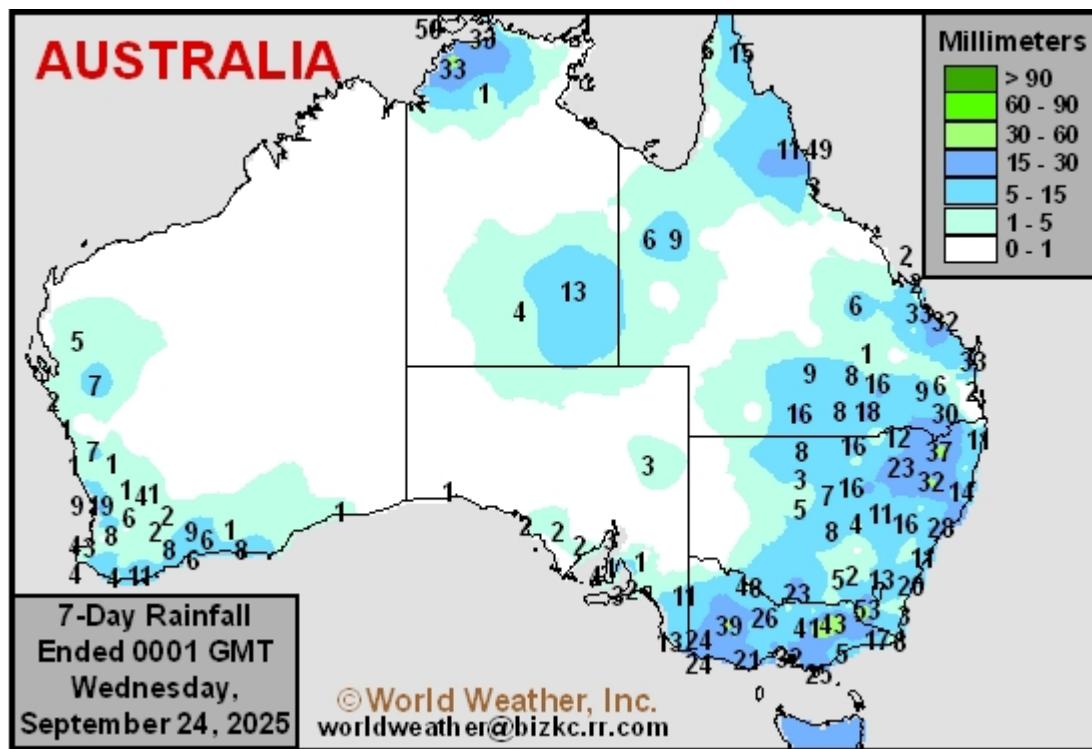


# Western Australia Drying Down Ahead of Reproduction

By Andrew Owen and Drew Lerner

Kansas City, September 25 (World Weather Inc.) – Timely rain and adequate amounts of soil moisture have dominated much of Australia in recent weeks, although Queensland has had some dryness issues in unirrigated fields. Western Australia has now begun to dry down and that trend may continue along with warmer temperatures in the next couple of weeks which may harm some of the winter wheat, barley and canola that will be reproducing and filling next month. Production potentials in all other areas in Australia are favorable with little change likely, despite another week of drying for areas outside of Victoria and southeastern South Australia. A boost in rainfall will not only be needed in Western Australia for winter crop reproduction, but for the planting of unirrigated cotton, coarse grain and oilseed in Queensland as well.

The main production areas in Australia received varying amounts of rain during the past week. Victoria and southern fringes of New South Wales received 0.32 to 1.26 inches of rain for the seven-day period ending this morning. Eastern and north-central New South Wales into southeastern and south-central Queensland received 0.28 to 0.71 inch of moisture. South Australia and Western Australia received up to 0.28 inch of rain while other locations in New South Wales and Queensland received little to no rain.

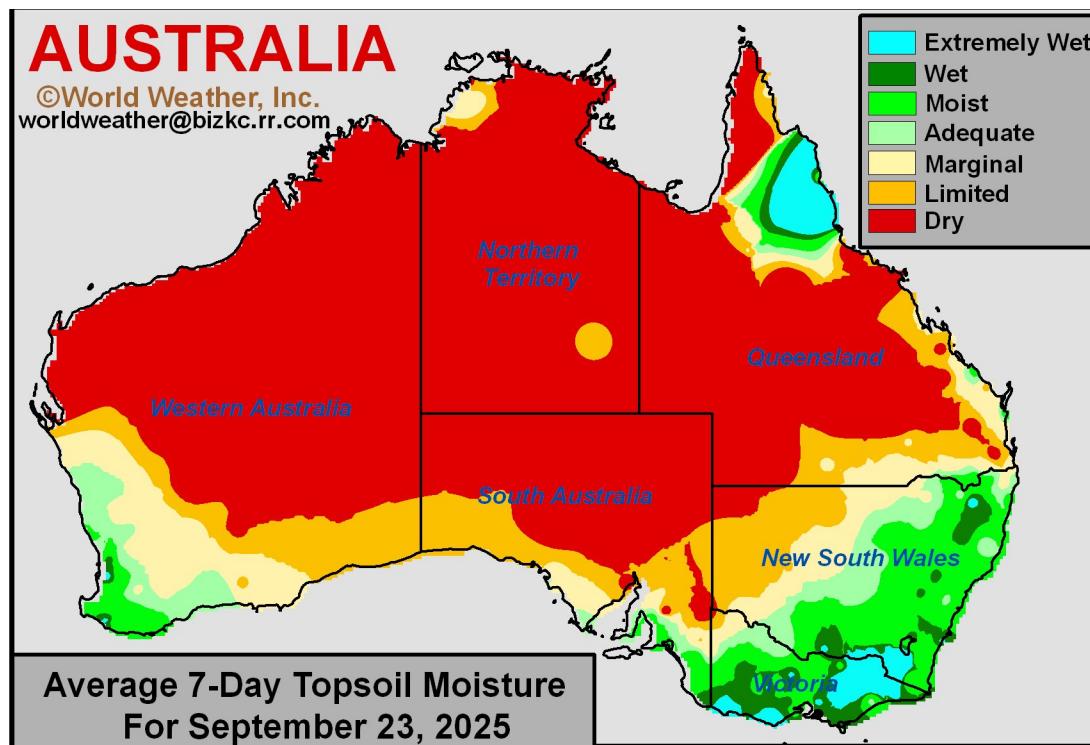


Soil moisture in unirrigated fields remains short or critically short in much of Queensland and western fringes of New South Wales despite recent rainfall. Other locations in New South Wales into Victoria, South Australia, and Western Australia have adequate soil moisture.

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Recent rainfall in eastern Australia either maintained or improved late-season development conditions for winter wheat, barley, and canola. South Australia and Western Australia has had ample moisture to support aggressive growth, as well, despite the lack of significant rain. Overall, production potentials are high this season due to timely rain. Winter crop development has reached the filling and early maturation stage in Queensland while approaching and entering reproduction in northern New South Wales and northern parts of Western Australia. Crops farther to the south were still in the joint stage of development.

Early-season planting of summer grain, oilseeds, and cotton begins late this month and/or in October in eastern Australia. Victoria and a large section of New South Wales have enough moisture to support relatively favorable early-season planting; although fieldwork in the south may still be a few weeks away. Queensland needs rain now to improve dryland planting prospects and some fieldwork may already be starting in a few areas.



## WEATHER OUTLOOK

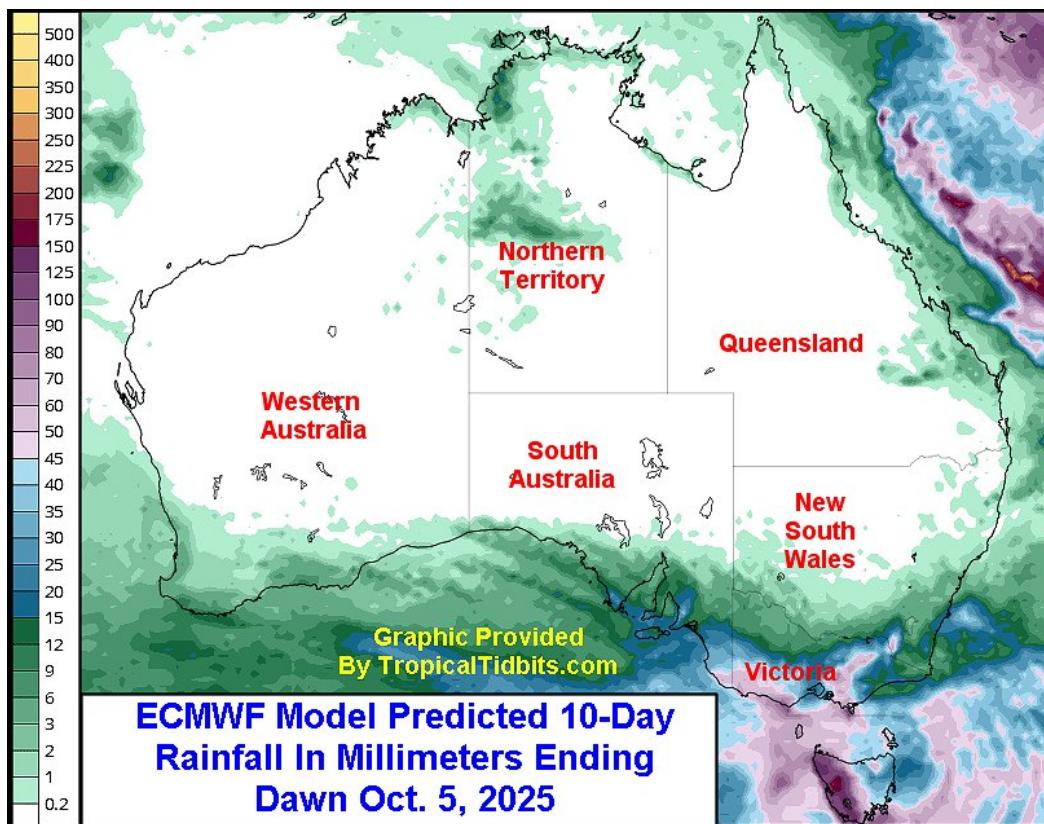
Southeastern Australia will see a mix of erratic rainfall and sunshine **during the coming week**. Light rain will be scattered across a few locations in Victoria later today. A frontal boundary will promote more widespread rain Friday and Saturday with another wave of rain Sunday and Monday. Light showers will be possible in a few locations Wednesday as well. Victoria will receive 0.50 to 1.50 inches of rain with local amounts over 2.00 inches by next Thursday morning. South Australia and portions of southern and eastern New South Wales will receive 0.10 to 0.50 inch of rain. **Queensland, the remaining portions of New South Wales, and Western Australia will otherwise receive little or no rain.**

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Rain in Victoria and far southeastern parts of South Australia during the coming week to ten days will be more than enough to maintain moisture abundance. Some fields may become a little too wet, but there is plenty of time for the ground to firm up in support of reproduction a few weeks from now. Net drying in the remainder of the nation outside of Queensland during the coming week to ten days will have a low impact on crop health or development potential because of favorable soil moisture. However, timely rain will be needed in October to ensure no area becomes too dry.

Western Australia and Queensland are likely to dry out most aggressively into early October which may eventually raise concern over conditions for reproduction in Western Australia. Most of the winter crops in Queensland have already advanced far enough to not be seriously harmed by continued drying, although a little yield and quality decline may still occur in unirrigated fields. Queensland's bigger concern will be for dryland planting of cotton and many coarse grain and oilseed crops; although, there is plenty of time for improved weather in Queensland for its summer crops and that improvement is fully expected later this spring. In the meantime, Western Australia will be the state to watch most closely since it could become drier as winter crop reproduction approaches.

In the meantime, early-season planting prospects for summer crops will remain relatively favorable in portions of central and northern New South Wales. Producers in Queensland and New South Wales will likely wait for rain potentials to increase before planting begins or becomes aggressive.



## **Western Australia Drying Down Ahead of Reproduction**

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