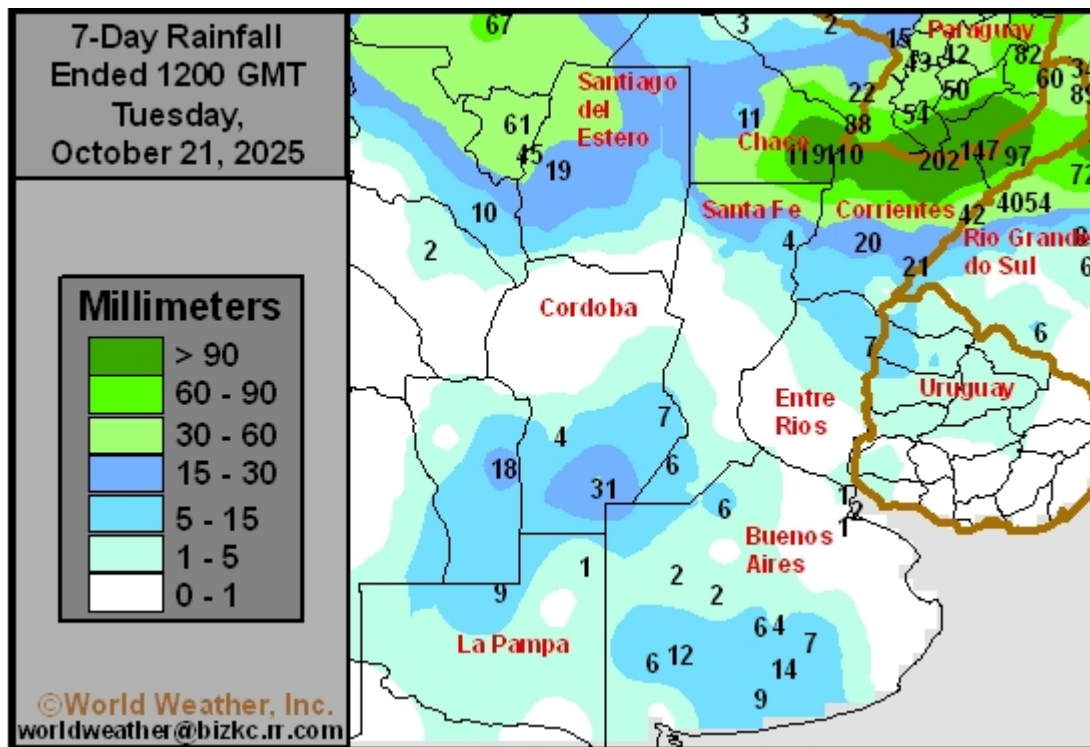


Argentina Rain To Bolster Soil Moisture, Support Good Planting

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, October 21 (World Weather Inc.) – Early-season planting is ongoing in portions of Argentina. ***Much of nation's primary grain and oilseed production region has been seeing alternating periods of rain and sunshine the past few weeks offering a mostly good environment for winter wheat and barley development and the planting and early development of sunseed and corn. Portions of central and western Argentina have been drying down recently and rain is needed.*** In the meantime, rain in the north this past week induced much better topsoil conditions after being dry for quite a while. ***A more frequent rainfall pattern is expected during the coming week that will improve the moisture profile in much of the nation and this improvement will occur as the nation prepares for soybean planting which begins next month – if it has not already started in some areas.***

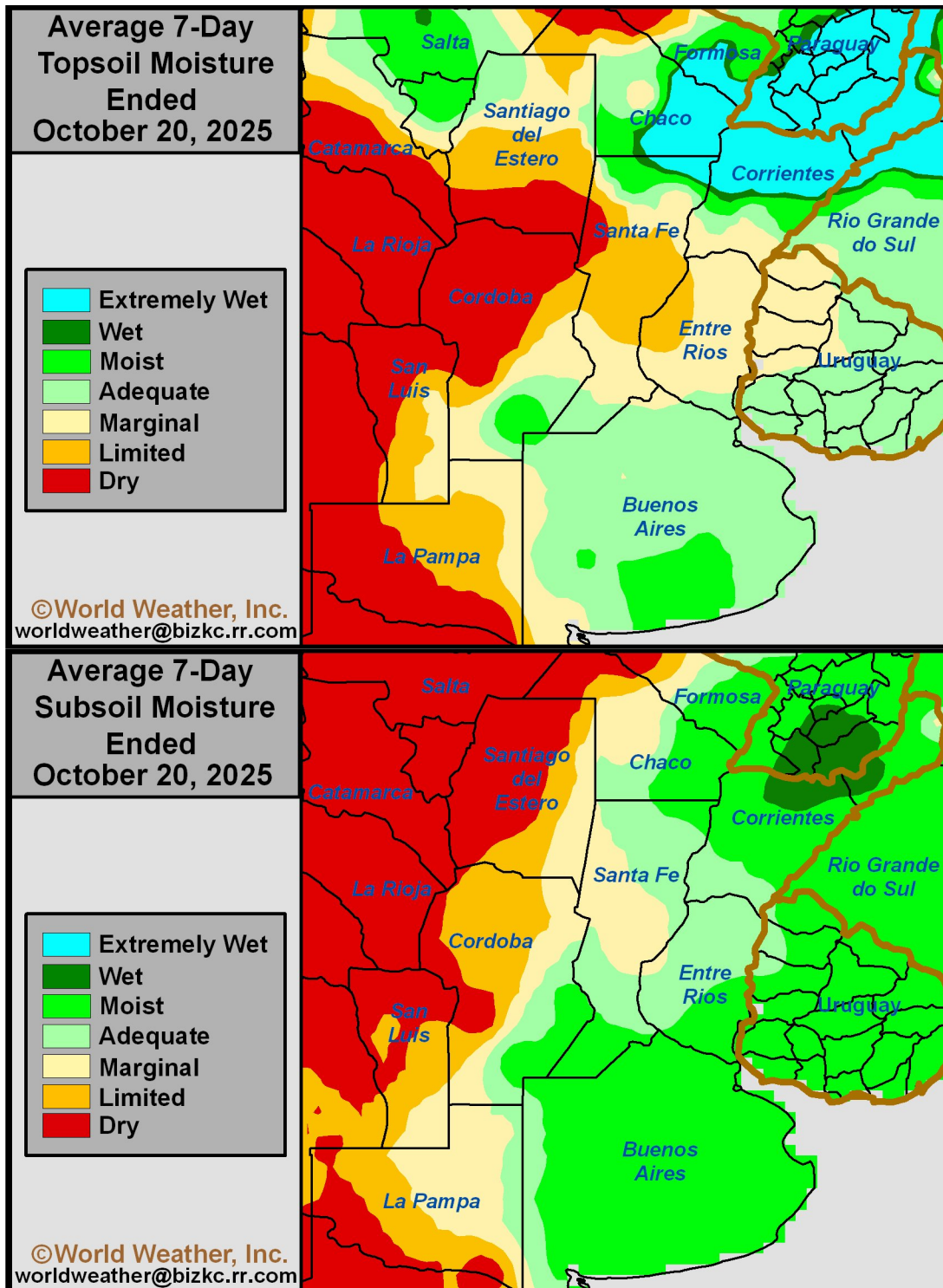
Chaco, Formosa, and northern Corrientes received varying amounts of rain during the past week. Moisture totals for the seven-day period ending this morning ranged from 0.87 to 4.69 inches with local amounts up to 7.95 inches in Corrientes. Several areas in southern Cordoba, San Luis, central Corrientes, western Santiago del Estero, and southern Buenos Aires received 0.24 to 1.22 inches of rain during this time. The remaining production areas were either dry or did not receive enough rain to counter evaporation.



Soil moisture is rated adequate to excessive in much of northern Argentina where cotton and some sorghum planting is getting under way. Southern Santiago del Estero, the northern half of Cordoba, and portions of central Santa Fe, La Pampa, and neighboring locations have short to very short soil moisture and must get rain soon to maintain the best possible environment for both winter and spring crops. ***Rain is needed most in Santiago del***

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Estero, northern and western Cordoba and central Santa Fe. The remaining production areas have adequate or marginally adequate moisture.

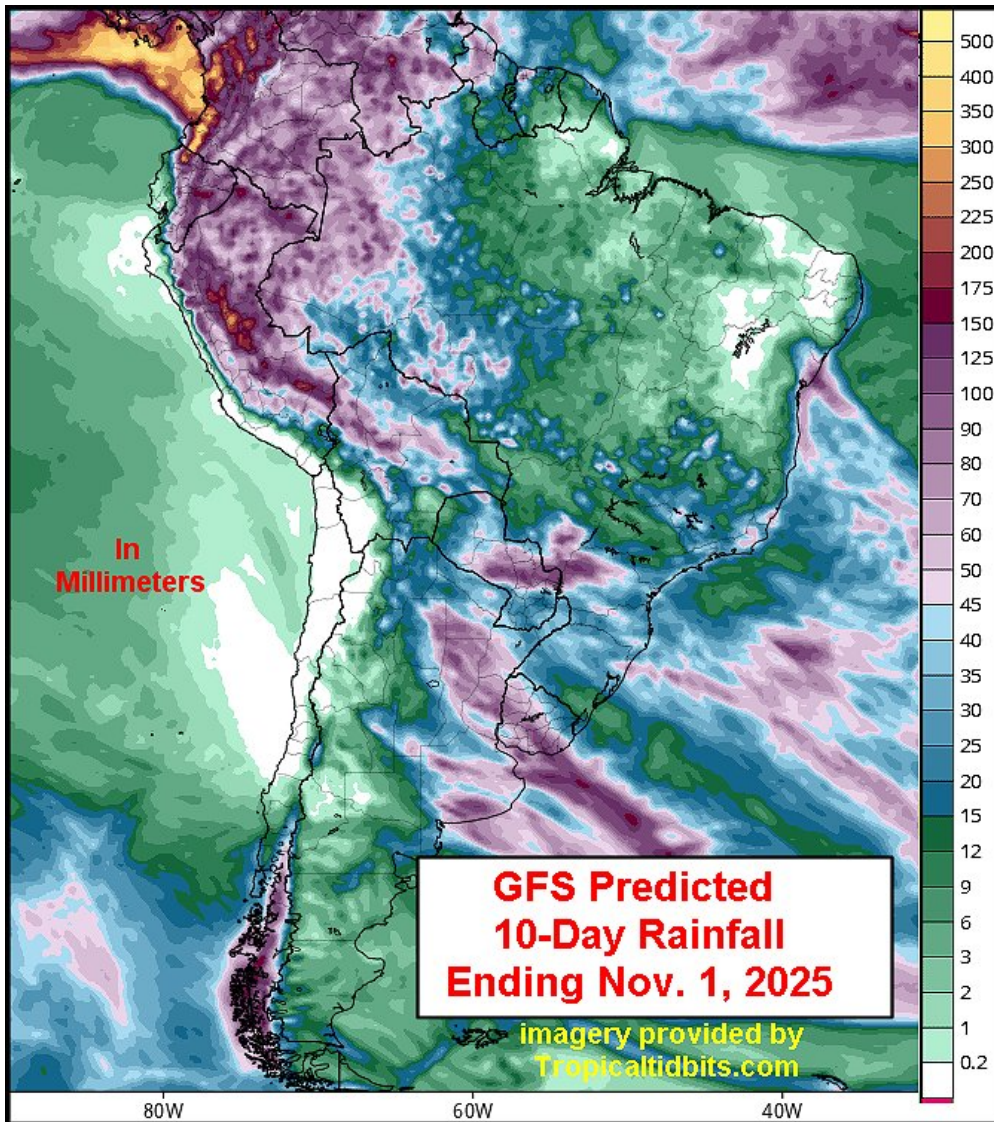


Planting continues across Argentina despite spotty rain in recent days. As of October 16, corn planting was 26% complete, up from 19% this time last year. Sunseed planting was

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37% finished, up from 23% last year. Rice planting was 35% complete, down slightly from 39% last year. Planting of soybeans and other coarse grains and oilseeds and cotton had not yet begun significantly.

Cordoba, Santiago del Estero, and portions of Santa Fe, La Pampa, and San Luis are too dry to support ideal planting and establishment. There is still plenty of time to support better establishment and growth, though the driest areas in western Argentina need significant rain to completely fix the moisture deficits. Other production areas in Argentina have enough moisture to promote relatively good establishment and early-season growth.



WEATHER OUTLOOK

Argentina will have several opportunities for rain during the coming week. Scattered showers will initially evolve in southern Argentina today and early Wednesday. A disturbance will promote more widespread rain later Wednesday and Thursday. Some of the

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most significant rain will then occur Friday and Saturday with the passage of a frontal boundary. Another front will generate rain late Sunday and Monday as well. *Moisture totals by next Tuesday morning will range from 1.00 to 4.00 inches with locally more in northern Argentina and Buenos Aires.* Alternating periods of erratic rain and sunshine are then slated for much of crop country October 29 – November 4.

The wet weather pattern during the coming week will gradually bolster soil moisture in much of Argentina's main production areas. Localized flooding will be possible in northern Argentina, which may cause some producers to reseed recently planted crops. Planting and general fieldwork may also advance slowly during the wettest periods. The environment will otherwise improve or remain favorable for winter crop development and early-summer plant development.

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