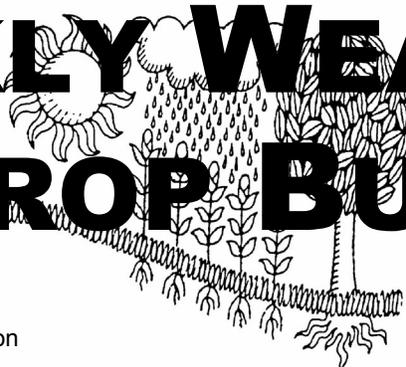


WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP BULLETIN

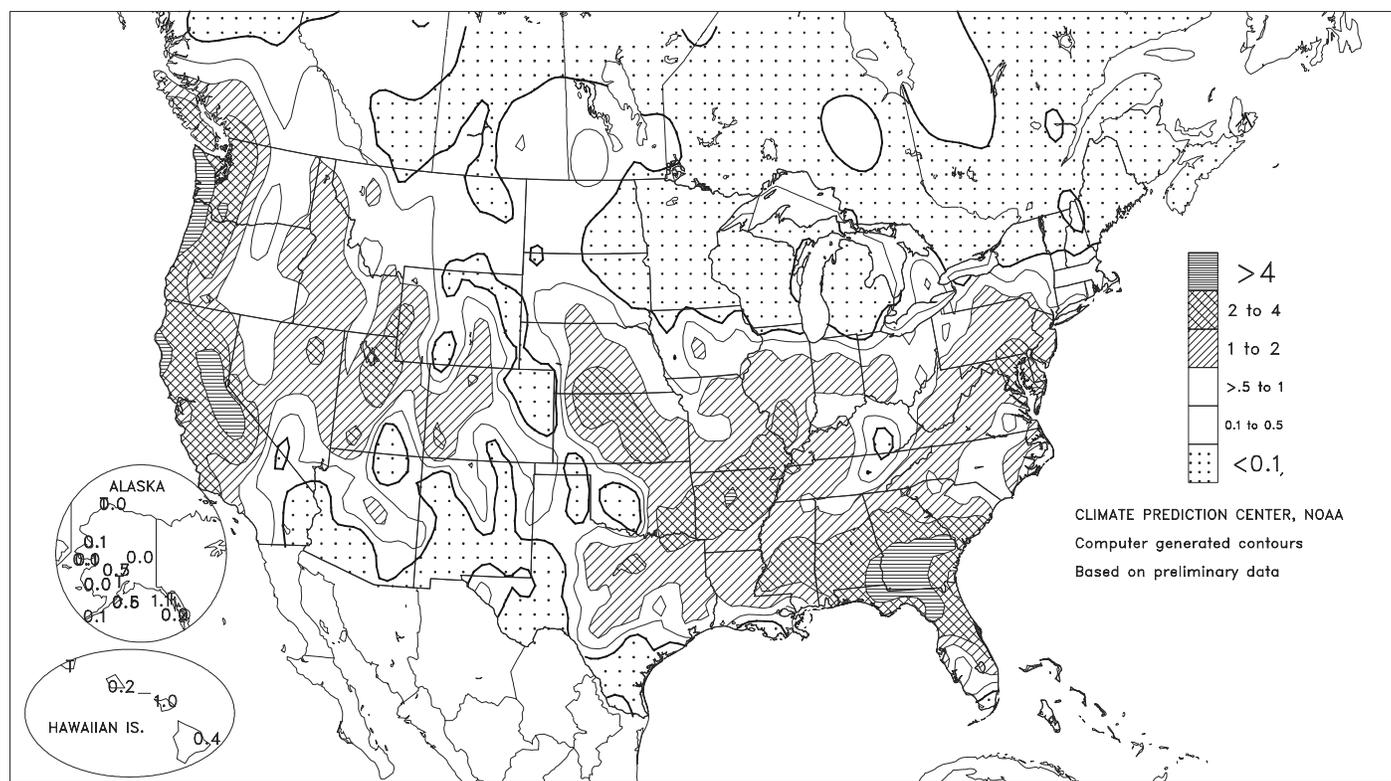


U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Weather Service

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

Total Precipitation (Inches)

MAR 20 - 26, 2005



HIGHLIGHTS

March 20 - 26, 2005

Highlights provided by USDA/WAOB

Stormy conditions intensified across the **Northwest**, providing much-needed moisture for pastures and winter grains but failing to significantly alter the region's bleak outlook for significantly below-normal spring and summer runoff. Unsettled, showery weather also prevailed in most other areas from the **Rockies westward**, maintaining abundant **Southwestern** snowpacks but slowing fieldwork in **California**. Farther east, snow blanketed the **northern High Plains**, providing some drought relief and aiding pastures and winter wheat. Widespread precipitation elsewhere on the **Plains** maintained adequate to locally excessive moisture reserves for wheat and pastures. Much of the **Corn**

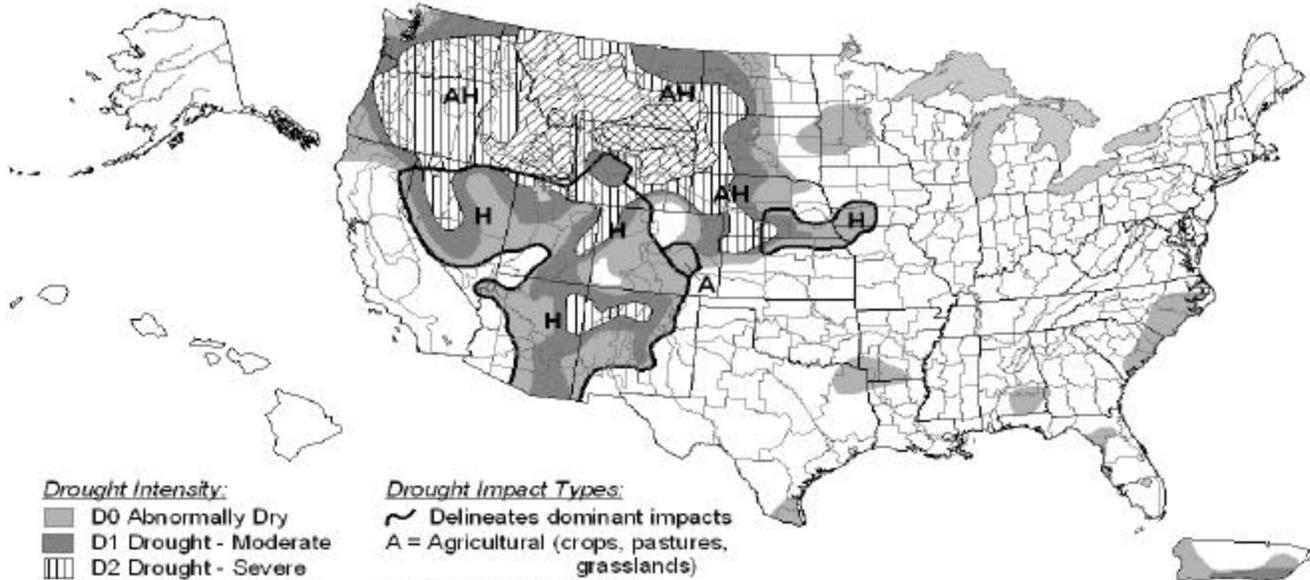
(Continued on page 5)

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U.S. Drought Monitor

March 22, 2005
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.

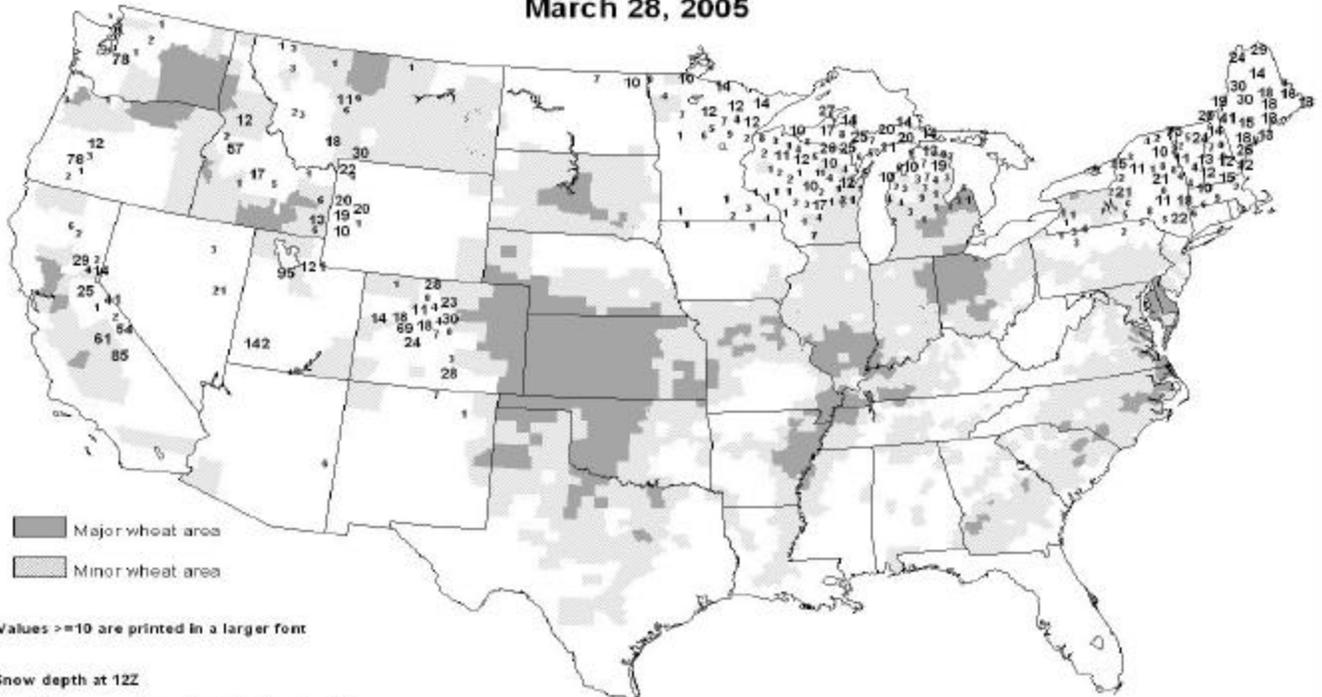


Released Thursday, March 24, 2005
Author: Mark Svoboda, NDMC

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

Snow Depth (Inches)

March 28, 2005



- Major wheat area
- Minor wheat area

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

Agricultural Weather Data Compiled by USDA's Stoneville Field Office

Weather Data for the Week Ending March 26, 2005

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				
	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	50 INCH OR MORE
MISSISSIPPI																			
ND TUNICA 1W	66	46	76	37	56	-	1.06	-	0.98	2.03	-	9.00	-	-	-	0	0	3	1
LYON	66	46	77	38	56	-	0.77	-	0.66	1.70	-	8.91	-	62	51	0	0	3	1
VANCE	67	47	75	37	57	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	-	-
PERTSHIRE	66	47	76	39	57	-	1.34	-	1.13	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	3	1
SCOTT	68	49	78	40	59	-	0.72	-	0.39	1.81	-	8.08	-	-	-	0	0	4	0
NE VERONA	69	49	83	45	59	-	0.52	-	0.48	1.74	-	9.04	-	65	52	0	0	3	0
STARKVILLE	70	46	83	37	58	2	1.00	-0.40	0.67	2.14	42	9.20	59	-	-	0	0	5	1
EC MACON	71	48	84	40	60	-	1.01	-	0.56	3.05	-	10.22	-	63	53	0	0	4	1
SD STONEVILLE X	68	49	78	39	58	1	1.10	-0.23	1.09	2.30	49	9.68	66	65	54	0	0	2	1
INDIANOLA 1S *	69	49	82	41	59	-	0.77	-	0.66	2.06	-	9.38	-	-	-	0	0	4	1
INVERNESS 5E	69	50	83	40	60	-	0.64	-	0.49	1.84	-	9.02	-	65	55	0	0	4	0
SIDON	71	51	84	42	61	-	0.51	-	0.49	1.77	-	8.50	-	67	52	0	0	2	0
N. ISSAQUENA	71	51	84	42	61	-	0.70	-	0.42	2.27	-	10.84	-	64	57	0	0	2	0
SILVER CITY	71	51	84	42	61	-	0.44	-	0.28	1.96	-	10.59	-	63	55	0	0	3	0
ONWARD	71	51	84	42	61	-	1.12	-	0.60	1.90	-	9.97	-	-	-	0	0	3	1
MISSOURI																			
NW CORNING	49	34	58	26	42	-1	0.61	0.23	0.31	0.64	34	3.61	94	-	-	0	2	3	0
ALBANY	47	33	57	21	40	-4	0.68	0.24	0.44	0.68	35	3.93	94	45	40	0	2	3	0
ST. JOSEPH	46	34	56	25	40	-6	0.68	0.39	0.32	0.68	39	4.55	129	-	-	0	1	4	0
NC LINNEUS	45	32	55	19	39	-5	1.07	0.65	0.72	1.10	62	5.88	152	43	38	0	1	4	1
BRUNSWICK	46	33	56	20	40	-6	1.26	0.79	0.78	1.48	75	6.75	134	43	41	0	1	5	1
NE NOVELTY	44	33	55	26	38	-7	1.15	0.77	0.58	1.19	62	6.08	131	42	38	0	2	5	1
MONROE CITY	45	33	54	25	39	-7	0.88	0.40	0.68	0.98	46	7.83	150	42	38	0	1	3	1
WC GREEN RIDGE	48	35	59	27	41	-4	0.70	0.08	0.39	1.28	54	8.75	146	46	40	0	1	5	0
C AUXVASSE	46	33	55	24	39	-6	0.91	0.27	0.75	1.13	49	8.74	150	43	39	0	1	4	1
SANBORN FIELD	47	35	56	28	41	-6	0.64	-0.12	0.42	0.84	34	9.05	141	46	40	0	1	4	0
COLUMBIA	47	34	57	24	40	-7	0.64	-0.17	0.40	0.87	35	8.91	139	-	-	0	1	4	0
VERSAILLES	48	35	60	25	42	-6	0.46	-0.15	0.17	0.55	23	9.79	159	46	41	0	1	5	0
EC COOK STATION	51	34	63	22	43	-6	0.93	0.12	0.64	1.20	41	9.23	126	49	43	0	2	6	1
SW LAMAR	52	38	65	33	45	-3	0.69	0.07	0.28	0.93	33	8.01	113	50	44	0	0	3	0
SE DELTA	55	38	66	27	47	-3	0.87	0.08	0.81	0.93	30	7.86	83	53	43	0	1	5	1
CHARLESTON	59	40	69	31	49	0	0.30	-0.39	0.23	0.50	16	8.89	92	57	46	0	1	3	0
GLENNONVILLE	59	41	71	30	49	-2	0.81	0.17	0.62	1.01	33	8.98	99	54	46	0	1	5	1
CLARKTON	59	40	71	30	49	-2	0.67	0.05	0.58	0.93	30	8.40	91	57	47	0	1	4	1
PORTAGEVILLE DC	60	43	71	34	51	0	0.67	0.01	0.57	1.05	31	9.30	90	60	48	0	0	3	1
PORTAGEVILLE LF	61	42	71	31	51	0	0.67	-0.03	0.58	1.12	33	8.40	82	60	47	0	1	3	1
STEELE	62	43	72	32	52	1	0.81	0.17	0.66	1.16	31	8.33	76	57	49	0	1	5	1
CARDWELL	61	42	72	34	51	-1	1.66	0.96	1.30	2.04	57	9.78	92	57	49	0	0	4	1

Compiled by USDA/OCE/WAOB's Stoneville Field Office. * Beasley Lake. X Based on 1971-2000 normals. - Sufficient data not available.
 Mississippi: ND = Northern Delta; NE = Northeastern Mississippi; EC = East Central Mississippi; SD = Southern Delta.
 Missouri: 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: A cold front lowered temperatures and brought rain showers early in the week, halting most tillage and planting activities. Warmer weather followed, allowing farmers to resume fieldwork, including corn and soybean planting, on light-textured soils. Additional applications of fertilizer and burndown chemicals were made. Wheat and spring pastures continued to develop normally.

New York City Snowfall Update

One inch of snow blanketed New York City's Central Park on March 23, increasing the season-to-date snowfall to 41.0 inches. It marked the first time in Central Park, where weather records have been maintained since 1869, that the seasonal snowfall topped 40 inches in three consecutive seasons. Central Park's seasonal snowfall totaled 49.3 inches (16th snowiest year) in 2002-03 and 42.6 inches (27th snowiest) in 2003-04. In addition, Central Park's 2002-03 to 2004-05 snowfall of 132.9 inches represented its fifth-highest three-season total. While the city's three-season snowfall is impressive, the 2004-05 total of 41.0 inches ranked as only the 28th snowiest season during the 136-year period of record.

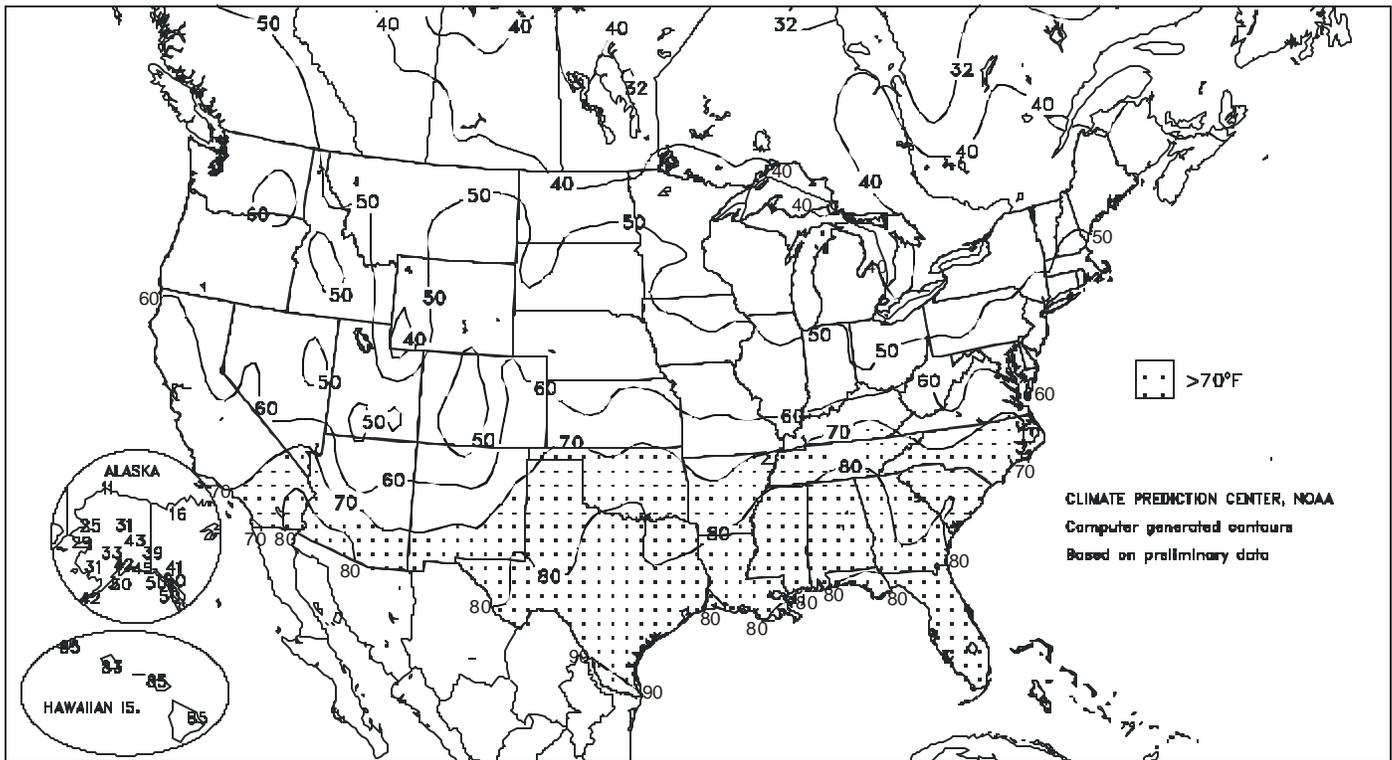
**Central Park, New York City
Highest Three-Season Snowfall Totals (Inches)**

Rank	Total	Years
1	155.0	1872-73 to 1874-75
2	140.8	1993-94 to 1995-96
3	140.4	1946-47 to 1948-49
4	135.9	1915-16 to 1917-18
5	132.9	2002-03 to 2004-05 (through March 27)

Note: The information above was compiled from information provided by the National Weather Service.

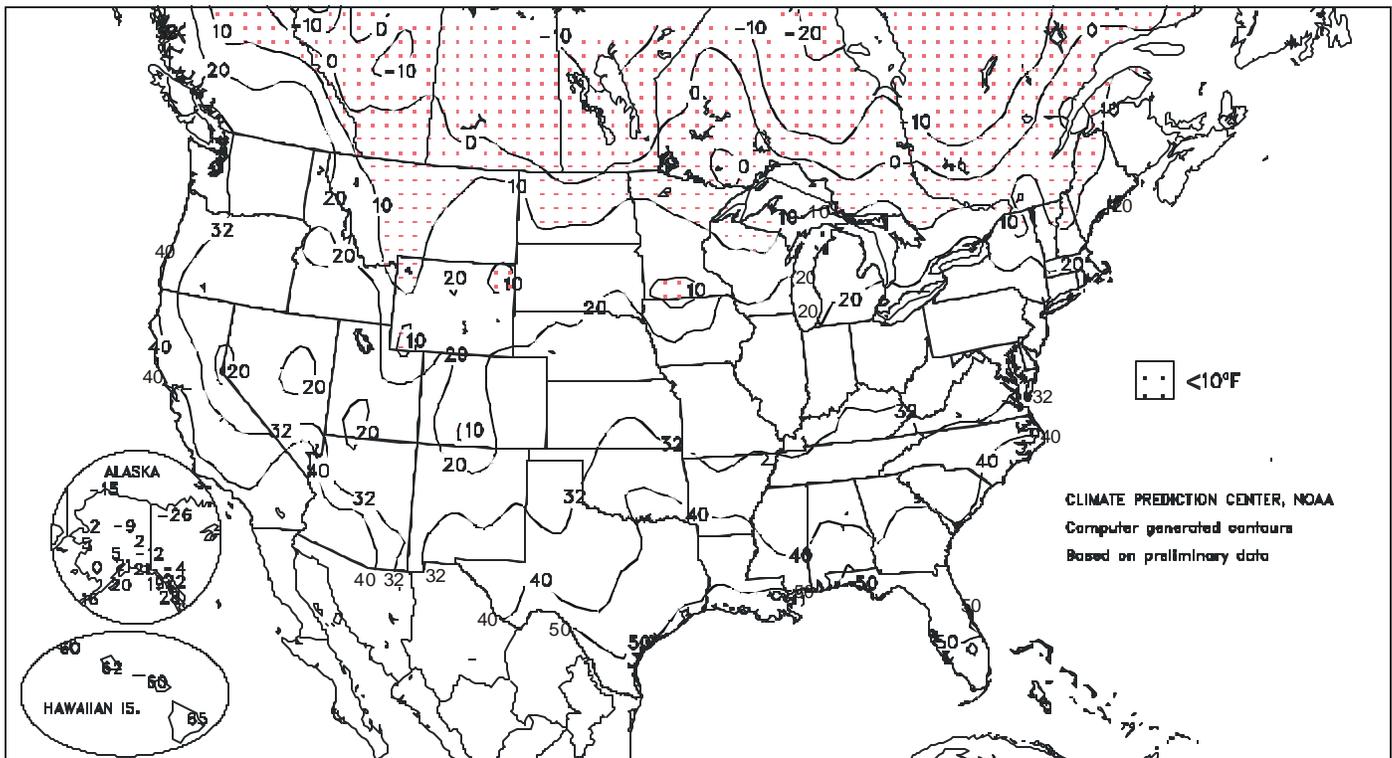
Extreme Maximum Temperature (°F)

MAR 20 - 26, 2005



Extreme Minimum Temperature (°F)

MAR 20 - 26, 2005



(Continued from front cover)

Belt also experienced periods of precipitation, including some late-season snow. Cool weather (weekly temperatures as much as 10°F below normal) slowed or prevented winter wheat development across the **Plains** and **Midwest**. Showers and locally severe thunderstorms swept across the **South** on several occasions, especially on March 21-22 and 26-27. Although wet fields slowed **Southern** fieldwork, warm weather (up to 6°F above normal) and abundant soil moisture promoted the development of pastures, winter grains, and emerging summer crops.

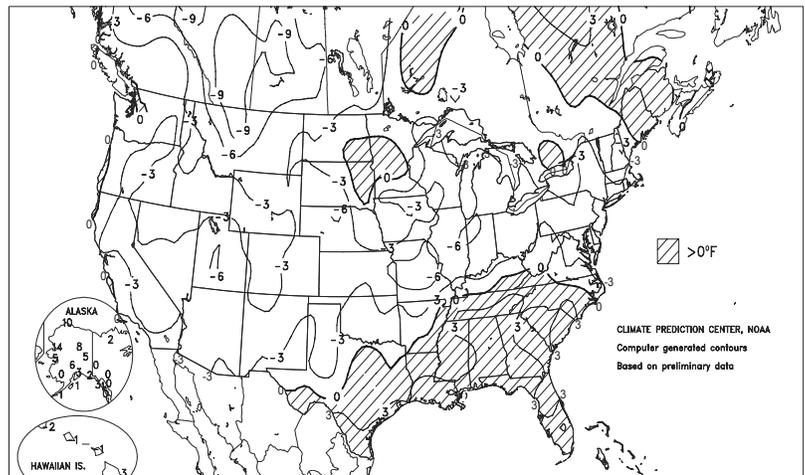
Early in the week, heavy precipitation developed across a broad area stretching from the **West Coast** to the **South**, including parts of the **Plains** and **Intermountain West**. Daily-record precipitation totals were established on March 20 in locations such as **Forks, WA** (4.14 inches), and **Jackson, MS** (2.56 inches). A day later, records for March 21 on the **Plains** included 1.74 inches in **Concordia, KS**, 1.49 inches in **McAlester, OK**, and 1.44 inches in **Kearney, NE**. **Valentine, NE**, netted 9.3 inches of snow during the week, including a daily-record total of 6.3 inches on March 21. Elsewhere on the **Plains**, nearly a dozen tornadoes were reported on March 21 from **northern Texas** to **southern Kansas**. The following day, thunderstorms produced at least 17 tornadoes across the **northern Delta** and from **southern Mississippi eastward into southern Georgia**. Daily precipitation records were broken on March 22 in **Savannah, GA** (1.33 inches), and downtown **Charleston, SC** (2.78 inches). Farther north, record rainfall totals on March 23 reached 2.56 inches in **Baltimore, MD**, and 1.73 inches in **Martinsburg, WV**. Meanwhile, March 23-24 snowfall included 7.9 inches in **Binghamton, NY**, and 4.1 inches in **Worcester, MA**, boosting the cities' respective month-to-date totals to 23.9 and 24.6 inches. In **Flint, MI**, the season-to-date snowfall through March 27 stood at 65.0 inches (145 percent of normal), its sixth-highest total since 1942 and greatest seasonal sum since 1975-76, when 76.6 inches fell.

On March 22, a second round of precipitation overspread the **West**, where daily records included 1.22 inches in **Fullerton, CA**, 0.65 inch in **Winnemucca, NV**, and 0.31 inch in **Pendleton, OR**. In **southern California**, downtown **Los Angeles** collected 1.08 inches of rain on March 22, lifting its total since July 1 to 35.89 inches. The only wetter July 1 - June 30 period on record in **Los Angeles** was 1883-84, when 38.18 inches fell. Moisture reached the **interior Northwest** the following day, March 23, when records were set in **Idaho** locations such as **Pocatello** (0.45 inch) and **Stanley** (0.40 inch). In **Utah's Wasatch Range**, 5-day (March 19-23) snowfall totals included 68 inches at **Brighton** and 64 inches at **Alta**. Heavy snow also blanketed the **northern High Plains**, where **Great Falls, MT**, measured 11.5 inches from March 22-24. **Great Falls'** month-to-date snowfall reached 27.8 inches, breaking its March 1982 record of 26.1 inches and accounting for 54 percent of its season-to-date total of 51.2 inches.

Despite the highly beneficial moisture across the **northern Plains** and the **Northwest**, some season-to-date precipitation totals were less than half of normal. For example, **Eugene, OR**, received only 15.47 inches (39 percent of normal) from October 1 - March

Departure of Average Temperature from Normal (°F)

MAR 20 - 26, 2005



27. Other **Northwestern** totals from October 1 - March 27 included 4.13 inches (52 percent of normal) in **Pendleton, OR**, and 6.58 inches (64 percent) in **Spokane, WA**. At week's end, a third **Northwestern** wave of precipitation produced daily-record totals for March 26 in locations such as **Astoria, OR** (2.61 inches), and **Hoquiam, WA** (2.15 inches). A day later, both **Pendleton** (0.43 inch) and **Spokane** (0.88 inch) posted daily-record totals for March 27.

Cool weather across the **South** was quickly replaced by much warmer weather. In **Florida**, a daily-record low in **Vero Beach** (45°F on March 20) was followed by daily-record highs in locations such as **Orlando** (87°F on March 22) and **Miami** (90°F on March 23). Record highs for March 25 were set in locations such as **New Orleans, LA** (84°F), and **Pinson, AL** (83°F). However, heavy precipitation accompanied the **Southern** warmth, resulting in daily-record totals for March 27 in **Augusta, GA** (3.41 inches), and 1.98 inches in **Columbia, SC** (1.98 inches). Farther west, snow briefly blanketed areas as far east as **northern Texas**, where **Stratford** measured 8 inches on March 26.

Mostly dry weather prevailed for much of the week in **Hawaii**, accompanied by a warming trend. Temperatures in **Lihue, Kauai**, rebounded from a daily-record low of 60°F on March 20 to a daily-record high of 85°F on March 24. However, very heavy rain returned to some windward locations toward week's end. On **Maui, Hana Airport** received 21.48 inches of rain in a 48-hour period from March 25-27. The **Big Island** location of **Honokaa** collected 7.26 inches in 24 hours on March 26-27. Farther north, a dry spell across **southwestern Alaska** ended with a major snowstorm on March 24, when daily-record totals included 11.6 inches in **King Salmon** and 5.3 inches in **McGrath**. **King Salmon's** total represented its third-highest daily snowfall in the last half-century, behind 17.8 inches on January 26, 1993, and 12.0 inches on January 8, 1987. Meanwhile, mild weather elsewhere across **southern Alaska** resulted in several daily-record highs, including 50°F (on March 20) in **Kodiak** and 56°F (on March 23) on **Annette Island**. For the week, **Alaskan** temperatures ranged from near normal to as much as 14°F above normal.

National Weather Data for Selected Cities

Weather Data for the Week Ending March 26, 2005

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, INCHES	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	GREATEST 24-HOUR, INCHES	TOTAL INCHES SINCE MAR01	PERCENT NORMAL SINCE MAR01	TOTAL INCHES SINCE JAN01	PERCENT NORMAL SINCE JAN01	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	TEMP. °F					
																90 AND ABOVE	32 AND BELOW	01 IN. OR MORE	50 IN. OR MORE		
AL BIRMINGHAM	72	48	84	38	60	4	0.97	-0.44	0.94	3.08	60	9.11	62	94	39	0	0	3	1		
HUNTSVILLE	69	48	83	39	58	4	0.45	-1.02	0.35	2.04	36	8.69	54	88	60	0	0	2	0		
MOBILE	76	56	85	48	66	4	0.93	-0.69	0.45	2.97	49	9.23	54	89	54	0	0	4	0		
MONTGOMERY	75	50	85	42	63	4	2.98	1.61	2.48	4.29	79	12.33	77	91	42	0	0	4	1		
AK ANCHORAGE	37	25	42	21	31	3	0.01	-0.10	0.01	0.62	122	2.40	124	72	54	0	7	1	0		
BARROW	5	-8	11	-15	-2	10	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.19	1900	0.35	146	86	75	0	7	1	0		
FAIRBANKS	32	10	43	2	21	6	0.00	-0.06	0.00	0.21	105	1.61	144	69	58	0	7	0	0		
JUNEAU	43	27	50	22	35	0	0.01	-0.69	0.01	3.17	106	15.19	129	75	62	0	6	1	0		
KODIAK	40	28	50	20	34	1	0.56	-0.60	0.26	4.72	109	20.91	115	79	68	0	5	3	0		
NOME	22	10	29	5	16	5	0.07	-0.04	0.05	0.50	116	2.00	95	79	69	0	7	2	0		
AZ FLAGSTAFF	43	27	49	21	35	-3	1.02	0.50	0.32	2.92	130	13.69	196	89	46	0	7	5	0		
PHOENIX	73	54	78	50	63	-1	0.10	-0.10	0.05	0.41	46	5.27	211	60	32	0	0	2	0		
TUCSON	70	48	76	43	59	-1	0.09	-0.04	0.09	0.42	62	3.04	119	65	36	0	0	1	0		
YUMA	75	53	82	50	64	-4	0.00	-0.04	0.00	0.17	89	2.57	302	58	34	0	0	0	0		
AR FORT SMITH	60	43	71	38	51	-3	1.82	0.93	1.11	2.04	62	8.73	106	89	59	0	0	4	2		
LITTLE ROCK	64	46	78	39	55	0	1.01	-0.16	0.60	1.38	35	9.09	83	89	52	0	0	3	1		
CA BAKERSFIELD	66	45	68	41	55	-3	0.95	0.67	0.39	1.57	134	5.60	157	86	59	0	0	4	0		
FRESNO	63	46	66	41	55	-1	1.42	0.98	0.86	2.56	136	7.28	118	91	71	0	0	4	1		
LOS ANGELES	63	50	70	47	57	-2	0.84	0.40	0.82	1.06	50	14.90	182	84	64	0	0	2	1		
REDDING	58	42	63	34	50	-3	3.07	2.01	1.43	4.62	104	11.95	73	91	78	0	0	5	3		
SACRAMENTO	61	45	66	38	53	-2	1.53	0.99	0.66	3.00	123	9.16	93	94	58	0	0	4	1		
SAN DIEGO	65	55	70	51	60	-1	0.65	0.18	0.43	2.21	116	12.54	201	77	56	0	0	4	0		
SAN FRANCISCO	60	50	63	46	55	1	1.49	0.85	0.86	2.90	103	12.27	109	89	78	0	0	5	1		
STOCKTON	63	45	68	40	54	-2	1.74	1.28	1.09	3.22	166	8.70	122	90	70	0	0	5	1		
CO ALAMOSA	46	20	51	15	33	-2	0.45	0.34	0.42	0.78	236	2.25	285	83	44	0	7	3	0		
CO SPRINGS	46	27	58	24	37	-2	0.42	0.16	0.18	0.89	111	1.71	120	93	45	0	6	5	0		
DENVER INTL	47	28	60	23	37	-3	0.38	0.20	0.17	0.64	88	1.03	87	95	52	0	7	5	0		
GRAND JUNCTION	51	32	57	28	41	-4	0.46	0.24	0.22	0.48	61	2.92	154	89	65	0	4	4	0		
PUEBLO	52	30	65	25	41	-2	1.03	0.79	0.59	1.43	196	2.01	152	88	72	0	6	5	1		
CT BRIDGEPORT	47	33	54	31	40	-2	0.38	-0.60	0.16	1.10	32	8.30	83	81	54	0	2	4	0		
HARTFORD	46	27	54	23	36	-4	0.17	-0.74	0.12	0.71	22	8.07	81	88	56	0	7	3	0		
DC WASHINGTON	51	40	58	34	46	-3	2.17	1.38	1.83	2.85	94	7.79	88	80	56	0	0	4	1		
DE WILMINGTON	48	34	53	28	41	-4	1.58	0.69	1.31	1.80	55	7.66	80	92	60	0	1	2	1		
FL DAYTONA BEACH	76	60	86	44	68	2	3.95	3.07	2.69	5.47	173	9.33	103	93	53	0	0	5	2		
JACKSONVILLE	77	56	82	42	67	4	0.97	0.06	0.44	2.70	83	8.22	81	97	59	0	0	4	0		
KEY WEST	82	73	83	59	77	3	0.02	-0.42	0.02	3.76	256	5.51	106	90	71	0	0	1	0		
MIAMI	85	70	90	55	77	4	0.12	-0.50	0.12	3.97	199	6.51	110	96	67	1	0	1	0		
ORLANDO	80	62	87	47	71	3	2.62	1.81	1.16	5.98	204	10.60	137	96	59	0	0	7	2		
PENSACOLA	74	57	81	50	66	4	2.39	0.95	1.90	5.01	93	12.16	79	94	63	0	0	4	1		
TALLAHASSEE	78	54	83	41	66	4	1.90	0.46	1.21	6.73	122	12.07	78	96	55	0	0	3	1		
TAMPA	79	64	83	49	72	4	0.38	-0.21	0.30	3.32	139	5.69	78	95	60	0	0	3	0		
WEST PALM BEACH	83	68	89	54	76	5	0.05	-0.86	0.02	5.94	201	9.51	103	88	62	0	0	3	0		
GA ATHENS	69	46	79	38	58	3	0.82	-0.25	0.52	2.17	51	9.65	73	88	49	0	0	4	1		
ATLANTA	69	48	80	42	59	3	1.23	0.07	0.61	3.10	68	11.25	79	84	50	0	0	3	1		
AUGUSTA	73	45	80	35	59	1	0.51	-0.50	0.19	2.09	54	9.73	78	92	53	0	0	3	0		
COLUMBUS	75	51	85	42	63	4	1.59	0.33	0.67	4.03	83	11.67	83	88	36	0	0	3	2		
MACON	75	50	79	42	62	4	0.91	-0.14	0.56	2.66	64	10.29	75	86	45	0	0	3	1		
SAVANNAH	73	53	80	38	63	2	3.05	2.18	1.35	5.45	185	8.88	91	93	66	0	0	4	2		
HI HILO	82	68	85	65	75	3	0.41	-3.09	0.19	4.73	40	23.87	79	84	76	0	0	3	0		
HONOLULU	81	67	83	62	74	-1	0.24	-0.11	0.24	1.90	119	9.41	141	84	71	0	0	1	0		
KAHULUI	81	64	85	60	73	0	0.96	0.44	0.91	3.17	166	10.14	127	99	91	0	0	4	1		
LIHUE	79	63	85	60	71	-2	0.04	-0.75	0.04	1.03	35	12.60	116	87	76	0	0	1	0		
ID BOISE	52	36	54	27	44	-1	0.32	0.02	0.13	0.51	46	1.08	30	82	57	0	2	5	0		
LEWISTON	51	38	65	33	44	-2	0.43	0.18	0.10	0.63	72	1.13	38	77	52	0	0	5	0		
POCATELLO	46	30	51	25	38	-2	0.82	0.52	0.40	1.13	101	3.16	97	83	65	0	5	5	0		
IL CHICAGO/O'HARE	42	28	50	22	35	-5	0.40	-0.27	0.19	0.92	45	7.11	131	89	61	0	6	4	0		
MOLINE	46	31	51	27	38	-3	0.61	-0.13	0.26	0.69	30	3.79	70	89	68	0	6	4	0		
PEORIA	45	32	52	28	38	-4	0.73	0.06	0.30	0.82	36	6.73	124	93	62	0	4	3	0		
ROCKFORD	43	27	49	22	35	-4	0.10	-0.51	0.07	0.47	26	5.27	115	84	53	0	7	2	0		
SPRINGFIELD	45	33	54	27	39	-5	1.03	0.29	0.58	1.14	45	8.39	140	89	70	0	3	4	1		
IN EVANSVILLE	52	37	59	28	44	-4	0.58	-0.41	0.49	1.55	44	8.91	93	90	69	0	2	3	0		
FORT WAYNE	43	30	52	24	36	-5	0.35	-0.34	0.34	1.30	57	8.73	139	91	67	0	6	2	0		
INDIANAPOLIS	46	33	54	26	39	-5	0.67	-0.13	0.24	0.78	28	12.76	165	91	63	0	3	4	0		
SOUTH BEND	42	26	50	20	34	-6	0.42	-0.29	0.28	1.76	77	8.78	134	90	68	0	7	5	0		
IA BURLINGTON	45	31	54	25	38	-5	0.65	-0.06	0.27	0.82	35	4.98	95	95	61	0	5	4	0		
CEDAR RAPIDS	45	27	51	21	36	-3	0.54	-0.03	0.29	0.70	41	2.69	70	97	53	0	7	3	0		
DES MOINES	46	32	52	23	39	-2	1.04	0.47	0.91	1.15	68	3.78	97	92	71	0	3	4	1		
DUBUQUE	43	28	48	24	35	-3	0.25	-0.39	0.19	0.98	49	4.33	92	84	58	0	7	4	0		
SIOUX CITY	49	29	57	21	39	0	0.26	-0.25	0.25	0.30	19	1.87	68	79	59	0	3	2	0		
WATERLOO	45	27	50	22	36	-2	0.19	-0.35	0.12	0.80	49	3.79	108	92	62	0	7	2	0		
KS CONCORDIA	46	34	59	25	40	-5	1.96	1.41	1.51	2.02	106	5.12	156	91	72	0	2	5	1		
DODGE CITY	49	35	68	28	42	-4	0.43	-0.02	0.38	0.54	38	3.44	126	91	68	0	2	3	0		
GOODLAND	43	30	59	28	37	-5	0.13	-0.14	0.09	1.25	129	1.60	87	94	80	0	6	3	0		
TOPEKA	48	36	61	29	42	-5	0.69	0.08	0.27	0.83	40	5.60	134	87	69	0	2	5	0		

Weather Data for the Week Ending March 26, 2005

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, INCHES	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	GREATEST IN 24-HOUR, INCHES	TOTAL INCHES SINCE MAR01	PERCENT NORMAL SINCE MAR01	TOTAL INCHES SINCE JAN01	PERCENT NORMAL SINCE JAN01	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	TEMP. °F		PRECIP	
																90 AND ABOVE	32 AND BELOW	0.1 IN. OR MORE	.50 IN. OR MORE
KY WICHITA	52	40	69	37	46	-2	1.85	1.22	1.06	1.93	88	6.94	171	90	76	0	0	5	2
KY JACKSON	60	38	68	33	49	0	0.53	-0.41	0.45	2.08	57	10.23	94	90	47	0	0	4	0
KY LEXINGTON	52	34	58	30	43	-5	0.31	-0.65	0.10	1.59	43	8.09	78	94	73	0	3	4	0
KY LOUISVILLE	54	38	63	33	46	-3	0.70	-0.27	0.33	1.59	43	9.03	88	90	62	0	0	4	0
LA PADUCAH	58	39	68	28	49	-1	0.84	-0.11	0.68	1.31	37	8.46	78	93	55	0	1	4	1
LA BATON ROUGE	76	55	83	48	66	4	0.82	-0.34	0.40	1.90	46	11.73	76	96	51	0	0	3	0
LA LAKE CHARLES	77	57	83	51	67	5	1.23	0.41	0.88	2.99	103	14.56	124	92	51	0	0	5	1
LA NEW ORLEANS	76	59	84	54	68	4	0.33	-0.87	0.24	4.69	109	17.34	111	90	65	0	0	4	0
LA SHREVEPORT	71	52	81	47	61	1	0.62	-0.29	0.46	0.78	23	8.91	73	87	54	0	0	2	0
ME CARIBOU	37	19	40	8	28	0	0.00	-0.58	0.00	2.60	125	6.85	96	82	47	0	7	0	0
ME PORTLAND	43	26	49	20	34	-2	0.00	-0.98	0.00	1.90	56	8.97	85	77	39	0	7	0	0
MD BALTIMORE	49	36	57	28	43	-3	2.74	1.88	2.54	3.12	95	8.52	87	85	61	0	1	4	1
MA BOSTON	46	32	55	27	39	-2	0.19	-0.69	0.10	1.55	49	8.70	84	77	39	0	2	2	0
MA WORCESTER	42	29	49	25	36	0	0.22	-0.77	0.11	2.32	69	11.20	106	90	39	0	6	2	0
MI ALPENA	36	18	44	8	27	-4	0.15	-0.35	0.15	1.17	69	4.98	104	91	50	0	7	1	0
MI GRAND RAPIDS	40	26	45	21	33	-4	0.00	-0.66	0.00	1.05	52	8.26	148	87	48	0	7	0	0
MI HOUGHTON LAKE	39	18	43	11	28	-4	0.15	-0.35	0.12	1.37	85	5.87	131	89	50	0	7	2	0
MI LANSING	42	26	48	20	34	-3	0.01	-0.59	0.01	1.16	65	7.57	156	85	55	0	7	1	0
MI MUSKEGON	41	24	46	19	33	-3	0.00	-0.59	0.00	1.66	90	7.50	133	80	52	0	7	0	0
MI TRAVERSE CITY	38	23	43	17	31	-2	0.06	-0.44	0.06	0.45	30	4.00	64	91	47	0	7	1	0
MN DULUTH	37	17	42	8	27	-1	0.00	-0.43	0.00	0.38	29	3.95	122	84	55	0	7	0	0
MN INT'L FALLS	37	13	42	7	25	-2	0.00	-0.24	0.00	0.09	13	1.40	64	84	44	0	7	0	0
MN MINNEAPOLIS	44	26	50	21	35	0	0.00	-0.48	0.00	0.56	39	2.73	84	70	47	0	7	0	0
MN ROCHESTER	37	22	40	16	29	-5	0.00	-0.50	0.00	1.65	117	4.01	129	80	65	0	7	0	0
MN ST. CLOUD	44	24	50	19	34	3	0.00	-0.41	0.00	0.10	9	2.87	117	79	39	0	7	0	0
MS JACKSON	72	50	82	39	61	3	4.09	2.73	2.56	7.69	164	16.34	110	92	53	0	0	3	3
MS MERIDIAN	74	47	84	37	61	2	2.21	0.64	1.65	4.22	73	14.83	87	94	55	0	0	4	1
MS TUPELO	71	50	84	47	60	5	0.54	-0.85	0.45	1.63	31	11.75	78	84	62	0	0	3	0
MO COLUMBIA	47	34	56	25	41	-5	0.65	-0.10	0.38	1.19	46	9.07	140	94	70	0	1	4	0
MO KANSAS CITY	47	35	57	29	41	-5	0.80	0.25	0.25	0.88	45	5.78	131	90	66	0	1	6	0
MO SAINT LOUIS	48	37	56	28	43	-5	1.39	0.56	1.06	1.59	54	12.45	169	94	76	0	1	5	1
MO SPRINGFIELD	51	36	64	28	44	-4	1.07	0.13	0.73	1.71	56	10.94	147	89	72	0	1	6	1
MT BILLINGS	44	25	56	17	35	-4	0.34	0.07	0.16	0.73	86	1.19	53	92	58	0	5	3	0
MT BUTTE	38	17	47	5	27	-5	0.25	0.06	0.11	0.67	103	0.97	59	95	50	0	7	6	0
MT GLASGOW	38	23	49	17	31	-3	0.12	0.01	0.09	0.66	194	0.86	91	88	72	0	7	2	0
MT GREAT FALLS	34	14	50	0	24	-11	0.24	0.00	0.14	1.28	164	1.45	74	92	57	0	7	3	0
MT HAVRE	36	18	48	3	27	-8	0.26	0.11	0.13	0.62	115	0.66	48	88	72	0	7	4	0
MT KALISPELL	39	23	45	18	31	-6	0.19	-0.03	0.10	0.87	99	1.78	51	83	62	0	7	2	0
MT MISSOULA	44	26	53	23	35	-5	0.12	-0.07	0.10	0.85	115	1.68	65	81	57	0	7	2	0
NE GRAND ISLAND	45	32	58	27	38	-3	1.27	0.77	0.84	1.28	80	3.05	108	90	79	0	5	6	1
NE LINCOLN	48	33	55	26	40	-2	0.70	0.15	0.30	0.70	40	3.95	129	88	67	0	3	6	0
NE NORFOLK	48	31	55	24	39	-1	0.38	-0.10	0.22	0.38	25	2.08	72	83	65	0	4	5	0
NE NORTH PLATTE	42	29	59	25	36	-4	1.17	0.87	0.87	1.23	128	1.82	98	96	75	0	5	6	1
NE OMAHA	49	31	54	24	40	-2	0.60	0.08	0.21	0.60	36	3.03	93	90	63	0	4	5	0
NE SCOTTSBLUFF	45	26	60	20	36	-3	0.23	-0.05	0.13	0.32	36	1.19	59	92	68	0	7	5	0
NE VALENTINE	40	24	56	16	32	-5	1.23	0.97	0.67	1.50	176	2.26	139	89	79	0	7	6	1
NV ELY	42	24	46	20	33	-4	0.76	0.54	0.38	1.01	119	3.13	134	88	61	0	7	5	0
NV LAS VEGAS	67	49	72	46	58	-2	0.22	0.13	0.13	0.47	96	4.99	282	51	33	0	0	2	0
NV RENO	53	33	64	25	43	-1	0.27	0.12	0.16	0.40	56	3.02	106	76	53	0	3	3	0
NV WINNEMUCCA	49	32	53	24	40	-2	1.15	0.96	0.48	1.46	218	3.04	143	84	62	0	3	5	0
NH CONCORD	46	21	50	14	33	-3	0.13	-0.57	0.13	1.42	57	7.39	95	84	33	0	7	1	0
NJ NEWARK	47	35	57	32	41	-3	0.95	-0.02	0.75	1.80	52	8.76	84	82	62	0	2	4	1
NM ALBUQUERQUE	56	37	64	32	47	-3	0.12	0.00	0.07	1.12	233	4.28	304	64	34	0	1	3	0
NY ALBANY	45	28	50	22	36	-1	0.21	-0.52	0.19	0.93	37	6.58	92	94	52	0	7	3	0
NY BINGHAMTON	39	27	45	23	33	-2	0.81	0.12	0.42	1.63	68	7.86	106	91	61	0	7	4	0
NY BUFFALO	39	28	47	23	33	-4	0.51	-0.19	0.34	1.30	54	7.29	91	97	66	0	7	4	0
NY ROCHESTER	40	27	46	21	34	-2	0.15	-0.45	0.06	0.32	16	5.06	79	94	64	0	7	4	0
NY SYRACUSE	41	27	45	21	34	-2	0.15	-0.58	0.08	0.89	37	5.42	76	91	49	0	7	3	0
NC ASHEVILLE	63	38	70	28	51	3	0.84	-0.18	0.54	1.68	44	6.26	53	91	49	0	2	3	1
NC CHARLOTTE	66	44	72	35	55	0	1.17	0.21	0.61	2.97	80	7.58	67	85	43	0	0	2	2
NC GREENSBORO	62	43	67	37	52	1	0.56	-0.29	0.39	1.73	54	6.20	63	91	55	0	0	2	0
NC HATTERAS	57	46	60	41	51	-3	0.40	-0.72	0.28	1.26	30	7.54	54	91	66	0	0	2	0
NC RALEIGH	65	41	73	35	53	0	0.62	-0.24	0.47	2.87	84	7.80	71	91	56	0	0	3	0
NC WILMINGTON	68	48	72	41	58	1	0.99	0.09	0.49	1.75	49	5.33	45	93	50	0	0	3	0
ND BISMARCK	43	23	51	12	33	1	0.30	0.10	0.24	0.57	92	1.04	66	81	64	0	6	3	0
ND DICKINSON	37	20	49	6	29	-4	0.24	0.05	0.15	0.52	121	0.70	57	95	66	0	7	4	0
ND FARGO	42	25	50	18	34	3	0.00	-0.28	0.00	0.11	12	1.84	82	81	52	0	6	0	0
ND GRAND FORKS	37	21	45	10	29	0	0.01	-0.20	0.01	0.31	46	1.36	70	91	54	0	7	1	0
ND JAMESTOWN	41	22	49	10	32	1	0.00	-0.21	0.00	0.03	5	0.60	33	88	41	0	7	0	0
ND WILLISTON	38	23	51	13	30	-2	0.35	0.18	0.27	0.54	98	1.02	69	81	67	0	7	4	0
OH AKRON-CANTON	42	30	50	24	36	-4	0.51	-0.21	0.24	1.71	67	9.43	128	93	78	0	6	5	0
OH CINCINNATI	48	34	51	28	41	-5	0.93	0.02	0.50	1.69	53	10.23	115	85	68	0	2	4	1
OH CLEVELAND	39	29	42	25	34	-6	0.26	-0.43	0.12	1.53	65	9.49	133	91	74	0	5	5	0
OH COLUMBUS	45	33	53	29	39	-5	0.92	0.25	0.45	2.10	90	12.34	175	87	74	0	4	3	0
OH DAYTON	43	31	48	26	37	-6	0.94	0.14	0.44	1.30	49	12.15	162	94	70	0	5	5	0
OH MANSFIELD	40	29	48	25	35	-4	0.47	-0.36	0.26	1.04	39	8.92	119	98	77	0	7	4	0

Based on 1971-2000 normals

*** Not Available

Weather Data for the Week Ending March 26, 2005

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, INCHES	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	GREATEST IN 24-HOUR, INCHES	TOTAL INCHES SINCE MAR01	PERCENT NORMAL SINCE MAR01	TOTAL INCHES SINCE JAN01	PERCENT NORMAL SINCE JAN01	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	TEMP. °F		PRECIP		
																90 AND ABOVE	92 AND BELOW	01 IN. OR MORE	50 IN. OR MORE	
OK TOLEDO	42	31	47	29	36	-4	0.09	-0.55	0.03	0.41	20	7.66	130	90	65	0	6	3	0	
OK YOUNGSTOWN	41	31	48	27	36	-3	0.56	-0.17	0.30	1.40	57	10.06	147	99	86	0	6	4	0	
OK OKLAHOMA CITY	61	42	75	39	52	-1	0.16	-0.48	0.08	0.42	18	5.20	99	87	54	0	0	3	0	
OR TULSA	58	42	73	35	50	-4	0.54	-0.28	0.39	0.70	24	6.47	100	84	78	0	0	3	0	
OR ASTORIA	53	39	60	35	46	0	4.13	2.55	2.16	5.49	88	14.57	61	93	76	0	0	6	2	
OR BURNS	47	27	51	22	37	-1	0.70	0.45	0.39	1.13	110	2.12	64	90	69	0	6	5	0	
OR EUGENE	54	40	57	36	47	0	1.39	0.17	0.36	2.09	42	5.03	27	91	78	0	0	7	0	
OR MEDFORD	57	38	64	35	48	0	0.31	-0.06	0.16	0.52	34	2.47	40	91	52	0	0	4	0	
OR PENDLETON	49	33	65	30	41	-5	0.50	0.22	0.31	0.61	60	1.36	37	90	72	0	3	6	0	
OR PORTLAND	53	40	56	37	47	-1	1.52	0.75	1.05	2.13	68	5.38	43	92	71	0	0	4	1	
OR SALEM	52	39	57	36	46	-1	1.47	0.63	0.95	2.14	60	4.06	28	91	78	0	0	7	1	
PA ALLENTOWN	46	30	54	26	38	-3	1.30	0.49	1.12	1.78	61	9.88	108	84	63	0	5	3	1	
PA ERIE	38	29	41	26	34	-5	0.43	-0.31	0.24	0.78	31	8.14	111	92	78	0	7	3	0	
PA MIDDLETOWN	48	35	55	32	41	-3	1.51	0.80	1.44	1.89	69	8.60	101	88	56	0	1	3	1	
PA PHILADELPHIA	48	35	56	29	42	-3	1.62	0.75	1.36	2.00	63	9.06	96	82	60	0	1	2	1	
PA PITTSBURGH	42	34	47	30	38	-4	0.67	-0.05	0.49	1.02	39	10.16	133	93	74	0	3	4	0	
PA WILKES-BARRE	41	29	50	24	35	-5	0.94	0.30	0.67	1.36	63	8.61	129	100	68	0	6	3	1	
PA WILLIAMSPORT	44	32	52	26	38	-2	1.51	0.76	1.41	1.86	72	8.57	106	92	63	0	5	3	1	
RI PROVIDENCE	47	29	55	26	38	-3	0.47	-0.57	0.25	2.07	57	10.04	88	83	56	0	7	3	0	
SC BEAUFORT	73	51	81	39	62	3	1.89	1.01	1.55	3.20	107	8.70	86	96	52	0	0	4	1	
SC CHARLESTON	74	52	80	40	63	4	0.90	-0.02	0.82	1.48	45	6.25	60	99	57	0	0	3	1	
SC COLUMBIA	73	48	80	36	61	4	0.62	-0.41	0.39	2.09	55	8.15	66	90	47	0	0	2	0	
SC GREENVILLE	67	46	74	41	56	3	0.90	-0.23	0.67	2.39	53	7.02	53	80	38	0	0	2	1	
SD ABERDEEN	46	21	57	13	34	0	0.01	-0.33	0.01	0.25	25	1.59	80	78	45	0	7	1	0	
SD HURON	47	26	57	17	36	1	0.05	-0.38	0.05	0.34	27	1.01	43	81	44	0	6	1	0	
SD RAPID CITY	42	22	52	11	32	-5	0.77	0.51	0.36	1.21	157	2.03	127	94	69	0	7	4	0	
SD SIOUX FALLS	41	24	52	13	33	-2	0.00	-0.48	0.00	1.19	87	2.75	115	83	66	0	7	0	0	
TN BRISTOL	65	38	74	32	51	2	0.53	-0.30	0.34	2.05	62	7.73	76	92	37	0	1	3	0	
TN CHATTANOOGA	69	46	81	37	58	5	0.69	-0.68	0.62	2.37	45	10.64	69	82	52	0	0	2	1	
TN KNOXVILLE	67	44	77	38	56	5	0.54	-0.59	0.37	1.86	43	7.96	62	85	38	0	0	2	0	
TN MEMPHIS	68	49	78	40	59	4	0.94	-0.34	0.90	1.80	39	9.97	76	76	48	0	0	3	1	
TN NASHVILLE	64	45	77	39	55	3	1.04	-0.03	0.77	1.69	41	9.95	85	84	46	0	0	3	1	
TX ABILENE	71	45	83	35	58	0	1.22	0.92	1.21	1.86	165	4.69	145	82	58	0	0	2	1	
TX AMARILLO	57	34	71	29	46	-4	0.37	0.10	0.16	0.91	103	3.02	147	88	44	0	2	4	0	
TX AUSTIN	77	48	83	40	63	0	1.11	0.68	0.67	3.34	186	7.81	138	87	62	0	0	4	1	
TX BEAUMONT	78	56	83	48	67	3	1.10	0.22	0.93	2.82	92	10.21	84	97	48	0	0	2	1	
TX BROWNSVILLE	85	63	91	51	74	4	0.01	-0.21	0.01	0.23	35	1.59	50	95	64	1	0	1	0	
TX CORPUS CHRISTI	80	61	82	53	70	3	0.29	-0.07	0.27	2.35	165	6.11	125	93	65	0	0	3	0	
TX DEL RIO	81	52	87	42	67	2	0.29	0.09	0.29	1.77	239	4.06	179	86	47	0	0	1	0	
TX EL PASO	68	45	77	39	56	-3	0.00	-0.03	0.00	0.08	44	2.66	261	49	21	0	0	0	0	
TX FORT WORTH	69	49	80	41	59	0	1.03	0.40	0.93	1.28	50	7.23	106	81	45	0	0	2	1	
TX GALVESTON	76	62	81	59	69	3	0.69	0.06	0.69	3.88	171	8.82	98	91	56	0	0	1	1	
TX HOUSTON	78	56	83	49	67	3	1.35	0.58	1.15	3.80	139	13.31	142	92	56	0	0	3	1	
TX LUBBOCK	64	38	74	31	51	-2	0.08	-0.09	0.08	0.74	132	3.39	192	78	45	0	1	1	0	
TX MIDLAND	68	39	76	37	54	-3	0.03	-0.03	0.03	0.47	142	2.41	167	74	38	0	0	1	0	
TX SAN ANGELO	71	41	79	33	56	-3	0.55	0.36	0.55	2.83	354	5.41	194	81	49	0	0	1	1	
TX SAN ANTONIO	78	52	82	41	65	1	0.36	-0.05	0.34	1.99	128	6.60	133	89	49	0	0	2	0	
TX VICTORIA	79	55	83	46	67	2	0.00	-0.50	0.00	4.33	235	12.31	195	96	67	0	0	0	0	
TX WACO	74	50	82	41	62	2	0.27	-0.22	0.24	1.04	50	8.10	126	82	59	0	0	2	0	
TX WICHITA FALLS	67	43	81	34	55	-1	0.24	-0.26	0.24	0.41	22	4.19	92	79	51	0	0	1	0	
UT SALT LAKE CITY	48	33	52	26	41	-4	1.61	1.17	0.75	1.73	111	4.41	104	87	58	0	1	6	2	
VT BURLINGTON	42	21	47	17	31	-3	0.00	-0.56	0.00	0.83	45	4.60	80	80	40	0	7	0	0	
VA LYNCHBURG	56	36	63	30	46	-2	1.17	0.32	1.07	2.55	80	8.07	82	89	57	0	2	4	1	
VA NORFOLK	55	40	70	37	48	-3	0.82	-0.09	0.58	1.91	56	6.71	63	100	75	0	0	2	1	
VA RICHMOND	56	40	62	31	48	-2	0.72	-0.19	0.67	2.36	69	7.17	72	96	72	0	1	2	1	
VA ROANOKE	56	40	61	33	48	-1	0.76	-0.09	0.57	1.77	55	6.13	65	79	56	0	0	4	1	
VA WASH/DULLES	51	36	59	25	44	-2	1.80	1.00	1.66	2.36	80	6.93	79	84	62	0	2	4	1	
WA OLYMPIA	54	35	57	26	45	1	2.85	1.73	1.81	3.94	88	12.17	67	94	68	0	4	6	1	
WA QUILLAYUTE	52	37	56	34	44	0	3.19	0.90	2.12	7.55	80	28.24	80	95	73	0	0	5	1	
WA SEATTLE-TACOMA	53	39	56	37	46	-1	1.81	1.01	1.38	2.54	81	8.18	66	85	63	0	0	4	1	
WA SPOKANE	46	30	56	26	38	-3	0.60	-0.29	0.42	0.99	79	2.28	50	89	43	0	6	5	0	
WA YAKIMA	54	32	58	25	43	-1	0.01	-0.13	0.01	0.28	53	1.27	51	74	41	0	4	1	0	
WV BECKLEY	53	33	64	25	43	-1	0.87	0.08	0.73	2.22	73	7.15	78	88	65	0	3	4	1	
WV CHARLESTON	56	36	65	27	46	-1	1.07	0.22	0.96	3.02	92	9.18	94	91	55	0	2	3	1	
WV ELKINS	52	33	62	20	43	1	1.25	0.39	1.09	3.03	92	8.31	84	88	57	0	2	5	1	
WV HUNTINGTON	55	36	61	32	45	-3	0.60	-0.23	0.54	4.88	152	11.37	120	89	59	0	1	3	1	
WI EAU CLAIRE	41	19	45	13	30	-4	0.00	-0.50	0.00	0.46	33	2.35	73	84	45	0	7	0	0	
WI GREEN BAY	39	22	43	19	30	-4	0.00	-0.53	0.00	0.90	57	3.83	101	88	53	0	7	0	0	
WI LA CROSSE	43	23	47	13	33	-4	0.00	-0.55	0.00	1.55	105	4.23	116	86	45	0	7	0	0	
WI MADISON	41	24	48	18	33	-3	0.00	-0.59	0.00	1.23	71	4.88	115	86	56	0	7	0	0	
WI MILWAUKEE	40	28	48	24	34	-3	0.00	-0.67	0.00	0.98	49	6.08	111	85	60	0	7	0	0	
WI CASPER	44	22	53	18	33	-4	0.52	0.33	0.23	0.71	100	1.00	52	87	69	0	7	4	0	
WI CHEYENNE	42	26	54	19	34	-1	0.59	0.34	0.48	0.61	75	1.36	80	88	66	0	7	5	0	
WI LANDER	45	25	54	17	35	-3	0.47	0.17	0.27	0.94	101	1.79	90	80	54	0	7	2	0	
WI SHERIDAN	44	24	57	20	34	-3	0.13	-0.12	0.08	0.47	64	0.86	41	84	69	0	7	3	0	

Based on 1971-2000 normals

*** Not Available

National Agricultural Summary

March 21 - 27, 2005

Weekly National Agricultural Summary provided by USDA/NASS

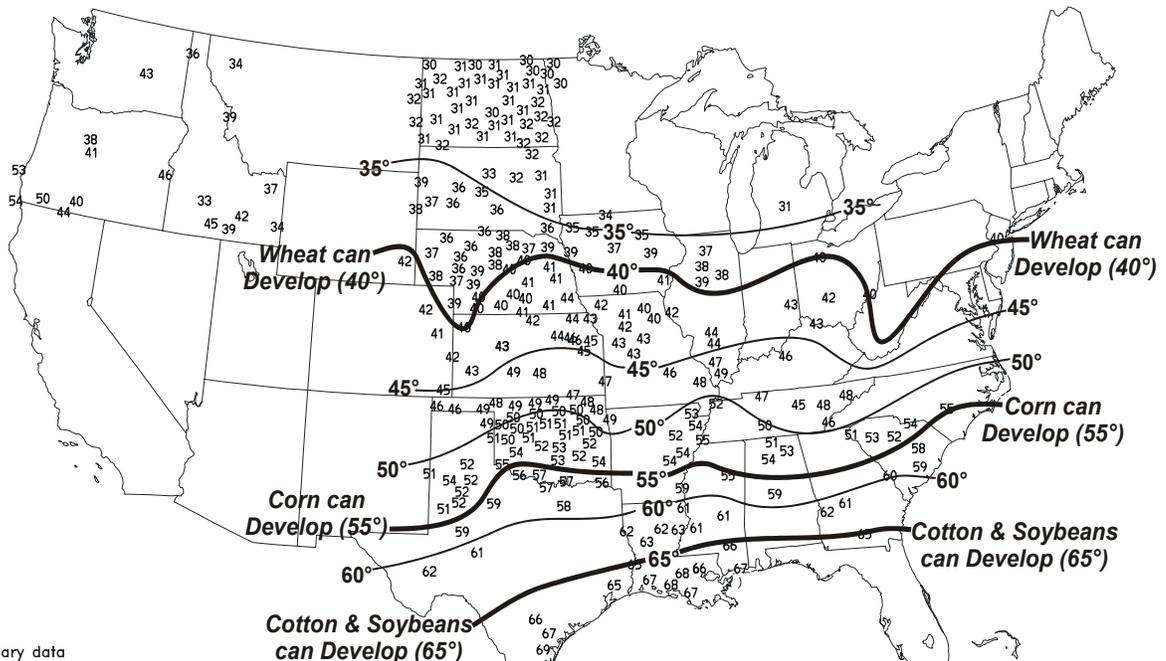
HIGHLIGHTS

Above-normal temperatures prevailed across the Southeast and Mississippi Delta, while frequent rainstorms in the region severely hampered fieldwork. Elsewhere across the nation, temperatures averaged below normal. Light to moderate precipitation fell in the southern half of the Corn Belt, in the Ohio Valley, and along the middle Atlantic Coast, while the northern Corn Belt was mostly dry. The Pacific Northwest and northern Rocky Mountains experienced the heaviest and most widespread precipitation since early December. Soil moisture conditions improved in the region, but more rainfall will be needed to reach adequate levels. Only light rain fell in the Southwest, while moderate precipitation occurred in the central Rocky Mountains. Meanwhile, snow in the northern Great Plains provided temporary protection from cold weather but was mostly melted by week's end, slightly increasing low soil-moisture levels.

Moderate to heavy rainfall hindered fieldwork in California, though harvest of vegetable and citrus crops continued as weather permitted. Cotton planting had begun in Arizona, while 20 percent of the durum wheat acreage and 42 percent of the barley acreage was headed. In Texas, land preparation was active in the Panhandle under mostly dry conditions, but rainfall slowed planting in some southern. Corn and rice planting in Louisiana progressed only slightly, with soggy conditions hampering fieldwork. In Georgia, heavy rainfall slowed land preparation and planting of summer crops, while southwestern reported large hail, damaging winds, and tornados. Heavy rainfall in the northern half of Florida hampered field preparation for cotton and peanuts, while citrus harvest continued in southern areas.

Average Soil Temperature (°F, 4" Bare)

MAR 20 - 26, 2005



Based on preliminary data

NOAA/USDA JOINT AGRICULTURAL WEATHER FACILITY

Supplemental data provided by Alabama A&M University, Bureau of Reclamation - Pacific Northwest Region AgriMet Program, High Plains Climate Center, Illinois State Water Survey, Iowa State University, Louisiana Agriclimatic Information System, Mississippi State University, Oklahoma Mesonet, Purdue University, University of Missouri, and USDA/NRCS Soil Climate Analysis Network

State Agricultural Summaries

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

ALABAMA: Soil moisture is adequate to surplus across most of the state at this time due to several rains in March and particularly the last two days. Growers have been preparing fields for planting but will now need to let them dry out for a few days before continuing. In north state corn growers will begin planting as soon as they can get back into the fields. In south state planting is well underway with herbicide burn-down for corn, cotton planting. Small grains are growing well. Planting time for vegetable crops in drawing near. Peach flower bud stages range from near complete petal fall in some varieties to early bloom in others. Most livestock have come through the winter months in good condition, grazing is near normal and most producers have an adequate supply of hay.

ALASKA: DATA NOT AVAILABLE

ARIZONA: Temperatures for the State were mostly below normal for the fourth week of March. Durum wheat has headed on 20% of the acreage. Barley has headed on 42% of the acreage. In western state, cotton planting is underway. Alfalfa condition remains mostly good. Precipitation was reported at 10 of the 17 reporting stations ranging from 0.01 inches in Casa Grande to 0.65 inches in Flagstaff.

ARKANSAS: Winter wheat is reported in good condition. Cattle remain in good condition. Pasture condition is good thanks to warm conditions, adequate moisture. The first 27 days of March have been cool, dry. Temperatures for the month averaged above normal on 12 days, at normal on 1 day, and below normal on 14 days. The average temperature for full month of March was 52.8°, 1.4 degree below normal. The highest temperature for the month was 83 degrees and the lowest was 31°. There were 6 days with high temperatures in the 70s, 15 days with temperatures in the 60s and there were no low temperatures less than 30°. Precipitation during the month totaled 3.36 inches, 0.83 inches below normal.

CALIFORNIA: In the state, conditions were wet throughout most of March, providing good growing conditions for grain crops. Field work was ongoing, where conditions allowed. Ground preparations for cotton planting was underway, corn planting began. Sweet potato hot-bed planting, field fumigation continued in the San Joaquin Valley. Alfalfa was growing well, the first round of cuttings, windrowing began. Sweet potato plantings were doing well. Canes, shoots were growing rapidly in grape vineyards, immature clusters began to appear. Early varieties of stone fruits were being thinned as fruit continued to develop, some grafting was underway. Apples began blooming across the State, with some early varieties developing fruit. Grapefruit, lemons, mandarins, Valencia oranges, tangelos, tangerines were harvested with good yields reported. Navel oranges were also harvested, but with declining quality, pack-outs. Avocado harvest continued throughout the month. Bloom was complete in most almond orchards, nearing completion in walnut orchards. Bees were moved out of almond orchards, into citrus orchards. Asparagus, carrots, broccoli, head, romaine lettuce, turnip harvest continued as conditions allowed. Melon planting began. Foothill pastures in much of the state were reported in the best condition in several years. Cattle, sheep were in very good condition, with many producers anticipating excellent weight gains. Ewes and lambs were moving from alfalfa fields due to the start of the alfalfa harvest.

COLORADO: Temperatures for March started warmer than average, then finished out the month well below the average. Precipitation levels started out the month in above normal amounts but dropped off substantially by the end of the month to below average amounts. Winter wheat condition has been rated from good to fair so far this crop season prompting operators to pasture in more acres than usual. Mountain snowpack is currently 109% of normal statewide. The northern regions are consistently below the normal with averages anywhere from 81% to 97%.

The southern regions are in much better shape with 114% to 145% of the normal snowpack. Lambing, calving is progressing under good conditions with death losses being rated at below average for both. Activities: Center around care, feeding of livestock and planting spring crops.

DELAWARE: Air temperatures in the state were in the 50's and rainfall was about normal. Farmers have begun field preparation, small grain spraying. Small grains were in good shape except where water laid in fields. Good quality hay for horses was in short supply while hay for cows was adequate. Activities Included: Top-dressing small grains, preparing equipment for spring tillage, and record keeping.

FLORIDA: Rainy weather during March delayed some field preparations for cotton, peanut planting, slowed some field corn planting, vegetable planting, harvesting, delayed some citrus harvesting, grove maintenance activities. The frequent showers reduced the quality of some vegetables with most in fairly good condition at the end of the period. The much needed moisture perked up pastures. By the end of the month, clover had bloomed in the Panhandle, and Bahia, Bermuda grasses in the northern Peninsula showed good growth, recovery from earlier dry weather, freezing temperatures. However, livestock producers fed hay to animals throughout the month as they waited on permanent pastures to develop, cattle were still grazing on small grain forage at the end of the month. Periods of cool, wet conditions favored disease development in some blueberries with growers taking adequate steps to combat infections. Cloud cover impeded warming by the sun with temperatures three to 8 degrees below normal during the first half of the month. The cooler temperatures held back the blooming of citrus trees with scattered stages, from small bloom buds to blossoms, showing by the end of the month. Abundant feathery new foliage growth appeared on most citrus varieties throughout the month. At the beginning of the month, some plum, apple, fig, other deciduous fruit in the Panhandle completed leaf development, flowering. Early in the period, northern Peninsula, Panhandle growers prepared land for the planting of watermelons as producers in the Quincy area transplanted tomatoes. Sugarcane harvesting remained active in the Everglades during most of the month but slowed seasonally from the middle to end as mills closed. Warmer temperatures arrived at the end of the month accompanied by frequent rains which slowed some field activities. Citrus grove caretakers finished most mowing, hedging, tree topping by mid month, started to apply fertilizers, copper sprays, herbicides in anticipation of blooming. Some strawberry growers opened fields for "U-Pic" during the last half of the month as the season neared the end. At the end of the month, blueberry producers prepared for the start of harvesting. The picking of oranges remained active throughout the month. Vegetables harvested during the month included snap beans, cabbage, celery, cucumbers, peppers, potatoes, radishes, squash, sweet corn and tomatoes with lighter amounts of eggplant, endive, escarole and lettuce available.

GEORGIA: Temperatures, rainfall started near normal for the month of March. However, heavy rains, cold temperatures toward the middle of month slowed land preparation, spring planting. Pasture, wheat, vegetable conditions were all rated fair to mostly good. Small grain was in good condition. Producers applied lime, fertilizer to fields. Pastures. In central state, high winds, rains caused some minor damage to apple, peach, and pecan trees. Blueberries started to bloom but pollution appeared to be low due to the cold weather. Vidalia onions were in good condition. There were concerns about the high cost of fertilizer, diesel fuel. Livestock producers continued to feed hay due to poor pasture feeds. Activities Included: Preparation for conservation tillage planting, burndown of cover crops, the routine care of livestock and poultry.

HAWAII: Mixed weather conditions continued over the State. A high pressure system north of the state brought gusty winds, rains, cold

temperatures mid to late week. Volcanic haze covered much of the state for a few days. Most crops made fair to good progress with active harvesting. Irrigation was at moderate levels aided by showers providing needed moisture in some districts. Banana, papaya harvesting remained active. Most leafy crops made good progress with the cooler weather. Onion crop benefitted from this weeks conditions as there were no reports of any significant rainfall in the major growing area.

IDAHO: Topsoil 2% very short, 32% short, 64% adequate, 2% surplus. Winter wheat condition 6% fair, 85% good, 9% excellent. Hay, roughage supply 1% short, 89% adequate, 10% excellent. 82% lambing 2005. Calving 77% 2005. The majority of the state's winter wheat crop is in good condition. With spring-like temperatures, many producers have already drilled the spring wheat crop. Lambing, calving is going well throughout the state. Farmers are burning irrigation ditches, preparing irrigation systems for the upcoming season. Most areas in the state are receiving beneficial rains that have improved the topsoil moisture condition. Activities Included: Light tillage operations, spreading manure, and drilling spring grains.

ILLINOIS: Topsoil 4% short, 75% adequate, 21% surplus. Oats 13% planted, 22% 2004, 14% avg. Wheat 1% very poor, 9% poor, 22% fair, 59% good, 9% excellent. Farmers are anticipating warm temperatures in preparation for spring planting season. Activities included: Spring calving, spring tillage, anhydrous application, hauling grain, fertilizer application, hauling manure, and machinery preparations for spring fieldwork.

INDIANA: Some fieldwork was accomplished during March, mostly in the southwestern areas of the state. A few fields of corn were planted in this area. However, very little fieldwork was accomplished during March in most regions of the state. Field conditions were not suitable for heavy equipment during most of the month. Soils have remained cold, wet in many areas. Some discing, chisel plowing took place in isolated areas. Fertilizer, lime were being spread along with top dressing winter wheat. Farmers are concerned about the increased cost of fuel, fertilizer. Hauling corn, soybeans to market was the major activity. Winter wheat is in mostly good condition, but spots in some fields are poor to fair. Wheat is starting to green up in most areas. Stripping, selling of tobacco continued. Temperatures have remained cool. Many areas of the state have received rain recently. Livestock are in mostly good condition. Calving continues and lambing is winding up. Hay supplies are adequate in most areas. Cold, damp weather increased hay usage this winter. Cold weather has also slowed pasture growth. Activities: Preparing equipment, cleaning ditches, tiling, purchasing supplies, attending farm related meetings, attending FSA offices for 2005 DCP, LDP's, loans, pumping, hauling manure, spraying chemicals, applying anhydrous ammonia and taking care of livestock.

IOWA: Soil 5% very short, 16% short, 70% adequate, 9% surplus. Movement of grain for the state was 19% none, 33% light, 37% moderate, 11% heavy. Warm, dry weather led to early field work. Farmers have been tiling for drainage, chisel plowing, applying lime. A great deal of dry fertilizer, anhydrous ammonia has been applied, especially in the Southern two-thirds of the state. Grain movement has picked up in some areas with ethanol plants receiving large amounts of corn. Reporters note Asian Rust is still being discussed and there is concern over high fuel, other input costs. Livestock enjoyed mild weather especially the cow-calf population. Calving has been easier than usual. Feedlot operators have experienced a great winter and early spring for feed yard conditions. At the end of March, on average, there was no remaining snow cover across Iowa. This compares with the lack of snow cover, visibly zero inches, at the same time last year. The average depth of frost penetration for the state was 3 inches, compared to last year's 4 inches. Availability of hay, roughage supplies 5% short, 81% adequate, 14% surplus. Quality of hay, roughage supplies 6% poor, 41% fair, 53% good. Utilization of stubble fields for grazing 46% none, 27% limited, 19% moderate, 8% extensive. Hog, pig losses in March were 18% below avg.; 80% avg.; 2% above average. Cattle, calf losses 27% below avg.; 71% avg.; 2% above average.

KANSAS: Topsoil 8% short, 78% adequate, 14% surplus. Subsoil 3% very short, 20% short, 73% adequate, 4% surplus. The State received widespread showers at the end of the month. Wheat condition 1% very

poor, 4% poor, 23% fair, 52% good, 20% excellent; wind damage is 85% none, 11% light, 4% moderate, freeze damage is 87% none, 11% light, 2% moderate. Hay, forage supplies 1% very short, 5% short, 78% adequate, 16% surplus. Feed grain supplies 1% very short, 3% short, 89% adequate, 7% surplus.

KENTUCKY: The month began with a low pressure system bringing clouds, fog, rain, snow to the area. A winter weather advisory was issued to start the month. Gusty west winds, snow accumulation of an inch or two were reported. By mid-week, cold high pressure settled over the State dropping low temperatures into the 10's and 20's. However, daytime highs began to warm up as southerly winds ushered in warmer air from the south. Another late week low pressure system moved through bringing rain, except northern state reported freezing rain. The week ended mostly sunny with highs near 60°. Temperatures averaged 38°, 3° below normal. The extreme high temperature was 65 in Paducah and Henderson. The extreme low temperature was 15 in Covington, Spindletop. Precipitation (liq. equ.) totaled 0.61 in. statewide, 0.40 in. below normal. Precipitation totals ranged from a low of 0.01 in. at Princeton to a high of 1.38 in. at Grayson. The second week of March was cold, dry. Monday was the warmest day of the week before a cold front moved through bringing isolated rain. As temperatures dropped, light snow fell across the eastern half of the State. High pressure settled in for the middle of the week. Inclement weather returned by after mid-week as a series of clipper systems rushed across the eastern US. Fairer, warmer weather arrived over the weekend, but by late Sunday night another storm system brought a few inches of snow to northern state. Temperatures averaged 39°, 4° below normal. The extreme high temperature was 75 in Paducah. The extreme low temperature was 15 in Covington. Precipitation (liq. equ.) totaled 0.65 in. statewide, 0.38 in. below normal. Precipitation totals ranged from a low of 0.31 in. at Covington, Henderson to a high of 1.27 in. at Grayson. The mid-month week was cool and dry. Western sections did not receive any rainfall while central, eastern sections reported light amounts. Moderate to heavy rainfall was received on the weekend in some central sections. Temperatures on the weekend rebounded into the upper 50's and low 60's. Temperatures averaged 42°, 4° below normal. Precipitation (liq. equ.) totaled 0.14 in., 0.90 in. below normal. Precipitation totals ranged from a low of none at Cape Girardeau to a high of 0.44 in. at Bristol. Much of the week was spent under cloudy and foggy conditions. Periodic breaks in the clouds allowed the sun to shine bringing temperatures up into the lower 70's in some cases. This was the first full week of spring, and the threat of severe weather came with it. A waterspout, a few severe thunderstorms were reported. After a dry start to the year, flooding once again has become an issue across central, western state. Temperatures averaged 47° across the state which was 1° below normal. High temperatures averaged from 55 in the West to 59 in the East. Low temperatures averaged from 41° in the West to 40 degrees in the East. The extreme high temperature was 74 in Glasgow and the extreme low temperature was 28 in Covington. Precipitation (liq. equ.) for the period totaled 1.02 inches statewide which was 0.01 inches below normal. By station, precipitation totals ranged from a low of 0.14 inches at London to a high of 1.89 inches at Paducah. Statewide average precipitation amounts have averaged at or below normal for the past 6 weeks. Spring pastures growth was delayed by below normal temperatures, little greening had begun late in the month. Fall seeded small grains, legumes experienced some winter kill due to fluctuating winter temperatures, advanced growth going into winter. Farmers were busy applying fertilizer when moisture levels allowed them to enter fields. Soil moisture going into spring was rated adequate to surplus statewide. Livestock condition was considered fair to mostly good after enduring a very wet, muddy, cold winter. Many farmer spent time finishing the clean up of flood, storm damage caused during February. Spring fieldwork was slow due to wet conditions as the month ended. Tobacco auctions held clean up sales at mid month with light volume crossing the floors. Tobacco farmers began sowing their greenhouse and preparing plant beds late in the month.

LOUISIANA: Producers were hindered, again in March, by wet conditions throughout the state. The state received an average of 4.5 inches of rain over the past 4 weeks. Land preparation, spring planting for the 2005 crop year were behind last year, our 5-year average. Field crop producers were getting equipment ready for the upcoming season. Livestock producers were busy with spring calving, fertilizing pastures. Strawberry producers continued harvesting, selling their crop. Crawfish producers continued harvesting one of the best crops in recent years.

MARYLAND: Air temperatures in the state were in the 50's and many areas received close to two inches of precipitation during the month of March. Heavy rains last week put a stop to field preparation, small grain spraying. Small grains were in good shape except where water laid in fields. There was some winter kill in fall-seeded alfalfa in some areas. Good quality hay for horses was in short supply while hay for cows was adequate. Activities Included: Top-dressing small grains, preparing equipment for spring tillage, and record keeping.

MICHIGAN: Farmers reported a fairly quiet March. Snow cover was variable, ranged from rapidly disappearing in the south to well over half a foot in the north. Between snow, rain, most operators noted adequate accumulated precipitation. Growers in some areas continued to be concerned about ice, ponding on winter wheat and alfalfa fields. Most livestock was reported in good condition. Calving, lambing had started on some operations, but the bulk was yet to come. Feed supplies were reported as generally good; however, some farmers noted good hay in short supply. Sap was just starting to run on maple syrup operations. Besides the normal winter activities of hauling manure, cutting wood, plowing snow, growers were also starting to get machinery ready for spring tillage, planting, as well as spreading urea on wheat. Producers were also preparing income taxes and marketing of last year's crops was ongoing.

MINNESOTA: Topsoil and subsoil moisture continues to remain high. Temperatures are beginning to warm up to spring levels causing most of the snowfall in the northern portion of the state to melt with patches of fields showing through. The southern third of the state received heavy snowfalls in the middle of the month, with some areas receiving over 20 inches. With the recent spring temperatures, most of this snowfall has melted leaving standing water in the fields and possibly delaying spring field work.

MISSISSIPPI: DATA NOT AVAILABLE

MISSOURI: Precipitation for the State during March has averaged 1.59 inches, with about 90 percent of it coming during the past week. Although rainfall has been less than half of normal, moisture supplies are adequate due to the above normal precipitation in the preceding months. Cool weather during much of the month as well as the recent wet weather have limited early fieldwork in most of the State. Some field preparation for planting had been done in the Bootheel prior to the recent rain, farmers are expecting to make rapid progress as fields dry, warmer weather prevails. Winter wheat and pastures are green in most areas but growth is still slow.

MONTANA: Soil 22% very short, 33% short, 41% adequate, 4% surplus. Subsoil 55% very short, 31% short, 13% adequate, 1% surplus. During the month of March, temperatures were near normal with widespread precipitation. The winter wheat 1% very poor, 11% poor, 44% fair, 38% good, 6% excellent; damage to the winter wheat crop 50% none, 33% light, 15% moderate, 2% heavy. Freeze, drought damage for the crop 43% none, 39% light, 15% moderate, 3% heavy. Snow cover for winter wheat 59% very poor, 8% poor, 14% fair, 11% good, 8% excellent. Winter wheat spring stages is 36% still dormant, 55% greening, 9% green and growing. Most of the pastures are available for grazing. Livestock grazing 71% open, 18% difficult, 11% closed. Currently, 94% percent of the cattle, 84% of the sheep are receiving supplemental feed. Calving is 55% complete and lambing is 47% complete.

NEBRASKA: Snow cover reported in northern, southwest districts averaging 0.3 inches. March temperatures averaged mostly above normals the first half of the month, below normals latter half. Portions of south central state received above normal precipitation during the month with amounts over 2 inches. Winter wheat condition 1% very poor, 5% poor, 35% fair, 47% good, 12% excellent. Hay, forage supplies mostly adequate. Condition of cattle, calves mostly good to excellent with spring calving 61% complete. Calf losses rated average to below average. Activities Included: Livestock care and spring planting preparations.

NEVADA: Storms passed through the State early in the month, again toward the end of the month. Winnemucca recorded 1.45 inch of precipitation, Ely 1.08 inch, and Elko 1.00 inch. Snow accumulated in the Sierra, Reno received .34 inch of precipitation. Mountain snow pack remained well above normal in the west, but lagged below normal in the northeast. A warm spell at mid-month raised monthly average temperatures. Calving was common across the State, supplemental feeding of livestock continued. Early grasses, weeds were greening, having benefitted from the rains. Range, pasture feeds were very good. Haying got underway in the south. Wet field conditions were slowing onion seeding in Mason Valley. Fall seeded crops were beginning to break dormancy. Activities: Calving, early haying, onion seeding, equipment maintenance.

NEW ENGLAND: Snow storms throughout the first two weeks of March increased the annual total snow fall to record highs in parts of the state. For the month, seasonal temperatures prevailed. State maple sugar producers were busy during the month tapping trees. However, sap production quantity was limited due to cold temperatures early in the month, warm temperatures late in the month but syrup quality was reported as excellent. Activities Included: Nursery/greenhouse work, tending livestock and preparing for the spring planting season.

NEW JERSEY: The average monthly temperature across most of the state was 36°. Temperatures were below normal across most of the state for most of the month of March. Precipitation was at or near normal for the month in most areas. There were trace amounts of snow in some localities during the month. Agricultural producers continued field preparation for spring crops as weather permitted. Activities Included: Equipment repair and feeding stored hay to livestock.

NEW MEXICO: Topsoil 1% very short, 5% short, 81% adequate, 13% surplus. Temperatures for the first week of March were generally near normal to a few degrees below normal, with some low elevation rain, high elevation snow late in the week. The second week saw mainly clear skies, above normal temperatures. There were some gusty winds that resulted in some wind damage to crops. One of the more significant winter storms in recent years struck the state during the third week of March. Snowfall amounts as high as 3 feet were measured along the eastern slopes of the central mountain chain. Temperatures were below normal with readings dipping below zero over portions of the north and east. Freeze damage was 16% light, 21% moderate, 6% severe. Showery weather continued for much of the final week of March. The more significant storm passed through the state Friday and Saturday, leaving snow, cold rain over the northern half. Farmers were busy with land preparation, fertilizing, fighting weeds, working on ditches, conservation efforts. Alfalfa was in mostly fair to excellent condition. Lettuce 15% fair, 75% good, 10% excellent. Onions 80% good, 20% excellent, 95% planted. Chile 63% planted. Wheat was in mostly good condition and 51% was being grazed. Ranchers were busy marketing their late calves, maintaining their herds. Supplemental feeding is decreasing. Cattle 1% very poor, 5% poor, 46% fair, 40% good, 8% excellent. Sheep 2% very poor, 12% poor, 32% fair, 43% good, 11% excellent. Range, pasture 8% very poor, 15% poor, 27% fair, 44% good, and 6% excellent.

NEW YORK: Cold temperatures, intermittent snow events across the state during the first two weeks of March delayed the start of spring land preparation by producers. Warmer temperatures, melting snow during the end of the month increased flood potential. Many fields were still too wet to support machinery. Maple producers have experienced below average sap flows due to adverse weather conditions.

NORTH CAROLINA: Days suitable for field work 2.7. Soil 1% short, 47% adequate, 52% surplus. Activities Included: Planting cabbage, Irish potatoes, soil preparation, top-dressing small grains, corn planting preparations, general winter farm maintenance. Another week of scattered storms across the State brought rainfall ranging from 0.29 to 1.63 inches. The precipitation once again limited field work in some areas, causing delays in spring planting and applications of herbicides.

NORTH DAKOTA: Mild weather during March provided favourable calving, lambing conditions. Much needed moisture was received in the

southern part of the state; however, dry soil conditions still prevailed. Average snow cover was 0.9 inches on March 27, compared to 0.8 inches one year ago. Starting date for fieldwork is expected to be April 16. Hay, forage supplies 2% very short, 15% short, 77% adequate, 6% surplus. Grain, concentrate supplies 1% very short, 4% short, 84% adequate, 11% surplus. Cattle conditions 0% very poor, 2% poor, 12% fair, 72% good, 14% excellent. Calf conditions were rated 0% very poor, 1% poor, 11% fair, 77% good, 11% excellent. Sheep conditions 0% very poor, 1% poor, 13% fair, 74% good, 12% excellent. Lamb conditions 0% very poor, 0% poor, 11% fair, 80% good, 9% excellent. Calving was 41% complete, lambing 59% complete, shearing 80% complete. County, secondary roads 96% open, 3% difficult, 1% closed with 1% drifted, 0% icy, 21% muddy, 78% dry.

OHIO: The March 2005 average temperature for the state 32.5°, 6.1° below normal. Precipitation averaged 1.96 inches, 0.60 inches below normal. All counties contacted reported that field conditions of winter wheat is improved from last month. Winter wheat is greening up with warmer day temperatures, nights which do not drop below freezing. Livestock are also in good condition, feed, hay stocks are adequate to support cattle inventories. It is still too cold, wet for farmers to begin outside field activities: most were occupied with attending technical meetings and maintenance of farm machinery for planting.

OKLAHOMA: Topsoil 3% very short, 18% short, 72% adequate, 7% surplus. Subsoil 3% very short, 8% short, 82% adequate, 7% surplus. Wheat 1% very poor, 3% poor, 24% fair, 53% good, 19% excellent; 57% jointing, 45% last week, 59% 2004, 50% average. Oats 1% very poor, 4% poor, 37% fair, 53% good, 5% excellent; 95% planted, 92% last week, 94% 2004, 90% avg.; 9% jointing, 2% last week, 17% 2004, 16% average. Rye 1% very poor, 3% poor, 15% fair, 66% good, 15% excellent; 83% jointing, 65% last week, 77% 2004, N/A average. Corn 52% seedbed prepared, 48% last week, 47% 2004, 44% avg.; 19% planted, 6% last week, 13% 2004, 9% average. Sorghum 23% seedbed prepared, 21% last week, 15% 2004, 18% average. Soybeans 27% seedbed prepared, 20% last week, 30% 2004, 27% average. Peanuts 24% seedbed prepared, 9% last week, 23% 2004, 22% average. Cotton 49% seedbed prepared, 38% last week, 44% 2004, 44% average. Livestock 3% poor, 21% fair, 63% good, 13% excellent. Pasture & Range 1% very poor, 9% poor, 34% fair, 47% good, 9% excellent. Livestock were rated mostly good. In the southwest portion of the state, rain was needed for wheat pasture. Overall, graze-out small grain pastures were looking reasonably well. The death loss of cattle continues to be light. Livestock insect activities were mostly none to light. Feeder steers less than 800 pounds averaged \$113.54 per cwt. and feeder heifers less than 800 pounds averaged \$104.42 per cwt.

OREGON: Last week finally brought some moisture to areas across the State. It was not nearly enough to reverse the conditions given the persistent warmth, dryness this winter according to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Snowpack levels in the state continue to be extremely low, ranging from 13 to 37% of average. Livestock activities such as calving, lambing are winding down, livestock are doing well. Fertilizer, herbicide applications are being applied as the weather permits across the state. Spring wheat seeding is in progress, alfalfa fields are being irrigated. Many people decided to take advantage of the warm weather by planting trees, shrubs early, which have kept the nurseries, greenhouses busier than normal for this time of year. Several commodities such as pears, peaches, apricots, sweet cherry trees have started to bloom, while strawberries, peas, and onions are being planted.

PENNSYLVANIA: Principal farm activities for the month of March included milking cows, spreading manure, planning for this year's crop season. The month of March was warmer but brought below average temperatures throughout much of the state, particularly during the first half of the month. Highs in the northern, mountain areas of the state have remained in the upper 30s and lower 40s with lows at night consistently in the 20s. In the southern and valley areas of the state, temperatures are finally approaching historic averages after staying below normal for much of the month. Precipitation, both rain, snow, has been moderate for the month. Scattered snow flurries fell on parts of the state early in the month while rainfall has been picking up with the onset of Spring. As of now, there are no concerns regarding precipitation levels, soil moisture in the

state, but cooler temperatures may delay planting, other field activities. The cooler weather has been more conducive to maple syrup production in the state.

SOUTH CAROLINA: March arrived on Tuesday with brisk winds, cold air. By the start of the weekend afternoon temperatures had risen back to near 70°. On Saturday, scattered storms developed ahead of an eastward moving frontal boundary. Berkeley County recorded a wind gust of 67 mph. Sunny, mild weather was observed on Sunday. For the period, the state average temperature was 6° below normal. The highest official temperature reported was 75° and the lowest official temperature reported was 19°. The heaviest 24-hour rainfall reported was 2.18 inches at Lake Marion on February 28. The average statewide rainfall for the period was 0.2 inches. The second week began with sunny mild weather. On Tuesday, a sharp boundary passed west to east with thundershowers, damaging high winds. The mercury fell below freezing Wednesday as cool, dry high pressure settled over the state. Partly sunny skies, warming temperatures were observed into the weekend with a noticeable increase in surface winds. On both Saturday and Sunday, wind speeds bounced between 25 and 50 mph. Several wildfires were reported with structural losses. Before a few isolated thunderstorms began forming late Sunday, widespread 80° warmth made for the season's warmest day. For the period, the state average temperature was one degree below normal. The highest official temperature reported was 85° on March 13. The lowest official temperature reported was 20° on March 9. The heaviest 24-hour rainfall reported was 0.72 inches at Clark Hill on March 9. The average statewide rainfall for the period was 0.4 inches. The third week of the month a nearly stationary front early in the week made for cloudy, cool weather. Rains developed along the boundary Wednesday, continued into Thursday. Afternoon high temperatures in the 40's were well below normal. More sunshine, moderating warmth occurred over the weekend. On Sunday, the first day of Spring 2005, brisk southwest winds pushed the mercury into the low 70's. For the period, the state average temperature was 6° below normal. The highest official temperature reported was 75° on March 20. The lowest official temperature reported was 24° on the morning of March 18. The heaviest 24-hour rainfall reported was 1.42 inches on March 17. The average statewide rainfall for the period was 1.0 inches. Heavy rains on Wednesday, March 23rd, stalled field work for a couple of days over much of the State. Corn planting was progressing well. Watermelon, cantaloupes are being planted. Some varieties of peaches are blooming, while some have already leafed out. Parts of Calhoun county received as much as 3.5 inches of rain Sunday night as a strong cold front brought heavy rains, thunderstorm to most of the State. Planting of vegetables continues. Small grains are reported to be in fair to good shape.

SOUTH DAKOTA: Days suitable for field work 2.4. Topsoil 11% very short, 32% short, 54% adequate, 3% surplus. Subsoil condition 16% very short, 32% short, 51% adequate, 1% surplus. Feed supplies 11% very short, 12% short, 71% adequate, 6% surplus. Stock water supplies 22% very short, 27% short, 49% adequate, 2% surplus. Winter wheat 4% very poor, 4% poor, 32% fair, 54% good, 6% excellent; breaking dormancy 57%, 74% in 2004. Oats seeded 5%, 3% in 2004. Spring wheat seeded 6%, 6% in 2004. Cattle condition 1% poor, 11% fair, 72% good, 16% excellent. Sheep condition 6% fair, 80% good, 14% excellent. Range, pasture 23% very poor, 23% poor, 25% fair, 25% good, 4% excellent. Calving 32% complete, 37% in 2004. Lambing 51% complete, 47% in 2004. Cattle moved to pasture 6%. Calf deaths in March 33% below average, 66% average, 1% above average. Sheep, lamb deaths in March 36% below avg.; 63% avg.; 1% above average. Expected average date to start spring field work April 5th. The month of March was slightly warmer than normal, with a few snowstorms occurring, bringing some much needed moisture to several areas throughout the state. Precipitation totals for the month were predominantly lower than normal, with many producers concerned over the lack of moisture. Activities for March Included: Hauling grain, calving, lambing, feeding livestock, preparing for small grain seeding. The majority of farmers are preparing for spring fieldwork, with many getting an early start spreading fertilizer and a few seeding small grains.

TENNESSEE: During the month of March, temperatures were mostly below normal for the first three weeks before rebounding to average 2 to 5 degrees above normal for the week ending on the 27th. Precipitation totals closely followed the same pattern as temperatures with rainfall

averaging below normal over the majority of the State. However, some locations received up to 1.5 inches of rain above during the last week of March. Livestock were reported in good condition with hay supplies adequate to surplus. Early planting got underway for some farmers, while others focussed on field activities such as top-dressing winter wheat, fertilizing pastures, and preparing machinery for the impending planting season

TEXAS: Weather conditions across the state were generally unsettled during the month. Heavy snow events along with multiple rain events have crossed several regions during the month. Farming activities have been off, on, however progress was made in many locations. Land preparation, planting in southern, central areas has been behind somewhat due to varied rain events, however catching up was in progress in late month. Across the Plains some cotton was yet to be harvested as conditions have remained too wet. Livestock condition remained variable as multiple weather swings has made conditions undesirable for many livestock herds. Losses have been minimal, but most were weather related. Range, pastures were mostly excellent for this time of year and greenup was ongoing. Supplemental feeding continued at months end, however was greatly reduced in many locations. Extended forecast was calling for a wetter than normal spring.

UTAH: Days suitable for field work 3. Subsoil 0% very short, 3% short, 86% adequate, 11% surplus. Irrigation water supplies 2% very short, 14% short, 80% adequate, 4% surplus. Winter wheat condition 0% very poor, 2% poor, 20% fair, 52% good, 26% excellent; freeze damage 59% none, 22% light, 15% moderate, 4% severe. Spring wheat 23% planted. Barley 18% planted. Oats 17% planted. Cows calved 58%. Cattle, calves condition 1% very poor, 1% poor, 15% fair, 69% good, 14% excellent. Sheep condition 0% very poor, 0% poor, 15% fair, 78% good, 7% excellent. Range, Pasture 6% very poor, 11% poor, 25% fair, 54% good, 4% excellent. Sheep Sheared On Farm, Sheared On Farm 34%. Sheep Sheared On Range, Sheep Sheared On Range 25%. Ewes Lamb On Farm, Ewes Lamb On Farm 59%. Ewes Lamb On Range, Ewes Lamb On Range 24%. Apricots full Bloom Or Past 23%. Sweet Cherries full Bloom Or Past 0%. Tart Cherries full Bloom Or Past 0%. Peaches, Full Bloom Or Past 19%. Pears, Full Bloom Or Past 54%. Statewide rainy, snowy conditions limited time in the field to an average of 3 days last week. Prior to the wet weather, farm activities included fertilization of fall grains, applying herbicide to alfalfa fields, and caring for livestock. The cold, wet weather has melted most of the snow from the fields, but shallow puddles of standing water remain. Box Elder county reported very wet conditions with a lot of surplus water runoff. Some northern counties reported irrigation water supplies remained a question for the upcoming growing season. Dryland wheat farmers reported moderate snow mold on their wheat as snow cleared from higher elevations. Cache county also reported melting snow due to the rain, which has contributed to puddles of standing water left in the fields. They anticipated some damage resulting from snow mold, saturated soils. Uintah county reported the record snow pack in the eastern Uintah mountains is cause for concern about spring floods. Every drop of precipitation is welcomed but has caused delays in field work. Livestock were in fair condition, but dealt with muddy conditions. Calving and lambing continued, but the cold wet weather stressed young livestock.

VIRGINIA: Once again varying amounts of rain, snow have fell across the Commonwealth of the state during the month of March. For the second consecutive month, mixed precipitation brought muddy conditions to the state. These conditions are beginning to put some farmers behind schedule. Farmers are behind on land application of fertilizer, manure, and poultry litter. Some areas have crops that are beginning to green, but they are behind schedule, in need of nitrogen. Poor hay quality has caused some farmers to supplement more grain to beef cattle than usual. It was reported that some areas are able to begin preparing fields for crop planting, while other areas have to wait until the fields dry. Activities Included: Calving, feeding, pruning peach orchards, attending production meetings, subsoiling fields, bookkeeping, and building and repairing fences. March was filled with plenty of moisture, varying temperatures. The moisture, which came in the form of rain, snow, added to the already saturated land from showers that were received in February. The extra

precipitation did not help farmers at all by putting them behind schedule when it came to field work. As far as temperatures, it was reported most of the month of March was cooler than normal.

WASHINGTON: Days suitable for fieldwork 4. Topsoil 6% very short, 25% short, 64% adequate, 5% surplus. Subsoil 26% very short, 46% short, 27% adequate, 1% surplus. Irrigation water supplies 13% very short, 13% short, 73% adequate, 1% surplus. The highest temperature in the state was 69° at the Whitman Mission. The lowest temperature in the state was 22° in Deer Park. Winter wheat condition 2% very poor, 3% poor, 30% fair, 58% good, 7% excellent. Spring wheat s 46% planted, 13% emerged. Barley 31% planted, 8% emerged. Potatoes 6% planted. Dry peas 14% planted. Processing green peas 8% planted. A nice soaking rain over the weekend came as good news to all sectors of agriculture. Winter wheat was in fair to good condition. Spring cereal crop seeding started, will be progressing during the next few weeks. The planting of potatoes also began. Christmas tree growers finished fertilizer application work. Producers were still concerned about the affect of the dry conditions on grazing land, non-irrigated crops. More rain will be needed to keep the crops sustained during warm, dry winds. Range, pasture feeds 18% very poor, 29% poor, 36% fair, 17% good. Oyster growers completed burrowing shrimp assessments in preparation for summer treatment, continued harvest, transplanting operations. There were some reports of problems with crooked calf syndrome due to lupine consumption. Stone fruits, pear trees, tulip fields were in bloom. Raspberries, blueberries were budding. Cranberry producers applied early season herbicides and continued bog maintenance work. Retail nursery, garden stores continued to increase inventories of annual bedding plants, vegetable transplants. Nurserymen were pleased that rainfall helped to alleviate drought concerns for home gardeners.

WEST VIRGINIA: Topsoil 1% short, 29% adequate, 70% surplus compared to 2004 91% adequate, 9% surplus. Hay, roughage supplies 4% short, 80% adequate, 16% surplus. Feed grains 2% short, 97% adequate, 1% surplus. Wheat condition 1% poor, 7% fair, 85% good, 7% excellent. Tobacco beds 16% seeded compared to 25% 2004. Cattle, calves 2% poor, 20% fair, 71% good, 7% excellent. Calving 65% complete, compared to 69% 2004, 68% for the 5-yr avg. Sheep, lambs 1% poor, 13% fair, 78% good, 8% excellent. Lambing 63% complete, compared to 64% 2004, 67% for the 5-yr avg. Most field activities were on hold until drier conditions prevail. Activities Included: Maintenance of equipment in preparation for spring planting. Wet conditions have made feeding and working with livestock difficult.

WISCONSIN: Temperatures in the state were slightly below normal for March. Average high temperatures during the month were in the low 40's. Average low temperatures ranged from 10 to 20° across the state. Northern areas of the state received 0.45 to 0.90 inches of precipitation during March. This is 0.65 to 0.95 inches below normal for the month. The west central area received 1.55 inches of precipitation during the month, slightly above normal for the month. Southern areas received 1.00 to 1.25 inches, this is 0.50 to 1.00 inches below normal for the month. Snow cover can still be found in the northern reaches of the state. Warmer weather during the month reduced snow cover to zero or trace amounts in the remainder of the state.

WYOMING: Calves 44% born, 49% 2004, 51% 5-year average. Farm flock ewes lambing 51%, 52% 2004, 57% 5-year average. Farm flock sheep shorn 57%, 57% 2004, 5-year average 60%. Barley 39% planted, 42% 2004, 23% 5-year average. Oats 7% planted, 7% 2004, 2% 5-year average. Spring wheat 3% planted, 7% 2004, 3% 5-year average. Temperatures for the three weeks ending Friday, March 25 averaged below normal for most of the state. Temperatures ranged from 9.1° below normal in Sundance to 3.5° above normal in Riverton. The low temperature for the month was recorded in Big Piney at 3° below zero, and the high temperature was 71° at Sheridan. Precipitation averaged below normal for most of the State. The most precipitation fell in Afton with 1.39 inches, Lander with 0.91 inches, and Big Piney with 0.87 inches. Nearly all stations are below normal for the year.

International Weather and Crop Summary

March 20 - 26, 2005

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

HIGHLIGHTS

EUROPE: Rain alleviated developing drought in the Iberian Peninsula.

FSU-WESTERN: Unseasonably cold weather kept winter grains dormant and slowed early season fieldwork for spring grain planting.

AUSTRALIA: Mostly dry weather in eastern Australia favored summer crop maturation and early harvesting.

MIDDLE EAST: Scattered showers benefited greening to heading winter wheat.

NORTHWESTERN AFRICA: Dry weather and above-normal temperatures increased crop stress in Morocco while promoting winter grain development in Algeria and Tunisia.

SOUTH AFRICA: Cool, showery weather slowed development of corn and other immature summer crops.

EASTERN ASIA: Showers and seasonable temperatures favored vegetative crops in China.

SOUTHEAST ASIA: Monsoon showers continued to progress northward as heavy showers fell from Java to far southern Thailand.

BRAZIL: Showers brought varying levels of drought relief to winter corn areas of the south.

ARGENTINA: Locally heavy showers increased moisture for second-crop soybeans.

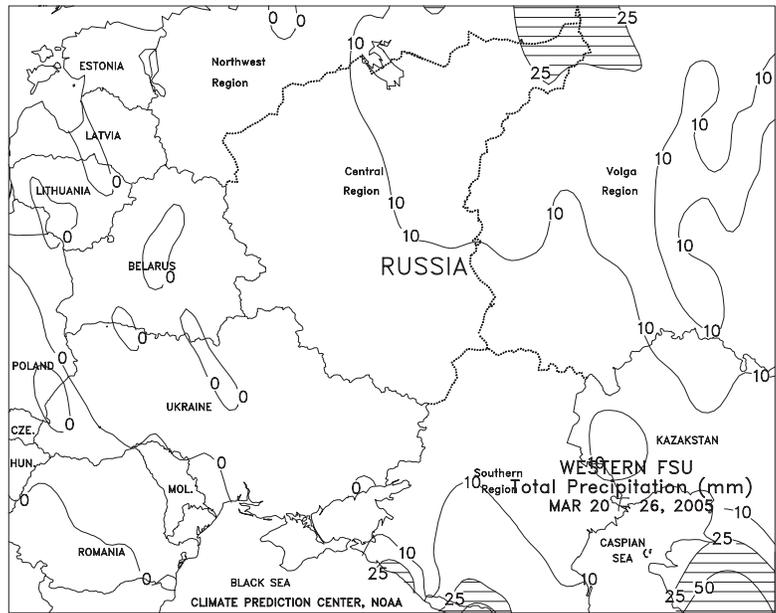


EUROPE

Much-needed rain fell across the Iberian Peninsula, while mild, wet weather favored winter grain development in central Europe. A series of slow-moving cold fronts brought beneficial showers to the Iberian Peninsula, with the heaviest rain (50-100 mm) falling across central and northern Portugal. In southern Portugal, where drought conditions have been most pronounced (1-year precipitation deficits of up to 400 mm, or 41 percent of normal), rainfall was generally less than 20 mm, maintaining concerns over moisture availability for pastures and citrus. In Spain, light to moderate showers (5-20 mm) provided limited relief from short-term dryness. More rain is needed across the Iberian Peninsula to further ease ongoing drought and ensure adequate moisture for greening to heading winter wheat and spring-planted summer crops. In central Europe, above-normal temperatures (3 to 7 degrees C above normal) and periods of light to moderate rain (10-25 mm) maintained favorable conditions for greening winter grains in France, Germany, and the Benelux countries. In contrast, early-week freezes (-10 to -5 degrees C) in eastern Europe kept winter grains dormant. Elsewhere, showers boosted moisture supplies in England, while a second consecutive week of mostly dry weather facilitated fieldwork in the Balkans.

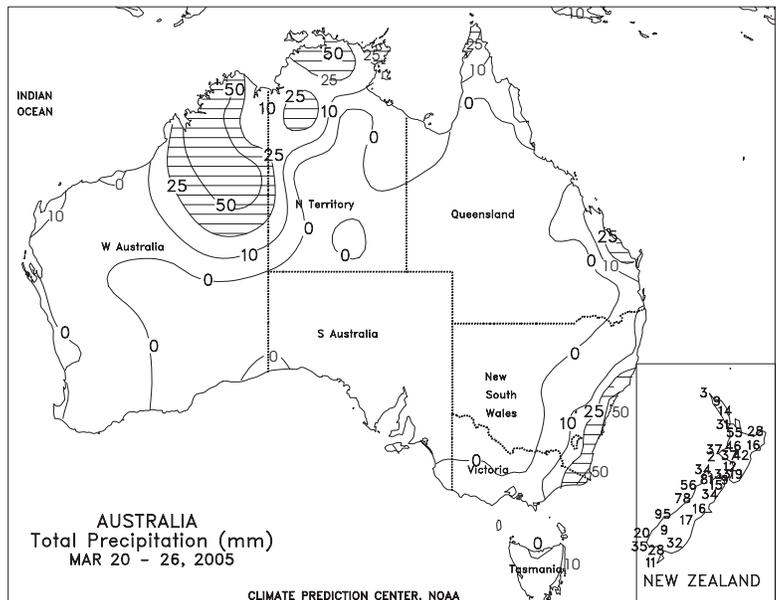
FSU-WESTERN

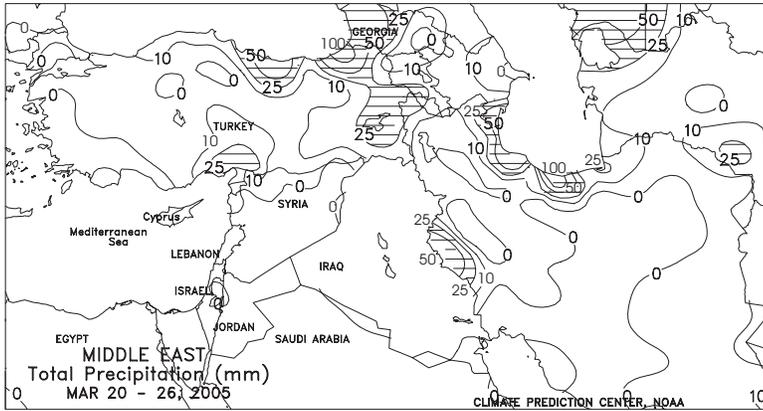
Unseasonably cold weather prevailed over most of the region, keeping winter grains dormant and maintaining a moderate to deep snow cover from Belarus eastward across northern Russia (Central and Volga Regions). Light rain and snow (generally less than 10 mm of liquid equivalent) accompanied the cold weather in most areas. The cold weather slowed early spring grain planting, typically underway in southern Ukraine and the Southern Region in Russia. Weekly temperatures averaged 2 to 6 degrees C below normal in most areas. The lowest temperatures ranged from -10 to -5 degrees C in Ukraine and the Southern Region in Russia and -20 to -10 degrees C in Belarus and northern Russia.



AUSTRALIA

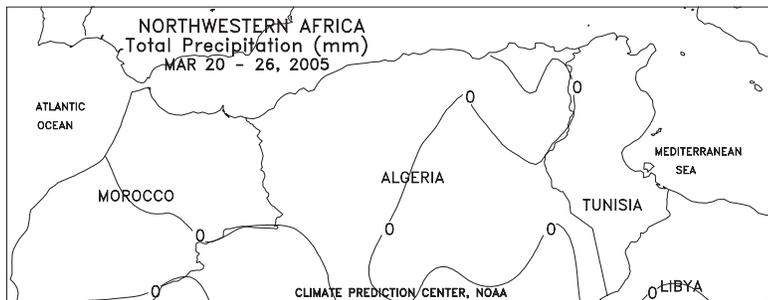
Mostly dry (less than 5 mm), seasonably warm weather covered southern Queensland and northern New South Wales, reducing moisture supplies for cotton and sorghum. The dryness favored summer crop maturation and early harvesting, but potentially necessitated irrigation of later maturing crops. Temperatures across this region averaged about 1 degree C below normal, with daily maximum temperatures generally in the upper 20s and lower 30s degrees C.





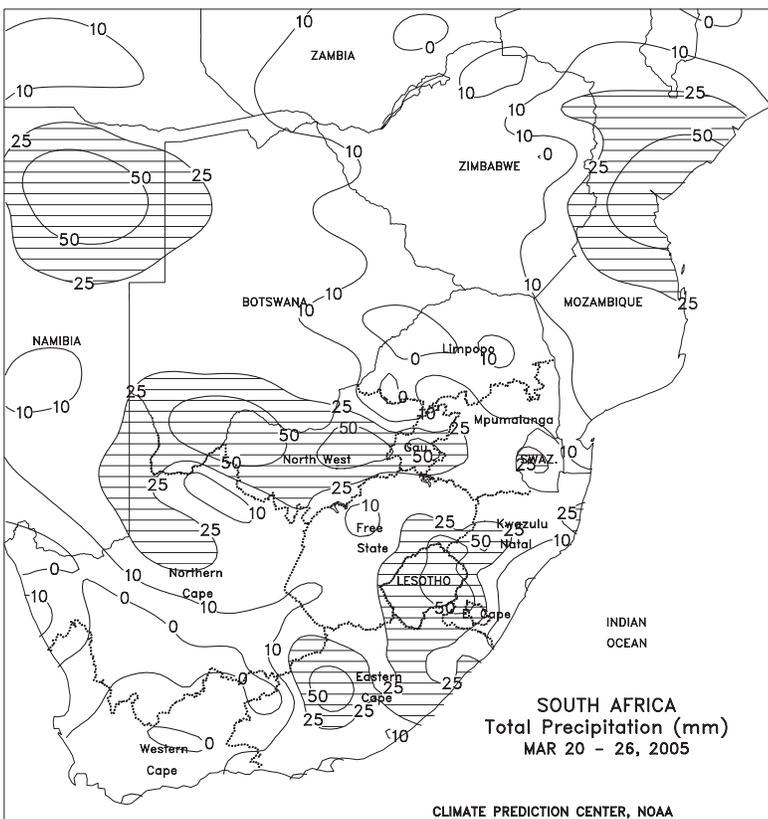
MIDDLE EAST

Cool, unsettled weather returned to the Middle East, providing generally favorable conditions for winter grain development. After last week's dry, mild weather, a series of cold fronts brought below-normal temperatures (1-5 degrees C below normal) along with scattered showers back to the region. In northwestern Iran, a late-season cold spell (temperatures as low as -7 degrees C) may have caused some burnback of greening winter grains, but minimum temperatures were insufficient to cause widespread damage. From central Turkey eastward into northwestern Iran, light to moderate rain and high-elevation snow (10-40 mm of liquid equivalent) provided additional moisture for greening winter grains while boosting irrigation reserves. In contrast, dry weather increased short-term moisture deficits in Syria, where year-to-date precipitation anomalies range from 50 to 80 percent of normal in eastern and coastal Syria, respectively. Elsewhere, dry weather facilitated cotton planting in central and eastern Iran while promoting winter grain development in western Turkey.



NORTHWESTERN AFRICA

High pressure maintained dry, warm weather across much of the region for a second consecutive week. After heavy early-month rains in Morocco increased soil moisture reserves, recent dryness promoted winter grain development while raising concerns over recurring, untimely dry spells. In addition, unseasonably warm weather (4-8 degrees C above normal) across much of northwestern Africa pushed daytime highs into the lower 30s degrees C in Morocco's western and southern growing areas, possibly stressing winter wheat advancing toward the flowering stage. More rain will be needed over the upcoming weeks to maintain adequate moisture supplies for crop development. In Algeria and northern Tunisia, mostly dry weather favored greening winter wheat, although isolated light rain showers (5-15 mm) in western Algeria boosted moisture supplies.



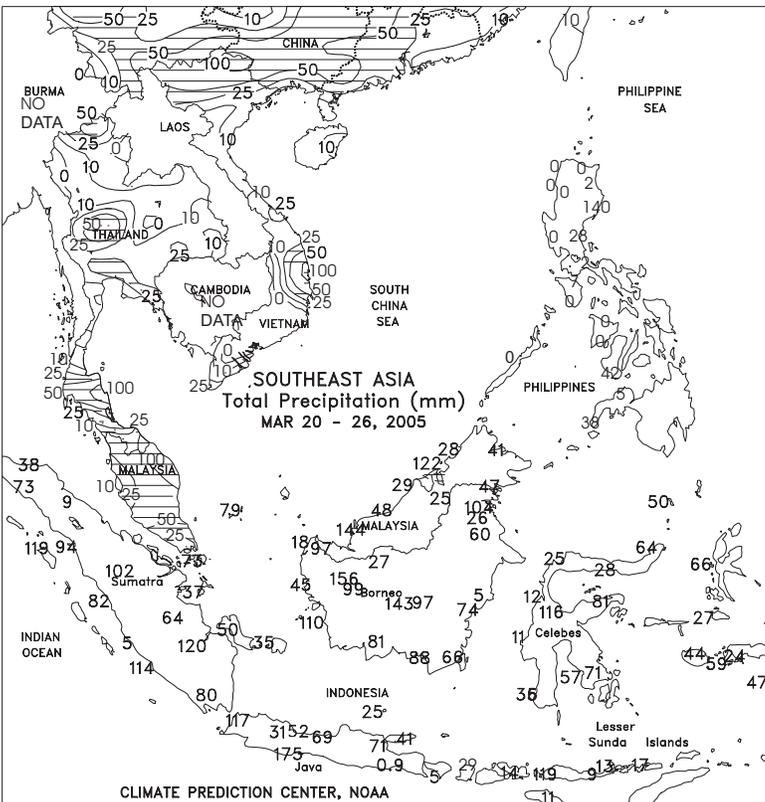
SOUTH AFRICA

Showers (10-25 mm, locally exceeding 50 mm in North West and Gauteng) lingered across the corn belt, maintaining moisture levels for late-season development of immature summer crops. The continuation of beneficial showers also increased moisture reserves for the upcoming winter wheat crop, which is usually planted beginning in May. However, below-normal temperatures slowed summer crop maturation, with highs barely reaching the middle 20s degrees C in traditionally warmer locations of North West and Free State. Corn harvesting usually occurs from late-April until the end of July. Despite the recent cooling trend, the risk of potential damage from an early autumn freeze in the corn belt is low. Elsewhere, light to moderate showers (5-25 mm or more) covered agricultural areas of Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal. Unseasonable heat and dryness persisted in growing areas of Western Cape, further depleting moisture reserves for livestock and non-irrigated crops. Additional rain is needed in that state's western growing areas to prevent delays in winter wheat planting, which would usually begin in just a few weeks.



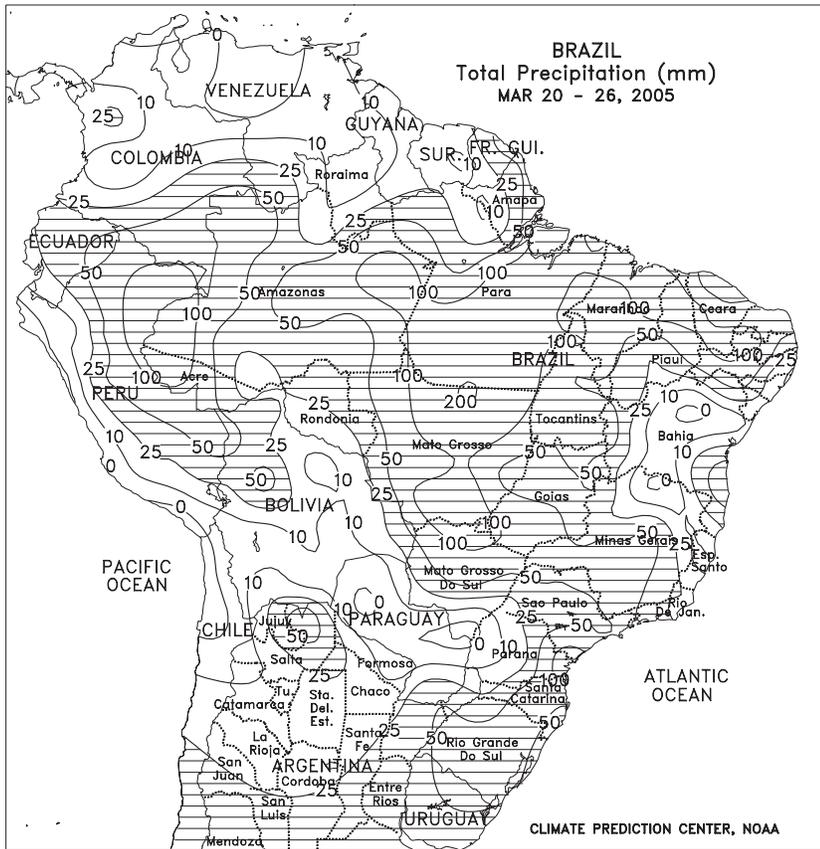
EASTERN ASIA

Widespread showers (10-100 mm) fell from southern Shangdong to the southern coast, with the heaviest amounts south of the Yangtze Valley. The showers, along with seasonable temperatures, provided favorable conditions for vegetative winter wheat, winter rapeseed, and double-crop rice. Showers also fell throughout Japan and South Korea.



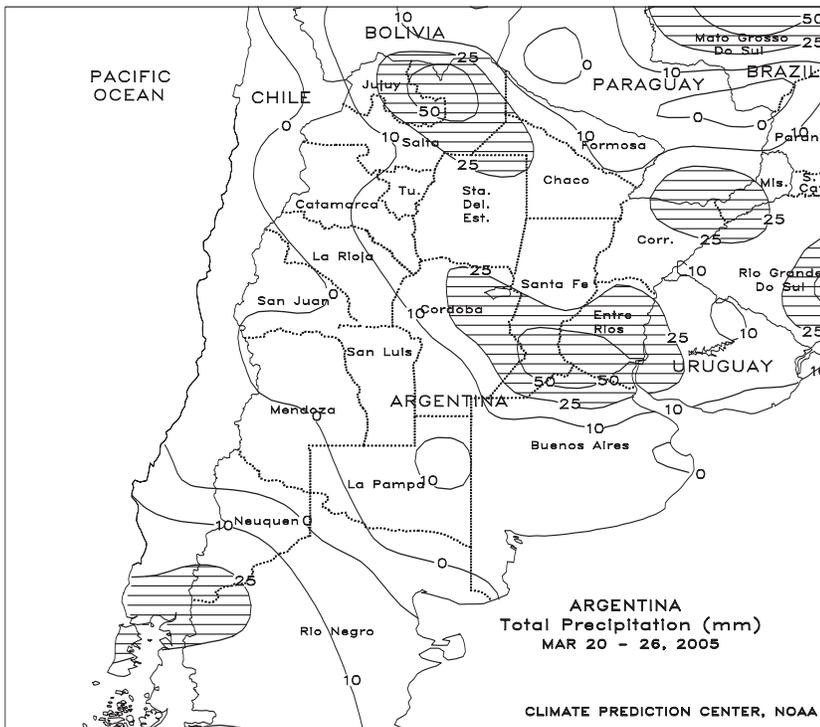
SOUTHEAST ASIA

Seasonably heavy monsoon showers (25-100 mm) continued over Java as most of the rice crop was maturing or being harvested. In Sumatra, showers (50-200 mm) continued to intensify, bringing more relief to areas experiencing prolonged dryness. Showers were seasonable (10-100 mm) in the Philippines as dry-season rice was likely reproductive. Monsoon showers continued to move northward, bringing heavy showers to peninsular Malaysia, with light showers falling in south-central Thailand. The rain was welcomed in both areas due to an unusually long dry season.



BRAZIL

Lingering showers brought some additional drought relief to southern Brazil. Heaviest rain (25-50 mm or more) fell from eastern Rio Grande do Sul to Sao Paulo, increasing moisture for citrus and a relatively small portion of the southern region's winter corn crop. However, after a warm start to the week (temperatures near 35 degrees C), growing areas in western Parana and southern Mato Grosso do Sul continued to receive unseasonably light rain (5-25 mm). This area, which accounts for a significant portion of those states' winter corn and wheat production, was especially hard hit by the summer drought and needs additional moisture soon to improve the production potential of winter crops. Winter wheat planting usually takes place in these areas in April and May. Planting of Brazil's winter corn crop should have been completed by now, but recent rainfall may have spurred late fieldwork in parts of the south. In Rio Grande do Sul, winter wheat planting usually begins in May. No winter corn is produced in Rio Grande do Sul. Reports emanating from within Brazil depict a continuation of the rapid pace of soybean harvesting. According to a government agency in Rio Grande do Sul, 7 percent of that state's soybeans were harvested as of March 24. Elsewhere, moderate to heavy showers (25-100 mm or more) continued over most major growing areas of the center-south and northeast, although harvesting of soybeans and other summer crops reportedly continued to progress well.



ARGENTINA

Moderate to heavy showers (25-50 mm or more) continued across portions of central Argentina, increasing moisture for immature second-crop soybeans but hampering local harvest efforts. The heaviest rain (greater than 50 mm) fell in southern growing areas of Santa Fe and Entre Rios, as well as in neighboring locations of Cordoba and Buenos Aires. In contrast, mostly dry weather prevailed in central and southern Buenos Aires and much of La Pampa, promoting drydown and harvesting of summer grains and oilseeds. Drier weather (10-25 mm) also returned to the northern cotton belt (Chaco, Formosa, Santiago del Estero, and northern Santa Fe) following last week's locally heavy rain. Temperatures averaged near to below normal in Argentina's main crop areas, with lows falling below 5 degrees C in La Pampa, southern Cordoba, and much of Buenos Aires. However, no killing freeze was recorded. According to the Buenos Aires Grain Exchange, sunflowers were 50 percent harvested as of March 22, slightly ahead of last season's pace. In addition, corn and soybeans were 25 and 5 percent harvested, respectively. In primary growing areas of central Argentina, grains and oilseeds already harvested were recording substantially higher yields than those registered at this time last season.

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