

# Eastern Australia Summer Crops Stressed By Heat, Dryness

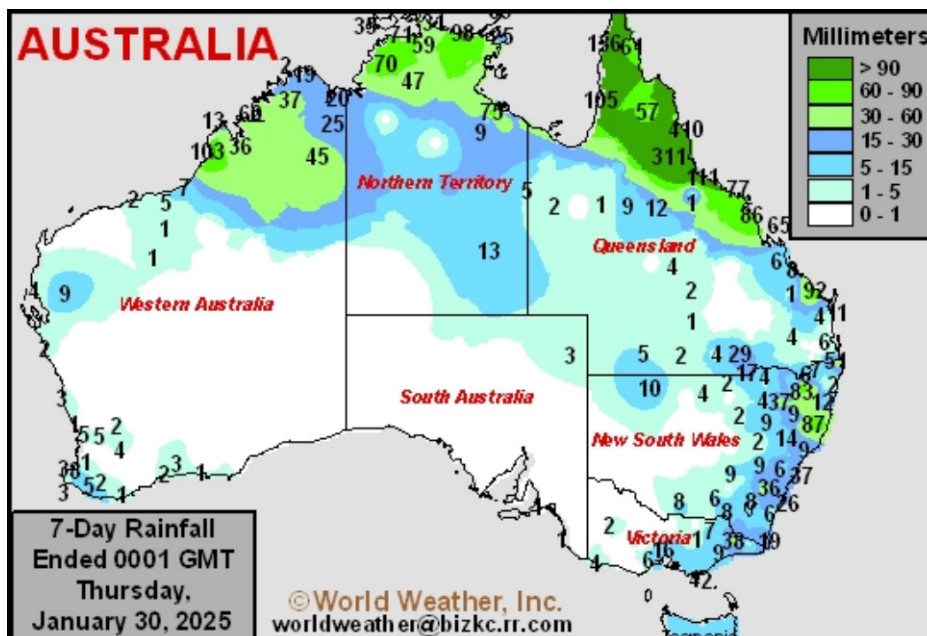
By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, January 30 (World Weather Inc.) – [Hot and dry weather severely depleted soil moisture across Australia during the past week. The harsh conditions likely slowed development of summer grain, oilseeds, cotton, and other crop production in eastern Australia. All crops and livestock have been stressed and unirrigated crops will continue stressed until significant rain and cooler weather evolves. Dryland crops have been most seriously impacted and may experience a notable decline in yield potential without change soon. Irrigated summer crops have only been subjected to excessive heat for a few days at a time and are likely dealing with the situation far better than other crops. Another week of similar conditions is slated for most agricultural areas.](#)

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A few pockets in southern Queensland, northern and eastern New South Wales, and central Victoria received 0.20 to 0.67 inch of rain with a local total of 1.14 inches in southern Queensland for the seven-day period ending this morning. However, a large section of eastern Australia and South Australia received little to no rain and none of the precipitation was enough to counter evaporation rates resulting from very warm to hot temperatures. Pockets in southwestern Western Australia received up to 0.20 inch of rain as well, though a large section of crop country was dry.

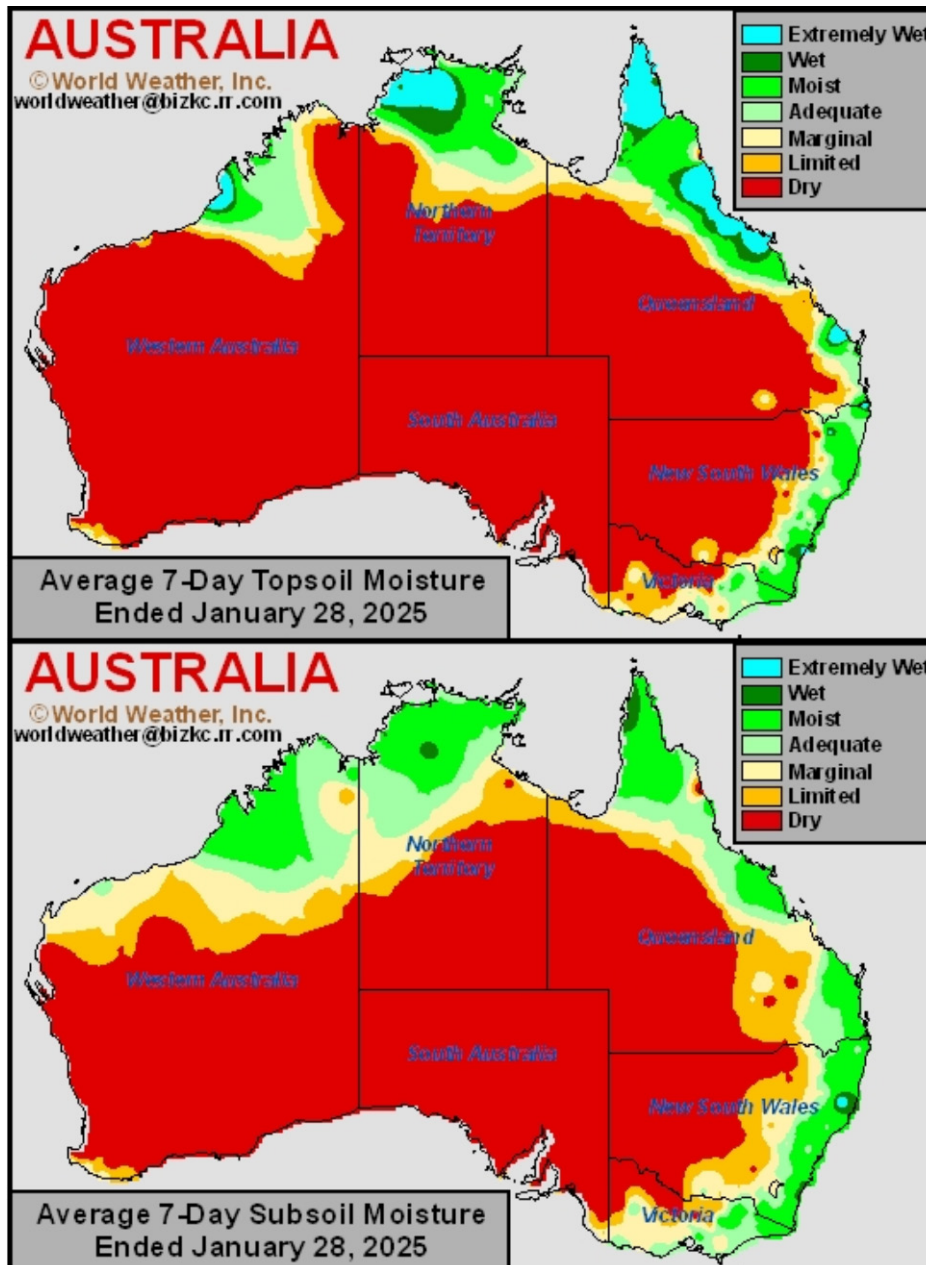
Temperatures this past week often surged above and well above normal with highest readings ranging from 95 to 110 degrees Fahrenheit in much of Australia's main production areas. [Several areas – mostly in livestock country – reported highs as great as 110 to 117 resulting in the most serious conditions.](#)



Soil moisture in unirrigated areas is rated critically short in a large section of Australia. Only a few locations in Victoria and eastern fringes of crop country in New South Wales have marginally adequate moisture due to rainfall earlier this summer.

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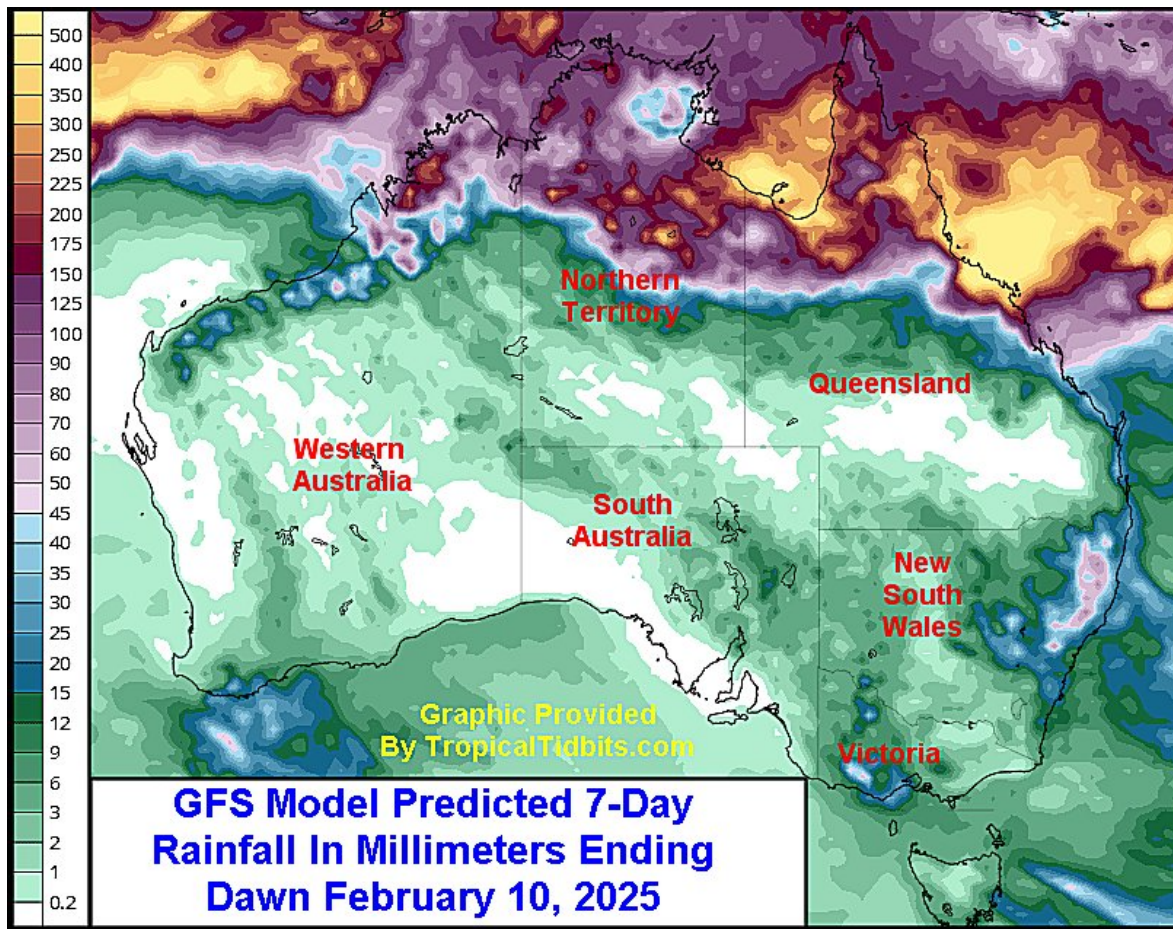
Excessive heat and a lack of rain in recent weeks have rapidly dried out the soil in the main summer crop areas of Queensland, New South Wales, and Victoria. All crops and livestock have been stressed at one time or another and will continue stressed in unirrigated areas until significant rain falls or a notable cooling trend evolves. The most serious conditions in this past week occurred in agricultural areas of interior Queensland and in northern New South Wales west of the Great Dividing Range, although there were a few days of excessive heat in Victoria, South Australia and coastal Queensland as well.



## WEATHER OUTLOOK

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Unusually dry and warm to hot weather will persist for much of Australia during the coming week. Spotty rain will occur at times in eastern Australia - most notably through early next week. A few locations in Victoria, New South Wales, and southern Queensland will receive 0.25 to 1.00 inch of rain by next Thursday morning. However, most locations will either miss out on the rain or not receive enough to counter evaporation. South Australia and Western Australia will be mostly dry as well. Drier-than-normal weather will persist for much of eastern Australia, South Australia, and Western Australia February 7-13.



Warmer-than-normal weather will persist for Australia during the coming week as well. Daytime highs will continue to range from 90 to 110 degrees with pockets in Victoria and South Australia only warming to the 80s at times. Low temperatures will be in the 60s and 70s with pockets in Queensland and New South Wales only cooling to the lower 80s at times. The temperature profile will remain warmer than normal February 7 – 13 as well.

Crop conditions will continue to deteriorate for at least the next ten days to two weeks except in irrigated fields in the east where temperatures will not be as hot and where water supply will be sufficient to keep crops viable. **Unirrigated crop declines will be greatest and some of the western production areas in Queensland and New South may suffer the greatest decline in production potential without rain soon due to dryness that was present earlier in the summer.** Soil moisture will remain short or critically short in the main production areas, although irrigated areas will continue to experience the best

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*overall conditions and yield potentials will be favorable unless excessive heat impacts the region again for a significant period of time.*

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