

ILLINOIS WEATHER & CROPS

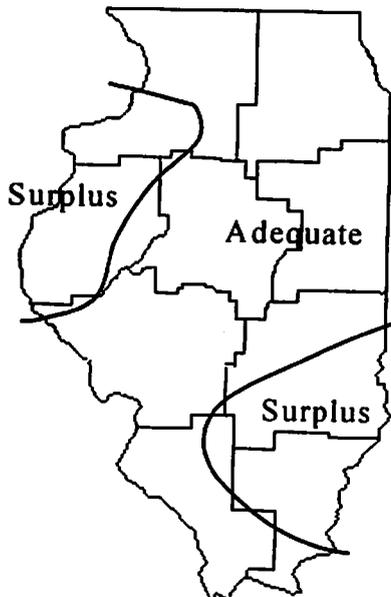


**ILLINOIS
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE**

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
<http://www.agr.state.il.us/agstats.htm>

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Corn planting was accomplished in some areas of the central and west southwest districts late last week as soils dried enough to allow farmers into their fields. Only very spotty planting in the driest fields occurred elsewhere in the state due to the intermittent rain on already soggy soils. Corn planting statewide is behind schedule with only seven percent of the crop in the ground compared to last year's early start of 33 percent and the five-year average of 17 percent. There was an average of 2.2 days suitable for fieldwork statewide last week. Oat seedings are back on pace after last week with 69 percent of the crop planted compared to 93 percent last year and the average of 70 percent. Airplanes and ATV's were being used last week to apply nitrogen to the wheat crop where excessive soil moisture prevented any other type of application. Condition of the wheat crop was rated one percent very poor, two percent poor, 16 percent fair, 66 percent good and 15 percent excellent. Wheat growth is reportedly one to two weeks ahead of normal. Alfalfa conditions were one percent very poor, one percent poor, ten percent fair, 68 percent good and 20 percent excellent. Pasture conditions were one percent poor, 14 percent fair, 66 percent good and 19 percent excellent. Topsoil moisture levels declined last week and as of April 24 were rated one percent short, 53 percent adequate and 46 percent surplus. Activities last week included planting of corn and oats with a field or two of soybeans being planted, applying fertilizer and chemicals and just waiting for the fields to dry.



**Topsoil Moisture
April 24**

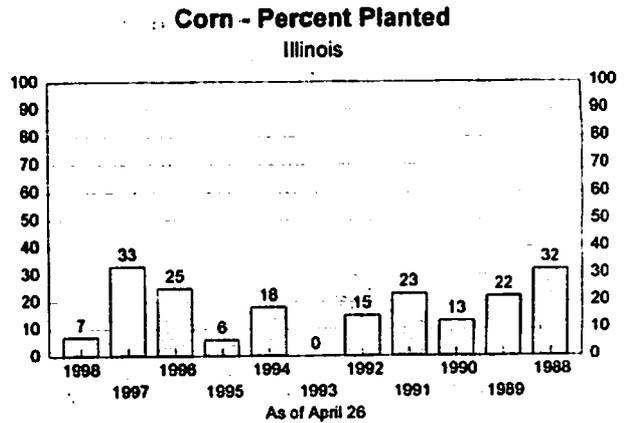
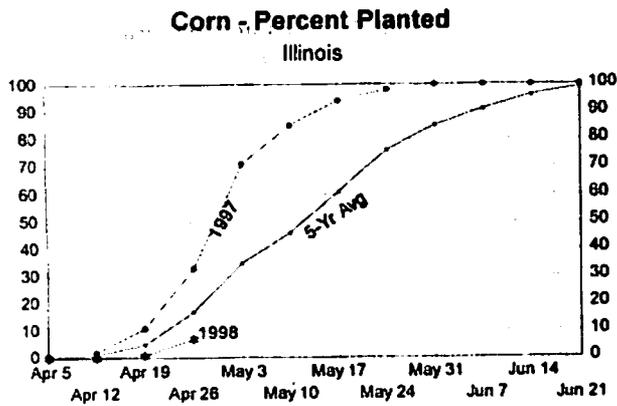
INTERNET E-MAIL: The Illinois Weather & Crops report is offered by an e-mail subscription at no charge. To receive the report, send an e-mail message to nass-il@nass.usda.gov.

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.

Crop Conditions

Crop	: Very Poor	: Poor	: Fair	: Good	: Excellent
April 24					
Winter Wheat	1	2	16	66	15
Alfalfa	1	1	10	68	20
Pasture	-	1	14	66	19

The charts on this page are available from the World Wide Web site noted on the front page. There are also additional charts at the site that are not shown here.



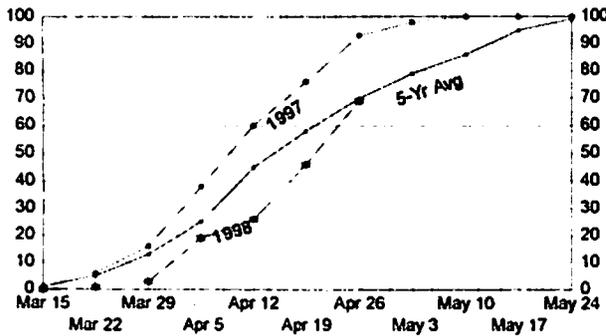
Days Suitable for Fieldwork and Topsoil Moisture

District	Days Suitable	Topsoil Moisture			
	for Fieldwork	: Very Short	: Short	: Adequate	: Surplus
	April 18 - 24	April 24			
Northwest	1.7	-	-	36	64
Northeast	2.2	-	-	65	35
West	2.0	-	-	50	50
Central	2.5	-	-	84	16
East	2.6	-	-	75	25
W Southwest	3.1	-	1	75	24
E Southeast	1.8	-	-	39	61
Southwest	2.1	-	4	39	57
Southeast	1.4	-	-	23	77
State	2.2	-	1	53	46

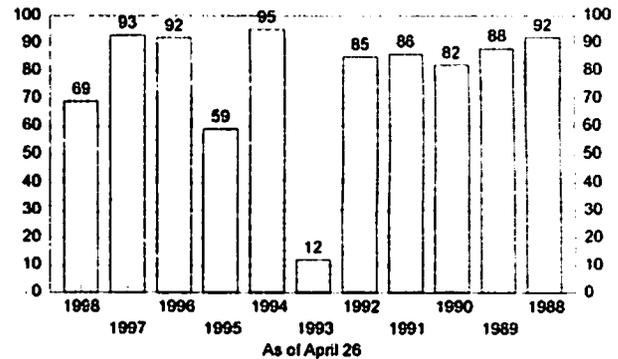
WORLD WIDE WEB: The Illinois Agricultural Statistics Service has a home page at <http://www.agr.state.il.us/agstats.htm>. You can find various farm facts about Illinois as well as press releases and links to other statistical information.

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.

Oats - Percent Seeded
Illinois



Oats - Percent Seeded
Illinois



Temperature and Precipitation

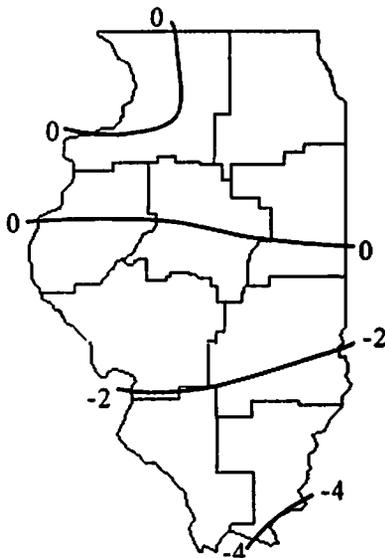
District	Temperature			Precipitation		
	Average	Normal	Departure	Total	Normal	Departure
April 20 - 26						
Northwest	53.0	53.6	-0.6	.86	1.01	-.15
Northeast	53.8	52.4	1.4	1.19	.91	.28
West	56.7	56.9	-0.3	.50	.98	-.47
Central	56.1	56.0	0.1	.53	1.02	-.49
East	56.1	55.3	0.8	.79	1.04	-.25
W Southwest	57.0	58.4	-1.3	.21	1.03	-.82
E Southeast	57.0	58.3	-1.3	.35	1.04	-.69
Southwest	58.4	60.4	-2.0	.34	1.04	-.71
Southeast	57.7	60.5	-2.8	.35	1.06	-.71
State	56.1	56.7	-0.6	.57	1.01	-.44

NEWSPAPER TIME VALUE

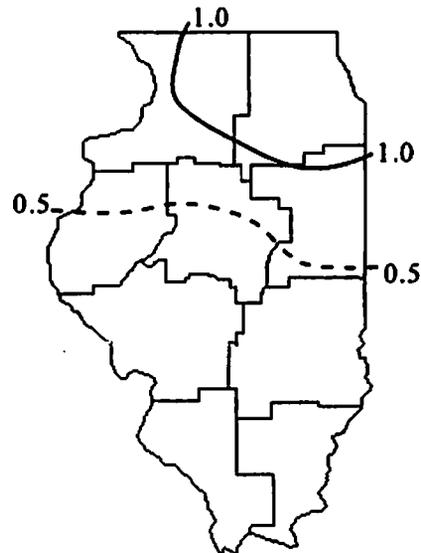
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Weather data and maps provided by the Illinois State Water Survey, Department of Natural Resources, 2204 Griffith Drive, Champaign, Il. 61820, (217)244-8226.



Temperature Departure
April 20 - 26



Precipitation Total
April 20 - 26

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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