

ILLINOIS WEATHER & CROPS



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CROPS

Cool temperatures and the slow drying soil delayed spring fieldwork and planting last week. Soil temperatures were still cold across the State, and in the Southern half of the State surplus moisture remained a deterrent to field work. About half of the oat acreage is seeded, but only a small fraction of operators have attempted planting corn. There was an average of three days rated as suitable for fieldwork during the week of April 8-14. The drier Northern Districts averaged more days than Southern areas. Last week, when possible, farmers were applying chemicals, seeding oats and set-aside acres, plowing, discing, spreading manure, preparing equipment for fieldwork, planting some vegetable crops, obtaining planting supplies, and caring for livestock. All planting supplies are reported to be in adequate supply. Below normal temperatures are also causing slow growth of pastures, alfalfa, wheat and other hay. The Southwest and Southeast Districts reported spraying for wild garlic in wheat and for alfalfa weevils.

CORN planting, as of April 16, was barely started, compared to 3% last year and the 5-year average (1984-88) of 2%. Soil temperatures were too cool to start planting large acreages.

Condition of WINTER WHEAT on April 14 was reported as 9% excellent, 81% good, and 10% fair. Most of the wheat acreage came through the winter in good condition, with little or no winterkill reported in most areas. Regrowth has been slowed by cool temperatures.

OAT seeding, as of April 16, was 51% complete, compared to 66% last year and the average of 63%. Most of this year's oat seedings are being planted on set-aside ground rather than for grain acres.

ALFALFA HAY conditions on April 14 was reported as 2% excellent, 59% good, and 39% fair.

PASTURE condition, as of April 14, was rated 2% excellent, 51% good, 43% fair, and 4% poor. On April 16, pastures were supplying about 25% of the livestock roughage requirements, compared to 40% last year and the average of 35%.

SOIL MOISTURE on April 14 was reported as 44% short, 38% adequate, and 18% surplus.

FREEZE DAMAGE to the 1989 Apple crop was reported as 61% none, 35% light, and 4% moderate. The moderate damage was reported in the Central, West-Southwest and Southwest Districts occurring sometime between April 6-12.

FREEZE DAMAGE to the 1989 Peach crop was reported as 39% none, 43% light, 14% moderate, and 4% severe. Severe damage was reported in the West-Southwest, East-Southeast and Southwest Districts. This damage was reported to have occurred from April 6-12.

ILLINOIS DISTRICT SUMMARY

District	Days Suitable For Fieldwork	Soil Moisture Percent		
		Short	Adequate	Surplus
As of April 14				
Northwest	6.0	100	0	0
Northeast	5.0	75	25	0
West	4.0	90	10	0
Central	3.5	85	15	0
East	1.5	20	75	5
W Southwest	3.0	30	55	15
E Southeast	1.0	0	85	15
Southwest	1.5	0	45	55
Southeast	1.0	0	35	65
State	3.0	44	38	18

PRELIMINARY DISTRICT PRECIPITATION AVGS. AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL IN INCHES

	NW	NE	W	C	E	WSW	ESE	SW	SE	STATE
March	1.77	1.44	0.88	1.38	1.69	3.00	5.96	6.44	6.42	3.22
Departure	-1.74	-2.08	-2.86	-2.44	-2.12	-0.75	2.12	2.27	2.08	-0.61

MARCH WEATHER SUMMARY

Illinois recorded above normal temperatures and slightly below normal precipitation. Illinois average monthly TEMPERATURE was 1 degree above normal as temperatures ranged from 1 to 2 degrees above normal. The coolest portions of the State were the Northern sections, while the warmest areas were in the Central and Southern sections. The first half of the month recorded below normal temperatures. Minimum temperatures came close to the zero mark in the North and Central portions of the State. Dubuque, IA (which represents the Northwest District of the State) recorded the lowest minimum temperature of 6 degrees above zero on the 1st. By the third week of the month, a warm trend developed and sent readings into the 60's and 70's. Several stations in the South recorded 80 degree readings.

PRECIPITATION averaged below normal in the State (-0.61 of an inch below normal). The Northern two-thirds of the State were once again the driest. The extreme south received 2 inches of above normal precipitation. The largest below normal variation was in the Western District (-2.86 inches below normal). The largest above normal variation was in the Southwest District (2.27 inches above normal). The heaviest rain fell during the first week and at the end of the month. Several stations in the South recorded more than 2 inches of precipitation during a 24-hour period. Lawrenceville, in the Southeast District of Illinois, received the largest total amount of precipitation for the month with 10.03 inches. This was due to thunderstorm activity, which deluged the area with 3.86 inches of rain during a 24-hour period on the 30th. The heavy rains in the South resulted in flooding near creeks and small rivers. Most of the creeks and rivers south of Highway Interstate 70 are near or above flood stage.

Snowfall during the month was well above normal in the Southwest sections, and below normal in the Northern and Central section. The Southwest and West-Southwest portions received 8 to 10 inches of snow during a 24-hour period on the 5th and 6th. St. Louis recorded 10.8 inches during this period which was the 3rd heaviest on record since 1884. The Springfield area (which is in the West-Southwest District) recorded 5 inches of snowfall. Moline (in the Northwest District) received less than 1 inch of snowfall.

The outlook for mid-April to mid-May is for temperatures and precipitation to be near normal.

WEATHER

TEMPERATURES WENT FROM ONE EXTREME TO ANOTHER DURING THE WEEK. NEAR RECORD COLD WITH LOWS IN THE UPPER TEENS AND 20'S AT THE START MODERATED TO HIGHS IN THE 70'S BY THE WEEKEND. THE WARMING WAS NOT ENOUGH, HOWEVER, TO PREVENT THE WEEK FROM AVERAGING 2 TO 10 DEGREES BELOW NORMAL. THE GREATER DEVIATIONS WERE GENERALLY IN THE SOUTH HALF OF ILLINOIS.

THE WEEK WAS GENERALLY DRY WITH PRECIPITATION SCATTERED AND LIGHT. REPORTED TOTALS WERE MOSTLY 0.25 INCH OR LESS. SOIL TEMPERATURES SLOWLY REBOUNDED FROM THE COLD WEATHER EARLY IN THE WEEK, BUT STILL AVERAGED SEVERAL DEGREES BELOW NORMAL AT FOUR INCHES. AVERAGE FOUR-INCH BARE MAXIMUMS WERE GENERALLY IN THE UPPER 40'S TO UPPER 50'S WITH AVERAGE BARE MINIMUMS IN THE MID 30'S TO LOW 40'S.

THE 3 TO 5 DAY FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY THROUGH FRIDAY IS CALLING FOR HIGHS IN THE 60'S AND 70'S AND LOWS MOSTLY IN THE UPPER 30'S TO LOW 50'S. DRY WEATHER IS EXPECTED WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY WITH A CHANCE OF RAIN ON FRIDAY.

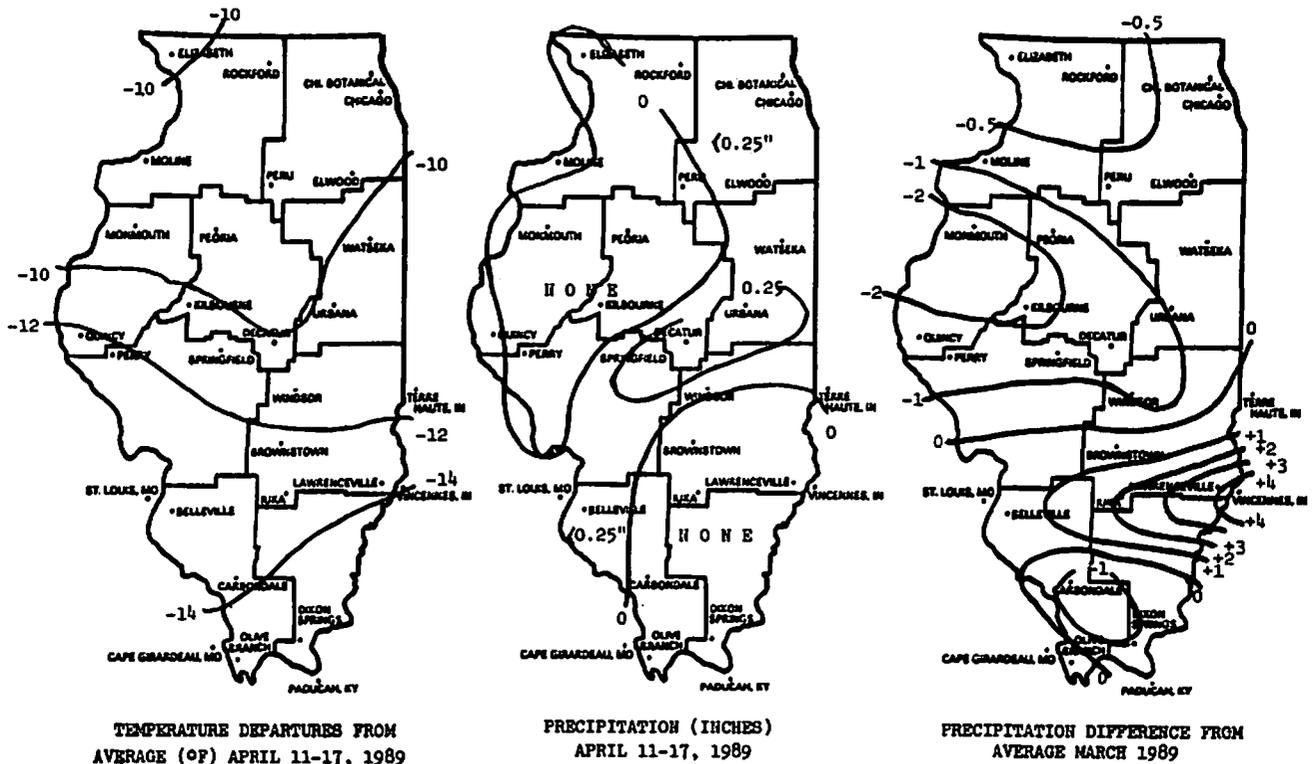
Week ending 8 A.M. Monday, April 17, 1989

Location	Temperatures			Precipitation	Growing Degree Days
	Maxi- : mum	Mini- : mum	Deper- : ture	Current : week	
ELIZABETH	55	25	-7	0.48	27
ROCKFORD	55	34	-2	0.22	29
CHICAGO	55	38	-1	0.12	31
CHI BOTANICAL	53	32	-6	0.20	22
ELWOOD	56	32	-3	0.09	31
WATSEKA	58	30	-6	0.00	35
PERU	58	33	-4	0.02	37
MOLINE	57	36	-2	0.05	37
PEORIA	57	37	-3	0.00	38
KILBOURNE	58	36	-5	0.25	37
MONMOUTH	58	35	-4	0.00	37
QUINCY	60	37	-3	0.07	47
PERRY	61	32	-7	0.07	45
SPRINGFIELD	58	39	-3	0.28	41
URBANA	58	35	-5	0.21	38
WINDSOR	58	33	-8	0.06	35
TERRE HAUTE	56	31	-8	0.07	30
ST LOUIS	62	45	NA	0.02	57
BELLEVILLE	61	33	-7	0.02	46
BROWNSTOWN	59	37	-6	0.00	42
IUKA	59	33	-8	0.00	39
LAWRENCEVILLE	60	31	NA	0.00	43
VINCENNES	58	34	-7	0.00	35
DIXON SPRINGS	59	34	-11	0.15	38
PADUCAH	60	39	-8	0.24	46
OLIVE BRANCH	57	32	-11	0.10	27
CARBONDALE	61	32	-9	0.00	43
C GIRARDEAU	60	41	NA	0.16	45

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.