

# ILLINOIS WEATHER & CROPS



## ILLINOIS COOPERATIVE CROP REPORTING SERVICE

Illinois Department of Agriculture  
STATISTICAL REPORTING SERVICE USDA  
Box 429 Springfield, Illinois 62705  
Phone: (217) 492-4295

**CONTRIBUTORS:**

National Weather Serv. Forecast Office (Chicago)  
Midwest Agr. Weather Serv. Ctr. (W. Lafayette, Ind.)  
Illinois State Water Survey Div., DENR (Champaign)

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CROPS

WINTER WHEAT was reported as 11% excellent, 79% good, and 10% fair as of January 21. The mild weather has been beneficial for the wheat crop over the state with some reports indicating that wheat has a large amount of growth for this time of the year. There is a concern that the lack of snow cover could allow some damage from freezing temperatures, especially in northern and central areas. However, it is too early to determine if any damage has occurred. Comments indicated that some damage from standing water in low spots has occurred.

SOIL MOISTURE as of January 21 was reported to be 12% surplus, 76% adequate, and 12% short.

LIVESTOCK were reported to be in good to excellent condition. The mild weather has been very favorable for livestock production compared to the extremely cold weather of January 1982. Most lots have dried some during the past several weeks and improved feed efficiency has caused faster and more economical gains. In some areas, stubble fields and pastures are still being grazed. The weather has also improved conditions for farrowing, calving, or lambing.

WEATHER

TEMPERATURES for the period of January 17 to 23 averaged from normal to 5 degrees below normal across the state. On the 18th minimum readings to near zero in the North.

PRECIPITATION was moderate in the northern two-thirds of the state from .15 of an inch to .44 of an inch. The extreme southeast area received over 1 inch. One inch of snow fell on the north and central sections on the 21st.

The OUTLOOK for the period of January 25-31 is for temperatures to be above normal and precipitation to be near normal.

DECEMBER WEATHER SUMMARY

Average monthly TEMPERATURES ranged from 7 to 9 degrees above normal throughout the state. The East-Southeast District again had the largest above normal variation (9.1 degrees above normal). Temperatures averaged above normal during the month and many new maximum readings were set as temperatures climbed into the 60's and 70's during brief periods.

PRECIPITATION was above normal in all districts and some sections set new precipitation totals for the month of December. The largest above normal variation was in the Southeast District where an average of over 11 inches fell. Grand Tower, Illinois (in the Southwest District) recorded more than 16 inches. During the 6th thru the 8th extremely heavy rainfall amounts were recorded in many areas (some recorded more than 6 inches during 24 hours) causing some rivers and streams to rise to record levels. Damage was severe. Rainfall was light during mid-month, but was again heavy at the end of the month.

Up to an inch of snow fell on parts of the north and central sections during the 7th and 8th and again on the 15th.

The Extended Outlook from January 15 to February 15, 1983 is for temperatures to be above normal and precipitation to be near normal.

MONTHLY TEMPERATURE DEPARTURES DEGREES

	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Chicago	-2	-1	-1	0	+9
Peoria	-2	-1	0	+2	+9
Springfield	-2	-1	-1	+1	+8
St. Louis	-2	-2	-1	+1	+7

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WATER CONDITIONS IN ILLINOIS FOR DECEMBER 1982 by Illinois State Water Survey Division

December 1982 was the wettest December of this Century in most parts of Illinois. Only portions of East Central and Northwestern Illinois failed to achieve a new December record. Nevertheless, precipitation was much above normal on every square mile in Illinois. Near record high temperatures and frequent periods of showers and thundershowers made December appear to be an early spring month. More than 12 inches of rain fell in parts of Southern Illinois in December, and large areas of Central and Northern Illinois had between 7 to 10 inches. December precipitation normally is 2.1 inches in the North, 2.5 inches in the central sections, and 3.3 inches in the southern sections of Illinois.

The record precipitation of December, coupled with excessive November precipitation, led to massive flooding in most parts of Illinois. There were record rains on December 2 - 5 that led to severe flooding in the Illinois River and its major tributaries. As this flood receded, more heavy rains, of 1 to 3 inches in the North and up to 6 inches in the South during December 22-25, led to more flooding. At the end of December, State soils were saturated and there was standing water in many fields. Waters were above flood stage on the Sangamon, La Moine, Illinois, Kaskaskia, Little Wabash, and Wabash Rivers.

PRECIPITATION CONDITIONS

District	December Precipitation <sup>1/</sup>			October-December <sup>2/</sup>		January-December 1982 <sup>2/</sup>	
	Amount	Departure	% of Normal	Amount	% of Normal	Amount	% of Normal
Northwest	4.78	+3.02	272	12.5	190	46.4	132
Northeast	5.46	+3.53	283	14.4	218	47.0	135
West	7.53	+5.75	423	13.8	204	42.6	115
Central	6.66	+4.59	322	14.1	199	47.8	133
East	4.45	+2.36	213	12.5	174	49.3	137
West Southwest	7.14	+5.12	353	15.5	207	50.1	134
East Southeast	7.45	+4.76	277	14.3	166	53.7	135
Southwest	10.66	+7.62	351	17.6	191	50.3	117
Southeast	11.56	+8.25	349	17.9	186	48.7	111

PRECIPITATION OUTLOOK <sup>2/</sup>

Area <sup>3/</sup>	January 1983	Winter 1982-83 (Dec.-Feb)	Spring 1983 (Mar.-May)
Northern	Above Normal (1.7)	Above Normal (4.9)	Below Normal (9.9)
North Central	Above Normal (1.8)	Above Normal (5.4)	Near Normal (11.0)
South Central	Near Normal (2.2)	Near Normal (6.8)	Near Normal (11.6)
Southern	Above Normal (3.2)	Near Normal (9.3)	Above Normal (13.1)

Note: Figures in parentheses are area normals for specified periods in inches of precipitation.

<sup>1/</sup> National Weather Service, Rosemont, Illinois. <sup>2/</sup> State Water Survey Division, Champaign, Illinois. <sup>3/</sup> Northern = northwest and northeast crop reporting districts; North Central = west, central, and east crop reporting districts; South Central = west southwest and east southeast crop reporting districts; South = southwest and southeast crop reporting districts.