

Defining Climate Extremes From the Viewpoint of Impacts: Examples from Agriculture

William E. Easterling
Penn State

The Importance of Extremes

TABLE 4. Comparison of simulated event probabilities for current climate and for 3°F (1.7°C) increase in mean at Washington, DC and Dallas.

Case	Day event	Total event	Run event
Washington, DC [Threshold = 95°F (35°C)]			
Current	0.137	0.353	0.177
Base*	0.294	0.764	0.471
Dallas [Threshold = 100°F (37.8°C)]			
Current	0.257	0.578	0.378
Base*	0.481	0.778	0.667

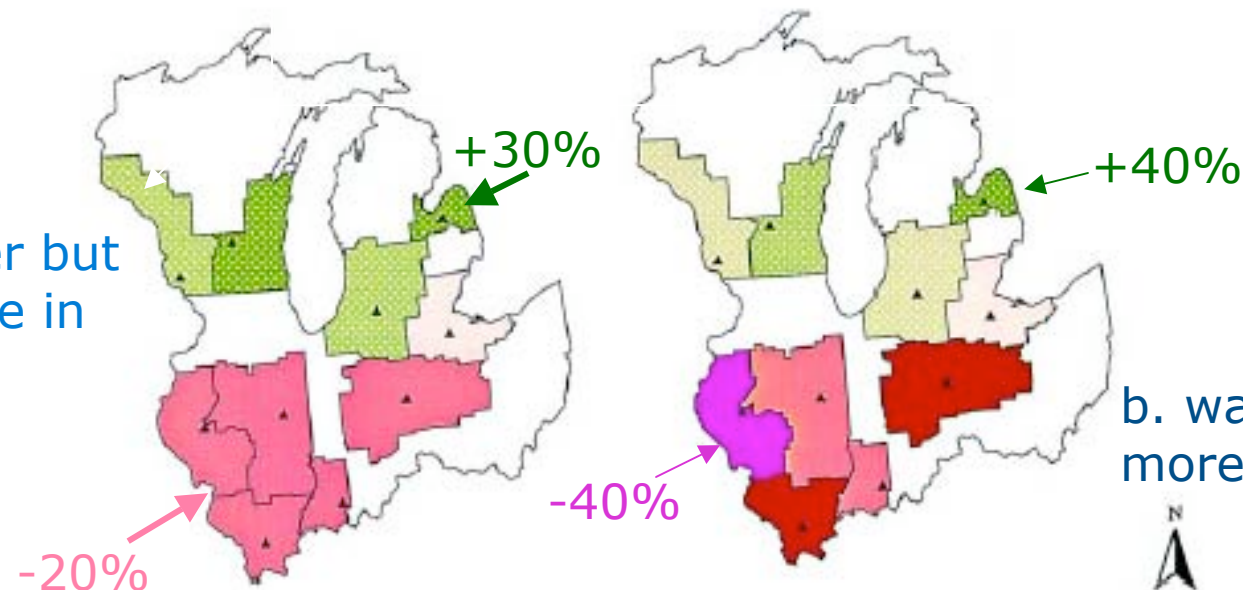
5 consecutive days
or more above
threshold

* 3°F increase in mean with variance and autocorrelation held constant. Source: Mearns, Katz, Schneider, 1984

Percent change in mean decadal yield for long-season corn: Climate Change with 2xCO₂: (a) unchanged variability, and (b) two times current variability

Growing season mean:
+2.8°C

a. warmer but
no change in
extremes



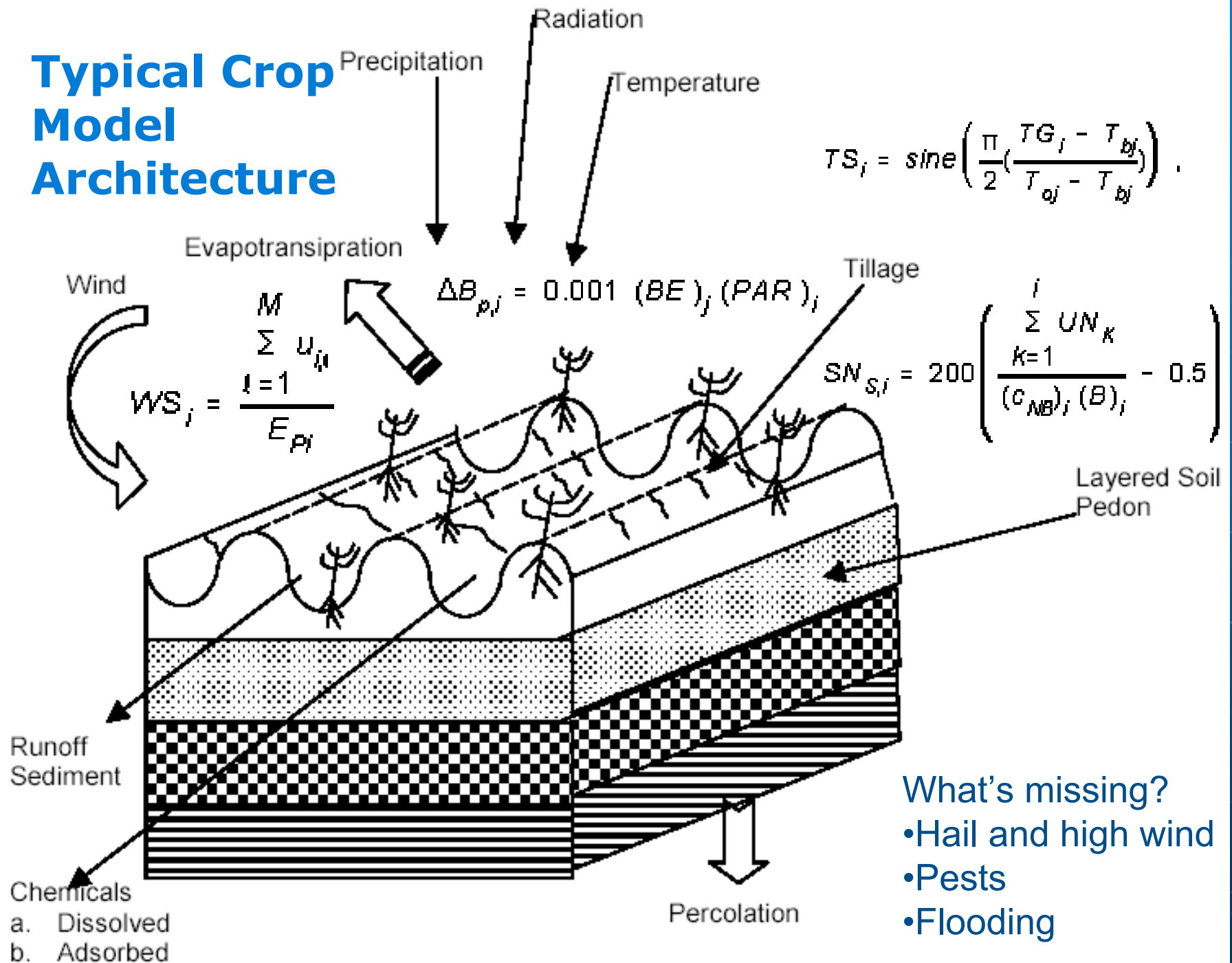
b. warmer and
more extremes

% change in yield from current



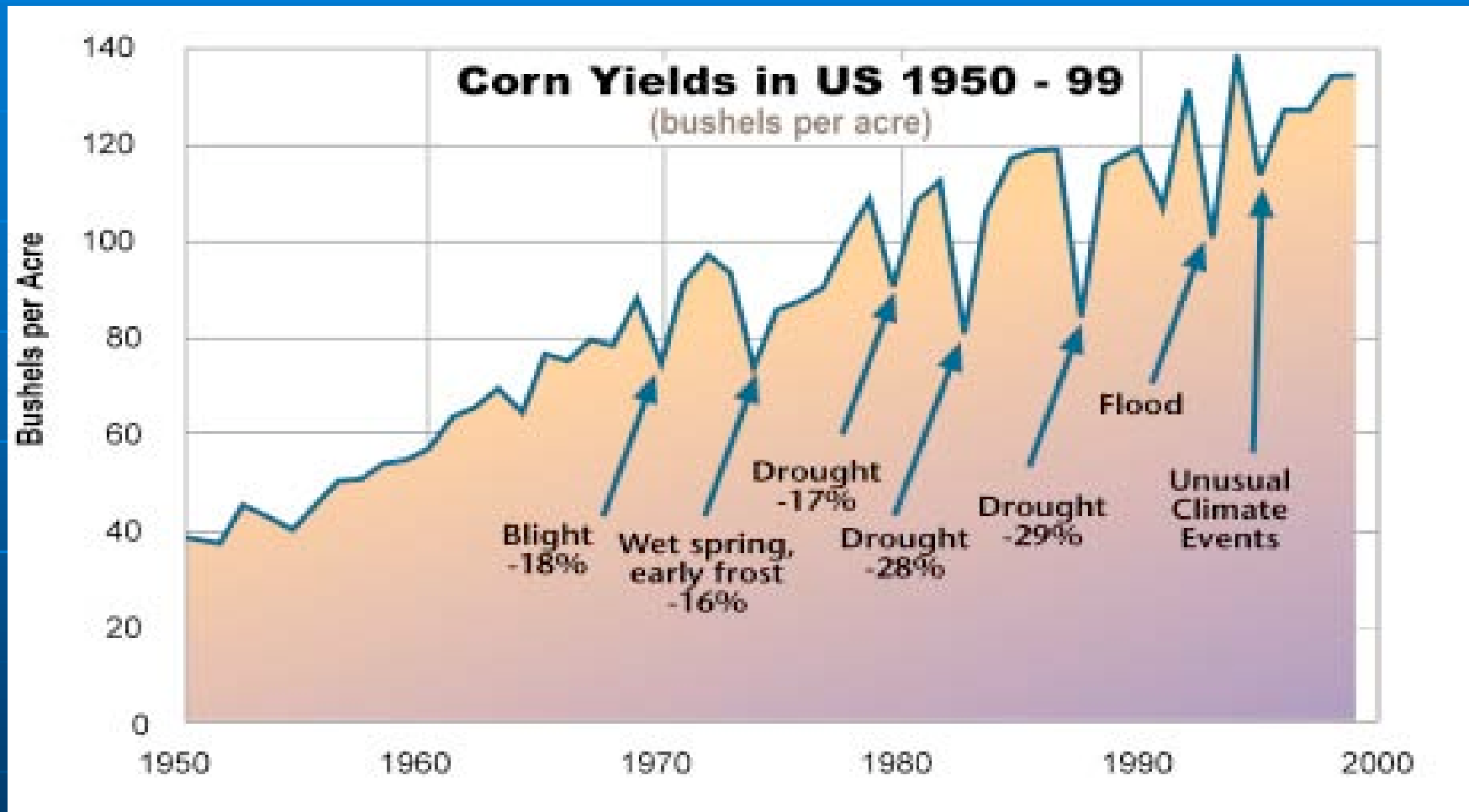
Southworth et al

Typical Crop Model Architecture



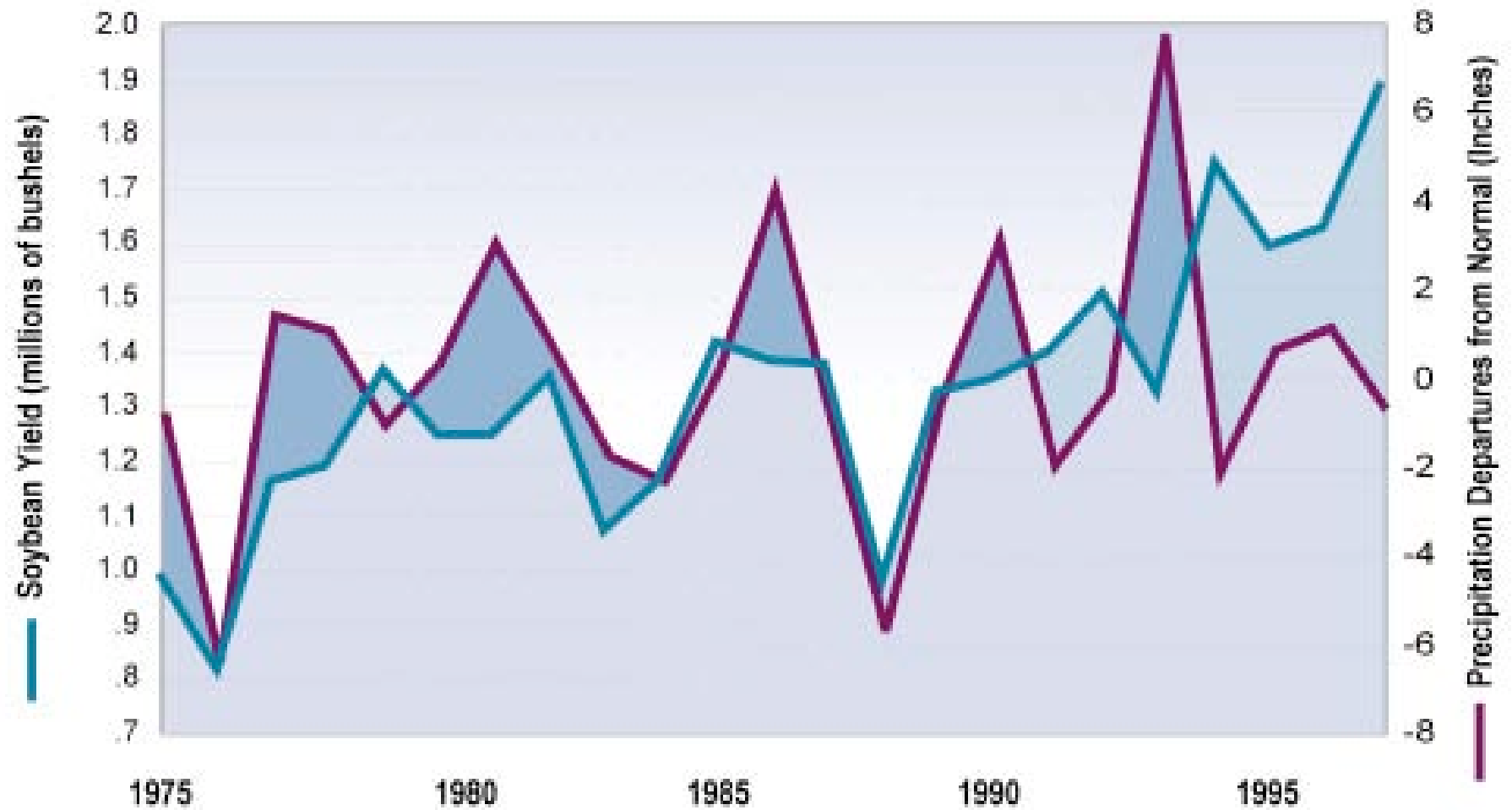
Long-term observation of
impact trends in highly
managed sectors is maybe
even trickier than projecting
forward with impact models

Effects of extreme climate and climate-related disease events on U.S. corn yields, 1950-1999



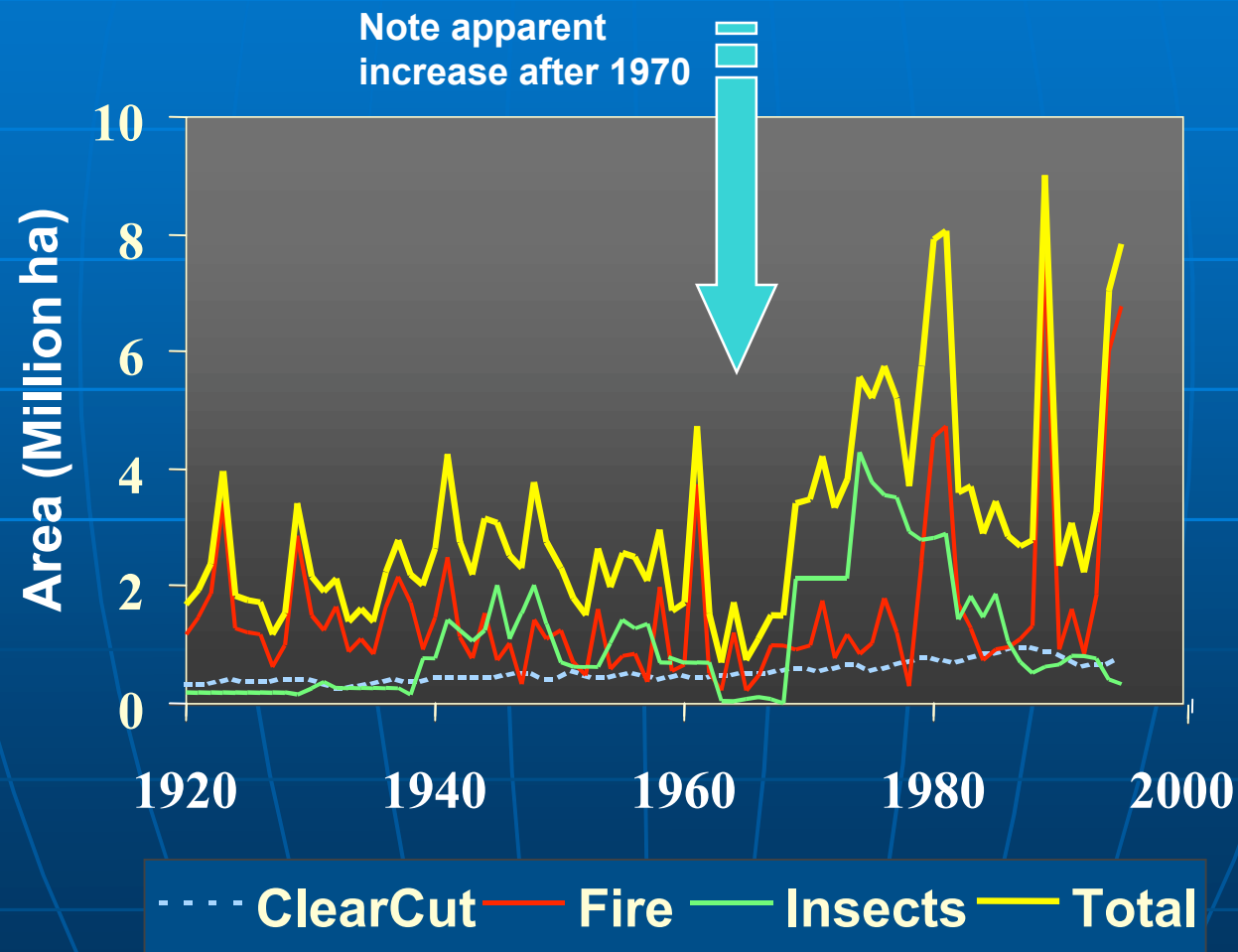
Source: <http://www.usgcrp.gov/usgcrp/Library/nationalassessment/>

Midwest Soybean Yield and Precipitation

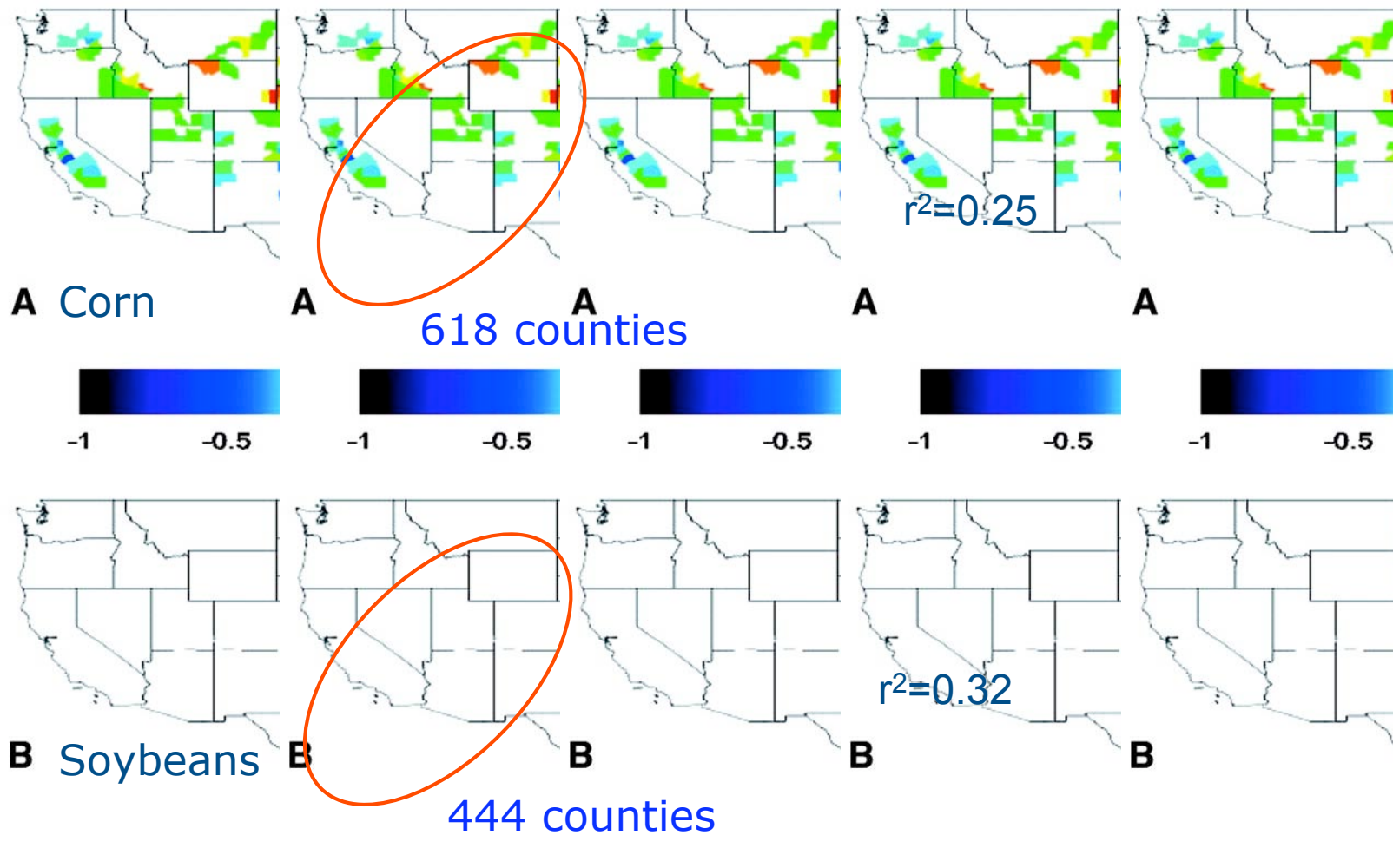


Source: <http://www.usgcrp.gov/usgcrp/Library/nationalassessment/06C.pdf>

Disturbances in Canada's forests (1920 - 1995)



Courtesy of
M. Apps



Correlation between June to August average temperature anomalies and (A) corn and (B) soybean yield anomalies for 1982-98.

Toward the monitoring of climate extremes with sector-specific measures

Time series of agro-climatic
(thermal time) indices for
global maize production zones

Thermal Time: Annual Maize Growing Degree Days

$$\text{GDD}_{\text{annual}} = \sum[(\text{TMAX}_{\text{daily}} + \text{TMIN}_{\text{daily}})/2] - \text{TBASE},$$

TBASE = 10EC for maize

when $\text{TMAX} < \text{TBASE}$, $\text{TMAX} = \text{TBASE}$

when $\text{TMIN} < \text{TBASE}$, then $\text{TMIN} = \text{TBASE}$

Thermal Time: Maize Heat Stress Days Growing Degree Days During Anthesis

$$\text{HSD}_{\text{annual}} = \sum[(\text{TMAX}_{\text{daily}} - \text{TBASE})]$$

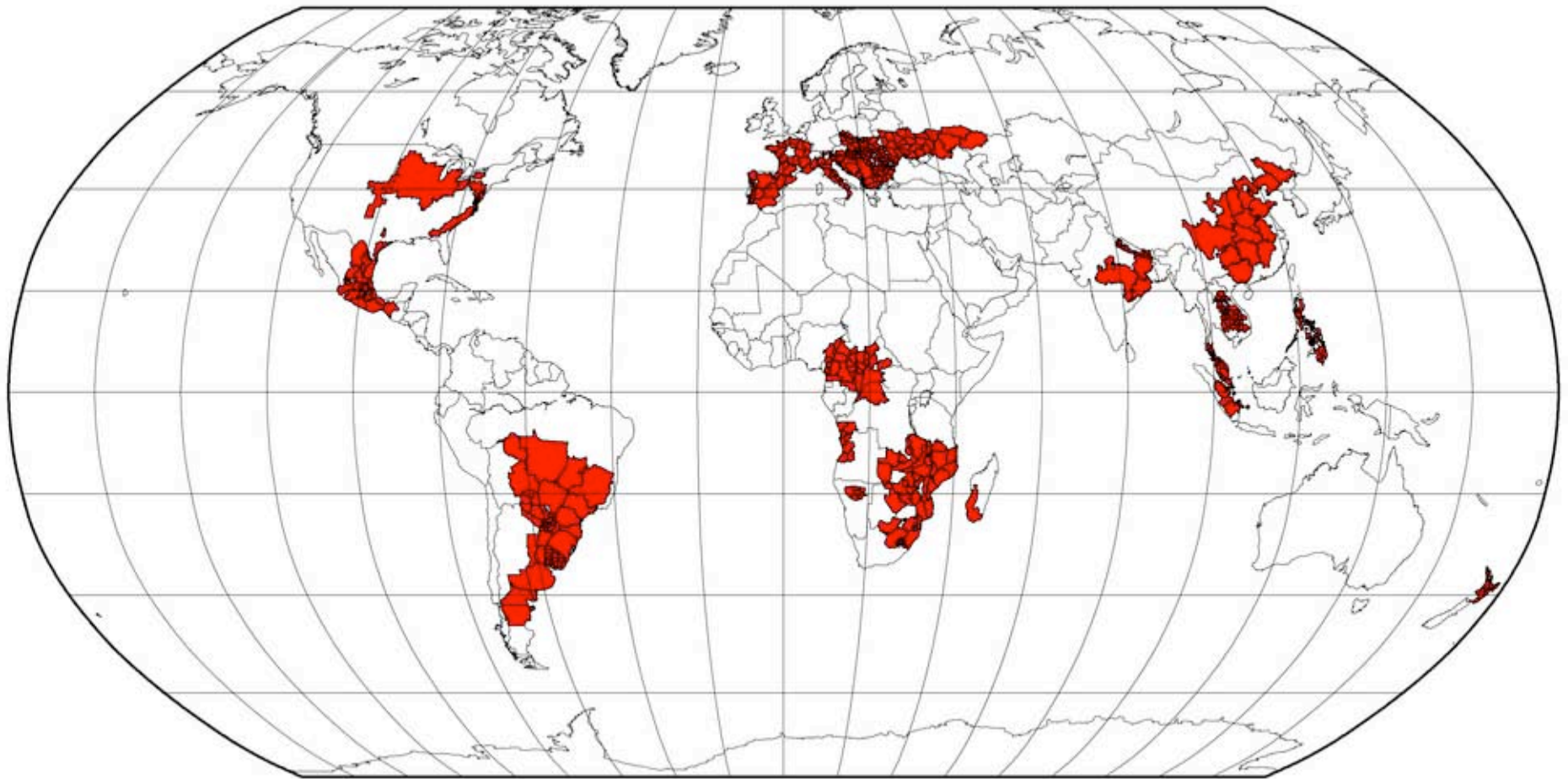
TBASE = 30EC for maize

when $\text{TMAX} < \text{TBASE}$, $\text{TMAX} = \text{TBASE}$

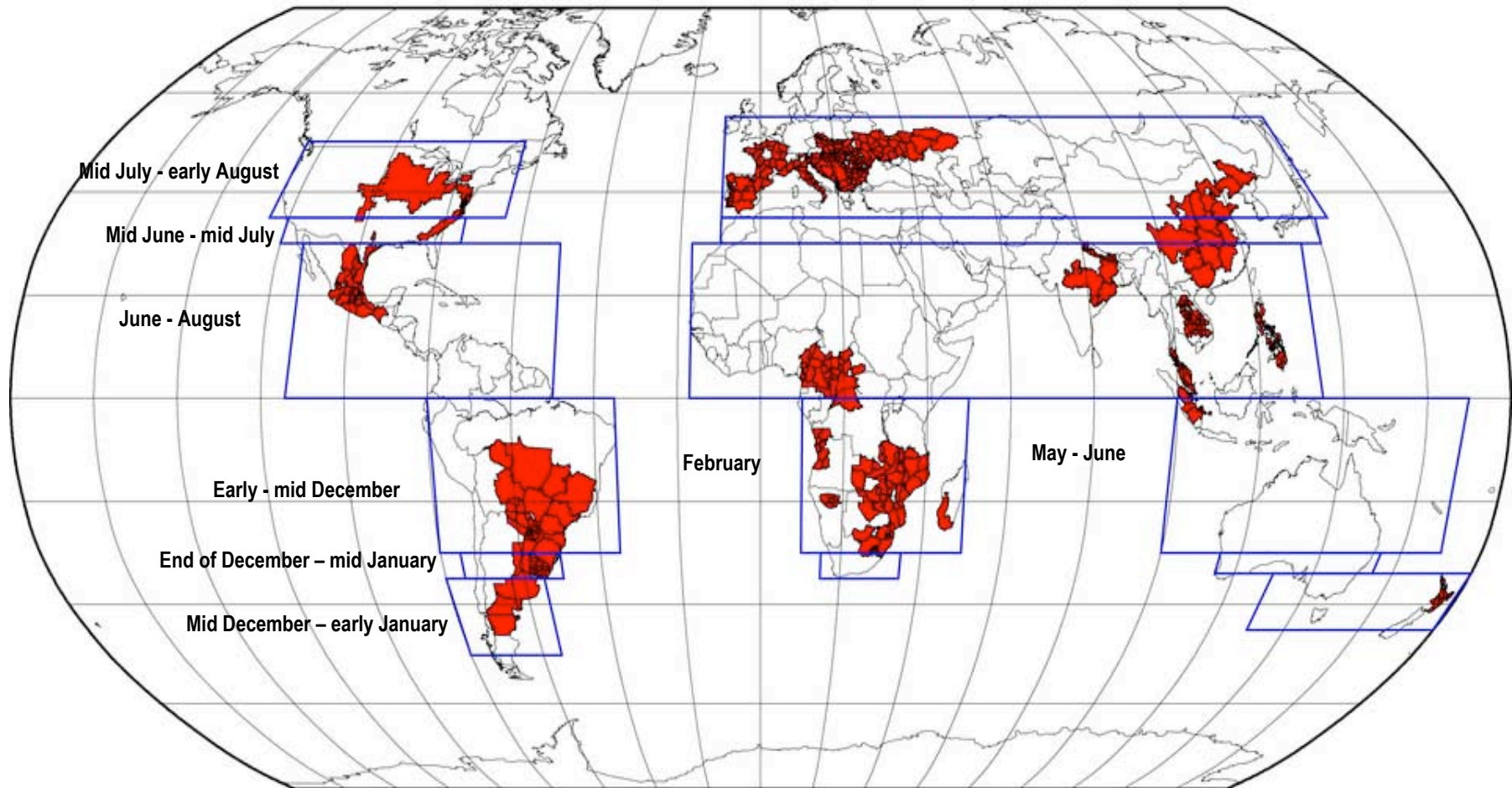
Advantages to monitoring extremes with thermal time indices

- Phenology (rate of growth) directly regulated by accumulated heat
- Excessive accumulated heat at critical times disrupts translocation of photosynthate to grainfill
- Climate influence is not affected by technological development (at least not thus far)

Major Maize Production Regions

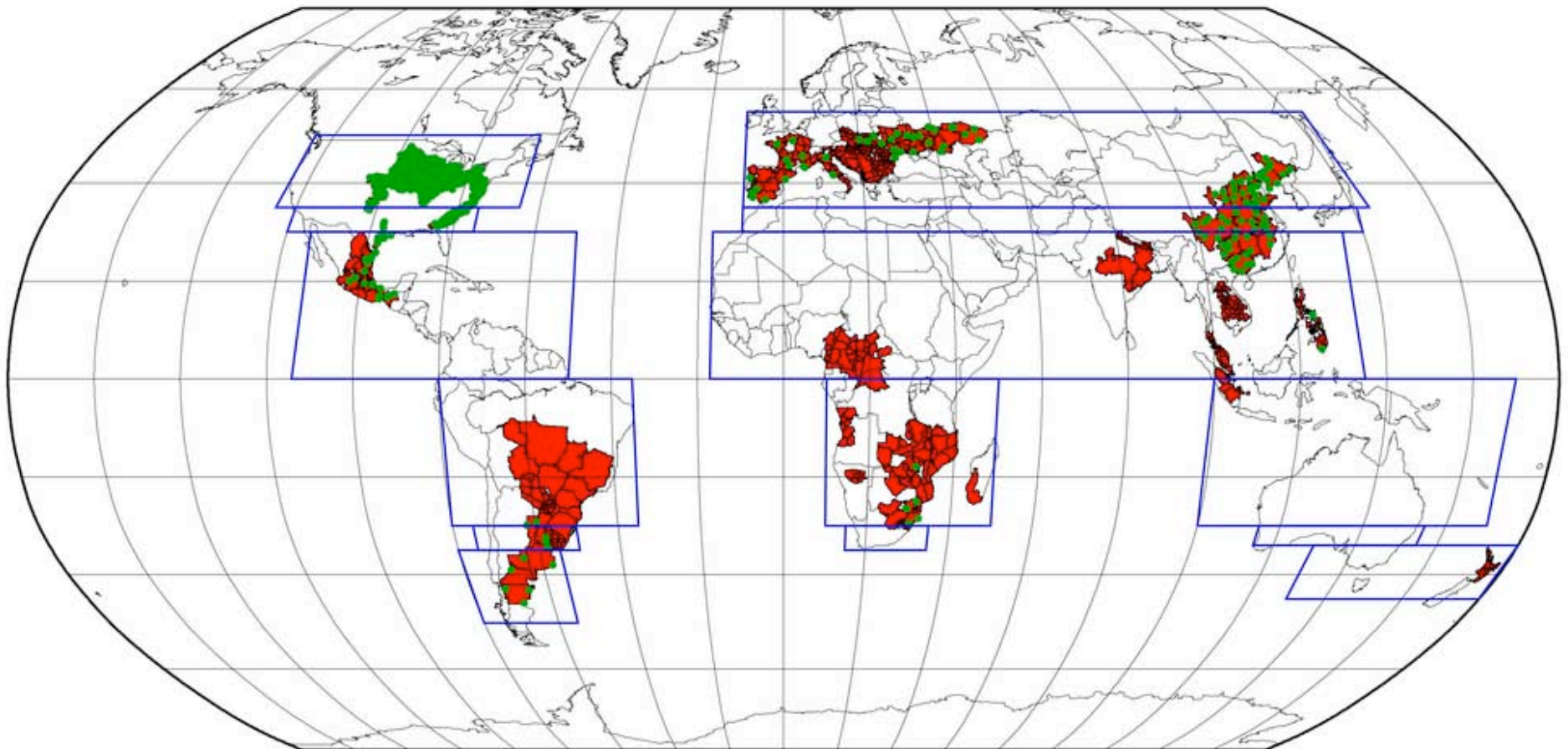


Average period of anthesis in maize across the major crop growing regions of the world



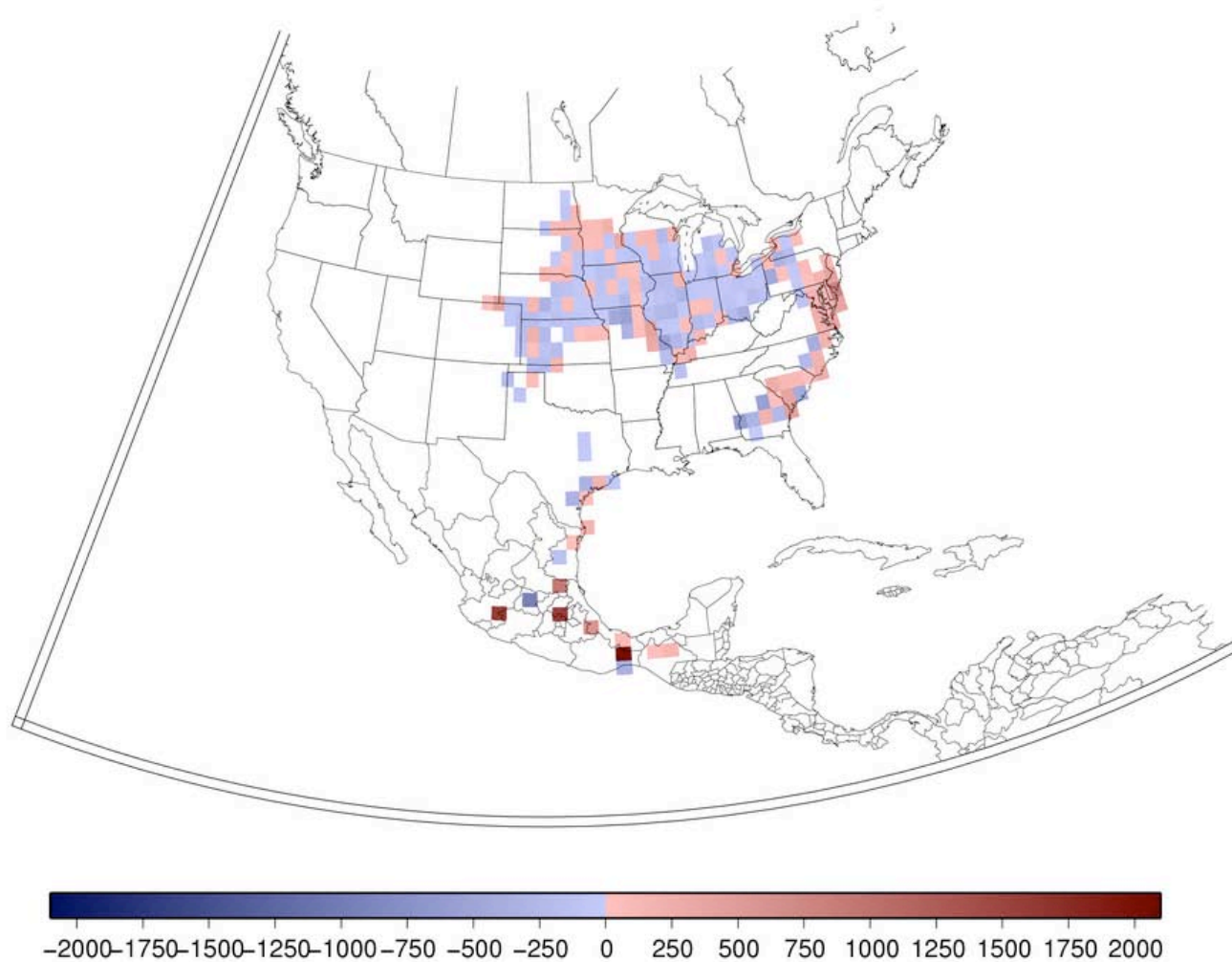
GHCN-Daily Stations (784), with polygonal “anthesis” regions

- Long-term (at least 40 years (from 1950 through 2004) with each year at least 99% non-missing for Northern Hemisphere and at least 30 years with each year at least 80% non-missing, for Southern Hemisphere.
- TMAX and TMIN
- Station data spatially averaged to 1E grids for mapping
- Exclude days that were “flagged” by GHCN-Daily QC



Maize Growing Degree Days (GDD) Index—North America 1950-2004

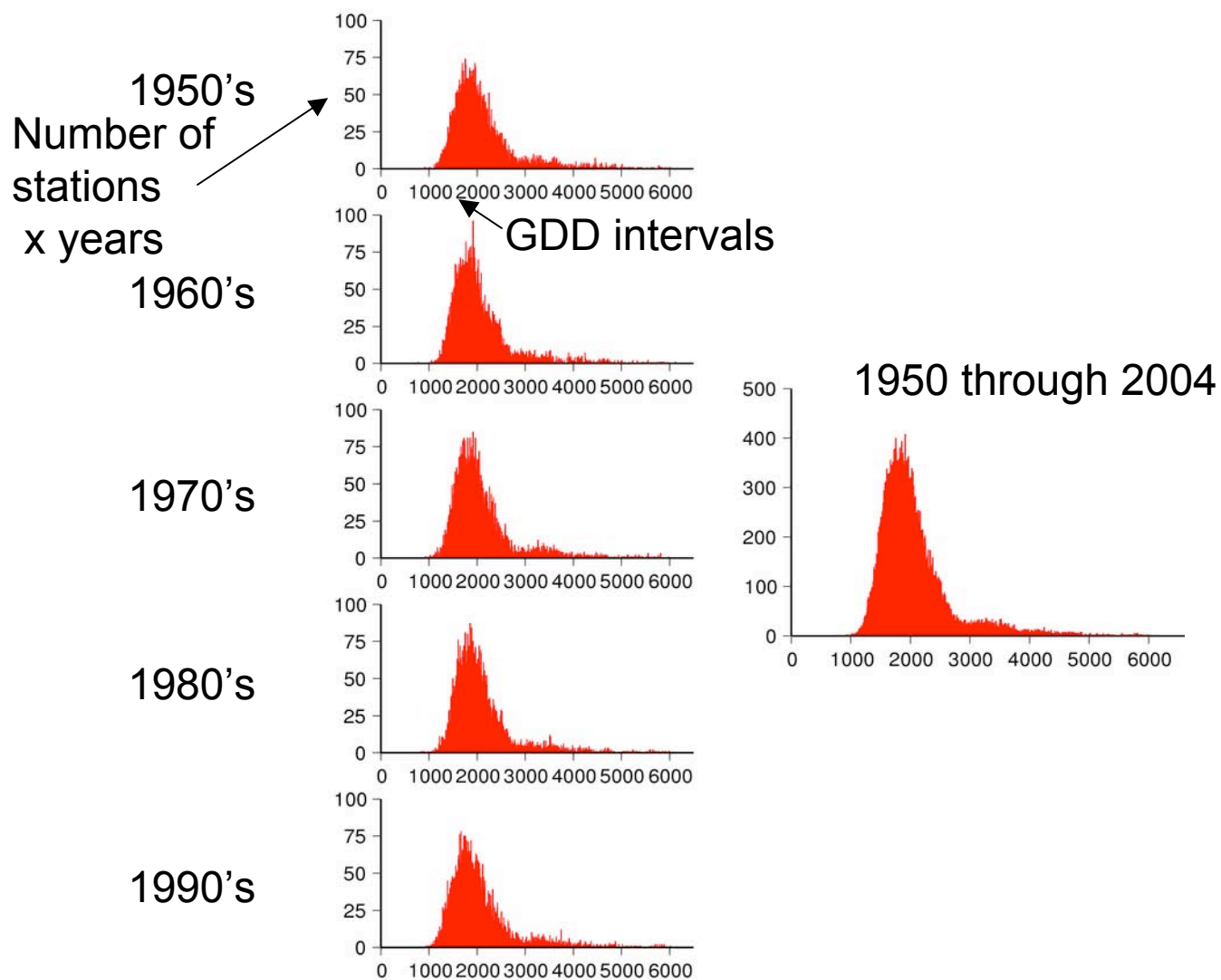
Linear Fit (trends) of annual growing degree days



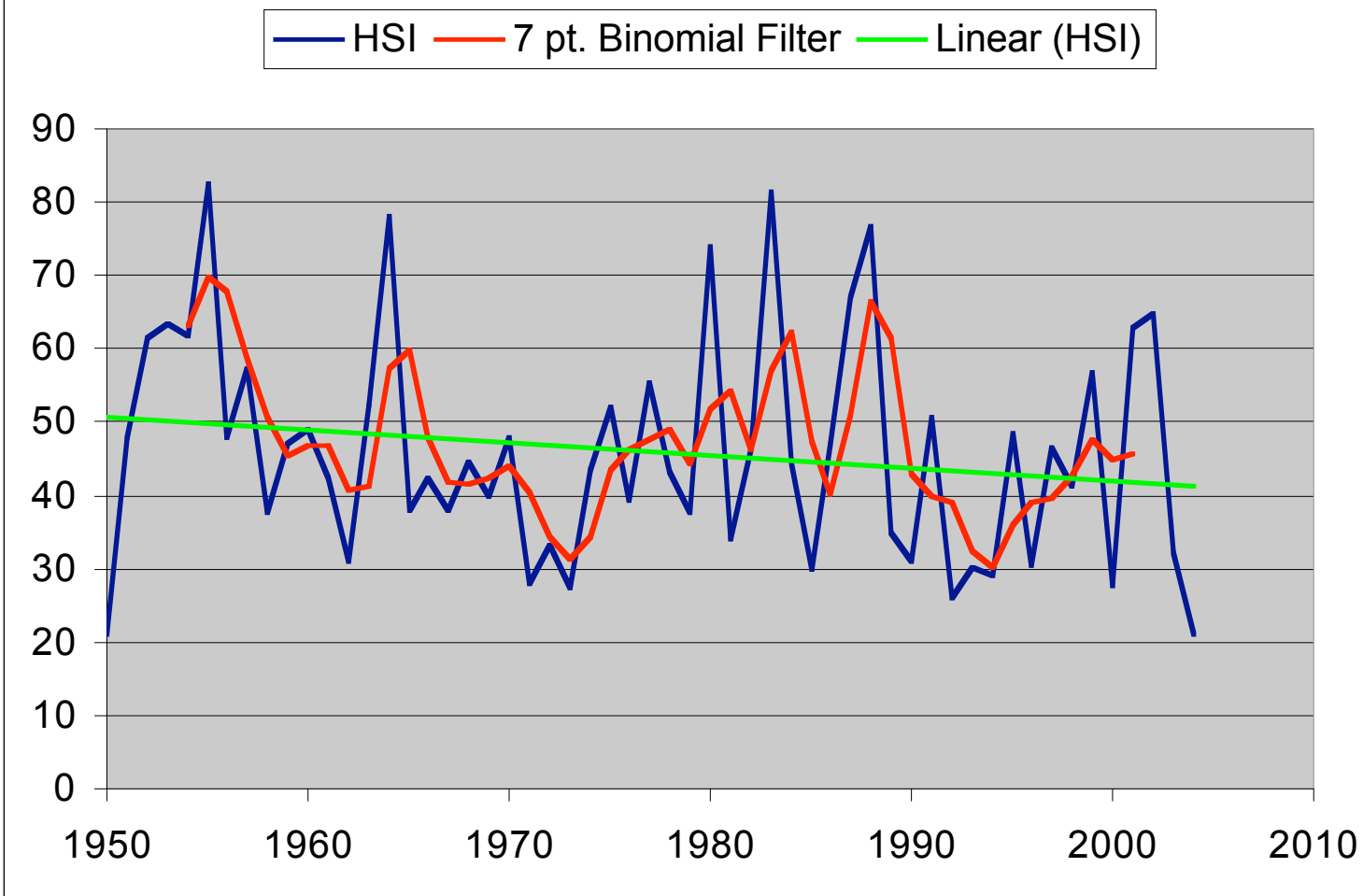
Trends (Days per Century)

Maize Growing Degree Days (GDD) Index—North America

Frequency of Annual Growing Degree Day Totals

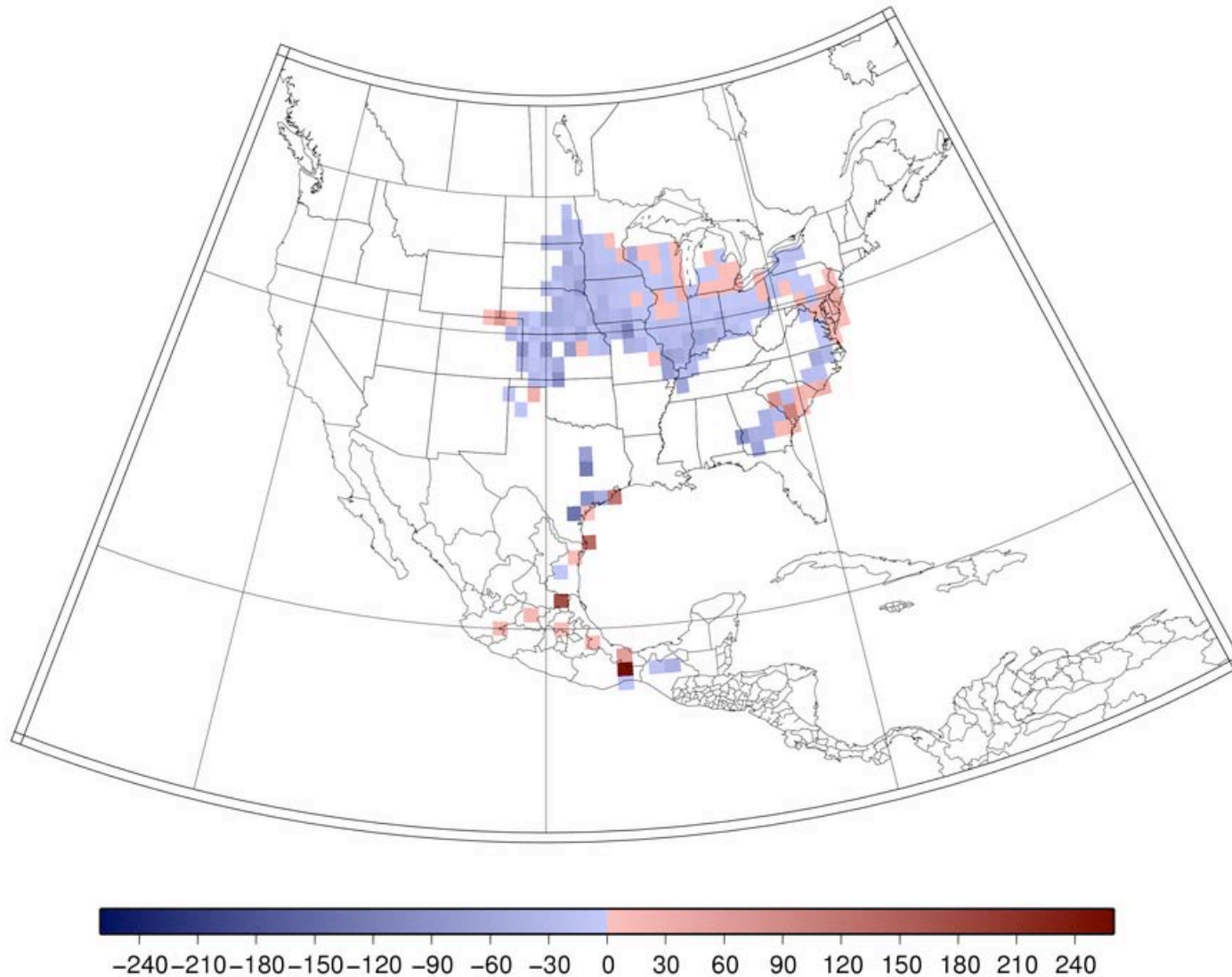


Heat Stress Index (HSI), Global Trend 1950 to 2005



Maize Heat Stress-Day Index—North America 1950-2004

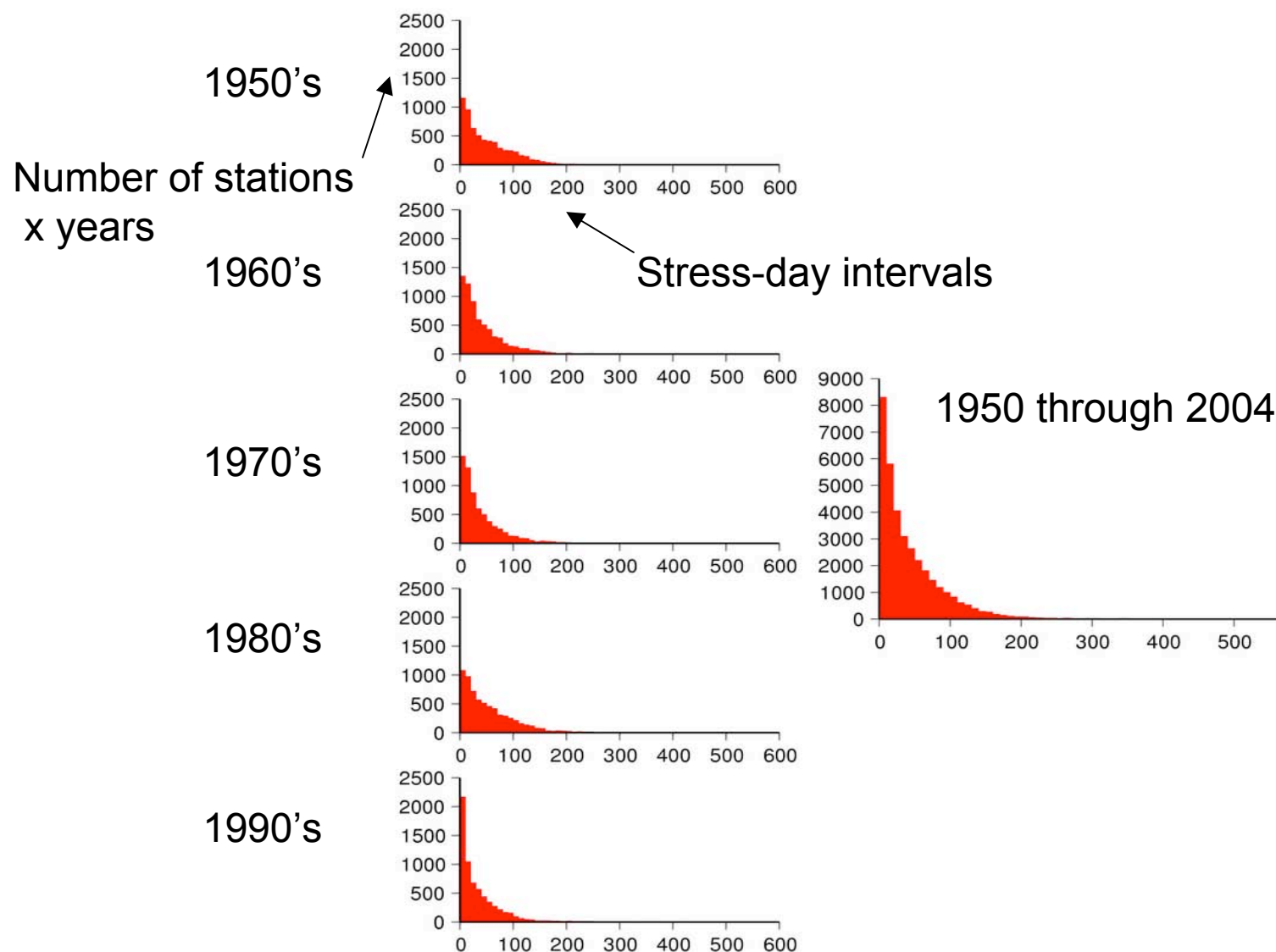
Linear Fit (trends) of annual heat stress days for anthesis



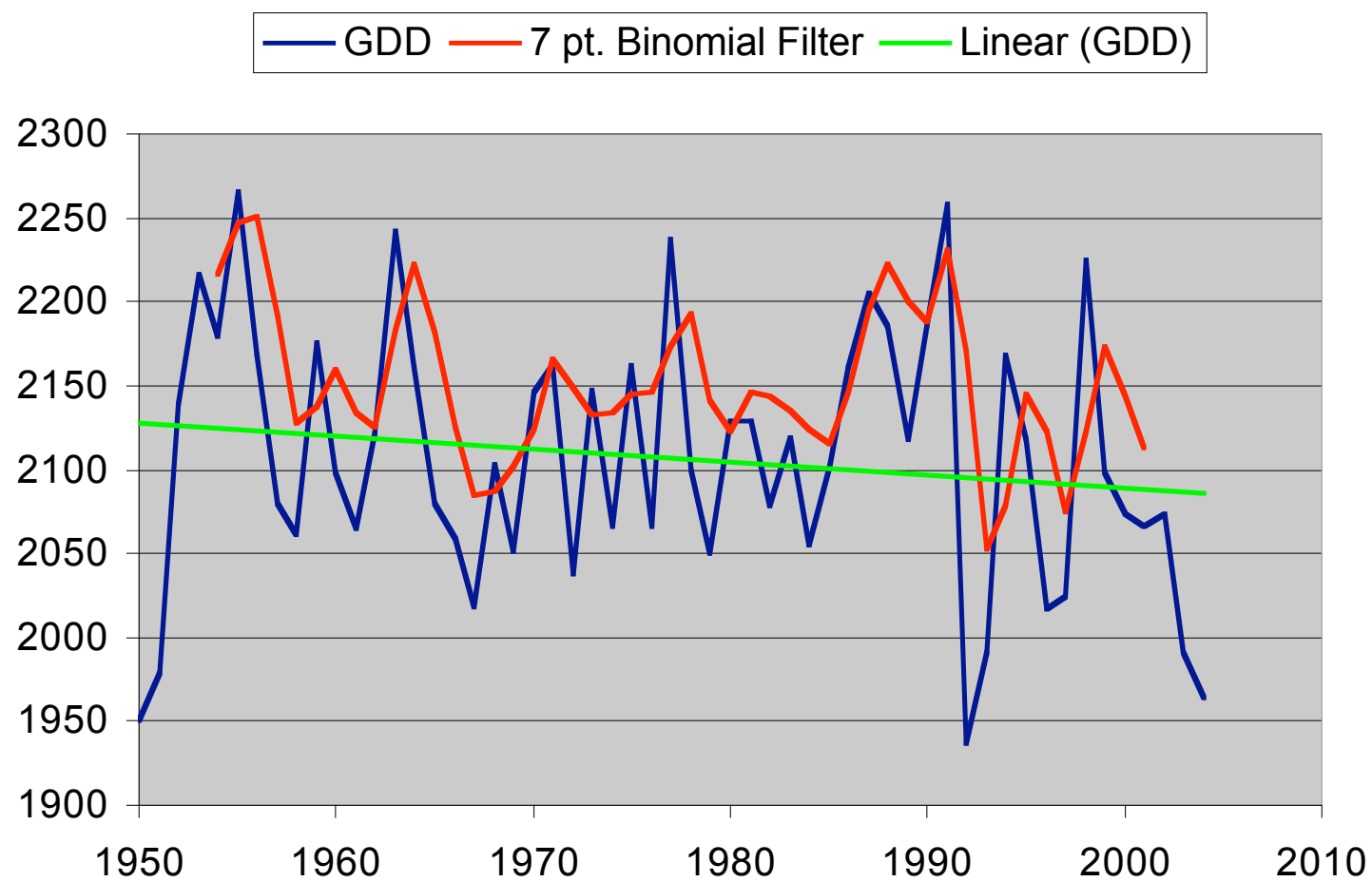
Trends (Degrees per Century)

Maize Heat Stress-Day Index—North America 1950-2004

Frequency of Annual Heat Stress Days for Anthesis

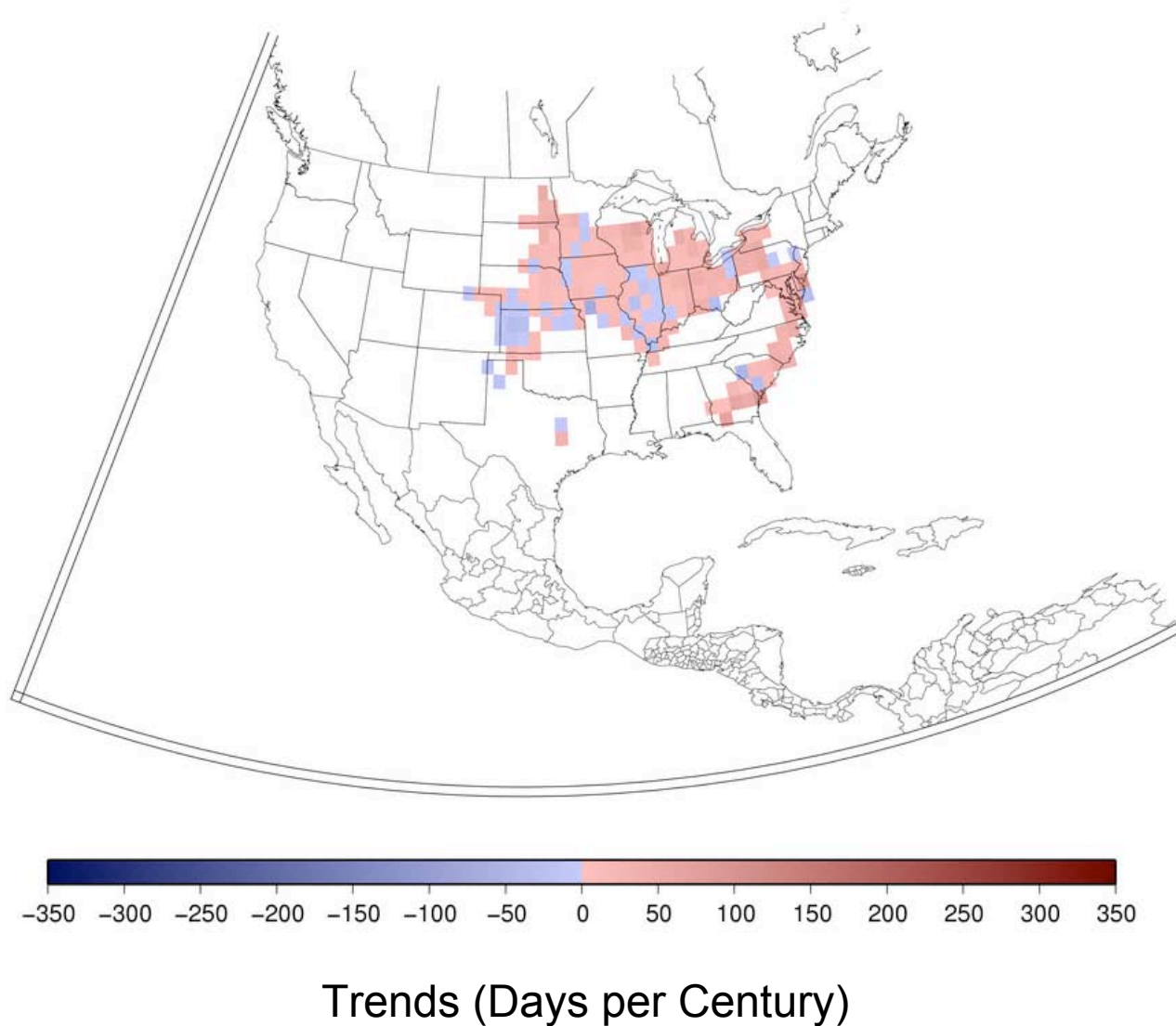


Growing Degree Days (GDD), Global Trend 1950 to 2005

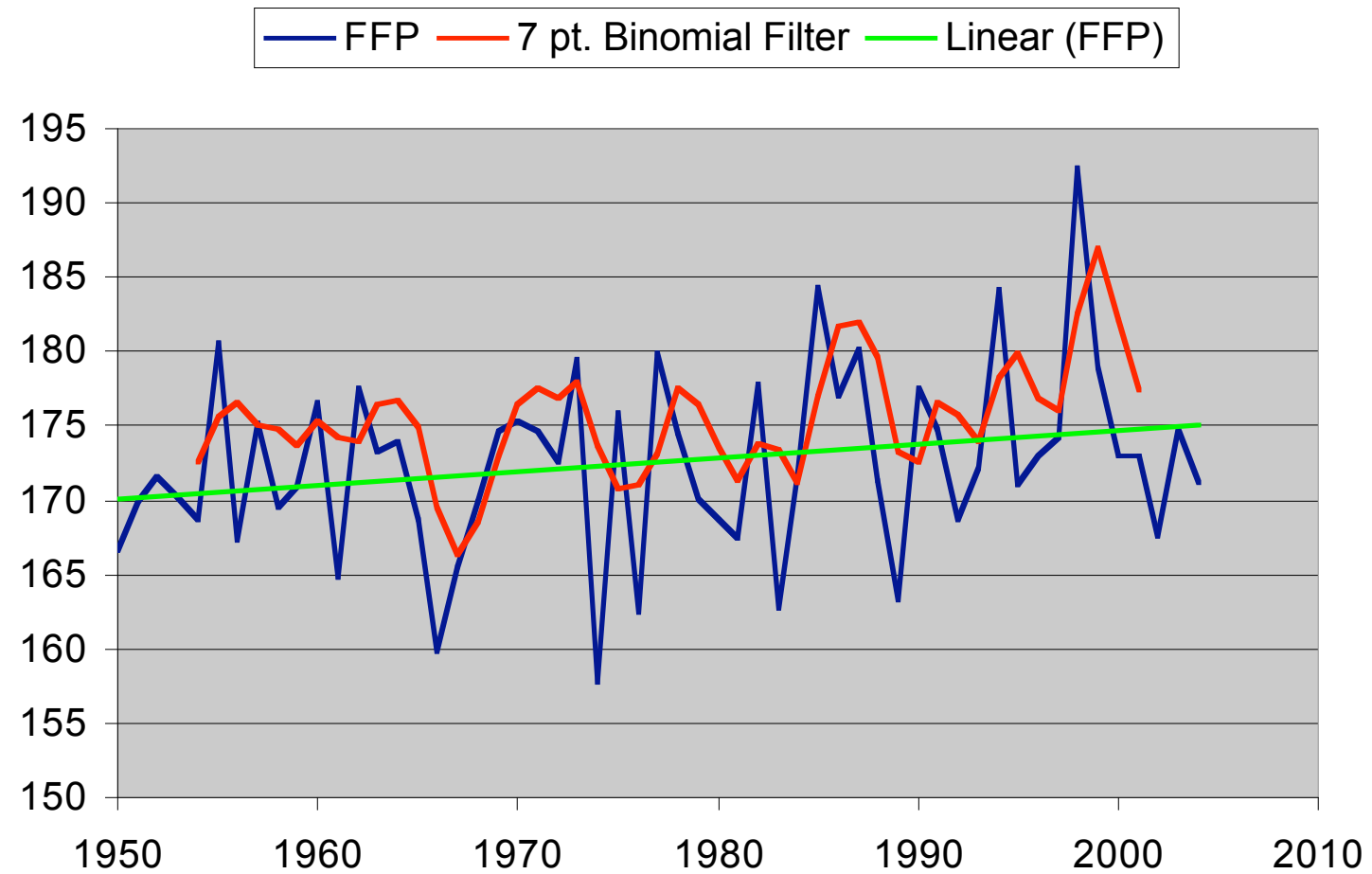


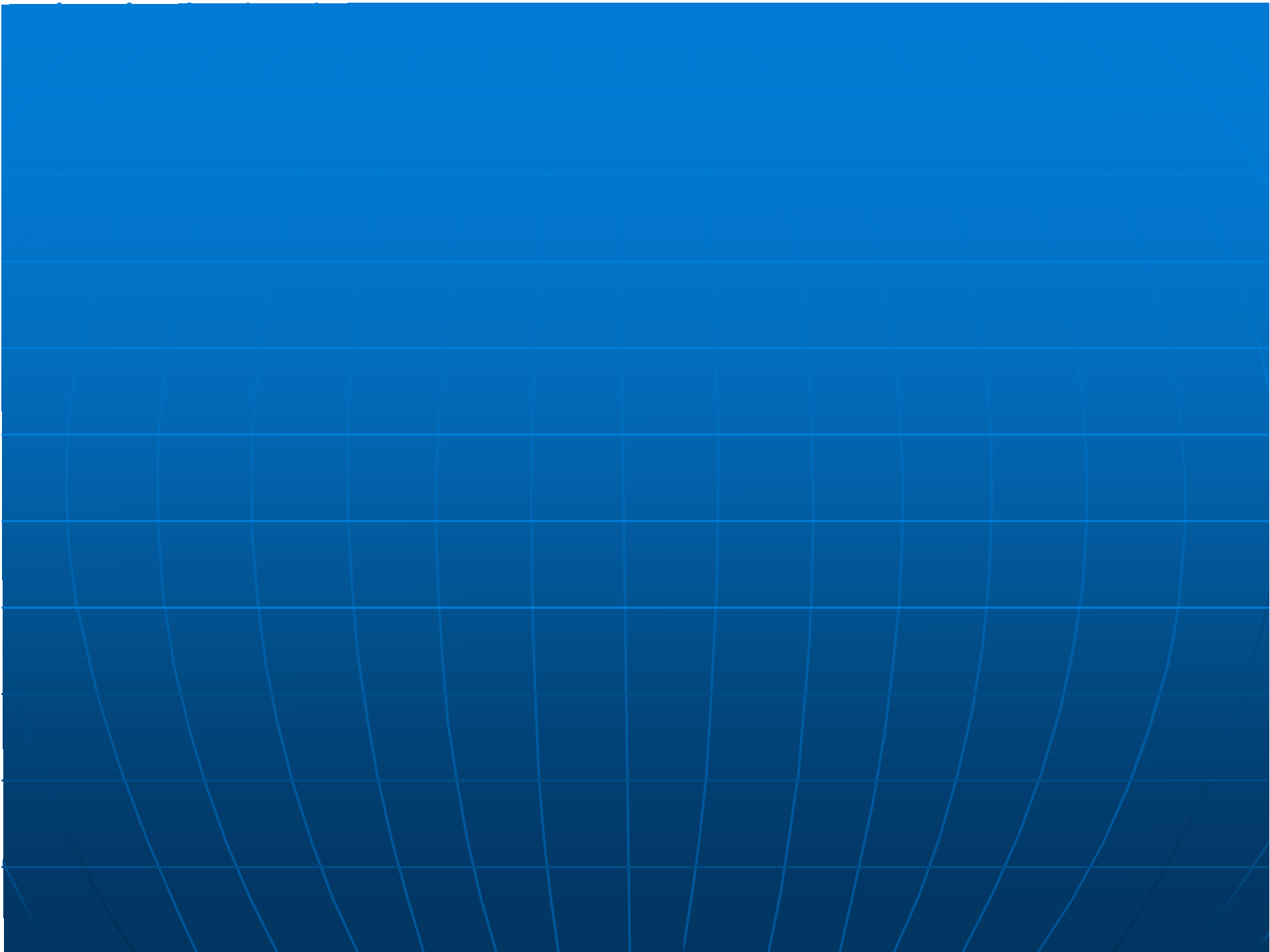
Frost Free Period (FFP) Index (North America)

Linear Fit (trends) of the FFP annually accumulated days, 1950-2004



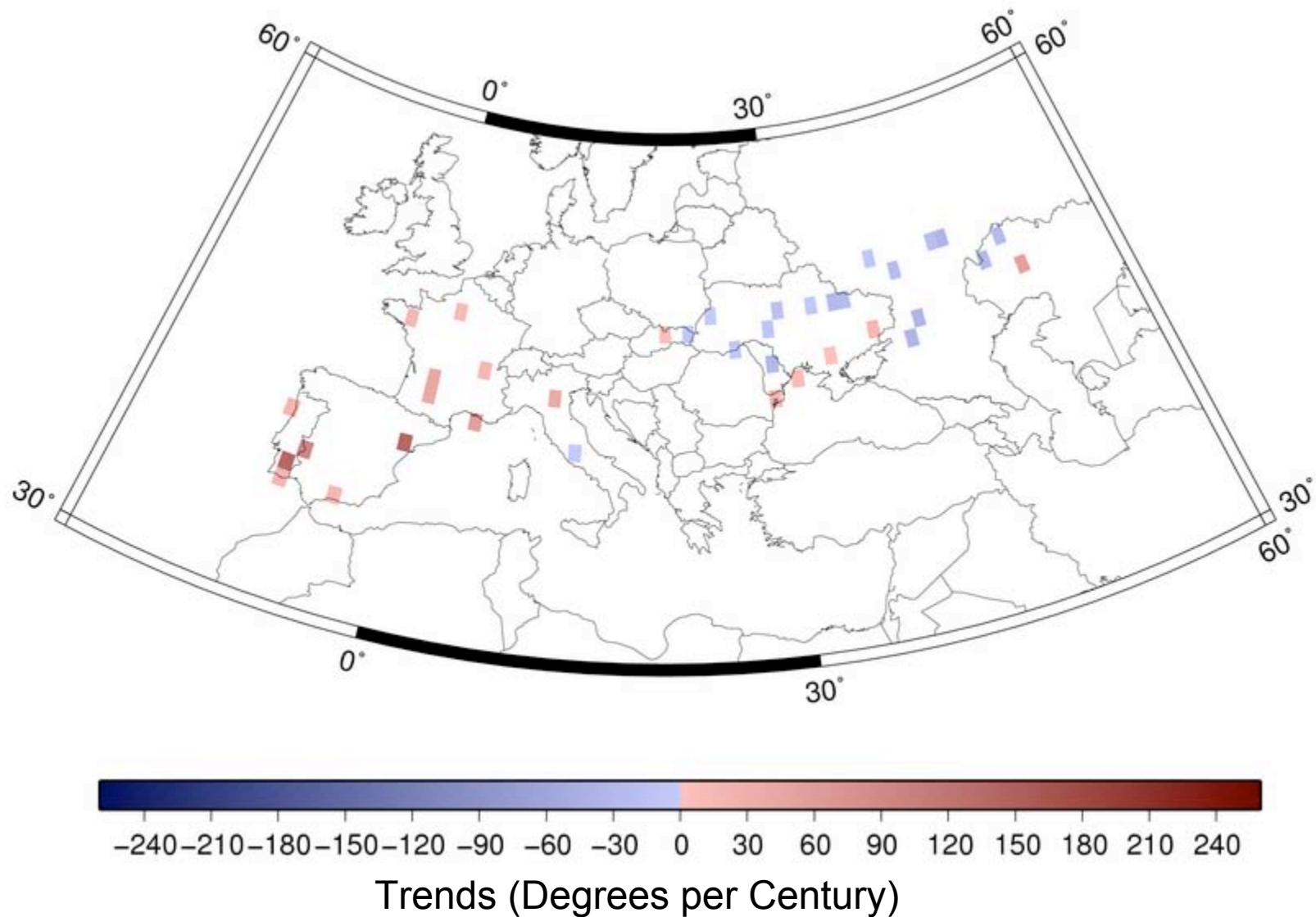
Frost Free Period Index (FFP), Global Trend 1950 to 2005





Maize Heat Stress-Day Index—Eurasia

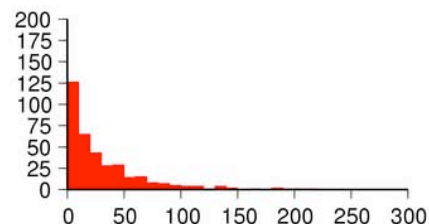
Linear Fit (trends) of the heat stress annually accumulated degrees



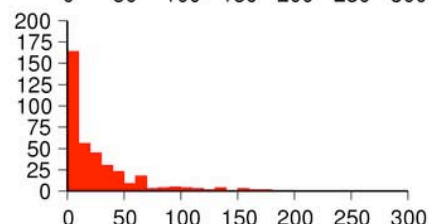
Maize Heat Stress-Day Index—Eurasia

Frequency of Heat Stress Index Annual Accumulated Degrees for period of anthesis

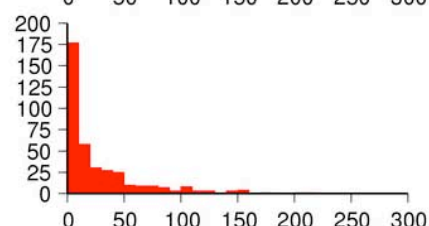
1950's



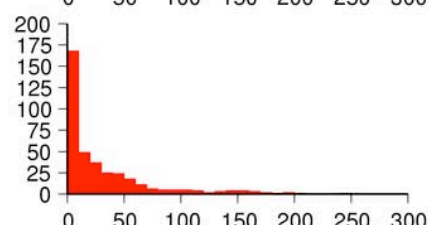
1960's



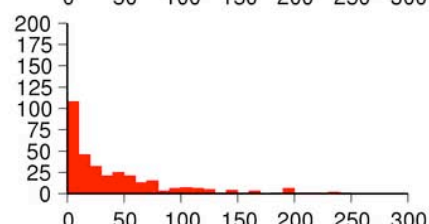
1970's



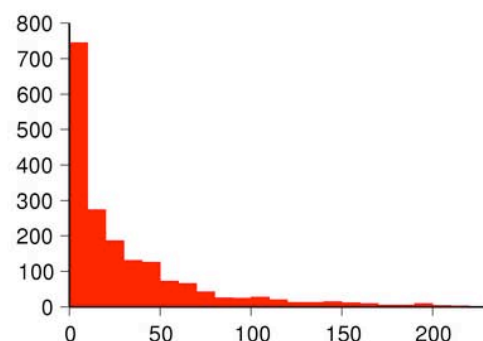
1980's



1990's

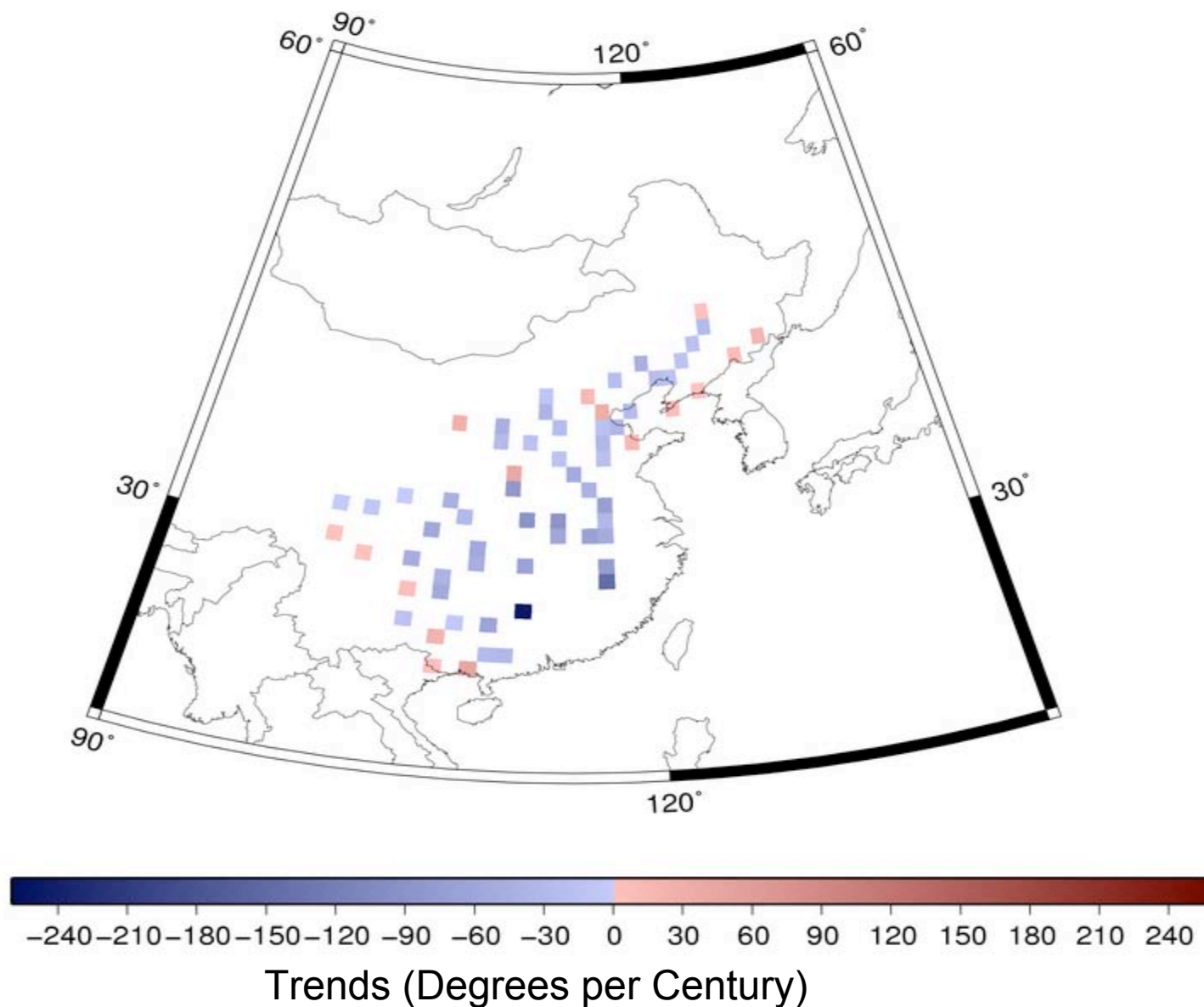


1950 through 2005



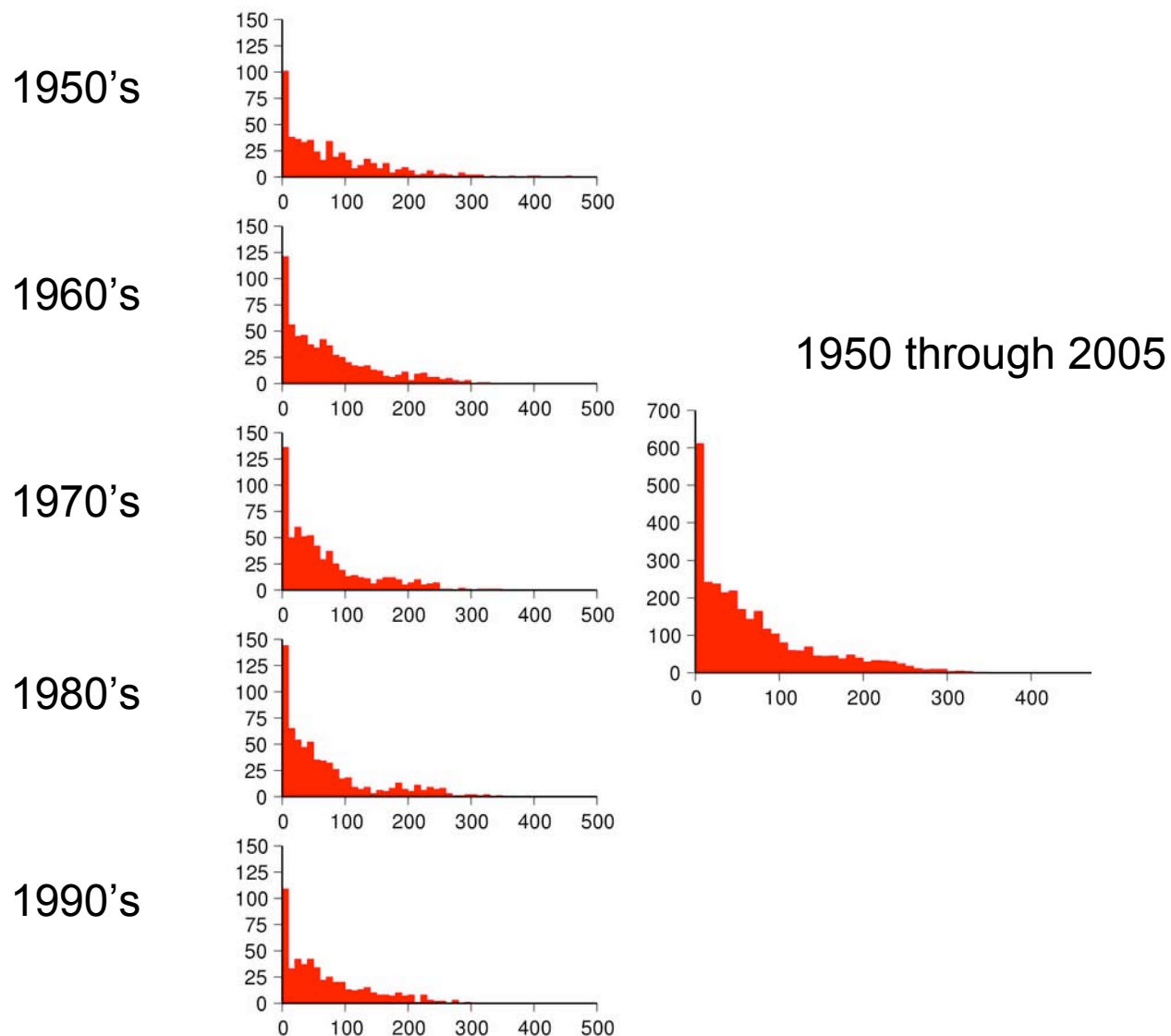
Maize Heat Stress-Day Index—Asia

Linear Fit (trends) of the heat stress annually accumulated degrees



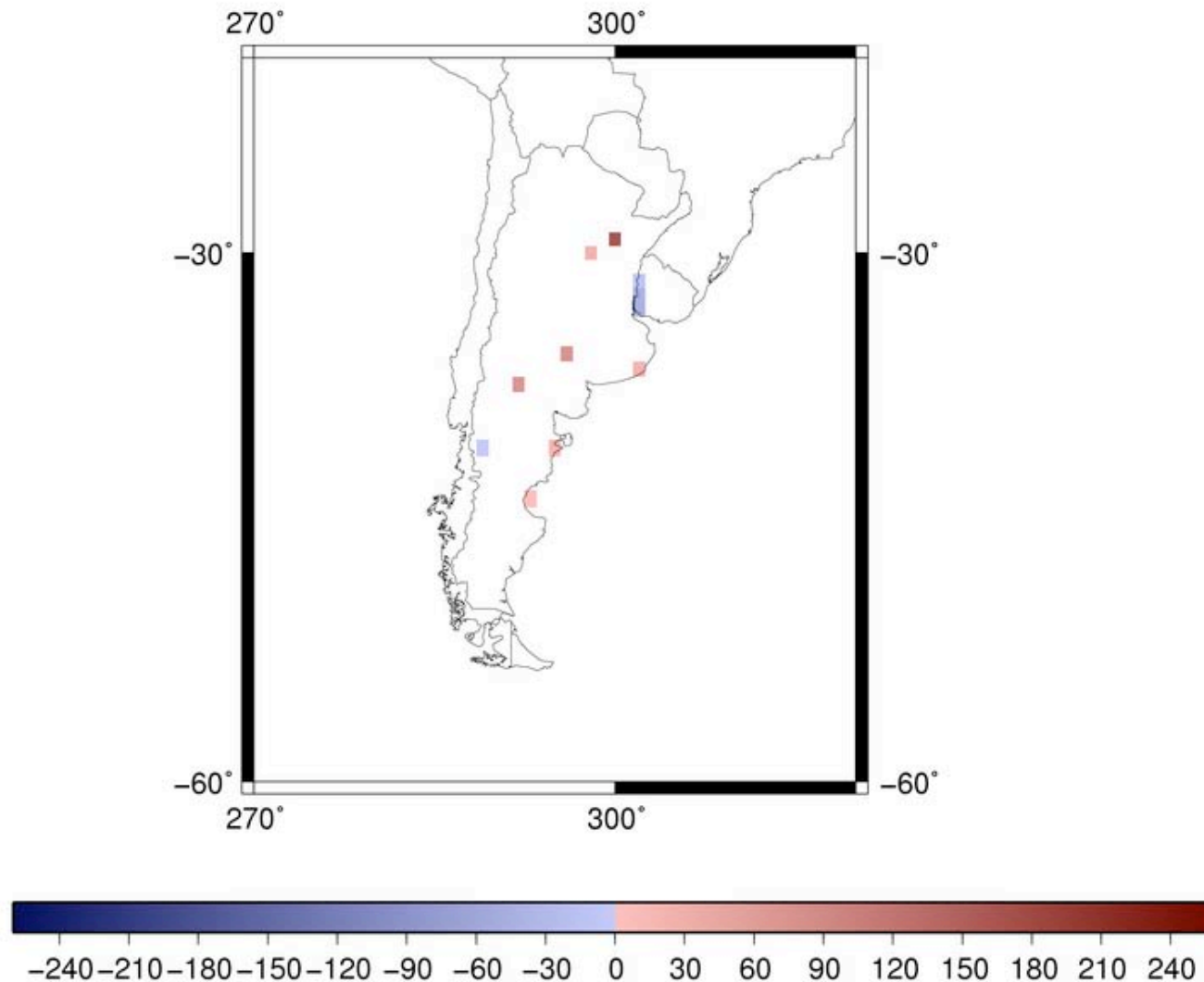
Maize Heat Stress-Day Index—Asia

Frequency of Heat Stress Index Annual Accumulated Degrees for period of anthesis



Maize Heat Stress-Day Index—South America

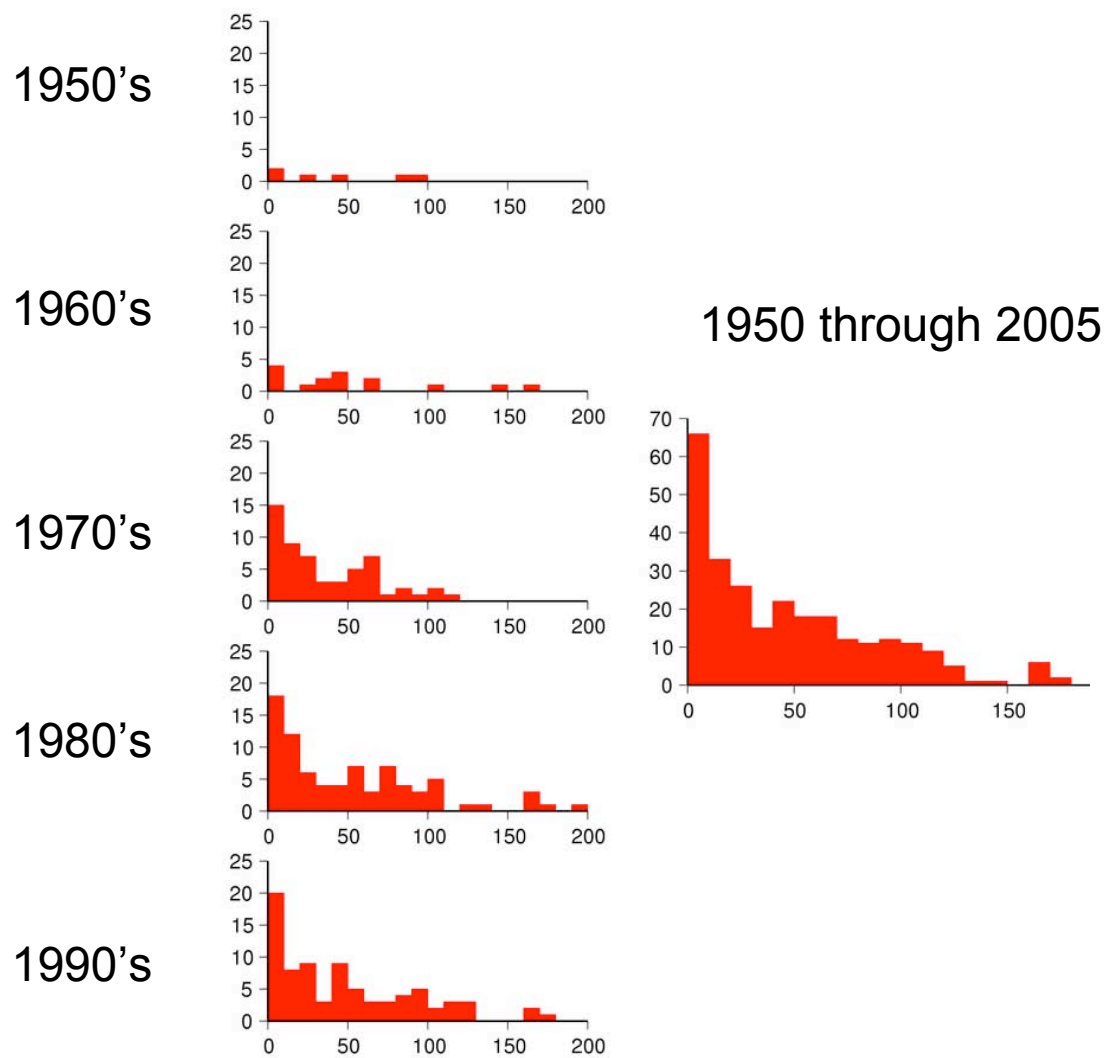
Linear Fit (trends) of the heat stress annually accumulated degrees



Trends (Degrees per Century)

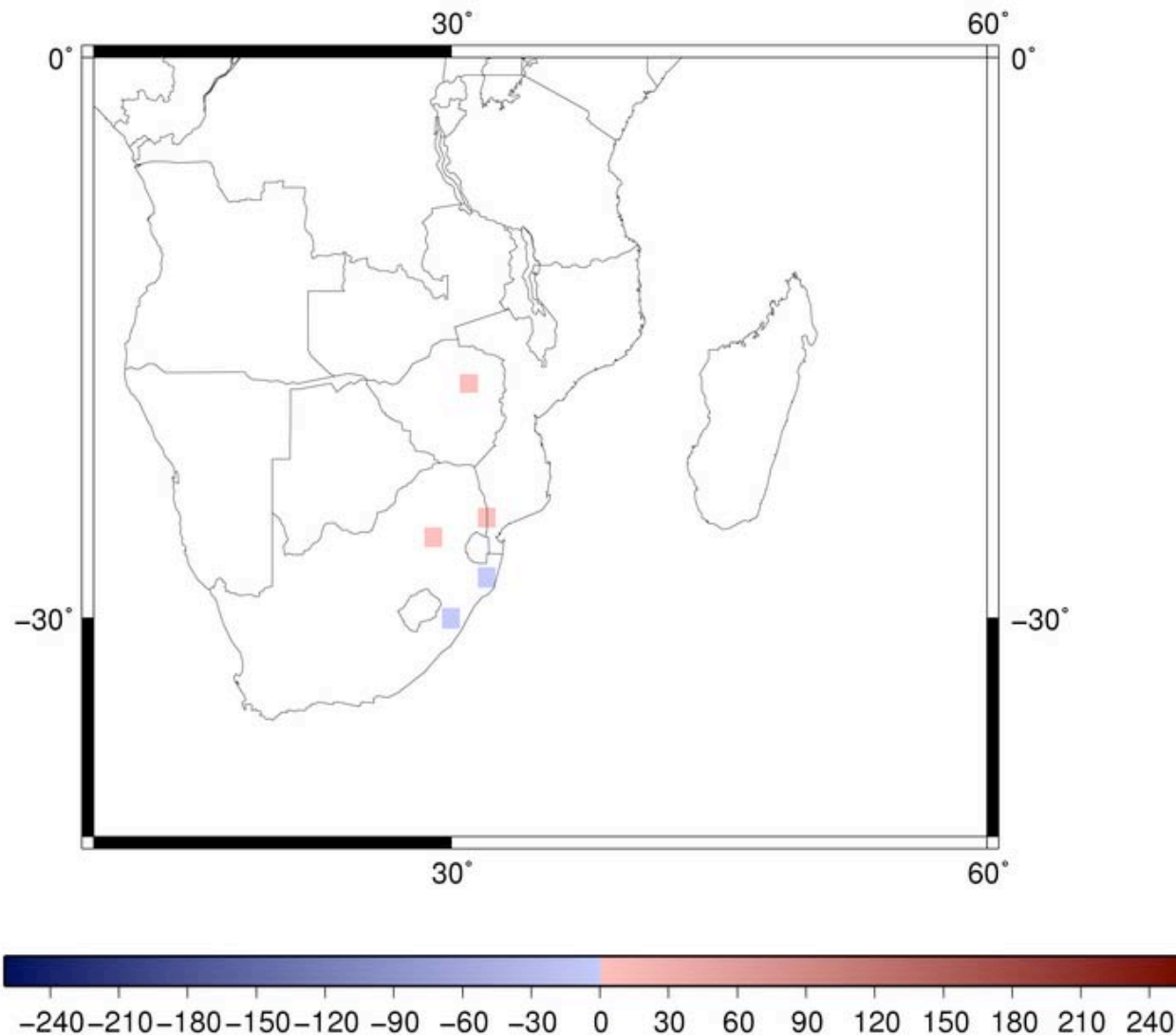
Maize Heat Stress-Day Index—South America

Frequency of Heat Stress Index Annual Accumulated Degrees for period of anthesis



Maize Heat Stress-Day Index—Africa

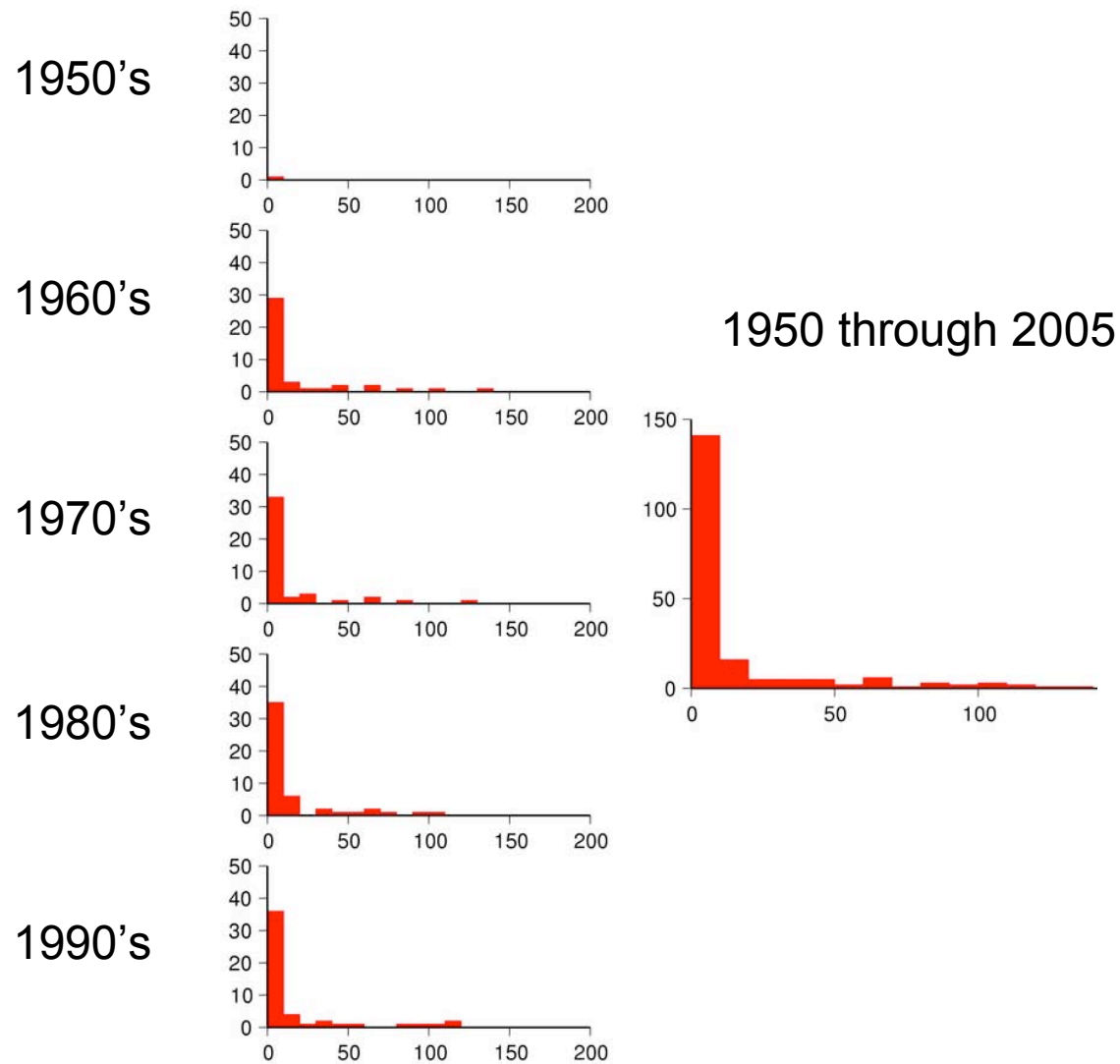
Linear Fit (trends) of the heat stress annually accumulated degrees



Trends (Degrees per Century)

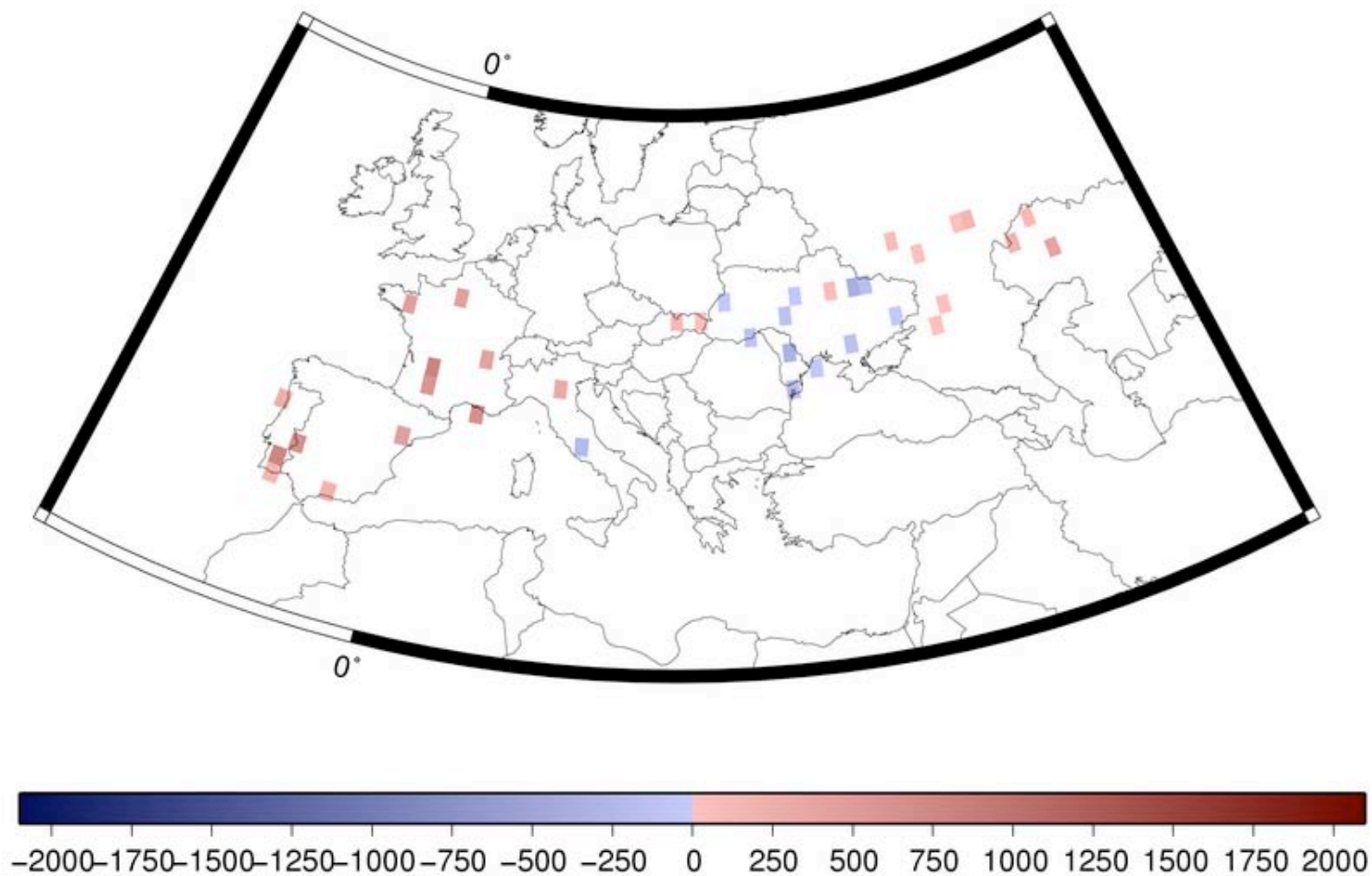
Maize Heat Stress-Day Index—Africa

Frequency of Heat Stress Index Annual Accumulated Degrees for period of anthesis



Maize Growing Degree Days (GDD) Index—Eurasia

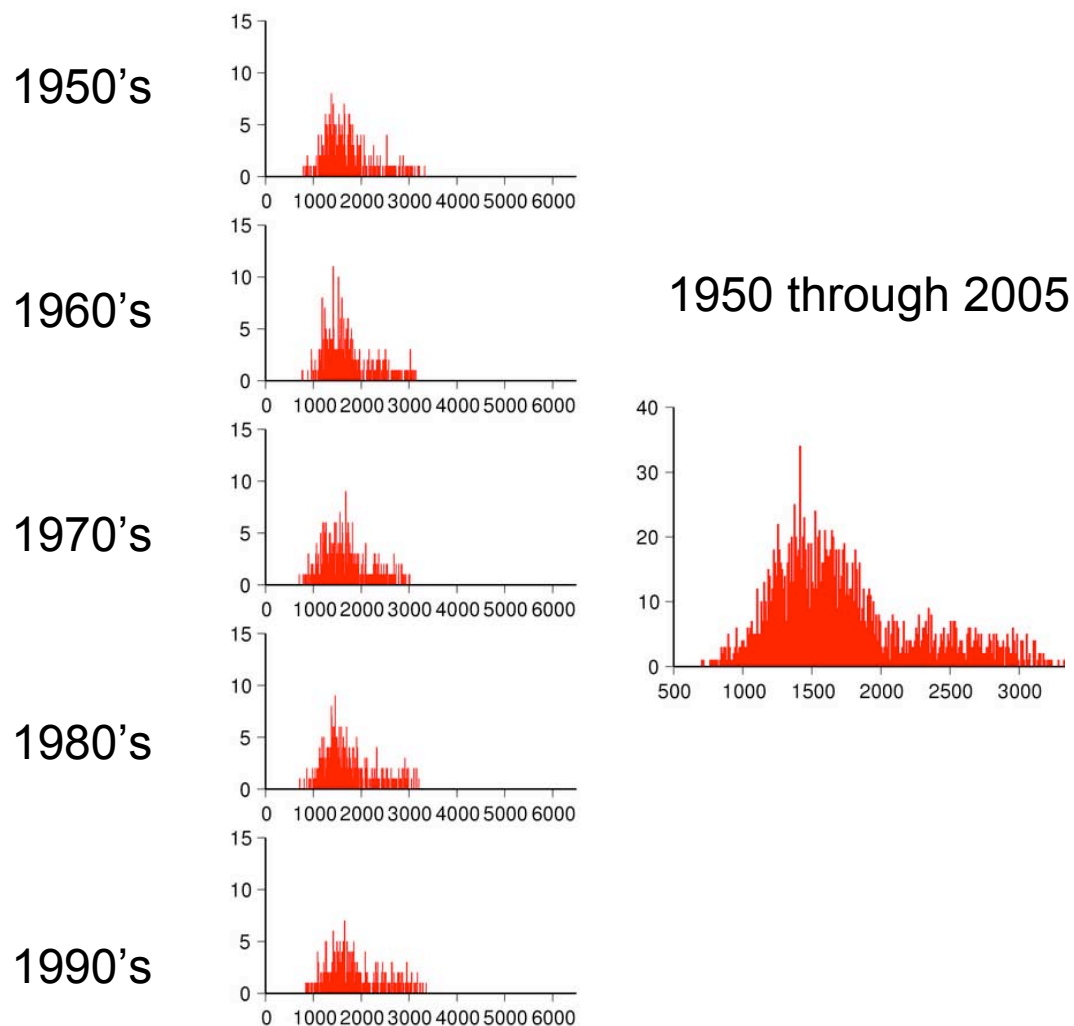
Linear Fit (trends) of the GDD annually accumulated degrees



Trends (Days per Century)

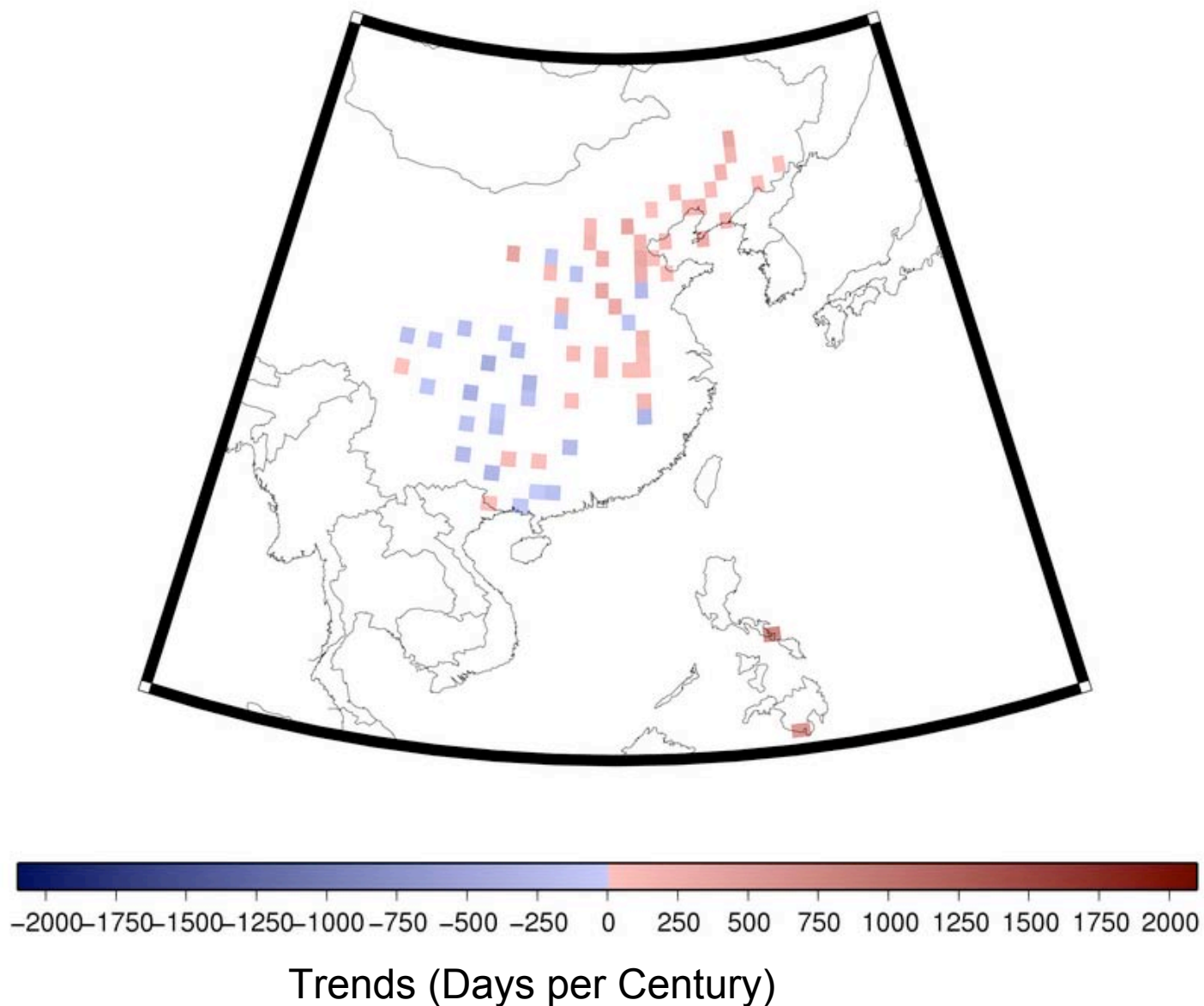
Maize Growing Degree Days (GDD) Index—Eurasia

Frequency of GDD Index Annual Accumulated Days



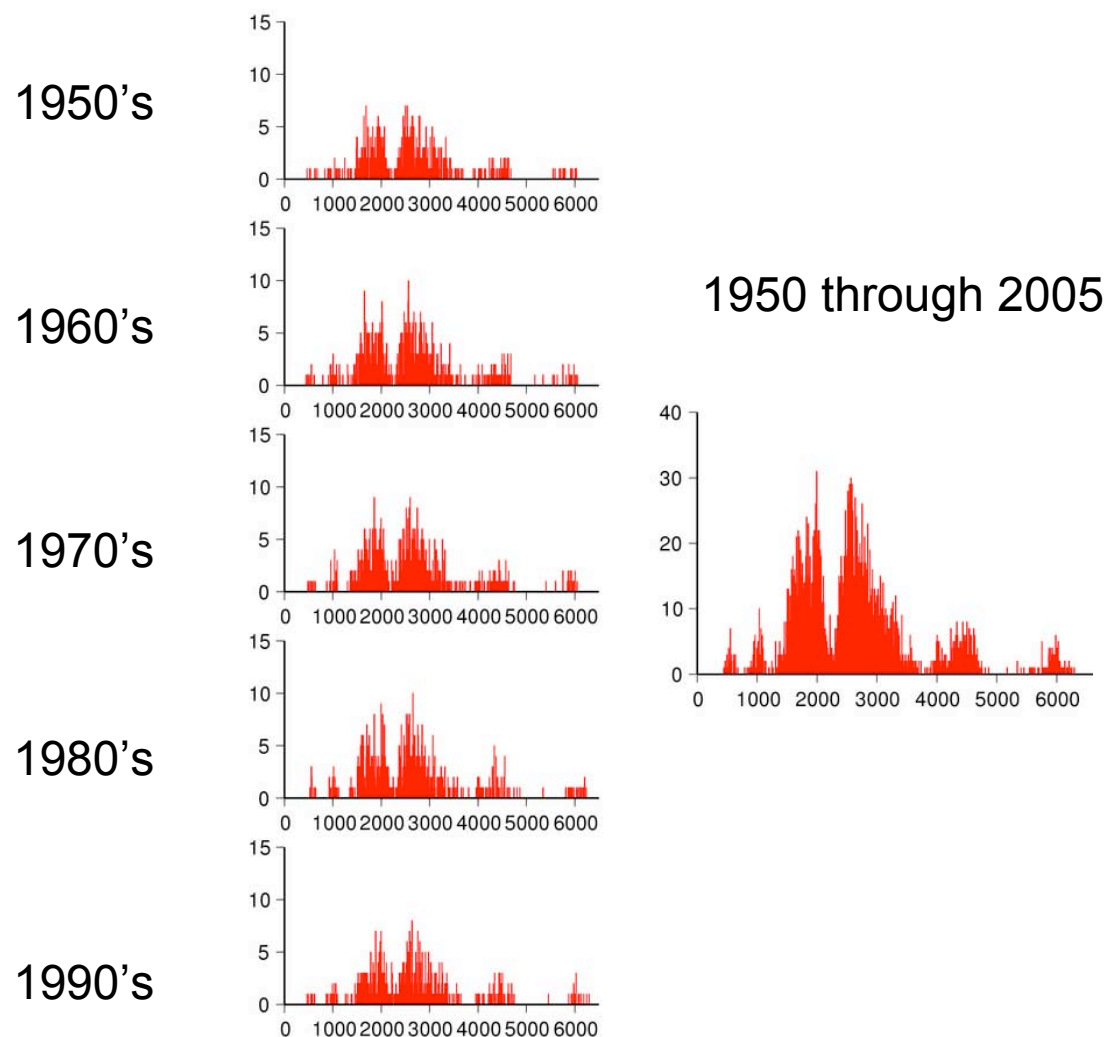
Maize Growing Degree Days (GDD) Index—Asia

Linear Fit (trends) of the GDD annually accumulated degrees



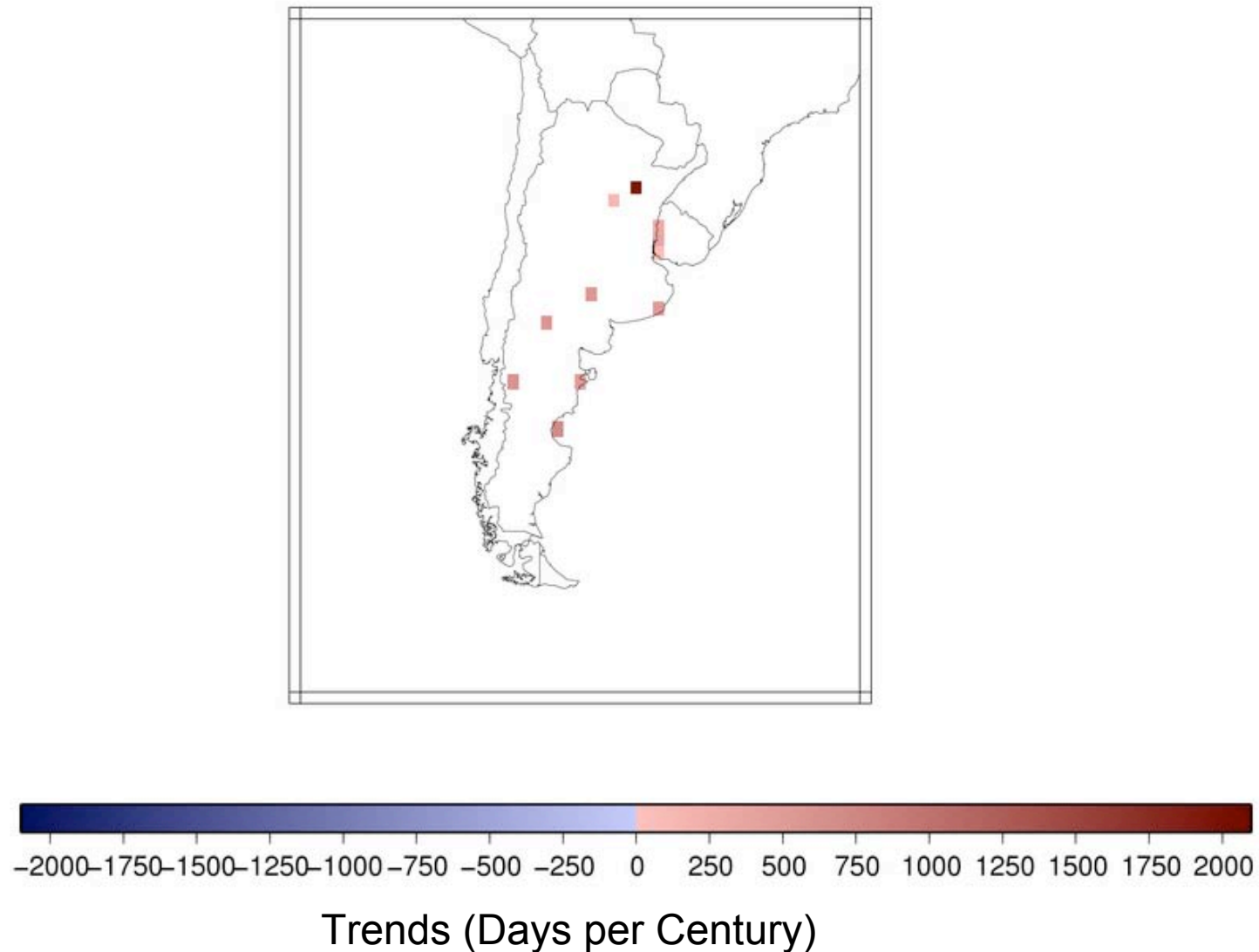
Maize Growing Degree Days (GDD) Index—Asia

Frequency of GDD Index Annual Accumulated Days



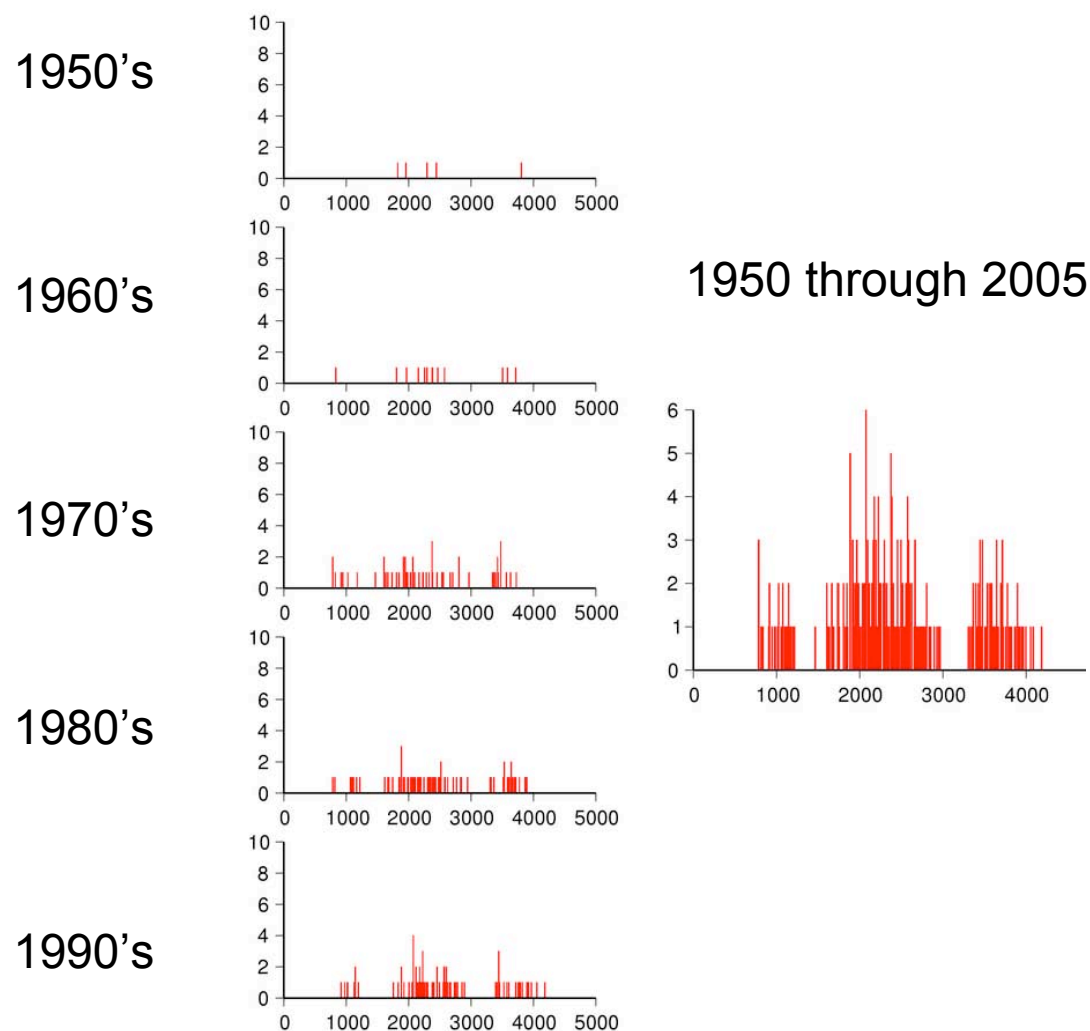
Maize Growing Degree Days (GDD) Index—South America

Linear Fit (trends) of the GDD annually accumulated degrees



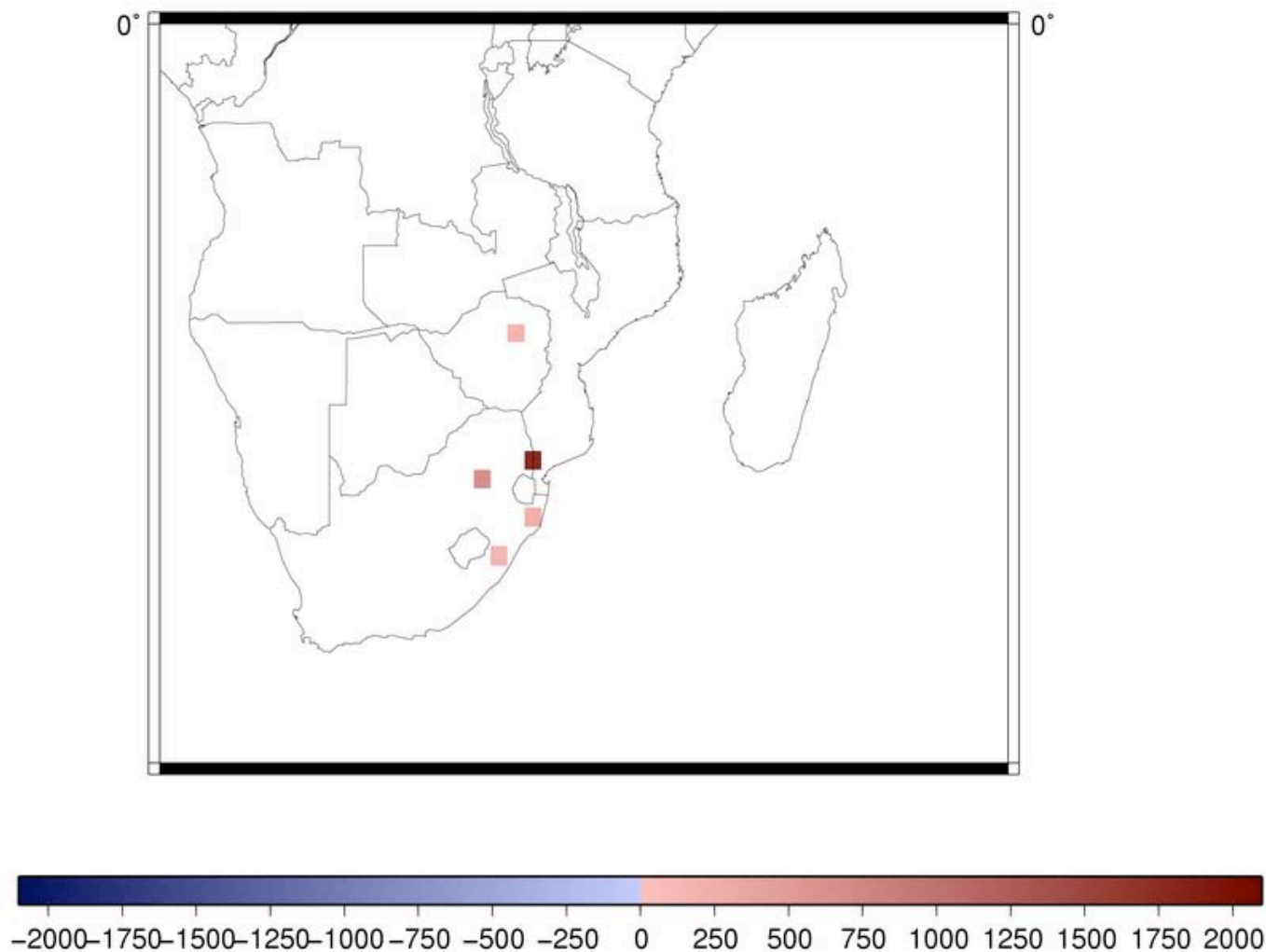
Maize Growing Degree Days (GDD) Index—South America

Frequency of GDD Index Annual Accumulated Days



Maize Growing Degree Days (GDD) Index—Africa

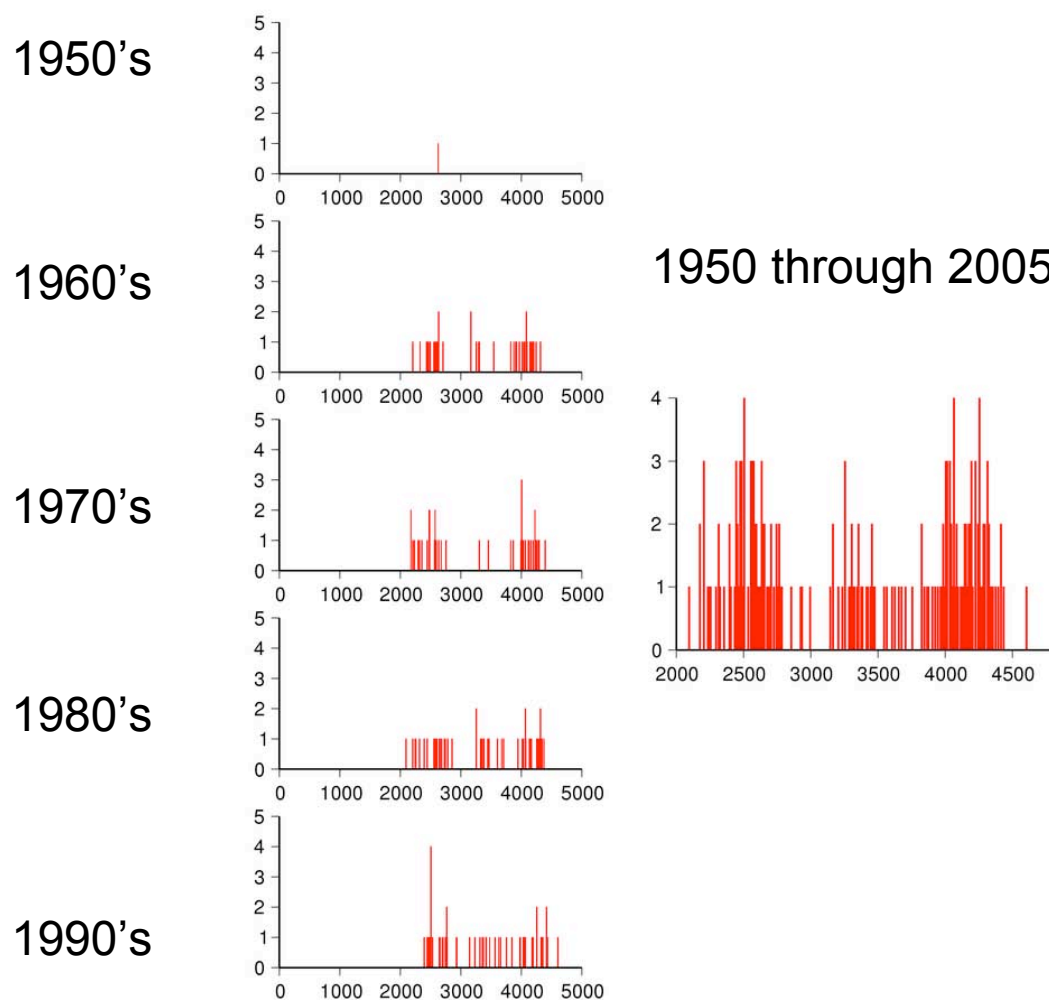
Linear Fit (trends) of the GDD annually accumulated degrees



Trends (Days per Century)

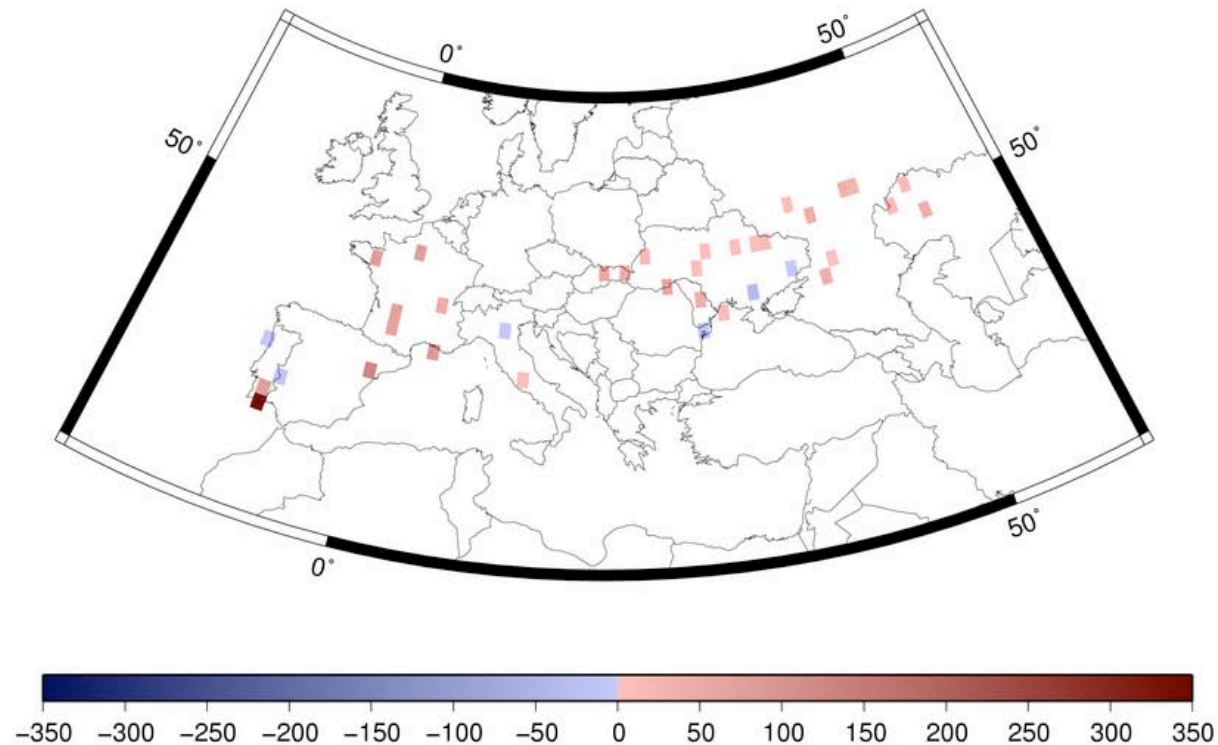
Maize Growing Degree Days (GDD) Index—Africa

Frequency of GDD Index Annual Accumulated Days



Frost Free Period (FFP) Index (Eurasia)

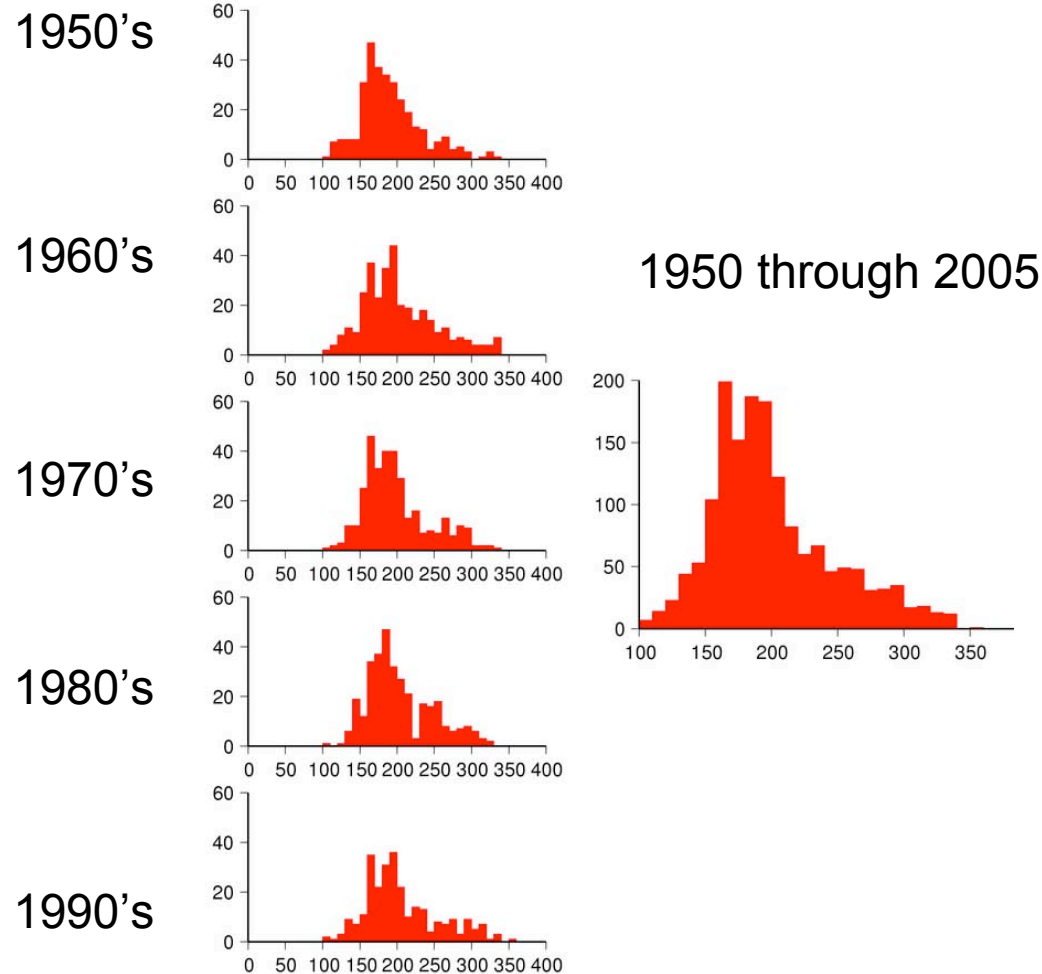
Linear Fit (trends) of the FFP annually accumulated days



Trends (Days per Century)

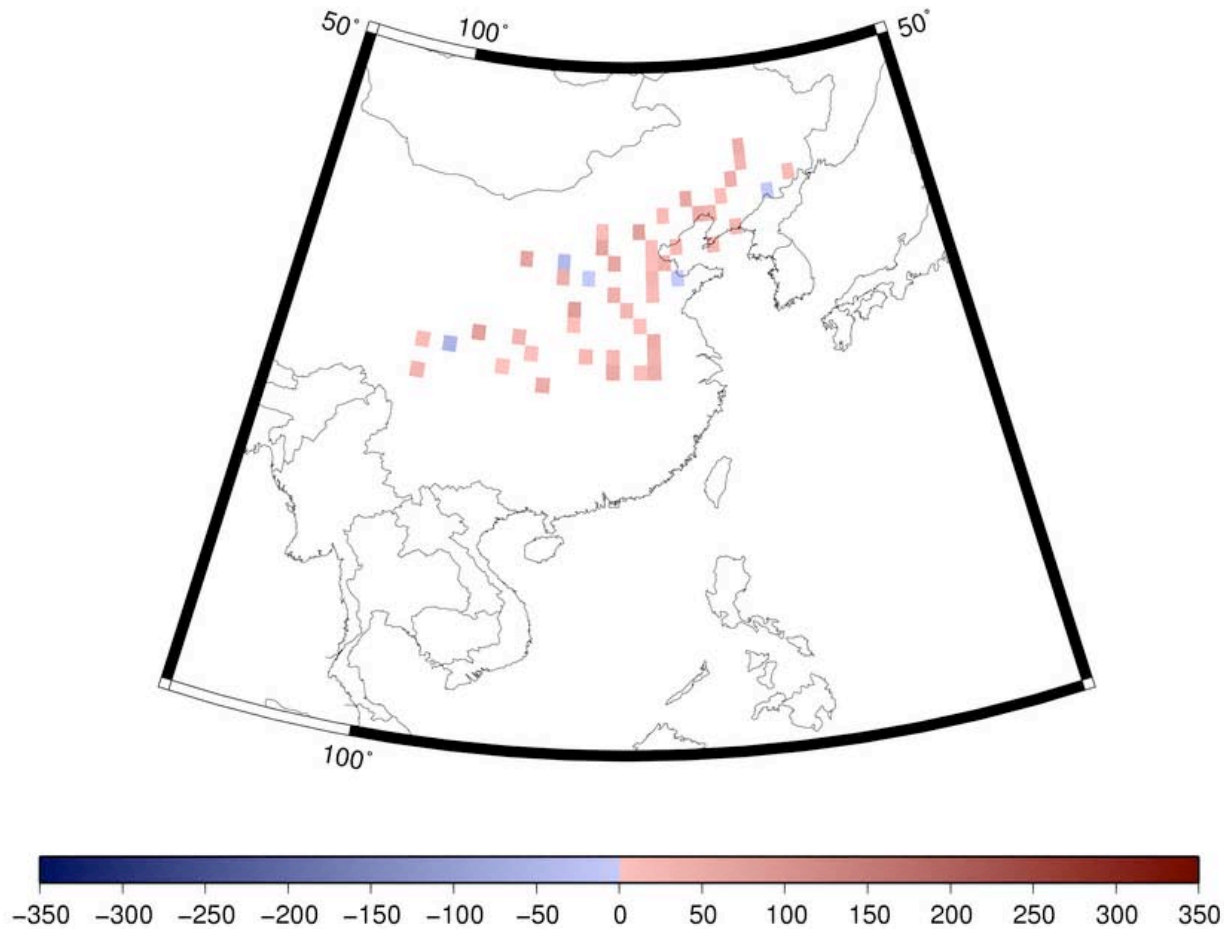
Frost Free Period Index (Eurasia)

Frequency of FFP Index Annual Accumulated Days



Frost Free Period (FFP) Index (Asia)

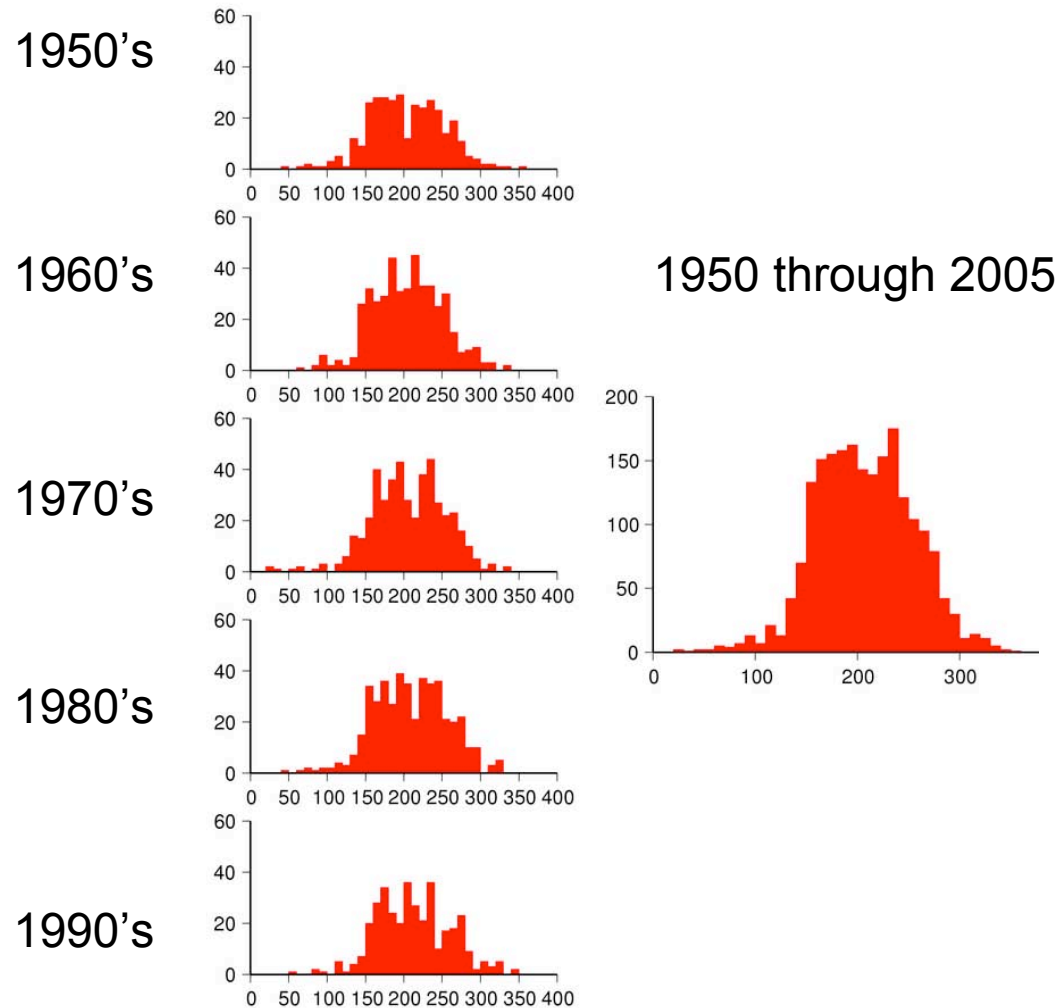
Linear Fit (trends) of the FFP annually accumulated days



Trends (Days per Century)

Frost Free Period Index (Asia)

Frequency of FFP Index Annual Accumulated Days



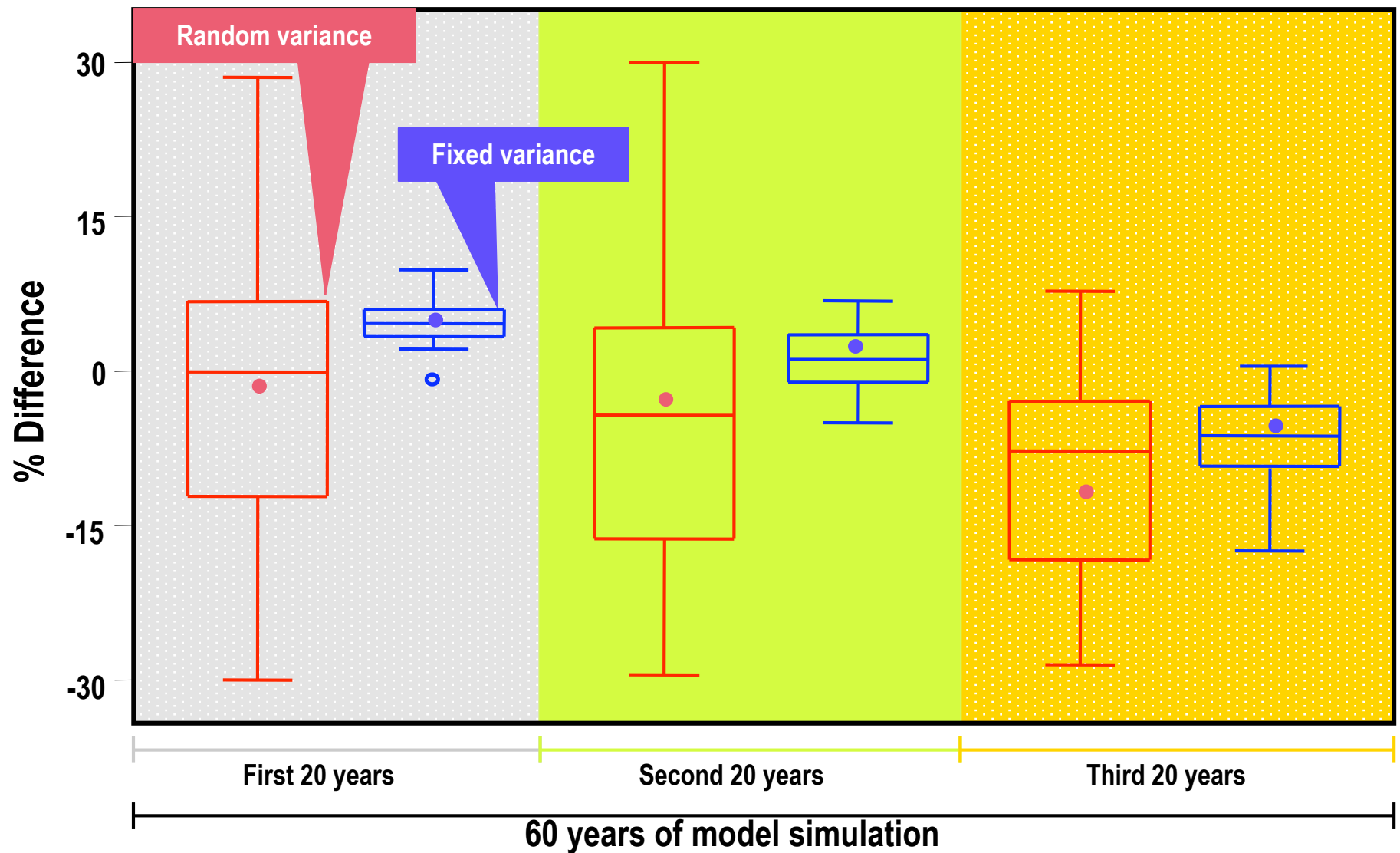
Using Monte Carlo simulation

- Not widely practiced in impact analysis
- Simple first step is use in representing uncertainty of future climate variability in impact modeling
 - What happens when a range of artificially modified variances are sampled at different stages of transient climate change for input to a crop model?

Vs.

Use of one variance all the way through?

Difference in Mean Corn Yields (% of 1960-1995 Baseline) to RegCM Climate with Random and Fixed Variance

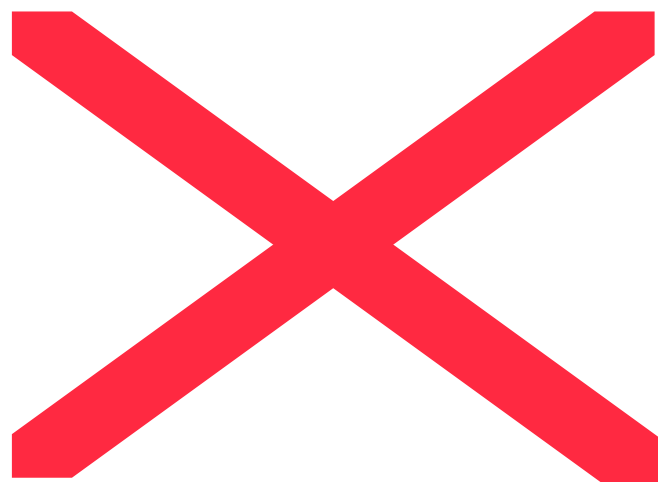


Damage from the flood of 1993 in U.S. Dollars

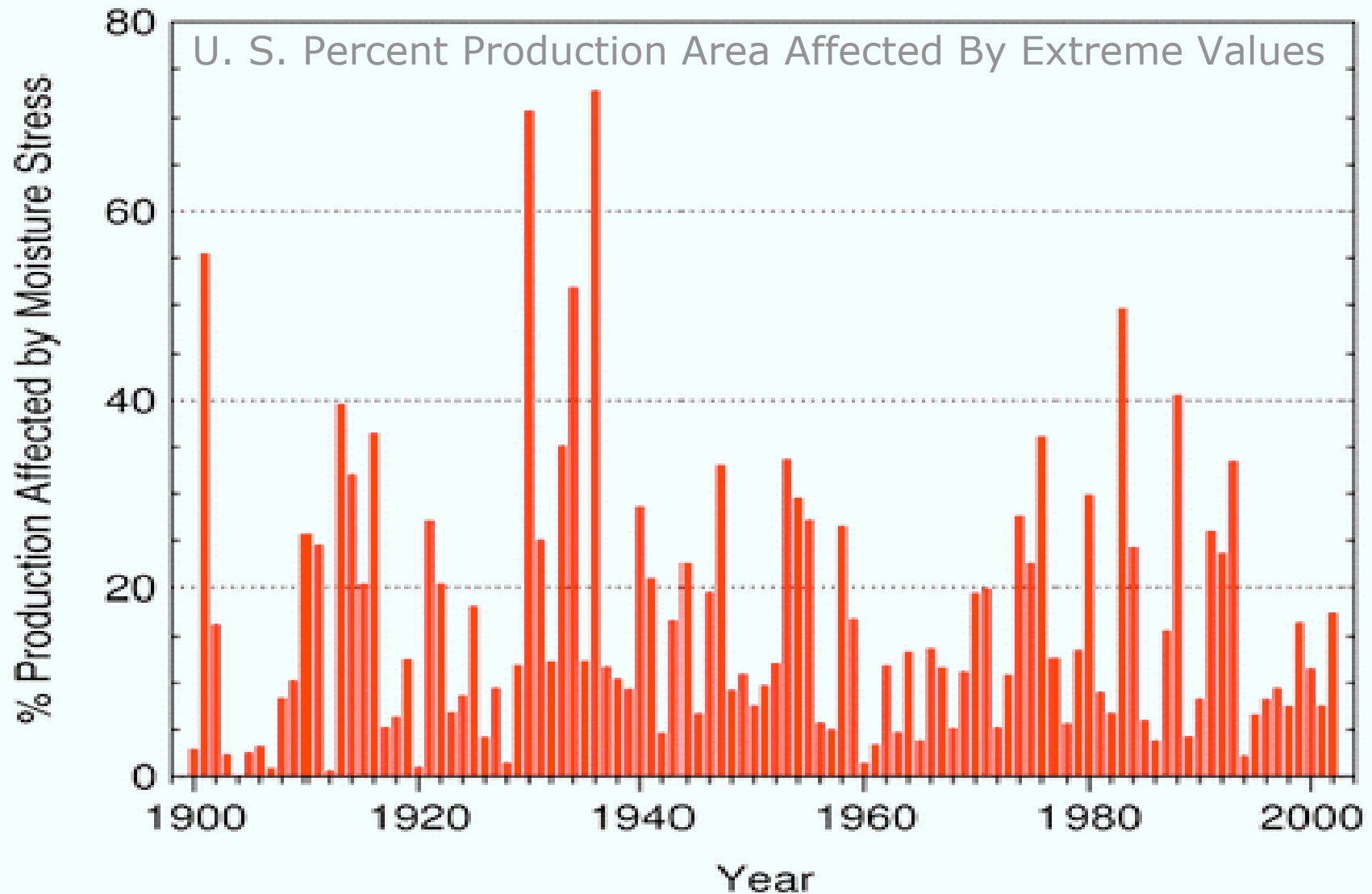
State	Agricultural Damages	Total Damages
Illinois	166,501,898	752,341,452
Iowa	1,030,029,938	1,422,693,996
Kansas	855,849,448	1,067,841,569
Minnesota	698,041,346	997,582,279
Missouri	540,666,103	2,201,033,455
Nebraska	120,521,073	207,005,433
North Dakota	35,038,604	70,983,015
South Dakota	276,217,794	493,545,229
Wisconsin	133,835,068	287,499,684
Total of Affected States	3,852,701,272	7,500,536,112

Source: <http://www.wes.army.mil/el/flood/tabgifs.html>

Region affected by the flood of 1993



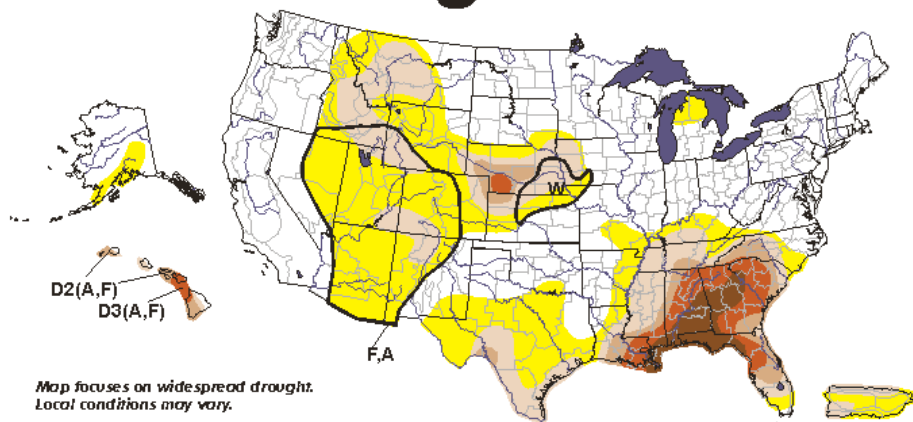
Soybean Moisture Stress Index 1900 - 2002



Based on Palmer Z-Index ≥ 5.0 and ≤ -2.0
National Climatic Data Center / NESDIS / NOAA

July 18, 2000 Valid 8 a.m. EDT

U.S. Drought Monitor



Map focuses on widespread drought. Local conditions may vary.

D0 Abnormally Dry
D1 Drought-First Stage
D2 Drought-Severe
D3 Drought-Extreme
D4 Drought-Exceptional
Delineates Overlapping Areas

Drought type: used only when impacts differ
A = Agriculture
W = Water
F = Wildfire danger

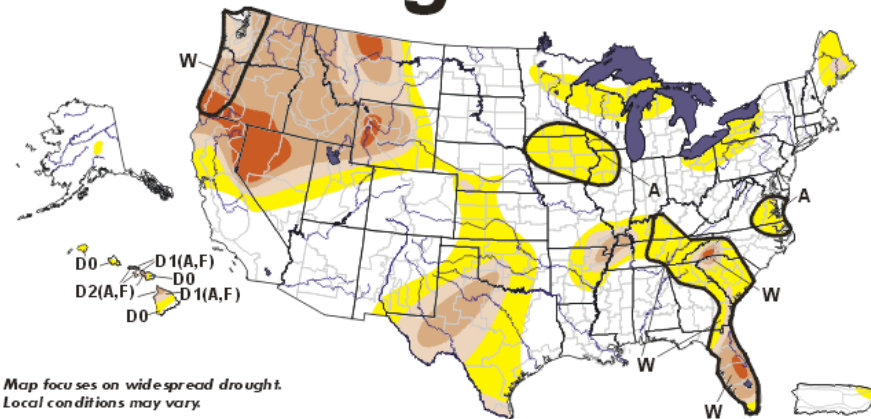


Released Thursday, July 20, 2000

See accompanying text summary for forecast statements

July 17, 2001 Valid 8 a.m. EDT

U.S. Drought Monitor



Map focuses on widespread drought. Local conditions may vary.

D0 Abnormally Dry
D1 Drought-Moderate
D2 Drought-Severe
D3 Drought-Extreme
D4 Drought-Exceptional
Delineates Overlapping Areas

Drought Impact Types:
A = Agriculture
W = Water (Hydrological)
F = Fire danger (Wildfires)
(No type = All 3 impacts)



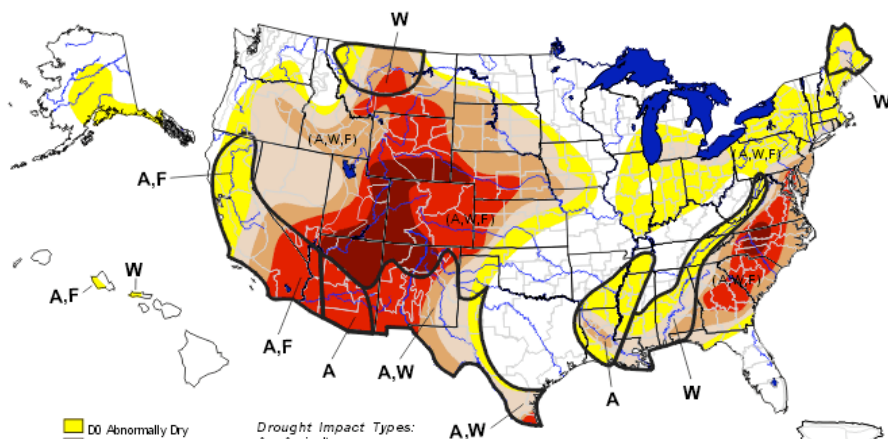
See accompanying text summary for forecast statements
<http://enso.unl.edu/monitor/monitor.html>

Released Thursday, July 19, 2001

Author: Brad Rippey

U.S. Drought Monitor July 23, 2002

Valid 8 a.m. EDT



D0 Abnormally Dry
D1 Drought-Moderate
D2 Drought-Severe
D3 Drought-Extreme
D4 Drought-Exceptional
Delineates dominant impacts
(No type = All 3 impacts)

Drought Impact Types:
A = Agriculture
W = Water (Hydrological)
F = Fire danger (Wildfires)
Delineates dominant impacts
(No type = All 3 impacts)



Released Thursday, July 25, 2002

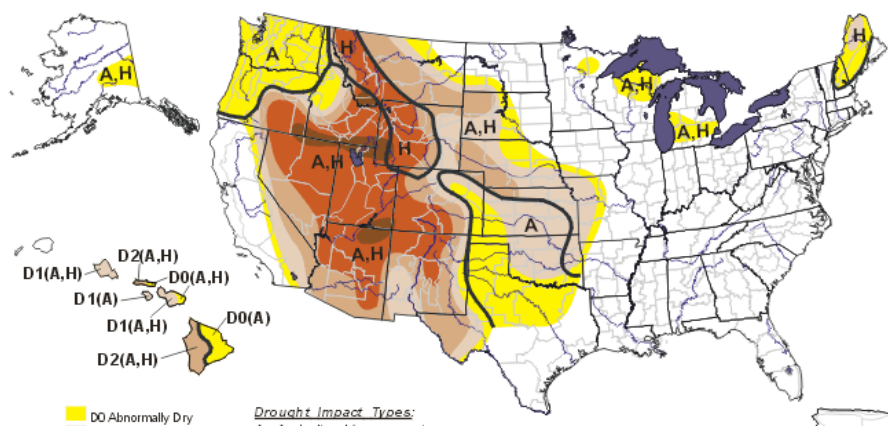
Author: Brad Rippey, USDA

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

<http://drought.unl.edu/dm>

U.S. Drought Monitor July 22, 2003

Valid 8 a.m. EDT



D0 Abnormally Dry
D1 Drought-Moderate
D2 Drought-Severe
D3 Drought-Extreme
D4 Drought-Exceptional
Delineates dominant impacts

Drought Impact Types:
A = Agricultural (crops, pastures, grasslands)
H = Hydrological (water)
No type = both impacts
Delineates dominant impacts



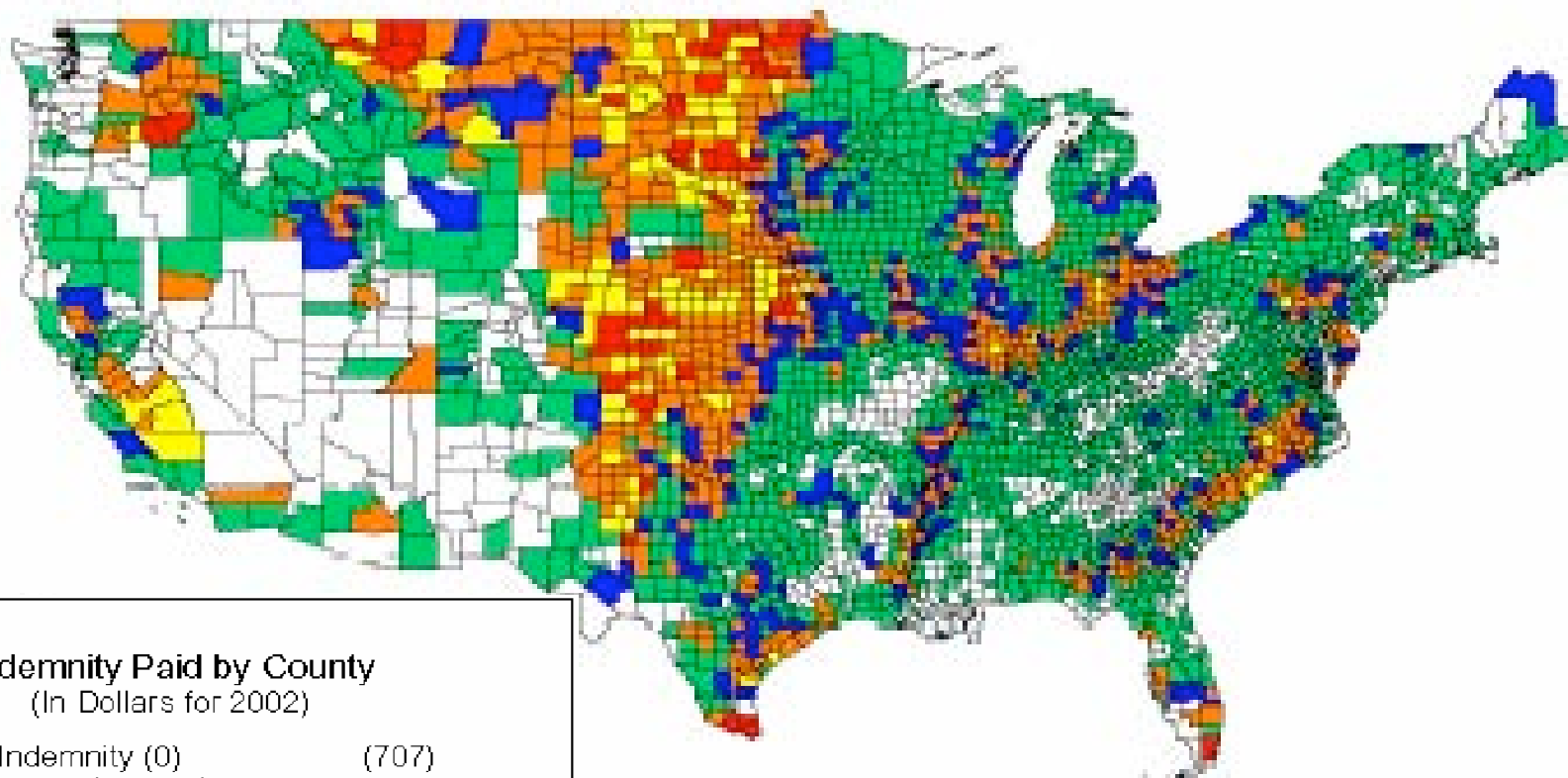
Released Thursday, July 24, 2003

Author: Brad Rippey, USDA

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

<http://drought.unl.edu/dm>

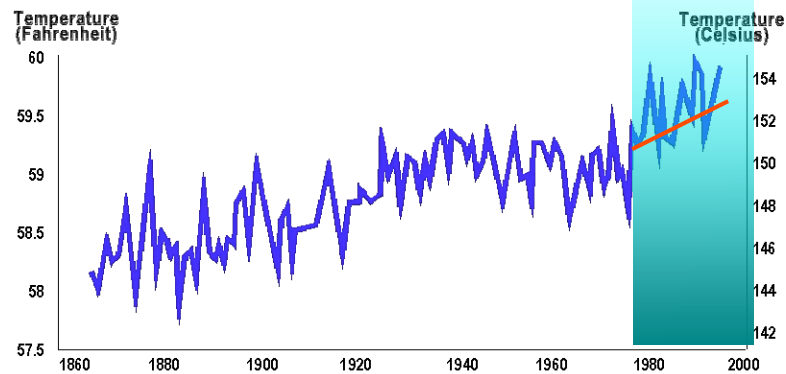
2002 RMA Crop Indemnities (As of 01/13/2003)



Indemnity Paid by County (In Dollars for 2002)

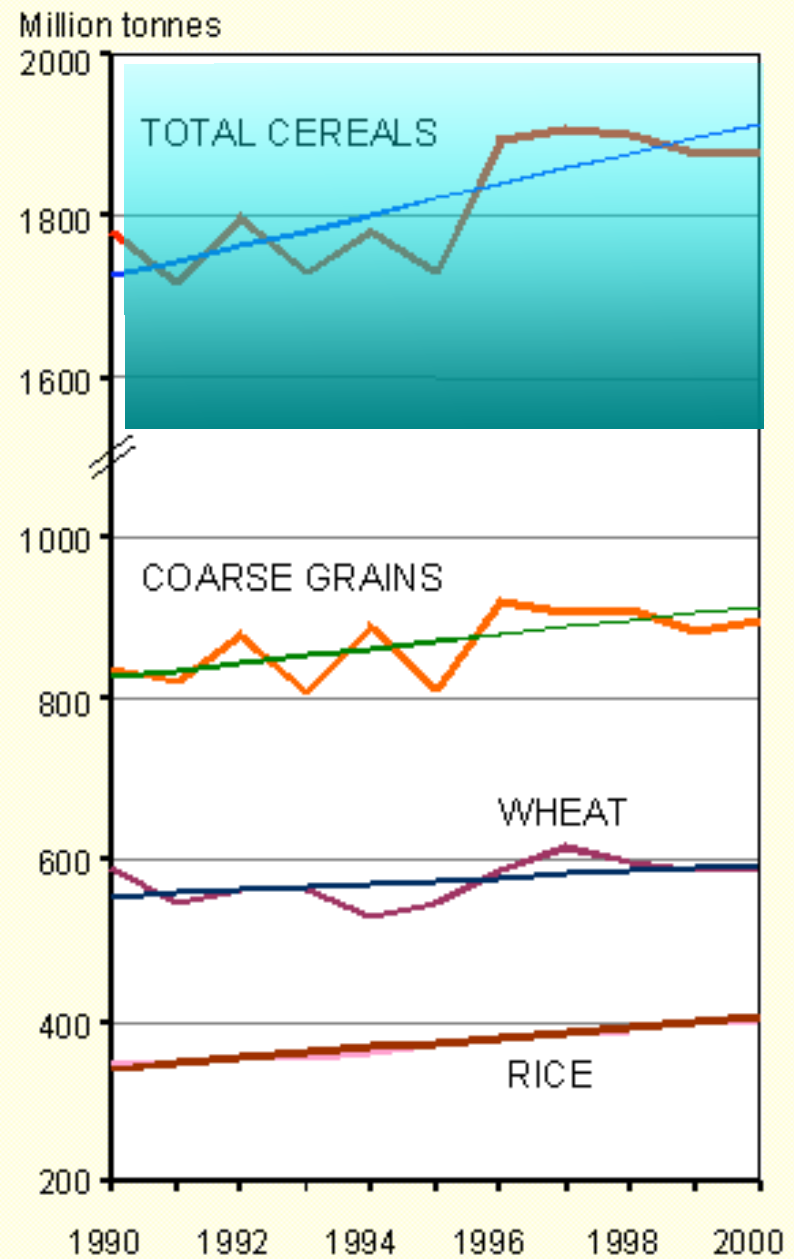
□ No Indemnity (0)	(707)
■ 1\$ to \$500,000	(1471)
■ \$500,000 to \$1,000,000	(333)
■ \$1,000,000 to \$5,000,000	(543)
■ \$5,000,000 to \$10,000,000	(114)
■ over \$10,000,000	(51)

Gobal Surface temperatures

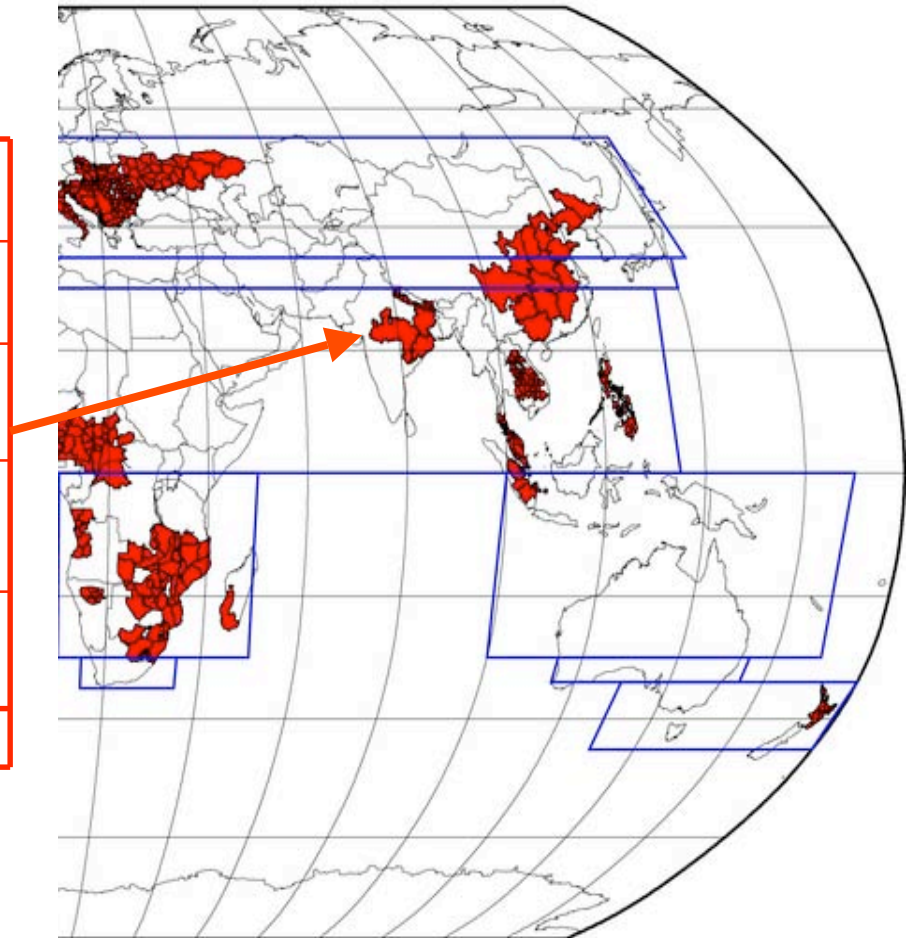
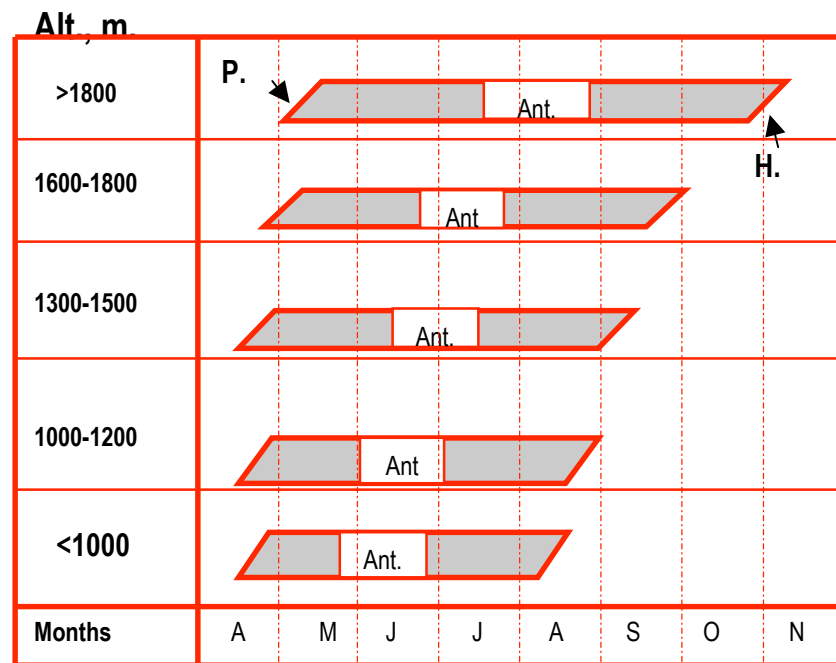


WORLD CEREAL PRODUCTION

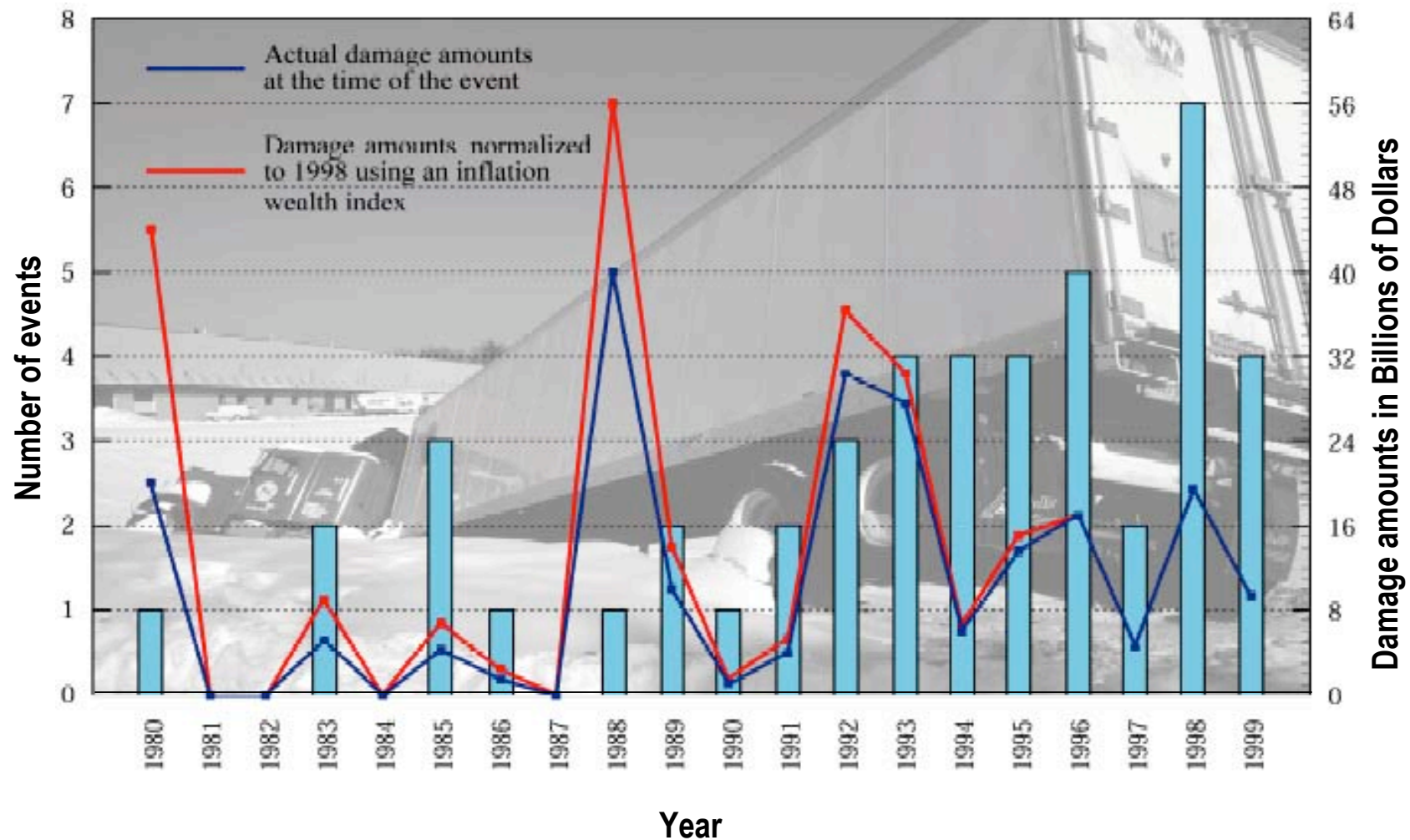
(Actual, 2000 forecast and trend)



Average anthesis period by altitude in the Hindu-Kush Himalayan Region of South Asia



\$ Damage estimates disaster due to extreme events:



Source: <http://wfn.cdc.noaa.gov/oa/reports/billion/new-paper2x.PDF>