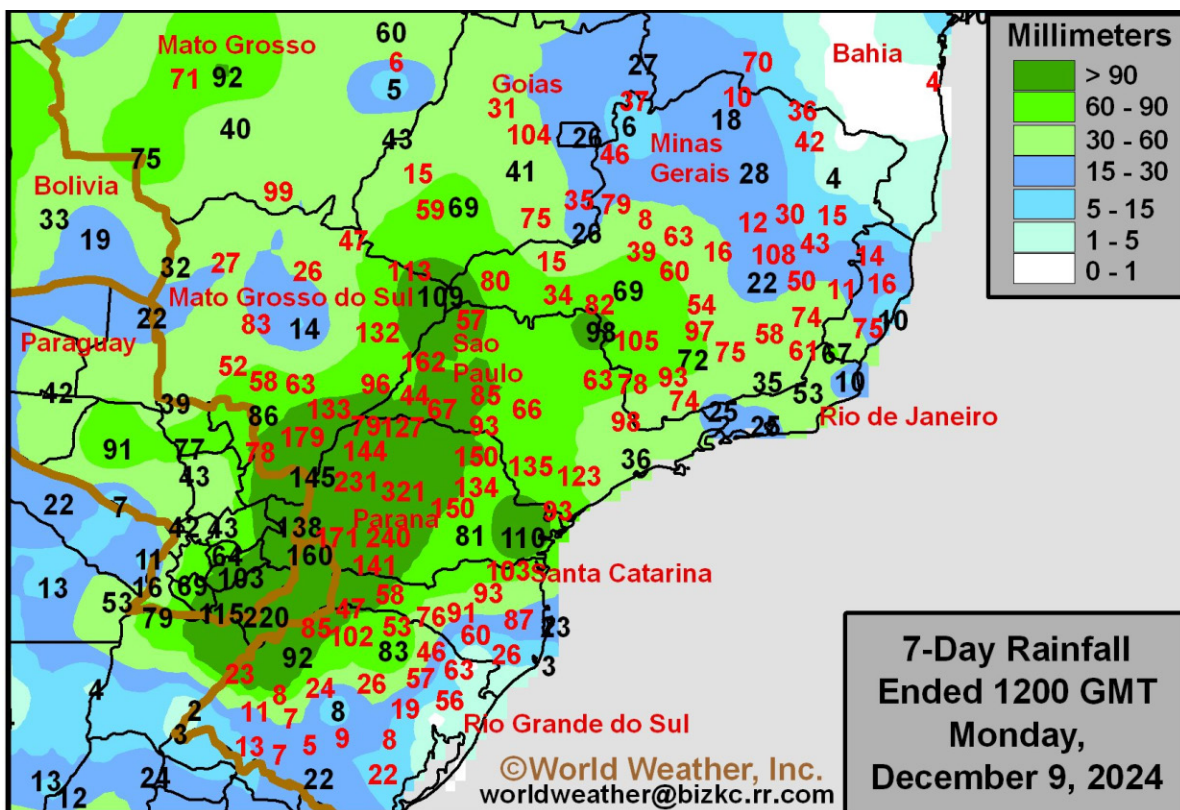


# Southern Brazil Excess Moisture To Prevail For At Least A Week

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, December 9 (World Weather Inc.) – Rain continued to fall frequently across Brazil’s summer crop production areas during the past week. Most of it was well mixed with periods of sunshine; however, *too much rain fell during the weekend from southeastern Paraguay through central Parana, Santa Catarina, northern Rio Grande do Sul and far southern Sao Paulo where some flooding evolved. A short term bout of drying is expected Tuesday into Thursday before more rain falls in much of the same region. That new precipitation event will maintain excessive soil moisture and restrict field operations for at least a full week.* Other areas in the nation, though, will a continuation of well mixed weather supporting good crop development and production potentials.

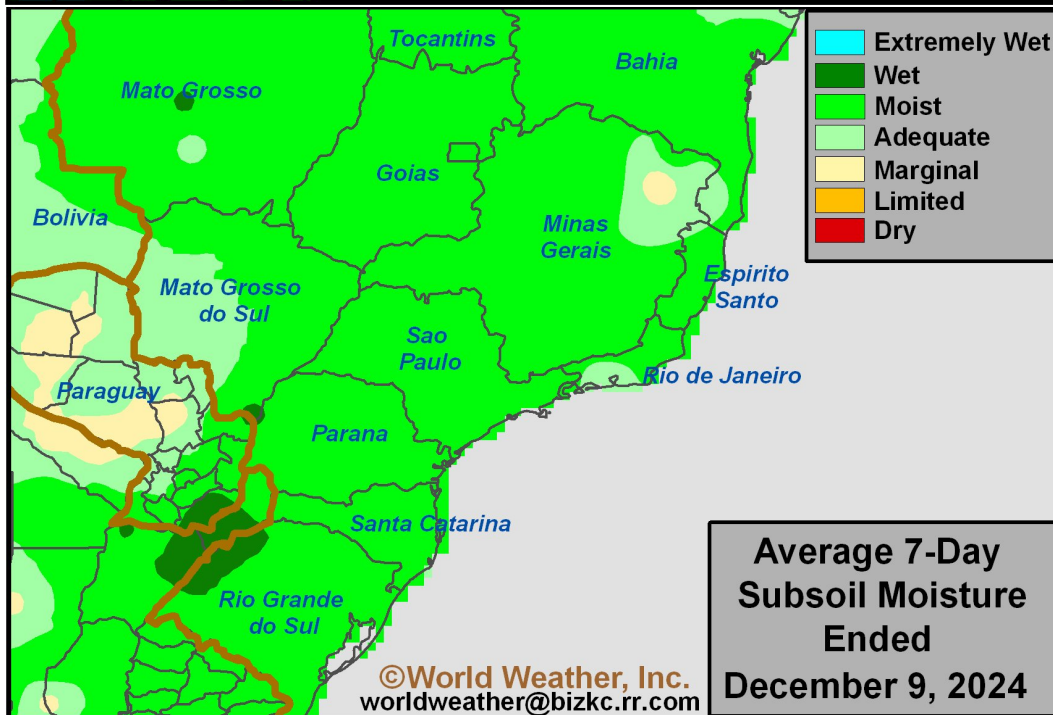
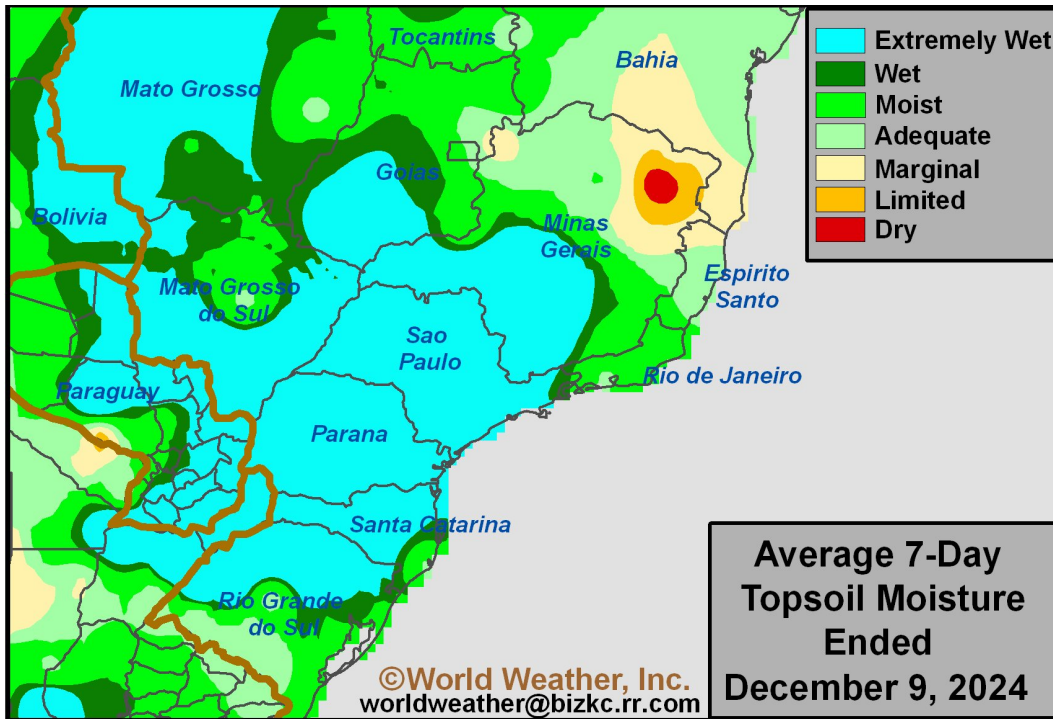
Frequent rainfall was noted for much of crop country in Brazil during the past week. Parana, southern Mato Grosso do Sul, and portions of western and southern Sao Paulo received some of the most significant rain with totals ranging from 3.00 to 7.05 inches and local amounts up to 12.64 inches in the western half of Parana for the seven-day period ending this morning. Other production areas generally received 0.50 to just over 4.00 inches of rain, though several locations in southern Bahia, extreme northeastern Minas Gerais, and southern Rio Grande do Sul received light amounts of rain or were mostly dry.



Temperatures were near normal with highest readings in the 80s and 90s Fahrenheit. Lowest temperatures were in the 50s and 60s with pockets in Mato Grosso and Mato Grosso do Sul only cooling to the lower 70s.

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Soil moisture is rated adequate to excessive in much of Brazil despite several areas in the northeast receiving little to no rain. Rapidly rising river and stream flows throughout interior southern Brazil have many areas under flood warning. Most of the river levels have not reached the “danger” level as Brazilian authorities’ state, but they have reached the warning level. Some damage to crops and property is suspected, although the extent of which is not yet fully understood. There is some potential for production cuts.

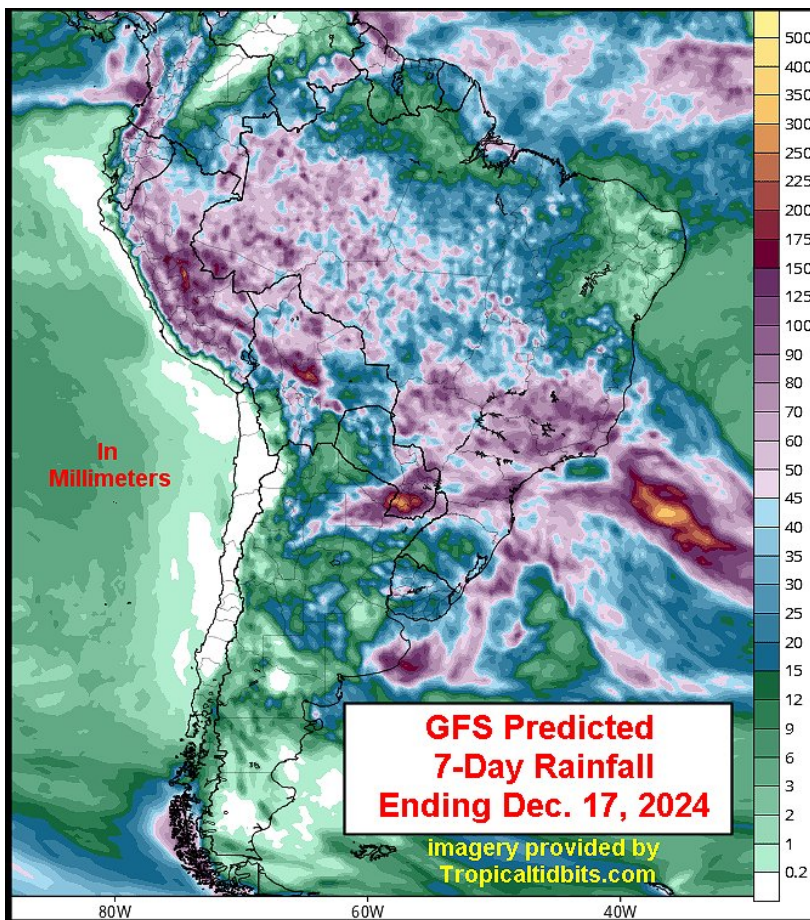




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Planting remains ahead of last year's pace for Brazil. As of December 1, soybean planting was 90% complete, up from 83.1% this time last year. First-season corn planting was 65.1% finished compared to 60% last year. Dry bean planting was 58% finished while 82.6% of the rice was in the ground. Cotton planting is only underway in a few locations with 2.1% of the crop planted. In the meantime, winter wheat harvesting is winding down with 97.7% of the crop out of the ground. Only a few locations in Rio Grande do Sul and Santa Catarina had not yet finished with the harvest.

Additional rain during the past week continued to support a good environment for soybean, first-season corn, and other crop establishment and early-season growth outside of the flooded region. Planted acreage for soybeans was expected to be larger than last year and yields will potentially be greater or much greater than usual as a result as long as no seriously adverse weather evolves. Timely rain is still needed in the coming weeks to maintain a favorable outlook for crops outside of the interior south where flooding demands drier weather immediately. Early season planting delays of soybeans may still have some producers and traders concerned about Safrinha crop planting and a close watch on the soybean harvest season will be warranted to make sure the harvest goes quickly.



### WEATHER OUTLOOK

Brazil's main production areas will have several opportunities for rain this week. Most locations outside Rio Grande do Sul will initially see scattered showers and thunderstorms occur through Thursday morning. A disturbance will generate some of the most significant rain in portions of Parana and immediate neighboring locations today. A disturbance will then help promote more widespread and significant rain late Thursday into this weekend. Parana and Santa Catarina into Mato

Grosso do Sul, Sao Paulo, and southern Minas Gerais will receive 1.50 to 5.00 inches of rain and locally more which implies some potential for additional flooding and damage, despite some drying over the next few days.

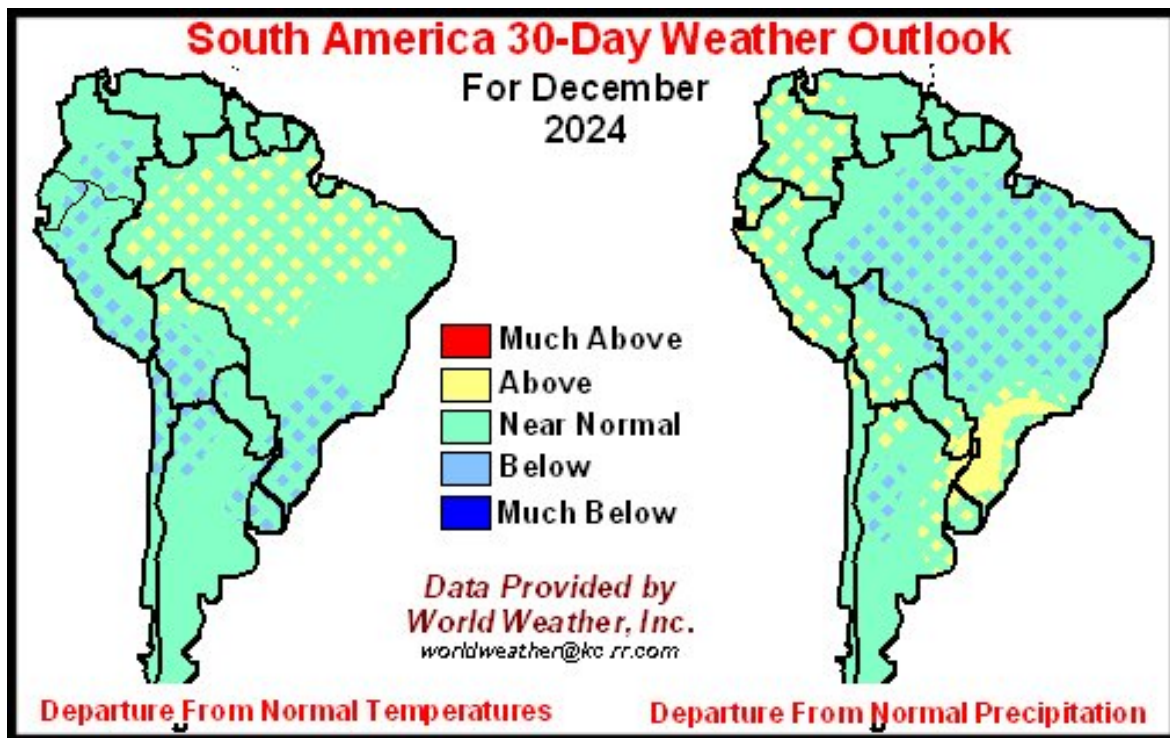
Mato Grosso, Goias, northern Minas Gerais, southern Bahia, Rio de Janeiro, Espirito Santo, and Rio Grande do Sul will receive 0.75 to 3.00 inches of rain and locally greater

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amounts. A similar weather pattern is expected December 17 – 23, though portions of southern Brazil may trend a little drier than normal.

Rainfall in the coming two weeks will be enough to keep soil moisture at adequate to excessive levels in much of crop country. *The rain will also be spread out enough to limit flooding, although the rain returning to the interior south late this week must be closely monitored for possibly more damage.* Planting and general fieldwork may advance slowly in the wettest locations, though producers should still find times to plant between rain events. Establishment and early-season development conditions will remain favorable. Late-season winter wheat harvesting should advance more swiftly between rain events as well in Rio Grande do Sul and Santa Catarina.

*The strongly rising Southern Oscillation Index and developing La Nina-like conditions could lead to net drying in eastern Argentina, Uruguay and western and southern Rio Grande do Sul Brazil. There is also potential for some drying later this month in southwestern Paraguay. The potential changing conditions have been advertised by World Weather, Inc. since early to mid-November and the support for the change is still good.*



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