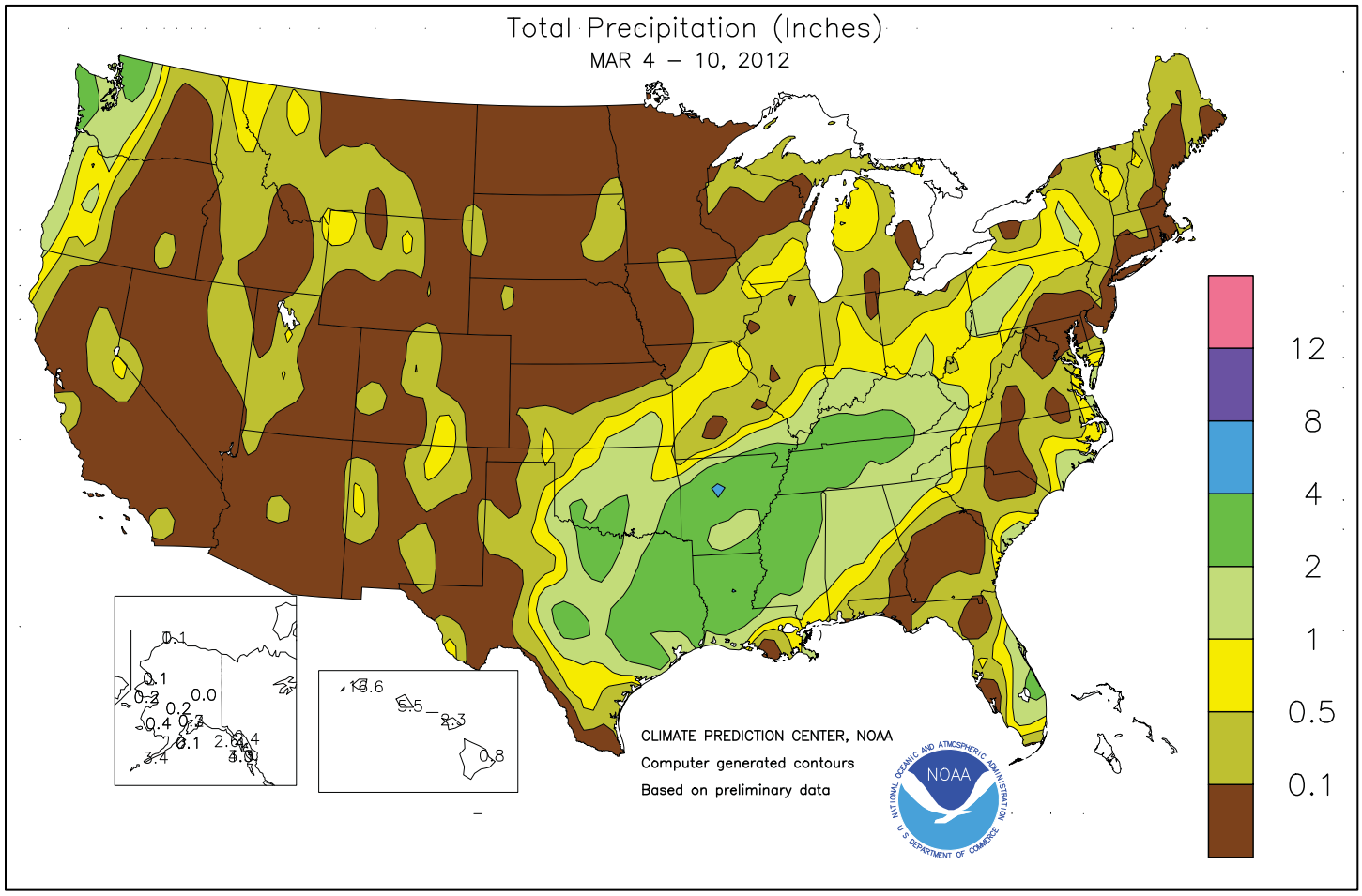
Volume 99, No. 11 http://www.usda.gov/oce/weather March 13, 2012

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

March 4 - 10, 2012

Highlights provided by USDA/WAOB

Following a period of mostly dry weather, precipitation returned to parts of the **South**, **East**, and **Midwest** after mid-week. Some of the heaviest rain, 2 inches or more, fell from the **southeastern Plains into the Mid-South and the lower Ohio Valley**. In contrast, generally dry weather returned to the **Atlantic Coast States**, following the previous week's widespread precipitation. Exceptions included lingering, early-week showers along the **southern Atlantic Coast** and locally heavy snow on March 5 in the **southern Mid-Atlantic region**.

(Continued on page 3)

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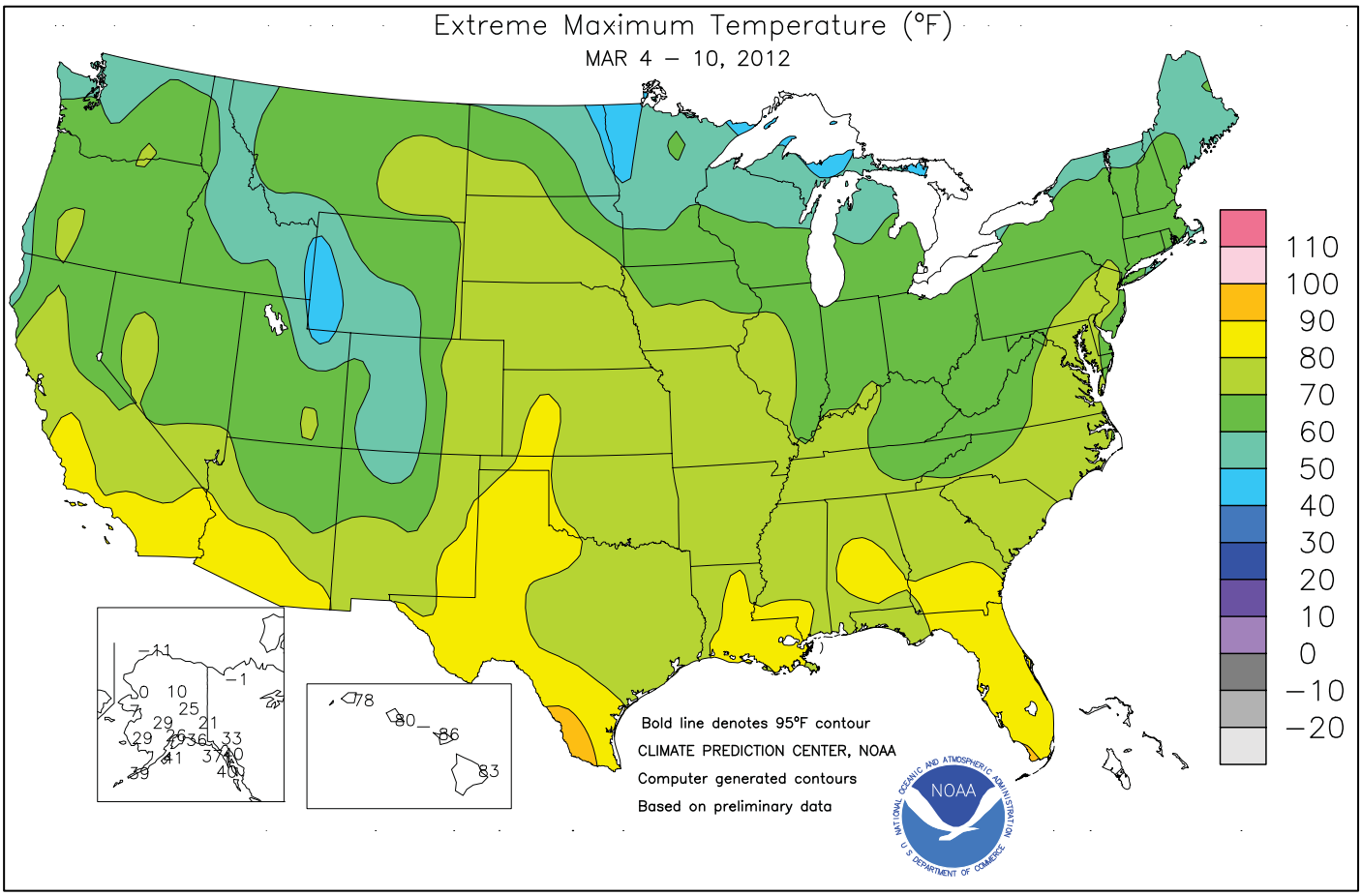
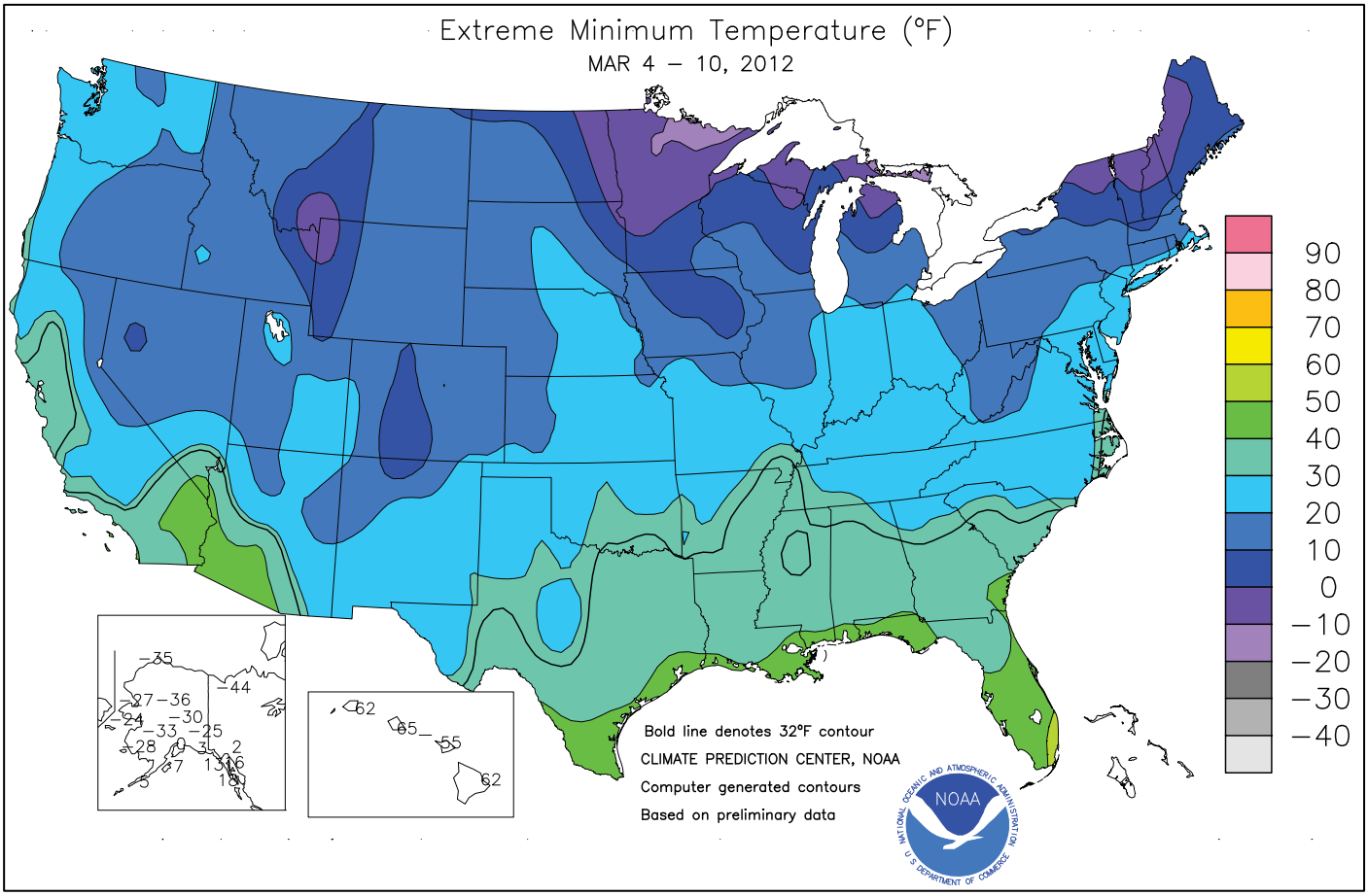
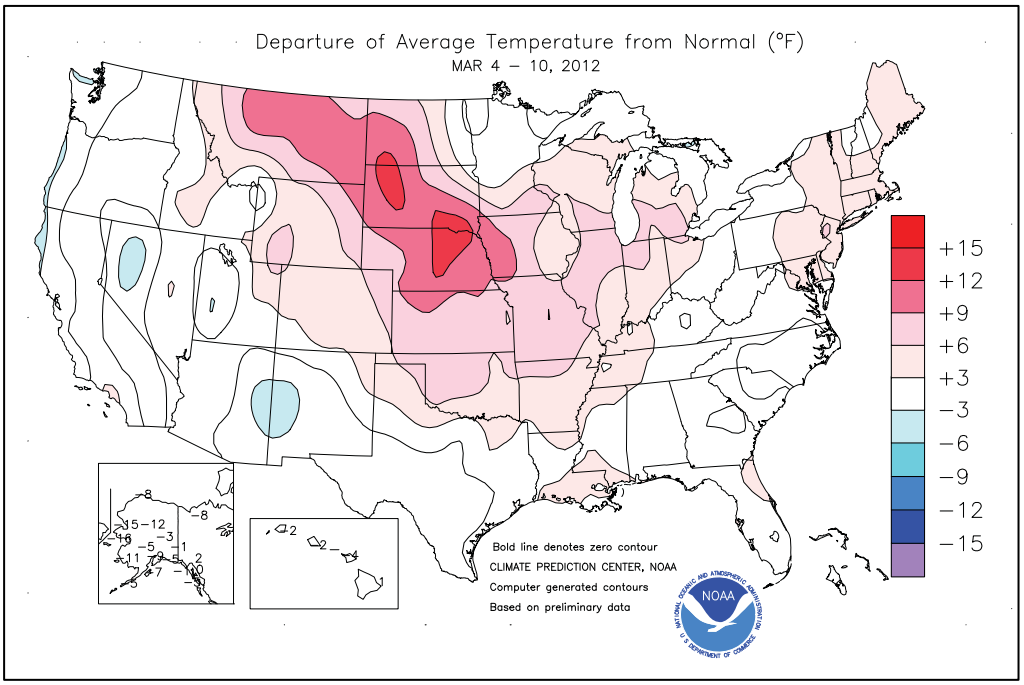

Extreme Maximum Temperature (°F)
MAR 4 – 10, 2012
110
100
90
80
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
−10
−20
Bold line denotes 95°F contour
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA
Computer generated contours
Based on preliminary data
NOAA


Extreme Minimum Temperature (°F)
MAR 4 – 10, 2012
90
80
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
−10
−20
−30
−40
Bold line denotes 32°F contour
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA
Computer generated contours
Based on preliminary data
NOAA



(Continued from front cover)
Meanwhile, mostly dry weather prevailed across the **northern and central Plains** and the **upper Midwest**. Significant precipitation also bypassed the **southern High Plains**, which have been slow to recover from last year's historic drought. Elsewhere, most of the **West** also received little or no precipitation. Meager high-elevation snow packs continued to point toward sub-par spring and summer runoff in much of the **West**, except across the northern and eastern fringes of the region.

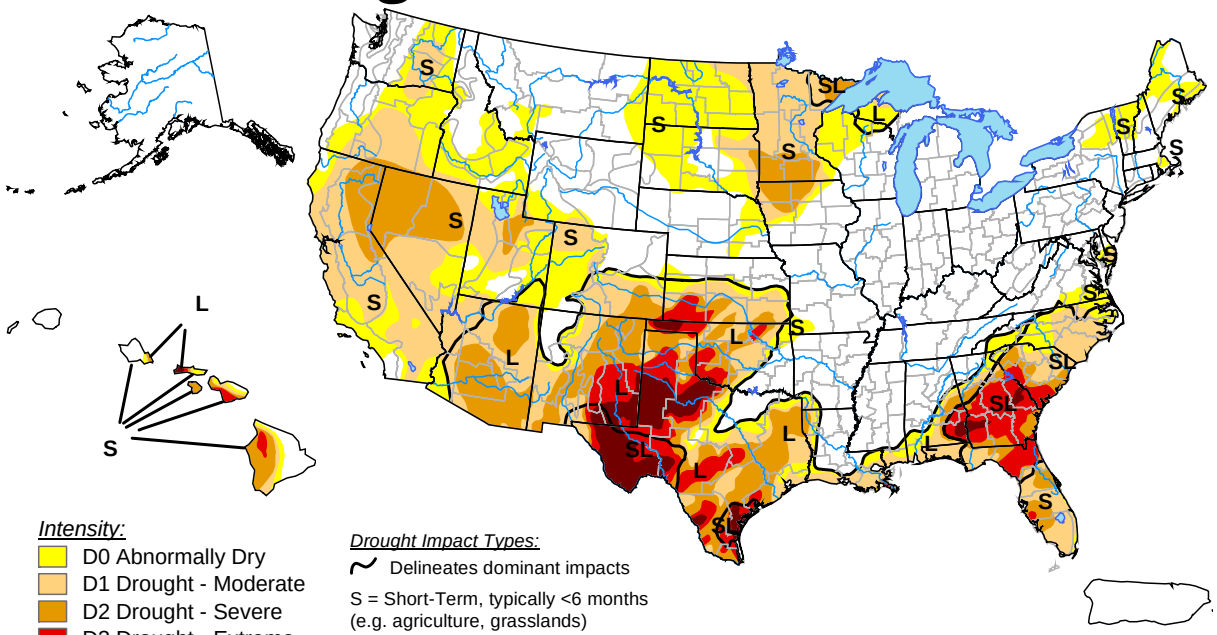
Early in the week, record-setting warmth arrived in the **Pacific Coast States**. Daily-record highs for March 4 included 91°F in **Long Beach, CA**, and 63°F in **Ephrata, WA. Escondido, CA** (89 and 85°F), opened the week with consecutive daily-record highs on March 4-5. Farther east, **Sidney, NE** (73 and 74°F) posted consecutive daily-record highs on March 5-6. Other record highs for March 6 included 79°F in **Colby, KS**, and 74°F in **Des Moines, IA.** Meanwhile, sharply colder air arrived in the **Northwest**, where **Redmond, OR** (14 and 11°F), notched consecutive daily-record lows on March 6-7. Elsewhere in the **Northwest**, daily-record lows for March 7 dipped to 19°F in **Whitman Mission, WA**, and 20°F in **Pendleton, OR.** Cool air also settled across **California**, where **Lancaster** (21 and 24°F) tallied consecutive daily-record lows on March 8-9. **Western** temperatures quickly recovered, however, as **Redmond** (70°F) registered a daily-record high on March 8. Similarly, **Camarillo, CA** (86°F on March 9), collected a daily-record high, just a day after posting a daily-record low of 35°F. After mid-week, record-setting warmth briefly affected the **Northeast**, where March 8 highs soared to 68°F in both **Albany, NY**, and **Boston, MA.** At week's end, an even more impressive wave of warmth spread across the **nation's northern tier**. In **Montana**, **Glasgow** (65 and 69°F) closed the week with consecutive daily-record highs on March 9-10. Elsewhere in **Montana**, **Miles City** (74°F on March 9) experienced its warmest weather so early in the year; previously, the earliest observance of a high of 74°F or greater had occurred on March 12, 2007. **Miles City's** reading contrasted with a March 9 high of just 45°F in **Del Rio, TX.** Among a flurry of **Northern** daily-record highs on March 10 were readings of 72°F in **Sioux Falls, SD**, and **Bismarck, ND**.

Heavy rain lingered into March 4 across the **lower Southeast**. March 3-4 rainfall totals reached 4.28 inches in **Alma, GA**, and 3.43 inches in **Charleston, SC.** Farther north, a band of late-season snow spread across the **Ohio Valley** and **southern Mid-Atlantic States** on March 4-5. In **Kentucky**, event snowfall totals reached 4.5 inches in **Jackson** and 3.5 inches in **Louisville**. By mid-week, a new storm system began to emerge from the **West**. On March 7, **Casper, WY**, noted daily-record totals for both precipitation (0.19 inch) and snowfall (2.5 inches). A day later, daily-record rainfall totals for March 8 included 3.72 inches in **Russellville, AR**, and 3.03 inches in **Lufkin, TX.** For **Russellville**, it was also the wettest March day on record, tying March 29, 1945. Heavy showers lingered for the remainder of the week in parts of **Texas**, where **Houston's Hobby Airport** (1.33 inches on March 9) and **College Station** (1.74 inches on March 10) netted daily-record totals.

Cold weather returned to **Alaska**, where weekly temperatures averaged 10 to 15°F below normal at some interior and western locations. Daily-record lows were established in several communities, including **King Salmon** (-27°F on March 4) and **Valdez** (3°F on March 7). In some areas, snow preceded and accompanied the transition to colder weather. In **Valdez**, 17.3 inches of snow on March 5-6 boosted its snow depth to an all-time-record 100 inches on the latter date. By week's end, the season-to-date snowfall in **Valdez** reached 426 inches, 156 percent of normal. Elsewhere, March 5-7 snowfall reached 11.3 inches in **Fairbanks**, accounting for 20 percent of its season-to-date total. Farther south, phenomenally heavy rain soaked parts of **Hawaii**, especially **Kauai** and **Oahu**, due to the passage of a slow-moving cold front. Barely a week after experiencing its wettest February day on record (6.39 inches on the 26th), **Lihue, Kauai**, endured its wettest March day (8.64 inches on the 5th). Previously, **Lihue's** wettest March day had been March 14, 2006, when 6.71 inches fell. Lihue's weekly rainfall reached 16.67 inches, and its month-to-date sum through March 10 climbed to 17.55 inches. During an 8-day (192-hour) period from March 2-10, rainfall on **Kauai** totaled 48.74 inches at **Hanalei**, 46.49 inches at **Wainiha**, 34.75 inches on **Mt. Waialeale**, and 33.17 inches at **Kapahi**. During the same period on **Oahu**, the highest amount was 39.16 inches at the **Oahu Forest National Wildlife Refuge**. The highest observed 24-hour totals, both on **Kauai**, reached 14.37 inches (on March 3-4) on **Mt. Waialeale** and 14.00 inches (on March 5-6) at **Wainiha**. In addition, a brief tornado struck near **Kailua, Oahu**, on the morning of March 9, while hail up to 3 inches in diameter was reported in **Kaneohe, Oahu**.

U.S. Drought Monitor

March 6, 2012
Valid 7 a.m. EST



Intensity:
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought - Moderate
- D2 Drought - Severe
- D3 Drought - Extreme
- D4 Drought - Exceptional

Drought Impact Types:
Delineates dominant impacts
S = Short-Term, typically <6 months (e.g. agriculture, grasslands)
L = Long-Term, typically >6 months (e.g. hydrology, ecology)

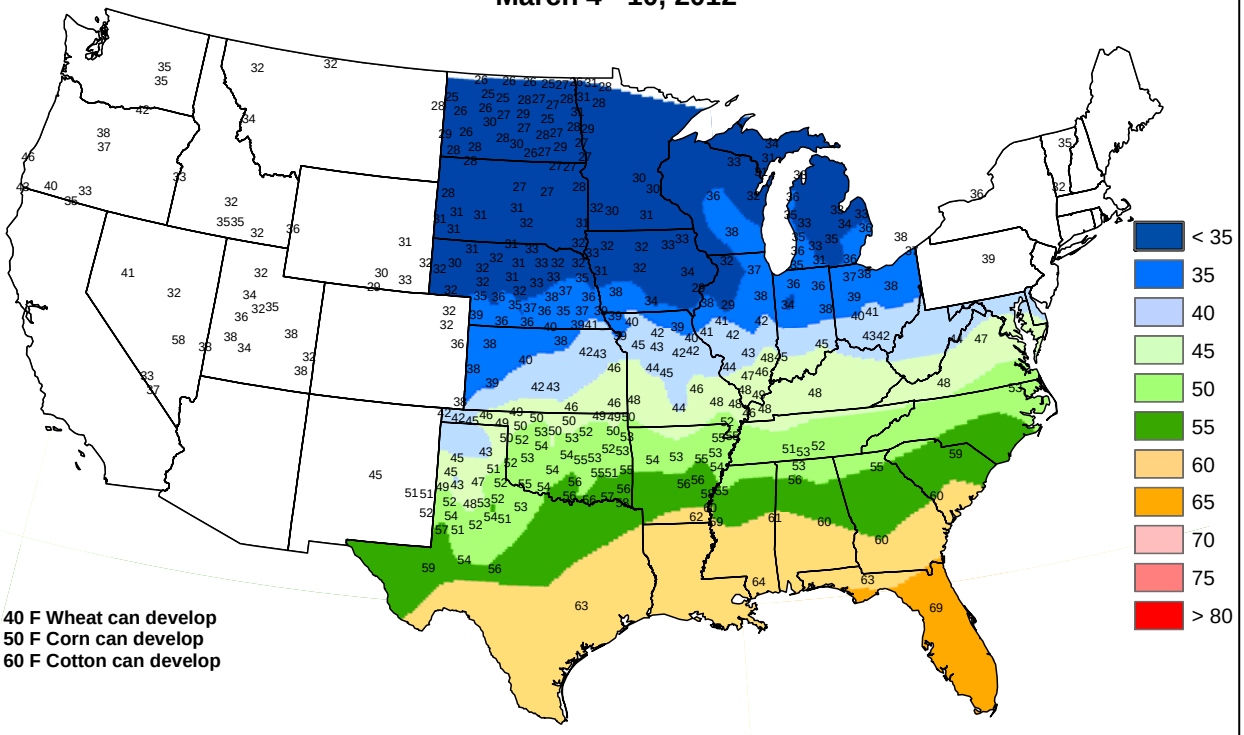
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/

Released Thursday, March 8, 2012
Author: Michael Brewer/Liz Love-Brotak, NOAA/NESDIS/NCDC

Average Soil Temperature (° F, 4" Bare)

March 4 - 10, 2012



40 F Wheat can develop
50 F Corn can develop
60 F Cotton can develop

Based on preliminary data

NOAA/USDA JOINT AGRICULTURAL WEATHER FACILITY

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

National Weather Data for Selected Cities

Weather Data for the Week Ending March 10, 2012

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 MAR 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE MAR 1	TOTAL, IN., SINCE JAN 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE JAN 1	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	90 AND ABOVE	32 AND BELOW	.01 INCH OR MORE	.50 INCH OR MORE
AL	BIRMINGHAM	67	44	80	33	55	3	1.41	0.09	0.77	2.69	146	11.55	100	76	30	0	0	2	2
	HUNTSVILLE	65	40	76	33	53	3	1.50	-0.04	1.04	1.52	70	12.87	102	68	37	0	0	2	1
	MOBILE	71	49	77	40	60	2	1.38	-0.23	1.38	1.39	62	10.88	83	78	49	0	0	1	1
	MONTGOMERY	71	43	82	35	57	1	0.43	-1.09	0.43	1.42	66	9.45	75	76	35	0	0	1	0
AK	ANCHORAGE	22	7	26	0	15	-8	0.26	0.10	0.18	0.40	174	3.49	212	83	69	0	7	3	0
	BARROW	-18	-30	-11	-35	-24	-8	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	100	0.42	175	79	69	0	7	1	0
	FAIRBANKS	14	-9	25	-30	3	-2	0.00	-0.06	0.00	0.00	0	1.11	111	88	78	0	7	0	0
	JUNEAU	36	29	40	16	32	0	2.38	1.50	0.92	2.54	198	12.07	119	94	83	0	4	7	3
	KODIAK	32	17	41	7	24	-7	0.08	-1.11	0.07	0.58	34	12.70	81	71	58	0	7	2	0
	NOME	1	-17	7	-24	-8	-16	0.19	0.06	0.18	0.19	100	1.46	78	84	75	0	7	2	0
AZ	FLAGSTAFF	51	22	61	16	37	2	0.00	-0.67	0.00	0.00	0	1.41	25	77	22	0	7	0	0
	PHOENIX	78	50	86	45	64	3	0.00	-0.27	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0	31	18	0	0	0	0
	PRESCOTT	61	28	69	23	44	2	0.00	-0.50	0.00	0.00	0	0.49	12	61	13	0	6	0	0
	TUCSON	73	42	84	34	57	0	0.00	-0.22	0.00	0.00	0	0.22	10	32	18	0	0	0	0
AR	FORT SMITH	70	42	74	33	56	6	2.76	1.91	2.74	2.76	230	9.36	152	72	36	0	0	2	1
	LITTLE ROCK	69	41	75	36	55	4	1.46	0.48	1.46	1.46	107	8.05	97	73	32	0	0	1	1
CA	BAKERSFIELD	75	41	81	32	58	2	0.00	-0.33	0.00	0.00	0	0.73	26	50	31	0	1	0	0
	FRESNO	71	41	78	35	56	2	0.00	-0.55	0.00	0.00	0	2.13	42	63	38	0	0	0	0
	LOS ANGELES	73	50	87	43	62	4	0.00	-0.66	0.00	0.00	0	1.31	19	62	31	0	0	0	0
	REDDING	68	38	73	33	53	2	0.00	-1.28	0.00	0.05	3	7.29	53	66	36	0	0	0	0
	SACRAMENTO	68	39	74	34	54	0	0.00	-0.73	0.00	0.00	0	3.35	40	81	24	0	0	0	0
	SAN DIEGO	70	52	81	45	61	2	0.00	-0.54	0.00	0.00	0	1.59	31	57	34	0	0	0	0
	SAN FRANCISCO	62	44	73	41	53	0	0.01	-0.83	0.01	0.09	7	2.91	30	75	60	0	0	1	0
	STOCKTON	69	37	76	34	53	-1	0.01	-0.55	0.01	0.04	5	2.13	36	76	45	0	0	1	0
CO	ALAMOSA	54	13	59	4	33	3	0.00	-0.08	0.00	0.06	55	0.40	70	70	38	0	7	0	0
	CO SPRINGS	58	27	69	20	43	7	0.00	-0.18	0.00	0.04	17	0.35	40	62	15	0	6	0	0
	DENVER INTL	62	27	73	19	44	8	0.00	-0.20	0.00	0.03	11	1.19	163	62	20	0	7	0	0
	GRAND JUNCTION	59	29	67	22	44	3	0.00	-0.20	0.00	0.20	71	1.00	72	61	35	0	5	0	0
	PUEBLO	62	25	75	12	44	5	0.01	-0.14	0.01	0.11	52	0.74	93	64	29	0	5	1	0
CT	BRIDGEPORT	49	33	61	22	41	4	0.04	-0.81	0.04	0.51	43	5.07	65	59	38	0	3	1	0
	HARTFORD	48	28	68	15	38	4	0.01	-0.80	0.01	0.89	79	5.32	67	67	40	0	6	1	0
DC	WASHINGTON	58	38	74	29	48	5	0.01	-0.80	0.01	0.52	45	5.04	72	62	32	0	2	1	0
DE	WILMINGTON	54	34	70	23	44	5	0.00	-0.87	0.00	0.50	41	5.13	69	80	36	0	3	0	0
FL	DAYTONA BEACH	77	57	82	39	67	4	1.75	0.93	0.67	1.75	152	3.55	51	88	47	0	0	3	2
	JACKSONVILLE	74	49	84	37	62	2	0.55	-0.29	0.55	0.59	50	1.82	23	85	38	0	0	1	1
	KEY WEST	79	69	82	61	74	1	0.14	-0.22	0.14	0.14	27	6.14	145	81	59	0	0	1	0
	MIAMI	80	65	85	54	73	2	0.43	-0.05	0.35	0.43	63	4.02	87	82	52	0	0	4	0
	ORLANDO	79	57	84	41	68	2	0.31	-0.44	0.24	0.31	30	3.58	61	87	61	0	0	2	0
	PENSACOLA	71	53	77	43	62	3	0.40	-1.03	0.38	1.59	80	9.83	82	81	50	0	0	2	0
	TALLAHASSEE	76	48	81	35	62	3	0.20	-1.28	0.20	3.38	163	9.53	79	74	47	0	0	1	0
	TAMPA	81	59	86	48	70	4	1.14	0.45	0.98	1.14	116	4.11	69	84	38	0	0	2	1
	WEST PALM BEACH	79	62	82	51	70	1	0.57	-0.12	0.39	0.57	60	4.77	66	85	62	0	0	3	0
GA	ATHENS	64	39	76	29	51	0	0.22	-0.96	0.22	2.13	128	6.95	65	72	46	0	1	1	0
	ATLANTA	64	43	76	34	54	2	0.53	-0.73	0.49	3.08	171	10.45	91	62	39	0	0	2	0
	AUGUSTA	67	39	77	32	53	-1	0.09	-0.97	0.09	0.99	66	3.51	35	77	51	0	1	1	0
	COLUMBUS	69	47	79	42	58	3	0.37	-0.95	0.37	1.42	76	10.52	95	70	29	0	0	1	0
	MACON	67	40	77	32	53	-1	0.07	-1.09	0.07	0.90	55	6.62	59	83	37	0	1	1	0
	SAVANNAH	71	46	79	39	59	2	0.91	0.18	0.86	3.27	321	7.37	93	80	49	0	0	2	1
HI	HILO	80	66	83	62	73	1	0.80	-2.07	0.35	6.52	163	22.09	98	91	79	0	0	5	0
	HONOLULU	76	67	80	65	72	-2	5.50	5.01	2.60	5.52	767	7.21	124	88	77	0	0	5	3
	KAHULUI	77	61	86	55	69	-4	2.34	1.84	1.30	2.34	330	2.42	36	90	78	0	0	5	2
	LIHUE	74	65	78	62	70	-2	16.57	15.77	5.83	17.51	1536	30.71	342	89	75	0	0	6	4
ID	BOISE	59	31	67	24	45	3	0.07	-0.23	0.07	0.20	48	3.59	122	62	40	0	4	1	0
	LEWISTON	57	32	72	23	45	2	0.00	-0.22	0.00	0.02	6	2.62	109	66	50	0	4	0	0
	POCATELLO	52	22	60	14	37	2	0.00	-0.30	0.00	0.01	2	2.27	88	75	47	0	6	0	0
IL	CHICAGO/O'HARE	53	32	68	21	42	8	0.28	-0.18	0.28	0.47	73	3.97	99	69	49	0	5	1	0
	MOLINE	51	28	71	14	40	5	0.07	-0.45	0.05	0.31	43	2.96	78	67	47	0	5	3	0
	PEORIA	55	31	72	16	43	7	0.55	-0.01	0.48	0.83	105	3.77	95	77	39	0	4	2	0
	ROCKFORD	51	29	67	17	40	8	0.19	-0.21	0.11	0.63	115	3.17	96	75	55	0	5	3	0
	SPRINGFIELD	57	31	73	13	44	6	0.32	-0.32	0.17	0.62	69	3.69	85	76	38	0	5	2	0
IN	EVANSVILLE	59	34	71	27	47	5	1.19	0.28	1.09	1.65	128	6.79	93	74	45	0	3	3	1
	FORT WAYNE	51	29	68	21	40	6	0.19	-0.36	0.19	0.80	103	5.90	124	78	49	0	6	1	0
	INDIANAPOLIS	55	32	69	25	43	5	0.60	-0.13	0.57	1.40	137	6.26	106	76	39	0	6	3	1
	SOUTH BEND	51	29	67	20	40	6	0.34	-0.20	0.29	0.58	76	5.85	117	70	53	0	6	3	0
IA	BURLINGTON	53	29	72	13	41	5	0.34	-0.24	0.17	0.43	54	2.10	58	82	39	0	4	3	0
	CEDAR RAPIDS	49	23	69	3	36	4	0.46	0.08	0.38	0.62	119	2.17	81	83	45	0	5	2	0
	DES MOINES	56	29	74	19	43	9	0.02	-0.35	0.01	0.04	8	2.23	82	69	46	0	4	2	0
	DUBUQUE	46	24	64	13	35	4	0.65	0.18	0.65	0.99	152	3.55	106	79	60	0	6	1	1
	SIOUX CITY	60	26	76	17	43	11	0.00	-0.34	0.00	0.00	0	2.76	165	76	49	0	6	0	0
	WATERLOO	50	23	70	4	37	6	0.09	-0.27	0.08	0.12	24	2.59	108	75	54	0	6	2	0
KS	CONCORDIA	64	32	72	24	48	9	0.00	-0.46	0.00	0.02	3	2.62	130	67	35	0	5	0	0
	DODGE CITY	65	32	80	22	48	7	0.07	-0.26	0.05	0.07	16	1.10	64	71	23	0	5	2	0
	GOODLAND	64	27	76	18	45	8	0.00	-0.24	0.00	0.00	0	0.51	43	67	26	0	6	0	0
	TOPEKA	65	35	73	26	50	9	0.00	-0.50	0.00	0.12	18	2.86	102	76	41	0	4	0	0

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

Weather Data for the Week Ending March 10, 2012

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 MAR 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE MAR 1	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	66	36	73	28	51	8	0.48	-0.06	0.48	0.49	65	4.12	158	74	48	0	4	1	0
KY	JACKSON	55	32	70	26	44	0	1.35	0.33	0.98	2.18	149	10.94	126	82	38	0	4	3	1
	LEXINGTON	53	30	68	23	42	-1	1.39	0.38	0.86	1.67	117	8.30	103	84	55	0	5	3	1
	LOUISVILLE	57	35	71	28	46	2	1.20	0.20	0.69	1.53	109	7.36	93	77	35	0	4	3	1
	PADUCAH	62	36	72	27	49	5	1.52	0.58	1.51	1.85	137	7.59	87	75	33	0	2	2	1
LA	BATON ROUGE	75	51	85	38	63	5	0.48	-0.61	0.48	0.79	50	14.10	110	94	41	0	0	1	0
	LAKE CHARLES	75	54	81	40	64	5	1.26	0.51	1.25	1.56	147	18.37	186	88	51	0	0	2	1
	NEW ORLEANS	74	55	82	41	64	4	0.28	-0.86	0.28	0.31	19	6.83	53	86	52	0	0	1	0
	SHREVEPORT	73	47	79	38	60	4	1.72	0.77	1.09	1.72	126	8.47	83	78	37	0	0	3	1
ME	CARIBOU	38	13	58	-1	25	5	0.25	-0.29	0.10	0.64	84	6.60	114	83	47	0	6	3	0
	PORTLAND	45	24	60	14	35	4	0.00	-0.85	0.00	1.44	121	7.20	86	69	42	0	6	0	0
MD	BALTIMORE	56	34	74	25	45	4	0.01	-0.89	0.01	0.92	72	5.88	76	65	36	0	4	1	0
MA	BOSTON	50	32	68	20	41	5	0.00	-0.82	0.00	0.94	81	4.61	55	64	35	0	4	0	0
	WORCESTER	45	26	64	12	36	5	0.08	-0.81	0.08	1.16	94	5.61	67	73	36	0	6	1	0
MI	ALPENA	39	15	58	-3	27	2	0.26	-0.16	0.20	1.23	212	4.71	128	86	56	0	6	4	0
	GRAND RAPIDS	50	29	64	19	39	8	0.23	-0.21	0.21	0.73	120	5.93	142	75	48	0	5	2	0
	HOUGHTON LAKE	42	15	56	-3	29	3	0.49	0.11	0.23	1.33	256	5.95	176	81	65	0	6	3	0
	LANSING	48	26	66	16	37	7	0.24	-0.15	0.23	0.77	143	4.38	122	72	52	0	6	2	0
	MUSKEGON	46	28	61	19	37	6	0.44	0.01	0.42	1.03	175	6.00	137	74	51	0	6	3	0
	TRAVERSE CITY	43	24	59	9	34	7	0.71	0.38	0.47	1.81	393	4.57	87	81	49	0	6	2	0
MN	DULUTH	34	13	53	-1	23	1	0.10	-0.18	0.07	0.49	132	2.27	98	82	60	0	7	3	0
	INT'L FALLS	36	6	59	-14	21	2	0.10	-0.05	0.05	0.18	86	1.72	102	84	48	0	7	2	0
	MINNEAPOLIS	45	21	66	8	33	5	0.05	-0.25	0.04	0.16	39	2.23	100	73	53	0	6	2	0
	ROCHESTER	46	23	63	11	34	8	0.00	-0.28	0.00	0.00	0	2.20	106	77	59	0	6	0	0
	ST. CLOUD	39	15	54	-2	27	3	0.01	-0.20	0.01	0.05	18	1.86	114	88	54	0	7	1	0
MS	JACKSON	71	46	78	34	58	3	2.15	0.97	1.11	2.98	178	15.28	129	84	36	0	0	2	2
	MERIDIAN	70	40	79	32	55	0	1.58	0.04	1.42	5.37	247	17.70	132	86	53	0	1	2	1
	TUPELO	67	40	75	33	54	4	1.94	0.51	1.82	1.96	97	11.32	96	71	36	0	0	2	1
MO	COLUMBIA	63	36	75	22	50	9	0.74	0.09	0.74	0.88	96	4.29	88	65	33	0	3	1	1
	KANSAS CITY	61	34	71	24	48	8	0.50	0.00	0.49	0.64	91	3.83	121	76	36	0	5	2	0
	SAINT LOUIS	61	37	75	27	49	7	0.21	-0.53	0.20	0.41	39	4.75	87	65	38	0	3	2	0
	SPRINGFIELD	63	35	70	25	49	6	0.13	-0.60	0.13	0.13	13	3.44	64	72	46	0	5	1	0
MT	BILLINGS	58	31	70	15	45	10	0.10	-0.09	0.10	0.10	38	0.95	58	61	22	0	3	1	0
	BUTTE	49	17	59	1	33	5	0.02	-0.14	0.02	0.05	23	0.32	26	80	27	0	7	1	0
	CUT BANK	51	27	64	9	39	11	0.00	-0.09	0.00	0.00	0	0.52	66	70	32	0	5	0	0
	GLASGOW	51	26	69	18	38	11	0.01	-0.07	0.01	0.24	218	1.13	157	76	59	0	6	1	0
	GREAT FALLS	57	28	68	12	42	11	0.03	-0.16	0.02	0.08	31	0.69	48	61	23	0	4	2	0
	HAVRE	58	26	69	10	42	13	0.00	-0.14	0.00	0.00	0	0.55	54	63	38	0	6	0	0
	MISSOULA	51	27	64	18	39	4	0.05	-0.14	0.03	0.10	36	2.57	122	77	51	0	5	2	0
NE	GRAND ISLAND	64	28	73	22	46	11	0.01	-0.36	0.01	0.01	2	1.21	70	67	36	0	5	1	0
	LINCOLN	62	28	70	19	45	10	0.00	-0.39	0.00	0.00	0	2.25	121	72	47	0	5	0	0
	NORFOLK	61	27	75	19	44	11	0.00	-0.35	0.00	0.00	0	1.91	106	73	46	0	5	0	0
	NORTH PLATTE	65	21	76	13	43	8	0.00	-0.23	0.00	0.00	0	1.35	112	81	23	0	7	0	0
	OMAHA	61	29	71	22	45	10	0.00	-0.39	0.00	0.00	0	2.35	112	73	39	0	4	0	0
	SCOTTSBLUFF	63	23	76	16	43	8	0.00	-0.20	0.00	0.00	0	1.02	73	69	30	0	7	0	0
	VALENTINE	60	25	74	20	42	10	0.00	-0.20	0.00	0.00	0	2.46	232	76	45	0	5	0	0
NV	ELY	54	18	62	12	36	2	0.24	0.02	0.24	0.30	94	2.19	121	71	37	0	7	1	0
	LAS VEGAS	70	44	75	37	57	1	0.00	-0.17	0.00	0.00	0	0.06	4	26	16	0	0	0	0
	RENO	61	25	69	17	43	1	0.02	-0.20	0.02	0.02	6	2.16	88	60	33	0	7	1	0
	WINNEMUCCA	57	15	68	10	36	-4	0.09	-0.08	0.09	0.12	50	1.41	83	81	40	0	7	1	0
NH	CONCORD	45	21	66	10	33	3	0.04	-0.59	0.04	1.27	143	5.51	89	80	37	0	6	1	0
NJ	NEWARK	55	34	72	25	45	6	0.01	-0.88	0.01	0.41	33	4.63	57	59	30	0	3	1	0
NM	ALBUQUERQUE	56	34	67	30	45	-1	0.00	-0.13	0.00	0.00	0	0.66	60	57	26	0	3	0	0
NY	ALBANY	45	25	68	13	35	4	0.04	-0.58	0.03	0.97	111	4.23	76	72	41	0	5	2	0
	BINGHAMTON	40	21	61	13	31	2	0.66	0.05	0.54	1.25	144	5.54	94	72	52	0	7	3	1
	BUFFALO	45	24	65	13	34	3	0.48	-0.13	0.46	0.69	79	6.83	106	72	44	0	6	2	0
	ROCHESTER	43	23	68	12	33	2	0.28	-0.24	0.24	0.52	71	5.97	117	74	53	0	6	3	0
	SYRACUSE	44	24	68	15	34	4	0.63	0.04	0.40	1.19	145	6.48	117	81	49	0	5	5	0
NC	ASHEVILLE	55	34	65	24	45	1	0.59	-0.45	0.45	1.32	89	6.76	72	77	48	0	3	2	0
	CHARLOTTE	61	36	72	24	48	-2	0.27	-0.74	0.27	1.96	137	5.54	62	75	30	0	2	1	0
	GREENSBORO	58	36	69	25	47	1	0.10	-0.76	0.10	0.50	41	4.17	53	73	30	0	2	1	0
	HATTERAS	60	45	68	40	53	3	1.65	0.56	1.36	1.99	130	10.45	92	81	49	0	0	4	1
	RALEIGH	61	36	75	27	48	0	0.45	-0.50	0.29	1.21	90	5.11	58	78	37	0	3	2	0
	WILMINGTON	63	38	74	29	51	-2	1.20	0.21	1.20	2.05	146	5.98	62	92	43	0	1	1	1
ND	BISMARCK	50	21	72	16	35	9	0.02	-0.12	0.02	0.03	15	0.81	70	84	64	0	7	1	0
	DICKINSON	52	26	71	20	39	12	0.01	-0.05	0.01	0.04	44	0.47	53	81	35	0	6	1	0
	FARGO	35	13	50	-5	24	1	0.08	-0.13	0.04	0.09	31	1.62	99	81	63	0	7	3	0
	GRAND FORKS	32	8	49	-8	20	-1	0.17	0.01	0.08	0.25	114	1.14	77	92	71	0	7	3	0
	JAMESTOWN	42	18	65	8	30	6	0.02	-0.13	0.02	0.02	10	0.46	34	90	57	0	7	1	0
	WILLISTON	50	24	69	15	37	12	0.01	-0.12	0.01	0.08	44	0.48	43	83	66	0	7	1	0
OH	AKRON-CANTON	46	26	66	18	36	2	0.78	0.11	0.50	1.41	150	7.24	127	72	52	0	6	3	1
	CINCINNATI	53	30	69	24	42	1	0.66	-0.15	0.58	1.02	89	7.95	117	74	54	0	5	3	1
	CLEVELAND	47	28	66	19	37	3	0.71	0.12	0.35	0.96	114	6.43	115	76	48	0	6	3	0
	COLUMBUS	50	31	68	25	41	2	0.84	0.24	0.81	1.14	134	6.85	123	72	47	0	5	3	1
	DAYTON	50	30	68	22	40	3	0.45	-0.19	0.45	0.72	80	6.72	116	76	41	0	5	1	0
	MANSFIELD	47	26	65	21	37	4	0.40	-0.23	0.27	0.89	101	7.02	124	86	49	0	6	3	0

Based on 1971-2000 normals

***** Not Available**

Weather Data for the Week Ending March 10, 2012

STATES AND STATIONS		TEMPERATURE °F						PRECIPITATION							RELATIVE HUMIDITY PERCENT		NUMBER OF DAYS TEMP. °F		NUMBER OF DAYS 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 MAR 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE MAR 1	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	48	28	66	20	38	5	0.51	0.01	0.28	1.34	191	5.54	123	79	51	0	6	3	0
	YOUNGSTOWN	45	25	65	17	35	2	0.58	-0.03	0.34	1.17	138	8.89	170	74	52	0	6	4	0
OK	OKLAHOMA CITY	68	42	75	29	55	7	0.65	0.01	0.47	0.65	72	3.74	100	75	36	0	1	2	0
	TULSA	69	41	73	30	55	7	0.40	-0.36	0.36	0.40	38	2.62	57	69	47	0	2	2	0
OR	ASTORIA	51	37	65	26	44	-1	1.25	-0.50	0.66	1.87	74	19.47	97	90	75	0	3	4	2
	BURNS	55	18	64	15	37	2	0.02	-0.28	0.01	0.06	14	2.57	94	80	48	0	7	2	0
	EUGENE	54	33	68	25	44	-1	0.28	-1.13	0.21	0.51	25	12.68	79	91	78	0	3	3	0
	MEDFORD	61	30	73	23	46	0	0.02	-0.43	0.01	0.16	25	5.11	98	86	45	0	6	2	0
	PENDLETON	60	30	68	20	45	2	0.00	-0.28	0.00	0.01	3	2.94	96	76	49	0	4	0	0
	PORTLAND	55	36	66	28	46	0	0.39	-0.51	0.25	0.82	63	10.47	99	81	68	0	2	3	0
	SALEM	53	35	65	27	44	-2	0.15	-0.90	0.15	0.54	36	15.00	120	87	79	0	2	1	0
PA	ALLENTOWN	53	30	73	19	42	7	0.08	-0.68	0.08	0.43	40	4.50	61	69	39	0	5	1	0
	ERIE	46	29	67	20	38	5	0.50	-0.12	0.46	0.75	85	7.04	124	65	49	0	5	3	0
	MIDDLETOWN	52	32	69	24	42	5	0.07	-0.67	0.07	0.30	28	5.58	82	73	33	0	5	1	0
	PHILADELPHIA	54	35	70	27	45	5	0.02	-0.79	0.02	0.33	29	4.76	64	63	33	0	3	1	0
	PITTSBURGH	47	28	65	20	37	1	0.92	0.25	0.84	1.05	112	7.14	119	77	43	0	5	3	1
	WILKES-BARRE	47	28	68	20	38	3	0.60	0.07	0.55	0.87	118	3.80	72	67	38	0	6	3	1
	WILLIAMSPORT	48	28	65	17	38	4	0.35	-0.30	0.35	0.79	85	5.55	87	67	42	0	6	1	0
RI	PROVIDENCE	49	31	64	19	40	4	0.07	-0.84	0.07	0.83	65	5.72	63	69	35	0	5	1	0
SC	BEAUFORT	68	46	77	39	57	2	1.18	0.44	1.14	4.21	401	7.57	92	86	37	0	0	2	1
	CHARLESTON	68	43	77	36	56	1	1.42	0.57	1.42	3.97	331	6.88	82	91	37	0	0	1	1
	COLUMBIA	66	41	77	35	54	1	0.28	-0.74	0.24	0.83	58	5.05	51	72	37	0	0	2	0
	GREENVILLE	62	40	74	29	51	2	0.45	-0.81	0.44	2.15	121	7.24	69	68	29	0	1	2	0
SD	ABERDEEN	43	18	58	6	31	4	0.02	-0.20	0.02	0.02	7	1.59	126	84	69	0	7	1	0
	HURON	51	24	73	17	38	9	0.01	-0.27	0.01	0.01	3	2.80	197	84	56	0	6	1	0
	RAPID CITY	60	24	75	15	42	10	0.04	-0.13	0.04	0.04	17	0.73	68	75	20	0	7	1	0
	SIOUX FALLS	54	25	72	15	40	11	0.02	-0.26	0.02	0.02	5	3.20	229	80	54	0	5	1	0
TN	BRISTOL	58	32	69	22	45	1	0.58	-0.33	0.53	1.47	113	9.78	119	83	32	0	4	3	1
	CHATTANOOGA	63	40	74	30	52	3	1.34	-0.07	1.24	2.19	111	11.54	94	76	37	0	1	2	1
	KNOXVILLE	60	36	70	26	48	1	1.38	0.20	1.38	3.01	180	12.77	125	76	34	0	2	1	1
	MEMPHIS	67	44	75	34	55	4	1.44	0.24	1.44	1.44	85	6.20	61	61	30	0	0	1	1
	NASHVILLE	62	36	70	28	49	2	1.42	0.31	1.42	1.56	99	9.50	103	74	31	0	2	1	1
TX	ABILENE	65	44	79	33	55	1	0.63	0.33	0.35	0.63	147	5.10	202	78	54	0	0	3	0
	AMARILLO	64	35	81	24	49	4	0.23	0.02	0.23	0.27	93	0.95	65	65	21	0	2	1	0
	AUSTIN	67	45	76	31	56	-3	1.85	1.32	1.08	1.85	240	13.01	280	82	61	0	1	4	2
	BEAUMONT	73	52	79	40	63	3	1.81	1.03	1.72	2.53	230	16.70	165	96	56	0	0	6	1
	BROWNSVILLE	76	56	84	46	66	-1	0.04	-0.11	0.04	0.04	18	4.61	167	89	58	0	0	1	0
	CORPUS CHRISTI	75	56	84	43	66	2	0.17	-0.24	0.09	0.17	29	4.71	116	85	62	0	0	3	0
	DEL RIO	70	47	82	37	59	-2	0.04	-0.16	0.04	0.04	13	1.74	95	74	57	0	0	1	0
	EL PASO	66	38	81	29	52	-3	0.00	-0.06	0.00	0.00	0	0.68	72	39	20	0	2	0	0
	FORT WORTH	67	46	77	35	57	2	1.30	0.56	1.16	1.30	123	9.36	176	79	45	0	0	3	1
	GALVESTON	71	58	76	50	65	3	1.65	1.06	1.05	1.68	202	12.01	160	91	68	0	0	2	2
	HOUSTON	72	52	80	42	62	2	1.92	1.20	1.14	1.92	188	12.97	169	83	57	0	0	4	2
	LUBBOCK	65	38	80	29	51	2	0.08	-0.07	0.07	0.08	36	0.66	46	66	38	0	1	2	0
	MIDLAND	64	39	81	32	52	-2	0.07	-0.04	0.05	0.07	41	1.26	98	72	50	0	1	2	0
	SAN ANGELO	65	43	78	30	54	-1	1.09	0.85	0.70	1.09	303	7.09	302	72	56	0	1	3	1
	SAN ANTONIO	68	47	79	37	58	-2	0.61	0.19	0.47	0.73	120	10.35	257	89	62	0	0	2	0
	VICTORIA	72	50	79	38	61	0	1.72	1.22	0.99	1.73	244	6.75	130	92	64	0	0	4	2
	WACO	66	45	75	32	56	0	1.92	1.30	1.13	1.93	214	8.96	171	89	62	0	1	3	2
	WICHITA FALLS	69	43	81	31	56	5	1.54	1.04	1.40	1.54	220	4.38	129	76	44	0	1	2	1
UT	SALT LAKE CITY	54	28	65	23	41	0	0.10	-0.30	0.09	0.23	40	3.14	96	79	33	0	6	2	0
VT	BURLINGTON	41	21	61	4	31	4	0.30	-0.14	0.12	0.48	79	3.33	74	78	41	0	5	5	0
VA	LYNCHBURG	56	31	68	20	44	1	0.27	-0.58	0.14	1.21	101	6.04	77	73	33	0	5	3	0
	NORFOLK	58	37	77	32	48	2	1.09	0.18	0.74	1.69	132	6.16	72	78	46	0	1	2	1
	RICHMOND	58	35	75	24	47	2	0.49	-0.43	0.36	0.85	66	5.80	74	80	48	0	2	2	0
	ROANOKE	57	34	70	25	45	1	0.15	-0.70	0.11	1.37	114	5.27	70	72	35	0	4	2	0
	WASH/DULLES	56	34	72	21	45	5	0.00	-0.78	0.00	0.88	79	4.97	72	68	40	0	4	0	0
WA	OLYMPIA	51	30	66	23	40	-3	0.42	-0.67	0.31	0.48	29	14.21	92	90	76	0	4	4	0
	QUILLAYUTE	49	35	64	26	42	-1	5.40	2.67	2.08	7.39	187	34.38	115	96	78	0	3	4	4
	SEATTLE-TACOMA	49	37	60	29	43	-2	0.73	-0.16	0.33	0.81	63	11.27	106	86	69	0	2	4	0
	SPOKANE	50	30	63	21	40	3	0.00	-0.36	0.00	0.00	0	3.49	91	71	41	0	5	0	0
	YAKIMA	59	27	71	21	43	3	0.00	-0.15	0.00	0.00	0	1.95	89	68	44	0	5	0	0
WV	BECKLEY	51	28	66	14	39	0	0.65	-0.18	0.32	1.45	124	8.65	118	80	45	0	5	3	0
	CHARLESTON	55	32	71	23	43	1	0.83	-0.07	0.55	1.67	130	7.02	91	86	39	0	4	3	1
	ELKINS	51	24	67	12	38	1	0.48	-0.41	0.35	1.44	114	6.85	87	87	35	0	6	3	0
	HUNTINGTON	55	32	70	22	43	0	0.74	-0.14	0.51	1.15	92	5.70	75	81	39	0	4	3	1
WI	EAU CLAIRE	42	21	64	11	32	5	0.05	-0.23	0.05	0.07	19	2.45	111	80	47	0	7	1	0
	GREEN BAY	42	22	60	3	32	4	0.17	-0.18	0.16	0.65	138	3.17	118	83	52	0	7	2	0
	LA CROSSE	48	25	66	15	37	7	0.00	-0.29	0.00	0.00	0	2.52	98	77	40	0	5	0	0
	MADISON	47	26	65	10	37	7	0.45	0.08	0.41	0.87	167	3.30	108	75	50	0	5	3	0
	MILWAUKEE	49	29	66	15	39	7	0.35	-0.08	0.27	0.99	165	3.84	94	74	48	0	5	3	0
WY	CASPER	50	25	61	12	38	6	0.19	0.00	0.19	0.19	70	1.74	117	61	44	0	5	1	0
	CHEYENNE	53	24	65	12	39	7	0.00	-0.19	0.00	0.00	0	1.03	90	54	36	0	6	0	0
	LANDER	52	23	59	13	37	5	0.36	0.15	0.23	0.36	124	1.67	124	78	31	0	7	2	0
	SHERIDAN	55	24	68	12	40	7	0.13	-0.03	0.13	0.24	109	1.53	98	59	42	0	6	1	0

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

February Weather and Crop Summary

Weather

Weather summary provided by USDA/WAOB

Highlights: Most areas east of the Rockies completed a fourth consecutive month with above-normal temperatures, capping a winter with only fleeting periods of cold weather. February warmth was especially prevalent across the eastern half of the nation, where pastures, winter grains, and fruit crops exhibited earlier-than-normal spring development.

Meanwhile, portions of the West moved closer to a failed winter wet season, with California and the Great Basin expecting significantly below-average spring and summer runoff. However, much of the West—excluding Arizona and New Mexico—has a temporary buffer against developing drought in the form of abundant reservoir storage.

Farther east, the Plains escaped the winter without a severe cold wave, although moisture shortages and a lack of a protective snow cover caused some problems for winter wheat. In particular, the southern High Plains suffered through several February dust storms, a byproduct of high winds and soil moisture depleted by the historic drought of 2011.

Elsewhere, late-February storminess eased dry conditions in the upper Midwest and provided snow across the nation's northern tier, while damaging thunderstorms and heavy rains swept across parts of the South, East, and lower Midwest. However, most of the late-month rain bypassed Florida's parched peninsula.

Historical Perspective: According to preliminary information provided by the National Climatic Data Center, the contiguous U.S. experienced its 17th-warmest, 40th-driest February during the 118-year period of record. The nation's average temperature of 38.2°F was 3.6°F above the 20th-century mean. Meanwhile, the average precipitation of 1.77 inches was 88 percent of the long-term mean.

Massachusetts noted its warmest February on record, tying 1998. Top-ten February warmth prevailed in twelve other states from Minnesota into the Northeast (figure 1). Elsewhere, precipitation ranked among the ten highest February values in Kansas, Louisiana, Nebraska, and South Dakota, while top-ten dryness covered New Jersey, New York, and all of New England except Maine (figure 2).

Figure 1

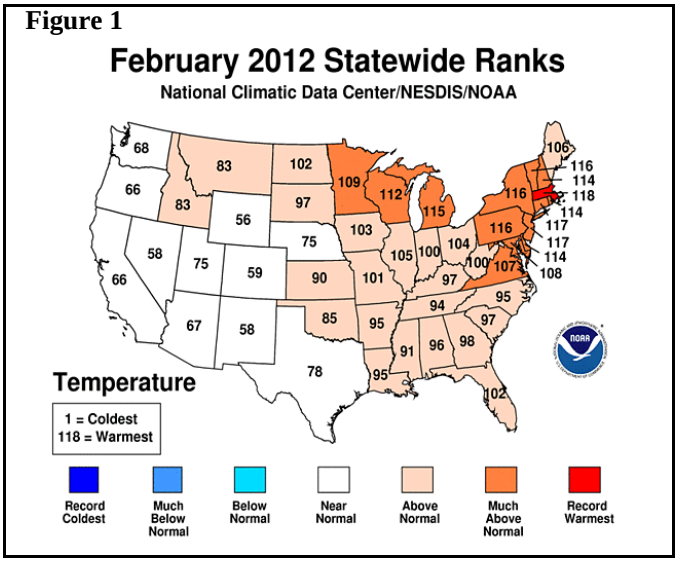
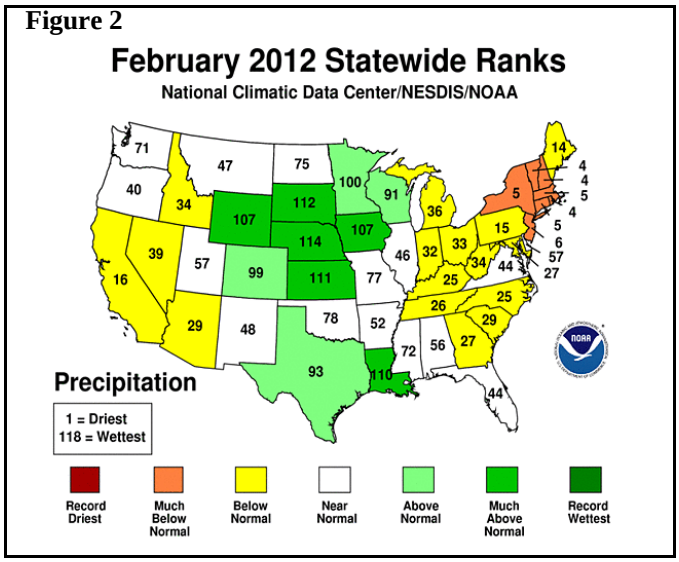


Figure 2



Summary: One of the biggest storms of the mild winter of 2011-12 struck in early February, soaking parts of the nation's mid-section and dumping heavy snow from the central Rockies into parts of the upper Midwest. Record-setting rains soaked an area centered on south-central Kansas, with February 2-4 totals reaching 4.34 inches in Medicine Lodge and 2.87 inches in Wichita. Both Medicine Lodge and Wichita set calendar-day precipitation records for February. Medicine Lodge's former standard of 2.90 inches, set on February 27, 1948, was surpassed by its February 3 total of 3.35 inches. Similarly, Wichita's previous record of 1.93 inches, established on February 27, 1918, was shattered by a 2.86-inch total on February 3. Farther south, February 1-4 rainfall totaled 6.43 inches in College Station, TX, and 6.72 inches in Alexandria, LA, with isolated amounts in excess of 10 inches reported in central Louisiana. College Station also netted a daily-record rainfall of 4.11 inches on February 3, while Alexandria posted consecutive daily-record totals of 3.21 and 3.13 inches, respectively, on February 3 and 4. Meanwhile, heavy snow spread northeastward from the central Rockies. Early-February snowfall reached 3 to 4 feet at a few locations in the foothills of the central Rockies west of Denver and Boulder,

CO. With a 15.9-inch total from February 2-4, Denver experienced its highest 3-day snowfall total in February (previously, 14.1 inches in 1912). Denver also recorded its snowiest February day, with 12.5 inches falling on the 3rd (previously, 9.5 inches on February 22, 1909, and February 19, 1953). Similarly, Hastings, NE, received 11.0 inches of snow on February 3-4. It was the greatest February snow event in Hastings since 1994, when 12.2 inches fell on February 22-23. Hastings did set a 2-day February precipitation record, with 1.58 inches (previously, 1.55 inches on February 3-4, 1903). Elsewhere in Nebraska, Grand Island received 9.4 inches of snow on February 3-4 and reported a peak wind gust to 51 mph during the event. A bit farther east, February 3-4 snowfall reached 11.1 inches in Lincoln, NE, and 4.6 inches in Des Moines, IA.

Meanwhile, much of the nation's southern tier continued to struggle with drought, although early-February rainfall dented the dryness in some areas. On the 5th, for example, Key West, FL, experienced its wettest February day on record. Key West's daily total of 4.34 inches edged its mark originally set with a 4.04-inch total on February 28, 1954. Elsewhere in Florida, long-running dry spells came to an end in locations such as Melbourne and Vero Beach. Melbourne received 0.04 inch on February 7, ending its second-longest spell without measurable precipitation. Melbourne's 41-day dry spell, from December 28 to February 6, was second only to a 46-day streak from November 19, 1968 - January 3, 1969. Similarly, Vero Beach (39 days from December 28 - February 4) fell short of only a 41-day dry spell from April 14 - May 24, 1970. Daily-record rainfall totals across the Deep South included 1.52 inches (on February 5) in Corpus Christi, TX, and 1.71 inches (on February 7) in Miami, FL. In southern Texas, February 4-9 rainfall totaled 3.24 inches in Brownsville and 2.80 inches in Harlingen. A few days later, widespread, light snow reached the Midwestern and Mid-Atlantic States. February 11 snowfall accounted for more than one-third of the season-to-date total in Wilmington, DE (2.0 of 5.2 inches), and Atlantic City, NJ (1.7 of 4.3 inches). In Virginia, the first measurable snowfall of the season occurred on the night of February 11-12 at Norfolk (0.5 inch) and Wallops Island (0.3 inch).

In early February, the East was the beneficiary of some spring-like weather. Daily-record highs for February 5 included 81°F at both Charleston, SC, and St. Simons Island, GA. Warmth continued in the East through February 6, when daily-record highs reached 84°F in Tampa, FL, and 50°F in Burlington, VT. Farther west, Des Moines, IA, did not record a sub-zero reading during the autumn or winter for the first time on record—bottoming out with a low of 1°F on January 18. Previously, the latest observance of the season's first sub-zero temperature had been February 6, 1914, when the low dipped to -2°F. However, there was another fleeting shot of cold air in February—one that sent the mercury to 3°F on February 11 in Des Moines. On the same date, temperatures briefly plunged below 0°F as far south as the central Plains, where Alliance, NE (-1°F), notched a daily-record low. Cool air also returned to Florida, where daily-record lows for February 12 dipped to 25°F in Gainesville and 30°F in Daytona Beach. Farther north, parts of northern Maine reported lows to -20°F or below on both February 13 and 14. In the south-central U.S., however, a rapid warming trend followed some light snow. In Texas, Austin (Bergstrom) warmed to 80°F on February 15—the highest temperature there since November 21—just 3 days after a trace of snow fell. Elsewhere in Texas, Lubbock netted 2.8 inches of snow on February 12, but warmed to 69°F on February 14. Cold weather lingered a bit longer in the West, where measurable snow fell daily in Ely, NV, from February 12-15. Ely's 4-day snowfall reached 8.1 inches. Elsewhere in Nevada, daily-record snowfall amounts for February 15 included 4.5 inches in Elko and 2.8 inches in Winnemucca. Farther east, mid-month rains soaked parts of the Gulf Coast region, where Alexandria, LA (2.45 inches), netted a daily-record sum for February 15. Three days later, daily-record amounts for February 18 included 3.51 inches in Lake Charles, LA, and 3.85 inches in Galveston, TX. During the week ending February 18, rainfall totaled 4.87 inches in Alexandria, LA; 4.75 inches in McComb, MS; 4.62 inches in Mobile, AL; and 3.89 inches in Pensacola, FL. In Louisiana, the worst lowland flooding since 2008 developed in several basins, including Bayou Cocodrie near Clearwater (2.08 feet above flood stage on February 20) and the Calcasieu River near Glenmora (3.37 feet above flood stage on February 19).

During the second half of February, generally beneficial precipitation continued to fall in several areas. For example, Charleston, SC (1.26 inches on February 19), received a daily rainfall in excess of an inch for the first time since August 13, 2011. Similarly, Savannah, GA (1.29 inches on the 19th), netted more than an inch for the first time since October 10, 2011. Farther north, daily-record snowfall totals for February 19 included 3.1 inches in Jackson, KY, and 1.6 inches in Greensboro, NC. It was Greensboro's first measurable snow of the season. In Richmond, VA, the season's first measurable snow totaled 4.0 inches on February 19-20. Elsewhere, February 19-20 snowfall reached 6.9 inches in Bluefield, WV, and 7.7 inches in Lynchburg, VA. Meanwhile, periodic high winds raised dust across the southern High Plains—primarily on February 20, 23, 25, and 28. With a gust to 63 mph on February 20, Lubbock, TX, clocked its highest wind since October 17, 2011. Farther north, February 21-22 snowfall totals of 2 to 3 feet were common across western Wyoming and neighboring areas, while high-elevation wind gusts locally topped 100 mph. Later, precipitation shifted into the Midwest, South, and East. Waterloo, Iowa (4.1 inches), received a daily-record snowfall on February 23, followed the next day by record-setting amounts in locations such as Houghton Lake, MI

(7.3 inches), and Rockford, IL (4.0 inches). On February 24, locally severe thunderstorms swept across the Southeast, where at least a half-dozen tornadoes were reported. On the same day, Augusta, GA, noted a squall line-induced wind gust to 70 mph. Farther north, locally heavy snow blanketed the Northeast, where February 25-26 snowfall reached 30 inches atop Vermont's Jay Peak.

Late-month temperatures soared to spring-like levels, especially across the South and West. Daily-record highs for February 22 included 79°F in Santa Rosa, CA, and 77°F in Dalhart, TX. A day later, record-setting warmth lingered in the West and exploded across the South and East. Santa Rosa (80°F on February 23) notched a record for the second consecutive day. Meanwhile, monthly record highs were established on February 23 in locations such as Monroe, LA (89°F; previously, 86°F on February 25, 1977, and earlier dates); Monticello, AR (85°F; previously, 84°F on February 27, 1986, and earlier dates); and Greenwood, MS (84°F; previously, 83°F on February 27, 2011, and earlier dates). On February 23-24, consecutive daily-record highs were established in locations such as Stockton, CA (73 and 74°F), and Charleston, SC (81°F both days). Other Southeastern daily records for February 24 included 89°F in Vero Beach, FL; 86°F in Savannah, GA; and 82°F in Norfolk, VA.

Toward the end of February, a major, late-winter storm emerged from the West and tracked into the upper Midwest. In South Dakota, daily-record precipitation totals for February 28 included 1.41 inches in Sioux Falls and 1.23 inches in Mitchell. February 28-29 precipitation in Mitchell totaled 1.53 inches, including 3.4 inches of snow. In Rochester, MN, nearly 40 percent (1.34 of 3.41 inches) of the December-February precipitation fell during the last 2 days of meteorological winter. In North Dakota, Fargo received 8.6 inches of snow during the last 4 days of the month, including 4.4 inches during the February 28-29 storm. Farther east, Leap Day snowfall records reached 9.7 inches in Duluth, MN; 6.4 inches in Alpena, MI; 4.4 inches in Hartford, CT; and 4.0 inches in Albany, NY. Meanwhile, a new Pacific storm moved ashore, resulting in as much as 2 to 3 feet of snow in late February and early March from the Pacific Northwest to the Intermountain West. In Oregon, Santiam Pass received 36 inches of snow from February 28 - March 1. Farther inland, Alta, UT, reported 24 inches from February 29 - March 2. In addition, high winds raked various parts of the western and central U.S. On February 28, the southern Plains' aforementioned dust storm was induced by gusts such as those observed in Ft. Stanton, NM (74 mph), and Amarillo, TX (62 mph). Winds topped 100 mph on some Western peaks, with the summit of Mammoth Mountain, CA, reporting a late-February gust to 120 mph.

Even more impressive than the Western winds were twin severe weather outbreaks on February 28-29 and March 2-3, respectively. The latter event will be covered in the *March Weather Summary*, while the initial outbreak struck hardest from eastern Kansas into the lower Ohio Valley. Among the hardest-hit communities was the town of Harrisburg, in Saline County, IL, flattened by a tornado just before dawn on February 29. The EF-4 tornado responsible for the devastation in Saline County resulted in seven fatalities. Six other deadly tornadoes claimed seven additional lives—three in Missouri, three in Tennessee, and one in Kansas. Elsewhere, the first-ever February tornadoes in Nebraska were spotted on the 28th, northeast of North Platte and west of Greeley, respectively. Record-setting warmth covered the South in advance of both major storms. From February 27-29, Ft. Myers, Florida (89, 88, and 87°F), posted a trio of daily-record highs. Leap Day records were also established in locations such as Savannah, GA (84°F), and New Orleans, LA (83°F). In contrast, increasingly chilly conditions settled across the West. February 29 featured daily-record lows in Springerville, AZ (8°F), and Klamath Falls, OR (13°F).

In a stark contrast from the previous month, February temperatures generally ranged from 5 to 10°F above normal across the Alaskan mainland. Still, bitterly cold weather lingered early in the month. Kotzebue (-46°F on February 1) began the new month with a daily-record low, while Nome posted consecutive daily-record lows (-38 and -37°F, respectively) on February 2-3. A few days later, however, temperatures rose dramatically in western Alaska. On February 3-4, 24-hour temperature rises exceeded 50°F in several locations, including Noatak and Holy Cross. Heavy snow accompanied the warming trend in Nome, where 13.7 inches of snow fell from February 3-5. Meanwhile, Anchorage received 9.1 inches of snow on February 3. Elsewhere in southern Alaska on the 3rd, daily-record highs climbed to 53°F in Petersburg and 48°F in Juneau. Additional record highs followed. For example, daily-record highs were tied or broken on February 9 in locations such as Wrangell (52°F), Juneau (48°F), and Kotzebue (32°F). In fact, Juneau reported 26 consecutive days of warmer-than-normal weather from January 30 - February 24. During the spell of mild weather, periods of heavy precipitation covered southern Alaska. Following a 4-week storm lull in Valdez, during which the snow depth settled from 84 to 68 inches between January 12 and February 12, heavy snow returned. During the week ending February 18, Valdez received 27.4 inches of snow. An additional 26.1 inches blanketed Valdez on February 26-27. By the end of February, the season-to-date snowfall in Valdez climbed to 403.9 inches, 159 percent of normal. Valdez also set a February record with a 97-inch snow depth on the 27th, eclipsing its 94-inch standard set on February 27 and 28, 1990. Toward month's end, cold weather returned to northwestern Alaska, where Kotzebue dipped to -30°F on February 25. However, widespread snow fell during the departure of mild conditions. McGrath received 8.4 inches of snow from February 24-27, but dipped to -31°F by March 1.

Only briefly heavy showers affected Hawaii until the second half of February, when more widespread downpours developed. On Kauai, 24-hour rainfall totals on February 7-8 reached 3.06 inches in Kilohana and 2.41 inches in Wainiha. About a week later, Kahului, Maui (86°F on February 14) notched a daily-record high during a period of warm, tranquil weather. The Big Island received some locally heavy rain on February 18-19, when 24-hour totals reached 4.75 inches in Mountain View and 3.32 inches in Glenwood. Elsewhere on the Big Island, Hilo netted 7.33 inches of rain during the week ending February 25, contributing to a monthly total of 13.49 inches (141 percent of normal). Farther west, heavy rain moved across Kauai on February 25-26, when 24-hour totals reached 7.52 inches on Mt. Waialeale and 6.93 inches at Mana. The 26th was the wettest February day on record in Lihue, Kauai, where the 6.39-inch sum surpassed the 5.40-inch total observed on February 28, 1954.

Fieldwork

Fieldwork summary provided by USDA/NASS

February temperatures across the western half of the nation were near normal, while most areas from the Great Plains eastward were warmer than average. Most notably, monthly temperatures in portions of the Great Lakes region and the Northeast averaged at least 8°F above normal. February was a relatively dry month for much of the nation. Total precipitation was less than 50 percent of normal in much of the Great Lakes region and the Southwest, leaving many producers concerned about the lack of available moisture going into the upcoming crop season. Conversely, late-winter storms delivered moisture totaling at least 200 percent of normal to much of the Great Plains and lower Delta, improving snow cover for winter wheat in the former region and improving soil moisture levels, following an unusually dry 2011 crop year.

Weather conditions provided producers in many states plenty of time to prepare farm equipment and fields for spring planting. At mid-month, cultivation was underway in corn and sorghum fields throughout Texas, while cotton growers were pre-watering fields and laying rows. In California, rice fields were drained, and fertilizers and herbicides were applied in advance of cotton and corn planting. A late-month storm dumped beneficial rain on much of drought-affected northern Florida. The moisture improved planting conditions but limited fieldwork activities. Sugarcane producers in Florida and Texas continued to harvest their 2011 crop throughout the month.

An early-month storm system improved snow cover for the winter wheat crop in portions of the Great Plains and Rocky Mountains; however, warmer-than-normal weather later in the month left most areas without further snow accumulations. Windy, dry conditions persisted throughout February in the High Plains and Edwards Plateau regions of Texas, depleting soil moisture and causing dust storms that negatively impacted the developing wheat crop. Irrigated and some rain-fed small grain fields in California showed exceptional development throughout the month, with limited heading evident in winter wheat fields toward month's end. Conversely, some oat fields in the state were disked under due to poor establishment and growth. Elsewhere, above-average precipitation in many of the major wheat-producing regions boosted soil moisture levels as the crop began to emerge from dormancy.

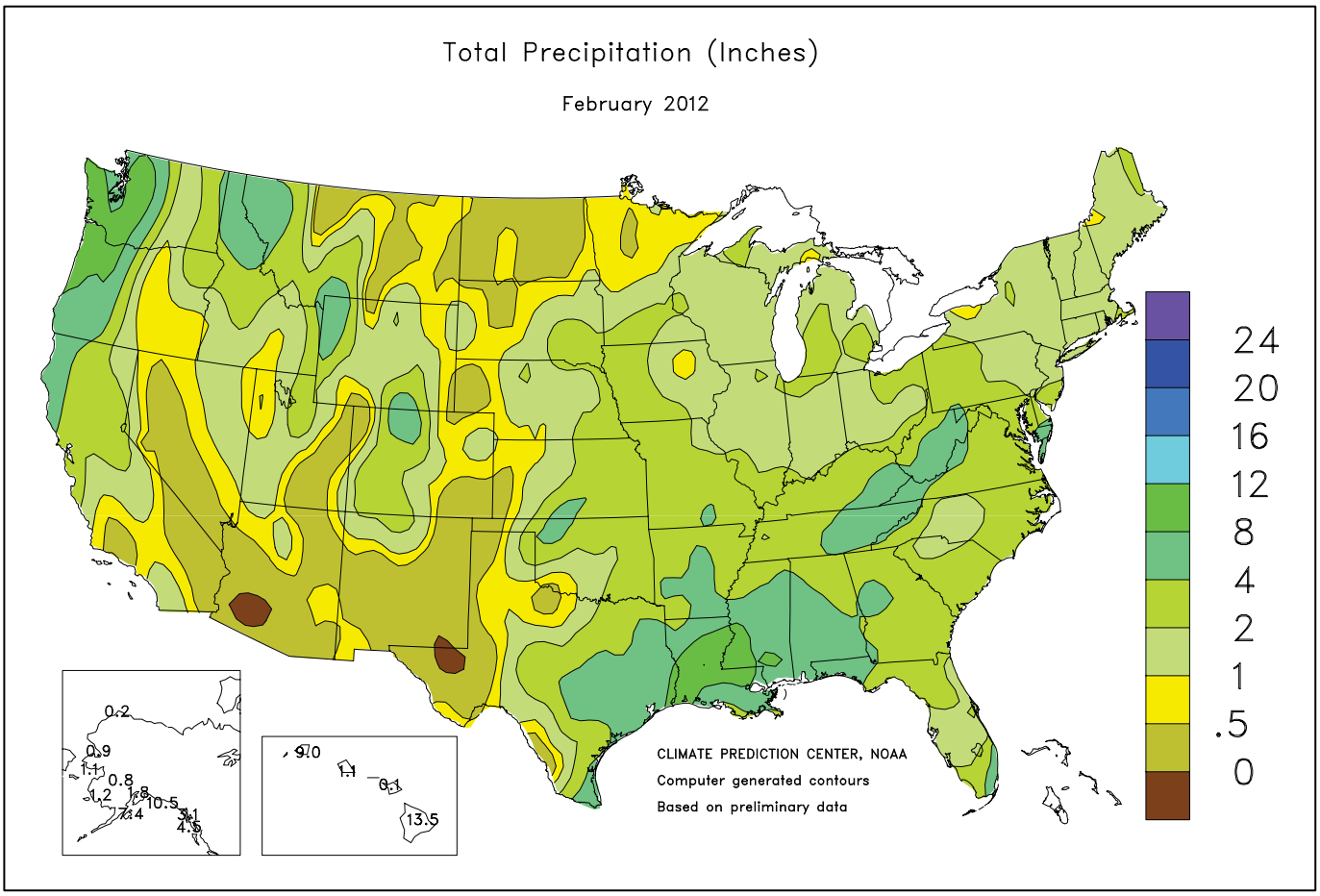
Throughout the month, a variety of winter vegetables were harvested and shipped from the southern states, while spring vegetable fields were planted. As February progressed, the harvest of early and mid-season oranges tapered off, while the grapefruit, tangerine, temple, and Valencia orange harvest gained speed. While blooming was beginning on most stone fruit trees in California early in the month, early bloom was reported in almond, apricot, and plum trees at mid-month. Producers moved bees into orchards to aid in pollination and continued a variety of maintenance activities including irrigation, planting, pruning, and applying herbicides.

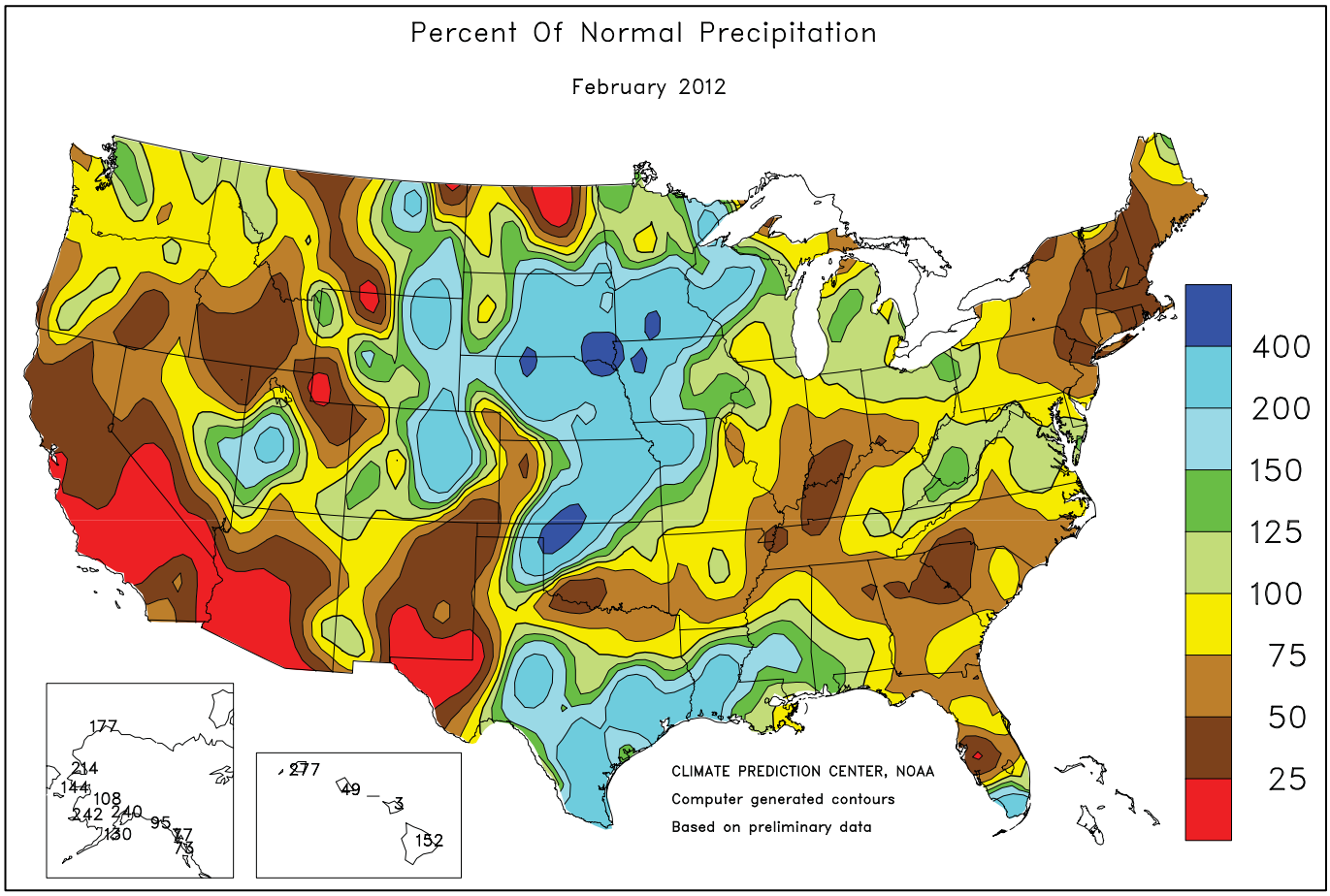
U.S. Crop Production Highlights

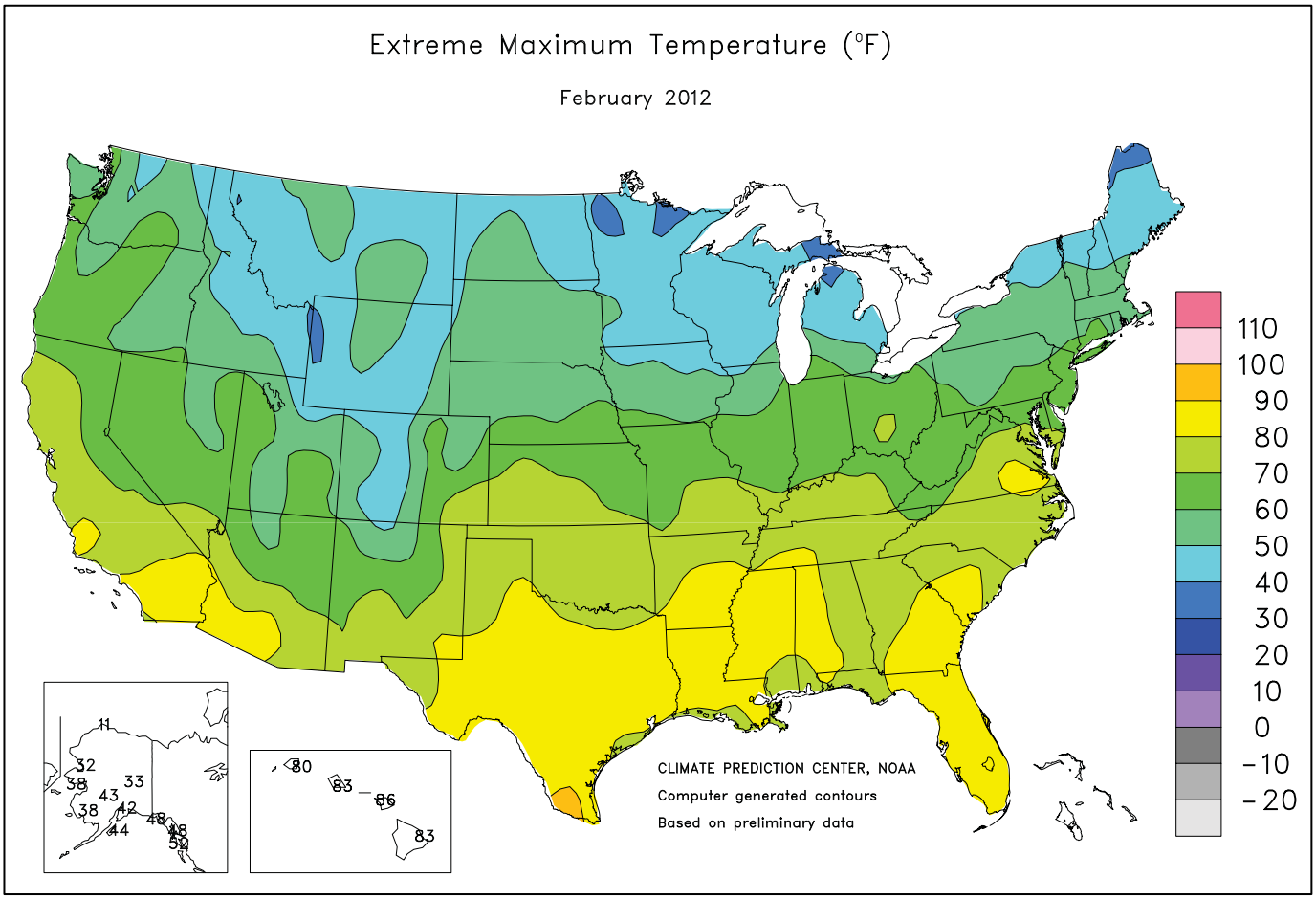
The following information was released by USDA's Agricultural Statistics Board on March 9. Forecasts refer to March 1.

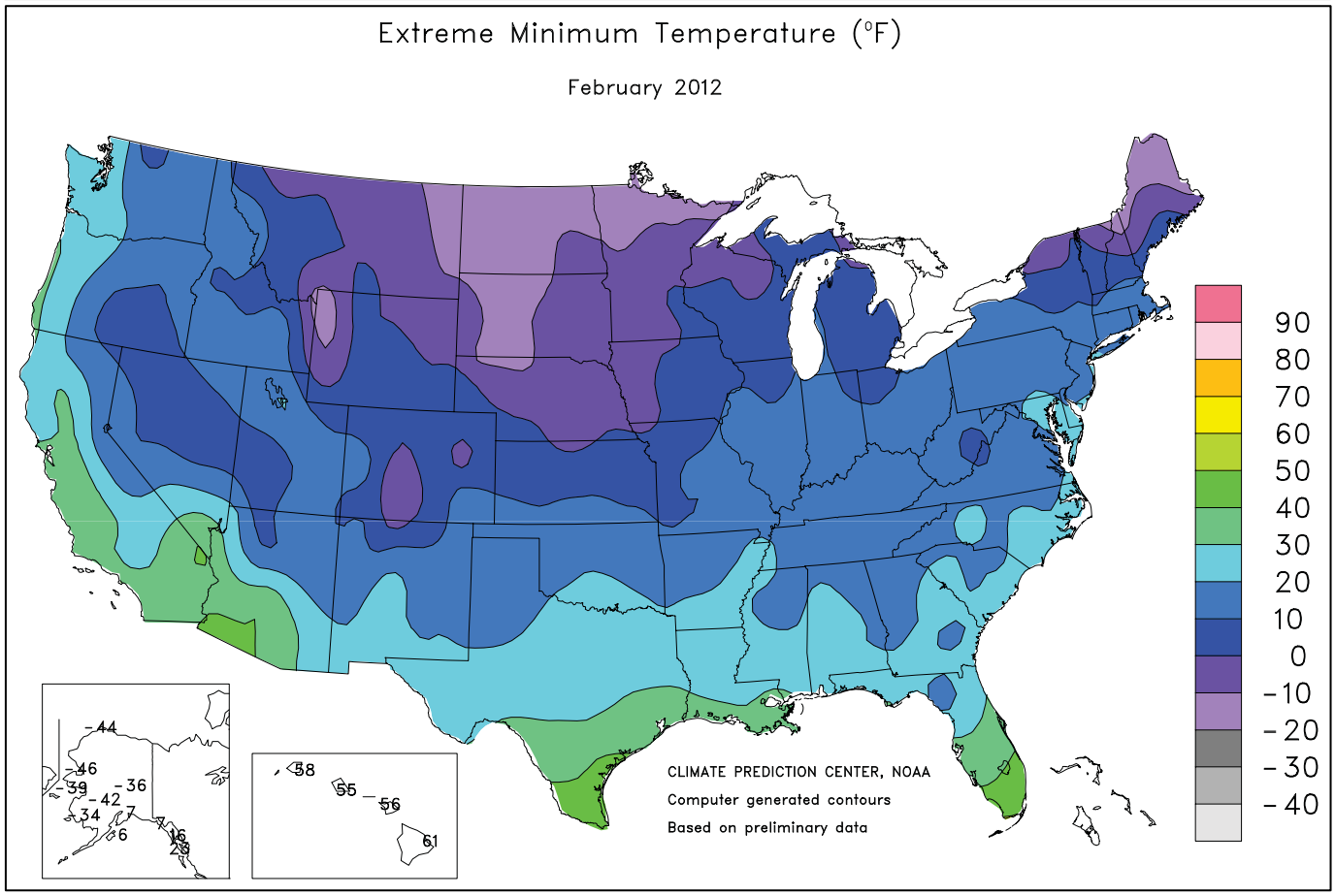
The U.S. **all orange** forecast for the 2011-2012 season is 9.00 million tons, up 1 percent from the previous forecast and up 2 percent from the 2010-2011 final utilization. The Florida all orange forecast, at 147 million boxes (6.62 million tons), is up 1 percent from the February forecast and up 5 percent from last season's final utilization. Early, midseason, and Navel varieties in Florida are forecast at 74.0 million boxes (3.33 million tons), up 1 percent from the February forecast and up 5 percent from last season. The Florida Valencia orange forecast, at 73.0 million boxes (3.29 million tons), is unchanged from the February forecast but up 4 percent from the 2010-2011 crop. Sizes for Valencia oranges in Florida are expected to be about average.

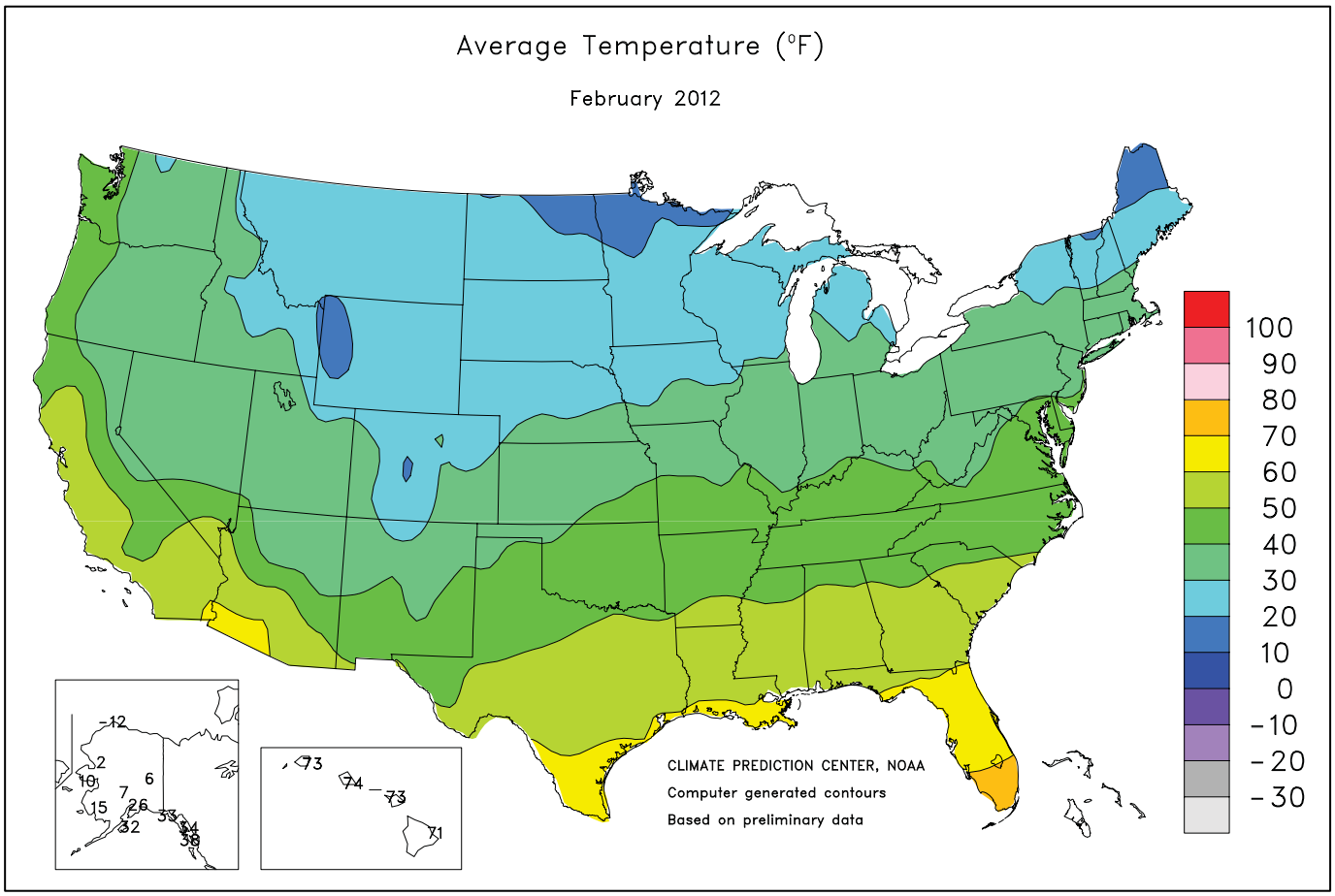
The California Valencia orange forecast is 14.0 million boxes (560,000 tons), up 4 percent from the previous forecast. This brings California's all orange forecast to 58.0 million boxes (2.32 million tons), up 1 percent from the January 1 forecast. Objective survey measurements taken during January and February indicated that fruit set per tree was slightly lower than the previous year, while measured average fruit size was slightly larger than the previous year. The forecast for Texas is carried forward from January.

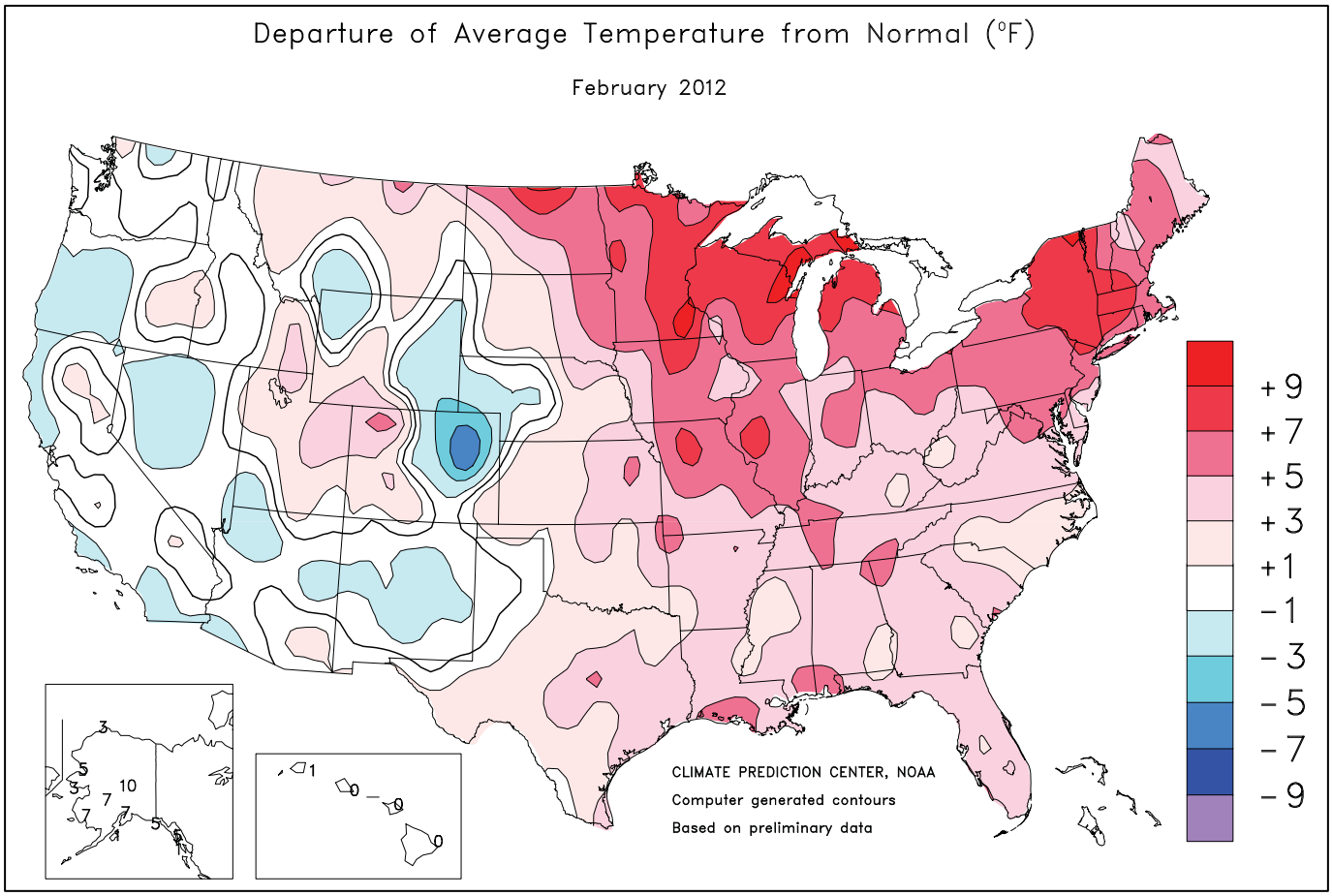

Total Precipitation (Inches)
February 2012
24
20
16
12
8
4
2
1
.5
0
0.2
0.9
1.1
0.8
1.2
1.8
7.4
10.5
3.1
4.5
9.0
1.1
0.1
13.5
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA
Computer generated contours
Based on preliminary data


Percent Of Normal Precipitation
February 2012
400
200
150
125
100
75
50
25
177
214
144
108
242
240
95
130
277
49
3
132
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA
Computer generated contours
Based on preliminary data


Extreme Maximum Temperature (°F)
February 2012
110
100
90
80
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
-10
-20
11
32
38
33
43
38
42
48
44
48
52
80
83
86
83
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA
Computer generated contours
Based on preliminary data


Extreme Minimum Temperature (°F)
February 2012
90
80
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
-10
-20
-30
-40
-44
-46
-39
-36
-42
-34
7
6
16
28
58
55
56
61
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA
Computer generated contours
Based on preliminary data


Average Temperature (°F)
February 2012
100
90
80
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
-10
-20
-30
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA
Computer generated contours
Based on preliminary data


Departure of Average Temperature from Normal (°F)
February 2012
+9
+7
+5
+3
+1
-1
-3
-5
-7
-9
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA
Computer generated contours
Based on preliminary data

National Weather Data for Selected Cities

February 2012

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

STATES AND STATIONS	TEMP, °F		PRECIP.		STATES AND STATIONS	TEMP, °F		PRECIP.		STATES AND STATIONS	TEMP, °F		PRECIP.	
	AVERAGE	DEPARTURE	TOTAL	DEPARTURE		AVERAGE	DEPARTURE	TOTAL	DEPARTURE		AVERAGE	DEPARTURE	TOTAL	DEPARTURE
AL BIRMINGHAM	52	5	2.96	-1.25	LEXINGTON	40	4	3.09	-0.18	COLUMBUS	37	5	1.89	-0.31
HUNTSVILLE	49	5	3.56	-1.39	LONDON-CORBIN	41	2	2.68	-1.04	DAYTON	36	6	1.27	-1.02
MOBILE	58	5	7.25	2.15	LOUISVILLE	42	4	1.68	-1.57	MANSFIELD	33	6	2.51	0.34
MONTGOMERY	55	4	4.56	-0.89	PADUCAH	43	5	2.19	-1.74	TOLEDO	33	6	1.78	-0.10
AK ANCHORAGE	26	7	1.78	1.04	LA BATON ROUGE	59	6	7.56	2.46	YOUNGSTOWN	34	6	3.21	1.18
BARROW	-12	4	0.21	0.09	LAKE CHARLES	60	6	8.03	4.75	OK OKLAHOMA CITY	45	3	0.86	-0.70
COLD BAY	28	0	6.04	3.45	NEW ORLEANS	61	5	4.71	-0.76	TULSA	45	3	1.61	-0.34
FAIRBANKS	6	10	0.42	0.06	SHREVEPORT	56	5	3.56	-0.65	OR ASTORIA	44	0	6.80	-1.07
JUNEAU	34	5	3.10	-0.92	ME BANGOR	26	5	1.55	-0.99	BURNS	32	2	0.15	-0.96
KING SALMON	25	9	1.12	0.40	CARIBOU	17	4	2.31	0.25	EUGENE	42	-1	4.05	-2.30
KODIAK	32	2	7.41	1.69	PORTLAND	30	5	1.47	-1.67	MEDFORD	44	0	2.19	0.09
NOME	10	4	1.08	0.33	MD BALTIMORE	42	7	2.42	-0.60	PENDLETON	37	-2	1.39	0.17
AZ FLAGSTAFF	32	0	0.99	-1.57	MA BOSTON	37	6	1.00	-2.30	PORTLAND	44	1	2.83	-1.35
PHOENIX	60	2	0.00	-0.77	WORCESTER	33	7	1.42	-1.68	SALEM	43	0	4.14	-0.95
TUCSON	56	1	0.08	-0.80	MI ALPENA	28	9	1.71	0.36	PA ALLENTOWN	37	7	1.11	-1.64
AR FORT SMITH	48	4	2.18	-0.41	DETROIT	32	5	1.91	0.03	ERIE	34	6	1.78	-0.50
LITTLE ROCK	49	4	4.53	1.20	FLINT	31	7	1.84	0.49	MIDDLETOWN	37	6	2.11	-0.82
CA BAKERSFIELD	55	2	0.29	-0.92	GRAND RAPIDS	32	7	2.00	0.47	PHILADELPHIA	41	6	1.84	-0.90
EUREKA	46	-3	2.63	-2.88	HOUGHTON LAKE	27	7	2.13	0.88	PITTSBURGH	35	4	2.24	-0.13
FRESNO	53	2	0.75	-1.37	LANSING	30	6	1.59	0.14	WILKES-BARRE	34	5	1.03	-1.05
LOS ANGELES	57	-1	0.12	-2.99	MUSKEGON	33	8	1.84	0.26	WILLIAMSPORT	35	6	1.77	-0.84
REDDING	51	2	1.42	-4.07	TRAVERSE CITY	30	8	1.22	-0.57	PR SAN JUAN	78	1	1.97	-0.33
SACRAMENTO	51	0	0.92	-2.62	MN DULUTH	24	9	1.41	0.58	RI PROVIDENCE	36	5	1.49	-1.96
SAN DIEGO	58	-1	1.19	-0.85	INT'L FALLS	20	9	0.79	0.15	SC CHARLESTON	55	4	2.27	-0.81
SAN FRANCISCO	52	0	0.66	-3.35	MINNEAPOLIS	28	8	1.71	0.92	COLUMBIA	52	4	2.46	-1.38
STOCKTON	51	0	0.60	-1.86	ROCHESTER	28	10	1.63	0.88	FLORENCE	51	3	2.85	-0.17
CO ALAMOSA	24	2	0.28	0.07	ST. CLOUD	25	9	1.24	0.65	GREENVILLE	48	4	1.17	-3.07
CO SPRINGS	32	0	0.29	-0.06	MS JACKSON	54	5	8.28	3.78	MYRTLE BEACH	51	2	1.97	-1.53
DENVER	28	-3	0.90	0.67	MERIDIAN	53	3	6.05	0.70	SD ABERDEEN	24	5	0.87	0.39
GRAND JUNCTION	36	2	0.43	-0.07	TUPELO	49	4	4.63	-0.05	HURON	26	5	2.06	1.49
PUEBLO	34	-1	0.60	0.34	MO COLUMBIA	40	6	2.67	0.47	RAPID CITY	27	0	0.38	-0.08
CT BRIDGEPORT	39	7	1.58	-1.34	JOPLIN	43	4	2.58	0.33	SIOUX FALLS	27	6	2.43	1.92
HARTFORD	36	7	1.47	-1.49	KANSAS CITY	38	5	3.13	1.82	TN BRISTOL	43	5	3.71	0.31
DC WASHINGTON	44	6	2.33	-0.30	SPRINGFIELD	41	4	2.36	0.08	CHATTANOOGA	49	6	2.25	-2.60
DE WILMINGTON	40	6	2.08	-0.73	ST JOSEPH	37	5	2.28	1.15	JACKSON	46	3	2.31	-1.94
FL DAYTONA BEACH	65	5	1.73	-1.01	ST LOUIS	41	6	2.01	-0.27	KNOXVILLE	46	4	4.07	0.06
FT LAUDERDALE	73	5	1.45	-1.25	MT BILLINGS	30	0	0.24	-0.33	MEMPHIS	49	4	3.03	-1.28
FT MYERS	71	5	1.70	-0.40	BUTTE	24	2	0.16	-0.31	NASHVILLE	46	5	2.81	-0.88
JACKSONVILLE	60	4	1.14	-2.01	GLASGOW	22	3	0.74	0.48	TX ABILENE	51	2	1.70	0.57
KEY WEST	74	3	5.22	3.71	GREAT FALLS	29	3	0.31	-0.20	AMARILLO	40	-1	0.63	0.08
MELBOURNE	67	5	1.28	-1.21	HELENA	28	2	0.55	0.17	AUSTIN	56	1	3.86	1.87
MIAMI	73	4	3.38	1.31	KALISPELL	29	2	1.04	-0.11	BEAUMONT	60	4	7.90	4.55
ORLANDO	67	4	3.14	0.79	MILES CITY	27	2	0.34	0.00	BROWNSVILLE	66	3	4.23	3.05
PENSACOLA	59	4	5.75	1.07	MISSOULA	30	1	0.83	0.06	COLLEGE STATION	58	3	9.30	6.92
ST PETERSBURG	68	5	1.97	-0.90	NE GRAND ISLAND	30	2	1.04	0.36	CORPUS CHRISTI	63	3	4.09	2.25
TALLAHASSEE	59	4	3.30	-1.33	HASTINGS	30	0	1.67	1.00	DALLAS/FT WORTH	53	4	1.88	-0.49
TAMPA	68	5	1.89	-0.78	LINCOLN	31	3	2.09	1.43	DEL RIO	58	2	1.20	0.24
WEST PALM BEACH	71	4	3.82	1.27	MCCOOK	32	0	0.37	-0.27	EL PASO	51	0	0.02	-0.37
GA ATHENS	49	3	1.50	-2.89	NORFOLK	29	3	1.73	0.97	GALVESTON	61	3	7.32	4.71
ATLANTA	51	4	2.23	-2.45	NORTH PLATTE	28	-1	1.23	0.72	HOUSTON	60	5	5.98	3.00
AUGUSTA	52	4	1.12	-2.99	OMAHA/EPPLEY	31	3	2.29	1.49	LUBBOCK	44	1	0.57	-0.14
COLUMBUS	55	5	3.64	-0.84	SCOTTSBLUFF	30	0	0.86	0.28	MIDLAND	49	0	0.19	-0.39
MACON	52	3	2.52	-2.03	VALENTINE	27	0	2.27	1.79	SAN ANGELO	52	2	2.70	1.52
SAVANNAH	57	4	2.65	-0.27	NV ELKO	31	0	0.49	-0.39	SAN ANTONIO	58	3	5.63	3.88
HI HILO	71	0	13.49	4.63	ELY	30	0	1.22	0.47	VICTORIA	60	3	2.95	0.91
HONOLULU	74	1	1.14	-1.21	LAS VEGAS	54	2	0.06	-0.63	WACO	53	2	2.80	0.37
KAHULUI	73	1	0.08	-2.28	RENO	40	2	0.60	-0.46	WICHITA FALLS	48	2	0.60	-0.97
LIHUE	73	1	9.03	5.77	WINNEMUCCA	34	-2	0.54	-0.08	UT SALT LAKE CITY	37	2	1.12	-0.21
ID BOISE	38	1	0.67	-0.47	NH CONCORD	30	7	1.38	-0.98	VT BURLINGTON	28	8	0.89	-0.78
LEWISTON	39	1	0.85	-0.10	NJ ATLANTIC CITY	40	6	2.39	-0.46	VA LYNCHBURG	42	4	2.61	-0.49
POCATELLO	31	1	0.62	-0.39	NEWARK	40	6	1.33	-1.63	NORFOLK	47	5	2.67	-0.67
IL CHICAGO/O'HARE	33	6	1.64	0.01	NM ALBUQUERQUE	41	0	0.26	-0.18	RICHMOND	44	4	3.22	0.24
MOLINE	31	4	1.95	0.44	NY ALBANY	32	7	1.00	-1.17	ROANOKE	44	5	2.21	-0.87
PEORIA	34	6	1.74	0.07	BINGHAMTON	31	7	1.25	-1.21	WASH/DULLES	41	6	2.24	-0.53
ROCKFORD	30	5	1.31	-0.03	BUFFALO	32	6	1.72	-0.70	WA OLYMPIA	41	1	5.01	-1.16
SPRINGFIELD	37	6	1.59	-0.21	ROCHESTER	32	7	2.13	0.09	QUILLAYUTE	44	2	11.40	-0.95
IN EVANSVILLE	41	5	1.75	-1.35	SYRACUSE	32	8	1.41	-0.71	SEATTLE-TACOMA	43	0	3.63	-0.55
FORT WAYNE	33	6	2.01	0.07	NC ASHEVILLE	44	5	1.59	-2.24	SPOKANE	33	0	1.68	0.17
INDIANAPOLIS	37	6	1.38	-1.03	CHARLOTTE	47	2	1.30	-2.25	YAKIMA	38	3	0.78	-0.02
SOUTH BEND	32	5	2.30	0.32	GREENSBORO	45	4	1.99	-1.11	WV BECKLEY	38	4	3.85	0.89
IA BURLINGTON	34	6	1.38	-0.16	HATTERAS	51	4	3.43	-0.51	CHARLESTON	40	3	3.25	0.06
CEDAR RAPIDS	29	4	1.16	0.06	RALEIGH	47	4	1.94	-1.53	ELKINS	36	4	3.62	0.42
DES MOINES	33	6	1.77	0.58	WILMINGTON	51	2	2.16	-1.50	HUNTINGTON	40	3	2.39	-0.70
DUBUQUE	28	5	1.31	-0.11	ND BISMARCK	22	4	0.48	-0.03	WI EAU CLAIRE	27	8	1.82	1.02
SIOUX CITY	28	3	2.24	1.62	DICKINSON	22	1	0.31	-0.12	GREEN BAY	29	9	1.12	0.11
WATERLOO	29	6	1.08	0.03	FARGO	21	7	0.95	0.36	LA CROSSE	29	6	1.44	0.45
KS CONCORDIA	36	4	2.28	1.55	GRAND FORKS	19	6	0.51	-0.07	MADISON	30	7	1.03	-0.25
DODGE CITY	37	1	0.96	0.30	JAMESTOWN	22	6	0.34	-0.18	MILWAUKEE	31	6	1.48	-0.17
GOODLAND	33	1	0.42	-0.02	MINOT	22	5	0.14	-0.39	WAUSAU	25	6	1.38	0.48
HILL CITY	34	2	0.67	0.07	WILLISTON	20	3	0.30	-0.09	WY CASPER	26	-1	0.88	0.24
TOPEKA	40	7	2.72	1.54	OH AKRON-CANTON	34	6	2.45	0.17	CHEYENNE	26	-3	0.90	0.46
WICHITA	41	5	3.60	2.58	CINCINNATI	38	4	1.54	-1.21	LANDER	26	0	0.87	0.33
KY JACKSON	42	4	3.90	0.22	CLEVELAND	35	7	2.26	-0.03	SHERIDAN	28	1	0.94	0.37

Based on 1971-2000 normals

***** Not Available**

National Agricultural Summary

March 5 – 11, 2012

Weekly National Agricultural Summary provided by USDA/NASS

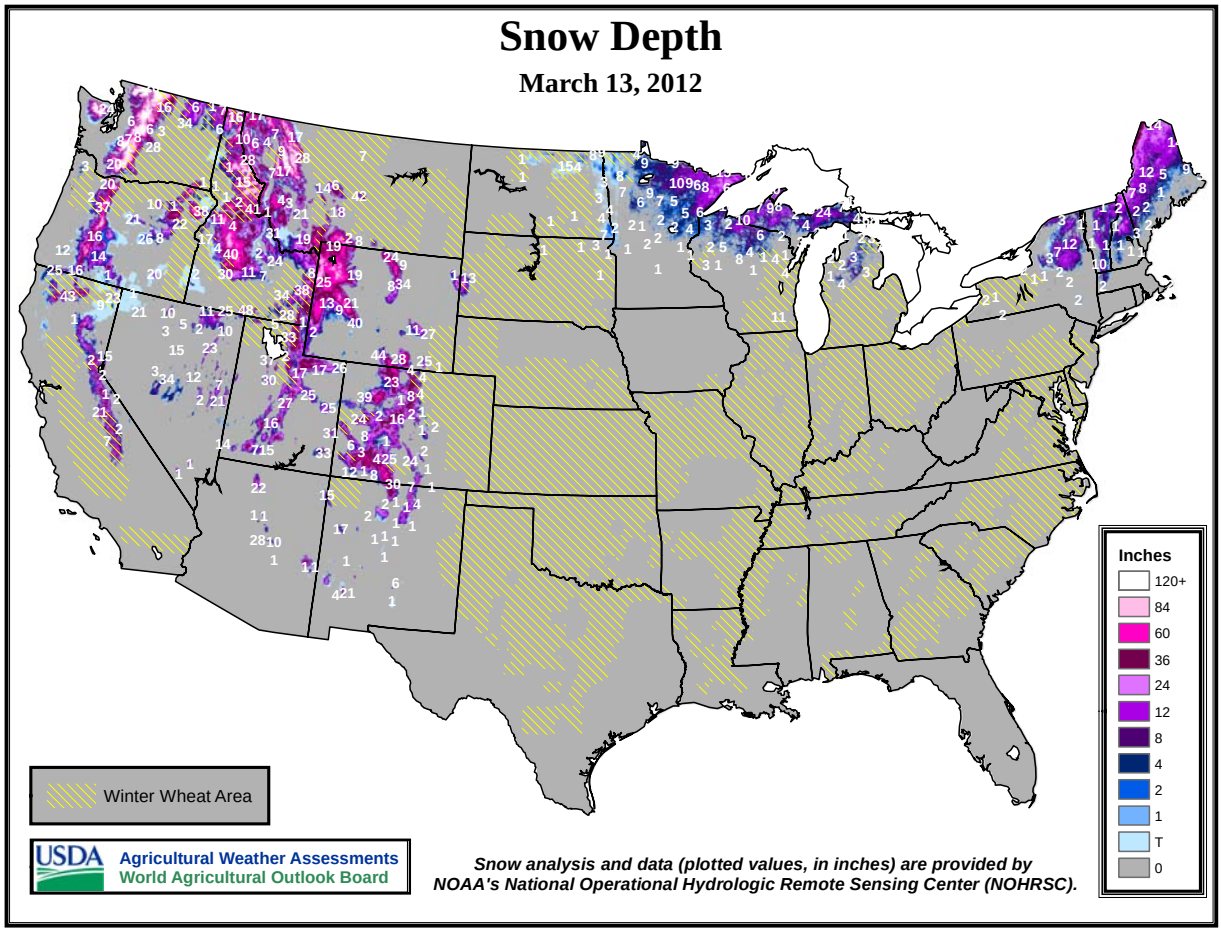
Due to warmer-than-normal weather across much of the nation this year, spring fieldwork was underway and small grain development was occurring ahead of the average pace in many areas. Increased moisture coupled with warm weather had the Great Plains' winter wheat crop emerging from dormancy, with condition ratings up significantly compared with the previous year. During the week, temperatures in the heart of the country were more than 6°F above average, with parts of northern Great Plains and Rocky Mountains more than 12°F above normal. Many areas accumulated less than 0.5 inch of precipitation, but much of eastern Texas, the Delta, and portions of the Southeast received more than 2 inches of rain.

In Florida, rain continued to benefit abnormally dry soils. Temperatures were slightly above average during the week. Row crop producers were busy preparing fields for spring planting, while some vegetable producers planted their crops. Winter vegetables, as well as green beans and sweet corn, were harvested. Strawberry supplies were reported as abundant. In St. Lucie County, some growers anticipated bacterial and fungal problems due to recent rainfall. Grapefruit and Valencia orange harvest increased. Some bloom was evident on citrus trees across the region as the 2013 crop developed, with pea-sized fruit reported on Valencia trees in Hendry County.

High winds continued to blow across the High Plains and Trans-Pecos regions in Texas, preventing some chemical applications and damaging some small grain crops. Elsewhere, oat and wheat fields responded well to recent rainfall. Corn and sorghum planting continued, although progress was delayed in portions of East Texas and the Blacklands due to wet fields. Some corn had emerged in South Texas. Cotton fieldwork continued; however, some producers were still weighing the risks of planting this year. Potatoes in South Texas were flowering, while producers harvested cabbage and spinach. In the Lower Valley, producers were preparing for onion harvest.

Temperatures were above average in Arizona, with little to no precipitation recorded across the state. Hay producers were harvesting alfalfa from over two-thirds of their fields. Cotton fieldwork was ongoing, with a limited number of fields already planted.

Weather conditions were generally mild and dry across California during the week. A mid-week cold front brought limited moisture to portions of the state. Small grain fields showed good growth in areas that received rainfall or irrigation, while a lack of moisture slowed development elsewhere. Alfalfa fields were greening up, and garbanzo beans had emerged and were growing well. A variety of fruit crops were in full bloom, and producers were applying sprays to their orchards. Grapes were beginning to bud, and Valencia oranges were increasing in maturity. Ground preparation started for vegetables. Soil fumigation continued for bell peppers, carrots, and tomatoes.



March 8 ENSO Update

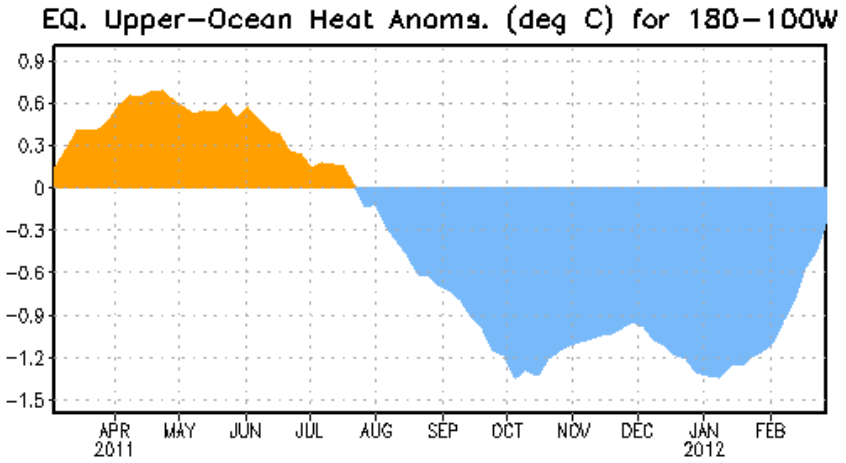


Figure 1: Area-averaged upper-ocean heat content anomaly (°C) in the equatorial Pacific (5°N-5°S, 180º-100ºW). The heat content anomaly is computed as the departure from the 1982-2004 base period pentad means.

ENSO Alert System Status: La Niña Advisory

Synopsis: La Niña is expected to transition to ENSO-neutral conditions by the end of April 2012.

La Niña weakened during February 2012, as near- to- above average sea surface temperatures (SST) emerged in the eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean. However, below-average SSTs persisted in the central Pacific, as indicated by the latest weekly Niño-3.4 and Niño-4 indices which were near –0.5°C. The oceanic heat content (average temperature in the upper 300m of the ocean) anomalies also weakened notably (Fig. 1), as reflected by a shallow lens (0m to ~25m depth) of positive temperature anomalies east of 125°W and by diminished below-average temperatures east of the Date Line. These changes are partly associated with strong low-level westerly wind anomalies across the eastern Pacific, which at times reflected the absence of equatorial easterlies in that region. Nonetheless, the larger scale atmospheric circulation anomalies continued to reflect the ongoing La Niña. Enhanced low-level equatorial easterlies persisted over the central and west-central Pacific, while convection remained suppressed in the western and central Pacific, and enhanced over Malaysia and the Philippines. Collectively, these oceanic and atmospheric patterns reflect a weakening La Niña.

A majority of models predict ENSO-neutral conditions to return during March-May 2012 and to continue through the Northern Hemisphere summer 2012. The rapid weakening of the negative surface and subsurface temperature anomalies during February 2012, combined with the historical tendency for La Niña to dissipate during the Northern Hemisphere spring, lends support to the return of ENSO-neutral conditions in the coming months. Therefore, La Niña is expected to transition to ENSO-neutral conditions by the end of April 2012 (see CPC/IRI consensus forecast).

Because impacts often lag the demise of an ENSO episode, La Niña-like impacts are expected to persist into the upcoming season. Over the U.S. during March - May 2012, La Niña is associated with an increased chance of above-average temperatures across the south-central U.S., and below-average temperatures in the northwestern U.S. Also, above-average precipitation is favored across western Washington, the Ohio Valley, and lower Great Lakes, while drier-than-average conditions are more likely across Florida, the Gulf Coast, and the southwestern U.S. (see 3-month seasonal outlook released on 16 February 2012).

This discussion is a consolidated effort of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), NOAA's National Weather Service, and their funded institutions. Oceanic and atmospheric conditions are updated weekly on the Climate Prediction Center web site (El Niño/La Niña Current Conditions and Expert Discussions). Forecasts for the evolution of El Niño/La Niña are updated monthly in the Forecast Forum section of CPC's Climate Diagnostics Bulletin. The next ENSO Diagnostics Discussion is scheduled for 5 April 2012. To receive an e-mail notification when the monthly ENSO Diagnostic Discussions are released, please send an e-mail message to: ncep.list.enso-update@noaa.gov.

International Weather and Crop Summary

March 4-10, 2012

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

HIGHLIGHTS

EUROPE: Intensifying drought on the Iberian Peninsula contrasted with beneficial showers in northern Europe.

WESTERN FSU: Cold weather kept much of the region encased in a moderate to deep snowpack.

MIDDLE EAST: Unsettled weather continued, although precipitation was mostly lighter than previous weeks.

NORTHWESTERN AFRICA: Increasingly dry conditions in Morocco contrasted with heavy rain in eastern growing districts.

SOUTH ASIA: Warm, dry weather continued to aid harvesting of rabi crops across India.

EAST ASIA: Showers and warmer weather benefited greening winter rapeseed in the Yangtze Valley.

SOUTHEAST ASIA: Excessive wetness in western Java, Indonesia, slowed rice harvesting and raised concerns over quality.

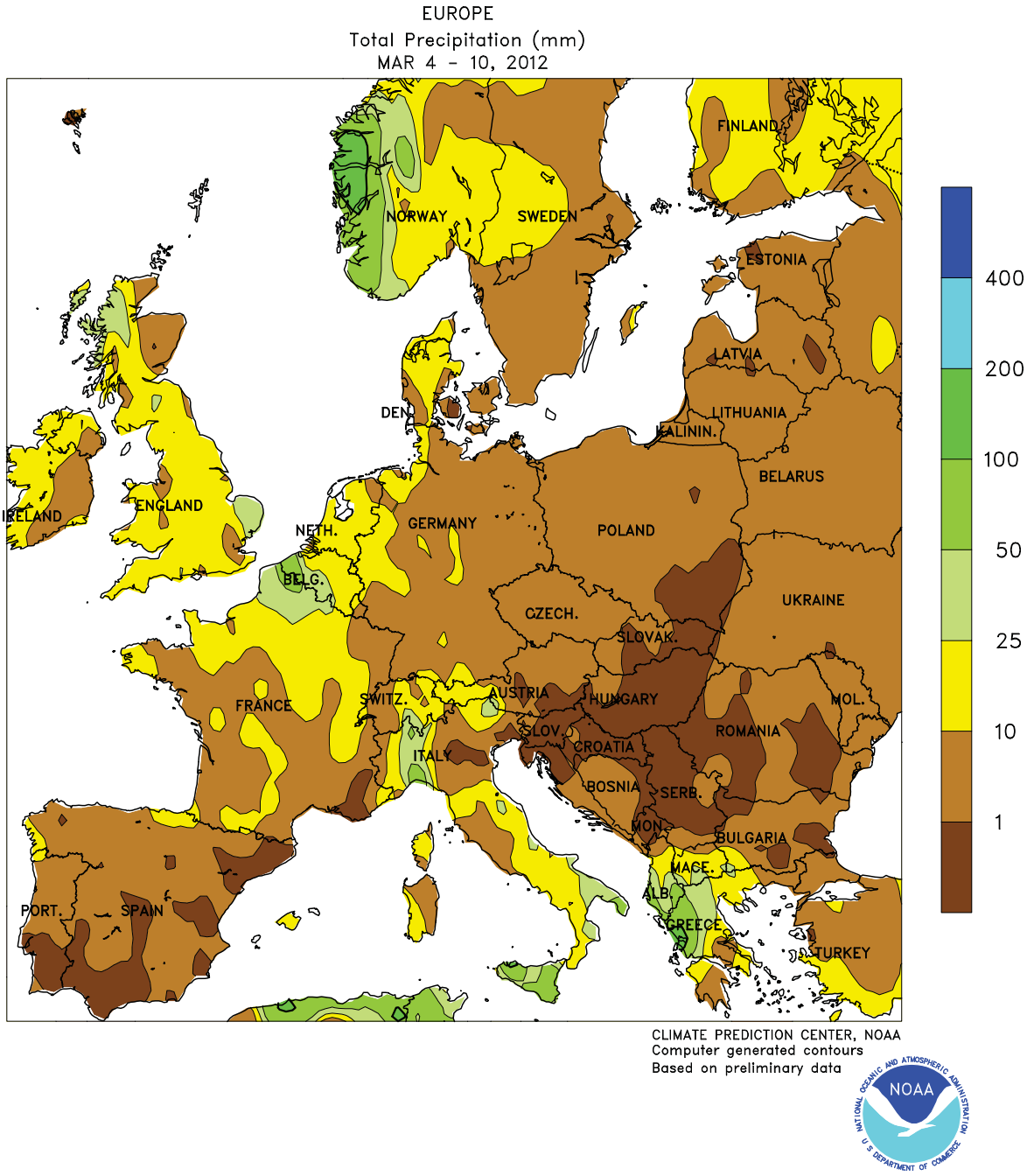
AUSTRALIA: Following early week showers, relatively warm, sunny weather overspread major summer crop areas, favoring cotton and sorghum development.

SOUTH AFRICA: Untimely warmth and dryness maintained stress on corn and other summer crops in many key production areas.

ARGENTINA: Warm, showery weather continued, sustaining abundant levels of moisture for late-planted corn and soybeans.

BRAZIL: Unseasonably warm, dry weather returned to the south, hastening maturation and harvesting of soybeans while reducing moisture for secondary (safrinha) corn.

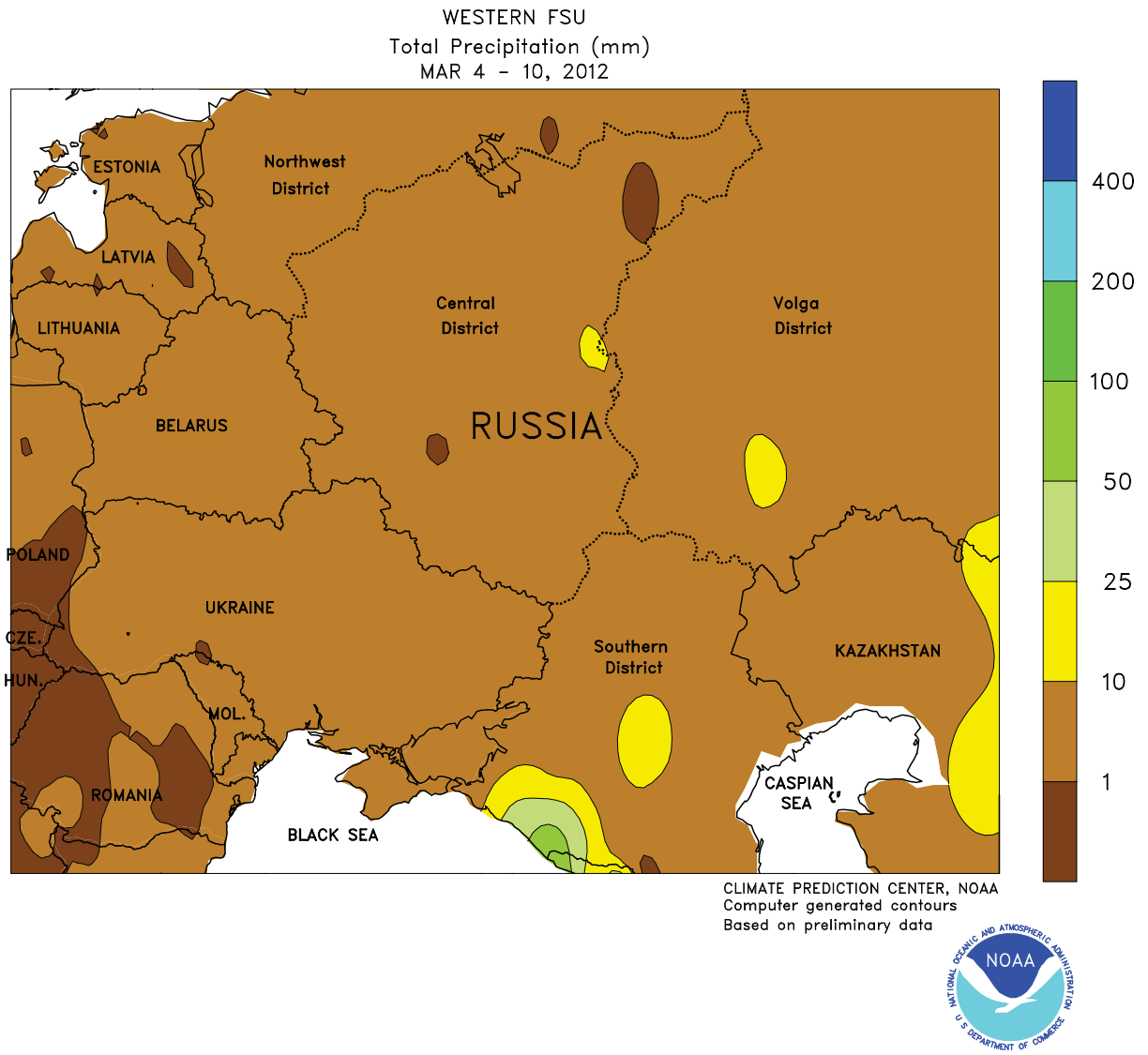
For additional information contact: mbrusberg@oce.usda.gov



EUROPE

Increasing drought on the Iberian Peninsula contrasted with beneficial showers farther north. In Spain, a lack of rain further reduced prospects for vegetative to reproductive winter wheat and barley. The drought in Spain began during the third week of November; for example, north-central portions of the country – key wheat areas - have totaled 45 mm of rain since November 21, which represents a mere 32 percent of normal. Meanwhile, light to moderate showers (10-35 mm, locally more) provided beneficial moisture for winter grains and oilseeds in southeastern England and northern France. Light showers (mostly less than 10 mm) were also reported in Germany and Poland, although winter crops are still dormant in northeastern Europe. Dry weather prevailed across the Balkans, where a slowly melting snowpack has provided soils with ample moisture for spring growth. In Italy, showers benefited winter crops across most growing areas, though the central Po River Valley remained dry. Weekly average temperatures eclipsed 5°C for a third straight week in England, France, and northwestern Germany, indicating winter crops have broken dormancy in these locales.

For additional information contact: mbrusberg@oce.usda.gov



WESTERN FSU

Cold weather accompanied additional light to moderate snow (up to 10 mm liquid equivalent). Temperatures averaged 2 to 6°C below normal from Belarus and northern Ukraine into western portions of Russia's Volga District, maintaining a deep snow cover (25 cm or more) and keeping winter crops dormant and well insulated. Daytime highs struggled to get above freezing, with hard nighttime freezes (-10°C or lower) reported over most primary wheat areas.

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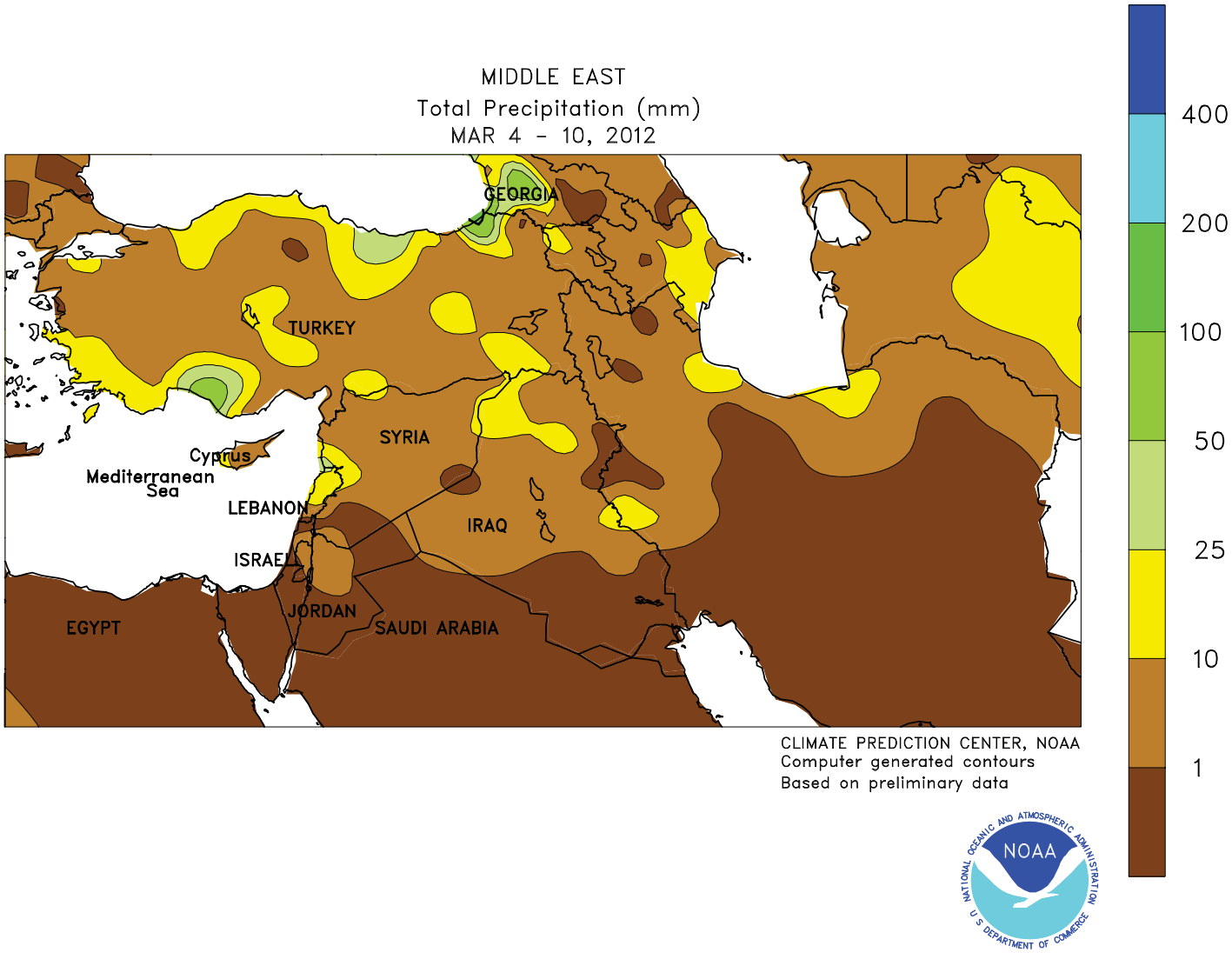

MIDDLE EAST

Unsettled, cold weather maintained mostly favorable prospects for winter grains. Precipitation totaled 2 to 10 mm (liquid equivalent) from Turkey and the eastern Mediterranean Coast into northern Iran. Consequently, soil moisture remained adequate for heading (south) to dormant (north) winter crops. Temperatures averaged 2 to 5°C below normal, slowing crop development in the north but minimizing the risk of stress for reproductive southern crops. A moderate to deep snow cover (10-25 cm or more) remained in place across central and eastern portions of Turkey as well as northern Iran.

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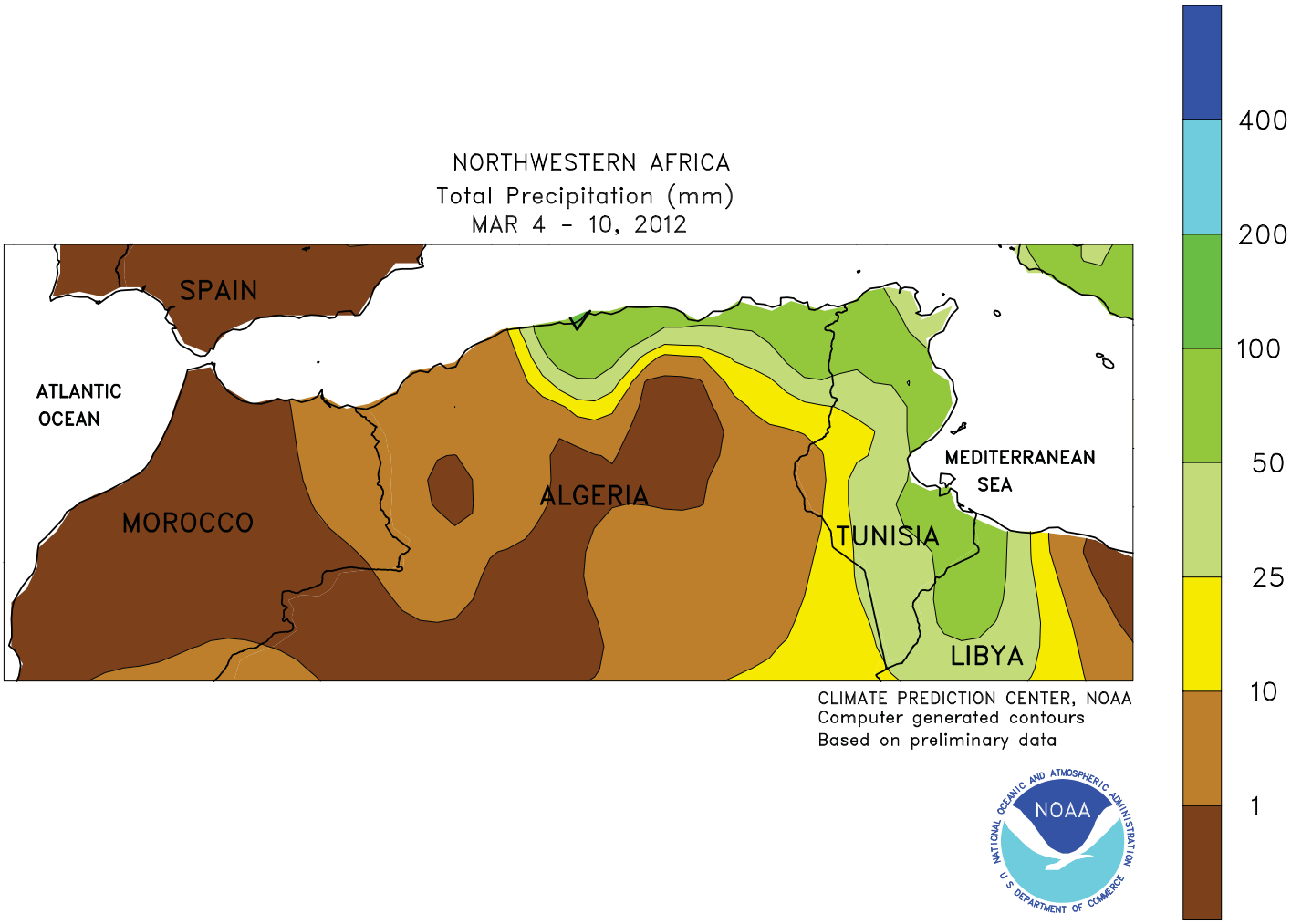

NORTHWESTERN AFRICA

The recent trend toward western dryness and eastern wetness continued, resulting in mixed winter crop prospects across the region. A developing storm system lifted slowly north across Libya into the east-central Mediterranean Sea, producing a large swath of moderate to heavy rain (25-125 mm) from north-central Algeria into Tunisia. The rain caused localized flooding, but was overall beneficial for vegetative to reproductive wheat and barley. In contrast, dry weather persisted in Morocco and western Algeria, reducing soil moisture for reproductive winter grains. The greatest impacts of the recent dryness have been noted across western and southern Morocco as depicted in a satellite-derived vegetation health index; however, key wheat areas of northern Morocco are not yet exhibiting widespread stress. Nevertheless, rain will be needed soon across Morocco and western Algeria as winter crops advance through the key moisture-sensitive reproductive and filling stages of development.

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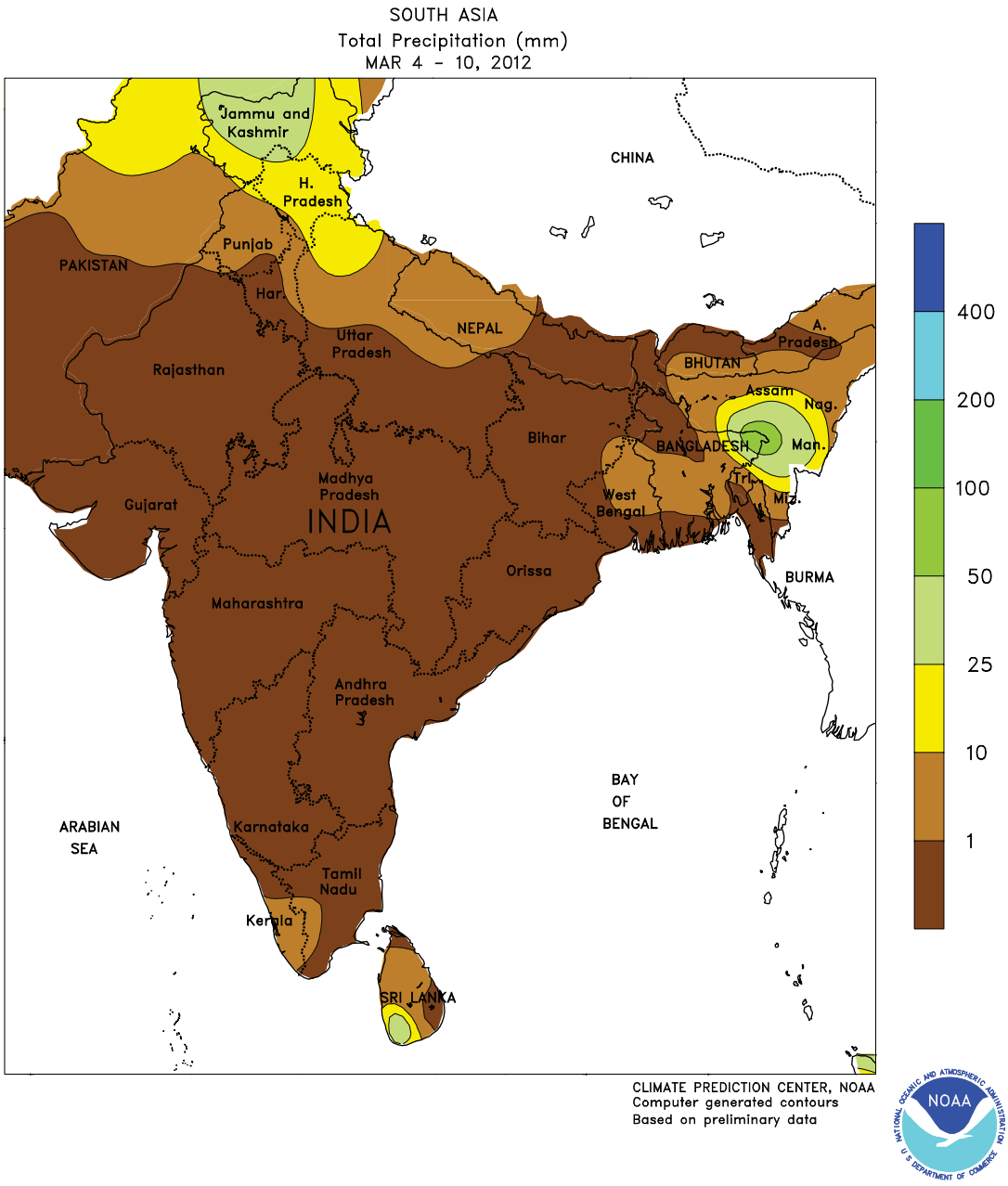

SOUTH ASIA

Dry, warm weather continued to aid winter rapeseed harvesting in northwestern India and rabi rice harvesting in eastern India. Similarly, the dry conditions favored the start of winter wheat harvesting in northern India and parts of Pakistan. Weekly average temperatures were between 20 and 25°C across the main winter crop areas.

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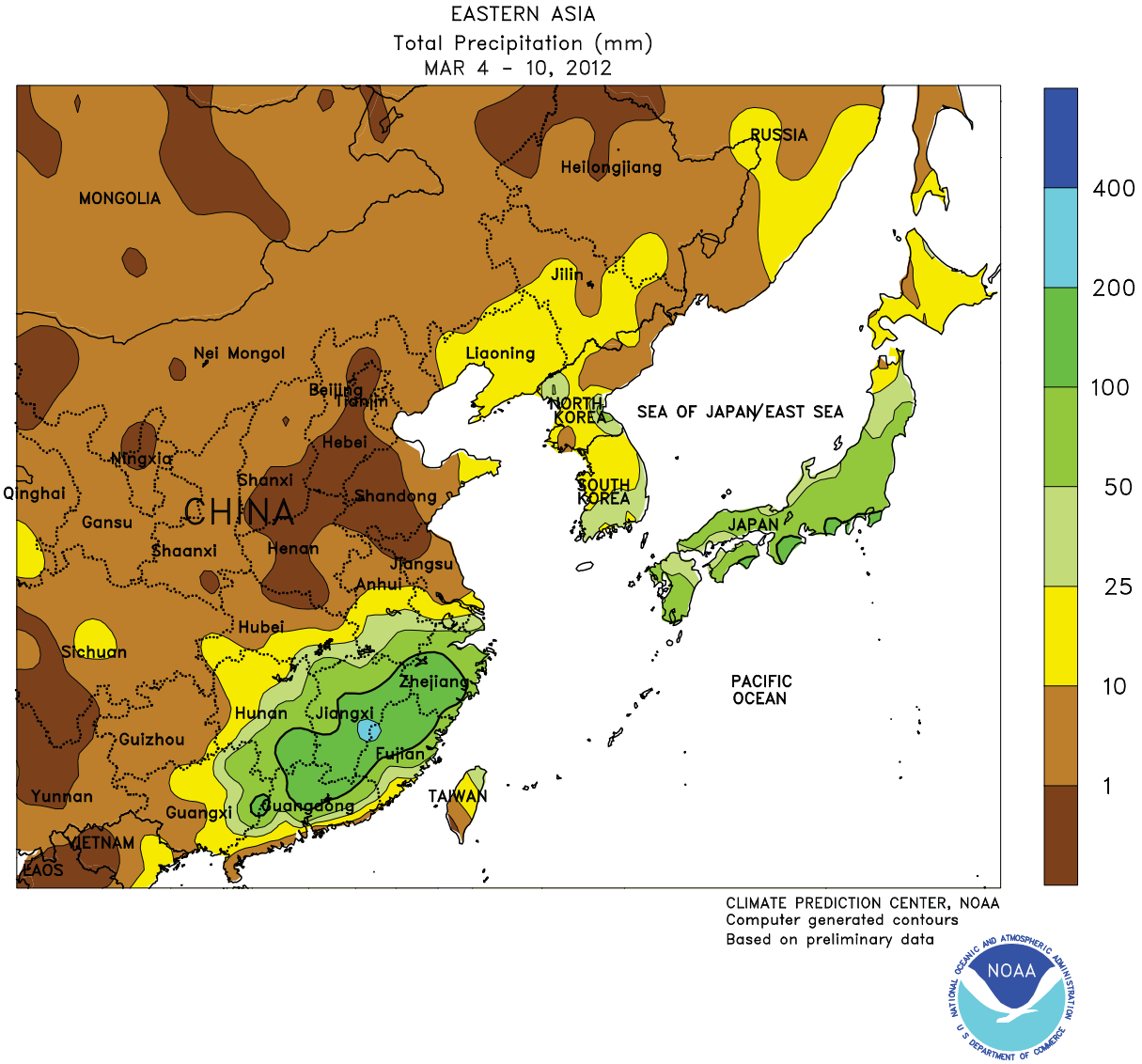

EASTERN ASIA

Beneficial showers (25-100 mm or more) across southeastern China continued to ensure adequate to abundant moisture supplies ahead of widespread early double-crop rice transplanting. Temperatures, however, have not been conducive for rice transplanting activities, with weekly values averaging below 10°C in most areas. In the Yangtze Valley, winter rapeseed green-up benefited from steadily increasing temperatures and upwards of 50 mm of rainfall. Wheat on the North China Plain, however, remained dormant with weekly temperatures still averaging below 5°C.

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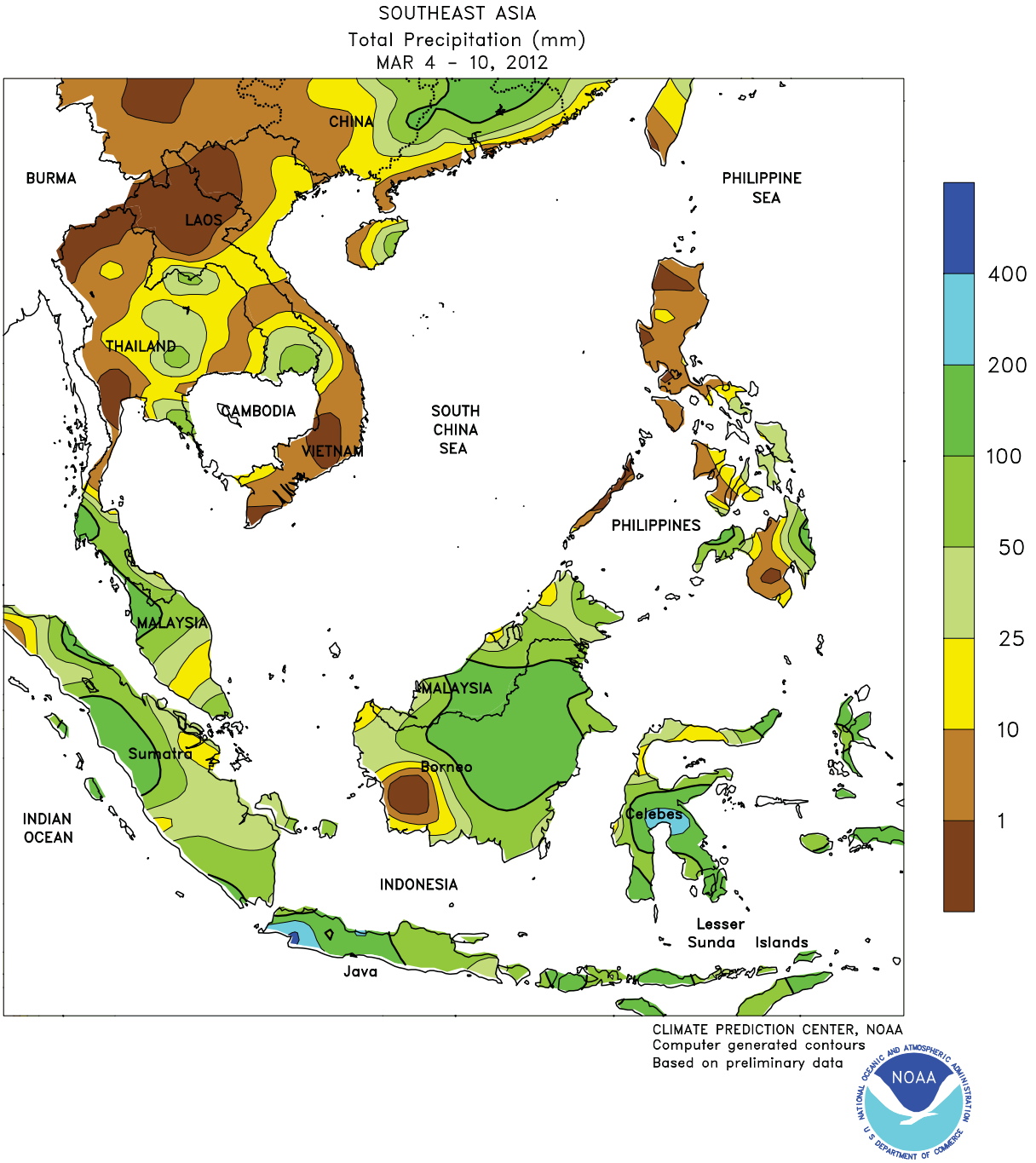
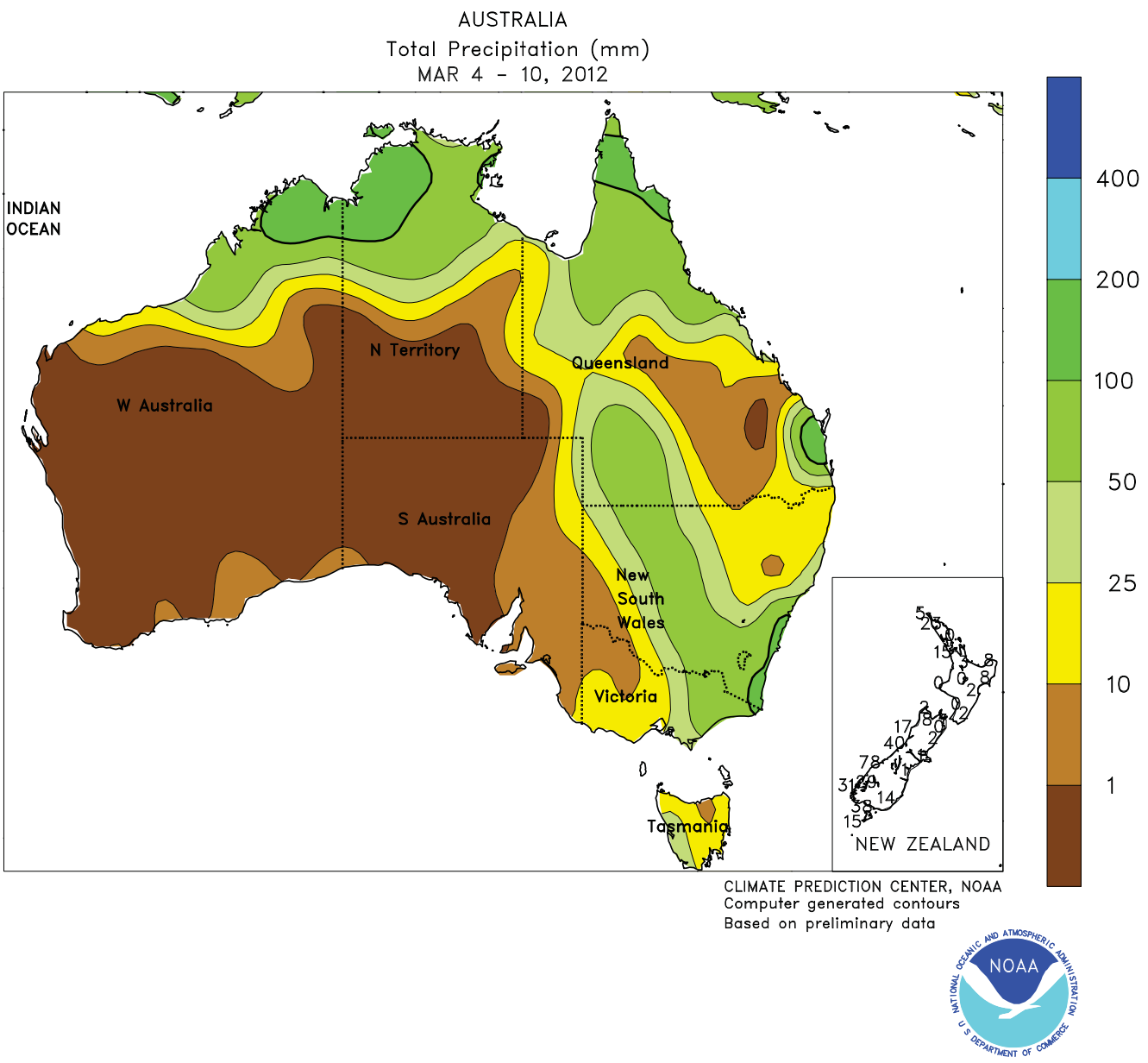


SOUTHEAST ASIA

Flooding rainfall (200 mm) in western portions of Java, Indonesia, delayed rice harvesting and raised concerns over quality. Lighter amounts of rainfall (50-100 mm) benefited filling long-season varieties elsewhere in Java, while causing minor harvest delays of the shorter-season rice. Oil palm harvesting in other parts of Indonesia and into Malaysia was also slowed by upwards of 200 mm of rainfall. Sunnier, warm weather aided rice and corn development as well as fieldwork activities in much of the Philippines. Meanwhile, scattered showers (10-25 mm) boosted moisture supplies for spring rice in northern Vietnam.

For additional information contact: mbrusberg@oce.usda.gov



AUSTRALIA

In southern Queensland and northern New South Wales, scattered showers (5-25 mm or more) early in the week maintained abundant moisture supplies for cotton and sorghum development. Relatively warm, sunny weather benefited crops during the latter half of the week, spurring growth of immature crops and aiding the maturation of the earliest planted crops. Temperatures in major summer crop areas were generally seasonable, averaging within 1°C of normal.

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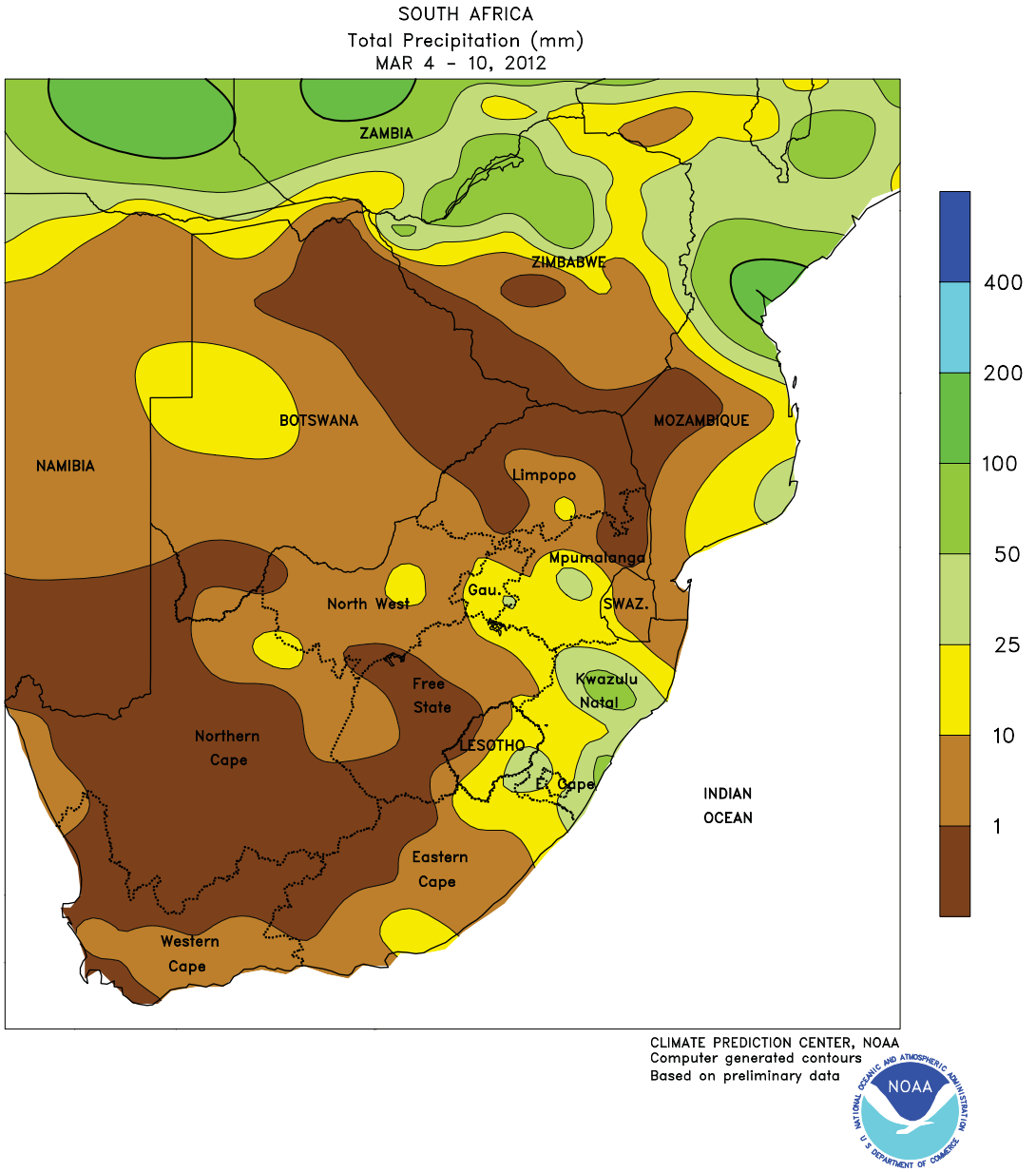
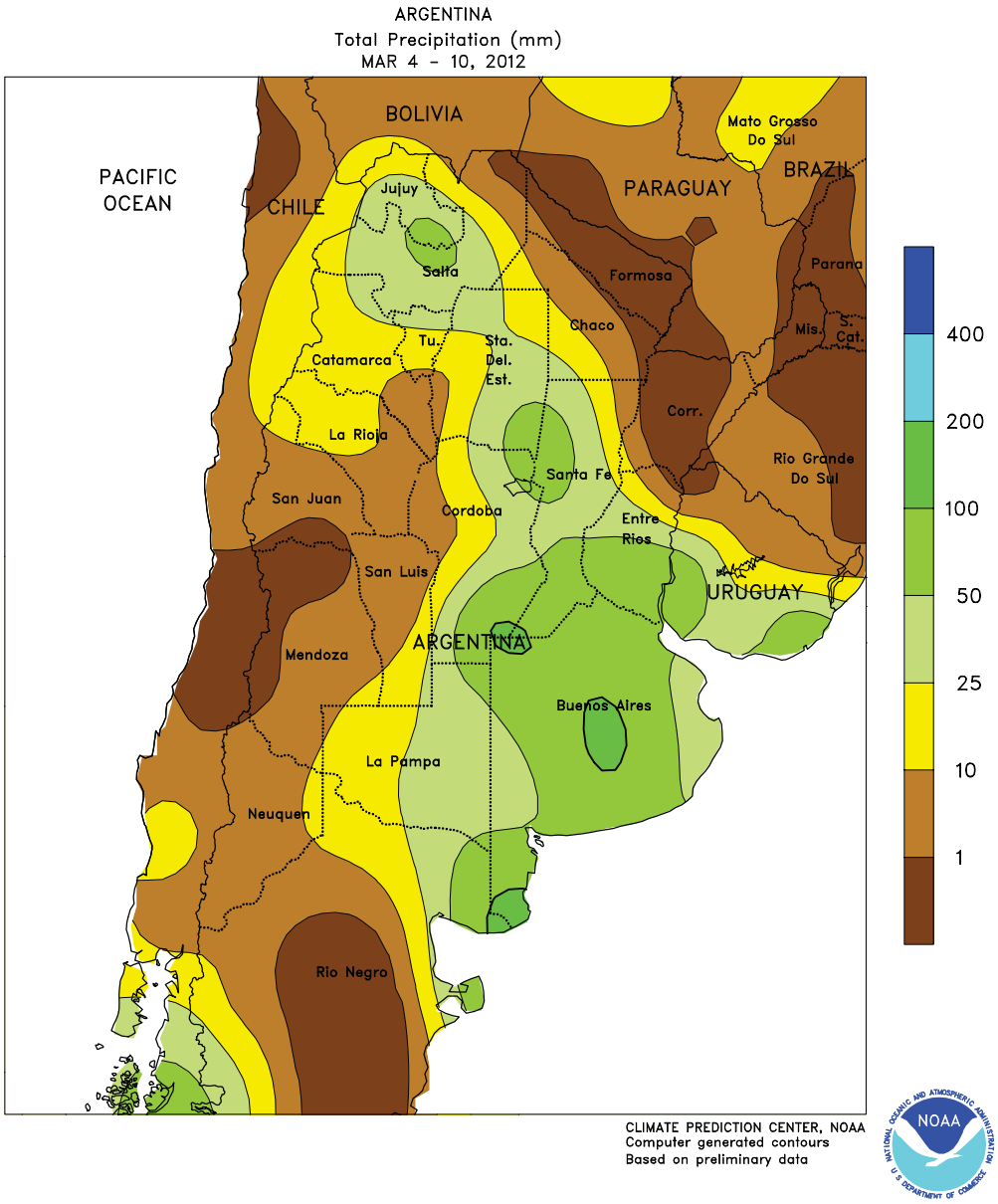


SOUTH AFRICA

A general pattern of unseasonable warmth and dryness continued to dominate the corn belt, reducing moisture available for immature summer crops while hastening maturation. Rainfall was mostly light across the region, with isolated amounts in excess of 25 mm generally confined to the vicinity of Gauteng and Mpumalanga. In addition, weekly average temperatures were 2 to 3°C above normal in the main commercial production areas of North West, Free State, Gauteng, and Mpumalanga, with daytime highs reaching the lower and middle 30s (degrees C) on several occasions. Similar conditions prevailed in outlying production areas of Limpopo and northwestern KwaZulu-Natal. Elsewhere, scattered showers (10-25 mm or more) brought some relief from dryness to rain-fed sugarcane in southern KwaZulu-Natal and neighboring locations in Eastern Cape, although amounts were still well below normal for this time of year at most locations. Somewhat drier conditions (rainfall mostly below 50 mm) returned to the predominantly irrigated sugarcane areas of northeastern KwaZulu-Natal, fostering sugar production following last week's tropical showers. Meanwhile, warm, mostly dry weather continued throughout the Cape Provinces, with daytime highs reaching the middle 30s in most interior farming areas. In Western Cape, the above-normal temperatures spurred maturation of tree and vine crops while maintaining high moisture requirements for livestock.

For additional information contact: mbrusberg@oce.usda.gov



ARGENTINA

Unseasonably heavy rain continued throughout much of the region, maintaining abundant levels of moisture for late-planted corn and soybeans. Rainfall totaled 25 to 100 mm over a large area encompassing Buenos Aires, La Pampa, and the main southern growing areas of Cordoba, Santa Fe, and Entre Rios. The rain fell during two main events, one at the beginning of the week and one at week's end. During the dry spells, temperatures continued to rise to unseasonable levels (daytime highs reaching the lower and middle 30s degrees C), resulting in weekly average temperatures up to 4°C above normal. After months of drought, this region has been receiving fairly regular outbreaks of heavy rain, although temperatures have still been trending above normal; consequently, a drier, and milder, weather pattern would be welcome for normal development of late-seeded crops. Similar conditions prevailed across the north, although pockets of dryness persisted in the northeast, including key farming areas in the vicinity of Chaco. While hastening drydown of early sown cotton and harvesting of sunflowers, additional moisture would be welcome for later-planted summer crops, including a small portion of the second soybean crop. According to Argentina's Ministry of Agriculture, sunflowers were 38 percent harvested, 10 points ahead of last week's pace but well behind last year's 50 percent, as harvest activities move to the wetter southern production areas.

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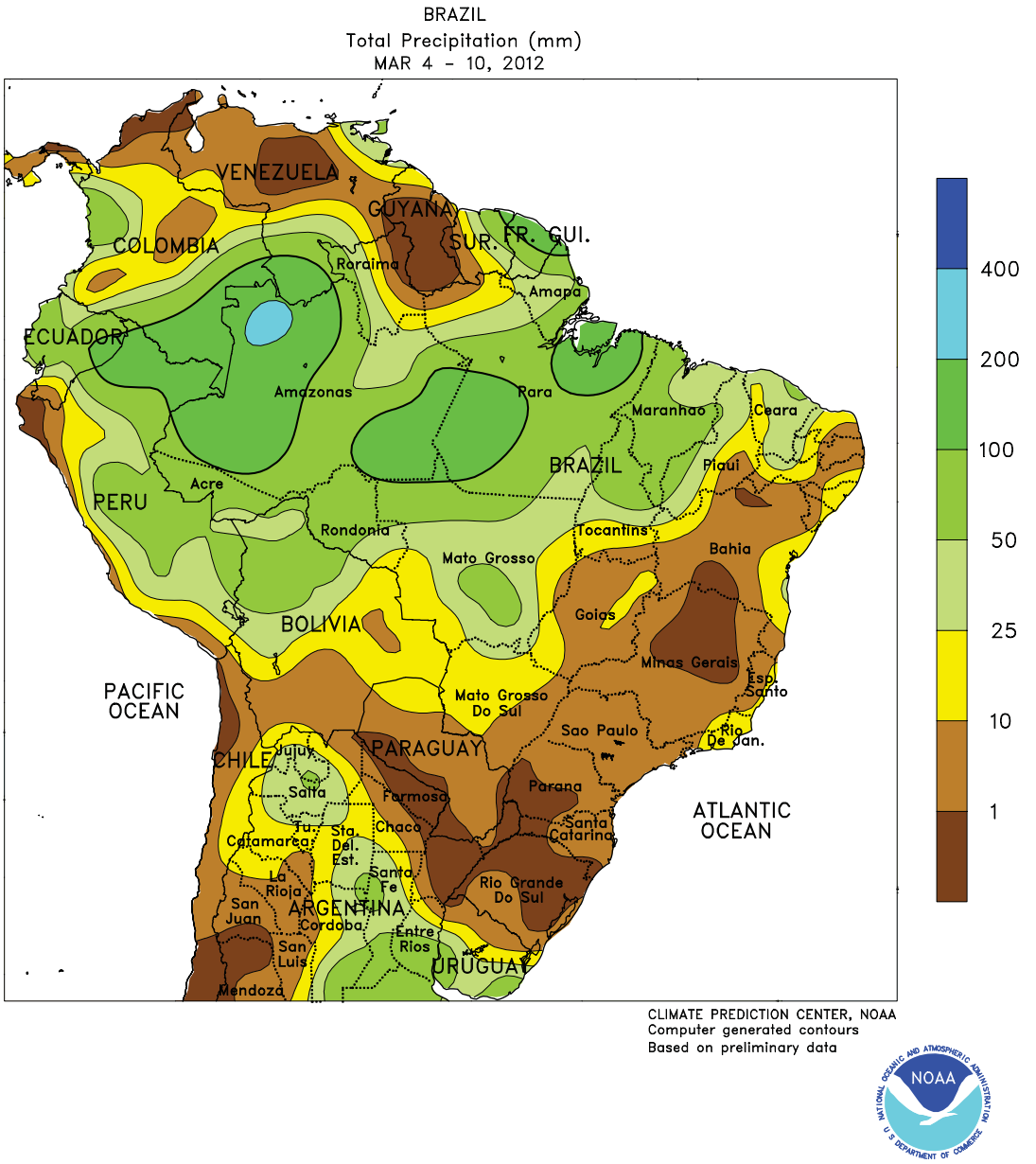

BRAZIL

Unfavorable warmth and dryness returned to the south, hastening maturation and drydown of soybeans and other main-season row crops while reducing moisture for germination and establishment of secondary (safrinha) corn. In fact, little, if any, rain was recorded from Rio Grande do Sul northward through Brazil's northeastern tip, with the dryness reaching as far west as Mato Grosso do Sul and Goias. Of the country's main summer row crop areas, only sections of Mato Grosso and the northeastern interior (northern Tocantins and nearby locations in Piaui and Maranhao) recorded moderate amounts of rain (25-50 mm or more), though totals were below normal for this time of year. As a result of the untimely dryness, weekly average temperatures were 1 to 2°C or more above normal (daytime highs reaching the middle 30s degrees C) throughout the aforementioned areas, with departures of up to 5°C above normal in Rio Grande do Sul. Rain is needed immediately in Rio Grande do Sul, to prevent further declines in the yield potential of late-planted soybeans, and in Parana, to prevent further delays in planting safrinha corn and other problems related to long-term dryness. Winter-grown crops throughout the remainder of the region also need additional moisture, although most areas until recently had enjoyed overall favorable levels of moisture. Meanwhile, the dryness raised concern for agriculture in the Center-West and northeastern interior regions (roughly the area between Mato Grosso to western Bahia), where the usual end of the rainy season is less than 2 months away and crops can ill afford an untimely start to the dry season.

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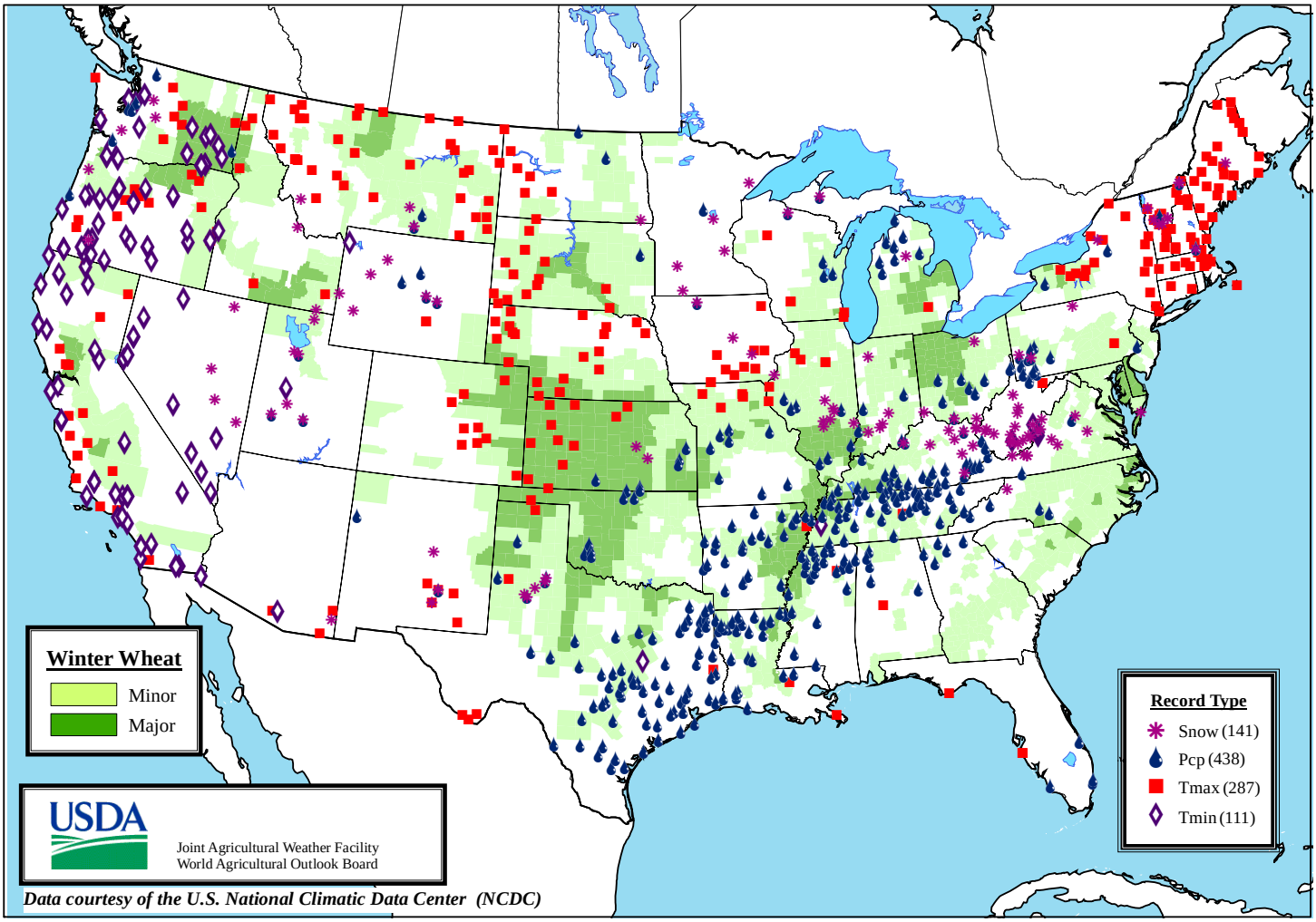
Daily Weather Records (ASOS & COOP)

March 4-10, 2012



Data courtesy of the U.S. National Climatic Data Center (NCDC)

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