

WORLD AGRICULTURAL WEATHER HIGHLIGHTS

September 12, 2019

1 - UNITED STATES

Near- or below-normal August temperatures across the northern half of the Plains and the Midwest maintained a slow pace of development for late-planted crops such as corn and soybeans. In contrast, persistent heat gripped many other areas of the country, especially from the Pacific Coast to the southern Plains and into parts of the Southeast. The southern Plains' heat was accompanied by erratic rainfall, leading to a general increase in stress on rangeland, pastures, and rain-fed summer crops. Minimal August rain also fell in large sections of the Four Corners States and environs, due to the partial failure of the Southwestern monsoon. Farther east, variable rainfall in the Midwest left some fields with plenty of moisture and others—mainly in the central and eastern Corn Belt—with patchy drought. In areas where planting occurred very late and root systems were poorly developed, some corn and soybeans experienced stress, despite an absence of extreme heat. Elsewhere, growing conditions during August were mostly favorable for Southern crops, despite pockets of drought.

2 - CANADA

Locally heavy showers helped to alleviate Prairie drought, but by early September wetness in eastern farming areas was slowing spring grain and oilseed harvesting. Seasonably warm weather aided corn and soybean development in Ontario, but pockets of dryness developed, limiting moisture for winter wheat germination in some areas.

3 - SOUTH AMERICA

During August, extended periods of dryness favored the final stages of summer crop harvesting and winter grain planting in Argentina. Warmth and dryness supported corn and cotton harvesting in central Brazil, while showers maintained adequate to abundant moisture for wheat in southern production areas.

4 - EUROPE

Conditions were highly variable across Europe during August. Much-needed rain from southern Germany into Hungary and southern Poland eased drought and supplied soil moisture for winter crop planting. Meanwhile, unfavorable dryness and above-normal temperatures intensified drought and limited soil moisture for winter crop planting and establishment from northeastern France into northeastern Germany and northwestern Poland. Farther south, dry weather accelerated summer crop maturation and early harvesting from northern Italy into the Balkans. In Spain, drought in the south contrasted with welcome showers in northern portions of the country. Elsewhere, moisture supplies remained favorable for winter crop planting in areas bordering the North Sea.



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

5 - FSU-WESTERN

In August, drier- and warmer-than-normal weather accelerated corn, sunflowers, and soybeans toward maturity after favorable July rainfall. However, acute late-summer drought in northern and western Ukraine trimmed corn and soybean yields somewhat. The recent dry weather has also limited soil moisture for winter wheat planting and establishment in southwestern Russia.

6 - FSU-EASTERN

Wet weather during August in northern Kazakhstan and central Russia eased drought but was mostly too late to benefit filling to maturing spring grains. Conversely, intensifying dryness in Russia's Siberia District reduced yields for reproductive to filling wheat and barley. Seasonable heat and dryness in southern portions of the region favored cotton maturation.

7 - MIDDLE EAST AND TURKEY

Following early-month rain, seasonably dry weather during the second half of August promoted fieldwork and summer crop maturation over most of Turkey. Harvesting of corn and sunflowers was underway, while cotton harvesting began by early September.

8 - SOUTH ASIA

Monsoon showers improved across India during August, following a poor start to the wet season. The improved moisture conditions advanced sowing to near completion by month's end and aided crop development, particularly in key western cotton and groundnut areas. In contrast, pockets of below-average rainfall existed in eastern rice areas, but overall moisture supplies remained favorable. Elsewhere, occasional showers in northern India and Pakistan supported irrigated rice and cotton nearing reproduction, while somewhat drier weather in Bangladesh eased excessive wetness.

9 - EASTERN ASIA

In August, unseasonably dry weather and excessive heat in southern China stressed rice and other summer crops, with the worst conditions in the central Yangtze Valley. Otherwise, near- to above-normal rainfall in eastern and northeastern China maintained good to excellent conditions for corn and soybeans. Elsewhere, drought continued on the Korean Peninsula, reducing moisture supplies for rice.

10 - SOUTHEAST ASIA

Improved August rainfall benefited rice throughout the region, particularly in portions of Thailand where drought has been an issue. However, some areas continued to experience below-average rainfall, in particular portions of the central and southern Philippines as well as major oil palm-producing areas in Indonesia.

11 - AUSTRALIA

During August, persistent dryness kept drought firmly entrenched in southern Queensland and New South Wales, further reducing the yield potential of wheat and other winter crops. Farther south, August rainfall was near to below normal in Victoria and South Australia, but sunny skies and adequate topsoil moisture maintained generally good yield prospects for vegetative wheat, barley, and canola. Crop prospects also remained good in Western Australia, where intermittent showers and sun helped promote growth of vegetative winter grains and oilseeds.

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