

ILLINOIS WEATHER & CROPS



**ILLINOIS
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE**

P.O. Box 19283, Springfield, IL 62794-9283
Phone: (217)492-4295
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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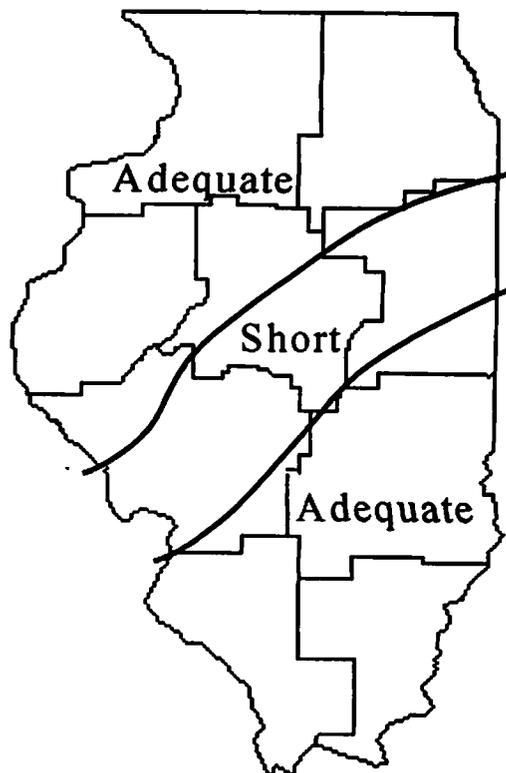
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Soybean planting made good progress statewide last week. By May 18, 95 percent of the corn crop and 67 percent of the soybean crop had been planted. Soils in the Southeast District dried enough to allow farmers a chance to plant a significant portion of their corn crop. Days suitable for fieldwork averaged 6.0 statewide last week with at least five days suitable in all districts. Varying amounts of frost were reported across the state on Friday morning. Many areas recorded record or near record low temperatures. It is believed only minimal damage occurred as the frost was light, the growing point on corn was still below the soil surface and few beans had emerged. The frost reportedly did hamper the development of alfalfa, though, and the first cutting will likely be short. High winds and a lack of rainfall last week dried soils rapidly, and topsoil moisture, as of May 16, was rated one percent very short, 22 percent short, 72 percent adequate and five percent surplus. In areas where corn is emerged, farmers were hoeing to help aid emergence and also to activate herbicides. Other activities for the week included ground preparation, chemical application, side dressing corn and spreading fertilizer.

Crop Progress

Crop Stage	1997	1996	5-Year Average

May 18			
CORN:			
Planted	95	55	64
SOYBEANS:			
Planted	67	5	25
SORGHUM:			
Planted	19	0	10
WINTER WHEAT:			
Headed	37	14	40
Filled	2	0	5
OATS:			
Headed	8	10	6
ALFALFA HAY:			
First cutting:	7	0	7
RED CLOVER:			
Cutting:	4	0	4

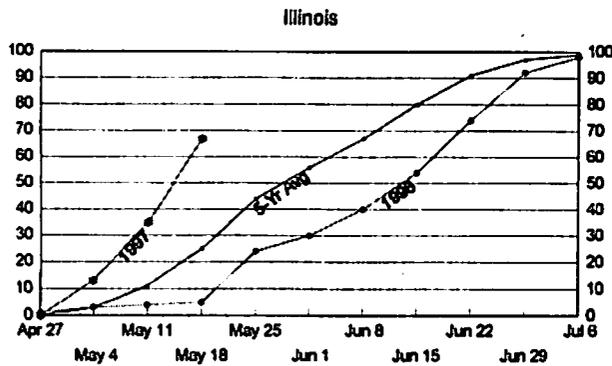


Topsoil Moisture
May 16

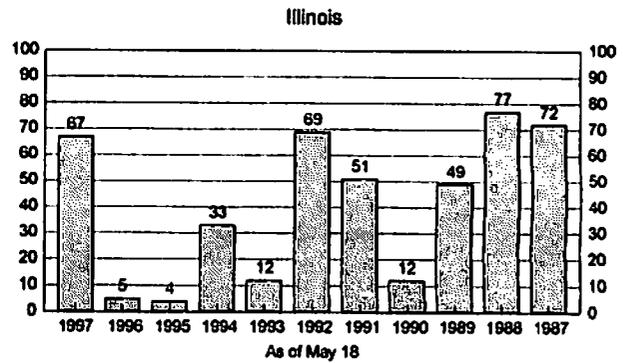
Crop Conditions

Crop	:	Very Poor	:	Poor	:	Fair	:	Good	:	Excellent
May 16										
Winter Wheat	:	2	:	3	:	21	:	62	:	12
Oats	:	-	:	-	:	25	:	67	:	8
Alfalfa	:	-	:	6	:	30	:	58	:	6
Red Clover	:	2	:	1	:	19	:	66	:	12
Pasture	:	2	:	3	:	30	:	60	:	5

Soybeans - Percent Planted



Soybeans - Percent Planted



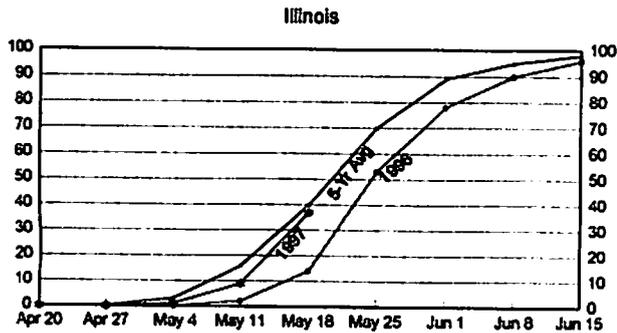
Days Suitable for Fieldwork and Topsoil Moisture

District	:	Days Suitable for Fieldwork	:	Topsoil Moisture						
	:	May 10 - 16	:	Very Short	:	Short	:	Adequate	:	Surplus
May 16										
Northwest	:	5.6	:	1	:	17	:	82	:	-
Northeast	:	5.0	:	-	:	11	:	88	:	1
West	:	6.2	:	2	:	21	:	73	:	4
Central	:	6.2	:	1	:	41	:	58	:	-
East	:	5.8	:	3	:	43	:	50	:	4
W Southwest	:	6.5	:	2	:	38	:	60	:	-
E Southeast	:	6.2	:	-	:	12	:	85	:	3
Southwest	:	6.0	:	4	:	17	:	61	:	18
Southeast	:	6.4	:	-	:	2	:	82	:	16
State										
State	:	6.0	:	1	:	22	:	72	:	5

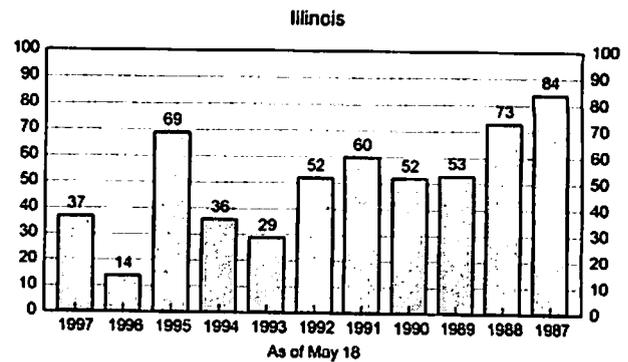
Crop Progress by District

District	Corn Acreage		Soybean Acreage	
	Percent		Percent	
	Planted		Planted	
May 18				
Northwest	98		74	
Northeast	95		70	
West	96		77	
Central	100		89	
East	100		80	
W Southwest	99		80	
E Southeast	95		53	
Southwest	90		33	
Southeast	64		13	
State	95		67	

Winter Wheat - Percent Headed



Winter Wheat - Percent Headed



Temperature and Precipitation

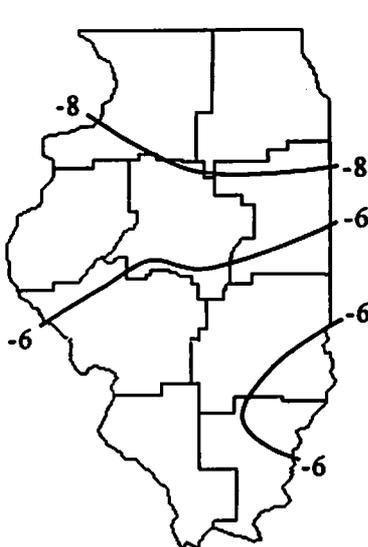
District	Temperature			Precipitation		
	Average	Normal	Departure	Total	Normal	Departure
	May 12 - 18					
Northwest	52.3	60.9	-8.6	.09	1.11	-1.03
Northeast	50.7	59.6	-9.0	.21	.99	-.77
West	56.3	63.2	-6.9	.13	1.02	-.89
Central	56.0	62.6	-6.6	.12	.97	-.85
East	55.5	62.0	-6.5	.19	.99	-.80
W Southwest	59.1	63.8	-4.7	.15	.97	-.82
E Southeast	58.3	63.9	-5.6	.23	1.08	-.85
Southwest	60.5	65.2	-4.7	.36	1.14	-.77
Southeast	60.0	65.5	-5.5	.24	1.22	-.98
State	56.4	62.9	-6.5	.19	1.05	-.86

NEWSPAPER TIME VALUE

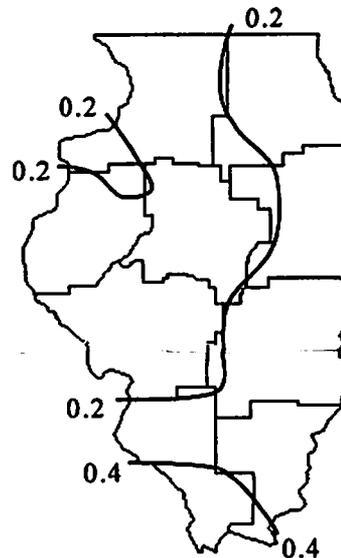
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Data and maps provided by the Illinois State Water Survey, Department of Natural Resources, 2204 Griffith Drive, Champaign, Il. 61820, (217)244-8226.



Temperature Departure
May 12-18



Precipitation Total
May 12-18

CROP PROGRESS INFORMATION in this report is provided voluntarily by local area officials of Farm Service Agency, Extension Service, National Resources Conservation Service, Farm Business Farm Management field staff, and agribusiness managers.