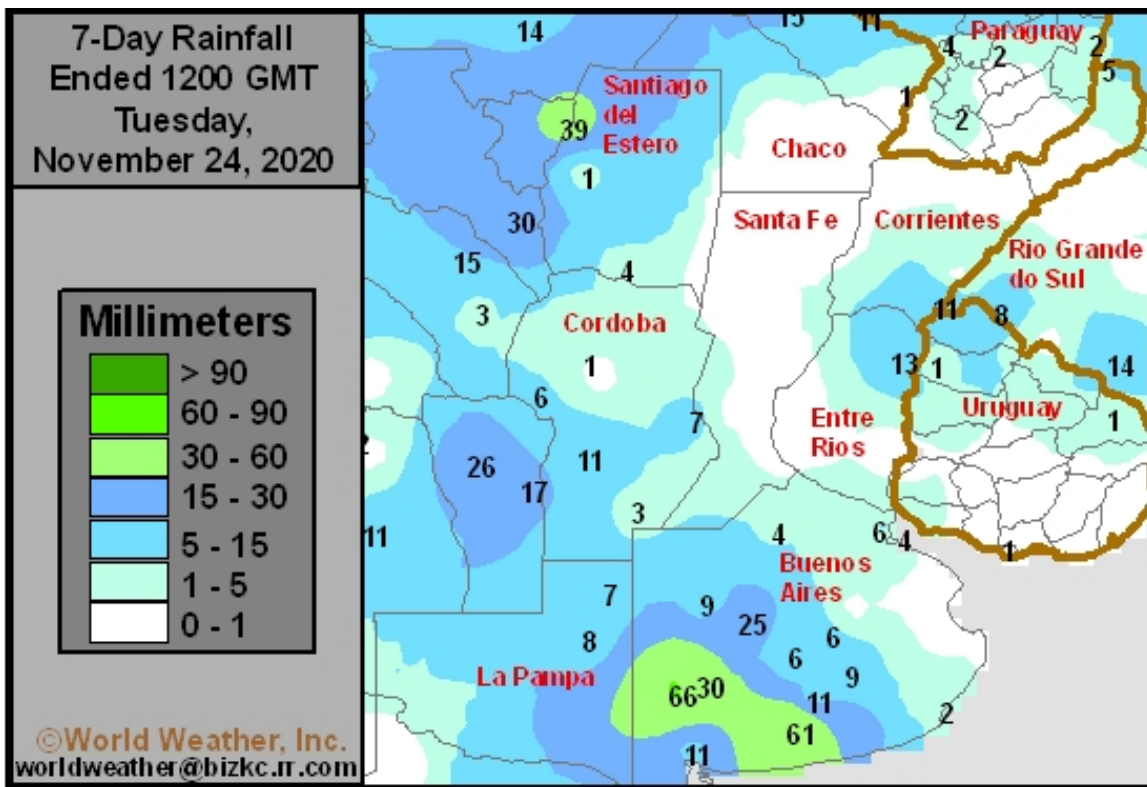


Argentina To Get Critically Important Rain Next Seven Days

By Andrew Owen

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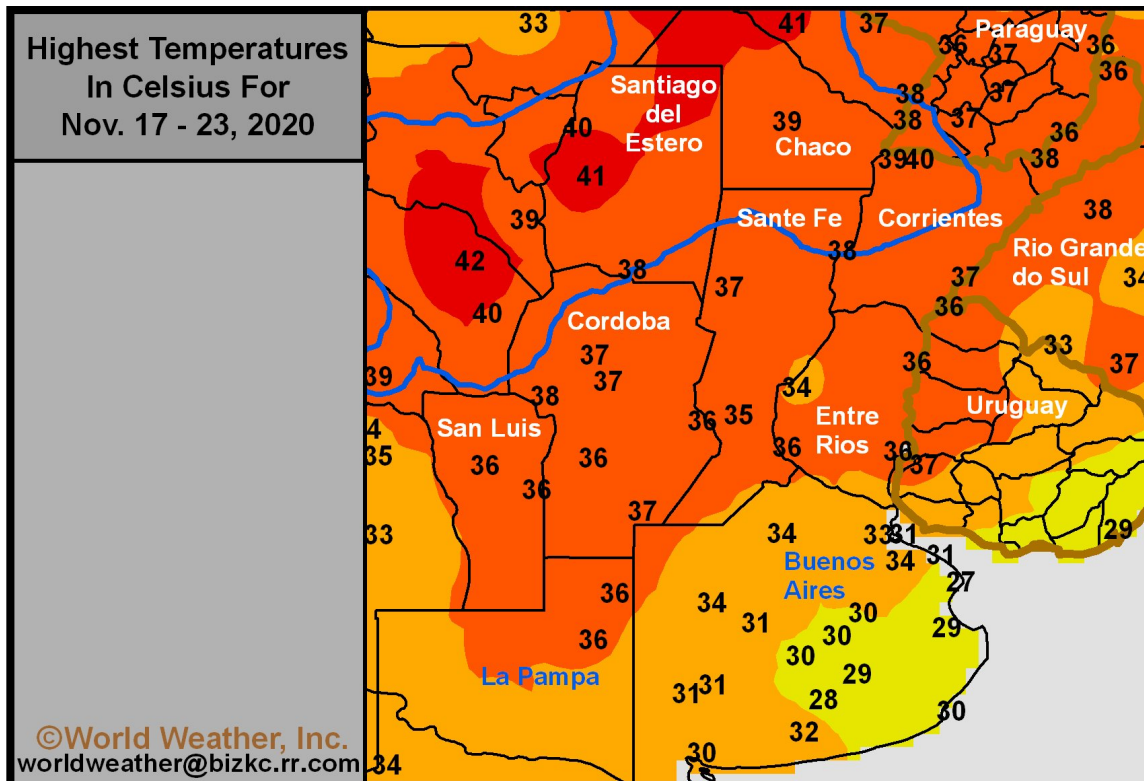
Kansas City, November 24 (World Weather Inc.) – [Moisture shortages remain a significant concern across Argentina. The main production areas were either dry or saw spotty rainfall during the past week. Most locations outside southwestern and south-central Buenos Aires did not receive enough rain to counter evaporation or impact long-term soil conditions.](#) Planting of coarse grains, oilseeds and cotton remains behind normal in several locations due to the ongoing dryness. [Significant rain is needed to reverse moisture deficits and support more aggressive emergence, establishment and aggressive early season growth. A series of disturbances will advance across Argentina during the coming week and bring welcome rain to most locations.](#) La Pampa, western Buenos Aires and southern fringes of Cordoba will miss out on the most significant rain and may not see much relief by early next week. Rainfall elsewhere will be enough to bolster soil moisture and improve crop conditions.



A large portion of Argentina was drier biased during the past week with a few exceptions. Southwestern and south-central Buenos Aires has been wettest thanks to rain last night and a little during the weekend. Moisture totals in southwestern Buenos Aires ranged from 0.43 inch to 1.18 inches with local totals to 2.40 inches. One location in central Argentina and another in northern San Luis were the only other areas to receive an inch of more of rain during the week, although far northwestern Santiago del Estero reported 1.58

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inches. Moisture totals in other western and southern Argentina locations varied from a trace to 0.43 inch.



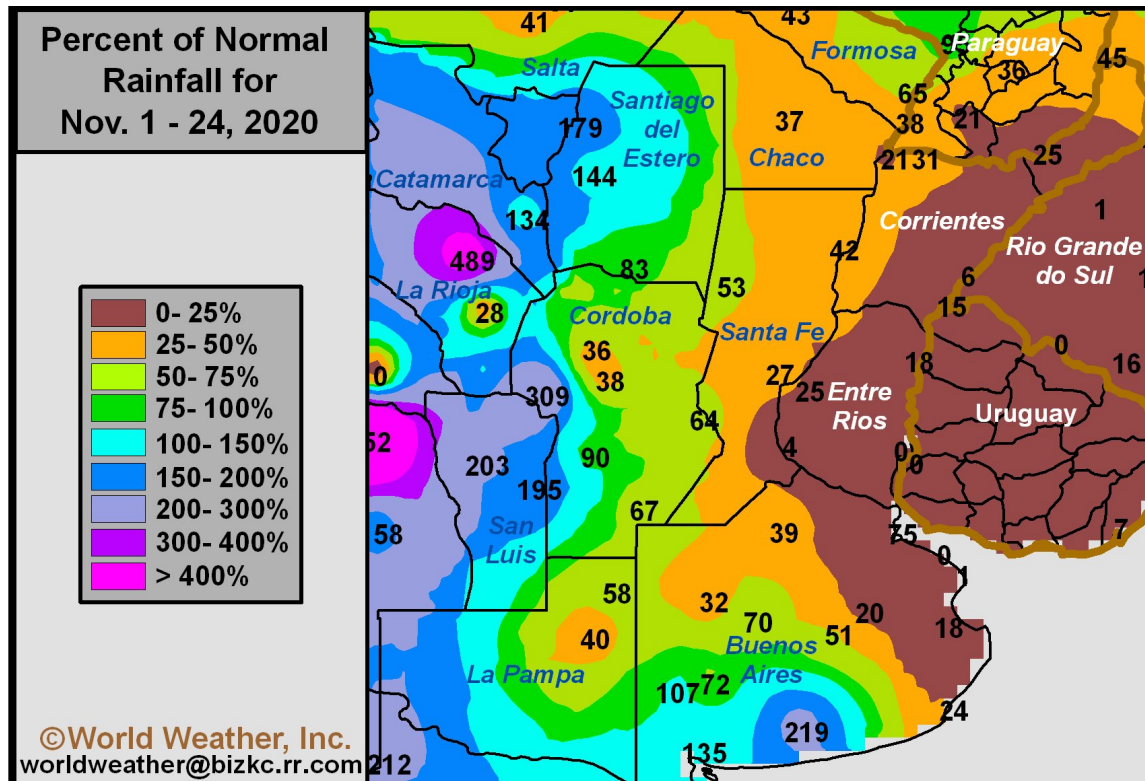
Warmer temperatures contributed to the fast drop in soil moisture over this past week. Extreme highs in the 90s occurred in most of central and northern Argentina with extremes rising near and above 100 degrees Fahrenheit from northern Cordoba to Chaco and Formosa as well as northwestern Santa Fe and northwestern Corrientes. Extreme highs reached 106 in Santiago del Estero and Formosa. All of the heat accelerated drying and stressed crops and livestock. The hottest weather only occurred over a short period of time during the past week which helped to reduce the extent of the most stressful conditions.

The lack of rain and warm to hot temperatures exhausted soil moisture in many areas in the nation. Topsoil moisture was rated short to very short except in north-central San Luis and in west-central Buenos Aires where it was marginally adequate. Subsoil moisture was short to very short, as well except from southern Cordoba and northeastern and east-central San Luis through southernmost Santa Fe to all of Buenos Aires where it was rated adequately. The subsoil moisture analysis suggested many early planted crops in southern Argentina were likely developing favorably, including much of the winter wheat in Buenos Aires. However, minimal soil moisture in other areas of Argentina suggested serious crop moisture stress was occurring in many areas not only stressing early corn and sunseed, but delaying germination, emergence and establishment of more recently planted sorghum, corn, sunseed, cotton and soybeans.

As of November 19, corn planting was 46%, which was the same as this time last year. Soybean planting was 32% complete, down from 35% last year. Sunseed planting was 95% complete, up from 83% this time last year. Peanut planting was 55% while 31% of the

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sorghum was in the ground. Cotton planting was only 26% done compared to 55% last year. In the meantime, winter wheat harvesting was 17% complete.

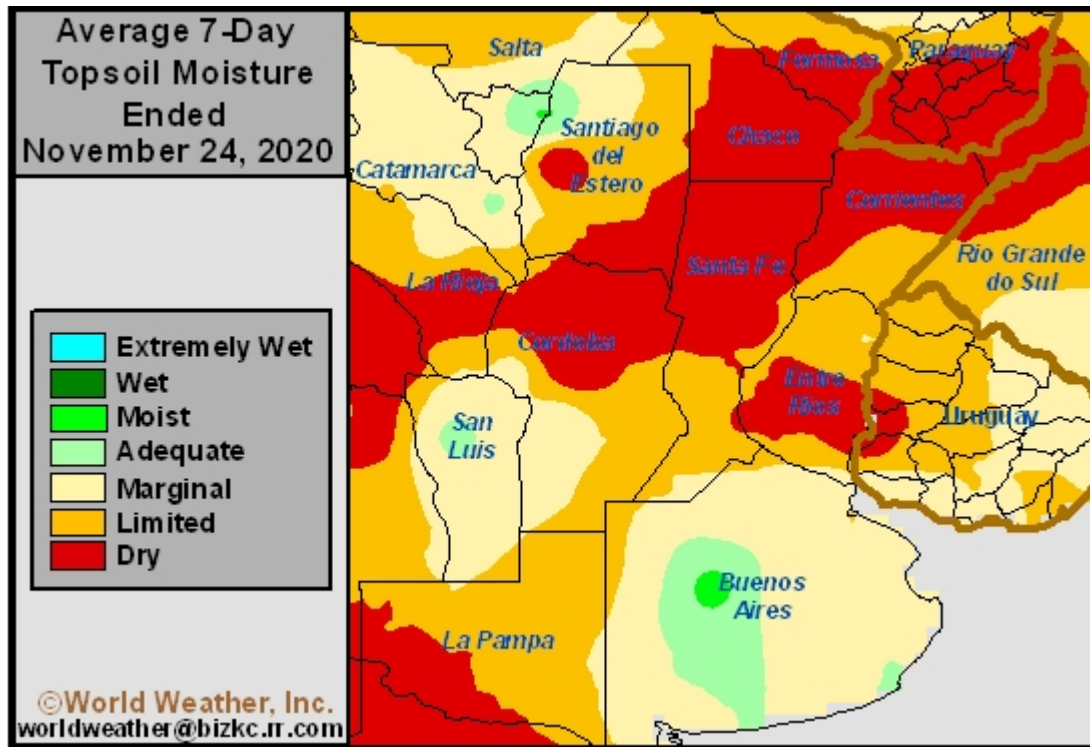


November precipitation has been extremely poor especially in the east which is not unusual in La Nina events. Rainfall had been less than 25% of normal in eastern Buenos Aires, Entre Rios, eastern Corrientes and areas farther east into Rio Grande do Sul, far southern Paraguay and Uruguay. Less than half of normal precipitation has occurred this month from north-central Buenos Aires through Santa Fe to Chaco and Formosa. Areas to the west saw greater rainfall during November with above average amounts from San Luis and western most Cordoba to western and central Santiago del Estero. A part of south-central and southwestern Buenos Aires was also wetter than usual.

Coarse grain, oilseed, and cotton establishment and growth has varied across Argentina in recent weeks. Most areas saw timely rain in late October and some scattered showers earlier this month that improved short-term growth. However, moisture shortages have been prevalent for much of the planting season and crops have likely established unevenly or poorly in some of the driest locations. There is still time for better rainfall to improve crop prospects in coming weeks, though significant precipitation is needed to fix the dryness. Concern has been rising over the potential for notable production losses, but the next few weeks will prove to be of critical importance in determining that potential.

Winter wheat production has also taken a hit due to the dryness, although losses may have been greater earlier in the growing compared to more recently because of good late October rainfall and now because of rain that will impact the region through this coming week. Early maturing wheat and barley is being harvested and the dry weather has been ideal for promoting quick maturation and swift field progress. None of the coming week of rain will seriously threaten unharvested small grain quality.

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SHORT TERM WEATHER OUTLOOK

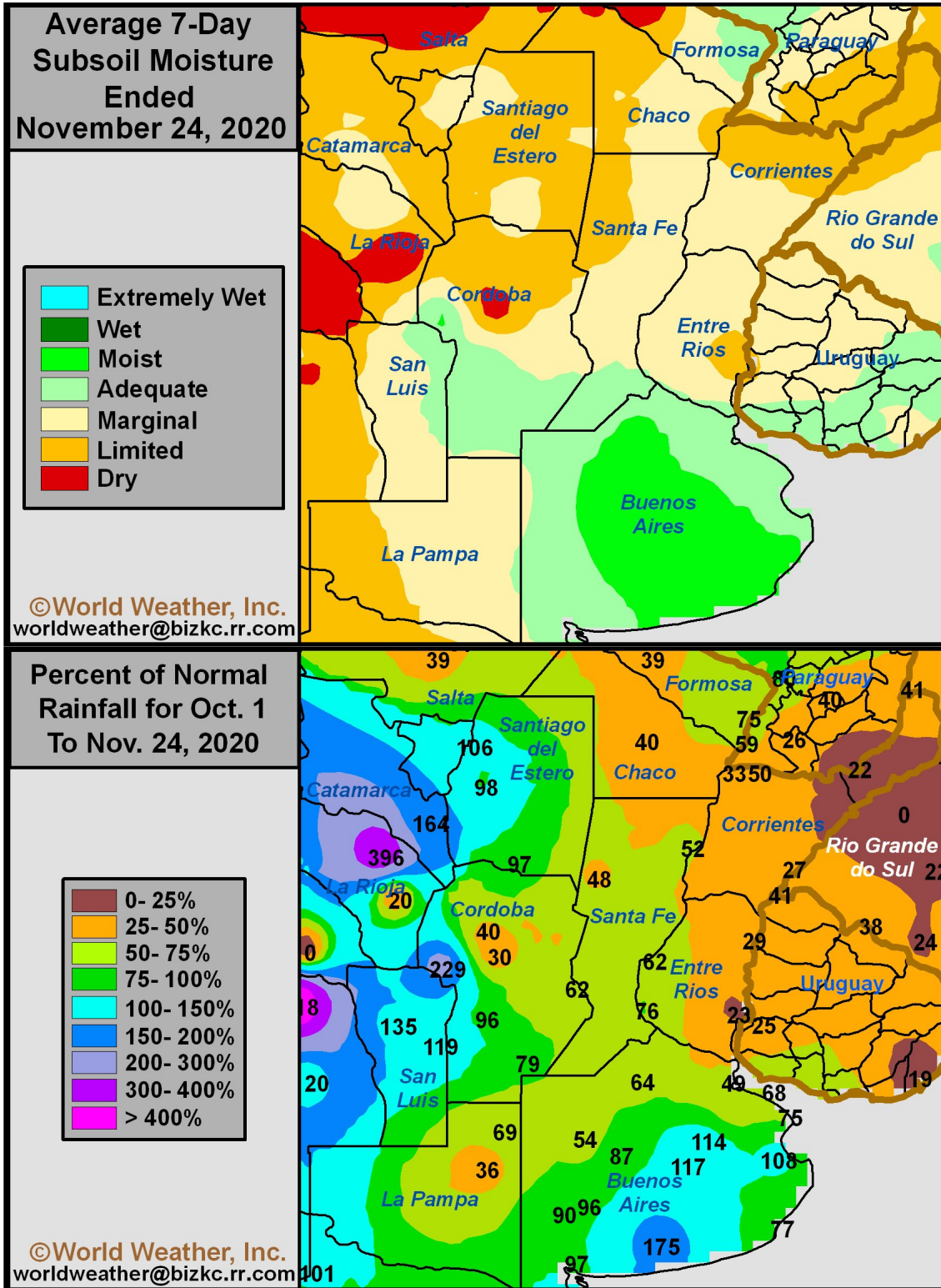
A series of disturbances will advance across Argentina during the coming week. These disturbances will generate scattered showers and thunderstorms on a frequent basis in the main crop areas. La Pampa and neighboring areas in western Buenos Aires and southern Cordoba will only have a few opportunities for light rain. Much of the precipitation that occurs will either be too light to counter evaporation or unable to impact long-term soil conditions. More significant rain is slated for the remaining production areas. Moisture totals by next Tuesday morning will range from 1.00 to 3.00 inches and local amounts of 5.00 inches or more in Corrientes, northern Santa Fe, and southeastern Chaco. A few pockets from Buenos Aires into central Cordoba will also receive up to 4.00 inches of moisture. The main production areas will again have opportunities for erratic rainfall December 2 – 8.

The lack of significant rain in La Pampa, western Buenos Aires, and southern fringes of Cordoba will continue to support aggressive drying through early next week. Planting and general fieldwork will advance swiftly. Establishment and development will otherwise continue unevenly or poorly as the ground continues to firm. *The region will need to see significant rain during the first half of December to more fully restore soil moisture and support a better environment for the crops.*

The remaining portions of Argentina will see a gradually improving environment for the coarse grains, oilseeds, and cotton during the coming week. Rainfall will still be too light to completely fix the dryness, though crops will still establish and grow under more favorable conditions. Rainfall during the second week of the outlook is not expected to be

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abundant and will likely be too light to further bolster soil moisture. Dryness will remain a concern and a close monitoring of the situation is warranted. Drier weather later in December is still possible and could disrupt development. In the meantime, winter wheat harvesting may be sluggish at times during the wettest periods through early next week.



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