

ILLINOIS WEATHER & CROPS



**ILLINOIS
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CROPS

Weather conditions the past week varied considerably allowing only limited amounts of time for farmers to work in the fields. Most of the State was hit by a heavy thunderstorm Tuesday evening which contributed to the already wet soils. There was an average of one and one-quarter days rated as suitable for fieldwork, with all districts averaging two or less days of activity. Farmers when possible were applying fertilizer, seeding oats, planting grasses or other crops on government program set-aside acreage, tilling fields, spreading manure, hauling grain, preparing and repairing equipment, caring for livestock, and pruning orchards.

Condition of **WINTER WHEAT** on April 8 was reported as 21% excellent, 73% good, and 6% fair. Most of the wheat acreage came through the winter in good to excellent condition, with little or no winterkill reported in most areas.

OAT seeding as of April 10, was 35% complete, compared to 72% last year and the 5-year average (1983-87) of 43%. Most of this year's oat seedings are being planted on set-aside ground rather than for grain acres.

ALFALFA HAY condition on April 8 was reported as 9% excellent, 81% good, and 10% poor. The alfalfa hay crop made it through the winter with little to no winterkill reported.

PASTURE condition, as of April 8, was rated as 9% excellent, 67% good, 22% fair and 2% poor. More than adequate moisture has aided the growth of pastures across the State. Pastures are supplying about 25% of the livestock roughage requirements, compared to 28% last year and the average of 24%.

SOIL MOISTURE on April 8 was reported as 4% short and 56% adequate and 40% surplus.

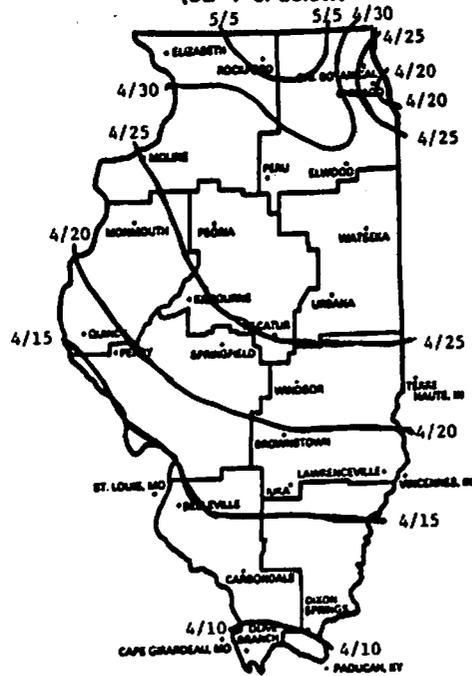
ILLINOIS DISTRICT SUMMARY

 : Days : Soil
 District: suitable for: moisture percent
 : fieldwork : Short: Adequate: Surplus

As of April 8

NW	: 2.0	0	85	15
NE	: 1.0	0	65	35
W	: 2.0	35	45	20
C	: 1.5	0	95	5
E	: 1.0	0	45	55
WSW	: .5	0	65	35
ESE	: 1.0	0	40	60
SW	: 1.5	0	20	80
SE	: .5	0	50	50
State	: 1.25	4	56	40

**AVERAGE DATE OF LAST SPRING FREEZE
 (32° F or below)**



PRELIMINARY DISTRICT PRECIPITATION AVGS. AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL IN INCHES

	NW	NE	W	C	E	WSW	ESE	SW	SE
March	2.39	2.18	2.08	2.95	2.92	3.25	4.54	4.93	4.85
Departure	-0.08	-0.43	-0.82	0.04	0.01	0.04	0.88	0.71	0.43

3.35 / 0.26

MARCH WEATHER SUMMARY

Illinois recorded above normal temperatures and near normal precipitation. The Statewide average monthly **TEMPERATURE** was 2.2 degrees above normal as temperatures ranged from 1 to 4 degrees above normal. The warmest portion of the State was the northwest section, while the coolest area was in the South. The month started with temperatures falling below normal by the second week. Minimum readings fell into the teens over much of the state. This cold period lasted until the end of the third week. A warm period then developed, sending maximum readings into the 60's in the North to near 80 degrees in the South. Temperatures fell back to normal by the end of the month.

PRECIPITATION averaged near normal in the State (0.09 of an inch above normal). The northern half of the State again received below normal precipitation, while the remaining districts were slightly above normal. The largest above normal variation was again in the East-Southeast District, (0.88 of an inch above normal). The largest below normal variation was in the West District (-0.82 of an inch below normal). Salem, in the East-Southeast District, received the largest total precipitation during the month (5.83 inches). The least total amount for March was at La Harpe in the Northeast District (1.11 inches). The first half of the month was dry, with only light precipitation falling. The latter half of February was wet with up to 2 inches of rain falling during a 24-hour period in the South. On the 5th of the month, the heaviest snow laid 1 to 5 inches of snow on many sections of the State (The Southwest received the heaviest amounts).

The **OUTLOOK** through the end of April is for temperatures to be above normal and precipitation to be near normal.

WEATHER

THE WEEK ENDING APRIL 11 BROUGHT A SPREAD BETWEEN HIGHEST AND LOWEST TEMPERATURES OF 40 TO 50 DEGREES AS LOWS PLUNGED TO THE 30'S IN MOST AREAS FOLLOWING HIGHS TWO DAYS EARLIER IN THE 80'S. THE RESULTING AVERAGES FOR THE WEEK WERE 1 TO 4 DEGREES ABOVE NORMAL FOR SOUTHERN ILLINOIS AND 4 TO 8 DEGREES ABOVE NORMAL FOR THE NORTH. BASE 50 GROWING DEGREE DAY ACCUMULATIONS FOR THE WEEK WERE MOSTLY BETWEEN 60 AND 70 IN THE NORTH, ABOUT TWICE THE NORMAL, AND BETWEEN 70 AND 90 IN THE SOUTH, ABOUT 50 PERCENT ABOVE NORMAL.

PRECIPITATION TURBULENT WEATHER ACCOMPANIED THE SHIFT FROM WARM TO COLD AT MIDWEEK, WITH STRONG GUSTY WINDS DISRUPTING OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES. ASSOCIATED RAINS WERE NOT EXTREME, BUT TOTALS EXCEEDED AN INCH AT MANY NORTHERN AND A FEW EAST-CENTRAL LOCATIONS. TOTALS OF A HALF TO THREE QUARTERS OF AN INCH WERE MORE TYPICAL OF AREAS FURTHER SOUTH AND WEST. TOTALS WERE LESS THAN HALF OF NORMAL IN THE DRIEST LOCATIONS AND TWICE NORMAL AT THE WETTEST.

A MORE STEADY WEATHER PATTERN IS IN THE 3 TO 5-DAY OUTLOOK FOR THE WEEK AHEAD WITH PARTLY CLOUDY SKIES REMAINING THE RULE, ALONG WITH NEAR TO A LITTLE BELOW NORMAL TEMPERATURES. DAILY HIGHS WILL RANGE FROM UPPER 50'S IN NORTHERN ILLINOIS TO THE MID-60'S IN THE FAR SOUTH. CORRESPONDING LOWS WILL RANGE FROM UPPER 30'S TO MID-40'S. CHANGES IN THE PATTERN FROM DAY TO DAY WILL BE SLIGHT. WINDS FROM THE NORTHEAST EARLY IN THE WEEK WILL SHIFT TO THE NORTHWEST BEHIND A COLD FRONT LATER IN THE WEEK. LITTLE IF ANY RAIN IS EXPECTED WITH THAT FRONT, SO THE NEXT CHANCE OF SIGNIFICANT PRECIPITATION MAY NOT DEVELOP UNTIL LATE IN THE WEEKEND.

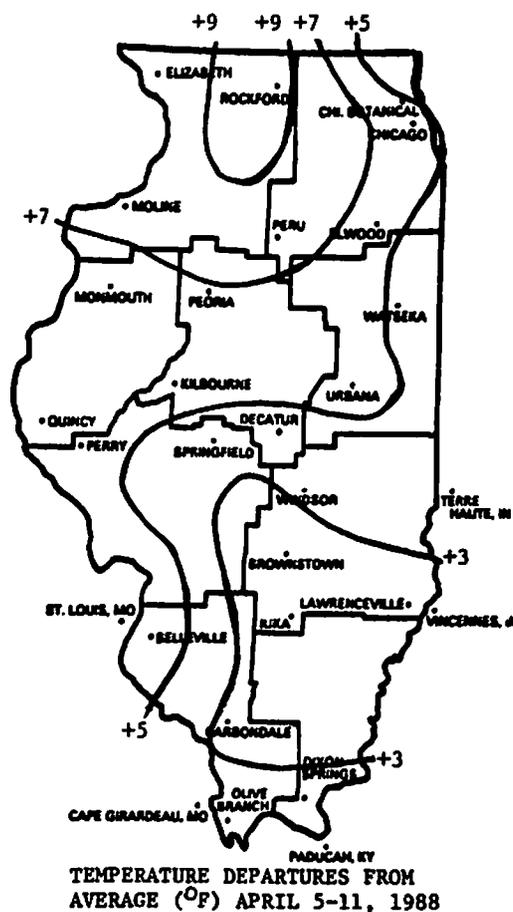
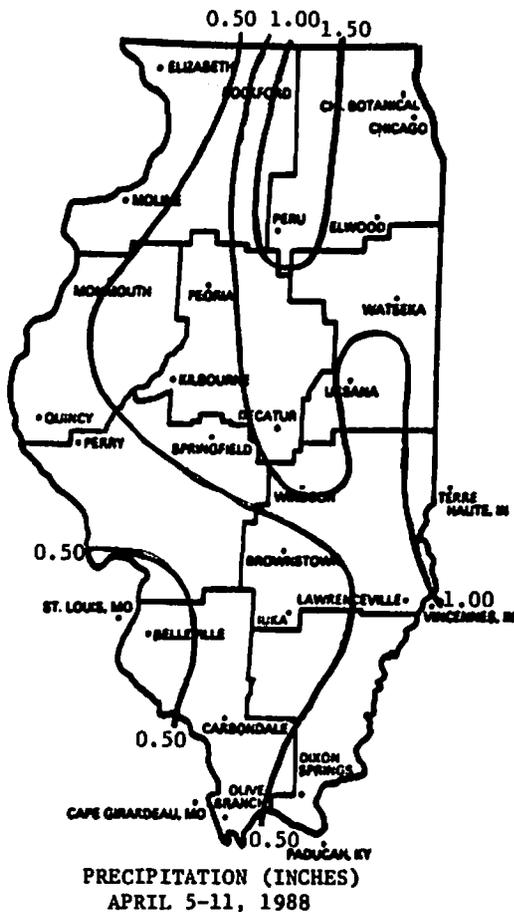
Week ending 8 A.M. Monday, April 11, 1988

Location	Temperatures			Precipitation Current week	Growing Degree Days
	:Maxi- : mum	:Mini- : mum	:Depar- : ture		
ELIZABETH	67	37	6	0.32	66
ROCKFORD	66	40	9	1.56	62
CHICAGO	65	41	7	1.00	59
CHI BOTANICAL	61	39	3	1.15	45
ELWOOD	65	40	7	1.10	58
WATSEKA	65	40	4	1.03	58
PERU	68	41	7	1.68	67
MOLINE	69	42	8	0.36	72
PEORIA	68	43	7	0.88	68
KILBOURNE	68	43	5	0.89	72
MONMOUTH	67	41	5	0.49	67
QUINCY	68	43	6	0.09	73
PERRY	68	43	4	0.32	72
SPRINGFIELD	68	43	5	0.90	69
DECATUR	67	42	4	0.86	67
URBANA	68	42	6	0.62	67
WINDSOR	71	45	6	1.00	79
TERRE HAUTE	67	41	4	1.15	64
ST. LOUIS	72	47	NA	0.46	85
BELLEVILLE	75	45	6	0.68	95
BROWNSTOWN	69	42	3	0.44	71
IUKA	69	43	3	0.45	71
LAWRENCEVILLE	71	42	NA	0.69	76
VINCENNES	67	42	2	1.02	65
DIXON SPRINGS	74	46	4	0.71	94
PADUCAH	72	45	2	0.46	86
OLIVE BRANCH	73	43	3	0.21	88
CARBONDALE	70	42	1	0.21	73
C GIRARDEAU	71	45	NA	0.05	80

NEWSPAPER TIME VALUE

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CROP INFORMATION in this report is provided voluntarily by county officials of Extension Service and SCS, and agribusiness managers. Additional WEATHER INFORMATION is provided by the Illinois State Water Survey, IDE&NR, Champaign, Ill.; and National Weather Service Cooperative Observers, NOAA, Rosemont, Ill.