

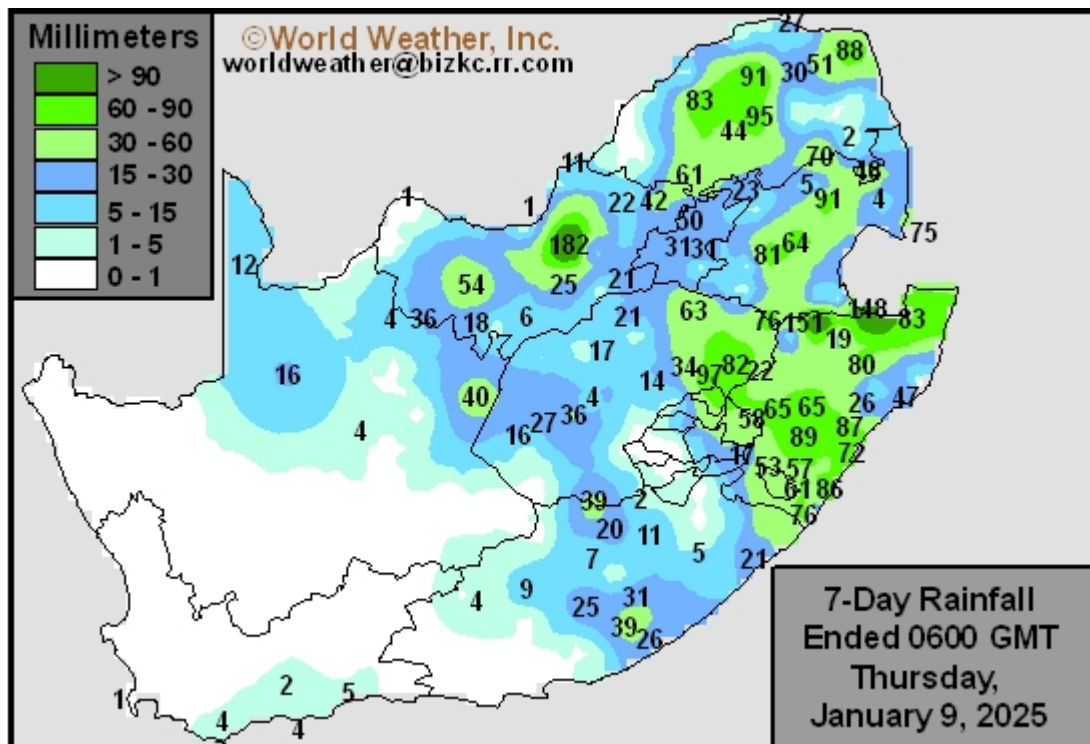
Eastern South Africa To Receive More Rain; Flooding Possible

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, January 9 (World Weather Inc.) – *The main summer crop production areas of South Africa received rain on a frequent basis during the past week. The rain helped bolster soil moisture to adequate or excessive levels and may have promoted localized flooding. Coarse grain, oilseed, cotton, and other crop development conditions either improve or remained favorable outside areas impacted by excessive moisture.*

Additional rain is slated for eastern South Africa during the coming week. The rain will keep the ground saturated and may again promote localized flooding. Crop damage should be minimal and the environment will remain generally good for new growth. *Unirrigated portions of western Free State, eastern Northern Cape and North West will otherwise dry down leading to an increasing need for timely rain later this month and early February.*

Rainfall varied significantly across South Africa during the past week. Natal, Mpumalanga, Limpopo, and eastern Free State received some of the most significant rain with totals ranging from 1.00 to 3.75 inches with local amounts up to 6.00 inches in northern Natal for the seven-day period ending this morning. Gauteng, North West, western Free State, and portions of Eastern Cape and Northern Cape received 0.50 to 2.13 inches of rain with a local amount of 7.17 inches in North West. Little to no rain was noted in Western Cape.

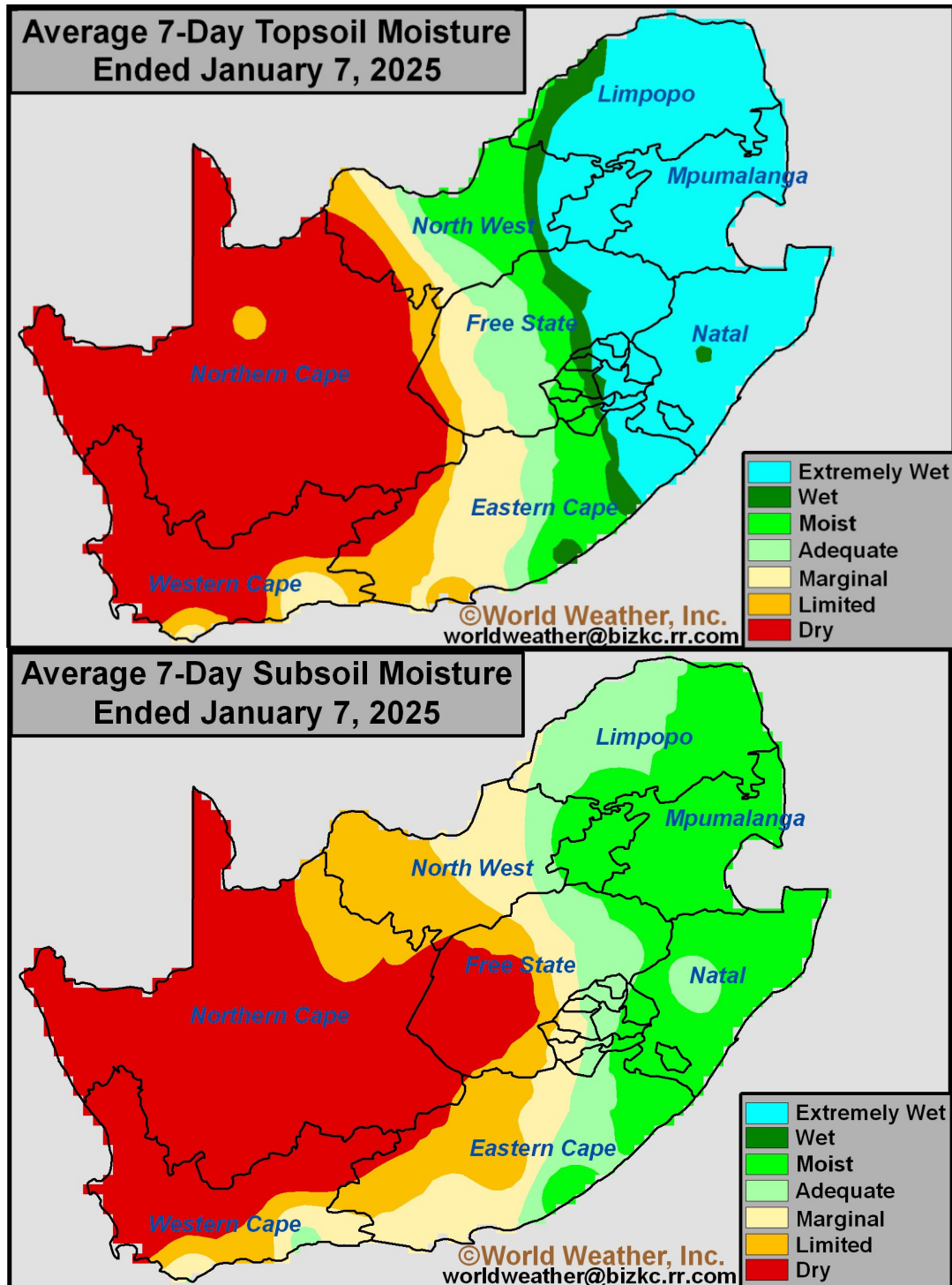


Temperatures during this past week were near or slightly above normal with daytime highs often reaching the 80s and 90s Fahrenheit. However, many areas in eastern South Africa only warmed to the 70s during periods of more significant rain. Low temperatures

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were generally in the 50s and 60s with pockets in eastern South Africa only cooling to the 70s.

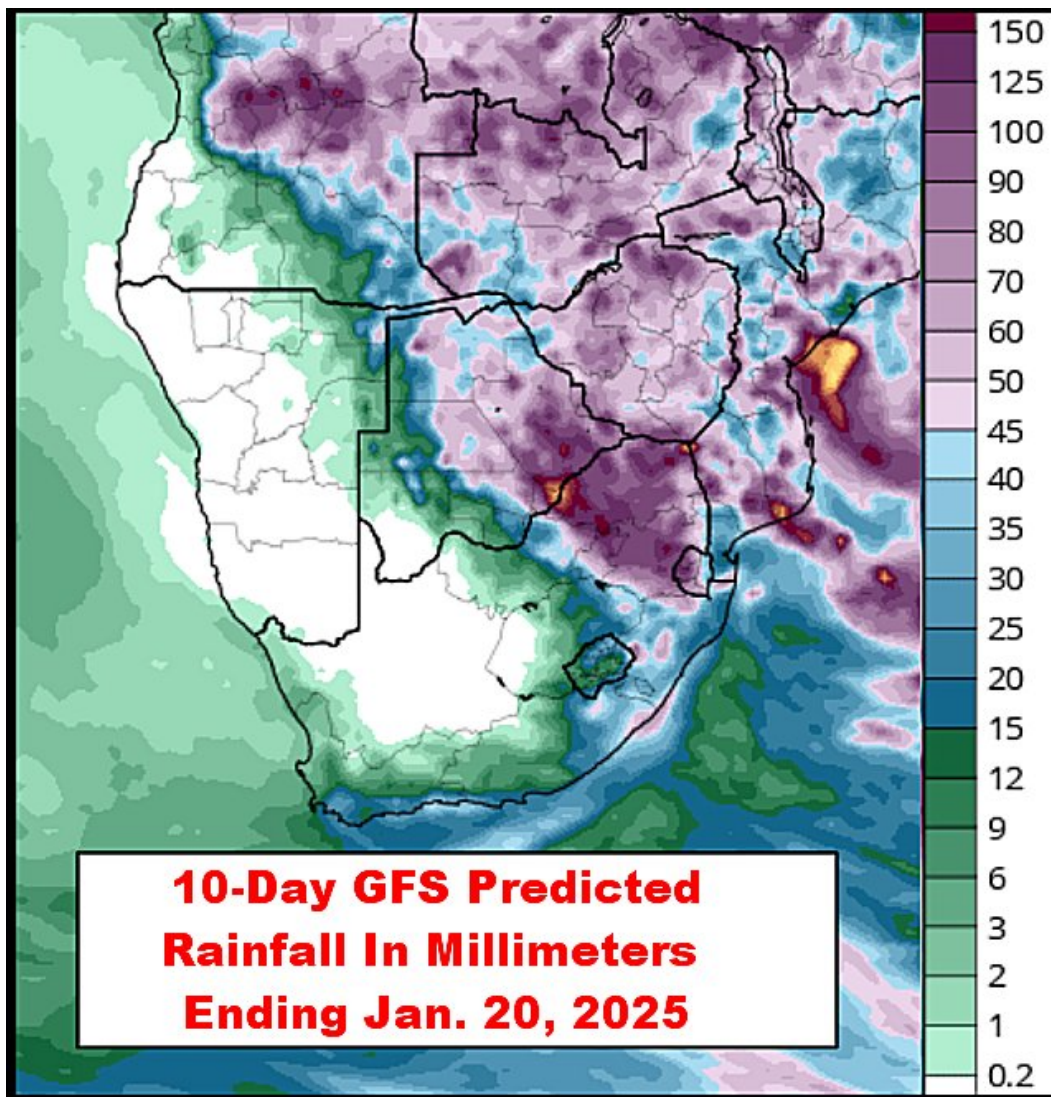
Eastern South Africa is saturated with topsoil moisture after recent rainfall. Soil moisture in Free State and North West contrasts from adequate to excessive levels in the east to short and very short in the west. Unirrigated crops in eastern Northern Cape are quite dry.



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The abundant rain in eastern South Africa maintained a relatively good environment for aggressive coarse grain, oilseed, and other crop development in recent days. The region has ample moisture to support good long-term crop conditions and the wettest locations may even benefit from a period of drier weather.

Free State, North West and neighboring locations received enough rain to improve short-term development conditions. However, most locations need additional rain to completely fix the moisture deficits and support ideal long-term crop conditions. Many non-irrigated areas in North West, eastern Northern Cape and western Free State did not receive enough rain over the planting season for ideal establishment conditions and concern for minor production declines will persist.



WEATHER OUTLOOK

The wet weather pattern will persist for eastern South Africa during the coming week. Rain will be scattered across the region on a daily basis with some of the most significant precipitation occurring Friday into Monday. Moisture totals by next Thursday

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morning will range from 2.00 to 6.00 inches in much of Natal, Mpumalanga, Limpopo, and Gauteng with local amounts of 9.00 inches or more in Limpopo. Central South Africa will also have several opportunities for rain. Most locations will receive 0.50 to 2.00 inches of rain with local amounts up to 4.00 inches in eastern North West. Portions of western Free State will also receive little or no rain. Western South Africa will be drier biased, though southern Western Cape will see periodic rain. Much of the precipitation will be too light to impact long-term soil conditions. Eastern South Africa will again have several opportunities for rain January 17 – 23. Central South Africa will receive mostly light rain while western South Africa remains drier than normal.

The temperature profile will be near or slightly below normal for South Africa through next Thursday. Daytime highs will peak to the 70s and 80s most days with portions of western South Africa often warming to the 90s. Pockets in eastern South Africa will also only warm to the 60s during periods of more significant rain. Low temperatures will be in the 50s and 60s with pockets in the east only cooling to the 70s. Seasonable to seasonably warm weather is slated for much of South Africa January 17 – 23.

Eastern South Africa will remain saturated with moisture in the coming weeks. Localized flooding will be a concern due to the additional precipitation, though crop and structural damage should be minimal. Crop development conditions will remain relatively favorable outside the wettest fields.

Free State, eastern Northern Cape and North West will have enough moisture to maintain relatively good development during the next several days as well. However, many fields may become too dry to support ideal development later this month and the need for timely rain will increase.

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