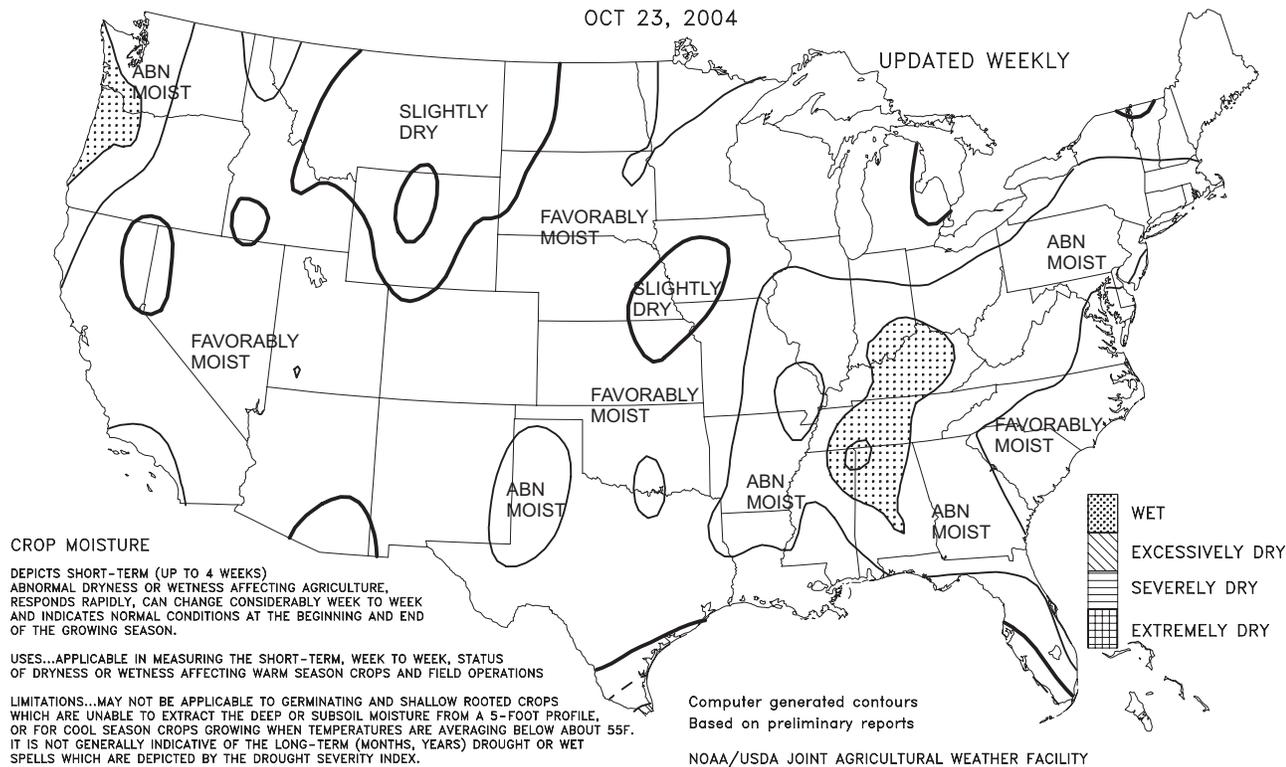


Crop Moisture
SHORT TERM, CROP NEED VS. AVAILABLE WATER IN 5-FT. SOIL PROFILE
OCT 23, 2004

UPDATED WEEKLY



CROP MOISTURE

DEPICTS SHORT-TERM (UP TO 4 WEEKS) ABNORMAL DRYNESS OR WETNESS AFFECTING AGRICULTURE, RESPONDS RAPIDLY, CAN CHANGE CONSIDERABLY WEEK TO WEEK AND INDICATES NORMAL CONDITIONS AT THE BEGINNING AND END OF THE GROWING SEASON.

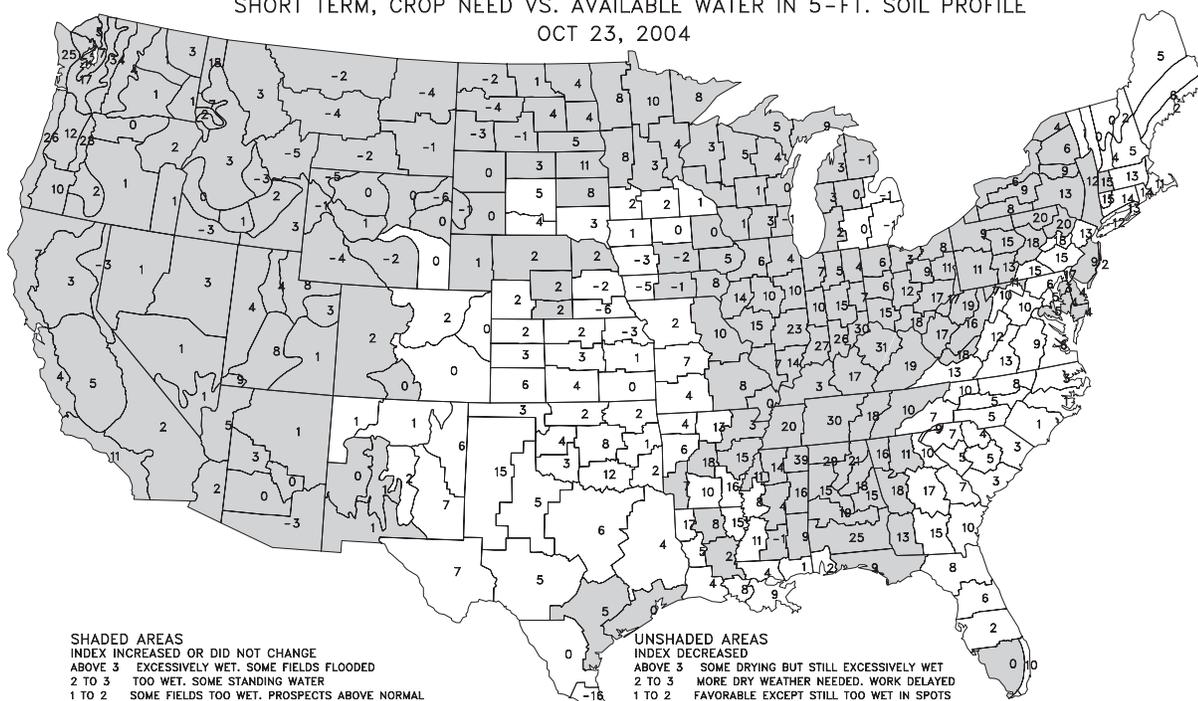
USES...APPLICABLE IN MEASURING THE SHORT-TERM, WEEK TO WEEK, STATUS OF DRYNESS OR WETNESS AFFECTING WARM SEASON CROPS AND FIELD OPERATIONS

LIMITATIONS...MAY NOT BE APPLICABLE TO GERMINATING AND SHALLOW ROOTED CROPS WHICH ARE UNABLE TO EXTRACT THE DEEP OR SUBSOIL MOISTURE FROM A 5-FOOT PROFILE, OR FOR COOL SEASON CROPS GROWING WHEN TEMPERATURES ARE AVERAGING BELOW ABOUT 55F. IT IS NOT GENERALLY INDICATIVE OF THE LONG-TERM (MONTHS, YEARS) DROUGHT OR WET SPELLS WHICH ARE DEPICTED BY THE DROUGHT SEVERITY INDEX.

Computer generated contours
Based on preliminary reports

NOAA/USDA JOINT AGRICULTURAL WEATHER FACILITY

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SHADED AREAS
INDEX INCREASED OR DID NOT CHANGE
ABOVE 3 EXCESSIVELY WET. SOME FIELDS FLOODED
2 TO 3 TOO WET. SOME STANDING WATER
1 TO 2 SOME FIELDS TOO WET. PROSPECTS ABOVE NORMAL
0 TO 1 MOISTURE ADEQUATE FOR PRESENT CROP NEEDS
0 TO -1 PROSPECTS IMPROVED BUT RAIN STILL NEEDED
-1 TO -2 SOME IMPROVEMENT BUT STILL ABNORMALLY DRY
-2 TO -3 DRYNESS EASED BUT FIELDS STILL EXCESSIVELY DRY
-3 TO -4 SEVERE DRYNESS CONTINUES. MORE RAIN URGENTLY NEEDED
BELOW -4 NOT ENOUGH RAIN. STILL EXTREMELY DRY

UNSHADED AREAS
INDEX DECREASED
ABOVE 3 SOME DRYING BUT STILL EXCESSIVELY WET
2 TO 3 MORE DRY WEATHER NEEDED. WORK DELAYED
1 TO 2 FAVORABLE EXCEPT STILL TOO WET IN SPOTS
0 TO 1 FAVORABLE FOR NORMAL GROWTH AND FIELDWORK
0 TO -1 TOPSOIL MOISTURE SHORT. GERMINATION SLOW
-1 TO -2 ABNORMALLY DRY. PROSPECTS DETERIORATING
-2 TO -3 EXCESSIVELY DRY. YIELD PROSPECTS REDUCED
-3 TO -4 POTENTIAL YIELDS SEVERELY CUT BY DRYNESS
BELOW -4 EXTREMELY DRY. MOST CROPS RUINED

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BASED ON PRELIMINARY DATA