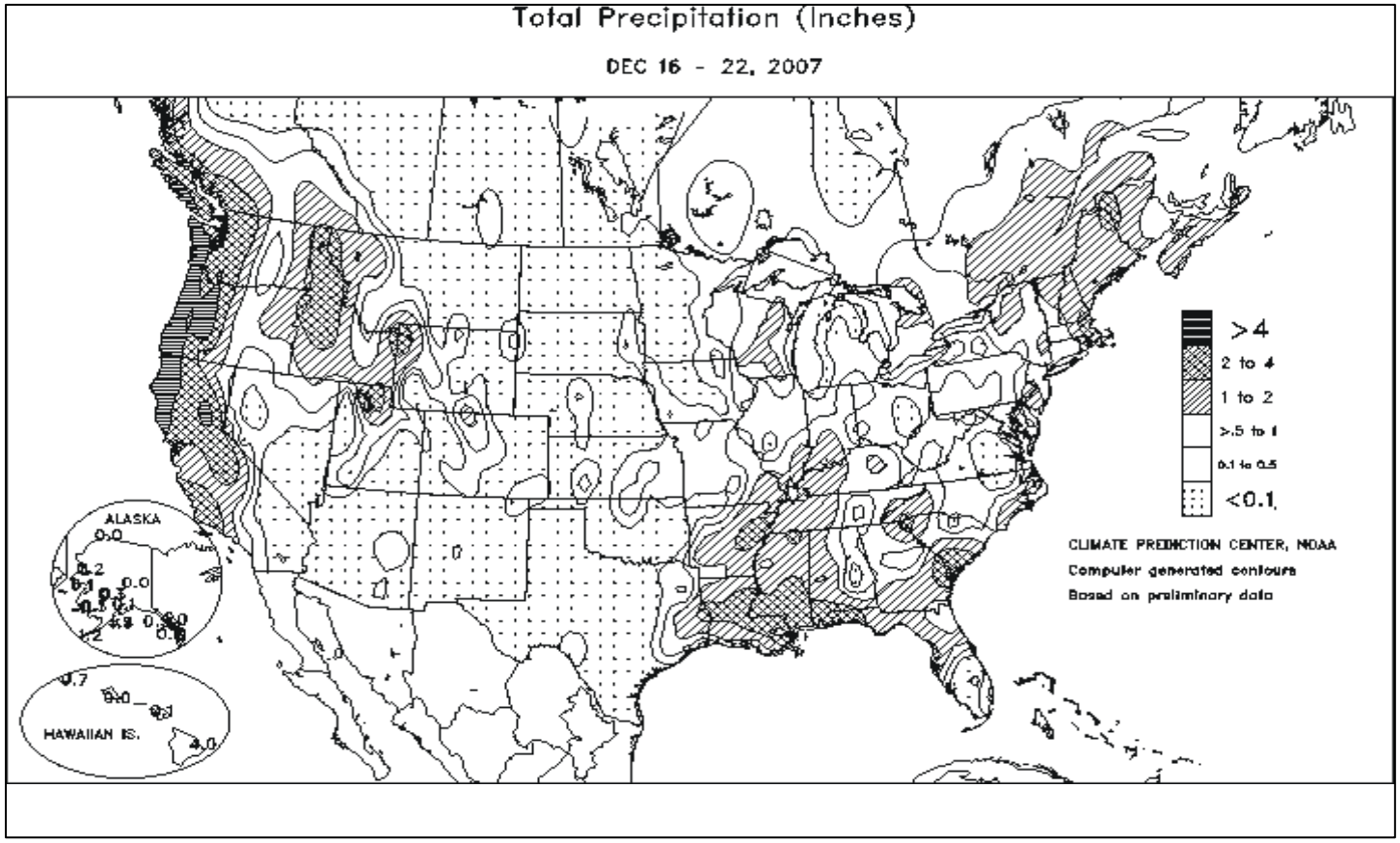
Volume 94, No. 52 *http://www.usda.gov/oce/waob/jawf/wwcb.html* **December 27, 2007**

WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP BULLETIN

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

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



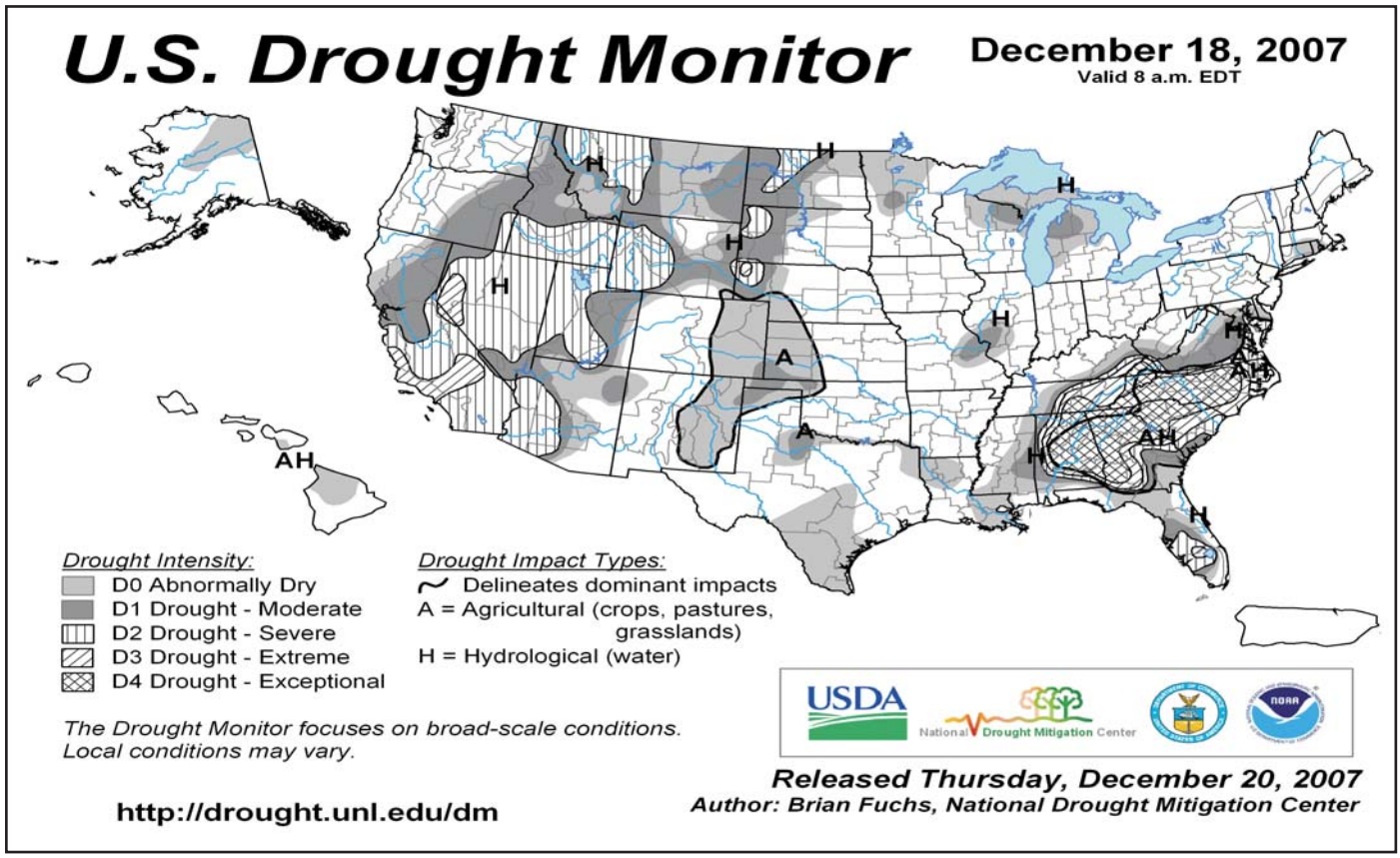
HIGHLIGHTS
December 16 - 22, 2007

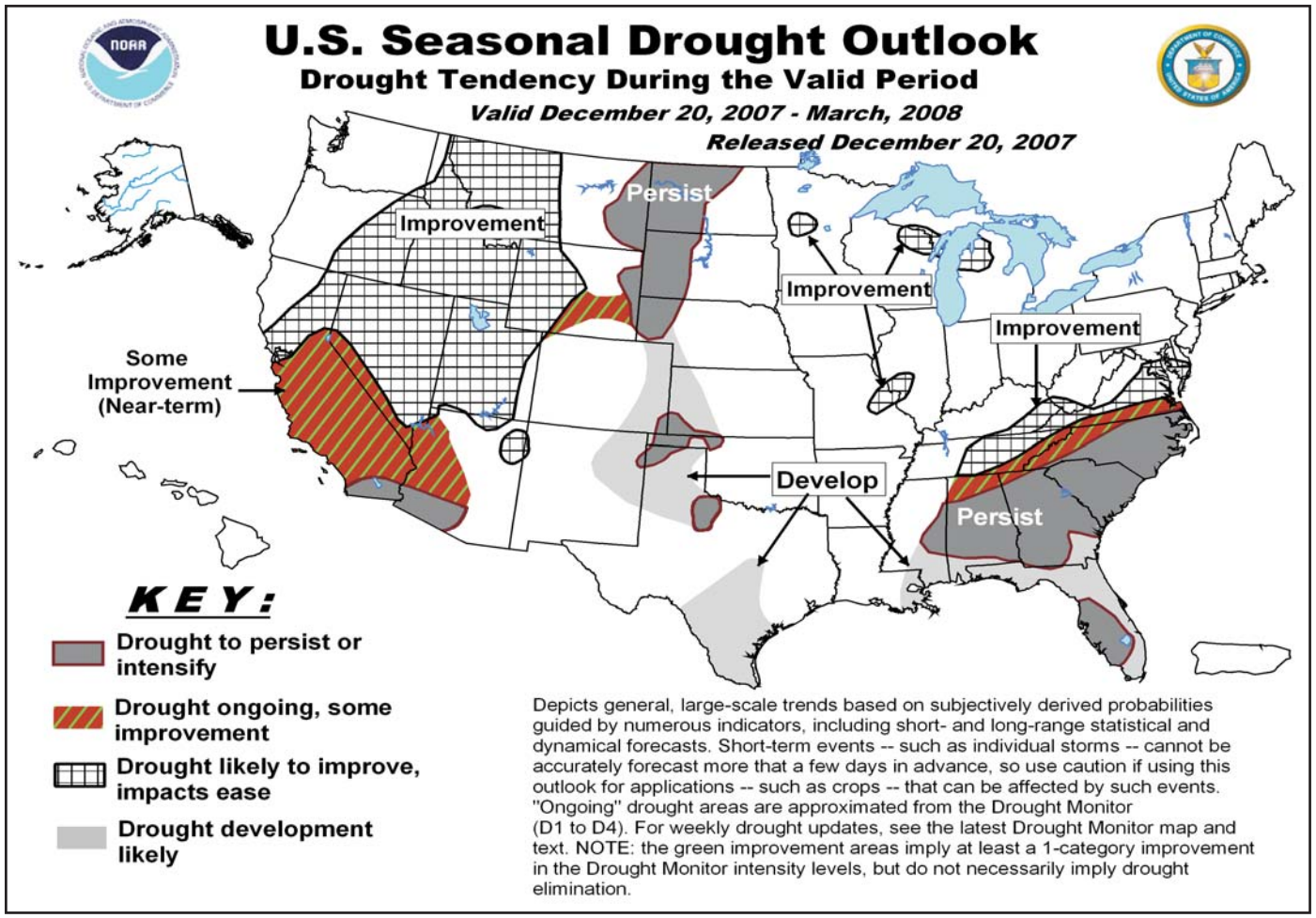
Highlights provided by USDA/WAOB

A series of **Pacific** storms maintained wet conditions in the **Northwest** but provided drought relief in **California**. Cool air trailing the storms brought frost to parts of **southern California**, although chilly conditions generally did not pose a significant threat to citrus and other temperature-sensitive crops. Meanwhile on the **Plains**, winter wheat's protective snow cover gradually eroded across central areas and disappeared from the remainder of the region. Nevertheless, overwintering

(Continued on page 7)

Contents


U.S. Drought Monitor
December 18, 2007
Valid 8 a.m. EDT
Drought Intensity:
D0 Abnormally Dry
D1 Drought - Moderate
D2 Drought - Severe
D3 Drought - Extreme
D4 Drought - Exceptional
Drought Impact Types:
Delineates dominant impacts
A = Agricultural (crops, pastures, grasslands)
H = Hydrological (water)
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions.
Local conditions may vary.
USDA
National Drought Mitigation Center
http://drought.unl.edu/dm
Released Thursday, December 20, 2007
Author: Brian Fuchs, National Drought Mitigation Center


U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook
Drought Tendency During the Valid Period
Valid December 20, 2007 - March, 2008
Released December 20, 2007
Improvement
Persist
Improvement
Improvement
Some Improvement (Near-term)
Develop
Persist
KEY:
Drought to persist or intensify
Drought ongoing, some improvement
Drought likely to improve, impacts ease
Drought development likely
Depicts general, large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by numerous indicators, including short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Short-term events -- such as individual storms -- cannot be accurately forecast more that a few days in advance, so use caution if using this outlook for applications -- such as crops -- that can be affected by such events. "Ongoing" drought areas are approximated from the Drought Monitor (D1 to D4). For weekly drought updates, see the latest Drought Monitor map and text. 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 December 22, 2007

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	55	38	63	23	47	2	0.33	-0.63	0.30	0.76	25	29.73	57	88	53	0	3	4	0
	HUNTSVILLE	53	37	61	23	45	3	0.08	-1.14	0.07	0.55	14	28.06	50	86	69	0	3	2	0
	MOBILE	63	44	72	29	53	1	3.20	2.24	2.91	4.11	125	51.33	79	85	58	0	1	2	1
	MONTGOMERY	61	39	71	26	50	2	0.12	-0.95	0.11	0.83	23	35.02	66	86	47	0	3	2	0
AK	ANCHORAGE	14	3	22	-9	9	-8	0.05	-0.17	0.04	0.35	48	15.05	96	74	66	0	7	2	0
	BARROW	-9	-27	2	-42	-18	-6	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04	400	2.37	59	85	71	0	7	0	0
	FAIRBANKS	-13	-31	-2	-43	-22	-16	0.00	-0.17	0.00	0.25	51	11.25	112	***	***	0	7	0	0
	JUNEAU	32	21	37	8	27	-2	0.94	-0.30	0.36	3.13	82	59.34	105	94	87	0	6	7	0
	KODIAK	30	19	38	8	25	-5	1.35	-0.40	0.68	6.79	130	85.30	117	79	67	0	7	3	2
	NOME	0	-20	11	-27	-10	-18	0.03	-0.17	0.03	0.98	140	13.87	85	77	69	0	7	1	0
AZ	FLAGSTAFF	38	11	42	2	25	-5	0.03	-0.36	0.02	4.60	377	17.76	80	80	40	0	7	2	0
	PHOENIX	63	43	67	37	53	-1	0.01	-0.18	0.01	1.32	228	5.32	67	60	36	0	0	1	0
	PRESCOTT	49	23	54	14	36	-1	0.02	-0.26	0.01	1.82	209	13.20	70	77	28	0	7	2	0
	TUCSON	62	35	71	27	49	-2	0.00	-0.24	0.00	0.94	142	10.05	85	67	35	0	1	0	0
AR	FORT SMITH	58	31	69	24	44	4	0.00	-0.69	0.00	3.36	131	45.71	106	93	55	0	4	0	0
	LITTLE ROCK	56	37	64	27	47	5	1.39	0.40	0.95	4.34	124	43.78	88	94	61	0	2	2	1
CA	BAKERSFIELD	56	39	64	31	47	1	0.32	0.16	0.23	0.35	76	2.98	48	85	68	0	2	3	0
	FRESNO	54	40	58	32	47	3	1.99	1.70	1.04	2.30	277	7.02	65	88	80	0	1	4	2
	LOS ANGELES	61	50	64	42	56	-1	1.20	0.80	0.58	1.94	172	5.29	42	74	55	0	0	4	2
	REDDING	49	40	54	30	44	-1	1.36	0.32	0.49	4.34	141	21.12	66	85	75	0	1	5	0
	SACRAMENTO	53	38	57	28	45	0	1.07	0.54	0.50	3.17	198	11.74	69	97	64	0	2	5	1
	SAN DIEGO	61	48	62	41	55	-2	0.22	-0.07	0.12	1.11	142	4.76	46	79	56	0	0	4	0
	SAN FRANCISCO	56	43	57	35	49	0	2.12	1.49	0.79	2.92	155	11.98	63	87	69	0	0	5	1
	STOCKTON	55	38	58	29	46	1	0.80	0.41	0.54	1.67	140	8.18	62	91	78	0	2	5	1
CO	ALAMOSA	25	-12	36	-22	6	-10	0.43	0.37	0.22	1.16	611	9.65	136	85	71	0	7	2	0
	CO SPRINGS	43	17	53	9	30	1	0.00	-0.08	0.00	0.43	187	11.66	68	74	31	0	7	0	0
	DENVER INTL	44	17	52	3	31	2	0.00	-0.06	0.00	0.40	222	13.77	102	68	37	0	7	0	0
	GRAND JUNCTION	32	14	41	8	23	-4	0.03	-0.08	0.02	1.96	653	9.87	113	83	70	0	7	2	0
	PUEBLO	51	16	61	3	33	3	0.00	-0.08	0.00	0.50	217	13.21	108	77	33	0	7	0	0
CT	BRIDGEPORT	39	27	44	19	33	-1	0.50	-0.26	0.37	2.33	98	39.69	92	75	55	0	5	2	0
	HARTFORD	35	21	41	10	28	-2	0.71	-0.06	0.68	2.56	103	38.60	86	79	63	0	7	3	1
DC	WASHINGTON	45	33	49	27	39	0	0.63	-0.04	0.63	1.90	91	31.57	82	75	49	0	3	1	1
DE	WILMINGTON	43	30	46	25	37	2	0.95	0.21	0.94	3.09	131	40.09	96	82	53	0	5	2	1
FL	DAYTONA BEACH	70	49	74	36	59	-1	2.08	1.49	1.01	2.10	114	45.29	94	87	51	0	0	4	2
	JACKSONVILLE	65	40	75	29	53	-1	2.34	1.77	1.86	2.42	138	45.69	89	96	57	0	2	3	1
	KEY WEST	76	65	81	61	71	0	0.20	-0.27	0.20	0.88	62	38.72	101	79	55	0	0	1	0
	MIAMI	79	59	83	53	69	0	0.13	-0.33	0.05	0.89	57	65.92	114	79	50	0	0	3	0
	ORLANDO	71	50	78	38	61	-1	0.62	0.12	0.47	0.63	39	38.08	80	90	61	0	0	3	0
	PENSACOLA	64	45	71	33	54	1	2.17	1.32	2.17	4.15	155	56.56	90	82	59	0	0	1	1
	TALLAHASSEE	64	40	72	31	52	-1	1.69	0.78	1.18	2.65	98	44.17	71	90	48	0	3	5	1
	TAMPA	71	50	77	38	60	-3	1.42	0.91	0.51	1.68	104	42.42	96	83	50	0	0	3	2
	WEST PALM BEACH	76	55	82	47	66	-2	0.19	-0.40	0.07	1.29	56	63.43	105	85	60	0	0	4	0
GA	ATHENS	49	34	53	23	42	-2	0.97	0.16	0.39	2.31	92	28.54	61	82	55	0	4	4	0
	ATLANTA	50	36	57	26	43	-1	0.30	-0.51	0.08	1.36	52	28.66	58	84	63	0	3	6	0
	AUGUSTA	57	34	66	21	45	-1	1.14	0.42	0.78	3.82	189	30.32	70	92	49	0	4	4	1
	COLUMBUS	56	39	66	28	47	-1	0.30	-0.66	0.25	1.94	63	35.92	76	88	48	0	2	2	0
	MACON	57	35	67	24	46	-1	0.24	-0.63	0.15	3.32	125	36.36	83	88	48	0	4	3	0
	SAVANNAH	62	38	70	26	50	-1	7.91	7.27	7.04	8.43	471	48.99	101	92	58	0	2	4	1
HI	HILO	78	65	81	63	72	0	4.03	1.93	1.01	10.77	136	99.86	81	88	82	0	0	7	5
	HONOLULU	81	71	81	69	76	1	0.00	-0.66	0.00	2.93	150	11.87	68	71	62	0	0	0	0
	KAHULUI	80	67	80	61	73	0	0.04	-0.66	0.01	6.46	320	12.75	72	82	73	0	0	4	0
	LIHUE	79	70	80	69	75	2	0.67	-0.40	0.17	4.30	130	20.53	54	76	68	0	0	7	0
ID	BOISE	40	30	44	20	35	5	0.51	0.23	0.25	0.95	100	7.93	67	79	67	0	4	4	0
	LEWISTON	43	32	47	26	38	5	0.01	-0.21	0.01	0.21	30	7.73	62	77	62	0	3	1	0
	POCATELLO	35	21	42	13	28	3	0.62	0.40	0.30	1.02	142	10.48	86	84	68	0	6	5	0
IL	CHICAGO/O'HARE	36	24	50	15	30	4	0.40	-0.11	0.17	2.95	165	35.62	100	88	78	0	5	4	0
	MOLINE	34	21	48	11	28	3	0.32	-0.15	0.20	2.98	187	41.64	111	87	79	0	6	2	0
	PEORIA	37	24	53	16	31	4	0.24	-0.26	0.13	2.70	149	36.30	102	91	76	0	5	2	0
	ROCKFORD	33	22	46	14	27	4	0.26	-0.17	0.26	2.73	178	37.44	104	89	81	0	5	1	0
	SPRINGFIELD	39	24	54	12	31	2	0.19	-0.35	0.12	3.42	183	32.79	94	92	74	0	5	2	0
IN	EVANSVILLE	46	33	57	19	40	5	1.16	0.42	0.68	6.06	230	37.52	87	88	73	0	3	3	1
	FORT WAYNE	36	20	47	13	28	0	0.25	-0.34	0.21	3.46	171	39.29	110	90	75	0	6	2	0
	INDIANAPOLIS	40	28	56	17	34	3	0.55	-0.09	0.47	5.28	239	36.71	92	92	72	0	5	2	0
	SOUTH BEND	35	24	51	17	30	2	0.15	-0.52	0.14	2.46	109	39.71	102	85	74	0	6	2	0
IA	BURLINGTON	38	23	48	15	31	4	0.19	-0.24	0.13	2.40	153	38.23	102	87	69	0	6	3	0
	CEDAR RAPIDS	30	16	38	5	23	1	0.22	-0.07	0.21	2.95	268	39.21	119	98	85	0	7	2	0
	DES MOINES	35	18	40	7	26	2	0.12	-0.15	0.12	2.51	261	41.38	120	93	78	0	7	1	0
	DUBUQUE	29	18	38	12	24	3	0.40	0.06	0.40	3.85	308	41.21	118	94	87	0	6	1	0
	SIOUX CITY	30	10	35	-4	20	-1	0.00	-0.11	0.00	1.57	357	40.42	157	86	75	0	7	0	0
	WATERLOO	29	15	36	2	22	2	0.09	-0.12	0.08	1.74	212	42.45	129	94	83	0	7	2	0
KS	CONCORDIA	35	16	41	7	25	-4	0.00	-0.17	0.00	1.96	363	29.59	105	85	73	0	7	0	0
	DODGE CITY	43	20	54	10	32	0	0.97	0.80	0.95	2.82	542	20.17	91	83	54	0	7	3	1
	GOODLAND	40	19	45	12	30	1	0.02	-0.05	0.02	0.86	391	15.02	77	72	57	0	7	1	0
	TOPEKA	46	21	60	12	34	3	0.48	0.20	0.48	4.00	381	40.79	116	85	68	0	7	1	0

Based on 1971-2000 normals

***** Not Available**

Weather Data for the Week Ending December 22, 2007

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
	WICHITA	45	21	58	6	33	0	0.13	-0.15	0.13	2.29	241	37.78	126	86	63	0	7	1	0
KY	JACKSON	50	31	64	19	40	3	0.97	0.04	0.45	4.30	139	34.41	71	87	53	0	3	5	0
	LEXINGTON	49	31	58	20	40	5	0.71	-0.19	0.40	6.52	229	43.67	98	88	73	0	4	4	0
	LOUISVILLE	51	35	62	25	43	7	0.81	0.02	0.57	7.49	283	44.95	103	81	56	0	3	4	1
	PADUCAH	49	34	57	22	41	5	0.33	-0.61	0.22	7.85	240	44.03	91	90	62	0	3	3	0
LA	BATON ROUGE	66	47	76	29	57	5	2.43	1.26	1.51	2.99	82	52.29	85	89	54	0	1	3	2
	LAKE CHARLES	68	44	79	31	56	3	0.42	-0.58	0.29	0.89	28	65.43	117	87	43	0	1	3	0
	NEW ORLEANS	65	50	77	40	57	3	2.26	1.18	2.06	2.31	63	50.97	81	87	67	0	0	2	1
	SHREVEPORT	66	39	74	25	52	4	0.91	-0.09	0.75	3.22	100	46.21	93	89	42	0	2	2	1
ME	CARIBOU	17	-2	22	-16	7	-8	9.95	9.23	8.16	10.89	493	48.10	132	91	73	0	7	5	3
	PORTLAND	28	9	30	5	19	-8	1.13	0.20	0.82	2.17	73	44.43	100	83	59	0	7	3	1
MD	BALTIMORE	43	28	47	20	36	0	0.78	0.04	0.78	2.26	98	33.21	81	81	53	0	6	1	1
MA	BOSTON	36	23	43	18	29	-5	1.30	0.47	0.74	2.94	112	37.33	90	82	67	0	7	4	1
	WORCESTER	31	17	34	8	24	-4	1.05	0.22	0.84	2.70	103	41.35	86	88	67	0	7	3	1
MI	ALPENA	32	19	40	5	25	2	0.23	-0.16	0.20	0.99	80	25.50	92	92	77	0	6	4	0
	GRAND RAPIDS	36	25	47	13	31	4	0.12	-0.43	0.11	2.12	105	32.15	88	88	66	0	6	2	0
	HOUGHTON LAKE	32	22	40	11	27	4	0.25	-0.11	0.21	1.34	110	24.08	86	91	81	0	7	3	0
	LANSING	35	22	47	15	28	2	0.19	-0.25	0.19	1.79	110	31.22	101	90	72	0	6	1	0
	MUSKEGON	37	27	48	22	32	4	0.11	-0.45	0.09	2.21	116	28.94	90	85	69	0	6	3	0
	TRAVERSE CITY	36	27	43	22	31	6	0.05	-0.53	0.03	0.94	52	19.74	60	90	67	0	6	2	0
MN	DULUTH	28	17	34	6	23	10	0.34	0.19	0.31	1.44	212	29.03	94	91	81	0	7	2	0
	INT'L FALLS	25	9	32	-17	17	10	0.24	0.12	0.13	1.01	210	25.02	105	95	81	0	7	7	0
	MINNEAPOLIS	30	17	36	6	23	6	0.62	0.43	0.37	1.33	190	34.20	117	91	79	0	7	2	0
	ROCHESTER	29	16	36	3	23	7	0.01	-0.17	0.01	0.95	128	40.94	132	89	81	0	6	1	0
	ST. CLOUD	27	9	35	-1	18	5	0.05	-0.09	0.04	0.97	206	25.79	96	97	74	0	7	2	0
MS	JACKSON	61	41	70	23	51	4	2.00	0.82	1.38	3.00	80	34.56	64	90	57	0	2	3	2
	MERIDIAN	58	38	67	22	48	0	1.95	0.79	1.52	2.24	60	35.04	61	92	65	0	3	3	1
	TUPELO	55	39	60	24	47	5	0.95	-0.42	0.76	1.80	41	40.26	74	90	65	0	3	3	1
MO	COLUMBIA	45	26	56	12	35	4	0.56	0.06	0.56	3.17	170	32.59	82	88	70	0	5	1	1
	KANSAS CITY	45	20	53	7	33	3	0.29	-0.04	0.29	2.60	215	33.36	89	86	57	0	7	1	0
	SAINT LOUIS	45	27	61	11	36	3	0.39	-0.19	0.27	2.67	125	30.50	80	90	69	0	5	3	0
	SPRINGFIELD	52	24	60	14	38	3	0.23	-0.40	0.20	3.53	143	44.20	100	91	69	0	6	2	0
MT	BILLINGS	41	23	50	10	32	6	0.11	-0.03	0.07	0.20	50	16.39	113	71	41	0	7	2	0
	BUTTE	32	8	38	-10	20	3	0.07	-0.04	0.07	0.15	43	12.67	101	84	48	0	7	1	0
	CUT BANK	38	19	44	11	29	8	0.00	-0.06	0.00	0.01	6	5.47	44	78	44	0	7	0	0
	GLASGOW	36	14	48	-1	25	10	0.00	-0.08	0.00	0.07	35	14.67	133	79	63	0	7	0	0
	GREAT FALLS	41	26	44	12	33	9	0.00	-0.14	0.00	0.07	18	11.96	82	64	35	0	6	0	0
	HAVRE	38	14	43	-1	26	8	0.00	-0.11	0.00	0.20	65	12.08	107	77	63	0	7	0	0
	MISSOULA	36	22	40	13	29	6	0.05	-0.20	0.03	0.47	60	10.28	76	87	73	0	6	2	0
NE	GRAND ISLAND	35	14	42	0	24	-1	0.00	-0.11	0.00	1.48	315	38.94	152	86	67	0	7	0	0
	LINCOLN	36	10	42	0	23	-3	0.01	-0.15	0.01	2.09	343	35.39	126	86	68	0	7	1	0
	NORFOLK	34	11	38	0	22	-1	0.00	-0.11	0.00	2.52	536	39.71	150	86	69	0	7	0	0
	NORTH PLATTE	36	8	45	-5	22	-3	0.00	-0.08	0.00	0.66	254	24.22	124	91	62	0	7	0	0
	OMAHA	34	11	38	-1	23	-2	0.00	-0.16	0.00	1.79	263	39.55	132	92	76	0	7	0	0
	SCOTTSBLUFF	35	11	44	-1	23	-2	0.01	-0.10	0.01	1.03	271	9.64	60	84	73	0	7	1	0
	VALENTINE	39	12	43	-2	25	2	0.01	-0.05	0.01	0.92	418	25.98	134	86	63	0	7	1	0
NV	ELY	34	12	39	-11	23	-2	0.04	-0.06	0.03	0.51	182	6.57	67	78	66	0	7	2	0
	LAS VEGAS	53	38	61	32	46	0	0.00	-0.08	0.00	0.07	30	2.83	66	54	41	0	1	0	0
	RENO	44	26	51	19	35	2	0.06	-0.13	0.04	1.00	164	3.70	51	75	58	0	6	2	0
	WINNEMUCCA	40	20	46	8	30	1	0.07	-0.10	0.03	1.49	287	7.51	93	75	60	0	7	3	0
NH	CONCORD	28	8	30	-5	18	-7	1.47	0.84	0.72	2.95	142	40.30	110	85	66	0	7	3	2
NJ	NEWARK	41	30	47	25	36	1	0.64	-0.12	0.61	2.20	89	51.95	115	71	54	0	4	2	1
NM	ALBUQUERQUE	46	23	52	18	35	0	0.04	-0.07	0.04	1.17	418	10.26	111	69	33	0	7	1	0
NY	ALBANY	32	16	37	2	24	-3	1.31	0.74	1.21	3.24	171	43.74	117	88	64	0	7	3	1
	BINGHAMTON	31	21	36	14	26	0	0.37	-0.28	0.34	2.63	119	39.13	103	83	69	0	7	2	0
	BUFFALO	35	23	43	15	29	0	0.58	-0.24	0.55	3.36	123	34.28	87	84	66	0	7	3	1
	ROCHESTER	34	21	43	16	27	-2	0.50	-0.09	0.49	2.80	143	30.64	92	80	67	0	7	2	0
	SYRACUSE	34	19	41	13	26	-2	0.92	0.28	0.81	3.55	154	39.49	101	89	66	0	7	3	1
NC	ASHEVILLE	44	28	49	16	36	-2	0.59	-0.13	0.26	1.40	60	31.73	69	95	64	0	5	4	0
	CHARLOTTE	52	31	58	19	41	-3	0.32	-0.38	0.29	1.51	71	25.89	61	86	46	0	5	4	0
	GREENSBORO	49	31	58	22	40	0	0.24	-0.43	0.13	0.70	33	29.00	69	78	44	0	5	3	0
	HATTERAS	55	41	69	35	48	-1	2.17	1.15	1.74	2.76	92	36.04	64	88	55	0	0	3	1
	RALEIGH	50	32	58	21	41	-1	0.17	-0.50	0.14	1.30	64	32.72	78	83	55	0	4	3	0
	WILMINGTON	59	35	72	21	47	-1	2.06	1.23	1.37	2.52	98	32.98	59	97	48	0	4	2	2
ND	BISMARCK	34	5	44	-2	20	6	0.03	-0.05	0.03	0.20	74	19.15	115	85	69	0	7	1	0
	DICKINSON	40	13	53	0	26	9	0.00	-0.06	0.00	0.02	10	16.62	102	77	41	0	7	0	0
	FARGO	25	8	32	2	16	5	0.05	-0.06	0.02	1.37	391	25.87	123	91	76	0	7	3	0
	GRAND FORKS	21	1	26	-11	11	1	0.15	0.04	0.11	0.96	274	21.45	111	92	76	0	7	2	0
	JAMESTOWN	28	7	36	-2	17	4	0.00	-0.08	0.00	0.15	58	20.51	112	89	67	0	7	0	0
	WILLISTON	34	4	42	-4	19	7	0.00	-0.11	0.00	0.08	22	14.53	104	84	66	0	7	0	0
OH	AKRON-CANTON	37	24	48	15	30	0	0.53	-0.11	0.49	3.55	165	40.11	107	85	72	0	6	2	0
	CINCINNATI	44	28	58	18	36	3	0.20	-0.52	0.09	5.30	227	36.67	88	90	74	0	5	4	0
	CLEVELAND	39	26	51	18	33	3	0.74	0.08	0.72	3.68	159	41.16	109	79	60	0	6	2	1
	COLUMBUS	41	26	54	17	34	2	0.48	-0.14	0.48	3.97	187	39.51	105	81	68	0	5	1	0
	DAYTON	39	24	56	12	32	2	0.18	-0.49	0.18	3.67	166	40.13	104	90	69	0	5	1	0
	MANSFIELD	37	24	49	16	31	2	0.34	-0.35	0.34	3.78	159	47.79	113	88	67	0	6	1	0

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

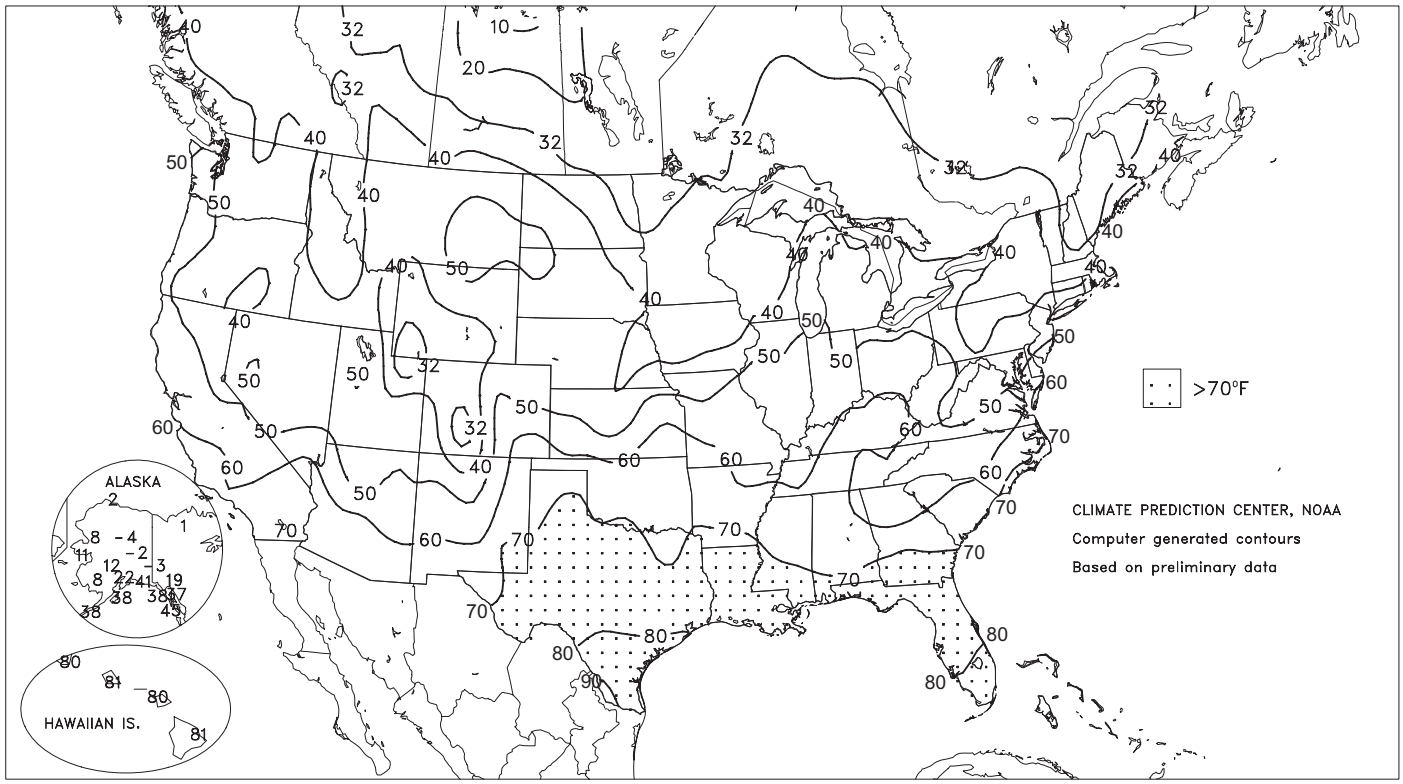
Weather Data for the Week Ending December 22, 2007

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
	TOLEDO	36	23	50	17	30	2	0.39	-0.18	0.39	2.86	148	35.84	110	86	76	0	6	1	0
	YOUNGSTOWN	37	25	45	16	31	2	0.65	0.02	0.49	4.85	224	39.07	105	82	64	0	6	3	0
OK	OKLAHOMA CITY	57	28	67	18	43	4	0.05	-0.36	0.05	4.60	354	59.54	169	80	41	0	4	1	0
	TULSA	56	28	65	20	42	3	0.15	-0.34	0.15	3.16	174	52.41	125	85	55	0	5	1	0
OR	ASTORIA	48	39	51	33	43	1	3.26	0.99	0.81	8.12	113	60.34	94	92	79	0	0	7	3
	BURNS	32	11	38	-6	22	-2	0.48	0.20	0.28	0.93	107	8.52	84	93	82	0	7	5	0
	EUGENE	46	35	51	28	40	1	2.30	0.51	0.91	5.03	83	32.57	67	96	88	0	2	6	1
	MEDFORD	45	33	56	28	39	1	0.67	0.05	0.28	1.96	93	16.29	93	91	74	0	4	4	0
	PENDLETON	46	31	54	25	39	6	0.24	-0.06	0.10	1.25	121	11.14	90	75	60	0	3	4	0
	PORTLAND	46	39	52	35	43	3	1.39	0.15	0.37	5.33	129	30.22	85	91	82	0	0	6	0
	SALEM	46	36	50	30	41	1	2.49	1.09	1.10	6.14	130	34.14	89	96	87	0	2	6	1
PA	ALLENTOWN	37	26	43	21	32	1	0.87	0.15	0.86	3.01	127	43.44	98	82	62	0	6	2	1
	ERIE	39	27	49	19	33	1	0.42	-0.39	0.40	3.94	143	40.97	98	78	62	0	5	2	0
	MIDDLETOWN	40	28	44	19	34	2	1.09	0.40	1.08	3.41	144	40.96	103	89	58	0	6	2	1
	PHILADELPHIA	42	31	46	27	36	0	0.98	0.26	0.94	2.91	128	40.67	99	79	54	0	6	2	1
	PITTSBURGH	39	27	50	18	33	1	0.47	-0.14	0.47	3.38	165	39.86	108	81	56	0	6	1	0
	WILKES-BARRE	35	24	39	21	29	-1	0.56	0.03	0.54	2.61	141	42.36	115	83	59	0	7	2	1
	WILLIAMSPORT	37	25	39	18	31	1	0.64	0.03	0.63	2.83	132	34.82	85	77	59	0	6	2	1
RI	PROVIDENCE	36	22	39	11	29	-4	1.15	0.24	0.97	3.14	108	41.33	91	80	64	0	7	2	1
SC	BEAUFORT	62	39	70	27	51	1	2.74	2.04	2.23	3.07	153	36.32	75	93	48	0	2	4	1
	CHARLESTON	63	39	71	25	51	1	2.37	1.64	1.39	2.72	128	40.39	80	89	45	0	2	2	2
	COLUMBIA	55	34	61	21	45	-1	1.01	0.25	0.83	3.12	142	28.84	61	86	47	0	3	4	1
	GREENVILLE	50	33	54	23	42	-1	0.73	-0.12	0.46	1.61	61	27.54	56	86	46	0	3	5	0
SD	ABERDEEN	26	4	34	-2	15	0	0.03	-0.05	0.01	0.83	415	28.29	141	90	80	0	7	3	0
	HURON	35	9	46	-3	22	4	0.01	-0.05	0.01	0.53	241	30.72	148	89	61	0	7	1	0
	RAPID CITY	41	15	48	3	28	4	0.04	-0.04	0.03	0.54	245	13.32	81	78	49	0	7	2	0
	SIOUX FALLS	34	11	46	1	22	5	0.00	-0.08	0.00	0.90	257	31.19	127	83	66	0	7	0	0
TN	BRISTOL	48	26	58	17	37	1	0.34	-0.40	0.14	1.91	80	21.24	53	94	55	0	6	4	0
	CHATTANOOGA	52	35	58	25	44	2	0.23	-0.79	0.16	1.33	39	36.46	69	87	66	0	3	4	0
	KNOXVILLE	52	30	64	20	41	1	0.73	-0.26	0.47	2.45	78	32.14	69	93	58	0	5	4	0
	MEMPHIS	57	41	65	26	49	7	1.40	0.18	1.07	3.86	91	33.95	64	84	58	0	2	2	1
	NASHVILLE	53	36	63	22	45	5	1.02	0.04	0.91	2.71	83	34.40	73	89	53	0	3	3	1
TX	ABILENE	64	33	74	20	49	4	0.00	-0.30	0.00	0.37	44	35.58	152	62	37	0	3	0	0
	AMARILLO	59	25	68	15	42	6	0.00	-0.14	0.00	0.91	260	22.21	114	70	26	0	6	0	0
	AUSTIN	68	34	76	22	51	0	0.00	-0.55	0.00	0.59	35	46.04	140	82	44	0	3	0	0
	BEAUMONT	69	44	80	32	57	4	0.27	-0.90	0.22	0.75	21	61.97	106	87	41	0	1	4	0
	BROWNSVILLE	76	52	86	41	64	4	0.02	-0.20	0.01	0.11	14	31.06	114	91	59	0	0	2	0
	CORPUS CHRISTI	74	44	82	28	59	2	0.02	-0.37	0.01	0.18	15	41.57	131	89	48	0	2	2	0
	DEL RIO	66	36	75	26	51	-1	0.00	-0.15	0.00	0.33	65	30.87	172	71	35	0	1	0	0
	EL PASO	58	31	66	23	44	-1	0.00	-0.17	0.00	0.46	90	10.17	111	60	20	0	4	0	0
	FORT WORTH	64	36	73	28	50	4	0.00	-0.59	0.00	1.98	111	49.68	146	79	32	0	3	0	0
	GALVESTON	70	52	80	39	61	4	0.18	-0.57	0.17	0.46	19	50.52	118	86	50	0	0	2	0
	HOUSTON	70	43	79	31	57	4	0.32	-0.48	0.14	1.79	69	64.98	139	89	48	0	1	3	0
	LUBBOCK	61	26	74	19	44	5	0.00	-0.14	0.00	0.94	219	23.98	130	73	42	0	7	0	0
	MIDLAND	64	29	73	19	47	3	0.00	-0.14	0.00	0.61	142	21.42	147	65	30	0	4	0	0
	SAN ANGELO	68	33	78	24	51	5	0.00	-0.20	0.00	0.18	28	32.08	156	60	34	0	3	0	0
	SAN ANTONIO	70	40	79	29	55	3	0.00	-0.43	0.00	0.37	27	47.24	146	89	32	0	2	0	0
	VICTORIA	73	42	82	29	58	4	0.03	-0.52	0.01	0.29	17	69.50	177	91	54	0	2	3	0
	WACO	64	33	73	24	49	1	0.00	-0.62	0.00	0.69	35	47.95	147	86	42	0	3	0	0
	WICHITA FALLS	64	30	75	23	47	5	0.00	-0.39	0.00	0.74	62	34.06	120	72	37	0	4	0	0
UT	SALT LAKE CITY	36	21	48	9	29	-1	0.80	0.55	0.56	3.04	375	13.23	82	87	63	0	6	4	1
VT	BURLINGTON	28	15	37	0	21	-3	1.18	0.73	0.87	2.39	151	38.06	107	82	66	0	7	4	1
VA	LYNCHBURG	44	27	49	17	36	-1	0.27	-0.44	0.13	0.78	35	34.91	83	86	54	0	6	3	0
	NORFOLK	50	36	64	28	43	0	1.06	0.39	1.06	1.85	93	32.18	72	85	50	0	2	1	1
	RICHMOND	47	31	51	20	39	0	0.25	-0.44	0.23	1.23	59	35.74	83	85	58	0	4	2	0
	ROANOKE	45	32	52	22	38	0	0.40	-0.21	0.26	1.36	68	28.55	69	76	52	0	4	4	0
	WASH/DULLES	43	29	46	20	36	1	0.58	-0.08	0.58	2.04	95	26.11	64	78	55	0	5	1	1
WA	OLYMPIA	45	35	50	30	40	3	2.43	0.72	1.16	9.19	161	46.18	95	90	84	0	1	5	2
	QUILLAYUTE	45	35	48	31	40	0	4.58	1.39	1.45	11.06	106	111.15	114	93	80	0	3	7	4
	SEATTLE-TACOMA	45	37	48	32	41	1	1.91	0.70	0.83	7.96	196	37.87	107	89	78	0	1	6	1
	SPOKANE	35	27	39	22	31	4	0.95	0.47	0.24	3.26	201	13.55	84	92	73	0	6	6	0
	YAKIMA	39	27	46	22	33	5	0.43	0.13	0.34	1.18	124	5.66	72	91	77	0	7	3	0
WV	BECKLEY	39	25	47	14	32	-2	0.39	-0.28	0.19	2.01	93	37.19	91	89	79	0	7	4	0
	CHARLESTON	46	29	56	17	37	0	0.41	-0.29	0.20	4.66	196	36.62	85	86	57	0	5	4	0
	ELKINS	41	23	52	8	32	0	0.23	-0.51	0.18	5.14	212	48.05	107	92	59	0	6	3	0
	HUNTINGTON	47	28	62	17	38	2	0.35	-0.39	0.15	5.25	222	33.84	82	90	59	0	4	3	0
WI	EAU CLAIRE	31	17	37	-3	24	8	0.07	-0.12	0.07	1.21	164	29.53	93	94	74	0	6	1	0
	GREEN BAY	33	20	42	12	26	6	0.24	-0.03	0.24	0.86	83	25.27	88	86	72	0	5	1	0
	LA CROSSE	32	20	38	4	26	5	0.13	-0.10	0.13	1.77	197	40.00	125	90	71	0	6	1	0
	MADISON	31	21	39	12	26	4	0.38	0.05	0.38	2.53	206	43.32	133	91	83	0	6	1	0
	MILWAUKEE	34	23	43	14	29	4	0.06	-0.40	0.06	2.55	157	32.22	94	86	78	0	5	1	0
WY	CASPER	35	19	40	3	27	4	0.02	-0.09	0.01	0.53	133	14.73	115	73	61	0	7	2	0
	CHEYENNE	37	18	42	9	28	1	0.01	-0.07	0.01	1.15	383	14.97	98	67	48	0	7	1	0
	LANDER	29	7	43	-2	18	-3	0.71	0.60	0.48	1.60	390	10.22	77	88	55	0	7	2	0
	SHERIDAN	44	13	54	2	29	7	0.14	0.00	0.08	0.49	114	15.87	110	75	51	0	7	2	0

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

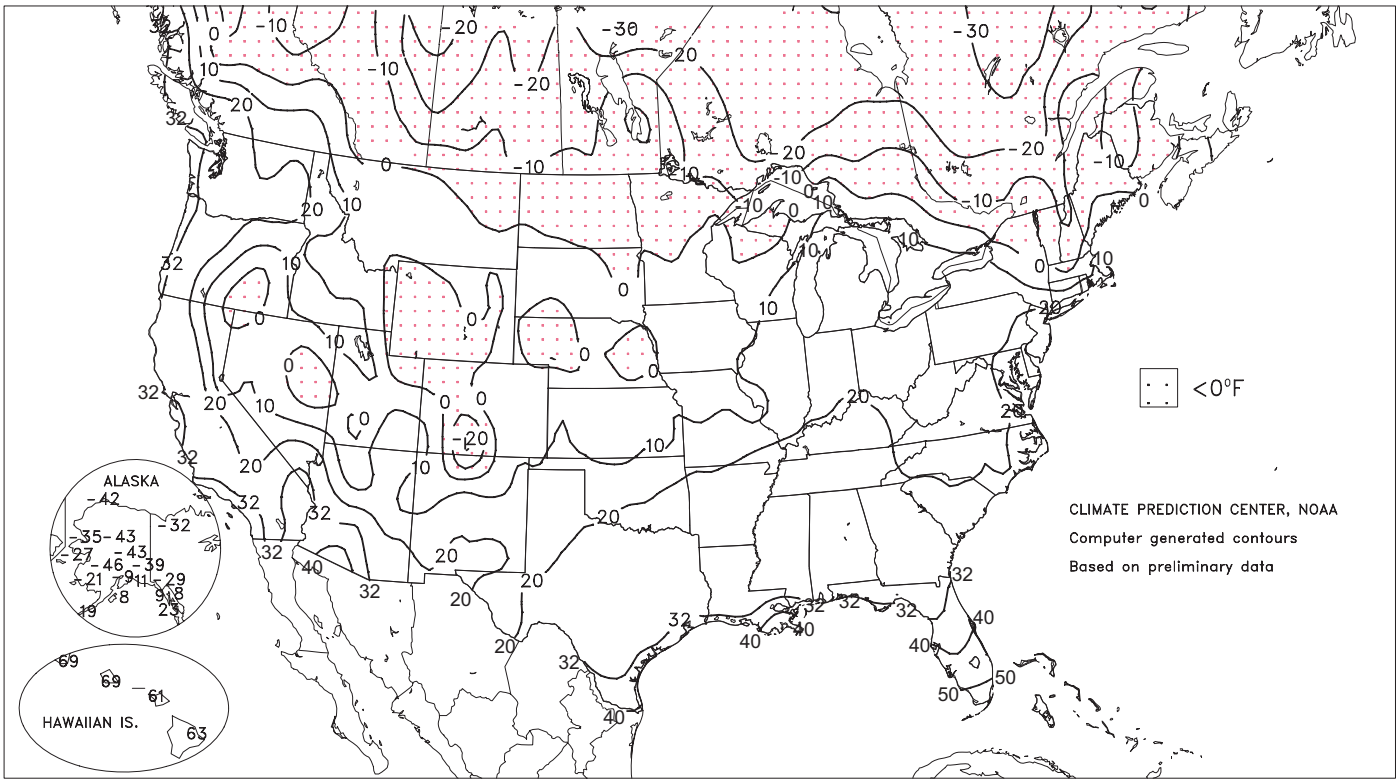
Extreme Maximum Temperature (°F)

DEC 16 - 22, 2007

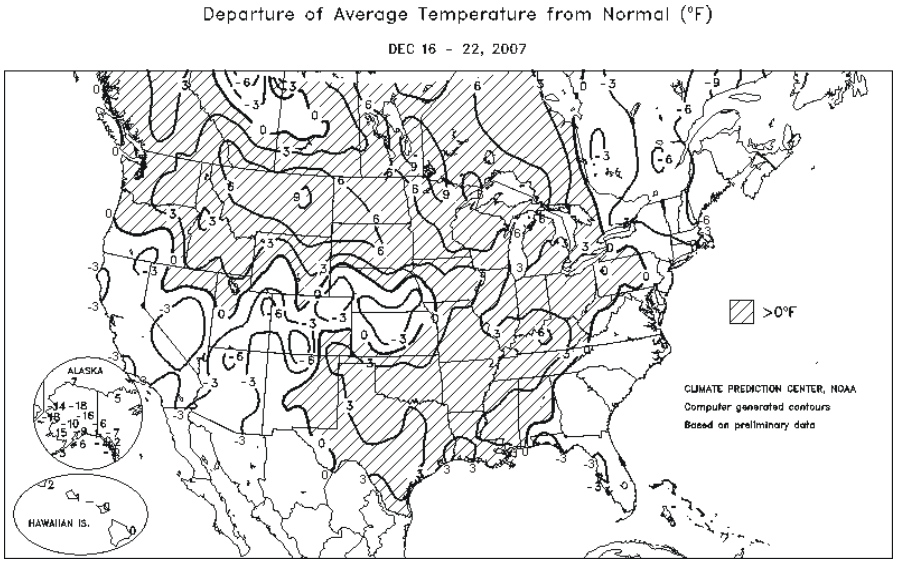


Extreme Minimum Temperature (°F)

DEC 16 - 22, 2007



(Continued from front cover)



wheat continued to fare well, except for the portion of the crop on the **central and southern High Plains** that remains poorly established due to autumn dryness. Farther east, mild weather also melted snow in the **Midwest**, although a late-week storm provided some fresh accumulations for the **western Corn Belt**. Elsewhere, locally heavy showers dotted the **South**, while mixed precipitation (rain, freezing rain, and snow) fell in the **Northeast**. **Southeastern** pastures and winter grains continued to benefit from recent topsoil moisture improvements, despite underlying long-term drought. Freezes were reported deep into the **South**, but did not affect winter agricultural areas of **southern Texas** or **peninsular Florida**.

Early in the week, the latest in a series of strong winter storms brought wind, rain, and snow to the **South** and **East**. On December 15-16, severe thunderstorms produced more than a dozen tornadoes across **southern Georgia** and **northern Florida**. In **Turner County, GA**, one fatality occurred on December 15, when a tornado crossing I-75 tossed a truck down an embankment. Since May 5, there have been only seven tornado-related deaths across the U.S., although the year-to-date number of fatalities climbed to 80—the highest since there were 94 deaths in 1999. Farther north, daily-record snowfall totals in **Massachusetts** for December 16 included 8.4 inches in **Worcester** and 7.6 inches in **Boston**. Meanwhile in the **Great Lakes region**, daily records reached 6.2 inches in **Lansing, MI**, and 5.4 inches in **Fort Wayne, IN.** Snow lingered into the following day across **northern New England**, where **Caribou, ME**, received 17.2 inches of snow on December 16-17. Heavy rain along the **East Coast** produced daily-record totals for December 16 in locations such as **Jacksonville, FL** (1.86 inches), and **Georgetown, DE** (1.24 inches).

Cold air trailed the **Eastern** storminess, with **Wilmington, NC** (21°F on December 18), reporting its lowest temperature since February 17. For **North Myrtle Beach, SC** (also 21°F on December 18), it was the coldest day since December 9, 2006, when the minimum temperature was 19°F. Meanwhile, cold air also settled across the **Intermountain West**, followed by an increase in storminess in the **Pacific Coast States**. Western daily-record lows included -16°F (on December 16) in **Ballard, UT**, and -13°F (on December 17) in **Greer, AZ.** Later, daily-record rainfall totals for December 18 in **California** included 1.64 inches in **Fresno** and 1.62 inches in **Santa Maria**. For **Fresno**, the December 18 rainfall accounted for nearly 25 percent of its year-to-date total of 6.67 inches (63 percent of normal). It was also **Fresno's** wettest day since January 2, 2006, when 1.88 inches fell, and tied December 30, 1891, for its second-wettest December day on record. **Fresno's** wettest December day occurred on December 23, 1955, when 1.72 inches fell. According to the California Department of Water Resources, the water equivalent of the high-elevation **Sierra Nevada** snow pack climbed from 2 to 5 inches (from 31 to 68 percent of normal for the date) between December 17 and 21. Farther inland, as much as 3 feet of snow blanketed **Utah's Wasatch Range** on December 20-21.

During the mid- to late-week period, warmth expanded across the **South**, accompanied by scattered showers and thunderstorms. Daily-record highs for December 20 climbed to 89°F in **McAllen, TX**, and 79°F in **Lake Charles, LA.** On the same day, rainfall records for December 20 included 2.90 inches in **Mobile, AL**, and 1.73 inches in **Alexandria, LA.** Rainfall intensified the following day along the **southern Atlantic Coast**, where **Savannah, GA** (7.12 inches), experienced its wettest December day (previously, 3.50 inches on December 24, 1887), and seventh-wettest day on record. **Savannah's** six wettest days occurred in August, September, or October, during the tropical season. Farther north, additional snow blanketed the **Northeast**, where **Concord, NH**, received 11.5 inches on December 19-20. Elsewhere, as much as 12 to 18 inches of snow blanketed the **upper Midwest** at week's end, accompanied by wind gusts approaching 50 m.p.h. **La Crosse, WI**, netted 11.4 inches of snow on December 22-23, along with a peak gust to 33 m.p.h., while nearby **Rochester, MN**, clocked a gust to 49 m.p.h. The last time **La Crosse** received heavier snow during a December storm was December 3, 1990, when 14.4 inches fell. Meanwhile, the same storm also dropped heavy snow on parts of the **central and southern Plains**; daily-record totals for December 22 included 9.0 inches in **Topeka, KS**, and 3.0 inches in **Dalhart, TX.**

In a sharp reversal from the previous week, bitterly cold air settled across **Alaska**. In **Fairbanks**, the high of -6°F on December 16 represented its first sub-zero maximum temperature since March 14. Later, **Fairbanks** noted a high of -32°F (on December 19) and a low of -43°F (on December 20). Elsewhere, **McGrath's** minimum of -46°F on December 20 was its lowest reading since January 9, when it was -47°F. **Alaskan** precipitation was mostly light and confined to the **southern and western tiers of the state**. Farther south, **Hawaii** experienced a warm week with frequent showers in windward locations. Weekly rainfall totaled 3.37 inches in **Hilo**, on the **Big Island**, boosting its December 1-22 sum to 10.86 inches (138 percent of normal).

National Agricultural Summary

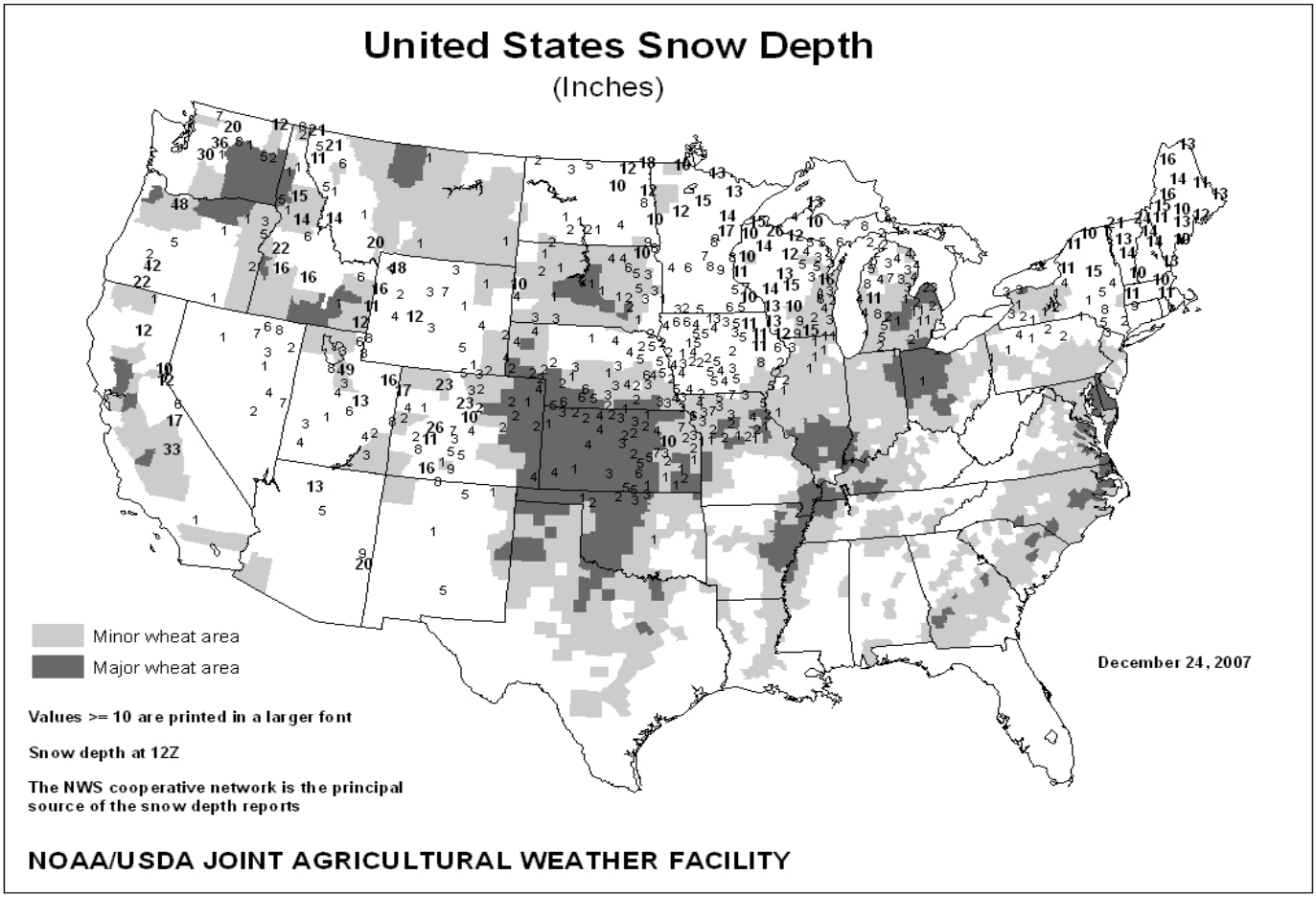
December 17 - 23 , 2007

Weekly National Agricultural Summary provided by USDA/NASS

HIGHLIGHTS

A band of moderate to heavy precipitation stretched along the Pacific Coast from Washington to central California, with higher totals along the shoreline. In Oregon, heavier accumulations stretched farther inland when compared with the other Pacific Coast States. Elsewhere in the West, moderate to heavy precipitation fell in and around the northern Rocky Mountain region. Farther east, amounts of 1 to 2 inches fell from the Delta States into parts of the Southeast, and northward to the southern edge of the Corn Belt. Additionally, totals of up to 4 inches were reported from easternmost Texas to the southern Delta. The rest of the country received minimal moisture, with the exception of New England and the western Great Lakes region, where some light precipitation fell. Nationally, temperatures remained within 6 degrees F of normal, with the exception of some isolated areas in Montana, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. Temperatures were above average in the northwestern one-quarter of the country and below average across much of the Southwest. Parts of Arizona, Colorado, and Utah averaged between 3 and 6 degrees F below normal. From the northern Great Plains eastward to the Great Lakes States and the Ohio Valley, and from Texas to the Tennessee Valley, temperatures were above normal. In the Atlantic Coast States, temperatures were as much as 3 degrees F below normal. The lack of snow coverage on winter wheat fields in the northern Great Plains and the northern Intermountain region could become a concern as the winter season progresses.

In Arizona, temperatures were mostly below normal across the State. Cotton harvest was in the final stages while vegetable harvest and small grain planting remained active. In California, winter grain planting was complete in most areas, while herbicide applications were ongoing and cotton harvest was 100 percent complete. Fruits and vegetables in the ground were receiving herbicide and insecticide treatments. California's citrus harvest was ongoing, with maturity and sugar content holding steady. In Florida, light rain interrupted cotton harvest, while celery cutting began and other vegetables were marketed. Citrus growers were mowing, spraying, fertilizing, and irrigating, while harvest continued on early navels, grapefruit, Sunburst tangerines and tangelos.



International Weather and Crop Summary

December 16 - 22, 2007

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

HIGHLIGHTS

FSU-WESTERN: A warming trend provided favorable overwintering conditions for dormant winter grains but melted some of the protective snow cover in western and southern areas.

EUROPE: Chilly, dry weather over central and northern growing areas cold-hardened winter crops and eased grains and oilseeds into dormancy.

AUSTRALIA: Widespread showers in eastern Australia maintained adequate to abundant topsoil moisture for summer crops.

SOUTHEAST ASIA: Heavy rain continued in rice areas of Indonesia, while locally heavy showers maintained excessive wetness in Malaysia.

ARGENTINA: Warmth and dryness promoted summer crop planting and harvesting of winter grains.

BRAZIL: Drier conditions returned to southern Brazil, but seasonable showers prevailed elsewhere.

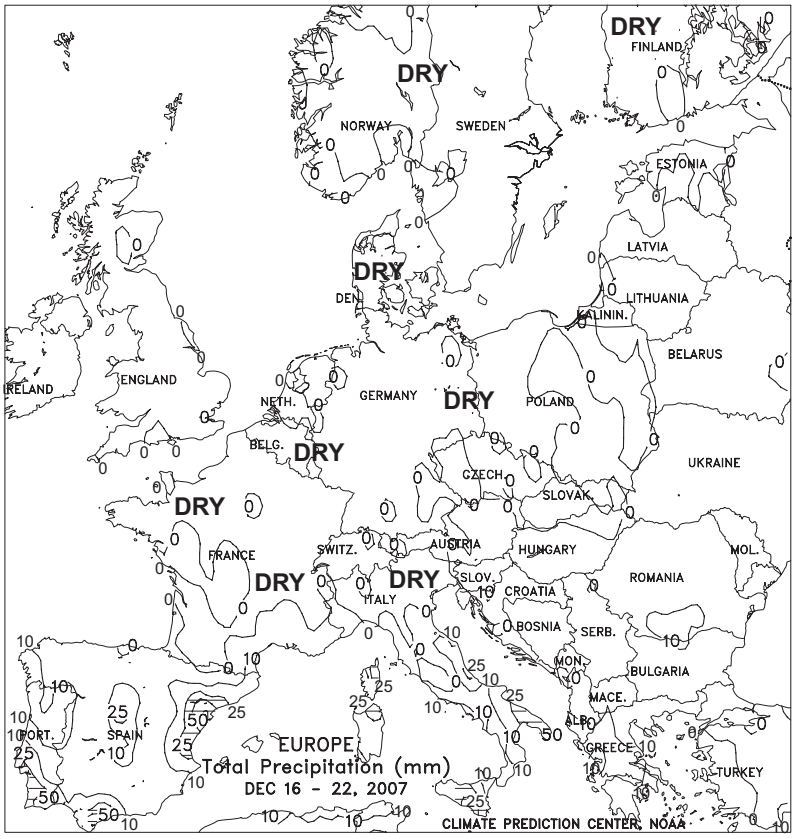
MIDDLE EAST: Showers maintained favorable prospects for winter crops in Turkey.

NORTHWEST AFRICA: Unsettled weather boosted soil moisture for emerging winter grains, especially in western-most growing areas.

SOUTH AFRICA: Mild, mostly dry weather spurred late planting in the western corn belt.

EUROPE

Cold, dry weather in central and northern Europe contrasted with periods of rain and snow in southern-most growing areas. A broad ridge of high pressure maintained below-normal temperatures (2-8 degrees C below normal) over most of the continent, with a hard freeze (-11 to -5 degrees C) ending the growing season from northern Spain eastward into southern Germany. Across northern and eastern Europe, nighttime temperatures between -14 and -5 degrees C coupled with weekly average temperatures less than 5 degrees C cold hardened crops and ushered winter grains and oilseeds into dormancy. Despite the onset of more typical wintertime temperatures, most of Europe remained devoid of snow cover. One exception was in the Balkans, where light to moderate snow (2-12 mm liquid equivalent) provided additional insulation for dormant winter crops. In southern Italy, rain and high elevation snow (2-20 mm liquid equivalent) increased topsoil moisture for emerging winter wheat, while spotty, albeit locally heavy rain (1-120 mm) on the Iberian Peninsula boosted irrigation reserves for wheat and barley.

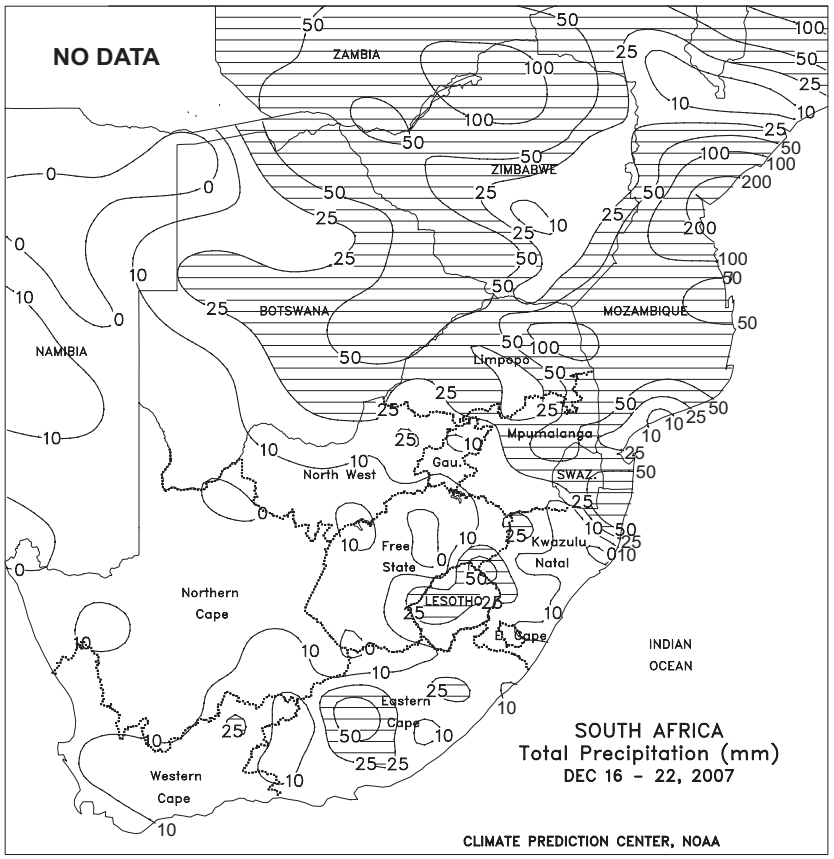


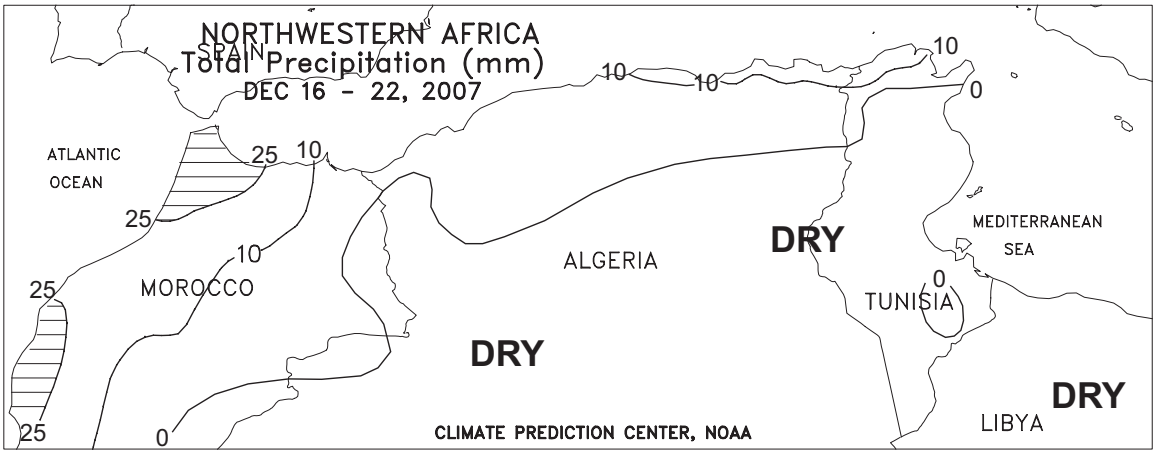
FSU-WESTERN

Unseasonably cold weather early in the week was followed by a warming trend as the week progressed. Although the warming trend provided favorable overwintering conditions for winter grains, it melted some of the protective snow cover in western and southern areas. Weekly temperatures averaged 2 to 6 degrees C above normal in Belarus and northern Russia, near to slightly above normal in Ukraine, and 1 to 3 degrees C below normal in the Southern District in Russia. Light, if any, precipitation (less than 5 mm of liquid equivalent) was observed in Belarus, Ukraine, and the Central District in Russia. Heavier precipitation, mainly in the form of snow (10-25 mm or more of liquid equivalent), fell in the Volga District and parts of the Southern District, protecting winter grains in these areas from early-week bitterly cold weather (minimum temperatures ranging from -20 to -15 degrees C). By week's end, a moderate to deep snow pack covered Russian winter grain areas in the eastern portion of the Central District, the Volga District, and the northern portion of the Southern District. However, a lack of protective snow cover in Belarus, central Ukraine, and the remainder of Russia left winter grains vulnerable to potential weather extremes.

SOUTH AFRICA

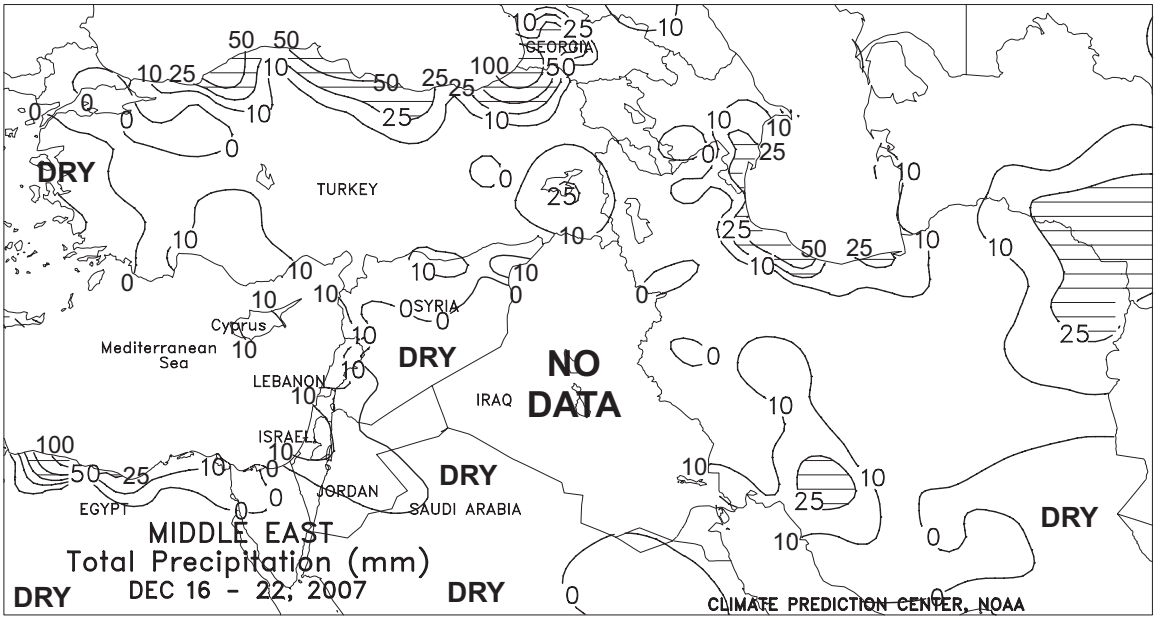
Mostly dry, unseasonably cool weather (temperatures averaging 1-3 degrees C below normal) enabled the final stages of planting in the western corn belt. Despite a recent drying trend, moisture levels are currently favorable in western growing areas due to ample early-month showers. In the east, light to moderate rain (5-25 mm) maintained generally favorable conditions in the eastern corn belt (Mpumalanga, and nearby locations in Gauteng and Free State). Drier conditions prevailed in coastal sugarcane areas of KwaZulu-Natal, but heavier rain (locally greater than 25 mm) fell farther west. Early-week rain (greater than 10 mm) in major agricultural areas of Western and Eastern Cape increased irrigation reserves, but drier, warmer weather (highs reaching the middle 30s degrees C) dominated for the remainder of the week. In Western Cape, sunny weather favored development of fruits and vegetables and reduced the risk of disease.





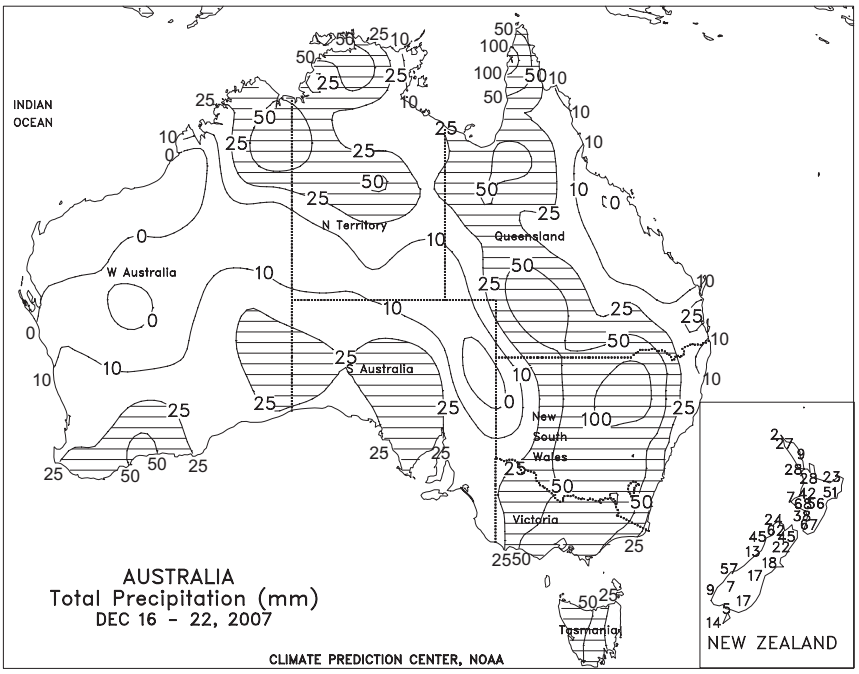
NORTHWEST AFRICA

Unsettled weather over most of the region favored emerging winter crops. Rain (10-30 mm) was especially beneficial in western and southern Morocco, where topsoil moisture deficits were most pronounced. Light to moderate showers (2-25 mm) in northern portions of Algeria and Tunisia maintained favorable prospects for emerging winter wheat and barley. Above-normal temperatures in western growing areas contrasted with below-normal temperatures and widespread freezes (-7 to -1 degrees C) in Algeria and western Tunisia, although winter wheat was at a stage (early vegetative) where it could withstand the cold with little adverse impact.



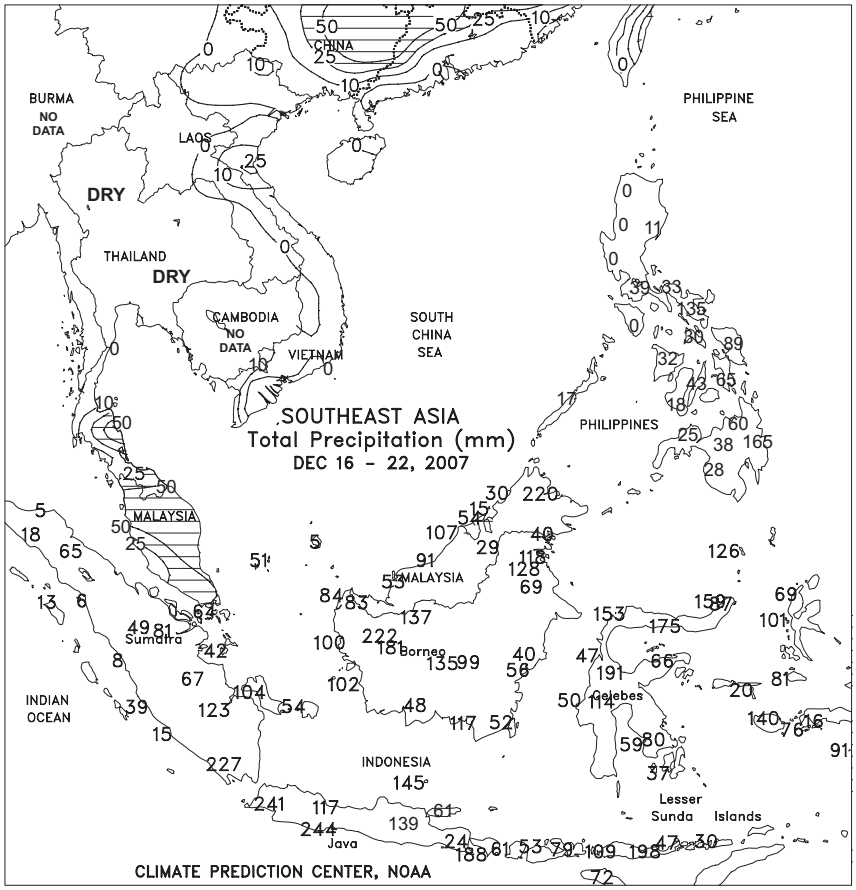
MIDDLE EAST

Seasonably cool, unsettled weather maintained favorable prospects for winter crops across most of the region. In particular, light showers in central and southeastern Turkey (1-20 mm) provided additional moisture for winter wheat and barley, which began to enter dormancy as weekly average temperatures dipped below 5 degrees C. Meanwhile, moderate to heavy rain (25-110 mm) in northern Turkey continued the wetter-than-normal weather pattern observed since the end of the summer. Dry conditions returned to western Turkey's winter grain areas, but crop prospects are much improved over last year due to a favorable start to the winter wet season. Unsettled weather also persisted from Syria into Iran, with rain and mountain snow (2-20 mm liquid equivalent) boosting moisture reserves for vegetative (eastern Mediterranean) to dormant (northern Iran) winter wheat and barley. An increase in a protective snowpack was seen in northern Iran, while most of central and western Turkey remained free of snow cover.



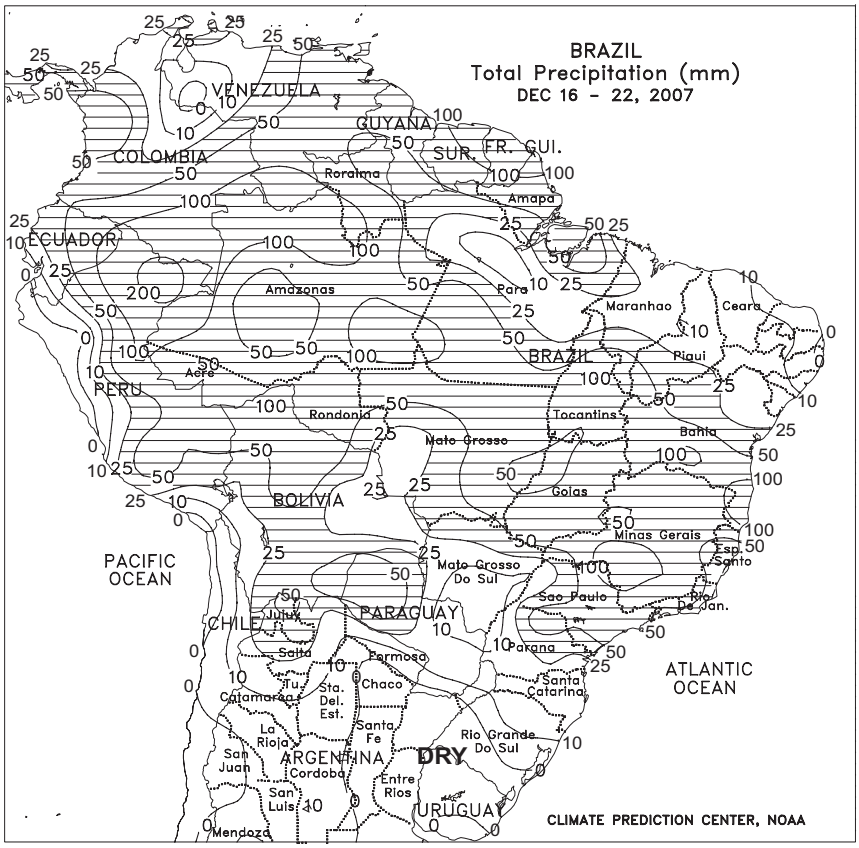
AUSTRALIA

Widespread showers (5-35 mm, locally more) across southern Queensland and northern New South Wales maintained adequate to abundant topsoil moisture for dryland summer crops. The persistent wetness in major summer crop areas has been doubly beneficial for irrigators; the continued rains have limited the need to irrigate cotton and sorghum and have helped reservoir levels begin to rebound following years of drought. Despite the recent wet weather, soaking rains need to persist to eliminate the long-term drought gripping this region. Elsewhere, scattered showers (5-35 mm, locally more) fell across southeastern and western Australia. The rain likely disrupted fieldwork, although winter grain harvesting is well advanced throughout the wheat belt. Temperatures in Western Australia averaged about 2 degrees C below normal, while elsewhere temperatures were generally seasonable.



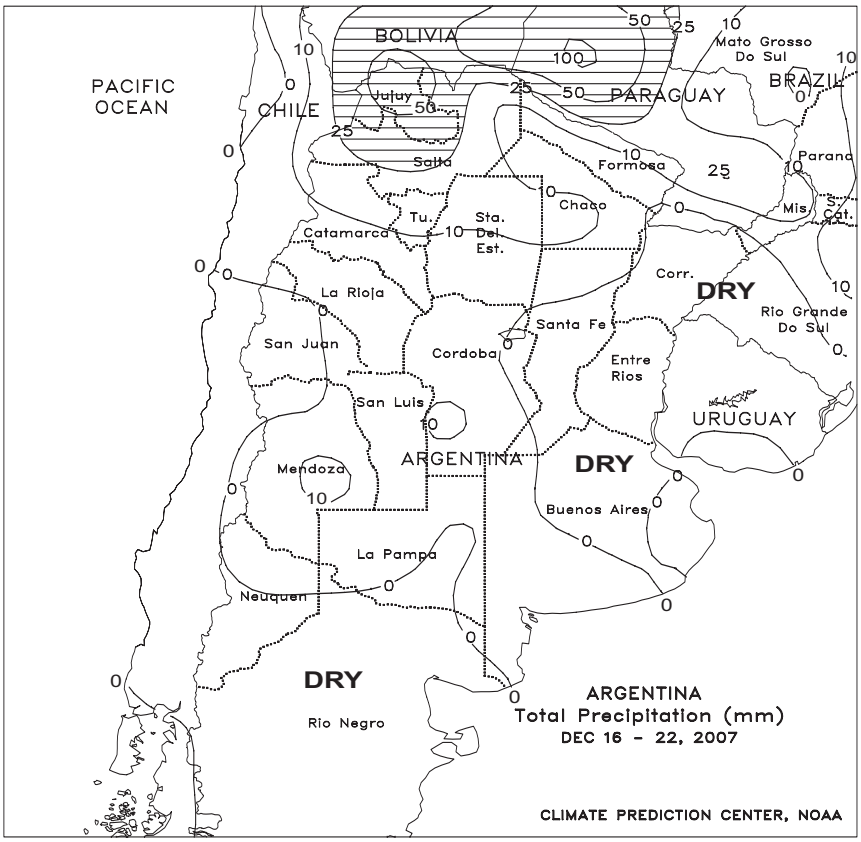
SOUTHEAST ASIA

Across Indonesia, heavy rain (50-240 mm) in Java provided abundant to excessive moisture for rice but caused widespread flooding. Likewise, heavy showers (50-230 mm) in southern Sumatra caused flooding in oil palm areas, while somewhat lighter rain (25-70 mm) in central Sumatra maintained favorable conditions for oil palm. In Malaysia, moderate to heavy showers (25-100 mm) hampered harvest activities, although rain was lighter than last week; reports indicated that last week's excessive downpours may have reduced yield potential of oil palm. In the Philippines, seasonal showers (25-160 mm) prevailed in eastern growing areas, benefiting rain-fed rice and corn from the Visayas to Mindanao. Warm (1-5 degrees C above normal), sunny weather in Vietnam benefited the heavily irrigated winter-spring rice crop.



BRAZIL

Mostly dry, seasonably warm weather (highs in the lower and middle 30s degrees C) dominated major agricultural areas of southern Brazil (Mato Grosso do Sul and western Sao Paulo southward to Rio Grande do Sul), favoring late winter wheat harvesting and rapid vegetative growth of soybeans and other summer crops. However, rain is needed soon to maintain favorable crop prospects, because this region, which experienced drought in several recent growing seasons, reportedly has relatively quick-draining soils and can ill afford extended periods of dryness in the critical growing periods (notably January and February). Farther north, heavy showers (50-200 mm) from Mato Grosso to Minas Gerais maintained mostly favorable moisture levels for soybeans, corn, and cotton. The moisture also benefited sugarcane, coffee, and citrus, although somewhat lighter rainfall (less than 50 mm) was observed in Espirito Santo. After a brief respite, seasonable rain (25-50 mm or more) returned to western Bahia and Tocantins, fostering establishment of soybeans and other newly-planted summer crops. The rainfall extended eastward through Bahia's coastal coffee and cocoa areas, but mostly dry weather continued to support sugarcane harvesting and other seasonal fieldwork in Brazil's northeastern tip.



ARGENTINA

Dry, warmer-than-normal weather (temperatures averaging 1-3 degrees C above normal) dominated central Argentina for much of the week, promoting summer crop planting after last week's much-needed rain. Conditions favored harvesting of winter grains, although scattered showers (1-15 mm) renewed local fieldwork delays later in the week. A return to a more normal pattern of showery weather is needed to ensure uniform germination and establishment of soybeans and other summer crops; this is particularly true for Cordoba and nearby locations of La Pampa, Buenos Aires, and Santa Fe, which have received sporadic rainfall so far this season. Farther north, dry, seasonably warm weather (temperatures in the lower and middle 30s degrees C) promoted planting of cotton and other summer row crops, following several weeks of locally heavy rain. According to Argentina's Ministry of Agriculture (SAGPyA), corn was 87 percent planted as of December 20, one percentage point behind last year's pace. Sunflowers were 97 percent planted, slightly ahead of last year (96 percent). Soybean planting continued to lag last year's pace (72 percent compared with 83 percent last year). In addition, winter wheat was 53 percent harvested, compared with 63 percent last year.

2007 Bulletin Index
Volume 94

*Regular Features**

Text:

National Charts:

International Charts (major crop areas):

National Tabulations:

International Tabulation:

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

Special Features

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