

# WORLD AGRICULTURAL WEATHER HIGHLIGHTS

November 8, 2018

## 1 - UNITED STATES

Cool weather and relentless early-October rains across the central and southern Plains and the upper Midwest curtailed fieldwork and resulted in the nation's slowest soybean harvest since 2009. However, some producers were able to resume fieldwork operations during the second half of the month. Farther south, Hurricane Michael became the third-strongest storm on record, in terms of central barometric pressure, to strike the U.S. mainland. Michael ripped across the Gulf Coast on October 10 near Panama City, Florida, with a devastating storm surge and sustained winds near 155 mph. Hurricane-force winds (74 mph or greater) extended inland across western Florida, southwestern Georgia, and southeast Alabama, causing significant damage to timber and crops such as cotton and pecans. Michael also produced heavy rain and gusty winds in the Carolinas and mid-Atlantic, but generally did not compound the damage that previously had been caused by Hurricane Florence. Elsewhere, drought led to poor establishment of some Northwestern winter grains, while precipitation associated in part with eastern Pacific Hurricanes Rosa, Sergio, and Willa provided some Southwestern drought relief.

## 2 - SOUTH AMERICA

Widespread, locally heavy showers sustained overall favorable conditions for soybeans, corn, and other summer crops in Brazil's main production areas. The timely start of the rainy season contrasts with last year's late arrival, which impacted planting of soybeans and, ultimately, second-crop corn. Beginning in late October, rain improved corn and soybean prospects in previously-dry western farming areas in Argentina.

## 3 - EUROPE

During October, below-normal rainfall over central and southeastern Europe further reduced soil moisture supplies for winter grain and oilseed establishment. However, much-needed rain overspread northern Europe's primary winter crop areas in early November. In contrast, rain eased dryness concerns and promoted wheat and rapeseed establishment in Poland and the Baltic States. Meanwhile, showers in Spain signaled a favorable start to the 2018-19 winter wet season, although dryness lingered for much of the month in northern portions of the country.



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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>

## 4 - FSU-WESTERN

Favorable October rainfall in key southern winter wheat areas improved soil moisture for crop establishment, following protracted short-term drought. Temperatures remained near to above normal for much of the month, keeping wheat vegetative and improving crop establishment prospects. Despite the rain, summer crop harvesting was nearly complete by month's end.

## 5 - NORTHWESTERN AFRICA

Unseasonably heavy October rainfall provided soil moisture for early winter grain establishment across Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia, though the wet weather likely impeded early planting efforts.

## 6 - MIDDLE EAST AND TURKEY

During October, heavy rain during the latter half of the month improved soil moisture for winter grain establishment. However, mostly dry weather locally in western Turkey enabled late cotton harvesting. While the heavy rain in late October across southeastern Turkey impeded fieldwork, much of the cotton crop had already been harvested.

## 7 - SOUTH ASIA

The monsoon continued to withdraw from India during October, ushering in seasonably drier weather. The drier conditions supported summer (kharif) crop maturation and harvesting as well as field preparation for winter (rabi) crop sowing. Similar conditions in Pakistan also favored fieldwork. Meanwhile, a tropical cyclone brought late-season showers to eastern India and into Bangladesh, providing beneficial moisture to immature rice. In Sri Lanka, increasing showers aided winter (maha) rice establishment.

## 8 - EASTERN ASIA

Drier-than-normal weather in portions of eastern China benefited summer crop harvesting in addition to wheat and rapeseed planting. Showers were mainly confined to areas south of the Yangtze River, slowing maturation of late-crop rice but boosting moisture reserves for sugarcane and winter vegetable establishment.

## 9 - SOUTHEAST ASIA

Typhoon Yutu crossed the northern Philippines late in October with high winds and heavy showers. The storm damaged rice and corn in a key growing area that was also affected by Super Typhoon Mangkhut last month. Elsewhere, drier-than-normal weather in Thailand and environs aided rice maturation but reduced irrigation replenishment for dry-season rice to be planted in November.

## 10 - AUSTRALIA

In October, soaking rain brought welcome drought relief to southern Queensland and northern New South Wales, encouraging summer crop planting, germination, and emergence but slowing winter wheat drydown and harvesting. Aside from some mid-month rain, dry weather dominated in southeastern Australia, further trimming the yield potential of immature winter grains and oilseeds. Near-normal rainfall in Western Australia maintained overall good yield prospects for immature wheat, barley, and canola in the south, while periods of dry weather favored winter crop maturation and early harvesting in the north.

## 11 - SOUTH AFRICA

Timely October rainfall increased moisture for corn and other rain-fed summer crops in eastern commercial production areas. Rain also benefited sugarcane in key production areas of KwaZulu-Natal.

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