

MEAN LAKE LEVELS DURING MAY, 1926

By UNITED STATES LAKE SURVEY

[Detroit, Mich., June 5, 1926]

The following data are reported in the Notice to Mariners of the above date:

Data	Lakes †			
	Superior	Michigan and Huron	Erie	Ontario
Mean level during May, 1926: Above mean sea level at New York.....	600.18	578.14	571.17	245.37
Above or below—				
Mean stage of April, 1926.....	+0.06	+0.32	+0.37	+0.45
Mean stage of May, 1925.....	+0.26	-0.28	-0.14	-0.28
Average stage for May, last 10 years.....	-1.73	-2.22	-1.34	-1.05
Highest recorded May stage.....	-2.87	-5.38	-3.25	-3.58
Lowest recorded May stage.....	-0.64	-0.28	-0.14	+0.41
Average departure (since 1860) of the May level from the April level.....	+0.31	+0.31	+0.34	+0.34

† Lake St. Clair's level: In May, 1926, 573.61 feet.

EFFECT OF WEATHER ON CROPS AND FARMING OPERATIONS MAY, 1926

By J. B. KINCER

General summary.—During the early part of the month the prevailing generally fair and sunshiny weather was favorable for outdoor operations in most sections of the country, but it continued too cool for growth of early crops in the East, and germination was mostly slow. The soil was needing moisture in the Central-Northern States, and it had become too dry in the Southeast, but rather widespread showers, beginning about the 7th, were very beneficial in the former area. During the first half of the month there was some interruption to field work by too much rain in the Southwest, but thereafter better conditions prevailed in that section.

During the latter part of the month the need of moisture became rather urgent in much of the interior of the country, including the southern portions of Indiana and Illinois, much of Kentucky and Tennessee, parts of Ohio, and most sections of the trans-Mississippi States from Missouri and south-central Oklahoma northward; at the same time rains in the Lake region materially improved agricultural conditions. In the interior of the Southeastern States, particularly in the western Carolinas and some adjoining sections, the drought became severe and was critical in some districts. In the Southwest good growing weather prevailed, while showers improved conditions over most of the Spring Wheat Belt. No noteworthy damage from frost occurred during the month.

Small grains.—In general the weather was favorable for the winter wheat crop, except in the west-central Great Plains, where there was a marked deficiency in moisture.

Rainfall was insufficient in parts of the Ohio Valley States, but in general the crop made satisfactory development, except in western and northwestern Kansas and parts of Nebraska, where the drought was damaging. In the Southwest wheat made good to excellent growth by reason of the prevailing favorable weather. In the Spring Wheat Belt, conditions were only fairly favorable, as moisture was insufficient during most of the time in many places, although rainfall about the close of the first week, and again near the end of the month, was beneficial, particularly in the Red River Valley. At the close of the month this crop was mainly in fair to good condition, except that it was mostly poor in Minnesota, and where rain was needed in some other localities. Oats were heading short generally because of scanty moisture.

Corn.—With favorable weather for field operations, corn planting made generally good progress, and, by the 20th, this work was well along to nearly the northern limits of the belt in the trans-Mississippi States, and much had been seeded in the Ohio Valley. There was some delay to cultivation by wet weather in parts of the Southwest. In the western portion of the belt the weather was fairly favorable for germination, and stands were mostly satisfactory, though only fair in Iowa; in the eastern portion it was rather too cool for good germination, and moisture was needed in some sections. The crop made very good progress in the Southwest.

Cotton.—During the first part of May cool nights made conditions generally unfavorable for germination of cotton, which resulted in uneven stands in many places, but field work made good progress. The warmer weather the latter part of the month was favorable and cotton made fair to very good advance, except in sections of the Carolinas and northern Georgia where severe drought prevailed. Planting and replanting was mostly completed in the Southwest, with progress of the crop very good, but its condition spotted. In the southern portion of the belt, early plants were forming squares freely at the close of the month, but in the North they were small and late, with condition decidedly unfavorable in the interior of the Southeast where the warmer weather intensified the drought.

Miscellaneous crops.—Pastures and meadows made rather slow progress during the month in most of the eastern half of the country, because of cool weather and, in many places, deficient rainfall. In the Southwest the range continued in good condition, but rain was needed in much of the Plateau section. The latter part of the period was more favorable for planting late potatoes in northern districts, but in the Southeast this crop suffered for moisture. Truck and minor crops were benefited by showers the latter part of the month in the interior Eastern States, and they did well in the Southwest, but were slow in the Southeast. Sugar beets grew nicely, and in the lower Mississippi Valley cane made excellent progress.