

WORLD AGRICULTURAL WEATHER HIGHLIGHTS

October 11, 2018

1 - UNITED STATES

Tropical moisture, most directly associated with Hurricane Florence but also provided by Tropical Storm Gordon and Tropical Depression Nineteen-E, contributed to heavy September rain in various parts of the country. Florence, which struck the southern Mid-Atlantic coast on September 14, resulted in catastrophic flooding in parts of the eastern Carolinas. Agricultural losses due to flooding included poultry and hogs, as well as immature row crops such as cotton and peanuts. Earlier, on September 4, Gordon had made landfall along the central Gulf Coast and eventually merged with a cold front to spark heavy rain from the Ohio Valley into the northern Mid-Atlantic region. Finally, T.D. Nineteen-E arrived across northwestern Mexico on September 19 and later helped to boost rainfall totals in the south-central U.S. Periods of heavy rain also soaked the upper Midwest, triggering additional rounds of lowland flooding and locally slowing early-season corn and soybean harvest efforts, despite earlier-than-normal crop maturation. In contrast, drier-than-normal conditions dominated the West. In particular, little or no September precipitation fell across California, the Great Basin, and the Intermountain West, accompanied by above-normal temperatures.

2 - CANADA

Prairie spring crop harvesting progressed at a slower-than-normal pace due to periods of cool, showery weather and intermittent snow cover. In Ontario, October rainfall was timely for germination and establishment of winter wheat, planted in September under mostly dry conditions.

3 - SOUTH AMERICA

In September, the onset of seasonal rainfall sustained favorable planting prospects for soybeans and other summer row crops in major production areas of central and southern Brazil. Meanwhile, timely showers benefited vegetative to reproductive winter grains in high-yielding farmlands of central Argentina, though moisture remained limited in some outlying northern production areas.

4 - EUROPE

In September, drier-than-normal weather reduced soil moisture for winter crop establishment across most of central and northern Europe. Dry conditions also developed in the Balkans following a wet summer, favoring summer corn and sunflower harvesting but reducing soil moisture for winter crop emergence. Dry weather promoted summer crop maturation and harvesting in Spain, Italy, and Greece, though a strong but fast-moving storm brought heavy rain and strong winds to parts of Greece in early October.



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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 September, intensifying short-term drought further depleted soil moisture for winter wheat establishment from central Ukraine into southwestern Russia. However, the dry, hot weather was beneficial for corn and sunflower harvesting. Much-needed rain returned to key wheat areas by the end of the month, improving prospects for establishment before seasonally colder weather arrives.

6 - FSU-EASTERN

Conditions gradually improved for spring wheat harvesting in Kazakhstan and central Russia after a wet start to the month. Farther south, seasonable dryness favored maturing cotton in Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Turkmenistan; however, a stationary storm system impeded cotton harvest efforts in early October.

7 - MIDDLE EAST AND TURKEY

In Turkey and Iran, dry weather reduced soil moisture for winter grain establishment but promoted summer crop drydown and harvesting. Showers developed over Turkey toward month's end, improving topsoil moisture for early wheat and barley emergence, which is typically sown in October.

8 - SOUTH ASIA

Below-normal monsoon showers across much of India during September left many crops short of needed soil moisture. In particular, cotton and groundnuts in the west experienced prolonged periods of unfavorable dryness, lowering yield prospects. Additional rainfall would still be welcome to stabilize or improve yields. Meanwhile in northern India, periods of heavy showers hampered rice and cotton maturation. Elsewhere in the region, unseasonably dry weather in Bangladesh limited moisture supplies for vegetative summer (aman) rice, while dry weather in Sri Lanka and Pakistan aided rice and other summer crop harvesting.

9 - EASTERN ASIA

Above-normal September rainfall in eastern China slowed summer crop maturation, particularly in the northeast and on the North China Plain. Although, pockets of drier weather existed in some areas, aiding harvesting. Meanwhile in southern China, unseasonably heavy showers aided reproductive late-crop rice. To the west, brief periods of showers hampered cotton maturation. Elsewhere in the region, typhoons brought flooding rainfall to portions of southern Japan, but the excessive wetness avoided key rice areas in the north. In the Koreas, mostly dry weather benefited rice maturation.

10 - SOUTHEAST ASIA

Unseasonably light rainfall in northern sections of Indochina lowered moisture supplies for reproductive rice. In particular, rice in northern and central Thailand received well-below-average rainfall, while key growing areas in the northeast benefited from more seasonable amounts. In the Philippines, the passage of Super Typhoon Mangkhut in the north caused significant damage to rice and corn, with the remainder of the country experiencing mixed moisture conditions for summer crops.

11 - AUSTRALIA

In September, exceptionally dry weather covered the entire wheat belt. Winter crop prospects remained very poor in the east, where drought has been a fixture since the beginning of the growing season. In South Australia and Western Australia, crop prospects were considerably better leading into the month. The September dryness was untimely for reproductive to filling winter grains and oilseeds, however, likely trimming yield prospects. In western and southeastern portions of the wheat belt, frost also occurred on several nights during the month. The frost may have caused local reductions in wheat, barley, and canola yields as well.

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