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# The Canadian Agriculture Weather Prognosticator

Volume VIII, Issue XVI | http://www.worldweather.cc | February 15, 2017

***Canada Crop Weather Issues At A Glance***

- Substantial Snow Depths Remain In Southern Manitoba And Parts of Quebec and Central And Northeast Ontario
- SW Ontario And Much Of the SW Prairies Have Little To No Snow

## *WORLD WEATHER ISSUES*

- Argentina's Weather Continues Wet With Flooding Southeast This Week
- Brazil's Mato Grosso State Is Too Wet And Needs To Dry Down
- Brazil National Summer Crop Production Will Be High
- Eastern Australia Has Been Sizzling Hot In Recent Weeks With No Rain In Summer Crop Areas
- India's Winter Rainfall Improves In Some Pulse, Wheat And Oilseed Areas, But Some Production Cuts Have Been Made
- South Africa Crop Weather Is Good
- North Africa Soil Moisture Good, Too
- South U.S. Plains Wheat Breaks Dormancy After Heat Wave And Rain

## Spring Outlook Warming Up For Farmers

Winter is not over, but the warm weather that is prevailing today certainly makes one think twice about it. February will finish out notably warmer biased in the Prairies and in Eastern Canada. The heat has already turned some heads throughout North America recently with summer-like temperatures in the U.S. southern Plains February 10-11. In the meantime double-digit highs have been occurring this week in parts of Alberta and some of that was shifting east.

A set back from the spring like weather is expected in the first half of March as the Prairies trend colder again. It may not be bitterly cold, but there will a few days that are notably below average.

Later in March some warming will return and it will be more prevalent during the heart of spring when it is needed most.

Traveling around in the Prairies in recent weeks certainly has brought the truth to light that there is still much crop standing in the fields in portions of the Prairies. There is much worry about getting that crop out of the fields and the new crop into the fields in the often narrow window of opportunity for getting spring fieldwork accomplished. World Weather, Inc., however, is encouraged that the feat will be accomplish in sufficient time to generate a favorable crop, but obviously it will take some prayer and some hard work to get it all done.

Weather patterns are tilted in the right direction. Spring is liable to be a little warmer biased and could have near to below average precipitation. The most important part of the forecast is not so much what was just stated, but the fact that many areas are reporting less than usual snow on the ground and that is extremely important.

Keeping late winter and early spring storms at bay is the number one priority while we wait for what snow is out there to melt and some much needed drying to take place in the wetter areas that could not be harvested in the autumn.

Total storm absence is not likely during the late winter and early spring, but there is potential for less intensive storminess and below average precipitation amounts. That does not mean there will be no field working delay, but it does suggest the most feared, worst-case, scenario for spring fieldwork is not likely to emerge. A few pockets around the Prairies may run into the storminess resulting in delays, but the big widespread storm systems that can impact the Prairies will be fewer in number and possibly less frequent.

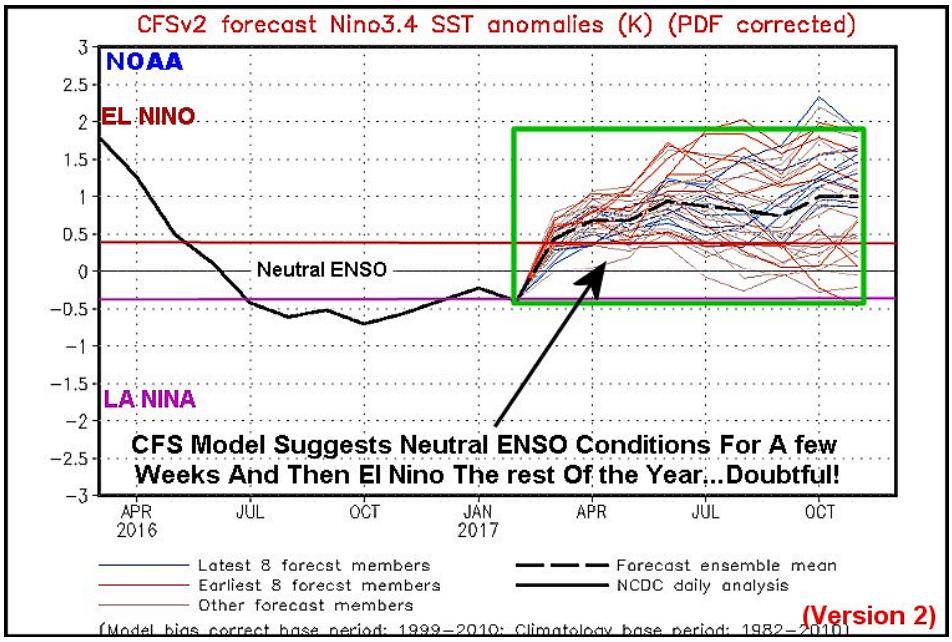
A ridge of high pressure will attempt to evolve across the western Prairies this late winter and spring. The ridge may not be strong enough prohibit storm systems from moving across the region, but it should be sufficient to minimize the precipitation amounts and frequency and provide enough warmth to melt snow a little faster than usual.

If the scenario plays out as we believe it will there will sufficient time to get the old crop out of the fields and the new in without losing a tremendous amount of optimum planting dates for new crop. With that said, it will certainly not be a perfect year and there will be a few weather systems that will buck the trend and produce enough weather adversity to push some

# Spring Weather Warming Up To Farmers ( Cont. From Page 1)

fieldwork behind normal.

A recent development has occurred in the Pacific Ocean that has suggested there may be some potential for El Nino to return during the spring or summer of 2017. Such an event is not unheard of. Moving from a strong El Nino in 2015 to a weak La Nina in 2016 and back to El Nino in 2017 is not symptomatic of "climate change". We saw similar instances in the middle 1960s when no one was concerned about "climate change" and this seemingly unusual event has obviously occurred before and is no omen. However, it is offering some potential better weather for the Prairies in 2017.




El Nino events in recent years have trended to produce a little warmer and drier bias at times over the western Prairies. Sometimes this bias is many more times significant than others and that is mostly due to the interaction of El Nino with other weather patterns that are prevailing. A drier biased year that encounters El Nino will suffer significant loss of rainfall and warmer than usual temperatures, but a wet-biased year will find that El Nino will help out tremendously in curbing the precipitation and removing some of the surpluses and potential for flooding.

This year is still a part of the multi-year wet pattern that portions of the Prairies have been enduring for a while. Spring is expected to be slightly drier and warmer than usual, but summer should trend wetter biased once again. However, if El Nino is out and about by then some of the wetter biased potential will be reduced. A few areas in the Prairies might actually dry down during the summer while other areas will see enough reduced rainfall to induce some nearly ideal crop development. Many of the areas in Alberta that carried moisture surpluses last year will find this to be a drier summer—if El Nino becomes a significant event early in the growing season.

The U.S. National Oceanic And Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) ENSO model has suggested we are moving rapidly toward El Nino. The model seems much too aggressive and is advertising El Nino conditions before the end of March. If that occurs weather patterns will be changing around the world very quickly and may lead to some small eddies of anomalous air circulation aloft in various places around the world that could surprise forecasters in their anomalous precipitation and temperature biases. Once the atmosphere adjusts to the presence of El Nino weather patterns will become more classical for El Nino years and that would likely impact the Prairies during the summer.

If World Weather, Inc. is correct that the aggressive transition to El Nino will actually occur more gradually and later in the year then there will be time for our forecast to verify nicely. In either case producers in the Prairies should be encouraged about getter into their fields to get the old crop harvested and the new crop planted in a timely manner. Conditions will not be ideal and be careful to not wait on those ideal conditions, but most of us will be pleasantly surprised to the blessings of a good spring this year—at least good enough to get the extra work left over from last year done.

One of the greatest worries about aggressive El Nino development would be that our already expected weak ridge of high pressure over western Canada could be enhanced a little too much and prolonged dryness might evolve. A close monitoring of this potential is warranted and it cannot be ruled out unless we can rule out El Nino for the 2017 growing season and we cannot do that right now.

Certainly, there are many areas in the Prairies carrying surpluses of soil moisture down deep into the ground that a drier biased year would actually be welcome. But not everyone is in that situation. Soil moisture is already low in the southwestern Prairies and snow free conditions are already prevalent along with unusually warm temperatures. A persistent of this pattern would not have to last very long to raise concern over dryness like that of last year. So, while the wettest fields and those with the most crop to harvest are applauding the coming change the situation in drier areas could be much different. (continued next page)

# Spring Weather Warming Up To Farmers ( Cont. From Page 2)

In the meantime, the set back in warm weather this month is expected in the firs t half of March as noted earlier. Colder-than-usual temperatures will be back in many areas for a couple of weeks and perhaps a little longer in the eastern Prairies.

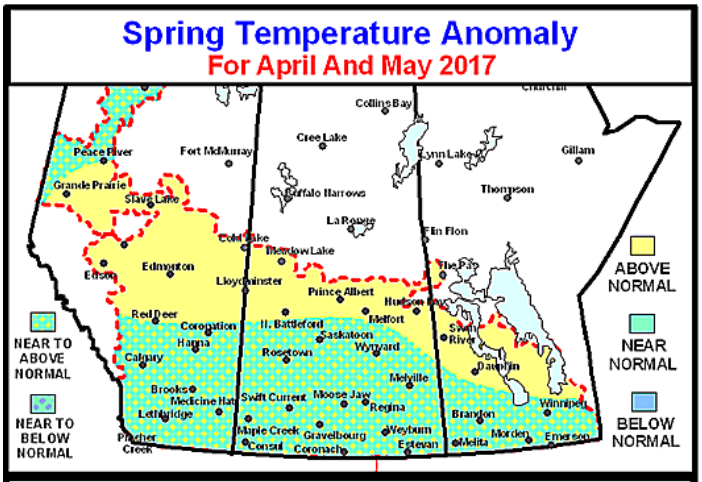
The most important part of the March weather outlook is the absence of significant winter storms. Dry weather is not expected. Most forecast models suggest a near normal precipitation bias in March after February finishes out a little drier biased. Normal precipitation in March is not very much and that may set back the bullish outlook for spring fieldwork for a little while. However, a cooler biased March with normal precipitation will leave room for a warmer biased April and a little better environment for fieldwork as time moves along.

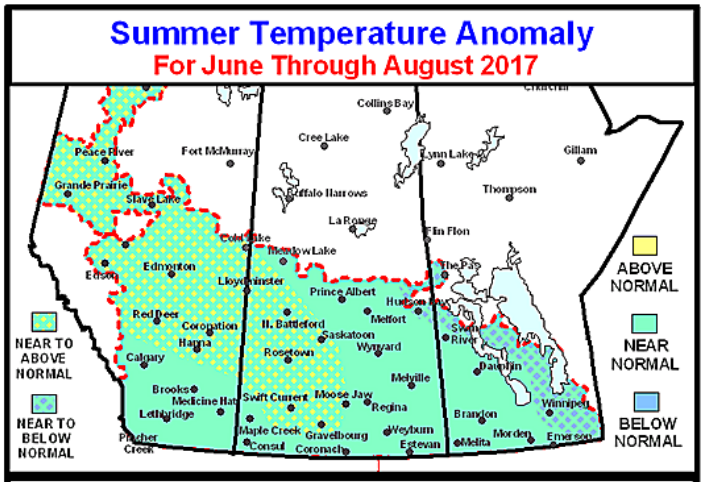
There is potential for some above average precipitation along the front range in Alberta during the cool off period in the last days of February and early March, but that is the only region that is expected to be a little wetter biased.

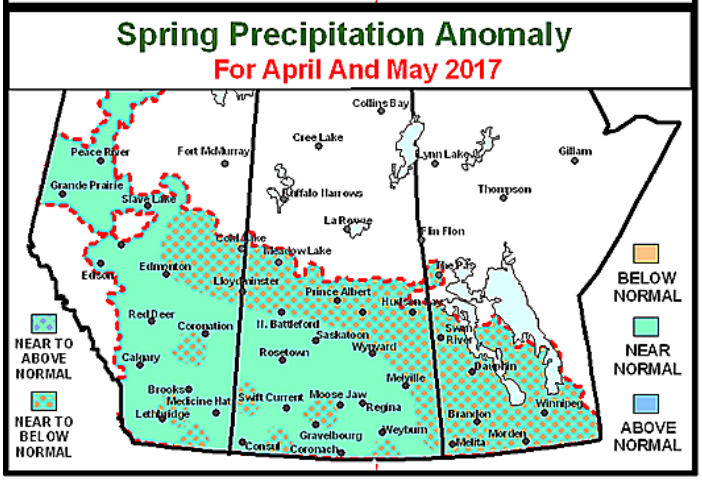
Spring will arrive with a warmer bias in place and precipitation will be near to below average. The bias could turn drier than shown below if El Nino evolves exceptionally fast, but we are certainly not convinced of that. The spring season will generate enough precipitation to interfere with the drying trend in the wettest areas, but the good news is that with temperatures a little warmer biased there is potential that when it is not raining or snowing there will be sufficient warmth to expedite drying.

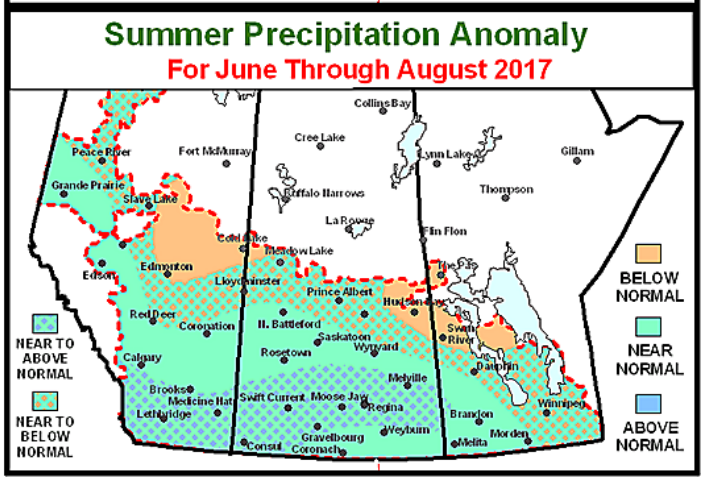
Again, this scenario will not be perfect, but it will offer some hope that the needed fieldwork will be accomplished, but only with some deep prayer and long hours when conditions are going be best for only a limited amount of time. The drier biased areas in the southwestern Prairies may find themselves fighting dryness for a little while later this spring, but as long as El Nino does not get too intense too soon there will be some timely summer rainfall.

Summer weather, for now, is advertised to bring back frequent precipitation in the southern Prairies while the north remains a little drier biased. That forecast is based on a minimal atmospheric response to developing El Nino. If El Nino comes on stronger and quicker the wetter bias may shift to the north and east with some decrease in its significance. That is a forecast change that may be forthcoming in future prognosticators.



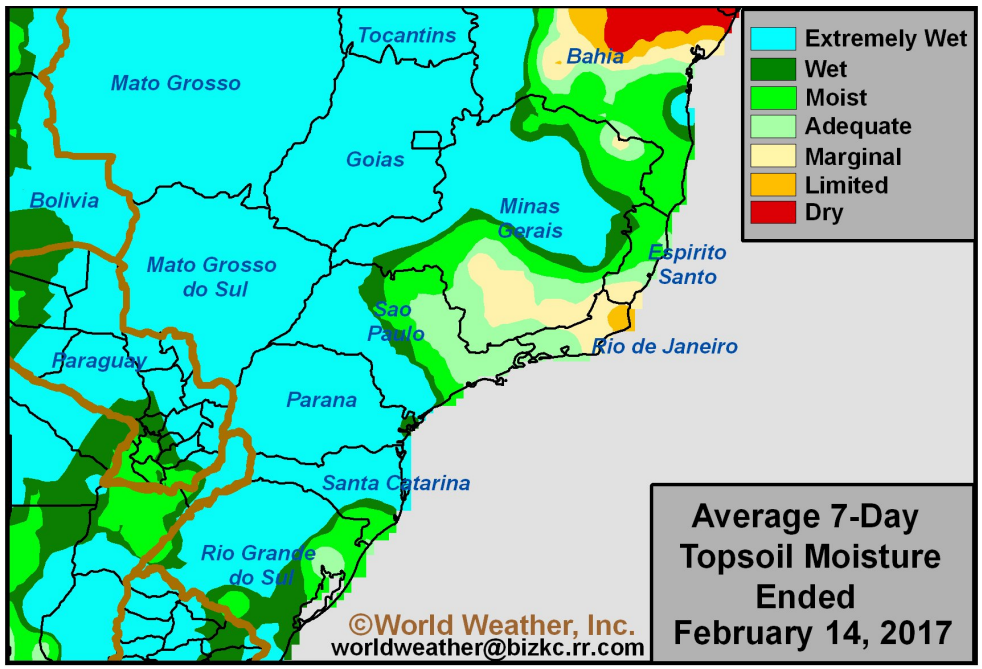



# Brazil Harvest Pace Will Improve With Less Rain

Brazil weather will be improving as this week moves along due to much less rain frequency and intensity in many key grain, oilseed, cotton, rice, sugarcane, citrus and coffee production areas. The one area needing rain most, Bahia, will not likely see any further improvements in soil moisture following last week's short term bout of dryness easing rain. The drier weather expected from Mato Grosso to Parana and Sao Paulo will translate into better soybean harvest conditions and improved Safrinha corn and cotton planting. Mato Grosso will continue wettest for a while and will need a more significant bout of drying to get farmers into their fields a little more aggressively.




Weather conditions have been quite wet this summer, as expected with the La Nina phenomenon. Even though La Nina is now gone, there is still some lingering effects that will prevail for a little while longer. Rainfall so far this month has been impressive in several very important grain and oilseed production areas. The most recent news has been from Mato Grosso where some very heavy rainfall has occurred. Rain totals in Mato Grosso have officially ranged from 4.00 to 11.38 inches, but several unofficial rain totals have greatly surpassed that range.

Reports from Mato Grosso and some other states have included comments about harvesting beans that have not dried down properly. Some of the moisture continent has been well above 30% when harvested which is up from around 14% average. Farmers have not wanted to wait out the rain for fear the Safrinha crops would not get planted and harvesting the crop wet has been a slow process for some producers and one that has been costly because of the additional monetary obligation in having the beans dried.

Despite the wet environment, recent statistics from Brazil claim the harvest in Mato Grosso is moving along better than that in some other states with 44% of the beans now harvested. There have been delays in shipping the harvested crop because of the longer amount of time required to dry the beans before loading them into trucks and storage.

Harvest delays have been greatest in Parana where rain fell frequently in late January as well as in early February. According to AgRural, harvesting of Parana beans was just 13% complete compared to 30% average

Delays in harvesting soybeans are also delaying the planting of second season corn with nationwide harvesting now 27% done which is similar to last year's 25% pace. Parana, however, was just 19% planted with Safrinha corn which is down from 44% done last year at this time and down from the 25% four-year average.

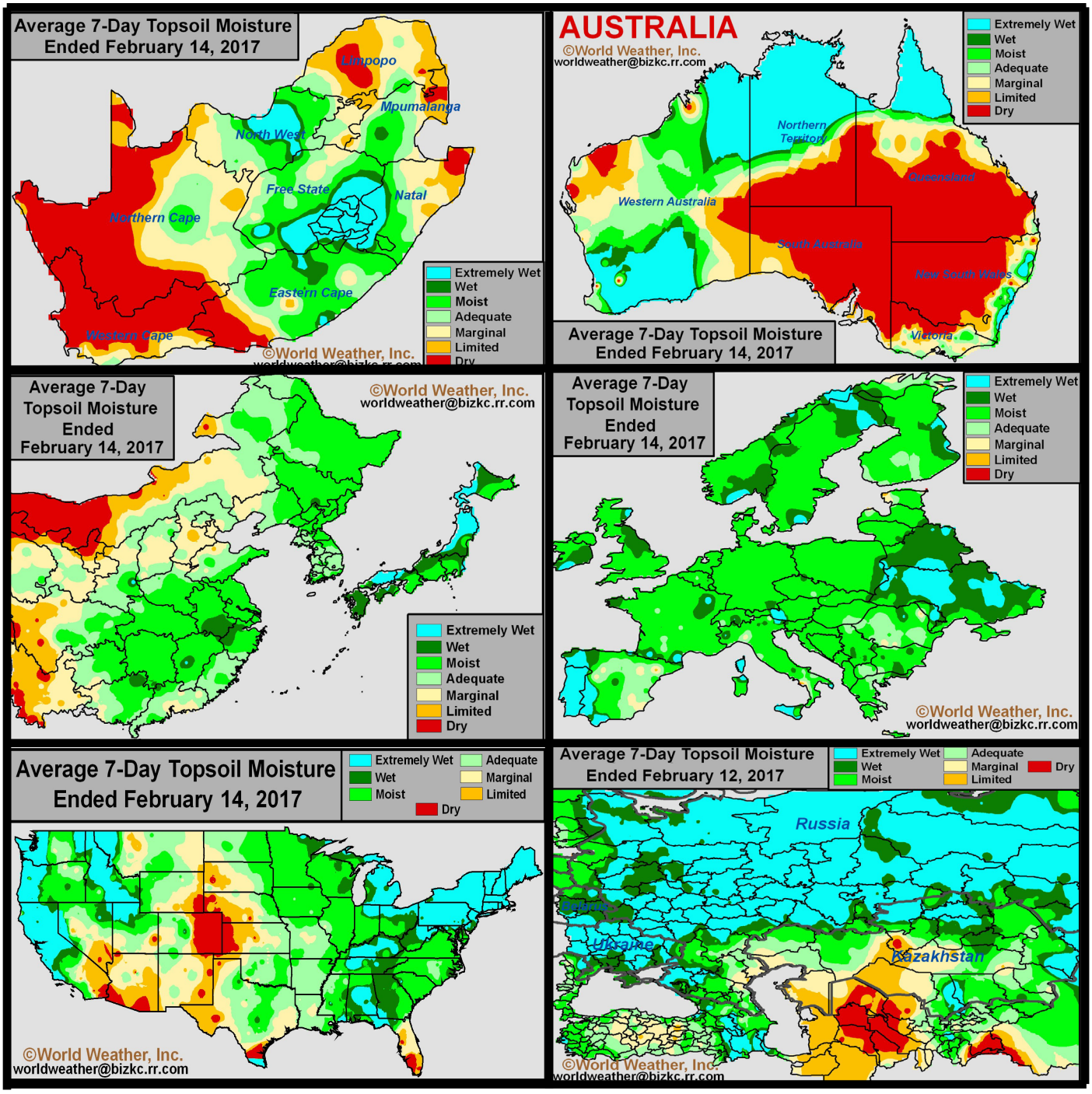
Weather conditions are changing in Brazil and will soon favor a better environment for net drying from Parana to Minas Gerais and north into a part of both Mato Grosso do Sul and Goias. Rain is still possible on a daily basis during the next week to ten-day period, but the intensity and frequency of rain will be down considerably from that of the past couple of weeks. Farming will slowly improve as the topsoil begins to firm, but no area is going to become seriously dry for a while.

Mato Grosso will continue to experience some of the most significant rainfall today and Wednesday, but after that it, too, will experience less aggressive rainfall and will likely see slowly improving field and crop conditions. Mato Grosso will still be the wettest of the Brazilian crop states for a while, but the heavier rainfall of the past few days will come to an end.

Temperatures in Brazil are likely to be seasonable over the next couple of weeks, although as the ground begins to dry down in the southeast and east-central crop areas there will be some potential for warmer afternoon readings. Instead of 80- and lower 90-dgree highs, afternoon temperatures will rise into the middle 80s through the middle 90s, but probably not for another week.

In the meantime, slowly increasing fieldwork will take place as the ground finally dries out.

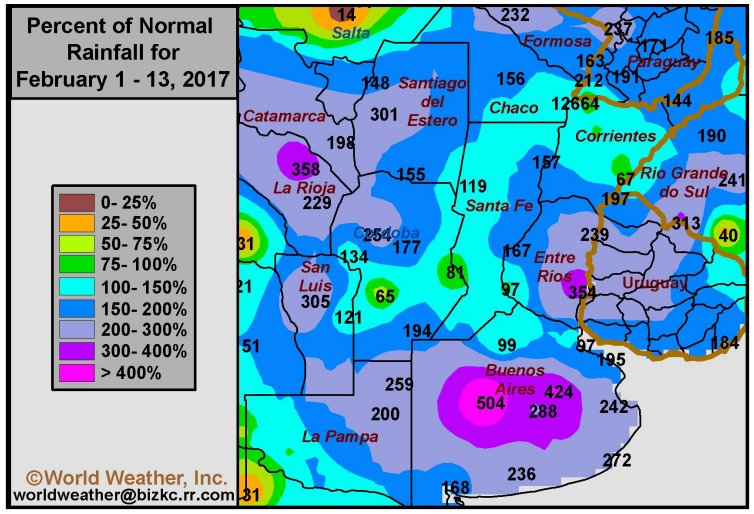
# Selected Weather Images From Around The World

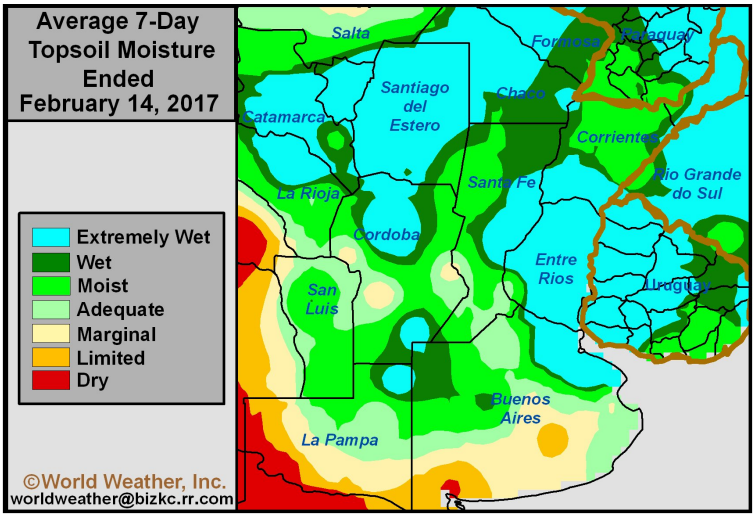



Eastern Australia summer crops have been seriously stressed in unirrigated fields recently due to excessively hot conditions and no rain. Irrigated crops were also stressed for a little while. Rain is needed, but not likely very soon. Soil moisture in key U.S. crop areas and in much of China, Europe, South Africa and North Africa is rated quite favorably. Each of these nations will move into the spring growing season with a favorable amount of moisture, although there may be some need for greater rain in Spain and a part of southern France. Worry is rising over spring flooding in portions of northern Ukraine and western Russia due to greater than usual snow depths and a colder biased outlook for March. The cold will allow more snow to accumulate and limit the amount of melting that takes place further exacerbating the potential situation. Spring flooding in western Russia and northern Ukraine would be potentially more serious than that in southern Manitoba and North Dakota and would threaten winter crops and delay planting.

# Southern Argentina Rains Threaten More Flooding

Argentina's wild weather this summer is apparently not over with additional heavy rainfall advertised for late this week and into next week in many central and southern crop areas. There is concern for the condition of maturing sunseed and rice where damage to quality is most likely. Corn, soybeans and sorghum will not benefit from the environment, but damage should be minimal.




Soil conditions Feb. 13 were rated favorably in much of the nation. Some excessive moisture was present in the topsoil after heavy rain fell during the weekend. Most of the greatest rainfall at that time was concentrated on Santiago del Estero and a few neighboring areas in the northwest part of Argentina and on Entre Rios and western Uruguay. The northwestern rainfall recently may have saturated the topsoil, but it was needed to help recharge subsoil moisture which was still low from early season heat and dryness.

There were not many areas in Argentina that were considered too dry earlier this week . A few areas in southern Buenos Aires and southern La Pampa had dried out and would benefit from some rain. A few random locations in central parts of corn and soybean country had been missed by rain in the most recent week, but other areas were plenty moist. Subsoil moisture was still rated adequately in the majority of the nation.

The drier biased areas were not of much concern because of abundant rain earlier this month and last. Most of Argentina has been wetter biased in recent weeks with the first half of February two to more than five times wetter than usual from northeastern and east-central La Pampa to central Buenos Aires. Other areas in the northwest and east-central parts of the nation were one to three times wetter than usual while a few locations in central parts of the nation reported slightly less than average precipitation.

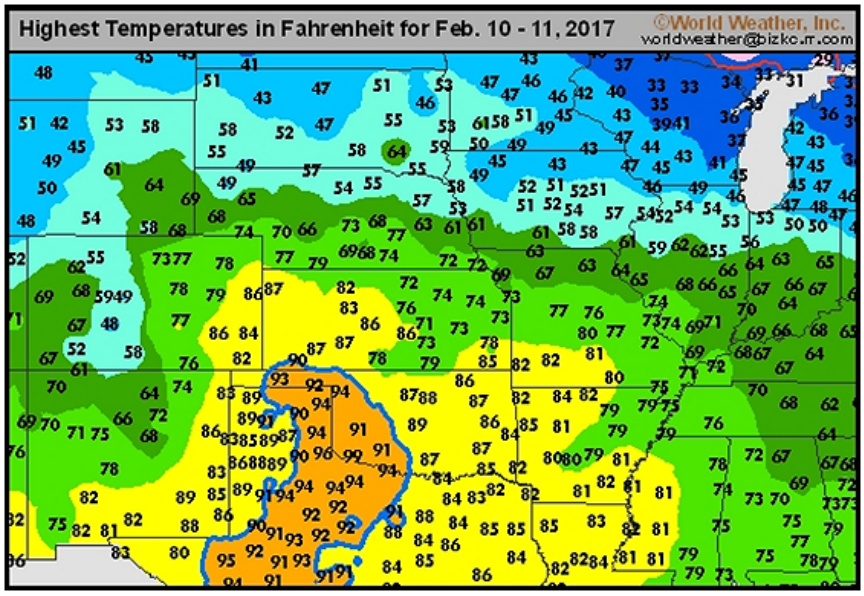
Argentina crop areas will not be able to tolerate large amounts of rain without falling into a flood environment and worry is rising today because of a wetter forecast for most of the south during the period from late this week through much of next week.

Sunseed is most sensitive to rainfall during the maturation and harvest season. Harvesting is under way with 35% of the crop already out of the fields compared to 36% last year at this time. Most of the harvest so far has been completed in Santa Fe. Entre Rios is already reporting some notable delay in its sunseed harvest, although it does not generally produce much sunseed. Entre Rios and Cordoba sunseed harvesting is most behind the usual pace with many areas not harvested that should at least be progressing with fieldwork by now. Neither Entre Rios or Cordoba are huge sunseed producers, but much of the nation's crop does come from Buenos Aires and areas northwest into La Pampa and San Luis where 68% of the crop is located and this area may receive significant rain in the coming week along with southern corn, soybean and sorghum production areas.

Rain is expected to be greatest through the weekend and into early next week from Uruguay to southern Cordoba and San Luis including much of Buenos Aires. Some of this region will receive multiple inches of rain that will either saturate the soil or maintain such conditions with some significant runoff and flooding. Entre Rios, western Uruguay and a few areas in southern Santa Fe and northeastern Buenos Aires will be wettest. Some of these wetter areas were flooded earlier this summer and the new rain will not likely bode well for the previously damaged crops. With that said, World Weather, Inc. expects some new flooding later this week, but new damage to production may be hard to find except to the quality of sunseed waiting to be harvested.

# South U.S. Plains Wheat, Livestock Endure Hot Weather

Unusually hot temperatures for this time of year occurred in portions of the U.S. southern Plains Feb. 10-11 impacting hard red winter wheat areas and some important livestock areas. The heat was stressful for animals and yet the impact on wheat was mostly minimal. Winter hardiness continued to diminish in the wheat crop and soil temperatures are now warm enough for new crop development in Texas and southern Oklahoma. Cooling this week will help stop any potential for "significant" crop development in the central Plains, but the far southern Plains may find waves of rain and rising soil temperatures to be a stimulus for greening and some early season crop development.




Highest afternoon temperatures Friday and Saturday ranged in the middle and upper 80s through the lower 90s Fahrenheit from eastern Colorado and western Kansas into the heart of Texas. Some of the hottest temperature extremes were in the middle and upper 90s with Odell, Texas reporting 99 degrees and Altus, Oklahoma 98. The heat was far above the average which usually ranges in the 40s across Kansas during the mid-February and the 50s in Oklahoma and northern Texas. Central and southern Texas usually has high temperatures in the 60s and lower 70s and they too were well above average.

Soil temperatures were already pushing up close to and slightly over the minimum threshold for wheat development (around 42 degrees Fahrenheit) Feb. 10 in portions of northern Texas and southern Oklahoma. The heat likely brought the soil temperatures higher throughout the southern Plains even into a part of the central Plains briefly. The rising soil temperatures brought more of the wheat out of dormancy in central and southern Texas while crops in the central Plains lost more winter hardiness, but new crop growth was restricted by dryness in the soil and the recently wildly fluctuating daily air temperatures.

Rain then proceeded to fall across Texas and Oklahoma late Monday into Tuesday, Feb. 13-14, with another rain event expected Feb. 19-21. The two waves of rain will mix a little moisture into the warming soil to stimulate some greening and early season crop development in Texas and southern Oklahoma where temperatures may not fall below freezing for a while.

Cooling temperatures in the central Plains, however, will put an immediate reversal on the warm up keeping winter crops dormant or semi-dormant. Nightly freezes in the central Plains will prevent any significant new growth from occurring in Kansas, Colorado, northern Oklahoma or the Texas Panhandle.

Morning low temperatures Monday through Friday this week will be in the 20s and lower 30s Fahrenheit for most locations that had high temperatures in the 80s and 90s the past few days. The near to below freezing temperatures will allow the crop to regain some of its winter hardiness in the central and southwestern Plains. Daytime high temperatures Monday and Tuesday will be in the in the 30s and 40s in West Texas, the Texas Panhandle and western Oklahoma. The cool off will only last a few days, however, with high temperatures quickly returning to the 60s and 70s starting Thursday and lasting through the coming weekend.

In the meantime, livestock are still donning there winter coats and seeing temperatures reaching into the 90s and near 100 degrees Fahrenheit Friday and Saturday had to have been extremely stressful for some animals. Temperatures did cool off favorably at night, but the situation was still not very healthy for animals in the region. This week's cooler bias will be many times better for the animals. There should not be any more extreme heat like that of Feb. 10-11 again for a while.