES	27	16	32	7	22	-1.0	121	-14
CHINA HANGZHOU	15	8	27	3	12	2.4	111	1	CORDOBA	25	14	28	3	20	-0.8	193	76
CHINA NANCHANG	16	10	24	6	13	2.2	174	23	RIO CUARTO	25	14	29	4	20	-0.1	52	-67
CHINA TAIPEI	21	16	29	12	19	1.6	124	-50	ROSARIO	27	15	32	6	21	0.3	96	-70
CHINA CANTON	23	16	32	9	19	1.9	46	-39	BUENOS AIRES	27	15	33	5	21	0.9	42	-65
CHINA NANNING	21	15	33	8	18	-0.1	27	-21	SANTA ROSA	25	12	30	1	19	-0.4	143	56
CANARY LAS PALMAS	23	17	30	14	20	1.4	0	-10	TRES ARROYOS	24	13	30	5	19	0.4	59	-23
MOROCC CASABLANCA	21	12	32	5	17	2.2	0	-49	SAMOA PAGO PAGO	32	25	34	22	28	0.8	464	169
MOROCC MARRAKECH	26	13	33	9	20	3.8	0	-31	TAHITI PAPEETE	32	24	33	22	28	0.9	155	-40
ALGERI ALGER	20	7	29	2	14	0.6	20	-39	NZEALA AUCKLAND	22	16	25	10	19	***	41	**
ALGERI BATNA	19	3	26	-7	11	2.4	37	-6	WELLINGTON	18	14	23	9	16	***	37	**
TUNISI TUNIS	21	10	27	6	15	2.1	9	-36	AUSTRAL DARWIN	30	25	33	23	27	-0.7	354	16
NIGER NIAMEY	36	22	42	17	29	-1.6	0	-5	GOONDIWINDI	30	19	34	16	24	0.1	58	8
MALI TIMBUKTU	37	19	43	13	28	0.3	0	0	BRISBANE	27	20	29	17	24	-0.2	38	-107
MALI BAMAKO	38	24	40	19	31	0.2	0	-3	PERTH	29	17	37	9	23	-0.3	31	17
MAURIT NOUAKCHOTT	34	20	39	14	27	2.4	0	0	CEDUNA	26	16	41	8	21	1.1	17	-3
SENEGA DAKAR	27	19	40	16	23	2.3	0	0	ADELAIDE	24	16	38	9	20	0.3	22	1
CHAGOS DIEGO GARCIA	30	26	31	24	28	0.2	175	-53	MELBOURNE	24	15	36	8	20	1.1	16	-19
LIBYA TRIPOLI	24	9	35	3	16	0.8	8	-25	WAGGA	28	16	36	9	22	1.2	24	-16
LIBYA BENGHAZI	20	10	32	5	15	-0.2	0	-24	CANBERRA	25	14	33	5	19	1.7	46	-7
EGYPT CAIRO	22	11	33	8	16	-1.2	2	-3	INDONE BANDUNG	28	21	31	18	24	1.9	86	-167
EGYPT ASWAN	29	13	39	7	21	-0.9	0	0	PHILIP MANILA	32	26	34	25	29	1.0	23	13

Based on Preliminary Reports



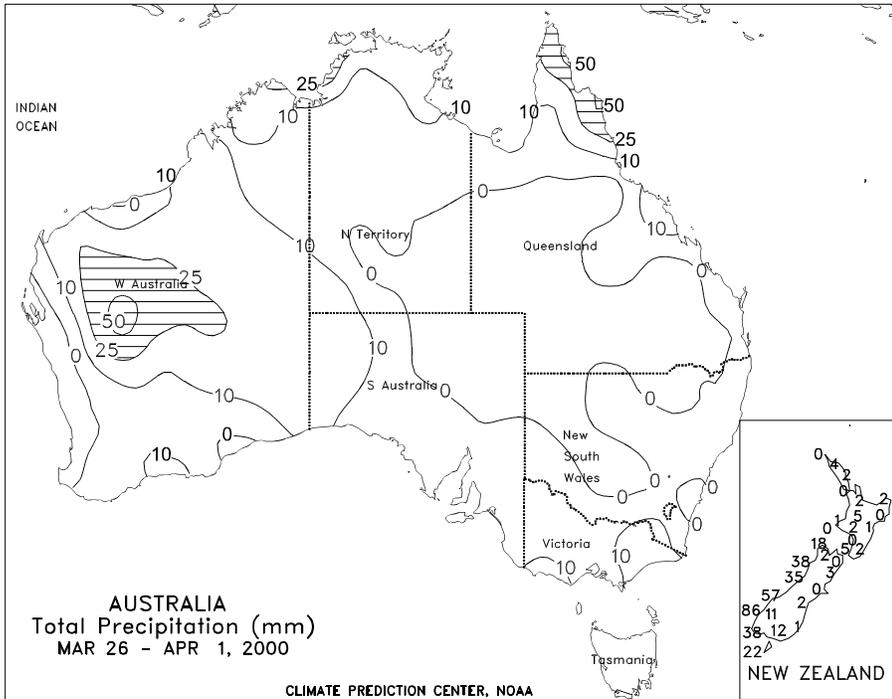
EUROPE

In England, relatively dry weather continued (less than 10 mm) to help fieldwork, but reduced topsoil moisture for germinating to emerging spring-sown crops. In contrast, scattered showers (7-35 mm, with locally higher amounts) across France, the Benelux countries, and southern Germany benefited tillering to jointing winter wheat and barley and recently sown spring grains. Similarly, scattered showers (12-51 mm) across Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Austria maintained moisture supplies for dormant and semi-dormant winter grains and oilseeds. Farther south, dry weather prevailed (less than 10 mm) from Hungary and Romania southward, reducing topsoil moisture for winter wheat and barley. In northern and central Italy, generous rainfall (22-74 mm, with locally higher amounts) improved soil moisture for jointing winter grains. Dry weather (less than 10 mm) returned to much of the Iberian peninsula, hampering winter grain development, especially in southern areas. In western Europe, below-normal temperatures (2-4 degrees C below normal) slowed crop development, while in eastern Europe above-normal temperatures (2-4 degrees C above normal) helped winter grains begin to ease out of dormancy in southern areas.



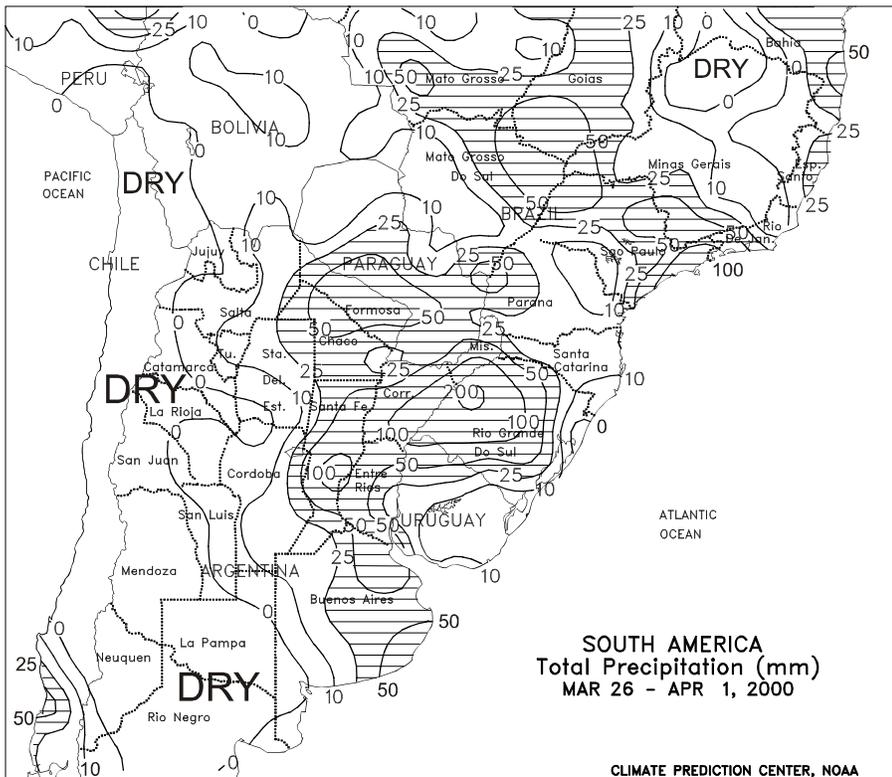
FSU-WESTERN

Unseasonably mild weather prevailed over most of the region. Weekly temperatures averaged 1 to 4 degrees C above normal in Ukraine and southern Russia, prompting greening of winter grains at near-normal dates. Furthermore, the mild weather raised soil temperatures to favorable levels for early-spring grain planting. Recent reports indicated that fieldwork for spring grain planting began in southern Russia during the week, helped by mild and generally dry weather conditions. Farther north, temperatures averaged near normal in northern Russia, continuing to melt the moderate to deep snow cover over dormant winter grains. Storm systems continued to track from the Ukraine eastward into the Volga Valley region in Russia, producing light to moderate rainfall (7-25 mm or more). Elsewhere in northern Russia, Belarus, and the Baltics, precipitation (less than 10 mm) was light and scattered.



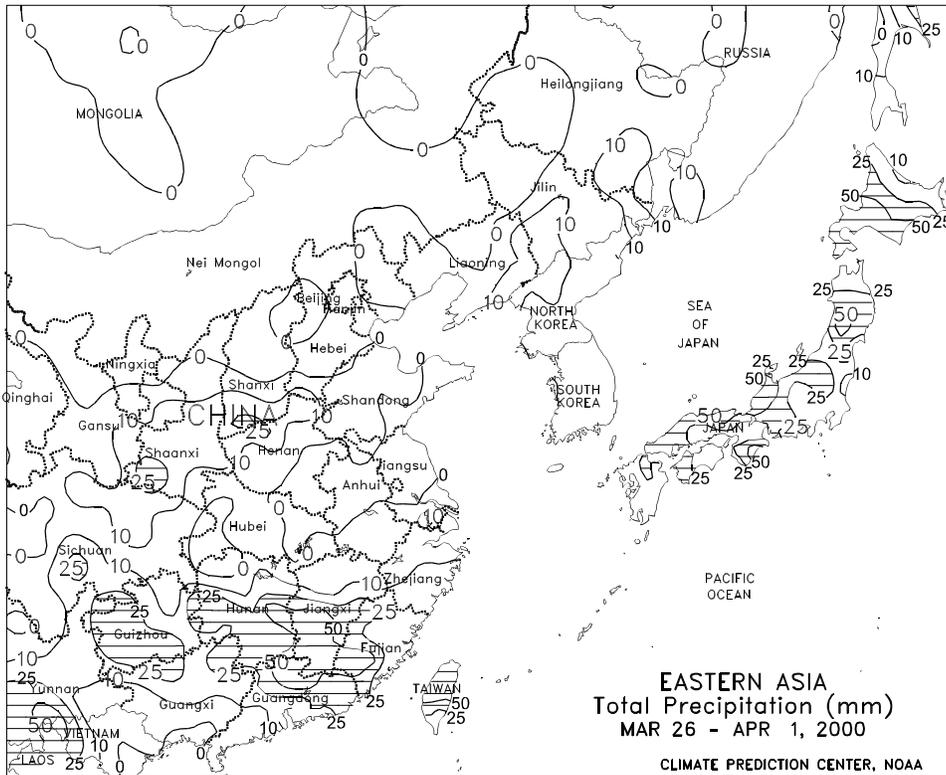
AUSTRALIA

Following last week's surge in shower activity, dry, warm weather aided cotton and sorghum harvesting in Queensland and New South Wales. Along the coast, mostly dry, sunny weather continued to favor sugarcane growth, with moderate showers (25-50 mm or more) from an approaching tropical cyclone confined to Queensland's northernmost growing areas. Mostly dry weather also continued in the southeast (south Australia to southern New South Wales). Scattered, mostly light showers (10 mm or less) covered Western Australia's agricultural districts, although heavier rainfall (25-50 mm or more) lingered at the northern edge of the growing region. In New Zealand, precipitation was negligible in the small grain and pasture areas.



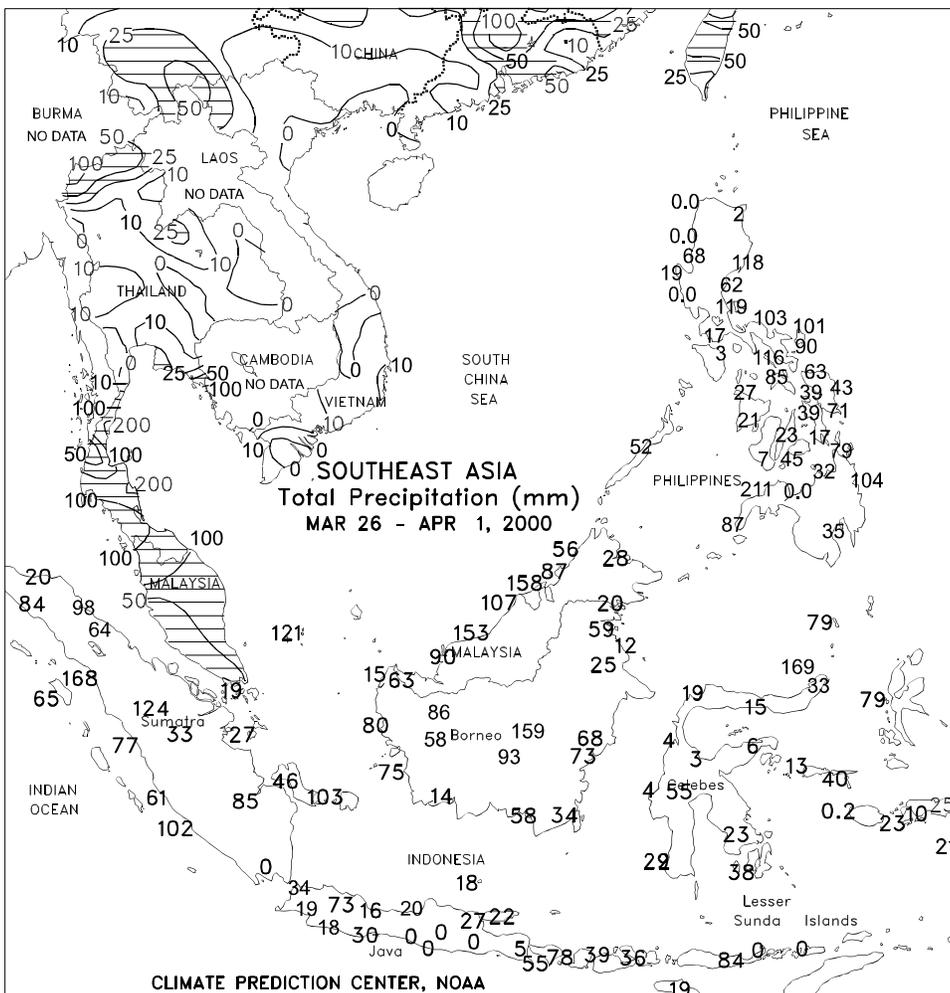
SOUTH AMERICA

Early-week showers (30-75 or more) fell across the eastern and northern summer crop areas of Argentina into Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, slowing summer crop harvesting. However, mostly drier weather prevailed later in the week, aiding crop maturation and fieldwork. Elsewhere in southern Brazil, showers (20-60 mm) spread across Mato Grosso, Goiás, and Sao Paulo, but caused only minor harvest delays. In southern Brazil, temperatures averaged 1 to 3 degrees C above normal from Parana northward. According to reports as of March 31, Brazilian soybeans were 35 percent harvested, compared with the 5-year average of 43 percent. In Parana, soybeans were 38 percent harvested, compared with the 5-year average of 64 percent. Elsewhere, harvest progress was near the 5-year average. In Rio Grande do Sul, harvesting was just beginning and was 2 percent complete. Cool weather (temperatures 2-3 degrees C below normal) prevailed across Argentina, with lows reaching near freezing in San Luis and La Pampa. The corn was mature throughout the region and not at risk for frost damage. According to reports as of March 31, Argentine corn, sunflower, and rice were 87, 30, and 24 percent harvested, respectively. Corn was 87 percent harvested in Entre Rios, 64 percent in Santa Fe, 26 percent in Buenos Aires, and 25 percent in Cordoba. Sorghum was 6 percent harvested, while first-crop soybeans were 5 percent harvested. In the north, cotton was 30 percent harvested in Formosa, 8 percent in Chaco, and remained at 3 percent in Santa Fe.



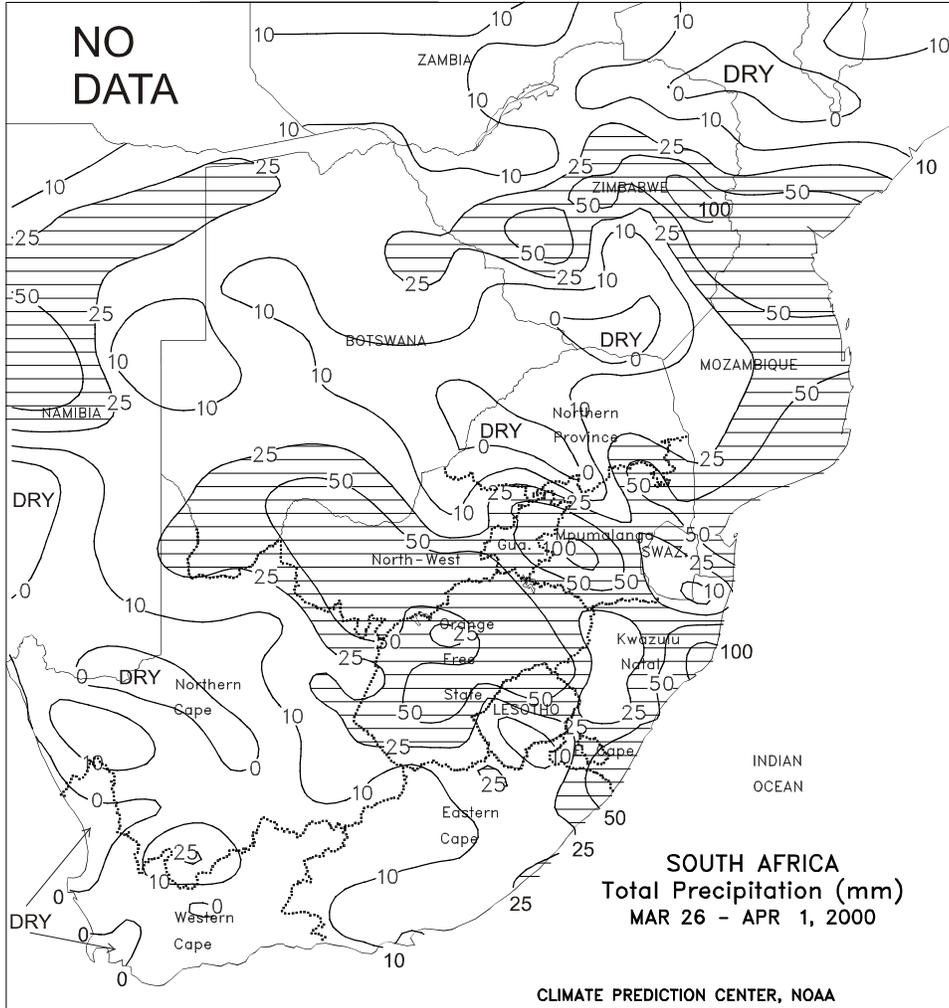
EASTERN ASIA

In the North China Plain, warm weather continued to promote early-winter wheat growth, but increased irrigation demands. Temperatures averaged 3 to 5 degrees C above normal, with the highs reaching into the middle 20's degrees C across the region. Light rain (5-20 mm) fell across western wheat areas of Shaanxi into the northern Henan, aiding vegetative wheat. The rest of the North China Plain, however, remained dry, where topsoils need some moisture after the typically dry winter. In Manchuria, seasonably warmer weather favored spring wheat planting in Jilin, but soil temperatures were likely still too low for spring wheat planting in Heilongjiang. Dryness continued in the northern portion of the Yangtze Valley (Hubei, Anhui, and Jiangsu). Farther south, rain (10-60 mm) boosted moisture supplies for early double-crop rice and reproductive to filling winter grains. Temperatures averaged 3 to 6 degrees C above normal across central and southern China.



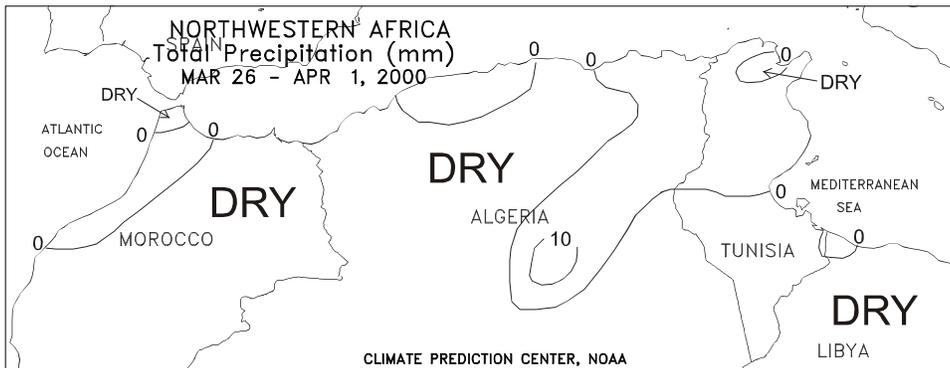
SOUTHEAST ASIA

In Java, Indonesia, scattered showers (20-70 mm) maintained irrigation supplies, but caused no major harvest delays for main-season rice. Moderate to heavy showers (30-70 mm) fell across peninsular Malaysia, boosting moisture supplies, but hampering oil palm fieldwork. Unseasonably heavy showers (75-200 mm) fell across peninsular Thailand, causing local flooding and slowing plantation crop fieldwork. Mostly dry weather prevailed across Thailand, aiding maturing second-crop rice maturation and harvesting. Moderate showers (20-75 mm) boosted moisture supplies in extreme northwestern Thailand. Scattered, light showers (less than 20 mm) did not hamper winter-spring rice harvesting in the Mekong River Delta of southern Vietnam. In the Philippines, heavy showers (60-120 mm) continued across southern Luzon, boosting moisture supplies, but causing local flooding. Scattered, heavy showers (100-200 mm) also caused flooding on the southern island of Mindanao.



SOUTH AFRICA

Late-season showers and thunderstorms (10-50 mm or more) swept across the corn belt, hampering summer crop maturation and drydown. While coming too late to benefit most summer crops, the rain increased moisture reserves for wheat planting. Seasonable temperatures continued to favor late crop development and alleviate concern for an early-autumn freeze. Elsewhere, locally heavy rain (25-50 mm, locally reaching 100 mm) covered coastal sugarcane areas of KwaZulu-Natal, maintaining adequate to abundant moisture reserves. Somewhat lighter rain (5-25 mm) fell in Eastern Cape, while dry, cool weather dominated Western Cape. Wheat planting is scheduled to begin next month in Western Cape, which usually accounts for 20 to 30 percent of the Nation's total production.



NORTHWESTERN AFRICA

Drought conditions continued throughout the winter growing regions. Showers were light (1-6 mm) and scattered, while temperatures remained above normal for most of the region. Consistent precipitation is still needed to help stabilize conditions for winter grains in the reproductive to filling stages of development and to prevent further reductions in crop yields.

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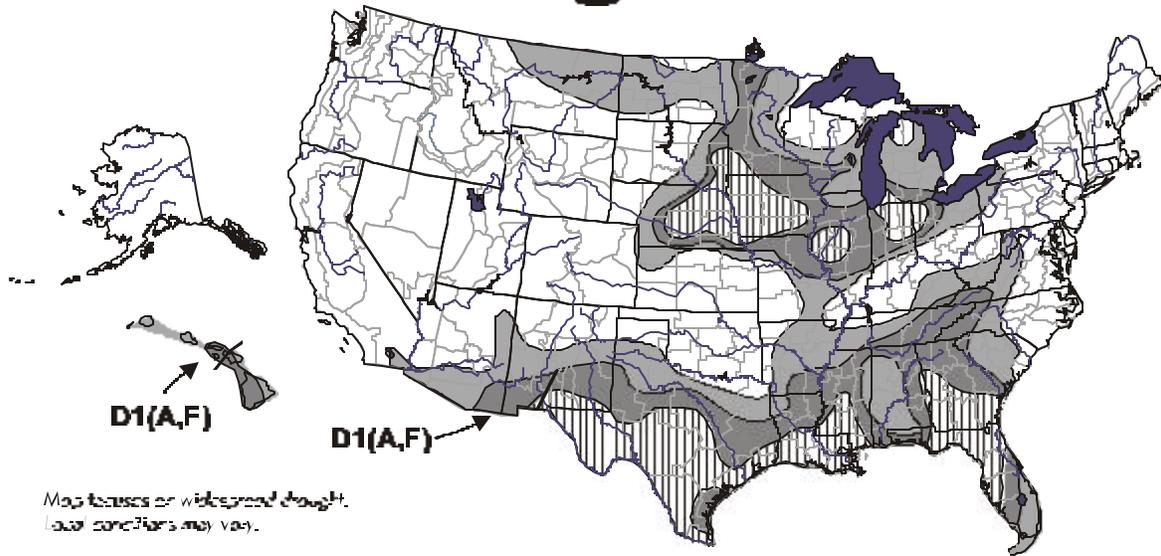
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March 28, 2000 Valid 7 a.m., EST

U.S. Drought Monitor



Map focuses on widespread drought. Local conditions may vary.

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought-First Stage
- D2 Drought-Severe
- D3 Drought-Extreme
- D4 Drought-Exceptional
- Delimits Overlapping Areas
- Drought type used only when impacts differ
- A = Agriculture
- W = Water
- F = Forest fire danger

Plus (+) = Forecast to intensify next two weeks
 Minus (-) = Forecast to diminish next two weeks
 No sign = No change in drought classification forecast



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