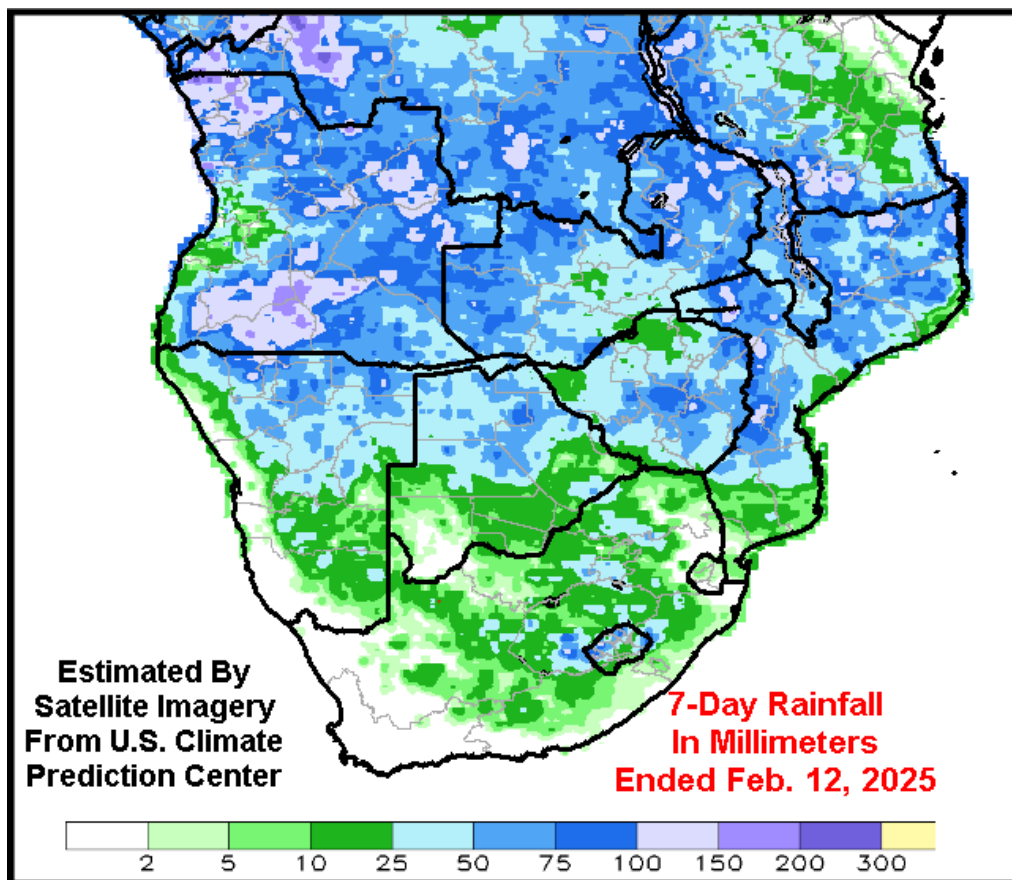


South Africa Will Remain Wet; Localized Flooding A Concern

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, February 13 (World Weather Inc.) – Waves of rain were noted in much of South Africa's summer grain, oilseed, and cotton areas since the beginning of February. **Portions of Free State and North West did not receive enough rain to fix the moisture deficits and are still looking for more significant precipitation in the coming weeks.** Eastern South Africa otherwise had ample moisture to maintain aggressive growth. The main production areas will again have several opportunities for rain during the coming week. **A disturbance will bring heavier rainfall to North West and neighboring locations next week that will likely fix the dryness in several locations. Localized flooding will be a concern as well, though crop damage should be minimal. Conditions will either improve or remain favorable across crop country.**

Natal, Mpumalanga, Gauteng, eastern sections of Free State and North West, and southern Limpopo received some of the most significant rain in South Africa since early this month. Moisture totals from February 1 – 10 ranged from an estimated 1.00 to 4.00 inches with locally greater amounts. Other areas in Limpopo, Free State, and North West into much of Eastern Cape and eastern fringes of Northern Cape received 0.39 to 2.00 inches of rain during this time. The remaining locations in western South Africa received near to below normal rainfall.



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Temperatures this past week were suspected of being near to above normal in recent weeks since the beginning of February despite the periods of rain in the east.

The eastern half of South Africa likely has adequate to excessive soil moisture due to the waves of rain in recent weeks. Portions of western Free State and North West still have a shortage of moisture due to the lack of abundant precipitation. Northern Cape and Western Cape generally have a shortage of moisture, which is common this time of year.

Crop conditions are generally favorable in eastern and some central summer crop areas in South Africa. The eastern half of the production region received timely rain so far this season to support relatively aggressive growth. The main concern remains the ongoing dryness in portions of Free State, North West and easternmost parts of Northern Cape. The driest fields received erratic rainfall in recent weeks that likely supported some growth. However, these areas have not received enough rain for ideal crop conditions and would welcome more significant rain in the near future. Yield potentials in the east half of the nation remain favorable, though dryland areas in the west will see some production cuts.

WEATHER OUTLOOK

A wet biased weather pattern will persist for crop country in South Africa during the coming week. Scattered showers will initially evolve in the eastern half of the country today. Light and erratic rain will spread across eastern and central South Africa Friday and this weekend. A disturbance will then enter the country and promote more widespread and significant rain at the beginning and middle of next week. Moisture totals by next Thursday morning will range from 1.00 to 4.00 inches in a large section of crop country. However, several locations in North West, northern and eastern Free State, northeastern Northern Cape, and neighboring locations will receive 6.00 inches or slightly more of rain depending on the exact track next week's disturbance takes. Western Cape and the remaining portions of Northern Cape will either be dry during the coming week or not receive enough rain to counter evaporation. Eastern and central South Africa will then again have several opportunities for rain February 21 – 27. Western South Africa will remain drier than normal.

The temperature profile will be near to slightly above normal across South Africa during the coming week. The eastern half of the country will warm to the 70s and 80s most often with pockets occasionally warming to the 90s. Western South Africa will warm to the 80s and 90s most often with pockets only warming to the 70s. There is also potential North West and neighboring areas only warm to the 60s Monday and Tuesday due to the heavy rainfall. Low temperatures will be in the 50s and 60s with pockets only cooling to the 70s. Temperatures will remain near or slightly above normal February 21 – 27.

Rainfall in the coming weeks will be enough to bolster or keep soil moisture at adequate or excessive levels in the main production areas of South Africa. Crop development conditions will either improve or remain favorable. Localized flooding will be a concern for North West and neighboring locations next week due to the waves of heavy rain. However, crop and structural damage should be minimal. Production potentials will remain generally favorable for the country.

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