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# Climatic Perspectives

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Oct. 15 to Oct. 21, 1990 A weekly review of Canadian climate and water

Vol. 12 No 42

## AN UNCERTAIN END TO THE GROWING SEASON IN EASTERN CANADA

In the Okanagan Valley, B.C., the apple yield was average this year but fruit size is smaller, and the "reds" are less rosy. In the extended summer conditions, which prevailed lately, the last stages of growth of the red-skinned apples took place with prolonged sun exposure, warm nights and dry air, causing a diminishing of the red colour development.

A very good growing season in the Prairies has resulted in bumper crops of high quality. Soil conditions, however, as winter approaches, are extremely dry in all southern areas and normal fall wind-up activities have been delayed in hope of a good general rain before freezeup. This, and a good snow cover in the upcoming winter will be required to prevent serious soil erosion problems.

In spite of a few good drying days in Southern Ontario, continued wet soil conditions are still slowing the harvesting of some crops, notably corn and soybeans. Growers are anxious for Indian Summer to dry out the fields so they can move in their heavy machinery. The frost of last week has further complicated the issue by damaging the corn stalks, making it riskier to leave the crop on the fields. Harvesting of the soybeans is about two weeks behind schedule, which delays the planting of winter wheat. Experts estimate that because the season is so advanced, winter wheat will be planted at only one third of normal.

In Quebec, the growing season got off to a slow start this spring, and now crops have reached maturity during a wet interval. At this time of year 30-50% of the

corn crop normally has been harvested, but due to the wet weather of the last four weeks, farmers have managed to bring in only 10% of what could still be a good yield.

The warm, dry, windy weather needed to aid the New Brunswick potato harvest didn't materialize this week. A cold front blasted through the Maritimes on the 19th, with heavy showers and strong winds, leaving this situation little improved over last week's gloomy outlook.

### Forest Fire Update

Towards the close of the forest fire season in Canada, it has been confirmed that there

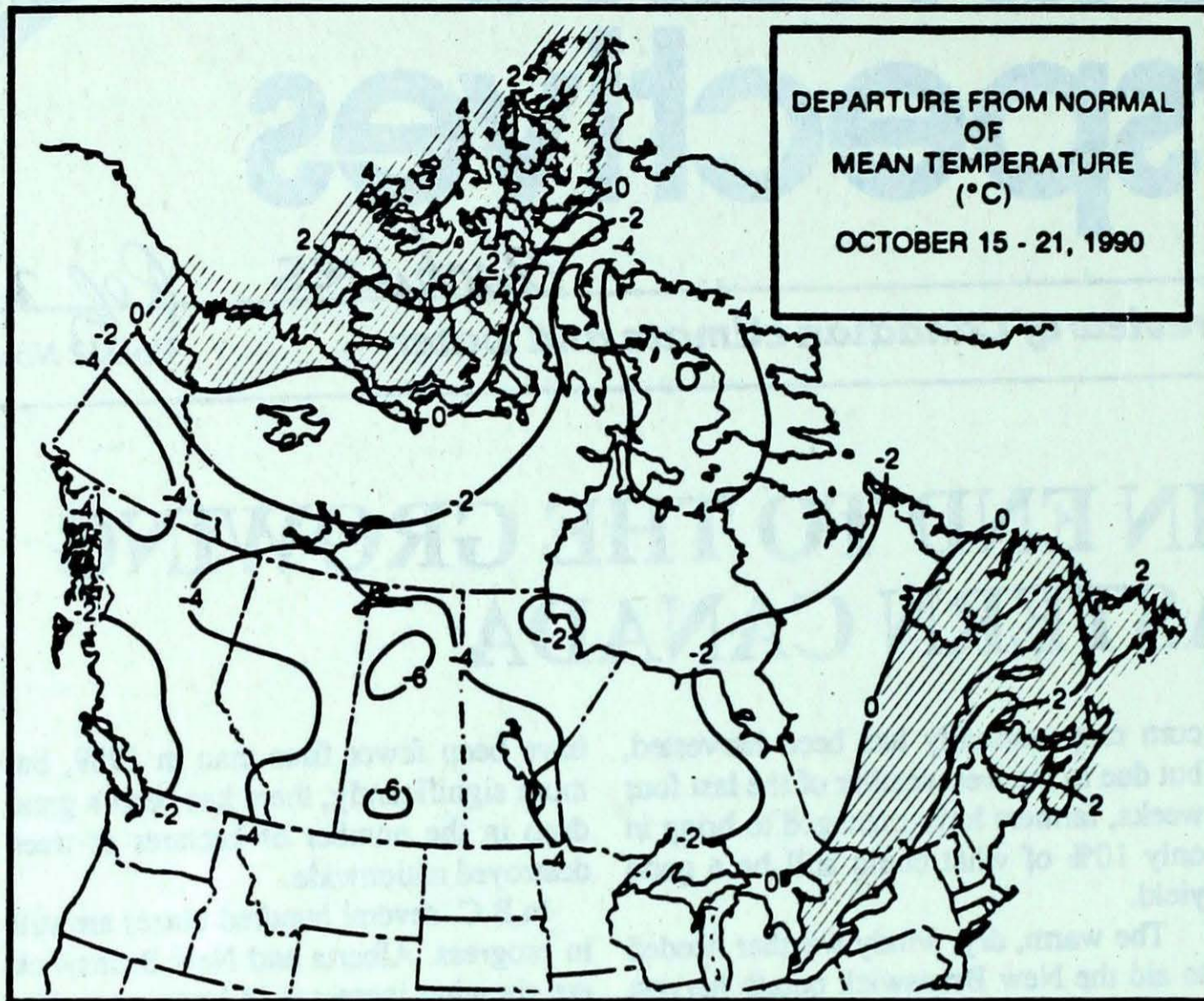
have been fewer fires than in 1989, but more significantly, there has been a great drop in the number of hectares of trees destroyed nationwide.

In B.C. several hundred blazes are still in progress. Alberta and New Brunswick are showing increases in losses over last year. Quebec, on the other hand, has had a much better season than usual, 848 fires thus far have claimed 81,280 ha. The 1980-1989 averages for Quebec are 1071 fires and 286,112 ha lost. Manitoba, too, has done well. Losses so far this season are 17,202 ha, as compared to their 10 year average of 536,946 ha.

Source: Canadian interagency forest fire centre, (CIFFC), Winnipeg

### SUMMARY OF THE TOTAL FIRES AND LOSSES REPORTED TO MID-OCTOBER

	FIRES		HECTARES	
	1989	1990	1989	1990
British Columbia	3,511	3,214	22,358	70,996
Yukon Territory	244	154	314,793	170,096
Northwest Territories	613	234	553,789	104,572
Alberta	787	1,255	6,751	30,905
Saskatchewan	1,003	890	491,753	173,361
Manitoba	1,120	534	2,669,200	17,202
Ontario	2,364	1,588	402,804	182,035
Quebec	1,128	848	2,109,415	81,280
New Brunswick	365	372	313	5,808
Nova Scotia	414	492	1,057	1,066
Prince Edward Island	17	33	120	82
Newfoundland	188	192	68,026	46,354
Parks Canada	107	122	2,414	31,148



**Weekly normal temperatures (°C)**

	max.	min.
Whitehorse A	4.1	-3.4
Iqaluit A	-2.4	-8.1
Yellowknife A	0.6	-5.1
Vancouver Int'l A	13.0	5.8
Victoria Int'l A	13.7	5.2
Calgary Int'l A	12.4	-1.5
Edmonton Int'l A	11.8	-2.3
Regina A	12.2	-2.0
Saskatoon A	11.4	-1.7
Winnipeg Int'l A	11.6	0.1
Ottawa Int'l A	12.8	2.8
Toronto (Pearson Int'l A)	14.3	3.5
Montréal Int'l A	13.0	3.6
Québec A	10.9	2.0
Fredericton A	12.6	1.6
Saint John A	11.7	2.7
Hallifax (Shearwater)	13.2	5.1
Charlottetown A	11.6	3.6
Goose A	6.0	-1.2
St John's A	10.1	3.0

**Weekly temperature and precipitation extremes**

	Maximum temperature (°C)	Minimum temperature (°C)	Heaviest precipitation (mm)
British Columbia	Kamloops A 17	Puntzi Mountain (aut) -12	Prince Rupert A 81
Yukon Territory	Whitehorse A 5	Watson Lake A -20	Whitehorse A 10
Northwest Territories	Yellowknife A 13	Eureka -37	Broughton Island 8
Alberta	Medicine Hat A 15	High Level A -14	High Level A 12
Saskatchewan	Rockglen (aut) 17	Cree Lake -18	La Ronge A 6
Manitoba	Gretna (aut) 12	Gillam A -14	Grand Rapids (aut) 11
Ontario	Toronto Int'l A 24	Upsala (aut) -8	Wawa A 104
Québec	Montréal Int'l A 23	Schefferville A -10	Schefferville A 77
New Brunswick	Moncton A 21	Fredericton A -5	St-Léonard A 33
Nova Scotia	Greenwood A 23	Greenwood A -3	Truro 31
Prince Edward Island	Charlottetown A 20	Summerside A 0	East Point (aut) 26
Newfoundland	Deer Lake A 21	Churchill Falls A -8	Nain A 57

**Across The Country...**

Highest Mean Temperature	Windsor (ON) 12
Lowest Mean Temperature	Eureka(NWT) -23

90/10/15-90/10/21

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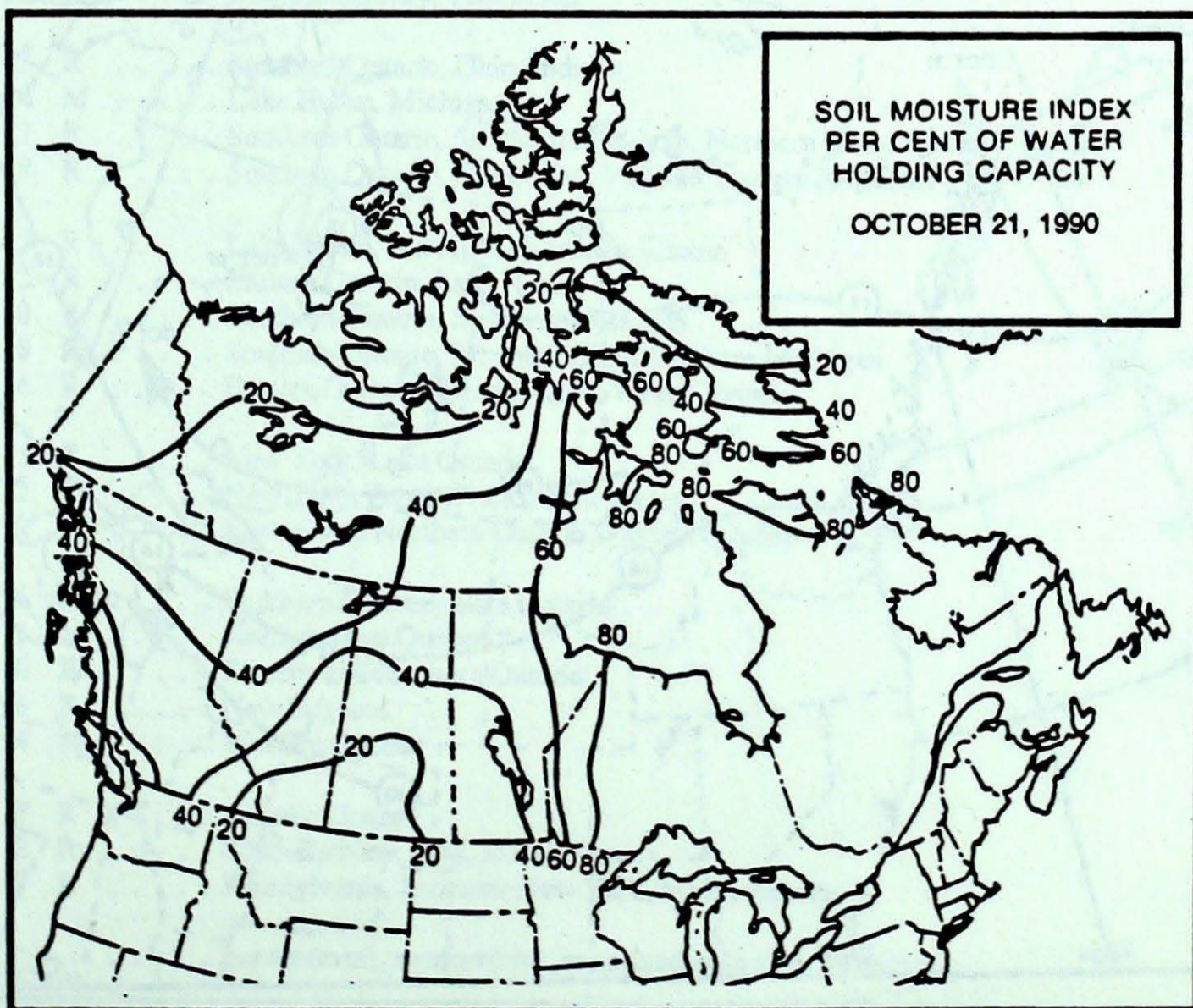
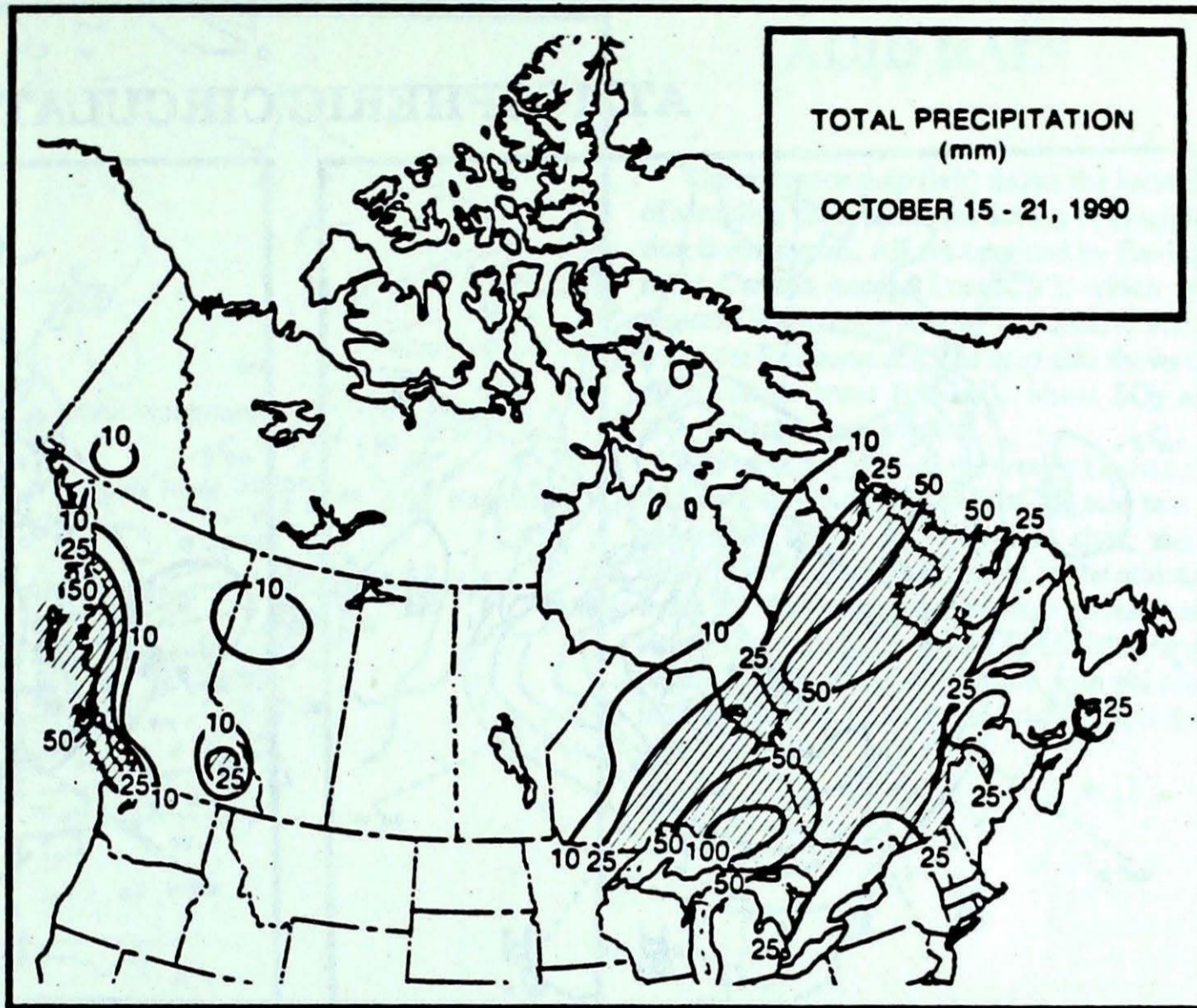
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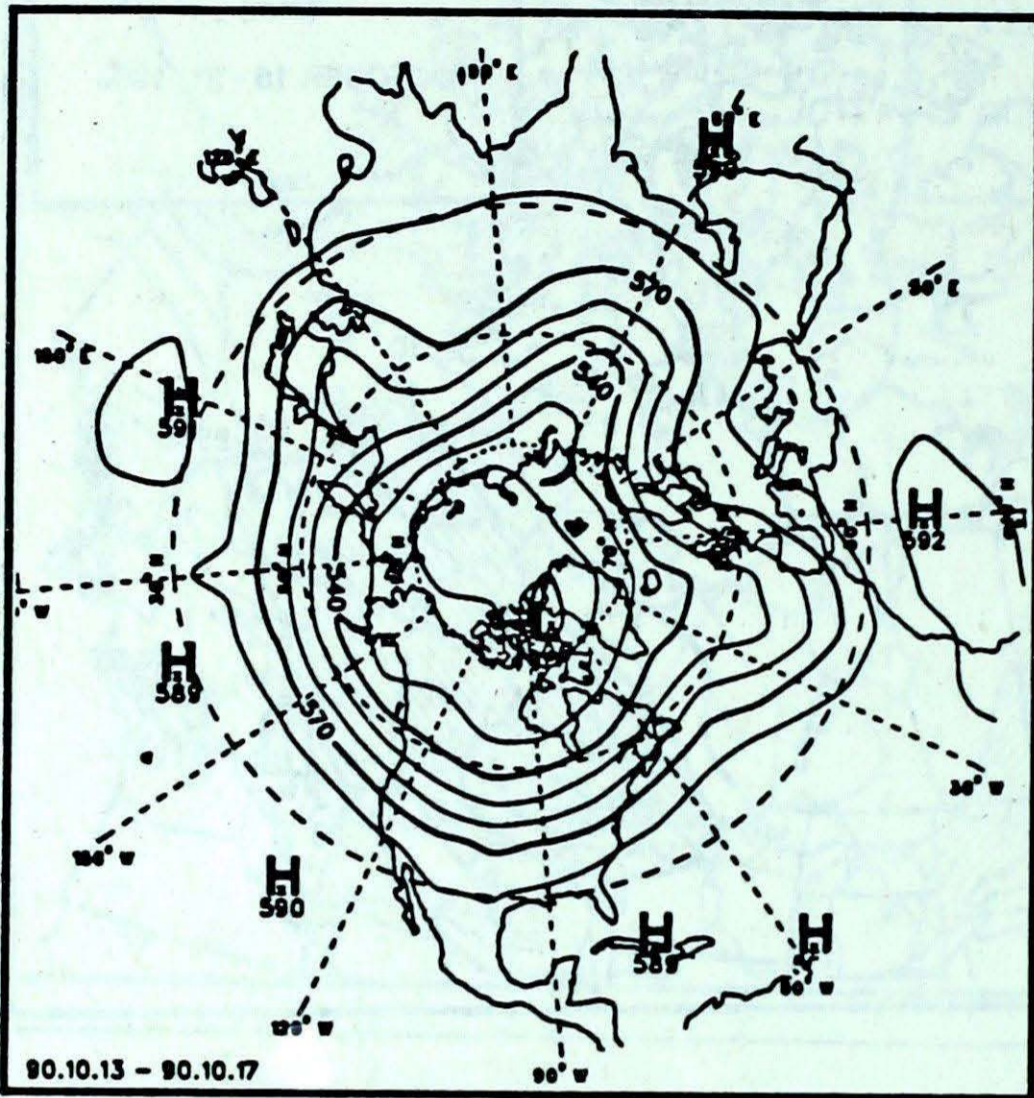
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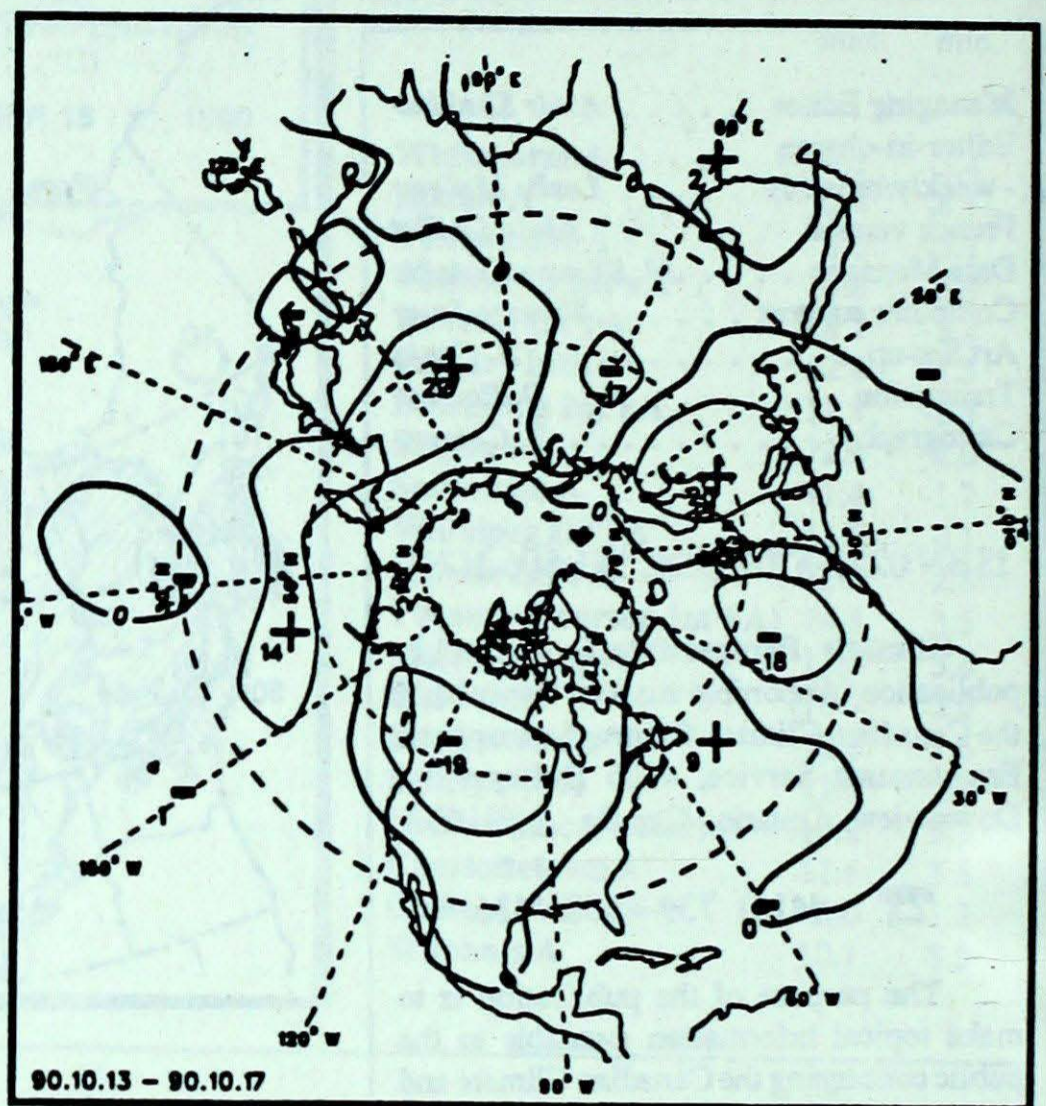
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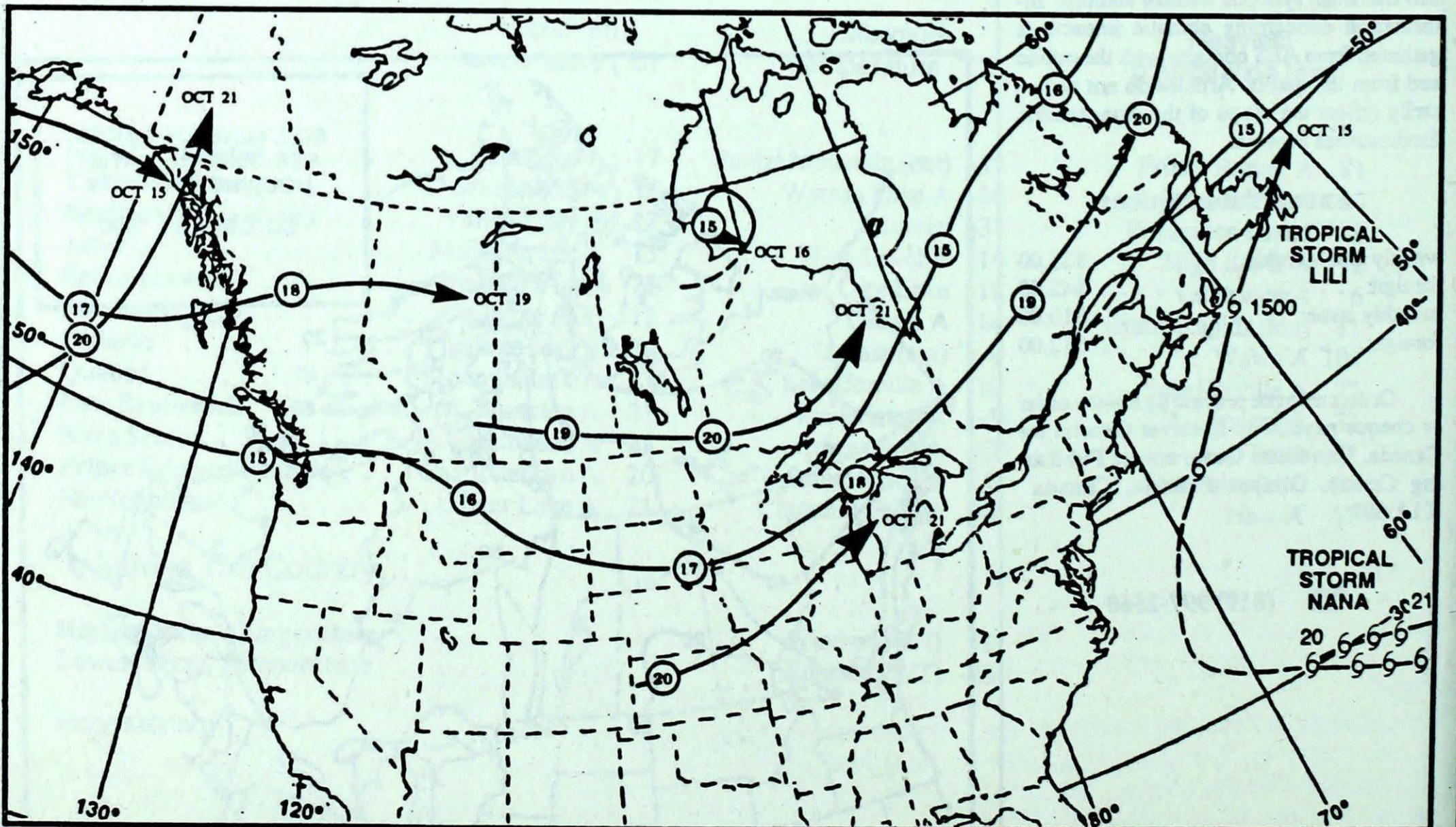
### ATMOSPHERIC CIRCULATION



Mean geopotential height  
50-kPa level (10-decametre intervals)



Mean geopotential height anomaly  
50-kPa level (10-decametre intervals)

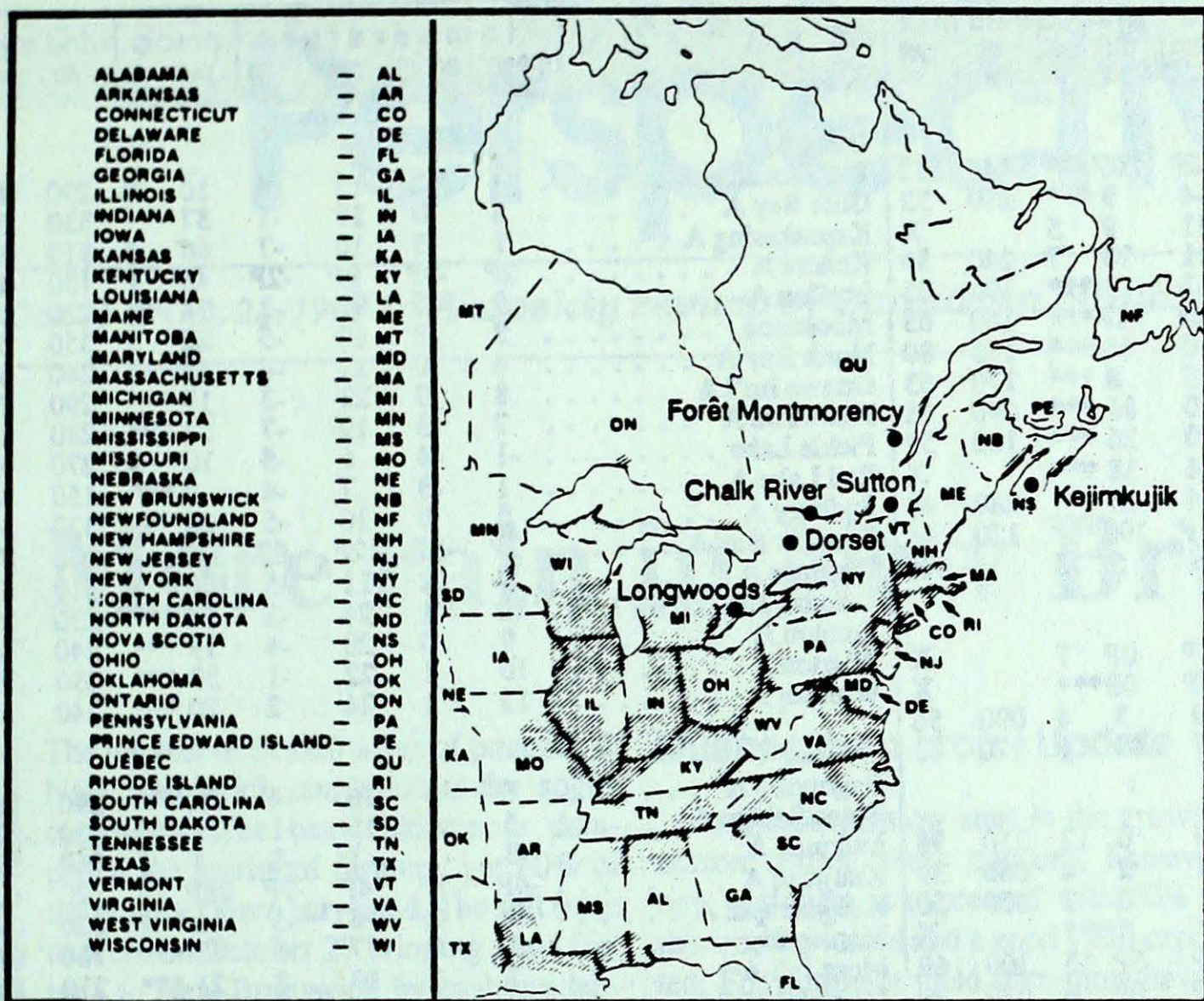


Tracks of low pressure centres at 12:00 U.T. each day during the period.

## ACID RAIN

The reference map (left) shows the locations of sampling sites, where the acidity of precipitation is monitored. All are operated by Environment Canada except Dorset (\*), which is a research station operated by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment. The map also shows the approximate areas (shaded), where SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> emissions are greatest.

The table below gives the weekly report summarizing the acidity (or pH) of the acid rain or snow that fell at the collection sites, and a description of the path travelled by the moisture laden air. Environmental damage to lakes and streams is usually observed in sensitive areas regularly receiving precipitation with pH readings less than 4.7, while pH readings less than 4.0 are serious.



Site	day	pH	amount	air path to site	Oct. 14 to Oct. 20, 1990
Longwoods	17	4.8	14 R	Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee	
	18		3 R	Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee	
Dorset*	14	4.1	3 R	Southern Ontario, Ohio, Indiana	
	15	4.8	4 M	Lake Huron, Michigan	
	17	4.0	27 R	Southern Ontario, Southern Michigan, Northern Ohio, Northern Indiana	
	18	4.4	18 R	Southern Ontario, Ohio, West Virginia, Eastern Kentucky	
Chalk River	14	4.1	2 R	Lake Huron, Michigan, Northern Illinois	
	15	3.8	2 R	Eastern Ontario, Lake Huron	
	16	3.8	8 R	Southern Ontario, Southern Michigan	
	17	4.2	8 R	Southern Ontario, Northern Ohio, Southern Michigan	
	18	4.6	16 R	Eastern Ontario, Pennsylvania, West Virginia	
Sutton	15	3.7	1 R	New York, Lake Ontario	
	18	4.8	32 R	New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey	
	19	4.5	2 M	Eastern and Northern Ontario Western Quebec	
Montmorency	15	4.8	6 M	Southern Quebec, Lake Ontario	
	16	4.3	1 M	Northwestern Quebec	
	17	4.0	10 R	Eastern and Southern Ontario	
	18	4.7	16 R	New England	
	19		4 M	Western Quebec	
Kejimikujik	14	4.7	7 R	Atlantic Ocean	
	15	3.3	2 R	Southern New York, Massachusetts	
	19	4.7	7 R	Pennsylvania, Southern New York, Massachusetts	

..... r=rain(mm), s=snow(cm), m=mixed rain and snow(mm)

