

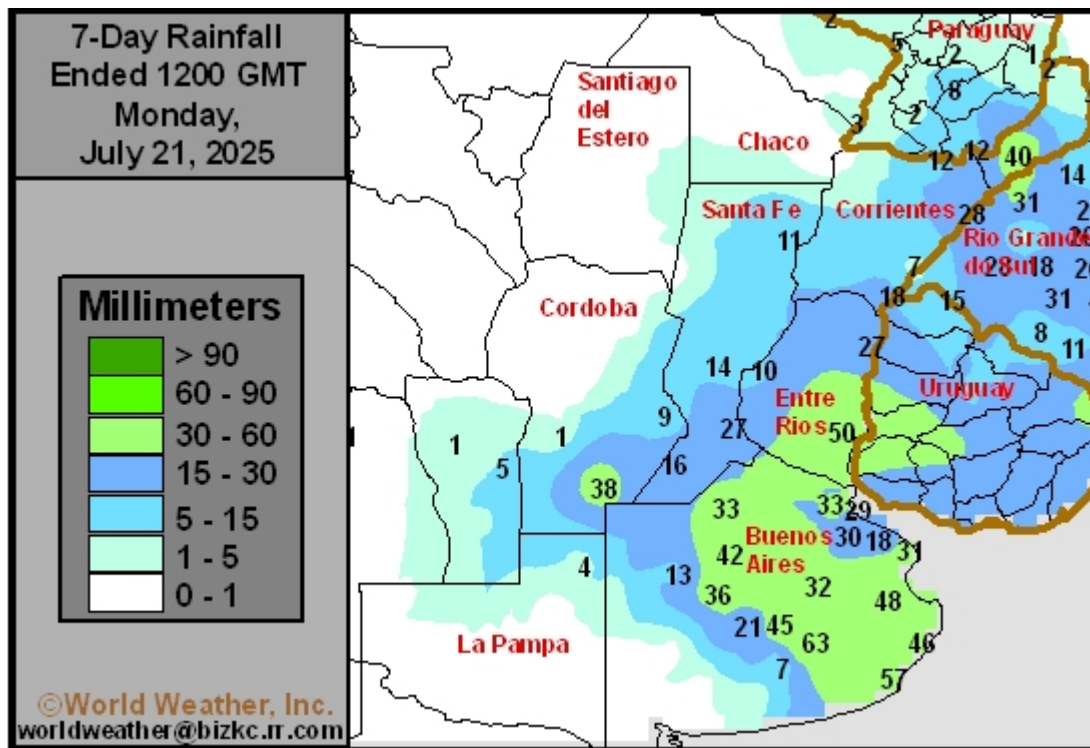
# Argentina Western Wheat Areas Still Need More Moisture

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, July 21 (World Weather Inc.) – The main winter wheat and barley areas in Buenos Aires, Entre Rios, and southern sections of Santa Fe and Cordoba received timely rain during the past week. Overall production potentials are favorable, though some of the production areas in western Cordoba and neighboring locations would benefit from increased rainfall in the near future. Harvesting of the summer crops is ongoing and may have been sluggish in the wettest areas of Buenos Aires and Entre Rios. The main production areas in Argentina will only have a few opportunities for spotty rain this week. Winter wheat and barley prospects will remain favorable despite the lack of abundant rain. Late-season harvesting will also advance swiftly.

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The main production areas in Argentina received varying amounts of rain during the past week. Much of Buenos Aires outside the west-central and southwestern production areas into Entre Rios and portions of southern Santa Fe and Cordoba received 0.50 to 1.50 inches of rain with local amounts up to 2.50 inches in Buenos Aires. Corrientes and portions of northern Santa Fe received up to 0.43 inch of moisture. Little to no rain was noted elsewhere.

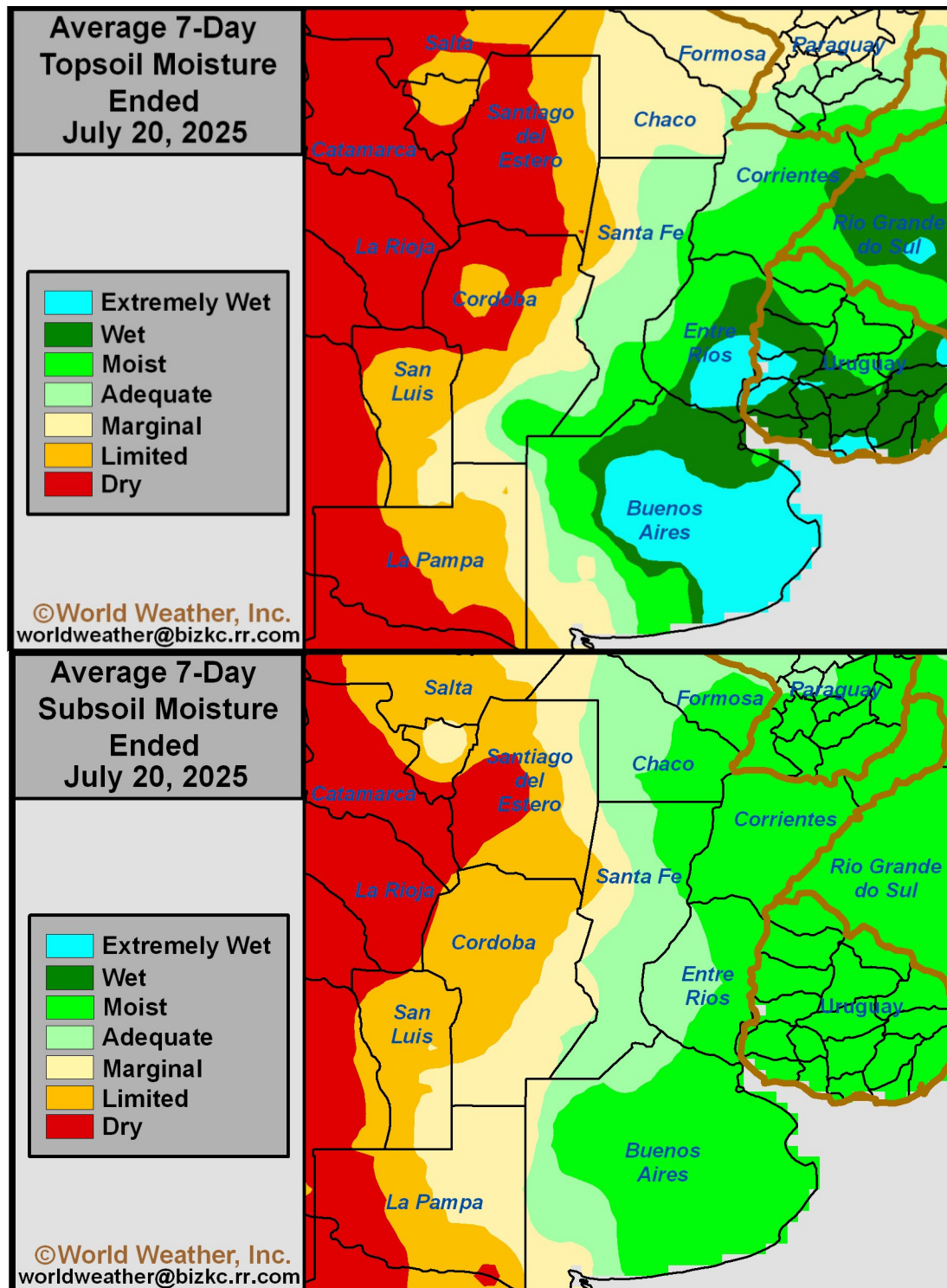


Soil moisture is short or critically short for Santiago del Estero, northern Cordoba and portions of San Luis and La Pampa. The remaining locations have adequate to excessive soil moisture.

Planting of the winter wheat and barley is winding down for Argentina. As of July 17, wheat planting was 92% complete, down slightly from 93% last year. Barley planting was 86% complete compared to 91% last year. The main production areas have ample

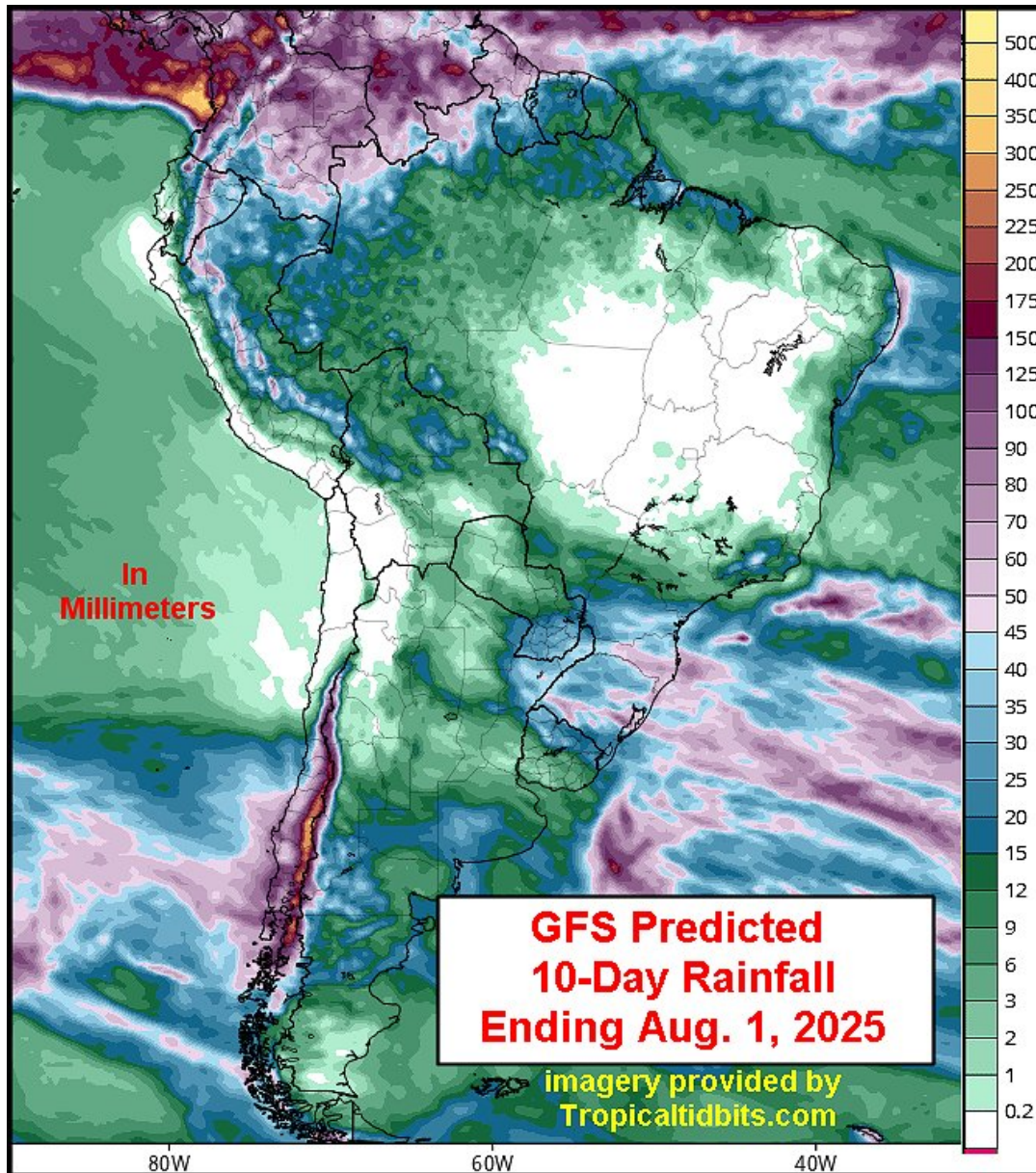
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moisture to support aggressive establishment and early-season development; however, there are a few fields in Cordoba that are too dry for ideal crop prospects, though there is still plenty of time for rain to improve production potentials.



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As of July 17, corn harvesting was 82% complete, down from 88% this time last year. Sorghum harvesting was 94% finished while 88% of the cotton was out of the ground. Minor harvest delays were possible in areas that received the greatest amount of rain during the past week. Quality impacts were otherwise suspected of being minimal.



### WEATHER OUTLOOK

Argentina will initially trend dry today and for much of the day Tuesday. Light rain will be scattered across portions of central and northern Argentina late Tuesday and Wednesday with the passage of a weak frontal boundary. Another disturbance will generate light rain in portions of southern Argentina late Thursday and early Friday. A few light showers will then be possible for portions of crop country over the weekend. Moisture totals

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by next Monday morning will range from 0.10 to 0.75 inch with locally greater amounts in northern Argentina. The main production areas will again have a few opportunities for spotty rain July 29 – August 4, though not enough to significantly bolster soil moisture.

Temperatures will trend near to slightly below normal in Argentina this week. Northern Argentina will warm to the 70s and 80s Fahrenheit today into Tuesday and again Friday into Saturday. Highs most other days will be in the 60s and 70s. Central and southern Argentina will warm to the 50s and 60s most days with portions of central Argentina warming to the 70s today and again Friday. Low temperatures in the southern half of crop country will be in the 30s and 40s with many areas only cooling to the lower 50s Friday and Saturday. The northern half of Argentina will see lows in the 40s and 50s with portions of northern Argentina only cooling to the 60s at times. Seasonable to seasonably warm weather is slated for much of Argentina July 29 – August 4.

*Net drying is slated for much of Argentina this week. Western Argentina will remain too dry for winter wheat and barley, although most crops are semi-dormant. Areas farther east still have enough moisture to maintain a good outlook for the winter grains. Timely rain will be needed for Cordoba, La Pampa, and neighboring locations to improve potentials for the wheat and barley prior to the start of spring growing in September. In the meantime, late-season harvesting of the summer crops will advance swiftly around the periods of spotty rain.*

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