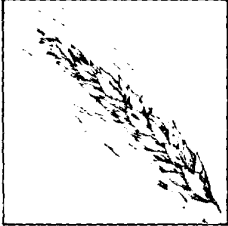




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## Environment Analysis Brief

GCR/EAB 75-1  
April 1975

This is the first of a series of periodic reports on the condition of the Soviet grain crop based on all-source analysis [redacted] meteorological data, and collateral information. It was prepared by the Environmental Analysis Staff of the Office of Geographic and Cartographic Research. The report was produced without the aid of computer modeling and does not represent finished intelligence.

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### Status of 1974-75 Soviet Winter Grain Crop

The planned area for the 1974-75 Soviet winter grain crop was 36.7 million hectares.\* Reportedly, 35.5 million hectares or 97 percent of the Plan were sown to winter grains, representing a decrease of four percent from 1974 when 37 million hectares were sown.

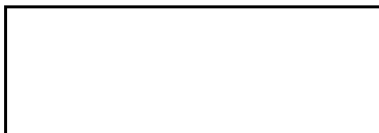
Rains delayed the fall sowing of winter grains in the Ukraine and European USSR but the delays were offset by the unusually mild and prolonged fall. In most areas, the winter grains progressed well into the tillering stage\*\* of development before winter set in. The winter crops in portions of the ten westernmost oblasts of the Ukraine and the southern portion of Belorussia, however, were considerably damaged by severe floods in late November. The floods affected an area where approximately 10 percent of the country's winter grain is produced. [redacted]

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[redacted] approximately 40 to 50 percent of the crops were either severely damaged or killed.

\* Includes 1.8 million hectares estimated for the private sector.

\*\* The stage of growth when shoots form from the underground stem nodes. It usually occurs 20-30 days after sowing.



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Meteorological reports indicate that the snow line and temperatures fluctuated considerably throughout the winter. Although the crops were extremely vulnerable during this period, there does not appear to be any widespread winterkill. It appears that less than the normal 15 to 20 percent of the winter grain has been affected by winterkill. Since most of the winter grains had progressed well into the tillering stage, the main tillers should have been quite tall and a significant number of them killed off. The remaining tillers should assume dominance when growth resumes in the spring. Thus production should not be seriously affected.

One of the most precarious situations yet facing the Soviets is that the mild winter has left the winter grains in a relatively "unhardened" state and therefore one in which they are extremely vulnerable to possible cold temperatures ahead. Additionally, excessive moisture, particularly in the Ukraine and southern Belorussia, has left these areas very susceptible to diseases this spring.

Based on observational factors, the present status of Soviet winter grain implies a 1975 production of 62 to 64 million tons -- approximating last year's record production of 63.5 million tons.



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