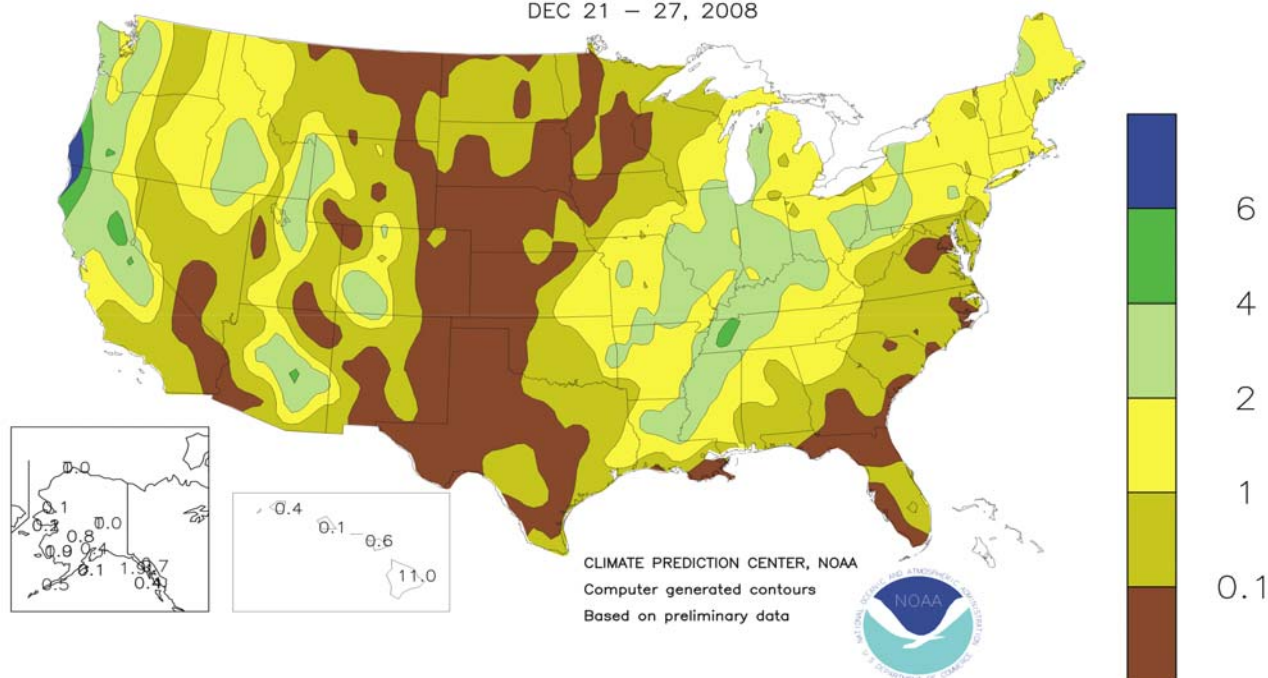


WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP BULLETIN

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

Total Precipitation (Inches)
DEC 21 – 27, 2008



HIGHLIGHTS December 21-27, 2009

Highlights provided by USDA/WAOB

S tormy December weather continued across the **West**, following a dismal start to the 2008-09 winter wet season. In particular, snow improved **Western** water-supply prospects and insulated **Northwestern** winter grains from bitterly cold conditions. Meanwhile on the **northern Plains**, conditions for livestock remained very difficult due to a substantial snow cover, occasional blowing snow, and frigid weather. Winter wheat remained beneath a blanket of snow on the **northern Plains**, but

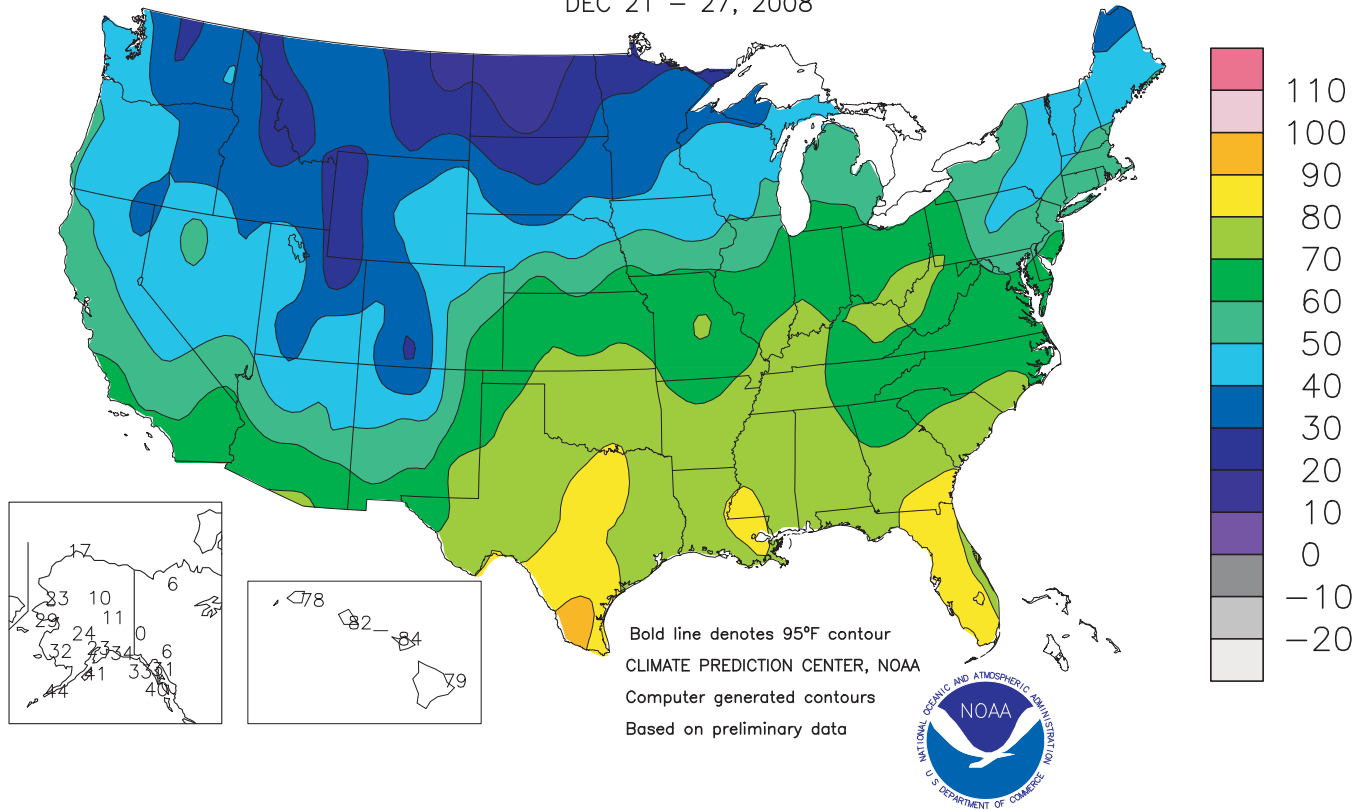
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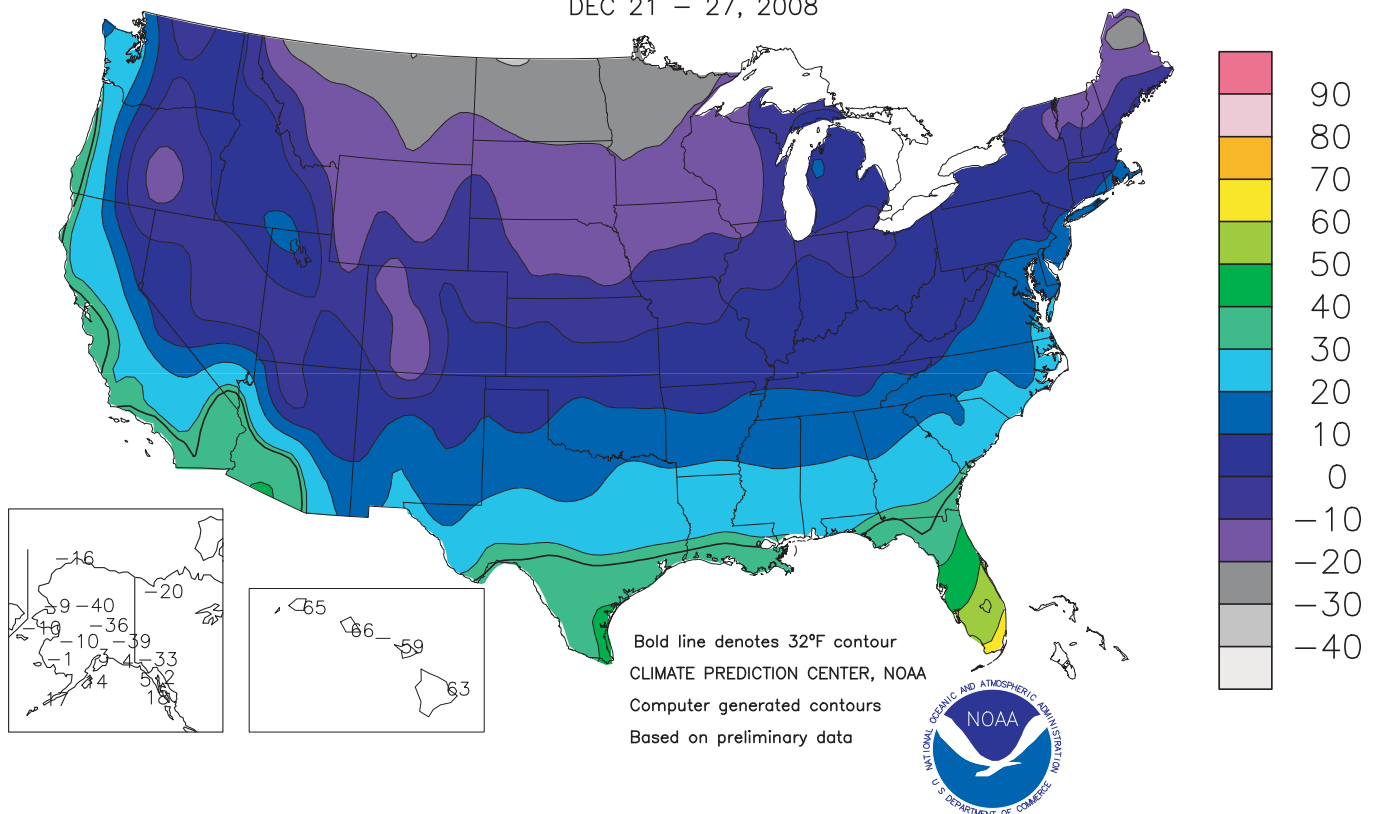
Extreme Maximum Temperature (°F)

DEC 21 – 27, 2008



Extreme Minimum Temperature (°F)

DEC 21 – 27, 2008



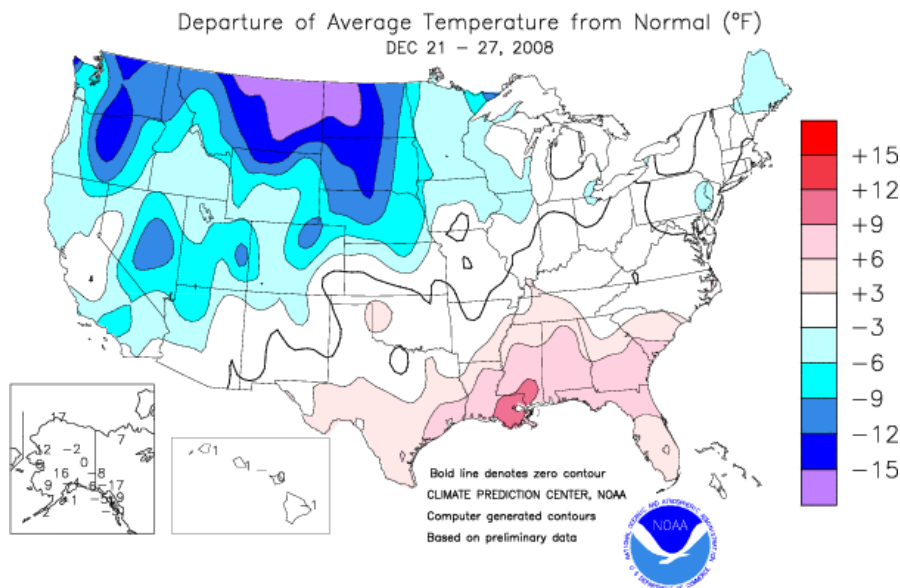
(Continued from front cover)

largely lacked a protective cover on the **central High Plains**. However, the condition of exposed wheat will not be known until spring. Farther east, additional snowfall across the **northern Corn Belt** pushed many totals into record territory for the month of December. Cold, snowy, icy weather, especially across the **upper Midwest** and the **Great Lakes region**, maintained stress on livestock and disrupted holiday and rural travel. Elsewhere, two rounds of locally heavy precipitation boosted weekly rainfall total to at least 2 to 4 inches across parts of the **Mid-South** and the **interior Southeast**, causing local flooding but further easing long-term drought in the latter region. Late-week flooding also briefly affected parts of the **Midwest** due to a short-lived period of melting snow and heavy showers. However, rain mostly bypassed **Florida**, where producers continued to irrigate citrus and other winter crops.

Early in the week, a major winter storm followed bitterly cold air into the **Northeast**, while yet another system arrived in the **Northwest**. Daily-record lows for December 21 included -25°F in **Caribou, ME**, and -22°F in **Colville, WA**. Later in the day, snowfall records for the 21st were established in **Northeastern** locations such as **Portland, ME** (14.5 inches); **Buffalo, NY** (11.3 inches); and **Burlington, VT** (9.1 inches). Unofficial, storm-total snowfall topped 2 feet in parts of **northern New England**, including a few locations in **Coos County, NH**, and **Franklin County, ME**. Meanwhile, the **Northwest** continued to reel from a series of storms that dumped 32.5 inches of snow on **Pendleton, OR**, in a 2-week period from December 13-26. **Pendleton** received measurable snow on every day during the 2-week span except December 17 and 23, and collected a daily-record sum of 7.4 inches on December 21. Closer to the coast, at least a half-inch of freezing rain glazed parts of the **Pacific Northwest**, including the National Weather Service office in **Portland, OR**. For the **Portland** area in general, which received at least 6 to 12 inches of snow in addition to the ice, it was the most severe storm since January 1980 and the worst December storm since 1968. Officially, 12.4 inches of snow fell from December 20-22 at the **Portland** airport, which represented the city's worst snow storm since 14.8 inches fell in late-December 1968 and early-January 1969.

Between the two storms, bitterly cold weather prevailed from the **Plains into the East**. On December 22, **Sisseton, SD** (-22°F), notched a daily-record low, while a high of 33°F in **Atlanta, GA**, was the lowest maximum temperature at that location in December since 2000 (31°F on December 30). In **Chicago, IL**, the minimum temperature of -6°F on December 21 represented the lowest reading since February 5, 2007, when it was -10°F. Similarly, **Ord, NE** (-17°F on December 22), experienced its coldest day since January 16, 2005, when it was -18°F. Farther south, blowing dust reduced the visibility to about 1 mile on December 21 in **Lubbock, TX**, where a wind gust to 58 m.p.h. was recorded. Nearby gusts were clocked to 71 m.p.h. in **Tatum, NM**, and 66 m.p.h. near **Plains, TX**. By December 23, stormy weather engulfed the remainder of the **West**, resulting in the wettest December day in **Tucson, AZ** (0.64 inch), since 1994, when 0.68 inch fell on December 26. The **northern Plains** also experienced a return to wintry weather, where **Grand Forks, ND** (4.2 inches on December 23), netted a daily-record snowfall. By week's end, December snowfall records had been broken in several dozen locations from the **Northwest to the Great Lakes region**, including **Pendleton, OR** (previously, 26.6 inches in 1983); **Grand Forks** (previously, 27.6 inches in 1918); and **Green Bay, WI** (previously, 36.4 inches in 1887). **Portland, OR** (18.9 inches of snow for the month to date at the airport), achieved its second-snowiest month on record, behind only 41.0 inches in January 1950. Previously, **Portland's** snowiest December occurred in 1968, when 15.7 inches fell.

Northwestern locations reporting a rare "White Christmas" included **Seattle, WA** (snow depth of 4 inches on December 25), and **Portland, OR** (about 6 inches on the ground). Between 1940 and 2007, the **Portland** airport had never reported more than a trace of snow on the ground on Christmas morning. On December 25, **Salt Lake City, UT** (7.2 inches); **Pocatello, ID** (5.9 inches); and **Las Vegas, NV** (a trace), reported daily-record snowfall totals. **Las Vegas** had also received a trace of snow on



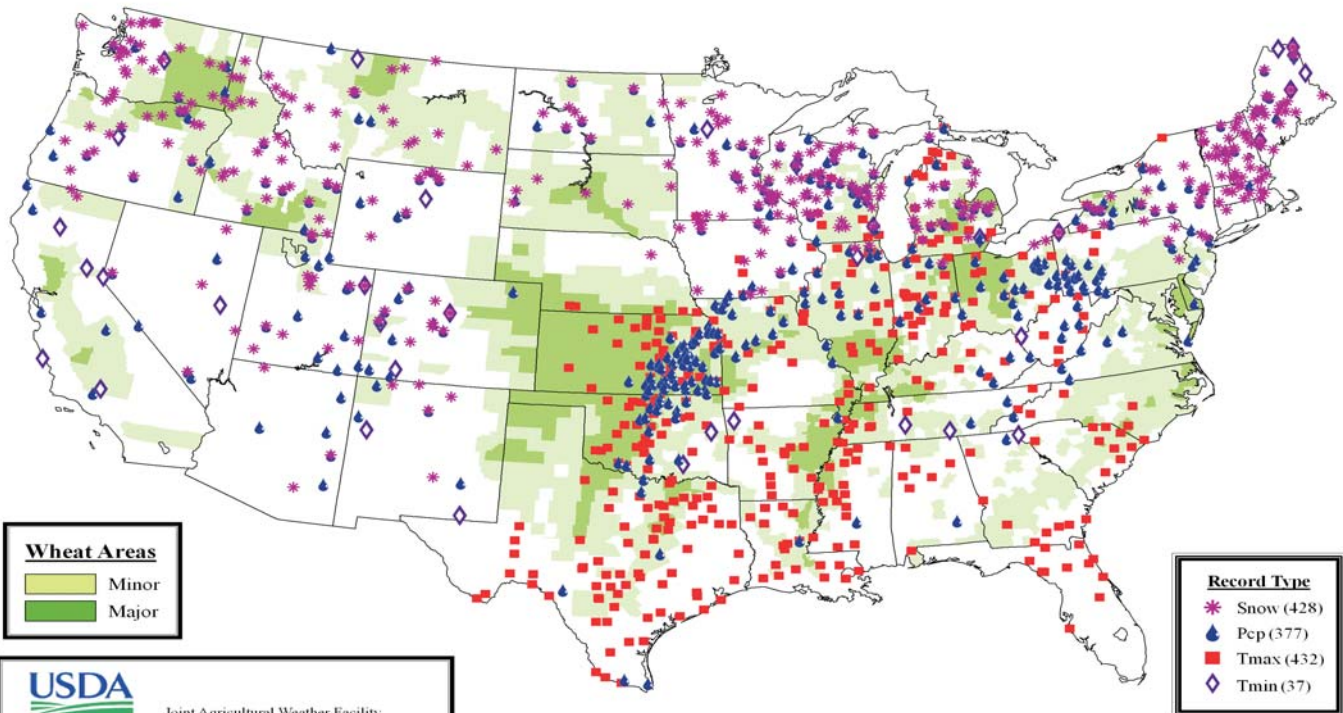
Christmas Day in 1941 and 1988. In **California**, **Bishop** noted its first snowfall on December 25 since 1968. In contrast, daily-record highs for December 25 were tied or broken in locations such as **Jacksonville, FL** (81°F); **Savannah, GA** (80°F); and **New Orleans, LA** (79°F). Farther north, however, the night of December 24-25 featured extremely windy conditions in the **Northeast**, where wind gusts included 69 m.p.h. at **Maine's Matinicus Rock** and 62 m.p.h. at both **Watertown** and **Rochester, NY**.

Late in the week, warmth briefly surged from the **Plains into the East**, while more stormy weather engulfed the **West**. On December 25-26, snowfall totals of at least 2 to 3 feet were common across the **Intermountain West**. For example, unofficial amounts reached 39 inches at **Coal Bank Pass, CO**, and 34 inches in **Alta, UT**. Elsewhere in **Utah**, wind gusts were clocked to 77 m.p.h. in **Tooele** and 68 m.p.h. in **Sandy**. In **southern California**, **Ontario** (32°F) posted a daily-record low for December 26. Farther east, daily-record highs for December 26 surged to 83°F in both **Baton Rouge, LA**, and **Dallas-Ft. Worth, TX**. In the **Midwest**, rapidly melting snow resulted from highs that climbed to daily-record levels on the 26th in locations such as **Des Moines, IA** (59°F), and **Milwaukee, WI** (51°F). The 7 inches of snow that covered **Des Moines** on Christmas Day was gone just 2 days later, while **Milwaukee's** 13-inch snow depth on December 25 fell to 2 inches within 3 days. The **Raccoon River at Des Moines, IA**, which rose 3.51 feet above flood stage on December 28, was one of dozens of **Midwestern** rivers to experience minor to moderate flooding. Late-week rainfall, which reached daily-record levels for December 27 in locations such as **Chicago, IL** (1.74 inches), and **Grand Rapids, MI** (1.51 inches), contributed to river rises. In addition, both **Chicago** (61°F) and **Grand Rapids** (60°F) posted daily-record highs for December 27. Among dozens of other record highs for the 27th were readings of 90°F in **Corpus Christi, TX**; **New Orleans, LA** (80°F); and **Cincinnati, OH** (70°F).

Torrential rain returned to parts of **Hawaii**, although large totals were mostly confined to windward sections of **Maui** and the **Big Island**. The **Big Island** also experienced a round of wintry weather, with several inches of snow observed on the highest peaks. The heavy rain arrived on December 26, when **Hilo (on the Big Island)** endured its wettest December day on record (10.12 inches; previously, 8.65 inches on December 9, 1954). **Hilo's** weekly rainfall totaled 16.30 inches, lifting its month-to-date sum to 20.03 inches. Farther north, bitterly cold air invaded **interior Alaska** by week's end, preceded by some heavy snow across the southern part of the state. In **Fairbanks**, the temperature plunged from 11°F on December 25 to -39°F just 2 days later. In **southeastern Alaska**, daily-record snowfall totals for December 26 included 17.3 inches in **Haines** and 15.9 inches in **Yakutat**, where the weekly sum reached 30.8 inches.

Daily Weather Records (ASOS & COOP)

December 21-27, 2008

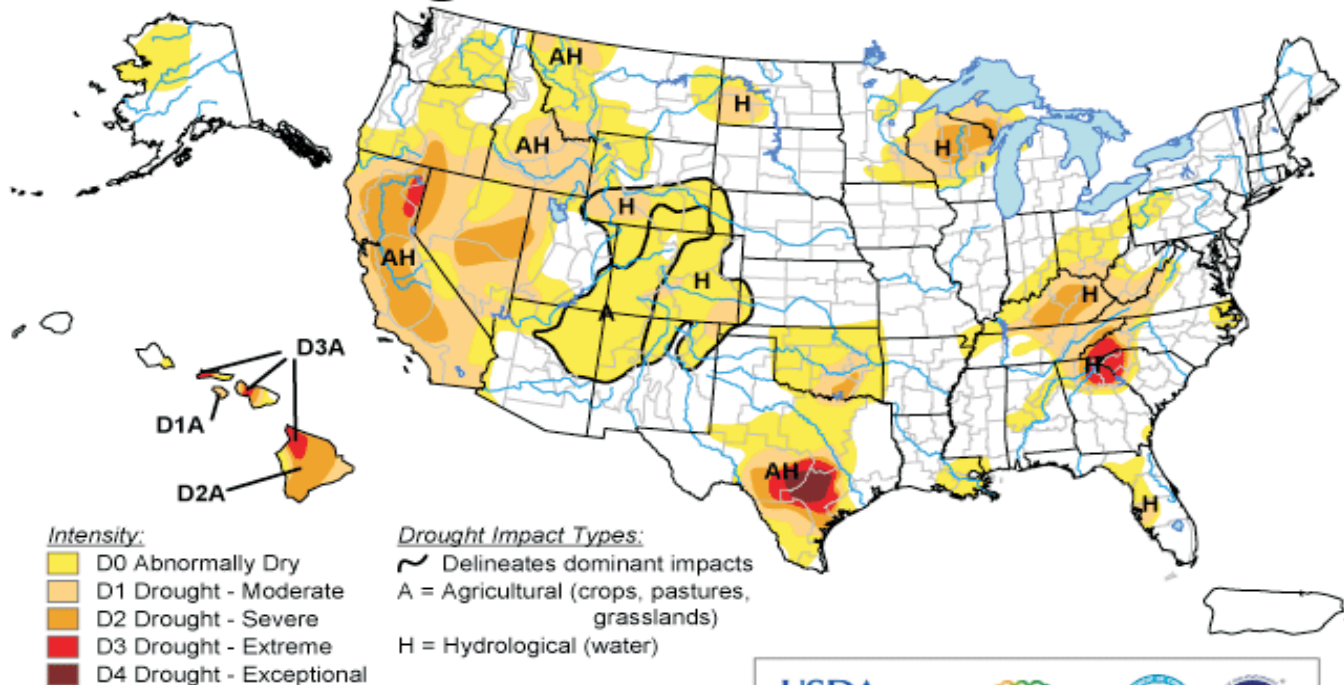


Data courtesy of the U.S. National Climatic Data Center (NCDC)

U.S. Drought Monitor

December 23, 2008

Valid 8 a.m. EST



The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

<http://drought.unl.edu/dm>

Released Wednesday, December 24, 2008

Author: Rich Tinker, Climate Prediction Center, NOAA

National Weather Data for Selected Cities

Weather Data for the Week Ending December 28, 2008

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

STATES AND STATIONS		TEMPERATURE °F						PRECIPITATION								RELATIVE HUMIDITY PERCENT		NUMBER OF DAYS			
																		TEMP. °F		PRECIP	
		AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	EXTREME HIGH	EXTREME LOW	AVERAGE	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	WEEKLY TOTAL, IN.	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	GREATEST IN 24-HOUR, IN.	TOTAL, IN., SINCE DEC01	PCT. NORMAL SINCE DEC01	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	
AL	BIRMINGHAM	60	42	75	17	51	7	0.55	-0.44	0.35	6.06	160	60.49	113	81	45	0	3	4	0	
	HUNTSVILLE	58	38	73	16	48	7	0.48	-0.74	0.27	11.26	233	50.78	89	78	60	0	3	2	0	
	MOBILE	68	52	75	27	60	9	1.24	0.26	1.12	4.34	108	74.29	113	80	69	0	1	3	1	
AK	MONTGOMERY	65	45	77	24	55	7	0.39	-0.65	0.24	4.39	101	55.58	103	81	51	0	1	4	0	
	ANCHORAGE	18	8	23	3	13	-4	0.41	0.19	0.17	0.84	94	15.91	100	80	73	0	7	4	0	
	BARROW	10	-1	17	-16	5	17	0.03	0.03	0.01	0.15	1500	5.07	126	93	83	0	7	3	0	
	FAIRBANKS	3	-17	11	-36	-7	0	0.01	-0.16	0.01	0.46	77	14.14	139	81	76	0	7	1	0	
	JUNEAU	26	11	31	2	19	-9	0.70	-0.53	0.40	3.85	83	73.65	128	90	83	0	7	5	0	
	KODIAK	34	23	41	14	29	-1	0.08	-1.72	0.03	7.39	114	86.47	117	76	64	0	7	4	0	
AZ	NOME	20	6	29	-10	13	6	0.14	-0.05	0.09	1.01	119	10.97	67	88	84	0	7	3	0	
	FLAGSTAFF	34	14	44	-6	24	-6	2.25	1.85	1.15	4.74	312	19.54	86	92	55	0	7	5	2	
	PHOENIX	59	44	63	34	51	-2	0.72	0.52	0.31	0.97	133	9.60	119	82	58	0	0	4	0	
	PRESCOTT	42	26	52	15	34	-3	0.83	0.55	0.38	2.28	215	14.71	78	89	46	0	5	5	0	
	TUCSON	61	38	71	28	50	-1	0.95	0.70	0.64	1.07	130	8.75	73	76	52	0	2	3	1	
	FORT SMITH	50	27	75	13	39	0	2.08	1.45	1.86	3.09	101	59.29	136	82	48	0	6	4	1	
CA	LITTLE ROCK	54	31	74	13	42	0	1.45	0.52	0.63	3.68	87	57.98	115	86	51	0	4	4	1	
	BAKERSFIELD	53	37	59	32	45	-1	0.11	-0.07	0.07	0.63	109	3.49	55	83	72	0	1	2	0	
	FRESNO	52	38	56	32	45	1	0.43	0.11	0.16	1.09	103	9.31	85	85	71	0	1	5	0	
	LOS ANGELES	57	45	63	40	51	-6	0.36	-0.07	0.20	2.53	177	11.37	89	76	52	0	0	3	0	
	REDDING	46	33	50	24	39	-6	2.10	0.99	1.39	3.13	81	21.79	67	95	78	0	4	5	1	
	SACRAMENTO	51	36	53	27	44	-1	1.00	0.44	0.36	1.53	77	13.58	78	92	56	0	1	4	0	
	SAN DIEGO	59	48	62	42	54	-3	0.68	0.36	0.39	3.40	337	11.61	111	74	53	0	0	3	0	
	SAN FRANCISCO	53	43	55	39	48	-1	1.08	0.40	0.39	2.41	102	16.06	82	86	71	0	0	5	0	
	STOCKTON	52	37	54	30	44	0	0.77	0.36	0.33	1.19	80	9.69	72	89	74	0	1	4	0	
CO	ALAMOSA	30	0	35	-11	15	0	0.07	0.01	0.04	0.49	213	5.86	82	79	57	0	7	3	0	
	CO SPRINGS	39	12	51	3	25	-3	0.00	-0.09	0.00	0.15	52	13.43	78	78	26	0	7	0	0	
	DENVER INTL	35	9	48	0	22	-7	0.00	-0.06	0.00	0.33	150	10.74	79	75	43	0	7	0	0	
	GRAND JUNCTION	31	8	43	-4	20	-7	0.43	0.32	0.27	0.65	171	7.67	87	79	68	0	7	3	0	
	PUEBLO	44	12	57	2	28	-1	0.00	-0.08	0.00	0.29	100	11.20	91	68	34	0	7	0	0	
	BRIDGEPORT	40	24	53	12	32	-1	0.98	0.20	0.43	5.62	191	47.40	109	83	68	0	6	4	0	
CT	HARTFORD	37	19	52	6	28	-1	0.80	0.01	0.54	5.68	185	61.53	135	82	64	0	7	4	1	
	WASHINGTON	46	27	59	16	37	-1	0.14	-0.55	0.10	2.98	116	46.30	119	75	42	0	5	2	0	
	WILMINGTON	45	25	61	14	35	1	0.25	-0.50	0.20	4.39	151	40.46	96	85	50	0	6	4	0	
DE	DAYTONA BEACH	75	58	80	48	67	7	0.21	-0.40	0.21	0.92	40	43.29	89	92	54	0	0	1	0	
	JACKSONVILLE	75	48	81	32	62	8	0.01	-0.60	0.01	0.59	27	58.74	113	91	49	0	1	1	0	
	KEY WEST	77	69	80	64	73	2	0.10	-0.39	0.09	0.83	47	41.94	109	90	74	0	0	2	0	
FL	MIAMI	79	68	81	61	74	5	0.15	-0.29	0.07	0.28	15	63.15	108	89	62	0	0	3	0	
	ORLANDO	77	55	82	44	66	4	0.04	-0.46	0.04	0.66	33	57.18	119	94	57	0	0	1	0	
	PENSACOLA	68	51	83	28	60	7	0.33	-0.56	0.15	3.22	97	57.11	90	90	65	0	1	4	0	
	TALLAHASSEE	70	47	78	34	59	6	0.12	-0.84	0.04	1.50	44	62.39	100	84	63	0	0	5	0	
	TAMPA	77	59	83	46	68	6	0.18	-0.32	0.18	1.25	63	45.23	102	85	49	0	0	1	0	
	WEST PALM BEACH	77	66	79	61	72	5	1.25	0.67	0.85	1.76	63	60.26	99	80	60	0	0	2	1	
GA	ATHENS	55	36	65	20	46	3	1.04	0.19	0.60	3.50	113	38.43	81	75	57	0	3	5	1	
	ATLANTA	55	37	65	18	46	2	1.32	0.49	0.83	4.25	131	44.93	91	79	60	0	3	4	1	
	AUGUSTA	64	43	77	21	54	8	0.12	-0.66	0.06	4.03	157	46.91	107	79	57	0	2	3	0	
	COLUMBUS	63	43	75	23	53	5	0.20	-0.77	0.07	4.31	114	57.63	120	84	50	0	2	4	0	
	MACON	63	42	76	25	53	7	0.04	-0.87	0.03	5.20	158	51.77	117	86	56	0	2	2	0	
	SAVANNAH	68	48	80	31	58	8	0.04	-0.66	0.03	0.58	26	48.36	99	82	62	0	2	2	0	
HI	HILO	77	64	79	63	71	-1	10.95	8.95	7.35	14.94	157	105.20	84	86	79	0	0	7	4	
	HONOLULU	81	70	82	66	75	1	0.12	-0.54	0.07	7.32	304	14.65	82	78	68	0	0	3	0	
	KAHULUI	80	65	84	59	73	0	0.61	-0.13	0.38	4.11	162	9.15	50	85	71	0	0	4	0	
	LIHUE	77	69	78	65	73	0	0.42	-0.65	0.22	15.94	391	36.80	95	87	81	0	0	5	0	
	BOISE	34	18	38	8	26	-3	0.89	0.61	0.32	1.23	106	9.08	76	85	73	0	7	6	0	
	LEWISTON	27	16	41	9	22	-11	0.29	0.07	0.15	0.99	114	8.73	70	82	76	0	7	4	0	
ID	POCATELLO	28	13	35	6	20	-4	0.61	0.38	0.31	0.85	96	9.11	74	86	81	0	7	5	0	
	CHICAGO/O'HARE	33	10	61	-6	22	-3	2.28	1.80	1.74	5.78	269	53.93	150	86	75	0	6	4	1	
	MOLINE	31	7	56	-8	19	-5	1.59	1.14	1.33	4.53	235	49.99	132	87	73	0	7	4	1	
	PEORIA	34	12	63	-3	23	-3	1.95	1.50	1.65	4.03	187	49.07	137	88	68	0	7	4	1	
	ROCKFORD	29	6	49	-8	17	-5	1.76	1.37	1.49	3.93	215	46.77	129	88	75	0	7	4	1	
	SPRINGFIELD	38	17	65	1	27	-1	1.82	1.31	1.19	3.82	170	58.15	165	89	64	0	5	4	1	
IN	EVANSVILLE	47	24	73	5	36	3	2.18	1.48	0.82	3.37	106	55.67	127	78	61	0	6	4	3	
	FORT WAYNE	38	16	65	-2	27	0	1.82	1.25	0.92	4.32	178	41.36	114	86	68	0	6	4	1	
	INDIANAPOLIS	41	19	68	1	30	1	2.19	1.58	0.84	5.58	209	54.83	135	87	61	0	6	4	2	
	SOUTH BEND	34	14	62	-3	24	-3	1.02	0.39	0.50	3.62	133	47.33	120	85	73	0	6	4	1	
	BURLINGTON	36	13	61	-2	24	-2	2.13	1.73	1.23	3.14	168	48.26	128	82	60	0	6	4	2	
	CEDAR RAPIDS	28	4	49	-10	16	-5	0.43	0.17	0.38	1.24	95	49.87	150	94	72	0				

Weather Data for the Week Ending December 28, 2008

STATES AND STATIONS		TEMPERATURE °F						PRECIPITATION								RELATIVE HUMIDITY PERCENT		NUMBER OF DAYS			
		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 DEC01	PCT. NORMAL SINCE DEC01	TOTAL, IN., SINCE JAN01	PCT. NORMAL SINCE JAN01	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	90 AND ABOVE	32 AND BELOW	PRECIP		
																			.01 INCH OR MORE	.50 INCH OR MORE	
KY	WICHITA	43	20	69	5	32	0	0.90	0.62	0.89	1.35	117	61.32	203	80	59	0	6	2	1	
	JACKSON	50	26	71	5	38	2	1.45	0.56	0.77	6.51	173	42.04	86	85	49	0	5	3	2	
	LEXINGTON	46	24	70	3	35	1	2.31	1.43	1.87	5.92	170	52.99	117	70	55	0	5	3	1	
	LOUISVILLE	48	26	71	5	37	2	2.49	1.71	1.86	4.86	151	51.43	117	81	53	0	6	3	1	
LA	PADUCAH	50	26	74	7	38	3	2.51	1.64	0.97	5.81	148	56.44	116	81	46	0	5	4	3	
	BATON ROUGE	72	50	83	31	61	10	0.87	-0.32	0.78	4.17	93	54.98	88	91	48	0	1	3	1	
	LAKE CHARLES	69	51	78	32	60	8	0.66	-0.37	0.40	2.11	54	46.95	83	87	63	0	1	4	0	
	NEW ORLEANS	72	55	81	33	64	10	0.06	-1.00	0.06	2.06	47	53.90	85	82	61	0	0	1	0	
ME	SHREVEPORT	60	39	76	23	50	3	0.85	-0.14	0.60	3.17	81	51.23	101	86	48	0	3	4	1	
	CARIBOU	21	-3	39	-25	9	-5	1.18	0.46	0.39	4.70	173	49.40	134	91	65	0	7	5	0	
MD	PORTLAND	35	14	50	-1	24	-1	0.87	-0.05	0.58	3.01	82	63.01	139	80	57	0	7	5	1	
	BALTIMORE	46	25	59	14	35	0	0.10	-0.65	0.05	3.17	112	45.02	109	77	53	0	6	3	0	
MA	BOSTON	40	24	55	15	32	-1	1.09	0.26	0.51	5.92	184	52.90	126	78	55	0	6	4	1	
	WORCESTER	35	18	52	9	27	0	1.43	0.58	0.52	4.92	152	62.44	129	89	59	0	7	4	1	
MI	ALPENA	29	13	50	2	21	-1	1.42	1.03	0.64	2.89	190	32.92	117	92	75	0	6	5	1	
	GRAND RAPIDS	34	18	60	7	26	0	2.22	1.70	1.46	3.99	166	48.31	131	94	79	0	6	5	1	
	HOUGHTON LAKE	28	14	50	0	21	-1	1.63	1.27	0.94	3.42	230	35.45	126	92	80	0	6	5	1	
	LANSING	34	17	60	5	26	1	1.17	0.76	0.63	3.06	159	36.90	118	83	74	0	6	6	1	
MN	MUSKEGON	35	20	61	8	28	1	2.28	1.74	1.18	4.55	198	45.09	139	86	77	0	6	5	2	
	TRAVERSE CITY	31	20	53	10	25	1	1.62	1.03	1.05	3.45	153	30.75	93	92	72	0	6	6	1	
	DULUTH	17	-2	35	-17	8	-3	0.13	-0.01	0.08	0.93	115	30.69	99	83	75	0	7	3	0	
	INT'L FALLS	14	-9	29	-24	3	-3	0.26	0.15	0.21	1.02	179	27.47	115	85	71	0	7	3	0	
MS	MINNEAPOLIS	22	1	41	-13	12	-4	0.03	-0.16	0.02	0.87	102	23.04	79	82	72	0	7	2	0	
	ROCHESTER	22	0	42	-14	11	-4	0.09	-0.08	0.05	0.97	110	33.66	108	80	73	0	7	4	0	
	ST. CLOUD	19	-7	38	-23	6	-6	0.20	0.06	0.19	1.04	179	27.80	103	88	68	0	7	2	0	
	JACKSON	65	44	80	23	54	8	0.99	-0.20	0.66	8.76	191	61.02	111	84	53	0	2	4	1	
MO	MERIDIAN	63	46	78	22	55	8	0.65	-0.52	0.55	7.72	169	60.07	104	79	61	0	2	3	1	
	TUPELO	56	36	72	16	46	4	2.05	0.70	0.84	11.50	216	61.08	111	77	61	0	3	5	2	
	COLUMBIA	40	17	68	0	29	-1	1.34	0.89	0.96	2.57	116	61.94	155	89	57	0	6	3	1	
	KANSAS CITY	40	16	66	-3	28	-1	1.39	1.08	1.26	1.89	130	47.84	127	82	58	0	6	4	1	
MT	SAINT LOUIS	41	19	68	4	30	-2	3.03	2.49	1.82	4.57	179	63.00	164	78	59	0	5	4	2	
	SPRINGFIELD	45	20	68	3	32	-2	1.79	1.23	1.35	2.60	89	67.46	151	86	63	0	6	4	1	
	BILLINGS	18	6	32	-13	12	-13	0.51	0.36	0.28	1.24	243	13.92	95	79	60	0	7	3	0	
	BUTTE	21	-5	32	-17	8	-9	0.00	-0.11	0.00	0.23	53	9.58	76	88	64	0	7	0	0	
NE	CUT BANK	18	-1	35	-26	9	-11	0.00	-0.06	0.00	0.05	24	12.82	103	84	56	0	7	0	0	
	GLASGOW	7	-12	18	-27	-3	-17	0.04	-0.04	0.03	0.59	227	13.39	120	80	73	0	7	2	0	
	GREAT FALLS	18	1	35	-19	10	-13	0.43	0.27	0.16	1.08	212	15.53	105	81	61	0	7	5	0	
	HAVRE	12	-10	34	-28	1	-16	0.02	-0.09	0.01	0.27	69	12.42	110	76	71	0	7	2	0	
NV	MISSOULA	23	11	28	-3	17	-5	0.57	0.32	0.25	0.75	79	12.38	91	88	74	0	7	5	0	
	GRAND ISLAND	28	7	53	-9	17	-7	0.01	-0.10	0.01	0.69	121	41.70	162	78	62	0	7	1	0	
	LINCOLN	30	8	61	-12	19	-6	0.06	-0.08	0.04	0.77	107	40.77	144	78	61	0	7	2	0	
	NORFOLK	23	4	47	-18	14	-8	0.08	-0.02	0.03	1.06	189	32.03	121	78	67	0	7	4	0	
NH	NORTH PLATTE	29	2	51	-16	15	-9	0.00	-0.08	0.00	0.22	69	27.96	143	81	51	0	7	0	0	
	OMAHA	27	8	56	-9	18	-6	0.02	-0.13	0.01	0.81	101	41.72	139	81	68	0	7	2	0	
	SCOTTSBLUFF	31	2	43	-9	17	-8	0.01	-0.10	0.01	0.11	24	14.21	88	79	48	0	7	1	0	
	VALENTINE	25	-3	38	-14	11	-11	0.00	-0.06	0.00	0.19	73	22.66	117	77	57	0	7	0	0	
NJ	ELY	31	1	44	-14	16	-9	0.25	0.14	0.21	0.31	89	6.06	62	79	64	0	7	4	0	
	LAS VEGAS	49	36	58	28	43	-3	0.13	0.05	0.12	1.15	397	3.35	76	70	49	0	1	2	0	
	RENO	42	24	51	17	33	0	0.33	0.14	0.26	0.47	64	6.49	89	76	62	0	7	3	0	
	WINNEMUCCA	38	11	60	-1	25	-4	0.56	0.39	0.27	1.12	175	6.62	81	84	66	0	7	5	0	
NM	CONCORD	34	14	50	0	24	0	0.87	0.24	0.56	3.48	136	56.36	152	80	59	0	7	4	1	
	NEWARK	41	25	55	12	33	-1	1.12	0.34	0.51	5.75	189	47.66	104	73	64	0	6	4	1	
	ALBUQUERQUE	44	28	54	20	36	1	0.20	0.09	0.17	0.65	181	8.38	90	66	38	0	6	2	0	
	ALBANY	34	19	46	6	26	0	0.92	0.37	0.34	4.33	187	47.72	127	84	62	0	6	4	0	
NY	BINGHAMTON	34	18	46	3	26	1	0.72	0.10	0.35	3.50	131	39.59	103	84	68	0	7	3	0	
	BUFFALO	39	23	64	11	31	3	2.22	1.42	1.21	5.95	179	48.35	121	88	65	0	6	6	2	
	ROCHESTER	39	22	60	9	31	4	1.17	0.60	0.71	2.78	117	29.92	89	77	63	0	6	3	1	
	SYRACUSE	37	22	55	10	29	3	1.29	0.68	0.65	3.55	129	41.49	105	91	65	0	6	6	1	
NC	ASHEVILLE	49	28	61	10	38	1	0.48	-0.26	0.28	4.57	159	35.41	76	81	53	0	3	3	0	
	CHARLOTTE	54	35	67	20	45	2	0.22	-0.52	0.14	3.15	119	42.18	98	80	43	0	3	4	0	
	GREENSBORO	49	32	63	18	41	2	0.95	0.27	0.55	3.26	126	38.27	90	80	43	0	3	3	1	
	HATTERAS	61	46	66	31	53	5	0.24	-0.84	0.20	4.07	108	62.81	110	88	56	0	2	2	0	
ND	RALEIGH	54	33	67	21	44	3	0.91	0.21	0.55	2.83	112	50.33	118	77	53	0	2	4	1	
	WILMINGTON	61	39	71	22	50	3	0.45	-0.40	0.44	2.56	80	60.78	108	92	54	0	2	2	0	
	BISMARCK	8	-12	16	-24	-2	-15	0.41	0.33	0.17	0.82	248	20.45	122	82	75	0	7	4	0	
	DICKINSON	11	-9	24	-23	1	-15	0.07	0.01	0.03	0.14	54	10.97	67	86	63	0	7	3	0	
OH	FARGO	15	-5	32	-19	5	-5	0.12	0.00	0.08	0.69	157	31.85	151	83	65	0	7	4	0	
	GRAND FORKS	10	-12	29	-24	-1	-10	0.33	0.22												

Weather Data for the Week Ending December 28, 2008

STATES AND STATIONS		TEMPERATURE °F						PRECIPITATION							RELATIVE HUMIDITY PERCENT		NUMBER OF DAYS			
		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 DEC01	PCT. NORMAL SINCE DEC01	TOTAL, IN., SINCE JAN01	PCT. NORMAL SINCE JAN01	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	TEMP. °F		PRECIP.	
																	90 AND ABOVE	32 AND BELOW	.01 INCH OR MORE	.50 INCH OR MORE
OK	TOLEDO	37	15	65	-2	26	-1	1.40	0.87	0.53	4.14	178	40.20	122	86	74	0	6	4	1
	YOUNGSTOWN	40	19	65	1	29	1	1.39	0.80	0.76	3.30	126	45.24	120	79	59	0	6	4	1
	OKLAHOMA CITY	50	27	76	11	38	0	0.48	0.07	0.47	0.53	33	35.67	100	76	44	0	6	2	0
OR	TULSA	50	25	76	8	38	0	0.79	0.34	0.79	1.81	83	55.52	132	77	51	0	6	1	1
	ASTORIA	41	34	51	30	38	-4	4.81	2.59	1.66	8.56	93	64.95	99	95	86	0	4	6	5
	BURNS	29	3	36	-11	16	-8	1.07	0.79	0.45	1.54	145	8.80	85	91	83	0	7	5	0
PA	EUGENE	43	33	50	30	38	-1	1.70	-0.04	0.60	3.73	51	28.91	58	98	89	0	5	7	1
	MEDFORD	41	31	44	29	36	-1	1.38	0.79	0.63	2.14	84	13.53	75	96	76	0	5	5	1
	PENDLETON	27	13	45	0	20	-13	0.77	0.47	0.45	2.00	160	11.44	91	90	82	0	6	5	0
	PORTLAND	35	28	50	20	32	-7	0.66	-0.54	0.20	1.70	34	26.06	72	91	82	0	5	6	0
	SALEM	39	28	50	19	33	-7	2.19	0.84	0.77	4.77	84	28.79	73	97	88	0	6	6	1
	ALLENTOWN	38	20	51	9	29	-1	1.70	0.98	1.50	5.59	192	50.31	113	80	67	0	6	4	1
	ERIE	42	20	68	4	31	0	1.51	0.75	0.60	5.26	159	44.11	104	82	65	0	5	7	1
	MIDDLETOWN	40	22	54	13	31	-1	1.65	0.99	1.48	6.81	239	46.20	115	87	51	0	6	4	1
	PHILADELPHIA	46	26	62	15	36	1	0.33	-0.40	0.23	5.57	198	40.13	97	74	60	0	6	4	0
	PITTSBURGH	43	20	68	2	31	0	1.97	1.38	1.10	4.78	193	39.16	105	86	50	0	5	4	2
RI	WILKES-BARRE	37	18	51	5	28	-1	0.93	0.42	0.74	5.07	227	42.88	115	82	57	0	6	3	1
	WILLIAMSPORT	37	18	49	6	28	-1	0.89	0.31	0.76	3.91	151	45.19	110	74	58	0	6	4	1
	PROVIDENCE	41	24	56	14	33	1	1.14	0.23	0.57	6.63	186	56.51	123	75	58	0	6	4	1
SC	BEAUFORT	67	47	78	30	57	7	0.02	-0.73	0.01	0.05	2	39.67	81	87	53	0	2	2	0
	CHARLESTON	66	45	80	27	56	7	0.06	-0.71	0.06	0.35	13	47.46	93	87	51	0	2	1	0
	COLUMBIA	59	40	74	22	50	5	0.24	-0.58	0.11	3.42	124	43.96	92	82	58	0	2	4	0
SD	GREENVILLE	53	36	68	20	44	2	0.36	-0.52	0.15	3.92	120	37.98	77	80	41	0	3	4	0
	ABERDEEN	15	-7	28	-18	4	-10	0.25	0.17	0.12	0.95	380	26.26	131	81	73	0	7	5	0
	HURON	17	-1	35	-15	8	-9	0.05	-0.02	0.04	3.25	1161	27.86	134	81	71	0	7	2	0
TN	RAPID CITY	23	0	35	-11	12	-12	0.10	0.02	0.06	0.48	171	22.22	135	76	55	0	7	4	0
	SIoux FALLS	19	1	41	-13	10	-6	0.01	-0.07	0.01	0.63	147	25.51	104	77	69	0	7	1	0
	BRISTOL	53	25	73	9	39	3	1.05	0.31	0.53	4.32	147	35.18	86	92	44	0	5	3	1
TX	CHATTANOOGA	54	34	65	14	44	3	2.05	1.01	1.40	9.17	221	46.86	87	78	57	0	3	4	2
	KNOXVILLE	52	29	69	12	40	1	1.19	0.20	0.75	8.77	227	47.84	101	86	51	0	4	2	1
	MEMPHIS	57	34	77	14	46	4	3.91	2.77	1.86	8.65	170	63.78	118	81	50	0	3	4	3
	NASHVILLE	51	31	70	9	41	2	1.37	0.42	1.02	6.61	166	47.46	100	81	53	0	4	4	1
	ABILENE	59	34	78	18	46	2	0.06	-0.24	0.03	0.07	7	25.58	109	60	38	0	3	3	0
	AMARILLO	51	21	72	6	36	0	0.00	-0.15	0.00	0.02	5	20.68	106	69	26	0	6	0	0
	AUSTIN	64	42	81	29	53	2	0.04	-0.50	0.02	0.39	19	18.17	55	75	48	0	1	3	0
	BEAUMONT	68	52	78	32	60	7	0.79	-0.41	0.43	2.47	56	53.43	90	93	59	0	1	4	0
	BROWNSVILLE	74	56	83	40	65	5	0.32	0.10	0.24	0.52	55	39.00	142	95	78	0	0	2	0
	CORPUS CHRISTI	71	55	90	40	63	6	0.13	-0.26	0.07	0.42	29	31.21	98	93	73	1	0	2	0
UT	DEL RIO	62	42	79	33	52	1	0.00	-0.14	0.00	0.03	5	18.97	105	83	57	0	0	0	0
	EL PASO	60	34	66	25	47	3	0.01	-0.16	0.01	0.27	44	9.88	106	59	23	0	3	1	0
	FORT WORTH	59	38	83	24	48	3	0.16	-0.43	0.16	0.29	13	27.95	81	71	35	0	2	1	0
	GALVESTON	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
	HOUSTON	69	51	78	31	60	7	0.40	-0.40	0.18	1.30	41	54.25	115	80	72	0	1	4	0
	LUBBOCK	54	28	71	15	41	3	0.00	-0.13	0.00	0.01	2	28.43	153	57	35	0	5	0	0
	MIDLAND	61	32	78	22	46	2	0.00	-0.14	0.00	0.12	23	11.50	78	61	37	0	4	0	0
	SAN ANGELO	62	35	77	26	48	3	0.00	-0.19	0.00	0.05	6	20.78	100	62	39	0	4	0	0
	SAN ANTONIO	66	46	83	33	56	5	0.03	-0.39	0.02	0.26	15	14.87	46	78	35	0	0	2	0
	VICTORIA	68	52	83	35	60	6	0.17	-0.38	0.12	0.43	20	22.38	56	86	70	0	0	3	0
VA	WACO	60	37	80	22	48	1	0.26	-0.33	0.24	0.68	28	43.33	131	73	51	0	2	3	0
	WICHITA FALLS	53	29	79	14	41	0	0.36	-0.01	0.36	1.07	74	27.90	98	69	47	0	6	1	0
	SALT LAKE CITY	33	18	41	8	26	-3	0.35	0.09	0.19	1.00	100	11.88	73	85	61	0	7	5	0
	BURLINGTON	34	11	46	-9	23	1	0.87	0.43	0.53	2.74	143	40.12	112	85	62	0	6	3	1
	LYNCHBURG	45	26	57	15	36	0	0.57	-0.15	0.37	3.51	129	31.57	74	79	43	0	5	3	0
	NORFOLK	54	36	67	26	45	3	0.63	-0.08	0.55	3.83	153	41.85	93	87	53	0	2	3	1
	RICHMOND	50	30	65	17	40	1	0.37	-0.35	0.36	4.05	156	49.56	114	78	52	0	4	2	0
	ROANOKE	47	27	61	15	37	0	0.42	-0.19	0.27	2.25	92	33.19	79	71	46	0	5	3	0
	WASH/DULLES	46	24	60	12	35	1	0.09	-0.57	0.06	2.62	100	43.76	106	74	53	0	5	4	0
	OLYMPIA	35	28	42	24	32	-5	1.66	-0.01	0.71	3.93	57	39.20	79	91	87	0	6	6	1
WV	QUILLAYUTE	39	30	45	25	34	-6	4.37	1.24	1.34	8.69	68	84.99	85	95	89	0	5	6	4
	SEATTLE-TACOMA	37	30	44	24	33	-7	1.36	0.18	0.44	3.22	65	30.93	85	90	77	0	5	6	0
	SPOKANE	23	8	36	-4	15	-11	1.22	0.76	0.29	3.27	168	17.27	105	94	83	0	7	6	0
	YAKIMA	21	6	33	-4	14	-14	0.34	0.04	0.27	0.69	59	5.52	69	90	80	0	7	4	0
	BECKLEY	45	22	64	2	34	1	0.60	-0.09	0.29	4.20	159	44.40	108	78	54	0	4	4	0
	CHARLESTON	50	23	73	8	36	0	0.79	0.10	0.55	5.03	173	45.33	104	87	53	0	5	4	1
	ELKINS	46	18	71	4	32	1	0.75	0.01	0.56	4.91	165	44.27	97	92	47	0	5	4	1
	HUNTINGTON	47	23	73	6	35	0	1.56	0.82	1.40	4.40	151	41.32	99	90	55	0	5	3	1
	EAU CLAIRE	22	0	44	-15	11	-4	0.45	0.26	0.45	0.90	101	29.53	92	89	69	0	7	1	0
	GREEN BAY	26	5	45	-10	16	-3	0.96	0.71	0.28	2.27	185	30.00	103	92	72	0	6	6	0
WY	LA CROSSE	24	1	43	-17	13	-6	0.33	0.12	0.11	1.74	163	35.87	111	89					

National Agricultural Summary

December 22-28, 2009

Weekly National Agricultural Summary provided by USDA/NASS

HIGHLIGHTS

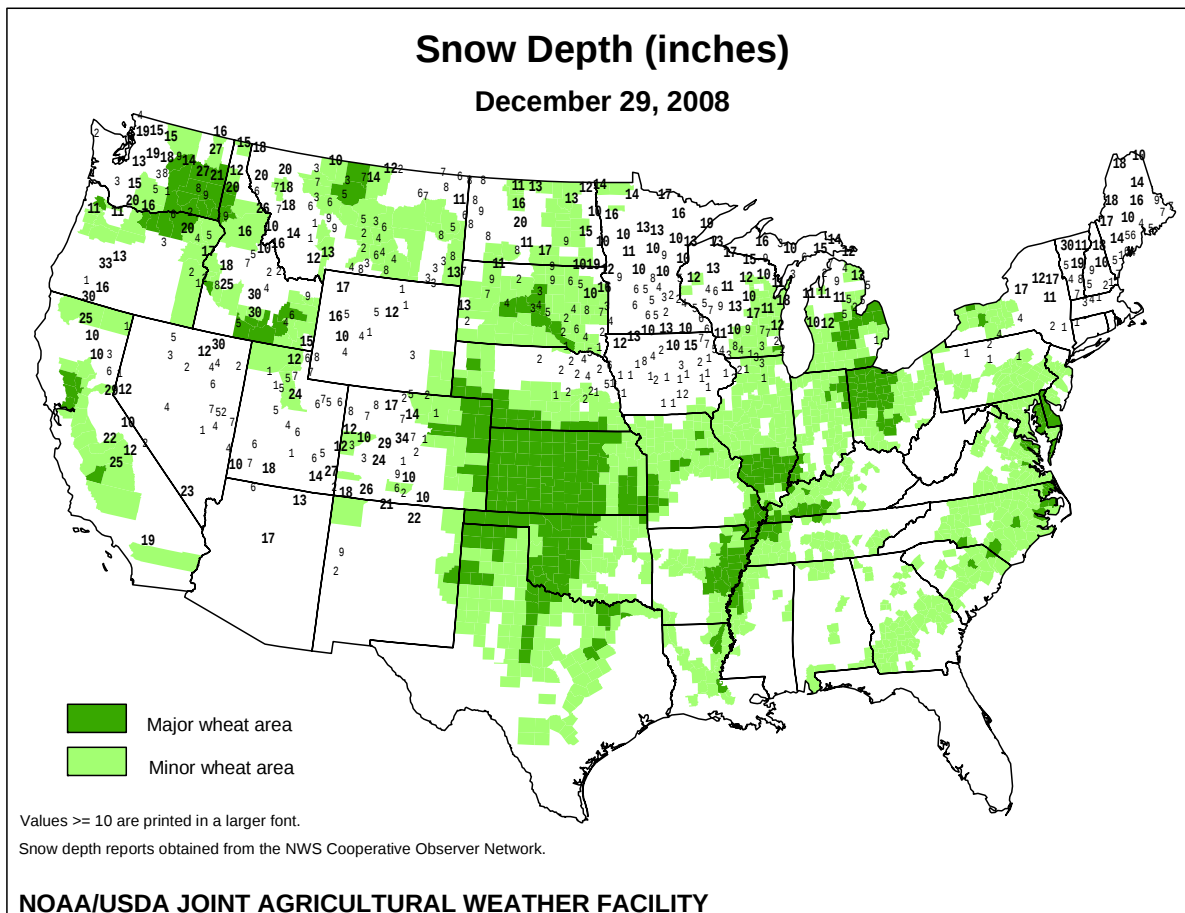
Average temperatures were well below normal for States west of the Mississippi River with the exception of Texas and Louisiana, which were slightly above normal. Temperatures were normal to slightly above normal, elsewhere. Snow covered most of the Pacific Northwest, eastward through Wisconsin and Michigan, and much of New England. In the west, precipitation was focused over the Pacific Coast, the Rocky Mountains, and through the Four Corners region. Minimal to light precipitation fell through the Great Plains. Most of the eastern United States, with the exception of the southern Atlantic States, received measurable precipitation.

In California, cold winter storms brought rain and snow across the State, but by week's end, conditions were drier as the storms moved northward. Field work continued as small grain planting was winding down and grain crops were emerging and progressing well. Citrus harvest continued as growers were treating groves. Heavy rain slowed

field work in vegetable fields, though much of the planting was complete. Damage from freezing temperatures occurred to some vegetables, though damage had not been assessed, and harvest continued. In Arizona, multiple cool, wet storm systems brought snow and rain across the State. The cotton harvest was reaching its final stages and small grain planting remained active as conditions allowed. In Florida, under mostly dry conditions with the exception of the western Panhandle, pecan harvest was wrapping up while good growth was reported on winter grains. Sugarcane harvest was active in south Florida and potato planting continued in some areas. Vegetable harvest continued and producers were planting, staking, and spraying their fields. The Florida citrus crop experienced a week of warmer than average temperatures, as extremely dry conditions persisted through the citrus region. Grove activity included fertilizing, cleaning up groves, dormant spraying and hedging, as well as harvesting.

Snow Depth (inches)

December 29, 2008



International Weather and Crop Summary

December 21 - 27, 2008

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

HIGHLIGHTS

FSU-WESTERN: Moderate to heavy snow blanketed winter grains in Ukraine and parts of Russia, boosting protective snow cover.

EUROPE: Welcomed drier weather across southern Europe improved conditions for late-season winter grain planting.

MIDDLE EAST: Beneficial precipitation overspread Turkey and the eastern Mediterranean, while drier conditions prevailed elsewhere.

NORTHWEST AFRICA: Drier weather aided winter grain planting in Morocco and Algeria, but increased rainfall deficits in Tunisia.

AUSTRALIA: Dry weather in southern and western Australia benefited winter wheat harvesting, while showers in the east favored summer crops.

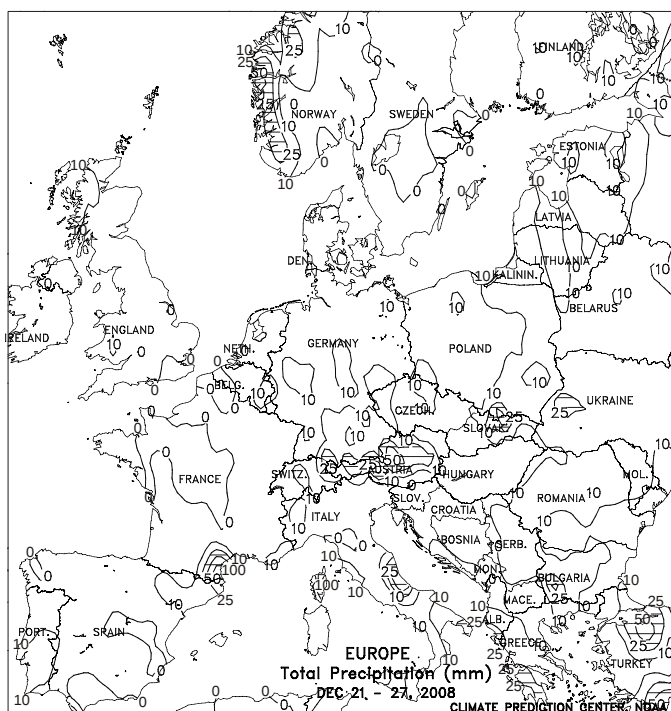
SOUTHEAST ASIA: Seasonable showers maintained abundant soil moisture for rice in Indonesia but slowed oil palm harvesting in the region.

SOUTH ASIA: Dry weather improved conditions for late cotton harvesting in Pakistan and aided late-season harvesting in southern India.

ARGENTINA: Rain brought localized relief from heat and dryness.

BRAZIL: Heavy rain continued in central and northeastern farming areas but drought persisted in important corn and soybean areas of the south.

SOUTH AFRICA: Warm, showery weather returned to eastern sections of the corn belt but the west stayed unseasonably dry.

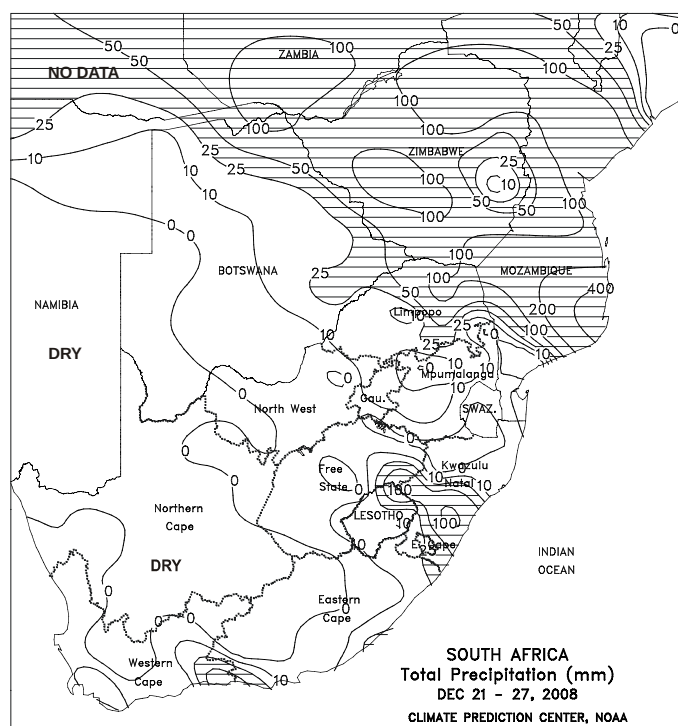


EUROPE

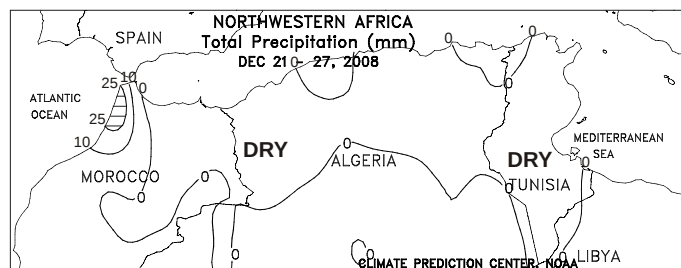
Welcomed drier weather prevailed from southern France eastward across Italy and into the western portion of the Balkans, easing excessive wetness and improving conditions for late winter grain planting. Light showers (around 10 mm) accompanied unseasonably mild weather early in the week across northern and eastern Europe, favoring winter grains. Elsewhere, mostly dry weather extended from Spain northward into England. Much-above-normal temperatures were observed across most of Europe early in the week. However, colder air overspread the region during the second half of the week, resulting in a steady decline in temperatures. By week's end, nighttime minimum temperatures ranged from -7 to -1 degrees C across western and northern Europe to as low as -10 degrees C in southeastern areas. The colder weather kept winter grains dormant across northern and central Europe and halted crop growth in southeastern Europe.

**FSU-WESTERN**

Widespread snow fell across most of the region, boosting protective snow cover. The exception was in the Volga District in Russia, where an arctic high pressure system kept most of the area unseasonably cold and dry. Heaviest snow (10-25 mm or more liquid equivalent) was observed across winter grain areas in Ukraine and the western portion of the southern District in Russia, with lighter amounts of snow (3-10 mm of liquid equivalent) reported across the remainder of the Southern District and the Russian Central District. Rain changed to snow (10-20 mm of liquid equivalent) in Belarus. Weekly temperatures averaged near to slightly above normal in western Ukraine and Belarus, and 2 to 5 degrees C below normal across the remainder of Ukraine and Russia. Lowest temperatures (-23 to -15 degrees C) were observed in the southern portion of the Central District, the northern tip of the Southern District, and the Volga District. Snow cover was thin or patchy in the Volga District, leaving some winter grain areas exposed to bitterly cold air.

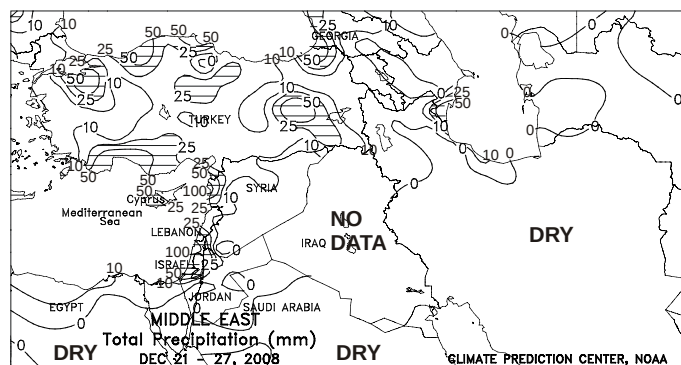
**SOUTH AFRICA**

Scattered, generally light showers (less than 25 mm) returned to the eastern corn belt, boosting topsoil moisture levels for summer crop establishment. However, mostly dry weather continued in western sections of the corn belt (in particular, North West and Free State), where moisture is becoming limited for germination and establishment. Temperatures averaging 1 to 2 degrees C above normal fostered rapid development of summer crops across the corn belt, with highs ranging from the lower 30s degrees C in the east to the middle 30s farther west. Elsewhere, locally heavy showers (25-50 mm, locally exceeding 100 mm) fell in outlying agricultural areas of northern Limpopo, and in southern sugarcane areas of KwaZulu-Natal. As in the corn belt, however, warm, dry weather dominated the more northerly sugarcane areas of KwaZulu-Natal and southern Mpumalanga. Sunny, albeit mild weather promoted development of irrigated crops in Western and Northern Cape Provinces, although isolated showers (greater than 10 mm) were recorded.



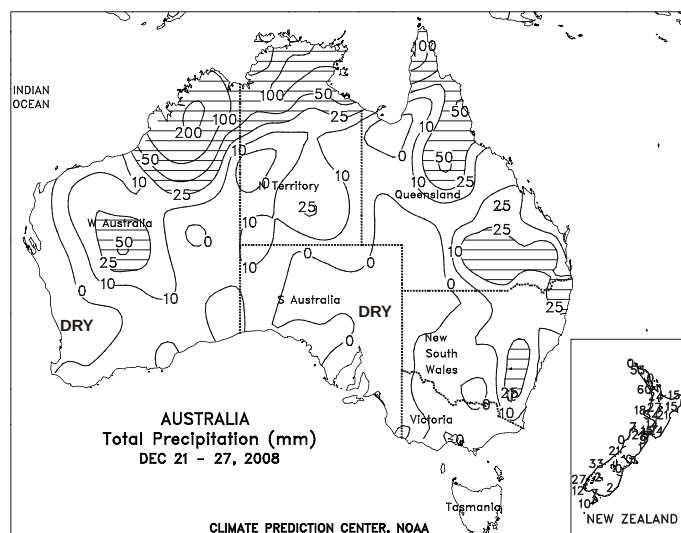
NORTHWEST AFRICA

An area of high pressure brought drier weather to much of the region. After several weeks of record-setting rainfall, drier weather in Morocco and Algeria benefited winter grain planting. Additionally, the increased sunshine aided crop development in the aforementioned areas. Similarly, after last week's rainfall, dry weather returned to Tunisia, contributing to a rainfall deficit of nearly 70 mm since November 1. Although seasonably cool weather has reduced evaporative losses, more rain will be needed to ensure good grain establishment and development.



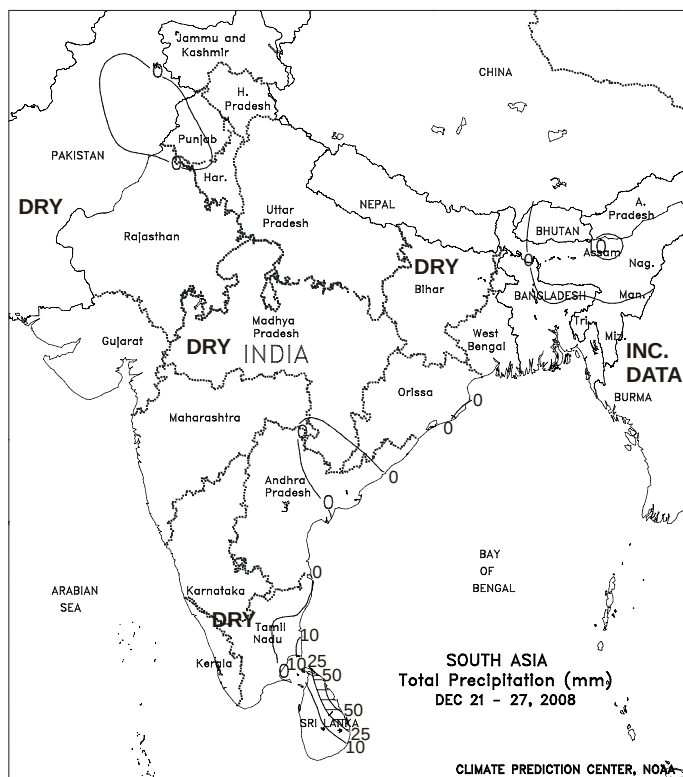
MIDDLE EAST

A period of unseasonably wet weather provided beneficial moisture to overwintering wheat in Turkey. Most of the precipitation (10-25 mm liquid equivalent, locally exceeding 50 mm) fell as rain, but a changeover to snow occurred on the Anatolian plateau at midweek, providing protection for dormant winter grains during an ensuing outbreak of frigid air (temperatures falling to around -15 degrees C). Locally heavy rain and snow also fell in the watersheds of eastern Turkey and in major Mediterranean growing areas from western Syria to northern Israel and northwestern Jordan. Precipitation was scattered and light (less than 5 mm, liquid equivalent) from eastern Syria to northwestern Iran, with no widespread accumulation of snow. However, temperatures were generally favorable for overwintering grains, with lows reportedly staying well above the threshold for potential winterkill.



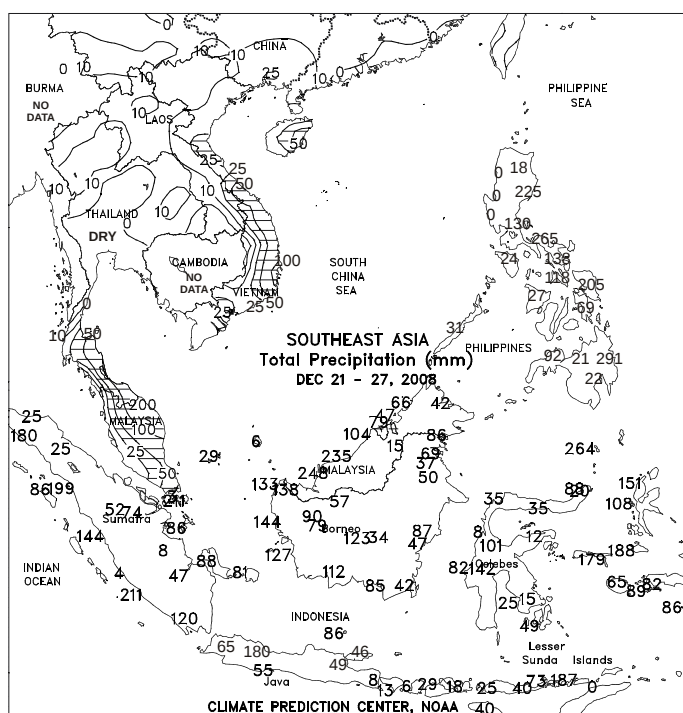
AUSTRALIA

Continued showers in the east contrasted with dry weather in the south and west. In southern Queensland and much of eastern New South Wales, dry weather early in the week aided winter wheat harvesting, while showers (10 to locally 100 mm) at week's end benefited vegetative summer crops. In contrast, mostly dry weather throughout the week in Victoria, South Australia, and Western Australia favored fieldwork and was especially beneficial for mature winter wheat that has been unfavorably wet. In the southwest, maximum temperatures were generally in the middle to upper 20s degrees C, nearly 10 degrees cooler than last week. Elsewhere in the southern wheat belt, warm weather accompanied the drier conditions, further aiding wheat harvesting.



SOUTH ASIA

Seasonably dry weather prevailed throughout the region, aiding crop development and fieldwork. After last week's unseasonably heavy rainfall in Pakistan, drier conditions eased wetness and improved conditions for late cotton harvesting. Meanwhile, abundant sunshine throughout India benefited winter wheat development across the Gangetic Plain and lingering summer crop harvesting in the south. The drier weather was especially beneficial in the southern areas, following a series of tropical cyclones over the past month that produced unfavorably wet conditions.

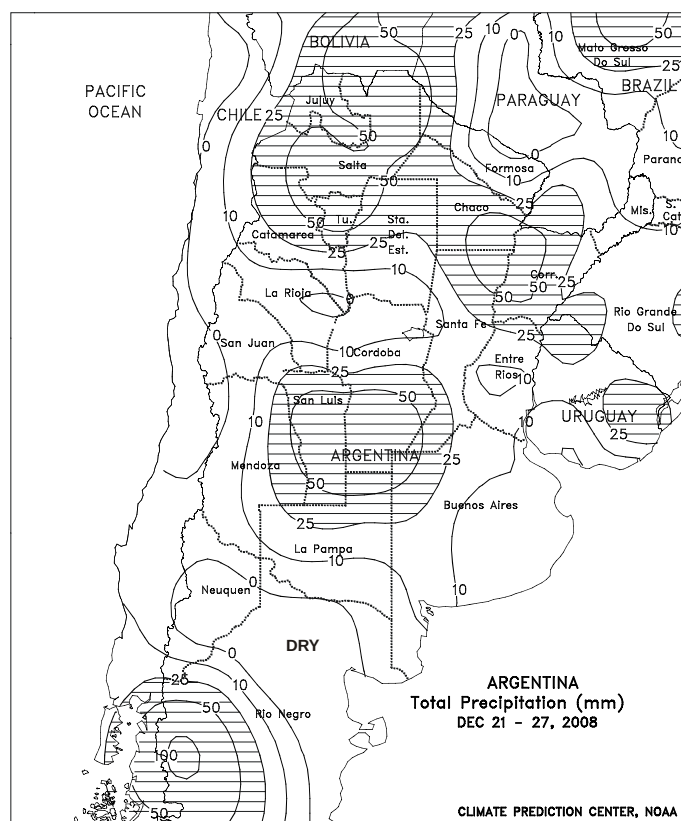


SOUTHEAST ASIA

Widespread showers (25-200 mm) across Indonesia continued to benefit developing rice in Java but caused some harvest delays for oil palm in Sumatra and Kalimantan, where the heaviest rainfall occurred. Rainfall for the season has thus far been abundant across Java, ensuring favorable crop prospects for rice. Likewise for Malaysia, rainfall amounts over 100 mm in Sarawak and Kelantan resulted in harvest delays for oil palm. Meanwhile, seasonably heavy showers (50-200 mm) along the eastern Philippines caused localized flooding but maintained favorably high reservoir levels for irrigation of rice and corn. An unseasonable flare-up of tropical moisture across Indochina produced 10 to 100 mm of rain, providing additional moisture to irrigated winter-spring rice in Vietnam.

**BRAZIL**

Moderate to heavy rain (50-100 mm or more) covered major farming areas of central and northeastern Brazil, maintaining adequate to abundant moisture reserves for soybeans and other summer row crops. A second week of very heavy rain (greater than 100 mm) increased concern for potential negative impacts on coffee in Minas Gerais, although the highest concentration of rain shifted away from the areas flooded by last week's inundating rains. Elsewhere, showers (10-50 mm) ended a dry spell in the citrus and sugarcane areas of western São Paulo, while mostly dry weather aided sugarcane harvesting and other seasonal fieldwork along Brazil's northeastern coast. In southern Brazil (notably Paraná, Santa Catarina, and Rio Grande do Sul), warmer- and drier-than-normal weather was unfavorable for soybeans, corn, and other vegetative to reproductive summer crops, with early-week highs in the middle and upper 30s degrees C compounding stress on emerged grains and oilseeds. Seasonably wetter and milder weather is needed immediately to prevent yield losses in soybeans, which typically flower and fill during the months of January and February in this part of the country.

**ARGENTINA**

Much-needed rain (10-25 mm, locally exceeding 50 mm) helped to stabilize drought-stressed summer crops in key growing areas of central and northern Argentina. In the more southerly growing areas, the heaviest rain was concentrated over San Luis and southern Córdoba, with drier conditions (rainfall below 10 mm) prevailing in portions of eastern Buenos Aires and Entre Ríos. The rainfall also brought seasonably lower temperatures to the region, although highs reached the middle 30s degrees C at many locations during the drier latter half of the week. Farther north, locally heavy rain (25-50 mm or more) fell in major cotton areas in and around Chaco, increasing moisture for summer crop establishment after several weeks of sporadic rainfall. However, unseasonable warmth (temperatures averaging 2-3 degrees C above normal, with highs in the lower 40s degrees C) maintained high crop moisture demands while enhancing evaporative losses. According to Argentina's ministry of agriculture (SAGPyA), corn and sunflowers were 87 and 98 percent planted, respectively, as of December 25. Soybeans were 80 percent planted compared with 78 percent last year. In addition, winter wheat was 87 percent harvested, 17 points ahead of last year.

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