

WORLD AGRICULTURAL WEATHER HIGHLIGHTS

September 12, 2012

1 - UNITED STATES

During August, cooler weather across the Plains, Midwest, and Mid-South came too late to significantly help drought-ravaged summer crops. Furthermore, many of the driest areas across the nation's mid-section did not receive much rain. At month's end, however, the remnants of Hurricane Isaac triggered heavy showers across the Mid-South and the southeastern Corn Belt, reviving pastures, benefiting a few late-developing soybeans, and boosting soil moisture in advance of soft red winter wheat planting. Isaac made landfall in Louisiana on August 29, with major impacts mostly confined to the central Gulf Coast region. Elsewhere, the core drought area shifted westward onto the Plains during August, while favorably moist conditions prevailed across much of the East. Hot, dry weather covered the Northwest, while showers associated with the monsoon circulation dotted the Southwest.

2 - CANADA

A late-summer drying trend sped maturation of Prairie spring grains and oilseeds, though possibly at the expense of some yield potential. By early September, harvesting was making rapid progress. In Ontario, timely rainfall boosted moisture for pastures and the upcoming winter wheat crop, but the moisture came too late to significantly improve corn prospects.

3 - SOUTH AMERICA

In August and early September, unseasonably heavy rain slowed the final stages of Argentina's winter grain planting and caused some localized flooding. However, the almost weekly soakings provided abundant moisture for recharging subsoil moisture in time for the summer crop planting season. In contrast, seasonable dryness favored sugarcane and coffee harvesting in key production areas of Brazil.

4 - EUROPE

Across southern Europe, dry and unseasonably hot August weather trimmed yield expectations for corn in France and further reduced yield prospects for corn and sunflowers in the Balkans. In addition, producers in southeastern Europe are in desperate need of moisture for winter crop planting, and the window for rapeseed planting has mostly closed. In contrast, persistent rainfall reduced crop quality and delayed harvesting in the United Kingdom, although drier conditions returned at month's end. Showers maintained favorable soil moisture for winter crop planting in Germany and Poland, while sunny skies promoted a rapid pace of fieldwork in northern France.



USDA Agricultural Weather
World Agricultural Outlook Board

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 August, locally heavy showers improved prospects for reproductive to filling summer crops from northern and eastern Ukraine into central Russia. However, incursions of heat in southern portions of Russia and Ukraine caused some crop stress. Much-needed rainfall eased drought in the southern Volga and northern Southern Districts.

6 - FSU-EASTERN

Occasional showers slowed spring wheat drydown and harvesting during August across Kazakhstan and neighboring portions of Russia, although drier weather toward month's end allowed producers to resume fieldwork. Seasonable warmth and dryness in southern portions of the region favored cotton maturation.

7 - MIDDLE EAST AND TURKEY

Seasonably dry August weather favored late winter wheat harvesting as well as cotton maturation and harvesting. However, locally heavy showers were reported in northern-most portions of Turkey and Iran, although the rain likely had no significant agricultural impact.

8 - SOUTH ASIA

An increase in rainfall during August improved moisture conditions in parts of northern and western India. Moisture deficits for the season continued, however, in Gujarat and Maharashtra and maintained low prospects for groundnuts and rain-fed cotton. Monsoon rains in eastern and central India remained intense, ensuring abundant to locally excessive moisture for rice and soybeans.

9 - EASTERN ASIA

After an unusually wet summer in northeastern China, drier weather prevailed for much of August. The dryness limited moisture available to filling corn and soybeans but likely had minimal yield impacts on the well-developed crops. Moisture improved on the North China Plain for corn, soybeans, and cotton with an increase in rainfall during the month. Six tropical cyclones impacted China in August and brought heavy rainfall to eastern growing areas. In addition, tropical cyclones brought flooding rains to western portions of the Korean Peninsula. In Japan, near- to above-normal temperatures and adequate moisture advanced rice development.

10 - SOUTHEAST ASIA

Unseasonably light rainfall occurred across Thailand during August as seasonal deficits continued. Overall moisture supplies, however, were adequate for rice development. A pair of tropical cyclones in August produced flooding in the northern Philippines but occurred outside of major rice- and corn-producing areas. Meanwhile, oil palm production suffered from well-below-normal rainfall in Indonesia and eastern Malaysia.

11 - AUSTRALIA

In August, below-normal rainfall in Western Australia, northern New South Wales, and southern Queensland reduced topsoil moisture for vegetative winter grains and oilseeds. Elsewhere in the wheat belt, occasional showers and near-normal temperatures maintained good yield prospects for wheat, barley, and canola in southeastern Australia.

Next Release: October 11, 2012