General Information

• Providing climate services to the Central Region
  • Collaboration with Dennis Todey (South Dakota State Climatologist), Jim Angel (Illinois State Climatologist), Doug Kluck and John Eise (NOAA), State Climatologists and the Midwest Regional Climate Center, High Plains Regional Climate Center, NOAAs Climate Prediction Center, Iowa State University, National Drought Mitigation Center

• Next Climate/Drought Outlook Webinar
  • September 17, 2015, Laura Edwards (SDSU Extension) and Brad Rippey USDA

• Access to Future Climate Webinars and Information
  • http://www.drought.gov/drought/content/regional-programs/regional-drought-webinars

• Past recorded presentations and slides can be found here:
  • http://mrcc.isws.illinois.edu/webinars.htm
  • http://www.hprcc.unl.edu/webinars.php

• There will be time for questions at the end
Agenda

- August 2015
- Current conditions
- Impacts
- El Niño
- Outlooks
30-Day Temperature Departure

Departure from Normal Temperature (°F)
8/17/2015 – 9/15/2015

http://www.hprcc.unl.edu/maps.php?map=ACISClimateMaps
90-Day Precipitation

Precipitation (in)
6/18/2015 – 9/15/2015

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
6/18/2015 – 9/15/2015

http://www.hprcc.unl.edu/maps.php?map=ACISClimateMaps
Date of First 32°F Freeze since 8/1
As of 9/16/2015

http://mrcc.isws.illinois.edu/VIP/index.html

MRCC Experimental Freeze Guidance:
These experimental maps may be utilized as a guide to local and regional freeze conditions but should NOT be used by themselves for decision processes.
Stream Flow - USGS

http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/rt
Climate Impacts

- Impacts of wet spring across the region are now being realized in lower yield, due to delayed planting and increased disease pressure, among other factors.

- Late planting made some row crops more susceptible to damage in dry August, especially in corn (hastened maturity) and soybeans (low rainfall amounts during grain fill stage).

- Temperatures reached mid-30s and 40s in many areas, but no widespread frost yet.

- Dry late summer could delay winter wheat planting this fall.
And Yet ....

- South Dakota and Minnesota facing record or near record soybean yields in 2015. Corn crop in both states also rates very high for this time of year.

- Reservoir storage and streamflows in Front Range of Colorado, Missouri River basin and Ohio River basin are in good shape.
Climate Outlooks

- 7-day precipitation forecast
- 6-10, 8-14 day outlook
- October
- Fall, Winter, Spring
- Drought Outlook
6-10 Day Forecast for Sep 22-26, 2015

http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/
8-14 Day Forecast for Sep 24-30, 2015

Temperature

Precipitation
El Niño

• Based on sea surface temperatures, June-August ranked as 3rd warmest since 1950, behind 1987 and 1997

• Some measurements show August SSTs to be 2nd warmest, behind 1997

• >90% chance of continuing until March 2016

• Gradually weakening through spring season

• Two recent briefs: El Nino in Missouri River Basin and El Nino in the Midwest
**El Niño Impacts and Outlook**

**Midwest Region**

**September 2015**

**Typical El Niño Winter Pattern**

An El Niño develops when sea surface temperatures are warmer than average in the equatorial Pacific for an extended period of time. This is important to North America because El Niño has an impact on our weather patterns, most predominantly in the winter.

Although each El Niño is different, there are some general patterns that are predictable. For instance, the polar jet stream is typically further north than usual, while the Pacific jet stream remains across the southern United States (see figure to left).

This pattern brings above-normal temperatures to much of the Midwest region, particularly across the northern states. This does not mean that cold weather will not happen this winter but typical extreme cold weather will be milder and less frequent. In addition, this pattern may bring drier conditions to eastern portions of the Midwest.

Warmer conditions may reduce total snowfall and the frequency of heavy snow events in the Midwest. However, a potentially more active storm track across the southern U.S. pose an increased risk of heavy snow events across the lower Midwest.

The image above shows the typical pattern in the winter during El Niño events. The polar jet stream tends to stay to the north of the Midwest region, while the Pacific jet stream remains across the southern U.S. With the midlatitude positioned between the storm tracks, warmer and possibly drier conditions can develop during El Niño events. Image courtesy of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

For more information please visit: [https://www.cdc.gov/](https://www.cdc.gov/)

**El Niño in Winter**

**Winter and Spring Impacts**

- **Economy**
  - Wintertime construction in Michigan. Image: MDU/IP (via Flickr CC)
  - Meat and dry winters with less than normal snowfall can have a significant overall positive impact on the Midwest economy. During the strong El Niño of 1997-98, economic benefits outweighed losses by a factor of 10 to 1 according to some study. The largest positive impacts were reductions in home heating costs and increases in retail sales. Construction and home sales also benefited from the mild winter. The economic losses were suffered by those sectors that depend on normal winter weather. These include winter recreation, snow removal businesses, towing companies, road salt sales, and other seasonally-dependent businesses.

- **Transportation**
  - Highway 7 in Kentucky. Image: Stu Foster
  - Transportation systems and infrastructure are vulnerable to extreme winter and climate conditions. The anticipation of warmer, drier conditions throughout much of the United States may positively affect the transportation sector. Past strong El Niño events since the 1950s suggest a lower risk of extreme precipitation events capable of producing widespread river flooding which disrupts road, rail, and highway traffic. Fluctuations in an active storm track across the southern U.S. pose a risk of heavy snow events, which affect the lower Midwest. The expected overall decrease in the frequency and amount of snowfall could reduce costs for snow and ice removal.

**El Niño Outlook**

**Winter Temperature and Precipitation Outlooks**

**El Niño Strength**

Potential Intensity, Winter 2015-16

- El Niño: Weak
- El Niño: Moderate
- El Niño: Strong

As of August, the winter outlooks for the Midwest show an increase of above-normal temperatures across most of the region, except for southern Missouri, far southern Illinois, and Kentucky. Meanwhile, the precipitation outlook indicates that the states along the Great Lakes have an increased chance of below-normal precipitation. The rest of the region has equal chances of above, below, or near-normal precipitation.

El Niño conditions have continued this summer, and forecasts indicate that this El Niño will strengthen, with an 84% chance of it peaking as a strong event in late fall or early winter. In terms of how long the event may last, the Climate Prediction Center (CPC) says there is a 95% chance that these conditions will last through the winter, gradually weakening through spring 2016. Research has shown that strong El Niños are often followed by La Niñas, so conditions should continue to be monitored closely, especially if the El Niño weakens next spring, as predicted.

Based on the September 30th CPC outlook [via CPC](http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/)

**Midwest Region Partners**

- Midwest Regional Climate Center [http://mrccl.illinois.edu/](http://mrccl.illinois.edu/)
- National Drought Mitigation Center [http://ndmc.unl.edu/](http://ndmc.unl.edu/)
- National Integrated Drought Information System [http://ndis.dri.unl.edu/](http://ndis.dri.unl.edu/)
- Northeast Climate Science Center [http://www.doi.gov/necsc/necsc.html](http://www.doi.gov/necsc/necsc.html)

**Midwest Region El Niño Impacts and Outlook**


[http://www.missouri.edu/KCO/](http://www.missouri.edu/KCO/)

[http://www.indiana.edu/KCO/](http://www.indiana.edu/KCO/)

[http://www.wisconsin.edu/KCO/](http://www.wisconsin.edu/KCO/)

[http://www.iowa.edu/KCO/](http://www.iowa.edu/KCO/)

[http://www.minnesota.edu/KCO/](http://www.minnesota.edu/KCO/)

[http://www.ohio.edu/KCO/](http://www.ohio.edu/KCO/)

[http://www.purdue.edu/KCO/](http://www.purdue.edu/KCO/)

*Contact:* [http://climate.gov](http://climate.gov)
ENSO Forecast (CPC/IRI)

Early-Sep CPC/IRI Consensus Probabilistic ENSO Forecast

ENSO state based on NINO3.4 SST Anomaly
Neutral ENSO: -0.5°C to 0.5°C

http://iri.columbia.edu/our-expertise/climate/forecasts/enso/current/?enso_tab=enso-quicklook
Forecast Plume for ENSO

Mid-Aug 2015 Plume of Model ENSO Predictions

Dynamical Model:
- NCEP CFSv2
- NASA GMAO
- JMA
- SCRIPPS
- LDEO
- AUS/POAMA
- ECMWF
- UKMO
- KMA SNU
- IOCAS ICM
- COLA CCSM3
- MetFRANCE
- SINTEX-F
- CSIRO-MM
- GFDL CM2.1
- CMC CANSIP
- GFDL FLOR

Statistical Model:
- CPC MKOV
- CDC LM
- CPC CA
- CPC CCA
- CSU CLIPR
- UBC NNET
- FSU REGR
- UCLA-TCD
- UNB/CWC

http://iri.columbia.edu/our-expertise/climate/forecasts/enso/current/?enso_tab=enso-quicklook
October Outlook

Temperature

Precipitation

http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/
October – December Outlook

Temperature

Precipitation
December – February Outlook
March – May Outlook

Temperature

Precipitation
U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook
Valid for September 17 - December 31, 2015
Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities
guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts.
Use caution for applications that can be affected by short lived events.
"Ongoing" drought areas are based on the U.S. Drought Monitor
areas (intensities of D1 to D4).

NOTE: The tan areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the
Drought Monitor intensity levels by the end of the period, although
drought will remain. The green areas imply drought removal by the
end of the period (D0 or none).

Author:
Rich Tinker
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Climate Prediction Center

http://go.usa.gov/3eZ73
Summary – Current Conditions

- Dry August has had some negative impacts on row crops in agriculture, particularly soybeans. Continued dry conditions could impact winter wheat planting.

- Reservoirs generally still in decent shape with earlier rains across much of the region.
Summary - Forecast

• El Niño in play through winter season

• Fall – More likely warmer than average across northern US. Also more likely drier than average across Great Lakes region.

• Winter – Higher likelihood of warmer temperatures across northern states and Pacific Northwest. Enhanced probability of drier in northern Rockies and eastern Corn Belt.
Further Information - Partners

- Today’s and Past Recorded Presentations and:
  - http://mrcc.isws.illinois.edu/webinars.htm
  - http://www.hprcc.unl.edu
- NOAA’s National Climatic Data Center: www.ncdc.noaa.gov
- NOAA’s Climate Prediction Center: www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov
- Climate Portal: www.climate.gov
- National Drought Mitigation Center: http://drought.unl.edu/
- State climatologists
  - http://www.stateclimate.org
- Regional climate centers
  - http://mrcc.isws.illinois.edu
  - http://www.hprcc.unl.edu
Thank You and Questions?

• Next webinar: October 15 with Nolan Doesken, CO State Climatologist
• Questions:
  • **Climate**:
    • Laura Edwards: [laura.edwards@sdstate.edu](mailto:laura.edwards@sdstate.edu), 605-626-2870
    • Jim Angel: [jimangel@Illinois.edu](mailto:jimangel@Illinois.edu), 217-333-0729
    • Dennis Todey: [dennis.todey@sdstate.edu](mailto:dennis.todey@sdstate.edu), 605-688-5141
    • Doug Kluck: [doug.kluck@noaa.gov](mailto:doug.kluck@noaa.gov), 816-994-3008
    • John Eise: [john.eise@noaa.gov](mailto:john.eise@noaa.gov), 816-268-3144
    • Mike Timlin: [mtimlin@illinois.edu](mailto:mtimlin@illinois.edu), 217-333-8506
    • Natalie Umphlett: [numphlet2@unl.edu](mailto:numphlet2@unl.edu); 402 472-6764
    • Brian Fuchs: [bfuchs2@unl.edu](mailto:bfuchs2@unl.edu) 402 472-6775

• **Weather**:
  • [crhroc@noaa.gov](mailto:crhroc@noaa.gov)
NOAA Central Region Webinar, September 17, 2015

Waseca County, MN, Late-August 2015. Photo by Michael Jewison, USDA
United States: Corn

Yellow numbers indicate the percent each state contributed to the total national production. States not numbered contributed less than 1% to the national total.

- Major areas combined account for approximately 75% of the total national production.
- Major and minor areas combined account for approximately 99% of the total national production.
- Major and minor areas and state production percentages are derived from NASS county- and state-level production data from 2006-2010.

Note: The agricultural data used to create the map and crop calendar were obtained from the National Agricultural Statistics Service at http://www.nass.usda.gov/

Crop calendar dates are based upon NASS crop progress data from 2006-2010. The field activities and crop development stages illustrated in the crop calendar represent the average time period when national progress advanced from 10 to 90 percent.
- It was a mostly good year for corn, especially in the n/w Corn Belt.
- September 1 estimates, if realized, indicate record-high corn production in seven states in the north-central U.S.
- If September 1 estimates are realized, 2015 will feature the second-highest U.S. corn yield (167.5 bushels/acre) and third-largest production (13.6 billion bushels) on record.
- Drought affected less than 5% of the U.S. corn production area during the heart of the 2015 growing season.
- Currently, more than two-thirds (68%) of the U.S. corn crop is rated good to excellent.
- However, less than 60% of the corn was rated good to excellent in the southern Corn Belt States.
U.S. Corn Areas Experiencing Drought

Reflects September 15, 2015 U.S. Drought Monitor data

Approximately 4% of corn production is within an area experiencing drought.

- Major agricultural areas combined account for 75% of the total national production.
- Major and minor agricultural areas combined account for 99% of the total national production.

Major and minor agricultural areas are derived from NASS county-level crop production data from 2006 to 2010. Additional information on these agricultural data can be found at: http://www.nass.usda.gov/.

Mapped drought areas are derived from the U.S. Drought Monitor product and do not depict the intensity of drought in any particular location. More information on the Drought Monitor can be found at: http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/.
United States Corn Areas Located in Drought

Agricultural Weather Assessments
World Agricultural Outlook Board

Percent

Date

Moderate or more intense drought (D1+)
Severe or more intense drought (D2+)
Extreme or more intense drought (D3+)
Exceptional drought (D4)
U.S. Corn Condition
Percent Rated Good to Excellent

Percent

USDA-NASS
9-11-15
U.S. Corn Conditions
Percent Good to Excellent
September 13, 2015

National Condition
Good to Excellent 68
Change from Last Year -6

Data obtained from preliminary National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) weekly crop progress and condition tables

TOP ## - Percent Good to Excellent
[BOTTOM ##] - Change from Last Year
U.S. Corn Progress

Percent Harvested
September 13, 2015

National Progress
Harvested 5
Change from 5-year Average -4

Data obtained from preliminary National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) weekly crop progress and condition tables.

TOP ## - Percent Harvested
[BOTTOM ##] - Change from 5-year Average
United States: Soybeans

Yellow numbers indicate the percent each state contributed to the total national production. States not numbered contributed less than 1% to the national total.

Note: The agricultural data used to create the map and crop calendar were obtained from the National Agricultural Statistics Service at: http://www.nass.usda.gov/.

- Major areas combined account for approximately 75% of the total national production.
- Major and minor areas combined account for approximately 99% of the total national production.
- Major and minor areas and state production percentages are derived from NASS county- and state-level production data from 2006-2010.

Soybean crop calendar for most of the United States

Crop calendar dates are based upon NASS crop progress data from 2006-2010. The field activities and crop development stages illustrated in the crop calendar represent the average time period when national progress advanced from 10 to 90 percent.
It was a mostly good year for soybeans in the northern and western Corn Belt.

September 1 estimates, if realized, indicate record-high soybean production in six states (IA, KY, MI, MN, NE, and SD) in the north-central U.S.

If September 1 estimates are realized, 2015 will feature the second-highest U.S. soybean yield (47.1 bushels/acre) and production (3.94 billion bushels) on record, behind only 2014.

Drought affected less than 5% of the U.S. soybean production area during the heart of the 2015 growing season.

Currently, 61% of the U.S. soybean crop is rated good to excellent.

However, only 35 to 55% of the soybeans were rated good to excellent in the southern Corn Belt States.
**U.S. Soybean Areas Experiencing Drought**

Reflects September 15, 2015 U.S. Drought Monitor data

Approximately 4% of soybean production is within an area experiencing drought.

Major and minor agricultural areas are derived from NASS county-level crop production data from 2006 to 2010. Additional information on these agricultural data can be found at: http://www.nass.usda.gov/.

Mapped drought areas are derived from the U.S. Drought Monitor product and do not depict the intensity of drought in any particular location. More information on the Drought Monitor can be found at: http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/.

- Major agricultural areas combined account for 75% of the total national production.
- Major and minor agricultural areas combined account for 99% of the total national production.
United States Soybean Areas Located in Drought
U.S. Soybean Conditions

Percent Good to Excellent
September 13, 2015

Data obtained from preliminary National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) weekly crop progress and condition tables

National Condition

Good to Excellent 61
Change from Last Year -11

TOP ## - Percent Good to Excellent
[BOTTOM ##] - Change from Last Year
September 1, 2015 Soybean Yield
Bushels and Change From Previous Month

USDA-NASS
9-11-15
U.S. Soybeans Progress

Percent Dropping Leaves
September 13, 2015

National Progress

Dropping Leaves 35
Change from 5-year Average +4

Data obtained from preliminary National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) weekly crop progress and condition tables

TOP ## - Percent Dropping Leaves
BOTTOM ## - Change from 5-year Average

USDA Agricultural Weather Assessments
World Agricultural Outlook Board
Other Current Agricultural Highlights

- The spring wheat harvest is wrapping up early.
- Hard Red Winter wheat planting is underway on the Plains; rain is needed in some areas.
- The sugarbeet harvest is off to a quick start.
- The sugarbeet production estimate is up more than 10% from last year; sorghum production is up nearly 33%.
- There were some fruit/vegetable losses due to harsh winter (2014-15) and/or spring (2015) weather.
- Rangeland and pastures are mostly in great shape in the north-central U.S., especially pertaining to this time of year.
United States: Spring Wheat (excluding durum)

Yellow numbers indicate the percent each state contributed to the total national production. States not numbered contributed less than 1% to the national total.

- Major areas combined account for approximately 75% of the total national production.
- Major and minor areas combined account for approximately 99% of the total national production.
- Major and minor areas and state production percentages are derived from NASS county- and state-level production data from 2006-2010.

Note: The agricultural data used to create the map and crop calendar were obtained from the National Agricultural Statistics Service at: http://www.nass.usda.gov/.

Crop calendar dates are based upon NASS crop progress data from 2006-2010. The field activities and crop development stages illustrated in the crop calendar represent the average time period when national progress advanced from 10 to 90 percent.
U.S. Spring Wheat Progress

Percent Harvested

September 13, 2015

National Progress

Harvested 97
Change from 5-year Average +11

Data obtained from preliminary National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) weekly crop progress and condition tables

TOP ## - Percent Harvested
[BOTTOM ##] - Change from 5-year Average

Difference
-40% or less
-39% to -30%
-29% to -20%
-19% to -10%
-9% to -1%
No Change
1% to 9%
10% to 19%
20% to 29%
30% to 39%
40% or More
United States: Winter Wheat

Yellow numbers indicate the percent each state contributed to the total national production. States not numbered contributed less than 1% to the national total.

Note: The agricultural data used to create the map and crop calendar were obtained from the National Agricultural Statistics Service at: http://www.nass.usda.gov/.

- Major areas combined account for approximately 75% of the total national production.
- Major and minor areas combined account for approximately 99% of the total national production.
- Major and minor areas and state production percentages are derived from NASS county- and state-level production data from 2006-2010.

Crop calendar dates are based upon NASS crop progress data from 2006-2010. The field activities and crop development stages illustrated in the crop calendar represent the average time period when national progress advanced from 10 to 90 percent.
U.S. Winter Wheat Conditions
Percent Poor to Very Poor
June 28, 2015

Data obtained from preliminary National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) weekly crop progress and condition tables

National Condition
Poor to Very Poor 23
Change from Last Week +1

TOP ## - Percent Poor to Very Poor
[BOTTOM ##] - Change from Last Week

USDA Agricultural Weather Assessments World Agricultural Outlook Board
U.S. Winter Wheat Progress
Percent Harvested
June 28, 2015

Data obtained from preliminary National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) weekly crop progress and condition tables

National Progress
Harvested 38
Change from 5-year Average -8

TOP ## - Percent Harvested
[BOTTOM ##] - Change from 5-year Average

USDA Agricultural Weather Assessments
World Agricultural Outlook Board
U.S. Winter Wheat Progress
Percent Harvested
July 26, 2015

National Progress
Harvested 85
Change from 5-year Average +5

Data obtained from preliminary National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) weekly crop progress and condition tables.
U.S. Winter Wheat Progress

Percent Planted

September 13, 2015

National Progress

Planted 9
Change from 5-year Average 0

Data obtained from preliminary National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) weekly crop progress and condition tables.

TOP ## - Percent Planted
BOTTOM ## - Change from 5-year Average

USDA Agricultural Weather Assessments
World Agricultural Outlook Board
Reflects September 15, 2015 U.S. Drought Monitor data

Approximately 21% of winter wheat production is within an area experiencing drought.

Major and minor agricultural areas are derived from NASS county-level crop production data from 2006 to 2010. Additional information on these agricultural data can be found at: http://www.nass.usda.gov/.

Mapped drought areas are derived from the U.S. Drought Monitor product and do not depict the intensity of drought in any particular location. More information on the Drought Monitor can be found at: http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/.

- Major agricultural areas combined account for 75% of the total national production.
- Major and minor agricultural areas combined account for 99% of the total national production.
U.S. Sugarbeets Progress
Percent Harvested
September 13, 2015

Data obtained from preliminary National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) weekly crop progress and condition tables.

National Progress

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Harvested</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change from 5-year Average</td>
<td>+6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOP ## - Percent Harvested
[BOTTOM ##] - Change from 5-year Average

Difference
-40% or less
-39% to -30%
-29% to -20%
-19% to -10%
-9% to -1%
No Change
1% to 9%
10% to 19%
20% to 29%
30% to 39%
40% or More

USDA Agricultural Weather Assessments
World Agricultural Outlook Board
U.S. Sorghum Progress
Percent Mature
September 13, 2015

National Progress
Mature 43
Change from 5-year Average +4

Data obtained from preliminary National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) weekly crop progress and condition tables.

TOP ## - Percent Mature
[BOTTOM ##] - Change from 5-year Average
U.S. Sorghum Progress
Percent Harvested
September 13, 2015

Data obtained from preliminary National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) weekly crop progress and condition tables

National Progress
Harvested 22
Change from 5-year Average -4

TOP ## - Percent Harvested
[BOTTOM ##] - Change from 5-year Average

USDA Agricultural Weather Assessments
World Agricultural Outlook Board
## September 2015 Crop Production

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crop</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>September 2015</th>
<th>% Change From Previous Forecast</th>
<th>% Change From Previous Season</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sorghum</td>
<td>Mil Bu</td>
<td>574</td>
<td>+0.3</td>
<td>+32.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Tobacco</td>
<td>Mil Lbs</td>
<td>709</td>
<td>-1.1</td>
<td>-19.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugarbeets</td>
<td>Mil Tons</td>
<td>34.6</td>
<td>+1.1</td>
<td>+10.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugarcane</td>
<td>Mil Tons</td>
<td>31.2</td>
<td>-3.0</td>
<td>+2.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Tart Cherry Production Down 23 Percent

United States tart cherry production is forecast at 223 million pounds, down 23 percent from the 2014 production.

In Michigan, the largest producing State, a hard freeze during late May reduced yields significantly.

In Wisconsin, growers reported damage to trees from harsh winter weather. Several growers no longer have production due to tree mortality.

Oregon and Utah growers expect a smaller than average crop this year. A freeze event led to loss of some trees that were not yet dormant.

Pennsylvania growers reported a crop that will result in a relatively good production. Favorable conditions contributed to good yields. In Washington, rains and above average temperatures during Spring, pushed maturity ahead of the normal pace. Harvest started three weeks ahead of normal.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Total production</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2013 (million pounds)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michigan</td>
<td>218.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>12.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oregon</td>
<td>4.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utah</td>
<td>26.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>17.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wisconsin</td>
<td>12.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>294.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The early summer rains look to impact this year's pumpkin harvest in central Illinois.

"We're disappointed that the yields this year appear to be less than anticipated. It looks like the yield could be off by as much as a third," said Roz O'Hearn, corporate and brand affairs director for Libby, the company that dominates the canned pumpkin market and grows most of its pumpkins here in central Illinois.


Weather could further reduce yields this year with the harvest now underway through October or early November, said O'Hearn.

"Will this affect shoppers? We believe we’ll have enough pumpkin to meet the needs presented by the fall holidays as we manage our distribution across the country and to our retailers through allocation," she said.

"Once we ship the remainder of the 2015 harvest (most likely by mid-November), we’ll have no more Libby's pumpkin to sell until harvest 2016," said O'Hearn.

"About 8 out of 10 cans of pumpkin sold (in the U.S.) come from Libby's with the vast majority of our pumpkin coming from the Morton area," she said.

Ninety percent of the pumpkins grown in the United States are raised within a 90-mile radius of Peoria, according to the University of Illinois.
Since 1995, the only years with mid-September U.S. pasture conditions equal to or better than this year are 1997 and 2014.

Index Weighting: Excellent = 4; Good = 3; Fair = 2; Poor = 1; Very Poor = 0

Based on NASS crop progress data.

Index Weighting: Excellent = 4; Good = 3; Fair = 2; Poor = 1; Very Poor = 0

Based on NASS crop progress data.
Thank you!

Contact information:
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