

Weekly Citrus Weather

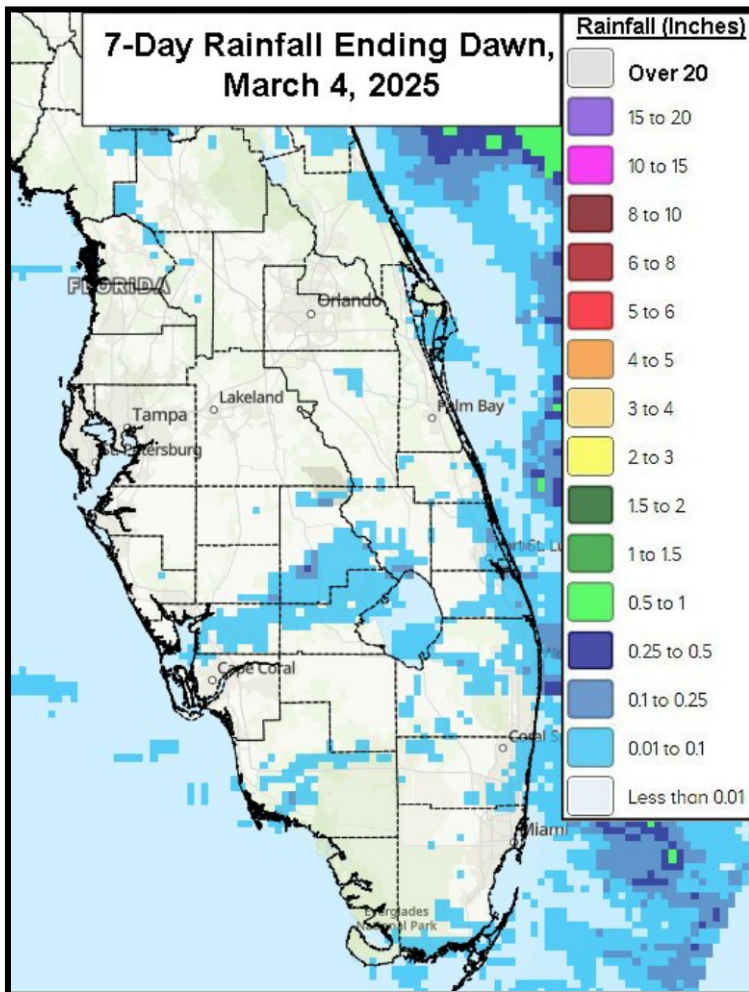
By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, March 4 (World Weather Inc.) – **Florida**'s citrus region received little rain during the past week and will remain drier biased during the coming week. Irrigation will be used across the region, though the need for rain will increase later this month.

Brazil's citrus areas were also drier than normal during the past week with little rain on the way through early next week. Citrus yield potentials may be marginally decreased in the driest locations, especially if drier weather persists later this month. **Mexico**'s citrus areas will also trend mostly dry during the coming week. The need for timely rain is high.

FLORIDA

Very little rain was noted across Florida's citrus region during the past week. Any rain that did occur was lost to evaporation. Although significant rain was noted earlier in February, the need for irrigation likely increased in recent days due to the lack of follow-up precipitation. Citrus flowering and blooming conditions remained relatively favorable. The



gradual drying trend was also beneficial for those trying to finish the harvest.

Seasonable to seasonably warm weather was noted across Florida during the past week. Daytime highs peaked from the mid-70s to lower 80s Fahrenheit with pockets occasionally warming to the mid-80s. Highs also dipped to the upper 60s and 70s February 25. Nighttime lows were in the upper 40s and 50s, though northern fringes of crop country saw lows in the upper 30s and lower 40s March 1 and March 3. No damaging conditions were noted.

Drier-than-normal weather is slated for Florida citrus country during the coming week. Isolated showers will still generate minimal rain for a few locations today. Frontal boundaries will also promote mostly light rain Wednesday and again late Sunday into early Monday. Moisture totals by next

Tuesday morning will range from trace amounts to 0.40 inch with locally greater amounts

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possible in northern fringes of crop country. Rainfall will generally be lost to evaporation in much of citrus country. Irrigation will likely be run on a frequent basis and continue to support a good environment for citrus blooming and development. Harvesting and general farming activity will advance swiftly around the rain.

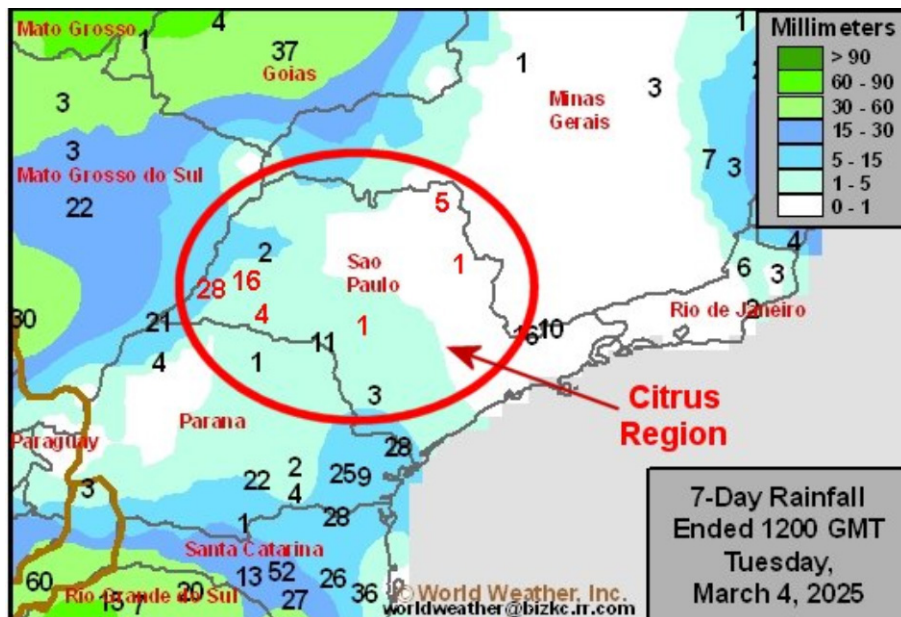
The temperature profile will remain near to slightly above normal during the coming week. Daytime highs will peak from the mid-70s to lower 80s with many areas only warming to the 60s Thursday following the first frontal boundary. Low temperatures will be in the upper 50s and 60s Wednesday and again Sunday into Monday. Lows most other days will be in the upper 40s and 50s with pockets cooling to the lower 40s Friday.

BRAZIL

A few locations in western Sao Paulo reported 0.63 to 1.10 inches of rain for the seven-day period ending this morning. However, much of citrus country in Sao Paulo and southwestern Minas Gerais received little to no precipitation. Temperatures were warm with

highest readings in the 90s. Lowest temperatures were in the 60s and lower 70s.

Aggressive drying was again noted in much of citrus country during the past week. While no long-term impacts were suspected as of yet, the need for rain is increasing. Continued dryness may impact production



potentials, most notably for the later-flowering citrus.

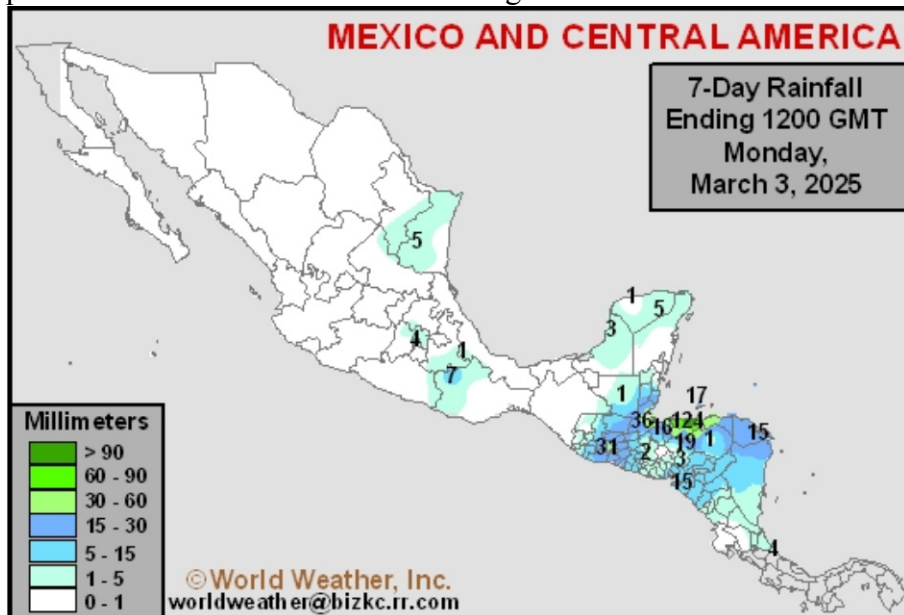
Drier-than-normal weather will prevail for the main citrus areas during the coming week. Some spotty rain will still reach Sao Paulo with moisture totals ranging from 0.10 to 0.75 inch by next Tuesday morning. However, much of the rain that does occur will be lost to evaporation. Temperatures will be warm with daytime highs in the 80s and lower 90s. Lowest temperatures will be in the 60s and 70s.

There is potential rain returns for much of Sao Paulo and southwestern Minas Gerais during the March 12 – 18. Until then, conditions will continue to deteriorate for aggressive citrus growth. Minor production cuts will be possible in the driest groves, especially of the groves are rain-fed. General farming activity will otherwise advance swiftly.

MEXICO

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Mexico's citrus areas received little or no rain during the past week. A few locations in Tamaulipas and western Oaxaca received up to 0.28 inch of rain for the seven-day period ending March 3, though most of the rain was lost to evaporation. Temperatures were warm with highest readings in the 80s and 90s. Lowest temperatures were in the 50s and 60s with portions of northeastern Mexico cooling to the 40s.



The need for rain is increasing in much of Mexico. Several areas in east-central Mexico received timely rain earlier in February that may have promoted flowering. Much more rain is needed for widespread flowering and good long-term citrus conditions. Harvesting and general farming

activity otherwise advanced with few disruptions.

Very little rain is slated for Mexico's citrus areas during the coming week. A few light showers will be possible in Oaxaca and Veracruz, though resulting rainfall will be too light to counter evaporation. Other locations in east-central, western, and northeastern Mexico will be mostly dry. Temperatures will trend near to above normal with daytime highs often peaking to the 80s and 90s through Saturday. Pockets in east-central and northeastern Mexico may even warm above 100 degrees on occasion. Highs Sunday into early next week will drop to the 70s and 80s with pockets in the west still warming to the 90s. Low temperatures will be in the 50s and 60s with pockets in the northeast cooling to the 40s early next week.

Periods of hot weather may stress flowering citrus in the driest groves. However, no long-term impacts to the citrus are expected due to the lack of rain and periods of warmer weather. The need for timely rain will increase later this month to maintain a good environment for the citrus that has already started flowering and setting fruit.

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