

WORLD AGRICULTURAL WEATHER HIGHLIGHTS

December 9, 2016

1 - UNITED STATES

Punishing Southeastern drought culminated in a late-November wildfire disaster in the Great Smoky Mountains, just as rain began to fall. Effects of the Southeastern drought extended to agriculture and included supplemental feed requirements for livestock, surface water shortages, and a lack of soil moisture for the germination of winter grains and cover crops. Meanwhile, drought also caused problems across portions of the central and southern Plains with respect to winter wheat establishment. Farther north, however, occasional rain and snow benefited winter wheat in the Northwest and lower Midwest. Despite the precipitation, Midwestern harvest activities were largely complete by month's end. Elsewhere, somewhat drier weather prevailed in the Northwest, following record-setting October wetness, while beneficial precipitation fell in parts of the Southwest. Still, Western snowpack was lacking in many areas due to unusual warmth, which dominated not only the western U.S. but also nearly the entire country.

2 - SOUTH AMERICA

In Argentina, drier-than-normal conditions prevailed during much of November, encouraging summer crop planting as well as drydown and harvesting of winter grains. However, moisture was becoming limited in some southern production areas for soybeans and other secondary crops. In contrast, frequent, occasionally heavy rainfall maintained overall favorable prospects for soybeans and cotton in major production areas of central Brazil. Generally drier conditions prevailed in southern Brazil, although timely showers and a general lack of stressful heat benefited vegetative to reproductive first-crop corn and soybeans.

3 - EUROPE

During November, wet weather aided winter wheat and rapeseed establishment across much of the continent, particularly in previously dry portions of France and England. However, winter crops went dormant from eastern Germany into Poland and the northern Balkans by month's end. In Spain and Portugal, near- to above-normal rainfall signaled a favorable start to the water year, boosting reservoirs and improving soil moisture for winter grain planting. Despite the overall wet weather pattern, drier-than-normal conditions in Greece promoted cotton harvesting.



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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

Wet weather prevailed across the region, slowing late-season fieldwork but favoring winter crop establishment. Locally heavy rain in central and western Ukraine hampered corn and soybean harvesting. However, the rain was welcome for winter wheat in southern and eastern Ukraine. In Russia, near- to above-normal precipitation favored winter wheat establishment. However, sharply colder weather during the latter half of the month sped winter crops into dormancy up to two weeks ahead of normal.

5 - NORTHWESTERN AFRICA

During November, near- to above-normal rainfall during the latter half of the month alleviated drought in Morocco and Algeria. Showers maintained good conditions for winter grain establishment in Tunisia.

6 - MIDDLE EAST AND TURKEY

Intensifying short-term drought adversely impacted winter grain establishment from Turkey into Iraq and western Iran. The drought impacts were compounded by sharply colder weather at month's end, which accelerated crops into dormancy and likely resulted in localized burnback or winterkill in western Iran. Much-needed rain and snow arrived in early December, though likely too late for wheat establishment.

7 - SOUTH ASIA

During November, seasonably warm, dry conditions prevailed across much of India, promoting cotton and other summer (kharif) crop harvesting as well as wheat, rapeseed and other winter (rabi) crop planting. In seasonably wetter areas of southern India, rainfall was below normal, raising concerns over moisture availability for crops. However, a tropical cyclone at month's end brought beneficial rainfall to some of the areas affected by dryness.

8 - EASTERN ASIA

November rainfall was near normal across winter crop areas in eastern China, with isolated pockets of dryness on the North China Plain. The moisture conditions, along with seasonable temperatures, aided establishment and growth of wheat and rapeseed. However, by the end of the month, an arctic blast forced much of the wheat into dormancy earlier than normal, limiting further development.

9 - SOUTHEAST ASIA

Unseasonably heavy showers prevailed during November in northern sections of the region, reflecting the current La Niña conditions. The excessive rainfall caused significant delays and minor damage to coffee in Vietnam's Central Highlands region. Portions of the northern Philippines also received unusually heavy rainfall, which was welcome for boosting moisture supplies for winter rice and corn. Meanwhile, seasonably wet weather in Indonesia benefited rice and oil palm.

10 - AUSTRALIA

In November, near-normal rainfall in eastern Victoria and southern New South Wales benefited immature winter grains and oilseeds. Throughout the remainder of the wheat belt, mostly dry weather prevailed, favoring winter crop maturation and harvesting while sustaining good to excellent yield and quality prospects. Although the dry weather aided fieldwork in southern Queensland and northern New South Wales, the dryness slowly but steadily reduced topsoil moisture for recently sown summer crops.

11 - SOUTH AFRICA

Near- to above-normal November rainfall maintained favorable early prospects for corn and other rain-fed summer crops in key eastern production areas. Conditions are particularly favorable when compared to last year's heat and dryness.

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