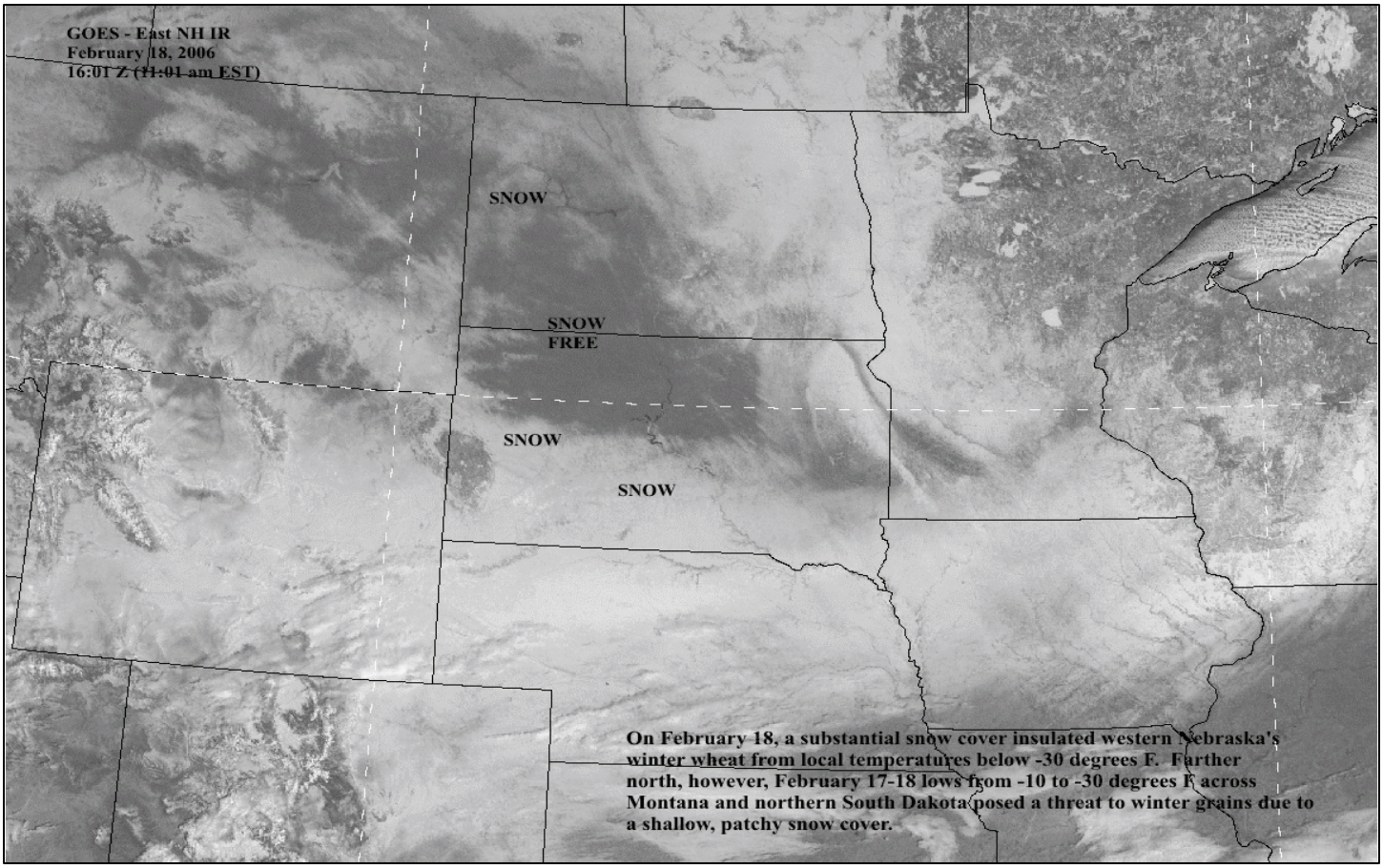
Volume 93, No. 08 http://www.usda.gov/oce/waob/jawf/wwcb.html February 22, 2006

WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP BULLETIN

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

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



HIGHLIGHTS

February 12 - 18, 2006

Highlights provided by USDA/WAOB

Cold weather overspread much of the Nation, ending a 2-month spell of record-setting warmth. On February 17-18, temperatures plunged to -30°F or lower in parts of **Montana**, threatening unprotected winter wheat. The **northern Plains'** protective snow cover was generally patchy and shallow (2 inches or less in most areas). Farther south, however, snow blanketed most of **Nebraska's** wheat, helping to insulate the crop from temperatures locally below -30°F. Across the **southern half of the Plains**, cold weather (lows mostly from -5 to 15°F) was a less direct threat to wheat left unusually vulnerable to weather extremes due to a combination of loss of winter hardiness (as far north as **Kansas**) and drought stress (primarily in **Oklahoma** and **Texas**). Snow preceded and

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Water Supply Forecast for the Western United States

Highlights

In a complete reversal of last year's record-setting Southwestern storminess, the southern tier of the West is experiencing record-low snowpacks and below-normal precipitation. In a parallel twist, last year's dryness in the Pacific Northwest has been replaced with above-average snowpacks and precipitation in many river basins. Northwestern wetness was in response to a series of warm, sub-tropical storms that affected the region through January but recently abated. The recent decrease in Western storminess was followed by the coldest weather of the season during mid-February in much of California, the Great Basin, and the Northwest.

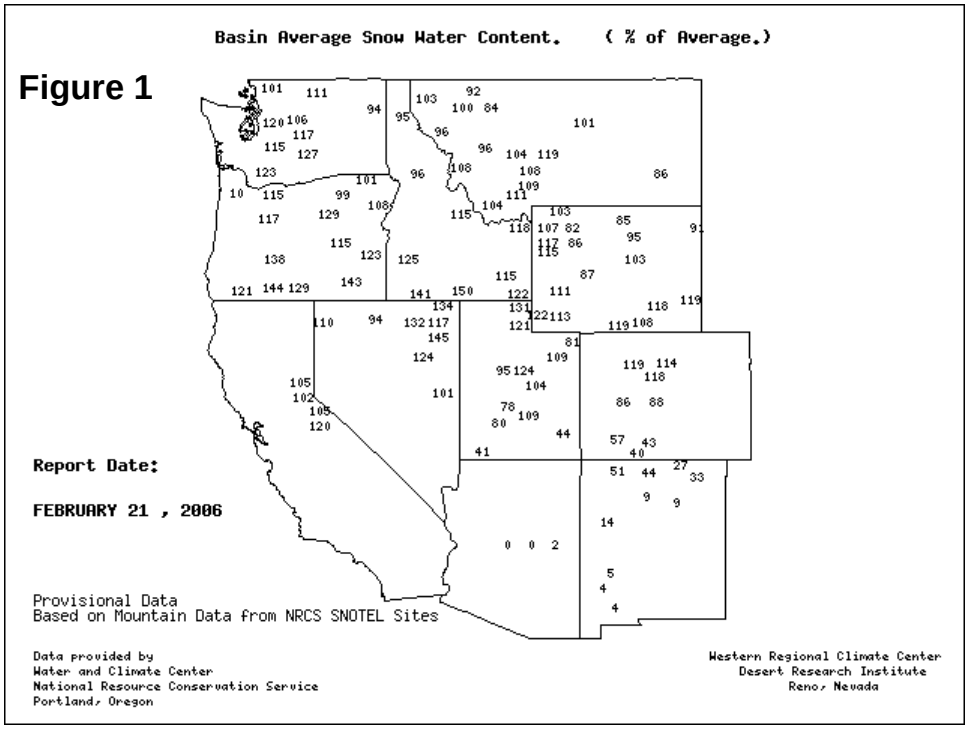
Seasonal runoff forecasts for most Southwestern basins are for well-below-normal streamflows due to record-low snowpacks and a lack of precipitation. In contrast, spring and summer runoff is expected to be above average in many areas farther north. Meanwhile, reservoir storage is slightly below historic averages in all Western States except Arizona, California, Nevada, and Oregon.

Snowpack and Precipitation

On February 21, 2006, the snowpack map reflected extremely low (generally less than 50 percent of average) snowpacks in Arizona, New Mexico, and southern portions of Colorado and Utah (figure 1). The scarcity of winter storms in the Southwest remained the primary reason for the extremely low snowpacks. Farther

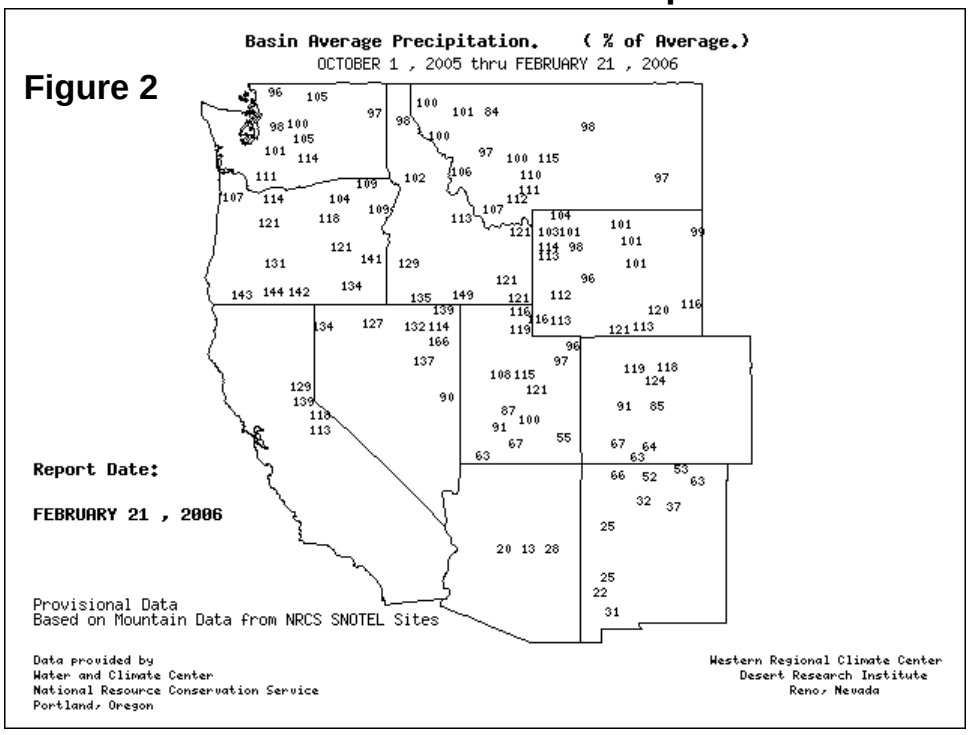
SNOTEL – River Basin Snow Water Content

Figure 1



SNOTEL – River Basin Precipitation

Figure 2



north, a series of strong winter storms resulted in season-to-date basin snowpacks approaching 150 percent of normal in northern Nevada and southern portions of Oregon and Idaho.

Season-to-date precipitation (October 1, 2005 - February 21, 2006) also showed below-average totals in the Southwest and near- to above-average amounts elsewhere (figure 2). Totals were less than 50 percent of average in Arizona and much of New Mexico, but were near 150 percent of average in some basins across northern Nevada and southern sections of Oregon and Idaho.

Spring and Summer Streamflow Forecasts

As of February 1, 2006, a majority of river basins in the Southwest were forecast to experience well-below-average spring and summer streamflows (figure 3). Above-average streamflow is forecast for many basins in Oregon, Nevada, central and southern Idaho, northern and eastern Utah, southern and western Wyoming, and western Colorado. Near- to slightly below-average streamflow is forecast elsewhere, including much of Washington, Montana, northern portions of Idaho and Wyoming, and the western slopes of the Sierra Nevada.

Reservoir Storage

As of February 1, 2006, reservoir storage for all Western States was slightly below historic averages, except in Arizona, California, Nevada, and Oregon (figure 4). In those four States, storage was above average.

For More Information

The National Water and Climate Center homepage provides the latest available snowpack and water supply information. Please visit:

http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov

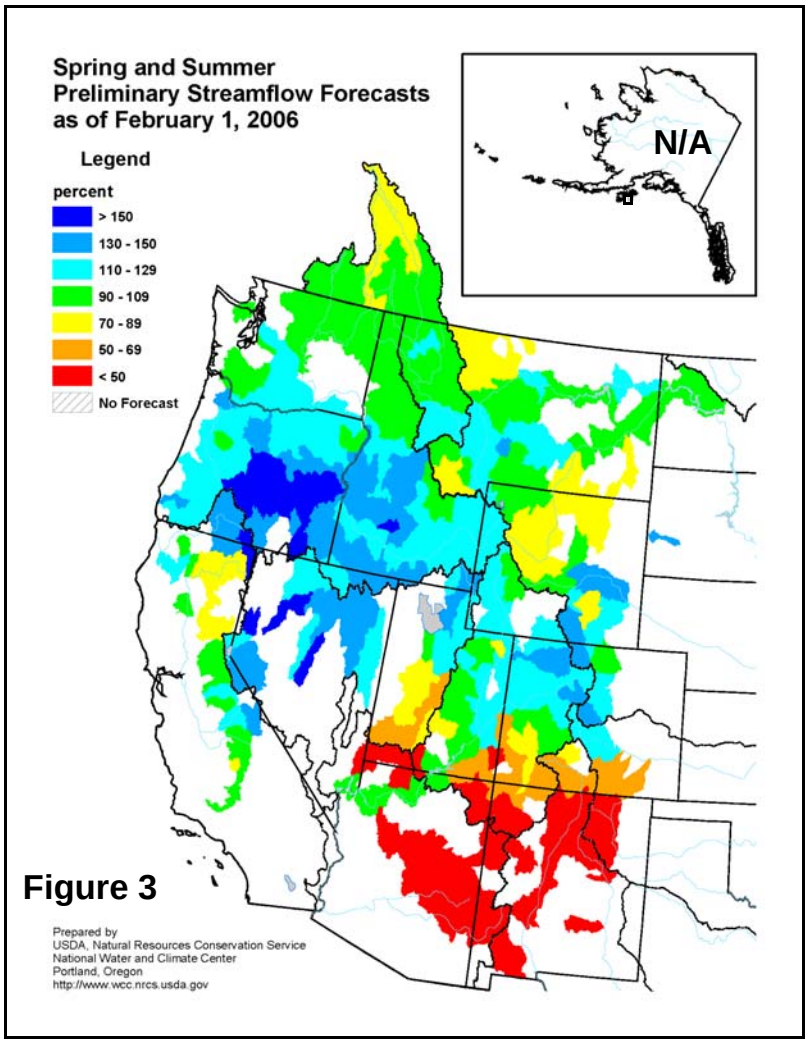


Figure 3

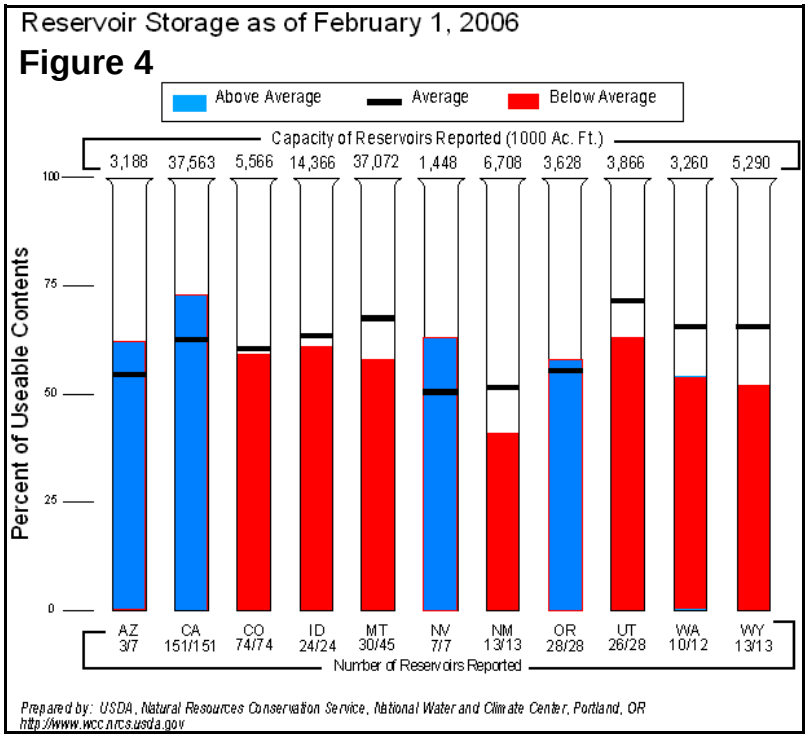
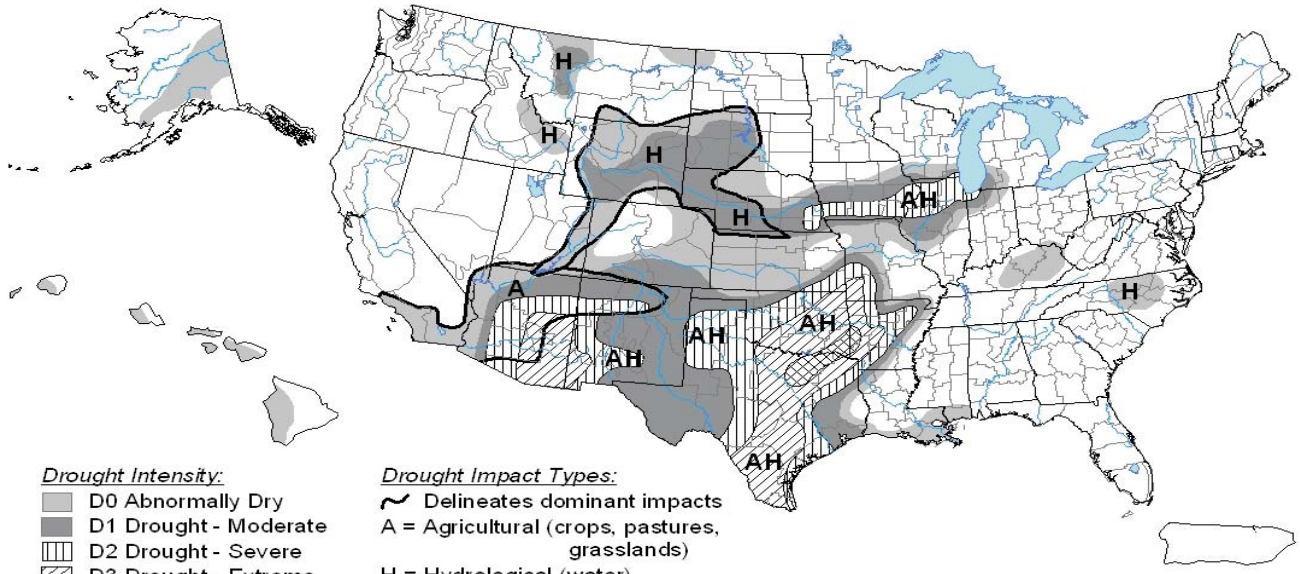


Figure 4

U.S. Drought Monitor

February 14, 2006
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)

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

http://drought.unl.edu/dm

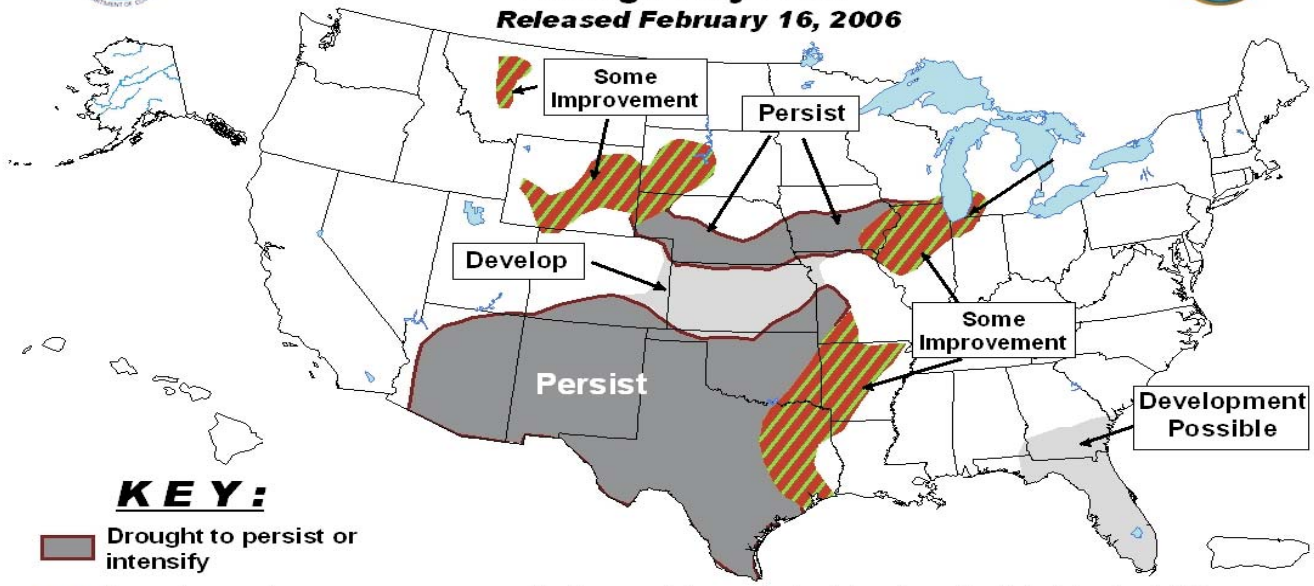
USDA National Drought Mitigation Center

Released Thursday, February 16, 2006
Author: David Miskus, JAWF/CPC//NOAA

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

Through May 2006

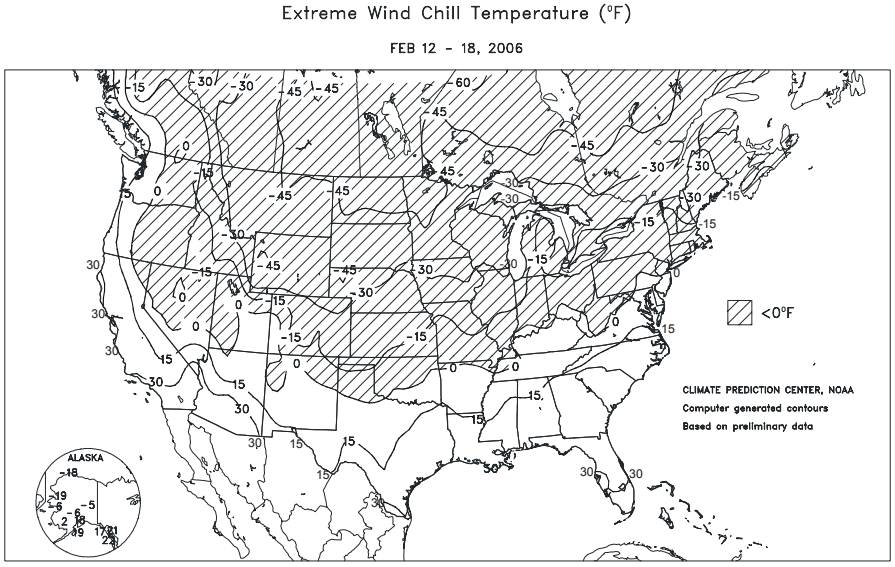
Released February 16, 2006



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

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

(Continued from front cover)



accompanied the arrival of cold weather across the **Intermountain West**, but most **Northwestern** winter grains had little or no protection (snow cover) from readings as low as 0°F. Farther south, temperatures near the freezing mark (32°F) were reported in **California** on January 16 as far south as the **San Joaquin Valley**, while dry, windy weather maintained severe stress on **Southwestern** pastures and rangeland. Toward week's end, rain and snow showers overspread parts of **California** and the **Great Basin**. Farther east, locally heavy snow blanketed **Nebraska** and nearby areas prior to the arrival of bitterly cold weather. However, the **northern Plains** received only light snow, while mild, dry weather persisted on the **southern Plains** through midweek. On February 16, sharply colder air swept onto the **southern Plains**, followed by some light snow, sleet, and freezing rain. However, the precipitation provided little relief to drought-stricken pastures and winter wheat. Meanwhile, **Midwestern** areas from **Nebraska to Michigan** February 15-16, while locally severe thunderstorms produced large hail and high winds in the **Ohio and middle Mississippi Valleys**. Sharply colder air trailed the storm, freezing muddy fields in the **eastern Corn Belt** but increasing stress on **Midwestern** livestock. Elsewhere, cold weather prevailed early in the week across the **southern Atlantic States**, culminating in a freeze as far south as **interior southern Florida** on February 14. Although temperatures (mostly in the upper 20's to near 32°F) were not low enough to harm citrus, producers used freeze-protection measures for other crops and monitored sugarcane and winter vegetables for signs of damage. Following a brief warming trend, chilly weather returned to the **interior South**, where late-week snow, sleet, and freezing rain caused travel and electrical disruptions.

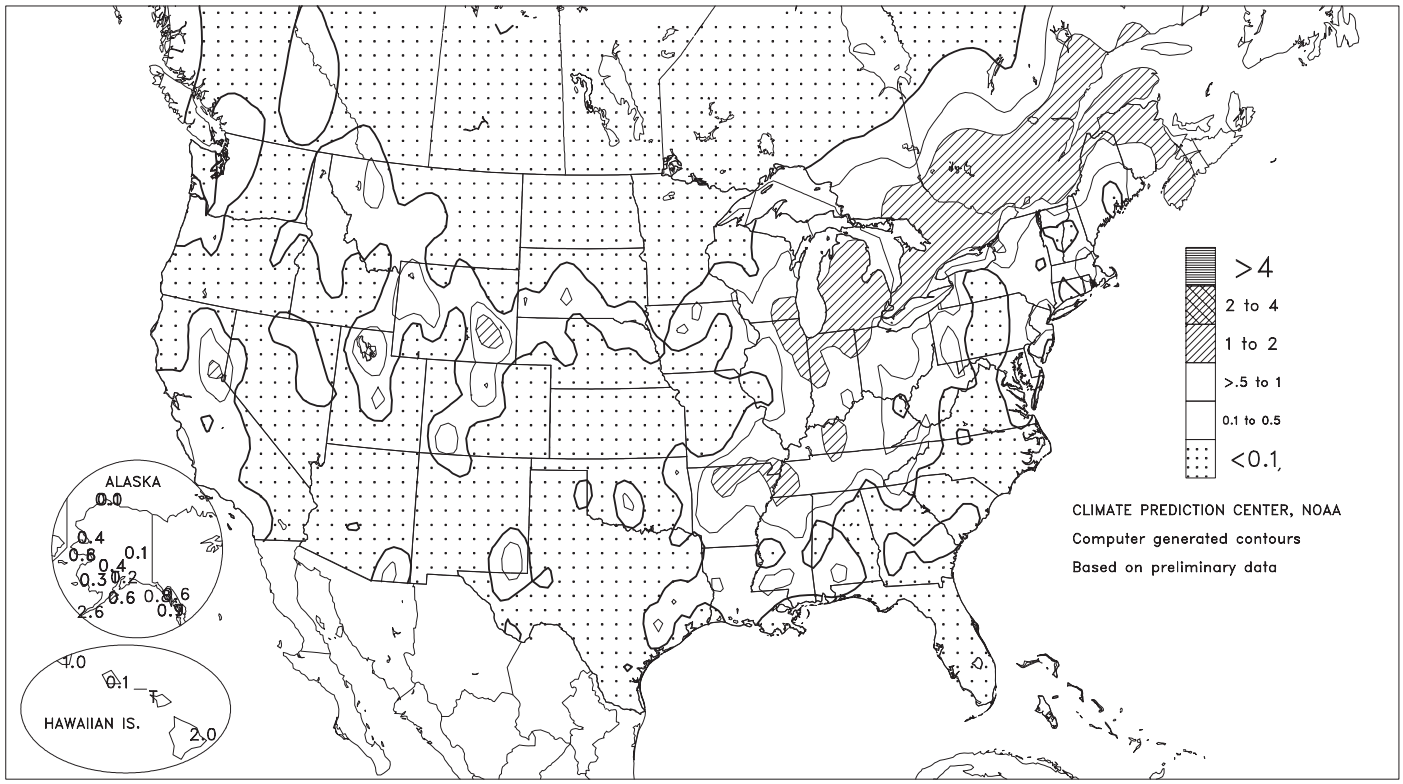
Early in the week, a major snowstorm continued across the **Northeast**, where February 11-12 totals included 26.9 inches in **New York's Central Park**, 21.9 inches in **Hartford, CT**, and 17.5 inches in **Boston, MA.** Previous single-storm snowfall records were 26.4 inches (on December 26-27, 1947) in **New York** and 21.0 inches (on February 11-12, 1983) in **Hartford**. On February 12, northeasterly wind gusts as high as 38 m.p.h. accompanied **New York's** record snowfall. Farther south, chilly weather trailed the **East Coast** storm into **Florida**, producing daily-record lows in **Daytona Beach** (29°F) and **Melbourne** (32°F). Florida Automated Weather Network sensors placed at the (non-standard) 2-foot level across **interior southern Florida** recorded lows of 28°F in **Immokalee** and 29°F in **Belle Glade**. In contrast, warm, blustery conditions prevailed in **southern California**, where daily records for February 12 included 91°F in **Santa Ana** and 88°F in **El Cajon**. By February 14, warm weather reached the **Nation's mid-section**, where **Midwestern** daily records climbed to 63°F in **Cedar Rapids, IA**, and 59°F in **Rockford, IL.** After midweek, warmth expanded across the **South** and **East** in advance of an Arctic cold front. Record highs for February 16 included 87°F in **San Angelo, TX**, 81°F in **McAlester, OK**, and 80°F in **Ft. Smith, AR.** Meanwhile, heavy snow developed in a narrow band stretching from the **northern Intermountain West to Michigan**. February 14-16 snowfall totaled 16.8 inches in **Lander, WY**; 14.4 inches in **Scottsbluff, NE**; and 13.7 inches in **Green Bay, WI.** A northeasterly wind gust to 49 m.p.h. accompanied the snow in **Green Bay**, where it was **Green Bay's** highest storm total since mid-March 1997 (17.5 inches) and sixth-highest storm-total snowfall on record. Elsewhere in **Wisconsin**, **Madison's** February 15-16 total of 10.1 inches represented its greatest 2-day snowfall since January 2-3, 1999, when 10.7 inches fell. In neighboring **Michigan**, daily precipitation records for February 16 included 1.84 inches (1.5 inches of snow and sleet) in **Grand Rapids** and 1.20 inches (0.7 inch of snow) in **Muskegon**.

High winds preceded, accompanied, and trailed an Arctic cold front nearly nationwide. On February 16, high winds raised dust in parts of **Arizona**, where a gust to 74 m.p.h. was reported in **Show Low**. A day later, a wind gust to 60 m.p.h. was clocked in **Las Vegas, NM.** High winds raked the **Great Lakes and Northeastern States** on February 17, when gusts reached 64 m.p.h. in **Syracuse, NY**, and 60 m.p.h. in **Fitchburg, MA.** High-elevation gusts were clocked to 143 m.p.h. just below the summit of **Stratton Mountain**, a 3,936-foot peak in **Vermont's Green Mountains**, and 137 m.p.h. atop **Mt. Washington, NH**, **New England's** highest peak (6,288 feet). Farther west, a daily-record chill settled across **California** on February 16, when daily-record lows included 23°F in **Redding** and 28°F in **Santa Maria**. A day later, a low of -54°F was reported in **northwestern Montana** near the **Continental Divide** at **Gates Park**. Elsewhere on February 17, daily-record lows included -33°F in **Neihart, MT**, and -32°F in **Casper, WY. Casper's** low also set a monthly record, previously established with a low of -30°F on February 24, 2003. At week's end, record lows for February 18 were set in more than 50 locations, including **Wisdom, MT** (-43°F), **Alliance, NE** (-36°F), **Stanley, ID** (-31°F), **Rhinelander, WI** (-28°F), and **Meacham, OR** (-19°F). For **Alliance**, it was the coldest day since December 23, 1989 (-38°F), and the fifth-lowest temperature since 1890. On the **central High Plains**, February 18 record lows fell to -13°F in **Denver, CO**, and -4°F in **Goodland, KS.** In **Milwaukee, WI,** the February 18 low of -12°F marked its coldest day since January 5, 1999, when the low was -15°F. **Milwaukee** also saw the end of its record-setting winter streak with high temperatures of 30°F or higher (57 days from December 22 - February 16; previously, 31 days in December 1931). Farther south, late-week freezing rain glazed parts of the **interior South**, while February 17-19 snow accumulations reached 2.1 inches in **Tulsa, OK**, and 5.5 inches in both **Mountain Home, AR**, and **Paducah, KY.** Meanwhile in **Phoenix, AZ**, the spell without a drop of rain reached 123 days (October 19 - February 18), well above the former 1999-2000 standard of 101 consecutive days. However, **Phoenix** experienced 160 days in a row without measurable rain in 1971-72.

While frigid air reached the **Lower 48 States**, record warmth overspread **Alaska**. In **western Alaska**, **Kotzebue** collected four consecutive daily-record highs (37, 35, 33, and 30°F) from February 14-17. **Barrow** also posted multiple record highs, notching 35, 34, and 34°F from February 14-16, respectively. Other **Alaskan** daily records included 46°F (on February 15) in **King Salmon** and 41°F (on February 18) in **McGrath**. Unusually heavy precipitation accompanied the warmth across **western Alaska**, resulting in daily-record totals in locations such as **Cold Bay** (1.62 inches on February 13) and **Kotzebue** (0.14 inch on February 14). Farther south, locally heavy showers developed after midweek across the **western Hawaiian islands**. In a 48-hour period from February 15-17, **Hanalei, Kauai**, netted 6.38 inches. On February 18-19, a few 2- to 5-inch rainfall totals were reported on **Oahu**.

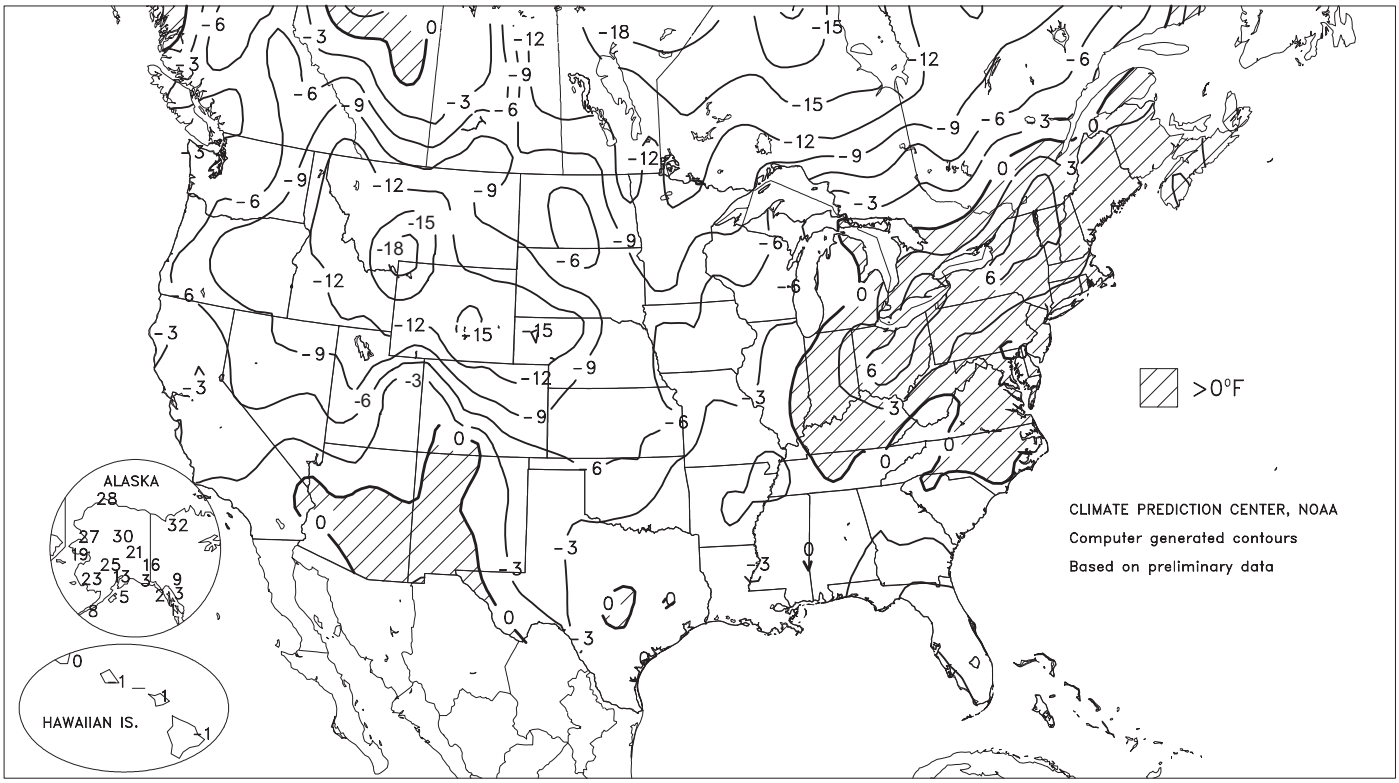
Total Precipitation (Inches)

FEB 12 - 18, 2006



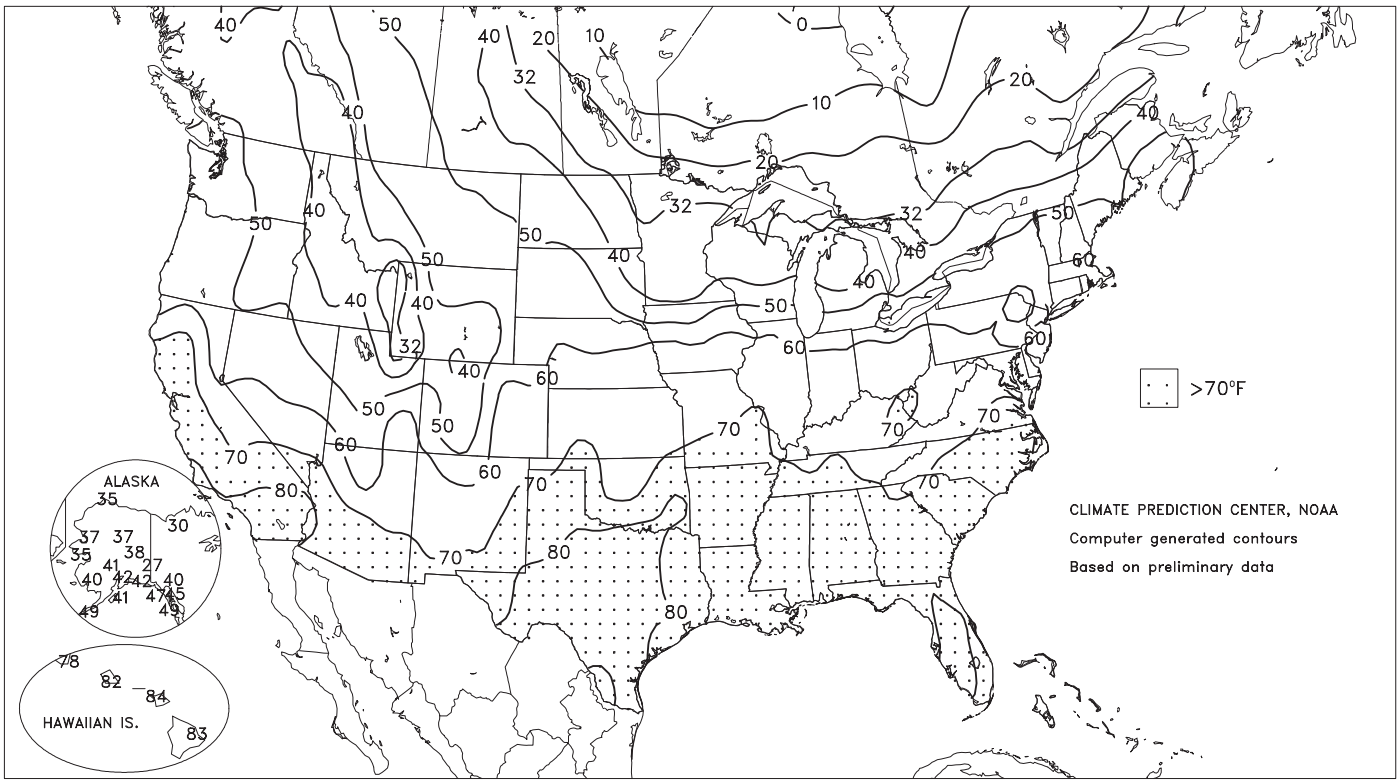
Departure of Average Temperature from Normal (°F)

FEB 12 - 18, 2006



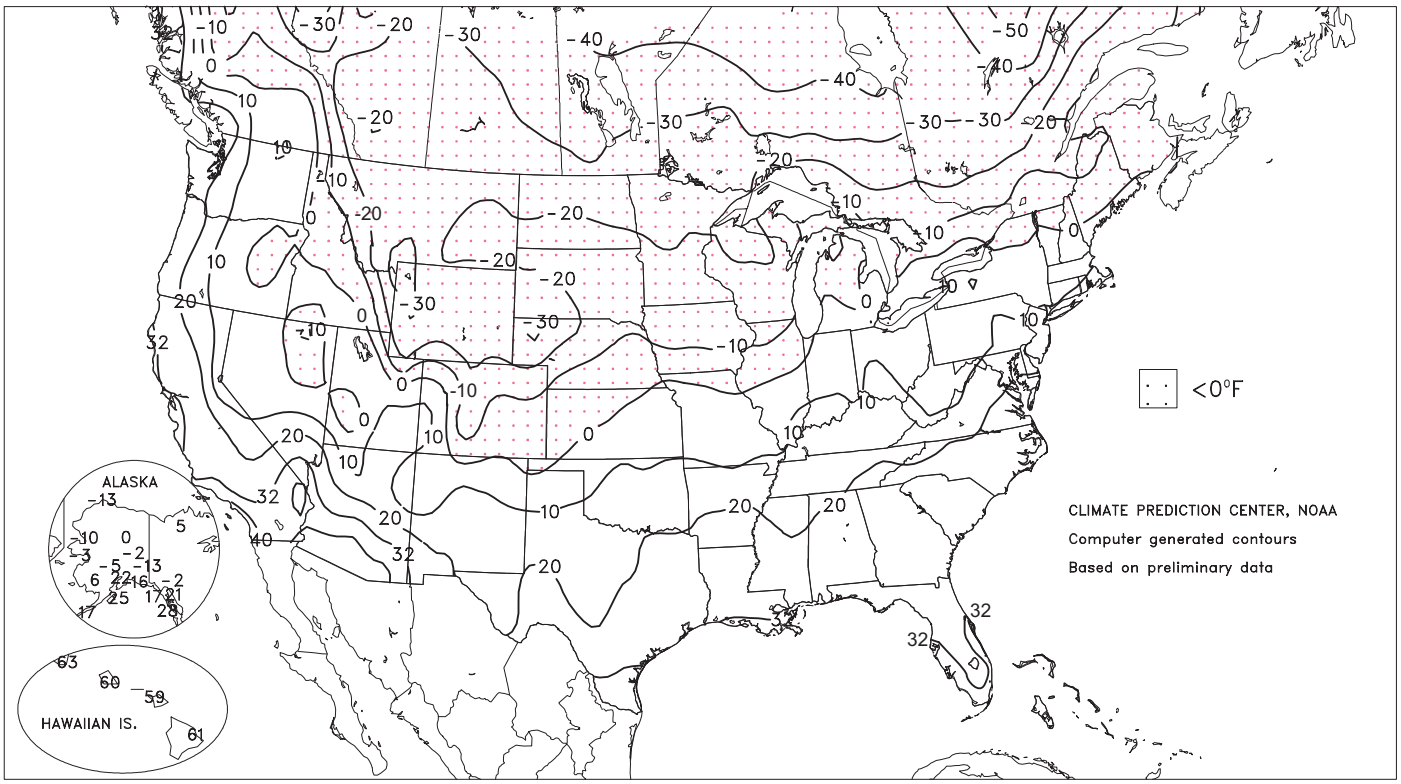
Extreme Maximum Temperature (°F)

FEB 12 - 18, 2006



Extreme Minimum Temperature (°F)

FEB 12 - 18, 2006



National Weather Data for Selected Cities

Weather Data for the Week Ending February 18, 2006

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

STATES AND STATIONS		TEMPERATURE ˚F						PRECIPITATION							RELATIVE HUMIDITY PERCENT		NUMBER OF DAYS			
																	TEMP. ˚F		PRECIP	
		AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	EXTREME HIGH	EXTREME LOW	AVERAGE	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	WEEKLY TOTAL, IN.	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	GREATEST IN 24-HOUR, IN.	TOTAL, IN., SINCE DEC01	PCT. NORMAL SINCE DEC01	TOTAL, IN., SINCE JAN01	PCT. NORMAL SINCE JAN01	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	90 AND ABOVE	32 AND BELOW	.01 INCH OR MORE	.50 INCH OR MORE
AL	BIRMINGHAM	56	36	74	25	46	-1	0.26	-0.72	0.15	17.15	137	12.52	156	83	39	0	4	3	0
	HUNTSVILLE	54	33	72	20	43	-1	0.40	-0.79	0.23	12.83	91	7.90	93	82	66	0	4	3	0
	MOBILE	63	41	75	24	52	-1	0.08	-1.12	0.04	9.34	69	5.75	65	85	54	0	3	4	0
	MONTGOMERY	61	35	78	25	48	-2	0.12	-1.23	0.10	9.25	69	6.76	81	83	39	0	3	2	0
AK	ANCHORAGE	37	26	42	22	32	13	0.04	-0.14	0.03	1.92	89	1.02	92	91	78	0	7	2	0
	BARROW	23	0	35	-13	12	28	0.12	0.09	0.12	0.71	229	0.48	253	87	83	0	7	1	0
	FAIRBANKS	30	5	38	-2	17	21	0.07	-0.01	0.07	0.60	40	0.47	61	87	81	0	7	1	0
	JUNEAU	40	25	45	21	32	3	0.62	-0.37	0.59	11.53	90	4.79	65	97	89	0	6	2	1
	KODIAK	39	30	41	25	35	5	0.61	-0.78	0.38	20.79	106	6.54	54	91	76	0	4	5	0
	NOME	31	19	35	-3	25	19	0.82	0.65	0.22	2.22	92	1.50	107	94	90	0	7	6	0
AZ	FLAGSTAFF	47	21	54	11	34	2	0.00	-0.63	0.00	0.29	5	0.25	7	50	17	0	7	0	0
	PHOENIX	72	49	78	42	61	3	0.00	-0.17	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0	26	13	0	0	0	0
	TUCSON	73	47	78	39	60	5	0.00	-0.21	0.00	0.01	0	0.00	0	32	18	0	0	0	0
	YUMA	73	48	82	41	60	-2	0.00	-0.06	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0	38	22	0	0	0	0
AR	FORT SMITH	57	27	80	18	42	-2	0.41	-0.21	0.35	4.11	57	3.72	97	78	36	0	6	2	0
	LITTLE ROCK	55	30	75	20	42	-3	0.57	-0.24	0.36	5.96	58	5.26	93	82	44	0	4	3	0
CA	BAKERSFIELD	63	39	75	32	51	-2	0.16	-0.12	0.14	2.02	76	0.91	48	69	48	0	1	2	0
	FRESNO	61	40	72	31	50	-2	0.14	-0.37	0.14	5.54	116	3.54	103	79	64	0	1	1	0
	LOS ANGELES	68	50	85	44	59	1	0.29	-0.48	0.20	2.69	40	1.73	35	67	47	0	0	2	0
	REDDING	60	39	77	23	49	0	0.07	-1.27	0.06	22.49	153	8.59	85	64	42	0	1	2	0
	SACRAMENTO	60	36	72	28	48	-3	0.14	-0.73	0.11	11.76	137	2.78	45	93	39	0	2	2	0
	SAN DIEGO	64	51	78	49	58	-1	0.17	-0.33	0.16	0.78	16	0.53	15	69	54	0	0	2	0
	SAN FRANCISCO	57	43	68	37	50	-2	0.39	-0.60	0.26	12.52	125	3.18	45	85	69	0	0	2	0
	STOCKTON	61	37	71	29	49	-2	0.25	-0.35	0.13	7.83	128	3.65	85	86	63	0	1	2	0
CO	ALAMOSA	45	6	54	-3	26	3	0.00	-0.03	0.00	0.23	35	0.19	59	65	26	0	7	0	0
	CO SPRINGS	35	10	64	-10	23	-9	0.07	0.00	0.03	0.61	73	0.31	76	73	40	0	7	3	0
	DENVER INTL	36	9	60	-13	23	-8	0.10	0.07	0.06	0.78	137	0.43	165	76	44	0	7	3	0
	GRAND JUNCTION	46	18	60	13	32	-2	0.00	-0.10	0.00	1.18	87	0.43	52	50	26	0	7	0	0
	PUEBLO	43	10	70	-3	27	-8	0.00	-0.04	0.00	0.76	95	0.52	127	67	40	0	7	0	0
CT	BRIDGEPORT	41	23	57	15	32	0	0.14	-0.55	0.12	10.93	121	7.25	131	74	57	0	7	2	0
	HARTFORD	42	20	57	4	31	2	0.26	-0.43	0.16	11.17	120	7.50	132	79	45	0	7	2	0
DC	WASHINGTON	49	29	66	17	39	1	0.79	0.17	0.79	8.82	113	5.48	115	72	41	0	4	1	1
DE	WILMINGTON	44	23	59	15	34	0	0.17	-0.50	0.17	8.67	102	5.41	106	79	43	0	6	1	0
FL	DAYTONA BEACH	65	40	81	29	53	-7	0.01	-0.64	0.01	5.86	78	4.01	84	88	39	0	2	1	0
	JACKSONVILLE	66	37	81	26	51	-5	0.00	-0.75	0.00	12.86	154	5.48	96	86	38	0	3	0	0
	KEY WEST	71	60	77	51	65	-6	0.27	-0.08	0.27	0.82	15	0.77	24	82	57	0	0	1	0
	MIAMI	72	54	79	44	63	-6	0.00	-0.52	0.00	3.96	74	2.96	93	76	44	0	0	0	0
	ORLANDO	69	43	82	33	56	-6	0.00	-0.56	0.00	4.33	71	2.29	60	89	42	0	0	0	0
	PENSACOLA	62	44	72	30	53	-2	0.17	-0.94	0.09	10.94	90	6.27	76	82	59	0	2	2	0
	TALLAHASSEE	66	35	82	22	51	-4	0.02	-1.08	0.02	13.54	111	8.18	100	85	38	0	3	1	0
	TAMPA	67	47	78	37	57	-6	0.00	-0.67	0.00	10.66	172	9.39	241	80	42	0	0	0	0
	WEST PALM BEACH	70	50	77	36	60	-7	0.00	-0.57	0.00	6.64	77	3.94	72	78	50	0	0	0	0
GA	ATHENS	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	10.63	100	6.07	87	***	***	***	***	***	***
	ATLANTA	53	35	70	24	44	-3	0.06	-1.07	0.06	11.44	97	7.77	98	73	51	0	4	1	0
	AUGUSTA	62	31	75	21	46	-2	0.01	-0.99	0.01	8.02	78	4.06	57	83	34	0	5	1	0
	COLUMBUS	60	37	76	27	48	-2	0.12	-0.96	0.11	6.86	58	4.48	60	78	38	0	3	2	0
	MACON	60	35	74	25	48	-1	0.12	-0.98	0.12	7.85	66	4.09	52	78	35	0	2	1	0
	SAVANNAH	64	35	78	26	49	-3	0.20	-0.49	0.20	8.28	96	5.56	95	87	39	0	3	1	0
HI	HILO	78	63	83	61	70	-1	1.97	-0.14	1.06	19.74	77	14.50	95	86	77	0	0	6	2
	HONOLULU	79	64	82	60	72	-1	0.08	-0.50	0.04	2.07	29	1.70	40	81	72	0	0	2	0
	KAHULUI	82	63	84	59	73	1	0.02	-0.53	0.01	1.24	15	1.10	21	79	70	0	0	2	0
	LIHUE	77	65	78	63	71	-1	0.95	0.17	0.30	2.97	26	2.89	43	82	72	0	0	6	0
ID	BOISE	36	19	48	11	28	-9	0.00	-0.28	0.00	5.48	157	2.08	99	72	52	0	7	0	0
	LEWISTON	36	19	42	6	27	-12	0.02	-0.20	0.02	2.87	103	1.23	71	67	53	0	7	1	0
	POCATELLO	28	9	40	-1	19	-11	0.08	-0.15	0.06	3.92	139	1.55	90	78	56	0	7	2	0
IL	CHICAGO/O'HARE	34	16	56	-7	25	-2	1.22	0.83	1.11	5.98	116	4.62	169	79	59	0	7	2	1
	MOLINE	34	13	61	-8	24	-3	0.75	0.40	0.72	4.84	104	3.80	155	81	63	0	7	3	1
	PEORIA	37	16	60	-4	27	-1	0.42	0.02	0.39	5.27	109	3.96	162	83	50	0	7	2	0
	ROCKFORD	32	13	59	-11	23	-2	0.50	0.19	0.43	4.68	110	3.68	167	80	63	0	7	2	0
	SPRINGFIELD	41	15	65	1	28	-3	0.23	-0.20	0.13	4.37	85	2.90	112	79	56	0	6	2	0
IN	EVANSVILLE	46	26	67	9	36	0	0.71	-0.05	0.63	8.04	97	6.28	132	75	60	0	5	5	1
	FORT WAYNE	40	21	58	4	30	3	0.85	0.38	0.74	6.81	114	4.66	145	84	63	0	5	3	1
	INDIANAPOLIS	43	23	63	7	33	2	0.61	0.03	0.47	7.76	112	5.07	129	86	56	0	5	3	0
	SOUTH BEND	38	20	59	1	29	2	0.85	0.38	0.44	5.59	85	3.80	110	86	67	0	6	4	0
IA	BURLINGTON	36	15	63	-3	26	-2	0.20	-0.17	0.18	4.02	95	3.01	141	79	44	0	7	2	0
	CEDAR RAPIDS	31	6	63	-16	19	-6	0.20	-0.05	0.20	3.12	98	1.79	106	90	47	0	7	1	0
	DES MOINES	32	11	63	-7	22	-5	0.10	-0.18	0.07	1.95	64	1.00	58	78	56	0	7	2	0
	DUBUQUE	29	7	59	-18	18	-5	0.33	0.00	0.26	3.32	88	1.67	80	81	63	0	7	3	0
	SIOUX CITY	28	4	53	-14	16	-9	0.32	0.20	0.25	1.47	97	0.70	82	81	58	0	7	2	0
	WATERLOO	28	5	59	-19	17	-6	0.14	-0.11	0.13	2.08	82	0.96	67	83	61	0	7	2	0
KS	CONCORDIA	38	15	65	0	26	-6	0.00	-0.15	0.00	0.45	25	0.10	11	63	40	0	7	0	0
	DODGE CITY	43	13	69	1	28	-8	0.01	-0.13	0.01	0.40	24	0.21	23	61	28	0	7	1	0
	GOODLAND	37	11	62	-5	24	-8	0.03	-0.06	0.01	0.76	76	0.60	100	67	51	0	7	3	0
	TOPEKA	41	16	65	3	29	-4	0.00	-0.27	0.00	1.50	51	0.50	32	69	45	0	6	0	0

Based on 1971-2000 normals

***** Not Available**

Weather Data for the Week Ending February 18, 2006

STATES AND STATIONS		TEMPERATURE °F						PRECIPITATION							RELATIVE HUMIDITY PERCENT		NUMBER OF DAYS			
																	TEMP. °F		PRECIP	
		AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	EXTREME HIGH	EXTREME LOW	AVERAGE	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	WEEKLY TOTAL, IN.	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	GREATEST IN 24-HOUR, IN.	TOTAL, IN., SINCE DEC01	PCT. NORMAL SINCE DEC01	TOTAL, IN., SINCE JAN01	PCT. NORMAL SINCE JAN01	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	90 AND ABOVE	32 AND BELOW	.01 INCH OR MORE	.50 INCH OR MORE
	WICHITA	43	17	63	5	30	-6	0.00	-0.23	0.00	0.70	27	0.11	9	64	39	0	6	0	0
KY	JACKSON	50	30	72	12	40	2	0.74	-0.17	0.31	10.65	106	7.47	129	73	46	0	5	5	0
	LEXINGTON	47	28	68	8	37	1	0.56	-0.24	0.30	10.25	110	7.85	150	77	59	0	5	3	0
	LOUISVILLE	49	29	68	12	39	1	0.71	-0.08	0.63	8.39	94	6.35	122	76	45	0	4	4	1
	PADUCAH	48	26	69	9	37	-1	0.65	-0.34	0.39	10.30	100	8.84	149	83	50	0	4	4	0
LA	BATON ROUGE	65	42	80	27	53	0	0.26	-0.99	0.26	8.53	57	4.28	45	88	43	0	3	1	0
	LAKE CHARLES	63	43	75	30	53	-1	0.00	-0.75	0.00	7.54	61	3.62	47	85	50	0	1	0	0
	NEW ORLEANS	66	45	78	30	55	-1	0.02	-1.34	0.02	9.15	63	5.83	61	80	55	0	2	1	0
	SHREVEPORT	62	37	76	26	50	-1	0.31	-0.74	0.29	9.82	83	8.58	117	77	45	0	4	2	0
ME	CARIBOU	27	6	41	-11	16	3	1.06	0.58	0.99	12.26	164	5.75	135	81	51	0	7	4	1
	PORTLAND	37	18	49	4	28	3	0.19	-0.55	0.14	11.21	109	5.91	97	79	51	0	7	2	0
MD	BALTIMORE	48	22	66	14	35	0	0.54	-0.18	0.54	9.93	115	6.03	114	79	45	0	6	1	1
MA	BOSTON	42	23	56	10	33	1	0.19	-0.61	0.17	9.04	93	6.16	102	73	47	0	6	2	0
	WORCESTER	39	19	57	6	29	3	0.36	-0.36	0.24	11.76	120	8.02	134	81	39	0	6	2	0
MI	ALPENA	27	12	35	0	19	0	0.53	0.23	0.37	5.69	130	4.07	159	89	60	0	7	4	0
	GRAND RAPIDS	31	16	42	1	23	-2	1.97	1.61	1.70	9.01	158	6.58	220	87	64	0	7	4	1
	HOUGHTON LAKE	25	14	33	-6	19	-1	0.88	0.60	0.67	5.42	132	3.92	167	79	67	0	7	5	1
	LANSING	32	18	41	-1	25	1	0.99	0.65	0.75	7.71	164	5.80	230	86	68	0	7	3	1
	MUSKEGON	30	18	45	2	24	-1	1.34	0.98	1.17	8.57	146	5.63	175	83	69	0	7	5	1
	TRAVERSE CITY	26	14	34	1	20	-2	0.67	0.25	0.36	4.21	61	3.18	75	90	62	0	7	5	0
MN	DULUTH	16	-4	34	-22	6	-9	0.02	-0.15	0.01	3.40	133	0.86	53	70	55	0	7	2	0
	INT'L FALLS	11	-15	26	-27	-2	-13	0.01	-0.13	0.01	1.85	95	1.24	100	82	52	0	7	1	0
	MINNEAPOLIS	21	3	39	-13	12	-8	0.05	-0.12	0.05	2.00	81	1.03	70	74	52	0	7	1	0
	ROCHESTER	22	3	40	-19	13	-5	0.36	0.19	0.25	1.32	55	0.73	53	77	63	0	7	4	0
	ST. CLOUD	18	-2	38	-17	8	-8	0.01	-0.10	0.01	1.73	97	0.72	66	74	53	0	7	1	0
MS	JACKSON	60	35	76	22	48	-1	0.02	-1.06	0.02	16.39	118	11.51	134	87	45	0	4	1	0
	MERIDIAN	60	37	75	22	49	-1	0.04	-1.25	0.04	13.45	93	10.05	109	86	50	0	3	1	0
	TUPELO	57	34	72	21	45	0	0.38	-0.76	0.20	17.03	121	11.35	143	81	54	0	4	3	0
MO	COLUMBIA	43	19	66	3	31	-3	0.02	-0.52	0.01	3.05	56	2.10	70	74	41	0	6	2	0
	KANSAS CITY	42	18	68	4	30	-3	0.02	-0.28	0.01	2.90	83	1.16	63	70	39	0	6	2	0
	SAINT LOUIS	46	22	71	5	34	-1	0.27	-0.27	0.26	3.32	53	2.10	61	69	54	0	6	2	0
	SPRINGFIELD	50	22	74	8	36	-1	0.13	-0.41	0.05	2.56	39	1.94	56	74	50	0	6	4	0
MT	BILLINGS	27	6	56	-16	17	-13	0.07	-0.04	0.04	0.71	40	0.27	24	72	39	0	6	2	0
	BUTTE	19	-8	41	-29	6	-16	0.00	-0.10	0.00	1.24	96	0.49	64	78	40	0	7	0	0
	CUT BANK	26	-2	54	-30	12	-12	0.08	0.02	0.04	0.22	26	0.21	40	78	42	0	7	2	0
	GLASGOW	26	0	52	-20	13	-6	0.02	-0.04	0.01	0.86	100	0.49	100	81	55	0	7	2	0
	GREAT FALLS	25	3	52	-25	14	-13	0.17	0.06	0.10	1.28	80	0.99	105	75	44	0	7	4	0
	HAVRE	29	1	60	-21	15	-7	0.02	-0.05	0.02	0.76	67	0.34	54	69	45	0	7	1	0
	MISSOULA	26	6	38	-9	16	-13	0.05	-0.12	0.05	2.62	99	1.45	97	65	52	0	7	1	0
NE	GRAND ISLAND	34	11	66	-5	23	-5	0.12	-0.02	0.09	0.77	52	0.30	37	74	49	0	7	3	0
	LINCOLN	36	11	68	-4	23	-5	0.07	-0.06	0.07	1.50	84	0.98	105	76	52	0	7	1	0
	NORFOLK	30	8	55	-10	19	-8	0.20	0.04	0.14	1.06	67	0.57	61	75	53	0	7	2	0
	NORTH PLATTE	33	5	62	-11	19	-11	0.10	-0.01	0.06	0.62	61	0.38	61	83	40	0	7	2	0
	OMAHA	34	11	66	-7	23	-5	0.04	-0.13	0.04	1.55	75	0.74	64	76	54	0	7	1	0
	SCOTTSBLUFF	29	5	56	-23	17	-13	0.47	0.34	0.29	1.14	81	1.00	119	68	53	0	7	2	0
	VALENTINE	25	3	56	-26	14	-13	0.15	0.05	0.07	0.65	76	0.42	81	79	67	0	7	3	0
NV	ELY	40	9	56	-3	24	-6	0.41	0.24	0.39	2.02	123	1.37	120	79	47	0	7	2	0
	LAS VEGAS	61	42	70	36	51	-1	0.00	-0.17	0.00	0.06	4	0.04	4	27	17	0	0	0	0
	RENO	47	22	62	13	35	-4	0.35	0.10	0.15	5.83	226	1.95	115	80	59	0	7	4	0
	WINNEMUCCA	40	15	54	4	28	-8	0.03	-0.11	0.01	4.25	214	1.97	167	82	57	0	7	3	0
NH	CONCORD	41	17	59	5	29	6	0.21	-0.34	0.11	10.23	138	5.68	128	76	38	0	7	2	0
NJ	NEWARK	44	24	60	15	34	0	1.87	1.18	1.82	11.15	119	7.50	129	70	51	0	6	2	1
NM	ALBUQUERQUE	55	27	67	21	41	0	0.00	-0.09	0.00	0.14	12	0.04	6	37	16	0	5	0	0
NY	ALBANY	42	19	61	9	31	6	0.07	-0.45	0.05	8.58	132	5.63	147	76	40	0	7	2	0
	BINGHAMTON	38	18	56	4	28	4	0.12	-0.49	0.11	6.41	89	4.39	106	77	52	0	7	2	0
	BUFFALO	40	23	61	9	32	6	0.83	0.25	0.39	7.84	92	5.48	117	86	52	0	5	5	0
	ROCHESTER	42	23	60	12	33	8	0.20	-0.30	0.13	4.91	77	3.54	98	78	57	0	5	4	0
	SYRACUSE	43	22	60	9	33	9	0.14	-0.36	0.07	6.83	97	4.27	109	80	46	0	7	3	0
NC	ASHEVILLE	50	26	63	20	38	-1	0.14	-0.79	0.11	9.53	97	6.02	93	77	50	0	6	2	0
	CHARLOTTE	57	31	71	20	44	-1	0.05	-0.80	0.05	9.35	100	4.10	66	77	33	0	5	1	0
	GREENSBORO	54	30	71	21	43	2	0.11	-0.63	0.11	7.77	91	3.56	65	77	33	0	4	1	0
	HATTERAS	53	42	63	33	48	1	0.01	-0.90	0.01	9.79	76	4.99	60	82	53	0	0	1	0
	RALEIGH	57	33	74	24	45	2	0.07	-0.76	0.07	7.30	79	3.06	50	73	37	0	4	1	0
	WILMINGTON	60	37	75	27	49	1	0.02	-0.86	0.02	6.68	63	2.53	37	85	34	0	2	1	0
ND	BISMARCK	25	4	45	-19	14	-5	0.01	-0.10	0.01	1.18	101	0.34	47	70	53	0	7	1	0
	DICKINSON	23	0	49	-21	12	-10	0.00	-0.10	0.00	0.40	41	0.26	41	83	44	0	7	0	0
	FARGO	13	-5	33	-22	4	-10	0.00	-0.12	0.00	2.03	124	0.71	66	76	61	0	7	0	0
	GRAND FORKS	11	-13	33	-26	-1	-14	0.03	-0.11	0.03	1.51	96	1.01	98	84	64	0	7	1	0
	JAMESTOWN	20	-1	37	-20	9	-7	0.00	-0.11	0.00	0.50	37	0.19	21	79	60	0	7	0	0
	WILLISTON	25	-2	48	-23	12	-5	0.02	-0.06	0.01	0.56	42	0.33	44	75	54	0	7	2	0
OH	AKRON-CANTON	42	23	60	4	33	5	0.30	-0.25	0.13	6.39	93	5.04	131	77	61	0	5	5	0
	CINCINNATI	47	29	65	8	38	4	0.63	-0.04	0.59	7.27	92	5.46	119	76	57	0	5	4	1
	CLEVELAND	43	27	61	8	35	7	0.49	-0.06	0.18	6.59	94	4.53	116	75	53	0	5	5	0
	COLUMBUS	47	28	64	10	37	5	0.46	-0.06	0.25	5.72	84	4.03	104	72	55	0	5	3	0
	DAYTON	44	27	62	7	36	6	0.52	-0.03	0.52	6.35	89	4.47	111	79	55	0	5	1	1
	MANSFIELD	41	26	60	6	34	7	0.24	-0.28	0.15	5.89	81	4.54	114	83	57	0	5	2	0

Based on 1971-2000 normals ***** Not Available**

Weather Data for the Week Ending February 18, 2006

STATES AND STATIONS		TEMPERATURE ˚F						PRECIPITATION							RELATIVE HUMIDITY PERCENT		NUMBER OF DAYS			
																	TEMP. ˚F		PRECIP	
		AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	EXTREME HIGH	EXTREME LOW	AVERAGE	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	WEEKLY TOTAL, IN.	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	GREATEST IN 24-HOUR, IN.	TOTAL, IN., SINCE DEC01	PCT. NORMAL SINCE DEC01	TOTAL, IN., SINCE JAN01	PCT. NORMAL SINCE JAN01	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	90 AND ABOVE	32 AND BELOW	.01 INCH OR MORE	.50 INCH OR MORE
	TOLEDO	42	23	59	5	32	5	0.40	-0.07	0.31	7.80	136	4.63	149	81	58	0	5	2	0
	YOUNGSTOWN	42	24	61	4	33	5	0.39	-0.09	0.26	5.78	89	4.37	123	76	62	0	5	5	0
OK	OKLAHOMA CITY	52	24	66	11	38	-4	0.04	-0.33	0.04	0.60	15	0.32	16	71	32	0	5	1	0
	TULSA	53	25	74	13	39	-3	0.14	-0.32	0.09	1.38	27	0.86	33	71	40	0	6	2	0
OR	ASTORIA	46	32	54	25	39	-5	0.32	-1.63	0.17	41.13	163	26.65	180	80	59	0	4	3	0
	BURNS	32	8	45	-1	20	-10	0.01	-0.25	0.01	6.74	215	2.29	125	79	60	0	7	1	0
	EUGENE	45	29	57	22	37	-6	0.09	-1.48	0.05	24.64	123	13.94	118	89	74	0	5	2	0
	MEDFORD	50	29	62	22	40	-4	0.02	-0.49	0.01	13.68	204	6.61	173	85	47	0	6	2	0
	PENDLETON	37	20	47	6	28	-11	0.03	-0.26	0.03	4.89	133	2.32	105	80	58	0	7	1	0
	PORTLAND	46	31	55	25	39	-4	0.13	-0.90	0.09	19.54	145	12.02	154	68	56	0	4	2	0
	SALEM	45	28	54	20	37	-6	0.07	-1.20	0.04	26.01	166	14.49	158	79	61	0	5	3	0
PA	ALLENTOWN	43	19	58	6	31	1	0.23	-0.42	0.14	10.61	123	7.03	135	78	55	0	7	2	0
	ERIE	43	26	62	10	34	6	0.48	-0.07	0.27	6.94	91	3.98	102	75	57	0	5	4	0
	MIDDLETOWN	44	23	57	15	33	2	0.25	-0.47	0.24	9.27	118	6.55	141	79	41	0	7	2	0
	PHILADELPHIA	45	25	61	17	35	0	0.50	-0.14	0.50	8.57	101	5.60	108	75	44	0	6	1	1
	PITTSBURGH	44	25	64	5	35	4	0.32	-0.24	0.26	6.71	96	4.98	120	79	52	0	5	4	0
	WILKES-BARRE	43	21	64	10	32	3	0.28	-0.22	0.24	8.20	129	5.44	144	74	42	0	6	2	0
	WILLIAMSPORT	44	20	63	11	32	3	0.11	-0.52	0.06	9.34	125	7.07	156	74	45	0	7	2	0
RI	PROVIDENCE	43	22	57	13	33	2	0.57	-0.26	0.55	12.21	114	7.87	120	74	54	0	7	2	1
SC	BEAUFORT	63	36	77	28	49	-2	0.16	-0.57	0.16	5.90	64	3.40	56	88	38	0	3	1	0
	CHARLESTON	63	36	77	27	50	-1	0.03	-0.69	0.03	7.83	85	4.58	76	86	36	0	3	1	0
	COLUMBIA	60	33	73	26	47	-1	0.06	-0.85	0.06	7.92	76	3.83	54	76	40	0	4	1	0
	GREENVILLE	58	33	76	25	45	1	0.11	-0.92	0.08	9.58	89	4.76	68	72	34	0	3	3	0
SD	ABERDEEN	23	2	42	-15	12	-7	0.03	-0.07	0.02	1.69	155	0.58	82	78	61	0	7	2	0
	HURON	24	6	45	-10	15	-6	0.01	-0.11	0.01	0.98	87	0.40	54	79	53	0	7	1	0
	RAPID CITY	27	4	59	-23	16	-12	0.16	0.06	0.10	0.61	62	0.36	61	74	50	0	7	3	0
	SIOUX FALLS	24	6	45	-11	15	-6	0.06	-0.03	0.04	1.94	155	0.91	125	78	60	0	7	2	0
TN	BRISTOL	48	24	68	15	36	-2	0.32	-0.51	0.24	7.85	87	5.14	92	90	47	0	6	3	0
	CHATTANOOGA	54	32	72	24	43	0	0.16	-1.01	0.09	10.74	81	6.89	82	76	57	0	4	3	0
	KNOXVILLE	52	30	71	22	41	-1	0.32	-0.64	0.16	8.31	72	5.48	78	80	46	0	5	2	0
	MEMPHIS	52	31	74	17	42	-3	0.78	-0.28	0.41	11.90	95	9.99	145	82	50	0	3	3	0
	NASHVILLE	53	32	70	13	43	2	0.60	-0.29	0.40	11.11	104	8.65	140	76	44	0	4	4	0
TX	ABILENE	63	32	86	19	47	-2	0.03	-0.25	0.03	0.55	19	0.44	27	53	28	0	4	1	0
	AMARILLO	53	17	72	4	35	-6	0.01	-0.11	0.01	0.14	9	0.11	12	57	18	0	7	1	0
	AUSTIN	69	38	83	23	54	-1	0.05	-0.45	0.04	2.38	43	2.29	75	70	45	0	4	2	0
	BEAUMONT	66	43	78	28	55	-1	0.13	-0.65	0.13	5.19	39	3.03	38	84	48	0	2	1	0
	BROWNSVILLE	73	50	82	35	61	-2	0.01	-0.27	0.01	2.32	70	0.82	37	81	48	0	0	1	0
	CORPUS CHRISTI	74	48	86	25	61	2	0.04	-0.43	0.03	0.66	15	0.30	11	70	46	0	1	2	0
	DEL RIO	70	38	87	24	54	-2	0.00	-0.25	0.00	0.31	16	0.25	22	66	36	0	2	0	0
	EL PASO	64	37	75	20	51	0	0.01	-0.07	0.01	0.08	6	0.08	12	35	13	0	2	1	0
	FORT WORTH	63	35	85	23	49	-1	0.00	-0.59	0.00	2.91	50	2.58	80	66	31	0	3	0	0
	GALVESTON	65	50	73	37	58	0	0.10	-0.50	0.06	3.47	37	1.11	19	82	57	0	0	2	0
	HOUSTON	67	43	81	30	55	0	0.03	-0.69	0.03	9.94	107	3.57	64	79	60	0	2	1	0
	LUBBOCK	59	25	77	17	42	-1	0.00	-0.17	0.00	0.03	2	0.03	3	40	24	0	5	0	0
	MIDLAND	62	29	81	20	45	-4	0.00	-0.14	0.00	0.27	18	0.16	19	42	23	0	5	0	0
	SAN ANGELO	64	30	87	16	47	-3	0.03	-0.27	0.03	0.26	11	0.24	16	57	27	0	4	1	0
	SAN ANTONIO	69	39	84	23	54	-1	0.06	-0.38	0.06	0.60	13	0.50	18	77	37	0	3	1	0
	VICTORIA	68	41	80	25	54	-3	0.16	-0.34	0.12	2.27	37	1.78	48	88	50	0	2	2	0
	WACO	64	37	84	23	51	0	0.01	-0.61	0.01	3.09	51	2.66	80	74	43	0	3	1	0
	WICHITA FALLS	59	30	82	16	44	-2	0.00	-0.39	0.00	0.86	23	0.68	34	59	31	0	5	0	0
UT	SALT LAKE CITY	35	15	45	5	25	-9	0.49	0.18	0.27	3.65	108	2.39	111	87	56	0	7	3	0
VT	BURLINGTON	36	15	54	-1	26	6	0.12	-0.27	0.12	7.14	130	4.93	150	78	50	0	6	1	0
VA	LYNCHBURG	51	25	67	12	38	0	0.19	-0.55	0.19	8.13	94	5.10	93	77	38	0	5	1	0
	NORFOLK	56	34	71	28	45	3	0.10	-0.70	0.10	7.58	84	3.28	55	78	35	0	3	1	0
	RICHMOND	55	31	70	20	43	4	0.15	-0.56	0.09	10.01	118	4.20	79	71	45	0	5	2	0
	ROANOKE	50	28	69	18	39	0	0.02	-0.72	0.02	7.35	92	4.99	97	62	45	0	5	1	0
	WASH/DULLES	48	25	66	15	36	1	0.12	-0.55	0.12	7.25	93	4.31	91	75	50	0	5	1	0
WA	OLYMPIA	46	26	56	19	36	-4	0.09	-1.44	0.07	27.10	139	18.21	156	76	49	0	7	2	0
	QUILLAYUTE	46	32	53	24	39	-3	0.16	-2.94	0.11	35.59	98	26.31	121	70	55	0	5	2	0
	SEATTLE-TACOMA	47	31	56	23	39	-4	0.46	-0.57	0.32	20.29	150	13.44	170	68	49	0	4	2	0
	SPOKANE	31	14	41	3	22	-11	0.16	-0.20	0.10	7.93	159	4.97	181	79	47	0	7	2	0
	YAKIMA	41	18	54	5	30	-5	0.00	-0.19	0.00	4.28	140	1.89	113	73	41	0	7	0	0
WV	BECKLEY	42	22	63	6	32	-2	0.20	-0.52	0.08	6.35	78	3.63	72	74	63	0	6	3	0
	CHARLESTON	48	26	71	11	37	0	0.29	-0.49	0.12	7.51	88	4.86	94	74	49	0	6	3	0
	ELKINS	46	21	67	7	33	1	0.12	-0.66	0.06	6.79	77	4.21	78	82	42	0	7	3	0
	HUNTINGTON	50	29	73	11	40	3	0.21	-0.55	0.11	7.01	83	4.64	92	75	49	0	5	3	0
WI	EAU CLAIRE	22	5	38	-17	14	-5	0.22	0.05	0.12	1.83	72	1.46	97	78	47	0	7	2	0
	GREEN BAY	23	6	37	-17	15	-6	0.67	0.45	0.40	3.91	122	2.87	159	82	60	0	7	3	0
	LA CROSSE	26	7	42	-21	16	-7	0.62	0.40	0.54	1.71	56	1.15	63	79	50	0	7	3	1
	MADISON	28	9	53	-17	19	-4	0.62	0.32	0.37	3.76	102	2.77	136	79	54	0	7	2	0
	MILWAUKEE	30	13	52	-12	21	-4	0.66	0.27	0.57	5.01	98	3.83	133	76	58	0	7	2	1
WY	CASPER	21	1	46	-32	11	-16	0.39	0.25	0.26	1.99	128	1.70	183	71	57	0	7	3	0
	CHEYENNE	26	7	50	-19	17	-12	0.00	-0.09	0.00	0.32	28	0.04	6	60	52	0	7	0	0
	LANDER	23	2	52	-25	13	-13	0.91	0.80	0.59	1.60	115	1.21	155	78	53	0	7	4	1
	SHERIDAN	27	4	57	-22	16	-11	0.14	0.03	0.10	0.78	44	0.30	27	74	55	0	7	3	0

Based on 1971-2000 normals ***** Not Available**

National Agricultural Summary

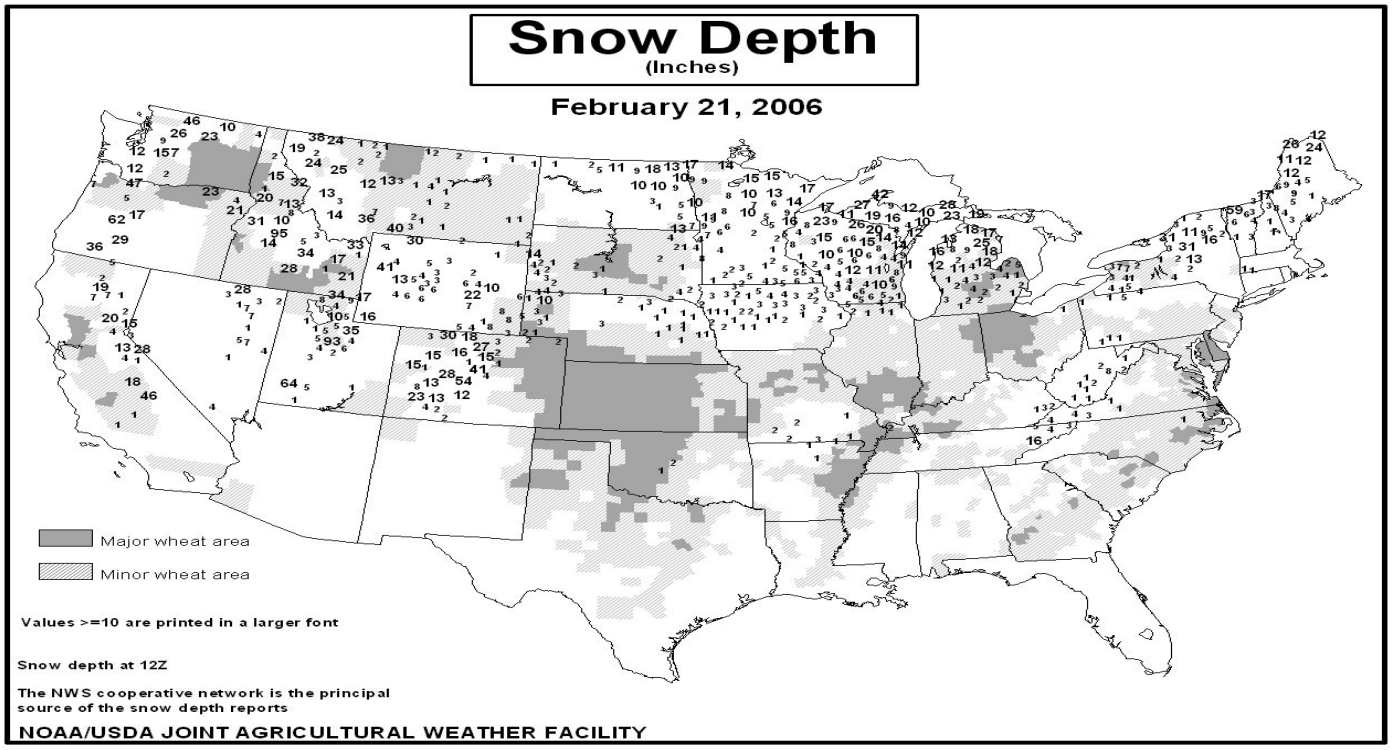
February 13 - 19, 2006

Weekly National Agricultural Summary provided by USDA/NASS

HIGHLIGHTS

Below-normal temperatures returned to most of the Nation. Only in the Southwest, Ohio River Valley, and middle and northern Atlantic Coast States were temperatures above normal. Across the northern and central Great Plains, temperatures averaged 6 to 12 degrees Fahrenheit below normal. Low temperatures were below zero across most of the area, with temperatures as much as 30 degrees Fahrenheit below zero in some areas. The bitterly cold weather was a serious concern for winter wheat growers in light of the continued lack of protective snow cover in the northern and central Great Plains. Conditions were colder still in the northern Rocky Mountains, with temperatures averaging 12 to 18 degrees Fahrenheit below zero. Even southern Florida could not avoid the cold weather, with freezing temperatures extending nearly to the tip of the Peninsula. Meanwhile, precipitation was scarce across most of the Nation. Moderate precipitation fell around the Great Lakes and a few other isolated areas. Elsewhere, precipitation was light in the Mississippi Delta, central Corn Belt, Ohio Valley, Northeast, northern and central Rocky Mountains, and California. Mostly dry conditions prevailed across the Great Plains, southern and middle Atlantic Coast, Southwest, and Pacific Northwest.

In California, harvest of navel oranges, grapefruit, lemons, mandarins, and tangerines continued, while blooming was active in many early almond orchards. Conditions in Arizona were mostly warm and very dry. Harvest of citrus and vegetable crops was active. The winter wheat crop in Texas, already suffering from lack of moisture, was dealt another blow as low temperatures in the teens and single digits struck the Panhandle, where the crop was totally without the protection of snow cover. In Georgia, hay producers reported short supplies due to the increase of supplemental feeding of livestock. Record-low temperatures in Florida slowed development and harvest of vegetables, however, there were no reports of fruit damage in citrus groves.



International Weather and Crop Summary

February 12 - 18, 2006

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

HIGHLIGHTS

FSU-WESTERN: Continued bitterly cold weather was accompanied by periods of snow that boosted the protective snow cover in most areas.

EUROPE: Wet weather eased moisture shortages in northern and western Europe and maintained adequate to abundant moisture supplies in the Balkans.

EASTERN ASIA: Mild weather and showers favored overwintering crops.

SOUTHEAST ASIA: Heavy rainfall continued to cause flooding in the Philippines and Java.

NORTHWESTERN AFRICA: After several weeks of persistent wetness, drier weather promoted winter wheat development.

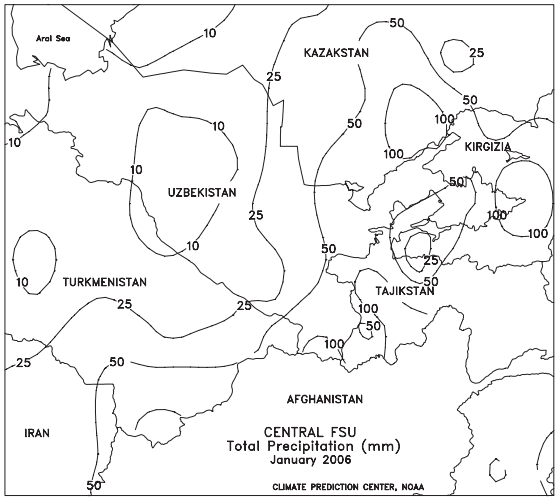
SOUTH AFRICA: Warm, generally drier weather promoted growth of corn and other well-watered summer crops.

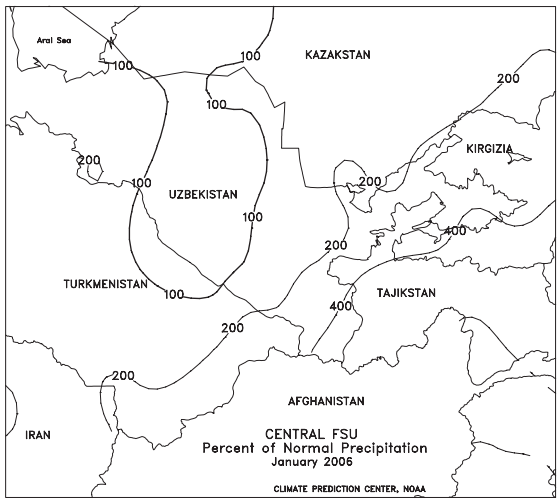
AUSTRALIA: Widespread showers boosted moisture supplies for cotton and sorghum, but unseasonably warm weather continued to maintain larger-than-normal crop water requirements.

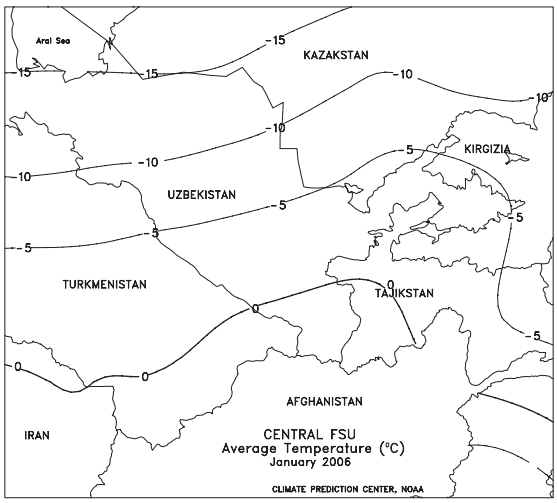
MIDDLE EAST: Cool, wet conditions in western growing areas contrasted with unseasonable warmth in Iran.

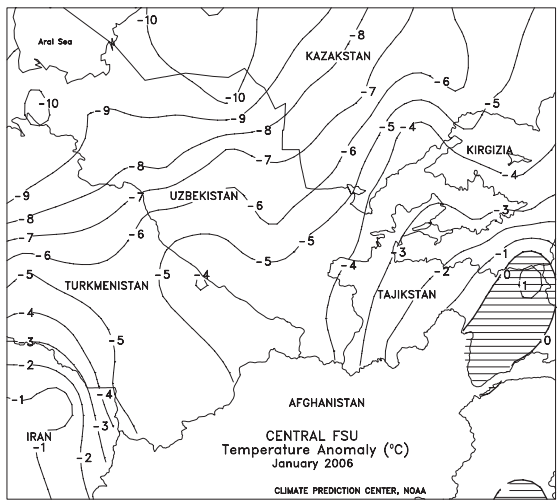
BRAZIL: Beneficial rain continued in soybean areas of the Center-West region, but showers were insufficient for reproductive summer crops in southern Brazil.

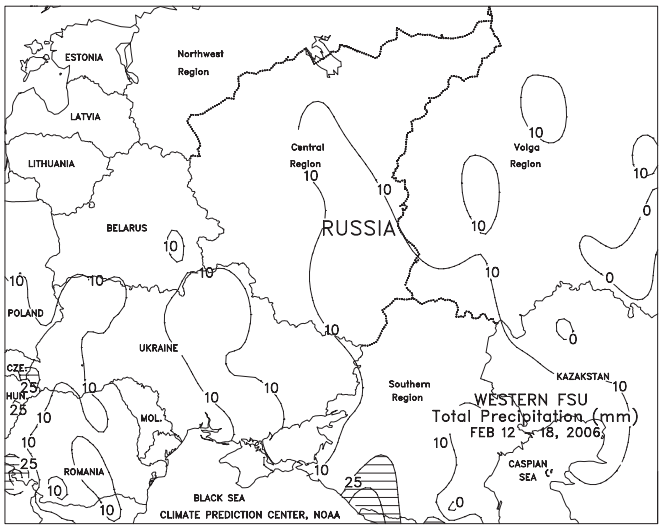
ARGENTINA: Unseasonable warmth and dryness reduced moisture for reproductive to filling soybeans and other immature summer crops.





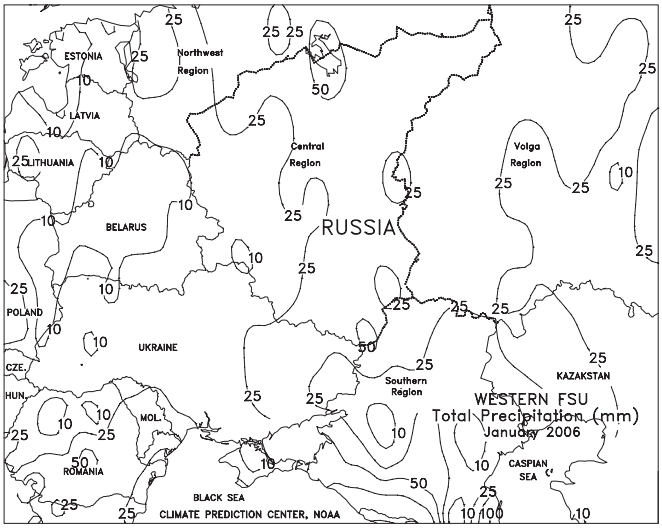


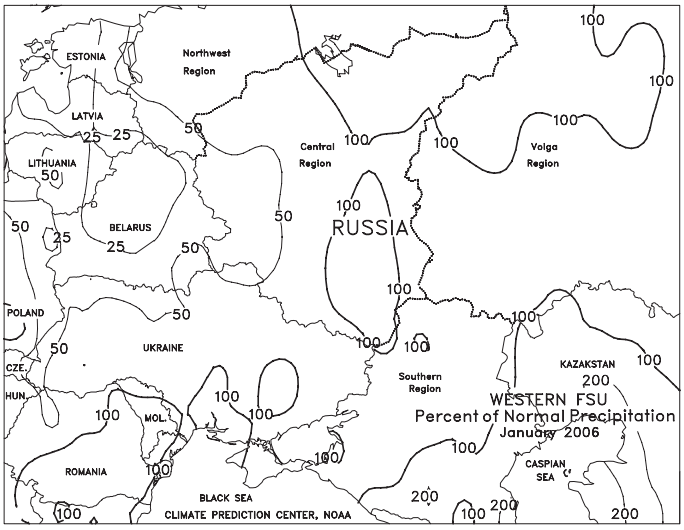


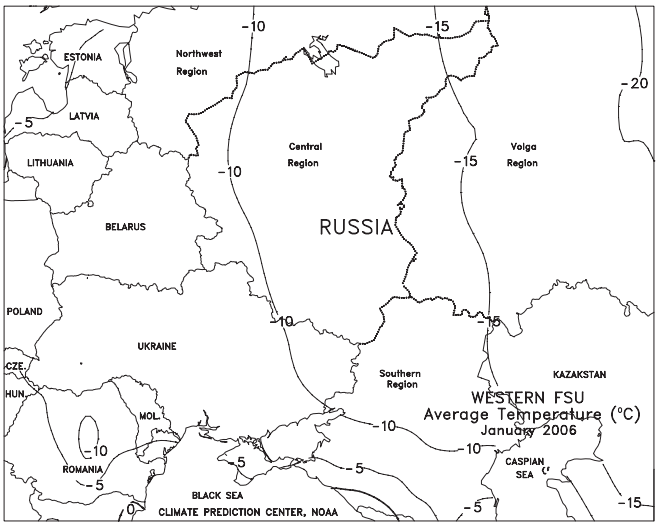


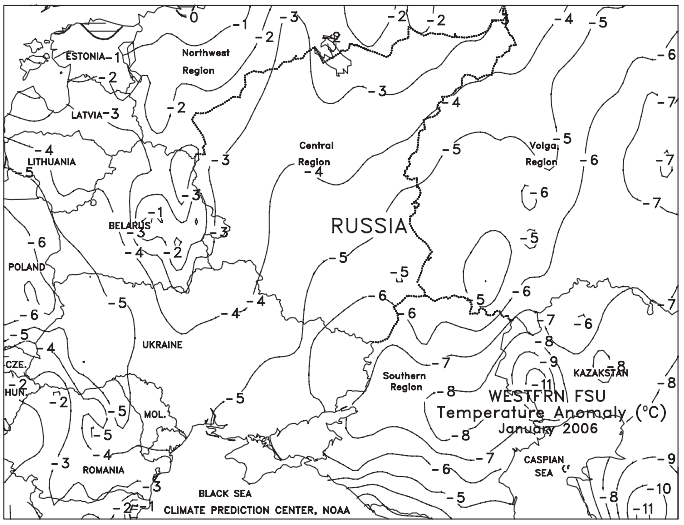
FSU-WESTERN

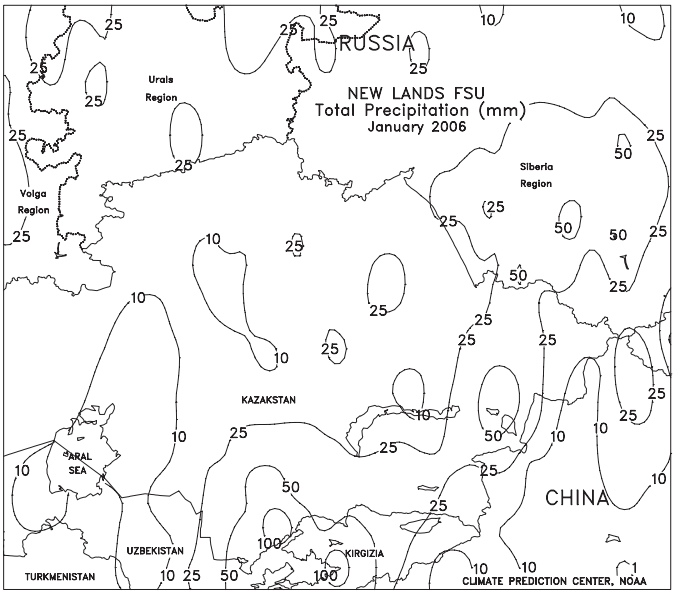
Bitterly cold weather persisted across the region during most of the week. Lowest temperatures (-30 to -25 degrees C) were observed from the eastern two-thirds of Ukraine northward into the Central and Volga Districts. Elsewhere, extreme minimum temperatures ranged from -25 to -15 degrees C. Periods of snow (3-20 mm or more of liquid equivalent) accompanied the bitterly cold weather, boosting the protective snow cover in most areas. Greatest amounts of snow (10-25 mm or more of liquid equivalent) fell in western and central Ukraine as well as in the Southern and Central Districts in Russia. Weekly temperatures averaged 7 to 10 degrees C below normal in eastern Ukraine and the Central District in Russia, as well as 3 to 5 degrees C below normal in western Ukraine, Belarus, and the Volga and Southern Districts in Russia. A strong warming trend overspread the region at week's end, improving overwintering conditions for crops. In January, frigid air from Siberia pushed westward into winter grain areas of Russia on January 17, causing a rapid decline in temperatures. The bitter cold subsequently spread across winter grains in Ukraine, Belarus, and Moldova and persisted during the remainder of the month. During the initial onset of the bitter cold in Russia, snow cover was shallow (less than 10 cm) in the western and southern parts of the Central District, and from the northern portion of the Southern District northward into parts of the Volga Region, leaving winter grains highly vulnerable to the extreme cold. While the arctic chill continued to overspread Ukraine and Belarus on January 19, it was accompanied by light to moderate snow. However, strong winds caused blowing and drifting of snow, creating a highly variable snow cover. The snow continued to spread eastward into parts of the Southern and Volga Regions in Russia, boosting the snow cover. The bitter cold in Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus was persistent, with nighttime lows at most locations ranging from -35 to -20 degrees C for 3 or more consecutive days. Lowest temperatures reported during the cold wave ranged from -41 to -31 degrees C in Russia and -30 to -24 decrees C in Ukraine, Belarus, and Moldova. Winter grains likely sustained some freeze damage in areas that lacked a sufficient snow cover. However, the full extent of damage will not be apparent until crops begin breaking dormancy in the spring.

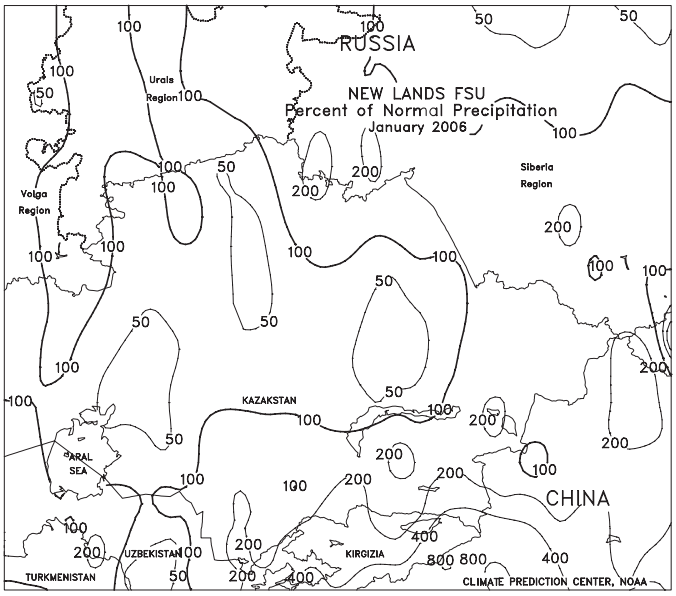


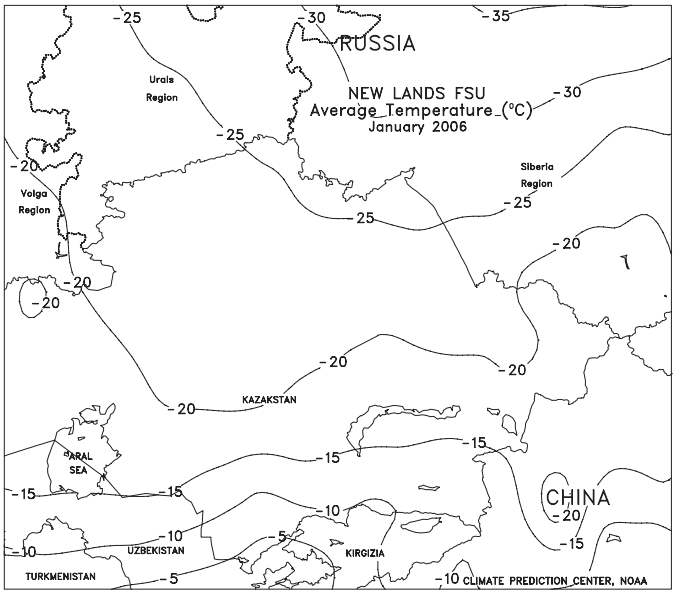


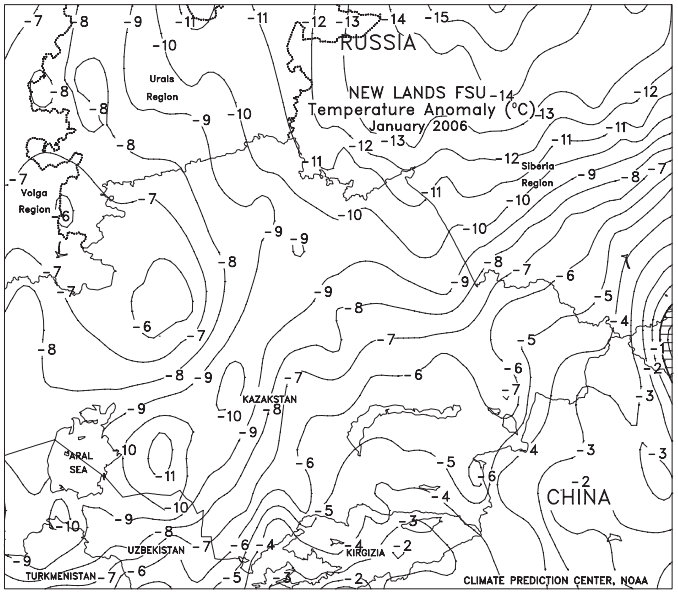





RUSSIA
NEW LANDS FSU
Total Precipitation (mm)
January 2006
Urals Region
Volga Region
Siberia Region
KAZAKSTAN
ARAL SEA
UZBEKISTAN
KIRGIZIA
TURKMENISTAN
CHINA
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA

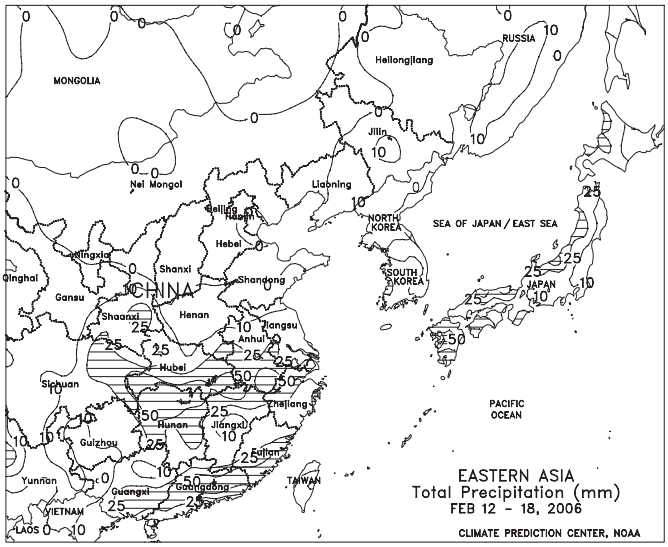

RUSSIA
NEW LANDS FSU
Percent of Normal Precipitation
January 2006
Urals Region
Volga Region
Siberia Region
KAZAKSTAN
ARAL SEA
UZBEKISTAN
KIRGIZIA
TURKMENISTAN
CHINA
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA


RUSSIA
NEW LANDS FSU
Average Temperature (°C)
January 2006
Urals Region
Volga Region
Siberia Region
KAZAKSTAN
ARAL SEA
UZBEKISTAN
KIRGIZIA
TURKMENISTAN
CHINA
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA


RUSSIA
NEW LANDS FSU
Temperature Anomaly (°C)
January 2006
Urals Region
Volga Region
Siberia Region
KAZAKSTAN
ARAL SEA
UZBEKISTAN
KIRGIZIA
TURKMENISTAN
CHINA
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA

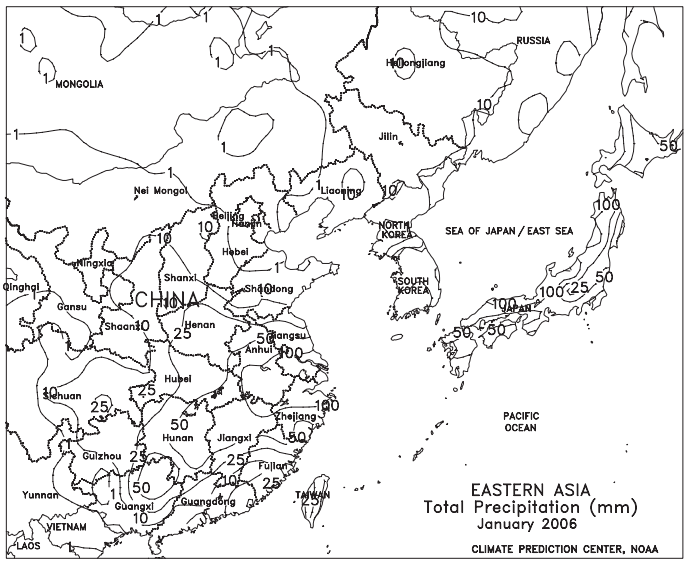
EUROPE

Wet weather eased moisture shortages in northern and western Europe and maintained adequate to abundant moisture supplies in the Balkans. After several weeks of persistent dryness, a series of storms brought much-needed moisture (25-60 mm) to France, western Germany, and the Benelux countries. Farther north, lighter showers (10-30 mm) improved prospects for dormant winter grains in England, although more rain will be needed in the upcoming weeks to ensure adequate moisture supplies for crop establishment and growth. On the Iberian Peninsula, locally heavy rain (25-115 mm) in northern Portugal and northwestern Spain contrasted with unfavorable dryness in southern growing areas. In the Balkans, light-to-moderate rain (5-50 mm) maintained adequate to abundant moisture supplies for overwintering crops. Near-normal temperatures in Poland, the Baltics, and eastern Germany provided a welcomed respite from recent bitter cold, while periods of light to moderate rain and snow (5-30 mm of liquid equivalent) maintained adequate topsoil moisture for dormant winter grains. In January, an arctic airmass brought bitter cold (temperatures below -20 degrees C) to much of eastern Europe, although winter grains in Poland and eastern Germany were protected by a moderate to deep snowpack. However, winter grain areas in Hungary and the Balkans were mostly devoid of snow cover, exposing crops to potential winterkill. Drier-than-normal weather across northern and central Europe raised concerns over developing moisture shortages. Farther south, above-normal precipitation prevailed in southeastern Europe and along the Mediterranean Coast, providing relief from developing drought in southern and eastern Spain.



EASTERN ASIA

Mild weather favored overwintering crops throughout China. Temperatures 1 to 5 degrees C above normal prevailed throughout the major winter growing areas of the North China Plain and Yangtze Valley. Typically, winter wheat breaks dormancy in March, and the recent warm weather likely resulted in winter wheat losing some cold hardiness. Showers (10-100 mm) increased moisture supplies for winter rapeseed in the Yangtze Valley and sugarcane along the southern coast. In January, several cold outbreaks overspread winter wheat areas on the North China Plain. Despite patchy to non-existent snow cover, winter wheat was generally unaffected as temperatures remained above the threshold for potential winterkill. Above-normal precipitation in the Yangtze Valley provided additional moisture to irrigated winter rapeseed and generally increased soil moisture.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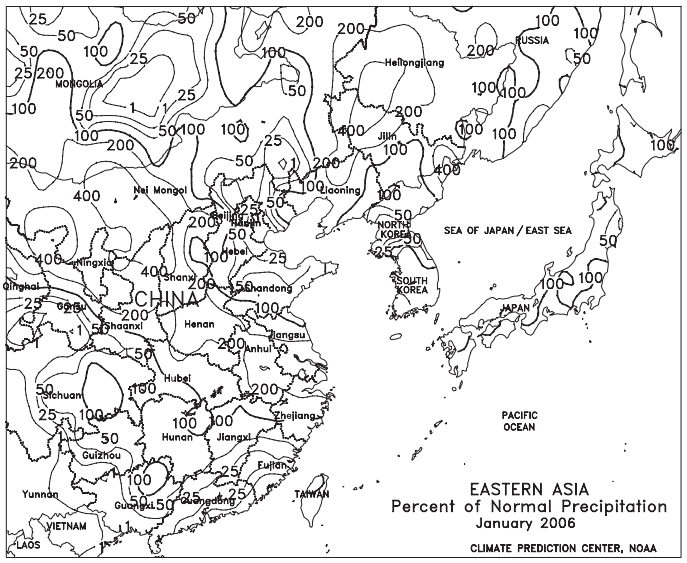
RUSSIA
Heilongjiang
Jilin
Nei Mongol
Liaoning
Beijing
Tianjin
Hebei
Ningxia
Shanxi
Shandong
Qinghai
Gansu
CHINA
Shaanxi
Henan
Jiangsu
Anhui
Hubei
Sichuan
Zhejiang
Hunan
Jiangxi
Fujian
Guizhou
Yunnan
Guangxi
Guangdong
TAIWAN
VIETNAM
LAOS
NORTH KOREA
SOUTH KOREA
JAPAN
SEA OF JAPAN / EAST SEA
PACIFIC OCEAN
EASTERN ASIA
Total Precipitation (mm)
January 2006
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA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RUSSIA
Heilongjiang
Jilin
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Liaoning
Beijing
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Ningxia
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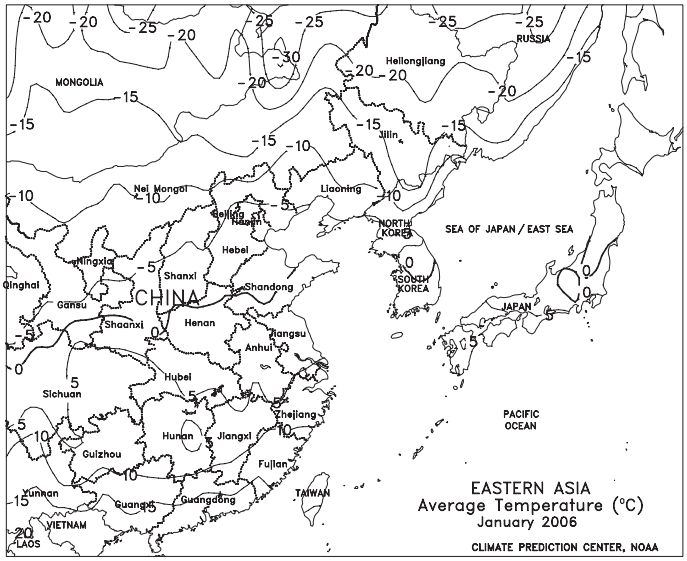
Guizhou
Yunnan
Guangxi
Guangdong
TAIWAN
VIETNAM
LAOS
NORTH KOREA
SOUTH KOREA
JAPAN
SEA OF JAPAN / EAST SEA
PACIFIC OCEAN
EASTERN ASIA
Percent of Normal Precipitation
January 2006
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA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Jilin
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Liaoning
Beijing
Tianjin
Hebei
Ningxia
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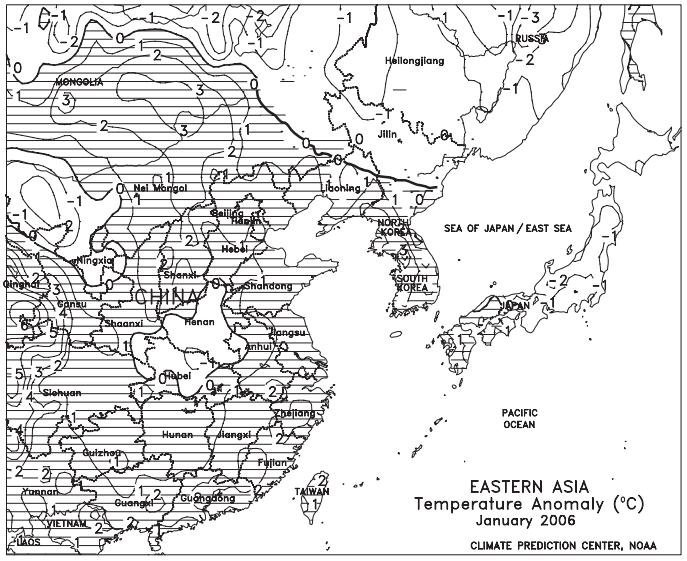
Gansu
CHINA
Shaanxi
Henan
Jiangsu
Anhui
Hubei
Sichuan
Zhejiang
Hunan
Jiangxi
Fujian
Guizhou
Yunnan
Guangxi
Guangdong
TAIWAN
VIETNAM
LAOS
NORTH KOREA
SOUTH KOREA
JAPAN
SEA OF JAPAN / EAST SEA
PACIFIC OCEAN
EASTERN ASIA
Average Temperature (°C)
January 2006
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA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RUSSIA
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Beijing
Tianjin
Hebei
Ningxia
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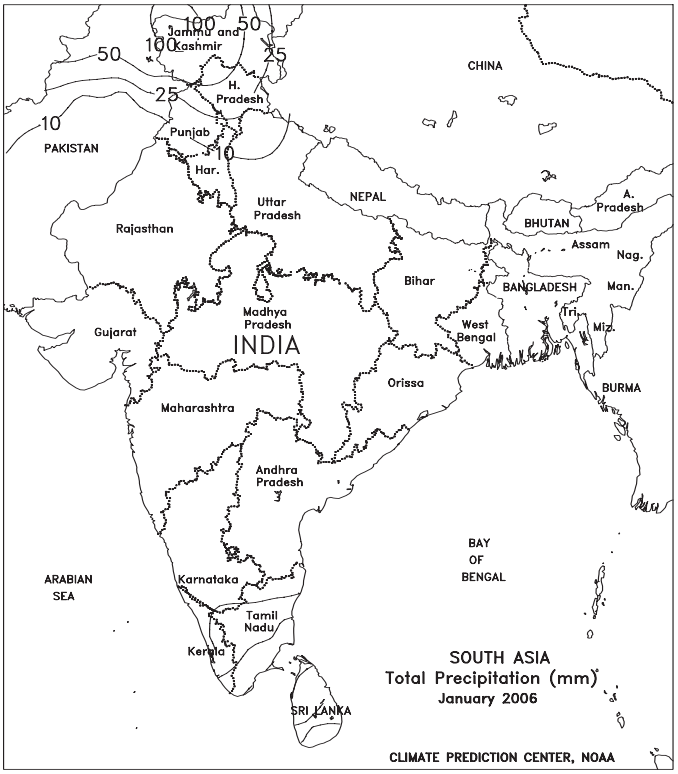
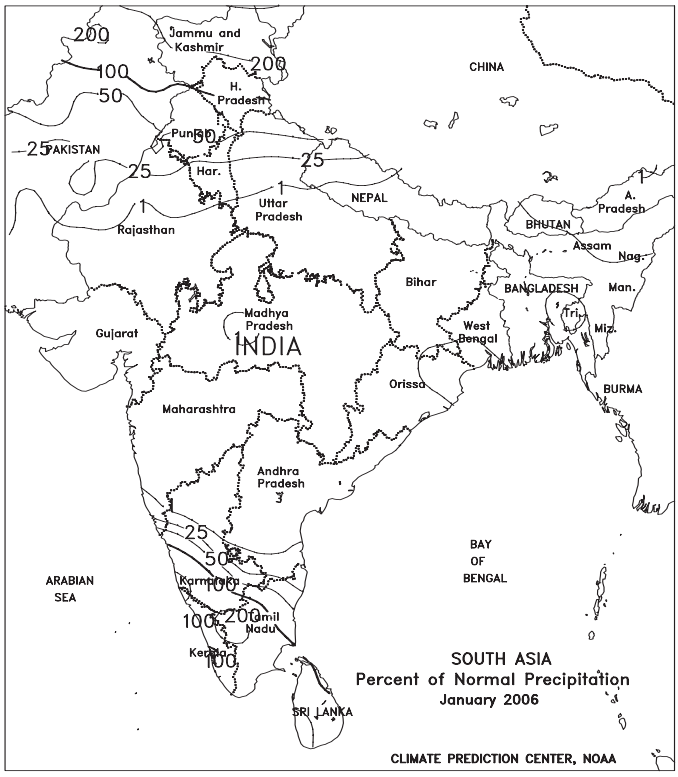
Qinghai
Gansu
CHINA
Shaanxi
Henan
Jiangsu
Anhui
Hubei
Sichuan
Zhejiang
Hunan
Jiangxi
Fujian
Guizhou
Yunnan
Guangxi
Guangdong
TAIWAN
VIETNAM
LAOS
NORTH KOREA
SOUTH KOREA
JAPAN
SEA OF JAPAN / EAST SEA
PACIFIC OCEAN
EASTERN ASIA
Temperature Anomaly (°C)
January 2006
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA


Jammu and Kashmir
H. Pradesh
Punjab
Har.
Uttar Pradesh
Rajasthan
Bihar
Madhya Pradesh
Gujarat
Orissa
Maharashtra
Andhra Pradesh
Karnataka
Tamil Nadu
Kerala
Assam
Nag.
Man.
Tri.
Miz.
West Bengal
A. Pradesh
BHUTAN
NEPAL
CHINA
PAKISTAN
INDIA
BANGLADESH
BURMA
SRI LANKA
ARABIAN SEA
BAY OF BENGAL
SOUTH ASIA
Total Precipitation (mm)
January 2006
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA


Jammu and Kashmir
H. Pradesh
Punjab
Har.
Uttar Pradesh
Rajasthan
Bihar
Madhya Pradesh
Gujarat
Orissa
Maharashtra
Andhra Pradesh
Karnataka
Tamil Nadu
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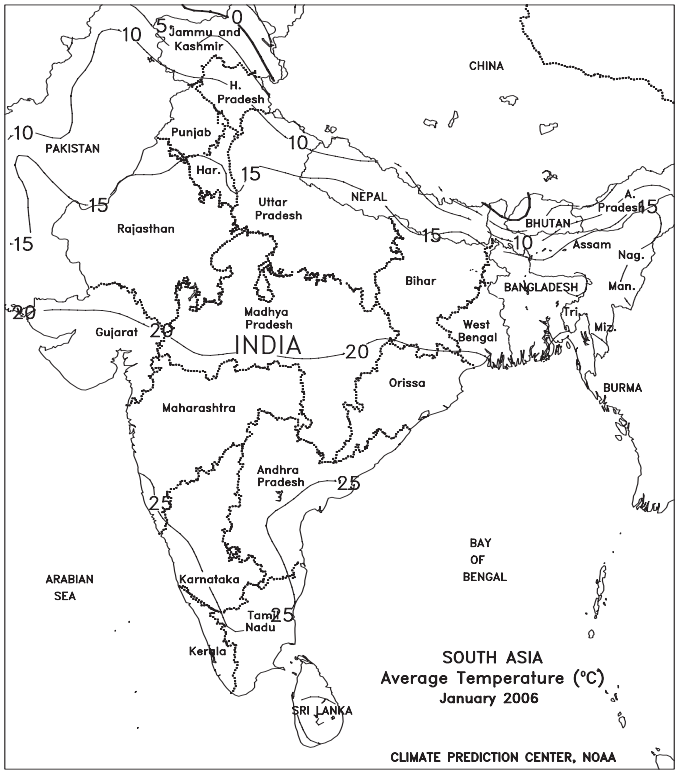
West Bengal
A. Pradesh
BHUTAN
NEPAL
CHINA
PAKISTAN
INDIA
BANGLADESH
BURMA
SRI LANKA
ARABIAN SEA
BAY OF BENGAL
SOUTH ASIA
Percent of Normal Precipitation
January 2006
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA


Jammu and Kashmir
H. Pradesh
Punjab
Har.
Uttar Pradesh
Rajasthan
Bihar
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Orissa
Maharashtra
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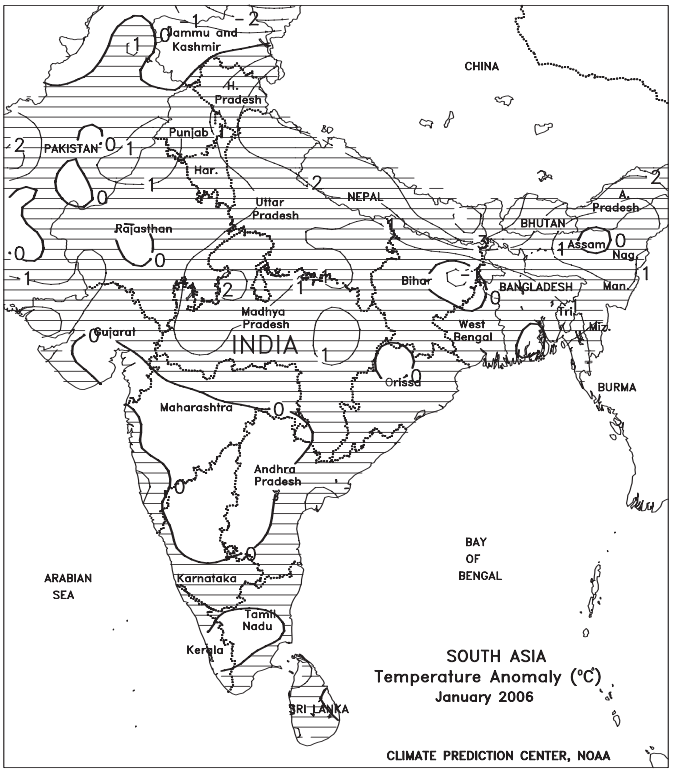
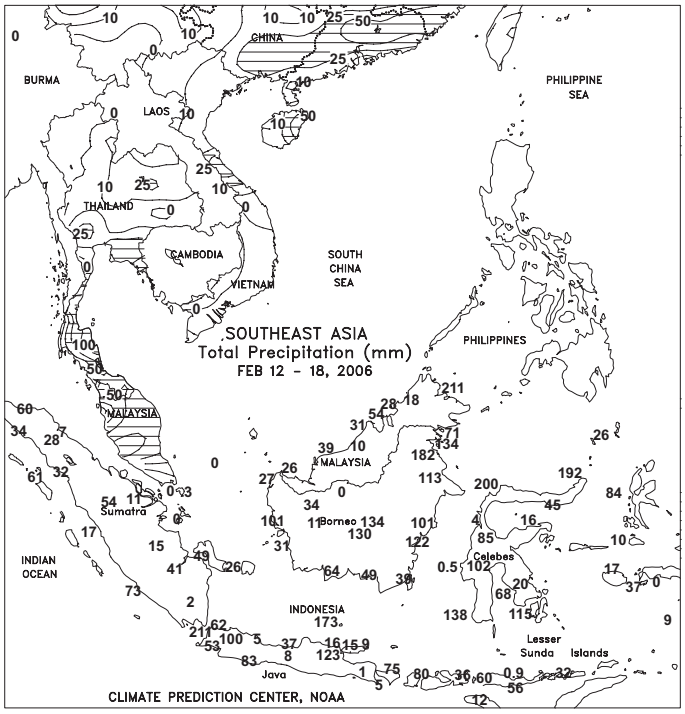
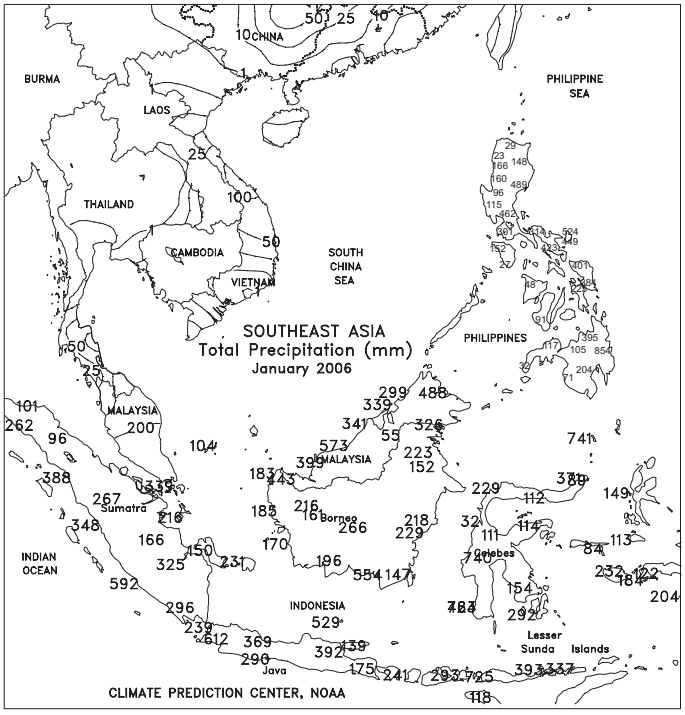
BHUTAN
NEPAL
CHINA
PAKISTAN
INDIA
BANGLADESH
BURMA
SRI LANKA
ARABIAN SEA
BAY OF BENGAL
SOUTH ASIA
Average Temperature (°C)
January 2006
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA

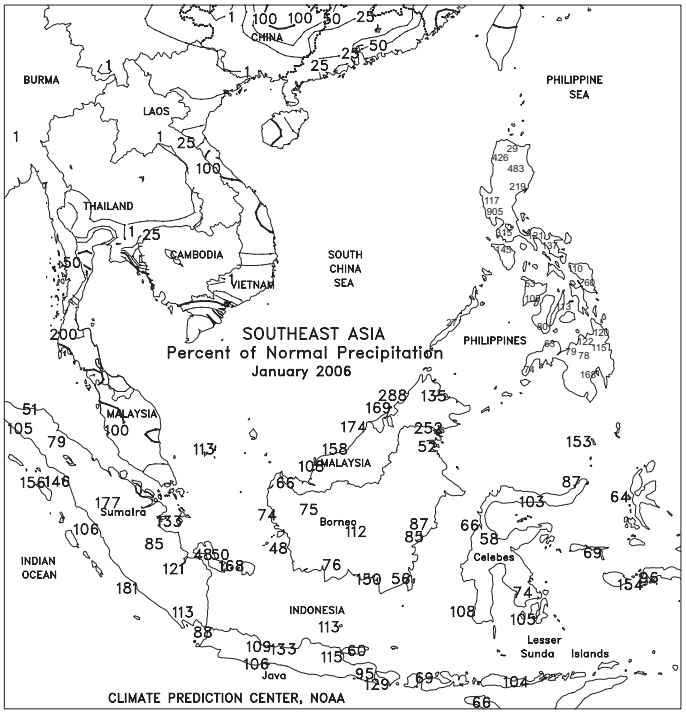

Jammu and Kashmir
H. Pradesh
Punjab
Har.
Uttar Pradesh
Rajasthan
Bihar
Madhya Pradesh
Gujarat
Orissa
Maharashtra
Andhra Pradesh
Karnataka
Tamil Nadu
Kerala
Assam
Nag.
Man.
Tri.
Miz.
West Bengal
A. Pradesh
BHUTAN
NEPAL
CHINA
PAKISTAN
INDIA
BANGLADESH
BURMA
SRI LANKA
ARABIAN SEA
BAY OF BENGAL
SOUTH ASIA
Temperature Anomaly (°C)
January 2006
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA

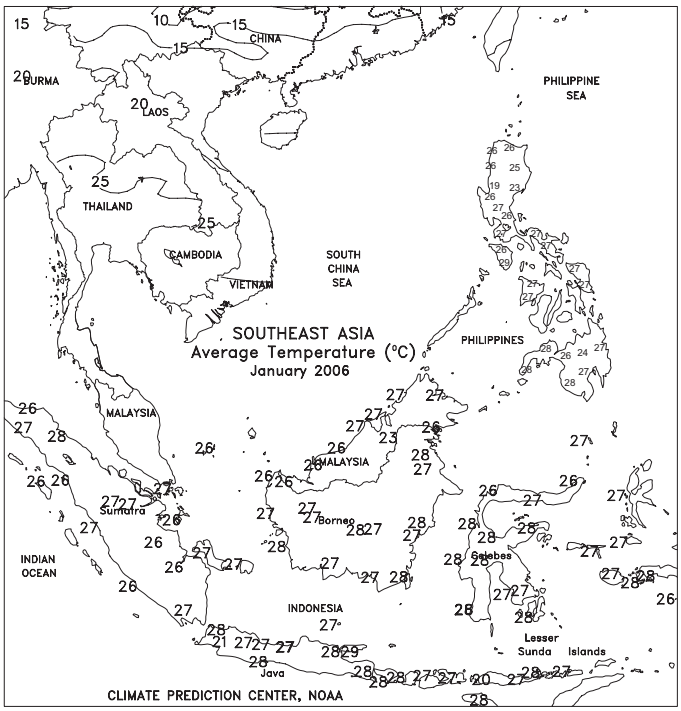


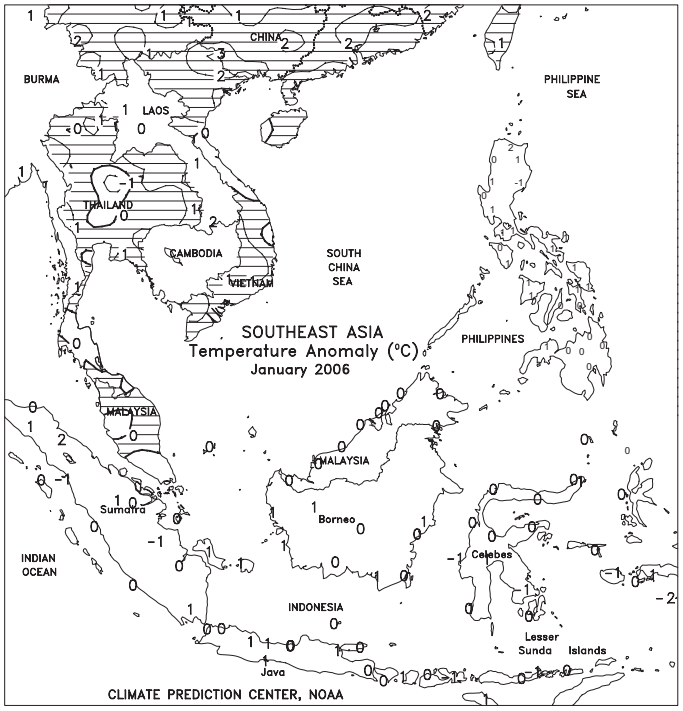
SOUTHEAST ASIA

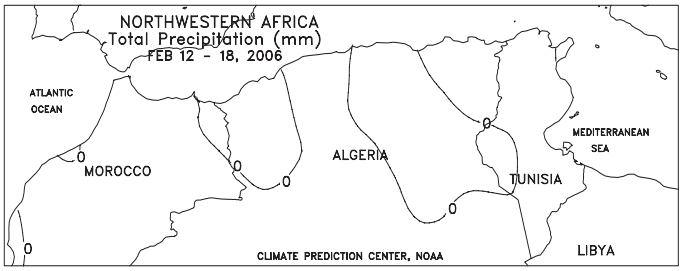
Monsoon showers (25-100 mm) continued in Java but were not as heavy as last week's deluge. However, water levels in fields likely remained unfavorably high for reproductive rice. More seasonable showers (10-50 mm, locally more) in Sumatra allowed oil palm harvesting to resume, while heavy showers (50-100 mm) continued in Malaysia. Unseasonably heavy showers (50-200 mm) continued to cause flooding in the eastern and southern Philippines. In January, rainfall was near normal for vegetative rice in Java. Throughout most of Sumatra and Malaysia, near- to above-normal showers maintained moisture supplies for oil palm. Near- to above-normal precipitation maintained moisture supplies for winter crops in the Philippines.





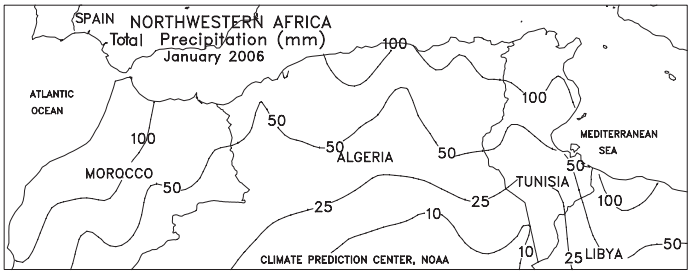


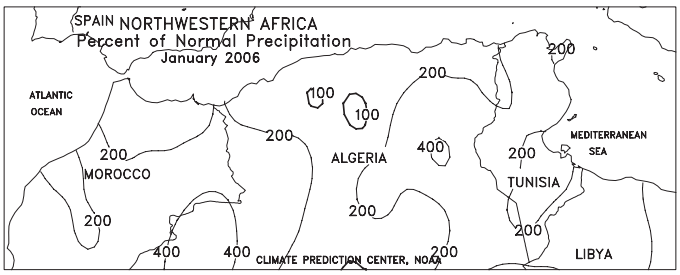


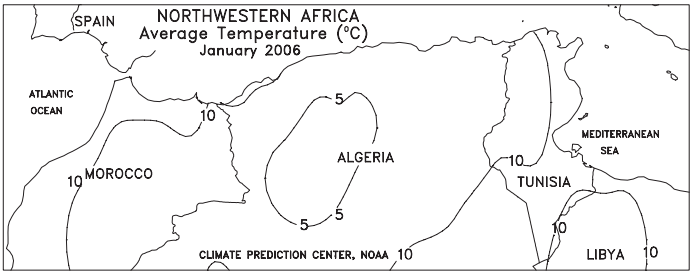


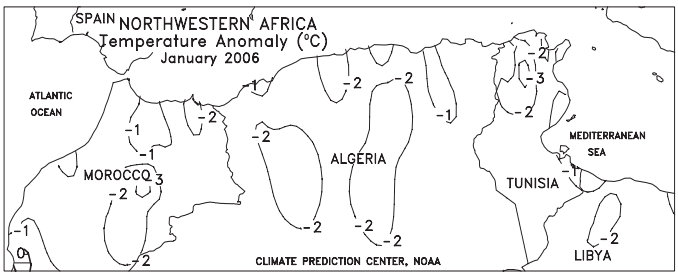
NORTHWESTERN AFRICA

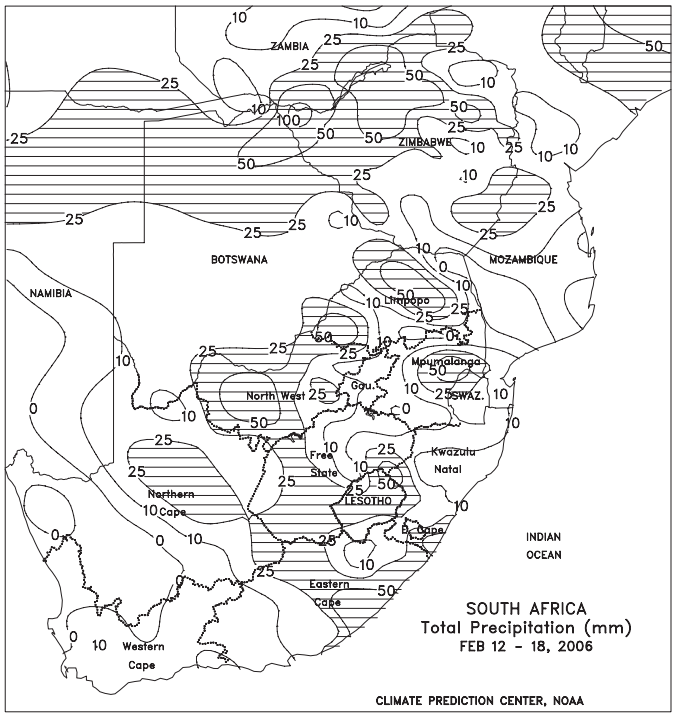
After several weeks of persistent wetness, drier weather promoted winter wheat development. In particular, dry weather provided a welcomed reprieve from several weeks of above-normal rainfall in Morocco and western Algeria, allowing saturated fields to dry. In eastern Algeria and northern Tunisia, isolated light showers (2-10 mm) moistened topsoils, although most growing areas remained favorably dry. In January, above-normal rainfall maintained adequate to abundant moisture supplies for winter grain development across the entire region. However, the wet trend will need to persist into the early spring to ensure favorable growing conditions as the crop enters more moisture-sensitive stages of development.





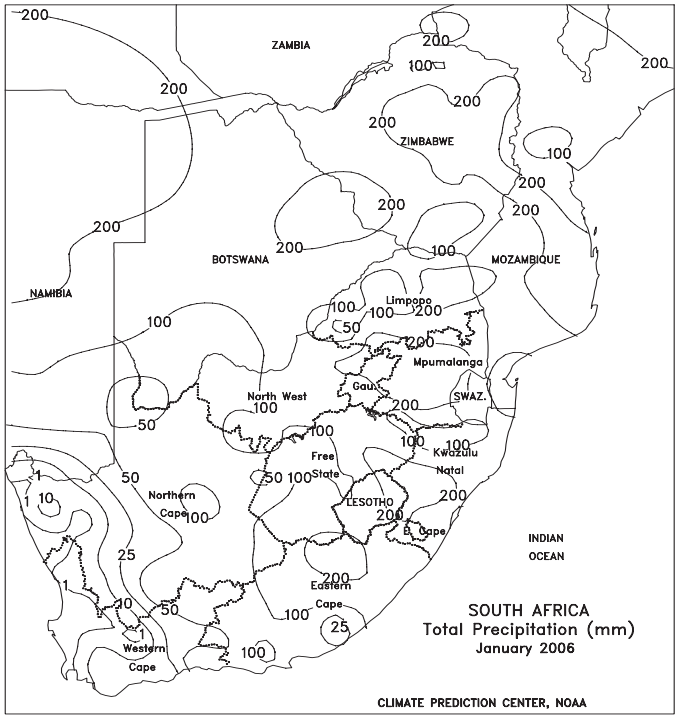


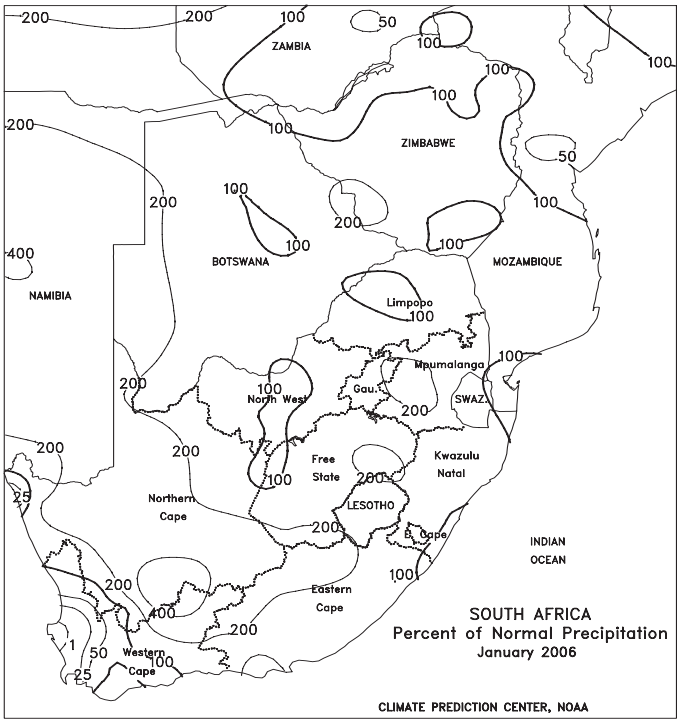


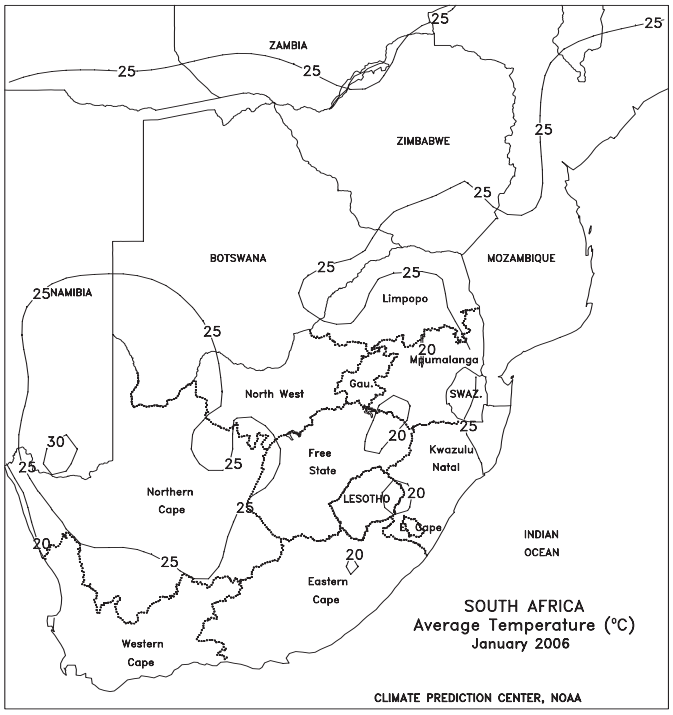


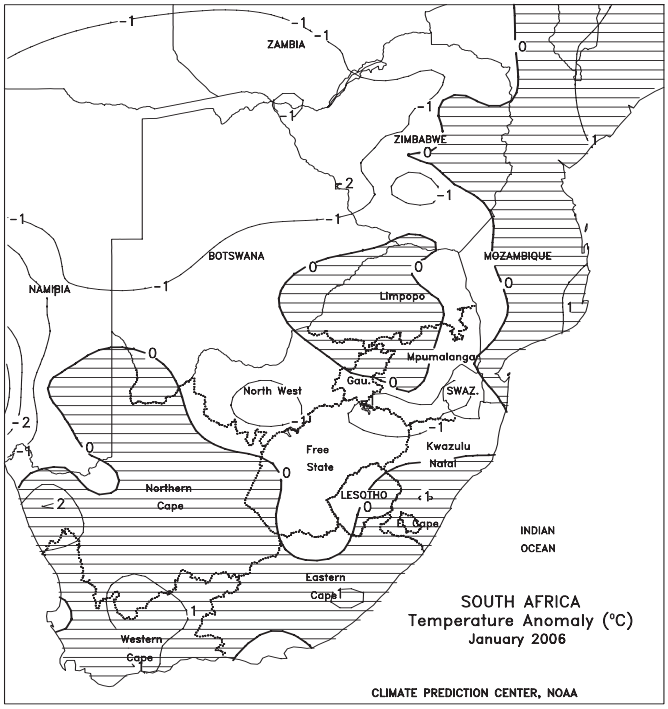
SOUTH AFRICA

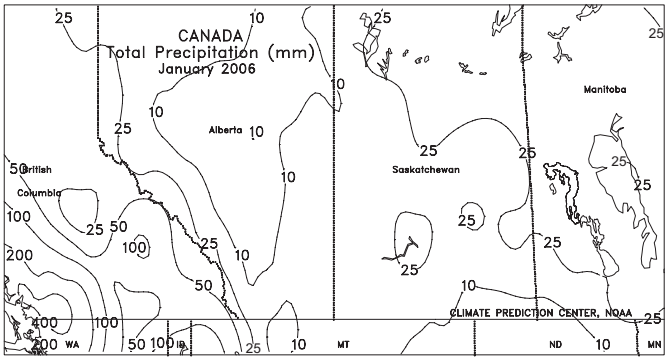
Mostly dry, seasonably warm weather (less than 10 mm in most areas, with highs in the upper 20s and lower 30s degrees C) promoted growth of immature summer crops in most major growing areas. The break in rainfall was especially welcomed in the corn belt, which has experienced mild, showery weather for much of the summer and needed warmer weather to help late-planted crops advance toward completion. Late-week showers (greater than 25 mm) overspread the western corn belt, keeping immature crops well watered, but warm, sunny weather helped to advance corn development elsewhere. Summer crops typically reach maturity by April, and some areas can experience a season ending autumn freeze at that time, although the potential for damage to the current crop from an early freeze is low. Corn is typically harvested from April through July. During January, mild, showery weather fostered the current favorable prospects for corn and other summer crops, after a late start to the rainy season in the western corn belt. Monthly rainfall was above normal in nearly all major growing areas, and near- to below-normal temperatures promoted crop development in the absence of stressful heat.

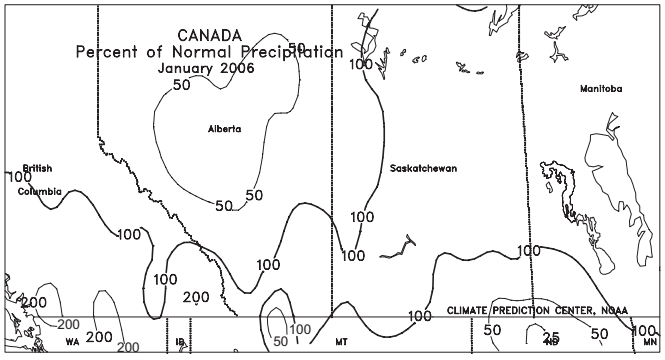


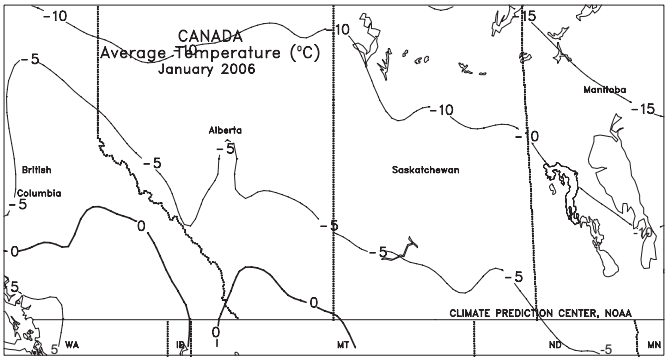



ZAMBIA
ZIMBABWE
BOTSWANA
MOZAMBIQUE
NAMIBIA
Limpopo
Mpumalanga
North West
Gau.
SWAZ.
Free State
Kwazulu Natal
Northern Cape
LESOTHO
E. Cape
INDIAN OCEAN
Eastern Cape
Western Cape
SOUTH AFRICA
Average Temperature (°C)
January 2006
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA


ZAMBIA
ZIMBABWE
BOTSWANA
MOZAMBIQUE
NAMIBIA
Limpopo
Mpumalanga
North West
Gau.
SWAZ.
Free State
Kwazulu Natal
Northern Cape
LESOTHO
E. Cape
INDIAN OCEAN
Eastern Cape
Western Cape
SOUTH AFRICA
Temperature Anomaly (°C)
January 2006
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA


CANADA
Total Precipitation (mm)
January 2006
Manitoba
Alberta
British Columbia
Saskatchewan
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA
WA
ID
MT
ND
MN


CANADA
Percent of Normal Precipitation
January 2006
Manitoba
Alberta
British Columbia
Saskatchewan
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA
WA
ID
MT
ND
MN


CANADA
Average Temperature (°C)
January 2006
Manitoba
Alberta
British Columbia
Saskatchewan
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA
WA
ID
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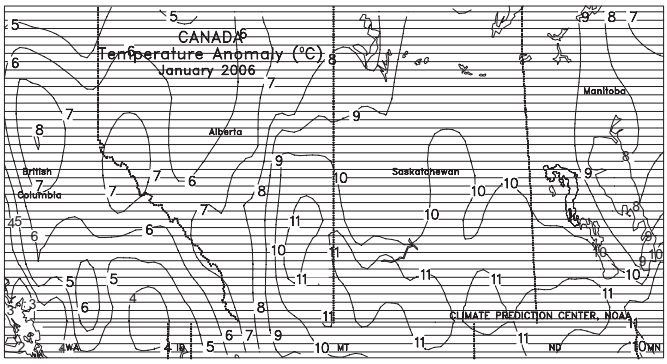
CANADA
Temperature Anomaly (°C)
January 2006
Manitoba
Alberta
British Columbia
Saskatchewan
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA
WA
ID
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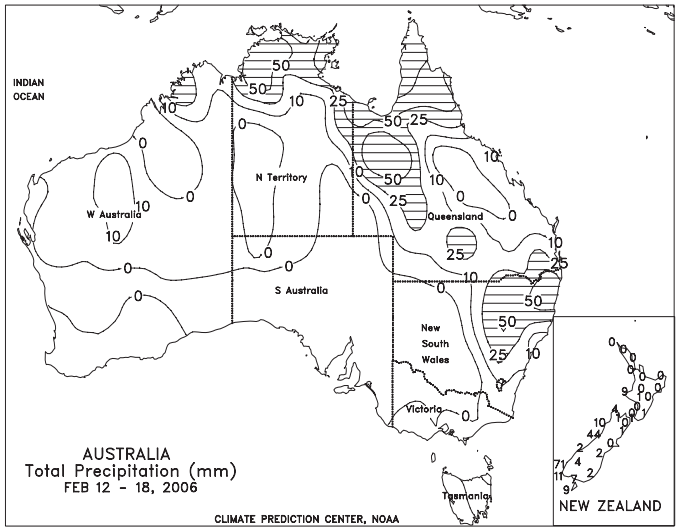
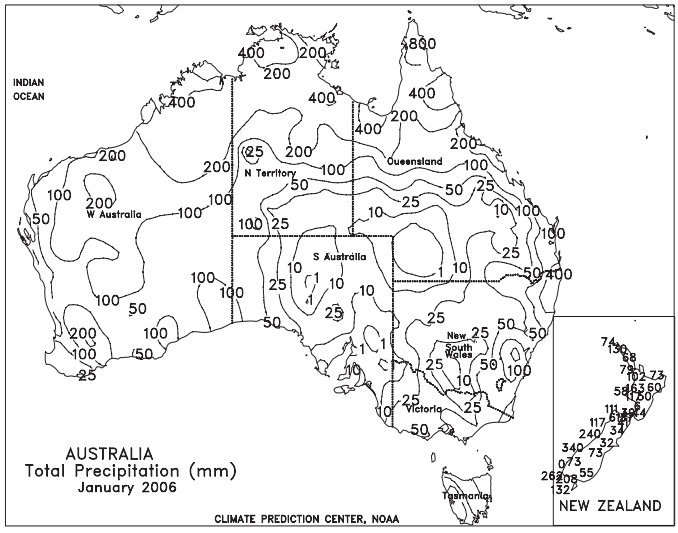
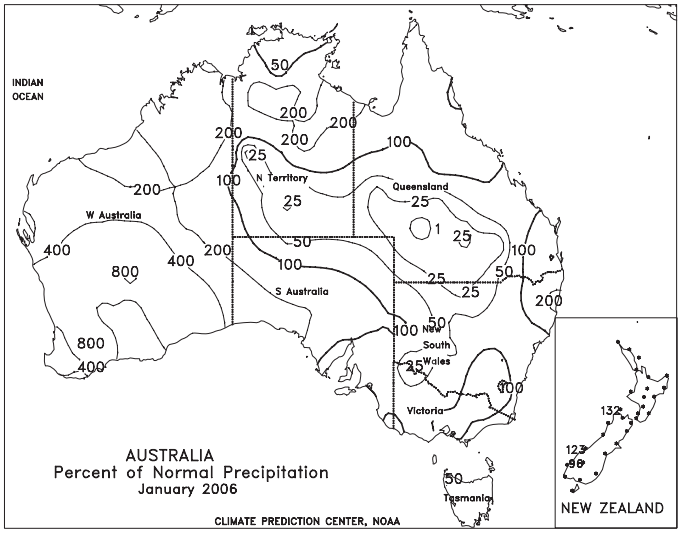
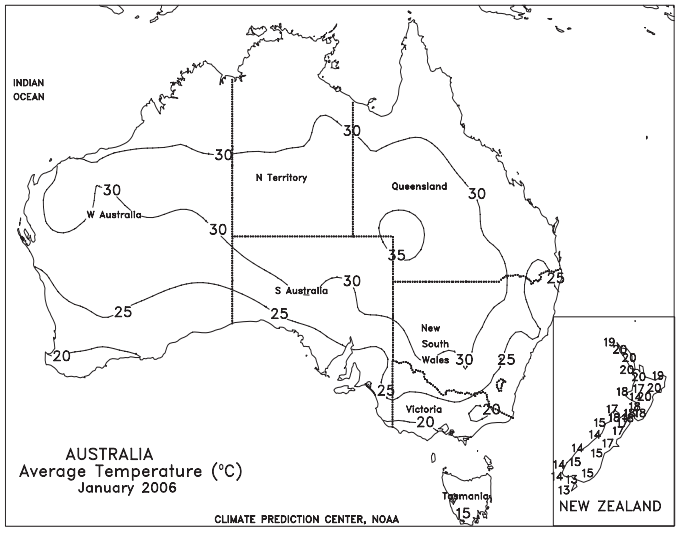


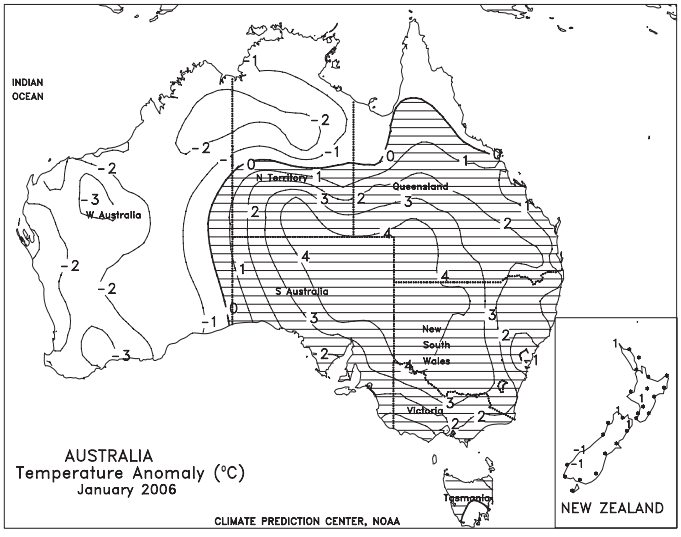
AUSTRALIA

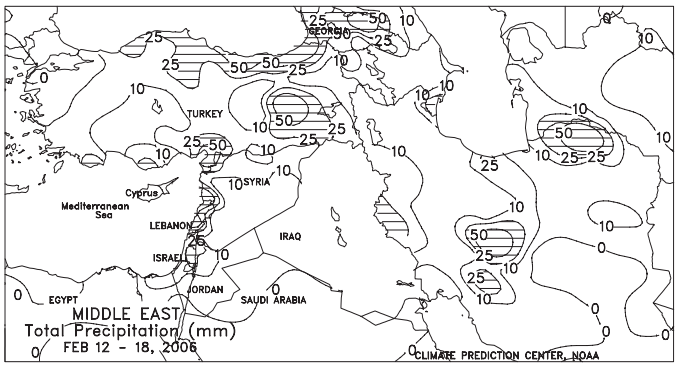
In northern New South Wales and extreme southern Queensland, widespread showers (10-40 mm, locally near 80 mm) boosted reservoir levels and topsoil moisture for cotton and sorghum. Unseasonably warm weather (temperatures averaging 1-3 degrees C above normal) continued across the area, however, maintaining larger-than-normal evaporation rates and hence increased crop water requirements. More seasonable temperatures would be welcomed to improve the yield potential of summer crops. In January, near-normal rainfall maintained generally adequate moisture supplies for summer crops, while overall unseasonably warm weather enhanced evaporative losses. The hot weather increased irrigation requirements for cotton and likely caused some stress to dryland summer crops, such as sorghum.





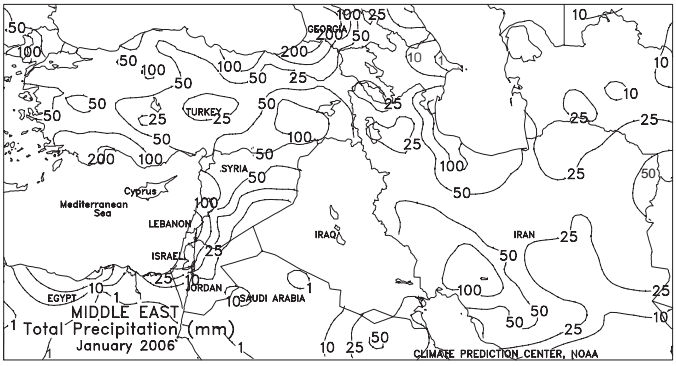


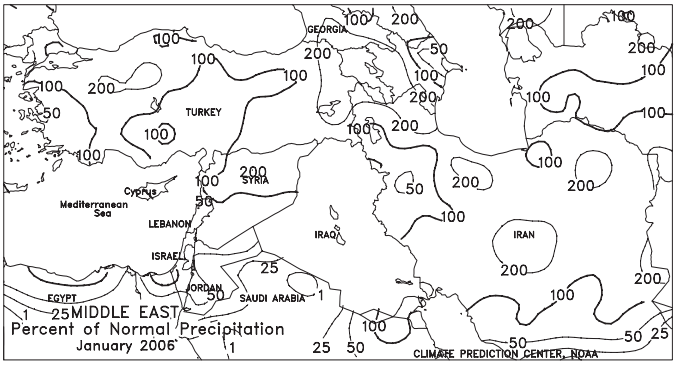


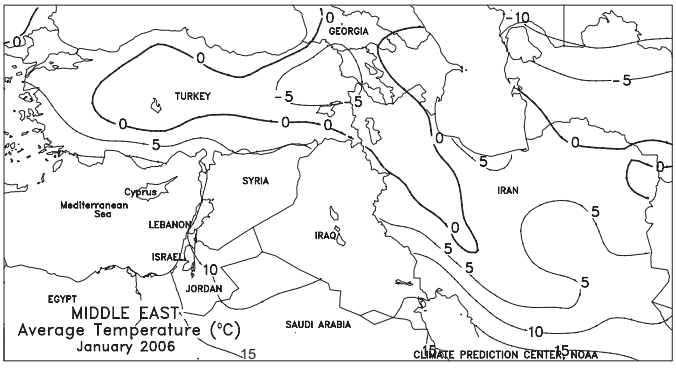


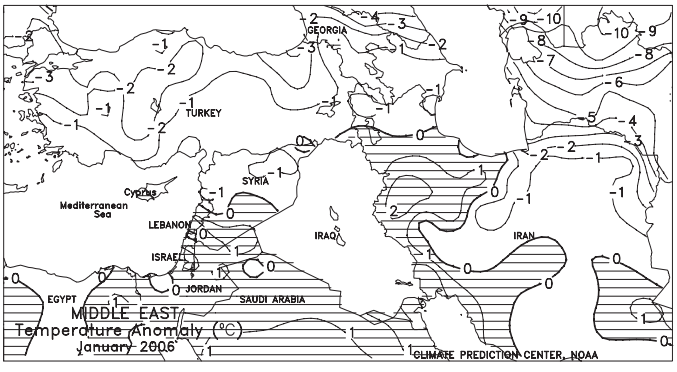
MIDDLE EAST

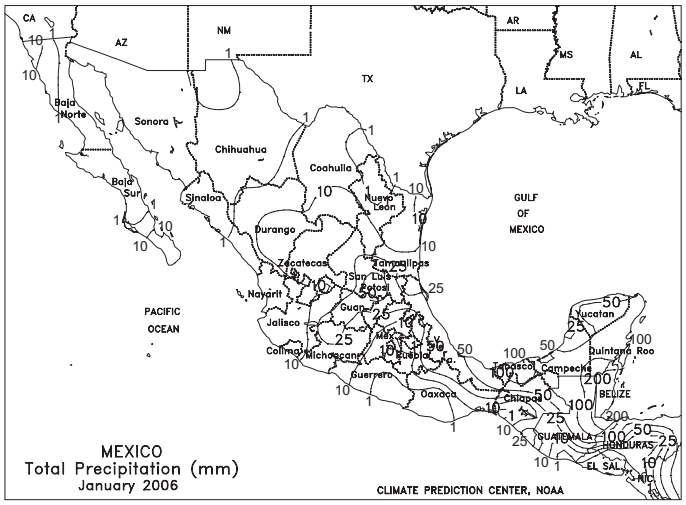
Cool, wet conditions in western growing areas contrasted with unseasonable warmth in Iran. Light snow (3-15 mm of liquid equivalent) in western Turkey accompanied temperatures up to 8 degrees C below normal, thus increasing the region's protective snow cover. Widespread rain and snow (10-50 mm of liquid equivalent) in central and eastern Turkey and along the eastern Mediterranean coast boosted moisture reserves for dormant winter grains, continuing the recent trend of favorably wet weather. Rain (10-30 mm) also spread into northern Iraq (as detected in satellite imagery) and western Iran, while lighter precipitation (less than 10 mm) maintained adequate topsoil moisture for dormant to semi-dormant winter grains in northwest Iran. Much of northwest Iran has observed temperatures up to 5 degrees C above normal for the past 2 weeks, melting the region's protective snow cover and reducing winter grain cold hardiness. In January, near- to above-normal precipitation alleviated moisture deficits nearly regionwide and improved winter grain prospects. Temperatures remained below normal in western Turkey and northwestern Iran, although a sufficient snowpack protected winter grains from excursions of bitter cold.

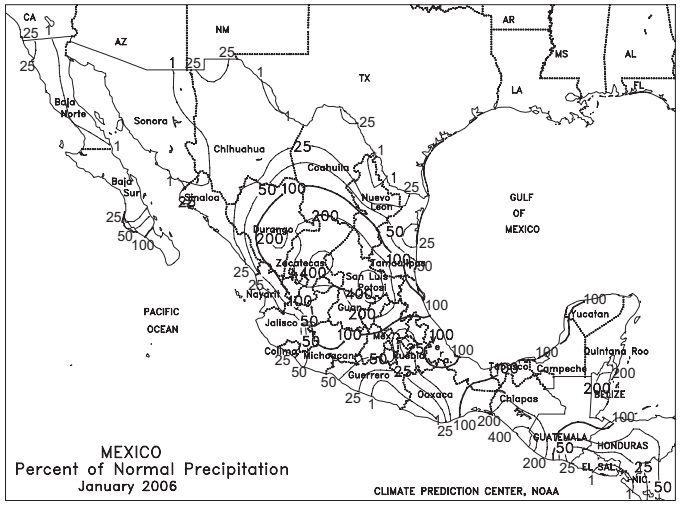


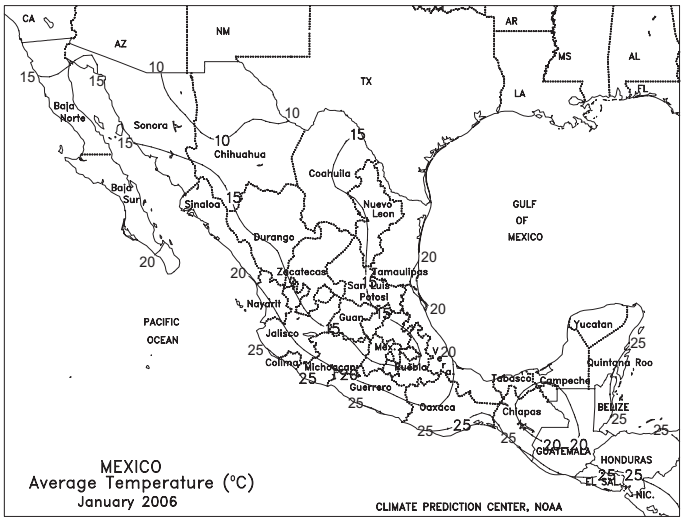


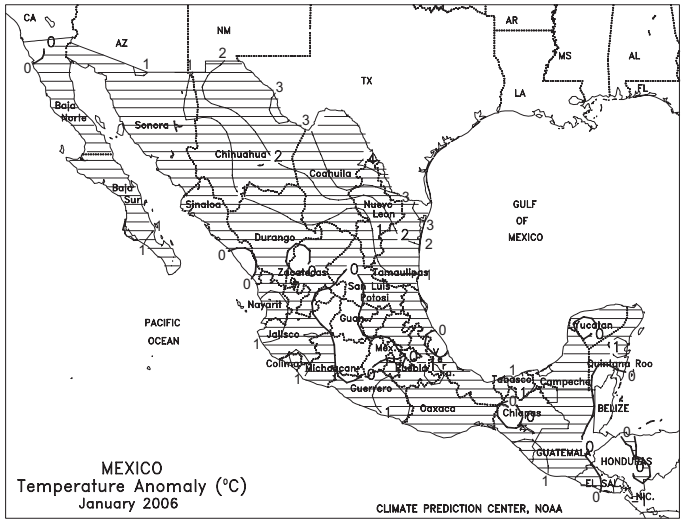












BRAZIL

Widespread, locally heavy showers (25-50 mm, locally exceeding 100 mm) continued in primary soybean areas of the Center-West and southeastern regions (Mato Grosso, Mato Grosso do Sul, Goias, Minas Gerais, and Sao Paulo). Seasonable rain also benefited soybeans in western Bahia and other growing areas of the northeastern interior, but unseasonable warmth and dryness continued along the northeastern coast, limiting moisture for that area's coffee, cocoa, and sugarcane. In southern Brazil, unseasonable warmth and dryness persisted in many important corn and soybean areas of Parana and Rio Grande do Sul, with little or no rain falling for the third week in some locations. These areas are particularly susceptible to damage from summer drought, and rain is needed immediately to prevent declines in yield potential. According to private analyst Safras e Mercados, soybeans were 8 percent harvested nationally as of February 17, with the best progress recorded in Goias (20 percent harvested) and Mato Grosso (15 percent harvested). Harvest was running slightly ahead of last year's pace of 6 percent, but the recent heavy showers will likely slow fieldwork in the Center-West region. During January, rainfall was below normal in most major soybean areas, and temperatures averaged 1 to 2 degrees C above normal, maintaining unseasonably high evapotranspiration rates as summer crops advanced through reproductive stages of development. Despite the sporadic nature of the showers, however, moisture levels were generally adequate for soybeans and other crops in the Center-West region and in most of the south. In northeastern Brazil, dryness was a problem for coffee, sugarcane, and cocoa in coastal growing areas, and soybeans in western Bahia.


BRAZIL
Total Precipitation (mm)
January 2006
VENEZUELA
COLOMBIA
ECUADOR
PERU
BOLIVIA
PARAGUAY
CHILE
ARGENTINA
URUGUAY
GUYANA
SUR.
FR. GUI.
PACIFIC OCEAN
ATLANTIC OCEAN
Roraima
Amapa
Amazonas
Para
Maranhao
Ceara
Piaui
Acre
Rondonia
Tocantins
Bahia
Mato Grosso
Goias
Minas Gerais
Esp. Santo
Mato Grosso Do Sul
Sao Paulo
Rio De Jan.
Parana
Santa Catarina
Rio Grande Do Sul
Jujuy
Salta
Formosa
Chaco
Tu. Catamarca
Sta. Del. Est.
La Rioja
Santa Fe
San Juan
Cordoba
Entre Rios
San Luis
Mendoza
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA


BRAZIL
Percent of Normal Precipitation
January 2006
VENEZUELA
COLOMBIA
ECUADOR
PERU
BOLIVIA
PARAGUAY
CHILE
ARGENTINA
URUGUAY
GUYANA
SUR.
FR. GUI.
PACIFIC OCEAN
ATLANTIC OCEAN
Roraima
Amapa
Amazonas
Para
Maranhao
Ceara
Piaui
Acre
Rondonia
Tocantins
Bahia
Mato Grosso
Goias
Minas Gerais
Esp. Santo
Mato Grosso Do Sul
Sao Paulo
Rio De Jan.
Parana
Santa Catarina
Rio Grande Do Sul
Jujuy
Salta
Formosa
Chaco
Tu. Catamarca
Sta. Del. Est.
La Rioja
Santa Fe
San Juan
Cordoba
Entre Rios
San Luis
Mendoza
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA


BRAZIL
Average Temperature (°C)
January 2006
VENEZUELA
COLOMBIA
ECUADOR
PERU
BOLIVIA
PARAGUAY
CHILE
ARGENTINA
URUGUAY
GUYANA
SUR.
FR. GUI.
PACIFIC OCEAN
ATLANTIC OCEAN
Roraima
Amapa
Amazonas
Para
Maranhao
Ceara
Piaui
Acre
Rondonia
Tocantins
Bahia
Mato Grosso
Goias
Minas Gerais
Esp. Santo
Mato Grosso Do Sul
Sao Paulo
Rio De Jan.
Parana
Santa Catarina
Rio Grande Do Sul
Jujuy
Salta
Formosa
Chaco
Tu. Catamarca
Sta. Del. Est.
La Rioja
Santa Fe
San Juan
Cordoba
Entre Rios
San Luis
Mendoza
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA


BRAZIL
Temperature Anomaly (°C)
January 2006
VENEZUELA
COLOMBIA
ECUADOR
PERU
BOLIVIA
PARAGUAY
CHILE
ARGENTINA
URUGUAY
GUYANA
SUR.
FR. GUI.
PACIFIC OCEAN
ATLANTIC OCEAN
Roraima
Amapa
Amazonas
Para
Maranhao
Ceara
Piaui
Acre
Rondonia
Tocantins
Bahia
Mato Grosso
Goias
Minas Gerais
Esp. Santo
Mato Grosso Do Sul
Sao Paulo
Rio De Jan.
Parana
Santa Catarina
Rio Grande Do Sul
Jujuy
Salta
Formosa
Chaco
Tu. Catamarca
Sta. Del. Est.
La Rioja
Santa Fe
San Juan
Cordoba
Entre Rios
San Luis
Mendoza
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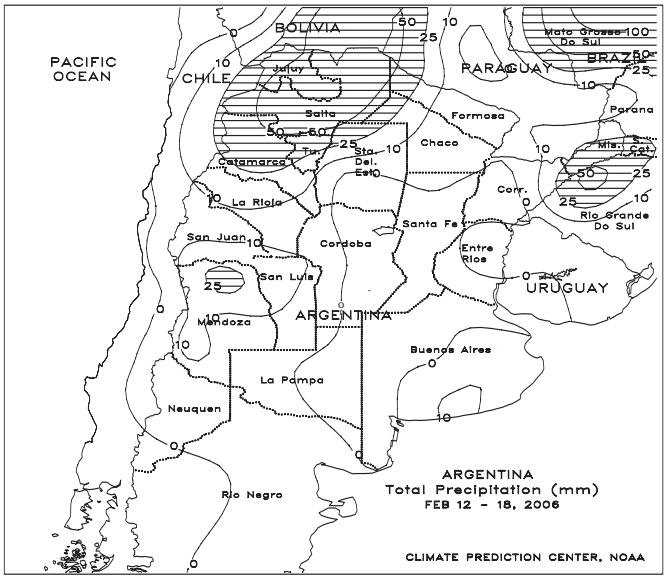
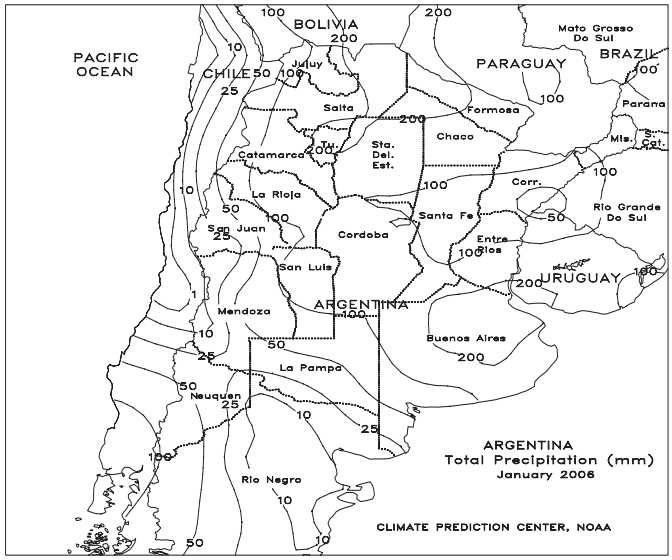
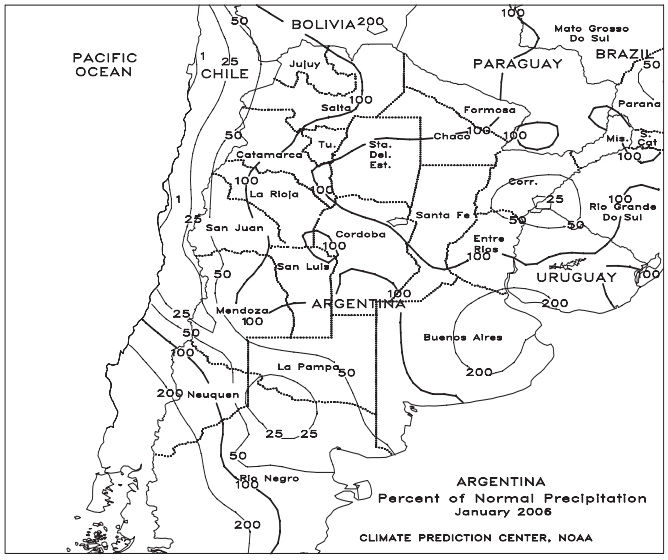
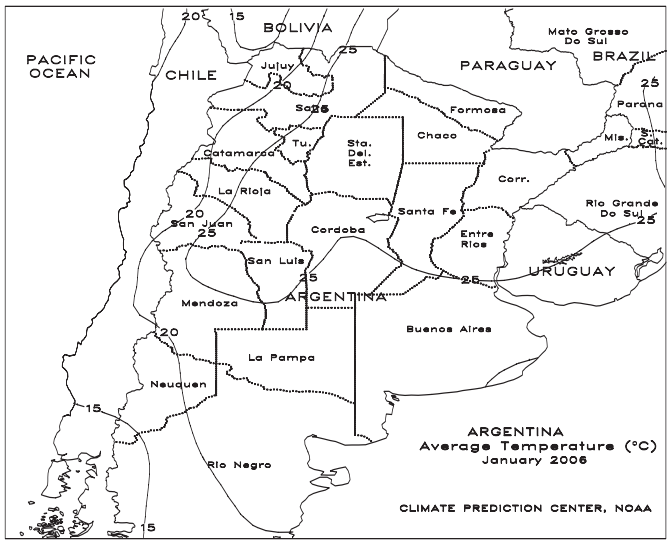


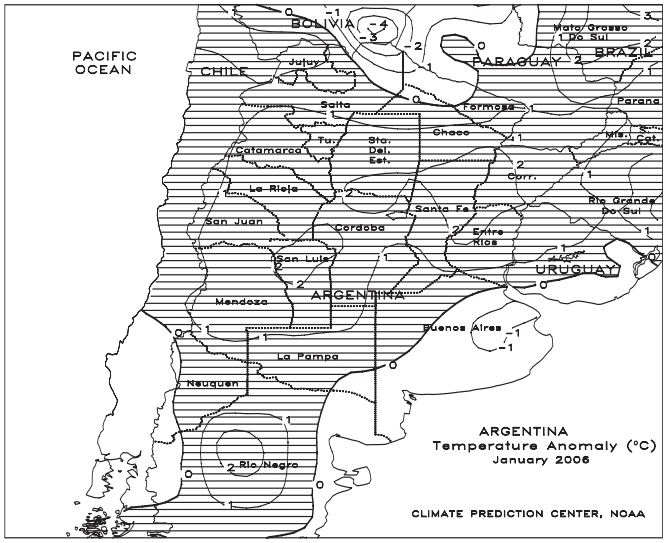
ARGENTINA

Mostly dry, warmer-than-normal weather (highs commonly reaching the middle 30s degrees C) dominated the main growing areas of central and northern Argentina, accelerating growth of summer crops and raising concern for availability of moisture for soybean reproduction under stressful growing conditions. It was the second week of dryness in key growing areas of Cordoba, Santa Fe, Entre Rios, and northern Buenos Aires, after an early-February soaking left vegetative to reproductive soybeans in generally good condition. According to the Ministry of Agriculture, sunflowers were 24 percent harvested as of February 16, slightly behind last year's pace. These crops represent early-planted varieties, and the harvest pace is expected to increase next month as crops in central Argentina reach maturity. In January, excessive heat (highs exceeding 40 degrees C) stressed reproductive to filling corn in the main growing areas of central Argentina during the first 10 days of the month. Midmonth showers brought some relief from the heat and dryness, benefiting soybeans that were generally in vegetative stages of development, although a portion of the corn crop had already experienced irreversible damage from the heat wave. Above-normal temperatures returned later in the month, increasing moisture demands of reproductive to filling soybeans and other immature summer crops but failing to reach the level of the previous episode.









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