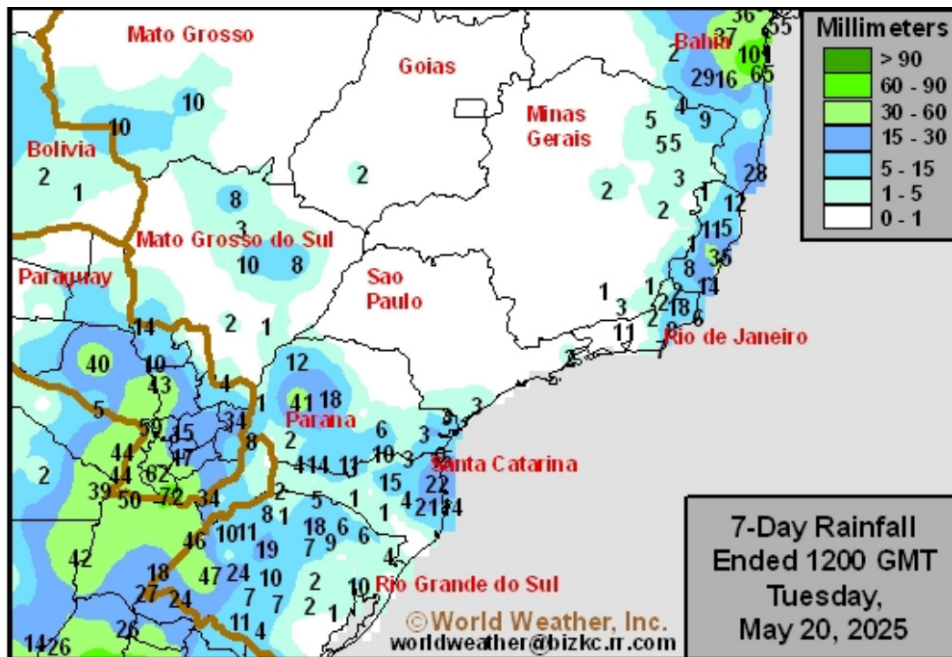


Brazil Late Season Crops Benefiting From Lingering Moisture

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, May 20 (World Weather Inc.) – Soybean and first-season corn harvesting is winding down for Brazil. *Weather conditions during the past week were favorable for aggressive harvesting and general fieldwork in the main production areas. Safrinha corn conditions remained relatively favorable, despite the lack of rain in much of center-west and center-south Brazil. Planting of winter wheat is underway in portions of southern Brazil as well.* Southern Brazil will see a good mix of rain and sunshine during the coming week that will keep soil moisture rated favorably for the winter wheat. Planting may advance slowly during the wettest periods, though most producers should be able to plant between rain events. Other production areas in Brazil will receive little or no rain. Harvesting and general fieldwork should continue with few disruptions. The outlook for the Safrinha corn will remain favorable as well.

Periods of rain were noted in portions of Parana, Santa Catarina, Rio Grande do Sul, southeastern Bahia, and Espirito Santo during the past week. Moisture totals for the seven-day period ending this morning ranged from 0.24 to 0.75 inch with local amounts up to 1.85 inches in western Rio Grande do Sul, western Parana, and Espirito Santo. Several areas along the southeastern Bahia coastline also received up to 4.00 inches of rain while pockets in eastern Rio Grande do Sul and northeastern Parana received little to no rain. A few locations in Mato Grosso do Sul, southern Mato Grosso, and Rio de Janeiro received up to 0.39 inch of rain. The remaining production areas were mostly dry.

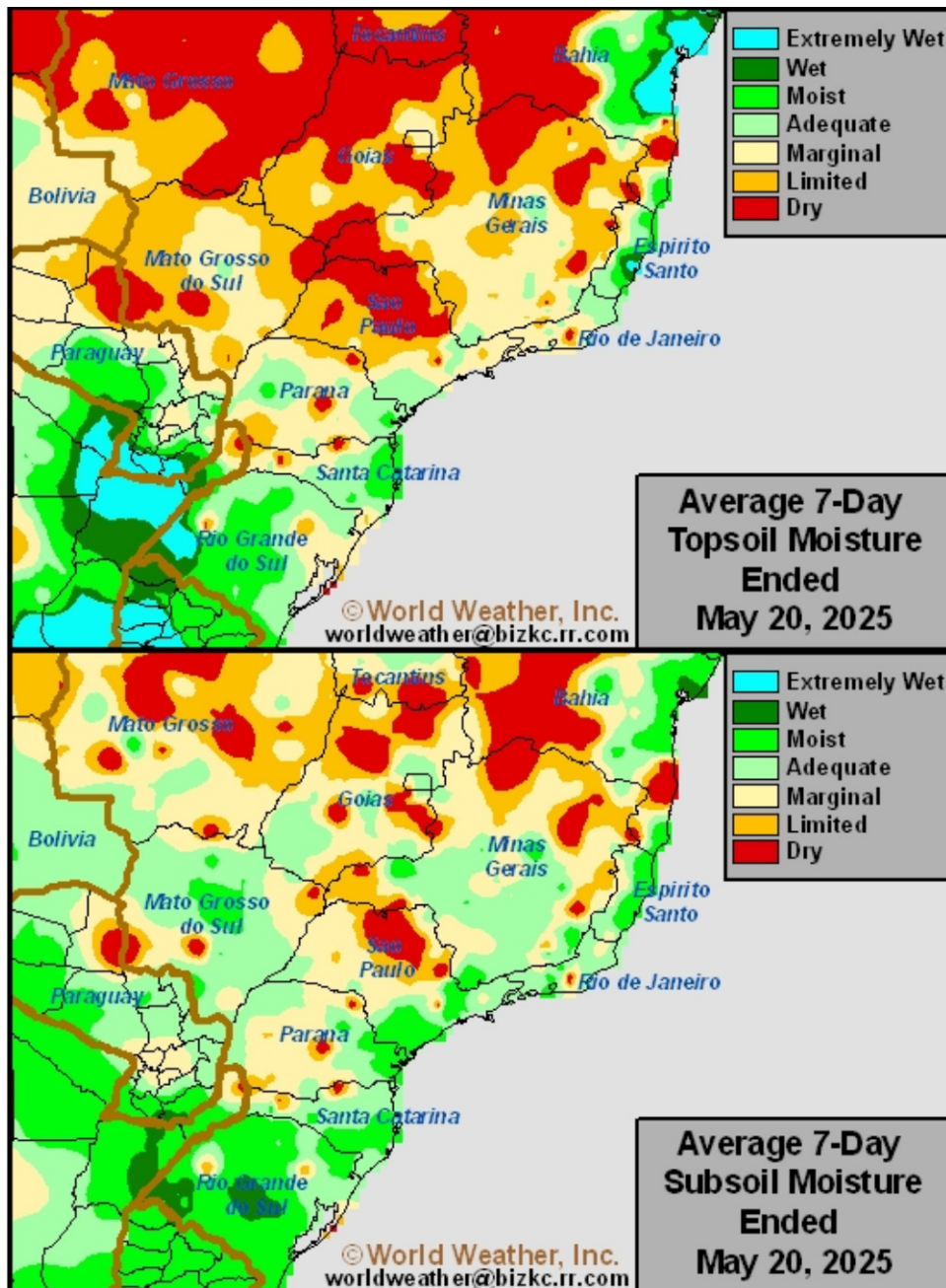


Soil moisture is rated favorably in portions of southern Brazil, eastern Bahia and Espirito Santo where showers and thunderstorms have been occurring most frequently and significantly. Other production areas dried down due to the lack of rain and warm daytime

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temperatures, though “some” areas in center-west, center-south, and the remaining portions of northeastern Brazil have marginally adequate subsoil moisture.

Harvesting of soybeans was nearly complete as of May 15 with 98.5% of the crop out of the ground across Brazil. First-season corn harvesting was 77.6% finished. The lack of rain and warm weather helped support aggressive late-season harvesting and general fieldwork.

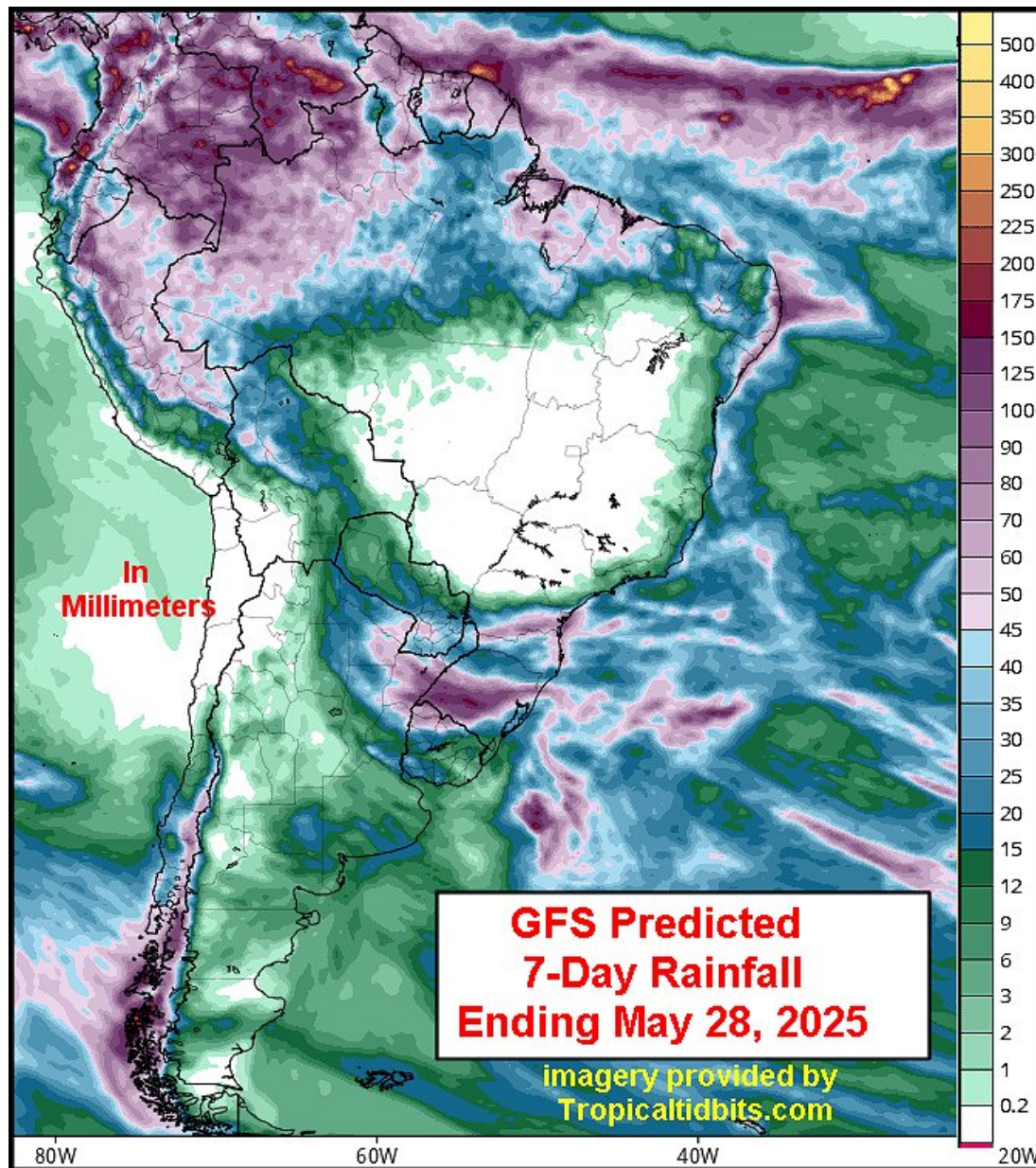


Safrinha corn conditions vary greatly in center-west and center-south Brazil with some crops quite dry and stressed in the absence of rain and soil moisture while others are feeding upon lingering subsoil moisture. Many production areas in western and

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southern Mato Grosso through Mato Grosso do Sul to western and Parana had enough subsoil moisture to support normal crop growth.

Winter wheat and barley planting is also underway in southern Brazil and neighboring production areas where some of the best soil moisture lingers resulting in favorable early-season planting and emergence conditions. A boost in rainfall would still prove to be very helpful for winter and late season summer crops.



WEATHER OUTLOOK

Southern Brazil will have several opportunities for rain during the coming week. Scattered showers will initially evolve in Parana, Santa Catarina, and northern Rio Grande do Sul through Thursday before shifting to Santa Catarina and Rio Grande do Sul Friday

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and this weekend. Additional rain will be possible early next week with the passage of a frontal boundary. Moisture totals by next Tuesday morning will range from 0.75 to 4.00 inches and locally greater amounts. Light rain will also be scattered from Rio de Janeiro and Espirito Santo into southeastern Bahia with totals ranging from 0.10 to 0.75 inch and locally greater amounts. The remaining production areas will be dry or mostly dry. Brazil's production areas will then see a mix of erratic rainfall and sunshine May 28-June 3.

Temperatures will trend near to slightly above normal for Brazil through next Tuesday. Daytime highs will peak to the 80s and 90s Fahrenheit in much of center-west and center-south Brazil. Highs elsewhere will be in the 70s and 80s with pockets in northeastern Brazil warming to the 90s. Low temperatures will be in the 50s and 60s with portions of Rio Grande do Sul often cooling to the 40s. A few locations in west-central Brazil will also only cool to the lower 70s at times. Temperatures will trend near or slightly below normal May 28 – June 3.

The waves of rain in southern Brazil may limit aggressive winter wheat and barley planting at times. Most producers will still be able to plant between rain events. Establishment and early-season development conditions will remain favorable. Late-season Safrinha corn development conditions will also remain relatively good in center-west and center-south Brazil despite the rain. Harvesting of the remaining soybeans, first-season corn, and other crops will also advance with few disruptions outside southern Brazil.

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