

WORLD AGRICULTURAL WEATHER HIGHLIGHTS

July 11, 2008

1 - UNITED STATES

Frequent, locally heavy showers and thunderstorms worsened flooding in parts of the upper Midwest and the middle Mississippi Valley. The wetness, combined with periods of unseasonably cool weather in June and early July, delayed soybean and corn development throughout the Nation's mid-section. Soft red winter wheat harvesting was also behind schedule. Wet weather eased or alleviated drought across the northern Plains, although cool weather slowed crop development. Dryness and occasional heat stressed summer crops on the southern High Plains, although favorably wetter conditions prevailed in eastern sections of the southern Plains. Generally dry weather extended from the Delta to the southern Atlantic Coast, limiting moisture for pastures and rain-fed summer crops, including cotton. In late June and early July, record heat and dryness dominated the West. While advancing development of summer row crops and winter grains, conditions favored the development and spread of wildfires, particularly in California. At the same time, monsoon showers signaled the start of the rainy season in the Southwest.

2 - CANADA

Timely June showers benefited vegetative spring grains and oilseeds in previously dry sections of the southeastern Prairies. By July, the western Prairies received warmer weather needed for crop development. Mild, wet weather created overall favorable moisture levels for summer crops and pastures in eastern Canada, but drier weather was needed for maturation and harvesting of winter wheat.

3 - SOUTH AMERICA

In June, sporadic showers aided winter wheat germination in Argentina's southern growing areas but drought resulted in planting delays in Cordoba, Santa Fe, and Entre Rios. In contrast, conditions remained overall favorable for winter wheat in southern Brazil. Mostly dry, warmer-than-normal weather promoted harvesting of coffee, citrus, and sugarcane in key production areas of Sao Paulo and Minas Gerais.

4 - EUROPE

Wetter-than-normal conditions across central and southern Europe maintained adequate to abundant moisture for reproductive to filling winter crops. However, dry, warm weather during the latter half of the month in the Balkans favored winter crop maturation and harvesting. In contrast, below-normal rainfall in Poland and northern Germany reduced soil moisture for reproductive winter grains, although timely showers arrived by month's end.



USDA/OCE – World Agricultural Outlook Board Joint Agricultural Weather Facility

(More details are available in the Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin at <http://www.usda.gov/oce/weather/pubs/index.htm>)

5 - FSU-WESTERN

In June, below-normal precipitation in Ukraine resulted in a steady decline in soil moisture for spring-sown crop development, although the dryness favored winter grain maturation and early harvest activities that were underway at month's end. In Russia, most crop areas received near- to above-normal precipitation, providing abundant moisture for immature winter grains and spring-sown crops. Monthly temperatures averaged 1 to 3 degrees C below normal, slowing crop development. Frost and sub-freezing temperatures were observed in parts of the Volga District during the first 10 days of the month, reportedly causing local damage to spring-sown crops.

6 - FSU-NEW LANDS

In June, showers at month's end in key spring grain producing areas of north-central Kazakhstan reversed a month-long drying trend, benefiting spring grains approaching the reproductive phase of development. In Russia, near- to above-normal precipitation favored spring grains in the Urals District and adjacent areas in the Siberia District. Unseasonably warm and generally dry weather limited moisture for crop development in the southern portion of the Siberia District. Since early July, timely rains fell throughout most spring grain areas, benefiting crops in or nearing reproduction.

7 - MIDDLE EAST AND TURKEY

In Iran, worsening drought reduced prospects for filling winter grains. Across Turkey, below-normal June rainfall and above-normal temperatures favored winter crop maturation and harvesting.

8 - SOUTH ASIA

During June and early July, the monsoon became firmly entrenched over the subcontinent, arriving in northern-most locales up to three weeks early. Locally excessive rainfall in northern India increased moisture reserves for summer grains, oilseeds, and cotton, but caused flooding and fieldwork delays. In contrast, drier-than-normal conditions prevailed in southern India, reducing soil moisture for cotton and groundnuts.

9 - EASTERN ASIA

In June, Tropical Storm Fengshen and heavy monsoon showers caused flooding in southern China. The excessive moisture created unfavorably wet conditions for sugarcane, especially in Guangdong. Meanwhile, increasing rainfall on the North China Plain and in Manchuria throughout the month improved growing conditions for summer crops.

10 - SOUTHEAST ASIA

In June, Typhoon Fengshen crossed the central Philippines, causing flooding and excessively wet conditions for rice and corn in most western growing areas. Near-normal monsoon rainfall in Indochina provided favorable moisture for rice and corn but slowed fieldwork in Vietnam. Oil palm areas of Malaysia and Indonesia received abundant to possibly excessive rainfall from an active monsoon.

11 - AUSTRALIA

During June and early July, periodic showers overspread southern Queensland and most of New South Wales, favoring winter grain planting and early crop development. The rains were especially welcomed in southern New South Wales, where widespread sowing had been delayed by persistent dryness. Elsewhere across the wheat belt, scattered showers in southeastern and western Australia maintained local moisture supplies for vegetative winter grains.