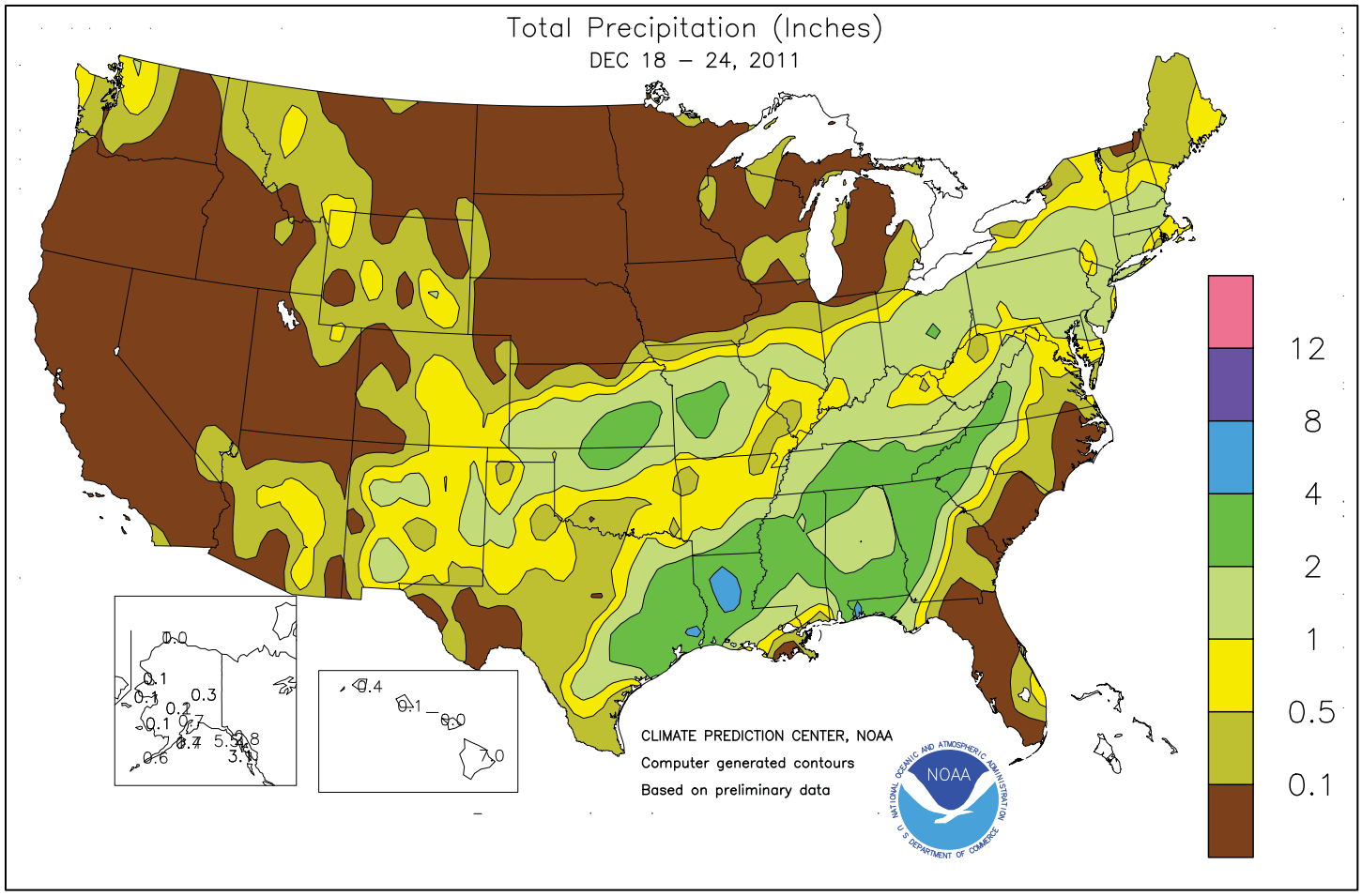
Volume 98, No. 52 http://www.usda.gov/oce/weather December 28, 2011

WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP BULLETIN

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Weather Service

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
National Agricultural Statistics Service
and World Agricultural Outlook Board



HIGHLIGHTS

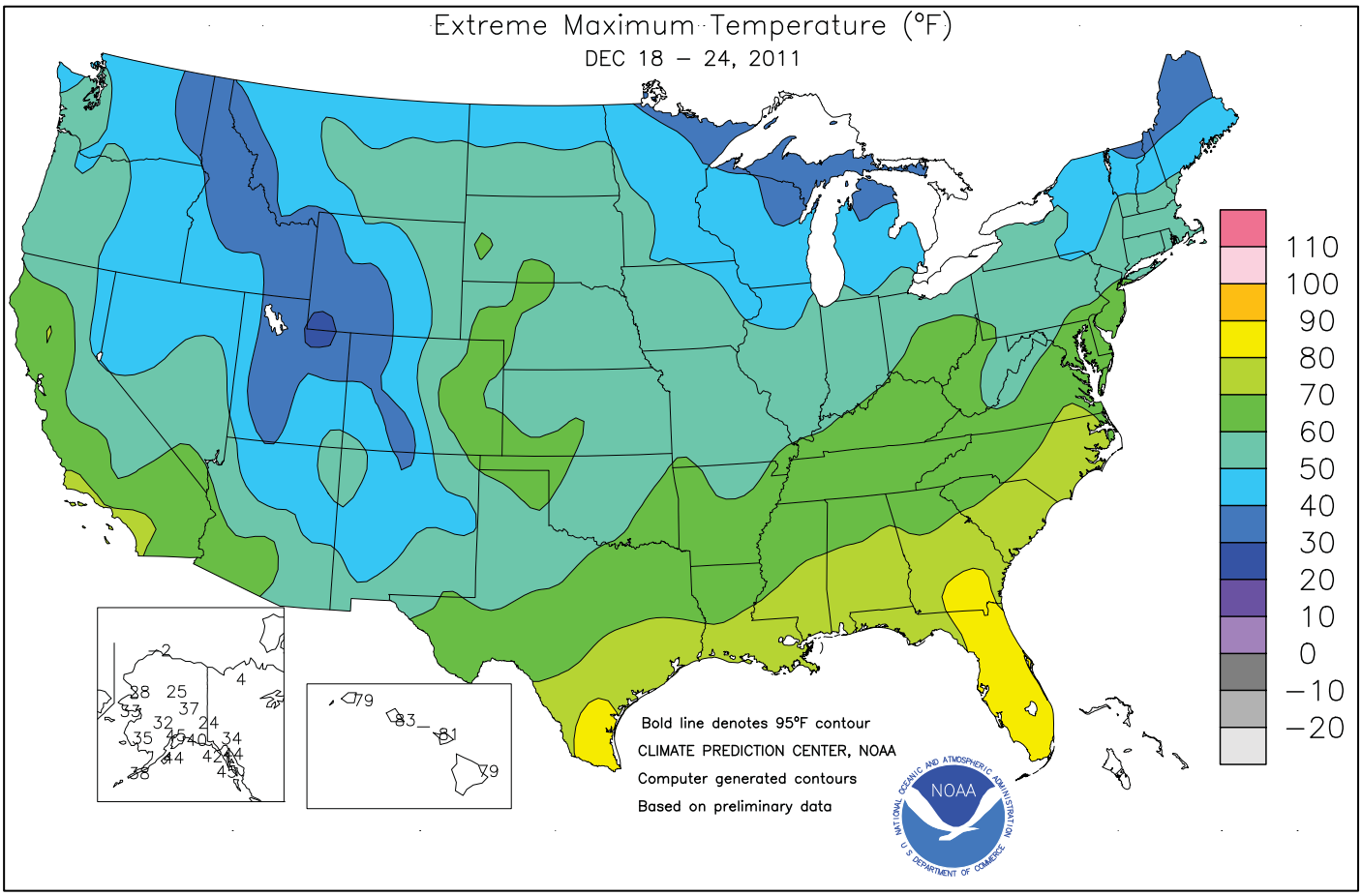
December 18 - 24, 2011

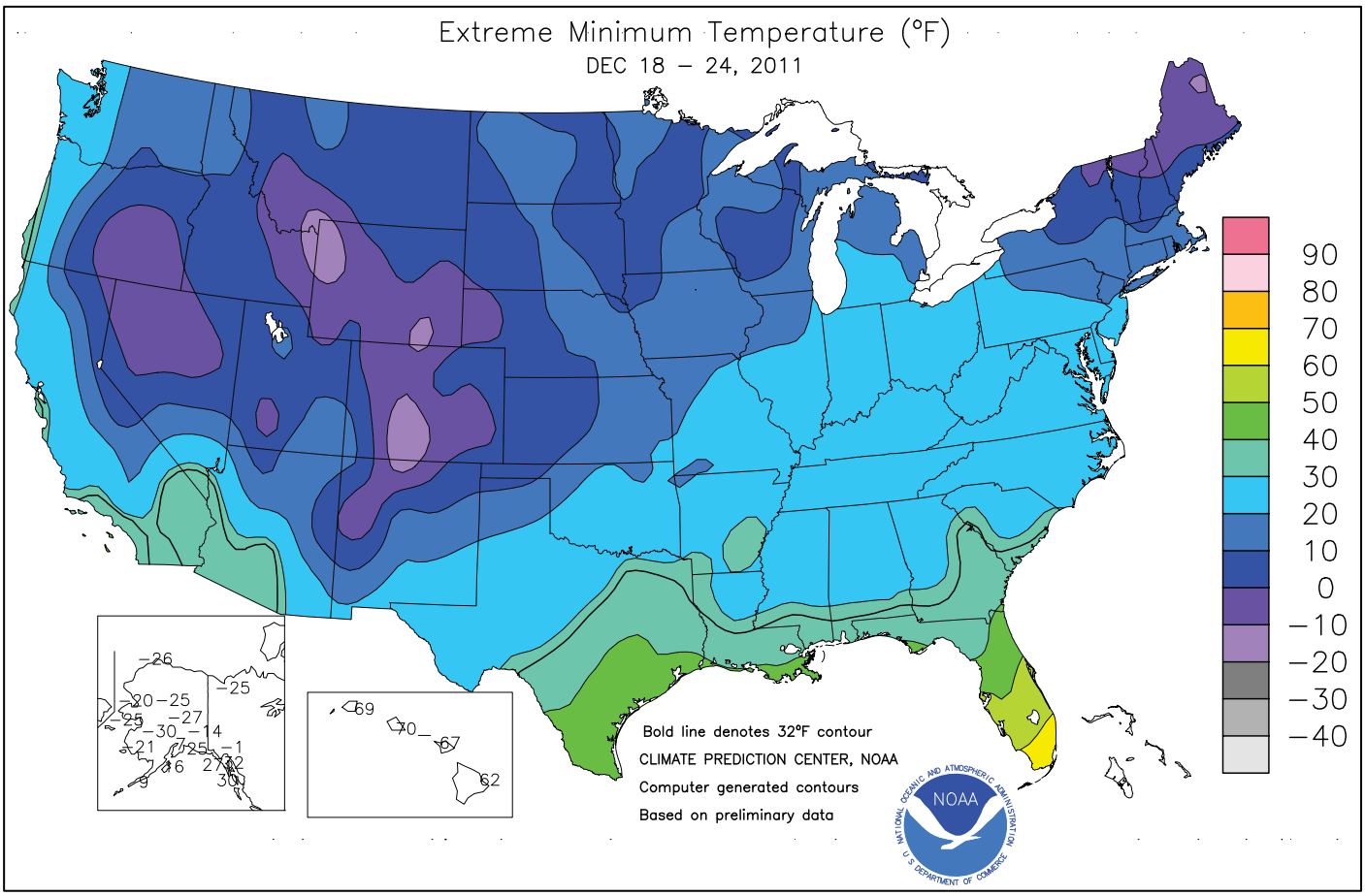
Highlights provided by USDA/WAOB

Pre-holiday storms blanketed the **southern Rockies** and parts of the **central and southern High Plains** with snow, further easing long-term drought and providing winter grains with beneficial moisture and insulation. Snow also fell elsewhere in the **Rockies**, but mild, dry conditions persisted across the **northern Plains** and **upper Midwest**. In fact, weekly temperatures averaged more than 15°F above normal in parts of the **north-central U.S.** Meanwhile, significant precipitation fell south of a line from **northern Kansas to southern New England**—

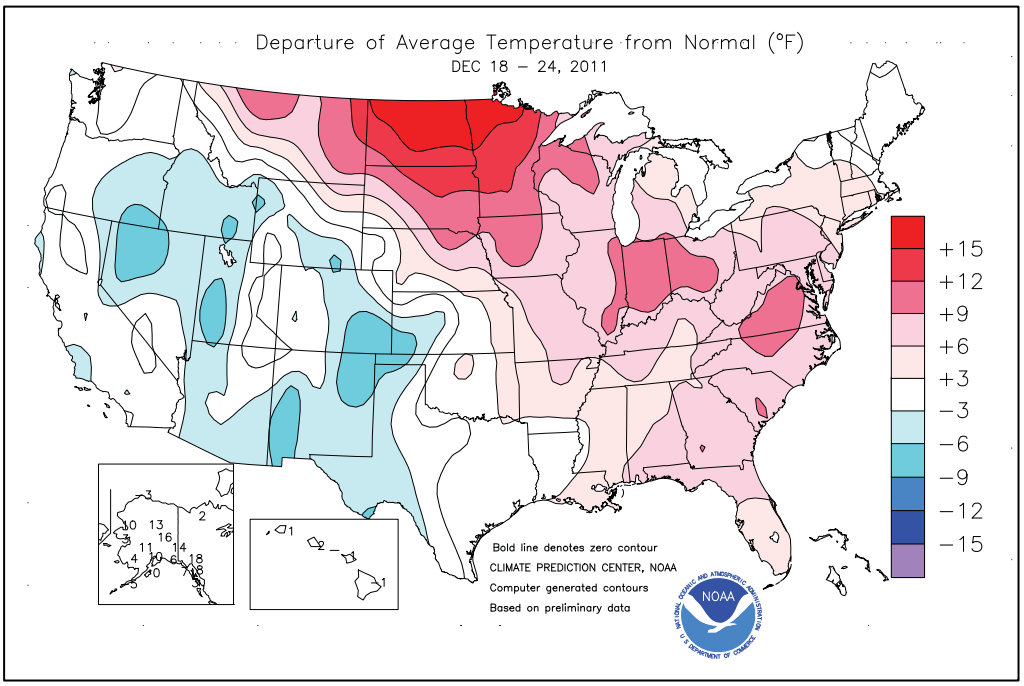
(Continued on page 3)

Contents


Extreme Maximum Temperature (°F)
DEC 18 – 24, 2011
110
100
90
80
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
−10
−20
Bold line denotes 95°F contour
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA
Computer generated contours
Based on preliminary data
NOAA


Extreme Minimum Temperature (°F)
DEC 18 – 24, 2011
90
80
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
−10
−20
−30
−40
Bold line denotes 32°F contour
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA
Computer generated contours
Based on preliminary data
NOAA

(Continued from front cover)
excluding the **southern Atlantic region**. Wet weather continued to hamper final corn harvest efforts in the **eastern Corn Belt** and padded record-setting annual precipitation totals from the **Ohio Valley into the northern Mid-Atlantic States**. Farther south, however, rain provided drought relief from the **western Gulf Coast region into parts of the Southeast**. Elsewhere, cool, unusually dry conditions persisted **west of the Rockies**, except for some beneficial precipitation in **Arizona**. In **California's Central Valley**, dry conditions and low overnight temperatures led to stunted pasture growth, forcing some ranchers to keep their animals at higher elevations or provide supplemental sources of food and water.



Early in the week, record-setting warmth covered the **north-central U.S.** Daily-record highs for December 18 included 60°F in **Huron, SD**, and 56°F in **Bismarck, ND.** A few days later, warmth reached the **East**, where record-setting highs for December 21 reached 63°F in **Atlantic City, NJ**, and 62°F in **Baltimore, MD.** **Southeastern** daily-record highs for December 22 included 82°F in both **Gainesville, FL**, and **Savannah, GA.** However, the warm spell ended with a round of severe weather, featuring more than a dozen tornadoes on December 22 from **southeastern Louisiana to northern Georgia**. Toward week's end, mild weather returned to the **north-central U.S.**, while cold air trailed a series of storms into the **West**. High winds also affected portions of the **West**, where a northeasterly gust to 98 mph was clocked on December 22 atop **southern California's Laguna Peak**. Daily-record lows for December 23 dipped to -22°F in **Laramie, WY**, and 20°F in **Campo, CA.** The following day, **Mitchell, SD** (51°F), posted a daily-record high. Warmth also lingered across **Florida's peninsula**, where **Tampa** (83°F on December 24) notched a daily-record high. In contrast, dry air contributed to persistently low overnight temperatures in **California's Central Valley**, where **Bakersfield** reported 16 freezes—with lows ranging from 28 to 32°F—during the first 24 days of December.

On December 19-20, a significant winter storm unfolded across the **central and southern Plains**. In **Kansas**, daily-record precipitation totals for the 19th included 1.89 inches in **Wichita** and 1.66 inches in **Medicine Lodge**. The following day, **Lufkin, TX** (1.82 inches), netted a record-setting total for December 20. Farther east, Pensacola, FL, received 5.33 inches from December 19-22. Storm-total snowfall, all on December 19-20, reached 7.0 inches in **Dalhart, TX**, and 5.8 inches in **Dodge City, KS.** More than 17 inches blanketed **Clayton, NM.** High winds accompanying the snow resulted in blizzard conditions, with December 19 gusts clocked to 55 mph in **Dalhart** and 52 mph in **Dodge City**. Later, a second storm plunged southward across the **Rockies** and adjacent **High Plains**. In **Wyoming**, **Lander** received a daily-record snowfall (8.4 inches) for December 21. **Pueblo, CO**, was affected by both storms, reporting 16.0 inches of snow from December 19-22. Toward week's end, heavy snow developed across **southern portions of the Rockies and Plains**. December 22-24 snowfall reached 10.0 inches in **Roswell, NM**, and 6.4 inches in **Midland, TX.** By the morning of December 25, snow depths included 8 inches at **Roswell and Clayton, NM**, along with **Pueblo, CO.** Meanwhile, many other areas **east of the Rockies** had little or no snow on the ground. In **New York**, both **Buffalo** (3.0 inches) and **Rochester** (2.2 inches) set all-time records for their lowest respective July 1 - December 24 snowfall totals. Records had been 3.1 inches (in 1998) in **Buffalo** and 2.6 inches (in 1939) in **Rochester**. Elsewhere, heavy rain returned to **Louisiana** (and neighboring areas) at week's end, boosting December 19-25 rainfall totals to 4.19 inches in **Monroe** and 3.82 inches in Shreveport.

Mild, stormy weather lingered across **Alaska**. Weekly temperatures averaged more than 10°F above normal across parts of **interior Alaska**, while precipitation totaled 5 inches or more at some southeastern locations. During the first 3 weeks of the month, **Fairbanks'** average temperature of 13.5°F was 16.8°F above normal—representing its second-warmest December 1-21 period on record, behind 13.8°F in 1986. Meanwhile, weekly precipitation totaled 5.55 inches in **Yakutat** and 3.90 inches on **Annette Island**. Weekly snowfall reached 29.2 inches in **Valdez**, boosting its December 1-24 total to 125.1 inches. (**Valdez** eventually broke its December snowfall record, 137.1 inches in 1991, on the 27th.) Farther south, locally heavy showers dotted **Hawaii's** windward locations, especially on the **Big Island**. Through December 24, **Hilo's** month-to-date rainfall climbed to 18.65 inches, 200 percent of normal. **Hilo's** weekly rainfall reached 8.40 inches, while other **Big Island** totals included 19.46 inches at **Saddle Quarry** and 13.87 inches in **Mountain View**.

National Weather Data for Selected Cities

Weather Data for the Week Ending December 24, 2011

Data Provided by Climate Prediction Center (301-763-8000, Ext. 7503)

STATES AND STATIONS		TEMPERATURE °F						PRECIPITATION							RELATIVE HUMIDITY PERCENT		NUMBER OF DAYS			
																	TEMP. °F		PRECIP	
		AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	EXTREME HIGH	EXTREME LOW	AVERAGE	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	WEEKLY TOTAL, IN.	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	GREATEST IN 24-HOUR, IN.	TOTAL, IN., SINCE DEC 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE DEC 1	TOTAL, IN., SINCE JAN 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE JAN 1	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	90 AND ABOVE	32 AND BELOW	.01 INCH OR MORE	.50 INCH OR MORE
AL	BIRMINGHAM	60	42	68	29	51	6	1.28	0.32	0.94	3.88	115	56.95	108	93	59	0	1	3	1
	HUNTSVILLE	57	39	66	27	48	6	1.28	0.06	1.14	4.52	105	57.76	103	86	64	0	1	3	1
	MOBILE	68	48	78	33	58	6	0.98	0.02	0.77	1.20	33	49.73	76	91	68	0	0	3	1
	MONTGOMERY	66	46	76	29	56	8	1.54	0.47	0.65	1.86	47	47.19	88	90	64	0	2	3	2
AK	ANCHORAGE	32	22	45	7	27	10	0.72	0.50	0.24	2.32	294	16.68	106	82	70	0	6	5	0
	BARROW	-8	-20	-2	-26	-14	-2	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.56	5600	6.57	163	83	71	0	7	2	0
	FAIRBANKS	20	-1	37	-27	9	15	0.26	0.09	0.16	0.67	126	9.26	92	89	78	0	7	5	0
	JUNEAU	39	34	44	32	37	8	2.77	1.53	1.08	7.17	174	65.95	116	94	86	0	2	7	2
	KODIAK	36	26	44	16	31	1	1.42	-0.33	1.00	5.88	104	70.49	96	78	56	0	6	3	1
	NOME	18	4	33	-25	11	3	0.09	-0.11	0.08	2.14	274	18.50	113	86	75	0	7	2	0
AZ	FLAGSTAFF	36	19	41	9	28	-2	0.16	-0.23	0.16	2.75	205	21.26	95	88	48	0	7	1	0
	PHOENIX	60	45	63	38	52	-2	0.12	-0.07	0.12	1.08	171	4.64	58	75	53	0	0	1	0
	PRESCOTT	45	27	51	20	36	-1	0.48	0.20	0.48	1.74	185	11.72	62	87	44	0	6	1	0
	TUCSON	55	38	59	30	46	-5	1.77	1.53	1.00	4.11	587	14.31	121	90	67	0	2	3	2
AR	FORT SMITH	52	36	61	25	44	4	0.52	-0.17	0.47	3.32	116	46.44	107	90	58	0	3	2	0
	LITTLE ROCK	55	39	64	31	47	5	0.54	-0.45	0.34	6.48	167	58.94	118	90	57	0	2	2	0
CA	BAKERSFIELD	57	31	63	28	44	-2	0.00	-0.16	0.00	0.00	0	4.39	71	80	60	0	6	0	0
	FRESNO	57	31	61	28	44	0	0.00	-0.29	0.00	0.00	0	10.93	101	88	72	0	4	0	0
	LOS ANGELES	65	46	71	40	56	-1	0.00	-0.40	0.00	0.67	55	9.86	78	72	50	0	0	0	0
	REDDING	61	34	70	26	48	3	0.00	-1.04	0.00	0.09	3	26.23	81	59	41	0	3	0	0
	SACRAMENTO	58	30	65	25	44	-1	0.00	-0.53	0.00	0.27	15	16.95	98	92	38	0	5	0	0
	SAN DIEGO	64	48	69	41	56	-1	0.02	-0.27	0.01	0.86	101	9.07	88	69	54	0	0	2	0
	SAN FRANCISCO	57	40	60	36	48	-1	0.00	-0.63	0.00	0.13	6	16.58	86	71	53	0	0	0	0
	STOCKTON	54	27	57	22	41	-4	0.01	-0.38	0.01	0.17	13	10.15	76	90	73	0	7	1	0
CO	ALAMOSA	29	-3	34	-17	13	-3	0.06	0.00	0.06	0.27	129	4.60	65	82	68	0	7	1	0
	CO SPRINGS	39	14	61	0	27	-2	0.44	0.36	0.21	0.46	192	16.24	94	78	40	0	7	4	0
	DENVER INTL	39	16	58	3	27	-2	0.49	0.43	0.25	0.78	390	17.31	128	78	49	0	7	3	0
	GRAND JUNCTION	37	16	45	9	26	-1	0.12	0.01	0.12	0.35	106	9.74	111	83	65	0	7	1	0
	PUEBLO	38	5	62	-11	21	-9	0.72	0.64	0.26	0.84	323	9.21	75	85	62	0	7	4	0
CT	BRIDGEPORT	47	32	58	19	40	6	0.90	0.14	0.53	3.24	125	57.42	133	70	46	0	3	3	1
	HARTFORD	44	26	56	13	35	5	1.39	0.62	0.69	4.20	154	68.69	152	76	48	0	5	3	2
DC	WASHINGTON	54	40	62	29	47	8	0.95	0.28	0.63	4.31	189	46.30	120	83	53	0	2	3	1
DE	WILMINGTON	50	34	62	25	42	7	1.52	0.78	0.75	3.71	144	55.85	133	98	57	0	3	4	2
FL	DAYTONA BEACH	75	55	83	46	65	5	0.00	-0.59	0.00	3.03	151	48.62	100	95	52	0	0	0	0
	JACKSONVILLE	74	51	81	38	62	8	0.03	-0.54	0.03	1.59	83	47.70	92	93	52	0	0	1	0
	KEY WEST	79	73	81	70	76	5	0.02	-0.45	0.02	0.28	18	42.58	111	84	70	0	0	1	0
	MIAMI	80	69	82	66	75	6	0.00	-0.46	0.00	1.13	65	63.85	110	80	58	0	0	0	0
	ORLANDO	78	55	85	51	67	5	0.00	-0.50	0.00	0.62	35	56.68	119	96	61	0	0	0	0
	PENSACOLA	68	53	75	41	61	8	5.40	4.55	4.15	5.86	199	46.83	74	89	69	0	0	5	3
	TALLAHASSEE	71	50	78	32	61	8	0.35	-0.56	0.20	4.04	137	34.42	55	92	65	0	1	3	0
	TAMPA	79	61	83	51	70	7	0.00	-0.51	0.00	0.04	2	53.08	120	85	49	0	0	0	0
	WEST PALM BEACH	78	67	81	60	73	5	0.26	-0.33	0.26	0.87	33	47.86	79	82	59	0	0	1	0
GA	ATHENS	62	41	68	27	52	8	1.44	0.63	0.72	1.91	70	35.01	75	89	62	0	2	3	2
	ATLANTA	60	44	68	33	52	8	1.83	1.02	1.01	2.63	91	37.43	76	82	63	0	0	3	2
	AUGUSTA	67	40	77	26	54	8	0.14	-0.58	0.13	0.26	12	28.43	65	95	64	0	2	2	0
	COLUMBUS	66	46	74	34	56	8	2.09	1.13	1.10	3.24	96	37.96	80	91	56	0	0	3	2
	MACON	66	43	75	26	54	7	1.26	0.39	0.65	1.58	55	31.69	72	97	58	0	2	3	1
	SAVANNAH	71	48	82	36	59	8	0.00	-0.64	0.00	0.69	36	34.15	70	89	64	0	0	0	0
HI	HILO	77	66	79	62	71	-1	7.00	4.90	1.84	17.20	194	94.61	76	91	82	0	0	7	5
	HONOLULU	82	71	83	70	77	2	0.14	-0.52	0.07	1.13	54	16.29	93	76	67	0	0	5	0
	KAHULUI	80	68	81	67	74	1	0.00	-0.70	0.00	0.06	3	10.71	60	76	71	0	0	0	0
	LIHUE	78	70	79	69	74	1	0.37	-0.70	0.16	1.68	46	43.13	112	81	71	0	0	7	0
ID	BOISE	39	17	44	11	28	-2	0.00	-0.28	0.00	0.00	0	10.19	86	73	58	0	7	0	0
	LEWISTON	38	23	44	16	31	-2	0.00	-0.22	0.00	0.03	4	12.88	103	89	75	0	7	0	0
	POCATELLO	29	4	37	-5	17	-8	0.12	-0.10	0.12	0.13	16	12.30	100	86	76	0	7	1	0
IL	CHICAGO/O'HARE	41	30	50	21	36	10	0.03	-0.48	0.02	2.13	108	49.31	138	86	66	0	4	2	0
	MOLINE	40	26	50	17	33	8	0.03	-0.44	0.02	2.43	138	34.60	92	89	72	0	5	2	0
	PEORIA	41	28	52	20	35	8	0.25	-0.25	0.23	2.54	127	39.52	111	91	70	0	5	2	0
	ROCKFORD	39	25	47	17	32	9	0.08	-0.35	0.05	1.79	105	38.77	107	87	68	0	6	2	0
	SPRINGFIELD	44	31	52	24	38	9	1.11	0.57	0.65	1.97	96	29.97	85	93	70	0	4	3	1
IN	EVANSVILLE	51	35	60	24	43	8	0.98	0.24	0.63	5.29	181	69.28	159	87	75	0	3	3	1
	FORT WAYNE	44	33	52	25	38	10	0.47	-0.12	0.24	3.20	145	48.97	136	91	69	0	3	2	0
	INDIANAPOLIS	47	34	53	26	41	10	1.44	0.80	0.89	4.42	181	48.94	121	93	68	0	3	4	1
	SOUTH BEND	42	31	53	23	36	8	0.05	-0.62	0.03	1.96	79	45.83	117	83	67	0	3	3	0
IA	BURLINGTON	41	27	50	16	34	7	0.24	-0.19	0.13	3.06	176	35.55	95	95	71	0	5	3	0
	CEDAR RAPIDS	40	22	50	11	31	9	0.02	-0.27	0.02	2.55	207	30.02	91	92	62	0	7	1	0
	DES MOINES	43	24	55	14	34	10	0.01	-0.26	0.01	2.26	211	36.94	107	85	61	0	7	1	0
	DUBUQUE	38	22	46	13	30	9	0.02	-0.32	0.02	2.28	164	45.89	130	94	76	0	7	1	0
	SIOUX CITY	42	16	57	8	29	8	0.02	-0.09	0.02	0.61	122	23.96	93	84	60	0	7	1	0
	WATERLOO	40	19	52	9	30	10	0.03	-0.18	0.03	1.98	213	30.12	91	93	70	0	7	1	0
KS	CONCORDIA	42	23	57	13	33	4	0.15	-0.02	0.13	0.70	106	29.91	106	84	66	0	6	2	0
	DODGE CITY	37	18	61	6	27	-5	0.91	0.74	0.87	1.66	291	9.85	44	87	68	0	7	2	1
	GOODLAND	42	17	57	6	30	1	0.08	0.01	0.08	0.45	173	19.38	99	85	59	0	7	1	0
	TOPEKA	45	26	60	18	35	4	1.37	1.09	1.23	3.38	289	32.85	93	94	72	0	6	2	1

Based on 1971-2000 normals

***** Not Available**

Weather Data for the Week Ending December 24, 2011

STATES AND STATIONS		TEMPERATURE °F						PRECIPITATION							RELATIVE HUMIDITY PERCENT		NUMBER OF DAYS TEMP. °F		NUMBER OF DAYS PRECIP	
		AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	EXTREME HIGH	EXTREME LOW	AVERAGE	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	WEEKLY TOTAL, IN.	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	GREATEST IN 24-HOUR, IN.	TOTAL, IN., SINCE DEC 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE DEC 1	TOTAL, IN., SINCE JAN01	PCT. NORMAL SINCE JAN01	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	90 AND ABOVE	32 AND BELOW	.01 INCH OR MORE	.50 INCH OR MORE
	WICHITA	44	26	54	18	35	2	1.97	1.69	1.89	3.69	351	26.05	87	92	73	0	6	2	1
KY	JACKSON	52	37	63	28	44	7	1.21	0.28	0.88	3.08	91	58.90	121	85	54	0	2	4	1
	LEXINGTON	50	35	61	26	42	7	0.75	-0.15	0.37	3.27	105	65.19	145	86	71	0	2	3	0
	LOUISVILLE	53	39	62	28	46	10	1.10	0.31	0.55	4.39	151	67.19	154	85	59	0	2	4	1
	PADUCAH	52	36	62	25	44	8	0.76	-0.18	0.41	6.58	183	74.18	153	90	66	0	3	3	0
LA	BATON ROUGE	67	46	77	33	57	5	1.40	0.23	0.75	1.68	42	48.29	78	96	58	0	0	3	2
	LAKE CHARLES	63	47	74	37	55	2	3.47	2.47	1.98	4.19	121	38.13	68	89	61	0	0	3	2
	NEW ORLEANS	68	51	79	40	60	6	0.20	-0.88	0.20	0.89	22	54.21	86	86	65	0	0	1	0
	SHREVEPORT	56	42	66	31	49	1	3.28	2.28	1.56	6.87	195	32.05	64	92	65	0	1	5	3
ME	CARIBOU	24	6	33	-11	15	0	0.50	-0.22	0.27	2.37	98	54.40	148	87	64	0	7	4	0
	PORTLAND	37	17	52	9	27	0	0.58	-0.35	0.34	2.84	87	51.10	114	84	46	0	6	2	0
MD	BALTIMORE	53	35	62	23	44	8	1.14	0.40	0.63	3.78	151	55.80	136	88	55	0	3	3	1
MA	BOSTON	44	28	58	18	36	2	1.08	0.25	0.57	3.78	132	52.20	125	71	47	0	6	3	1
	WORCESTER	41	25	54	13	33	5	1.73	0.90	0.90	4.22	147	65.96	137	82	46	0	6	3	2
MI	ALPENA	33	22	40	18	28	5	0.13	-0.26	0.06	0.71	52	35.91	129	89	71	0	7	4	0
	GRAND RAPIDS	40	31	47	28	35	8	0.10	-0.45	0.05	2.05	92	44.55	122	85	64	0	5	3	0
	HOUGHTON LAKE	34	22	39	12	28	5	0.02	-0.34	0.01	0.68	50	30.49	109	87	77	0	7	2	0
	LANSING	38	29	47	23	33	7	0.21	-0.23	0.10	1.47	82	38.12	122	85	73	0	6	3	0
	MUSKEGON	41	32	48	29	37	9	0.02	-0.54	0.01	1.56	74	41.13	127	78	64	0	3	2	0
	TRAVERSE CITY	36	26	42	20	31	6	0.14	-0.44	0.13	1.45	73	29.50	90	88	63	0	7	2	0
MN	DULUTH	30	17	38	12	24	11	0.14	-0.01	0.14	0.36	46	25.87	84	78	64	0	7	1	0
	INT'L FALLS	30	18	38	9	24	17	0.16	0.04	0.13	0.24	44	19.46	82	89	68	0	7	3	0
	MINNEAPOLIS	37	20	47	18	29	12	0.02	-0.17	0.02	0.66	84	26.57	91	79	61	0	7	1	0
	ROCHESTER	36	17	47	13	27	11	0.02	-0.16	0.02	0.94	112	27.49	88	87	73	0	7	1	0
	ST. CLOUD	36	14	47	9	25	12	0.02	-0.12	0.01	0.12	23	27.87	103	88	53	0	7	2	0
MS	JACKSON	60	43	70	30	52	5	1.03	-0.15	0.93	3.37	82	46.15	84	91	61	0	1	4	1
	MERIDIAN	63	41	73	27	52	4	0.87	-0.29	0.55	1.81	44	48.26	84	94	70	0	2	3	1
	TUPELO	56	39	66	29	48	6	2.85	1.48	1.99	4.20	89	50.10	92	89	69	0	2	3	2
MO	COLUMBIA	45	30	56	21	38	7	2.08	1.58	1.47	4.52	217	40.49	102	94	64	0	5	7	1
	KANSAS CITY	44	26	57	16	35	5	1.36	1.03	1.15	2.97	220	36.86	98	94	60	0	6	3	1
	SAINT LOUIS	48	36	57	27	42	9	1.06	0.48	0.79	2.16	91	46.19	121	87	66	0	3	3	1
	SPRINGFIELD	47	30	55	18	39	4	1.17	0.54	0.74	2.71	99	40.49	91	92	69	0	5	2	1
MT	BILLINGS	41	22	51	15	31	5	0.08	-0.06	0.07	0.16	36	19.50	134	77	49	0	7	2	0
	BUTTE	31	2	43	-11	17	0	0.04	-0.07	0.04	0.09	24	11.63	92	89	53	0	7	1	0
	CUT BANK	42	24	49	14	33	12	0.00	-0.06	0.00	0.01	5	5.95	48	76	41	0	6	0	0
	GLASGOW	38	16	49	5	27	12	0.18	0.10	0.14	0.34	155	22.93	207	86	68	0	7	2	0
	GREAT FALLS	42	24	52	14	33	9	0.37	0.23	0.22	0.68	158	16.88	115	77	42	0	5	3	0
	HAVRE	43	21	50	9	32	14	0.05	-0.06	0.04	0.07	21	11.99	106	78	49	0	6	2	0
	MISSOULA	30	14	39	5	22	-1	0.09	-0.16	0.08	0.24	29	14.49	107	88	81	0	7	2	0
NE	GRAND ISLAND	41	22	52	11	32	7	0.05	-0.06	0.04	1.12	207	27.17	105	79	68	0	7	2	0
	LINCOLN	42	19	52	11	31	5	0.02	-0.14	0.02	1.58	229	29.18	103	86	58	0	7	1	0
	NORFOLK	43	18	56	10	30	7	0.04	-0.07	0.03	0.76	141	21.00	79	81	62	0	7	2	0
	NORTH PLATTE	44	12	58	3	28	3	0.05	-0.03	0.05	0.25	86	23.64	121	87	47	0	7	1	0
	OMAHA	41	23	51	14	32	7	0.01	-0.15	0.01	1.61	209	28.60	95	88	57	0	7	1	0
	SCOTTSBLUFF	39	8	59	-5	24	-1	0.14	0.03	0.12	0.26	62	18.98	117	80	58	0	7	2	0
	VALENTINE	46	13	62	7	29	6	0.02	-0.04	0.02	0.13	52	21.92	113	82	54	0	7	1	0
NV	ELY	41	6	55	-1	24	-1	0.00	-0.10	0.00	0.22	73	12.00	123	75	49	0	7	0	0
	LAS VEGAS	56	37	60	33	47	1	0.05	-0.03	0.05	0.21	84	2.41	56	50	33	0	0	1	0
	RENO	43	15	49	10	29	-4	0.00	-0.19	0.00	0.00	0	4.92	68	61	43	0	7	0	0
	WINNEMUCCA	39	-1	44	-9	19	-10	0.02	-0.15	0.01	0.08	14	9.27	115	81	54	0	7	2	0
NH	CONCORD	38	14	52	4	26	1	0.77	0.14	0.60	3.19	139	53.90	146	89	48	0	7	4	1
NJ	NEWARK	49	34	62	23	41	6	1.05	0.29	0.76	3.30	121	68.70	151	77	48	0	3	4	1
NM	ALBUQUERQUE	40	25	45	18	33	-2	0.58	0.47	0.57	1.18	381	4.70	51	87	63	0	7	2	1
NY	ALBANY	40	24	52	13	32	5	1.15	0.58	0.61	3.10	148	52.98	141	87	57	0	5	3	1
	BINGHAMTON	38	25	47	12	32	6	1.57	0.92	0.95	2.73	112	67.67	178	90	68	0	5	5	1
	BUFFALO	41	28	56	17	34	5	0.56	-0.26	0.39	3.03	101	48.97	123	85	64	0	5	3	0
	ROCHESTER	41	27	54	16	34	5	0.63	0.04	0.30	1.93	90	39.91	120	85	62	0	4	3	0
	SYRACUSE	42	26	54	10	34	6	0.98	0.34	0.43	2.02	80	47.58	121	83	58	0	6	4	0
NC	ASHEVILLE	56	36	63	24	46	8	2.00	1.28	1.70	4.17	162	45.09	98	88	68	0	3	3	1
	CHARLOTTE	59	41	64	28	50	6	1.54	0.84	1.26	2.46	106	43.57	102	89	60	0	2	3	1
	GREENSBORO	58	40	65	26	49	9	1.10	0.43	0.90	2.36	103	42.88	101	85	56	0	2	2	1
	HATTERAS	61	49	69	30	55	6	0.13	-0.89	0.12	0.96	29	60.89	108	86	62	0	1	2	0
	RALEIGH	60	42	68	27	51	9	0.33	-0.34	0.25	1.49	67	43.14	102	80	54	0	2	2	0
	WILMINGTON	67	44	78	28	56	8	0.05	-0.78	0.05	0.07	2	43.43	77	89	46	0	2	1	0
ND	BISMARCK	42	19	56	13	30	16	0.00	-0.08	0.00	0.18	60	22.92	137	74	60	0	7	0	0
	DICKINSON	40	19	53	11	29	12	0.00	-0.06	0.00	0.01	4	18.54	114	84	49	0	7	0	0
	FARGO	39	17	55	14	28	17	0.02	-0.09	0.02	0.05	13	23.64	113	77	47	0	7	1	0
	GRAND FORKS	37	14	51	6	25	15	0.00	-0.11	0.00	0.02	5	19.08	98	87	54	0	7	0	0
	JAMESTOWN	40	17	54	12	28	15	0.00	-0.08	0.00	0.00	0	21.99	120	83	50	0	7	0	0
	WILLISTON	38	19	46	13	28	16	0.00	-0.11	0.00	0.12	30	19.16	137	83	66	0	7	0	0
OH	AKRON-CANTON	43	32	57	27	37	7	1.54	0.90	0.74	4.10	173	57.73	152	90	75	0	4	5	1
	CINCINNATI	49	36	60	26	42	9	1.85	1.13	0.73	5.64	221	72.40	173	92	70	0	2	5	2
	CLEVELAND	45	34	60	27	39	9	1.09	0.43	0.67	4.13	162	64.47	169	89	72	0	3	5	1
	COLUMBUS	47	37	62	31	42	10	1.80	1.18	0.65	4.65	199	54.18	143	90	76	0	2	5	2
	DAYTON	45	34	57	24	40	10	1.45	0.78	0.84	4.74	195	56.12	144	95	71	0	3	4	1
	MANSFIELD	43	33	59	27	38	9	1.40	0.71	0.71	4.33	165	55.92	131	97	77	0	3	5	1

Based on 1971-2000 normals

***** Not Available**

Weather Data for the Week Ending December 24, 2011

STATES AND STATIONS		TEMPERATURE °F						PRECIPITATION							RELATIVE HUMIDITY PERCENT		NUMBER OF DAYS TEMP. °F		NUMBER OF DAYS PRECIP	
		AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	EXTREME HIGH	EXTREME LOW	AVERAGE	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	WEEKLY TOTAL, IN.	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	GREATEST IN 24-HOUR, IN.	TOTAL, IN., SINCE DEC 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE DEC 1	TOTAL, IN., SINCE JAN01	PCT. NORMAL SINCE JAN01	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	90 AND ABOVE	32 AND BELOW	.01 INCH OR MORE	.50 INCH OR MORE
	TOLEDO	43	32	56	26	38	10	0.40	-0.17	0.36	2.75	130	48.33	148	86	68	0	3	3	0
	YOUNGSTOWN	42	31	57	24	37	8	1.58	0.95	0.92	3.69	154	53.30	142	91	75	0	5	7	1
OK	OKLAHOMA CITY	50	31	60	22	41	2	0.57	0.16	0.57	1.81	127	30.30	86	89	57	0	4	1	1
	TULSA	51	34	57	24	42	3	0.53	0.04	0.53	1.42	70	31.96	76	87	58	0	2	1	1
OR	ASTORIA	47	34	53	28	40	-2	0.73	-1.54	0.38	1.28	15	65.33	101	99	92	0	3	4	0
	BURNS	39	2	44	-8	21	-3	0.00	-0.24	0.00	0.02	2	10.13	99	83	71	0	6	0	0
	EUGENE	48	31	57	26	39	0	0.05	-1.74	0.05	0.15	2	29.19	59	92	81	0	5	1	0
	MEDFORD	46	22	49	16	34	-4	0.00	-0.62	0.00	0.01	0	15.47	87	90	59	0	7	0	0
	PENDLETON	41	22	47	14	31	-2	0.02	-0.28	0.02	0.03	3	11.63	94	94	78	0	7	1	0
	PORTLAND	45	34	48	28	39	-1	0.08	-1.16	0.04	0.15	3	34.76	97	89	81	0	2	2	0
	SALEM	46	32	54	27	39	-1	0.01	-1.39	0.01	0.12	2	32.69	84	91	88	0	4	1	0
PA	ALLENTOWN	47	30	56	19	38	7	0.87	0.15	0.31	1.58	61	69.12	156	88	55	0	4	4	0
	ERIE	43	32	59	24	38	6	1.73	0.92	0.89	4.30	142	56.17	134	86	73	0	3	5	1
	MIDDLETOWN	48	33	59	28	41	9	0.66	-0.03	0.32	2.16	83	72.62	182	90	53	0	4	4	0
	PHILADELPHIA	50	35	63	27	43	7	1.49	0.77	0.89	3.80	152	63.76	155	82	52	0	3	4	2
	PITTSBURGH	45	34	60	28	39	7	1.09	0.48	0.42	1.59	71	43.34	116	86	70	0	4	3	0
	WILKES-BARRE	42	29	50	14	35	5	0.95	0.42	0.50	2.70	132	59.59	161	88	60	0	4	4	1
	WILLIAMSPORT	43	31	51	20	37	7	1.12	0.51	0.53	3.10	130	69.67	170	84	62	0	4	4	1
RI	PROVIDENCE	45	27	58	14	36	3	0.75	-0.16	0.57	3.42	108	56.19	124	72	52	0	5	2	1
SC	BEAUFORT	69	48	79	34	58	8	0.03	-0.67	0.02	0.60	28	33.38	68	92	53	0	0	2	0
	CHARLESTON	70	46	79	31	58	8	0.02	-0.71	0.02	0.07	3	36.43	72	93	50	0	1	1	0
	COLUMBIA	66	43	76	28	55	9	0.11	-0.65	0.11	0.18	8	35.69	76	86	58	0	2	1	0
	GREENVILLE	59	43	65	30	51	8	1.46	0.61	0.64	2.68	94	44.67	91	93	59	0	2	3	2
SD	ABERDEEN	42	11	57	2	26	11	0.00	-0.08	0.00	0.04	18	23.00	115	76	54	0	7	0	0
	HURON	43	15	60	9	29	11	0.00	-0.06	0.00	0.03	12	22.48	108	84	42	0	7	0	0
	RAPID CITY	43	16	61	7	30	6	0.12	0.04	0.12	0.23	96	19.37	118	85	48	0	7	1	0
	SIOUX FALLS	41	14	53	5	28	11	0.00	-0.08	0.00	0.23	56	23.89	97	80	53	0	7	0	0
TN	BRISTOL	54	34	64	24	44	8	1.10	0.36	0.96	3.82	146	47.40	117	94	54	0	3	2	1
	CHATTANOOGA	56	39	66	28	48	6	1.91	0.89	0.95	5.66	153	63.92	120	89	67	0	2	3	2
	KNOXVILLE	55	37	65	26	46	6	1.13	0.14	0.87	4.03	117	55.75	118	90	61	0	2	3	1
	MEMPHIS	57	41	66	31	49	7	1.36	0.14	0.80	7.70	165	57.49	107	83	59	0	1	2	2
	NASHVILLE	54	37	62	25	46	6	1.06	0.08	0.72	3.29	92	51.18	109	88	56	0	1	3	1
TX	ABILENE	50	36	61	29	43	-2	0.46	0.16	0.37	1.91	208	16.82	72	87	62	0	4	2	0
	AMARILLO	42	24	57	15	33	-3	0.96	0.82	0.96	1.38	373	6.83	35	93	64	0	6	1	1
	AUSTIN	58	45	72	41	51	0	1.86	1.31	0.81	4.90	265	16.91	51	88	65	0	0	4	1
	BEAUMONT	64	49	76	43	57	4	3.44	2.27	1.69	4.11	105	31.13	53	88	59	0	0	5	3
	BROWNSVILLE	68	55	79	47	62	2	0.36	0.14	0.14	1.50	174	17.90	66	94	79	0	0	4	0
	CORPUS CHRISTI	66	52	81	45	59	2	0.13	-0.26	0.10	1.17	91	12.05	38	83	63	0	0	4	0
	DEL RIO	56	40	70	33	48	-4	0.37	0.22	0.19	1.03	184	9.96	55	96	68	0	0	5	0
	EL PASO	49	34	59	25	42	-3	0.33	0.16	0.18	0.78	142	5.31	58	85	58	0	3	3	0
	FORT WORTH	54	40	64	34	47	1	0.56	-0.03	0.55	4.35	225	25.88	76	83	54	0	0	2	1
	GALVESTON	62	53	73	47	58	1	3.12	2.37	1.56	4.42	165	22.95	53	91	69	0	0	4	3
	HOUSTON	61	47	72	43	54	1	2.72	1.92	1.54	4.15	147	24.43	52	87	67	0	0	4	2
	LUBBOCK	44	31	56	24	37	-2	0.75	0.61	0.58	1.46	311	5.80	31	84	68	0	5	2	1
	MIDLAND	47	34	59	28	40	-4	0.92	0.78	0.49	1.68	365	5.55	38	82	60	0	4	3	0
	SAN ANGELO	53	35	65	26	44	-2	0.17	-0.03	0.10	1.01	146	9.25	45	82	57	0	3	3	0
	SAN ANTONIO	60	46	74	41	53	1	1.15	0.72	0.35	2.86	189	17.60	54	94	56	0	0	5	0
	VICTORIA	64	47	77	40	56	2	0.94	0.39	0.78	1.33	70	13.06	33	88	74	0	0	5	1
	WACO	55	42	67	36	48	0	0.89	0.27	0.45	4.95	230	27.62	84	86	64	0	0	4	0
	WICHITA FALLS	51	32	60	25	42	0	0.20	-0.19	0.19	1.41	110	12.93	46	90	66	0	4	2	0
UT	SALT LAKE CITY	34	20	36	15	27	-3	0.00	-0.25	0.00	0.02	2	19.12	118	84	52	0	7	0	0
VT	BURLINGTON	35	16	48	6	26	2	0.62	0.17	0.32	1.55	88	50.32	141	85	52	0	6	4	0
VA	LYNCHBURG	57	33	64	21	45	8	0.81	0.10	0.70	3.90	160	38.25	90	88	55	0	3	3	1
	NORFOLK	60	42	71	29	51	8	0.53	-0.14	0.52	1.11	51	50.65	113	84	53	0	2	2	1
	RICHMOND	58	40	69	27	49	10	0.48	-0.21	0.31	1.62	71	47.11	109	81	54	0	2	2	0
	ROANOKE	57	37	64	25	47	9	1.18	0.57	1.09	3.82	174	44.66	107	75	50	0	3	3	1
	WASH/DULLES	52	35	61	24	44	9	1.40	0.74	1.13	3.75	160	45.49	111	84	57	0	3	3	1
WA	OLYMPIA	44	30	57	24	37	0	0.04	-1.67	0.03	0.14	2	46.14	94	93	84	0	5	2	0
	QUILLAYUTE	48	35	50	27	42	2	1.74	-1.45	1.29	2.30	20	101.73	103	97	86	0	2	4	1
	SEATTLE-TACOMA	46	35	52	27	40	0	0.21	-1.00	0.19	0.28	6	34.43	96	93	83	0	2	2	0
	SPOKANE	30	20	34	15	25	-2	0.06	-0.42	0.06	0.10	6	14.48	89	94	85	0	7	1	0
	YAKIMA	37	18	48	8	27	-1	0.00	-0.30	0.00	0.01	1	7.01	89	85	77	0	7	0	0
WV	BECKLEY	48	33	57	28	41	7	1.03	0.36	0.56	3.48	149	41.62	102	82	65	0	3	5	1
	CHARLESTON	51	34	64	26	43	6	0.59	-0.11	0.43	2.37	90	49.73	115	95	58	0	3	4	0
	ELKINS	47	30	60	17	39	7	0.87	0.13	0.54	3.00	112	51.25	113	93	57	0	3	6	1
	HUNTINGTON	51	36	65	31	43	7	0.66	-0.08	0.53	2.21	85	61.46	148	90	60	0	2	3	1
WI	EAU CLAIRE	35	14	45	8	24	8	0.00	-0.19	0.00	1.06	128	31.78	100	92	58	0	7	0	0
	GREEN BAY	36	22	40	10	29	9	0.13	-0.14	0.07	1.37	119	37.83	131	88	64	0	7	2	0
	LA CROSSE	38	18	46	13	28	7	0.03	-0.20	0.01	1.20	118	34.89	109	95	61	0	7	3	0
	MADISON	38	21	43	12	29	7	0.12	-0.21	0.09	1.96	143	30.27	93	89	71	0	7	2	0
	MILWAUKEE	39	27	46	19	33	8	0.05	-0.41	0.03	1.57	87	31.93	93	85	68	0	5	2	0
WY	CASPER	32	16	45	6	24	1	0.20	0.09	0.20	0.36	82	12.94	101	75	55	0	7	1	0
	CHEYENNE	39	12	54	0	25	-2	0.15	0.07	0.12	0.32	97	19.24	126	69	49	0	7	2	0
	LANDER	26	4	45	-7	15	-6	0.69	0.58	0.68	0.99	215	15.43	116	92	63	0	7	2	1
	SHERIDAN	40	13	50	7	27	5	0.13	-0.01	0.09	0.38	81	18.56	128	79	69	0	7	2	0

Based on 1971-2000 normals

***** Not Available**

National Agricultural Summary

December 19 – 25, 2011

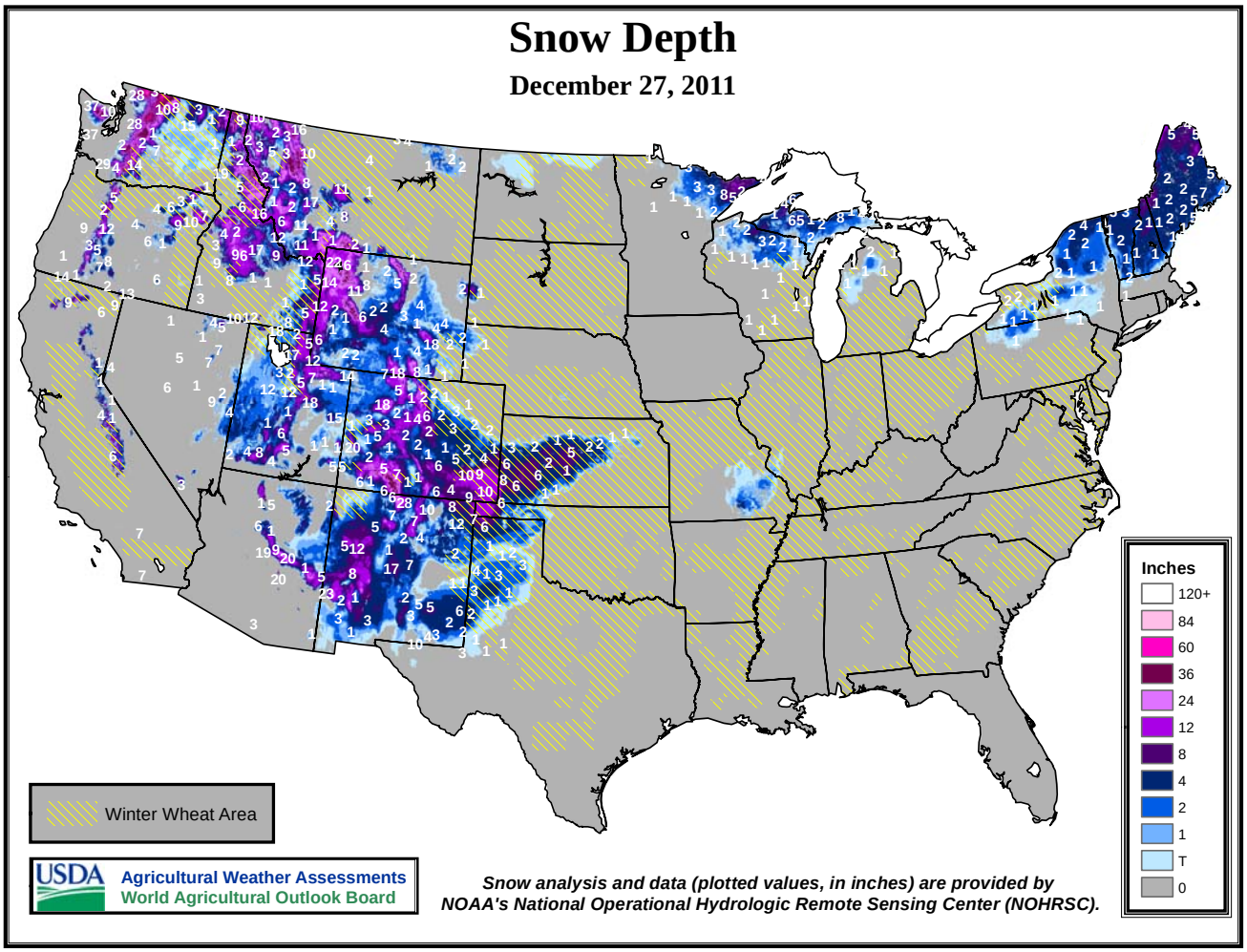
Weekly National Agricultural Summary provided by USDA/NASS

Temperatures across much of the West were near to below normal, while readings in the northern Rocky Mountains and Great Plains were at least 10°F degrees above normal during the week. Most notably, weekly temperatures averaged more than 15°F above normal in parts of North Dakota. A strong storm system brought heavy precipitation to much of the Four Corners Region during the week, providing a boost to water-supply prospects. Elsewhere, rain in excess of 4 inches fell in portions of the Delta and Southeast. However, most winter grains in these regions were in need of additional moisture to promote continued growth.

Warm, dry weather prevailed across much of Florida during the week, with the exception being parts of the panhandle. Winter planting progressed well under the mostly dry conditions, with good growth evident in many winter crops due to the recently mild temperatures. Vegetable growers continued to harvest and replant their winter crops in Miami-Dade County. Market movement included cucumbers, sweet corn, tomatoes, and light supplies of cabbage and radishes. Rainfall was nearly nonexistent in the citrus-growing region of the state. Producers continued to harvest early and mid-season oranges, as well as specialty crops.

Cotton producers in Arizona continued to harvest the last of this year's acreage, slightly behind last year's and the normal pace. Temperatures in the state were mostly below normal during the week, while precipitation fell at 14 of the 22 reporting weather stations. Alfalfa hay condition was reported as mostly fair to good, with harvest still active in a few locations. Barley seeding was nearing the halfway mark, while over one-quarter of the Durum wheat crop was in the ground. A variety of fruit and vegetable crops continued to be shipped from producers in central and western parts of the state.

In California, a high pressure system delivered a week of cold, dry weather to much of the state. Small grain producers seeded winter wheat and oats with hopes of receiving enough moisture to aid germination. Emerged small grain crops progressed well, but needed additional precipitation to sustain growth. Weed control continued in some grain fields, while cotton producers readied fields for Cotton Plowdown Regulation compliance. Fruit and vegetable producer across portions of the state ran freeze protection several nights as temperatures dropped below 30°F.



International Weather and Crop Summary

December 18-24, 2011

International Weather and Crop Highlights and Summaries provided by USDA/WAOB

HIGHLIGHTS

EUROPE: Rain and snow continued to fall across the continent, improving soil moisture reserves for winter crops over central and northern growing areas.

WESTERN FSU: Rain and snow boosted soil moisture reserves for dormant winter crops.

MIDDLE EAST: Wet weather maintained excellent prospects for winter grains in Turkey and Syria.

NORTHWESTERN AFRICA: Showers in eastern crop districts maintained abundant soil moisture for winter grains.

SOUTH ASIA: Warm, sunny weather benefited cotton harvesting in southern India, while cool weather promoted winter crop development to the north.

EAST ASIA: Cold, dry weather prevailed for dormant winter crops in China.

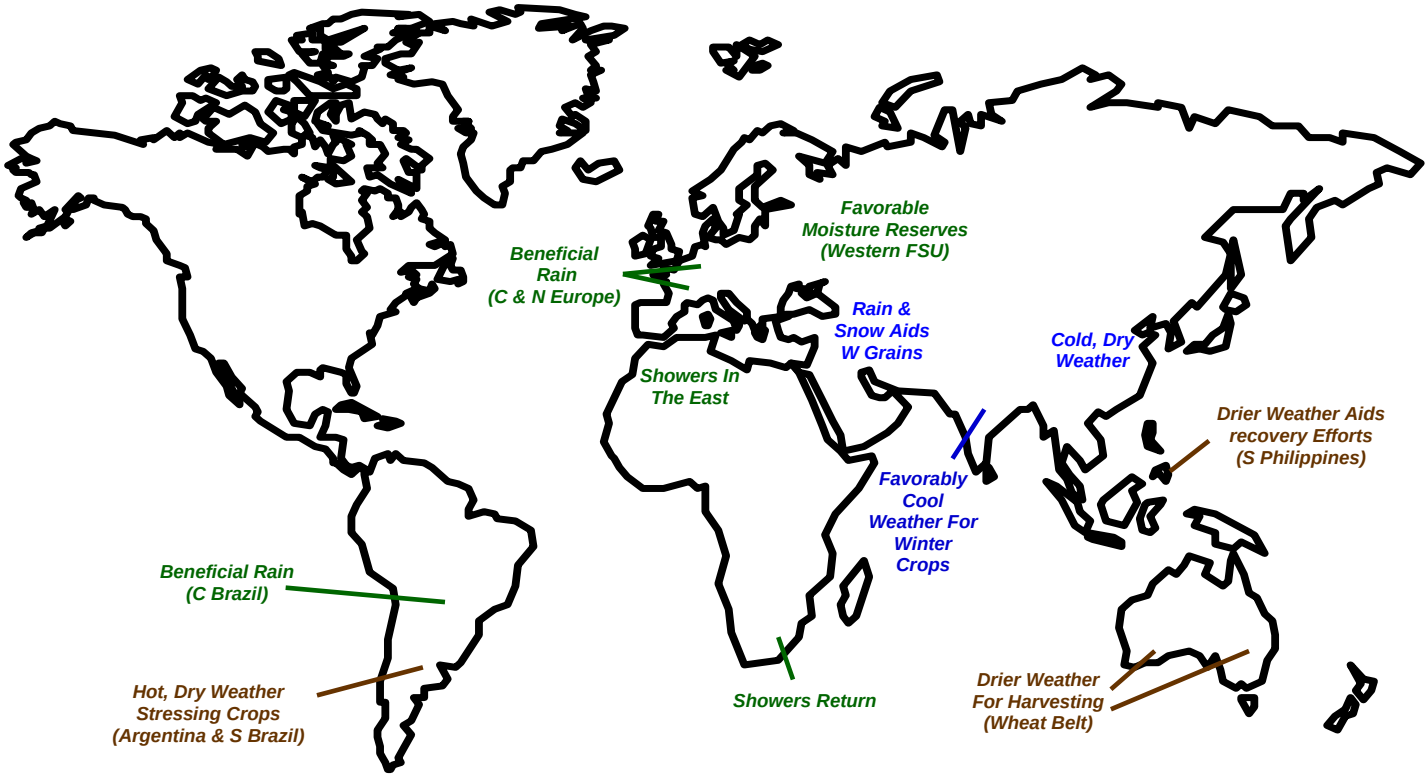
SOUTHEAST ASIA: Drier weather in the southern Philippines aided recovery efforts following Tropical Storm Washi.

AUSTRALIA: In western and southeastern Australia, drier weather favored wheat, barley, and canola harvesting.

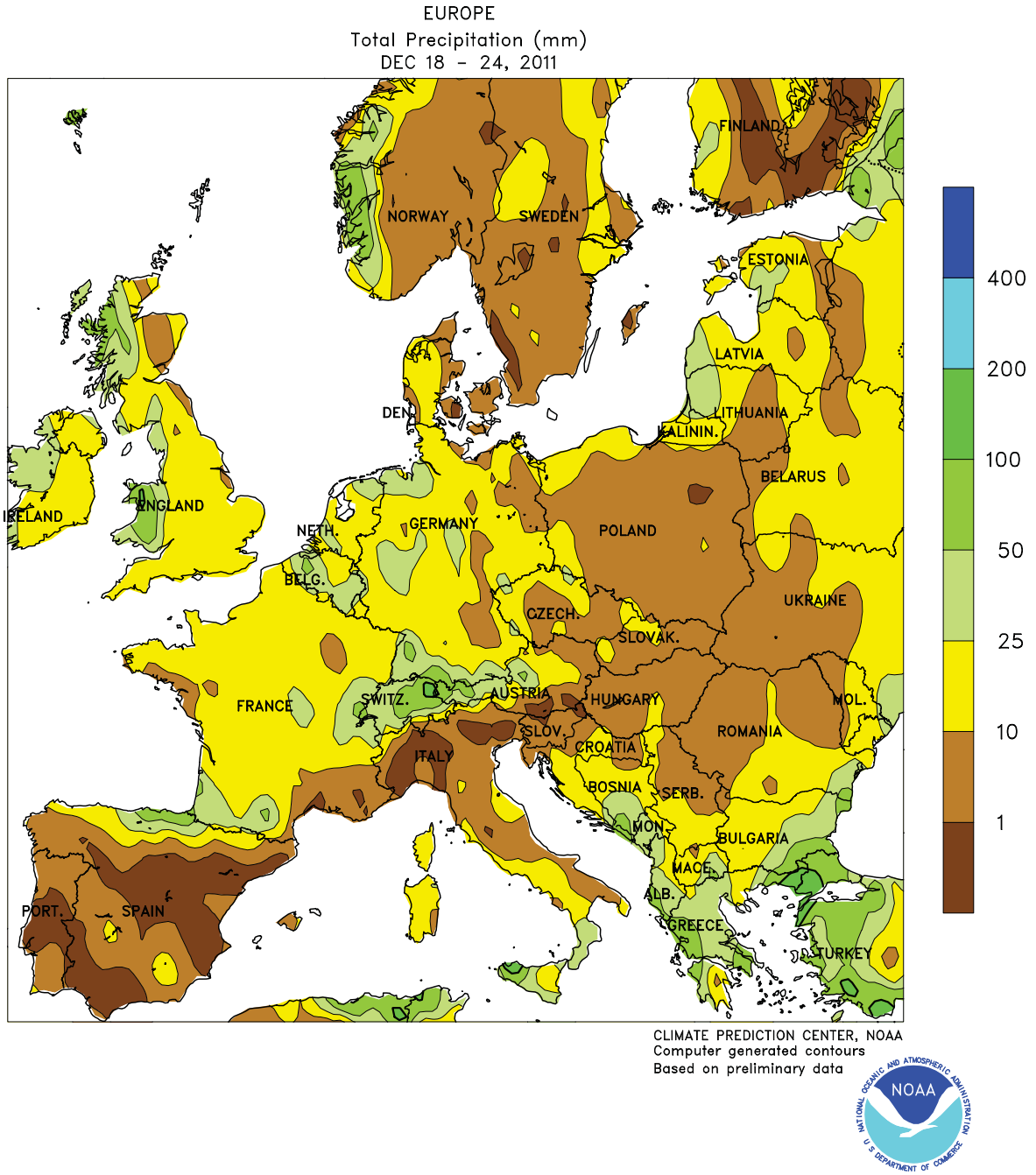
SOUTH AFRICA: Warm, showery weather maintained overall favorable conditions for summer crops, but additional rainfall would be welcome.

ARGENTINA: Unseasonable heat and dryness dominated the region during the early part of the week, stressing summer crops advancing through critical stages of development.

BRAZIL: Hot, dry weather maintained concern for corn and soybean prospects in key southern production areas.



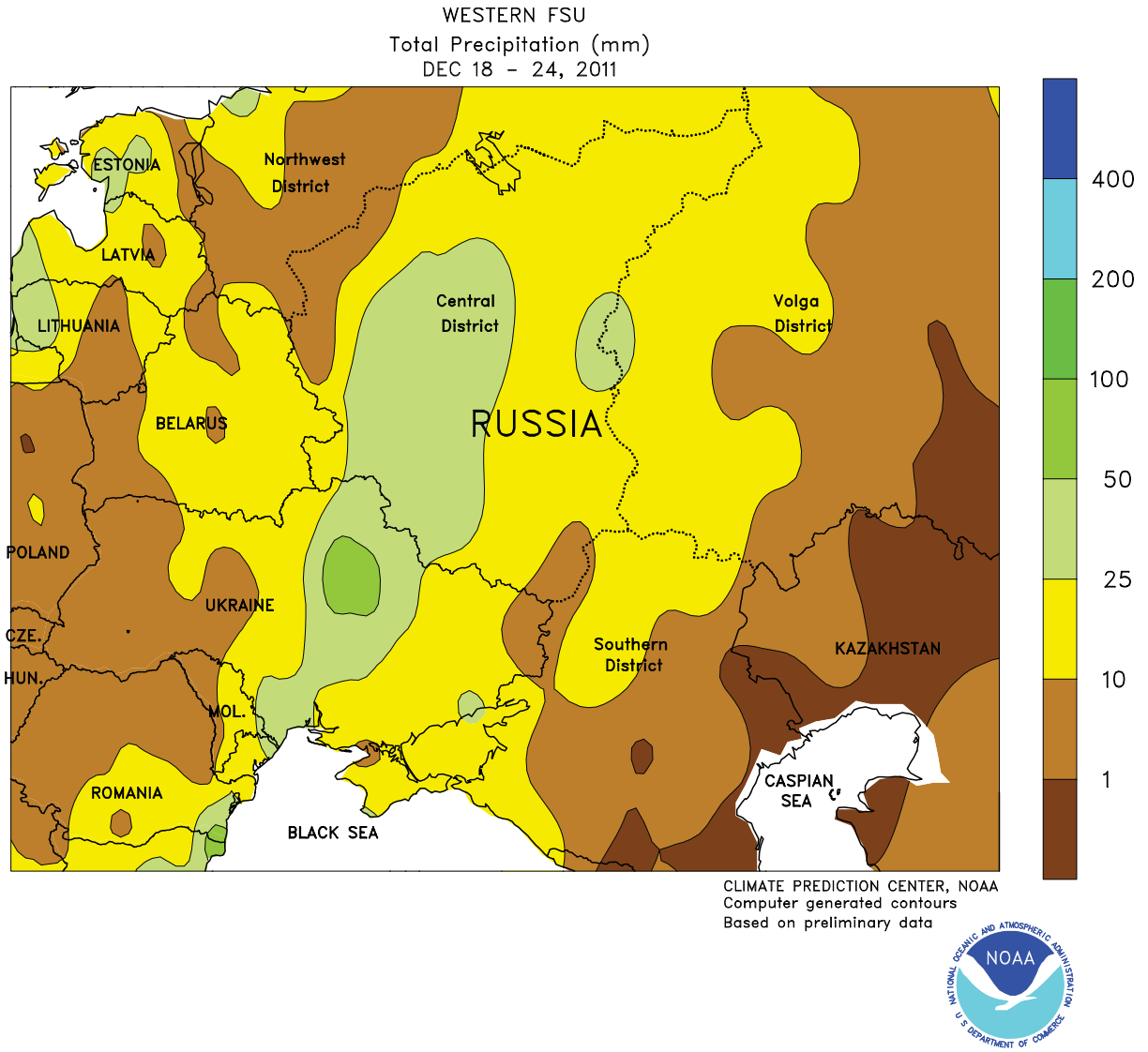
For additional information contact: mbrusberg@oce.usda.gov



EUROPE

Unsettled, somewhat cooler weather persisted over most major growing areas. Atlantic storms continued to march across the continent, generating widespread rain and snow (2-30 mm liquid equivalent) from England and France into Poland and the Baltic States. Soil moisture reserves increased further, and prospects for spring growth are consequently vastly improved following a drier-than-normal autumn. However, snow cover was shallow and patchy, and confined to the higher terrain in Poland and the Balkans; by the end of December, snow cover typically extends from the Balkans into Poland and the Baltic States, including southeastern Germany. Locally heavy rain (25-75 mm) returned to Greece, hampering late cotton harvesting. Mostly dry weather promoted winter crop development in Spain and northern Italy, while showers (10-20 mm) favored winter crops in southern Italy. Temperatures averaged near normal, with no extreme cold reported.

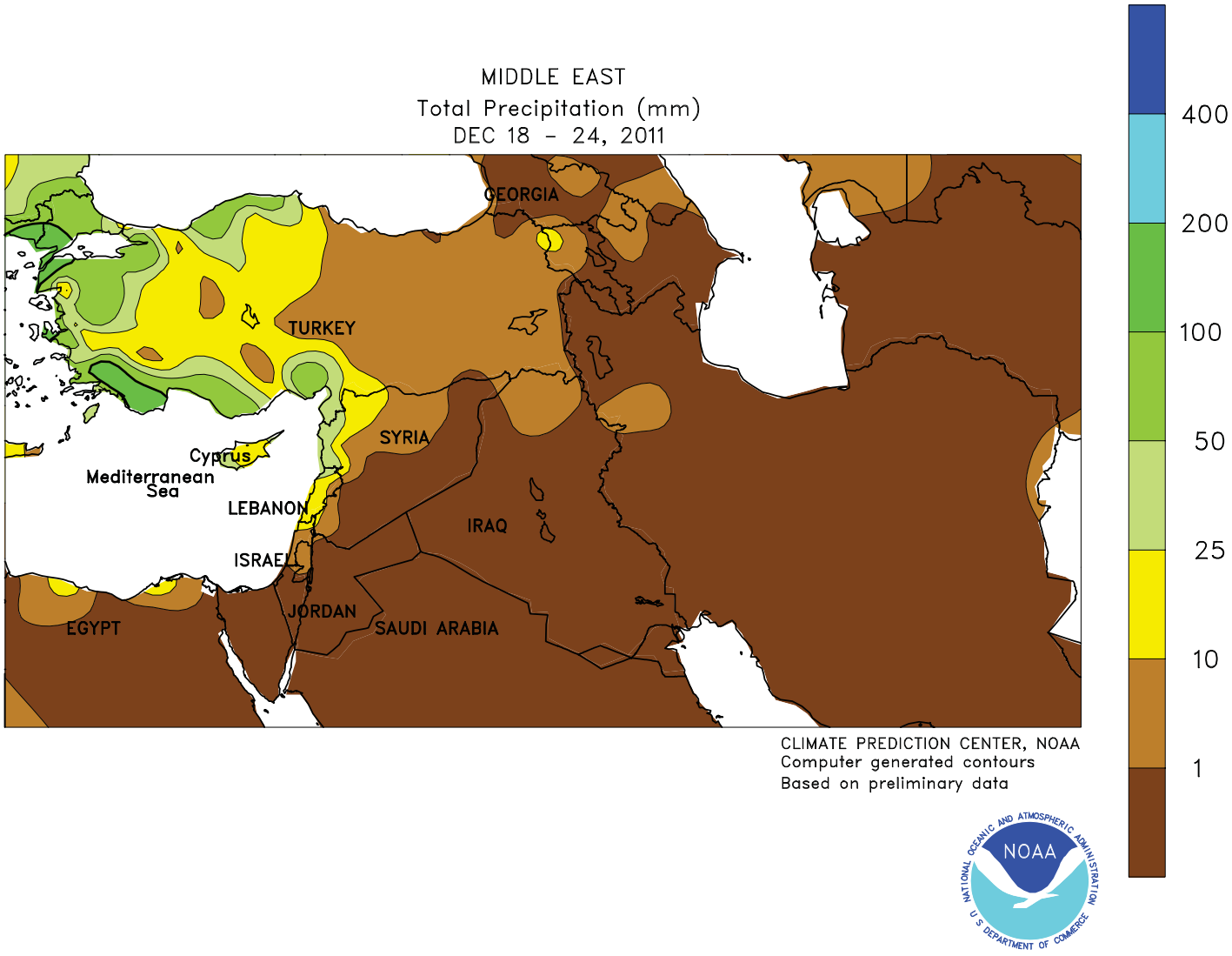
For additional information contact: mbrusberg@oce.usda.gov



WESTERN FSU

Wet, colder weather persisted, boosting western moisture reserves and increasing the region's protective snow cover. Rain and snow (10-65 mm liquid equivalent) fell in Belarus, Ukraine, and much of western and northern Russia, providing additional subsoil moisture recharge to areas beset with fall drought—notably portions of Ukraine and Belarus). Precipitation was lighter (10 mm or less) in Russia's Southern and Volga Districts, although crops in these locales received adequate rainfall during the autumn. Snow cover expanded into Ukraine and Belarus (2-10 cm), and increased in the Central (2-10 cm) and the Volga (locally more than 25 cm) Districts. Consequently, dormant winter crops in the Volga District were protected from nighttime readings as low as -20°C. However, the extent and depth of the region's snowpack remained far below the climatological norm, especially in the Southern District and eastern Ukraine.

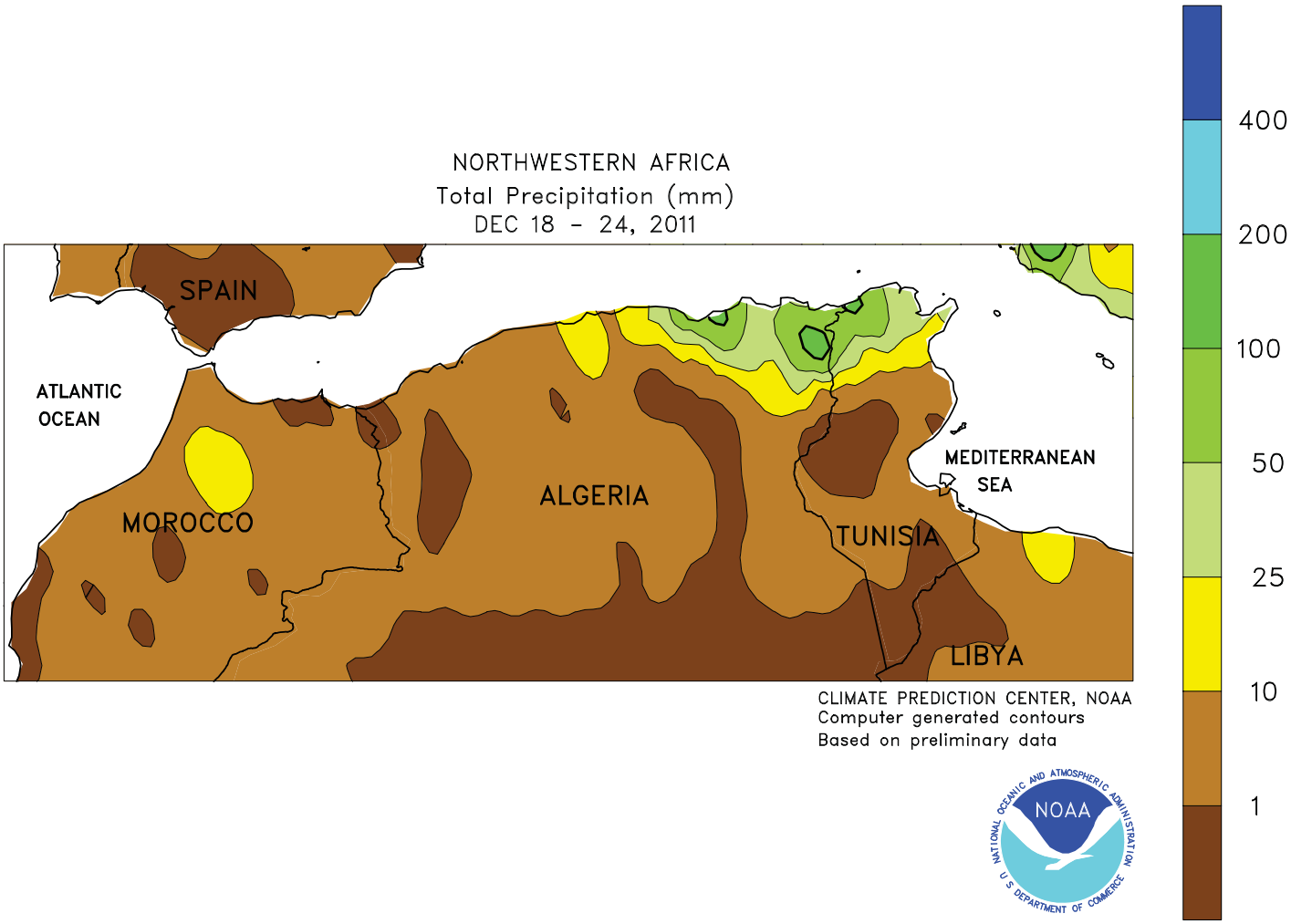
For additional information contact: mbrusberg@oce.usda.gov



MIDDLE EAST

Rain and snow continued in western and northern crop districts, while drier weather prevailed over southern and eastern growing areas. A pair of Mediterranean storms brought rain and snow (10-75 mm liquid equivalent) to Turkey, maintaining excellent soil moisture reserves for mostly dormant winter crops. Rain (2-50 mm) also fell from coastal Syria into northern Iraq, favoring vegetative winter grains. In contrast, sunny skies encouraged winter crop growth in Iran. In a reversal from recent weeks, temperatures averaged up to 5°C above normal, although colder weather followed a late-week cold front.

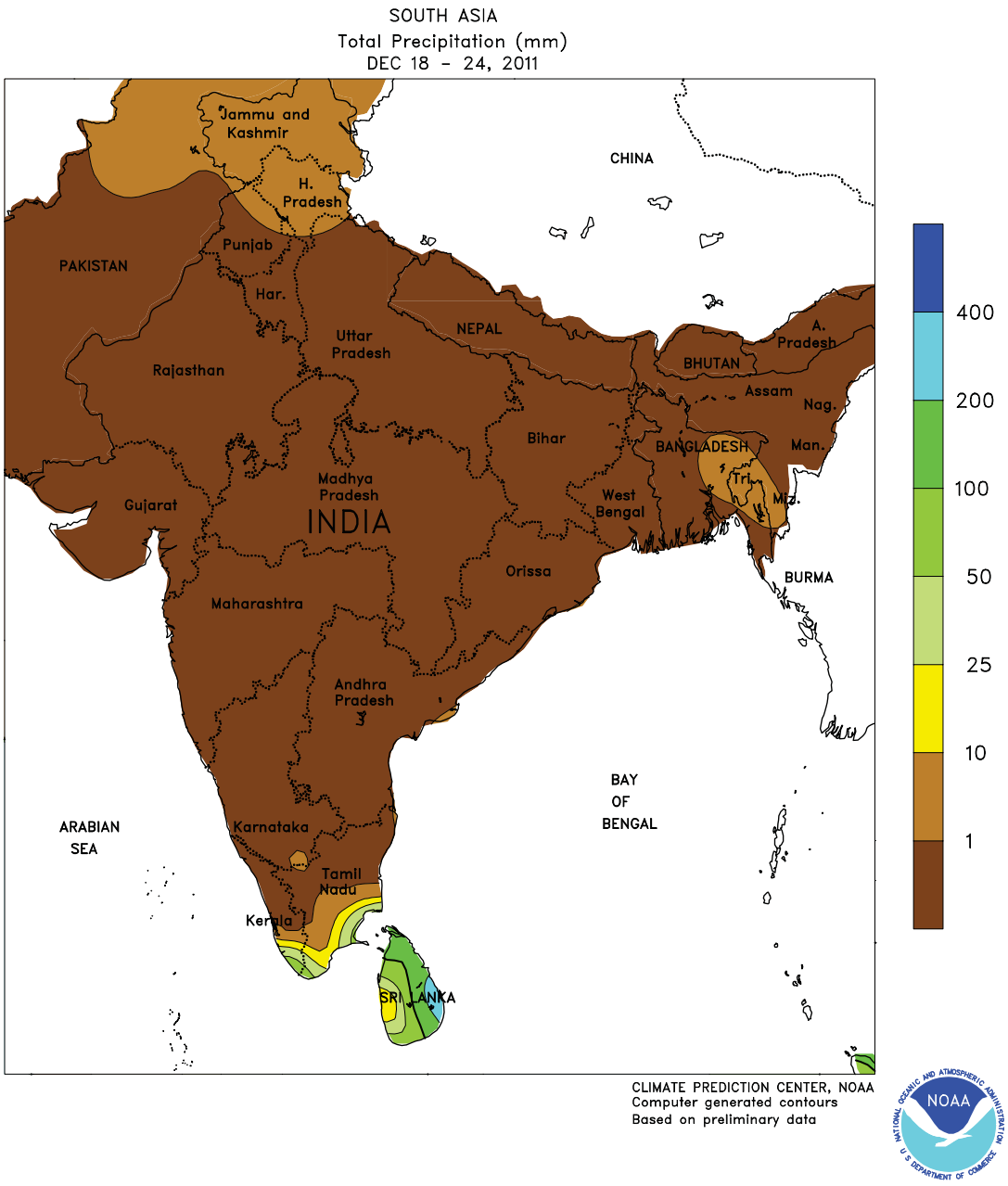
For additional information contact: mbrusberg@oce.usda.gov



NORTHWESTERN AFRICA

Eastern rain contrasted with mostly sunny skies in western crop areas. An influx of Mediterranean moisture led to moderate to heavy showers (10-100 mm) over eastern Algeria and northern Tunisia, maintaining abundant soil moisture for vegetative winter wheat and barley. Drier weather, with a few scattered showers (1-10 mm), promoted winter grain growth in Morocco and western Algeria. Temperatures averaged 1 to 2°C below normal, with daytime highs in the teen to lower 20s (degrees C) providing optimum conditions for winter grain development.

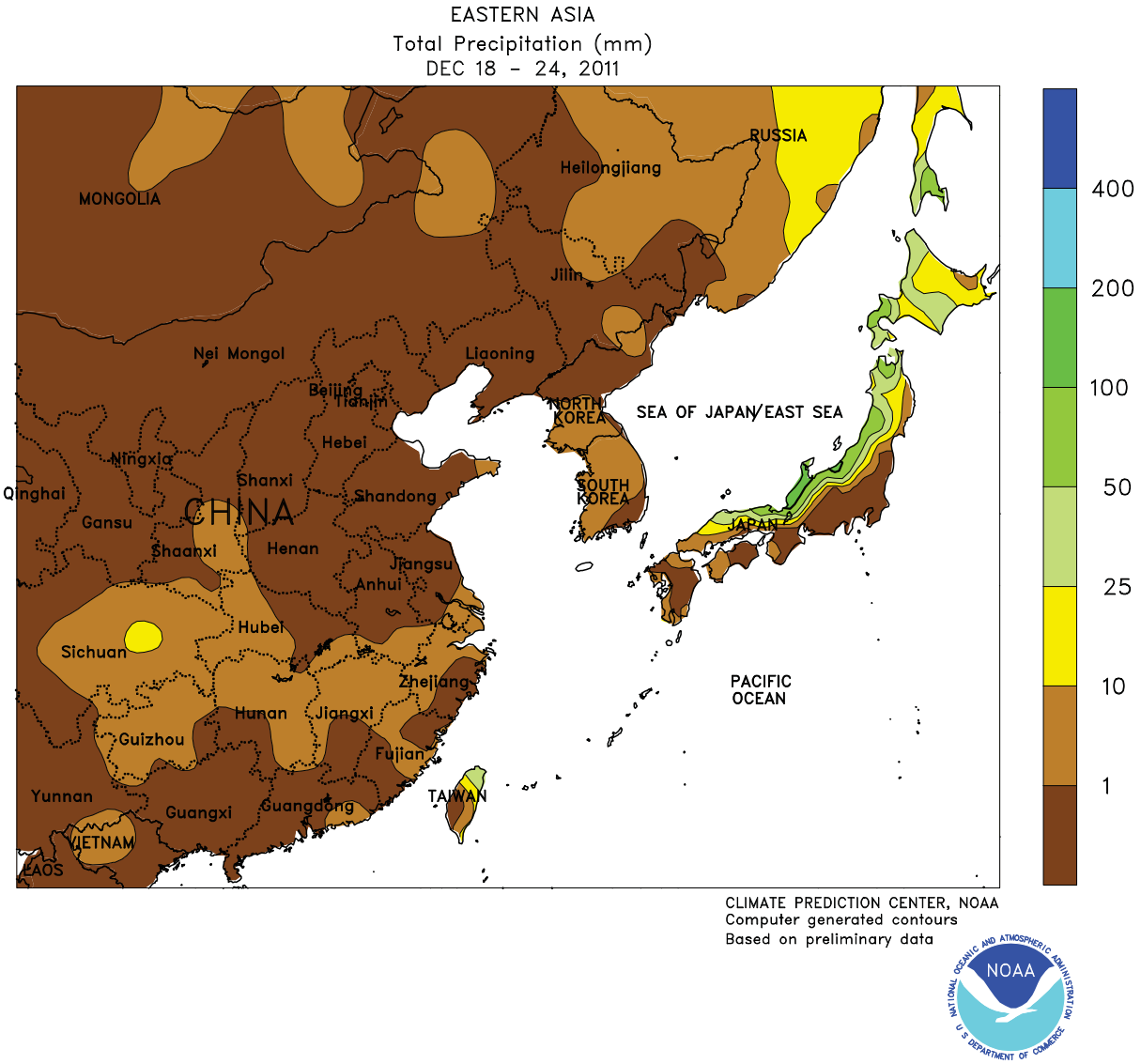
For additional information contact: mbrusberg@oce.usda.gov



SOUTH ASIA

Warm, dry weather continued to promote cotton harvesting in the southern half of India. Cool weather in the northern half of India favored winter wheat and rapeseed development. Weekly minimum temperatures skirted with the freezing mark but had little impact on crops tolerant to lower values. Both winter crops were progressing through the vegetative stage of development and nearing reproduction.

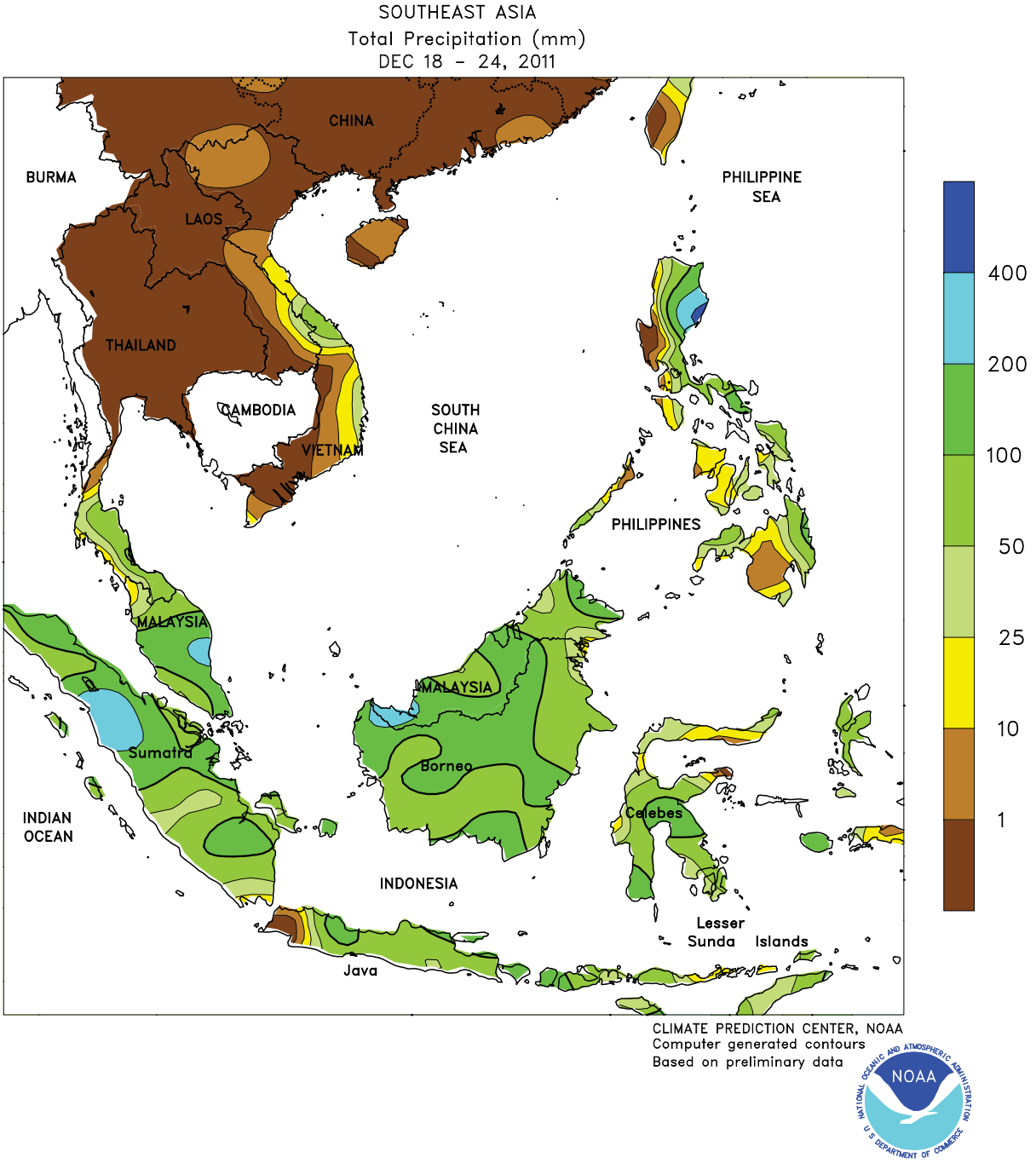
For additional information contact: mbrusberg@oce.usda.gov



EASTERN ASIA

Seasonably cold, dry weather prevailed across China. Rainfall (1-10 mm) was confined to Sichuan with some sleet and freezing rain causing minimal stem breakage in dormant winter rapeseed. Winter crops were cold tolerant to about -15°C in most areas, with weekly minimum temperatures not dipping much below -5°C. Despite the cold, dry weather water requirements were low for dormant crops in areas that typically receive less than 25 mm of rain for the entire winter.

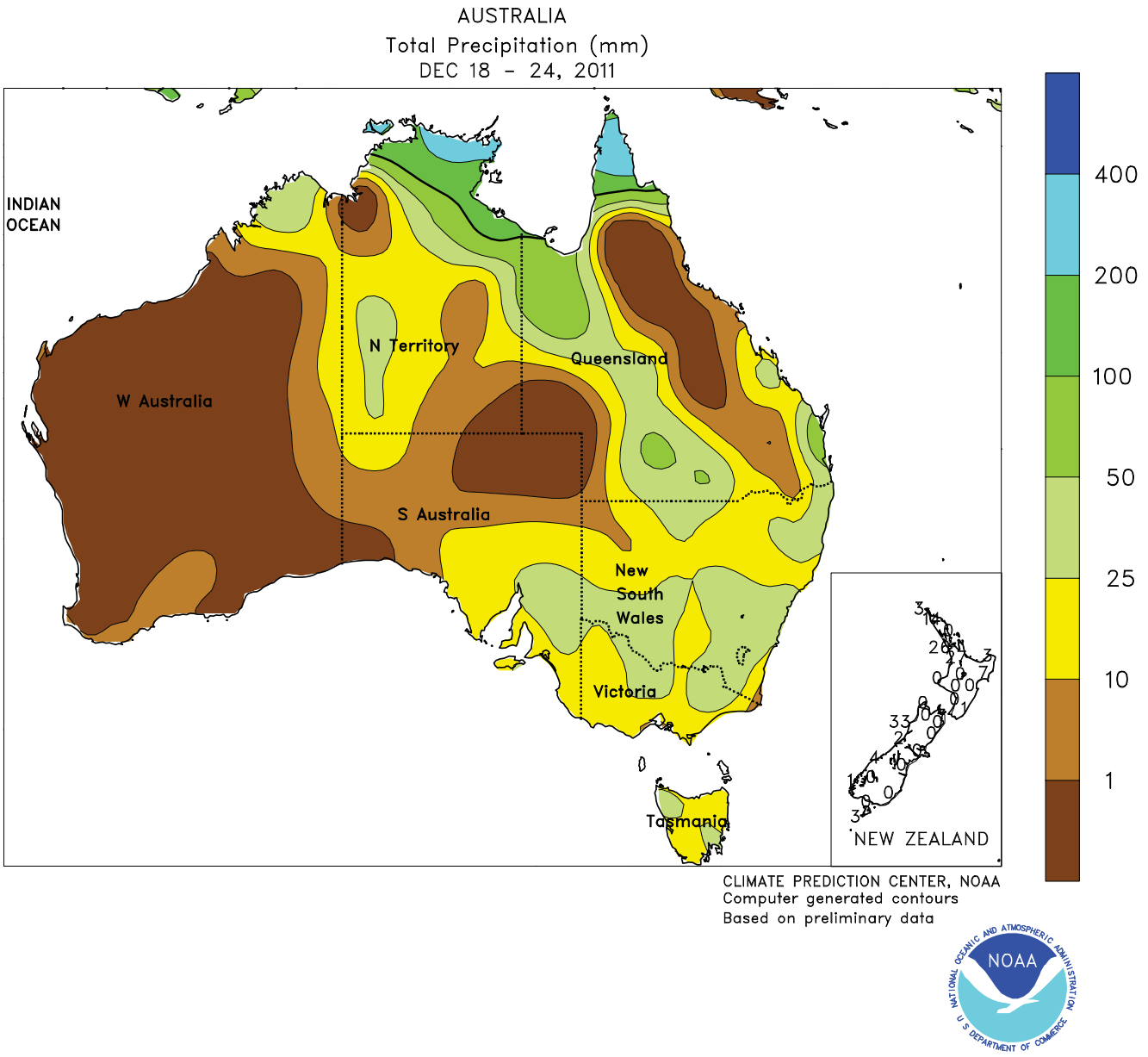
For additional information contact: mbrusberg@oce.usda.gov



SOUTHEAST ASIA

Somewhat drier weather followed Tropical Storm Washi in the southern Philippines, although rainfall amounts over 100 mm were not uncommon. The improved weather conditions aided flood recovery efforts in mountainous areas of Mindanao. In the northern Philippines, above-normal rainfall continued as over 100 mm of rain maintained excessive soil moisture for rice and corn. Meanwhile, wet weather (50-200 mm) persisted for oil palm in Malaysia and parts of Indonesia, slowing harvest activities. Rainfall (25-150 mm) in Java, Indonesia, however, maintained favorable soil moisture for rice nearing reproduction.

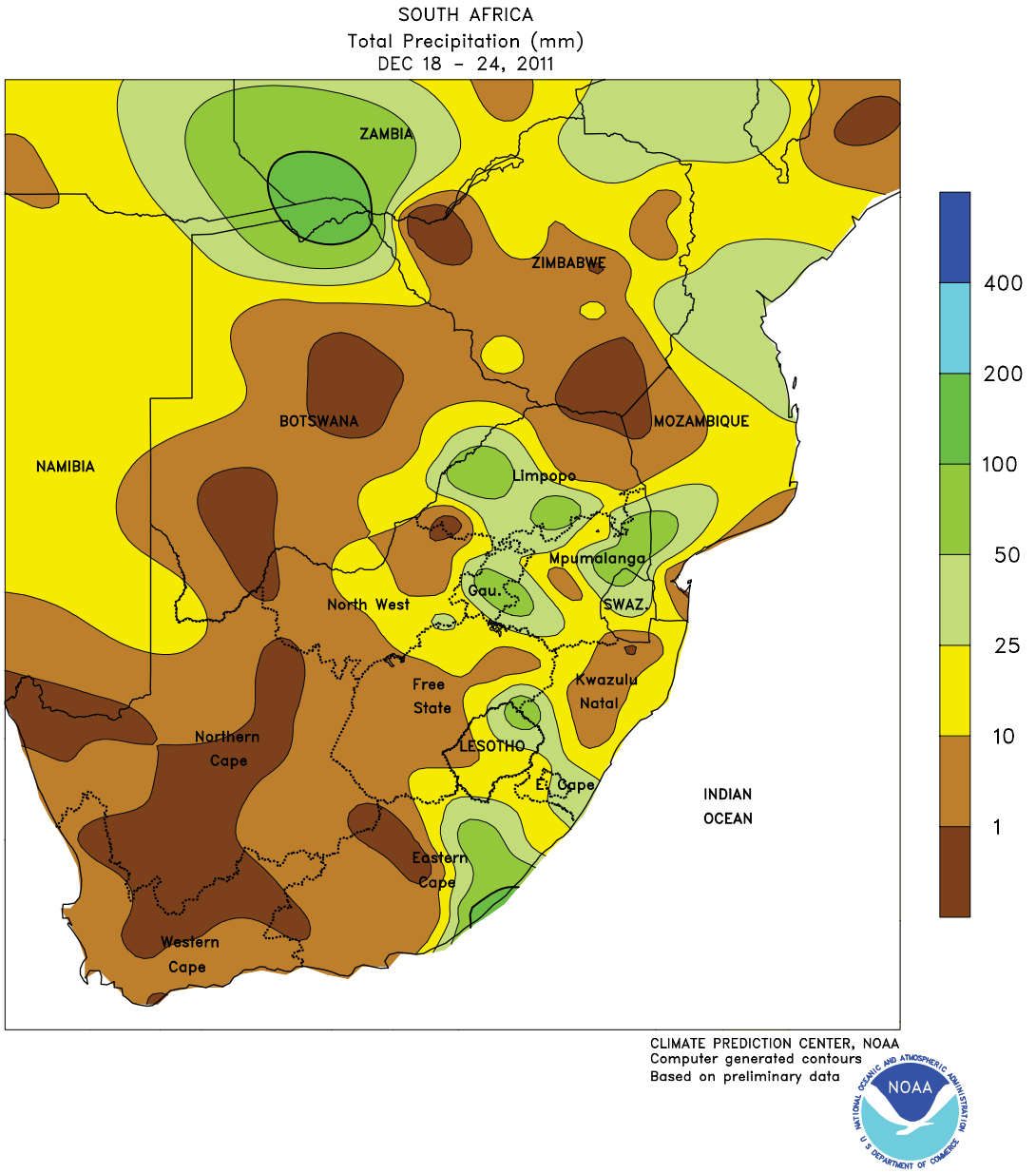
For additional information contact: mbrusberg@oce.usda.gov



AUSTRALIA

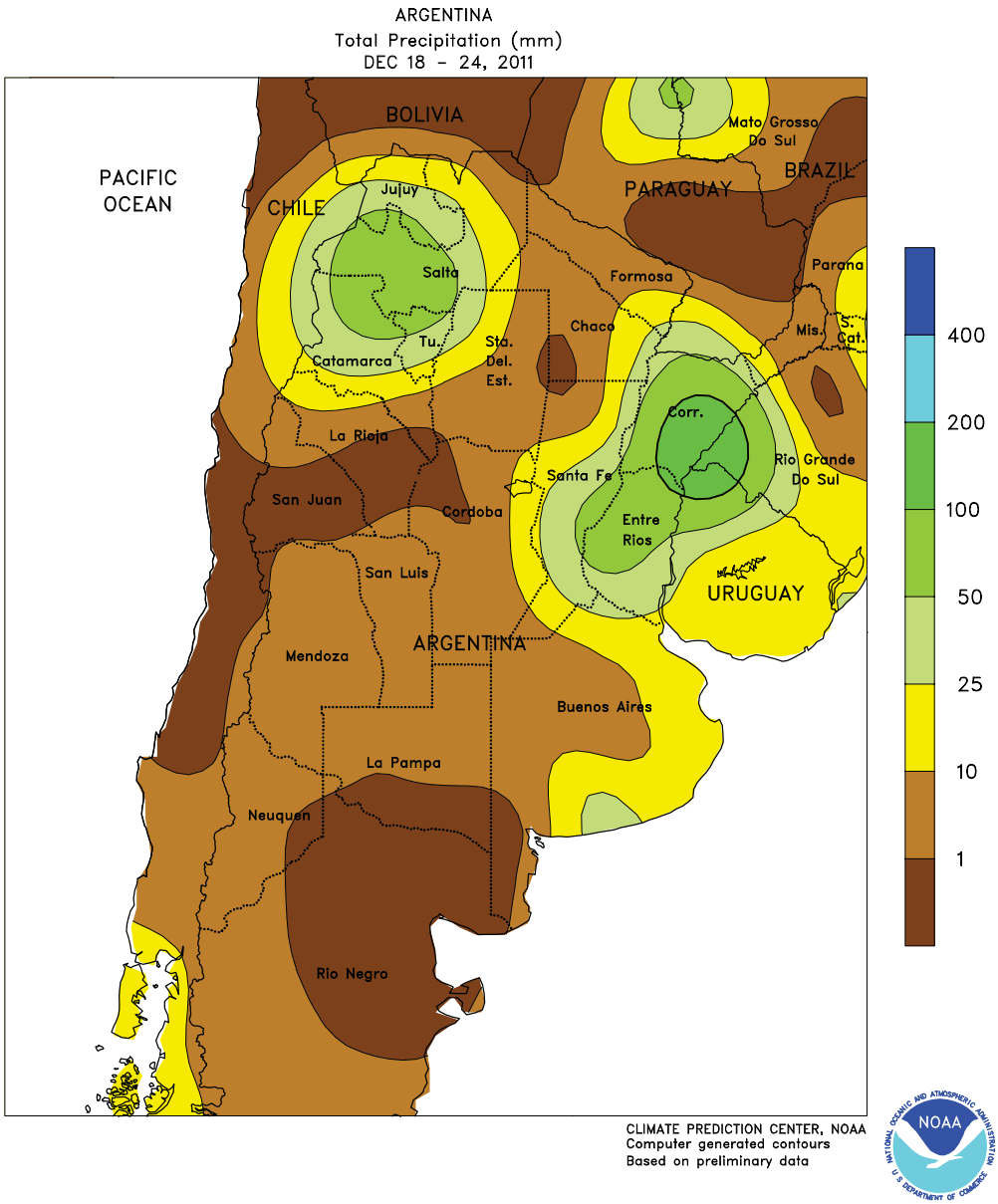
In southern Queensland and northern New South Wales, occasional showers (10-50 mm) continued to favor cotton and sorghum development but slow late winter wheat harvesting. After a showery start (5-30 mm, locally more) to the week, drier weather overspread southern New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia, allowing wheat, barley, and canola harvesting to regain momentum. Following two weeks of relatively wet weather, dry weather returned to Western Australia, aiding winter crop harvesting. Temperatures averaged about 1 to 2°C above normal in Western Australia, near normal in southeastern Australia, and about 1 to 2°C below normal in northern New South Wales and Queensland.

For additional information contact: mbrusberg@oce.usda.gov



SOUTH AFRICA

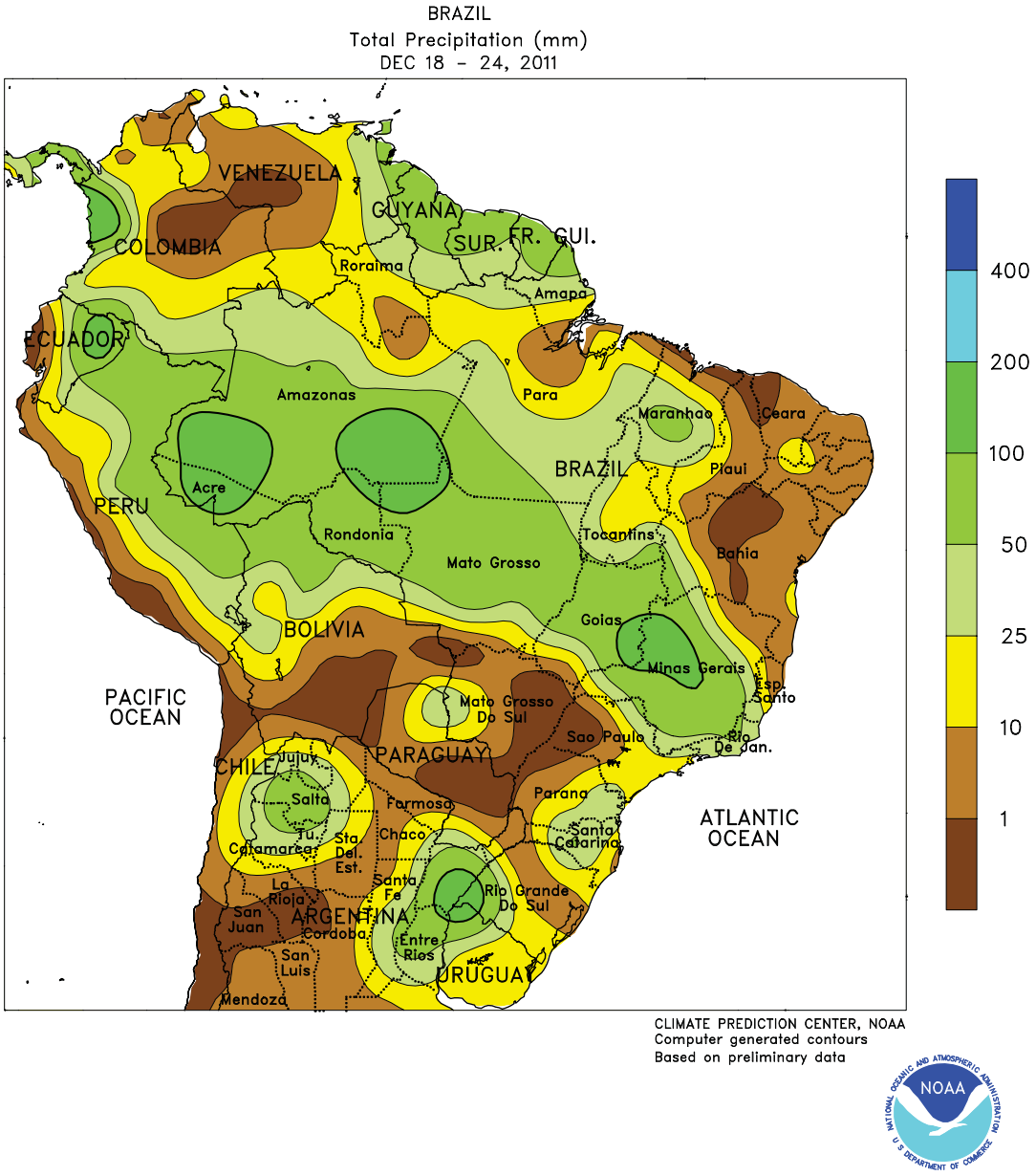
Warm, showery weather continued throughout the corn belt, sustaining generally favorable conditions for emerging to vegetative summer crops. Most of the rain (10-25 mm, locally exceeding 50 mm) came late in the week, following a period of unseasonable warmth and dryness; weekly temperatures averaged 1 to 2°C or more above normal, with highs reaching the lower and middle 30s degrees C. Due to this season's pattern of sporadic rain and warmth, seasonal accumulations are below both last season and normal, and additional rain is needed to ensure proper crop establishment and emergence of late-seeded crops. Elsewhere, locally heavy showers (25-50 mm or more) returned to southern KwaZulu-Natal, increasing moisture for rain-fed sugarcane. Similar amounts were recorded in eastern sections of Eastern Cape but the remainder of the Cape Provinces were generally dry and seasonably warm.



ARGENTINA

Unseasonable heat and dryness dominated the region during the early part of the week, stressing summer crops advancing through critical stages of development. Daytime highs reached the upper 30s (degrees C) throughout high-yielding farming areas of central Argentina's lower Parana River Valley (northern Buenos Aires, Entre Rios, and southeastern Santa Fe); temperatures briefly rose into the 40s in Cordoba, northern and western Santa Fe, and much of the north. Even though corn planting was still underway on a national level, much of the corn in the aforementioned areas had been planted by the middle of October—as reported by Argentina's Ministry of Agriculture. Some portion of the crop was likely in the reproductive stages of development at the time of the highest temperatures and sustained some damage. Later in the week, the heat wave was broken by the passage of a cold front that brought seasonably lower temperatures and scattered showers to most major agricultural areas. In central Argentina, the heaviest rain (10-50 mm or more) was concentrated over Entre Rios and Santa Fe, with little accumulation in Cordoba, La Pampa, and western Buenos Aires. Variable showers were scattered throughout northern Argentina, bringing some relief to cotton and other rain-fed summer row crops subjected to 4 days or more of temperatures reaching 40°C.

For additional information contact: mbrusberg@oce.usda.gov



BRAZIL

Unseasonable warmth and dryness continued throughout a large section of the south, raising concern for corn, soybeans, and other crops growing with limited moisture. From northern Rio Grande do Sul to Mato Grosso do Sul and Sao Paulo, some locations recorded a second week of rainfall lower than 10 mm; daytime highs in the middle and upper 30s (degrees C) exacerbated the effects of the dryness on the region's agriculture. This was especially true for Parana—Brazil's leading producer of corn and its second largest producer of soybeans—where earlier plantings may have made portions of the crop more susceptible to problems with warmth and dryness. Conditions were also unfavorably dry in Rio Grande do Sul, although farmers typically plant later and crops may have more capacity to recover if seasonal rains return soon. Rain is also needed soon for production of cane sugar in Sao Paulo after a second week of dryness. Farther north, however, widespread, locally heavy showers (25-100 mm or more) continued from Mato Grosso eastward through Minas Gerais and western Bahia, maintaining mostly favorable levels of moisture for soybeans, cotton, and coffee grown throughout that region. Meanwhile, seasonable warmth and dryness supported seasonal fieldwork—including harvesting of sugarcane and cocoa—along the northeast coast.

For additional information contact: mbrusberg@oce.usda.gov

2011 Bulletin Index
Volume 98

*Regular Features**

Text:

National Charts:

International Charts (major crop areas):

National Tabulations:

International Tabulation:

* **w** = weekly, **m** = monthly, **s** = seasonal (published every March, June, September, and December for the preceding 3 months)

Special Features

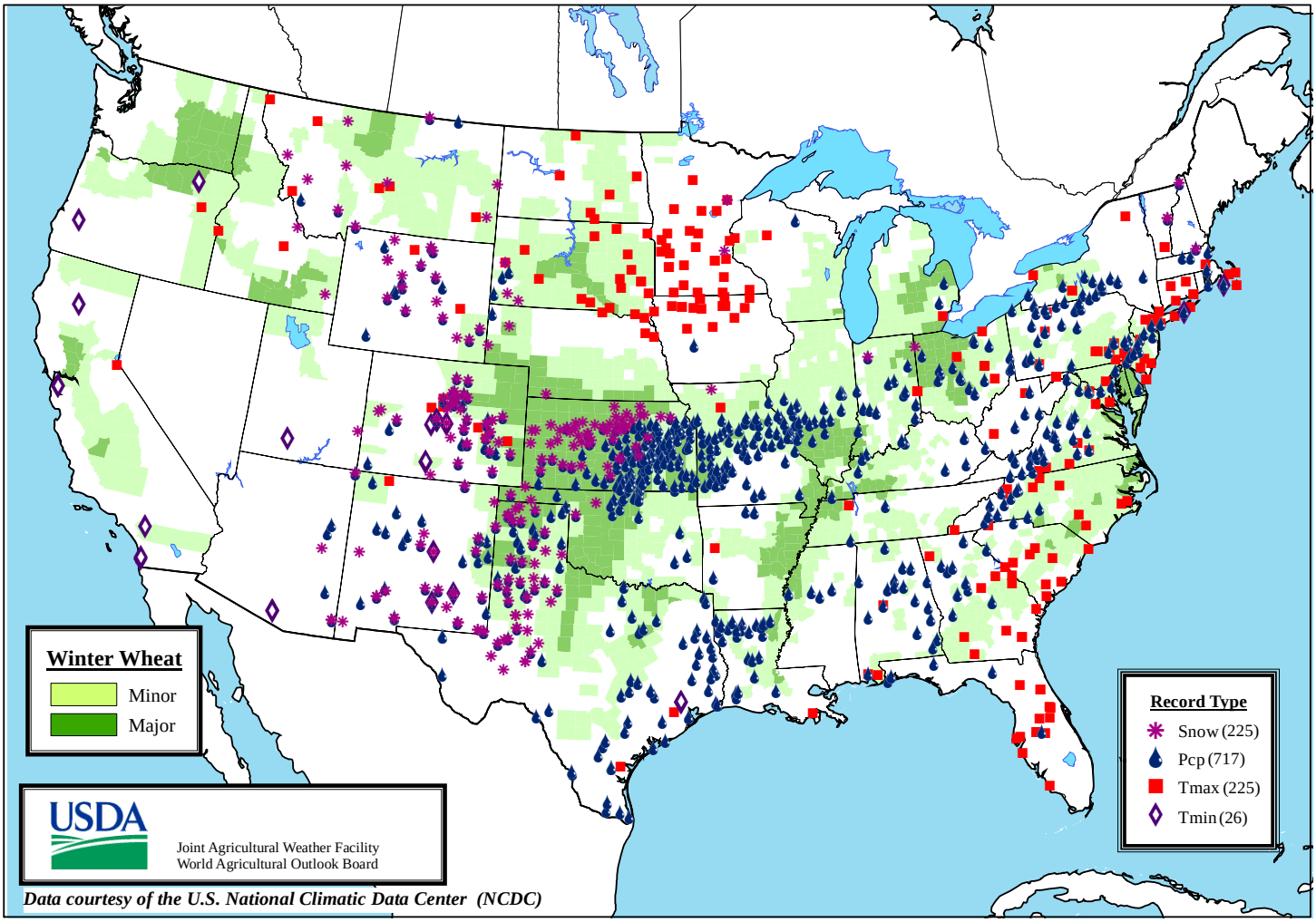
U.S. Satellite Images & Charts/Tabulations:

U.S. Summaries:

International Summaries:

Daily Weather Records (ASOS & COOP)

December 18-24, 2011



The *Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin* (ISSN 0043-1974) is jointly prepared by the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Publication began in 1872 as the *Weekly Weather Chronicle*. It is issued under general authority of the Act of January 12, 1895 (44-USC 213), 53rd Congress, 3rd Session. The contents may be redistributed freely with proper credit.

Correspondence to the meteorologists should be directed to:
***Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin*, NOAA/USDA, Joint Agricultural Weather Facility, USDA South Building, Room 4443B, Washington, DC 20250.**
Internet URL: **http://www.usda.gov/oce/weather**
E-mail address: ***brippey@oce.usda.gov***

The *Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin* and archives are maintained on the following USDA Internet URL:
http://www.usda.gov/oce/weather/pubs/Weekly/Wwcb/index.htm

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
World Agricultural Outlook Board
Managing Editor.....***Brad Rippey*** (202) 720-2397
Production Editor.....***Brian Morris*** (202) 720-3062
International Editor.....***Mark Brusberg*** (202) 720-3508
Editorial Advisors.....***Charles Wilbur and Brenda Chapin***
Agricultural Weather Analysts.....***Tom Puterbaugh, Harlan Shannon, and Eric Luebehusen***

National Agricultural Statistics Service
Agricultural Statistician and State Summaries Editor……
Julie Schmidt (202) 720-7621

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Weather Service/Climate Prediction Center
Meteorologists.....***David Miskus, Brad Pugh, and Adam Allgood***