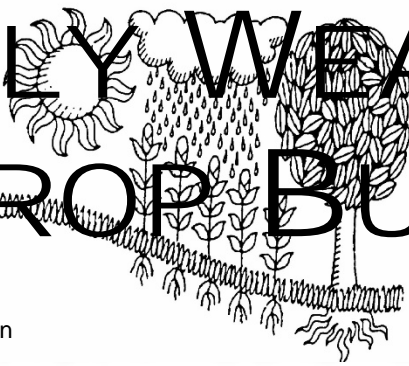
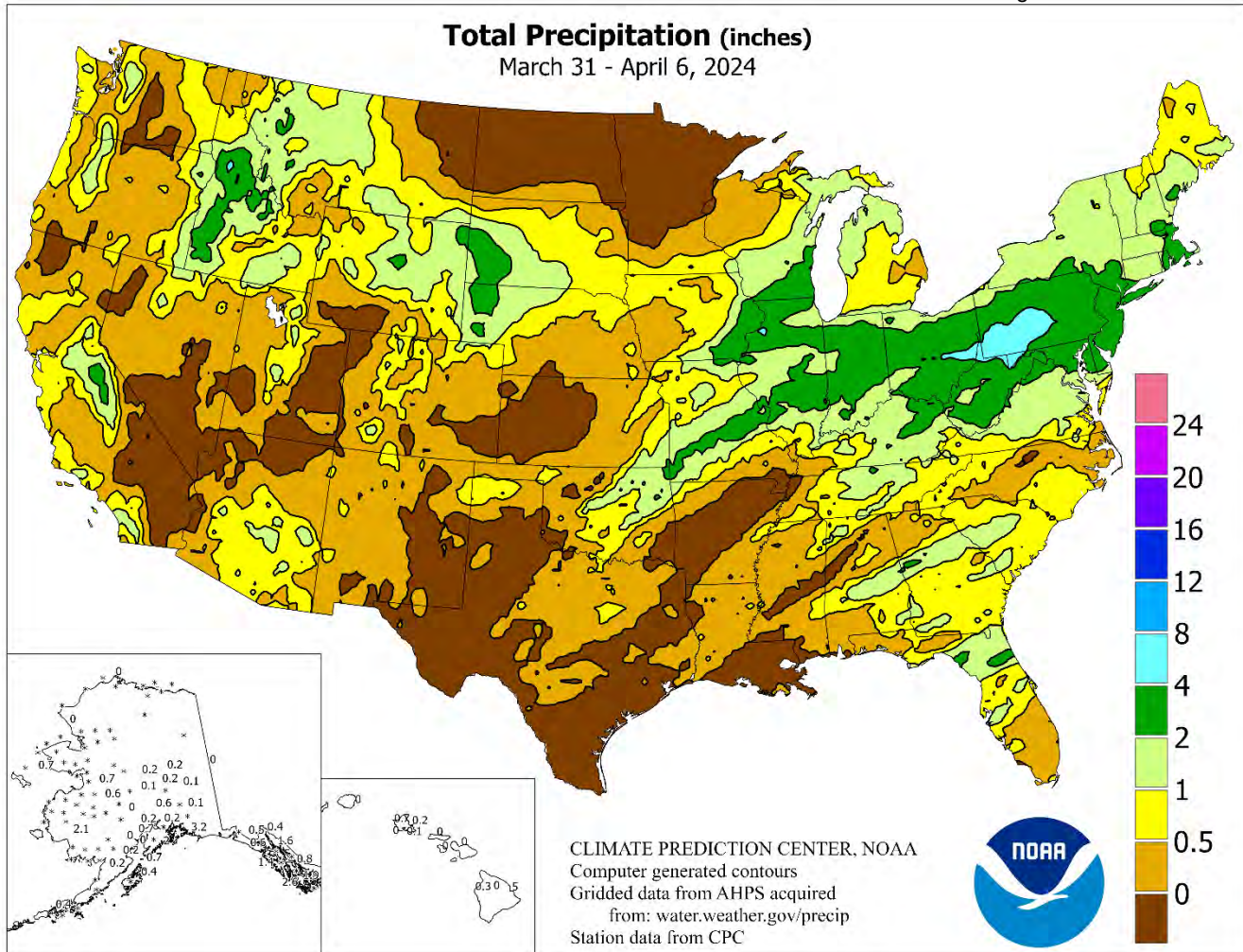


# WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP BULLETIN



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

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



## HIGHLIGHTS

### March 31 – April 6, 2024

Highlights provided by USDA/WAOB

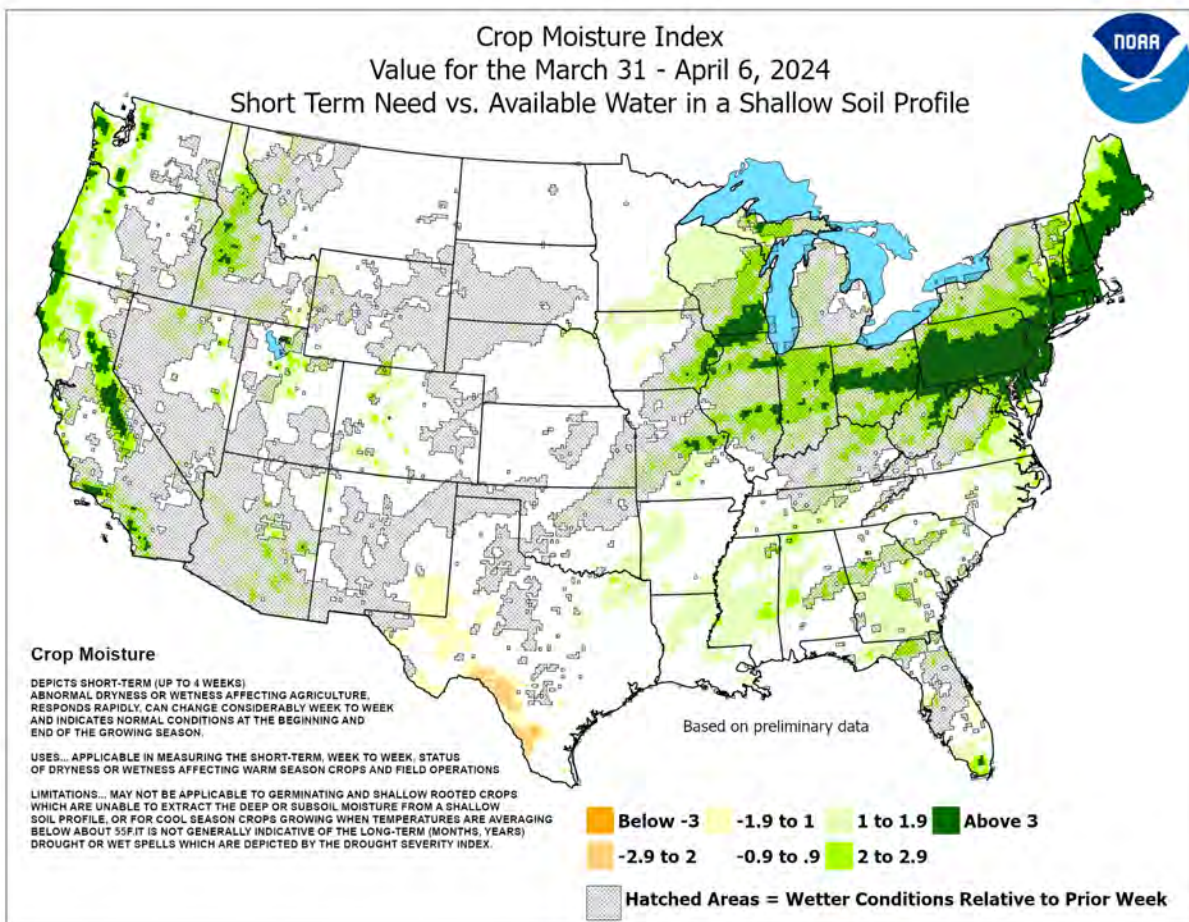
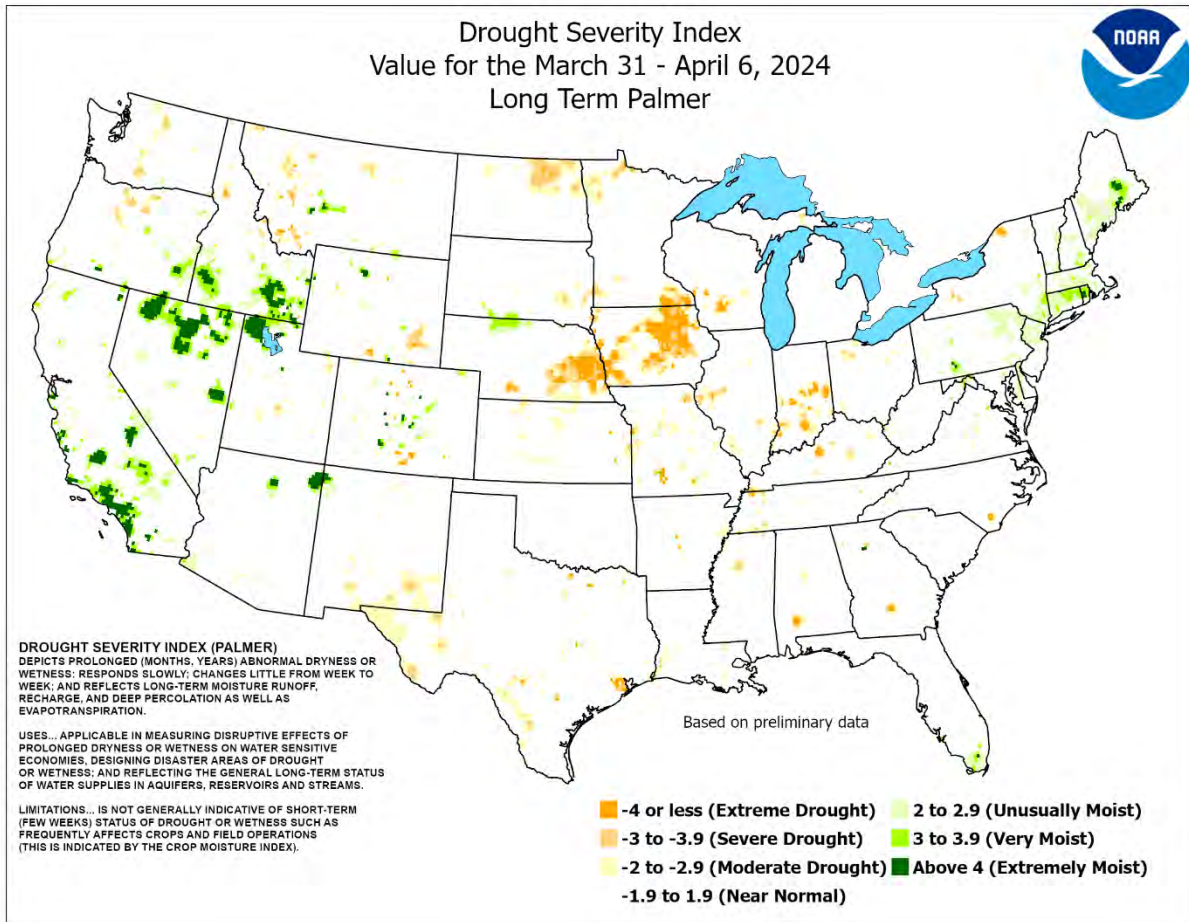
A sprawling, slow-moving storm system emerged from the **West** and crossed the **central Plains** before turning northeastward. Eventually, the low-pressure system drifted from near **Lake Michigan** to the **northern Atlantic Coast**. Weather hazards associated with the storm included an early-April severe weather outbreak in parts of the **South, East, and lower Midwest**; soaking rain from the **Midwest to the mid-Atlantic**; and heavy snow in **northern sections of New York and New England**. The April 1-3 severe weather outbreak included several dozen

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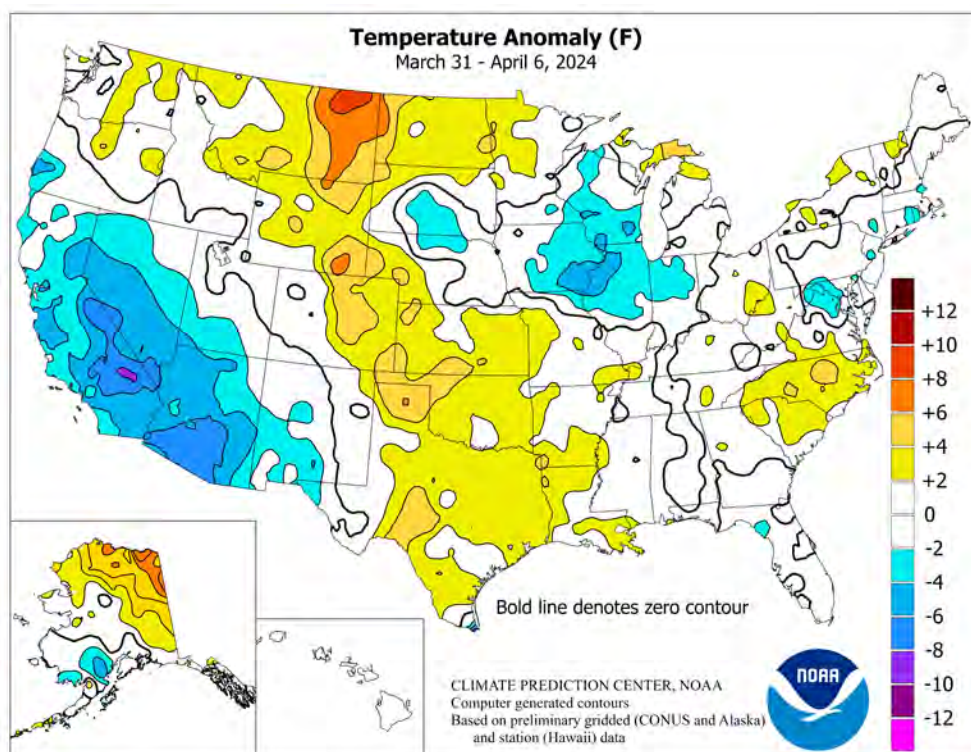


(Continued from front cover)

tornadoes, according to preliminary reports, extending as far north as **Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio**. Meanwhile, storm-total rainfall reached 2 to 4 inches or more in many locations from the **middle Mississippi Valley to the middle Atlantic States**, leading to pre-planting fieldwork delays and pockets of flooding. In contrast, only spotty showers and thunderstorms dotted the **Southeast**, while mostly dry weather prevailed for several days across the **Plains**. Late in the week, however, unsettled weather returned across the **West**, with windy weather and showers reaching the **Plains** by April 6. Elsewhere, late-week snow fell across portions of the **northern Plains**, while high winds raised dust on the **southern Plains**. Weekly temperatures averaged more than 5°F below normal in parts of **central and southern California, the southern Great Basin, and the Desert Southwest**. In contrast, temperatures averaged at least 5°F above normal in scattered locations across the **High Plains**, as well as portions of the **nation's southeastern quadrant, from the southern half of the Plains to the Carolinas**.

As March ended, cool, showery weather covered much of the **West**. Maximum temperatures for March 31 remained below 60°F for the first time on record in **southern California** locations such as **Santa Ana** (high of 57°F) and **Anaheim** (59°F). In advance of the **Western** storminess, warmth covered much of the **South** and parts of the **East**. April 1 featured daily-record highs in **Del Rio, TX** (99°F), and **Elizabeth City, NC** (84°F). By April 3, early-season heat largely retreated into **Florida**, where daily-record highs surged to 93°F in **Fort Lauderdale**; 92°F in **West Palm Beach**; and 91°F in **Vero Beach**. Meanwhile, briefly arrived across **northern California** and the **Northwest**. On April 2, daily-record highs reached 80°F in **Roseburg, OR**, and 77°F in **Mount Shasta, CA**. Warmth spread across the **High Plains** by April 4, when **Glasgow, MT**, posted a daily-record high of 76°F. A day later, **Laramie, WY**, logged a record-setting high (70°F) for April 5. Farther west, the sudden return of unsettled weather suppressed temperatures anew in the **Pacific Coast States**. In **California**, high temperatures for April 4 barely topped the 50-degree mark in **Sacramento** (51°F) and **Marysville** (52°F). On April 5 in **southern California**, **Anaheim** noted another high temperature of just 59°F, while **Big Bear Lake's** high of 29°F followed a 1-inch snowfall. By the morning of April 6, daily-record lows in **southern California** dipped to 11°F at **Big Bear Lake** and 43°F at **Los Angeles International Airport (LAX)**.

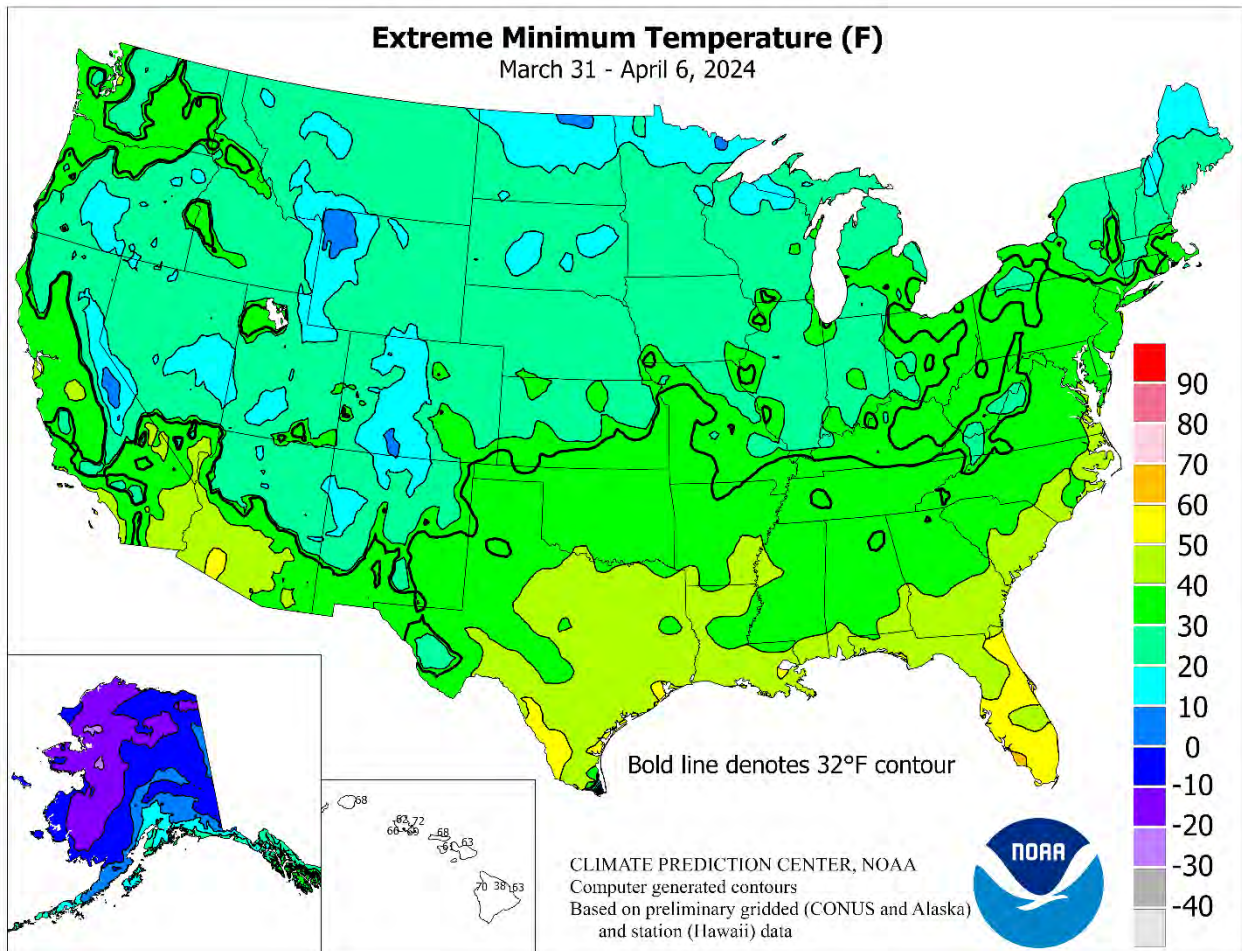
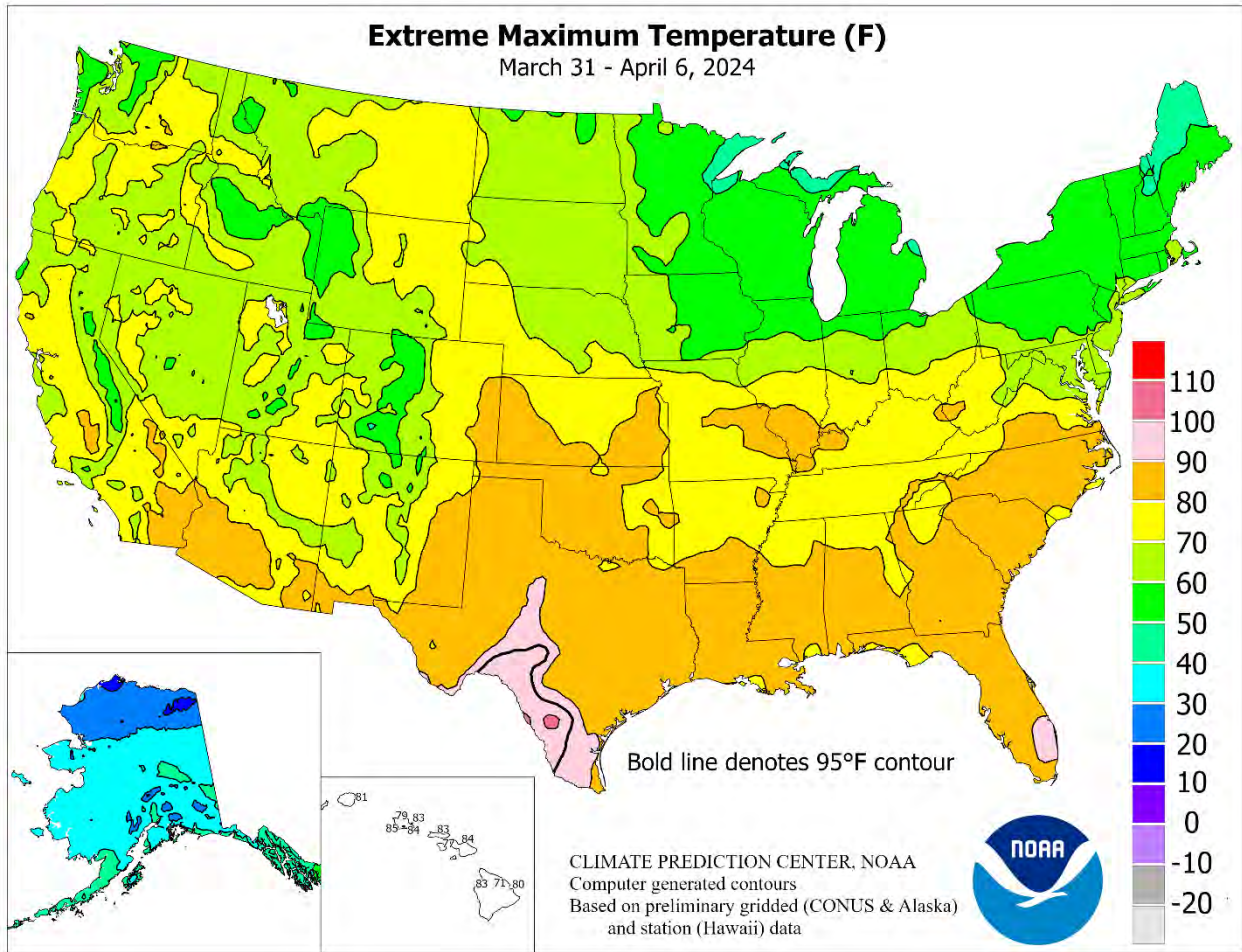
**Southwestern** precipitation was generally heaviest early in the week, when daily-record snowfall totals for March 31 included 7.1 inches in **Flagstaff, AZ**, and 5.7 inches in **Elko, NV**. That capped a month in **Flagstaff** with snowfall totaling 30.2 inches (194 percent of normal), aided by amounts exceeding 6 inches on March 15, 24, and 31. Similarly, **Elko's** March snowfall totaled 14.5 inches (264 percent of normal). Later in the week, additional snow blanketed the **Great Basin**, with April 4-6 totals in **Nevada** reaching 0.5 inch in **Elko**, 3.6 inches in **Ely**, and 10.1 inches in **Winnemucca**. In **Arizona**, **Phoenix** netted a daily-record rainfall (0.50 inch) for March 31, followed the next day by **Douglas'** fourth-wettest April day on record (0.63 inch). Farther north, March 31 featured daily-record precipitation totals in **Idaho** locations such as **Burley** (1.19 inches), **Pocatello** (0.43 inch), and **Idaho Falls** (0.42 inch). As precipitation spread across the **Plains** on April 1, daily-record snowfall totals included 7.7 inches in



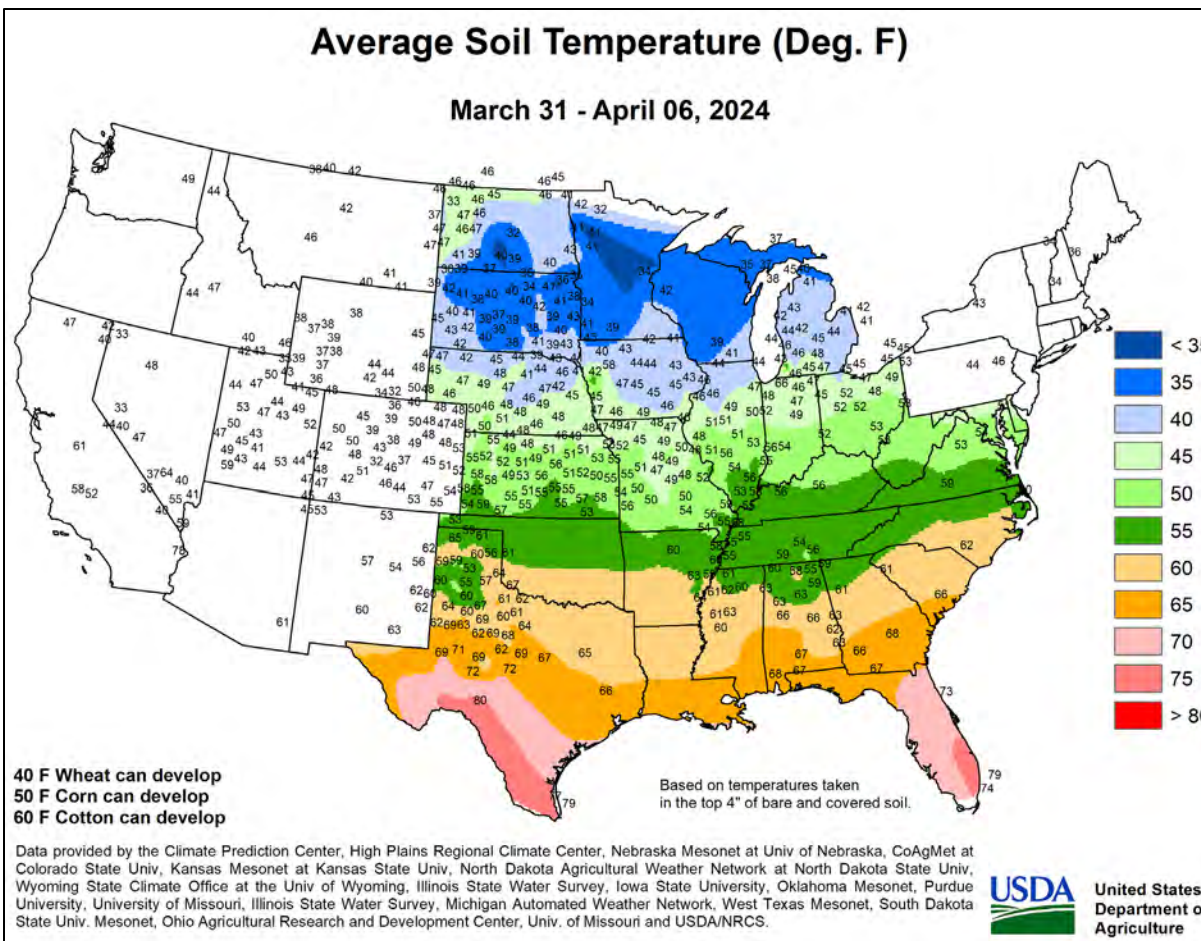
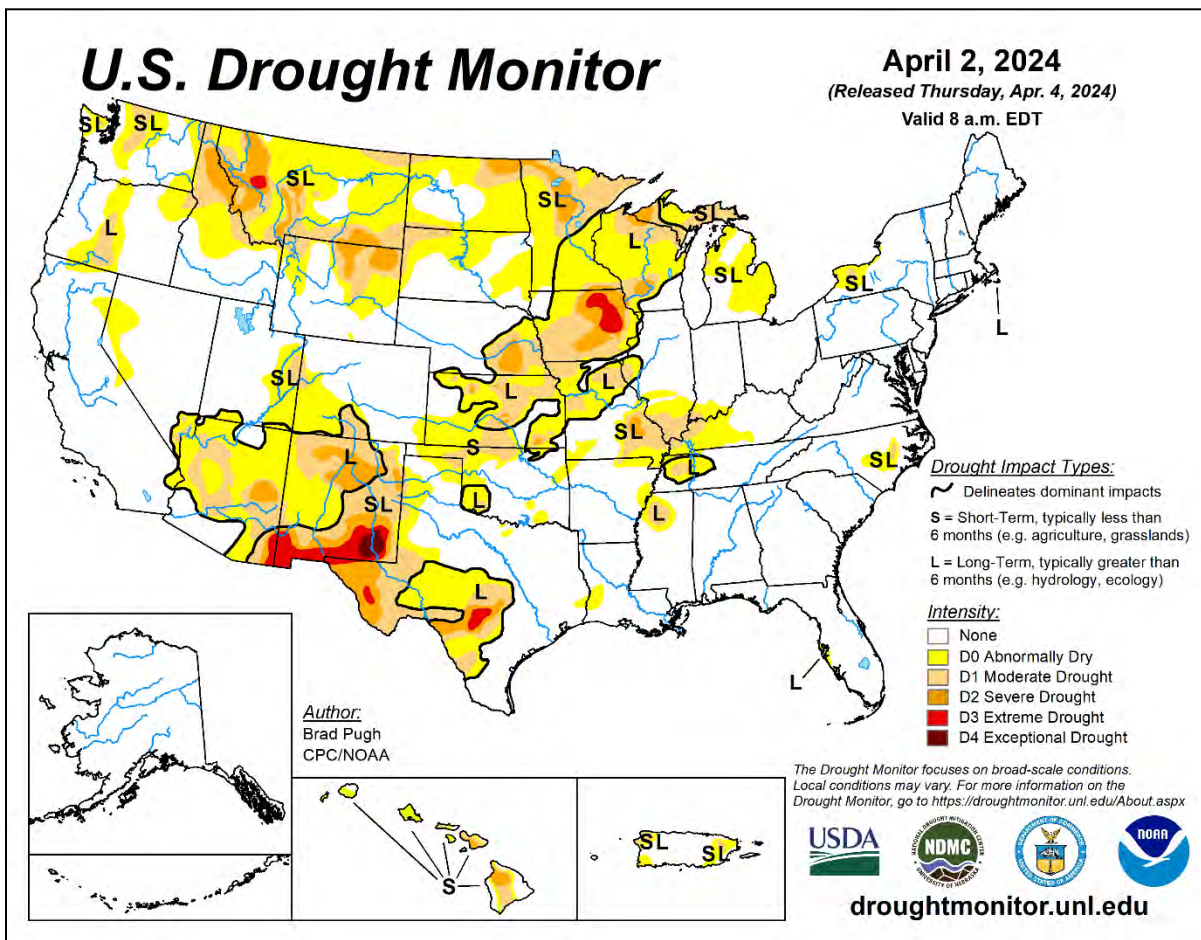
**Valentine, NE**, and 4.3 inches in **Pierre, SD**. Farther east, heavy showers accompanied locally severe thunderstorms, with record-setting rainfall totals for April 1 approaching the 2-inch mark in **St. Louis, MO** (1.96 inches), and **Fort Wayne, IN** (1.81 inches). Even heavier rain fell in some areas on April 2, when daily-record totals reached 2.68 inches in **Pittsburgh, PA**; 2.40 inches in **Wheeling, WV**; and 2.05 inches in **Columbus, OH**. On April 3, both **Elkins, WV**, and **Marquette, MI**, collected daily-record totals of 2.40 inches, with the latter location also receiving a daily-record snowfall (14.0 inches). **Marquette's** April 3-4 snowfall totaled 16.0 inches. In **northern New England**, snowfall records for April 4 included 10.0 inches in **Burlington, VT**, and 9.0 inches in **Bangor, ME**. For **Burlington**, it was the fourth-snowiest April day on record, behind only 13.0 inches on April 9, 1974; 11.3 inches on April 17, 1983; and 14.3 inches on April 9, 2000. During the second half of the week, precipitation returned across the **West**, where daily-record precipitation totals for April 4 topped an inch in **Stockton, CA** (1.07 inches), and **McCall, ID** (1.05 inches). Elsewhere in **Idaho**, **Boise** measured precipitation totaling 1.09 and 1.05 inches, respectively, on April 4 and 5, with 2.1 inches snow falling on the latter date. By April 6, heavy precipitation across the **northern Plains** resulted in daily-record totals in **East Rapid City, SD** (1.60 inches), and **Billings, MT** (0.66 inch, including 4.3 inches of snow). On the same date in **Texas**, southwesterly to westerly wind gusts were clocked to 72 mph in **Borger** and 65 mph in **Lubbock**. A gust to 67 mph was recorded in **Guymon, OK**.

Mostly mild but occasionally stormy weather affected much of **Alaska**. During the first 5 days of April, snowfall totaled 6.9 inches in **Anchorage** and 3.1 inches in **Fairbanks**. On April 3, **Kotzebue** reported snow with a liquid equivalency of 0.46 inch, a record for the date, along with east-southeasterly wind gusts peaking at 54 mph. In **southeastern Alaska**, **Juneau** measured a daily-record rainfall total of 0.77 inch on April 5. Farther south, a strong high-pressure system positioned north of the **Hawaiian Islands** contributed to strong winds. In **Kahului, Maui**, for example, gusts topped 50 mph each day from April 2-4, peaking at 53 mph (from the northeast) on the 2nd. Meanwhile, rain fell in many windward locations, with **Hilo**—on the **Big Island**—receiving 4.97 inches during the first 5 days of April. However, leeward areas remained mostly dry, resulting in further expansion of short-term drought.

















## March Weather Summary

### Weather

*Weather summary provided by USDA/WAOB*

**Highlights:** U.S. winter wheat emerged from dormancy mostly in better shape than last autumn, with decreasing drought coverage and a general lack of cold-season extremes favoring the crop. By March 31, USDA/NASS reported that 56 percent of the nation's winter wheat was rated in good to excellent condition, up from 50 percent on November 26, 2023. Between late November and the end of March, double-digit increases in good-to-excellent ratings were observed in several winter wheat-production states, including Kansas (from 32 to 48 percent), Oregon (from 37 to 71 percent), Michigan (from 46 to 56 percent), Nebraska (from 49 to 65 percent), and Oklahoma (from 53 to 73 percent). According to statistics derived from the *U.S. Drought Monitor*, the percentage of the U.S. winter wheat production area in drought decreased from an autumn 2023 peak of 49 percent to a March minimum of 12 percent.

During the 5-week period from February 27 to April 2, overall drought coverage in the Lower 48 States decreased slightly from 21.59 to 18.01 percent, according to the *U.S. Drought Monitor*. Periodic March storminess across the South, Midwest, and West led to decreases in drought coverage, while worsening conditions were noted in a few areas, including portions of the southern High Plains. An area centered on northwestern Oklahoma received minimal moisture during February and March, with short-term drought impacts being exacerbated by periods of warm, windy weather.

In the upper Midwest, late-March storminess dented a “snow drought” that had left soils relatively dry heading into spring. In a 4-day period, 40 to 50 percent of the season-to-date snowfall occurred in parts of Minnesota and Wisconsin. More broadly, March storms helped to replenish soil moisture across large sections of the Plains and Midwest. Still, by March 31, topsoil moisture—as reported by USDA/NASS—was rated at least 30 percent very short to short in 13 states across the Rockies, Plains, and Midwest, led by New Mexico (81 percent very short to short) and Iowa (59 percent). As a result, fieldwork advanced with few delays, allowing 21 percent of the oats to be planted in Iowa by March 31, along with 12 percent in Nebraska and 10 percent in South Dakota.

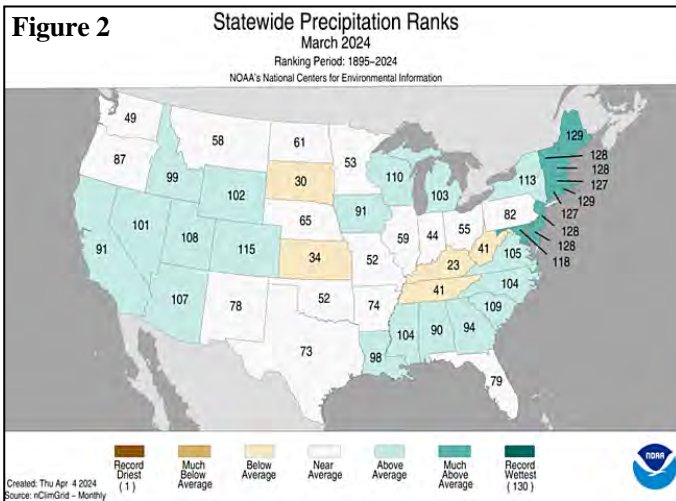
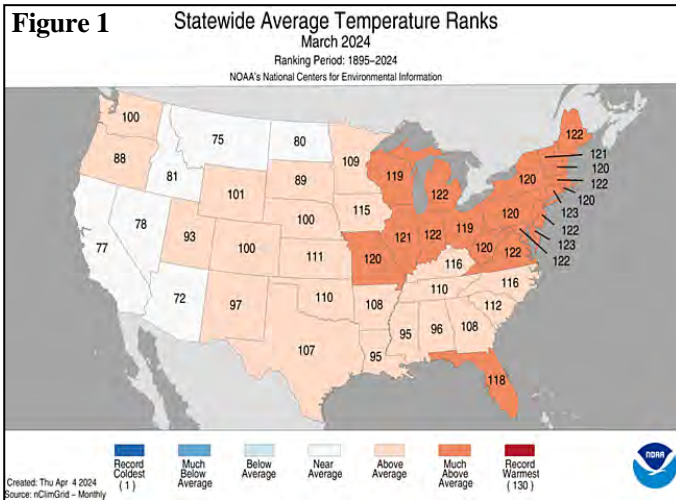
One of the wettest areas during March was the middle and northern Atlantic States. For Atlantic City, New Jersey, it was the wettest March on record, with precipitation totaling

9.85 inches. By March 31, topsoil moisture was rated 100 percent surplus in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Meanwhile, active March weather in the West padded high-elevation snowpack. According to the California Department of Water Resources, the average water equivalency of the Sierra Nevada snowpack reached 29 inches by April 1, about 110 percent of average. In fact, near- or above-average snowpack was reported by April 1 in nearly all drainage basins along and south of a line from Oregon to western and southern Wyoming. In contrast, snow-water equivalency was mostly 75 percent of average or less in much of Montana, Washington, northern Idaho, and northeastern Wyoming.

General warmth across the eastern half of the country contrasted with mostly near- or below-normal temperatures from the Pacific Coast to the High Plains. Continuing a recent theme, the warmest weather—relative to normal—stretched from the Midwest into the Northeast, with monthly temperatures averaging more than 5°F above normal in many locations. In contrast, monthly readings averaged at least 3°F below normal in parts of northern Montana and western North Dakota, propelled by cold outbreaks in early and late March. The strongest surge of cool air into the Southeast peaked on March 19, with hard freezes (28°F or below) reaching as far south as northern Alabama.

**Historical Perspective:** According to preliminary data provided by the National Centers for Environmental Information, the contiguous U.S. experienced its 17th-warmest, 31st-wettest March during the 130-year period of record. The nation's March average temperature of 45.14°F was 3.64°F above the 1901-2000 mean. However, warmer March weather has occurred five times in the last 10 years—in 2015, 2016, 2017, 2020, and 2021. Additionally, the warmest March on record, with an average temperature of 50.41°F, was noted in 2012. Meanwhile, March precipitation across the Lower 48 States averaged 2.85 inches, slightly above the 20th century mean value of 2.51 inches.

Every state ranked in the “warm” half of the March historical distribution. Arizona, with its 59th-warmest March, was the “coolest” state. Top-ten values for March warmth were observed in ten states, all in the nation's northeastern quadrant—Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Vermont, as well as six Atlantic Coast States from Virginia to Maine (figure 1). Meanwhile, state precipitation rankings ranged from the 23rd-driest March in Kentucky to the second-wettest March in Rhode Island and Maine (figure 2). Top-five values for March wetness were also observed in Vermont and five additional Atlantic Coast States from Delaware northward.



**Summary:** As March began, there were separate areas of heavy precipitation in the eastern and western U.S. March 1 featured daily-record rainfall totals exceeding 3 inches in Hattiesburg, MS (3.47 inches), and Charleston, SC (3.04 inches). The following day, record-setting totals for March 2 topped an inch in Atlantic City, NJ (1.77 inches), and Georgetown, DE (1.08 inches). With additional heavy rain (1- to 3-inch daily totals) on March 6, 9, 23, and 28, Atlantic City secured its wettest March on record. March precipitation records were also broken in Maine locations such as Bangor (8.99 inches; previously, 7.36 inches in 1999) and Caribou (5.74 inches; previously, 5.27 inches in 2008). Meanwhile in California, record-setting totals for March 1 topped an inch in Ukiah (1.45 inches) and Merced (1.04 inches). At the Central Sierra Snow Lab (CSSL) in Donner Pass, CA, season-to-date snowfall rose approximately 75 inches during the first 4 days of March to more than 288 inches, up from 213 inches at the end of February.

Additional snow during the remainder of March pushed CSSL's total to 345 inches. On March 1, unofficial gusts in California near the crest of the Sierra Nevada reached 190 mph at Palisades Tahoe, elevation, 8,700 feet, and 184 mph at Alpine Meadows, elevation 8,643 feet. Just to the east, Reno, NV, received 10.6 inches of snow on March 2-3, aided by a daily-record sum of 9.4 inches on the 2nd.

During the first 10 days of March, substantial precipitation fell in most areas east of a line from central Texas to Lake Michigan, with many Southern locations receiving more than 4 inches. In the middle and northern Atlantic States, 2- to 4-inch totals were common, especially in coastal communities. The precipitation, mostly rain, fell on multiple days, with three to four quick-hitting rounds of stormy weather occurring by March 10. In contrast, a drier-than-normal regime dominated the High Plains and upper Midwest in early March. In the Texas Panhandle, tranquil weather favored wildfire containment and recovery efforts. Farther east, heavy showers appeared across southern Florida on March 3, when West Palm Beach measured a daily-record sum. The following day, heavy rain in portions of the Gulf and Atlantic Coast States led to record-setting totals for March 4 at Cape Hatteras, NC (3.75 inches), and Baton Rouge, LA (2.59 inches). Elsewhere in Louisiana, New Orleans noted daily-record totals—1.93 and 1.20 inches, respectively—on March 4 and 8. Farther north, rain in the Great Lakes States resulted in daily-record amounts of 0.99 inch (on March 5) in Alpena, MI, and 0.71 inch (on March 4) in Green Bay, WI. Meanwhile, snow lingered in the West. Boise, ID, received 7.4 inches of snow during the first 5 days of March, aided by a daily-record sum of 3.8 inches on the 5th. Soon, another round of heavy rain swept across the East, leading to record-setting totals for March 6 in Columbia, SC (2.68 inches), Naples, FL (1.12 inches), and Plattsburgh, NY (0.91 inch). As the focus for heavy precipitation shifted to the nation's mid-section, daily-record rainfall amounts for March 7 topped an inch in Dallas-Fort Worth, TX (2.67 inches), and Vichy-Rolla, MO (1.27 inches). A small area of heavy precipitation on the central Plains resulted in the snowiest day on record in North Platte, NE, where 15.3 inches fell on March 7. Previously, North Platte's snowiest day was January 18, 2023, with 13.9 inches, while the snowiest March day was March 21, 1894, with 12.6 inches. North Platte received an additional 2.1 inches of snow on March 8, for a 2-day total of 17.4 inches. Another round of heavy showers swept through the southern and eastern U.S. on March 8-9. For example, record-setting rainfall amounts for March 8 totaled 4.43 inches in Meridian, MS, and 1.41 inches in Tuscaloosa, AL. On March 9, daily-record totals



ranging from 2 to 4 inches were observed in locations such as downtown Charleston, SC (3.63 inches), and Macon, GA (2.19 inches). Near Claxton, GA, the Canoochee River crested late March 10 at 3.29 feet above flood stage. That marked the highest river level in that location since February 20, 2021. Similarly, the Chickasawhay River at Enterprise, MS, rose 7.57 feet above flood stage on March 10, marking the highest crest there since March 7, 2020. Farther north, record-setting totals on March 9 topped an inch as far north as Mount Pocono, PA (1.94 inches), and Albany, NY (1.05 inches). Heavy rain lingered through March 10 in Maine, where daily-record totals included 2.39 inches in Portland and 1.56 inches in Augusta. Windy weather trailed the departing Eastern storminess, with mid-Atlantic wind gusts on March 10 clocked to 58 mph in Roanoke, VA, and 53 mph in Baltimore, MD. The next day, a gust to 55 mph was recorded in Binghamton, NY.

In early March, warmth across the nation's mid-section led to a trio of daily-record highs from March 1-3 in locations such as Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN (59, 63, and 74°F); Eau Claire, WI (57, 59, and 70°F); and Traverse City, MI (54, 56, and 64°F). March 3 featured a high of 80°F in Waterloo, IA—the earliest 80-degree reading in that location by nearly 2 weeks (previously, 82°F on March 16, 2012, and 81°F on March 16, 2015). Daily-record highs of 80°F or higher were observed on the 3rd in locations such as Chanute, KS (84°F); Columbia, MO (83°F); Quincy, IL (82°F); and Ottumwa, IA (80°F). The following day, record-setting high temperatures for March 4 included 85°F in College Station, TX, and 84°F in Greenwood, MS. Palacios, TX, set a monthly record with a high of 89°F on March 5. Elsewhere in Texas on the 5th, daily-record highs surged to 94°F in Corpus Christi, 91°F in Brownsville, and 90°F in College Station. Farther north, Midwestern and Northeastern daily-record highs for March 4 soared to 74°F in Detroit, MI, and 72°F in Buffalo, NY. Buffalo matched that reading on March 5, posting another daily-record high. Later, warmth retreated into the South, where Corpus Christi achieved another daily-record high (92°F) on March 8. Meanwhile, Northwestern conditions were cold enough to result in scattered daily-record lows, including two in a row (21 and 22°F, respectively, on March 6-7) in Olympia, WA. On March 8, Stanley, ID, notched a daily-record low of -20°F. By the 9th, additional daily-record lows in Idaho included 1°F in Idaho Falls and 4°F in Pocatello. The chilly reading in Pocatello came with 5 inches of snow on the ground, following a total of 13.3 inches during the first 6 days of March. In contrast, lingering warmth in Florida led to daily-record highs for March 9 in locations such as Orlando (90°F) and Vero Beach (90°F).

The month's most significant severe-weather outbreak peaked on March 14 from the southeastern Plains into the mid-South and lower Midwest. Based on preliminary reports, the outbreak included as many as three dozen tornadoes, one of which resulted in three fatalities in western Ohio. The deadly tornado in western Ohio was rated EF-3, with the fatalities and some of the most significant damage observed in the Lakeview area of northwestern Logan County. Another EF-3 tornado, with a path length of more than 25 miles, cut across portions of Indiana's Delaware and Randolph Counties on March 14, with winds in Winchester, IN, estimated as high as 165 mph. The tornado, on the ground for at least 36 minutes from 7:37 to 8:13 pm EDT, also resulted in more than three dozen injuries before crossing into Ohio and lifting. On the same day as the tornado outbreak, heavy rain erupted across the mid-South and lower Midwest, with daily-record totals for the 14th in Arkansas topping 3 inches in Little Rock (3.59 inches) and Jacksonville (3.40 inches). Burlington, IA, also collected a record-setting sum for March 14, with 2.63 inches. On March 15, El Dorado, AR, endured its wettest day during March on record, with the daily total of 6.31 inches surpassing the mark of 5.85 inches set on March 28, 1914. Farther west, wet snow developed across the central Rockies and adjacent High Plains. In Colorado, March 13-15 snowfall totaled 12.9 inches in Colorado Springs and 5.7 inches in Denver. On the 14th, as rain changed to snow, Pueblo, CO, experienced its wettest day during March on record, with 1.53 inches (and 2.5 inches of snow). Previously, Pueblo's wettest day during March had been March 18, 1998, with 1.26 inches. Numerous 3- to 5-foot snowfall totals were noted in the Colorado Rockies, with Aspen Springs in Gilpin County receiving 61.5 inches. Meanwhile, Flagstaff, AZ, received snowfall totaling 11.4 inches from March 13-16. As snow blanketed higher elevations of the Southwest, Las Vegas, NV, collected consecutive daily-record rainfall totals of 0.35 and 0.36 inch, respectively, on March 15-16.

In much of the central and eastern U.S., warmth preceded the storminess. March 11 featured a high of 70°F in Fargo, ND—the earliest 70-degree reading in that location (previously, 75°F on March 15, 2015). On the same date, high temperatures surged to 80°F in Sioux City, IA, and Sioux Falls, SD. Those were not the earliest 80-degree readings, but very close, with records remaining March 6, 2017, in Sioux City, and March 7, 2000, in Sioux Falls. Elsewhere on the 11th, daily-record highs included 79°F in Norfolk, NE, and 74°F in Rochester, MN. By March 12, warmth reached the Great Lakes region, where daily-record

highs soared to 72°F in Green Bay, WI, and 70°F in Gaylord, MI. Elsewhere in Michigan, record-setting highs for March 13 included 73°F in Detroit and 72°F in Muskegon. Warmth also briefly shifted into the Northeast, where daily-record highs in New York for March 13 rose to 72°F in Syracuse and 62°F in Watertown. Lingering warmth in the upper Midwest allowed Rochester, MN, to tally a trio of daily-record highs (74, 69, and 68°F) from March 11-13. Eventually, record-setting temperatures retreated into the South. By March 14, daily-record highs included 89°F in Shreveport, LA, and 85°F in Montgomery, AL. With a high of 87°F, Savannah, GA, posted a daily-record high for March 15. Around the same time, unusual warmth appeared in the Northwest, where consecutive daily-record highs occurred on March 15-16 in Washington locations such as Quillayute (73 and 80°F) and Olympia (64 and 74°F). Quillayute's 80-degree reading was also a monthly record, surpassing 79°F on March 20, 2019. Omak, WA, topped the 70-degree mark each day from March 16-19, with daily-record highs reaching 73°F on the 17th and 18th. Daily-record highs soared to 80°F in Roseburg, OR (on March 18), and Pasco, WA (on March 19). Portland, OR, narrowly missed a March record by experiencing 70-degree warmth on 5 consecutive days, starting on the 15th; the record remains 6 days in a row, from March 25-30, 1941. In contrast, cold weather in the East led to freezes deep into Alabama and Mississippi. On March 19 in Alabama, daily-record lows of 28°F were observed in Anniston and Tuscaloosa. The following day, Gainesville, FL (35°F), posted a record-setting low for the 20th.

As the second half of the month began, Southern showers resulted in daily-record rainfall totals in locations such as Lafayette, LA (1.83 inches on March 17), and Key West, FL (2.25 inches on March 19). Meanwhile, Charlotte, NC, set an all-time station record with no measurable snow on 779 consecutive days (January 30, 2022, to March 18, 2024, and continuing). Charlotte's previous longest such streak, 778 days, had been set from January 25, 1991, to March 12, 1993. Meanwhile, a brief spell of, high winds and low humidity levels briefly fanned several fast-moving wildfires in the central Appalachians and environs. On March 20, wind gusts reached 61 mph in Clarksburg, WV, and Front Royal, VA. The largest individual blazes included the 6,399-acre Waterfall Mountain/Shenandoah Forest/211 Fire west of Luray, VA, and the 6,223-acre Waites Run Fire, south of Wardensville, WV. Farther west, snow began to overspread Montana on March 20, when Glasgow reported a daily-record sum of 2.8 inches. At least a trace of snow fell in Glasgow each day from March 20-24, totaling 9.3 inches. By March 24, a stripe of snow across the Great Lakes region

resulted in daily-record totals in Grand Rapids, MI (6.5 inches), and Rockford, IL (5.6 inches). Farther south, heavy showers on March 21 in the western Gulf Coast region produced daily-record totals in Texas locations such as Houston (1.63 inches) and Victoria (1.48 inches). By March 22, heavy rain shifted into southern Florida, where daily-record amounts reached 3.47 inches in West Palm Beach, 2.52 inches in Fort Lauderdale, and 2.34 inches in Miami. With 1.93 inches on the 22nd, Key West secured its second daily-record total in 4 days. The next day, heavy snow developed in northern New England, where record-setting amounts for March 23 included 8.6 inches in Burlington, VT, and 6.1 inches in Bangor, ME. Elsewhere in the East, torrential rain on the 23rd led to the wettest day during March on record in locations such as New York's LaGuardia Airport (3.47 inches; previously, 3.15 inches on March 22, 1977, and March 13, 2010) and Philadelphia, PA (3.09 inches; previously, 2.79 inches on March 15, 1912). Additionally, daily-record rainfall for the 23rd topped 3 inches in New York's Central Park (3.66 inches); Bridgeport, CT (3.31 inches); and Newark, NJ (3.10 inches).

Late in the month, a powerful spring storm delivered widespread precipitation, including upper Midwestern snow. National snow coverage, which had fallen as low as 12 percent (on March 20), increased to nearly 33 percent by March 25. From March 21-24, snowfall totaled 14.3 inches in Eau Claire, WI, and 11.3 inches in Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN. Through March 20, season-to-date snowfall had totaled just 16.4 inches (34 percent of normal) in Eau Claire and 14.3 inches (31 percent) in Minneapolis-St. Paul. A large percentage of the Midwestern spring snow fell on March 24, when daily-record totals included 10.0 inches in Eau Claire and 8.2 inches in Minneapolis-St. Paul. Farther south, daily-record totals for March 24 included 1.52 inches in Wichita Falls, TX; 1.46 inches in Sioux City, IA; and 1.03 inches in Grand Island, NE. The rain in Grand Island was followed by 2.2 inches of snow on March 25-26. By March 25, heavy showers spread into the mid-South, where record-setting rainfall totals reached 3.01 inches in Fort Smith, AR; 2.83 inches in Greenville, MS; and 2.76 inches in West Plains, MO. Soon, precipitation became focused across the East and West. In the Pacific Coast States, daily-record amounts for March 27 included 0.61 inch in Portland, OR; 0.42 inch in Alturas, CA; and 0.33 inch in Ephrata, WA. Meanwhile, heavy rain soaked the Atlantic Seaboard, with precipitation intensity peaking on March 28. On that date, record-setting totals reached 3.06 inches in Norfolk, VA; 1.84 inches in New Bern, NC; 1.83 inches in Salisbury, MD; and 1.63 inches in Islip, NY.

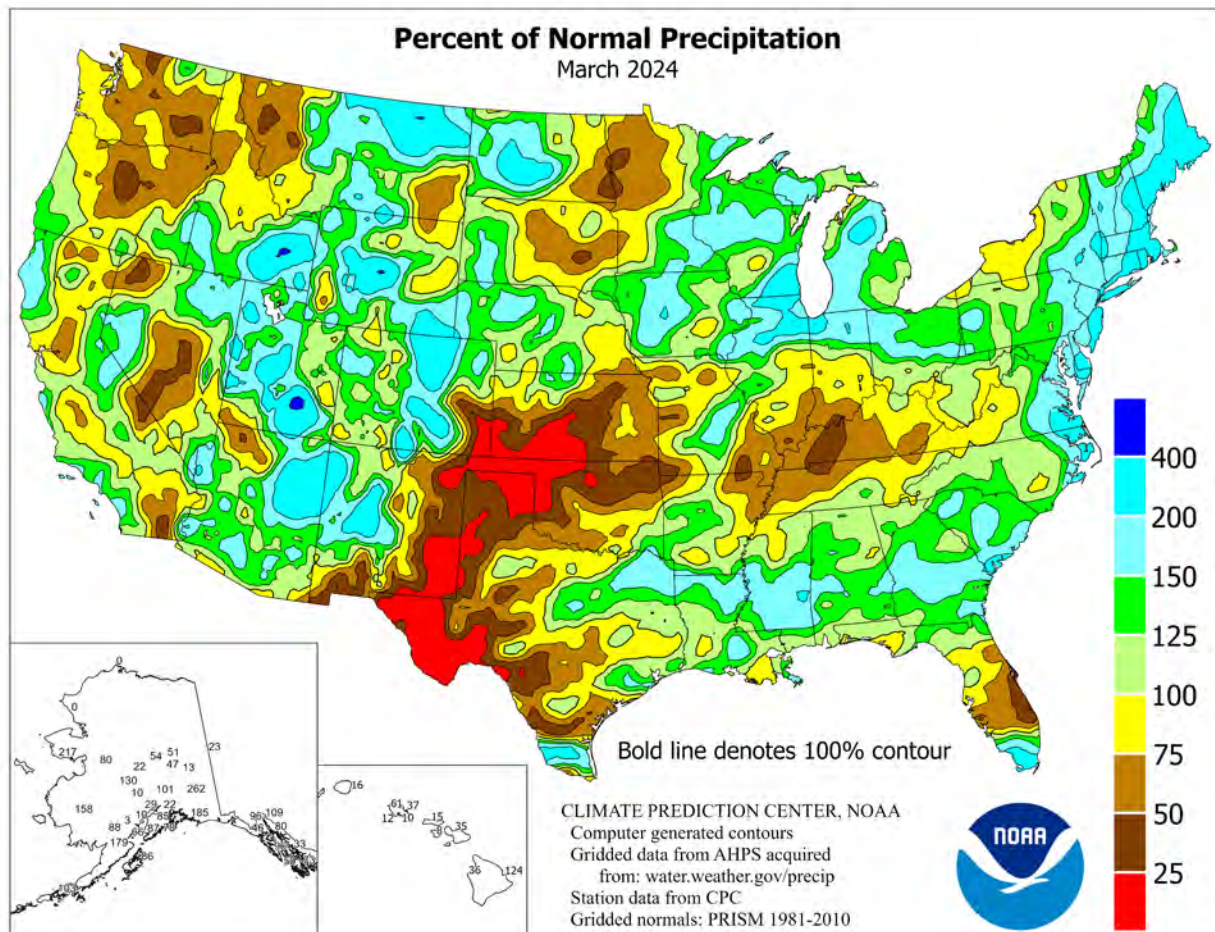
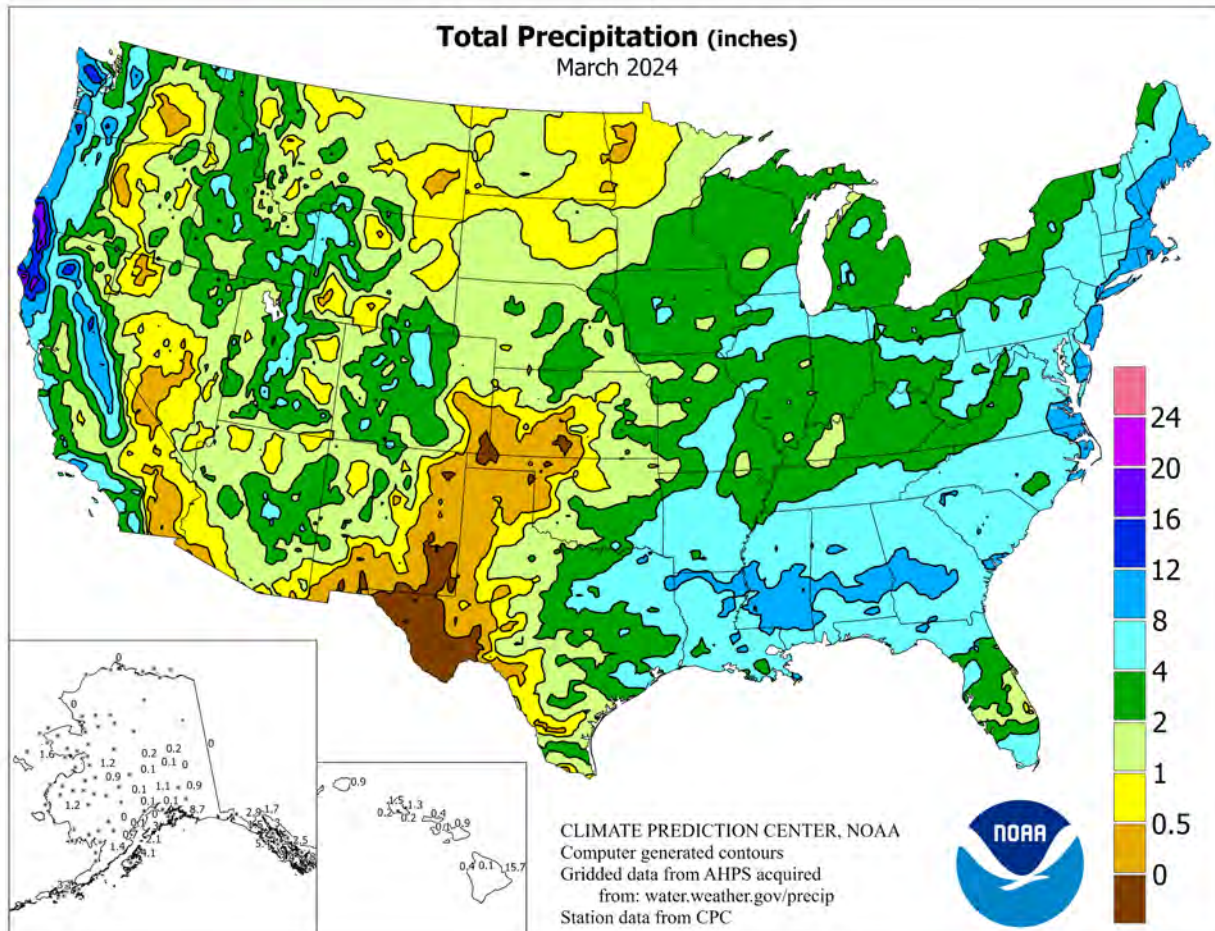


Following the storm's departure, cold air overspread the northern Plains and upper Midwest. Baker, MT, reported consecutive sub-zero readings (-5 and -10°F, respectively) on March 25-26. Following a 3.2-inch snowfall on March 23-24, Pierre, SD, tied a daily record with a low of 4°F on March 27. Similarly, Duluth, MN, received 17.7 inches of snow from March 24-27, followed by a low of 9°F (not a record for the date) on March 29. The 17.7-inch storm total accounted for 47 percent of Duluth's season-to-date snowfall of 37.4 inches. At the end of March, a cold-core storm system moved across southern California, delivering rain, snow, and below-average temperatures. At Big Bear Lake, CA, where at least 5 inches of snow fell, high temperatures peaked at 36 and 34°F, respectively, on March 30-31. The same storm system produced enough rain in central California to cause a major landslide on the Pacific Coast Highway, south of Monterey, on the afternoon of March 30. In various parts of central and southern California, some hillside destabilization had already occurred during the winter of 2022-23 and earlier this year. Heavy rain in southern California led to daily-record totals for the 30th in Long Beach (1.86 inches), downtown Los Angeles (1.73 inches), Sandberg (1.56 inches), San Diego (1.30 inches), and Santa Barbara (1.15 inches). Southwestern snow was locally heavy on March 31, when totals included 7.1 inches in Flagstaff, AZ, and 5.7 inches in Elko, NV. That capped a month in Flagstaff with snowfall totaling 30.2 inches (194 percent of normal), aided by amounts exceeding 6 inches on March 15, 24, and 31. Similarly, Elko's March snowfall totaled 14.5 inches (264 percent of normal).

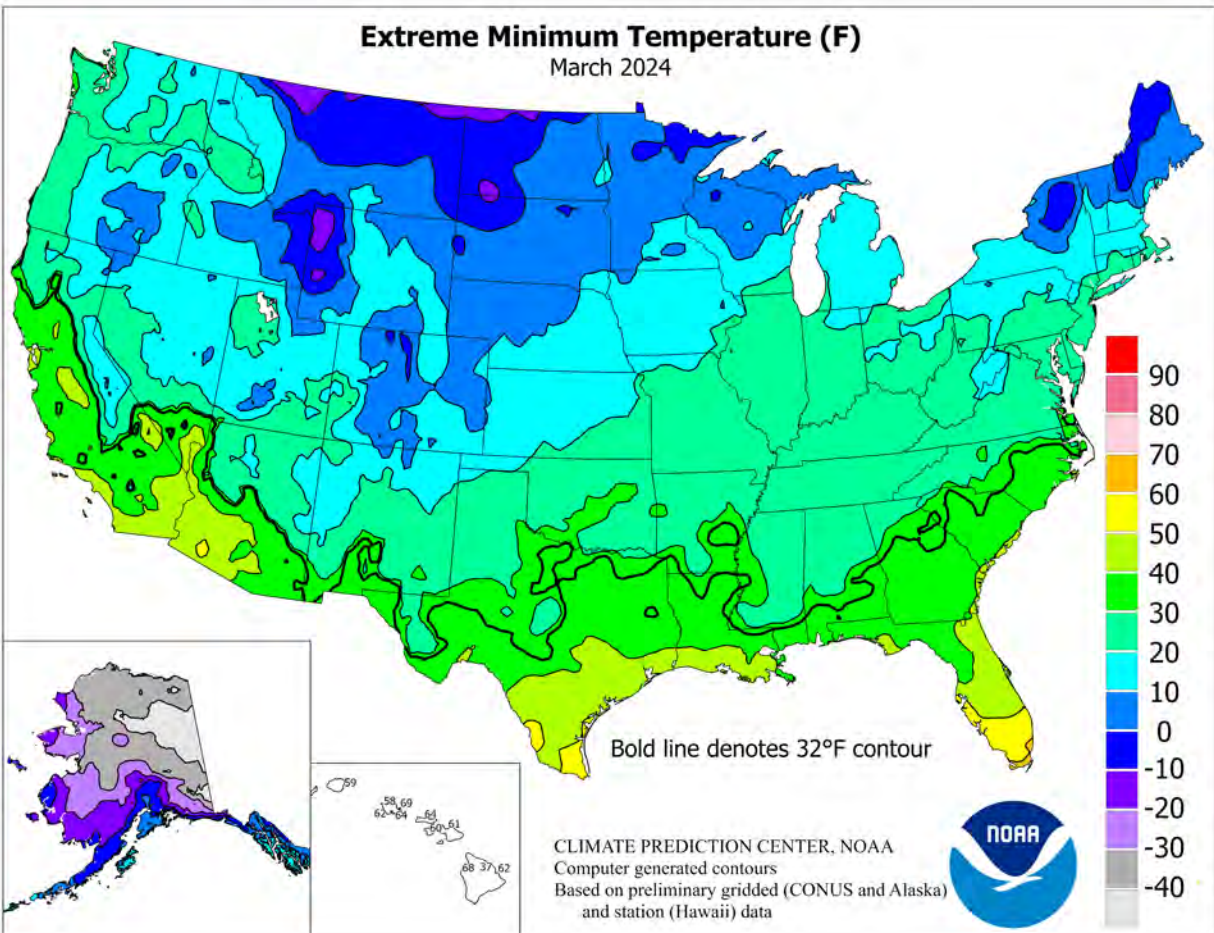
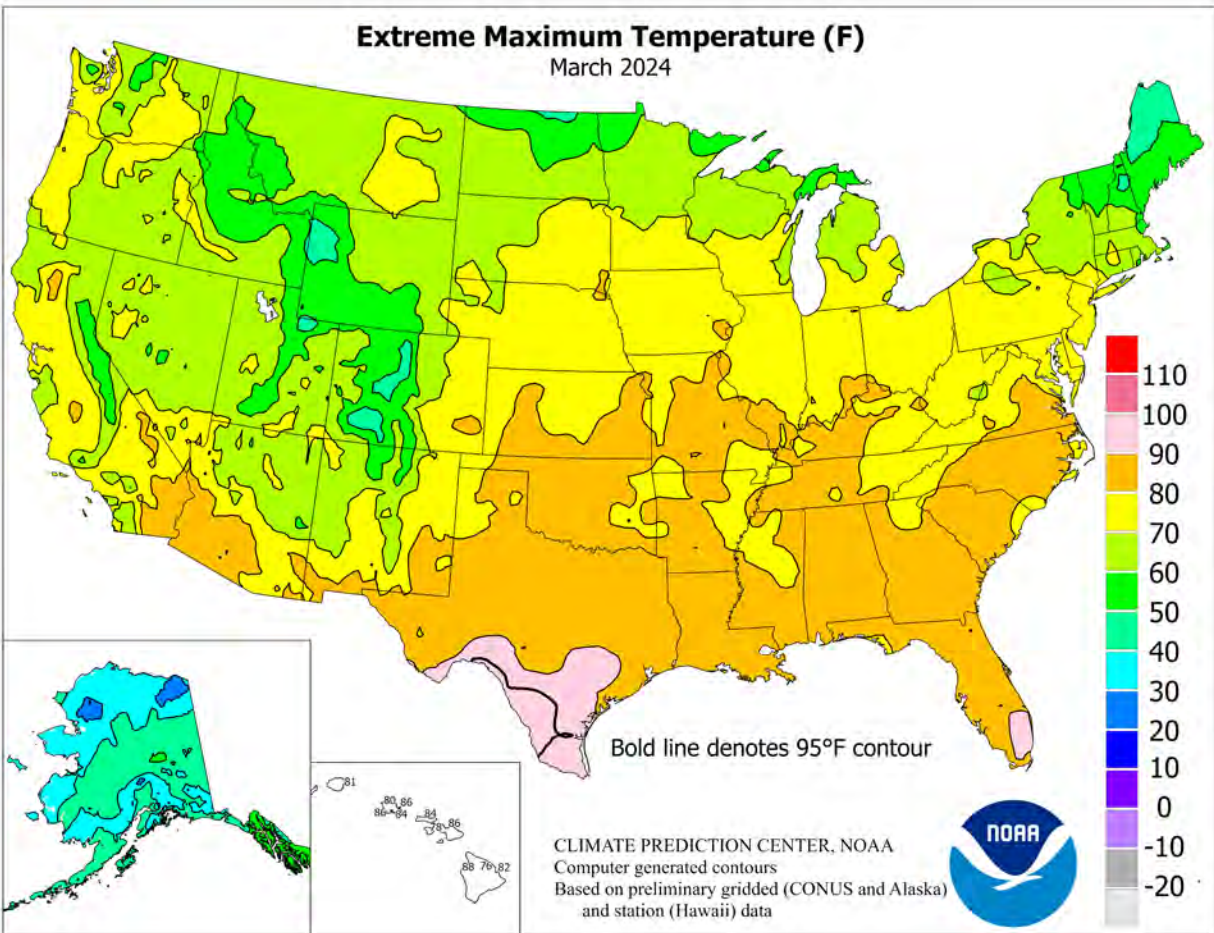
For much of the Alaskan mainland, cold weather during the first half of March was followed by an extended period of mild weather. With the nearly offsetting temperature extremes, some of the state's warmest locations, relative to normal—including Anchorage, Bettles, Fairbanks, McGrath, and Yakutat—experienced March temperatures that averaged 3 to 4°F above normal. As the month began, however, the temperature in Bettles tumbled below -40°F each day from February 28 – March 1, with a minimum reading of -46°F on the 1st. The cold weather also reached southeastern Alaska, where Ketchikan posted a daily-record low of 8°F on March 5. In western Alaska, minimum temperatures in Kotzebue dipped below -10°F each day from March 7-17, with a

reading of -28°F occurring on the 12th. In contrast, sudden warmth in southeastern Alaska led to daily-record highs in Juneau (48°F on March 14) and Ketchikan (56°F on March 16). Prior to the warmth, Ketchikan received the bulk (7.85 of 8.34 inches) of its monthly precipitation in a 10-day period from March 6-15. As the mainland warmed, periods of stormy weather occurred. In western Alaska, daily-record precipitation totals included 0.34 inch (on March 19) in Nome and 0.92 inch (on March 21) in Cold Bay. On March 19, two days prior to that rain event, Cold Bay had clocked a southeasterly wind gust to 80 mph. Late in the month, mostly dry weather prevailed across interior and northern Alaska, although temperatures soared. With a high of 50°F on March 22, Fairbanks posted its first 50-degree reading since September 30, 2023. On the Arctic Coast, Utqiagvik collected consecutive daily-record highs (30 and 28°F, respectively) on March 22-23. By March 24, McGrath logged a daily record-tying high of 47°F, highest reading in that location since September 27, 2023. Although the month ended on a quiet note, March precipitation totaled 1.69 inches (228 percent of normal) in Nome—and ranged from 160 to 180 percent of normal in Kotzebue (0.90 inch), Bethel (1.25 inches), and King Salmon (1.37 inches).

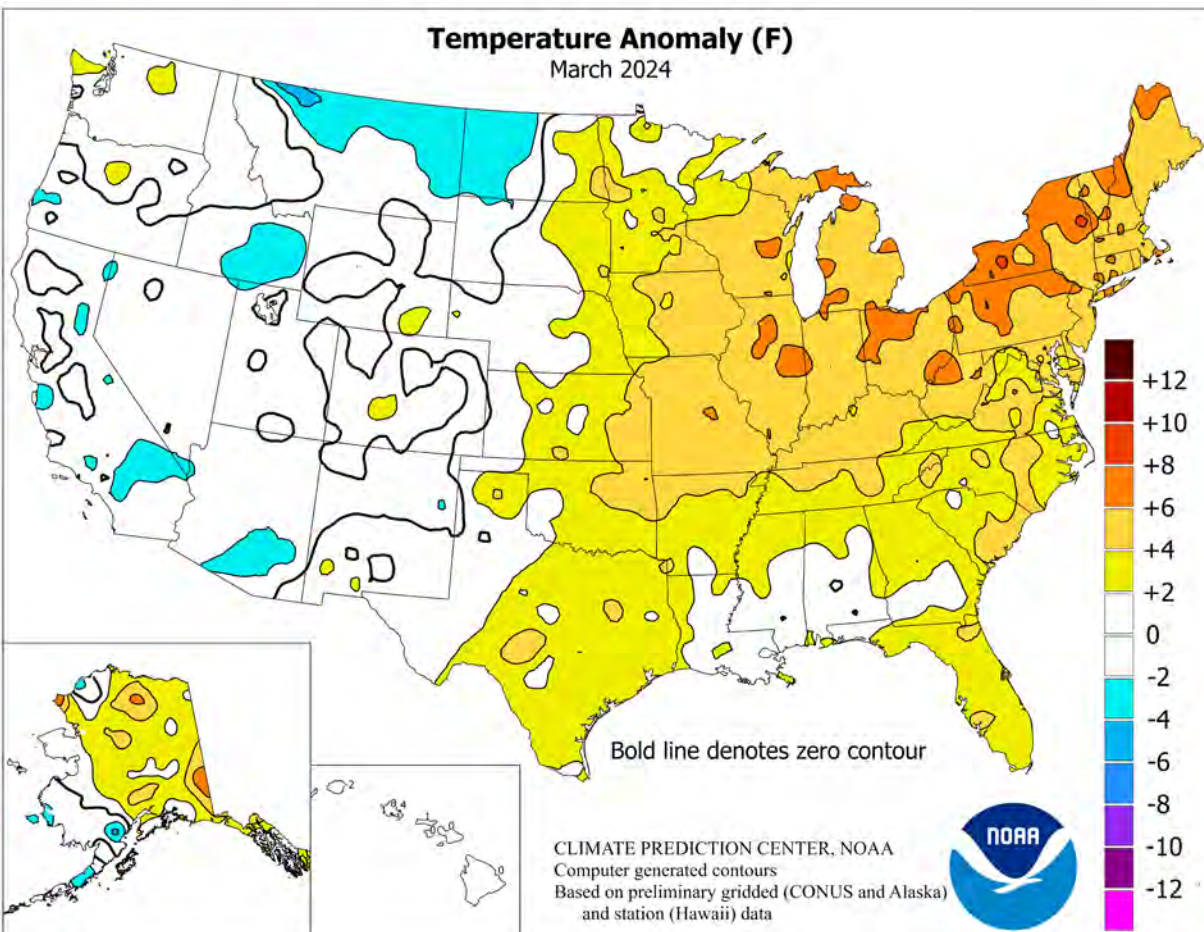
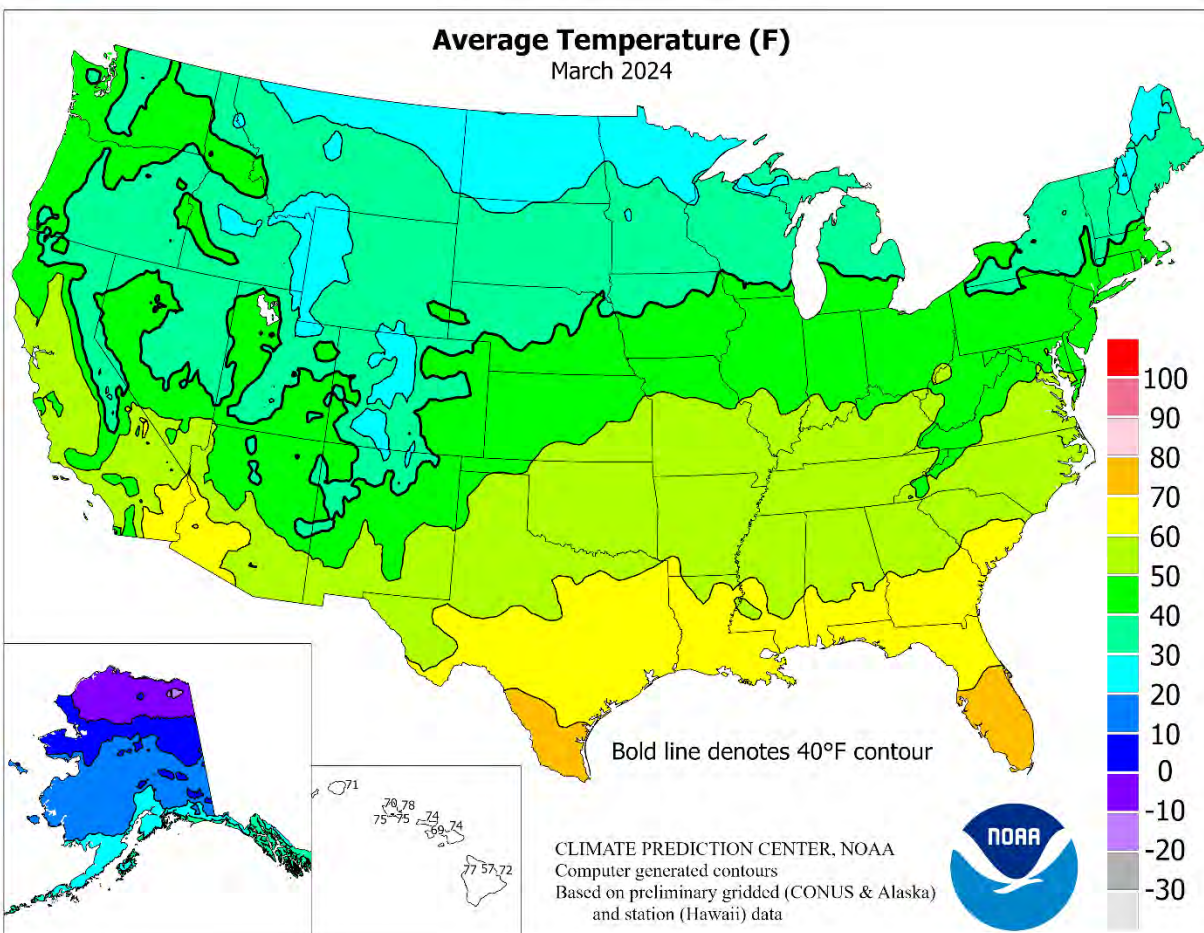
Early in the month, heavy rain fell in windward sections of Hawaii's Big Island, while snow dusted the highest peaks. Hilo, on the Big Island, received at least an inch of rain each day from March 3-7, totaling 9.78 inches. Later, there were some periods of cool Hawaiian weather, although significant rainfall was scarce. On March 15, Kahului's maximum temperature (69°F) stayed below the 70-degree mark for the first time ever in March and for the first time since January 20, 1994. During the second half of the month, Hawaii experienced mostly dry weather. On the strength of the early-March downpours, Hilo's monthly rainfall totaled 15.80 inches (125 percent of normal). At the state's other major airport observation sites, March rainfall ranged from 0.23 inch (10 percent of normal) in Honolulu, Oahu, to 0.93 inch (35 percent) in Kahului, Maui. With a monthly sum of 0.89 inch (16 percent of normal), Lihue, Kauai, completed its driest March since 2008, when just 0.19 inch fell. *U.S. Drought Monitor*-based Hawaiian drought coverage increased from 10.25 to 41.59 percent during the 5-week period ending April 2.











National Weather Data for Selected Cities

March 2024

Data Provided by Climate Prediction Center

| STATES AND STATIONS | TEMP, °F |           | PRECIP. |           | STATES AND STATIONS | TEMP, °F |           | PRECIP. |           | STATES AND STATIONS | TEMP, °F |           | PRECIP. |           |
|---------------------|----------|-----------|---------|-----------|---------------------|----------|-----------|---------|-----------|---------------------|----------|-----------|---------|-----------|
|                     | AVERAGE  | DEPARTURE | TOTAL   | DEPARTURE |                     | AVERAGE  | DEPARTURE | TOTAL   | DEPARTURE |                     | AVERAGE  | DEPARTURE | TOTAL   | DEPARTURE |
| AK ANCHORAGE        | 29       | 3         | 0.59    | -0.10     | WICHITA             | 50       | 3         | 1.61    | -0.68     | TOLEDO              | 44       | 5         | 3.08    | 0.48      |
| BARROW              | -8       | 0         | 0.00    | -0.18     | KY LEXINGTON        | 51       | 5         | 3.12    | -1.36     | YOUNGSTOWN          | 43       | 5         | 3.07    | -0.13     |
| FAIRBANKS           | 15       | 4         | 0.20    | -0.19     | LOUISVILLE          | 53       | 5         | 2.27    | -2.33     | OK OKLAHOMA CITY    | 55       | 3         | 1.67    | -0.89     |
| JUNEAU              | 35       | 2         | 2.95    | -0.72     | PADUCAH             | 54       | 5         | 2.72    | -1.92     | TULSA               | 56       | 4         | 1.07    | -2.03     |
| KODIAK              | 33       | 0         | 4.13    | -0.68     | LA BATON ROUGE      | 65       | 3         | 9.31    | 4.85      | OR ASTORIA          | 47       | 1         | 6.28    | -1.62     |
| NOME                | 12       | 2         | 1.61    | 0.87      | LAKE CHARLES        | 65       | 2         | 4.66    | 0.98      | BURNS               | 38       | -1        | 1.01    | 0.05      |
| AL BIRMINGHAM       | 59       | 3         | 5.06    | -0.60     | NEW ORLEANS         | 66       | 2         | 8.41    | 4.05      | EUGENE              | 47       | 1         | 3.77    | -0.87     |
| HUNTSVILLE          | 57       | 3         | 4.42    | -0.97     | SHREVEPORT          | 63       | 4         | ***     | ***       | MEDFORD             | 48       | -1        | 2.44    | 0.64      |
| MOBILE              | 63       | 2         | 5.37    | -0.07     | MA BOSTON           | 42       | 4         | 8.41    | 4.24      | PENDELTON           | 47       | 2         | 1.02    | -0.31     |
| MONTGOMERY          | 60       | 0         | 7.55    | 2.34      | WORCESTER           | 40       | 5         | 8.57    | 4.38      | PORTLAND            | 50       | 2         | 2.59    | -1.39     |
| AR FORT SMITH       | 58       | 4         | 6.04    | 2.14      | MD BALTIMORE        | 49       | 5         | 5.14    | 1.13      | SALEM               | 47       | -1        | 3.99    | -0.36     |
| LITTLE ROCK         | 59       | 6         | 5.98    | 1.02      | ME CARIBOU          | 31       | 6         | 5.25    | 2.47      | PA ALLENTOWN        | 44       | 4         | 5.04    | 1.41      |
| AZ FLAGSTAFF        | 37       | -1        | 3.03    | 1.15      | PORTLAND            | 38       | 4         | 10.06   | 5.98      | ERIE                | 42       | 6         | 1.90    | -1.19     |
| PHOENIX             | 65       | -1        | 1.15    | 0.33      | MI ALPENA           | 35       | 5         | 2.33    | 0.51      | MIDDLETOWN          | 46       | 4         | 3.96    | 0.27      |
| PRESCOTT            | 46       | -2        | 1.66    | 0.70      | GRAND RAPIDS        | 41       | 5         | 3.49    | 1.10      | PHILADELPHIA        | 48       | 5         | 7.02    | 3.06      |
| TUCSON              | 60       | -2        | 1.24    | 0.69      | HOUGHTON LAKE       | 35       | 5         | 2.40    | 0.72      | PITTSBURGH          | 46       | 7         | 3.13    | -0.02     |
| CA BAKERSFIELD      | 57       | -1        | 1.04    | -0.11     | LANSING             | 40       | 5         | 2.36    | 0.23      | WILKES-BARRE        | 44       | 6         | 4.65    | 1.89      |
| EUREKA              | 48       | -1        | 7.00    | 1.25      | MUSKEGON            | 42       | 6         | 3.52    | 1.12      | WILLIAMSPORT        | 44       | 6         | 3.50    | 0.37      |
| FRESNO              | 58       | 0         | 2.13    | 0.23      | TRAVERSE CITY       | 38       | 6         | 1.73    | 0.17      | RI PROVIDENCE       | 43       | 4         | 11.60   | 6.70      |
| LOS ANGELES         | 57       | -2        | 3.24    | 1.51      | MN DULUTH           | 30       | 3         | 1.67    | 0.21      | SC CHARLESTON       | 64       | 5         | 8.07    | 4.72      |
| REDDING             | 55       | 1         | 4.90    | 0.28      | INT_L FALLS         | 25       | 1         | 1.07    | 0.05      | COLUMBIA            | 59       | 3         | 7.36    | 3.79      |
| SACRAMENTO          | 55       | 0         | 1.63    | -1.06     | MINNEAPOLIS         | 37       | 4         | 2.44    | 0.76      | FLORENCE            | 59       | 3         | 4.62    | 1.43      |
| SAN DIEGO           | 59       | -1        | 2.52    | 1.06      | ROCHESTER           | 37       | 5         | 1.79    | -0.23     | GREENVILLE          | 56       | 3         | 7.07    | 2.59      |
| SAN FRANCISCO       | 56       | 0         | 3.38    | 0.65      | ST. CLOUD           | 34       | 5         | 1.72    | 0.15      | SD ABERDEEN         | 33       | 2         | 0.61    | -0.29     |
| STOCKTON            | 56       | 0         | 1.58    | -0.32     | MO COLUMBIA         | 51       | 5         | 3.18    | 0.20      | HURON               | 35       | 3         | 0.36    | -0.79     |
| CO ALAMOSA          | 36       | 1         | 1.22    | 0.71      | KANSAS CITY         | 49       | 4         | 1.76    | -0.60     | RAPID CITY          | 36       | 0         | 0.75    | -0.16     |
| CO SPRINGS          | 42       | 1         | 1.50    | 0.70      | SAINT LOUIS         | 54       | 7         | 2.09    | -1.40     | SIOUX FALLS         | 38       | 4         | 1.08    | -0.52     |
| DENVER INTL         | 41       | 0         | 1.65    | 0.80      | SPRINGFIELD         | 52       | 5         | 2.28    | -1.24     | TN BRISTOL          | 51       | 4         | 3.55    | -0.41     |
| GRAND JUNCTION      | 46       | 1         | 0.92    | 0.12      | MS JACKSON          | 60       | 3         | 9.57    | 3.89      | CHATTANOOGA         | 57       | 3         | 5.21    | -0.14     |
| PUEBLO              | 44       | 1         | 1.89    | 1.06      | MERIDIAN            | 59       | 1         | 10.73   | 5.07      | KNOXVILLE           | 54       | 4         | 4.21    | -0.69     |
| CT BRIDGEPORT       | 45       | 5         | 10.35   | 6.26      | TUPELO              | 58       | 3         | 3.99    | -1.39     | MEMPHIS             | 57       | 3         | 4.92    | -0.81     |
| HARTFORD            | 44       | 6         | 7.89    | 4.09      | MT BILLINGS         | 37       | -1        | 0.51    | -0.39     | NASHVILLE           | 56       | 5         | 3.83    | -0.69     |
| DC WASHINGTON       | 52       | 4         | 4.60    | 1.10      | BUTTE               | 31       | -1        | 0.85    | 0.21      | TX ABILENE          | 60       | 2         | 1.80    | 0.07      |
| DE WILMINGTON       | 47       | 4         | 7.20    | 3.05      | CUT BANK            | 29       | -2        | 0.26    | -0.11     | AMARILLO            | 51       | 1         | 0.24    | -1.03     |
| FL DAYTONA BEACH    | 69       | 3         | 3.39    | -0.24     | GLASGOW             | 28       | -4        | 0.98    | 0.50      | AUSTIN              | 66       | 3         | 1.31    | -1.57     |
| JACKSONVILLE        | 65       | 3         | 5.00    | 1.71      | GREAT FALLS         | 32       | -3        | 0.71    | 0.03      | BEAUMONT            | 65       | 2         | 3.81    | 0.19      |
| KEY WEST            | 77       | 3         | 4.94    | 3.41      | HAVRE               | 30       | -2        | 0.59    | 0.08      | BROWNSVILLE         | 74       | 2         | 0.65    | -0.80     |
| MIAMI               | 76       | 3         | 4.28    | 1.82      | MISSOULA            | 39       | 1         | 0.56    | -0.37     | CORPUS CHRISTI      | 71       | 3         | 0.84    | -1.44     |
| ORLANDO             | 72       | 4         | 1.12    | -1.91     | NC ASHEVILLE        | 52       | 4         | 5.88    | 2.07      | DEL RIO             | 70       | 4         | 0.07    | -1.11     |
| PENSACOLA           | 63       | 1         | 5.25    | 0.00      | CHARLOTTE           | 56       | 4         | 4.46    | 0.50      | EL PASO             | 60       | 2         | 0.04    | -0.20     |
| TALLAHASSEE         | 65       | 3         | 7.64    | 2.39      | GREENSBORO          | 54       | 3         | 4.48    | 0.77      | FORT WORTH          | 62       | 4         | 5.63    | 2.33      |
| TAMPA               | 71       | 3         | 2.57    | 0.06      | HATTERAS            | 56       | 2         | 10.32   | 5.89      | GALVESTON           | 67       | 1         | 3.02    | 0.00      |
| WEST PALM BEACH     | 74       | 3         | 8.00    | 4.69      | RALEIGH             | 57       | 5         | 4.28    | 0.18      | HOUSTON             | 67       | 3         | 2.19    | -1.29     |
| GA ATHENS           | 57       | 2         | 6.74    | 2.37      | WILMINGTON          | 60       | 5         | 6.22    | 2.26      | LUBBOCK             | 55       | 2         | 0.55    | -0.54     |
| ATLANTA             | 59       | 3         | 7.70    | 3.02      | ND BISMARCK         | 28       | -2        | 0.82    | -0.02     | MIDLAND             | 59       | 0         | 0.59    | -0.09     |
| AUGUSTA             | 58       | 1         | 4.08    | 0.00      | DICKINSON           | 27       | -4        | 0.12    | -0.43     | SAN ANGELO          | 61       | 2         | 0.42    | -1.06     |
| COLUMBUS            | 61       | 2         | 9.43    | 4.51      | FARGO               | 32       | 5         | 0.37    | -0.88     | SAN ANTONIO         | 66       | 3         | 0.90    | -1.41     |
| MACON               | 59       | 1         | 7.63    | 3.32      | GRAND FORKS         | 28       | 3         | 0.18    | -0.74     | VICTORIA            | 67       | 2         | 1.91    | -1.08     |
| SAVANNAH            | 63       | 3         | 3.76    | 0.26      | JAMESTOWN           | 28       | 1         | 0.18    | -0.51     | WACO                | 62       | 3         | 2.81    | -0.50     |
| HI HILO             | 72       | 0         | 15.68   | 3.00      | NE GRAND ISLAND     | 42       | 1         | 1.76    | 0.37      | WICHITA FALLS       | 58       | 3         | 2.01    | -0.01     |
| HONOLULU            | 75       | 1         | 0.24    | -2.12     | LINCOLN             | 44       | 2         | 0.97    | -0.58     | UT SALT LAKE CITY   | 45       | -1        | 2.00    | 0.25      |
| KAHULUI             | 74       | 0         | 0.93    | -1.71     | NORFOLK             | 41       | 3         | 1.56    | 0.11      | VA LYNCHBURG        | 52       | 5         | 4.22    | 0.46      |
| LIHUE               | 71       | -2        | 0.92    | -4.69     | NORTH PLATTE        | 39       | -1        | 1.13    | 0.13      | NORFOLK             | 54       | 3         | 10.26   | 6.57      |
| IA BURLINGTON       | 46       | 5         | 5.56    | 3.13      | OMAHA               | 43       | 2         | 1.96    | 0.17      | RICHMOND            | 53       | 5         | 7.09    | 3.08      |
| CEDAR RAPIDS        | 42       | 6         | 1.63    | -0.36     | SCOTTSBLUFF         | 41       | 1         | 0.81    | -0.18     | ROANOKE             | 54       | 6         | 2.88    | -0.63     |
| DES MOINES          | 45       | 5         | 2.31    | 0.14      | VALENTINE           | 37       | 0         | 0.85    | -0.15     | WASH/DULLES         | 49       | 5         | 3.74    | 0.24      |
| DUBUQUE             | 41       | 6         | 2.72    | 0.46      | NH CONCORD          | 38       | 5         | 5.37    | 2.09      | VT BURLINGTON       | 38       | 5         | 3.91    | 1.66      |
| SIoux CITY          | 40       | 3         | 2.76    | 1.00      | NJ ATLANTIC_CITY    | 47       | 5         | 9.08    | 4.56      | WA OLYMPIA          | 45       | 1         | 4.17    | -1.51     |
| WATERLOO            | 41       | 5         | 2.35    | 0.36      | NEWARK              | 48       | 6         | 6.08    | 1.95      | QUILAYUTE           | 47       | 3         | 9.31    | -2.47     |
| ID BOISE            | 44       | -1        | 2.13    | 0.80      | NM ALBUQUERQUE      | 48       | -1        | 0.28    | -0.18     | SEATTLE-TACOMA      | 47       | 0         | 2.32    | -1.84     |
| LEWISTON            | 46       | 1         | 0.49    | -0.81     | NV ELY              | 35       | -3        | 1.53    | 0.55      | SPOKANE             | 42       | 2         | 0.99    | -0.84     |
| POCATELLO           | 36       | -3        | 3.17    | 1.96      | LAS VEGAS           | 58       | -3        | 0.66    | 0.24      | YAKIMA              | 44       | 1         | 0.58    | -0.06     |
| IL CHICAGO/O_HARE   | 44       | 5         | 3.49    | 1.04      | RENO                | 44       | -2        | 2.29    | 1.49      | WI EAU CLAIRE       | 36       | 5         | 2.63    | 0.66      |
| MOLINE              | 45       | 5         | 3.08    | 0.46      | WINNEMUCCA          | 42       | -1        | 1.30    | 0.43      | GREEN BAY           | 38       | 6         | 2.31    | 0.35      |
| PEORIA              | 47       | 6         | 3.15    | 0.46      | NY ALBANY           | 41       | 5         | 6.30    | 3.21      | LA CROSSE           | 40       | 4         | 1.80    | -0.24     |
| ROCKFORD            | 43       | 5         | 4.52    | 2.13      | BINGHAMTON          | 39       | 7         | 4.49    | 1.44      | MADISON             | 39       | 5         | 3.84    | 1.58      |
| SPRINGFIELD         | 48       | 5         | 3.69    | 0.93      | BUFFALO             | 41       | 7         | 1.68    | -1.21     | MILWAUKEE           | 41       | 4         | 5.57    | 3.37      |
| IN EVANSVILLE       | 52       | 6         | 1.93    | -2.67     | ROCHESTER           | 41       | 6         | 1.65    | -0.85     | WV BECKLEY          | 47       | 4         | 2.95    | -1.08     |
| FORT WAYNE          | 44       | 6         | 4.19    | 1.38      | SYRACUSE            | 41       | 7         | 3.45    | 0.41      | CHARLESTON          | 50       | 5         | 3.40    | -0.74     |
| INDIANAPOLIS        | 48       | 5         | 2.10    | -1.59     | OH AKRON-CANTON     | 42       | 3         | 2.94    | -0.29     | ELKINS              | 46       | 5         | 3.42    | -0.56     |
| SOUTH BEND          | 44       | 7         | 4.39    | 2.04      | CINCINNATI          | 48       | 5         | 2.88    | -1.29     | HUNTINGTON          | 52       | 5         | 3.56    | -0.60     |
| KS CONCORDIA        | 47       | 3         | 0.76    | -0.76     | CLEVELAND           | 44       | 5         | 2.82    | -0.24     | WY CASPER           | 36       | 0         | 0.55    | -0.30     |
| DODGE CITY          | 48       | 3         | 0.25    | -1.10     | COLUMBUS            | 46       | 5         | 2.61    | -1.01     | CHEYENNE            | 38       | 0         | 0.76    | -0.20     |
| GOODLAND            | 42       | 1         | 0.59    | -0.29     | DAYTON              | 47       | 5         | 2.89    | -0.62     | LANDER              | 37       | 1         | 1.37    | 0.09      |
| TOPEKA              | 50       | 4         | 1.03    | -1.22     | MANSFIELD           | 42       | 4         | 3.21    | -0.13     | SHERIDAN            | 37       | 1         | 0.78    | -0.24     |



## National Agricultural Summary

April 1 – 7, 2024

Weekly National Agricultural Summary provided by USDA/NASS

### HIGHLIGHTS

During the week ending April 7, large parts of the Midwest, Northeast, Northern Rockies, and Southwest, as well as parts of the Great Plains, South, and West, received at least twice the normal amount of precipitation. Parts of the Ohio Valley and Pennsylvania recorded 4 inches or more of rain for the week. Much of the Great Basin, Corn Belt, Northeast Coast, and Southwest were cooler than normal for the week ending April 7.

Parts of Arizona, California, Nevada, and New Mexico recorded temperatures 6°F or more below normal. In contrast, most of the Great Plains and Northern Rockies, as well as parts of the Carolinas, Great Lakes, Lower Mississippi Valley, New England, and Oregon, were warmer than normal. Locations in Montana recorded temperatures 10°F or more above normal.

**Corn:** By April 7, producers had planted 3 percent of the Nation's corn crop, equal to last year but 1 percentage point ahead of the 5-year average. Texas was the furthest advanced in planting progress with 59 percent planted.

**Winter Wheat:** By April 7, six percent of the Nation's winter wheat crop was headed, 1 percentage point behind last year but 1 percentage point ahead of the 5-year average. On April 7, fifty-six percent of the 2024 winter wheat crop was reported in good to excellent condition, unchanged from the previous week but 29 percentage points above last year. In Kansas, the largest winter wheat-producing State, 49 percent of the winter wheat crop was rated in good to excellent condition.

**Cotton:** Nationwide, 5 percent of the cotton crop was planted by April 7, equal to the previous year but 1 percentage point behind the 5-year average. Arizona and Texas had the largest percentages of acreage planted, with 16 percent and 8 percent planted, respectively.

**Sorghum:** Thirteen percent of the Nation's sorghum acreage was planted by April 7, equal to last year but 1 percentage point behind the 5-year average. Texas had planted 47 percent of its sorghum acreage by April 7, equal to last year but 1 percentage point behind the 5-year average.

**Rice:** By April 7, producers had seeded 23 percent of the

2024 rice acreage, 2 percentage points ahead of the previous year and 5 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Louisiana and Texas had the largest percentages of acreage planted, with 66 percent and 50 percent planted, respectively. By April 7, eleven percent of the Nation's rice acreage had emerged, 1 percentage point behind last year but 1 percentage point ahead of the 5-year average.

**Small Grains:** Nationally, oat producers had seeded 34 percent of this year's acreage by April 7, seven percentage points ahead of last year and 6 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Twenty-six percent of the Nation's oat acreage was emerged by April 7, one percentage point ahead of the previous year and 3 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average.

Five percent of the Nation's barley crop was planted by April 7, four percentage points ahead of last year but equal to the 5-year average.

By April 7, three percent of the spring wheat crop was seeded, 2 percentage points ahead of last year but equal to the 5-year average.

**Other Crops:** By April 7, two percent of the sugarbeet crop was planted, 2 percentage points ahead of last year but 2 percentage points behind the 5-year average.

**Crop Progress and Condition**

**Week Ending April 7, 2024**

Weekly U.S. Progress and Condition Data provided by USDA/NASS

| Corn Percent Planted                                     |           |           |            |          |
|--|-----------|-----------|------------|----------|
|  | Prev Year | Prev Week | Apr 7 2024 | 5-Yr Avg |
| CO   | 0         | 0         | 0          | 0        |
| IL   | 1         | 1         | 2          | 1        |
| IN   | 0         | 0         | 0          | 0        |
| IA   | 0         | 0         | 0          | 0        |
| KS   | 5         | 2         | 4          | 3        |
| KY   | 4         | 2         | 5          | 3        |
| MI   | 0         | 0         | 0          | 0        |
| MN   | 0         | 0         | 0          | 0        |
| MO   | 5         | 2         | 7          | 3        |
| NE   | 0         | 0         | 0          | 0        |
| NC   | 9         | 0         | 8          | 9        |
| ND   | 0         | 0         | 0          | 0        |
| OH   | 0         | 0         | 0          | 0        |
| PA   | 0         | 0         | 0          | 0        |
| SD   | 0         | 0         | 0          | 0        |
| TN   | 4         | 2         | 7          | 5        |
| TX   | 60        | 57        | 59         | 57       |
| WI   | 0         | 0         | 0          | 0        |
| <b>18 Sts</b>  | <b>3</b>  | <b>2</b>  | <b>3</b>   | <b>2</b> |
| These 18 States planted 92% of last year's corn acreage. |           |           |            |          |

| Sorghum Percent Planted                                     |           |           |            |           |
|---|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|
|   | Prev Year | Prev Week | Apr 7 2024 | 5-Yr Avg  |
| CO  | 0         | 0         | 0          | 0         |
| KS  | 0         | 0         | 0          | 0         |
| NE  | 0         | 0         | 0          | 0         |
| OK  | 0         | 0         | 0          | 0         |
| SD  | 0         | 0         | 0          | 0         |
| TX  | 47        | 42        | 47         | 48        |
| <b>6 Sts</b>  | <b>13</b> | <b>11</b> | <b>13</b>  | <b>14</b> |
| These 6 States planted 100% of last year's sorghum acreage. |           |           |            |           |

| Cotton Percent Planted                                     |           |           |            |          |
|--|-----------|-----------|------------|----------|
|  | Prev Year | Prev Week | Apr 7 2024 | 5-Yr Avg |
| AL   | 0         | 0         | 0          | 0        |
| AZ   | 11        | 6         | 16         | 23       |
| AR   | 0         | 0         | 0          | 0        |
| CA   | 0         | 0         | 0          | 6        |
| GA   | 0         | 0         | 0          | 0        |
| KS   | 0         | 0         | 0          | 0        |
| LA   | 1         | 0         | 0          | 1        |
| MS   | 0         | 0         | 0          | 0        |
| MO   | 0         | 0         | 0          | 0        |
| NC   | 0         | 0         | 0          | 0        |
| OK   | 0         | 0         | 0          | 0        |
| SC   | 0         | 0         | 0          | 0        |
| TN   | 0         | 0         | 0          | 0        |
| TX   | 10        | 5         | 8          | 10       |
| VA   | 0         | 0         | 0          | 0        |
| <b>15 Sts</b>  | <b>5</b>  | <b>3</b>  | <b>5</b>   | <b>6</b> |
| These 15 States planted 99% of last year's cotton acreage. |           |           |            |          |

| Sugarbeets Percent Planted                                   |           |           |            |          |
|--|-----------|-----------|------------|----------|
|  | Prev Year | Prev Week | Apr 7 2024 | 5-Yr Avg |
| ID   | 2         | 3         | 12         | 21       |
| MI   | 0         | 0         | 0          | 6        |
| MN   | 0         | 0         | 0          | 0        |
| ND   | 0         | 0         | 0          | 0        |
| <b>4 Sts</b>   | <b>0</b>  | <b>1</b>  | <b>2</b>   | <b>4</b> |
| These 4 States planted 86% of last year's sugarbeet acreage. |           |           |            |          |

| Rice Percent Planted                                     |           |           |            |           |
|--|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|
|  | Prev Year | Prev Week | Apr 7 2024 | 5-Yr Avg  |
| AR   | 10        | 3         | 13         | 7         |
| CA   | 0         | 0         | 0          | 0         |
| LA   | 72        | 51        | 66         | 67        |
| MS   | 6         | 1         | 14         | 8         |
| MO   | 1         | 0         | 14         | 2         |
| TX   | 45        | 32        | 50         | 55        |
| <b>6 Sts</b>   | <b>21</b> | <b>12</b> | <b>23</b>  | <b>18</b> |
| These 6 States planted 100% of last year's rice acreage. |           |           |            |           |

| Rice Percent Emerged                                     |           |           |            |           |
|--|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|
|  | Prev Year | Prev Week | Apr 7 2024 | 5-Yr Avg  |
| AR   | 1         | 0         | 1          | 0         |
| CA   | 0         | 0         | 0          | 0         |
| LA   | 59        | 38        | 50         | 48        |
| MS   | 0         | 0         | 0          | 1         |
| MO   | 0         | 0         | 0          | 0         |
| TX   | 24        | 14        | 27         | 29        |
| <b>6 Sts</b>   | <b>12</b> | <b>7</b>  | <b>11</b>  | <b>10</b> |
| These 6 States planted 100% of last year's rice acreage. |           |           |            |           |

**Crop Progress and Condition**

**Week Ending April 7, 2024**

Weekly U.S. Progress and Condition Data provided by USDA/NASS

| Winter Wheat Percent Headed                                      |           |           |            |          |
|--|-----------|-----------|------------|----------|
|  | Prev Year | Prev Week | Apr 7 2024 | 5-Yr Avg |
| AR   | 8         | 10        | 16         | 8        |
| CA   | 41        | 20        | 40         | 18       |
| CO   | 0         | 0         | 0          | 0        |
| ID   | 0         | 0         | 0          | 0        |
| IL   | 1         | 0         | 2          | 1        |
| IN   | 0         | 0         | 0          | 0        |
| KS   | 0         | 0         | 0          | 0        |
| MI   | 0         | 0         | 0          | 0        |
| MO   | 0         | 0         | 2          | 0        |
| MT   | 0         | 0         | 0          | 0        |
| NE   | 0         | 0         | 0          | 0        |
| NC   | 13        | 0         | 5          | 6        |
| OH   | 0         | 0         | 0          | 0        |
| OK   | 1         | 0         | 0          | 1        |
| OR   | 0         | 0         | 0          | 0        |
| SD   | 0         | 0         | 0          | 0        |
| TX   | 30        | 20        | 27         | 25       |
| WA   | 0         | 0         | 0          | 0        |
| 18 Sts   | 7         | 4         | 6          | 5        |
| These 18 States planted 89% of last year's winter wheat acreage. |           |           |            |          |

| Winter Wheat Condition by Percent |    |    |    |    |    |
|-----------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|
|                                   | VP | P  | F  | G  | EX |
| AR                                | 1  | 2  | 36 | 53 | 8  |
| CA                                | 0  | 0  | 5  | 25 | 70 |
| CO                                | 8  | 13 | 26 | 46 | 7  |
| ID                                | 0  | 7  | 30 | 62 | 1  |
| IL                                | 4  | 9  | 22 | 53 | 12 |
| IN                                | 1  | 3  | 22 | 62 | 12 |
| KS                                | 4  | 10 | 37 | 42 | 7  |
| MI                                | 0  | 6  | 32 | 46 | 16 |
| MO                                | 0  | 1  | 23 | 64 | 12 |
| MT                                | 1  | 4  | 32 | 59 | 4  |
| NE                                | 2  | 4  | 26 | 56 | 12 |
| NC                                | 0  | 2  | 21 | 72 | 5  |
| OH                                | 1  | 2  | 30 | 54 | 13 |
| OK                                | 2  | 6  | 24 | 61 | 7  |
| OR                                | 2  | 4  | 21 | 64 | 9  |
| SD                                | 2  | 6  | 32 | 56 | 4  |
| TX                                | 8  | 12 | 36 | 36 | 8  |
| WA                                | 3  | 7  | 46 | 40 | 4  |
| 18 Sts                            | 4  | 8  | 32 | 48 | 8  |
| Prev Wk                           | 4  | 7  | 33 | 49 | 7  |
| Prev Yr                           | 17 | 20 | 36 | 24 | 3  |

| Oats Percent Planted                                   |           |           |            |          |
|--|-----------|-----------|------------|----------|
|  | Prev Year | Prev Week | Apr 7 2024 | 5-Yr Avg |
| IA   | 10        | 21        | 32         | 12       |
| MN   | 0         | 6         | 9          | 2        |
| NE   | 17        | 12        | 31         | 21       |
| ND   | 0         | 0         | 0          | 0        |
| OH   | 5         | 1         | 7          | 12       |
| PA   | 15        | 1         | 5          | 13       |
| SD   | 1         | 10        | 17         | 5        |
| TX   | 100       | 100       | 100        | 100      |
| WI   | 1         | 2         | 4          | 3        |
| 9 Sts  | 27        | 30        | 34         | 28       |
| These 9 States planted 66% of last year's oat acreage. |           |           |            |          |

| Oats Percent Emerged                                   |           |           |            |          |
|--|-----------|-----------|------------|----------|
|  | Prev Year | Prev Week | Apr 7 2024 | 5-Yr Avg |
| IA   | 0         | 1         | 4          | 0        |
| MN   | 0         | 1         | 2          | 0        |
| NE   | 1         | 2         | 5          | 2        |
| ND   | 0         | 0         | 0          | 0        |
| OH   | 2         | 0         | 1          | 3        |
| PA   | 3         | 0         | 0          | 2        |
| SD   | 0         | 0         | 5          | 0        |
| TX   | 100       | 100       | 100        | 98       |
| WI   | 0         | 0         | 0          | 0        |
| 9 Sts  | 25        | 25        | 26         | 23       |
| These 9 States planted 66% of last year's oat acreage. |           |           |            |          |

| Spring Wheat Percent Planted                                     |           |           |            |          |
|--|-----------|-----------|------------|----------|
|  | Prev Year | Prev Week | Apr 7 2024 | 5-Yr Avg |
| ID   | 1         | 8         | 25         | 14       |
| MN   | 0         | 0         | 2          | 1        |
| MT   | 0         | 0         | 0          | 2        |
| ND   | 0         | 0         | 0          | 1        |
| SD   | 0         | 1         | 5          | 6        |
| WA   | 10        | 10        | 21         | 25       |
| 6 Sts  | 1         | 1         | 3          | 3        |
| These 6 States planted 100% of last year's spring wheat acreage. |           |           |            |          |

| Barley Percent Planted                                    |           |           |            |          |
|---|-----------|-----------|------------|----------|
|   | Prev Year | Prev Week | Apr 7 2024 | 5-Yr Avg |
| ID  | 1         | 7         | 20         | 15       |
| MN  | 0         | 0         | 1          | 0        |
| MT  | 1         | 0         | 1          | 3        |
| ND  | 0         | 0         | 0          | 0        |
| WA  | 4         | 4         | 10         | 20       |
| 5 Sts   | 1         | 2         | 5          | 5        |
| These 5 States planted 84% of last year's barley acreage. |           |           |            |          |

VP - Very Poor; P - Poor;  
F - Fair;  
G - Good; EX - Excellent

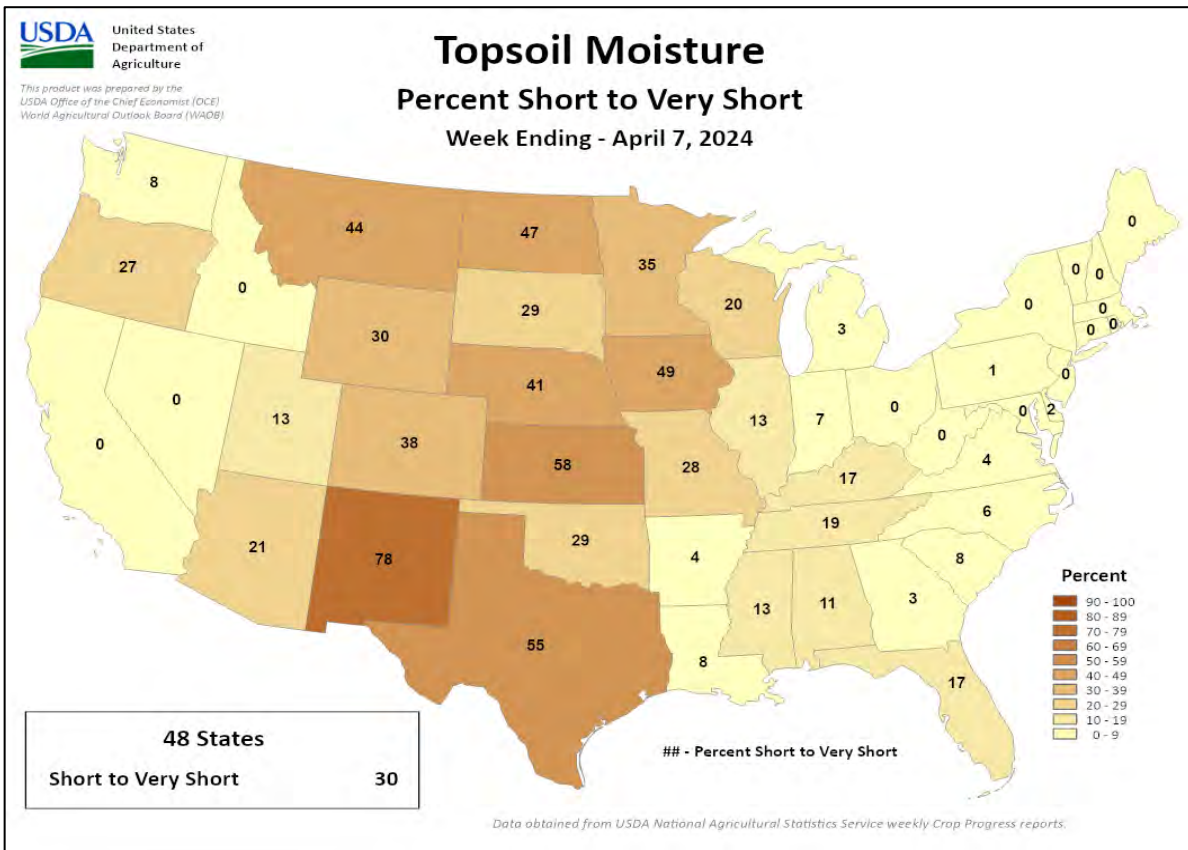
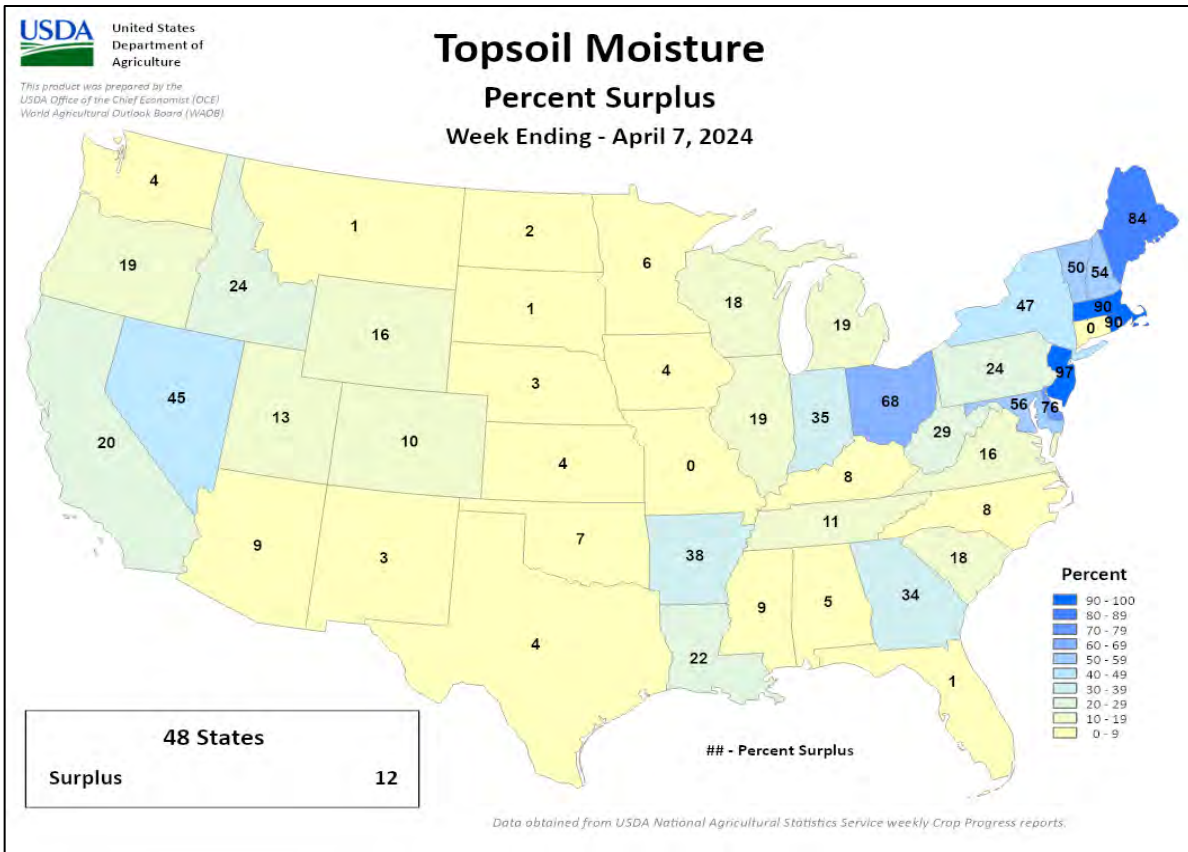
NA - Not Available  
\* Revised



**Crop Progress and Condition**

**Week Ending April 7, 2024**

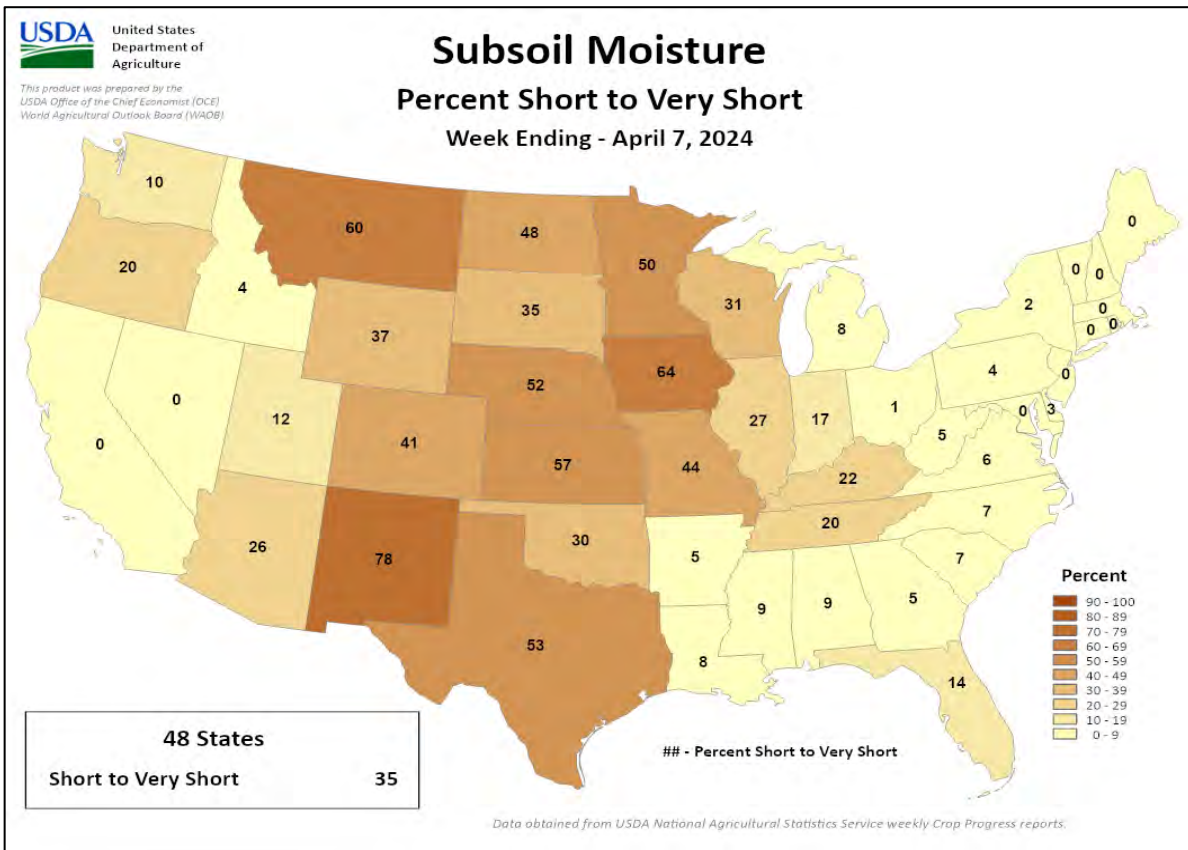
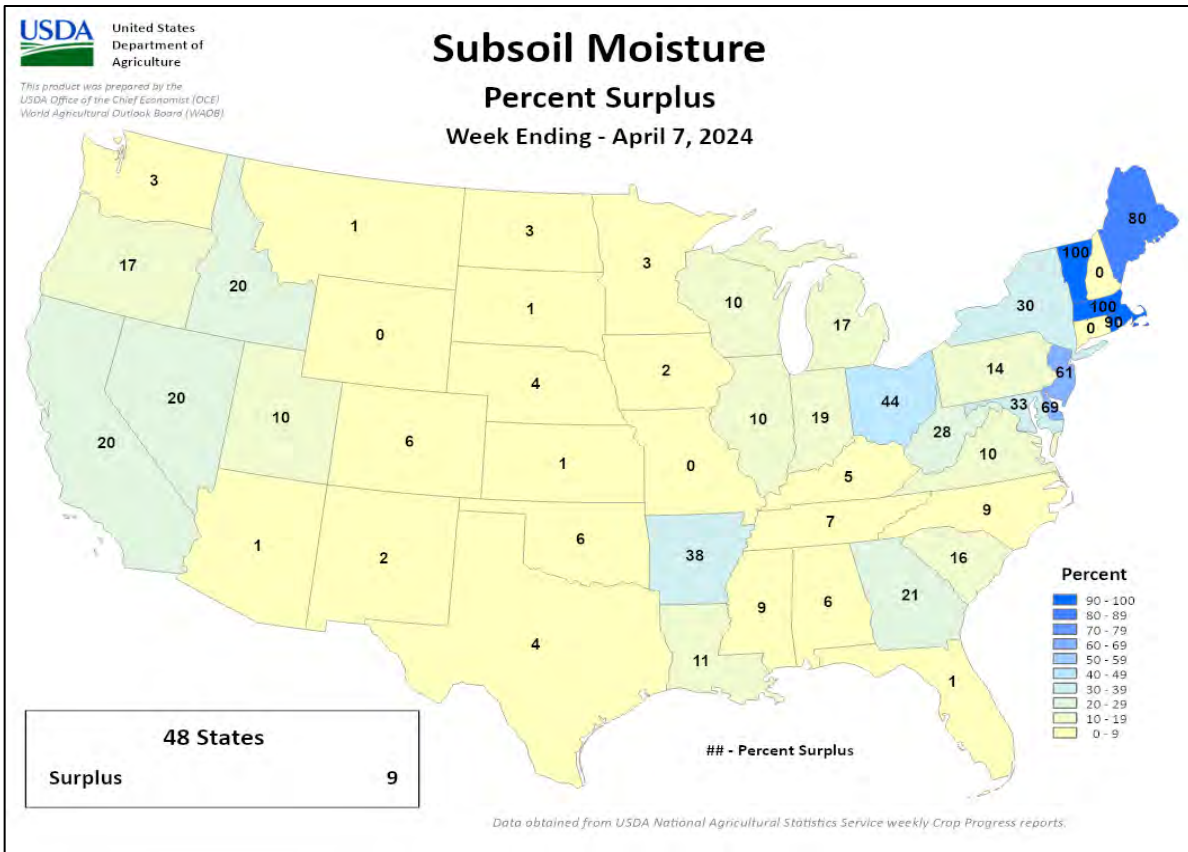
Weekly U.S. Progress and Condition Data provided by USDA/NASS



# Crop Progress and Condition

## Week Ending April 7, 2024

Weekly U.S. Progress and Condition Data provided by USDA/NASS



## International Weather and Crop Summary

March 31 - April 6, 2024

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

### HIGHLIGHTS

**EUROPE:** Anomalous warmth expanded and intensified across the continent, with more rain in western and central growing areas contrasting with renewed drought concerns in the Balkans.

**WESTERN FSU:** Very warm weather expanded across the region, accelerating winter crop development but heightening soil moisture losses in western Russia and eastern Ukraine.

**MIDDLE EAST:** Sunny skies and unseasonably warm temperatures accelerated winter grain development across western and central portions of the region.

**NORTHWESTERN AFRICA:** Following early-week showers in Morocco, sunny skies and summer-like heat accelerated drought-afflicted winter wheat and barley through reproduction and grain fill.

**EAST ASIA:** Early-week heat and dryness gave way to more favorable conditions in southern China.

**SOUTHEAST ASIA:** Showers in Indonesia continued to favor seasonal rice, while drier weather returned to the Philippines.

**AUSTRALIA:** In the east, widespread, locally heavy showers likely interrupted summer crop harvesting in many areas.

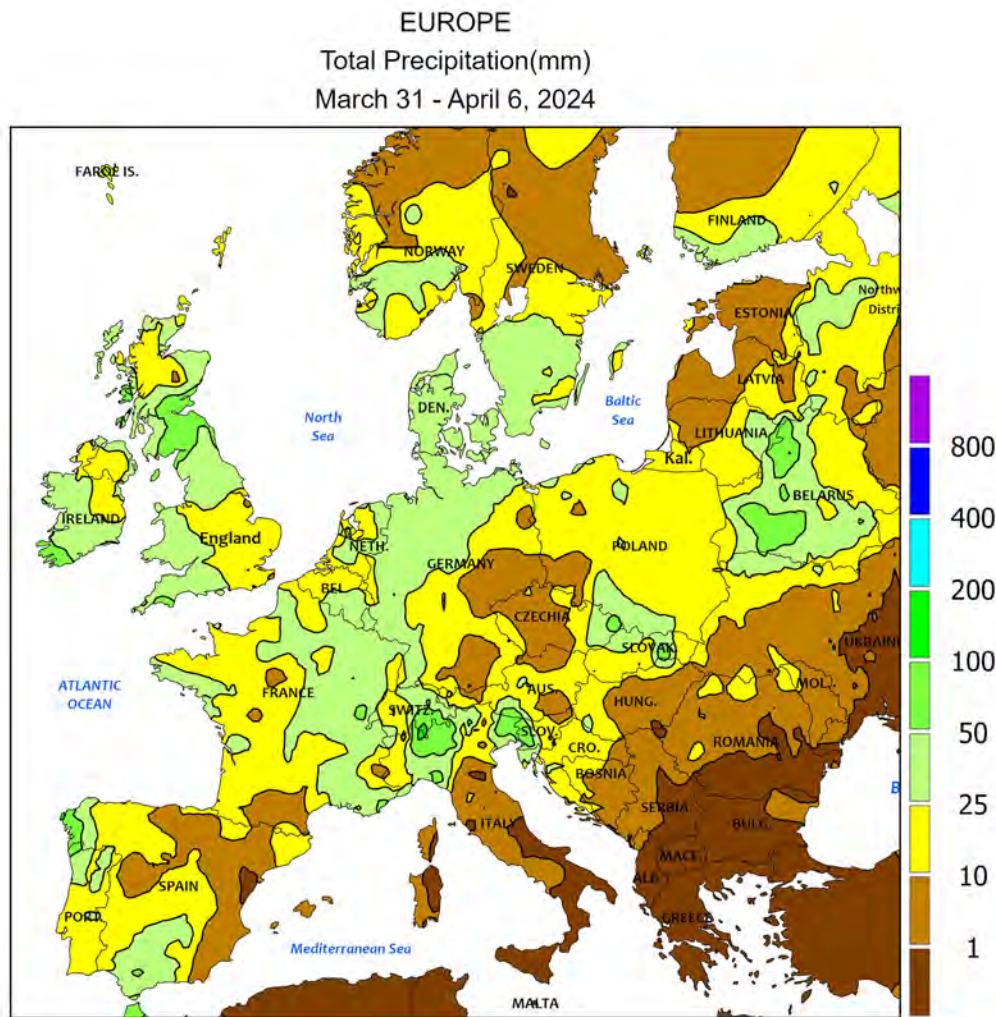
**SOUTH AFRICA:** Late-season, locally heavy rainfall brought some relief from summer drought, but came too late to help most drought-stressed summer crops.

**ARGENTINA:** Showers provided late-developing northeastern summer crops with abundant moisture, while mostly dry weather prevailed elsewhere.


**BRAZIL:** Beneficial rain favored corn and cotton in northern farming areas, but unseasonable warmth and dryness persisted farther south.







CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA  
Computer generated contours  
Based on preliminary data

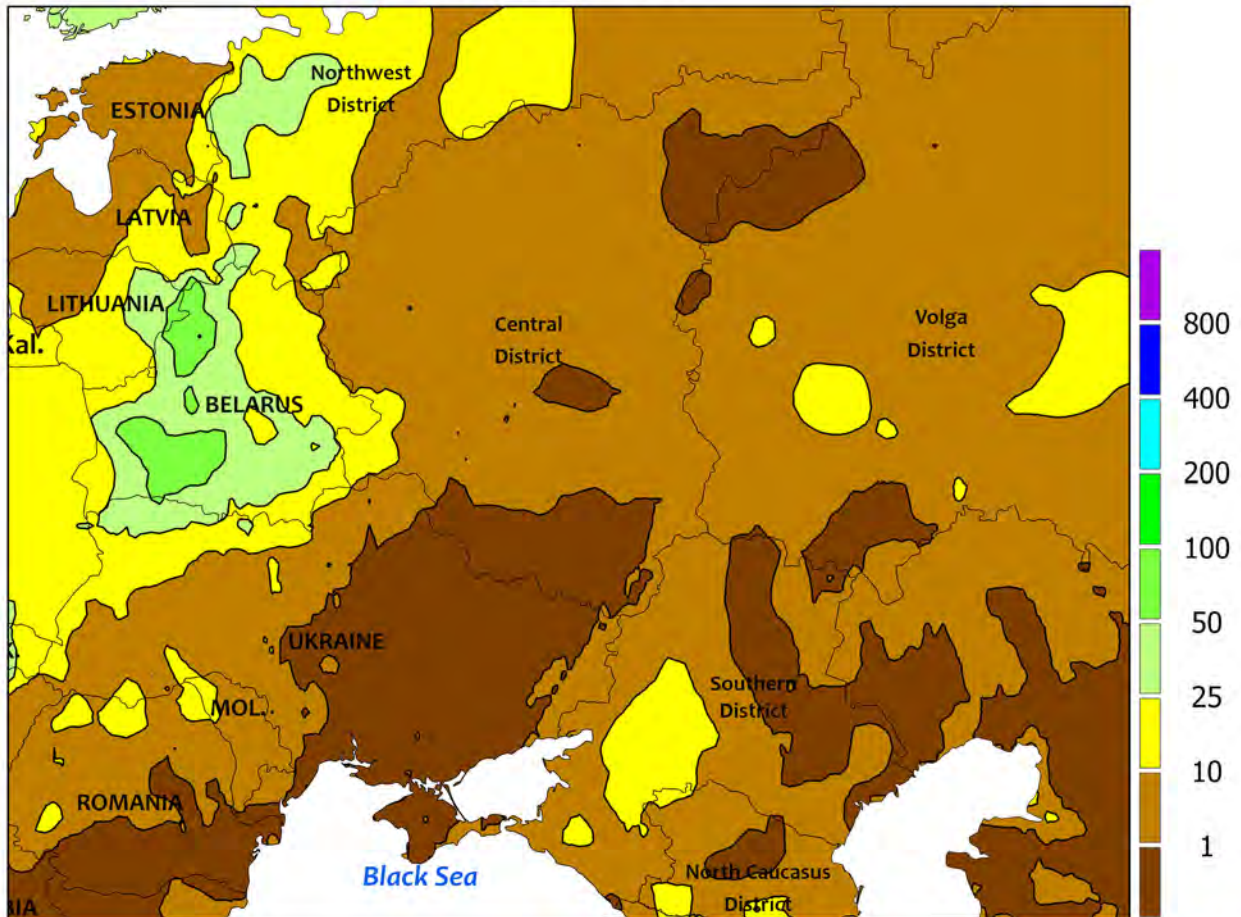


**EUROPE**

Anomalous warmth intensified and expanded across much of Europe, while widespread moderate to heavy showers over western and central growing areas juxtaposed with southeastern dryness and developing drought. Temperatures averaged 2 to 5°C above normal over western Europe and 5 to 9°C above normal across the eastern half of the continent. In fact, daytime highs into the upper 20s and lower 30s (degrees C) set numerous daily and monthly records across western, central, and southeastern growing areas. The persistent warmer-than-normal weather hastened winter grains and oilseeds toward or through reproduction two to four weeks ahead of average across western and southern croplands, with winter rapeseed already flowering from the Czech Republic

into Romania and Bulgaria. Meanwhile, additional moderate to heavy rain (10-50 mm, locally more) kept soils adequately to excessively moist over Spain, France, England, northwestern Germany, and Scandinavia. Somewhat lighter but still beneficial showers (2-20 mm) were noted over the continent’s northeastern quadrant. Rain has been hit and miss over the Balkans, with totally dry weather during the monitoring period exacerbating localized short-term drought; pronounced deficits (60-day rainfall less than 50 percent of normal) have developed from southeastern Hungary’s Hungarian Plain into northern Serbia, on the western Wallachian Plain of Romania, and over the croplands of northeastern Bulgaria and southeastern Romania.

WESTERN FSU  
Total Precipitation(mm)  
March 31 - April 6, 2024



CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA  
Computer generated contours  
Based on preliminary data

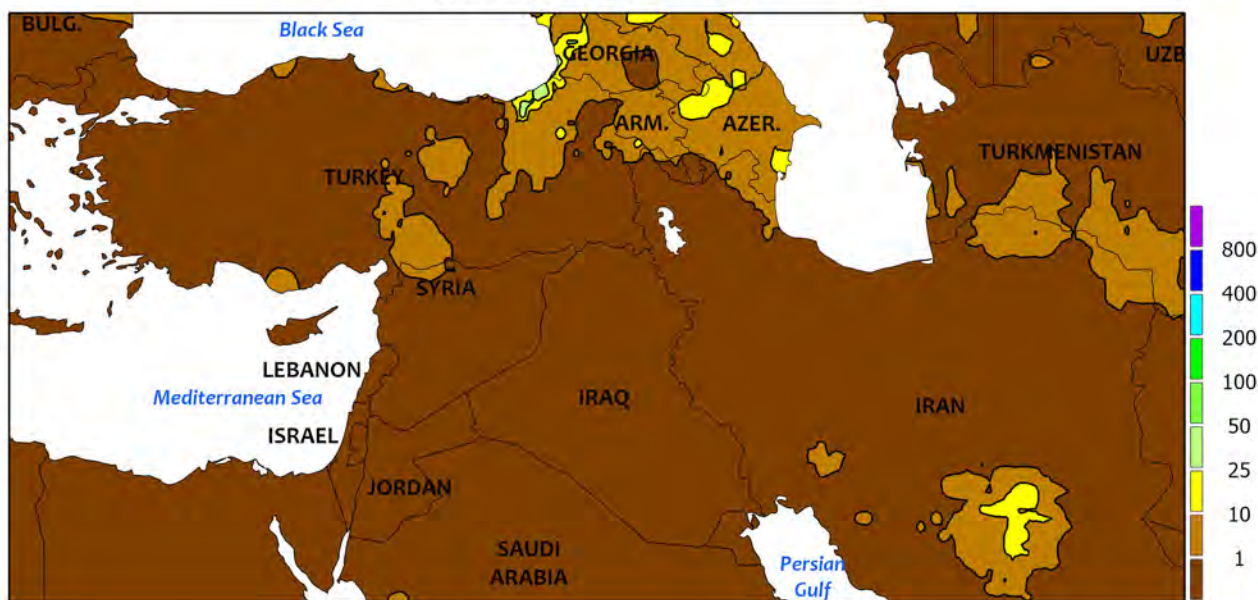


**WESTERN FSU**

Very warm and dry weather accelerated winter crop development and seasonal fieldwork, with rain in northwestern growing areas giving way to mostly dry weather elsewhere. Temperatures averaged 5 to 9°C above normal across the entire region, accelerating winter crop growth but heightening soil moisture losses in south-central growing areas. Significant rain (10 mm or more) was mostly confined to Belarus and environs, though soil moisture remained overall favorable from central Ukraine north and westward. Conversely, acute

short-term dryness (30-day rainfall less than 25 percent of normal) lingered over eastern Ukraine and western Russia, with spotty showers (2-20 mm) in Russia’s Southern District providing only localized relief. Vegetative winter wheat, barley, and rapeseed were developing two to three weeks ahead of normal in the west and one to two weeks ahead of normal in southwestern Russia and southeastern Ukraine. The dry and warm weather allowed spring grain and summer crop sowing to proceed with little to no delay.

MIDDLE EAST  
Total Precipitation(mm)  
March 31 - April 6, 2024



CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA  
Computer generated contours  
Based on preliminary data



MIDDLE EAST

Sunny skies and much-above-normal temperatures settled over most of the region during the monitoring period. Little to no rain was reported from Turkey into Iran outside of a few light showers (1-5 mm) in northeastern Iran’s Khorasan Province. Moisture supplies remained overall favorable following a wet spring to date, though short-term dryness has developed over central and southern Turkey. Anomalous warmth (4-9°C above normal) expanded

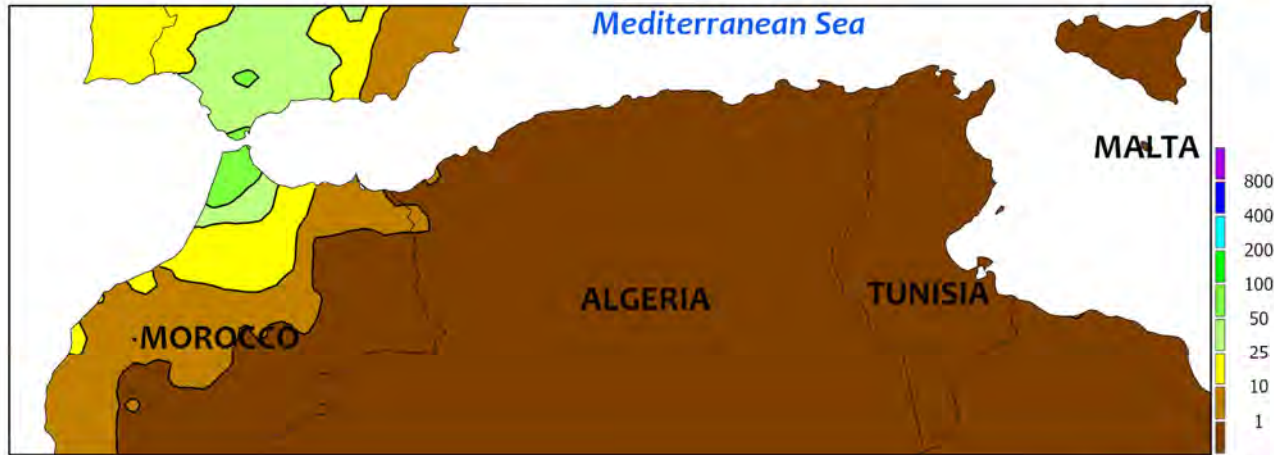
eastward from Turkey into Iraq and northwestern Iran, with summer-like heat developing in western and southern Turkey (30-32°C) as well as central and southern Iraq (33-39°C). As a result, winter grains were rapidly approaching reproduction in the north and advancing through reproduction and grain fill in central and southern growing areas. Summer crop sowing and other seasonal fieldwork likewise proceeded without delay.



NORTHWESTERN AFRICA

Total Precipitation(mm)

March 31 - April 6, 2024



CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA  
Computer generated contours  
Based on preliminary data

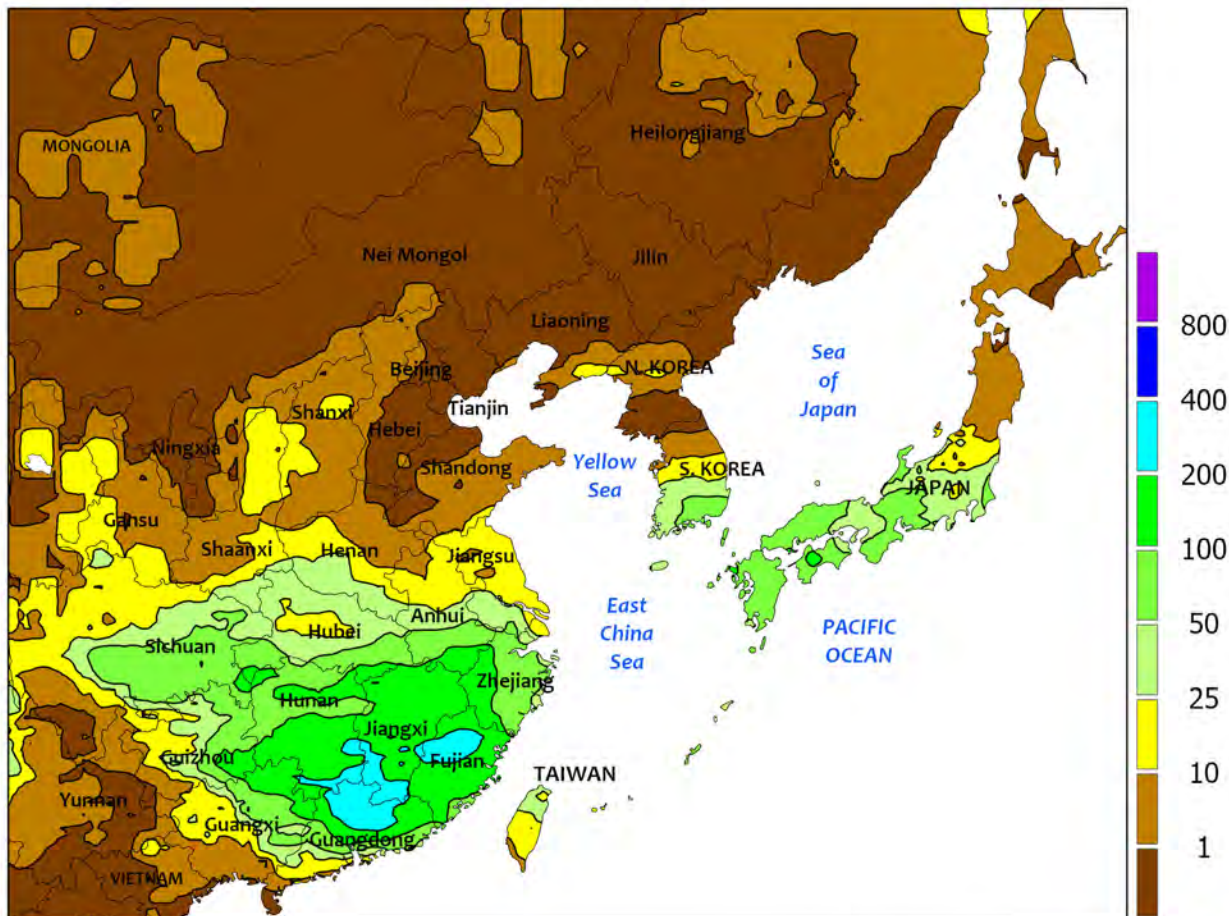


**NORTHWESTERN AFRICA**

The return of heat and dryness continued the region’s highly variable growing season. Following last week’s heavy rain in Morocco, lingering showers in the north (25-115 mm) and west (1-15 mm) gave way to dry and hot weather (33-39°C). As a result, winter grains continued to advance rapidly toward maturity, with drought-induced yield losses largely irreversible. Sunny skies and above-normal temperatures (up to 6°C above normal) also prevailed over Algeria and

Tunisia, accelerating winter grains through reproduction and grain fill up to four weeks ahead of average. Furthermore, extreme heat (35-38°C) in western Algeria’s drought-stricken croplands further reduced wheat and barley yield potential. Conditions are markedly better from central Algeria eastward, though the recent turn to drier- and warmer-than-normal weather has likely trimmed winter grain yield expectations somewhat.

EASTERN ASIA  
Total Precipitation(mm)  
March 31 - April 6, 2024



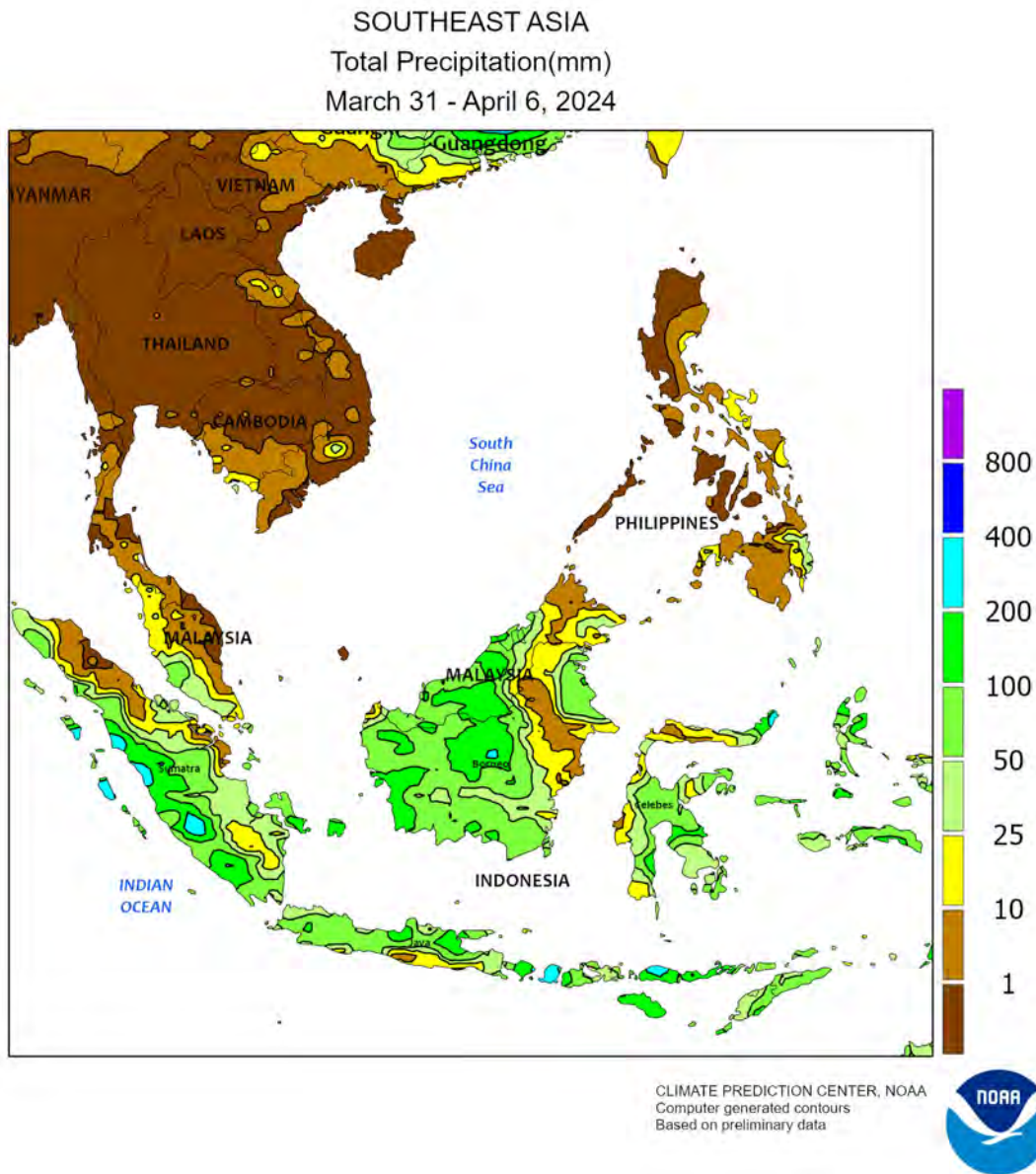
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA  
Computer generated contours  
Based on preliminary data



**EASTERN ASIA**

Hot, dry weather early in the week gave way to cooler, wet conditions across southern China. Early in the period, summer-like heat engulfed southern China as temperatures peaked near 40°C locally. The heat accompanied by dryness stressed both flowering rapeseed (Yangtze Valley) and vegetative early-crop rice (southeast). However, a pattern change occurred by mid-week with heavy showers (topping 200 mm locally) and nearer-to-normal temperatures quickly

alleviating earlier crop stress. Farther north, rainfall was also recorded on sections of the North China Plain albeit amounts were substantially lower (less than 25 mm). Nevertheless, the moisture was welcome for wheat progressing through vegetative stages of development. Elsewhere, cotton producers in western China were awaiting warmer weather (daily average temperatures consistently above 15°C) before beginning sowing activities.



**SOUTHEAST ASIA**

Widespread heavy showers in southern portions of the region contrasted with dryness in northern reaches. Rainfall totals surpassed 25 mm in most rice and oil palm locales of Indonesia and exceeded 150 mm locally. In particular, consistent rain in Java, Indonesia, since late December has maintained favorable moisture conditions for in-season rice; a poor start to the water year (beginning August 1) has left long-term water supplies for irrigation below average, though. For oil palm in Malaysia, moisture conditions have been less

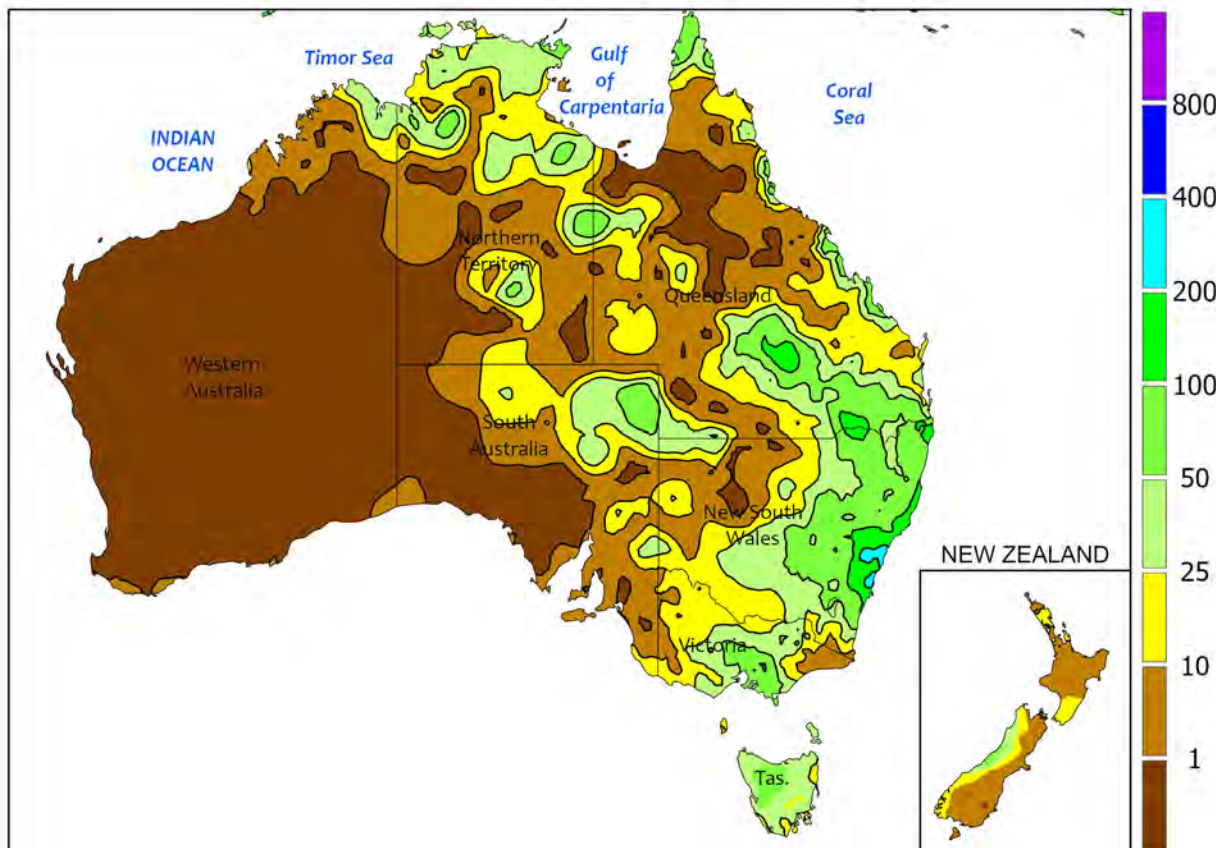
favorable with 25 percent-of-normal rainfall since February 1. Elsewhere, drier weather returned to the Philippines, with hardly a district recording more than 25 mm of rain. Even though the bulk of winter rice and corn has been harvested, a smaller spring crop continued to be impacted by seasonal dryness. Meanwhile, hot weather returned to Thailand and environs, with temperatures topping 40°C consistently throughout the period. Though pre-monsoon heat is common in April, temperatures above 40°C aren't normally common.



AUSTRALIA

Total Precipitation(mm)

March 31 - April 6, 2024



Gridded data from the Australian Bureau of Meteorology: [www.bom.gov.au/](http://www.bom.gov.au/)  
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<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/au/legalcode>

CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA  
 Computer generated contours  
 Based on preliminary data

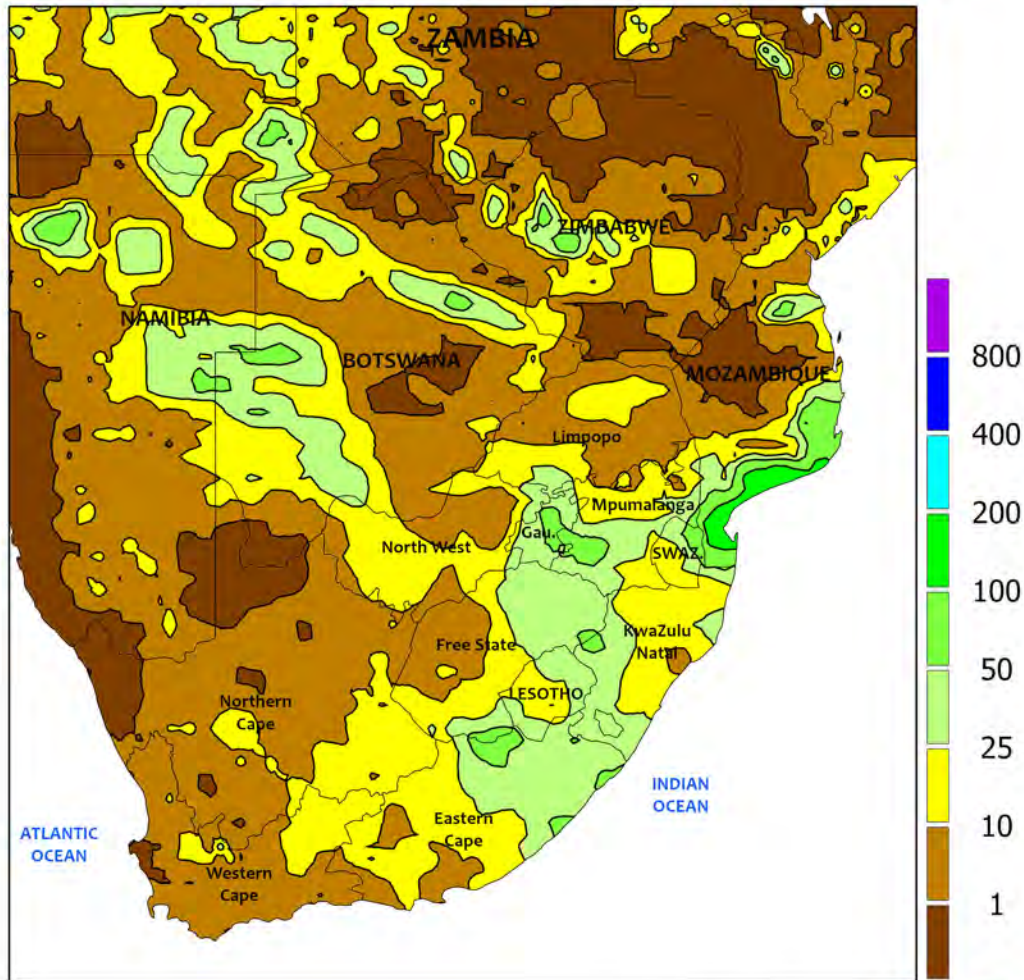


AUSTRALIA

In eastern Australia, widespread, locally heavy showers (25-100 mm or more) slowed drydown of mature summer crops and likely interrupted harvesting in many areas. The rain worked in tandem with seasonably warm weather, however, to spur development of later maturing cotton and sorghum. By week's end, root zone soil moisture was above normal throughout much of the region, helping to condition the soil in

advance of wheat and other winter crop planting. Elsewhere in the wheat belt, mostly dry weather prevailed in South Australia and Western Australia, allowing pre-planting fieldwork to progress in advance of upcoming wheat, barley, and canola sowing. Temperatures varied throughout the week but averaged within 1°C of normal throughout much of southern and western Australia.

SOUTH AFRICA  
Total Precipitation(mm)  
March 31 - April 6, 2024



CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA  
Computer generated contours  
Based on preliminary data

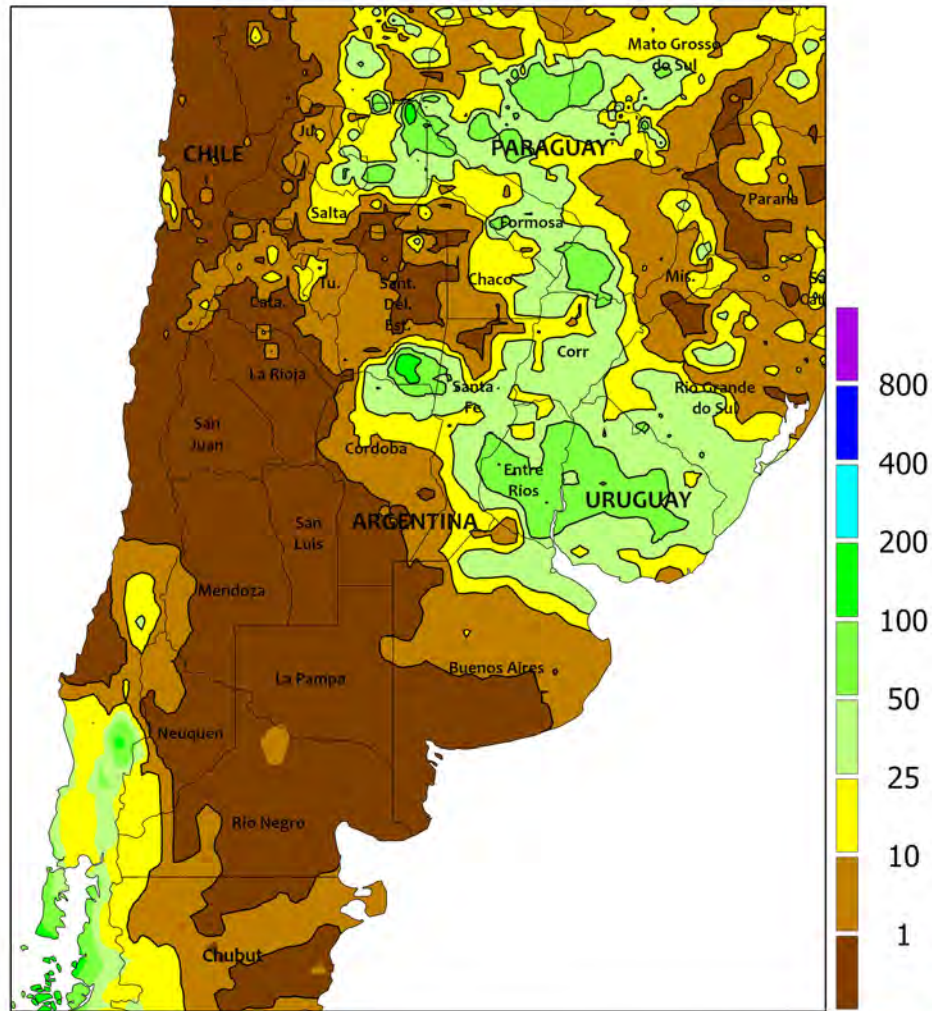


**SOUTH AFRICA**

Locally heavy showers provided late-season drought relief to many locations, although the moisture arrived too late to significantly benefit corn and other maturing summer crops. Rainfall totaling 25 to 75 mm extended southward from Gauteng to Eastern Cape, with amounts of 5 to 25 mm scattered throughout other locations in eastern commercial

farming areas and the Cape Provinces. Near- to above-normal temperatures hastened crop maturation, with highest daytime readings reaching the upper 20s and lower 30s (degrees C) across the corn belt (North West and Free State eastward) and in sugarcane areas of KwaZulu-Natal. Despite the seasonal cooling, no freezes have been reported thus far in the season.

ARGENTINA  
Total Precipitation(mm)  
March 31 - April 6, 2024



CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA  
Computer generated contours  
Based on preliminary data



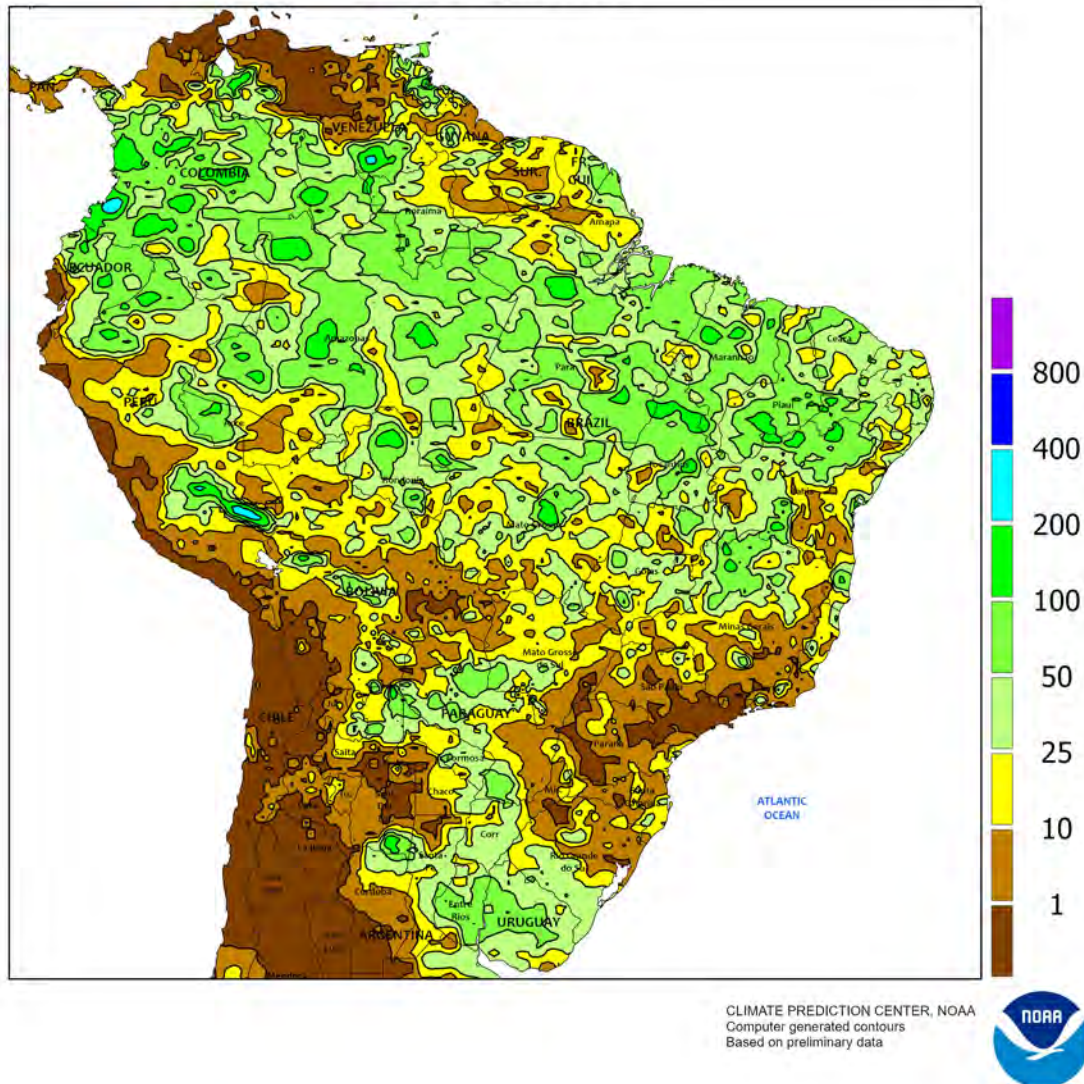
**ARGENTINA**

Moderate to heavy showers returned to northeastern farming areas, providing a late-season boost in moisture to immature summer crops. Rainfall totaled 10 to 100 mm from northern Buenos Aires to Paraguay, extending westward into Salta and northern sections of Córdoba. In contrast, mostly dry, sunny weather prevailed elsewhere, with complete dryness covering western Buenos Aires, La Pampa, and southern Córdoba. Weekly temperatures varied from 2°C below normal in Entre Rios to 4°C or more above normal in and around Formosa.

Highest daytime temperatures ranged from the upper 20s and lower 30s (degrees C) in southern farming areas to as much as 40°C in the far north. Nighttime lows dropped below 5°C in far southern production areas but no freezes were recorded. According to the government of Argentina, sunflowers were 92 percent harvested (72 percent last year) as of April 4, with harvesting 89 and 95 percent completed, respectively, in Buenos Aires and La Pampa. Meanwhile, corn was 14 percent harvested, on par with last year's pace (13 percent).



BRAZIL  
 Total Precipitation(mm)  
 March 31 - April 6, 2024



**BRAZIL**

Beneficial rain continued throughout key agricultural areas of central and northeastern Brazil, maintaining favorable prospects for that region’s corn and cotton. Rainfall totaled 25 to 100 mm over a broad area spanning Mato Grosso, Goiás, and interior farming areas from northern Minas Gerais to Maranhão. Summer warmth (highs reaching the lower and middle 30s degrees C) accompanied the rainfall, fostering rapid development of summer crops toward reproductive and filling stages of development. Farther south, however, a second week of unseasonably warmer and drier weather reduced moisture for second-crop corn and other summer crops. Rainfall totaled below 25 mm – with many locations recording less than 5 mm – from Rio

Grande do Sul northward through Mato Grosso do Sul, São Paulo, and southern Minas Gerais. As in northern farming areas, summer heat (highs reaching the middle 30s) accompanied the dryness, although the effects of the dryness and warmth raised concern for crops advancing through reproductive stages of development. According to government reports, nearly 50 percent of the second corn crop was in flowering to filling stages of development in Paraná as of April 1, while first-crop corn and soybeans were 94 and 93 percent harvested, respectively. In Rio Grande do Sul, 20 percent of soybeans were harvested as of April 4, with the majority of the crop (51 percent) maturing; meanwhile, corn was 76 percent harvested.

# Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week Ending

April 7, 2024

