

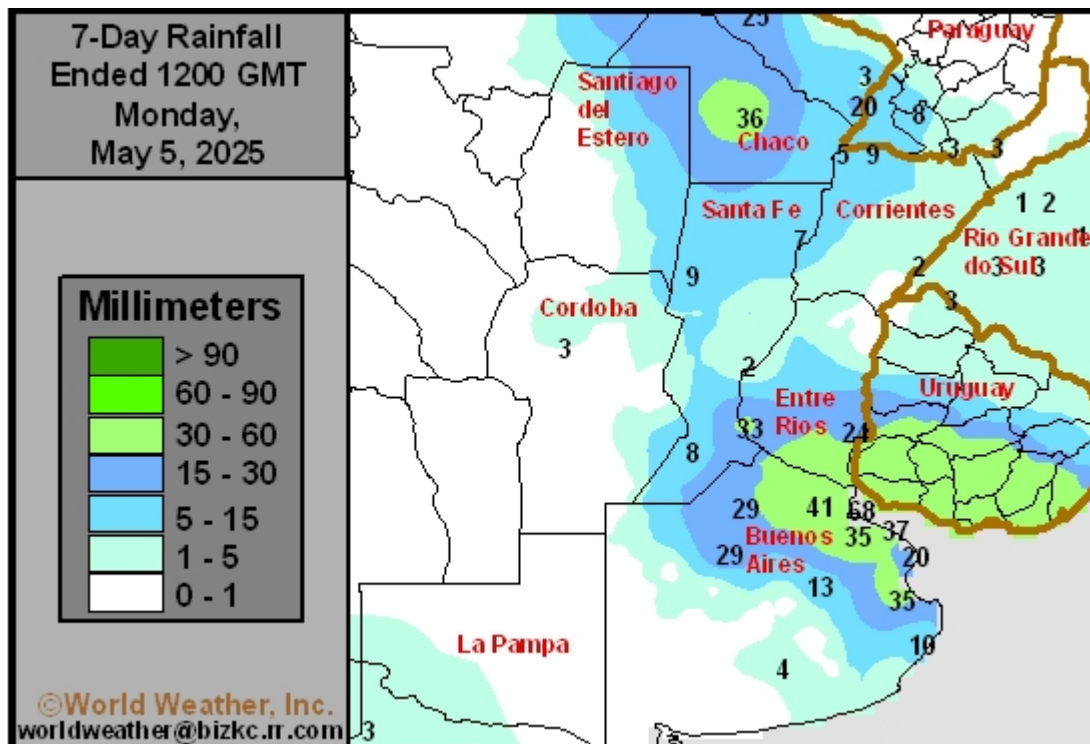
Northern Argentina Harvest May Be Disrupted By Rain

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, May 5 (World Weather Inc.) – Harvesting is ongoing in the main production areas of Argentina. Portions of Buenos Aires, Entre Rios, Chaco, and neighboring areas may have received enough rain to slow the harvest at times during the past week. The remaining production areas saw relatively good harvest conditions. Argentina will have more opportunities for rain this week with the greatest amount of precipitation slated for the northern production areas. The harvest will be delayed in the wettest areas of Chaco, Formosa, Corrientes, northern Santa Fe, and neighboring locations, though no major production impacts are expected outside of some cotton quality declines. Rainfall elsewhere will be too light to severely impact the harvest.

Rainfall varied across the main production areas in Argentina during the past week. Several areas in northern and eastern Buenos Aires, southern Entre Rios, and Chaco received 0.51 to 1.61 inches of rain for the seven-day period ending this morning. Formosa received 0.12 to 0.79 inch of rain. Portions of Santa Fe and Corrientes received up to 0.35 inch of rain. Little to no precipitation was noted elsewhere.

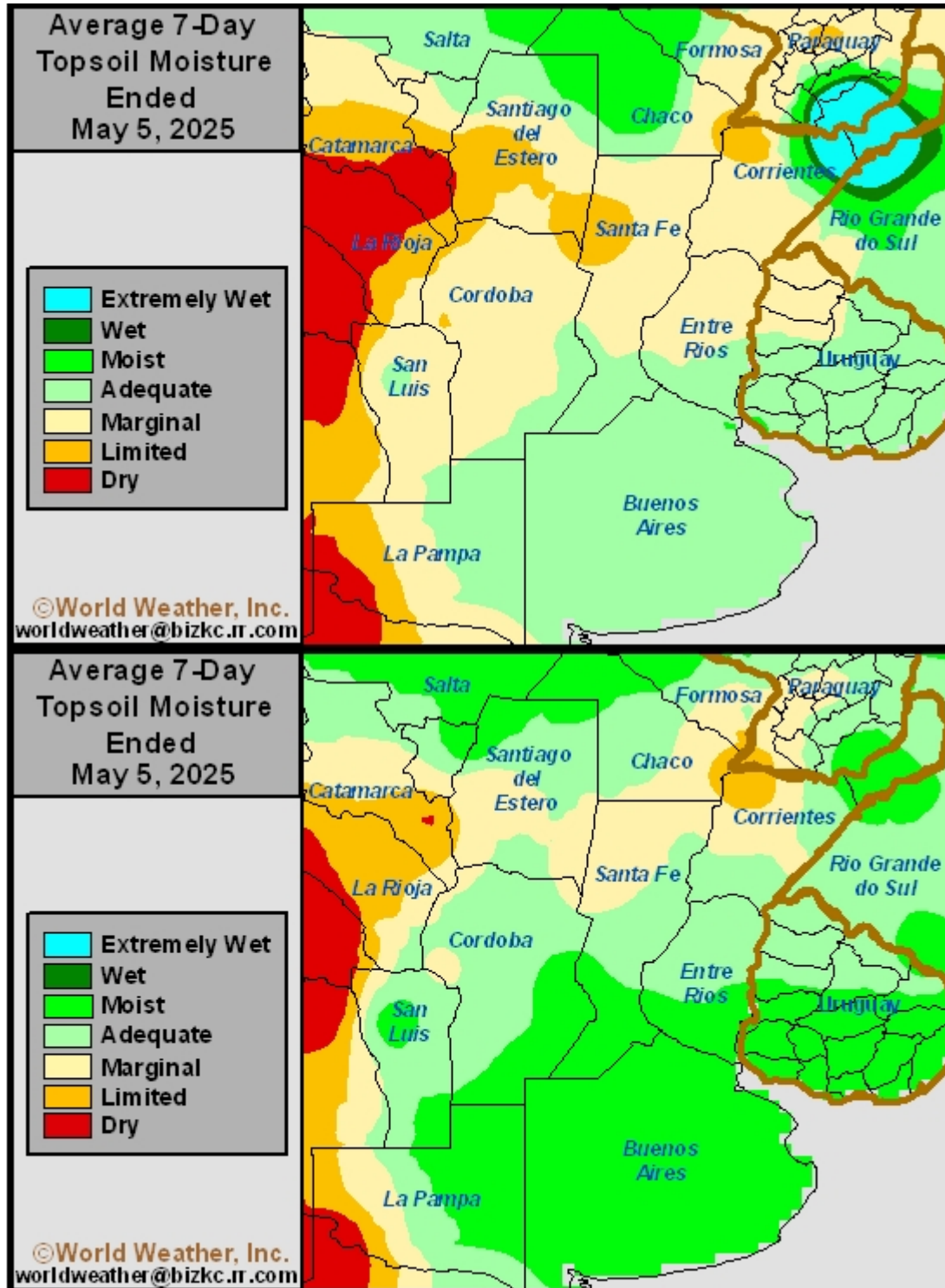
Temperatures were often warmer than usual with highest readings in the 70s and 80s Fahrenheit. Lowest temperatures were in the 40s and 50s with pockets in Buenos Aires cooling to the upper 30s.



Topsoil moisture is rated marginally adequate to short in a large section of Argentina. Pockets in Santiago del Estero, northern Santa Fe, and neighboring locations are starting to see topsoil moisture become short to very short while the best soil moisture is in Formosa and Chaco where it is rated adequately.

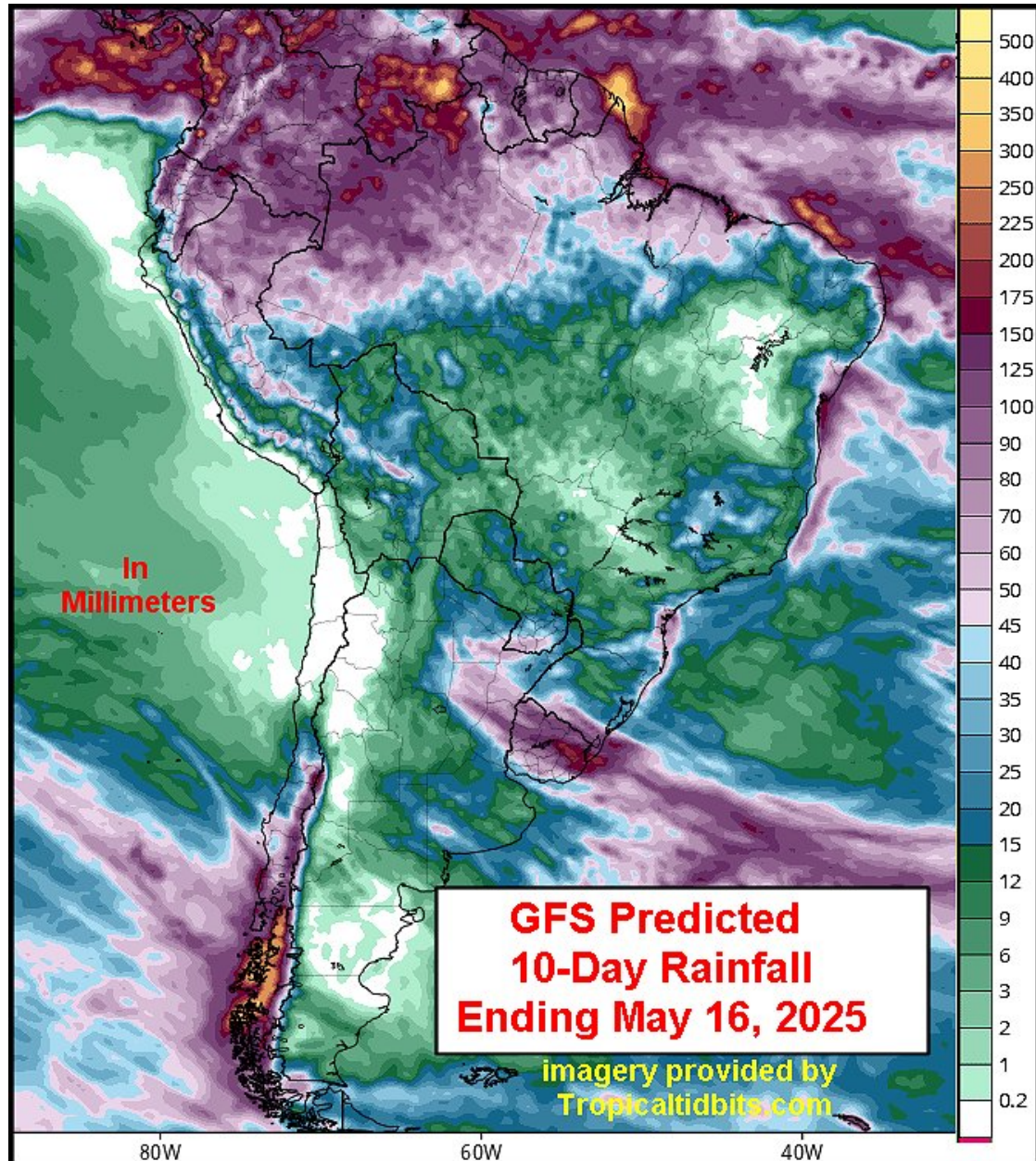
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Harvesting is ongoing across Argentina. As of April 30, corn harvesting was 31% complete, up slightly from 27% this time last year. Soybean harvesting was 25% finished, down from 34% this time last year. Sorghum harvesting was 32% complete compared to 23% last year. Sunseed and rice harvesting was nearly complete. Harvesting of the cotton was 22% finished compared to 15% last year.



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The lack of rain in much of Argentina was beneficial for aggressive harvesting in recent days. No major delays were suspected in the areas of Buenos Aires, Entre Rios, Chaco or neighboring locations that did receive precipitation. Drier weather is still needed to maintain a good outlook for harvesting and fieldwork in the coming weeks. There will be a need for periodic rain late this month into June once winter wheat and barley planting begins.



WEATHER OUTLOOK

Argentina's main production areas will see a mix of erratic precipitation and sunshine this week. Scattered showers will initially evolve for portions of crop country

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today and Tuesday with the passage of a weak disturbance. Additional rain will continue Wednesday into Friday as more disturbances track across the country. Drier weather will then evolve over the weekend as a weak high-pressure ridge builds over the region. Much of Corrientes, Chaco, Formosa, and northern Santa Fe will receive 1.00 to 4.00 inches of rain with locally greater amounts by next Monday morning. Santiago del Estero, central Santa Fe, and much of Entre Rios and northern Buenos Aires will receive 0.50 to 2.00 inches of rain. The remaining production areas in the Pampas farming region will receive 0.10 to 0.75 inch of rain. Drier-than-usual weather will evolve May 13 – 19, though brief periods of light rain will still be possible.

The temperature profile will trend near to above normal for much of Argentina this week. Daytime highs will peak to the 70s and 80s in the northern half of crop country despite the waves of rain during the next several days. The southern half of Argentina will see highs reach the 60s and 70s most often. Low temperatures will be in the 50s and 60s in the northern half of Argentina and the 40s and 50s farther to the south. A gradual cooling trend will be possible for Argentina May 13-19, though warmer biased conditions may prevail during the first few days of the outlook.

The waves of rain this week will likely slow or delay harvesting and general fieldwork from Chaco and Formosa into Corrientes, northern Santa Fe, and neighboring locations. Minor quality declines will be possible for some of the unharvested soybeans, cotton, and other oilseeds, though no major production impacts are expected. Other production areas may receive enough rain to briefly impact harvest rates as well. The lack of rain over the weekend and into the second week of the outlook will gradually improve harvest conditions. Planting of the winter wheat and barley normally begins later in May for Argentina. Early-season planting prospects are favorable for the main production areas.

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