

# Argentina Late Season Crops Deteriorate Further; No Relief

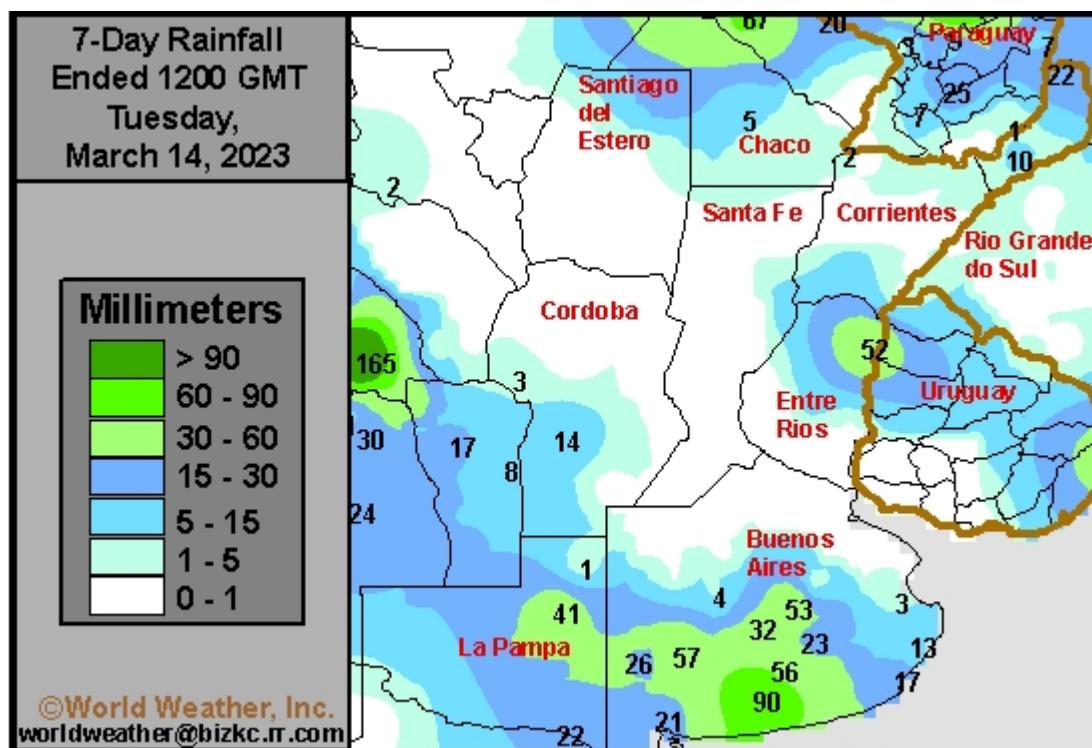
By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, March 14 (World Weather Inc.) – Central and northern Argentina was either dry or received limited rainfall during the past week. These areas also experienced warmer than normal conditions, which severely reduced soil moisture and intensified the drought. Portions of southern and west-central Argentina received timely rain, though the most significant precipitation missed the heart of the main production areas. The lack of rain and warm to hot weather continued to promote extremely stressful conditions with both top and subsoil moisture exhausted across the heart of the nation. Significant production losses are still expected this year for corn, sunseed, sorghum and soybeans while losses in peanut, dry bean and cotton areas has been less significant.

Weather conditions in this coming week are expected to include a greater number of showers and thunderstorms, but drought busting rain is still unlikely.

Rainfall during the week ending Tuesday morning was greatest from east-central La Pampa through south-central Buenos Aires where 1.00 to 2.25 inches occurred and one location near the central southern coast of Buenos Aires reaching 3.54 inches. Rainfall in west-central and southwestern Cordoba into San Luis ranged from 0.10 to 0.67 inch through Monday. Stronger thunderstorms occurred in southern Cordoba and a few crop areas in northwestern Buenos Aires Monday night into Tuesday morning with a few amounts of 1.00 to 3.25 inches.

Warm to hot temperatures were noted at times in the past week with highest readings in the 90s to 105 degrees Fahrenheit. Lowest temperatures were in the 50s and 60s.

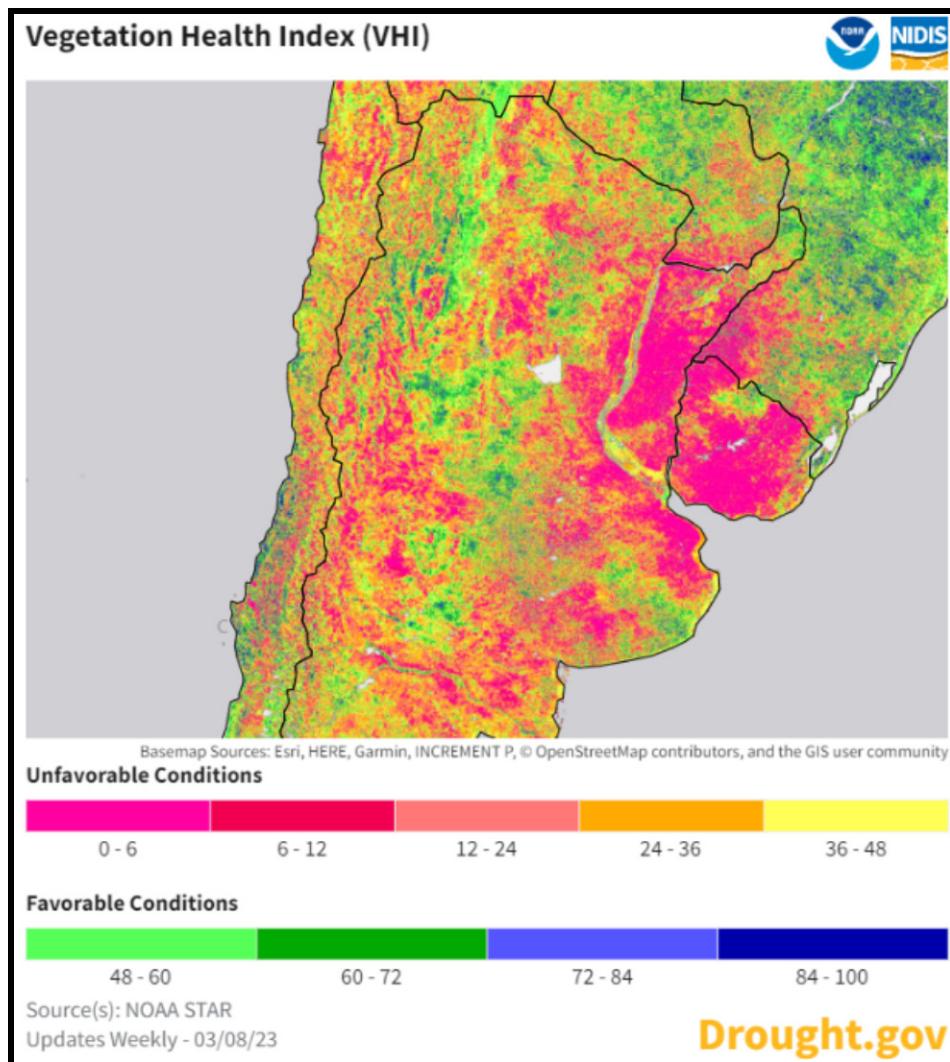


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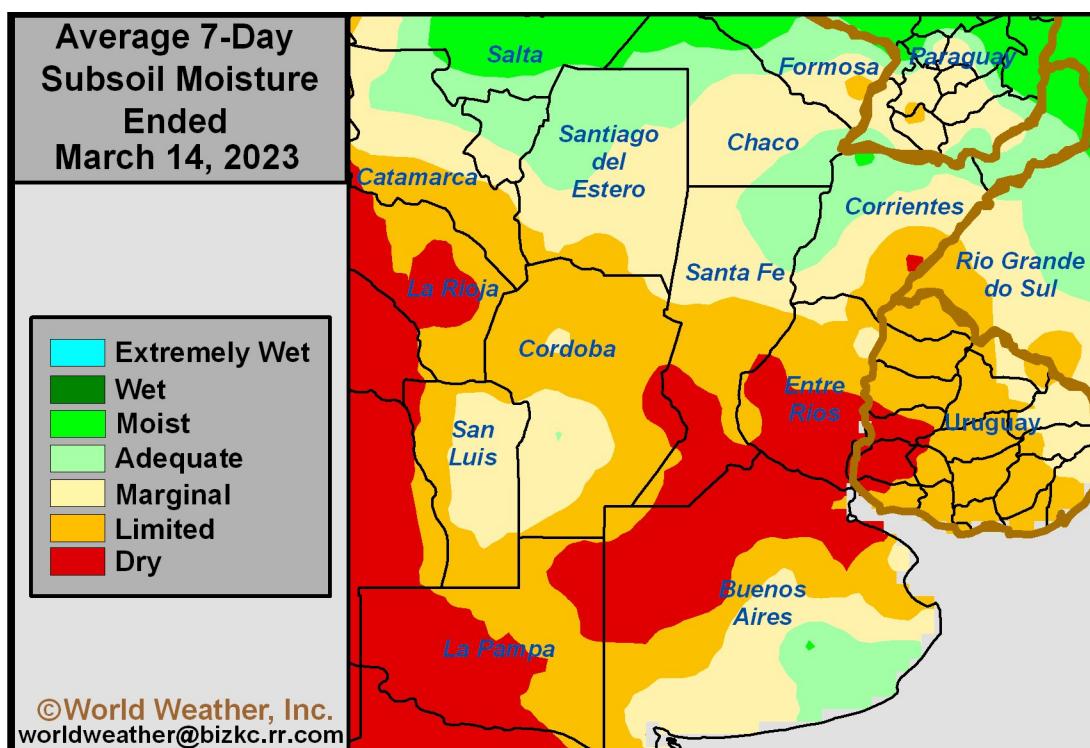
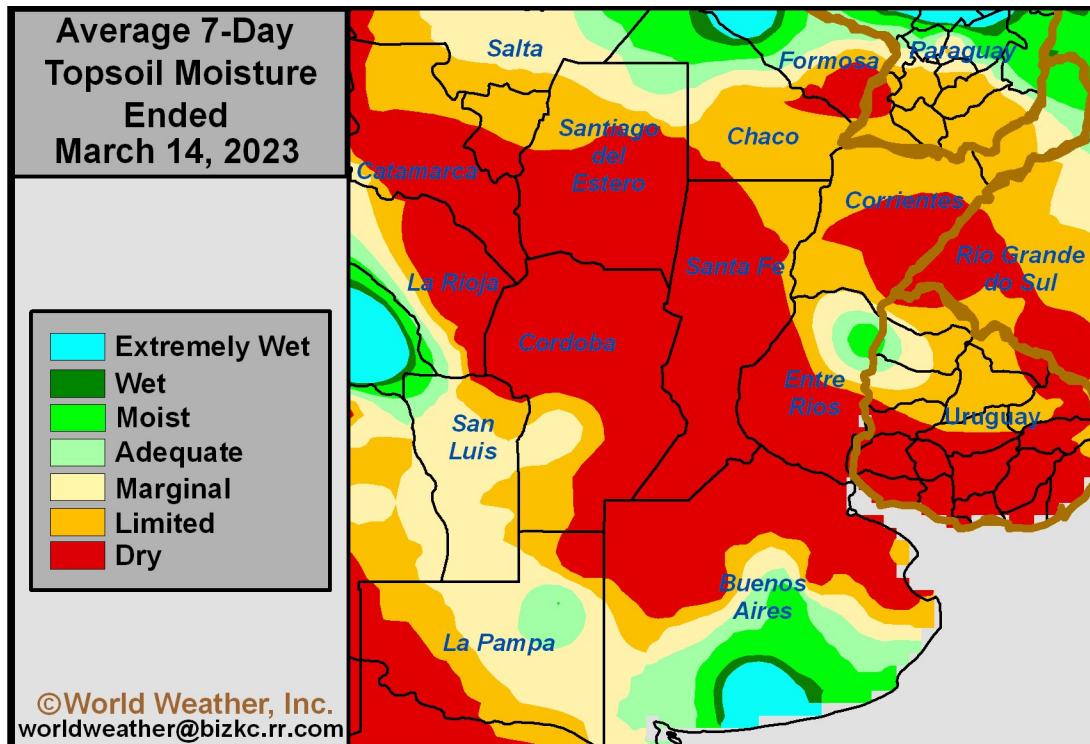
Southern Buenos Aires, portions of La Pampa and western Cordoba received enough rain to bolster topsoil moisture during the past week. However, the ground remains dry to critically dry in a large portion of the remaining crop areas. Varying levels of drought were still noted in much of Argentina.

Vegetative health remains fair to very poor in much of Argentina as of March 8. There were still pockets in Buenos Aires, Cordoba, and neighboring areas that had more favorable vegetative health, though conditions generally deteriorated in a large portion of Argentina outside of the south and west-central portions of the nation in recent days.

The ongoing drought continues to promote poor soybean, corn, sunseed, sorghum, and other crop conditions across Argentina. Production potentials for most crops have been in decline for a few weeks because of the poor distribution of rainfall and extreme temperatures. Peanuts and cotton may be in better shape than other crops mostly because peanuts are produced in southern Cordoba and neighboring areas where rain has occurred most often recently. Cotton production may not fall as far below average as other crops since it tends to thrive in drier environments. The later planted crops that have managed to get a few timely bouts of rain recently could still benefit from rain in the near future, though overall production potentials remain below or well below normal.



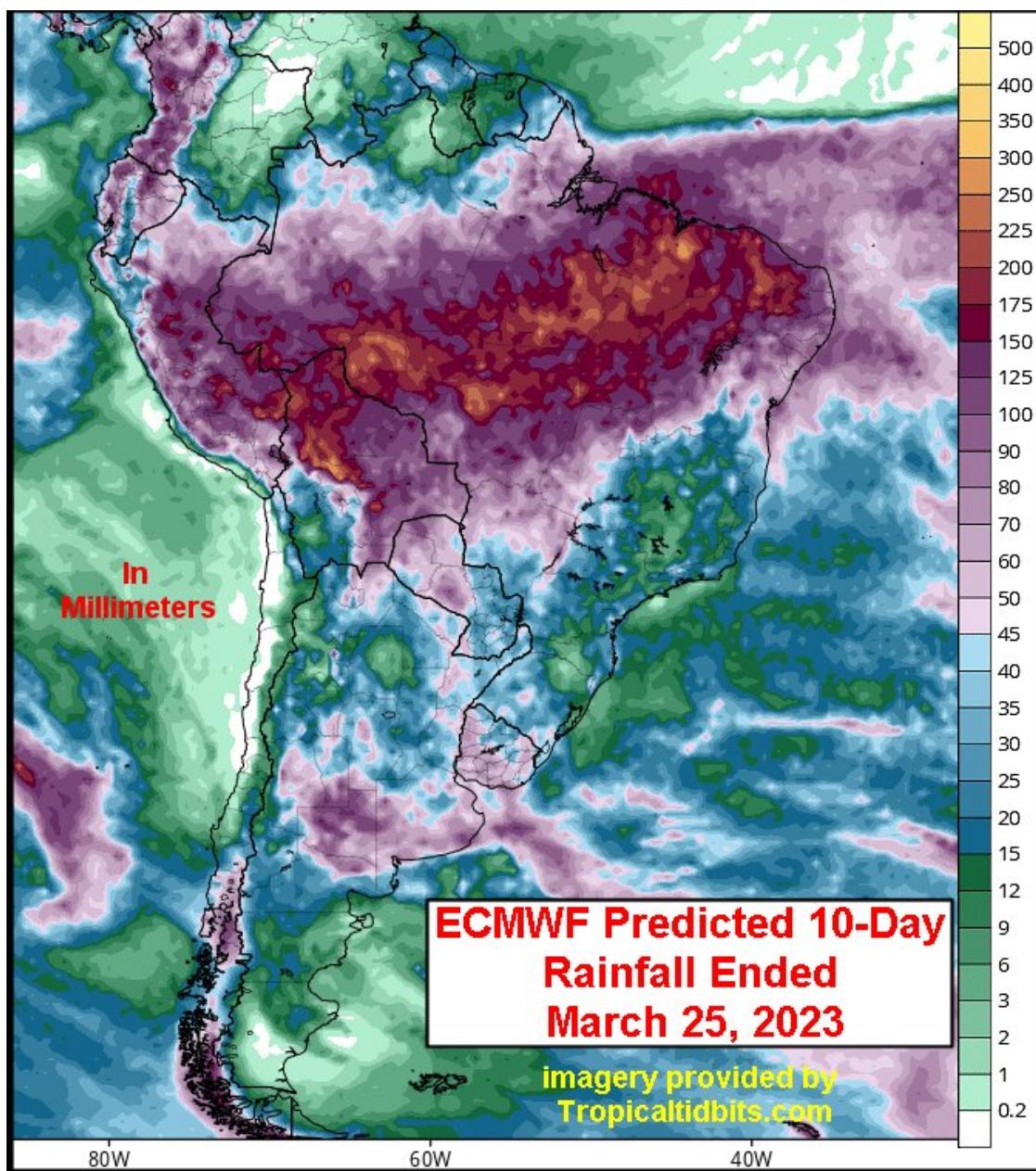
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### WEATHER OUTLOOK

Argentina will generally see a mix of erratic rainfall and sunshine during the coming week. Disturbances passing near the region will initially generate scattered showers through Friday for portions of crop country. Although a weak high-pressure ridge will build over Argentina this weekend and early next week, light rain will continue to be scattered across portions of central and southern Argentina. Moisture totals by next Tuesday morning will range from 0.50 to 2.00 inches in Buenos Aires, La Pampa, Formosa, and Corrientes. The remaining production areas will receive 0.25 to 1.00 inch of moisture. Rain potentials may then increase slightly for much of crop country as stronger disturbances potentially track near or into Argentina.



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*Warmer-than-normal weather will persist in much of Argentina through early next week. Daytime highs will peak to the 80s and 90s Fahrenheit most often with pockets in central and northern Argentina warming above 100 degrees starting Friday.* Portions of southern Argentina will also only warm to the 70s during periods of rain, most notably this weekend and early next week. Nighttime lows will be in the 60s and 70s with portions of southern Argentina often cooling to the 50s.

Rainfall coming weeks may offer temporary relief from the dryness across Argentina's crop region. The drought may be briefly eased, but is not expected to be eliminated. The rain will still be too late in the growing season to significantly improve overall production potentials. Minor improvements are only expected for the latest planted crops. The earlier planted crops are maturing and being harvested.. The harvest will begin and expand in the coming weeks as well and the rain may slow early-season harvesting.

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