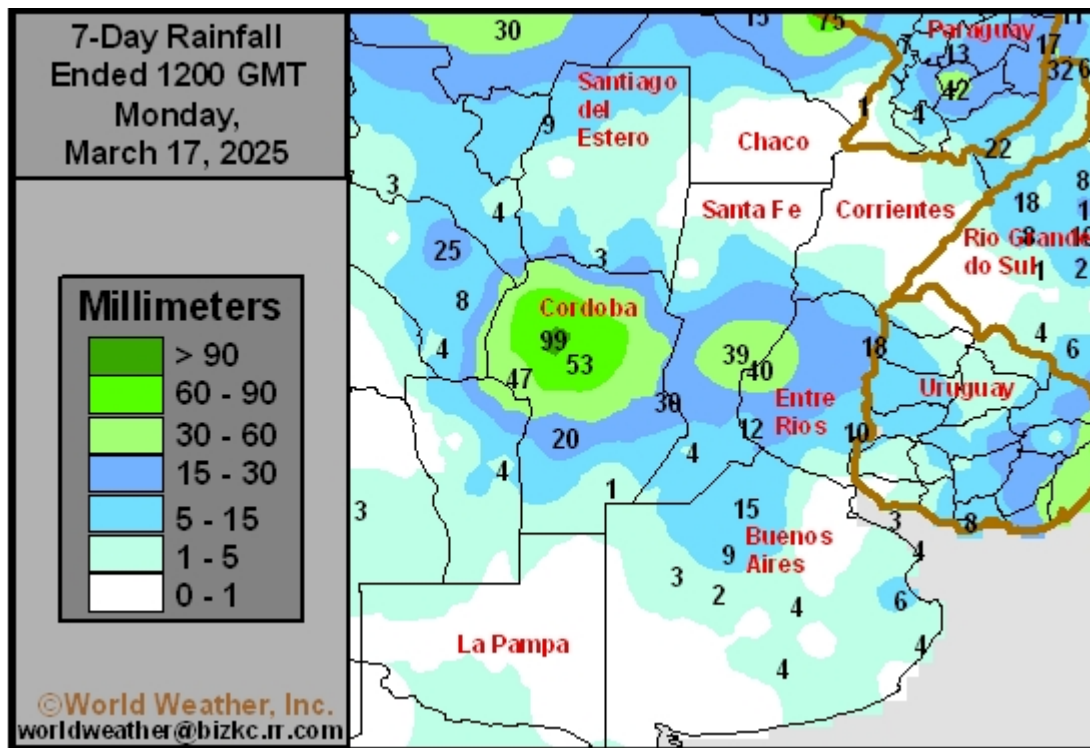


Argentina Maturation, Harvest To Advance Around Rain

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, March 17 (World Weather Inc.) – Sunseed and early corn harvesting are under way and progress has been a little slow due to wet fields and frequent rain. Weather conditions improved in some areas this past week, though more drying was needed to induce the best maturation and harvest environment. Precipitation will be limited through Friday with temperatures trending near or slightly above normal. The environment will improve or remain favorable for aggressive coarse grain and oilseed maturation and harvesting. Rain will be possible over the weekend with the passage of a frontal boundary. Minor harvest impacts will be possible, though no major delays or quality declines are expected.

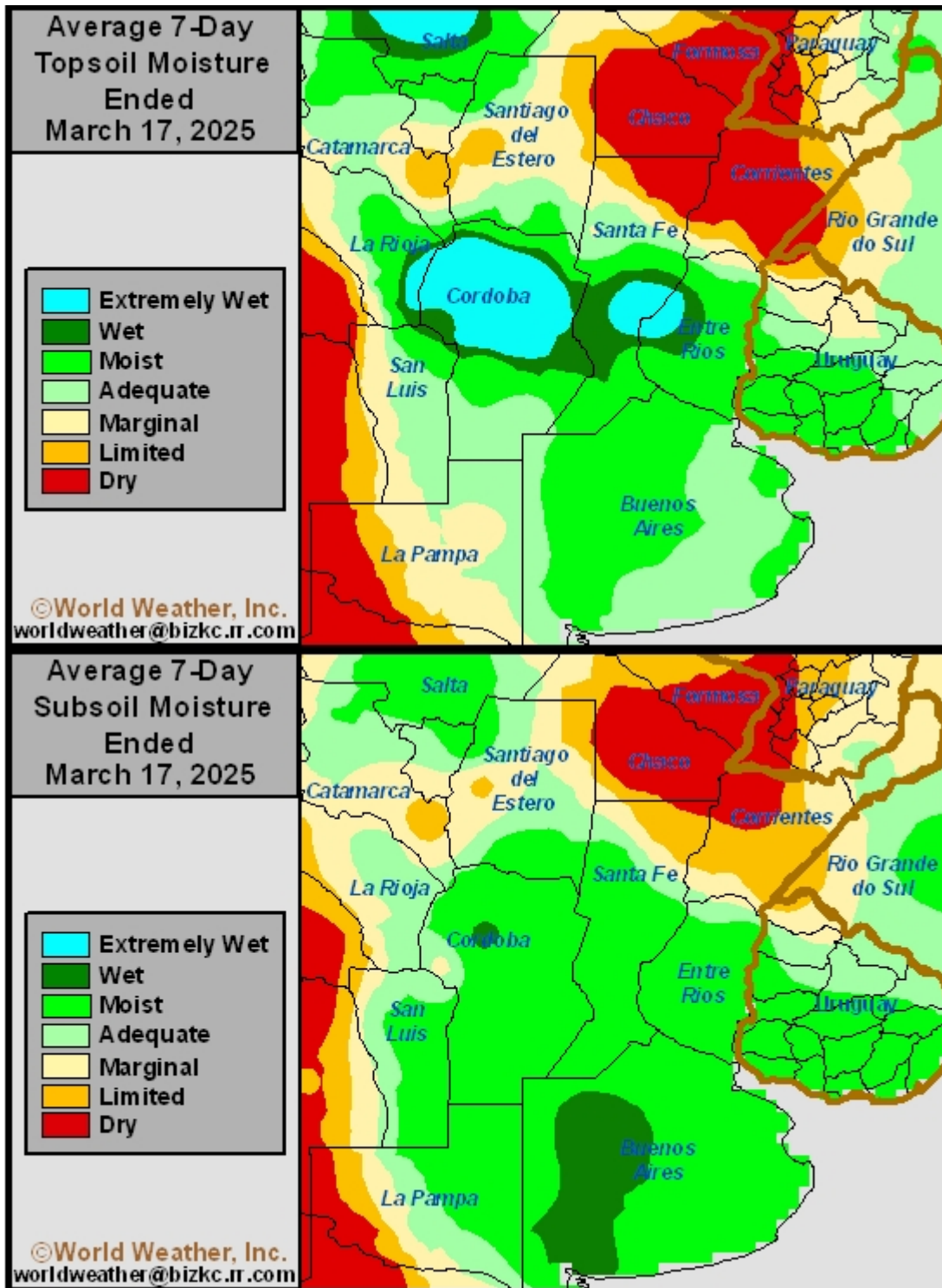
Rainfall varied across the main production areas in Argentina during the past week. Northern and central Cordoba, central Santa Fe, and portions of Entre Rios received 0.47 to 2.09 inches of rain with a local amount of 3.90 inches in northwestern Cordoba for the seven-day period ending this morning. Portions of northern Buenos Aires and southern Santa Fe received 0.16 to 0.59 inch of moisture. The remaining production areas were either dry or did not receive enough rain to counter evaporation.



Temperatures were near normal in Argentina during the past week. Highest readings were in the 70s and 80s Fahrenheit in the southern half of crop country. The northern half of the production region saw highest readings in the 80s and 90s. Lowest temperatures were in the 40s and 50s with portions of northern Argentina only cooling to the 60s.

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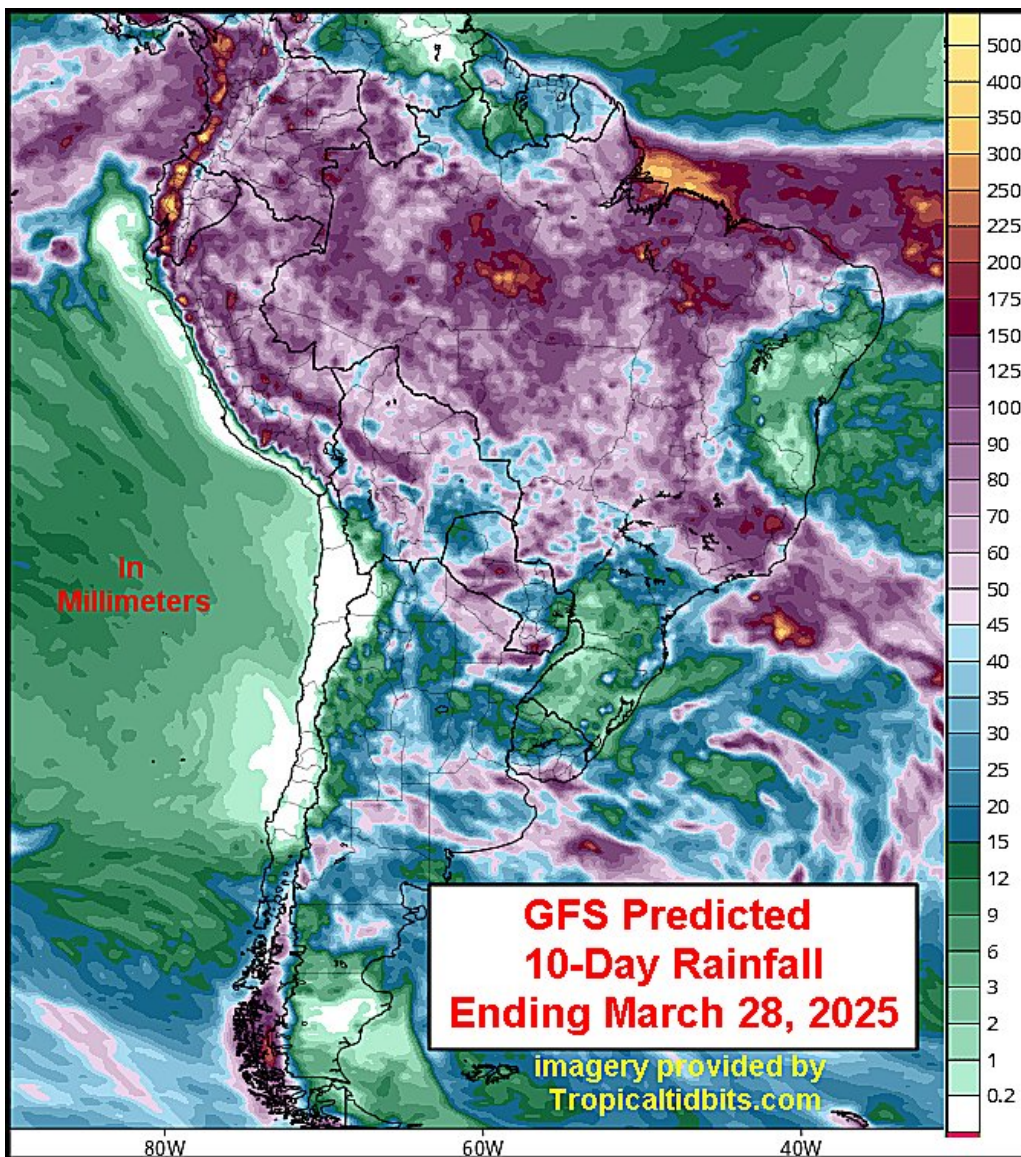
Central and southern Argentina have adequate to excessive soil moisture despite several locations receiving little or no rain during the past week. Northern Argentina continues to have short or critically short moisture.



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Corn harvesting has begun in a few pockets of Argentina. As of March 13, 6% of the corn was out of the ground, up from 3% this time last year. Rice harvesting remains well ahead of last year's pace with approximately half of the crop out of the ground compared to 24% last year. Sunseed harvesting was 24% complete, well behind 43% from this time last year. Harvesting of the remaining crops had not yet begun.

The environment remained favorable for late-season growth in much of the Pampas farming region during the past week due to the adequate amounts of moisture in the soil. Maturation and harvesting impacts were likely minimal in areas that received the greatest amount of rain, though the wettest fields would benefit from a period of drier weather to firm the ground. Northern Argentina would otherwise benefit from a good shot of rain to support better late-season development.



Argentina will have a few opportunities for erratic rainfall this week. A disturbance will initially bring rain to portions of Formosa and immediate neighboring locations today and early Tuesday. The remaining production areas will be dry or mostly dry through

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Thursday. Light rain will evolve in a few pockets in southern and western Argentina Friday before a frontal boundary promotes more widespread rain over the weekend. Moisture totals by next Monday morning will range from 0.25 to 1.00 inch with locally greater amounts in southern and western Argentina. Portions of Formosa could receive 1.50 to 4.00 inches of rain as well. The country will again experience a mixture of rain and dry weather March 25 – 31.

The temperature profile will trend near to above normal across Argentina this week. Daytime highs will peak to the 80s and 90s through Friday with pockets in the south only warming to the 70s. Southern Argentina will only warm to the 60s and 70s Saturday while areas farther north again warm to the 80s and 90s. Highs will drop to the 60s and 70s with pockets in the 80s later this weekend and early next week. Low temperatures will be in the 60s and 70s with pockets in the south cooling to the 50s through Saturday. Southern Argentina will cool to the 40s and 50s Sunday and next Monday while areas farther north again cool to the 60s and 70s. The temperature profile will then drop near or slightly below normal in much of Argentina March 25 – 31.

The lack of significant rain through the end of the work week will support a good environment for aggressive maturation and harvesting. Rainfall over the weekend may impact harvest rates, though no major delays or quality declines are expected. Late-season development conditions will remain generally favorable in much of central and southern Argentina. Crop growth will vary in northern Argentina with many areas in Santiago del Estero, Chaco, and Corrientes remaining too dry for ideal development.

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