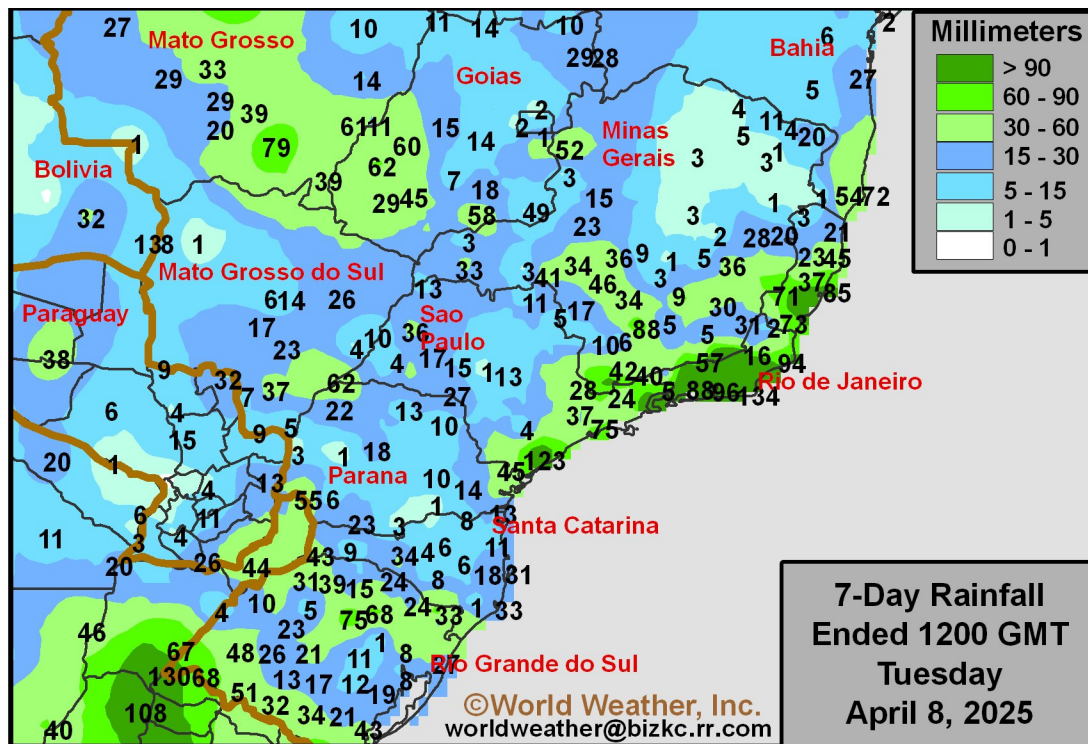


Brazil Safrinha Corn Prospects Improve; More Rain Needed

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, April 8 (World Weather Inc.) – Rain scattered across a large part of Brazil's summer crop areas during the past week, although the precipitation was not evenly distributed. *Some areas failed to get enough moisture for a serious lift in topsoil moisture which is needed to support the 20-25% of late planted Safrinha corn through reproduction. The past week's weather was ideally mixed for near term crop development, but greater rain is needed so that the soil is saturated on the last day of the monsoon. Any shortage of moisture present when the monsoon ends could raise some concern over the late planted Safrinha corn yields.* In the meantime, harvesting of soybeans, first-season corn, and other crops will continue around the periods of rain.

Southern Bahia into northern Minas Gerais were either dry during the past week or did not receive enough rain to counter evaporation. Other production areas in Brazil saw a mix of rain and sunshine. Moisture totals for the seven-day period ending this morning generally ranged from 0.40 to 2.25 inches. Several areas in Rio de Janeiro and coastal Sao Paulo reported upwards of 6.61 inches of rain during the weekend resulting in some flooding. Pockets in Rio Grande do Sul also received up to 3.11 inches of rain.

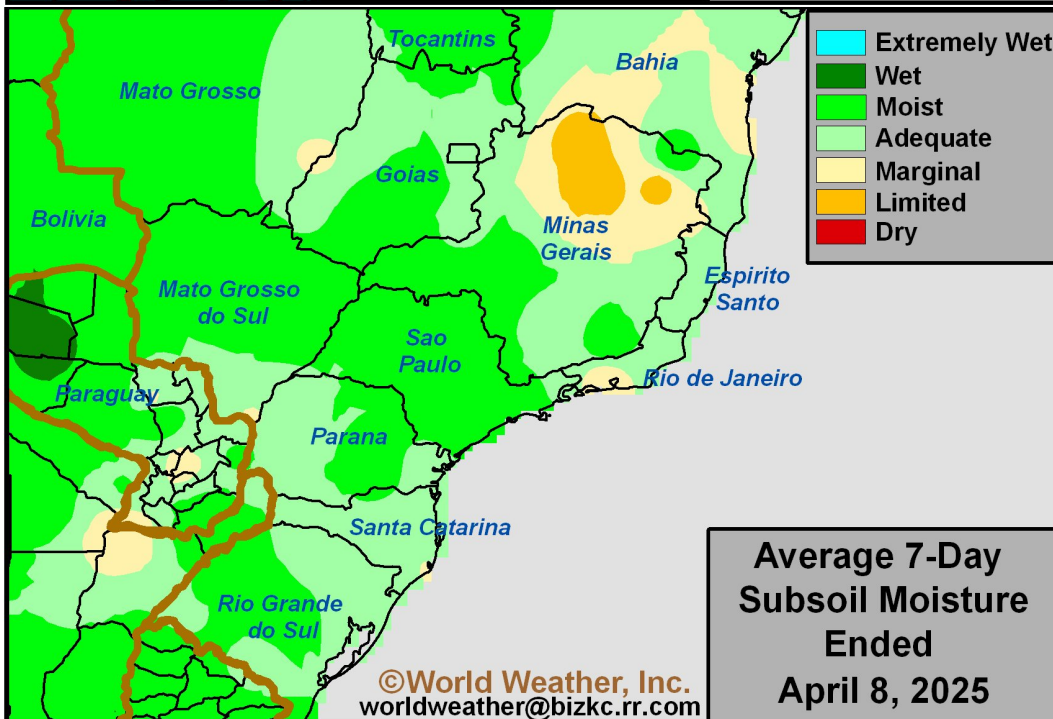
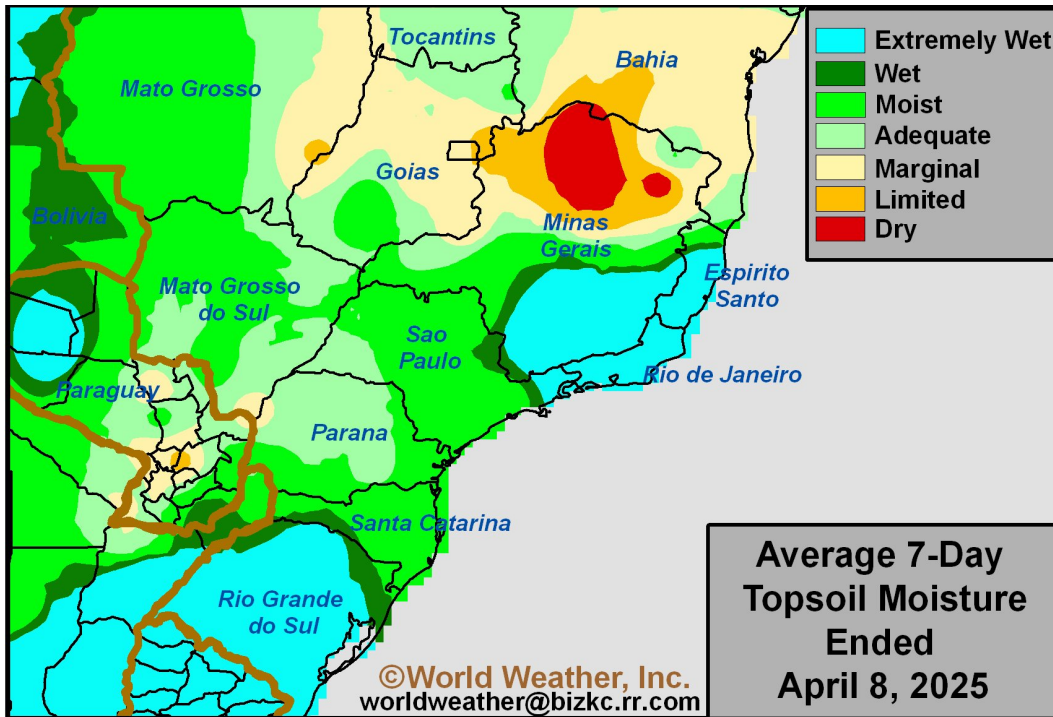


Temperatures were near or slightly above normal with highest readings in the 80s and 90s Fahrenheit. Lowest temperatures were in the 40s and 50s in southern Brazil and the 60s and lower 70s in most other locations.

Soil moisture remains short to very short in portions of northern Minas Gerais and southern Bahia due to the lack of rain and warm weather in recent weeks. Portions of Goias and eastern Mato Grosso have marginally adequate to short topsoil moisture while most

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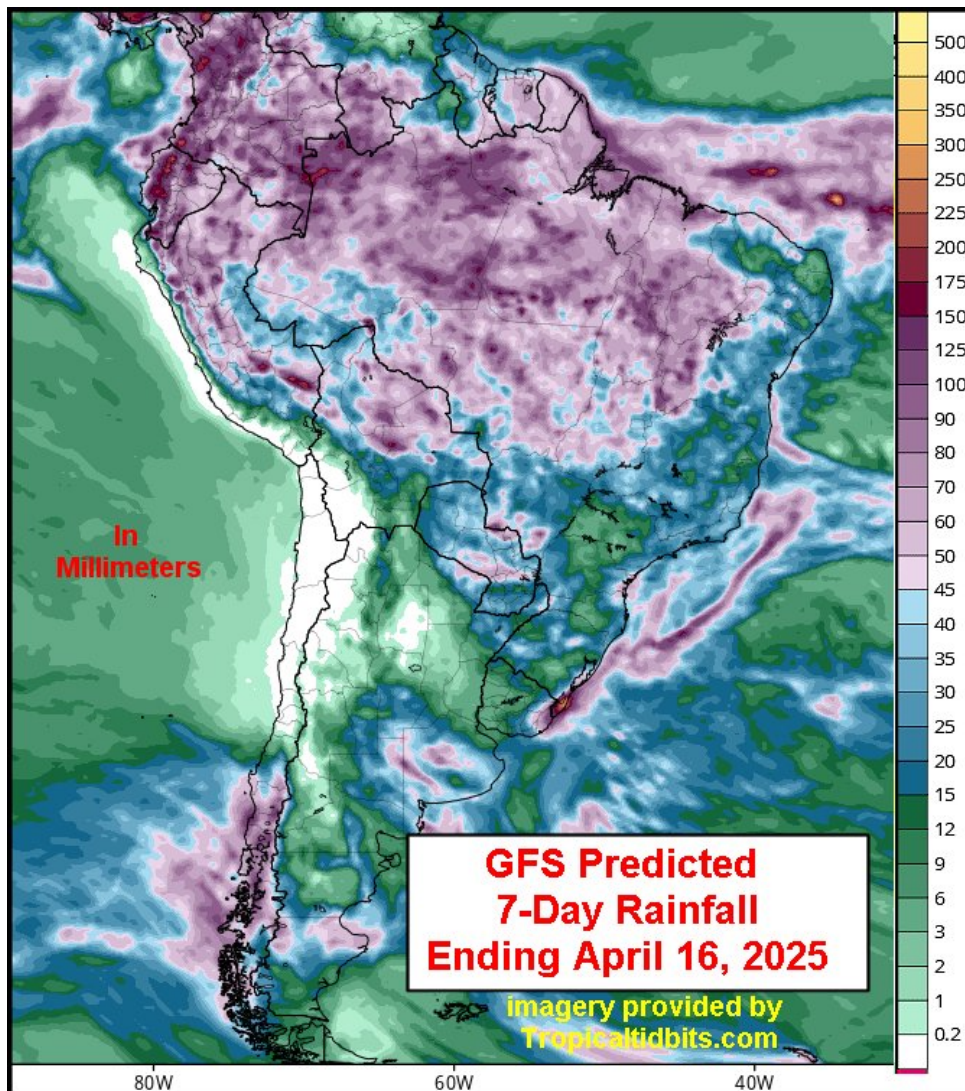
other areas have adequate to excessive amounts of moisture. Subsoil moisture is rated favorably in most Safrinha corn areas, although with 20-25% of the crop planted up to three weeks late the ground will need to be completely saturated on the last day of the monsoon season to give these late season crops an opportunity to produce as well as possible. Certainly, some timely rainfall after the monsoon season ends would promote favorable production for the late crop, but confidence in that potential is a little low.



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Recent rainfall has helped maintain favorable crop development conditions or improve them and early-season growth in the main production areas of center-west and center south has advanced relatively well. These areas would still welcome a more significant rain event in the coming weeks to support ideal long-term crop conditions. Several locations in center-south Brazil, Mato Grosso do Sul and Goias were drier biased during the past month and still have below normal soil moisture for this time of year.

In the meantime, harvesting is advancing swiftly in Brazil despite recent rain. As of April 5, soybean harvesting was 85.3% complete, ahead of 76.4% this time last year and 82.4% for the previous five-year average. First-season corn harvesting was 59.2% complete, up from 52.9% last year and 54.8% for the previous five-year average. Dry bean harvesting was 77.1% complete while rice harvesting was 61.4% finished.



Brazil's main production areas will receive varying amounts of rain during the coming week. Rain will be scattered across Mato Grosso, northern Mato Grosso do Sul, and Goias on a near daily basis. These areas will receive 0.75 to 3.00 inches of rain with locally

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greater amounts by next Tuesday morning. A disturbance will bring rain from south to north in the remaining production areas today into Thursday. Erratic rainfall will persist Friday into early next week, most notably in Minas Gerais and neighboring locations. Southern Brazil, center-south Brazil, northeastern Brazil, and southern Mato Grosso do Sul will receive 0.50 to 2.00 inches of rain during this time. Local rain totals of 3.00 inches or more will also be possible in Santa Catarina, northern Rio Grande do Sul, and Minas Gerais while pockets in western Parana only receive 0.10 to 0.50 inch of moisture. The main production areas will continue to see a mix of rain and sunshine April 16 – 22.

Mato Grosso, Goias, and northern Mato Grosso do Sul will receive enough rain to maintain a good environment for Safrinha corn establishment and growth in the coming weeks. Other production areas in Mato Grosso do Sul, Parana, Sao Paulo, and Minas Gerais will have some moisture to support new growth as well, though more significant rain would still be welcome later this month to further improve the moisture profile.

Harvesting of the soybeans, first-season corn, and other crops will likely advance swiftly around the rain. No major delays are expected.

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