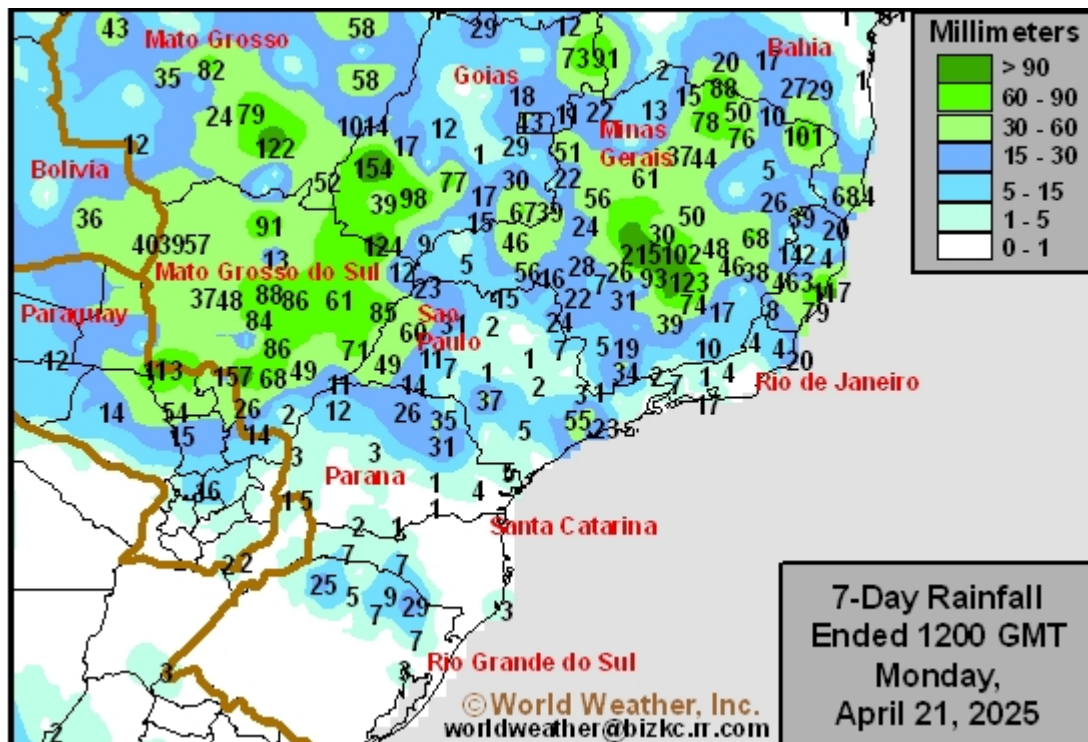


Center South Brazil Weather Will Trend Drier May

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, April 21 (World Weather Inc.) – Another mostly good week of weather occurred in Brazil Safrinha corn and cotton areas this past week. Rain fell most abundantly in Mato Grosso do Sul, south-central Mato Grosso and southwestern Goias where an expansion of saturated soil conditions took place. Some increase in soil moisture also occurred in eastern Mato Grosso. The expansion of saturated soil was perfect for raising the potential for late planted Safrinha crops to perform well in May; however, some timely rain will still be needed during that month. Rain is still predicted for the next ten days in most late season crop areas leaving soil conditions saturated or nearly saturated going into May. Drying is expected during early May as monsoonal precipitation finally winds down. Late planted crops will need a few showers and normal to below normal rainfall in May to yield as well as possible.

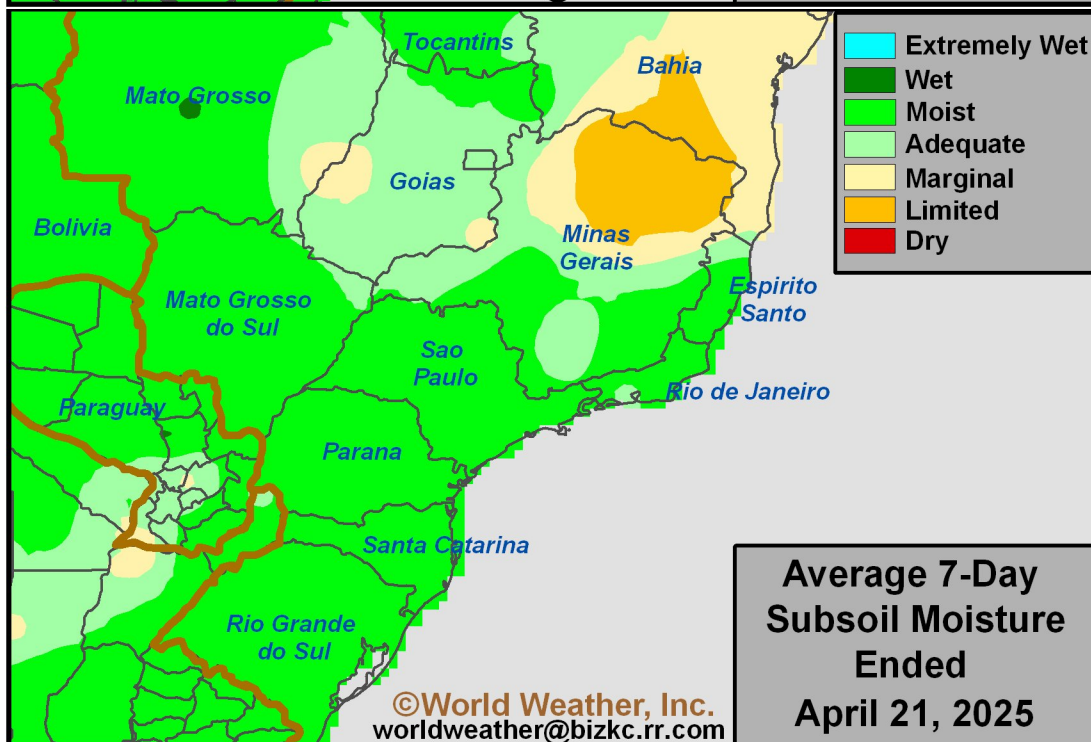
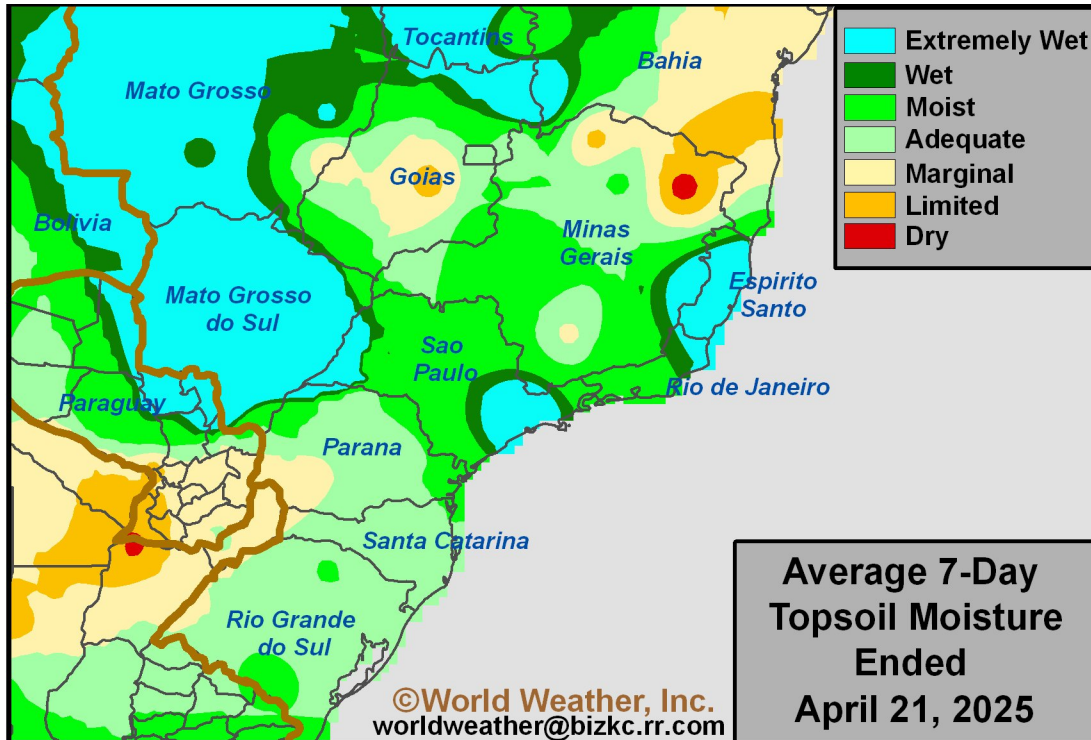
Rainfall varied across the main production areas in Brazil during the past week. Mato Grosso, Mato Grosso do Sul, and Goias into Minas Gerais, Espirito Santo, and portions of southern Bahia and Sao Paulo reported 0.50 to 4.00 inches of rain with local amounts approaching 8.50 inches for the seven-day period ending this morning. Northern Parana and a few locations in western Santa Catarina and northern Rio Grande do Sul reported 0.20 to 1.38 inches of rain. Little to no rain was noted elsewhere in southern Brazil.



Temperatures were near normal across Brazil during the past week. Highest readings were in the 80s and lower 90s Fahrenheit with pockets in the south only warming to the 70s. Lowest temperatures were in the 40s and 50s in southern Brazil and the 50s and 60s in most other production areas.

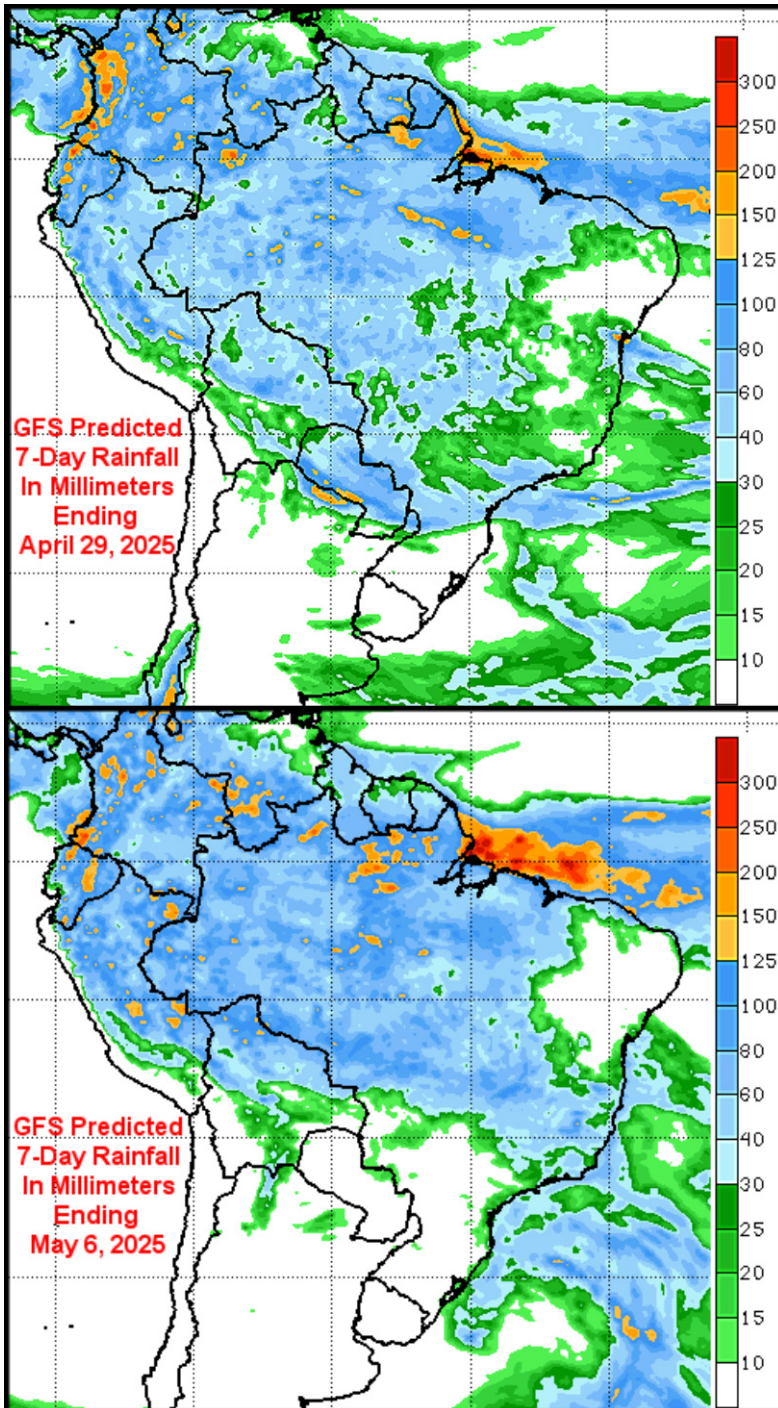
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Soil moisture is rated adequate to excessive in much of Brazil, even in areas that received little or no rain during the past week. However, portions of southern Bahia and northern Minas Gerais still have a shortage of moisture in the subsoil. A few areas in central Goias also have need for greater rain and some of that need will be fulfilled in this coming week.



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The main Safrinha corn areas received enough rain to maintain a good environment for aggressive growth during the past week. Production potentials remain generally favorable, though the main production areas still need more rain for ideal long-term crop



conditions. Several areas outside Mato Grosso were drier than usual in March and may have slightly lower than usual moisture for this time of year. Harvesting of soybeans, first-season corn, and other crops otherwise advanced around the periods of rain. Minor harvest delays were possible in areas that received the greatest amount of rain.

A large section of Brazil will have opportunities for rain this week. Light and erratic rain will initially evolve for portions of center-west, center-south, and

northeastern Brazil into Parana through mid-week. A disturbance will help promote more widespread and significant rain Thursday and Friday when passing over the country. Scattered showers will persist for center-west and portions of center-south and northeastern Brazil over the weekend. Moisture totals by next Monday morning will range from 0.75 to 3.00 inches in much of Brazil, though central and southern Rio Grande do Sul will receive little to no rain. Pockets in western Parana and southern Mato Grosso do Sul will receive 4.00 inches

or slightly more of rain as well. The main production areas in Brazil will then trend drier than normal April 29 – May 5, though periods of light rain are still expected in center-west, northern portions of center-south, and northeastern Brazil.

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The temperature profile will trend near normal for Brazil this week. Daytime highs will peak to the 70s and 80s most often with several locations in center-west, center-south, and northeastern Brazil often warming to the lower 90s. Low temperatures will be in the 50s and 60s in southern Brazil with pockets occasionally cooling to the 40s. Lows elsewhere will be in the 60s and 70s with pockets in the 50s. Seasonable to seasonably cool weather is slated for much of crop country April 29 – May 5.

Additional rain this week will continue to support a good environment for aggressive Safrinha corn development. Net drying will likely begin in the main production areas during the first few days of May, though most locations will have enough moisture to support short-term growth. Periodic showers and thunderstorms and near to below normal temperatures will be needed later in May to maintain a good outlook for production potentials for the late planted crops. Soybean, first-season corn, and other crop harvesting will likely advance around the periods of rain this week. Harvest conditions will improve during the second week of the outlook once drier weather evolves.

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