

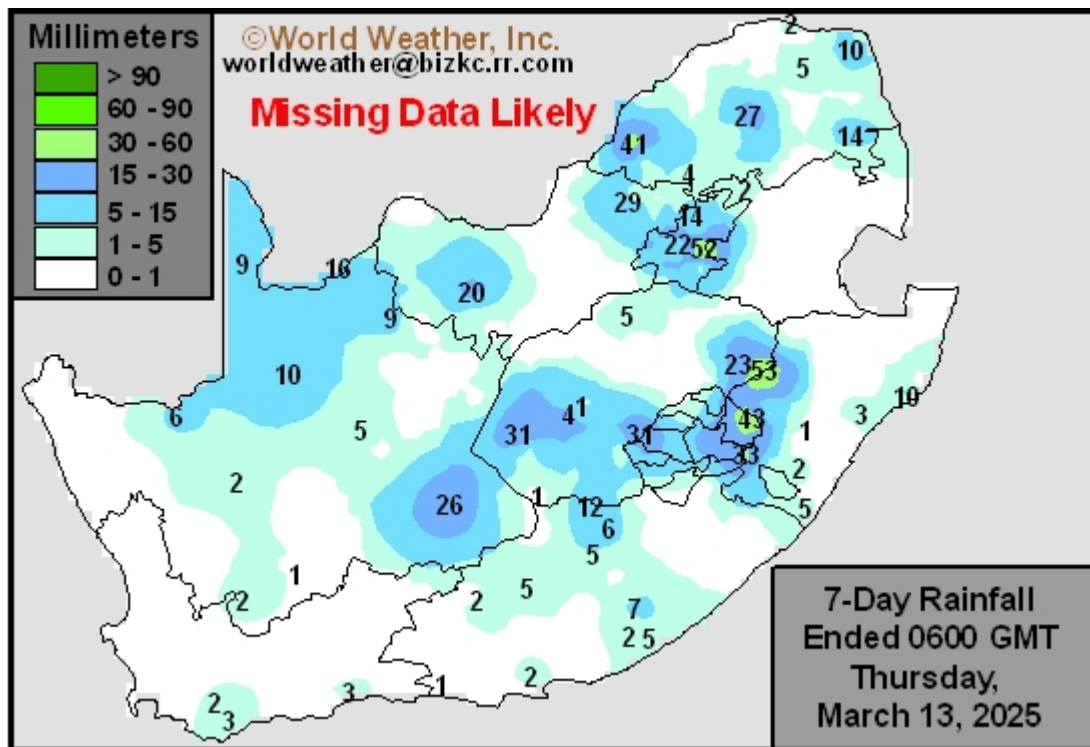
South Africa Weather Favors Great Finish To Growing Season

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, March 13 (World Weather Inc.) – Rain was again scattered across the main production areas in South Africa during the past week. **The rain continued to support a good environment for aggressive coarse grain, oilseed, cotton, and other crop development.** Scattered showers and thunderstorms will continue on a near daily basis for at least the next seven days. Precipitation will be enough to keep soil moisture at adequate or excessive levels in the main production areas. **The environment will remain favorable for new development. Production potentials are generally good for this season.**

While Western Cape received limited rain during the past week, rain was scattered across the remaining locations in South Africa on a frequent basis. Moisture totals for the seven-day period ending this morning generally ranged from 0.20 to just over 2.00 inches, though missing data was suspected. More significant rain was possible in portions of eastern and central South Africa.

Temperatures were near or slightly above normal with daytime highs reaching the 70s and 80s Fahrenheit most often. Portions of western South Africa often warmed to the 90s as well. Low temperatures were generally in the 50s and 60s with pockets in eastern South Africa and Northern Cape only cooling to the 70s at times.



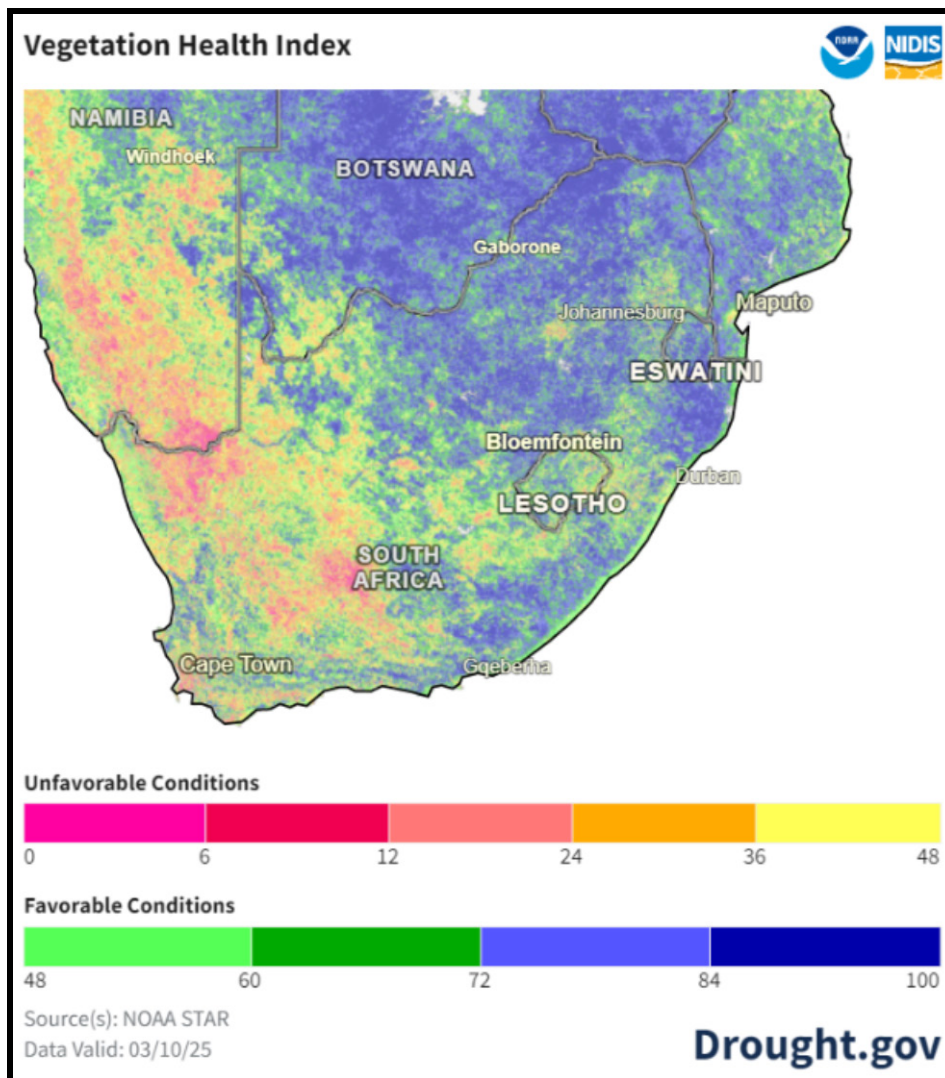
Soil moisture is suspected of being adequate to excessive in the main production areas of South Africa; however, portions of Free State and North West may have marginally adequate moisture in areas that received the least amount of rain in recent weeks.

Vegetative health is rated favorably in much of South Africa's main production areas as of March 10. Although western portions of the summer production areas were struggling

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with some dryness earlier in the growing season, waves of rain in more recent weeks helped support more favorable conditions. Yields are expected to be good this season due to the timely rain.

The wet weather pattern will persist for South Africa during the coming week. A series of disturbances will promote scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms on a near daily basis for the main production areas. Eastern and central South Africa will receive 1.00 to 4.00 inches of rain with local amounts up to 6.00 inches by next Thursday morning. However, portions of Limpopo will only receive 0.25 to 1.00 inch of rain. Northern Cape and Western Cape will receive 0.25 to 1.50 inches of rain with pockets that receive little to no precipitation. The active weather pattern will likely persist March 21-27, though rain totals will likely be lower compared to the first week of the outlook.



Temperatures will trend near to slightly above normal for much of South Africa during the coming week. Daytime highs will peak to the 70s and 80s most often with portions of western South Africa warming to the 90s during drier periods. Pockets in eastern and central South Africa will also only warm to the 60s during periods of more significant rain. Low temperatures will be in the 50s and 60s with pockets in eastern South Africa and

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Northern Cape only cooling to the lower 70s. The temperature profile will remain near to slightly above normal March 21 – 27.

Additional rain will continue to support a good environment for aggressive coarse grain, oilseed, cotton, and other crop development in the main production areas in the coming weeks. A few fields may trend a little too wet for ideal growth, though no major production impacts are expected. Yield potentials will remain favorable across the country.

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