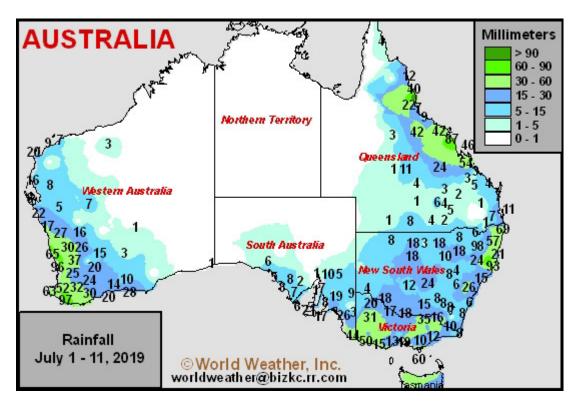
Eastern Australia Will Remain Dry Through End Of Next Week

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, July 11 (World Weather Inc.) – <u>Queensland and northern New South</u> <u>Wales remain dry or critically and will see very little rain during the next two weeks.</u> <u>Winter wheat, barley, and canola prospects will remain poor for these areas until</u> <u>abundant rainfall evolves. Many areas have still not planted and crop conditions in the</u> <u>areas that have planted are not good unless routinely irrigated.</u> In the meantime, Victoria and Western Australia winter crop areas have reported timely rain since the beginning of June. Crops established and developed under mostly favorable conditions, though some dryness was noted in a few locations. Victoria will have opportunities for rain through the end of next week while Western Australia trends mostly dry. South Australia is also drying out and would benefit from more frequent rainfall.

Timely rain was noted in Victoria, southern New South Wales, and Western Australia since the start of the month. Rainfall from July 1 - 11 ranged from 0.32 to 1.38 inches in Victoria and New South Wales. Western Australia's crop areas otherwise received 0.39 to 2.56 inches of rain with local amounts up to 3.78 inches near the coastline. These areas also saw a good mix of rain and sunshine in June. The moisture profile is adequate to abundant in most locations.



Queensland, northern New South Wales, and South Australia have only reported a brief period or two of mostly light rain since the beginning of the month. Moisture totals from July 1 - 11 ranged from a trace to 0.71 inch in most locations with areas near the South Australia coastline receiving up to 1.73 inches of rain. Drier biased conditions were also

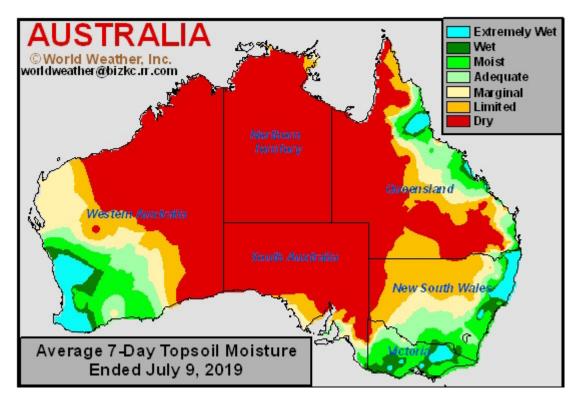
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noted for these areas in June. <u>Soil moisture is short to very short due to the lack of</u> significant rain for an extended period of time.

Winter wheat, barley, and canola establishment conditions have been poor for Queensland and northern New South Wales this year with many dryland production areas still not planted. Persistent dryness has been linked to the weak El Nino event and the strongly negative Southern Oscillation Index (SOI). The SOI is expected to remain strongly negative in the coming week and has a low potential of recovering back to a neutral zero value before the end of this month.

The lack of rain will keep the soil critically dry in Queensland and northern New South Wales. Some of the crop planted early is semi-dormant and will remain that way until late August which provides a little time for improved soil moisture before crop stress worsens when the crop resumes development.

Queensland produces little to no canola while New South Wales is much more important and contributes significantly to the nation's total wheat, barley and canola. Queensland does produce a small portion of the nation's wheat, but weather conditions this autumn and winter have been harsh enough that much of the contribution will not be seen this year unless a miraculous rain event occurs in the next few weeks.



<u>Western Australia and Victoria</u> winter wheat, barley, and canola conditions are generally favorable. These areas received enough rain to support favorable emergence and establishment conditions in recent weeks. <u>South Australia</u> has become a little too dry to support ideal winter crop establishment and rain will be needed in the near future.

Very little rain is slated for Western Australia and South Australia during the coming week. Both areas will dry down, though much of Western Australia will still have adequate moisture. Crop conditions will remain favorable in Western Australia while further deteriorating in South Australia.

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Victoria will see a mixture of erratic rain and sunshine during the coming week. Moisture totals by next Thursday morning will range from 0.25 to 1.00 inch most often with local amounts up to 2.00 inches in eastern Victoria. The precipitation will help keep soil moisture near current levels in most locations. Winter crop prospects will remain favorable.

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