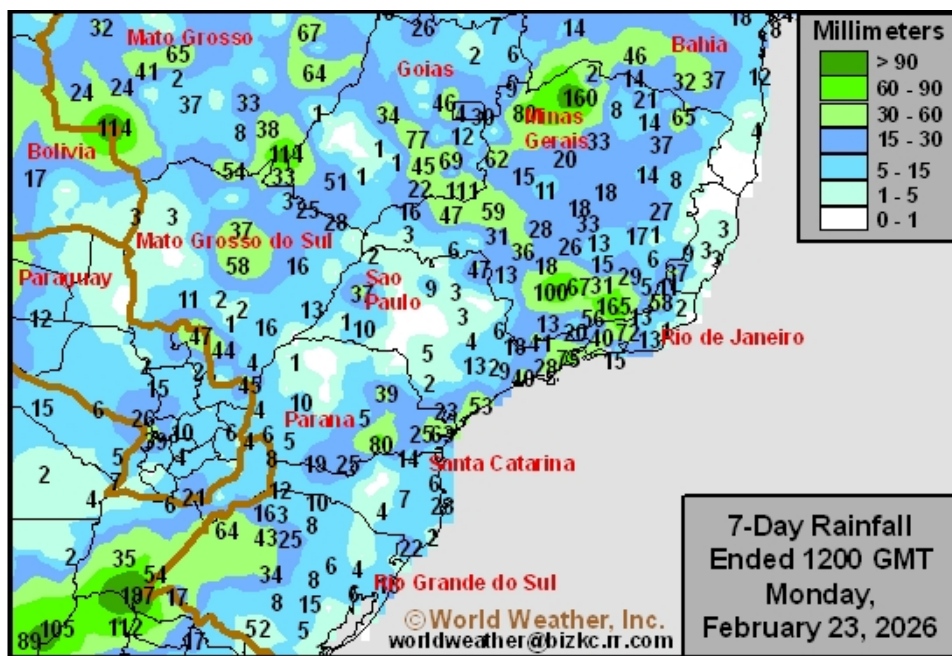


Brazil's Safrinha Corn Areas; Wet North, Drier South

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, February 24 (World Weather Inc.) – Harvesting of soybeans and first-season corn is ongoing in Brazil despite several locations in center-west and center-south receiving several inches of rain during the past week. Safrinha corn planting is also ongoing. *There are still worries about lower than usual soil moisture for this time of year in some southern center south Safrinha corn areas. Significant rain will be needed in coming weeks to bolster soil moisture and support better long-term production potentials for the upcoming season.* Center-west and northern parts of center-south Brazil into northeastern Brazil will receive more rain in the coming week that will help bolster soil moisture while southern parts of center west and the far south of Brazil experience some additional net drying.

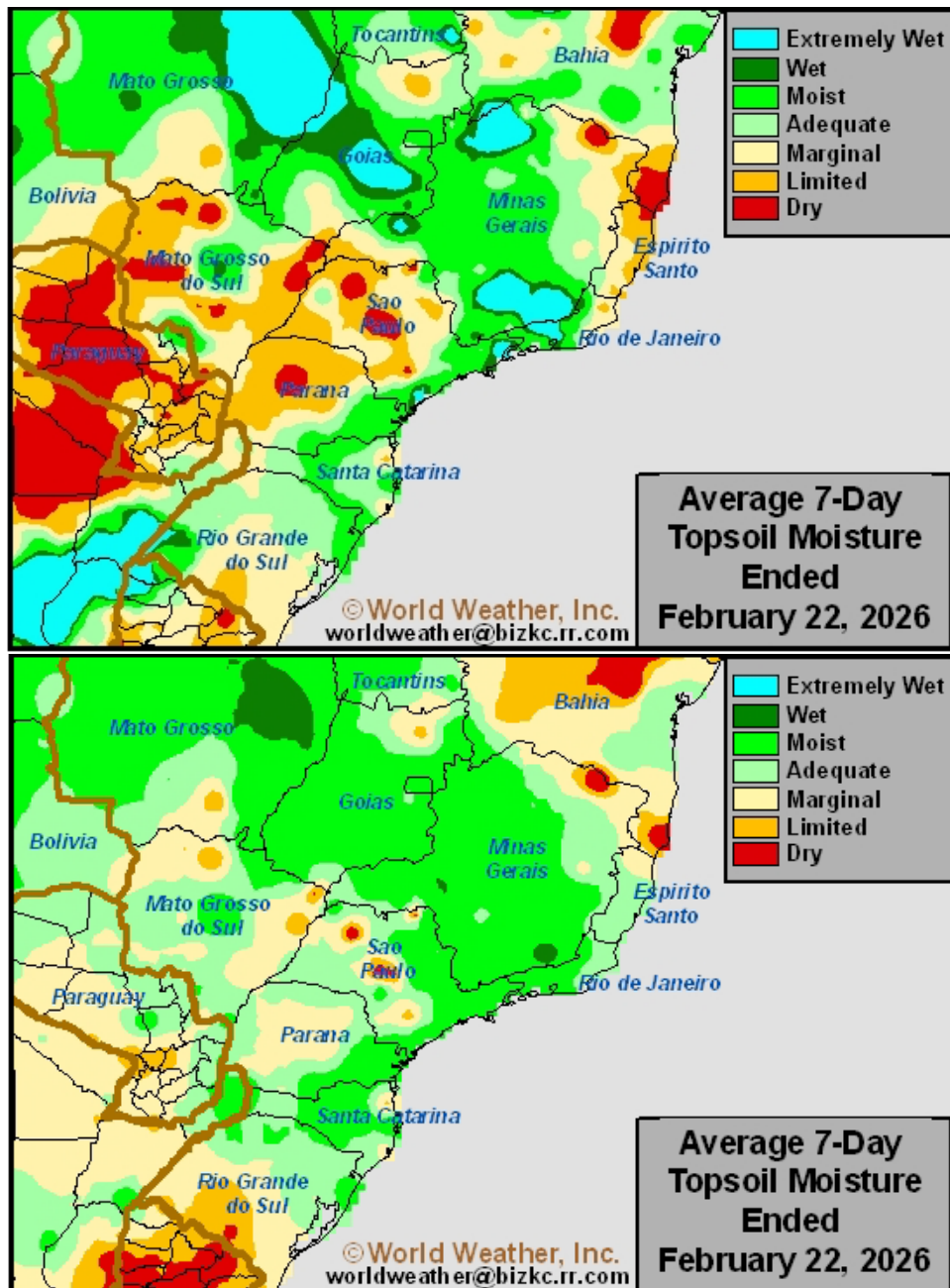
The main production areas in Brazil saw several waves of erratic rain during the past week. Minas Gerais, Goiás, and Mato Grosso received 0.50 to 4.00 inches of rain with local amounts up to 6.50 inches for the seven-day period ending this morning. Other locations received 0.32 to 1.50 inches of rain with local amounts up to 3.15 inches in Paraná and Mato Grosso do Sul.



Despite recent rainfall, a large section of Brazil received lighter than usual rainfall for the 30-day period ending February 21. Remember, though, Brazil's "normal" rainfall is usually more than needed by crops and sometimes a lighter than usual rainfall pattern that is timely results in very good yields. *Some reduction in soil has resulted from the lighter rainfall and those areas in center south Brazil should be closely monitored for timely rain.* Most locations still have adequate or marginally adequate subsoil moisture, though the overall moisture profile is lower than usual for this time of year. *The environment is mostly very good for soybean maturation and harvesting as well as that of*

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dry beans, early rice and first season corn. The planting of Safrinha corn has also benefited from the drier days.

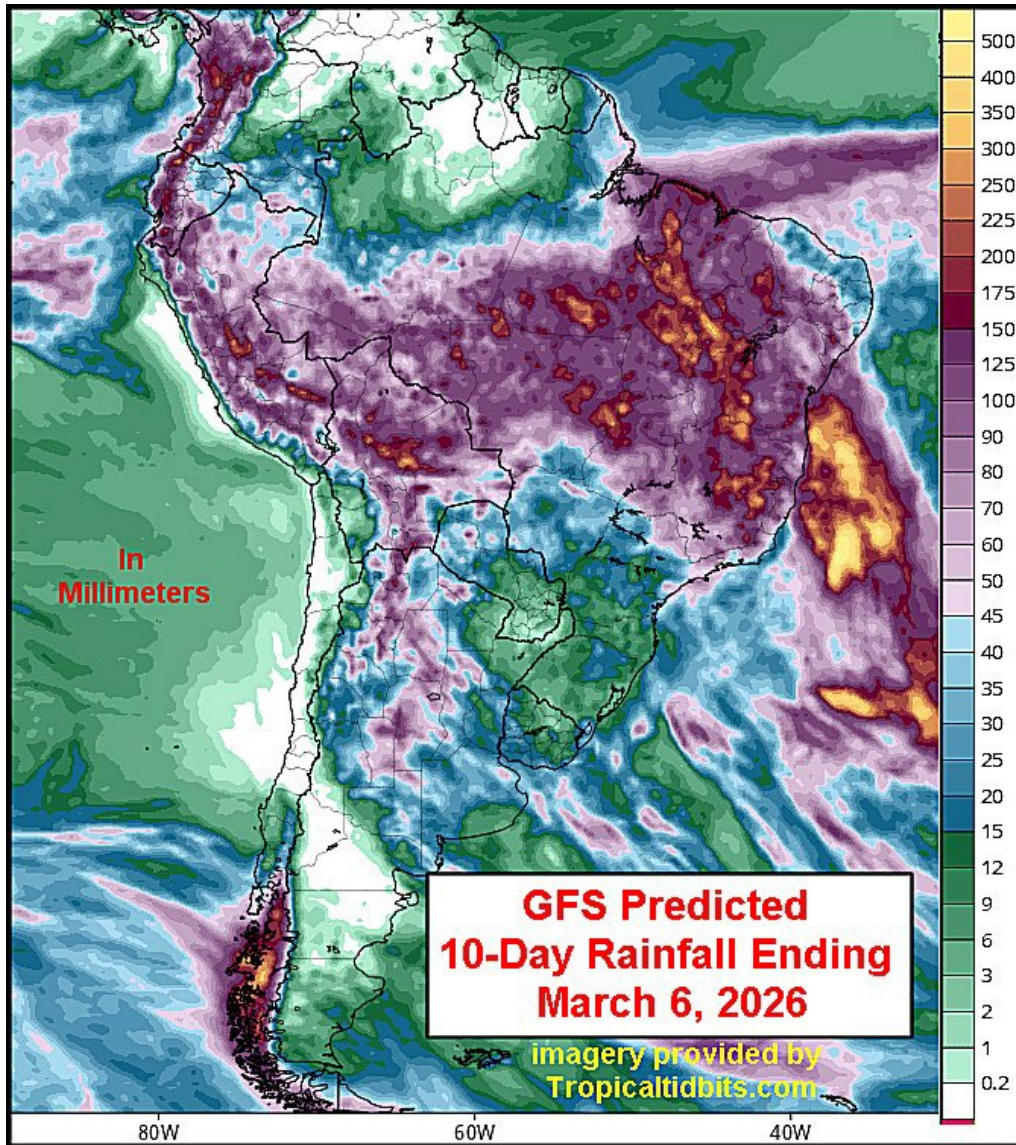


Soybean harvesting remains a little behind the previous five-year average as of February 19 according to AgRural. Producers have still been able to harvest the soybeans, first-season corn and other crops around periods of rain. While there is a need for significant rain to improve the moisture profile, periods of drier weather will also be needed in the coming weeks to improve or maintain harvesting and general fieldwork.

Safrinha corn planting is also advancing a little slower than usual in part due to the periods of rain and sluggish soybean harvest. In addition to the slower than usual planting pace, there are concerns for low soil moisture compared to normal for this time

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of year. Many areas in center-west and center-south Brazil that received less than usual rain during the past month would benefit from greater rain as the monsoon winds down in late March and early April until then this mix of rain and sunshine is mostly good for fieldwork and crop development, though a few areas would benefit from greater rain sooner than later.



WEATHER OUTLOOK

Waves of rain are slated for center-west, northern parts of center-south, and northeastern Brazil this week. Rain will occur on a frequent basis with some of the most widespread and significant precipitation occurring through Thursday as a disturbance passes over the country. Some of the advertised rain is overdone; though, parts of Minas Gerais, southern Bahia, and much of Rio de Janeiro and Espirito Santo will receive 1.50 to 5.00 inches of rain with a few amounts of 7.00 inches or slightly more. Mato Grosso, Mato Grosso do Sul, and Sao Paulo will receive 0.50 to 3.00 inches of rain. Southern Brazil will also receive erratic rainfall through Wednesday before drier weather evolves later this week

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and weekend. Moisture totals by next Monday morning will range from 0.25 to 1.50 inches with locally greater amounts in Parana. Alternating periods of erratic rain and sunshine are slated for much of Brazil March 3-9.

The temperature profile will be near to above normal in Brazil this week. Daytime highs will peak to the 80s and lower 90s Fahrenheit with portions of center-west and northeastern Brazil only warming to the 70s during periods of more significant rain. Low temperatures will be in the 50s and 60s with pockets in the upper 40s in southern Brazil. Lows elsewhere will be in the 60s and 70s. Seasonable to seasonably warm weather will persist March 3 – 9.

Minas Gerais, southern Bahia, and neighboring areas may receive enough rain this week to slow or delay soybean, first-season corn, and other crop harvesting. Producers should be able to get into the fields at times, though soybean harvesting and safrinha corn planting may remain behind normal for this time of year. *Southern portions of center south Brazil and the far south of the nation will see much less frequent and less significant rain resulting in some net drying which may be good harvest progress and some planting; though rain will soon be needed to bolster soil moisture for late season crop development.*

Rainfall this week will help bolster or keep soil moisture near current levels in center west and northern parts of center south ensuring good long term crop development potential, though a few of the wetter areas will need to dry down. Establishment of Safrinha crops and their early-season development will be relatively favorable; however, rainfall in southern parts of center south and far southern Brazil will be too light for ideal long-term production potentials. *The need for significant rain will remain high heading into the second half of March as late season planting draws to a close and the end of the monsoon approaches.*

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