

According to the forecast, the temperature regime in winter time in Moldova was expected to be above the normal, as a matter of fact the average air temperature for the season was around or below normal.

The amount of precipitations was expected to be above normal - the forecast proved to be right, in fact the amount of precipitations was larger than expected.

Meteorological conditions of the winter 2009 – 10 in Moldova

In Republic of Moldova, the winter of 2009 – 2010 was colder and with more snow than usual. **The average air temperature** for the season was between $-1,3\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ to $-4,1\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ for the entire country, which is $0,1 - 0,8\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ below normal.

The absolute minimum of the air temperature for the season on the territory was $-31,0\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ (January, MS Balti), that occurs on the average once in 25 years.

The third decade of the January was the coldest one, the average air temperature was -10°C and -15°C , that is $6,5 - 10,5^{\circ}\text{C}$ below normal, and in winter time occurs on the average once in 5 – 7 years.

The amount of precipitation for the season on the territory was mainly 170 - 260 mm (or 180-280% of the norm), that occurs on the average once in 20-30 years.

Comparing to the winter 2008-09, this season was with $2,5\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ - $3,0\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ colder, the amount of precipitations was much higher (by 40-140 mm). The analogical year - for the temperature regime is the year 2006, for the precipitation regime is the year 1966.

Meteorological conditions for the overwinter survival of the winter crops, fruit trees and grapes in winter 2009-2010 were mainly satisfactory.

A very cold weather established between 22 and 28 of January on the entire territory of the republic. During 4-6 days, the air temperature minimum in the northern and central regions was $-22\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ to $-29\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$, in some places $-31\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ (26 of January). In the southern regions of the republic, during 3 days the temperature dropped to its minimum $-20\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ and $-25\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$. Such low temperatures created critical conditions for overwintering of the major crops.

Overwintering of winter crops went mostly well. For the main fruit crop the loss of flower buds in the majority of surveyed plantations amounted to 5-20% (did not exceed the natural rate). In the north and the central areas of the republic there was observed damage of the flower buds of walnut, apple, plum and apricot in the amount of 25-65%.

Preliminary results of the grow of grapevine showed that in the most of the surveyed area, the loss of buds of grape technical varieties did not exceed 5-20% (natural rate), in some places their death reached 25-45%. At the same time, the death of buds of table grapes was 25-50%.