International Weather and Crop Summary

NOAA/USDA Joint Agricultural Weather Facility

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International (202) 720-9807

HIGHLIGHTS

FSU-WESTERN: Unseasonably warm, dry weather continued to favor fieldwork for summer crop harvesting and winter grain planting.

FSU-NEW LANDS: Several days of dry weather in Kazakhstan helped spring grain harvesting, while occasional showers in Russia caused some interruptions in fieldwork.

EUROPE: Dry weather accelerated fieldwork over most crop areas, although soil moisture reserves declined across northern and eastern Europe.

MIDDLE EAST: Showers in central portions of the region increased soil moisture for winter crop planting and establishment.

AUSTRALIA: Hot, dry weather continued to plague winter wheat in Queensland, while crop conditions are likely to be good to

excellent in most of southeastern Australia in the wake of soaking rains.

EAST ASIA: Early week showers gave way to dry weather, benefiting harvest activities and late-season crop maturation.

SOUTHEAST ASIA: A strong monsoon boundary produced heavy showers across Indochina, benefiting rice, while Tropical Cyclone Ketsana formed east of the Philippines.

SOUTH ASIA: Unfavorable dryness in central and western India contrasted with monsoon showers in southern and eastern crop areas.

ARGENTINA: Drier weather promoted planting of summer crops following several weeks of beneficial rain, but frost raised concern for potential damage to winter wheat.

BRAZIL: Moderate to heavy rain covered much of central Brazil, providing timely moisture for corn and soybean planting and flowering coffee.

CANADIAN PRAIRIES: Mostly dry, warmer-than-normal conditions continued, giving late-developing spring crops another week to reach maturity.

SOUTHEASTERN CANADA: Mild weather aided late summer crop development, and rain increased moisture for winter wheat establishment.

MEXICO: Rainfall tapered off over the southern plateau corn belt, reducing moisture for rain-fed summer crops.

FSU-WESTERN: Mostly dry weather prevailed across Ukraine and the southern half of Russia, helping fieldwork for corn, sunflower, and sugarbeet harvesting and winter grain planting. The exception was in the extreme southern portion of the Russian Southern District, where locally heavy rain (25-50 mm or more) halted fieldwork. Reports from Russia as of September 23 indicated that the grain harvest was 73 percent complete, while sunflowers and sugarbeets were 10 percent and 23 percent harvested, respectively. Light showers (around 10 mm) fell across the northern portion of the Central and Volga Districts in Russia, moistening topsoils for winter grain establishment. In contrast, winter grain areas in the western half of Ukraine and central areas in Russia (southeastern portion of the Central District, the southern Volga District, and the northern portion of the Southern District) have received little, if any precipitation since the beginning of September, creating a lack of topsoil moisture for germination and early crop establishment. Rain is needed soon in these areas to ensure adequate plant establishment prior to dormancy. Weekly temperatures averaged 1 to 3 degrees C above normal in Ukraine and Russia, favoring the emergence and establishment of winter grains in areas where topsoil moisture was sufficient.

FSU-NEW LANDS: Spring grain harvesting was well underway in Kazakhstan and Russia. In Kazakhstan, several days of warm, dry weather aided harvest activities. Reports from Kazakhstan as of September 24 indicated that the grain harvest was 75 percent complete. In Russia, occasional showers (5-25 mm or more) in the Urals and Siberia Districts caused some interruptions in fieldwork. Reports from Russia as of September 23 indicated that the grain harvest was 61 percent complete in the Urals District and 40 percent complete in the Siberia District. Weekly temperatures averaged 1 to 3 degrees C above normal in Russia and Kazakhstan, aiding crop maturation. In cotton-producing areas of Central Asia, weekly temperatures averaged 2 to 6 degrees C above normal, favoring boll maturation. Dry weather aided cotton harvesting across most of the region, with significant precipitation (around 10 mm) confined to crop areas in northern and eastern Uzbekistan.

EUROPE: High pressure returned to the region, providing dry, warm weather across much of the continent. The resultant sunny skies and above-normal temperatures (2-5 degrees C above normal) promoted a rapid pace of fieldwork from England and France into Poland and the Balkans, including summer crop harvesting and winter crop planting. However, soil moisture reserves continued to decline over northern and eastern portions of the wheat belt, highlighting the need for rain over the upcoming weeks to ensure proper crop establishment. Long-term drought also remained entrenched over central and northwestern Spain, reducing irrigation supplies for upcoming winter grain planting. Showers (5-60 mm) over southern portions of France and Italy slowed the harvest of sunflowers, corn, and soybeans.

MIDDLE EAST: Early season showers continued in central growing areas, while drier conditions returned to western cotton districts. A slow-moving, upper-air low trigged showers and thunderstorms (5-60 mm) from central Turkey into northwestern Iran, boosting soil moisture supplies for winter wheat planting and establishment. Unsettled weather (2-50 mm of rain) also prevailed along the eastern Mediterranean coast, favoring early winter crop establishment. In contrast, drier conditions in western Turkey promoted cotton harvesting, while seasonably dry weather promoted fieldwork across southern portions of Iraq and Iran.

AUSTRALIA: Hot, dry weather continued to plague Queensland, further reducing the yield potential of filling winter wheat. The persistent heat and dryness has accelerated crop development across this region, leading to early maturation and harvesting in northernmost areas. The unfavorable dryness is likely impacting summer crop planting as well, causing farmers to either delay sowing or potentially rethink planting intentions. In northern New South Wales, scattered showers (2-14 mm, locally more) provided a needed boost in topsoil moisture for filling winter wheat, helping stabilize crop conditions. Farther south, soaking rains (20-50 mm, locally more) overspread southern New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia, maintaining adequate to abundant moisture supplies across the southeastern Australia wheat belt. The weather was beneficial for reproductive to filling winter grains; crop conditions were likely good to excellent in most areas in the wake of recent rains. Elsewhere across the wheat belt, showers (2-17 mm) in Western Australia continued to favor winter grain and oilseed development. Temperatures averaged about 1 to 3 degrees C below normal in Western Australia, near normal in southeastern Australia, and about 3 to 6 degrees C above normal in southern Queensland.

EAST ASIA: Rainfall began to diminish across China as more seasonably dry weather prevailed. In Manchuria, a low pressure system moved north of the region, bringing early week showers (5-25 mm), with the heaviest amounts occurring in the eastern growing areas. Dry weather the remainder of the period benefited the soybean harvest and corn maturation. Meanwhile, freezing temperatures continued along far northern growing areas of Heilongjiang and began expanding eastward, ending the growing season for corn grown in these fringe areas. Farther south, periodic showers developed along a stationary front near the Yangtze River. Rainfall amounts of 10 to as much as 100 mm caused localized delays in harvesting, especially along a narrow band from eastern Henan through northern Anhui and Jiangsu. Across southern rice areas where late-crop rice was maturing, early week showers (10-100 mm) gave way to warm, dry weather with average temperatures over 25 degrees C. Elsewhere in the region, warm, dry weather prevailed on the Korean Peninsula and in Japan, benefiting late-season rice harvesting.

SOUTHEAST ASIA: Heavy showers prevailed across the northern extent of the region, while Tropical Cyclone Ketsana formed late in the week. The boundary between easterly and westerly winds was draped across Indochina and the Philippines spawning deluges (50-200 mm) in these areas. In Thailand and Vietnam, the rainfall was generally favorable for rice, with only localized flooding. However, heavy daily showers in the Philippines were compounded by Tropical Cyclone Ketsana, which formed off Luzon's eastern coast late in the week and moved inland. As a result, 200 to nearly 400 mm of rain occurred, causing widespread flooding and delaying preparations for harvesting. In contrast, showers were lighter in oil palm areas where 10 to 50 mm of rain maintained favorable moisture in most key growing areas.

SOUTH ASIA: The early withdrawal of the monsoon was detrimental for filling oilseeds in central and western India, while showers provided a late boost to summer crops in eastern and southern portions of the region. Strong westerly winds aloft (15,000 feet and above) continued across the northern half of the subcontinent, maintaining unfavorably dry conditions in soybean and groundnut areas of central and western India. Dry conditions also lingered over wheat and sugarcane areas of Punjab, Haryana, and southern Uttar Pradesh, although a burst of heavy rain in early September mitigated the impacts of the recent dryness. Meanwhile, additional monsoon showers (25-125 mm) in southern and eastern India as well as Bangladesh maintained favorable moisture reserves for rice. Isolated light showers (5-12 mm) in Maharashtra provided some soil moisture for flowering cotton, although the axis of the monsoon was located south and east of this key agricultural state. In Pakistan, dry weather promoted rice harvesting and early winter grain planting.

ARGENTINA: Drier conditions prevailed across central Argentina, supporting summer grain and oilseed planting following several weeks of highly beneficial rainfall. The midweek passage of a cold front resulted in a relatively brief period of light rain (2-25 mm), with rainfall exceeding 10 mm from southern Cordoba to southeastern Buenos Aries. Temperatures rose into the middle and upper 20s degrees C across the region in the days preceding the rain, spurring winter crop development and warming topsoils for summer crop germination. However, a cooler air mass enveloped the region beginning September 23, with freezing temperatures recorded in central Cordoba and northwestern Buenos Aries. Prior to this week's event, the last significant freeze (lows of -2 to 0 degrees C) to affect these particular areas occurred on September 9. The most recent cold snap raised concern for potential damage to heading or flowering winter grains. Elsewhere, unseasonable dryness persisted across northern Argentina, where moisture remained limited for developing winter wheat and summer crop germination. However, near- to below-normal temperatures reduced evapotranspiration rates, with highs only briefly reaching the 30s degrees C.

BRAZIL: Rain covered a broad area of central and southern Brazil, increasing topsoil moisture for summer crop establishment and benefiting flowering coffee and citrus. Rainfall totaled 25 to 50 mm or more over a broad area spanning the center-west and southeastern regions (Mato Grosso southeastward to Espirito Santo and Santa Catarina), representing 100 to more than 400 percent of the normal rainfall for the week. In contrast, lighter rain (2-25 mm) was welcome in Rio Grande do Sul following 3 weeks of excessive wetness, although the return of unseasonably heavy rain to Parana and Santa Catarina renewed concerns for potential damage to maturing wheat. Weekly temperatures averaged near to slightly below normal, with highs ranging from the middle 20s degrees C in Rio Grande do Sul to the upper 30s degrees C in Mato Grosso. In northeastern Brazil, showers (10-50 mm) helped to condition fields for early soybean and cotton planting in Tocantins and western Bahia but dry weather prevailed elsewhere, including the coastal plantation crop area from northern Bahia to Rio Grande do Norte.

CANADIAN PRAIRIES: Mostly dry, unseasonably warm weather maintained favorable conditions for late-maturing spring grains and oilseeds. Temperatures averaged 5 to 7 degrees C above normal in most agricultural districts, with highs reaching the lower and middle 30s degrees C over a large area encompassing most of Alberta and Saskatchewan. Portions of Alberta's northern and western farming areas recorded freezing temperatures during the week, but the majority of the region (eastern Alberta to Manitoba) avoided a killing freeze until September 27 and 28 (additional information will appear in next week's *Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin*). Rainfall in excess of 10 mm was confined to a few locations in central Alberta and east-central Saskatchewan; autumn fieldwork, including grain and oilseed harvesting, likely made good progress.

SOUTHEASTERN CANADA: Mild, showery weather aided winter wheat planting and helped to advance summer crops toward maturity. Winter wheat planting usually lasts until early October, and this week’s showers (5-25 mm in most areas) were timely for establishment and germination of newly planted crops. Highs in the middle and upper 20s degrees C favored wheat germination and helped to advance corn and soybeans toward maturity. Freezing temperatures (-2 to 0 degree C) were recorded in Quebec and Ontario’s eastern agricultural districts; the first autumn freeze normally occurs in these areas between September 20 and 30.

MEXICO: Rainfall tapered off across the southern plateau, as the focus for rain in southern Mexico shifted eastward towards the Gulf of Mexico. Rainfall totaled 10 to 25 mm in most major corn production areas, with near- to above-normal temperatures (highs in the middle and upper 20s degrees C) maintaining high moisture requirements of crops and livestock. Farther east, heavy rain (50-100 mm, locally exceeding 200 mm) increased reservoir levels from Veracruz southeastward through Chiapas and in several locations along the southern Pacific Coast (Jalisco to Oaxaca) and in the Yucatan Peninsula. Locally heavy rain (10-50 mm or more) also fell in northern Mexico from Durango to northern Tamaulipas, helping to lower temperatures to less stressful levels for crops and livestock, and boosting reservoirs. Drier conditions continued, however, in the northwest, as the monsoon continued to recede southward.