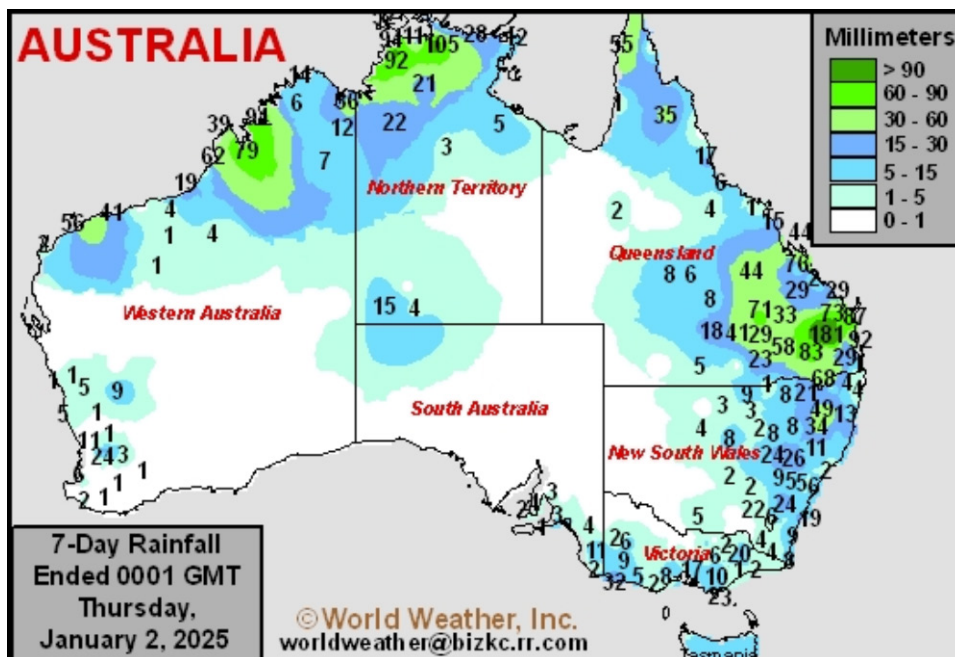


Eastern Australia Dryland Summer Crops Need Moisture Boost

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, January 2 (World Weather Inc.) – [Dryland summer crops in Queensland and New South Wales, Australia are experiencing a growing need for greater precipitation. Some locally heavy rain fell in portions of southeastern Queensland during this past week, but a large portion of the state's unirrigated summer crops and those in New South Wales are in need of significant rain to fix long term moisture deficits and ease crop stress.](#) Periods of hot weather were also noted, which accelerated drying between rain events. Summer grains, oilseeds, cotton, and other crops may have been stressed during the warmest periods. The need for rain is high in order to improve development conditions. [Drier and warmer than normal weather will persist for the next seven days in several areas and the environment will further deteriorate for some summer crops.](#) Meanwhile, late-season harvesting of winter grains in southern Australia will continue with few disruptions.

Southeastern Queensland saw several waves of rain during the past week. Moisture totals for the seven-day period ending this morning ranged from 0.91 to 3.27 inches with locally greater amounts outside the main production areas. Some of the greater rainfall included 5.08 inches and 7.13 inches of rain and local flooding may have resulted. In contrast, portions of central and south-central Queensland into eastern New South Wales and portions of Victoria and South Australia received 0.12 to 1.02 inches of rain, though several fields missed out on the rain. Western Australia and the remaining locations in Queensland and New South Wales received little to no rain.

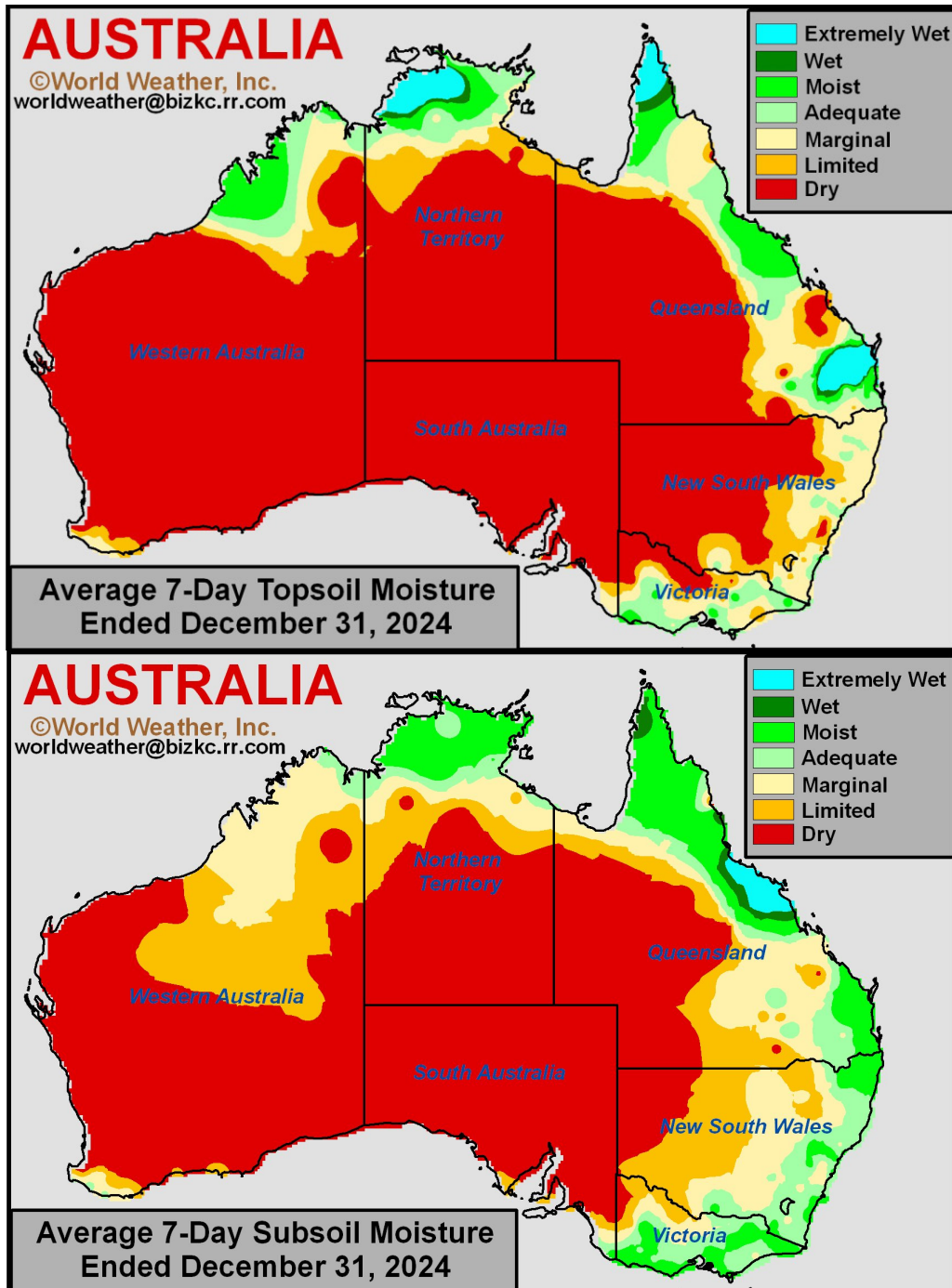


Temperatures were often above normal with highest readings ranging from 90 to 110 degrees Fahrenheit in the main production areas. However, portions of South Australia only

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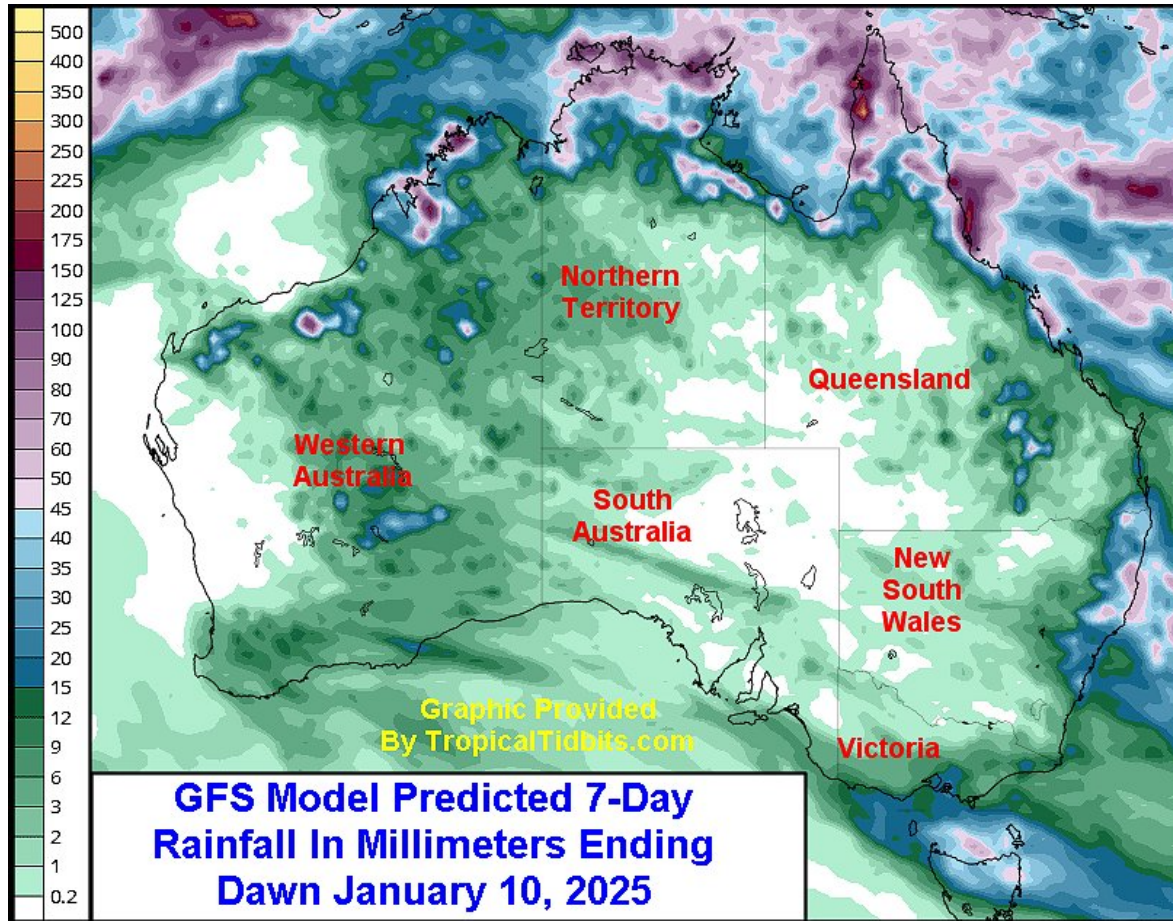
saw highest readings in the 80s. Lowest temperatures were in the 40s and 50s with portions of Queensland and northern New South Wales only cooling to the 60s and lower 70s.

Soil moisture is marginally adequate or adequate in portions of Victoria and eastern fringes of crop country in New South Wales and Queensland. However, a large section of eastern Australia is quite dry. Dryness in Western Australia, South Australia and northwestern Victoria is not unusual at this time of year.



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Rain was welcome where it occurred during the past week in eastern Australia. However, many important (unirrigated) summer grain, oilseed and cotton areas did not receive enough rain to fix the moisture deficits. The lack of moisture combined with periods of hot weather may have impacted development rates. The need for rain is high in order to improve crop growth and reduce concerns for production losses this season. The lack of abundant rain was otherwise beneficial for producers that have not yet finished with the winter grain harvest.



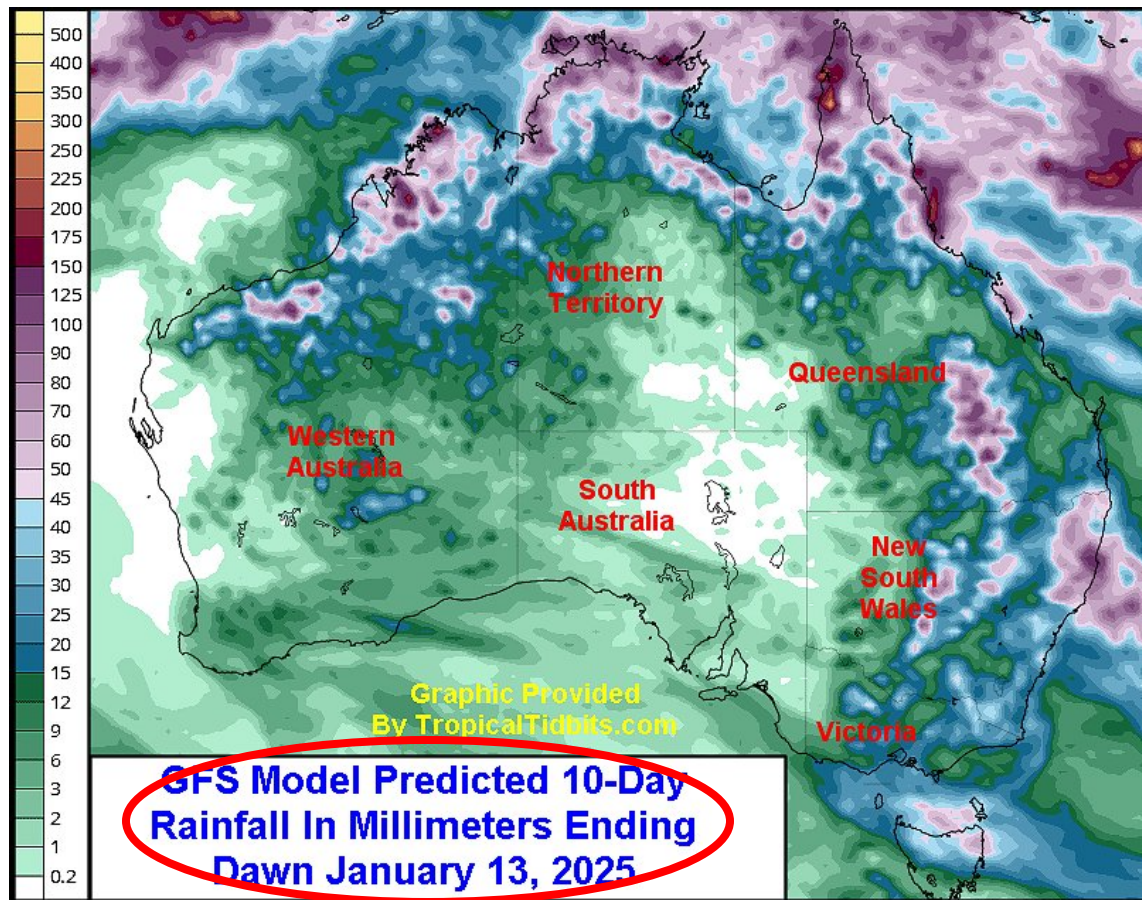
WEATHER OUTLOOK

Drier-than-normal weather will persist for much of Australia during the coming week. Disturbances will still promote periods of light and erratic rainfall in Western Australia. South Australia and eastern Australia will also have a few opportunities for erratic rainfall, most notably this weekend into the middle of next week. Moisture totals by next Thursday morning will range from 0.10 to 0.75 inch with portions of southeastern Queensland receiving 1.50 inches or slightly more of moisture. Many areas in western New South Wales, southwestern Queensland, and South Australia will also miss out on much of the rain.

Rain potentials are advertised to increase significantly during the January 10-16 period. Resulting rainfall during this time may be great enough to bolster topsoil moisture in portions of key summer crop areas including some of the driest areas of Queensland

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and New South Wales. Additional follow up rain will be needed to fully restore soil moisture, but there is potential for relief. World Weather, Inc. believes the odds are quite good that heavy rainfall will fall later this summer in Queensland and northern New South Wales due to very warm ocean surface temperatures east of the nation and a significant easterly surface wind flow later this summer. That could lead to flooding, but this first week of the outlook is certainly not poised for much rain.



Seasonable to seasonably warm weather will persist for Australia through next Thursday. Daytime highs will peak to the 80s and 90s with portions of Western Australia and South Australia warming above 100 degrees through Saturday and again toward the middle of next week. Pockets in eastern Australia will also warm above 100 degrees later this weekend into the first half of next week. Low temperatures will be in the 60s and 70s with pockets in the 50s in Queensland and northern New South Wales. Lows elsewhere will be in the 50s and 60s with pockets in the 40s. Temperatures will remain near to above normal January 10 – 16.

The environment will deteriorate across eastern Australia during the coming week as additional drying is expected. The lack of rain and periods of hot weather may again promote poor or uneven development and stress both livestock and dryland summer crops. Rainfall during the second week of the outlook could begin to improve development conditions, though it will be imperative that frequent follow up rain occurs until the soil is favorable moist throughout the production region.

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Late season winter grain harvesting will advance during this coming week without any weather-related delay.

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