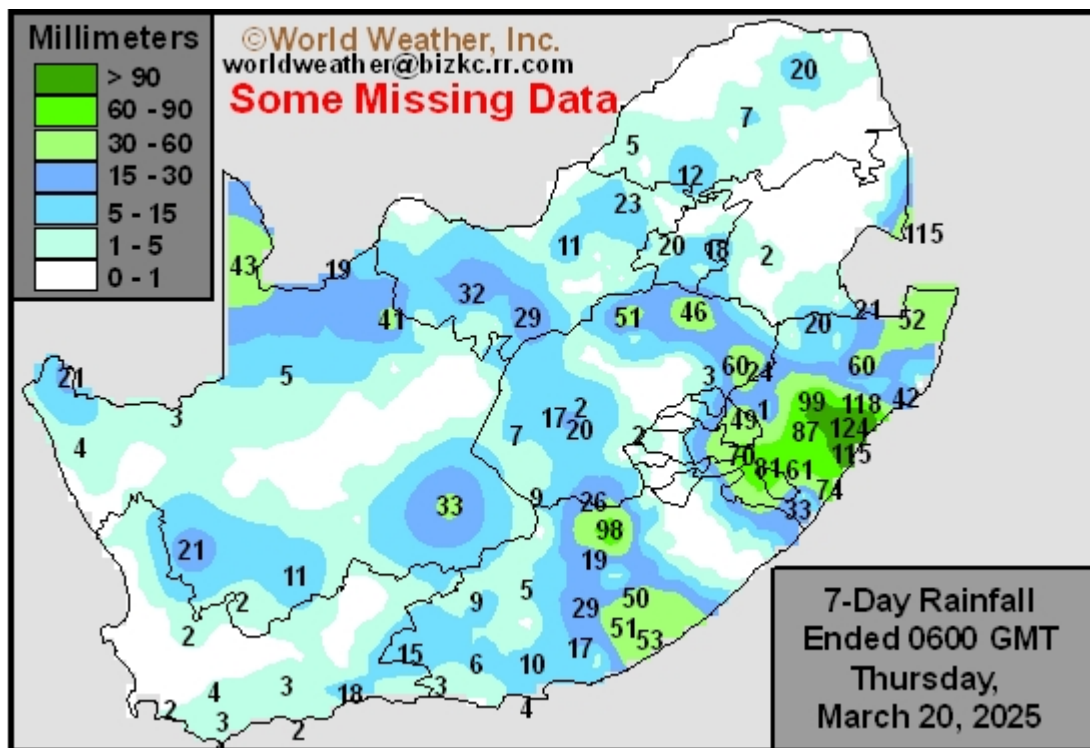


South Africa Crop Conditions Remain Favorable

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, March 20 (World Weather Inc.) – Rain was again scattered across the main production areas in South Africa during the past week. [The rain continued to promote a good environment for aggressive coarse grain, oilseed, cotton, and other crop development. Yield potentials remain favorable across the country.](#) South Africa will see a mix of erratic rainfall and dry weather during the coming week. Additional rainfall will be enough to maintain a good environment for new growth. Some of the early-planted crops, like soybeans and sunseed, usually begin harvesting in April.

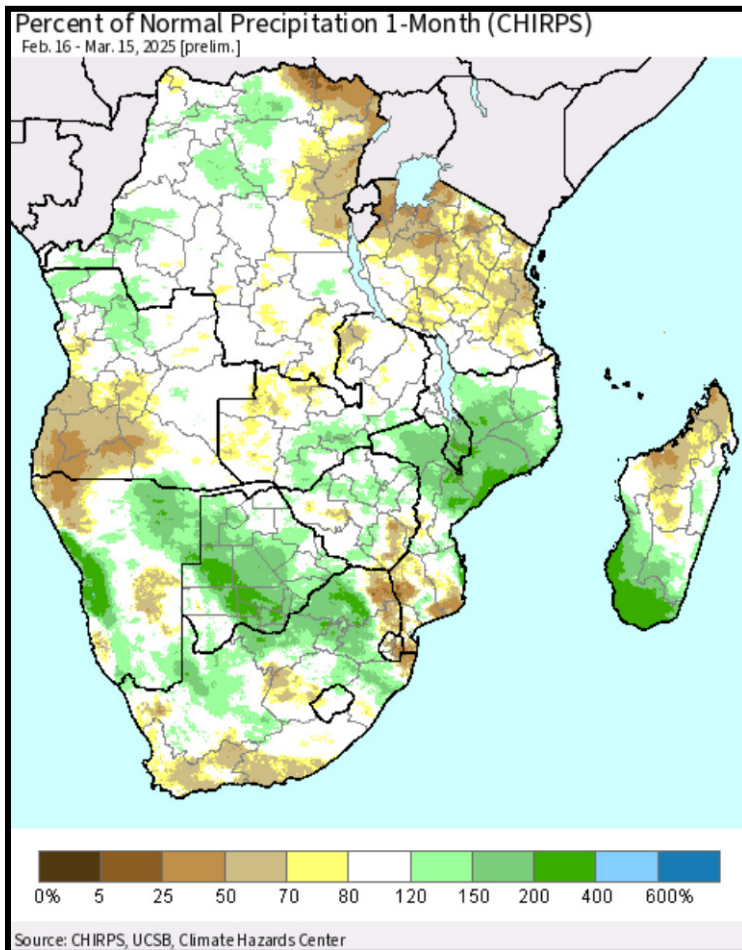
Central and southern Natal reported some of the most significant rain in South Africa during the past week. Moisture totals for the seven-day period ending this morning ranged from 2.40 to 4.88 inches. Northern Natal and portions of Eastern Cape and eastern Free State received 0.79 to 2.36 inches of rain with a local amount of 3.86 inches in northern Eastern Cape. Other areas in Free State into North West, Gauteng, and portions of Northern Cape, Limpopo, and Mpumalanga received 0.28 to 1.30 inches of rain.



Western Cape and portions of Eastern Cape, western Free State, and extreme northeastern South Africa were drier than normal for the 30-day period ending this morning. The remaining locations in South Africa received near to above normal rainfall with portions of North West, Gauteng, and western sections of Limpopo and Mpumalanga receiving more than 150% of normal precipitation.

The moisture profile is suspected of being adequate in the main summer coarse grain, oilseed, cotton, and other crop areas. The environment remained favorable for

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aggressive growth due to the timely rain in recent weeks. Yields are still suspected of being favorable for the upcoming season.

South Africa will see a mix of erratic rainfall and dry weather during the coming week. Scattered showers will slowly shift from western to central South Africa today through this weekend as a disturbance advances into the region. The band of showers will then shift into central and eastern South Africa at the beginning and middle of next week. Moisture totals by next Thursday morning will range from 0.50 to 3.00 inches in Natal and portions of Eastern Cape, Mpumalanga, and Western Cape. Other locations will receive 0.10 to 0.75 inch of rain with locally greater amounts. Eastern and central South Africa will again have

opportunities for rain March 28 – April 3 while western South Africa trend drier than normal.

Temperatures will trend near to slightly above normal for South Africa through next Thursday despite the rain. Daytime highs will peak to the 70s and 80s Fahrenheit with pockets in eastern and central South Africa only warming to the 60s. Pockets in western South Africa will also warm to the 90s, most notably later this weekend and next week. Low temperatures will be in the 50s and 60s with pockets in the 40s. Seasonable to seasonably warm weather will persist March 28 – April 3.

Additional rain and ample moisture in the soil will continue to support a good environment for aggressive growth in the coming weeks. The lack of abundant rainfall will also be welcome for the early-planted crops that are maturing or will be maturing in the coming weeks.

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