

**International Weather and Crop Summary**

**NOAA/USDA Joint Agricultural Weather Facility**

**September 7 - 13, 2008**

**International (202) 720-9807**

**HIGHLIGHTS**

**FSU-WESTERN:** Several days of warm, dry weather aided summer crop harvesting and winter grain planting in Ukraine and southern Russia, while widespread rain slowed final spring grain harvest efforts across northern Russia.

**FSU-NEW LANDS:** Widespread showers slowed spring grain harvesting in Russia, while unseasonably warm, dry weather helped harvest activities in Kazakhstan.

**EUROPE:** Drier weather in central and northern crop areas favored fieldwork, while much-needed rainfall in southeastern Europe eased drought.

**MIDDLE EAST:** Long-term drought over much of the region limited topsoil moisture for winter crop planting and emergence.

**AUSTRALIA:** Showers provided little additional moisture for winter grains.

**EAST ASIA:** Warm, mostly dry weather benefited crop maturation and harvest activities in Manchuria and southern China, but wet weather slowed harvesting on the North China Plain.

**SOUTHEAST ASIA:** Widespread monsoon showers and tropical activity caused flooding in parts of Indochina and the Philippines.

**SOUTH ASIA:** A late-season monsoon burst in northern growing areas caused lowland flooding but increased moisture reserves for reproductive summer crops and upcoming winter wheat planting.

**ARGENTINA:** Dry, frosty weather maintained mostly unfavorable conditions for vegetative to reproductive winter wheat.

**BRAZIL:** Rain benefited immature wheat in southern Brazil but the wetter conditions hampered seasonal harvests.

**CANADA:** The absence of a widespread freeze aided late spring crop development in the eastern Prairies.

**MEXICO:** Beneficial rain continued throughout northwestern and southern Mexico.

**FSU-WESTERN:** In Russia, widespread rain (15-50 mm or more) fell from the Central District eastward across the Volga District, slowing final spring grain harvest efforts but providing abundant topsoil moisture for winter grain emergence and early plant establishment. Farther south, unseasonably warm, dry weather prevailed in the Southern District, helping early summer crop harvesting and winter grain planting. Weekly temperatures averaged 2 to 6 degrees C above normal in the Southern District, promoting rapid maturity of summer crops. Reports from Russia as of September 15 indicated that corn, sugar beets, and sunflowers were 8, 17, and 10 percent harvested, respectively. In Ukraine, several days of warm (weekly temperatures averaging 2 to 4 degrees C above normal), dry weather helped fieldwork for summer crop harvesting and planting the 2009 winter grain crop. At week's end, a storm system spread light to moderate showers (10-25 mm or more) across western and southern areas, interrupting fieldwork but providing much-needed topsoil moisture for winter grain emergence. Elsewhere, mild, showery weather (10-25 mm or more) in Belarus slowed summer crop harvesting but provided topsoil moisture for newly emerging winter grains.

**FSU-NEW LANDS:** In Russia, widespread showers (10-25 mm or more) fell from the Urals District eastward across Siberia, slowing spring grain maturation and harvesting. Weekly temperatures averaged near to slightly above normal. Reports as of September 15 from Russia indicated that the grain harvest was 78 percent complete. In Kazakhstan, unseasonably warm (weekly temperatures averaging 1 to 4 degrees C above normal), dry weather allowed spring grain harvesting to progress rapidly. Significant precipitation (10 mm or more) was confined to northernmost crop areas bordering Russia. In cotton growing areas of Central Asia, mild, dry weather continued to favor boll maturation and early cotton harvesting.

**EUROPE:** Drier conditions returned to central and northern Europe, while much-needed rain fell in the Balkans. A broad ridge of high pressure anchored over Scandinavia provided dry weather from southern England and northern France eastward into the Baltics, allowing small grain harvesting to rapeseed planting to resume. The recent run of rainy weather across northern Europe has led to significant quality concerns for unharvested spring wheat, rye, and barley, and the respite will allow fields to dry and producers to ascertain impacts on standing crops. Nevertheless, prospects for reproductive to filling summer crops over much of central northern have been buoyed by the abundant rainfall. In contrast, a slow-moving storm system generated moderate to heavy rain (25-100 mm) over most of southern and southeastern Europe. In the Balkans, the rain provided much-needed topsoil moisture for winter crop planting and establishment but was too late to benefit filling summer crops. In Italy, the showers boosted irrigation reserves but slowed early summer crop harvesting. Meanwhile, dry weather in Spain promoted the harvest of corn, cotton, and rice; the onset of wet season on the Iberian Peninsula typically begins in October. Temperatures over most of Europe were 1 to 3 degrees C below normal, although there were no widespread freezes reported.

Across central and northern Europe, wet August weather disrupted winter and spring grain harvesting and reduced grain quality.

However, the abundant rainfall favored filling summer crops and provided topsoil moisture for planting the 2009 winter grain and oilseed crop. In contrast, expanding drought in southeastern Europe reduced yield prospects for filling corn and sunflowers. Elsewhere, mostly dry weather promoted summer crop maturation on the Iberian Peninsula, while showers provided beneficial moisture for summer crops in southwestern France.

**MIDDLE EAST:** Dry weather maintained drought over much of the region. Winter wheat and barley are typically planted in non-irrigated portions of the region from September through mid-December, so producers will likely wait for rain to begin sowing crops. While the dry conditions favored harvesting of cotton and other summer crops, widespread rainfall will be needed to provide moisture for winter crops and to recharge irrigation reserves taxed by a multi-year drought.

Below-normal August precipitation further depleted soil moisture reserves for upcoming winter grain planting but favored cotton development. Showers were observed in southern portions of Turkey, although most crop areas remained dry. While summer is typically the dry season in the Middle East, region-wide drought continued to stress reproductive summer crops and highlight the need for replenishing rainfall over the next several months.

**AUSTRALIA:** Widely scattered showers (generally less than 5 mm) fell across the wheat belt, providing little additional moisture for winter wheat and barley. Soaking rains are needed to maintain yield prospects as winter grains advance through the moisture-sensitive reproductive stage of development during the next few weeks. Temperatures were generally seasonable in major agricultural areas.



**EAST ASIA:** Monsoon showers (10-50 mm) continued to extend as far north as the Yellow River, bringing unfavorable wet conditions to mature summer crops across the North China Plain. The rainfall was especially unwelcomed for unharvested cotton in Henan and Shandong, which produce most of the eastern grown cotton. In Manchuria, temperatures 1 to 3 degrees C above normal and occasionally dry weather aided maturing corn and soybeans. Minimum temperatures remained above freezing throughout Manchuria, further aiding crop development. The first autumn freeze typically occurs in late September across northern Manchuria. Light showers (1-10 mm) prevailed throughout the south but rice harvesting continued with little delay.

**SOUTHEAST ASIA:** Monsoon showers continued to increase across Indochina, while Tropical Cyclone Sinlaku affected the Philippines. A copious amount of rainfall (50-200 mm) in Thailand saturated soils and likely caused temporary ponding in some fields, but was generally favorable for reproductive rice. Similarly, 50 to 100 mm of rain in Vietnam increased irrigation supplies for winter rice across the south and aided coffee development in the Central Highlands. Tropical Cyclone Sinlaku formed off the eastern coast of the Philippines early in the week and enhanced monsoon showers across Luzon. Rainfall totals between 100 and 200 mm renewed flooding in western Luzon and likely caused some localized damage to rice and corn. Meanwhile, more seasonable rainfall amounts (25-100 mm) throughout the rest of the Philippines benefited rice and corn. The torrential showers from last week abated somewhat in oil palm areas of Indonesia and Malaysia, although locally heavy amounts (100-200 mm) continued.

**SOUTH ASIA:** A late-season monsoon burst generated wet weather over much of the subcontinent. In particular, heavy to locally excessive rain (50-250 mm) fell in India's far northern crop areas, maintaining adequate to abundant moisture reserves for reproductive summer crops but causing additional lowland flooding. Meanwhile, a stationary monsoon low off the west coast of India produced heavy downpours (50-200 mm) in Gujarat and Maharashtra, causing flooding and potentially damaging pegging peanuts. Meanwhile, another monsoon low along India's east coast triggered heavy rain (50-300 mm) in Andhra Pradesh eastern Madhya Pradesh, causing flooding but maintaining generally favorable moisture supplies for rice. Lighter rain (10-100 mm) fell in rice areas of Bangladesh and eastern India, allowing river swollen by early-month flooding to subside and recovery efforts to continue. In Pakistan, showers (1-25 mm) in northern growing areas slowed early harvesting of rice and cotton, while dry weather in southern Pakistan favored fieldwork.

In August, near- to above-normal rainfall across much of the region maintained favorable prospects for vegetative to reproductive soybeans and cotton. Record-setting wetness in northern India caused flooding and necessitated some replanting of summer crops. However, drier-than-normal conditions prevailed in central India's soybean areas, although soil moisture remained mostly favorable for crop development.

**ARGENTINA:** Dry weather persisted throughout much of central and northern Argentina, maintaining unfavorable prospects for winter wheat. The exception was in southwestern farming areas (La Pampa and neighboring locations in Cordoba and southwestern Buenos Aires), where a brief period of light rain (less than 10 mm in most areas) brought limited relief from long-term dryness. Temperatures averaged about 1 degree C below normal, with sub-freezing lows extending northward through Cordoba. The frost raised concern for potential damage to wheat in minor northern growing areas, which should be in or nearing reproductive phases of development at this time of year. Seasonably warmer weather and rainfall is needed immediately to prevent significant declines in yield potential of winter grains and to help condition fields for early plantings of summer crops.

**BRAZIL:** Rain (10-50 mm or more) maintained overall favorable moisture levels for immature wheat in Rio Grande do Sul. By week's end, however, the moisture had pushed northward into Sao Paulo and southern growing areas of Mato Grosso do Sul and Minas Gerais, slowing seasonal fieldwork that may have included harvesting of winter wheat, sugarcane, and coffee. Temperatures averaged near to below normal in the south, with lows falling into the lower single digits degrees C early in the week. Freezing temperatures (-1 to 0 degrees C) were recorded on the eastern fringes of the growing areas in Santa Catarina, and some isolated damage to immature wheat may have occurred. Elsewhere, seasonably drier weather and above-normal temperatures (highs in the upper 30s and lower 40s degrees C) dominated much of the central and northeastern interior, where farmers await the start of the rainy season. Scattered showers (locally exceeding 25 mm) continued for a second week in northwestern Mato Grosso, and some early soybean planting was likely underway, although seasonal rains are several weeks away for most of the remainder of the Center-West (notably southeastern Mato Grosso and Goias). Rain was generally light (less than 10 mm) along the northeastern coast, which typically receives lower rain during the South American autumn and winter (September through February).

**CANADA:** The central and eastern Prairies continued to lack a widespread, killing freeze, allowing late-season development of spring grains and oilseeds. Temperatures averaged near to slightly below normal in Saskatchewan and Manitoba, with nearly all locations recording lows in the lower single digits degrees C. However, colder weather settled into the area at week's end, and several locations reported subzero temperatures on September 14 (additional information will appear in next week's *Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin*). Rain (5-10 mm or more) was generally confined to southern growing areas, likely causing localized delays in harvesting. Heavier rain (10-25 mm or more) covered southern Alberta, disrupting fieldwork but improving moisture levels for winter grains and pastures. Temperatures averaged up to 2 degrees C below normal in Alberta's central and southern growing areas, but many locations have yet to record their first autumn freeze. Light precipitation (less than 10 mm, most areas) and seasonably cool weather covered Alberta's northern growing areas, likely slowing harvesting but moistening topsoils for winter grain planting.

In eastern Canada, locally heavy rain (10-25 mm, locally exceeding 50 mm) increased moisture reserves for the upcoming winter wheat crop in southern and central growing areas of Ontario. Weekly accumulations were lighter (less than 25 mm) in Quebec and eastern growing areas of Ontario, but heavy rain from

the remnants of Hurricane Ike were approaching the region at week's end (additional information will appear in next week's *Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin*). Temperatures were generally seasonable, with highs in the middle 20s degrees C promoting growth of filling to maturing corn and soybeans.

**MEXICO:** Beneficial rain (10-50 mm or more) increased moisture for corn and other rain-fed summer crops throughout central and southern Mexico. The rainfall was especially timely in northern sections of the southern plateau corn belt that had been trending dry (eastern Jalisco to Hidalgo). In addition, moderate to heavy rain (50-100 mm) benefited Veracruz, which has received sporadic rains for much of the season. Locally heavy showers (25-100 mm or more) also covered northwestern watersheds, increasing irrigation reserves but likely resulting in some localized flooding. The rainfall in the northwest was the result of an influx of tropical moisture from the remnants of Tropical Storm Lowell into the monsoon circulation. Scattered showers (generally less than 25 mm) also occurred in the lower Rio Grande Valley (notably northern Tamaulipas) but drier conditions prevailed in the middle Rio Grande Valley (Coahuila) and on the Yucatan Peninsula.