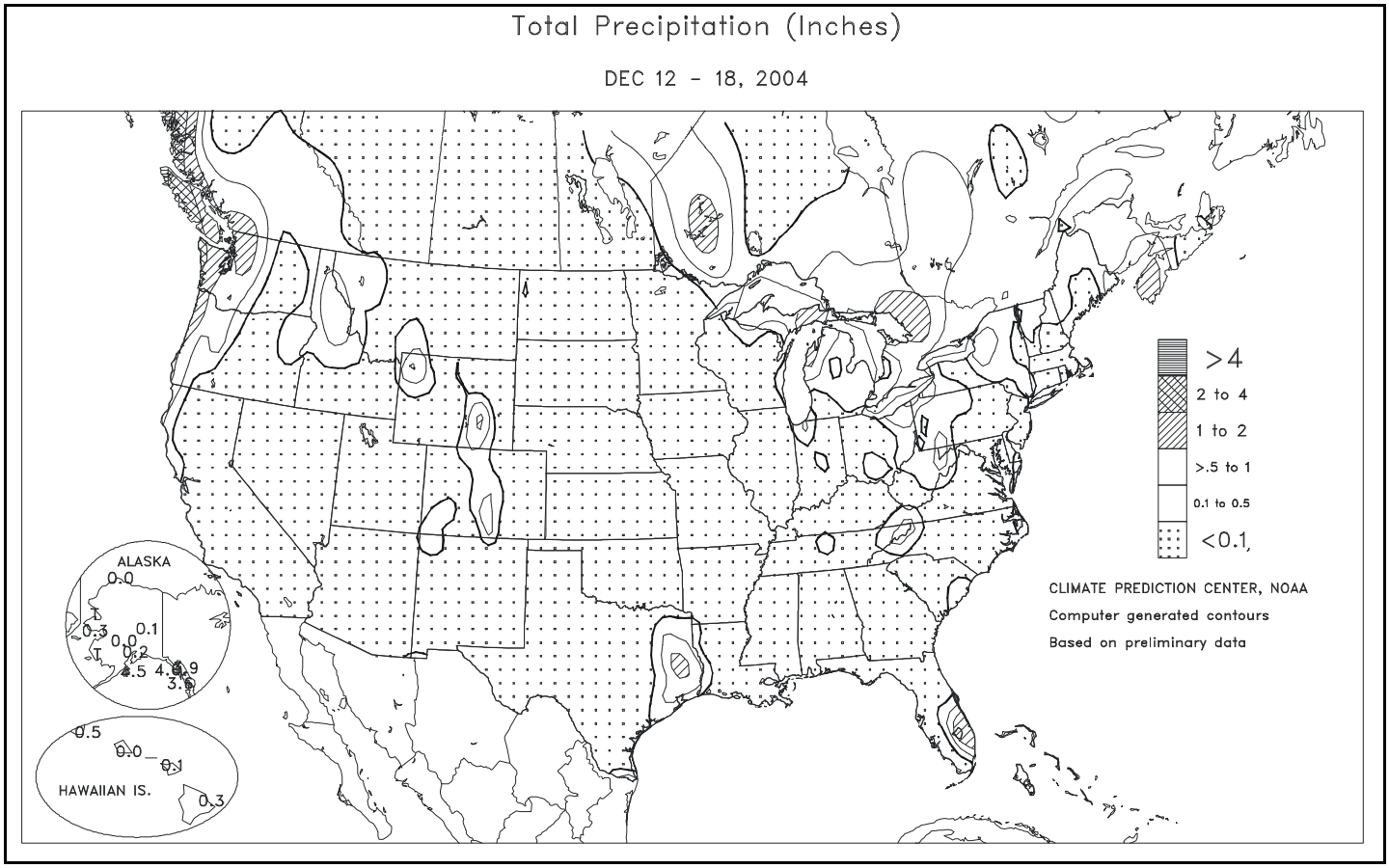
Volume 91, No. 51 http://www.usda.gov/oce/waob/jawf/wwcb.html December 21, 2004

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



HIGHLIGHTS

December 12 - 18, 2004

Highlights provided by USDA/WAOB

Dry weather prevailed nearly nationwide, although cold weather (weekly temperatures as much as 10°F below normal) across the **South** contrasted with unusually mild conditions (up to 14°F above normal) on the **northern Plains**. Warmer-than-normal weather also encompassed the **West**, **upper Midwest**, and the remainder of the **Plains**. Warm, dry conditions were especially beneficial on the previously saturated **southern High Plains**, where cotton harvesting advanced and sorghum and peanut harvesting neared completion. In contrast, dry, breezy weather further reduced soil moisture reserves on the **northern High Plains**. Meanwhile, chilly weather across the **southern**

(Continued on page 5)

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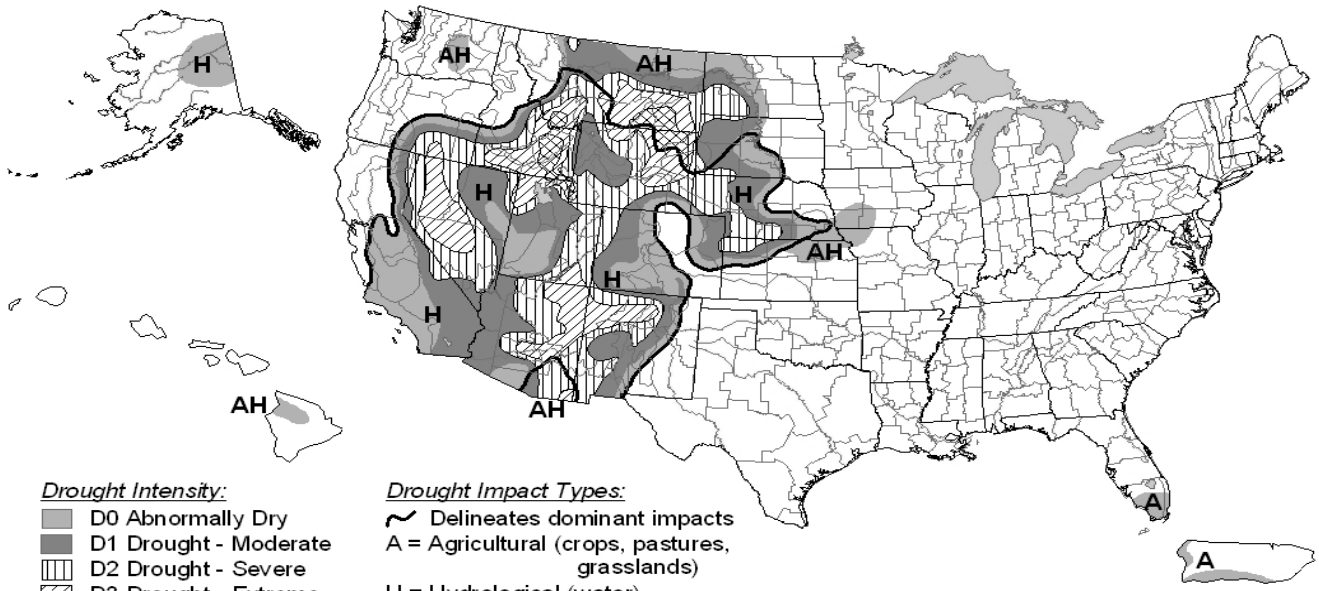
U.S. Drought Monitor

December 14, 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

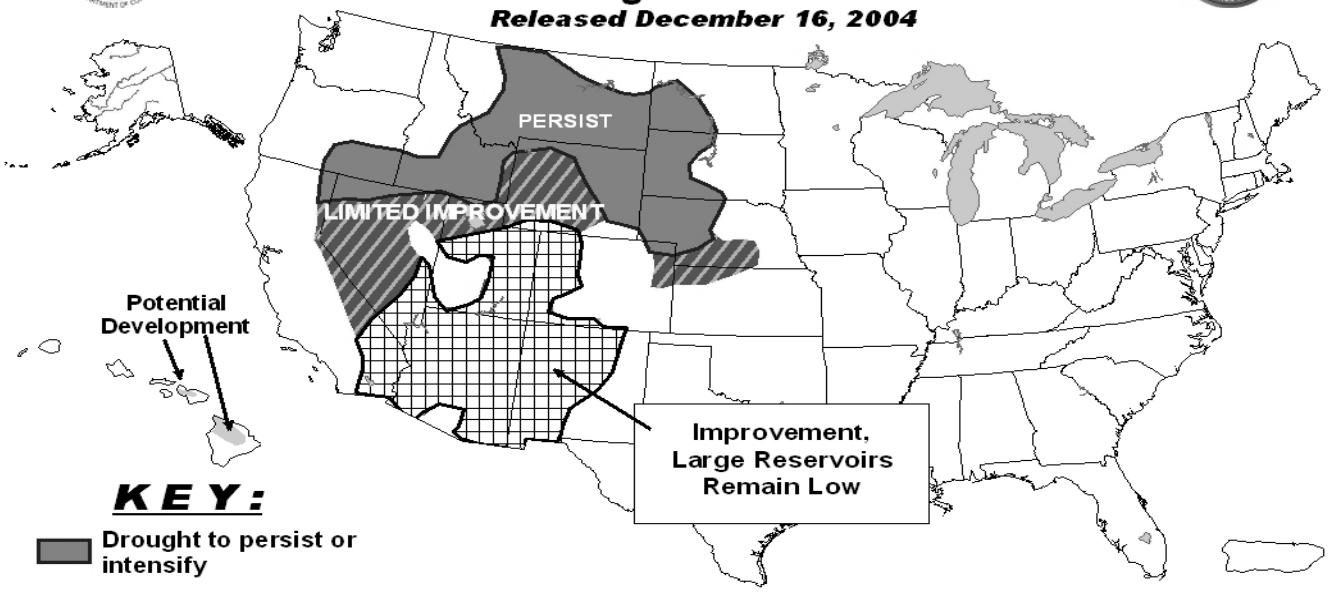
USDA National Drought Mitigation Center

Released Thursday, December 16, 2004
Author: David Miskus, JAWF/CPC/NOAA

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

Through March 2005

Released December 16, 2004



KEY:
- **Drought to persist or intensify**
- **Drought ongoing, some improvement**
- **Drought likely to improve, impacts ease**
- **Drought development likely**

Depicts general, large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by numerous indicators, including short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Short-term events -- such as individual storms -- cannot be accurately forecast more that a few days in advance, so use caution if using this outlook for applications -- such as crops -- that can be affected by such events. "Ongoing" drought areas are schmatically approximated from the Drought Monitor (D1 to D4). For weekly drought updates, see the latest Drought Monitor map and text. NOTE: the green improvement areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought Monitor intensity levels, but do not necessarily imply drought elimination.

Agricultural Weather Data Compiled by USDA's Stoneville Field Office

Weather Data for the Week Ending December 18, 2004

Data provided by the Mississippi State Delta Research and Extension Center (DREC) and the University of Missouri Extension Commercial Agriculture Program.

STATES AND STATIONS		TEMPERATURE °F						PRECIPITATION							4-INCH SOIL TEMP, °F		NUMBER OF DAYS			
																	TEMP. °F		PRECIP	
		AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	EXTREME HIGH	EXTREME LOW	AVERAGE	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	WEEKLY TOTAL, IN.	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	GREATEST IN 24-HOUR, IN.	TOTAL, IN., SINCE Dec 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Dec 1	TOTAL, IN., SINCE Jan 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Jan 1	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	90 AND ABOVE	32 AND BELOW	.01 INCH OR MORE	.50 INCH OR MORE
MISSISSIPPI																				
	INDIANOLA 1S	52	31	64	24	41	-	0.03	-	0.03	3.41	-	68.11	-	-	-	0	5	1	0
	INVERNESS 5E	51	31	64	24	41	-	0.04	-	0.04	3.13	-	-	-	50	42	0	5	1	0
	LYON	50	28	64	20	39	-	0.00	-	0.00	1.81	-	-	-	48	40	0	5	0	0
	MACON	53	30	64	23	41	-	0.00	-	0.00	3.27	-	-	-	51	43	0	4	0	0
	ONWARD	53	32	67	25	43	-	0.00	-	0.00	3.45	-	60.50	-	53	49	0	4	0	0
	PERTHSHIRE	50	28	65	22	39	-	0.09	-	0.08	2.26	-	56.12	-	-	-	0	5	2	0
	SCOTT	52	31	66	25	42	-	0.02	-	0.02	2.25	-	-	-	-	-	0	5	1	0
	SIDON	53	32	66	26	43	-	0.02	-	0.01	4.18	-	-	-	55	41	0	4	2	0
	STARKVILLE	53	29	64	21	41	-4	0.00	-1.14	0.00	3.92	128	57.22	107	50	43	0	5	0	0
	TUNICA 1W	49	27	61	20	38	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	-	54.05	-	-	-	0	5	0	0
	VANCE	49	29	62	23	39	-	0.01	-	0.01	4.24	-	53.67	-	-	-	0	5	1	0
	VERONA	51	27	63	21	39	-	0.00	-	0.00	5.88	-	52.22	-	49	39	0	5	0	0
	STONEVILLE [x]	50	31	62	23	40	-4	0.04	-1.17	0.04	3.79	112	65.79	128	51	42	0	5	1	0
MISSOURI																				
NW	CORNING	45	20	51	8	33	5	0.00	-0.29	0.00	0.31	37	22.63	63	-	-	0	7	0	0
	ALBANY	43	19	50	8	31	2	0.00	-0.33	0.00	0.31	32	35.60	100	35	34	0	7	0	0
	ST. JOSEPH	44	22	50	11	34	4	0.00	-0.39	0.00	0.45	41	39.03	110	-	-	0	6	0	0
NC	LINNEUS	42	20	50	11	31	1	0.00	-0.29	0.00	0.82	75	40.69	112	36	34	0	6	0	0
	BRUNSWICK	43	22	51	12	33	2	0.00	-0.39	0.00	0.66	55	39.92	105	35	33	0	6	0	0
NE	NOVELTY	42	21	50	11	31	1	0.00	-0.32	0.00	0.96	70	36.80	104	37	35	0	7	0	0
	MONROE CITY	42	22	50	13	32	0	0.00	-0.46	0.00	1.61	108	33.73	91	36	34	0	7	0	0
WC	GREEN RIDGE	45	24	51	14	34	2	0.00	-0.49	0.00	0.93	62	-	-	36	33	0	6	0	0
C	AUXVASSE	43	22	50	14	32	0	0.00	-0.48	0.00	1.19	76	40.88	106	36	35	0	6	0	0
	SANBORN FIELD	44	24	50	15	34	1	0.00	-0.44	0.00	1.10	79	43.47	109	36	34	0	6	0	0
	COLUMBIA	43	23	49	14	33	0	0.00	-0.45	0.00	1.10	79	42.87	108	-	-	0	6	0	0
	VERSAILLES	46	25	51	14	35	0	0.00	-0.39	0.00	0.84	60	-	-	37	34	0	4	0	0
EC	COOK STATION	46	21	55	10	33	-3	0.00	-0.67	0.00	0.95	48	38.65	91	39	37	0	7	0	0
SW	LAMAR	47	26	56	17	36	0	0.00	-0.58	0.00	1.59	90	46.92	100	37	34	0	5	0	0
SE	DELTA	44	24	54	17	33	-4	0.00	-1.01	0.00	1.34	55	37.40	85	39	35	0	7	0	0
	CHARLESTON	44	25	55	19	34	-3	0.00	-1.18	0.00	1.65	62	33.07	73	42	36	0	6	0	0
	GLENNONVILLE	46	27	55	21	36	-3	0.00	-0.90	0.00	1.96	92	38.59	94	42	37	0	5	0	0
	CLARKTON	46	26	57	19	35	-4	0.00	-0.97	0.00	1.80	81	40.41	96	44	36	0	6	0	0
	PORTAGEVILLE DC	47	28	57	22	37	-2	0.00	-1.12	0.00	1.75	65	50.17	112	47	36	0	5	0	0
	PORTAGEVILLE LF	47	28	57	22	37	-2	0.00	-1.16	0.00	1.69	62	47.97	107	42	36	0	5	0	0
	STEELE	48	28	58	22	37	-3	0.00	-1.31	0.00	1.79	56	45.21	94	44	37	0	6	0	0
	CARDWELL	48	26	58	18	36	-3	0.00	-1.09	0.00	1.43	51	48.33	102	46	41	0	6	0	0

Compiled by USDA/OCE/WAOB's Stoneville Field Office.
[x] Based on 1971-2000 normals.
- Sufficient data not available.
NW = Northwest; NC = North Central; NE = Northeast; WC = West Central; C = Central; EC = East Central; SW = Southwest; SE = Southeast.

Weather and Crop Summary for the Mississippi Delta: Delta fields finally began to dry out from heavy rainfall during previous weeks. However, the drying trend came during a time of typically reduced fieldwork activity. The top layer of soil began to freeze as temperatures fell below the freezing mark (32°F) on the majority of nights. Delta temperatures briefly topped 60°F on December 12 and again at week's end, but plummeted thereafter.

Record and Near-Record Annual Precipitation Totals

Totals and Normals Updated Through December 20

Record-High Annual Precipitation (Inches)

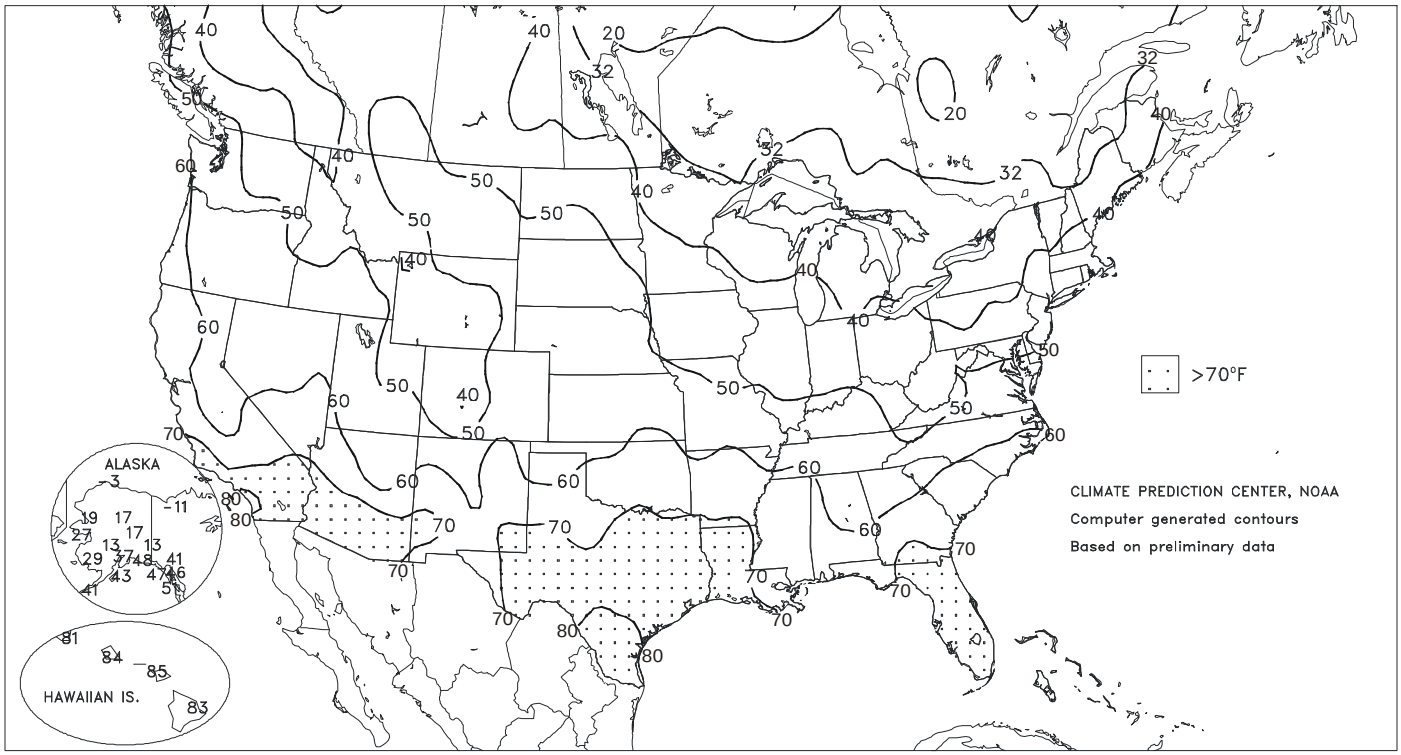
Location	Total	Normal	Previous Record/Year
Victoria, TX	71.92	39.22	67.18 in 1997
Pittsburgh, PA	56.70	36.86	52.24 in 1990
Bluefield, WV	54.02	38.65	51.29 in 1972

Second-Highest Annual Precipitation (Inches)

Location	Total	Normal	Record/Year
Louisville, KY	62.15	43.31	63.76 in 1996
Jackson, KY	61.72	47.97	63.29 in 1989
Waco, TX	59.26	32.42	60.20 in 1905
Lubbock, TX	32.88	18.47	40.55 in 1941

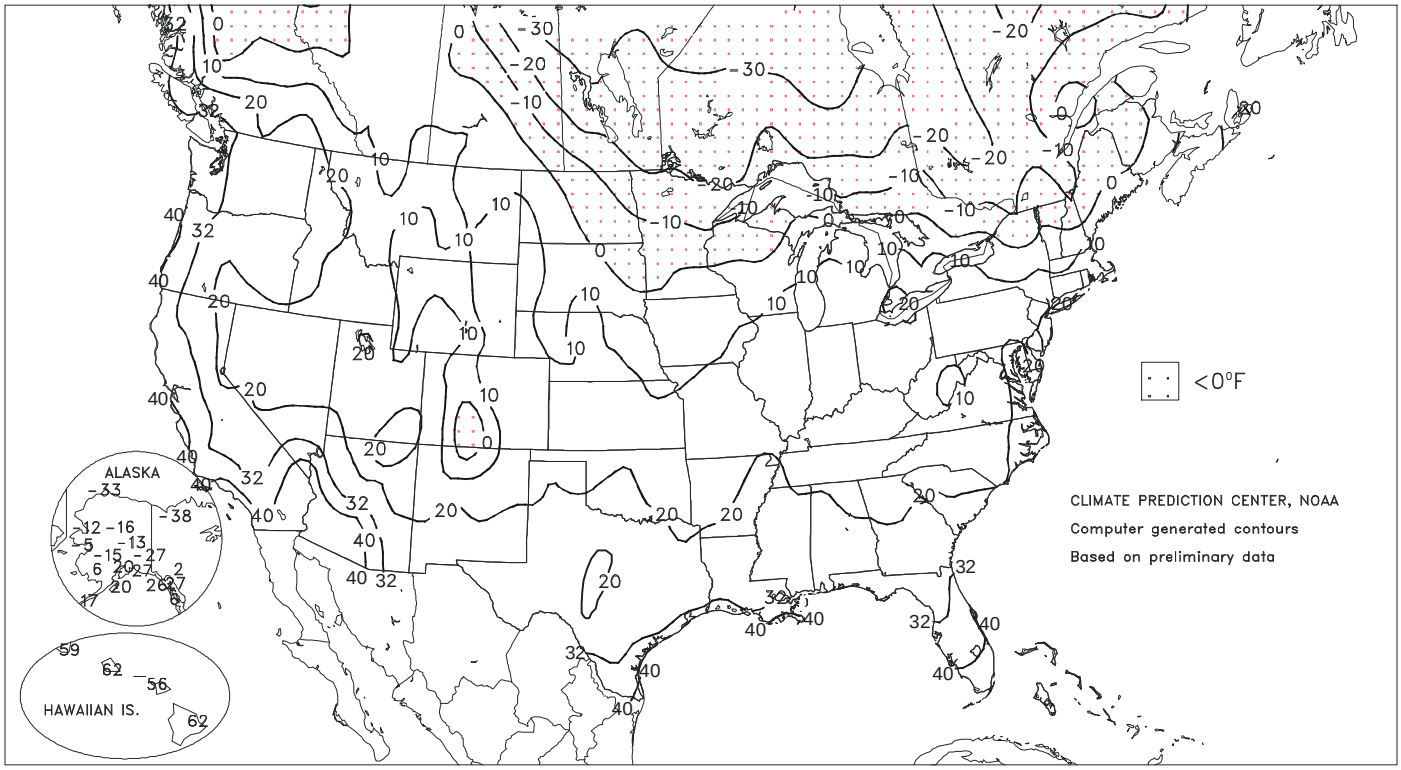
Extreme Maximum Temperature (°F)

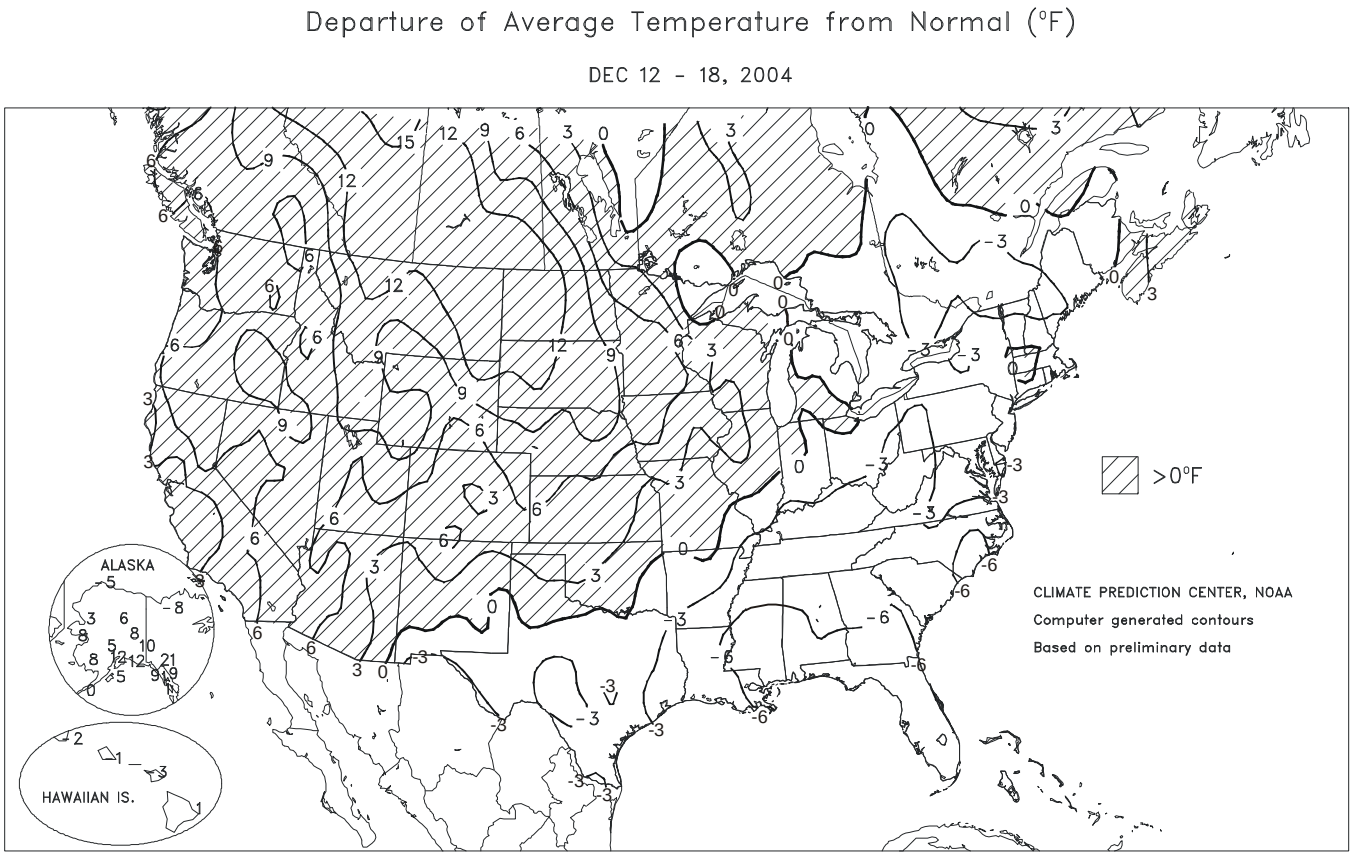
DEC 12 - 18, 2004



Extreme Minimum Temperature (°F)

DEC 12 - 18, 2004





(Continued from front cover)

and eastern Corn Belt helped to further acclimate the dormant soft red winter wheat crop to wintry conditions. December 15 or 16 featured the lowest temperatures of a chilly spell across the **South**, where below-normal temperatures slowed or halted the growth of winter grains and cool-season pastures. Temperatures near the freezing mark (32°F) were noted as far south as **Florida's northernmost citrus areas**, helping to condition trees for potential future outbreaks. From the **Rockies westward**, scattered rain and snow showers were confined to the **Northwest**. The recent drying trend increased concerns about a continuation of long-term drought, especially in the **northern Rockies** and **northern Intermountain West**. Despite December dryness, snow packs remained larger than normal for this time of year across the **Sierra Nevada**, the **Great Basin**, and the **Four Corners States**.

Early in the week, more than a dozen daily-record highs were established in the **West**, while snow squalls developed downwind of the **Great Lakes**. On December 12, record highs were set in locations such as **Tucson, AZ** (79°F), and **Ely, NV** (63°F). **Idaho Falls, ID**, opened the week with three consecutive daily-record highs (47, 45, and 47°F). Warmth returned to the **West Coast States** at week's end, when record highs for December 18 were broken in **San Diego, CA** (83°F), **Olympia, WA** (56°F), and at least a dozen other locations. Farther east, daily-record snowfall totals in **Michigan** included 8.4 inches (on December 12) in **Sault Ste. Marie** and 16.8 inches (on December 13) in **Marquette**.

The cold air responsible for the lake-effect snowfall also overspread the **Midwest**, **South**, and **East**. On **Lake Michigan**, wind gusts higher than 60 m.p.h. on December 12 and 13 churned up 12- to 14-foot waves at **St. Joseph, MI.** In **Minnesota**, **Minneapolis'** 30-day spell (November 13 - December 12) of warmer-than-normal weather ended on Monday. Two days later, daily-record lows for December 15 were tied in **Syracuse, NY** (6°F), and **North Myrtle Beach, SC** (24°F). The following day, **North Myrtle Beach** tied another record with a low of 19°F, while **Augusta, GA**, reported 17°F. At week's end, another blast of cold air reached the **upper Great Lakes region**, where lows on December 19 in **northeastern Minnesota** included -38°F in **Embarrass** and -32°F in **Tower**. In contrast, temperatures remained above the freezing mark for 3 consecutive days (December 17-19) in **Cut Bank, MT**, with lows of 38, 39, and 34°F. Wintry conditions were also largely absent elsewhere on the **northern Plains**, including **South Dakota**, where **Aberdeen's** season-to-date snowfall of 0.6 inch was its second-lowest total on record through December 18, behind only 0.2 inch in 1923.

Cool, mostly dry weather prevailed in **Hawaii**, where weekly temperatures averaged as much as 3°F below normal. On **Kauai**, **Lihue** (59°F) posted a daily-record low on December 13. Through December 20, month-to-date rainfall totals included 0.07 inch (4 percent of normal) in both **Honolulu, Oahu**, and **Kahului, Maui**. Nevertheless, **Kahului's** 0.07-inch total on December 15 ended an 89-day dry spell and represented its first measurable rain since September 16, when 0.01 inch fell. Meanwhile, mild weather (weekly temperatures as much as 12°F above normal) returned to much of **Alaska**, accompanied by heavy precipitation across southern portions of the State. Several locations in **southeastern Alaska**, including **Yakutat** (47 and 46°F) and **Skagway** (46 and 48°F), tallied daily-record highs on December 16 and 18. Daily-record precipitation totals across **southern Alaska** included 1.99 inches (on December 15) in **Kodiak** and 1.27 inches (on December 16) in **Juneau**. Through December 18, **Juneau's** month-to-date precipitation reached 7.05 inches (223 percent of normal). Nearby **Pelican, AK**, received 4.30 and 5.88 inches on December 12 and 17, respectively, boosting its weekly rainfall to 13.14 inches and its month-to-date total to 22.74 inches.

National Weather Data for Selected Cities

Weather Data for the Week Ending December 18, 2004

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

STATES AND STATIONS		TEMPERATURE °F						PRECIPITATION							RELATIVE HUMIDITY, PERCENT		NUMBER OF DAYS			
																	TEMP. °F		PRECIP	
		AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	EXTREME HIGH	EXTREME LOW	AVERAGE	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	WEEKLY TOTAL, IN.	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	GREATEST IN 24-HOUR, IN.	TOTAL, IN., SINCE Dec 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Dec 1	TOTAL, IN., SINCE Jan 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Jan 1	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	90 AND ABOVE	32 AND BELOW	.01 INCH OR MORE	.50 INCH OR MORE
AL	BIRMINGHAM	63	47	73	40	55	8	2.39	1.42	1.08	2.41	155	60.55	119	96	63	0	0	6	2
	HUNTSVILLE	60	45	70	36	53	8	8.63	7.37	3.07	8.63	429	60.28	112	92	74	0	0	6	5
	MOBILE	69	54	78	37	62	9	2.21	1.15	1.05	2.23	130	75.36	119	91	66	0	0	3	2
	MONTGOMERY	69	51	79	41	60	10	1.29	0.12	0.57	1.29	69	51.33	99	82	59	0	0	3	1
AK	ANCHORAGE	21	11	27	3	16	-2	0.01	-0.23	0.01	0.53	143	18.89	123	84	70	0	7	1	0
	BARROW	-2	-12	1	-22	-7	2	0.14	0.14	0.10	0.14	140	5.86	145	84	79	0	7	5	0
	FAIRBANKS	-6	-20	4	-27	-13	-8	0.00	-0.15	0.00	0.27	117	8.12	83	82	78	0	7	0	0
	JUNEAU	32	24	39	14	28	-2	1.14	-0.06	0.75	2.88	154	57.42	105	88	68	0	7	3	1
	KODIAK	38	30	40	24	34	3	3.42	1.79	1.42	3.93	155	78.63	112	93	80	0	6	7	3
	NOME	16	5	24	1	11	1	0.22	-0.01	0.12	0.27	73	16.52	104	79	68	0	7	6	0
AZ	FLAGSTAFF	41	24	61	18	33	2	0.36	-0.03	0.17	0.79	130	19.73	91	99	59	0	7	4	0
	PHOENIX	65	46	80	44	56	1	0.44	0.25	0.22	0.72	257	7.14	93	86	71	0	0	2	0
	TUCSON	64	40	80	35	52	-1	0.12	-0.08	0.09	0.65	217	7.74	68	91	60	0	0	2	0
	YUMA	67	49	78	45	58	0	0.79	0.72	0.70	0.79	790	3.69	137	84	69	0	0	2	1
AR	FORT SMITH	57	37	63	32	47	4	1.35	0.49	0.72	1.35	96	50.04	119	93	60	0	1	2	2
	LITTLE ROCK	61	42	66	36	52	7	1.24	0.08	0.71	1.25	67	56.23	117	93	56	0	0	3	2
CA	BAKERSFIELD	60	42	66	36	51	3	0.10	-0.04	0.10	0.10	45	4.59	77	84	70	0	0	1	0
	FRESNO	57	42	62	35	50	4	0.98	0.73	0.78	0.98	251	8.44	82	91	78	0	0	3	1
	LOS ANGELES	65	49	82	41	57	-1	0.80	0.46	0.51	0.88	166	10.75	90	99	74	0	0	3	1
	REDDING	55	42	63	27	48	2	4.59	3.65	2.68	4.59	310	29.55	97	95	79	0	1	6	3
	SACRAMENTO	58	45	66	35	52	5	1.33	0.83	0.75	1.33	171	14.89	92	96	67	0	0	3	2
	SAN DIEGO	63	51	75	50	57	-1	0.52	0.29	0.43	0.88	244	10.15	103	84	69	0	0	3	0
	SAN FRANCISCO	60	50	64	45	55	5	2.70	2.12	1.52	2.70	297	15.83	87	95	88	0	0	4	2
	STOCKTON	59	43	67	29	51	5	1.31	0.94	0.84	1.31	222	12.32	98	93	76	0	1	5	1
CO	ALAMOSA	43	5	54	-2	24	5	0.01	-0.05	0.01	0.02	20	5.83	83	84	53	0	7	1	0
	CO SPRINGS	55	24	67	15	39	9	0.00	-0.07	0.00	0.00	0	20.97	123	72	18	0	7	0	0
	DENVER INTL	53	27	67	21	40	10	0.00	-0.06	0.00	0.00	0	14.65	109	75	27	0	6	0	0
	GRAND JUNCTION	37	20	43	16	29	-1	0.05	-0.03	0.05	0.06	43	9.37	109	94	84	0	7	1	0
	PUEBLO	62	19	79	13	41	10	0.00	-0.06	0.00	0.00	0	13.25	109	67	26	0	7	0	0
CT	BRIDGEPORT	49	37	61	32	43	6	1.43	0.68	0.67	2.15	181	43.34	104	85	60	0	1	6	1
	HARTFORD	43	31	57	24	37	4	1.46	0.67	0.62	2.54	202	40.65	93	95	72	0	4	6	1
DC	WASHINGTON	57	43	64	34	50	9	1.71	1.05	0.66	2.04	196	41.52	111	89	63	0	0	4	2
DE	WILMINGTON	53	39	60	32	46	8	1.28	0.54	0.51	2.21	187	56.45	139	96	67	0	1	7	1
FL	DAYTONA BEACH	78	58	83	46	68	6	0.25	-0.33	0.24	0.25	27	61.02	128	95	55	0	0	2	0
	JACKSONVILLE	76	54	84	36	65	9	0.82	0.27	0.81	0.83	95	67.53	134	95	57	0	0	2	1
	KEY WEST	83	75	84	70	79	6	0.03	-0.41	0.03	0.03	4	29.43	79	80	63	0	0	1	0
	MIAMI	82	69	84	60	75	4	0.00	-0.51	0.00	0.00	0	54.04	95	92	65	0	0	0	0
	ORLANDO	79	59	84	49	69	5	0.34	-0.18	0.34	0.34	41	57.82	123	94	61	0	0	1	0
	PENSACOLA	70	56	76	42	63	8	3.51	2.68	3.30	3.56	266	65.23	106	90	72	0	0	4	1
	TALLAHASSEE	71	52	78	36	62	7	0.89	0.06	0.42	0.89	68	54.19	90	95	65	0	0	4	0
	TAMPA	78	63	81	51	70	6	0.30	-0.22	0.16	0.30	37	63.67	147	88	61	0	0	4	0
	WEST PALM	81	64	85	55	73	4	0.10	-0.66	0.04	1.07	83	64.38	108	88	62	0	0	4	0
GA	ATHENS	62	44	69	34	53	7	1.47	0.69	0.56	1.82	147	42.14	93	92	66	0	0	6	1
	ATLANTA	61	46	71	38	54	7	2.69	1.85	1.71	3.05	226	51.84	109	90	68	0	0	6	1
	AUGUSTA	70	45	78	30	57	9	0.31	-0.30	0.28	0.36	38	39.75	94	97	55	0	1	2	0
	COLUMBUS	66	49	73	38	58	8	0.91	-0.07	0.43	1.03	66	47.53	104	92	61	0	0	5	0
	MACON	70	49	76	35	60	11	0.24	-0.59	0.12	0.36	28	46.90	111	87	55	0	0	3	0
	SAVANNAH	71	53	77	35	62	9	0.54	0.00	0.34	0.55	67	36.03	76	94	59	0	0	2	0
HI	HILO	79	65	83	61	72	0	4.42	1.78	2.45	7.01	160	130.8	109	86	73	0	0	6	2
	HONOLULU	81	71	83	66	76	1	0.05	-0.56	0.03	0.07	7	33.15	203	73	62	0	0	3	0
	KAHULUI	80	66	83	56	73	-1	0.00	-0.62	0.00	0.06	6	24.77	149	88	81	0	0	0	0
	LIHUE	78	68	80	63	73	-1	0.48	-0.57	0.21	0.56	34	39.82	109	80	69	0	0	5	0
ID	BOISE	47	35	56	18	41	9	1.09	0.78	0.66	1.09	218	11.39	101	83	67	0	2	4	1
	LEWISTON	49	36	59	27	42	7	0.19	-0.03	0.09	0.31	86	14.27	119	73	64	0	2	4	0
	POCATELLO	42	27	58	7	35	9	0.43	0.21	0.28	0.48	130	11.68	98	83	69	0	4	2	0
IL	CHICAGO/O'HARE	46	36	50	26	41	11	1.36	0.77	0.82	1.38	145	31.52	91	91	78	0	2	4	1
	MOLINE	45	35	51	26	40	11	1.00	0.48	0.40	1.00	120	36.74	100	94	84	0	2	5	0
	PEORIA	47	35	54	29	41	11	1.37	0.76	0.76	1.37	140	34.65	100	98	84	0	2	4	1
	ROCKFORD	43	34	48	22	39	12	0.63	0.12	0.46	0.63	77	36.79	104	98	90	0	2	4	0
	SPRINGFIELD	49	37	56	31	43	11	1.24	0.63	0.75	1.24	127	35.07	103	89	76	0	1	6	1
IN	EVANSVILLE	54	38	64	30	46	8	1.80	0.93	0.76	1.80	128	43.13	102	96	76	0	2	6	2
	FORT WAYNE	48	35	60	26	42	11	1.89	1.23	1.22	2.00	190	38.47	110	98	83	0	2	6	1
	INDIANAPOLIS	51	38	61	33	44	10	0.90	0.18	0.65	1.02	87	47.97	123	95	76	0	0	6	1
	SOUTH BEND	47	35	58	23	41	10	1.12	0.38	0.58	1.20	102	35.67	94	96	83	0	2	6	1
IA	BURLINGTON	47	35	51	29	41	11	1.07	0.55	0.64	1.10	129	34.83	95	97	79	0	3	6	1
	CEDAR RAPIDS	42	33	45	24	37	11	0.87	0.50	0.51	0.87	143	33.91	104	99	82	0	3	5	1
	DES MOINES	43	31	49	26	37	10	0.53	0.21	0.49	0.53	102	37.61	111	94	83	0	4	4	0
	DUBUQUE	41	33	44	26	37	12	1.05	0.64	0.43	1.05	154	31.15	90	95	87	0	3	5	0
	SIOUX CITY	41	29	50	26	35	11	0.13	-0.02	0.12	0.14	56	25.67	100	93	84	0	6	2	0
	WATERLOO	41	31	43	20	36	12	0.44	0.16	0.38	-9.99	-999	34.25	106	93	79	0	3	4	0
KS	CONCORDIA	48	28	59	21	38	6	0.12	-0.07	0.12	0.12	39	24.64	88	92	70	0	7	1	0
	DODGE CITY	55	28	64	24	42	8	0.17	0.00	0.15	0.17	65	24.60	113	80	48	0	7	3	0
	GOODLAND	53	26	70	20	40	9	0.02	-0.05	0.02	0.02	17	20.63	106	81	58	0	7	1	0
	TOPEKA	49	31	58	27	40	7	0.63	0.28	0.63	0.63	111	40.22	116	92	77	0	6	1	1

Based on 1971-2000 normals

***** Not Available**

Weather Data for the Week Ending December 18, 2004

STATES AND STATIONS		TEMPERATURE °F						PRECIPITATION							RELATIVE HUMIDITY, PERCENT		NUMBER OF DAYS			
																	TEMP. °F		PRECIP	
		AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	EXTREME HIGH	EXTREME LOW	AVERAGE	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	WEEKLY TOTAL, IN.	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	GREATEST IN 24-HOUR, IN.	TOTAL, IN., SINCE Dec 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Dec 1	TOTAL, IN., SINCE Jan 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Jan 1	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	90 AND ABOVE	32 AND BELOW	.01 INCH OR MORE	.50 INCH OR MORE
	WICHITA	54	31	62	23	42	7	0.31	0.00	0.31	0.31	62	37.31	126	95	68	0	5	1	0
KY	JACKSON	57	43	72	36	50	10	2.79	1.78	0.94	3.00	186	62.28	133	87	56	0	0	7	2
	LEXINGTON	54	39	67	34	47	9	1.65	0.74	0.82	1.65	115	60.87	141	97	76	0	0	6	1
	LOUISVILLE	55	40	68	35	48	9	1.54	0.68	0.71	1.55	113	52.16	124	95	69	0	0	5	1
	PADUCAH	54	39	64	28	47	8	2.67	1.59	0.90	2.67	153	40.04	86	97	69	0	1	6	3
LA	BATON ROUGE	71	54	79	39	63	10	1.92	0.76	1.27	1.97	108	69.59	117	94	53	0	0	4	1
	LAKE CHARLES	72	54	78	41	63	9	2.04	1.05	1.49	2.17	137	68.09	126	90	54	0	0	5	1
	NEW ORLEANS	71	56	77	41	64	8	2.23	1.04	1.16	2.56	135	78.42	129	91	71	0	0	3	2
	SHREVEPORT	67	48	74	40	58	8	1.53	0.50	1.06	1.53	94	61.96	128	86	51	0	0	3	1
ME	CARIBOU	24	8	32	-6	16	-3	1.46	0.77	0.78	2.31	212	32.29	91	92	69	0	7	4	2
	PORTLAND	37	24	47	15	31	1	1.74	0.79	1.23	3.03	199	39.81	92	88	59	0	5	4	1
MD	BALTIMORE	55	39	62	32	47	9	1.23	0.51	0.58	1.72	151	44.62	112	91	71	0	1	4	1
MA	BOSTON	46	35	52	24	40	3	1.59	0.76	0.99	2.10	160	43.12	108	86	61	0	2	5	2
	WORCESTER	40	28	48	20	34	3	1.75	0.92	0.75	2.86	218	44.14	95	93	65	0	4	6	2
MI	ALPENA	37	26	44	20	32	6	0.62	0.22	0.58	0.75	119	22.94	84	93	72	0	7	4	1
	GRAND RAPIDS	42	32	50	27	37	7	1.22	0.55	0.69	1.48	136	38.58	109	96	82	0	3	6	1
	HOUGHTON LAKE	36	29	42	24	33	7	1.40	1.01	1.05	1.55	246	28.08	103	92	82	0	6	5	1
	LANSING	43	34	54	26	38	9	0.93	0.39	0.37	1.27	144	35.20	116	93	82	0	2	5	0
	MUSKEGON	42	33	50	26	38	8	1.98	1.36	1.47	2.14	214	36.47	117	95	80	0	2	6	1
	TRAVERSE CITY	39	32	45	26	36	8	1.72	1.14	1.29	2.09	230	29.67	94	90	65	0	3	6	1
MN	DULUTH	31	22	34	9	26	9	0.51	0.28	0.22	1.15	280	28.89	95	98	87	0	7	4	0
	INT'L FALLS	27	11	31	-4	19	8	0.35	0.19	0.16	0.44	163	25.66	109	95	80	0	7	4	0
	MINNEAPOLIS	37	30	40	24	33	12	0.19	-0.04	0.08	0.23	61	27.17	94	90	79	0	6	5	0
	ROCHESTER	36	30	39	25	33	13	0.39	0.14	0.29	0.39	93	39.55	128	93	85	0	6	5	0
	ST. CLOUD	34	27	36	18	30	13	0.28	0.13	0.16	0.28	112	28.82	108	95	83	0	7	5	0
MS	JACKSON	67	48	73	34	57	8	4.73	3.54	1.68	4.73	252	62.45	119	93	57	0	0	5	3
	MERIDIAN	67	47	75	33	57	7	3.37	2.18	1.46	3.38	180	64.67	117	92	64	0	0	7	3
	TUPELO	62	44	69	37	53	8	8.45	7.05	3.99	8.45	386	67.21	129	89	67	0	0	6	4
MO	COLUMBIA	49	35	57	29	42	8	0.98	0.35	0.35	0.98	95	46.08	119	95	76	0	3	4	0
	KANSAS CITY	48	33	54	29	41	8	0.40	-0.01	0.36	0.40	61	37.31	101	96	74	0	4	3	0
	SAINT LOUIS	51	37	58	32	44	8	1.65	0.94	0.79	1.65	142	42.15	114	95	77	0	2	5	2
	SPRINGFIELD	51	36	59	30	44	7	1.24	0.40	0.65	1.24	90	43.34	100	87	74	0	2	3	1
MT	BILLINGS	50	30	67	26	40	13	0.00	-0.12	0.00	0.00	0	10.66	75	58	30	0	5	0	0
	BUTTE	43	20	53	5	31	12	0.00	-0.11	0.00	0.00	0	10.57	85	85	42	0	6	0	0
	GLASGOW	36	20	62	14	28	10	0.00	-0.06	0.00	0.02	22	11.79	108	92	80	0	6	0	0
	GREAT FALLS	47	26	59	17	36	11	0.00	-0.12	0.00	0.00	0	13.56	94	77	36	0	6	0	0
	HAVRE	38	19	56	10	29	8	0.02	-0.08	0.02	0.02	13	11.39	103	87	76	0	7	1	0
	KALISPELL	39	28	51	24	34	10	0.92	0.56	0.43	0.97	167	16.35	101	92	84	0	7	4	0
	MISSOULA	43	28	53	14	35	11	0.05	-0.20	0.02	0.05	13	14.70	113	88	73	0	5	4	0
NE	GRAND ISLAND	45	26	56	21	35	8	0.05	-0.11	0.05	0.05	18	20.78	81	89	73	0	7	1	0
	LINCOLN	43	25	54	17	34	6	0.42	0.22	0.42	0.42	124	23.49	84	96	82	0	6	1	0
	NORFOLK	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	27.39	105	***	***	***	***	***	***
	NORTH PLATTE	49	21	63	15	35	8	0.06	-0.02	0.06	0.06	46	19.26	99	94	53	0	7	1	0
	OMAHA	42	30	50	26	36	8	0.30	0.07	0.30	0.30	77	33.82	114	91	80	0	6	1	0
	SCOTTSBLUFF	48	24	63	17	36	9	0.01	-0.11	0.01	0.11	55	12.06	76	80	54	0	7	1	0
	VALENTINE	50	21	63	9	36	11	0.00	-0.07	0.00	0.00	0	17.24	89	81	54	0	7	0	0
NV	ELY	44	18	61	3	31	4	0.03	-0.05	0.02	0.03	23	8.53	89	88	70	0	7	2	0
	LAS VEGAS	59	42	68	34	51	3	0.00	-0.07	0.00	0.00	0	5.65	135	74	58	0	0	0	0
	RENO	51	30	60	15	41	7	0.06	-0.13	0.05	0.06	20	7.76	113	87	72	0	4	2	0
	WINNEMUCCA	46	26	56	9	36	5	0.08	-0.09	0.04	0.09	35	6.31	81	82	70	0	5	3	0
NH	CONCORD	40	28	48	17	34	6	1.42	0.75	0.62	2.42	226	38.89	109	87	61	0	4	5	2
NJ	NEWARK	51	38	61	32	44	6	1.58	0.79	0.57	2.58	205	47.46	108	92	70	0	1	6	1
NM	ALBUQUERQUE	50	29	57	27	40	3	0.04	-0.04	0.04	0.04	31	11.54	127	83	44	0	7	1	0
NY	ALBANY	39	28	47	21	34	3	1.29	0.68	0.72	1.78	182	38.91	107	95	71	0	4	5	1
	BINGHAMTON	41	30	49	23	35	6	2.20	1.48	1.06	3.19	275	42.73	116	91	78	0	5	6	1
	BUFFALO	44	33	57	27	39	7	0.75	-0.14	0.39	1.51	107	38.28	100	92	70	0	4	5	0
	ROCHESTER	43	31	52	22	37	5	0.87	0.23	0.46	1.44	141	36.25	112	98	80	0	4	6	0
	SYRACUSE	43	31	52	22	37	6	1.85	1.09	0.91	3.03	246	42.55	112	92	73	0	4	7	1
NC	ASHEVILLE	57	39	63	28	48	8	1.73	0.99	1.22	2.06	173	51.16	114	91	61	0	1	5	1
	CHARLOTTE	60	43	68	27	51	5	1.93	1.27	0.74	2.04	196	43.48	105	96	63	0	1	4	3
	GREENSBORO	59	42	68	30	51	9	2.17	1.51	0.96	2.39	230	37.54	91	90	57	0	1	5	2
	HATTERAS	67	54	70	41	60	9	0.11	-0.81	0.11	0.19	13	33.86	62	85	59	0	0	1	0
	RALEIGH	64	44	74	30	54	10	1.18	0.55	0.96	1.22	122	46.89	114	93	55	0	1	3	1
	WILMINGTON	71	48	78	33	60	10	0.25	-0.56	0.16	0.25	19	49.70	91	95	55	0	0	2	0
ND	BISMARCK	35	21	60	15	28	10	0.03	-0.05	0.03	0.07	54	16.05	97	88	76	0	7	1	0
	DICKINSON	36	19	56	15	28	8	0.00	-0.07	0.00	0.01	8	12.85	80	96	69	0	7	0	0
	FARGO	33	23	40	13	28	13	0.39	0.28	0.14	0.39	229	25.38	122	92	76	0	7	4	0
	GRAND FORKS	29	18	42	9	24	10	0.32	0.21	0.21	0.38	224	20.78	108	96	78	0	7	3	0
	JAMESTOWN	30	20	44	10	25	9	0.19	0.11	0.12	0.19	146	21.89	120	98	78	0	7	3	0
	WILLISTON	34	16	56	8	25	10	0.10	-0.01	0.05	0.11	58	12.74	92	89	78	0	7	2	0
OH	AKRON-CANTON	47	35	63	29	41	8	0.96	0.26	0.36	1.24	111	45.52	124	99	88	0	2	6	0
	CINCINNATI	52	39	65	33	46	10	1.25	0.51	0.59	1.27	107	46.99	116	91	74	0	0	6	1
	CLEVELAND	47	37	63	32	42	9	0.76	0.00	0.23	0.95	78	35.64	97	92	72	0	1	6	0
	COLUMBUS	51	38	67	30	45	10	1.05	0.36	0.66	1.18	106	47.15	129	89	74	0	1	5	1
	DAYTON	49	37	62	32	43	10	0.66	-0.06	0.29	0.71	62	40.86	109	95	75	0	1	6	0
	MANSFIELD	46	34	62	29	40	8	0.64	-0.14	0.30	0.74	59	42.22	102	99	81	0	3	6	0

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Weather Data for the Week Ending December 18, 2004

STATES AND STATIONS		TEMPERATURE °F						PRECIPITATION							RELATIVE HUMIDITY, PERCENT		NUMBER OF DAYS			
																	TEMP. °F		PRECIP	
		AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	EXTREME HIGH	EXTREME LOW	AVERAGE	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	WEEKLY TOTAL, IN.	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	GREATEST IN 24-HOUR, IN.	TOTAL, IN., SINCE Dec 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Dec 1	TOTAL, IN., SINCE Jan 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Jan 1	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	90 AND ABOVE	32 AND BELOW	.01 INCH OR MORE	.50 INCH OR MORE
	TOLEDO	45	35	59	26	40	9	1.21	0.58	0.84	1.30	129	28.90	92	98	85	0	2	4	1
	YOUNGSTOWN	47	34	62	31	41	9	0.79	0.07	0.31	1.20	104	42.68	118	97	86	0	5	6	0
OK	OKLAHOMA CITY	62	38	66	32	50	9	0.50	0.09	0.39	0.50	77	36.80	106	87	44	0	1	2	0
	TULSA	58	38	65	29	48	7	0.84	0.23	0.50	0.84	84	49.55	121	89	59	0	1	3	1
OR	ASTORIA	52	44	58	36	48	5	4.18	1.74	1.12	4.58	118	61.38	101	89	81	0	0	7	4
	BURNS	40	27	52	12	34	8	1.09	0.81	0.55	1.09	253	9.78	101	89	82	0	3	5	1
	EUGENE	53	43	61	38	48	8	3.54	1.58	1.14	3.60	114	31.01	68	95	89	0	0	7	3
	MEDFORD	50	41	56	32	45	7	2.96	2.27	1.57	2.96	272	17.94	108	98	86	0	1	6	2
	PENDLETON	55	41	66	31	48	13	0.27	-0.06	0.09	0.28	52	13.07	111	74	60	0	1	4	0
	PORTLAND	53	44	61	38	49	8	1.97	0.63	0.59	2.12	99	26.02	78	92	82	0	0	7	1
	SALEM	53	44	59	36	48	7	2.48	0.94	0.84	2.66	109	30.53	85	94	87	0	0	7	1
PA	ALLENTOWN	47	34	56	28	40	6	1.52	0.76	0.60	2.54	208	50.32	117	90	72	0	3	5	1
	ERIE	48	36	62	30	42	7	1.36	0.46	0.56	2.06	143	42.84	106	87	73	0	2	5	1
	MIDDLETOWN	50	37	59	30	44	8	1.72	0.95	0.84	2.37	191	51.96	135	95	64	0	1	4	2
	PHILADELPHIA	53	40	61	36	47	8	1.63	0.91	0.80	2.50	217	48.52	122	88	70	0	0	6	1
	PITTSBURGH	52	38	67	31	45	11	0.86	0.19	0.51	0.86	80	55.69	154	94	72	0	1	5	1
	WILKES-BARRE	46	32	52	27	39	6	1.22	0.61	0.60	2.09	213	43.76	122	92	63	0	4	5	1
	WILLIAMSPORT	47	34	54	28	41	8	1.78	1.08	0.83	2.74	238	50.27	126	92	68	0	3	5	2
RI	PROVIDENCE	47	34	57	24	41	5	1.84	0.92	1.00	3.21	220	43.89	100	90	66	0	4	6	2
SC	BEAUFORT	72	54	79	37	63	11	0.11	-0.50	0.09	0.11	12	36.31	76	95	55	0	0	2	0
	CHARLESTON	72	52	78	36	62	10	0.15	-0.50	0.14	0.15	15	38.41	78	97	60	0	0	2	0
	COLUMBIA	68	45	76	30	57	9	0.46	-0.21	0.25	0.54	52	38.72	84	94	60	0	1	3	0
	GREENVILLE	60	42	67	31	51	6	3.67	2.84	2.67	3.92	302	43.60	91	97	64	0	1	5	2
SD	ABERDEEN	35	26	53	18	31	13	0.12	0.06	0.09	0.13	144	22.18	111	94	83	0	7	3	0
	HURON	36	26	53	21	31	10	0.09	0.02	0.06	0.09	75	29.67	144	99	81	0	7	2	0
	RAPID CITY	52	21	69	12	37	11	0.00	-0.06	0.00	0.00	0	13.38	82	79	33	0	7	0	0
	SIOUX FALLS	38	26	47	21	32	11	0.07	-0.05	0.05	0.07	35	30.91	127	95	81	0	6	2	0
TN	BRISTOL	55	38	72	25	47	8	2.49	1.73	0.94	2.73	226	47.92	122	97	61	0	1	6	2
	CHATTANOOGA	57	42	72	31	50	6	5.76	4.68	3.51	5.76	331	59.33	115	91	68	0	1	6	3
	KNOXVILLE	57	42	72	30	49	7	4.85	3.85	2.12	5.08	322	55.83	123	96	68	0	1	6	3
	MEMPHIS	61	46	69	37	54	9	2.60	1.20	0.89	2.60	116	52.03	102	88	63	0	0	5	3
	NASHVILLE	58	43	68	31	51	9	3.60	2.54	1.14	3.60	213	56.91	126	91	66	0	1	7	3
TX	ABILENE	68	44	71	34	56	10	0.30	0.04	0.30	0.30	75	37.00	162	77	46	0	0	1	0
	AMARILLO	61	32	69	25	46	8	0.30	0.20	0.27	0.30	200	26.89	140	85	31	0	5	2	0
	AUSTIN	72	44	81	36	58	5	0.17	-0.37	0.15	0.18	21	56.94	178	81	58	0	0	2	0
	BEAUMONT	72	53	77	42	63	8	1.15	0.02	0.44	1.36	76	59.23	105	93	50	0	0	5	0
	BROWNSVILLE	82	62	85	49	72	10	0.02	-0.23	0.01	0.68	166	28.99	108	93	61	0	0	2	0
	CORPUS CHRISTI	80	52	87	41	66	7	0.00	-0.38	0.00	0.00	0	34.39	111	89	51	0	0	0	0
	DEL RIO	71	44	80	36	57	4	0.40	0.23	0.31	0.41	158	30.99	175	88	58	0	0	2	0
	EL PASO	58	40	64	34	49	3	0.17	0.00	0.12	0.33	132	12.09	136	81	43	0	0	2	0
	FORT WORTH	66	46	72	39	56	8	0.40	-0.16	0.31	0.40	47	47.34	143	79	45	0	0	2	0
	GALVESTON	73	59	78	50	66	7	0.12	-0.66	0.08	0.23	19	45.34	109	90	53	0	0	2	0
	HOUSTON	72	52	79	45	62	7	1.00	0.17	0.98	1.02	78	64.07	141	84	53	0	0	2	1
	LUBBOCK	64	36	75	32	50	9	0.32	0.18	0.27	0.32	145	32.95	181	81	43	0	2	2	0
	MIDLAND	64	38	70	32	51	5	0.06	-0.08	0.04	0.06	27	22.49	157	78	45	0	1	2	0
	SAN ANGELO	69	42	74	32	55	8	0.05	-0.15	0.05	0.05	16	30.13	149	80	45	0	1	1	0
	SAN ANTONIO	73	48	81	42	60	7	0.10	-0.34	0.08	0.11	16	45.34	143	85	43	0	0	2	0
	VICTORIA	74	52	80	41	63	7	0.04	-0.51	0.02	0.12	14	71.94	187	91	53	0	0	2	0
	WACO	67	46	70	38	56	6	0.87	0.24	0.78	0.88	88	59.05	187	86	56	0	0	2	1
	WICHITA FALLS	64	41	67	35	52	8	0.67	0.29	0.55	0.67	116	37.91	137	89	58	0	0	2	1
UT	SALT LAKE CITY	43	31	56	19	37	6	0.20	-0.06	0.14	0.20	49	14.51	92	89	63	0	4	3	0
VT	BURLINGTON	37	25	42	11	31	4	1.30	0.78	0.58	2.14	255	37.11	107	90	66	0	6	4	2
VA	LYNCHBURG	55	40	64	29	47	7	1.37	0.67	0.75	1.69	152	36.61	89	86	62	0	1	4	1
	NORFOLK	65	48	72	37	56	10	1.14	0.53	0.97	1.15	120	48.88	112	98	62	0	0	5	1
	RICHMOND	62	43	70	35	53	11	1.52	0.87	0.78	1.71	168	57.81	138	89	71	0	0	5	1
	ROANOKE	56	42	67	38	49	9	1.27	0.63	0.58	1.42	138	47.68	117	82	59	0	0	4	1
	WASH/DULLES	57	39	74	30	48	10	1.29	0.60	0.74	1.62	149	37.38	94	88	67	0	1	6	1
WA	OLYMPIA	50	40	57	35	45	7	3.57	1.72	1.46	3.94	133	39.72	87	92	83	0	0	7	4
	QUILLAYUTE	49	38	53	32	43	2	4.08	0.70	1.76	6.92	129	81.32	88	97	88	0	1	6	3
	SEATTLE-TACOMA	49	41	59	37	45	4	3.03	1.70	0.84	3.20	151	30.12	90	94	79	0	0	7	4
	SPOKANE	41	30	52	22	36	8	1.36	0.83	0.75	1.36	160	14.98	98	97	75	0	5	6	1
	YAKIMA	48	30	60	25	39	9	0.49	0.19	0.21	0.49	102	8.05	109	97	84	0	6	4	0
WV	BECKLEY	54	39	68	30	46	9	1.22	0.53	0.67	1.70	157	48.89	123	89	66	0	2	5	1
	CHARLESTON	57	40	73	32	48	9	1.95	1.18	0.58	2.26	182	54.74	130	93	67	0	1	6	1
	ELKINS	55	35	69	30	45	11	1.32	0.54	0.46	1.81	146	52.48	120	93	55	0	4	5	0
	HUNTINGTON	57	41	74	37	49	10	1.10	0.34	0.37	1.10	92	52.44	131	91	61	0	0	6	0
WI	EAU CLAIRE	37	31	41	23	34	14	0.64	0.40	0.35	0.65	159	31.52	100	91	72	0	4	4	0
	GREEN BAY	38	32	44	26	35	11	1.75	1.41	0.81	1.75	307	33.46	118	94	79	0	3	6	1
	LA CROSSE	39	33	42	25	36	12	0.74	0.44	0.32	0.74	145	41.31	131	96	77	0	2	4	0
	MADISON	42	34	46	25	38	13	1.30	0.89	0.56	1.31	196	39.26	123	90	77	0	2	5	1
	MILWAUKEE	42	35	46	28	39	10	1.40	0.86	0.69	1.40	163	32.91	98	93	83	0	2	5	1
WY	CASPER	42	25	56	19	33	8	0.00	-0.14	0.00	0.00	0	9.85	78	70	56	0	6	0	0
	CHEYENNE	45	30	61	23	37	9	0.01	-0.09	0.01	0.01	6	14.28	94	58	42	0	4	1	0
	LANDER	44	19	60	12	31	9	0.00	-0.14	0.00	0.00	0	13.69	105	74	49	0	7	0	0
	SHERIDAN	51	23	66	18	37	14	0.00	-0.14	0.00	0.00	0	9.77	69	68	49	0	6	0	0

Based on 1971-2000 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.

National Agricultural Summary

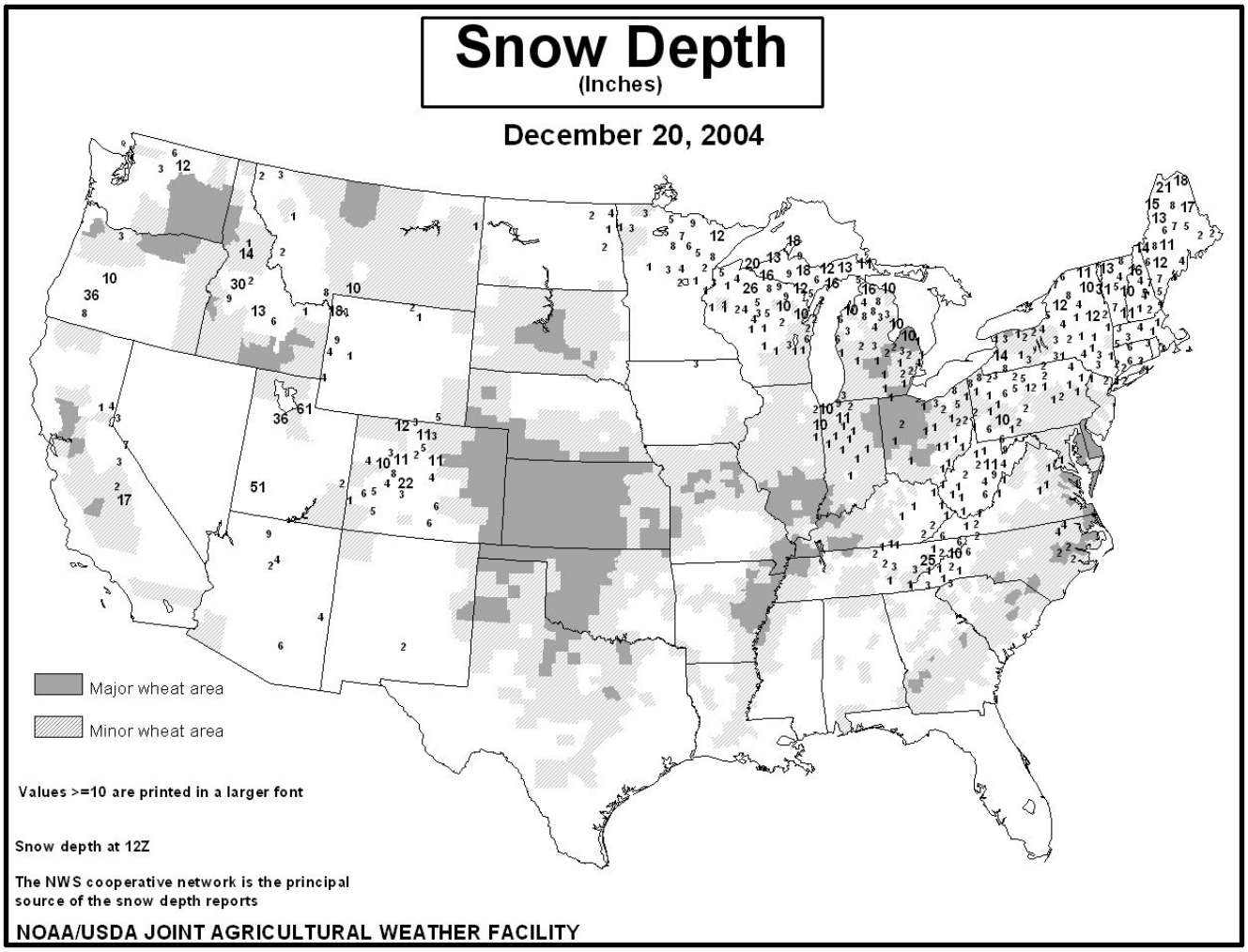
December 13 - 19, 2004

Weekly National Agricultural Summary provided by USDA/NASS

HIGHLIGHTS

Conditions were dry across most of the Nation. Early in the week, snow fell in the Great Lakes States and the Pacific Northwest saw light to moderate rainfall. But conditions elsewhere were generally favorable for fieldwork, with only light, widely scattered precipitation. An Arctic blast invaded the eastern half of the Nation late in the week, pushing average temperatures below normal along the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts, and in the Ohio Valley, Southeast, and Delta. Temperatures dropped below freezing along much of the Gulf Coast, including Louisiana's sugarcane-growing area and the northernmost part of the Florida peninsula. Temperatures were above normal elsewhere, averaging over 6 degrees Fahrenheit above normal in the Intermountain region, northern Rockies, and northern Great Plains. The mild, dry conditions in these areas were not favorable for snow cover accumulation, leaving much of the winter wheat crop vulnerable to cold weather.

Hawaii growers were harvesting bananas, papayas, coffee, ginger root, and some vegetable crops. In California, field preparations and planting of small grains and winter forage continued as weather permitted. Wyoming's corn harvest, normally finished by early December, was just 63 percent complete. The cotton harvest continued to trail the normal pace in Arizona due to wet conditions early in the month. In Georgia, harvest of soybeans and cotton continued, and winter wheat was in mostly good condition despite some reports of frost damage. Citrus and sugarcane harvest was active in Florida, where freezing temperatures missed the growing areas for both crops.



International Weather and Crop Summary

December 12 - 18, 2004

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

HIGHLIGHTS

EUROPE: Winter crops remained dormant across northern and eastern Europe.

FSU-WESTERN: Overwintering conditions remained favorable for dormant winter grains.

MIDDLE EAST: Across central Turkey and northwestern Iran, snow cover protected dormant winter grains from bitterly cold weather.

SOUTHEAST ASIA: Continued heavy showers in Java, Indonesia maintained moisture supplies for main-season crops.

AUSTRALIA: Scattered showers in eastern Australia maintained moisture supplies for summer crops, but winter grain harvesting likely resumed following last week's heavy rainfall.

NORTHWESTERN AFRICA: Rain continued to benefit germinating winter crops in eastern Algeria and Tunisia, while mostly dry weather prevailed in western Algeria and Morocco.

SOUTH AFRICA: Unfavorable warm and dry weather dominated the western corn belt where moisture remained limited for summer crop germination.

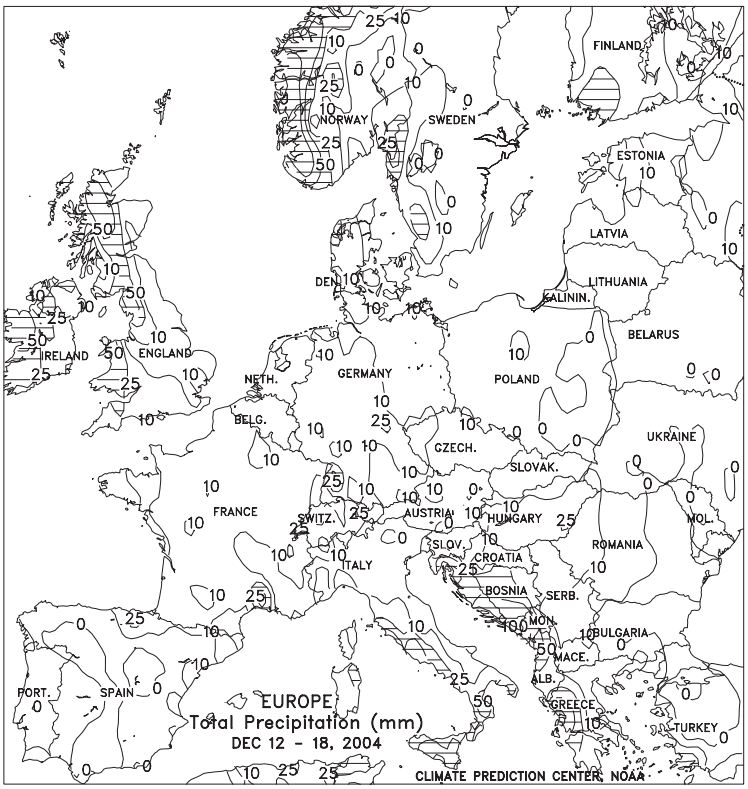
BRAZIL: Rain benefited emerging soybeans in the northeast, but unseasonable dryness returned to the south.

ARGENTINA: Scattered showers maintained adequate to excessive moisture for summer crops and continued to slow winter wheat harvesting.

EASTERN ASIA: Dry, warmer-than-normal weather continued to keep winter wheat vegetative throughout most growing areas, although wheat in northern areas was beginning to enter dormancy.

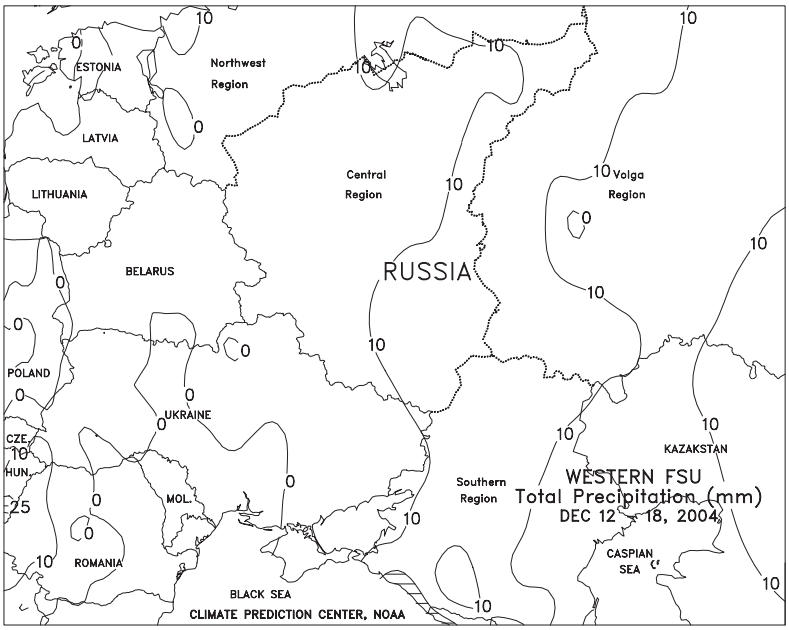
EUROPE

High pressure continued to dominate the region, although a late-week change in the weather pattern brought wetter conditions to some areas. Late-week precipitation ranged from 10 to 25 mm in England, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, Hungary, and Serbia. Light, if any, precipitation was observed over the remainder of the region. Winter grains remained dormant from Germany across most of eastern Europe, and continued to enter dormancy in northern France. Temperatures averaged 1 to 4 degrees C below normal from northern France eastward across central Europe. Temperatures averaged slightly above normal in Spain, Italy, and England.



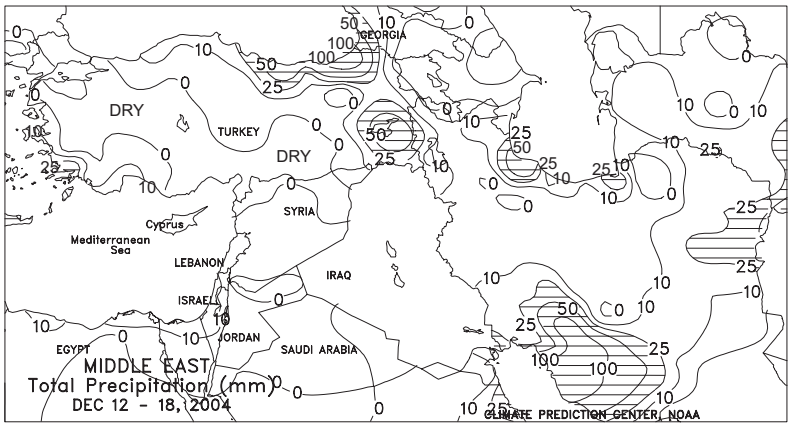
FSU-WESTERN

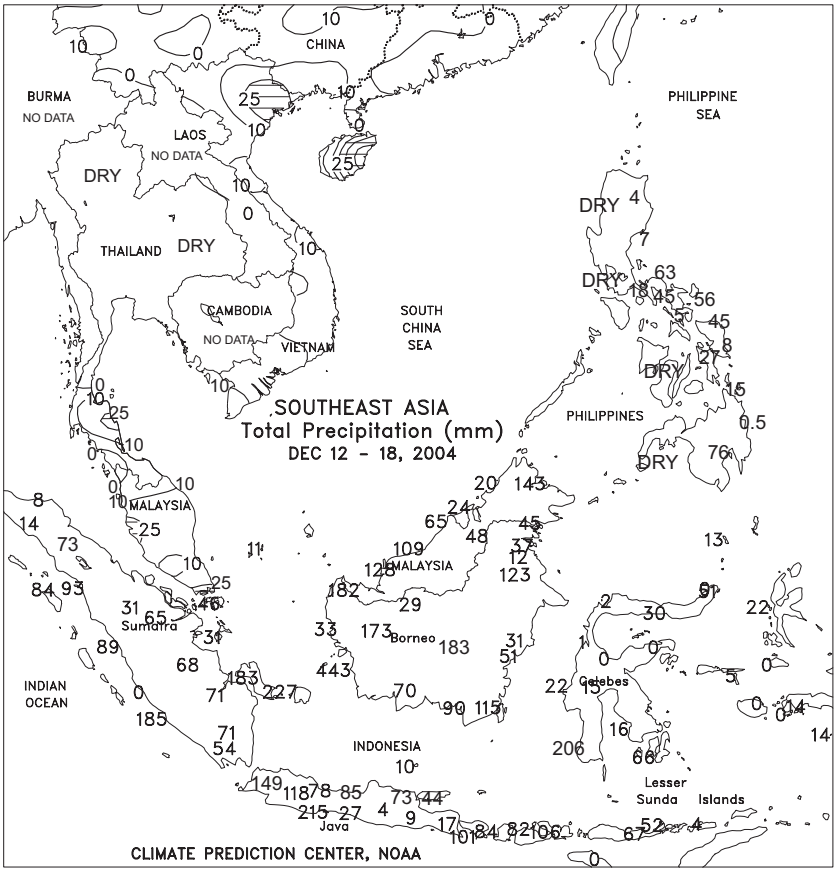
Overwintering conditions remained favorable for dormant winter grains. In Russia, colder weather overspread most winter grain areas during the middle of the week, and was accompanied by widespread snow (4-23 mm of liquid equivalent). Mostly dry weather prevailed over Ukraine, where a lack of snow cover left winter grain areas vulnerable to potential extreme cold. Weekly temperatures averaged near normal in Ukraine and near to slightly below normal in Russia. In areas with a protective snow cover, extreme minimum temperatures ranged from -22 to -15 degrees C. Minimum temperatures remained above -15 degrees C in areas that were snow-free.



MIDDLE EAST

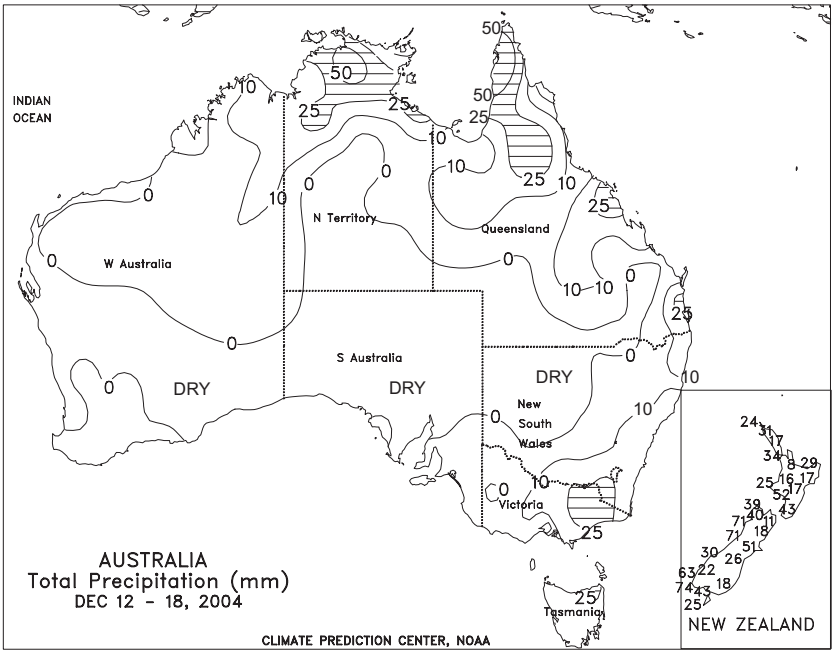
Unseasonably cold weather kept winter grains dormant across central Turkey and northwestern Iran. In central Turkey and extreme northwestern Iran, an adequate snow cover protected winter crops from bitter cold (minimum temperatures -20 to -10 degrees C). Mostly dry weather prevailed across major winter wheat producing areas in Turkey, while light snow (less than 10 mm of water equivalent) fell across extreme northwestern Iran. Temperatures averaged 3 to 6 degrees C below normal in Turkey, northern Iran, and the eastern Mediterranean.





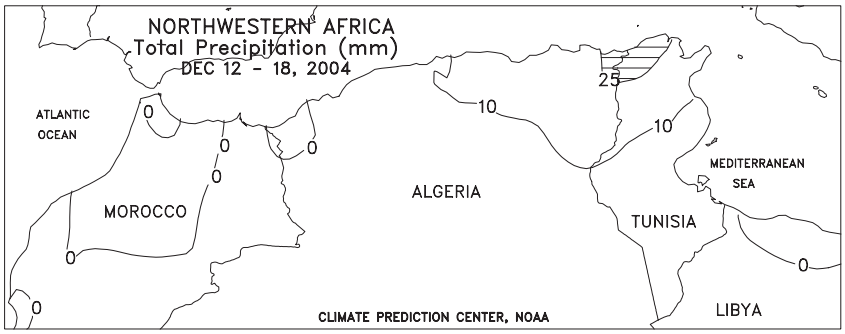
SOUTHEAST ASIA

In Indonesia, heavy showers (25-100 mm) maintained moisture supplies for main-season rice in Java and oil palm in southern Sumatra. Showers (10-25 mm or more) fell throughout the eastern Philippines, with locally heavy amounts (greater than 50 mm) in southern Luzon and southern Mindanao. Drier weather in central Vietnam aided coffee harvesting as winter-spring rice planting begins.



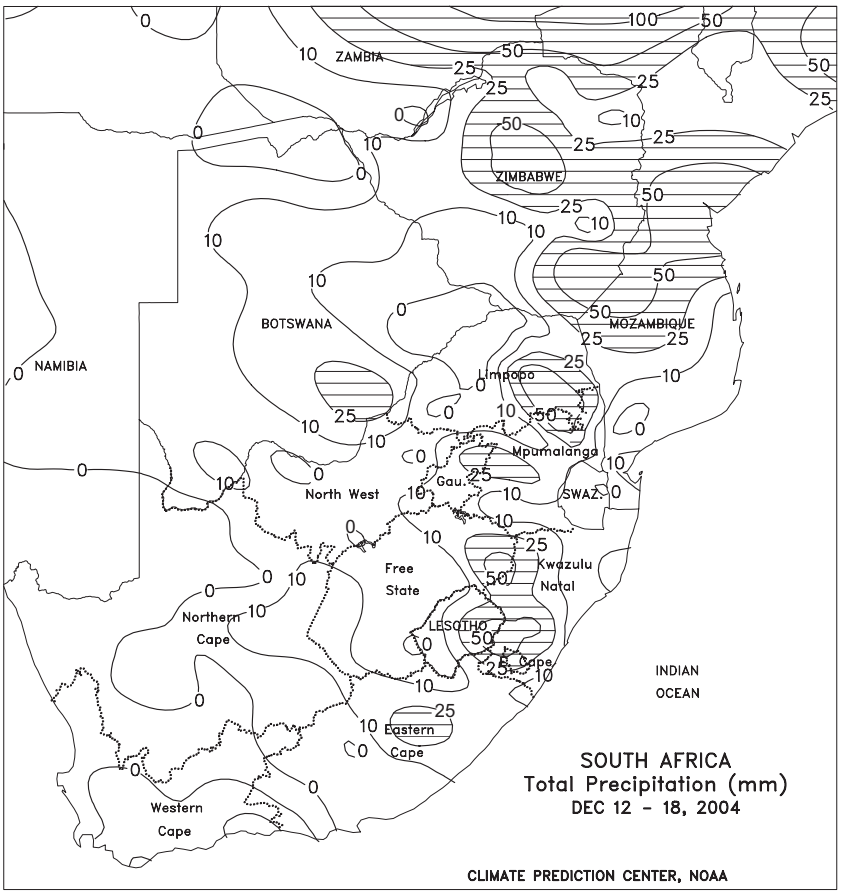
AUSTRALIA

Following a week of widespread soaking rains, much lighter precipitation (2-10 mm, locally near 30 mm) fell across eastern Australia. In Queensland and northern New South Wales, scattered, light showers maintained moisture supplies for vegetative cotton and sorghum. Some locations received no rainfall, however, allowing topsoils to sufficiently dry for fieldwork to resume. In southern New South Wales and Victoria, the showers were light but more widespread. Winter wheat and barley harvesting likely resumed, albeit slowly given last week's locally heavy rain. In contrast, mostly dry weather (less than 5 mm) dominated South Australia and Western Australia, spurring winter grain harvesting. Temperatures in Western Australia averaged about 2 to 3 degrees C above normal, favoring winter grain maturation and harvesting, while in eastern Australia, temperatures averaged about 0 to 2 degrees C above normal.



NORTHWESTERN AFRICA

Rain (10-25 mm or more) continued to cover winter grain areas in eastern Algeria and Tunisia, benefiting emerging crops. Although dry weather prevailed across western Algeria and Morocco, topsoil moisture remained adequate for crop emergence and early plant growth. Temperatures averaged near normal across the region.

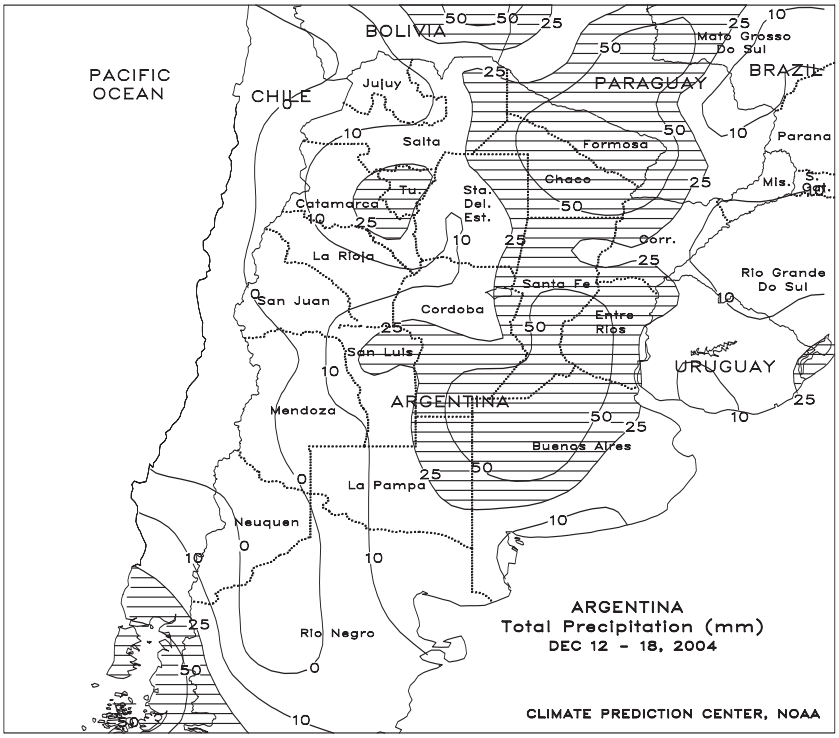


SOUTH AFRICA

Mostly dry, warmer-than-normal weather (highs in the lower and middle 30s degrees C) covered the western corn belt, including important commercial growing areas of North West and central Free State. With the exception of a brief period of wetness in early December, these locations have received below-normal rainfall for most of the growing season, and rain is needed soon to prevent further declines in subsoil moisture levels. Scattered showers (10-25 mm or more) continued in eastern growing areas (eastern Limpopo to western KwaZulu-Natal, including eastern portions of Free State), maintaining mostly adequate moisture levels for germination and establishment of corn and other summer crops. However, an increase in rainfall will be needed in the east as crops approach reproduction, which usually begins in the earliest planted fields by mid-January. Temperatures averaged near to slightly above normal throughout the east, with highs ranging from the upper 20s to middle 30s degrees C. Elsewhere, mostly dry weather maintained crop irrigation demands in sugarcane areas of northern KwaZulu-Natal and fruit and vegetable areas of Western Cape. Scattered showers (10-25 mm or more) covered eastern locations of Eastern Cape.

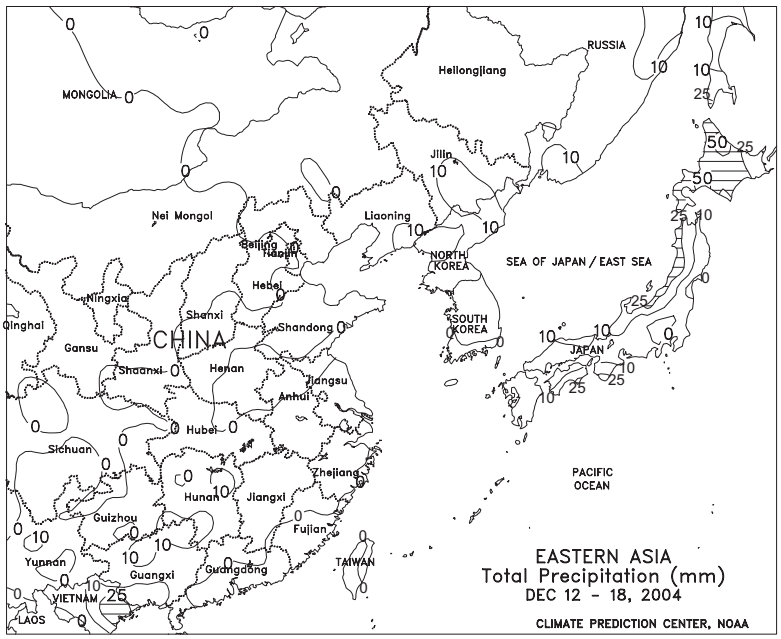
BRAZIL

Widespread, locally heavy showers (25-50 mm, some exceeding 100 mm) covered most major soybean areas of the center-west and northeast regions, including previously dry locations in Goias, western Bahia, and Tocantins. However, following last week's beneficial rainfall, drier-than-normal weather returned to much of the south (Mato Grosso do Sul and Sao Paulo to Rio Grande do Sul). A return to a seasonably wetter weather pattern is needed in this region to avoid the characteristic rapid declines in subsoil moisture that have been reported during recent growing seasons. At this time last year, Parana and Rio Grande do Sul, two of the leading soybean producers, were coming out of a wet spell that had caused earlier delays in planting. While initially beneficial, this drying trend eventually developed into a drought that resulted in significant declines in yield potential of soybeans and other summer crops. Soybean planting should be virtually complete throughout Brazil, and the continuation of near- to above-normal temperatures helped to maintain high rates of germination and early growth.



ARGENTINA

Widespread, locally heavy showers (10-50 mm or more) continued throughout the primary growing areas of central Argentina, maintaining favorable moisture levels for germinating summer crops but causing additional disruptions in winter wheat harvesting. According to Argentina's Ministry of Agriculture (SAGPyA), sunseed, corn, and soybeans were 97, 88, and 82 percent planted, respectively, as of December 17. Winter wheat was 44 percent harvested, compared with 55 percent last year, and the wet weather of recent weeks has reportedly affected crop quality. Across the north, locally heavy showers (10-50 mm, locally exceeding 100 mm) continued to improve the long-term moisture situation, but localized flooding remained a concern in Chaco, historically Argentina's largest cotton producer.



EASTERN ASIA

Mostly dry weather prevailed in central and southern China, while light snow fell in Manchuria. Temperatures averaging 2 to 5 degrees C above normal continued to prevent winter wheat in southern growing areas from entering dormancy. However, wheat was nearing or entering dormancy in northern growing areas, where temperatures have averaged between 0 and 5 degrees C over the last 2 weeks. The warm weather continued to favor winter rapeseed development.

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