

# ILLINOIS WEATHER & CROPS



## ILLINOIS COOPERATIVE CROP REPORTING SERVICE

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CROPS & LIVESTOCK

WEATHER

Rain and below normal temperatures across the State continued to keep farmers out of the fields, slowing primary tillage operations and oat seeding, and delaying corn planting. Only a day was rated suitable for fieldwork as farmers used the limited time primarily for fertilizing wheat, some oat seeding and a few scattered tillage operations where fields permitted.

WINTER WHEAT condition as of Friday, April 20, was 5% excellent, 43% good, 39% fair and 13% poor.

OATS seeded as of Sunday, April 22, was 26% complete compared to 27% last year and the 5-year average (1979-1983) of 54%.

TILLAGE FOR 1984 INTENDED CORN AND SOYBEAN ACREAGE was 72% complete by April 22, compared to 77% last year and the 5-year average (1979-1983) of 80%.

ALFALFA condition as of April 20 was 1% excellent, 70% good, 27% fair, and 2% poor.

PASTURE condition was 3% excellent, 52% good, 40% fair, and 5% poor. Pastures were supplying about 26% of the LIVESTOCK ROUGHAGE REQUIREMENTS, compared to 33% last year and the 5-year average of 40%.

LIVESTOCK continued to be in fair condition as wet and cool weather hampered the drying of feedlots.

Winter FREEZE DAMAGE to the 1984 PEACH crop was rated as 55% no damage, 23% light damage, and 22% moderate or severe damage. Most of the damage occurred as a result of the severe cold temperatures in December 1983. Damage to APPLE orchards was rated as 61% no damage, 31% light damage, and 8% moderate damage.

SOIL MOISTURE on April 20 was reported to be 67% surplus, 32% adequate, and 1% short.

The week of April 16 to 22 continued the trend of unseasonably cold TEMPERATURES. At the same time the State received the largest weekly rainfall totals this spring. Temperatures remained well below normal across Illinois for the week with the weekly averages running from 5 to 10 degrees below normal. Northwestern and West-Central Illinois averaged about 5 to 6 degrees below normal while over the remainder of the State the departures averaged 8 to 10 degrees below normal.

There was RAINFALL pretty much all week but the heaviest amounts fell on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Rainfall amounts for these three days fell in excess of 1 1/2 inches throughout Central Illinois with some areas receiving over 2 inches. In Northern Illinois rainfall totals for the three days were generally around one inch. Rainfall in Southern Illinois was more variable with areas in Southeastern Illinois receiving around 1 1/2 inches while the areas around Cape Girardeau received less than 1/2 inch.

The OUTLOOK for the week of April 23-29 calls for more of the same dismal, cold weather. Tuesday and Wednesday may be the best days this week with near normal temperatures before colder weather returns later in the week. There should only be a chance of showers on Thursday and Friday.

### MARCH WEATHER SUMMARY

Average monthly TEMPERATURES ranged from 4 to 8 degrees below normal throughout the state. The East district had the largest below normal variation (8.0 degrees below normal). The entire month was below normal, with the second week averaging as much as 20 degrees below normal. During the third week, a 1 day warm spell sent maximum temperatures into the 70's in the Southern sections.

PRECIPITATION was above normal in every district of the state. The largest above normal variation was in the Central and West-Southwest districts. Most of the precipitation fell during the last half of the month with as much as 3.5 inches falling in the Southern portions during the third week.

During the month, a total of 4 to 14 inches of snow fell on most sections of Illinois. The heaviest amounts were in the North and Central sections.

The Extended Outlook for April 15 thru May 15 is for temperatures to be below normal and precipitation to be near normal.

### ILLINOIS CROP REPORTING DISTRICT SUMMARY

	NW	NE	W	C	E	WSW	ESE	SW	SE	STATE
Days Suitable for fieldwork:	2.0	0.5	1.0	1.0	0.5	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.5	1.00
Soil moisture %										
Short	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Adequate	100	40	40	45	20	20	5	0	20	32
Surplus	0	60	55	55	80	80	95	100	80	67

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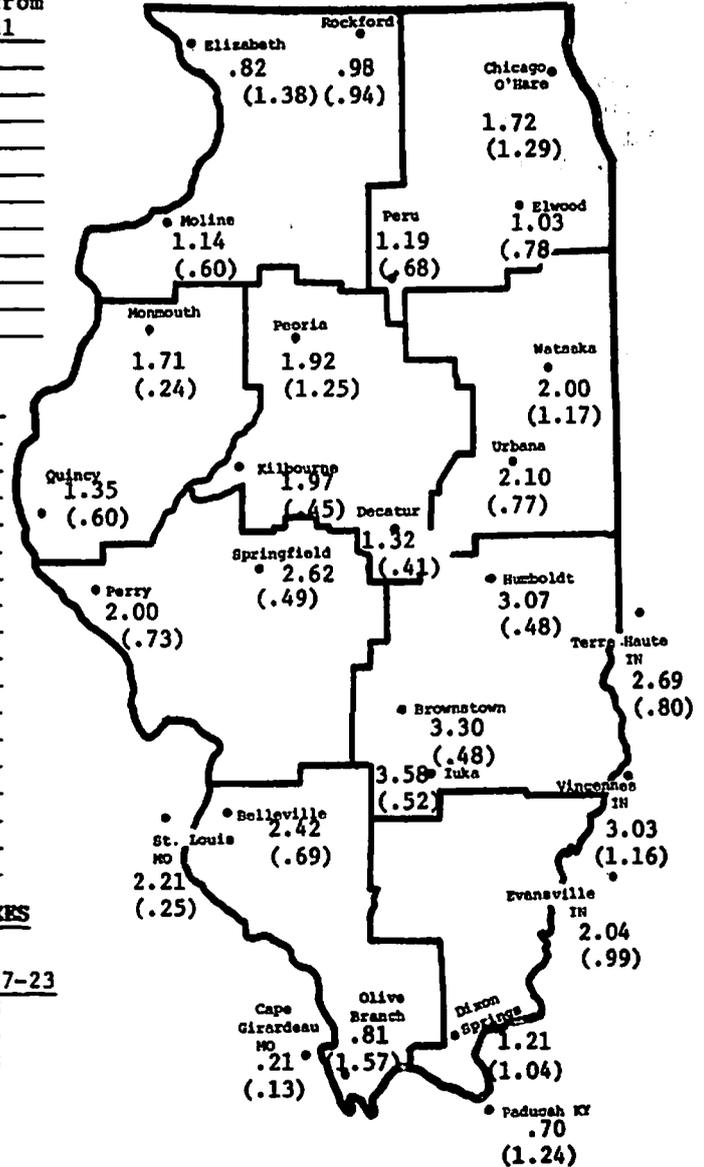
**PRELIMINARY DISTRICT PRECIPITATION AVERAGES AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL IN INCHES**

	NW	NE	W	C	E	WSW	ESE	SW	SE
Chicago	2.47	2.81	4.05	4.17	3.68	4.35	3.77	5.13	5.69
Departure	+0.04	+0.20	+1.26	+1.42	+0.97	+1.44	+0.37	+1.03	+1.30

Station	Week ending Monday, 6 A.M., April 23					
	Temperatures		Precipitation			
	Maxi- : num	Mini- : num	Aver- : ave	Current : week	Total : Total	Dept. from : normal
Rockford	60	32	42.2	0.98	2.22	-0.54
Chicago O'Hare	56	33	42.3	1.72	3.60	1.18
Moline	60	32	45.4	1.14	2.92	0.26
Quincy	58	36	47.1	1.35	3.20	0.58
Peoria	59	35	45.5	1.92	4.39	1.81
Watseka	59	31	43.2	2.00	3.89	0.85
Springfield	57	34	45.4	2.62	4.29	1.64
Decatur	56	34	44.8	1.32	2.57	-0.23
St. Louis	61	38	49.4	2.21	5.84	3.41
Brownstown	59	35	47.9	3.30	5.31	--
Dixon Springs	65	39	52.0	1.21	3.42	--

PRECIPITATION:  
First figure--Current week, Apr.17-23  
Parentheses--Previous week, Apr.10-16  
M--Missing. T--Trace

Station	Week ending Monday, 6 A.M., April 23	
	Average Daily Soil Temperature	
	4-inch Bare Soil	
	Maximum	Minimum
Elizabeth	49	41
Elwood	51	43
Watseka	48	41
Peru	50	44
Monmouth	50	41
Perry	52	42
Kilbourne	52	46
Urbana	50	45
Humboldt	50	43
Brownstown	53	44
Belleville	54	46
Dixon Springs	61	51
Olive Branch	58	50



**MONTHLY AND WEEKLY TEMPERATURE DEPARTURES IN DEGREES**

	February	March	Apr. 3-9	Apr. 10-16	Apr. 17-23
Chicago	+7	-7	-2	-2	-8
Peoria	+9	-6	-1	1	-6
Springfield	+6	-8	-3	0	-8
St. Louis	+7	-6	-2	1	-8