

WORLD AGRICULTURAL WEATHER HIGHLIGHTS

January 12, 2017

1 - UNITED STATES

During December, stormy weather dominated the U.S., easing or eradicating drought in the East and West. In particular, multiple storms in California chiseled away at long-term drought, while soaking rains in the Southeast dented summer and autumn precipitation deficits. The Northeast also experienced some drought relief. However, dryness persisted across the central and southern Plains, leading to agricultural impacts such as poor pasture, rangeland, and winter wheat conditions. A coating of snow preceded a mid-month cold snap on the central Plains, providing wheat with some beneficial moisture and insulation. Farther north, cold, stormy weather dominated the northern Plains, leading to increased livestock stress. In contrast, much-above-normal temperatures covered the Deep South. Florida was especially warm, with the peninsula missing out on most of the rain. As a result of peninsular Florida's warm, dry weather, irrigation demands increased for crops such as citrus, vegetables, and strawberries.

2 - SOUTH AMERICA

Beginning in mid-December, locally heavy rain provided timely moisture for germination of newly-sown summer grains, oilseeds, and cotton throughout Argentina, though pockets of dryness persisted in southern-most growing areas. Winter grain harvesting was winding down, aided by dryness earlier in December. In Brazil, frequent, generally near-normal rainfall benefited corn and soybeans in southern production areas. Drier conditions developed farther north, aiding harvesting of early-planted soybeans in Mato Grosso but limiting moisture for soybeans and cotton farther east.

3 - EUROPE

Near- to above-normal temperatures during December maintained mostly favorable conditions for dormant winter crops over central and northern Europe. However, chilly weather lingered across the Balkans, preceding a sharp cold snap in early January which likely resulted in widespread freeze damage and winterkill in snow-free areas of Hungary and northern Serbia. In contrast, widespread snowfall insulated dormant winter crops from Germany into the Baltic States. Drier-than-normal conditions prevailed across the remainder of Europe, raising drought concerns in northwestern Spain's barley and wheat areas. Moisture reserves across the rest of southern Europe were sufficient for vegetative winter grains, despite the dry December.



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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

In December, below-normal temperatures were preceded by widespread snowfall, sufficiently insulating dormant winter wheat from potential winterkill. Overall, winter wheat entered dormancy in good to excellent condition.

5 - NORTHWESTERN AFRICA

The last vestiges of this autumn's drought were eliminated by moderate to heavy December rainfall from Morocco into central Algeria. Consequently, prospects for vegetative winter grains have improved considerably. Dryness lingered in northeastern Algeria, while wet weather in Tunisia maintained good conditions for wheat and barley.

6 - MIDDLE EAST AND TURKEY

During December, moderate to heavy rain and mountain snow alleviated autumn drought from Turkey and the eastern Mediterranean Coast into Iraq and western Iran. However, Turkish winter grains entered dormancy poorly established. Despite the widespread wet weather, dryness remained a concern in northeastern Iran.

7 - SOUTH ASIA

Seasonably warm, dry weather prevailed across much of India and Pakistan during December, aiding winter (rabi) crop planting. In southeastern India, two tropical cyclones (Nada and Vardah) brought welcomed rainfall following a prolonged period of unseasonable dryness. However in Sri Lanka, unseasonable dryness persisted, limiting irrigation water for winter rice (maha).

8 - EASTERN ASIA

In December, above-normal rainfall and mild weather benefited overwintering wheat on southern portions of the North China Plain and rapeseed in the eastern Yangtze Valley. Meanwhile, rainfall was below normal for sugarcane and other seasonal crops in southern China.

9 - SOUTHEAST ASIA

La Niña-like conditions brought unseasonably heavy showers to central Vietnam and the northern Philippines. In Vietnam, torrential rainfall triggered flooding in minor crop areas, while causing more delays in coffee harvesting. In the Philippines, Typhoon Nock-Ten brought heavy showers to most northern and central regions, with localized flooding in the northeast causing some damage to rice and corn. Rainfall in Malaysia and Indonesia remained generally below normal, increasing short-term dryness for oil palm. Drier-than-usual weather was also prevalent in western Java, Indonesia, but had little effect on rice that had received ample rainfall in the preceding months.

10 - AUSTRALIA

In December, soaking, mid-month rains in Western Australia temporarily delayed winter crop harvesting, but dry weather during the remainder of the month allowed harvesting to approach completion. In South Australia, dry weather throughout most of December promoted fieldwork, but heavy rains at the end of the month stalled harvesting. In Victoria, New South Wales, and Queensland, drier-than-normal weather favored wheat, barley, and canola harvesting. The dry weather increased evaporative losses from summer crops, but yield prospects remained good to locally excellent due to favorable early-season rainfall.

11 - SOUTH AFRICA

Ample rain maintained overall favorable conditions for corn in key commercial production areas through the early part of January. In contrast, below-normal rainfall continued to limit moisture for rain-fed sugarcane in southern KwaZulu-Natal, while warm, dry weather promoted growth of tree and vine crops in Western Cape.

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