

ILLINOIS WEATHER & CROPS



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Unusually warm weather throughout most of December helped farmers complete field work including tillage and fertilizer application. The mild temperatures have also been beneficial for livestock allowing them to forage on pasture and corn stalks. Many farmers were concerned about the lack of snow for winter wheat cover, but last weeks' snowfall provided the needed protection before temperatures fell too low. The wheat condition varies across the state with some fields having too much growth and turning yellow, compared to some fields being very thin with little growth. As of January 1, the wheat condition was rated two percent very poor, two percent poor, 24 percent fair, 61 percent good, and 11 percent excellent.

Illinois District Summary

District	Topsoil Moisture			
	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
January 1, 1999				
Northwest	1	9	86	4
Northeast	5	59	36	-
West	-	5	94	1
Central	20	41	39	-
East	40	23	34	3
W Southwest	1	29	70	-
E Southeast	-	18	82	-
Southwest	-	-	90	10
Southeast	-	5	74	21
State	6	23	68	3

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

Temperature and Precipitation

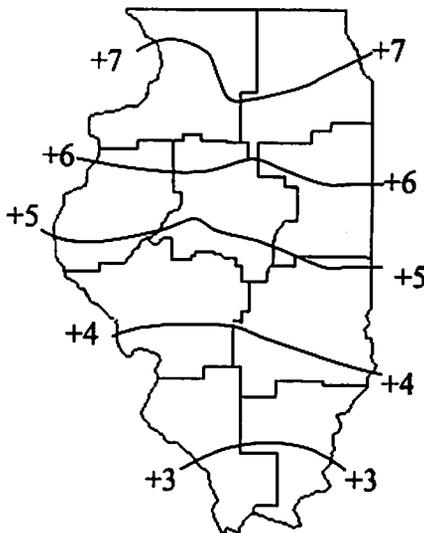
District	Temperature			Precipitation		
	Average	Normal	Departure	Total	Normal	Departure
December 1 - 31, 1998						
Northwest	31.4	24.9	6.5	1.25	1.95	-0.70
Northeast	33.4	26.2	7.2	1.58	2.31	-0.73
West	33.7	28.5	5.2	2.07	2.16	-0.08
Central	33.6	28.2	5.4	1.54	2.57	-1.03
East	34.3	28.5	5.8	1.30	2.77	-1.47
W Southwest	35.3	31.0	4.3	1.21	2.79	-1.58
E Southeast	36.4	32.0	4.4	1.53	3.39	-1.87
Southwest	37.6	34.5	3.1	2.48	3.70	-1.22
Southeast	38.1	35.1	3.0	3.07	3.87	-0.80
State	34.7	29.7	5.1	1.71	2.79	-1.09

NEWSPAPER TIME VALUE

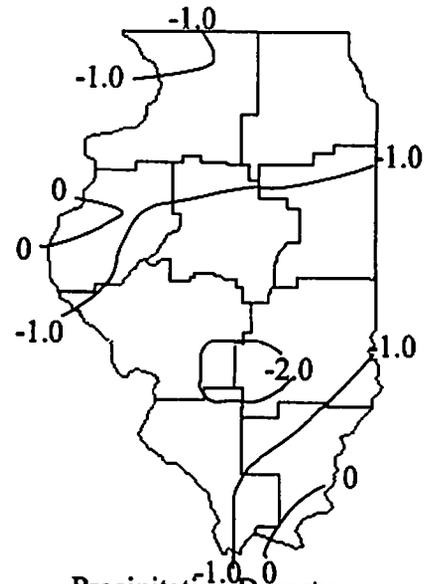
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Temperature Departure
December 1998



Precipitation Departure
December 1998

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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