

WORLD AGRICULTURAL WEATHER HIGHLIGHTS

July 12, 2018

1 - UNITED STATES

Warm weather dominated the country again in June, promoting a rapid pace of summer crop development. However, below-normal monthly temperatures were noted in a few regions, including New England and parts of the Northwest. Despite consistent warmth, abundant to locally excessive rain fell in an area broadly stretching from the northern and central Plains into the Midwestern and Mid-Atlantic States. Widespread showers also affected the Southeast. However, dry pockets developed or persisted in Michigan, the southern Mid-Atlantic States, and the Northeast. Dry conditions also lingered across the mid-South and environs, including the southwestern Corn Belt. Some June rain was observed across the Southwest and southern Plains, providing limited drought relief. However, rain in the latter region arrived too late in the season to benefit drought-affected winter wheat. Meanwhile, generally dry weather covered the Pacific Northwest and an area stretching from California to Utah. Periods of extreme heat aggravated the effects of the dry weather, reducing topsoil moisture, increasing irrigation demands, and contributing to a rash of wildfires.

2 - CANADA

During June, showers provided timely moisture for emerging Prairie spring grains and oilseeds. Dryness and occasional warmth aided fieldwork in Ontario; by early July, summer heat sustained rapid development of summer corn and soybeans, though crops may have experienced some stress.

3 - SOUTH AMERICA

Mostly dry weather supported a rapid pace of winter grain planting and summer crop harvesting throughout Argentina. In Brazil, periods of dryness favored wheat planting in key southern production areas; in Parana, conditions sustained rapid drydown and harvesting of second-crop corn, though moisture had become limited for wheat establishment. Corn and cotton harvesting began in Mato Grosso.

4 - EUROPE

Warmer-than-normal weather maintained a faster-than-normal crop development pace during June across most of Europe, with intensifying dryness in northern growing areas contrasting with beneficial rain over southern portions of the continent. In particular, severe drought further lowered prospects for filling winter crops in Germany and Poland and began to take a toll on later-developing wheat and rapeseed in England. Conversely, widespread rainfall maintained good to excellent moisture supplies for summer crops from northern Spain and western France into the Balkans. Consequently, yield prospects for corn, sunflowers, and soybeans are favorable in southern Europe as summer crops approach or enter reproduction.



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

5 - FSU-WESTERN

During June, intensifying drought lowered yield prospects for filling winter wheat and vegetative to reproductive summer crops from southeastern Ukraine into southern and west-central Russia. Furthermore, incursions of excessive heat further lowered corn yield potential in Russia's Southern District. However, periods of moderate to heavy rain boosted corn and soybean yield prospects in northern and western Ukraine as well as sunflowers in Moldova.

6 - FSU-EASTERN

Near- to above-normal June rainfall maintained good to excellent early-season prospects for vegetative spring wheat and barley in Kazakhstan and central Russia. Warm, occasionally showery weather in Uzbekistan favored the development of irrigated cotton.

7 - MIDDLE EAST AND TURKEY

In Turkey, early-month rain boosted yield prospects for filling winter grains and maintained abundant supplemental moisture supplies for irrigated summer crops. By month's end, Turkey's cotton, corn, and sunflowers were approaching or progressing through reproduction in good to excellent condition.

8 - SOUTH ASIA

After an early start, the summer monsoon stalled in central India around mid-June, delaying onset in portions of the north by up to two weeks. However, the monsoon made exceptional progress by the end of the month, reaching maximum coverage, nearly two weeks ahead of schedule in Pakistan. The initial delay in onset discouraged sowing of most crops, with rapid planting occurring once rainfall arrived. The delayed rainfall left eastern rice areas and western cotton areas of India with below-average moisture conditions for the month, while the remainder of India reported average- to above-average moisture levels.

9 - EASTERN ASIA

During June, rainfall was well below normal across the Yangtze Valley in China, increasing irrigation demands for rice and other summer crops. On the North China Plain, brief periods of rain slowed wheat harvesting and decreased quality but likely had little impact on overall yields. Meanwhile in northeastern China, consistent showers throughout the month reversed poor moisture conditions for corn and soybeans. To the west, near- to above-normal temperatures promoted cotton development after cooler-than-normal weather in April and May threatened to reduce yield prospects. Elsewhere, showers in North Korea and northern Japan kept rice well watered, while unfavorable dryness prevailed in South Korea.

10 - SOUTHEAST ASIA

Consistent monsoon showers across Thailand and environs kept rice well watered in June. Although, a lull in rainfall around mid-month left portions of central and northeastern Thailand with slightly below-average rainfall totals. In the Philippines, a tropical cyclone passing to the north brought heavy downpours to western Luzon, causing localized flooding but maintaining abundant moisture for rice. Meanwhile, showers during the latter half of the month in eastern Luzon improved moisture conditions for rice following extremely poor rainfall in May.

11 - AUSTRALIA

During most of June, unrelenting dryness in southern Queensland and northern New South Wales steadily reduced winter wheat prospects, although rain at the end of the month helped stabilize crop conditions. In the southeast, occasional showers maintained generally good winter grain and oilseed prospects. After a relatively dry start to the growing season in the west, periodic rain throughout June gradually improved wheat, barley, and canola yield prospects.

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