1 - UNITED STATES
From a Midwestern windstorm to Western wildfires to Hurricane Laura, August was a month of extreme weather and climate disasters. There were also slow-motion events, such as worsening Western drought and a stripe across the Midwest and Northeast that experienced significant rainfall deficits. However, August dryness across the Northwest favored fieldwork, including small grain harvesting. The August 10 windstorm was a fast-unfolding disaster that affected millions of acres of corn and other Midwestern farmland. Some of the most significant wind impacts occurred in a west-to-east band across central Iowa. Later, Hurricane Laura made landfall on August 27 near Cameron, Louisiana, with maximum sustained winds of 150 mph. Earlier (on August 3), Hurricane Isaias had made landfall near Ocean Isle Beach, North Carolina, with sustained winds of 85 mph. Elsewhere, ample August rainfall across much of the South and far upper Midwest maintained generally favorable growing conditions for pastures and immature summer crops.

2 - CANADA
Conditions remained overall favorable for Prairie spring crops, including favorably drier weather in September supporting harvesting in Alberta and Saskatchewan. Meanwhile, August showers provided a late-season boost in moisture to soybeans and corn in Ontario.

3 - SOUTH AMERICA
In August, dryness and a freeze stressed vegetative to reproductive wheat in Argentina, though many high-yielding farming areas received much-needed rain in early September. In Brazil, frosty weather raised concern for reproductive wheat in southern production areas. In contrast, warm, sunny weather supported the final stages of corn and cotton harvesting farther north.

4 - EUROPE
Widespread showers across Europe during August improved moisture supplies for winter crop planting, particularly in previously-dry portions of France and Germany. However, longer-term deficits lingered in France, where more rain is needed to ensure uniform wheat and rapeseed establishment. Locally heavy rain across England and much of eastern Europe sustained adequate to abundant soil moisture for winter wheat and rapeseed planting but slowed fieldwork and summer crop maturation. Summer crops were at maturity across most growing areas by month’s end, and yield prospects varied from good to excellent in Poland and the northern Balkans to poor in parts of France and the lower Danube River Valley.

5 - FSU-WESTERN
In August, much drier-than-normal weather prevailed, with warm conditions in the west giving way to near- to below-normal temperatures in the east. Intensifying short-term drought over Ukraine cut yield prospects for reproductive to filling corn, soybeans, and sunflowers following a favorable start to the summer growing season. Rainfall was highly variable in Russia, with pockets of acute drought contrasting with nearby heavy showers.

6 - FSU-EASTERN
Rainfall during August was highly variable in northern Kazakhstan and central Russia. Locally heavy showers in northern Kazakhstan and central Russia eased drought but were mostly too late to benefit filling to maturing spring grains. Farther east, heavy late-season rain in Russia’s Siberia District improved 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
Seasonably dry, warm weather during August promoted fieldwork and summer crop maturation over Turkey. Harvesting of corn and sunflowers was underway, while cotton harvesting began by early September.

8 - SOUTH ASIA
Monsoon showers improved across central India during August, following poor rainfall in July. The increased moisture benefited rice in the east as well as oilseeds in the west. In fact, downpours in the latter half of August caused flooding in some soybean fields. Meanwhile, consistent showers maintained good to excellent soil moisture for groundnuts and cotton across the far west and south. Elsewhere, historic flooding in southern Pakistan inundated some cotton fields.

9 - EASTERN ASIA
A series of tropical cyclones during August produced heavy showers in eastern China, particularly the northeast. The above-average rainfall benefited summer crops in the latter stages of reproduction and eased or completely erased moisture deficits incurred during July. By comparison, drier weather in the Yangtze Valley eased excessive wetness for rice and other summer crops. Meanwhile, conditions remained good to excellent for cotton in western China, improving yield prospects. Elsewhere in the region, much of the rainfall associated with the aforementioned tropical cyclones erased July drought conditions on the Korean Peninsula.

10 - SOUTHEAST ASIA
Near- to above-normal rainfall across Thailand and environs in August greatly improved moisture conditions for rice following sub-par rainfall in July. However, more rain is needed to replenish reservoirs for dry-season cropping later in the year. Meanwhile, the traditionally wet northern Philippines continued to experience lighter-than-normal showers. Although moisture conditions have been adequate for wet-season crops, more rain would be welcome to replenish reservoirs. Elsewhere, drier-than-normal weather prevailed in western oil palm areas of Malaysia and Indonesia, while eastern areas benefited from more seasonable wetness.

11 - AUSTRALIA
During August, rainfall was near normal throughout most of the wheat belt, favoring winter grain and oilseed development in most states. Consequently, wheat, barley, and canola prospects remained good in Western Australia, South Australia, and Victoria, and were good to excellent in New South Wales. In southern Queensland, however, more rain was needed to promote wheat and other winter crop development as the region continued to slowly recover from a severe, multi-year drought.

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