

WORLD AGRICULTURAL WEATHER HIGHLIGHTS

December 10, 2020

1 - UNITED STATES

Fueled by record-setting warmth during the first half of the month, November temperatures averaged more than 5°F (3°C) above normal in many locations from the Plains to the Atlantic Coast. In contrast, near-normal monthly temperatures prevailed in the West. Meanwhile, drier-than-normal weather covered several areas, including portions of the Plains and large sections of California, the Southwest, and the northern Mississippi Delta. The dryness stressed winter wheat and hampered crop establishment, primarily in parts of Colorado, Texas, Nebraska, and Kansas. Despite occasional precipitation, Midwestern corn and soybean harvests neared completion, especially in the western Corn Belt. In the middle and southern Atlantic States, however, periods of heavy rain—including the mid-month interaction between Tropical Storm Eta and a cold front—hampered harvest activities for a variety of summer crops, including cotton and soybeans. Elsewhere, an already expansive U.S. drought further intensified, mainly from the Southwest to the High Plains.

2 - SOUTH AMERICA

In November, well-timed showers improved planting prospects for summer grains, oilseeds, and cotton throughout Argentina, following an extended period of dryness. Similarly, previously dry southern Brazil received much-needed rain as first-crop corn and soybeans entered reproduction. However, rainfall remained erratic in key soybean areas of central Brazil, renewing concerns for current yield expectations.

3 - EUROPE

During November, much drier- and warmer-than-normal weather returned to most of the continent. The abrupt reversal from a very wet October facilitated late winter crop planting and emergence, particularly in eastern Europe where excessive mid-autumn wetness was the most pronounced. Elsewhere, the dry, warm weather allowed winter crops to develop favorably. By month's end, sharply colder temperatures eased winter crops in central and northern Europe toward dormancy in satisfactory condition. Meanwhile, the cool, wet season got off to a favorable start on the Iberian Peninsula, providing good early-season prospects for winter grain planting and establishment. In contrast, very dry weather in Italy limited soil moisture for winter grains before the onset of heavy rain and mountain snow in early December.



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4 - FSU-WESTERN

Conditions were highly variable during November. Beneficial showers eased drought and improved winter wheat establishment prospects in parts of western and southern Russia. In contrast, severe drought remained firmly entrenched over the remainder of western Russia. Dry weather returned to Ukraine, where winter wheat prospects have largely recovered from late-summer drought due to good early-autumn rains. Cold weather at month's end eased winter crops into dormancy.

5 - NORTHWESTERN AFRICA

Severe long-term drought in the west contrasted with good early-season rain in the east. In particular, Morocco's drought began during the previous growing campaign and has lasted nearly one year, though much-needed rain returned to this key wheat area in early December.

6 - MIDDLE EAST AND TURKEY

Intensifying drought in the west contrasted with beneficial rain in the east. A drier-than-normal November in central Turkey exacerbated a season-long drought, resulting in poorly established winter grains prior to dormancy. Conversely, heavy rain maintained good to excellent wheat and barley prospects in eastern Iraq and much of Iran.

7 - SOUTH ASIA

November was seasonably dry across much of the region with just occasional rainfall. The dry weather facilitated rabi crop sowing in India and Pakistan. However, a late-month tropical cyclone (Nivar) produced heavy showers in southeastern India, causing planting delays and likely damaging unharvested cotton.

8 - EASTERN ASIA

Unseasonably wet weather prevailed in eastern China during November. The rainfall maintained good soil moisture for vegetative rapeseed in the Yangtze Valley and improved soil moisture for wheat on the North China Plain. In addition, above-average temperatures promoted crop development. By month's end, however, colder weather began to overspread the northern wheat areas, ushering the crop into dormancy.

9 - SOUTHEAST ASIA

More tropical cyclones bombarded the Philippines and Vietnam during the early half of November. Super Typhoon Goni, which hammered the northern Philippines late in October, produced more flooding in central Vietnam, an area already beset by storm-related extreme wetness. However, toward the end of the month, drier weather provided some relief, particularly in the northern Philippines. Elsewhere, seasonably wet weather continued in southern Indonesia (Java), maintaining excellent moisture supplies for main-season rice, a stark improvement over last year's drought-plagued crop.

10 - AUSTRALIA

In November, mostly dry, occasionally hot weather in southern Queensland and northern New South Wales aided winter wheat harvesting. However, the heat and dryness caused some stress on recently-emerged dryland summer crops and elevated the water requirements of irrigated cotton. In the southeast, near- to below-normal rainfall favored wheat, barley, and canola drydown and harvesting. In contrast, wet weather during the first half of November slowed winter crop harvesting in the west, but drier weather during the second half of the month allowed harvesting to gain momentum.

11 - SOUTH AFRICA

Frequent, occasionally heavy rain continued through early December, maintaining favorable planting prospects for corn and other rain-fed summer crops, including sugarcane.

This will be the final edition of *World Agricultural Weather Highlights*; additional information on global crop weather conditions can be obtained at:

<https://www.usda.gov/oce/weather-drought-monitor/publications>