

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

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International (202) 720-9807

**HIGHLIGHTS**

**EUROPE:** Fresh snowfall provided dormant winter crops additional protection from bitter cold across central and eastern Europe, while the return of sunny skies promoted winter wheat growth in Spain.

**FSU-WESTERN:** A deep snow pack protected dormant winter crops from extreme cold.

**MIDDLE EAST:** Unseasonable warmth lingered in Iran, while cold, snowy weather favored winter crops in Turkey.

**NORTHWEST AFRICA:** Heavy rain maintained adequate to locally abundant soil moisture for vegetative winter grains.

**SOUTH ASIA:** Warm, dry weather increased irrigation demands for winter wheat across northern India.

**EAST ASIA:** Mild, albeit mostly dry, weather benefited overwintering grains and oilseeds.

**SOUTHEAST ASIA:** Beneficial rain continued in major rice areas of Indonesia.

**AUSTRALIA:** Scattered showers maintained local moisture supplies for reproductive summer crops.

**SOUTH AFRICA:** Ample showers maintained favorable corn prospects.

**ARGENTINA:** Above-normal temperatures sped development of summer grains, oilseeds, and cotton.

**BRAZIL:** Warmth and dryness promoted soybean development in southern growing areas, but wetness lingered over important sugarcane and coffee areas farther north.

**EUROPE:** Cold, unsettled weather maintained favorable overwintering conditions for dormant grains and oilseeds. High pressure over northeastern Europe shifted westward, allowing a series of Atlantic storms to sweep across the continent. Precipitation totaled 5 to 45 mm over primary winter grain and oilseed areas of central and northern Europe, with much of it falling in the form of snow. By week's end, snow depths ranged from 2 cm in eastern France to locally more than 25 cm in eastern and southeastern Europe. Consequently, dormant winter crops were sufficiently insulated from temperatures which ranged from -17 degrees C in Germany to -28 in Poland and the Baltic States. Snow cover was patchy and shallow (less than 4 cm) in Hungary, although nighttime readings (-17 to -13 degrees C) were not low enough to cause burnback or winterkill. In southern Europe, rain (5-55 cm) from the Iberian Peninsula into Italy and Greece maintained favorable moisture for vegetative winter wheat and specialty crops. Despite the showers, periods of sunny weather in Spain allowed fields to dry after several weeks of heavy rain. Temperatures averaged 2 to 10 degrees C below normal over most of Europe, with the coldest weather (locally more than 10 degrees C below normal) in eastern Romania, eastern Poland, and the Baltics.

**FSU-WESTERN:** Extreme cold persisted, although dormant winter crops remained well protected under a deep snow pack. A strong arctic high remained entrenched over central and northern Asia, maintaining bitter cold (weekly average temperatures 9 to 14 degrees C below normal) over the entire region. Despite another week of nighttime readings between -25 and -38 degrees C, most dormant winter crops were protected by a moderate to deep snow pack (10-40 cm). However, snow depths were less (2-10 cm) in eastern Ukraine and southern portions of Russia's Central District, possibly exposing wheat and barley to burnback or winterkill. By week's end, a storm system pushed slowly north across western Russia, producing 10 to 30 mm (liquid equivalent) of southern rain and northern snow, boosting moisture reserves while providing a respite from the persistent arctic blast.

**MIDDLE EAST:** Colder weather in western growing areas contrasted with lingering warmth farther east. In Turkey, a cold front generated widespread rain and mountain snow (5-55 mm liquid equivalent) while ending the recent stretch of unseasonable warmth. As the front stalled over the eastern Mediterranean, locally heavy rain (25-200 mm) developed from southern Turkey into Lebanon and Israel, boosting soil moisture for vegetative winter grains. Showers, albeit lighter (2-20 mm), also spread from northern Syria into central and northern Iran, maintaining favorable prospects for winter crops. Snow was reported in northwestern Iran, providing wheat and barley some protection against potential cold-air outbreaks and boosting mountain snow packs for upcoming spring runoff. Despite the arrival of unsettled weather, temperatures in Iran still averaged 3 to 6 degrees C above normal, keeping most central and southern locations devoid of snow cover.

**NORTHWEST AFRICA:** Persistent wet weather maintained favorable winter crop prospects but caused local flooding. A strong Atlantic storm drifted eastward across northern Africa, producing widespread, locally heavy rain (10-110 mm) across most of the winter grain belt. The additional rainfall boosted soil moisture but caused local flooding. To date, the weather has been increasingly favorable for wheat and barley following a dry autumn, although more rain will be needed over the next 2 months as crops enter reproduction. Temperatures averaged near normal, with no reports of excessive heat or untimely freezes.

**SOUTH ASIA:** Dry, warm conditions across most of the region maintained high irrigation demands for winter crops. Temperatures in northern India's wheat and rapeseed areas averaged more than 3 degrees C above normal, with daytime highs in the upper 20s degrees C increasing crop water requirements. While not as heavy as the summer monsoon, northern crop areas typically receive some rainfall during the later winter and early spring, which helps supplement irrigation requirements. Across southern India, dry, sunny weather was favorable for winter (rabi) cotton. In northern Pakistan, rain and mountain snow (10 to more than 100 mm liquid equivalent) boosted irrigation reserves and mountain snow packs.

**EAST ASIA:** Warmer-than-normal weather favored overwintering grains and oilseeds. On the North China Plain, temperatures averaged 3 to 4 degrees C above average, with lows generally ranging between -15 and -5 degrees C. Light precipitation (up to 5 mm, liquid equivalent) was confined to southern Manchuria and other areas north of the wheat belt. Farther south, light to moderate rain (2-25 mm, locally exceeding 50 mm) fell from the Yangtze Valley to the southeastern coast. The moisture in the Yangtze Valley was welcome for winter rapeseed, which also benefited from unseasonable warmth (temperatures averaging 2-5 degrees C above normal). The more southerly rain, which was generally lower than last week's levels, maintained moisture reserves for upcoming plantings but likely hampered seasonal fieldwork, including the sugarcane harvest.

**SOUTHEAST ASIA:** Seasonal rain continued throughout Indonesia and Malaysia while drier weather prevailed over Indochina and the Philippines. Heavy rain (50-100 mm, locally exceeding 200 mm) maintained irrigation levels for rice in Java, Indonesia, and scattered showers elsewhere in the region provided moisture for oil palm and other tropical plantation crops. In contrast, drier weather returned to Indochina, with only a few locations recording more than 25 mm. While the dryness aided seasonal fieldwork, including rice planting and sugarcane harvesting, additional rain will be needed soon in Vietnam. In the Philippines, significant rain (greater than 25 mm) was generally limited to southern and eastern Mindanao, although amounts were much lower than last week's inundating levels.

**AUSTRALIA:** Scattered showers (1-8 mm, locally more than 20 mm) fell across major summer crop areas in northern New South Wales and southern Queensland, maintaining local moisture supplies for cotton and sorghum. In areas where little or no rain fell, hot weather increased irrigation requirements and may have caused some stress on dryland crops, which are progressing through the reproductive stages of development. Temperatures averaged about 2 to 5 degrees C above normal, with maximum temperatures in the middle to upper 30s degrees C.

**SOUTH AFRICA:** Mild, showery weather maintained favorable conditions for corn and other summer crops advancing through reproduction. Rainfall exceeded 25 mm throughout much of the corn belt, including key white corn areas of North West and Free State that experienced drier conditions during the first half of January. Seasonable warmth accompanied the rain, with highs ranging from the upper 20s in the eastern half of the corn belt (Gauteng, Mpumalanga, and eastern Free State) to the lower 30s farther west. The showers extended south and eastward, delivering widespread, above-normal rainfall (25-50 mm, locally exceeding 100 mm) to coastal sugarcane areas of KwaZulu-Natal for the first time since December. Unseasonable wetness (25-50 mm or more) also overspread eastern growing areas of Northern and Eastern Cape Provinces but warm, seasonably dry weather continued in Western Cape, advancing development of the predominantly irrigated tree and vine crops.

**ARGENTINA:** Warmer-than-normal weather promoted rapid development of summer grains, oilseeds, and cotton, although high temperatures may have briefly stressed crops advancing through reproduction. Weekly temperatures averaged 4 to 6 degrees C above normal over large sections of Argentina's southern and western farming areas, including most of Buenos Aires and Cordoba. Highs reached 40 degrees C on the western edge of the main farming areas as far south as La Pampa, and summer crops, particularly corn and other crops currently advancing through reproduction, were subjected to several days of stressful growing conditions. However, a cold front was advancing through central Argentina at week's end, bringing rain (greater than 10 mm) and cooler weather (highs in the middle 20s degrees C) to much of the area affected by the heat wave. Farther north, heat and dryness dominated, with highs frequently reaching the upper 30s and lower 40s degrees C. According to Argentina's Ministry of Agriculture, corn and soybean planting was nearing completion at 96 and 99 percent, respectively, as of January 28.

**BRAZIL:** Warm, mostly dry weather aided soybean development in key southern growing areas. Following several weeks of inundating rains, rainfall totaled below 25 mm in most summer crop areas of Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina, and Parana. Warm weather (highs reaching the middle 30s degrees C) accompanied the dryness, advancing development of soybeans and other summer crops that were planted late as a result of the wet summer. In contrast, heavy rain (50-100 mm or more) continued farther north, covering a large area extending from northern Mato Grosso to Sao Paulo. While maintaining abundant moisture reserves for soybeans and other summer row crops, the rain kept sugarcane and coffee unfavorably wet in key production areas of Sao Paulo and Minas Gerais, fueling concerns for additional problems that could be caused by chronic wetness. However, warm, mostly dry weather aided sugarcane harvesting in the main production areas along Brazil's northeastern coast.