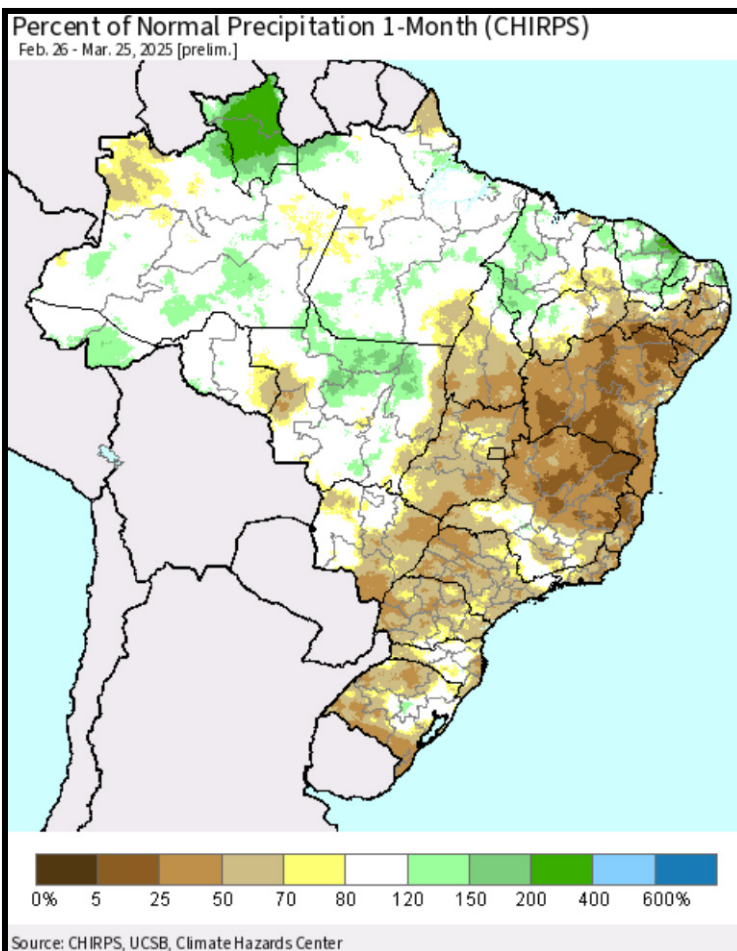


Brazil April Weather Suggests Near To Below Normal Rain

By Andrew Owen and Drew Lerner

Kansas City, April 2 (World Weather Inc.) – Brazil rainfall has not been as abundant or significant as it usually is near the end of the monsoon season especially in center south and northeastern parts of the nation. However, timely rain has continued to support crops and this process will continue for the next two weeks. There is concern that the monsoon season will end later this month without the ground being totally saturated and that may lead to moisture shortages when the late planted Safrinha corn reproduces and fills. Some of this was expected and the commodity trade has already factored this potential into futures prices, but the situation needs to be closely monitored for signs of hotter than expected weather during the dry season. World Weather, Inc. would not be surprised to see a few scattered showers and thunderstorms during the dry season to slow the rate of drying in “some” Safrinha crop areas.

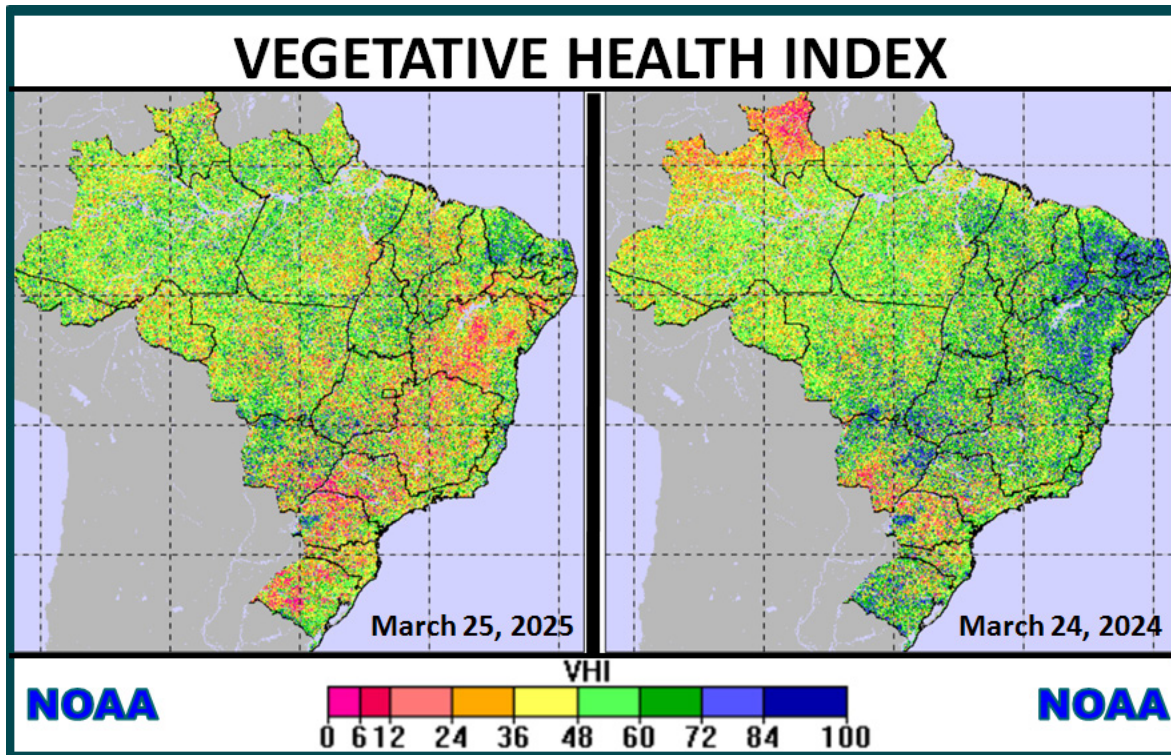


Brazil rainfall during the monsoon season is often greater than needed to support crops and a below normal precipitation bias is not always a problem; however, dryness during the last weeks of the monsoon season can have a greater impact especially in years like this one in which some of the Safrinha crops were planted notably late. It is very important in years like this that the ground is completely saturated on the last day of the monsoon season so that late plated crops have the best possible chance of having subsoil moisture still rated favorably during the reproductive and filling season.

This year's reproduction of about 20-25% of the Safrinha corn crop will occur about three weeks later than usual and it will be a very tough situation for sufficient moisture to still be in the soil well after the monsoon season ends. The threat is only a threat of lower production since there is always the potential for some unusual rainfall to impact the production region during the “dry” season. Also, milder than usual temperatures can also have a big positive impact on late planted crops since evaporation rates would be slowed sufficiently to conserve moisture in the soil for reproduction later than usual.

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The latest Vegetative Health Index for Brazil does show some decline in crop conditions relative to those of last year. This decline in conditions may be a direct impact of the more sporadic and light rainfall that has occurred in recent weeks. It may also be the result of late planting for “some” areas. Most likely, though it is a true reflection of the below normal rainfall from recent weeks especially in coffee, sugarcane, corn and soybean areas of Bahia, Minas Gerais and from Sao Paulo to Rio Grande do Sul.



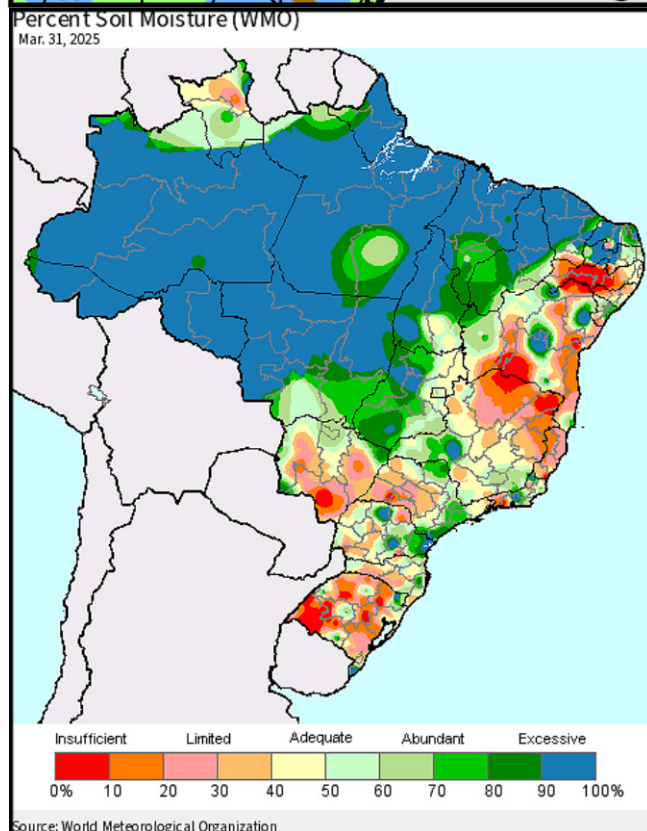
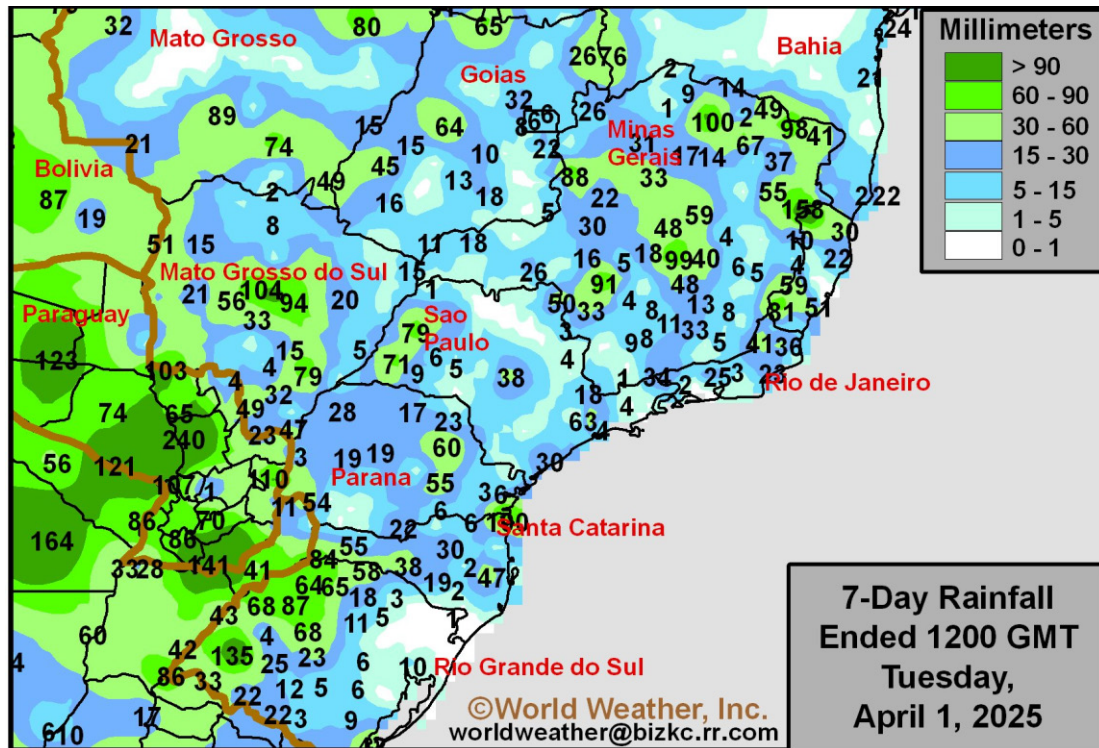
The greater crop stress showing on the Vegetative Health Index does not necessarily directly translate to lower yield potentials, but it does suggest there must be greater rain soon before the monsoon ends to give late season crops the best opportunity to either improve or perform as well as possible given the current environment. The latest rainfall data shows the erratic distribution of precipitation in the past week. Many areas received rain at one time or another, but there is likely a huge variance in general crop conditions from one region to another throughout Brazil. This is inclusive of most grain, oilseed, cotton, sugarcane, citrus and coffee production areas as well rice and other crops.

World Weather, Inc. believes many crop areas in Brazil are still in favorable condition to yield well especially if timely rain continues; however, April is normally the last month in the rainy season. It is not unusual for rainfall in April to be erratic with precipitation at the end of the month much more limited than at the beginning of the month. That implies time is not in favor of Brazil getting a quick fix in long term soil moisture before the monsoon ends. There is still potential for timely rainfall in the “dry” season, but usually temperatures are warm or hot enough during that period of time to keep evaporation rates quite high.

The longer range outlook is suggesting near to above normal temperatures in Brazil during May and probably June as well. No excessively hot weather is predicted,

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although once the rainy season ends any heat in a year like this would be a potential threat for the late season crops.

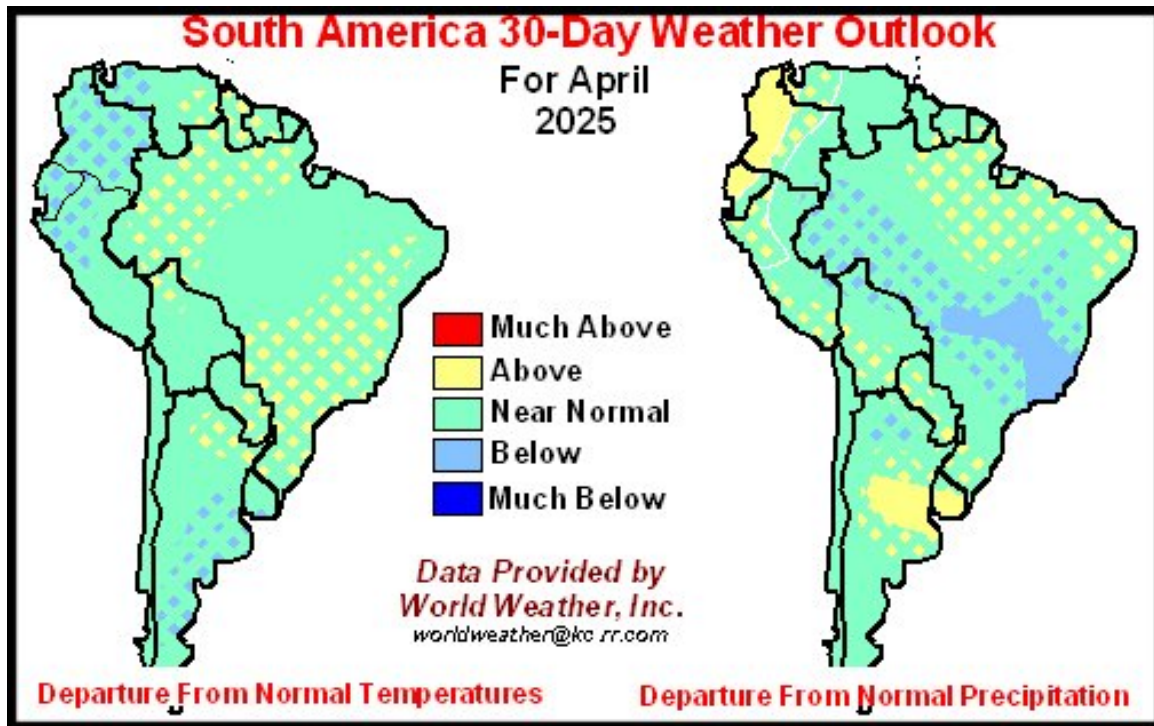


Similar to North America, the South America weather pattern is unlikely to change much in the coming 30 days. The biggest difference for Brazil is the fact that monsoonal rainfall should end. This year's weather pattern will offer the "opportunity" for some periodic rainfall after the monsoon has ended. The resulting rainfall should not be enough to improve soil moisture greatly, but it may be sufficient to slow drying in some areas so that the late season crop has a little better chance of yielding better than expected.

No excessive heat is expected in April, although temperatures will be near to above normal in most of the nation's crop areas with the possible exception of the far south where readings may be

a little closer to normal.

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RECENT WEATHER

Rain was scattered across much of Brazil during the past week. Mato Grosso, Mato Grosso do Sul, Minas Gerais, western Sao Paulo, and western Rio Grande do Sul received some of the most significant rain. Moisture totals for the seven-day period ending this morning ranged from 0.51 to 3.00 inches with local amounts up to 5.31 inches. Other locations received 0.20 to 1.50 inches of rain with local amounts up to 2.50 inches. However, many areas in southern Bahia and eastern Rio Grande do Sul were mostly dry.

Temperatures during the past week were near normal across Brazil. Highest readings were in the 80s and 90s Fahrenheit. Lowest temperatures were in the 60s and lower 70s.

Mato Grosso and portions of western and northern Mato Grosso do Sul generally received near normal rainfall for the 30-day period ending March 25. The remaining production areas in Brazil otherwise received near or below normal rainfall during this time with portions of Bahia and Minas Gerais receiving less than 25% of normal precipitation.

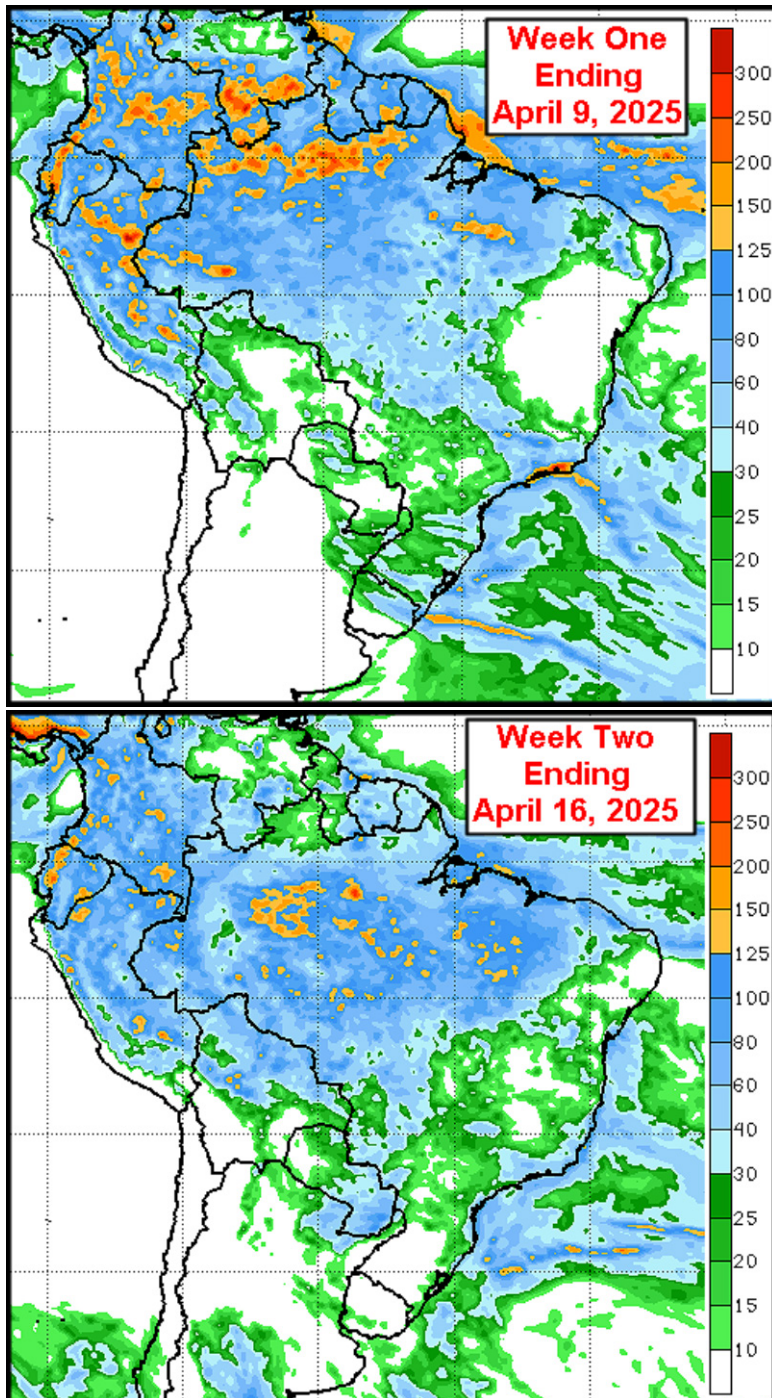
Harvesting remains ahead of last year's pace for much of Brazil. As of March 29, soybean harvesting was 81.4% complete, up from 71.0% this time last year and 67.2% for the previous five-year average. First-season corn harvesting was 53.3% complete, up from 46.4% last year and 41.1% for the previous five-year average. Rice harvesting was 52.7% complete while harvesting of the dry beans 73% complete, both ahead of last year. [The lack of abundant rainfall in most locations continued to support a good environment for aggressive harvesting in much of Brazil.](#)

According to CONAB, Safrinha corn planting was nearly complete on March 29 with 97.9% of the corn in the ground, down slightly from 98.7% this time last year, but ahead of 92.5% for the previous five-year average. [Mato Grosso and a few neighboring locations in Mato Grosso do Sul still have enough moisture to support generally favorable](#)

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establishment and growth for corn, cotton and other late season crops. However, the remaining production areas in Brazil are still suffering from below normal moisture for this time of year due to the drier biased environment in recent weeks. While enough rain fell to maintain a good environment for short-term crop conditions, there is still a need for more significant rain to restore soil moisture to more favorable levels for ideal crop conditions. A dry end to April could increase concerns for production impacts.

WEATHER OUTLOOK



Brazil's main production areas will see a mix of erratic rain and dry weather during the coming week. Rain will be scattered across crop country through Thursday. A frontal boundary will shift the rain to portions of center-south, center-west, and northeastern Brazil Friday and Saturday with only a few light showers expected later this weekend and early next week. Southern Minas Gerais and Rio de Janeiro will receive 0.75 to 4.00 inches of rain by next Tuesday morning. Other locations will receive 0.50 to 2.00 inches of rain, though portions of southeastern Bahia, northeastern Minas Gerais, and Espirito Santo will receive little or no rain. Alternating periods of rain and dry weather will likely persist for much of Brazil April 9 – 15, though most locations may trend a little drier than usual.

Temperatures will be near normal for Brazil through next Tuesday. Daytime highs will peak in the 70s and 80s for southern Brazil through Thursday before dropping to the 60s

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and 70s with pockets in the 80s for the remainder of the coming week. Highs elsewhere will peak to the 80s and lower 90s with pockets in center-south and center-west Brazil only warming to the 70s this weekend and early next week. Low temperatures will be in the 50s and 60s through Friday and again early next week in southern Brazil. Lows over the weekend will be in the 40s and 50s. Other production areas will generally see nighttime lows in the 60s and 70s. The temperature profile will remain near normal April 9 – 15.

The lack of abundant rainfall during the coming week will continue to promote a good environment for harvesting across Brazil. Late-season safrinha corn planting should finish up under relatively favorable conditions as well. Mato Grosso will have enough moisture to support good establishment and growth. Other Safrinha corn areas in center-south Brazil, Mato Grosso do Sul, and Parana will have some moisture to support new growth as well. However, these locations are still in need of more significant rainfall later this month to support ideal long-term crop prospects.

COFFEE AND SUGARCANE COMMENTS

Coffee and sugarcane areas in Brazil will continue to experience periodic rainfall, although rain amounts in this first half of April will continue lighter than usual. The best chance for significant rain in Sul de Minas and Cerrado Mineiro coffee areas will be Thursday into Saturday. After that the precipitation will be sporadic and like similar to that of more recent days.

Sugarcane areas will get some timely rainfall in the first half of April, although resulting amounts are likely to be less than usual maintaining some concern over this year's tonnage. Sucrose levels; however, may be a little higher than usual which could help to counter the reduction in tonnage.

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