

# WORLD AGRICULTURAL WEATHER HIGHLIGHTS

## July 10, 2009

### **1 - UNITED STATES**

During June, favorable warmth built into the Midwest, helping summer crops in the central and eastern Corn Belt to begin recovering from late planting and slow early-season growth. In addition, showers dampened much of the Midwest, minimizing soil compaction in the wake of excessive spring wetness. Meanwhile across the South, negligible rainfall and extreme heat increased stress on pastures and summer crops. Conditions were most severe in the western and central Gulf Coast States, where late-month temperatures above 100 degrees F and intensifying drought severely stressed reproductive crops such as corn, cotton, rice, and soybeans. Farther west, hot weather on the southern Plains contrasted with cool conditions on the northern Plains. Significant rain fell on the central Plains, near the boundary between hot and cool air. In western Texas, locally severe thunderstorms accompanied occasional rainfall. Elsewhere, unusually heavy rain fell across much of the Intermountain West and the Four Corners region, while warm, dry weather prevailed from the Pacific Northwest to the northern Rockies. In the Northwest, there was a gradual increase in stress on winter wheat and spring-sown small grains.

### **2 - CANADA**

In June and early July, most Prairie farming areas received beneficial rain, although long-term drought remained a concern for vegetative to reproductive spring grains and oilseeds in some western growing areas. Cool weather continued to slow crop development, raising concern for potential damage if an early-autumn freeze were to occur.

### **3 - SOUTH AMERICA**

Periodic rain provided timely moisture for germination and establishment in Buenos Aires, Argentina's leading wheat producer. However, crop prospects remained poor in other drought-stricken winter farming areas in central and northern Argentina. In contrast, mild, showery weather improved winter wheat prospects in the main production areas of southern Brazil. Occasional rain likely caused minor harvest delays in citrus, sugarcane, and coffee areas of southeastern Brazil.

### **4 - EUROPE**

Wetter-than-normal conditions across central and eastern Europe maintained adequate to abundant soil moisture for reproductive to filling winter crops. However, the rainfall was generally too late to benefit winter grains and oilseeds in the Balkans, which were adversely impacted by dry spring weather. Hot, dry conditions in Italy and Spain reduced winter crop prospects and maintained high irrigation demands for vegetative corn and sunflowers.



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*(More details are available in the Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin at <http://www.usda.gov/oce/weather/pubs/index.htm>)*

### **5 - FSU-WESTERN**

In June, the combination of below-normal precipitation and occasional heat stressed winter grains and spring-sown crops in southern and eastern Ukraine and the Southern and Volga Districts in Russia. However, the dryness favored winter grain maturation and harvesting that was underway across southern areas at month's end. Wet weather in western Ukraine followed spring dryness, improving conditions for crop development. In early July, cool, showery weather brought some relief to parched crop areas in the Volga District, while dryness persisted from eastern Ukraine into the Southern District.

### **6 - FSU-NEW LANDS**

In June, drier-than-normal conditions resulted in a steady decline in soil moisture in the Urals District in Russia and major spring grain producing areas of north-central Kazakhstan. Near- to above-normal precipitation favored jointing spring grains in the Siberia District. In early July, persistent dryness along with rising temperatures in north-central Kazakhstan and adjacent areas in the Urals District increased stress on spring grains, in or nearing reproduction. Scattered showers in Siberia maintained favorable moisture conditions for crop development.

### **7 - MIDDLE EAST AND TURKEY**

In June, late-season showers aided filling winter grains in Iran, while unseasonably warm, dry weather in Turkey favored winter crop maturation and harvesting.

### **8 - SOUTH ASIA**

During June, the monsoon was slow to advance over much of India, delaying summer crop planting and reducing soil moisture for rice and sugarcane. By early July, the monsoon advanced slowly northwestward, providing much-needed rainfall to central and eastern India's rice, cotton, and soybean areas. Northern India remained unfavorably dry, however, reducing cotton prospects in Punjab and Haryana.

### **9 - EASTERN ASIA**

Rainfall increased across China during June, improving soil moisture in many areas. Showers pushed into the Yangtze Valley by the end of June and boosted moisture supplies for vegetative summer crops. Meanwhile, hot, dry weather on the North China Plain accelerated development of irrigated crops but increased water usage. By early July, however, rainfall began moving into the southern extent of the North China Plain and helped to recharge moisture reserves. In Manchuria, abnormally high rainfall amounts reversed a drying trend that developed in May, leading to nearly saturated soils for emerging to vegetative corn, soybeans, and rice. During June, two tropical cyclones grazed the southeastern coast, bringing locally heavy rainfall mainly to sugarcane areas.

### **10 - SOUTHEAST ASIA**

The monsoon experienced a lull during June, reducing rainfall in parts of Thailand and Vietnam. In general, however, soil moisture remained favorable for rice and corn in Thailand, while irrigation supplies were adequate for summer-autumn rice in southern Vietnam. In the latter part of June, tropical cyclones Linfa and Nangka brought heavy rainfall to the central and northern Philippines, causing some localized flooding and damage to corn and rice. Rainfall increased in oil palm areas of Malaysia and Indonesia, following a prolonged period of drier-than-normal weather.

### **11 - AUSTRALIA**

During June, near- to above-normal rainfall throughout much of the wheat belt maintained good early-season crop prospects for winter grains and oilseeds. The rain helped the germination and emergence of recently planted crops and aided the establishment of more fully developed wheat, barley, and canola.