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USSR WEATHER AND CROP INFORMATION, 15 - 23 MARCH 1953

Underlined dates refer to days of publication; all temperatures are given in degrees centigrade.

17 March

On 15 and 16 March, slightly cloudy weather without precipitation prevailed in the western half of the European USSR. A considerable rise in temperature was recorded in all the European USSR, except the Crimea and the Northern Caucasus. The rise in temperature was especially large in the northwestern region, where daytime temperatures rose as high as those in the southern Ukraine. Noon temperatures were 5 degrees above zero in Petrozavodsk and Odeasa, 3 in Leningrad, Minsk, and Kishinev, 2 in Gor'kiy, Kiev, and L'vov, one degree in Dnepropetrovsk, zero in Vologda, Moscow, Orel, and Chkalov, 3 degrees below zero in Saratov, 4 below in Stalingrad, Kuybyshev, Kazan', and Ufa, and 5 below in Kirov.

Cold weather prevailed in the Crimea and the Caucasus. Precipitation in the form of rain and locally in the form of wet snow fell on the Black Sea coast of the Caucasus. It was dry and comparatively warm in the Azerbaydzhan SSR. The very warm weather which has prevailed in the western portion of the European USSR has speeded up the melting of snow. Temperatures rose considerably in Western Siberia. On 16 March, daytime temperatures were 2 degrees below zero in Omsk and Novosibirsk, and 2 degrees above zero in Krasnoyarsk.

Snowfalls were recorded in the steppe regions of Western Siberia and the Kazakh SSR.

Rains fell in the mountain regions of Central Asia. Dry weather with daytime temperatures ranging between 5 and 10 degrees above zero prevailed in the rest of Central Asia. Under favorable conditions, the spring harrowing of crops and presowing irrigation were carried out in the Turkmen SSR.

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18 March

On 17 March, slightly cloudy weather with slightly below zero temperatures during the night and considerable thaws during the day prevailed in most of the European USSR, except the southern regions. It was especially warm in the western and central regions. Noon temperatures were 5 degrees above zero in Petrozavodsk and Moscow, 4 in Riga, 3 in Vologda and Arkhangel'sk, 2 in Leningrad, Gor'kiy, and L'vov, and one degree in Kishinev, Orel, and Minsk.

Cold weather prevailed in the Ukraine, the Crimea, and the Northern Caucasus. Snowfalls were recorded locally. The depth of the snow cover reached 10 centimeters in Rostov on the Don. Noon temperatures were one degree above zero in Odessa and Kiev, zero in Simferopol' and Dnepropetrovsk, and one degree below zero in Voroshilovgrad and Rostov on the Don.

Moderately warm, dry weather favorable for field work and the sowing of spring crops prevailed in most of Central Asia.

Strongwinds and snowstorms were recorded in the Kazkh SSR and Western Siberia. Rising temperatures, ranging between one and 3 degrees above zero during the day, prevailed in Eastern Siberia.

Slightly cloudy, subzero weather prevailed in the Far East, where temperatures dropped to 24-26 degrees below zero during the night, but rose to 2 to 4 degrees below during the day.

19 March

On 18 March, slightly cloudy weather with an average daily temperature 5-6 degrees higher than the average for a period of several years prevailed in the central region of the European USSR. Precipitation stopped in the Crimea, the southern Ukraine, and the Caucasus, but temperatures remained 4 to 5 degrees below normal. A slight rise in temperature was recorded only in the western Ukraine and along the Black Sea coast of the Caucasus. During the night of 18 March, no subzero temperatures were recorded.

A slight drop in temperatures accompanied by snowfalls was recorded in the western and northern regions of the European USSR. Overcast weather with snowfalls and slightly below zero temperatures prevailed in the Urals. Noon temperatures were 10 degrees below zero in Sverdlovsk and Ufa, 8 below in Chkalov, 5 below in Stalingrad, 4 below in Kuybyshev, 3 below in Saratov and Minsk, 2 below in Rostov on the Don, one below in Voroshilovgrad and Voronezh, zero in Leningrad, Vologda, Orel, Kursk, Dnepropetrovsk, and Simferopol', one degree above zero in Kiev, 2 in Kishinev, Gor'kiy, and Kazan', 4 in Riga and Tbilisi, 5 in Krasnodar and Odessa, and 6 in Moscow.

On 17 March, a continuous snow cover prevailed in all the territory north of a line running from Riga to Vil'nyus, Zhitomir, Kirovograd, Dnepropetrovsk, Rostov on the Don, and Astrakhan'.

In the Kazakh SSR, the southern boundary of the snow cover ran from Gur'yev, to Karaganda, and Ust'-Kamenogorsk.

On 18 March, it became considerably colder and snow fell in Western Siberia and the northern Kazakh SSR. Noon temperatures were 27 degrees below zero in Tobol'sk, 15 below in Omsk, and 14 below in Aktyubinsk.

Temperatures dropped considerably in Central Asia. The noon temperature in Stalinabad was 3 degrees above zero.

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20 March

On 19 March, rising temperatures increased and spread from the Moldavian SSR to the central regions of the Ukraine. Noon temperatures were 7 degrees above zero in L'vov, 6 above in Kishinev and Odessa, 5 in Simferopol', and 3 in Kiev. Warm, dry weather with daytime temperatures of about zero to 2 degrees above zero prevailed in the western and central regions of the European USSR. Considerably warmer weather accompanied by snowfalls prevailed in the Urals. Daytime temperatures were one degree below zero in Ufa and 2 degrees below in Sverdlovsk.

Dry but cold weather prevailed in the Transcaucasus. Daytime temperatures were 3 degrees above zero in Yerevan and 5 above in Tbilisi. During the night, temperatures dropped to zero in many areas of the Transcaucasus. The drop in temperatures has retarded the development of agricultural crops in the Caucasus.

Temperatures dropped considerably in the southern Kazakh and Uzbek SSRs. Noon temperatures were 5 degrees below zero in Dzhambul and one degree above zero in Tashkent. Warm, dry weather favorable for sowing prevailed in the Tadzhik and Turkmen SSRs. The temperature of the soil at a depth of 10 centimeters rose to 10 degrees above zero in the southern Turkmen SSR. Almond, apricot, and peach trees are blossoming in Voroshilovabad. Apple trees are blossoming and alfalfa has resumed growth in Bukhara.

Cloudy weather with moderate subzero temperatures and snowfalls prevailed locally in most of Western Siberia.

22 March

On 20 and 21 March, slightly cloudy, warm weather with considerable variations in temperature during a period of 24 hours prevailed in most of the European USSR, except the northern regions and the Urals. It was cold in the southern regions. Rains fell in the Crimea, the Northern Caucasus, and along the Black Sea coast of the Transcaucasus and snow fell in Stavropol'skiy Kray. It was dry, but very cold in the Ukraine.

On 21 March, daytime temperatures in the northwestern and central regions were the same as those in the southern regions and locally even higher. Noon temperatures were 5 degrees above zero in Riga, 4 in Leningrad, Krasnodar, and Nal'chik, 3 in Moscow and Odessa, 2 in L'vov and Arkhangel'sk, one degree in Petrozavodsk, Vologda, and Gor'kiy, zero in Syktyvkar and Kishinev, and one degree below zero in Dnepropetrovsk, Orel, Sverdlovsk, and Kirov. Daytime temperatures were 2 degrees below zero in Kazan', Tambov, Kiev, Rostov on the Don, and Simferopol', 3 below in Voroshilovgrad, 5 below in Stalingrad and Saratov, and 6 below in Voronezh.

Because of the cold weather that has prevailed in the south, there has been little change in the southern boundary of the snow cover. The soil has dried in the L'vov, Odessa, Kherson, and Krasnodar areas. The sowing of spring crops has begun in the Moldavian SSR. Under favorable weather conditions, spring crops are entering the bushing stage and winter crops the tube stage in the Azerbaydzhan SSR.

Very warm weather favorable for the sowing of cotton prevailed in the Turkmen SSR and southern Uzbek SSR. The temperature of the upper layer of the soil has reached 14 degrees above zero in Iolotan'. It was cold in the southern Kazakh SSR and the northern portion of Central Asia. Rains fell in the foothill areas.

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Cold weather with snowfalls and strong winds prevailed in the northern half of the Kazakh SSR and in Western Siberia.

24 March

On 23, March, clear weather with daytime temperatures somewhat above zero prevailed in the western half of the European USSR. Mostly overcast weather prevailed in the eastern regions, with subzero temperatures during the night and during the day. Daytime temperatures were 2-3 degrees above zero in Vologda, Moscow, Orel, and Dnepropetrovsk, 6 above in Riga and Kiev, and 8 above in Odessa, Kishinev, and L'vov. Temperatures were zero in Krasnodar, 3 below in Stalingrad, 5 below in Kazan', 7 below in Kirov, and 8 below in Syktyvkar.

Snow fell in the Urals and in Tambovskaya, Voronezhskaya, Voroshilovgradskaya, Rostovskaya, and Stalingradskaya oblasts. Snow is thawing in the central and western regions. A considerable portion of the fields are already free from snow. Snow has completely disappeared from the western regions of the Baltic republics, the southwestern portion of the Belorussian SSR, and the Ukraine west of the Dnopr. The soil was ready for cultivation in some of the western regions of the Ukraine.

Slightly below zero temperatures which during the day were about 5 below prevailed in Western Siberia. The fields everywhere were covered with snow.

Rising temperatures accompanied by increasing cloudiness and rain prevailed in Central Asia. Temperatures during the night and during the day were about uniform -- about 10 degrees above zero. The germination of cotton seeds in early plantings has been somewhat delayed.

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