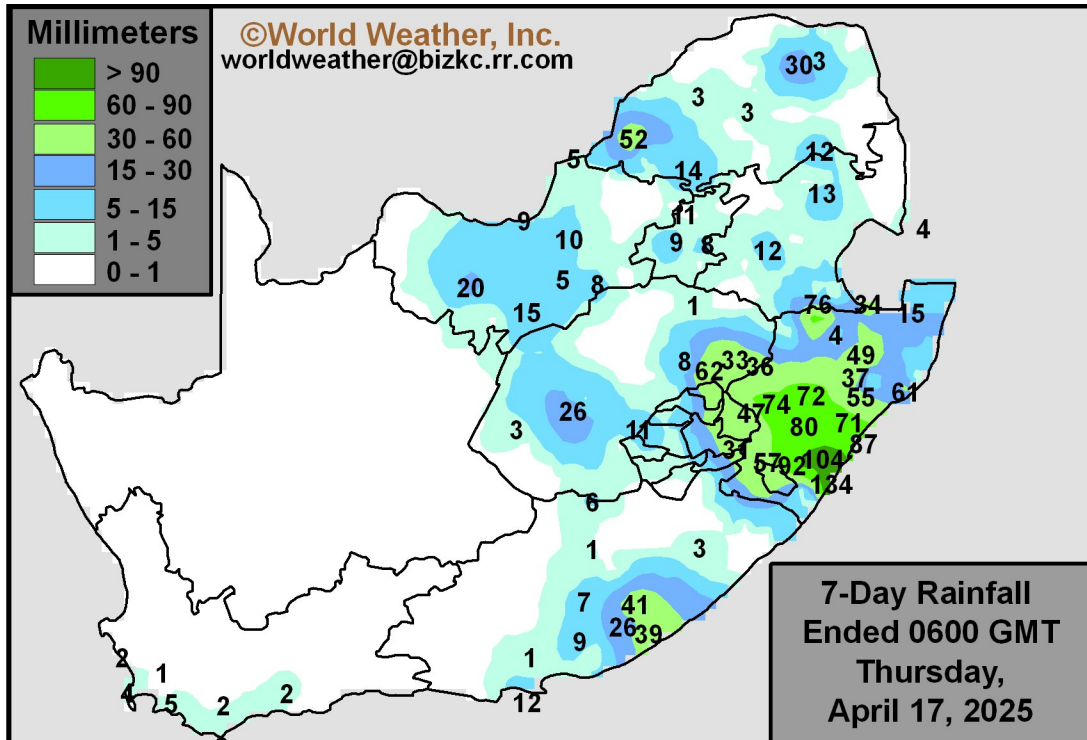


South Africa Rain Taking A Short Break; More Coming

By Drew Lerner

Kansas City, April 17 (World Weather Inc.) – *A little less rain fell in portions of South Africa this past week allowing some fields to dry down a little bit after recent frequent rain and harvest delays. The break from precipitation will continue through the weekend and then there will be a notable boost in precipitation once again causing a new setback in fieldwork.* Some beneficial moisture will reach into a few western wheat, barley and canola areas next week to improve planting moisture for the 2025 winter crop.



The greatest rainfall noted in this past week occurred in central and southern Natal and a few immediate neighboring areas of southeastern Free State. Rainfall varied from 1.00 to 3.25 inches with a few areas in southern Natal reporting 3.50 to 5.28 inches. *Some flooding may have occurred in southern Natal. Most of the rain in key summer grain, oilseed and cotton areas was much lighter varying from a trace to 0.79 inch* except in northwestern Limpopo where up to 2.04 inches was noted.

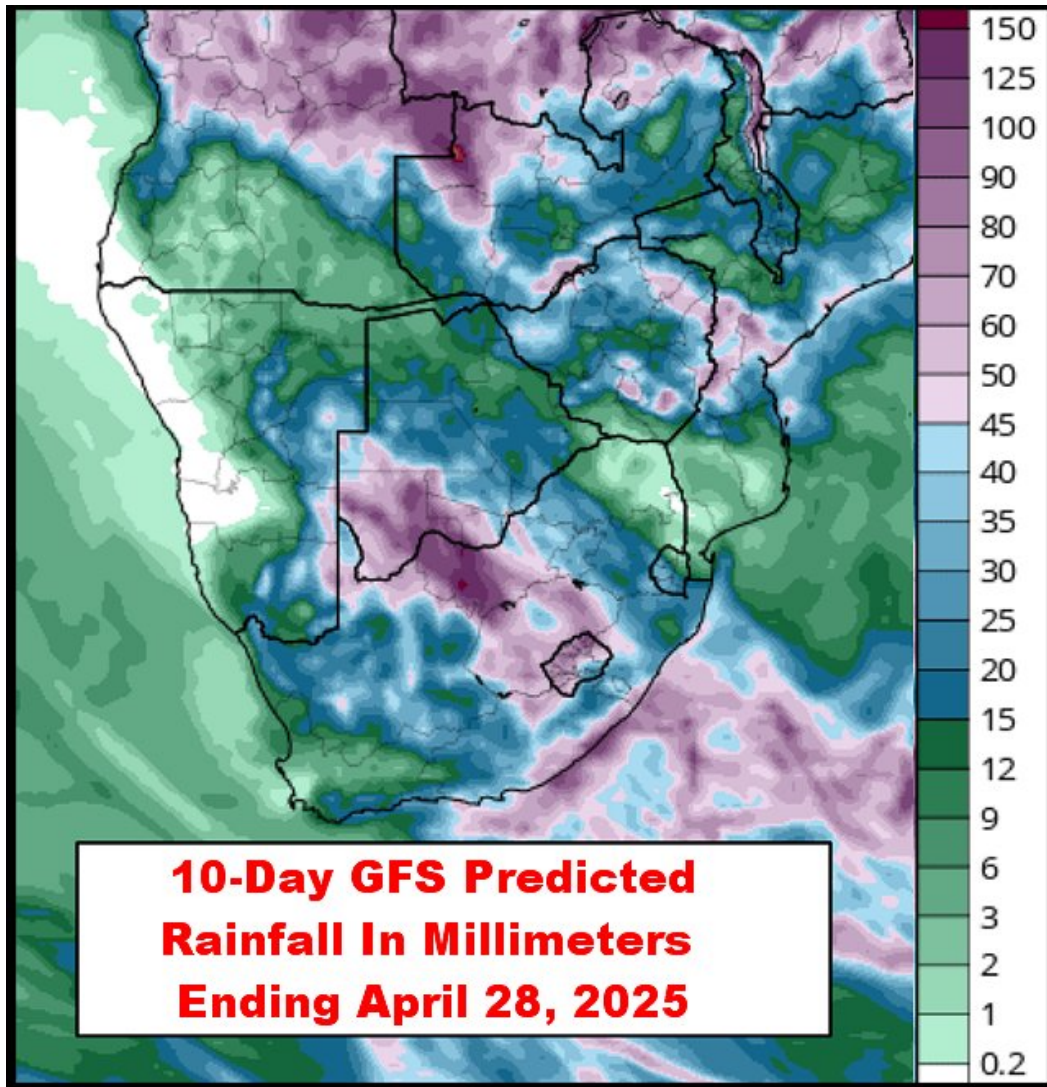
The erratic and mostly light nature of this past week's rain should have allowed some net drying to occur. That drying was welcome and needed to support better crop maturation and harvest progress. Coverage of rain in key summer grain, oilseed and cotton areas was still close to 50%, but there were many dry days that should have promoted some fieldwork.

The drier biased conditions should prevail through the weekend and after that another round of more significant rain is expected that will disrupt crop maturation and harvest progress once again. Some of the rain advertised for next week may range from 1.00 to 3.00 inches, although much of the computer forecast model data is probably exaggerated and actual amounts will be more in the range of 0.75 to 1.50 inches. Nonetheless, *additional*

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rain will induce a new bout of harvest delay and some concern for open boll cotton fiber quality may evolve as well.

Temperatures should be near to above normal during the next week to ten days and that will help promote some crop maturation when it is not raining.



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