

ILLINOIS

WEATHER & CROPS



ILLINOIS COOPERATIVE CROP REPORTING SERVICE

Illinois Department of Agriculture
Economics, Statistics &
Cooperatives Service—USDA
Box 429 Springfield, Illinois 62705
Phone: (217) 782-4898

Released: MAY 19, 1980, 3 P.M., CDT

DOC, NOAA, NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

CROP HI-LITES

- *** Corn - 94% planted
- *** Soybeans - 51% planted
- *** Wheat - 28% headed
- *** Soil Moisture - 1% surplus
48% adequate
51% short

CORN planting was nearing completion with 94% of the acreage planted compared with 64% last year and 72% for the 5-year (1975-79) average. Improved soil moisture conditions should help seed germination and plant growth.

SOYBEAN planting continued ahead of normal with 51% of the acreage planted compared with 17% last year and the 5-year average 31%. Improved soil moisture conditions in many areas should benefit crop germination.

WINTER WHEAT was reported as 14% excellent, 76% good and 10% fair. About 28% of the acreage was headed compared with 30% last year and the average of 53%.

ALFALFA was reported as 15% excellent, 76% good and 9% fair. There were a few reports of growers spraying for alfalfa weevil.

PASTURES were reported as 6% excellent, 65% good, and 29% fair. Livestock were in good condition with no unusual problems reported.

SOIL MOISTURE was reported as 1% surplus, 48% adequate, and 51% short as of Friday, May 16. The soil moisture reports did not include weekend rainfall.

There were 5.25 DAYS SUITABLE for FIELDWORK for the week ending May 16.

SUPPLIES remain mostly adequate throughout the State.

MAIN ACTIVITIES included planting corn and soybeans, seedbed preparation, spreading fertilizer, and getting ready for first cutting of alfalfa.

WEATHER

TEMPERATURES for the period May 12-18 averaged 1 to 5 degrees below normal with the largest variation occurring in the northern portions of the State. Minimum temperatures dropped to nearly freezing in the extreme North on the 14th.

PRECIPITATION was moderate to heavy as scattered showers crossed the State leaving from .60 of an inch to more than 2 inches. A few local areas received more than 1 inch of rain during a 24-hour period.

The OUTLOOK for the period of May 21 thru May 27 is for above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation.

APRIL

Average monthly TEMPERATURES for April ranged from 1 to 5 degrees below normal over the State. The eastern sections were the coolest. The month started above normal with maximum readings climbing into the 60's and 70's. A cool period then set in with only minor warm periods. In the third week, maximum temperatures climbed into the 90's and set several new maximum temperature records. A cool spell (also during the third week) sent minimum readings below freezing in the northern area.

PRECIPITATION was below normal in every district. Some districts were more than 2 inches below normal. Rainfall was moderate during the first part of the month. After mid-month a dry period set in with little or no precipitation falling over the State. On the 14th, 2 to 9 inches of snow fell mainly on the northern area. The Moline area recorded a new record of snowfall for April as the 97-year-old record was broken.

The Extended OUTLOOK from May 15 to June 15 is for below normal temperatures and above normal precipitation.

ILLINOIS CROP REPORTING DISTRICT SUMMARY

Crop and Soil Characteristics	NW	NE	W	C	E	WSW	ESE	SW	SE	STATE	5-YR. AVG.
Corn: % planted (as of May 18)	93	90	95	97	98	97	90	85	90	94	72
Soybeans: % planted	45	40	55	65	65	45	50	35	45	51	31
Days suitable for fieldwork: (week ending May 16)	6.5	6.5	5.5	4.5	4.0	5.0	4.5	5.5	4.5	5.25	
Soil Moisture %: of May 16)											
Short	90	55	70	45	45	35	30	55	35	51	
Adequate	10	45	30	55	55	65	70	35	65	48	
Surplus	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	10	--	1	

