

ILLINOIS WEATHER & CROPS



**ILLINOIS
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE**

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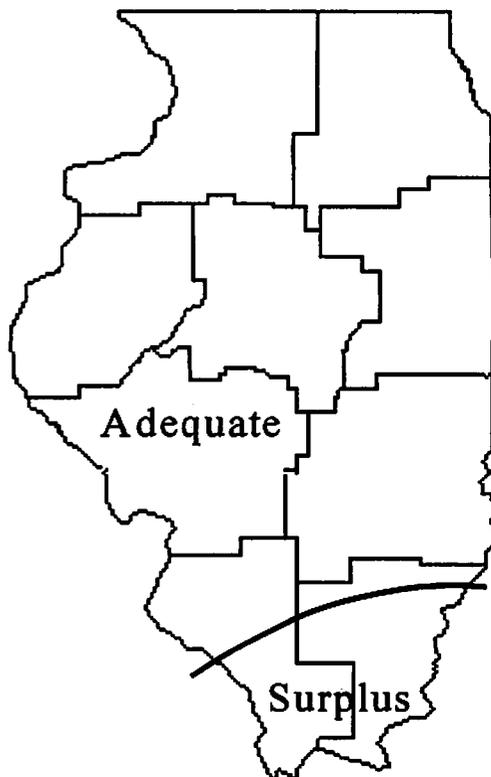
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Corn planters were working diligently statewide last week and by week's end, 77 percent of the crop had been planted which is the earliest progress on record for this date. The most significant progress was made in the northern districts where over 60 percent of the crop was planted last week, in contrast to the Southeast District where only 11 percent of the crop was planted. Cool soils continue to concern farmers as corn is slow to emerge, and growth of wheat and hay is less than desirable. As farmers finished corn planting, most switched over to soybeans but some in the northern districts delayed planting due to cool soil temperatures. Soybean planting progressed to 13 percent statewide which ties the record achieved in both 1987 and 1988. Rains across the state at week's end caused short delays, and snow in northern districts was reported on Thursday night. Other activities for the week included ground preparation, spraying chemicals and spreading fertilizer. There were 4.9 days suitable for fieldwork statewide. Topsoil moisture was rated one percent very short, 11 percent short, 74 percent adequate and 14 percent surplus.

Crop Progress

Crop Stage	: 1997	: 1996	: 5-Year Average

May 4			
CORN:			
Planted	77	46	30
SOYBEANS:			
Planted	13	3	3
SORGHUM:			
Planted	3	0	1
WINTER WHEAT:			
Headed	1	0	4
OATS:			
Planted	99	96	79

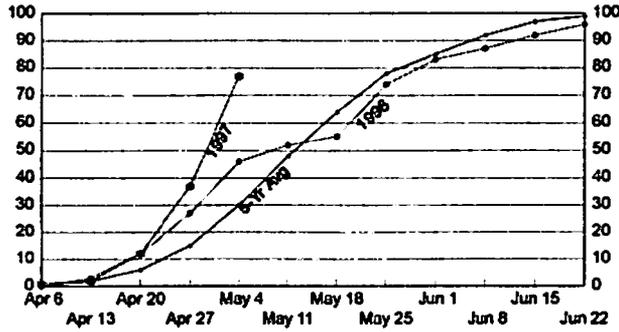


**Topsoil Moisture
May 2**

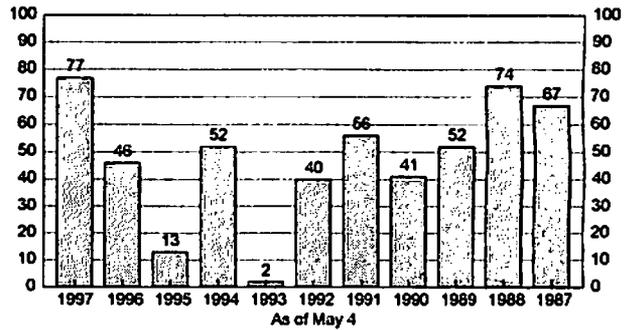
Crop Conditions

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
			May 2		
Winter Wheat	1	3	23	63	10
Alfalfa	1	3	33	55	8
Red Clover	-	2	21	67	10
Pasture	1	5	30	56	8

Corn - Percent Planted
Illinois



Corn - Percent Planted
Illinois



Days Suitable for Fieldwork and Topsoil Moisture

District	Days Suitable for Fieldwork	Topsoil Moisture			
		Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	April 26 - May 2		May 2		
Northwest	4.9	-	17	79	4
Northeast	4.9	-	-	97	3
West	5.1	1	17	75	7
Central	5.2	1	34	64	1
East	4.6	-	7	79	14
W Southwest	5.4	1	8	87	4
E Southeast	5.6	2	11	80	7
Southwest	3.9	-	2	59	39
Southeast	3.7	-	1	40	59
State	4.9	1	11	74	14

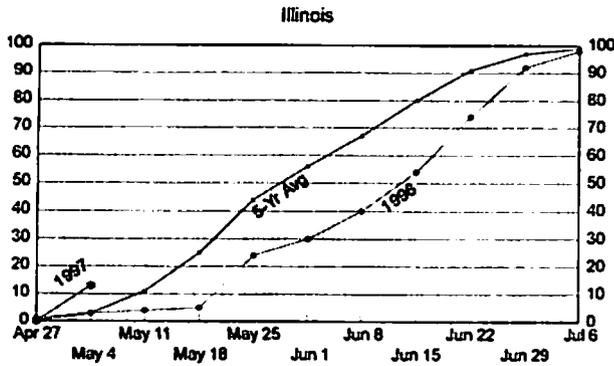
Crop Progress by District

District	Corn Acreage Percent Planted	Soybean Acreage Percent Planted

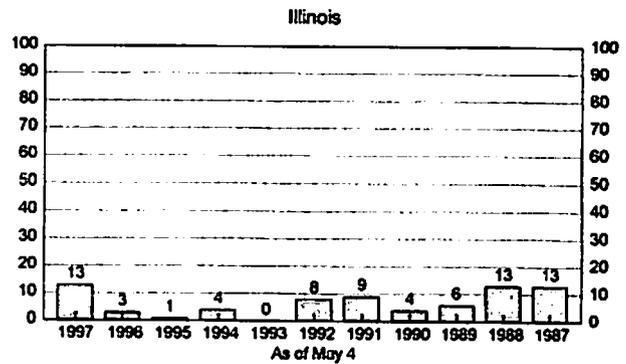
May 4		
Northwest	82	20
Northeast	80	8
West	77	13
Central	94	21
East	97	12
W Southwest	83	19
E Southeast	65	10
Southwest	33	1
Southeast	15	1

State	77	13

Soybeans - Percent Planted



Soybeans - Percent Planted



Temperature and Precipitation

District	Temperature			Precipitation		
	Average	Normal	Departure	Total	Normal	Departure

April 28 - May 4						
Northwest	51.5	55.0	-3.4	.99	.80	.19
Northeast	51.5	53.8	-2.3	1.20	.85	.34
West	53.8	57.6	-3.7	1.15	.80	.36
Central	53.4	56.9	-3.5	.98	.81	.17
East	52.8	56.2	-3.5	1.39	.79	.60
W Southwest	55.1	58.4	-3.4	.72	.81	-.09
E Southeast	55.0	58.7	-3.7	1.29	.74	.54
Southwest	56.8	60.1	-3.3	1.10	.85	.24
Southeast	56.6	60.4	-3.8	1.69	.95	.74

State	53.9	57.3	-3.4	1.14	.82	.32

NEWSPAPER TIME VALUE

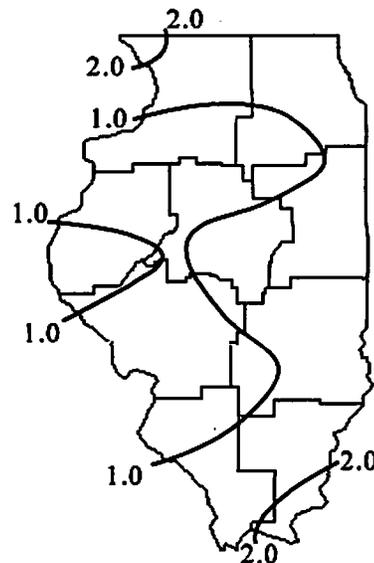
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Data and maps provided by the Illinois State Water Survey, Department of Natural Resources, 2204 Griffith Drive, Champaign, Il. 61820, (217)244-8226.



Temperature Departure
April 28 - May 4



Precipitation Total
April 28 - May 4

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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