

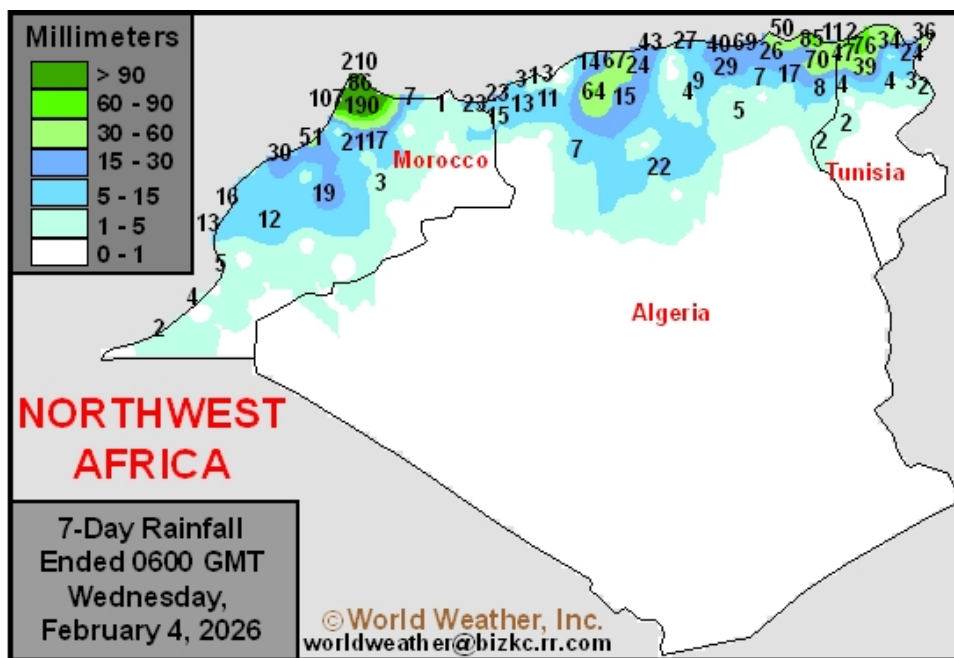
# Northwest Africa Will Receive Even More Rain

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, February 4 (World Weather Inc.) – Northwestern Africa's main winter grain and oilseed areas again saw several waves of rain during the past week. *The environment is much-improved from recent years due to waves of rain over the winter, most notably in Morocco where drought has been lifted. Winter wheat, barley, and rapeseed planting, establishment, and development conditions have been favorable. Yield potentials are much larger than recent years due to the improved situation in Morocco. The region will continue to have several opportunities for precipitation through at least the middle of next week that will maintain a good outlook for the crops.*

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North-central Morocco received some of the most significant rain in northwestern Africa's main production areas during the past week. Moisture totals for the seven-day period ending this morning ranged anywhere from 3.38 to 7.50 inches. Northern Tunisia into northeastern and north-central Algeria received 0.67 to 3.00 inches of rain with pockets that only received 0.16 to 0.35 inch of moisture. Northwestern Algeria into portions of northeastern and central Morocco received 0.12 to 0.91 inch of rain with pockets that were mostly dry. Much of the region was wetter or much wetter than usual in January as well, receiving anywhere from 100% to over 300% of normal precipitation.



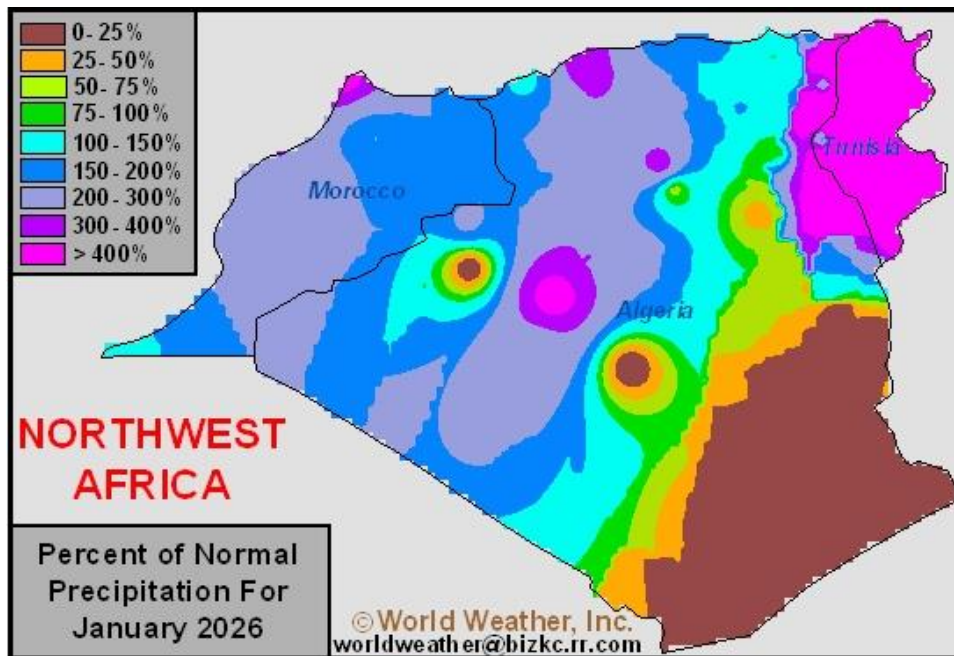
Production potentials for the winter wheat, barley, rapeseed, and other crops remains relatively favorable for much of northwestern Africa. Morocco received enough rain in recent weeks to lift the main production areas out of drought while much of northern Algeria and Tunisia remain relatively drought-free as well. There has been ample moisture this season to support aggressive establishment and growth. With the moisture profile improved compared to recent years and reservoir levels at higher levels, yields are expected to be much higher compared to recent years that were hit by drought.

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Like recent weeks, an upper-level low-pressure trough will meander around the northeastern Atlantic Ocean through this weekend. Another trough will then move into the region early next week. These troughs will help send atmospheric disturbances near or into southwestern Europe and northwestern Africa on a frequent basis. North-central Morocco will once again see some of the most frequent and significant rain with totals ranging from 2.00 to 6.00 inches and local amounts up to 10.00 inches near and along the coast. Northern Tunisia into northeastern and north-central Algeria will receive 0.50 to 2.00 inches of rain with local amounts upwards of 3.00 inches. Northwestern Algeria into northeastern and central Morocco will receive 0.25 to 1.00 inch of rain with drier pockets.

Development of a weak high-pressure ridge will then be possible over northwestern Africa February 12 – 18. The ridge could lower rain potentials compared to the first-week of the outlook, most notably in Morocco. Disturbances tracking over the ridge will still generate some erratic rainfall in at least parts of northwestern Africa.

Localized flooding will be a concern in the coming days for north-central Morocco. While crop damage should be minimal, the need for drier weather may increase later this month. Other locations will either receive enough rain or have enough moisture to maintain good development conditions.



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