

TEMPERATURE REGIME DURING MARCH, 2012

Temperature plays vital role in the growth and development of crops. Thermal regime remained warmer than normal in most of the agricultural plains during the month under report, which is useful for on time harvesting of wheat crop at maturity stage.

Mean daily temperature remained normal to above normal (by 1-2°C) in most of the agricultural plains of the country. Mean daily temperature ranged 18 to 20°C in Khyber Pakhtoonkhawa, 15 to 18°C in Potohar plateau, in remaining parts of Punjab it ranged 21-22°C, in Sindh it rounded to 24°C, in Gilgit Baltistan region it ranged 6 to 12°C and was observed 11°C in high elevated agricultural plains of Balochistan represented by Quetta valley. The day time temperature represented by mean maximum also remained normal to above normal by 1-2°C in most of the agricultural plains of the country except Skardu in Gilgit Baltistan where it was observed above normal by 1°C. The highest maximum temperature in the agricultural plains of the country was recorded 41.5°C at Tandojam in lower Sindh. The night time temperature represented by mean minimum remained normal to above normal by 1 to 3°C in most of the agricultural plains of the country except Sargodha in central Punjab where it remained slightly above normal by 1°C. The lowest minimum temperature was recorded -3.7°C at Skardu.

Maximum number of stress days with minimum temperature less than or equal to 0°C was observed for 12 days at Quetta followed by 10 days in Skardu. Number of stress days with maximum temperature greater or equal to 30°C or 40°C and R.H. less than or equal to 30% was nil in all agricultural plains of the country.

Agricultural soils showed mixed trend in most agricultural areas of the country. In rainfed Potohar region represented by Rawalpindi soil temperatures raised 1-2°C at root zones and remained mostly normal at deep layers. In Agricultural soils of central Punjab represented by Faisalabad soil temperature mostly remained below normal by 1-2°C at root zones and remained below normal by 1°C at deep layers. In lower Sindh represented by Tandojam agricultural soils at root zones as well as at deep layers showed mostly normal to cooler trend (by 1 to 2°C). In soils of Quetta region soil temperature was observed 1-2°C below normal at major root zone and remained mostly normal at deep layers.

From the general analysis of soil behavior in this month, it is concluded that crop growth and development are free from any significant moisture stress. However in rainfed Potohar region, there may be slight moisture stress due to below normal rains in this month.

TEMPERATURE REGIME DURING MARCH, 2012

STATION	TEMPERATURE (°C)					NUMBER OF STRESS DAYS WITH		
	DAILY	MAXIMUM		MINIMUM		MINIMUM TEMP ≤ 0°C	MAX. TEMP ≥ 35°C & R.H. ≤ 30 %	MAX. TEMP ≥ 40°C & R.H. ≤ 30 %
	MEAN	MEAN	HIGHEST	MEAN	LOWEST			
PESHAWAR	18.1 (17.4)	25.7 (23.7)	34.5 (37.0)	10.4 (11.2)	5.5 (-1.0)	0	0	0
D.I. KHAN	19.8 (19.9)	27.9 (26.9)	35.7 (42.0)	11.6 (12.9)	7.0 (0.0)	0	0	0
KAMRA	15.4 ---	22.9 ---	32.5 ---	7.9 ---	3.5 ---	0	0	0
RAWALPINDI	17.7 (16.9)	25.6 (23.9)	34.0 (34.0)	9.8 (9.9)	6.0 (-0.3)	0	0	0
JHELUM	20.1 (19.5)	28.5 (26.6)	35.5 (36.7)	11.7 (12.5)	5.6 (4.0)	0	0	0
SARGODHA	21.3 (19.8)	28.9 (27.4)	37.0 (36.9)	13.6 (12.4)	9.5 (2.2)	0	0	0
LAHORE	21.3 (20.5)	27.6 (27.1)	34.3 (41.0)	14.4 (14.0)	10.6 (3.0)	0	0	0
FAISALABAD	20.5 (19.5)	28.1 (26.7)	35.6 (38.0)	12.9 (12.3)	8.0 (1.0)	0	0	0
MULTAN	21.6 (21.0)	29.3 (28.5)	37.2 (39.0)	13.6 (13.5)	7.6 (3.3)	0	0	0
KHAN PUR	21.4 (21.5)	29.8 (30.2)	39.5 (40.6)	13.0 (12.8)	5.8 (2.0)	0	0	0
QUETTA	11.2 (11.1)	18.9 (18.7)	27.5 (29.5)	3.4 (3.4)	-5.5 (-8.3)	12	0	0
ROHRI	24.0 (23.8)	31.2 (31.2)	39.0 (42.2)	16.7 (16.4)	12.5 (4.0)	0	0	0
TANDOJAM	24.4 (23.2)	33.2 (33.9)	41.5 (47.0)	15.6 (18.5)	7.0 (5.0)	0	0	0
GILGIT	11.5 (11.7)	17.6 (17.9)	26.5 (29.4)	5.4 (5.4)	-1.0 (-3.0)	0	0	0
SKARDU	6.1 (6.7)	11.3 (11.9)	19.0 (22.5)	0.8 (1.5)	-3.7 (-13.5)	10	0	0

SOIL TEMPERATURE (°C)

STATION	TIME (PST)	DEPTHS (CM)					
		5	10	20	30	50	100
RAWALPINDI	8 AM	13.0 (12.6)	13.8 (12.7)	15.2 (14.6)	16.0 (15.6)	15.9 (15.8)	15.7 (16.0)
	2 PM	21.9 (21.6)	19.1 (18.3)	16.8 (15.3)	16.5 (14.7)	15.9 (15.1)	15.7 (15.6)
	5 PM	21.0 (18.7)	18.8 (18.0)	17.0 (16.0)	16.6 (15.1)	15.9 (15.0)	15.7 (15.6)
FAISALABAD	8 AM	15.8 (16.5)	16.6 (16.5)	18.6 (18.9)	19.7 (21.0)	19.8 (21.0)	19.1 (20.4)
	2 PM	28.0 (29.9)	24.4 (26.4)	20.5 (21.7)	19.7 (20.4)	19.6 (21.3)	19.1 (20.8)
	5 PM	26.6 (27.0)	25.3 (26.5)	22.0 (23.4)	20.2 (21.3)	19.6 (20.6)	19.1 (20.3)
TANDOJAM	8 AM	21.0 (21.9)	22.1 (23.1)	24.2 (24.2)	24.3 (26.1)	24.0 (25.6)	22.7 (24.8)
	2 PM	26.6 (31.2)	26.5 (27.9)	25.2 (25.1)	24.2 (25.7)	24.1 (25.5)	22.9 (25.0)
	5 PM	28.4 (32.1)	28.3 (29.8)	26.0 (26.9)	24.6 (26.2)	24.3 (25.5)	23.1 (25.0)
QUETTA	8 AM	8.0 (6.2)	8.9 (7.1)	11.0 (8.5)	5.8 (9.7)	10.6 (10.2)	10.9 (10.9)
	2 PM	17.1 (18.0)	15.0 (14.3)	11.4 (10.4)	5.8 (9.9)	10.7 (10.2)	11.2 (10.9)
	5 PM	17.9 (16.5)	16.6 (15.1)	13.0 (11.7)	6.5 (10.2)	10.7 (11.0)	11.3 (10.9)