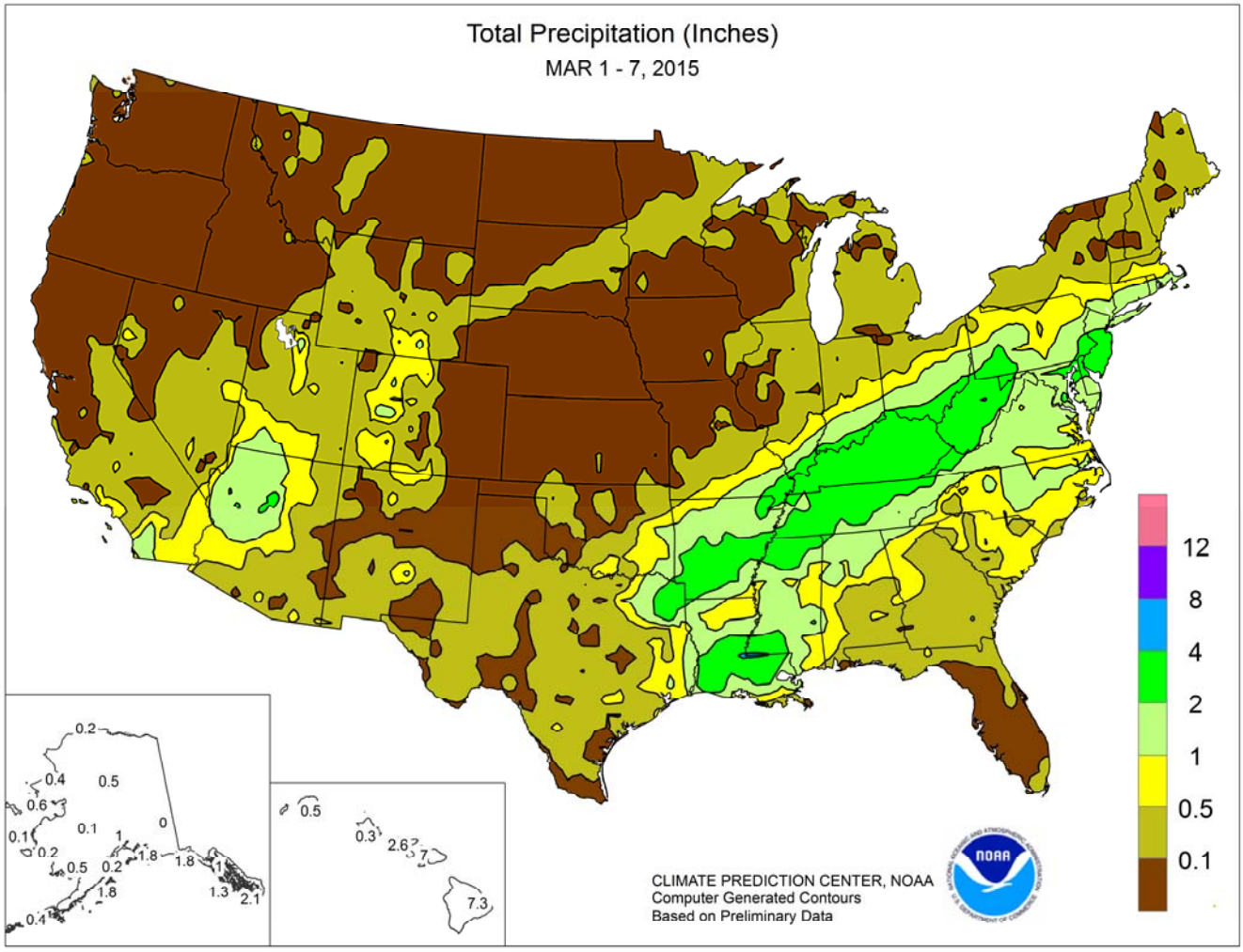
Volume 102, No. 10 http://www.usda.gov/oce/weather March 10, 2015

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

March 1 – 7, 2015

Highlights provided by USDA/WAOB

A complex, late-winter storm produced heavy rain, followed by heavy snow, across the **mid-South** from March 3-5, resulting in widespread flooding and travel disruptions. Significant effects from the storm also reached the **Mid-Atlantic States**, causing less flooding but similar travel woes. Prior to reaching the **South**, **East**, and **lower Midwest**, the storm was also responsible for widespread precipitation in the **Southwest**. In **southern California**, precipitation was mostly beneficial but failed to reach key watershed regions, including the **Sierra**

(Continued on page 3)

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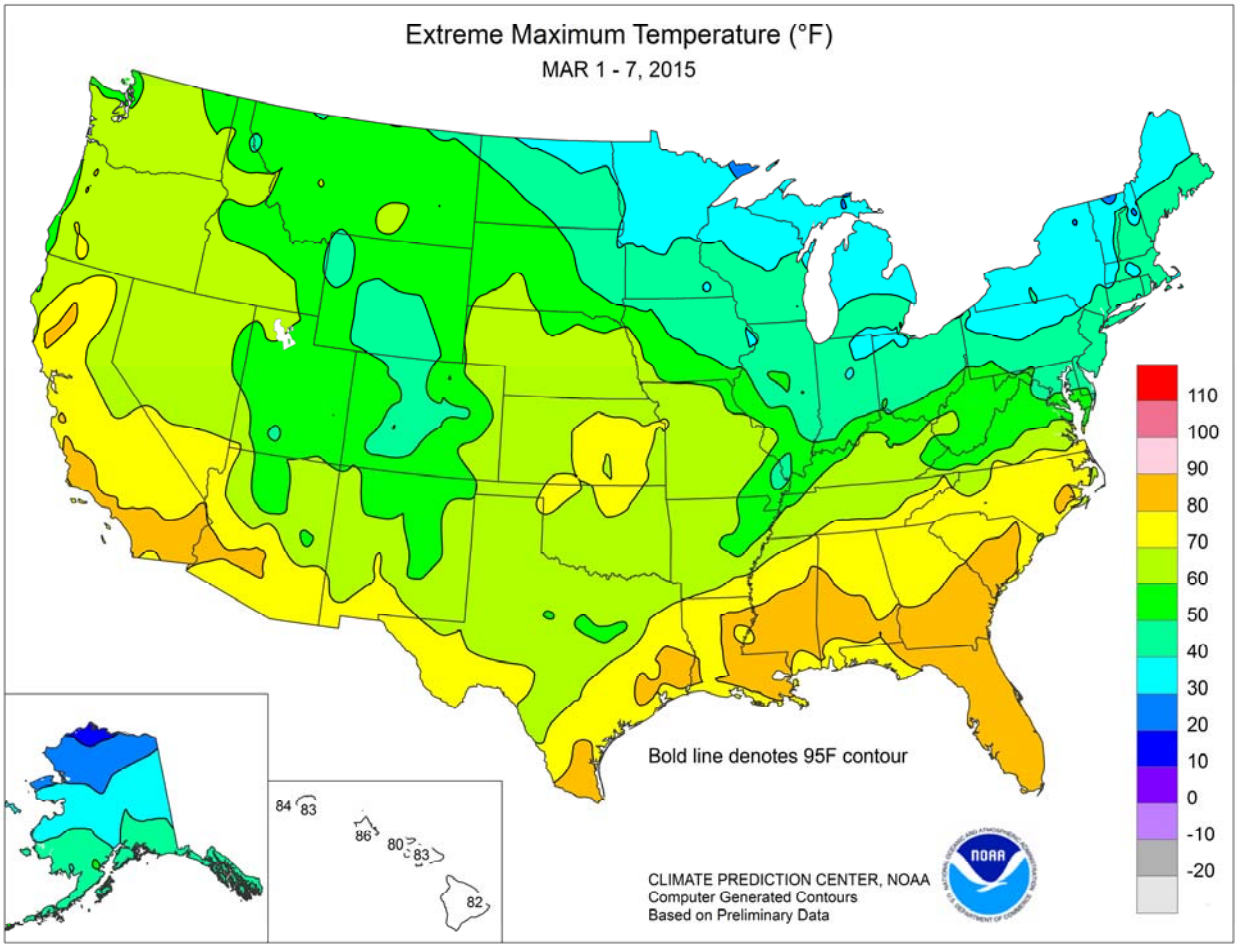
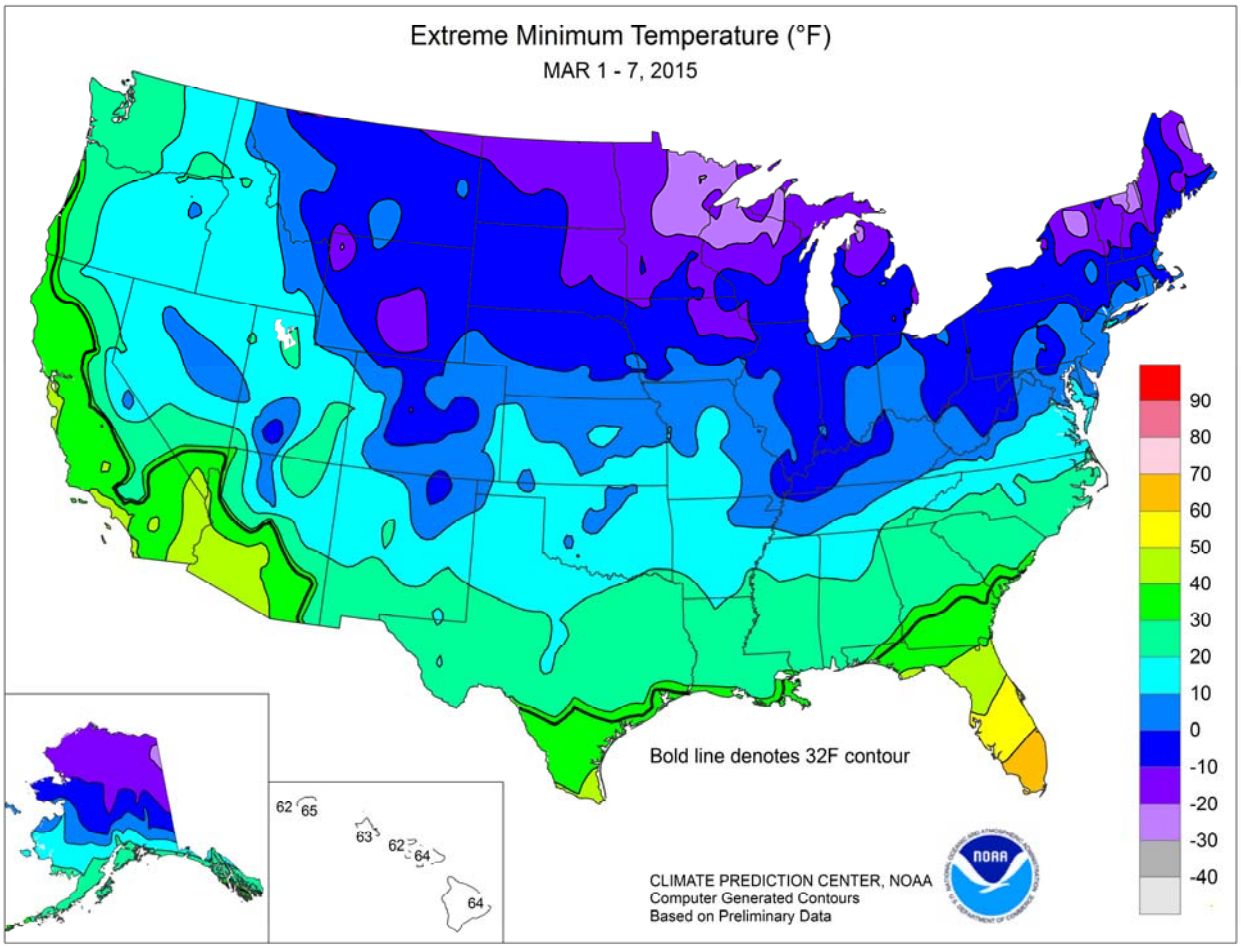
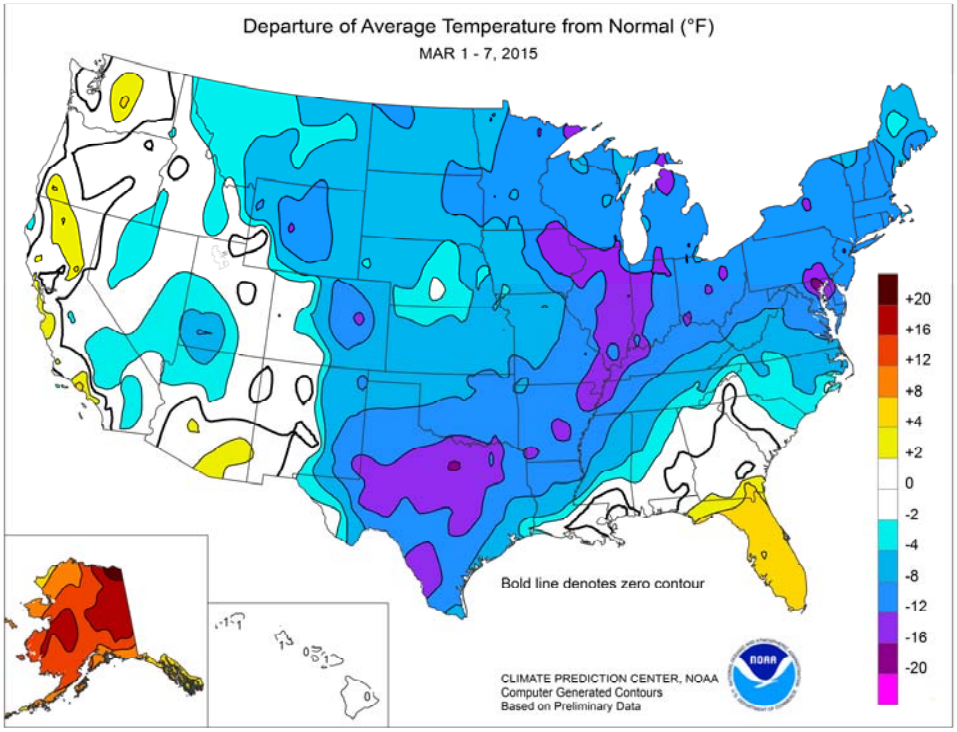

Extreme Maximum Temperature (°F)
MAR 1 - 7, 2015
110
100
90
80
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
-10
-20
Bold line denotes 95F contour
84
83
86
80
83
82
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA
Computer Generated Contours
Based on Preliminary Data


Extreme Minimum Temperature (°F)
MAR 1 - 7, 2015
90
80
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
-10
-20
-30
-40
Bold line denotes 32F contour
62
65
63
62
64
64
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA
Computer Generated Contours
Based on Preliminary Data

(Continued from front cover)

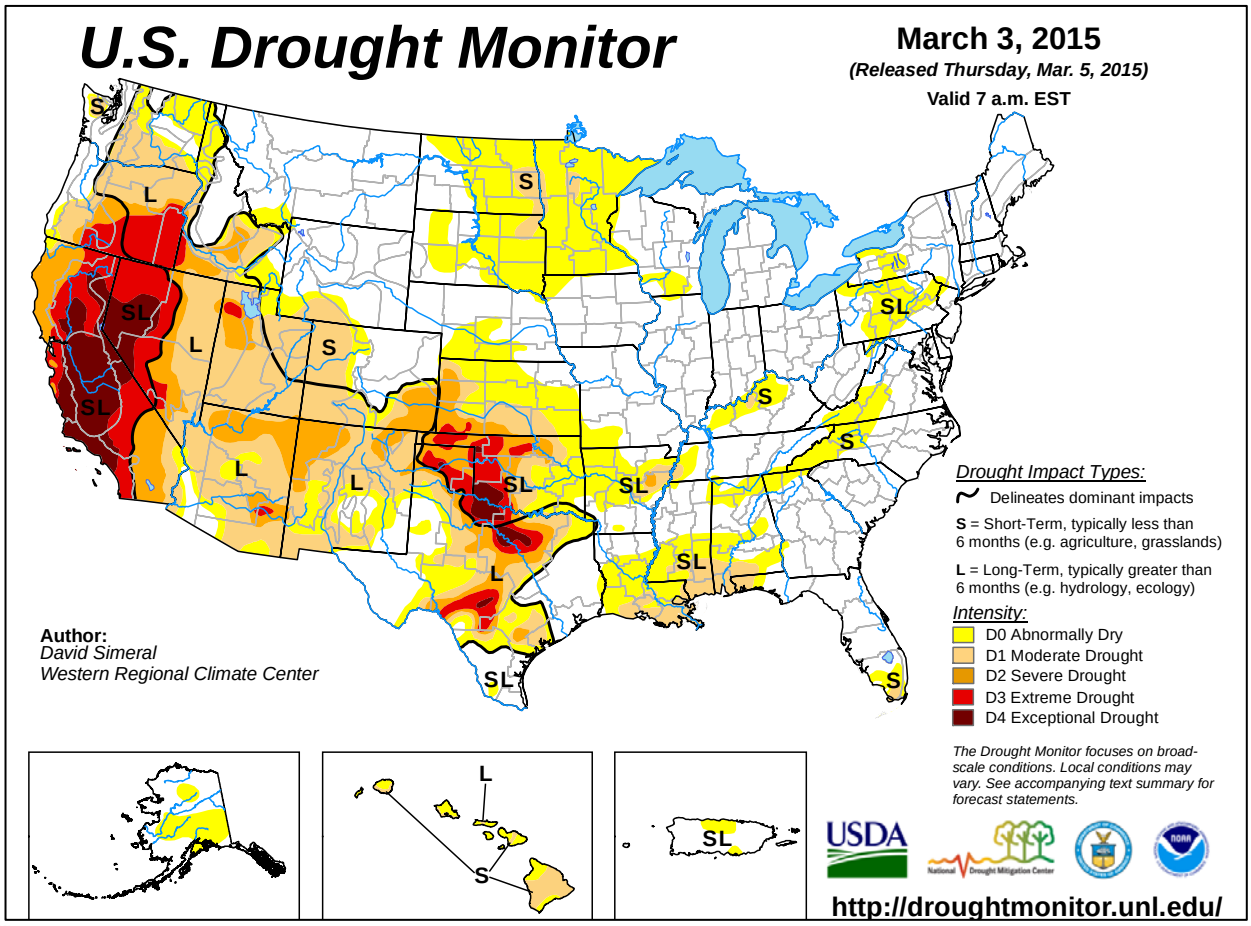


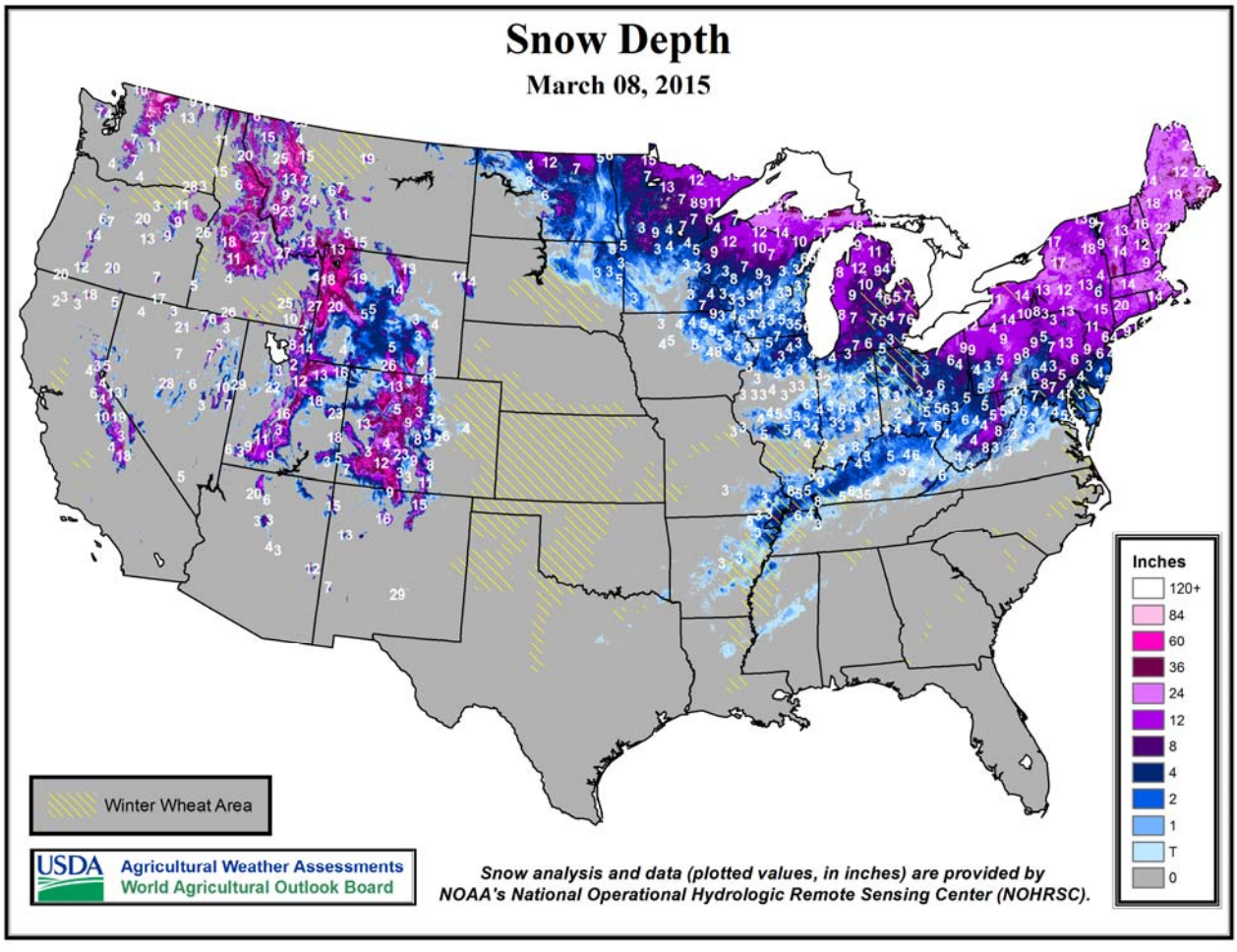
Nevada. As a result, the average water content of the high-elevation **Sierra Nevada** snowpack remained stalled at 5 inches, less than 20 percent of the early-March normal. Generally dry weather covered the remainder of the country, with the exception of some light precipitation on the **southern Plains**. **Contiguous U.S.** snow cover reached a season-high 63.4 percent on March 1 but fell below 40 percent by week's end—largely on the strength of melting in the **south-central U.S.** However, cold weather overall maintained its grip in most areas **east of the Rockies**, holding weekly temperatures at least 10°F below normal in a broad region stretching from **Texas into the Great Lakes and Northeastern States**. **Florida**, which experienced warm weather, was the primary exception to the cold regime. Meanwhile, cooler weather in the **West** held temperatures to near-normal levels. In general, temperatures in **California** were not low enough to threaten fruit and nut crops that have experienced rapid development due to record-setting February warmth. In contrast, sub-zero temperatures were reported from the **northern Plains into the Northeast**. The strongest push of cold air occurred from March 4-6, with some rapid west-to-east warming noted by week's end. On the **northern Plains**, bitter cold weather remained a concern with respect to winter wheat, which has not been adequately insulated by snow during several recent Arctic outbreaks.

Early in the week, a disturbance crossing the **lower Midwest** and **Northeast** contributed to daily-record snowfall totals for March 1 in **Indianapolis, IN** (5.9 inches); **Islip, NY** (5.6 inches); and **Columbus, OH** (3.6 inches). Meanwhile, heavy rain in the **Gulf Coast region** led to a daily-record rainfall amount (3.09 inches) in **Lake Charles, LA**. Farther west, a developing storm brought heavy precipitation to parts of the **Southwest**. Record-setting totals for March 2 included 1.71 inches in **Flagstaff, AZ**, and 0.79 inch in **Cedar City, UT**. **Flagstaff's** March 1-3 total of 3.69 inches included 17.3 inches of snow. Precipitation fell as far north as **Wyoming**, where daily-record amounts for March 2 reached 0.48 inch in **Casper** and 0.40 inch in **Rawlins**. During the 4-day period ending March 2, several 2- to 4-foot snowfall totals were reported in **western Colorado**. **Coal Bank Pass, CO**, received nearly 30 inches. From March 3-5, heavy precipitation fell across the **interior Southeast**. Three-day totals in **Kentucky** included 3.86 inches in **Frankfort**, 3.62 inches in **Lexington**, and 3.51 inches in **Louisville**. Much of the heavy rain fell on March 4, when daily-record amounts totaled 2.43 inches in **Texarkana, AR**, and 2.36 inches in **Jackson, KY**. By day's end, rain across the **interior Southeast** and **lower Midwest** changed to heavy snow. On March 4-5, **Lexington's** 17.1-inch snowfall marked the greatest 2-day total in station history (previously, 13.5 inches on January 13-14, 1917, and January 26-27, 1943). With 11.9 inches on March 4-5, **Louisville** observed its second-highest 2-day total in March behind only 12.4 inches on March 22-23, 1968. Heavy snow spread into the **Mid-Atlantic States** and **southern New England** on March 5, when daily-record totals reached 9.5 inches at **Virginia's Dulles Airport**; 7.0 inches in **Wilmington, DE**; 7.0 inches in **Atlantic City, NJ**; and 6.3 inches in **Providence, RI**. Accumulating snow was reported on March 5 across parts of the **Deep South**, resulting in daily-record totals in locations such as **Waco, TX** (0.7 inch); **Jackson, MS** (0.3 inch); and **Alexandria, LA** (0.3 inch).

March began with bitterly cold air in place over the **Northeast**, where record-setting lows for March 1 dipped to -14°F in **Bangor, ME**, and -10°F in **Glens Falls, NY**. Later, warmth briefly overspread the **Deep South** in advance of a **Southwestern** storm. By March 3, daily record-tying highs in **Florida** soared to 87°F in **Ft. Myers** and 85°F in **Tampa**. The following day, record-setting highs for March 4 surged to 85°F at **Audubon Park in New Orleans, LA**, and 84°F in **Savannah, GA**. In contrast, another strong push of frigid air began to engulf the **central and eastern U.S. Huron, SD**, reported a wind gust to 52 mph on the morning of March 3. A day later, **Rawlins, WY**, reported a daily-record low (-21°F) for March 4. Enough cool air briefly reached the **Northwest** to produce a daily-record low (25°F on March 4) in **Hillsboro, OR**. Farther east, monthly record lows were broken on March 6 in several locations, including **Frankfort, KY** (-10°F); **Cape Girardeau, MO** (-8°F); **Paducah, KY** (-6°F); and **Pittsburgh, PA** (-5°F). With a low of -2°F on March 6, **Lexington, KY**, tied a monthly record originally set on March 6, 1960. **Harrisburg, PA**, set monthly record lows on consecutive days, with minima of 0°F on March 6 and -1°F on March 7. In **New Orleans**, **Audubon Park** reported a freeze (32°F on March 6) less than 48 hours after posting a daily-record high. On March 5-6, consecutive daily-record lows were set in locations such as **Saranac Lake, NY** (-21 and -29°F); **Montpelier, VT** (-6 and -16°F); and **Youngstown, OH** (-1 and -4°F). Other daily-record lows for March 5 plunged to -12°F in **Dubuque, IA**; 10°F in **Oklahoma City, OK**; and 12°F in **Childress, TX**. Record lows for March 6 included -26°F in **Houlton, ME**; -3°F in **Parkersburg, WV**; and 9°F in **Batesville, AR**, and **Nashville, TN**. Farther west, however, late-week warmth returned to the **Pacific Coast States** and spread eastward. In **southern California**, record-setting highs for March 6 soared to 87°F in **Long Beach** and 86°F in **Santa Maria**. In **Oregon**, **Klamath Falls** (65 and 68°F) and **Burns** (62 and 67°F) closed the week with consecutive daily-record highs on March 6-7.

Warm weather continued in **Alaska**, where weekly temperatures averaged 10 to 20°F above normal at most mainland locations. Daily-record highs were several in many communities, including **Annette Island** (53°F on March 2); **Kodiak** (47°F on March 5 and 7); and **Bethel** (42°F on March 2). Widespread precipitation accompanied **Alaska's** warmth. **Kodiak** collected a daily-record total of 1.68 inches on March 2. Later, on March 6, **Nome** netted daily-record totals for both snowfall (5.5 inches) and precipitation (0.45 inch). **Bettles** also received a daily-record snowfall (3.6 inches) for March 6. Daily-record totals for March 7 included 4.3 inches of snow in **Fairbanks** and precipitation totaling 0.51 inch in **Anchorage**. Farther south, significant **Hawaiian** rainfall helped to ease the effects of a previously sub-par wet season. On the **Big Island**, **Hilo** received 6.87 inches of rain during the week, following a February total of just 5.29 inches (55 percent of normal). Weekly rainfall totaled 5.51 inches in **Kahului, Maui**. Prior to the rain's arrival, daily-record highs were set or tied on March 2 in locations such as **Honolulu, Oahu** (86°F), and **Lihue, Kauai** (83°F).


U.S. Drought Monitor
March 3, 2015
(Released Thursday, Mar. 5, 2015)
Valid 7 a.m. EST
Author:
David Simeral
Western Regional Climate Center
Drought Impact Types:
Delineates dominant impacts
S = Short-Term, typically less than 6 months (e.g. agriculture, grasslands)
L = Long-Term, typically greater than 6 months (e.g. hydrology, ecology)
Intensity:
D0 Abnormally Dry
D1 Moderate Drought
D2 Severe Drought
D3 Extreme Drought
D4 Exceptional Drought
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.
http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/


Snow Depth
March 08, 2015
Inches
120+
84
60
36
24
12
8
4
2
1
T
0
Winter Wheat Area
USDA Agricultural Weather Assessments
World Agricultural Outlook Board
Snow analysis and data (plotted values, in inches) are provided by
NOAA's National Operational Hydrologic Remote Sensing Center (NOHRSC).

National Weather Data for Selected Cities

Weather Data for the Week Ending March 7, 2015

Data Provided by Climate Prediction Center

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 MAR 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE MAR 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	59	37	79	18	48	-3	1.49	0.26	0.46	***	***	10.20	94	94	59	0	3	4	0
	HUNTSVILLE	56	34	77	16	45	-4	1.90	0.42	1.03	***	***	9.65	81	88	65	0	3	5	1
	MOBILE	68	45	81	26	56	-1	0.31	-1.22	0.15	***	***	6.36	51	94	68	0	3	3	0
	MONTGOMERY	67	43	81	26	55	0	0.93	-0.57	0.75	***	***	8.62	72	87	58	0	3	4	1
AK	ANCHORAGE	37	29	42	22	33	11	0.76	0.59	0.67	***	***	1.86	117	89	74	0	6	3	1
	BARROW	-1	-13	14	-19	-7	9	0.15	0.15	0.08	***	***	0.73	304	88	78	0	7	3	0
	FAIRBANKS	31	12	37	-5	21	18	0.00	-0.06	0.00	***	***	0.15	15	83	64	0	7	0	0
	JUNEAU	42	32	45	22	37	5	0.95	0.03	0.70	***	***	16.58	170	93	83	0	3	5	1
	KODIAK	45	35	47	28	40	9	1.84	0.63	1.72	***	***	20.79	138	93	78	0	1	4	1
	NOME	25	8	31	0	17	10	0.57	0.43	0.40	***	***	2.32	128	94	82	0	7	4	0
AZ	FLAGSTAFF	42	21	51	9	32	-2	3.73	3.05	1.99	***	***	8.01	148	86	50	0	7	3	2
	PHOENIX	74	51	83	46	63	3	0.30	0.05	0.23	***	***	1.12	61	62	35	0	0	2	0
	PRESCOTT	55	30	65	23	43	1	1.50	0.98	0.80	***	***	4.28	108	80	35	0	4	2	2
	TUCSON	71	48	79	39	60	3	0.34	0.12	0.34	***	***	3.29	157	61	34	0	0	1	0
AR	FORT SMITH	47	28	64	18	38	-10	1.20	0.39	0.88	***	***	5.81	101	91	59	0	5	4	1
	LITTLE ROCK	47	27	60	17	37	-13	2.71	1.78	2.11	***	***	9.44	120	89	56	0	5	5	1
CA	BAKERSFIELD	68	44	78	42	56	0	0.30	-0.03	0.22	***	***	1.87	69	80	60	0	0	2	0
	FRESNO	68	43	76	41	56	2	0.05	-0.50	0.05	***	***	1.40	29	83	56	0	0	1	0
	LOS ANGELES	70	49	83	47	59	1	0.50	-0.20	0.24	***	***	2.02	30	70	41	0	0	3	0
	REDDING	72	38	83	34	55	4	0.00	-1.29	0.00	***	***	3.64	27	75	41	0	0	0	0
	SACRAMENTO	70	40	77	36	55	2	0.02	-0.74	0.02	***	***	2.85	35	89	34	0	0	1	0
	SAN DIEGO	70	52	84	50	61	2	0.93	0.41	0.68	***	***	1.65	34	63	45	0	0	3	1
	SAN FRANCISCO	67	48	73	45	57	4	0.00	-0.87	0.00	***	***	2.03	22	86	65	0	0	0	0
	STOCKTON	69	37	76	34	53	0	0.01	-0.57	0.01	***	***	1.50	26	89	59	0	0	1	0
CO	ALAMOSA	42	15	52	6	28	-1	0.07	0.00	0.04	***	***	1.40	264	82	50	0	7	2	0
	CO SPRINGS	39	15	52	-2	27	-8	0.13	-0.02	0.08	***	***	2.47	317	89	45	0	7	3	0
	DENVER INTL	37	13	52	2	25	-10	0.12	-0.05	0.08	***	***	1.79	284	83	51	0	7	2	0
	GRAND JUNCTION	50	25	59	20	37	-3	0.23	0.05	0.12	***	***	1.10	86	84	50	0	6	4	0
	PUEBLO	42	16	58	2	29	-9	0.05	-0.08	0.05	***	***	1.44	200	92	58	0	7	1	0
CT	BRIDGEPORT	33	17	39	9	25	-10	2.26	1.45	0.81	***	***	8.59	115	85	64	0	6	5	2
	HARTFORD	35	15	43	2	25	-8	0.83	0.06	0.55	***	***	6.77	89	69	44	0	6	2	1
DC	WASHINGTON	42	26	51	15	34	-8	1.76	0.98	0.83	***	***	7.22	109	80	48	0	6	4	2
DE	WILMINGTON	36	17	43	5	27	-11	4.68	3.85	3.13	***	***	11.31	160	93	53	0	6	4	3
FL	DAYTONA BEACH	78	59	87	51	68	5	0.09	-0.69	0.09	***	***	5.52	83	98	63	0	0	1	0
	JACKSONVILLE	74	52	85	39	63	4	0.31	-0.50	0.16	***	***	6.75	88	100	64	0	0	2	0
	KEY WEST	81	73	83	70	77	5	0.06	-0.29	0.06	***	***	3.29	81	91	74	0	0	1	0
	MIAMI	83	71	85	68	77	6	0.64	0.17	0.64	***	***	4.37	99	86	58	0	0	1	1
	ORLANDO	81	61	88	53	71	6	0.37	-0.34	0.35	***	***	8.48	154	97	66	0	0	2	0
	PENSACOLA	67	47	77	29	57	-1	0.08	-1.28	0.08	***	***	10.49	92	91	65	0	1	1	0
	TALLAHASSEE	74	49	84	36	61	3	0.80	-0.60	0.80	***	***	10.02	88	90	63	0	0	1	1
	TAMPA	79	63	85	51	71	6	0.04	-0.65	0.02	***	***	8.37	149	90	62	0	0	2	0
	WEST PALM BEACH	82	71	85	64	77	8	0.11	-0.52	0.11	***	***	3.20	46	85	64	0	0	1	0
GA	ATHENS	62	38	78	27	50	0	0.60	-0.56	0.29	***	***	7.58	74	93	68	0	1	5	0
	ATLANTA	60	38	78	27	49	-2	0.65	-0.59	0.30	***	***	9.17	84	89	68	0	3	5	0
	AUGUSTA	65	40	80	26	52	0	0.29	-0.76	0.22	***	***	7.09	73	93	69	0	2	2	0
	COLUMBUS	66	43	77	30	54	0	0.53	-0.75	0.45	***	***	7.90	75	94	56	0	2	5	0
	MACON	66	41	77	27	54	1	0.27	-0.88	0.17	***	***	7.08	66	98	61	0	2	4	0
	SAVANNAH	70	46	84	33	58	2	0.28	-0.42	0.22	***	***	7.84	104	94	70	0	0	2	0
HI	HILO	78	66	82	64	72	0	7.31	4.64	3.34	***	***	15.01	71	92	76	0	0	7	4
	HONOLULU	80	69	86	63	74	0	0.29	-0.23	0.20	***	***	2.19	39	77	70	0	0	6	0
	KAHULUI	79	68	83	64	74	2	7.01	6.51	2.13	***	***	11.34	172	90	79	0	0	6	5
	LIHUE	79	68	83	65	73	1	0.47	-0.33	0.33	***	***	2.39	28	73	64	0	0	5	0
ID	BOISE	52	28	62	20	40	-1	0.00	-0.29	0.00	***	***	2.03	72	66	38	0	6	0	0
	LEWISTON	51	28	62	22	39	-3	0.02	-0.20	0.02	***	***	2.31	100	68	53	0	7	1	0
	POCATELLO	46	17	61	7	31	-3	0.16	-0.13	0.16	***	***	1.29	53	78	45	0	7	1	0
IL	CHICAGO/O'HARE	30	12	44	0	21	-11	0.15	-0.28	0.13	***	***	2.98	78	80	57	0	7	2	0
	MOLINE	31	9	46	0	20	-13	0.25	-0.23	0.25	***	***	6.72	188	79	58	0	7	1	0
	PEORIA	34	16	51	3	25	-9	0.25	-0.28	0.17	***	***	3.97	107	77	55	0	7	2	0
	ROCKFORD	29	7	43	-6	18	-13	0.40	0.03	0.40	***	***	2.20	71	79	59	0	7	1	0
	SPRINGFIELD	34	14	45	0	24	-12	0.28	-0.33	0.23	***	***	3.42	85	84	58	0	7	2	0
IN	EVANSVILLE	39	20	52	0	30	-11	2.65	1.76	1.31	***	***	8.67	126	78	60	0	6	3	2
	FORT WAYNE	30	11	40	-3	20	-13	0.43	-0.10	0.32	***	***	4.19	93	86	62	0	7	2	0
	INDIANAPOLIS	34	16	42	2	25	-12	0.81	0.11	0.46	***	***	4.07	73	80	57	0	7	3	0
	SOUTH BEND	31	13	43	-1	22	-10	0.13	-0.38	0.07	***	***	7.72	162	83	65	0	7	3	0
IA	BURLINGTON	33	13	53	1	23	-11	0.11	-0.43	0.08	***	***	***	***	83	55	0	7	2	0
	CEDAR RAPIDS	27	6	41	-9	17	-14	0.25	-0.09	0.25	***	***	1.42	57	90	66	0	7	1	0
	DES MOINES	37	16	56	2	27	-6	0.01	-0.33	0.01	***	***	1.88	73	70	51	0	7	1	0
	DUBUQUE	25	4	40	-12	15	-14	0.08	-0.35	0.08	***	***	1.72	55	83	66	0	7	1	0
	SIOUX CITY	41	11	62	-6	26	-5	0.00	-0.29	0.00	***	***	0.91	61	78	50	0	7	0	0
	WATERLOO	27	3	45	-11	15	-14	0.05	-0.28	0.05	***	***	1.77	80	87	68	0	7	1	0
KS	CONCORDIA	47	21	70	5	34	-4	0.00	-0.41	0.00	***	***	1.51	84	76	46	0	6	0	0
	DODGE CITY	46	22	69	16	34	-6	0.00	-0.29	0.00	***	***	1.31	83	79	42	0	7	0	0
	GOODLAND	44	20	63	13	32	-4	0.03	-0.19	0.03	***	***	1.07	98	85	55	0	7	1	0
	TOPEKA	46	23	69	10	35	-4	0.00	-0.45	0.00	***	***	2.03	79	67	51	0	6	0	0

Based on 1971-2000 normals

***** Not Available**

Weather Data for the Week Ending March 7, 2015

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 MAR 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE MAR 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	47	20	70	10	33	-8	0.14	-0.35	0.08	***	***	1.92	82	83	50	0	7	2	0
KY	JACKSON	46	24	62	8	35	-8	3.32	2.30	2.32	***	***	9.50	115	92	53	0	6	5	2
	LEXINGTON	41	19	61	-2	30	-11	3.06	2.08	2.41	***	***	7.91	104	83	67	0	7	4	1
	LOUISVILLE	43	22	63	8	33	-9	8.06	7.10	3.91	***	***	11.16	149	83	56	0	7	4	3
	PADUCAH	41	18	54	-6	30	-13	3.71	2.75	2.33	***	***	11.00	132	85	55	0	6	4	2
LA	BATON ROUGE	70	46	84	26	58	1	1.58	0.47	1.13	***	***	11.33	91	90	57	0	3	4	1
	LAKE CHARLES	68	46	80	29	57	-1	3.83	3.11	3.06	***	***	12.31	129	91	64	0	2	5	1
	NEW ORLEANS	70	50	82	31	60	1	1.14	-0.02	1.00	***	***	8.88	71	85	64	0	1	4	1
	SHREVEPORT	56	34	78	24	45	-10	1.19	0.22	0.53	***	***	12.94	132	95	64	0	3	4	1
ME	CARIBOU	26	0	34	-20	13	-6	0.31	-0.21	0.12	***	***	4.57	82	78	36	0	7	3	0
	PORTLAND	35	12	46	-2	23	-6	0.32	-0.49	0.26	***	***	7.43	92	73	34	0	7	3	0
MD	BALTIMORE	38	19	45	6	29	-10	2.03	1.16	0.86	***	***	8.18	111	92	59	0	6	4	2
MA	BOSTON	35	19	43	9	27	-8	0.46	-0.34	0.27	***	***	7.41	92	77	39	0	6	3	0
	WORCESTER	31	14	38	5	23	-7	0.88	0.04	0.57	***	***	7.98	100	81	38	0	7	3	1
MI	ALPENA	28	-2	34	-12	13	-10	0.35	-0.04	0.35	***	***	1.94	55	80	47	0	7	1	0
	GRAND RAPIDS	29	10	41	0	19	-11	0.37	-0.04	0.37	***	***	3.11	78	81	56	0	7	1	0
	HOUGHTON LAKE	25	0	33	-17	13	-11	0.17	-0.18	0.16	***	***	1.80	56	80	58	0	7	2	0
	LANSING	29	10	44	-1	20	-9	0.29	-0.08	0.28	***	***	2.34	68	76	57	0	7	2	0
	MUSKEGON	29	16	38	4	22	-7	0.45	0.05	0.41	***	***	3.52	84	77	61	0	7	2	0
	TRAVERSE CITY	27	4	35	-10	15	-11	0.07	-0.25	0.07	***	***	2.26	44	84	55	0	7	1	0
MN	DULUTH	23	2	33	-14	13	-7	0.20	-0.04	0.20	***	***	1.05	48	75	55	0	7	1	0
	INT'L FALLS	22	-6	31	-25	8	-10	0.08	-0.06	0.03	***	***	2.10	130	83	43	0	7	5	0
	MINNEAPOLIS	28	8	44	-7	18	-9	0.13	-0.13	0.13	***	***	0.84	40	73	50	0	7	1	0
	ROCHESTER	23	3	39	-12	13	-12	0.04	-0.20	0.04	***	***	1.40	73	82	67	0	7	1	0
	ST. CLOUD	25	3	40	-16	14	-9	0.14	-0.04	0.14	***	***	0.76	50	83	49	0	7	1	0
MS	JACKSON	62	38	82	23	50	-4	1.55	0.41	0.88	***	***	11.75	104	92	59	0	3	5	1
	MERIDIAN	64	39	81	21	51	-3	1.25	-0.23	0.52	***	***	12.12	95	95	66	0	3	5	1
	TUPELO	55	31	75	18	43	-6	2.23	0.84	0.91	***	***	11.39	102	89	76	0	3	5	2
MO	COLUMBIA	42	21	63	13	31	-8	0.11	-0.52	0.07	***	***	2.87	63	81	50	0	6	2	0
	KANSAS CITY	44	22	70	6	33	-6	0.00	-0.47	0.00	***	***	2.19	75	76	42	0	6	0	0
	SAINT LOUIS	42	22	67	13	32	-9	0.17	-0.53	0.12	***	***	3.13	61	73	52	0	6	3	0
	SPRINGFIELD	45	23	67	12	34	-8	0.12	-0.56	0.12	***	***	2.71	53	80	63	0	6	1	0
MT	BILLINGS	43	18	62	5	30	-4	0.09	-0.08	0.07	***	***	1.41	91	66	27	0	6	2	0
	BUTTE	38	9	52	-4	23	-3	0.00	-0.15	0.00	***	***	0.31	27	78	30	0	7	0	0
	CUT BANK	40	13	54	-5	26	-1	0.00	-0.08	0.00	***	***	0.73	97	77	31	0	7	0	0
	GLASGOW	37	11	57	-5	24	-2	0.02	-0.05	0.02	***	***	1.14	168	74	53	0	7	1	0
	GREAT FALLS	41	14	60	-6	27	-3	0.01	-0.16	0.01	***	***	1.43	105	75	31	0	7	1	0
	HAVRE	41	10	60	-4	26	-2	0.00	-0.12	0.00	***	***	1.64	173	81	47	0	7	0	0
	MISSOULA	44	16	60	9	30	-4	0.02	-0.17	0.02	***	***	2.21	109	75	51	0	7	1	0
NE	GRAND ISLAND	44	15	63	2	30	-3	0.06	-0.26	0.05	***	***	0.87	56	75	44	0	7	2	0
	LINCOLN	45	15	64	-1	30	-4	0.03	-0.31	0.03	***	***	1.27	76	79	50	0	7	1	0
	NORFOLK	42	12	62	-6	27	-5	0.00	-0.31	0.00	***	***	0.72	44	77	46	0	7	0	0
	NORTH PLATTE	46	12	64	-1	29	-5	0.01	-0.19	0.01	***	***	0.71	65	82	26	0	7	1	0
	OMAHA	43	16	63	3	30	-4	0.01	-0.33	0.01	***	***	1.29	68	78	51	0	7	1	0
	SCOTTSBLUFF	44	16	64	4	30	-4	0.07	-0.12	0.07	***	***	0.91	69	77	44	0	7	1	0
	VALENTINE	42	12	60	-3	27	-4	0.03	-0.15	0.02	***	***	0.59	61	77	40	0	7	2	0
NV	ELY	45	15	61	2	30	-3	0.31	0.09	0.24	***	***	0.79	46	88	58	0	7	3	0
	LAS VEGAS	64	44	75	41	54	-1	0.28	0.11	0.22	***	***	1.69	117	61	35	0	0	3	0
	RENO	56	28	68	22	42	1	0.01	-0.23	0.01	***	***	1.51	64	71	43	0	5	1	0
	WINNEMUCCA	54	17	67	9	35	-4	0.00	-0.17	0.00	***	***	1.21	75	73	41	0	7	0	0
NH	CONCORD	34	4	45	-8	19	-9	0.23	-0.38	0.12	***	***	6.37	107	78	36	0	7	2	0
NJ	NEWARK	36	19	44	11	28	-10	2.15	1.32	0.81	***	***	8.64	111	77	57	0	6	4	3
NM	ALBUQUERQUE	58	32	63	23	45	0	0.00	-0.11	0.00	***	***	1.31	126	69	29	0	4	0	0
NY	ALBANY	32	11	39	0	21	-9	0.18	-0.41	0.10	***	***	4.49	86	74	46	0	7	2	0
	BINGHAMTON	28	10	38	-3	19	-9	0.72	0.11	0.37	***	***	10.23	181	86	65	0	7	3	0
	BUFFALO	29	9	38	-1	19	-11	0.51	-0.08	0.31	***	***	5.47	89	85	57	0	7	4	0
	ROCHESTER	30	9	40	0	20	-9	0.46	-0.04	0.26	***	***	3.91	80	74	62	0	7	4	0
	SYRACUSE	26	4	33	-6	15	-14	0.44	-0.12	0.26	***	***	4.28	81	98	64	0	7	4	0
NC	ASHEVILLE	57	32	75	19	44	1	0.20	-0.82	0.12	***	***	6.03	68	84	57	0	4	4	0
	CHARLOTTE	58	34	70	23	46	-3	0.76	-0.23	0.54	***	***	6.99	82	88	44	0	3	3	1
	GREENSBORO	53	30	73	20	41	-4	1.23	0.39	0.94	***	***	5.87	78	92	48	0	4	3	1
	HATTERAS	51	37	63	28	44	-5	0.32	-0.72	0.25	***	***	12.26	113	97	74	0	3	4	0
	RALEIGH	54	30	75	20	42	-5	1.73	0.80	0.97	***	***	7.99	95	87	72	0	4	4	2
	WILMINGTON	61	36	77	25	48	-4	0.61	-0.36	0.41	***	***	9.93	109	94	51	0	2	3	0
ND	BISMARCK	34	4	49	-8	19	-6	0.00	-0.14	0.00	***	***	1.16	105	80	55	0	7	0	0
	DICKINSON	36	6	56	-6	21	-5	0.00	-0.06	0.00	***	***	0.57	66	78	36	0	7	0	0
	FARGO	29	3	43	-11	16	-5	0.01	-0.18	0.01	***	***	0.88	57	77	52	0	7	1	0
	GRAND FORKS	26	-1	39	-15	13	-7	0.00	-0.15	0.00	***	***	0.82	58	82	53	0	7	0	0
	JAMESTOWN	27	2	43	-12	15	-7	0.00	-0.14	0.00	***	***	0.43	34	81	54	0	7	0	0
	WILLISTON	32	4	49	-10	18	-6	0.01	-0.10	0.01	***	***	0.96	92	74	56	0	7	1	0
OH	AKRON-CANTON	32	13	43	0	23	-10	0.60	-0.05	0.40	***	***	6.07	112	76	59	0	7	2	0
	CINCINNATI	37	17	50	0	27	-12	2.27	1.49	1.27	***	***	6.43	100	80	63	0	7	4	2
	CLEVELAND	32	14	42	1	23	-10	0.33	-0.25	0.17	***	***	5.61	105	82	57	0	7	2	0
	COLUMBUS	33	15	42	4	24	-13	1.92	1.34	1.06	***	***	6.45	121	82	61	0	7	3	2
	DAYTON	34	17	47	6	26	-9	1.07	0.46	0.40	***	***	5.35	97	84	58	0	7	3	0
	MANSFIELD	31	12	42	0	22	-10	0.54	-0.05	0.42	***	***	5.67	105	91	61	0	7	2	0

Based on 1971-2000 normals

***** Not Available**

Weather Data for the Week Ending March 7, 2015

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 MAR 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE MAR 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	29	10	40	-5	19	-13	0.32	-0.16	0.24	***	***	3.65	85	84	65	0	7	2	0
	YOUNGSTOWN	33	11	42	-4	22	-10	0.73	0.16	0.41	***	***	5.95	120	80	61	0	7	4	0
OK	OKLAHOMA CITY	49	25	69	10	37	-10	0.05	-0.56	0.05	***	***	2.27	66	83	49	0	6	1	0
	TULSA	50	27	68	17	38	-9	0.06	-0.65	0.06	***	***	2.56	60	79	60	0	5	1	0
OR	ASTORIA	57	34	62	29	46	1	0.10	-1.68	0.09	***	***	15.64	81	91	72	0	3	2	0
	BURNS	52	17	67	11	35	1	0.00	-0.30	0.00	***	***	1.07	41	79	43	0	7	0	0
	EUGENE	59	30	65	26	45	0	0.07	-1.37	0.04	***	***	6.63	43	91	67	0	5	2	0
	MEDFORD	65	33	72	27	49	3	0.00	-0.46	0.00	***	***	4.46	89	86	36	0	3	0	0
	PENDLETON	54	27	64	22	41	-1	0.00	-0.28	0.00	***	***	1.56	53	69	40	0	5	0	0
	PORTLAND	60	33	68	30	47	2	0.00	-0.93	0.00	***	***	7.06	69	88	61	0	4	0	0
	SALEM	60	31	68	26	46	1	0.02	-1.07	0.02	***	***	7.57	63	87	59	0	4	1	0
PA	ALLENTOWN	33	13	41	0	23	-11	1.79	1.06	0.73	***	***	6.35	91	80	58	0	6	5	1
	ERIE	31	11	41	0	21	-11	0.72	0.12	0.37	***	***	6.75	125	77	60	0	7	3	0
	MIDDLETOWN	35	14	43	-1	24	-12	1.37	0.63	0.48	***	***	5.02	77	93	50	0	7	4	0
	PHILADELPHIA	37	21	43	11	29	-10	2.40	1.63	0.74	***	***	9.29	132	86	59	0	6	4	4
	PITTSBURGH	36	12	49	-5	24	-11	1.88	1.23	0.77	***	***	5.35	94	88	64	0	7	4	2
	WILKES-BARRE	32	13	40	4	23	-10	0.48	-0.03	0.21	***	***	3.56	70	80	48	0	7	5	0
	WILLIAMSPORT	32	11	38	1	22	-11	0.65	0.01	0.41	***	***	3.44	56	80	55	0	7	3	0
RI	PROVIDENCE	35	15	43	6	25	-10	1.60	0.73	0.53	***	***	7.86	90	77	57	0	6	4	1
SC	BEAUFORT	66	45	83	34	55	1	0.47	-0.25	0.25	***	***	7.91	100	96	62	0	0	3	0
	CHARLESTON	65	42	81	30	53	-1	0.32	-0.50	0.17	***	***	8.25	103	94	58	0	1	3	0
	COLUMBIA	65	38	81	27	51	-1	0.59	-0.40	0.47	***	***	8.00	84	91	73	0	2	4	0
	GREENVILLE	59	36	70	26	47	-1	0.43	-0.80	0.19	***	***	7.75	78	93	52	0	3	4	0
SD	ABERDEEN	31	-1	48	-19	15	-10	0.08	-0.11	0.07	***	***	1.14	99	81	56	0	7	2	0
	HURON	33	3	47	-10	18	-9	0.13	-0.11	0.11	***	***	0.73	57	85	52	0	7	2	0
	RAPID CITY	42	8	59	-3	25	-6	0.02	-0.14	0.02	***	***	0.46	46	79	41	0	7	1	0
	SIOUX FALLS	32	6	46	-10	19	-8	0.10	-0.13	0.10	***	***	1.21	97	82	60	0	7	1	0
TN	BRISTOL	52	28	73	13	40	-2	1.89	0.98	0.81	***	***	7.22	92	96	51	0	4	4	2
	CHATTANOOGA	56	35	74	22	45	-3	1.42	0.06	0.76	***	***	8.42	73	92	70	0	3	5	1
	KNOXVILLE	51	31	71	19	41	-5	1.60	0.45	0.94	***	***	8.73	90	93	61	0	4	5	1
	MEMPHIS	49	28	64	15	39	-10	2.33	1.16	1.35	***	***	7.98	82	86	59	0	4	5	1
	NASHVILLE	51	27	65	9	39	-7	2.54	1.46	1.50	***	***	9.34	107	93	56	0	5	5	2
TX	ABILENE	48	28	59	20	38	-15	0.44	0.14	0.43	***	***	3.95	165	87	73	0	5	2	0
	AMARILLO	48	24	63	12	36	-8	0.03	-0.16	0.02	***	***	2.08	152	91	55	0	6	2	0
	AUSTIN	54	33	70	21	43	-15	0.30	-0.25	0.11	***	***	6.10	138	92	69	0	2	5	0
	BEAUMONT	69	46	81	30	57	-2	0.77	0.02	0.48	***	***	7.77	79	93	54	0	1	3	0
	BROWNSVILLE	68	51	82	42	59	-7	0.04	-0.13	0.03	***	***	4.37	161	91	75	0	0	2	0
	CORPUS CHRISTI	60	45	78	38	52	-11	0.07	-0.36	0.04	***	***	3.52	90	85	72	0	0	3	0
	DEL RIO	58	40	75	31	49	-11	0.26	0.04	0.24	***	***	1.27	73	79	62	0	1	2	0
	EL PASO	63	40	76	27	52	-2	0.12	0.04	0.08	***	***	1.00	109	67	33	0	2	2	0
	FORT WORTH	47	29	61	22	38	-16	0.92	0.18	0.69	***	***	7.54	150	92	68	0	5	5	1
	GALVESTON	62	48	74	36	55	-6	0.46	-0.11	0.37	***	***	6.64	91	92	71	0	0	5	0
	HOUSTON	64	42	83	30	53	-6	0.41	-0.31	0.22	***	***	4.24	57	88	65	0	1	4	0
	LUBBOCK	49	25	63	17	37	-10	0.18	0.02	0.18	***	***	2.45	179	92	74	0	6	1	0
	MIDLAND	50	29	61	24	40	-13	0.13	0.00	0.13	***	***	2.83	228	89	72	0	6	1	0
	SAN ANGELO	53	30	68	22	42	-12	0.11	-0.15	0.08	***	***	2.38	106	88	72	0	4	3	0
	SAN ANTONIO	56	39	69	31	47	-12	0.31	-0.12	0.14	***	***	4.53	118	85	62	0	1	6	0
	VICTORIA	62	41	77	31	51	-9	0.15	-0.35	0.10	***	***	4.25	85	91	71	0	1	2	0
	WACO	49	30	58	20	40	-15	0.80	0.15	0.35	***	***	5.54	111	95	74	0	4	5	0
	WICHITA FALLS	49	27	66	16	38	-12	0.18	-0.30	0.17	***	***	2.83	89	86	64	0	6	2	0
UT	SALT LAKE CITY	47	30	59	25	39	0	0.44	0.06	0.26	***	***	1.62	53	83	46	0	7	2	0
VT	BURLINGTON	30	6	40	-10	18	-7	0.08	-0.33	0.05	***	***	3.10	72	74	40	0	7	2	0
VA	LYNCHBURG	44	25	58	15	35	-7	1.14	0.31	0.87	***	***	5.62	75	93	54	0	6	4	1
	NORFOLK	45	29	70	18	37	-8	0.88	-0.01	0.61	***	***	6.29	77	88	58	0	5	5	1
	RICHMOND	47	26	62	16	36	-7	1.20	0.32	0.98	***	***	8.46	114	87	60	0	6	3	1
	ROANOKE	45	26	56	11	35	-8	1.90	1.07	1.25	***	***	5.83	82	82	56	0	4	3	2
	WASH/DULLES	39	19	47	2	29	-10	1.53	0.77	0.86	***	***	6.54	99	89	59	0	6	4	1
WA	OLYMPIA	58	26	63	21	42	0	0.01	-1.31	0.01	***	***	11.98	80	91	64	0	7	1	0
	QUILLAYUTE	57	29	64	26	43	0	0.11	-2.72	0.11	***	***	19.95	69	95	63	0	6	1	0
	SEATTLE-TACOMA	55	36	62	31	46	1	0.00	-0.91	0.00	***	***	8.94	87	74	56	0	2	0	0
	SPOKANE	49	25	61	18	37	1	0.04	-0.32	0.04	***	***	2.99	81	75	35	0	6	1	0
	YAKIMA	57	28	69	21	43	4	0.00	-0.17	0.00	***	***	1.62	76	77	45	0	5	0	0
WV	BECKLEY	43	21	53	4	32	-6	2.81	2.00	1.59	***	***	9.47	135	85	65	0	7	5	2
	CHARLESTON	46	21	64	5	34	-7	3.09	2.21	2.00	***	***	8.29	113	92	62	0	7	5	2
	ELKINS	44	12	58	-10	28	-8	2.72	1.85	1.49	***	***	8.44	113	96	58	0	7	6	2
	HUNTINGTON	43	19	62	0	31	-10	3.22	2.35	1.98	***	***	9.75	136	98	65	0	7	4	2
WI	EAU CLAIRE	25	3	41	-13	14	-11	0.08	-0.16	0.08	***	***	0.53	25	79	45	0	7	1	0
	GREEN BAY	28	7	42	-7	17	-9	0.18	-0.12	0.18	***	***	1.09	43	80	52	0	7	1	0
	LA CROSSE	29	7	46	-6	18	-11	0.01	-0.24	0.01	***	***	1.23	51	80	47	0	7	1	0
	MADISON	29	8	45	-5	19	-9	0.11	-0.23	0.11	***	***	1.52	53	78	52	0	7	1	0
	MILWAUKEE	30	12	46	0	21	-10	0.31	-0.09	0.31	***	***	2.02	52	71	47	0	7	1	0
WY	CASPER	33	9	48	-13	21	-10	0.53	0.35	0.40	***	***	1.84	131	77	62	0	7	2	0
	CHEYENNE	39	14	52	1	26	-6	0.07	-0.10	0.04	***	***	0.63	59	72	51	0	7	3	0
	LANDER	31	7	47	-7	19	-12	0.53	0.34	0.39	***	***	2.10	168	84	53	0	7	2	0
	SHERIDAN	38	5	58	-7	22	-10	0.17	0.02	0.08	***	***	1.91	128	73	53	0	7	3	0

Based on 1971-2000 normals

***** Not Available**

February Weather and Crop Summary

Weather

Weather summary provided by USDA/WAOB

Highlights: A remarkably persistent weather regime—featuring a Western ridge and Eastern trough—led to record-setting February temperatures on both sides of the country. The West basked in spring-like warmth, while the Great Lakes and Northeastern States suffered through the coldest weather in decades—even colder than February 2014. At the height of the Eastern cold wave, on February 20, producers as far south as Florida had to take protective measures to help guard against freeze damage to tender crops such as blueberries, strawberries, and vegetables.

In between warm and cold regions, the Plains were the battleground for competing air masses and saw wildly fluctuating temperatures. In areas with patchy, shallow, or non-existent snow cover, the Plains' weather extremes were detrimental to the health of winter wheat. As a result, the portion of the wheat crop rated in good to excellent condition declined during February from 58 to 44 percent in Montana and 58 to 49 percent in South Dakota.

Like January, February was a rather dry month across the majority of the country. However, there were notable exceptions, including an early-month snow storm from the Midwest into the Northeast; occasional heavy snow on the High Plains; and several Southern storms. During the second half of the month, some of the Southern storms produced disruptive amounts of snow, sleet, and freezing rain.

Meanwhile, California headed toward a fourth consecutive year of drought, despite a brief period of heavy precipitation from February 6-9. During February, conditions were especially dry in parts of the Great Basin, Intermountain West, and Desert Southwest, while snowpack remained close to record-low levels in the Cascades and the Sierra Nevada.

Historical Perspective: According to preliminary information provided by the National Climatic Data Center, the contiguous U.S. experienced its 53rd-coldest, 20th-driest February during the 121-year period of record. Western warmth partially offset frigid Eastern conditions, leading to a monthly average temperature of 33.1°F—just 0.7°F below the 20th century mean. February precipitation averaged 1.70 inches, 80 percent of normal.

It was the warmest February on record in Arizona, California, Utah, and Washington, and among the ten warmest in Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, and Wyoming. Meanwhile, temperatures ranked among the ten lowest February values on record in Arkansas and 22 of the 26 states east of the Mississippi River (figure 1). For New York, Pennsylvania, and the six New England States, it was the second-coldest February on record behind 1934. It was also the second-coldest February in Ohio—behind 1978. Meanwhile, monthly precipitation rankings ranged from the 11th-driest February in Connecticut to the 31st-wettest February in Colorado (figure 2).

Summary: The most significant snow storm of the season blanketed much of the Midwest with heavy snow on January 31 – February 1. Heavy, wind-driven snow from Nebraska into the lower Great Lakes region provided beneficial moisture, but also caused widespread travel disruptions. Snow and biting cold also returned to the Northeast, including areas along the northern Atlantic Coast still recovering from the late-January blizzard. Daily-record snowfall totals for February 1 included 16.2 inches in Chicago, IL; 14.7 inches in South Bend, IN; 13.7 inches in Detroit, MI; and 10.4 inches in Milwaukee, WI. Chicago also experienced its snowiest February day (previously, 13.6 inches on February 1, 2011) and fifth-highest storm total. Officially, from January 31 – February 2, Chicago received 19.3 inches, a total most recently topped by the 21.2-inch sum on the same dates in 2011). On February 1, peak wind gusts were clocked to 39 mph in Chicago; 43 mph in Rockford, IL (where 11.9 inches fell on January 31 – February 1); and 45 mph in Lincoln, NE (where 7.9 inches fell). The snowfall in Chicago and Rockford more than doubled the respective season-to-date totals, which rose to 34.8 and 23.7 inches. By February 2, another round of heavy snow arrived in the Northeast, setting daily-record totals in Worcester, MA (17.4 inches); Boston, MA (16.2 inches); Bangor, ME (12.3 inches); and Hartford, CT (10.8 inches). Ten-day snowfall climbed to 58.7 inches in Worcester; 47.9 inches in Boston; 43.7 inches in Bangor; 33.5 inches in Islip, NY; and 30.1 inches in

Figure 1 Statewide Average Temperature Ranks
February 2015
Period: 1895–2015

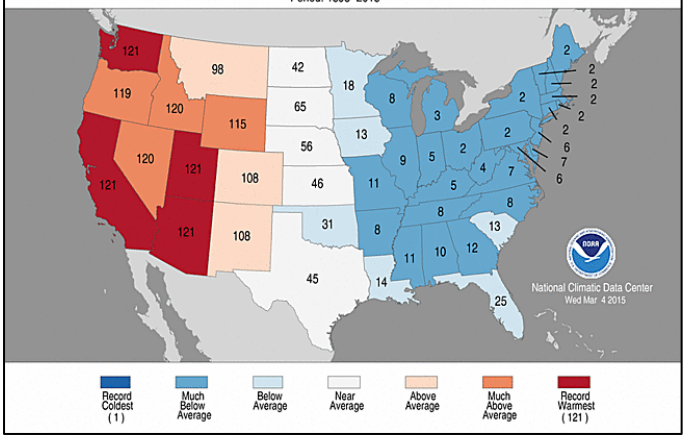
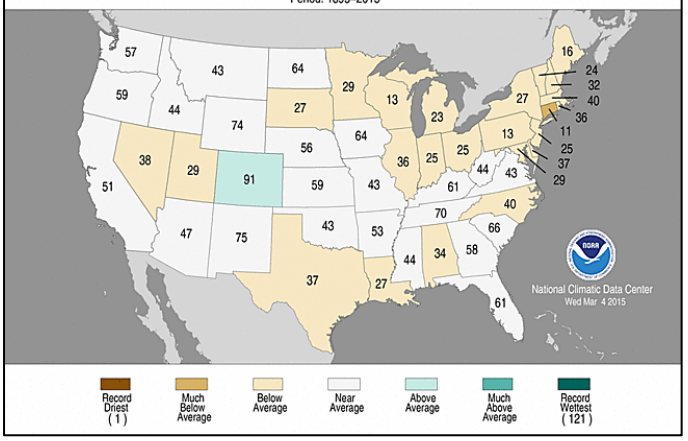


Figure 2 Statewide Precipitation Ranks
February 2015
Period: 1895–2015



Providence, RI. Following that storm, lingering precipitation was mostly confined to the northern and southern tiers of the U.S. Daily-record snowfall totals were set in locations such as Rochester, MN (3.9 inches on February 3), and Riverton, WY (3.5 inches on February 4. Cape Hatteras, NC, netted a daily-record rainfall (1.57 inches) for February 5.

A brief pattern change brought two surges of much-needed precipitation into northern and central California, starting on February 6, following nearly 7 weeks of dry weather. However, warmth accompanied the moisture, leading to high freezing levels and minimal snow accumulations, except in the highest elevations. By February 6, daily-record amounts in California reached 4.87 inches in Mt. Shasta City; 3.25 inches in Ukiah; 1.54 inches in Montague; and 1.35 inches in Sacramento. As the Pacific storm began to surge inland, wind gusts above 130 mph were clocked on February 6 on Slide Mountain, NV, and Mt. Lincoln, CA. Precipitation pushed farther inland across the Northwest by February 7, when Stanley, ID, received a daily-record sum of 0.78 inch. During the second moisture surge, record-setting totals for February 8 reached 2.77 inches in Mt. Shasta City and 1.34 inches in Sacramento. In northwestern California, storm-total (February 5-9) rainfall topped 10 inches in several locations, with Honeydew receiving 16.60 inches. During the same 5-day period, Crescent City, CA, collected 4.18 inches of rain, along with wind gusts greater than 60 mph on February 7 and 9. Elsewhere in California, San Francisco's SFO Airport collected 2.01 inches of rain from February 6-8, following a completely dry January. Rain, not even a trace, had not fallen in San Francisco since December 24. Precipitation also spilled across the Sierra Nevada crest into western Nevada, where Reno (0.81 inch on February 8) netted a daily-record total.

Warmth exploded across the western and central U.S. in advance of the Western storms. From February 2-5, Sandberg, CA, notched four consecutive daily-record highs (71, 71, 74, and 73°F). Highs soared to monthly record levels in a few locations, including Tribune, KS (81°F on February 7). Salt Lake City, UT, posted four consecutive daily-record highs (65, 68, and 68, and 64°F) from February 5-7, narrowly missing its monthly standard of 69°F set on February 28, 1972. On February 7, Salt Lake City also tied a monthly record for its highest minimum temperature—51°F. With a low of 59°F on February 7, Las Vegas, NV, also tied a monthly standard. On February 6-7, there were consecutive daily-record highs were observed in several places, including Dalhart, TX (84 and 83°F); Colby, KS (81 and 78°F); Pueblo, CO (78°F both days); Sheridan, WY (68 and 72°F); and Walla Walla, WA (70 and 67°F). On February 6, daily-record highs were especially impressive in California locations such as Death Valley (89°F) and Bakersfield (85°F). By February 7, daily-record warmth spread as far east as Missouri, where highs surged to 74°F in Springfield and 71°F in St. Louis. In dramatic contrast, frigid weather in the Northeast persisted and even intensified. On February 6, several unofficial stations in northern New England reported temperatures below -30°F. On the same date, daily-record lows dipped to -22°F in Watertown, NY, and -7°F in Hartford, CT.

Meanwhile, two more major winter storms struck the northern Atlantic region, where Boston, MA, reported 22.2 inches of snow on February 8-9 and 16.2 inches on February 14-15. In the 23-day period from January 24 – February 15, snowfall in Boston totaled 90.2 inches, or more than 7½ feet. Boston's snowfall exceeded a foot on January 27 and February 2, 9, and 15, with respective amounts of 22.1, 16.2, 14.8, and 13.0 inches. In Maine, Bangor's snow depth of 53 inches from February 9-11 tied an all-time station record. During Boston's final round of heavy snow, on February 15, a wind gust to 51 mph was clocked. Elsewhere in Massachusetts, Nantucket reported a gust to 65 mph. Farther west, collective ice coverage on the five Great Lakes climbed to 82.3 percent by February 17—ahead of the 81.6 percent coverage on the same date a year ago. The seasonal peak of 88.3 percent occurred less than 2 weeks later on March 1, 2015, just above the value of 86.0 percent on the same date in 2014. Unlike this year, the 2014 Great Lakes ice coverage continued to increase for a few more days, eventually peaking on March 6 at 92.5 percent—just shy of the 1979 standard of 94.7 percent.

Farther west, record-setting highs for February 8 included 82°F in Bakersfield, CA; 80°F in Hobart, OK; 74°F in Wichita, KS; and 65°F in Boise, ID. Warmth even made a fleeting appearance in parts of the East, where daily-record highs on the 8th reached 73°F in Danville, VA, and 68°F in Washington, DC. The following day, record-setting highs for February 9 surged to 90°F in Yuma, AZ; 71°F in Scottsbluff, NE; and 70°F in Gateway, CO. By February 11, daily-record highs in southern California rose to 87°F in El Cajon and 86°F in Chula Vista. El Cajon posted additional records of 87°F on February 12 and 13. Other California records included 92°F (on February 13) in Santa Ana and 74°F (on February 14) in Sacramento. In fact, Sacramento collected a trio of daily-record highs (73, 73, and 74°F) from February 12-14. Cedar City, UT (61, 66, and 70°F); Ely, NV (65, 66, and 66°F); and Pocatello, ID (57, 60, and 56°F), also achieved three records in a row during the same period. In Helena, MT, February 13-14 featured consecutive daily-record highs (61°F both days). Persistent Southwestern warmth led to daily-record highs in Bishop, California, on February 15-16 and 18-20. Bishop's warm spell peaked with a high of 80°F on February 16. Other Western daily-record highs included 82°F (on February 16) in Lancaster, CA; 79°F (on February 15) in Las Vegas, NV; 66°F (on February 16) in Salem, OR; 65°F (on February 19) in Eureka, NV; and 62°F (on February 17) in Olympia, WA. Ely, NV, posted consecutive daily-record highs (66 and 65°F, respectively) on February 18-19.

During the second half of the month, the primary storm track (and its attendant wintry weather) shifted considerably southward. The Southern storms also contributed to snowfall across the Rockies and High Plains. Meanwhile, brutally cold weather gripped the Great Lakes and Northeastern States, but snowfall events became lighter and less frequent. During the first week of the new weather regime, two major (and one minor), late-winter storms produced a mix of snow, sleet, freezing rain, and rain in the South, East, and lower Midwest. In Kentucky, record-setting snowfall totals for February 16 included 11.8 inches in Jackson, 10.8 inches in Paducah, and 10.2 inches in Lexington. It was the third-snowiest day on record in Paducah, behind 14.0 inches on December 22, 2004, and 11.0 inches on January 16, 1978. Other daily-record totals for February 16 reached 6.3 inches in Cincinnati, OH; 5.7 inches in Evansville, IN; and 4.8 inches in Springfield, MO. Snow also fell in portions of the Rockies and environs on February 16, when record-breaking totals in Wyoming included 3.3 inches in Casper and 2.9 inches in Lander. Meanwhile, rain across the Deep South led to daily-record amounts in locations such as Monroe, LA (1.29 inches on February 16), and Gainesville, FL (1.08 inches on February 17). A

much weaker system followed, but still managed to produce daily-record snowfall totals in Jackson, KY, and Cincinnati, OH—4.5 inches in both locations. By February 20-21, another significant storm affected the Ohio Valley and surrounding regions, although precipitation types other than snow were more prevalent across the mid-South. During the 2-day event, Peoria, IL, received 11.8 inches of snow, including a daily-record amount (8.9 inches) on February 20. Record-setting totals for February 21 reached 8.9 inches at Dulles Airport in Virginia; 5.9 inches in Cincinnati, OH; and 5.0 inches in Wilmington, DE. From February 16-21, Cincinnati received snowfall totaling 16.7 inches. Snow also returned to the Rockies and neighboring areas, where daily snowfall records for February 21 included 7.4 inches in Lander, WY, and 2.1 inches in Pocatello, ID. Meanwhile, heavy precipitation across the South led to record-setting totals for the 21st in Jackson, TN (3.13 inches), and London, KY (2.94 inches). In the storm's wake, extremely cold weather hampered clean-up and recovery efforts from snow and ice accumulations.

Already-cold Eastern conditions turned even colder during the second half of the month. Even Florida could not escape, with the coldest air of the season arriving on February 20. The intensely cold air appeared in the Northeast around mid-month, when daily-record lows plunged to -32°F (on February 13) in Watertown, NY, and -23°F (on February 14) in Bangor, ME. Farther south, Virginia's Dulles Airport reported seven consecutive sub-10°F lows from February 15-21, the longest such February streak on record in that location and the longest in any month since December 1989. From February 16-20, Cape Girardeau, MO, logged five consecutive daily-record lows (-2, -11, -7, -14, and 11°F)—and achieved a monthly record (previously, -8°F). On February 20, monthly record lows were also established in Ohio locations such as Toledo (-19°F) and Cleveland (-17°F). A few locations, including Flint, MI (-25°F on February 20); Erie, PA (-18°F on February 16), and Lynchburg, VA (-11°F on February 20), set or tied all-time record lows. Flint tied a record that had been on the books since January 18, 1976. Erie tied a record originally established on January 19, 1994, while Lynchburg edged by 1°F a record set on January 21, 1985, and February 5, 1996. Paducah, KY (-10°F on February 19), and Pittsburgh, PA (-10°F on February 20), reported their latest observance of a reading of -10°F or lower. Previously, records had been -14°F on February 2, 1951, in Paducah, and -10°F on February 17, 1979, in Pittsburgh. Cincinnati, OH, reported three sub-zero readings from February 17-20—including a low of -12°F on the 20th—setting a daily-record each time. Gaylord, MI, endured consecutive daily-record lows (-24 and -22°F, respectively) on February 15-16. Elsewhere on the 16th, daily-record lows dipped to -36°F in Watertown, NY, and -27°F in Alpena, MI. Even colder air arrived in Michigan by February 20, when lows plunged to -31°F in Gaylord and -29°F in Alpena. Other daily-record lows on the 20th dipped to -21°F in Frankfort, KY; -16°F in Huntington, WV; and 30°F in Vero Beach, FL. Huntington's minimum temperature marked the lowest February reading in that location since February 9, 1899, when it was -24°F.

The last week of February featured two more cold outbreaks, with little temperature recovery between Arctic fronts. By February 22, daily-record lows included readings of -29°F in International Falls, MN, and -26°F in Grand Forks, ND. The next day in Michigan, records for the 23rd plunged to -28°F in Marquette and -23°F in Houghton Lake. Consecutive daily-record lows were posted on February 23-24 in Youngstown, OH (-4 and -10°F); Binghamton, NY (-7 and -10°F); and Springfield, IL (-5 and -8°F). By February 26, International Falls logged another daily-record low (-32°F). With a low of -14°F on the 27th, Springfield, IL, reported its lowest temperature since January 31, 2004. On February 27-28, consecutive daily-record lows were reported in Dubuque, IA (-21 and -17°F); Moline, IL (-15 and -18°F); and Rockford, IL (-15 and -16°F). From Marquette, MI, to Bangor, ME, and many places in between, the frigid February finish capped the coldest month on record, with monthly temperatures averaging at least 10 to 15°F below normal in a broad area across the Great Lakes and Northeastern States. Many of the previous all-time monthly records had been set in January 1977 or 1994, or February 1934. In addition, dozens of February cold records, some of which—including those for Cleveland, OH, and Chicago, IL—had been set 140 years ago in 1875, were tied or broken across the nation's northeastern quadrant. Ironically, some of the former February records had been set just last year. In Michigan, for example, February average temperatures of 2.4°F (13.1°F below normal) in Marquette and 3.2°F (15.6°F below normal) broke monthly records from 2014 and all-time records from January 1994. Finally, numerous records were set for the greatest number of sub-zero days in any month; in Michigan, for example, Gaylord reported 20 days below 0°F, erasing the January 1994 standard of 16 days. Gaylord also endured 7 days with lows of -20°F or below—all from February 15-27—shattering its all-time monthly mark of 4 such days in February 1979.

Toward month's end, multiple winter weather events plagued the South in the wake of earlier storms. By February 28, a season-high 60 percent of the contiguous U.S. was covered by snow—with some coverage reported in each of the Lower 48 states except Florida. A particularly impressive storm unfolded on February 25-26, when snow fell from northeastern Texas into the southern Mid-Atlantic States. By February 22, a snow storm was underway in parts of the southwestern and south-central U.S. Daily-record snowfall amounts for February 22 included 4.3 inches in Dalhart, Texas, and 3.8 inches in Dodge City, Kansas. On the strength of accumulations on February 22-23 and 27-28, Dalhart's seven-day snowfall climbed to 11.5 inches. In Colorado, record-setting totals for the 22nd reached 9.1 inches in Alamosa and 5.7 inches in Pueblo, while storm-total (February 20-23) snowfall topped three feet at Coal Bank Pass. By February 23, ongoing stormy weather in the Southwest led to daily-record snowfall totals in Kanab, Utah (9.0 inches), and Flagstaff, Arizona (6.5 inches). Daily-record precipitation amounts for the 23rd included 1.30 inches in Flagstaff and 0.37 inch in Las Vegas, Nevada. Later, historic, late-season snowfall blanketed the South. Record-setting amounts for February 25 totaled 8.1 inches in Huntsville, Alabama; 7.3 inches in Tupelo, Mississippi; and 6.0 inches in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. For Tupelo, this marked the second-highest daily total on record, behind only 8.0 inches on January 24, 1940. Huntsville's 8.2-inch total, on February 25-26, marked its fourth-highest single-storm accumulation. Huntsville also experienced its snowiest February day—previously, 8.0 inches on February 15, 1958—and achieved a February snowfall record (8.8 inches; previously, 8.0 inches in 1895 and 1958). Farther east, three-day (February 24-26) snowfall in North Carolina totaled 7.7 inches in Greensboro and 6.5 inches in Raleigh-Durham. Meanwhile, Pueblo's February 22-28 snowfall climbed to 19.6 inches, aided by a daily-record amount of 7.4 inches on February 26. Elsewhere in Colorado, Denver attained a February snowfall record (22.4 inches), edging its 1912 standard of 22.1 inches. Toward month's end, another round of frozen precipitation swept across the nation's southern tier. Albuquerque, New Mexico, measured 9.6 inches of snow from February 26-28. In Texas, record-setting snowfall totals for February 27 included 4.6 inches in Lubbock; 2.0 inches in Dallas-Ft. Worth; and 1.7 inches in Abilene.

Following a cold start to February, anomalous warmth returned to Alaska. As a result, monthly temperatures averaged more than 10°F above normal in much of northern and western Alaska. With a low of -43°F on February 7, Fairbanks tied for its lowest reading of the winter. In southern Alaska, widespread precipitation preceded the

return to mild weather. Snowfall totals on February 7-8 included 8.6 inches in Kodiak and 7.6 inches in Juneau. Pelican received 12.5 inches of snow from February 8-10, followed by a daily-record rainfall of 2.55 inches on February 14. Warmth dominated Alaska during the second half of the month. Sitka posted consecutive daily-record highs (56 and 54°F, respectively) on February 16-17. Later, on February 21, highs surged to daily-record levels in locations such as King Salmon (53°F), McGrath (41°F), and Nome (40°F). Bettles noted consecutive daily-record highs (33 and 32°F, respectively) on February 22-23. Daily-record highs were also set in several other locations, including Anchorage (47°F on February 22); Kodiak (45°F on February 22); and Barrow (30°F on February 27). Monthly snowfall in Anchorage totaled just 1.1 inches, the smallest February amount in that location since 2003. At month's end, wind-blown snow led to blizzard conditions in parts of central and northern Alaska. On February 28, Fairbanks received 2.6 inches of snow and reported a westerly wind gust to 50 mph.

Hawaii's rather dry "wet season" continued, interrupted only occasionally by locally heavy showers. One such wet spell occurred on February 2-3, when 24-hour totals on Kauai reached 4.58 inches on Mt. Waialeale and 3.16 inches at Kilohana. Meanwhile, record-setting warmth prevailed at times. On the Big Island, Hilo posted consecutive daily-record highs (88 and 86°F, respectively) on February 2-3. Lihue, Kauai, also experienced a daily-record high (89°F) on February 3. Hilo logged additional daily records (89 and 88°F, respectively) on February 14 and 19. A substantial portion (4.20 of 5.29 inches) of Hilo's monthly rainfall occurred on February 21. In Kahului, Maui, more than half (1.82 of 3.19 inches) of the monthly total fell on February 28. February rainfall at the state's major airport observation sites ranged from 0.75 inch (24 percent of normal) in Lihue, Kauai, to 5.29 inches (55 percent) in Hilo.

Fieldwork

Fieldwork summary provided by USDA/NASS

All U.S. areas east of the Great Plains recorded below-average temperatures for the month. February temperatures in parts of the Corn Belt, Ohio Valley, and New England averaged more than 10°F below normal. Monthly temperatures were above normal in the West, with parts of the northern Rocky Mountains more than 10°F above normal. Monthly precipitation was generally within 2 inches of normal. Areas with precipitation more than 2 inches below normal included parts of California and along the Gulf of Mexico in Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas.

Winter wheat conditions declined over the previous month in some northern locations due to lack of protective snow cover. In Montana, the percent of the crop in the good to excellent categories dropped 14 percentage points to 44 percent during February. In South Dakota, winter wheat conditions decreased 9 percentage points during the month to 49 percent good to excellent. In Kansas, conditions decreased 2 percentage points in the good to excellent categories to 44 percent by March 1. Conversely, storms in Colorado improved winter wheat protection, leading to a 10 percentage point increase for the month, with 48 percent in the good to excellent categories on March 1.

In Arizona, alfalfa conditions were mostly fair to excellent. Sheep continued to graze on various alfalfa fields. Barley conditions were mostly fair and durum wheat conditions were mostly good. Storms at the beginning and the end of the month helped to maintain soil moisture levels throughout the state. Rangeland conditions varied widely from very poor to good, depending on location.

California wheat, oats, and other winter forage crops continued to grow well in February. Despite some beneficial precipitation during the month, some growers were irrigating to make up for the lack of rain. Field cultivation for spring planting continued throughout the month. Alfalfa fields were being cultivated and planted near the middle of the month. By the end of the month, field preparations were underway for the spring planting of corn and cotton. Pruning and shredding took place in tree fruit orchards. Grape vineyard pruning was in full swing at the beginning of the month. By the end of the month, grapes were developing a couple of weeks early due to warm conditions. Ranchers continued to graze sheep and cattle on rangelands, but more rain will be needed to help long-term development of foothill grasses and forbs. Bee hives were delivered for orchard pollination.

Winter wheat conditions throughout Texas were rated fair to good during February. Producers on the Southern High Plains reported greenbug and winter grain mites in fields, while the Blacklands experienced fungal pressure and rust on small grains. Field preparations began for corn, cotton, and sorghum planting, with 4 percent of the corn crop planted by March 1. This was 3 percentage points behind both last year and the 5-year average. Producers delayed corn planting in several areas of the state due to cold, wet weather. Range and pasture conditions were rated fair to good, with supplemental feeding continuing across the state.

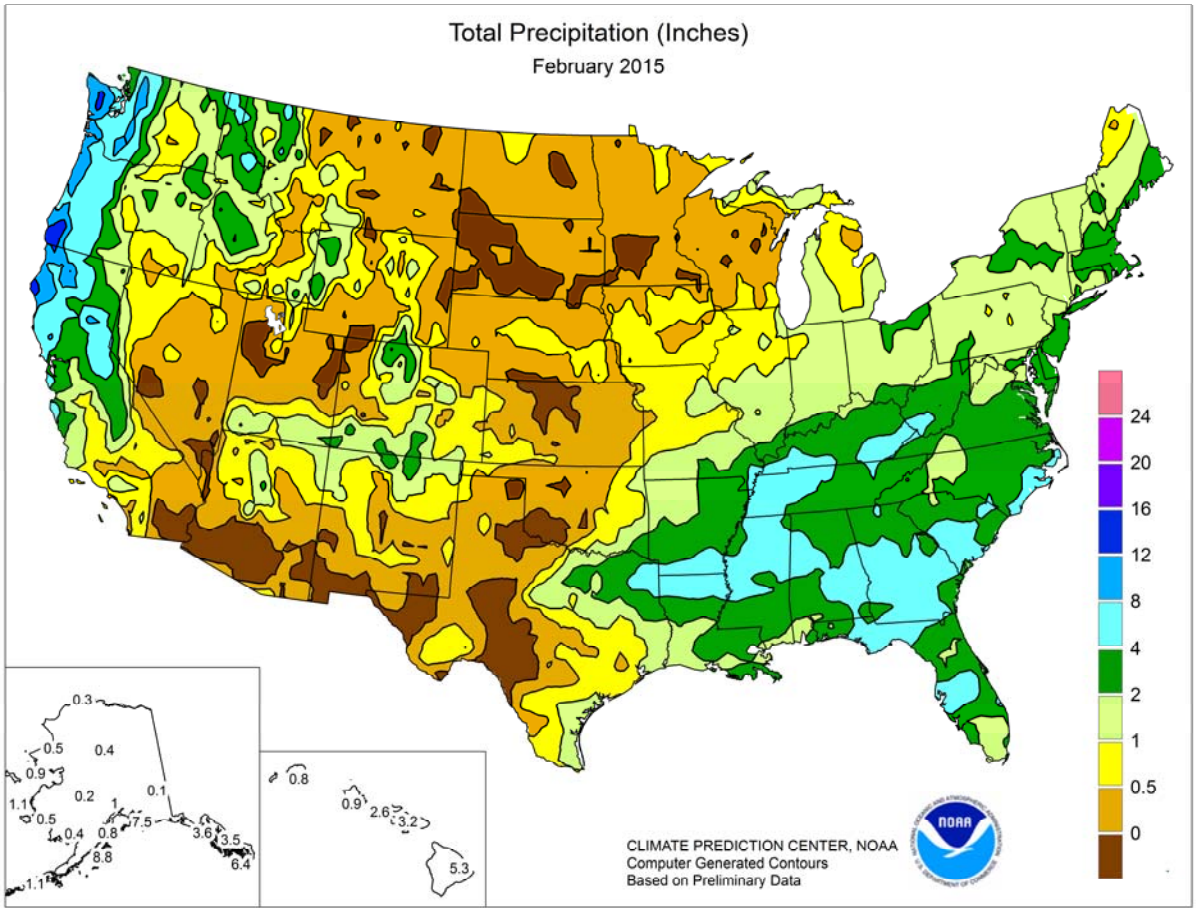
In Florida, fieldwork and soil preparation continued throughout the month in the panhandle, with cold weather and saturated soil reported in the area. Sugarcane harvest continued through February in Glades, Hendry, and Palm Beach Counties, but slowed later in the month due to rain. Pastures in some areas continued to be in poor condition due to sub-freezing temperatures and saturated soils. Ranchers were providing supplemental feed due to the lack of forage crops. Several citrus processing plants finished with early and midseason oranges during February and transitioned to grapefruit and Valencia oranges. By the end of the month, field workers across the citrus region noticed full bloom on all citrus varieties and feathery new growth in well-cared-for groves.

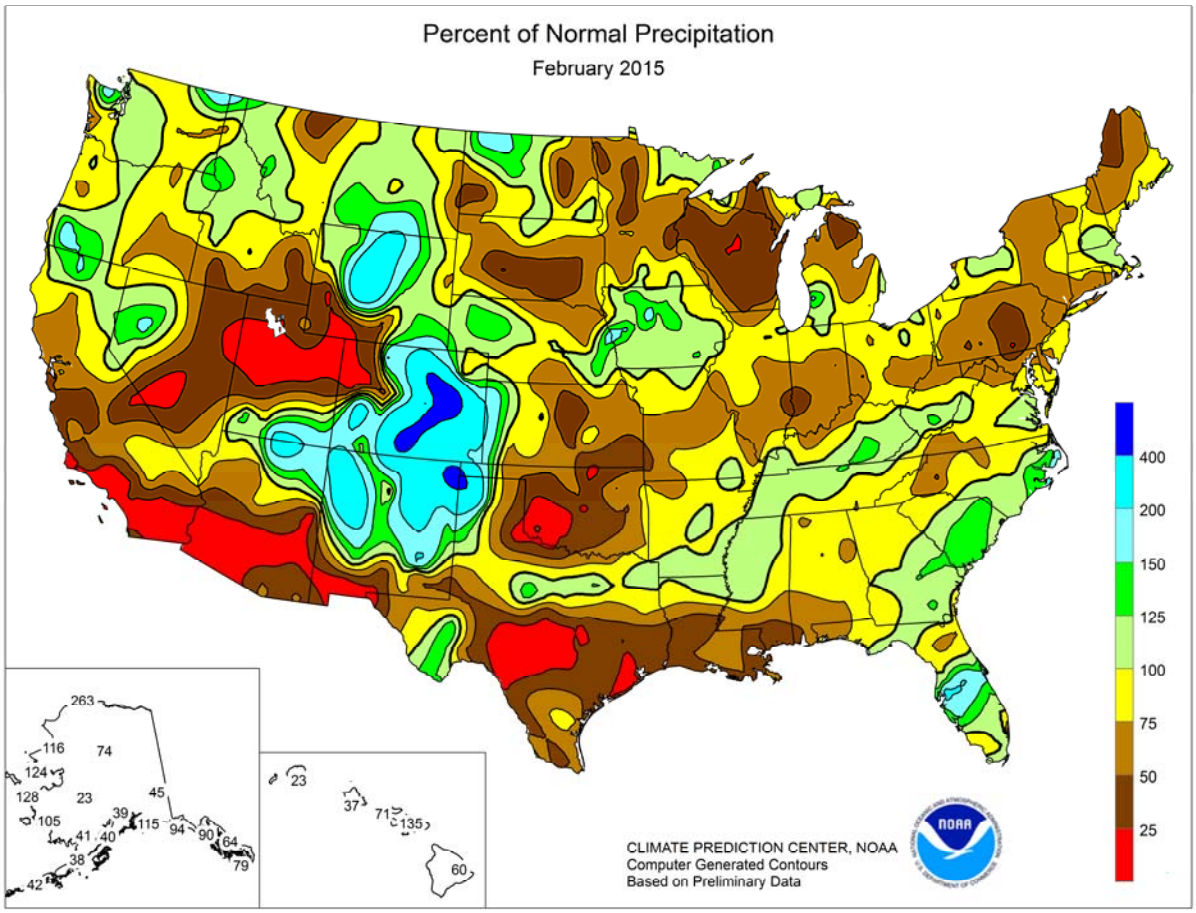
U.S. Crop Production Highlights

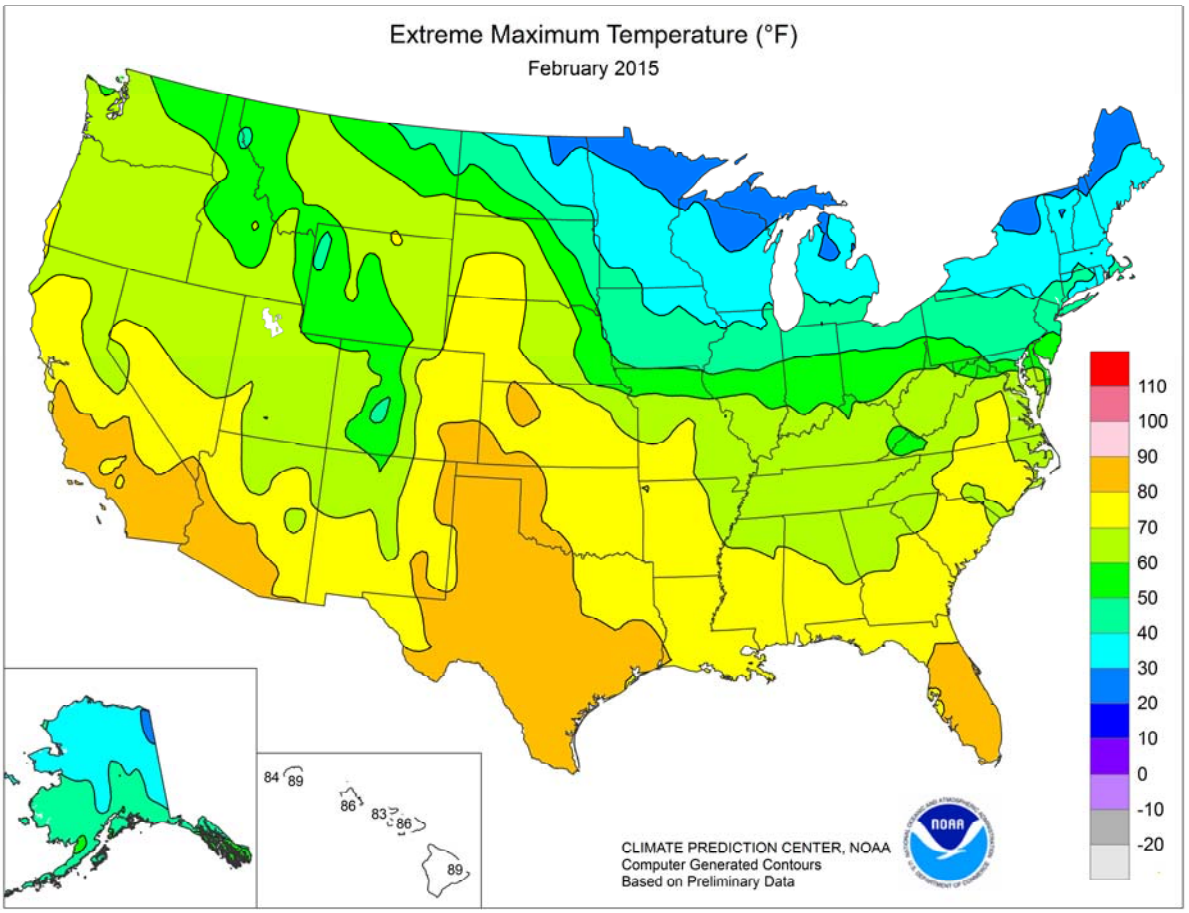
The following information was released by USDA's Agricultural Statistics Board on March 10, 2015. Forecasts refer to March 1.

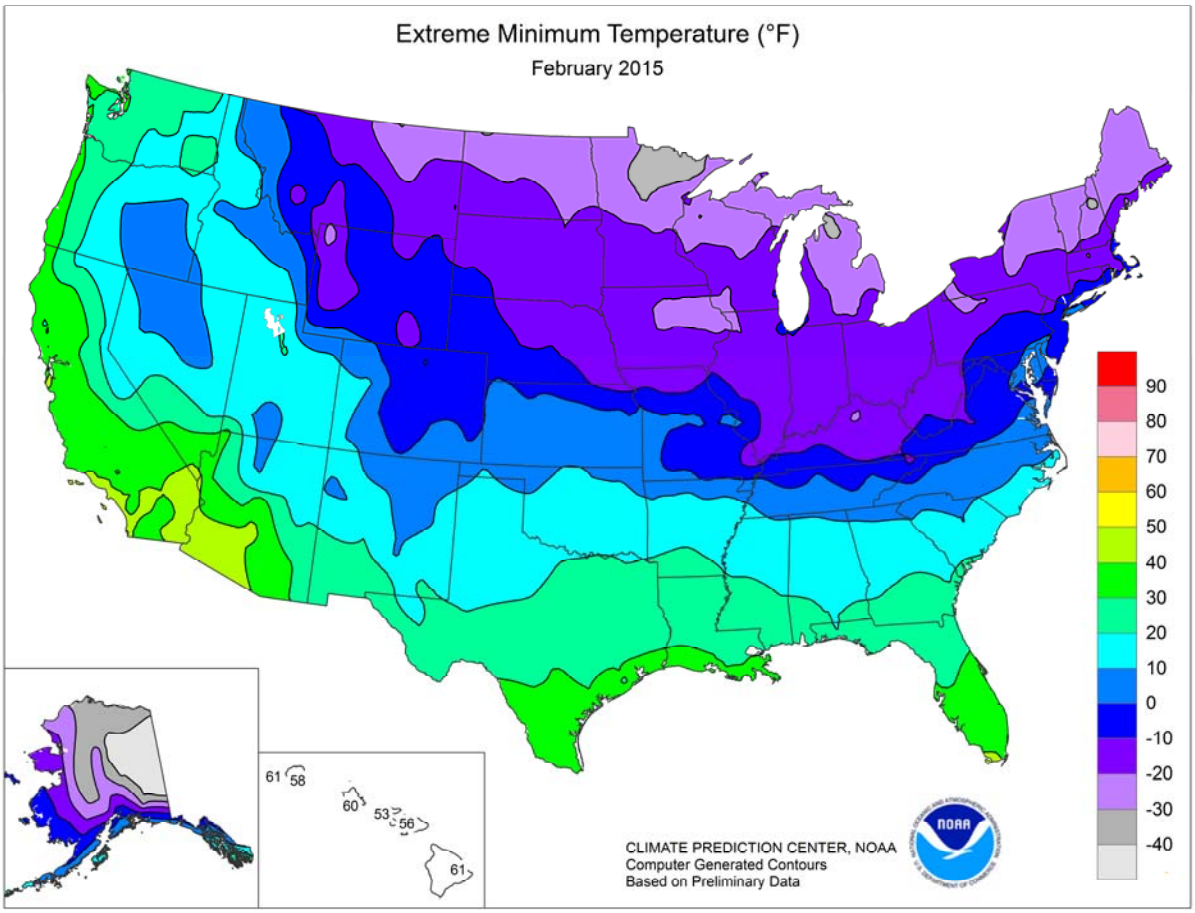
The U.S. **all orange** forecast for the 2014-2015 season is 6.68 million tons, down 1 percent from the previous forecast and down 2 percent from 2013-2014. The Florida all orange forecast, at 102 million boxes (4.59 million tons), is down 1 percent from the previous forecast and down 2 percent from last season's final utilization. Early, midseason, and Navel varieties in Florida are forecast at 47.0 million boxes (2.12 million tons), down 2 percent from the previous forecast and down 12 percent from last season. The Florida Valencia orange forecast, at 55.0 million boxes (2.48 million tons), is unchanged from the previous forecast but up 7 percent from last season.

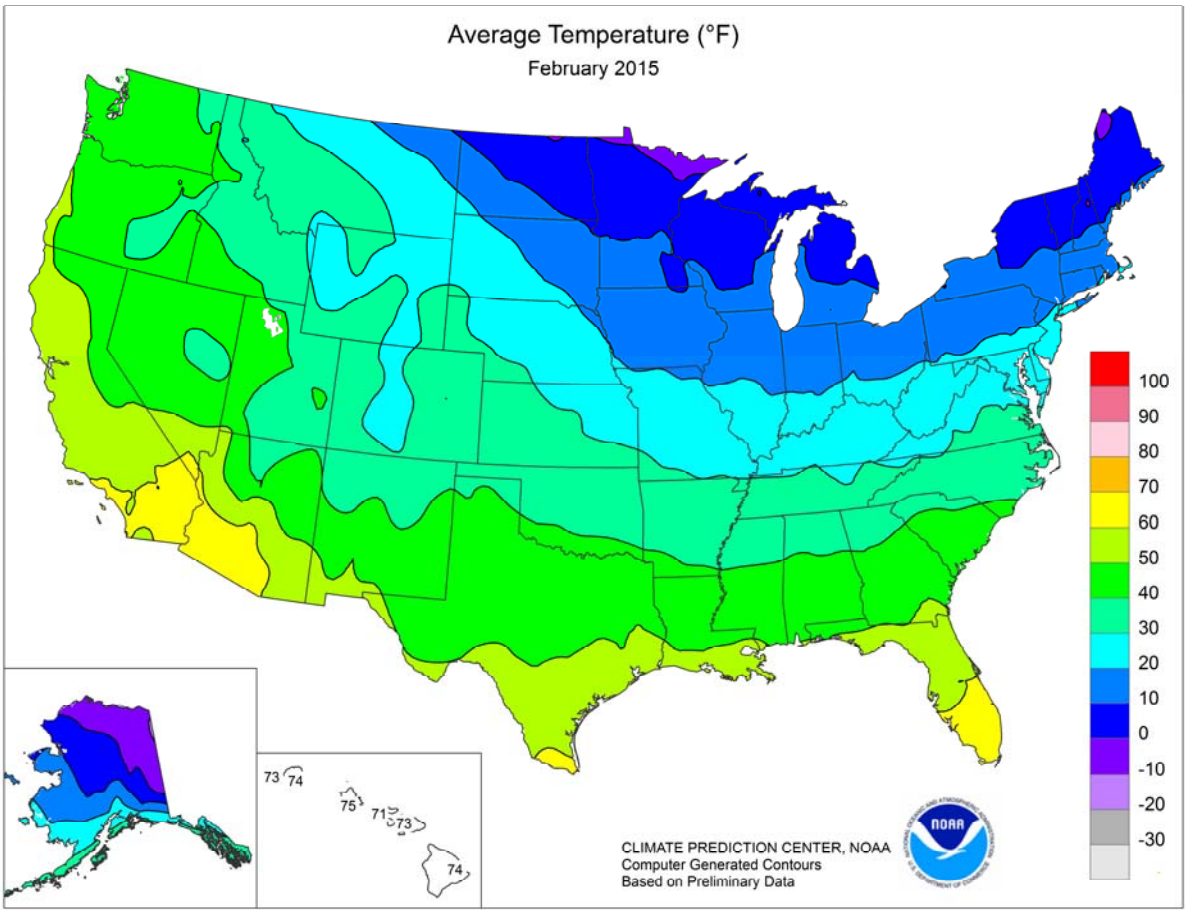
The California Valencia orange forecast is 10.0 million boxes (400,000 tons), unchanged from previous forecast but down 9 percent from the previous season. This results in a California all orange forecast of 50.0 million boxes (2.00 million tons), unchanged from the January forecast. Objective survey measurements taken during January and February indicated that fruit set per tree was lower than the previous year and the lowest since 2009, but the measured average fruit size was slightly larger than the previous year. The forecast for Texas is carried forward from January.

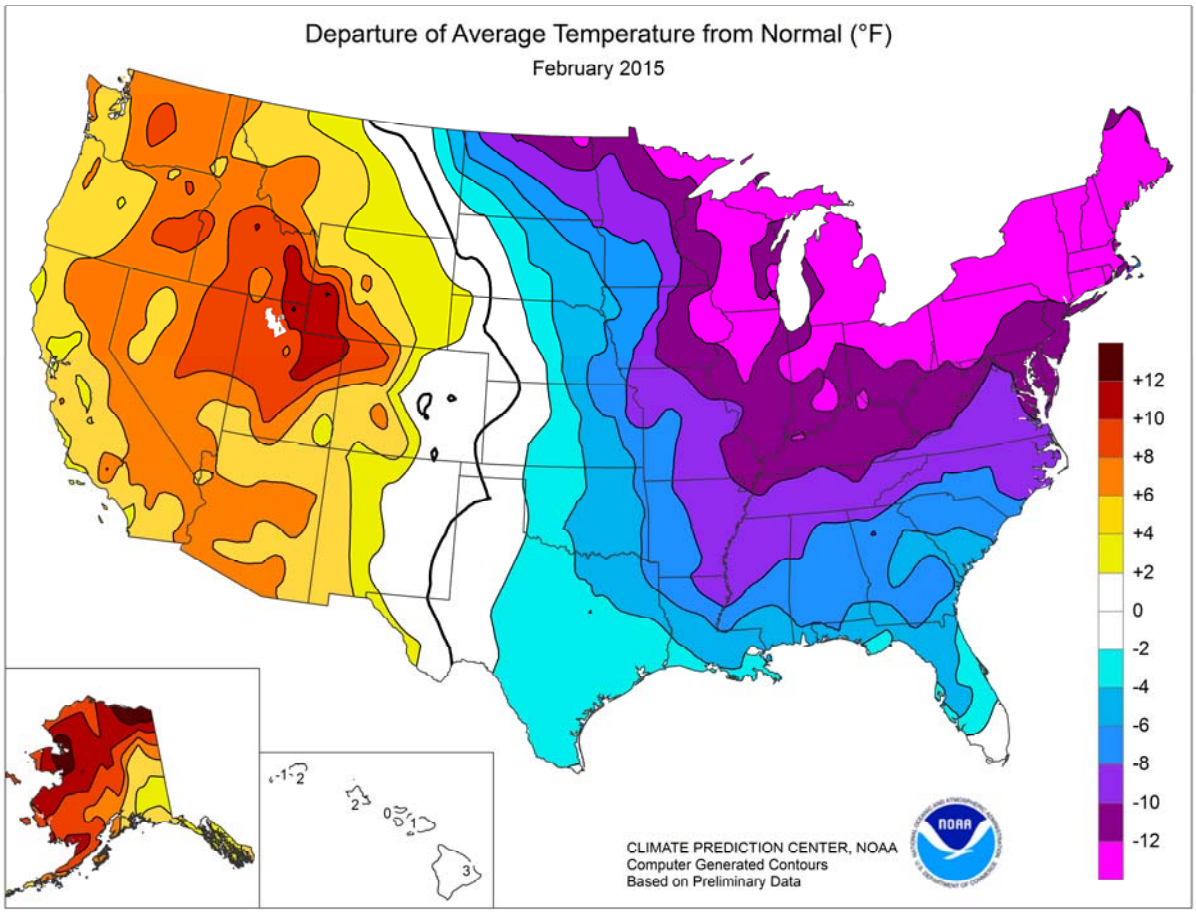

Total Precipitation (Inches)
February 2015
24
20
16
12
8
4
2
1
0.5
0
0.3
0.5
0.4
0.9
0.2
1
0.1
1.1
0.5
0.4
0.8
7.5
3.6
3.5
8.8
6.4
1.1
0.8
0.9
2.6
3.2
5.3
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA
Computer Generated Contours
Based on Preliminary Data
NOAA


Percent of Normal Precipitation
February 2015
400
200
150
125
100
75
50
25
263
116
74
124
128
23
45
105
39
115
94
90
64
41
40
38
79
42
23
37
71
135
60
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA
Computer Generated Contours
Based on Preliminary Data
NOAA


Extreme Maximum Temperature (°F)
February 2015
110
100
90
80
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
-10
-20
84
89
86
83
86
89
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA
Computer Generated Contours
Based on Preliminary Data


Extreme Minimum Temperature (°F)
February 2015
90
80
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
-10
-20
-30
-40
61
58
60
53
56
61
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA
Computer Generated Contours
Based on Preliminary Data


Average Temperature (°F)
February 2015
100
90
80
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
-10
-20
-30
73
74
75
71
73
74
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA
Computer Generated Contours
Based on Preliminary Data


Departure of Average Temperature from Normal (°F)
February 2015
+12
+10
+8
+6
+4
+2
0
-2
-4
-6
-8
-10
-12
-1
2
2
0
1
3
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA
Computer Generated Contours
Based on Preliminary Data

National Weather Data for Selected Cities

February 2015

Data Provided by Climate Prediction Center

STATES AND STATIONS	TEMP, °F		PRECIP.		STATES AND STATIONS	TEMP, °F		PRECIP.		STATES AND STATIONS	TEMP, °F		PRECIP.	
	AVERAGE	DEPARTURE	TOTAL	DEPARTURE		AVERAGE	DEPARTURE	TOTAL	DEPARTURE		AVERAGE	DEPARTURE	TOTAL	DEPARTURE
AL BIRMINGHAM	39	-8	4.32	0.11	LEXINGTON	25	-11	3.00	-0.27	COLUMBUS	19	-13	1.70	-0.50
HUNTSVILLE	38	-6	3.77	-1.18	LONDON-CORBIN	29	-10	5.09	1.37	DAYTON	20	-10	1.39	-0.90
MOBILE	47	-6	2.16	-2.94	LOUISVILLE	28	-10	2.23	-1.02	MANSFIELD	15	-12	1.70	-0.47
MONTGOMERY	45	-6	4.84	-0.61	PADUCAH	28	-10	4.73	0.80	TOLEDO	12	-15	1.57	-0.31
AK ANCHORAGE	25	6	0.74	0.00	LA BATON ROUGE	50	-3	3.38	-1.72	YOUNGSTOWN	14	-14	2.07	0.04
BARROW	-7	9	0.31	0.19	LAKE CHARLES	51	-3	1.58	-1.70	OK OKLAHOMA CITY	39	-3	0.41	-1.15
COLD BAY	34	6	1.10	-1.49	NEW ORLEANS	52	-4	2.03	-3.44	TULSA	36	-6	1.57	-0.38
FAIRBANKS	1	5	0.48	0.12	SHREVEPORT	45	-6	4.28	0.07	OR ASTORIA	50	6	6.29	-1.58
JUNEAU	32	3	3.62	-0.40	ME BANGOR	6	-15	2.20	-0.34	BURNS	39	9	0.75	-0.36
KING SALMON	27	11	0.27	-0.45	CARIBOU	3	-10	1.20	-0.86	EUGENE	48	5	4.16	-2.19
KODIAK	36	6	8.79	3.07	PORTLAND	14	-11	2.81	-0.33	MEDFORD	48	4	3.20	1.10
NOME	16	10	0.93	0.18	MD BALTIMORE	25	-10	2.24	-0.78	PENDLETON	44	5	0.83	-0.39
AZ FLAGSTAFF	40	8	2.11	-0.45	MA BOSTON	19	-12	3.37	0.07	PORTLAND	49	6	3.71	-0.47
PHOENIX	66	8	0.01	-0.76	WORCESTER	15	-11	3.28	0.18	SALEM	49	6	4.33	-0.76
TUCSON	62	7	0.41	-0.47	MI ALPENA	7	-12	0.60	-0.75	PA ALLENTOWN	19	-11	1.83	-0.92
AR FORT SMITH	38	-6	2.40	-0.19	DETROIT	14	-13	1.35	-0.53	ERIE	13	-15	2.02	-0.26
LITTLE ROCK	38	-7	3.84	0.51	FLINT	11	-13	0.87	-0.48	MIDDLETOWN	21	-10	1.09	-1.84
CA BAKERSFIELD	59	6	0.90	-0.31	GRAND RAPIDS	13	-12	1.96	0.43	PHILADELPHIA	26	-9	2.35	-0.39
EUREKA	52	3	5.04	-0.47	HOUGHTON LAKE	6	-14	0.62	-0.63	PITTSBURGH	18	-13	1.55	-0.82
FRESNO	57	6	1.13	-0.99	LANSING	11	-13	0.90	-0.55	WILKES-BARRE	17	-12	1.13	-0.95
LOS ANGELES	61	3	0.27	-2.84	MUSKEGON	16	-9	1.57	-0.01	WILLIAMSPORT	18	-11	1.08	-1.53
REDDING	56	7	3.38	-2.11	TRAVERSE CITY	10	-12	1.34	-0.45	PR SAN JUAN	79	2	3.27	0.97
SACRAMENTO	56	5	2.82	-0.72	MN DULUTH	5	-10	0.38	-0.45	RI PROVIDENCE	18	-13	2.73	-0.72
SAN DIEGO	63	4	0.28	-1.76	INT'L FALLS	-2	-13	0.69	0.05	SC CHARLESTON	45	-6	4.40	1.32
SAN FRANCISCO	59	7	2.01	-2.00	MINNEAPOLIS	11	-9	0.35	-0.44	COLUMBIA	43	-5	4.76	0.92
STOCKTON	55	4	1.44	-1.02	ROCHESTER	8	-10	0.65	-0.10	FLORENCE	42	-6	4.50	1.48
CO ALAMOSA	28	6	1.01	0.80	ST. CLOUD	9	-7	0.35	-0.24	GREENVILLE	38	-6	3.46	-0.78
CO SPRINGS	34	2	1.45	1.10	MS JACKSON	44	-5	5.48	0.98	MYRTLE BEACH	43	-6	2.90	-0.60
DENVER	34	3	1.25	1.02	MERIDIAN	43	-7	4.13	-1.22	SD ABERDEEN	12	-7	0.37	-0.11
GRAND JUNCTION	39	5	0.13	-0.37	TUPELO	37	-8	4.92	0.24	HURON	16	-5	0.26	-0.31
PUEBLO	36	1	1.13	0.87	MO COLUMBIA	26	-8	1.41	-0.79	RAPID CITY	28	1	0.25	-0.21
CT BRIDGEPORT	20	-12	2.23	-0.69	JOPLIN	31	-8	0.82	-1.43	SIOUX FALLS	16	-5	0.41	-0.10
HARTFORD	16	-13	2.95	-0.01	KANSAS CITY	25	-8	0.98	-0.33	TN BRISTOL	29	-9	3.05	-0.35
DC WASHINGTON	30	-8	1.68	-0.95	SPRINGFIELD	29	-8	1.79	-0.49	CHATTANOOGA	36	-7	3.50	-1.35
DE WILMINGTON	24	-10	2.16	-0.65	ST JOSEPH	22	-10	1.06	-0.07	JACKSON	33	-10	5.15	0.90
FL DAYTONA BEACH	59	-1	2.88	0.14	ST LOUIS	27	-8	1.74	-0.54	KNOXVILLE	32	-10	3.75	-0.26
FT LAUDERDALE	67	-1	3.95	1.25	MT BILLINGS	34	4	0.21	-0.36	MEMPHIS	36	-9	4.35	0.04
FT MYERS	63	-3	2.62	0.52	BUTTE	30	8	0.13	-0.34	NASHVILLE	33	-8	4.60	0.91
JACKSONVILLE	51	-5	3.32	0.17	GLASGOW	19	0	0.26	0.00	TX ABILENE	46	-3	1.74	0.61
KEY WEST	68	-3	2.20	0.69	GREAT FALLS	31	5	0.38	-0.13	AMARILLO	40	-1	0.47	-0.08
MELBOURNE	61	-1	3.63	1.14	HELENA	34	8	0.38	0.00	AUSTIN	49	-6	0.46	-1.53
MIAMI	68	-1	2.81	0.74	KALISPELL	32	5	1.13	-0.02	BEAUMONT	53	-3	0.99	-2.36
ORLANDO	60	-3	4.58	2.23	MILES CITY	26	1	0.13	-0.21	BROWNSVILLE	61	-2	0.76	-0.42
PENSACOLA	50	-5	3.94	-0.74	MISSOULA	35	6	1.01	0.24	COLLEGE STATION	51	-4	0.75	-1.63
ST PETERSBURG	60	-3	3.54	0.67	NE GRAND ISLAND	24	-4	0.70	0.02	CORPUS CHRISTI	57	-3	1.41	-0.43
TALLAHASSEE	51	-4	4.42	-0.21	HASTINGS	25	-5	0.34	-0.33	DALLAS/FT WORTH	46	-3	2.96	0.59
TAMPA	60	-3	6.55	3.88	LINCOLN	22	-6	0.93	0.27	DEL RIO	54	-2	0.22	-0.74
WEST PALM BEACH	67	0	2.05	-0.50	MCCOOK	33	1	0.50	-0.14	EL PASO	53	2	0.03	-0.36
GA ATHENS	40	-6	3.99	-0.40	NORFOLK	21	-5	0.31	-0.45	GALVESTON	55	-3	0.70	-1.91
ATLANTA	40	-7	4.15	-0.53	NORTH PLATTE	28	-1	0.46	-0.05	HOUSTON	53	-2	0.66	-2.32
AUGUSTA	43	-5	4.69	0.58	OMAHA/EPPLEY	21	-7	0.45	-0.35	LUBBOCK	44	1	0.66	-0.05
COLUMBUS	45	-5	4.31	-0.17	SCOTTSBLUFF	33	3	0.39	-0.19	MIDLAND	47	-2	0.26	-0.32
MACON	44	-5	4.36	-0.19	VALENTINE	26	-1	0.31	-0.17	SAN ANGELO	49	-1	0.27	-0.91
SAVANNAH	47	-6	3.44	0.52	NV ELKO	40	9	0.29	-0.59	SAN ANTONIO	53	-2	0.52	-1.23
HI HILO	74	3	5.29	-3.57	ELY	38	8	0.21	-0.54	VICTORIA	55	-2	0.98	-1.06
HONOLULU	75	2	0.86	-1.49	LAS VEGAS	60	8	0.54	-0.15	WACO	47	-4	1.25	-1.18
KAHULUI	73	1	3.19	0.83	RENO	46	8	1.43	0.37	WICHITA FALLS	42	-4	0.43	-1.14
LIHUE	74	2	0.75	-2.51	WINNEMUCCA	41	5	0.78	0.16	UT SALT LAKE CITY	44	9	0.31	-1.02
ID BOISE	44	7	1.35	0.21	NH CONCORD	12	-11	2.79	0.43	VT BURLINGTON	8	-12	1.09	-0.58
LEWISTON	44	6	1.46	0.51	NJ ATLANTIC CITY	24	-10	2.78	-0.07	VA LYNCHBURG	29	-9	2.52	-0.58
POCATELLO	39	9	0.67	-0.34	NEWARK	22	-12	2.06	-0.90	NORFOLK	33	-9	2.54	-0.80
IL CHICAGO/O'HARE	15	-12	1.45	-0.18	NM ALBUQUERQUE	44	3	0.61	0.17	RICHMOND	31	-9	3.77	0.79
MOLINE	15	-12	1.38	-0.13	NY ALBANY	12	-13	2.15	-0.02	ROANOKE	30	-9	2.61	-0.47
PEORIA	19	-9	1.50	-0.17	BINGHAMTON	12	-12	2.01	-0.45	WASH/DULLES	25	-10	1.76	-1.01
ROCKFORD	12	-13	0.85	-0.49	BUFFALO	11	-15	2.40	-0.02	WA OLYMPIA	46	6	5.28	-0.89
SPRINGFIELD	21	-10	1.88	0.08	ROCHESTER	12	-13	2.51	0.47	QUILLAYUTE	49	7	8.30	-4.05
IN EVANSVILLE	27	-9	2.56	-0.54	SYRACUSE	9	-15	2.50	0.38	SEATTLE-TACOMA	49	6	5.27	1.09
FORT WAYNE	15	-12	1.54	-0.40	NC ASHEVILLE	33	-6	2.78	-1.05	SPOKANE	39	6	1.04	-0.47
INDIANAPOLIS	20	-11	1.34	-1.07	CHARLOTTE	37	-8	3.02	-0.53	YAKIMA	44	9	0.99	0.19
SOUTH BEND	16	-11	1.98	0.00	GREENSBORO	34	-7	2.64	-0.46	WV BECKLEY	23	-11	4.42	1.46
IA BURLINGTON	***	***	0.88	-0.66	HATTERAS	38	-9	7.34	3.40	CHARLESTON	26	-11	2.97	-0.22
CEDAR RAPIDS	12	-13	0.48	-0.62	RALEIGH	35	-8	2.91	-0.56	ELKINS	20	-12	2.70	-0.50
DES MOINES	18	-9	0.67	-0.52	WILMINGTON	41	-8	4.34	0.68	HUNTINGTON	25	-12	3.27	0.18
DUBUQUE	11	-12	1.36	-0.06	ND BISMARCK	12	-6	0.39	-0.12	WI EAU CLAIRE	8	-11	0.22	-0.58
SIOUX CITY	19	-6	0.42	-0.20	DICKINSON	18	-3	0.15	-0.28	GREEN BAY	10	-10	0.41	-0.60
WATERLOO	11	-12	1.04	-0.01	FARGO	8	-6	0.57	-0.02	LA CROSSE	11	-12	0.54	-0.45
KS CONCORDIA	28	-4	0.35	-0.38	GRAND FORKS	4	-9	0.40	-0.18	MADISON	11	-12	0.54	-0.74
DODGE CITY	34	-2	0.64	-0.02	JAMESTOWN	7	-9	0.15	-0.37	MILWAUKEE	14	-11	0.81	-0.84
GOODLAND	33	1	0.80	0.36	MINOT	8	-9	0.64	0.11	WAUSAU	7	-12	0.17	-0.73
HILL CITY	32	0	0.49	-0.11	WILLISTON	12	-5	0.46	0.07	WY CASPER	30	3	0.79	0.15
TOPEKA	27	-6	0.87	-0.31	OH AKRON-CANTON	15	-13	1.99	-0.29	CHEYENNE	32	3	0.72	0.28
WICHITA	32	-4	0.54	-0.48	CINCINNATI	23	-11	1.80	-0.95	LANDER	29	3	1.56	1.02
KY JACKSON	27	-11	4.06	0.38	CLEVELAND	14	-14	1.86	-0.43	SHERIDAN	30	3	1.28	0.71

Based on 1971-2000 normals

***** Not Available**

National Agricultural Summary

March 2 – 8, 2015

Weekly National Agricultural Summary provided by USDA/NASS

HIGHLIGHTS

A major swath of the nation, stretching from the southern Great Plains, the middle Mississippi Valley, the Ohio River Valley, and northward into New England, recorded weekly temperatures on average more than 9°F below normal. Temperatures were more than 15°F below normal in parts of Illinois. Exceptions to this trend occurred along the Pacific Coast and across the lower Southeast. Central Florida recorded temperatures more than 9°F above normal. Precipitation levels were generally light across most of the nation. However, some areas from Texas to West Virginia were hit by a winter storm late in the week that resulted in more than 3 inches of precipitation. Kentucky was among the hardest-hit areas, with Hardin County receiving up to 25 inches of snow on Wednesday and Thursday.

In **Arizona**, alfalfa conditions were fair to excellent, depending on location. Harvesting occurred on two-thirds of the alfalfa acreage across the state. Sheep continued to graze on various alfalfa fields in many areas. Barley conditions were mostly fair and Durum Wheat conditions were mostly good to fair. Recent precipitation (rain and snow) has maintained soil moisture levels around the state. Rangeland conditions varied widely from very poor to good, depending on location. Central Arizona growers shipped Bok Choy, broccoli, Chinese cabbage, red and green cabbage, cilantro, kale greens, lemons, and parsley. Western Arizona growers shipped anise, arugula, Bok Choy, broccoli, Chinese cabbage, red and green cabbage, cauliflower, celery, cilantro, endive, escarole, kale greens, lettuce, parsley, and spinach.

Wheat, oats, and other winter forage crops continued to grow well in **California**, especially with recent rain. Alfalfa fields were cultivated and planted. Ground was prepared for planting and beds were shaped in some fields, while others remained fallow awaiting warmer weather for planting. Alfalfa fields were irrigated and treated for pests. Alfalfa seed fields re-grew, following a short dormancy period. Established alfalfa was making good progress. Field preparations were underway for spring planting of corn and cotton. Growers prepared ground for the upcoming cotton season by tilling soil, making furrows, and repairing drip tape. The wheat crop was rated as 80 percent good to excellent. Pasture and rangeland condition was 55 percent fair to good. Vineyards located in warmer areas began to show some leafing out; bud swell was seen in some areas of the state. Valencia oranges were packed. Some early citrus varieties were beginning to bloom. Overall Navel orange quality has been very good this season. Orange trees were topped in advance of the bloom. Seedless Mandarins and Murcotts were covered with netting to prevent cross pollination. Olive trees were pruned. Soil fumigations were ongoing for new orchard plantings of almonds and pistachios. Pistachio buds were starting to push. Almond bloom continued; trees were leafing out. Spider mites continued to be reported on almond trees in the lower San Joaquin Valley. Carrot planting continued. Dehydrator onions and garlic were irrigated and fertilized. Mazuma mustard was in full bloom. Spinach and broccoli fields were progressing well. Onions continued to grow well with the recent rains. Local and out-of-state bees were placed around stone fruit and almond orchards for pollination. Sheep were moved into alfalfa fields and grazed on retired farmland areas. Rangeland responded well after recent rains. Mild weather conditions were favorable for dairy production.

Seasonal land preparation continued in northern **Florida** and the panhandle. Cold weather in northern Florida delayed the growth of grass in pastures. In southwestern Florida, livestock producers continued feeding supplements due to poor pasture quality. Ranchers were fertilizing pastures to revitalize them. Statewide, the cattle condition was mostly good, while the winter forage and pasture condition was poor to good. Most citrus processing plants have finished with early and midseason oranges and were running grapefruit or transitioning to late-orange harvesting. Valencia harvest was lagging last season, partially due to low maturity levels. Honey tangerines and colored grapefruit were still the primary varieties being harvested for fresh market. A small amount of white grapefruit, midseason oranges, Temples, and Valencia oranges were going fresh. Most grove owners were finishing robust fertilization programs and were irrigating two to three times a week; some were hedging and topping after harvest, applying herbicide, and removing brush. Citrus trees of all varieties were in full bloom or have begun dropping unpollinated flowers.

In **Oklahoma**, canola conditions were rated 66 percent fair to poor, with 23 percent rated good and 11 percent rated very poor. Jointing of winter wheat reached 3 percent by week's end, 13 percentage points behind the 5-year average. Sixty-eight percent of oats were planted by March 8, three percentage points behind the 5-year average. Seedbed preparation for row crops was delayed in some areas due to both drought and weather conditions. Pasture and range conditions were mostly fair to good. Livestock conditions were mostly good to fair. The snow and sub-freezing temperatures have depleted hay supplies in some areas, while stock ponds were getting lower. Many operators were still providing hay and supplemental feed for livestock.

Winter wheat made progress due to increased moisture throughout **Texas**, with conditions rated fair to good. Producers in South Central, the Upper Coast, and the southern parts of the state began planting corn. Sorghum planting was active in parts of the Coastal Bend and the Lower Valley. Field preparations for cotton and sorghum continued in portions of the High Plains and Trans-Pecos. Vegetables continued to make favorable progress in the southern part of the State and the Lower Valley. Livestock began experiencing stress due to wet, cool conditions in parts of East Texas. Supplemental feeding remained active. Range and pasture progressed throughout the state; however, continued cold weather resulted in deteriorating conditions in portions of the Blacklands and the South East.

March 5 ENSO Update

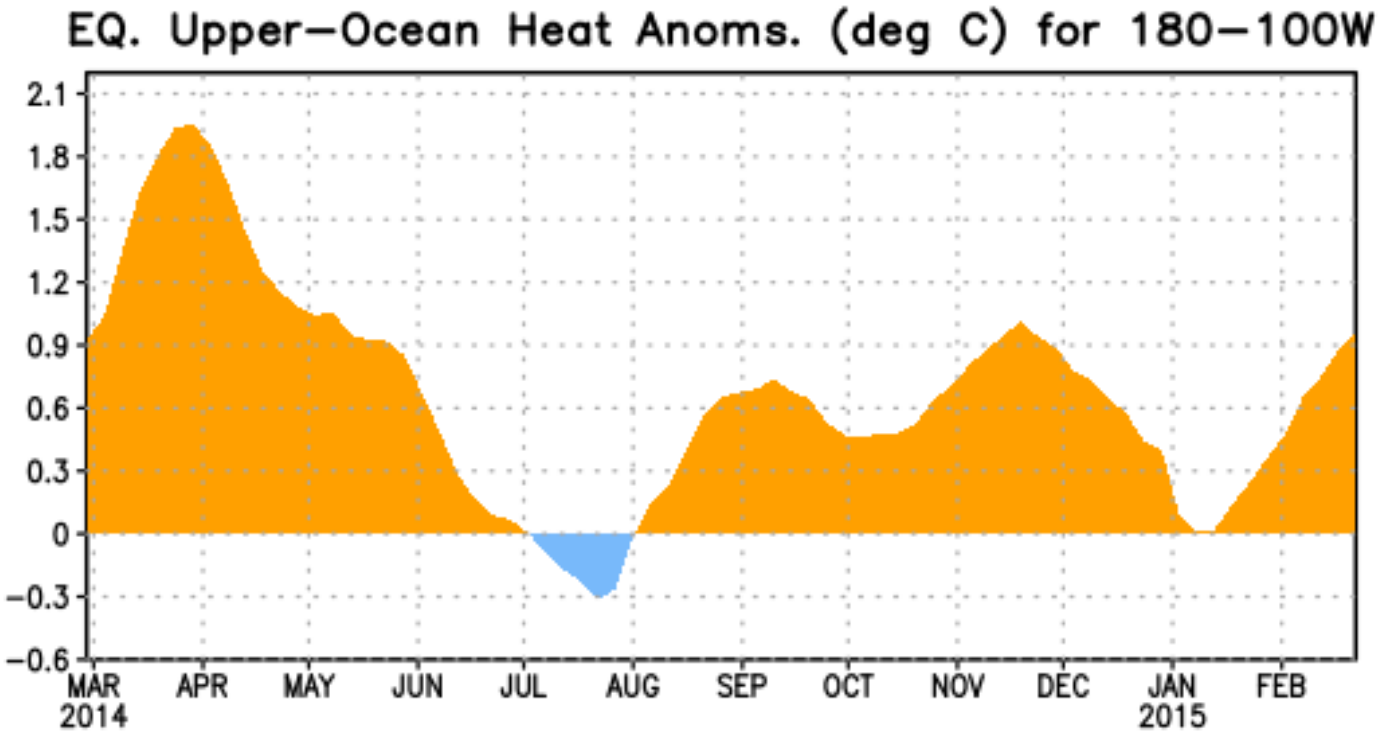


Figure 1: Area-averaged upper-ocean heat content anomaly (°C) in the equatorial Pacific (5°N-5°S, 180º-100ºW). The heat content anomaly is computed as the departure from the 1981-2010 base period pentad means.

ENSO Alert System Status: El Niño Advisory

Synopsis: There is an approximately 50-60% chance that El Niño conditions will continue through Northern Hemisphere summer 2015.

During February 2015, El Niño conditions were observed as the above-average sea surface temperatures (SST) across the western and central equatorial Pacific became weakly coupled to the tropical atmosphere. The latest weekly Niño indices were +0.6°C in the Niño-3.4 region and +1.2°C in the Niño-4 region, and near zero in the Niño-3 and Niño-1+2 regions. Subsurface temperature anomalies increased (Fig. 1) associated with a downwelling oceanic Kelvin wave, which was reflected in positive subsurface anomalies across most of the Pacific. Consistent with weak coupling, the frequency and strength of low-level westerly wind anomalies increased over the equatorial Pacific during the last month and a half. At upper-levels, anomalous easterly winds persisted across the east-central Pacific. Also, the equatorial Southern Oscillation Index (EQSOI) remained negative for two consecutive months. Convection was enhanced over the western equatorial Pacific and near average around the Date Line. Overall, these features are consistent with borderline, weak El Niño conditions.

Compared to last month, several more models indicate El Niño (3-month values of the Niño-3.4 index equal to or greater than 0.5°C) will continue throughout 2015. This is supported by the recent increase in subsurface temperatures and near-term model predictions of the continuation of low-level westerly wind anomalies across parts of the equatorial Pacific. However, model forecast skill tends to be lower during the Northern Hemisphere spring, which contributes to progressively lower probabilities of El Niño through the year. In summary, there is an approximately 50-60% chance that El Niño conditions will continue through Northern Hemisphere summer 2015 (click CPC/IRI consensus forecast for the chance of each outcome).

Due to the expected weak strength, widespread or significant global impacts are not anticipated. However, certain impacts often associated with El Niño may appear in some locations during the Northern Hemisphere spring 2015.

This discussion is a consolidated effort of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), NOAA's National Weather Service, and their funded institutions. Oceanic and atmospheric conditions are updated weekly on the Climate Prediction Center web site (El Niño/La Niña Current Conditions and Expert Discussions). Forecasts are also updated monthly in the Forecast Forum of CPC's Climate Diagnostics Bulletin. Additional perspectives and analysis are also available in an ENSO blog. The next ENSO Diagnostics Discussion is scheduled for 9 April 2015. To receive an e-mail notification when the monthly ENSO Diagnostic Discussions are released, please send an e-mail message to: ncep.list.enso-update@noaa.gov.

International Weather and Crop Summary

March 1-7, 2015

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

HIGHLIGHTS

EUROPE: Unsettled, mild conditions maintained favorable prospects for overwintering wheat and rapeseed.

WESTERN FSU: Warm, mostly showery weather continued to erode the region's protective snow cover but improved moisture reserves for winter crop development.

MIDDLE EAST: Unseasonable warmth encouraged northern winter wheat to break dormancy, while showers sustained excellent soil moisture for crop development.

NORTHWESTERN AFRICA: Lingering showers further benefited vegetative winter grains from Algeria into Tunisia.

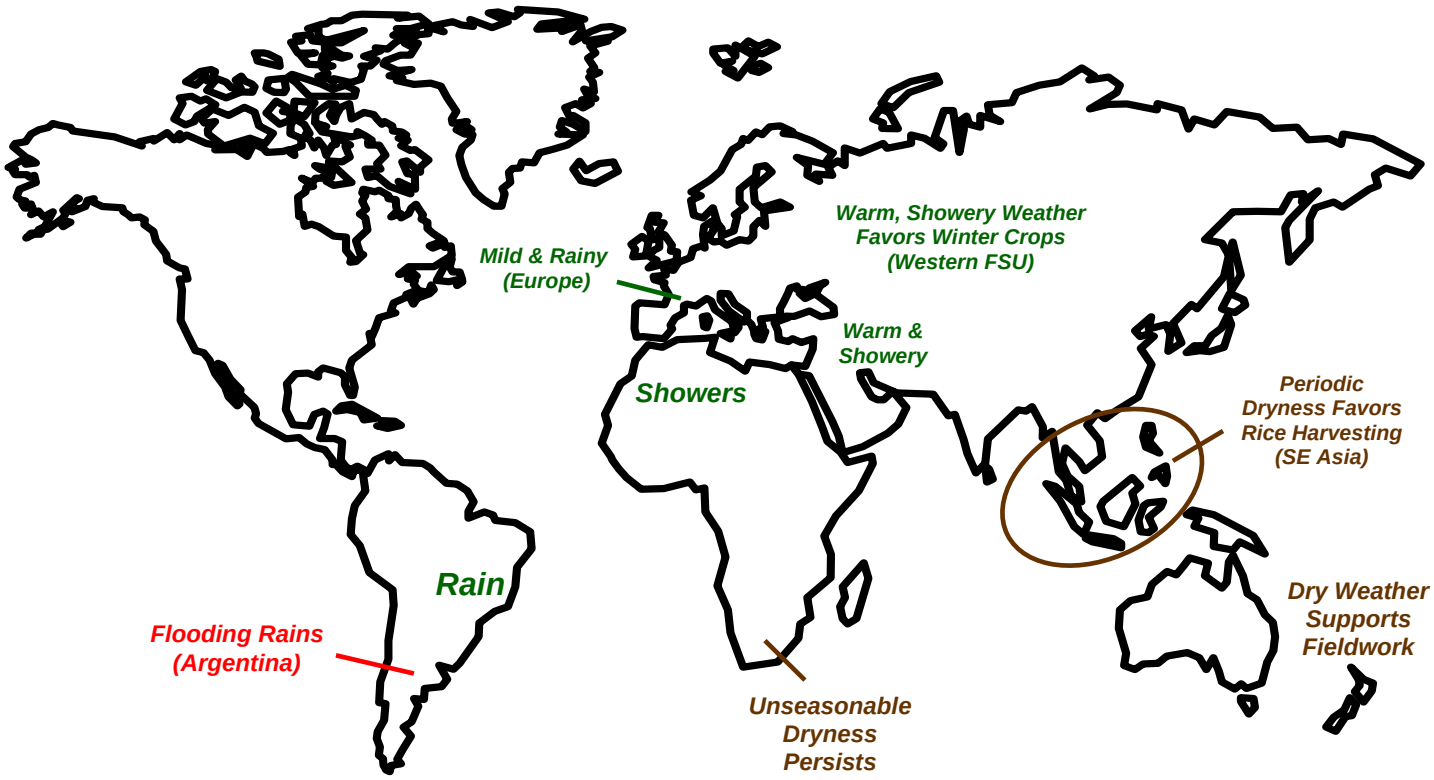
SOUTHEAST ASIA: Rice harvesting, which was underway across the region, benefited from extended periods of dry weather.

AUSTRALIA: Mostly dry weather favored early summer crop maturation and harvesting.

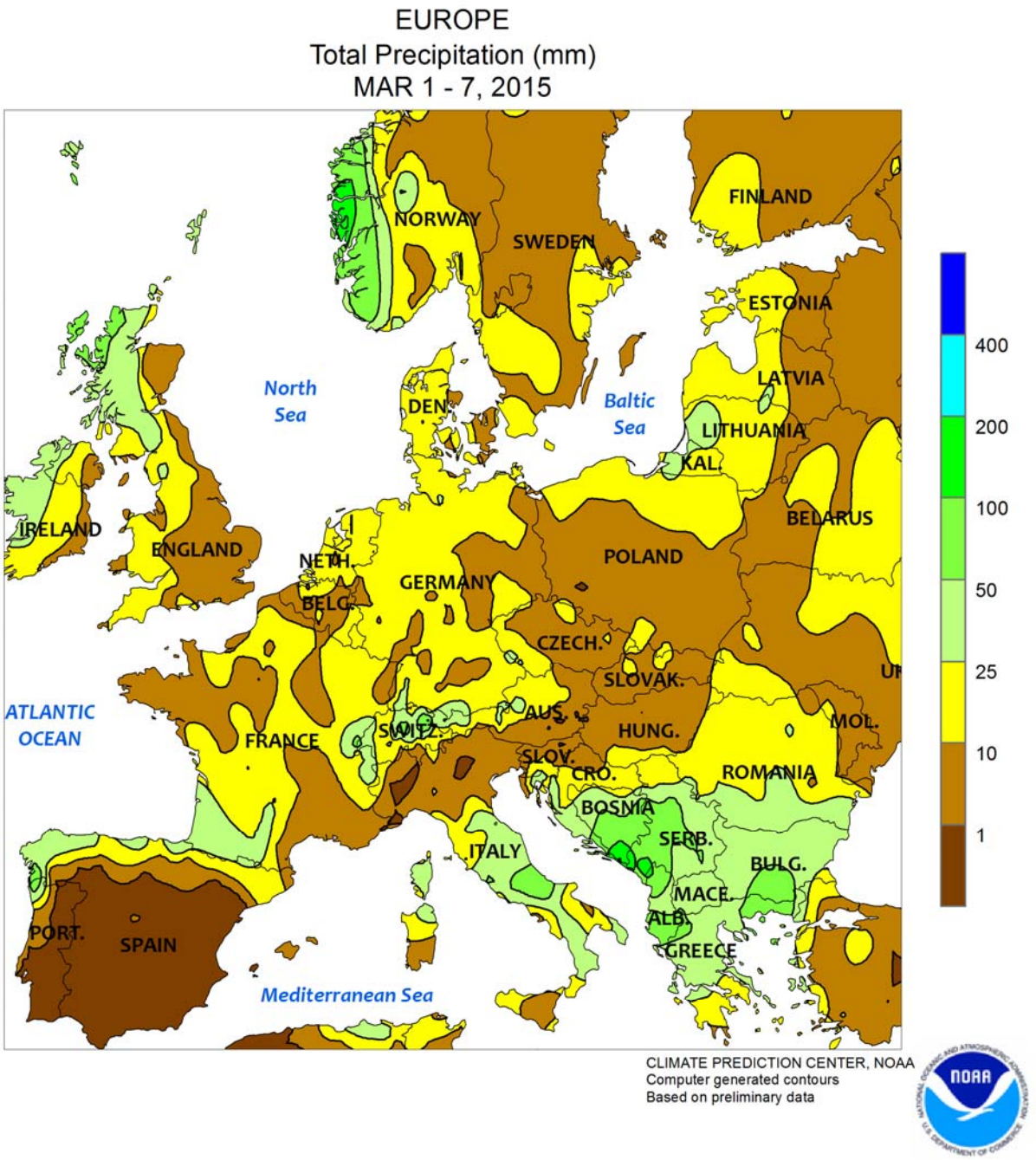
SOUTH AFRICA: Unseasonable dryness persisted over much of the corn belt, further reducing moisture for rain-fed summer crops.

ARGENTINA: Flooding rains raised concern for potential damage to summer crops in central production areas.

BRAZIL: Scattered, locally heavy showers maintained overall favorable conditions for second-crop corn and immature soybeans.



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



EUROPE

Mild, unsettled weather across the continent sustained favorable conditions for dormant (north) to reproductive (south) winter crops. A series of fast-moving disturbances generated occasional showers (5-40 mm) over most primary wheat and rapeseed areas of England, France, Germany, and Poland, maintaining favorable moisture reserves for spring growth. However, breaks in the rainfall as well as temperatures up to 3°C above normal encouraged the planting of small grains and sugarbeets. The warmth also encouraged greening of winter grains and oilseeds in France, northern Germany, and the United Kingdom. Meanwhile, a developing Mediterranean storm generated moderate to heavy rainfall (10-100 mm) from central and southern Italy into the southern Balkans and Greece, further boosting moisture supplies for winter grains but hampering citrus harvesting and other seasonal fieldwork. The rain mostly bypassed northern Italy, however, where corn planting likely proceeded at a rapid pace. In Spain, sunny skies and above-normal temperatures (1-3°C above normal) accelerated wheat into the heading stage of development.

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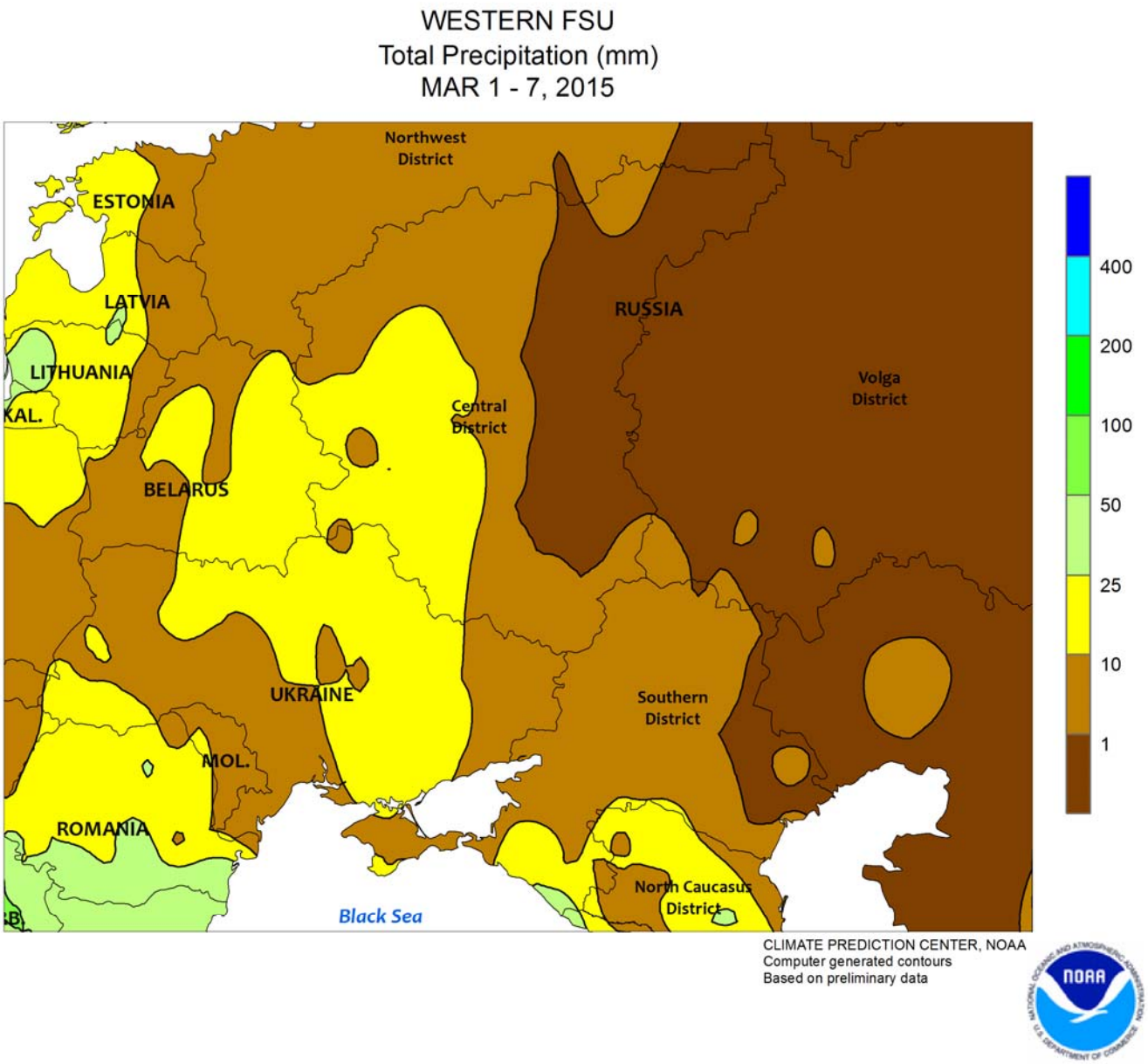

WESTERN FSU

Unseasonably warm weather prevailed across the region, with rain falling in western and southern growing areas. Temperatures for the week averaged 3 to 6°C above normal over most major winter wheat areas of Russia and Ukraine, further eroding the region's snowpack (now confined to the Central and Volga Districts in Russia) and encouraging early greening of winter wheat in southern parts of Russia and Ukraine. In addition, light to moderate rain (2-20 mm) accompanied the warmth over western and southern portions of the region, maintaining favorable moisture reserves for spring growth. However, the Southern District (in particular, the Rostov Oblast) remained unfavorably dry (less than 50 percent of normal over the past 30 days), and rain will be needed over the upcoming weeks to ensure adequate soil moisture for spring growth.

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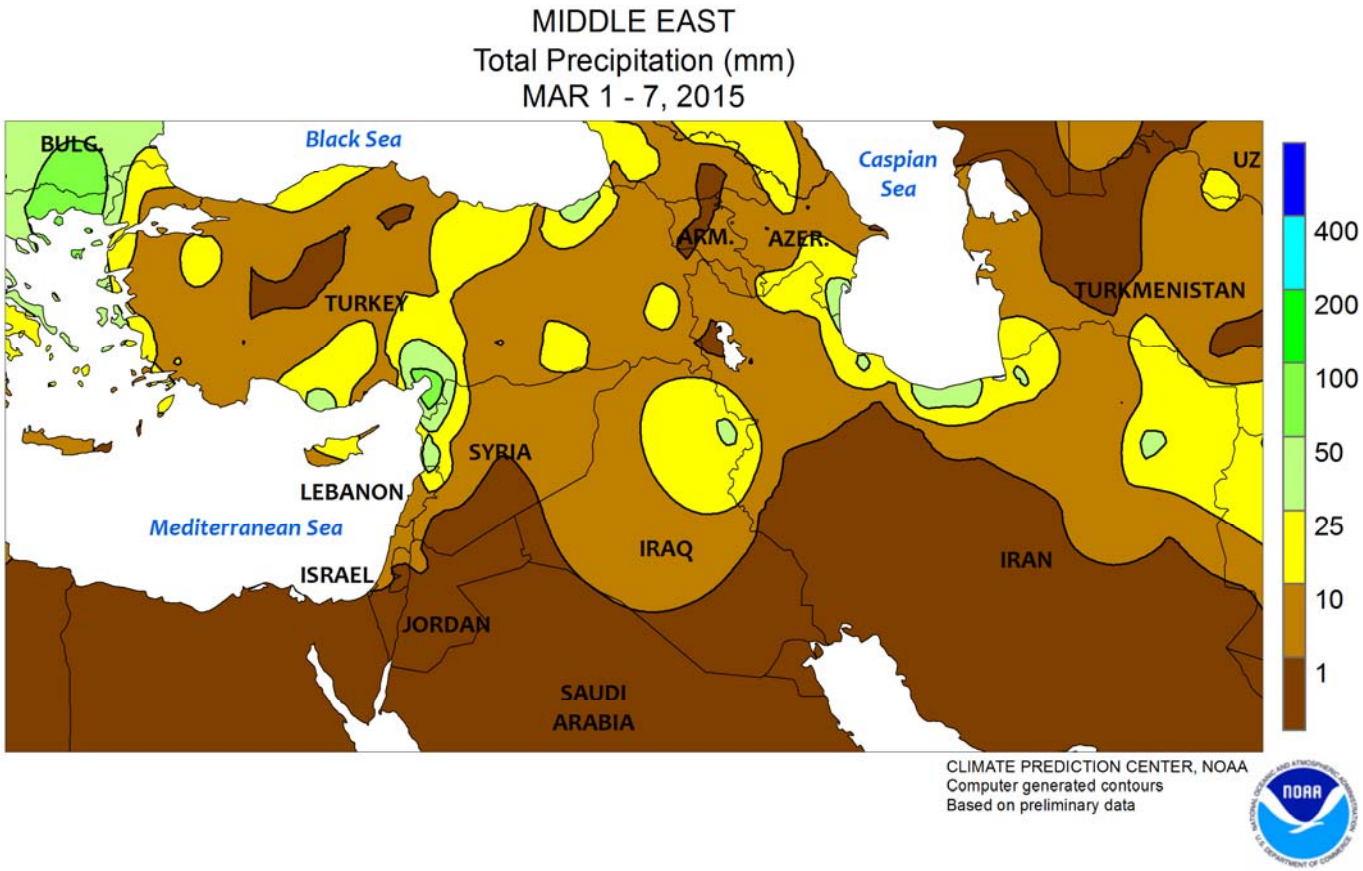

MIDDLE EAST

Warm, unsettled weather across much of the Middle East sustained good to excellent prospects for winter grains. In Turkey, unseasonable warmth (3-6°C above normal) ushered winter grains on the Anatolian Plateau out of dormancy up to a month earlier than normal, while winter wheat continued to develop at a more rapid-than-normal pace in southern and western portions of the country. Despite the lack of a snowpack and the ensuing snow melt, winter wheat in Turkey remained abundantly watered due to season-to-date precipitation surpluses as well as another round of scattered, variable showers (1-50 mm). The rain only caused localized delays in Turkish cotton planting, which typically begins in March. Light to moderate showers (1-30 mm) also fell from the eastern Mediterranean Coast into northern portions of Iraq and Iran, maintaining adequate to abundant soil moisture for vegetative (north) to heading (south) winter grains. However, winter crops in the coldest portions of northwestern Iran remained dormant, though temperatures averaging 2 to 4°C above normal likely caused crops to begin easing out of dormancy by week's end.

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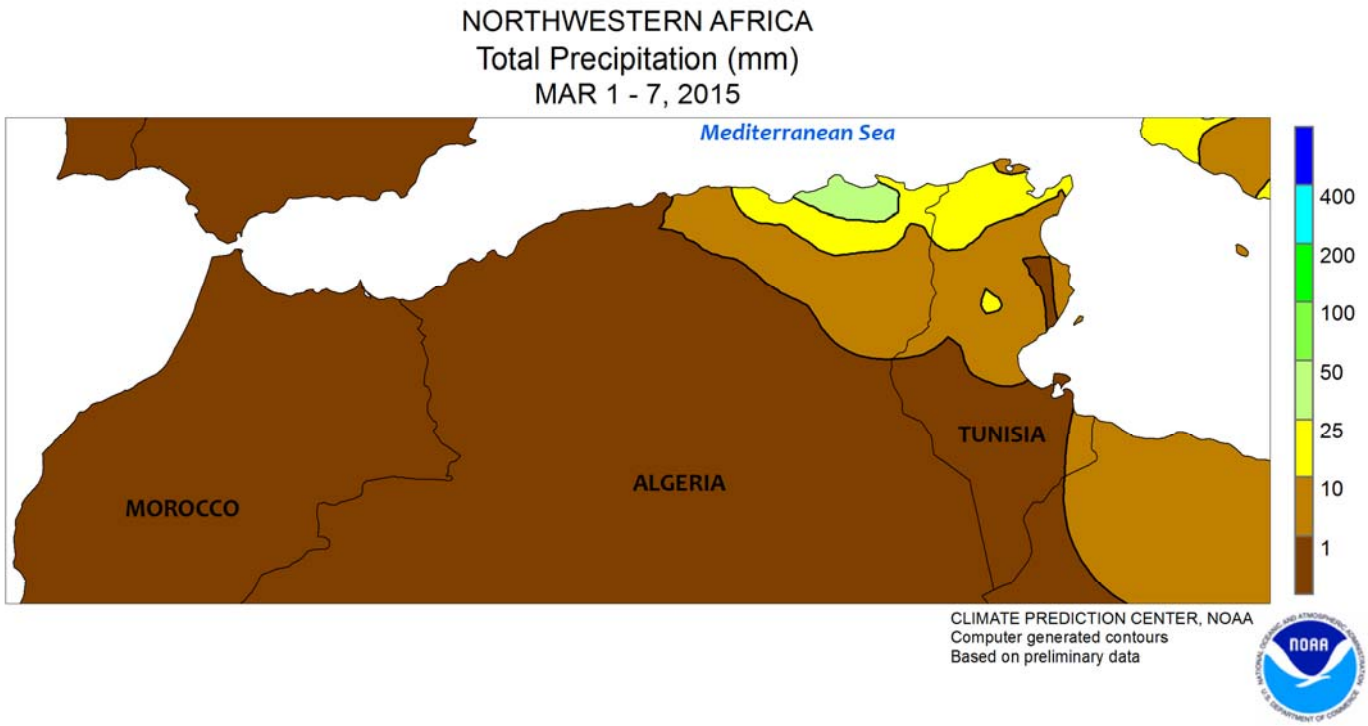

NORTHWESTERN AFRICA

Lingering showers further benefited vegetative winter grains over eastern growing areas, while sunny skies accelerated crop development in the west. In Morocco, clear skies and above-normal temperatures (2-5°C above normal) accelerated winter wheat into the heading stage of development, though soil moisture remained adequate to locally abundant for crop development in the north. However, southern portions of the country have received little rainfall since mid-January, and showers over the upcoming weeks would ensure the current excellent yield prospects are met over all of Morocco. Farther east, a departing storm system produced additional showers (5-30 mm) over northeastern Algeria and northern Tunisia, further improving prospects for vegetative winter grains following autumn dryness.

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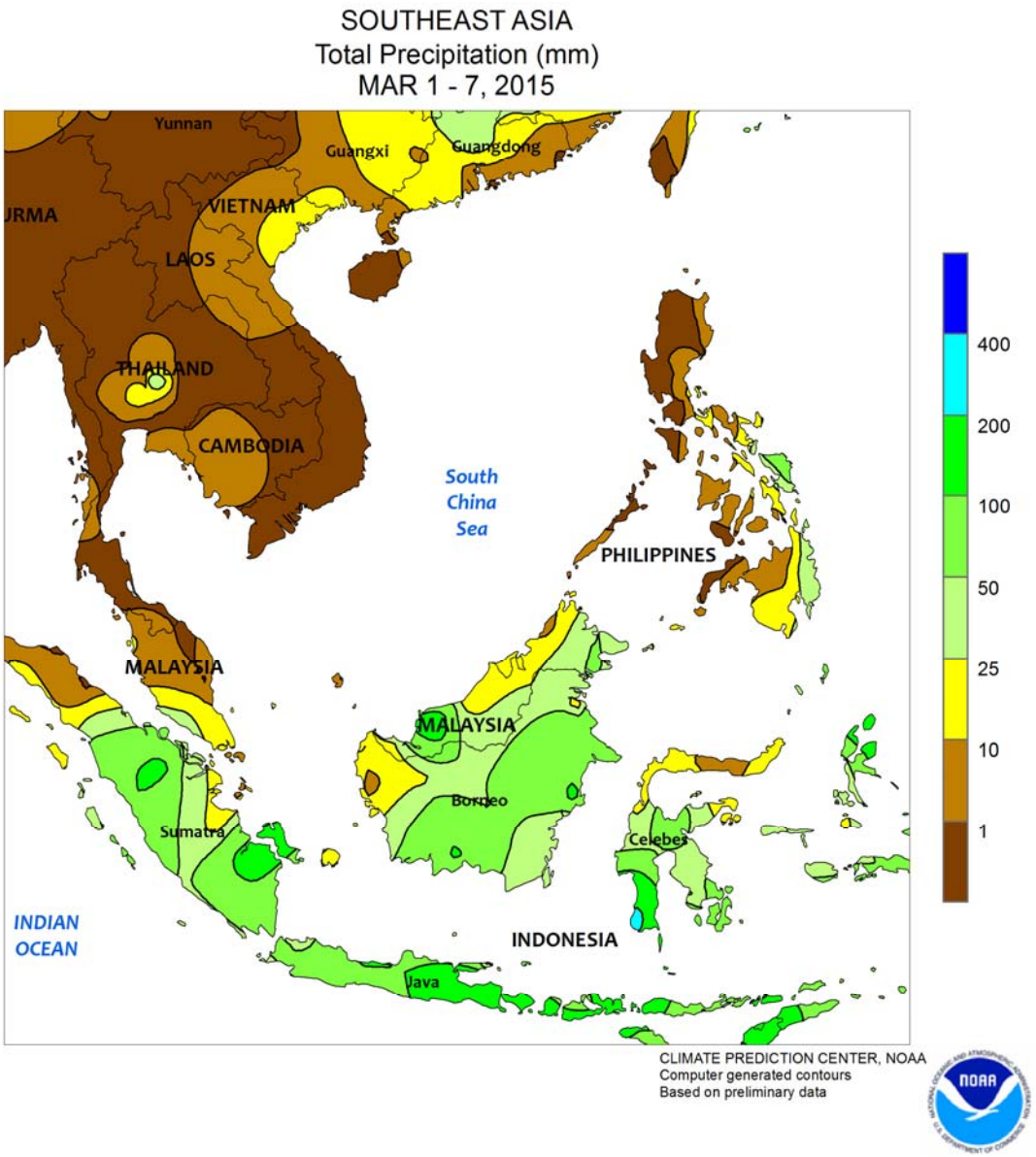

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Showers continued throughout Java, Indonesia, maintaining adequate moisture for rice in various stages of development. Western growing areas averaged nearly 100 mm for the week, while central and eastern areas averaged 70 and 125 mm, respectively. Some harvesting of the earliest transplanted rice was likely underway and benefited from periods of drier weather during the week. Typically, the rainy season concludes in March across the eastern and central portions of Java and continues into April for western growing areas. Meanwhile, periods of showers brought 50 to 100 mm of rain to oil palm areas of Indonesia and Malaysia, as some intermixed drier weather aided harvesting. In the Philippines, significantly drier weather overspread much of the country, with most areas reporting less than 25 mm of rain for the week. The drier conditions aided corn and rice harvesting as much of the winter crop matures. Across Indochina, dry-season rice harvesting was benefited by warm, dry weather, while showers (10-20 mm) in northern Vietnam benefited rice in early to middle stages of development.

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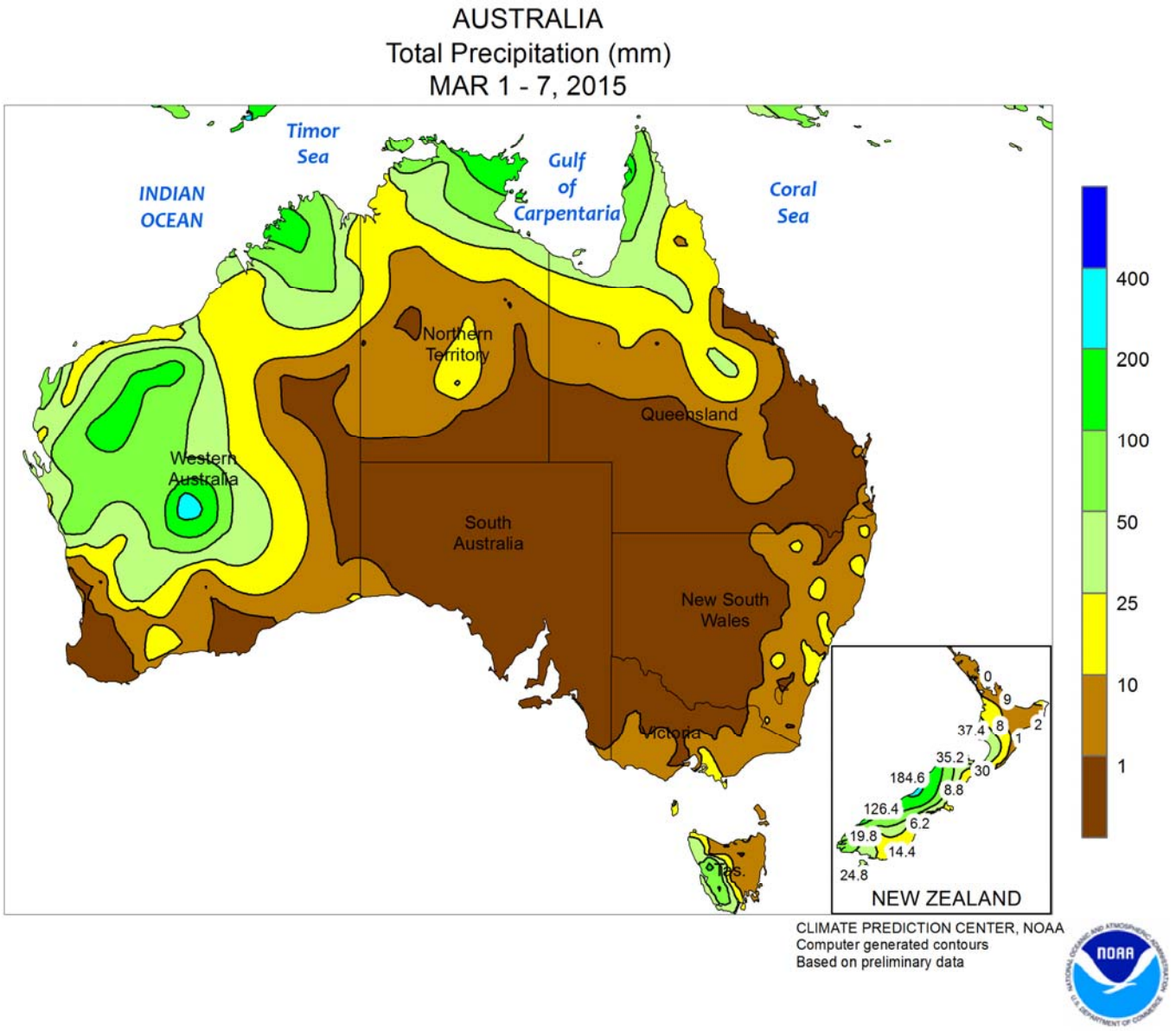

AUSTRALIA

In southern Queensland and northern New South Wales, widely scattered showers (2-10 mm, locally near 25 mm) helped maintain local moisture supplies for immature summer crops. Many summer crops are approaching maturation, however, with cotton and sorghum harvesting beginning in some areas. Very warm, dry weather during the remainder of the week promoted summer crop drydown and harvesting and helped maintain crop quality. Temperatures continued to average somewhat above normal (1-2°C), with maximum temperatures generally in the 30s degrees C.

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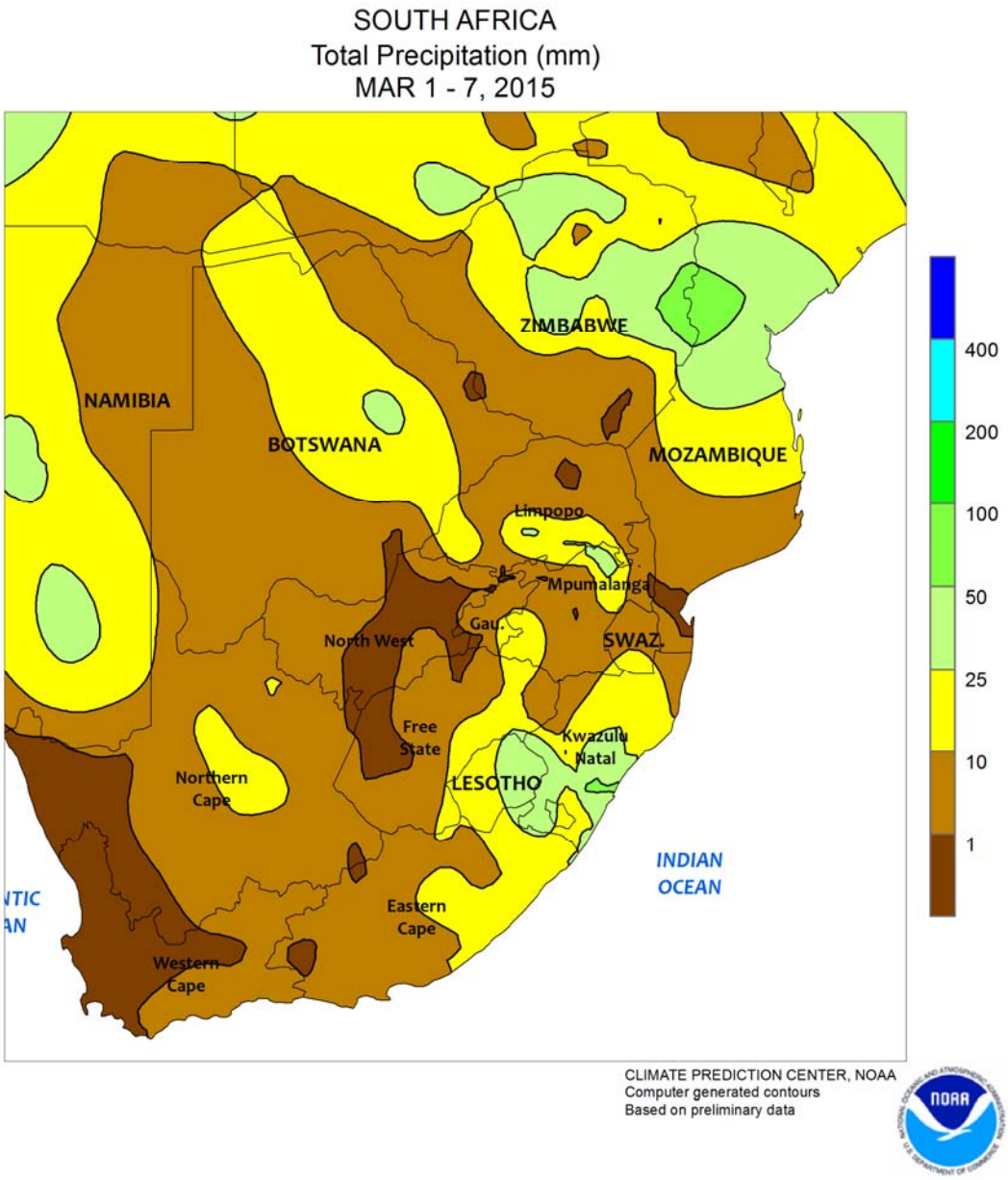

SOUTH AFRICA

Drier-than-normal weather continued to dominate much of the corn belt, sustaining unseasonably low levels of moisture for normal development of rain-fed summer crops. Most locations recorded less than 10 mm, including key western production areas in North West and Free State that received stabilizing rainfall last week. Although near- to below-normal weekly temperatures lowered crop moisture demands, daytime highs occasionally reached the lower and middle 30s (degrees C) in northern and western production areas. Locally heavy showers (25-50 mm) benefited rain-fed sugarcane in KwaZulu-Natal's southern production areas, where seasonable temperatures (highs in the upper 20s and lower 30s) fostered late-season crop growth. Warm, mostly dry weather promoted development of irrigated sugarcane in northern KwaZulu-Natal and eastern Mpumalanga. Similarly, the warmth spurred growth of summer row crops — notably corn and cotton — in the farming areas of the Orange River Valley farming areas of Free State and Northern Cape; warm, sunny weather promoted late development and harvesting of fruit in Western Cape.

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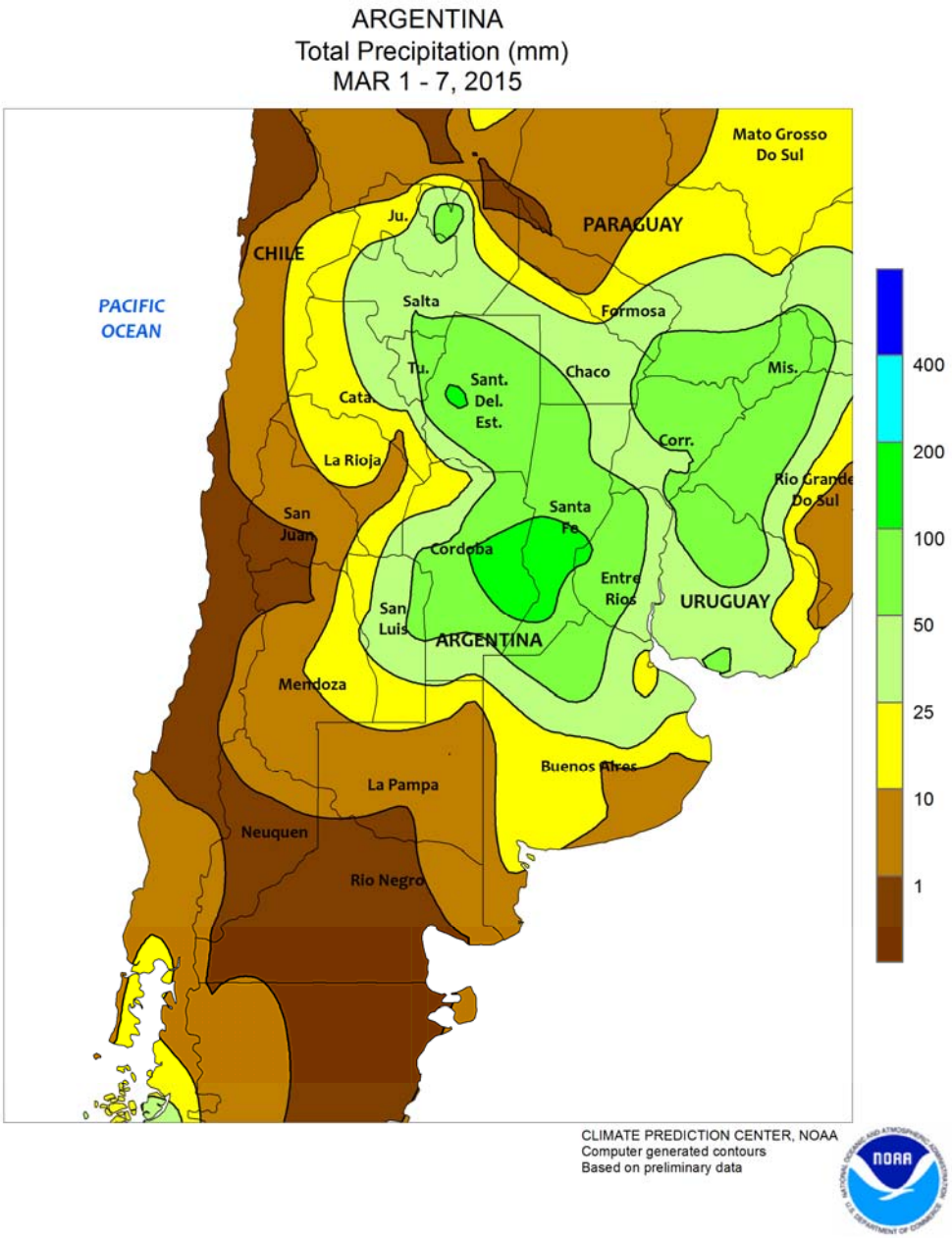

ARGENTINA

Unseasonable wetness persisted in sections of central Argentina, raising concern for potential damage to summer grains and oilseeds in the affected area. The heaviest rainfall (greater than 100 mm) was concentrated over eastern Cordoba and neighboring locations in Santa Fe, with a broader area of more than 25 mm extending from northern Argentina southward to Buenos Aires. The rain came during the first half of the week, however, and drier conditions helped to alleviate floodwaters during the latter half of the week. In northern Buenos Aires, as well as in nearby locations in Entre Rios and Santa Fe, the rainfall boosted moisture for immature corn and soybeans in key production areas of the lower Parana River Valley after a protracted drying trend. An exception to the general pattern of wetness was in the south (La Pampa and Buenos Aires), which recorded timely rainfall last week. Weekly temperatures in these dry southern areas averaged 3 to 4°C above normal (daytime highs reaching the lower and middle 30s degrees C on several days). Elsewhere, weekly average temperatures were 1 to 3°C above normal, fostering rapid development of summer grains, oilseeds, and cotton. According to Argentina's Ministry of Agriculture, sunflowers were 31 percent harvested as of March 5, 8 points behind last year.

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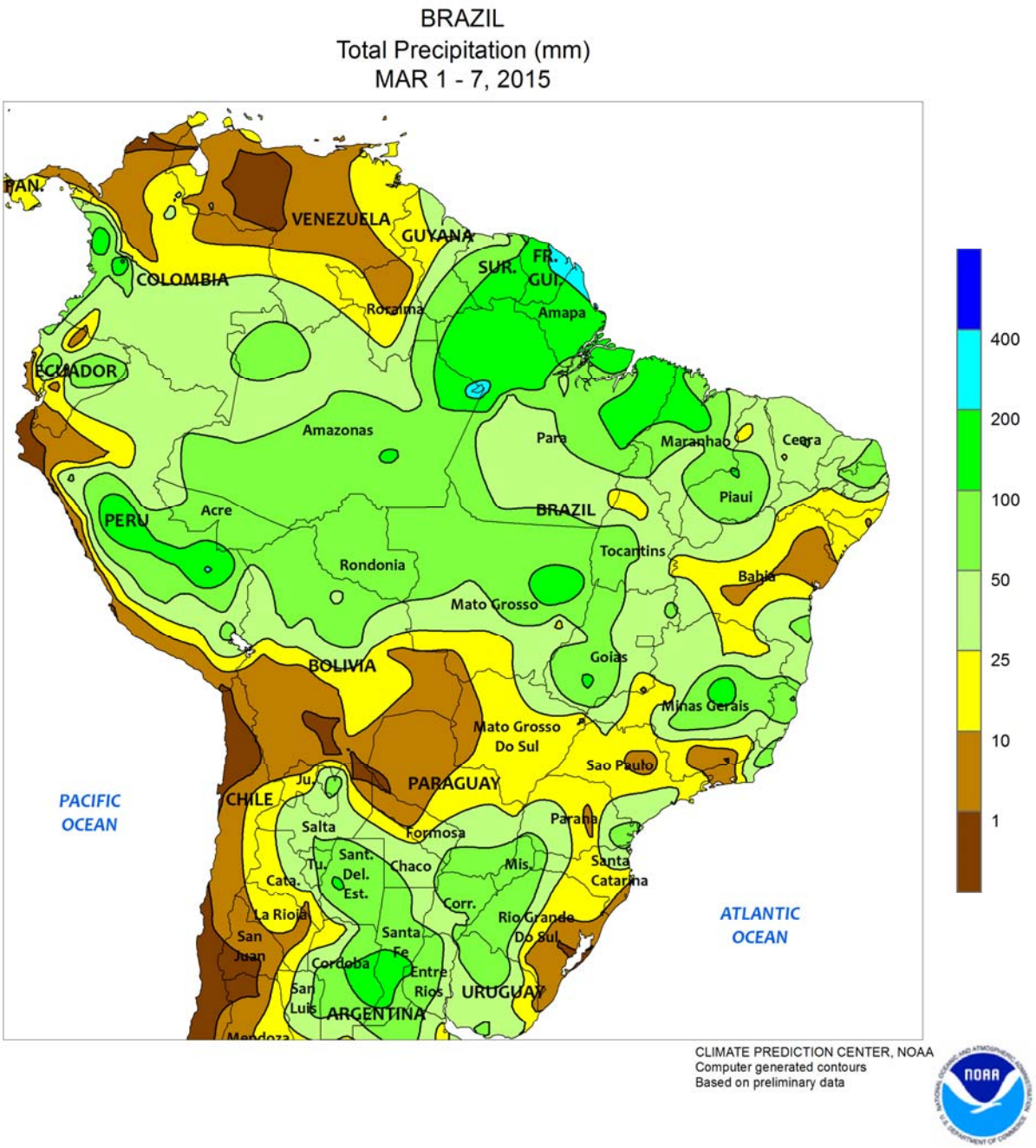

BRAZIL

Warm, showery weather maintained generally favorable conditions for immature soybeans and second-crop corn. Light to moderate rain (25-100 mm) fell over much of the Center-West Region (Mato Grosso, Goias, and Mato Grosso do Sul) and in sections of the northeastern interior (Tocantins, western Bahia, Piaui, and Maranhao) with few exceptions. The moisture was particularly beneficial for immature row crops — including cotton — in the vicinity of southwestern Bahia, which was mostly dry last week. Near- to above-normal temperatures (daytime highs reaching the lower and middle 30s degrees C) maintained high moisture demands for second-crop corn and cotton in the aforementioned areas. Farther south, scattered, locally heavy showers (10-50 mm) provided a late-season boost in moisture to immature soybeans in Rio Grande do Sul and other locations with a late planting schedule. According to the government of Rio Grande do Sul, soybeans were 80 percent in the filling stage as of March 5. Meanwhile, showers were patchy and light for a second week over sections of Sao Paulo and Minas Gerais, reducing moisture for sugarcane and coffee. Average temperatures were near to above normal (daytime highs reaching the lower 30s) in Brazil's southern agricultural areas, maintaining high rates of crop growth and — in some of the drier locations — evaporative losses.

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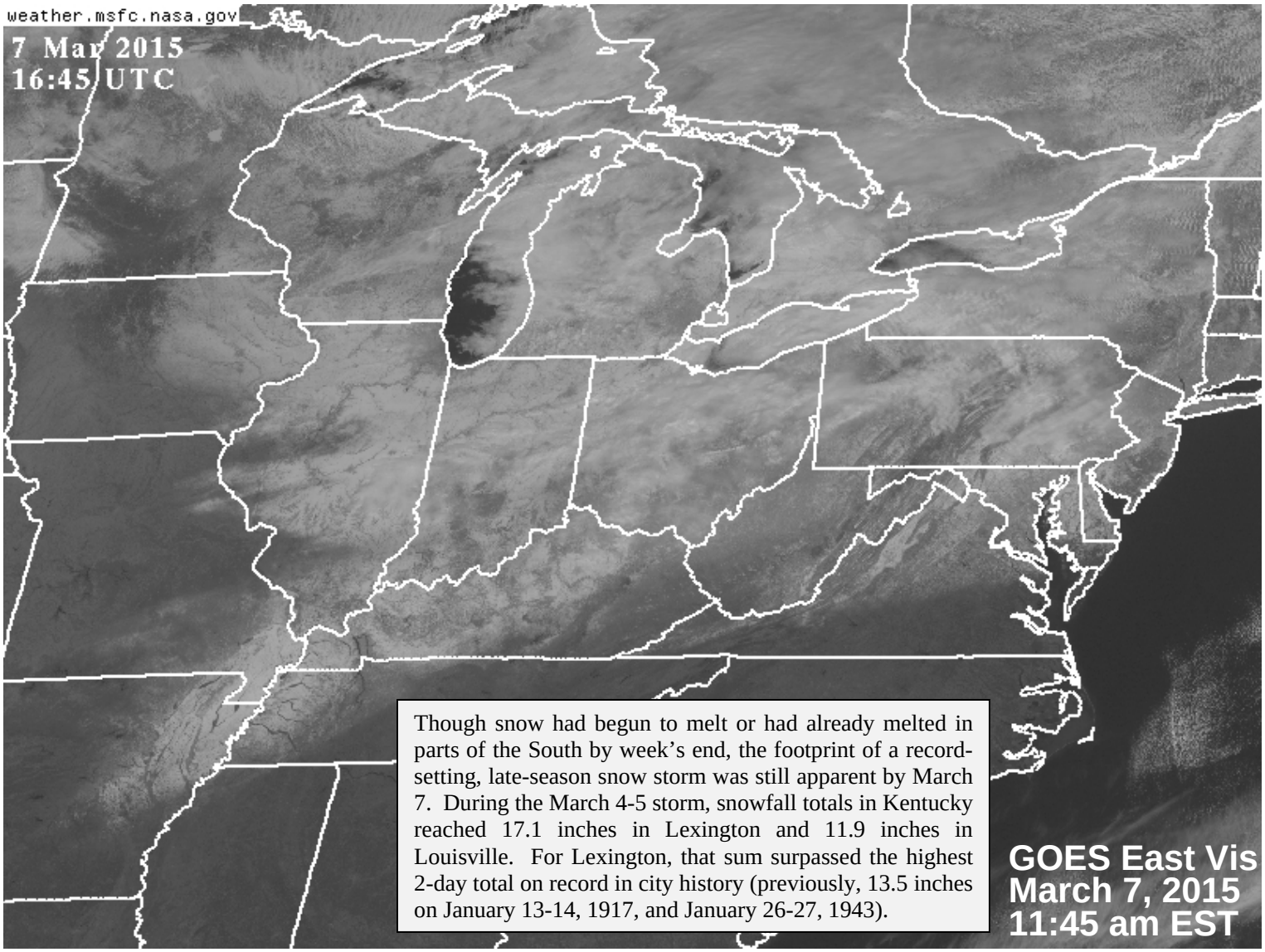

Though snow had begun to melt or had already melted in parts of the South by week's end, the footprint of a record-setting, late-season snow storm was still apparent by March 7. During the March 4-5 storm, snowfall totals in Kentucky reached 17.1 inches in Lexington and 11.9 inches in Louisville. For Lexington, that sum surpassed the highest 2-day total on record in city history (previously, 13.5 inches on January 13-14, 1917, and January 26-27, 1943).

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