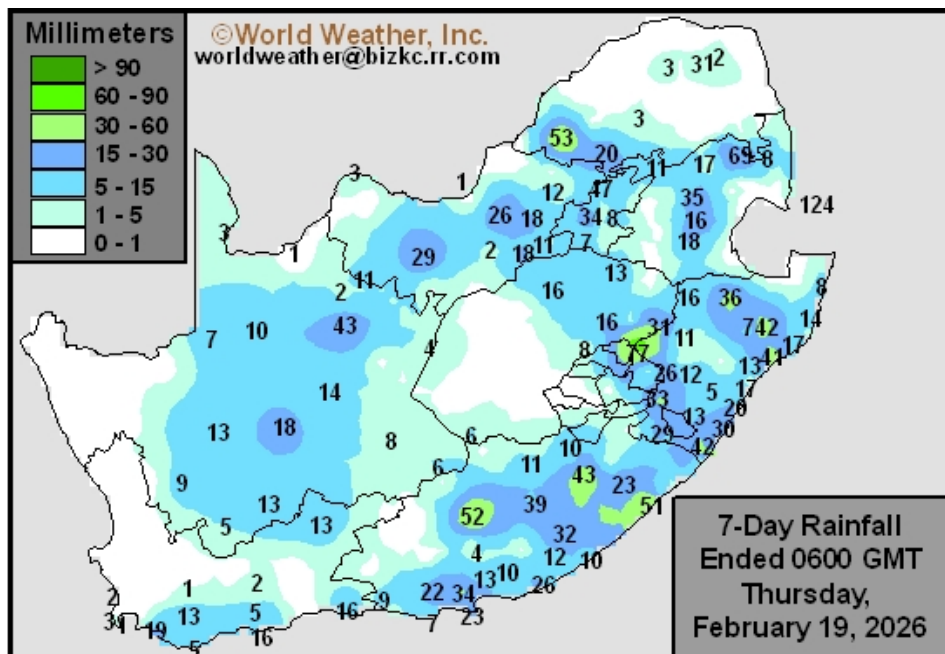


South Africa Rain Will Promote Favorable Late-Season Growth

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, February 19 (World Weather Inc.) – A large section of South Africa's main coarse grain, oilseed, and cotton areas saw a good mix of rain and sunshine during the past week. Western sections of Free State and North West did not receive enough rain to completely fix the moisture deficits and additional rain would be welcome. ***Most locations still had some moisture to support new growth and production potentials remain favorable.*** A more active weather pattern is slated for much of the country during the coming week as a series of disturbances track over the country. This rain will bolster or keep soil moisture to adequate or excessive levels. ***The environment will improve or remain favorable for aggressive late-season development.***

A large section of South Africa received at least light amounts of rain during the past week. Natal, Mpumalanga, southwestern Limpopo, and Eastern Cape received some of the most significant rain with totals ranging from 0.43 to just over 2.00 inches with a local amount of 3.00 inches in western Natal. ***Coverage of amounts greater than 1.00 inch (25 millimeters) was not more than 25-30% of the production region suggesting much of the rain was a little light relative to evaporation rates.*** Gauteng, Free State, North West, and portions of Northern Cape and southern Western Cape received 0.20 to 1.34 inches of rain with pockets that received little to no rain.



Moisture shortages prevail in much of Northern Cape, western sections of Free State and North West, and portions of Western Cape despite spotty rain in recent weeks. Other production areas have adequate to marginally adequate moisture, though pockets in Limpopo and neighboring areas are starting to dry down in the topsoil.

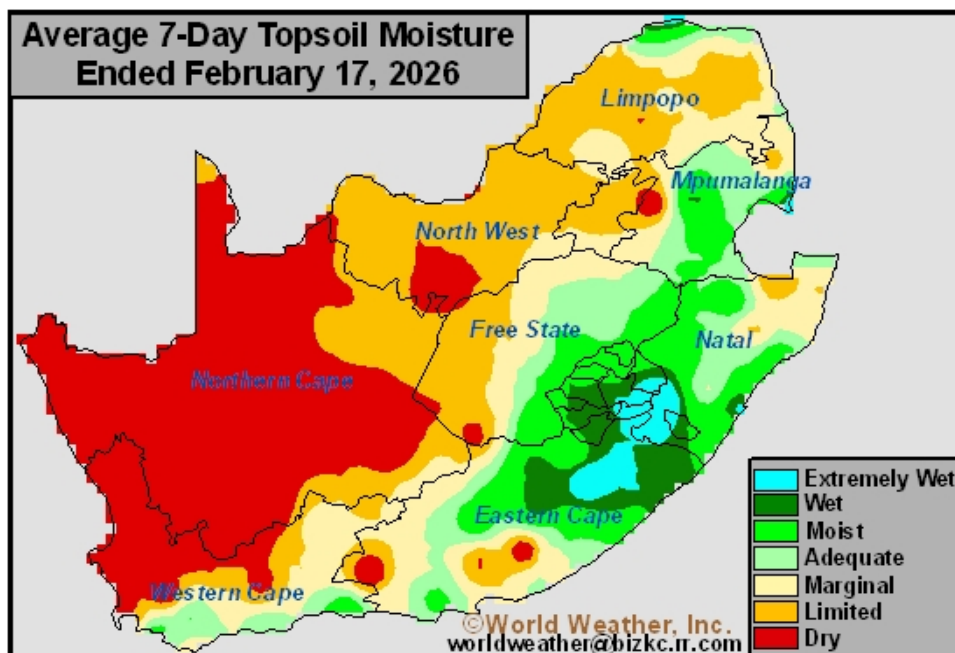
Recent rainfall was enough to maintain relatively favorable development for the coarse grains, oilseeds, cotton, and other crops; though, the moisture profile shows quite

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a few areas in the west and north parts of the nation being a little too dry. Most of the nation has seen enough timely rainfall to support production, though overall production may not be quite as great as desired in some areas. Timely rain is still needed in the coming weeks to maintain a good environment for late-season growth.

WEATHER OUTLOOK

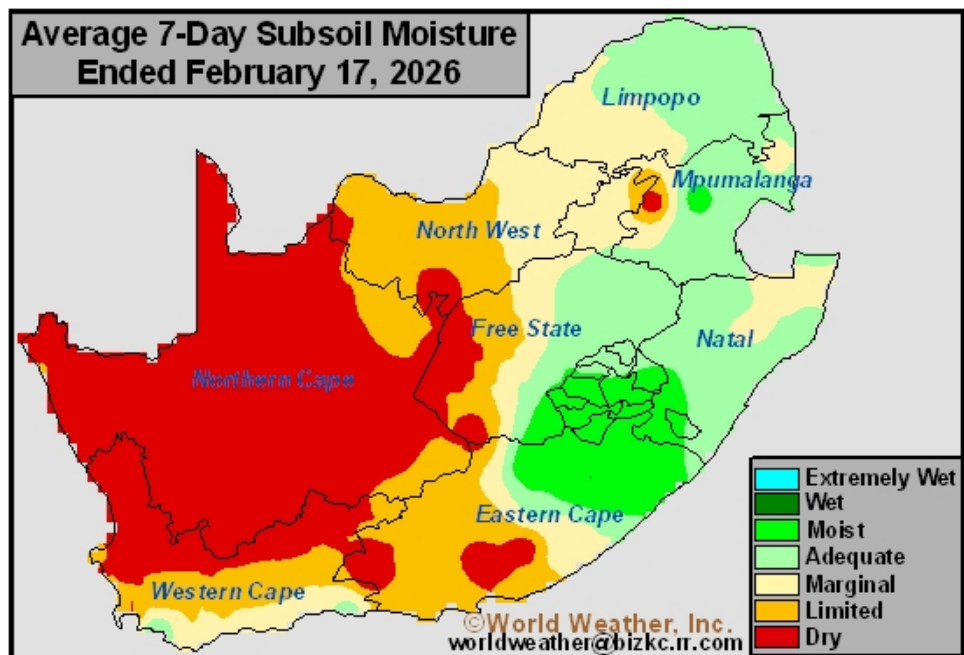
Much of South Africa will trend a little wetter than usual during the coming week. Light rain will initially be scattered across a few locations today and early Friday. A disturbance will promote more widespread rain later Friday into Saturday before another system promotes some of the most significant rain Sunday through Tuesday. Spotty rain will continue in a few locations Wednesday. Moisture totals by next Thursday morning will range from 0.75 to 4.00 inches with a few exceptions. Pockets in Northern Cape, western Free State, and Eastern Cape will receive 5.00 inches or slightly more of moisture. Limpopo and immediate neighboring areas in Mpumalanga and Gauteng will only receive 0.10 to 0.75 inch of rain with locally greater amounts. Alternating periods of rain and sunshine are slated for South Africa February 27 – March 5, though rain totals will generally be lower compared to the first week of the outlook.



Seasonable to seasonably warm weather is slated for much of South Africa through next Thursday. Daytime highs will peak to the 70s and 80s Fahrenheit with a few exceptions. Many areas in western and northern South Africa will warm to the 90s through Saturday and again toward the middle of next week. Pockets in western and southern South Africa will also only warm to the 50s and 60s later this weekend and early next week during periods of more significant rain. Low temperatures will be in the 50s and 60s with pockets in the 40s. The temperature profile will again trend near to above normal February 27 – March 5.

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Rainfall in the driest areas of Free State, North West, and Northern Cape will be enough to lift soil moisture to more adequate levels. Late-season development conditions for the coarse grains, oilseeds, and cotton will improve. Other locations will receive enough rain or have enough moisture to support favorable late-season development.



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