

Rainfall spans globe, aids U.S., European crops

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Rainfall around the globe in mid-April produced varying effects on developing crops and harvest conditions, according to a weekly report issued by the Joint Agricultural Weather Facility of the U.S. Departments of Commerce and Agriculture.

Highlights of the report follow.

✓ **United States** - mild temperatures and timely rains helped early season crops progress last week across much of the country. Rainfall totals of 1 to more than 3 inches were common over the central and southern Great Plains, central Mississippi River Valley, Great Lakes and Ohio River Valley. Field work in much of the Corn Belt was slowed or temporarily halted by the heavy rain. However, the moisture failed to reach into the northern Great Plains and southeastern states.

✓ **China** - rainfall slackened south of the Yangtze River, but weekly totals were far above normal and the possibility of flooding and waterlogging in newly planted fields continued. Beneficial rain spread north into the wheat belt.

✓ **South Asia** - rainfall increased sharply in eastern India and Bangladesh. Some reports of flooding were received; however, time remains to replant and still obtain good yields. Dry weather in northern India and Pakistan favored winter grain harvesting.

✓ **Western USSR** - above normal precipitation benefited winter wheat in the southern and eastern Ukraine and northwestern parts of the North Caucasus. Growth was slowed substantially by cooler weather following the storm. Some light snow covered fields in the southwestern Ukraine. Temperatures across the northern

half of the belt were too cold for winter grain growth.

✓ **Europe** - beneficial was recorded in Iberia, southern Italy and the Balkan Peninsula. Growing conditions in Portugal and northern Spain remained generally good, although subsoil moisture still is in short supply. The light rains must continue for another month to prevent further yield losses. Moisture conditions are marginal in southern Spain where winter grains should be in the heading stage. Northern Italy is becoming somewhat dry again after two rainless weeks. Winter grain growth in Poland was nearly halted by below normal temperatures.

✓ **Northwestern Africa** - Northeastern Moroccan winter grain areas received substantial rainfall, helping the final stages of grain filling. Harvesting of meager

yields should be underway in the south. In Algeria and Tunisia, above-normal rainfall in most winter grain areas helped late grain filling.

✓ **South America** - dry weather in Argentina's major crop areas helped the harvest last week. Rainfall in southern Buenos Aires provided beneficial moisture for wheat sowing which normally begins in May. In general, the Brazilian corn and soybean harvests continued unimpeded except the localized, minor delays due to wet fields in Santa Catarina.

✓ **Mexico** - moderate rains over most of the Southern Plateau corn belt improved soil moisture which will help with germination and early growth. The rain also benefited citrus and sugar cane to the east from Valles to Veracruz. Only light rains dotted the upper northeast, but irrigation water should be am-

ple. Rain in north central cotton areas should help the young crop and reduce irrigation needs.

✓ **Australia** - soil moisture supplies are somewhat short in many grain-producing areas, especially in northern New South Wales and West Australia. Satellite photos showed some light shower activity over West Australia late last week, but weekly rainfall amounts were minimal. Elsewhere, dry weather prevailed in the wheat areas where land preparation for autumn sowing should have begun.

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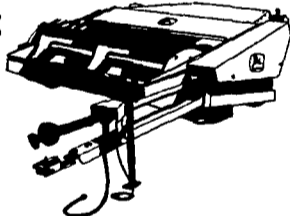
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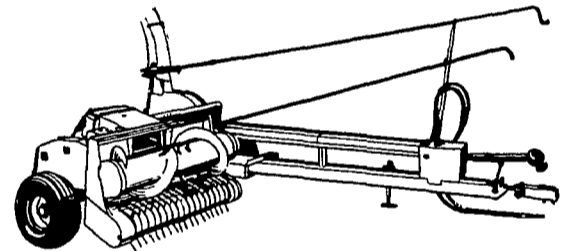
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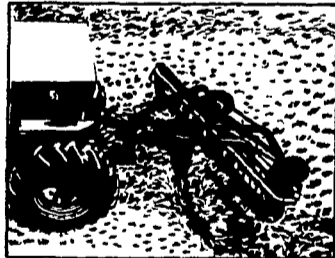


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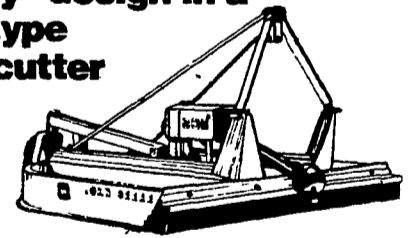


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