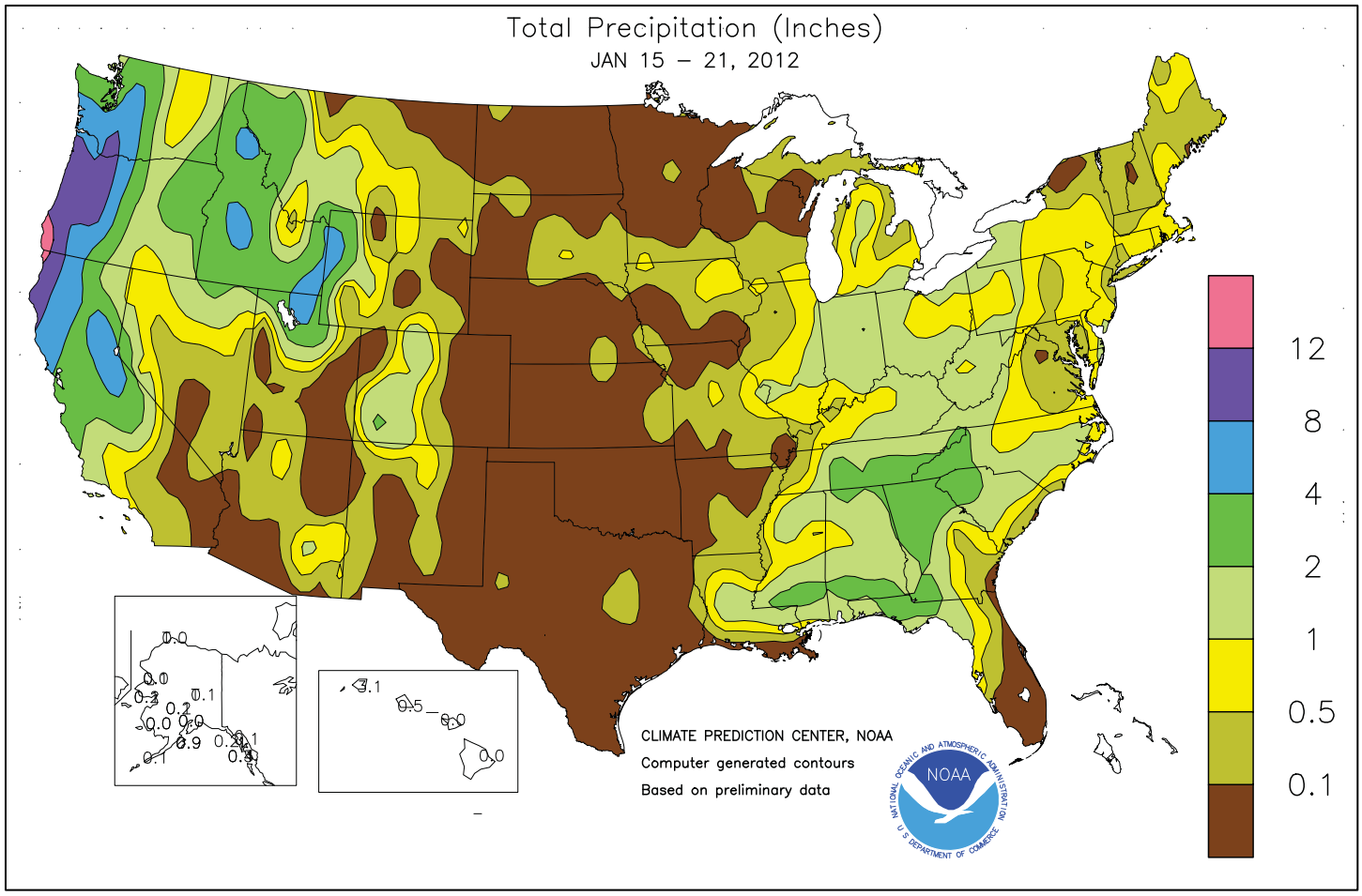
Volume 99, No. 4 http://www.usda.gov/oce/weather January 24, 2012

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

January 15 - 21, 2012

Highlights provided by USDA/WAOB

Stormy weather engulfed **California** and the **Northwest**, boosting meager snow packs and benefiting pastures and winter grains. However, bitterly cold air accompanied the **Northwestern** precipitation, resulting in travel disruptions, power outages, and destructive ice accumulations. Farther east, only light precipitation spilled onto the **Plains**. Frigid air initially arrived across the **northern Plains** before any snow fell, leaving winter wheat briefly exposed to sub-zero temperatures. Later, light snow provided the

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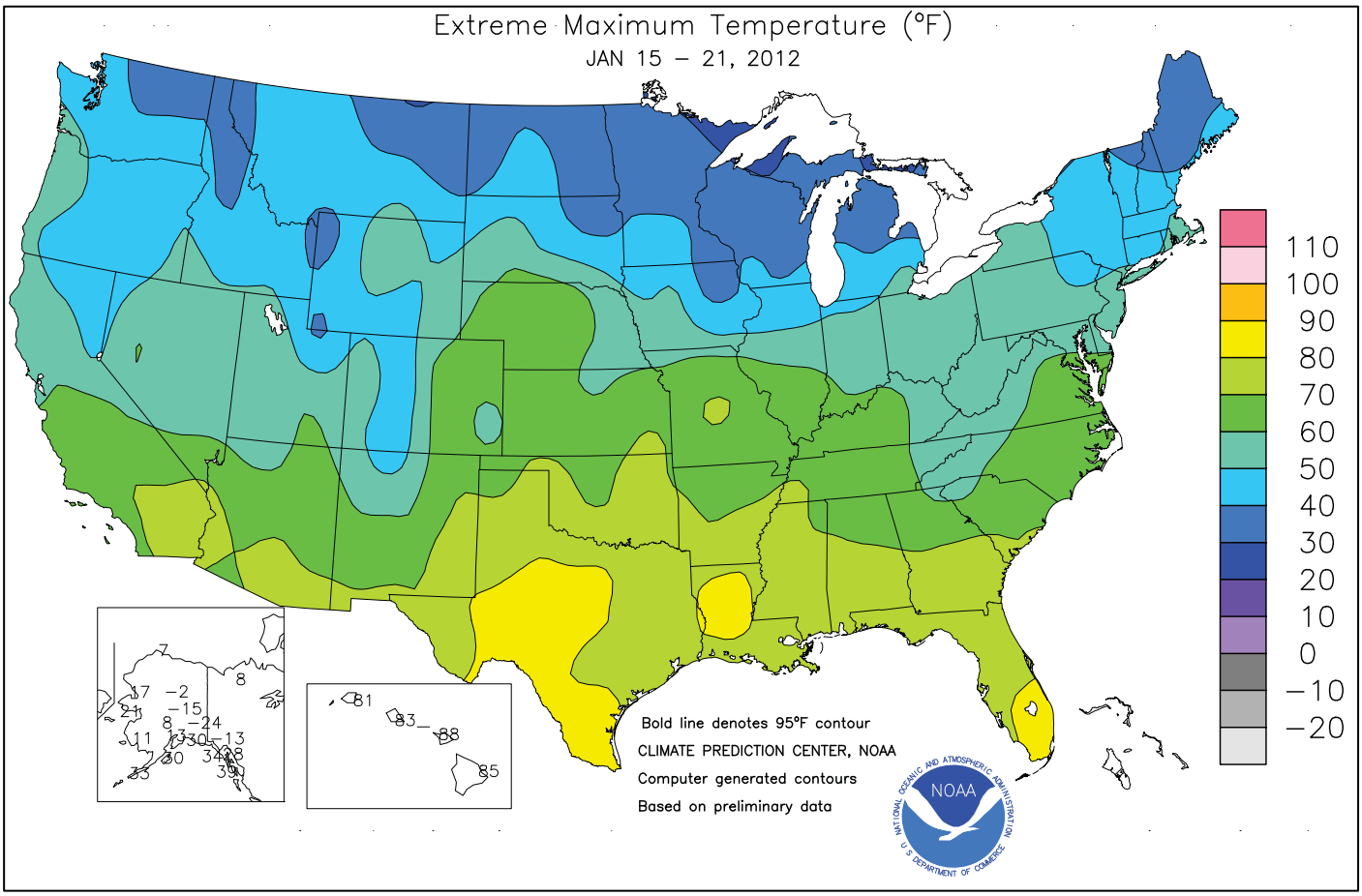
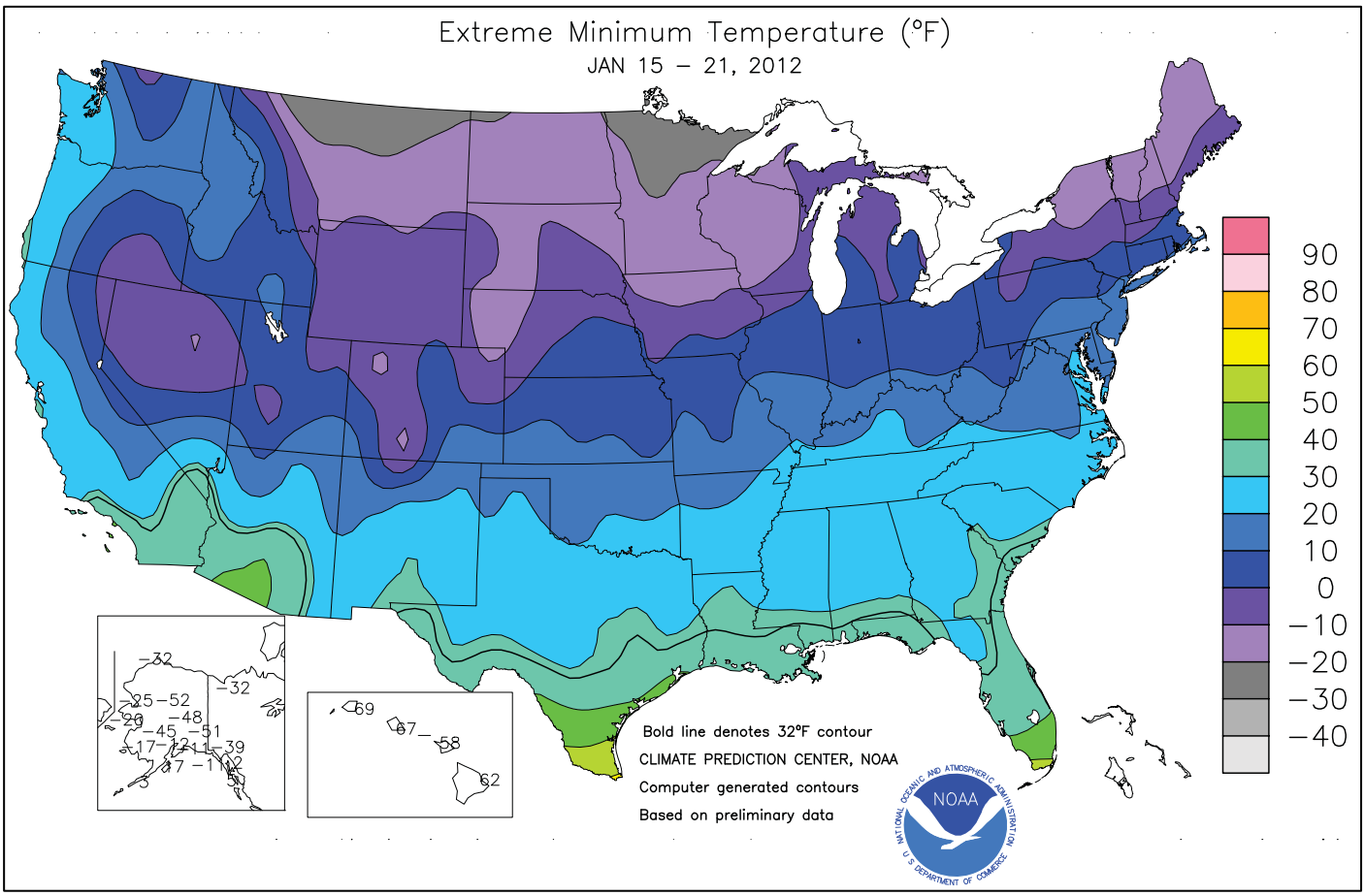
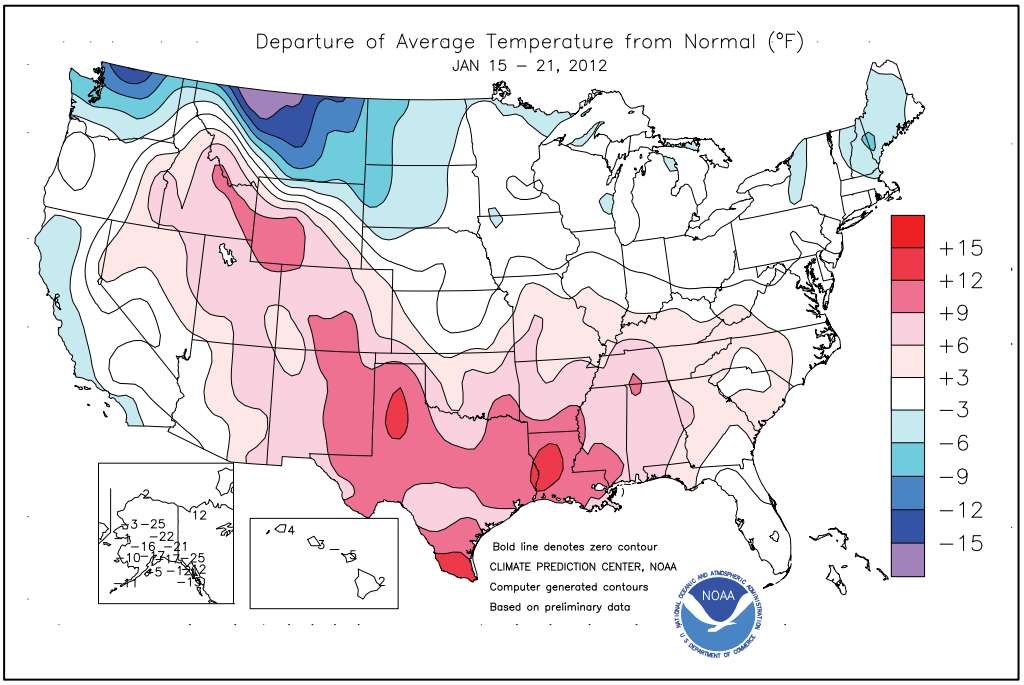
Contents


Extreme Maximum Temperature (°F)
JAN 15 – 21, 2012
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)
JAN 15 – 21, 2012
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)

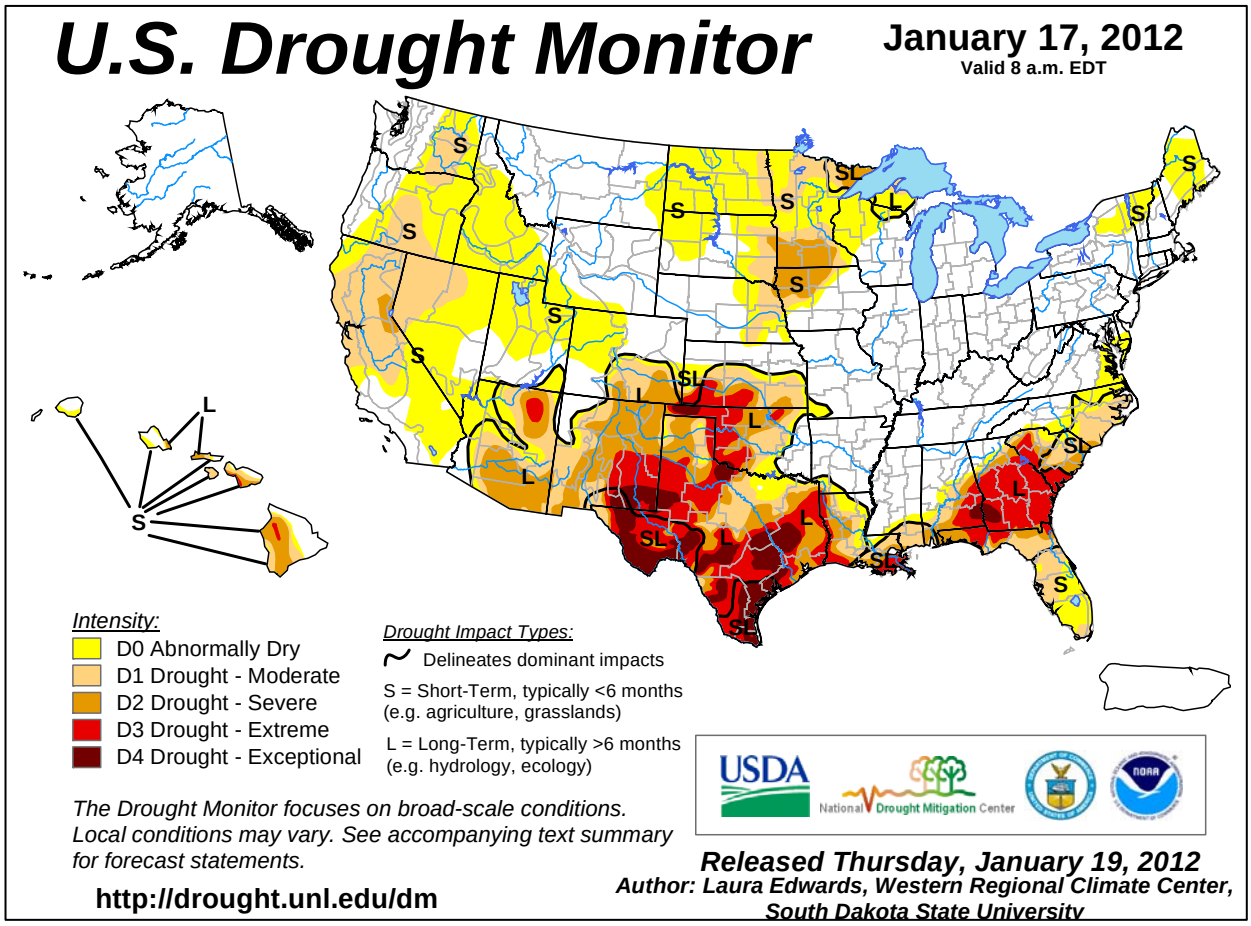
northern Plains' wheat with varying degrees of insulation, although weekly temperatures averaged as much as 10 to 20°F below normal in **Montana**. In contrast, unfavorably warm, dry weather returned to the **southern Plains**, where readings averaged at least 10°F above normal in several locations. Meanwhile, some of the heaviest snow of the season arrived in the **Corn Belt**. **Midwestern** precipitation (rain and snow) was heaviest in the **eastern Corn Belt**, where soggy conditions remained a concern. Elsewhere, beneficial showers dampened the **Southeast**, although widespread rain largely bypassed the immediate **southern Atlantic Coast**.

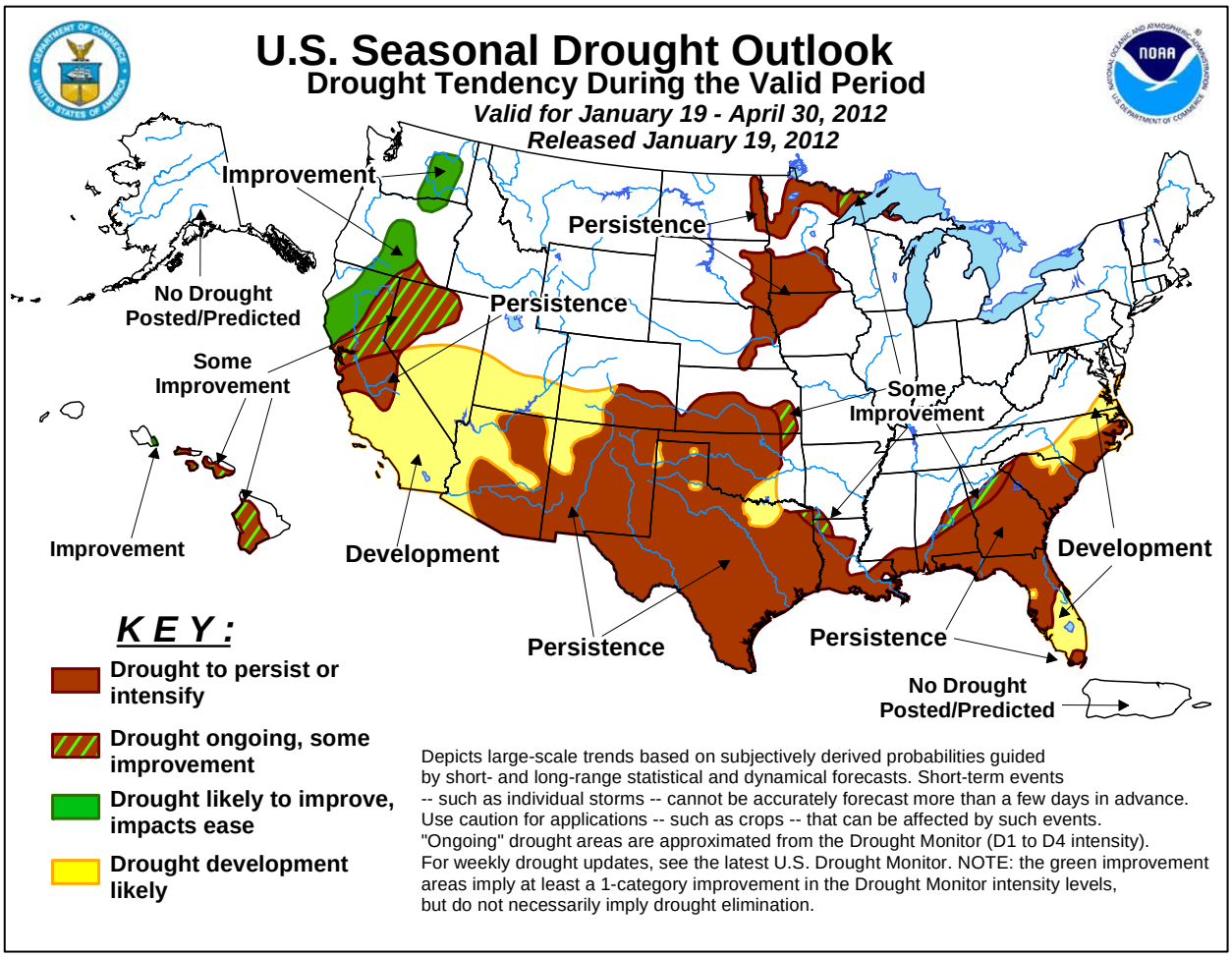


Early in the week, mild, breezy weather covered the **Plains**, **Midwest**, and **South** in advance of an Arctic cold front. Daily-record highs for January 15 included 69°F in **Imperial, NE**, and 65°F in **Topeka, KS.** The following day, record-setting highs for the 16th reached 75°F in **Gage, OK**, and 70°F in **Columbia, MO.** During a final day of warmth across the **South**, daily-record highs for January 17 climbed to 89°F in **McAllen, TX**, and 72°F in **Memphis, TN.** As the cold front swept through the **Northeast** on January 17, wind gusts in **New York** were clocked to 72 mph in **Rochester** and 67 mph in **Buffalo**. Farther west, **Alliance, NE** (-16°F on January 17), posted a daily-record low. **Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN**, finally fell below 0°F for the first time this winter on January 18, tying an all-time record—previously set in 1889 and 2002—for the season's latest initial sub-zero reading. Cold weather also prevailed during the first half of the week across the **West**, where **Redding, CA** (25, 19, and 16°F), posted a trio of daily-record lows from January 15-17. In **southern California**, consecutive daily-record lows were established in **Paso Robles** (18 and 19°F on January 18 and 19, respectively). Toward week's end, however, temperatures quickly rebounded across the **South** and **West**. On January 20, daily-record highs in **Texas** included 85°F in **Corpus Christi** and 82°F in **Abilene**. Meanwhile in **Colorado**, **Grand Junction** (57°F) also notched a daily-record high for the 20th. A day later, record-setting highs for January 21 soared to 81°F in both **Hattiesburg, MS**, and **Beaumont-Port Arthur, TX.** As the week ended, high winds swept across the **Southwest**, where a wind gust to 78 mph was reported on January 21 at **Fort Stanton, NM.**

On January 17, a significant snow storm crossed parts of the **Midwest**, producing daily-record amounts in locations such as **Houghton Lake, MI** (7.4 inches), and **South Bend, IN** (5.5 inches). Farther south and east, record-setting precipitation totals for the 17th included 1.37 inches in **Cincinnati, OH**, and 1.28 inches in **Detroit, MI.** A few days later, another storm brought more snow to the **Midwest**. Daily-record totals for December 20 reached 7.1 inches in **Waterloo, IA**, and 5.1 inches in **Rockford, IL.** Precipitation shifted into the East by January 21, when **Providence, RI** (7.6 inches); **Bridgeport, CT** (6.2 inches); and **Williamsport, PA** (4.1 inches), experienced daily-record snowfall totals. Meanwhile, record-high precipitation amounts for January 21 included 1.52 inches in **Jackson, KY**, and 1.20 inches in **Bristol, TN.** However, most of the week's major precipitation highlights were reserved for the **West**. **Reno, NV** (0.92 inch on January 20-21), received more precipitation in a 24-hour period than during the preceding 227 days. From June 7, 2011 - January 19, 2012, **Reno's** precipitation had totaled 0.46 inch. Meanwhile, weekly precipitation totaled 8.29 inches in **Crescent City, CA**, with 15- to 25-inch amounts reported in nearby locations such as **Ettersburg** and **Honeydew**. Farther north, **La Crosse, WA** (12.0 inches on January 17-18), experienced its snowiest 24-hour period on record, previously established with an 11-inch total in January 1913. Other record-setting snowfall amounts in **Washington** for January 18 reached 11.0 inches in **Olympia** and 6.8 inches in **Seattle**. Atop the snow in the **Seattle** area, freezing rain accumulations of a half-inch or more on January 19 resulted in power outages to more than 250,000 customers at the height of the storm. Farther east, **Billings, MT** (9.6 inches on the 18th), experienced its third-snowiest January day on record, behind 14.0 inches in January 2, 1972, and 11.7 inches on January 26, 1975. Meanwhile, **Helena, MT** (10.0 inches on January 18), reported its first 10-inch, calendar-day January snowfall since January 13, 1947, when 15.0 inches fell. With a 3.3-inch total, **Great Falls, MT**, experienced its first 3-inch snowfall of the season on January 18. It was **Great Falls'** latest observance of the season's first 3-inch accumulation since 1980, when the first such storm occurred on February 12. Elsewhere in **Montana**, **Missoula** (15.7 inches from January 17-19) experienced its snowiest period since December 23-29, 1996, when 41.1 inches fell in a 7-day span. With snow falling almost continuously across the **Northwest** from January 18-20, storm totals reached 3 to 6 feet in scattered locations in **western Wyoming** and elsewhere across the **northern Rockies**. Beneficial but significantly lighter amounts of precipitation fell in the **Sierra Nevada**, where the average water equivalent of the high-elevation snow pack climbed from 2 to 6 inches (from 10 to 40 percent of normal for the date) between January 17-23.

Bitterly cold air remained locked across **interior Alaska**, where weekly temperatures averaged as much as 25°F below normal. Frigid weather also engulfed **southeastern Alaska**, where **Annette Island** (4, 3, 4, and 2°F) posted four consecutive daily-record lows from January 16-19. From January 1-21, **Fairbanks** reported lows of -40°F or below on 12 days. The last time **Fairbanks** experienced a greater number of "40-below" days in January was 1989, when there were 14 such days. Farther south, heavy showers fell during the first half of the week in **western Hawaii**, but little or no rain fell elsewhere in the island chain. On **Kauai**, **Lihue's** weekly rainfall of 3.09 inches was aided by a 2.69-inch total on January 17. Elsewhere on **Kauai**, **Mt. Waialeale** received 13.38 inches of rain in a 72-hour period from January 15-18. Later on **Maui**, **Kahului** (88°F on January 20) posted a daily-record high. **Kahului** has not yet received a drop of rain yet this year.


U.S. Drought Monitor
January 17, 2012
Valid 8 a.m. EDT
Intensity:
D0 Abnormally Dry
D1 Drought - Moderate
D2 Drought - Severe
D3 Drought - Extreme
D4 Drought - Exceptional
Drought Impact Types:
Delineates dominant impacts
S = Short-Term, typically <6 months (e.g. agriculture, grasslands)
L = Long-Term, typically >6 months (e.g. hydrology, ecology)
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.
http://drought.unl.edu/dm
USDA
National Drought Mitigation Center
Released Thursday, January 19, 2012
Author: Laura Edwards, Western Regional Climate Center, South Dakota State University


U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook
Drought Tendency During the Valid Period
Valid for January 19 - April 30, 2012
Released January 19, 2012
Improvement
Persistence
No Drought Posted/Predicted
Persistence
Some Improvement
Some Improvement
Improvement
Development
Development
Persistence
Persistence
No Drought Posted/Predicted
KEY:
Drought to persist or intensify
Drought ongoing, some improvement
Drought likely to improve, impacts ease
Drought development likely
Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Short-term events -- such as individual storms -- cannot be accurately forecast more than a few days in advance. Use caution for applications -- such as crops -- that can be affected by such events. "Ongoing" drought areas are approximated from the Drought Monitor (D1 to D4 intensity). For weekly drought updates, see the latest U.S. Drought Monitor. NOTE: the green improvement areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought Monitor intensity levels, but do not necessarily imply drought elimination.

National Weather Data for Selected Cities

Weather Data for the Week Ending January 21, 2012

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		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 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	61	40	67	29	51	9	1.21	-0.06	0.84	8.11	104	2.87	86	89	50	0	3	3	1
	HUNTSVILLE	58	36	67	28	47	8	1.36	0.10	0.69	11.25	125	4.88	142	81	62	0	3	3	2
	MOBILE	71	49	78	33	60	10	1.05	-0.29	0.78	2.98	37	1.10	32	89	56	0	0	4	1
	MONTGOMERY	67	41	76	29	54	8	0.79	-0.34	0.48	5.15	65	1.73	59	89	48	0	2	3	0
AK	ANCHORAGE	7	-10	13	-12	-2	-18	0.00	-0.14	0.00	3.56	242	0.82	195	80	70	0	7	0	0
	BARROW	-5	-17	7	-32	-11	3	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.80	615	0.20	2000	86	75	0	7	1	0
	FAIRBANKS	-24	-41	-15	-48	-32	-22	0.03	-0.08	0.02	1.58	145	0.63	180	***	***	0	7	2	0
	JUNEAU	17	9	28	2	13	-12	0.06	-1.00	0.06	11.42	135	3.30	109	56	42	0	7	1	0
	KODIAK	28	21	30	17	25	-5	0.89	-0.97	0.53	10.06	79	4.14	81	73	53	0	7	4	1
	NOME	15	-6	21	-20	5	-1	0.15	-0.04	0.14	2.34	151	0.17	31	81	68	0	7	2	0
AZ	FLAGSTAFF	44	24	57	18	34	4	0.39	-0.09	0.25	2.55	83	0.39	31	90	38	0	7	2	0
	PHOENIX	68	47	72	43	58	4	0.00	-0.17	0.00	1.10	76	0.00	0	61	38	0	0	0	0
	PRESCOTT	56	28	63	22	42	5	0.08	-0.26	0.07	2.41	111	0.08	9	78	24	0	6	2	0
	TUCSON	69	42	74	37	55	4	0.15	-0.06	0.08	2.18	131	0.15	24	66	41	0	0	2	0
AR	FORT SMITH	60	33	73	23	46	9	0.00	-0.52	0.00	4.51	93	1.07	74	78	45	0	5	0	0
	LITTLE ROCK	58	35	71	25	46	6	0.01	-0.79	0.01	8.39	121	0.65	29	89	51	0	3	1	0
CA	BAKERSFIELD	62	35	73	29	48	0	0.10	-0.16	0.10	0.10	7	0.10	15	60	37	0	3	1	0
	FRESNO	57	35	66	28	46	0	0.91	0.42	0.80	0.91	35	0.91	73	69	50	0	4	2	1
	LOS ANGELES	60	48	63	44	54	-3	0.64	-0.03	0.63	1.31	38	0.64	38	79	59	0	0	2	1
	REDDING	47	29	58	16	38	-7	3.92	2.42	2.37	4.30	50	3.92	101	83	66	0	3	4	2
	SACRAMENTO	54	34	59	24	44	-2	1.44	0.56	0.83	1.71	37	1.44	66	84	43	0	3	3	2
	SAN DIEGO	61	49	63	43	55	-3	0.13	-0.39	0.09	1.00	38	0.14	11	80	62	0	0	3	0
	SAN FRANCISCO	54	40	59	34	47	-2	1.38	0.36	0.72	1.51	28	1.38	54	82	65	0	0	3	2
	STOCKTON	54	31	60	22	43	-3	0.94	0.32	0.69	1.11	33	0.95	61	78	60	0	5	3	1
CO	ALAMOSA	45	7	52	-8	26	12	0.06	0.01	0.06	0.33	69	0.06	40	80	55	0	7	1	0
	CO SPRINGS	54	24	66	8	39	11	0.02	-0.03	0.02	0.48	79	0.02	11	68	21	0	6	1	0
	DENVER INTL	51	22	66	2	37	9	0.03	-0.01	0.03	0.99	206	0.21	124	67	32	0	6	1	0
	GRAND JUNCTION	46	19	57	4	33	7	0.03	-0.10	0.03	0.38	42	0.03	8	67	44	0	7	1	0
	PUEBLO	58	22	69	10	40	11	0.00	-0.06	0.00	0.87	143	0.03	14	59	32	0	6	0	0
CT	BRIDGEPORT	38	21	50	12	29	-1	0.82	-0.03	0.41	5.58	97	1.88	81	61	46	0	6	5	0
	HARTFORD	32	14	48	4	23	-3	0.60	-0.28	0.22	6.70	112	1.70	72	70	49	0	7	4	0
DC	WASHINGTON	44	29	60	25	37	3	0.63	-0.10	0.28	6.49	128	1.59	79	72	44	0	6	4	0
DE	WILMINGTON	40	23	56	16	32	1	0.83	0.05	0.53	6.42	116	1.98	92	85	50	0	6	3	1
FL	DAYTONA BEACH	72	45	77	35	58	0	0.01	-0.71	0.01	3.12	68	0.04	2	92	39	0	0	1	0
	JACKSONVILLE	69	38	76	30	53	0	0.06	-0.79	0.06	1.90	40	0.06	3	92	41	0	2	1	0
	KEY WEST	76	65	79	61	70	0	0.00	-0.50	0.00	1.08	31	0.68	49	85	58	0	0	0	0
	MIAMI	77	58	81	50	68	0	0.00	-0.39	0.00	1.05	32	0.01	1	74	43	0	0	0	0
	ORLANDO	74	44	77	33	60	-1	0.02	-0.53	0.02	0.91	24	0.11	8	91	58	0	0	1	0
	PENSACOLA	69	51	76	39	60	8	0.96	-0.28	0.45	9.09	127	1.39	43	87	60	0	0	5	0
	TALLAHASSEE	69	36	78	28	53	1	1.11	-0.13	1.10	6.70	91	2.30	70	95	76	0	3	2	1
	TAMPA	74	51	78	41	62	1	0.43	-0.06	0.43	0.93	26	0.74	57	85	41	0	0	1	0
	WEST PALM BEACH	75	53	80	40	64	-2	0.00	-0.89	0.00	0.90	17	0.00	0	85	47	0	0	0	0
GA	ATHENS	57	35	62	28	46	4	2.12	1.05	1.15	6.35	98	2.67	96	81	59	0	4	4	2
	ATLANTA	59	39	64	29	49	7	3.19	2.03	1.97	8.17	121	3.75	128	75	54	0	2	4	2
	AUGUSTA	62	35	69	25	49	4	0.98	-0.04	0.75	2.55	44	1.27	47	90	48	0	3	4	1
	COLUMBUS	64	41	72	30	52	5	1.84	0.77	0.90	8.69	119	3.67	127	89	41	0	2	4	1
	MACON	63	36	72	27	50	5	1.68	0.54	1.02	5.48	79	2.45	82	95	44	0	3	4	1
	SAVANNAH	67	40	76	32	54	5	0.83	-0.08	0.80	2.41	46	1.26	52	86	46	0	2	2	1
HI	HILO	82	64	85	62	73	2	0.00	-2.25	0.00	21.92	134	1.64	28	85	74	0	0	0	0
	HONOLULU	80	71	83	67	76	3	0.48	-0.12	0.48	1.58	35	0.48	29	92	84	0	0	1	0
	KAHULUI	85	68	88	58	76	4	0.00	-0.85	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0	79	70	0	0	0	0
	LIHUE	79	72	81	69	76	4	3.09	2.05	1.97	5.24	68	3.55	122	87	80	0	0	4	2
ID	BOISE	41	28	49	16	34	4	1.86	1.56	0.84	2.22	100	1.86	224	78	55	0	4	4	2
	LEWISTON	36	27	45	22	32	-1	1.37	1.12	0.65	1.64	95	1.43	213	94	74	0	7	7	1
	POCATELLO	38	25	48	10	32	8	1.37	1.12	0.71	1.57	88	1.37	199	68	52	0	5	4	2
IL	CHICAGO/O'HARE	31	13	45	5	22	0	0.75	0.38	0.54	3.81	109	1.16	109	79	61	0	7	4	1
	MOLINE	30	11	43	2	21	0	0.19	-0.14	0.09	3.21	101	0.55	56	80	65	0	7	3	0
	PEORIA	35	14	53	5	24	2	0.35	0.04	0.22	3.64	110	0.76	84	91	65	0	7	4	0
	ROCKFORD	28	8	39	0	18	-1	0.66	0.36	0.53	3.14	108	1.08	127	77	63	0	7	2	1
	SPRINGFIELD	40	17	63	10	29	4	0.66	0.32	0.65	3.45	97	0.83	81	86	58	0	6	2	1
IN	EVANSVILLE	44	25	63	16	35	4	0.78	0.15	0.64	7.63	145	1.59	92	81	66	0	6	3	1
	FORT WAYNE	32	12	54	3	22	-1	1.53	1.09	0.99	5.83	145	2.06	163	89	66	0	7	3	1
	INDIANAPOLIS	37	18	58	11	28	2	1.06	0.51	0.72	6.93	152	1.83	120	85	65	0	7	5	1
	SOUTH BEND	29	14	45	3	22	-1	1.05	0.56	0.47	4.34	96	1.72	122	83	69	0	7	4	0
IA	BURLINGTON	33	13	54	5	23	0	0.10	-0.18	0.10	3.49	120	0.17	21	92	61	0	6	1	0
	CEDAR RAPIDS	27	7	43	-6	17	-1	0.00	-0.22	0.00	2.88	138	0.00	0	88	61	0	7	0	0
	DES MOINES	31	10	53	1	21	1	0.13	-0.09	0.13	2.68	138	0.15	25	75	59	0	7	1	0
	DUBUQUE	25	4	39	-6	15	-2	0.06	-0.22	0.05	3.11	127	0.43	57	81	71	0	7	2	0
	SIOUX CITY	29	4	53	-6	17	-1	0.12	-0.01	0.11	0.93	89	0.15	39	73	58	0	7	2	0
	WATERLOO	25	1	37	-17	13	-3	0.66	0.49	0.65	3.19	203	0.81	176	85	72	0	7	2	1
KS	CONCORDIA	35	13	57	4	24	-2	0.12	-0.03	0.07	2.00	154	0.13	30	75	57	0	7	2	0
	DODGE CITY	45	17	62	12	31	1	0.00	-0.13	0.00	2.13	182	0.00	0	73	35	0	7	0	0
	GOODLAND	48	13	65	-1	31	4	0.01	-0.08	0.01	0.44	64	0.03	10	77	58	0	7	1	0
	TOPEKA	42	17	65	9	30	3	0.00	-0.19	0.00	3.42	172	0.01	2	77	47	0	6	0	0

Based on 1971-2000 normals

***** Not Available**

Weather Data for the Week Ending January 21, 2012

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 JAN01	PCT. NORMAL SINCE JAN01	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	90 AND ABOVE	32 AND BELOW	.01 INCH OR MORE	.50 INCH OR MORE
	WICHITA	43	21	64	11	32	2	0.00	-0.18	0.00	3.69	192	0.00	0	72	49	0	7	0	0
KY	JACKSON	45	27	58	20	36	2	2.02	1.25	1.51	7.87	122	3.70	171	85	54	0	6	4	1
	LEXINGTON	44	26	59	21	35	3	1.06	0.33	1.02	6.63	108	2.21	105	83	70	0	7	2	1
	LOUISVILLE	44	27	63	20	35	2	0.48	-0.24	0.47	6.83	120	1.62	81	80	58	0	7	2	0
	PADUCAH	49	28	67	19	39	7	0.32	-0.42	0.32	8.84	139	1.55	78	83	55	0	6	1	0
LA	BATON ROUGE	72	50	80	31	61	11	0.44	-0.97	0.44	4.36	49	1.54	42	95	54	0	1	1	0
	LAKE CHARLES	72	52	78	34	62	11	0.23	-1.07	0.23	11.32	141	6.63	193	91	57	0	0	1	0
	NEW ORLEANS	74	53	81	37	64	12	0.29	-1.03	0.28	1.62	19	0.32	10	87	61	0	0	2	0
	SHREVEPORT	71	44	80	32	58	12	0.03	-0.99	0.03	9.31	128	1.43	52	85	46	0	1	1	0
ME	CARIBOU	17	-4	34	-13	6	-3	0.85	0.18	0.35	5.32	105	2.00	106	84	63	0	7	3	0
	PORTLAND	29	7	43	-4	18	-3	0.74	-0.19	0.37	5.80	86	2.29	90	81	48	0	7	5	0
MD	BALTIMORE	43	25	59	17	34	2	0.43	-0.35	0.22	6.11	111	1.61	75	74	47	0	6	4	0
MA	BOSTON	35	18	52	6	26	-3	0.37	-0.51	0.17	5.35	88	1.38	58	81	44	0	6	5	0
	WORCESTER	29	12	46	2	21	-2	0.70	-0.23	0.31	7.10	112	1.94	76	91	49	0	7	5	0
MI	ALPENA	24	4	32	-4	14	-4	0.32	-0.07	0.27	1.85	63	0.85	77	87	65	0	7	3	0
	GRAND RAPIDS	29	12	44	3	21	-1	0.57	0.13	0.24	3.84	98	1.25	102	87	63	0	7	4	0
	HOUGHTON LAKE	23	7	34	-2	15	-3	2.97	2.61	2.24	7.28	267	6.18	631	85	73	0	7	6	1
	LANSING	28	11	42	1	19	-2	0.54	0.20	0.26	3.41	110	1.19	127	82	67	0	7	4	0
	MUSKEGON	30	16	42	9	23	0	0.42	-0.08	0.18	4.19	104	1.86	136	84	72	0	7	5	0
	TRAVERSE CITY	27	12	38	0	20	-1	0.27	-0.42	0.17	2.44	54	0.94	51	85	63	0	7	2	0
MN	DULUTH	16	-4	32	-18	6	-2	0.05	-0.21	0.05	0.71	46	0.16	26	75	61	0	7	1	0
	INT'L FALLS	11	-11	30	-25	0	-2	0.09	-0.10	0.07	0.77	66	0.28	61	82	65	0	7	2	0
	MINNEAPOLIS	22	4	40	-11	13	0	0.09	-0.13	0.08	1.13	71	0.14	23	80	61	0	7	2	0
	ROCHESTER	21	2	35	-12	11	0	0.33	0.12	0.31	1.62	104	0.41	76	84	67	0	7	2	0
	ST. CLOUD	20	-3	38	-17	9	1	0.02	-0.15	0.01	0.53	47	0.13	30	86	57	0	7	2	0
MS	JACKSON	67	43	78	29	55	10	0.68	-0.62	0.60	8.61	98	1.94	56	88	56	0	2	2	1
	MERIDIAN	66	40	74	27	53	7	1.48	0.13	0.72	8.95	101	3.54	99	93	68	0	3	4	1
	TUPELO	60	36	68	28	48	8	0.51	-0.63	0.36	8.36	89	2.60	80	86	67	0	3	3	0
MO	COLUMBIA	42	19	70	9	31	3	0.20	-0.16	0.20	4.56	132	1.05	106	85	55	0	6	1	0
	KANSAS CITY	41	16	63	6	29	2	0.00	-0.25	0.00	3.20	137	0.17	24	81	43	0	6	0	0
	SAINT LOUIS	45	23	69	15	34	5	0.85	0.38	0.85	4.16	100	1.04	81	75	58	0	6	1	1
	SPRINGFIELD	51	23	69	11	37	6	0.01	-0.44	0.01	2.85	65	0.02	2	81	63	0	6	1	0
MT	BILLINGS	24	-2	44	-12	11	-13	0.64	0.46	0.35	0.85	73	0.64	128	82	55	0	7	5	0
	BUTTE	34	16	41	-4	25	7	0.07	-0.04	0.06	0.38	45	0.09	29	84	46	0	6	2	0
	CUT BANK	7	-14	44	-29	-3	-22	0.09	0.01	0.08	0.32	56	0.09	38	83	66	0	7	2	0
	GLASGOW	9	-6	30	-22	2	-8	0.08	0.02	0.05	0.48	81	0.13	59	79	67	0	7	2	0
	GREAT FALLS	16	-4	47	-21	6	-15	0.00	-0.14	0.00	0.74	67	0.54	123	80	61	0	7	0	0
	HAVRE	10	-9	39	-21	1	-13	0.28	0.19	0.16	0.41	51	0.29	97	77	70	0	7	4	0
	MISSOULA	32	21	43	13	26	2	1.31	1.09	0.56	1.93	107	1.36	206	87	72	0	7	7	2
NE	GRAND ISLAND	35	10	62	2	23	1	0.00	-0.11	0.00	1.12	115	0.01	3	68	51	0	7	0	0
	LINCOLN	32	9	55	5	21	-1	0.04	-0.11	0.02	1.62	125	0.04	9	73	54	0	7	2	0
	NORFOLK	32	9	58	0	21	1	0.01	-0.10	0.01	0.80	83	0.01	3	67	56	0	7	1	0
	NORTH PLATTE	39	8	66	-4	23	0	0.02	-0.06	0.02	0.41	64	0.09	38	78	38	0	7	1	0
	OMAHA	31	13	56	6	22	1	0.00	-0.17	0.00	1.71	124	0.00	0	68	53	0	7	0	0
	SCOTTSBLUFF	44	10	57	-9	27	3	0.02	-0.09	0.02	0.39	45	0.05	16	70	47	0	7	1	0
	VALENTINE	34	6	63	-13	20	-1	0.06	0.00	0.06	0.27	55	0.07	44	73	62	0	7	1	0
NV	ELY	45	18	53	-5	32	7	0.44	0.27	0.44	0.67	71	0.45	102	49	29	0	7	1	0
	LAS VEGAS	59	40	64	34	49	2	0.00	-0.11	0.00	0.14	20	0.00	0	36	25	0	0	0	0
	RENO	50	26	57	8	38	5	0.95	0.73	0.83	0.95	65	0.95	161	56	38	0	4	3	1
	WINNEMUCCA	46	22	54	-5	34	4	0.35	0.17	0.29	0.44	33	0.43	83	62	44	0	5	3	0
NH	CONCORD	28	6	45	-5	17	-3	0.47	-0.19	0.22	5.11	107	1.03	57	83	49	0	7	4	0
NJ	NEWARK	39	21	54	13	30	-1	0.46	-0.47	0.22	6.60	109	2.09	85	63	47	0	6	4	0
NM	ALBUQUERQUE	56	29	62	23	43	8	0.03	-0.07	0.03	1.23	156	0.03	10	64	28	0	3	1	0
NY	ALBANY	30	10	45	0	20	-2	0.44	-0.11	0.26	4.86	116	1.10	73	82	52	0	7	4	0
	BINGHAMTON	28	9	46	-3	18	-4	0.67	0.11	0.40	4.88	107	1.77	116	81	60	0	7	6	0
	BUFFALO	32	15	53	2	23	-1	0.97	0.27	0.49	5.82	101	2.20	112	84	55	0	7	6	0
	ROCHESTER	33	14	67	2	24	0	0.81	0.29	0.39	4.20	101	1.69	118	81	60	0	7	5	0
	SYRACUSE	32	12	50	-5	22	0	0.65	0.07	0.30	4.95	105	2.47	156	78	52	0	6	4	0
NC	ASHEVILLE	49	32	59	22	41	6	0.81	-0.11	0.38	7.31	126	2.20	92	77	58	0	5	3	0
	CHARLOTTE	53	33	66	26	43	2	1.51	0.60	0.65	5.42	97	2.01	83	86	52	0	4	4	1
	GREENSBORO	51	31	61	25	41	4	0.46	-0.34	0.32	4.59	88	1.57	74	80	48	0	5	3	0
	HATTERAS	59	42	67	34	51	5	0.71	-0.66	0.41	7.80	95	4.64	127	84	57	0	0	2	0
	RALEIGH	54	33	65	27	43	4	0.85	-0.08	0.37	3.82	70	1.77	73	81	48	0	3	4	0
	WILMINGTON	60	37	70	27	48	2	0.32	-0.73	0.15	2.15	33	1.57	57	87	46	0	3	4	0
ND	BISMARCK	16	-3	44	-11	7	-3	0.03	-0.05	0.03	0.54	79	0.07	29	80	63	0	7	1	0
	DICKINSON	17	-6	37	-14	6	-8	0.01	-0.05	0.01	0.18	35	0.06	35	83	64	0	7	1	0
	FARGO	16	-3	36	-17	6	0	0.02	-0.15	0.02	0.49	48	0.13	28	71	56	0	7	1	0
	GRAND FORKS	11	-8	33	-17	2	-3	0.02	-0.12	0.02	0.78	83	0.13	33	80	61	0	7	1	0
	JAMESTOWN	13	-3	40	-16	5	-3	0.00	-0.14	0.00	0.27	34	0.01	3	81	57	0	7	0	0
	WILLISTON	10	-7	35	-19	2	-5	0.03	-0.08	0.02	0.27	31	0.09	29	78	64	0	7	2	0
OH	AKRON-CANTON	33	15	54	0	24	-1	0.92	0.37	0.37	6.44	143	1.69	110	81	66	0	7	5	0
	CINCINNATI	39	21	58	11	30	1	1.75	1.11	1.37	9.14	180	2.62	146	85	67	0	7	4	1
	CLEVELAND	34	17	57	6	26	0	0.89	0.34	0.61	6.62	142	1.66	110	87	62	0	7	7	1
	COLUMBUS	35	18	57	8	27	-1	0.90	0.35	0.55	6.99	157	1.55	102	84	70	0	7	5	1
	DAYTON	33	14	53	3	24	-2	1.45	0.88	1.07	7.21	154	1.87	117	92	66	0	7	5	1
	MANSFIELD	32	14	54	-1	23	-1	0.89	0.31	0.31	6.52	134	1.43	89	96	66	0	7	6	0

Based on 1971-2000 normals

***** Not Available**

Weather Data for the Week Ending January 21, 2012

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 JAN01	PCT. NORMAL SINCE JAN01	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	90 AND ABOVE	32 AND BELOW	.01 INCH OR MORE	.50 INCH OR MORE
	TOLEDO	32	14	53	1	23	-1	1.16	0.75	0.73	4.85	127	1.48	126	83	66	0	7	5	1
	YOUNGSTOWN	33	15	56	4	24	-1	1.23	0.71	0.62	7.22	164	2.80	194	83	67	0	7	6	1
OK	OKLAHOMA CITY	55	29	69	17	42	6	0.00	-0.26	0.00	1.86	68	0.00	0	77	40	0	6	0	0
	TULSA	55	28	72	17	42	6	0.00	-0.34	0.00	1.47	43	0.02	2	72	50	0	6	0	0
OR	ASTORIA	46	34	54	24	40	-2	5.39	3.21	1.86	11.97	74	7.12	121	98	91	0	3	7	3
	BURNS	37	18	42	-2	27	3	1.36	1.11	0.65	1.71	85	1.36	189	85	64	0	6	3	2
	EUGENE	47	36	54	19	41	1	4.74	3.02	2.28	10.01	77	5.00	108	91	87	0	3	7	2
	MEDFORD	46	33	50	25	40	1	1.77	1.22	0.74	2.72	62	1.78	118	91	59	0	4	4	2
	PENDLETON	38	24	44	20	31	-3	1.18	0.86	0.50	1.61	69	1.21	142	96	72	0	7	6	1
	PORTLAND	45	34	53	29	39	-1	4.22	3.09	1.89	7.51	85	5.00	162	93	87	0	4	6	3
	SALEM	48	39	56	30	43	3	7.73	6.43	2.57	11.97	120	8.65	246	88	83	0	2	7	4
PA	ALLENTOWN	36	18	50	10	27	0	0.63	-0.17	0.35	6.13	111	1.96	91	73	53	0	7	3	0
	ERIE	33	17	56	4	25	-2	1.10	0.56	0.64	7.51	141	2.25	142	80	62	0	7	5	1
	MIDDLETOWN	38	21	54	15	29	1	0.67	0.05	0.49	5.40	110	2.14	128	85	46	0	6	4	0
	PHILADELPHIA	40	24	56	17	32	0	0.73	-0.07	0.38	6.22	114	1.85	85	64	45	0	6	4	0
	PITTSBURGH	35	15	54	3	25	-2	0.74	0.13	0.30	4.51	100	2.04	124	86	55	0	6	5	0
	WILKES-BARRE	33	14	48	6	23	-3	0.50	-0.05	0.35	4.27	107	1.16	80	84	52	0	6	3	0
	WILLIAMSPORT	35	17	49	10	26	1	0.60	-0.04	0.43	5.88	128	2.20	133	77	48	0	6	5	0
RI	PROVIDENCE	36	18	52	9	27	-2	0.99	0.00	0.41	6.59	97	2.64	99	67	50	0	6	5	0
SC	BEAUFORT	65	40	73	32	52	4	0.41	-0.53	0.37	1.74	31	0.67	27	91	38	0	1	2	0
	CHARLESTON	64	39	70	31	52	4	0.35	-0.59	0.20	1.10	19	0.45	18	92	47	0	1	2	0
	COLUMBIA	60	36	69	28	48	4	1.17	0.10	0.75	2.74	44	1.63	58	89	54	0	3	4	1
	GREENVILLE	52	34	55	28	43	2	2.58	1.59	0.93	7.32	112	3.36	125	83	53	0	3	4	3
SD	ABERDEEN	18	-2	35	-13	8	-2	0.12	0.02	0.10	0.61	90	0.28	93	77	65	0	7	2	0
	HURON	21	1	41	-9	11	-3	0.40	0.29	0.27	0.70	104	0.46	164	83	64	0	7	3	0
	RAPID CITY	33	3	59	-7	18	-4	0.04	-0.02	0.03	0.33	53	0.04	18	80	48	0	7	2	0
	SIOUX FALLS	23	1	47	-10	12	-2	0.53	0.42	0.47	1.20	146	0.58	193	74	63	0	7	3	0
TN	BRISTOL	49	29	57	20	39	5	1.91	1.12	1.04	7.95	145	3.85	182	93	54	0	5	3	2
	CHATTANOOGA	53	34	65	27	44	5	2.17	0.93	1.56	10.63	132	4.10	126	86	61	0	4	4	1
	KNOXVILLE	51	32	61	23	41	4	1.44	0.40	0.88	8.87	121	3.96	140	89	54	0	4	3	1
	MEMPHIS	60	36	72	26	48	9	0.20	-0.71	0.11	9.12	111	0.57	22	82	50	0	3	3	0
	NASHVILLE	55	32	66	23	43	7	1.13	0.25	0.63	7.58	108	3.33	136	84	52	0	3	4	1
TX	ABILENE	69	38	82	24	54	11	0.00	-0.19	0.00	3.26	173	1.33	218	67	48	0	3	0	0
	AMARILLO	64	29	70	20	47	12	0.00	-0.13	0.00	1.54	151	0.00	0	60	21	0	4	0	0
	AUSTIN	70	43	77	26	57	7	0.00	-0.40	0.00	5.53	152	0.64	53	81	55	0	1	0	0
	BEAUMONT	75	54	81	37	64	12	0.13	-1.18	0.12	7.66	87	3.66	102	94	56	0	0	2	0
	BROWNSVILLE	79	64	84	60	72	13	0.00	-0.30	0.00	1.81	99	0.26	36	92	68	0	0	0	0
	CORPUS CHRISTI	78	56	85	47	67	11	0.00	-0.33	0.00	1.18	44	0.01	1	89	62	0	0	0	0
	DEL RIO	72	45	80	37	58	7	0.02	-0.08	0.02	1.08	105	0.10	36	89	57	0	0	1	0
	EL PASO	67	39	71	32	53	8	0.00	-0.08	0.00	1.39	132	0.65	232	55	20	0	1	0	0
	FORT WORTH	65	40	77	29	53	9	0.00	-0.39	0.00	6.12	161	1.77	145	82	43	0	1	0	0
	GALVESTON	69	57	74	47	63	7	0.07	-0.87	0.07	6.67	111	2.26	91	97	73	0	0	1	0
	HOUSTON	74	52	81	34	63	11	0.06	-0.77	0.05	5.50	92	1.22	54	87	64	0	0	2	0
	LUBBOCK	69	32	76	22	50	12	0.00	-0.08	0.00	1.52	165	0.00	0	60	30	0	4	0	0
	MIDLAND	70	37	81	27	53	10	0.00	-0.11	0.00	2.36	246	0.73	235	63	34	0	2	0	0
	SAN ANGELO	72	38	84	26	55	10	0.00	-0.16	0.00	2.46	178	1.46	332	73	46	0	2	0	0
	SAN ANTONIO	72	47	78	34	60	10	0.00	-0.36	0.00	2.96	100	0.12	12	92	49	0	0	0	0
	VICTORIA	74	50	80	34	62	9	0.00	-0.55	0.00	1.92	48	0.57	38	91	64	0	0	0	0
	WACO	68	40	77	29	54	8	0.02	-0.37	0.01	6.33	161	1.37	118	84	59	0	1	2	0
	WICHITA FALLS	61	32	74	22	47	7	0.00	-0.22	0.00	2.35	99	0.90	130	81	50	0	5	0	0
UT	SALT LAKE CITY	48	26	53	13	37	8	1.15	0.85	0.87	1.43	70	1.40	173	82	34	0	4	4	1
VT	BURLINGTON	28	4	44	-11	16	-2	0.29	-0.21	0.17	3.36	95	1.13	85	83	50	0	7	4	0
VA	LYNCHBURG	47	25	60	16	36	2	0.59	-0.21	0.34	6.67	124	2.06	96	81	53	0	6	3	0
	NORFOLK	53	36	69	25	44	4	0.59	-0.32	0.49	2.89	53	1.33	56	75	50	0	2	4	0
	RICHMOND	47	28	62	19	38	2	0.47	-0.34	0.33	3.39	63	1.36	61	73	47	0	6	2	0
	ROANOKE	49	29	59	20	39	4	0.54	-0.19	0.28	5.62	118	1.43	75	70	51	0	4	4	0
	WASH/DULLES	42	23	58	16	33	1	0.40	-0.29	0.14	6.08	123	1.62	86	79	47	0	6	4	0
WA	OLYMPIA	36	27	46	18	31	-7	2.16	0.70	0.78	8.39	69	3.70	86	92	89	0	5	6	2
	QUILLAYUTE	39	27	49	21	33	-8	1.39	-1.67	0.42	13.95	61	6.05	73	95	81	0	5	7	0
	SEATTLE-TACOMA	37	29	47	26	33	-8	3.23	2.07	1.08	7.25	83	5.01	161	94	84	0	6	7	2
	SPOKANE	29	19	40	9	24	-3	0.99	0.60	0.63	2.14	64	1.13	102	91	72	0	7	5	1
	YAKIMA	33	15	43	6	24	-5	1.07	0.82	0.56	1.49	71	1.15	160	86	78	0	7	3	1
WV	BECKLEY	43	26	57	17	35	5	1.20	0.48	1.08	6.21	123	2.20	113	78	54	0	6	4	1
	CHARLESTON	45	25	61	19	35	2	0.74	0.02	0.44	4.90	93	1.47	76	91	52	0	6	4	0
	ELKINS	42	19	58	3	31	3	0.84	0.07	0.63	5.07	92	1.33	64	91	51	0	6	4	1
	HUNTINGTON	43	25	61	19	34	2	0.62	-0.10	0.46	4.65	87	1.32	67	88	54	0	6	5	0
WI	EAU CLAIRE	21	-1	35	-14	10	-1	0.03	-0.20	0.03	1.41	87	0.21	36	87	54	0	7	1	0
	GREEN BAY	24	1	35	-9	13	-2	0.07	-0.21	0.03	1.90	90	0.50	70	80	58	0	7	4	0
	LA CROSSE	24	2	37	-11	13	-3	0.28	0.02	0.26	2.01	106	0.60	90	91	58	0	7	2	0
	MADISON	26	3	42	-8	14	-3	0.44	0.18	0.29	3.13	132	0.90	127	78	63	0	7	3	0
	MILWAUKEE	28	9	41	-1	19	-1	0.41	0.01	0.25	3.17	96	0.94	88	74	60	0	7	2	0
WY	CASPER	38	18	50	-2	28	6	0.07	-0.04	0.06	0.96	103	0.25	81	67	51	0	5	2	0
	CHEYENNE	45	20	55	1	33	7	0.00	-0.08	0.00	0.44	63	0.01	4	54	31	0	6	0	0
	LANDER	41	20	52	-5	31	11	0.01	-0.10	0.01	1.21	132	0.24	77	69	36	0	6	1	0
	SHERIDAN	30	0	54	-12	15	-6	0.21	0.04	0.11	0.88	77	0.30	65	78	56	0	7	3	0

Based on 1971-2000 normals ***** Not Available**

2011 U.S. Weather Review

Annual "Weather Review" provided by USDA/WAOB; annual national rankings provided by NCDC

La Niña's influence contributed to cool weather and extensive spring flooding in the Ohio, Mississippi, and Missouri River basins, along with historic heat and drought in the south-central United States. Wet conditions were a detriment to planting in the eastern Corn Belt and the Mid-South, ultimately exposing late-developing summer crops to unfavorable heat and dryness during the heart of the growing season. However, any Midwestern crop stress was overshadowed by relentless heat and drought on the southern Plains. The drought, which began during the autumn of 2010, devastated the southern Plains' 2011 winter wheat crop and left the region's pastures and rangeland in the worst condition since records of that type have been kept. Severe crop stress carried through the summer months, sharply reducing yield potential for crops such as cotton and sorghum. Although significant rain and snow finally fell late in the year across the south-central U.S., much more precipitation was needed to replenish sub-soil moisture and assist in the long-term recovery of pastures, rangeland, and water supplies.

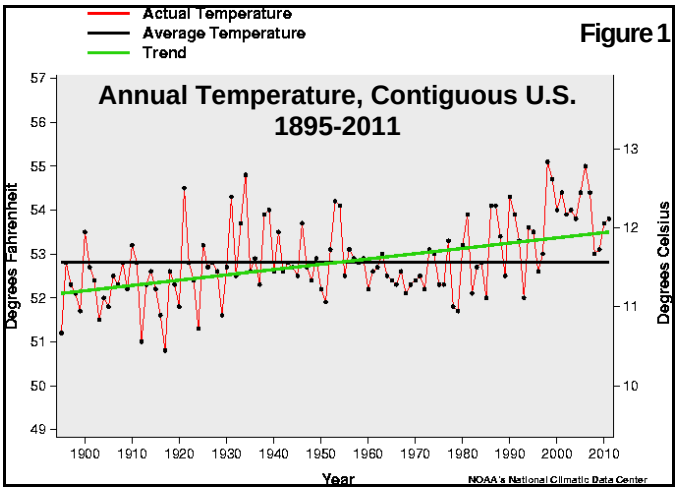
The West had an erratic, but ultimately abundant, wet season in 2010-2011, with the exception of drought-affected Arizona and New Mexico. In an ironic twist, much of the West experienced an extremely slow start to the 2011-2012 wet season, except for abundant early-season snowfall in the Southwest. By year's end, effects of developing drought were becoming more apparent in California in the form of stunted pasture growth and increased irrigation requirements.

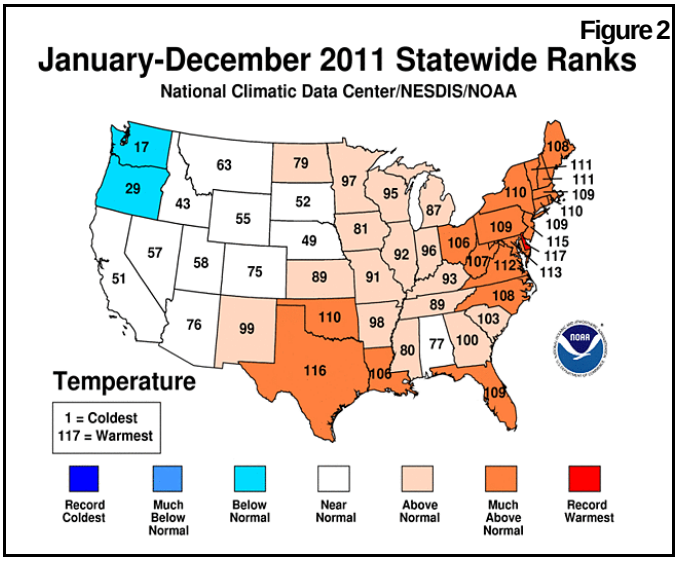
Meanwhile, tornadoes claimed at least 551 U.S. lives in 2011, the nation's highest toll since 1936. Most of the fatal tornadoes struck the central and southern Plains and the Southeast, with Alabama and Missouri hit especially hard during super-outbreaks in April and May. Farther east, the Atlantic Basin was active again with 18 named tropical storms, continuing a general trend of above-normal tropical activity that began in 1995. Only six of the storms became hurricanes, but Irene—the season's first hurricane—struck the middle and northern Atlantic States in late August before triggering catastrophic flooding in parts of New England. Just a few days later, the remnants of Tropical Storm Lee brought additional flooding to the Northeast.

For the nation as a whole, initial data indicated that the Lower 48 States posted their 23rd-warmest, 45th-driest year during the 117-year period of record. Continuing a long-running stretch of warm years, the nation's annual average temperature of 53.8°F was 1.0°F above the long-term mean. The last time the nation experienced an annual average temperature below the 20th century mean was 1996 (figure 1). State temperature rankings ranged from the 17th-coolest year in Washington to the warmest year on record in Delaware (figure 2). In addition, top-ten rankings for warmth covered Texas (second-hottest year, behind only 1921), Oklahoma, Florida, Vermont, and every Atlantic Coast State from North Carolina to Maine. Texas also endured its driest year on record, supplanting 1917. Meanwhile, the nation noted its driest year since 2002 (figure 3), with an annual average precipitation of 28.78 inches (99 percent of normal). Elsewhere, state rankings ranged from top-ten dryness in Georgia, Louisiana, New Mexico, and South Carolina to the wettest year during the 1895-2011 period of record in Indiana, Kentucky, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, and Pennsylvania (figure 4).

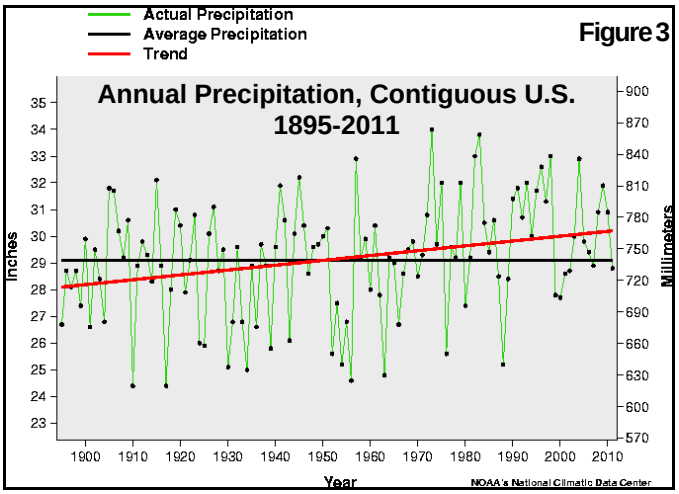
Winter (December 2010 - February 2011)

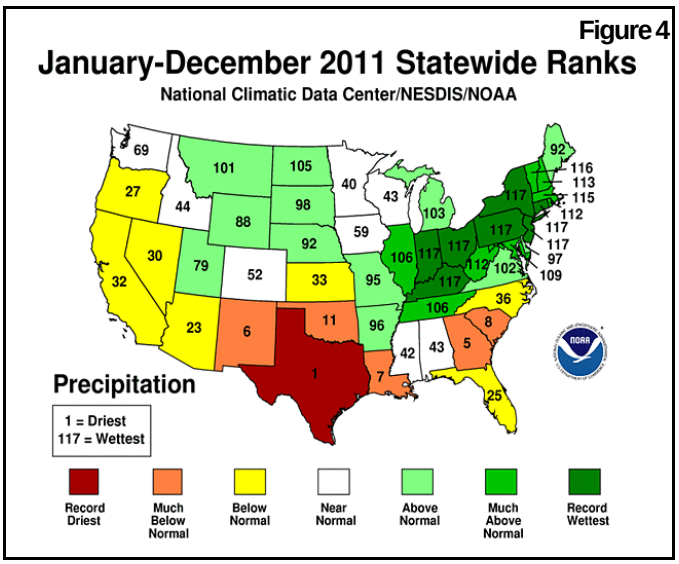
December freezes in Florida, expanding drought across the South, and an erratic Western winter wet season highlighted an unusual winter. December was not only cold in the Southeast, but exceptionally stormy in the West. But precipitation virtually ceased across much of the West for a 6-week period from early January to mid-February, only to return for the second half of February. The primary impact of Southern drought was deteriorating conditions of pastures and winter wheat. February featured numerous weather extremes. For example, bitter cold was replaced by mild weather across the central and southern Plains and the Mid-South.





Overall, the winter of 2010-2011 was cool and dry. The nation's winter average temperature of 32.2°F was 0.8°F below the 20th-century mean, and represented the 37th-lowest value on record. State rankings ranged from the 10th-coldest winter in Florida to the 35th-warmest December-February period in Nevada (figure 5). Meanwhile, winter precipitation averaged 5.71 inches (88 percent of the long-term mean). It was the third-driest December-February period on record in Louisiana and Mississippi, but the third-wettest winter in Minnesota and the fourth-wettest winter in South Dakota (figure 6). Other states reporting a top-ten winter ranking for dryness included Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, and Virginia. In South Dakota, it was the wettest winter since 1996-97, when massive spring flooding ensued.

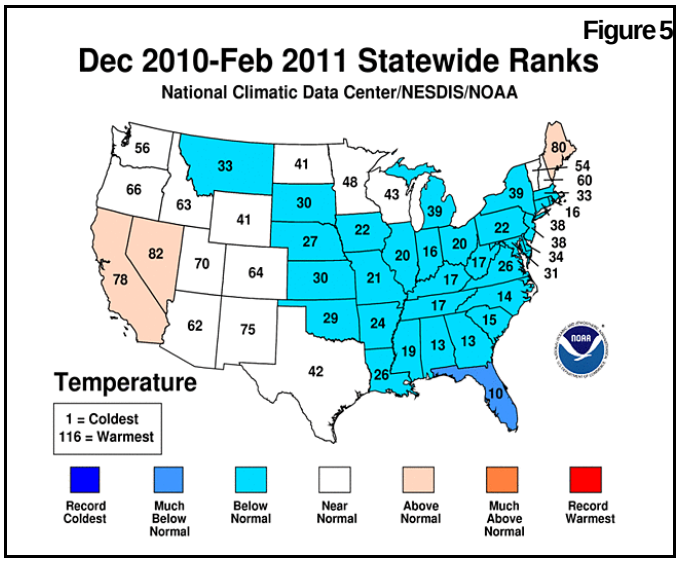


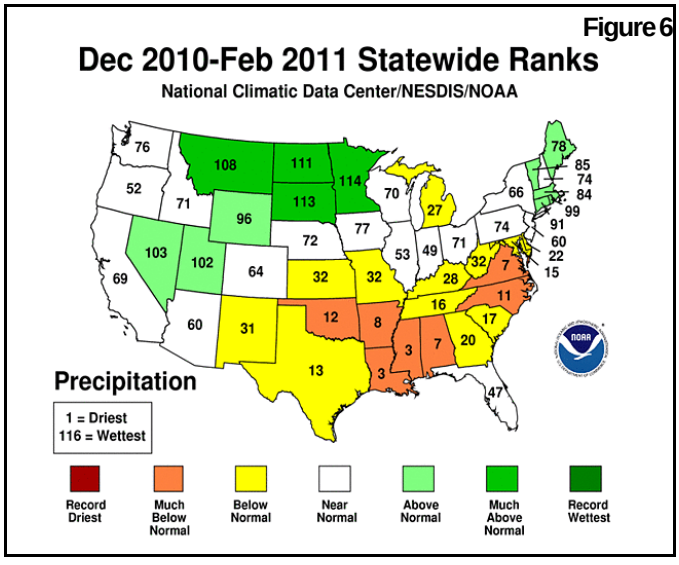


Spring (March-May)

Persistent weather patterns driven in part by a fading La Niña contributed to a variety of weather extremes. Wet conditions dominated the U.S., except across the southern half of the Plains, the lower Southeast, and parts of the Southwest. Warmth covered the South and East, while chilly conditions gripped the northern Plains and much of the West. Seasonal highlights included a late-season Western storm barrage during March, worsening drought in the Deep South, rampant spring flooding in the Ohio, Missouri, and Mississippi River basins, and multiple severe weather outbreaks in April and May. According to preliminary reports, the 24-hour period ending at 8 am EDT on April 28 became the nation's deadliest "tornado day" on record (since reliable records began in 1950), with 317 fatalities. This surpassed the 310 deaths of April 3-4, 1974. The Joplin storm of May 22—with 158 deaths—was the nation's deadliest single tornado since April 9, 1947, when 181 people perished in Woodward, Oklahoma.

According to preliminary information provided by the National Climatic Data Center, the nation experienced its 42nd-warmest, 10th-wettest spring on record. The U.S. spring average temperature of 52.3°F was 0.5°F above the 1901-2000 mean. It was the fifth-coolest spring in Washington and the seventh-coolest spring in Oregon, but among the ten warmest March-May periods in Texas, Delaware, Louisiana, New Mexico, Maryland, Rhode Island, and New Jersey (figure 7). Meanwhile, March-May precipitation averaged 9.12 inches, 118 percent of the mean. It was the nation's wettest spring since 1995. State rankings ranged from the second-driest spring in Texas to the wettest March-May period on record in Indiana, Kentucky, Montana, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia, and Wyoming (figure 8).





Summer (June-August)

Untimely heat and developing dryness reduced the yield potential for some Midwestern crops—particularly corn—during July, following a planting season delayed by incessant rains. Somewhat more favorable conditions returned to the Midwest during August, although pockets of drought lingered. Meanwhile, drought not only persisted but intensified across the south-central U.S., resulting in the loss of many rain-fed summer crops. Intense heat accompanied the drought, placing even irrigated crops under severe stress. Hot, dry conditions also affected parts of the Southeast, although late-summer tropical rains reduced the coverage of drought. Farther north, late-August rainfall from Hurricane Irene fell on already saturated soils from the Mid-Atlantic coastal plain into parts of New England, triggering major flooding. Elsewhere, late-summer warmth promoted fieldwork and crop development in the Northwest, following an extended period of cool, damp weather, while monsoon showers provided only limited drought relief in the Southwest.

Figure 7

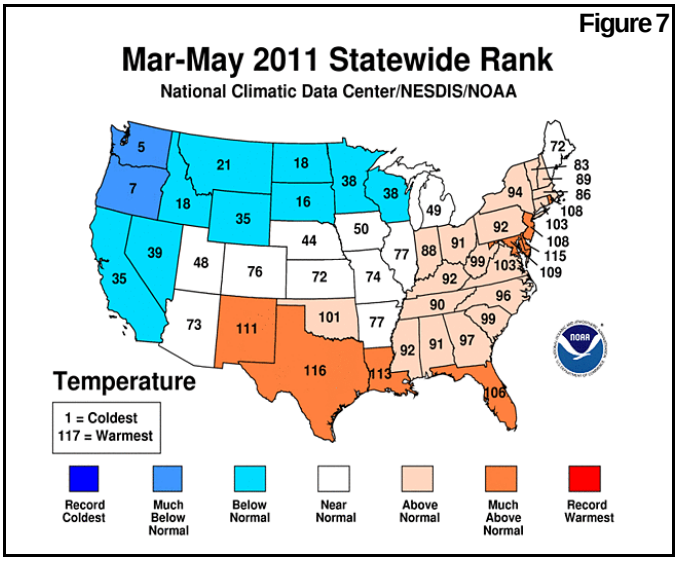
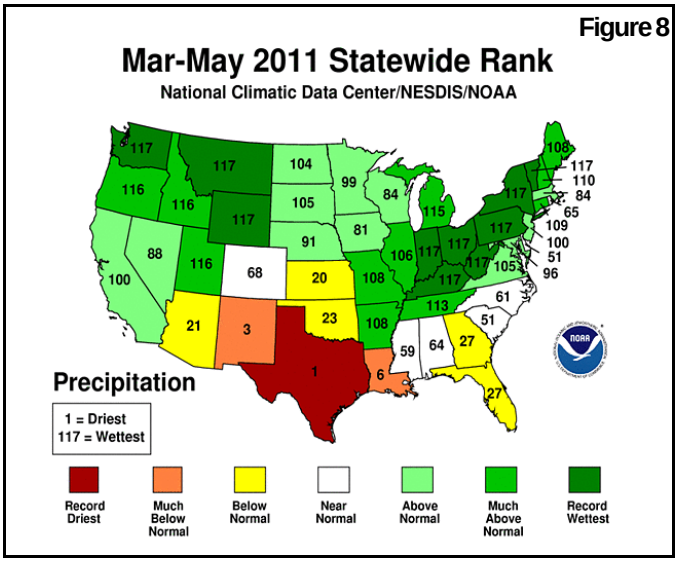


Figure 8



The nation suffered through its second-hottest, 17th-driest June-August period on record. The nation's average temperature of 74.5°F (2.4°F above the 1901-2000 mean) was second only to the June-August 1936 value of 74.6°F. Five of the ten hottest U.S. summers (2002, 2003, 2007, 2010, and 2011) have occurred since the beginning of the 21st century. It was the hottest summer on record in Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas, and among the ten warmest in 16 other states across the South and East (figure 9). Meanwhile, June-August precipitation averaged 7.38 inches (89 percent of normal) across the Lower 48, representing the nation's driest summer since 1988. State rankings ranged from the driest summer in Texas to the wettest June-August period in Connecticut and New Jersey. Top-ten dryness affected Georgia, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and South Carolina, while top-ten wetness plagued California, South Dakota, Delaware, New York, and New England (figure 10).

Figure 9

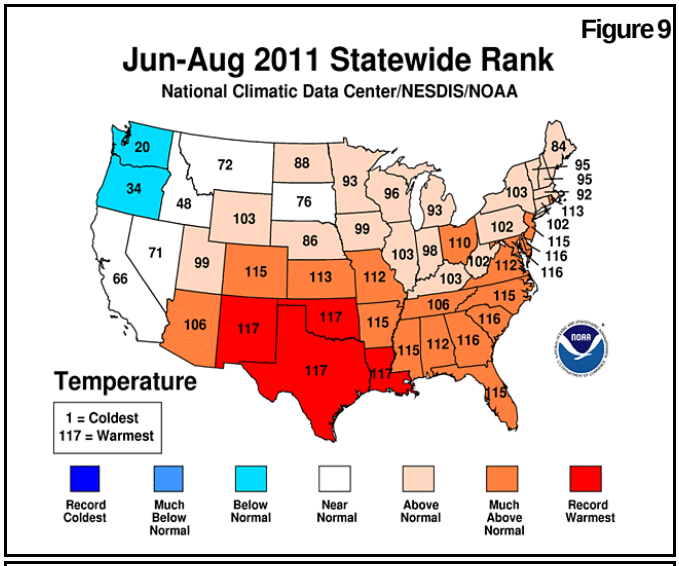
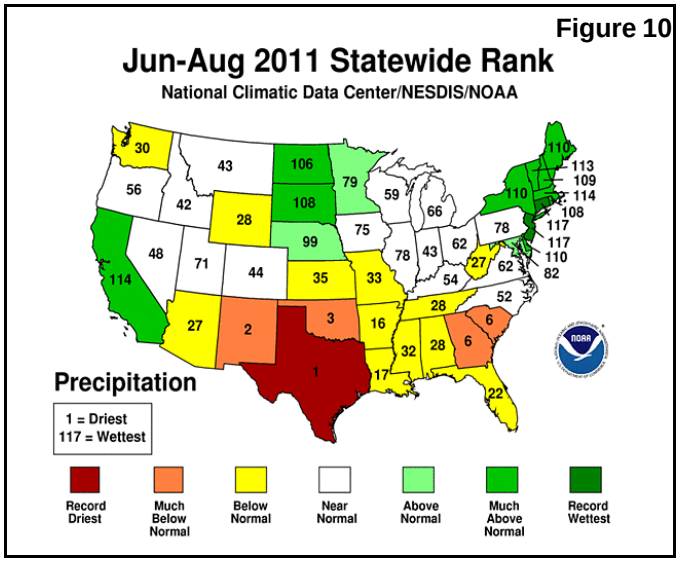


Figure 10



Autumn (September-November)

Autumn featured a wide variety of weather conditions, from Tropical Storm Lee-induced flooding (in early September) in the

Mid-Atlantic States to drought relief on the southern Plains. In general, relatively dry conditions prevailed from the Pacific Northwest to the upper Midwest, while wet conditions plagued areas from the Mid-South into the Northeast. However, significant autumn fieldwork delays were mostly confined to a small part of the eastern Corn Belt. Meanwhile, autumn warmth across the North and West contrasted with cooler-than-normal conditions in portions of the Southeast. Despite the overall Midwestern warmth, Minnesota and North Dakota experienced an earlier-than-normal first freeze in mid-September. In addition to the early upper Midwestern freeze, autumn climate oddities included a freak, late-October snow storm in the Northeast and October downpours in southern Florida.

According to preliminary information provided by the National Climatic Data Center, the nation experienced its 16th-warmest, 57th-wettest autumn on record. The nation's average temperature of 55.5°F was 1.3°F above the 1901-2000 mean. State rankings ranged from the 20th-coolest autumn in Mississippi to the warmest September-November period on record in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Vermont (figure 11). In addition, it was among the ten warmest autumns in Delaware, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, and the remainder of New England. Meanwhile, U.S. autumn precipitation averaged 6.80 inches, 101 percent of the long-term mean. State rankings ranged from the third-driest autumn in Minnesota to the wettest September-November period in Ohio and Pennsylvania (figure 12). Top-ten rankings for autumn wetness were also noted in Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, Tennessee, and West Virginia.

Figure 11

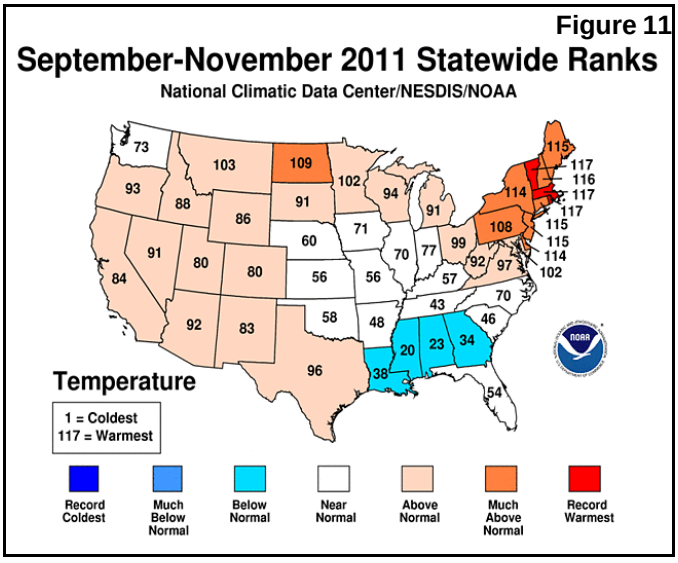
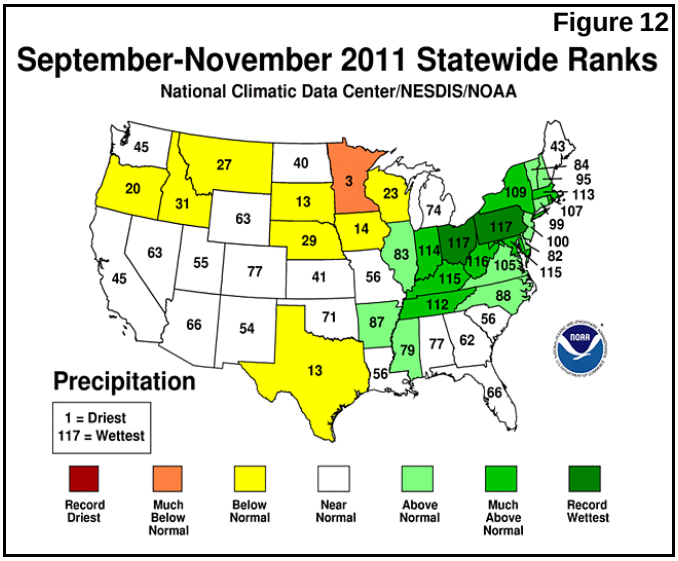


Figure 12



December

Mostly dry weather prevailed from the Pacific Coast into the north-central United States. In California and neighboring areas, extremely dry conditions stunted pasture growth and raised concerns about sub-par spring and summer runoff from meager mountain snow packs. On the northern Plains, mild, dry weather left winter wheat exposed to potential weather extremes. In contrast, widespread precipitation boosted high-elevation snow packs and benefited winter wheat and drought-damaged pastures and rangeland from Arizona to the southern half of the Plains. Wetness also extended into parts of the Midwest, where producers in the eastern Corn Belt continued to wait for fields to freeze before being able to proceed with final corn harvest efforts. Elsewhere, highly variable conditions existed across the Southeast, ranging from wet weather in the Mid-South to dryness in the southern Atlantic region and along the central Gulf Coast.

The contiguous U.S. experienced its 34th-warmest, 46th-driest December on record. The nation's average temperature of 35.0°F was 1.7°F above the 1901-2000 mean, while the average precipitation of 2.08 inches was 93 percent of the long-term mean. State temperature rankings ranged from the fourth-coldest December in New Mexico to the second-warmest December in Delaware and Rhode Island. Top-ten rankings for December warmth were also noted in thirteen other states from North Dakota to Maine, and southward along the Atlantic Coast to Virginia. Meanwhile, top-ten December dryness in Montana, South Dakota, Idaho, Nevada, and the Pacific Coast States contrasted with top-ten wetness in Arkansas, Kansas, and Ohio.

National Weather Data for Selected Cities

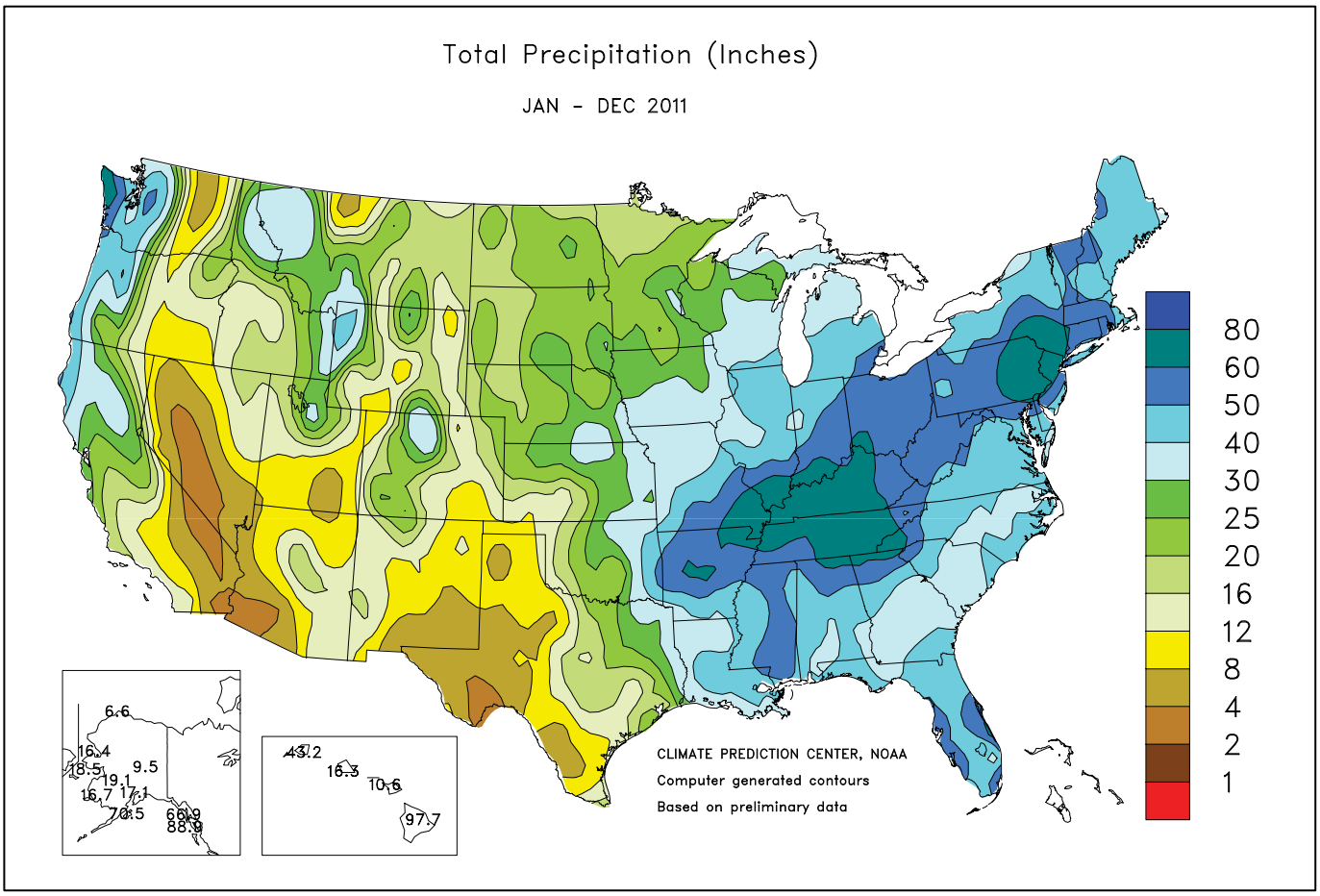
2011

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

STATES AND STATIONS	TEMP, °F		PRECIP.	
	AVERAGE	DEPARTURE	TOTAL	DEPARTURE
AL BIRMINGHAM	64	2	58.31	4.33
HUNTSVILLE	62	1	59.61	2.10
MOBILE	68	1	50.41	-15.88
MONTGOMERY	66	1	48.75	-6.02
AK ANCHORAGE	37	1	17.10	1.04
BARROW	15	4	6.61	2.46
COLD BAY	39	1	39.85	-0.43
FAIRBANKS	28	1	9.54	-0.79
JUNEAU	41	-1	66.89	8.56
KING SALMON	34	-1	23.90	4.49
KODIAK	41	0	70.53	-4.82
NOME	27	0	18.53	1.97
AZ FLAGSTAFF	46	0	20.67	-2.24
PHOENIX	75	2	4.66	-3.63
TUCSON	70	1	12.23	0.06
AR FORT SMITH	64	3	46.56	2.69
LITTLE ROCK	64	2	60.20	9.27
CA BAKERSFIELD	64	-1	4.39	-2.09
EUREKA	50	-3	35.39	-2.71
FRESNO	64	1	10.93	-0.30
LOS ANGELES	62	-1	9.86	-3.29
REDDING	61	-1	26.52	-7.00
SACRAMENTO	60	-1	16.95	-0.98
SAN DIEGO	64	0	9.07	-1.70
SAN FRANCISCO	57	0	16.58	-3.52
STOCKTON	60	-2	10.14	-3.70
CO ALAMOSA	42	1	4.61	-2.64
CO SPRINGS	51	3	16.24	-1.15
DENVER	51	2	17.31	3.69
GRAND JUNCTION	52	0	9.74	0.76
PUEBLO	53	1	9.21	-3.18
CT BRIDGEPORT	54	2	57.88	13.73
HARTFORD	52	2	69.49	23.33
DC WASHINGTON	60	2	46.89	7.54
DE WILMINGTON	56	2	56.58	13.77
FL DAYTONA BEACH	72	1	48.67	-0.62
FT LAUDERDALE	78	2	40.63	-23.57
FT MYERS	76	1	65.79	11.60
JACKSONVILLE	69	1	47.95	-4.39
KEY WEST	79	1	42.70	3.76
MELBOURNE	74	2	45.12	-3.17
MIAMI	78	1	63.76	5.23
ORLANDO	74	1	56.86	8.51
PENSACOLA	69	1	48.67	-15.61
ST PETERSBURG	74	0	49.07	-0.51
TALLAHASSEE	69	1	34.78	-28.42
TAMPA	74	1	53.22	8.46
WEST PALM BEACH	78	3	47.89	-13.50
GA ATHENS	63	1	36.78	-11.04
ATLANTA	64	2	39.22	-10.97
AUGUSTA	65	2	29.44	-15.15
COLUMBUS	67	2	39.74	-8.83
MACON	65	1	33.15	-11.84
SAVANNAH	68	2	34.61	-14.97
HI HILO	74	0	97.69	-28.58
HONOLULU	78	1	16.26	-2.02
KAHULUI	76	0	10.65	-8.15
LIHUE	76	0	43.15	3.59
ID BOISE	53	1	10.55	-1.65
LEWISTON	52	-1	13.06	0.34
POCATELLO	45	-2	12.37	-0.22
IL CHICAGO/O'HARE	51	2	49.83	13.55
MOLINE	51	1	34.83	-3.21
PEORIA	53	2	39.86	3.84
ROCKFORD	50	2	39.04	2.43
SPRINGFIELD	55	2	30.61	-4.95
IN EVANSVILLE	58	2	70.03	25.76
FORT WAYNE	52	2	49.54	12.99
INDIANAPOLIS	55	2	49.62	8.68
SOUTH BEND	51	1	46.48	6.78
IA BURLINGTON	52	0	35.81	-2.13
CEDAR RAPIDS	49	0	30.35	-3.06
DES MOINES	52	2	37.21	2.49
DUBUQUE	48	1	46.30	10.79
SIOUX CITY	49	1	24.13	-1.86
WATERLOO	48	1	30.52	-2.62
KS CONCORDIA	54	0	31.08	2.65
DODGE CITY	56	1	10.32	-12.03
GOODLAND	52	1	19.34	-0.42
HILL CITY	54	1	20.17	-2.72
TOPEKA	56	2	32.88	-2.76
WICHITA	59	3	26.05	-4.33
KY JACKSON	57	1	59.99	10.60
LEXINGTON	56	1	66.34	20.44
LONDON-CORBIN	56	0	61.30	13.89
LOUISVILLE	59	2	68.00	23.47
PADUCAH	59	2	74.89	25.65
LA BATON ROUGE	69	2	49.43	-13.64
LAKE CHARLES	70	2	38.63	-18.55
NEW ORLEANS	71	2	54.62	-9.54
SHREVEPORT	68	2	33.06	-18.24
ME BANGOR	46	1	44.35	4.78
CARIBOU	42	3	55.35	17.92
PORTLAND	48	2	51.77	5.94
MD BALTIMORE	57	2	56.52	14.58
MA BOSTON	53	1	52.39	9.86
WORCESTER	49	2	66.90	17.85
MI ALPENA	44	1	36.20	7.80
DETROIT	51	1	47.71	14.81
FLINT	49	2	40.92	9.31
GRAND RAPIDS	50	2	45.09	7.97
HOUGHTON LAKE	45	2	30.91	2.47
LANSING	49	2	38.87	7.34
MUSKEGON	49	2	41.90	9.03
TRAVERSE CITY	47	1	29.55	-3.92
MN DULUTH	41	2	26.06	-4.94
INT'L FALLS	38	0	19.70	-4.24
MINNEAPOLIS	48	3	26.90	-2.51
ROCHESTER	46	2	27.76	-3.65
ST. CLOUD	44	2	28.15	1.02
MS JACKSON	66	2	49.45	-6.49
MERIDIAN	64	-1	51.86	-6.79
TUPELO	63	2	51.66	-4.20
MO COLUMBIA	55	1	39.48	-0.80
JOPLIN	59	1	38.89	-7.18
KANSAS CITY	55	1	36.92	-1.07
SPRINGFIELD	57	1	40.61	-4.36
ST JOSEPH	54	0	20.00	-15.24
ST LOUIS	59	3	47.15	8.40
MT BILLINGS	47	0	19.55	4.79
BUTTE	39	-1	11.83	-0.95
GLASGOW	42	-1	22.94	11.71
GREAT FALLS	44	0	16.40	1.51
HELENA	45	1	13.29	1.97
KALISPELL	43	0	16.17	-1.04
MILES CITY	46	0	18.74	5.25
MISSOULA	45	0	14.82	1.00
NE GRAND ISLAND	50	0	27.16	1.27
HASTINGS	51	0	27.11	-0.83
LINCOLN	51	0	29.18	0.81
MCCOOK	51	0	20.21	-1.41
NORFOLK	49	0	21.03	-5.63
NORTH PLATTE	49	0	23.70	4.04
OMAHA/EPPLEY	52	1	28.70	-1.52
SCOTTSBLUFF	49	1	19.06	2.73
VALENTINE	48	1	21.99	2.47
NV ELKO	47	1	7.36	-2.23
ELY	45	0	12.00	2.03
LAS VEGAS	69	1	2.35	-2.14
RENO	53	2	4.92	-2.56
WINNEMUCCA	48	-1	9.20	0.87
NH CONCORD	47	1	54.79	17.19
NJ ATLANTIC CITY	57	3	48.52	7.93
NEWARK	57	2	69.91	23.65
NM ALBUQUERQUE	58	1	4.72	-4.74
NY ALBANY	50	2	53.64	15.58
BINGHAMTON	48	2	68.05	29.40
BUFFALO	49	1	49.56	9.02
ROCHESTER	49	1	40.50	6.54
SYRACUSE	51	3	48.04	8.00
NC ASHEVILLE	57	2	46.03	-1.01
CHARLOTTE	62	1	44.52	1.00
GREENSBORO	60	2	43.54	0.41
HATTERAS	65	2	63.09	5.34
RALEIGH	62	2	43.70	0.65
WILMINGTON	65	1	43.94	-13.13
ND BISMARCK	42	0	23.20	6.36
DICKINSON	41	-2	18.65	2.30
FARGO	43	1	23.94	2.75
GRAND FORKS	41	1	19.71	0.11
JAMESTOWN	41	-1	22.25	3.76
MINOT	42	0	23.57	5.13
WILLISTON	41	0	19.22	5.06
OH AKRON-CANTON	51	1	58.38	19.91
CINCINNATI	55	1	73.28	30.67
CLEVELAND	52	2	65.30	26.60
COLUMBUS	54	1	54.97	16.47
DAYTON	53	1	56.72	17.14
MANSFIELD	51	2	56.68	13.45
TOLEDO	51	1	48.95	15.74
YOUNGSTOWN	50	1	54.03	16.01
OK OKLAHOMA CITY	63	3	30.35	-5.50
TULSA	62	1	31.98	-10.44
OR ASTORIA	50	-1	68.90	1.77
BURNS	43	-1	10.46	-0.11
EUGENE	52	0	34.05	-16.86
MEDFORD	54	0	16.41	-1.96
PENDLETON	51	-1	12.00	-0.76
PORTLAND	53	-1	37.12	0.05
SALEM	53	0	35.89	-4.11
PA ALLENTOWN	53	2	71.71	26.54
ERIE	51	1	57.13	14.36
MIDDLETOWN	55	2	73.72	33.22
PHILADELPHIA	58	3	64.33	22.29
PITTSBURGH	53	2	44.22	6.37
WILKES-BARRE	51	1	60.00	22.45
WILLIAMSPORT	52	2	70.26	28.67
PR SAN JUAN	80	0	88.22	37.46
RI PROVIDENCE	53	2	56.72	10.26
SC CHARLESTON	67	2	37.01	-14.52
COLUMBIA	66	2	36.62	-11.65
FLORENCE	65	1	28.47	-16.29
GREENVILLE	62	2	45.95	-4.27
MYRTLE BEACH	65	1	31.24	-14.47
SD ABERDEEN	43	-1	23.29	3.07
HURON	45	0	22.69	1.80
RAPID CITY	46	-1	19.43	2.80
SIOUX FALLS	46	1	24.28	-0.41
TN BRISTOL	58	3	47.68	6.36
CHATTANOOGA	62	2	64.80	10.28
JACKSON	61	1	59.00	4.22
KNOXVILLE	61	3	56.63	8.41
MEMPHIS	64	2	58.34	3.69
NASHVILLE	60	1	52.15	4.04
TX ABILENE	68	4	16.84	-6.93
AMARILLO	60	3	6.99	-12.73
AUSTIN	70	1	16.90	-16.75
BEAUMONT	71	2	31.02	-28.87
BROWNSVILLE	76	3	17.95	-9.60
COLLEGE STATION	72	3	19.97	-19.70
CORPUS CHRISTI	73	1	12.05	-20.20
DALLAS/FT WORTH	69	3	25.88	-8.85
DEL RIO	73	3	9.91	-8.32
EL PASO	67	2	5.27	-4.16
GALVESTON	72	1	22.94	-20.90
HOUSTON	72	3	24.56	-23.28
LUBBOCK	63	3	5.86	-12.82
MIDLAND	67	3	5.50	-9.30
SAN ANGELO	69	4	9.24	-11.66
SAN ANTONIO	72	3	17.58	-15.34
VICTORIA	73	3	13.08	-27.02
WACO	69	2	27.63	-5.71
WICHITA FALLS	67	4	12.97	-15.84
UT SALT LAKE CITY	52	0	19.13	2.63
VT BURLINGTON	47	2	51.00	14.95
VA LYNCHBURG	57	2	38.96	-4.35
NORFOLK	62	2	51.10	5.36
RICHMOND	61	3	47.52	3.62
ROANOKE	59	3	45.03	2.55
WASH/DULLES	57	3	46.20	4.39
WA OLYMPIA	49	-1	50.69	-0.10
QUILLAYUTE	48	-1	107.33	5.61
SEATTLE-TACOMA	51	-1	36.39	-0.67
SPOKANE	47	0	15.39	-1.28
YAKIMA	50	1	7.34	-0.92
WV BECKLEY	54	2	42.15	0.53
CHARLESTON	57	2	50.79	6.75
ELKINS	52	2	51.99	5.90
HUNTINGTON	56	1	62.58	20.27
WI EAU CLAIRE	45	1	31.92	-0.20
GREEN BAY	46	1	37.86	8.67
LA CROSSE	48	1	35.10	2.74
MADISON	48	2	30.54	-2.41
MILWAUKEE	49	1	32.59	-2.22
WAUSAU	44	0	35.51	2.15
WY CASPER	45	0	13.29	0.26
CHEYENNE	46	1	19.35	3.90
LANDER	45	0	15.41	1.99
SHERIDAN	45	0	18.76	4.04

Based on 1971-2000 normals

***** Not Available**


Total Precipitation (Inches)
JAN - DEC 2011
80
60
50
40
30
25
20
16
12
8
4
2
1
6.6
16.4
18.5
9.5
19.1
16.7
17.1
70.5
66.9
88.9
43.2
16.3
10.6
97.7
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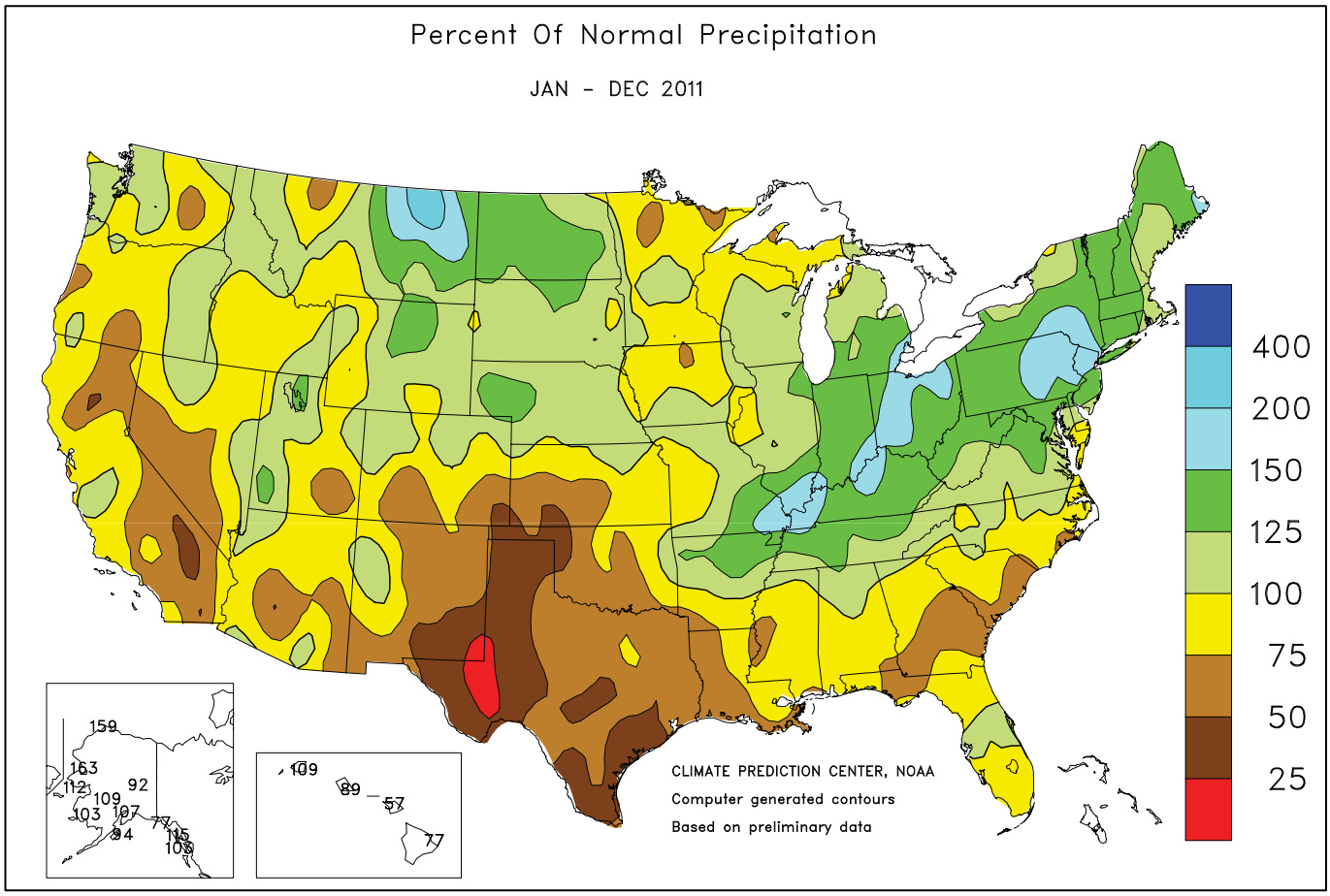
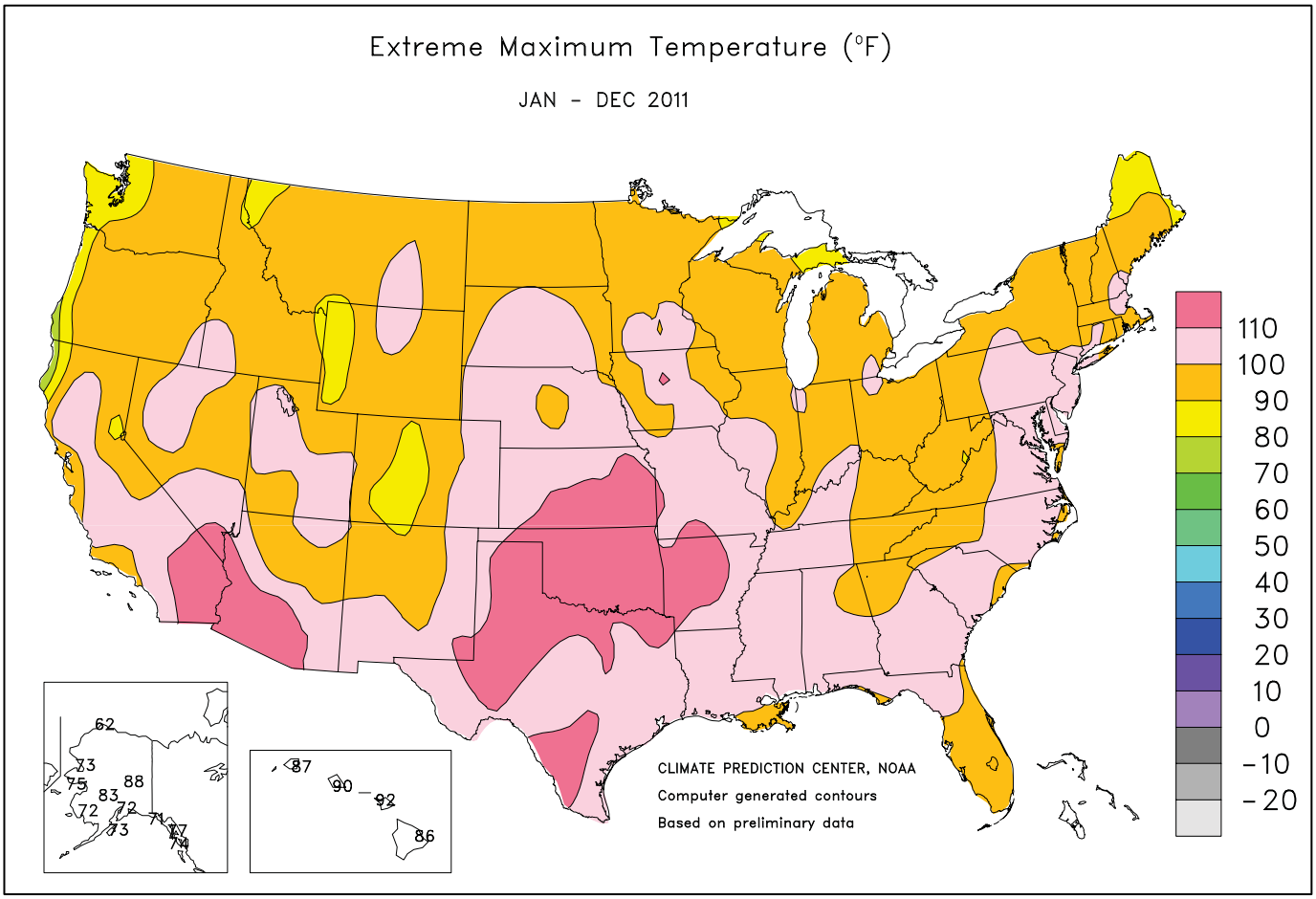
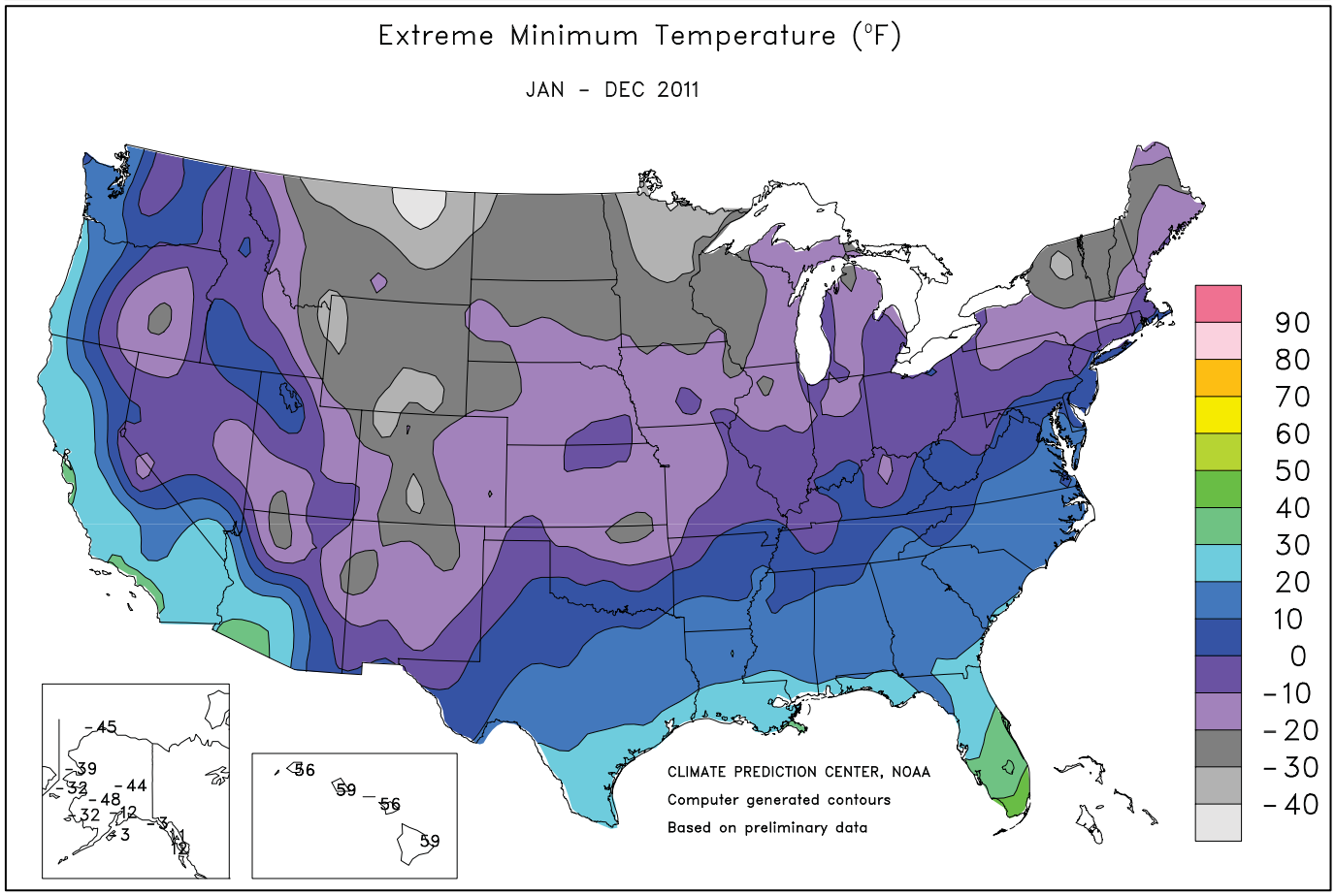
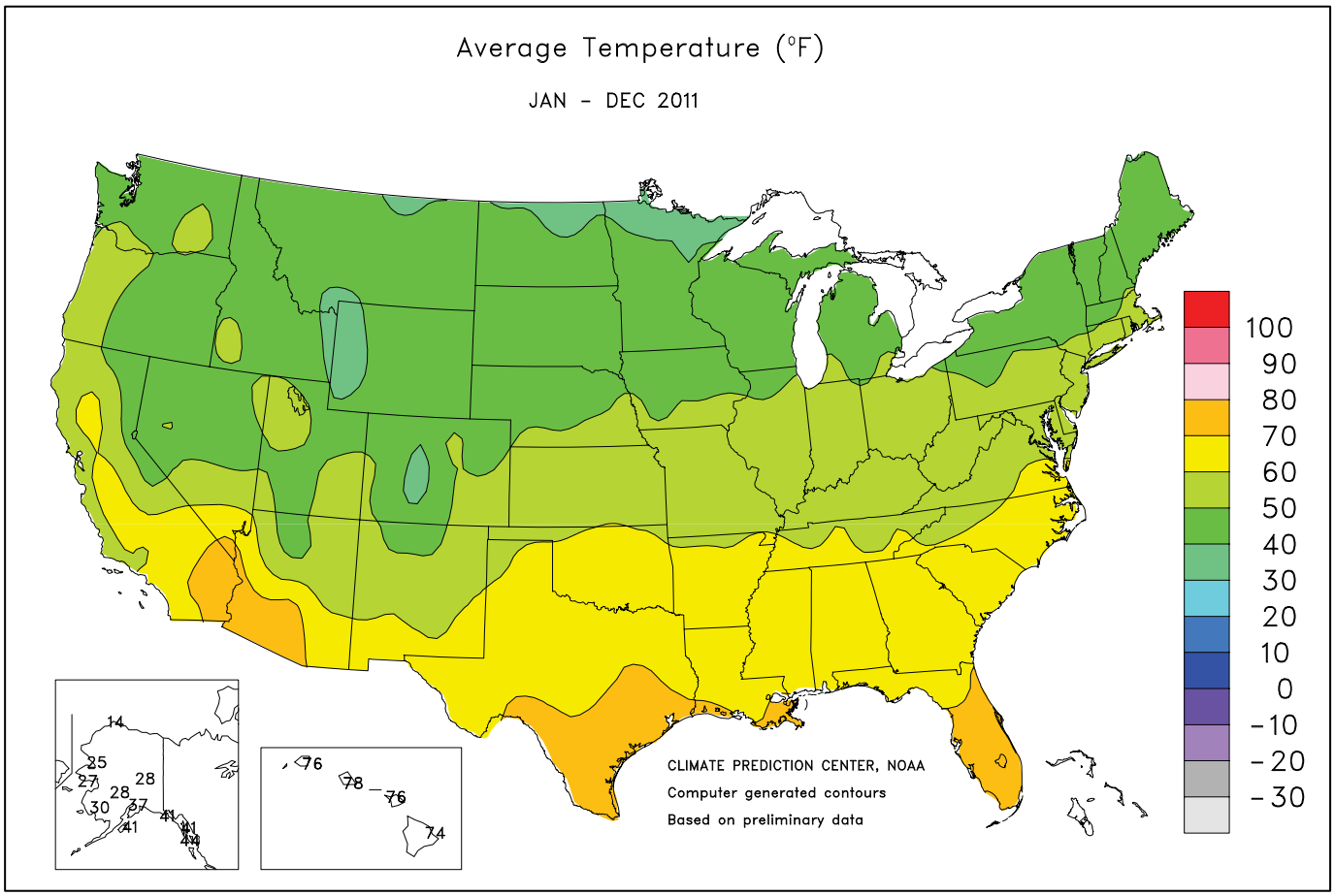
Computer generated contours
Based on preliminary data


Percent Of Normal Precipitation
JAN - DEC 2011
400
200
150
125
100
75
50
25
159
163
112
92
109
103
107
94
109
89
57
77
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA
Computer generated contours
Based on preliminary data


Extreme Maximum Temperature (°F)
JAN - DEC 2011
110
100
90
80
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
-10
-20
62
73
75
88
83
72
72
73
87
90
92
86
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA
Computer generated contours
Based on preliminary data


Extreme Minimum Temperature (°F)
JAN - DEC 2011
90
80
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
-10
-20
-30
-40
-45
39
-33
-44
-48
32
12
3
56
59
56
59
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA
Computer generated contours
Based on preliminary data


Average Temperature (°F)
JAN - DEC 2011
100
90
80
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
-10
-20
-30
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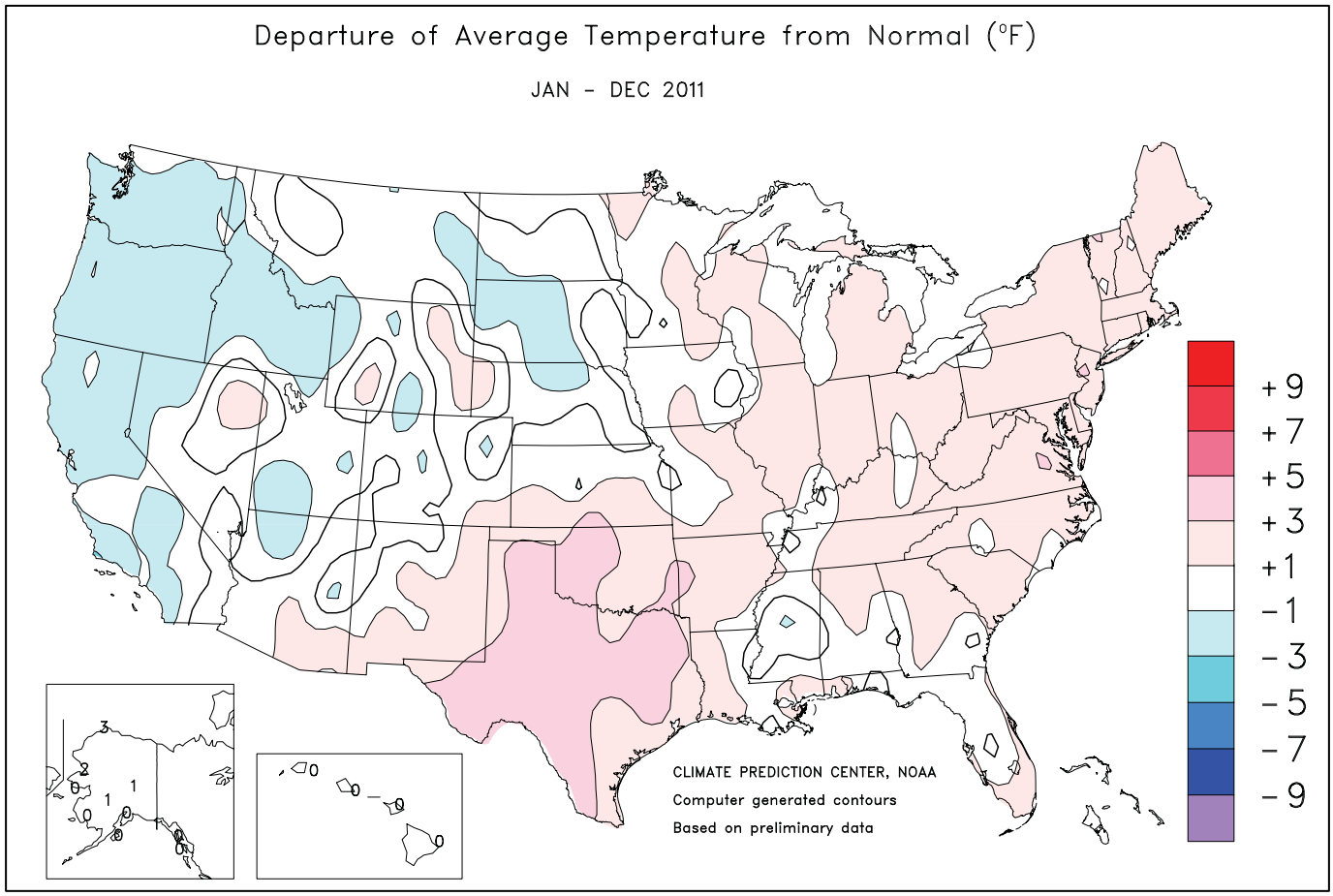
Computer generated contours
Based on preliminary data


Departure of Average Temperature from Normal (°F)
JAN - DEC 2011
+9
+7
+5
+3
+1
-1
-3
-5
-7
-9
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA
Computer generated contours
Based on preliminary data

2011 U.S. Fieldwork Highlights

Highlights, released on January 12, 2011, were provided by USDA/NASS.

April: Unusually warm, dry weather dominated much of the southern U.S. during the month, causing an overall decline in winter wheat conditions. Meanwhile, cool wet conditions across the nation's northern tier and much of the Corn Belt limited or prevented fieldwork. As the month began, corn planting had just begun in three of the five largest producing states. Saturated fields and localized flooding hampered fieldwork in portions of the Corn Belt, Great Lakes region, and Ohio Valley throughout much of the month, leaving planting progress well behind both last year and normal for not only row crops, but spring-seeded small grains as well. In portions of the Delta, mid- to late-month rainfall, hail, and flash flooding slowed fieldwork, damaged crops, and eroded fields. Although cotton planting began the month ahead of the average pace, a lack of soil moisture in Texas left many cotton producers on the Plains waiting for much-needed rainfall before putting seed in the ground.

May: Continued above-average precipitation in portions of the Corn Belt, Great Plains, Ohio Valley, and Rocky Mountains limited row crop and small grain planting as the month began, while cool weather delayed fieldwork and slowed crop emergence and development across much of the western half of the country. As May began, just 13 percent of the nation's corn crop was planted. This was 53 percentage points behind last year and 27 points behind the 5-year average. Although soybean planting was most advanced in the Delta, flooding along the Mississippi River left many fields under water. Conversely, above-average temperatures and mostly dry conditions promoted a rapid crop development pace for winter wheat on the southern Great Plains, while negatively impacting crop conditions throughout the month. Elsewhere, peanut planting was rapid throughout much of the Southeast despite dry soil conditions in some areas. Improved weather during the latter half of May provided favorable conditions for increased fieldwork and aided crop emergence in areas previously impacted by cool, wet conditions.

June: Warm, dry weather persisted in much of the southern half of the U.S. during June, compounding the effects of low soil moisture levels and adversely affecting crop conditions. In contrast to May's rapid planting pace, peanut producers in the Southeast sowed a limited amount of their remaining intended acreage because of unusually dry soils early in the month. Hot, dry weather led to poor seed germination and emergence of many dryland cotton fields in parts of the Texas Plains, leaving crop development behind normal. Despite favorable weather, row crop development in portions of the Corn Belt remained behind normal due to late spring planting. Seeding was ongoing into mid-June in some oat-producing states, while harvest was nearly complete in Texas by month's end. Cool, wet weather continued to limit fieldwork and small grain development across the nation's northern tier and along the Pacific Coast. Head development of the nation's barley and spring wheat crops was 38 percentage points or more behind normal by July 3. In North Dakota, seeding of barley and spring wheat was well behind normal, despite producers battling soggy fields to sow as much of their intended acreage as possible before the lateness of the season prevented further seeding.

July: Hotter-than-normal weather and limited rainfall across much of the nation promoted a rapid pace of crop maturation during the month. On the southern Great Plains, summer row crops and many small grains were stressed by triple-digit temperatures and little to no rainfall. Some sorghum fields in Texas were abandoned due to prolonged drought stress, while producers in Kansas irrigated their fields as much as water supplies allowed. In the Corn Belt, warm weather and adequate soil moisture levels provided nearly ideal growing conditions for reproductive corn and soybeans; however, the month ended with blooming and pod set of the soybean crop behind both last year and normal. As July progressed, mostly sunny skies and dry weather allowed for a quick harvest pace in many winter wheat-producing states. Favorable weather conditions boosted rice conditions in Arkansas at mid-month, while disease and insect pressure negatively impacted some fields in Louisiana. Spotty rainfall helped to loosen hard-packed soils in peanut fields in portions of the Southeast, allowing for easier peg development and improved crop conditions.

August: Much of the southern Great Plains remained parched during August, compounding the effects of one of the driest summers on record. In Texas, some sorghum

fields were baled due to a severe lack of soil moisture and poor crop development. Elsewhere, hot weather and dry soils limited peg development and calcium uptake in many peanut fields in Georgia early in the month. Conversely, Hurricane Irene dumped rainfall in excess of 16 inches on portions of New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania. While warm weather aided maturation of many Midwestern row crops during the month, limited rainfall in portions of the Corn Belt led to a late-August decline in soybean conditions. The harvest of many small grain crops advanced quickly, as producers in the major growing states ramped up fieldwork during the latter half of the month to help gain ground on what had been a slower-than-normal crop year. Toward month's end, cotton harvest was underway in Arizona, Mississippi, and Texas.

September: Crop development continued at a rapid pace in the Midwest, despite cooler-than-normal weather and lingering rainfall that limited harvest in portions of the Corn Belt. With harvest underway across a good portion of the major corn-producing region, the first autumn frosts negatively impacted some fields in the northern Corn Belt. Elsewhere, warm, dry conditions dominated the western half of the country during the month, providing ample time for the harvest of this year's barley and spring wheat crops. As September began, winter wheat producers were busy seeding the 2012 crop; however, the unusually dry soil conditions on the southern Great Plains left many producers in Oklahoma and Texas waiting for increased rainfall before seeding their crop. Conversely, beneficial rainfall in portions of the Southeast spurred peanut digging late in the month.

October: Sunny, mostly dry weather in portions of the Corn Belt aided the rapid harvest of many row crops during the month, while storm systems steadily dumped rainfall on the Ohio Valley. Rainfall across the eastern Corn belt slowed not only crop development and harvest, but small grain seeding as well. Cool weather and lingering rainfall in early September gave way to favorable conditions by mid-month, as Midwestern fieldwork gained speed in many of the major corn- and soybean-producing states. This left overall harvest progress well ahead of the normal pace. Fair weather on the Great Plains spurred the rapid harvest of this year's sorghum crop during the latter half of the month. In Texas, the pace of winter wheat seeding increased, as producers on the Northern High Plains sowed their crop behind harvested silage crops and ahead of expected moisture. Toward month's end, near-normal temperatures and dry weather on the Great Plains aided the double-digit harvest pace of the sunflower crop. Similarly, improved weather conditions in the four major sugarbeet-producing states allowed for 73 percent of this year's crop to be harvested from October 3-30. While nearly ideal weather provided cotton producers across much of the South ample time to harvest their crop, late-month snow in parts of northern Texas delayed progress.

November: Near-normal temperatures and below-average precipitation allowed producers in many areas across the country ample time to wrap up fieldwork during November. Conversely, abundant moisture in portions of the Corn Belt and Ohio Valley hampered harvest for the remaining corn and soybean crops. Early-season storms delivered beneficial moisture to the emerging winter wheat crop in some Rocky Mountain locations. Meanwhile on the Great Plains, additional precipitation was needed to boost crop establishment. On November 27, fifty-two percent of the 2012 winter wheat crop was reported in good to excellent condition, compared with 47 percent at the same time last year. As November began, rice producers in the northern Delta and California were busy harvesting the last of their 2011 crop, while harvest in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas was complete. Sunflower harvest was nearly complete by November 20. Cool, mostly dry weather across the South promoted a rapid harvest pace for cotton early in the month. By November 13, cotton harvest—at 79 percent complete—was advancing at the quickest pace since 2001. Sugarbeet producers had harvested 96 percent of this year's crop by November 6, which was 3 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average.

2011 U.S. Crop Production Highlights

Highlights, released on January 12, 2011, were provided by USDA/NASS.

Corn: Corn for grain production is estimated at 12.4 billion bushels, up slightly from the November 1 forecast but 1 percent below 2010. The average U.S. yield for 2011 is estimated at 147.2 bushels per acre. This is up 0.5 bushel from the November forecast but 5.6 bushels below the 2010 average yield of 152.8 bushels. Estimated yields are down across much of the nation compared to 2010. Dry soil conditions and above-normal temperatures during the critical development phase limited yield potential in many locations. The largest declines in yield compared to the previous year are estimated in the southern Plains, where severe drought and high temperatures negatively impacted the crop. Estimated yields are up from last year in the Mid-Atlantic, Tennessee Valley, and Pacific Northwest. Record-high yields are estimated in Georgia, Idaho, Michigan, Oregon, and Washington.

Corn planted area, at 91.9 million acres, is up 4 percent from 2010. This represents the second-largest acreage since 1944, behind only 2007 with 93.5 million acres. Area harvested for grain is estimated at 84.0 million acres, up slightly from the November forecast and up 3 percent from 2010. The 2010 corn objective yield data indicate the second-highest number of ears per acre for the combined ten objective yield states (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin), behind only the record year of 2009. Record-high ear counts were recorded in Illinois, Iowa, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

Sorghum: Grain production in 2011 is estimated at 214 million bushels, down 13 percent from the November 1 forecast and 38 percent below 2010. Planted area, at 5.48 million acres, is the second- lowest level on record, up just 1 percent from last year. Area harvested for grain is estimated at 3.93 million acres. This is down 18 percent from 2010 and the lowest harvested area since 1936. Average grain yield, at 54.6 bushels per acre, is down 0.9 bushel from the previous forecast and down 17.2 bushels from last year. Hot, dry weather during the growing season had a negative impact on the 2011 sorghum crop. This was especially true in Kansas and Texas, the nation's top two sorghum producers. Texas experienced one of its most severe droughts on record, while portions of Kansas were also in varying levels of drought throughout the year. Kansas production is at its lowest level since 1964. Area planted and harvested in Texas are record lows. In Oklahoma, record-low harvested area and production are estimated.

Oats: The 2011 production is estimated at a record- low 53.6 million bushels, down 34 percent from 2010. Yield is estimated at 57.1 bushels per acre, down 7.2 bushels from the previous year. Area planted to oats is estimated at a record-low 2.50 million acres, down 20 percent from 2010. In total, record lows for planted acres were set in 24 states. Harvested area is estimated at a record-low 939,000 acres, down 26 percent from last year. Record lows for harvested area occurred in 19 states. Favorable growing conditions in the Southeast promoted significant yield increases compared with 2010, with Alabama and North Carolina yields tying record highs. Extreme drought conditions in Texas led to a large decline in yield from last year. Elsewhere, delayed planting caused by above-average spring precipitation and combined with excessive heat during pollination in July led to a large drop in average yields in Minnesota and South Dakota.

Barley: Production is estimated at 156 million bushels, 14 percent below 2010, and is the lowest since 1936. Average yield per acre, at 69.6 bushels, is down 3.5 bushels from the previous year. Producers seeded 2.56 million acres in 2011, down 11 percent from last year. This is the lowest planted acreage on record. Harvested area, at 2.24 million acres, is down 9 percent from 2010, and is at the lowest level since 1881. Seeded area in North Dakota established a record low for the state, while harvested area was the lowest since 1901. In addition, Michigan, Minnesota, Oregon, South Dakota, and Utah producers set new record lows for seeded acreage, while producers in New York seeded a record-tying low. Record lows for harvested area were set in Michigan and Wisconsin. A record-high yield was set in North Carolina, while producers in Arizona reported a record-tying yield.

All wheat: Production totaled 2.00 billion bushels in 2011, down 9 percent from 2010. Grain area totaled 45.7 million acres, down 4 percent from the previous year. The U.S. yield is 43.7 bushels per acre, down 2.6 bushels from the previous year's record high but still ranks as the fifth-highest yield on record. The levels of production and changes from 2010 by type are winter wheat, 1.49 billion bushels, up 1 percent; other spring wheat, 455 million bushels, down 26 percent; and Durum wheat, 50.5 million bushels, down 52 percent.

Winter wheat: The 2011 winter wheat production totaled 1.49 billion bushels, 1 percent above the previous year. The U.S. yield is 46.2 bushels per acre, down 0.6 bushel

from 2010. Area harvested for grain is estimated at 32.3 million acres, up 2 percent from the previous year.

Planted and harvested acres were down from 2010 in most of the major Hard Red Winter (HRW) growing states. Persistently hot, dry conditions in this growing area, particularly in Texas and Oklahoma, resulted in acreage and yield reductions from the previous year in most states. Nationally, HRW production totaled 780 million bushels, down 23 percent from 2010.

After seeing a reduction in 2010 area due to wet weather during planting, planted and harvested acres increased from a year ago across most of the Soft Red Winter (SRW) growing area. Due to excellent weather conditions for much of the season, production was up significantly from the previous year, with production in many of the SRW States up more than 100 percent from 2010. Record-high yields were experienced in Alabama, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia. Overall, SRW production totaled 458 million bushels, up 93 percent from 2010.

White winter production totaled 256 million bushels, up 12 percent from the previous year. Planted and harvested acreage in the Pacific Northwest (Idaho, Oregon, and Washington) was above 2010's level. Record-high yields were experienced in Nevada, Oregon, and Washington.

Other spring wheat: Production for 2011 is estimated at 455 million bushels, down 26 percent from 2010. Harvested area totaled 12.1 million acres, down 10 percent from last year. The U.S. yield is 37.7 bushels per acre, 8.4 bushels lower than last year. Yields are below the previous year's level in all states except Idaho, Oregon, and Washington, where record-high yields were achieved in all three states.

Durum wheat: Production for 2011 is estimated at 50.5 million bushels, down 52 percent from 2010. Grain area harvested is 1.31 million acres, down 48 percent from the previous year. The U.S. yield is 38.5 bushels per acre, down 3.6 bushels from 2010 but still the fourth-highest yield on record. Flooding and excessively wet conditions during spring and early summer reduced area available for planting in Montana and North Dakota, and hampered crop development throughout the growing season. In North Dakota, planted and harvested acres are record lows.

Rice: Production in 2011 is estimated 185 million cwt, down 2 percent from the previous forecast and 24 percent below 2010. Planted area is estimated at 2.69 million acres, down 26 percent from 2010. Area harvested, at 2.62 million acres, is down slightly from the previous forecast and 28 percent below the previous crop year. The average yield for all U.S. rice is estimated at 7,067 pounds per acre, down 100 pounds from the previous forecast but 342 pounds above the 2010 yield. In all states except California, severe drought conditions, excessive flooding, and higher prices for competing commodities contributed to the decline in rice acreage compared with the previous crop year. In early April, flooding in parts of Missouri and Arkansas resulted in a large number of abandoned acres. In Missouri, rice abandonment is estimated at the highest level on record. Harvested area in Arkansas is the lowest since 1989 and abandoned acres are estimated at the second-highest level on record. Despite the adverse weather conditions in 2011, yields increased from the previous year in all states except Mississippi, which remained unchanged. A record-high yield was set in Louisiana.

All hay: Production of dry hay for 2011 is estimated at 131 million tons, down slightly from the October 1 forecast and down 10 percent from the 2010 total. This is the lowest U.S. production level since 1988. Area harvested is estimated at 55.6 million acres, down 3 percent from the October 1 forecast and down 7 percent from last year. The average yield, at 2.36 tons per acre, is up 0.07 ton from October but down 0.07 ton from the previous year.

Peanuts: Production is estimated at 3.64 billion pounds, down slightly from the previous forecast and down 13 percent from 2010. Planted area is estimated at 1.14 million acres, down 11 percent from 2010. Area harvested, at 1.10 million acres, is down 13 percent from the previous crop year. Average yield is estimated at 3,313 pounds per acre, up 38 pounds from the previous forecast and up 1 pound from 2010. Estimated yields were down significantly from last year in the Southwest due to severe drought conditions during the growing season. In Texas, growers realized the lowest yield since 1995. Farther east, peanut yields were up from last year in most states. Record-high yields were estimated in Virginia and Mississippi, and the yield in Florida tied the record high achieved in 2010.

Sunflower: The 2011 sunflower production totaled 2.04 billion pounds, down 25 percent from 2010. The U.S. average yield per acre decreased 62 pounds from last year to 1,398 pounds. Planted area, at 1.54 million acres, is 21 percent below last year and is the lowest since 1976. Area harvested decreased 22 percent from last year to 1.46

million acres and is also the lowest since 1976. For the first time since data for both states began to be published in 1977, South Dakota out-produced North Dakota to become the leading sunflower-producing state in 2011. Production in South Dakota is estimated at 777 million pounds, up slightly from 2010. Compared with last year, South Dakota was the only one of the nine major producing states with an increase in yield. Production in North Dakota, at 766 million pounds, is down 39 percent from 2010. Compared with last year, planted area in North Dakota was down 34 percent due to extremely wet spring conditions and is the lowest since 1975.

Soybeans: Production in 2011 totaled 3.06 billion bushels, up slightly from the November 1 forecast but down 8 percent from 2010. U.S. production is the sixth largest on record. The average yield per acre is estimated at 41.5 bushels, 0.2 bushel above the November 1 forecast but 2.0 bushels below last year's yield. Planted area for the nation, at 75.0 million acres, is down 3 percent from last year. Soybean growers harvested 73.6 million acres, down slightly from November and down 4 percent from last year. Drought conditions across much of Kansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas hampered soybean development this year. Conditions were especially severe in Oklahoma and Texas, where yields declined 12 and 11 bushels from last year, respectively. The average yield in Oklahoma, at 13 bushels per acre, is the lowest since 1980, while the yield in Texas, at 19 bushels per acre, is the tied for the lowest since 1955. In contrast, growing conditions were improved from a year ago across the Mid-Atlantic States, with the average yield in Virginia tying the previous record high set in 2004. The 2011 soybean objective yield survey data indicate that final average pod counts were lower than last year in all of the eleven objective yield states, with the exception of Nebraska. Compared with last year, pod counts were down more than 10 percent in Arkansas and Indiana.

Cotton: Upland cotton production is estimated at 14.8 million 480-pound bales, down 2 percent from the December 1 forecast and down 16 percent from last year. The U.S. yield is estimated at 754 pounds per acre, down 3 pounds from last month and down 51 pounds from 2010. Upland planted area, estimated at 14.4 million acres, is up 34 percent from last year. Harvested area, at 9.44 million acres, is down 1 percent from last month and down 10 percent from last year. The Upland cotton abandonment rate, at 35 percent, is a record high. Drought throughout much of the Cotton Belt was the main factor contributing to decreased Upland cotton production compared with last year. Texas, Oklahoma, and Georgia experienced extremely hot, dry weather this growing season. North Carolina and Virginia also saw reduced yields due to Hurricane Irene, which made landfall in late August. Objective yield data in Georgia showed boll weight to be the highest on record. However, Georgia bolls per acre were the lowest since 2002. Objective yield data in North Carolina showed boll weight to be the lowest since 2005. Texas objective yield data showed boll weight to be the lowest since 2000.

American Pima producers planted 306,400 acres, up 50 percent from last year. Harvested area, at 303,900 acres, is up 51 percent from last year. Production of 480-pound bales is estimated at 845,700 bales, up 15 percent from the August 1 forecast and up 68 percent from last year. The U.S. yield is estimated at 1,336 pounds per acre, up 105 pounds from the August 1 forecast and up 136 pounds from last year.

Sugarbeets: Production for 2011 is estimated at 28.8 million tons, down fractionally from the November 1 forecast and 10 percent below last year. Growers in the 10 major sugarbeet-producing states planted 1.23 million acres and harvested 1.21 million acres, both up 5 percent from last year. Estimated yield, at 23.7 tons per acre, is 0.2 ton below the November forecast and 4 tons below last year. A cool, wet spring delayed planting in much of the growing region. In addition to the unfavorable spring planting conditions, Minnesota—which accounts for 31 percent of the total U.S. production—also experienced limited moisture later in the growing season, which reduced the crop's yield potential. Idaho growers saw lower abandonment this season due to favorable weather during the later planting. Following the poor spring weather, most states saw improved growing conditions as the season progressed.

Sugarcane: Production of sugarcane for sugar and seed in 2011 is estimated at 28.3 million tons, of which 26.7 million tons was utilized for sugar and 1.57 million tons for seed. Total production for sugar and seed is down 1 percent from the December 1 forecast but up 3 percent from 2010. Sugarcane producers harvested 873,000 acres for sugar and seed in 2011, down 1 percent from the December forecast and less than 1 percent from last year. Yield for sugar and seed is estimated at 32.4 tons per acre, up 0.1 ton from the December forecast and up 1.2 tons from 2010. In Louisiana, growers experienced dry weather conditions during July and August, but received enough late rainfall to achieve average yields. Drought conditions were also prevalent in Texas and on the Hawaiian island of Maui. In Florida, rainfall during November delayed harvest, which continued through December.

National Agricultural Summary

January 16 – 22, 2012

Weekly National Agricultural Summary provided by USDA/NASS

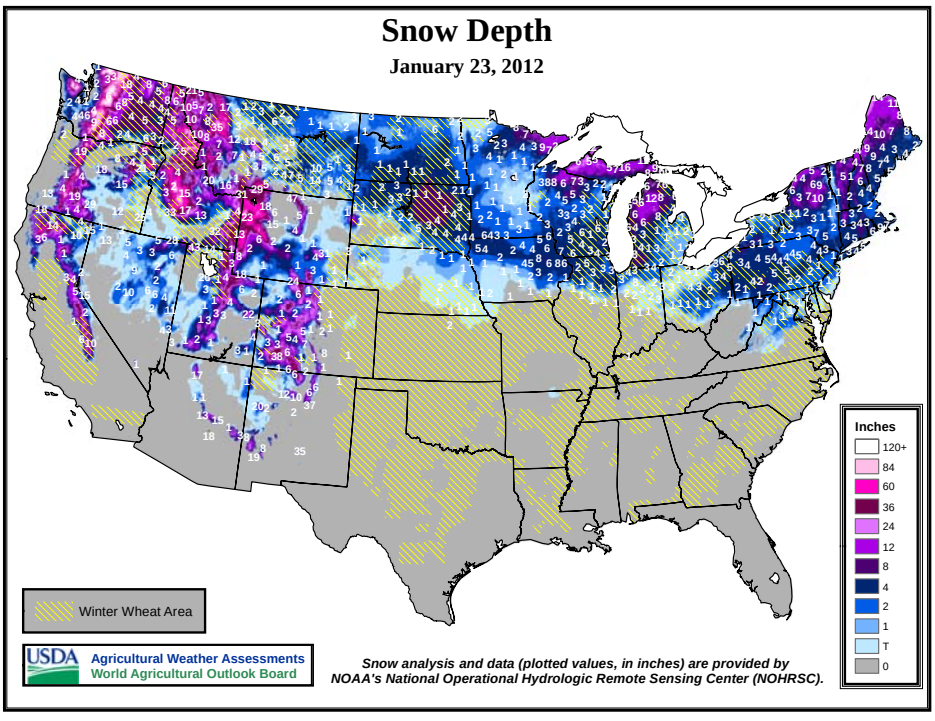
Temperatures were near to above normal across much of the South during the week, averaging more than 10°F above normal in portions of the Delta, Four Corners region, and Texas. Elsewhere, readings averaged more than 20°F below normal in parts of northern Montana, as cold weather lingered across the nation's northern tier. A series of mid-week storms brought excessive moisture to much of the Pacific Northwest, causing some localized flooding. Most notably, coastal areas in Oregon and northern California received over 6 inches of precipitation during the week. Meanwhile, snowfall in portions of the Great Plains and Midwest led to an improved protective layer for winter wheat.

For much of the week, continuing dryness across Florida compounded the effects of existing low soil moisture levels. Producers hoped for increased moisture to help reduce the need for irrigation and improve conditions for vegetable planting. Sugarcane harvest continued, while other producers were busy preparing fields, attending meetings, and completing pesticide training. Late blight was evident in Collier and Manatee County tomato fields, as well as Lee and Hendry County potato fields. Despite earlier reports, most vegetable crops suffered only minor damage from previous cold weather and frosts. In the citrus-growing region, rainfall remained limited, resulting in many trees showing slight wilt. Early and mid-season orange harvest was over two-thirds complete, while Honey tangerine harvest was picking up. Producers also performed routine maintenance activities.

Much of Texas was dry during the week, with temperatures mostly above average. High winds in parts of the High Plains depleted soil moisture levels in winter wheat fields that had benefitted from recent showers. Spider mites were found in some wheat fields in the Blacklands, while Hessian fly infestations were evident in parts of the Edwards Plateau. Elsewhere, field preparation continued for cotton fields in the Northern Low Plains; however, high winds limited and even halted some activities. In the Lower Valley, producers were busy harvesting citrus, sugarcane, and vegetables.

Above-average temperatures continued in Arizona during the week, with trace amounts of precipitation recorded at approximately half of the state's weather stations. Although scattered showers helped to improve soil moisture levels, additional precipitation was needed to promote spring growth. Barley seeding was winding down, while Durum wheat seeding was about two-thirds complete. Produce growers in central and western portions of the state continued to ship a variety of crops.

Following weeks of unusually dry weather, a series of storm systems delivered much-needed moisture to California during the week. Heavy rainfall in extreme northern portions of the state led to some river flooding. The moisture was welcomed by small grain producers who had recently seeded some fields. As weather conditions allowed, field preparations continued for spring row crops. Fruit and nut growers made pre-emergent and dormant sprays, as well as some fertilization and routine maintenance practices until the first rains fell.



International Weather and Crop Summary

January 15-21, 2012

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

HIGHLIGHTS

EUROPE: Rain and snow favored dormant winter crops in central and eastern Europe, while showers improved prospects for wheat and barley in Spain.

WESTERN FSU: The season's first snow arrived in Ukraine, insulating winter crops against potential incursions of bitter cold.

MIDDLE EAST: Additional rain and high-elevation snow maintained excellent prospects for winter grains.

NORTHWESTERN AFRICA: Rain returned to Morocco, improving soil moisture for vegetative winter wheat and barley.

SOUTH ASIA: Dry weather aided cotton harvesting in southern India as winter wheat and rapeseed in northern India benefited from cool weather.

EAST ASIA: Light snow boosted moisture reserves for dormant winter wheat on the North China Plain.

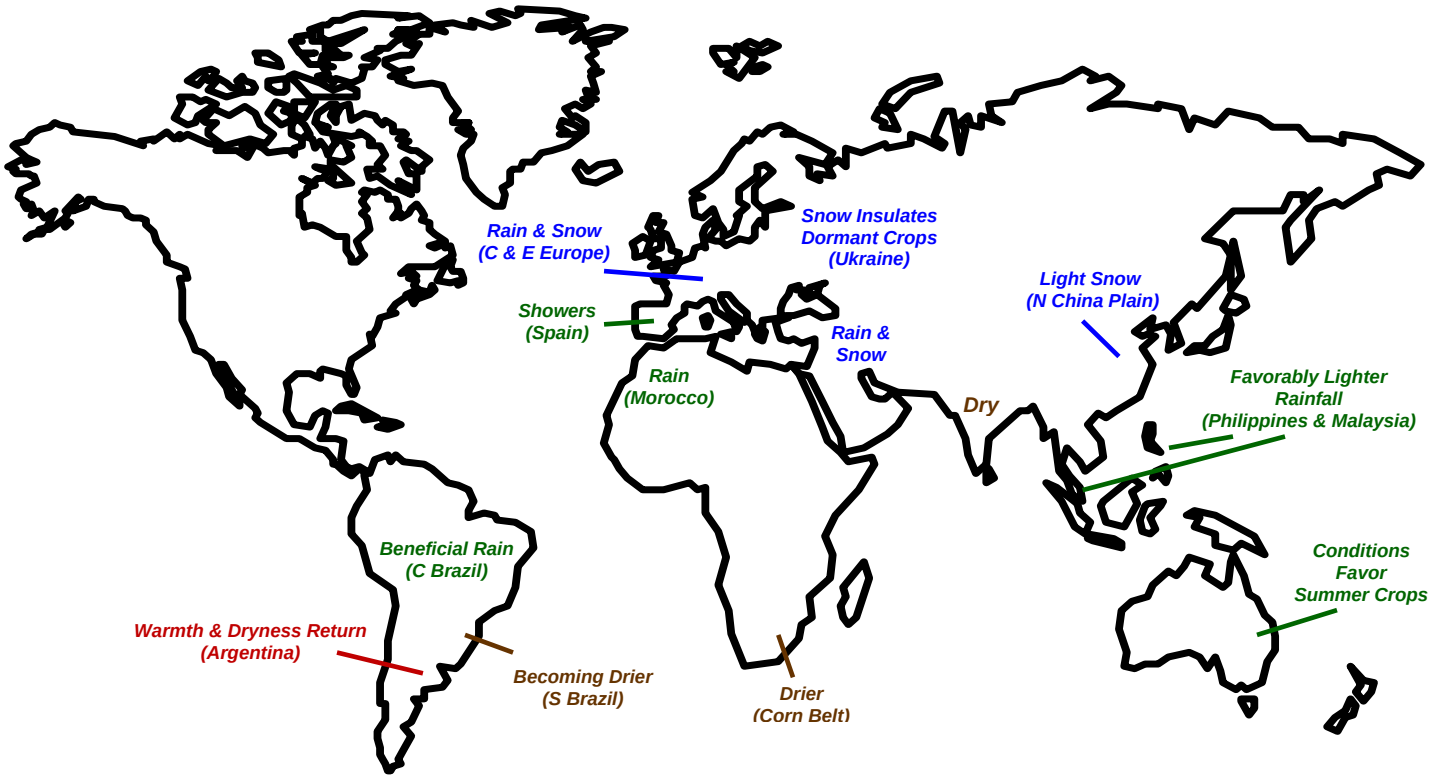
SOUTHEAST ASIA: Lighter rainfall eased excessive wetness for corn in the Philippines and allowed oil palm harvesting to resume in Malaysia.

AUSTRALIA: Periods of rain and sun continued to favor summer crop development in eastern Australia.

SOUTH AFRICA: Drier weather spurred growth of summer crops throughout the corn belt after last week's beneficial rain.

ARGENTINA: Unseasonable warmth and dryness returned, renewing stress on corn, soybeans, and cotton.

BRAZIL: Drier conditions returned to southern farming areas but overall favorable conditions continued for crops elsewhere.



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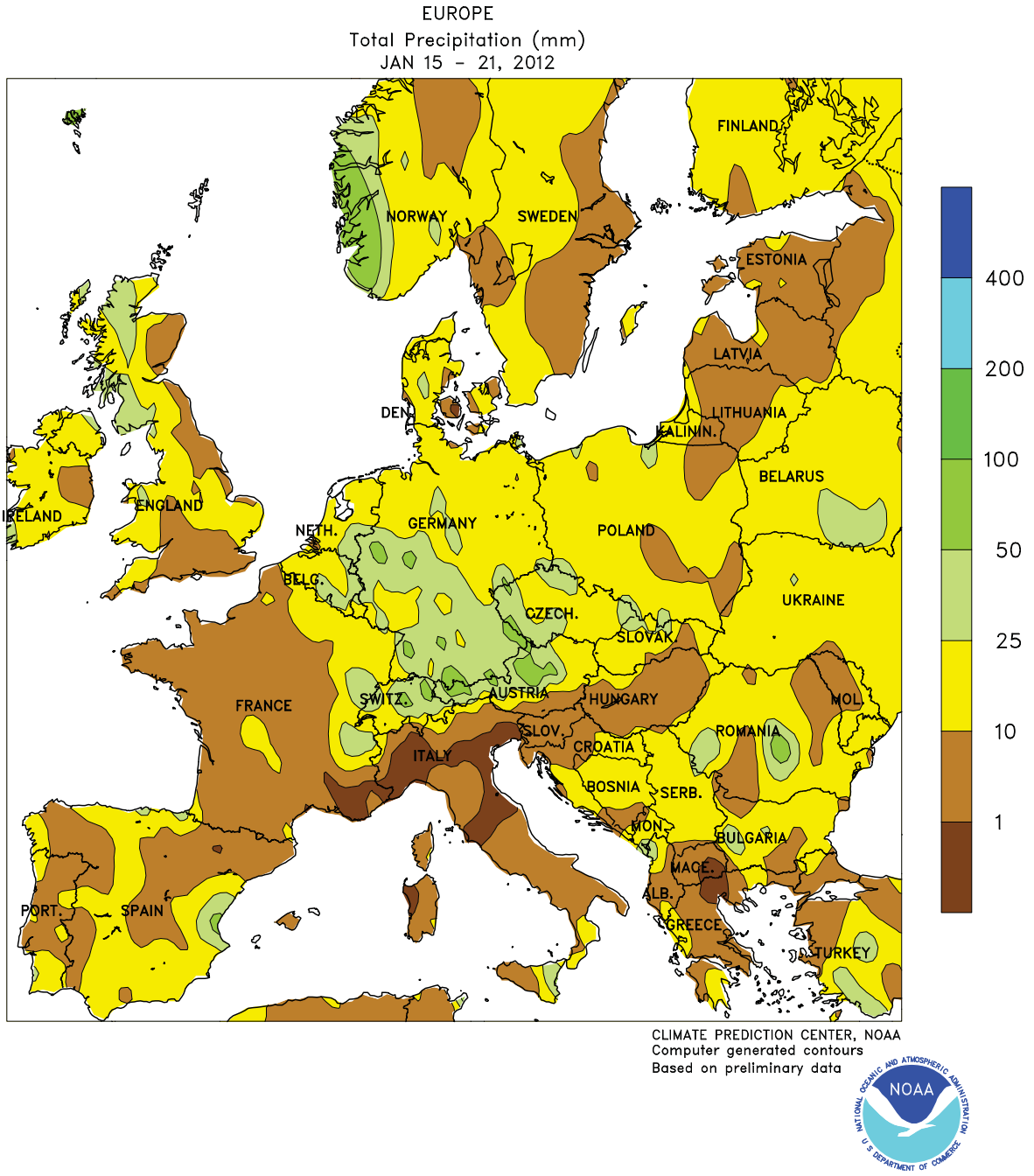

EUROPE

Much-needed rain arrived in southwestern Europe, while rain and snow fell across central and eastern portions of the continent. A cold front brought beneficial showers (5-15 mm) to the Iberian Peninsula, improving soil moisture for vegetative winter grains. However, more rain is needed to ensure uniform crop establishment and growth following a month-long dry spell. Meanwhile, rain and snow (10-50 mm, locally more) from England and eastern France into Poland and the Baltic States maintained favorable soil moisture reserves. However, snow cover was confined to eastern-most portions of the continent by week's end, leaving most grains and oilseeds exposed to the elements. Showers (2-25 mm) also were reported in the Balkans, helping to recharge soil moisture following a much drier-than-normal autumn. Dry weather persisted in northern Italy's Po River Valley, reducing soil moisture and increasing irrigation demands for wheat. Temperatures averaged within 1 to 2°C of normal, with seasonal freezes reported over most major crop areas.

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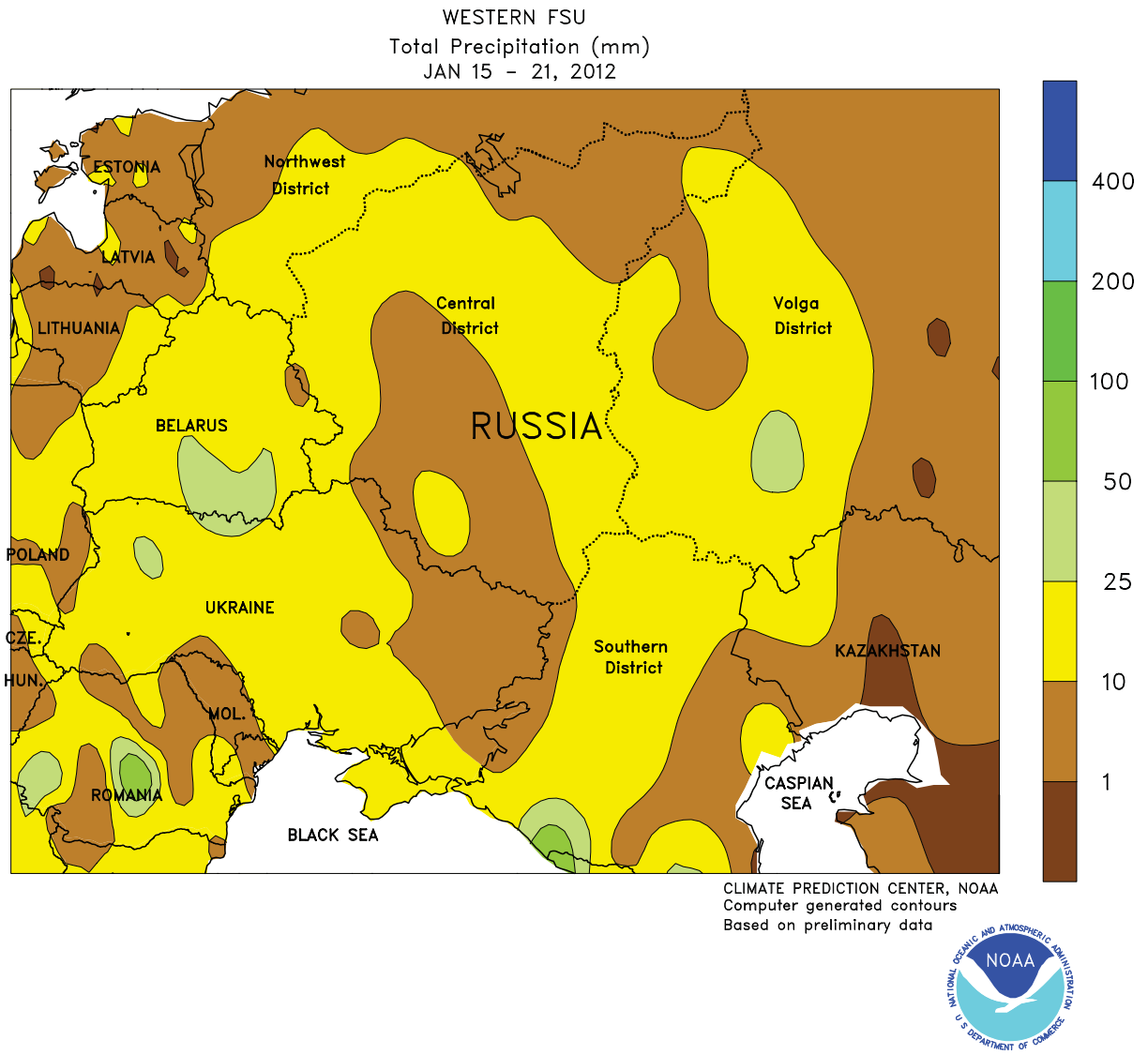

WESTERN FSU

The season's first snow fell in Ukraine, while favorable overwintering conditions continued for dormant winter grains and oilseeds in Russia. Rain changed to snow (5-25 mm liquid equivalent) in Ukraine, with snow depths at week's end ranging from 2 to 10 cm (1-4 inches). This was the season's first widespread snowfall, providing much-needed insulation from potential incursions of bitter cold. In Russia and Belarus, additional snow (10-35 mm liquid equivalent) boosted soil moisture reserves and provided additional insulation from potential winterkill. Cooler-than-normal conditions (1-2°C below normal) settled in Ukraine, while milder-than-normal weather (up to 5°C above normal) in Russia minimized the risk of winterkill.

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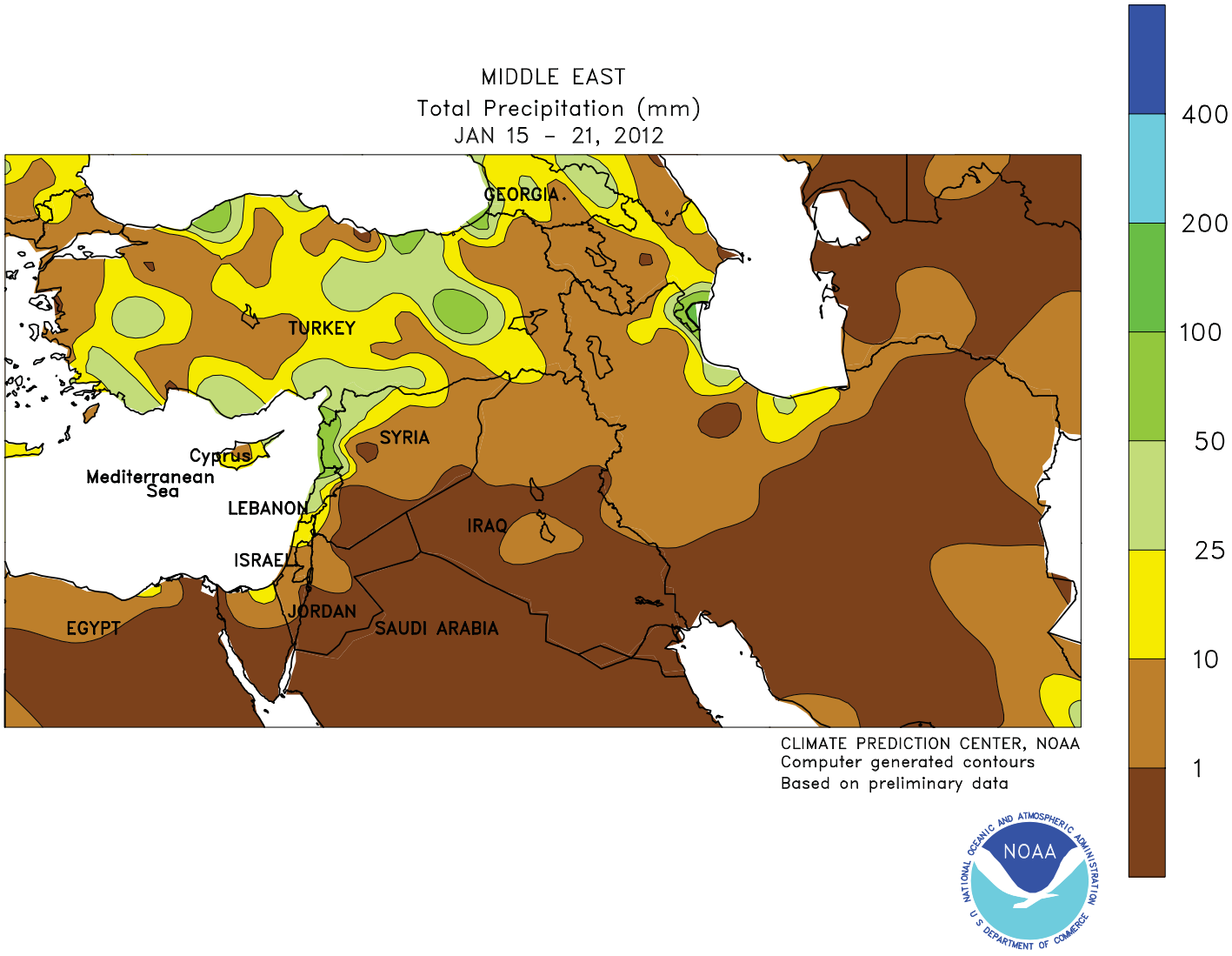

MIDDLE EAST

Rain and snow continued, maintaining favorable overwintering conditions for wheat and barley over much of the region. Another in a series of slow-moving Mediterranean storms produced moderate to heavy rain and high-elevation snow (10-50 mm liquid equivalent, locally more) across Turkey and the Mediterranean coast, maintaining excellent soil moisture for dormant (north) to vegetative winter crops. Additional light rain and high-elevation snow (1-10 mm liquid equivalent) were also reported across northern portions of Iraq and Iran, favoring winter wheat and barley. Unseasonably cold weather (5-9°C below normal) settled over central and western Turkey, although winter crops were protected by 5 to 25 cm (2-10 inches) of snow.

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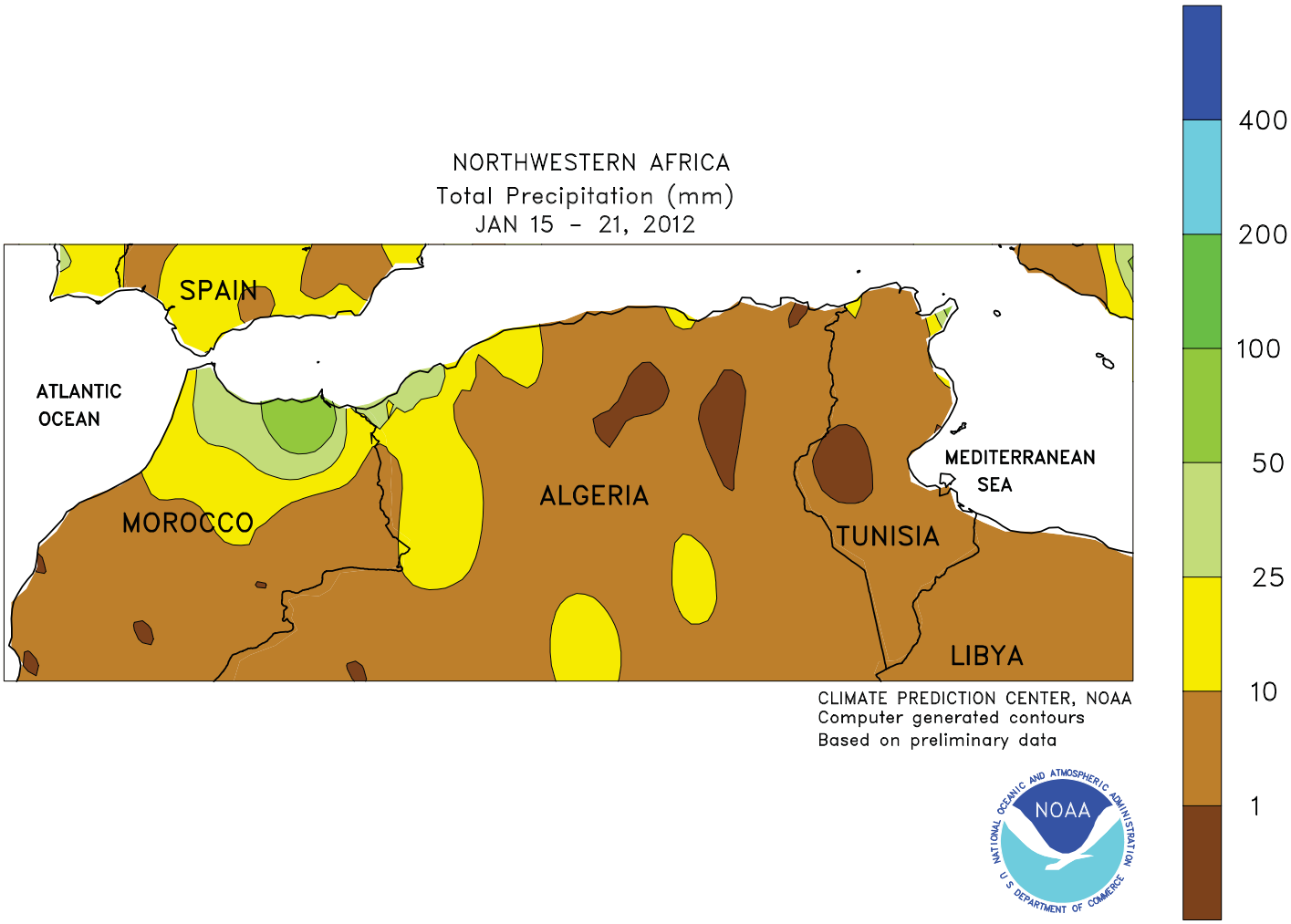

NORTHWESTERN AFRICA

Much-needed rain returned to western growing areas, while mostly sunny skies persisted in eastern crop districts. A cold front generated moderate to heavy showers (10-70 mm) in northern Morocco and western Algeria, ending a month-long dry spell and improving prospects for vegetative wheat and barley. In contrast, mostly dry weather (2 mm or less) prevailed from central Algeria into northern Tunisia, promoting crop development. Nighttime lows dipped below freezing across inland portions of Algeria, although the cold did not pose a risk to wheat and barley.

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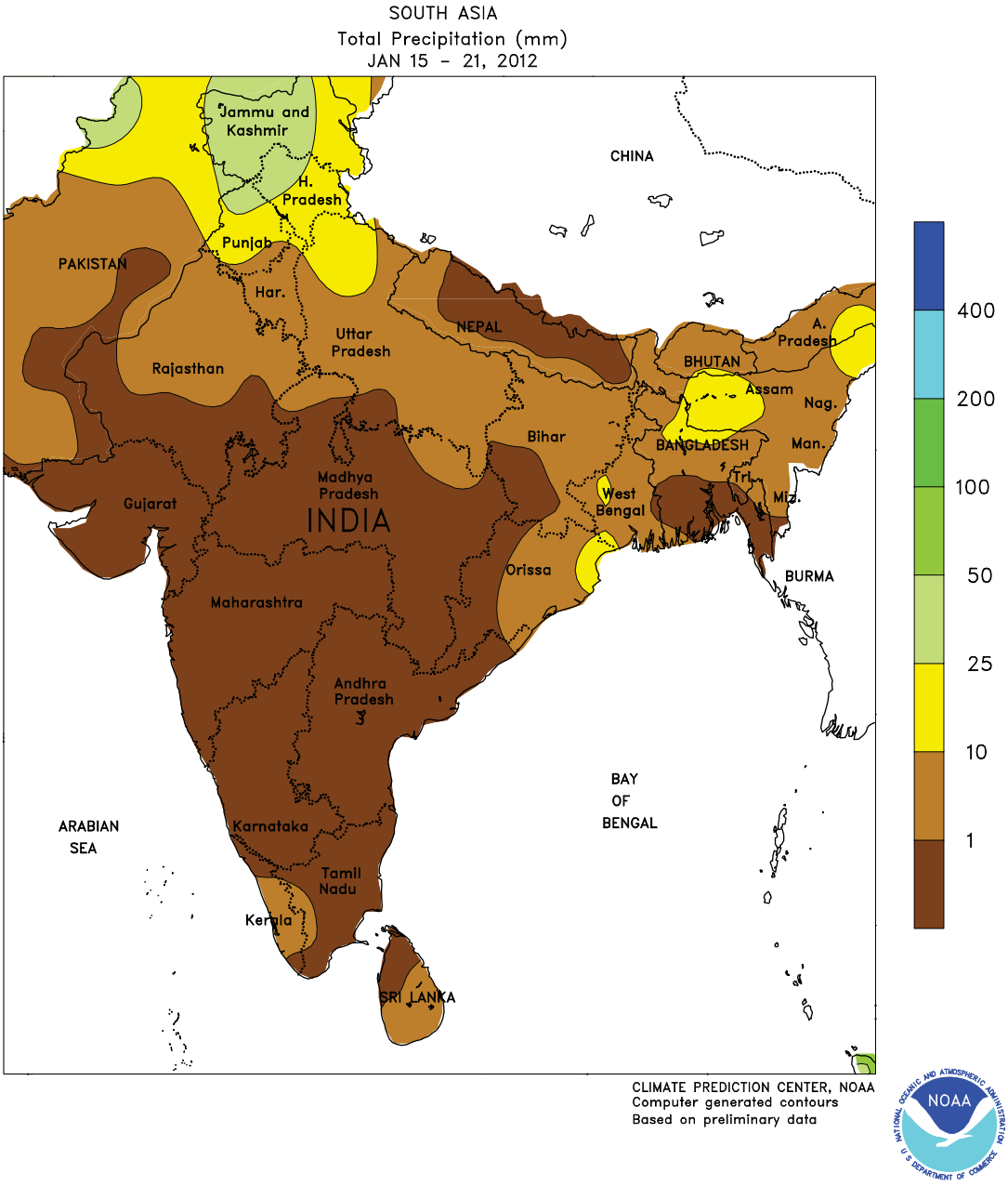

SOUTH ASIA

After several weeks of unseasonably heavy rainfall, drier weather prevailed over most of India. The sunny, warm weather favored cotton harvesting still underway in southern states, while also benefiting rice development in eastern states. A brief period of light showers (less than 10 mm) in northern India provided some additional moisture to irrigated winter wheat, with mostly dry weather in the key rapeseed producing state of Rajasthan. Wheat and rapeseed planted earlier in the season were likely reproductive at this point and benefited from cool weather (weekly temperatures averaging just below 15°C).

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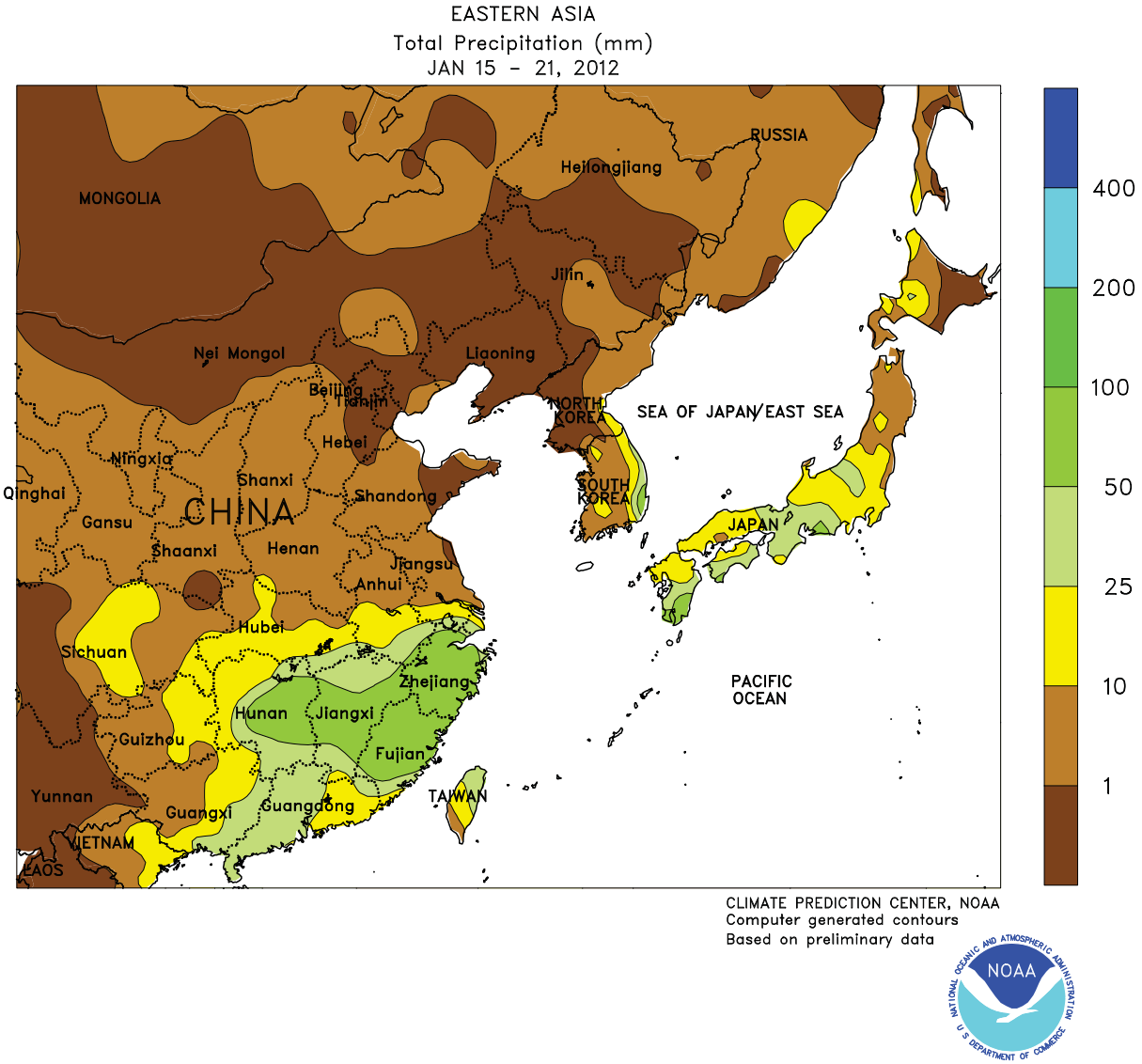

EASTERN ASIA

Wintery weather moved through eastern China, with periods of light snow on the North China Plain. Liquid equivalents were generally less than 5 mm, providing a small boost to moisture reserves for dormant winter wheat. Rainfall was more prevalent farther south as amounts approaching 25 mm were common in the Yangtze Valley and reached nearly 100 mm in southeastern provinces. Thus far, moisture reserves remained excellent for dormant winter rapeseed and early double-crop rice planting, which begins next month. In addition, as precipitation moved through the region, warmer air was drawn in, raising temperatures slightly. Weekly minimum temperatures were near to above freezing across most winter crop areas, benefiting overwintering wheat and rapeseed.

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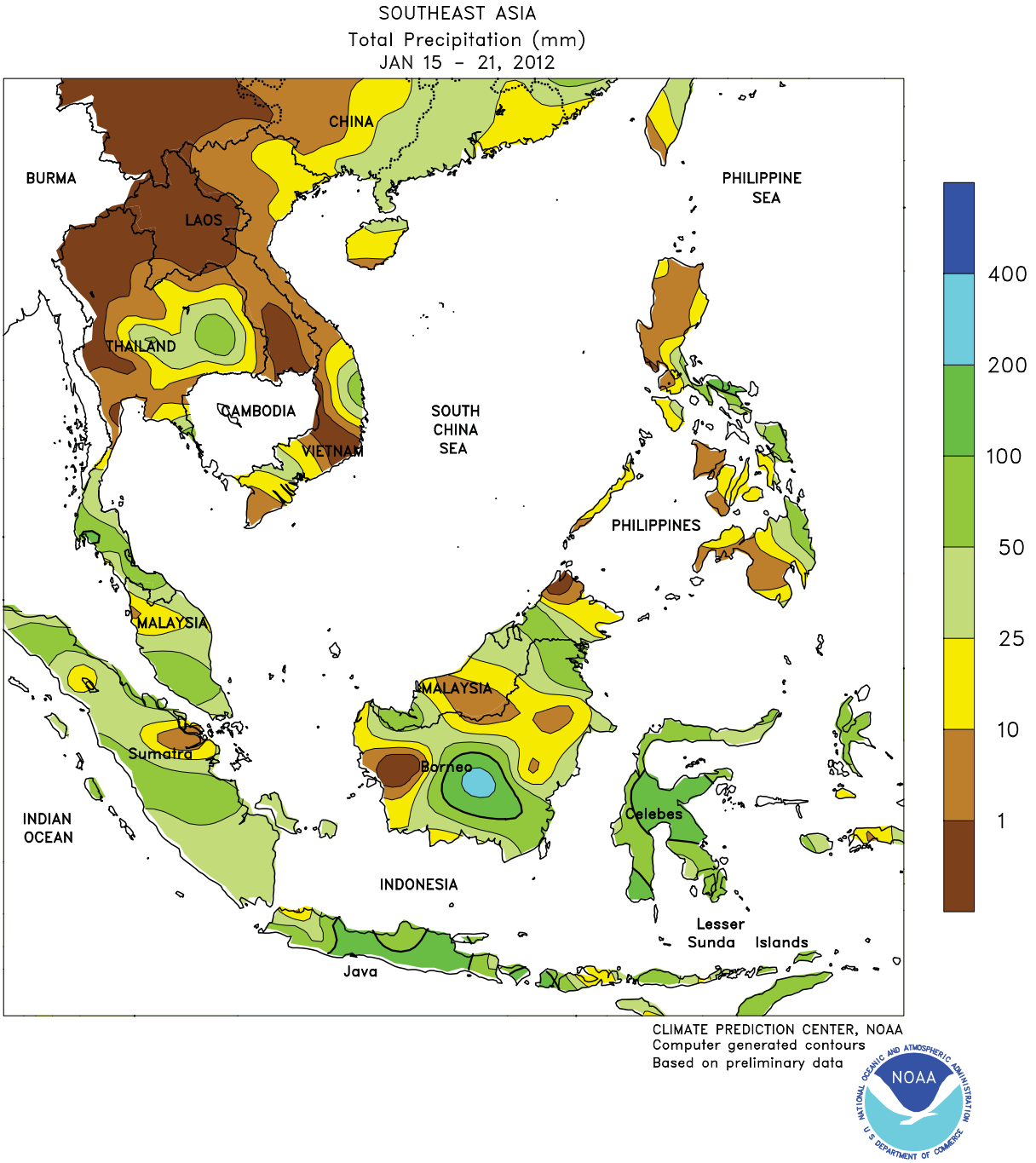

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Lighter rainfall prevailed across much of the region after several weeks of deluges and flooding. In the Philippines, more seasonable amounts of rainfall (25-100 mm) maintained high moisture supplies for corn and rice, while easing the extreme wetness of the last several weeks. Similarly, oil palm harvesting resumed in Malaysia and Indonesia with periodic showers (10-50 mm) maintaining abundant soil moisture. Meanwhile in Java, Indonesia, above-normal rainfall (over 100 mm) continued to provide abundant moisture to reproductive rice.

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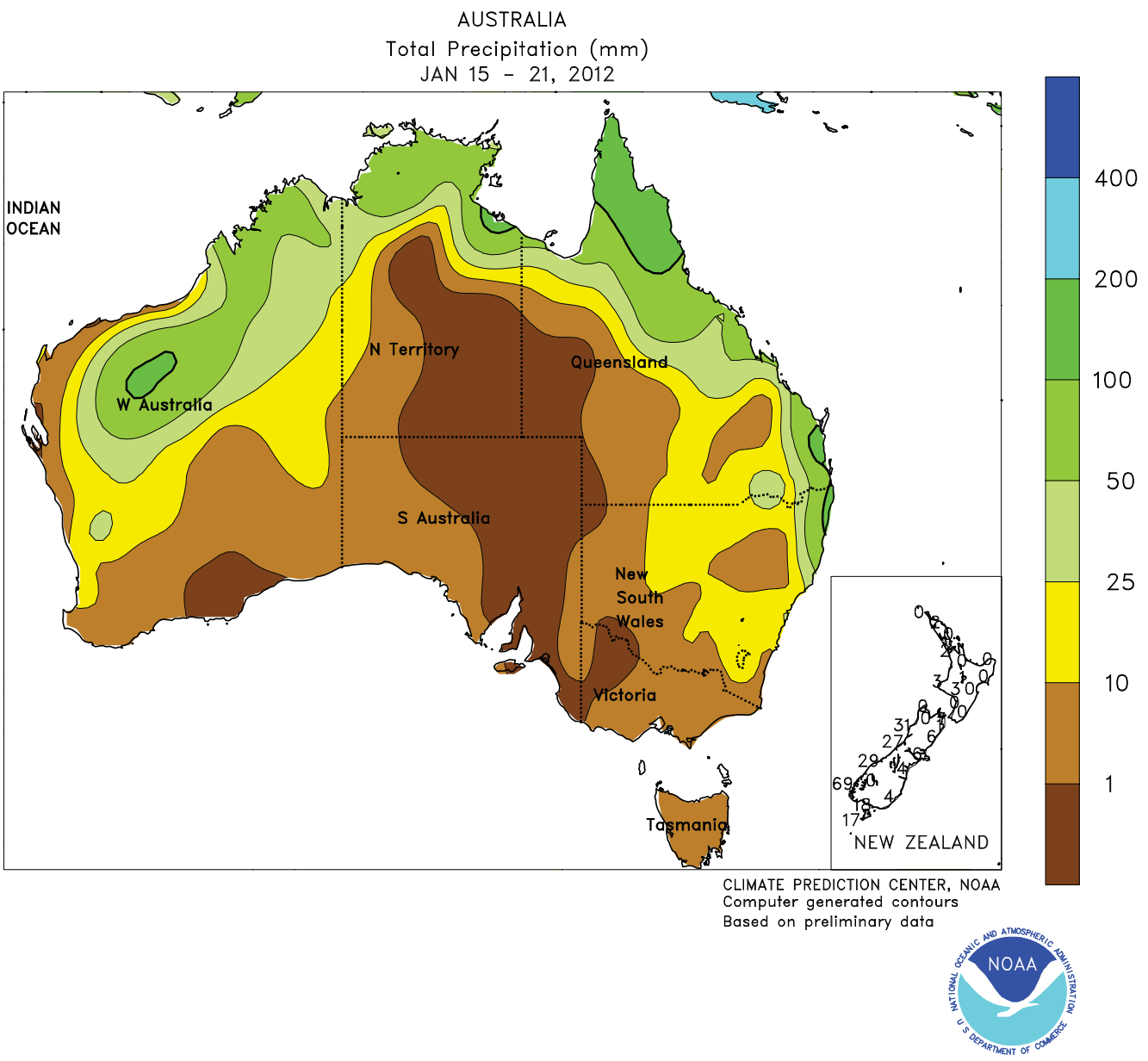

AUSTRALIA

Periods of rain (5-30 mm or more) and sun continued to favor cotton and sorghum development in eastern Australia. The rain maintained abundant moistures supplies for summer crops, which are currently in or near the reproductive stages of development. Temperatures averaged about 1 to 2°C below normal in major summer crop areas.

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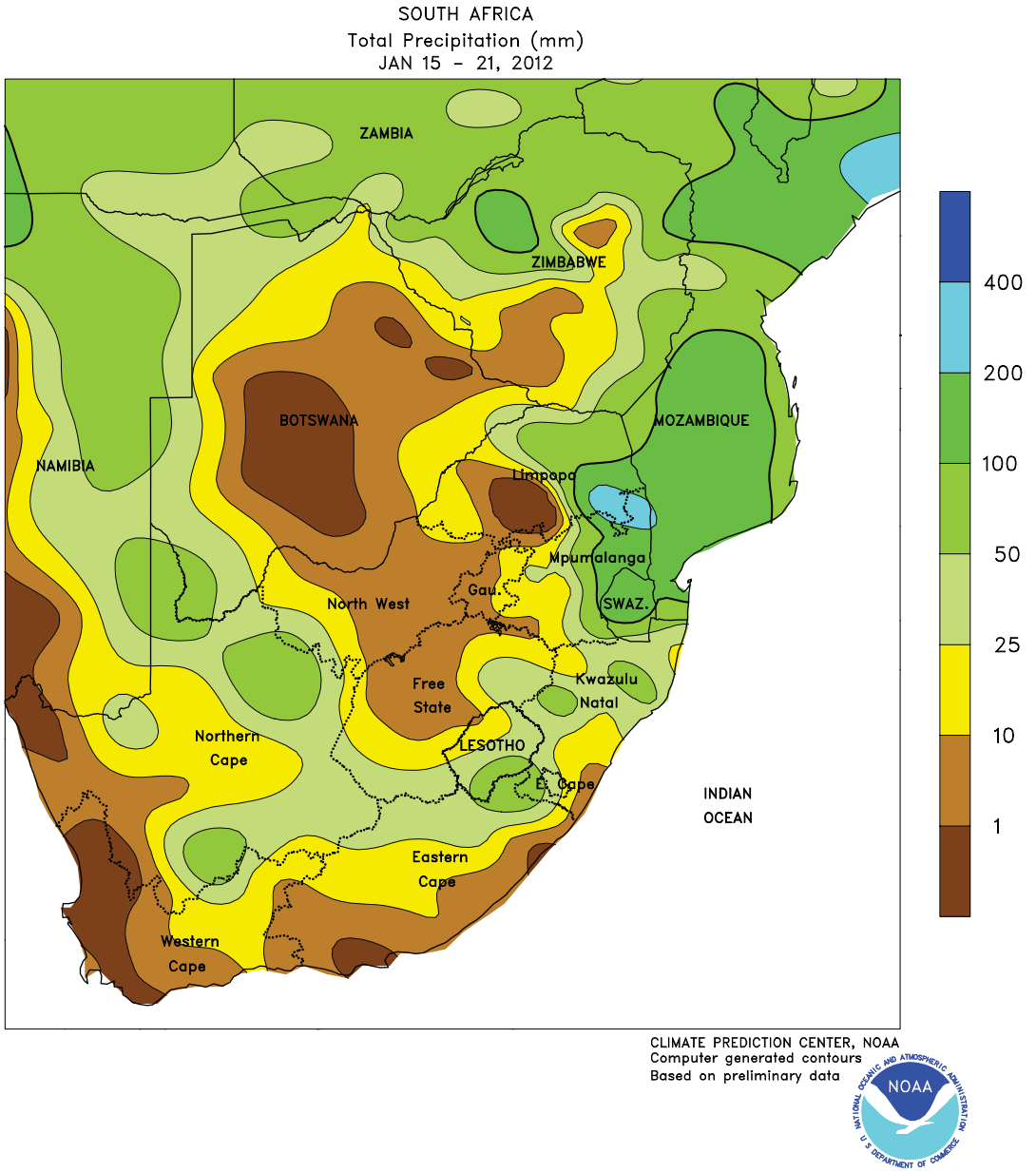

SOUTH AFRICA

Following last week's beneficial rain, drier weather promoted development of vegetative to reproductive summer crops throughout the corn belt. Most locations in the heart of the main commercial production area (North West, central Free State, Gauteng, and southwestern Mpumalanga) recorded rainfall near or below 10 mm, with amounts in excess of 25 mm generally confined to agricultural districts in eastern Free State and northwestern KwaZulu-Natal. Heavier rain (25-50 mm or more) also fell in outlying agricultural areas from northern and eastern Limpopo to eastern Mpumalanga, boosting irrigation for sugarcane and other regionally important crops; isolated heavy rain (greater than 100 mm) caused some locally severe flooding north of Swaziland. Weekly average temperatures were several degrees C below normal in these wetter locations but within 1°C of normal in the corn belt, with highs mostly from the middle and upper 20s (degrees C) in the east to the lower 30s farther west. Elsewhere, mostly dry, occasionally warm weather continued in rain-fed sugarcane areas of southern KwaZulu-Natal, sustaining a trend of drier-than-normal conditions that has prevailed for several weeks. In contrast, unseasonably heavy showers (10-25 mm or more, locally exceeding 50 mm) were scattered across sections of Eastern and Northern Cape Provinces, improving local irrigation levels. Mostly dry, warmer-than-normal weather prevailed in Western Cape, with unusually high daytime temperatures (highs in the upper 30s and lower 40s) stressing crops and livestock in key western production areas.

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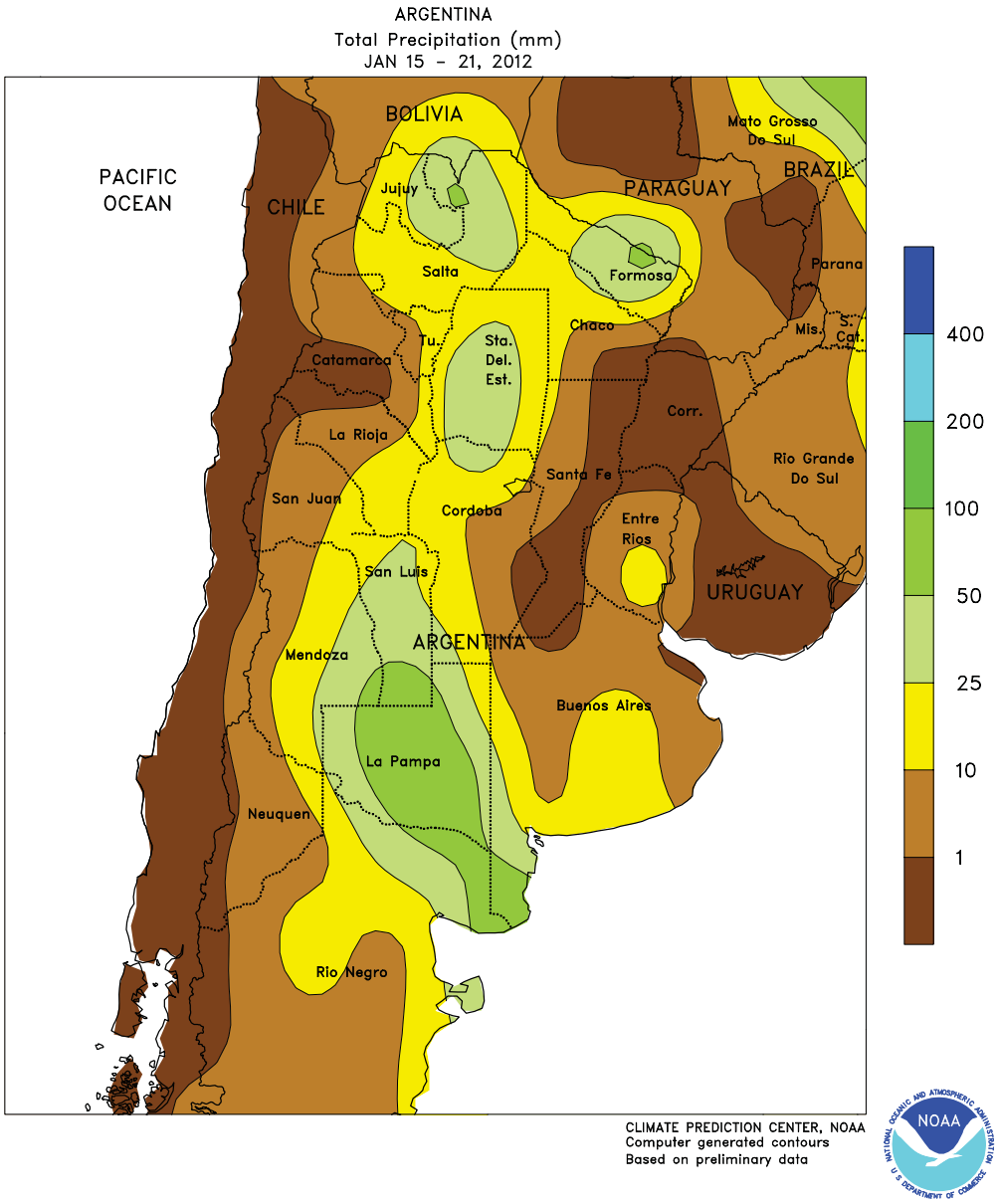

ARGENTINA

The return of drier- and warmer-than-normal weather renewed concerns for Argentina's summer grains, oilseeds, and cotton. Following last week's much-needed rainfall, little, if any, rain fell in key high-yielding summer grain and oilseed areas of central Argentina (northern Buenos Aires and nearby locations in Cordoba, Santa Fe, and Entre Rios). Unfavorably hot conditions (weekly average temperatures 2-4°C above normal with daytime highs of 35-38°C) accompanied the dryness, renewing stress on reproductive to filling corn and soybeans. Scattered showers (greater than 10 mm) provided localized relief to crops farther west and south (southwestern Cordoba, La Pampa, and southern Buenos Aires). At week's end, a front was approaching the region from the southwest, increasing the potential for another round of much-needed rain (additional information will appear in next week's bulletin). Similarly, locally heavy rain (greater than 25 mm) was recorded in western sections of northern Argentina (northern Cordoba to Salta), with drier conditions extending eastward, though beneficial rain was approaching the region at week's end. Weekly average temperatures were 1 to 2°C above normal throughout the north, with daytime highs exceeding 35°C nearly every day in some locations. According to Argentina's Ministry of Agriculture, corn and soybeans were 94 and 95 percent planted, respectively, as of January 19. The winter wheat harvest was nearing completion at 99 percent.

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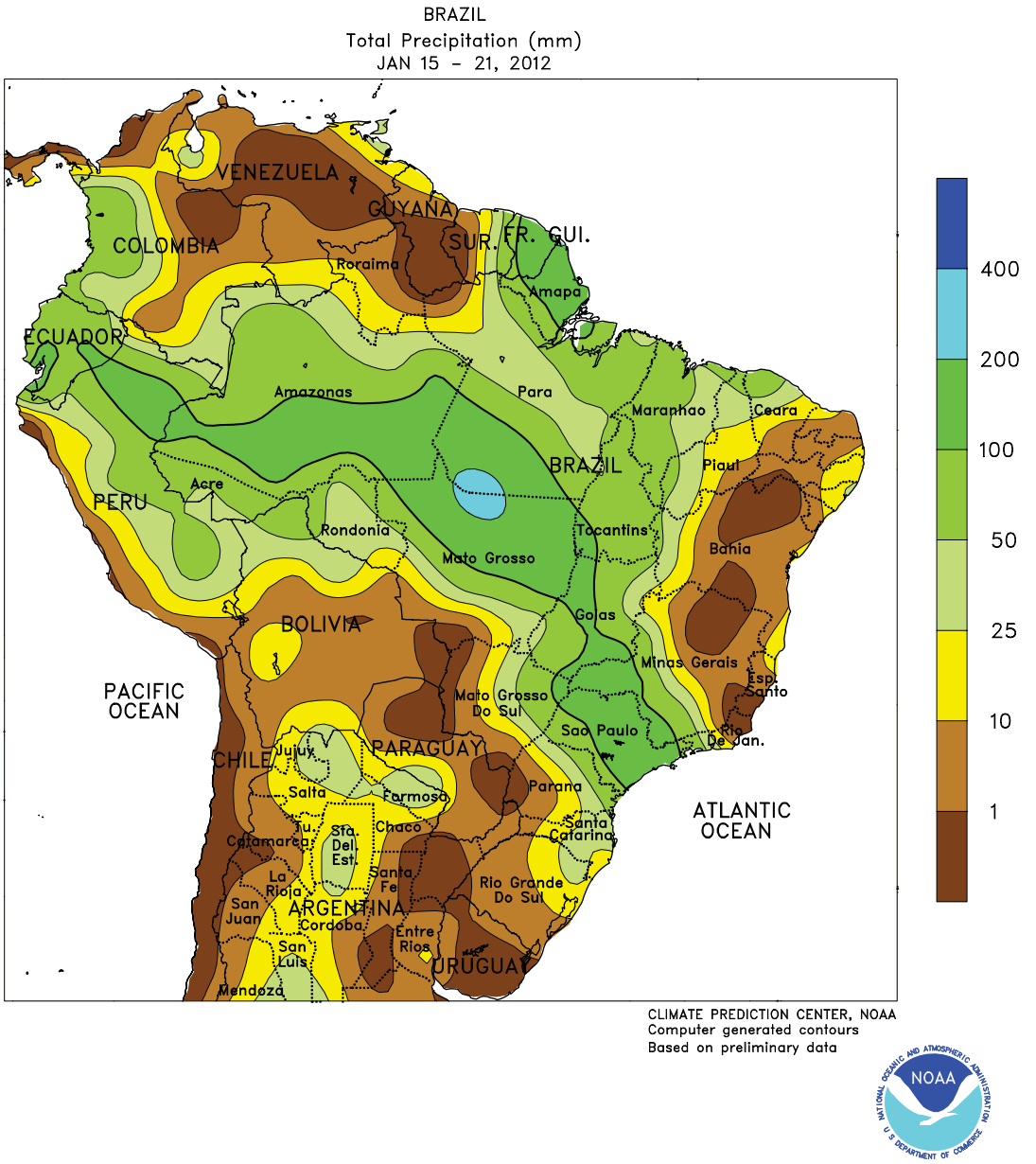

BRAZIL

Drier weather returned to parts of the south, but conditions remained overall favorable in major agricultural production areas of central and southeastern Brazil. Weekly rainfall totaled below 10 mm from western and southern Mato Grosso do Sul to Rio Grande do Sul, including a large section of western Parana. Unseasonable warmth accompanied the dryness, with high temperatures reaching the lower and middle 30s (degrees C) on a daily basis. The return to unfavorable conditions renewed concerns for the region's corn and soybeans; at week's end, however, a frontal system was approaching the region, promising to bring an additional round of much-needed moisture (additional information will appear in next week's bulletin). Meanwhile, seasonably heavy rain (50-100 mm or more) continued from Mato Gross southeastward though Sao Paulo and southern Minas Gerais, maintaining generally favorable moisture levels for soybeans, cotton, and other crops, including coffee, citrus, and sugarcane. Temperatures averaged closer to normal in these wetter locations, although daytime highs briefly hit the middle 30s in some of the traditionally warmer areas in the Center-West and northeastern interior (notably Mato Grosso and Tocantins). Seasonable warmth and dryness continued to dominate the northeastern coastal region, expanding southward this week to include northeastern Minas Gerais and Espirito Santo.

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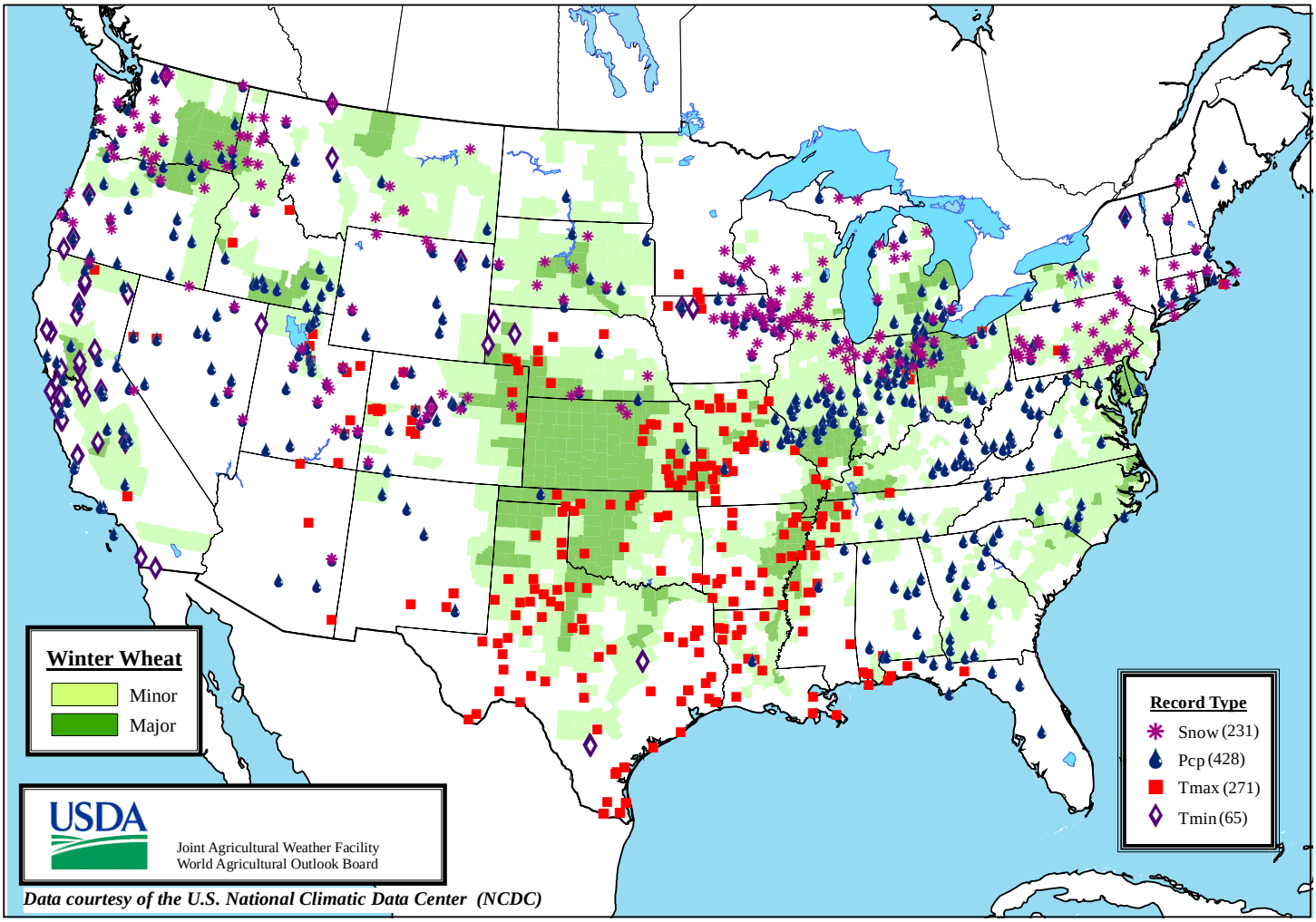
Daily Weather Records (ASOS & COOP)

January 15-21, 2012



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