

ILLINOIS WEATHER & CROPS



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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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CROPS

Harvest, though nearly complete, made very little progress last week due to heavy rains and surplus soil moisture in many areas. Winter wheat condition showed marked improvement last week as more of the emerged wheat was rated in good to excellent condition. With recent rains, reports indicate that wheat should go into dormancy in good shape. This past week, farmers were cleaning equipment for storage, winterizing buildings, moving livestock from open or remote pastures to more sheltered areas, catching up on paperwork, and starting to plan for the 1992 season. For the week of October 26 - November 1, there was an average of one-half day suitable for fieldwork.

CORN harvest was 99% complete by November 3 compared to 78% last year and the five-year average of 91%.

As of November 3, harvest of the SOYBEAN crop had reached 99%, compared to 95% last year and the average of 97%.

By November 3, 98% of the SORGHUM crop was harvested compared to 54% last year and the average of 83%.

WINTER WHEAT seeding was 97% complete by November 3 compared to 91% last year and the five-year average of 93%. Ninety-two percent of the crop had emerged compared to 46% last year and the average of 70%. Condition of the wheat crop on November 1 was 18% excellent, 71% good, 10% fair, and 1% poor.

PASTURE condition was rated at 82% of normal as of November 1 and was meeting 53% of livestock roughage requirements.

SOIL MOISTURE supplies were reported as 13% short, 57% adequate, and 30% surplus as of November 1.

This is the last Weekly Illinois Weather and Crops report for the 1991 season. The next regularly scheduled report will be published on November 18 and monthly thereafter until early April 1992. The continued cooperation of our weekly crop reporters and weather reporters has made this service available to Illinois agriculture. The Illinois Agricultural Statistics Service and the Weather Service contributors join in expressing our thanks for the faithful help of these volunteers.

ILLINOIS DISTRICT SUMMARY

District	Days Suitable For Fieldwork	Soil Moisture Percent		
		Short	Adequate	Surplus
	Oct. 26 - Nov. 1	As of November 1		
Northwest	.50	35	65	0
Northeast	.50	15	45	40
West	.50	25	60	15
Central	1.00	15	40	45
East	.50	5	70	25
W Southwest	.50	5	75	20
E Southeast	.50	10	75	15
Southwest	.50	0	20	80
Southeast	.50	0	65	35
State	.50	13	57	30

**A COMPARISON OF TWO EARLY CROP YEARS
1987 and 1991**

Corn planting began in early to mid-April and progressed to 28% complete in 1987 and 29% complete in 1991 by the 28th. Good conditions in April and May allowed farmers to reach 97% planted by mid-May of 1987 while planting in 1991 did not reach that point until the end of May. In 1987 the crop progressed significantly ahead of average during June and July, aided by good growing conditions in most areas of the State. In 1991, due to a lack of rainfall and low soil moisture, the crop progressed at a more rapid rate, phenologically, than in 1987 reaching the 98% silked/tasseled stage approximately a week earlier than in 1987. The crop reached maturity at about the same time in both years. Corn harvest began in late August and continued at an even pace through mid-September when the 1991 harvest rate picked up and was 14 percentage points ahead of 1987 by the end of the month. During this period the 1991 soybean harvest dropped 7-10 percentage points behind 1987 as farmers concentrated on the corn harvest in most of the State. Harvest reached completion in early November.

Soybean planting in 1987 and 1991 started in late April, ahead of average, and made good progress through the month of May reaching 99% complete around June 16 of both years. As with corn, good growing conditions through the summer of 1987 allowed the soybean crop to make rapid progress with development well ahead of average. In 1991, above normal temperatures, declining soil moisture, and less frequent scattered showers caused soybean condition to decline early in July and crop progress to advance ahead of normal. Both years saw soybeans begin turning yellow in early August and start shedding leaves by mid-August. Harvest began at the end of August and continued at a record pace in 1987 and near record pace in 1991. The 1991 harvest began falling behind 1987 in mid-September as farmers concentrated on the corn harvest in most parts of the State. Harvest in both years reached 95% complete by mid-October with completion in early November.

WEATHER

The season's first arctic blast pushed into Illinois last week dropping mercuries from well above normal, to 20 to 25 degrees below normal by the weekend. The cold front, which allowed the arctic air to enter the State, moved slowly bringing widespread moderate to heavy moisture.

Mercuries did manage to peak in the 60's North and 70's to near 80 South early in the period, before dipping into the teens to low 20's late in the weekend. Numerous low temperature records were broken on the morning of the 4th, when mercuries plummeted into the lower teens. For the week, mean highs ranged from the upper 40's North to near 60 South. Average minimums varied from the upper 20's North to low 40's South. Average readings for the week reached from the upper 30's North to near 50 South. Such temperatures were some 4 to 8 degrees below normal North while to the South mercuries averaged 2 to 4 degrees short of the norm.

Most locations reported one to two inches of precipitation for the week, with isolated heavier totals restricted to the far northwest and south. Such accumulations were approximately one inch above the weekly norm.

The arctic chill will linger this week with highs mostly in the 30's and 40's and lows ranging in the teens and 20's. Moisture will be minimal this week with only a sporadic snow or rain shower possible.

Week ending 8 A.M. Monday November 4, 1991

Location	Temperatures			Precipitation			Growing Degree Days (50F)		
	Maxi-	Mini-	Deapar--	Curr.:	Since:	Departure	Curr.:	Since	Departure
	mum	mum	ture	:week	:May 1:	since May 1:	week	: May 1:	since May 1
ELIZABETH	47	28	-6	2.40	19.11	-3.35	24	3122	299
ROCKFORD	47	31	-4	1.51	18.11	-5.46	23	3413	567
CHICAGO	50	34	-3	1.46	20.51	0.14	28	3451	550
CHI BOTANICAL	47	31	-7	1.95	20.94	-0.27	20	3212	64
ELWOOD	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
WATSEKA	49	35	-4	1.55	18.18	-4.71	26	3519	404
PERU	48	29	-7	1.64	24.59	3.02	26	3522	295
MOLINE	47	31	-6	1.73	17.13	-6.77	31	3606	477
PEORIA	48	33	-5	1.72	22.19	0.66	34	3674	497
KILBOURNE	50	33	-5	1.80	25.75	2.35	33	3704	299
MONMOUTH	45	29	-9	1.51	20.63	-1.99	24	3481	237
QUINCY	49	31	-7	2.00	26.09	1.74	34	3774	375
PERRY	50	30	-8	2.00	29.21	6.71	32	3578	88
SPRINGFIELD	50	35	-5	1.92	24.65	4.97	39	3829	365
URBANA	49	35	-5	1.32	22.19	0.75	32	3737	443
WINDSOR	59	41	1	1.45	17.24	-4.36	59	3976	484
TERRE HAUTE	57	40	0	0.59	11.41	-9.97	58	3897	532
ST LOUIS	52	35	NA	2.21	18.93	NA	40	4469	NA
BELLEVILLE	57	38	-2	1.97	24.54	4.10	55	3950	298
BROWNSTOWN	51	37	-5	0.94	21.30	-1.03	38	4019	488
IUKA	53	37	-4	1.49	18.50	-1.63	42	3979	320
LAWRENCEVILLE	58	42	NA	0.80	14.41	NA	64	4042	NA
VINCENNES	57	40	0	0.42	16.66	-5.83	59	3903	338
DIXON SPRINGS	60	42	-1	1.24	15.66	-5.81	66	4208	340
PADUCAH	59	43	-1	1.11	18.24	-4.22	66	4359	442
OLIVE BRANCH	59	41	-1	3.74	19.98	-2.71	55	4162	359
CARBONDALE	57	39	-3	1.84	15.75	-6.16	52	4007	285
C GIRARDEAU	60	40	NA	2.71	20.82	NA	61	4389	NA

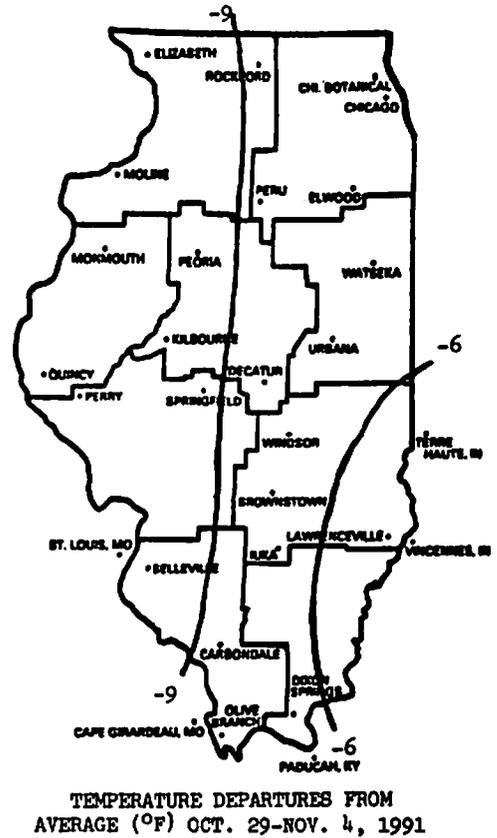
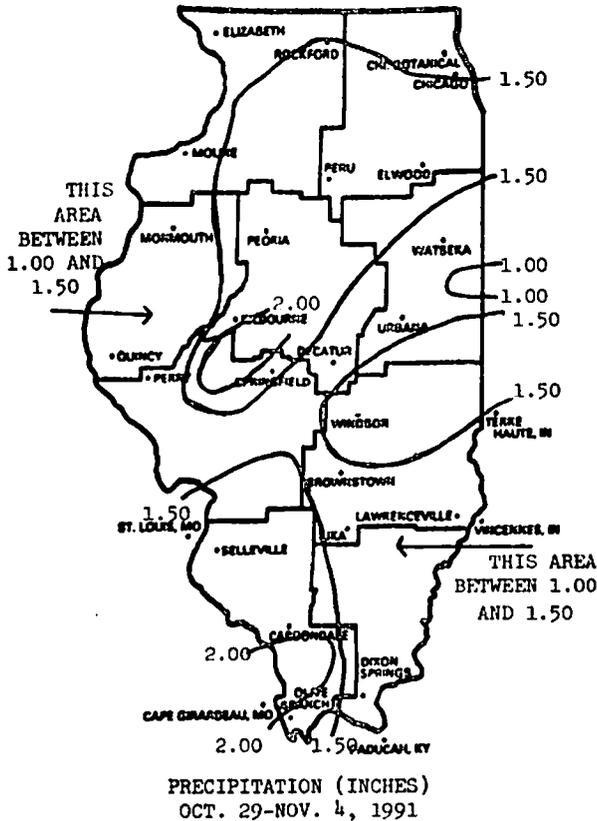
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