

ILLINOIS

WEATHER & CROPS



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CROPS

WINTER WHEAT condition was reported as 12% excellent, 64% good, 22% fair, and 2% poor as of Friday, December 16. Moisture supplies have been good and plants made good growth over most of the State through mid-December. However, in some areas excessive moisture has caused ponding in some low-lying fields with some acreage damage possible. Snow cover should help protect wheat plants from the current extremely cold temperatures.

TILLAGE for 1984 Intended corn and soybean acreage has made good progress this past Fall in nearly all areas of the State except much of Southern Illinois where fall harvest was late and fields remained too wet to work. As of December 18, 64% had been tilled compared with 65% last year and the 5-year average (1978-82) of 71%.

SOIL MOISTURE as of December 16 was reported as 3% short, 52% adequate, and 45% surplus.

PASTURES as of December 16 were reported as 2% excellent, 45% good, 43% fair, and 10% poor. Excellent moisture supplies throughout much of the Fall period has helped pasture feed supplies.

LIVESTOCK were in mostly good condition through mid-December. However, frequent rains have caused feed lots to be muddy and livestock performance reduced. The extremely low temperatures during the past few days have caused additional stress on farm animals.

WEATHER

The week of December 12 to 18 started out with above normal TEMPERATURES and a moderate amount of precipitation. However, by the weekend Illinois had become buried under a frigid air mass with temperatures running 25 to 30 degrees below normal over the entire State. New record low temperatures were common on Sunday. The PRECIPITATION fell as much over much of the State. Amounts were generally around .50 inches. The OUTLOOK for the week of December 19 to 25 calls for record low temperatures on Monday. Also, on Monday high temperatures will range from -15 in the extreme North to +15 in the extreme South. Tuesday will bring a chance of snow. The remainder of the week will be mostly cloudy and very cold with a chance of snow again on Wednesday.

OCTOBER WEATHER SUMMARY

Average monthly TEMPERATURES ranged from 1 degree below normal in the northern half of the State to 2 degrees above normal in the South. The Northeast Districts had the largest below normal variation (0.7 degrees below normal), while the Southwest District had the largest above normal variation (2.0 degrees above normal). During the last week of September and continuing into the first week of October, temperatures were above normal throughout Illinois. Maximum readings climbed into the 80's in many areas. Minimum readings dropped near freezing in the North during the first week causing frost. Temperatures were below normal during the second week. During the third and fourth weeks they averaged below normal in the North and above normal in the South.

PRECIPITATION was above normal except in the Northwest. The South received heavy rainfall amounts and a few stations recorded around 10 inches, which caused flooding. The largest above normal variation was in the East-Southeast District. Rainfall was heavy in the South during the first three weeks with lesser amounts in the North. The last week of the month was dry.

NOVEMBER WEATHER SUMMARY

Average monthly TEMPERATURES ranged from 3 to 5 degrees above normal throughout the State. The Central District had the largest above normal variation (5.1 degrees above normal). Temperatures were above normal during the first 3 weeks with maximum readings climbing into the 50's and 60's. Temperatures dropped below normal in the fourth week sending maximum temperatures into the 30's and 40's.

PRECIPITATION was above normal in all districts of Illinois. A few stations recorded record rainfall amounts as totals averaged mostly 2 to 6 inches above normal. The largest above normal variation was in the West-Southwest District. Rainfall was heaviest in the South during the second and third weeks, where 1 to 3 inches fell during each week. At the end of the month, 1 to 4 inches of snow fell mainly across the Northeast.

The EXTENDED OUTLOOK from December 15 to January 15, 1984 is for temperatures to be below normal and precipitation to be above normal.

ILLINOIS CROP REPORTING DISTRICT SUMMARY

Soil Characteristics	NW	NE	W	C	E	WSW	ESE	SW	SE	STATE
Week ending December 16										
1 moisture %										
Short	20	0	0	5	0	5	0	0	0	3
Adequate	60	80	100	70	45	70	20	10	10	52
Surplus	20	20	0	25	50	25	80	90	90	45

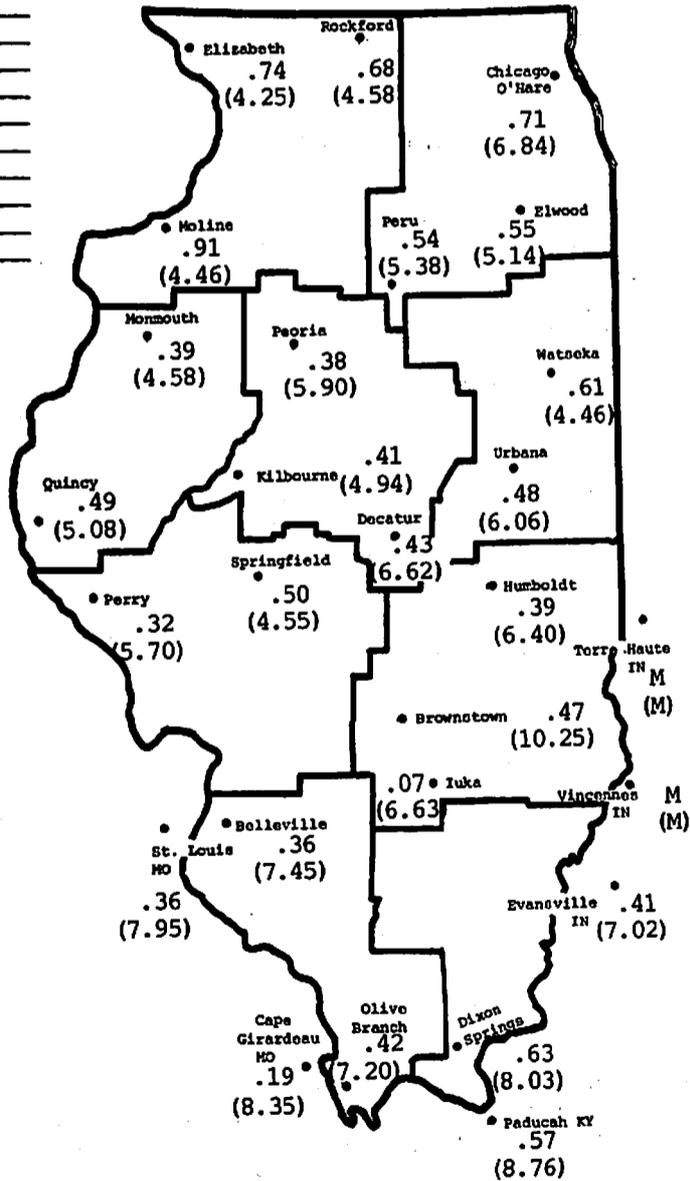
Illinois Weather & Crops
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PRELIMINARY DISTRICT PRECIPITATION AVERAGES AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL IN INCHES

	NW	NE	W	C	E	WSW	ESE	SW	SE
October	2.10	3.12	3.71	3.82	4.97	4.50	7.52	7.09	6.63
Departure	-0.60	+0.56	+0.68	+1.06	+2.16	+1.82	+4.75	+4.24	+3.87
November	4.48	4.71	6.24	4.96	4.10	6.84	6.13	6.67	6.48
Departure	+2.39	+2.55	+4.30	+2.63	+1.76	+4.31	+2.96	+2.99	+3.18

Station	Week ending Monday, 6 A.M., December 19			
	Temperatures			
	Maximum	Minimum	Average	
Moline	36	-16	19.0	
Rockford	31	-19	15.4	
Chicago O'Hare	36	-14	18.9	
Quincy	39	-14	19.9	
Decatur	36	-13	19.4	
Peoria	36	-15	19.6	
Watseka 1/	39	-13	20.5	
Springfield	37	-12	19.0	
Brownstown 1/	37	-9	20.9	
St. Louis	39	-7	22.9	
Dixon Springs 1/	55	12	31.7	

PRECIPITATION:
First figure--Current week
Parentheses--Nov.15-Dec.12
M--Missing. T--Trace



SOIL MOISTURE MEASUREMENTS

The soil moisture outlook for the State, according to the Illinois State Water Survey Division, continues to improve with the heavy rains that occurred during November. The heavier fall precipitation in the eastern portion of the State shows up in the soil moisture values. In the 20-inch soil profile, the greatest changes in soil moisture occurred at Perry and Urbana, each increasing by over 30%. In the 40-inch profile, the greatest changes were at Perry with an increase of 31% at Carbondale with a 22% increase. The sandy soils in Mason County continue to show high infiltration rates and little soil moisture increase. Previous experience with earlier measurements had similar results.

Site	County	Inches of Soil Moisture	
		Total Soil Moisture, surface to 20"	% Change from month ago
Freeport	Stephenson	5.8	+5
Shabbona	De Kalb	6.3	+2
Monmouth	Warren	5.9	+1
Appleton	Knox	5.9	+5
Peoria	Tazewell	6.2	+5
Topeka	Mason	3.3	+2
Perry	Pike	6.1	+38
Springfield	Sangamon	5.9	+0
Brownstown	Fayette	6.6	+7
Olney	Richland	6.2	+4
Salem	Marion	6.0	+4
Belleville	St. Clair	6.2	+7
Ina	Jefferson	6.5	+4
Carbondale	Jackson	6.3	+14
Dixon Springs	Pope	6.7	+15