

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

November 8 - 14, 2009

International (202) 720-9807

HIGHLIGHTS

FSU-WESTERN: Showers maintained favorable soil moisture for winter grain establishment in western and northern growing areas.

EUROPE: Widespread rain increased soil moisture for winter grain emergence, although unfavorably dry conditions lingered in central and southern Spain.

MIDDLE EAST: Showers boosted soil moisture and irrigation reserves in Turkey, while drier weather elsewhere allowed winter grain planting to resume.

NORTHWEST AFRICA: Dry conditions in Morocco contrasted with additional showers in central and eastern crop districts.

SOUTH ASIA: Tropical Cyclone Phyan brought flooding rains to western India, while lighter amounts favored winter crops.

EAST ASIA: Cold weather and rainfall prevailed across winter growing areas of China.

SOUTHEAST ASIA: Increased rainfall across Java, Indonesia, spurred rice transplanting, while drier weather eased excessive wetness for rice in the northern Philippines.

AUSTRALIA: Showers continued to benefit summer crops in Queensland and New South Wales, while hot, dry weather hastened winter grain maturation and harvesting in the southeast.

ARGENTINA: Rain overspread northern farming areas, but drier weather prevailed farther south.

BRAZIL: Conditions remained overall favorable for soybeans and other summer row crops.

MEXICO: Dry weather promoted seasonal fieldwork throughout central and southern areas.

SOUTH AFRICA: Beneficial rain continued in central and eastern sections of the corn belt.

FSU-WESTERN: Wet weather over western and northern crop areas contrasted with dry conditions in the south and east. An area of high pressure anchored over the Caspian Sea deflected storms to the north and west, maintaining wet weather (10-40 mm) from Ukraine and Belarus into northern Russia. Southerly winds on the west side of the high also ushered unseasonably warm conditions (weekly average temperatures up to 5 degrees C above normal) over the western half of the region, encouraging late vegetative growth of winter wheat and barley. The warm weather also melted last week's snowfall, although far northern crop districts remained under a shallow to moderate snowpack. Soil moisture levels in Ukraine, Belarus, and western Russia have recovered from late-summer dryness, and prospects for winter crops are vastly improved heading into dormancy. Elsewhere, dry conditions prevailed, with bitter cold arctic air remaining east of the Urals. However, southern portions of the Central District and northern portions of the Southern District remained drier than normal, with soil moisture reserves less than ideal heading into the winter.

In October, unseasonably warm, mostly wet weather fostered later-than-usual winter grain growth across 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.

FSU-NEW LANDS: During October, mostly warm, dry conditions favored late fieldwork. Spring wheat harvesting was mostly complete prior to the arrival of the season's first snowfall, which arrived during the last week of October. Showers in western Kazakhstan and Russia's Urals District slowed fieldwork, but there were enough breaks from the rain to allow producers to complete summer crop harvesting.

FSU-CENTRAL: During October, seasonably dry weather favored late cotton harvesting. A few showers (locally more than 25 mm) slowed fieldwork in southern Kazakhstan, although delays were generally minimal. Above-normal temperatures were reported throughout the region, with most areas still experiencing daytime highs well into the 20s degrees C.

EUROPE: Wet weather prevailed over the continent, although dry conditions lingered on portions of the Iberian Peninsula. An upper-air low lifted northeast into the Baltics, producing additional rain and high-elevation snow (10-75 mm) from eastern France and Italy eastward into Poland and the western Balkans. The precipitation further improved prospects for the establishment of winter wheat, barley, and rapeseed prior to entering dormancy. However, locally heavy rain (more than 75 mm) in Greece and the northern Danube River Valley hampered late summer crop harvesting. In southern Europe, the wet weather continued to provide some recharge to northern Italy's irrigation reserves. Meanwhile, an approaching cold front triggered moderate to heavy showers and thunderstorms (10-105 mm) from England into western France and northern Spain, hampering corn harvesting but improving soil moisture for winter wheat and rapeseed. Despite continent-wide rainfall, dry weather continued to reduce reservoir levels and irrigation supplies in central and southern Spain. Temperatures averaged up to 4 degrees C above normal in eastern Europe, while near- to below-normal temperatures returned to central and western 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.

MIDDLE EAST: Wet weather in Turkey contrasted with a return to drier weather elsewhere. Following last week's soaking rainfall, sunny skies from northern Syria into northern Iran allowed producers to resume winter crop planting. The respite was short lived in Turkey, where late-week showers (10-70 mm) provided additional moisture for winter crop establishment but hampered late-season fieldwork. Farmers continued to benefit from warmer-than-normal weather, with weekly average temperatures up to 5 degrees C above normal extending the growing season; consequently, late-planted wheat and barley will likely establish enough vegetative growth to survive the region's typically harsh winters. Despite the nearly region wide increase in rainfall over the past several weeks, Iraq's central and southern winter grain areas remained unfavorably dry, reducing soil moisture for crop establishment.

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.

NORTHWEST AFRICA: Showers in central and eastern crop districts contrasted with dry weather in western crop areas. An upper-air low over south-central Europe produced additional showers and thunderstorms (10-85 mm) from central Algeria into northern Tunisia, increasing soil moisture for winter grain planting and establishment. Meanwhile, mostly dry weather in Morocco and western Algeria favored winter grain planting but reduced soil moisture for crop establishment. Weekly average temperatures in Morocco were within a degree or two of normal, while cooler-than-normal conditions (1-3 degrees C below normal) accompanied the cloudy skies and rainfall in Tunisia and eastern Algeria.

Across much of northern Morocco and Algeria, below-normal October rainfall reduced topsoil moisture for upcoming winter grain planting. Showers in northern Tunisia provided early moisture for winter crops, although planting typically commences in November. Summer-like heat in western portions of the region accelerated evaporation losses, with daytime highs peaking in the upper 30s degrees C. Somewhat cooler conditions accompanied the showery weather in Tunisia.

SOUTH ASIA: An unseasonable increase in moisture across the northern Indian Ocean resulted in a flare-up of heavy tropical showers across southern India and the development of a tropical cyclone. Tropical Cyclone Phyan moved into Maharashtra midweek, bringing flooding rainfall (over 100 mm) to the coast and 50 to 100 mm farther inland. The unseasonable moisture was unfavorable for mature kharif crops and especially for cotton. In contrast, however, the remnants of Phyan brought lighter, more favorable rainfall (10-25 mm) to newly planted winter rapeseed in eastern Rajasthan and winter wheat in Uttar Pradesh. Generally dry conditions prevailed elsewhere in the region, favoring winter crop planting activities.

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.

EAST ASIA: A cold front descending from the north interacted with the western edge of the North Pacific High resulting in freezing temperatures as well as snow and rain (25-50 mm liquid equivalent) for winter wheat in Hebei and Henan. Temperatures between -10 and -5 degrees C likely resulted in localized burn back to recently emerged wheat despite sheltering from snow. However, the cold weather sped hardening of more developed winter wheat. Meanwhile to the south, 50 to 100 mm of rain boosted soil moisture for winter rapeseed in the eastern Yangtze Valley, although likely causing some flooding where the heaviest amounts occurred. Also, a wedge of freezing temperatures in Hubei and Anhui helped harden winter rapeseed in these areas.

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.

SOUTHEAST ASIA: In Indonesia, rainfall increased across Java, where 25 to 100 mm boosted soil moisture and spurred rice transplanting. Similarly, oil palm in Sumatra and western Kalimantan benefited from widespread showers of over 100 mm, although the rain caused minor delays in harvesting. Oil palm in Malaysia also benefited from abundant rainfall (25-100 mm, locally more), while some flooding was likely in Sarawak. Meanwhile in the Philippines, rainfall continued the seasonal progression southward, bringing favorably drier weather to Luzon and 10 to 50 mm of rain to much of the Visayas and Mindanao. Winter-grown rice transplanting continued in the north, while corn planting was occurring in the south. Seasonably dry weather prevailed in Vietnam, favoring coffee harvesting, while increased sunshine benefited winter rice development.

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.

AUSTRALIA: Scattered showers (5-25 mm) continued for the second consecutive week in central and southern Queensland and northern New South Wales. Similar to the previous week, the rain in Queensland fell throughout major cotton and sorghum areas, benefiting dryland and irrigated crops. Farther south, the rain in New South Wales fell primarily east of the major crop areas, maintaining reservoir levels for irrigated crops downstream but providing little additional moisture for dryland crops. In Western Australia, scattered showers (5-25 mm) likely slowed the dry down and harvesting of winter grains and oilseeds. In contrast, hot, dry weather in South Australia, Victoria, and southern New South Wales hastened winter grain maturation and harvesting. Temperatures in southeastern Australia averaged about 5 to 8 degrees C above normal, with maximum temperatures near 40 degrees C. In Western Australia, temperatures averaged about 2 to 4 degrees C above normal. In major summer crop areas of eastern Australia, temperatures were generally seasonable.

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.

ARGENTINA: Rain benefited key farming areas of the north, increasing moisture for summer row crops, pastures, and livestock and bringing needed relief from a spell of unusually warm weather. Amounts totaled 10 to 25 mm or more from Santiago del Estero to Corrientes, including southern Chaco and northern Santa Fe. Although the rainfall brought generally cooler weather, high temperatures gradually rose to the upper 30s and lower 40s degrees C by week's end, warming soils for rapid germination of cotton and other summer crops. Farther south, showers (locally exceeding 25 mm) developed late in the week in the vicinity of southern Cordoba, but most other areas remained dry, with highs mostly in the middle and upper 20s degrees C. Summer grain and oilseed planting should be well underway throughout the region, but lingering dryness has prevented timely planting of corn and sunflowers in some areas, and farmers may switch to soybeans or other crops when rains finally arrive.

In October, beneficial rain aided summer grain and oilseed planting in portions of central Argentina, although near-normal rainfall was confined to northeastern Buenos Aires and neighboring locations in Entre Rios. Lingering drought, exacerbated by monthly temperatures averaging up to 2 degrees C above normal, caused planting delays in northern, western, and southern farming areas. Wheat harvesting began in Argentina's northern production zones.

BRAZIL: Rain maintained adequate to abundant moisture for soybeans and other emerging summer crops. In the south, heavy rain (greater than 50 mm) continued over Rio Grande do Sul and nearby locations in Santa Catarina, but somewhat lower amounts (25-50 mm) were recorded in Parana; the rainfall continued to disrupt winter wheat harvesting and other seasonal fieldwork but the high soil moisture levels favored establishment of corn and soybeans. Farther north, heavy rain (50-100 mm or more) continued from southeastern Mato Grosso to Rio de Janeiro, maintaining abundant moisture for soybean establishment and the development of coffee and citrus. More sunshine would be welcome for crop development. Scattered showers (25-50 mm or more) maintained generally favorable conditions for emerging soybeans and cotton in the main growing areas of the northeastern interior. In contrast, warm, seasonably dry weather dominated the northeastern coastal areas, favoring sugarcane harvesting and other seasonal fieldwork but maintaining high irrigation requirements.

In October, chronic wetness across southern Brazil worsened winter wheat conditions and led to delays in soybean planting. Rainfall exceeded 300 mm (more than 200 percent of the monthly normal) in parts of northwestern Parana, Brazil's leading producer of wheat. However, summer crop prospects remained overall favorable due to abundant early season moisture in all

other major growing areas. October rainfall was the highest since 2006 throughout the Center-West and northeastern interior.

MEXICO: Mostly dry, generally mild weather promoted dry down and harvesting of crops throughout central and northern areas, and allowed for the preparation of winter wheat planting. Drier conditions also prevailed in Veracruz and other locations along the western Gulf Coast that had until recently been unseasonably wet. Pockets of heavier rain (greater than 25 mm) lingered over the vicinity of Tabasco and northern Chiapas, although amounts were much lower than those causing last week's flooding. Rainfall was scattered and light (generally less than 25 mm) throughout the Yucatan Peninsula. Early in the week, Hurricane Ida passed between the Yucatan Peninsula and western Cuba as it strengthened from a tropical storm to a hurricane. The heaviest rain from Ida (50-100 mm or more) fell in central America and Cuba.

In October, unseasonable showers lingered throughout much of the northwest, due to several late-season surges in tropical moisture. While boosting reservoirs for wheat and other winter-grown crops, the moisture was untimely for mature cotton, especially in the vicinity of southern Sonora where some of the heaviest rain fell. Heavy rain maintained localized problems with flooding along the Gulf Coast, particularly in Veracruz and San Luis Potosi, where monthly rainfall totaled more than 300 mm. In coastal areas of southern Mexico, occasional showers increased irrigation reserves for winter agriculture but came too late for

summer corn.

SOUTH AFRICA: Rain (10-25 mm or more) increased topsoil moisture for germination and establishment of summer crops in central and eastern sections of the corn belt. High temperatures were mostly in the middle and upper 20s degrees C, boosting early crop growth. Drier, somewhat warmer conditions in the western corn belt (notably western farming areas of North West and Free State) aided maturation and dry down of winter grains. Rainfall was also light and scattered in sugarcane areas of KwaZulu-Natal and eastern growing areas of Eastern Cape. In Western Cape, unseasonably heavy rain (10-25 mm or more) lowered irrigation requirements for tree and vine crops but below-normal temperatures (highs in the 20s degrees C) slowed crop development and raised concern for potential outbreaks of disease and pests. A return to sunny, seasonably warmer weather would be welcome.

October rainfall was near to above normal in many eastern farming areas, including most of the corn belt and sugarcane areas of KwaZulu-Natal. The rainfall was timely for early summer crop planting, and fieldwork likely got off to a good start in eastern sections of the corn belt. Showers also gave a late-season boost in moisture to filling winter grains in North West and Free State. October showers reduced irrigation requirements for fruit and vegetables in Western Cape although some delays in seasonal fieldwork, including wheat harvesting, were possible.

CANADIAN PRAIRIES: In a drastic reversal of September's pattern of warmth and dryness, cool, showery weather slowed the final stages of spring grain and oilseed for much of October. Highest monthly totals (greater than 50 mm) were concentrated in eastern Saskatchewan and western-central Manitoba, although several locations in Alberta also received heavy rain. Monthly temperatures averaged 2 to 4 degrees C below normal, prompting winter grains into dormancy.

EASTERN CANADIAN: Cool, showery weather prevailed for much of October, maintaining mostly favorable moisture levels for winter wheat establishment but slowing seasonal fieldwork, including late wheat planting and soybean harvesting. Early in the month, most of southwestern Ontario received a hard freeze, possibly causing some damage to late-maturing corn. However, the freeze occurred roughly on schedule, and warmer conditions during September were credited with advancing most of the crop toward maturation, making it less vulnerable to significant freeze damage.