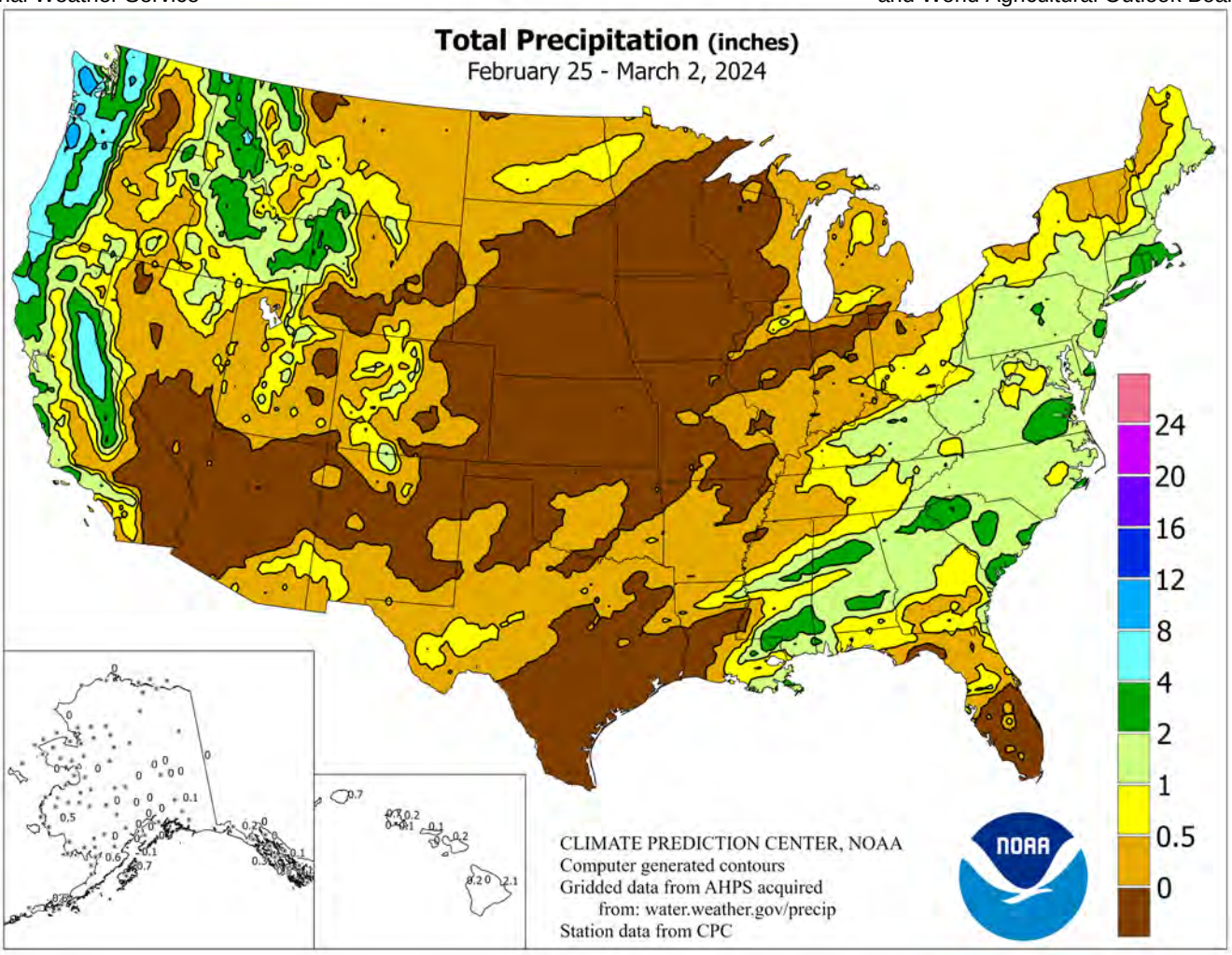
Volume 111, No. 10 www.usda.gov/oce/weather-drought-monitor March 5, 2024

WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP BULLETIN

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Weather Service

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
National Agricultural Statistics Service
and World Agricultural Outlook Board



HIGHLIGHTS

February 25 – March 2, 2024

Highlights provided by USDA/WAOB

During a late-February surge of warmth and high winds, tragic wildfires swept across the **northern panhandle of Texas**, scorching well over a million acres; destroying homes and farm infrastructure, including fencing; killing or injuring at least hundreds of head of cattle; and resulting in two human fatalities. Warm, windy weather also covered the remainder of the **Plains**, **Midwest**, **mid-South**, and **Northeast**. Later in the week, impressive storminess arrived in the **Northwest** and soon spread southward into **northern and central California**. **Sierra**

(Continued on page 3)

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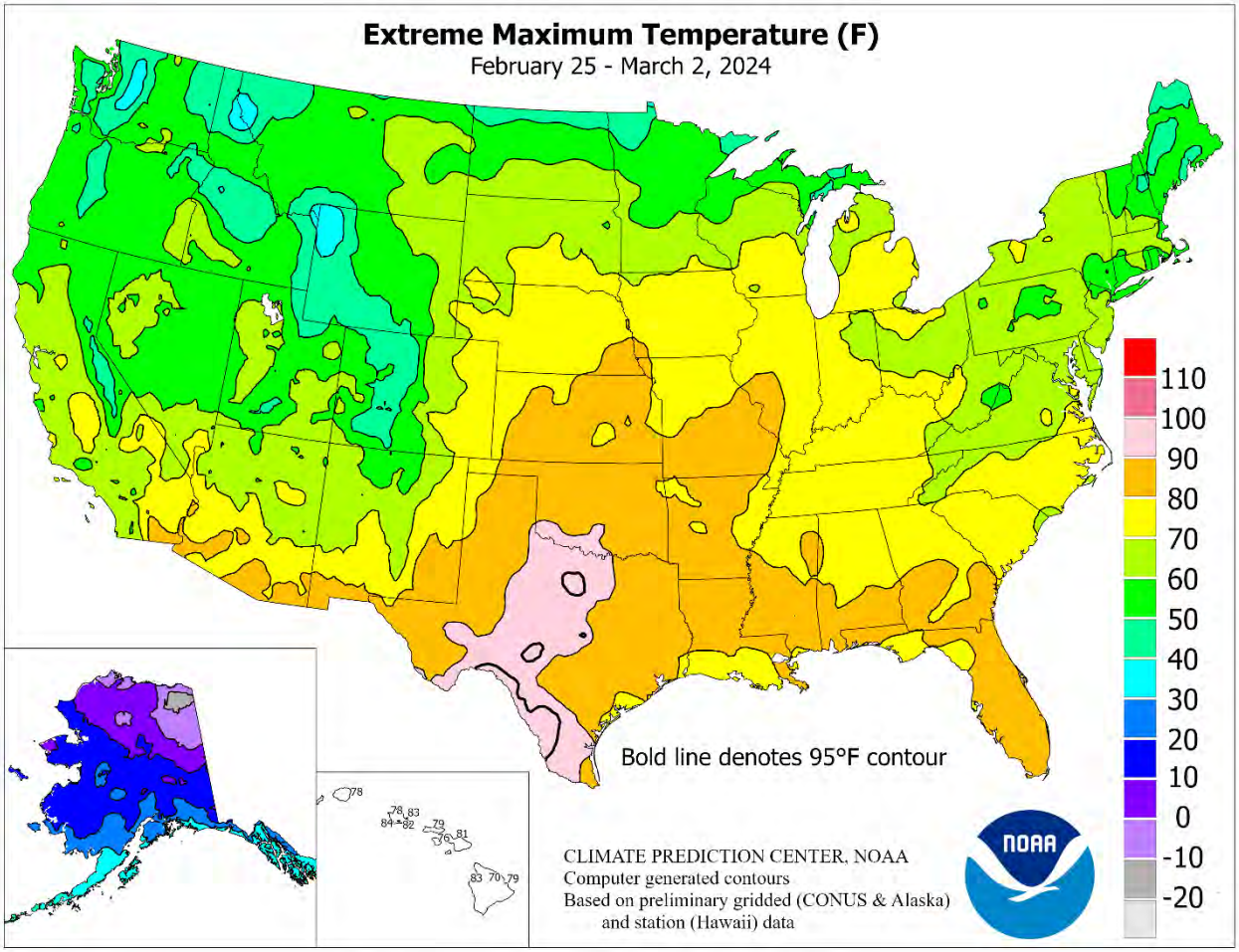
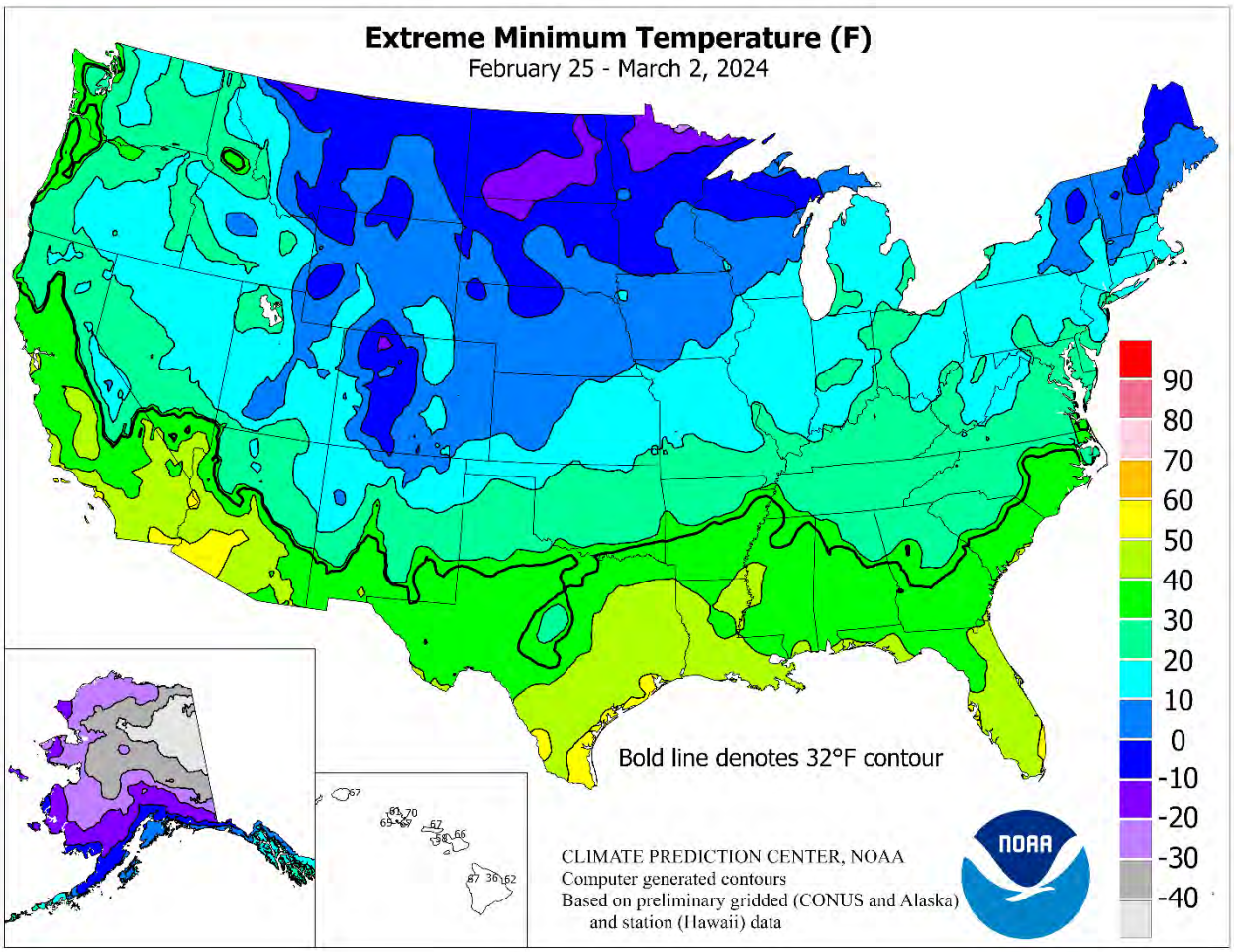
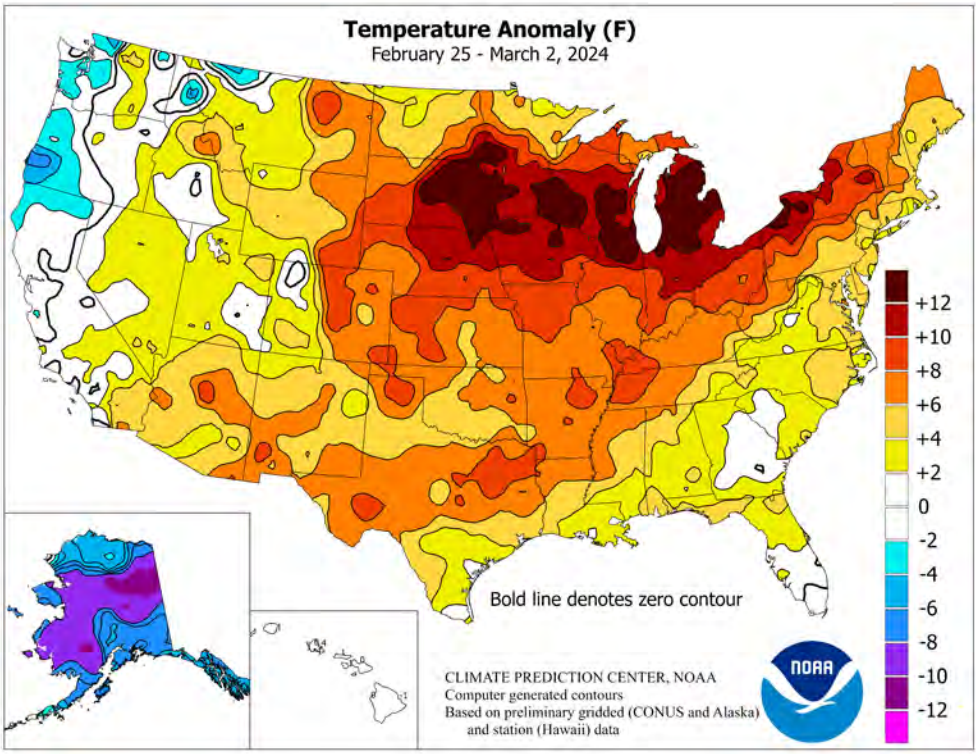

Extreme Maximum Temperature (F)
February 25 - March 2, 2024
110
100
90
80
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
-10
-20
Bold line denotes 95°F contour
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA
Computer generated contours
Based on preliminary gridded (CONUS & Alaska)
and station (Hawaii) data
NOAA


Extreme Minimum Temperature (F)
February 25 - March 2, 2024
90
80
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
-10
-20
-30
-40
Bold line denotes 32°F contour
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA
Computer generated contours
Based on preliminary gridded (CONUS and Alaska)
and station (Hawaii) data
NOAA

(Continued from front cover)

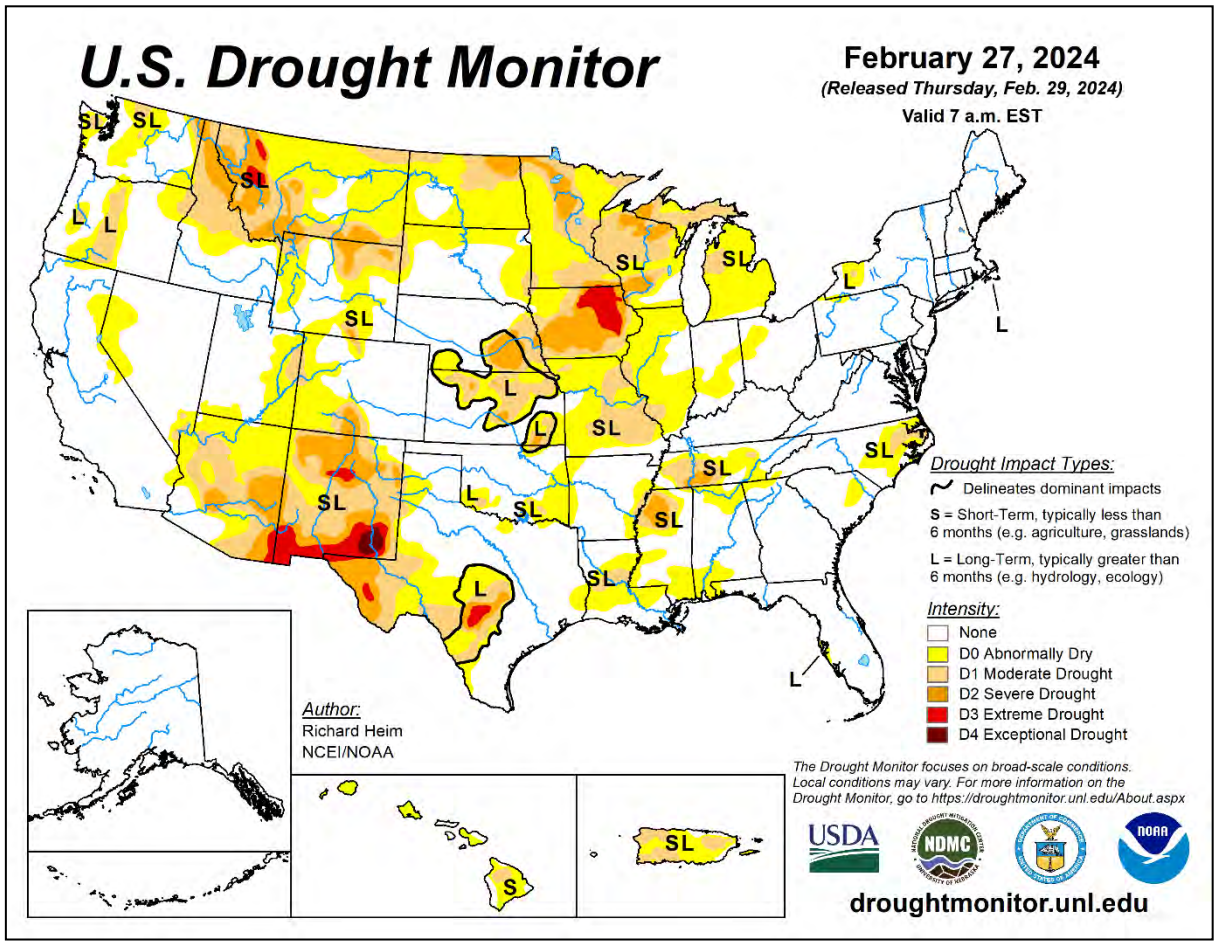
Nevada snowfall topped 5 feet in several locations, with ridge-top winds locally exceeding 150 mph. Despite travel disruptions across mountain ranges, long-term impacts of the **Western** precipitation were mostly positive, with improved prospects for spring and summer water supplies. Elsewhere, parts of the **South** and **East** also received significant precipitation, with rainfall topping 2 inches in numerous locations. In addition, an early-season severe weather outbreak on February 27-28 primarily affected areas from the **eastern Corn Belt into the central and southern Appalachians**. On the first day of the outbreak, tornadoes were spotted as far north as **northern Illinois** and **southern Michigan**. Despite a fleeting cool spell, warmer-than-normal weather dominated much of the country. Weekly temperatures averaged more than 10°F above normal from portions of the **northern and central Plains into the Great Lakes region**—and were at least 5°F above normal in a much broader area encompassing the **Plains**, **Midwest**, **mid-South**, and **Northeast**, as well as much of **Arizona** and **New Mexico**.

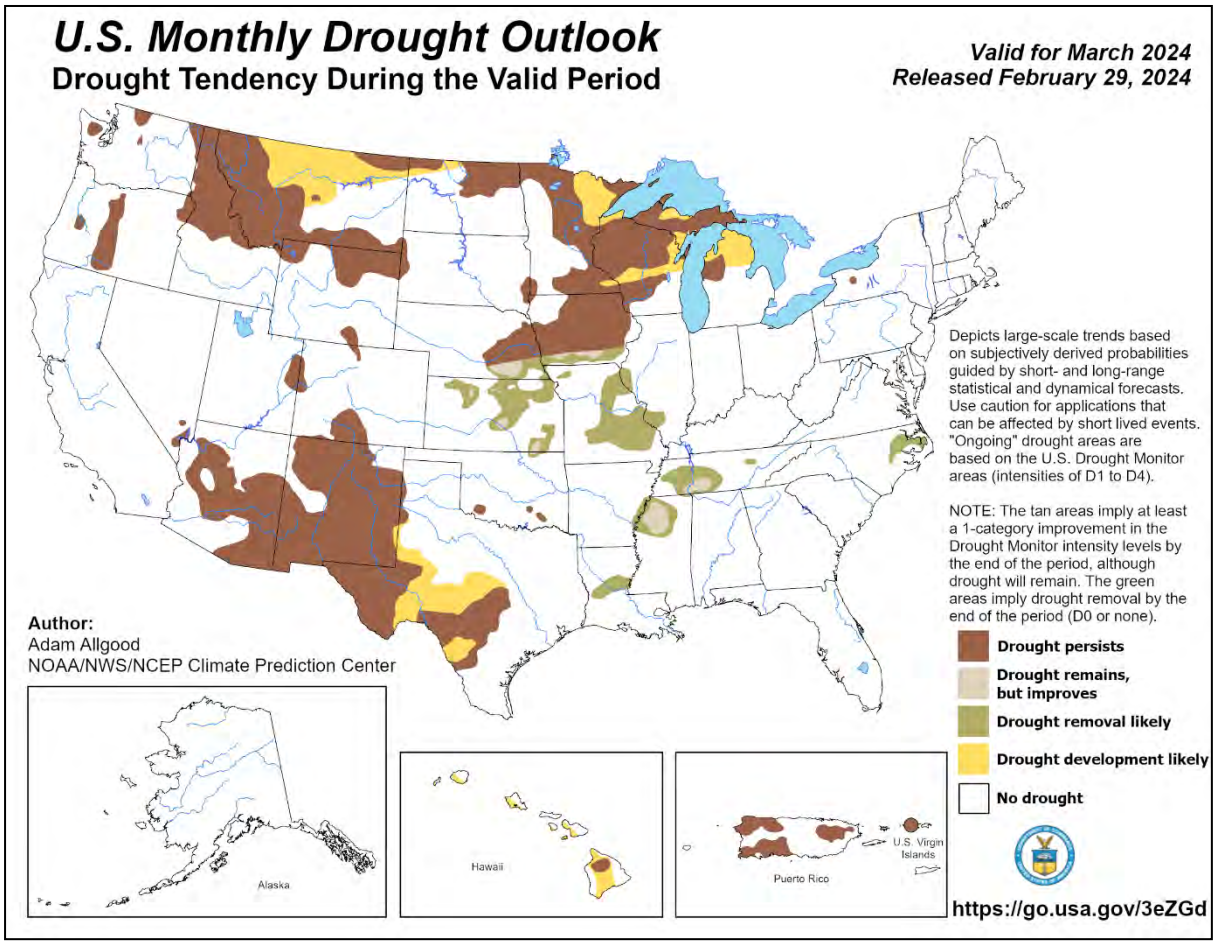


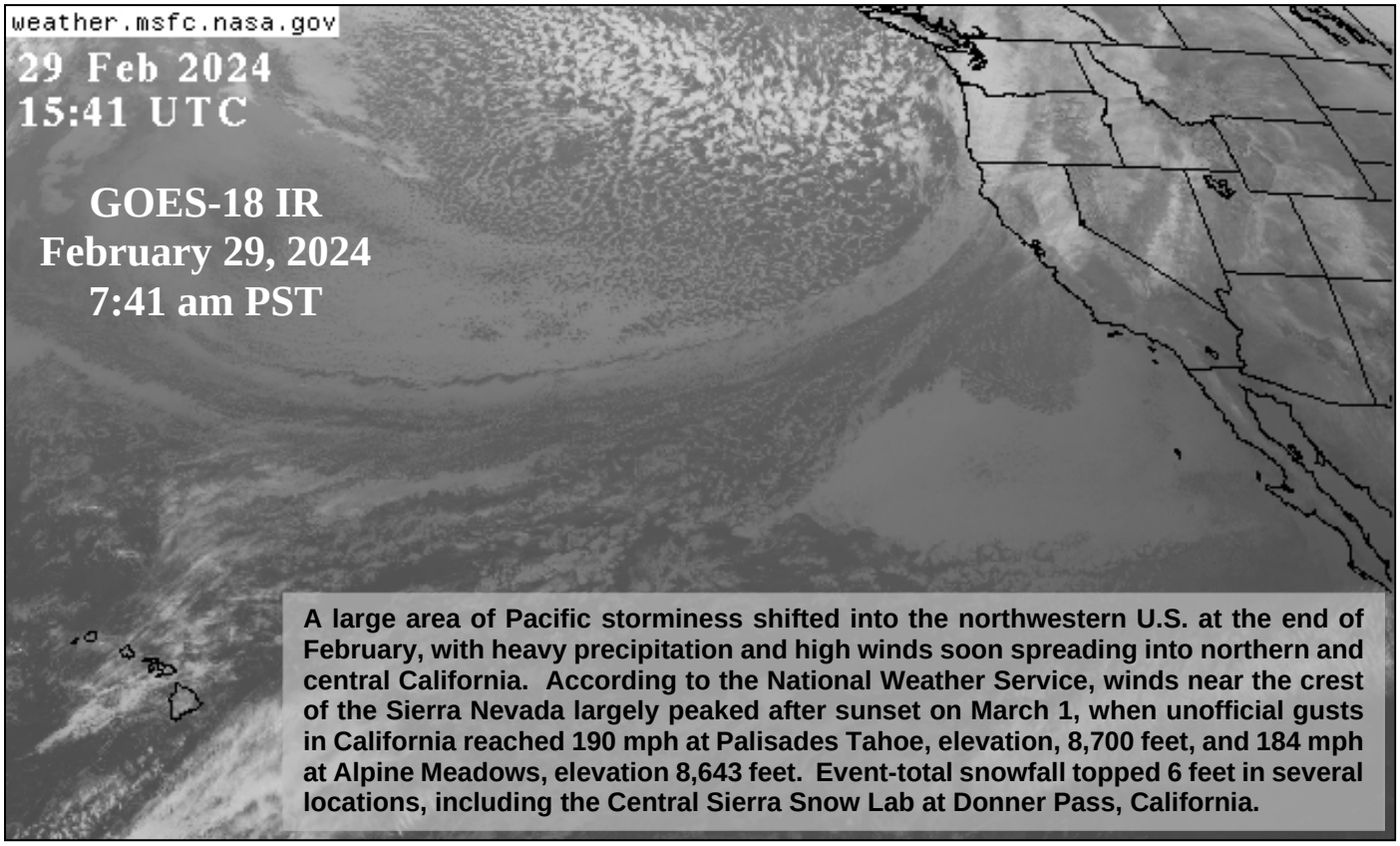
Before the end of meteorological winter, temperatures surged to 90°F or higher—mainly on February 26—from the **lower Rio Grande Valley into southern Oklahoma**. With a high of 94°F on the 26th, **Abilene, TX**, tied a monthly record originally set on February 25, 1904. Elsewhere in **Texas**, **Dallas-Ft. Worth** (94°F on the 26th) experienced its third-hottest February day, behind 96°F on February 25, 1904, and 95°F on February 21, 1996. At the height of the warm spell, on February 26-27, temperatures rose to 80°F or higher as far north as **southeastern Nebraska** and **southwestern Iowa**. On February 26-27, several **Midwestern** locations, including **La Crosse, WI** (67 and 69°F); **Dubuque, IA** (72°F both days); **Rockford, IL** (73 and 78°F); **Lincoln, IL** (76 and 78°F); **Moline, IL** (76 and 79°F); and **Peoria, IL** (77 and 78°F), set or tied monthly records on consecutive days. On February 27, monthly and winter (December-February) records were established in locations such as **Moline, IL** (79°F); **Burlington, IA** (77°F); and **Milwaukee, WI** (74°F). In **Michigan** on the 27th, highs of 73°F in **Traverse City** and 70°F in **Alpena** marked the earliest 70-degree warmth on record; previous standards had been set on March 7, 2000. Elsewhere on the 27th, **St. Joseph, MO**, reported an early-afternoon high of 78°F, with the temperature falling to 20°F by midnight. **St. Joseph's** 58-degree daily temperature drop set a station record for any time of year. By week's end, however, warmth quickly rebounded across the **nation's mid-section**. From March 1-3, a trio of daily-record highs occurred in locations such as **Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN** (59, 63, and 74°F); **Eau Claire, WI** (57, 59, and 70°F); and **Traverse City, MI** (54, 56, and 64°F).

As winds ramped up, a gust to 56 mph was clocked on February 25 in **Raton, NM**. By February 27, when fires raged across the **Texas Panhandle** and **western Oklahoma**, gusts included 68 mph in **Dalhart, TX**, and **Guymon, OK**, as well as 67 mph in **Clayton, NM**; 65 mph in **Borger, TX**; and 62 mph in **Amarillo and Lubbock, TX**. The Smokehouse Creek Fire, ignited on February 26 just north of **Stinnett, TX**, soon torched nearly 1.06 million acres of dormant grasses and other vegetation, mostly in **Hutchinson, Roberts, and Hemphill Counties in Texas**, as well as neighboring areas in **Ellis and Roger Mills Counties in Oklahoma**. Previously, the largest wildfire in modern **Texas** history was the East Amarillo Complex, which burned 907,245 acres in mid-March 2006. Besides the Smokehouse Creek Fire, other large wildfires starting on February 26 in the **Texas Panhandle** included the 144,000-acre Windy Deuce Fire, which started in **Moore County**, north of **Amarillo**, and the 35,000-acre Grape Vine Creek Fire, which burned in **Gray County**. Meanwhile, precipitation spread inland across the **Northwest**. On February 26, **Bozeman (Montana State University)** received daily-record totals—0.32 and 6.4 inches, respectively—for precipitation and snow. Elsewhere on the 26th, **Pocatello, ID**, netted a daily-record precipitation total of 0.27 inch. Much heavier precipitation arrived in **Pocatello** from March 1-3, totaling 2.18 inches, including 11.6 inches of snow. By February 28, when a cold front swept across the **Midwest**, **Houghton Lake, MI**, reported a daily-record sum of 0.93 inch, as rain changed to snow and accumulated 0.3 inch. A separate area of precipitation led to daily-record totals for February 28 in **Arizona** locations such as **Safford** (0.64 inch) and **Nogales** (0.33 inch). On Leap Day, February 29, heavy precipitation associated with a sprawling **Pacific** storm system moved into the **Northwest**, resulting in daily-record totals topping an inch in **Oregon** locations such as **Roseburg** (1.71 inches), **North Bend** (1.67 inches), **Salem** (1.36 inches), **Eugene** (1.15 inches), and **Portland** (1.10 inches). Farther east, light precipitation fell across recently burned areas in **Texas**, with **Amarillo** reporting 1.0 inch of snow on the 29th. Snow squalls downwind of the **Great Lakes** led to a record-setting snowfall (10.0 inches) for February 29 in **Syracuse, NY**. As March began, there were separate areas of heavy precipitation in the **eastern and western U.S.** March 1 featured daily-record rainfall totals exceeding 3 inches in **Hattiesburg, MS** (3.47 inches), and **Charleston, SC** (3.04 inches). The following day, record-setting totals for March 2 topped an inch in **Atlantic City, NJ** (1.77 inches), and **Georgetown, DE** (1.08 inches). Meanwhile in **California**, record-setting totals for March 1 topped an inch in **Ukiah** (1.45 inches) and **Merced** (1.04 inches). At the **Central Sierra Snow Lab in Donner Pass, CA**, season-to-date snowfall climbed about 75 inches to more than 288 inches by March 4, up from 213 inches at the end of February. After sunset on March 1, unofficial gusts in **California** near the crest of the **Sierra Nevada** reached 190 mph at **Palisades Tahoe**, elevation, 8,700 feet, and 184 mph at **Alpine Meadows**, elevation 8,643 feet. Just to the east, **Reno, NV**, received 10.6 inches of snow on March 2-3, aided by a daily-record sum of 9.4 inches on the 2nd.

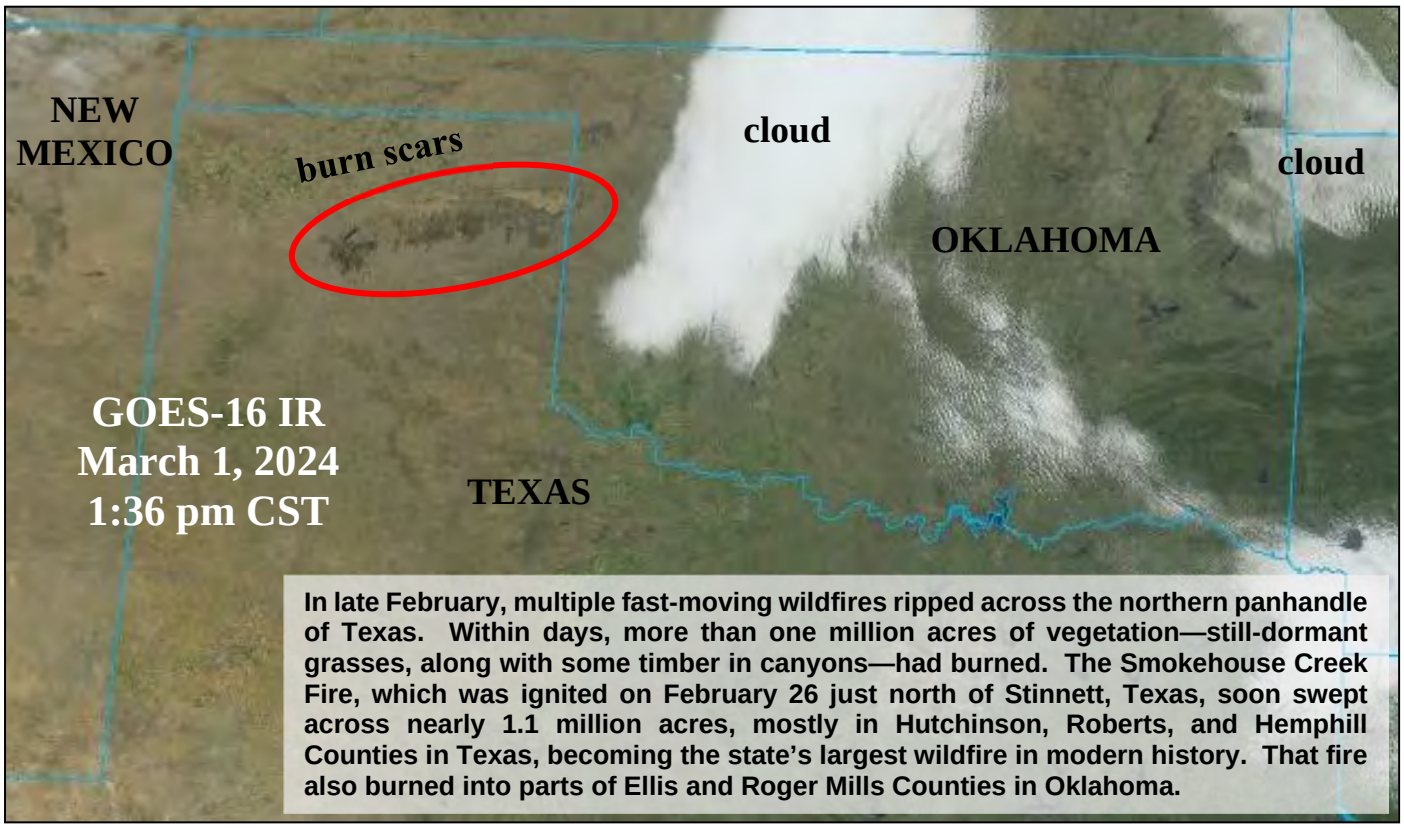
Unlike the **Lower 48 States**, suddenly colder weather dominated **Alaska** in late February and early March. In fact, weekly temperatures averaged at least 10°F below normal in several locations across **interior and western Alaska**. In **Bettles**, the temperature tumbled below -40°F each day from February 28 – March 1, with a minimum reading of -46°F on the 1st. With the return of cold weather, **Alaskan** precipitation was mostly light. Despite drier conditions late in the month, February precipitation totaled at least twice normal in several **Alaskan** locations, including **Bethel** (2.86 inches, or 325 percent of normal); **King Salmon** (2.60 inches, or 286 percent); and **McGrath** (1.76 inches, or 202 percent). Farther south, generally drier-than-normal conditions persisted into early March across **Hawaii**, despite spotty showers. (Heavier precipitation developed across parts of **Hawaii and Maui Counties** on March 3-4.) At the state's major airport observation sites, February rainfall ranged from 0.30 inch (15 percent of normal) in **Kahului, Maui**, to 5.77 inches (56 percent) in **Hilo**, on the **Big Island**.


U.S. Drought Monitor
February 27, 2024
(Released Thursday, Feb. 29, 2024)
Valid 7 a.m. EST
Drought Impact Types:
Delineates dominant impacts
S = Short-Term, typically less than 6 months (e.g. agriculture, grasslands)
L = Long-Term, typically greater than 6 months (e.g. hydrology, ecology)
Intensity:
None
D0 Abnormally Dry
D1 Moderate Drought
D2 Severe Drought
D3 Extreme Drought
D4 Exceptional Drought
Author:
Richard Heim
NCEI/NOAA
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx
USDA
NDMC
NOAA
droughtmonitor.unl.edu


U.S. Monthly Drought Outlook
Drought Tendency During the Valid Period
Valid for March 2024
Released February 29, 2024
Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Use caution for applications that can be affected by short lived events. "Ongoing" drought areas are based on the U.S. Drought Monitor areas (intensities of D1 to D4).
NOTE: The tan areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought Monitor intensity levels by the end of the period, although drought will remain. The green areas imply drought removal by the end of the period (D0 or none).
Drought persists
Drought remains, but improves
Drought removal likely
Drought development likely
No drought
Author:
Adam Allgood
NOAA/NWS/NCEP Climate Prediction Center
Alaska
Hawaii
Puerto Rico
U.S. Virgin Islands
https://go.usa.gov/3eZGd



A large area of Pacific storminess shifted into the northwestern U.S. at the end of February, with heavy precipitation and high winds soon spreading into northern and central California. According to the National Weather Service, winds near the crest of the Sierra Nevada largely peaked after sunset on March 1, when unofficial gusts in California reached 190 mph at Palisades Tahoe, elevation, 8,700 feet, and 184 mph at Alpine Meadows, elevation 8,643 feet. Event-total snowfall topped 6 feet in several locations, including the Central Sierra Snow Lab at Donner Pass, California.



In late February, multiple fast-moving wildfires ripped across the northern panhandle of Texas. Within days, more than one million acres of vegetation—still-dormant grasses, along with some timber in canyons—had burned. The Smokehouse Creek Fire, which was ignited on February 26 just north of Stinnett, Texas, soon swept across nearly 1.1 million acres, mostly in Hutchinson, Roberts, and Hemphill Counties in Texas, becoming the state's largest wildfire in modern history. That fire also burned into parts of Ellis and Roger Mills Counties in Oklahoma.

National Weather Data for Selected Cities

Weather Data for the Week Ending March 2, 2024

Data Provided by Climate Prediction Center

STATES AND STATIONS		TEMPERATURE ˚F						PRECIPITATION							RELATIVE HUMIDITY PERCENT		NUMBER OF DAYS TEMP. ˚F		NUMBER OF DAYS PRECIP	
		AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	EXTREME HIGH	EXTREME LOW	AVERAGE	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	WEEKLY TOTAL, IN.	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	GREATEST IN 24-HOUR, IN.	TOTAL, IN., SINCE MAR 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE MAR 1	TOTAL, IN., SINCE JAN 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE JAN 1	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	90 AND ABOVE	32 AND BELOW	.01 INCH OR MORE	.50 INCH OR MORE
AK	ANCHORAGE	20	10	24	6	15	-8	0.00	-0.19	0.00	0.00	0	2.08	122	65	44	0	7	0	0
	BARROW	-10	-23	-2	-29	-16	0	0.00	-0.05	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0	81	68	0	7	0	0
	FAIRBANKS	1	-25	14	-35	-12	-16	0.01	-0.11	0.01	0.00	0	0.58	49	88	50	0	7	1	0
	JUNEAU	27	17	32	13	22	-9	0.04	-0.91	0.02	0.00	0	12.21	113	75	36	0	7	2	0
	KODIAK	28	19	37	12	23	-9	0.72	-0.57	0.70	0.00	0	14.61	96	74	48	0	7	2	1
	NOME	9	-7	15	-21	1	-9	0.00	-0.22	0.00	0.00	0	2.33	115	77	57	0	7	0	0
AL	BIRMINGHAM	66	46	76	34	56	4	0.96	-0.41	0.85	0.85	211	11.71	110	80	36	0	0	2	1
	HUNTSVILLE	65	42	76	30	54	4	0.36	-1.00	0.20	0.21	55	10.93	102	87	42	0	1	3	0
	MOBILE	72	53	82	40	62	5	1.05	-0.20	1.05	1.05	283	10.78	101	86	47	0	0	1	1
	MONTGOMERY	69	47	79	33	58	2	1.97	0.66	1.93	1.95	506	17.45	172	85	40	0	0	3	1
AR	FORT SMITH	71	41	84	31	56	7	0.34	-0.41	0.34	0.00	0	4.71	79	82	31	0	1	1	0
	LITTLE ROCK	69	47	81	38	58	10	0.18	-0.99	0.13	0.05	15	12.26	153	77	42	0	0	2	0
AZ	FLAGSTAFF	51	28	56	21	40	5	0.01	-0.57	0.01	0.00	0	5.47	122	79	35	0	5	1	0
	PHOENIX	79	57	84	53	68	5	0.00	-0.26	0.00	0.00	0	2.04	110	59	21	0	0	0	0
	PRESCOTT	61	37	67	29	49	5	0.00	-0.33	0.00	0.00	0	2.31	88	68	24	0	2	0	0
	TUCSON	75	52	86	46	63	5	0.17	-0.01	0.16	0.00	0	3.10	176	69	26	0	0	2	0
CA	BAKERSFIELD	67	49	71	47	58	2	0.12	-0.18	0.09	0.12	147	3.79	151	90	47	0	0	2	0
	EUREKA	52	38	57	32	45	-3	2.06	0.61	0.87	1.22	295	18.27	141	97	70	0	1	4	2
	FRESNO	66	48	73	45	57	2	0.78	0.31	0.52	0.78	603	5.97	139	87	48	0	0	2	1
	LOS ANGELES	62	54	64	50	58	-1	0.26	-0.41	0.21	0.21	129	11.70	191	91	67	0	0	2	0
	REDDING	61	44	70	38	52	0	1.23	-0.06	0.56	0.67	182	13.60	112	79	39	0	0	3	1
	SACRAMENTO	62	45	68	37	53	0	0.86	0.06	0.48	0.73	332	8.91	118	93	51	0	0	3	0
	SAN DIEGO	65	56	66	54	60	1	0.16	-0.38	0.16	0.16	124	8.24	187	88	64	0	0	1	0
	SAN FRANCISCO	60	48	65	44	54	-1	1.57	0.67	0.93	1.27	538	10.50	127	84	60	0	0	4	1
	STOCKTON	64	43	71	38	53	-1	0.65	0.10	0.24	0.44	297	6.94	128	95	45	0	0	4	0
CO	ALAMOSA	52	15	58	2	33	4	0.02	-0.06	0.02	0.00	0	0.70	109	78	19	0	7	1	0
	CO SPRINGS	60	31	66	17	45	9	0.16	0.06	0.11	0.00	0	2.00	298	59	17	0	3	2	0
	DENVER INTL	62	27	69	12	45	9	0.10	-0.01	0.10	0.00	0	1.72	205	55	15	0	4	1	0
	GRAND JUNCTION	59	25	66	17	42	2	0.00	-0.15	0.00	0.00	0	0.67	55	63	16	0	6	0	0
	PUEBLO	66	24	72	11	45	7	0.07	-0.04	0.07	0.00	0	1.78	265	70	17	0	6	1	0
CT	BRIDGEPORT	46	31	54	19	38	3	2.11	1.23	1.31	1.31	506	9.09	136	85	53	0	3	4	2
	HARTFORD	49	26	62	16	38	5	2.06	1.20	1.01	1.01	407	11.17	164	82	44	0	6	3	2
DC	WASHINGTON	58	37	68	29	47	4	1.01	0.33	0.73	0.77	382	7.92	137	79	39	0	1	4	1
DE	WILMINGTON	53	30	63	20	42	3	1.55	0.79	1.19	1.22	516	9.24	144	84	45	0	4	4	1
FL	DAYTONA BEACH	76	56	84	45	66	3	0.29	-0.36	0.18	0.18	90	5.66	105	99	51	0	0	2	0
	JACKSONVILLE	75	51	83	38	63	3	0.32	-0.42	0.31	0.32	147	6.70	103	93	42	0	0	2	0
	KEY WEST	78	67	80	58	73	-1	0.00	-0.35	0.00	0.00	0	6.06	172	90	63	0	0	0	0
	MIAMI	79	64	81	54	71	-1	0.00	-0.48	0.00	0.00	0	3.93	93	86	50	0	0	0	0
	ORLANDO	81	56	85	49	69	3	0.00	-0.54	0.00	0.00	0	3.96	83	95	43	0	0	0	0
	PENSACOLA	71	54	82	44	63	3	0.55	-0.68	0.55	0.55	153	8.01	77	84	44	0	0	1	1
	TALLAHASSEE	75	50	80	34	63	4	0.01	-1.26	0.01	0.01	3	7.16	77	91	45	0	0	1	0
	TAMPA	77	59	80	49	68	1	0.00	-0.57	0.00	0.00	0	6.28	114	89	52	0	0	0	0
	WEST PALM BEACH	80	62	81	51	71	1	0.00	-0.64	0.00	0.00	0	5.69	89	88	53	0	0	0	0
GA	ATHENS	63	39	77	28	51	0	1.90	0.80	1.52	1.53	474	16.70	181	87	41	0	1	3	1
	ATLANTA	64	42	75	34	53	2	1.09	-0.07	0.87	0.87	258	10.49	108	77	41	0	0	2	1
	AUGUSTA	65	41	77	29	53	-1	0.81	-0.15	0.71	0.71	247	6.56	82	86	40	0	2	2	1
	COLUMBUS	69	46	80	36	57	2	2.13	0.93	2.10	2.11	590	14.38	174	87	41	0	0	3	1
	MACON	66	42	81	29	55	0	1.15	0.14	1.10	1.14	381	12.05	134	92	44	0	1	3	1
	SAVANNAH	69	48	82	37	59	2	1.09	0.36	1.00	1.09	477	6.31	98	84	39	0	0	2	1
HI	HILO	78	63	79	62	71	-1	2.09	-0.85	0.99	0.25	29	9.11	47	100	65	0	0	7	1
	HONOLULU	80	69	82	67	75	1	0.14	-0.39	0.14	0.00	0	2.88	72	77	48	0	0	1	0
	KAHULUI	80	67	81	66	74	0	0.16	-0.38	0.12	0.00	0	4.91	105	84	53	0	0	3	0
	LIHUE	76	69	78	67	73	1	0.68	-0.45	0.52	0.04	11	4.52	65	84	64	0	0	5	1
IA	BURLINGTON	59	26	77	11	42	9	0.00	-0.54	0.00	0.00	0	1.96	58	80	31	0	6	0	0
	CEDAR RAPIDS	59	21	76	6	40	11	0.00	-0.40	0.00	0.00	0	0.60	25	80	27	0	7	0	0
	DES MOINES	61	26	78	9	44	12	0.00	-0.40	0.00	0.00	0	4.31	166	71	24	0	5	0	0
	DUBUQUE	56	23	72	11	40	12	0.00	-0.46	0.00	0.00	0	1.97	63	79	29	0	6	0	0
	SIOUX CITY	59	22	77	6	40	11	0.00	-0.28	0.00	0.00	0	1.63	97	84	33	0	6	0	0
	WATERLOO	59	21	78	5	40	11	0.00	-0.36	0.00	0.00	0	1.52	63	76	26	0	6	0	0
ID	BOISE	52	33	63	26	43	1	0.51	0.26	0.20	0.19	252	4.52	179	80	38	0	3	4	0
	LEWISTON	50	33	61	30	42	0	0.30	0.05	0.12	0.11	152	2.85	125	85	45	0	3	6	0
	POCATELLO	45	27	57	19	36	2	2.20	1.94	0.99	1.94	900	5.49	250	86	48	0	6	3	2
IL	CHICAGO/O_HARE	58	32	74	20	45	12	0.45	-0.13	0.43	0.00	0	3.99	94	75	37	0	4	2	0
	MOLINE	60	24	79	13	42	9	0.12	-0.46	0.12	0.00	0	3.02	80	82	27	0	6	1	0
	PEORIA	58	28	78	17	43	8	0.00	-0.59	0.00	0.00	0	3.67	85	83	29	0	6	0	0
	ROCKFORD	59	26	78	13	42	12	0.00	-0.48	0.00	0.00	0	2.54	73	83	28	0	6	0	0
	SPRINGFIELD	59	28	80	18	44	7	0.05	-0.52	0.02	0.01	7	4.66	115	88	33	0	6	3	0
IN	EVANSVILLE	63	35	78	20	49	8	0.17	-0.78	0.14	0.03	11	6.88	98	87	40	0	3	2	0
	FORT WAYNE	56	31	69	21	44	11	0.07	-0.52	0.06	0.00	0	4.87	100	85	50	0	5	2	0
	INDIANAPOLIS	59	33	73	21	46	10	0.59	-0.11	0.59	0.00	0	6.07	103	84	43	0	4	1	1
	SOUTH BEND	57	31	73	20	44	13	0.03	-0.60	0.03	0.00	0	5.24	100	82	46	0	5	1	0
KS	CONCORDIA	62	28	83	12	45	8	0.00	-0.22	0.00	0.00	0	2.39	146	74	28	0	4	0	0
	DODGE CITY	69	27	82	9	48	9	0.00	-0.18	0.00	0.00	0	1.57	121	76	18	0	5	0	0
	GOODLAND	65	25	76	10	45	9	0.00	-0.12	0.00	0.00	0	1.83	218	71	15	0	5	0	0
	TOPEKA	66	27	83	14	47	7	0.02	-0.38	0.02	0.00	0	2.79	117	78	24	0	6	1	0

Based on 1991-2020 normals

***** Not Available**

Weather Data for the Week Ending March 2, 2024

STATES AND STATIONS		TEMPERATURE °F						PRECIPITATION							RELATIVE HUMIDITY PERCENT		NUMBER OF DAYS TEMP. °F		NUMBER OF DAYS PRECIP	
		AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	EXTREME HIGH	EXTREME LOW	AVERAGE	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	WEEKLY TOTAL, IN.	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	GREATEST IN 24-HOUR, IN.	TOTAL, IN., SINCE MAR 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE MAR 1	TOTAL, IN., SINCE JAN 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE JAN 1	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	90 AND ABOVE	32 AND BELOW	.01 INCH OR MORE	.50 INCH OR MORE
	WICHITA	65	27	80	16	46	4	0.00	-0.35	0.00	0.00	0	2.32	105	83	30	0	6	0	0
KY	LEXINGTON	60	37	73	22	48	7	1.11	0.09	0.51	0.21	70	9.02	120	84	45	0	3	5	1
	LOUISVILLE	62	37	77	26	50	7	0.78	-0.21	0.35	0.19	63	7.98	110	79	38	0	3	4	0
	PADUCAH	64	40	76	24	52	8	0.24	-0.87	0.16	0.16	50	9.91	119	84	42	0	2	2	0
LA	BATON ROUGE	74	52	84	42	63	4	1.09	-0.03	1.07	1.07	327	11.33	100	86	46	0	0	2	1
	LAKE CHARLES	73	54	78	44	64	4	0.02	-0.78	0.02	0.02	8	11.62	122	90	52	0	0	1	0
	NEW ORLEANS	72	55	80	47	64	3	1.19	0.12	1.07	1.11	367	12.50	128	98	55	0	0	3	1
	SHREVEPORT	75	52	88	43	64	9	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	84	36	0	0	***	***
MA	BOSTON	46	27	56	16	37	3	1.52	0.64	1.29	1.29	504	9.35	134	82	51	0	5	4	1
	WORCESTER	46	24	62	12	35	5	2.39	1.49	1.63	1.63	608	11.18	155	82	47	0	6	3	2
MD	BALTIMORE	56	31	66	21	44	4	1.29	0.50	1.00	1.03	427	8.64	136	85	39	0	4	3	1
ME	CARIBOU	38	13	49	-3	25	7	0.70	0.03	0.51	0.08	41	3.20	56	86	49	0	6	3	1
	PORTLAND	42	22	49	10	32	3	1.12	0.18	0.88	0.88	339	9.22	124	84	48	0	6	3	1
MI	ALPENA	48	23	70	14	35	12	0.55	0.13	0.55	0.00	0	3.28	93	89	41	0	6	1	1
	GRAND RAPIDS	54	30	73	19	42	12	0.15	-0.42	0.14	0.00	0	***	***	82	46	0	5	2	0
	HOUGHTON LAKE	49	24	69	14	37	13	0.93	0.53	0.93	0.00	0	1.49	73	86	44	0	6	1	1
	LANSING	55	29	73	18	42	13	0.59	0.10	0.59	0.00	0	4.08	102	81	44	0	5	1	1
	MUSKEGON	53	32	67	22	42	12	0.01	-0.57	0.01	0.00	0	3.51	73	79	46	0	4	1	0
	TRAVERSE CITY	51	26	73	18	38	12	0.44	0.13	0.33	0.00	0	1.63	57	82	37	0	5	2	0
MN	DULUTH	40	13	54	-5	27	6	0.00	-0.31	0.00	0.00	0	1.05	50	81	43	0	7	0	0
	INT_L FALLS	33	2	53	-22	17	2	0.33	0.14	0.13	0.13	253	1.53	98	83	48	0	7	3	0
	MINNEAPOLIS	53	22	65	4	38	12	0.00	-0.28	0.00	0.00	0	0.78	41	75	32	0	6	0	0
	ROCHESTER	52	19	69	3	36	12	0.04	-0.29	0.04	0.00	0	0.80	37	84	39	0	7	1	0
	ST. CLOUD	47	18	58	0	32	11	0.00	-0.24	0.00	0.00	0	1.19	78	78	40	0	6	0	0
MO	COLUMBIA	64	31	80	19	47	7	0.04	-0.57	0.02	0.02	14	2.94	65	79	27	0	3	2	0
	KANSAS CITY	63	28	77	12	46	7	0.08	-0.37	0.08	0.00	0	2.20	77	75	29	0	3	1	0
	SAINT LOUIS	64	35	86	26	49	9	0.04	-0.59	0.04	0.04	21	4.40	86	74	28	0	2	1	0
	SPRINGFIELD	65	33	82	21	49	6	0.08	-0.61	0.04	0.04	20	3.40	64	83	33	0	2	2	0
MS	JACKSON	72	49	85	37	60	6	0.39	-0.91	0.39	0.39	105	14.51	131	81	40	0	0	1	0
	MERIDIAN	68	46	80	33	57	3	1.49	0.07	1.41	1.41	334	12.14	104	87	43	0	0	2	1
	TUPELO	68	44	81	33	56	5	0.60	-0.81	0.31	0.31	80	11.87	110	84	41	0	0	3	0
MT	BILLINGS	46	24	59	4	35	3	0.40	0.24	0.25	0.14	350	1.37	116	81	41	0	4	4	0
	BUTTE	38	20	46	4	29	4	0.30	0.19	0.10	0.10	371	1.55	173	83	42	0	6	5	0
	CUT BANK	38	11	53	-4	24	-1	0.02	-0.03	0.01	0.01	75	0.39	83	89	52	0	7	2	0
	GLASGOW	45	18	62	-1	31	8	0.08	-0.01	0.07	0.07	300	1.10	134	79	48	0	7	2	0
	GREAT FALLS	43	18	58	-1	31	2	0.33	0.19	0.26	0.26	733	2.34	195	79	46	0	5	3	0
	HAVRE	40	15	60	-2	28	3	0.05	-0.03	0.04	0.04	200	1.87	221	87	56	0	6	2	0
	MISSOULA	44	29	55	21	37	4	0.20	-0.01	0.12	0.07	126	1.74	90	91	47	0	5	4	0
NC	ASHEVILLE	60	36	71	25	48	3	1.87	1.02	1.63	1.66	669	11.39	143	84	36	0	2	3	1
	CHARLOTTE	62	42	72	31	52	3	1.33	0.46	1.18	1.19	445	9.38	134	76	35	0	1	4	1
	GREENSBORO	59	37	70	27	48	3	1.40	0.64	0.80	0.88	379	9.98	152	84	37	0	2	4	1
	HATTERAS	60	42	63	28	51	0	0.48	-0.52	0.24	0.26	89	3.98	41	95	64	0	2	5	0
	RALEIGH	63	42	72	34	53	5	1.39	0.59	0.55	0.98	383	7.06	107	84	36	0	0	4	1
	WILMINGTON	66	46	75	36	56	4	1.76	0.90	1.38	1.76	667	5.22	68	88	44	0	0	2	1
ND	BISMARCK	39	12	64	-13	26	4	0.48	0.32	0.21	0.21	481	0.91	84	92	61	0	7	4	0
	DICKINSON	43	15	59	-7	29	5	0.12	0.03	0.08	0.08	400	0.13	21	85	53	0	7	2	0
	FARGO	41	18	61	-8	29	11	0.20	-0.03	0.19	0.00	0	0.84	55	78	53	0	6	2	0
	GRAND FORKS	34	10	56	-8	22	6	0.20	0.04	0.11	0.07	138	0.58	53	79	57	0	7	3	0
	JAMESTOWN	38	12	64	-11	25	6	0.03	-0.09	0.02	0.00	0	0.06	7	85	56	0	7	2	0
NE	GRAND ISLAND	59	25	78	6	42	8	0.00	-0.21	0.00	0.00	0	1.51	104	75	29	0	5	0	0
	LINCOLN	62	24	81	9	43	8	0.00	-0.23	0.00	0.00	0	1.33	76	74	27	0	6	0	0
	NORFOLK	62	24	76	5	43	12	0.00	-0.23	0.00	0.00	0	1.41	93	74	28	0	6	0	0
	NORTH PLATTE	62	18	74	2	40	7	0.01	-0.15	0.01	0.00	0	1.44	140	86	24	0	7	1	0
	OMAHA	60	25	80	7	42	9	0.00	-0.29	0.00	0.00	0	0.92	50	75	28	0	4	0	0
	SCOTTSBLUFF	61	22	73	6	42	8	0.08	-0.09	0.08	0.00	0	1.78	172	72	24	0	7	1	0
	VALENTINE	62	18	71	-7	40	9	0.06	-0.14	0.06	0.00	0	1.43	141	78	27	0	5	1	0
NH	CONCORD	47	21	60	9	34	6	0.95	0.22	0.82	0.82	400	7.89	134	84	37	0	6	3	1
NJ	ATLANTIC_CITY	51	31	59	19	41	3	1.37	0.46	1.06	1.06	372	9.20	131	87	46	0	3	3	1
	NEWARK	52	33	63	21	43	5	1.72	0.89	1.30	1.30	514	7.60	112	77	43	0	3	3	1
NM	ALBUQUERQUE	64	37	69	33	51	6	0.00	-0.11	0.00	0.00	0	0.74	88	59	18	0	0	0	0
NV	ELY	49	23	54	12	36	2	0.25	0.03	0.23	0.23	386	2.12	126	79	31	0	6	2	0
	LAS VEGAS	67	49	71	44	58	2	0.00	-0.19	0.00	0.00	0	1.16	81	51	19	0	0	0	0
	RENO	53	33	63	27	43	-1	1.24	0.97	0.79	1.22	900	3.62	150	77	40	0	4	3	1
	WINNEMUCCA	53	30	62	16	41	2	0.11	-0.07	0.07	0.07	128	3.49	199	77	31	0	5	2	0
NY	ALBANY	49	25	66	12	37	7	0.73	0.07	0.45	0.45	232	5.90	114	80	39	0	6	2	0
	BINGHAMTON	48	26	64	10	37	10	1.81	1.15	0.93	0.87	470	7.02	132	81	46	0	4	3	2
	BUFFALO	52	29	68	20	41	12	0.57	-0.10	0.31	0.01	6	5.67	92	82	42	0	4	3	0
	ROCHESTER	53	27	73	17	40	10	0.28	-0.29	0.18	0.18	109	4.56	92	79	42	0	5	3	0
	SYRACUSE	51	27	71	17	39	10	1.00	0.32	0.38	0.35	189	5.91	110	78	39	0	4	3	0
OH	AKRON-CANTON	52	28	68	16	40	7	0.41	-0.28	0.17	0.23	116	4.38	77	88	49	0	5	4	0
	CINCINNATI	58	33	71	21	46	7	0.26	-0.62	0.14	0.12	46	7.48	109	87	47	0	4	2	0
	CLEVELAND	55	32	71	21	44	10	0.21	-0.49	0.08	0.11	57	4.56	78	77	45	0	4	4	0
	COLUMBUS	56	32	67	20	44	8	0.37	-0.31	0.17	0.31	151	6.21	108	85	47	0	4	3	0
	DAYTON	56	34	68	23	45	9	0.49	-0.18	0.46	0.03	16	7.01	122	84	49	0	4	2	0
	MANSFIELD	53	29	68	15	41	8	0.67	-0.05	0.60	0.07	34	5.45	90	88	51	0	4	3	1

Based on 1991-2020 normals ***** Not Available**

Weather Data for the Week Ending March 2, 2024

STATES AND STATIONS		TEMPERATURE °F						PRECIPITATION							RELATIVE HUMIDITY PERCENT		NUMBER OF DAYS TEMP. °F		NUMBER OF DAYS PRECIP	
		AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	EXTREME HIGH	EXTREME LOW	AVERAGE	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	WEEKLY TOTAL, IN.	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	GREATEST IN 24-HOUR, IN.	TOTAL, IN., SINCE MAR 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE MAR 1	TOTAL, IN., SINCE JAN 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE JAN 1	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	90 AND ABOVE	32 AND BELOW	.01 INCH OR MORE	.50 INCH OR MORE
	TOLEDO	56	31	73	23	44	10	0.10	-0.55	0.08	0.00	0	5.18	105	80	44	0	5	2	0
	YOUNGSTOWN	53	30	64	17	41	9	0.61	-0.11	0.42	0.14	67	5.65	96	82	46	0	4	4	0
OK	OKLAHOMA CITY	68	35	88	25	52	6	0.15	-0.28	0.15	0.00	0	3.00	102	79	30	0	3	1	0
	TULSA	69	36	84	24	53	6	0.02	-0.48	0.02	0.00	0	4.00	115	76	27	0	2	1	0
OR	ASTORIA	48	38	53	34	43	-2	5.63	3.80	1.76	0.78	140	23.62	127	92	74	0	0	7	4
	BURNS	46	23	55	16	34	0	0.32	0.10	0.13	0.15	237	4.43	187	88	46	0	7	5	0
	EUGENE	50	37	57	33	43	-1	2.40	1.22	1.22	0.70	208	9.99	88	93	66	0	0	5	2
	MEDFORD	51	34	63	32	43	-3	1.50	1.03	0.70	0.91	700	7.08	145	89	50	0	1	4	2
	PENDLETON	53	36	61	31	44	4	0.43	0.13	0.27	0.02	22	3.36	118	82	40	0	2	4	0
	PORTLAND	49	40	54	36	44	-1	2.46	1.53	1.22	0.54	188	13.85	151	85	66	0	0	7	1
	SALEM	48	37	53	33	43	-3	3.50	2.40	1.57	1.06	328	15.57	140	91	69	0	0	7	2
PA	ALLENTOWN	51	27	62	16	39	4	1.79	1.04	0.96	0.97	441	8.52	133	78	41	0	6	4	2
	ERIE	52	33	64	19	42	11	0.60	-0.10	0.39	0.06	29	5.11	82	78	45	0	4	3	0
	MIDDLETOWN	53	29	62	20	41	4	1.06	0.35	0.59	0.60	283	8.81	148	86	46	0	5	4	1
	PHILADELPHIA	54	32	65	22	43	4	1.23	0.48	0.99	1.02	439	8.36	134	84	42	0	4	4	1
	PITTSBURGH	55	31	66	18	43	8	0.95	0.24	0.43	0.40	202	6.33	107	81	40	0	4	4	0
	WILKES-BARRE	52	28	66	13	40	6	1.35	0.77	0.69	0.46	278	7.54	153	80	40	0	4	3	1
	WILLIAMSPORT	52	27	61	16	39	6	2.07	1.43	1.10	0.83	441	8.96	161	84	44	0	6	4	2
RI	PROVIDENCE	47	26	55	16	36	2	3.27	2.29	1.91	1.91	654	12.03	153	89	51	0	6	3	2
SC	CHARLESTON	70	49	78	39	59	4	3.18	2.44	3.04	3.18	900	8.12	120	84	39	0	0	2	1
	COLUMBIA	64	42	76	29	53	1	2.39	1.50	2.13	2.13	818	7.44	102	88	40	0	1	3	1
	FLORENCE	65	44	78	34	55	2	1.85	1.11	1.55	1.60	726	6.20	96	88	40	0	0	4	1
	GREENVILLE	62	38	75	27	50	1	2.47	1.46	2.20	2.20	735	14.84	176	82	39	0	1	3	1
SD	ABERDEEN	50	20	69	-2	35	12	0.00	-0.18	0.00	0.00	0	0.29	23	86	46	0	5	0	0
	HURON	54	22	70	1	38	13	0.00	-0.22	0.00	0.00	0	1.04	73	85	40	0	5	0	0
	RAPID CITY	56	21	69	1	38	9	0.01	-0.14	0.01	0.00	0	0.81	93	78	29	0	6	1	0
	SIOUX FALLS	56	24	70	3	40	13	0.03	-0.22	0.03	0.00	0	1.32	85	73	37	0	4	1	0
TN	BRISTOL	61	33	70	24	47	4	0.81	-0.13	0.39	0.35	132	7.68	97	93	44	0	4	4	0
	CHATTANOOGA	63	41	74	30	52	4	0.56	-0.76	0.33	0.35	92	9.70	91	80	40	0	1	4	0
	KNOXVILLE	61	38	73	25	50	3	1.06	-0.17	0.53	0.53	154	11.00	109	83	42	0	3	3	1
	MEMPHIS	66	47	78	37	57	7	0.04	-1.27	0.02	0.01	3	10.22	110	76	41	0	0	3	0
	NASHVILLE	65	42	76	28	53	6	0.72	-0.40	0.51	0.21	67	9.17	102	76	38	0	2	2	1
TX	ABILENE	75	46	94	33	60	7	0.37	0.00	0.37	0.00	0	3.40	133	61	22	1	0	1	0
	AMARILLO	68	35	82	22	51	7	0.12	-0.03	0.12	0.00	0	1.64	125	64	17	0	4	1	0
	AUSTIN	75	52	85	44	64	5	0.00	-0.56	0.00	0.00	0	6.94	145	91	43	0	0	0	0
	BEAUMONT	74	54	80	44	64	4	0.01	-0.73	0.01	0.01	5	13.33	152	90	51	0	0	1	0
	BROWNSVILLE	79	62	86	55	70	2	0.00	-0.28	0.00	0.00	0	3.27	145	89	57	0	0	0	0
	CORPUS CHRISTI	77	56	90	50	66	2	0.00	-0.46	0.00	0.00	0	4.25	146	96	51	1	0	0	0
	DEL RIO	84	52	96	39	68	7	0.00	-0.22	0.00	0.00	0	0.58	43	70	21	2	0	0	0
	EL PASO	73	48	83	40	60	6	0.34	0.26	0.19	0.00	0	0.72	86	58	20	0	0	2	0
	FORT WORTH	75	49	94	39	62	8	0.05	-0.75	0.05	0.00	0	4.87	86	82	33	1	0	1	0
	GALVESTON	69	58	75	53	64	2	0.00	-0.59	0.00	0.00	0	7.61	113	94	67	0	0	0	0
	HOUSTON	75	55	86	49	65	5	0.01	-0.81	0.01	0.00	0	10.65	150	86	46	0	0	1	0
	LUBBOCK	71	37	87	31	54	6	0.01	-0.17	0.01	0.00	0	1.30	94	66	19	0	2	1	0
	MIDLAND	75	44	86	33	59	6	0.33	0.19	0.29	0.00	0	0.57	44	69	22	0	0	2	0
	SAN ANGELO	80	44	93	33	62	8	0.21	-0.14	0.20	0.00	0	1.16	51	79	20	2	0	2	0
	SAN ANTONIO	74	51	84	46	63	4	0.00	-0.48	0.00	0.00	0	6.19	158	90	43	0	0	0	0
	VICTORIA	73	54	83	49	64	2	0.00	-0.59	0.00	0.00	0	10.40	212	92	53	0	0	0	0
	WACO	75	48	87	41	62	7	0.04	-0.76	0.04	0.00	0	5.69	101	94	42	0	0	1	0
	WICHITA FALLS	71	41	93	32	56	6	0.10	-0.32	0.10	0.00	0	4.29	154	70	28	1	2	1	0
UT	SALT LAKE CITY	55	33	63	26	44	3	0.53	0.19	0.35	0.35	356	4.33	150	76	25	0	4	3	0
VA	LYNCHBURG	58	32	68	23	45	4	1.70	0.95	0.67	0.92	401	8.76	130	90	39	0	3	5	2
	NORFOLK	62	41	74	33	51	5	2.21	1.46	1.46	1.48	625	7.52	113	83	42	0	0	5	1
	RICHMOND	60	38	68	30	49	5	2.65	1.90	1.10	1.40	583	9.41	152	84	40	0	2	4	3
	ROANOKE	59	34	71	25	47	3	1.07	0.35	0.37	0.54	249	7.08	111	83	38	0	3	5	0
	WASH/DULLES	58	32	69	21	45	6	0.66	-0.02	0.43	0.53	259	7.72	132	81	40	0	3	4	0
VT	BURLINGTON	45	21	65	10	33	7	0.33	-0.17	0.17	0.17	125	3.69	89	74	37	0	6	2	0
WA	OLYMPIA	45	36	50	32	40	-1	3.60	2.31	1.61	0.51	126	14.97	111	95	73	0	1	7	2
	QUILLAYUTE	47	37	52	35	42	-1	5.28	2.77	1.70	0.90	115	26.94	101	87	68	0	0	7	4
	SEATTLE-TACOMA	45	35	50	29	40	-5	2.01	1.08	0.77	0.23	80	9.87	99	89	66	0	2	7	2
	SPOKANE	43	31	48	24	37	1	0.94	0.55	0.37	0.27	222	4.21	117	87	53	0	5	5	0
	YAKIMA	50	31	60	19	40	1	0.05	-0.13	0.04	0.05	100	2.38	114	81	40	0	3	2	0
WI	EAU CLAIRE	51	18	62	2	35	11	0.04	-0.28	0.04	0.00	0	0.63	28	79	36	0	6	1	0
	GREEN BAY	50	23	70	6	37	11	0.12	-0.24	0.12	0.00	0	1.25	45	84	39	0	7	1	0
	LA CROSSE	56	24	69	10	40	11	0.02	-0.33	0.02	0.00	0	1.14	44	76	30	0	5	1	0
	MADISON	54	24	70	11	39	11	0.01	-0.41	0.01	0.00	0	2.52	79	84	31	0	7	1	0
	MILWAUKEE	55	30	74	16	42	11	0.13	-0.34	0.07	0.00	0	3.87	105	74	35	0	4	2	0
WV	BECKLEY	55	32	65	19	43	5	1.15	0.29	0.80	0.13	50	8.01	120	83	43	0	4	5	1
	CHARLESTON	59	34	71	22	46	5	1.34	0.39	0.89	0.17	61	8.19	116	85	39	0	4	4	1
	ELKINS	56	27	65	18	42	5	1.37	0.50	0.77	0.28	112	7.55	107	94	45	0	6	4	1
	HUNTINGTON	61	35	74	20	48	6	1.68	0.74	1.26	0.18	64	9.43	136	80	40	0	4	4	1
WY	CASPER	48	21	57	5	35	5	0.12	-0.04	0.11	0.01	25	1.03	91	76	33	0	7	2	0
	CHEYENNE	54	28	63	15	41	9	0.03	-0.12	0.03	0.00	0	1.29	136	53	19	0	5	1	0
	LANDER	46	24	54	11	35	6	0.13	-0.06	0.08	0.08	161	2.00	154	78	30	0	7	3	0
	SHERIDAN	51	21	64	-1	36	7	0.46	0.30	0.25	0.06	133	1.21	90	79	32	0	4	4	0

Based on 1991-2020 normals ***** Not Available**

International Weather and Crop Summary

February 25 - March 2, 2024

International Weather and Crop Highlights and Summaries provided by USDA/WAOB

HIGHLIGHTS

EUROPE: Very warm and dry weather over eastern Europe gave way to heavy rain and cooler temperatures in western and southern growing areas.

WESTERN FSU: Unseasonable warmth promoted very early winter crop development over the western half of the region.

MIDDLE EAST: Dry and warm conditions over western and central croplands transitioned to much colder, unsettled weather over much of Iran.

NORTHWESTERN AFRICA: Persistent severe drought in Morocco contrasted sharply with additional moderate to heavy rain in central and eastern growing areas.

EAST ASIA: Unseasonably cold weather continued across eastern China, slowing green up of winter crops.

SOUTHEAST ASIA: Southern showers contrasted with unseasonable dryness in other areas.

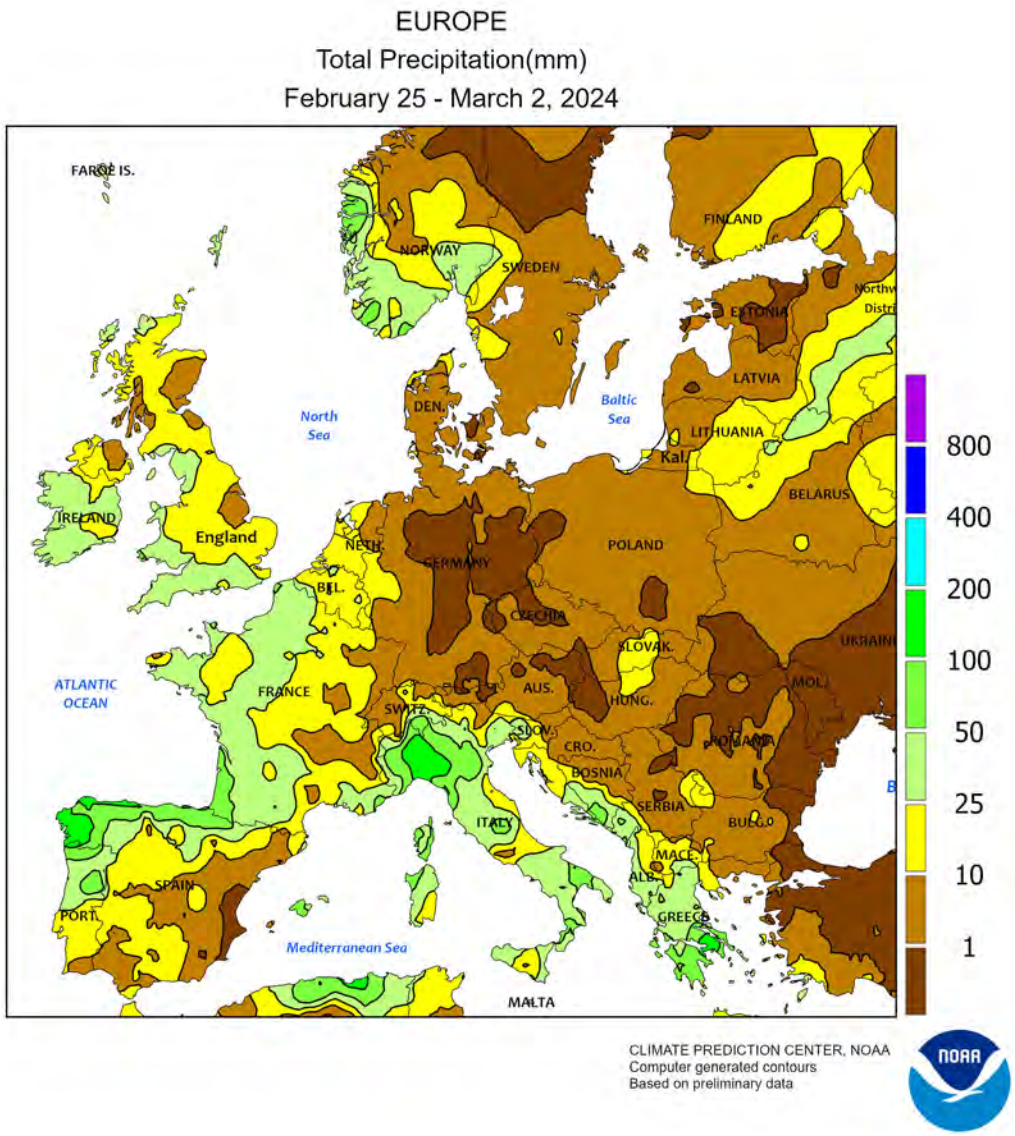
AUSTRALIA: Hot, mostly dry weather favored drydown and harvesting of the earliest maturing sorghum and cotton but increased stress on later-maturing crops.

SOUTH AFRICA: Mostly dry weather, accompanied by summer warmth, stressed corn and other immature summer crops in areas with limited moisture.

ARGENTINA: Beneficial rain overspread much of the region, benefiting immature summer crops in high-yielding central farming areas.

BRAZIL: Heat and dryness returned to a large section of central Brazil, stressing immature summer crops.

For additional information contact: mark.brusberg@usda.gov



EUROPE

Very warm and dry weather over eastern Europe gave way to cooler and wetter conditions over western and southern portions of the continent. Temperatures during the monitoring period averaged 5 to 10°C above normal from Poland and the Baltic States southward into Greece and the Balkans. Consequently, winter crops in the north continued to green up more than a month ahead of normal and rapidly added vegetative growth in the south. The Balkans' winter wheat and rapeseed have reached the tiller and rosette stages of development, respectively, as of the first week of March, with both crops developing up to four weeks ahead of normal. While moisture supplies remained overall favorable across eastern Europe, increasingly dry conditions have developed over the Danube River Valley; 30-day rainfall in southeastern Romania has tallied a meager 10 percent of normal or less. Somewhat cooler temperatures prevailed farther west, with readings averaging 2 to 4°C above normal from Germany into Italy and near normal from England into western France and Spain. Sunny skies promoted wheat and rapeseed growth in Germany. Conversely, moderate to heavy rain (10-100 mm) boosted moisture supplies for winter grains and oilseeds in England, France, Spain, Italy, and Greece. However, rain was locally excessive and caused flooding in northern Spain (100-205 mm), southwestern France (60-130 mm), and northwestern Italy (75-150 mm).

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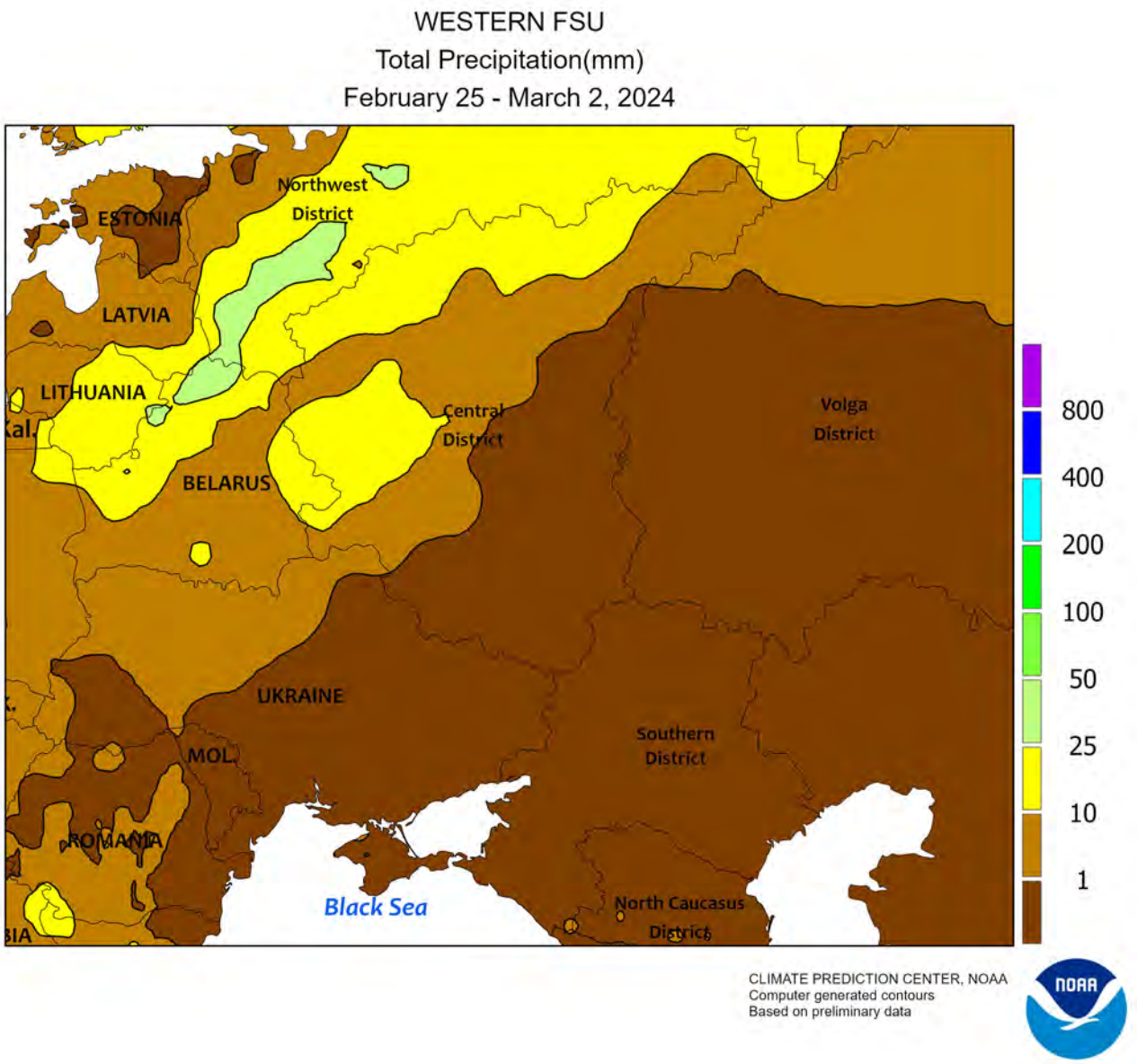

WESTERN FSU

Continued anomalously warm weather in the west contrasted with cold conditions farther east. The recent spell of record-setting February warmth persisted across the western third of the region, with temperatures averaging 4 to 10°C above normal in Moldova, Ukraine, Belarus, and western Russia. Southwestern Russia's primary winter wheat areas averaged 2 to 4°C above normal after the preceding week's brief spell of near-normal temperatures. As a result, winter crop green up (north) and vegetative development (south) continued at a faster-than-normal pace. Conversely, temperatures up to 8°C below normal over west-central Russia coincided with a lingering deep snowpack. Precipitation during the period was limited to northern-most portions of the region (5-15 mm), with primary winter crop areas adjacent to the Black Sea remaining dry. Soil moisture was overall favorable for spring growth, though acute short-term dryness (30-day rainfall less than 50 percent of normal) has developed in southwestern Ukraine and Moldova.

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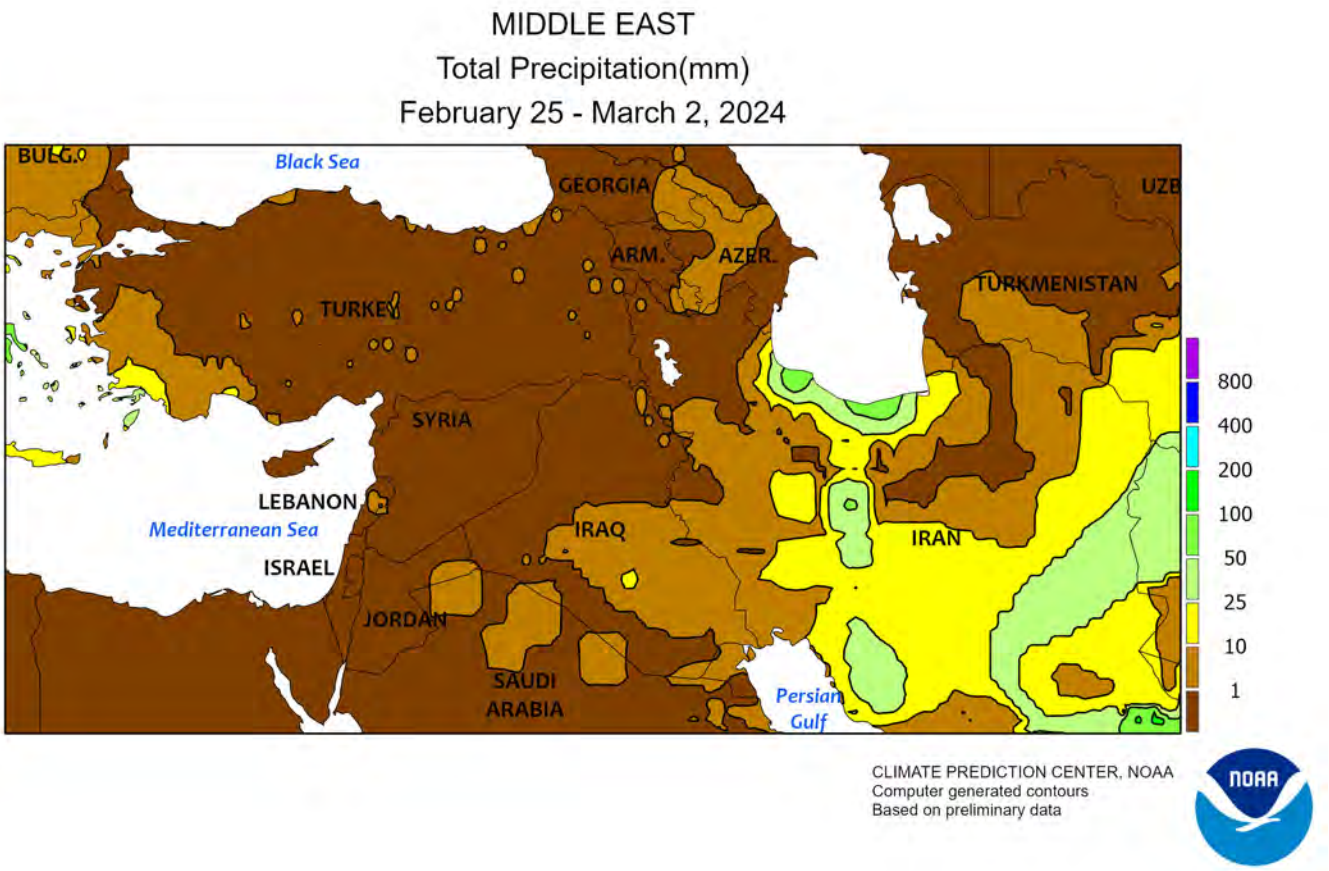

MIDDLE EAST

Dry and warm weather in western and central croplands gave way to colder and unsettled conditions farther east. Temperatures averaged 3 to 6°C above normal in Turkey but within 2°C of normal from the eastern Mediterranean Coast into northern Iraq. Under mostly sunny skies, winter grains continued to develop at a faster-than-normal pace, though crop stages varied considerably from vegetative (north) to reproductive (center and south). Conversely in Iran, sharply colder weather (5-10°C below normal) accompanied rain and snow (5-40 mm liquid equivalent), slowing or halting winter grain development but boosting moisture reserves for spring growth. Overall, winter crop prospects remained favorable and better than last year at the same time, though pockets of short-term dryness have developed in southern Turkey.

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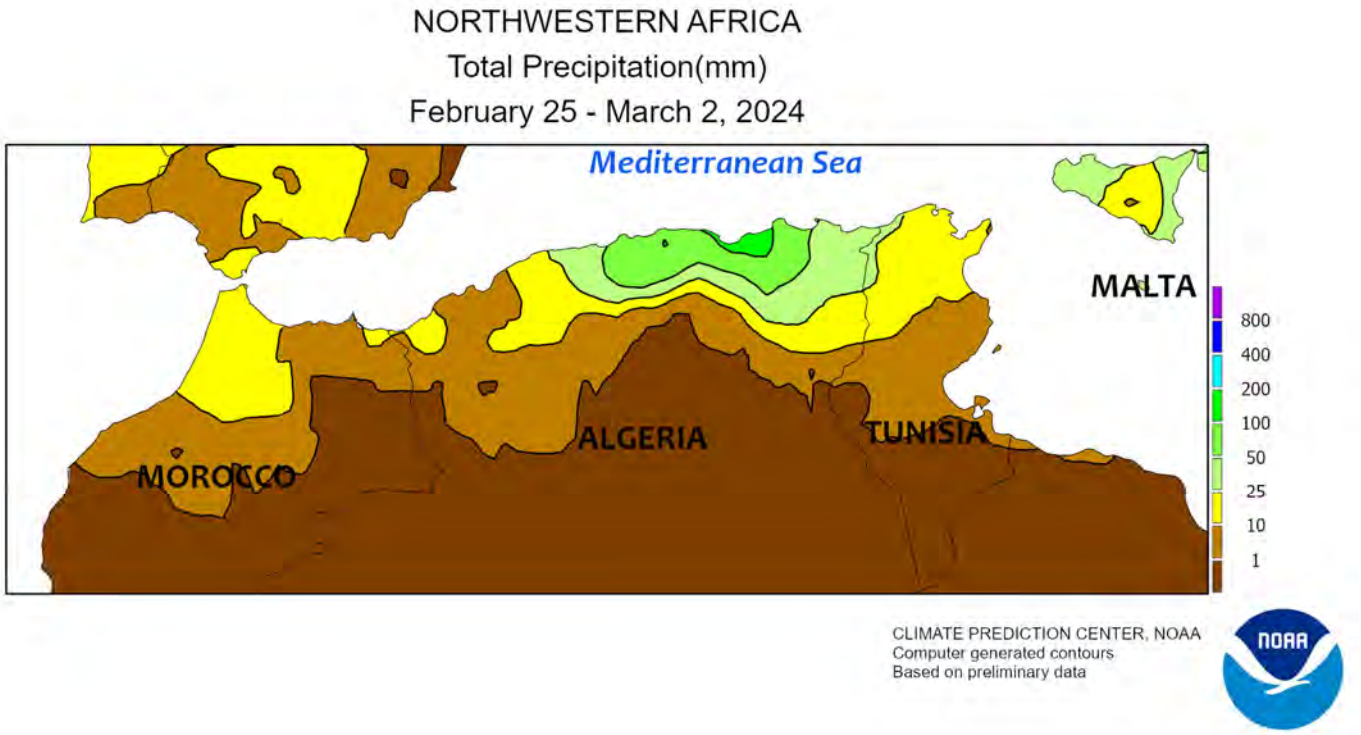

NORTHWESTERN AFRICA

Persistent drought in Morocco juxtaposed with additional beneficial rain elsewhere. In Morocco, despite the arrival of cooler weather (1-3°C below normal), the country's primary croplands adjacent to the central Atlantic Coast remained dry. As of March 3, season-to-date (since September 1) rainfall stood at 53 percent of normal (170 mm deficit) in the aforementioned crop areas, the fourth driest of the past 30 years. As a result, yield prospects for reproductive to filling winter wheat and barley remained very poor. However, showers in northern Morocco (10-15 mm) improved crop conditions locally but mostly fell outside of primary growing areas. Light to moderate showers (10-30 mm) eased drought in western Algeria and improved prospects somewhat for reproductive wheat and barley, though yield losses from this season's severe drought are mostly irreversible. Conversely, additional moderate to heavy rain in central and eastern Algeria (15-125 mm) as well as somewhat lighter showers in central and northern Tunisia (5-25 mm) further improved yield expectations for vegetative to reproductive wheat and barley.

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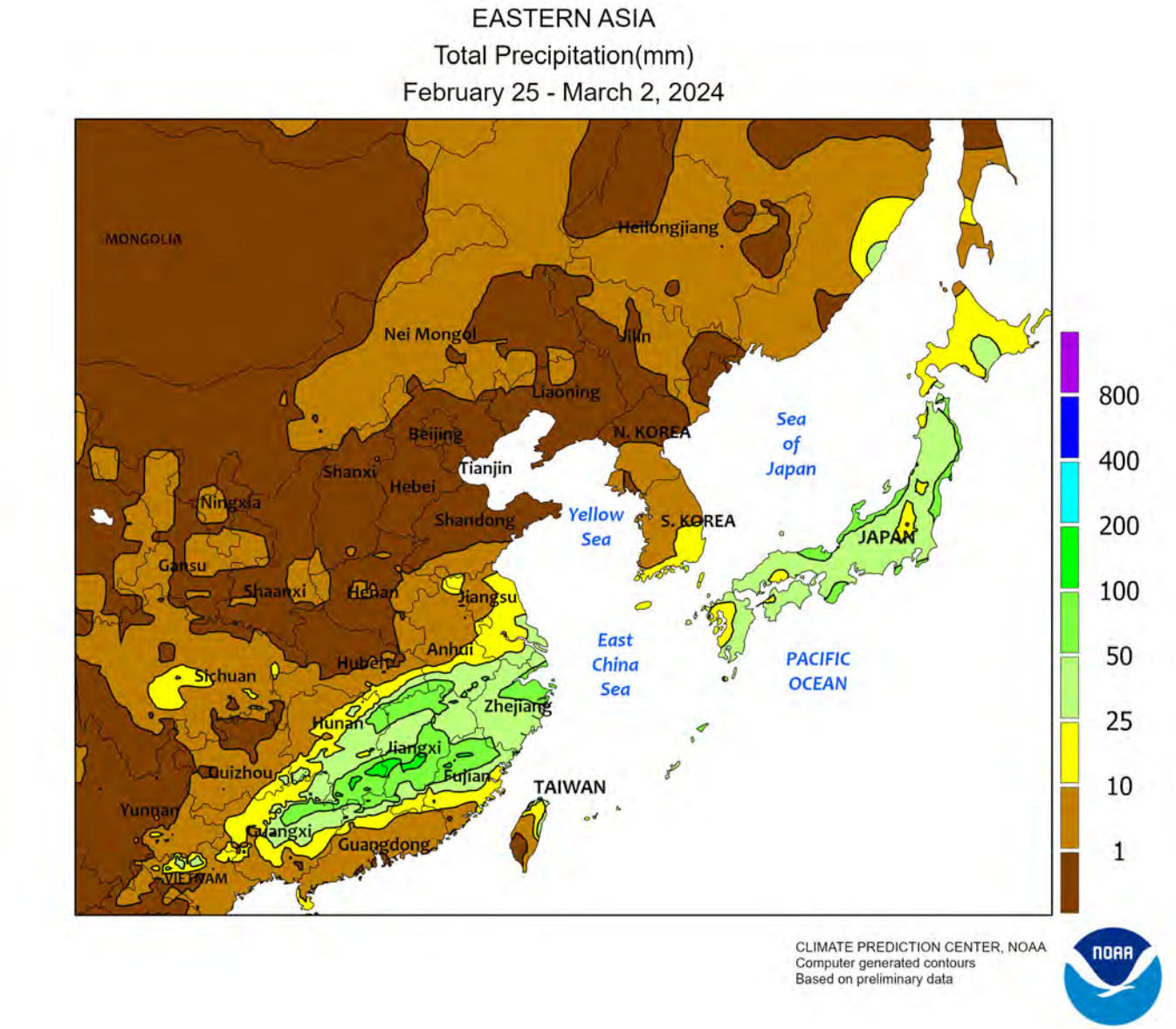

EASTERN ASIA

Following the passage of a cold front in eastern China last week that dropped temperatures over 15°C in some locales, temperatures moderated somewhat but were still below average (as much as 9°C below average). The continued cold slowed green up of rapeseed and wheat with some localized freeze damage in the coldest spots. Meanwhile, rainfall (exceeding 50 mm locally) pushed through the southeast, further boosting moisture reserves for vegetative rapeseed and early-crop rice sowing that will begin when temperatures permit. To the west, snowpack as of March 1 was below average and below last year, raising concerns over decreased irrigation for cotton sown later in the season.

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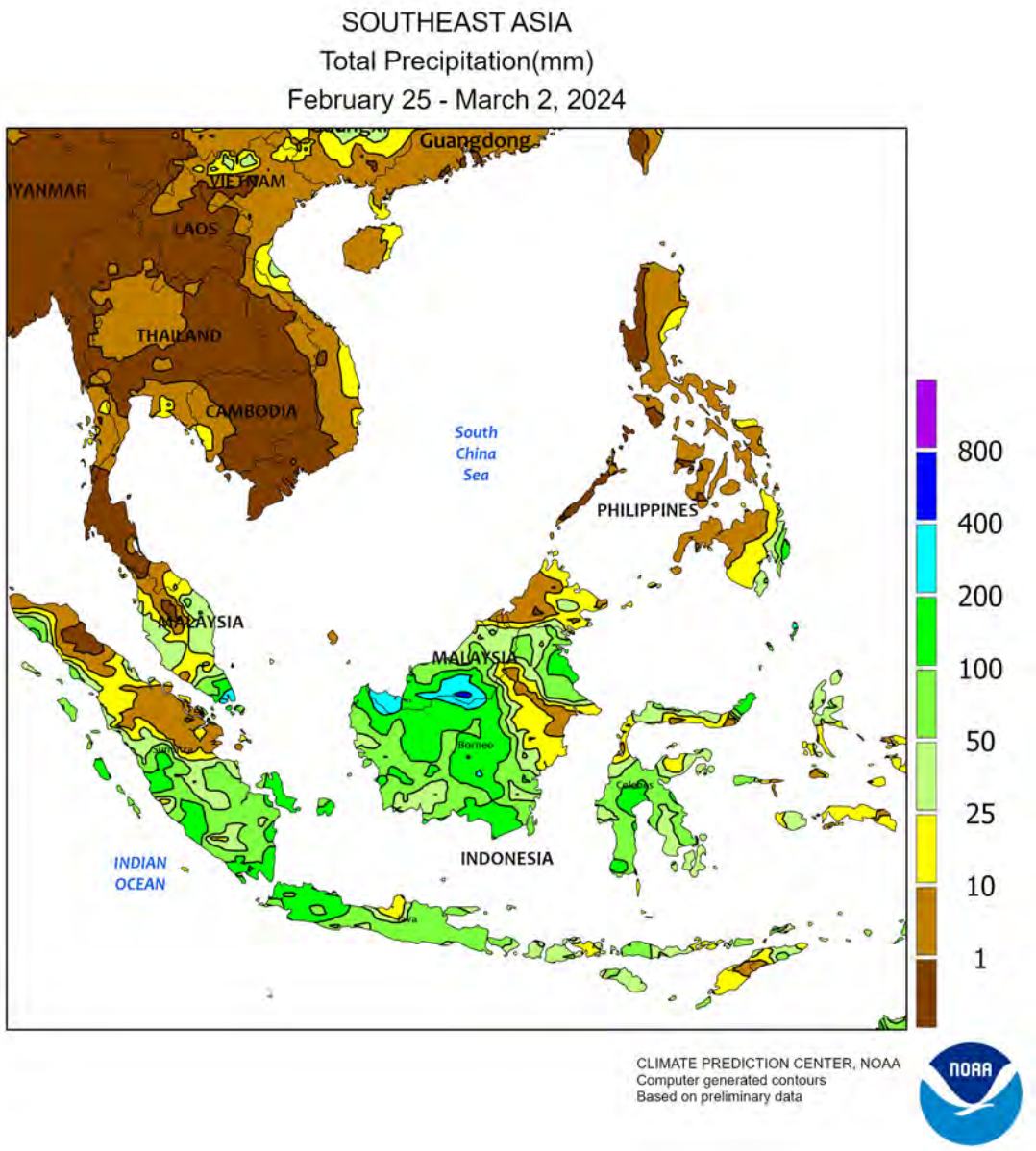

SOUTHEAST ASIA

The heaviest showers (25-100 mm or more) in the region remained limited to southern locales, benefiting oil palm and rice in parts of Indonesia and Malaysia. The remainder of the region recorded less than 25 mm of rain which was seasonable in Indochina but below average in the Philippines. The lack of consistent rainfall in key growing areas of the northern Philippines (seasonal totals less than 70 percent of normal) continued to raise concerns over reduced yield potential for seasonal rice and corn. Meanwhile, temperatures continued to climb in Thailand and environs earlier than expected, approaching 40°C in some reaches. The unseasonable heat occurred in the middle of the second rice season, necessitating increased irrigation to stave off yield declines.

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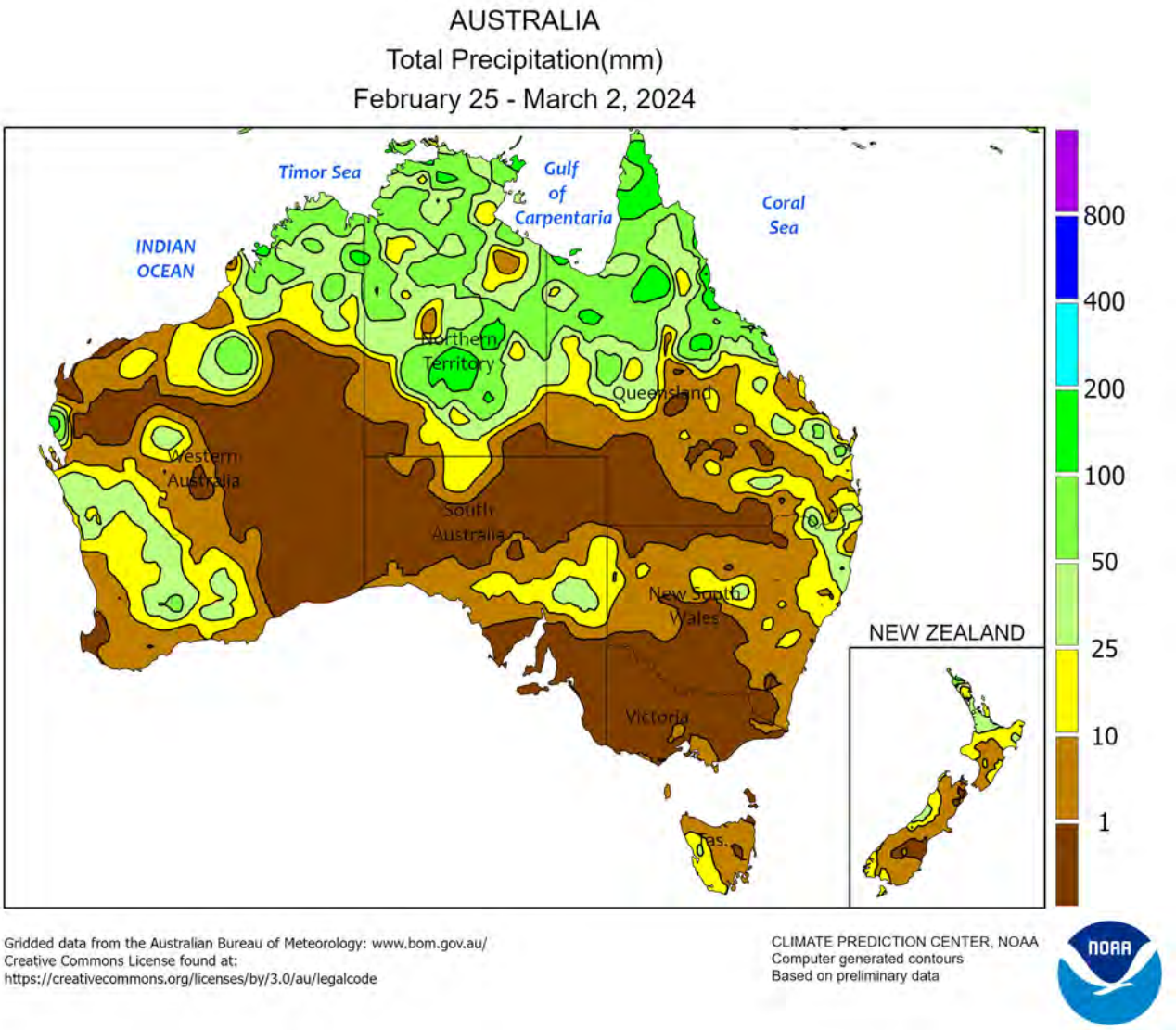

AUSTRALIA

Isolated showers dotted eastern Australia, providing little additional moisture for immature summer crops. Most areas received less than 5 mm of rain, with a few locations recording close to 25 mm. The relatively dry weather promoted drydown and harvesting of the earliest maturing sorghum and cotton but increased the irrigation demands of later-sown crops. Hot weather overspread eastern Australia too. Temperatures averaged 2 to 5°C above normal throughout much of the east, with maximum temperatures ranging from the middle 30s to lower 40s (degrees C). The heat likely stressed some summer crops, with immature dryland crops the most vulnerable.

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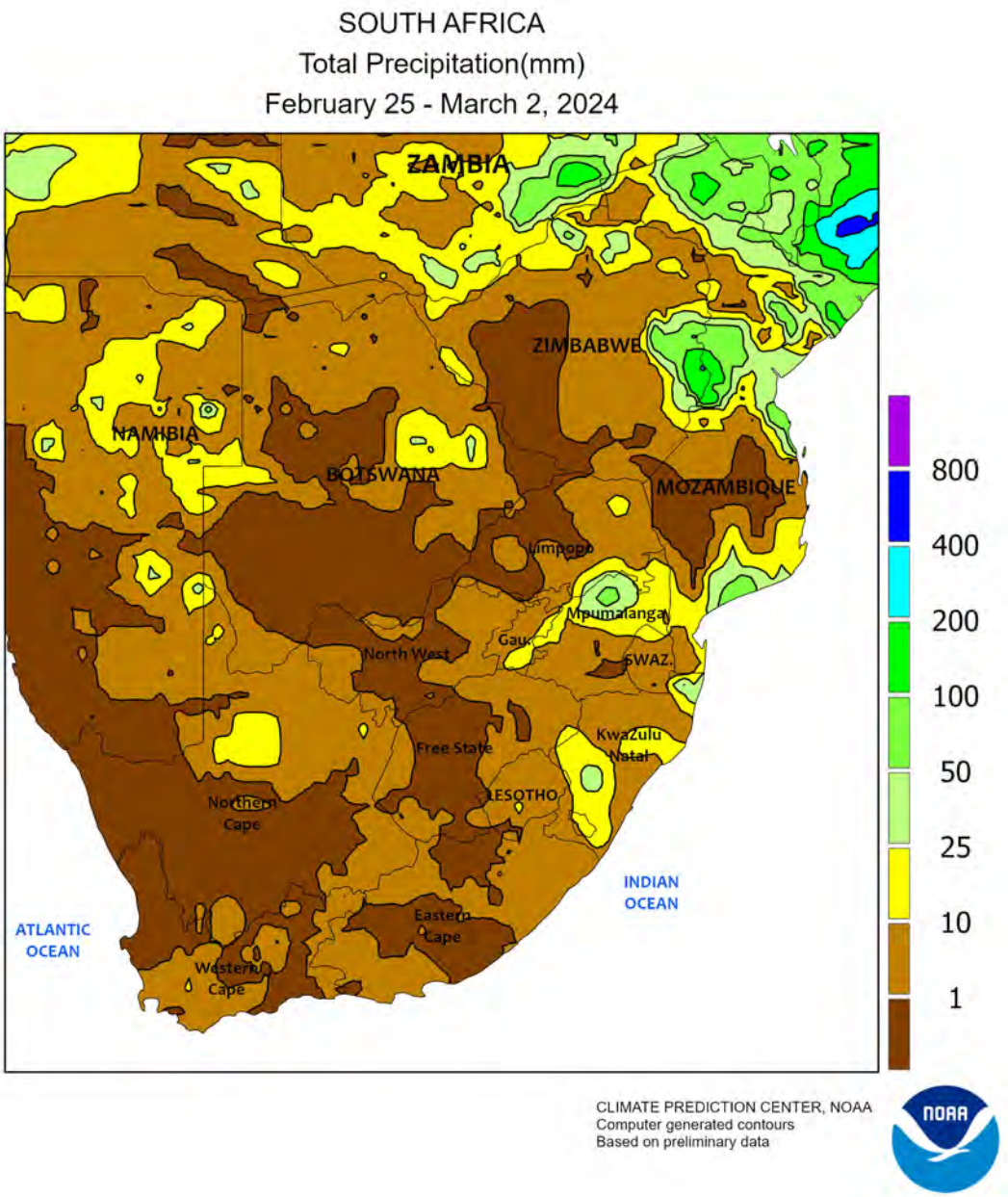

SOUTH AFRICA

Unseasonable warmth and dryness stressed corn and other rain-fed summer crops in areas experiencing limited moisture reserves. Rainfall totaled below 10 mm over nearly all major eastern farming areas, including the majority of commercial corn and sugarcane areas (North West, Free State, and from Limpopo southward through KwaZulu-Natal). Weekly average temperatures ranged from 1 to 2°C below normal in the eastern corn belt to as much as 2°C above normal farther west, with highest daytime temperatures mostly ranging from the lower to upper 30s (degrees C). The current trend of drier- and warmer-than-normal weather has been particularly untimely in western farming areas, which traditionally plant later and can be subject to higher temperatures. A return to a more seasonable pattern of rain and summer warmth is needed going forward to avoid significant declines in yield potential. Elsewhere, sunny, occasionally hot weather (daytime highs exceeding 40°C locally) fostered rapid development of irrigated summer crops throughout the Cape Provinces.

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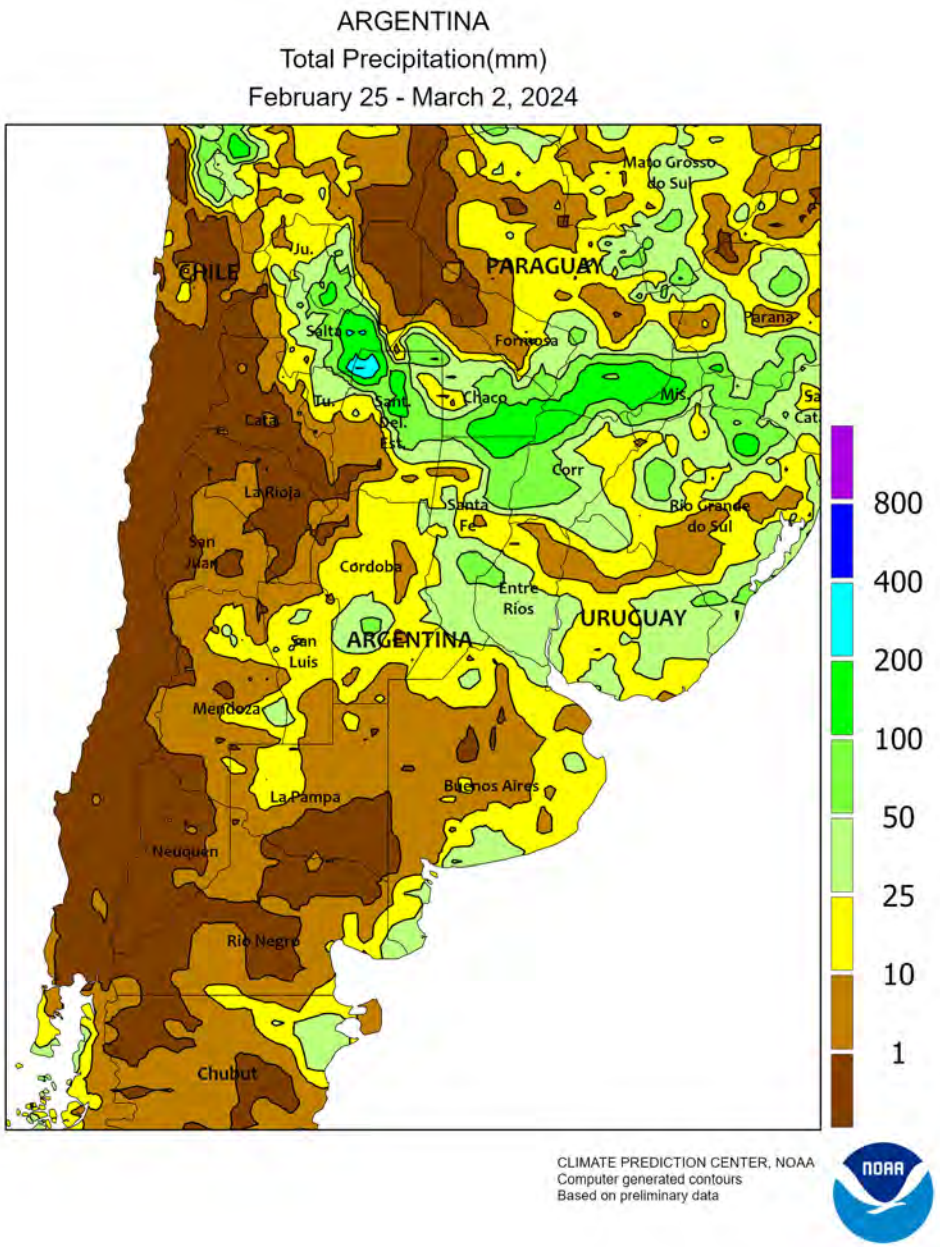

ARGENTINA

Warm, showery weather maintained mostly favorable summer crop prospects, although pockets of dryness lingered over sections of central Argentina. Rainfall totaled 25 to 100 mm over a large area stretching from Córdoba and Entre Rios northeastward into southeastern Paraguay, with similar amounts concentrated over Salta and reported locally in several delegations in Buenos Aires. In contrast, mostly dry weather (less than 10 mm) prevailed from central Buenos Aires westward into La Pampa, reflecting a recurring trend that first developed in January. Weekly temperatures averaged 1 to 3°C above normal in all major agricultural areas, with highest daytime temperatures again reaching 40°C in traditionally warmer northwestern farming areas (Santiago del Estero to western Paraguay). According to the government of Argentina, sunflowers were 21 percent harvested (25 percent last year) as of February 29; fieldwork was nearing completion over earlier-maturing northern production areas, but little to no harvesting was reported yet in Buenos Aires or La Pampa.

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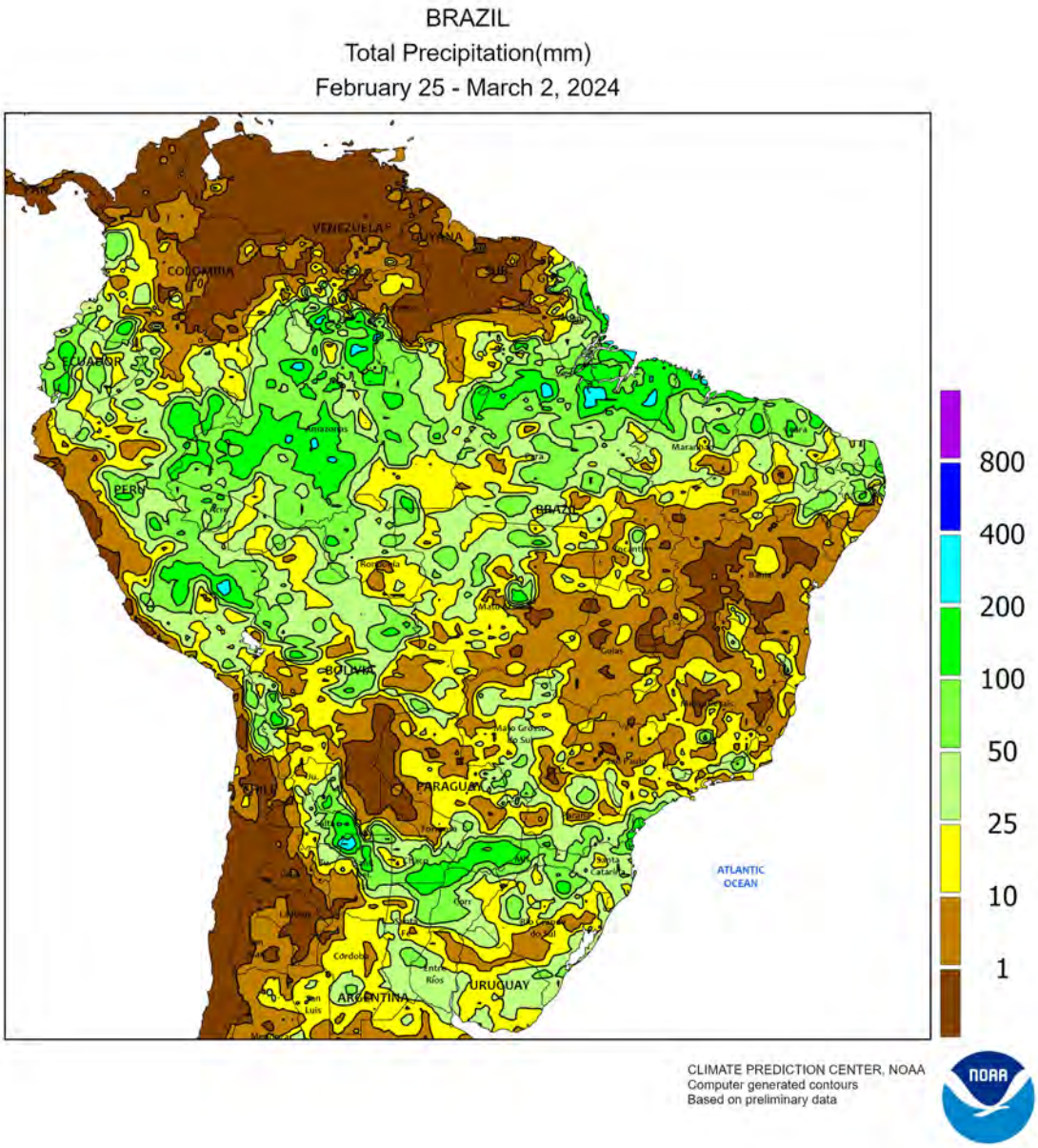

BRAZIL

Unseasonable heat and dryness returned to a large section of central Brazil, stressing immature crops in areas already experiencing limited supplies of moisture. Rainfall averaged below 10 mm over a large area stretching from southeastern Mato Grosso eastward through Bahia, with the dryness reaching as far south as São Paulo and as far north as Piauí. Other parts of central and northeastern Brazil recorded at least 25 mm, but losses through evaporation were high; weekly temperatures averaged 1 to 3°C above normal (daytime highs reaching the middle 30s degrees C) throughout the aforementioned areas, hastening the maturation of soybeans possibly at the expense of yields in later-planted fields. Additionally, a return to more seasonable rainfall and temperatures is needed to ensure current yield prospects of second-crop corn and cotton. According to the government of Mato Grosso, soybeans were 85 percent harvested as of March 1, lagging last year's pace by 3 points; corn planting was 90 percent completed, compared with 89 percent last year. Elsewhere, rain totaling 5 to 50 mm benefited immature corn and soybeans from Mato Grosso do Sul southward through Rio Grande do Sul, although temperatures averaging 2 to 4°C above normal (highs ranging from the lower to upper 30s) maintained high evaporative losses, particularly in the warmest locations (Mato Grosso do Sul and northern Paraná). According to government reports, first-crop corn and soybeans in Paraná were 65 and 52 percent harvested, respectively, as of February 26; second-crop corn was 66 percent planted. In Rio Grande do Sul, corn was 68 percent harvested as of February 29; meanwhile, over 90 percent of soybeans had flowered, with 6 percent reaching maturity.

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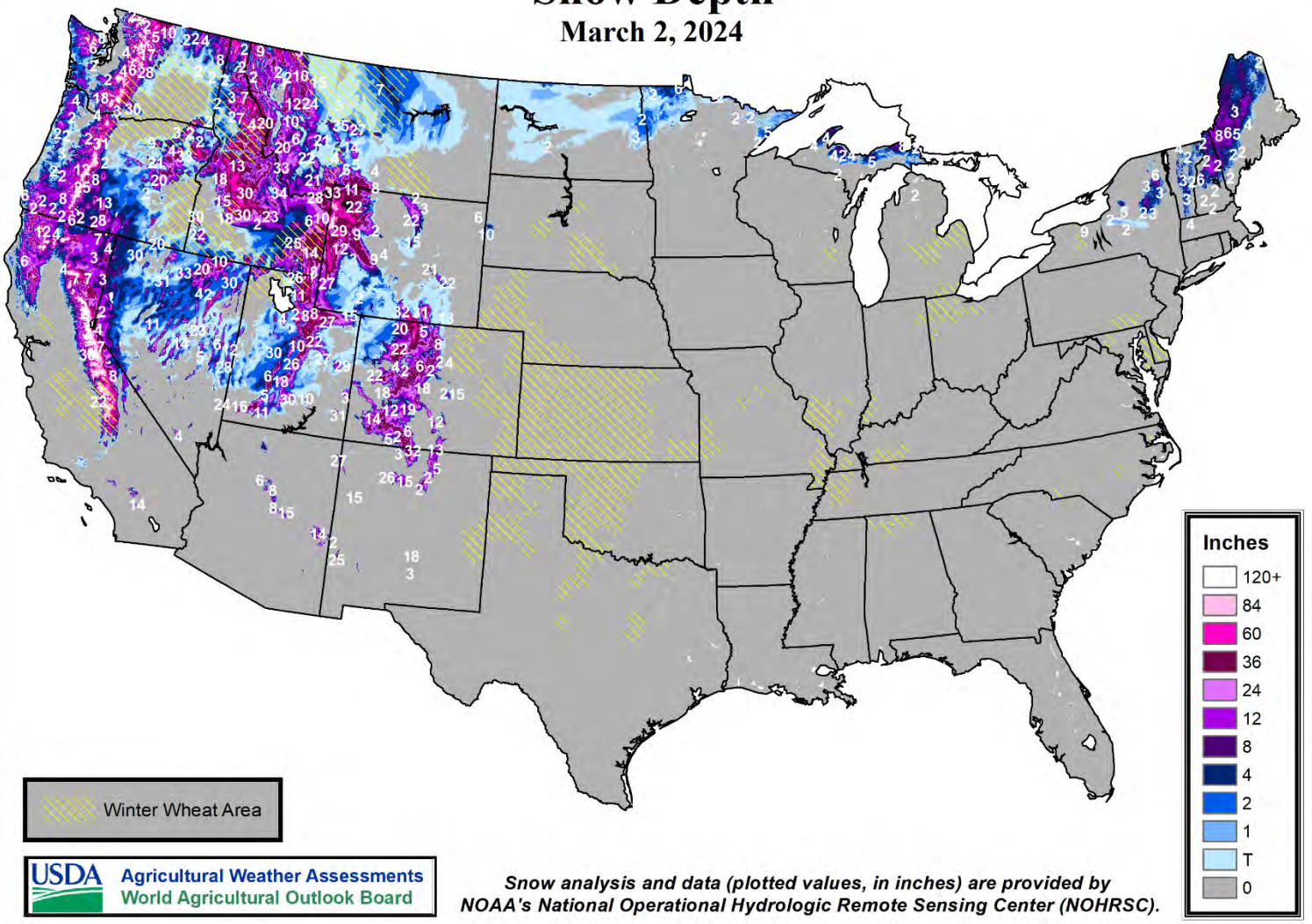
Snow Depth

March 2, 2024



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