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The Canadian Agriculture Weather Prognosticator

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World Weather To Watch

- Southern Argentina is becoming too dry slowing late season planting and threatening recently emerged crops
- Northern Argentina and Brazil summer crops are rated well with timely rain for much of January
- Interior Eastern Australia needs rain for its unirrigated summer crops
- India needs rain for winter grain and oilseed crops ahead of reproduction next month
- Snow cover in the former Soviet Union and eastern Europe has increased sufficiently to protect winter crops from any bouts of cold
- U.S. Great Plains wheat is in need of moisture and recent warm weather has reduced winter hardiness
- Morocco has seen much needed rain

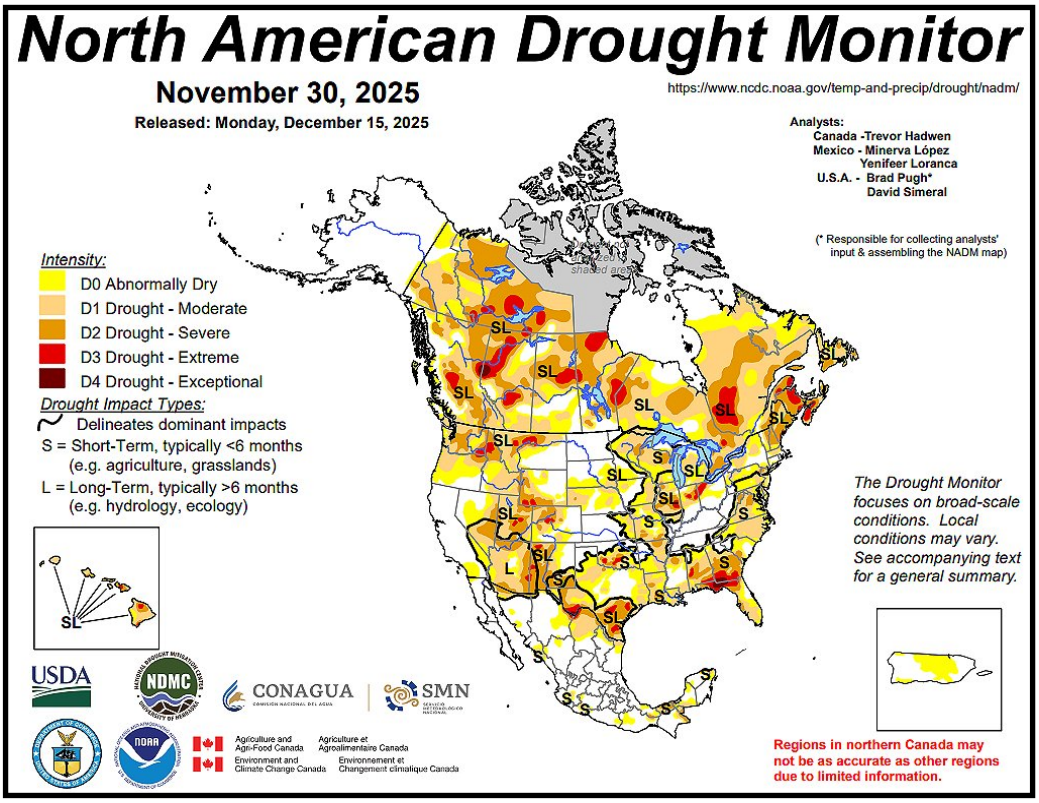
N. America Dryness Remains Despite Snow

Cold weather settled into Canada and the north-central through the east-central and northeastern United States in early November and it has dominated much of the period since then. Once the cold air arrived, the potential for drought relief was put on hold as the ground froze and all precipitation began falling as snow.

Snow has accumulated relatively well in portions of the Prairies and in the Great Lakes region as well as in parts of eastern Canada and the northeastern United States. Snow cover is always welcome during the winter, but when it falls after the ground freezes the odds of getting much moisture into the subsoil during the late winter or early spring when snow melts becomes relatively low.

Some areas in the Prairies experienced snow before frost got into the ground and for those areas there will be a fair chance that melting snow in the spring will help improve the moisture profile. There has already been frequent freezing and thawing of soil in the southwestern corner of the Prairies where early season snow has melted and the moisture improved topsoil conditions.

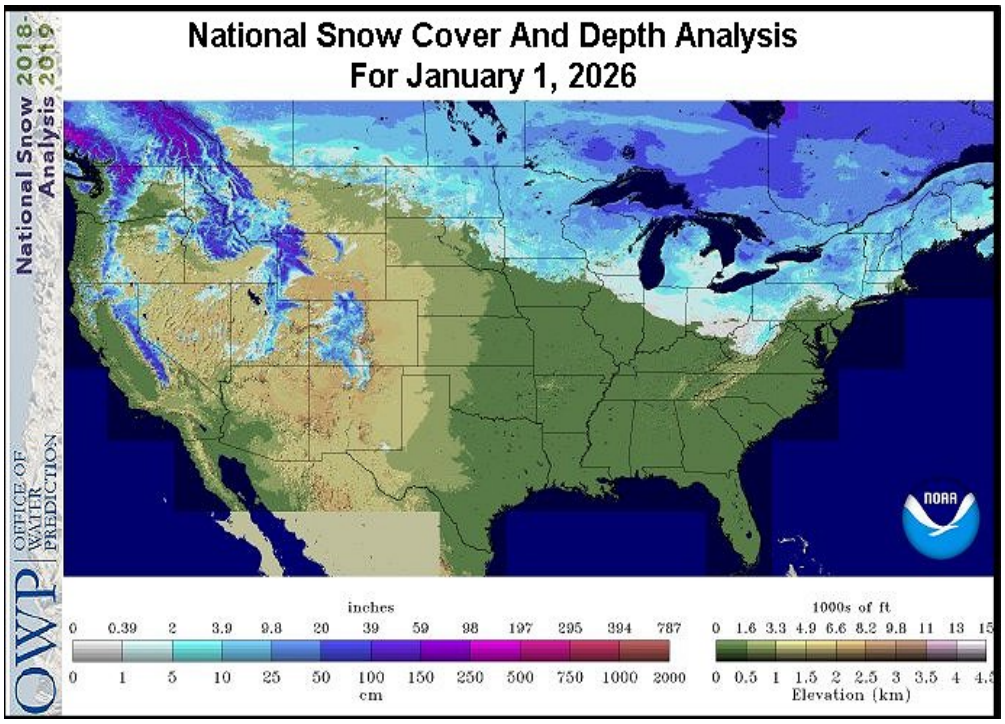
Other areas in the Prairies have been less fortunate to see much snow melt this season and that is not unusual. The odds disfavor much snow melt outside of the southwestern Prairies during January as the weather pattern continues much like



N. America Dryness Remains Despite Snow (from page 1)

that of December.

The most interesting feature of the late autumn and early days of winter is the widespread dryness that remains in North America. Summer weather was timely enough to benefit grain and oilseed production across the Prairies and into eastern Canada. Timely precipitation also occurred in the U.S. Midwest and most of the Great Plains in 2025 so that summer crops yielded well enough to keep commodity futures prices largely depressed.



There is still concern for the dry areas in North America and it will be imperative for well timed rain and snow to occur in the spring as the ground thaws and the snow melts. A very close watch on precipitation patterns in the spring will be warranted to ensure that lingering dryness is sufficiently relieved in time for spring planting.

There is some potential for weather patterns late this winter and early in the spring to favor a ridge of high pressure over western Canada, the U.S. Rocky Mountain region and the Great Plains while a trough of low pressure dominates eastern North America. If this pattern evolves there may be a period of drier and warmer than usual weather in the Prairies in early spring. Completely dry weather may not evolve, but it may be difficult to get big storms to impact the Prairies.

Warm temperatures in late winter and early spring will melt snow cover and thaw the ground allowing some improved topsoil moisture. However, with below normal precipitation and warm biased temperatures it might not take long for some areas to become too dry once again.

It is a little too soon to release an official spring and summer forecast; though there are some early indications suggesting improved precipitation during the second half of spring especially in June and July. That potential will be closely monitored and assessed over the next few weeks. If the indications are correct there may be a period of drier and warmer biased conditions in early spring possibly allowing fieldwork to take place early followed by a wet biased pattern in late spring.

It may be a little too soon to lock this idea in as a viable outlook; though it might be good to keep that potential in mind as planning for the spring season begins.

World Weather, Inc. believes much of the drought in North America will become concentrated on the southeastern United States and possibly northwestern Canada during summer 2026. There is not much clarity for the outlook in northwestern Canada, yet, and further research is going to be required to lock in the spring forecast.

The persistence of drought in the Peace River Region and areas north into the Yukon and Northwest Territories has been a little surprising. The good news is that the Gulf of Alaska is still dominated by warmer than usual ocean water temperatures which may help bring moisture into these very dry areas once the jet streams comes north out of the United States in late spring and summer, but that is a long time to wait.

There is potential that the early spring ridge of high pressure dominating western North America will shift far enough to the east in mid-spring to bring storms into the Peace River Region and far northwestern Canada to finally bring some serious relief to drought, but that may be a little slow in coming.

Ontario and Quebec weather is expected to be cold biased with frequent bouts of light snow in the late winter and early spring. The precipitation rate may be lighter than usual in late spring when temperatures are expected to remain cooler than usual. Summer is expected to be wetter with a more seasonable temperature regime.

Second Half Of January To Turn Colder; Feb. Warmer

La Nina's influence on western Canada will linger a little longer than expected this winter which is liable to make January a cooler month. There will be a short term bout of warm weather during the coming ten days that will warm up the Prairies especially in the west, but it will be followed by another period of colder biased conditions in the second half of the month.

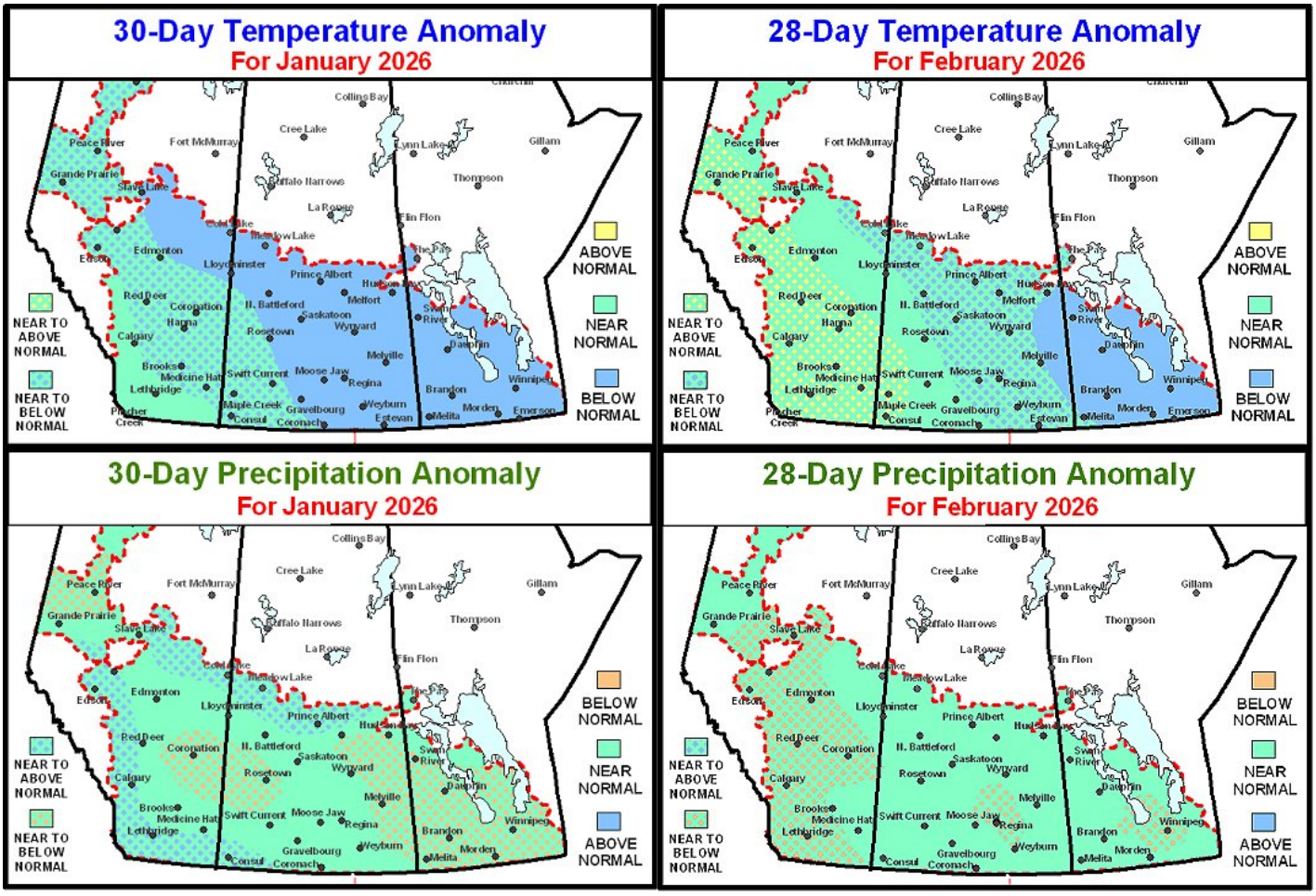
With any luck, La Nina will have diminished enough by February to reduce cold weather outbreaks across the west. A little more ridge building aloft may occur over Canada in February and if that takes place there should be a warmer bias in those crop areas for a while. Additional bouts of coolness will impact the eastern Prairies in February; although the intensity of the cold will likely be greater in Ontario than in Manitoba or Saskatchewan helping to limit the number of bitter cold days. Nonetheless, a cooler bias may linger in the eastern Prairies next month.

Precipitation in the Prairies during January is likely to be a little light and erratic. There is likely to be a high frequency occurrence of light snow in the northern parts of the region; although, it is doubtful that many areas will actually see greater than usual precipitation. Most of the Prairies will a drier biased for January except possibly across the north-central and southwestern parts of the region. A couple of upslope events may bring back some snow cover to the southwest, although that area will be warmest in the first half of the month limiting snowfall for a while.

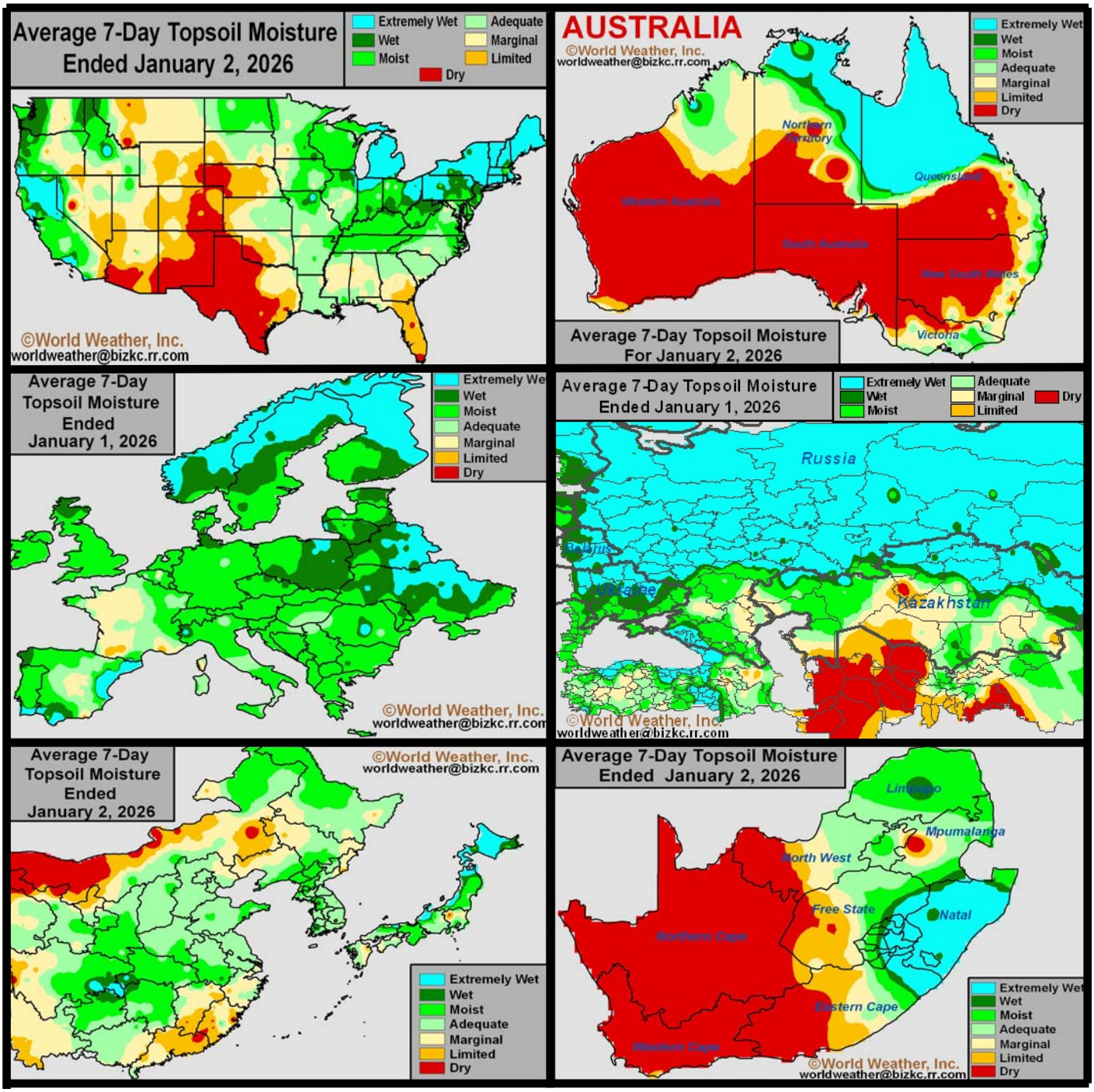
If money had to be put down on the table betting on weather, the odds would favor a below normal precipitation bias in the east and possibly over some west-central Saskatchewan locations and neighboring areas of east-central Alberta in January.

February precipitation has some potential to be increased because of the insurgence of periodic warmer air. The mixing of warm and cool air should bring on a more normal precipitation distribution for many areas. The exception may be in the west where a ridge of high pressure may be driven over the Rocky Mountain region and into western Alberta limiting precipitation and bringing on the warmer weather.

An early look at March suggests near to below normal precipitation will continue to impact the Prairies as the western high pressure ridge drifts a little farther to the east. This might raise the potential for wet weather in the Peace River Region, but induce little change for other areas.

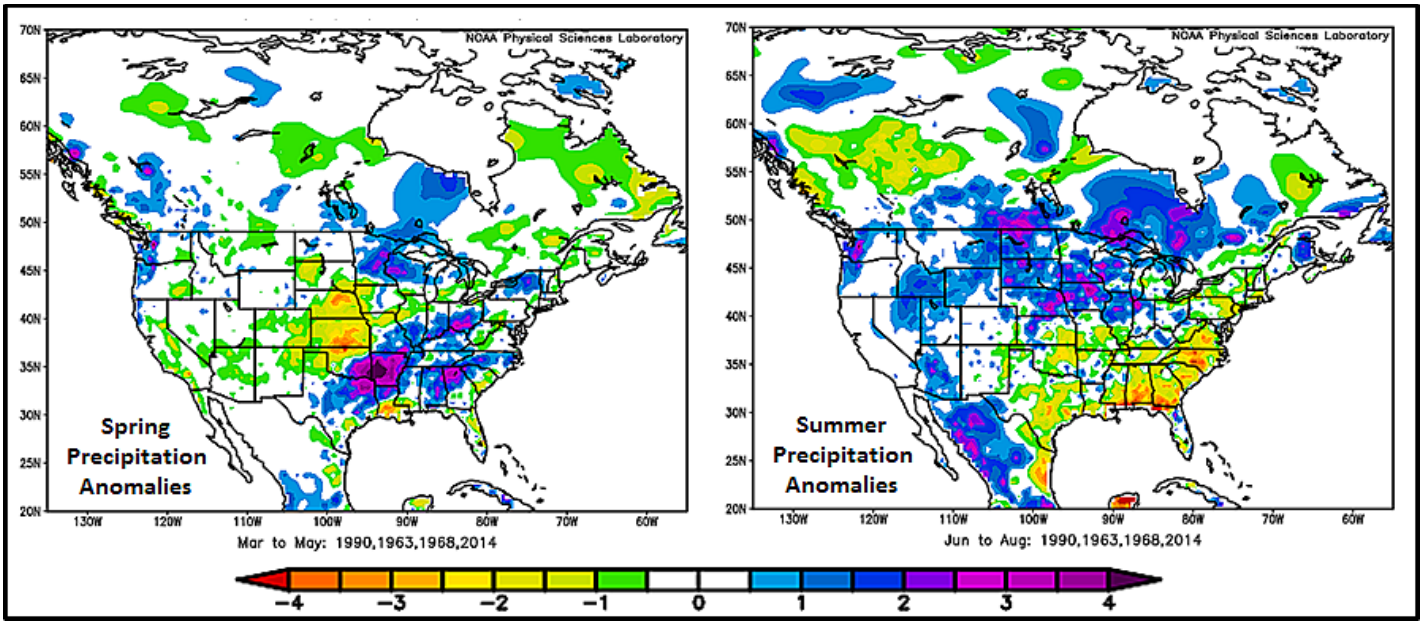


Selected Weather Images From Around The World



U.S. soil moisture remains lighter than usual for early January. Dryness in the Great Plains is a concern and drought is still prevailing in the heart of the Midwest while developing and expanding in the southeastern states and part of the southern and central Plains. Australia has not done nearly as well with rainfall this season as expected and western unirrigated sorghum and cotton are struggling with dryness. Winter crop harvesting is nearly complete, though, and yields were high. France has seen some improvement in soil moisture; though, drought prevails. Eastern Europe and the western Former Soviet Union have widespread snow cover and good soil moisture to get crops into spring without many issues. China's soil moisture is alright for this time of year, but it will not be long before producers there start talking about drought in the Yangtze River Basin and southern coastal provinces. Eastern South Africa has good soil moisture for summer crops, but some of the western production areas are too dry and need rain.

Spring, Summer Composite Weather Trends



World Weather, Inc. research has become focused on a few years of similarity to those of this year. The first year in the grouping, 1990, comes from the 18-year lunar cycle while the three other years (1963, 1968 and 2014) come from similar ENSO years.

Each of these years has shown a bias for relatively normal spring (March through May) precipitation. Looking at the years individually there is some potential for a wetter bias this spring in the Peace River Region, although confidence is a little low for that and some of the years have suggested some drier bias in the southeastern Prairies.

A drier bias in the southeast during the spring might be good for planting, but it might result in some limited late spring soil moisture. Early spring soil moisture will be sufficient from melting snow.

Other member years of the 18-year lunar cycle offer quite a bit of variance raising some concern about the strength of the spring weather signal. However, it must be known that other member years of the lunar cycle were seriously influenced by either La Nina or El Nino and neither is expected during the coming growing season. For that reason, many of the lunar cycle years have been dropped from the analysis and may not be used in the official summer outlook coming in another few weeks.

A stronger signal was coming for the summer outlook in the years noted above. A wetter bias is showing up for the June through August period, although the monthly variations are great and will have to be sorted out in the next few weeks. For now, though, the bias for the growing season is not looking too bad.

The possible exception is the Peace River Region. Some better timed precipitation is expected this spring which should help the region have a little more moisture than it had in 2025. However, some of the analog years are suggesting a return of dry-biased conditions in northwestern Alberta and the Peace Country which raises a little concern. It should be noted that the drier analog years in the Peace country were also the wetter years for summer in the southern and eastern Prairies.

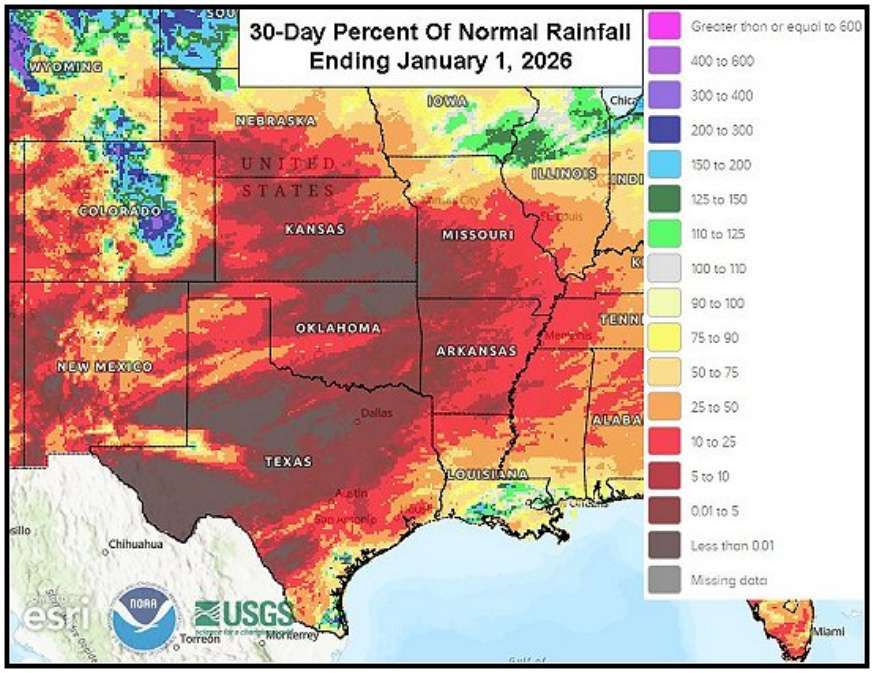
A further assessment of the potential parallels to past years will continue over the next 45 days to hopefully come up with a better (more confident) outlook. In February, long range forecasts will be enhanced by the inclusion of more short term trends in the atmosphere. It will be clearer next month how much, if any, influence from La Nina will linger in the spring and our first look at ocean surface temperatures will also occur at that time in the Gulf of Alaska, Gulf of America and Pacific Ocean. Any new trends in the atmosphere that have been identified will also be added to the mix to help firm up the first look at spring and summer.

As noted on the page one article of this prognosticator, there is a large part of North America still dealing with drought and as long as that prevails there will some concern about breaking that pattern. So far this winter, there has not been much reason to feel like drought in the Prairies has broken even though snow cover has increased in some areas

World Weather, Inc. believes weather in spring will become more supportive of a breakdown in dryness across a part of the U.S. Midwest and eventually in the Great Plains while drought in the southeastern United States may prevail for a while. As for Canada, drought will likely be most eased during the summer except in some far eastern and northwestern locations in the nation.

U.S. Hard Red Wheat Country Too Warm, Too

The U.S. central and southern Plains experienced drier or much drier than usual conditions in December. The lack of precipitation combined with periods of much warmer than usual conditions kept soil moisture below favorable levels for ideal long-term hard red winter wheat conditions. Many areas in the southern Plains have been warm enough for a long enough period of time to promote new growth, though the lack of significant precipitation or soil moisture has prevented aggressive development. At least another week of drier and warmer than normal weather is slated for these areas. There is potential for some precipitation later this month that may marginally raise soil moisture in a few locations. However, the need for significant precipitation will remain high heading into the latter part of the month especially in the southwest.



Hard red winter wheat country in the central and southern U.S. plains was drier or much drier than usual during the past month. Rainfall ranged from 5-50% of normal with pockets that were mostly dry. Although temperatures were often colder than usual early in December, a strong high-pressure ridge lifted temperatures above or well above normal in much of the Plains in the latter part of the month and soil temperatures are now warm enough to support new crop growth if there was moisture in the ground.

Drought or abnormally dry conditions evolved in portions of Oklahoma, Texas, and southern Nebraska as a result of the lack of precipitation and periods of warmer or much warmer than usual weather in December. Kansas and Colorado remained drought-free, though the ground firmed significantly.

Long-term production potentials for the hard red winter wheat are variable across the central and southern Plains. While planting conditions were relatively favorable, most locations have dried enough to raise concerns for uneven or poor development this spring if significant rain does not evolve. The need for timely rain is high across the region. Several areas in the southern Plains are warm enough to stimulate new growth in part due to the warming trend late in December; however, the lack of soil moisture and precipitation will seriously inhibit new development which is a welcome problem at this time of year since the growing season is many weeks away.

Precipitation will continue to be limited in the central and southern Plains through the end of next week. A weak high-pressure ridge will gradually shift from central into eastern North America during this time and the ridge will help restrict rain. A disturbance or two will also generate spotty precipitation in a few locations late Wednesday and Thursday. Pockets in Nebraska and northeastern Colorado will receive 0.10 to 0.50 inch of moisture by next Friday . Other areas will either be dry or not receive enough precipitation to impact long-term soil conditions.

The ridge will potentially shift into eastern North America January 10 – 16. A frontal boundary or two could bring spotty precipitation to portions of hard red winter wheat country at that time; though, not enough will occur to significantly impact long-term soil conditions.

Temperatures will fluctuate between near and above normal for the central and southern Plains through the end of next week. Daytime highs will often reach the 50s and 60s Fahrenheit this weekend into at least the middle of next week with portions of Texas and Oklahoma warming to the 70s at times. Seasonable to seasonably warm weather will likely prevail Jan. 10-16.

Moisture deficits will prevail for much of hard red winter wheat country through at least mid-January. Drought or abnormally dry conditions may spread and intensify across the region, although precipitation at this time of year is not usually very great. Several areas in the southern Plains will likely remain warm enough to stimulate new growth, though the environment will remain poor for that due to the lack of moisture. Long-term production potentials may decrease if dryness prevails into the end of January.

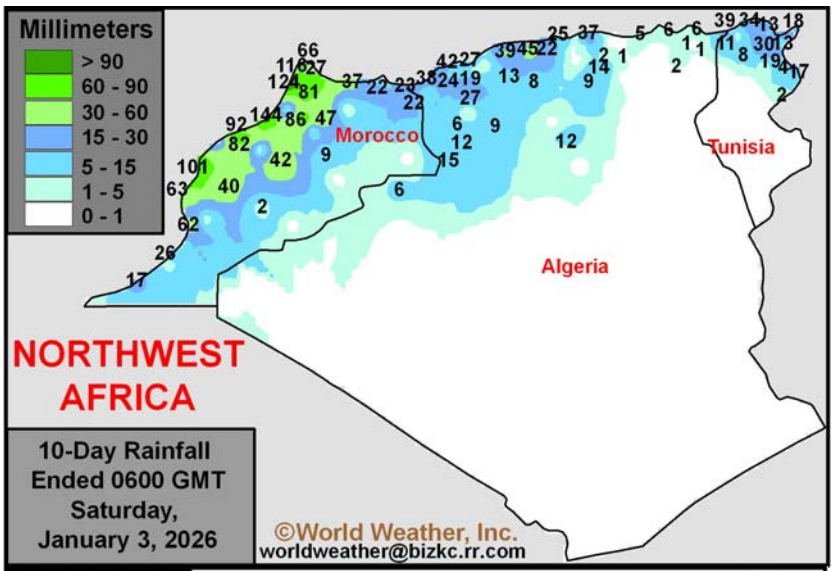
NW Africa Winter Crop Prospects Improve Due To Rain

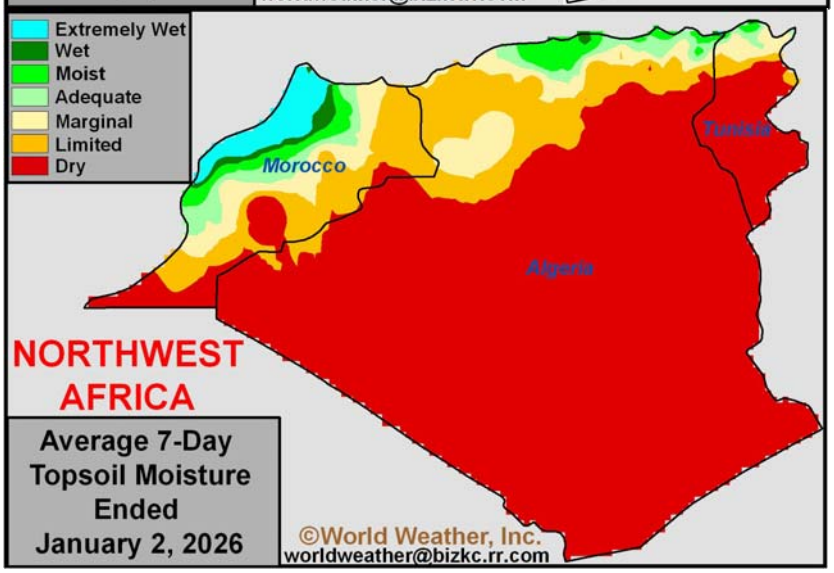
Much of northwestern Africa's main winter grain and oilseed areas saw a mix of rain and sunshine during the past ten days. The greatest rain fell in north-central and some southwestern Morocco locations where 1.22 to 3.31 inches resulted . Some areas in the north-central part of Morocco reported 3.31 to more than 5.00 inches of moisture, although that did not represent the majority of wheat and barley production areas.

Rainfall in northeastern Morocco, northwestern and north-central Algeria, and much of northern Tunisia ranged from 0.32 to 1.77 inches of rain. Northeastern Algeria received little to no rain and the same was true for central and southern Tunisia production areas.

Precipitation during the past month 120-200% of normal with wetter pockets in Morocco. A few locations in northern Algeria only received near normal precipitation during this time.

Winter wheat, barley, and oilseed prospects continue to improve across Morocco. The main production areas saw lower than usual production in the past few years due to ongoing drought. Rainfall in recent weeks has improved the moisture profile and supported better establishment and early-season development. Tunisia and Algeria also received enough rain to support relatively good establishment and early-season growth. Routinely occurring rain must continue through the growing season to ensure the best possible production year especially in drought stricken areas that have little to no water reserve to support crops during dry weather periods.





Rainfall will vary across northwestern Africa during the coming week with Morocco getting some of the most frequent and significant amounts. Precipitation will be most generalized and significant Friday into early next week as an upper-level disturbance pushes into the region. North-central and central Morocco will receive 0.75 to 3.50 inches of rain. Northeastern Morocco will otherwise receive 0.25 to 1.00 inch of rain.

Northern sections of Algeria and Tunisia will only see light rain over the weekend into early next week. Moisture totals by next Tuesday morning will range from trace amounts to 0.25 inch. Northwestern Africa will only have a few opportunities for erratic rainfall January 7-13.

Additional rain in Morocco will further improve the moisture profile in most winter grain and oilseed areas. Establishment and general development conditions will remain favorable. Northern sections of Algeria and Tunisia will otherwise dry down. These areas will have some moisture for the crops, though the need for timely rain will increase later in January. There is a good chance that northern Africa will continue to get timely rain into early spring.

Southern Argentina Becoming Too Dry

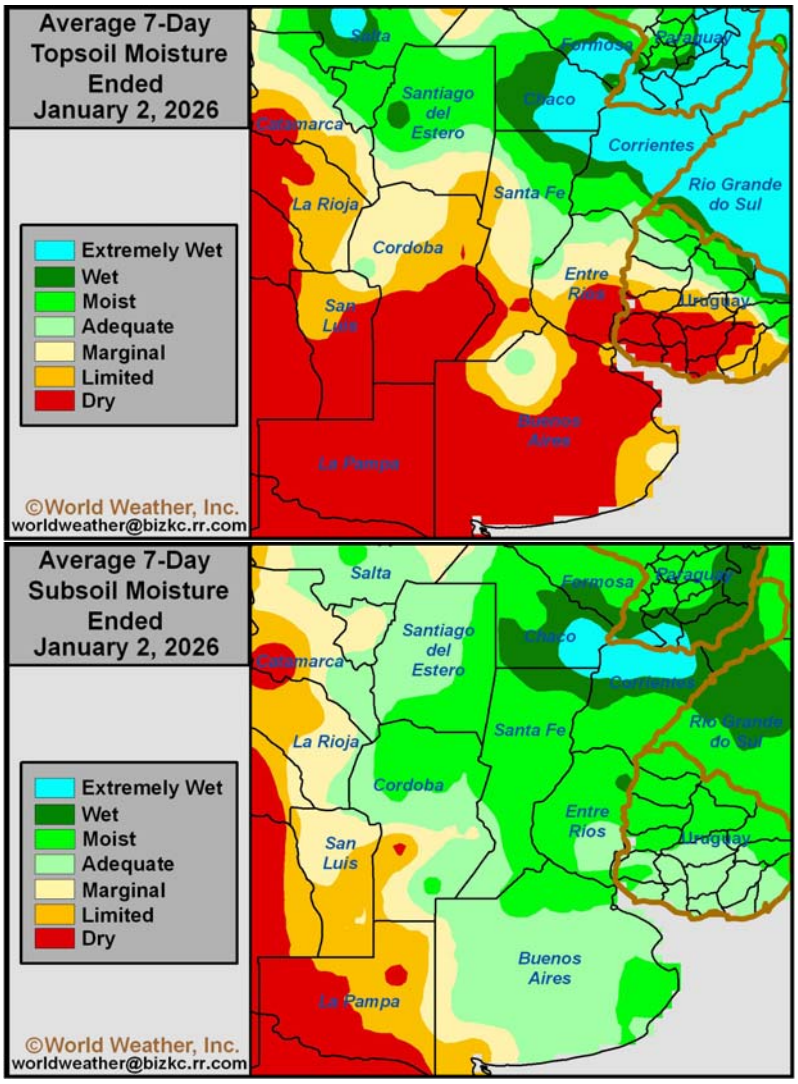
Southern Argentina crops are becoming stressed due to expanding dryness over the past couple of weeks. The lack of precipitation has been aggravated by very warm to hot temperatures at times and that has accelerated the drying trend raising crop moisture stress in some areas.

The southwest of Argentina has been driest for the longest period of time. La Pampa, San Luis and some immediate neighboring areas of Cordoba have short to very short top and subsoil moisture. Most other areas to the east and slightly to the north have also experienced limited rain recently firming the topsoil.

Short to very short topsoil moisture was cited Friday across most of the region from eastern and southern Cordoba and most of San Luis into la Pampa, much of Buenos Aires and southern parts of both Entre Rios and Santa Fe. However, subsoil moisture in areas east of San Luis, southwestern Cordoba, La Pampa and far western Buenos Aires was still rated adequately.

Most well established summer crops have deep enough root systems to tap into subsoil moisture for normal crop development. More recently planted corn, peanuts, soybeans and sorghum may have shorter roots and may be seriously stressed by the combined impact of short to very short topsoil moisture and very warm to hot temperatures in the past week.

Recently planted crops will have a low tolerance for hot, dry, weather because of the inability to tap into subsoil moisture. Some crop failure is possible if rain does not fall soon and the situation will need to be closely monitored. In the meantime, late season summer crops are still being planted, although field progress has likely been slowed or stalled by the hot, dry, conditions. Farmers will wait for a better environment to plant the remaining crops. As of Thursday, Jan. 1, the Argentina Ag Minister suggested 86% of the corn was planted with most of the late crop going into fields in northwestern parts of the nation rather than the south. However, 4-10% of the crop had not been planted yet in San Luis, Cordoba, Santa Fe or Entre Rios.



Soybean planting on January 1 was still occurring on 9% of the acreage in Buenos Aires, 6% in Cordoba, 8% in Santa Fe and 5% of Entre Rios and these are the crops that may be most vulnerable to dryness. The wheat and barley harvest, in the meantime, has benefitted greatly from dryness and should end soon.

A few showers will evolve in southern Argentina during midweek next week with a few more in the following weekend. Resulting rainfall is not likely to be enough to restore favorable soil moisture and crop moisture stress is likely to continue, despite the brief precipitation. Much greater rain will be needed and the earliest that more impressive moisture is possible will hold off until Jan. 12-14.

In the meantime, northern Argentina crops are rated favorably and little change is expected. Sufficient rain has fallen recently in Salta to support improved corn, soybean, sorghum and dry bean planting.