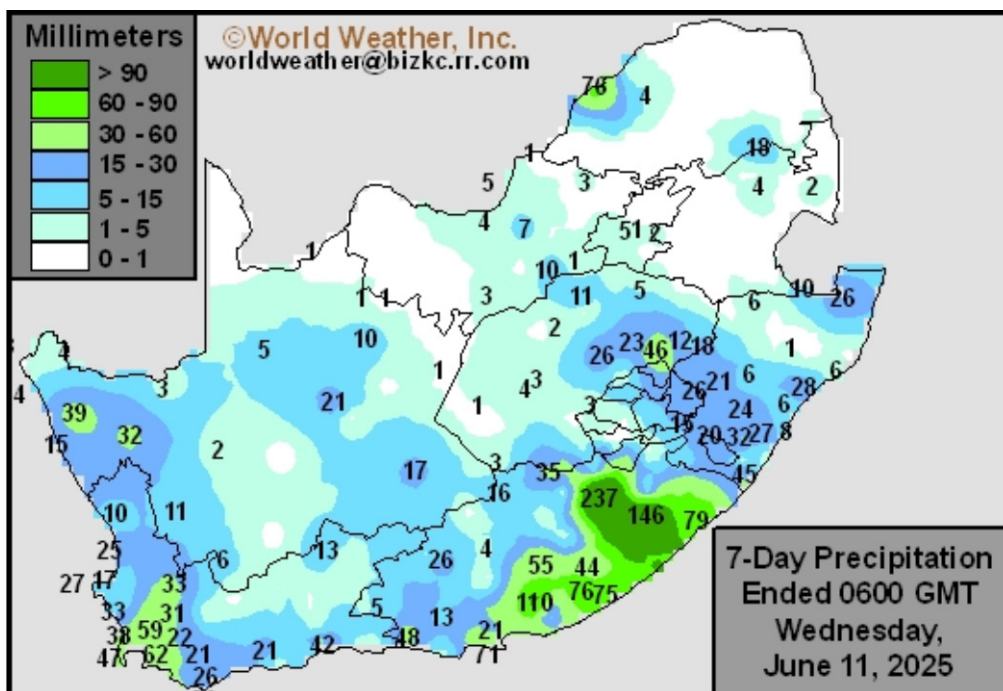


South Africa Drying Resumes After Recent Rain

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, June 12 (World Weather Inc.) – A disturbance promoted varying amounts of rain across South Africa during the past week. The greatest moisture totals fell in Eastern Cape, outside the main production areas, and in several locations in Natal, Free State, and Northern Cape. *The moisture disrupted harvesting of summer crops while it was welcome for improving winter crop establishment. Drier weather will return to South Africa during the coming week resulting in better harvest conditions in summer crop areas while supporting late planting and emergence of winter wheat, barley and canola.*

Precipitation varied significantly across South Africa during the past week. Eastern Cape received some of the most significant rain with totals ranging from 0.50 to 4.50 inches and local amounts up to 9.33 inches for the seven-day period ending June 11 resulting in some significant flooding. Western Cape, Natal, eastern Free State, and portions of Northern Cape received 0.32 to 1.81 inches of rain with local amounts up to 2.44 inches in southwestern Western Cape. A few locations in Mpumalanga, Gauteng, western Free State, North West, and southern Limpopo received 0.12 to 0.71 inch of rain as well.



Severe flooding was noted in portions of Eastern Cape due to the periods of intense rainfall during the past week. The region is not a major crop producer, though any standing row crops, along with some tree crops, may have been damaged.

Recent rainfall slowed coarse grain, oilseed, cotton, and other crop harvesting in portions of eastern and central South Africa. No major delays were suspected and quality declines were suspected of being minimal. Production potentials remain favorable for much of the country.

South Africa Drying Resumes After Recent Rain

Winter wheat, barley and canola planting is likely finishing across western and central South Africa. Planting normally winds down by mid-June. *Recent rainfall was welcome and helped support good establishment and early-season development conditions in the main production areas of Western Cape, Northern Cape, and Free State.*

Seasonally dry weather is slated for much of South Africa's main production areas during the coming week. Western Cape, western Northern Cape, and a few locations along the Eastern Cape and Natal coastlines will occasionally receive light rain, though resulting rainfall will be too light to impact long-term soil conditions. Drier biased conditions will prevail for much of the country June 20 – 26.

The lack of rain will be beneficial for aggressive summer crop harvesting in the coming weeks. Late-season planting of winter wheat and barley will also advance with few disruptions. Establishment conditions will remain generally good, though the need for timely rain will increase later in the winter, especially for the rain-fed areas.

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