

# ILLINOIS WEATHER & CROPS



ILLINOIS  
AGRICULTURAL  
STATISTICS SERVICE  
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ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
<http://www.agr.state.il.us/agstats.htm>

RELEASED: April 3, 2000 3 P.M., CT  
VOL. 21, NO. 06

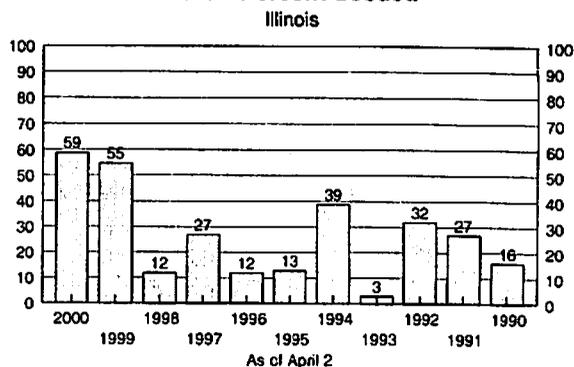
Farmers utilized 5.1 days suitable for fieldwork last week seeding oats and forage crops along with working their fields in preparation for corn and soybean planting. As of April 2, 59 percent of the oat crop had been seeded compared to 55 percent last year and 24 percent for the five-year average. There were reports from various areas of the state that some farmers had begun planting corn and soybeans on a limited number of acres. Most areas of the state received some minor rain showers last week but the dryness of the soil accompanied by gusty winds quickly dried the topsoil out again. Dry subsoils continue to be the greatest concern of farmers right now. There will be enough moisture to get a crop planted but there is little reserve in the subsoil to sustain the crop during a short dry period. Soil moisture statewide was rated 18 percent very short, 48 percent short, 32 percent adequate and two percent surplus. The southeast region of the state is primarily the only region where reports of excessive soil moisture were received. Condition of the wheat crop has improved with the recent rains and was rated 22 percent excellent, 55 percent good, 18 percent fair and five percent poor. Vegetable planting has begun in the north and peaches and nectarines were blooming in the south. Other activities for the last week of March included applying fertilizer and herbicides, preparing equipment for planting, waiting for soil temperatures to warm up, and visiting local FSA offices to certify wheat acres, sign up for the oilseed program and fill out LDP and price support applications.

## Crop Progress

Crop Stage	2000	1999	5-Year Average
April 2			
<b>CORN:</b>			
Planted	1/	1	1/
<b>OATS:</b>			
Planted	59	55	24

1/ Less than one percent.

## Oats - Percent Seeded



This is the first Weekly Illinois Weather and Crops report for the 2000 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.

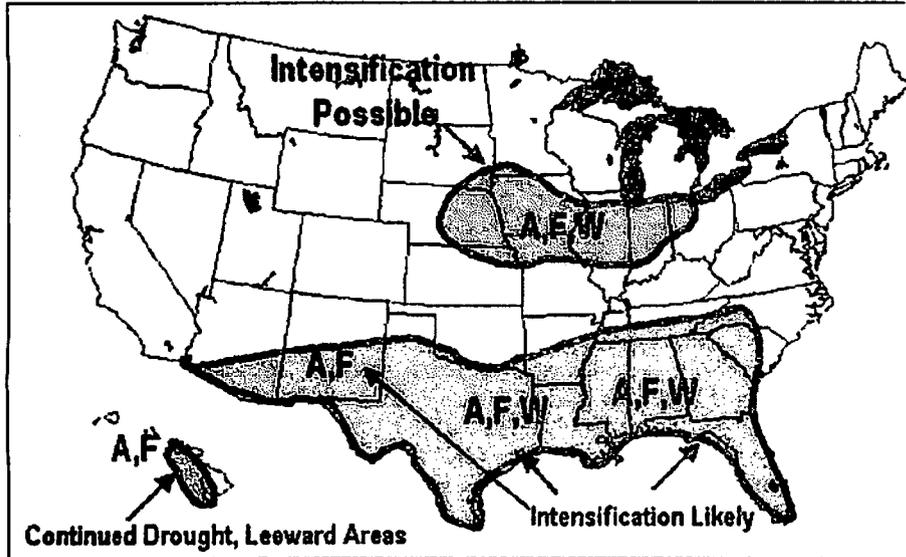
The cooperation of our weekly reporters makes this service available to Illinois agriculture. The Illinois Agricultural Statistics Service express' our thanks for the faithful help of these volunteers.

**Crop Conditions**

Crop	: Very Poor	: Poor	: Fair	: Good	: Excellent
			March 31		
Winter Wheat	-	5	18	55	22
Alfalfa	-	2	26	63	9
Pasture	1	8	35	50	6

# Spring U.S. Drought Outlook

April - May - June 2000: Areas Most at Risk



Anticipated Impacts: (A)griculture  
 (F)orest Fires  
 (W)ater Supplies



**Days Suitable for Fieldwork and Topsoil Moisture**

District	Days Suitable for Fieldwork	Very Short	Topsoil Moisture		
			Short	Adequate	Surplus
	March 25 - 31		March 31		
Northwest	6.6	9	54	37	-
Northeast	5.5	30	44	26	-
West	5.5	16	58	26	-
Central	5.5	34	48	18	-
East	5.0	27	47	23	3
W Southwest	4.6	6	63	31	-
E Southeast	4.9	19	39	42	-
Southwest	5.2	-	47	52	1
Southeast	1.1	-	3	64	33
State	5.1	18	48	32	2

**Weather Summary**

Location	Maximum	Temperature Minimum	Departure	Precipitation
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March 27 - April 2				
<b>Northwest:</b>				
Freeport	69	26	3	0.05
Kewanee	70	24	2	0.19
Moline	73	24	3	0.10
Mount Carroll	68	24	5	0.14
Paw Paw	68	26	4	0.33
Rochelle	65	24	2	0.11
Rockford	69	25	4	0.13
<b>Northeast:</b>				
Aurora	69	22	3	0.23
Chicago	68	28	3	0.21
De Kalb	68	27	5	0.18
Lake Villa	65	27	5	0.16
McHenry	67	24	5	0.10
Morris	70	28	4	0.27
Ottawa	72	29	3	0.35
Park Forest	68	26	3	0.19
<b>West:</b>				
Bentley	71	27	3	0.40
Galesburg	65	19	3	0.00
Quincy	70	28	3	0.43
<b>Central:</b>				
Bloomington	75	28	3	0.35
Decatur	71	28	-1	0.34
Lincoln	73	24	0	0.15
Peoria	71	26	3	0.27
<b>East:</b>				
Champaign	71	24	2	0.17
Pontiac	71	28	2	0.48
<b>West Southwest:</b>				
Carlinville	71	30	0	0.33
Morrisonville	71	29	-2	0.51
Springfield	71	28	2	0.66
<b>East Southeast:</b>				
Brownstown	72	29	0	0.38
Flora	71	27	1	0.08
Hutsonville	71	29	-2	0.23
Iuka	72	28	-2	0.31
Lawrenceville	72	28	-2	0.20
Newton	71	28	-2	0.27
Paris	69	29	-1	0.12
Windsor	71	30	1	0.29
<b>Southwest:</b>				
Carbondale	72	29	0	0.40
Lebanon	74	29	-2	0.55
Olive Branch	74	36	-1	0.66
<b>Southeast:</b>				
Mt Vernon	71	27	0	0.37

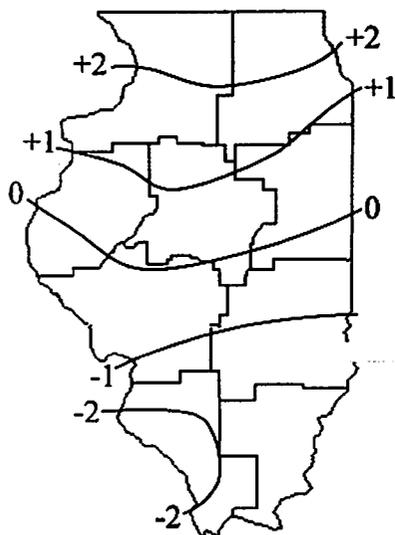
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Departure is from the overall average for the week during the 1961-90 period.

NEWSPAPER TIME VALUE

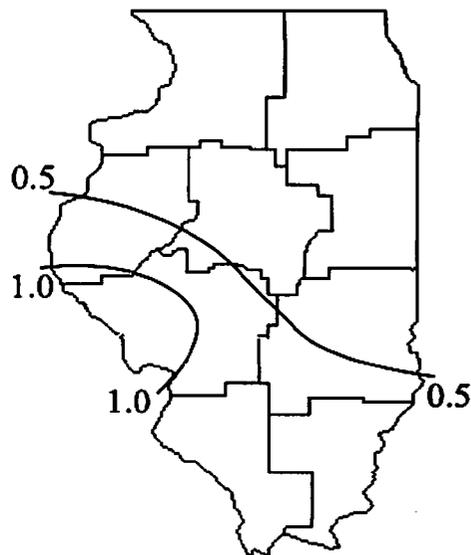
Illinois Weather & Crops  
April 3, 2000

Illinois Weather & Crops (ISSN 0273-8635) is published weekly April-October, semimonthly in January, monthly in December, February and March and three issues in November, by the Illinois Dept. of Agriculture, Illinois Agricultural Statistics Service, Room 54, Department of Agriculture Bldg., 801 Sangamon Ave., Springfield, IL 62702. For information on subscribing, send request to the above address. Periodical postage paid at Springfield, Illinois. Postmaster: Send Address Change to Illinois Weather & Crops, P.O. Box 19283, Springfield, IL 62794-9283.

Maps provided by the Illinois State Water Survey  
Visit their home page at <http://mcc.sws.uiuc.edu>  
(217)244-8226



Temperature Departure  
March 27 - April 2



Precipitation Total  
March 27 - April 2

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.

"Printed by authority of the State of Illinois" 4/3/00, 2,375, 1444

