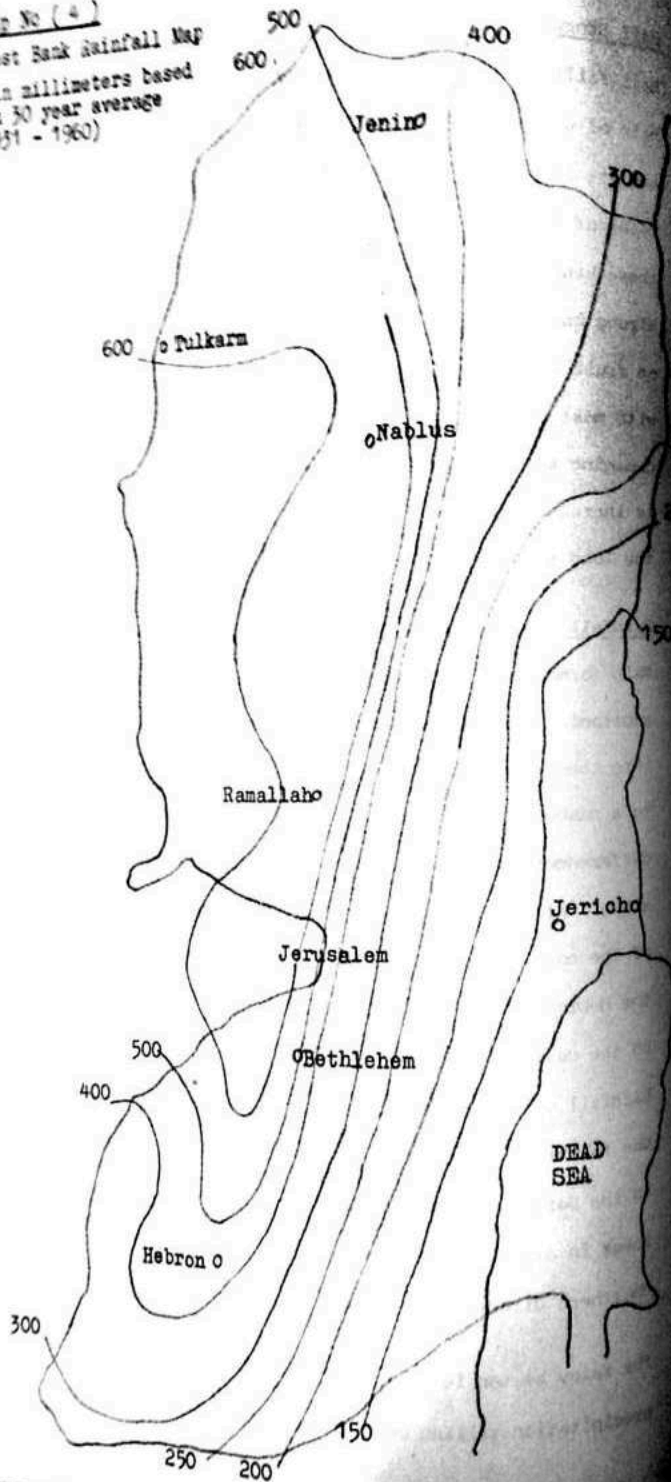


Map No (4)
West Bank Rainfall Map
(in millimeters based
on 50 year average
1931 - 1960)



Jerusalem, for instance, both receive an annual average of around 550 mm (22 in), but the former over 300 days and the latter over 50 days. The number of rainy days ranges from 40 - 50 decreasing west to east and north to south.

Snowfall is often confined to areas of higher elevation in the Ramallah-Hebron plateau. Jerusalem receives on the average two days of snowfall per year, rarely exceeding 25 cm (10 in). On the whole snow is of little significance, whether for its water conservation potential or, conversely, its damage to crops - hail being far more important.

Agriculture production in general is heavily influenced by rainfall considerations. This relationship obviously is far more critical in the case of rainfed farming, the success of which is contingent on such rain attributes as the amount of precipitation during the rain season, pattern of rain distribution, and intensity of rainfall.

There are three parameters of rain which influence farming, namely, average annual rainfall, patterns of distribution within the rainy season, and intensity of rainfall.

In terms of average annual rainfall, the West Bank is relatively humid in comparison with most other countries of the Near East (see Table II-2). On average, two thirds of the West Bank land area receives over 300 mm of rainfall, which is widely considered as the threshold of aridity.