

ILLINOIS WEATHER & CROPS



**ILLINOIS
COOPERATIVE CROP
REPORTING SERVICE**

Illinois Department of Agriculture
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SOIL MOISTURE MEASUREMENTS

CROP HI-LITES

- *** Corn - 64% planted
- *** Soybeans - 8% planted
- *** Wheat - 82% headed
- *** Soil Moisture - 3% Short
39% Adequate
58% Surplus

CORN planting was 64% complete as of May 17. This compares to 94% last year and the 5-year (1976-80) average of 73%.

SOYBEAN planting was 8% complete on May 17 compared to 51% last year and an average of 31%.

WINTER WHEAT on May 15 was reported as 40% in excellent condition, 58% good, and 2% fair. Eighty-two percent of the crop was headed by May 17 compared to 22% last year and an average of 45%.

The OATS crop on May 15 was 18% in excellent condition, 74% good, and 8% fair. Approximately 5% of the crop was headed on May 17 compared to none last year and an average of 1%.

ALFALFA was reported as 24% excellent, 72% good, and 4% fair on May 15. About 13% of the first cutting was complete on May 17 compared to 2% last year and an average of 6%.

RED CLOVER was reported as 28% excellent, 68% good, and 4% fair on May 15. Roughly 5% of the crop was cut compared to none last year and an average of 5%.

PASTURES on May 15 were reported as 24% excellent, 72% good, and 4% fair.

SOIL MOISTURE on May 15 was reported as 58% surplus, 39% adequate, and 3% short.

For the week ending May 15 there were 1.00 DAYS SUITABLE for FIELDWORK.

The Illinois State Water Survey at Champaign, has initiated and is expanding the measurement of soil moisture at locations within Illinois. As of May 12, the uppermost seven feet of soil at Bondville contains 64% of the potential plant-available moisture, which is equivalent to about 25 inches of water dispersed within the upper seven feet of soil. Soil moisture at the Orr Experimental Farm in Pike County was essentially the same as that at Bondville.

During the seven days prior to the observation, about two inches of precipitation fell at both sites, with about 1.4 inches of that precipitation entering the soil. This infiltration represents a significant improvement to that realized from the heavier showers of early spring.

WEATHER

TEMPERATURES for the period of May 11-17 averaged 5 to 9 degrees below normal as a cool period continued over the entire State for the second straight week. Minimum temperatures in the North fell below freezing in scattered areas. Frost occurred in scattered areas around the State.

PRECIPITATION was heavy in most sections of the State with amounts of 1 to 2 inches being recorded. The north-west portion was the driest as rainfall amounts ranged from less than .10 to nearly .60 of an inch. The south and west portions recorded more than 2 inches during a 24-hour period at the end of the week.

The OUTLOOK for the period of May 19 through 25 is for temperatures to be below normal in Illinois. Precipitation is expected to be near normal in the northern third of the State and above normal in the remaining section.

APRIL WEATHER SUMMARY

Average monthly TEMPERATURES ranged from 1 to 6 degrees above normal throughout the State. This was the first time since September 1980 that most of the Illinois districts had above normal temperatures. The first three weeks of April were above normal in most sections. Maximum temperatures climbed into the 80's during this period and in the first week several new maximum temperature records were set. A cool period developed at the end of the third week and continued through the fourth week with maximum readings in the North only in the 50's and minimum temperatures falling below the freezing mark. By the end of the month, temperatures were once again above normal with the South recording the largest variations.

PRECIPITATION in the northern two-thirds of the State was 1.5 to nearly 3 inches above normal. The East-Southeast District was only slightly above normal while the South was 1 to 2 inches below normal. More than 1 inch of rain fell in the northwest and southern sections during the first week. In the second week, precipitation was heavy in the North with 1 to 3 inches falling. The South was dry during the second week but received more than 1 inch in the third week during a 24-hour period. The North continued above normal until the end of the month with 1 to 2 inches of rain each week which caused some localized flooding.

The Extended OUTLOOK from May 15 through June 15 is for temperatures to be near normal and precipitation to be below normal in Illinois.

ILLINOIS CROP REPORTING DISTRICT SUMMARY

Crop and Soil Characteristics	NW	NE	W	C	E	WSW	ESE	SW	SE	STATE	5-YR. AVG.
Corn: % planted (as of May 17)	80	60	65	60	25	85	75	85	60	64	73
Days suitable for fieldwork: (week ending May 15)	3.0	1.0	1.0	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	1.0	0.0	1.0	
Soil moisture %: Short (as of May 15)	10	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	20	3	
Adequate	40	50	50	25	10	45	65	50	20	39	
Surplus	50	50	50	75	90	55	35	50	60	58	

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ILLINOIS WEATHER

PRELIMINARY DISTRICT PRECIPITATION AVERAGES AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL IN INCHES

	NW	NE	W	C	E	WSW	ESE	SW	SF
April	5.52	5.37	7.07	5.89	7.02	4.69	4.15	2.46	3.28
Departure	+1.81	+1.66	+3.09	+1.65	+2.89	+0.71	+0.15	-1.74	-1.03

MONTHLY AND WEEKLY TEMPERATURE DEPARTURES IN DEGREES

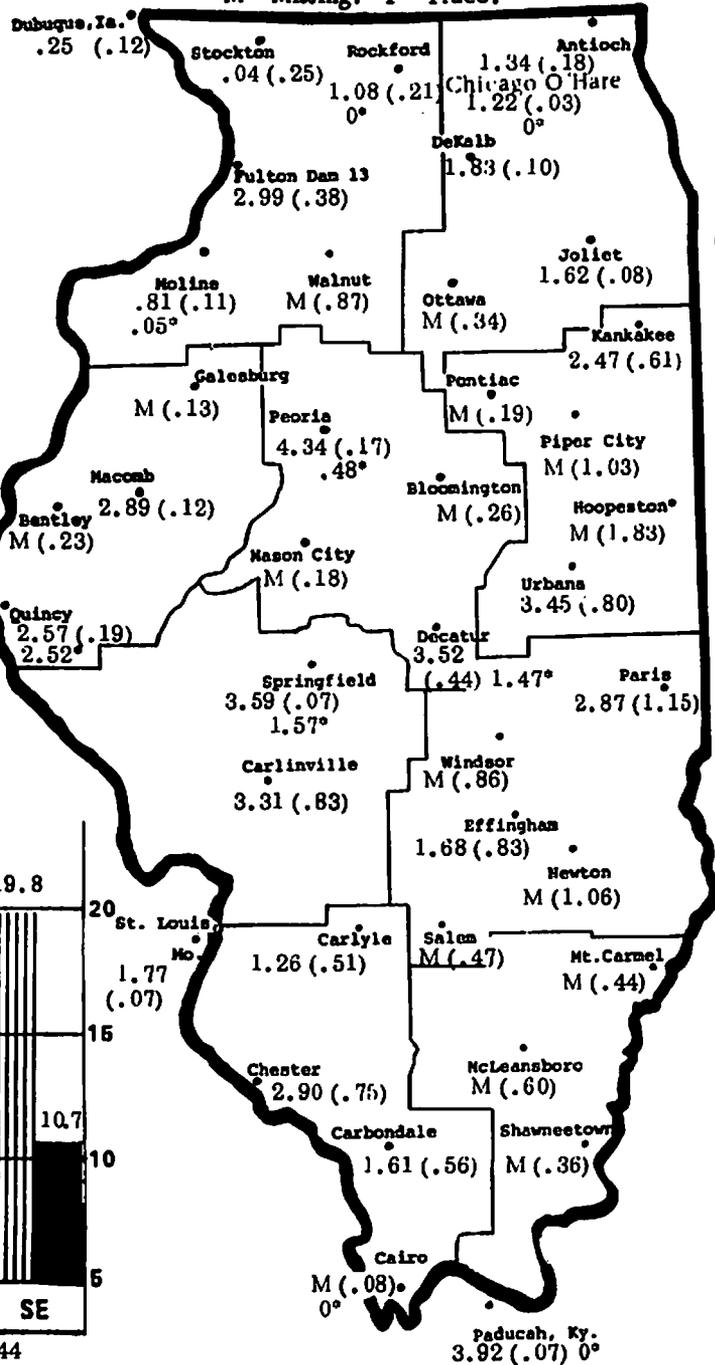
	Feb.		Mar.		Apr.		Apr. 27- May 4-		May 11-	
							May 3	10	17	
Chicago	+2	+1	+2		+1	-5	-7			
Moline	+2	+2	+3		+2	-6	-8			
Springfield	+2	+5	+7		+2	-5	-6			
So. Central	+2	+1	+6		+4	-4	-9			

PRECIPITATION:

First figure--current week, May 8-14
Parentheses--previous week
Asterisk--Friday-Sunday
M--Missing, T--Trace.

STATION	May 15			May 18		
	Temperatures			Growing Degree Days*		
	Week ending	Fri. 6 A.M.	Week ending	Mon. 6 A.M.		
	Maxi-	Mini-	Aver-	Current	3-yr.	Totals
	num	num	age	week	avg.	1980
						1981
Dubuque, IA	--	--	--	40	288	328
Moline	70	34	50	44	356	380
Rockford	72	29	50	46	304	304
Chicago O'Hare	72	31	48	35	291	282
Quincy	68	39	51	46	410	431
Decatur	67	35	52	47	481	484
Urbana	71	35	51	48	451	453
Springfield	68	39	53	63	417	407
Cairo	--	--	--	62	566	540
St. Louis	--	--	--	63	486	497

* Totals are accumulated from April 1.



ACCUMULATED PRECIPITATION (Inches)

LEGEND: Normal | Actual
Jan. 1-May 30 | Jan. 1-May 14

