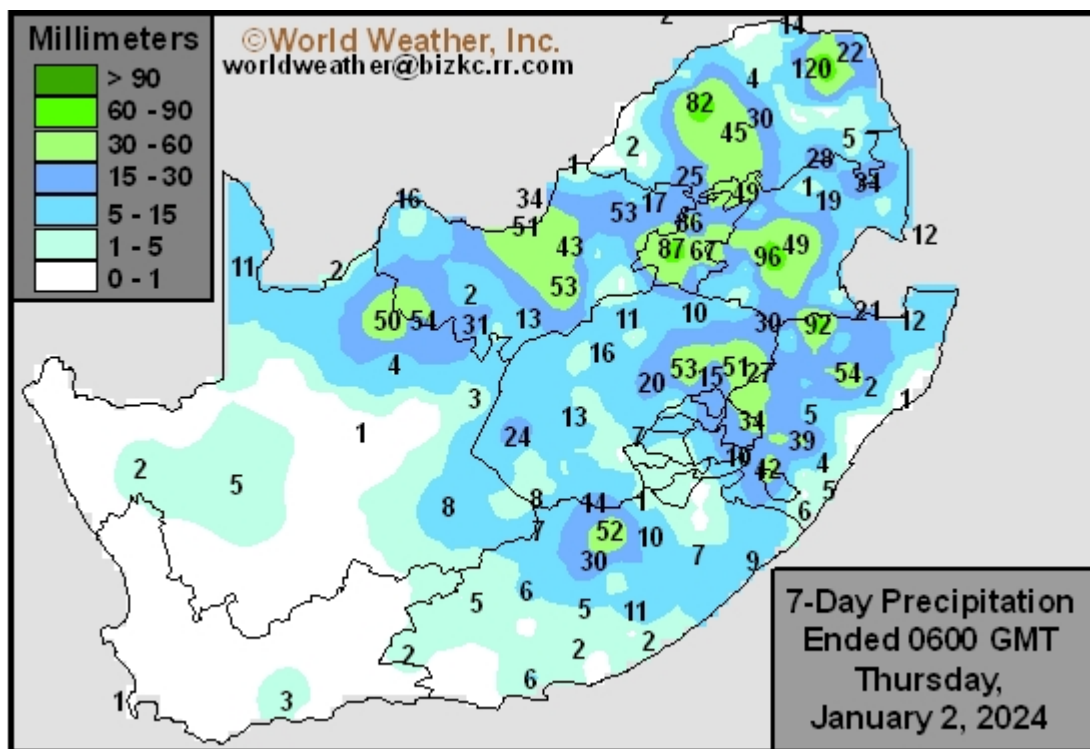


South Africa Rain Will Persist During Coming Week

By Andrew Owen

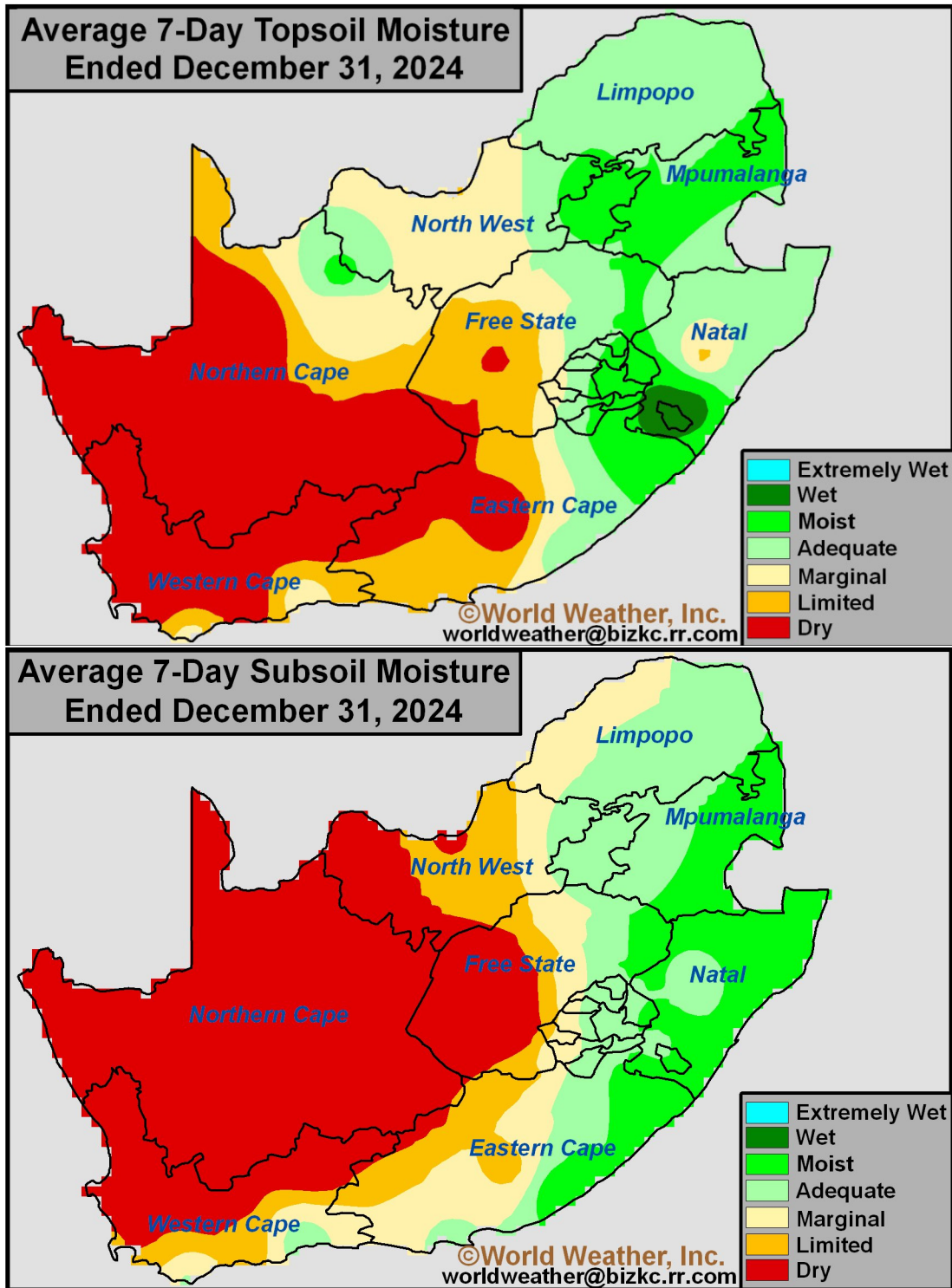
Kansas City, January 2 (World Weather Inc.) – *An active weather pattern was noted in the main production areas of South Africa during the past week. Rainfall was enough to bolster soil moisture and support a better environment for crop developments, though many areas in Free State and North West need additional rain to completely fix the moisture deficits.* Scattered showers and thunderstorms will continue on a frequent basis during the coming week. Localized flooding will be a growing concern in Natal and neighboring locations, though crop and structural damage will be minimal. The environment will otherwise improve or remain favorable for aggressive establishment and growth for the summer grains, oilseeds, cotton, and other crops.

Natal, Mpumalanga, Limpopo, and Gauteng into North West, northeastern Northern Cape, and eastern Free State received rain on a frequent basis during the past week. Moisture totals for the seven-day period ending this morning generally ranged from 0.50 to 3.50 inches with local amounts upwards of 4.75 inches; although a few pockets only received 0.20 to 0.50 inch of moisture. Western Free State and portions of Eastern Cape received 0.20 to 1.18 inches of rain with a local total just over 2.00 inches in northern Eastern Cape. Little to no rain was noted elsewhere.



Temperatures during the past week were above normal with highest readings in the upper 80s and 90s Fahrenheit. Portions of western and northern South Africa also warmed above 100 degrees at times. Lowest temperatures were in the 50s and 60s with pockets in the east only cooling to the 70s.

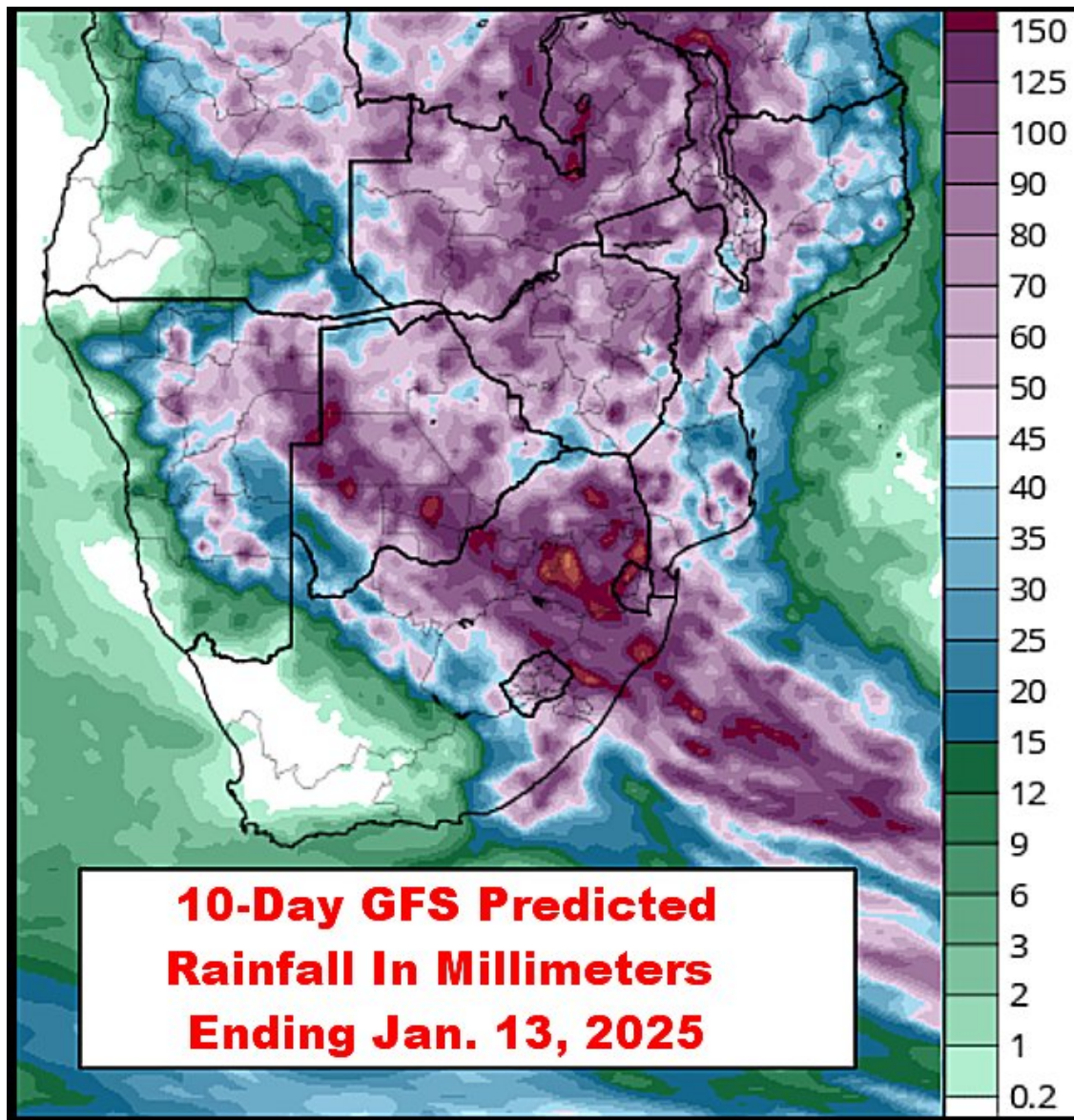
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Eastern South Africa received enough rain to keep soil moisture at adequate levels in recent days. Many areas in North West, Free State, and Eastern Cape received enough rain to bolster soil moisture, though there are still several production areas in Free State and North West with a shortage of moisture. Western South Africa generally has short to very short soil moisture.

South Africa Rain Will Persist During Coming Week

Planting should be winding down in the main production areas of eastern and central South Africa. However, areas previously struggling with dryness in Free State and North West may still have a few weeks of planting ahead as producers waited for timely rain before putting a significant amount of crop in the ground. Establishment and early-season development conditions either improved or remained favorable across the country due to recent rainfall. The driest areas in Free State and North West are still in need of more rain to fix the moisture deficits and promote ideal long-term crop prospects. Overall production potentials for the country this season are favorable.



WEATHER OUTLOOK

Waves of erratic rain will persist for eastern and central South Africa during the coming week. Scattered showers will occur on a near daily basis due to the La Nina-like

South Africa Rain Will Persist During Coming Week

weather pattern that tends to enhance rainfall in the main production areas. Rainfall by next Thursday morning will range from 2.00 to 6.00 inches in Natal, Mpumalanga, Limpopo, and Gauteng with local amounts of 8.00 inches or more in Natal. Free State, North West, Eastern Cape, and eastern fringes of Northern Cape will receive 0.75 to 3.00 inches of rain with local amounts of 4.00 inches or more. Western Cape and the remaining portions of Northern Cape will receive little to no rain. Eastern and central South Africa will again have several opportunities for rain January 10 – 16, though rain totals may trend a little lower in Free State and North West compared to the first week of the outlook.

Temperatures will be near normal for South Africa during the coming week due to the waves of rain. The eastern half of the country will warm to the 70s and 80s most often with pockets warming to the 90s during drier periods. Western South Africa will warm to the 80s and 90s with pockets warming above 100 degrees. Low temperatures will be in the 50s and 60s with pockets in eastern South Africa only cooling to the 70s. Seasonable to seasonably warm weather is slated for much of the country January 10 – 16.

Additional rain will further bolster soil moisture for the main production areas during the coming week. Localized flooding will be a concern in Natal and immediate neighboring locations. Minor crop and structural damage will be possible, though overall production impacts should be minimal. Development conditions will either improve or remain favorable across crop country. Late-season planting and general fieldwork will likely advance around the rain as well.

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