

EFFECT OF WEATHER ON CROPS AND FARMING OPERATIONS, FEBRUARY, 1927

By J. B. KINCER

General summary.—The weather during the first part of the month was characterized by uniformly mild conditions for the season in nearly all sections of the country. About the beginning of the second week, however, an extensive high-pressure area, accompanied by much colder weather, overspread the Northwestern States and drifted southward over the southern Great Plains and the Southeast. The cold moderated considerably before reaching the latter section, although there was a sharp fall in temperature over the Southwest with freezing extending well southward over Texas. Storms were rather active during the third week with low pressure areas causing widespread rain over southern districts and rain or snow over most Central and Northern States east of the Mississippi River. During the last week there was a return to generally pleasant weather in nearly all portions of the country and temperatures were well above normal in most areas.

The mild, open, and mostly fair weather during the first part made conditions favorable for outside work and greatly reduced the snow cover that was present at the beginning of the month. The moderate to substantial rains in the Southeast were very beneficial in conditioning the soil, and abnormal development of all vegetation was noted. The continued warm weather had advanced fruit too rapidly, with the earlier varieties blooming quite generally throughout the Gulf section during the second week. Fruit trees continued to advance prematurely during the latter part of the month and at the close some early varieties were in bloom as far north as central Arkansas. While there was some interruption to farm work in the Southeast by rain, the additional moisture was beneficial; in some southwestern areas the soil continued too wet to work. Toward the close of the month conditions became more favorable for work in the Southwest, with seasonal operations advancing satisfactorily.

Small grains.—There was practically no snow cover in the principal wheat-producing sections at the beginning

of the month, but beneficial precipitation occurred during the second week, the generous snowfall over the northwestern portion being especially helpful. Some complaint of freezing and thawing was made in northern areas, but this was not widespread, and the wheat crop continued in generally fair to good condition in most sections. During the last half of the month wheat was reported greening up in the lower Missouri Valley and furnishing some pasturage in Kansas. Cereal crops in Southern States continued in mostly good condition with the moisture in the Southeast of considerable benefit. There was some complaint of green bugs appearing locally in the Southwest.

Ranges, pastures, and livestock.—Pastures showed improvement in the Southeast under improved moisture conditions and favorable temperatures. The absence of storms during the first week was beneficial for livestock in the great western grazing areas, while the open conditions in the northern Great Plains permitted free ranging. The weather was less favorable during the second week, but rain or snow in the far Southwest augmented water supplies and improved the desert range. Generous precipitation over southwestern sections during the latter part was beneficial for the range and further increased the water supply. Livestock continued in mostly satisfactory condition, with lambing making good advance in the West at the close.

Miscellaneous crops.—Progress and condition of truck crops in winter-producing areas was almost continuously good throughout the month. Potato planting advanced rapidly in most areas of the Southeast, with planting beginning in southern Arkansas at the close.

The unseasonably mild weather during February caused premature swelling of fruit buds and at its close peaches, pears, and plums were in bloom as far north as central Arkansas and peach buds were showing color in the southern Ohio Valley. Citrus were making new growth in Florida and leafing and much bloom was noted in some districts. Good conditions for citrus prevailed in California the first part, but later the continued damp weather caused some rotting of navels on the trees.

WEATHER ON THE ATLANTIC AND PACIFIC OCEANS

NORTH ATLANTIC OCEAN

By F. A. YOUNG

Taking the ocean as a whole, the weather over the North Atlantic during February presented few unusual features, although in the region between the 45th and 50th parallels and the 30th and 45th meridians gales were reported on from eight to nine days, which is considerably above the normal as shown on the Pilot Chart. In a number of squares in the middle and eastern sections of the ocean gales occurred on from five to seven days, and several ships encountered winds of force 11 and 12, as shown in table.

The number of days with fog was considerably below normal over the Grand Banks and in the middle section of the steamer lanes; it was unusually prevalent, however, in the square between the 35th and 40th parallels and the 70th and 75th meridians, where it was observed on 13 days. Fog also occurred on four to six days over the eastern section of the steamer lanes and in the North Sea, and on three days in the Gulf of Mexico.

TABLE 1.—Averages, departures, and extremes of atmospheric pressure at sea level, 8 a. m. (75th meridian), North Atlantic Ocean, February, 1927

Stations	Average pressure	Departure ¹	Highest	Date	Lowest	Date
	Inches	Inch	Inches		Inches	
Julianshaab, Greenland.....	29.33	(²)	29.78	17th.....	28.91	1st. ⁴
Belle Isle, Newfoundland.....	29.82	+0.07	30.58	20th.....	29.16	3d.
Halifax.....	30.01	+0.03	30.74	20th.....	29.28	4th.
Nantucket.....	29.99	-0.07	30.36	1st.....	29.46	26th.
Hatteras.....	30.06	-0.07	30.52	1st.....	29.72	19th. ⁴
Key West.....	30.10	+0.02	30.24	2d. ⁴	29.72	19th.
New Orleans.....	30.08	-0.03	30.28	1st. ⁴	29.70	18th.
Swan Island.....	29.96	-0.03	30.02	16th.....	29.82	19th.
Turks Island.....	30.15	+0.07	30.24	13th.....	30.06	19th.
Bermuda.....	30.19	+0.05	30.36	2d.....	29.98	26th. ⁴
Horta, Azores.....	30.10	-0.03	30.36	1st. ⁴	29.72	24th.
Lerwick, Shetland Islands.....	29.88	+0.16	30.55	9th.....	29.08	23d.
Valencia, Ireland.....	29.92	+0.02	30.59	6th.....	28.74	22d.
London.....	30.07	+0.07	30.58	14th. ⁴	29.20	24th.

¹ From normals shown on H. O. Pilot Chart based on observations at Greenwich mean noon, or 7 a. m., 75th meridian.

² Mean of 21 observations; seven days missing.

³ No normal established.

⁴ And on other dates.

⁵ Mean of 24 observations; four days missing.