

ILLINOIS WEATHER & CROPS



**ILLINOIS
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE**

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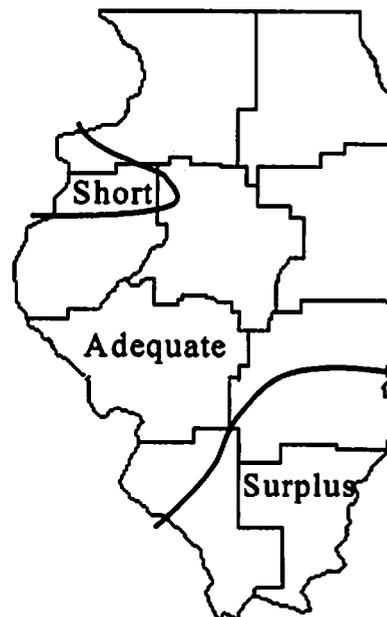
Spring fieldwork began across the state last week with the main focus being tillage and fertilizer application. Corn planters were being tested in various areas of the state, but most farmers limited their activities to seedbed preparation and oat seeding in anticipation of this week's cold snap. Peas and potatoes were being planted in the northern districts while activities in the southern districts were more limited due to wetter soils. As of April 6, 41 percent of the oat crop had been planted. This compares to 15 percent last year and 26 percent for the five-year average. As of April 6, one percent of the corn crop had been planted compared to less than one percent for last year and the five-year average.

Winter wheat, pastures and hay fields continued to green up nicely last week and benefited from warm temperatures and adequate to surplus topsoil moisture. As of April 4, the wheat crop was rated two percent very poor, three percent poor, 16 percent fair, 65 percent good and 14 percent excellent. Alfalfa hay was rated two percent poor, 23 percent fair, 67 percent good and eight percent excellent. Pasture was three percent very poor, five percent poor, 26 percent fair, 57 percent good and nine percent excellent.

Other farm activities were preparing field equipment, hauling grain, spreading manure, applying herbicides, constructing waterways and other soil conservation structures. There was an average of 4.1 days suitable for fieldwork last week and topsoil moisture was rated seven percent short, 74 percent adequate and 19 percent surplus.

This is the first Weekly Illinois Weather and Crops report for the 1997 season. This report will be published at 3:00 p.m. every Monday (Tuesday if Monday is a holiday) until harvest is completed in the fall.

The cooperation of our weekly reporters makes this service available to Illinois agriculture. The Illinois Agricultural Statistics Service express' our thanks for the faithful help of these volunteers.



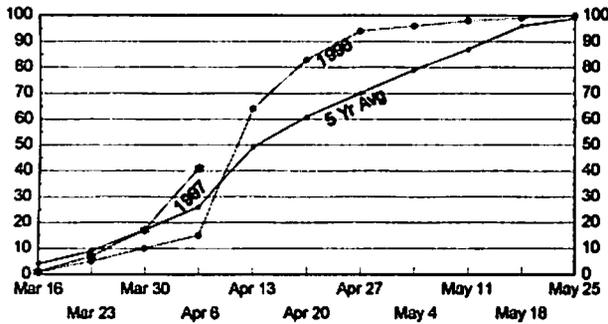
**Topsoil Moisture
April 4**

Crop Conditions

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
April 4					
Winter Wheat	2	3	16	65	14
Alfalfa	-	2	23	67	8
Pasture	3	5	26	57	9

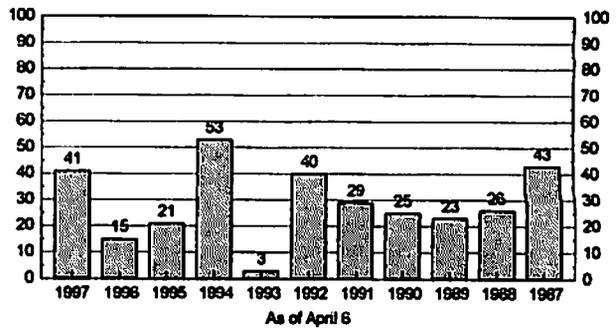
Oats - Percent Seeded

Illinois



Oats - Percent Seeded

Illinois

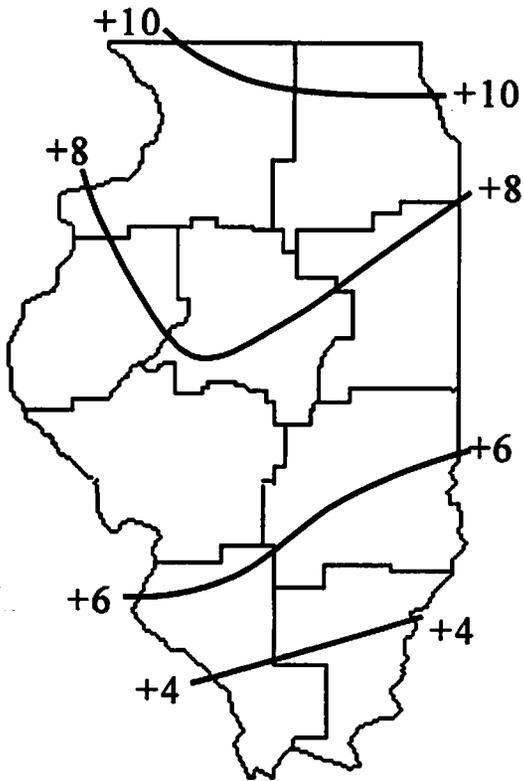


Days Suitable for Fieldwork and Topsoil Moisture

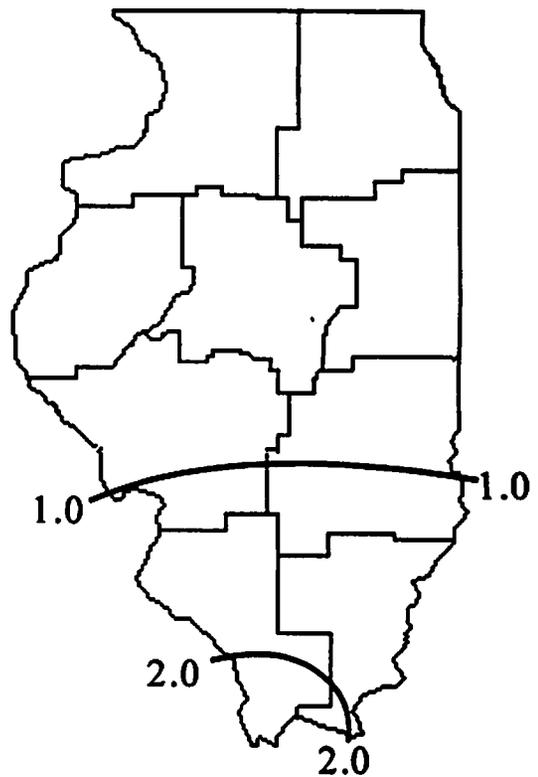
District	Days Suitable for Fieldwork	Topsoil Moisture			
		Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
: March 29-April 4		April 4			
Northwest	5.8	-	18	80	2
Northeast	4.3	-	4	95	1
West	5.8	1	16	82	1
Central	4.8	-	13	86	1
East	4.0	-	4	85	11
W Southwest	4.7	-	5	89	6
E Southeast	3.4	-	2	66	32
Southwest	2.1	-	-	55	45
Southeast	1.6	-	-	24	76
State	4.1	-	7	74	19

Weather for the week March 31 - April 6

District	Temperature			Precipitation		
	Average	Normal	Departure	Total	Normal	Departure
Northwest	51.8	43.3	8.5	.35	.76	-.41
Northeast	52.3	43.0	9.4	.40	.85	-.45
West	53.8	46.7	7.0	.36	.84	-.48
Central	54.3	46.1	8.2	.40	.82	-.42
East	53.5	45.7	7.8	.54	.87	-.33
W Southwest	56.0	48.7	7.3	.51	.73	-.22
E Southeast	54.9	49.0	5.8	.69	.79	-.11
Southwest	56.3	51.5	4.7	1.59	.74	.85
Southeast	55.6	51.8	3.8	1.45	.81	.64
State	54.2	47.1	7.1	.66	.80	-.14



**Temperature Departure
March 31-April 6**



**Precipitation Total
March 31-April 6**

Data and maps provided by the Illinois State Water Survey, Department of Natural Resources, 2204 Griffith Drive, Champaign, Il. 61820, (217)244-8226.

NEWSPAPER TIME VALUE

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April 6, 1997

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INTERNET E-MAIL: The Illinois Weather & Crops report is offered by an e-mail subscription at no charge. To receive the report, send an e-mail message to nass-il@nass.usda.gov.

All of the reports issued by the Washington D.C. headquarters office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) are available at no charge via an e-mail subscription. Send an e-mail message with the word "list" in the body to usda-reports@usda.mannlib.cornell.edu. You will receive a reply containing further instructions for subscribing and a list of the available reports.

WORLD WIDE WEB: The Illinois Agricultural Statistics Service has a home page at <http://www.state.il.us/agr/agstats.htm>. You can find various farm facts about Illinois as well as press releases and links to other statistical information.

The home page for the NASS headquarters office in Washington, D.C. can be found at <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>. There you can find reports issued by NASS as well as links to state statistical offices. You will also find many charts showing long term trends in agriculture.

FAX: The Illinois Weather & Crops report can also be received through a fax subscription. To find out more information call 1-800-622-9865.

NASS maintains an autofax system which you can call to have reports faxed to your machine. The phone number is 202-720-2000. Follow the prompts and when asked for the report number, enter 0411. This will send a list of the reports and their document number. When the system prompts, enter 9=yes and 6=no.

CROP PROGRESS INFORMATION in this report is provided voluntarily by local area officials of Farm Service Agency, Extension Service, National Resources Conservation Service, Farm Business Farm Management field staff, and agribusiness managers.

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