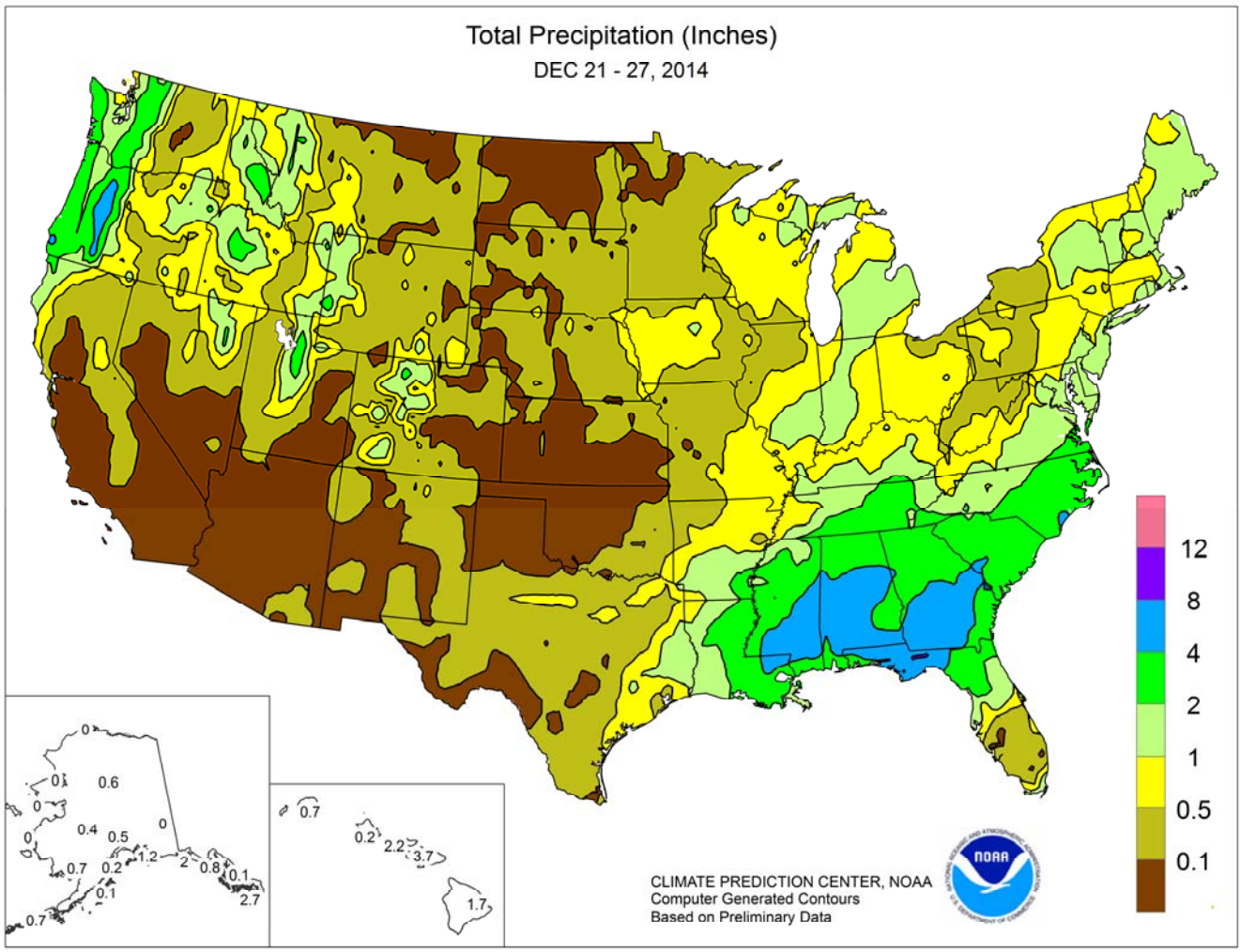
Volume 101, No. 52 http://www.usda.gov/oce/weather December 30, 2014

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 21 – 27, 2014

Highlights provided by USDA/WAOB

Significant precipitation shifted into the **Northwest**, ending **California's** period of favorably wet weather. Weekly precipitation totaled 4 inches or more in parts of the **Pacific Northwest** and ranged from 2 to 4 inches across portions of the **northern Rockies** and **northern Intermountain West**. Lingering showers dotted **northern and central California**, but mostly dry weather prevailed in **southern California** and the **Desert Southwest**. Farther east, several disturbances crossing the **Plains** provided beneficial snow in advance of the

(Continued on page 3)

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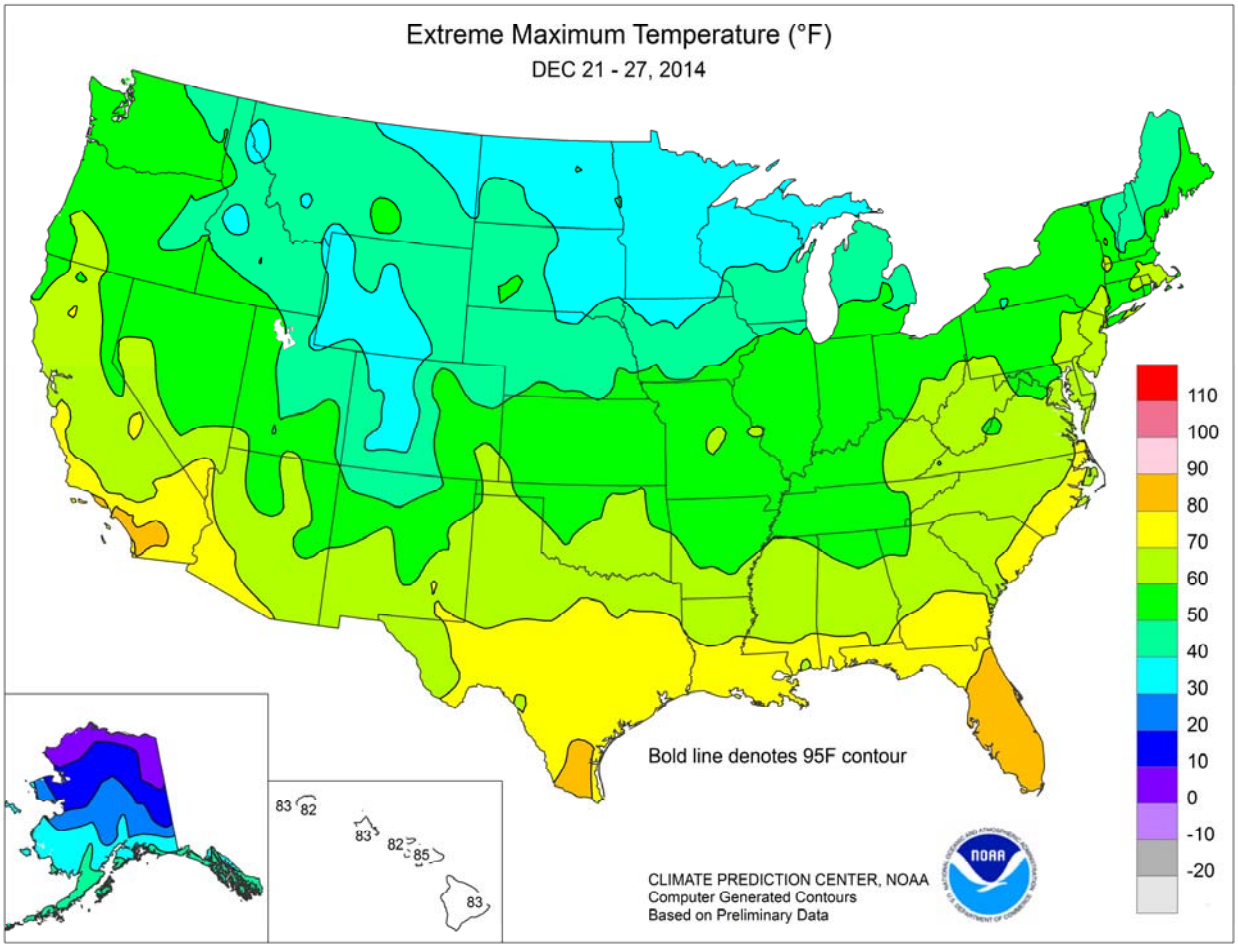
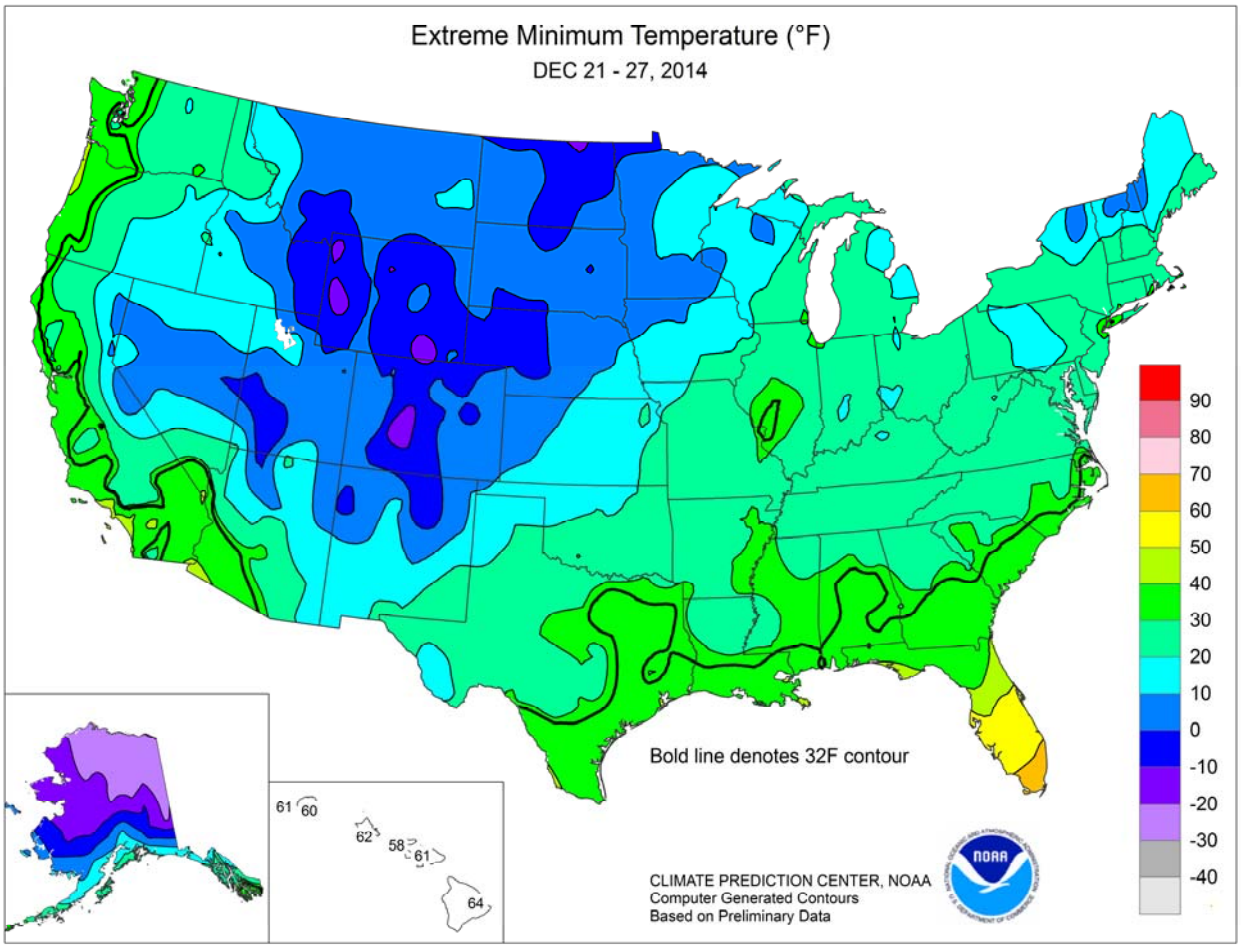
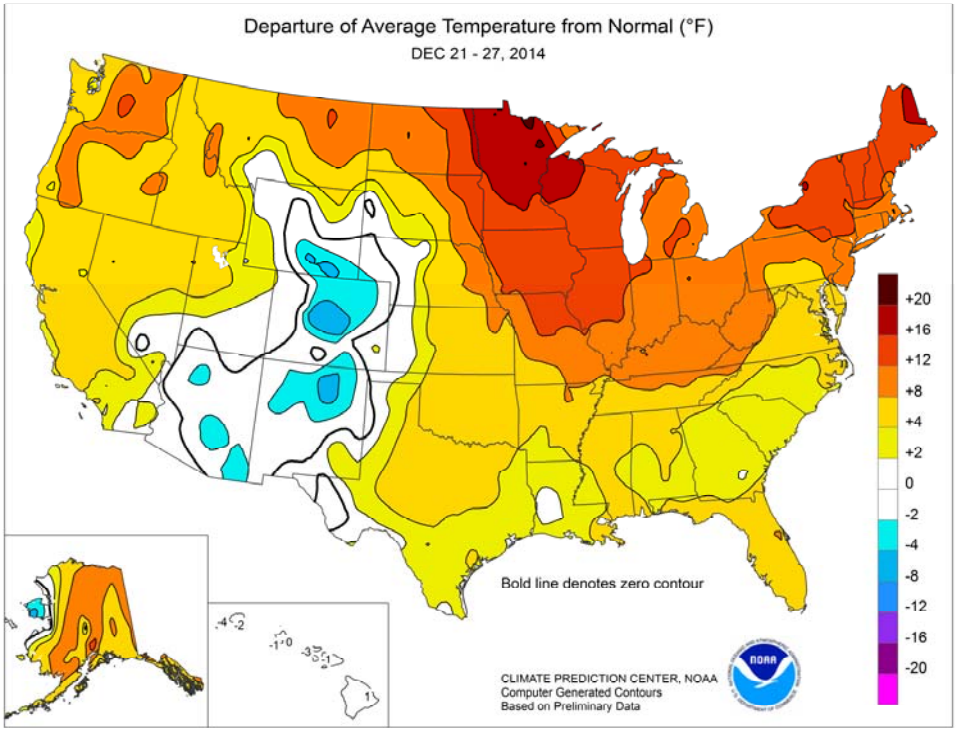

Extreme Maximum Temperature (°F)
DEC 21 - 27, 2014
110
100
90
80
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
-10
-20
Bold line denotes 95F contour
83
82
83
82
85
83
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA
Computer Generated Contours
Based on Preliminary Data


Extreme Minimum Temperature (°F)
DEC 21 - 27, 2014
90
80
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
-10
-20
-30
-40
Bold line denotes 32F contour
61
60
62
58
61
64
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA
Computer Generated Contours
Based on Preliminary Data

(Continued from front cover)

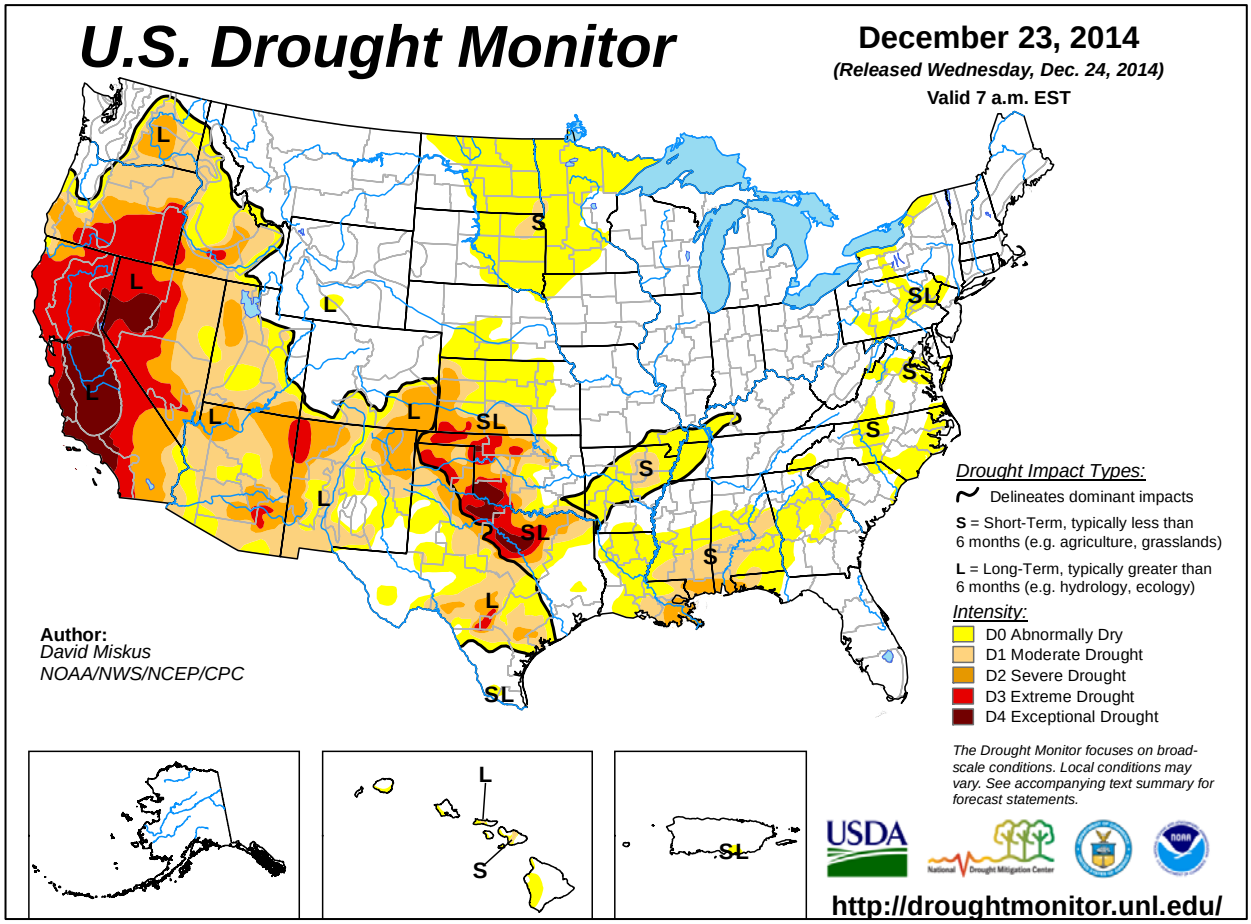


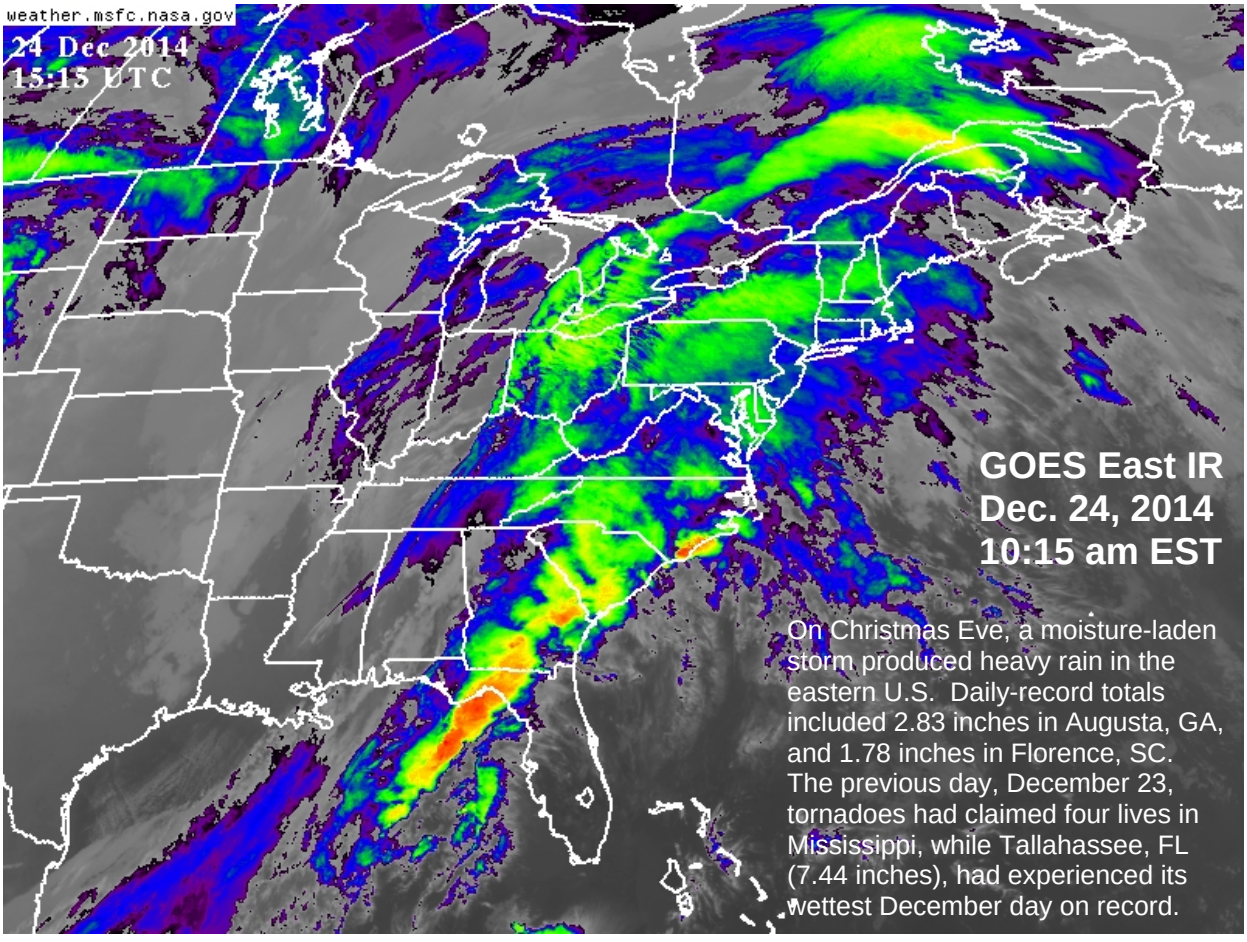
strongest push of cold air in nearly a month. By week's end, freshly fallen snow across the **northwestern half of the Plains** helped to insulate winter wheat against sub-zero temperatures. Late-week snow was also reported as far south as **Oklahoma** and **northern Texas**, while generally light freezes were noted in **California's Central Valley**. Meanwhile, unusual warmth lingered across the **eastern half of the U.S.**, boosting weekly temperatures 10 to 20°F above normal in the **upper Midwest**. In fact, near- to near- to above-normal temperatures dominated the country for the third week in a row. In the **Great Lakes States**, occasional precipitation and muddy fields hampered final corn harvest efforts. Elsewhere, heavy rain soaked the **Southeastern and Atlantic Coast States**. The rain eased concerns about short-term dryness and drought development, but also curtailed fieldwork and caused local flooding. Rainfall was especially heavy, totaling 4 inches or more, from the **central Gulf Coast into parts of the Carolinas**. On December 23-24, a late-year tornado outbreak accompanied the heavy rain.

Warmth lingered early in the week across the **West**, but was gradually replaced by colder conditions. Consecutive daily-record highs were reported on December 21-22 in locations such as **Yakima, WA** (59 and 56°F), **Montague, CA** (60 and 58°F); and **Klamath Falls, OR** (53°F on both days). Other **Western** daily-record highs included 81°F (on December 22) in **Santa Barbara, CA**; 75°F (on December 22) in **Las Vegas, NV**; and 65°F (on December 21) in **Medford, OR**. In advance of colder weather, a wind gust to 92 mph was reported on **southern California's Whitaker Peak** on December 21. **Whitaker Peak** clocked another high gust, to 84 mph, on the morning of December 25. During the mid- to late-week period, notable warmth shifted into the **East**. By December 24, daily-record highs climbed to 87°F in **Vero Beach, FL**; 70°F in **Salisbury, MD**; and 69°F in **Georgetown, DE**. Warmth lasted into Christmas morning along the **northern Atlantic Coast**, resulting in consecutive daily-record highs (64 and 63°F, respectively) on December 24-25 in **Providence, RI**. At week's end, markedly colder air settled into the **northwestern and north-central U.S.**, resulting in a daily-record low (-19°F on December 27) in **Laramie, WY**. In **California's Central Valley**, **Hanford** reported its first two freezes of the season (32 and 30°F, respectively) on December 26-27.

Widespread precipitation preceded and accompanied the transition to colder weather. The week began in the midst of a heavy precipitation event across the **northern Intermountain West**, where record-setting totals for December 21 reached 2.10 inches in **Alta, UT**, and 0.76 inch in **Boise, ID**. Early-week rain and snow showers also dotted the **central and eastern U.S.**, resulting in daily-record totals for December 22 in locations such as **Elizabeth City, NC** (1.15 inches), and **Mobridge, SD** (0.34 inch, including 2.5 inches of snow). In **Sioux City, IA**, a 0.69-inch sum on December 22-23 propelled the year-to-date precipitation total to 41.14 inches. Previously, the highest annual precipitation in **Sioux City** had been 41.10 inches in 1903. Much heavier rain developed across the **Southeast** on December 23. In fact, the 23rd was the wettest December day on record in **Tallahassee, FL**, where 7.44 inches fell (previously, 5.34 inches on December 2, 2009). Elsewhere in the **Southeast**, record-setting totals for December 23 reached 3.81 inches in **Meridian, MS**; 2.54 inches in **Alma, GA**; and 2.37 inches in **Tuscaloosa, AL**. Several tornadoes struck the **South** on December 23, resulting in four fatalities in **Mississippi**. It was the nation's deadliest tornado outbreak since July 8, when four people perished in **Madison County, NY**. Heavy rain continued through December 24 in the **Atlantic Coast States**, where daily-record amounts included 2.83 inches in **Augusta, GA**, and 1.78 inches in **Florence, SC**. During the mid- to late-week period, the focus for heavy precipitation shifted to the **northern Plains** and the **Northwest**. In **Montana**, **Great Falls** received daily-record snowfall totals (5.0 and 7.5 inches, respectively) on December 24 and 28. December 25 became the snowiest Christmas Day on record in **Wyoming** locations such as **Lander** (9.6 inches) and **Cheyenne** (6.8 inches). On the **High Plains**, December 25-26 snowfall totals included 10.6 inches in **Scottsbluff, NE**; 7.7 inches in **Cheyenne, WY**; and 5.1 inches in **Denver, CO**. At week's end, another wave of precipitation spread across the **South** and **East**. Daily-record rainfall amounts for December 27 totaled 1.87 inches in **Hattiesburg, MS**, and 1.76 inches in **Tuscaloosa, AL**. Meanwhile on the **southern Plains**, daily-record snowfall amounts for the 27th reached 3.5 inches in **Oklahoma City, OK**, and 2.0 inches in **Wichita Falls, TX**.

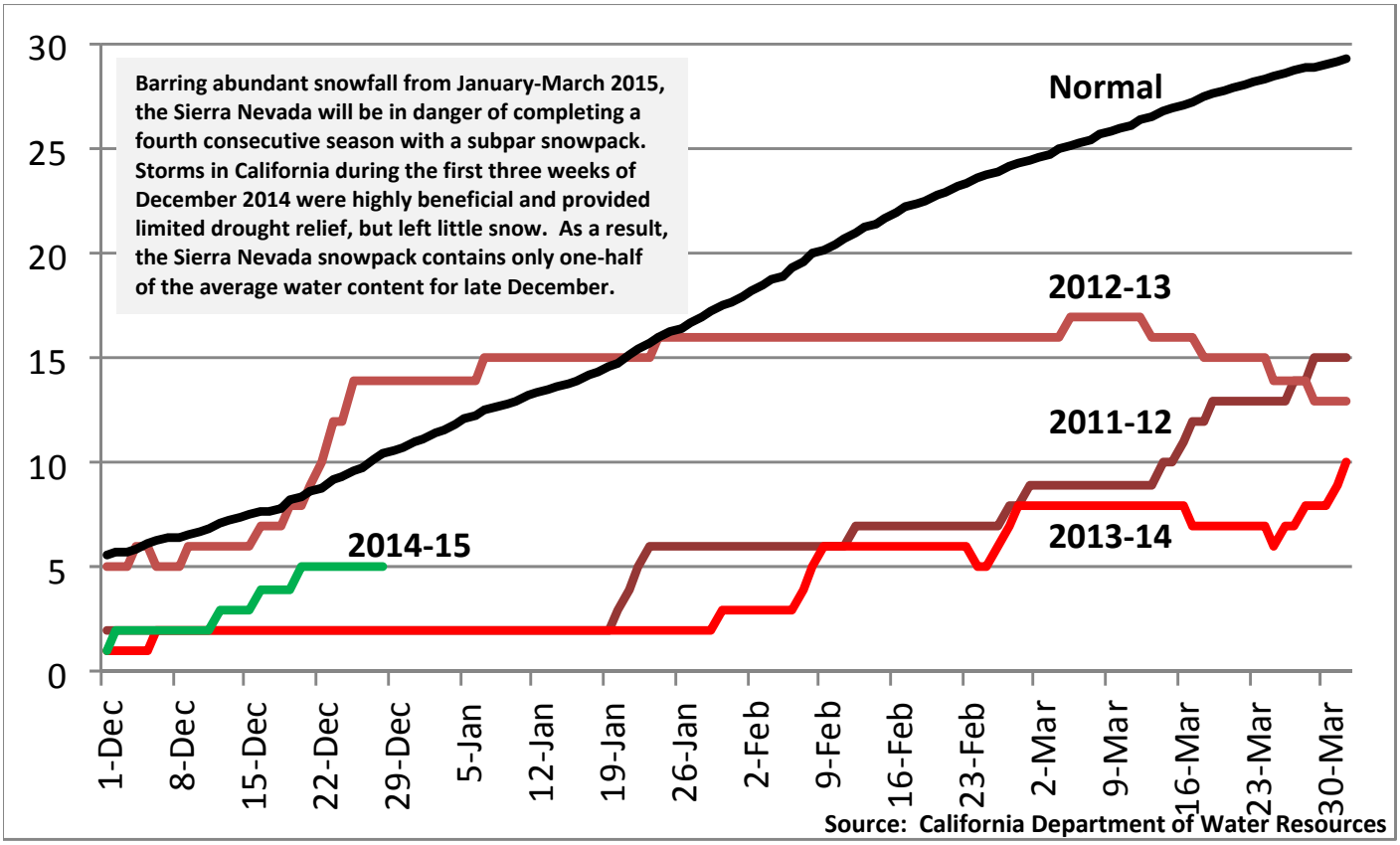
Mild weather prevailed across much of **Alaska**, although cold conditions overspread the western part of the state. **Bethel** posted its latest observance of the season's first sub-zero reading with a low of -1°F on December 21. Previously, **Bethel's** latest occurrence of winter's first sub-zero temperature had been December 20, 1938. Meanwhile, a holiday snow storm blanketed parts of **interior Alaska**, where December 25-26 totals included 9.7 inches in **Bettles** and 5.2 inches in **Fairbanks**. Farther south, a storm system produced heavy rain in **Hawaii**, easing short-term dryness but triggering local flooding. On December 23, daily-record totals included 2.14 inches in **Kahului, Maui**, and 1.50 inches in **Hilo**, on the **Big Island**. Some of the heaviest rain fell on **Kauai**, where 72-hour totals from December 21-24 reached 29.07 inches at **Kilohana** and 18.20 inches at **Kokee**. On the **Big Island**, a blizzard warning was issued on December 24 for elevations above 11,500 feet. During the second half of the week, however, dry weather returned nearly statewide. Despite the precipitation, month-to-date totals through December 27 remained significantly below normal in locations such as **Lihue, Kauai** (1.12 inches, or 24 percent of normal), and **Honolulu, Oahu** (0.55 inch, or 20 percent).


U.S. Drought Monitor
December 23, 2014
(Released Wednesday, Dec. 24, 2014)
Valid 7 a.m. EST
Author:
David Miskus
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC
Drought Impact Types:
Delineates dominant impacts
S = Short-Term, typically less than 6 months (e.g. agriculture, grasslands)
L = Long-Term, typically greater than 6 months (e.g. hydrology, ecology)
Intensity:
D0 Abnormally Dry
D1 Moderate Drought
D2 Severe Drought
D3 Extreme Drought
D4 Exceptional Drought
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.
http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/


weather.msfc.nasa.gov
24 Dec 2014
15:15 UTC
GOES East IR
Dec. 24, 2014
10:15 am EST
On Christmas Eve, a moisture-laden storm produced heavy rain in the eastern U.S. Daily-record totals included 2.83 inches in Augusta, GA, and 1.78 inches in Florence, SC. The previous day, December 23, tornadoes had claimed four lives in Mississippi, while Tallahassee, FL (7.44 inches), had experienced its wettest December day on record.

California Snowpack and Reservoir Update

Daily Sierra Nevada Snowpack (Inches) vs. Normal



Source: California Department of Water Resources

California Reservoirs, Recharge and Withdrawal

Million Acre-Feet and Percent of Average

	Recharge		Withdrawal
2010-11	12.47 (151%)	**2011**	8.78 (107%)
2011-12	5.79 (70%)	**2012**	11.54 (140%)
2012-13	6.52 (79%)	**2013**	11.49 (139%)
2013-14	4.17 (51%)	**2014**	7.75 (94%)
Avg.	**8.24**	**Avg.**	**8.24**

Note: Recharge and withdrawal values are based on end-of-month statistics, not daily readings.

Source: California Department of Water Resources

National Weather Data for Selected Cities

Weather Data for the Week Ending December 27, 2014

Data Provided by Climate Prediction Center

STATES AND STATIONS		TEMPERATURE °F						PRECIPITATION							RELATIVE HUMIDITY PERCENT		NUMBER OF DAYS TEMP. °F		NUMBER OF DAYS PRECIP	
		AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	EXTREME HIGH	EXTREME LOW	AVERAGE	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	WEEKLY TOTAL, IN.	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	GREATEST IN 24-HOUR, IN.	TOTAL, IN., SINCE 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	57	41	61	33	49	5	3.87	2.89	1.73	6.06	159	48.67	91	96	66	0	0	4	2
	HUNTSVILLE	55	41	57	31	48	6	2.47	1.26	1.86	4.53	94	52.25	92	86	75	0	1	4	1
	MOBILE	64	47	71	32	56	5	3.04	2.07	2.29	4.91	121	72.35	110	98	77	0	1	4	1
	MONTGOMERY	60	44	67	32	52	4	4.09	3.04	1.52	4.48	102	48.18	89	91	67	0	1	4	4
AK	ANCHORAGE	32	24	38	20	28	11	0.23	0.01	0.18	0.56	63	18.47	116	86	79	0	6	3	0
	BARROW	-1	-10	5	-28	-6	6	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.06	600	7.96	198	87	80	0	7	1	0
	FAIRBANKS	10	-8	22	-20	1	8	0.00	-0.17	0.00	0.00	0	16.23	159	76	72	0	7	0	0
	JUNEAU	39	30	41	22	35	7	0.84	-0.40	0.35	3.05	66	68.43	119	96	93	0	3	5	0
	KODIAK	39	28	43	23	34	4	0.12	-1.66	0.10	7.27	113	82.92	112	90	81	0	7	2	0
	NOME	9	-7	28	-16	1	-6	0.00	-0.19	0.00	0.25	29	13.90	85	76	62	0	7	0	0
AZ	FLAGSTAFF	42	20	54	5	31	1	0.04	-0.36	0.04	2.75	181	19.97	88	75	35	0	6	1	0
	PHOENIX	64	43	68	35	53	0	0.00	-0.20	0.00	0.80	111	8.25	102	62	44	0	0	0	0
	PRESCOTT	50	25	63	17	38	1	0.00	-0.28	0.00	1.81	171	12.12	64	64	26	0	6	0	0
	TUCSON	61	37	69	28	49	-2	0.16	-0.09	0.16	1.63	201	9.65	81	71	39	0	2	1	0
AR	FORT SMITH	52	36	60	28	44	5	0.16	-0.48	0.14	2.31	74	42.14	97	92	65	0	2	3	0
	LITTLE ROCK	55	38	59	30	47	5	1.23	0.29	0.80	3.15	74	48.10	95	88	60	0	1	3	1
CA	BAKERSFIELD	60	44	65	34	52	6	0.04	-0.13	0.04	1.91	335	3.91	62	85	71	0	0	1	0
	FRESNO	58	42	64	33	50	6	0.00	-0.31	0.00	2.29	220	7.45	68	91	81	0	0	0	0
	LOS ANGELES	67	49	79	40	58	1	0.00	-0.42	0.00	3.66	260	7.92	62	68	42	0	0	0	0
	REDDING	60	42	72	30	51	6	0.16	-0.93	0.13	10.35	270	33.91	104	94	69	0	2	2	0
	SACRAMENTO	60	45	65	33	53	8	0.01	-0.54	0.01	8.61	433	18.75	107	88	57	0	0	1	0
	SAN DIEGO	70	51	77	43	61	4	0.00	-0.31	0.00	4.42	446	7.68	73	73	42	0	0	0	0
	SAN FRANCISCO	62	50	68	42	56	7	0.06	-0.61	0.04	10.67	456	20.71	106	86	75	0	0	2	0
	STOCKTON	60	43	66	32	52	8	0.08	-0.32	0.07	6.10	412	14.24	105	91	78	0	1	2	0
CO	ALAMOSA	33	5	41	-8	19	4	0.05	-0.01	0.03	0.21	88	5.52	77	81	55	0	7	2	0
	CO SPRINGS	39	17	56	5	28	0	0.06	-0.03	0.04	0.10	36	16.97	98	83	36	0	7	3	0
	DENVER INTL	39	17	54	5	28	-1	0.29	0.23	0.10	0.37	168	18.55	137	84	48	0	7	4	0
	GRAND JUNCTION	34	20	42	3	27	0	0.33	0.22	0.17	0.88	232	11.77	133	88	73	0	7	4	0
	PUEBLO	43	16	56	3	29	-1	0.09	0.01	0.08	0.13	45	11.71	95	83	49	0	7	2	0
CT	BRIDGEPORT	49	38	56	32	43	10	1.15	0.37	0.65	5.57	189	46.09	106	91	75	0	1	5	1
	HARTFORD	46	34	56	26	40	11	0.71	-0.07	0.45	4.52	147	45.78	100	91	69	0	3	5	0
DC	WASHINGTON	53	38	61	33	46	8	1.29	0.61	0.75	3.37	131	44.27	114	81	58	0	0	4	1
DE	WILMINGTON	53	34	65	22	44	10	1.11	0.36	0.95	2.96	102	50.85	120	91	60	0	4	4	1
FL	DAYTONA BEACH	76	59	83	48	67	7	2.54	1.94	1.29	2.78	122	63.76	131	96	68	0	0	3	3
	JACKSONVILLE	69	52	79	38	61	7	3.71	3.11	2.69	3.72	171	55.44	107	100	78	0	0	4	2
	KEY WEST	80	72	82	66	76	5	2.19	1.71	1.51	2.20	124	36.57	95	91	75	0	0	3	2
	MIAMI	81	69	84	65	75	6	0.44	-0.01	0.43	1.32	68	63.60	109	94	66	0	0	2	0
	ORLANDO	78	60	85	53	69	7	0.81	0.31	0.57	1.53	77	55.27	115	97	65	0	0	3	1
	PENSACOLA	65	49	73	38	57	4	1.79	0.91	1.21	3.18	95	82.85	130	94	77	0	0	4	1
	TALLAHASSEE	67	49	76	33	58	5	7.95	7.00	7.44	8.18	243	67.87	109	89	69	0	0	4	1
	TAMPA	76	62	81	53	69	7	0.75	0.25	0.45	0.93	47	57.23	129	88	65	0	0	2	0
	WEST PALM BEACH	82	67	85	61	74	6	0.97	0.39	0.75	1.38	48	60.90	100	92	66	0	0	3	1
GA	ATHENS	54	38	64	29	46	3	2.96	2.12	1.34	3.53	114	44.27	94	97	71	0	2	4	3
	ATLANTA	55	41	62	35	48	4	2.67	1.85	1.31	3.40	104	45.51	92	88	73	0	0	4	2
	AUGUSTA	59	39	67	29	49	3	3.95	3.19	2.83	4.13	164	38.62	88	92	65	0	3	5	1
	COLUMBUS	60	43	66	33	51	3	3.43	2.47	1.57	4.04	107	51.54	107	98	67	0	0	4	2
	MACON	60	41	68	29	50	3	4.59	3.69	2.26	4.84	148	47.43	107	100	71	0	2	5	2
	SAVANNAH	62	45	70	36	54	4	3.78	3.10	1.56	3.89	174	50.42	103	93	71	0	0	4	3
HI	HILO	80	66	83	64	73	1	1.68	-0.34	1.32	6.10	63	115.22	92	87	74	0	0	3	1
	HONOLULU	80	66	83	62	73	-1	0.22	-0.44	0.17	0.55	23	20.32	114	84	71	0	0	2	0
	KAHULUI	81	63	85	61	72	-1	3.71	2.98	3.66	4.00	160	22.26	122	87	79	0	0	2	1
	LIHUE	78	63	82	60	71	-2	0.71	-0.36	0.62	1.14	28	31.83	82	82	71	0	0	3	1
ID	BOISE	41	29	48	21	35	5	1.36	1.08	0.73	2.97	254	15.08	126	88	75	0	5	4	1
	LEWISTON	48	34	60	26	41	8	0.24	0.02	0.21	1.82	207	12.07	96	75	60	0	4	3	0
	POCATELLO	37	22	47	1	30	6	0.42	0.20	0.35	0.77	87	12.65	102	88	74	0	6	4	0
IL	CHICAGO/O'HARE	44	33	50	28	39	14	0.51	0.02	0.32	0.79	36	39.47	110	85	76	0	3	2	0
	MOLINE	46	34	53	24	40	16	0.42	-0.03	0.24	0.72	37	39.29	104	85	72	0	1	3	0
	PEORIA	47	35	54	30	41	15	0.68	0.22	0.66	1.23	56	39.76	111	84	65	0	1	3	1
	ROCKFORD	44	32	51	28	38	16	0.50	0.10	0.28	0.93	50	33.50	92	88	76	0	2	3	0
	SPRINGFIELD	48	36	56	32	42	13	0.85	0.33	0.73	1.91	84	45.40	129	91	68	0	1	3	1
IN	EVANSVILLE	51	37	58	25	44	10	0.98	0.27	0.45	3.44	107	47.21	107	84	73	0	1	4	0
	FORT WAYNE	44	31	56	22	38	11	0.82	0.25	0.50	1.72	70	42.84	118	93	77	0	4	4	1
	INDIANAPOLIS	46	31	55	20	39	9	0.95	0.33	0.49	2.19	81	41.20	101	95	75	0	4	5	0
	SOUTH BEND	45	34	52	27	39	12	0.90	0.26	0.67	1.45	53	41.41	105	87	76	0	2	4	1
IA	BURLINGTON	46	35	54	28	41	15	0.45	0.04	0.43	0.66	35	40.47	107	94	69	0	2	3	0
	CEDAR RAPIDS	41	31	48	15	36	15	0.43	0.16	0.22	0.65	49	38.55	116	99	80	0	3	4	0
	DES MOINES	41	32	50	19	37	14	0.79	0.53	0.35	1.04	88	41.98	121	88	78	0	4	4	0
	DUBUQUE	40	30	44	18	35	15	0.46	0.14	0.24	0.88	58	37.44	106	96	83	0	5	3	0
	SIOUX CITY	38	27	44	6	32	11	0.87	0.76	0.45	1.36	247	41.32	160	90	84	0	4	4	0
	WATERLOO	39	29	46	16	34	15	0.76	0.56	0.52	1.63	161	34.89	106	98	86	0	6	3	1
KS	CONCORDIA	43	30	51	18	36	7	0.15	-0.02	0.09	0.74	101	27.20	96	88	76	0	4	4	0
	DODGE CITY	43	26	56	16	34	2	0.03	-0.14	0.03	0.95	148	23.14	104	84	52	0	7	1	0
	GOODLAND	40	18	53	3	29	0	0.15	0.07	0.09	1.09	376	17.50	89	86	62	0	6	2	0
	TOPEKA	46	35	56	22	40	10	0.19	-0.07	0.15	2.31	180	31.19	88	85	69	0	3	4	0

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

Weather Data for the Week Ending December 27, 2014

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	47	32	57	19	40	8	0.10	-0.18	0.04	1.22	104	25.52	85	80	64	0	3	3	0
KY	JACKSON	56	37	66	26	47	10	0.44	-0.46	0.33	2.08	55	53.45	109	86	51	0	2	4	0
	LEXINGTON	52	35	60	20	44	9	0.62	-0.27	0.35	3.27	94	54.16	119	90	72	0	3	4	0
	LOUISVILLE	53	38	58	25	45	9	0.70	-0.08	0.24	3.52	109	43.22	98	91	64	0	2	4	0
	PADUCAH	52	37	59	23	45	10	1.07	0.18	0.55	2.89	73	46.83	96	91	64	0	1	4	1
LA	BATON ROUGE	66	45	77	32	56	5	2.91	1.73	1.79	5.48	122	61.49	99	94	64	0	1	3	2
	LAKE CHARLES	63	45	77	34	54	2	0.67	-0.35	0.49	1.71	44	68.30	121	97	74	0	0	3	0
	NEW ORLEANS	67	50	79	38	59	5	2.50	1.44	1.69	3.78	85	54.56	86	88	71	0	0	4	2
	SHREVEPORT	60	40	69	30	50	3	0.51	-0.48	0.44	3.40	86	40.85	81	95	67	0	2	2	0
ME	CARIBOU	35	27	48	16	31	17	1.35	0.63	0.93	5.28	194	45.69	124	88	67	0	6	2	1
	PORTLAND	45	32	53	21	38	12	1.30	0.38	0.68	5.93	161	55.53	123	88	65	0	4	4	1
MD	BALTIMORE	52	32	61	23	42	7	1.23	0.48	0.82	3.51	124	52.51	127	86	65	0	4	4	1
MA	BOSTON	48	38	59	30	43	10	1.00	0.17	0.56	6.44	200	45.13	107	88	68	0	1	4	1
	WORCESTER	45	32	59	26	38	11	0.86	0.02	0.49	4.89	151	53.58	110	95	75	0	4	5	0
MI	ALPENA	38	29	48	15	34	12	0.93	0.54	0.76	1.69	110	34.78	124	93	81	0	3	4	1
	GRAND RAPIDS	43	32	51	26	37	11	1.33	0.81	0.89	1.51	62	40.17	109	92	73	0	3	4	1
	HOUGHTON LAKE	36	29	45	19	32	10	0.99	0.63	0.81	1.43	95	30.98	110	93	85	0	7	3	1
	LANSING	43	32	51	27	37	12	1.14	0.72	0.97	1.52	78	37.43	120	89	78	0	2	5	1
	MUSKEGON	42	34	48	28	38	11	1.27	0.73	0.57	1.73	74	38.61	119	89	76	0	2	4	1
	TRAVERSE CITY	40	33	47	28	37	12	0.66	0.07	0.30	1.05	47	38.49	116	90	76	0	2	4	0
MN	DULUTH	32	28	35	15	30	18	0.36	0.22	0.17	1.24	148	30.59	99	87	79	0	5	4	0
	INT'L FALLS	30	25	35	7	27	21	0.35	0.24	0.17	0.85	144	30.24	127	92	83	0	6	3	0
	MINNEAPOLIS	35	29	39	11	32	15	0.61	0.42	0.24	0.89	102	35.45	121	90	83	0	5	4	0
	ROCHESTER	34	26	37	6	30	15	0.85	0.68	0.39	1.05	115	33.27	106	93	90	0	6	6	0
	ST. CLOUD	36	30	39	15	33	21	0.18	0.04	0.11	0.75	127	36.71	136	84	71	0	4	3	0
MS	JACKSON	60	42	66	30	51	5	2.34	1.15	1.54	3.14	68	55.41	100	95	71	0	1	2	2
	MERIDIAN	60	41	69	30	51	3	6.79	5.62	3.81	7.51	164	53.12	92	96	77	0	3	4	2
	TUPELO	56	40	63	28	48	6	2.51	1.15	1.86	4.67	88	56.67	103	92	71	0	1	3	2
MO	COLUMBIA	49	35	61	29	42	12	0.46	0.00	0.40	2.18	96	44.12	110	93	68	0	2	4	0
	KANSAS CITY	44	31	53	21	38	8	0.24	-0.07	0.14	1.83	124	39.99	106	93	70	0	4	3	0
	SAINT LOUIS	51	38	62	34	44	12	0.92	0.37	0.68	2.72	105	43.42	113	81	67	0	0	4	1
	SPRINGFIELD	48	34	56	27	41	7	0.45	-0.12	0.29	1.80	60	38.62	86	88	77	0	3	4	0
MT	BILLINGS	37	24	54	7	30	5	0.25	0.11	0.15	0.54	108	13.89	95	79	52	0	7	2	0
	BUTTE	31	12	38	-8	22	5	0.32	0.21	0.13	0.52	121	14.79	117	90	61	0	7	3	0
	CUT BANK	35	15	44	0	25	4	0.22	0.16	0.20	0.27	123	15.20	123	88	62	0	7	2	0
	GLASGOW	33	21	38	12	27	13	0.07	-0.01	0.05	0.10	38	15.00	135	83	77	0	7	2	0
	GREAT FALLS	37	20	48	10	28	5	0.47	0.32	0.44	0.72	144	19.73	134	89	55	0	7	3	0
	HAVRE	36	20	43	10	28	10	0.22	0.11	0.19	0.25	71	11.62	103	85	73	0	7	3	0
	MISSOULA	36	26	43	20	31	8	0.59	0.34	0.26	1.04	111	15.42	113	92	79	0	7	4	0
NE	GRAND ISLAND	38	24	46	4	31	7	0.22	0.11	0.15	0.67	114	27.46	106	90	71	0	7	2	0
	LINCOLN	39	29	51	15	34	9	0.29	0.14	0.14	1.18	159	34.70	123	89	79	0	4	4	0
	NORFOLK	36	25	43	8	30	8	0.52	0.41	0.28	1.15	198	29.66	112	92	80	0	6	5	0
	NORTH PLATTE	37	15	48	-9	26	1	0.22	0.14	0.22	0.85	258	21.33	109	89	60	0	7	1	0
	OMAHA	39	31	49	18	35	11	0.89	0.74	0.65	1.66	200	39.12	130	92	82	0	4	5	1
	SCOTTSBLUFF	35	15	46	-3	25	0	0.48	0.37	0.40	1.28	278	19.07	117	84	68	0	7	2	0
	VALENTINE	33	16	45	-2	25	3	0.20	0.14	0.09	0.65	241	21.54	111	88	73	0	7	5	0
NV	ELY	38	19	50	-1	29	4	0.17	0.06	0.09	0.50	143	9.03	92	86	66	0	5	4	0
	LAS VEGAS	58	42	75	37	50	4	0.00	-0.08	0.00	0.30	107	1.81	41	46	34	0	0	0	0
	RENO	50	30	62	17	40	7	0.03	-0.16	0.03	0.87	118	4.93	67	75	61	0	5	1	0
	WINNEMUCCA	45	26	55	12	36	7	0.17	0.00	0.16	1.17	183	8.56	105	78	63	0	5	2	0
NH	CONCORD	42	30	51	24	36	12	1.05	0.42	0.47	4.89	191	45.85	123	96	71	0	4	5	0
NJ	NEWARK	52	38	64	32	45	11	1.48	0.70	1.13	4.82	158	49.24	108	86	67	0	1	4	1
NM	ALBUQUERQUE	46	26	61	17	36	1	0.04	-0.07	0.03	1.14	326	8.81	94	77	31	0	7	2	0
NY	ALBANY	45	31	58	25	38	12	0.76	0.20	0.56	4.75	204	39.07	104	88	67	0	4	3	1
	BINGHAMTON	44	33	56	24	38	13	0.81	0.19	0.60	3.01	112	39.32	103	85	74	0	2	4	1
	BUFFALO	46	34	57	27	40	12	0.31	-0.50	0.30	1.84	55	42.10	105	82	63	0	2	2	0
	ROCHESTER	48	34	57	26	41	13	0.20	-0.37	0.12	1.85	77	32.50	97	81	64	0	4	3	0
	SYRACUSE	47	31	59	24	39	12	0.66	0.04	0.43	2.82	101	40.30	101	91	73	0	4	4	0
NC	ASHEVILLE	52	35	63	25	44	6	1.93	1.20	0.97	2.02	70	46.52	100	93	67	0	2	3	2
	CHARLOTTE	55	36	64	27	45	2	1.46	0.74	0.91	1.88	71	44.77	104	89	59	0	3	4	1
	GREENSBORO	53	34	63	28	44	5	1.10	0.42	0.85	1.63	63	35.78	84	92	66	0	3	3	1
	HATTERAS	60	44	66	35	52	3	0.98	-0.09	0.39	2.23	59	61.62	108	100	74	0	0	5	0
	RALEIGH	56	36	66	30	46	5	3.05	2.36	1.71	4.29	170	54.57	128	87	67	0	2	4	2
	WILMINGTON	60	41	72	34	50	2	4.30	3.46	3.63	4.72	148	59.50	105	99	68	0	0	4	1
ND	BISMARCK	32	16	39	-2	24	11	0.11	0.03	0.06	0.11	33	13.92	83	92	79	0	7	3	0
	DICKINSON	32	16	43	7	24	7	0.07	0.01	0.05	0.07	27	21.86	134	88	67	0	7	2	0
	FARGO	33	22	41	1	28	18	0.17	0.05	0.10	0.22	50	20.16	96	90	81	0	6	2	0
	GRAND FORKS	30	21	37	0	26	17	0.14	0.03	0.12	0.22	51	23.06	118	96	83	0	6	3	0
	JAMESTOWN	30	18	34	0	24	12	0.03	-0.05	0.02	0.03	9	21.03	114	93	80	0	7	2	0
	WILLISTON	31	15	38	8	23	12	0.02	-0.09	0.01	0.03	7	10.69	76	88	81	0	7	2	0
OH	AKRON-CANTON	48	32	58	22	40	11	0.45	-0.17	0.19	1.96	75	45.34	119	82	66	0	3	4	0
	CINCINNATI	50	33	57	26	42	9	0.93	0.22	0.45	3.33	117	42.02	100	81	67	0	4	5	0
	CLEVELAND	47	34	59	23	40	11	0.29	-0.34	0.16	1.75	62	43.97	115	86	66	0	2	3	0
	COLUMBUS	49	33	59	24	41	9	0.59	-0.01	0.32	2.50	97	37.89	99	84	70	0	3	4	0
	DAYTON	48	34	56	21	41	11	0.72	0.07	0.31	2.72	101	35.89	92	92	71	0	3	4	0
	MANSFIELD	47	31	56	20	39	11	0.39	-0.28	0.22	1.71	59	36.37	85	94	68	0	4	4	0

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

Weather Data for the Week Ending December 27, 2014

STATES AND STATIONS		TEMPERATURE °F						PRECIPITATION							RELATIVE HUMIDITY PERCENT		NUMBER OF DAYS TEMP. °F		NUMBER OF DAYS PRECIP	
		AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	EXTREME HIGH	EXTREME LOW	AVERAGE	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	WEEKLY TOTAL, IN.	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	GREATEST IN 24-HOUR, IN.	TOTAL, IN., SINCE DEC 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE DEC 1	TOTAL, IN., SINCE JAN01	PCT. NORMAL SINCE JAN01	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	90 AND ABOVE	32 AND BELOW	.01 INCH OR MORE	.50 INCH OR MORE
	TOLEDO	45	30	54	18	38	11	0.66	0.12	0.44	1.09	46	31.70	96	92	77	0	4	3	0
	YOUNGSTOWN	47	32	59	23	39	10	0.28	-0.32	0.12	1.86	70	38.81	103	85	70	0	3	4	0
OK	OKLAHOMA CITY	52	34	63	23	43	5	0.10	-0.31	0.09	0.64	40	28.31	80	81	50	0	3	2	0
	TULSA	52	37	61	25	44	6	0.18	-0.28	0.16	1.97	89	29.58	70	86	68	0	1	3	0
OR	ASTORIA	53	45	57	41	49	7	2.48	0.25	0.86	10.44	113	72.73	110	95	84	0	0	7	2
	BURNS	40	24	49	15	32	8	0.22	-0.06	0.17	2.06	194	10.51	102	89	68	0	6	3	0
	EUGENE	54	43	59	33	48	9	1.60	-0.15	0.86	6.94	94	40.72	81	94	87	0	0	6	2
	MEDFORD	54	41	65	31	48	10	0.81	0.21	0.49	2.22	87	20.18	112	94	73	0	2	5	0
	PENDLETON	49	35	59	29	42	9	0.67	0.37	0.57	2.56	203	13.00	104	82	64	0	3	2	1
	PORTLAND	53	43	59	40	48	9	1.12	-0.09	0.73	5.70	113	39.75	109	95	86	0	0	6	1
	SALEM	54	42	59	36	48	8	1.49	0.12	1.07	6.77	118	41.08	105	91	83	0	0	5	1
PA	ALLENTOWN	51	32	63	25	41	11	1.12	0.40	0.86	3.29	113	44.35	99	83	64	0	5	4	1
	ERIE	48	35	58	26	42	11	0.25	-0.53	0.19	2.03	61	40.34	95	74	62	0	2	3	0
	MIDDLETOWN	48	29	57	19	38	6	1.16	0.49	0.71	3.20	111	43.59	109	95	64	0	4	4	1
	PHILADELPHIA	53	36	65	27	45	9	0.98	0.26	0.82	3.25	116	47.35	114	81	63	0	3	4	1
	PITTSBURGH	49	33	60	23	41	10	0.45	-0.14	0.21	2.46	98	36.66	98	88	62	0	3	4	0
	WILKES-BARRE	49	35	61	29	42	12	0.64	0.13	0.44	2.80	124	30.87	83	83	60	0	4	3	0
	WILLIAMSPORT	47	30	55	19	39	10	0.54	-0.05	0.26	2.58	98	37.15	90	82	63	0	4	4	0
RI	PROVIDENCE	51	35	64	29	43	11	1.23	0.32	0.69	6.23	175	46.91	102	91	70	0	3	5	1
SC	BEAUFORT	60	45	69	37	53	3	3.23	2.49	1.18	3.44	138	51.66	105	96	72	0	0	4	3
	CHARLESTON	61	43	72	35	52	3	2.85	2.09	1.50	3.21	121	52.80	104	99	70	0	0	4	3
	COLUMBIA	58	40	67	30	49	3	3.31	2.50	2.51	3.53	129	41.84	88	91	65	0	2	4	1
	GREENVILLE	53	37	65	30	45	3	2.62	1.75	1.61	3.21	99	49.47	100	95	67	0	1	4	2
SD	ABERDEEN	32	22	38	2	27	13	0.25	0.17	0.18	0.25	100	17.79	89	89	84	0	6	2	0
	HURON	31	21	37	-1	26	9	0.40	0.33	0.27	0.70	250	16.38	79	95	83	0	7	4	0
	RAPID CITY	35	13	50	1	24	0	0.27	0.19	0.14	0.29	107	21.40	130	87	62	0	7	3	0
	SIOUX FALLS	34	24	41	3	29	13	0.50	0.42	0.29	1.31	298	29.24	119	92	86	0	6	3	0
TN	BRISTOL	56	34	65	24	45	9	0.94	0.20	0.56	2.35	80	37.45	92	96	53	0	2	4	1
	CHATTANOOGA	53	39	57	31	46	5	2.58	1.55	1.81	3.83	92	44.70	83	95	76	0	2	4	2
	KNOXVILLE	54	38	60	27	46	7	1.84	0.85	1.26	3.36	87	40.77	86	93	67	0	2	5	1
	MEMPHIS	56	42	60	32	49	7	0.53	-0.63	0.35	2.49	48	57.53	106	87	59	0	1	4	0
	NASHVILLE	55	39	59	25	47	8	1.27	0.31	0.72	2.90	73	50.27	106	92	63	0	2	4	1
TX	ABILENE	58	40	69	30	49	5	0.40	0.10	0.26	0.42	40	14.91	63	80	55	0	1	2	0
	AMARILLO	48	27	61	18	38	2	0.01	-0.13	0.01	0.14	33	19.41	99	84	35	0	6	1	0
	AUSTIN	64	42	75	27	53	2	0.06	-0.49	0.05	1.96	94	29.31	88	84	62	0	2	2	0
	BEAUMONT	66	46	76	35	56	3	0.32	-0.87	0.29	2.57	58	51.28	87	97	66	0	0	2	0
	BROWNSVILLE	74	52	79	38	63	3	0.05	-0.17	0.04	0.94	99	28.10	103	91	64	0	0	2	0
	CORPUS CHRISTI	71	49	80	33	60	3	0.01	-0.38	0.01	0.44	30	28.76	90	89	68	0	0	1	0
	DEL RIO	61	44	71	34	52	1	0.00	-0.14	0.00	0.04	7	15.48	86	76	61	0	0	0	0
	EL PASO	58	35	68	23	46	2	0.11	-0.06	0.11	0.12	19	8.57	92	65	30	0	1	1	0
	FORT WORTH	59	42	66	34	51	5	0.49	-0.10	0.48	1.16	53	21.34	62	88	55	0	0	2	0
	GALVESTON	65	52	73	43	59	2	0.38	-0.38	0.34	3.50	116	31.51	73	94	71	0	0	2	0
	HOUSTON	66	46	74	34	56	3	0.97	0.17	0.71	4.96	156	43.08	91	94	75	0	0	3	1
	LUBBOCK	53	31	66	23	42	3	0.19	0.05	0.10	0.21	40	22.38	121	84	45	0	2	3	0
	MIDLAND	59	37	69	31	48	4	0.22	0.08	0.20	0.23	44	7.68	52	77	42	0	2	2	0
	SAN ANGELO	62	41	74	30	52	7	0.28	0.09	0.28	0.32	41	16.67	80	75	53	0	1	1	0
	SAN ANTONIO	64	45	73	31	55	4	0.03	-0.39	0.03	1.00	59	27.94	86	88	56	0	1	1	0
	VICTORIA	69	48	77	34	59	5	0.06	-0.49	0.05	1.67	78	29.64	75	90	67	0	0	2	0
	WACO	62	41	74	31	51	4	0.16	-0.44	0.15	0.52	22	30.08	91	84	59	0	2	2	0
	WICHITA FALLS	55	36	65	27	46	4	0.16	-0.21	0.16	0.96	67	23.77	83	77	61	0	1	1	0
UT	SALT LAKE CITY	41	27	48	17	34	5	1.07	0.81	0.53	1.27	127	14.34	88	86	59	0	5	3	1
VT	BURLINGTON	42	31	54	16	36	13	0.62	0.18	0.30	2.83	145	36.31	101	82	67	0	3	3	0
VA	LYNCHBURG	50	31	64	22	41	4	1.00	0.28	0.48	2.71	99	44.32	104	92	61	0	4	3	0
	NORFOLK	56	38	70	28	47	4	2.47	1.77	1.48	3.21	129	49.81	110	92	63	0	1	3	2
	RICHMOND	55	35	66	30	45	6	1.63	0.92	0.95	2.66	103	35.26	81	83	59	0	2	4	1
	ROANOKE	51	34	64	29	43	6	1.12	0.51	0.70	2.19	89	39.06	93	82	55	0	3	3	1
	WASH/DULLES	48	30	59	23	39	5	1.14	0.48	0.53	3.21	122	46.01	111	90	67	0	4	4	1
WA	OLYMPIA	48	37	55	27	43	6	0.98	-0.70	0.34	5.70	82	54.21	109	97	88	0	1	4	0
	QUILLAYUTE	50	41	54	35	46	6	2.21	-0.94	0.97	13.58	106	104.51	104	98	88	0	0	5	2
	SEATTLE-TACOMA	49	41	55	35	45	5	1.16	-0.03	0.68	4.63	93	48.32	133	89	78	0	0	4	1
	SPOKANE	40	28	49	20	34	8	0.50	0.04	0.28	2.90	147	15.92	97	95	76	0	6	3	0
	YAKIMA	51	30	59	21	40	12	0.06	-0.24	0.05	0.87	75	6.46	80	81	65	0	5	2	0
WV	BECKLEY	50	32	60	26	41	8	0.70	0.02	0.38	2.58	98	39.69	96	81	60	0	3	3	0
	CHARLESTON	56	33	67	25	45	9	0.32	-0.37	0.19	2.62	90	45.96	105	88	50	0	4	3	0
	ELKINS	54	28	63	19	41	10	0.20	-0.54	0.11	3.49	117	41.87	92	99	54	0	5	3	0
	HUNTINGTON	55	34	65	25	44	9	0.64	-0.10	0.58	3.26	112	48.54	116	89	57	0	4	2	1
WI	EAU CLAIRE	35	27	39	10	31	16	0.57	0.38	0.27	0.65	71	42.95	134	92	78	0	5	5	0
	GREEN BAY	39	30	45	25	35	16	1.06	0.80	0.61	1.69	134	32.13	111	97	82	0	4	4	1
	LA CROSSE	39	29	43	14	34	14	0.60	0.38	0.38	1.09	98	37.68	117	93	73	0	3	5	0
	MADISON	42	32	46	24	37	16	0.53	0.22	0.32	1.03	69	35.31	108	91	79	0	4	3	0
	MILWAUKEE	43	34	50	30	39	15	0.68	0.24	0.37	1.03	52	32.11	93	85	72	0	2	3	0
WY	CASPER	31	16	41	4	24	1	0.27	0.16	0.17	1.05	214	11.91	92	78	67	0	7	4	0
	CHEYENNE	32	15	47	4	24	-3	0.25	0.17	0.12	0.27	73	17.37	113	71	56	0	7	3	0
	LANDER	29	12	39	1	20	-1	0.66	0.55	0.61	1.47	294	11.35	85	86	57	0	7	2	1
	SHERIDAN	35	16	48	-5	25	3	0.38	0.24	0.37	0.69	130	15.03	103	75	69	0	6	2	0

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

National Agricultural Summary

December 22 – 28, 2014

Weekly National Agricultural Summary provided by USDA/NASS

HIGHLIGHTS

Most of the nation saw above-average weekly temperatures, with a majority of the Corn Belt experiencing temperatures more than 9°F above normal. In contrast, a few locations along the Rockies had below-average temperatures, with minimum temperatures dipping below 0°F over a wide area from New Mexico to Montana and spreading onto the northern Great Plains. Weekly precipitation totaled less than 2 inches in most locations, with the notable exceptions of the Southeast and the Pacific Northwest, where some areas received more than 4 inches.

In **Arizona**, cotton harvesting was 95 percent complete, slightly ahead of last year and the 5-year average. Alfalfa conditions were mostly fair to excellent, depending on location. Harvesting occurred on three-fourths of the state's alfalfa acreage. No appreciable change was measured in range and pasture conditions. Moisture levels were still adequate, despite the lack of rainfall. Rangeland conditions varied widely from very poor to good, depending on location. Central Arizona growers shipped broccoli, Bok Choy, Chinese cabbage, red and green cabbage, cilantro, collard greens, dandelion greens, kale, lemons, mustard, parsley, turnip top greens, Swiss chard and spinach. Western Arizona growers shipped anise, arugula, broccoli, Bok Choy, cauliflower, celery, Chinese cabbage, red and green cabbage, cilantro, endive, escarole, kale, various lettuce including Boston, iceberg, romaine, green and red leaf lettuce, parsley, and spinach.

High pressure centered over Nevada led to Santa Ana wind events on Monday and Tuesday across the southern coast of **California**. Temperatures were generally temperate to warm, with light to moderate rain across the northern part of the state. By mid-week, high pressure over Nevada eroded, allowing the jet stream to dip further south. This resulted in widespread moderate precipitation for most of the state. Temperatures during the second half of the week were about 20°F cooler than during the first half. In the Central Valley, there was frost on multiple nights. In the mountains, temperatures dropped to near or slightly below 0°F. Field preparation and planting of winter wheat for grain and silage continued. Wheat, oats, and other winter forage crops have germinated and were growing well after last week's rain. The wheat crop was 98 percent emerged and condition was rated as 80 percent good to excellent. Alfalfa fields were being sprayed. Inspectors checked cotton fields to ensure compliance with cotton plow-down regulations. Pasture and rangeland condition was 70 percent poor to fair. Pruning, shredding, and herbicide application in tree fruit orchards and grape vineyards continued. Kiwifruit and table grapes were packed and exported. Navel oranges, mandarins, lemons, grapefruit, and finger limes continued to be packed for export and domestic markets. Pruning and shredding in nut orchards continued. Orchard ground was saturated by the recent rains. Shelling and processing of stored almonds continued. Imperial County reported winter vegetables were harvested. In Tulare County, fall crops have been harvested and fields were prepared for spring plantings. Spring spinach and broccoli planting began. Strawberries were progressing well with the cool, damp weather. Fresh onions were planted and the last planting of the dehydrator onions finished. Processor tomato beds were put up.

According to Florida's Automated Weather Network (FAWN), rainfall ranged from none to 9.43 inches across the state. Quincy (Gadsden County) received the most rain with 9.43 inches. Per the U.S. Drought Monitor, **Florida** was 89 percent free of drought and dryness. The highest temperature was 87°F in Immokalee (Collier County). The majority of the state recorded temperatures above 80°F. The lowest temperature was 34°F in Defuniak Springs (Walton County). There was an average of 6.1 days suitable for fieldwork, slightly below the previous week. Conditions in the Panhandle were too wet for fieldwork. In Glades and Hendry Counties, sugarcane harvest continued. Flagler and Putnam County farmers started planting potatoes. In southwest Florida, vegetable growers harvested beets, cucumbers, collards, green beans, herbs, kale, peppers, squash, Swiss chard, tomatoes, and watermelon. Crops harvested in Miami-Dade County were collards, strawberries, sweet potatoes, sweet corn, and avocado. For citrus, the heaviest rain fell in the northern growing region. Umatilla (Lake County) had the most rain, with just under 2 inches and St. Lucie West (St. Lucie County) had the second-most rain with just under an inch. Most processing plants have opened for the season. Harvesting totals for early oranges were down due to the small size fruit and the closing of facilities for the Christmas holidays. Navel orange harvest and white and colored grapefruit harvest was slightly lagging behind last season but overall running at a good pace. Sunburst tangerines harvesting was almost over for the season and was slowly being replaced by Honey tangerine harvest. Orlando tangelo harvest was almost over and Honey Bell harvest was soon to follow. Grove activity included irrigation, some mowing in preparation for harvest, aerial spraying, and fertilizing.

International Weather and Crop Summary

December 21-27, 2014

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

HIGHLIGHTS

EUROPE: Warm, showery weather favored overwintering grains and oilseeds for much of the week, with cooler conditions developing at week's end.

WESTERN FSU: Unseasonably warm weather continued to alleviate the threat of freeze injury for overwintering wheat in southern areas.

MIDDLE EAST: Locally heavy showers maintained favorable levels of moisture for winter grains.

NORTHWESTERN AFRICA: Light showers in eastern growing areas boosted soil moisture for winter grains.

SOUTHEAST ASIA: Monsoon showers in Java, Indonesia, maintained adequate to abundant moisture supplies for rice, while Tropical Cyclone Jangmi crossed the southern Philippines.

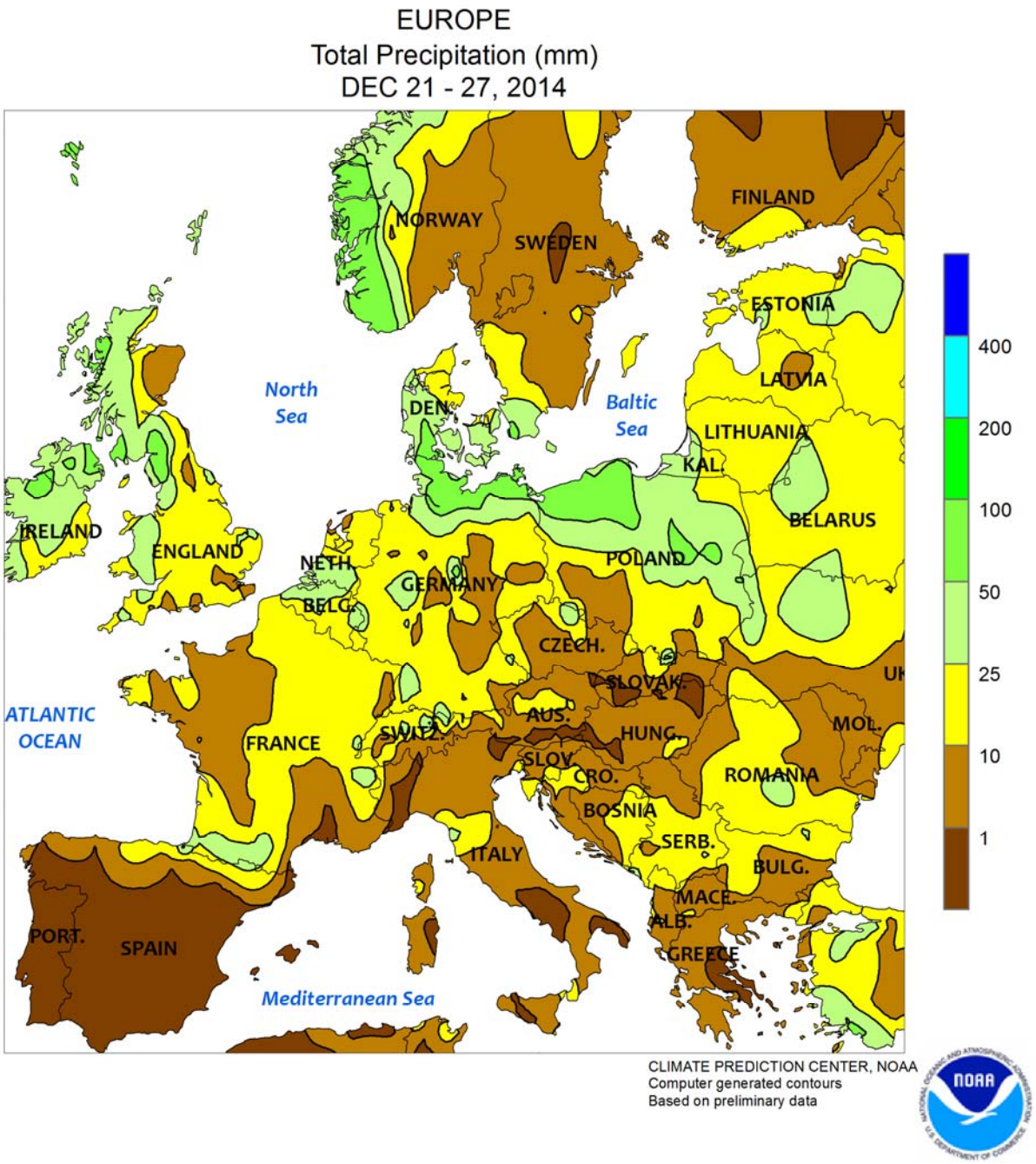
AUSTRALIA: More rain in the east boosted soil moisture for vegetative summer crops.

SOUTH AFRICA: Warm, showery weather fostered growth of emerging to vegetative corn.

ARGENTINA: Heavy rain lingered over the northeast, as lighter showers maintained favorable levels of soil moisture for summer crop establishment.

BRAZIL: Widespread, locally heavy rain increased moisture for soybeans and other summer crops.

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



EUROPE

Showers and unseasonable warmth favored overwintering grains and oilseeds throughout nearly all major farming areas. The highest precipitation totals (25-100 mm, liquid equivalent) were recorded in the north, notably locales in the United Kingdom and northern sections of Germany and Poland. Precipitation also fell throughout the Balkans, though accumulations were somewhat lighter than in the north, ranging from 5 to 25 mm water equivalent; similar amounts were recorded in France and Italy, but drier weather dominated southern and central Spain, where little to no rain fell. Weekly temperatures continued to average near to above normal across the region, with the highest temperatures relative to normal (departures of 4-7°C above normal) in eastern Europe. However, the passage of a strong cold front brought colder weather to much of Europe during the latter part of the week, with nighttime lows falling below -10°C in Poland, Belarus, and the Baltic States. As a result of the colder weather, late-week precipitation came in the form of snow, generating a protective layer of snow cover over winter crop areas of central and eastern Europe. In the west, temperatures averaged near normal in Spain and southern France, and 1 to 2°C above normal in northern France and the United Kingdom, where snow cover was generally patchy and light.

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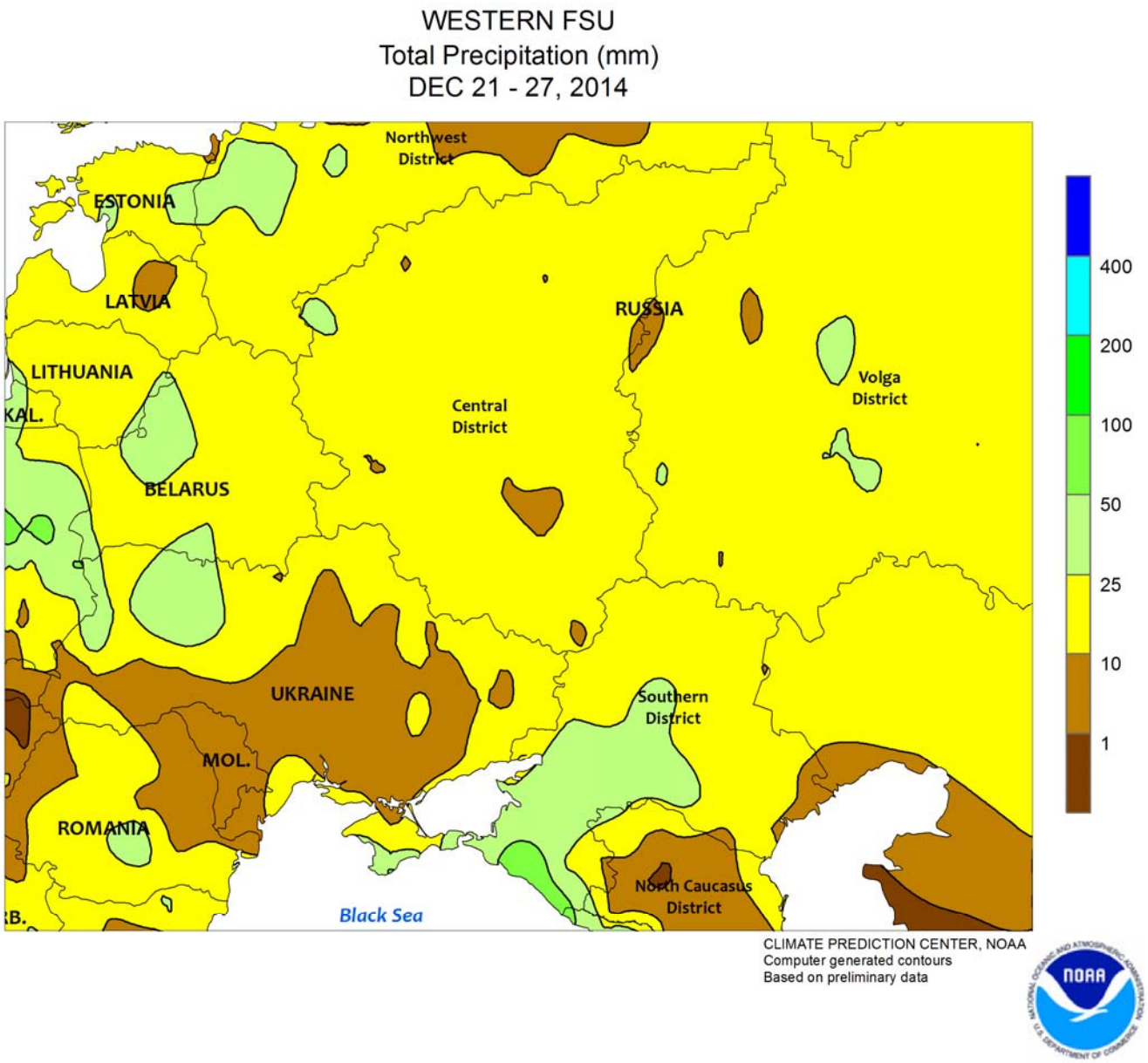

WESTERN FSU

Warmer-than-normal weather continued throughout much of the region, alleviating the threat of freeze injury to dormant crops but also keeping southern portions of the region devoid of a seasonal snow cover. Weekly temperatures were over 5°C above normal across the Ukraine and into southern Russia, with weekly temperatures in the remainder of the region between 1 and 4°C above normal. In addition to keeping a large portion of the region snow free, the warmer-than-normal weather caused dormant crops to lose some cold hardiness, leaving crops at risk for winterkill or freeze damage. Meanwhile, 10 to 20 mm of rain boosted moisture reserves in southern crop areas, with snow occurring in more northerly locations.

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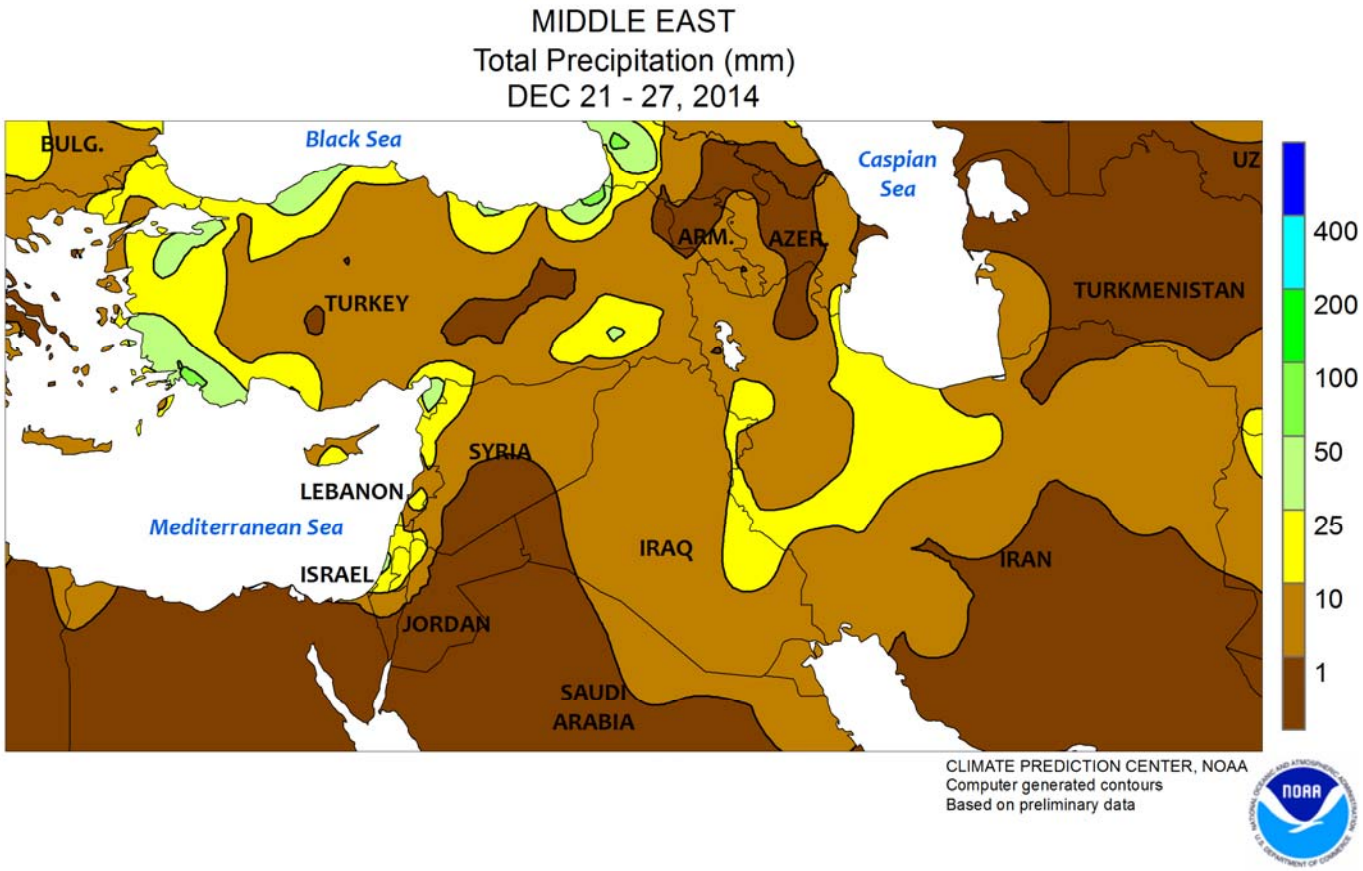

MIDDLE EAST

Locally heavy showers and above-normal temperatures maintained overall favorable levels of moisture for overwintering grains. As in recent weeks, the heaviest rain (10-35 mm) was concentrated over western Turkey and from southeastern Turkey to central Iran, though amounts were lighter (5-15 mm) than last week in northern Iraq. Several outbreaks of light rain reached southward through northern Syria along the Mediterranean Coast. Light precipitation (5 mm or less, liquid equivalent) also continued on Turkey's Anatolian Plateau, benefiting winter wheat and barley. Weekly temperatures averaged 1 to 2°C above normal throughout the region, with somewhat higher readings relative to normal in northern sections of Turkey and Iran. Weekly minimum temperatures stayed above -10°C; while minimizing the risk of freeze damage to tender vegetation, the warm conditions have kept most winter crop areas devoid of a protective layer of snow cover.

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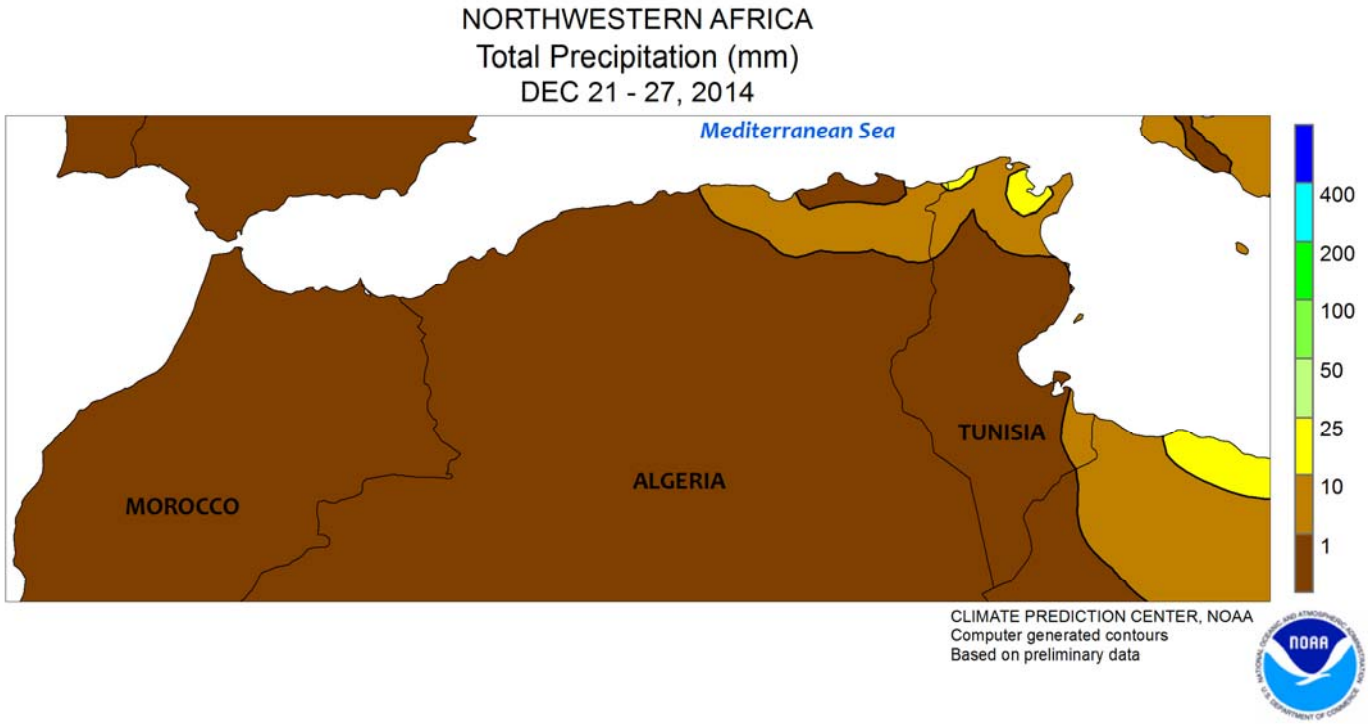

NORTHWESTERN AFRICA

Dry weather prevailed across Morocco and much of Algeria after last week's beneficial rainfall. Despite the recent dryness, seasonal moisture conditions remained favorable for vegetative winter grains. Rainfall for the week was confined to Tunisia and neighboring portions of Algeria, where totals were generally below 10 mm but maintained beneficial soil moisture nonetheless. In addition, temperatures were near normal, averaging between 10 and 15°C, easing moisture requirements for crops.

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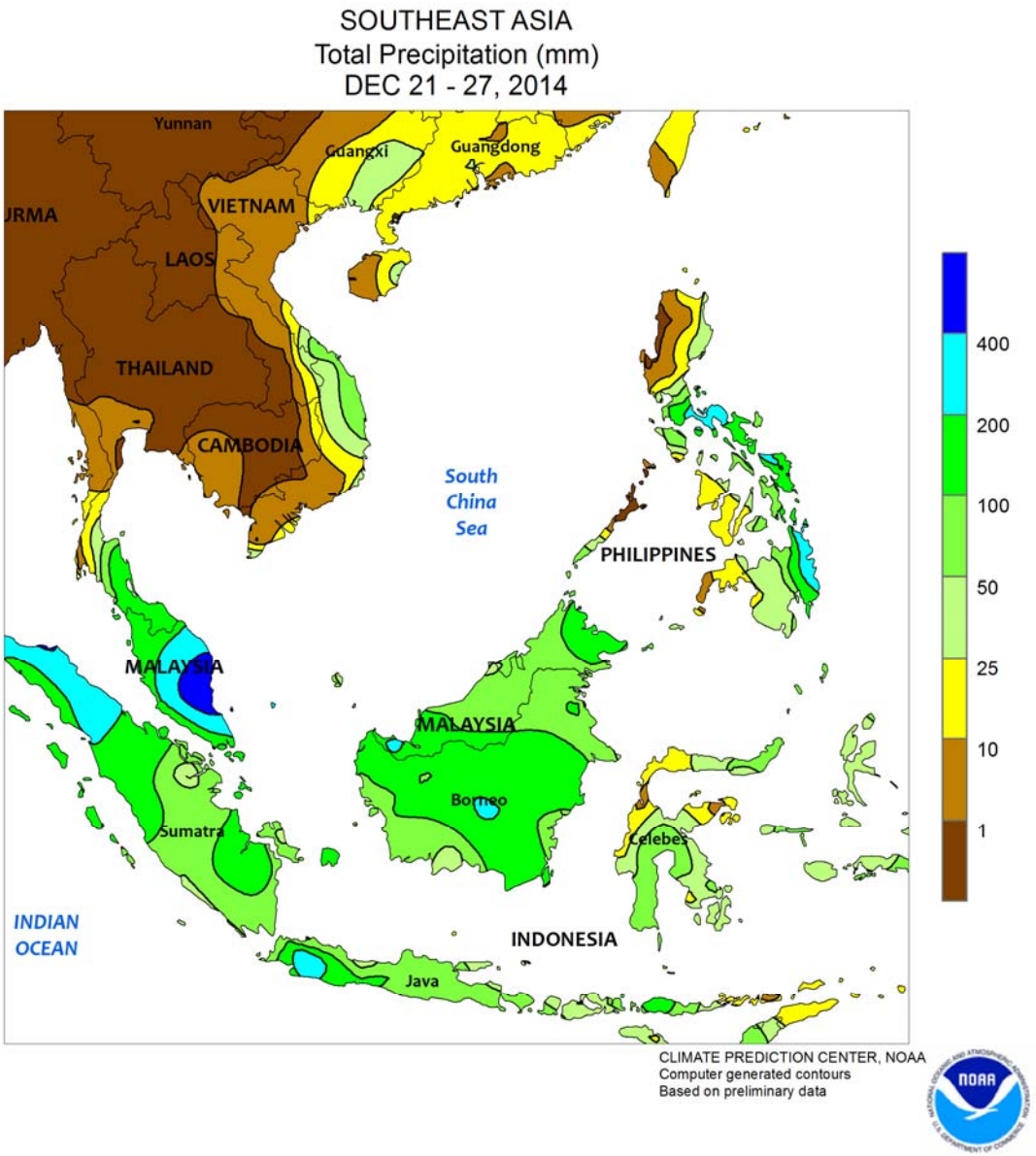

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Widespread showers (50-100 mm) in Java, Indonesia, maintained favorable moisture conditions for rice, although localized amounts in excess of 300 mm caused flooding. In the remainder of Indonesia and into Malaysia, widespread showers between 100 and 200 mm maintained abundant soil moisture for oil palm, but disrupted harvesting. In Peninsular Malaysia, another week of inundating rainfall (over 800 mm for the week; nearly 1,500 mm over the last 2 weeks) halted oil palm harvesting, while also disrupting shipping and transportation. Meanwhile in the Philippines, Tropical Cyclone Jangmi crossed the southern portion of the country with winds in excess of 45 knots (tropical storm strength) and produced heavy rainfall (200-300 mm) from southern Luzon to Mindanao. The rainfall caused flooding and localized damage to rice and corn, but likely had little adverse impact on overall crop prospects. In Vietnam, winter-spring rice transplanting continued across the south under seasonably dry conditions, while unseasonably heavy showers (50-100 mm) continued in minor agricultural areas of central Vietnam.

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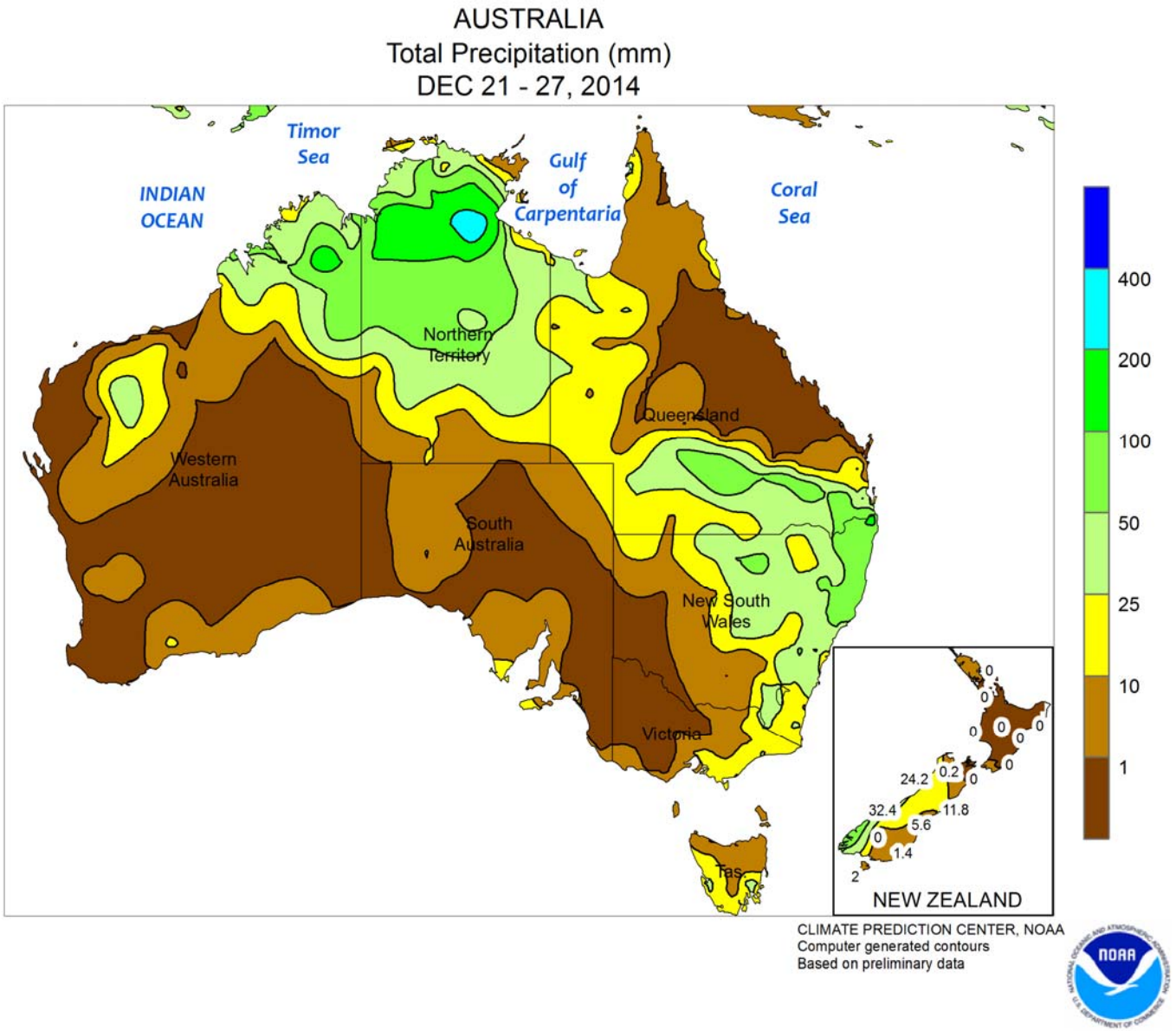

AUSTRALIA

Widespread showers continued in southern Queensland and much of New South Wales, benefiting vegetative summer crops including cotton and sorghum. In addition, the recent rainfall boosted reservoir levels, which have seen declines over the last two years. However, even with the recent beneficial rainfall, most reservoirs remained below last year at the same time. Meanwhile, temperatures were generally near normal in most agricultural areas, with no indications of stressful heat.

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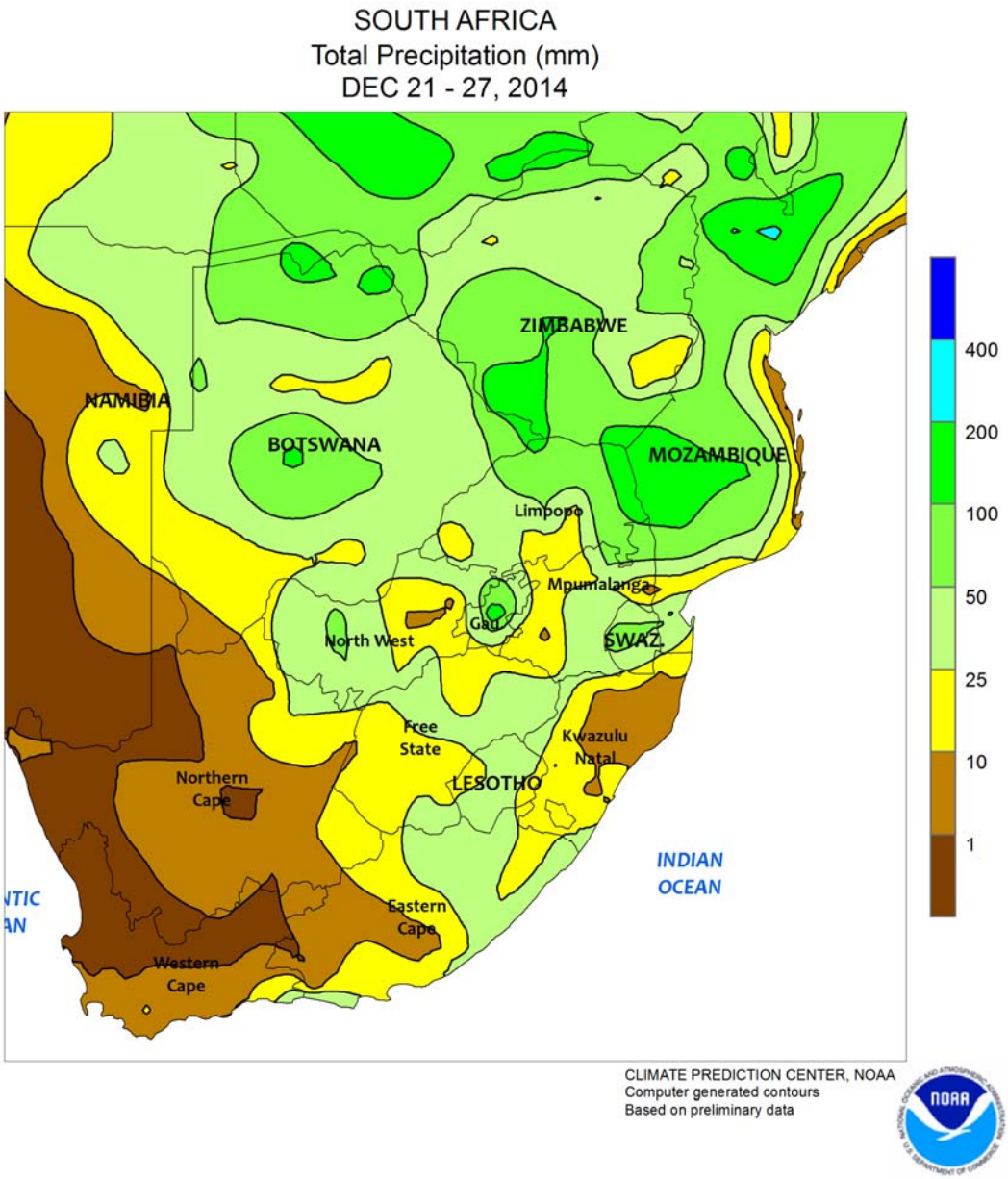

SOUTH AFRICA

Warm, showery weather maintained generally favorable conditions for corn in key commercial production areas. Rainfall was highly variable, ranging from 5 to more than 100 mm from North West to Mpumalanga, with the highest amounts concentrated over Gauteng and far western production areas. Unseasonably heavy rain (25-50 mm) fell for a second week across much of Limpopo, possibly contributing to additional flooding along the Limpopo River. Elsewhere, drier-than-normal weather dominated KwaZulu-Natal, maintaining this season's trend of below-normal rainfall for rain-fed sugarcane. However, showers (greater than 25 mm) continued in irrigated production areas farther north. Rain (10-50 mm) also continued in Eastern Cape and in sections of the lower Orange River Valley, increasing moisture reserves for corn, cotton, and other crops. Near- to above-normal temperatures dominated the aforementioned areas, with daytime highs ranging from the lower and middle 30s (degrees C) in the corn belt, to the middle and upper 30s in Limpopo, KwaZulu-Natal, and the Orange River Valley. Meanwhile, mild weather (highs reaching the upper 20s and lower 30s) and light showers (less than 10 mm) promoted growth of tree and vine crops in Western Cape.

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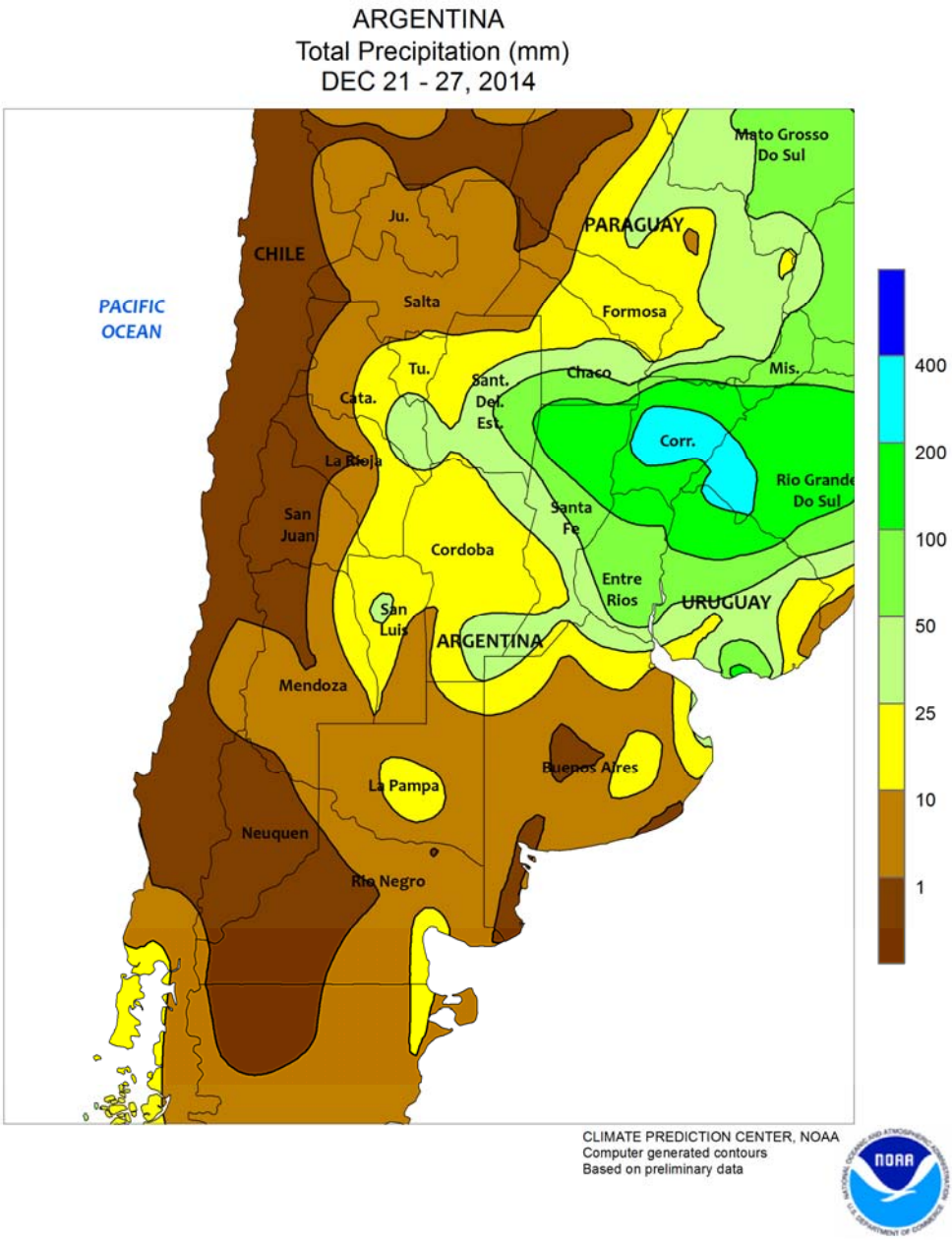

ARGENTINA

Locally heavy showers maintained slow rates of fieldwork in the northeast, but showers tapered off elsewhere, aiding the final stages of summer crop harvesting and winter wheat harvesting. Rainfall totaled 25 to more than 100 mm from Santiago del Estero through Corrientes, with the highest amounts (greater than 100 mm) concentrated from northern Santa Fe eastward, slowing the final stages of cotton planting. In contrast, rainfall declined from the previous week in southern and western production areas, with amounts totaling less than 10 mm over much of La Pampa and Buenos Aires. Light to moderate rain (10-25 mm) kept topsoils moist for crop germination in Cordoba, although additional rain would be welcome for establishment of summer grains and oilseeds after recent weeks of below-normal rainfall. Unseasonably cool weather (daytime highs in the lower and middle 20s degrees C) dominated the region early in the week, but warmer conditions (daytime highs from the lower 30s to the lower 40s) developed during the latter part of the week. As a result, weekly temperatures averaged near normal in southern growing areas of Buenos Aires and below normal elsewhere. According to Argentina's Ministry of Agriculture, corn was 73 percent planted as of December 23, slightly behind last year's pace (76 percent). Soybeans were 82 percent planted, same as last year. Additionally, wheat was 75 percent harvested versus 87 percent last year.

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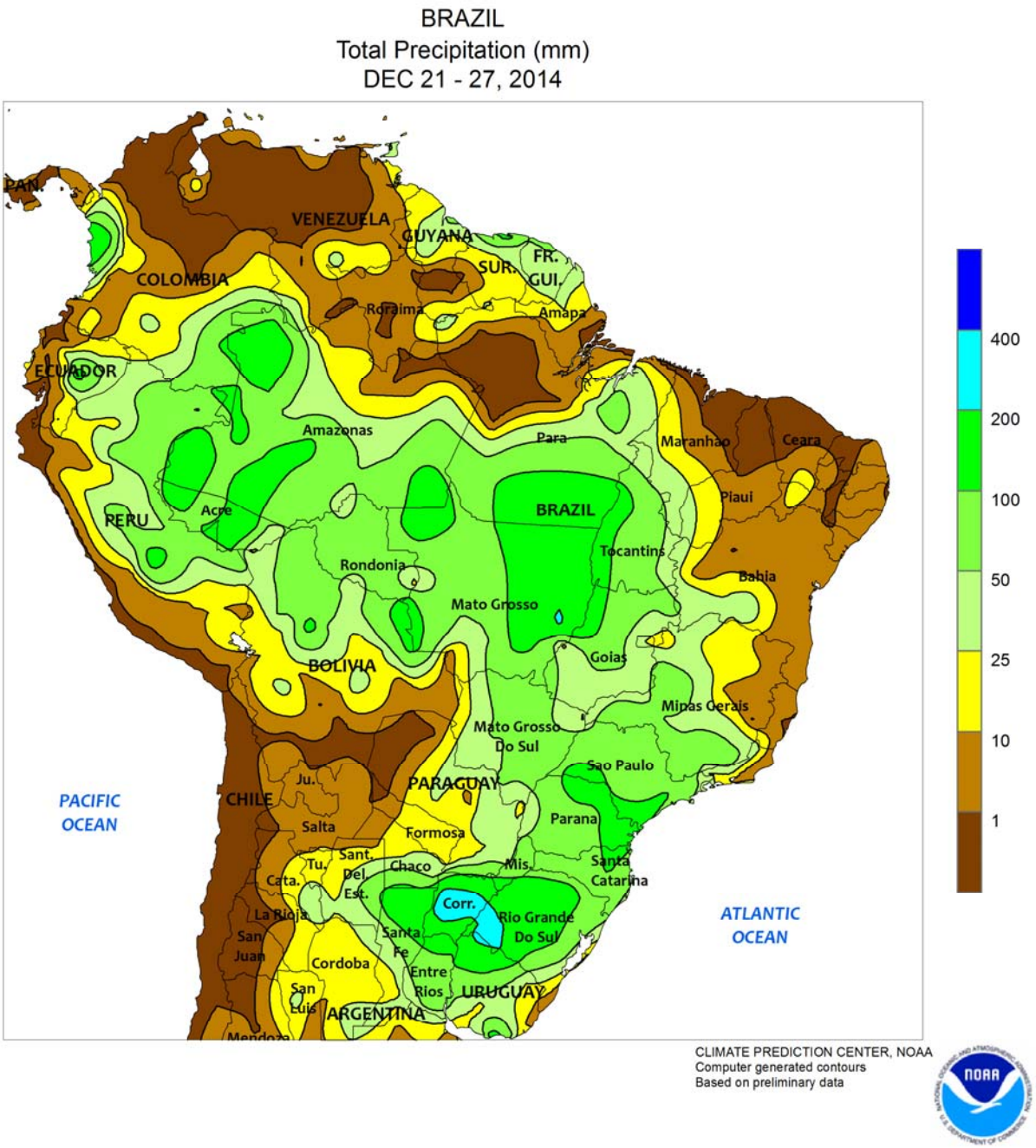

BRAZIL

Widespread, locally heavy rain maintained adequate to abundant levels of moisture for soybeans and other summer row crops. Amounts exceeded 50 mm over a broad area stretching from Mato Grosso southward to Rio Grande do Sul, with pockets of heavier rain (greater than 100 mm) evenly distributed throughout the affected area. The beneficial rainfall extended eastward into southern Minas Gerais, giving a boost in moisture to coffee, sugarcane, and other regionally important crops. In contrast, drier weather developed along the eastern coast, with little to no rain falling from Espirito Santo to the northeastern tip, where sugarcane harvesting was underway. Rainfall also tapered off in soybean and cotton areas extending from western Bahia northward into Maranhao, with amounts totaling less than 25 mm in locations that received more than 100 mm last week. Weekly temperatures averaging near to above normal (daytime highs reaching the middle 30s degrees C) maintained high crop moisture demands in central and southeastern Brazil (Mato Grosso to Sao Paulo and Minas Gerais). Farther south, cooler conditions moved northward from Argentina and Uruguay during the early part of the week, resulting in weekly average temperatures as much as 3°C below normal. By week's end, however, warmer weather (daytime highs reaching the lower and middle 30s) returned, spurring growth of corn and soybeans.

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

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Volume 101

*Regular Features**

Text

National Charts

International Charts (major crop areas)

National Tabulations

International Tabulation

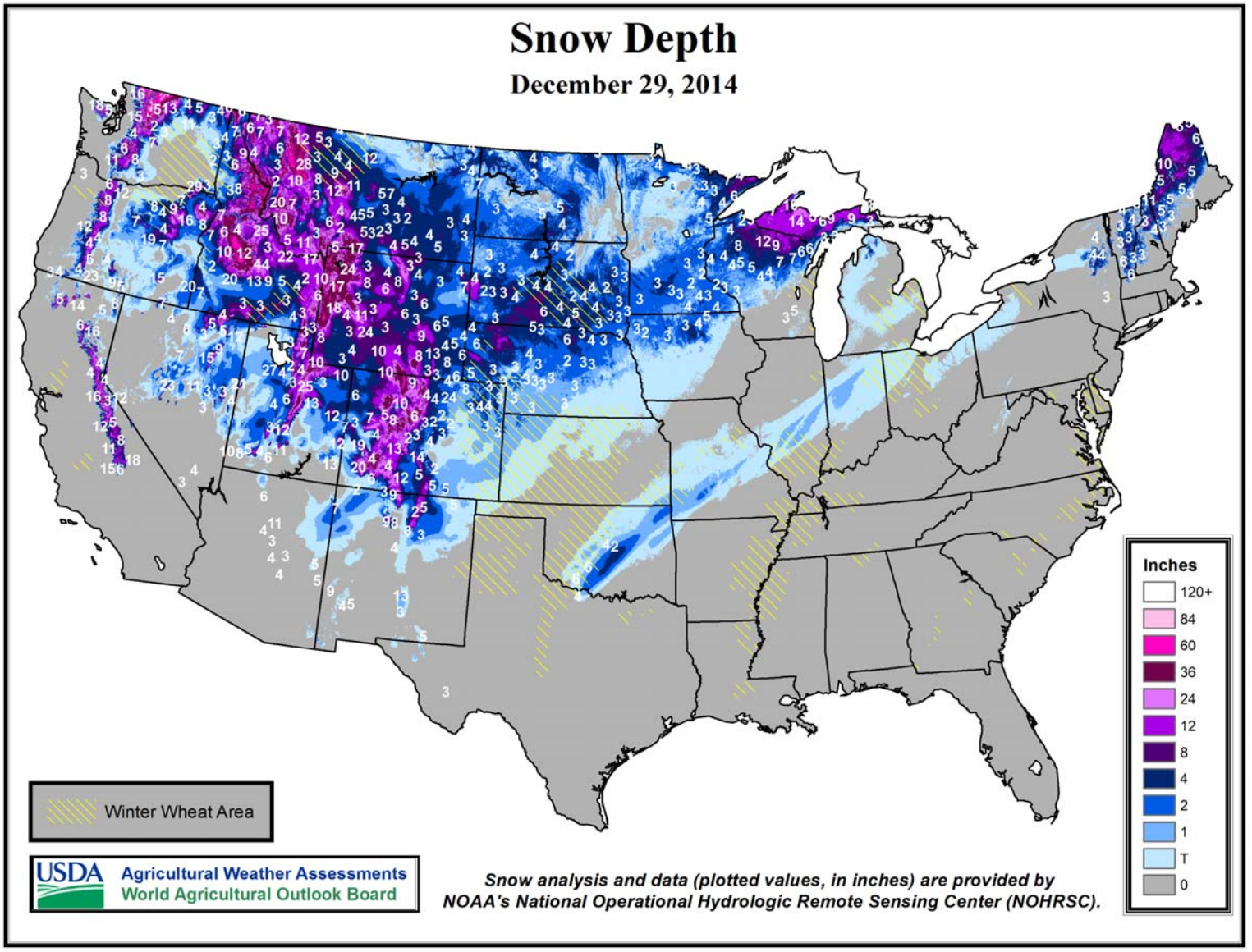
***w** = weekly, **m** = monthly, **s** = seasonal (published every March, June, September, and December for the preceding 3 months)

Special Features

U.S. Satellite Images and Charts/Tabulations:

U.S. Summaries:

International Summaries:



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