

# WORLD AGRICULTURAL WEATHER HIGHLIGHTS

## November 10, 2009



### **1 - UNITED STATES**

Through the end of October, corn and cotton harvesting advanced at the slowest pace since at least the mid-1970's, while the soybean harvest proceeded at the slowest pace since 1984. In the Plains, Midwest, and South, near-record to record-setting wetness and crop developmental delays contributed to the sluggish harvest pace and declines in the quality of crops remaining in the field. Excessively wet conditions also hampered planting of soft red winter wheat from the Delta into the lower Great Lakes States. Very cool weather accompanied the wetness across the nation's mid-section. Meanwhile, drier-than-normal conditions allowed fieldwork to advance with few delays in the Southwest and the southern Atlantic States. Relatively dry weather also prevailed in western Texas, although cool weather continued to impede cotton maturation. Elsewhere, seasonal showers developed in the Northwest, while a single, mid-month storm contributed to above-normal October rainfall totals in central California.

### **2 - SOUTH AMERICA**

In October, chronic wetness across southern Brazil worsened winter wheat condition and led to early delays in soybean planting. However, summer crop prospects remain overall favorable due to abundant early season moisture in all major growing areas. Beneficial rain aided summer grain and oilseed planting in much of central Argentina, but lingering drought caused planting delays in northern, western, and southern farming areas. Wheat harvesting began in Argentina's northern production zones.

### **3 - EUROPE**

In October, wet weather over eastern Europe slowed summer crop harvesting but provided topsoil moisture for winter crop planting and establishment. In contrast, drier-than-normal conditions across Italy, France, and Spain reduced soil moisture and irrigation reserves for winter wheat planting and establishment, although heavy rain returned to western Europe in early November. While incursions of subfreezing temperatures occurred across central and northern Europe, most crop areas did not experience a season-ending hard freeze.

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

### **4 - FSU-WESTERN**

In October, unseasonably warm, wet weather fostered later-than-usual winter grain growth across northern Russia. Periods of rain in Ukraine provided late-season moisture for winter crop establishment, while unfavorably dry conditions persisted in southern Russia. The season's first snow occurred at month's end, halting late summer crop harvesting in western Russia and eastern Ukraine. Fieldwork delays were minimal across Russia's Siberia District until the end-of-month snowfall.

### **5 - NORTHWESTERN AFRICA**

Across much of northern Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia, below-normal rainfall reduced topsoil moisture for upcoming winter grain planting.

### **6 - MIDDLE EAST AND TURKEY**

Drier- and warmer-than-normal conditions over much of the region during October reduced soil moisture and irrigation reserves for winter grain planting and establishment. However, a strong storm brought much-needed rainfall to most crop areas in early November.

### **7 - SOUTH ASIA**

In October, unseasonably heavy showers provided a significant boost to soil moisture for filling grains and oilseeds in India. By month's end, however, the monsoon had retreated to southern India as more seasonably warm, dry weather prevailed for early winter crop planting.

### **8 - EASTERN ASIA**

In October, generally dry weather across the North China Plain favored harvesting of cotton and other summer crops. In Manchuria, corn and soybean harvesting progressed with few delays. Passing showers on the North China Plain late in the month provided beneficial moisture for newly planted winter wheat, although irrigation will still be necessary for proper crop establishment. Showers also benefited winter rapeseed, especially in the Sichuan Basin where the heaviest amounts occurred.

### **9 - SOUTHEAST ASIA**

Three tropical cyclones affected the Philippines in October, producing flooding rains and causing damage to rice in western Luzon. Above-normal rainfall in Thailand slowed rice maturation in western areas, while drier weather in the main growing areas to the east favored maturation. In Vietnam, coffee harvesting progressed with few delays, while warm weather and periodic showers benefited winter rice. Rice transplanting was underway in Java, Indonesia, with above-normal rainfall confined to western areas.

### **10 - AUSTRALIA**

In October, below-normal rainfall in Western Australia reduced moisture supplies for immature winter crops. In contrast, early month rain in southeastern Australia benefited filling winter grains. The remainder of the month was warmer and drier than normal, aiding crop maturation. Dry weather during much of October favored rapid winter grain harvesting in northern New South Wales and Queensland. Soaking rain at month's end benefited dryland and irrigated summer crops, but the rain must continue to aid establishment.

### **11 - SOUTH AFRICA**

Timely rain promoted early summer crop planting in eastern sections of the corn belt. Crop prospects are currently favorable in most areas.