

# ILLINOIS WEATHER & CROPS



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

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 VOL. 23, NO. 4

## Agricultural Summary

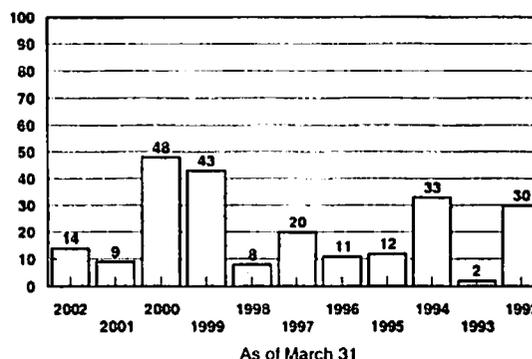
Farmers statewide utilized an average of 1.3 days suitable for fieldwork last week, ranging from nearly four days in the northwest to none in the south. Farmers in some areas of far northern Illinois were able to spread dry fertilizer, apply anhydrous and seed oats during the week. Fields in the rest of the state were too wet for virtually any fieldwork to be accomplished. The cooler than normal weather during the month of March and above average precipitation in the south has kept fields saturated to the point where application of nitrogen to the winter wheat crop has been delayed. Some reports indicated that farmers would begin having nitrogen applied by airplane soon if soil conditions did not improve. Topsoil moisture statewide was rated one percent very short, 13 percent short, 46 percent adequate and 40 percent surplus. The condition of the wheat crop continues to improve as it comes out of dormancy and was rated 12 percent excellent, 56 percent good, 31 percent fair and one percent poor. Other activities being completed last week included hauling grain where roads were solid enough, taking delivery on seed, completing maintenance on machinery and attending farm sales.

### Crop Progress

| Crop Stage   | 2002 | 2001 | 5-Year Average |
|--------------|------|------|----------------|
| March 31     |      |      |                |
| <b>CORN:</b> |      |      |                |
| Planted      | 1/   | 1/   | 1/             |
| <b>OATS:</b> |      |      |                |
| Planted      | 14   | 9    | 26             |

1/ Less than one percent

### Oats - Percent Seeded Illinois



This is the first Weekly Illinois Weather and Crops report for the 2002 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 29 |        |             |
| Winter Wheat | -           | 1      | 31       | 56     | 12          |
| Alfalfa      | -           | 1      | 29       | 65     | 5           |
| Pasture      | 5           | 8      | 33       | 50     | 4           |

**Soil Moisture and Days Suitable for Fieldwork Table**

| District     | Days Suitable | Topsoil Moisture |          |            |           |
|--------------|---------------|------------------|----------|------------|-----------|
|              | for Fieldwork | : Very Short     | : Short  | : Adequate | : Surplus |
|              | March 23-29   |                  | March 29 |            |           |
| Northwest    | 3.9           | 2                | 33       | 62         | 3         |
| Northeast    | 1.7           | 5                | 15       | 60         | 20        |
| West         | 2.1           | 1                | 31       | 66         | 2         |
| Central      | 0.7           | -                | 7        | 62         | 31        |
| East         | 0.4           | -                | 8        | 47         | 45        |
| W. Southwest | 0.3           | -                | -        | 56         | 44        |
| E. Southeast | 0.4           | -                | -        | 11         | 89        |
| Southwest    | 0.0           | -                | -        | 5          | 95        |
| Southeast    | 0.0           | -                | -        | 2          | 98        |
| State        | 1.3           | 1                | 13       | 46         | 40        |

**Temperature and Precipitation**

| District    | Temperature |          |             | Precipitation |          |             |
|-------------|-------------|----------|-------------|---------------|----------|-------------|
|             | : Average   | : Normal | : Departure | : Total       | : Normal | : Departure |
|             |             |          |             | March 1 - 31  |          |             |
| Northwest   | 33.0        | 37.0     | -4.0        | 1.82          | 2.53     | -0.71       |
| Northeast   | 33.5        | 37.1     | -3.7        | 2.26          | 2.54     | -0.28       |
| West        | 36.2        | 40.7     | -4.4        | 1.95          | 2.87     | -0.92       |
| Central     | 36.1        | 40.0     | -3.9        | 2.31          | 2.99     | -0.68       |
| East        | 35.8        | 39.7     | -3.9        | 3.13          | 3.06     | 0.07        |
| W Southwest | 38.3        | 42.6     | -4.3        | 3.40          | 3.32     | 0.08        |
| E Southeast | 39.4        | 43.1     | -3.8        | 5.14          | 3.63     | 1.50        |
| Southwest   | 41.9        | 45.5     | -3.6        | 6.44          | 4.01     | 2.43        |
| Southeast   | 43.3        | 45.8     | -2.5        | 6.95          | 4.33     | 2.62        |
| State       | 37.3        | 41.1     | -3.8        | 3.59          | 3.21     | 0.38        |

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

**Weather Information Table**

| Location               | Maximum | Temperature<br>Minimum | Departure | Precipitation | Growing<br>Degree<br>Days |
|------------------------|---------|------------------------|-----------|---------------|---------------------------|
| -----                  |         |                        |           |               |                           |
| March 25 - 31          |         |                        |           |               |                           |
| <b>Northwest:</b>      |         |                        |           |               |                           |
| Freeport               | 55      | 19                     | -4        | 0.24          | 0                         |
| Kewanee                | 58      | 21                     | -6        | 0.45          | 0                         |
| Moline                 | 60      | 23                     | -3        | 0.54          | 2                         |
| Mount Carroll          | 60      | 20                     | -3        | 0.15          | 0                         |
| Paw Paw                | 55      | 20                     | -4        | 0.58          | 0                         |
| Rochelle               | 55      | 18                     | -7        | 0.54          | 0                         |
| Rockford               | 55      | 19                     | -4        | 0.29          | 0                         |
| <b>Northeast:</b>      |         |                        |           |               |                           |
| Aurora                 | 51      | 21                     | -7        | 0.63          | 0                         |
| Chicago                | 50      | 23                     | -7        | 0.67          | 0                         |
| Lake Villa             | 51      | 20                     | -5        | 0.42          | 0                         |
| McHenry                | 52      | 18                     | -5        | 0.70          | 0                         |
| Morris                 | 54      | 23                     | -7        | 0.39          | 0                         |
| Ottawa                 | 57      | 23                     | -6        | 0.26          | 0                         |
| Park Forest            | 53      | 18                     | -7        | 0.44          | 0                         |
| <b>West:</b>           |         |                        |           |               |                           |
| Galesburg              | 58      | 22                     | -6        | 0.21          | 0                         |
| Prairie City           | 58      | 20                     | -6        | 0.45          | 0                         |
| Quincy                 | 61      | 23                     | -6        | 0.16          | 1                         |
| <b>Central:</b>        |         |                        |           |               |                           |
| Bloomington            | 58      | 23                     | -8        | 0.24          | 0                         |
| Decatur                | 60      | 23                     | -8        | 1.10          | 0                         |
| Havana                 | 58      | 20                     | -7        | 0.45          | 0                         |
| Lincoln                | 54      | 22                     | -10       | 0.24          | 0                         |
| Peoria                 | 55      | 24                     | -6        | 0.31          | 0                         |
| <b>East:</b>           |         |                        |           |               |                           |
| Champaign              | 56      | 10                     | -12       | 1.10          | 0                         |
| Pontiac                | 54      | 23                     | -7        | 0.70          | 0                         |
| <b>West Southwest:</b> |         |                        |           |               |                           |
| Carlinville            | 60      | 23                     | -9        | 1.18          | 0                         |
| Morrisonville          | 59      | 22                     | -10       | 1.88          | 0                         |
| Springfield            | 59      | 24                     | -8        | 0.50          | 0                         |
| <b>East Southeast:</b> |         |                        |           |               |                           |
| Effingham              | 65      | 21                     | -8        | 1.78          | 0                         |
| Flora                  | 61      | 22                     | -8        | 2.33          | 0                         |
| Hutsonville            | 65      | 21                     | -8        | 1.56          | 1                         |
| Iuka                   | 66      | 23                     | -9        | 1.37          | 1                         |
| Newton                 | 61      | 22                     | -8        | 2.25          | 0                         |
| Paris                  | 60      | 22                     | -9        | 2.01          | 0                         |
| Windsor                | 58      | 22                     | -8        | 2.00          | 0                         |
| <b>Southwest:</b>      |         |                        |           |               |                           |
| Carbondale             | 70      | 26                     | -5        | 1.81          | 9                         |
| Lebanon                | 61      | 24                     | -9        | 1.52          | 0                         |
| Steeleville            | 62      | 24                     | -9        | 1.74          | 2                         |
| <b>Southeast:</b>      |         |                        |           |               |                           |
| Benton                 | 65      | 24                     | -7        | 1.96          | 2                         |
| Grayville              | 64      | 25                     | -8        | 2.56          | 0                         |
| Mt Vernon              | 64      | 22                     | -7        | 1.55          | 1                         |

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Data is for the weekly period that ends on Sunday at 8:00 a.m.

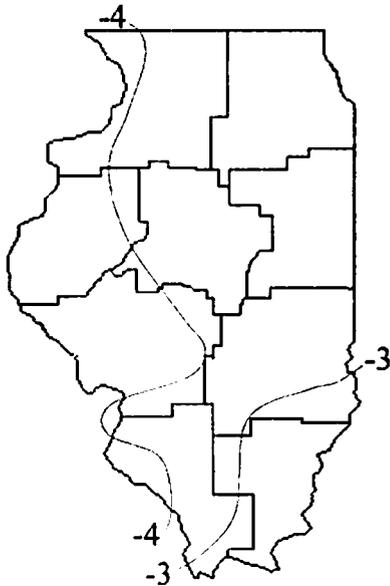
Data prepared by AWIS, Inc.  
Visit the AWIS home page at [www.awis.com](http://www.awis.com)  
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NEWSPAPER TIME VALUE

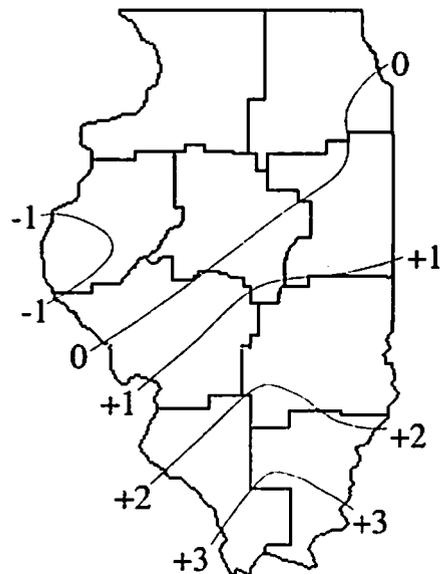
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Maps provided by the Illinois State Water Survey  
Visit their home page at <http://mcc.sws.uiuc.edu>  
(217)244-8226



Temperature (°F) Departure  
March 1 - 31



Precipitation (in.) Departure  
March 1 - 31

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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