

ILLINOIS WEATHER & CROPS



**ILLINOIS
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE**

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Unusually mild temperatures were experienced throughout the state last month, with no sub-zero weather. Precipitation has been near normal. Topsoil moisture was mostly adequate with ground water mainly short. As of January 2, topsoil moisture was rated five percent surplus, 68 percent adequate, 25 percent short, and two percent very short. The above-freezing weather has made feed lots muddy and cattle feeding difficult. Cattle were fed hay where snow cover was present, especially in northwestern areas. In areas not snow-covered, livestock were also foraging in corn fields. On-again warm weather with soaking rains may send the wrong message on winter wheat dormancy. The winter wheat crop may turn susceptible to damage if the weather turns well below freezing. As of January 2, winter wheat was rated at eight percent excellent, 59 percent good, 30 percent fair, two percent poor and one percent very poor. The movement of stored grain slowed due to low prices as farmers are waiting for a rebound.

Illinois District Summary

District	Topsoil Moisture			
	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
January 2, 1998				
Northwest	-	17	73	10
Northeast	-	39	55	6
West	16	10	72	2
Central	-	23	77	-
East	4	18	74	4
W Southwest	-	33	61	6
E Southeast	2	44	54	-
Southwest	-	14	78	8
Southeast	-	8	85	7
State	2	25	68	5

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

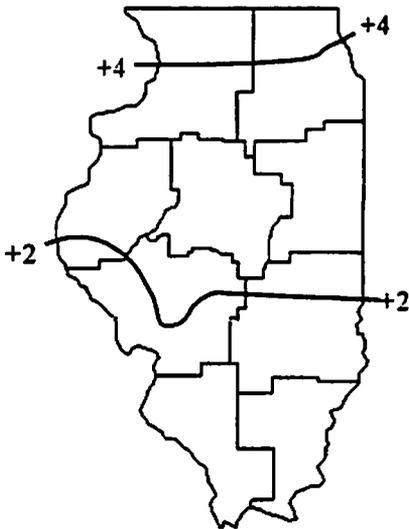
Temperature and Precipitation

District	Temperature			Precipitation		
	Average	Normal	Departure	Total	Normal	Departure
December 1-31, 1997						
Northwest	28.6	24.9	3.7	1.59	1.95	-0.36
Northeast	29.8	26.2	3.6	1.76	2.31	-0.56
West	31.0	28.5	2.5	2.22	2.16	0.06
Central	31.4	28.2	3.2	1.77	2.57	-0.80
East	32.0	28.5	3.5	1.57	2.77	-1.20
W Southwest	32.9	31.0	1.9	2.35	2.79	-0.44
E Southeast	33.3	32.0	1.3	2.19	3.39	-1.21
Southwest	35.4	34.5	0.8	2.81	3.70	-0.88
Southeast	35.5	35.1	0.4	3.18	3.87	-0.70
State	32.0	29.7	2.4	2.12	2.79	-0.68

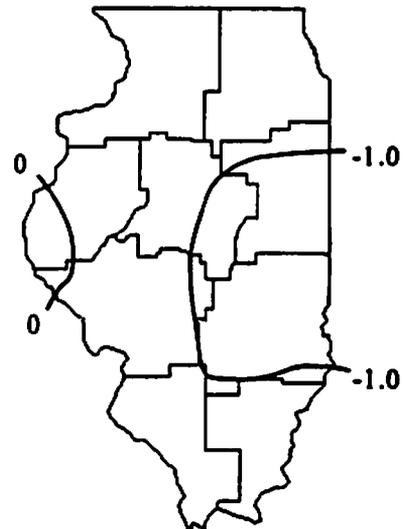
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Temperature Departure
December 1997



Precipitation Departure
December 1997

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.