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The Canadian Agriculture Weather Prognosticator

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World Weather To Watch

- Most Northern Hemisphere winter crops are dormant or semi-dormant
- Drought is a concern for the Middle East, Morocco and NW Algeria
- Australia's winter crop production this year is huge
- India winter crops are poised to perform well this winter if a couple of well-timed rain events can occur in January and February
- China's rapeseed is in good shape with planting nearly complete and growth potentials are fine
- Bitter cold in U.S. will be confined to snow covered areas where wheat will be protected
- Argentina soil moisture is nearly ideal
- Brazil needs rain in the north and it is coming during the next two weeks

La Nina Brings Snow To SW Prairies

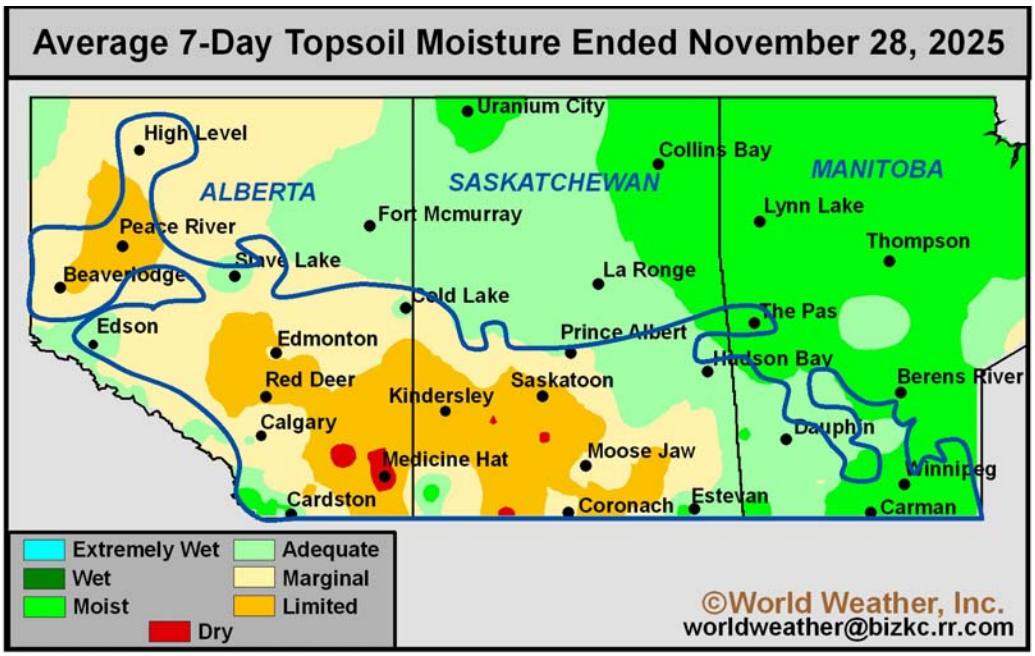
Drought remains a perpetual concern for the southwestern Prairies. Soil moisture was critically low again in some areas at the end of the 2025 growing season in Palliser's Triangle. Similar conditions were prevalent in the Peace River Region and in portions of central Saskatchewan.

Worry over spring 2026 has already been high and when forecasters started to mention La Nina, the fear level rose quite a bit; however, La Nina will not be around during the growing season and it should abate during the heart of winter. For now, La Nina is a bit of a friend for producers in the far southwestern Prairies.

Traditional late autumn and winter precipitation biases in a La Nina event tend to include greater than usual snowfall in western and southern Alberta especially near the mountains and across southern parts of the Province into southwestern and some south-central Saskatchewan production areas. The latest satellite and surface data has confirmed that a band of significant snow is on the ground from the Highway 2 corridor in Alberta through the far southwest part of Saskatchewan. Snow is also on the ground in central and northern Alberta and in the Peace country.

Most of Manitoba is snow free and the same is true of east-central through some central Saskatchewan locations—at least at the time of this writing. Some snow free conditions were also prevailing in west-central Saskatchewan and some crop areas over the border in Alberta.

Why is any of this important, you ask? Well, for two reasons. First, there was not much frost in the ground prior to the snowfall in the southwestern Prairies which means when the snow melts much



La Nina Brings Snow To SW Prairies (from page 1)

of the moisture will soak into the ground providing some improvement in topsoil moisture that was very low at the end of the growing season.

A second reason of importance for snow in the southwestern Prairies is for the water supply. Some farmland is irrigated in southern Alberta and in recent past years there has been concern over water supply. La Nina events favor precipitation in the southwestern Prairies which suggests near to above normal snowfall is possible and that will help improve water supply when the snow melts. That, in turn will provide a reduction in worry over cropland that is irrigated.

However, it will take much more snow to get water supply and soil moisture back to normal. Recent bitter cold temperatures has put frost into the ground in the snow free and limited snow depth areas in the Prairies meaning that increased snowfall in the next few weeks may not benefit today's snow free areas like those in the snow covered areas where little to no frost is in the ground.

Unfortunately, La Nina is unlikely to prevail much beyond the end of December or early January. That implies a possible weather pattern change during the second half of winter. That change may reduce snowfall in the southwestern Prairies.

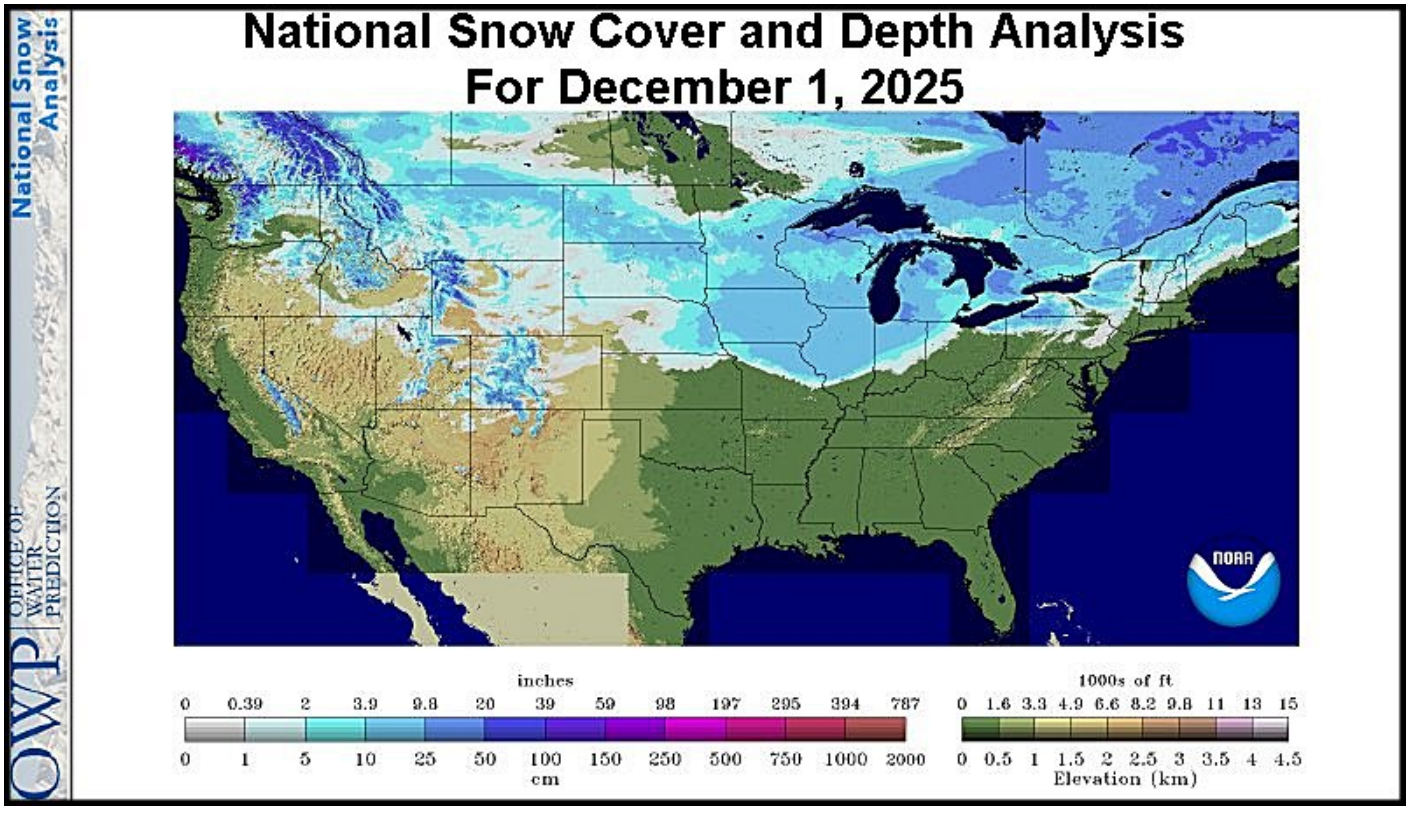
Producers in other parts of the Prairies may applaud the change dropping La Nina because it brings hope for a pattern change that might bring greater snowfall to other areas in the Prairies that are still too dry.

Longer term weather patterns operating behind La Nina are unlikely to favor big snow events in the central or eastern Prairies this winter. Some of the trend modeling has suggested a strong northwesterly flow pattern aloft will dominate the winter and as time moves along the ridge of high pressure currently over far western Canada will shift to the east restricting precipitation in the absence of La Nina and raising the potential for the far western parts of Canada to see warmer than usual winter weather with less than usual snowfall in the central and eastern parts of the Prairies.

The good news is that this northwesterly wind flow pattern aloft is unlikely to dominate week after week, although it will be the most common weather pattern for the winter. It is hoped that there will be a few breaks in the pattern that will allow greater precipitation to occur in Saskatchewan and Manitoba at least infrequently to improve runoff potentials in the spring.

For now, though, the potential for a wet winter in the eastern Prairies is low. There is a much better potential for the Peace River region to see greater snowfall and some rain events during the middle and latter part of winter to help improve spring soil moisture.

One of the last things to note is that recent ocean surface temperatures in the Gulf of Alaska have been cooling and that may present a new concern.



December Weather May Be Similar To November

December weather is expected to be very much like that of November due to the ongoing after-effect of mid-November stratospheric warming that set off all of the cold weather that has been present in the past week or two. Stratospheric warming forces cold air to the surface of the earth in the arctic and then spreads out to the lower latitudes. This process will continue periodically through the next two to three weeks resulting in waves of cold alternating with periods of milder air.

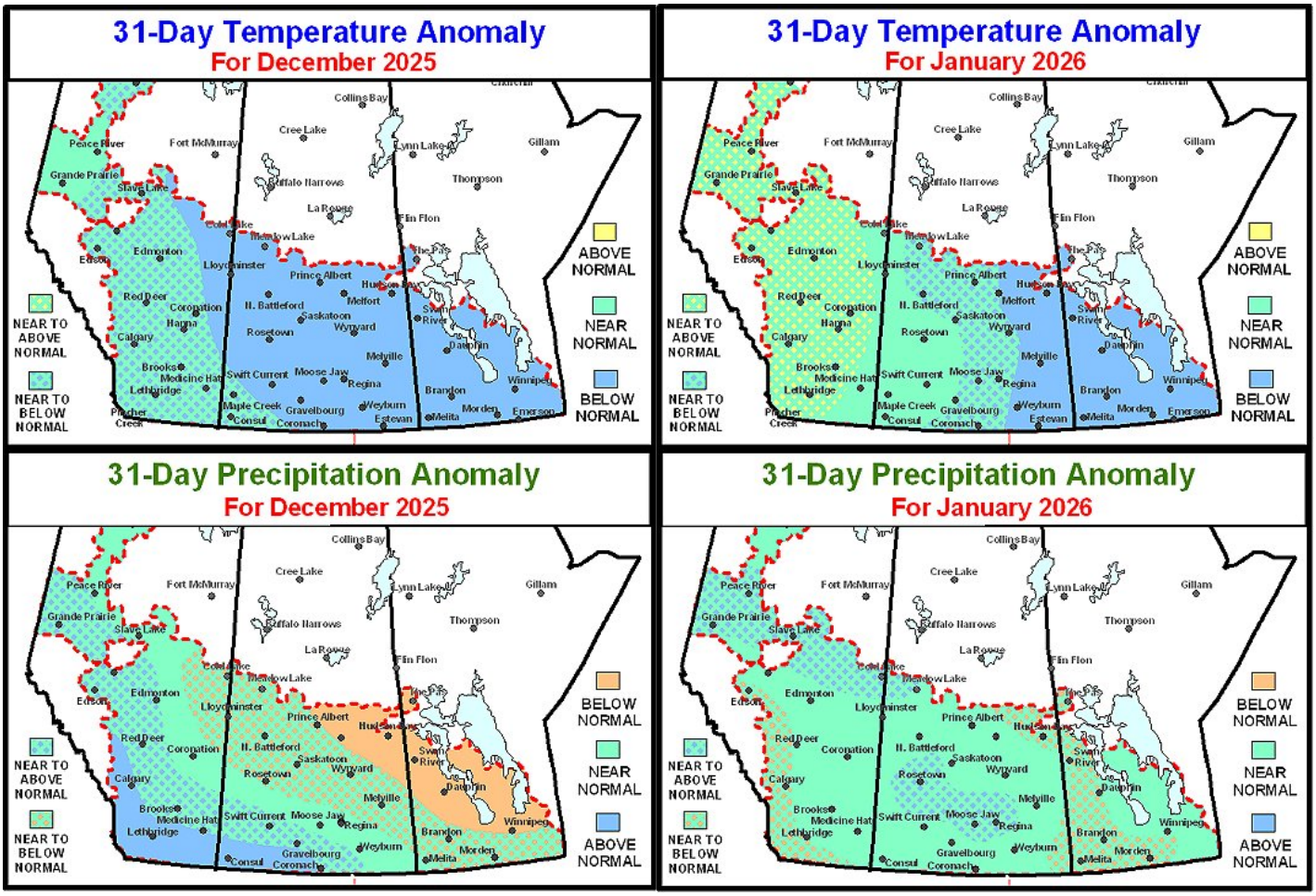
The region most likely to see precipitation of significance will continue to be western and southern Alberta and southwestern Saskatchewan. Much of that precipitation anomaly is associated with La Nina; though the stratospheric warming event is reinforcing the La Nina pattern making it less likely that a change in weather will occur before the end of this month. That does not mean there will be no bouts of warm weather, but it does suggest that additional waves of cold will come periodically and they will be accompanied by waves of snow in the west and south parts of Alberta and southwestern into south-central Saskatchewan.

Precipitation in the northeastern parts of the Prairies will likely remain below normal as it was during much of November.

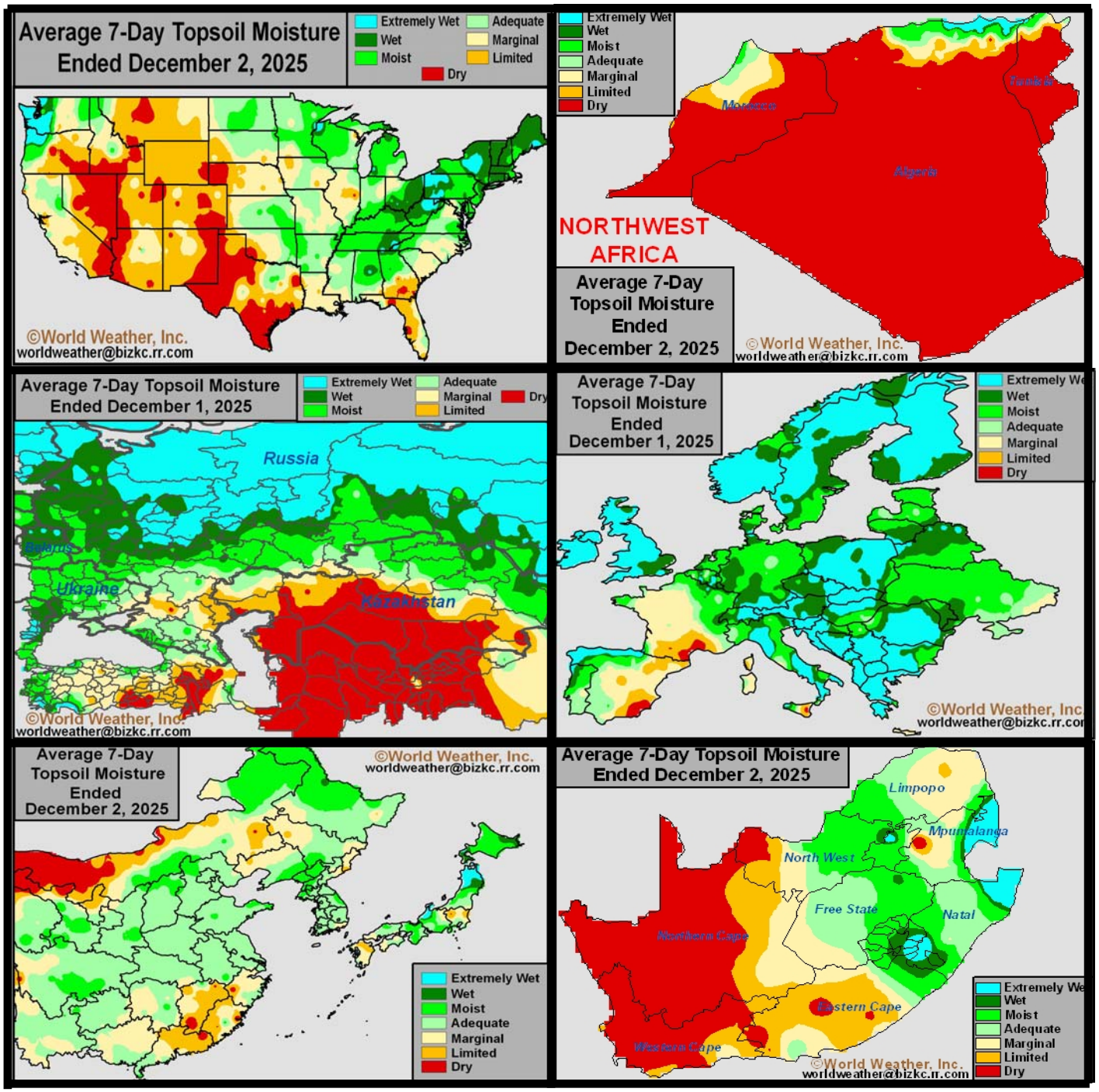
The potential for weather pattern changes should increase during the last part of December and January. That is when the polar vortex is expected to be relocated over the arctic and the stratospheric warming event will be over. There are also many computer forecast models suggesting that La Nina will begin weakening aggressively in January as well. The combined impact of these three changes should lead to warmer temperatures and more precipitation over a larger part of the Prairies.

January temperatures are not likely to soar well above normal and stay there. However, there will greater breaks between the cold surges and a high pressure ridge aloft may begin to set up over the western Prairies at times which should stop the repeating pattern from November and December.

If, for whatever reason, La Nina persists longer than expected or the stratospheric warming event resumes the outlook for January will have to be adjusted accordingly. For now, though the odds are a little greater that precipitation will fall across a larger part of the Prairies in January and temperatures will bounce around quite a bit resulting in more weather variety during the month.

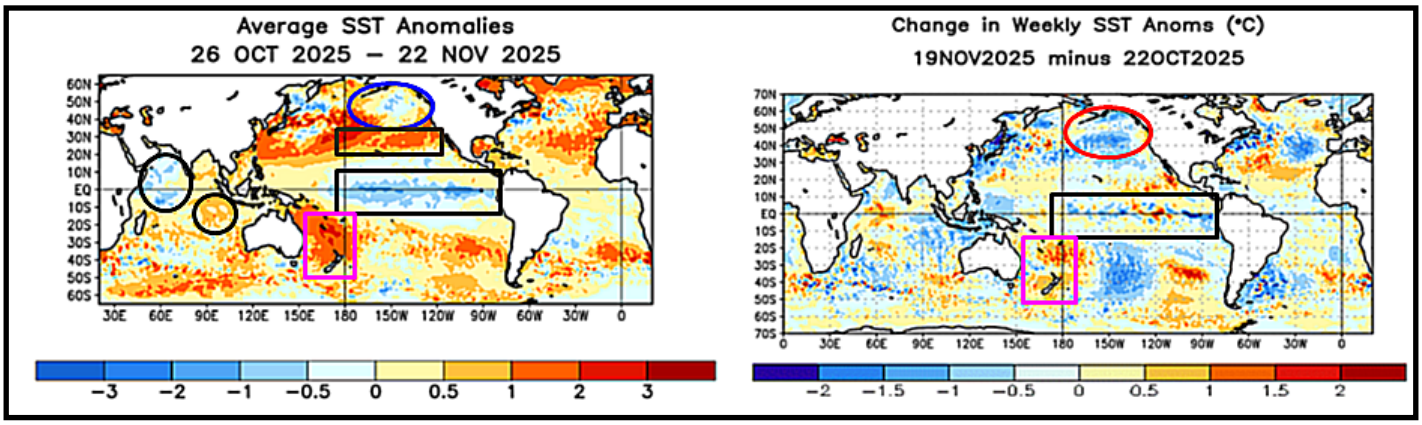


Selected Weather Images From Around The World



US. soil moisture is still a little low in the southwestern and far northwestern Great Plains as well as in Florida, southern Georgia and in many areas in the western states. Some improvement in soil moisture has occurred recently in the Midwest. Northern Morocco and northeastern Algeria along with northern Tunisia received some rain of significance recently; though, much more was needed to ease long term dryness. Portions of the Middle East are also drought stricken. Soil temperatures are dropping in Europe and the Former Soviet Union resulting in winter crop dormancy or semi-dormancy. Soil moisture is rated mostly well, although France and eastern Spain are still dry along with some areas in Russia's Southern region. Central and eastern parts of South Africa have seen increasing rainfall recently raising soil moisture for improved summer crop emergence and establishment conditions. China continues to experience a good mix of rain and sunshine with its winter crops in the north trending semi-dormant as well.

Gulf of Alaska Ocean Temperatures Cool in November



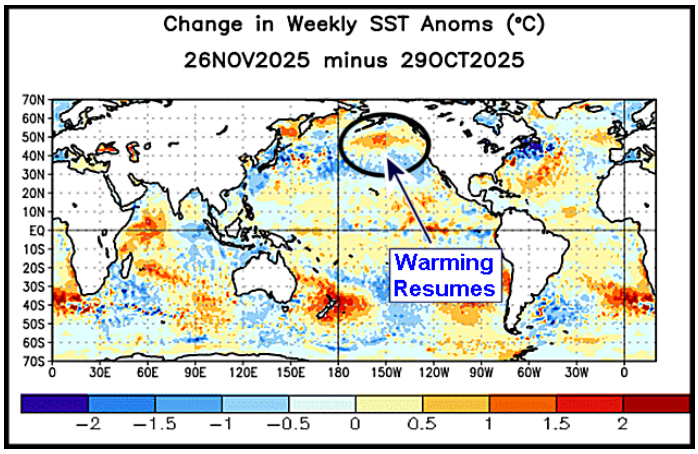
Drought has been a constant issue in the portions of the Prairies for a very long period of time, although rain last spring and summer proved to be timely and helped the nation produce a fair amount of grain and oilseed this year with exceptions in the Peace River Region the northeastern part of the Prairies and in a few locations in the southwest. Dryness was quick to resume during the late summer and autumn after many areas received relief from drought during the summer.

Some producers and a few forecasters are assuming that dryness is the new normal and that climate change is to blame. Those same forecasters suggested drought will be an ongoing issue in the Prairies; however, this kind of thing has been said before only to be proven wrong.

South Africa got stuck in a perpetual drought for many years just like the southwestern Prairies and the doom and gloom forecasters predicted South Africa might not ever produce favorably again. Well, the past few years have been much improved. A similar situation was noted in California a few years ago when the climate change specialists suggested California was in a perpetual drought and the situation would steadily worsen, but that, too, proved to be incorrect with California's water supply near normal for the third year in a row.

Dryness in the Prairies is occurring a little too frequently for some folks to deal with and quite honestly this forecaster might not have the stomach for such stress each year, but weather cycles are real and the day will surely come when dryness will not be such a big part of the Prairies life.

With all that said, concern evolved in November when a notable cooling trend was observed in sea surface temperatures in the Gulf of Alaska. Ocean temperatures had been much warmer than usual in the past couple of years and the warmth likely contributed to some of the enhanced rainfall during the spring and early summer 2025.



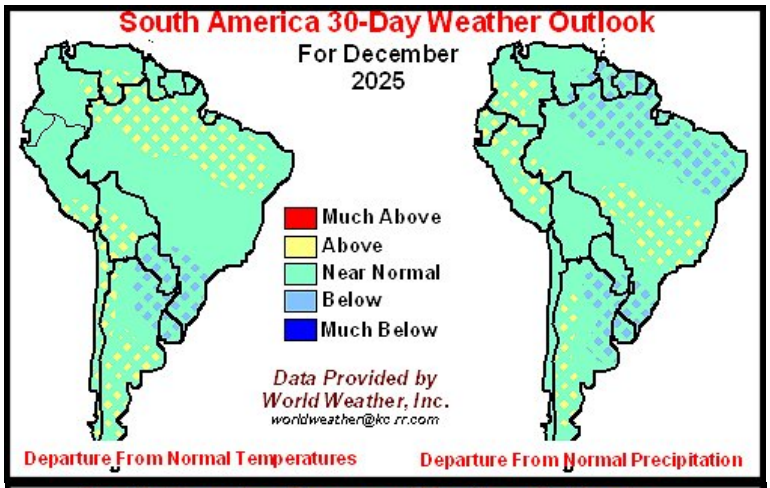
The recent cooling ocean water brought temperatures back down to near normal after being anomalously warm for an extended period of time. World Weather, Inc. has demonstrated an association with notably below normal ocean surface temperatures in the Gulf of Alaska with less than usual precipitation in the Prairies during late spring and summer.

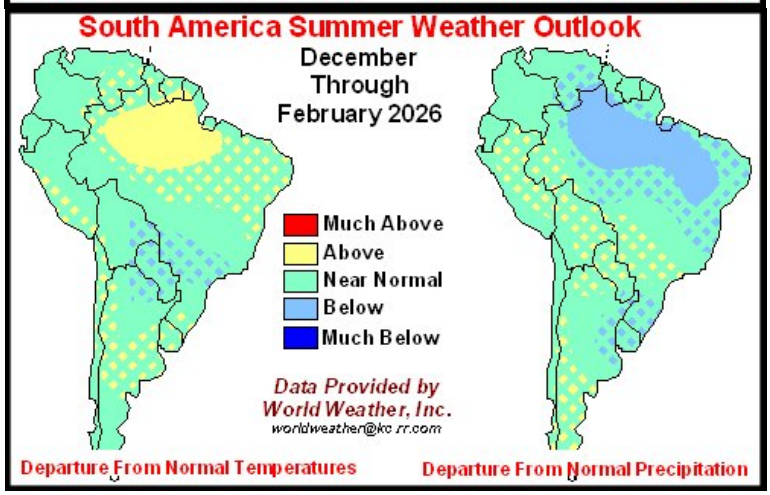
The recent cooling trend was a big concern because of the recent drought and low long-term moisture reserves prevalent in many areas across the Prairies. The ocean surface temperatures will be closely monitored during the winter. Cooler-than-usual ocean water would not guarantee drought, but it would raise the potential for lighter than usual rain in 2026 and that might not go over very well for those farms still dealing with moisture deficits following the dry finish to summer and dry autumn.

Some good news materialized in this week's latest ocean temperature data (shown to the left) demonstrating a short term bout of warming once again. One week of changing ocean temperatures does not set a new trend and the situation needs to be closely monitored. There is still potential for additional cooling to take place. Cooler ocean temperatures are not a death sentence for crops in the Prairies, but until soil moisture and water supply are returned to normal the situation should at least be monitored for a while. Crop performance would likely be much better with a favorable moisture reserve down deep into the ground.

South America Weather Change To Last Through December

Weather patterns are changing in South America this week as the influence of La Nina becomes more dominating. La Nina tends to produce less than usual precipitation in eastern Argentina, Uruguay, Southern Brazil and southern Paraguay while rainfall tends to be greater than usual from center west into center south Brazil. These are the anomalies that are evolving in South America today and they are expected to last through the month of December. Changes in January and February will be dependent upon the fate of La Nina. If La Nina diminishes as expected rainfall in South America will return to a pattern similar to that of November, but if the phenomenon prevails weather anomalies will remain as they will be in December.





December rainfall this year is expected to be near to below normal in eastern Argentina, Uruguay, far southern Paraguay and southern Brazil. A below normal precipitation bias is also expected in northeastern Brazil; including Piaui, Maranhao and the lower half of the Amazon River Basin. A wetter than usual bias is expected from Mato Grosso into Minas Gerais and a part of Sao Paulo as well as in far western Argentina near the Andes and from eastern Peru into Colombia.

Temperatures this month will be mostly near normal, although there will be a slight cooler-than-usual bias in southern Brazil, Paraguay and eastern Argentina. Warm-biased conditions are likely from the lower Amazon River Basin into Piaui and in southern and far western parts of Argentina. Southwestern Colombia will also be warmer than usual. Near normal temperatures are likely in most other areas.

In the past, La Nina generated warmer-than-usual conditions in the drier areas of southeastern South America. This year's La Nina is occurring with a more active weather pattern prevailing in the background and that pattern is largely fueled by some cooler-than-usual atmospheric conditions. The influence of the two patterns should result in a limited number of hot days in the drier-biased areas and that will help crops get through the drier weather with less negative impact.

The entire summer season (December through February) is expected to have less than usual precipitation in the Amazon River Basin and northeastern parts of Brazil where some summer crop yields may slip lower. A slight below normal precipitation bias is possible in southern Brazil, Uruguay and southeastern Argentina during the December through February period, although it is not expected to breed a seriously threatening production issue for crops in these areas.

A wetter-than-usual bias in Peru, Bolivia, central and northern Paraguay and center west into center south Brazil should prove favorable for water supply and summer crop production potential.

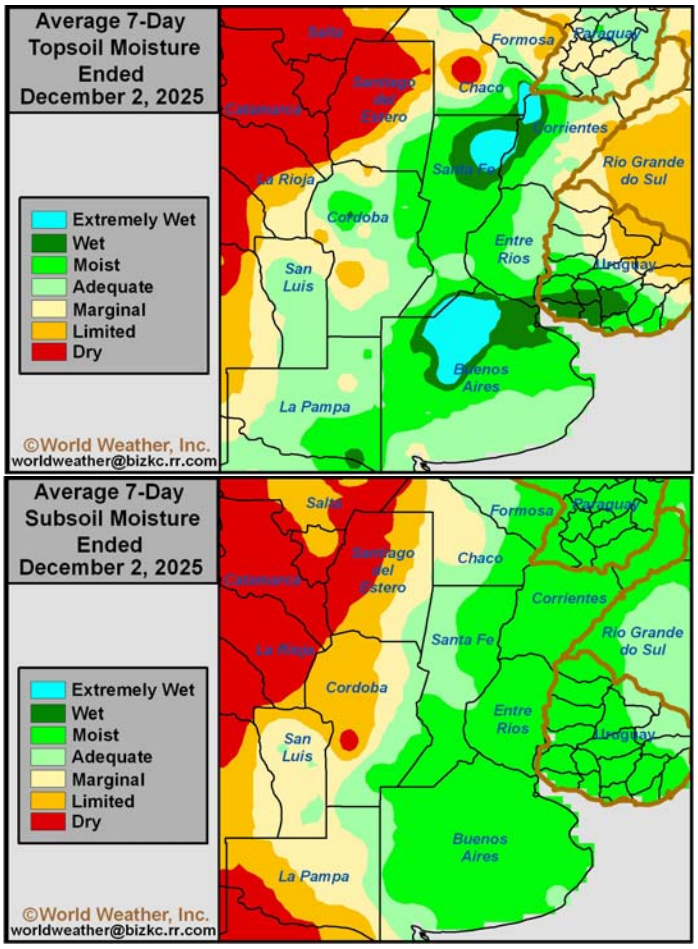
There is some potential for changes to the outlook in January and/or February if La Nina abates enough to bring back the prevailing under-lying weather pattern which should include routinely occurring rain and seasonable to slightly cooler than usual temperatures.

The bottom line should be favorable for summer crop production except in the Northeast of Brazil where yields are expected to be down due to dryness. Improving weather in center west Brazil this month should translate into improved yield potentials, although some of the earliest planted crops struggled with dryness for quite a while possibly reducing some of the region's production potential. Lower yields in these areas will be partially countered by higher yielding crops in other parts of the nation. Argentina weather should be well mixed promoting a good production year.

Argentina Continues To Experience Timely Rain

The main production areas in Argentina received welcome rainfall during the past week. The precipitation was well timed and kept soil conditions rated favorably. The only crop stress that has occurred recently has been in the northwest part of the nation where only a minor amount of coarse grain and oilseed is produced.

Soil moisture is rated adequate to excessive in a large section of Argentina. However, portions of Santiago del Estero have a shortage of moisture along with many other areas to the northwest outside of key crop areas. Subsoil moisture is also a little short in western Cordoba where recent rain improved topsoil conditions—at least temporarily.



Corn and soybean planting remains a little behind last year's pace; though, producers will likely try to plant a significant amount of crop in the coming days due to recent rainfall. Planting is ongoing across Argentina. As of November 27, the Argentina Ag Minister reported soybean planting as 39% complete down from 47% this time last year. Corn planting was 51% finished down slightly from 53% last year. Sorghum planting was 33% while peanut planting was 79% finished, sunseed was 94% planted and rice planting was nearly complete. Cotton planting was 32% finished.

Recent rainfall helped improve or maintain a good environment for establishment and early-season development in much of Argentina. There are still a few locations in western Argentina that are too dry for ideal long-term production conditions and a boost in rain would be welcome. Winter wheat and barley harvesting may have been slowed by rain during the past week and periods of drier weather will be needed in the coming weeks to get all fieldwork completed.

Alternating periods of rain and sunshine are slated for Argentina during the coming week. Outside a few isolated showers in western and northern fringes of crop country, the region will be mostly dry until Thursday through Saturday when light shower activity will evolve in southern Argentina

A weather disturbance expected late this weekend will bring rain to much of crop country into the first part of next week. Moisture totals by next Tuesday morning will range from 0.25 to 1.00 inch with a few exceptions. Several areas in Santa Fe, Cordoba, and immediate neighboring areas in Santiago del Estero and Entre Rios will receive 1.00 to 2.00 inches of rain. Pockets in Buenos Aires will also receive little to no precipitation. The main production areas will again see a mix of rain and sunshine December 10-16.

Temperatures will trend warmer until the weekend precipitation event begins. Some of the nation will experience above normal readings with extreme highs reaching into the range of 30-39 Celsius. Cooling is likely during the wetter days late this weekend into early next week and then a more seasonable temperature regime is expected for the Dec. 10-16 period.

Planting and general fieldwork will advance swiftly in much of Argentina through at least the first part of the weekend. Net drying is slated for a large section of crop country, though most locations will initially have enough moisture for relatively good establishment and early-season growth. The need for timely rain will increase later this month to keep the ground from becoming too dry for ideal development. Winter wheat and barley harvesting will advance swiftly around the periods of rain.

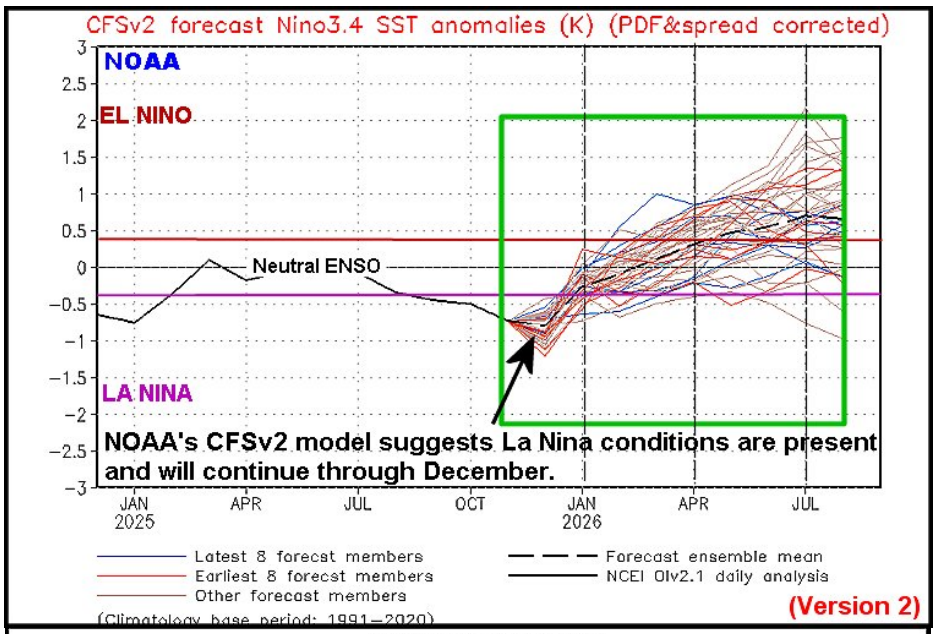
La Nina Will Peak This Month, Diminish Early In 2026

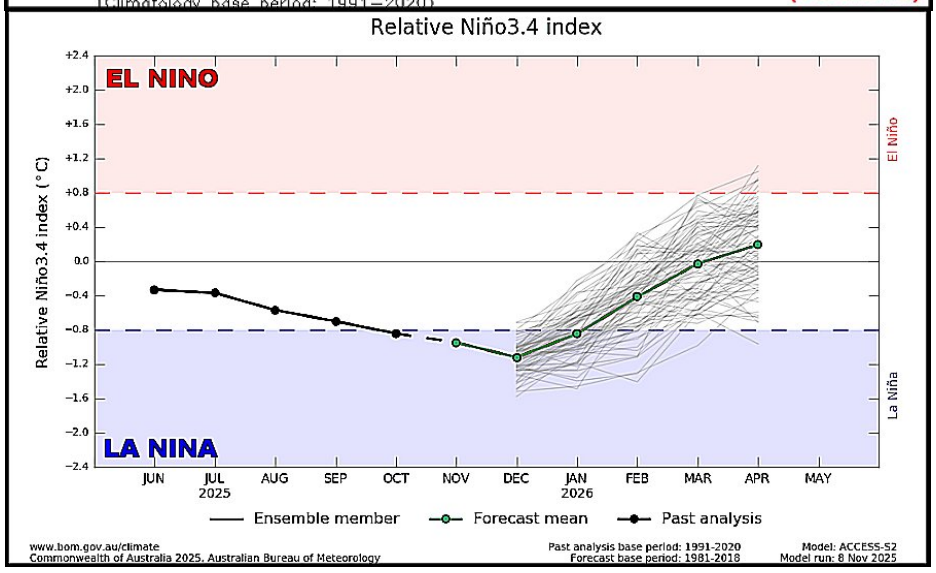
La Nina strengthened greatly in the second half of November. Ocean surface temperature anomalies in the eastern half of the equatorial Pacific Ocean turned more anomalously cold, but only enough to induce more traditional precipitation anomalies in various places across the world. Some of those anomalies include; dryness in the southeastern and southwestern U.S., colder than usual temperatures in Canada's Prairies and the north-central U.S.

Traditional La Nina biases also bring less than usual rain to eastern Argentina, Uruguay and far southern Brazil while center west and center south Brazil trend wetter. These South America weather anomalies are just now beginning to kick in and for the next few weeks the La Nina influence on South America will be greatest.

In other parts of the world La Nina tends to produce wet weather in eastern Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and parts of southern Thailand and Vietnam. These anomalies along with wet biased conditions in southern Europe and northern Africa are typical of La Nina events along with a greater potential for rain in northern India. South Africa tends to be wetter biased in times of La Nina.

As long as La Nina is in place the weather anomalies noted above will remain in place. However, both the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Australian Bureau of Meteorology agree that La Nina is set to begin weakening in late December with a notable demise in the event beginning in January. Other weather agencies and computer programs are in agreement with the demise of La Nina early in 2026.





The end of La Nina will free up the atmosphere to fall back to other prevailing weather patterns. For South America that should restore timely rain to Argentina and southern Brazil and reduce some of the northern Brazil precipitation. A change in North America is also expected shifting the coldest air out of Canada's Prairies and more into Quebec, Ontario and the eastern U.S. There should also be a boost in rainfall for the Great Plains, Rocky Mountain region and southwestern desert region.

Canada's Prairies should see less snow in the southwestern Prairies while greater precipitation impacts Saskatchewan and Manitoba. The odds are also good that Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines will trend drier in the first quarter of 2026 after a very wet finish to 2025.

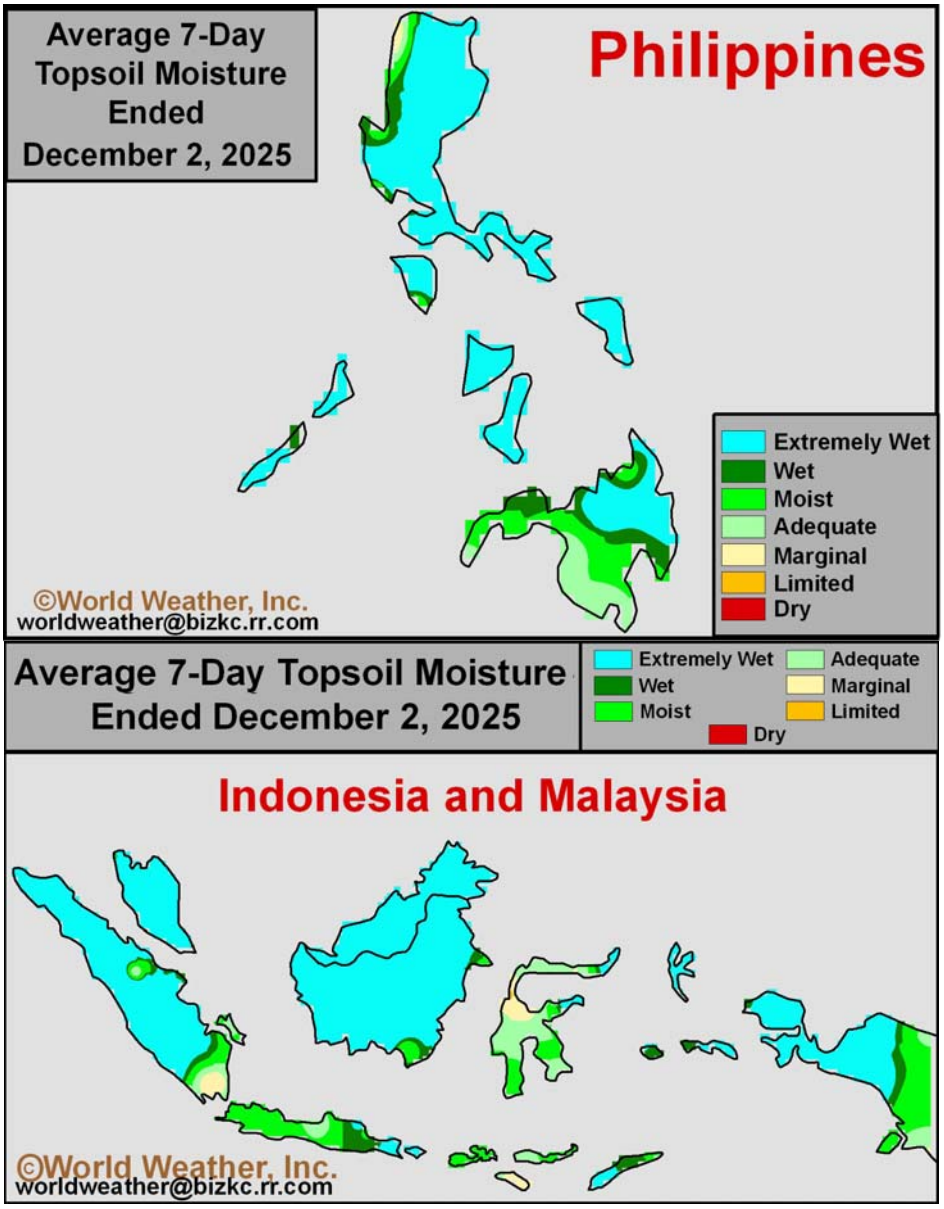
Excessive Rain, Flooding Impacts SE Asia

Some La Nina events tend to enhance rain throughout Southeast Asia and that has certainly been the trend this season. Flooding has been common in Vietnam, parts of Thailand, central and northern Philippines and more recently in northern Sumatra, Indonesia and northern parts of peninsular Malaysia.

Some of the rain totals have not just been slightly greater than usual. Horrific flooding occurred in many areas as multiple tropical cyclones impacted the central and northern Philippines and the central Vietnam coast. Some of this flooding pattern began in September and has been occurring frequently since then. September rains in central Vietnam ranged from 20-52 inches.

The single most impressive rain event occurred in late November when far southern Thailand (near the Malaysia border) reported three-day rain totals of 20-34 inches. Additional rainfall to more than 8.00 inches occurred two days later. The flooding in southern Thailand was said to be a record and the damage to personal property and infrastructure was horrendous.

Concern has been rising that as time moves along in December the torrential rain events may shift southward into Indonesia and Malaysia. This trend was already suggested during the last weekend of November. Notice the saturated condition of soil from the Philippines into Indonesia. This wet bias is not just in the topsoil, but it extends down deeply into the soil column. The saturated conditions extend downward more than 36 inches (nearly a full meter) suggesting any new rain that falls will be 100% runoff. Any additional heavy rain that falls without significant drying occurring first will result in more flooding and more damage to personal property, infrastructure and agriculture.



Weather conditions in the first half of December may bring some welcome drying, but not in all areas. There is a good chance that late in this first week of December there will be a new tropical cyclone moving across the central Philippines inducing more flooding and excessive rain. The storm system will then move across the South China Sea and may bring some heavy rain to southern Vietnam. In the meantime, there is likely to be some welcome drying in the north half of central Vietnam and in parts of Sumatra and the Malay Peninsula.