

WORLD AGRICULTURAL WEATHER HIGHLIGHTS

June 10, 2009

1 - UNITED STATES

Extremely wet conditions persisted or developed during May across the South and East, eradicating drought but causing local flooding and fieldwork delays. An exception to the wet pattern was the western Gulf Coast region, where only light rain fell. Most of the nation's mid-section experienced a drying trend during May. The drier weather promoted winter wheat maturation and a rapid fieldwork pace, but reduced soil moisture for immature wheat and emerging summer crops. Generally dry conditions in the western Corn Belt allowed corn and soybean planting to approach completion, while fieldwork languished in the still-soggy central Corn Belt. Meanwhile, persistently cool weather hampered crop emergence and growth across the northern Plains and the upper Midwest. Elsewhere, warmer-than-normal weather prevailed in the West, except for near-normal temperatures across the northern tier of the region. However, unusually heavy late-spring precipitation affected several areas, including northern California, the Northwest, and the Four Corners region.

2 - CANADA

Across the Prairies, early development of emerging spring crops is lagging the expected pace due to various planting delays and an unusually cold spring. Some canola acreage has been affected by late freezes and may need to be replanted. In addition, drought remains a concern in some western growing areas.

3 - SOUTH AMERICA

In May, locally heavy rain improved winter grain prospects in key growing areas of southern Brazil. In contrast, unseasonable wetness was untimely for open-boll cotton in Bahia, Brazil's second-largest producer. In Argentina, timely showers improved planting prospects in high-yielding winter wheat areas of Buenos Aires, but many other locations lacked the moisture needed to ensure uniform germination and proper establishment.

4 - EUROPE

In May, above-normal rainfall over northeastern Europe improved prospects for reproductive winter grains and oilseeds. In contrast, persistent dryness across Spain and the Balkans reduced yields for reproductive to filling winter wheat. Occasional showers in England, France, and Germany aided heading to flowering wheat and rapeseed and provided topsoil moisture for emerging summer crops.



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 May, persistent dryness in western Ukraine aided summer crop planting but reduced prospects for heading winter wheat. Meanwhile, rain early in the month soaked crop areas in southern and eastern Ukraine, although a drying trend since mid-May has reduced soil moisture for crop development. Near- to above-normal precipitation in Russia provided topsoil moisture for spring-sown crops and favored winter grains that advanced through the reproductive to filling stages in the south. The exception was in the eastern Volga District, where pockets of unfavorable dryness developed during the month.

6 - FSU-NEWLANDS

In May, mid-month heavy rain in Kazakhstan interrupted spring grain planting, although drier weather at month's end allowed rapid fieldwork. Periods of warm, dry weather in Russia aided planting. Since early June, hot weather overspread Kazakhstan and Russia, promoting rapid spring grain emergence and development but reducing topsoil moisture.

7 - MIDDLE EAST AND TURKEY

During May, occasional showers across much of Turkey and northern Iran maintained mostly favorable soil moisture for reproductive to filling winter wheat and barley. Dry weather favored winter crop harvesting along the eastern Mediterranean coast and in southern Iran.

8 - SOUTH ASIA

In late May, the southwest monsoon arrived in southern India up to one week early. Meanwhile, Tropical Cyclone Aila brought strong winds, heavy rain, and a damaging storm surge to rice areas of western Bangladesh and eastern India. Heavy pre-monsoon showers persisted over northern India, boosting soil moisture and irrigation reserves for early summer crop planting and establishment.

9 - EASTERN ASIA

During May, unfavorably dry weather in western Heilongjiang and Jilin slowed germination and emergence of corn and soybeans. However, by the end of the month and into early June, timely rainfall increased topsoil moisture for crops. On the North China Plain, mostly dry weather during the latter half of May benefited winter wheat harvesting, while early-month rain favored corn, cotton, and soybean emergence. Meanwhile, periods of dry weather across the Yangtze Valley aided winter rapeseed harvesting, and to the south, rainfall was beneficial for main-season and late double-crop rice.

10 - SOUTHEAST ASIA

In early May, Tropical Cyclones Chan-Hom and Kujira caused flooding across the northern Philippines, resulting in localized damage to rice and corn. During much of May, the monsoon brought widespread showers to Indochina. The rainfall benefited summer-autumn rice in southern Vietnam and slowed harvesting of winter-spring rice in the north. Meanwhile, showers across Thailand benefited vegetative rice and corn. Somewhat lighter-than-normal rainfall in oil palm areas of Indonesia and Malaysia favored harvest activities but slightly reduced soil moisture.

11 - AUSTRALIA

Most of the wheat belt had generally dry weather during the first half of May, slowing or delaying winter grain planting in many areas. During the latter half of May and early June, however, many parts of the wheat belt received soaking rainfall on at least one or two occasions, encouraging widespread winter grain sowing and aiding germination and emergence.