

ILLINOIS WEATHER & CROPS



ILLINOIS
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE

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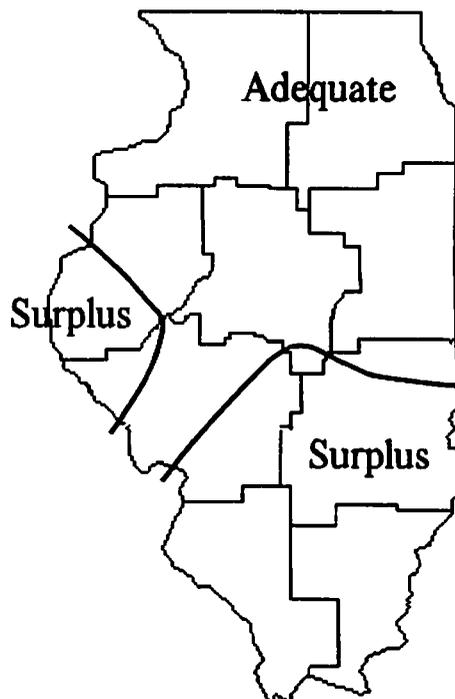
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Wet conditions across the state last week made it difficult for farmers to begin spring fieldwork with an average of 1.3 days suitable. When weather conditions cooperated, activities included planting oats, applying nitrogen to the wheat crop and spreading manure. As of April 5, 19 percent of the oat crop had been planted. This compares to 38 percent last year and 25 percent for the five-year average. Less than one percent of the corn crop had been planted, consistent with the five-year average. The winter wheat crop continued to green up nicely last week. As of April 3, the wheat crop was rated 12 percent excellent, 68 percent good, 16 percent fair, three percent poor and one percent very poor. Alfalfa hay was rated ten percent excellent, 77 percent good, 11 percent fair, one percent poor and one percent very poor. Pasture was 14 percent excellent, 61 percent good, 20 percent fair, four percent poor and one percent very poor. Muddy lots were a problem throughout the state and are making it difficult to tend livestock. Topsoil moisture was rated 43 percent surplus, 56 percent adequate and one percent short. Fruit trees are beginning to bloom and there is some concern over the amount of damage caused by the late frost. Other farm activities included preparing field equipment and hauling grain.

This is the first Weekly Illinois Weather and Crops report for the 1998 season. This report will be published at 3:00 p.m. every Monday (Tuesday if Monday is a holiday) until harvest is completed in the fall.

The cooperation of our weekly reporters makes this service available to Illinois agriculture. The Illinois Agricultural Statistics Service express' our thanks for the faithful help of these volunteers.



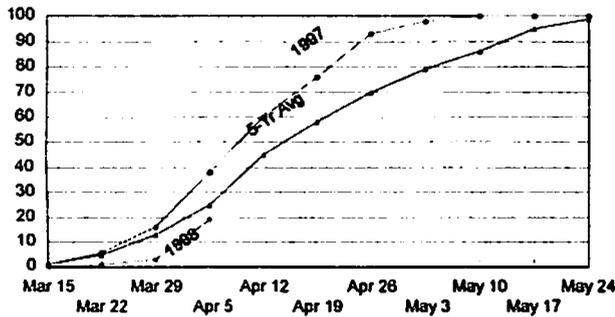
Topsoil Moisture
April 3

Crop Conditions

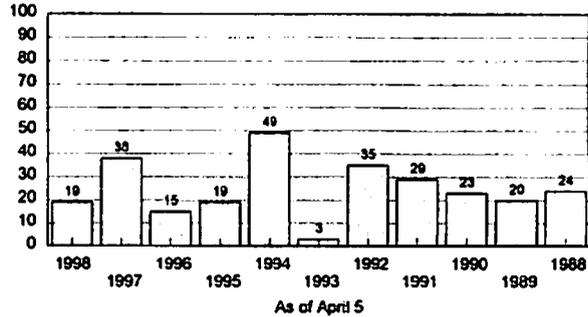
Crop	: Very Poor	: Poor	: Fair	: Good	: Excellent
			April 3		
Winter Wheat	: 1	: 3	: 16	: 68	: 12
Alfalfa	: 1	: 1	: 11	: 77	: 10
Pasture	: 1	: 4	: 20	: 61	: 14

The charts on this page are available from the World Wide Web site noted on the front page. There are also additional charts at the site that are not shown here.

**Oats - Percent Seeded
Illinois**



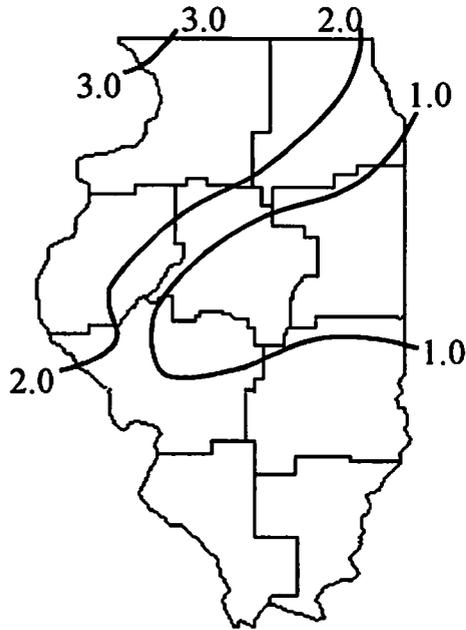
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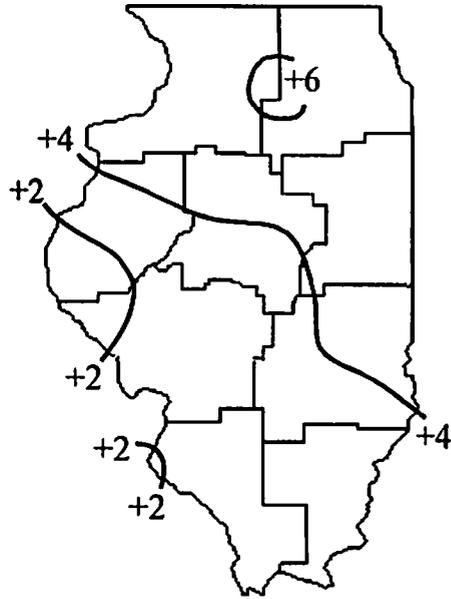
Days Suitable for Fieldwork and Topsoil Moisture

District	Days Suitable for Fieldwork	Topsoil Moisture			
		: Very Short	: Short	: Adequate	: Surplus
	March 28 - April 3		April 3		
Northwest	: 2.0	-	1	76	23
Northeast	: 1.9	-	-	79	21
West	: .3	-	-	53	47
Central	: 1.4	-	-	69	31
East	: .3	-	3	68	29
W Southwest	: .1	-	-	42	58
E Southeast	: .8	-	-	32	68
Southwest	: 2.5	-	-	53	47
Southeast	: 2.1	-	-	36	64
State	: 1.3	-	-	57	43

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



Precipitation Total
March 30 - April 5



Temperature Departure
March 30 - April 5

Temperature and Precipitation

District	Temperature			Precipitation		
	Average	Normal	Departure	Total	Normal	Departure
	March 30 - April 5					
Northwest	48.2	43.0	5.2	2.30	.79	1.52
Northeast	48.6	42.7	5.9	1.32	.88	.44
West	48.9	46.4	2.5	1.87	.92	.96
Central	49.8	45.8	4.1	.95	.87	.08
East	50.5	45.5	5.1	.86	.91	-.06
W Southwest	50.9	48.4	2.5	1.45	.82	.63
E Southeast	52.9	48.9	4.0	1.28	.85	.42
Southwest	54.0	51.5	2.5	1.24	.83	.40
Southeast	54.2	51.8	2.4	1.33	.90	.43
State	50.8	46.9	3.9	1.42	.86	.56

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INTERNET E-MAIL: The Illinois Weather & Crops report is offered by an e-mail subscription at no charge. To receive the report, send an e-mail message to nass-il@nass.usda.gov.

All of the reports issued by the Washington D.C. headquarters office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) are available at no charge via an e-mail subscription. Send an e-mail message with the word "list" in the body to usda-reports@usda.mannlib.cornell.edu. You will receive a reply containing further instructions for subscribing and a list of the available reports.

WORLD WIDE WEB: The Illinois Agricultural Statistics Service has a home page at <http://www.agr.state.il.us/agstats.htm>. You can find various farm facts about Illinois as well as press releases and links to other statistical information.

The home page for the NASS headquarters office in Washington, D.C. can be found at <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>. There you can find reports issued by NASS as well as links to state statistical offices. You will also find many charts showing long term trends in agriculture.

FAX: The Illinois Weather & Crops report can also be received through a fax subscription. To find out more information call 1-800-622-9865.

NASS maintains an autofax system which you can call to have reports faxed to your machine. The phone number is 202-720-2000. Follow the prompts and when asked for the report number, enter 0411. This will send a list of the reports and their document number. When the system prompts, enter 9=yes and 6=no.

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.

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