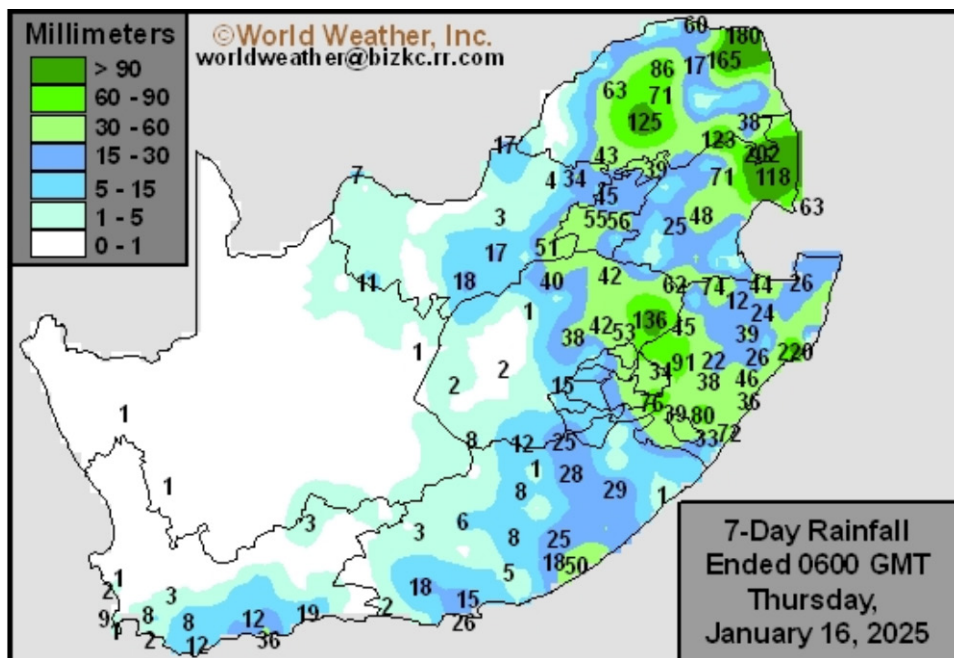


South Africa Far Western Summer Crops Need Greater Rain

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, January 16 (World Weather Inc.) – Waves of rain were noted in the eastern half of South Africa during the past week. Several locations in Limpopo and Mpumalanga received significant rain with localized flooding in portions of Limpopo. Crop damage was suspected of being minimal. Long-term crop conditions remain generally good for eastern South Africa, though the wettest locations would benefit from a period of drier weather to firm up the soil. [Western sections of Free State and North West otherwise dried down during the past week and the need for rain increased.](#) The eastern half of the country will see a good mix of rain and sunshine during the coming week. The environment will remain favorable for aggressive growth and the wettest fields should have an opportunity to dry down. [Western sections of Free State and North West will otherwise dry down further and the need for timely rain later this month will increase.](#)

Limpopo, Mpumalanga, Natal, and eastern Free State received rain on a frequent basis during the past week. Moisture totals for the seven-day period ending this morning ranged from 1.00 to 3.75 inches with several pockets receiving upwards of 8.66 inches of rain. Gauteng, eastern North West, and portions of Eastern Cape received 0.32 to 2.20 inches of rain. Southern Western Cape received 0.32 to 1.42 inches of moisture. A few locations in western and central North West received 0.28 to 0.71 inch of rain while pockets in western Free State received up to 0.32 inch of rain. Little to no rain was noted elsewhere.

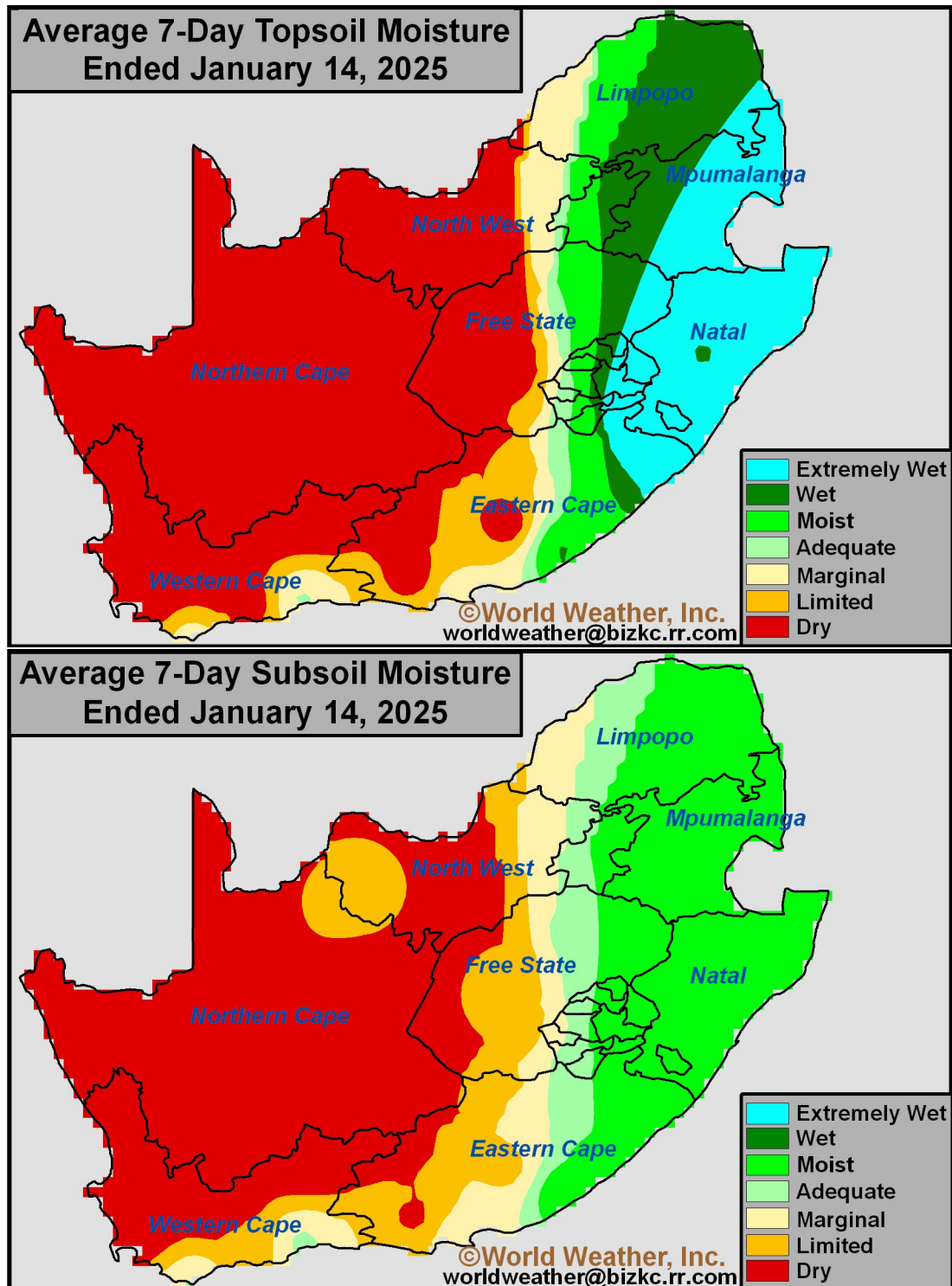


Temperatures were near to above normal with highest readings in the 80s and 90s. Lowest temperatures were in the 50s and 60s with pockets in central and western South Africa cooling to the 40s in recent days.

[The eastern half of South Africa has adequate to excessive soil moisture due to recent rainfall. Localized flooding was noted in Limpopo and may have occurred in the](#)

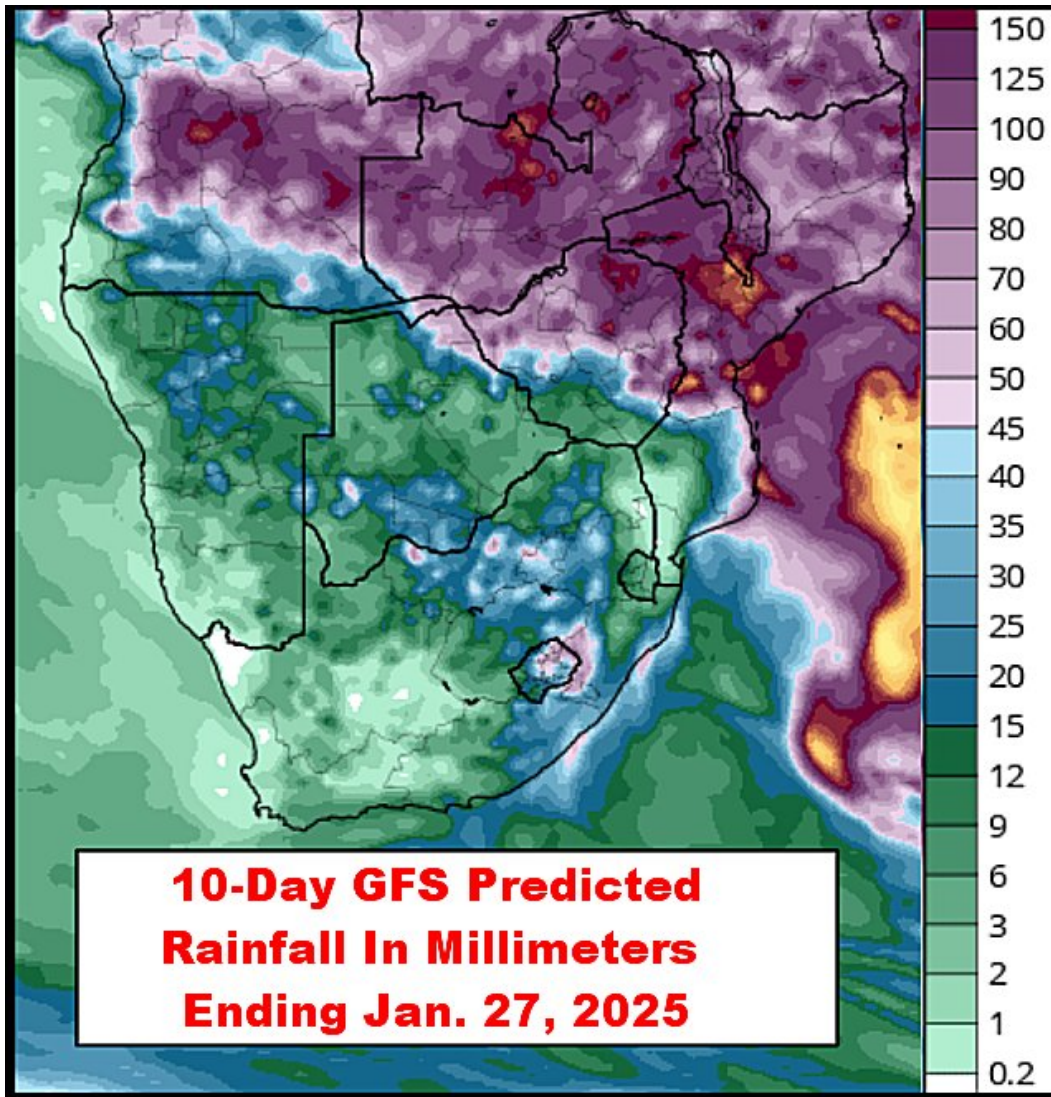
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wettest areas of Mpumalanga and Natal as well. However, no significant crop impacts were suspected. Western South Africa generally has a shortage of moisture due to the lack of significant rain and periods of warm or hot weather in recent weeks.



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The environment remained generally favorable for aggressive growth for the coarse grains, oilseeds, cotton, and other crops produced this time of year in the eastern half of South Africa. The wettest fields would benefit from drier weather in the near future to maintain a good outlook. In the meantime, western sections of Free State and North West have struggled with dryness at times so far in the growing season and yield potentials may be slipping lower in unirrigated areas.



WEATHER OUTLOOK

The eastern half of South Africa will see a mix of erratic rain and sunshine during the coming week. Rain will occur on a near daily basis with some of the most significant precipitation occurring toward the middle of next week. Moisture totals by next Thursday morning will range from 0.50 to 2.00 inches in much of Natal, Mpumalanga, Limpopo, Gauteng, and eastern sections of Free State, North West, and Eastern Cape. Local rain totals of 3.00 inches or slightly more will also be possible in Natal. The remaining locations in South Africa will either be dry or not receive enough rain to counter evaporation. The

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eastern half of the country will again see a mix of erratic rain and sunshine January 24 – 30 while western South Africa remains drier than normal.

The temperature profile will trend near or slightly above normal for South Africa through next Thursday. Daytime highs will peak to the 80s and 90s most often with several areas in eastern South Africa only warming to the 70s due to rain and cloudiness. 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 will persist January 24 – 30.

Eastern South Africa will have enough moisture to maintain aggressive crop development in the coming weeks. The wettest fields will dry down slowly and concerns for wet weather diseases will decrease. Western sections of Free State and North West will otherwise remain too dry to support favorable development conditions. The need for rain will increase further in order to reduce concerns for production losses.

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