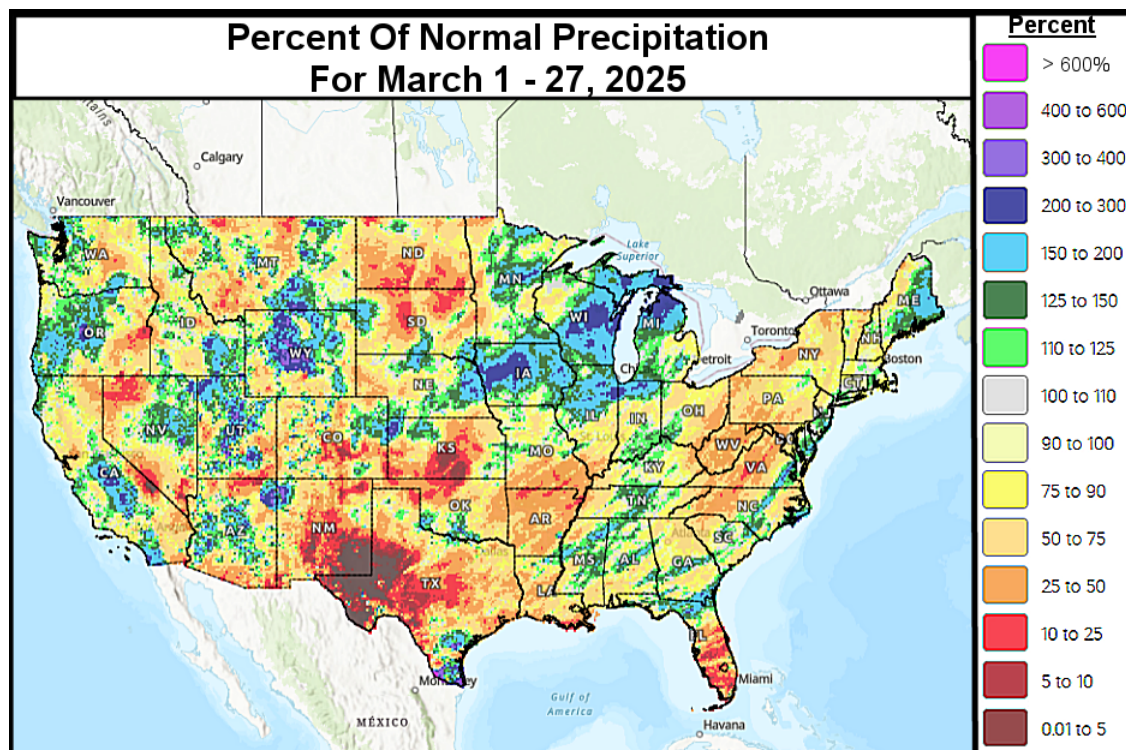


Hot, Dry and Windy Conditions to Persist in South US Plains

By Scarlett Waters

Kansas City, March 28 (World Weather Inc.) – Persistent dry and warm-biased weather has created drought conditions across the southern U.S. Plains since at least the latter half of February. A significant rain event occurred in South Texas and the Texas Coastal Bend Thursday and overnight; otherwise, hot and dry weather prevailed from western Kansas into central and western Texas and the southwestern desert areas of the United States. ***Drought is either present or developing in most of the region, although the rain in South Texas has brought relief. Crop and livestock stress are occurring from western Kansas and eastern Colorado southward. In the next 7 to 10 days, minimal to no precipitation is expected to prevail across the region. Periodic warm to hot temperatures will also continue into next week, as well, particularly in Texas and Oklahoma, which will continue to amplify drought conditions and increase crop and livestock stress.***



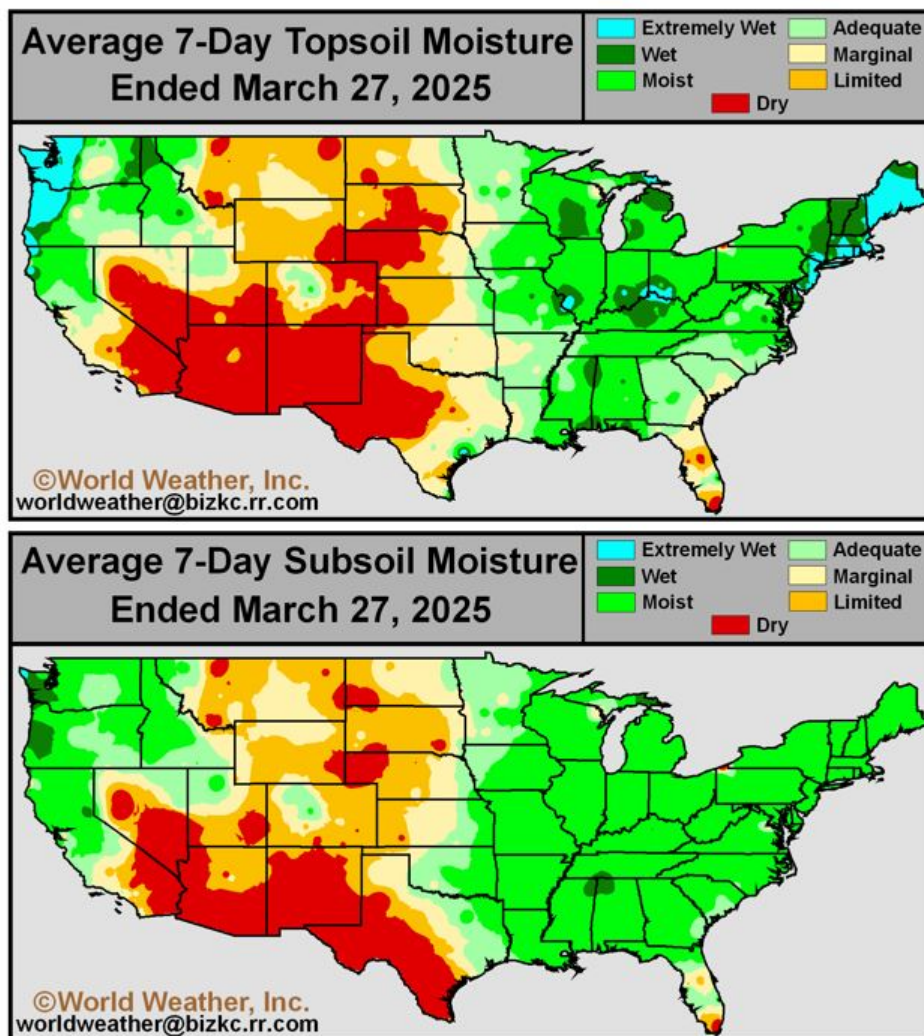
Conditions in the U.S. Southern Plains have been largely dry and abnormally warm for much of the first few months of 2025. ***Since the beginning of March alone, less than 25% of normal rainfall has occurred across most of this region. A brief period of thunderstorms earlier this month contributed to some very brief and limited improvement to conditions in portions of the Texas Panhandle into central Oklahoma; however, soil moisture across the crop region remained marginally adequate to very short and have remained in such a state since the latter half of January.***

Warmer-than-normal daytime temperatures across this region have also amplified evaporation leading to quick drying and an expansion of drought. Periodic excessive wind

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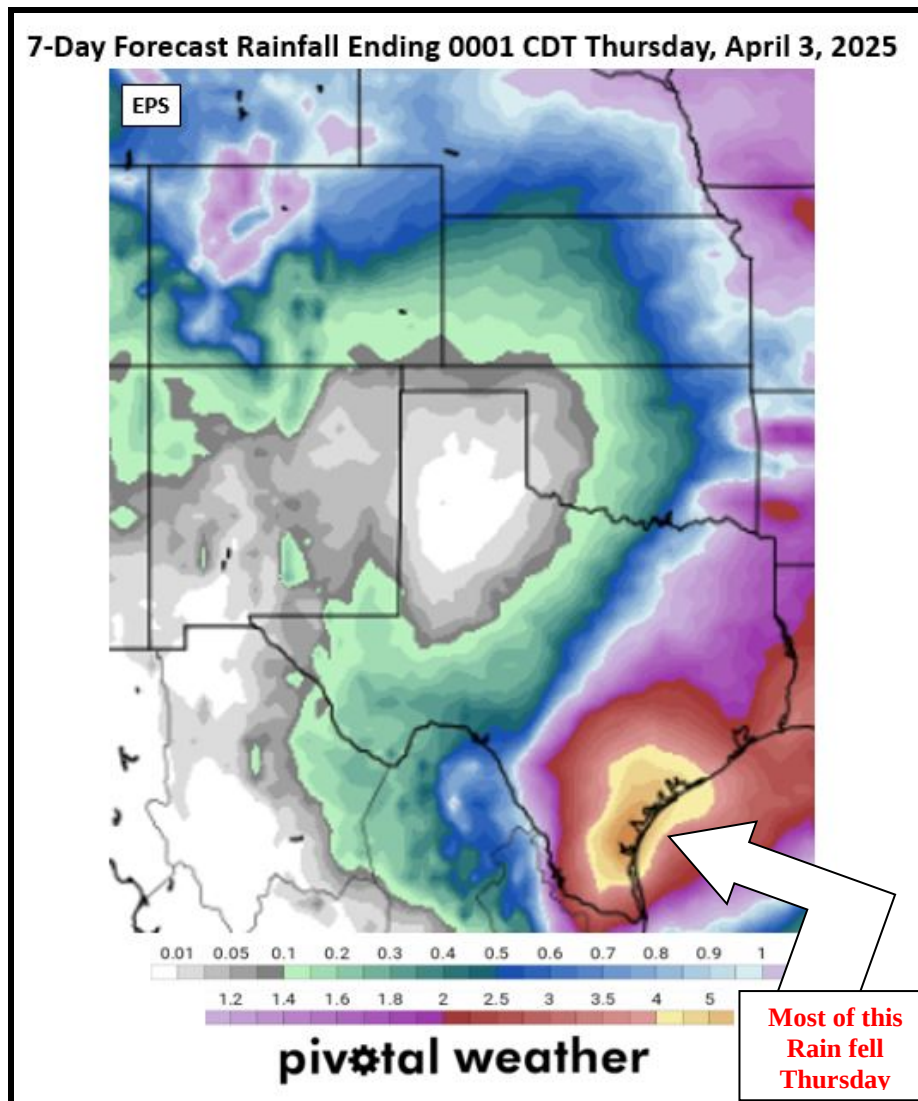
events have also occurred with extremely low relative humidity to deplete soil moisture almost as quickly as it is gained by brief bouts of rain. Temperatures from western Kansas and eastern Colorado southward into the Texas Panhandle have ranged widely since mid-February with highs in the 50s and 60s during the cooler days and then reaching into the 70s and 80s on the warmer days. Frost and freezes have also occurred periodically which may be limiting new crop development along with the dry soil, but the plant stress resulting from such widely ranging temperatures may be reducing recovery potentials for the crop that suffered freeze and other damage earlier in the winter. Some areas in southern Texas have seen 80- and 90-degree heat periodically with and a few occasional 100+ degree days, during the same period. A sudden period of excessive heat in the 80s and 90s also impacted southern Texas in the first week of February.

The U.S. Drought Monitor Thursday indicated much of the Southern Plains is experiencing moderate to severe drought conditions with the southernmost portions of Texas into Mexico seeing extreme to exceptional drought. Significant or consistent precipitation will be needed in the coming days to weeks in order to alleviate these conditions and reduce crop and livestock stress across the region.



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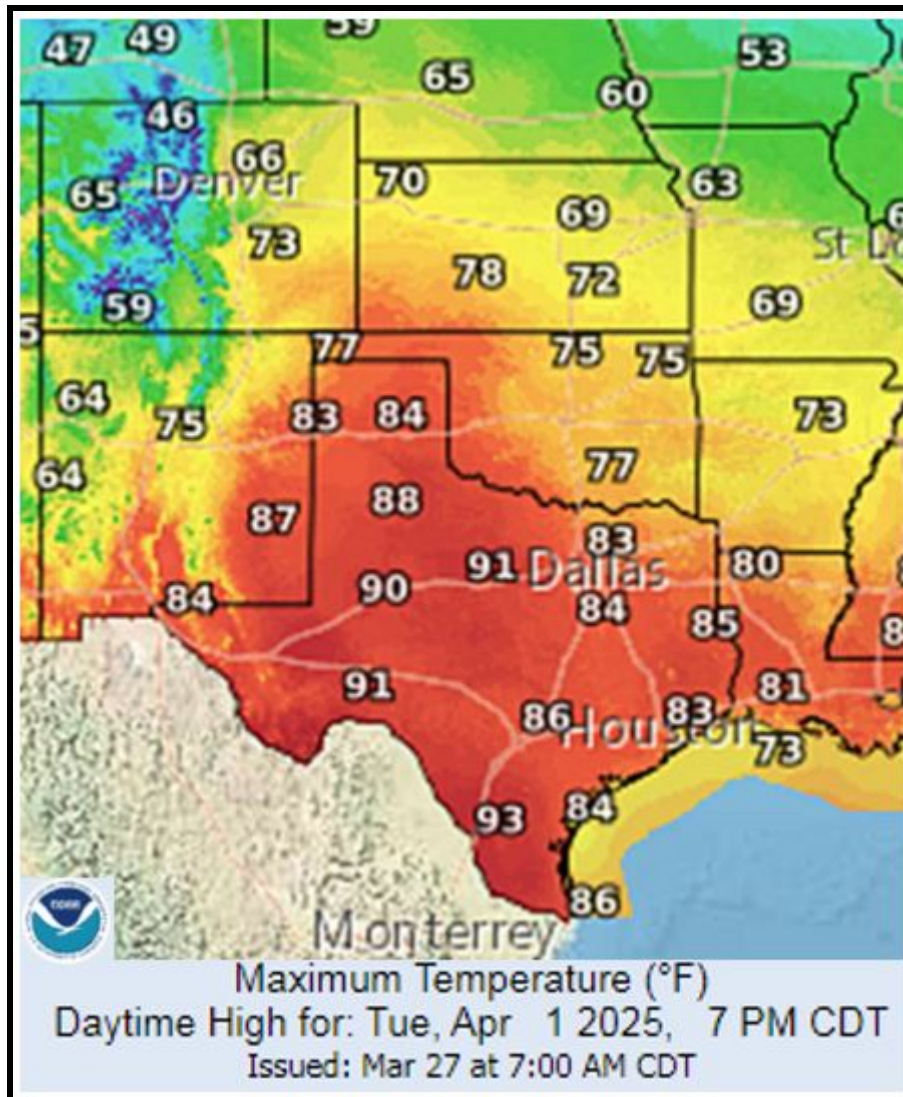
In the next 7-days, minimal to no precipitation is expected to occur in most of the crop region. Some trailing showers and thunderstorms from larger storm systems in the Midwest will bring 0.10 to 0.30 inch of rain to parts of the region along the fringes of the Southern Plains crop region in central Kansas and in portions of West Texas, though much more will be needed to make an impact on drought conditions. Heavier thunderstorms winding down in southern and eastern Texas this morning will aid in alleviating extreme to exceptional drought in the region; however, mostly dry conditions will return in the remaining days of the forecast period. Flash flooding has occurred in association with these storms.



Alongside the persistent lack of rain, hot afternoon temperatures in the 80s and 90s will occur across much of Oklahoma and Texas, with some low 100s possible in southern Texas. This heat will further amplify evaporation in the region and may amplify stress in the region. Upper 70s to upper 80s will continue in Kansas and eastern Colorado until a cold-front passes through this weekend. The combination of minimal rain

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and warm temperatures in much of the region, and especially the Texas Panhandle and western Oklahoma, will continue to cause crop and livestock stress in the region. Much more precipitation will be needed to alleviate these conditions in the coming weeks. There will also be some periodic wind storms impacting the region causing more blowing dust and accelerating the loss of both soil moisture and some of the topsoil due to excessive wind. The next high wind event may occur during the early to middle part of next week.



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