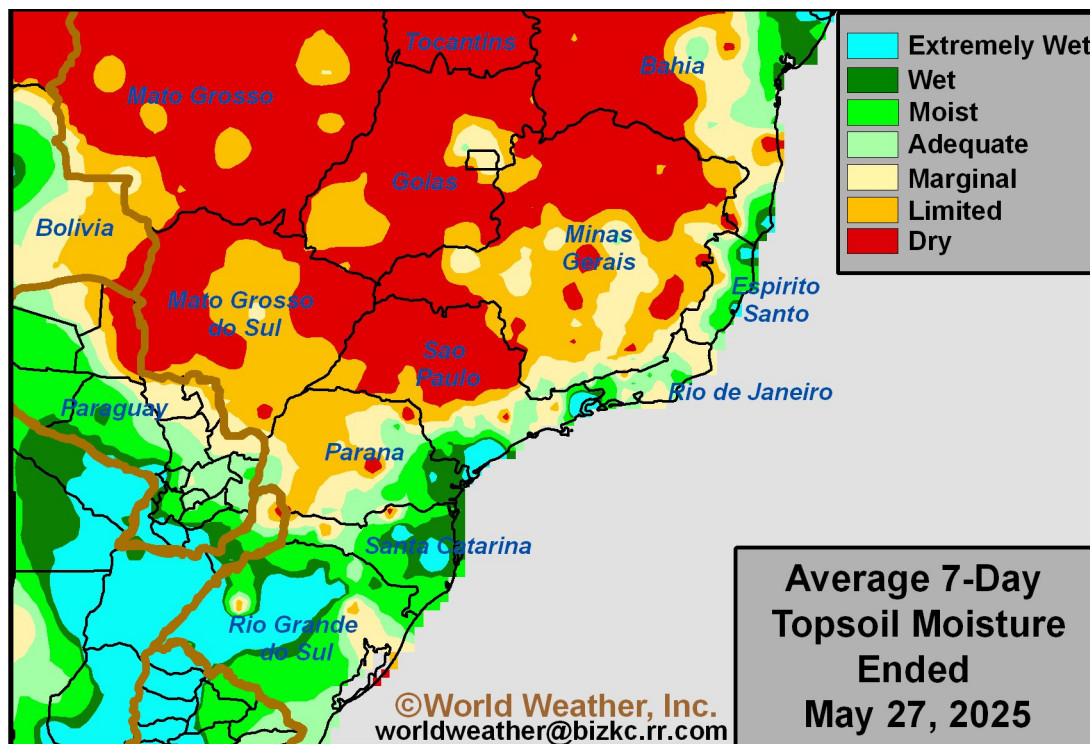


Brazil Safrinha Crops To Benefit Greatly From Late Season Rain

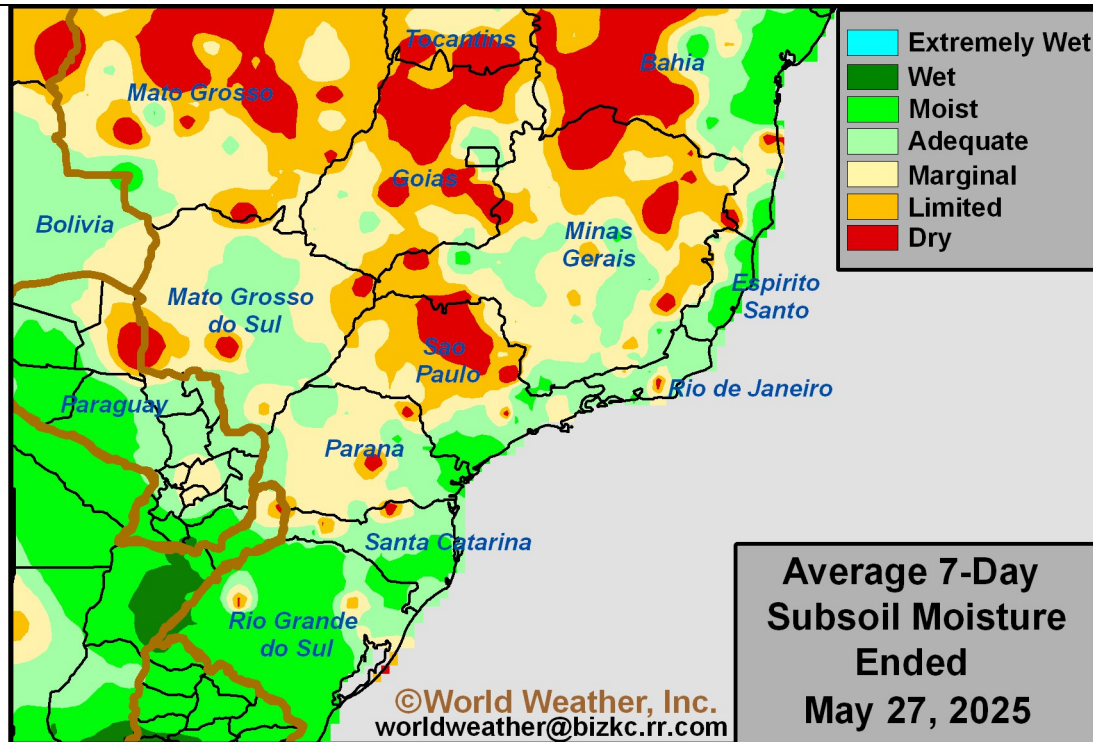
By Drew Lerner

Kansas City, May 27 (World Weather Inc.) – Late planted Safrinha corn and cotton have been running a risk of lower production because of dry and warm weather that often occurs from late April through the winter. This year's temperatures have not been as hot as feared by the industry and subsoil moisture has been maintained at an adequate to slightly short levels keeping crop development advancing better than expected up until now. Rain is predicted tonight and Wednesday ending Thursday from western Mato Grosso through all of Mato Grosso do Sul and into Parana and Sao Paulo resulting in a welcome respite from recent drying. Late planted crops, especially corn, will benefit most of the precipitation event that will not only be good for these Brazilian states, but also in southeastern Paraguay. The event will likely improve production potentials sufficiently to further minimize potential production cuts because of late planting.



Typically in any year, soil conditions at the end of the monsoon season are usually saturated with moisture. The wet field conditions in April usually carry a normally planted Safrinha corn and cotton crop through reproduction and filling while little to no rain falls during the traditional dry season that usually prevails from May through early September. Concern was high that 20-25% of this year's Safrinha corn was planted too late (up to three weeks later than usual) to be supported by subsoil moisture as the crop reproduced and filled in late May and early June. Rain expected over the next couple of days will bring sufficient moisture to the region just long enough to help improve reproductive and filling conditions so that yield losses are reduced relative to what might have happened had the dry season proceeded without a rain event. There is also some follow up rain predicted.

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Portions of Brazil's subsoil moisture has slipped into the short and very short categories recently which has begun to stress both cotton and corn in a number of production areas. However, some of the production region has had enough moisture to maintain normal crop development. Rain that is predicted tonight through Wednesday and ending on Thursday will bolster topsoil moisture.

Rainfall of 0.50 to 1.50 inches will be common from western Mato Grosso through all of Mato Grosso do Sul into Parana and portions of Sao Paulo. There will be a few areas in western and northern Parana as well as Mato Grosso do Sul that could receive 2.00 inches of moisture. Such amounts would be nearly ideal in raising topsoil moisture for support during reproduction and filling. Follow up moisture will still be necessary, though crops will be in far better shape during this part of production than they would have been if this rain event never evolved.

Portions of southeastern Paraguay, another important Safrinha corn production region, may range from 1.00 to 3.00 inches. That much rain will be even more supportive of production for late-planted crops in that part of South America.

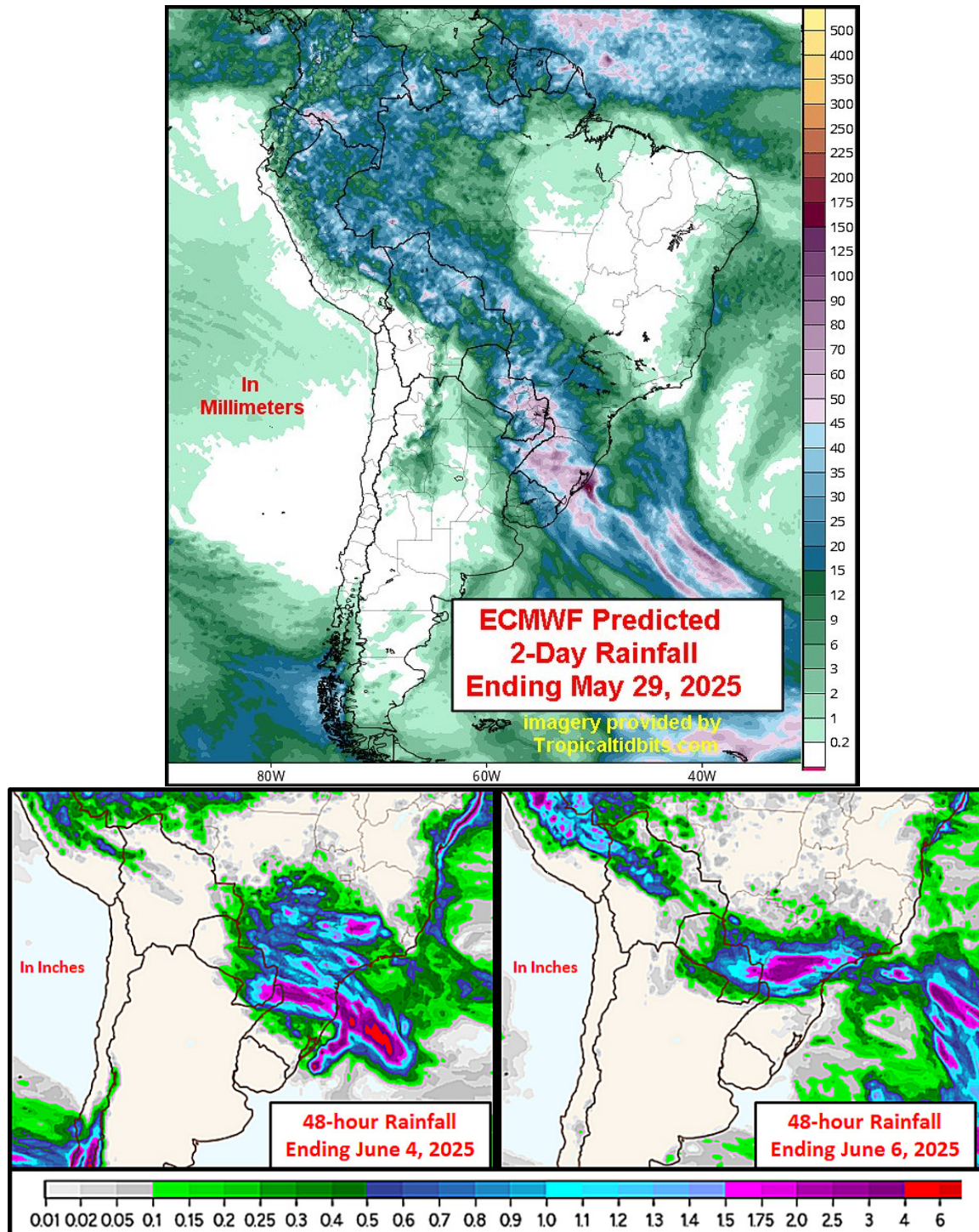
Crops planted a little more normally this year have already reproduced and are filling and they, too, will benefit from this precipitation event. Larger yields are possible from many production areas if the rain falls as expected. Not all crop areas will benefit from the rain. Eastern Mato Grosso and Goias will fail to get much precipitation and crop stress will continue rising in those areas.

This week's rain will not be a "fix-all" event and a full restoration of production potential is certainly not anticipated, but it will help to limit the losses and could add a couple bushels to the potential yield for the latest planted crops.

Some computer forecast models have suggested a little follow up rain event might occur Monday into Tuesday of next week with a little more rain possible in the following

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weekend, although those systems will only produce a trace to 0.65 inch of rain with coverage of 60% in the areas that get rain tonight and Wednesday. The event early next week will favor areas from Mato Grosso do Sul and southeastern Paraguay into Sao Paulo and the event that follows at the end of next week into the following weekend will mostly impact Parana and Paraguay. Needless to say, though if all three disturbances occur there would be some welcome relief for late season crops. Most likely some of this rain is overdone.



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