

ILLINOIS WEATHER & CROPS



ILLINOIS
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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CROPS

Sunny springlike weather tempted Illinois farmers at the beginning of last week to get an early start in plantings and fieldwork. Oat seeding progressed rapidly, and corn planting got off to a record start. But as the week unfolded, cooler, windy, wet weather prevailed. Lingered snow was even reported in extreme northern areas, as well as a few hail reports in the South. Rainfall over most of the State resulted in damp, moist soil and kept some farmers out of the fields until better field conditions arose. Winter wheat looked good on higher ground, but in lower wet areas winter kill is apparent. Overall, activities through the week included hauling & spreading manure, fertilizer application, secondary tillage, tending livestock, and planting oats, corn, and even soybeans in a few cases as well as drilling peas. There were also isolated reports of early weed control spraying and fruit spraying. The cooler weather could later prove to be detrimental to fruit trees even though the blooms are still active. For the week of April 6-12, there was an average of four and one-half days suitable for field work.

CORN planting, as of April 14, was well underway with 5% complete, compared to less than 1% last year and the 5-year average of 1%.

WINTER WHEAT condition, as of April 12, was reported as 8% excellent, 62% good, 28% fair, and 2% poor.

OAT seeding, as of April 14, was 60% complete compared to 49% last year and the average of 62%.

ALFALFA HAY condition, as of April 12, was reported as 3% excellent, 72% good, 24% fair, and 1% poor.

PASTURE condition, as of April 12, was reported as 6% excellent, 73% good, and 21% fair. By April 12, pastures were supplying 39% of the livestock roughage requirements, compared to 29% last year and the average of 30%.

SOIL MOISTURE, on April 12, was reported as 7% short, 75% adequate, and 18% surplus.

ILLINOIS DISTRICT SUMMARY

| District | Days Suitable For Fieldwork | Soil Moisture Percent | | |
|-------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|----------|---------|
| | | Short | Adequate | Surplus |
| | | Week ending April 12 | | |
| Northwest | 4.0 | 0 | 75 | 25 |
| Northeast | 3.5 | 0 | 80 | 20 |
| West | 5.5 | 0 | 80 | 20 |
| Central | 5.5 | 20 | 80 | 0 |
| East | 5.0 | 10 | 90 | 0 |
| W Southwest | 6.0 | 15 | 85 | 0 |
| E Southeast | 4.0 | 0 | 70 | 30 |
| Southwest | 4.0 | 0 | 90 | 10 |
| Southeast | 2.0 | 0 | 15 | 85 |
| State | 4.5 | 7 | 75 | 18 |

PRELIMINARY DISTRICT PRECIPITATION AVGS. AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL IN INCHES

| | NW | NE | W | C | E | WSW | ESE | SW | SE | STATE |
|-----------|------|------|-------|-------|------|-------|------|-------|-------|-------|
| March | 4.04 | 3.27 | 2.82 | 2.57 | 3.63 | 2.88 | 4.15 | 4.08 | 4.03 | 3.50 |
| Departure | 1.57 | 0.67 | -0.08 | -0.34 | 0.72 | -0.33 | 0.49 | -0.14 | -0.39 | 0.24 |

MARCH WEATHER SUMMARY

TEMPERATURES AND PRECIPITATION WERE ABOVE NORMAL DURING MARCH IN ILLINOIS.

THE AVERAGE TEMPERATURE DEPARTURE FOR THE STATE WAS 5.3 DEGREES ABOVE NORMAL. THE FIRST HALF OF THE MONTH RECORDED TEMPERATURES THAT WERE NEAR NORMAL. SHORT-LIVED COLD PERIODS SENT LOWS INTO THE 20S. MAXIMUM READINGS VARIED FROM THE 40S TO THE 60S. AN ABOVE NORMAL PERIOD DEVELOPED AFTER MID-MONTH AS HIGHS CLIMBED INTO THE 40S IN THE NORTH TO THE 70S IN THE SOUTH. THE MONTH ENDED WITH READINGS BELOW THE NORM. ELIZABETH (IN THE NORTHWEST DISTRICT) RECORDED THE LOWEST TEMPERATURE, 15 DEGREES ON THE 27TH. ST. LOUIS (NEAR THE WEST-SOUTHWEST DISTRICT) RECORDED THE HIGHEST READING, 87 DEGREES ON THE 15TH.

THE AVERAGE PRECIPITATION FOR THE STATE WAS 0.24 OF AN INCH ABOVE NORMAL. THE SOUTHEAST DISTRICT RECORDED THE LEAST PRECIPITATION WITH ONLY 0.39 OF AN INCH BELOW NORMAL. THE NORTHWEST DISTRICT WAS ABOVE NORMAL, 1.57 INCHES ABOVE THE NORM. MOLINE (IN THE NORTHWEST DISTRICT) RECORDED THE GREATEST PRECIPITATION TOTAL FOR THE MONTH WITH 6.31 INCHES. THIS WAS THE THIRD WETTEST MARCH ON RECORD FOR MOLINE.

HEAVY SNOW FELL DURING MID-MONTH IN THE NORTHWEST. DUBUQUE RECORDED 12 INCHES ON THE 12TH AND 13TH.

THE OUTLOOK FOR THE REMAINDER OF APRIL IS FOR TEMPERATURES AND PRECIPITATION TO BE ABOVE NORMAL.

THE 90-DAY OUTLOOK FOR ILLINOIS FROM APRIL THROUGH JUNE IS FOR TEMPERATURES TO BE NEAR THE NORM AND PRECIPITATION TO BE BELOW NORMAL.

WEATHER

SEASONABLY MILD WET WEATHER DOMINATED THE PRAIRIE STATE LAST WEEK. THE MAJOR FACTOR BEHIND THE WEATHER WAS A SLOW MOVING SPRING STORM WHICH MOVED OUT OF THE SOUTHERN PLAINS AND BROUGHT ALONG WITH IT ABUNDANT MOISTURE AND MILD TEMPERATURES.

AVERAGE MAXIMUM TEMPERATURES RANGED FROM THE MID 50'S TO MID 60'S WHILE AVERAGED MINIMUMS VARIED BETWEEN 40 AND 52. FOR THE WEEK, AVERAGE READINGS OF 47 TO 60 WERE -1 TO +4 DEGREES FROM NORMAL NORTH AND 3 TO 7 DEGREES ABOVE NORMAL SOUTH. THE PRESENCE OF CLOUDS DAMPENED DAYTIME HIGHS AND ALSO KEPT NIGHTTIME LOWS FROM FALLING AS AVERAGE LOWS WERE 6 TO 10 DEGREES ABOVE NORMAL. MERCURIES DID MANAGE TO DIP TO NEAR FREEZING IN NORTHERN AREAS ON THE 11TH.

MUCH OF THE WEEK'S MOISTURE FELL ON THE LAST DAY OF THE PERIOD WHEN 1 TO MORE THAN 2 INCHES OF RAIN OCCURRED. TOTAL ACCUMULATIONS FOR THE WEEK VARIED FROM ONE INCH IN SCATTERED AREAS OF NORTHERN AND CENTRAL ILLINOIS TO THREE AND A THIRD INCHES IN SECTIONS OF SOUTHERN ILLINOIS. GENERAL TOTALS REACHED BETWEEN 1.50 AND 2.50 INCHES WITH AN AVERAGE STATE TOTAL OF 2.2 INCHES AND A DEPARTURE OF +.9 INCHES.

MEAN SOIL TEMPERATURES UNDER SOD RANGED FROM THE UPPER 40'S NORTH TO UPPER 50'S SOUTH. ON BARE GROUND, AVERAGE READINGS STRETCHED FROM THE UPPER 40'S TO NEAR 60.

Week ending 8 A.M. Monday, April 15, 1991

| Location | : Temperatures | | | : Precipitation : : Current : : week : | : Growing : Degree : Days |
|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| | : Maxi- : mum : | : Mini- : mum : | : Depar- : ture : | | |
| ELIZABETH | 56 | 40 | 3 | 1.67 | 28 |
| ROCKFORD | 56 | 40 | 1 | 1.48 | 29 |
| CHICAGO | 55 | 40 | 0 | 2.98 | 26 |
| CHI BOTANICAL | 55 | 39 | -1 | 2.60 | 25 |
| ELWOOD | 60 | 41 | 2 | 1.96 | 38 |
| WATSEKA | 63 | 45 | 4 | 1.83 | 53 |
| PERU | 61 | 43 | 3 | 2.68 | 46 |
| MOLINE | 59 | 43 | 2 | 2.96 | 35 |
| PEORIA | 62 | 45 | 4 | 1.55 | 49 |
| KILBOURNE | 63 | 45 | 3 | 2.12 | 54 |
| MONMOUTH | 57 | 41 | -1 | 1.90 | 31 |
| QUINCY | 62 | 46 | 3 | 2.32 | 51 |
| PERRY | 63 | 44 | 3 | 2.52 | 50 |
| SPRINGFIELD | 65 | 48 | 4 | 2.36 | 64 |
| URBANA | 64 | 46 | 4 | 1.81 | 57 |
| WINDSOR | 65 | 48 | 6 | 1.02 | 70 |
| TERRE HAUTE | 68 | 50 | 7 | 1.21 | 79 |
| ST LOUIS | 66 | 52 | NA | 1.85 | 76 |
| BELLEVILLE | 67 | 49 | 5 | 3.03 | 79 |
| BROWNSTOWN | 65 | 49 | 3 | 1.78 | 66 |
| IUKA | 65 | 50 | 6 | 1.45 | 68 |
| LAWRENCEVILLE | 66 | 48 | 4 | 2.23 | 70 |
| VINCENNES | 66 | 48 | 3 | 2.21 | 67 |
| DIXON SPRINGS | 67 | 53 | 4 | 3.34 | 79 |
| PADUCAH | 69 | 55 | 4 | 1.68 | 95 |
| OLIVE BRANCH | 67 | 52 | 5 | 2.99 | 81 |
| CARBONDALE | 66 | 51 | 2 | 2.32 | 72 |
| C GIRARDEAU | 66 | 55 | NA | 3.31 | 79 |

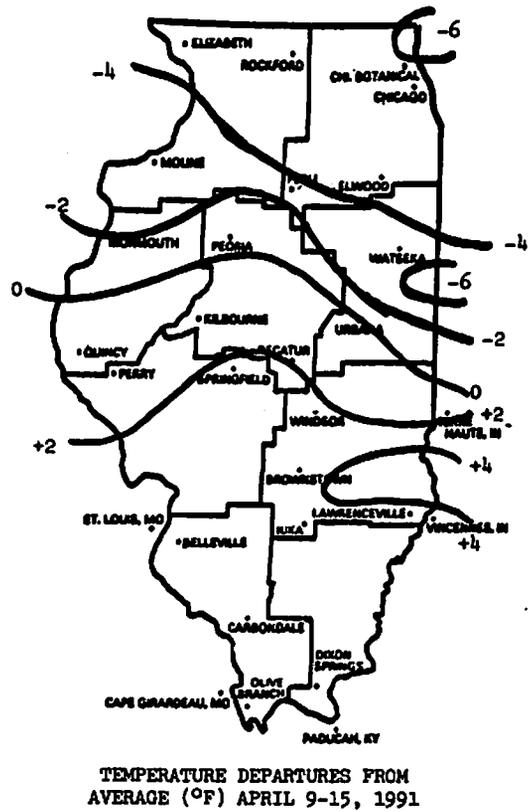
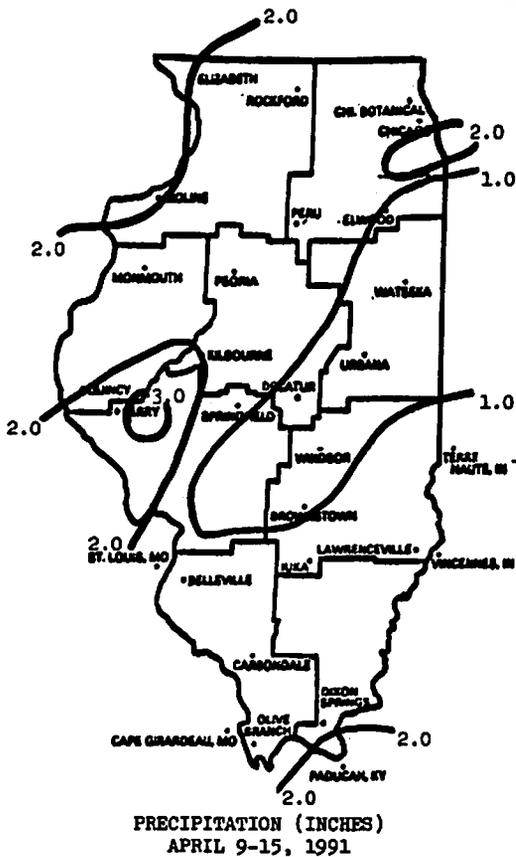
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