

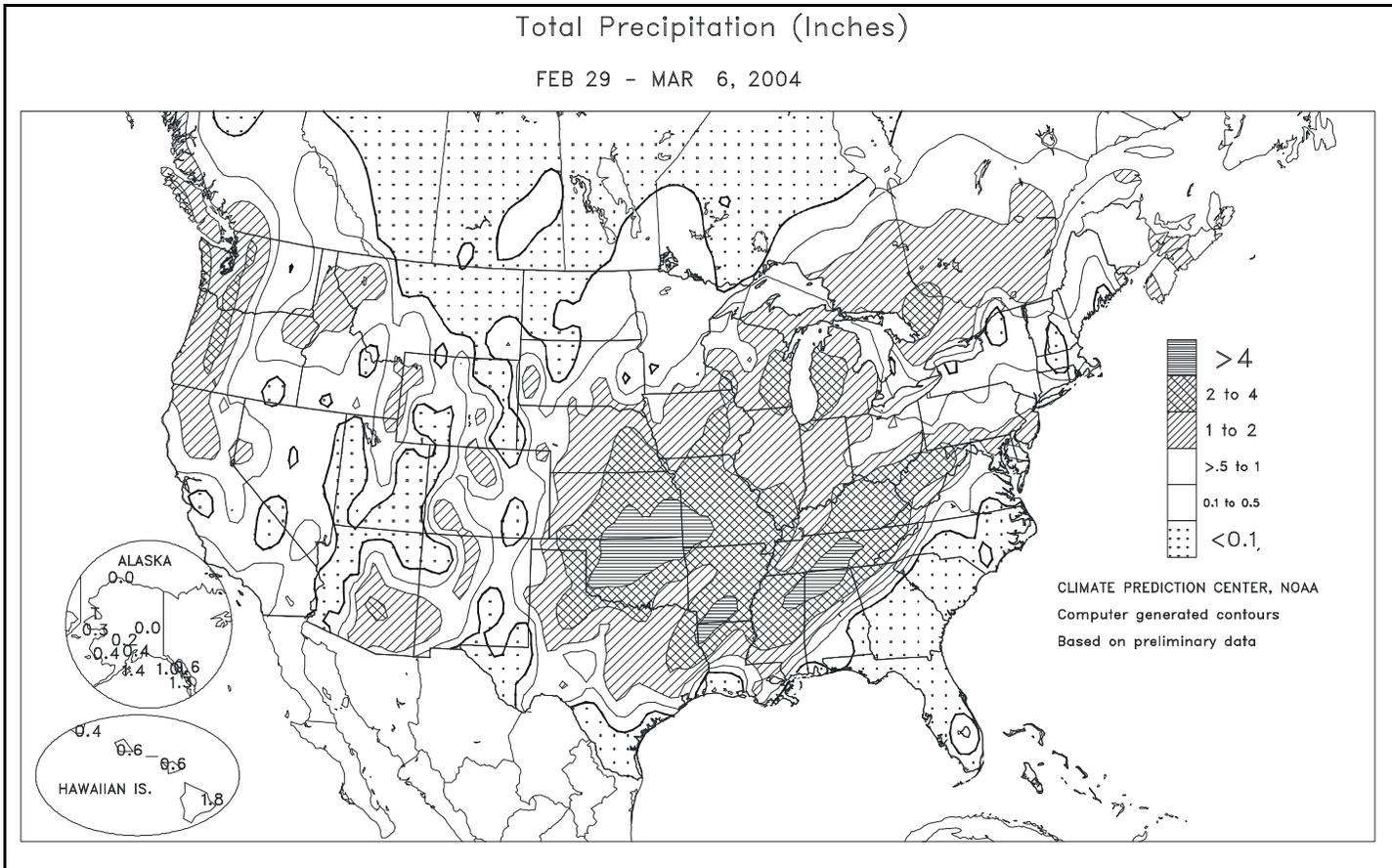
WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP BULLETIN

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

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

Total Precipitation (Inches)

FEB 29 - MAR 6, 2004



HIGHLIGHTS

February 29 - March 6, 2004

Highlights provided by USDA/WAOB

Unsettled weather prevailed nearly nationwide under the influence of a pair of dynamic, slow-moving storms. In the **West**, highly beneficial snowfall blanketed the mountains of the **Southwest** and the **Intermountain region**, providing limited drought relief and improving previously bleak spring and summer streamflow prospects. Weekly temperatures averaged more than 10°F below normal in parts of the **Intermountain West**. Much-needed moisture also dampened winter wheat areas on the **Plains**, although only light precipitation fell on the **northern and central High Plains**. Winter wheat broke dormancy as far north as the **southeastern half of Kansas**, while the recent

(Continued on page 5)

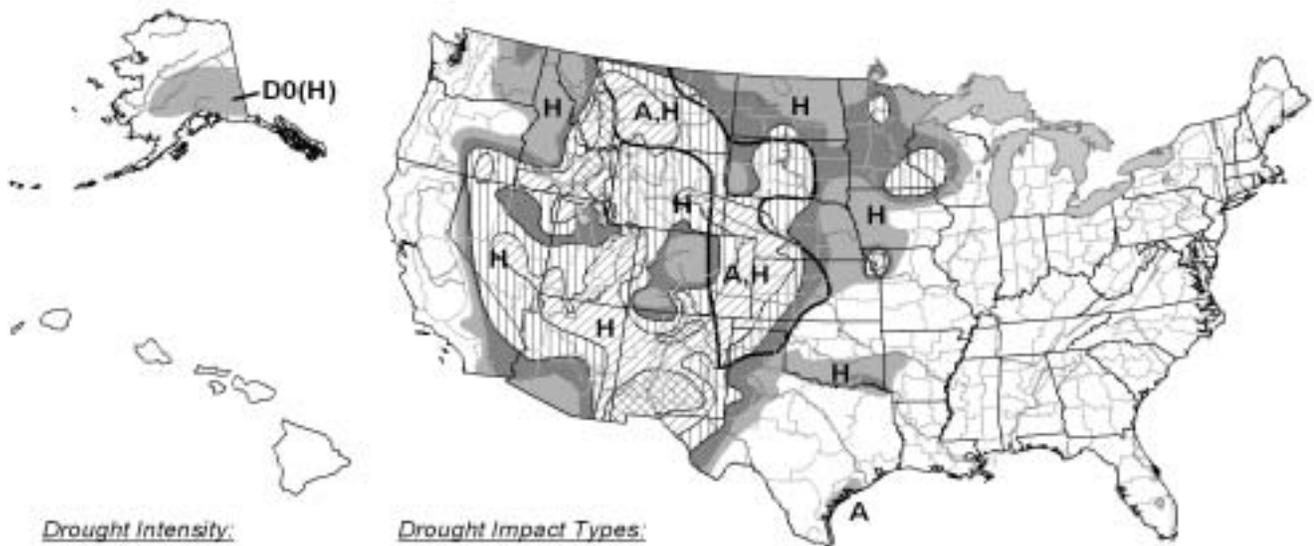
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U.S. Drought Monitor

March 2, 2004

Valid 7 a.m. EST



Drought Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought - Moderate
- D2 Drought - Severe
- D3 Drought - Extreme
- D4 Drought - Exceptional

Drought Impact Types:

- Delineates dominant impacts
- A = Agricultural (crops, pastures, grasslands)
- H = Hydrological (water)
- (No type = Both impacts)

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

<http://drought.unl.edu/dm>

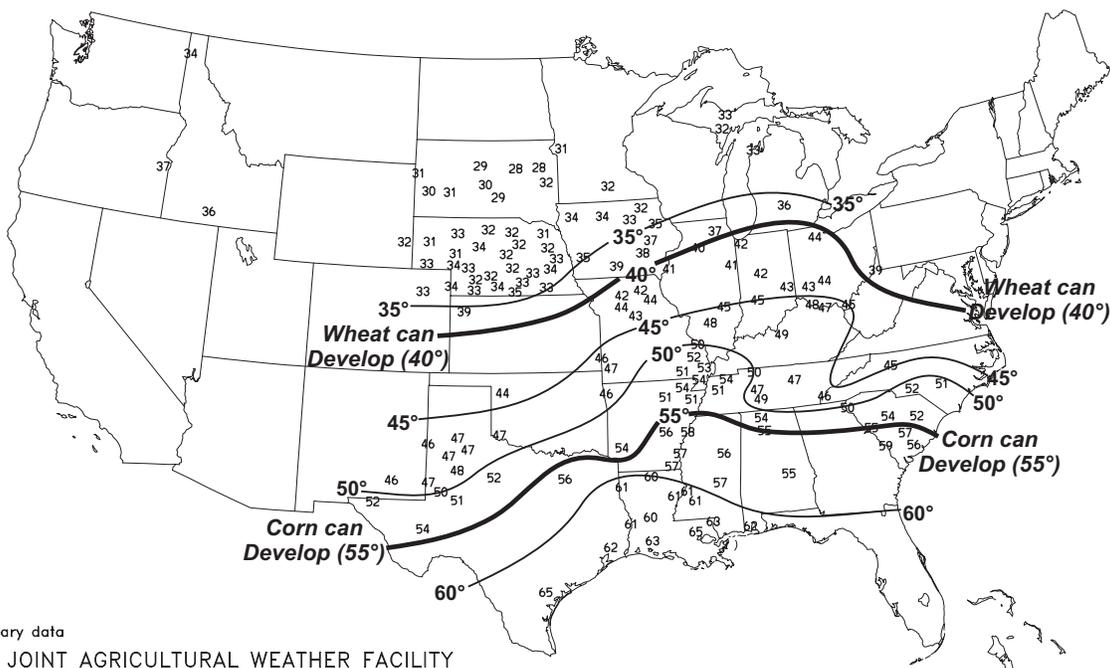


Released Thursday, March 4, 2004

Author: Richard Tinker, NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC

Average Soil Temperature (°F, 4" Bare)

FEB 29 - MAR 6, 2004



Based on preliminary data

NOAA/USDA JOINT AGRICULTURAL WEATHER FACILITY

Supplemental data provided by High Plains Regional Climate Center

Weather Data for Mississippi and the Missouri Bootheel

Weather Data for the Week Ending March 6, 2004

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

STATES AND STATIONS	TEMPERATURE °F						PRECIPITATION								4-INCH SOIL TEMP, °F		NUMBER OF DAYS			
	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	EXTREME HIGH	EXTREME LOW	AVERAGE	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	WEEKLY TOTAL, IN.	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	GREATEST IN 24-HOUR, IN.	TOTAL IN, SINCE Mar 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Mar 1	TOTAL IN, SINCE Jan 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Jan 1	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	TEMP. °F				
																90 AND ABOVE	32 AND BELOW	.01 INCH OR MORE	.50 INCH OR MORE	
MS INDIANOLA 1S	70	55	77	45	63	-	0.79	-	0.39	0.79	-	11.58	-	-	-	0	0	4	0	
MS INVERNESS 5E	70	56	78	47	63	-	2.16	-	1.95	2.16	-	12.55	-	64	56	0	0	4	1	
MS LYON	69	54	76	44	61	-	2.73	-	1.84	2.73	-	12.61	-	60	54	0	0	3	2	
MS MACON	73	55	78	41	64	-	2.20	-	1.69	2.20	-	14.23	-	62	57	0	0	4	1	
MS ONWARD	72	56	78	47	64	-	3.17	-	2.01	3.17	-	13.41	-	-	-	0	0	3	2	
MS PERTHSHIRE	69	53	75	43	61	-	2.63	-	2.08	2.63	-	14.29	-	-	-	0	0	4	1	
MS SCOTT	69	54	77	45	62	-	1.42	-	1.24	1.26	-	12.66	-	-	-	0	0	3	1	
MS SIDON	70	56	78	47	63	-	2.85	-	2.73	2.85	-	14.75	-	65	56	0	0	3	1	
MS STARKVILLE	72	54	78	38	63	12	3.69	2.38	1.86	3.69	282	12.83	108	-	-	0	0	3	3	
MS TUNICA 1W	69	53	74	44	61	-	1.79	-	1.27	1.79	-	12.82	-	-	-	0	0	5	1	
MS VANCE	68	54	74	45	61	-	1.91	-	1.64	1.91	-	13.29	-	-	-	0	0	4	1	
MS VERONA	70	54	75	42	62	-	3.60	-	2.57	3.60	-	12.25	-	63	54	0	0	4	2	
MS STONEVILLE X	67	52	77	36	60	8	0.56	-0.64	0.45	0.51	42	12.34	111	62	53	0	0	4	0	
MO DELTA	63	47	67	39	55	17	3.06	2.30	1.12	2.72	360	6.46	88	56	48	0	0	5	2	
MO STEELE	65	50	71	45	57	18	2.32	1.15	1.19	2.18	186	7.88	91	57	51	0	0	4	2	
MO GLENNONVILLE	64	48	69	41	56	17	1.76	0.86	0.60	1.47	163	5.14	73	57	50	0	0	5	2	
MO PORTAGEVILLE LF	64	49	71	46	57	19	2.59	1.51	1.26	2.55	236	7.76	98	60	50	0	0	4	2	
MO CLARKTON	64	48	70	41	56	17	2.45	1.55	1.14	2.18	242	6.21	89	54	49	0	0	5	2	
MO CARDWELL	64	48	70	41	56	17	2.02	0.78	0.75	1.79	145	7.22	85	58	51	0	0	5	2	
MO CHARLESTON	64	48	71	42	56	19	1.72	0.73	0.89	1.72	173	6.14	78	57	49	0	0	5	2	
MO PORTAGEVILLE DC	64	50	71	46	56	18	2.50	1.42	0.97	2.43	225	8.15	103	60	50	0	0	5	3	

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

X Based on 1971-2000 normals.

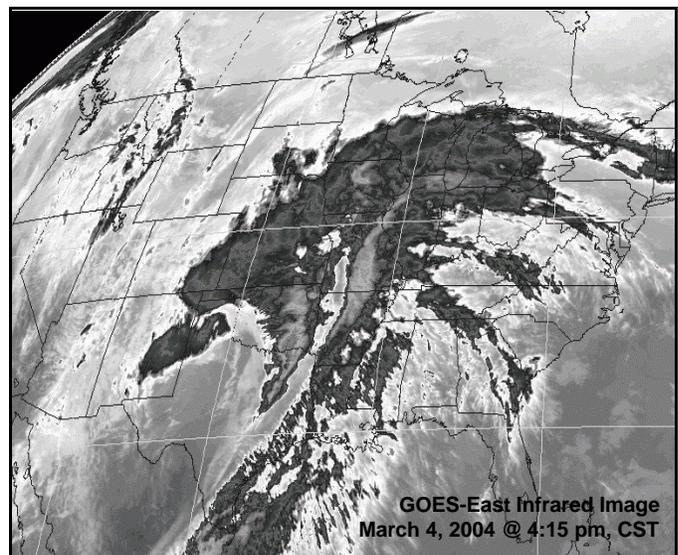
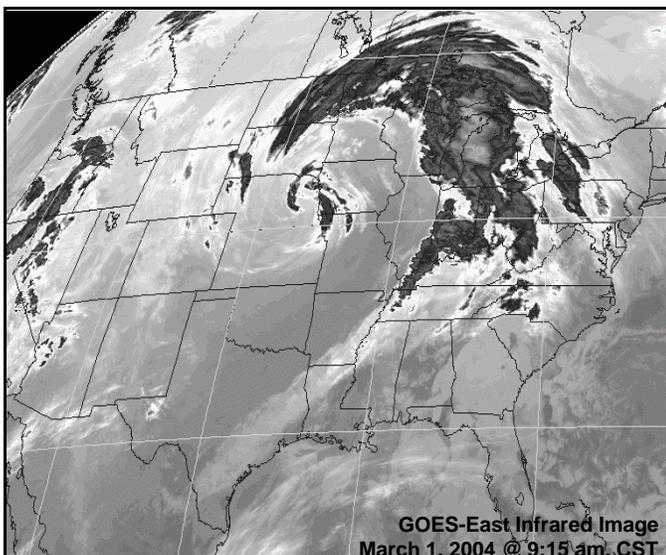
- Sufficient data not available.

Weather and Crop Summary: A steady increase in temperatures culminated in the development of widespread thunderstorms. Some thunderstorms repeatedly crossed the same areas, resulting in highly variable rainfall totals. The storms' primary impact was flash flooding, not tornadoes and hail. Nevertheless, gusty winds and multiple rain events limited burndown activities and fertilizer applications. Most of the winter wheat crop was developing well.

Satellite Images of "Twin" Storm Systems, March 1 and 4, 2004

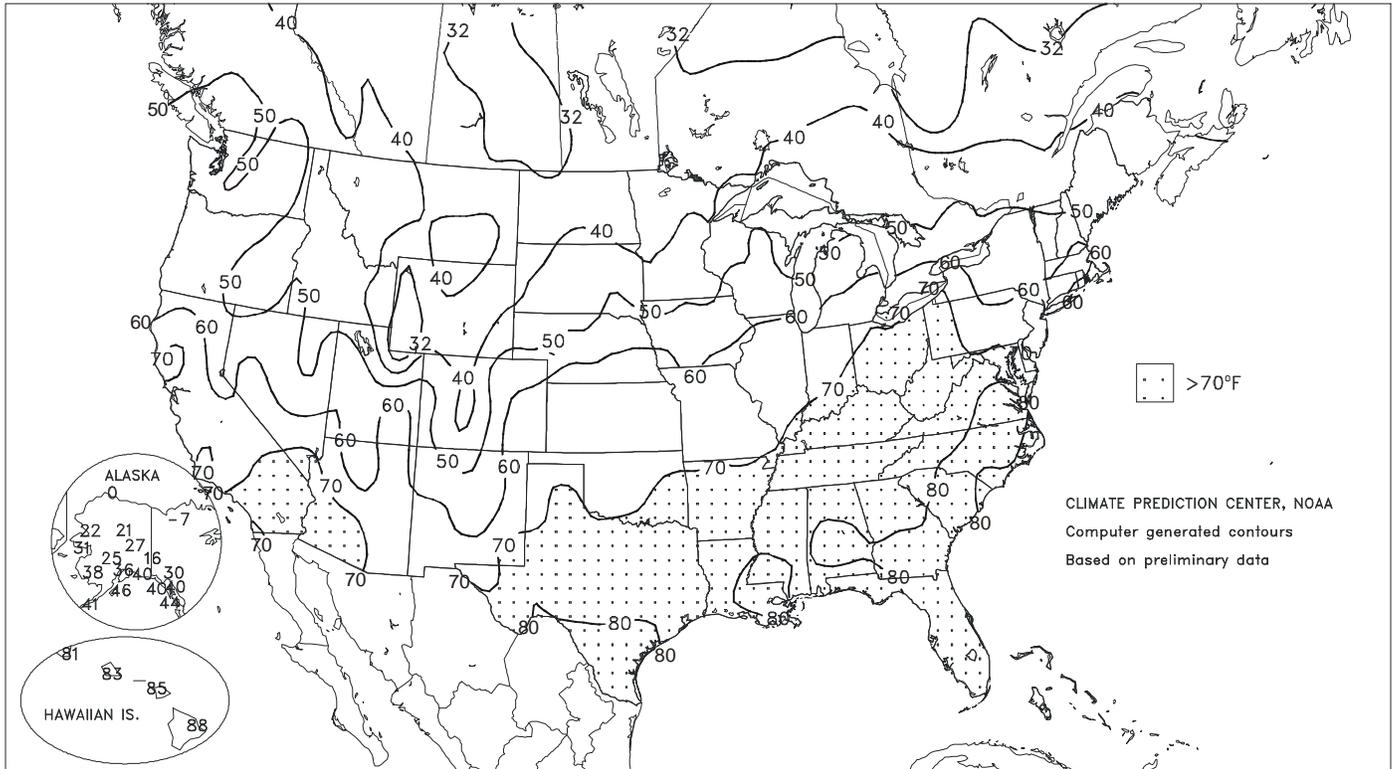
March weather came in "like a lion" across much of the United States, as a pair of storm systems charted similar paths across the West, Plains, and Midwest. Precipitation was especially beneficial in winter wheat areas on the central and southern Plains and across the Intermountain West and South-

west, where high-elevation snowfall provided some drought relief and improved spring and summer runoff prospects. Farther east, the season's first widespread severe thunderstorm outbreak struck on March 4 from central Texas to the lower Mississippi Valley, sparking about two dozen tornadoes.



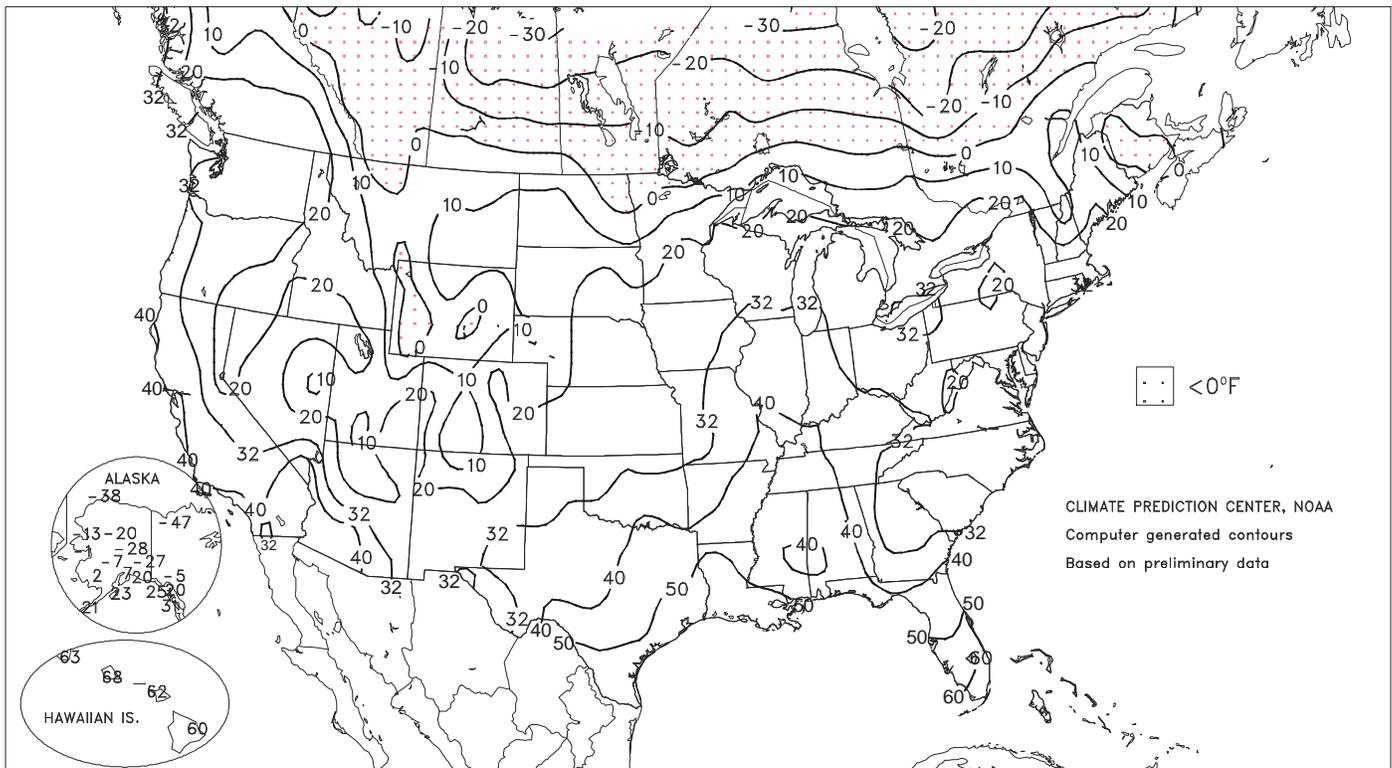
Extreme Maximum Temperature (°F)

FEB 29 - MAR 6, 2004



Extreme Minimum Temperature (°F)

FEB 29 - MAR 6, 2004



(Continued from front cover)

turn toward wet weather continued to favor wheat development on the **southern Plains**. Farther east, warm, dry weather in **Deep South Texas** and the **southern Atlantic region** promoted fieldwork and the development of pastures and winter grains. Elsewhere in the **South**, including the **Delta**, rainy weather slowed fieldwork but boosted soil moisture reserves in preparation for spring planting. Widespread precipitation also fell across the **Midwest**, maintaining adequate to locally excessive soil moisture across the **southern and eastern Corn Belt** and reducing long-term precipitation deficits in the **upper Mississippi Valley**. Despite some wet snow across the **Nation's northern tier**, weekly temperatures ranged from 8 to 16°F above normal in most areas from the **Mississippi River eastward to the Atlantic Coast**.

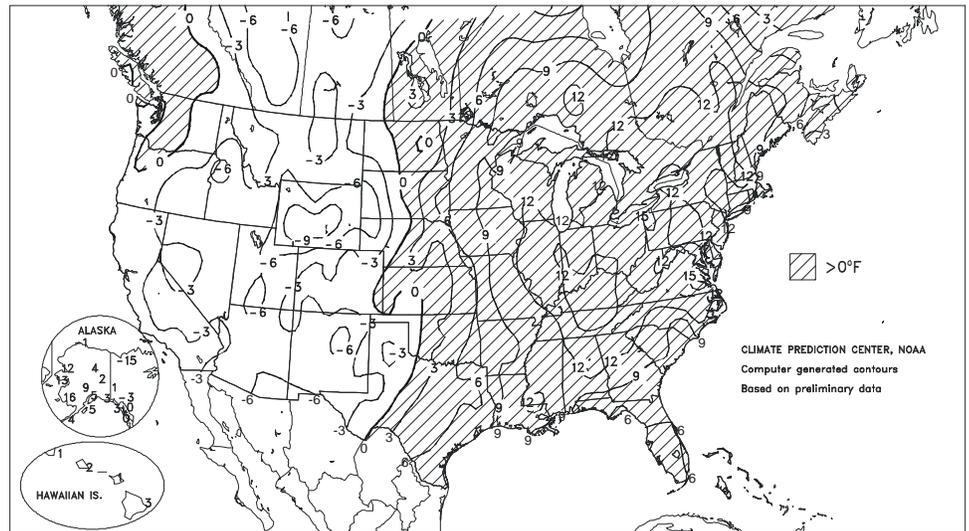
Early in the week, heavy snow blanketed the **North-Central United States**. February 28 - March 1 snowfall totaled 12.8 inches in **Lander, WY**, and 13.2 inches in **Rapid City, SD**. Elsewhere in **South Dakota**, consecutive daily-record precipitation totals were noted in locations such as **Timber Lake** (1.02 inches on February 29 - March 1) and **Kennebec** (0.90 inch). Meanwhile, record warmth overspread the **South and East**, resulting in more than two dozen daily-record highs. On March 2, daily records in **New England** included 66°F in **Boston, MA**, and 64°F in **Hartford, CT**. Two days later, highs soared to daily-record levels in locations such as **Charleston, SC**, and **Norfolk, VA** (both 83°F). Toward week's end, record highs were also established in locations such as **Pittsburgh, PA** (78°F on March 5), and **Mobile, AL** (83°F on March 6).

In contrast, chilly conditions helped to set or tie daily-record lows on February 29 in several **Western** locations, including **Show Low, AZ** (20°F), and **Redding, CA** (34°F). Widespread precipitation returned to the **West** in early March, resulting in a daily-record total (1.21 inches on March 1) in **Reno, NV**. It was also **Reno's** highest daily total on record during March (previously, 1.09 inches on March 10, 1995) and marked only the city's 25th observance of daily rainfall in excess of 1 inch in the last 67 years. Farther east, heavy rainfall preceded the season's first widespread severe weather outbreak. On March 3, daily-record rainfall totals included 2.63 inches in **Springfield, MO**, and 2.30 inches in **Tulsa, OK**. A day later, severe thunderstorms spawned about two dozen tornadoes from **Texas to Arkansas**. At least one tornado struck **Sequoyah County, Oklahoma**, ending the State's longest spell without a tornado at 292 days (May 17, 2003 - March 3, 2004).

After midweek, heavy precipitation shifted into the **Great Lakes region**, while snow lingered across the **Southwest**. On

Departure of Average Temperature from Normal (°F)

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March 4, **Wichita, KS** (2.26 inches), netted a daily-record total, followed the next day by record amounts in locations such as **Marquette, MI** (1.86 inches), and **Green Bay, WI** (1.08 inches). Wet snow on March 5 in the Great Lakes region included 6.0 inches in **Rhineland, WI**, and 14.9 inches in **Marquette**. Meanwhile, March 2-5 snowfall in **southern Arizona** totaled 22 inches on **Mt. Lemmon**, near **Tucson**. Elsewhere, gusty winds swept across parts of the **Midwest and Northeast** on March 5-6, while strong downslope winds developed along the front range of the **Rockies**. On March 5, peak gusts included 59 m.p.h. in **Detroit, MI**, and **Mansfield, OH**. Farther west, late-week gusts were clocked to 100 m.p.h. in **Montana's Logan Pass** and near **Ward, Boulder County, CO**.

Cooler air overspread **Alaska** late in the week, ending a spell of mild weather that lifted weekly temperatures as much as 16°F above normal across the **western part of the State**. **King Salmon** posted a daily-record high of 44°F on February 29. Elsewhere in **western Alaska**, **Kotzebue** received enough late-February snow to boost its season-to-date total to 84.8 inches, breaking its 1990-91 record of 83.2 inches. Dry weather prevailed during the first 7 days of March across the **northern half of Alaska**, but scattered rain and snow showers fell farther south. March 1-7 totals included 3.01 inches (161 percent of normal) on **Annette Island** and 0.42 inch (247 percent) in **Anchorage**, including 5.7 inches of snow. Meanwhile, more typical conditions returned to **Hawaii**, following late-February downpours. Nevertheless, warm weather (temperatures 1 to 3°F above normal) accompanied locally heavy rainfall. On the **Big Island, Hilo** posted a daily record-tying high of 88°F on March 1. Showers were especially heavy across **western Hawaii**, including **Kauai**, on March 1-2 and 4-5. On March 1-2, 24-hour totals on **Kauai** included 10.73 inches in **Kokee**, 4.51 inches in **Wainiha**, and 3.36 inches in **Hanalei**. Later in the week, March 4-5 rainfall totaled 4.89 inches in **Wainiha** and 2.02 inches in **Hanalei**.

National Weather Data for Selected Cities

Weather Data for the Week Ending March 6, 2004

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

STATES AND STATIONS	TEMPERATURE °F						PRECIPITATION						RELATIVE HUMIDITY PERCENT		NUMBER OF DAYS					
	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	EXTREME HIGH	EXTREME LOW	AVERAGE	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	WEEKLY TOTAL, IN.	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	GREATEST IN 24-HOUR, IN.	TOTAL IN, SINCE Mar 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Mar 1	TOTAL IN, SINCE Jan 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Jan 1	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	TEMP. °F		PRECIP.		
																90 AND ABOVE	32 AND BELOW	0.1 INCH OR MORE	5.0 INCH OR MORE	
AL	BIRMINGHAM	73	57	79	48	65	13	1.89	0.61	1.41	1.89	170	10.59	98	91	59	0	0	3	1
	HUNTSVILLE	70	52	76	41	61	12	4.00	2.49	2.01	4.00	308	14.18	120	90	68	0	0	4	2
	MOBILE	76	61	83	43	68	10	0.16	-1.41	0.15	0.16	12	14.44	118	88	62	0	0	2	0
	MONTGOMERY	79	54	82	38	67	12	0.32	-1.19	0.32	0.32	25	10.69	91	95	51	0	0	1	0
AK	ANCHORAGE	32	23	36	7	28	5	0.36	0.19	0.33	0.36	257	1.58	101	97	84	0	7	3	0
	BARROW	-11	-23	0	-38	-17	-1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0.15	63	79	75	0	7	0	0
	FAIRBANKS	19	-6	27	-28	7	3	0.00	-0.06	0.00	0.00	0	0.66	68	81	68	0	7	0	0
	JUNEAU	37	27	40	20	32	0	0.58	-0.32	0.22	0.58	75	12.13	126	96	91	0	7	5	0
	KODIAK	41	30	46	23	36	5	1.36	0.16	1.00	1.30	127	18.62	125	83	66	0	4	5	1
	NOME	25	16	31	-1	21	14	0.25	0.12	0.13	0.25	227	0.88	49	86	74	0	7	4	0
AZ	FLAGSTAFF	40	20	54	8	30	-5	0.65	-0.02	0.35	0.65	114	2.47	47	94	49	0	7	5	0
	PHOENIX	65	48	72	44	57	-4	1.19	0.93	0.92	1.19	541	3.03	166	74	55	0	0	4	1
	TUCSON	60	42	69	35	51	-6	0.51	0.29	0.43	0.51	268	1.76	85	83	54	0	0	2	0
	YUMA	69	51	79	47	60	-5	0.41	0.35	0.30	0.41	820	1.41	199	80	55	0	0	2	0
AR	FORT SMITH	66	45	74	38	56	7	1.52	0.69	1.15	1.35	188	5.94	105	91	51	0	0	4	1
	LITTLE ROCK	67	49	75	43	58	8	2.74	1.79	1.00	1.74	212	9.66	124	95	50	0	0	5	3
CA	BAKERSFIELD	64	44	71	40	54	-2	0.08	-0.25	0.08	0.08	29	2.30	86	81	58	0	0	1	0
	FRESNO	62	43	69	39	52	-2	1.16	0.61	0.65	1.16	247	3.72	78	92	74	0	0	3	2
	LOS ANGELES	64	50	75	47	57	-1	0.78	0.10	0.59	0.78	134	5.88	88	91	69	0	0	2	1
	REDDING	61	38	69	34	50	-1	1.13	-0.15	0.95	0.95	86	14.05	107	84	64	0	0	2	1
	SACRAMENTO	62	43	68	40	52	-2	0.29	-0.46	0.29	0.29	45	7.46	93	93	53	0	0	1	0
	SAN DIEGO	64	53	68	49	59	0	0.21	-0.32	0.21	0.21	47	3.36	70	87	67	0	0	1	0
	SAN FRANCISCO	60	47	65	45	54	1	0.07	-0.79	0.07	0.07	10	7.68	84	89	67	0	0	1	0
	STOCKTON	63	40	67	34	51	-2	0.55	-0.02	0.55	0.55	112	6.00	106	95	71	0	0	1	0
CO	ALAMOSA	38	18	47	9	28	-1	0.07	-0.01	0.07	0.07	100	1.23	232	89	60	0	7	1	0
	CO SPRINGS	42	24	53	19	33	-2	0.30	0.13	0.24	0.30	200	1.29	165	93	48	0	7	3	0
	DENVER INTL	45	24	56	18	35	-1	0.11	-0.08	0.05	0.08	50	0.52	84	92	42	0	7	3	0
	GRAND JUNCTION	47	29	55	25	38	-2	0.04	-0.15	0.04	0.00	0	1.48	117	82	57	0	7	1	0
	PUEBLO	50	29	65	24	40	1	0.38	0.23	0.22	0.35	269	1.51	210	82	55	0	6	3	0
CT	BRIDGEPORT	54	36	61	30	45	9	0.85	0.02	0.75	0.85	118	4.87	66	88	64	0	2	3	1
	HARTFORD	54	34	64	29	44	10	0.35	-0.44	0.17	0.35	51	3.58	48	84	61	0	2	3	0
DC	WASHINGTON	69	45	77	31	57	14	1.10	0.30	0.83	1.10	159	4.74	73	82	40	0	1	4	1
DE	WILMINGTON	63	40	69	27	52	13	1.05	0.20	0.95	1.05	142	5.04	72	76	31	0	1	3	1
FL	DAYTONA BEACH	79	57	86	48	68	5	0.00	-0.80	0.00	0.00	0	5.76	88	94	48	0	0	0	0
	JACKSONVILLE	80	55	87	41	68	9	0.00	-0.82	0.00	0.00	0	6.13	81	96	48	0	0	0	0
	KEY WEST	78	72	81	65	75	3	0.00	-0.35	0.00	0.00	0	5.23	129	83	67	0	0	0	0
	MIAMI	81	70	84	66	76	5	0.00	-0.47	0.00	0.00	0	5.61	129	83	56	0	0	0	0
	ORLANDO	81	59	87	48	70	4	0.00	-0.73	0.00	0.00	0	7.80	144	93	53	0	0	0	0
	PENSACOLA	72	59	75	46	66	7	0.23	-1.16	0.22	0.23	19	11.03	98	96	74	0	0	2	0
	TALLAHASSEE	77	50	79	35	64	5	0.04	-1.40	0.04	0.04	3	10.70	95	85	55	0	0	1	0
	TAMPA	80	62	83	49	71	5	0.00	-0.69	0.00	0.00	0	7.75	140	90	54	0	0	0	0
	WEST PALM	81	70	87	67	75	6	0.03	-0.63	0.02	0.03	5	4.77	69	81	60	0	0	2	0
GA	ATHENS	75	51	79	30	63	13	0.15	-1.02	0.15	0.15	15	6.96	69	88	53	0	1	1	0
	ATLANTA	73	53	76	34	63	12	0.31	-0.95	0.31	0.31	29	7.76	72	92	59	0	0	1	0
	AUGUSTA	78	48	83	24	63	10	0.01	-1.04	0.01	0.01	1	7.54	79	98	47	0	1	1	0
	COLUMBUS	77	54	80	36	66	11	0.07	-1.23	0.07	0.07	6	7.99	77	87	43	0	0	1	0
	MACON	78	50	80	28	64	11	0.04	-1.11	0.03	0.04	4	10.28	98	86	42	0	1	2	0
	SAVANNAH	77	50	81	31	64	7	0.00	-0.71	0.00	0.00	0	4.80	64	94	50	0	1	0	0
HI	HILO	83	67	88	60	75	3	1.81	-0.96	0.73	1.69	71	22.18	106	88	78	0	0	6	1
	HONOLULU	81	71	83	68	76	2	0.63	0.12	0.33	0.42	98	16.77	304	81	76	0	0	4	0
	KAHULUI	80	67	85	62	74	1	0.61	0.11	0.36	0.50	116	11.48	176	92	83	0	0	5	0
	LIHUE	79	67	81	63	73	1	0.43	-0.37	0.18	0.25	36	12.34	144	87	78	0	0	4	0
ID	BOISE	46	30	49	24	38	-3	0.31	0.01	0.21	0.31	119	3.62	130	81	62	0	4	3	0
	LEWISTON	48	33	52	29	41	-1	0.17	-0.05	0.09	0.17	89	3.21	141	86	70	0	3	2	0
	POCATELLO	35	24	38	13	29	-6	0.27	-0.03	0.14	0.13	50	3.50	145	88	75	0	7	4	0
IL	CHICAGO/O'HARE	53	38	62	32	46	13	1.20	0.76	0.51	1.19	305	3.30	88	85	67	0	1	4	1
	MOLINE	53	39	63	34	46	12	1.36	0.86	1.29	1.36	316	3.38	96	86	65	0	0	4	1
	PEORIA	57	41	67	37	49	14	1.36	0.81	0.85	1.35	287	2.62	72	89	61	0	0	4	1
	ROCKFORD	51	36	63	32	44	12	1.29	0.91	0.96	1.23	373	2.45	80	89	73	0	1	5	1
	SPRINGFIELD	59	42	68	37	50	13	1.35	0.72	1.19	1.35	250	3.21	81	83	64	0	0	4	1
IN	EVANSVILLE	63	45	73	39	54	12	1.14	0.24	0.86	1.14	148	4.68	69	94	68	0	0	3	1
	FORT WAYNE	54	37	65	26	46	12	1.19	0.65	0.58	1.19	259	4.16	93	91	64	0	2	4	1
	INDIANAPOLIS	59	41	69	34	50	13	1.25	0.54	0.71	1.25	205	6.67	121	85	55	0	0	4	1
	SOUTH BEND	54	38	63	33	46	13	1.83	1.30	0.68	1.83	398	4.15	88	87	67	0	0	4	2
IA	BURLINGTON	55	39	62	36	47	12	1.21	0.65	1.16	1.21	252	2.92	88	92	61	0	0	3	1
	CEDAR RAPIDS	49	35	58	31	42	10	1.82	1.46	1.40	1.82	587	3.70	150	96	71	0	2	5	1
	DES MOINES	48	36	59	28	42	8	1.25	0.90	0.83	1.17	377	4.14	164	94	81	0	1	6	1
	DUBUQUE	48	34	57	32	41	11	1.69	1.24	1.13	1.67	428	3.35	108	92	78	0	1	6	1
	SIOUX CITY	43	33	56	30	38	6	1.51	1.20	0.49	1.27	470	3.19	216	89	82	0	4	5	0
	WATERLOO	46	34	56	32	40	10	1.38	1.04	0.60	1.38	460	3.08	141	89	75	0	2	5	1
KS	CONCORDIA	47	33	67	29	40	2	2.51	2.08	1.26	1.57	413	4.74	268	90	77	0	2	4	2
	DODGE CITY	48	30	65	23	39	-2	2.52	2.21	1.30	1.93	715	3.01	194	94	65	0	5	4	2
	GOODLAND	46	28	67	21	37	0	0.73	0.49	0.50	0.23	115	1.31	122	92	79	0	7	4	1
	TOPEKA	50	37	62	29	44	4	2.96	2.49	1.98	2.42	590	4.96	195	86	70	0	1	5	2

Based on 1971-2000 normals

Weather Data for the Week Ending March 6, 2004

STATES AND STATIONS	TEMPERATURE °F						PRECIPITATION						RELATIVE HUMIDITY, PERCENT		NUMBER OF DAYS					
	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	EXTREME HIGH	EXTREME LOW	AVERAGE	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	WEEKLY TOTAL, IN.	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	GREATEST IN 24-HOUR, IN.	TOTAL IN. SINCE Mar 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Mar 1	TOTAL IN. SINCE Jan 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Jan 1	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	TEMP. °F		PRECIP.		
																90 AND ABOVE	32 AND BELOW	0.1 INCH OR MORE	5.0 INCH OR MORE	
KY	WICHITA	51	36	61	28	43	1	3.13	2.61	2.26	2.61	580	5.24	227	96	73	0	3	4	2
	JACKSON	66	48	76	40	57	14	1.58	0.56	1.21	1.58	182	9.58	118	77	45	0	0	5	1
	LEXINGTON	61	45	70	38	53	11	2.89	1.89	1.90	2.89	336	7.70	103	86	58	0	0	5	2
	LOUISVILLE	64	47	75	39	56	13	2.38	1.40	1.49	2.38	283	8.81	120	86	45	0	0	5	1
	PADUCAH	64	48	73	40	56	12	2.02	1.07	1.07	2.02	249	6.71	82	91	52	0	0	4	2
LA	BATON ROUGE	79	62	81	52	71	13	0.43	-0.67	0.27	0.43	46	15.71	128	99	57	0	0	2	0
	LAKE CHARLES	76	60	80	51	68	10	0.13	-0.60	0.09	0.12	19	17.02	180	97	68	0	0	5	0
	NEW ORLEANS	77	63	81	55	70	10	0.27	-0.88	0.09	0.18	18	11.61	94	91	75	0	0	5	0
	SHREVEPORT	71	55	78	50	63	7	4.47	3.51	1.65	2.97	362	15.27	159	95	59	0	0	6	3
ME	CARIBOU	37	20	43	-2	29	9	0.63	0.10	0.42	0.63	140	2.73	50	89	59	0	7	3	0
	PORTLAND	48	31	56	22	39	9	0.20	-0.63	0.17	0.20	28	2.22	28	88	56	0	5	2	0
MD	BALTIMORE	66	40	74	26	53	13	1.54	0.65	1.30	1.54	203	5.36	74	95	66	0	2	4	1
MA	BOSTON	55	38	66	31	46	11	0.28	-0.53	0.16	0.28	40	2.75	35	79	50	0	1	3	0
	WORCESTER	52	35	59	31	43	12	0.36	-0.51	0.18	0.36	48	3.25	41	85	54	0	1	4	0
MI	ALPENA	42	29	55	24	36	12	1.01	0.61	0.97	1.01	289	2.24	65	94	66	0	6	3	1
	GRAND RAPIDS	49	36	63	31	42	12	2.21	1.78	0.91	2.21	597	5.25	134	89	69	0	2	5	3
	HOUGHTON LAKE	42	30	53	25	36	11	1.51	1.15	1.10	1.51	487	3.40	107	93	75	0	6	4	1
	LANSING	50	36	65	31	43	13	1.69	1.32	0.58	1.69	528	3.15	93	89	67	0	2	5	3
	MUSKEGON	48	36	56	32	42	12	2.68	2.27	1.29	2.68	744	4.62	111	93	78	0	1	5	3
	TRAVERSE CITY	43	32	52	28	37	10	1.26	0.94	0.96	1.26	450	3.87	77	95	69	0	4	5	1
MN	DULUTH	33	25	38	18	29	8	0.28	0.02	0.17	0.28	127	3.65	168	97	82	0	7	4	0
	INT'L FALLS	31	16	34	-9	24	6	0.20	0.05	0.08	0.12	92	0.91	57	94	75	0	7	4	0
	MINNEAPOLIS	40	31	48	25	35	8	0.80	0.52	0.59	0.71	284	2.03	98	90	75	0	5	5	1
	ROCHESTER	39	32	46	27	36	11	1.10	0.84	0.31	0.94	409	2.98	155	95	83	0	5	6	0
	ST. CLOUD	37	26	46	22	32	9	0.28	0.09	0.11	0.28	165	1.48	97	98	79	0	6	4	0
MS	JACKSON	73	55	78	39	64	10	1.06	-0.10	0.69	1.06	106	11.79	106	96	67	0	0	4	1
	MERIDIAN	74	55	78	37	64	9	1.75	0.24	1.40	1.75	135	12.82	102	96	70	0	0	4	1
	TUPELO	69	54	74	43	61	11	3.84	2.43	2.73	3.84	315	13.38	121	95	73	0	0	3	2
MO	COLUMBIA	58	41	63	33	49	9	1.89	1.25	1.71	1.83	333	4.90	109	94	63	0	0	3	1
	KANSAS CITY	54	38	61	28	46	6	1.53	1.05	0.88	1.20	286	3.10	108	92	69	0	1	4	1
	SAINT LOUIS	62	46	71	42	54	12	1.63	0.91	1.26	1.60	254	6.42	127	90	67	0	0	4	1
	SPRINGFIELD	59	41	67	29	50	7	3.95	3.24	2.63	3.77	618	8.21	164	87	63	0	1	3	2
MT	BILLINGS	36	25	45	21	31	-3	0.27	0.09	0.20	0.07	44	0.91	59	91	60	0	7	3	0
	BUTTE	33	16	37	7	24	-3	0.16	0.01	0.07	0.09	69	0.61	54	95	54	0	7	5	0
	GLASGOW	29	18	37	6	24	-2	0.01	-0.07	0.01	0.01	14	1.40	206	91	86	0	7	1	0
	GREAT FALLS	37	19	44	0	28	-3	0.04	-0.14	0.03	0.04	27	0.34	25	95	52	0	7	2	0
	HAVRE	32	19	40	0	26	-3	0.01	-0.12	0.01	0.01	9	0.26	28	90	82	0	7	1	0
	KALISPELL	36	22	42	13	29	-3	0.43	0.18	0.17	0.43	205	2.86	101	90	74	0	7	4	0
	MISSOULA	40	26	47	21	33	-1	0.24	0.05	0.16	0.24	141	1.73	87	88	71	0	7	4	0
NE	GRAND ISLAND	43	31	63	25	37	3	1.03	0.68	0.75	0.28	93	2.60	171	88	82	0	6	4	1
	LINCOLN	45	33	63	25	39	4	1.53	1.16	0.69	1.13	353	3.11	188	90	76	0	3	5	1
	NORFOLK	42	31	58	27	37	4	1.99	1.66	0.87	1.12	386	3.21	198	90	79	0	6	5	1
	NORTH PLATTE	43	25	61	19	34	-1	0.59	0.38	0.55	0.04	21	0.90	83	93	66	0	6	2	1
	OMAHA	45	33	61	26	39	4	1.62	1.26	0.63	1.32	426	3.88	206	93	78	0	2	5	1
	SCOTTSBLUFF	40	20	50	12	30	-4	0.10	-0.10	0.09	0.09	53	0.81	63	93	73	0	7	2	0
	VALENTINE	38	25	46	20	31	-1	0.66	0.47	0.65	0.01	6	1.00	105	88	82	0	7	2	1
NV	ELY	39	18	49	2	28	-6	0.03	-0.19	0.03	0.03	16	0.87	52	85	59	0	7	1	0
	LAS VEGAS	61	45	72	42	53	-3	0.23	0.06	0.22	0.23	164	1.70	120	64	41	0	0	2	0
	RENO	51	29	65	24	40	-2	1.25	1.02	1.13	1.25	625	3.77	163	84	58	0	6	2	1
	WINNEMUCCA	46	27	54	22	36	-4	0.03	-0.14	0.01	0.03	21	1.60	101	87	64	0	6	3	0
NH	CONCORD	51	29	58	21	40	11	0.16	-0.46	0.09	0.16	30	1.93	33	90	52	0	5	3	0
NJ	NEWARK	60	42	69	32	51	13	0.58	-0.28	0.30	0.58	78	4.85	63	83	59	0	1	4	0
NM	ALBUQUERQUE	49	32	60	27	40	-5	0.63	0.51	0.55	0.63	630	1.90	184	84	44	0	3	3	1
NY	ALBANY	50	33	56	25	41	10	0.31	-0.30	0.14	0.31	60	2.80	54	95	68	0	4	4	0
	BINGHAMTON	49	35	52	26	42	13	0.51	-0.10	0.24	0.51	98	3.48	63	82	68	0	2	4	0
	BUFFALO	51	34	68	29	42	11	0.53	-0.07	0.24	0.53	102	4.63	76	95	69	0	3	4	0
	ROCHESTER	54	34	67	24	44	14	0.10	-0.41	0.08	0.10	23	3.63	75	83	62	0	3	2	0
	SYRACUSE	51	32	57	17	42	13	0.19	-0.38	0.11	0.19	39	3.17	61	89	56	0	3	3	0
NC	ASHEVILLE	66	44	74	23	55	12	0.32	-0.71	0.25	0.32	36	5.38	61	95	62	0	2	2	0
	CHARLOTTE	71	47	81	23	59	9	0.01	-0.99	0.01	0.01	1	4.48	53	89	46	0	2	1	0
	GREENSBORO	69	47	80	26	58	12	0.43	-0.42	0.32	0.43	59	3.73	51	87	45	0	1	2	0
	HATTERAS	60	47	66	35	53	3	0.03	-1.04	0.02	0.03	3	5.40	50	95	69	0	0	2	0
	RALEIGH	73	49	82	26	61	14	0.27	-0.67	0.17	0.27	33	4.82	58	95	67	0	2	2	0
	WILMINGTON	75	50	80	27	63	11	0.00	-0.98	0.00	0.00	0	7.47	83	96	47	0	1	0	0
ND	BISMARCK	31	21	40	13	26	1	0.10	-0.04	0.03	0.07	58	0.97	90	85	78	0	7	4	0
	DICKINSON	28	19	36	15	23	-4	0.13	0.07	0.09	0.04	80	0.60	71	97	79	0	7	3	0
	FARGO	32	19	35	3	25	3	0.48	0.28	0.23	0.43	253	1.83	120	94	85	0	7	5	0
	GRAND FORKS	28	15	32	-7	21	0	0.22	0.07	0.09	0.19	146	1.19	86	99	83	0	7	4	0
	JAMESTOWN	29	15	37	3	22	-1	0.09	-0.05	0.05	0.08	67	0.41	33	99	86	0	7	3	0
	WILLISTON	28	20	35	10	24	0	0.15	0.03	0.06	0.15	136	1.64	158	93	83	0	7	3	0
OH	AKRON-CANTON	57	37	73	30	47	13	0.45	-0.20	0.37	0.45	80	5.02	94	92	69	0	2	4	0
	CINCINNATI	59	41	70	32	50	10	1.25	0.45	0.55	1.25	181	7.05	111	81	60	0	1	5	1
	CLEVELAND	56	39	73	29	48	14	0.56	-0.02	0.43	0.56	112	4.01	76	90	60	0	1	5	0
	COLUMBUS	59	40	74	28	49	11	0.47	-0.12	0.21	0.47	92	7.58	145	86	57	0	1	5	0
	DAYTON	58	40	73	34	49	13	0.58	-0.04	0.35	0.58	107	6.51	120	85	52	0	0	5	0

Weather Data for the Week Ending March 6, 2004

STATES AND STATIONS	TEMPERATURE °F						PRECIPITATION						RELATIVE HUMIDITY, PERCENT		NUMBER OF DAYS					
	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	EXTREME HIGH	EXTREME LOW	AVERAGE	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	WEEKLY TOTAL, IN.	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	GREATEST IN 24-HOUR, IN.	TOTAL IN. SINCE Mar 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Mar 1	TOTAL IN. SINCE Jan 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Jan 1	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	TEMP. °F		PRECIP		
																90 AND ABOVE	32 AND BELOW	0.1 INCH OR MORE	5.0 INCH OR MORE	
OK	TOLEDO	55	37	70	27	46	13	0.94	0.46	0.46	0.94	224	2.73	65	91	61	0	1	4	0
	YOUNGSTOWN	57	38	74	31	48	15	0.44	-0.15	0.27	0.44	86	5.05	103	82	59	0	2	4	0
	OKLAHOMA CITY	59	41	65	32	50	2	3.16	2.53	1.60	2.63	487	5.54	164	92	60	0	1	4	3
	TULSA	60	43	69	33	52	4	3.16	2.43	2.29	2.85	452	6.41	153	88	67	0	0	3	2
OR	ASTORIA	50	38	54	31	44	-1	2.23	0.46	0.81	1.42	94	21.29	112	96	85	0	1	6	3
	BURNS	38	20	41	9	29	-6	0.29	-0.01	0.11	0.18	69	2.90	114	91	75	0	7	4	0
	EUGENE	52	38	57	33	45	0	0.71	-0.71	0.18	0.54	44	11.72	77	95	87	0	0	5	0
	MEDFORD	52	38	61	32	45	-1	0.80	0.34	0.46	0.60	154	6.94	140	97	68	0	1	4	0
	PENDLETON	50	34	53	31	42	-1	0.47	0.19	0.25	0.47	196	4.55	156	77	63	0	2	3	0
	PORTLAND	54	40	58	35	47	1	0.73	-0.18	0.22	0.51	65	9.32	93	89	77	0	0	6	0
	SALEM	52	38	57	31	45	0	0.72	-0.35	0.32	0.40	44	12.20	103	95	81	0	1	5	0
PA	ALLENTOWN	59	37	68	23	48	13	0.46	-0.29	0.21	0.46	71	5.24	76	85	57	0	2	4	0
	ERIE	56	38	76	33	47	14	0.35	-0.26	0.20	0.35	66	5.17	97	78	59	0	0	5	0
	MIDDLETOWN	59	37	66	24	48	11	0.65	-0.09	0.37	0.65	102	4.53	71	95	50	0	2	4	0
	PHILADELPHIA	63	41	68	30	52	13	1.26	0.46	1.02	1.26	183	5.46	79	88	56	0	1	3	1
	PITTSBURGH	61	38	78	27	50	14	0.62	-0.04	0.20	0.62	109	7.84	139	89	51	0	2	5	0
	WILKES-BARRE	54	37	61	23	45	11	0.33	-0.19	0.25	0.33	75	4.33	87	85	53	0	2	3	0
	WILLIAMSPORT	52	33	60	20	43	9	0.47	-0.18	0.19	0.47	84	4.77	79	99	72	0	3	4	0
RI	PROVIDENCE	56	36	63	29	46	11	0.60	-0.29	0.47	0.60	78	4.22	49	82	57	0	1	3	0
SC	BEAUFORT	76	50	81	31	63	9	0.00	-0.73	0.00	0.00	0	5.50	71	99	52	0	1	0	0
	CHARLESTON	78	50	83	29	64	9	0.00	-0.83	0.00	0.00	0	5.97	76	99	47	0	1	0	0
	COLUMBIA	76	49	81	23	63	11	0.04	-0.97	0.04	0.04	5	5.89	63	84	44	0	1	1	0
	GREENVILLE	71	49	77	26	60	11	0.10	-1.15	0.05	0.10	9	5.16	53	86	48	0	1	3	0
SD	ABERDEEN	34	26	43	22	30	4	0.93	0.73	0.51	0.42	233	2.15	189	93	84	0	6	4	1
	HURON	39	28	50	24	34	6	0.87	0.61	0.81	0.06	27	1.62	128	95	73	0	6	3	1
	RAPID CITY	31	19	41	16	25	-7	1.32	1.15	0.67	0.65	464	1.81	187	97	77	0	7	2	2
	SIoux FALLS	39	31	46	25	35	7	0.68	0.42	0.28	0.40	182	2.03	164	92	80	0	6	5	0
TN	BRISTOL	69	42	76	26	55	12	2.05	1.14	1.17	2.05	263	8.36	109	92	41	0	1	3	2
	CHATTANOOGA	70	51	76	33	61	13	2.48	1.10	1.62	2.48	208	10.96	96	91	65	0	0	3	2
	KNOXVILLE	69	47	76	30	58	12	2.41	1.24	1.47	2.41	241	8.79	92	93	57	0	1	3	2
	MEMPHIS	70	54	77	47	62	12	1.45	0.27	0.99	1.45	142	9.10	95	86	54	0	0	3	1
	NASHVILLE	67	48	76	39	57	10	2.55	1.45	1.48	2.55	271	11.92	139	89	48	0	0	2	2
TX	ABILENE	64	44	73	36	54	1	1.38	1.08	0.65	0.73	281	5.28	224	88	53	0	0	4	2
	AMARILLO	52	32	69	27	42	-3	1.72	1.52	1.09	1.41	829	3.53	261	94	57	0	3	4	1
	AUSTIN	73	50	79	40	62	3	0.86	0.32	0.41	0.55	120	8.43	194	84	59	0	0	5	0
	BEAUMONT	74	60	78	51	67	7	0.16	-0.60	0.11	0.15	23	13.12	135	99	74	0	0	3	0
	BROWNSVILLE	82	66	86	59	74	8	0.01	-0.15	0.01	0.01	8	2.71	101	93	68	0	0	1	0
	CORPUS CHRISTI	77	63	83	54	70	6	0.03	-0.39	0.03	0.03	8	4.17	109	95	73	0	0	1	0
	DEL RIO	77	53	79	44	65	4	0.37	0.16	0.35	0.37	206	1.95	114	80	52	0	0	2	0
	EL PASO	60	38	71	33	49	-5	0.04	-0.03	0.04	0.04	67	0.46	51	65	31	0	0	1	0
	FORT WORTH	71	49	75	44	60	6	1.56	0.82	0.99	1.04	163	7.93	162	94	47	0	0	4	2
	GALVESTON	70	60	76	55	65	4	0.28	-0.29	0.16	0.12	24	9.08	126	99	78	0	0	3	0
	HOUSTON	77	60	83	54	69	9	0.81	0.09	0.49	0.32	52	11.86	163	91	69	0	0	5	0
	LUBBOCK	56	38	71	33	47	-1	1.48	1.33	0.84	1.04	800	4.82	360	94	63	0	0	5	1
	MIDLAND	58	41	73	37	50	-3	0.71	0.59	0.55	0.55	550	2.02	167	84	55	0	0	2	1
	SAN ANGELO	69	44	74	37	56	2	0.92	0.66	0.59	0.59	268	3.68	167	82	56	0	0	2	1
	SAN ANTONIO	74	53	79	44	64	5	0.77	0.34	0.60	0.64	178	4.69	124	91	49	0	0	4	1
	VICTORIA	76	59	82	50	68	7	0.38	-0.12	0.26	0.29	67	6.53	133	98	70	0	0	4	0
	WACO	71	49	73	43	60	5	1.72	1.09	0.65	1.27	235	10.54	216	94	66	0	0	4	2
	WICHITA FALLS	63	44	73	37	54	3	2.41	1.92	0.91	1.77	421	6.26	201	90	63	0	0	5	3
UT	SALT LAKE CITY	39	27	45	21	33	-7	0.36	-0.03	0.17	0.29	85	2.92	96	94	63	0	6	4	0
VT	BURLINGTON	46	31	51	19	39	13	0.25	-0.18	0.17	0.25	68	1.57	37	86	59	0	3	2	0
VA	LYNCHBURG	69	40	78	24	55	13	0.53	-0.31	0.38	0.53	74	4.31	59	81	43	0	2	3	0
	NORFOLK	74	49	83	31	62	16	0.20	-0.70	0.19	0.20	26	3.61	45	82	47	0	1	2	0
	RICHMOND	73	45	82	28	59	15	0.08	-0.82	0.08	0.08	10	3.50	48	87	51	0	1	1	0
	ROANOKE	71	46	77	30	58	15	0.33	-0.51	0.29	0.33	46	4.99	71	78	46	0	1	2	0
	WASH/DULLES	68	40	76	22	54	14	1.24	0.47	0.94	1.24	185	4.58	71	87	51	0	2	4	1
WA	OLYMPIA	51	35	55	27	43	1	0.84	-0.46	0.44	0.77	69	12.85	87	93	72	0	2	7	0
	QUILLAYUTE	50	36	57	29	43	0	2.44	-0.34	1.01	2.33	98	21.53	76	96	85	0	2	7	1
	SEATTLE-TACOMA	50	39	52	32	44	-1	0.34	-0.56	0.19	0.34	44	9.14	91	90	75	0	1	3	0
	SPOKANE	43	29	49	25	36	-1	0.18	-0.18	0.10	0.16	52	3.04	84	92	61	0	6	4	0
	YAKIMA	52	30	56	26	41	1	0.08	-0.08	0.07	0.08	62	3.05	145	87	66	0	6	2	0
WV	BECKLEY	63	44	73	30	53	14	1.28	0.46	0.91	1.28	183	6.18	90	79	52	0	1	4	1
	CHARLESTON	67	42	81	26	55	13	1.96	1.07	1.18	1.96	255	8.08	112	96	48	0	1	6	2
	ELKINS	64	32	78	15	48	12	1.90	1.02	0.74	1.90	250	7.45	101	98	46	0	4	4	3
	HUNTINGTON	65	42	79	28	54	12	2.12	1.24	1.42	2.12	279	8.15	115	90	42	0	1	4	1
WI	EAU CLAIRE	40	31	50	27	35	9	0.68	0.42	0.48	0.68	309	3.62	176	98	69	0	4	5	0
	GREEN BAY	41	33	50	28	37	10	1.71	1.38	1.03	1.71	611	4.57	183	95	73	0	2	5	1
	LA CROSSE	45	34	54	31	40	10	2.15	1.88	0.87	2.03	883	4.28	178	94	67	0	2	6	2
	MADISON	46	34	56	29	40	11	1.52	1.17	0.72	1.48	477	3.54	125	90	76	0	1	5	2
	MILWAUKEE	49	35	59	31	42	11	1.68	1.27	0.78	1.68	467	4.21	109	92	74	0	2	5	2
WY	CASPER	30	7	33	-7	19	-13	0.33	0.14	0.25	0.08	47	0.75	54	88	74	0	7	3	0
	CHEYENNE	39	23	46	19	31	-1	0.08	-0.10	0.08	0.08	50	0.60	57	79	47	0	7	1	0
	LANDER	30	12	41	2	21	-11	0.28	0.08	0.28	0.00	0	1.64	133	87	78	0	7	1	0
	SHERIDAN	34	20	42	12	27	-5	0.20	0.05	0.19	0.01	8	1.05	71	87	72	0	7	2	

February Weather and Crop Summary

Weather

Weather summary provided by USDA/WAOB

Important changes in the Nation's weather pattern provided drought relief across the West, central and southern Plains, and upper Midwest. In addition, heavy precipitation across the South ended a 2-month dry spell. Western storminess boosted high-elevation snow packs and improved spring and summer runoff prospects in the Great Basin, Intermountain West, central and southern Rockies, and Southwest. Meanwhile, water-supply prospects remained favorable in California and the Northwest. Farther east, most winter wheat areas on the Plains benefited from increasingly wet weather, despite underlying subsoil moisture shortages. Some of the heaviest precipitation fell on the southern Plains, where a late-month warming trend promoted some wheat and pasture development. However, pockets of dryness persisted farther north, most notably across parts of Montana and the central High Plains. Elsewhere, the northern and western Corn Belt received substantial rain and snow, reducing long-term precipitation deficits. In contrast, mostly dry weather across the southern and eastern Corn Belt helped to eliminate pockets of excessive wetness. Across the South, a steady procession of storm systems aided pastures and winter grains but slowed pre-planting activities. Fieldwork delays were most pronounced west of the Delta, where monthly precipitation totaled more than 200 percent of normal.

Below-normal temperatures prevailed across the southern two-thirds of the Nation, excluding southern Florida, where near-normal readings prevailed. Chilly conditions were most pronounced from the Great Basin to the southern Rockies, where temperatures averaged as much as 8°F below normal. In contrast, near- to slightly above-normal temperatures were observed across the Nation's northern tier. An exception was eastern Montana, where record-high snow depths helped to hold readings as much as 6°F below normal.

According to the California Department of Water Resources, the water equivalent of the Sierra Nevada snow pack stood at 29 inches (118 percent of normal) on February 29, up from 20 inches (111 percent) at the beginning of the month. Farther inland, a February-record 30.5 inches of snow blanketed Pocatello, ID, breaking its 1922 record of 23.4 inches. The snow, which equated to 2.40 inches of liquid (238 percent of normal), helped to hold Pocatello's monthly average temperature to 25.1°F (4.9°F below normal). Meanwhile in Utah, monthly precipitation ranged from 250 to 300 percent of normal in locations such as Milford (2.83 inches, including

24.0 inches of snow) and Tooele (4.61 inches, including 38.0 inches of snow). Late-month precipitation was very impressive across the Intermountain West, including Utah, where February 25-29 snowfall included 57 inches in the Wasatch Range at Alta and 48 inches at Cedar Breaks National Monument. In addition, several Western records for precipitation intensity were established during February and early March. In southern California, 5.07 inches of rain pounded Pasadena on February 25-26, breaking its 24-hour record for February (previously, 4.50 inches on February 27-28, 1991). Farther north, Reno, NV, netted at least 1 inch of rain twice in 6 days (1.12 and 1.21 inches on February 25 and March 1). Remarkably, the last 67 years of data for Reno indicated only 25 days with precipitation totaling more than 1 inch.

The West was not alone in receiving heavy precipitation. Across the east-central Plains and southwestern Corn Belt, snow depths approached or reached record levels early in the month in the wake of three major storms in less than 2 weeks. By February 5, snow depths reached 21 inches in Sioux Falls, SD, and 26 inches in Sioux City, IA. It was Sioux Falls' greatest snow depth since March 21, 1969, and Sioux City's greatest depth since March 14, 1962. Omaha, NE, received 31.2 inches of snow in 13 days from January 25 - February 6, boosting its depth to a February-record level of 26 inches (previously, 18 inches in 1965). Significant snow also fell in the upper Mississippi Valley, helping to ease long-term precipitation deficits. Monthly snowfall totaled 24.3 inches in Eau Claire, WI, edging its February 1945 record of 21.6 inches. Farther south, January-February precipitation totaled 3.78 inches (312 percent of normal) in Lubbock, representing the Texas city's wettest start to a year since 4.34 inches fell during the first 2 months of 1949. Despite the overall wet pattern, only 0.12 inch fell in Lubbock during the 33 days ending February 19, setting the stage for a major southern Plains dust storm. February 19 featured blowing dust, wind gusts approaching 60 m.p.h., and visibilities of one-half mile in locations such as Las Cruces, NM, and Lubbock.

Extremely dry conditions persisted on the Montana High Plains, where only a trace of precipitation (0.28 inch below normal) in Cut Bank marked its driest February on record, tying 1912 and 1926. Cut Bank's 5-month precipitation totaled 0.60 inch (32 percent of normal), representing its fifth-driest October-February period. Elsewhere in Montana, October-February precipitation was the lowest on record in locations such as Helena (1.32 inches, or 53 percent of normal) and Great Falls (0.86 inch, or 25 percent). In contrast, a deep blanket of snow cloaked northeastern Montana, where

Glasgow's depth ranged from 21 to 29 inches. In fact, Glasgow's 29-inch depth on February 11 and 12 surpassed its all-time record of 26 inches set on February 10, 1916. Snow cover helped to suppress February temperatures in Glasgow, where the monthly average temperature was 13.6°F (5.5°F below normal). Farther south, streaks of below-normal daily average temperatures finally ended at 24 consecutive days (January 25 - February 17) in locations such as Kansas City, MO, and Hastings, NE. Meanwhile in Tucson, AZ, where the monthly average temperature of 50.8°F was 4.2°F below normal, it was the second-coldest February in the last quarter century. In Alamosa, CO, minimum temperatures dipped to -10°F or lower on 13 of the month's first 16 days, helping to hold its monthly average temperature to 13.7°F (8.8°F below normal).

At least 8 inches of rain soaked the Gulf Coast region from easternmost Texas to Alabama and western Florida. Monthly rainfall topped 10 inches in several locations, including Baton Rouge, LA (11.44 inches, or 224 percent of normal), Mobile, AL (10.78 inches, or 211 percent), and McComb, MS (10.67 inches, or 193 percent). More than three-quarters of McComb's rain fell on just 3 days: 2.51, 3.01, and 2.49 inches on February 5, 11, and 23. In Alabama, Pinson's 24-hour total of 7.15 inches on February 5-6 edged its all-time record of 7.10 inches set on March 20, 1970. Occasional frozen precipitation accompanied the Southern wet spell. On Valentine's Day, daily snowfall records from 1951 were broken or tied in Texas locations such as Dallas-Ft. Worth (3.0 inches) and Austin-Mabry (1.6 inches). Elsewhere in the South, February 13-15 snowfall totaled 6.0 inches in Tishomingo, OK, Horatio, AR, Ashland, MS, and Moscow, TN. More snow fell in parts of Texas on February 24-25, when Abilene reported consecutive daily-record totals (1.2 and 1.4 inches). However, much heavier snow developed in the southern Mid-Atlantic region on February 26, when daily-record totals included 11.6 inches in Charlotte, NC, and 8.0 inches in Greenville-Spartanburg (GSP), SC. February 26-27 snowfall reached 13.2 inches in Charlotte, its third-greatest storm total behind 17.4 inches on February 14-17, 1902, and 13.3 inches on March 1-2, 1927. Charlotte also received 13.2 inches of snow on February 15-17, 1969. GSP's 8.3-inch total was its ninth-greatest storm total. According to unofficial reports, as much as 20 inches of snow blanketed Randolph County, NC.

Farther north, however, Virginia's Dulles Airport (IAD) received only a trace of snow, tying its February record low. IAD also experienced a 17-day spell (February 7-23) without measurable precipitation, its longest such streak since October 17 - November 2, 2001. During the same 17 days, nearby

Martinsburg, WV, had its longest stretch with measurable precipitation since a 20-day dry spell from November 4-23, 2001. Prior to the dry spell, however, a pair of storm systems produced rain, freezing rain, and snow in the East from February 2-6. In fact, Martinsburg netted 2.21 inches of precipitation (mostly rain and freezing rain) on February 5-6, all of which fell with the temperature at or below 33°F. Northeastern areas bypassed by the early-February storminess were left with one of the driest starts to a year. For example, Massachusetts' year-to-date amounts of 2.88 inches (40 percent of normal) in Worcester and 2.46 inches (34 percent) in Boston were the stations' third-lowest January-February totals on record.

Although most of Alaska experienced mild February weather (monthly temperatures as much as 8°F above normal), bitterly cold weather remained entrenched north of the Brooks Range. Near- to below-normal precipitation was observed across most of the Alaskan mainland, but wet weather prevailed in southern portions of the State. Among the wettest locations was Yakutat, where February precipitation totaled 20.29 inches (185 percent of normal). In northwestern Alaska, Kotzebue's season-to-date snowfall reached 84.8 inches, breaking its 1990-91 record of 83.2 inches. More than half of Kotzebue's snow, 44.0 inches, fell in November 2003.

Exceptionally wet conditions arrived in Hawaii toward the end of February, breaking a mild, mostly dry weather pattern that boosted monthly temperatures 1 to 3°F above normal. In Honolulu, Oahu, where 9.26 inches of the 9.47-inch monthly total (403 percent of normal) fell from February 26-29, it was the wettest February since 12.82 inches fell in 1982. Honolulu also closed the month with daily-record totals on 3 of 4 days (3.07, 5.43, and 0.46 inches on February 26, 27, and 29), including its second-wettest February day on record behind 5.52 inches on February 23, 1955. Other Hawaiian daily-record totals on February 27 included 3.22 inches in Lihue, Kauai, and 2.51 inches in Kahului, Maui.

Fieldwork

Fieldwork summary provided by USDA/NASS

Heavy rains and below-normal temperatures prevailed across the Mississippi Delta and Gulf Coast throughout February, with a short respite just after midmonth. Similar conditions, but with slightly less precipitation, prevailed in the Southeast, with some snowfall in northern parts of the region. Producers were getting ready for spring field preparation, but most fields were too muddy to begin fieldwork.

Across the northern and middle Atlantic Coast States and Ohio Valley, snow and ice early in the month gave way to mostly dry conditions, with only light, scattered precipitation. Average temperatures were near normal.

Except for snow early in the month, the western and central Corn Belt were mostly dry with only light, scattered precipitation. Temperatures were mostly below normal. In the northern Corn Belt, snowfall was heavier and more frequent, despite above-normal temperatures. Across most of the Corn Belt, snow cover provided adequate protection for winter wheat during the coldest part of the month and provided much-needed moisture as it melted later in the month.

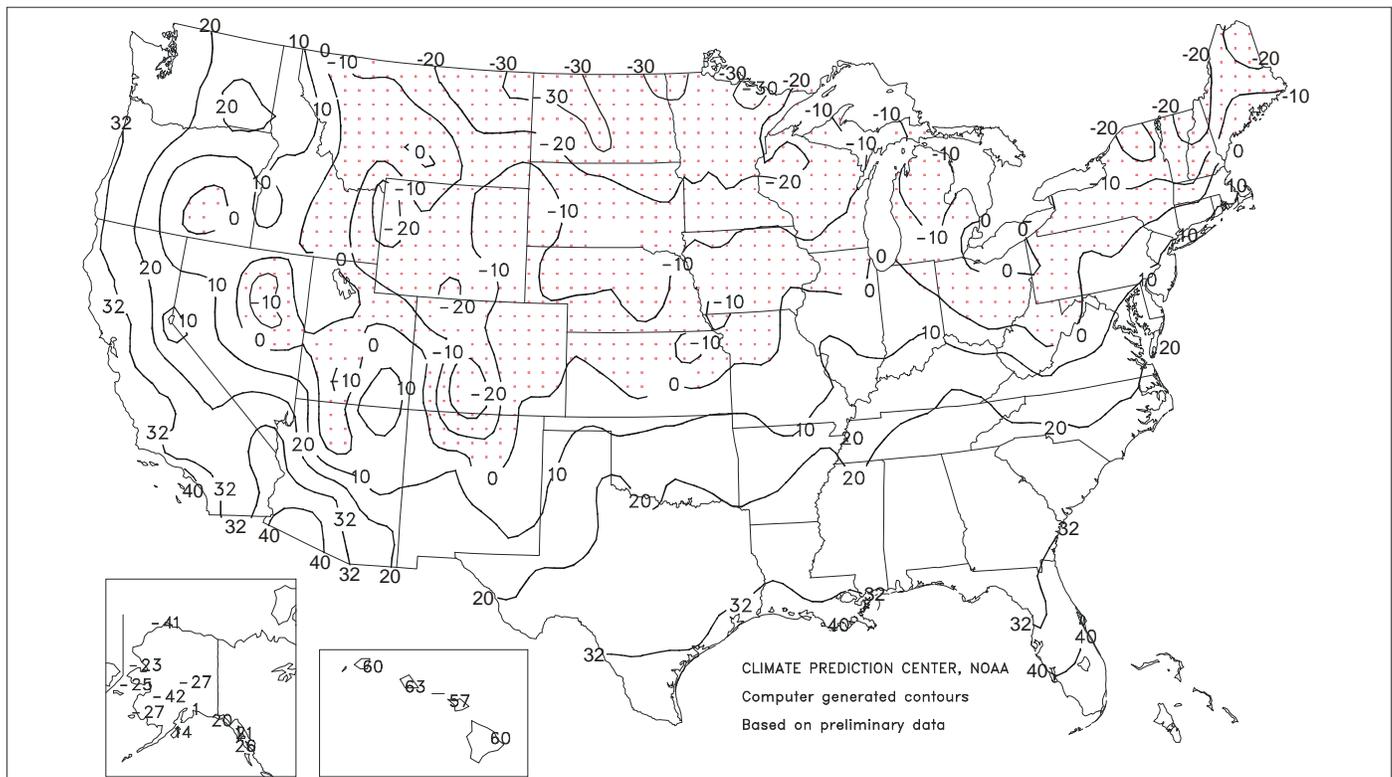
In the northern and central Great Plains, conditions remained dry throughout the month, causing moisture stress for winter wheat. Temperatures were well below normal early in the month but yielded to above-normal temperatures after midmonth. Precipitation totals were higher in the southern Great Plains, with light rainfall just before midmonth and moderate precipitation, including some snow, during the last week of the month. Temperatures were below normal in the first half of the month but near normal through month's end. Planting of corn, cotton, and sorghum had begun in southern parts of Texas, but wet conditions limited progress.

Precipitation was light but widespread across the northern and central Rocky Mountains, with some scattered pockets of moderate rainfall. Below-normal temperatures dominated early in the month but gave way to slightly above-normal temperatures toward month's end. In the southern Rocky Mountains, dry conditions prevailed throughout most of the month, although light to moderate rain fell in the region during the last week. Average temperatures for the month were below normal.

Rainfall was heavy along the Pacific Coast, with above-normal temperatures in the extreme northern part of the region and below-normal temperatures in the south. In California, wet conditions in many areas slowed citrus harvest and vegetable planting and harvesting toward month's end. Land preparation for summer crops was active where conditions permitted. In the interior Pacific Northwest, light precipitation fell throughout most of the month and temperatures were near normal. Conditions in the Great Basin and Southwest were mostly dry, although some light precipitation fell during the last week. Western temperatures averaged below normal for the month, aided by weekly average temperatures more than 12°F below normal for a large part of the region just before midmonth. Emergence of small grains was complete in Arizona, and heading had begun.

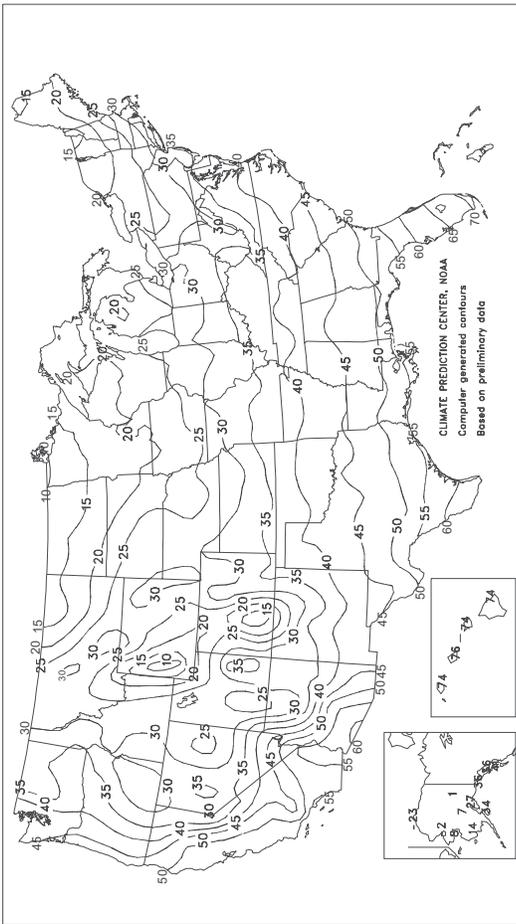
Extreme Minimum Temperature (°F)

February 2004



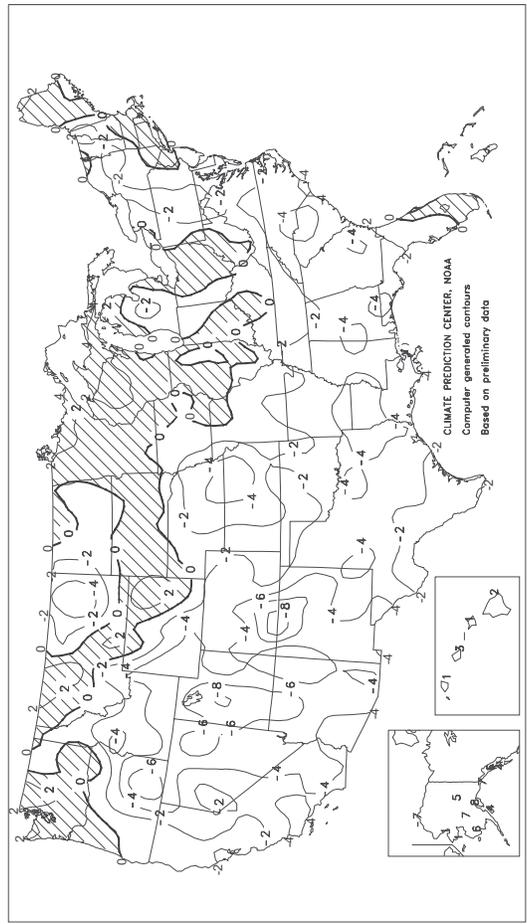
Average Temperature (°F)

February 2004



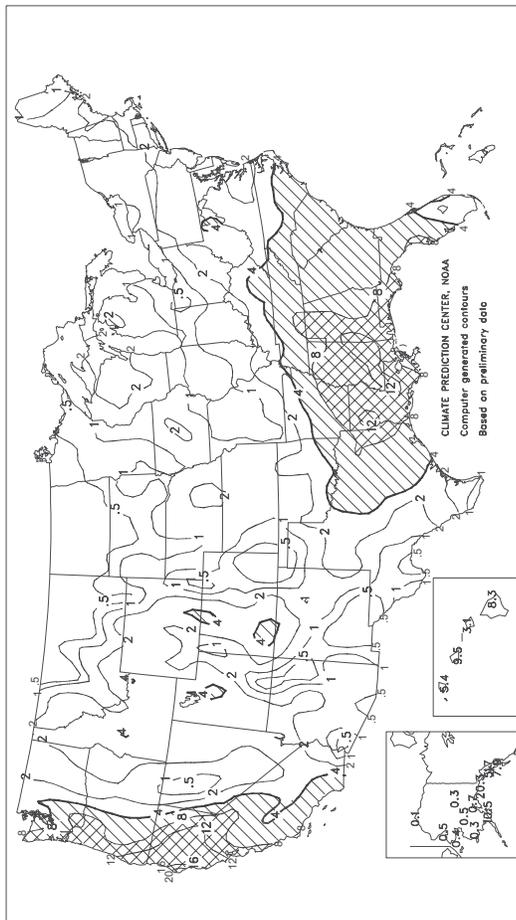
Departure of Average Temperature from Normal (°F)

February 2004



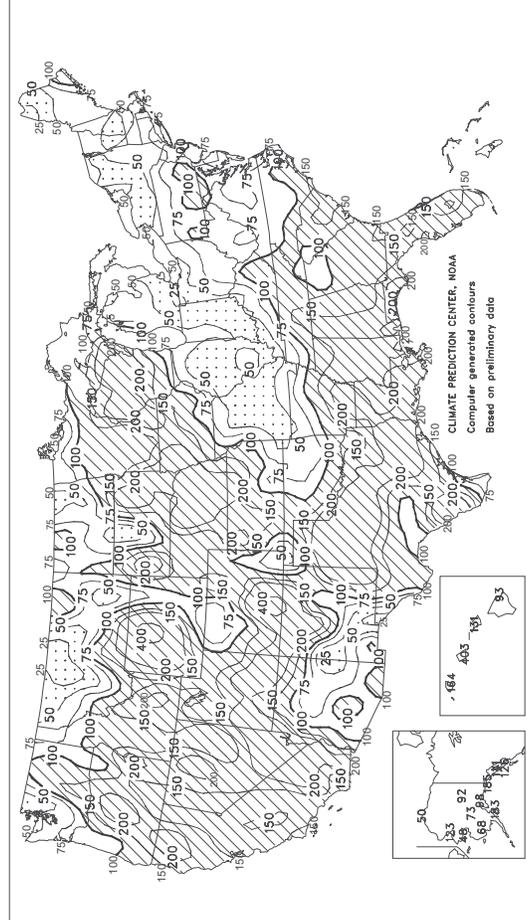
Total Precipitation (inches)

February 2004



Percent Of Normal Precipitation

February 2004



TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION SUMMARY

February 2004

STATES AND STATIONS	TEMP, °F		PRECIP.		STATES AND STATIONS	TEMP, °F		PRECIP.		STATES AND STATIONS	TEMP, °F		PRECIP.	
	AVERAGE	DEPARTURE	TOTAL	DEPARTURE		AVERAGE	DEPARTURE	TOTAL	DEPARTURE		AVERAGE	DEPARTURE	TOTAL	DEPARTURE
AL BIRMINGHAM	45	-2	6.09	1.88	LEXINGTON	36	0	1.50	-1.77	COLUMBUS	32	0	2.04	-0.16
HUNTSVILLE	43	-1	7.10	2.15	LONDON-CORBIN	38	-1	4.91	1.19	DAYTON	31	1	1.22	-1.07
MOBILE	51	-2	10.80	5.70	LOUISVILLE	38	0	1.69	-1.56	MANSFIELD	28	1	0.64	-1.53
MONTGOMERY	47	-4	5.50	0.05	PADUCAH	38	0	1.63	-2.30	TOLEDO	28	1	0.50	-1.38
AK ANCHORAGE	27	8	0.71	-0.03	LA BATON ROUGE	51	-2	11.45	6.35	YOUNGSTOWN	28	0	1.02	-1.01
BARROW	-23	-7	0.07	-0.05	LAKE CHARLES	52	-2	8.10	4.82	OK OKLAHOMA CITY	40	-2	1.45	-0.11
COLD BAY	33	5	3.40	0.81	NEW ORLEANS	53	-3	8.43	2.96	TULSA	40	-2	1.20	-0.75
FAIRBANKS	1	5	0.00	-0.36	SHREVEPORT	47	-4	7.98	3.77	OR ASTORIA	46	2	7.17	-0.70
JUNEAU	36	7	5.31	1.29	ME BANGOR	21	0	0.84	-1.70	BURNS	24	-6	1.30	0.19
KING SALMON	29	13	0.50	-0.22	CARIBOU	15	2	0.43	-1.63	EUGENE	44	1	4.30	-2.05
KODIAK	34	4	10.75	5.03	PORTLAND	26	1	1.74	-1.40	MEDFORD	45	1	3.45	1.35
NOME	8	2	0.35	-0.40	MD BALTIMORE	35	0	2.13	-0.89	PENDLETON	40	1	1.84	0.62
AZ FLAGSTAFF	27	-5	1.09	-1.47	MA BOSTON	33	2	1.47	-1.83	PORTLAND	45	2	3.96	-0.22
PHOENIX	56	-2	1.02	0.25	WORCESTER	27	1	1.45	-1.65	SALEM	44	1	5.21	0.12
TUCSON	51	-4	0.49	-0.39	MI ALPENA	21	2	0.50	-0.85	PA ALLENTOWN	31	1	2.49	-0.26
AR FORT SMITH	42	-2	1.77	-0.82	DETROIT	28	1	0.50	-1.38	ERIE	27	-1	0.53	-1.75
LITTLE ROCK	42	-3	4.45	1.12	FLINT	25	1	0.43	-0.92	MIDDLETOWN	31	0	2.15	-0.78
CA BAKERSFIELD	53	0	1.65	0.44	GRAND RAPIDS	26	1	0.43	-1.10	PHILADELPHIA	35	0	2.51	-0.23
EUREKA	48	-1	7.44	1.93	HOUGHTON LAKE	19	-1	0.65	-0.60	PITTSBURGH	31	0	2.24	-0.13
FRESNO	51	0	1.08	-1.04	LANSING	23	-1	0.56	-0.89	WILKES-BARRE	27	-2	1.94	-0.14
LOS ANGELES	56	-2	4.43	1.32	MUSKEGON	27	2	0.51	-1.07	WILLIAMSPORT	27	-2	1.74	-0.87
REDDING	49	0	10.05	4.56	TRAVERSE CITY	23	1	1.26	-0.53	PR SAN JUAN	77	0	2.53	0.23
SACRAMENTO	51	0	5.04	1.50	MN DULUTH	19	4	0.85	0.02	RI PROVIDENCE	33	2	2.11	-1.34
SAN DIEGO	57	-2	2.84	0.80	INT'L FALLS	14	3	0.15	-0.49	SC CHARLESTON	48	-3	4.41	1.33
SAN FRANCISCO	52	0	4.60	0.59	MINNEAPOLIS	22	2	1.11	0.32	COLUMBIA	44	-4	4.85	1.01
STOCKTON	50	-1	3.71	1.25	ROCHESTER	20	2	0.75	0.00	FLORENCE	44	-4	2.09	-0.93
CO ALAMOSA	14	-8	0.40	0.19	ST. CLOUD	17	1	0.56	-0.03	GREENVILLE	42	-2	2.54	-1.70
CO SPRINGS	30	-2	0.39	0.04	MS JACKSON	46	-3	6.52	2.02	MYRTLE BEACH	46	-3	0.00	-3.50
DENVER	31	0	0.24	0.01	MERIDIAN	46	-4	8.07	2.72	SD ABERDEEN	18	-1	0.97	0.49
GRAND JUNCTION	30	-4	0.58	0.08	TUPELO	43	-2	6.52	1.84	HURON	21	0	0.86	0.29
PUEBLO	33	-2	0.61	0.35	MO COLUMBIA	33	-1	0.70	-1.50	RAPID CITY	29	2	0.83	0.37
CT BRIDGEPORT	32	0	2.20	-0.72	JOPLIN	38	-1	1.01	-1.24	SIoux FALLS	20	-1	0.89	0.38
HARTFORD	29	0	1.37	-1.59	KANSAS CITY	31	-2	1.24	-0.07	TN BRISTOL	38	0	3.38	-0.02
DC WASHINGTON	38	0	2.28	-0.35	SPRINGFIELD	37	0	0.56	-1.72	CHATTANOOGA	42	-1	4.91	0.06
DE WILMINGTON	34	0	2.33	-0.48	ST JOSEPH	29	-3	0.80	-0.33	JACKSON	40	-3	3.72	-0.53
FL DAYTONA BEACH	60	0	4.45	1.71	ST LOUIS	36	1	0.85	-1.43	KNOXVILLE	40	-2	2.57	-1.44
FT LAUDERDALE	70	2	4.62	1.92	MT BILLINGS	32	2	0.81	0.24	MEMPHIS	43	-2	4.51	0.20
FT MYERS	65	-1	2.74	0.64	BUTTE	22	0	0.20	-0.27	NASHVILLE	41	0	5.78	2.09
JACKSONVILLE	53	-3	3.35	0.20	GLASGOW	14	-5	0.26	0.00	TX ABILENE	45	-4	2.91	1.78
KEY WEST	71	0	2.73	1.22	GREAT FALLS	31	5	0.06	-0.45	AMARILLO	38	-3	1.20	0.65
MELBOURNE	64	2	2.59	0.10	HELENA	29	3	0.17	-0.21	AUSTIN	49	-6	5.20	3.21
MIAMI	71	2	2.86	0.79	KALISPELL	28	1	0.49	-0.66	BEAUMONT	53	-3	5.02	1.67
ORLANDO	63	0	4.45	2.10	MILES CITY	21	-4	0.08	-0.26	BROWNSVILLE	62	-1	0.88	-0.30
PENSACOLA	52	-3	9.27	4.59	MISSOULA	29	0	0.51	-0.26	COLLEGE STATION	51	-4	5.93	3.55
ST PETERSBURG	64	1	5.02	2.15	NE GRAND ISLAND	24	-4	0.91	0.23	CORPUS CHRISTI	58	-2	2.14	0.30
TALLAHASSEE	52	-3	5.71	1.08	HASTINGS	25	-5	1.31	0.64	DALLAS/FT WORTH	46	-3	3.81	1.44
TAMPA	63	0	4.05	1.38	LINCOLN	25	-3	0.67	0.01	DEL RIO	55	-1	0.76	-0.20
WEST PALM BEACH	69	2	2.74	0.19	MCCOOK	30	-2	1.00	0.36	EL PASO	46	-5	0.05	-0.34
GA ATHENS	43	-3	3.24	-1.15	NORFOLK	25	-1	1.35	0.59	GALVESTON	55	-3	4.18	1.57
ATLANTA	44	-3	4.61	-0.07	NORTH PLATTE	27	-2	0.56	0.05	HOUSTON	54	-1	5.03	2.05
AUGUSTA	45	-3	5.11	1.00	OMAHA/EPPLEY	25	-3	1.33	0.53	LUBBOCK	42	-1	1.80	1.09
COLUMBUS	47	-3	5.07	0.59	SCOTTSBLUFF	31	1	0.51	-0.07	MIDLAND	45	-4	0.89	0.31
MACON	47	-2	6.02	1.47	VALENTINE	26	-1	0.75	0.27	SAN ANGELO	47	-3	1.70	0.52
SAVANNAH	49	-4	0.94	-1.98	NV ELKO	24	-7	0.92	0.04	SAN ANTONIO	53	-2	1.83	0.08
HI HILO	74	3	8.41	-0.45	ELY	24	-6	0.73	-0.02	VICTORIA	55	-2	3.25	1.21
HONOLULU	76	3	9.21	6.86	LAS VEGAS	49	-3	1.46	0.77	WACO	47	-4	5.21	2.78
KAHULUI	74	2	3.07	0.71	RENO	39	1	1.43	0.37	WICHITA FALLS	43	-3	3.15	1.58
LIHUE	74	2	5.08	1.82	WINNEMUCCA	33	-3	1.06	0.44	UT SALT LAKE CITY	27	-8	2.36	1.03
ID BOISE	35	-2	1.47	0.33	NH CONCORD	25	2	1.04	-1.32	VT BURLINGTON	19	-1	0.82	-0.85
LEWISTON	40	2	0.74	-0.21	NJ ATLANTIC CITY	34	0	2.08	-0.77	VA LYNCHBURG	36	-2	2.05	-1.05
POCATELLO	25	-5	1.73	0.72	NEWARK	35	1	2.45	-0.51	NORFOLK	42	0	1.41	-1.93
IL CHICAGO/O'HARE	28	1	0.48	-1.15	NM ALBUQUERQUE	38	-3	1.17	0.73	RICHMOND	38	-2	1.88	-1.10
MOLINE	28	1	0.75	-0.76	NY ALBANY	25	0	1.07	-1.10	ROANOKE	38	-1	2.28	-0.80
PEORIA	30	2	0.51	-1.16	BINGHAMTON	24	0	1.02	-1.44	WASH/DULLES	35	0	1.48	-1.29
ROCKFORD	26	1	0.81	-0.53	BUFFALO	26	0	1.16	-1.26	WA OLYMPIA	42	2	3.03	-3.14
SPRINGFIELD	31	0	0.49	-1.31	ROCHESTER	25	0	0.73	-1.31	QUILLAYUTE	44	2	6.88	-5.47
IN EVANSVILLE	36	0	0.59	-2.51	SYRACUSE	23	-1	1.14	-0.98	SEATTLE-TACOMA	45	2	2.74	-1.44
FORT WAYNE	26	-1	0.37	-1.57	NC ASHEVILLE	38	-1	4.20	0.37	SPOKANE	32	-1	1.54	0.03
INDIANAPOLIS	32	1	0.74	-1.67	CHARLOTTE	40	-5	3.20	-0.35	YAKIMA	37	2	1.43	0.63
SOUTH BEND	27	0	0.54	-1.44	GREENSBORO	38	-3	2.06	-1.04	WV BECKLEY	34	0	1.67	-1.29
IA BURLINGTON	28	0	0.84	-0.70	HATTERAS	45	-2	2.46	-1.48	CHARLESTON	37	0	2.38	-0.81
CEDAR RAPIDS	24	-1	0.91	-0.19	RALEIGH	41	-2	2.98	-0.49	ELKINS	31	-1	2.77	-0.43
DES MOINES	25	-2	1.10	-0.09	WILMINGTON	45	-4	4.94	1.28	HUNTINGTON	38	1	2.53	-0.56
DUBUQUE	24	1	0.83	-0.59	ND BISMARCK	17	-1	0.28	-0.23	WI EAU CLAIRE	21	2	1.61	0.81
SIoux CITY	22	-3	0.66	0.04	DICKINSON	19	-2	0.43	0.00	GREEN BAY	22	2	1.04	0.03
WATERLOO	23	0	0.75	-0.30	FARGO	15	1	0.25	-0.34	LA CROSSE	24	1	0.83	-0.16
KS CONCORDIA	28	-4	1.15	0.42	GRAND FORKS	12	-1	0.06	-0.52	MADISON	24	1	1.45	0.17
DODGE CITY	33	-3	0.84	0.18	JAMESTOWN	15	-1	0.15	-0.37	MILWAUKEE	26	1	0.28	-1.37
GOODLAND	32	0	0.70	0.26	MINOT	16	-1	0.69	0.16	WAUSAU	21	2	0.96	0.06
HILL CITY	30	-2	0.93	0.33	WILLISTON	15	-2	0.24	-0.15	CASPER	27	0	0.65	0.01
TOPEKA	30	-3	1.29	0.11	OH AKRON-CANTON	28	0	1.26	-1.02	CHEYENNE	29	0	0.06	-0.38
WICHITA	34	-2	0.91	-0.11	CINCINNATI	34	0	1.26	-1.49	LANDER	23	-3	1.72	1.18
KY JACKSON	38	0	3.78	0.10	CLEVELAND	29	1	0.77	-1.52	SHERIDAN	29	2	1.03	0.46

National Agricultural Summary

March 1 - 7, 2004

Weekly National Agricultural Summary provided by USDA/NASS

HIGHLIGHTS

Temperatures were above normal across the eastern half of the Nation, with most areas east of the Great Plains exceeding normal temperatures by over 9 degrees Fahrenheit. From the High Plains westward, temperatures were below normal, though rarely by more than 6 degrees Fahrenheit. Moderate precipitation fell across the western and central Corn Belt and Ohio Valley, improving moisture conditions but causing some flooding. Moderate to heavy rainfall covered the southern and central Great Plains, where moisture was needed for small grains. Precipitation was lighter in the northern Great Plains but still improved over previous weeks. Light rain fell along the northern and middle Atlantic Coast, but the southern Atlantic Coast States remained mostly dry. Interior parts of the Southeast and Mississippi Delta received moderate to heavy rainfall. Precipitation was variable across the Rocky Mountains and the Intermountain Region, with some areas receiving no measurable rainfall and others receiving over 2 inches. Moderate precipitation blanketed coastal areas of the

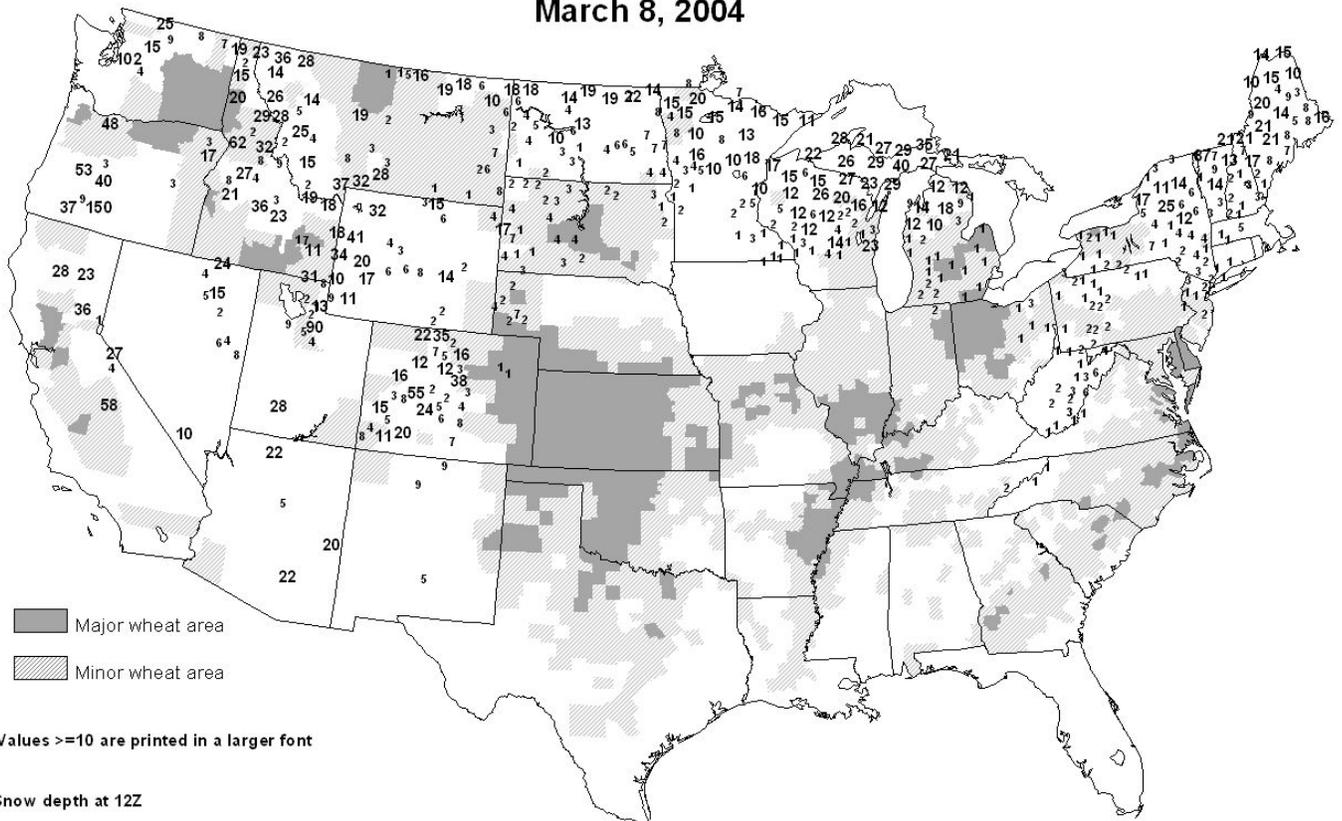
Pacific Northwest, and light rain fell across most of California.

In Florida, corn planting was active, as was planting and harvesting of several vegetable crops, prompted by warm, dry conditions. Citrus growers harvested several varieties. Fields were drying across most of Georgia, allowing producers to fertilize small grains and pastures where needed. However, wet fields were still a problem in some areas. Recent rains across most of Texas slowed fieldwork, causing corn, cotton, and sorghum planting to fall farther behind. However, winter wheat was recovering nicely with the additional moisture, even in fields where the crop was previously considered too far gone. In California, recent rains promoted vigorous growth in small grains and improved their condition, while sugar beets showed steady growth. However, wet fields hindered field preparation for summer crops and slowed planting and harvesting of vegetables. Arizona growers harvested a variety of vegetable and citrus crops.

Snow Depth

(Inches)

March 8, 2004



Values ≥ 10 are printed in a larger font

Snow depth at 12Z

The NWS cooperative network is the principal source of the snow depth reports

NOAA/USDA JOINT AGRICULTURAL WEATHER FACILITY

International Weather and Crop Summary

February 29 - March 6, 2004

International Weather and Crop Highlights and Summaries provided by USDA/WAOB

HIGHLIGHTS

EUROPE: Cold weather kept winter grains dormant across most of the region, while abundant snow cover in Poland protected winter grains from bitter cold.

FSU-WESTERN: Unsettled weather continued to bring widespread rain and snow to the region, boosting moisture reserves for the upcoming growing season.

MIDDLE EAST: Extensive temperature changes stressed winter grains in Turkey, while unseasonably warm weather caused winter grains to break dormancy in western Iran.

NORTHWESTERN AFRICA: Widespread showers favored vegetative winter grains, although unseasonably cool weather slowed crop development.

SOUTH AFRICA: Beneficial showers continued across the corn belt, increasing moisture for reproductive to filling summer crops.

AUSTRALIA: Cool, wet weather in eastern Australia slowed summer crop maturation, but likely caused little reduction in crop quality.

EASTERN ASIA: Cooler weather slowed winter wheat growth on the North China Plain, but warm, showery weather aided rapeseed development.

SOUTHEAST ASIA: Heavy showers fell throughout Indonesia and the southeastern Philippines, while warm weather prevailed in Vietnam and the northern Philippines.

BRAZIL: Lingering showers kept maturing soybeans unfavorably wet in northern growing areas, while in the south, unseasonable dryness raised additional concern for immature corn and soybeans.

ARGENTINA: Much-needed rain benefited immature crops in the main summer grain and oilseed areas.



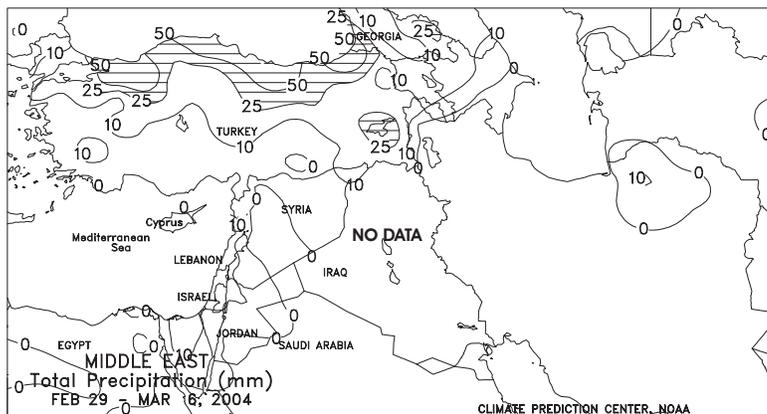
EUROPE

Unseasonably cold weather prevailed across most of the continent, keeping winter grains dormant in most areas. Temperatures averaged 2 to 6 degrees C below normal across most of Europe, except in the southern Balkans, where near-normal temperatures were observed. Light, if any, precipitation was observed across the region. The greatest amounts of precipitation (10-25 mm) were observed in extreme northern Spain, western France, and southern Italy. Adequate moisture reserves favored vegetative winter grains in most of the Iberian Peninsula. Less precipitation (less than 5 mm) was observed across most of northern Europe. In the east, light snow (5-20 mm of water equivalent) fell from Poland to the Balkans, increasing the protective snow cover. In southeastern Poland and Slovakia, a moderate to deep snow cover helped to protect dormant winter grains from bitterly cold weather (minimum temperatures of -19 to -15 degrees C). Along the Mediterranean coasts of eastern Spain, southern France, and western Italy, minimum temperatures of -3 to -1 degree C stressed tree crops (olives and oranges). Farther inland in Spain, sub-freezing temperatures may have burned back some vegetative winter grains.



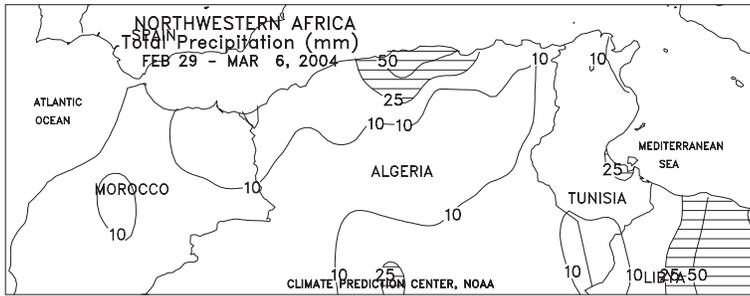
FSU-WESTERN

Unsettled weather continued to bring widespread rain and snow to most of the region. The precipitation in the Baltics, Belarus, and northwestern Ukraine fell mostly as snow (7-19 mm of liquid equivalent), maintaining a moderate to deep snow cover. In the Central and Volga Regions in Russia, a mixture of rain and snow (10-25 mm or more of liquid equivalent) turned to all snow during the middle of the week, as colder air overspread the region. Farther south, rain turned to wet snow at week's end in the eastern half of Ukraine and the Southern Region in Russia. Total amounts of precipitation ranged from 3 to 21 mm of liquid equivalent in the eastern half of Ukraine, with greater amounts of precipitation (10-50 mm or more of liquid equivalent) observed in the Russian Southern Region. By week's end, a thin to moderate snow covered most winter grain areas in Ukraine and the Southern Region in Russia, while a moderate to deep snow cover extended farther north from the Baltics and Belarus eastward across the Central and Volga Regions in Russia. Weekly temperatures averaged 1 to 4 degrees C below normal in the Baltics, Belarus, western Ukraine, and Moldova. On March 5-6, extreme minimum temperatures ranged from -18 to -15 degrees C in Belarus, western Ukraine, and the Central Region in Russia, where snow cover provided sufficient protection from winterkill. Farther east, weekly temperatures averaged 4 to 8 degrees C above normal in extreme eastern Ukraine and the Volga and Southern Regions in Russia. Although maximum temperatures rose above 15 degrees C early in the week in southeastern Ukraine and the Southern Region in Russia, colder weather gradually overspread these areas as the week progressed, dropping temperatures to more seasonal levels by week's end. Across southern portions of the Southern Region, weekly temperatures averaged above 5 degrees C, causing winter grains to rapidly lose cold hardiness.



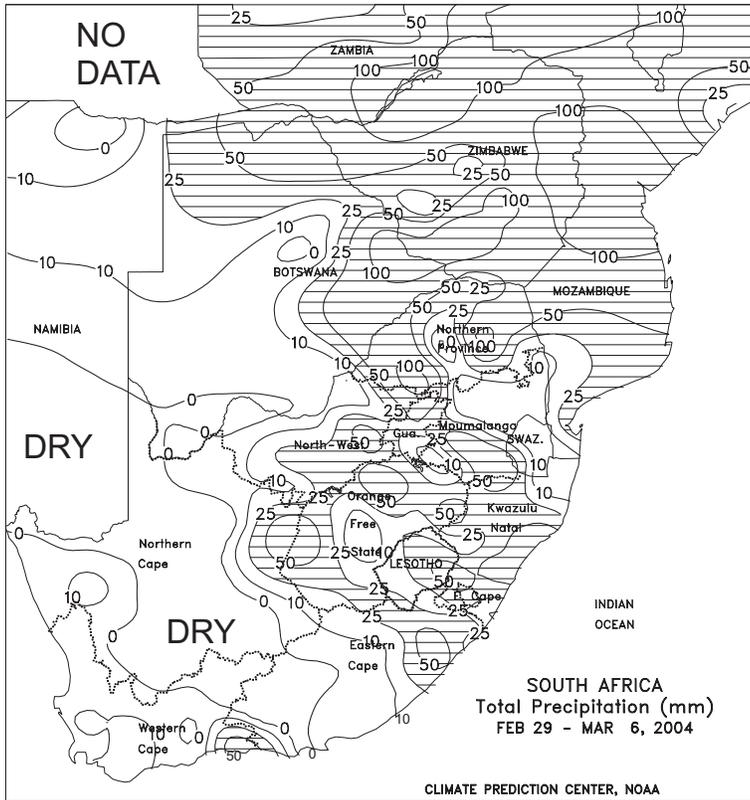
MIDDLE EAST

A late-week storm brought widespread rain and snow to most of Turkey. Moderate to heavy precipitation (25-100 mm) fell across the northern third of Turkey, while less precipitation amounts (3-15 mm) fell elsewhere. By week's end, light to moderate snow cover was reported across the central Plateau and northern Turkey. The precipitation maintained favorable moisture supplies for the upcoming spring growth of winter grains. Early in the week, maximum temperatures ranged from 22 to 25 degrees C in western and southern Turkey and 15 to 18 degrees C in northern Turkey. However, colder weather overspread the region during the week, dropping minimum temperatures in the central Plateau from -7 to -3 degrees C. The large variation in temperatures during the week stressed winter grains. In the eastern Mediterranean, widespread light rain (5-20 mm) maintained favorable moisture supplies for winter grain development. Based on reports from surrounding countries, possibly light rain fell in extreme northern Iraq. Dry, unseasonably warm weather (temperatures 9-14 degrees C above normal) prevailed across northwestern Iran, causing winter grains to break dormancy. Additionally, maximum temperatures ranged from 20 to 25 degrees C in northwestern Iran, increasing evaporation rates and reducing available moisture supplies for greening winter grains. Elsewhere, weekly temperatures averaged 1 to 3 degrees C above normal across western Turkey and 4 to 9 degrees C above normal across the remainder of Turkey and the eastern Mediterranean.



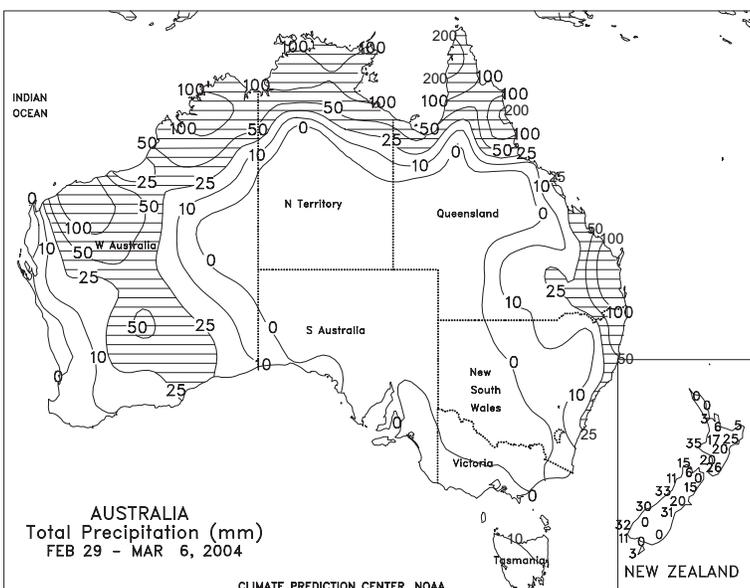
NORTHWESTERN AFRICA

Across the major winter grain areas of Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia, light, widespread showers (5-20 mm) favored vegetative winter grains. Locally heavy rain (35-79 mm) fell in central Algeria, creating the potential for isolated flooding. Temperatures across the region averaged 2 to 4 degrees C below normal, slowing winter grain development. Minimum temperatures fell below freezing across spotty areas in the interior, causing only minor leaf burn back. Soil moisture reserves are lacking throughout the region, necessitating timely rains in upcoming weeks as crops advance through the highly moisture-sensitive reproductive phase of development.



SOUTH AFRICA

Moderate to heavy rain (25-50 mm or more) covered a broad area of the northern and eastern corn belt (North West to Mpumalanga), benefiting reproductive to filling corn and other immature summer crops. The rain was especially welcomed in some traditionally higher yielding sections of western Mpumalanga, which has struggled with drier-than-normal weather for much of the growing season. However, dry pockets lingered in central Free State, including some important commercial white corn areas. Temperatures averaged near to slightly below normal across the corn belt (highs generally in the middle and upper 20s degrees C, exceeding 30 degrees C in the drier locations), promoting late summer crop development in the absence of excessive heat. Elsewhere, seasonable showers (10-50 mm or more) boosted moisture reserves for sugarcane in and around KwaZulu-Natal. Lighter showers (5-25 mm or more) covered Eastern Cape, while warmth and dryness maintained irrigation demands in fruit and vegetable areas of Western Cape.



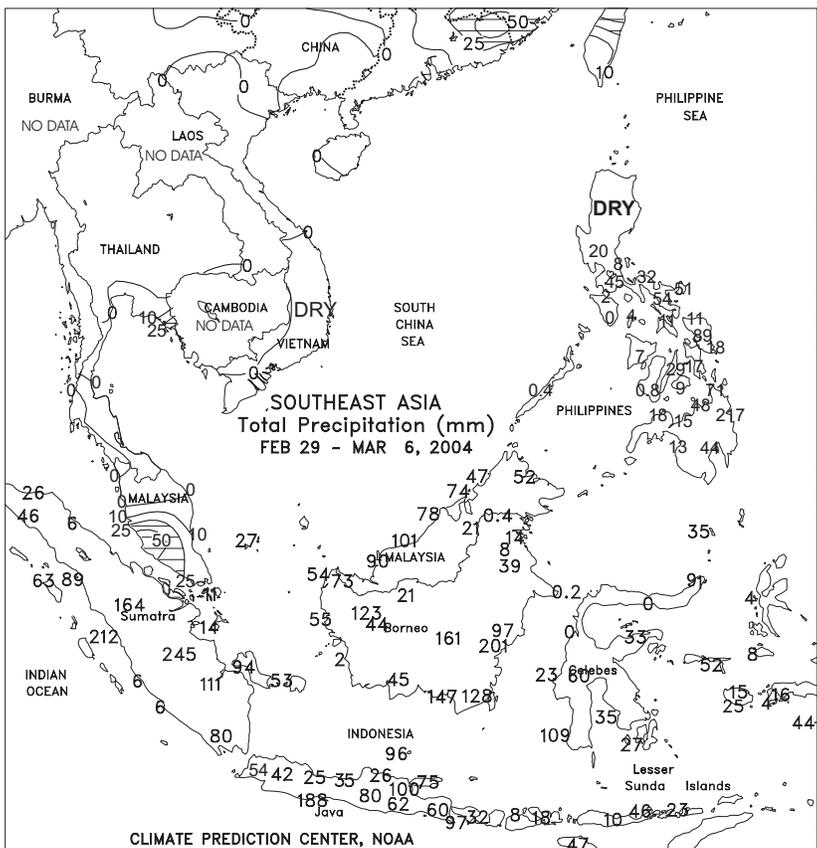
AUSTRALIA

A southward-moving subtropical storm paralleled the coast of Queensland and northern New South Wales, producing soaking rains (50-250 mm) in major sugarcane areas. A band of rain (5-40 mm, locally near 75 mm) associated with this storm also extended into inland sections of southern Queensland, providing additional drought relief. The rain slowed fieldwork and likely raised some concerns about the quality of maturing summer crops. However, the rain was relatively short-lived, lasting approximately 24 hours, which minimized the potential for significant, weather-related yield reductions. Farther south, even less rain (generally 2-15 mm) fell on major cotton and sorghum areas in New South Wales, favoring summer crop maturation. Temperatures in eastern Australia averaged about 1 to 2 degrees C below normal, slowing crop development.



EASTERN ASIA

Mostly dry weather dominated the North China Plain, with below-normal temperatures (-5 degrees C or lower), slowing winter wheat development from Shandong to Shaanxi. Seasonable temperatures favored greening wheat in the more southerly growing areas. Scattered showers (5-25 mm or more) benefited rapeseed from the Sichuan Basin eastward through the Yangtze Valley, although patchy frost lingered east of Anhui. The continuation of seasonal showers in southern China increased moisture for rice cultivation. In contrast, dry, cold weather (3-7 degrees C below normal, with lows of -15 to -5 degrees C) returned to southern Manchuria, slowing pre-planting activities. Elsewhere, cooler, drier weather also covered North Korea, but light to moderate precipitation continued in South Korea and Japan, boosting spring moisture supplies.



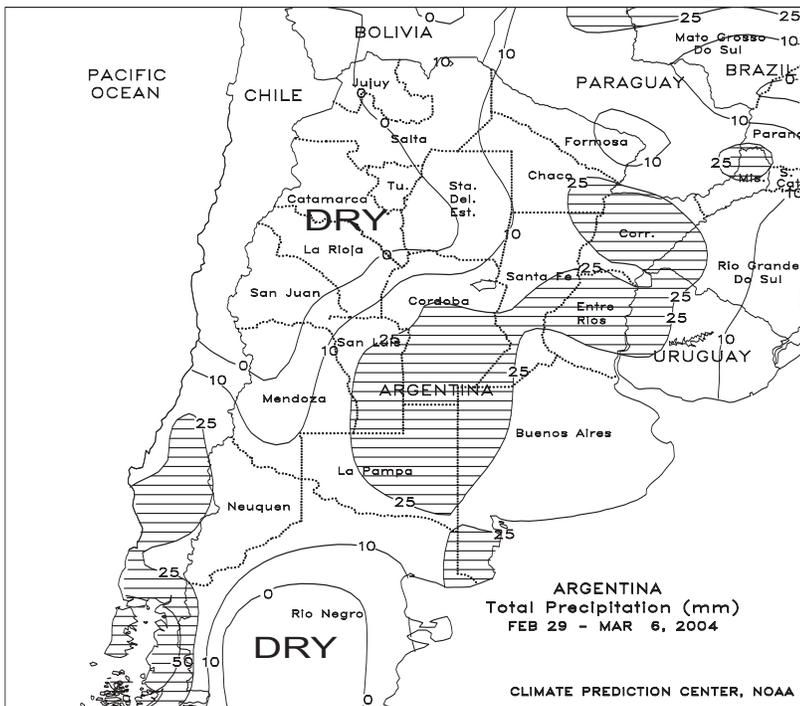
SOUTHEAST ASIA

Heavy showers (50-200 mm) fell throughout Java, Indonesia, boosting moisture supplies for rice nearing maturation. Elsewhere, in Indonesia and Malaysia, seasonal rainfall (25-100 mm) returned after several weeks of below-normal precipitation. The showers increased short-term moisture levels for oil palm. Heavy showers continued in the southeastern Philippines as second-season rice harvesting began. Vietnam and the northern Philippines experienced temperatures 1 to 3 degrees C above normal, aiding maturing rice.



BRAZIL

Lingering showers (25-100 mm or more) kept maturing soybeans unfavorably wet in many growing areas from Mato Grosso eastward through Minas Gerais. However, rain in most areas was less than in recent weeks, including sections of southeastern Mato Grosso and Sao Paulo, reportedly allowing for some fieldwork. Similarly, widespread, albeit below-normal rainfall (10-50 mm or more) continued throughout the northeastern interior. According to private analysts in Brazil, soybeans were 15 percent harvested as of March 5. Soybeans in Mato Grosso were 25 percent harvested, compared with 35 percent last year. Farther south, mostly dry weather persisted from southern Mato Grosso do Sul to Rio Grande do Sul, limiting moisture for immature corn and soybeans. Near- to above-normal temperatures (highs in the lower and middle 30s degrees C) exacerbated the effects of the dry weather on the southern crop, further reducing available moisture and hastening maturation.



ARGENTINA

Highly beneficial rain (10-25 mm or more) swept across most major summer crop areas, increasing moisture levels for immature grains, oilseeds, and corn. The heaviest rainfall (greater than 25 mm) extended from La Pampa and western Buenos Aires, northeastward through the primary soybean areas of southern Cordoba, southern Santa Fe, and Entre Rios. Lighter showers (10-25 mm or more) covered central and eastern Buenos Aires and most northern cotton areas. The rainfall was especially welcomed in western growing areas centered around Cordoba, where a significant portion of this season's corn and sunflowers were planted late. Elsewhere, however, the rains likely came too late to significantly improve yield prospects. According to the Buenos Aires Cereals Exchange, corn was nearly 12 percent harvested as of March 6, down 7 percentage points from last season's pace. Sunflowers were 25 percent harvested, compared with 34 percent last year. Soybean harvesting was reportedly just beginning.

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

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