

Rain plagues world crops while U.S. remains dry

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Wet weather continued in parts of the Soviet Union and Europe last week, according to a report from the Joint Agricultural Weather Facility of the U.S. Departments of Commerce and Agriculture. Details from this report, and from a monthly report on world weather issued by the facility, follow.

CANADA. Scattered showers last week brought some relief to drought-stricken southeastern Saskatchewan and southwestern Manitoba. Only light rainfall fell in south central Saskatchewan where crops remained in poor condition due to lack of

moisture.

SOVIET UNION. Much of the eastern Ukraine remained too wet for maturing winter grains last week. Winter wheat makes up 40 to 50 percent of the Soviet grain crop. To the west, from the Black Sea north through Belorussia and into the Central Region, rainfall was three to four times above normal. Conditions for ripening winter grains were the worst in the southwest.

In the eastern Volga Valley and southern Urals, dry conditions put some stress on spring wheat. Spring grains make up about 60 percent of annual Soviet production.

EUROPE. Above normal rainfall continued for the fourth consecutive week in the northeastern countries and temperatures remained below normal, delaying crop development and potentially reducing seasonal yields.

SOUTHERN ASIA. In India, floods threatened extensive areas in Gujarat after two weeks of heavy rain. In Tamil Nadu and southern Andhra Pradesh, dryland crops, such as cotton, are beginning to feel effects of persistent dry weather.

AUSTRALIA. Minimal amounts of rain fell in the winter wheat areas of northern New South Wales and Queensland last week

where more moisture is needed for proper development of the wheat crop, now in its early growth stages. Australia is the seventh largest producer of the world's winter wheat.

In the monthly world weather highlights, continued heat stress in the U.S. and Canada was noted along with the continuing wet weather in Europe and the USSR.

UNITED STATES. Sorghum, cotton and other crops advancing in development are suffering

from prolonged hot weather. Significant losses also were suffered by the poultry industry. Conversely, the hot dry weather generally aided the June winter wheat harvest in Oklahoma, Kansas, and Nebraska.

CANADA. Inevitable crop losses in Saskatchewan and Manitoba occurred last month due to lack of rain during the first three weeks of June. Adequate soil moisture in Alberta sustained good crop development in the western region.

USSR. Only the eastern half of the Ukraine got a break from continuous wet weather, and then only for a week. Totals ran three to four times above the monthly normal in many areas, leaving standing water which reduced yield prospects for many crops. In the lower Volga Valley, hot dry weather may have hurt spring grain growth.

EUROPE. Throughout the month, cool wet weather retarded crop development in southeastern European countries.

Half of insecticides are used off farms

LANCASTER — Approximately one half the total amount of money spent annually for insecticides in the United States is for home lawns, golf courses, and other non-farm uses.

And, while individual home owners may treat only a small area with insecticides, the total acreage treated across the country is considerable.

A new publication from Cornell University answers questions surrounding chemicals and their application, especially by home owners. "Effects of Insecticides on Birds and Mammals" is written by James W. Caslick, senior research associate in the department of natural resources of the New York State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell.

Caslick addresses concerns such as the kinds of wildlife that have been affected most, which insecticides are safest for wildlife, and what in-

dividuals can do to avoid damage to birds and mammals.

The Cornell researcher explains that about 60 species of birds, mammals, fish, reptiles, and amphibians in the United States have become extinct in the last 200 years, due to the actions of humans.

Says Caslick, "Proper insecticide application should be a primary concern to everyone who cares about the quality of life today and in the future."

"Experience and research are helping us learn how to use chemicals safely, and new ways are being found to control pests," he continues. Research and development under way at the State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences points up dramatically the various ways which, when coordinated, can control pests effectively.

One such effort is Integrated Pest Management (IPM) which focuses on each

crop, rather than upon isolated pests, and involves a mix of biological and chemical approaches. In New York, one of the leading states in this kind of research, farmers are cooperating by helping compile data which will increase the effectiveness of Integrated Pest Management.

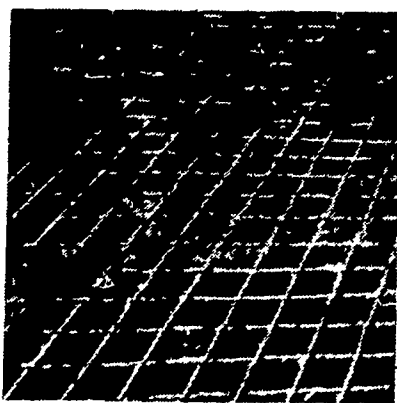
"But, how owners may use pesticides when they're not needed or they may not be aware of possible effects on wildlife." In the Cornell Cooperative Extension publication, Caslick provides guidelines for home owners and lists the insecticides safest for wildlife.

For a copy of "Effects of Insecticides on Birds and Mammals" (S-109, 50 cents), write to Cornell University Distribution Center, 7 Research Park, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850. Checks or money orders should be made payable to Cornell University.

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