

ILLINOIS WEATHER & CROPS



**ILLINOIS
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE**

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Warm weather has farmers anxious to start field work, including planting. Where soil conditions allowed, applying anhydrous ammonia and spring tillage were the main field activities. Planting oats kept some farmers busy with 25 percent sown as of March 28. This compares to three percent last year and a five-year average of 12 percent. In the northern districts, warm weather has been beneficial for the wheat crop, but farmers are hoping for more rain to promote growth. In the southern districts, the wheat crop is suffering from too much moisture. Winter wheat condition statewide was rated one percent very poor, six percent poor, 29 percent fair, 56 percent good and eight percent excellent. Other activities included preparing equipment, hauling manure and grain, spreading fertilizer and early planting of corn.

Illinois District Summary

District	Topsoil Moisture			
	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
March 26, 1999				
Northwest	2	22	75	1
Northeast	-	34	66	-
West	-	22	78	-
Central	-	44	56	-
East	2	13	83	2
W Southwest	1	4	90	5
E Southeast	-	4	81	15
Southwest	-	-	66	34
Southeast	-	-	30	70
State	1	16	70	13

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

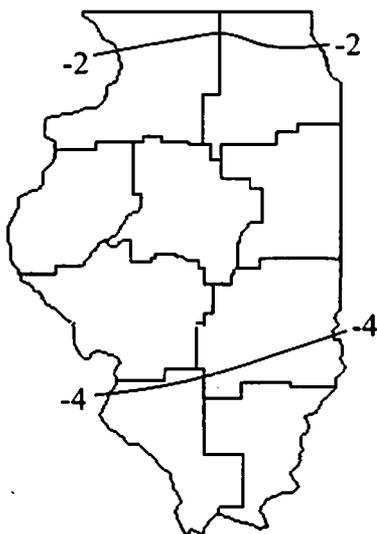
District	Temperature			Precipitation		
	Average	Normal	Departure	Total	Normal	Departure
March 1 - 28, 1999						
Northwest	32.9	35.9	-3.0	1.09	2.34	-1.24
Northeast	33.1	36.1	-3.0	1.31	2.40	-1.09
West	37.3	39.7	-2.3	1.72	2.72	-1.01
Central	35.7	39.0	-3.3	1.49	2.77	-1.28
East	35.0	38.8	-3.8	1.56	2.74	-1.18
W Southwest	38.0	41.6	-3.6	2.06	3.01	-0.95
E Southeast	38.4	42.2	-3.8	1.84	3.42	-1.58
Southwest	40.4	44.8	-4.5	3.79	3.78	0.01
Southeast	40.4	45.2	-4.8	3.44	4.07	-0.63
State	36.6	40.2	-3.5	1.95	2.99	-1.03

NEWSPAPER TIME VALUE

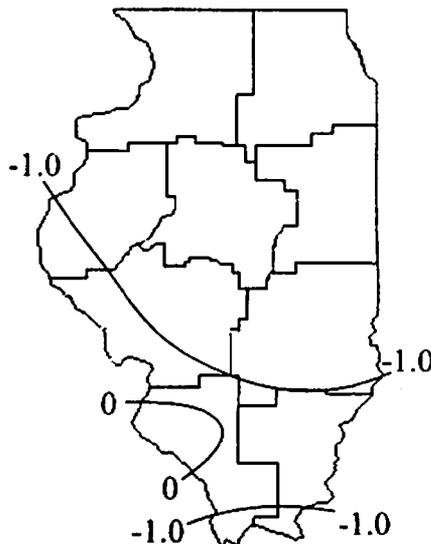
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Temperature Departure
March 1-28, 1999



Precipitation Departure
March 1-28, 1999

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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