



3F Forecasts

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3F Weather Hotline

January 24, 2017

Thank you for subscribing to 3F Forecasts Weather Hotline. This is the update for January 25-28, 2017. The next update will be on January 28, 2017 about 9-10 PM CST. I should be available for the rest of the week for consulting if you need any assistance. If there are any changes, they will be on Thursday as a medical appointment is necessary but time has not yet been set.

On this update, we will look at the recent local weather happenings, then we'll look at the US weather and the jet stream in particular. Then we will look at weather in other parts of the world to finish our report.

It continues to be warmer than normal at my weather station. In fact, it has been warmer than normal since January 13 when the high was only 20 degrees. It has been averaging about 10-15 degrees warmer than normal since January 13. Here's another fact: On average, the coldest day of the year is January 23. But January 23 this year was 41°F. for a high and 35°F. for the daily low. The average for that day is 27.6° for the high and the average low is 10.5°F. I'm well over that average. January is going to be warmer than normal at this rate. This is the warmest January so far in years. Having said that, watch out for February. No more moisture since the last report, but it is raining as we go to press and there is snow to the west and north of me. I would much rather have the rain or even snow than the ice storm I had last week. We do have some stormy weather coming—especially in late February and March.

Looking at the US weather map, there are two major areas that have made the recent news. The first one is the Nor'easter that hit New Jersey, New York and most of New England. Wind gusts were as high as 79 MPH—which is hurricane speed. There has to be very significant beach erosion in low lying areas and heavy snow fall at higher elevations. It appears that there was less rainfall (moisture) than was originally forecasted. Many areas had freezing rain or ice which is bad news that I can confirm and appreciate. This storm was forecasted last July and is the first of three winter hurricanes to appear this winter. The other two are expected on or about February 7-9 and March 20-22. The last one is on the vernal equinox. This is often a very stormy period (the vernal equinox). I'm not sure why, but this is often the case.

The second area of bad weather is California. This area is getting saturated with rain. The jet stream from near Hawaii is saturated with water vapor. This is often called the "Pineapple Express" and is prominent in the winter months. But what is making the state (in fact, the entire West Coast) so wet is the low pressure zone in the Gulf of Alaska where there is much colder air coming south and colliding with the much warmer Pacific sub-tropical air. All the water vapor is falling out as rain with heavy snows in the mountains and the higher elevations as far east as Colorado and Wyoming. Will there be enough to break the California drought? So far, it has not, but there should be more rain coming into February. It will take considerable amounts of moisture to break this drought. Another problem to be mentioned is the thunderstorms and tornadoes that broke out last weekend and severely pounded the US Southeast with Georgia, Alabama and northern Florida particularly hard-hit. The core of this storm moved northeast and became the core for the Nor'easter two days later. We wish everyone the best of luck.

The jet stream map is rather complicated. The southern branch loops south of California from San Francisco into northern Mexico then northeast from the Big Bend area in Texas into the Ohio River to Cincinnati and then southeast over eastern North Carolina. But that is not the end of it. This stream of air then goes south of Bermuda, loops around the island and turns north-northwest and hits eastern Maine. This is a complex system. The tighter it becomes, the stronger the storms. It is slowly winding down so it will lose power. This also helps explain the rains in California as the northern jet stream from the Gulf of Alaska is feeding much rain along the West Coast. As I said, this is a complicated storm system.

In the oceans, the Northern and Central Atlantic Ocean is stormy as one would expect. No super storms are in the Atlantic except for the Nor'easter that battered New York and New England. It is now mostly over the Canadian Maritime Provinces as we go to press on Tuesday night. The Gulf of Mexico is clear. In the Northeast Pacific, the Pineapple Express is very much in evidence and will hit California with more rain by Wednesday night-early Thursday. This pattern may persist until February.

A brief note: The snow cover map of the US shows some heavy snow amounts in the Rockies—particularly in Oregon, Idaho, northern Utah and the western half of Colorado. Amounts vary from 12 to over 30 inches. This will be great for irrigation next summer.

In other places, it is cold in Western Europe—especially southern France, the Iberian Peninsula and even northern Algeria and Morocco. Temperatures have been down to freezing in a few places—which slows down winter grain development and is dangerous for vineyards.

The drier areas of Western India and Pakistan are having increasing rainfall the last two weeks. This favors winter wheat the next two weeks and also helps replenish lakes and ponds.

The hottest place on Earth last week was Penrith, New South Wales, Australia. It was 110°F. and just barely beat last week's winner of Bourke by one degree. The coldest place for the second week in a row was Oymyakon, Siberia where it was -59°F.

The next update will be on January 28, 2017 about 9-10 PM CST. Thank you.

This analysis is made from information believed reliable but accuracy and completeness are not guaranteed.