

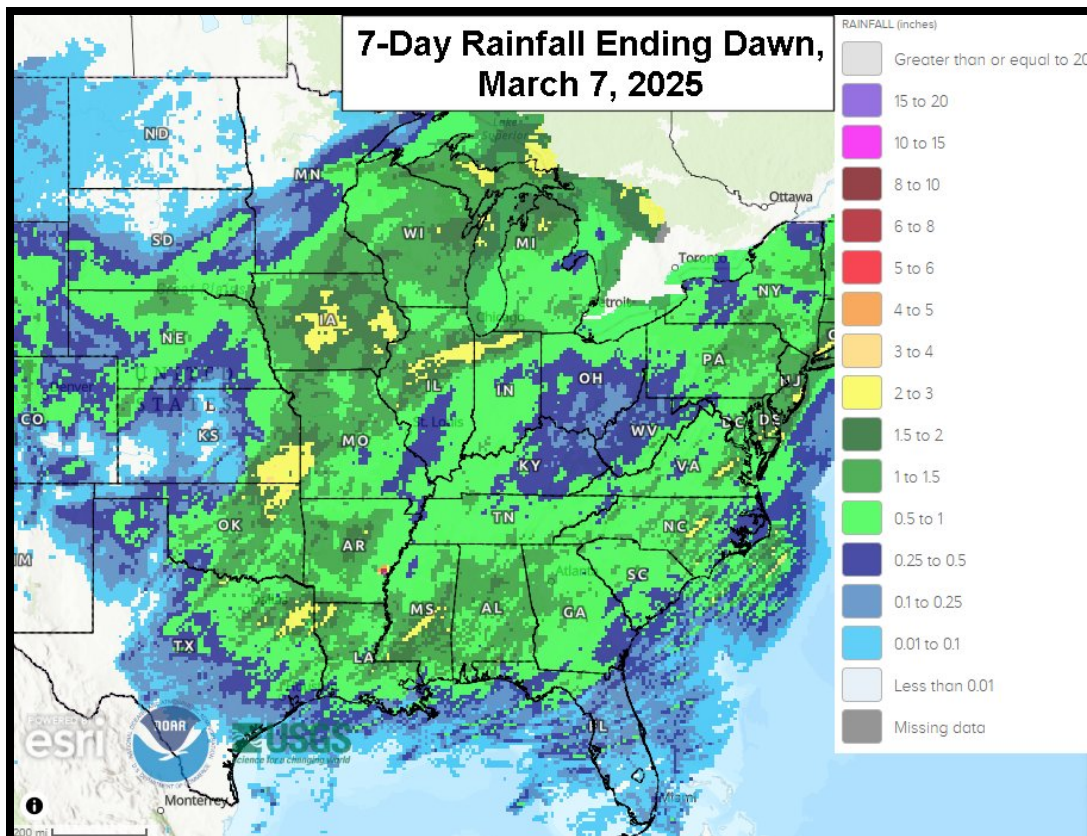
# U.S. Midwest, Southeast, Delta Planting Prospects Favorable

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, March 7 (World Weather Inc.) – A storm system made its way across the United States earlier this week that brought needed precipitation to a part of the upper Midwest while maintaining or returning wet field conditions to the Delta, southeastern states and parts of the lower eastern Midwest. This week's rain and snowfall should have been favorable for ensuring favorable early planting moisture for next month, although fieldwork has been on hold in the lower Delta recently because of wet fields. In the meantime, portions of the Great Plains are still quite dry and in need of more moisture. *Weather trends in the coming ten days are unlikely bring significant changes with dryness still remaining in parts of the Plains while the lower and eastern Midwest is plenty moist. Parts of the Delta, Tennessee River Basin and interior southeastern states may be a little too wet for a while.*

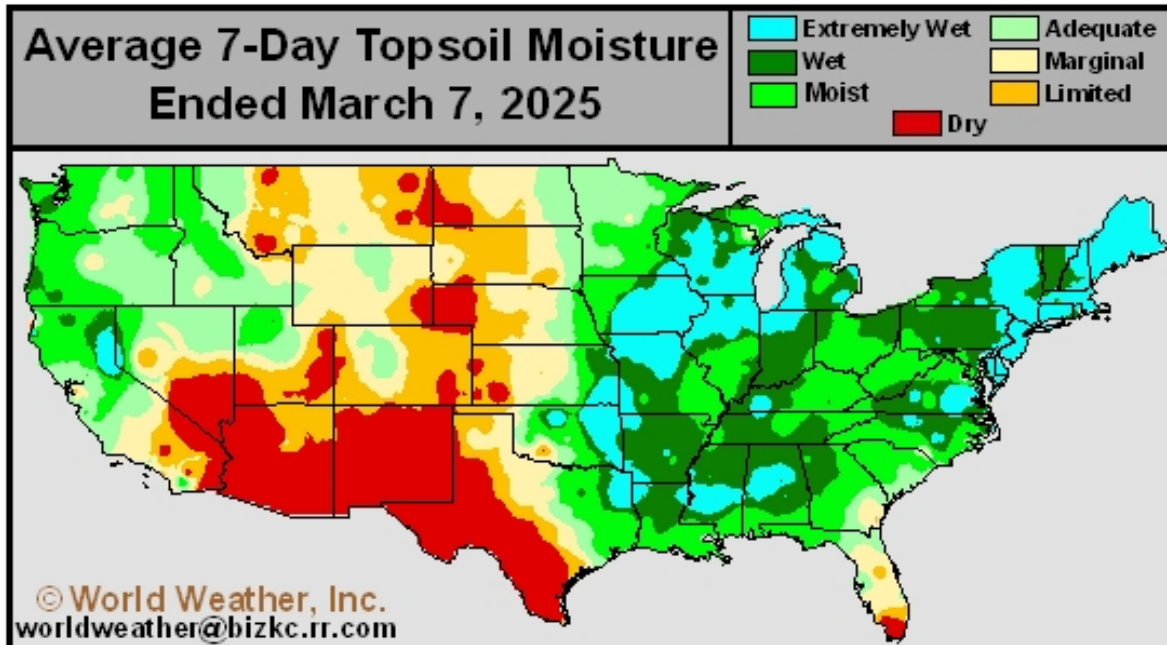
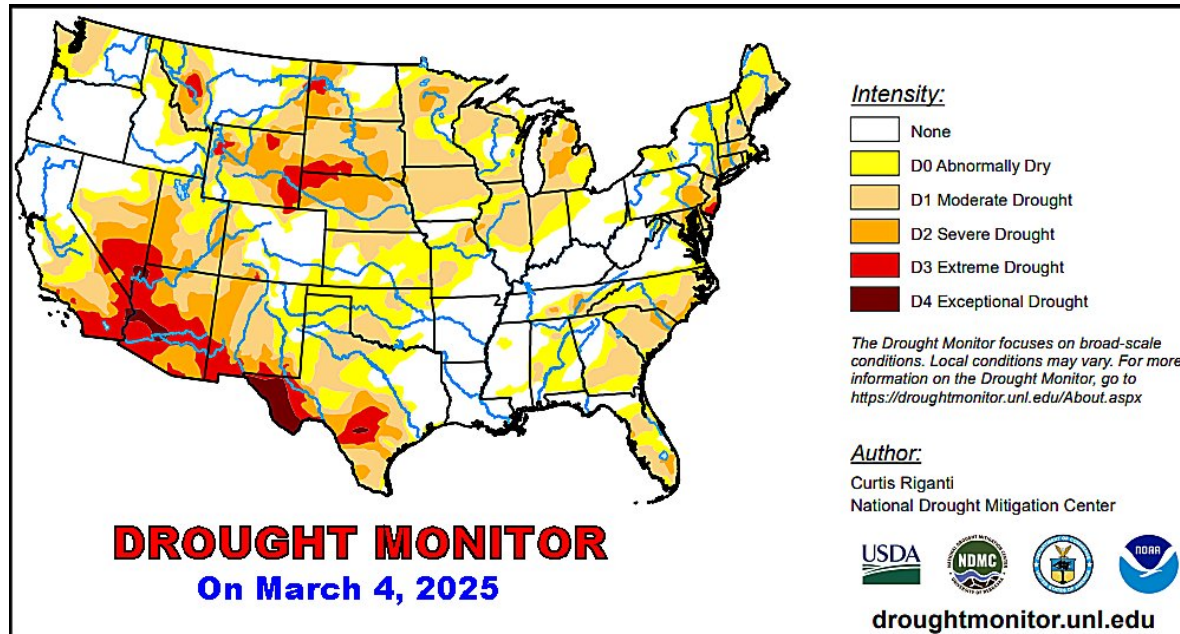
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The Delta, southeastern states, and much of the Midwest saw a good mix of precipitation and sunshine during the past week. Moisture totals for the seven-day period ending this morning ranged from 0.50 to 2.00 inches with locally greater amounts in Iowa, Illinois, and northern Indiana. Portions of Ohio, Kentucky, central Minnesota, northern Florida, and northeastern South Dakota also only received 0.10 to 0.50 inch of moisture. Precipitation varied in the Plains with many areas in Oklahoma, eastern and northwestern Kansas, northeastern Colorado, Nebraska, and pockets in the Texas Panhandle receiving 0.25 to 1.50 inches of moisture. Other locations in the Plains were either dry or received minimal precipitation.



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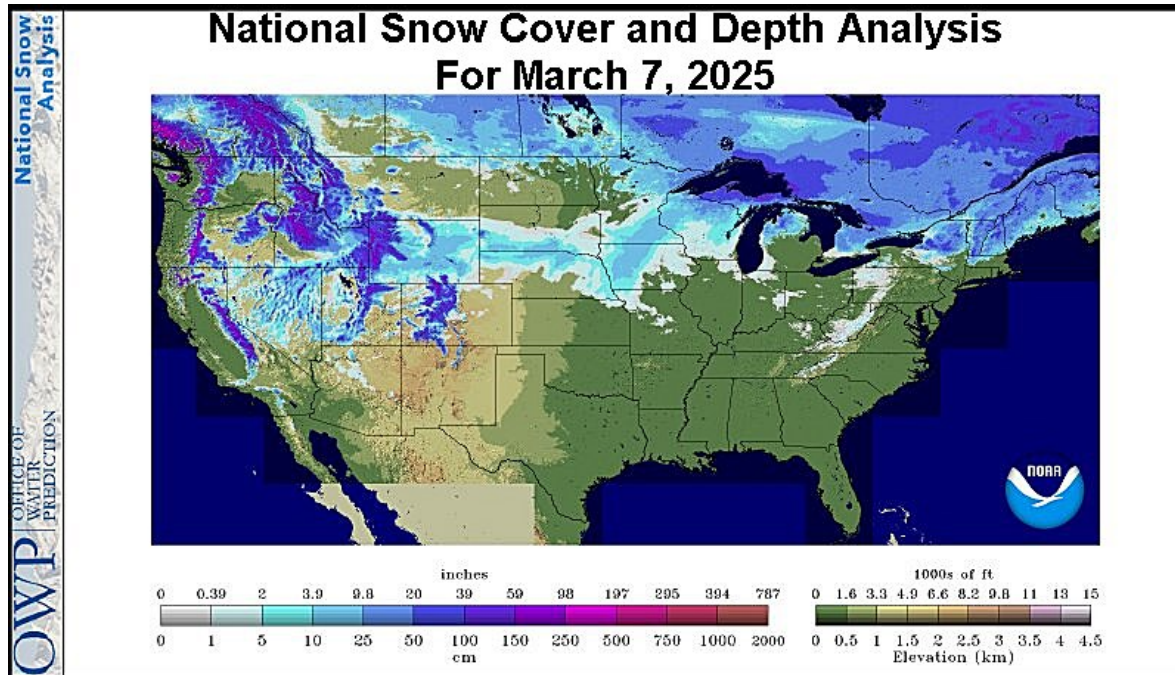
Soil moisture either increased or remained at adequate levels in much of the Midwest, southeastern states, and Delta. Several areas in Oklahoma, eastern Kansas, and southeastern Nebraska also received enough precipitation to improve the moisture profile. Moisture deficits persist for most other locations in the Plains.



As of March 4, drought or abnormally dry conditions were prevalent in much of the Plains and portions of the Midwest and southeastern states. While recent precipitation likely improved the situation in portions of the Midwest and southeast, additional rain may be needed to completely fix the moisture deficits.

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Several areas in eastern Nebraska and southeastern South Dakota into Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin had mostly light snow on the ground as of this morning. However, a few locations from western Iowa into southeastern Minnesota had 4 inches or more of snow on the ground. The remaining production areas in the U.S. were relatively snow-free.



Early-season planting prospects have either improved or remain favorable for the Midwest, southeastern states, and Delta in recent weeks due to the precipitation. However, there are already problems with getting some producers into their fields in a part of the lower Delta region and drier and warmer weather will soon be needed to get early season fieldwork to proceed a little better. *There is still plenty of time for improved field conditions. An active weather pattern is still anticipated this spring for the Delta, Tennessee River Basin and lower eastern Midwest and that coupled with some cooler biased temperatures once in a while may slow some of the early planting in late March and early April. The lighter moisture profiles found in the western Midwest and a part of the Plains may be helpful in getting farmers into their fields aggressively early this year, although concern remains over the potential for some late season frost or freeze events and that fear should help keep the early birds from getting into the fields too quickly.*

The Plains are in need of more significant precipitation to not only support ideal hard red winter wheat development in the coming weeks, but also improve early-season planting prospects. *Hard red winter wheat established under relatively good conditions last autumn, although frequent bouts of bitter cold without much snow on the ground likely damaged some crops warranting routinely occurring rain, favorable soil moisture and no prolonged hot weather during the spring so that crops can set new tillers and repair damaged root systems.*

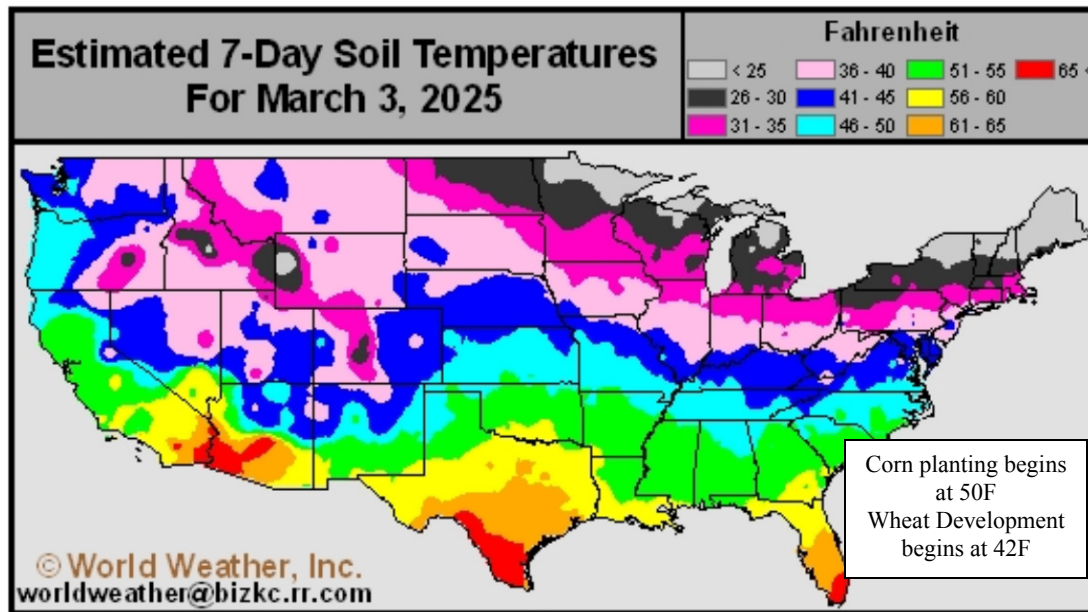
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### WEATHER OUTLOOK

**The Delta and southeastern states** will see a mix of precipitation and dry weather through the end of next week. After a period of drier weather today, a disturbance will initially bring rain to the Delta later in the day Saturday. Rain and thunderstorms will then shift into portions of the southeastern states Sunday and Monday. Another disturbance will bring rain and isolated thunderstorms to portions of the Delta and southeastern states Wednesday and Thursday. Moisture totals by next Friday morning will range from 1.00 to 4.00 inches with northern and central Georgia into South Carolina with local amounts of 6.00 inches or more possible. Other locations in the southeastern states and much of the Delta will receive 0.50 to 2.50 inches of rain, though Virginia and northern North Carolina will receive little or no rain.

**Localized flooding will be a concern in the wettest areas of Georgia and South Carolina Saturday through Monday.** *Some areas near the coast need significant rain after a long winter of below normal rainfall.* Several days of drying will follow which should translate into better field working conditions in time. Rain in the Delta and Tennessee River Basin bolster or keep soil moisture at adequate or excessive levels in much of the southeast and Delta.

*Drought and abnormally dry conditions may be eased or completely erased in the much of the southeastern states outside portions of North Carolina. Early-season planting prospects will either remain or become more favorable.*



### Midwest

A large section of the Midwest will trend drier than normal through the end of next week. A disturbance will still bring rain and snow to areas from Iowa and eastern Nebraska into portions of the eastern Midwest today. Little follow-up precipitation is expected through at least Thursday. Moisture totals by next Friday morning will range from trace amounts to 0.50 inch and locally more from portions of Iowa and eastern Nebraska into

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portions of Illinois, Indiana, southern fringes of Wisconsin and Michigan, and Ohio. These areas will see a dusting to 3 inches of snow accumulate with locally greater amounts in Iowa. Other locations will receive little to no precipitation.

Warmer weather will occur at times next week and may allow for some early-season fieldwork. The driest areas will need timely precipitation later this month as planting approaches.

### **Great Plains**

The Plains will generally trend drier than normal through the end of next week. However, a disturbance will generate rain and snow from southeastern Colorado through Oklahoma and a part of northeastern Texas tonight and Saturday. Moisture totals by Sunday morning will range from 0.10 to 0.75 inch. Another disturbance winding down today from Nebraska into Iowa will produce another dusting to an inch or two of accumulation. Snowfall in from southeastern Colorado and northeastern New Mexico into western Oklahoma will vary from 1 to 4 inches and locally more in Colorado. Little to no follow-up precipitation is expected and much more will be needed.

*Although precipitation during the next few days will be welcome where it occurs in the Plains, resulting precipitation will generally be too light to fix the moisture deficits. Timely precipitation will still be needed later in the spring to support ideal hard red winter wheat conditions and early-season planting prospects.*

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