

# Weekly World Wheat Weather

## Central U.S. Plains Crops Protected In Snow

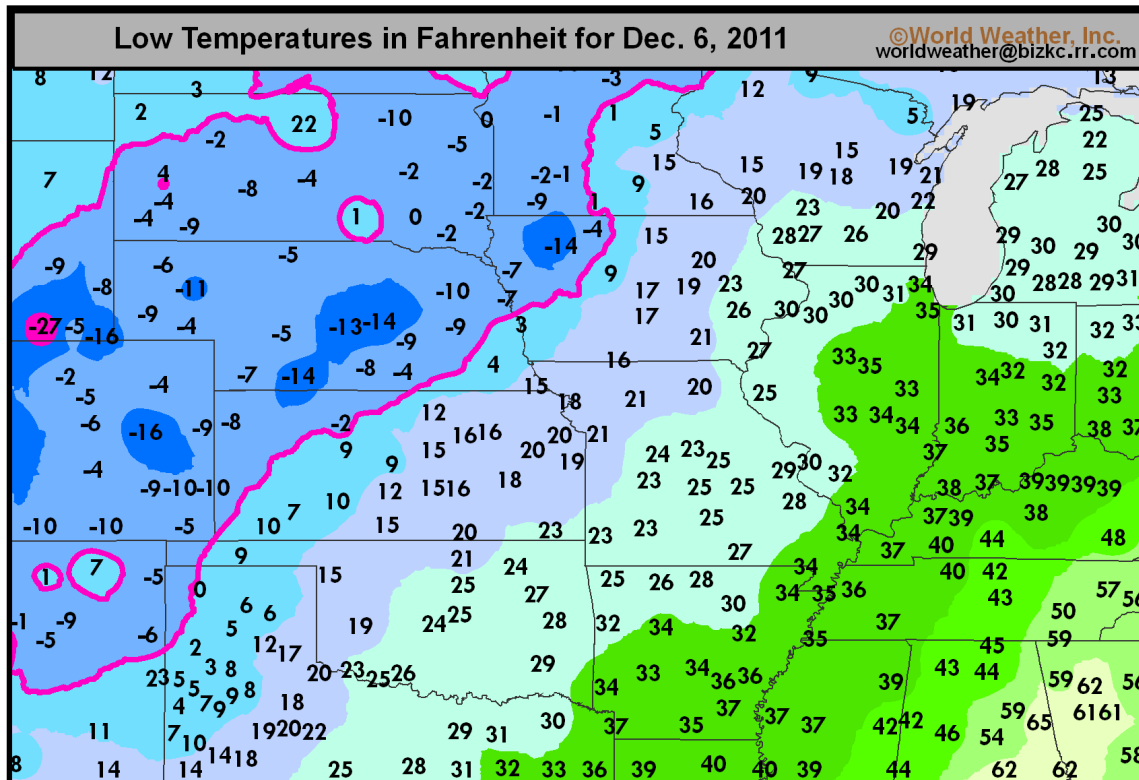
By Drew Lerner

Kansas City, December 6 (World Weather Inc.) – Bitter cold air descended upon the U.S. Great Plains this week with temperatures this morning dropping to their lowest levels of the season in some areas. Adequate protection against the cold was present in many areas due to snow cover. In the meantime, China wheat was becoming dormant after a few weeks of nearly ideal crop establishment. Wheat conditions in New South Wales, Australia improved for a while during the past week after too much rain fell in late November, but a new round of precipitation was coming into the region for the balance of this week.

### UNITED STATES

#### Hard Red Winter Wheat

Cooling has finally settled into the nation's mid-section this past week pushing more of the hard red wheat crop into dormancy. Crop conditions improved greatly during the autumn season with timely rainfall occurring to support good stands and favorable root and tiller networks. The environment has been far better than many had feared earlier this year when extreme drought conditions were prevailing in the southern Plains.

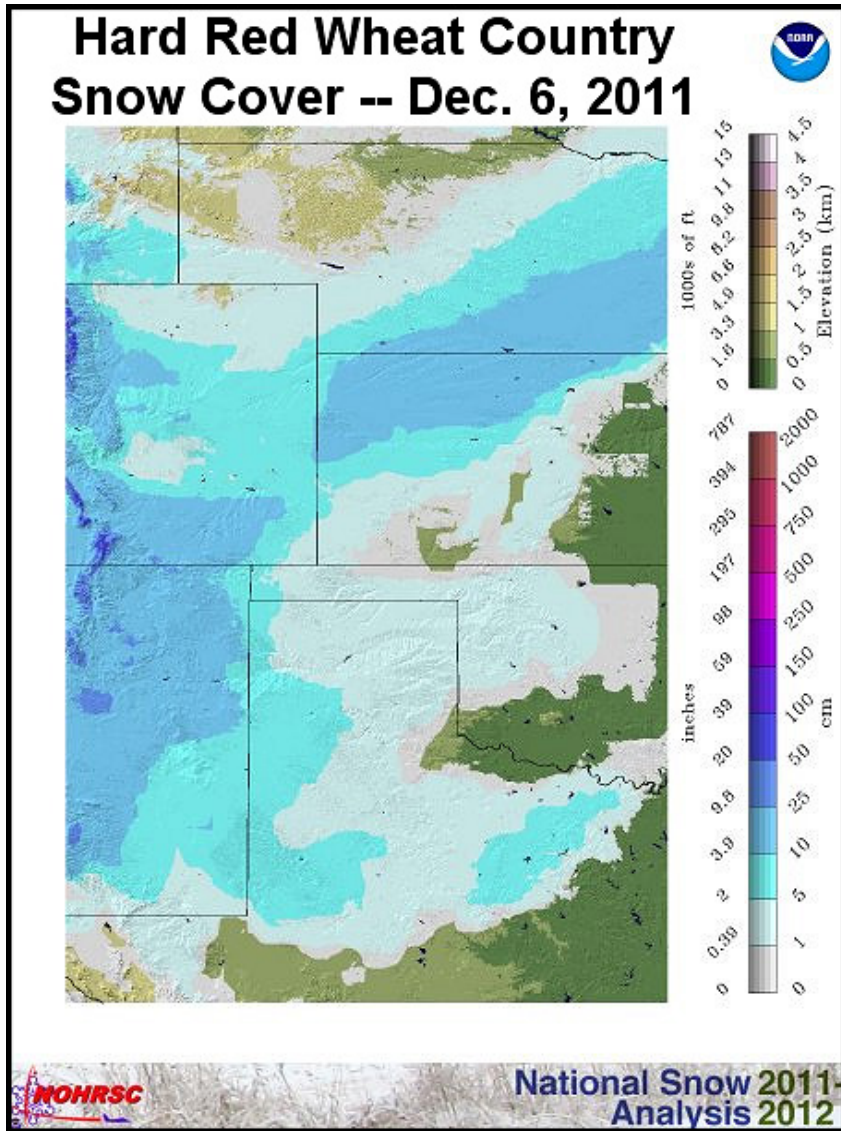


Hard red wheat is poised to come into the spring growing season in a position to continue improving as long as soil moisture remains favorable. World Weather, Inc. continues to research the spring outlook and most indications suggest a better rainfall

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distribution than that of 2011 and that should translate into a favorable environment for crop development.



The most recent weather trend of interest in hard red wheat country occurred this morning when subzero degree Fahrenheit temperatures occurred from northeastern New Mexico to western and central Nebraska. Extremes in the positive single digits occurred from the northern Texas Panhandle to central Kansas. All of these colder areas have snow on the ground and were sufficiently protected from the cold overnight. No winterkill occurred and none was anticipated as the cool weather bias hangs on into the end of this week and early in the weekend. Temperatures in the central and southern Plains will not be as cold as today again for the next ten days.

### Midwest/Delta Soft Wheat

Cold temperatures are not a threat to the Midwest or northern Delta. Instead it is excessive moisture that poses a risk to winter grain. Flooding has become more widespread and serious following the past few days of rain. The ground is saturated from the Delta and Tennessee River Basin into the eastern Midwest and every new rain event is producing greater runoff causing flooding to become more common. Drier weather is needed and it may occur for a while in the coming week, but a new storm system is due by mid-week next week that will bring back similar conditions.

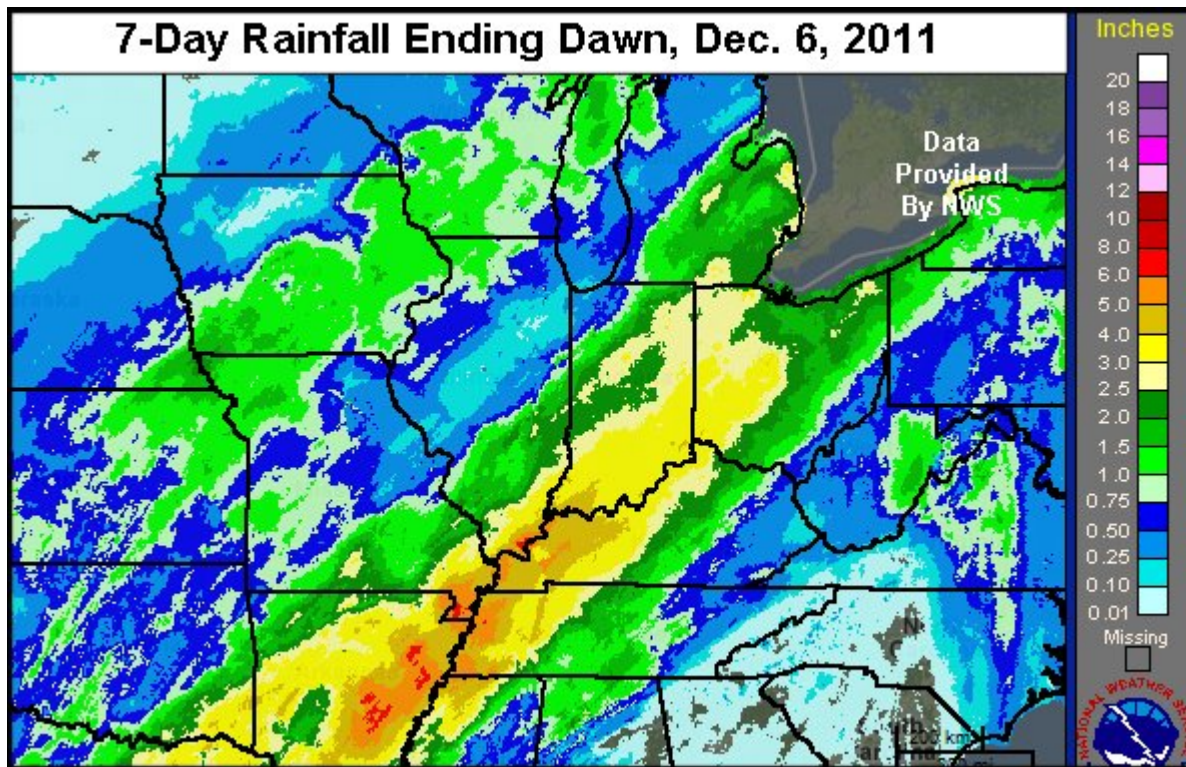
Rainfall in the past seven days alone has ranged from 1.50 to 4.00 inches from the northern Delta to western Ohio and southern Indiana with local totals of 5.00 to more than 6.00 inches in the northern Delta and a few areas northeast to extreme southern Illinois and

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northwestern Kentucky. Central Illinois, however, has received only up to 0.50 inch in the past seven days, although much greater rain has occurred in previous weeks.

Some of the wheat in the Midwest was not planted this year because of late summer crop harvesting and then too much rain. Most of the crop was planted, but a small portion of crop area will likely be planted to corn in the spring as an alternative.

None of the Great Plains cold from this morning was expected to move into the Delta or southeastern states in a threatening manner during the next few days, although some cooling is anticipated.



### Pacific Northwest

Precipitation that was occurring frequently last week at this time ended late last week leading in a several day period of dry weather. That stretch of more restricted precipitation continues today, but will end about this time next week as a new succession of storms marches into the region. The precipitation coming next week will further bolster mountain snowpack and soil moisture for wheat use in the spring and summer.

### Northern Plains

Some winter wheat in the northern Plains was subjected to some very cool conditions this morning with extreme lows falling near and below zero Fahrenheit. Snow cover was not as widespread or significant in the northern Plains as that in hard red wheat country resulting in some vulnerability of wheat to the cold weather. World Weather, Inc.

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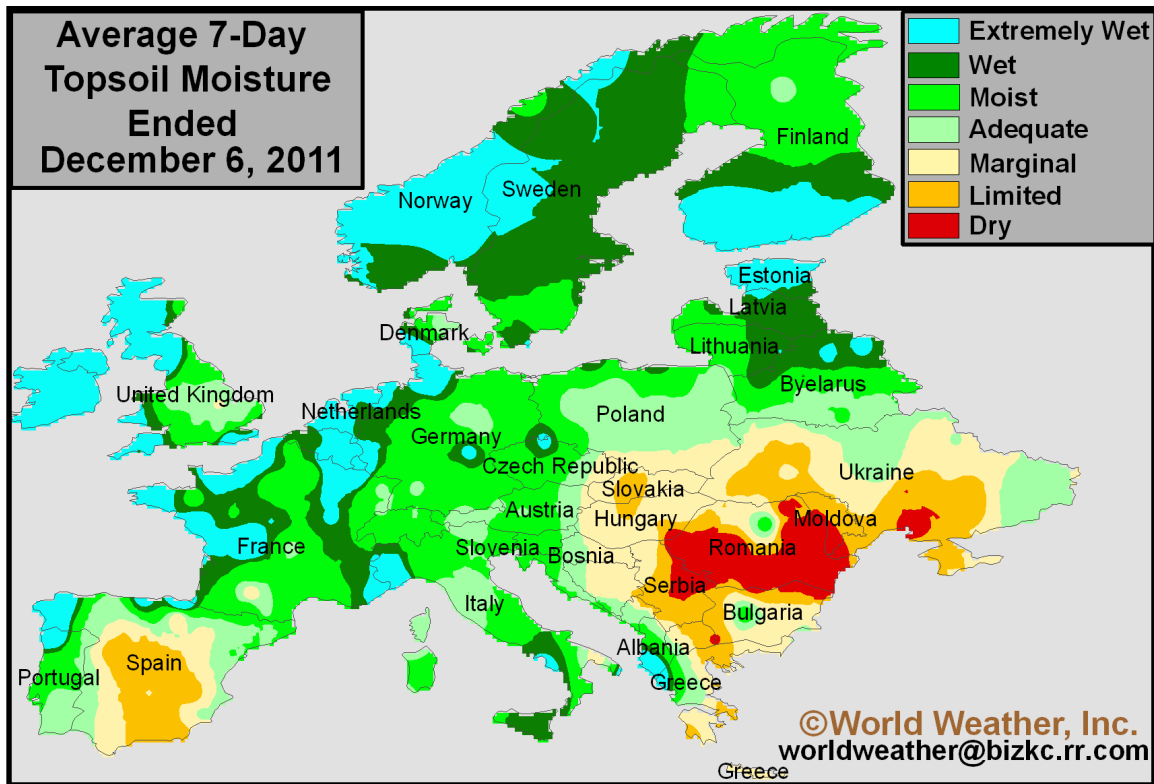
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does not believe much, if any, damage occurred, but assessing the damage will not be possible before spring when crops normally resume development.

### EUROPE

Weather conditions this autumn were best in Spain, Portugal and some north-central parts of the continent where rainfall was timely and supportive of small grain planting and establishment. In contrast, [weather in east-central and southeastern Europe was extremely dry leaving many unirrigated wheat, barley and rye crops to establish without sufficient soil moisture. Needless to say, dryland crops are not well established and there is need for significant precipitation prior to spring.](#)

Weather pattern changes are under way now and that will translate into periodic rain and snowfall during the coming week to ten days. Soil moisture will be slowly improved so that spring crop development can possibly improve. Most of the damage done this autumn will not be reversible and the damage done will likely remain through the spring growing season. Some producers will opt to replant with spring varieties this year and a few may switch to corn and other early season coarse grain crops.



A close watch on weather pattern will be warranted in the spring to assure crops have the best possible environment for recovery. Otherwise, [the region from Slovakia to the lower Danube River Basin and east through Ukraine to south-central Russia is destined to produce poorly.](#)

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### **NORTH AFRICA**

Weather conditions over the past week were favorable for wheat and barley. Most crop areas received rain at one time or another and resulting amounts were favorable for better crop establishment. The only exception was in southwestern Morocco where soil moisture was inadequate leading to a little stress for unirrigated crops in the region.

Weather conditions in the coming week will likely be dry in a large part of the production region. This is normally the driest time of the autumn season.

### **COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES**

Weather conditions this past week were rather benign with most of the significant precipitation occurring in northern and eastern portions of the small grain region. Ukraine, Moldova and both Krasnodar and southern Russia were left dry as they have often been since early September. That left most winter crops dormant and with a lack of significant soil moisture. Winter grains are not well established in some southern CIS locations and the risk of winterkill will be above average if extreme temperatures occur without snow cover.

Worry over snow free conditions grew in the market place last week, but the worry was to no avail. There were not extreme temperatures.

Weather patterns are changing for the coming week with snow and some rain expected from Ukraine and Moldova into Krasnodar and the Northeast Caucasus region. No winter grain crop will benefit from the precipitation this autumn except in areas that receive snow. Snow is needed to protect wheat and rye from colder temperatures. Most indicators suggested temperatures would not be threateningly cold during the next ten days, but cooling was likely. The cooler conditions should help put some snow on the ground to begin protecting poorly established wheat and rye from any potential threatening weather.

It looks as though most of the persistent dry weather in Ukraine and Russia has run its course – at least for now and a little more “normal” weather may occur for a while.

### **CHINA**

Nearly ideal wheat establishment has occurred this autumn. Temperatures began cooling this past week pushing more of the 2012 winter crop into dormancy. Well timed rainfall and seasonably warm temperatures have most of the wheat crop in better than average condition and as long as relatively normal weather occurs in the spring yield potentials will be up.

### **INDIA**

India continues waiting for significant rain. Central and northern parts of the nation produce winter wheat. Most of the small grain crop is irrigated and crops are developing in a favorable manner. However, the best production potential will almost always occur when irrigation is supplemented with timely rainfall. There is no timely rainfall suggested for the

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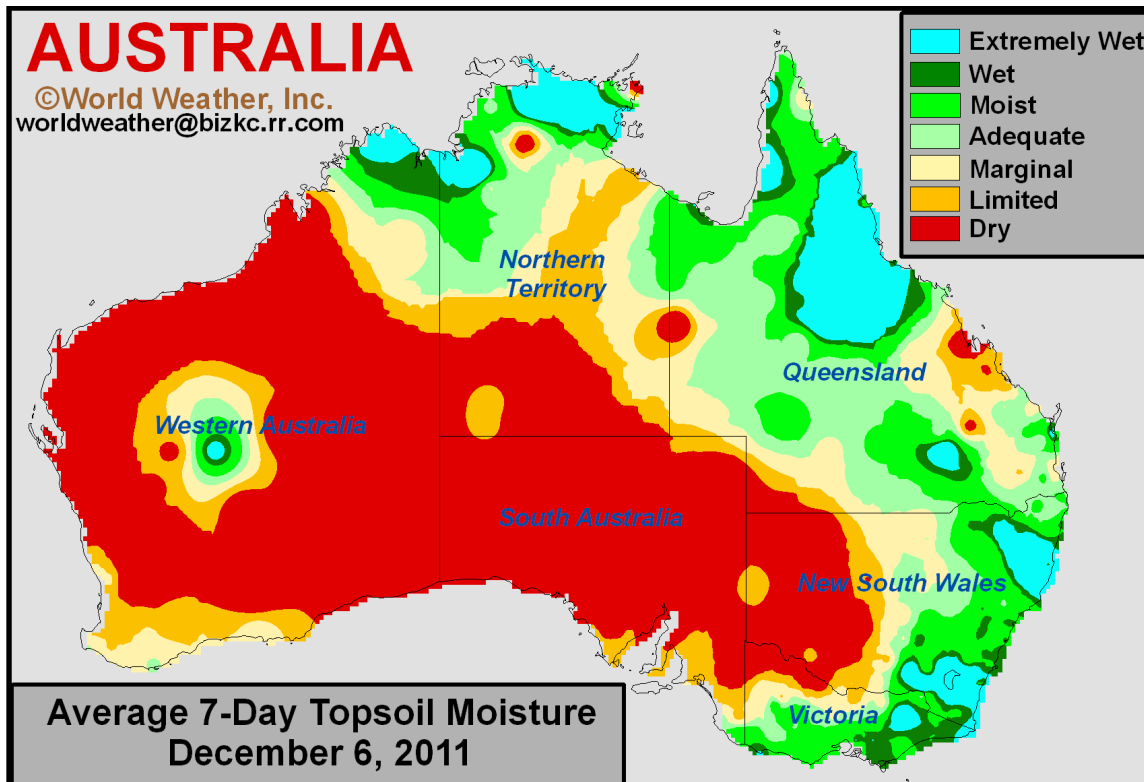
next ten days. Winter crops will continue developing favorably with irrigation leaving production potentials up to par.

### AUSTRALIA

Heavy rain fell last week at this time in New South Wales. Some damage occurred to its northern and eastern wheat and barley crop where harvesting was delayed and persistent wet weather lowered grain quality. The situation improved late last week and during the weekend as drier weather returned across the region. That drying bias is now passing away and rain will be back for the duration of this week. Only about 25% of the small grain crop remained to be harvested from northeastern New South Wales a week ago and some new harvest progress has likely occurred. Nevertheless, some of the remaining grain will be subjected to more threatening rainfall in the next few days.

The most vulnerable crop to wet weather right now is in southern New South Wales and Victoria where crops are maturing and being harvested. Too much rain now would be a threat to production. Most computer forecast models suggest the greatest rainfall in the coming week will be in northeastern New South Wales and Queensland leaving southeastern parts of the nation with less rain possibly sparing crops from any threatening change in quality.

Western Australia is being impacted by rain this week, but last week was dry. The precipitation is stalling late harvest progress and may raise worry over crop quality. However, most of the rain will not be persistent enough to seriously harm crops in the state.



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Overall, small grain production from 2011 will be quite favorable, despite some grain quality decline recently. The crop quality declines this year are much less serious and less widespread relative to those of last year.

### SOUTH AFRICA

*Wheat maturation and harvest conditions normally play out over the next few weeks. This year's production has been reduced due to very warm to hot temperatures and restricted rainfall during reproduction and filling.* The nation is starting to see more "normal" rainfall now, but it is coming too late to save the small grain crop. Production potentials were poised quite favorably last autumn and early this spring, but the lack of rain and warm weather occurred at the worst possible time resulting in the production cuts.

Dry weather will now favor crop maturation and harvesting. Some rain is expected periodically over the next two weeks and that may lead to a slower harvest pace and a slight risk to grain quality. Mostly the rain that comes in the next few weeks will be considered normal for this time of year.

### ARGENTINA

Wheat is being harvested in the north and continues to mature in the south with some harvesting just now getting under way. Weather conditions in the next ten days will prove ideal for maturation and harvest progress. A net drying bias is expected to prevail except late this week and into the weekend from Buenos Aires to Cordoba where rain will occur most frequently slowing fieldwork.

This year's harvest will continue through December and will end in January. If drier biased conditions prevail over the coming week to ten days as suggested there is likely to be a swift conclusion to crop maturation and harvest progress.

### MEXICO

Rain is needed throughout northern Mexico. Some of the wheat crop is irrigated, but much of it is not. La Nina has rainfall occurring in a minimal manner and the trend will not change much over the coming week to ten days. That will leave many crops poorly established and facing production cuts.

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