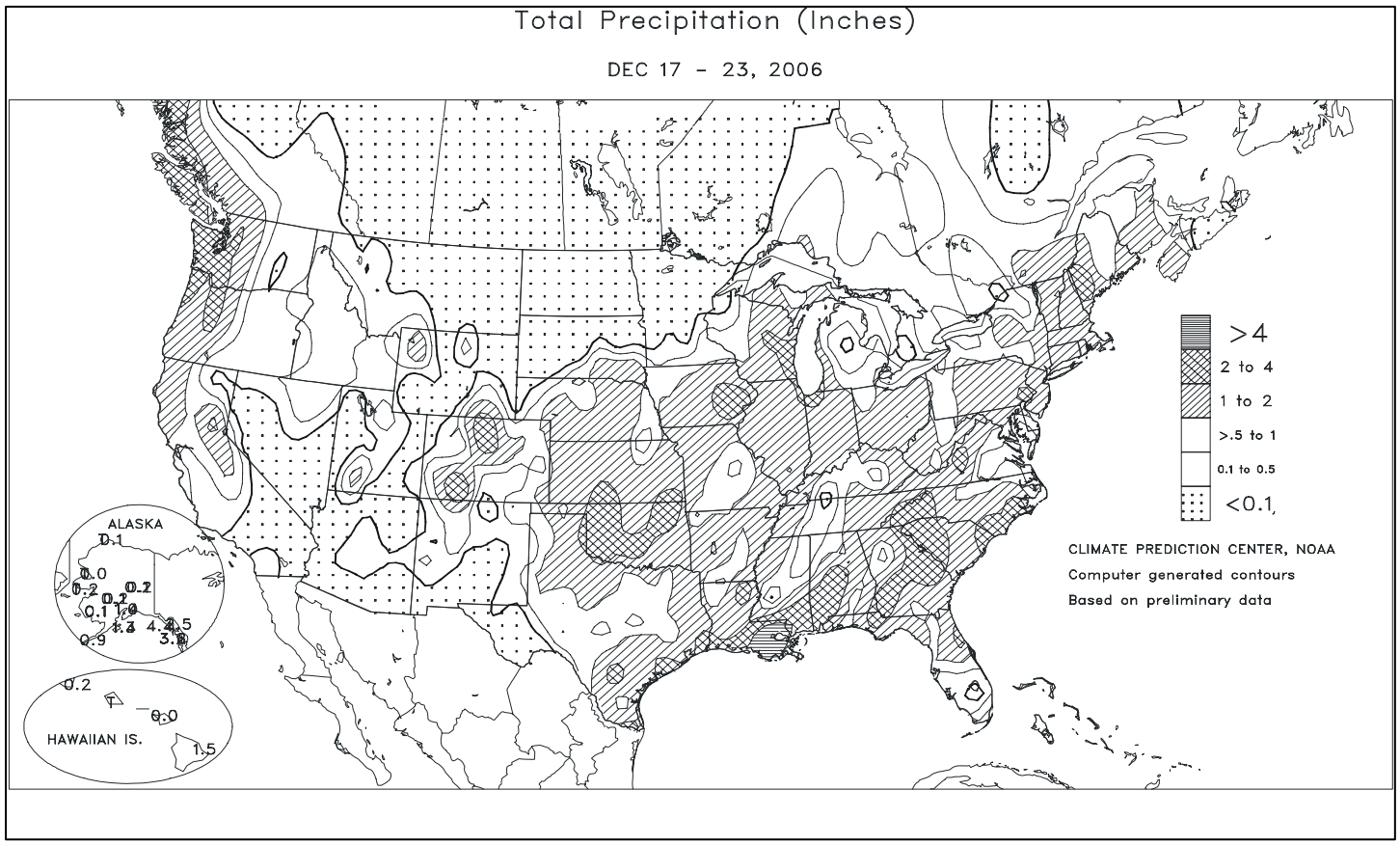
Volume 93, No. 52 http://www.usda.gov/oce/waob/jawf/wwcb.html December 27, 2006

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
December 17 - 23, 2006

Highlights provided by USDA/WAOB

A major storm across the **Nation's mid-section** provided much-needed moisture for winter wheat but severely stressed livestock and caused significant travel and electrical disruptions due to snow, ice, and wind. Blizzard conditions engulfed the **central High Plains** and adjacent **Rockies** on December 20-21. Prior to reaching the **Plains**, the storm provided the season's first widespread precipitation in the **Four Corners region** and drew chilly air across the **West**. There were four

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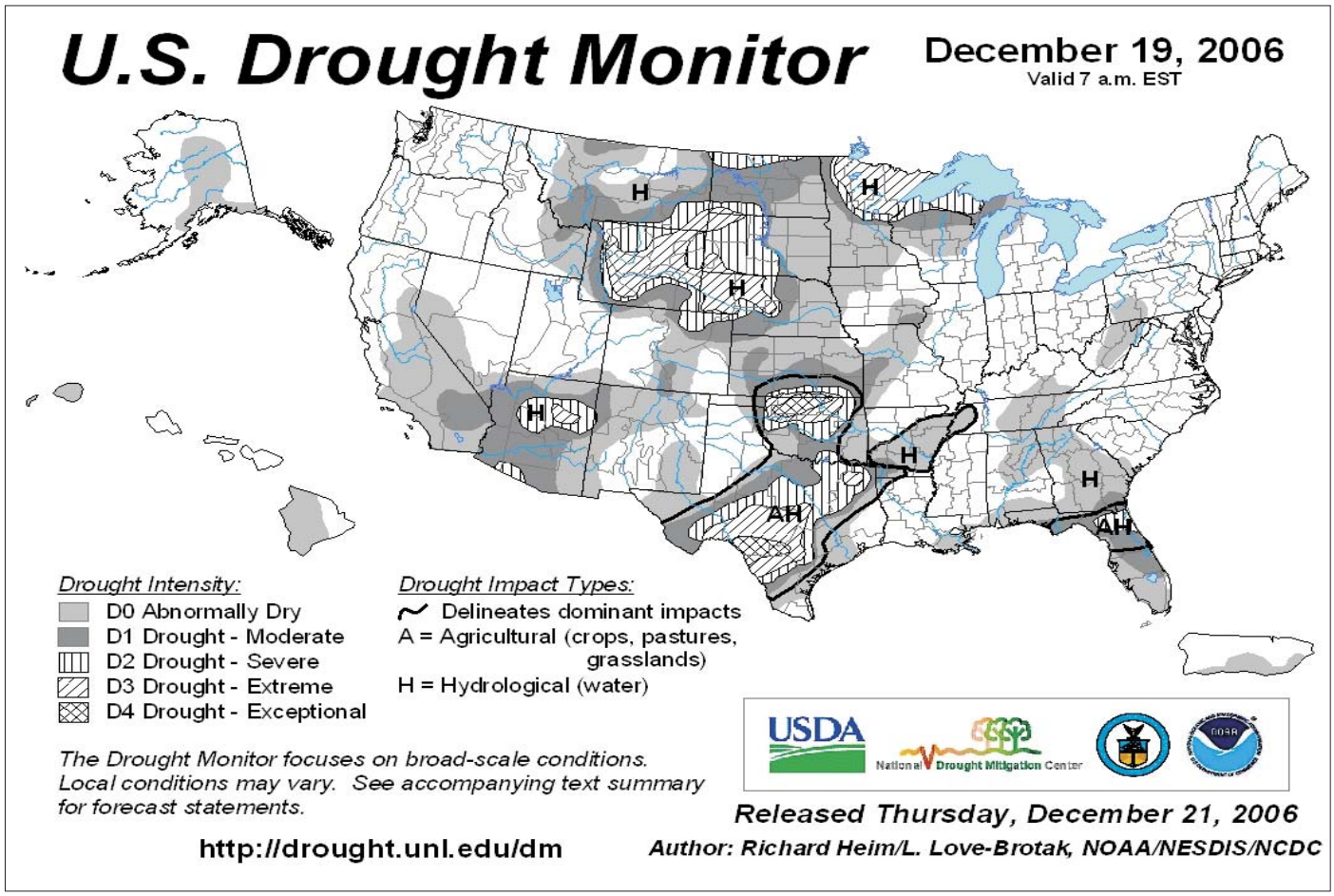
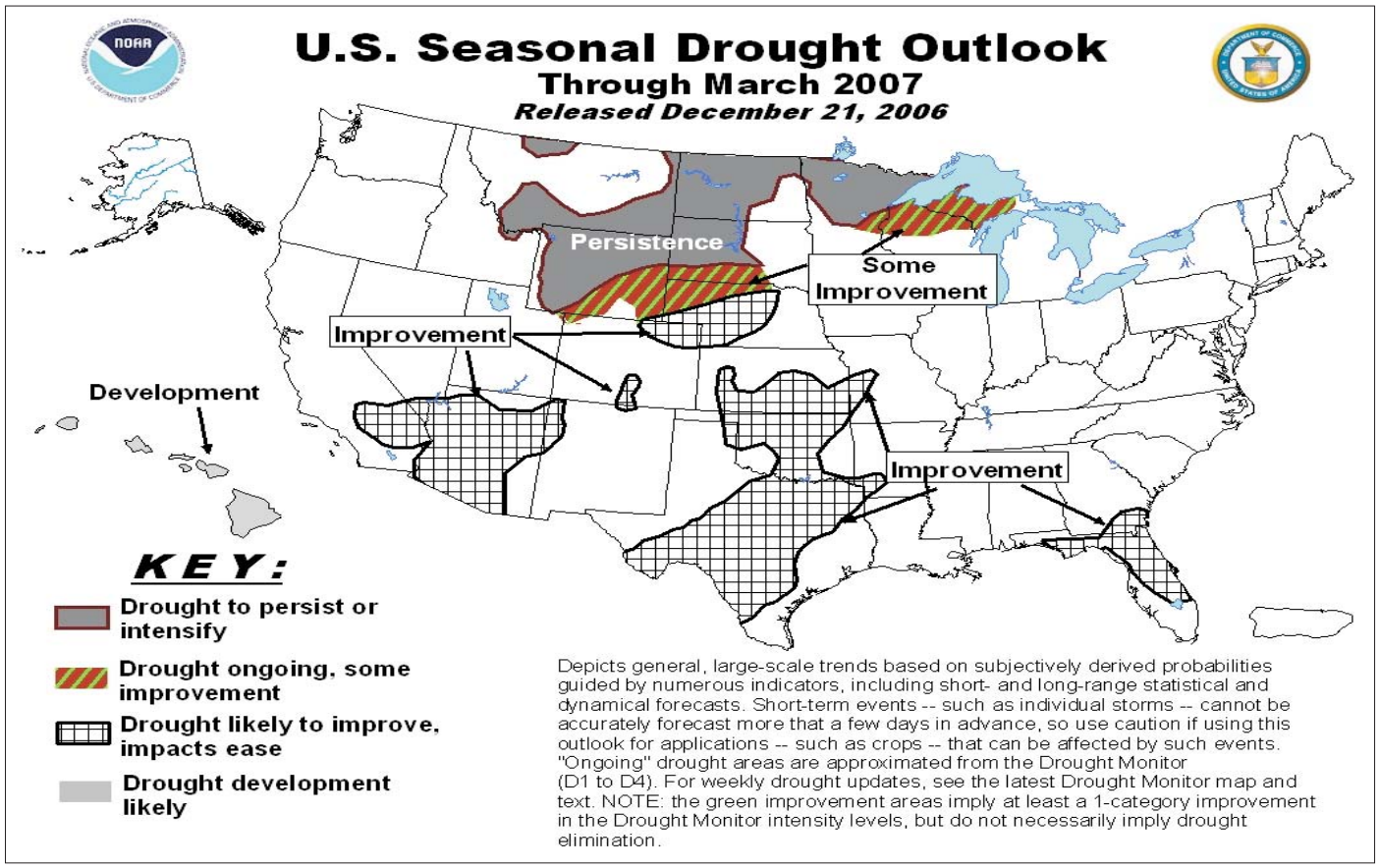

U.S. Drought Monitor
December 19, 2006
Valid 7 a.m. EST
H
AH
Drought Intensity:
D0 Abnormally Dry
D1 Drought - Moderate
D2 Drought - Severe
D3 Drought - Extreme
D4 Drought - Exceptional
Drought Impact Types:
Delineates dominant impacts
A = Agricultural (crops, pastures, grasslands)
H = Hydrological (water)
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.
USDA
National Drought Mitigation Center
Released Thursday, December 21, 2006
http://drought.unl.edu/dm
Author: Richard Heim/L. Love-Brotak, NOAA/NESDIS/NCDC


U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook
Through March 2007
Released December 21, 2006
Persistence
Some Improvement
Improvement
Development
Improvement
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 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.

National Weather Data for Selected Cities

Weather Data for the Week Ending December 23, 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	68	48	74	41	58	13	1.44	0.48	1.28	1.68	52	55.22	105	92	52	0	0	3	1
	HUNTSVILLE	64	44	71	38	54	12	0.71	-0.50	0.65	1.00	24	39.67	71	91	68	0	0	3	1
	MOBILE	72	52	78	46	62	10	1.33	0.37	0.86	1.73	51	47.13	72	89	65	0	0	2	1
	MONTGOMERY	70	47	77	37	58	10	1.97	0.91	1.15	2.30	62	43.63	82	95	56	0	0	3	2
AK	ANCHORAGE	26	18	28	11	22	5	0.97	0.75	0.28	1.44	189	19.39	123	82	69	0	7	4	0
	BARROW	3	-8	8	-21	-3	9	0.04	0.04	0.02	0.20	2000	4.14	103	91	76	0	7	3	0
	FAIRBANKS	1	-16	15	-23	-7	0	0.12	-0.05	0.08	0.24	47	8.31	82	82	77	0	7	4	0
	JUNEAU	39	32	41	31	35	7	2.47	1.23	0.76	6.30	159	71.22	125	95	81	0	4	7	1
	KODIAK	31	12	36	5	22	-8	1.34	-0.42	0.64	9.18	168	62.83	86	77	56	0	7	4	2
	NOME	9	-8	16	-19	0	-8	0.04	-0.16	0.04	0.14	19	17.87	110	80	72	0	7	1	0
AZ	FLAGSTAFF	36	13	49	3	25	-5	0.39	0.00	0.19	0.61	48	16.85	75	89	45	0	7	4	0
	PHOENIX	56	41	61	35	49	-5	0.26	0.07	0.26	0.26	43	5.37	67	62	45	0	0	1	0
	TUCSON	56	34	63	26	45	-6	0.08	-0.16	0.06	0.08	12	11.29	95	71	49	0	3	3	0
	YUMA	62	42	67	33	52	-5	0.00	-0.10	0.00	0.00	0	0.63	22	48	33	0	0	0	0
AR	FORT SMITH	61	45	76	32	53	13	0.79	0.12	0.69	0.80	30	48.45	112	87	57	0	1	2	1
	LITTLE ROCK	61	46	75	33	54	12	0.92	-0.05	0.49	2.38	65	44.57	89	92	58	0	0	3	0
CA	BAKERSFIELD	53	33	57	30	43	-3	0.21	0.04	0.14	0.76	158	6.32	102	85	68	0	5	2	0
	FRESNO	50	34	54	30	42	-2	0.95	0.65	0.83	1.69	192	14.30	133	90	77	0	4	2	1
	LOS ANGELES	61	43	69	39	52	-5	0.01	-0.40	0.01	0.70	59	9.27	74	67	39	0	0	1	0
	REDDING	51	30	58	25	41	-4	0.29	-0.77	0.28	5.59	173	35.90	112	85	65	0	5	2	0
	SACRAMENTO	52	31	56	26	41	-4	0.74	0.20	0.51	3.13	186	17.90	104	95	53	0	4	2	1
	SAN DIEGO	60	44	67	42	52	-5	0.27	-0.03	0.24	0.85	102	6.29	61	72	51	0	0	2	0
	SAN FRANCISCO	53	40	55	35	46	-3	0.50	-0.15	0.44	4.01	203	21.24	111	79	70	0	0	2	0
	STOCKTON	53	33	56	28	43	-1	0.21	-0.18	0.18	1.75	141	15.08	114	83	72	0	3	2	0
CO	ALAMOSA	29	6	43	-16	18	2	0.45	0.39	0.25	0.48	240	8.29	116	84	65	0	7	3	0
	CO SPRINGS	33	17	40	14	25	-4	0.09	0.01	0.08	0.16	67	13.35	78	80	51	0	7	2	0
	DENVER INTL	32	18	46	12	25	-4	0.94	0.88	0.71	1.02	537	8.45	63	85	60	0	7	2	1
	GRAND JUNCTION	34	21	42	12	27	0	0.17	0.06	0.14	0.37	116	9.87	112	81	67	0	7	2	0
	PUEBLO	35	18	40	9	27	-3	0.32	0.24	0.21	0.43	179	13.67	112	85	60	0	7	2	0
CT	BRIDGEPORT	51	33	58	26	42	8	1.55	0.79	1.04	2.30	92	58.54	136	73	52	0	5	2	2
	HARTFORD	49	29	57	23	39	10	0.87	0.09	0.64	1.39	53	51.37	114	81	49	0	5	2	1
DC	WASHINGTON	57	39	74	32	48	10	0.76	0.09	0.73	0.91	42	47.12	122	82	48	0	1	2	1
DE	WILMINGTON	55	35	71	25	45	10	1.03	0.29	0.88	1.24	50	48.74	116	89	48	0	4	2	1
FL	DAYTONA BEACH	78	61	81	57	70	10	1.22	0.63	0.77	2.15	111	30.33	63	93	55	0	0	2	1
	JACKSONVILLE	77	55	80	47	66	12	0.95	0.37	0.67	0.96	52	36.15	70	94	62	0	0	3	1
	KEY WEST	79	73	81	70	76	5	1.17	0.69	0.98	3.45	230	38.28	100	88	74	0	0	3	1
	MIAMI	81	72	84	70	76	7	1.40	0.94	0.75	2.59	158	63.64	110	83	64	0	0	4	2
	ORLANDO	81	62	82	59	71	9	1.02	0.52	0.59	2.87	170	35.63	75	87	49	0	0	2	1
	PENSACOLA	72	56	79	48	64	11	0.76	-0.09	0.64	1.25	45	41.40	66	92	65	0	0	3	1
	TALLAHASSEE	75	51	79	40	63	10	1.54	0.62	1.38	1.78	63	42.77	69	95	67	0	0	2	1
	TAMPA	82	66	84	63	74	11	1.40	0.90	1.32	1.44	85	54.91	124	86	53	0	0	2	1
	WEST PALM BEACH	80	72	82	70	76	8	0.31	-0.28	0.20	10.58	443	53.68	89	77	64	0	0	2	0
GA	ATHENS	66	43	76	35	54	10	1.59	0.77	1.20	1.70	67	36.93	79	87	56	0	0	3	1
	ATLANTA	65	48	73	44	57	13	0.49	-0.32	0.44	0.87	32	46.25	94	83	58	0	0	2	0
	AUGUSTA	71	45	78	35	58	12	2.93	2.19	2.60	3.06	144	38.60	89	91	65	0	0	2	1
	COLUMBUS	69	50	77	40	60	12	0.67	-0.29	0.64	1.05	33	37.00	78	92	52	0	0	3	1
	MACON	71	45	78	35	58	11	2.25	1.37	2.24	2.64	95	31.28	71	94	53	0	0	2	1
	SAVANNAH	74	52	78	44	63	13	1.26	0.61	1.19	1.47	78	33.16	68	90	61	0	0	3	1
HI	HILO	80	64	82	62	72	0	1.46	-0.61	0.83	7.16	87	121.70	98	86	71	0	0	4	1
	HONOLULU	82	68	84	64	75	1	0.02	-0.64	0.02	0.35	17	29.44	168	78	64	0	0	1	0
	KAHULUI	83	63	85	59	73	0	0.00	-0.71	0.00	3.09	146	17.29	97	79	71	0	0	0	0
	LIHUE	79	67	80	62	73	0	0.16	-0.91	0.09	0.47	14	66.40	174	86	77	0	0	3	0
ID	BOISE	33	17	40	14	25	-5	0.22	-0.06	0.13	1.51	153	11.94	101	84	68	0	7	3	0
	LEWISTON	38	25	45	20	32	-1	0.03	-0.19	0.03	0.65	88	12.20	98	80	63	0	6	1	0
	POCATELLO	30	9	35	2	19	-6	0.41	0.19	0.24	0.84	112	12.51	102	85	72	0	7	3	0
IL	CHICAGO/O'HARE	46	33	54	24	40	14	1.58	1.08	0.90	2.99	162	41.79	117	84	65	0	3	3	1
	MOLINE	44	30	49	20	37	12	1.74	1.28	0.93	2.12	128	36.43	97	83	66	0	4	3	2
	PEORIA	48	33	56	22	41	15	1.12	0.64	0.67	2.08	111	30.87	87	88	61	0	4	3	1
	ROCKFORD	45	29	52	17	37	14	1.70	1.28	0.89	2.73	172	38.06	105	92	68	0	4	3	1
	SPRINGFIELD	49	34	59	25	42	13	1.02	0.48	0.50	6.64	342	36.05	103	91	65	0	3	3	1
IN	EVANSVILLE	54	40	67	31	47	13	1.37	0.64	0.66	3.47	127	65.08	150	88	72	0	3	3	2
	FORT WAYNE	47	34	56	21	41	13	1.00	0.41	0.47	2.90	138	40.34	112	91	74	0	3	5	0
	INDIANAPOLIS	51	37	61	27	44	14	1.57	0.94	1.29	3.09	134	48.89	122	95	70	0	2	5	1
	SOUTH BEND	46	32	56	20	39	12	1.28	0.62	0.75	2.95	126	44.40	114	90	72	0	3	3	1
IA	BURLINGTON	45	31	50	20	38	12	1.13	0.71	0.65	1.16	72	28.08	75	90	59	0	4	4	1
	CEDAR RAPIDS	40	25	43	11	32	10	1.76	1.48	0.93	1.76	154	29.94	91	96	66	0	5	3	2
	DES MOINES	42	29	50	18	36	12	1.06	0.80	0.71	1.07	107	31.93	93	81	62	0	5	3	1
	DUBUQUE	40	27	43	18	33	12	1.05	0.72	0.53	1.24	96	37.74	107	85	75	0	5	2	2
	SIOUX CITY	40	23	49	10	31	10	0.85	0.74	0.60	0.94	204	25.72	100	80	64	0	6	4	1
	WATERLOO	39	23	45	13	31	11	1.14	0.94	0.77	1.20	141	32.73	100	88	68	0	5	3	1
KS	CONCORDIA	43	27	47	21	35	6	1.07	0.90	0.89	1.07	175	21.77	77	77	59	0	6	2	1
	DODGE CITY	39	26	44	21	33	1	1.06	0.89	0.84	1.07	198	18.02	82	83	57	0	7	3	1
	GOODLAND	32	17	35	12	25	-4	1.33	1.26	0.98	1.33	554	23.33	119	76	61	0	7	3	1
	TOPEKA	47	32	52	24	40	10	1.07	0.79	0.99	1.08	100	32.10	91	79	61	0	3	2	1

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

Weather Data for the Week Ending December 23, 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	47	34	52	26	40	8	1.02	0.74	0.90	1.02	103	28.69	96	76	56	0	2	2	1
KY	JACKSON	58	43	69	33	51	14	1.11	0.19	0.75	1.41	44	45.01	93	83	47	0	0	3	1
	LEXINGTON	55	40	67	29	48	13	1.07	0.18	0.57	1.87	63	51.61	115	81	66	0	3	3	1
	LOUISVILLE	56	42	70	31	49	13	0.46	-0.33	0.26	1.14	41	54.86	126	83	58	0	1	3	0
	PADUCAH	58	43	66	32	50	14	1.81	0.89	1.53	2.89	85	65.54	136	93	61	0	1	3	1
LA	BATON ROUGE	69	54	75	39	61	9	2.76	1.59	1.76	3.18	83	44.65	72	95	64	0	0	3	2
	LAKE CHARLES	70	55	78	40	63	11	0.93	-0.07	0.66	0.97	29	51.95	93	97	66	0	0	3	1
	NEW ORLEANS	68	54	75	47	61	7	5.35	4.28	3.21	5.52	146	41.37	66	89	77	0	0	3	3
	SHREVEPORT	65	52	77	37	59	12	0.90	-0.10	0.80	1.85	55	38.80	77	86	60	0	0	3	1
ME	CARIBOU	32	16	41	8	24	9	0.98	0.26	0.97	1.85	80	40.38	110	83	57	0	7	2	1
	PORTLAND	46	26	51	20	36	10	1.50	0.58	1.38	2.45	79	59.95	134	85	50	0	6	2	1
MD	BALTIMORE	58	37	72	25	47	12	1.02	0.28	0.98	1.24	51	42.61	104	82	50	0	3	2	1
MA	BOSTON	50	36	58	29	43	10	0.89	0.06	0.77	1.37	50	52.36	126	72	43	0	3	3	1
	WORCESTER	45	30	53	23	38	10	0.99	0.16	0.77	1.88	68	50.73	106	84	45	0	4	3	1
MI	ALPENA	42	30	47	24	36	13	0.76	0.37	0.70	1.64	126	31.67	114	84	58	0	5	3	1
	GRAND RAPIDS	45	32	55	25	39	13	0.96	0.42	0.51	3.20	153	43.83	120	91	65	0	3	5	1
	HOUGHTON LAKE	40	29	47	24	35	13	0.45	0.09	0.40	1.79	141	33.00	118	87	66	0	5	3	0
	LANSING	44	32	54	25	38	12	0.60	0.16	0.25	2.19	130	36.08	116	91	64	0	3	5	0
	MUSKEGON	44	32	52	25	38	11	1.43	0.88	1.00	2.74	138	39.63	123	85	67	0	3	4	1
	TRAVERSE CITY	42	29	50	22	36	11	0.88	0.30	0.61	1.98	104	29.20	89	90	56	0	4	3	1
MN	DULUTH	34	21	40	15	27	15	0.02	-0.13	0.01	0.42	60	23.75	77	78	65	0	7	2	0
	INT'L FALLS	31	9	38	0	20	13	0.01	-0.11	0.01	0.56	112	17.87	75	87	57	0	7	1	0
	MINNEAPOLIS	36	27	42	18	32	15	0.78	0.59	0.71	0.89	122	26.33	90	77	58	0	6	2	1
	ROCHESTER	35	27	40	20	31	15	0.56	0.38	0.51	1.10	145	31.32	101	84	71	0	6	2	1
	ST. CLOUD	35	19	42	11	27	14	0.13	-0.01	0.11	0.23	47	22.94	85	88	55	0	7	2	0
MS	JACKSON	69	49	76	35	59	12	0.37	-0.81	0.24	1.05	27	46.72	86	94	56	0	0	3	0
	MERIDIAN	68	44	76	33	56	8	1.05	-0.11	0.47	2.21	57	45.78	80	96	68	0	0	4	0
	TUPELO	65	46	74	36	56	14	0.63	-0.74	0.34	1.43	31	44.02	81	91	66	0	0	3	0
MO	COLUMBIA	50	35	61	28	42	11	0.57	0.08	0.43	0.89	46	29.67	75	82	55	0	2	4	0
	KANSAS CITY	47	32	54	26	40	10	1.23	0.91	1.10	1.23	98	30.34	81	81	56	0	3	2	1
	SAINT LOUIS	51	38	61	31	45	12	0.93	0.36	0.56	1.48	67	29.37	77	81	70	0	1	3	1
	SPRINGFIELD	52	38	68	28	45	10	0.61	0.00	0.37	0.70	28	37.86	85	84	65	0	1	4	0
MT	BILLINGS	38	18	45	9	28	3	0.21	0.07	0.21	0.21	50	12.84	88	70	36	0	7	1	0
	BUTTE	26	-5	34	-14	11	-6	0.02	-0.09	0.02	0.14	39	12.31	98	84	51	0	7	1	0
	CUT BANK	40	20	46	13	30	9	0.00	-0.06	0.00	0.11	61	3.98	32	66	29	0	7	0	0
	GLASGOW	37	13	43	4	25	11	0.01	-0.07	0.01	0.04	18	10.37	94	79	61	0	7	1	0
	GREAT FALLS	41	22	48	14	32	8	0.00	-0.15	0.00	0.13	31	18.07	123	60	26	0	7	0	0
	HAVRE	39	12	49	5	26	8	0.00	-0.11	0.00	0.05	15	8.75	78	78	56	0	7	0	0
	MISSOULA	27	11	33	6	19	-4	0.01	-0.24	0.01	0.40	49	16.36	121	83	77	0	7	1	0
NE	GRAND ISLAND	38	24	46	17	31	6	1.03	0.92	0.93	1.04	212	23.25	90	85	63	0	7	3	1
	LINCOLN	43	24	47	13	34	9	0.68	0.53	0.36	0.71	113	22.34	79	83	59	0	6	4	0
	NORFOLK	39	25	48	14	32	9	1.74	1.63	0.98	1.81	377	25.98	98	80	59	0	6	3	1
	NORTH PLATTE	35	15	43	7	25	0	2.15	2.07	1.78	2.15	796	19.86	102	85	58	0	7	3	1
	OMAHA	42	26	46	17	34	10	0.76	0.60	0.47	0.87	124	27.68	92	84	60	0	5	2	0
	SCOTTSBLUFF	33	11	45	0	22	-3	0.41	0.30	0.24	0.41	105	11.00	68	83	65	0	7	3	0
	VALENTINE	36	16	48	3	26	3	1.08	1.02	0.66	1.09	495	14.60	75	87	61	0	7	4	1
NV	ELY	32	-1	40	-9	15	-10	0.09	-0.02	0.07	0.18	60	9.08	93	85	70	0	7	2	0
	LAS VEGAS	50	35	55	31	43	-3	0.01	-0.07	0.01	0.04	17	1.63	38	62	39	0	3	1	0
	RENO	39	17	52	8	28	-5	0.14	-0.05	0.10	0.27	43	7.03	97	78	64	0	7	2	0
	WINNEMUCCA	35	2	37	-4	19	-10	0.49	0.32	0.37	0.73	135	9.53	118	74	54	0	7	5	0
NH	CONCORD	46	25	53	15	36	12	1.04	0.41	0.83	2.15	99	53.86	146	88	44	0	6	2	1
NJ	NEWARK	54	37	61	32	46	11	1.20	0.44	0.66	1.61	62	49.58	109	71	46	0	1	2	2
NM	ALBUQUERQUE	42	27	59	19	35	0	0.37	0.26	0.34	0.37	123	11.93	129	77	51	0	5	2	0
NY	ALBANY	45	29	51	22	37	10	0.79	0.23	0.51	1.30	66	45.88	123	86	55	0	5	2	1
	BINGHAMTON	45	31	56	24	38	12	0.69	0.05	0.44	1.73	75	49.34	130	78	58	0	4	3	0
	BUFFALO	47	34	56	28	41	12	0.65	-0.16	0.58	2.21	78	43.46	110	92	64	0	2	2	1
	ROCHESTER	49	35	59	29	42	14	0.74	0.16	0.66	2.06	101	40.10	120	78	53	0	3	2	1
	SYRACUSE	48	33	56	29	40	13	1.00	0.37	0.78	2.51	105	45.95	117	88	56	0	4	4	1
NC	ASHEVILLE	59	35	69	28	47	9	1.48	0.76	1.35	1.70	70	45.35	98	93	65	0	3	2	1
	CHARLOTTE	64	41	74	36	53	10	1.02	0.31	0.89	1.05	47	43.10	101	89	50	0	0	2	1
	GREENSBORO	63	41	73	34	52	12	0.53	-0.14	0.53	0.60	27	49.26	117	87	48	0	0	1	1
	HATTERAS	63	49	68	39	56	7	2.10	1.07	2.09	2.93	93	51.42	91	93	63	0	0	2	1
	RALEIGH	65	40	76	29	53	11	0.94	0.27	0.94	1.49	70	52.18	124	89	54	0	1	1	1
	WILMINGTON	69	44	74	36	57	9	1.57	0.74	0.86	2.04	76	61.58	110	95	50	0	0	4	2
ND	BISMARCK	40	5	47	0	23	9	0.00	-0.08	0.00	0.07	25	10.34	62	76	52	0	7	0	0
	DICKINSON	40	14	47	9	27	10	0.00	-0.06	0.00	0.06	27	11.33	70	69	27	0	7	0	0
	FARGO	38	16	42	8	27	16	0.00	-0.11	0.00	0.18	50	16.26	78	78	49	0	7	0	0
	GRAND FORKS	36	13	44	5	24	14	0.00	-0.11	0.00	0.08	22	14.84	76	82	50	0	7	0	0
	JAMESTOWN	38	10	47	2	24	11	0.00	-0.08	0.00	0.00	0	14.44	79	83	41	0	7	0	0
	WILLISTON	34	8	38	1	21	9	0.00	-0.11	0.00	0.10	26	11.59	83	76	57	0	7	0	0
OH	AKRON-CANTON	49	35	58	22	42	13	0.94	0.31	0.45	1.91	85	43.15	114	87	71	0	3	4	0
	CINCINNATI	53	38	64	29	46	13	1.02	0.30	0.56	1.66	68	44.69	107	85	68	0	2	3	1
	CLEVELAND	48	36	58	25	42	12	0.93	0.28	0.56	2.40	100	39.53	104	89	59	0	3	4	1
	COLUMBUS	52	37	62	23	45	13	1.05	0.44	0.66	1.92	87	42.40	112	82	62	0	2	3	1
	DAYTON	51	34	61	23	43	13	1.07	0.41	0.69	2.08	90	43.76	113	94	71	0	3	4	1
	MANSFIELD	48	34	58	20	41	13	1.09	0.41	0.60	1.89	76	42.00	99	95	61	0	3	4	1

Based on 1971-2000 normals

*** Not Available

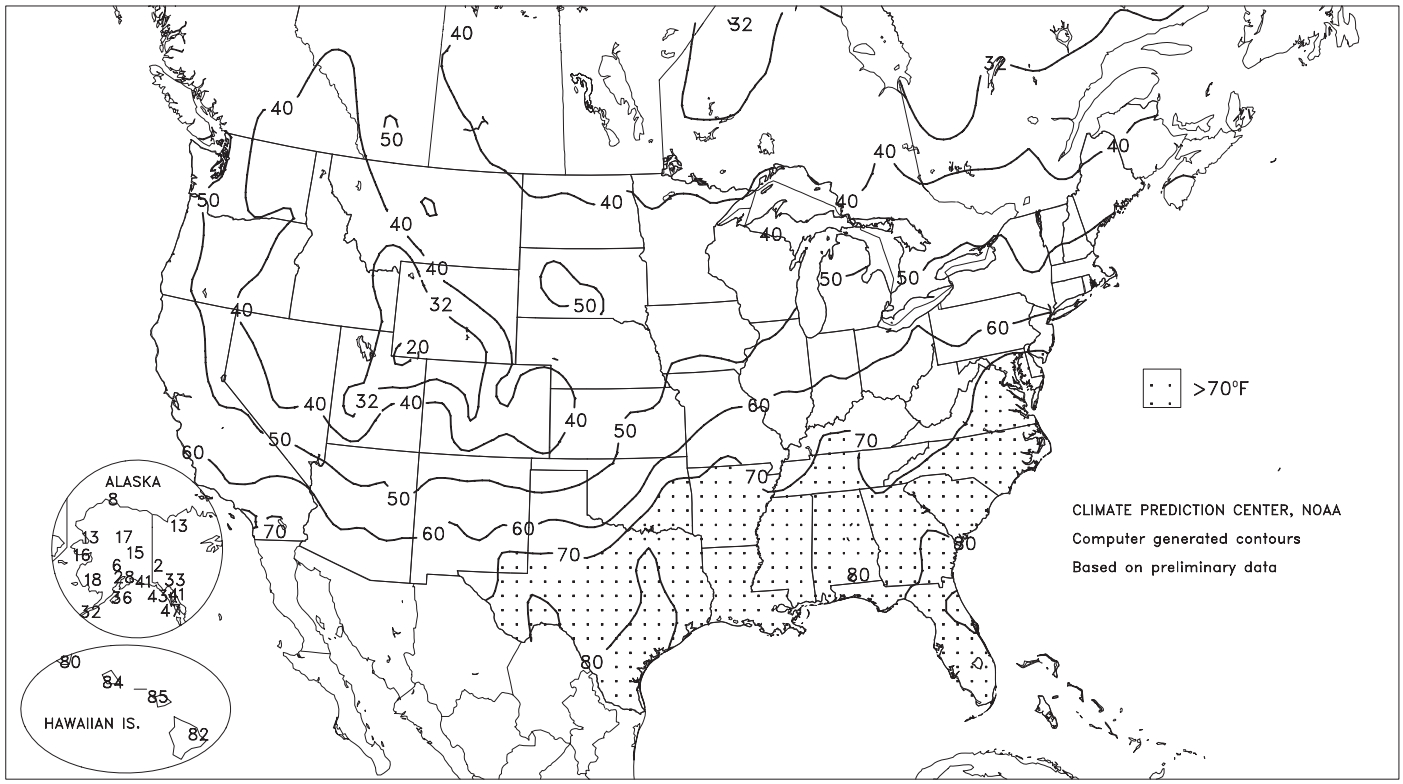
Weather Data for the Week Ending December 23, 2006

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	47	34	57	21	40	12	0.76	0.20	0.39	2.29	114	42.61	131	91	71	0	3	4	0
	YOUNGSTOWN	48	34	57	23	41	12	1.13	0.52	0.61	2.07	92	47.48	127	86	67	0	3	5	1
OK	OKLAHOMA CITY	52	36	59	29	44	5	1.43	1.02	0.72	1.43	105	27.25	77	86	54	0	2	2	2
	TULSA	54	40	68	28	47	8	2.40	1.92	1.84	2.41	128	36.37	87	85	67	0	1	3	2
OR	ASTORIA	48	33	54	29	41	-1	2.41	0.16	0.99	7.00	89	77.09	119	92	81	0	4	5	3
	BURNS	34	12	39	4	23	-1	0.18	-0.10	0.12	0.90	99	11.97	117	83	72	0	7	3	0
	EUGENE	43	31	52	24	37	-2	0.79	-0.98	0.46	4.14	66	45.74	94	95	89	0	5	4	0
	MEDFORD	39	28	52	21	33	-5	0.58	-0.03	0.36	2.62	120	19.68	111	94	82	0	5	5	0
	PENDLETON	34	23	47	19	29	-4	0.10	-0.20	0.04	0.91	85	13.12	106	95	77	0	7	4	0
	PORTLAND	42	31	46	25	37	-3	1.34	0.11	0.48	4.02	93	41.22	116	89	79	0	4	6	0
	SALEM	41	30	53	22	35	-5	0.94	-0.45	0.37	4.93	101	46.99	122	97	89	0	5	4	0
PA	ALLENTOWN	52	30	62	21	41	10	1.00	0.28	0.67	1.68	68	48.73	110	78	51	0	5	3	1
	ERIE	48	38	57	30	43	12	0.71	-0.09	0.46	2.30	80	42.95	103	84	62	0	2	5	0
	MIDDLETOWN	52	34	64	25	43	11	1.41	0.73	1.28	1.60	65	45.40	114	88	48	0	3	2	1
	PHILADELPHIA	55	36	70	26	46	10	1.04	0.32	0.68	1.43	60	47.49	116	75	52	0	1	2	1
	PITTSBURGH	51	33	60	21	42	11	0.80	0.20	0.62	1.25	59	34.16	92	91	58	0	3	5	1
	WILKES-BARRE	47	31	53	23	39	9	0.53	0.01	0.32	1.07	56	45.37	123	83	52	0	5	3	0
	WILLIAMSPORT	48	31	53	21	39	9	0.98	0.38	0.66	1.93	87	47.34	116	88	61	0	4	3	1
RI	PROVIDENCE	51	32	59	25	42	10	0.99	0.08	0.89	1.69	56	53.59	118	72	49	0	4	2	1
SC	BEAUFORT	73	52	78	46	62	12	1.02	0.30	0.95	1.25	59	35.85	73	97	58	0	0	5	1
	CHARLESTON	73	53	78	47	63	13	1.49	0.75	1.47	1.70	76	48.68	96	94	55	0	0	2	1
	COLUMBIA	68	45	75	36	57	11	1.76	0.98	1.61	2.01	87	42.16	89	90	60	0	0	2	1
	GREENVILLE	65	44	76	37	55	13	1.95	1.09	1.80	1.98	72	39.51	80	82	47	0	0	2	1
SD	ABERDEEN	40	11	44	-4	26	11	0.00	-0.08	0.00	0.01	5	15.14	76	81	54	0	7	0	0
	HURON	40	17	46	4	28	11	0.19	0.13	0.14	0.21	91	16.53	80	79	45	0	6	2	0
	RAPID CITY	41	16	49	7	29	5	0.00	-0.08	0.00	0.01	4	11.78	72	62	27	0	7	0	0
	SIOUX FALLS	37	22	44	10	30	13	0.77	0.69	0.58	0.82	228	25.63	104	83	63	0	6	2	1
TN	BRISTOL	60	34	65	25	47	11	0.82	0.08	0.79	1.00	40	39.48	98	94	52	0	5	3	1
	CHATTANOOGA	65	42	73	35	53	12	1.46	0.44	1.36	1.88	53	45.13	85	89	57	0	0	2	1
	KNOXVILLE	61	40	68	33	51	11	0.81	-0.18	0.81	1.09	33	46.80	100	90	57	0	0	1	1
	MEMPHIS	63	47	72	37	55	13	1.10	-0.10	0.95	2.71	62	38.81	73	88	63	0	0	3	1
	NASHVILLE	63	45	72	36	54	15	0.54	-0.44	0.33	1.58	46	43.89	93	81	51	0	0	3	0
TX	ABILENE	57	37	77	28	47	3	0.84	0.54	0.57	0.86	96	20.52	88	85	57	0	2	3	1
	AMARILLO	39	25	51	21	32	-4	1.20	1.06	0.84	1.20	324	20.60	106	83	61	0	7	3	1
	AUSTIN	69	47	79	30	58	7	1.71	1.16	1.66	1.73	97	32.12	97	79	57	0	2	2	1
	BEAUMONT	70	55	79	40	63	10	3.01	1.83	2.85	3.03	80	62.03	106	96	62	0	0	3	1
	BROWNSVILLE	78	60	84	50	69	9	0.43	0.21	0.43	1.57	196	21.23	78	97	70	0	0	1	0
	CORPUS CHRISTI	73	57	82	48	65	8	0.99	0.60	0.57	1.60	129	33.43	105	91	69	0	0	4	1
	DEL RIO	69	50	79	33	60	9	0.14	-0.01	0.08	0.22	42	9.48	53	77	53	0	0	2	0
	EL PASO	56	35	69	23	46	1	0.00	-0.17	0.00	0.00	0	17.46	190	60	29	0	1	0	0
	FORT WORTH	64	46	78	35	55	9	0.69	0.10	0.59	0.70	38	27.12	80	87	55	0	0	2	1
	GALVESTON	68	58	75	49	63	6	0.73	-0.03	0.47	0.76	30	46.43	108	92	68	0	0	4	0
	HOUSTON	71	56	79	41	64	11	0.75	-0.05	0.29	1.26	47	57.05	122	88	64	0	0	5	0
	LUBBOCK	48	30	67	27	39	0	0.86	0.72	0.62	0.86	191	14.91	81	85	61	0	6	3	1
	MIDLAND	53	33	73	27	43	-1	0.68	0.54	0.42	0.70	156	15.16	104	90	56	0	3	3	0
	SAN ANGELO	60	38	78	27	49	3	0.51	0.31	0.25	0.52	78	17.41	84	83	57	0	2	4	0
	SAN ANTONIO	69	51	81	36	60	9	1.15	0.72	1.04	1.28	89	20.18	62	90	46	0	0	3	1
	VICTORIA	72	54	82	39	63	9	0.68	0.13	0.59	0.80	44	38.17	97	92	64	0	0	3	1
	WACO	67	46	80	33	57	10	0.48	-0.13	0.29	0.53	26	21.58	66	91	61	0	0	3	0
	WICHITA FALLS	54	39	63	29	47	5	1.55	1.17	1.25	1.55	137	21.56	76	80	60	0	1	2	1
UT	SALT LAKE CITY	29	16	31	12	23	-6	0.22	-0.03	0.15	0.83	99	16.02	99	87	64	0	7	2	0
VT	BURLINGTON	43	29	49	21	36	13	0.87	0.43	0.42	3.00	182	46.15	130	86	56	0	6	3	0
VA	LYNCHBURG	60	36	71	25	48	11	0.83	0.12	0.81	0.95	41	43.59	103	84	51	0	3	2	1
	NORFOLK	62	40	72	32	51	8	0.49	-0.19	0.38	0.91	43	48.01	107	85	48	0	1	2	0
	RICHMOND	63	40	75	28	52	13	0.51	-0.19	0.50	0.77	35	51.50	120	78	49	0	1	2	1
	ROANOKE	61	40	73	28	50	12	0.87	0.26	0.87	0.97	47	36.44	87	73	48	0	1	1	1
	WASH/DULLES	58	35	76	24	46	11	0.91	0.25	0.89	1.07	48	45.31	111	80	53	0	3	2	1
WA	OLYMPIA	45	31	49	23	38	1	2.54	0.84	0.80	7.11	120	57.74	118	87	78	0	2	4	3
	QUILLAYUTE	46	35	50	29	41	1	2.15	-1.02	0.48	8.24	75	93.20	95	96	86	0	2	7	0
	SEATTLE-TACOMA	44	34	50	27	39	-1	1.91	0.71	0.70	5.36	126	46.49	130	86	75	0	2	5	2
	SPOKANE	32	21	36	16	27	0	0.25	-0.23	0.16	1.71	101	20.45	127	89	71	0	7	3	0
	YAKIMA	31	19	35	14	25	-3	0.53	0.23	0.31	2.22	224	9.22	117	89	82	0	7	4	0
WV	BECKLEY	55	37	62	25	46	12	0.59	-0.08	0.57	0.84	38	44.93	110	77	55	0	3	2	1
	CHARLESTON	58	37	69	25	48	12	1.10	0.40	0.96	1.21	49	42.64	99	86	47	0	2	2	1
	ELKINS	54	30	64	17	42	10	0.50	-0.24	0.30	0.87	34	38.65	86	93	50	0	4	4	0
	HUNTINGTON	57	39	69	26	48	12	0.98	0.24	0.74	1.67	67	49.10	119	82	52	0	1	2	1
WI	EAU CLAIRE	36	25	41	18	30	14	0.81	0.62	0.57	1.46	190	27.97	88	87	59	0	6	2	1
	GREEN BAY	39	29	42	22	34	14	1.50	1.24	1.23	1.72	162	29.52	102	86	64	0	6	3	1
	LA CROSSE	38	27	45	20	32	12	0.59	0.37	0.52	1.25	134	29.20	91	89	59	0	5	3	1
	MADISON	40	27	43	18	34	12	0.90	0.57	0.68	1.13	89	36.51	112	85	65	0	5	3	1
	MILWAUKEE	43	32	50	24	38	13	2.01	1.55	1.45	2.36	140	37.39	109	80	63	0	3	3	1
WY	CASPER	29	11	36	5	20	-3	0.09	-0.02	0.06	0.14	33	10.39	81	75	54	0	7	3	0
	CHEYENNE	30	13	34	1	21	-6	1.16	1.08	0.91	1.23	397	11.82	77	80	57	0	7	2	1
	LANDER	30	8	34	-2	19	-2	0.00	-0.11	0.00	0.00	0	7.09	54	72	35	0	7	0	0
	SHERIDAN	40	9	46	2	24	2	0.17	0.03	0.13	0.20	44	9.49	65	72	44	0	7	2	0

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

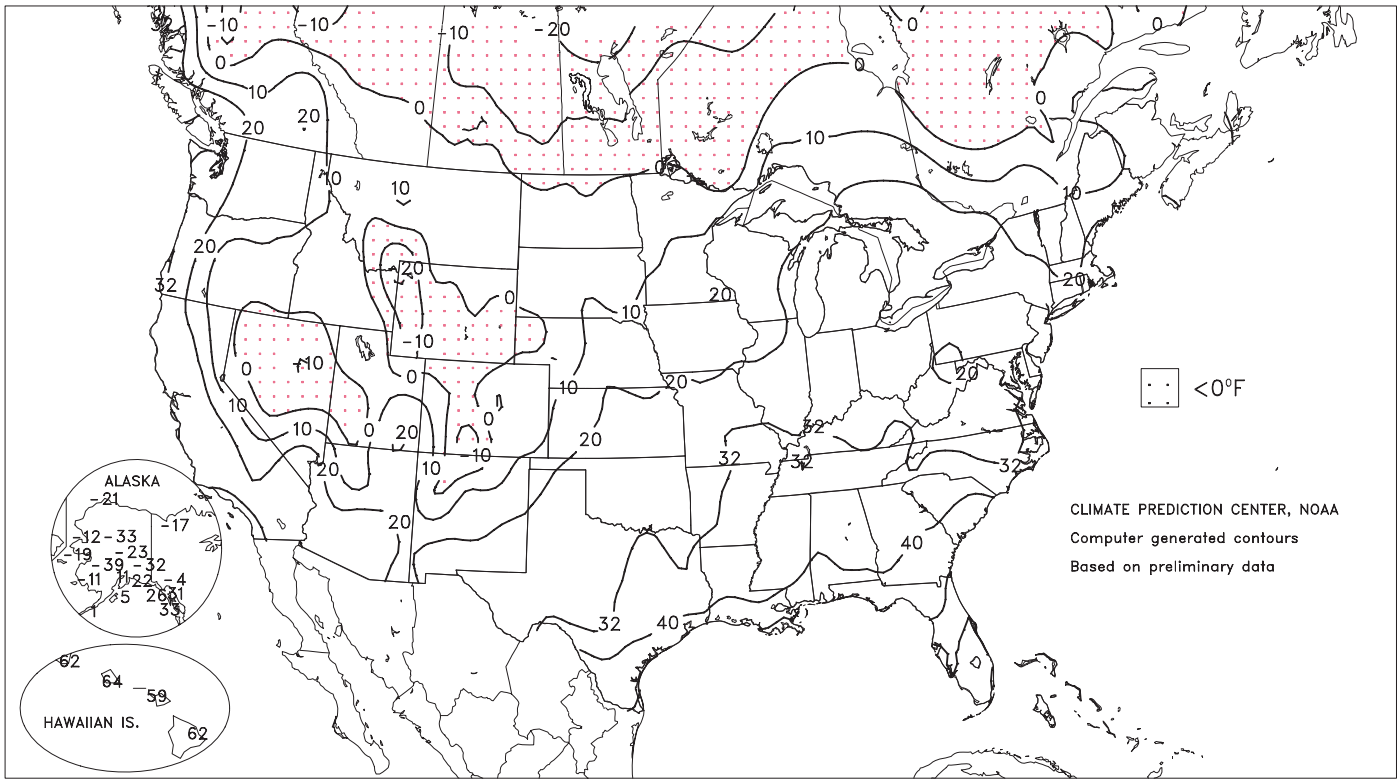
Extreme Maximum Temperature (°F)

DEC 17 - 23, 2006

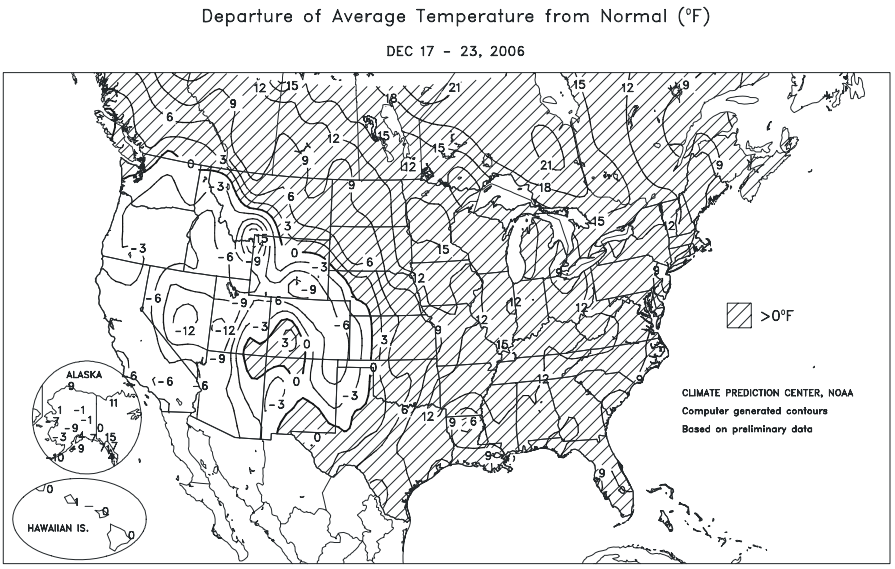


Extreme Minimum Temperature (°F)

DEC 17 - 23, 2006



(Continued from front cover)



consecutive mornings (December 18-21) of frost and temperatures near to slightly below the freezing mark in the **San Joaquin Valley** and several other valleys across **interior southern California**, although readings were generally not low enough to cause significant concern for citrus and winter vegetables. Meanwhile, showery weather persisted in the **Northwest**, maintaining abundant to locally excessive soil moisture for winter grains. Farther east, rain boosted soil moisture in the **western Corn Belt** but maintained soggy conditions in some fields and feedlots across the **Ohio Valley** and **lower Great Lakes region**. Toward week's end, rain expanded across the **South** and **East**, including drought-affected sections of the **southern Atlantic States**.

Early in the week, record warmth in the **South**, **Midwest**, and **East** contrasted with chilly conditions in the **West Coast States**. On December 17, highs of 84°F in **Brownsville, TX**, and 54°F in **Grand Rapids, MI**, contrasted with a daily-record low of 25°F in **Redding, CA.** Later, there were four consecutive light freezes from December 18-21 in **California's San Joaquin Valley** at locations such as **Bakersfield** (31, 30, 30, and 32°F) and **Fresno** (31, 30, 30, and 31°F). Elsewhere in **California**, **Lancaster** posted three consecutive daily-record lows (18, 16, and 15°F) from December 18-20. Farther east, highs soared above 70°F on December 18 across the **Mid-Atlantic States** and the **interior South**, reaching daily-record levels in **Washington, DC** (74°F), **Chattanooga, TN** (73°F), and more than two dozen other locations. In **Wisconsin**, **Green Bay** posted 8 consecutive days (December 10-17) with highs of 40°F or greater, tying its December record first set from December 16-23, 1931.

Meanwhile, a major storm took aim on the **Nation's mid-section**. Heavy snow blanketed the **central High Plains**, while ice accumulations were particularly severe in **central Nebraska**. In **southeastern Wyoming**, **Cheyenne** (12.5 inches on December 20) experienced its snowiest December day during the 92-year period from 1915-2006, surpassing the 11.6-inch standard established on December 27, 1979. Farther south, 20.7 inches of snow buried **Denver, CO**, in a 24-hour period on December 20-21, representing the city's greatest storm total since March 17-19, 2003, when 31.8 inches fell. It was also **Denver's** second-highest December storm total behind the 23.8 inches that mostly fell on December 24, 1982. In addition, northerly winds gusted to 55 m.p.h. in Denver and 54 m.p.h. in **Cheyenne** at the height of the storm on December 20. In **Nebraska**, **North Platte** noted its third-wettest December day (1.39 inches, including freezing rain and 2.6 inches of snow) on the 20th, behind 1.99 inches on December 21, 1877, and 1.41 inches on December 5, 1913. **North Platte's** December 19-21 storm-total precipitation reached 1.88 inches, including 8.1 inches of snow and as much as one-half inch of ice. Elsewhere in **Nebraska**, the 20th was the second-wettest December day on record in locations such as **Kearney** (1.16 inches, behind only 2.53 inches on December 2, 1933) and **Broken Bow** (1.11 inches, behind only 2.14 inches on December 5, 1913).

The majority of the **Midwest** received rain from the major storm. In **eastern Nebraska**, **Omaha** and **Norfolk** continued to await measurable snowfall and set records for the latest date of the season's first accumulation. Previous records were established in **Omaha** on December 23, 1939, and in **Norfolk** on December 22, 2001. Meanwhile in **Des Moines, IA**, season-to-date snowfall through Christmas Day totaled 0.4 inch, tied with 1966 and 1933 for its third-lowest such amount on record behind a trace in 1939 and 0.3 inch in 1889. Farther east, December 22 was the third-wettest December day (1.24 inches) in **Green Bay, WI**, behind 1.94 inches on December 14, 1891, and 1.57 inches on December 27, 1904. **Wausau, WI**, collected 1.47 inches, including 6.0 inches of snow, on December 22, representing its wettest December day (previously, 1.42 inches on December 12, 1965). In the **East**, daily-record totals for December 22 topped 2 inches in locations such as **North Myrtle Beach, SC** (2.77 inches), and **Augusta, GA** (2.65 inches). **New Bern, NC** (1.42 and 2.25 inches on December 22 and 23, respectively), noted consecutive record totals. Some heavy rain also fell at week's end across **southern Texas**, where record amounts for December 23 included 2.01 inches in **Harlingen** and 1.04 inches in **San Antonio**. Meanwhile, weekly rainfall of 0.69 inch lifted **Binghamton, NY**, to its wettest year on record (49.34 inches, or 130 percent of normal, through December 23), surpassing the 1996 annual record of 49.00 inches.

Mild weather across **northern and southeastern Alaska** contrasted with cold conditions elsewhere. Weekly temperatures averaged as much as 10°F below normal in **southwestern Alaska**, where **Cold Bay** tied a monthly record low (-1°F on December 22; previously, -1°F on December 30, 1979). Meanwhile, significant snow fell across **southern Alaska**. Daily-record totals included 21.0 inches (on December 19) in **Valdez** and 10.0 inches (on December 23) in **Anchorage**. In **Valdez**, the 2-day (December 19-20) snowfall reached 31.8 inches, while **Kodiak** set a pair of daily snowfall records (7.0 and 7.3 inches on December 19 and 22, respectively). Farther south, mild, mostly dry weather prevailed in **Hawaii**. Although scattered showers dotted windward locations, daily amounts in excess of an inch were uncommon. On the **Big Island**, **Hilo** netted 1.60 inches of rain from December 16-18.

National Agricultural Summary

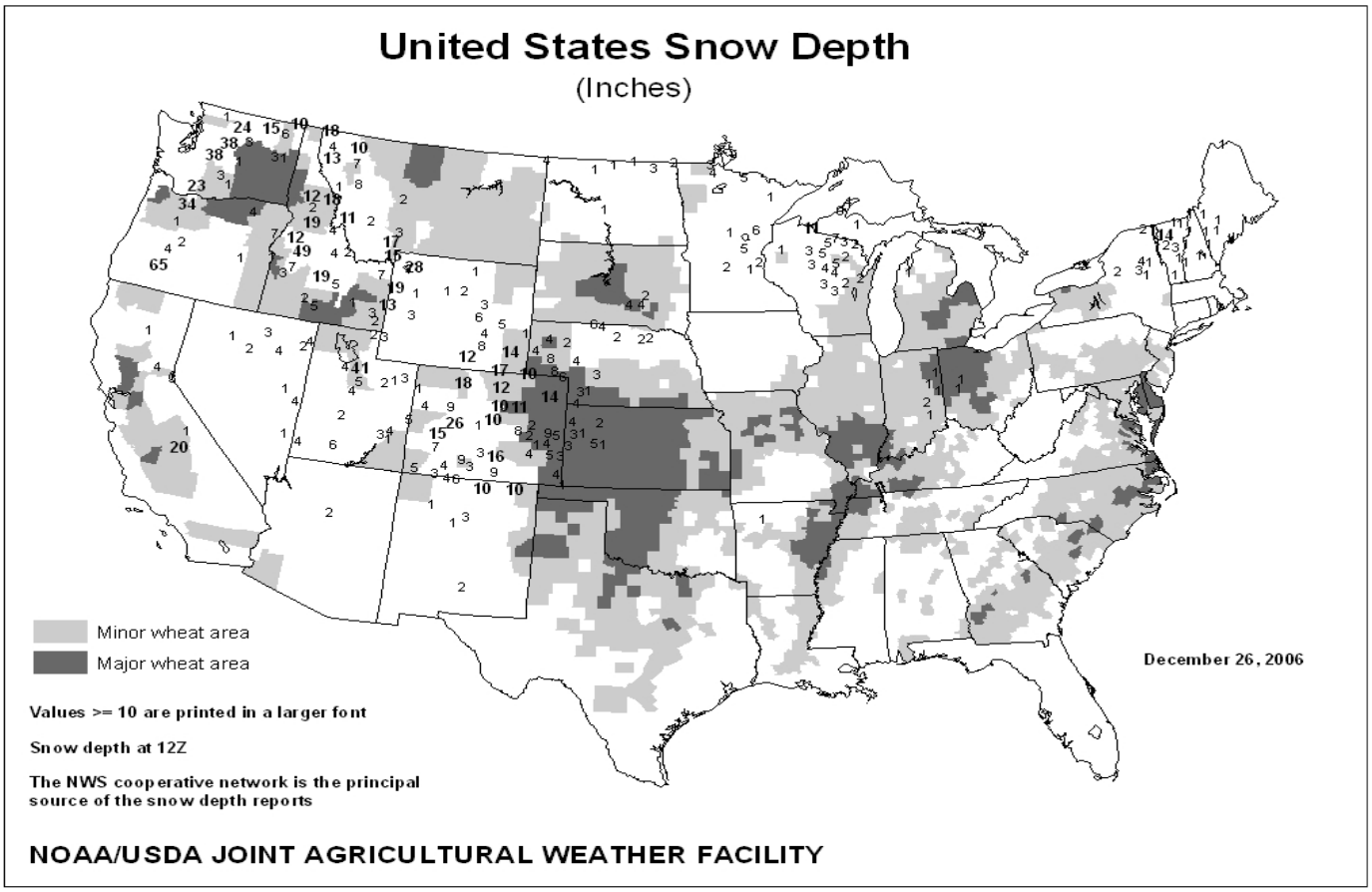
December 18 - 24, 2006

Weekly National Agricultural Summary provided by USDA/NASS

HIGHLIGHTS

Except for the northern Great Plains and Desert Southwest, some moisture was experienced nearly nationwide, with the heaviest precipitation occurring in the Pacific Northwest, Gulf Coast States, central Great Plains, and central Rocky Mountains. Freezing rain and heavy snowfall blanketed the central Great Plains and adjacent Rockies. Temperatures were below normal from the Pacific Coast inland to the Intermountain region, while above-normal temperatures existed throughout the rest of the Nation. From the Corn Belt eastward, temperatures averaged at least 9 degrees F above normal. Although some major winter wheat areas received adequate snow cover, the majority of the crop was left exposed to potential cold outbreaks.

In California, planting of small grains was ongoing; however, growth slowed due to cold weather. Sub-freezing temperatures in California may have also caused some damage to citrus fruits. Further assessments will be necessary to determine the extent of damage. Arizona's alfalfa harvest was active on over one-quarter of the State's acreage, while small grain planting continued and the cotton harvest was 97 percent complete. Late-week rains in Florida aided small grain growth in the panhandle and northern peninsula, while drier weather in southern areas kept vegetable planting and harvesting on schedule.



International Weather and Crop Summary

December 17 - 23, 2006

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

HIGHLIGHTS

EUROPE: Above-normal temperatures continued to limit crop cold hardiness in eastern growing areas, while cooler conditions returned to western Europe.

FSU-WESTERN: Above-normal temperatures were accompanied by a mixture of light rain and snow, providing favorable overwintering conditions for dormant winter grains but keeping major winter wheat areas in Ukraine and southern Russia snow free.

SOUTH AFRICA: Much-needed rain overspread the corn belt.

NORTHWESTERN AFRICA: Showers lingered in coastal areas, while drier weather further inland favored fieldwork.

MIDDLE EAST: Unfavorably dry conditions across the eastern Mediterranean region contrasted with wet weather in much of Iran.

AUSTRALIA: Dry weather reduced moisture supplies for summer crops in eastern Australia, while showers in southeastern and western Australia caused only minor delays in late winter grain harvesting.

EASTERN ASIA: Seasonably dry weather continued, while somewhat mild temperatures favored overwintering crops.

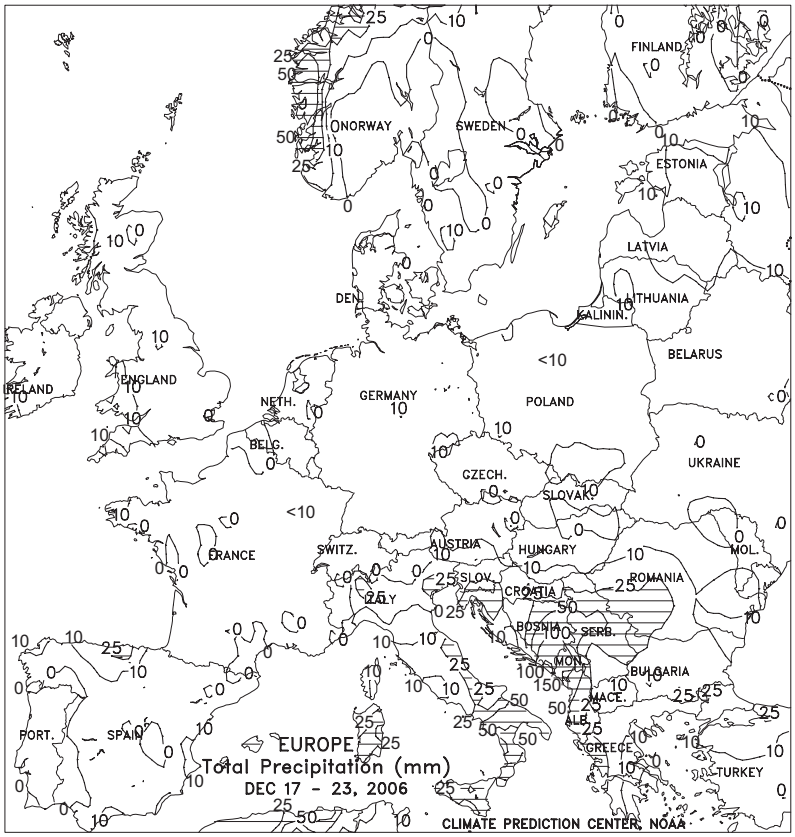
SOUTHEAST ASIA: Heavy showers continued to exacerbate flooding in the eastern Philippines, while showers favored rice in Indonesia.

BRAZIL: Beneficial rain brought some relief to soybeans and other summer crops in recently dry crop areas of southern Brazil.

ARGENTINA: Inundating rain caused localized flooding in portions of central Argentina.

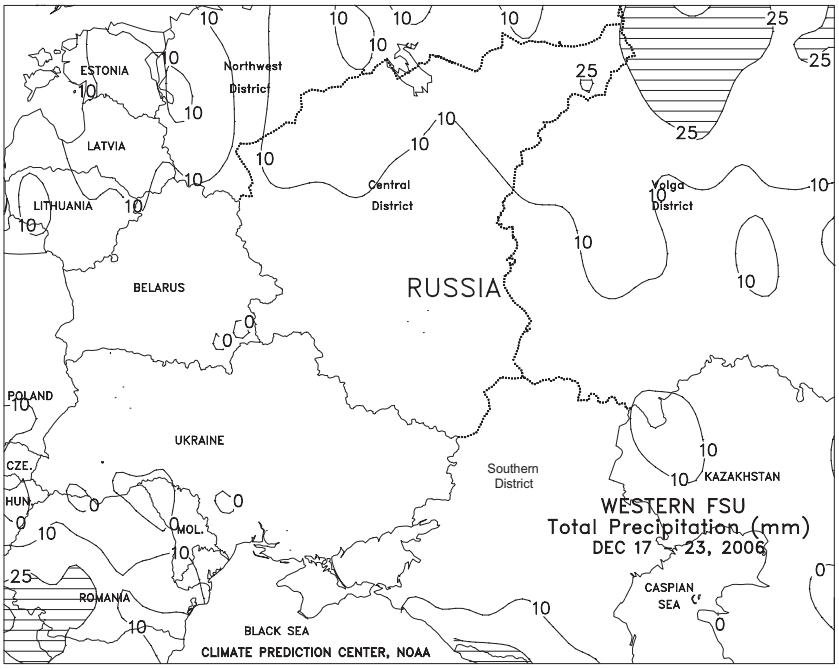
EUROPE

Above-normal temperatures continued to limit crop cold hardiness in eastern growing areas, while cooler conditions returned to western Europe. A large area of high pressure shifted northwestward into northern France and southern England, allowing below-normal temperatures (3-5 degrees C below normal) to return to Portugal, Spain, France, and southern England. The break from recent record-setting warmth allowed winter grains to begin cold hardening, although several more weeks of near- to below-normal temperatures will be needed to usher crops into dormancy. Farther east, a mild onshore flow from the Atlantic maintained temperatures up to 4 degrees C above normal from northern Germany into eastern Europe and the Baltics. The warmer-than-normal conditions coupled with above-freezing nighttime lows prevented winter grains from going dormant and limited crop cold hardiness. Precipitation was generally light (less than 5 mm) across the entire region, favoring fieldwork but worsening moisture shortages in Hungary, Slovenia, and eastern portions of the Czech Republic. However, light to moderate rain showers (5-15 mm) developed across the Baltics, while locally heavy rain and snow (10-150 mm liquid equivalent) in the Balkans eased a season-long drying trend. In addition, showers (10-30 mm) in northern Italy provided a welcomed boost to irrigation reserves.



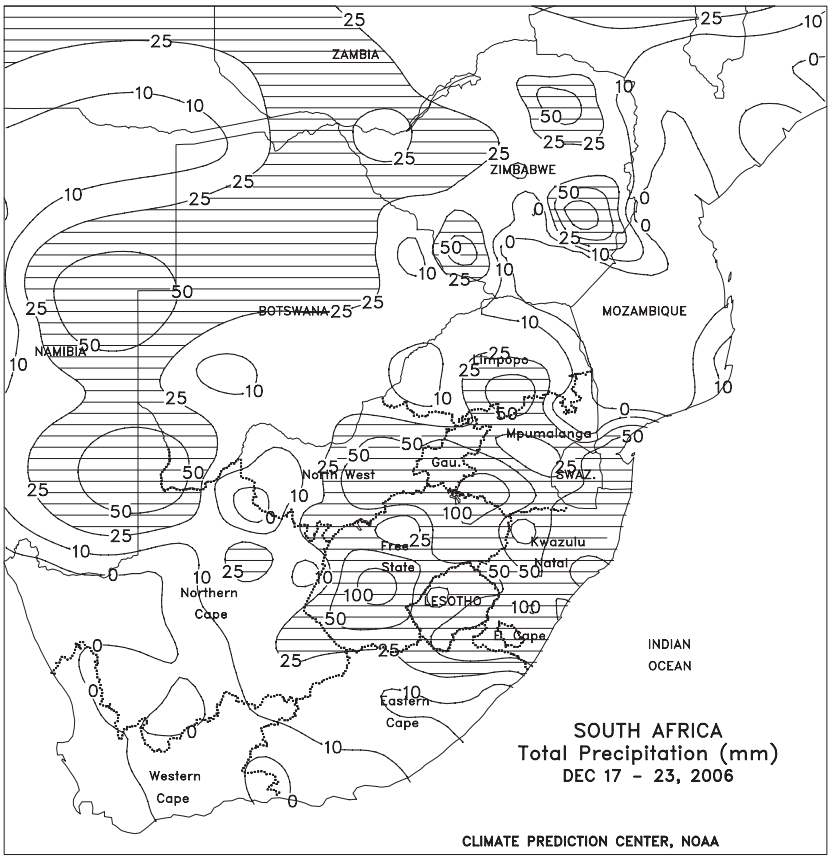
FSU-WESTERN

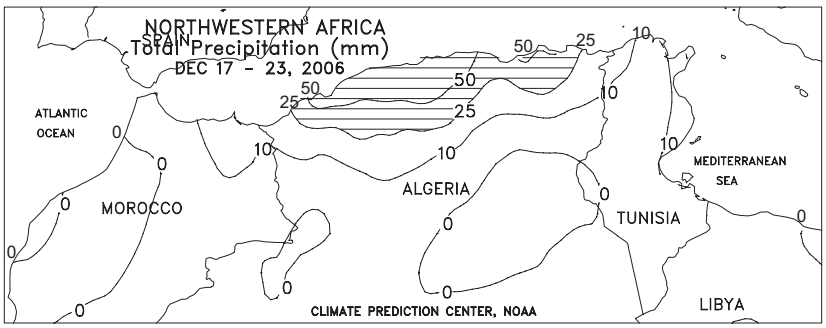
Above-normal temperatures continued to provide favorable overwintering conditions for dormant winter grains. Light precipitation (less than 10 mm of liquid equivalent) was observed at most locations across the region. The precipitation fell mainly as rain in Ukraine and the Southern District in Russia, with a mixture of rain and snow falling in Belarus and northern Russia. Rain gradually changed to snow in extreme northern Russia during the middle of the week, providing only a patchy snow cover. Major winter wheat areas in Ukraine and southern Russia remained snow free, leaving crops exposed to potential extremes in weather. Weekly temperatures averaged 3 to 6 degrees C above normal in Ukraine, Belarus, and the Central and Southern Districts in Russia and 5 to 7 degrees C above normal in the Volga District in Russia. Despite the mild weather pattern, weekly average temperatures remained below 5 degrees C in most areas, keeping winter grains dormant. Extreme maximum temperatures generally ranged from 2 to 7 degrees C in northern Russia and 6 to 11 degrees C in Ukraine and the Southern District in Russia.



SOUTH AFRICA

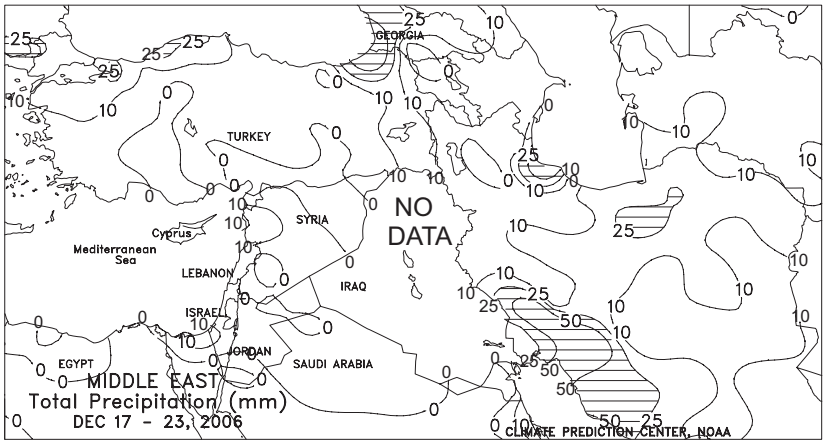
Much-needed rain overspread the corn belt, with most areas receiving at least 25 mm. In the east (notably Mpumalanga and eastern sections of Free State), the rain benefited vegetative corn after several weeks of spotty rainfall left many areas unfavorably dry. In the west (North West and central Free State), the moisture was timely for corn and other summer crops that are traditionally planted in December and early January. Temperatures averaged near to slightly above normal for the week in the corn belt, but the warmest weather (highs in the 30s degrees C) occurred prior to the heaviest rain. Elsewhere, locally heavy showers (greater than 50 mm) maintained generally favorable moisture levels for sugarcane in KwaZulu-Natal. Mostly dry, seasonably warm weather dominated the Cape Provinces, sustaining irrigation requirements of crops and livestock.





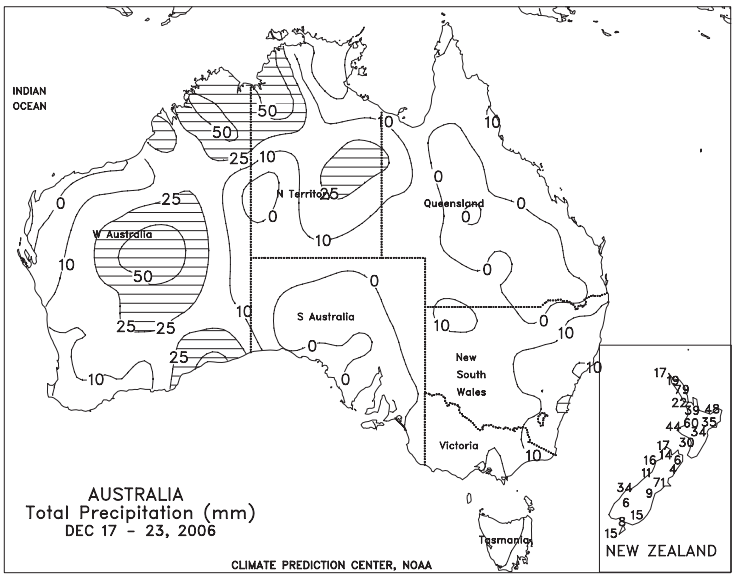
NORTHWEST AFRICA

Showers lingered in coastal areas, while drier weather further inland favored fieldwork. A slow-moving storm system in the western Mediterranean generated light to moderate showers (5-50 mm or more) in northern winter grain areas, providing additional topsoil moisture for crop planting and establishment. Lighter showers (less than 10 mm) further inland favored fieldwork in the wake of last week's widespread rain. However, showers once again bypassed much of Morocco, where recent dryness has reduced topsoil moisture for winter grain establishment.



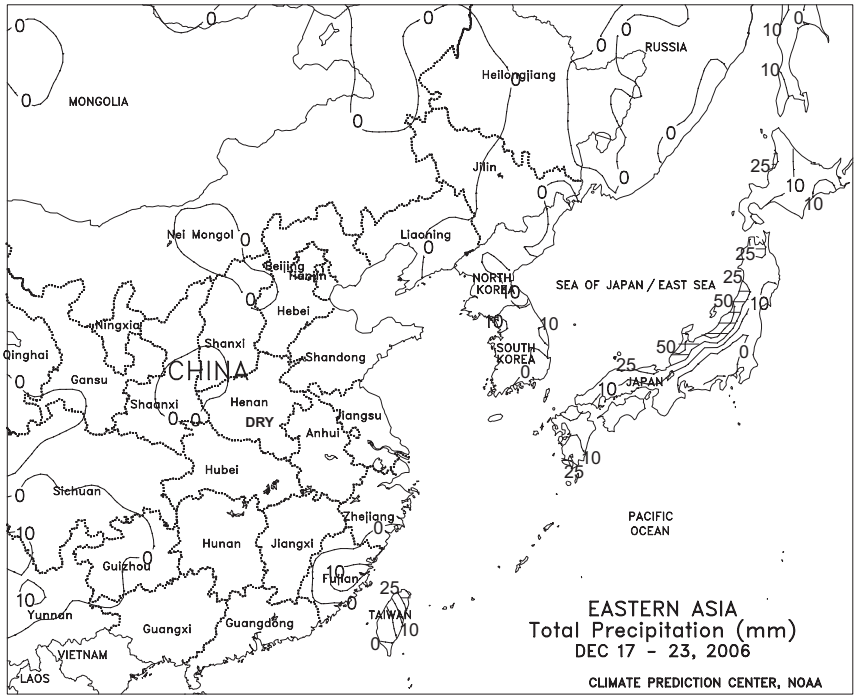
MIDDLE EAST

Unfavorably dry conditions across the eastern Mediterranean region contrasted with wet weather in much of Iran. In Turkey and Syria, this week marked the sixth straight week of relatively dry weather, which further reduced topsoil moisture for semi-dormant winter grains. Across most of Turkey, the recent dryness has left winter grain areas lacking a protective snow pack, exposing crops to potential outbreaks of bitter cold. Dryness also extended into northwestern Iran, although dormant winter grains were protected by a shallow snow cover. Elsewhere in Iran, light to moderate rain and snow (10-30 mm liquid equivalent) across the western and northeastern winter grain areas boosted moisture reserves for dormant winter wheat and barley and increased the region's protective snow cover.



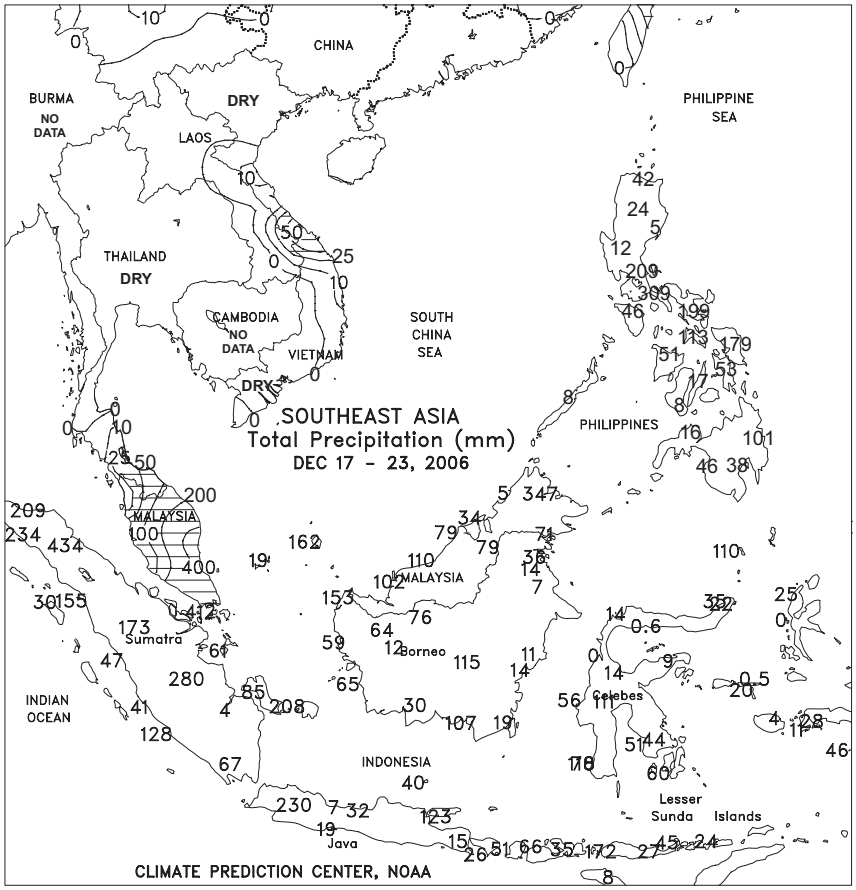
AUSTRALIA

Dry weather continued across major summer crops areas in southern Queensland and northern New South Wales. The dryness further strained drought-reduced moisture supplies, maintaining unfavorable conditions for cotton and sorghum development. Elsewhere, widespread showers (2-10 mm, locally more than 25 mm) overspread southeastern and western Australia, but the rain was generally too light to significantly improve soil moisture. As a result, the showers provided little drought relief, but caused only minor delays in late winter wheat and barley harvesting. Temperatures in western and southeastern Australia averaged about 1 to 2 degrees C above normal, but were generally seasonable in major cotton and sorghum areas.



EASTERN ASIA

Seasonably dry weather continued throughout China. Showers (10-25 mm) were generally confined to coastal provinces in the southeast, benefiting sugarcane. Temperatures were near to slightly above normal with average temperatures dipping below 5 degrees C throughout most winter wheat areas of the North China Plain. The freezing line extended well south of the Yangtze River in the east, reaching into Fujian and almost into Guangdong. All winter crops were likely well cold hardened. Winter wheat typically enters dormancy when average temperatures fall below 5 degrees C and winter rapeseed begins to cold harden when average temperatures fall below 10 degrees C.

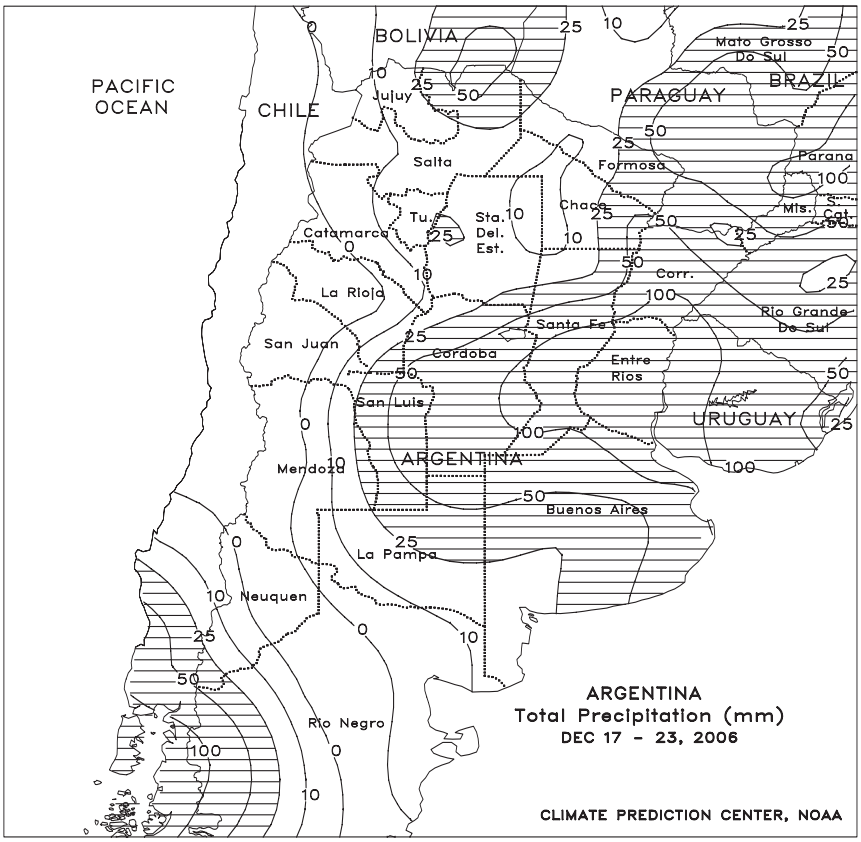


SOUTHEAST ASIA

Seasonably heavy showers (50-200 mm) from the northeast monsoon maintained excessive moisture supplies in the central Philippines. The showers followed a series of four typhoons that crossed the Visayas and southern Luzon over the last eight weeks, exacerbating already high water levels. Heavy showers (25-100 mm) returned to central Vietnam, slowing coffee harvesting which typically peaks in January. In Indonesia, monsoon showers (50-200 mm, locally near 400 mm) increased moisture supplies for oil palm in Sumatra. Moisture deficits over the last three months still remained for oil palm in southern Sumatra, but moisture supplies are steadily improving. In Java, monsoon showers (25-230 mm) were generally widespread with the heaviest amounts occurring in the west. Rice planting is likely still underway after a slow start to the rainy season delayed sowing. In Malaysia, moisture supplies remained adequate to abundant for oil palm over the last three months as heavy rainfall (50-400 mm) continued.

BRAZIL

Moderate to heavy showers (25-50 mm, locally exceeding 100 mm) returned to the main growing areas of southern Brazil (Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina, and Parana), bringing needed relief from the recent spell of warmer- and drier-than-normal weather. In fact, temperatures reached the middle 30s degrees C in some locations prior to the rain, making the arrival of the rain especially welcome. Elsewhere, rainfall tapered off from recent heavy amounts in the main soybean areas of central and northeastern Brazil, but most areas still received at least 25 mm, favoring crop development in the presence of seasonable temperatures (highs in the lower and middle 30s degrees C). In Minas Gerais and Espirito Santo, the drier weather likely favored coffee development after weeks of very heavy rain.



ARGENTINA

Unseasonably heavy rain (50-100 mm or more) covered a broad section of central Argentina, including primary growing areas of Cordoba, Santa Fe, and Entre Rios. The excessive moisture disrupted seasonal fieldwork and likely caused localized flooding in that part of the country, a key producer of summer grains and oilseeds. In contrast, lighter showers (10-25 mm or more) helped to improve moisture for summer crop establishment in La Pampa and southwestern Buenos Aires, which is still recovering from a drier-than-normal November. In northern Argentina, scattered showers (10-25 mm) kept topsoils moist for germination and establishment of cotton and other summer crops. According to Argentina's Ministry of Agriculture (SAGPyA), sunflowers and corn were 96 and 88 percent planted, respectively, as of December 21, comparable with last year's pace for both crops. Soybeans were 78 percent planted, compared with 82 percent last year. Winter wheat was 63 percent harvested, still 5 percentage points ahead of last year's pace, despite the wet weather in recent weeks. Wheat harvesting was 34 percent harvested in Buenos Aires, compared with 30 percent last year. Wheat harvesting was virtually complete in those parts of central Argentina receiving the heaviest rain, reducing the potential for lodging and other types of damage.

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