

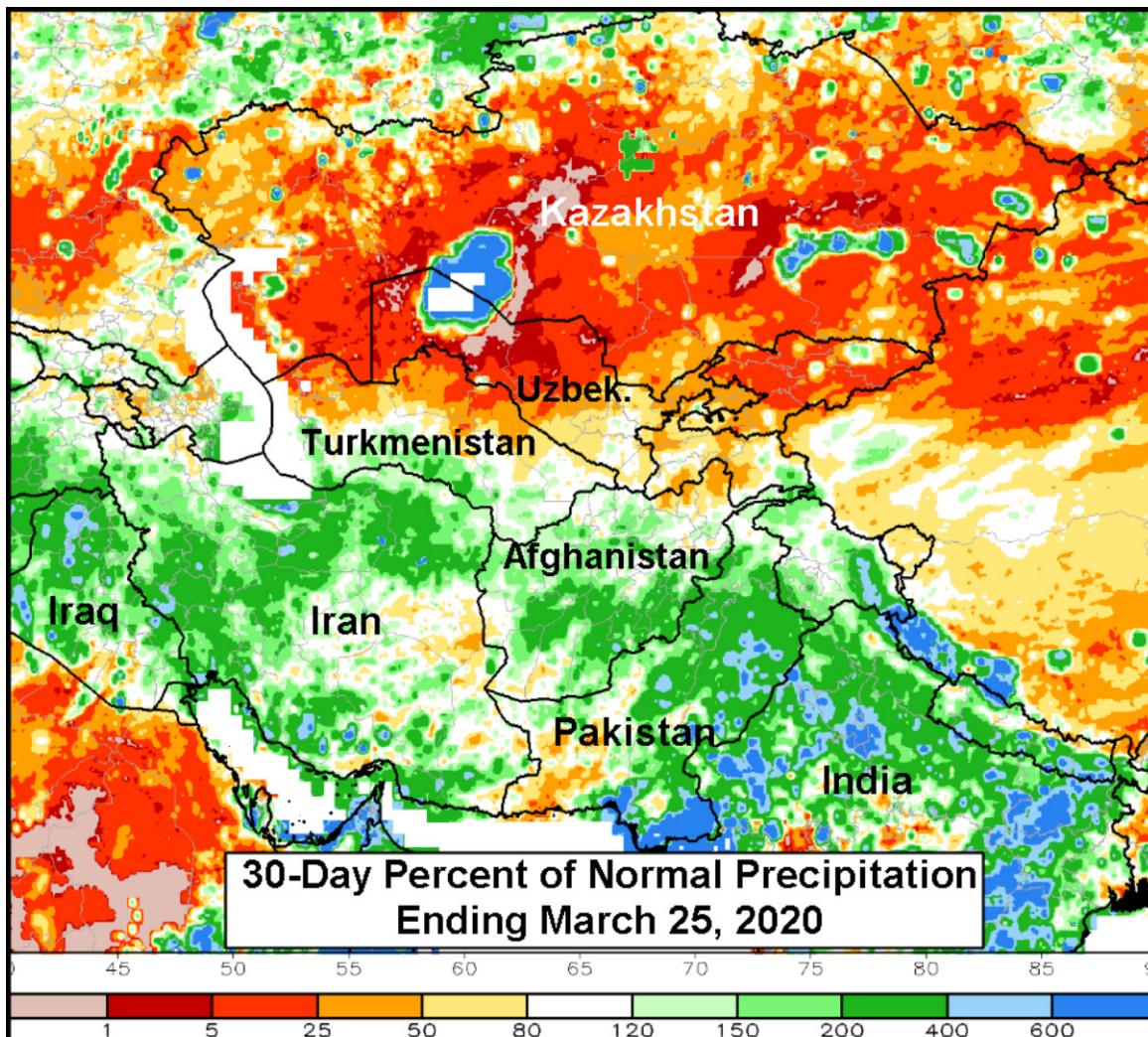
# Middle East Wheat, Cotton Prospects Favorable

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, March 27 (World Weather Inc.) – [Winter wheat production areas from Turkey, Jordan, and Israel through Iraq and Iran to Afghanistan have seen abundant precipitation this late winter and early spring. Soil conditions have been greatly bolstered for support of wheat production and the environment is quite favorable for cotton planting as well.](#) A mixture of erratic rain and sunshine through the end of next week will help maintain the good environment for most crops. Drier weather will be needed toward mid-April to keep wheat quality at good levels.

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Areas from Turkey, Jordan, and Israel into Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, and neighboring areas were wetter than normal during the past month. Rainfall as a percent of normal ranged from 120% to nearly 400% for the 30-day period ending March 25. Soil moisture and water storage levels gradually increased in recent weeks as the rain continued to fall.



## **Middle East Wheat, Cotton Prospects Favorable**

*Winter wheat normally reproduces in February and early March for these locations. The rain helped support high yield and good grain quality for this year's crops. Early season cotton planting and establishment conditions have been mostly favorable as well due to the rain.* Wheat will need drier conditions soon to protect it from a possible grain quality decline, but cotton areas would benefit from ongoing showers and thunderstorms for a while.

The wet weather bias will continue from much of Turkey and northern Iraq into Iran and Afghanistan through the end of next week. Rain totals by next Friday morning will range from 0.40 to 1.50 inches most often with portions of Afghanistan northern Iraq, and Turkey receiving more than 3.00 inches of moisture. These areas will continue to see periods of erratic precipitation April 4 – 10, though resulting rainfall will often be lighter compared to the first week of the outlook.

Additional rain during the next two weeks will continue to support winter wheat in the filling stage of development, but drier weather will soon be needed to ensure no decline in grain quality from too much moisture. Some of the more immature crops in Turkey will still benefit greatly from the precipitation.

Cotton planting and establishment will advance swiftly for much of the Middle East production areas in the coming weeks. The rain will supplement irrigation and also bolster water storage levels. There should be enough moisture for aggressive establishment and growth to persist deeply into April.

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