

ILLINOIS WEATHER & CROPS



**ILLINOIS
COOPERATIVE CROP
REPORTING SERVICE**

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CROPS

Cold, wet weather since late February has kept most farmers from beginning Spring fieldwork. Farmwork has been mostly confined to machinery preparation and tending for livestock. A few farmers were able to get into the fields in late February and again late in the second week of March to seed oats and fertilize wheat.

WINTER WHEAT condition as of March 16, was reported as 2% excellent, 52% good, 34% fair, and 12% poor as the cold, wet weather has caused the wheat condition to drop. Ponding is a problem in low-lying and poorly drained fields. It is still too early to access winterkill damage in most fields.

T seeding is reported as less than 1% complete as the wet weather has kept most farmers out of the fields. Many producers are planning to start seeding oats as soon as field conditions will allow.

PLOWING FOR 1984 CORN AND SOYBEANS was 70% complete as of Sunday, March 18. Last year, plowing was also 70% complete. Most of this plowing was done last fall as wet conditions have kept farmers out of the fields during March.

SOIL MOISTURE as of March 16 was reported to be 3% short, 60% adequate, and 37% surplus.

LIVESTOCK were in mostly fair condition. Muddy lots and the wet weather are causing problems for both farmers and livestock. Hay supplies were reported as 64% short and 36% adequate across the State.

GRAIN MOVEMENT across the state is being slowed by muddy rural roads as the wet weather continues.

WEATHER

The week of March 12 to 18 saw winter slip slightly but still maintain its grip on the State. Average TEMPERATURES for the week were 2 to 8 degrees below normal. A spring day did sneak into the Midwest on Thursday as temperatures climbed as high as the middle and upper 70's in the southern third of Illinois and reached the 50's and 60's in the northern two-thirds of the State. By the week's end the mercury had slid back to the 30's and 40's.

PRECIPITATION during the week was moderate to heavy as slightly more than an inch to over 3.50 inches were recorded. Precipitation was reported at most locations on five of the week's seven days. The largest amounts of rain occurred Thursday as thunderstorms and some severe weather rumbled across the State.

The OUTLOOK for the week of March 20 to 26 holds the promise of some warming to the 50's and 60's late in the week. After some rain on Tuesday and Wednesday the rest of the week appears dry.

FEBRUARY WEATHER SUMMARY

Average monthly TEMPERATURES ranged from 6 to 9 degrees above normal throughout the State with the Northwest District having the largest above normal variation (9.4 degrees). This was the first month since November that readings were above normal. Temperatures during the first week of the month were above normal, but fell below normal during the second week. The third week was mild with maximums climbing into the 50's and 60's. By the end of the month temperatures were once again below normal.

PRECIPITATION was once again above normal in every district of the State except in the Northwest and Southeast. The largest above normal variation was in the West-Southwest district. In the first half of the month, precipitation was light to moderate. During the third week, the precipitation was heavy in many areas. On the 27th and 28th of the month, a total of 2 to 24 inches of snow fell on Illinois with the heaviest snow occurring in the East and East Southeast sections of the State.

The Extended Outlook for March 15 thru April 15 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
Soil moisture %	As of March 16									
Short	15	0	0	5	0	5	0	0	0	3
Adequate	70	75	100	65	65	70	35	15	15	60
Surplus	15	25	0	30	35	25	65	85	85	37

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Illinois Weather & Crops
March 19, 1984

PRELIMINARY DISTRICT PRECIPITATION AVERAGES AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL IN INCHES

	NW	NE	W	C	E	WSW	ESE	SW	SE
February	1.01	1.58	1.66	2.26	2.15	2.64	2.53	2.98	2.83
Departure	-0.22	+0.15	+0.19	+0.64	+0.39	+0.72	+0.17	+0.04	-0.26

Station	Week ending Monday, 6 A.M., March 19		
	Temperatures		
	Maximum	Minimum	Average
Moline	56	22	32.7
Rockford	46	15	29.9
Chicago O'Hare	50	23	31.7
Quincy	63	23	34.6
Decatur	57	23	32.7
Peoria	55	21	32.8
Watseka	53	14	31.2
Springfield	64	20	33.1
Brownstown	68	23	37.6
St. Louis	75	27	39.4
Dixon Springs	70	27	44.9

Station	Week ending Monday, 6 A.M., March 19	
	Average Daily Soil Temperature	
	4-inch Bare Soil	
	Maximum	Minimum
Elizabeth	31	31
Elwood	33	33
Watsseka	35	32
Peru	32	31
Monmouth	33	32
Perry	36	33
Kilbourne	36	34
Urbana	37	35
Humboldt	35	33
Brownstown	41	32
Belleville	40	36
Dixon Springs	47	40
Olive Branch	47	39

MONTHLY TEMPERATURE DEPARTURES DEGREES

	November	December	January	February
Chicago	+1	-13	-4	+7
Peoria	+5	-13	-1	+9
Springfield	+4	-15	-2	+6
St. Louis	+4	-14	-1	+7

PRECIPITATION:
First figure--Current week, 3/13-19
Parentheses--Feb. 21-Mar. 12
M--Missing. T--Trace

