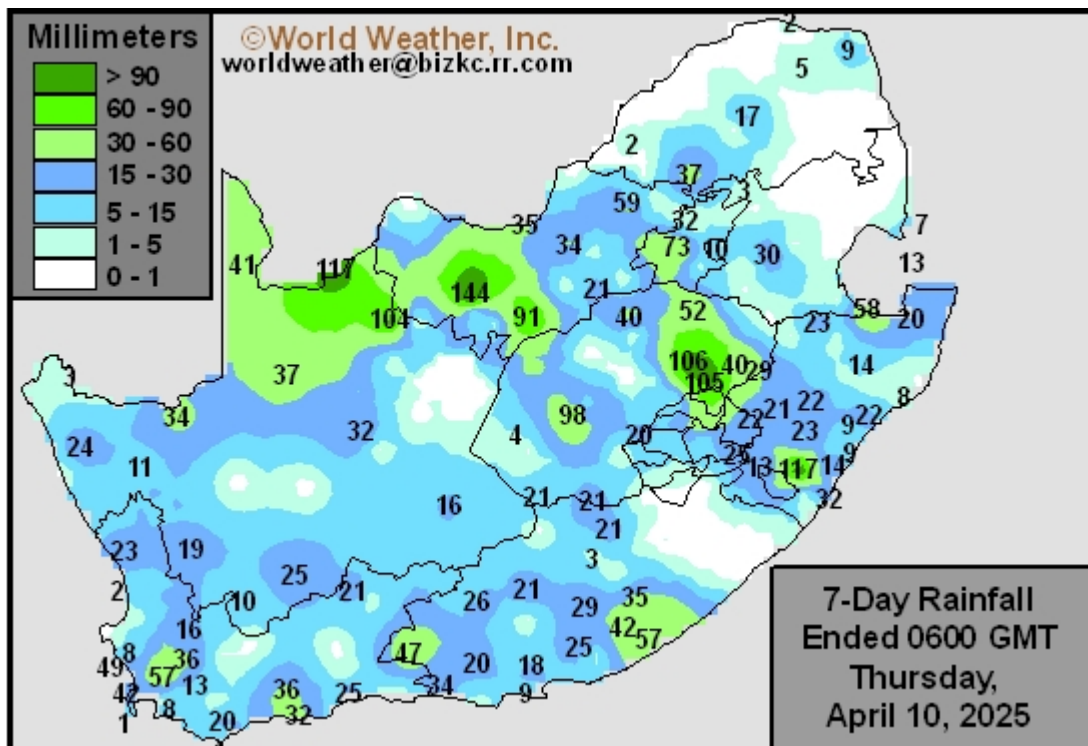


South Africa Crop Prospects Favorable; Drying Needed

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, April 10 (World Weather Inc.) – Waves of rain were noted across South Africa during the past week. The rain was welcome for late-season development, though several areas in Free State, North West, and Northern Cape may be dealing with excess moisture. The need for drier weather is increasing since most crops are maturing and the harvest season has begun. Eastern and central South Africa will see additional periods of rain during the coming week with the most significant precipitation slated for Natal, Mpumalanga, and eastern Free State. The additional rain may slow early-season harvesting and general fieldwork. Minor quality declines will be a concern as well. However, yield potentials will remain favorable across the country.

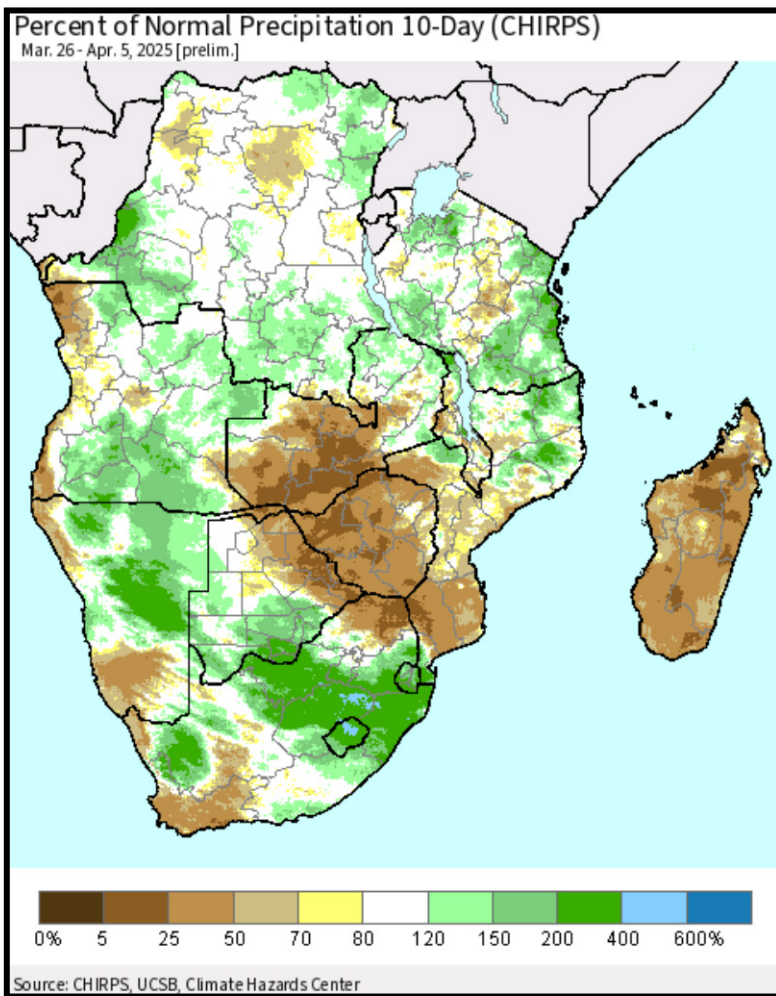
Rain was often scattered across South Africa during the past week. Free State and Gauteng into North West and Northern Cape received some of the most significant rain during this time with totals ranging from 0.63 to 5.67 inches for the seven-day period ending this morning. Most other locations in South Africa received 0.50 to 2.25 inches of rain with local amounts up to 4.61 inches in southern Natal. Soil moisture is adequate to excessive in much of the country.



Recent rainfall continued to support a good environment for late-season development in much of South Africa. However, several locations likely received a little too much rain and disruptions to new growth, early-season maturation, and general fieldwork were possible. Minor quality declines were also possible in the fields that received the greatest amount of rain. Yield potentials remain favorable across the country despite the wetter than usual conditions.

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The earliest planted crops, notably peanuts, soybeans, and sunseed, are usually harvested this time of year. The precipitation likely disrupted harvest progress and the need



for drier weather is needed. The bulk of the harvest usually begins later in April through June with some harvesting continuing into July depending on the crop. More crops will begin maturing in the coming weeks and the ground will need to firm for ideal conditions.

South Africa will receive varying amounts of precipitation during the coming week. Light rain will initially be scattered across portions of eastern South Africa through Saturday. A disturbance will then promote more widespread rain in eastern and central South Africa Sunday into the middle of next week. Moisture totals by next Thursday morning will range from 0.50 to 3.00 inches in Natal, Mpumalanga, eastern sections of Free State and Eastern Cape, and southern Limpopo. Other

locations in Limpopo, Eastern Cape, and Free State into North West will receive 0.10 to 0.75 inch of rain. Western South Africa will otherwise trend mostly dry during the coming week. Eastern and central South Africa will again have a few opportunities for spotty rain April 18 – 24 while western South Africa remains mostly dry.

Temperatures will trend near or slightly above normal for South Africa through next Thursday. Daytime highs will peak to the 70s and 80s Fahrenheit with many areas in eastern and southern South Africa only warming to the 60s. Low temperatures will be in the 40s and 50s with pockets in eastern South Africa and Northern Cape only cooling to the 60s at times. The temperature profile will trend closer to normal April 18 – 24.

The lack of abundant rain during the next few days will promote net drying in much of South Africa. However, the boost in rain later this weekend and next week will likely keep the ground saturated in portions of Natal, Mpumalanga, and neighboring locations. Late-season development conditions will remain favorable across the country despite the lack of abundant rainfall in some production areas. Maturation and early-season harvesting may remain sluggish in the wettest locations of Natal, Mpumalanga, and neighboring locations and the need for drier weather will increase further. Other

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production areas will likely welcome the drying and should see maturation and harvest conditions slowly improve.

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