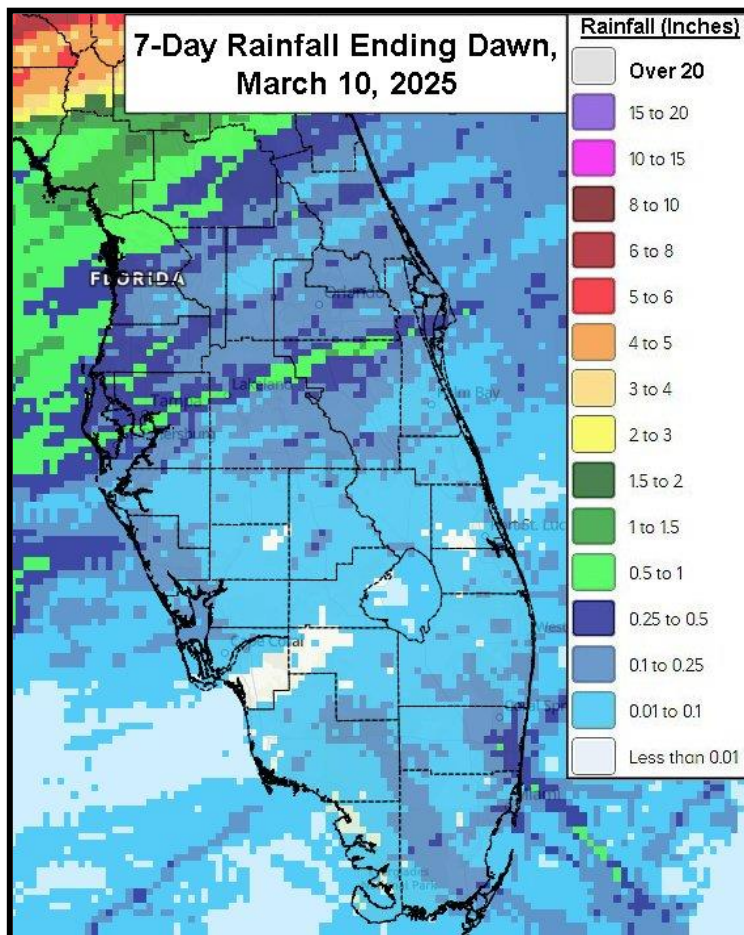


Weekly Citrus Weather

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, March 11 (World Weather Inc.) – Florida's citrus areas received minimal rain during the past week. Irrigation was used statewide and continued to support a good environment for the flowering and blooming trees. The region will again receive limited rainfall during the coming week and irrigation will remain the primary source for moisture. Brazil's citrus areas were again drier biased during the past week. Aggressive drying was noted, though most locations still had enough moisture to support new growth. The region will see more frequent rainfall during the coming week that will improve soil moisture and continue to promote relatively good citrus conditions. Mexico was mostly dry during the past week and will remain mostly dry in the coming days. The need for rain is increasing.

FLORIDA



The main citrus areas in Florida received minimal amounts of rain during the past week. Northern fringes of crop country received 0.10 to 0.50 inch of rain with locally greater amounts for the seven-day period ending March 10. However, most locations did not receive enough rain to counter evaporation. Drought or abnormally dry conditions prevailed in most locations. Irrigation was used on a frequent basis and continued to support favorable flowering and blooming despite the lack of rain. Late-season harvesting and general farming activity also advanced swiftly.

Temperatures varied across Florida during the past week. High temperatures reached the 80s Fahrenheit March 8 – 9. Highs otherwise ranged from the mid-70s to lower 80s, though

most locations only warmed from the mid-60s to mid-70s March 6. Low temperatures were in the 30s and lower 40s March 7, though no damaging conditions were noted. Lows March 8 and this morning were in the 40s and lower 50s. Nighttime lows otherwise range from the mid-50s to mid-60s.

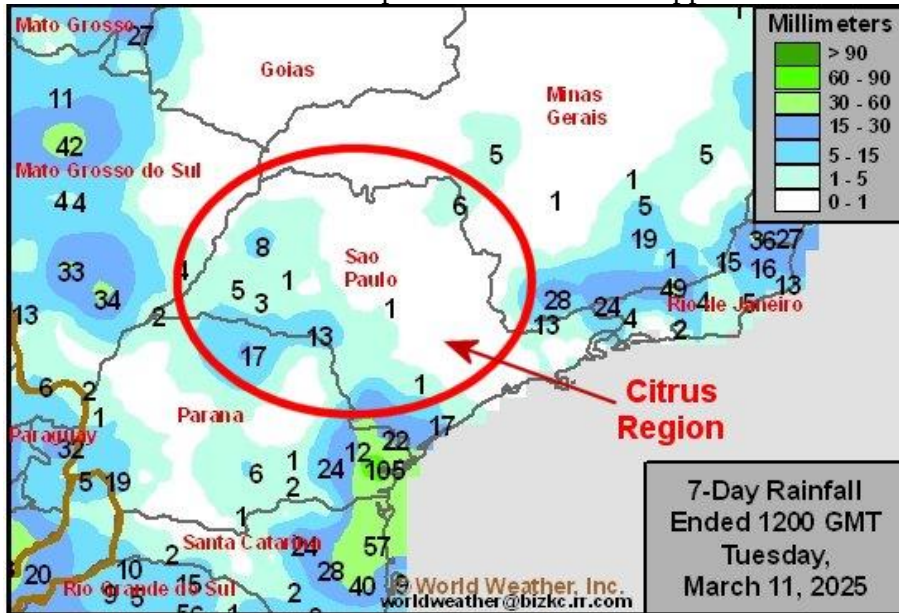
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Precipitation will be limited for much of Florida through the end of the weekend. A few isolated showers will be possible, though resulting rainfall will be lost to evaporation. Rain will then be possible Monday with the passage of a frontal boundary. Confidence is low for the exact amount of rain that will occur. However, the rain that does fall will be too light to fix the moisture deficits. Producers will continue to rely on irrigation most days due to the lack of rain. Late-season harvesting and general farming activity should advance with few disruptions.

Seasonable to seasonably warm weather is slated for much of Florida during the coming week. Daytime highs will peak from the mid-70s to lower 80s through Thursday before increasing to the 80s Friday and this weekend. Highs will drop to the 70s early next week. Low temperatures will be in the upper 40s and 50s most often, though lows will only be in the 60s this weekend and Monday.

BRAZIL

Very little rain was noted in the main citrus areas of Brazil during the past week. Portions of western Sao Paulo still received 0.12 to 0.51 inch of rain for the seven-day period ending this morning. Other locations were either dry or did not receive enough rain to counter evaporation. Temperatures were warmer than usual with highest readings reaching well into the 90s. Lowest temperatures were in the upper 50s and 60s.



The ground continued to firm across Sao Paulo and southwestern Minas Gerais. Most locations still had enough moisture at the subsoil to maintain relatively good citrus development, though the need for rain is increasing. Continued dryness may start to impact growth rates.

Rain will return to Sao Paulo and southwestern Minas Gerais during the coming week. Scattered showers and thunderstorms will evolve on a frequent basis through Friday. Light shower activity will persist for northern Sao Paulo and southwestern Minas Gerais this weekend and early next week while dry weather returns to southern Sao Paulo. Moisture totals by next Tuesday morning will range from 0.75 to 3.00 inches with drier pockets in southern Sao Paulo. Temperatures will be near normal with daytime highs in the 80s and lower 90s. Low temperatures will be in the 60s and lower 70s.

The rain will help replenish soil moisture for much of citrus country in the coming days. However, some of the driest locations may need additional rain to completely fix the

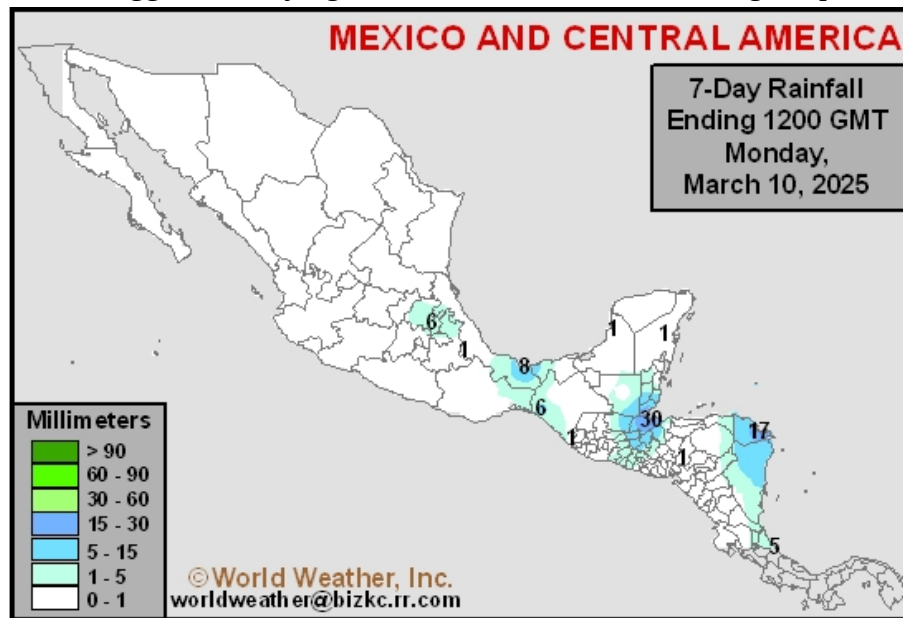
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moisture deficits. Citrus development conditions will either improve or remain relatively favorable.

MEXICO

A few locations in Veracruz received up to 0.32 inch of rain for the seven-day period ending this morning. However, much of Mexico's citrus production region was dry. Temperatures were warm with highest readings in the upper 80s and 90s. Portions of northeastern Mexico also warmed above 100 degrees at times. Lowest temperatures were in the 50s and 60s with a few locations in northeastern and western Mexico occasionally cooling to the upper 40s.

Aggressive drying was noted across Mexico during the past week due to the lack of



rain and warm to hot temperatures. Flowering and blooming is likely ongoing in portions of citrus country and the need for rain is increasing.

Precipitation will be limited in much of Mexico's citrus country during the coming week. A few isolated showers will be possible in Oaxaca and

southern Veracruz, though resulting rainfall will be lost to evaporation. Temperatures will be warm with daytime highs often reaching the 80s and 90s. Pockets in east-central and northeastern Mexico could also warm above 100 degrees Friday and Saturday. Low temperatures will be in the 60s and 70s with portions of northeastern Mexico often cooling to the 50s.

The need for rain will increase later this month into early April across Mexico. Several areas may have already received enough rain to support flowering or blooming. With the ground expected to dry down rapidly in the coming days, early-season development may be uneven in dryland areas.

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