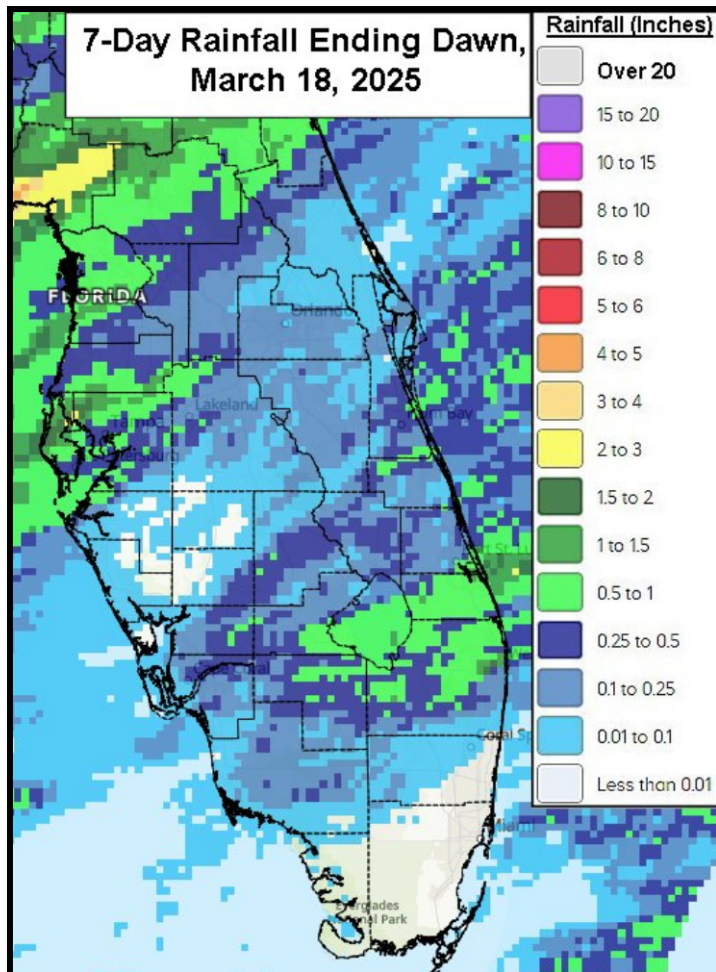


Weekly Citrus Weather

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, March 18 (World Weather Inc.) – **Florida**'s citrus areas received light rain during the past week. A large section of citrus country is abnormally dry or in a moderate drought and the need for rain is high. However, the main citrus areas will trend drier than usual during the coming week. Irrigation will be used across the state to support a good environment for citrus flowering. **Brazil**'s citrus areas will continue to see a good mix of rain and dry weather during the coming week. The outlook will remain relatively good. **Mexico**'s citrus areas were mostly dry during the past week. East-central and northeastern Mexico will have a few opportunities for spotty rain during the coming week, though not enough to support ideal flowering and early-season development.

FLORIDA



Rainfall varied across the main citrus areas in Florida during the past week. Areas from Hendry, Glades, and Charlotte Counties into Brevard, Indian River, Saint Lucie, and Martin Counties, along with much of Hillsborough County, received 0.10 to 1.00 inch of rain for the seven-day period ending this morning. Other citrus areas did not receive enough rain to counter evaporation or impact long-term soil conditions. The rain was welcome where it occurred, but was too light to fix the moderate drought or abnormally dry conditions. Irrigation was used across the state and helped support a good environment for flowering and general development.

Seasonable to seasonably warm weather was noted across citrus country during the past week. Daytime highs peaked from the upper 70s to mid-80s Fahrenheit with pockets warming to the upper 80s. However, highs March 17

dropped to the upper 60s and 70s. Nighttime lows were in the upper 30s and 40s March 12 and again this morning. Lows March 13-14 were in the 40s and lower 50s and the upper 50s and 60s most other days.

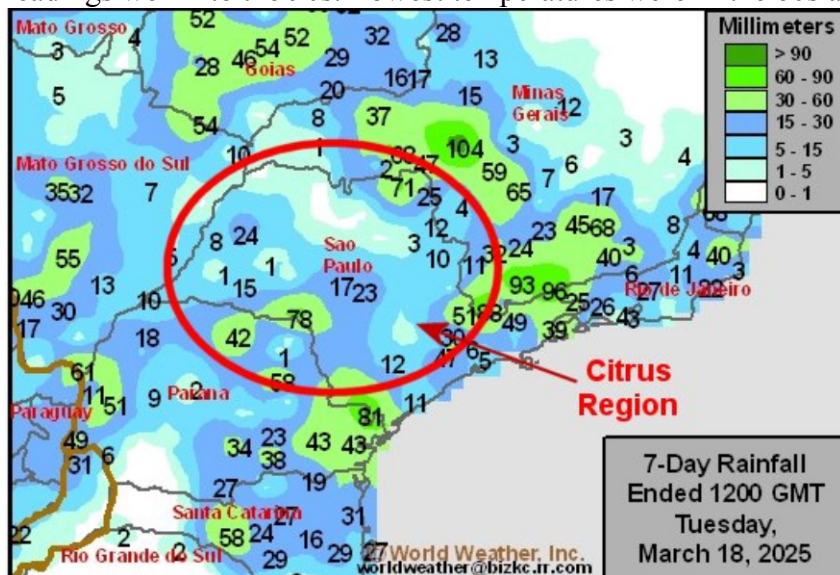
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Precipitation will be limited for much of Florida's citrus country during the coming week. A frontal boundary will still generate light rain in a few locations late Thursday and early Friday. Another front could bring light rain to the region early next week as well. However, resulting rainfall will be lost to evaporation. Drought or abnormally dry conditions will persist and intensify across the region. The need for irrigation will remain high, though flowering and general development conditions will remain favorable.

Temperatures will be near normal for much of Florida through next Tuesday. Daytime highs will peak from the mid-70s to lower 80s most often, though highs will only reach the upper 60s and 70s Friday following the frontal boundary. Low temperatures will be in the 40s and lower 50s Wednesday and again Friday and this weekend. Lows most other days will be in the 50s and lower 60s.

BRAZIL

Brazil's citrus areas in Sao Paulo and southwestern Minas Gerais saw a mix of rain and sunshine during the past week. Moisture totals for the seven-day period ending this morning ranged from 0.32 to 1.00 inch with local amounts up to 3.07 inches in southern and north-central Sao Paulo. Periods of warmer than normal weather were noted with highest readings well into the 90s. Lowest temperatures were in the 60s and lower 70s.



The periods of spotty rain were welcome in Sao Paulo and southwestern Minas Gerais during the past week. The rain helped maintain a relatively good environment for the citrus, though the driest locations need more rain to support ideal long-term crop prospects.

Sao Paulo and southwestern Minas Gerais will see a mix of

erratic rainfall and sunshine during the coming week. The first band of showers and thunderstorms will advance across the region today and Wednesday. Light showers will persist in a few locations Thursday through Saturday before more widespread rain returns Sunday. Isolated showers will again be possible early next week. Moisture totals by next Tuesday morning will range from 0.75 to 2.50 inches and locally greater amounts. Temperatures will be near normal with daytime highs often warming to the upper 70s and 80s. Pockets in western and southern Sao Paulo will occasionally warm to the lower 90s as well. Low temperatures will be in the 60s and lower 70s.

Rainfall in the coming days will help restore soil moisture to more adequate levels in much of Brazil's citrus country. Citrus development conditions will either improve or remain favorable, though more rain would be welcome later this month and early April.

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MEXICO

Mexico's main citrus areas were dry during the past week. Temperatures were near to above normal 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 pockets in northeastern Mexico cooling to the 40s. *The need for rain is high across northeastern, east-central, and western Mexico, especially in areas that have already seen flowering begin.*



East-central and northeastern Mexico will have a few opportunities for erratic rainfall during the coming week. Light rain will initially be scattered across Veracruz and Puebla Thursday and Friday. Scattered showers will then evolve for east-central and northeastern Mexico over the weekend and early next week with the passage

of a frontal boundary. Portions of Veracruz and Puebla will receive 0.25 to 1.50 inches of rain by next Tuesday morning. However, most locations in east-central and northeastern Mexico will receive 0.10 to 0.75 inch of moisture. Western Mexico will otherwise be mostly dry. Temperatures will trend near normal. Daytime highs will peak to the 80s and 90s most often with portions of northeastern Mexico only warming to the 70s Thursday and Friday. Low temperatures will be in the 50s and 60s with portions of east-central and western Mexico only cooling to the lower 70s at times.

The rain will be welcome where it occurs in east-central and northeastern Mexico in the coming week, especially for citrus that is flowering. However, the main citrus areas need much more rain to support ideal long-term development conditions. Western Mexico is also in need of significant rain to support favorable citrus prospects.

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