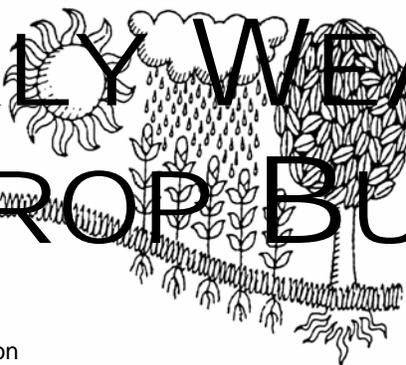
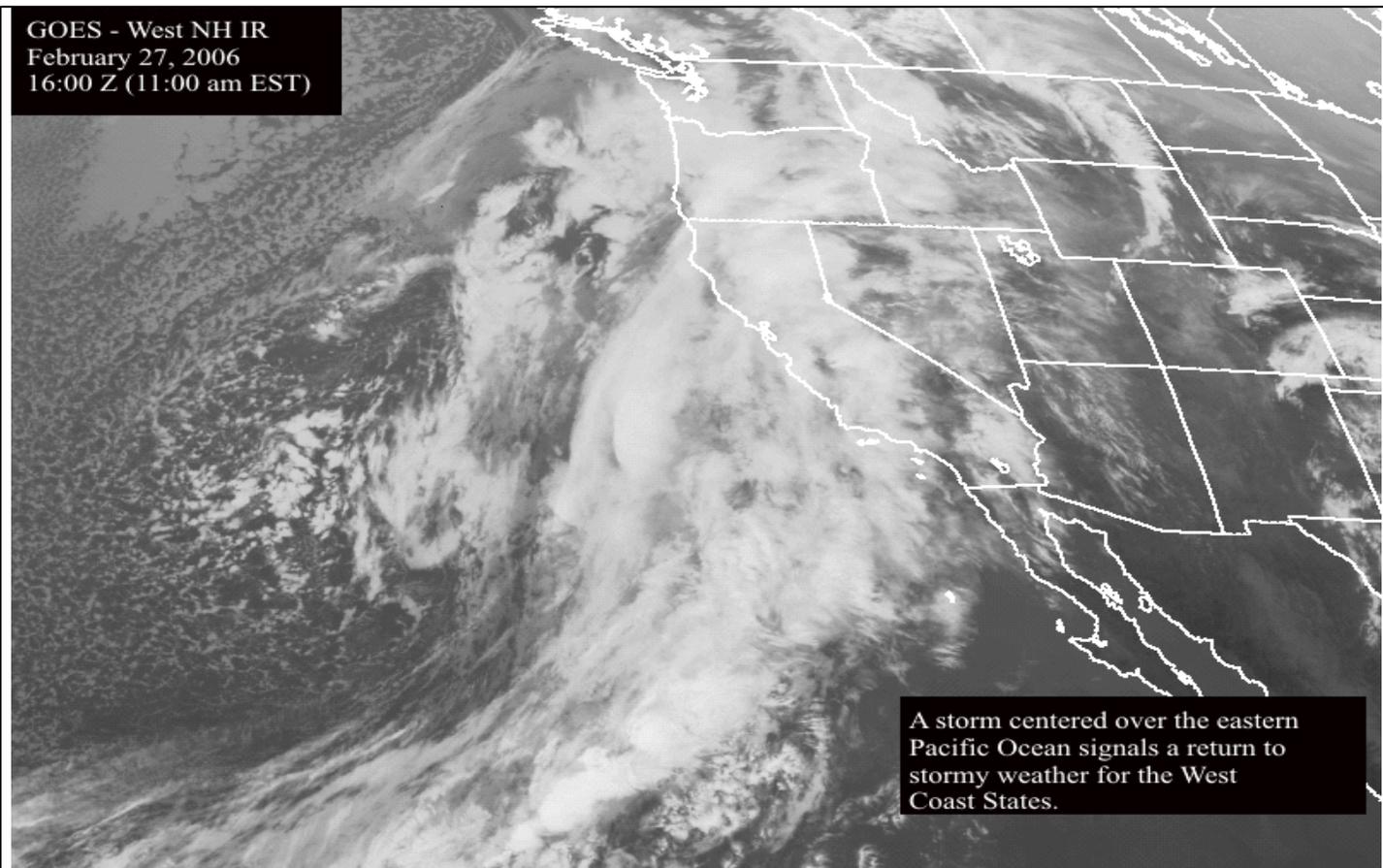


# WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP BULLETIN



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 19-25, 2006

*Highlights provided by USDA/WAOB*

Cooler-than-normal conditions prevailed nearly nationwide for the second consecutive week, following a 2-month spell of remarkably mild winter weather. Weekly temperatures averaged at least 10°F below normal in several areas, including parts of **western Nebraska** and **northeastern Texas**. In **California's Central Valley**, producers monitored the effects of several freezes (between February 16 and 22) on blooming nut trees. Meanwhile, significantly warmer-than-normal weather was confined to **Florida**, where temperatures averaged more than 5°F above normal in some locations. In the **West**, light precipitation was confined to the **Pacific**

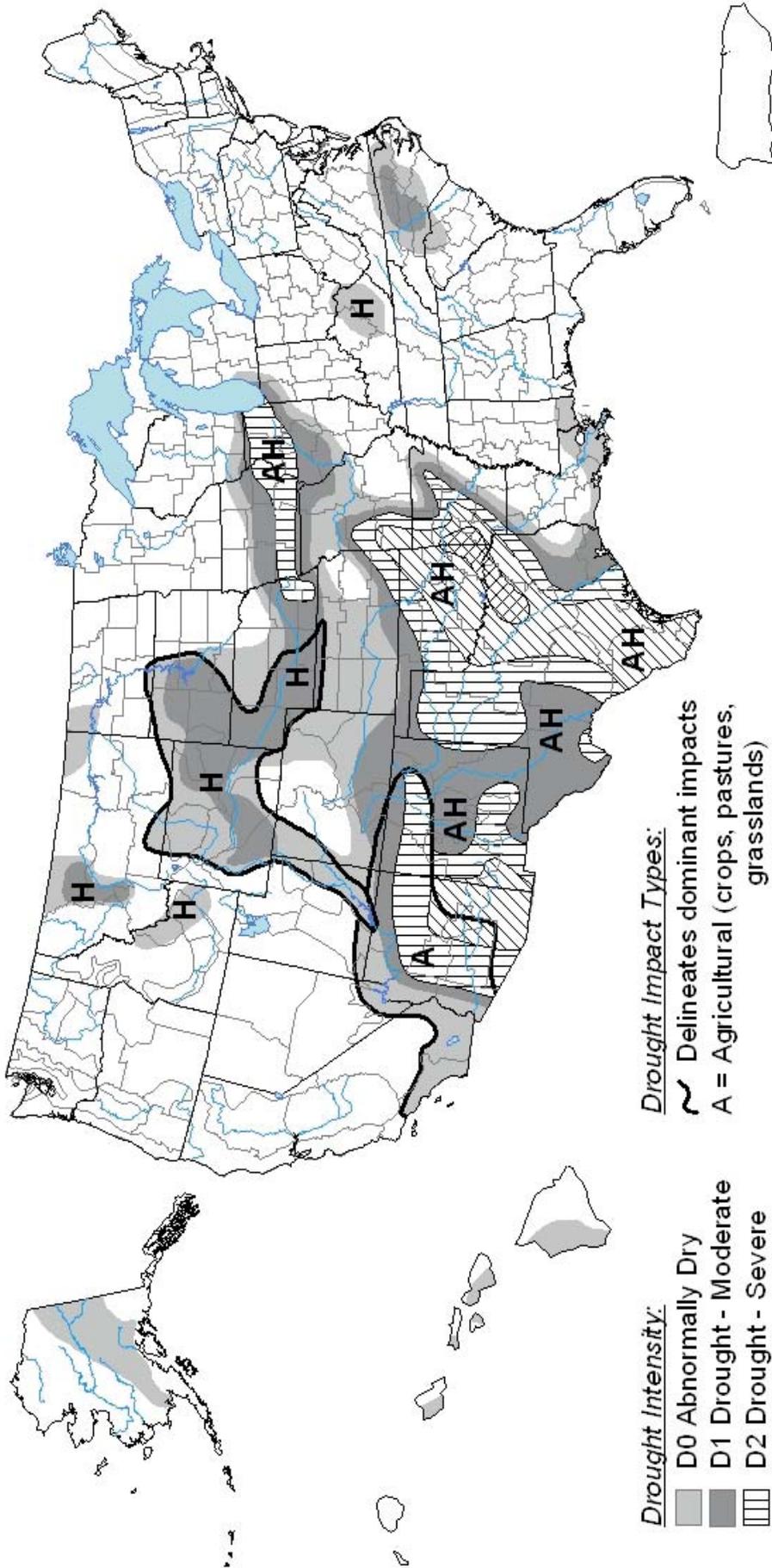
### Contents

February 21 Drought Monitor.....	2
Total Precipitation Map .....	3
Extreme Maximum & Minimum Temperature Maps.....	4
Temperature Departure Map .....	5
<b>U.S. Temperature and Precipitation Graphs and Tables....</b>	<b>6</b>
National Weather Data for Selected Cities .....	7
National Agricultural Summary & Snow Cover Map.....	10
International Weather and Crop Summary .....	11
Subscription Information.....	16

*(Continued on page 5)*

# U.S. Drought Monitor

February 21, 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.

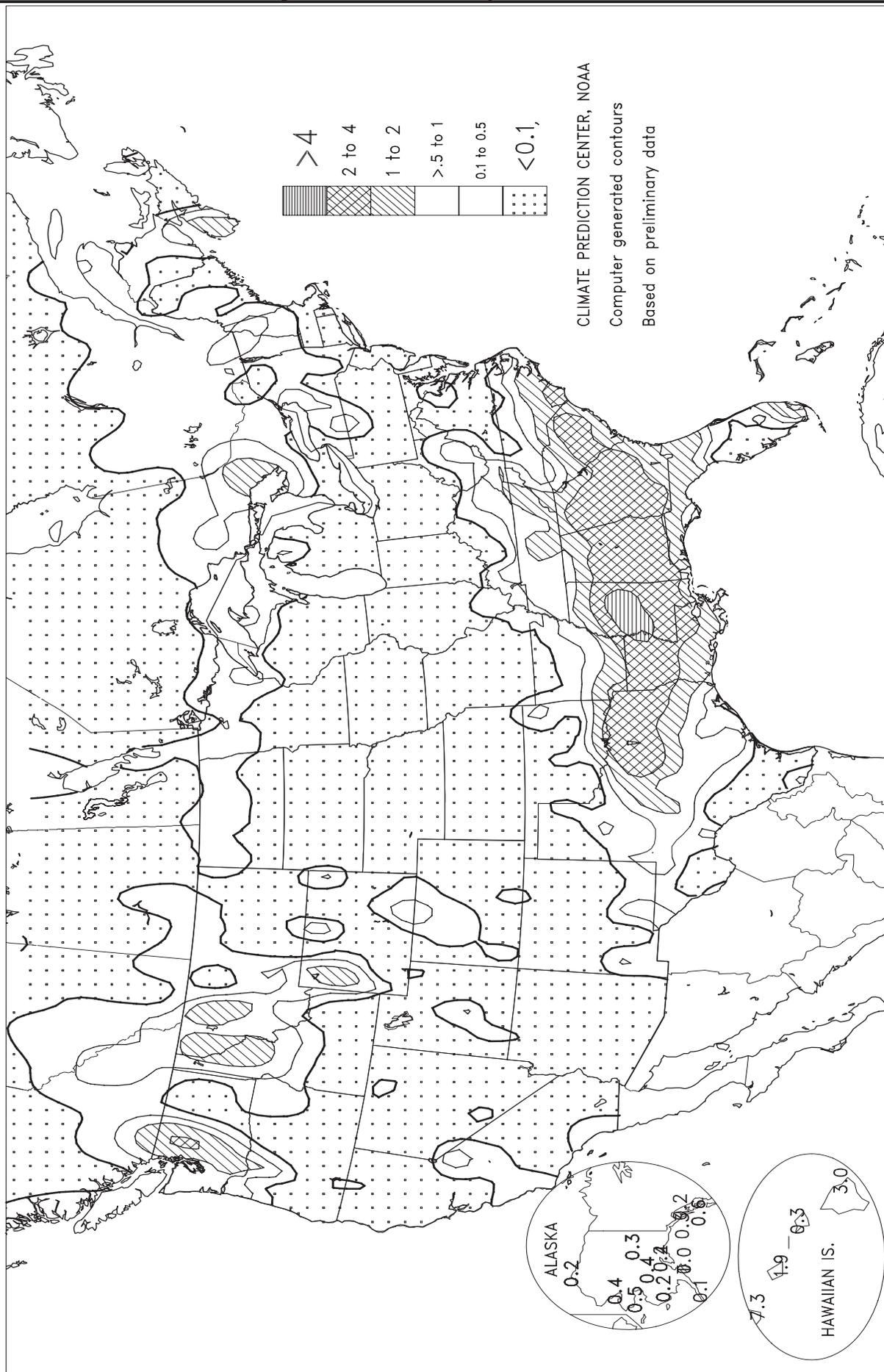


Released Thursday, February 23, 2006  
Author: David Miskus, JAWF/CPC//NOAA

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

Total Precipitation (Inches)

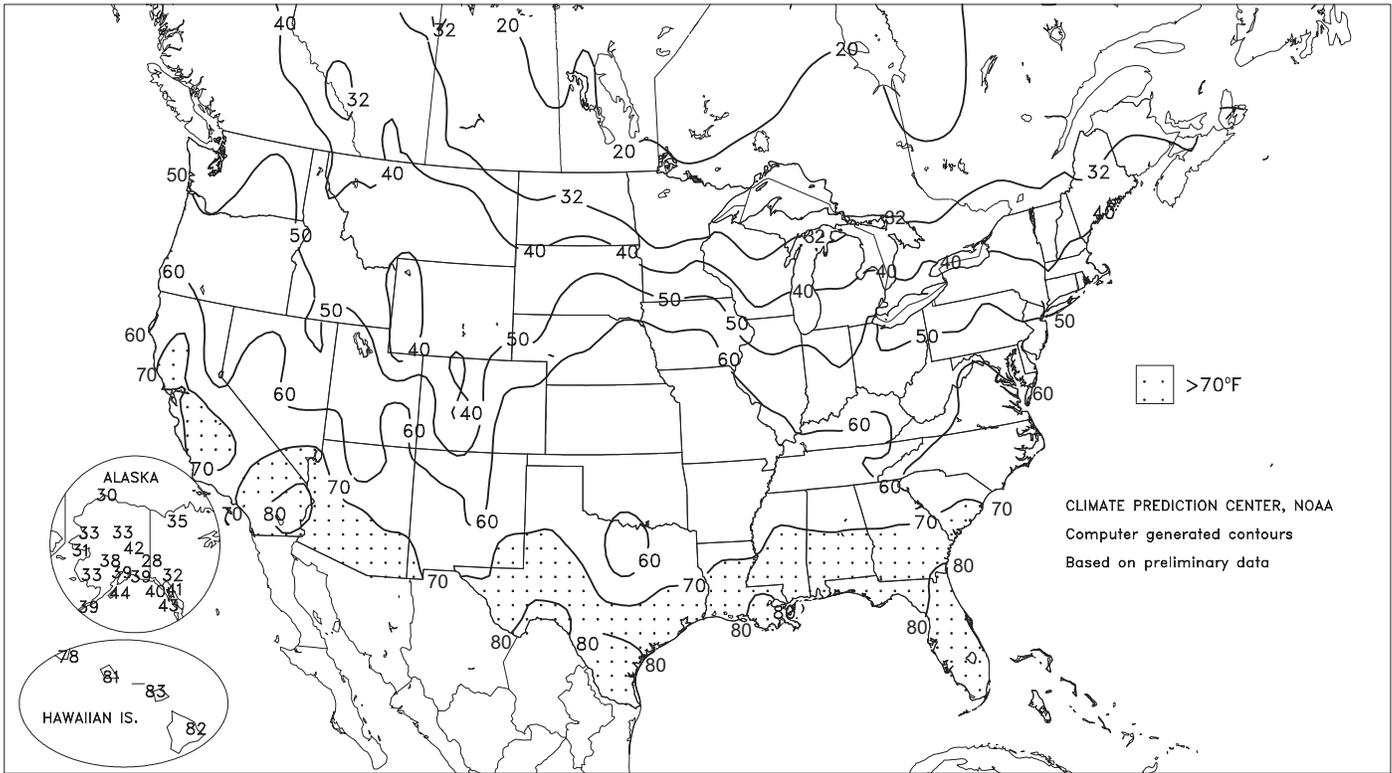
FEB 19 - 25, 2006



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

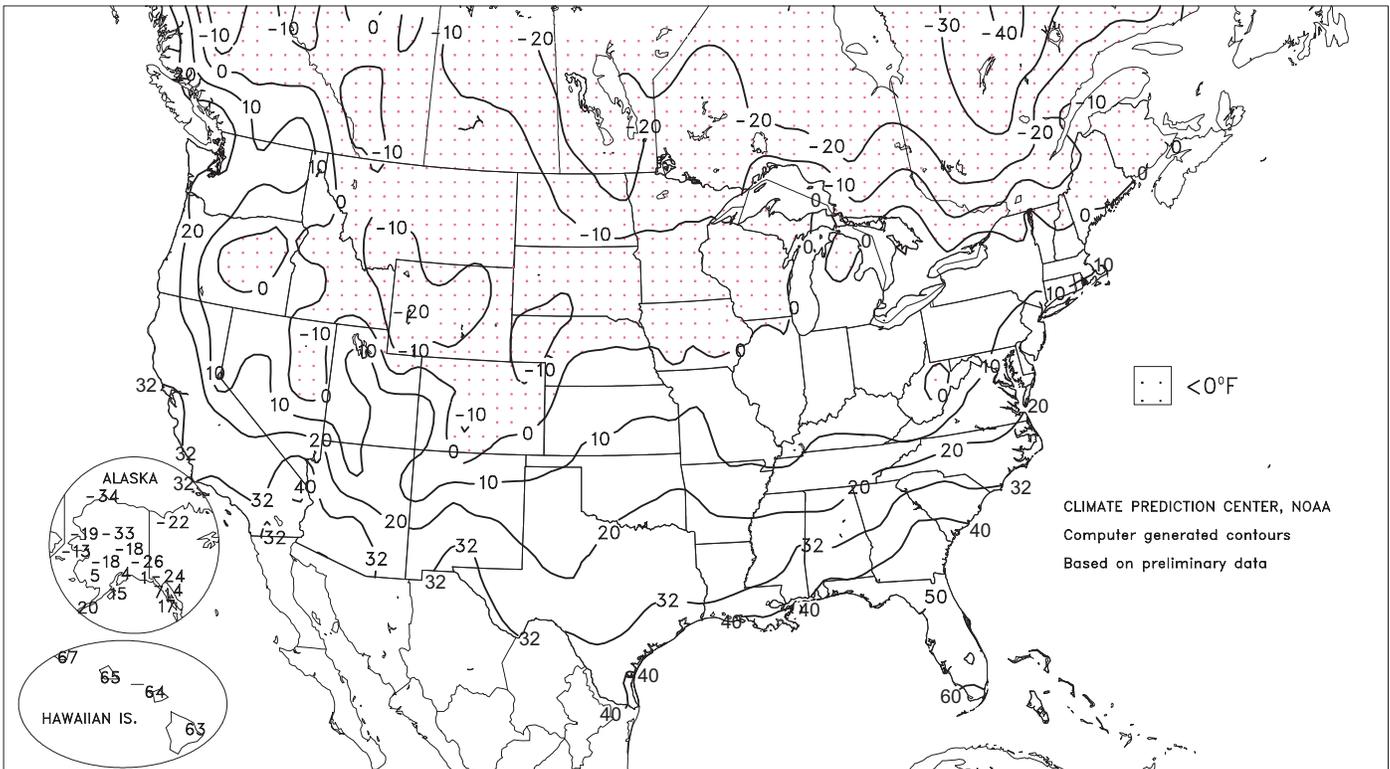
Extreme Maximum Temperature (°F)

FEB 19 - 25, 2006



Extreme Minimum Temperature (°F)

FEB 19 - 25, 2006



(Continued from front cover)

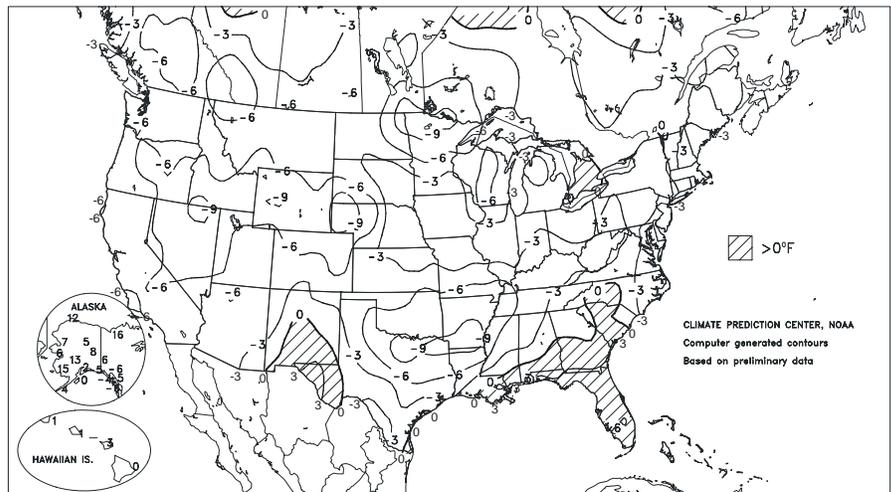
**Northwest**, the **northern Rockies**, and **southern New Mexico**. However, **New Mexico's** showers provided only minimal relief from developing **Southwestern** drought, which continued to severely stress pastures and rangeland. Farther east, the **Plains'** rain fell primarily south of key winter wheat areas of **Texas** and **Oklahoma**. As a result, drought stress on pastures and winter grains persisted on the **southern Plains** and began to expand northward, becoming more apparent in **Colorado** and **Kansas**. Elsewhere across the **Nation's mid-section**, a snow cover continued to protect winter grains from weather extremes in **western Nebraska** and environs, while milder weather and snow showers aided the **northern Plains'** wheat in the wake of the recent cold snap. Elsewhere, frequent showers dotted the **South**, while cool, mostly dry weather prevailed in the **Midwest**. Rain provided drought relief **west of the Delta**—especially in **northeastern Texas**—and maintained generally favorable moisture reserves in the **Southeast**. Across the **eastern Corn Belt**, chilly weather helped to freeze soils and ease previously muddy field conditions.

Very cold weather lingered nearly nationwide early in the week. **Alliance, NE**, posted five consecutive daily-record lows (-30, -36, -16, -16, and -9°F) from February 17-21, including its fifth lowest temperature since 1890. Sub-zero daily records for February 19 were also set in locations such as **Redmond, OR** (-5°F), **Burlington, CO** (-5°F), and **Beckley, WV** (-3°F). Elsewhere on February 19, **Huntsville, AL** (16°F), noted its lowest temperature since December 25, 2004, while **Houston, TX** (38°F), observed its first maximum temperature below 40°F since December 24, 2004. A day later, **Western** record lows for February 20 fell to -33°F at **Nevada's Wildhorse Reservoir** and 25°F in **Redding, CA**. Chilly weather persisted through mid-week in **California**, where records for February 22 included 27°F in **Ojai** and 32°F in **Bakersfield**. In contrast, record warmth briefly expanded across the **South**. Highs climbed to daily-record levels for February 22 in **New Orleans, LA** (82°F), and **Mobile, AL** (80°F), followed the next day by records in **Florida** locations such as **Vero Beach** (87°F) and **Apalachicola** (78°F).

Mid- to late-week **Southern** warmth preceded the arrival of locally heavy rain. On February 25, daily-record totals topped 2 inches in **Vicksburg, MS** (2.74 inches), and **Monroe, LA** (2.53 inches). Farther west, 3.51 inches of rain drenched **Dallas-Ft. Worth, TX**, on February 24-25, exceeding the city's 2.94-inch total during the preceding 115 days. Sporadic showers also affected the **South** earlier in the week, when **Greenwood, MS** (1.09 inches), collected a daily-record rainfall for February 22. Later, snow across the **North** on February 24 resulted in an 11.1-inch total in **Duluth, MN**, and a daily-record sum (3.5 inches) in

Departure of Average Temperature from Normal (°F)

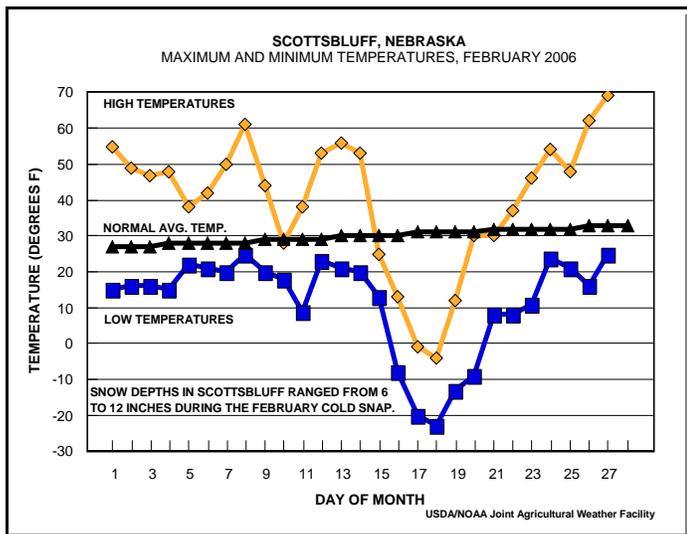
FEB 19 - 25, 2006



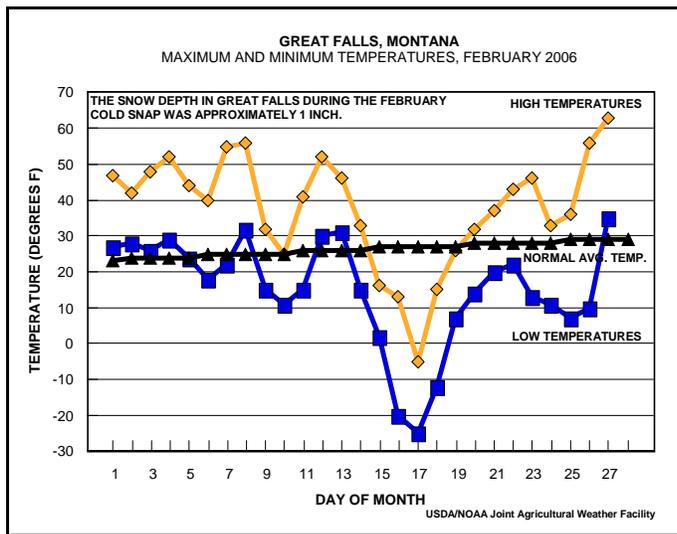
**Harlem, MT**. Elsewhere, some light precipitation spread across the **Southwest** during the early- to mid-week period. In **southern California**, February 17-19 snowfall totaled as much as 10 inches on **Mt. Baldy**, near **Los Angeles**. Farther east, light rain on February 23-24 in **Carlsbad, NM**, ended a 117-day spell (October 29 - February 22) without measurable precipitation. **Albuquerque, NM**, was poised to complete its driest November-February period on record, while **Tulsa, OK**, was on the verge of its driest winter. **Albuquerque's** precipitation totaled 0.14 inch (7 percent of normal) from November 1 - February 25, well shy of its 1903-04 standard of 0.30 inch. **Tulsa** received 1.59 inches (28 percent of normal) from December 1 - February 25, slightly below its 1962-63 winter mark of 1.76 inches. Meanwhile, **Phoenix, AZ**, completed its 130<sup>th</sup> day without a drop of rain on February 25 (previously, 101 days from September 23, 1999 - January 1, 2000), but remained well short of its longest spell without measurable precipitation (160 days from December 30, 1971 - June 6, 1972).

Widespread showers fell in **Hawaii**, especially across the western islands prior to mid-week. In fact, 24-hour (February 20-21) totals on **Kauai** included 17.94 inches on **Mt. Waialeale** and 8.01 inches at **Hanalei River**. Elsewhere on **Kauai**, **Lihue's** weekly rainfall of 7.28 inches was aided by daily-record totals on February 21 (1.80 inches) and 23 (3.46 inches). Farther east, **Oahu's Wilson Tunnel** received a weekly sum of 15.44 inches, more than 70 percent (10.87 inches) of which fell in a 48-hour period from February 19-21. Meanwhile, cold, mostly dry weather in **southeastern Alaska** contrasted with mild conditions and occasional snow across the mainland. Weekly temperatures ranged from more than 5°F below normal in **southeastern Alaska** to as much as 15°F above normal elsewhere. Daily-record snowfall totals scattered across **Alaska** included 3.0 inches (on February 20) in **Bettles** and 4.4 inches (on February 25) in **McGrath**. **Fairbanks** measured consecutive daily-record snowfalls on February 25-26, totaling 8.7 inches. Elsewhere in **Alaska**, a daily-record high (33°F on February 19) in **Bettles** contrasted with a daily-record low (5°F on February 25) in **Valdez**.

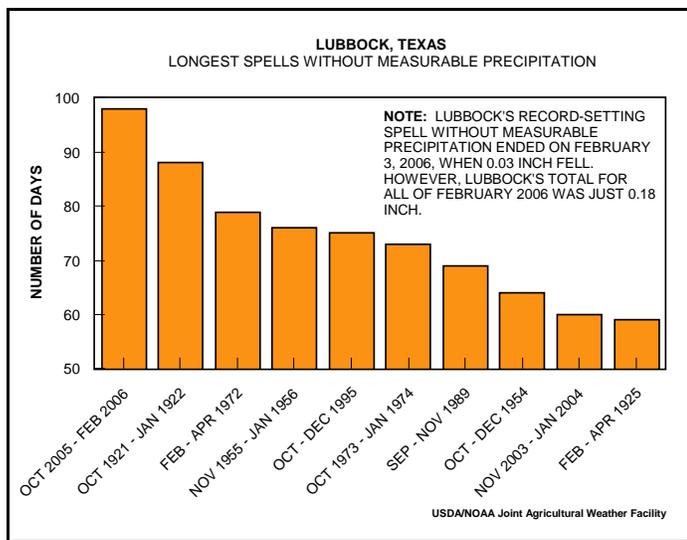
# U.S. Temperature and Precipitation Graphs and Tables



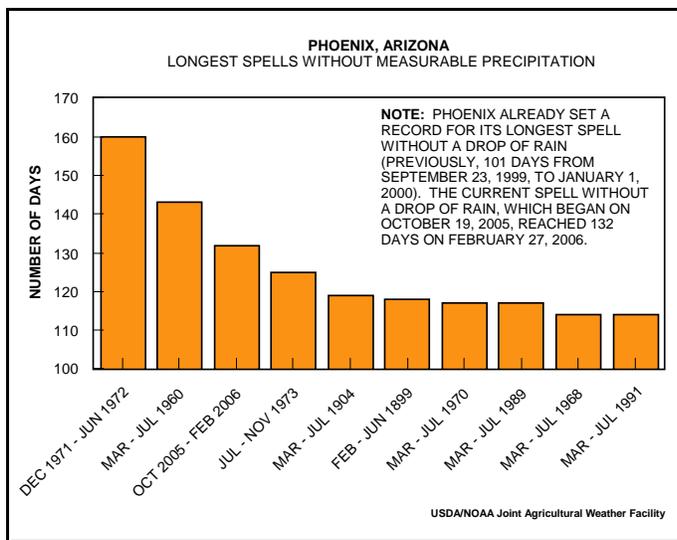
Western Nebraska: Wheat Protected by Snow



Montana High Plains: Some Wheat Exposed



Western Texas: Record-Setting Dry Spell



Phoenix, Arizona: Not a Single Drop of Winter Rain

Barring precipitation on February 28, the following records will be established:

**Record-Low November-February Precipitation (Inches)**

Location	Total	Normal	Current Record
Albuquerque, NM	0.14	2.04	0.30 in 1903-04

**Record-Low December-February Precipitation (Inches)**

Location	Total	Normal	Current Record
Tulsa, OK	1.59	5.98	1.76 in 1962-63

**Record-Low February Precipitation (Inches)**

Location	Total	Normal	Current Record
Phoenix, AZ	0.00	0.77	0.00 in 2002 and earlier
Flagstaff, AZ	Trace	2.56	Trace in 1967
Wichita, KS	Trace	1.02	Trace in 1991
Joplin, MO	0.01	2.25	0.23 in 1904
Kansas City, MO	0.04	1.31	0.07 in 1917 and 1920
Springfield, MO	0.09	2.28	0.35 in 1947

National Weather Data for Selected Cities

Weather Data for the Week Ending February 25, 2006

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

STATES AND STATIONS	TEMPERATURE °F						PRECIPITATION							RELATIVE HUMIDITY PERCENT		NUMBER OF DAYS				
	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	EXTREME HIGH	EXTREME LOW	AVERAGE	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	WEEKLY TOTAL, IN.	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	GREATEST IN 24-HOUR, IN.	TOTAL IN, SINCE DEC01	PCT. NORMAL SINCE DEC01	TOTAL, IN, SINCE JAN01	PCT. NORMAL SINCE JAN01	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	TEMP. °F		PRECIP		
																90 AND ABOVE	32 AND BELOW	.01 INCH OF MORE	.50 INCH OF MORE	
AL BIRMINGHAM	55	39	67	22	47	-2	3.55	2.48	1.51	20.70	153	16.07	177	94	49	0	2	7	3	
HUNTSVILLE	50	35	64	16	43	-3	0.68	-0.63	0.50	13.51	88	8.58	88	89	69	0	2	6	1	
MOBILE	66	48	80	36	57	2	2.09	0.76	2.08	11.43	77	7.84	77	87	64	0	0	2	1	
MONTGOMERY	61	45	76	34	53	1	3.50	2.07	2.95	12.75	86	10.26	105	86	53	0	0	5	1	
AK ANCHORAGE	29	17	39	4	23	3	0.38	0.19	0.20	2.30	98	1.40	108	77	67	0	7	2	0	
BARROW	3	-12	30	-34	-5	11	0.19	0.17	0.09	0.90	273	0.67	319	85	79	0	7	3	0	
FAIRBANKS	18	-2	42	-18	8	9	0.34	0.27	0.24	0.94	59	0.81	95	84	71	0	7	6	0	
JUNEAU	31	19	41	4	25	-5	0.22	-0.76	0.09	11.75	85	5.01	60	91	73	0	5	3	0	
KODIAK	37	24	44	15	30	0	0.01	-1.28	0.01	20.80	99	6.55	49	76	55	0	7	1	0	
NOME	23	1	31	-13	12	6	0.47	0.32	0.28	2.69	105	1.97	127	87	79	0	7	4	0	
AZ FLAGSTAFF	47	12	58	6	29	-4	0.00	-0.67	0.00	0.29	5	0.25	6	60	21	0	7	0	0	
PHOENIX	71	44	78	43	58	-1	0.00	-0.21	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0	39	22	0	0	0	0	
TUCSON	68	39	75	35	53	-3	0.00	-0.22	0.00	0.01	0	0.00	0	35	23	0	0	0	0	
YUMA	72	44	79	40	58	-5	0.00	-0.06	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0	44	25	0	0	0	0	
AR FORT SMITH	50	30	68	21	40	-6	0.01	-0.70	0.01	4.12	52	3.73	82	82	43	0	4	1	0	
LITTLE ROCK	47	31	65	18	39	-8	0.51	-0.34	0.32	6.47	58	5.77	89	91	52	0	3	3	0	
CA BAKERSFIELD	65	36	78	32	50	-5	0.01	-0.30	0.01	2.03	69	0.92	42	73	48	0	1	1	0	
FRESNO	62	37	73	31	49	-4	0.27	-0.25	0.27	5.86	110	3.86	97	84	62	0	1	1	0	
LOS ANGELES	63	46	67	42	54	-4	0.16	-0.59	0.16	2.85	38	1.89	33	74	46	0	0	1	0	
REDDING	66	32	73	25	49	-1	0.00	-1.31	0.00	22.49	140	8.59	76	75	39	0	3	0	0	
SACRAMENTO	62	34	69	29	48	-4	0.21	-0.61	0.21	11.97	127	2.99	43	93	36	0	2	1	0	
SAN DIEGO	63	48	67	45	55	-4	0.20	-0.30	0.20	0.98	18	0.73	18	74	51	0	0	1	0	
SAN FRANCISCO	60	41	69	38	51	-2	0.00	-0.93	0.00	12.52	115	3.18	40	82	69	0	0	0	0	
STOCKTON	63	34	74	30	48	-4	0.00	-0.58	0.00	7.83	117	3.65	75	87	66	0	3	0	0	
CO ALAMOSA	47	3	53	-2	25	-1	0.00	-0.06	0.00	0.23	32	0.19	50	62	25	0	7	0	0	
CO SPRINGS	45	11	57	-5	28	-5	0.00	-0.11	0.00	0.61	65	0.31	60	70	19	0	7	0	0	
DENVER INTL	44	11	58	-4	28	-5	0.00	-0.10	0.00	0.78	116	0.43	119	71	25	0	7	0	0	
GRAND JUNCTION	48	19	57	13	33	-4	0.01	-0.12	0.01	1.19	80	0.44	45	63	43	0	7	1	0	
PUEBLO	51	7	67	-2	29	-7	0.00	-0.07	0.00	0.76	86	0.52	106	61	34	0	7	0	0	
CT BRIDGEPORT	39	22	44	14	30	-3	0.02	-0.70	0.02	10.95	112	7.27	116	62	44	0	7	1	0	
HARTFORD	36	18	43	8	27	-4	0.04	-0.68	0.04	11.21	112	7.54	117	69	43	0	7	1	0	
DC WASHINGTON	46	29	59	14	37	-3	0.25	-0.44	0.25	9.07	106	5.73	105	78	33	0	5	1	0	
DE WILMINGTON	42	24	52	14	33	-3	0.06	-0.67	0.04	8.73	94	5.47	94	75	35	0	6	2	0	
DE DAYTONA BEACH	76	58	84	52	67	6	0.07	-0.63	0.07	5.93	72	4.08	74	93	55	0	0	1	0	
FL JACKSONVILLE	71	51	82	46	61	4	0.26	-0.50	0.19	13.12	144	5.74	89	93	60	0	0	3	0	
KEY WEST	79	70	82	66	74	3	0.00	-0.33	0.00	0.82	14	0.77	22	87	67	0	0	0	0	
MIAMI	82	66	84	62	74	4	0.74	0.24	0.59	4.70	80	3.70	100	91	58	0	0	2	1	
ORLANDO	79	60	86	55	69	5	0.00	-0.62	0.00	4.33	64	2.29	52	95	64	0	0	0	0	
PENSACOLA	67	51	77	40	59	3	0.51	-0.69	0.41	11.45	86	6.78	72	88	57	0	0	5	0	
TALLAHASSEE	70	53	78	44	61	5	1.57	0.35	0.91	15.11	112	9.75	104	89	69	0	0	3	2	
TAMPA	76	61	80	54	68	4	0.02	-0.67	0.02	10.68	155	9.41	205	95	67	0	0	1	0	
WEST PALM BEACH	81	63	87	58	72	4	0.45	-0.10	0.41	7.09	78	4.39	73	96	62	0	0	2	0	
GA ATHENS	***	***	***	***	***	***	1.92	0.97	1.74	12.55	108	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	4	1
ATLANTA	54	40	64	27	47	-2	3.02	1.84	1.37	14.46	112	10.79	118	91	69	0	1	6	3	
AUGUSTA	59	40	69	37	50	0	2.33	1.31	1.55	10.35	92	6.39	79	87	65	0	0	4	2	
COLUMBUS	61	46	75	36	54	2	3.05	1.88	2.22	9.91	76	7.53	87	89	49	0	0	6	1	
MACON	61	46	74	37	54	3	2.42	1.29	1.61	10.27	79	6.51	72	87	51	0	0	5	1	
SAVANNAH	64	46	77	41	55	1	1.26	0.60	1.20	9.54	102	6.82	105	88	63	0	0	3	1	
HI HILO	78	66	82	63	72	1	2.96	0.68	2.17	22.70	81	17.46	100	90	80	0	0	4	2	
HONOLULU	80	68	81	65	74	1	1.87	1.30	1.28	3.94	52	3.57	75	87	77	0	0	3	2	
KAHULUI	82	68	83	64	75	3	0.31	-0.19	0.23	1.55	17	1.41	24	84	76	0	0	2	0	
LIHUE	76	70	78	67	73	1	7.29	6.52	3.30	10.26	84	10.18	137	88	82	0	0	5	5	
ID BOISE	44	23	56	13	34	-5	0.00	-0.28	0.00	5.48	146	2.08	88	76	55	0	7	0	0	
LEWISTON	46	27	55	9	36	-4	0.01	-0.21	0.01	2.89	96	1.25	64	62	47	0	5	1	0	
POCATELLO	36	15	47	-6	25	-7	0.01	-0.25	0.01	3.93	128	1.56	79	82	63	0	7	1	0	
IL CHICAGO/O'HARE	38	16	47	1	27	-3	0.00	-0.40	0.00	5.98	107	4.62	147	70	41	0	7	0	0	
MOLINE	38	17	51	2	28	-2	0.00	-0.40	0.00	4.84	96	3.80	133	73	52	0	7	0	0	
PEORIA	41	18	51	1	29	-2	0.00	-0.46	0.00	5.27	99	3.96	137	76	36	0	7	0	0	
ROCKFORD	36	15	45	0	26	-1	0.00	-0.33	0.00	4.68	102	3.68	145	74	48	0	7	0	0	
SPRINGFIELD	44	20	55	4	32	-1	0.00	-0.52	0.00	4.37	77	2.90	93	74	41	0	7	0	0	
IN EVANSVILLE	44	23	59	5	33	-5	0.03	-0.79	0.02	8.07	88	6.31	113	78	55	0	6	2	0	
FORT WAYNE	38	18	48	3	28	-2	0.00	-0.49	0.00	6.81	105	4.66	126	77	47	0	7	0	0	
INDIANAPOLIS	42	19	52	4	31	-3	0.00	-0.63	0.00	7.76	102	5.07	111	83	41	0	7	0	0	
SOUTH BEND	37	17	45	-1	27	-3	0.00	-0.49	0.00	5.61	80	3.82	96	75	53	0	7	0	0	
IA BURLINGTON	44	19	58	4	31	0	0.01	-0.43	0.01	4.03	86	3.02	117	71	34	0	7	1	0	
CEDAR RAPIDS	36	12	54	-9	24	-4	0.00	-0.28	0.00	3.12	90	1.79	91	84	42	0	7	0	0	
DES MOINES	43	17	63	-2	30	0	0.01	-0.29	0.01	1.96	58	1.01	50	73	51	0	7	1	0	
DUBUQUE	31	9	43	-13	20	-6	0.00	-0.37	0.00	3.32	80	1.67	68	77	58	0	7	0	0	
SIOUX CITY	41	11	60	-9	26	-2	0.00	-0.19	0.00	1.47	86	0.70	67	78	57	0	7	0	0	
WATERLOO	36	10	59	-7	23	-3	0.00	-0.28	0.00	2.08	74	0.96	56	79	58	0	7	0	0	
KS CONCORDIA	49	19	63	7	34	-1	0.00	-0.26	0.00	0.45	22	0.10	8	62	34	0	6	0	0	
DODGE CITY	51	18	69	10	35	-3	0.00	-0.20	0.00	0.40	21	0.21	19	70	25	0	7	0	0	
GOODLAND	48	12	64	0	30	-4	0.01	-0.14	0.01	0.77	67	0.61	81	69	37	0	7	1	0	
TOPEKA	51	19	68	10	35	-1	0.00	-0.35	0.00	1.50	45	0.50	26	62	33	0	7	0	0	

Based on 1971-2000 normals

\*\*\* Not Available

Weather Data for the Week Ending February 25, 2006

STATES AND STATIONS	TEMPERATURE °F						PRECIPITATION						RELATIVE HUMIDITY PERCENT		NUMBER OF DAYS				
	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	EXTREME HIGH	EXTREME LOW	AVERAGE	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	WEEKLY TOTAL, IN.	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	GREATEST IN 24-HOUR, IN.	TOTAL IN., SINCE DEC01	PCT. NORMAL SINCE DEC01	TOTAL IN., SINCE JAN01	PCT. NORMAL SINCE JAN01	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	TEMP. °F		PRECIP	
																90 AND ABOVE	32 AND BELOW	.01 INCH OR MORE	.50 INCH OR MORE
KY WICHITA	49	21	67	14	35	-4	0.00	-0.34	0.00	0.70	24	0.11	7	69	40	0	7	0	0
JACKSON	46	28	62	8	37	-3	0.52	-0.45	0.24	11.17	101	7.99	118	77	39	0	4	4	0
LEXINGTON	43	24	57	4	34	-4	0.18	-0.71	0.09	10.43	103	8.03	131	75	53	0	6	2	0
LOUISVILLE	45	26	58	9	36	-4	0.06	-0.81	0.03	8.45	86	6.41	105	70	39	0	6	2	0
PADUCAH	45	23	63	6	34	-6	0.24	-0.75	0.12	10.54	93	9.08	131	87	46	0	7	3	0
LA BATON ROUGE	62	49	82	37	56	1	2.16	1.00	1.41	10.69	67	6.44	60	93	56	0	0	4	2
LAKE CHARLES	60	47	76	33	53	-3	1.03	0.34	0.83	8.57	66	4.65	55	90	66	0	0	5	1
NEW ORLEANS	66	53	82	41	60	3	0.28	-0.97	0.17	9.43	59	6.11	57	87	73	0	0	3	0
SHREVEPORT	50	39	67	26	45	-8	1.69	0.68	1.46	11.51	89	10.27	123	87	61	0	2	6	1
ME CARIBOU	22	4	30	-9	13	-2	0.11	-0.38	0.11	12.37	156	5.86	123	83	60	0	7	1	0
PORTLAND	33	14	41	3	23	-4	0.18	-0.58	0.12	11.39	103	6.09	89	78	43	0	7	2	0
MD BALTIMORE	44	24	56	12	34	-3	0.09	-0.70	0.09	10.02	106	6.12	101	72	40	0	6	1	0
MA BOSTON	36	22	43	9	29	-4	0.07	-0.73	0.05	9.11	86	6.23	91	70	37	0	7	2	0
WORCESTER	31	16	40	4	24	-4	0.10	-0.66	0.05	11.86	112	8.12	120	78	38	0	7	2	0
MI ALPENA	29	10	37	1	20	-1	0.15	-0.19	0.05	5.84	124	4.22	146	88	49	0	7	6	0
GRAND RAPIDS	35	17	43	7	26	-1	0.07	-0.29	0.06	9.08	150	6.65	199	83	53	0	7	2	0
HOUGHTON LAKE	27	6	34	-4	17	-5	0.02	-0.28	0.01	5.44	123	3.94	148	84	63	0	7	2	0
LANSING	33	16	41	3	25	-1	0.03	-0.30	0.02	7.74	154	5.83	205	78	59	0	7	2	0
MUSKOGON	33	18	40	10	26	-1	0.12	-0.24	0.12	8.70	140	5.76	161	76	61	0	7	1	0
TRAVERSE CITY	29	14	33	3	22	-1	0.02	-0.32	0.02	4.23	59	3.20	70	84	49	0	7	1	0
MN DULUTH	21	1	29	-8	11	-6	1.14	0.96	0.89	4.54	166	2.00	111	83	64	0	7	4	1
INT'L FALLS	16	-9	22	-21	3	-11	0.29	0.15	0.11	2.14	103	1.53	111	90	68	0	7	4	0
MINNEAPOLIS	31	11	42	1	21	-2	0.00	-0.19	0.00	2.00	75	1.03	61	75	45	0	7	0	0
ROCHESTER	30	8	46	-7	19	-2	0.02	-0.16	0.01	1.34	52	0.75	48	79	59	0	7	2	0
ST. CLOUD	26	2	34	-3	14	-5	0.00	-0.13	0.00	1.73	91	0.72	59	83	54	0	7	0	0
MS JACKSON	56	42	74	29	49	-2	3.76	2.68	2.72	20.15	135	15.27	158	90	63	0	1	6	2
MERIDIAN	58	42	76	30	50	-2	2.77	1.40	1.63	16.22	102	12.82	121	91	63	0	1	7	1
TUPELO	51	36	66	18	43	-4	0.97	-0.29	0.39	18.00	118	12.32	134	88	63	0	2	6	0
MO COLUMBIA	47	21	67	5	34	-2	0.00	-0.59	0.00	3.05	50	2.10	58	75	29	0	7	0	0
KANSAS CITY	49	21	69	7	35	-1	0.00	-0.38	0.00	2.90	75	1.16	52	64	25	0	7	0	0
SAINT LOUIS	48	24	63	7	36	-2	0.00	-0.62	0.00	3.32	48	2.10	52	63	42	0	7	0	0
SPRINGFIELD	46	21	67	10	34	-5	0.00	-0.60	0.00	2.56	35	1.94	48	74	51	0	7	0	0
MT BILLINGS	39	16	50	0	27	-5	0.00	-0.14	0.00	0.71	37	0.27	22	77	38	0	7	0	0
BUTTE	31	5	40	-22	18	-6	0.08	-0.04	0.04	1.32	94	0.57	65	75	41	0	7	2	0
CUT BANK	30	8	39	-12	19	-7	0.02	-0.04	0.02	0.24	26	0.23	39	82	54	0	7	1	0
GLASGOW	28	11	37	-1	19	-3	0.23	0.17	0.09	1.09	118	0.72	131	86	73	0	7	5	0
GREAT FALLS	36	13	46	7	25	-3	0.08	-0.05	0.05	1.36	78	1.07	100	81	40	0	7	3	0
HAVRE	31	10	40	-10	20	-5	0.24	0.15	0.22	1.00	81	0.58	81	77	65	0	7	3	0
MISSOULA	39	18	47	-2	29	-2	0.16	-0.03	0.13	2.78	98	1.61	95	75	57	0	7	3	0
NE GRAND ISLAND	46	16	66	5	31	0	0.00	-0.21	0.00	0.77	45	0.30	29	75	48	0	7	0	0
LINCOLN	47	13	65	0	30	-1	0.00	-0.21	0.00	1.50	75	0.98	85	73	47	0	7	0	0
NORFOLK	42	14	61	-3	28	-1	0.00	-0.22	0.00	1.06	59	0.57	50	77	52	0	7	0	0
NORTH PLATTE	43	8	61	2	26	-6	0.00	-0.15	0.00	0.62	53	0.38	49	84	33	0	7	0	0
OMAHA	45	17	65	1	31	0	0.00	-0.23	0.00	1.55	67	0.74	53	75	48	0	7	0	0
SCOTTSBLUFF	37	7	54	-13	22	-10	0.14	-0.01	0.14	1.28	83	1.14	115	80	55	0	7	1	0
VALENTINE	36	6	52	-13	21	-8	0.00	-0.14	0.00	0.65	66	0.42	65	81	56	0	7	0	0
NV ELY	40	3	52	-10	22	-10	0.04	-0.15	0.04	2.06	113	1.41	106	81	58	0	7	1	0
LAS VEGAS	61	38	71	33	50	-4	0.01	-0.16	0.01	0.07	5	0.05	4	40	25	0	0	1	0
RENO	50	21	62	14	36	-4	0.05	-0.20	0.05	5.88	208	2.00	103	76	53	0	7	1	0
WINNEMUCCA	47	11	60	4	29	-9	0.03	-0.11	0.01	4.28	201	2.00	152	84	46	0	7	3	0
NH CONCORD	33	9	42	4	21	-4	0.25	-0.32	0.17	10.48	131	5.93	118	87	41	0	7	2	0
NJ NEWARK	42	25	51	14	34	-1	0.00	-0.73	0.00	11.15	110	7.50	115	53	36	0	6	0	0
NM ALBUQUERQUE	57	30	62	26	44	1	0.00	-0.11	0.00	0.14	11	0.04	5	40	13	0	5	0	0
NY ALBANY	35	15	42	8	25	-2	0.09	-0.45	0.05	8.67	123	5.72	131	79	43	0	7	3	0
BINGHAMTON	32	14	42	4	23	-3	0.10	-0.51	0.10	6.51	84	4.49	95	78	58	0	7	1	0
BUFFALO	33	19	41	7	26	-1	0.59	0.01	0.28	8.43	93	6.07	115	83	56	0	7	4	0
ROCHESTER	35	19	46	9	27	0	0.20	-0.30	0.16	5.11	75	3.74	91	77	60	0	7	3	0
SYRACUSE	34	17	44	11	26	0	0.21	-0.30	0.10	7.04	93	4.48	101	86	51	0	7	5	0
NC ASHEVILLE	52	31	60	20	42	1	0.12	-0.84	0.10	9.65	89	6.14	83	81	47	0	4	3	0
CHARLOTTE	56	37	62	24	46	-1	0.31	-0.60	0.27	9.66	94	4.41	62	81	40	0	1	3	0
GREENSBORO	53	34	60	19	43	0	0.37	-0.41	0.29	8.14	88	3.93	63	77	34	0	2	2	0
HATTERAS	49	35	58	30	42	-6	1.37	0.43	0.71	11.16	81	6.36	68	91	65	0	2	5	1
RALEIGH	54	33	62	20	43	-2	0.66	-0.21	0.48	7.96	79	3.72	53	71	50	0	2	2	0
WILMINGTON	57	35	68	31	46	-4	2.15	1.25	0.86	8.83	77	4.68	61	93	48	0	1	5	2
ND BISMARCK	30	7	37	-8	18	-3	0.04	-0.08	0.03	1.22	95	0.38	45	79	65	0	7	2	0
DICKINSON	30	8	34	-1	19	-5	0.00	-0.07	0.00	0.40	38	0.26	36	88	58	0	7	0	0
FARGO	21	-2	31	-14	10	-7	0.26	0.11	0.16	2.29	128	0.97	80	85	69	0	7	5	0
GRAND FORKS	20	-7	27	-25	6	-10	0.31	0.17	0.17	1.82	106	1.32	113	90	63	0	7	4	0
JAMESTOWN	25	2	34	-9	13	-6	0.03	-0.08	0.02	0.53	37	0.22	22	88	64	0	7	2	0
WILLISTON	27	4	31	-6	16	-4	0.15	0.06	0.08	0.71	50	0.48	57	83	69	0	7	5	0
OH AKRON-CANTON	37	19	47	3	28	-2	0.08	-0.51	0.07	6.47	87	5.12	115	75	46	0	7	2	0
CINCINNATI	42	21	54	3	31	-5	0.00	-0.72	0.00	7.27	85	5.46	103	74	46	0	7	0	0
CLEVELAND	38	22	49	5	30	0	0.02	-0.53	0.02	6.61	87	4.55	102	68	44	0	7	1	0
COLUMBUS	41	23	52	7	32	-2	0.00	-0.54	0.00	5.72	78	4.03	91	66	42	0	7	0	0
DAYTON	39	19	50	4	29	-4	0.00	-0.57	0.00	6.35	83	4.47	98	77	43	0	7	0	0
MANSFIELD	37	18	48	3	28	-1	0.00	-0.53	0.00	5.89	76	4.54	100	81	43	0	7	0	0

Based on 1971-2000 normals

\*\*\* Not Available

Weather Data for the Week Ending February 25, 2006

STATES AND STATIONS	TEMPERATURE °F						PRECIPITATION							RELATIVE HUMIDITY PERCENT		NUMBER OF DAYS			
	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	EXTREME HIGH	EXTREME LOW	AVERAGE	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	WEEKLY TOTAL, IN.	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	GREATEST IN 24-HOUR, IN.	TOTAL IN. SINCE DEC01	PCT. NORMAL SINCE DEC01	TOTAL IN. SINCE JAN01	PCT. NORMAL SINCE JAN01	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	TEMP. °F		PRECIP	
																90 AND ABOVE	32 AND BELOW	01 INCH OR MORE	50 INCH OR MORE
OK TOLEDO	39	18	50	5	29	0	0.00	-0.47	0.00	7.80	126	4.63	130	75	41	0	7	0	0
OK YOUNGSTOWN	37	18	47	3	28	-2	0.06	-0.45	0.03	5.84	83	4.43	109	71	50	0	7	2	0
OK OKLAHOMA CITY	46	29	63	17	38	-7	0.03	-0.46	0.03	0.63	14	0.35	14	90	54	0	5	1	0
OR TULSA	47	29	67	19	38	-6	0.21	-0.37	0.21	1.59	28	1.07	33	78	55	0	5	1	0
OR ASTORIA	46	30	50	19	38	-7	0.92	-0.94	0.61	42.05	155	27.57	165	87	77	0	4	4	1
OR BURNS	41	13	48	-1	27	-5	0.00	-0.28	0.00	6.74	198	2.29	109	81	66	0	7	0	0
OR EUGENE	49	28	54	18	38	-6	0.02	-1.48	0.01	24.66	114	13.96	105	87	71	0	5	2	0
OR MEDFORD	57	25	62	20	41	-4	0.00	-0.49	0.00	13.68	190	6.61	153	82	42	0	7	0	0
OR PENDLETON	46	26	57	8	36	-4	0.10	-0.18	0.07	4.99	126	2.42	97	69	51	0	5	2	0
OR PORTLAND	47	31	51	22	39	-5	0.17	-0.81	0.08	19.71	136	12.19	139	81	65	0	4	4	0
OR SALEM	47	30	50	18	39	-5	0.05	-1.15	0.04	26.06	155	14.54	140	80	65	0	4	2	0
PA ALLENTOWN	41	20	51	12	30	-2	0.01	-0.66	0.01	10.62	114	7.04	119	64	40	0	7	1	0
PA ERIE	35	22	47	10	28	-2	0.04	-0.53	0.02	6.98	85	4.02	89	72	53	0	7	3	0
PA MIDDLETOWN	41	23	55	13	32	-1	0.04	-0.70	0.04	9.31	108	6.59	122	75	35	0	7	1	0
PA PHILADELPHIA	41	25	53	15	33	-3	0.03	-0.66	0.03	8.60	94	5.63	96	65	39	0	6	1	0
PA PITTSBURGH	39	20	52	3	29	-3	0.00	-0.59	0.00	6.71	88	4.98	105	75	35	0	7	0	0
PA WILKES-BARRE	37	19	48	9	28	-3	0.03	-0.47	0.03	8.23	120	5.47	128	69	36	0	7	1	0
PA WILLIAMSPORT	40	19	54	9	30	-1	0.05	-0.58	0.05	9.39	116	7.12	138	71	46	0	7	1	0
RI PROVIDENCE	37	20	43	10	29	-3	0.03	-0.80	0.02	12.24	106	7.90	107	68	40	0	7	2	0
SC BEAUFORT	63	47	78	41	55	3	0.81	0.11	0.73	6.72	68	4.22	62	95	54	0	0	4	1
SC CHARLESTON	63	43	77	38	53	1	1.33	0.58	1.26	9.16	92	5.91	87	89	54	0	0	4	1
SC COLUMBIA	58	40	67	34	49	0	2.25	1.31	1.01	10.17	89	6.08	76	86	60	0	0	4	2
SC GREENVILLE	56	38	63	29	47	1	0.30	-0.83	0.16	9.88	83	5.06	63	83	42	0	1	3	0
SD ABERDEEN	34	7	44	-4	21	-1	0.02	-0.11	0.01	1.71	140	0.60	71	83	66	0	7	2	0
SD HURON	38	10	51	-5	24	0	0.03	-0.14	0.02	1.01	78	0.43	48	85	40	0	7	2	0
SD RAPID CITY	37	10	45	-12	23	-6	0.01	-0.12	0.01	0.62	56	0.37	52	78	42	0	7	1	0
SD SIOUX FALLS	38	11	57	-1	24	0	0.00	-0.15	0.00	1.94	139	0.91	103	79	52	0	7	0	0
TN BRISTOL	47	29	58	12	38	-2	0.74	-0.13	0.48	8.59	87	5.88	91	91	47	0	4	4	0
TN CHATTANOOGA	51	34	62	22	43	-2	0.35	-0.89	0.31	11.09	77	7.24	75	85	55	0	3	3	0
TN KNOXVILLE	51	33	59	19	42	-2	1.07	0.03	1.01	9.38	75	6.55	81	91	50	0	2	3	1
TN MEMPHIS	48	31	66	16	40	-7	0.83	-0.28	0.40	12.73	93	10.82	135	86	52	0	3	3	0
TN NASHVILLE	50	30	64	12	40	-3	0.61	-0.36	0.40	11.72	100	9.26	130	79	42	0	3	3	0
TX ABILENE	52	36	68	19	44	-7	1.26	0.96	0.77	1.81	57	1.70	89	93	81	0	2	3	1
TX AMARILLO	53	21	67	11	37	-5	0.00	-0.15	0.00	0.14	8	0.11	10	95	49	0	7	0	0
TX AUSTIN	57	43	71	29	50	-6	0.59	0.05	0.56	2.97	49	2.88	80	90	77	0	1	4	1
TX BEAUMONT	61	48	80	34	54	-3	0.66	-0.06	0.46	5.85	42	3.69	43	94	64	0	0	4	0
TX BROWNSVILLE	75	57	85	39	66	2	0.02	-0.20	0.01	2.34	66	0.84	35	94	77	0	0	2	0
TX CORPUS CHRISTI	69	54	84	37	62	1	0.02	-0.44	0.02	0.68	14	0.32	10	90	74	0	0	1	0
TX DEL RIO	66	47	84	33	56	-2	0.04	-0.20	0.04	0.35	16	0.29	21	88	68	0	0	1	0
TX EL PASO	66	43	69	38	55	3	0.22	0.14	0.16	0.30	20	0.30	40	65	27	0	0	3	0
TX FORT WORTH	49	36	59	24	42	-10	3.53	2.84	2.23	6.44	100	6.11	157	94	66	0	2	4	2
TX GALVESTON	60	51	75	38	56	-3	0.13	-0.43	0.12	3.60	36	1.24	19	95	73	0	0	2	0
TX HOUSTON	61	47	80	34	54	-3	0.39	-0.33	0.34	10.33	103	3.96	63	91	75	0	0	2	0
TX LUBBOCK	56	28	69	17	42	-3	0.14	-0.03	0.14	0.17	10	0.17	16	87	59	0	4	1	0
TX MIDLAND	61	38	74	20	50	-1	0.84	0.70	0.46	1.11	68	1.00	101	81	63	0	2	3	0
TX SAN ANGELO	62	36	75	20	49	-3	0.61	0.31	0.55	0.87	32	0.85	47	90	64	0	2	2	1
TX SAN ANTONIO	63	45	79	29	54	-3	0.47	0.03	0.41	1.07	21	0.97	31	93	66	0	1	4	0
TX VICTORIA	63	48	81	34	56	-2	0.33	-0.17	0.29	2.60	39	2.11	50	95	80	0	0	4	0
TX WACO	51	40	62	27	46	-7	1.20	0.54	1.02	4.29	64	3.86	97	87	77	0	1	3	1
TX WICHITA FALLS	49	31	62	20	40	-8	0.13	-0.31	0.13	0.99	24	0.81	33	86	68	0	4	1	0
UT SALT LAKE CITY	42	22	56	10	32	-5	0.08	-0.26	0.08	3.73	100	2.47	99	77	45	0	6	1	0
VT BURLINGTON	30	15	39	3	23	1	0.23	-0.16	0.13	7.37	125	5.16	141	81	48	0	7	4	0
VA LYNCHBURG	49	27	62	12	38	-1	0.12	-0.66	0.07	8.25	87	5.22	84	69	33	0	6	3	0
VA NORFOLK	48	31	63	22	40	-3	0.04	-0.79	0.03	7.62	77	3.32	49	79	50	0	3	2	0
VA RICHMOND	50	27	64	14	39	-2	0.16	-0.62	0.06	10.17	110	4.36	71	78	48	0	6	3	0
VA ROANOKE	49	30	64	13	40	-1	0.13	-0.65	0.12	7.48	85	5.12	86	62	37	0	4	2	0
VA WASH/DULLES	45	23	59	10	34	-3	0.21	-0.49	0.21	7.46	87	4.52	83	77	42	0	6	1	0
WA OLYMPIA	46	27	51	13	36	-5	0.41	-1.01	0.39	27.51	131	18.62	142	88	74	0	5	2	0
WA QUILLAYUTE	46	32	50	19	39	-4	0.64	-2.36	0.30	36.23	92	26.95	109	87	75	0	4	4	0
WA SEATTLE-TACOMA	46	34	49	27	40	-4	0.09	-0.88	0.09	20.38	141	13.53	153	82	64	0	4	1	0
WA SPOKANE	38	21	47	10	29	-5	0.00	-0.36	0.00	7.93	148	4.97	160	84	46	0	7	0	0
WA YAKIMA	48	18	58	7	33	-4	0.00	-0.17	0.00	4.28	133	1.89	103	77	50	0	6	0	0
WV BECKLEY	40	23	58	-3	32	-4	0.16	-0.60	0.08	6.51	73	3.79	65	81	56	0	6	3	0
WV CHARLESTON	43	26	60	4	35	-4	0.18	-0.64	0.16	7.69	82	5.04	84	73	41	0	6	2	0
WV ELKINS	42	20	58	-4	31	-2	0.05	-0.76	0.05	6.84	71	4.26	69	79	34	0	6	1	0
WV HUNTINGTON	44	27	60	5	35	-4	0.09	-0.72	0.09	7.10	77	4.73	80	71	40	0	5	1	0
WI EAU CLAIRE	29	6	37	-1	17	-5	0.00	-0.18	0.00	1.83	67	1.46	86	82	40	0	7	0	0
WI GREEN BAY	27	7	34	-5	17	-6	0.01	-0.23	0.01	3.92	114	2.88	141	75	50	0	7	1	0
WI LA CROSSE	32	7	42	-7	20	-6	0.02	-0.20	0.01	1.73	53	1.17	57	80	42	0	7	2	0
WI MADISON	32	8	41	-4	20	-5	0.01	-0.29	0.01	3.77	94	2.78	119	73	52	0	7	1	0
WI MILWAUKEE	35	17	47	0	26	-2	0.00	-0.39	0.00	5.01	91	3.83	117	66	47	0	7	0	0
WY CASPER	31	12	44	-17	21	-8	0.00	-0.17	0.00	1.99	116	1.70	156	69	59	0	7	0	0
WY CHEYENNE	34	14	47	-1	24	-6	0.25	0.13	0.18	0.57	46	0.29	37	67	47	0	7	4	0
WY LANDER	30	7	47	-12	19	-9	0.01	-0.14	0.01	1.61	105	1.22	131	75	61	0	7	1	0
WY SHERIDAN	35	11	43	-11	23	-6	0.16	0.05	0.12	0.94	50	0.46	38	81	60	0	6	2	0

Based on 1971-2000 normals

\*\*\* Not Available

# National Agricultural Summary

February 20 - 26, 2006

Weekly National Agricultural Summary provided by USDA/NASS

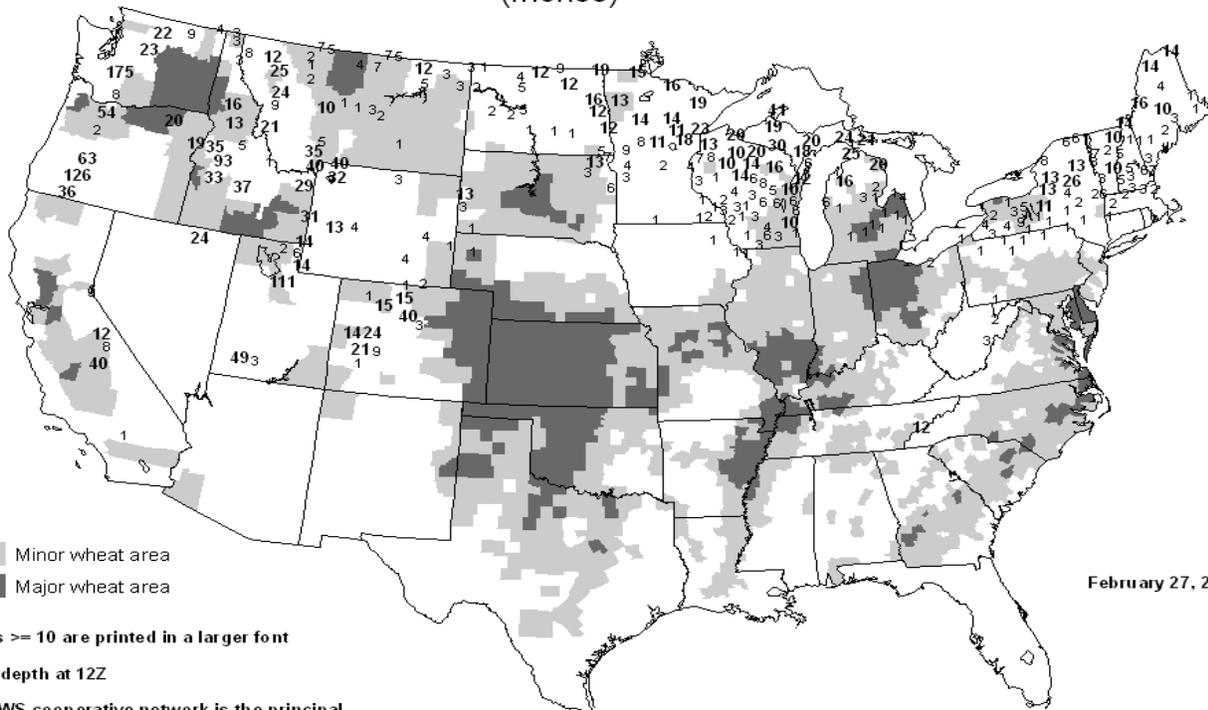
## HIGHLIGHTS

Below-normal temperatures again prevailed across most of the Nation. Only in parts of the Southeast and Southwest were temperatures above normal. Meanwhile, moderate to heavy rain fell across most of the Southeast and Mississippi Delta. Light to moderate precipitation in Texas eased soil moisture shortages somewhat, but most areas still needed more rainfall. Light to moderate precipitation also fell across the Pacific Northwest and northern Rocky Mountains, while the remainder of the Rocky Mountains and Southwest had only isolated areas of light precipitation. The Corn Belt and northern and central Great Plains remained mostly dry, with only light snowfall in the northernmost parts of the regions. Snow cover in these areas remained light to nonexistent, leaving winter wheat vulnerable to the sub-zero

temperatures that occurred across the northern portions of both regions.

In Florida, warmer weather increased crop growth and development in vegetable crops, while sugarcane harvesting continued around Lake Okeechobee. Producers in Georgia were busy with equipment maintenance and soil preparation. Some corn growers expected to begin planting in the next few weeks. In Texas, condition of winter grains improved in some area due to rainfall, but both winter wheat and oats remained mostly in very poor condition. Harvest of citrus crops was active in California, with good yields reported. Citrus and other fruit growers took action to protect their crops from freezing temperatures.

## United States Snow Depth (Inches)



February 27, 2006

Minor wheat area  
Major wheat area

Values  $\geq 10$  are printed in a larger font

Snow depth at 12Z

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

NOAA/USDA JOINT AGRICULTURAL WEATHER FACILITY

# International Weather and Crop Summary

February 19 - 25, 2006

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

## HIGHLIGHTS

**EUROPE:** Wet weather further eased moisture shortages in central and western Europe.

**FSU-WESTERN:** Above-normal temperatures improved overwintering conditions for winter grains in Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus, following several weeks of bitterly cold weather.

**AUSTRALIA:** Mostly dry weather aided maturing summer crops, while isolated showers and adequate reservoir levels maintained local moisture supplies for immature crops.

**MIDDLE EAST:** Cool, showery conditions in Turkey contrasted with continued unseasonable warmth in Iran.

**NORTHWESTERN AFRICA:** Widespread rain returned to winter grain areas.

**SOUTH AFRICA:** Conditions remained overall favorable for corn and other immature summer crops.

**EASTERN ASIA:** Mild weather favored winter rapeseed and allowed winter wheat in parts of the North China Plain to begin breaking dormancy.

**SOUTHEAST ASIA:** Heavy rainfall continued to cause flooding in Indonesia, while drier weather eased wetness in the Philippines.

**BRAZIL:** Soaking rain slowed harvest of soybeans and other summer crops but boosted moisture for immature summer crops in the northeast and parts of the south.

**ARGENTINA:** Rain benefited immature summer grains and oilseeds in central Argentina, ending several weeks of stressful weather.



### EUROPE

Wet weather further eased moisture shortages in northern and western Europe, while mild, unsettled conditions returned to southeastern growing areas. For the second consecutive week, a complex, slow-moving storm brought widespread rain (5-40 mm) to France, western Germany, and Belgium. Farther north, light showers (5-30 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, heavy rain (25-105 mm) in northern Portugal and northwestern Spain contrasted with lighter showers (10-30 mm) in southern growing areas. Despite the recent rainfall, much of Spain and Portugal still face significant moisture shortages following a drier-than-normal December and January. In the Balkans, light-to-moderate rain (5-50 mm) in winter grain areas maintained adequate to abundant moisture supplies for overwintering crops. Elsewhere, light to moderate snow (5-20 mm of liquid equivalent) accompanied near to below-normal temperatures in Poland, the Baltics, and the Czech Republic, while widespread rain and snow (25-90 mm) across much of Italy alleviated short-term moisture shortages but slowed citrus harvesting.

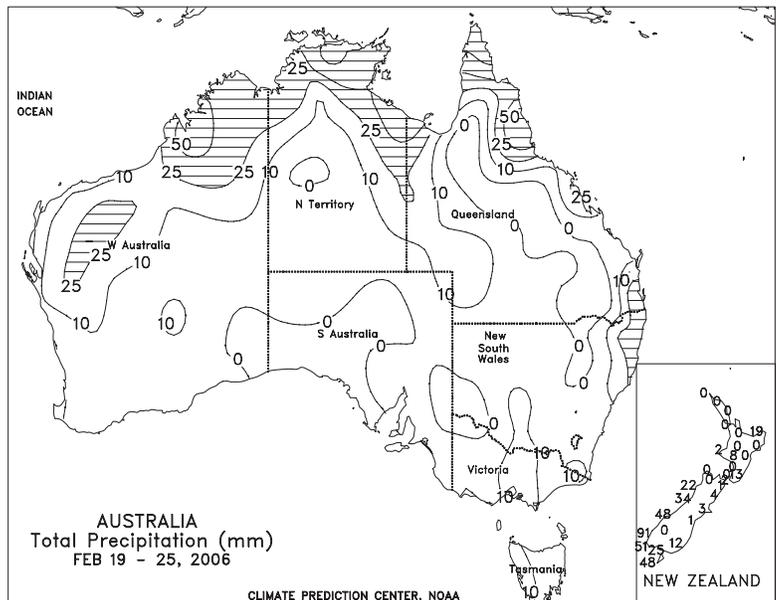
**FSU-WESTERN**

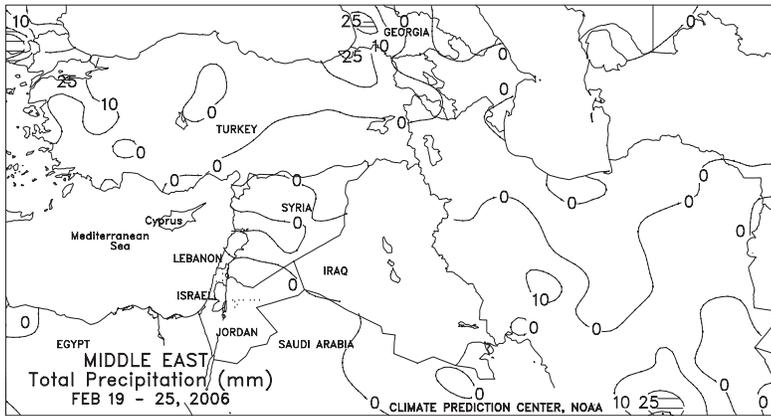
A mild westerly flow of air from Europe brought a warming trend to most of the region. Temperatures quickly rose above freezing early in the week, with maximum temperatures ranging from 2 to 10 degrees C as far north as the Central District in Russia. Maximum temperatures rose above 10 degrees C in southern Ukraine and the southern portion of the Southern District in Russia, causing considerable melting of the protective snow cover. The warming trend was accompanied by light, widespread precipitation (5-25 mm of liquid equivalent). The precipitation fell as a mixture of rain and snow in Ukraine and the Southern District in Russia, while mostly snow fell in northern Russia. Weekly temperatures averaged 1 to 4 degrees C above normal in Belarus, Ukraine, and the Central District in Russia, and near to slightly above normal in the Southern and Volga Districts in Russia. At week's end, a cold front ushered in cooler weather to the region, dropping temperatures to more seasonable levels.



**AUSTRALIA**

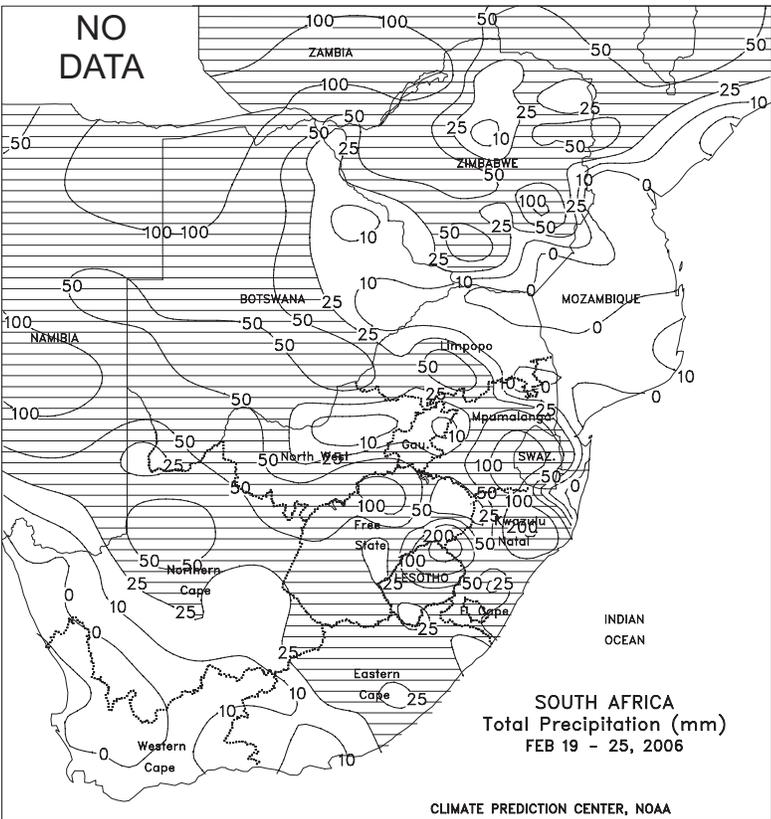
In northern New South Wales and Queensland, mostly dry weather aided maturing summer crops. Nevertheless, reservoir levels remained adequate for irrigated cotton, while isolated showers (2-11 mm) maintained local moisture supplies for immature dryland crops. Temperatures in eastern Australia averaged about 1 to 2 degrees C above normal, signaling larger-than-normal evaporation rates.





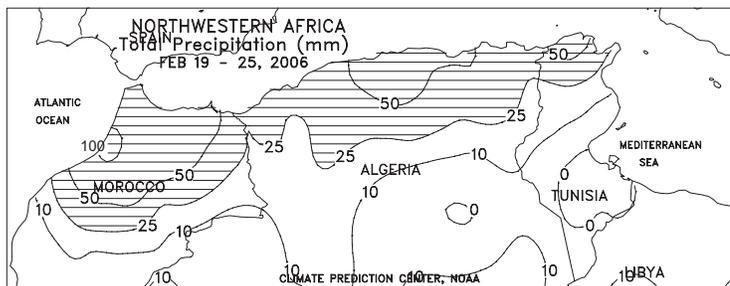
**MIDDLE EAST**

Cool, showery conditions in Turkey contrasted with continued unseasonable warmth in Iran. Light rain and snow (2-15 mm of liquid equivalent) in central and western Turkey maintained adequate topsoil moisture for semi-dormant winter grains. Mostly dry, warm weather in southeastern Turkey and along the eastern Mediterranean coast eased winter grains out of dormancy. Dry, warm weather (1 - 4 degrees C above normal) in northern Iraq and northwestern Iran further reduced winter grain cold hardiness, although weekly average temperatures remained below 5 degrees C, likely keeping grains from breaking dormancy.



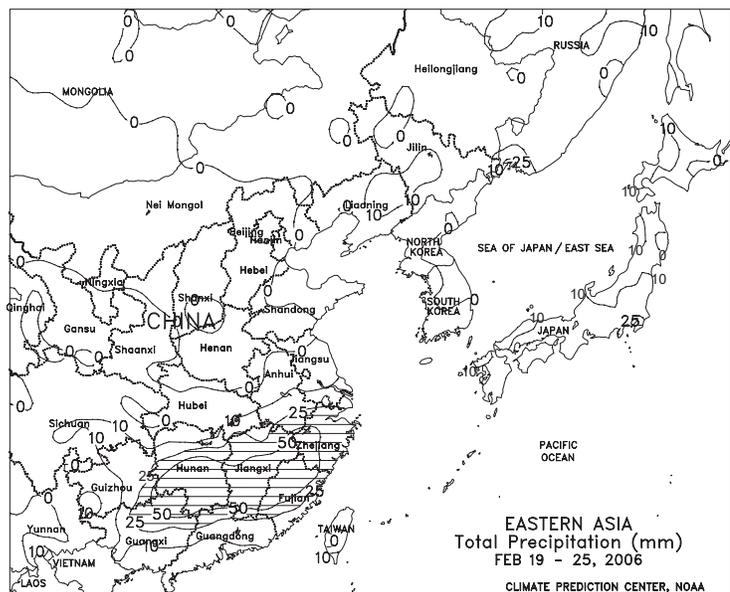
**SOUTH AFRICA**

Warm, showery weather maintained generally favorable conditions for corn and other summer crops throughout the main agricultural areas. Rainfall ranged from 5 to 50 mm or more in the corn belt, with locally heavier rain (greater than 100 mm) in sugarcane areas of southern Mpumalanga and KwaZulu-Natal. Unseasonably heavy rainfall (greater than 25 mm) also fell in major growing areas of Eastern and Northern Cape, although much of Western Cape remained dry. Temperatures averaged near to slightly above normal throughout South Africa's main growing areas, with highs mostly in the upper 20s and lower 30s degrees C in the corn belt.



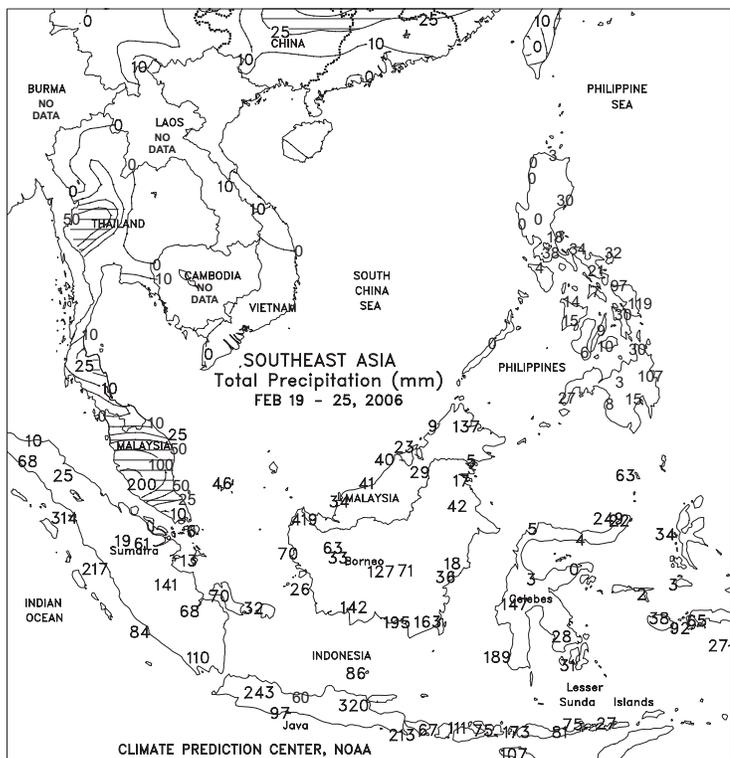
**NORTHWESTERN AFRICA**

Widespread rain returned to winter grain areas after last week's respite. A pair of storms brought locally heavy rain (25-110 mm) to Morocco, boosting moisture reserves for vegetative winter grains. Farther east, light to moderate showers (15-60 mm) in Algeria and Tunisia maintained favorable prospects for winter wheat and barley. Temperatures up to 4 degrees C below normal in Algeria and Morocco slowed crop development, although no widespread freezes were reported. Overall, winter wheat prospects remained much improved over last year's drought-stricken crop.



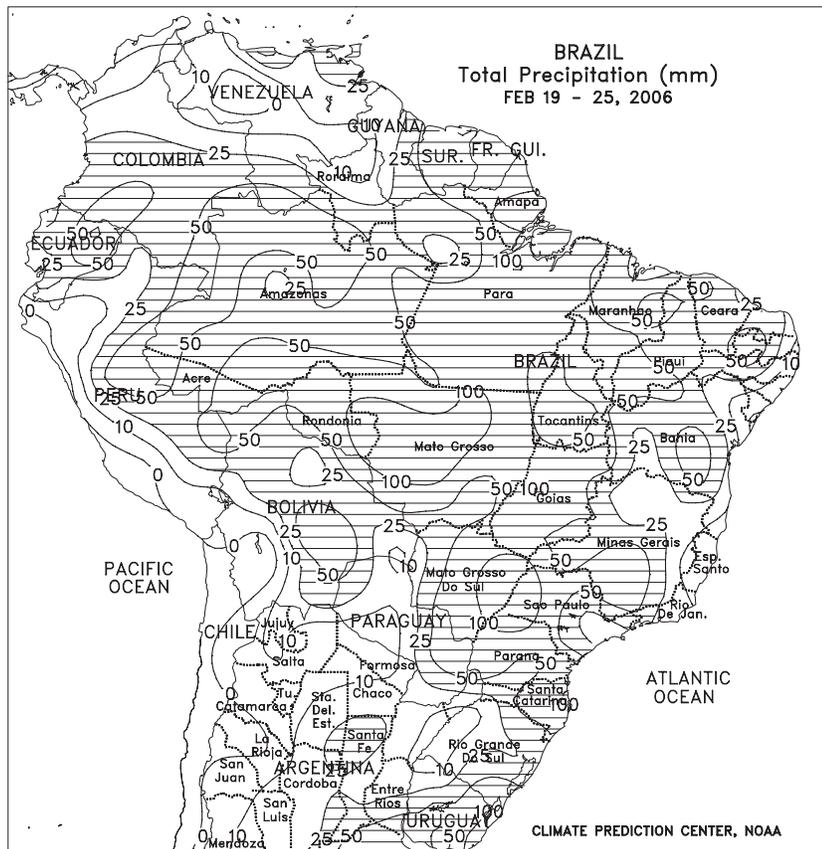
**EASTERN ASIA**

Mild weather continued throughout China, providing favorable conditions for overwintering wheat and rapeseed. Average temperatures were above 5 degrees C for the second consecutive week in southern parts of the North China Plain, prompting dormant winter wheat to begin breaking dormancy. Wheat breaking dormancy too early can become susceptible to damage from early spring freezes. In southern China, heavy showers (50-100 mm) increased moisture supplies for early double-crop rice planting.



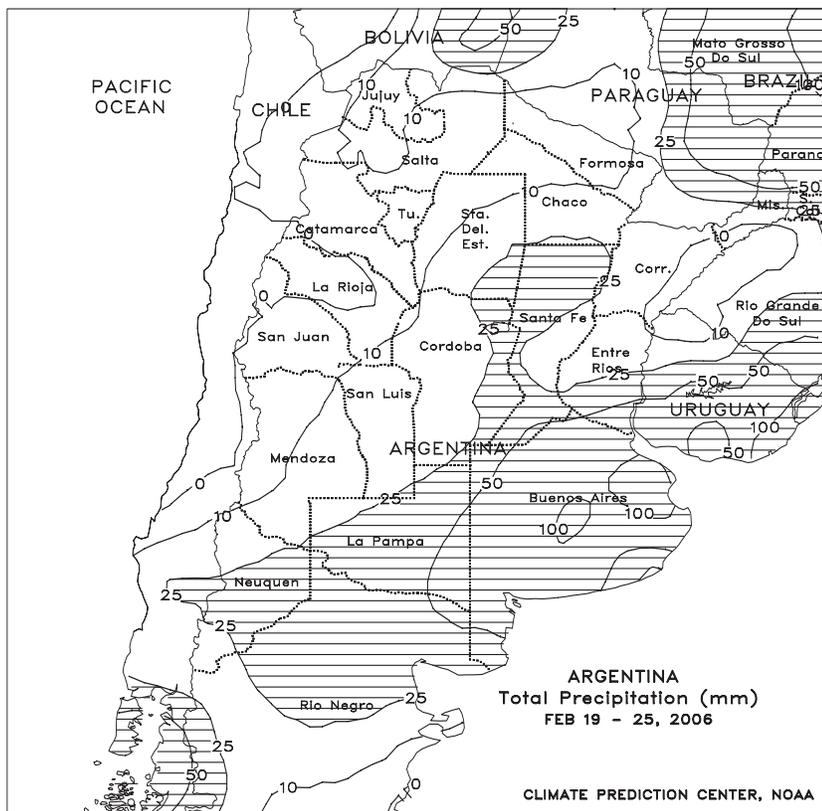
**SOUTHEAST ASIA**

Heavy monsoon showers (50-200 mm) continued in Indonesia, causing more flooding. The showers also provided generally unfavorable conditions for reproductive rice in Java, while slowing oil palm harvesting in Sumatra and western Malaysia. Heavy showers abated in the eastern and southern Philippines, allowing flood waters to recede. Seasonably dry weather returned to Indochina.



**BRAZIL**

Widespread, locally heavy rain (25-50 mm, locally exceeding 100 mm) continued in major soybean areas of the center-west region (Mato Grosso, Goiás, and Mato Grosso do Sul), causing harvest difficulties but increasing moisture for late-planted crops and other agriculture. Elsewhere, scattered showers (25-50 mm or more) benefited soybeans and other summer crops in the northeastern interior, including western Bahia, but dry pockets lingered in coffee, cocoa, and sugarcane areas along the eastern coast. In southern Brazil, beneficial rain extended southward through Parana into Santa Catarina, but pockets of dryness persisted in Rio Grande do Sul, traditionally Brazil's third largest producer of soybeans. Crops in Rio Grande do Sul are usually planted later and can therefore still benefit from rainfall in late February and March. According to private analyst Safras e Mercados, soybeans were 13 percent harvested nationally as of the February 24, with the best progress recorded in Goiás (32 percent harvested) and Mato Grosso (26 percent harvested). Harvesting was underway in Parana (11 percent), but fieldwork was otherwise weeks away in most other southern growing areas.



**ARGENTINA**

Welcomed rain (10-50 mm, locally exceeding 100 mm) overspread key growing areas of central Argentina, ending a brief but significant period of unseasonable warmth and dryness that stressed soybeans and other immature summer crops. Prior to the onset of the rains, highs exceeded 35 degrees C in most growing areas of central Argentina and reached 40 degrees C in parts of the northern cotton belt, but afterward fell to more seasonable levels. In northern growing areas, the recent warmth and dryness helped to advance crops toward maturity, possibly at the expense of some yield potential. According to the Ministry of Agriculture, sunflowers were 25 percent harvested as of February 23, compared to last year's pace of 34 percent, with harvesting generally limited to the earlier planted northern crop zones. Elsewhere, soybeans ranged in development from reproductive to mature in central Argentina, the earliest being second-crop soybeans planted after the winter wheat harvest.

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