

ILLINOIS WEATHER & CROPS



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

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AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY

Farmers have begun seeding oats in the north and anhydrous ammonia was being applied recently in central Illinois. Oat seeding advanced to nine percent complete as of March 30, compared to 12 percent last year and the average of 22 percent. Average temperature departure from normal for the month was plus or minus one and one-half degrees. Precipitation for the month ranged from one and one-half inches to nearly three inches. In the Southwest and Southeast Districts, more than half of the topsoil moisture is rated surplus. Farmers in this area have begun spreading nitrogen on their wheat crop with four wheelers as the topsoil is very saturated. As of March 30, topsoil moisture statewide was rated as seven percent very short, 29 percent short, 53 percent adequate and 11 percent surplus. The condition of the wheat crop improved this month with two percent rated poor, 26 percent rated fair, 55 percent rated good and 17 percent rated excellent. Warmer weather and rain showers during the month have combined to help the wheat crop begin its spring "green up". Other activities during the month included finalizing farm program signup, preparing income taxes, hauling grain, spreading fertilizers and chemicals, planting peas and potatoes, and preparing equipment for spring field work.

Illinois District Summary

District	Topsoil Moisture			
	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
March 30				
Northwest	7	44	49	-
Northeast	24	57	19	-
West	13	33	41	13
Central	13	33	53	1
East	5	31	62	2
W Southwest	-	10	88	2
E Southeast	4	30	55	11
Southwest	-	-	40	60
Southeast	-	-	43	57
State	7	29	53	11

Temperature and Precipitation

District	Temperature			Precipitation		
	Average	Normal	Departure	Total	Normal	Departure
March 1 - 30, 2003						
Northwest	35.3	36.7	-1.5	1.50	2.45	-0.95
Northeast	36.4	36.9	-0.5	1.77	2.43	-0.66
West	39.6	40.4	-0.9	2.39	2.79	-0.40
Central	39.9	39.8	0.1	2.07	2.90	-0.83
East	40.7	39.5	1.2	1.61	2.94	-1.33
W Southwest	42.9	42.4	0.6	2.92	3.23	-0.31
E Southeast	44.0	42.9	1.1	2.47	3.49	-1.02
Southwest	46.0	45.3	0.7	2.56	3.90	-1.34
Southeast	46.6	45.6	0.9	2.66	4.18	-1.52
State	41.0	40.9	0.2	2.21	3.10	-0.89

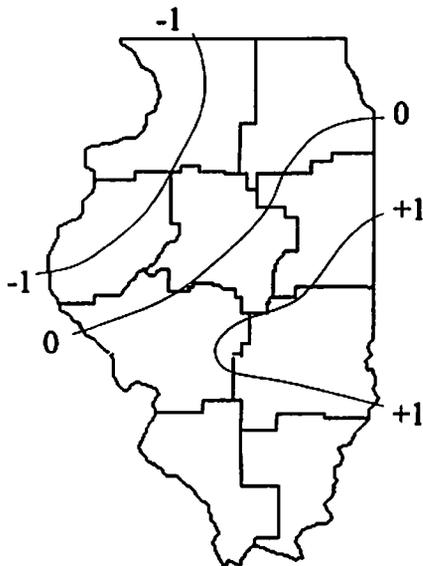
Weather data provided by Illinois State Water Survey, Department of Natural Resources, 2204 Griffith Drive, Champaign, IL 61820, (217)244-8226.

NEWSPAPER TIME VALUE

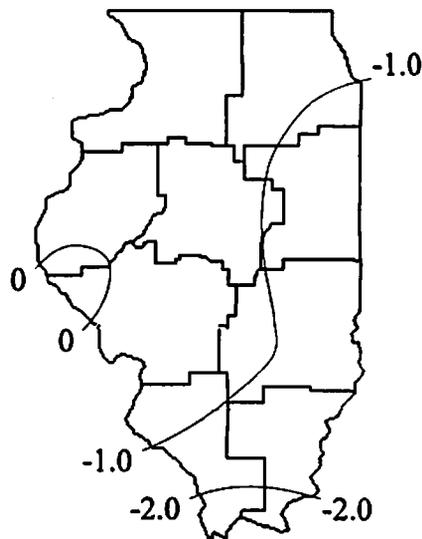
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Maps provided by the Illinois State Water Survey
Visit their home page at <http://mcc.sws.uiuc.edu>
(217)244-8226



Temperature (°F) Departure
March 1 - 30



Precipitation (in.) Departure
March 1 - 30

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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