

## Wetter in central and eastern Europe and drier for the rest of the continent, frost spells in eastern Europe

### OBSERVED TEMPERATURE AND RAINFALL

November 2004 was **hotter** (more than 25% from long term average) for the eastern and central Europe. The accumulation of active temperatures (Tbase =0°C) was also higher than normal (10-25%) for UK, Ireland, south-eastern Germany, northern Italy, eastern Poland, Hungary, southern Bulgaria and parts from Turkey, favouring crop emergence. Thermal conditions were close to normal for Portugal, Germany, Benelux, most of France and Greece. South-western France, and most agricultural areas of Spain were cooler than usual. Minimum temperatures below 0°C were recorded for almost all countries in Europe with a clear west-east cooling gradient. It is not expected a significant negative effect of these minimum temperatures on the winter crops in western Europe. In the eastern part of the continent, the frost from the last decade of November reduced the leaf area index of winter wheat crops (especially in central Ukraine, European part of Russian and eastern Belarus) but fortunately, the crops sown in optimal period achieved already a medium to good hardening index.

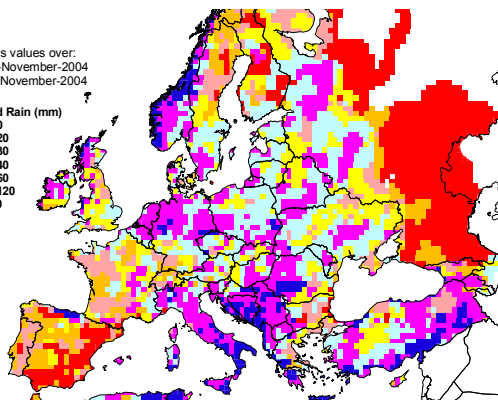
This period may be considered as **dry** for most of the western Europe, except northern and southern Italy (in Apulia the maximum rain intensity exceeded 260 mm/day) and north-eastern Germany. In contrast with other years, most of the precipitations in eastern Europe (especially Ukraine) were rain rather than protective snow.

#### Rain

Cumulates values over:  
From: 01-November-2004  
Until: 29-November-2004

Cumulated Rain (mm)

0 - 10
10 - 20
20 - 30
30 - 40
40 - 60
60 - 120
> 120

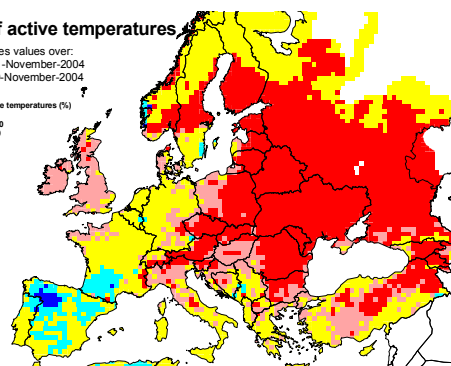


#### Sum of active temperatures

Cumulates values over:  
From: 01-November-2004  
Until: 29-November-2004

Sum of active temperatures (%)

< -25
-25 - -10
-10 - 10
10 - 25
> 25

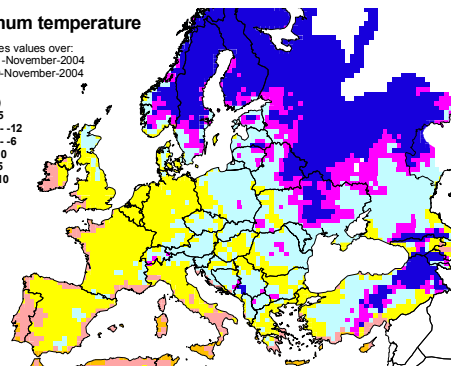


#### Minimum temperature

Cumulates values over:  
From: 01-November-2004  
Until: 29-November-2004

Tmin (°C)

<-15
-15 - -12
-12 - -6
-6 - 0
0 - 5
5 - 10
>10

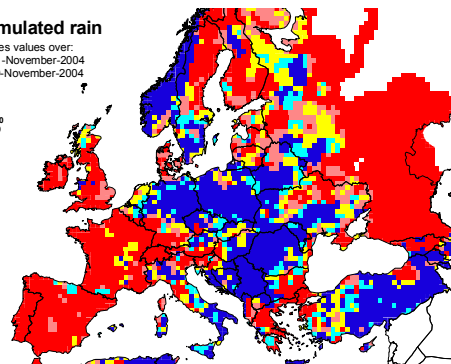


#### Cummulated rain

Cumulates values over:  
From: 01-November-2004  
Until: 29-November-2004

Rain (%)

< -25
-25 - -10
-10 - 10
10 - 25
> 25



## 2004/2005 NOVEMBER SOWING CAMPAIGN

In general, in November only the most southern part of Europe and Maghreb are concerned by sowing operations. However, considering the unfavourable conditions occurred in October in several areas when normally sowings are concentrated (i.e.: southern France, Northern Spain, Portugal, Central Italy, Adriatic Balkans), it is likely to suppose that also in those areas the sowings could be prolonged in November.

### Winter wheat

In November, the weather conditions were favourable in France, Iberian Peninsula, Central Italy, where a very short number of rainy days (approximately 4-7) and optimal soil water conditions permitted to proceed with sowings without limitations. Also in Algeria and Tunisia, the rain fallen in November created a positive soil condition for an effective start of the crop. Must be pointed the very unfavourable weather occurred in southern Italy (namely, Apulia and Sicily) where extremely intense shower (in same case over passed also 250 mm in a day) created critical condition in general for agriculture.

### Winter barley

Also for Barley, the relative dry condition in France and in the Mediterranean regions were favourable both in the areas where normally the sowings are planned in November (Spain, Italy, Greece, etc) but also for the ones where, due to the wet October, the operations were delayed (Southern France,

