

# ILLINOIS

# WEATHER & CROPS



## ILLINOIS COOPERATIVE CROP REPORTING SERVICE

Illinois Department of Agriculture  
Economics & Statistics Service-USDA  
Box 429 Springfield, Illinois 62705  
Phone: (217) 492-4295

Released: APRIL 20, 1981, 3 P.M., CST

DOC, NOAA, NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

VOL. 2, NO. 6

### CROPS

CORN planting was reported as being about 3% complete by April 19, compared with none last year, and 4% for the 5-year average (1976-80). Wet field conditions over portions of the State slowed planting progress.

WINTER WHEAT was reported as 26% excellent, 71% good, and 3% fair.

ALFALFA was reported as 15% excellent, 77% good, and 8% fair as of April 17.

PASTURES on April 17 were reported as 11% excellent, 65% good, and 24% fair. Pastures, on April 19, were supplying about 41% of the livestock roughage requirements, compared with 28% last year and the 5-year average of 41%.

SOIL MOISTURE was reported as 33% short, 62% adequate and 5% surplus as of April 17.

For the week ending April 17, an average of 2.75 DAYS was SUITABLE for FIELDWORK.

MAIN ACTIVITIES include soil preparation, seeding corn, applying fertilizer, spreading manure, machinery repair, and general chores.

### CHAMPAIGN SOIL MOISTURE

Soil moisture is routinely measured each week by the Illinois State Water Survey at a site near Champaign. As of April 14, the uppermost 6 ft. of bare soil contained about 60% of the total potential plant available moisture. This represented a significant increase over the week before, due to 2.91 inches of precipitation which fell during the 7-day interim. Of the 2.91 inches, only about 0.79 inches (27% of the precipitation) entered the soil, the remainder being lost to runoff and evaporation. Soil moisture measurements are expected to be available for additional locations in the State beginning in May.

### WEATHER

TEMPERATURES for the period of April 13-19 averaged 3 to 8 degrees above normal as a warm period continued over the State for the fourth straight week. Maximum readings climbed into the 80's over the State. A cool period developed in the North at the end of the week, when maximum temperatures only climbed into the 50's and minimum temperatures dropped near the freezing mark.

PRECIPITATION was heavy in most areas, as the northern third of the State received from .40 to 1 inch, and the South received from 1 to 2 inches. Some southern areas recorded more than 1 inch during a 24-hour period on the 19th.

The OUTLOOK for the period of April 21 through April 27 is for temperatures and precipitation to be below normal. The Extended Outlook from April 15 through May 15 is for temperatures to be near normal in the North and above normal in the South. Precipitation is expected to be above normal.

### MARCH WEATHER SUMMARY

Average monthly TEMPERATURES were 2 to 3 degrees above normal in many sections of the State. However, the Central and the East-Southeast Districts were 1 degree below normal and the Southeast District was normal. The South-Southeast recorded the largest above normal variation (6.3 degrees above normal), while the Central District had the largest below normal variation (0.9 degrees below normal). The month started with slightly below normal temperatures in the North, and above normal readings in the South. The warm trend continued through the second week, sending maximum readings into the 60's. A cool period during the third week sent minimum temperatures below the 20 degree mark. By the end of the month temperatures were again above normal with maximum readings reaching the upper 70's in the South.

PRECIPITATION was 1 to 2 inches below normal in every district, with the Southwest recording the largest below normal variation. This was the fifth out of the last six months that most of Illinois was below normal in precipitation. Precipitation was light in the North during the first three weeks. The South received from .60 of an inch to more than an inch during the first week and moderate amounts during the second week. In the third week, the only area receiving moderate rainfall was the extreme Southeast. As much as .60 of an inch of rain fell in the North during the last week, while some southern areas recorded more than 1 inch in a 24-hour period.

On the 10th, 1 to 2 inches of snow fell on the northern and central sections and on the 20th, a trace of snow fell over the same areas.

### ILLINOIS CROP REPORTING DISTRICT SUMMARY

	NW	NE	W	C	E	WSW	ESE	SW	SE	STATE
Days suitable for fieldwork: (week ending April 17)	2.0	1.5	1.0	1.5	0.5	1.5	3.5	5.5	6.0	2.75
Soil Moisture %:										
(as of April 17) Short	10	--	--	--	--	45	60	70	100	33
Adequate	90	100	75	85	100	55	40	30	--	62
Surplus	--	--	25	15	--	--	--	--	--	5

Illinois Weather & Crops (ISSN: 0273-8635) is published weekly April-November, monthly December-March by the Illinois Department of Agriculture, Illinois Cooperative Crop Reporting Service, Room 218, Federal Building, 600 East Monroe, Springfield, IL 62701. This publication is free upon request to the above address. Postmaster: Send Change of Address Form 3579 to P. O. Box 429, Springfield, IL 62705.

Illinois Weather & Crops  
April 20, 1981

# ILLINOIS WEATHER

PRELIMINARY DISTRICT PRECIPITATION AVERAGES AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL IN INCHES

	NW	NE	W	C	E	WSW	ESE	SW	SE
March	0.64	0.63	0.98	1.16	0.66	1.69	1.37	1.51	2.09
Departure	-1.79	-1.98	-1.81	-1.59	-2.05	-1.22	-2.03	-2.59	-2.30

MONTHLY AND WEEKLY TEMPERATURE DEPARTURES IN DEGREES

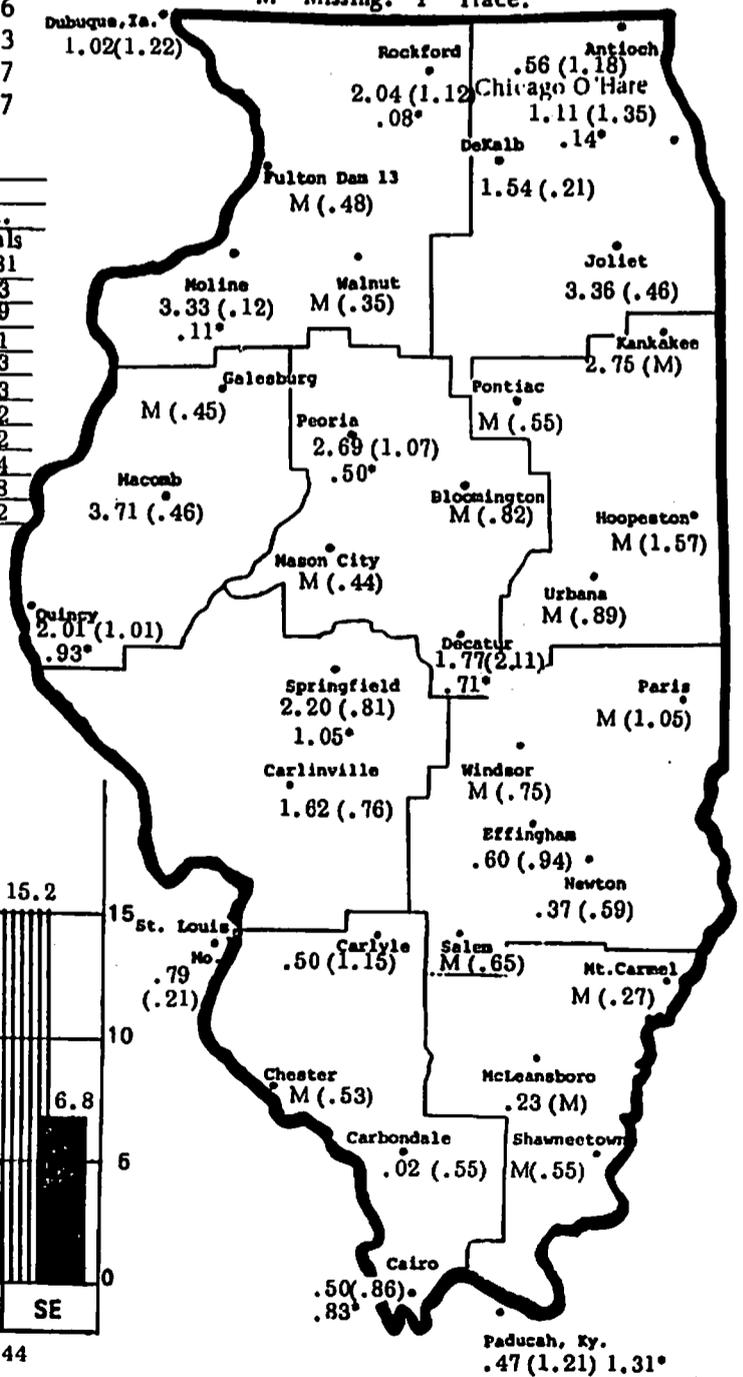
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Mar. 30 Apr. 6- Apr. 13-		
				Apr. 5	12	19
Chicago	-1	+2	+1	+11	+7	+6
Moline	+1	+2	+2	+10	+8	+3
Springfield	-1	+2	+5	+15	+12	+7
So. Central	-3	+2	+1	+11	+10	+7

PRECIPITATION:

First figure--current week, 4/10-16  
Parentheses--previous week  
Asterisk--Friday-Sunday  
M--Missing. T--Trace.

STATION	April 17			April 20			
	Temperatures			Growing Degree Days*			
	Week ending Fri. 6 A.M.	Week ending Mon. 6 A.M.					
	Maxi- : mum	Mini- : mum	Aver- : age	Current : week	3-yr. : avg.	Totals : 1980	Totals : 1981
Dubuque, IA	--	--	--	40	70	72	163
Moline	78	30	56	51	96	89	189
Rockford	75	28	54	52	74	75	161
Chicago O'Hare	77	33	55	54	76	78	183
Quincy	83	33	61	65	122	105	223
Decatur	80	34	60	64	110	86	212
Springfield	73	32	58	56	101	81	202
Carrollton	85	36	64	72	126	101	254
St. Louis	84	66	75	118	209	164	318
St. Louis	--	--	--	96	166	135	302

\* Totals are accumulated from April 1.



## ACCUMULATED PRECIPITATION (Inches)

LEGEND: Normal | Actual

Jan. 1-Apr. 30 | Jan. 1-Apr. 16

