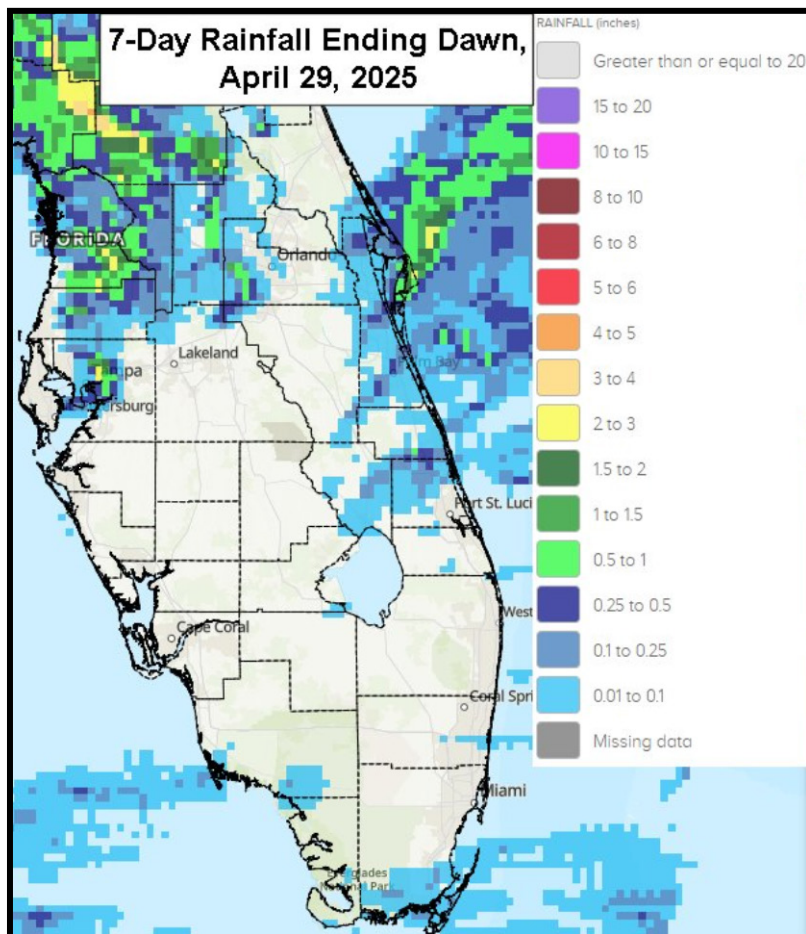


Weekly Citrus Weather

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, April 29 (World Weather Inc.) – Drought continues to intensify in **Florida**'s citrus country due to another week of limited or no rain. Irrigation continued to support relatively good development conditions. However, the need for significant rain is high. The citrus region will have a few opportunities for rain during the coming week that will ease a minor amount of the dryness. Seasonal rains are still a few weeks away and additional rain will be needed to completely fix the moisture deficits. **Brazil**'s citrus areas saw several waves of rain during the past week that maintained a good environment for late-season growth. Drier weather will evolve during the coming week and net drying is slated for most locations. East-central and northeastern **Mexico** will see a good mix of rain and sunshine during the coming week that will be beneficial for the citrus.

FLORIDA



Florida's main citrus areas were either dry or received limited rainfall during the past week. A few locations in Hillsborough, Brevard, and neighboring counties received trace amounts to 0.50 inch of rain with locally greater amounts, though most areas did not receive enough rain to counter evaporation. Drought was noted in much of crop country with several counties under a severe or extreme drought as of April 24. Irrigation was used across the state and continued to support relatively favorable development conditions. Abundant rain is still needed to support ideal long-term crop prospects.

Seasonable to seasonably warm weather prevailed for citrus country

during the past week. Daytime highs peaked from the mid-80s to lower 90s Fahrenheit with pockets occasionally warming to the mid-90s. Nighttime lows ranged from the mid-50s to mid-60s with pockets only cooling to the upper 60s and lower 70s.

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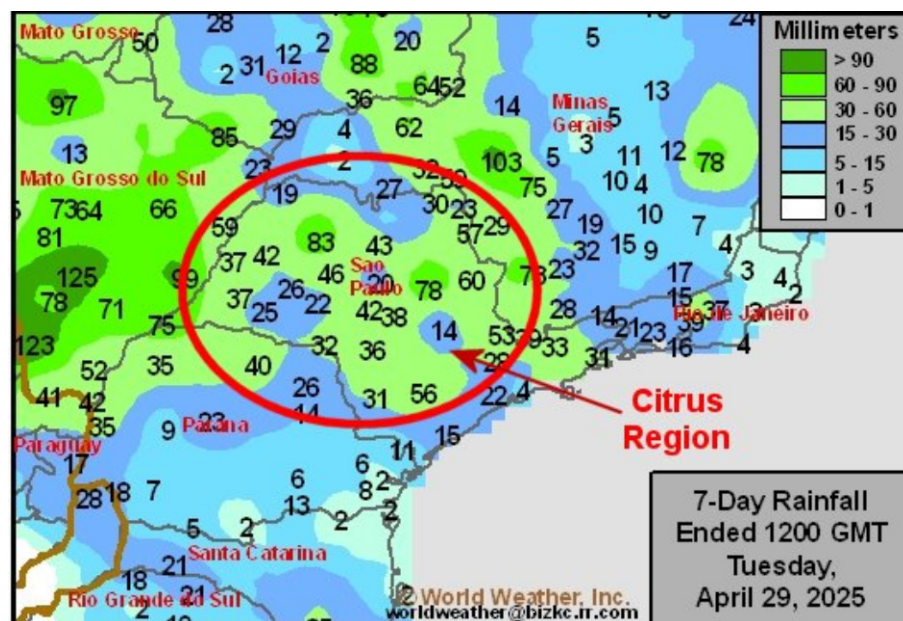
Florida's citrus areas will see a mix of erratic rainfall and sunshine during the coming week. Light rain will be scattered across the region today and again late Thursday into Friday. More widespread and significant rain will evolve over the weekend and early next week with the passage of a frontal boundary. Moisture totals by next Tuesday morning will range from 0.50 to 2.00 inches with locally more. The rain will help supplement irrigation and may even marginally bolster soil moisture. However, additional rain will be needed to completely fix the moisture deficits. Citrus development conditions will otherwise remain favorable.

Seasonal rainfall bringing periodic showers and thunderstorms from the subtropical Atlantic Ocean usually begins in the second half of May and that is the earliest that rainfall is expected increase more routinely.

Temperatures will trend near or slightly above normal in Florida through next Tuesday. Daytime highs will peak to the 80s with pockets often warming to the lower 90s. Low temperatures will be in the 60s with pockets occasionally cooling to the upper 50s.

BRAZIL

The main citrus areas in Sao Paulo and southwestern Minas Gerais received rain on a frequent basis during the past week. Moisture totals for the seven-day period ending this morning ranged from 0.87 to in most locations. Temperatures were near or slightly above



normal with highest readings in the 80s and lower 90s. Lowest temperatures were in the 50s and 60s.

The rain during the past week bolstered soil moisture and continued to promote a good environment for new growth. Soil moisture may remain a little lower than usual for this time of year due to

drier biased conditions earlier this year.

Sao Paulo and southwestern Minas Gerais will trend drier than normal during the coming week. A few light showers will be possible, though resulting rainfall will be lost to evaporation. Temperatures will be near or slightly above normal. Daytime highs will peak to the 70s and 80s through Friday before increasing to the 80s and lower 90s over the weekend and early next week. Low temperatures will be in the 50s and 60s.

The lack of rain and warm daytime temperatures will significantly firm the ground across citrus country during the coming week. Most locations will still have enough

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moisture to support new growth in the short-term. Late-season development conditions may deteriorate marginally later in May or June unless timely rain occurs.

MEXICO

Oaxaca, Veracruz, Puebla, Tamaulipas, and southeastern San Luis Potosi saw a mix of erratic rainfall and sunshine during the past week. Moisture totals for the seven-day period ending April 28 ranged from 0.20 to 0.83 inch with a local amount of 1.38 inches in western Oaxaca. Several pockets also received little to no rain. The remaining locations in western and northeastern Mexico were dry or mostly dry as well. Temperatures were warm with highest readings in the upper 80s and 90s. Pockets in northeastern Mexico also warmed above 100 degrees at times. Lowest temperatures were in the 60s and 70s with pockets occasionally cooling to the 50s.



Spotty rainfall was welcome where it occurred during the past week in east-central and northeastern Mexico and Oaxaca. The precipitation likely helped support new development, at least in the short-term. Additional rain is needed to completely fix the moisture deficits

and support ideal long-term citrus conditions.

The Gulf of Mexico will be open for moisture on a frequent basis during the coming week. Waves of rain will often evolve from Oaxaca, Veracruz, and Puebla into northeastern Mexico. Moisture totals by next Tuesday morning will range from 0.25 to 1.50 inches and local amounts of 2.50 inches or slightly more, most notably in Oaxaca, Veracruz, and San Luis Potosi. *Other production areas in western Mexico will trend mostly dry.* Temperatures will be warm despite the rain. Daytime highs will peak to the 80s and 90s with pockets only warming to the 70s during periods of more significant rain. Low temperatures will be in the 60s and 70s with pockets occasionally cooling to the 50s.

The waves of rain during the coming week will help reverse the drying trend for much of Oaxaca, east-central Mexico, and northeastern Mexico. Additional rain will still be needed to completely fix the dryness. However, citrus development conditions will either improve or remain favorable for these locations. Western Mexico may need to wait for the monsoon to begin before widespread flowering and development to occur.

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