

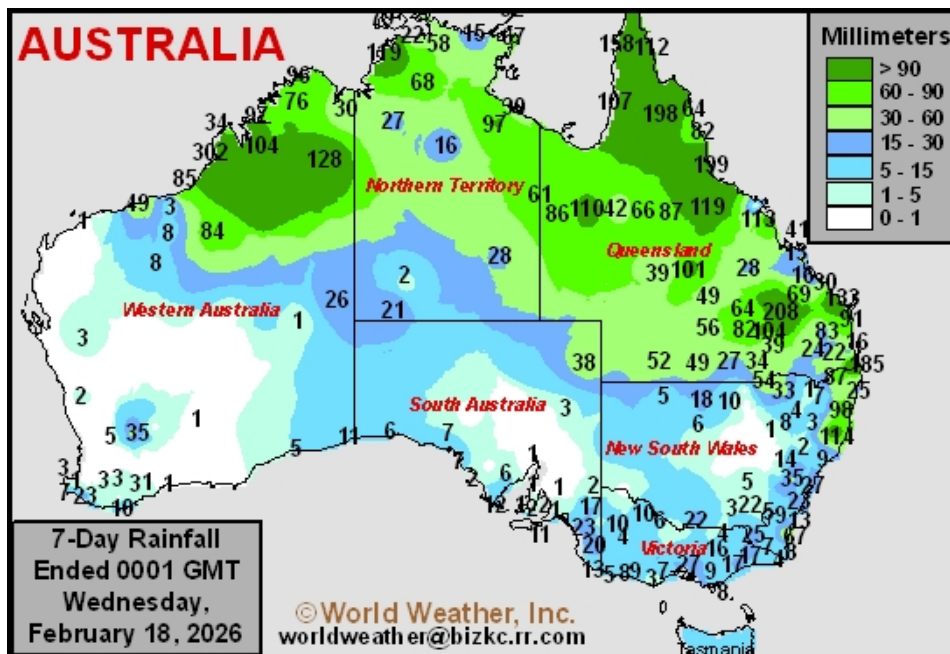
Southeast Australia Rain Beneficial For Late-Planted Crops

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, February 18 (World Weather Inc.) – Queensland received a general rain late last week and during the weekend. It was the most significant precipitation seen in quite a while improving soil moisture for key cotton, sorghum, peanut, corn and other crop areas that had been starved of moisture for a while. New South Wales experienced a similar situation in the previous week and crops in both areas temporarily improved.

Some of the moisture came a little too late after recent extreme heat and prolonged dryness, but some of the crops that managed to live through the harsh conditions likely benefited from the moisture; though more was needed in several areas. Another slow-moving disturbance will impact portions of Australia through the middle of next week bringing some additional moisture to parts of South Australia, Victoria, and New South Wales while Queensland is mostly dry.

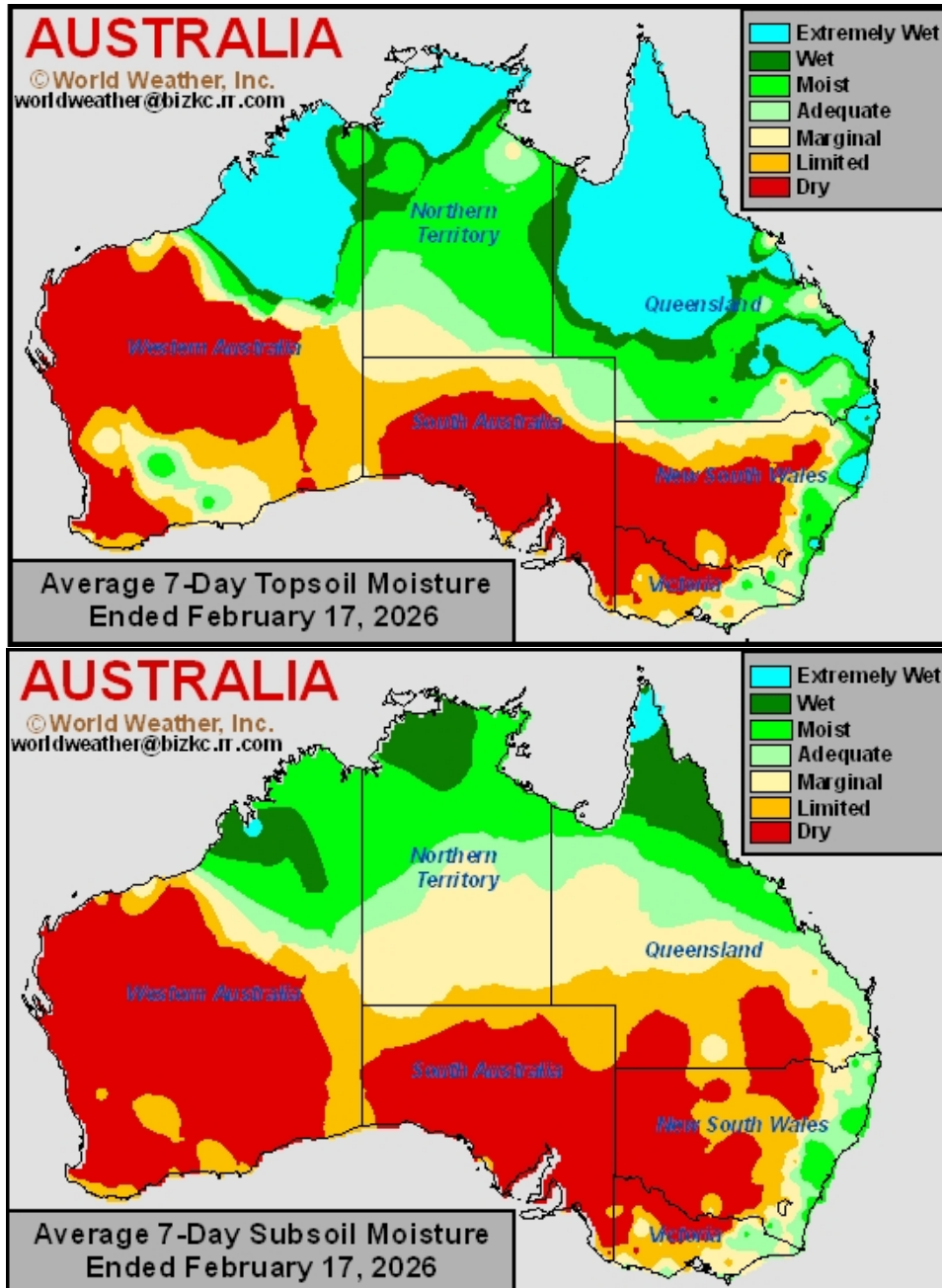
Queensland received some of the most significant rain the main summer crop areas of Australia during the past week. Moisture totals for the seven-day period ending this morning ranged from 1.00 to 4.00 inches. One location in southeastern Queensland reported more than 8.00 inches for the week, although that has not been verified. Victoria and portions of South Australia and southern and northern New South Wales received 0.16 to 0.91 inch of rain while other areas in New South Wales received little to no precipitation.



Recent rainfall helped bolster topsoil moisture to more adequate levels in much of Queensland. Subsoil moisture remained short, though some improvements are expected in the next few days. Other locations in New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia generally have a shortage of moisture despite spotty rain in recent days. New South Wales has quickly returned to a drier bias after significant rain fell in the previous week.

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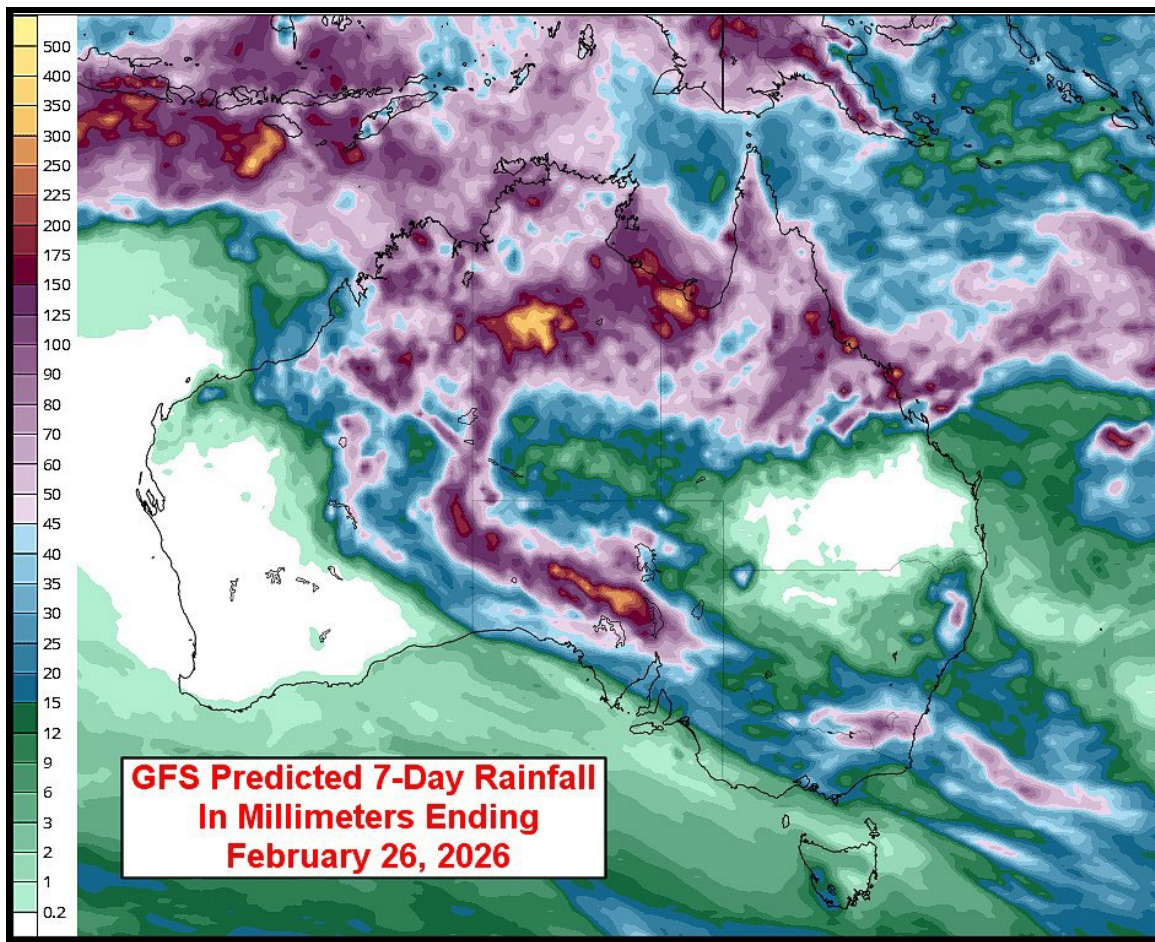
The rain in Queensland was welcome for coarse grains, oilseeds, and cotton still reproducing and filling. Precipitation was likely too late for the earliest-planted crops that are already maturing and beginning to be harvested. Rainfall was also welcome where it occurred in Victoria and New South Wales, though most locations did not receive enough precipitation to ensure ideal late-season growth. Late-planted crops that did not completely wither during the heatwave would still benefit from additional rain in the near future before maturation begins.



Weather in Australia will be influenced by a disturbance as it slowly advances over the country through the middle of next week. The disturbance will be relatively disorganized

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when tracking across northern Australia through Friday. Only a few light showers are expected at times for South Australia and New South Wales. A frontal boundary and moisture associated with the disturbance will promote more widespread rain for South Australia, Victoria, and New South Wales over the weekend. The disturbance will track farther south early next week and will generate additional rain for South Australia, New South Wales, and Victoria. Moisture totals by next Wednesday morning will range from 0.25 to 1.50 inches with local amounts of 2.50 inches or more in South Australia, Victoria, and southern New South Wales. Other areas in New South Wales will receive 0.10 to 0.75 inch of rain. Queensland and Western Australia will otherwise be dry or not receive enough rain to counter evaporation. South Australia and eastern Australia will then see a mix of erratic rain and sunshine February 26 – March 4 while Western Australia remains drier than usual.



Temperatures will be near to above normal in Australia through the middle of next week. Queensland and New South Wales will warm to the 80s and 90s Fahrenheit with pockets occasionally warming above 100 degrees. Victoria and South Australia will warm to the 70s and 80s with many areas warming to the 90s Friday and this weekend. Low temperatures will be in the 60s and 70s in most locations with portions of Victoria cooling to the 50s. Seasonable to seasonably warm weather will persist February 26 – March 4.

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The periods of rain in Victoria and New South Wales during the coming week will again be welcome for any summer crops that are still in the development stages. Maturation and early-season harvesting will advance around the periods of rain as well. The lack of rain in Queensland will also be welcome for the early-planted crops that are maturing and beginning to be harvested.

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