

# World Cotton Weather

## Mexico, Texas Dryness Threatens Planting

By Drew Lerner

Kansas City, March 13 (World Weather, Inc.) – *Planting season has arrived in northeastern Mexico and South Texas. Dryland fields have no moisture to germinate seeds or support early development. Some drying has also been occurring recently in western Bahia impacting that part of Brazil's cotton crop after some late planting occurred in Mato Grosso. Mato Grosso weather has been improving more recently, but the key to its success will be rainfall and/or soil moisture after the monsoon ends in April. Eastern Australia weather has not been ideal in unirrigated fields, but the crop should still be of fair size because good early season rainfall and increased planting.*

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### UNITED STATES

#### West Texas

- Not much rain has fallen since November
- The planting season begins in May leaving plenty of time for change
- Prevailing weather patterns may not be very conducive for general soaking rain during the early weeks of spring planting, but some timely rain is possible
- Dry soil will prevail through the end of March and wild temperature swings are expected
- Blowing dust will also occur at times due to dry soil and windy conditions

#### South Texas

- Soil moisture in unirrigated fields is critically low
- Recent temperatures have swung wildly indicating the severity of dryness
  - Temperature extremes this past week reached into the 90s to 104 Fahrenheit in South Texas and frequent bouts of both hot weather and low humidity are expected over the next couple of weeks
- Irrigated fields have sufficient moisture to support planting, but rain is needed to improve soil moisture and water reserves for use later in the year.

#### Coastal Bend Area of Texas

- The planting season has arrived, but rain has been eluding the region
- Irrigated fields will be planted normally, but dryland fields will not likely germinate, emerge or establish well without some rain
- Precipitation will continue lacking in this region for at least the next two weeks and possibly through late March

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### Texas Blacklands

- Soil moisture is rated a little more favorably than that in West or South Texas, although there is room for more
- Timely rain will be imperative later this month and throughout April to raise soil moisture for future planting and establishment

### Delta

- Soil moisture is rated adequate to excessive
- [There is need for some drying and warmer temperatures to better prepare the soil for planting](#)
  - [Warming is coming over the next two weeks](#)
- Fieldwork is not likely to begin for a while and that will provide sufficient time and opportunity for improved conditions
- The wetter bias may prevail for a while in parts of the Delta and that will be closely monitored for possible impact on fieldwork eventually

### Southeastern States

- Some of the winter dryness that occurred from northeastern Florida through eastern Georgia and into the eastern Carolinas has been recently eased
- Additional opportunities for rain are anticipated through the spring and soil conditions may not be ideal, but they may be sufficient to support planting when season warming becomes significant enough to support that process

### Far West

- Some of the first rain of the winter/spring season has just recently fallen in Arizona
  - The region is much drier than usual and the prospects for rain is a little better for the next few weeks, but no general soaking is anticipated
  - Water supply must be improved to ensure no serious water restrictions for the start of planting
  - [Monsoonal precipitation is expected to improve this year, but that moisture source is unlikely for several more weeks](#)
- California rainfall this winter has been sufficient to maintain water supply in the state's reservoirs – especially in the north and central water catchments
  - However, southern California has not seen nearly as much rain and greater rain is desired in the next few weeks to ensure a good start to the planting season.

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### BRAZIL

#### Mato Grosso

- [Safrinha cotton planting was delayed in many areas this year](#)
  - The delay could have a negative impact on yield and fiber quality if monsoon rains end early or if soil moisture is not abundant at the end of the monsoon season in mid-April
- [Rain should continue falling frequently and sometimes abundantly over the next couple of weeks maintaining moisture abundance as the end of the monsoon approaches.](#)
- [Monsoon precipitation is expected to end normally](#)
- [The key to cotton yields and quality will be found in temperatures during late April, May and June along with soil moisture](#)
  - [A hotter and drier bias may threaten yield, although the outlook today does not look to be very threatening](#)

#### Bahia

- [Bahia experienced net drying conditions in recent weeks. Some stress for unirrigated cotton has likely occurred, although the impact may be low due to favorable subsoil moisture during the early part of the dry period.](#)
- No extreme heat was noted and that should have bided well with crop development, although stress still occurred to some of the crop
- Improving rainfall is slated for western Bahia in the next couple of weeks and that should present an opportunity for some late season crop improvement
- Much of the crop as advanced far enough now that it may not be able to fully benefit from significant rain
- Crop maturation is going to warrant a limited amount of rainfall as time moves along
  - Some benefit should come from what precipitation does evolve.

### ARGENTINA

- Cotton in northern Argentina has had some challenging periods this summer
  - Weather has not been the same for all crop areas
  - [Some locations have experienced frequent bouts of hot and dry weather while other areas have experienced just enough rain to support crops relatively well](#)
- Production is likely to vary from one area to another and a close watch on rainfall in the next few weeks is warranted
- [Western cotton areas have experienced a little more favorable weather than areas in the east](#); however, all crop areas benefited from rain at one time or another during the growing season

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- Cotton usually performs relatively well in the stressed environment and it would not be surprising to see the nation's yields fair to good, although perhaps a little down from the average in Formosa, Chaco and northern Santa Fe

### **AUSTRALIA**

- Irrigated cotton has likely performed relatively well this summer
- [Dryland crops in the west have been a little too dry in recent weeks, although timely rain of significance was noted earlier in the summer and that should have resulted in relatively good yields](#)
- Dryland cotton produced in the east has had enough rain to yield relatively well
- Overall the crop is in the boll filling and maturing stage of development and it is rated mostly well
- [Production should still be up this year because of a larger planted dryland crop and relatively favorable yields from much of that crop](#)

### **SOUTH AFRICA**

- Weather this summer was largely good for cotton
  - Some eastern crop areas were a little wet at times and that might have reduced boll sizes and quality, but drier weather evolved late in the summer in time to help induce better yields and quality
  - Western cotton areas are largely irrigated and that crop has performed relatively well.
    - Any unirrigated crop in the west may have some reduced yields
- Overall, production is expected to be quite favorable

### **WEST-CENTRAL AFRICA**

- Seasonal rainfall is just beginning near the coast and it will be a few weeks before seasonal rain reaches cotton areas
- Planting normally begins in April and lasts through June
- [Lingering La Nina conditions this year should promote another favorable production year, but La Nina should be closely monitored for a possible weakening trend later in the growing season](#)

### **MIDDLE EAST**

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- Soil moisture has been increasing ahead of this year's planting
- Greater rain is needed along with warmer temperatures
- Planting usually begins later this month
- *Portions of Turkey have been a little drier biased recently and warmer than usual decreasing soil moisture*
  - Rain will be needed later this season to support the best environment for cotton planting and establishment

### SPAIN/GREECE

- Rain has been falling more frequently and significantly in southern Spain recently easing long term dryness
  - This is well timed with the start of cotton planting
  - Warming is needed to raise soil temperatures for better planting, emergence and establishment conditions
- Additional rain in Spain is expected and that should translate into a better environment for long term plant growth and development
- Greece soil moisture is favorable for aggressive planting, but soil temperatures are still too low
  - Warming is needed along with more frequent rainfall
  - The crop region is largely irrigated
- Rain prospects in Greece are low for a while, although totally dry weather is not likely

### XINJIANG, CHINA

- Winter precipitation has been restricted this year
  - Some moisture of significance has occurred recently, but much more rain and mountain snow is desired to improve the water supply and soil moisture situation before planting begins soon
- Planting can begin in March, although temperatures are sometimes still a little cool until late in the month
  - Most planting begins in April
- Warmer than usual temperatures and restricted precipitation may continue this spring

### INDIA/PAKISTAN

- 2024 cotton is all harvested
- Early season planting of 2025 crops should begin in April and May in northern parts of India and in the lower Sindh Valley

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- Water supply should be fair to good, although winter precipitation was restricted and some timely precipitation would always help, through a bit unlikely
- Some warming is expected that will add to a faster rate of soil moisture depletion raising the dependency upon early season crop development on irrigation
  - Temperatures will be a little warmer than usual during the planting season raising the need for more frequent deep watering
- Early indications for the monsoon season in 2025 suggest less rain than usual for portions of the production region, although no serious drought is currently anticipated
  - Timely rain will be essential in supporting the best possible early season crop development

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