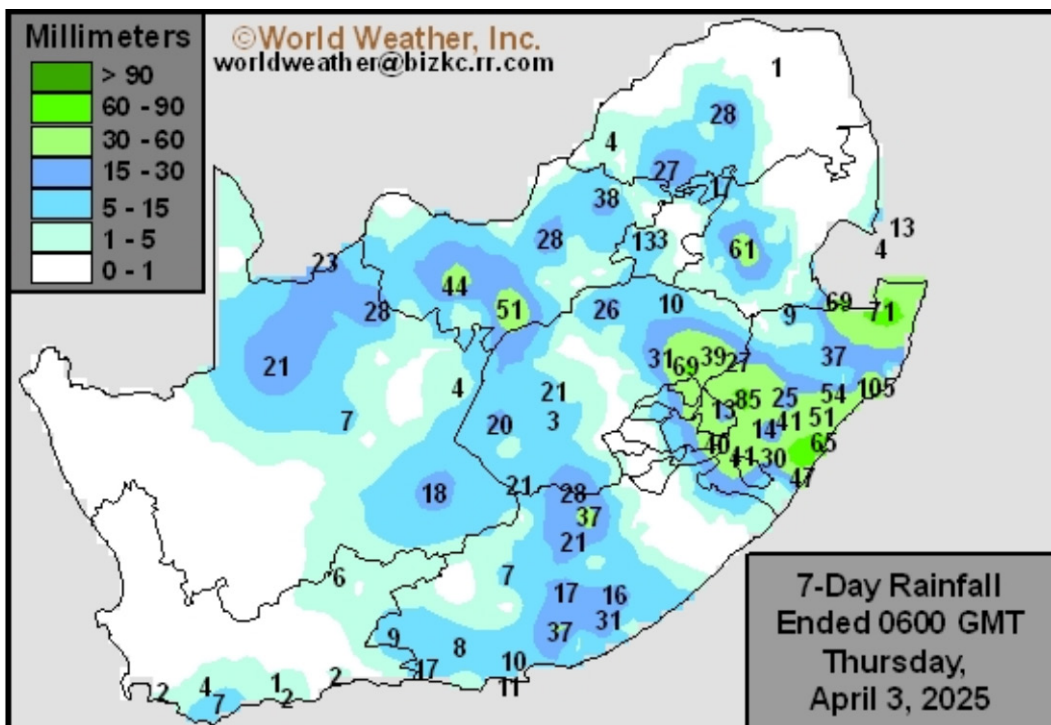


South Africa Trending A Little Too Wet For Early Harvest

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, April 4 (World Weather Inc.) – *Waves of rain have helped maintain a good environment for late-season summer crop development in much of South Africa recently; however, the rain has disrupted fieldwork periodically. Additional waves of rain are expected for most of the nation's summer crop areas during the next week and they will significantly bolster soil moisture possibly leading to a little flash flooding. Field working delays will become more significant and a few crops could experience a quality decline because of the wetter bias.*

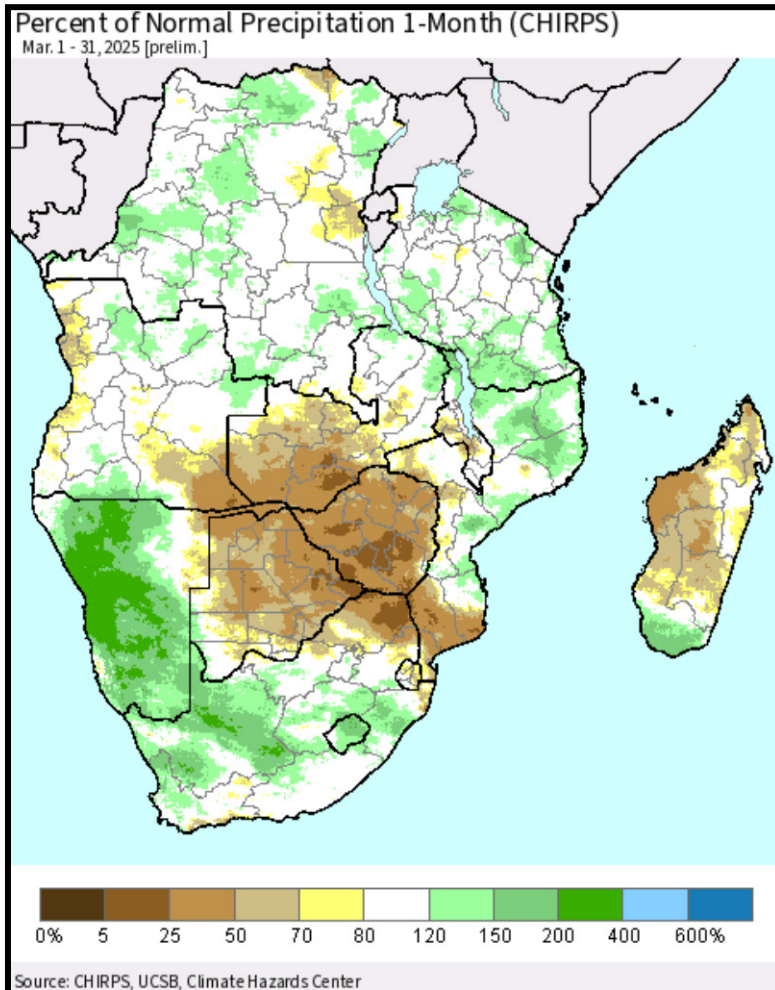
South Africa's main production areas saw a mix of rain and sunshine during the past week. Natal, eastern Free State, and Mpumalanga generally received the greatest amount of rain with totals ranging from 0.55 to 2.80 inches for the seven-day period ending this morning. North West, Gauteng, western Free State, Eastern Cape, and portions of Northern Cape and Limpopo received 0.28 to 1.42 inches of rain with local amounts up to 2.00 inches in North West. Pockets in Western Cape received up to 0.28 inch of rain as well. Temperatures were near to above normal with daytime highs often reaching the 70s and 80s Fahrenheit. Portions of western and northern South Africa often warmed to the 90s as well. Low temperatures were in the 50s and 60s.



Outside of Limpopo and a few neighboring locations, rainfall in South Africa was near to above normal for the month of March. *The rain helped support a good environment for aggressive late-season development with exceptions for the driest pockets in Limpopo.*

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Yield potentials remain favorable. Some of the earlier-planted crops (like peanuts, soybeans and some early corn) are maturing or being harvested. More widespread maturation and harvesting will occur in the coming weeks and into May, which will decrease the need for abundant rainfall.



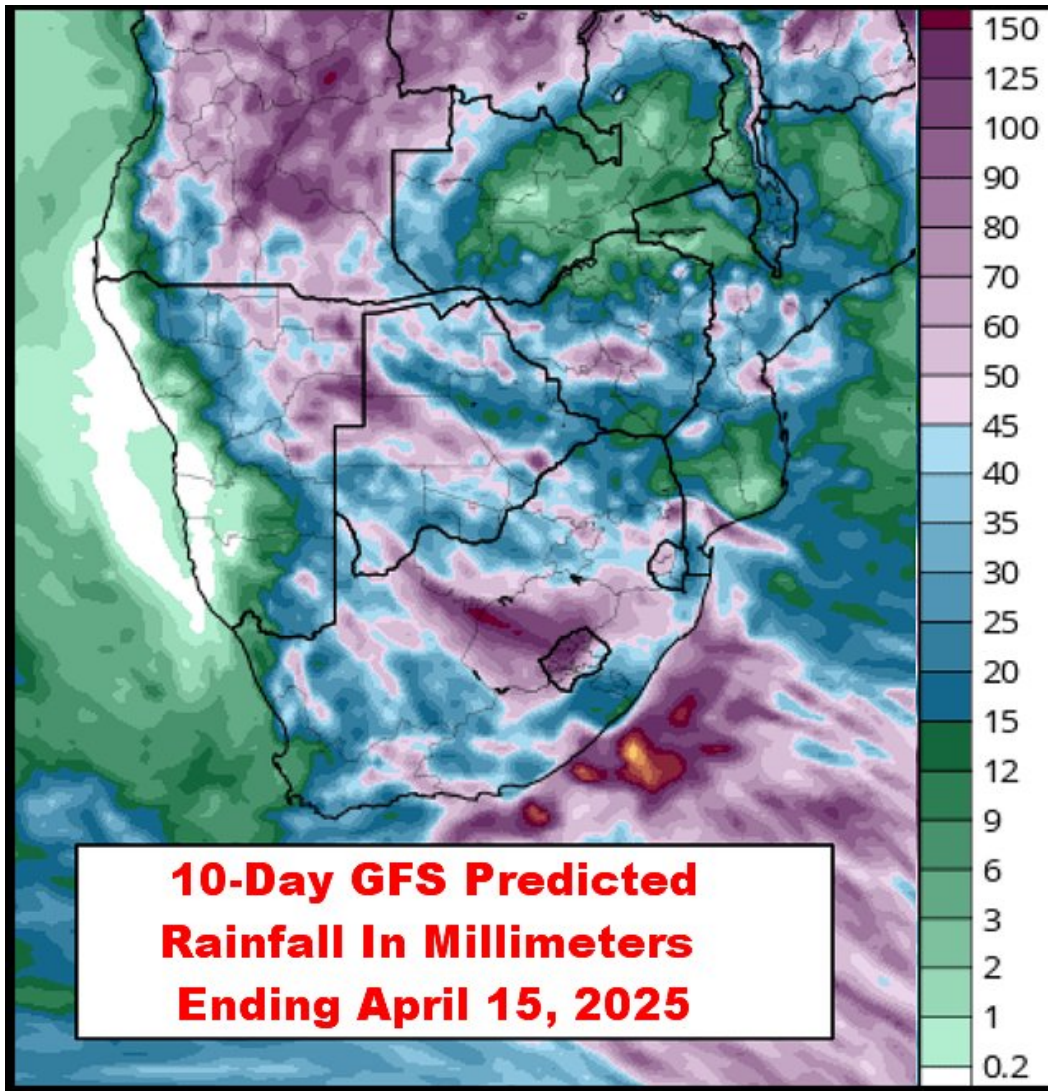
A wet weather pattern is slated for South Africa during the coming week. Scattered showers and thunderstorms will evolve today into Saturday as the first disturbance passes over the region. Another disturbance will promote rain late Saturday into Tuesday. Drier weather will then evolve Wednesday after the second disturbance passes over the country. Moisture totals by next Thursday morning will range from 1.50 to 4.00 inches in much of the country. However, several locations in North West, Free State, and neighboring locations will receive 7.00 inches or slightly more of rain. Portions of northern and eastern Limpopo will also only receive 0.10 to 0.75 inch of rain. Eastern and central South Africa will then

see a mix of rain and sunshine April 11-17, though rain totals will likely be lower compared to the first week of the outlook. Western South Africa will be drier than normal during the second week of the outlook.

The temperature profile will trend near or slightly above normal for South Africa through next Thursday. Daytime highs will peak to the 70s and 80s with many areas in eastern and central South Africa only warming to the 60s during periods of more significant rain. Low temperatures will be in the 50s and 60s with pockets in eastern and southern South Africa cooling to the 40s. Temperatures will remain near or slightly above normal April 11 – 17.

Waves of rain in the coming days will cause the ground to become excessively wet in a large section of South Africa's crop country. Flash flooding will be a concern and may damage a minor amount of crops in North West, Free State, and neighboring locations. Quality declines will also be a concern for the mature crops in the wettest locations. Production potentials may decrease slightly due to the wet weather. Maturation and early-season harvesting may also come to a standstill as well.

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