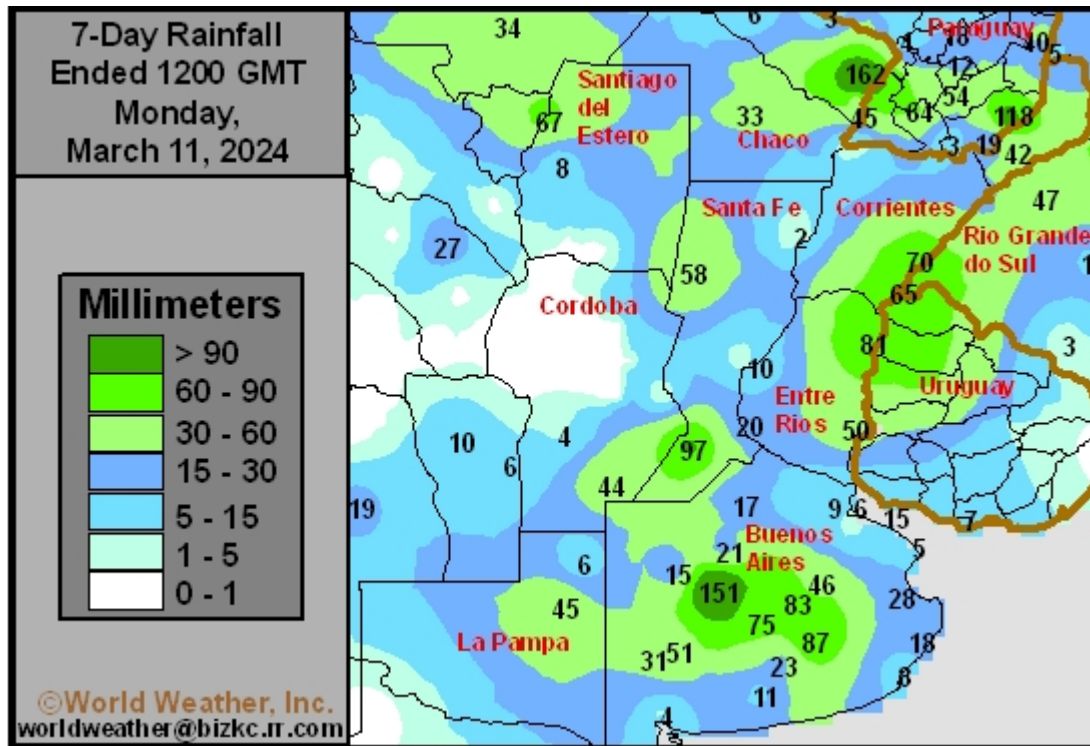


Argentina Rain Will Support Good Late-Season Growth

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, March 12 (World Weather Inc.) – A large section of Argentina’s crop country received enough rain to keep soil moisture rated favorably during the past week. Soybean, corn, and other coarse grain, oilseed, and cotton development conditions remained good due to the ample moisture. Sunseed and rice harvesting is underway in several locations while soybean and corn harvesting is set to begin in the coming weeks. Central and southern Argentina will have several opportunities for rain this week that will help maintain favorable late-season development. Maturation and early-season harvesting may move along sluggishly in the wettest areas and there is some potential for declining grain and oilseed quality in rice and sunseed fields of the east.

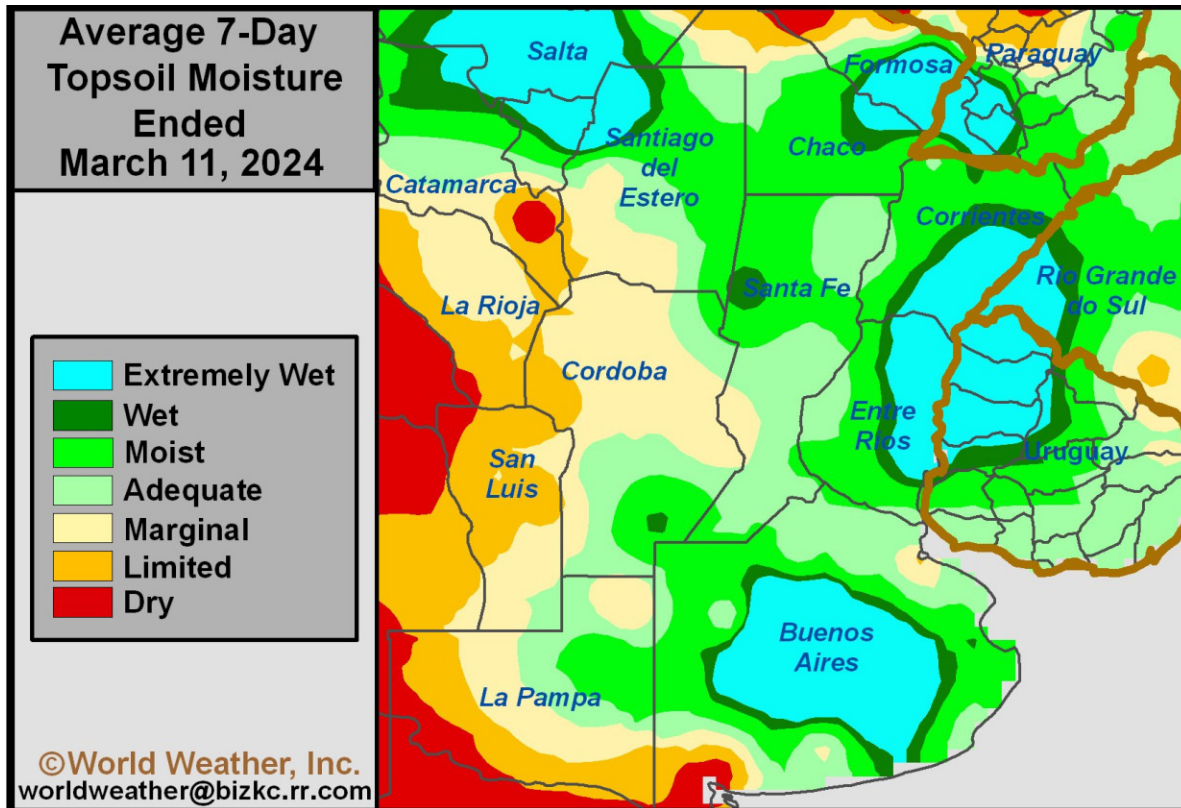
Northern Cordoba and southern Santiago del Estero were mostly dry during the past week. San Luis and southwestern Cordoba only received 0.16 to 0.39 inch of rain for the seven-day period ending this morning. More frequent and significant rainfall was noted in the remaining locations. Rain totals generally ranged from 0.39 to 2.28 inches of rain with portions of central Buenos Aires, eastern Entre Rios, southeastern Corrientes, and Formosa receiving 2.76 to 6.38 inches of moisture.



Temperatures were near to slightly above normal across the country during the past week. The southern half of crop country saw highest readings in the 80s and lower 90s Fahrenheit while areas farther north saw highest readings in the 90s. Pockets in Formosa and northern Santiago del Estero also warmed above 100 degrees at times. Lowest temperatures were in the 40s and 50s in the southern half of crop country and the 50s and 60s in the northern half.

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San Luis has short to very short topsoil moisture while many other areas in Western Argentina have adequate to slightly short moisture. The remaining production areas in Argentina have marginally adequate to surplus soil moisture.



Timely rain has continued to support good conditions for the soybeans, corn, and other crops produced this time of year. Harvesting of the rice and sunseed is underway with 10% of the rice and 28% of the sunseed out of the ground as of March 7. Other crops are still in the development stages or maturing. Harvesting will expand in coming weeks across the country once crops finish maturing. Production potentials remain far higher compared to the previous years due to more frequent rainfall over the growing season.

High pressure will promote dry or mostly dry weather for Formosa, Chaco, and northern Santiago del Estero this week. Periods of light rain will occasionally occur, though resulting amounts will be lost to evaporation. The remaining production areas in Argentina will see a good mix of rain and sunshine this week. Entre Rios, central and southern Santa Fe, and northern Buenos Aires will see some of the most frequent and significant rain with totals ranging from 2.00 to 5.00 inches and local amounts of 7.00 inches or more by next Monday morning. Northern Santa Fe, Corrientes, and southern Santiago del Estero into Cordoba, San Luis, La Pampa, and the remaining locations in Buenos Aires will receive 0.50 to 3.00 inches of rain. Much of the country will experience alternating periods of rain and sunshine March 19-25.

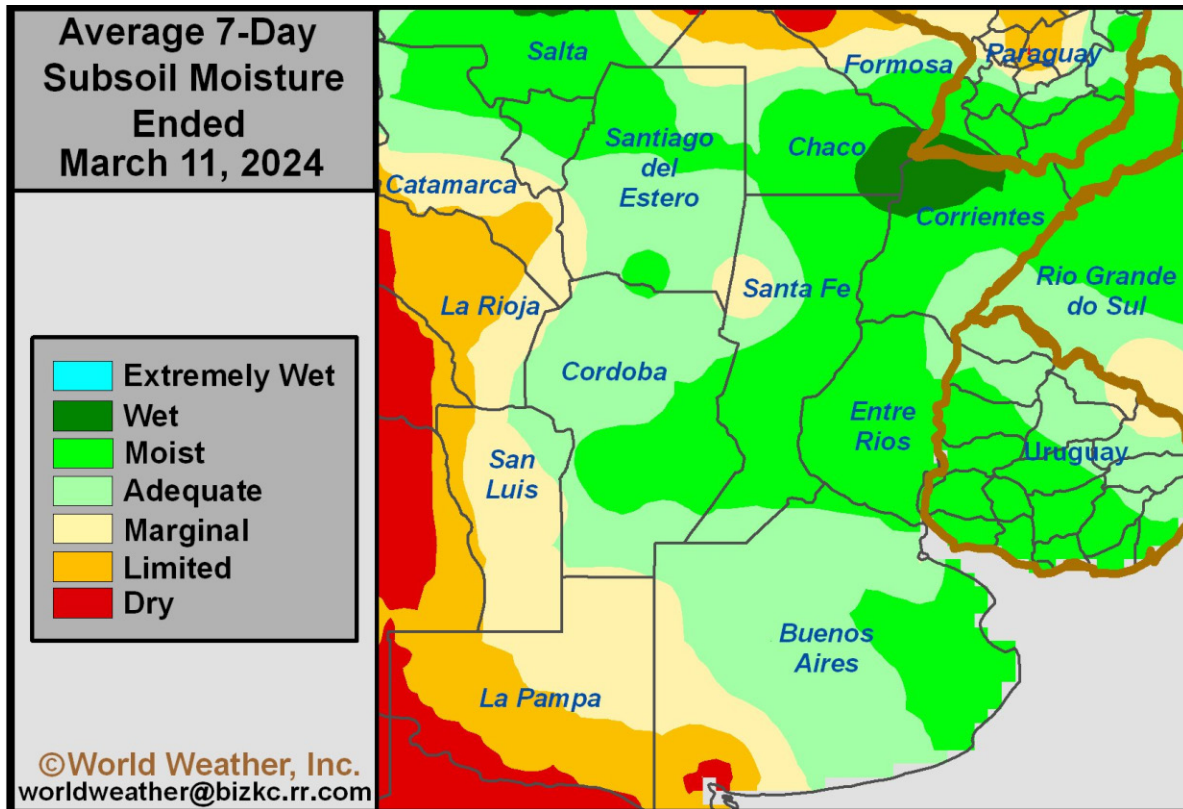
Temperatures this week will often trend above normal across Argentina. The northern half of the country will warm to a range of 90 to 110 degrees. The southern half of crop country will warm to the 80s and 90s most often with pockets only warming to the 70s during periods of more significant rain. Low temperatures will be in the 60s and 70s with

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pockets in southern Argentina cooling to the 40s. Temperatures will drop to more seasonable levels for much of the country March 19 – 25.

Waves of rain will continue to support favorable late-season development in much of central and southern Argentina in coming weeks. A few areas in the southeast will get too much rain and that could harm rice and sunseed quality. The bulk of crops will not be included in the greatest rainfall, but the situation should still be closely monitored.

Northern Argentina will dry down rapidly due to the lack of rain and warm to hot weather. Late-season development conditions may deteriorate and minor production losses will be possible.



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