

International Weather and Crop Summary  
NOAA/USDA Joint Agricultural Weather Facility

May 13-19, 2012

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**HIGHLIGHTS**

**EUROPE:** Wet weather further improved winter crop prospects but hampered fieldwork.

**FSU-WESTERN:** Dry, increasingly warm weather reduced soil moisture for winter crops in Russia and southern Ukraine.

**FSU-EASTERN:** Showers maintained favorable soil moisture for spring wheat.

**MIDDLE EAST:** Periods of rain persisted, favoring later-developing winter grains in Turkey but hampering crop maturation and harvesting closer to the Mediterranean Coast.

**NORTHWEST AFRICA:** Sunny skies and above-normal temperatures accelerated winter crop maturation and harvesting.

**SOUTH ASIA:** Seasonably dry weather returned to India as growers

await the onset of the monsoon before beginning wide-scale planting.

**EAST ASIA:** Showers in southern China and across the northeast provided beneficial moisture to summer crops in the early stages of development.

**SOUTHEAST ASIA:** A strong monsoon circulation brought widespread, beneficial rainfall to rice in Indochina and the Philippines.

**AUSTRALIA:** Sunny skies favored winter crop development in the west and summer crop harvesting in the east, but more rain is needed for winter crop sowing in the southeast.

**ARGENTINA:** Late-week showers slowed corn and soybean harvesting.

**BRAZIL:** Rain benefited corn and cotton in central Brazil, but pockets of dryness persisted in some southern winter grain areas.

**MEXICO:** Showers boosted moisture reserves for rain-fed summer crops throughout much of the east.

**CANADIAN PRAIRIES:** Unseasonable warmth and dryness fostered rapid planting of spring crops.

**EASTERN CANADA:** Unfavorably dry weather limited moisture for summer crop germination and vegetative development of winter grains and pastures.

**EUROPE:** Wet weather persisted across much of Europe, favoring winter crop development but hampering fieldwork. A slow-moving Mediterranean storm generated moderate to heavy rain (20-105 mm) from Italy, Greece, and Bulgaria northward into southern and eastern Poland. The wet weather was beneficial for vegetative (north) to reproductive (south) winter grains and oilseeds but hampered corn and sunflower planting. Meanwhile, a cold front drifted across northern and western Europe, supplying beneficial showers (2-25 mm) for winter grains and oilseeds in England, France, and Germany. Despite the widespread wet weather, unfavorably dry conditions persisted from western Poland into Slovakia, further lowering prospects for winter wheat and rapeseed in these locales. In Spain, dry, hot weather (up to 6°C above normal) accelerated winter grain maturation and harvesting. Overall, Europe's wheat, barley, and rapeseed prospects have improved considerably during the spring, as early drought concerns have given way to persistent, widespread rainfall.

**FSU-WESTERN:** Increasingly warm, dry weather in southern and eastern wheat districts contrasted with beneficial rain in western and northern growing areas. A stationary area of high pressure maintained sunny skies and above-normal temperatures (up to 7°C above normal) from southern Ukraine into central Russia, reducing soil moisture and increasing stress on jointing to heading winter wheat. However, satellite imagery depicted increasing shower activity in Russia's Southern District as of May 21, with information on subsequent rainfall to be supplied in next week's *Bulletin*. Meanwhile, showers along a stalled frontal boundary boosted soil moisture for winter crops from northern and western Ukraine (10-60 mm) into Belarus (3-35 mm) and western and northern portions of Russia's Central District (5-20 mm).

**FSU-EASTERN:** Widespread showers and near- to above-normal temperatures maintained favorable crop prospects across the region. Rain tallied 2 to 20 mm in northeastern Kazakhstan and neighboring portions of Russia's Siberia District, adding to already favorable soil moisture reserves for spring wheat. Showers bypassed the southern Urals District, although soil moisture remained adequate following heavy rain in early May. Showers (2-35 mm) also developed across southern cotton areas, boosting irrigation reserves but slowing late planting activities. Temperatures averaged 1 to 2°C above normal in northern spring wheat districts, and up to 5°C above normal in southern Kazakhstan. Despite highs eclipsing 30°C in northern Kazakhstan and southern Russia, there were no concerns for heat stress on spring wheat due to the early stages of development.

**MIDDLE EAST:** Additional late-season rain in the north contrasted with seasonable warmth and dryness in southern portions of the region. A slow-moving Mediterranean storm system generated widespread showers and thunderstorms (10-60 mm) from central Turkey to the west coast, boosting moisture supplies for reproductive wheat and barley on Turkey's Anatolian Plateau but hampering cotton planting. Light to moderate showers (1-12 mm) were also reported in northern Iran, maintaining favorable prospects for heading to filling winter grains. Mostly sunny, seasonably warm weather prevailed from Syria and southeastern Turkey into Iraq and southern Iran, promoting winter crop harvesting. Temperatures averaged up to 3°C above normal in central and eastern portions of the region, although daytime highs remained below the threshold for heat damage for reproductive to filling winter wheat.

**NORTHWEST AFRICA:** Mostly dry, hot weather promoted winter grain maturation and harvesting. Daytime highs in excess of 40°C in Morocco and 30°C elsewhere accelerated winter crop drydown, with sunny skies likewise promoting a rapid pace of harvesting in western portions of the region. A late-week cold front brought light showers (3 mm or less) and heat relief, but had little impact on fieldwork or crop maturation.

**SOUTH ASIA:** Pre-monsoon showers diminished across India as more seasonably dry weather returned to the south and east. Sporadic rainfall (amounts less than 10 mm) occurred within the interior of India, while the highest totals (50-150 mm) were confined to Assam and into Bangladesh. Hot weather (40-46°C) continued – albeit still 1 to 2°C below normal – in the absence of any appreciable rainfall. In northern India, weekly temperatures averaging over 30°C maintained stress on cotton in the early stages of development despite the availability of irrigation. Growers of rain-fed crops continued to await the onset of the monsoon (typically in late May to early June) before beginning planting.

**EAST ASIA:** Showery weather prevailed early in the week across the southern half of China. Rainfall amounts totaling 10 to nearly 60 mm maintained abundant soil moisture for ripening early double-crop rice and vegetative single-crop rice from the Yangtze River to the Xi River in the south. The moisture also benefited vegetative cotton, corn, and soybeans in the minor production areas of southern China. During the middle part of the period, warm, sunny conditions aided development of summer crops, while also favoring the start of winter rapeseed harvesting. By the end of the week showers had returned, bringing an additional 20 to 40 mm to most of the southeast. On the North China Plain, dry weather and stressful daytime temperatures approaching the middle 30s (degrees C) necessitated increased irrigation for filling winter wheat. In Manchuria, periodic showers - primarily in the early half of the week - provided upwards of 17 mm of moisture to germinating to emerging corn and soybeans. Elsewhere in the region, showers (20-50 mm) overspread the Korean Peninsula and much of Japan, increasing moisture supplies for rice transplanting.

**SOUTHEAST ASIA:** The monsoon circulation remained strong in the eastern Bay of Bengal and across the South China Sea, bringing showers to much of the region and benefiting rice establishment. Rainfall amounts approaching 100 mm were reported in the North Region of Thailand, with nearly 50 mm of rain occurring in both the Northeast and Central Plain Region. Weekly rainfall totals also approached 50 mm in Laos, Cambodia, and in the Mekong Delta of Vietnam, as 30 to 80 mm prevailed in the Red River Delta of Vietnam. In the Philippines, 10 to 25 mm of rain maintained favorable moisture supplies for rice and corn grown in the interior, while rainfall in excess of 100 mm caused minor flooding along coastal areas but had minimal impact on rice. Showers (60-150 mm) increased in oil palm areas of Malaysia and Indonesia after a brief lull.

**AUSTRALIA:** In Western Australia, a combination of sunny skies, adequate moisture supplies, and seasonably mild weather favored winter crop planting, germination, and emergence. In southeastern Australia, dry weather enabled fieldwork, but farmers are likely waiting for soaking rains to arrive before sowing the bulk of their winter grain and oilseed crops. Elsewhere, dry weather in northern New South Wales and southern Queensland encouraged rapid cotton and sorghum harvesting and aided winter wheat planting. However, unseasonably cool weather slowed early wheat, barley, and canola development in southern and eastern Australia, with temperatures averaging about 1 to 3°C below normal.

**ARGENTINA:** Late-week rain renewed delays in summer crop harvesting in key production areas of central Argentina. For a second week, the heaviest rainfall (25-50 mm or more) was concentrated over Buenos Aires and nearby locations in Cordoba and Santa Fe. Unlike last week, however, the rainy weather extended northward toward Chaco and Formosa, with rainfall in excess of 10 mm over most agricultural areas, including the northern cotton belt. Prior to the onset of the rain, several days of dry, sunny weather allowed for some autumn fieldwork. Lingering, unseasonably cool weather (morning lows below 5°C) rapidly gave way to favorable warmth, with daytime highs ranging from the lower 20s (degrees C) in southeastern Buenos Aires to the upper 20s across the north. Cooler weather accompanied the frontal passage, but no additional freezing temperatures were recorded, and weekly temperatures over the entire week averaged 1 to 2°C above normal in some locations. According to Argentina's Ministry of Agriculture, corn and soybeans were 57 and 84 percent harvested, respectively, as of May 17, still lagging last season's pace for both crops.

**BRAZIL:** Unseasonably late showers gave an unexpected boost in moisture to immature row crops in key production areas of central Brazil. Rainfall totaled 25 to 50 mm or more in southern and western Mato Grosso and in neighboring locations of Goias and Mato Grosso do Sul, all important producers of secondary (safrinha) corn. Similar amounts in Tocantins and parts of western Bahia boosted moisture for late-developing cotton. The rainfall came at a time of year when seasonably drier conditions should dominate the aforementioned regions. Farther south, light to moderate rain (5-25 mm or more) fell throughout Sao Paulo and Minas Gerais, increasing moisture reserves for coffee and other regionally important crops but likely causing some additional delays in the sugarcane harvest. Showers also increased moisture for sugarcane and cocoa along the northeastern coast, although amounts were lower than those recorded last week. In contrast, virtually no rain fell from Parana to Rio Grande do Sul. While the sunny weather aided development of winter corn and wheat in Parana, following weeks of increased rainfall, the persistent dryness in Rio Grande do Sul was unfavorable for germination and establishment of winter wheat. Weekly average temperatures were near normal throughout southern agricultural areas, with highs reaching the middle and upper 20s (degrees C). Daytime highs reached the middle 30s early in the week in the northeastern interior, but cooler weather accompanied the rain.

**MEXICO:** Seasonal rain continued throughout much of the east, increasing moisture for establishment of rain-fed summer crops and boosting local reservoirs. The heaviest rain (25-50 mm or more) was concentrated over the southeast (Tabasco and Chiapas), with lighter amounts radiating outward through the Yucatan Peninsula and southern Mexico. However, the rainfall was patchy and light in eastern sections of the southern plateau corn belt, with only a relatively small area recording amounts in excess of 10 mm. Similar amounts were recorded along the southern Pacific Coast (Guerrero and Oaxaca), and little to no rain fell in the western half of the corn belt, including Jalisco, the country's largest producer of summer corn. Additional rain is needed throughout southern Mexico to prevent delays in planting corn and other rain-fed summer crops. Farther north, light showers (10-25 mm or more) continued along the northeastern Gulf Coast, including sugarcane areas in and around northern Veracruz. Meanwhile, locally heavy rain (greater than 25 mm) lingered over the lower Rio Grande Valley (northern-most sections of Coahuila, Nuevo Leon, and Tamaulipas), further improving northeastern moisture reserves. In contrast, dry, unseasonably warm weather (weekly temperatures averaging 4-6°C above normal, with highs ranging from 35-40°C) dominated the northwest, hastening maturation and drydown of wheat and other winter-grown crops.

**CANADIAN PRAIRIES:** Mostly dry, warmer-than-normal weather promoted a rapid pace of fieldwork throughout much of the region. In eastern Saskatchewan and Manitoba, weekly average temperatures were 2 to 3°C above normal, with daytime highs reaching the middle and upper 20s (degrees C) on several days during the first half of the week. Cool, showery weather swept across the region at week's end, but rainfall in excess of 10 mm was confined to Manitoba's southeastern cropping districts. Weekly temperatures averaged 1 to 2°C above normal in Saskatchewan and Alberta, except for the Peace River Valley, where cooler weather (temperatures averaging 2-3°C below normal) prevailed. As in the east, early week warmth (daytime highs approaching 30°C) gave way to cooler, wetter conditions toward the end of the period, with somewhat higher amounts of precipitation (greater than 10 mm) recorded along Saskatchewan's western border. In spite of the overall trend of warmer weather, temperatures fell below 5°C on several days at nearly all locations, with freezes or patchy frost likely; lows of -5°C were recorded in the Peace River Valley, the coldest of the Prairie farming areas.

**EASTERN CANADA:** A dry, occasionally warm weather pattern continued throughout the region, supporting spring fieldwork but reducing topsoil moisture for developing crops. Little to no rain was recorded in Ontario, but scattered showers (5-25 mm or more) developed during the latter part of the week in sections of southern Quebec. Much of eastern Canada has been trending dry for several weeks after a brief period of favorably wetter weather, and more rain would be welcome as seasonal warming advances development of winter grains, pastures, and emerging summer crops. Although weekly temperatures were 1 to 2°C above normal (on average), temperatures fluctuated during the week, with daytime highs in the middle and upper 20s (degrees C) contrasting with minimum temperatures on some mornings in the low single digits. Patchy frost was possible in many locations including southwestern Ontario, which typically experiences its last spring freeze before May 10.