

# ILLINOIS WEATHER & CROPS



## ILLINOIS COOPERATIVE CROP REPORTING SERVICE

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CROPS

FEBRUARY WEATHER SUMMARY

WINTER WHEAT was reported as 23% excellent, 65% good, 10% fair, and 2% poor as of March 18. Above normal temperatures and good moisture supplies have allowed most of the acreage to resume plant growth. Nitrogen application has been active in many areas. Acreage losses from winter weather conditions are expected to be minimal.

Average monthly TEMPERATURES ranged from 5 to 7 degrees above normal throughout the State. The Northwest District had the largest above normal variation (6.9 degrees above normal). This was the third straight month of above normal temperatures over much of the State. A warm trend which started in the second week of March continued through the end of the month. Many new maximum temperature records were set as readings climbed into the 70's and 80's by the fourth week.

OAT seeding was about 15% complete as of March 20, ahead of last year and average, but behind the spring of 1981.

PLOWING for 1983 Corn and Soybeans has made moderate progress during March, as much of the State has had several days suitable for fieldwork. As of March 20, about 71% had been tilled compared with 70% last year and the average of 68%.

PRECIPITATION was below normal in every district of the State except the Northwest. The largest below normal variations were in the Southwest and Southeast Districts. Precipitation was heavy in many sections during the first week, and light during the rest of the month. Some areas reported 2 inches of rain and snow in the first week.

LIVESTOCK were in mostly excellent condition over the State, aided by good weather conditions. Feed supplies are mostly adequate and the need for supplemental feeding has been reduced by the favorable weather conditions. As of March 20, pastures were supplying about 15% of the roughage requirements for livestock, somewhat more than last year and average.

On the 3rd and 4th, 2 inches of snow fell on the north and central sections of the State. Two to three inches also fell on these sections on the 6th. On the 23rd through 25th lake effect snow fell on scattered sections of the Northeast District near Lake Michigan.

SOIL MOISTURE as of March 18 was reported as 18% short, 74% adequate, and 8% surplus.

The Extended Outlook for March 15 through April 15 is for temperatures to be above normal and precipitation to be near normal in Illinois.

WEATHER

TEMPERATURES for the period of March 14 thru 20 averaged 1 to 7 degrees above normal throughout the State as a warmer than normal period returned. Temperatures were warmest early in the week.

MONTHLY TEMPERATURE DEPARTURES DEGREES

PRECIPITATION occurred late in the week. Amounts ranged from 0.50 inch to 2.00 inches in showers and thunderstorms.

	<u>Oct.</u>	<u>Nov.</u>	<u>Dec.</u>	<u>Jan.</u>	<u>Feb.</u>
Chicago	-1	0	+9	+7	+5
Peoria	0	+2	+9	+7	+6
Springfield	-1	+1	+8	+4	+5
St. Louis	-1	+1	+7	+4	+4

OUTLOOK for March 22 through 28 is for below temperatures and near normal precipitation.

Illinois Weather & Crop  
March 21, 1983

WATER CONDITIONS IN ILLINOIS FOR FEBRUARY -- by Illinois State Water Survey Div.

A very warm February with below normal precipitation in the South and above normal precipitation in Northern Illinois, brought an end to the "winter season." December through February is the 3-month period utilized in climatic studies of winter in Illinois and serves as a basis for comparison between years.

This winter (December 1982-February 1983) was extremely warm, averaging 5°F above normal, with precipitation well above normal throughout the State. Each of the 3 winter months had above normal temperatures. The winter ranked as the fifth warmest on record at Urbana (records began in 1888); the 7th warmest on record at Peoria, and the 11th warmest winter on record at Chicago. At most locales it was the warmest winter since the late 40's. The contrast of this extremely warm winter, following one of Illinois coldest winters in 1981-82 was very marked.

Precipitation during the winter was 15 to 50% above normal across the State. Water Survey seasonal precipitation outlooks issued in the fall of 1982 called for above normal winter precipitation in the northern half of Illinois and near normal in the South.

The warm and wet winter had much below normal snowfall. Urbana had 7 inches as compared to the normal of 21; Chicago had 16 inches (normal of 31 inches); and St. Louis had 3.3 inches which was the third lowest winter snowfall on record. There is no concern about snowmelt flooding during the Spring 1983.

February temperatures in Illinois were much above normal, ranging from 4°F (north) above normal. February precipitation amounts in most areas ranged between 1 and 1.5 inches. In the northern fourth of Illinois these values were 10 to 20% above normal, with near normal values in the north-central section, and below normal values in the South where February precipitation is normally 2.5 to 3 inches.

PRECIPITATION CONDITIONS

District	February Precipitation 1/ Depar- % of ture Normal			Dec.-Feb. Precipitation 2/ % of Normal		Mar. 1982-Feb. 1983 Precipitation 2/ % of Normal	
	Amount			Amount	Normal	Amount	Normal
Northwest	1.34	+0.11	109	6.7	146	46.2	132
Northeast	1.43	-0.02	99	7.8	150	46.0	133
West	1.26	-0.21	86	9.3	186	41.6	112
Central	0.92	-0.70	57	8.5	155	44.3	123
East	1.05	-0.71	60	6.5	115	45.9	128
W.Southwest	1.07	-0.85	56	8.7	150	45.0	121
E.Southeast	1.01	-1.35	43	9.2	121	47.1	119
Southwest	0.91	-2.03	31	13.1	145	43.7	101
Southeast	1.06	-2.03	34	14.3	146	43.5	99

1/ National Weather Service, Rosemont, Illinois. 2/ Illinois State Water Survey Division, Champaign, Illinois.