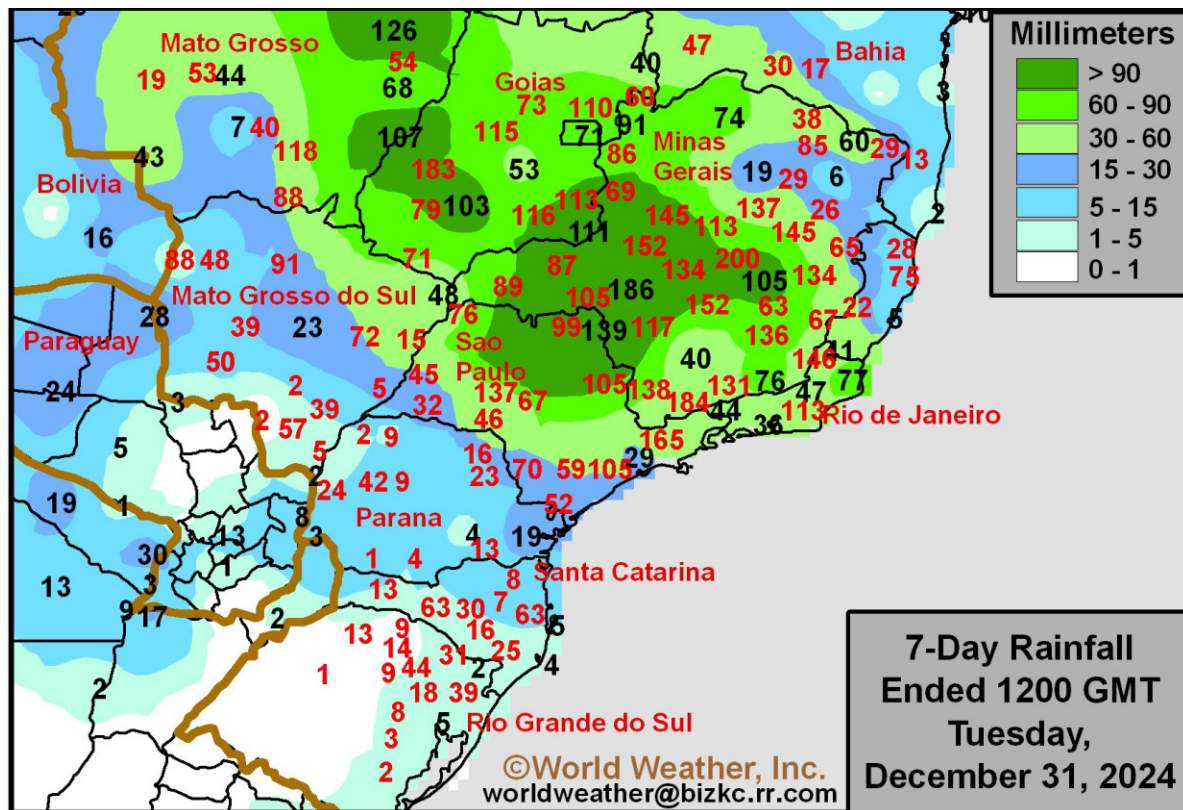


Southern Brazil Will Continue To Dry Down

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, January 1 (World Weather Inc.) – Several areas in southern Brazil were dry or receive limited rainfall during the past week. The region still had ample moisture to support aggressive growth despite the lack of rain. With at least another week to ten days of drier than normal conditions, additional drying is expected. The need for timely rain will increase later this month to maintain a good environment for soybeans, rice and first-season corn. Other locations in Brazil received enough rain to maintain aggressive growth. Waves of rain will persist in the coming week. Minas Gerais may receive enough rain to promote localized flooding that may damage a minor amount of crop. Overall production potentials will remain generally favorable.

Rainfall varied significantly across the main production areas in Brazil during the past week. Minas Gerais, Goiás, much of Sao Paulo outside the southwest corner, and much of Mato Grosso received anywhere from 1.50 to 5.00 inches with local amounts near 8.00 inches in Minas Gerais for the seven-day period ending Tuesday morning. Southern Bahia, Mato Grosso do Sul, and southwestern Sao Paulo received 0.50 to 3.50 inches with pockets in southern Mato Grosso do Sul that received little or no rain. Parana, Santa Catarina, and the eastern half of Rio Grande do Sul received 0.16 to 1.18 inches of rain with local amounts up to 2.50 inches. Western Rio Grande do Sul was mostly dry.

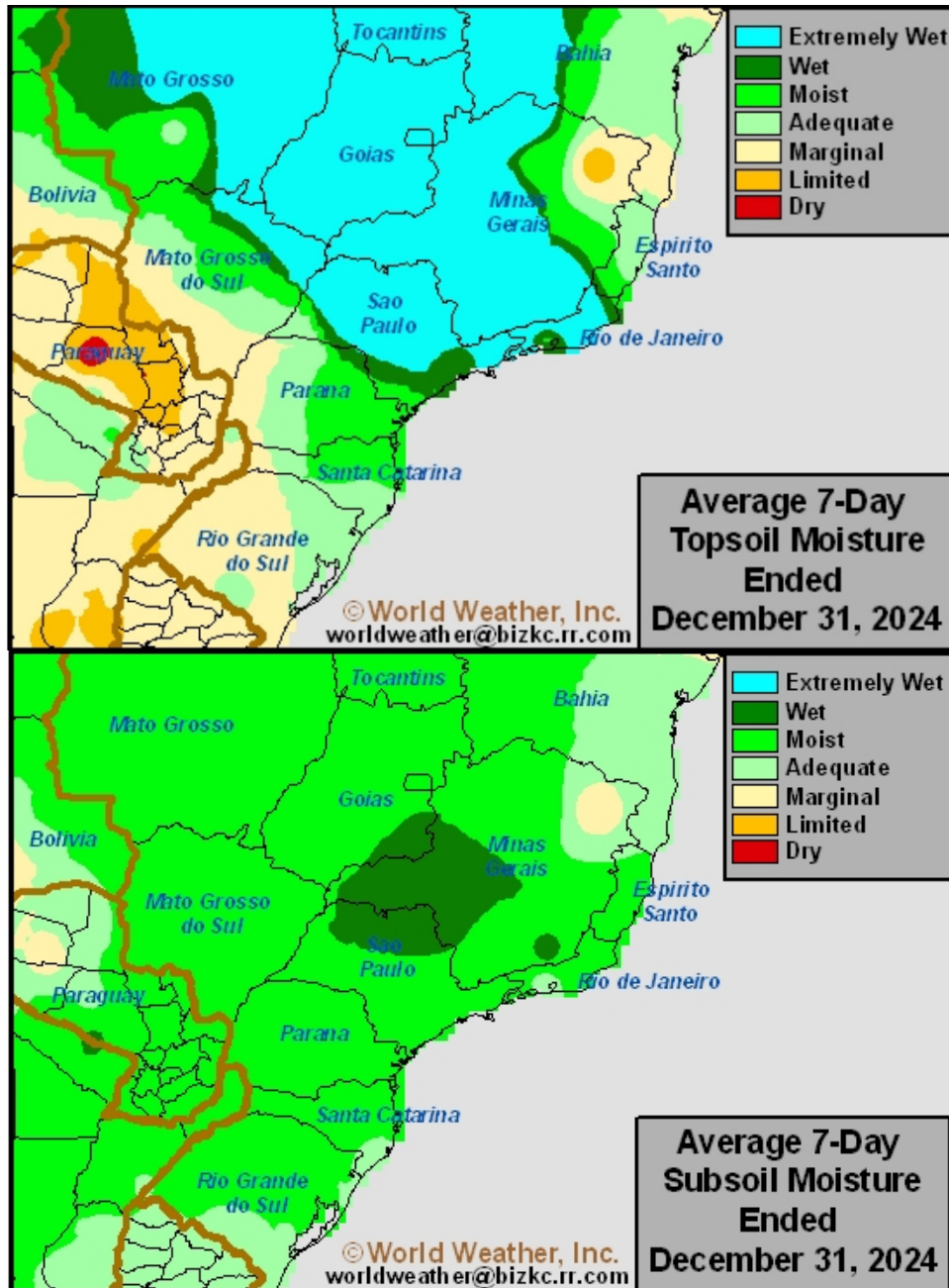


Temperatures were near normal with highest readings in the 80s and lower 90s Fahrenheit. Pockets in southern Brazil also only warmed to the 70s. Lowest temperatures

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were in the 50s and 60s with pockets in Mato Grosso and Minas Gerais only cooling to the lower 70s.

Soil moisture is rated adequate to excessive in much of Brazil. However, portions of western Rio Grande do Sul have marginally adequate moisture in the topsoil due to the lack of rain during the past week. Localized flooding was possible in the wettest areas of Minas Gerais, though overall damage was suspected of being minimal.

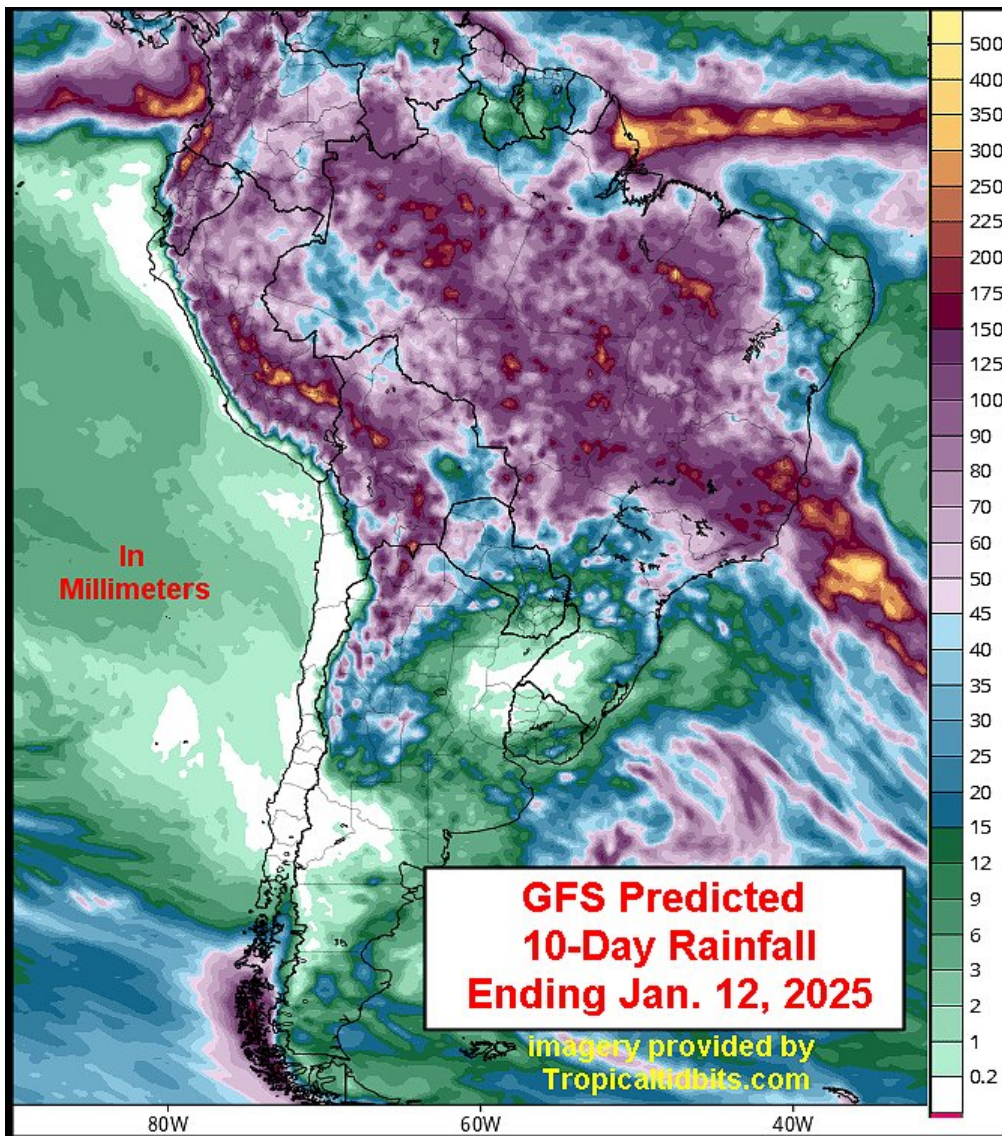


Planting is winding down in much of Brazil. As of December 29, soybean planting was 98.2% complete. First-season corn planting was 80.8% finished. Rice planting was 92.8% finished while 66.1% of the dry beans were in the ground. Cotton planting was

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25.2% finished. The main production areas had ample moisture to maintain aggressive growth, even in the drier areas of southern Brazil. Production potentials remain favorable for the soybeans due to the rain and greater than usual acreage.

A few locations had begun harvesting the earliest planted soybeans and first-season corn in recent days. With the harvest set to expand in the coming weeks for the early crop, the wettest locations in center-west and center-south Brazil would benefit from a break from the heavier rainfall. Additional rain in the coming weeks may slow maturation and harvesting, reduce quality, and raise concerns for wet weather diseases.



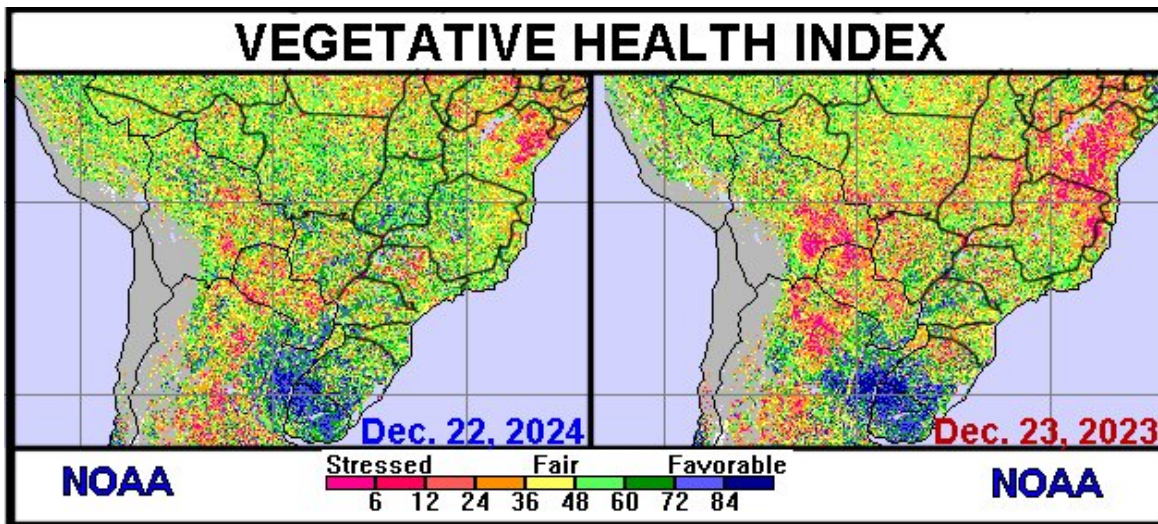
WEATHER OUTLOOK

Southern Brazil will trend drier than usual during the coming week as a La Nina-like weather pattern evolves across the country. Periods of erratic rainfall will still through Saturday as disturbances pass nearby. Moisture totals by next Tuesday morning will range from 0.35 to 1.50 inches in Parana, Santa Catarina, and northern and eastern Rio Grande do

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Sul. Other areas in Rio Grande do Sul will receive little to no rain. Temperatures will be near to slightly above normal with daytime highs often reaching the upper 70s and 80s. Areas near the Argentina and Paraguay border will often warm to the 90s as well. Low temperatures will be in the 50s and 60s with pockets only cooling to the lower 70s.

Center-west, center-south, and northeastern Brazil will receive varying amounts of rain during the coming week. Mato Grosso and Goias into Minas Gerais, southern Bahia, Rio de Janeiro, and Espirito Santo will see some of the most frequent and significant rain. Moisture totals by next Tuesday morning will range from 1.50 to 5.00 inches with local amounts of 7.00 inches or more in Minas Gerais. Mato Grosso do Sul and Sao Paulo will receive 0.50 to 2.00 inches of rain with local amounts of 3.00 inches or more in northern Mato Grosso do Sul. Temperatures will be near or slightly below normal with daytime highs reaching the 80s and lower 90s most days. However, several locations in Minas Gerais and neighboring areas will only warm to the 70s on a frequent basis due to the rain. Low temperatures will be in the 60s and 70s.



The La Nina-like weather pattern will persist for much of Brazil January 8-14. Southern Brazil and portions of Sao Paulo and southern Mato Grosso do Sul will trend drier and slightly warmer than normal. The remaining production areas will receive rain on a frequent basis with temperatures trending near or slightly below normal.

Aggressive drying is slated for much of southern Brazil during the next ten days to two weeks. The lack of abundant rain will be beneficial for the earliest planted soybeans that will be maturing in the coming weeks. However, the ground may become too dry to support ideal growth for other crops. Additional drying later in January could impact production potentials for some of the driest fields.

The remaining production areas in Brazil will have ample moisture to support aggressive growth in the coming weeks. Localized flooding will be a concern in Minas Gerais and neighboring locations, though crop and structural damage should be minimal. Aggressive soybean and first-season corn development is expected. Maturation and harvesting may remain sluggish and the need for drier weather will increase. Early-season planting prospects for the Safrinha corn will otherwise remain relatively good.

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