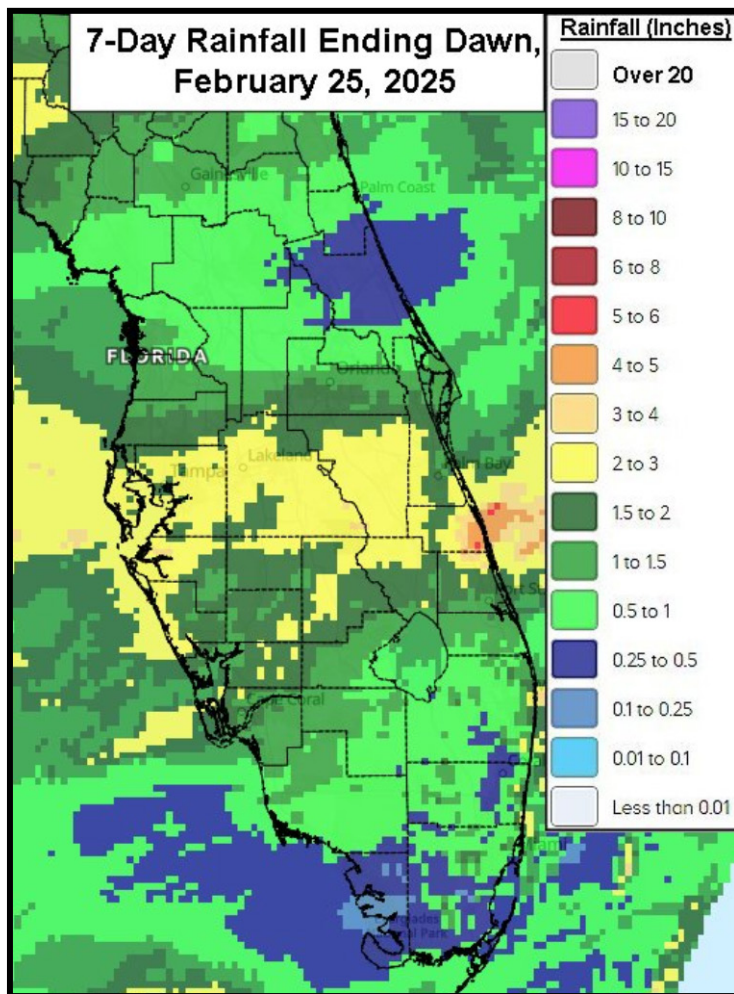


Weekly Citrus Weather

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, February 25 (World Weather Inc.) – A disturbance brought much-needed rain to **Florida** during the past 24 hours. Drought or abnormally dry conditions slowly evolved in recent weeks and the rain will help improve the moisture profile. Drier biased conditions will return during the coming week and net drying is again expected. The combination of irrigation and recent rainfall will still support a good environment for citrus. In **Brazil**, precipitation was limited in several locations during the past week. Drier-than-normal weather will persist during the coming week and the need for rain will increase later in March. Spotty rain was noted in **Mexico**'s production areas during the past week. The main citrus areas will trend drier than normal during the coming week and timely rain would be welcome later in March.

FLORIDA



Rain was noted across Florida's citrus region during the past week with much of the precipitation occurring in the most recent 24-hour period. Moisture totals for the seven-day period ending this morning ranged from 0.50 to 2.00 inches with several locations from Hillsborough and Manatee Counties into Brevard, Indian River, and Saint Lucie Counties receiving 3.00 inches or slightly more of rain. The precipitation will help improve the moisture profile, but may be too light to completely fix the drought or abnormally dry conditions that evolved earlier this year. Irrigation was used before the recent rain and continued to support a good environment for fruit and tree development. Harvesting and general farming activity may have been disrupted Monday due to the rain.

Temperatures fluctuated between above and below normal

in Florida during the past week. Highs reached the 70s and lower 80s Fahrenheit with pockets in the mid-80s February 18 – 19 and again February 23. Highs most other days were

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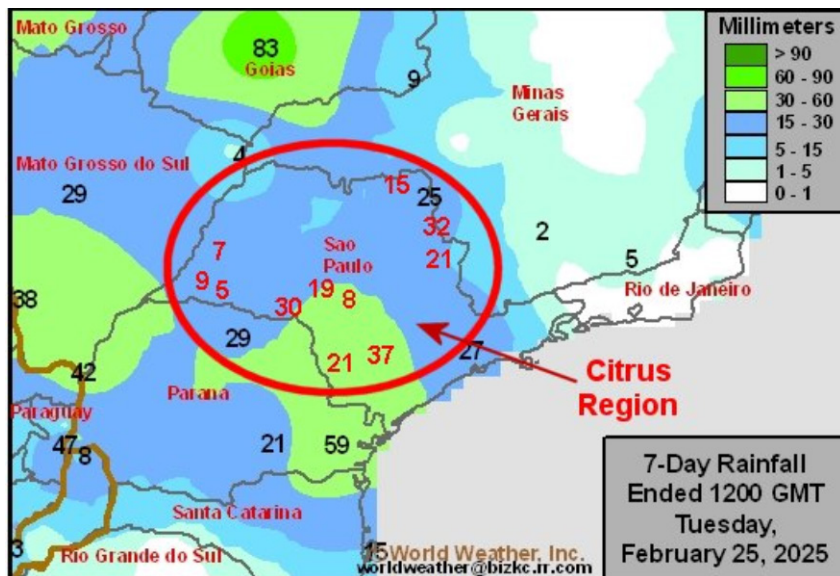
in the upper 60s and 70s with pockets in northern fringes of crop country only warming to the lower or mid-60s. Low temperatures were in the 30s and lower 40s February 21, though no damaging cold was noted. Lows were in the 40s and lower 50s February 22 – 23. Lows most other days were in the 50s and lower 60s.

Florida's main citrus areas will only have a few opportunities for erratic precipitation during the coming week. A disturbance that recently advanced near the region will continue to generate light rain today. Spotty precipitation will also occur Wednesday into Thursday and again later this weekend and early next week. Moisture totals by next Tuesday morning will only range from trace amounts to 0.25 inch with local amounts up to 0.50 inch along the Atlantic coastline. Rainfall will either be lost to evaporation or too light to significantly improve the moisture profile. Irrigation will continue to be run across the state and maintain a good environment for flowering, fruit setting and fruit development. Harvesting and general farming activity will advance around the periods of light rain.

Seasonable to seasonably warm weather is slated for Florida through next Tuesday. Daytime highs will peak to the 70s and lower 80s most often. Nighttime lows will be in the upper 40s and 50s with pockets in southern fringes of crop country only cooling to the lower 60s at times.

BRAZIL

The main citrus in Brazil areas saw a mix of spotty rain and sunshine during the past week. Moisture totals for the seven-day period ending this morning ranged from 0.20 to 1.46 inches with pockets that received little to no rain. Temperatures were warm with highest readings in the 90s. Lowest temperatures were in the 60s and lower 70s.



Citrus development conditions remained generally favorable across Sao Paulo and southwestern Minas Gerais. Some of the groves may be trending a little too dry for ideal late-season development and the need for more significant rain is increasing.

Sao Paulo and southwestern Minas Gerais will trend drier

than normal during the coming week. Light rain will still be scattered across the region through Thursday and again late this weekend and early next week. Moisture totals by next Tuesday morning will range from 0.10 to 0.75 inch and locally more. Temperatures will be near or slightly above normal with daytime highs in the upper 80s and 90s. Low temperatures will be in the 60s and 70s.

Dryness will continue to intensify across Sao Paulo and southwestern Minas Gerais during the coming week. The main production areas have some moisture in the

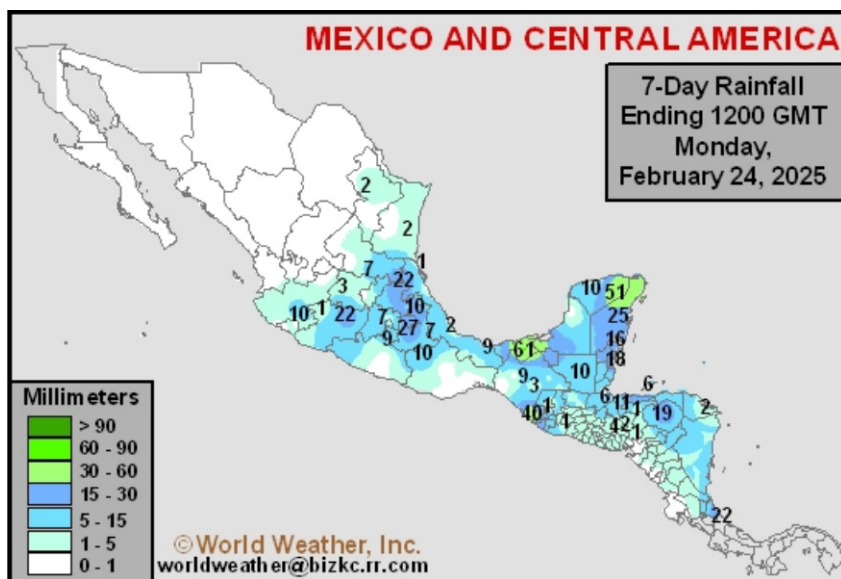
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subsoil that should maintain a good environment for the citrus. However, late-season development conditions may start to deteriorate later in March if drier than normal conditions persist.

MEXICO

Rain was scattered across portions of Mexico's citrus region during the past week. Veracruz and Puebla into southeastern San Luis Potosi and portions of Michoacan and northern Oaxaca received 0.28 to 1.06 inches of rain for the seven-day period ending February 24. Other locations in northeastern and western Mexico were either dry or did not receive enough rain to counter evaporation. Temperatures varied with swings between cooler and warmer than usual. Highest readings still reached the 80s and lower 90s. Lowest temperatures were in the 30s and 40s in northeastern Mexico. However, no damaging cold

weather was noted. East-central and western Mexico saw lowest readings in the 50s and 60s.



Spotty rain during the past week was welcome as citrus began or continued to flower and set fruit. More significant rain is still needed across crop country to fix the dryness and support ideal flowering and general development.

Mexico's citrus areas will trend drier than normal during the coming week. Light shower activity will still occur from Oaxaca into east-central and northeastern Mexico Friday through early next week. A few pockets will receive 0.25 to 0.75 inch of rain by next Tuesday morning. However, most areas will not receive enough rain to counter evaporation or significantly improve the moisture profile. Temperatures will trend near to slightly above normal with daytime highs in the 70s and 80s. Portions of east-central and western Mexico will often warm to the 90s as well. Low temperatures will be in the 50s and 60s with pockets in east-central and western Mexico only cooling to the 70s.

Citrus flowering and general development will likely continue in areas that received the greatest amount of rain in recent weeks. However, more significant rain will be needed later in March. Minor production areas in the west and especially the north still need significant rain and drought conditions are prevailing in many areas leaving normal crop development totally dependent upon irrigation.

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