

The Canadian Agriculture Weather Prognosticator

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World Weather To Watch

- Bitter cold in the central and eastern United States in January may have nipped some of the nation's wheat crop
- Argentina's mid-summer dryness and expected heat may rob yield from some crops
- India's mid-January rain was ideal for prepping winter crops for reproduction; though February precipitation may be light and temperatures may turn hot
- Safrinha corn and cotton planting has begun in Brazil and conditions are good; though there are signs of erratic rain in March
- North Africa, the Middle East and western and southern Europe have been persistently wet in recent weeks easing long term drought
- Spring flood potentials rising in Former Soviet Union

Western Canada Unusual Warmth Not Over

An unusual weather pattern has been dominating North America this winter and it is unlikely to wane for a while. This pattern includes a strong ridge of high pressure that has (at times) been along the west coast of the continent and periodically it has advanced into the western Prairies. Whenever the ridge has been over Alberta and western Saskatchewan temperatures in the Prairies have been above to well above normal.

Late autumn and early winter weather put the ridge on the west coast allowing most of the Prairies to be colder than usual. Since then the ridge has moved to the east at times bringing above normal temperatures to the western half of the Prairies and in particular over Alberta and the Peace River Region.

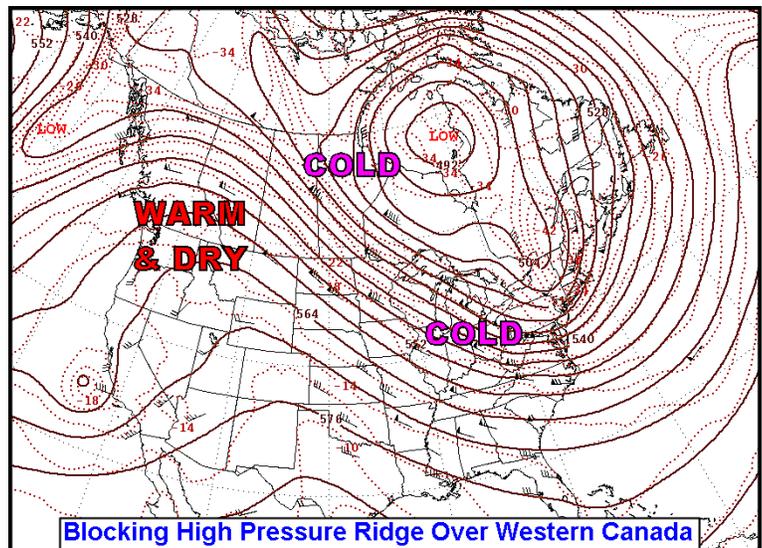
The latest two weeks of weather included a deep trough of low pressure over eastern North America sending wave after wave of arctic air through the eastern Prairies and Ontario into the central and eastern United States. Record and near record setting cold has occurred in the southeastern United States while parts of western North America, including California and areas north to British Columbia and western Alberta have experienced some very warm temperatures.

La Nina has helped support this pattern; though most of it is being derived from a very strong

lunar cycle that has repeated periodically in the past. La Nina is expected to dissipate this month and that may help to reduce the intensity of the anomalous temperature pattern in North America, but more likely the trend will continue.

The arctic has been nearly drained of extreme cold and it will be easy for North America to heat up over the next week to ten days. Some of the drain on arctic cold is also coming from Russia and northeastern Europe where bitter cold has recently dominated.

The first half of February will be dominated by above and well above normal temperatures that will likely melt snow and raise soil temperatures. The position of the upper level high pressure ridge is expected to vary in late February and March occasionally retreating back to the British Columbia and U.S. Pacific Coasts. However, as seasonal warming occurs in March the ridge is going to want to be over the Prairies more often.



Western Canada Unusual Warmth Not Over (from page 1)

The western ridge over North America is going to result in multiple weeks of below normal late winter and early spring warm weather and below normal precipitation. Some short term bouts of rain and snow will impact the Prairies whenever the ridge of high pressure wanders to the east into the eastern Prairies. This kind of eastward shift in the ridge is unlikely to last very long, but each time that it does move that far to the east rain and/or snow will fall across the Prairies.

The hope for many producers in the Peace River Region and southwestern Prairies is that the ridge will shift far to the east often enough to bring dryness easing moisture to those areas. This pattern shift will occur, but not frequently enough to seriously change the trend. Because of this soil moisture and snow cover may be less than usual over many areas in the western Prairies in these next few weeks.

Soil moisture is already low in many western Canada locations and having a limited opportunity for precipitation this late winter could set the stage for some concern about the start of spring. Some areas will be in better shape than others; though, there will still be a big need for greater precipitation.

The odds are very good that the ridge of high pressure will be far enough to the east during the start of spring to put the Peace River region and northwestern Alberta in a position to start receiving waves for rain and some snow. The pattern should provide an opportunity for drought relief which is so very important since so much of the region is suffering from a prolonged drought.

There have been some brief breaks from the drought over the past few

months, but no definitive end to the pattern has yet evolved. Concern about spring planting and crop development in unirrigated areas will be high until this drought breaks.

A little later in the spring (probably April and May) the ridge should shift farther to the east allowing moisture to flow into other parts of the western Prairies while the central and eastern parts of the region remain dry biased.

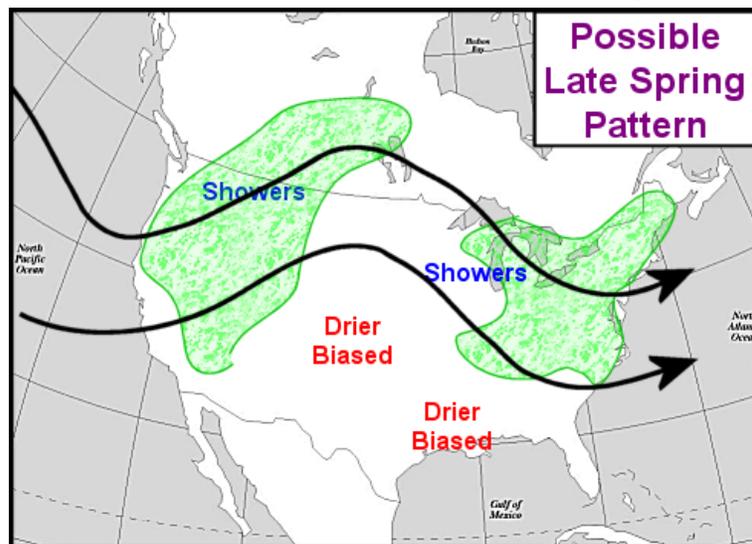
The potential is relatively good that rain will finally reach into the eastern Prairies in late May and

storm systems into the Prairies from the U.S. Pacific Northwest leading to a good production year. With that said, though, there is another region of significant dryness over the U.S. Great Plains.

If the U.S. Plains dryness does not go away in the middle of spring there will be potential that high pressure will move into the central parts of the United States and become stronger than expected. If that happens dryness in the eastern Prairies may become an issue during the summer. For now the ridge is expected to be weak and with El Nino

likely to evolve during the summer there should be sufficient moisture in the atmosphere to limit the ridge amplitude and allow thunderstorms over its top.

Obviously, there is reason to be cognizant of the potential issues for the spring and summer this year. World Weather, Inc. believes timely precipitation will evolve in time, but there may be parts of the Prairies that will wait a while for improved rainfall to begin.



June. Now, be careful here, World Weather, Inc. is not suggesting no precipitation in the eastern Prairies until the summer nor is it suggesting anything like that for the remainder of the Prairies; however, the opportunity for "significant" storm systems impacting the region may be low until this ridge and trough formation over North America finally breaks down.

Planting moisture will be available this spring, but many areas in the Prairies may find the moisture limited which could lead some concern about long term crop development potential. This summer's ridge of high pressure in the United States should be weak enough to allow

The warm bias that will dominate a large part of late winter and early spring will be closely monitored. There will be some periods of cooler weather and the best chance for precipitation is expected to occur during the periods of transition from the warm weather to the cooler conditions. For a while, the jet stream will be most active in the U.S. keeping the larger precipitation events out of the Prairies, but hopefully there will be a series of weather disturbances that can add some moisture to the soil profile in the driest areas.

Southern Manitoba has been driest this winter while the Peace River region and the SW Prairies have long term moisture deficits to deal with.

Colder Late This Month; Limited Precipitation Likely

February is beginning with some significantly warm biased weather in place. The change in eastern parts of the Prairies will be welcome after a few -40-degree days noted earlier in January. The cold was brutal for a while, but much has changed since then and the first half of February will be quite warm.

Some pooling of seasonably cool air is predicted for mid- to late-month. Temperatures may finish February cooler than usual, although after the unseasonably warm start to the month the averages will end up above normal especially in the west. Enough cooling is possible in the eastern Prairies late this month to bring down the average temperature anomaly slightly below normal.

Precipitation during February will be quite limited early in the month; however, as cooling begins to push

into the region during mid-month there will be potential for precipitation. The southeastern Prairies will be wettest for a short period of time. There may be one or two weather systems that bring in some snow and a little rain before cooling occurs sufficiently enough to bring down the temperatures and end most of the greater precipitation bias.

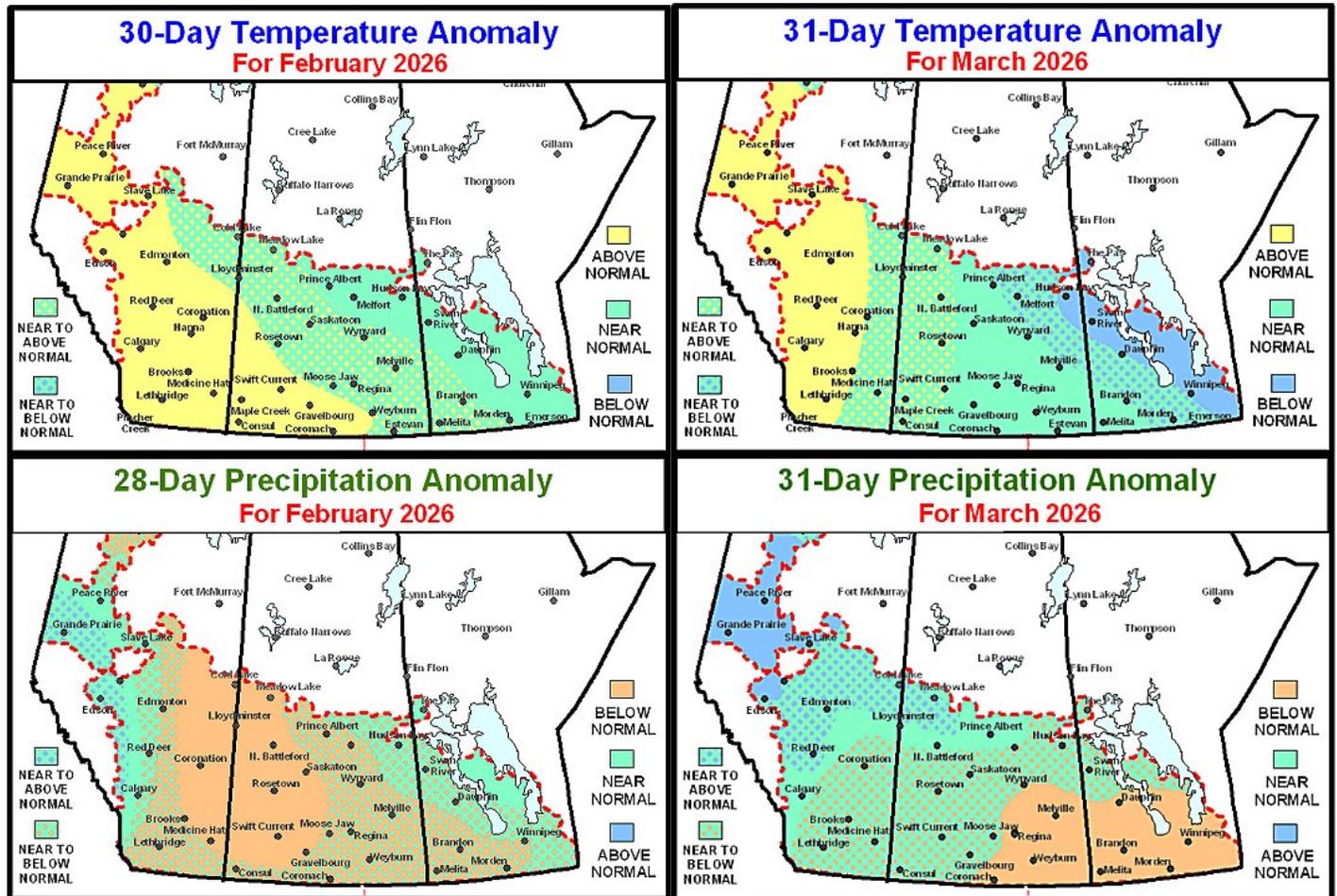
March weather is expected to cycle through the winter trends for temperature and precipitation once again. The early part of the month may be colder than usual especially in the eastern Prairies and precipitation will be lighter than usual especially in southern Manitoba and southeastern Saskatchewan.

Mid- to late-month March should bring another ridge of high pressure into the Prairies and this time the ridge should advance far enough to

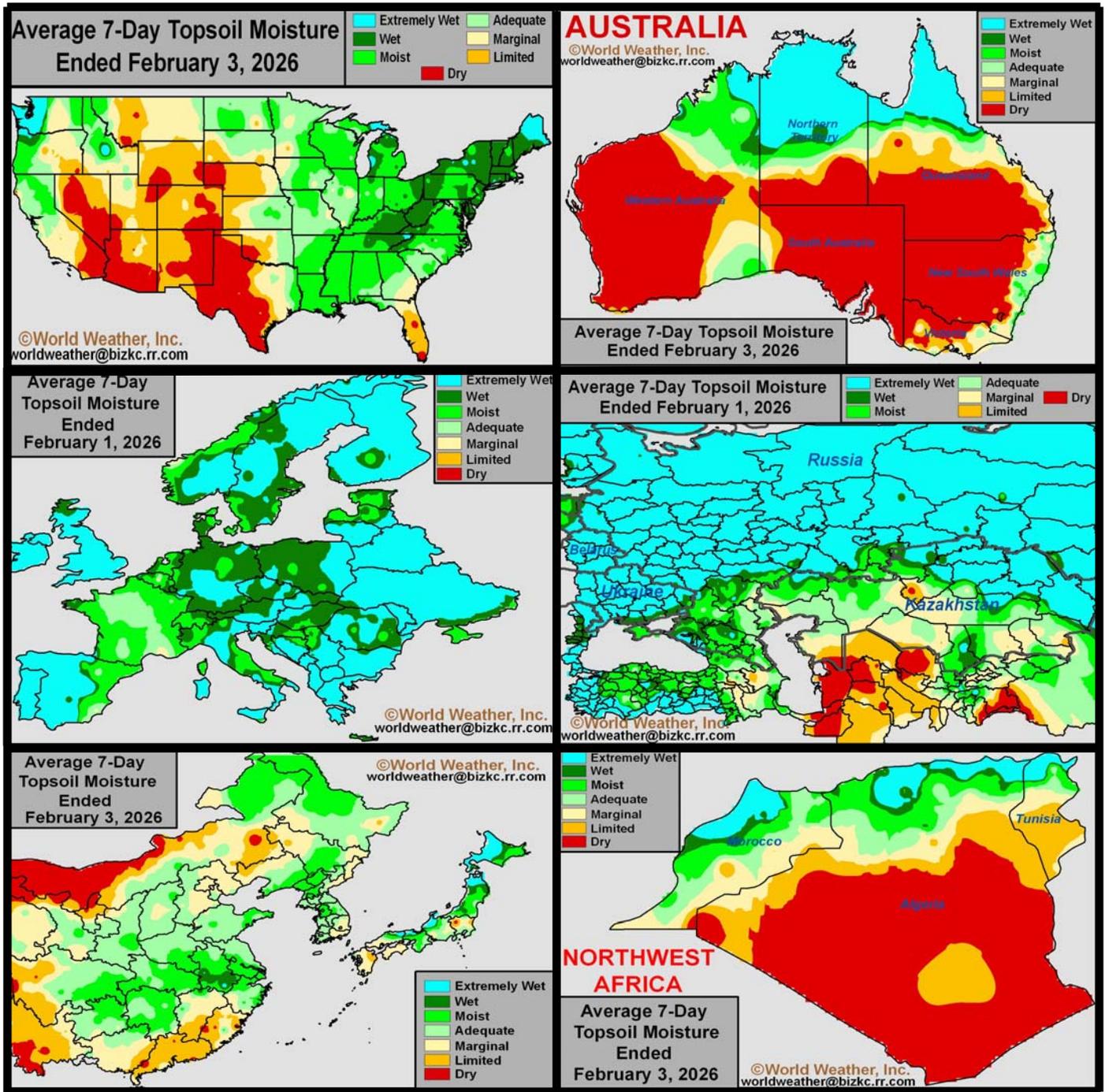
the east to bring some needed snow and rain to portions of the central and western Prairies. The precipitation anomaly will be determined by the ridge position and intensity. There is concern that too much precipitation is advertised too far to the east and a close watch on the developments of this pattern is warranted.

There will be some potential for moisture in the Peace River region later in February and a much better potential for dryness easing moisture in March. Areas to the east are most in question as to how significant the moisture will be.

March temperatures are expected to be cooler biased in the eastern Prairies and warmer biased in the west. Remember that the month's weather will be mixed with cold early in the month followed by another bout of warming.



Selected Weather Images From Around The World



U.S. soil moisture has improved in the Midwest, Delta and Tennessee River Basin, but long term moisture deficits remain and need to be replenished this spring before it gets warm. Rain is still needed in most of the western and southern Great Plains. No winterkill of significance has occurred in the Former Soviet Union so far this year, despite rumors to the contrary. Snow depths are impressive in Russia’s Central Region raising the potential for spring flooding. Flooding is also a risk in western and southern Europe because of persistent rain and soil that is becoming saturated in some areas. North Africa soil moisture is rated the best seen in years especially in Morocco where wheat and barley production in 2026 should be up. Eastern Australia’s summer crop areas have been baked in excessive heat and dryness recently hurting livestock and unirrigated summer crops. Some partial relief is coming. South Africa’s western summer crop area needs rain while China’s soil moisture is okay for today, but more rain will be needed soon.

January Weather Relatively Quiet In Prairies

Weather conditions over the past 30 days did not provide much excitement, although some bitter cold impacted a part of the eastern Prairies during the latter part of January. The bitter cold was part of a repeating pattern that first occurred in late November. This second round of bitter cold occurred farther to the east which is not unusual for repeating winter patterns.

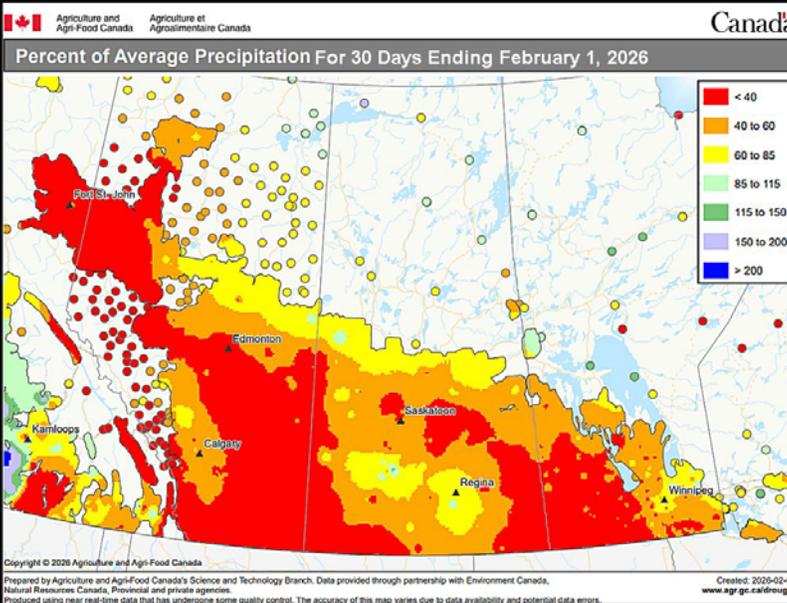
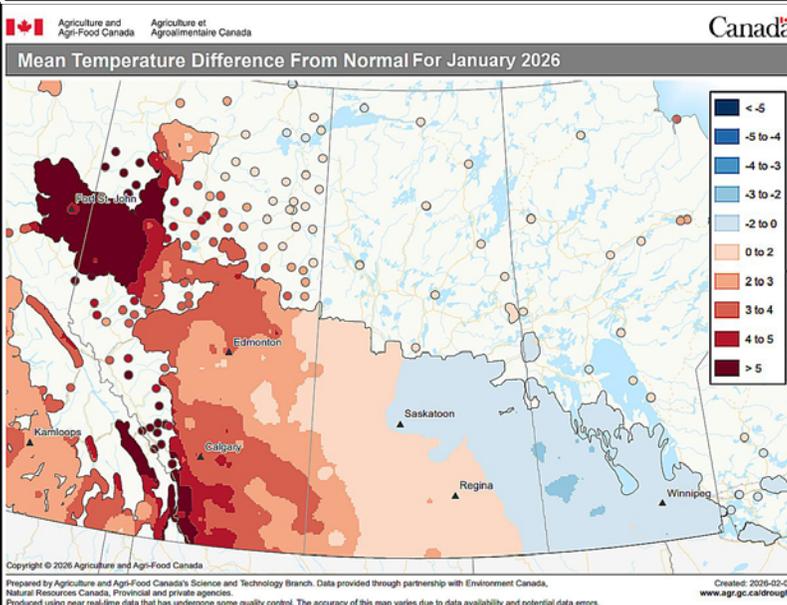
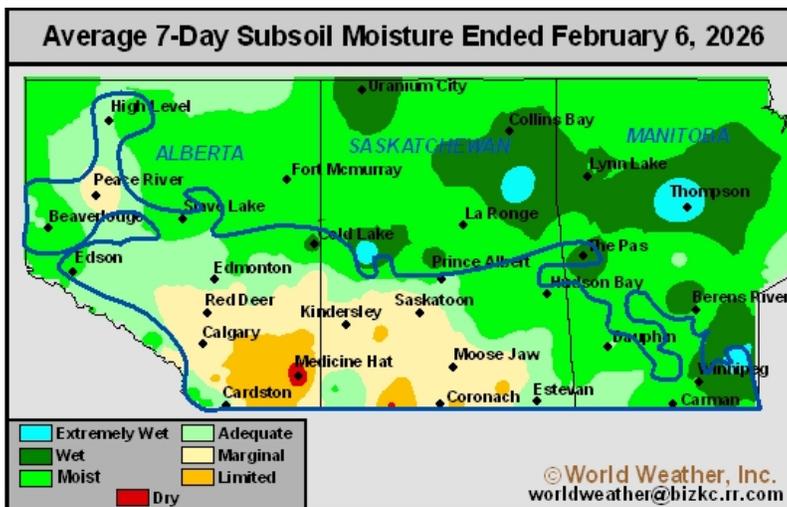
If the repeat of bitter cold occurs again it would likely be farther to the east again and it should return again in early to mid-March. The western Prairies would likely stay warm in this potentially third repeat of the cold cycle.

In the meantime, precipitation during January was quite limited. This resulted from the dominating northwesterly flow pattern that prevailed during the month. La Nina can be partially blamed on the drier and colder bias; however, the lunar or 18-year cycle also played a key role in this repetition.

La Nina is expected to diminish during February and as it does there will be some weakening of the winter weather pattern. However, some of the repetition in the cold will remain; though it will shift farther to the east as spring arrives. This potential raises a little concern about additional dry conditions in February and March.

La Nina's demise in the next few weeks and the warming trend that is under way now will help load the atmosphere with some moisture for improved precipitation briefly in late February and early March. The moisture is unlikely to be dramatically great because of the prevailing northwesterly flow continuing from the lingering footprint of La Nina and the 18-year cycle. Some new snowfall and a little rain is expected in the second half of this month with moisture totals closer to normal in some areas and still below normal in others. Since the first half of February will be so warm and dry it will be very difficult for the boost in late February precipitation to raise moisture totals above average for the month.

February and early March precipitation in many areas will continue lighter than usual. There will be some potential for the Peace River Region and other western Alberta locations to trend wetter in late March with a short bout of precipitation expected in the region during late February. For a more generalized moisture boost across the Prairies a waiting game will be played out for late spring and summer pattern changes.



Eastern Argentina Dries Out; Some Rain Coming Soon

A large section of Argentina's farming region was drier or much drier than usual in January and it has continued into the first week of February. Several locations in Buenos Aires, Entre Rios, southern Santa Fe, and the southern half of Cordoba received less than 50% of normal rainfall for January with pockets reporting less than 25% of normal precipitation. These areas are in dire need of rain to reverse the drying trend and support better development conditions for soybeans, corn, and other coarse grain and oilseeds. Production may be reduced if dryness prevails over the next few weeks. through the coming weeks.

Argentina will have a few opportunities for erratic rainfall through early next week, but most of the precipitation will be quite light and unlikely to put a serious dent into the moisture deficits found in the east half of the nation.

Some recent shower and thunderstorm active has brought temporary relief to some of the driest areas, but none of the rain has induced a serious change to soil moisture except in a part of the southwest where improved crop and field conditions have occurred recently.

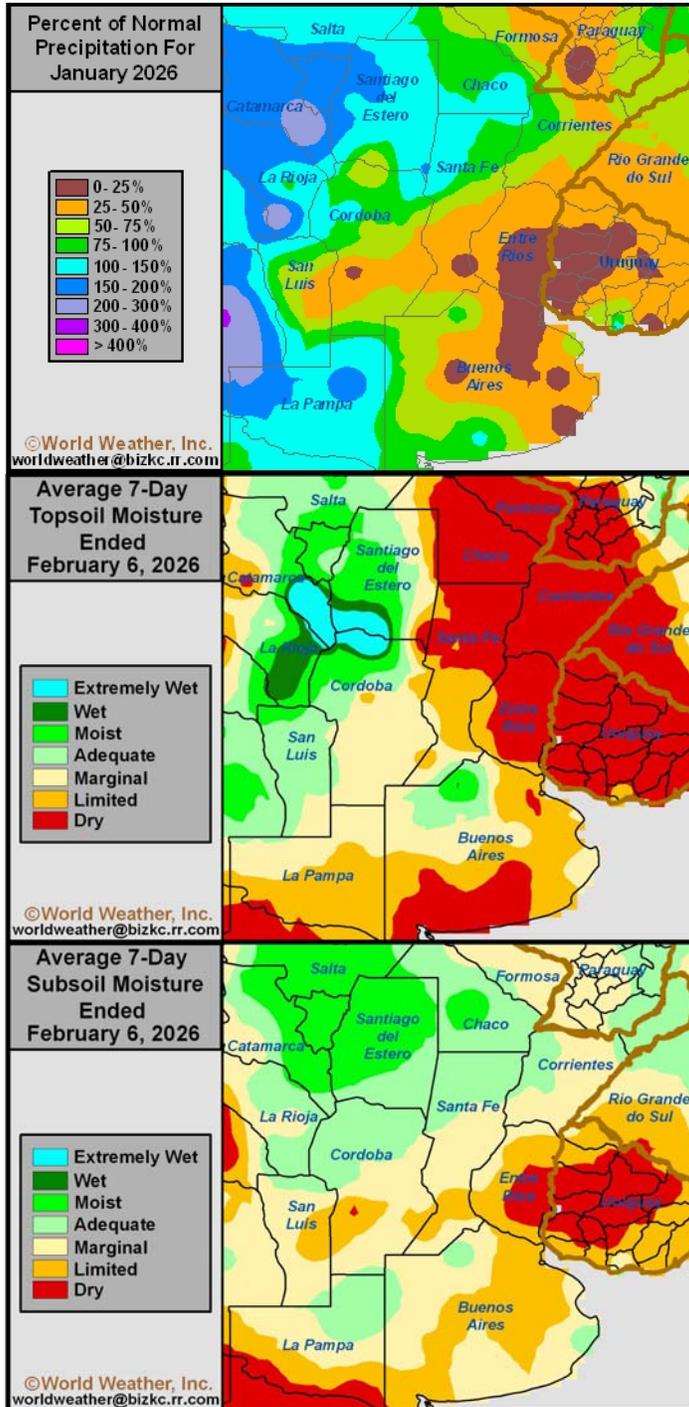
Very warm to hot temperatures complicated the situation over this past week accelerating the drying trend across the nation resulting in larger portions of the central and east becoming too dry in the topsoil. Fortunately for some producers, subsoil moisture is still favorable in the

north limiting the most seriously stressed conditions to parts of Buenos Aires, Entre Rios and neighboring areas of Uruguay.

La Nina pattern where eastern parts of the nation are drier biased while the west gets timely rainfall. Despite popular belief, Argentina's typical response to La Nina is not a nationwide drought. Nationwide droughts can occur with La Nina if the prevailing weather pattern behind La Nina is a drier than usual one and that was the case in several of the recent past La Nina events. However, the trend this year is typical of La Nina.

A weather pattern change is predicted for central and parts of eastern Argentina during the second half of this coming week through the following weekend. The change will result in a nearly stationary frontal boundary lying across the areas just mentioned resulting in the training of thunderstorms. One line of storms after the other could evolve bringing significant rain to some of the driest areas. If the forecast verifies dryness in Argentina will likely be reduced by at least 65% limiting the overall portion of the nation suffering from serious dryness. That should help limit crop losses; however, the rain must fall first before we can all become believers of that.

In the meantime, of course, Brazil is having a very good production year and any loss that occurs in Argentina is likely to be countered by some of Brazil's favorable yielding areas and overall high production expected. That, of course, limits futures market price appreciation potentials because of an overwhelming high supply of crop while demand is still struggling.



The driest and warmest parts of Argentina are not in the most important grain or oilseed production areas. The dryness is a very classic

Brazil Weather Is Still Looking Fine; A little Drying Needed

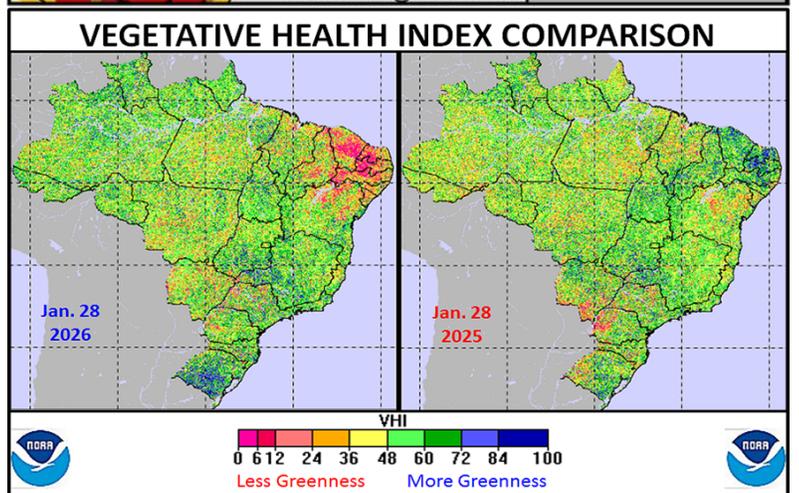
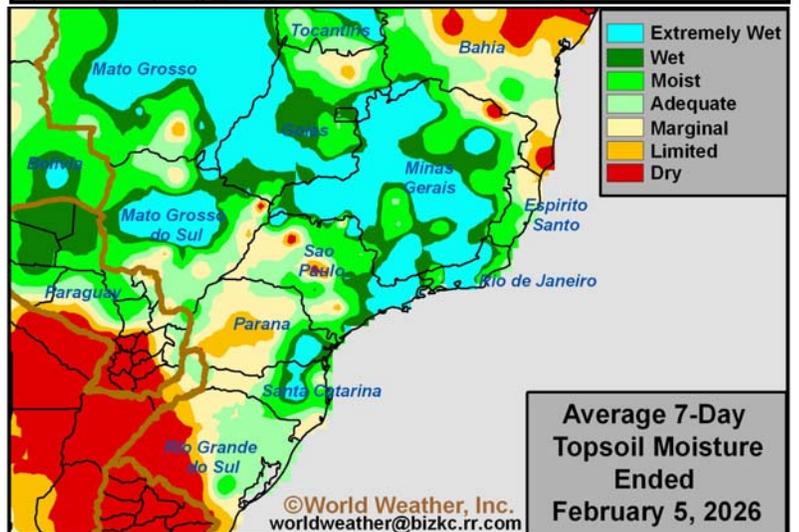
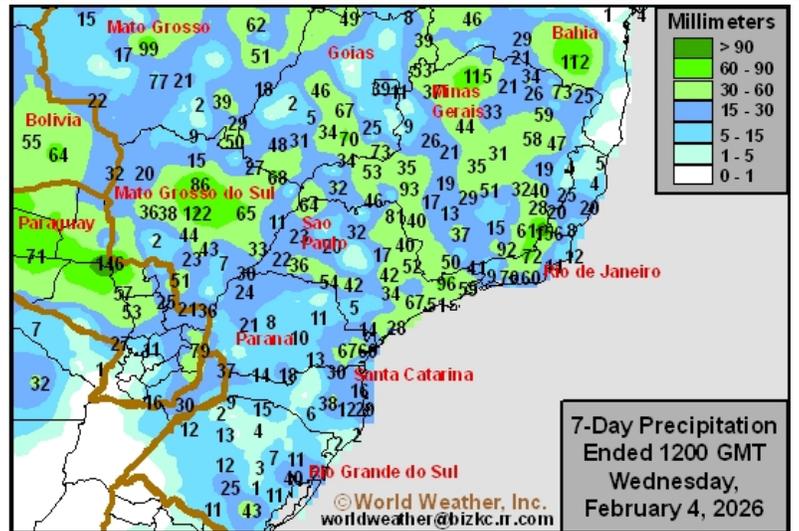
Brazil rainfall from late September through early November was erratic and often lighter than usual. Some key crop areas had moisture deficits prevailing for a longer than usual period of time and crop development was behind normal. Some of the early crop was planted twice because of dryness and early season soybean yields are suspected of being lower than the late crops.

Later planted soybeans and other crops benefited greatly from a boost in precipitation that evolved in late November and became quite favorably in December and January. No serious weather extremes were noted during that period of time which brought on significant improvements in crop development. Greenness or Vegetative Health Indices improved tremendously in December and January reflecting the more aggressive crop development and catchup that the later planted crop experienced.

As a result of the improved December and January weather, Brazil is looking at a tremendous soybean crop. There are some pockets of dryness that have evolved recently, but the impact on the bottom line does not look very threatening since rain is expected to resume in the drier areas soon.

The Vegetative Health Index (VHI) at the end of January had crop development as good or better than that of 2025 except in the northeast of Brazil. Some crop areas in the northeast struggled with dryness during January and that set back crop development and may lead to some lower yields. However, this part of Brazil's crop region is not nearly as important as the production areas farther to the west and south. The higher yields coming from the heart of Brazil's soybean and corn production region will likely counter any losses that result from dryness in the far northeast of the nation.

Safrinha corn planting is expected to occur favorably especially with less frequent and less significant rain coming later this month and in March. Watch that crop closely, though. There is potential for some dryness to be present when then monsoon season ends in early April that could raise a little concern for Safrinha crops in Mato Grosso, Goiás and northern Mato Grosso do Sul when reproduction comes around in late April and May. There is potential for some crop stress.



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Weather May Provide Opportunity For Futures Price Gains

Weather in the Prairies has been extremely volatile in recent years. Some blame the volatility on climate change, some on the solar cycle and a few others on biblical times. The volatility is likely to continue.

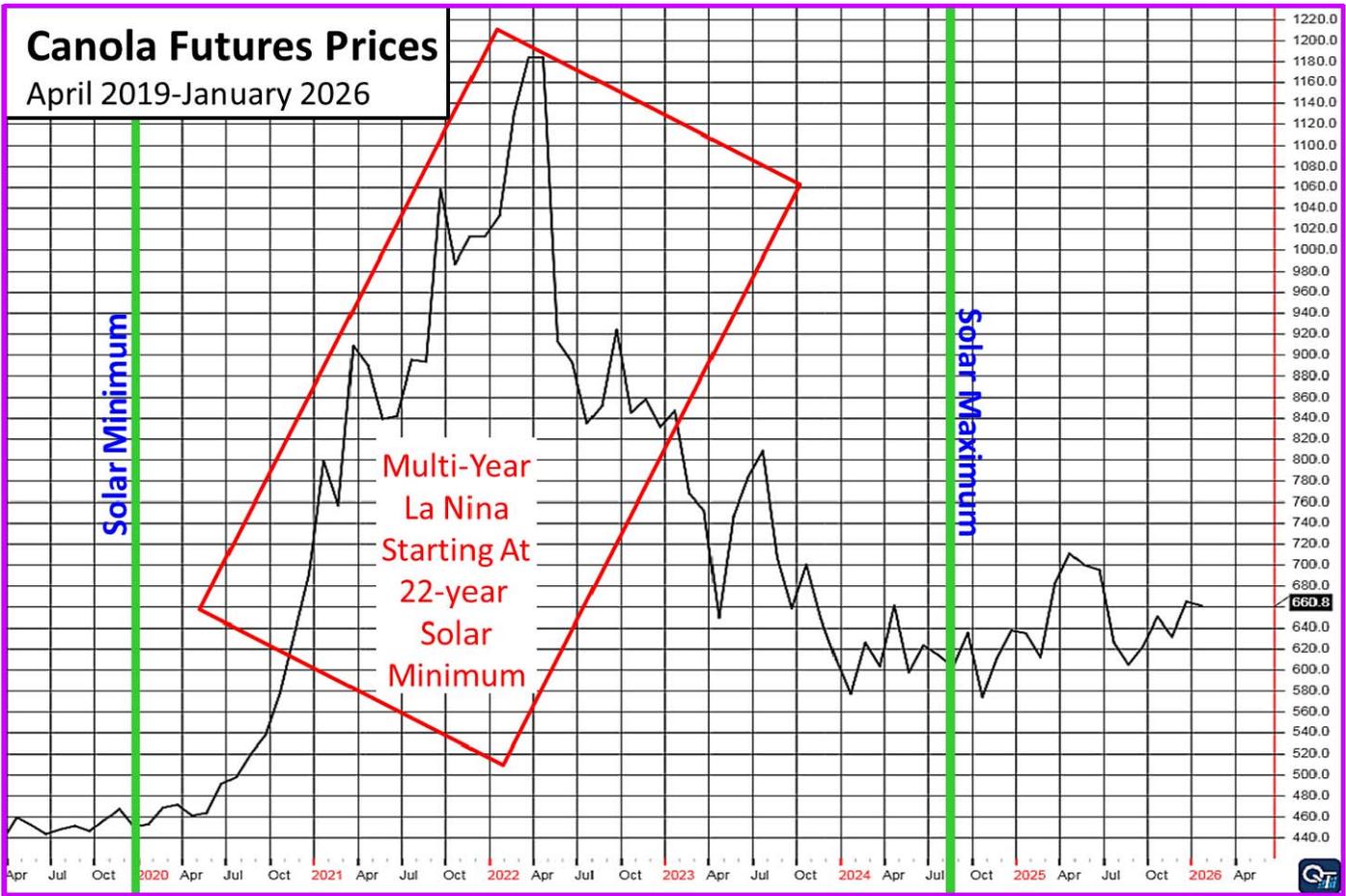
One of the biggest complaints in the past year or two has been on the fall in futures market prices and the rise in cost for inputs, labor and equipment. The balance of cost to do business in the farming sector has become hostile especially in the past year or two because of falling futures prices and lower demand.

Weather is cyclical and therefore to some degree so must be the production of grain and oilseed around the world. Correlation studies have been conducted multiple times on many agricultural commodities and a relationship between the solar cycle and production is prevalent especially for corn and soybeans, but it can be seen in other markets as well.

The volatility in canola, wheat, corn, soybean, barley, oat and nearly all other futures prices for crops produced in Canada have certainly been influenced by the weather. The dra-

matic increase in futures prices that occurred from 2020 to 2022 can be directly linked to the start of the infamous 22-year solar cycle and more specifically to the multi-year La Nina event that began at about the same time.

Multi-year La Nina events will always dry out the middle latitudes of this planet while rainfall become more concentrated on the tropical regions of the world. The longer La Nina conditions prevail the more extreme these anomalies become. Multi-year La Nina events always



The biggest rise in most futures market prices tends to occur in the first few years that follow the solar minimum especially when a multi-year La Nina is under way.

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Weather May Provide Futures Price Gains (from page 8)

have the same impact from a weather perspective, but when they occur in tandem with the first few years of the solar cycle the impact seems to be more dramatic.

The last super peak in canola futures prices occurred in April of 2022 as weather adversity was impacting many areas in the world. The same phenomenon was impacting corn, soybean, wheat and other markets. We all enjoyed the benefits of higher prices and for those areas of the world not enduring drought the higher prices resulted in greater profitability.

As interesting as the relationship between market prices and weather is there are other milestone markers that need to be identified in terms of market trends. The one that is impacting all of us today is the post solar maximum in the sunspot cycle.

Most market futures prices usually fall as the solar maximum approaches. History shows the devaluation of commodity prices during these years and that was certainly observed from mid-year 2022 to the solar maximum in August of 2024.

Once the solar maximum is reached there is a tendency for futures prices to stagnate. Price movements from one season to the next and one year to another tend to be much smaller and less dramatic compared to those during the early part of a solar cycle when multi-year La Nina events are present.

These less volatile weather years tend to prevail until the next solar minimum arrives which in this case may be around 2031. That does not mean there will be no support for higher prices, but it does suggest price changes from one season to another and one year to the next will be

a little more subdued.

The predicted development of El Nino later this year has raised the potential for a little more market price volatility in 2026. This is extremely important for those who have been hurt most by the fall in futures prices from 2022 to 2024 and the more stagnant price trading range that we have been in the past year.

Weather has quieted down greatly around the world resulting in much less extreme and damaging conditions. 2025 still had its weather extremes to note around the world, but the impact on agriculture was smaller than that of the early 2020s.

El Nino is expected to evolve later this year and as it does weather patterns around the world will change as well. El Nino events tend to dry down the tropical regions of the world while bringing greater moisture to the mid-latitudes. This will be the trend in 2026 and 2027.

Greater moisture in the middle latitudes will eventually breed more flood events and the transition from La Nina to El Nino may also provide some wild swings in temperature during the transition year (2026) which can bring a rise of late season frost and freeze events as well as early autumn frost and freezes. These do not have to impact the Prairies and much of it may not, but it will impact commodity trade as new reports of weather extremes are received and new damage to crops is reported.

The drying of tropical crop areas will be the first impact on long term futures trade. Developing El Nino years usually dry down parts of Southeast Asia, India, Central Africa and both Central America and southern Mexico along with far northern parts of South America. This will im-

part some of the soft commodity production areas. Palm oil, sugarcane and rice will be among the first crops to be threatened by El Nino. Coffee and cocoa will be added to that list over time, but notice there are not many coarse grain, oilseed or cotton crops included in that list.

The impact of El Nino on grain and oilseed production in the middle latitudes will be more restricted to regionalized events. Small areas of drought and flooding will impact various parts of the world and some late season frost and freeze events are anticipated along with a few early season autumn freezes.

The number of key coarse grain and oilseed production areas in the world that are impacted by major weather problems may be low. There will be some indirect influences on corn, soybean, canola and pulse futures prices as weather issues develop in the tropics, but the history books suggest any rise in these futures market prices will be somewhat limited.

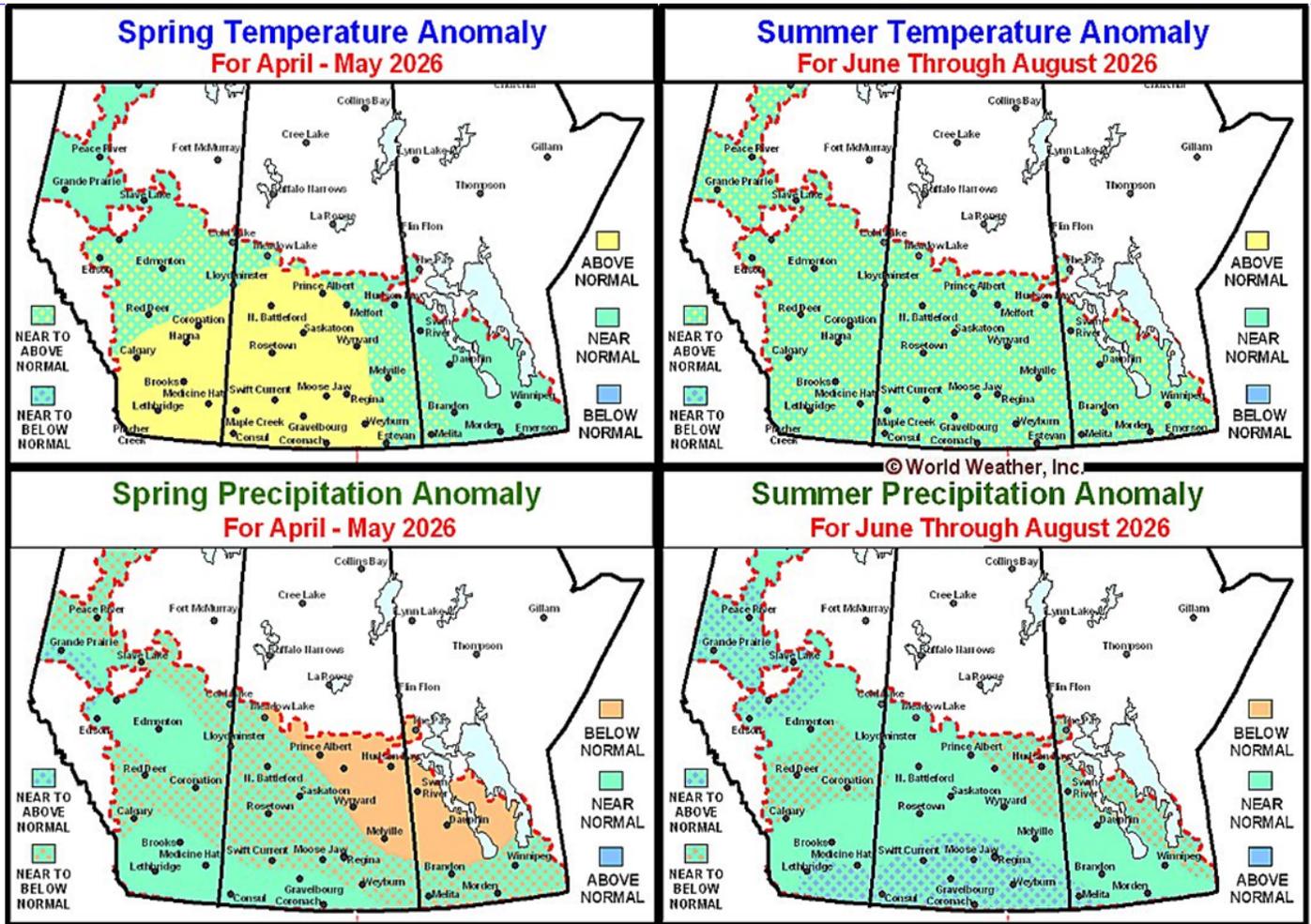
Weather is likely to induce some short term market moves that will be of interest during 2026, but anticipating a big move toward higher prices year over year for a few years is not very likely if weather cycles have anything to say about it. The bottom line, though, is that there will be enough trouble in 2026 for at least some improved price movement higher, based on weather alone.

Those who are hedging the market need to take note of the potential for volatility in weather and some potential for market price appreciation. Just be careful to limit the upside to a reasonable level since weather should not be as extreme as that in the early 2020s.

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2026 Preliminary Spring and Summer Outlooks



Spring 2026 will start out with a drier bias. The soil will be dry biased, temperatures will be warmer than usual and there will be extended periods of limited rainfall. May could be the driest and warmest month. There will be some timely rainfall, but its significance will likely be greatest in a part of the Peace River region and in a few random areas of the southwestern Prairies and between the Swan Hills and Coronation.

Confidence is a little low this year because of the conflicting patterns, but the 18-year cycle maps are preferred for April and May because

influence from La Nina should be waning and El Nino should not be developed yet.

There is still some concern about the winter pattern hanging on a little longer than desired as well.

Summer 2026 is expected to be more influenced by the developing El Nino event than by the lunar cycle. However, there is strong agreement among the data for August precipitation to be greater than usual. June and July weather is expected to flip flop from a little wetter bias to a little drier bias respectively.

Most of the summer data suggests some periodic rainfall, but the combination of low soil moisture in some areas and a slight warmer bias to temperatures there will be some pockets of greater dryness while a few areas near the U.S. border are wetter biased.

Standing back and looking at the big picture, the pattern does not look ideal, but like a typical summer of mixed good and bad conditions.

Northeastern parts of the Prairies may keep a little lighter than usual bias to weather this year.

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