

Conditions unfavorable for late Indian winter harvest

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Above-normal rains in northern India created unfavorable conditions for the late winter grain harvest, according to a weekly report issued last week by the Joint Agricultural Weather Facility of the U.S. Departments of Commerce and Agriculture. Crop planting and development is on schedule in most other global agricultural regions.

Highlights of the report follow.
 — **United States.** Seasonal, warm temperatures prevailed over much of the country except for areas of significant cloudiness and rain from the central Great Plains to Texas and east to the Carolinas. Rain was beneficial to much of the southwestern winter grain belt, but wet fields delayed planting over much of the Southeast. Field work proceeded in good weather in the West, northern Great Plains, Great Lakes and New England states.

— **USSR.** Wet weather and seasonal temperatures aided winter grains in most areas. The crop is probably at the early jointing stage in the southern Ukraine and North Caucasus with early vegetative growth taking

place elsewhere. Corn and sunflowers reportedly are being planted in the southern Ukraine and North Caucasus with spring field work occurring as far north as Volga Vyatsk.

— **Europe.** Generally dry weather over England, France and most of northern Italy reduced topsoil moisture needed for both the early growth of winter grains and good germination of spring-sown crops. In southern Spain, the crop appears to be in good condition despite recent dryness. However, more rain is needed in northern Spain where the outlook is somewhat pessimistic. In contrast, wet weather continued over southeastern Europe and conditions improved for winter grains in southern Poland.

— **Canada.** Light showers fell on the wheat belt of the Prairie Provinces, while mild weather permitted active field preparation and early sowing in southern crop areas.

— **Mexico.** Heavy rains over most of the east coast boosted growth of grains, citrus and sugarcane while lighter amounts further south benefited coffee. Dryness over the southern Plateau

continued to stress the young corn crop.

— **South America.** Crop harvests made good progress in Argentina and Brazil despite some midweek rainfall in Cordoba, southern Buenos Aires and southern Brazil. Brazilian soybean harvest are entering the late stages, and early wheat planting is underway. Dry weather in Sao Paulo and Minas Gerais aided citrus and early coffee harvests.

— **Australia.** Beneficial rain fell on eastern crop areas while light showers fell in Western Australia. Additional moisture will be needed for wheat planting.

— **Northwestern Africa.** Substantial rain benefited Moroccan winter grains which were in the filling period. Generally light rain along Algeria's crop areas aided maturing crops. Unusually heavy rain fell in the interior of northern Algeria, mostly on rough grazing land.

— **South Asia.** Persistent premonsoon showers produced much above-normal rainfall over northern India, creating extremely unfavorable conditions for the late winter grain harvest. Wet weather also occurred from the southern

Peninsula northeast through the east coastal interior into Bangladesh.

— **Southeast Asia.** Scattered showers fell on eastern Thailand with heavier amounts recorded

over the southern peninsula areas. The wet season rice crop will be planted as soon as significant monsoon rains begin in the crop areas.

PUBLIC AUCTION

SATURDAY MAY 22, 1982

10:00 A.M.

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COLLEGE PARK, Md. — Many herbarium curators use microwave ovens to destroy insect pests found in pressed plant research specimens.

While it is important to get rid of the pests — they'll eat the dry specimens — a microwave may also destroy the ability of seeds on the specimens to sprout, according to Steven R. Hill, curator of the University of Maryland's Herbarium.

If the pressed plant specimens are rare or available only through expensive jaunts to other corners of the world, destroying their seeds could be calamitous, he says.

"The use of microwave radiation can eliminate a valuable source of information about plants," says Hill.

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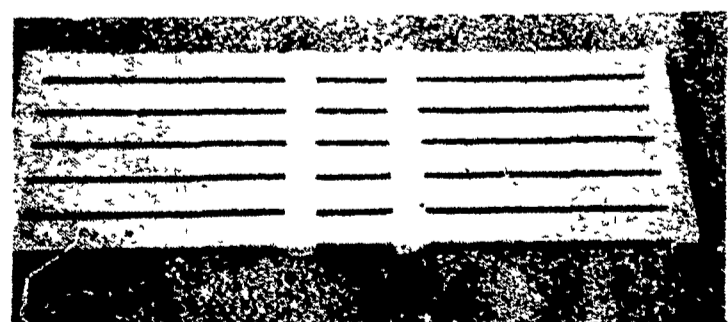
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