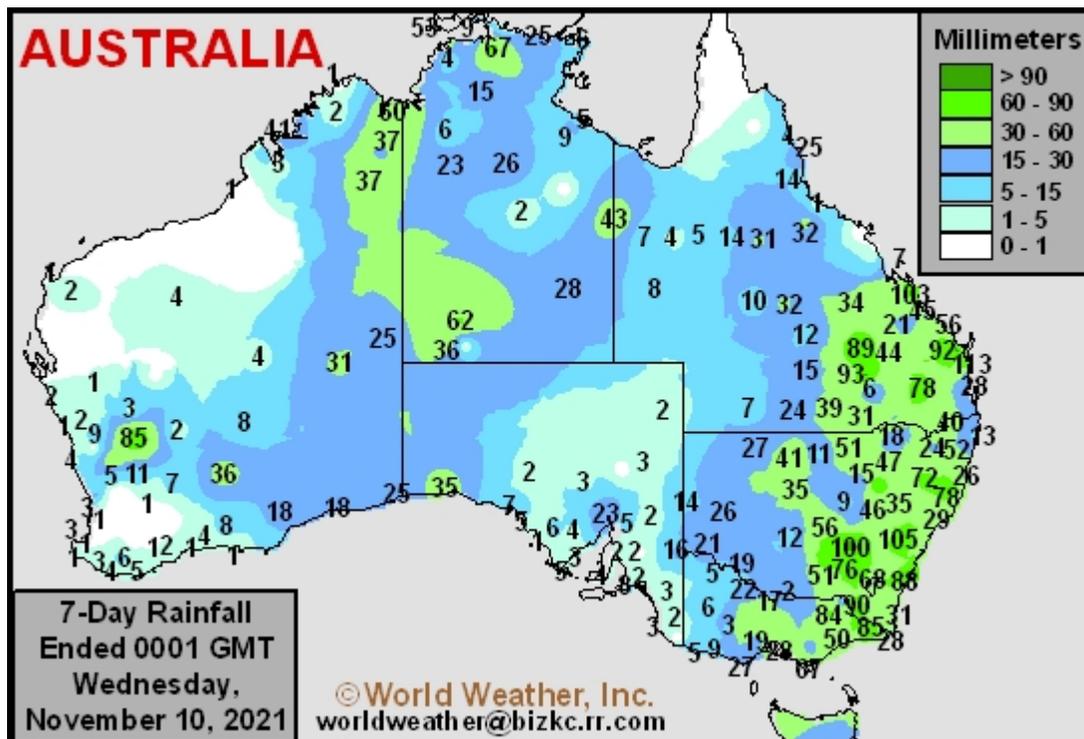


# Australia Winter Harvest Weather To Improve After Friday

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, November 10 (World Weather Inc.) – [Concern remains high for winter wheat, barley, and canola quality reductions in portions of Victoria and New South Wales where winter crop harvesting has a long way to go and where the potential for frequent rain is greatest over the next few weeks.](#) Recent harvest progress has slowed in many areas because of scattered showers and thunderstorms. Light precipitation will persist in Victoria and southern fringes of New South Wales Friday into this weekend while areas farther north see drier weather starting Friday. The lack of follow-up rain later in the forecast period will be beneficial for more aggressive maturation and harvesting in much of New South Wales. The rain will also be beneficial for planting and establishment of the summer grains, oilseeds, and cotton. Western Australia will see favorable harvest conditions through the middle of next week while South Australia sees a few periods of rain slowing or delaying the harvest at times.

The eastern half of New South Wales, southeastern Queensland and much of Victoria (outside the northwest corner) have adequate to excessive soil moisture due to recent rainfall. Areas farther west in New South Wales and Queensland generally have adequate to marginally adequate moisture. South Australia and much of Western Australia also have adequate to marginally adequate soil moisture.



Harvesting of winter wheat, barley, and canola is underway across all of southern Australia. Rainfall in southeastern Australia recently has slowed the harvest, but there are not many areas that have complained about it being too wet. [No serious quality declines have occurred, although worry over such conditions has been rising recently because of](#)

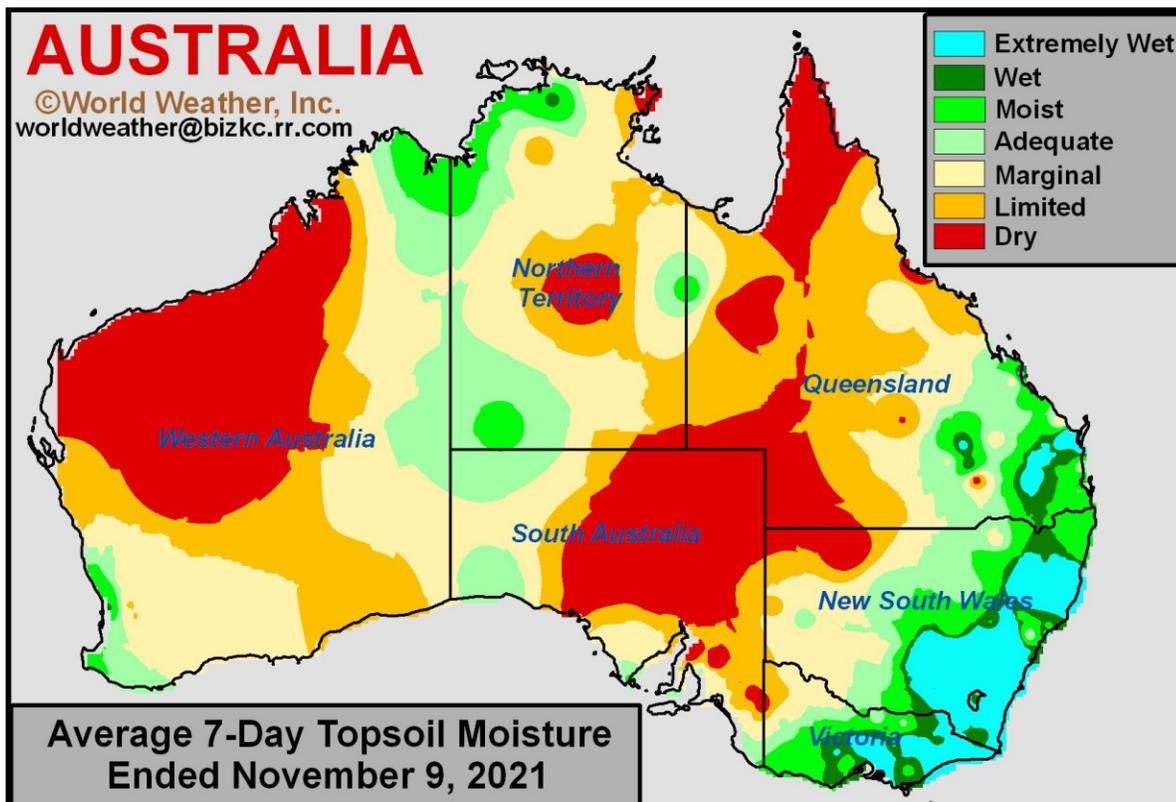
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rainier weather. Areas that have received the most significant rain may have seen some minor quality reductions and drier weather is needed. Additional rain in coming weeks could raise more concern over quality and harvest delays, but improved weather is expected for a while beginning this weekend and lasting into next week.

South Australia and Western Australia have also received enough rain at times to slow the harvest in recent weeks, though no significant quality declines were suspected for these areas.

This year's production of wheat, barley and canola is still expected to be high with wheat production to be the second largest crop in recorded history falling a little short of last year's crop. Canola will be record crop with production well above last year due to greater planting and nearly ideal weather. Barley, like winter wheat, is expected to be down a bit from last year, but still an impressive crop. Some very good high-protein wheat is expected to come from Western Australia, Queensland and South Australia which should help fill some of the global shortage of high quality grain. However, the crop is not harvested yet and too much rain during the harvest can change the bottom line in just a few weeks.

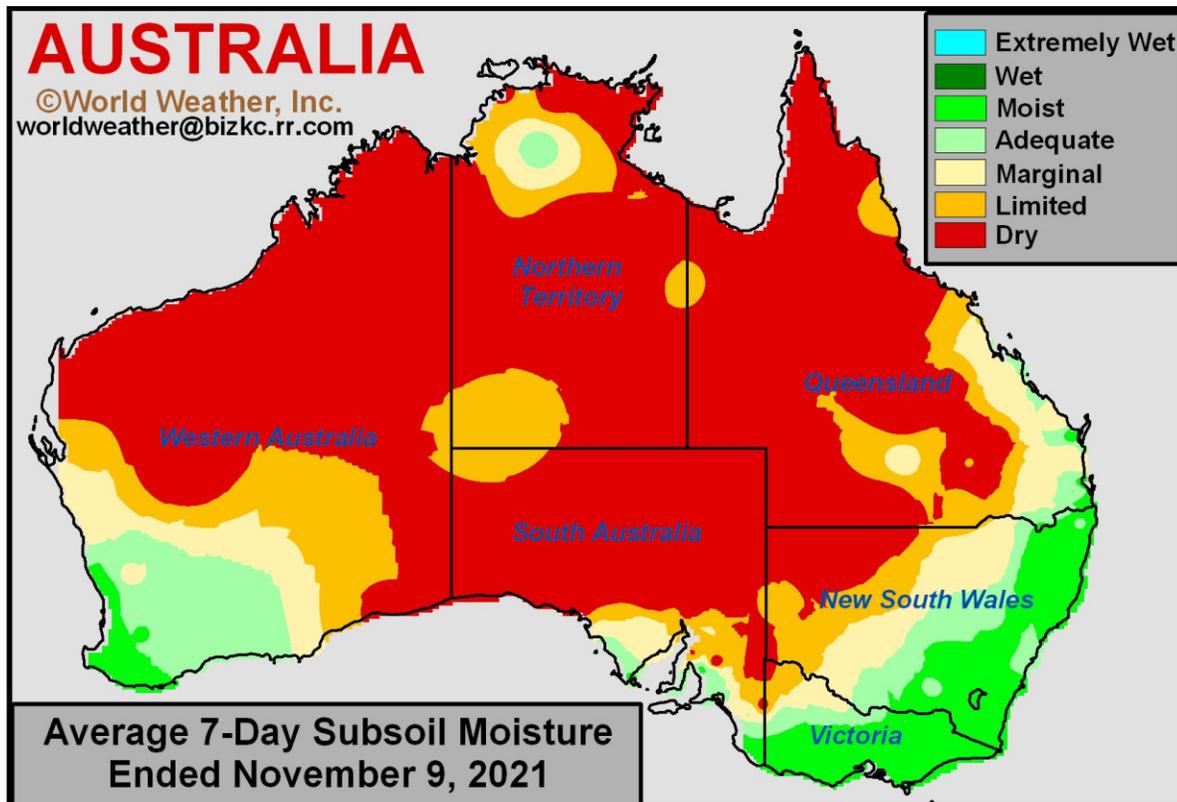
Queensland's wheat harvest is already complete and fieldwork northern New South Wales and northern parts of Western Australia should also be mostly completed. So the focus of attention on winter crop harvesting should be on New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and southern Western Australia. Many of these areas will get rain into Friday before finally drying down briefly. Western Australia should stay dries for the longest period of time.



Sorghum, corn, cotton and oilseed planting is also underway in Queensland and New South Wales. Irrigated planting and establishment conditions have been generally favorable

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due to ample water supply and frequent rainfall. Rain-fed crops have also seen improving conditions, although western parts of Queensland and some western New South Wales crop areas still need more rain.



## AUSTRALIA'S WEATHER OUTLOOK

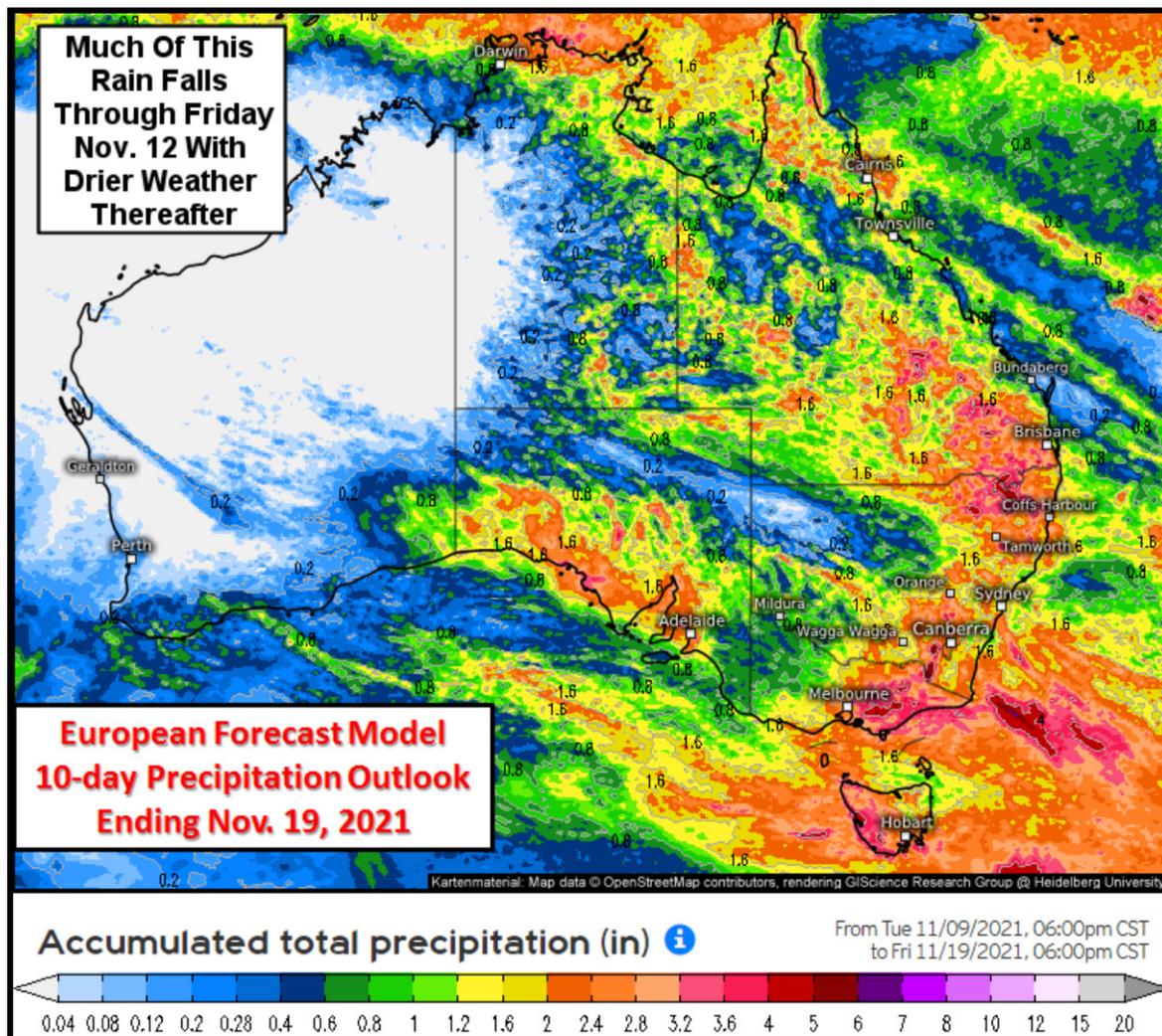
Two disturbances will continue to generate scattered showers and thunderstorms for Queensland, New South Wales, and Victoria through Thursday. Light showers will persist in Victoria and southern New South Wales Friday through Sunday while Queensland areas farther north in New South Wales dry down. Mostly dry weather is then slated for much of eastern Australia at the beginning and middle of next week. Moisture totals by next Wednesday morning will range from 0.75 to 3.00 inches in most locations. Pockets in Victoria and eastern sections of New South Wales and Queensland will also receive more than 4.00 inches of rain while pockets in western New South Wales and south-central Queensland only receive up to 0.50 inch of moisture. Eastern Australia will continue to see a mix of precipitation and sunshine November 18 – 24.

*The gradual drying trend Friday into next week will promote a better environment for winter crop harvesting in eastern Australia.* The wettest areas may need a few days of drying before aggressive harvesting resumes. Rainfall during the next few days will otherwise continue to slow or delay the harvest. Quality declines will remain a concern for areas that receive the most rain in Victoria and eastern sections of New South Wales. The rain will otherwise continue to support a good environment for planting and establishment of the summer coarse grains, oilseeds, and cotton.

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South Australia will see several waves of erratic precipitation during the coming week. The most widespread precipitation will occur later today into Thursday as a disturbance passes over the region. Light precipitation will also evolve on a frequent basis Friday and this weekend with some more rain possible Tuesday. Moisture totals by next Wednesday morning will range from 0.50 to 2.00 inches with drier pockets along the southern coastline. The periods of rain will likely slow or delay the harvest of winter crops at times, most notably during the next few days. There will be opportunities to get into the fields between rain events and some harvest progress is expected. Minor quality declines will be a concern in the wettest areas.

Western Australia will be mostly dry through the middle of next week allowing aggressive crop maturation and harvesting to take place.



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