

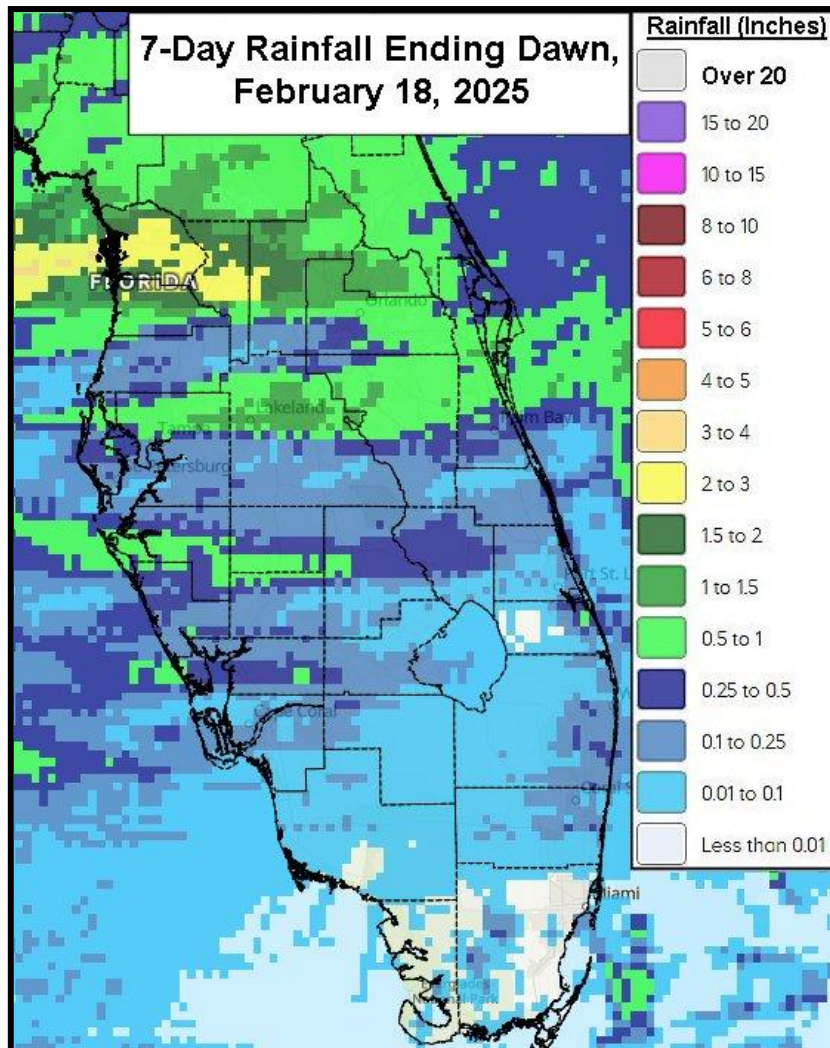
Weekly Citrus Weather

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, February 18 (World Weather Inc.) – **Florida's** citrus region was warmer than usual during the past week with periods of erratic rain. Harvesting and general fieldwork likely advanced swiftly around the rain. A cold front will advance over the region later this weekend and early next week that will drop nighttime temperatures back to the 30s Fahrenheit. Pockets of frost will be a concern, though no damaging cold is expected. **Brazil's** citrus areas will see an uptick in rain through the middle of next week compared to the past seven days. Citrus conditions will remain favorable. Several areas in eastern Mexico will also receive timely rain that will be beneficial for flowering.

FLORIDA

Florida's main citrus areas saw a mix of erratic rain and sunshine during the past week. Moisture totals for the seven-day period ending this morning ranged from 0.10 to



1.00 inch with drier pockets in southern fringes of the production region. Rainfall likely supplemented irrigation for those that were running irrigation. Harvesting, damage assessments, and general farming activity likely advanced swiftly around the periods of spotty rain.

Seasonable to seasonably warm weather was noted in Florida during the past week. Daytime highs peaked from the mid-70s to low-80s Fahrenheit most often, though highs only reached the upper 60s and 70s February 16. Low temperatures were in the upper 40s and 50s with pockets cooling to the mid-40s February 11. A few locations also only cooled to the lower 60s February 15 – 16 and again this morning.

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Precipitation will be limited across Florida through the middle of next week. Spotty showers will still generate minimal rain during the next few days. A cold front will also bring light rain to several areas Sunday. Moisture totals by next Wednesday morning will range from trace amounts to 0.25 inch with locally greater amounts. Rainfall will be too light to significantly impact long-term soil conditions and irrigation will likely be used. Harvesting and general farming activity will otherwise advance with few disruptions.

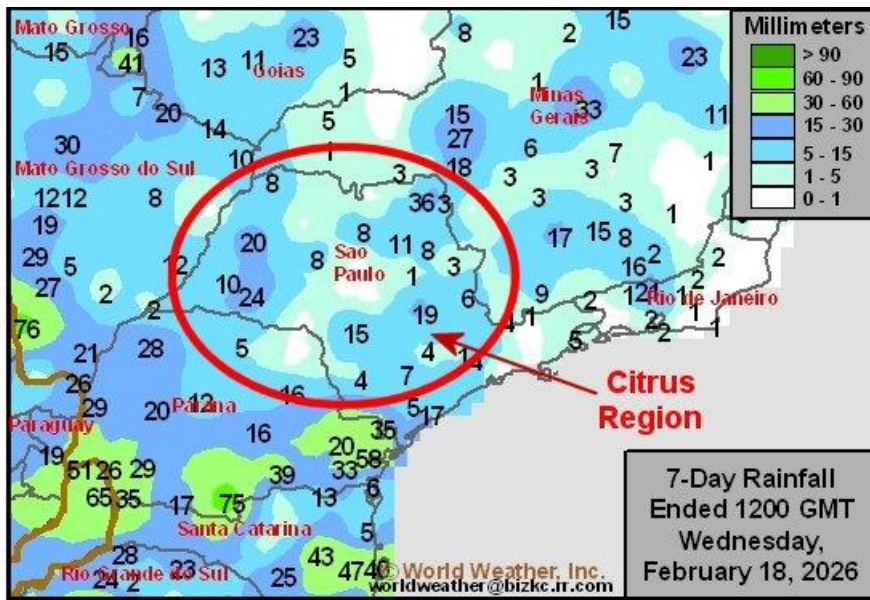
Seasonably warm weather will persist for much of Florida through Sunday. Daytime highs will peak from the mid-70s to mid-80s with pockets occasionally warming to the upper 80s. Colder air will spread across the region at the beginning and middle of next week with highs settling in the 50s and 60s. Low temperatures will be in the upper 50s and 60s through Sunday. Lows will drop to the upper 30s and 40s Monday before cooling further to the 30s and lower 40s Tuesday and Wednesday. Areas of frost will be possible following the cold front, though the threat for hard freezes will be relatively low. No major citrus damage is expected.

BRAZIL

Sao Paulo and southwestern Minas Gerais saw a mix of spotty rain and sunshine during the past week. Moisture totals for the seven-day period ending this morning ranged from 0.16 to 0.79 inch with local amounts up to 1.42 inches. Temperatures were warmer than usual with highest readings in the 90s. Lowest temperatures were in the 60s and lower 70s. Rainfall earlier this month and additional precipitation helped maintain relatively good

citrus development conditions.

Waves of erratic rain and isolated storms are slated for Sao Paulo and southwestern Minas Gerais through the middle of next week. Light rain will initially be scattered across citrus country today and Thursday. A slow-moving disturbance will help generate more widespread and significant rain Friday

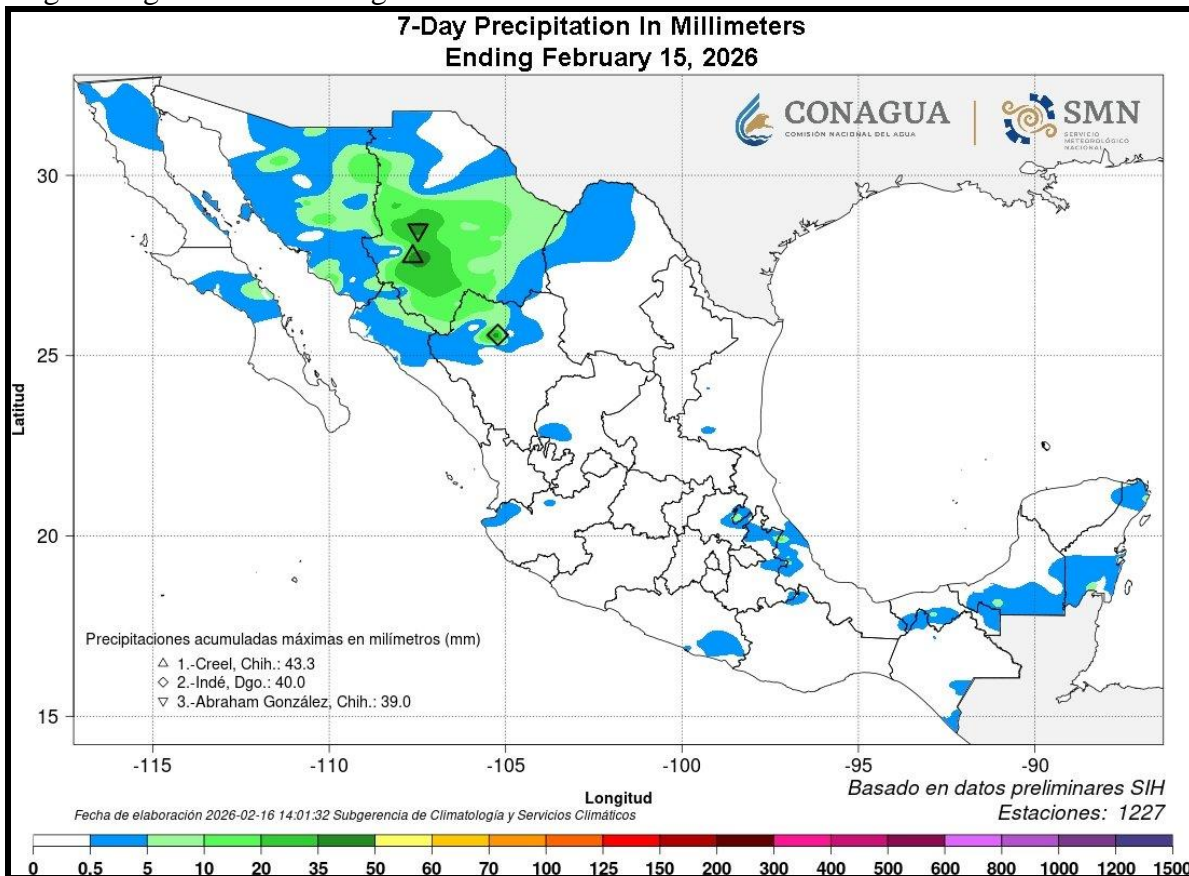


through Tuesday. Moisture totals by next Wednesday morning will range from 0.75 to 3.00 inches with drier pockets. Temperatures will be near to slightly above normal with daytime highs in the 80s and lower 90s. A few locations will also only warm to the 70s during periods of more significant rain. Low temperatures will be in the 60s and 70s. Additional rain and adequate amounts of moisture in the soil will support a good environment for citrus growth.

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MEXICO

Very little rain was noted in Mexico's citrus region during the past week. Pockets in Veracruz received trace amounts to 0.39 inch of rain for the seven-day period ending February 15. However, little to no rain was noted in much of northeastern, east-central, and western Mexico. Periods of warmer than usual weather were noted with highest readings in the 80s and 90s. Lowest temperatures were in the 50s and 60s with pockets in Puebla and neighboring locations cooling to the 40s.



The need for more widespread rain is increasing for Mexico. Citrus usually flowers in February and March, notably in the east-central and northeastern production areas. There is still plenty of time for increased precipitation for ideal flowering and fruit setting.

Rainfall will vary across the main citrus areas in Mexico through the middle of next week. High pressure will initially limit precipitation through early Saturday. A weak frontal boundary will promote erratic rainfall for northeastern and east-central Mexico later Saturday and Sunday. Additional rain is slated for portions of eastern Mexico at the beginning of next week as well. Veracruz, eastern Puebla, northern Oaxaca, and southern Tamaulipas will receive 0.50 to 3.00 inches of rain by next Wednesday morning. Other areas in Puebla and northeastern Mexico will receive 0.10 to 0.75 inch of rain. Western Mexico's citrus areas will be mostly dry. Temperatures will be warmer than usual through Saturday with highs in the 80s and 90s. Highs will drop to the 70s and 80s with pockets in the 60s later this weekend into the middle of next week following the frontal boundary. Low temperatures will be in the 50s and 60s with pockets only cooling to the 70s through

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Sunday. Lows at the beginning and middle of next week will drop to the 50s and 60s with pockets in northeastern Mexico cooling to the 40s.

The rain that occurs through the middle of next week in east-central and northeastern Mexico will be well-timed. Citrus flowering, fruit setting, and tree conditions will either improve or remain favorable, even in areas that only receive light amounts of rain. Timely rain will still be needed late this month into March as more of the citrus trees start to flower.

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