# WORLD AGRICULTURAL WEATHER HIGHLIGHTS
## October 12, 2004


USDA/OCE – World Agricultural Outlook Board
Joint Agricultural Weather Facility

*(More details are available in the Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin. Subscription information may be obtained by calling (202) 720-7917.)*

**1 - UNITED STATES**
Hurricanes Frances (September 4-5) and Jeanne (September 25-26) made landfall in the same location along Florida's east coast, just three weeks apart. In addition, Ivan made landfall near Mobile Bay on September 16, blasting southern Alabama and western Florida with high winds, heavy rain, and a large storm surge. The hurricanes' remnants battered cotton and halted fieldwork in parts of Alabama and Georgia, and caused widespread flooding as far north as the Mid-Atlantic States. Farther west, September dryness from the western and central Gulf Coast States to the Great Lakes region promoted crop maturation and harvesting, but stressed pastures and late-developing summer crops. A second band of heavy rain stretched from the southern Rockies and southern High Plains to the upper Midwest. Although rain in the nation's mid-section was generally beneficial for maturing summer crops, excessively wet conditions developed in western Texas, hampering fieldwork and increasing cotton quality concerns. Farther west, Southwestern showers boosted topsoil moisture but provided only limited relief from long-term drought. In the Northwest, scattered showers maintained favorable conditions for emerging winter grains. In contrast, sub-soil moisture shortages persisted on the northern High Plains. Across the northern Corn Belt, September warmth helped to push crops toward maturity prior to season-ending freezes from October 2-5. Nevertheless, some developmentally delayed corn and soybeans remained vulnerable to the early-October cold outbreak.

**2 - CANADA**
On the Prairies, periodic showers slowed spring crop harvesting, although a warming trend helped advance crop development in Manitoba. Warm, dry weather favored corn and soybean maturation in Ontario and Quebec.

**3 - SOUTH AMERICA**
In Argentina, dryness in September spurred early corn and sunflower planting but persisted into early October, creating unfavorable growing conditions for immature winter grains from Cordoba to Entre Rios. In Brazil, warm, dry weather promoted coffee harvesting, but rainfall was needed to trigger widespread flowering of the 2004/05 crop. Farther south, moisture reserves in Rio Grande do Sul were generally favorable for late winter wheat development.

**4 - EUROPE**
In September, favorably drier weather in England allowed the completion of winter grain harvesting, after major harvest delays in August. In France, most of Spain, and Italy, below-normal rainfall favored summer crop harvesting but reduced topsoil moisture for germinating winter crops. Elsewhere across Europe, near-normal rainfall boosted topsoil moisture for winter crop germination, but caused only brief delays in early summer crop harvesting.

**5 - FSU-WESTERN**
In September, generally dry weather helped summer crop harvesting and winter wheat planting in southern Ukraine. Above-normal precipitation in central Ukraine slowed harvest activities, but provided topsoil moisture for winter wheat emergence. In Russia, late-September rains boosted topsoil moisture for winter grain establishment in the Central and Volga Regions. Early-September showers in the Southern Region were followed by a mostly dry weather pattern that aided fieldwork during the remainder of the month.

**6 - FSU-NEWLANDS**
In September, below-normal precipitation was accompanied by unseasonably mild weather in Kazakstan, allowing rapid spring grain harvesting. In Russia, periodic showers in September caused only brief delays in harvest activities.

**7 - MIDDLE EAST AND TURKEY**
In Turkey, September rainfall increased topsoil moisture for winter grain planting in the north, but rain is needed before planting can begin across the major central plateau wheat areas. In western Turkey, dry weather greatly favored cotton maturation and early harvesting. Elsewhere in the Middle East, winter grain planting typically begins in October and November with the onset of the seasonal rains.

**8 - SOUTH ASIA**
During September, monsoon showers benefited immature cotton and oilseeds in central and southern India. A tropical cyclone renewed flooding in Bangladesh and portions of eastern India. In October, untimely showers covered cotton areas of Pakistan and northwestern India.

**9 - EASTERN ASIA**
In September, warm, slightly dry weather in Manchuria favored maturing corn and soybeans. However, an early October freeze in Heilongjiang likely caused some frost damage to immature corn. Although above-normal rainfall on the North China Plain was unfavorable for open-boll cotton and slowed harvest activities, it provided generous pre-planting moisture for winter wheat. Beneficially dry weather prevailed in southern China except Sichuan, where heavy showers slowed harvesting. Typhoons Songda and Meari maintained unfavorably wet conditions for maturing rice in southern Japan.

**10 - SOUTHEAST ASIA**
In September, above-normal showers in northern Thailand produced unfavorably wet conditions for mature rice, while generally dry weather favored rice maturation in northern Vietnam. Showers in the southern Philippines favored reproductive corn, while near-normal showers maintained moisture supplies for oil palm in Malaysia and Indonesia.

**11 - AUSTRALIA**
In September, early-month rainfall in Queensland and northern New South Wales arrived too late to significantly improve yield prospects for immature winter grains, but moistened topsoils for summer crop planting. Showers in southeastern Australia benefited reproductive winter wheat and barley, while mostly dry weather in Western Australia reduced moisture supplies for reproductive winter grains.