

(Continued from front cover)

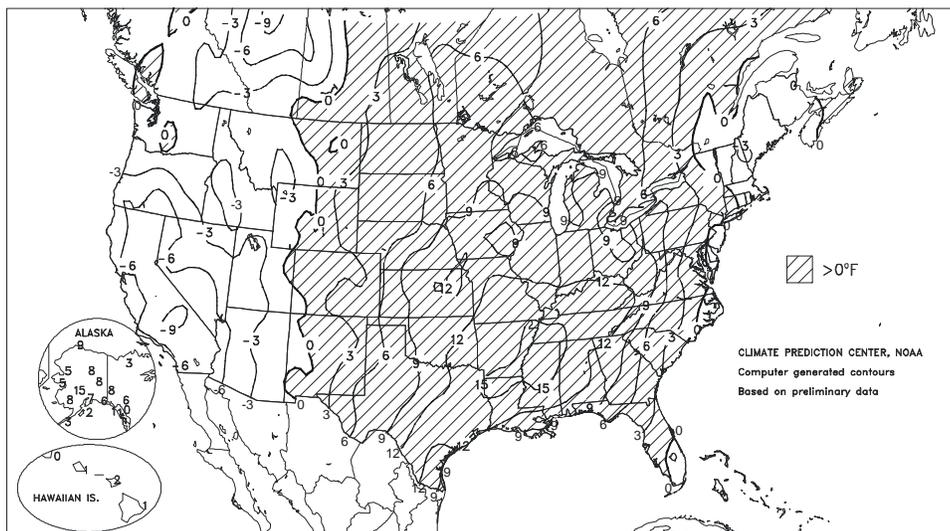
**central Gulf Coast States**, capping a record-warm October. Warm, mostly dry weather on the **High Plains** and along the **East Coast** promoted fieldwork and winter wheat emergence and establishment. However, widespread showers slowed summer crop harvesting in several other areas, including the **southeastern Plains**, the **middle Mississippi Valley**, and much of the **Midwest**.

**Corpus Christi, TX**, notched nine daily-record highs during the month, helping to boost its October average temperature to 80.0°F (6.2°F above normal). The former record of 79.6°F was established in October 1941. Similarly, **New Orleans, LA**, posted its warmest October on record (previously, 75.4°F in 1947) with an average temperature of 76.6°F (6.6°F above normal). Records for October warmth were also established in at least a half dozen other cities across **southern Louisiana** and **coastal Texas**. **Brownsville, TX** (80.4°F, or 5.4°F above normal), edged a monthly record that had stood since 1919 and reached or exceeded 90°F on 18 October days, tying a record previously attained in 1883, 1918, and 1993. During the last week of the month, daily-record warmth briefly spread as far north as the **central Plains**, where **Hill City, KS**, marked a high of 84°F on October 28. Warmth reached the **Mid-Atlantic States** at week's end, when **Blacksburg, VA** (80°F on October 30), collected a daily record.

Cool conditions preceded and accompanied another round of stormy weather in the **West**, where daily-record lows were set or tied in locations such as **Redmond, OR** (18°F on October 25), and **Sandberg, CA** (33°F on October 26). During the 2-week period ending October 28, precipitation ranged from 10 to 20 inches at several locations in **southern California's San Gabriel Mountains**. Unofficially, nearly 22 inches of rain soaked **Opids Camp**, while more than 15 inches fell at the **Mt. Baldy Fire Station**. October precipitation totaled more than 1,000 percent of normal at several **southern California** locations, including **Burbank** (6.17 inches), **Ramona** (5.82 inches), and **Long Beach** (5.34 inches). It was also the wettest October on record at the aforementioned stations, along with **southern California** locations such as **San Diego** (4.98 inches; previously 3.67 inches in 1925) and **Riverside** (3.93 inches; previously, 1.75 inches in 1987). In addition, **San Diego** experienced its wettest day in more than 67 years on October 27, when rainfall totaled 2.70 inches. The only wetter days in **San Diego's** history were April 5, 1926 (3.23 inches), October 4, 1925 (2.95 inches), and February 6, 1937 (2.71

Departure of Average Temperature from Normal (°F)

OCT 24 - 30, 2004



inches). Heavy snow fell farther inland, resulting in daily-record totals in locations such as **Austin, NV** (11.0 inches on October 27), and **Flagstaff, AZ** (9.8 inches on October 28). **Flagstaff's** season-to-date snowfall reached 15.3 inches, a total not attained during the 2003-04 season until February 4, 2004. Elsewhere, locally heavy showers peppered areas from **Texas to the Midwest**. Selected daily-record totals included 3.53 inches (on October 24) in **San Antonio, TX**; 2.93 inches (on October 25) in **El Dorado, AR**; and 1.47 inches (on October 26) in **Moline, IL**. Toward week's end, heavy rain arrived in the **upper Midwest**, where **Fargo, ND**, collected consecutive daily-record totals (1.56 and 1.05 inches on October 29 and 30). In **South Dakota**, daily records included 2.08 inches (on October 28) in **Watertown** and 1.65 inches (on October 29) in **Mobridge**.

For the fourth consecutive week, mild weather (temperatures generally 5 to 15°F above normal) prevailed across the **Alaskan mainland**. On October 26, **King Salmon** noted a daily-record high of 49°F. Precipitation continued to ease lingering dryness across **east-central Alaska**, where **Fairbanks' October** total (1.12 inches, or 122 percent of normal) included 17.0 inches of snow (136 percent). Farther south, several rounds of locally heavy showers affected **Hawaii**, where weekly totals included 4.25 inches in **Lihue, Kauai**, and 4.13 inches in **Hilo**, on the **Big Island**. Nearly half (1.85 inches) of **Lihue's** rain fell on October 25, establishing a record for the date. Rainfall was especially heavy at week's end on parts of **Oahu**, where the **Manoa Lyon Arboretum** measured 8.71 inches in a 6-hour period on October 30. However, showers bypassed **Kahului, Maui**, capping its driest October on record (a trace, or 1.05 inches below normal, tying 1984 and 1996). **Kahului** also notched a daily-record high (91°F on October 26).