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USSR WEATHER AND CROP INFORMATION, 24 MARCH - 1 APRIL 1953

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

25 March

On 24 March, rising temperatures prevailed in the southern regions of the European USSR. Compared with the previous day, temperatures rose 3-5 degrees. Noon temperatures were 6 degrees above zero in Krasnodar and Simferopol', 9 in Kiev, and 12 in Odessa and Kishinev. Temperatures dropped in the Urals. During the night, temperatures of 20-25 below zero prevailed in the northern Urals and temperatures of 10-15 below in the central portion. Noon temperatures were 5 degrees below zero in Sverdlovsk and 8 below in Ufa.

During the past 24 hours, no substantial changes in temperature were recorded in the central and western regions. Temperatures were 2 degrees above zero in Leningrad, Moscow, and Voronezh, 3 in Minsk, and 6 in Riga.

Due to rising temperatures, the drying of the soil has been noticeably accelerated in the Ukraine, the Moldavian SSR, and the Northern Caucasus.

Temperatures dropped in Western Siberia and the western Urals, but temperatures rose in the more eastern areas. Daytime temperatures were 14 degrees below zero in Tobol'sk, 8 below in Omsk, 4 below in Novosibirsk, and 4 degrees above zero in Krasnoyarsk.

Temperatures are gradually rising in Central Asia and rains are falling which are very heavy locally.

26 March

On 25 March, rising temperatures prevailed in the Baltic republics, the Belorussian SSR, the Ukraine west of the Dnepr, the Moldavian SSR, the Crimea, and the Northern Caucasus. Noon temperatures were 9-10 degrees above zero in Riga,

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Kiev, Dnepropetrovsk, Simferopol', and Krasnodar. Snow fell in all the above-mentioned areas, except some northeastern areas of the Baltic republics and the Belorussian SSR. Normal growth of winter crops and vegetation has begun in many areas of the Ukraine west of the Dnepr, the Moldavian SSR, the Crimea, and the Northern Caucasus.

Temperatures dropped in the northern Urals. It was 7 degrees below zero in Kirov and 14 below in Syktyvkar. During the night, temperatures in the northern Urals dropped as low as 30 degrees below zero. The daytime temperature was about 2 degrees above zero in the central region and the Volga Region including Moscow, Tambov, Kazan', Saratov, and Stalingrad. Everywhere, except in the Urals, the snow is thawing; crops are still in a quiescent condition.

The noon temperature was about zero in Altayskiy and Krasnodarskiy krays. Snowfalls occurred.

Rising temperatures prevailed in the eastern portion of Central Asia and the Kazakh SSR. Noon temperatures were 12-15 degrees above zero in Dzhambul, Stalinabad, and Tashkent and 3-4 degrees in Kzyl-Orda and Ashkhabad.

28 March

On 27 March, warm, dry weather prevailed in the southern and western regions of the European USSR. Daytime temperatures were 4 degrees above zero in Petrozavodsk, 7 in Velikiye Luki, 8 in Moscow, 9 in Minsk, 11 in Kiev, 15 in Simferopol' and Krasnodar, and 18 in Kishinev.

It was cold in the Urals and the Volga Region. Daytime temperatures were 4 degrees below zero in Stalingrad, 6 below in Saratov, 9 below in Kazan' and Kirov, and 10 below in Ufa and Sverdlovsk. Winter conditions with snow and crops still in a quiescent state still prevail in the eastern regions of the European USSR including the Lower Volga Region and the northern portion of Rostovskaya Oblast.

The thawing of snow has already finished in the western regions of the European USSR. Snow has completely disappeared from the fields in most areas of the Baltic republics. The soil is ready for cultivation locally in the Belorussian SSR and has dried in most areas in the Ukraine west of the Dnepr, the Moldavian SSR, and the Crimea. The mass sowing of spring crops is proceeding in many areas. During the last 2 days, sowing operations in the Northern Caucasus have been delayed by rains and strong winds. During the night of 27 March, temperatures dropped and snow fell on the coast of the Caspian.

Warm weather prevailed in Western Siberia. Temperatures were 2 degrees above zero in Omsk, 4 in Novosibirsk, and 6 in Irkutsk. Snow has begun to thaw. Colder weather moved into the western Kazakh SSR and Central Asia across the Urals. Daytime temperatures were 5 degrees above zero in Ashkhabad and Stalinabad and dropped to 5 degrees below zero in Kzyl-Orda.

29 March

On 28 March, temperatures rose considerably in the Urals and the Volga Region, but temperatures dropped in the western portion of the European USSR. Thus, for example, the daytime temperature in Syktyvkar and Kirov rose from 10 degrees below zero to 3 degrees above zero. A temperature of 3 degrees above zero was recorded in Saratov compared with 6 degrees below the day before. Temperatures rose to 8 degrees above zero in Voronezh and Voroshilovgrad, and to 11 in Rostov on the Don. At the same time, temperatures in Minsk dropped from 9 degrees above zero to 2 degrees and in L'vov from 14 degrees above zero to 4 degrees.

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Temperatures also dropped in Kishinev, Simferopol', and Krasnodar but remained higher than 10 degrees above zero. During the first 12 hours of 28 March, there was no precipitation in the southern regions. Conditions were favorable for the cultivation of the fields and sowing. The growth of crops is proceeding normally.

Snow lies on the ground only in Voroshilovgradskaya Oblast. During the last few days, snow has disappeared almost completely from the fields of Moskovskaya, Ryazanskaya, Tul'skaya, and Bryanskaya oblasts. The thawing of snow has begun in the Urals and the Volga Region.

Temperatures dropped again in the Ural region of Western Siberia. Daytime temperatures were 6 degrees below zero in Omsk. Snow fell locally.

Cold weather prevailed in the southern Kazakh SSR and in Central Asia. The daytime temperature in Stalinabad was only one degree above zero. Temperatures were 2 degrees below zero in Alma-Ata, 4 below in Tashkent, and 6 below in Kzyl-Orda. Rains which changed locally to snowfalls prevailed in the Kirgiz, Uzbek, and Tadzhik SSRs. Temperatures rose in the Turkmen SSR.

31 March

On 30 March, warmer weather again prevailed following a short period of colder weather in the Baltic republics, the Belorussian SSR, and the Ukraine. Daytime temperatures were 8 degrees above zero in Riga, 11 in Minsk, 14 in Kiev, 15 in L'vov and Dnepropetrovsk, and 16 in Kishinev. Temperatures ranged between 10 and 12 degrees above zero in the Crimea and the Northern Caucasus.

On 29 March, rains fell in Krasnodarskiy and Stavropol'skiy krays and the Baltic republics. Dry weather favorable for the drying of the soil prevailed in the Ukrainian and Belorussian SSRs. During the last few days, snow has disappeared from the fields in Smolenskaya Oblast and many areas of Kalininskaya and Vladimirskaya oblasts and the Mordovskaya ASSR. At the same time, snow which locally is quite heavy still lies on the fields of Rostovskaya, Stalingradskaya, Saratovskaya, and Voronezhskaya oblasts. Noon temperatures were one degree below zero in Stalingrad, Saratov, and Kazan'.

Strong winds and snowstorms prevailed in Western Siberia and the northern Kazakh SSR with daytime temperatures of about zero. Temperatures rose considerably in the Baykal region. Daytime temperatures were 8 degrees above zero in Chita. Snow is thawing rapidly. Snow has disappeared from the southern portion of Chitinskaya and Irkutskaya oblasts and Krasnoyarskiy Kray.

Temperatures are rising very slowly in the southern Kazakh SSR and Central Asia. Daytime temperatures were 8 degrees above zero in Tashkent and 10 degrees in Ashkhabad. During the night, subzero temperatures were still recorded locally.

1 April

On 31 March, daytime temperatures in all the European USSR were above zero for the first time since the beginning of spring. As on previous days, it was especially warm in the Moldavian SSR, the Ukraine west of the Dnepr, and the Belorussian SSR. It was 15 degrees above zero in Minsk, and 17 in Kishinev. It became considerably warmer in the central regions. Temperatures of 12 and 13 degrees above zero were recorded in Moscow and Orel. Approximately the same temperatures prevailed in Krasnodar, Simferopol', and Dnepropetrovsk. Cold weather prevailed in the Volga Region and the Urals. Daytime temperatures were one degree above zero in Kirov, Ufa, and Kuybyshev and 2 in Stalingrad.

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During the night and the first 12 hours of 31 March, rains fell in the Baltic republics and locally in the Middle Volga Region. Clear, dry weather prevailed in the rest of the European USSR. Snow is thawing on the fields of the central regions and the soil is drying. The soil is ready for cultivation in the southern Lithuanian and Belorussian SSRs and the sowing of spring crops is in progress. Under favorable weather conditions, the growth of winter crops and grass in meadows and pastures is progressing in the southern and western regions.

Daytime temperatures in Western Siberia were also, for the most part, above zero. Snow is thawing everywhere. Snow already has almost completely disappeared from the southern portion of Novosibirskaya and Kemerovskaya oblasts and Altayskiy Krai.

Rising temperatures were recorded in Central Asia. Daytime temperatures were 8 degrees above zero in Alma-Ata and 13 in Stalinabad. Conditions are completely satisfactory for field work and the growth of grain crops.

2 April

On 1 April, temperatures dropped considerably in the northwestern European USSR. Daytime temperatures were 2 degrees below zero in Leningrad, and 5 below in Arkhangel'sk, compared with 4-5 degrees above zero the day before. Comparatively cold weather prevailed in the Urals and the Volga Region. Daytime temperatures were 3 degrees above zero in Kirov, Sverdlovsk, and one degree in Stalingrad. Warm, mostly dry weather prevailed in the rest of the European USSR. Temperatures were 8 degrees above zero in Orel and Voroshilovgrad, 9 in Moscow, Minsk, and Kursk, 12 in Kiev and Dnepropetrovsk, 13 in Kishinev, and 16 in Krasnodar.

The harrowing of winter crops has begun in Sumskaya Oblast in the northern Ukraine. In the next few days, the soil in the fields of Kurskaya, Orlovskaya, and Bryanskaya oblasts should be dry enough for cultivation. The buds of fruit trees are swelling in the southwestern Ukrainian SSR and the Moldavian SSR and orchards will soon be in blossom. The growth of trees and bushes has sharply accelerated in the Northern Caucasus.

Temperatures in Western Siberia were 3-5 degrees above zero during the day and 5-10 below during the night. Snow is thawing. Winter crops are still in a quiescent condition.

Temperatures rose in Central Asia and the southern Kazakh SSR. No subzero temperatures were recorded. Daytime temperatures were 10 degrees above zero in Alma-Ata and 15 above in Tashkent. During the night, rains fell in Ashkhabad and locally in the Tadzhik SSR.

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