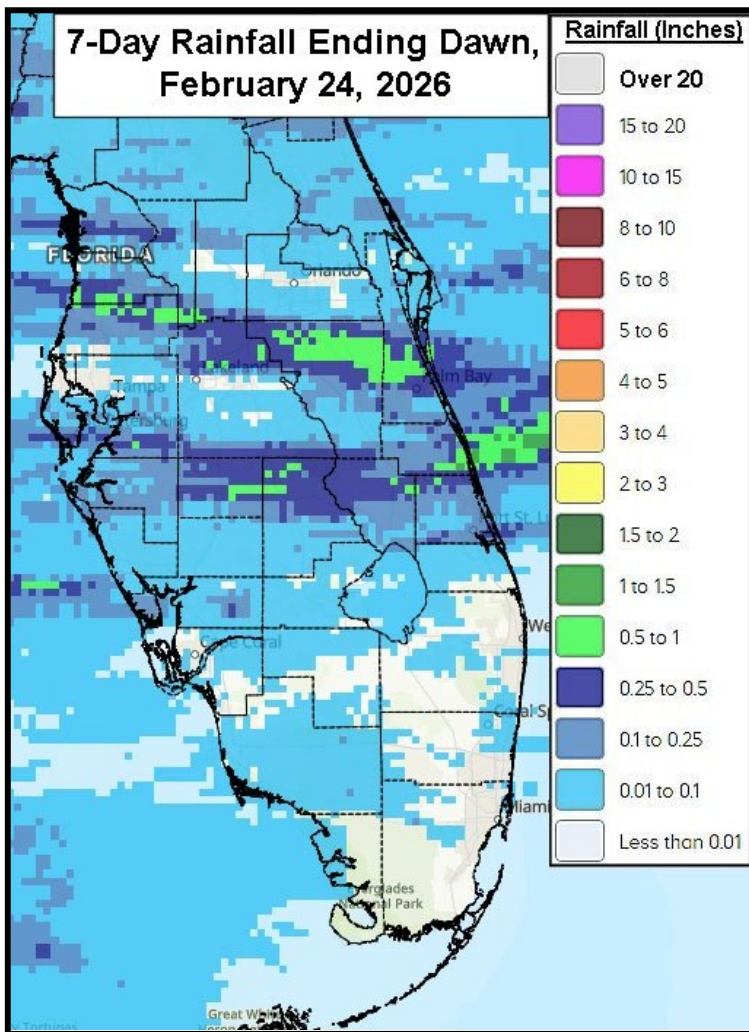


Weekly Citrus Weather

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, February 24 (World Weather Inc.) – Assessments are ongoing in Florida from the damaging cold weather that occurred late in January and early in February. Significant damage to unharvested citrus and citrus trees in general was noted in much of the production region. Not only will this season see significant losses, production will likely be impacted for the next several seasons as well due to the severity of the damage. Conditions will be relatively mild during the coming week with some rain and seasonably warm weather most days. **Brazil's** citrus areas saw a mix of rain and sunshine during the past week. Periods of erratic rain will continue during the next several days as well. The environment will remain relatively favorable for new citrus growth. **Mexico's** citrus areas will receive little to no rain during the coming week. The need for rain will increase across the main production areas in March to support better flowering and fruit setting.

FLORIDA



Several areas in Brevard, northern Osceola, Indian River, Saint Lucie, Okeechobee, northern Highlands, and Hardee Counties received 0.10 to 1.00 inch of rain for the seven-day period ending this morning. Other citrus areas were either dry or did not receive enough rain to counter evaporation. The lack of abundant precipitation was beneficial for producers harvesting and assessing damage from the significant freeze events earlier this winter.

A cold front brought cooler air to Florida February 23 with highs dropping from the mid-50s to lower 60s Fahrenheit. Warmer than normal weather was noted before the cold front during the past week with highs generally in the upper 70s and 80s. Low temperatures this morning dropped to the upper 20s and 30s with pockets cooling as low as 27 degrees. Lows February 23 were in the

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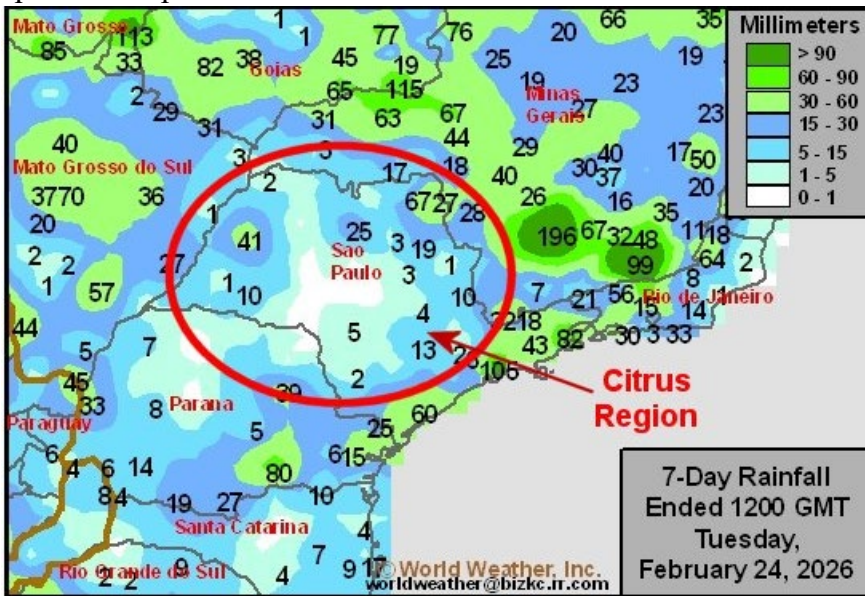
upper 30s and 40s. Most locations cooled to the upper 40s and 50s February 17 – 18 before settling from the mid-50s to mid-60s most other days during the past week. [Additional citrus damage this morning was likely minimal and restricted to a few pockets, though producers are still assessing fruit and trees from the damaging cold that occurred earlier this month.](#)

Florida will see a mix of rain and sunshine during the coming week. High pressure will initially promote mostly dry weather through Thursday, though a few isolated showers will be possible late Thursday. A disturbance will promote widespread rain Friday and Saturday when tracking over the state. Outside a few isolated showers, drier weather will return later this weekend and early next week. Moisture totals by next Tuesday morning will range from 0.40 to 1.50 inches with local amounts of 2.00 inches or slightly more. Rain will supplement irrigation in most locations. The precipitation may also slow harvesting, damage assessments, and general farming activity.

Temperatures will remain colder than usual today with highs only reaching the 50s and lower 60s. Warmer air will initially seep into the region Wednesday with highs increasing from the mid-60s to mid-70s. Highs will settle to the 70s and lower 80s for the remainder of the coming week. Low temperatures Wednesday morning will be in the upper 30s and 40s. Lows Thursday will range from the mid-40s to mid-50s before settling to the upper 50s and 60s for the remainder of the coming week.

BRAZIL

Brazil's citrus areas saw a mix of erratic rain and sunshine during the past week. Moisture totals for the seven-day period ending this morning generally ranged from 0.20 to 1.00 inch with local amounts up to in northern Sao Paulo. Temperatures were warm with highest readings in the upper 80s and 90s. Lowest temperatures were in the 60s and lower 70s. Citrus development conditions were relatively favorable due to the additional rain. However, the region is in need of more significant rain to support ideal long-term production potentials.



Alternating periods of rain and sunshine are slated for Sao Paulo and southwestern Minas Gerais during the coming week. The most widespread rain will occur today and Wednesday as a disturbance passes over the country. Rain will linger Thursday and Friday before drier weather evolves over the weekend and early next week. Moisture

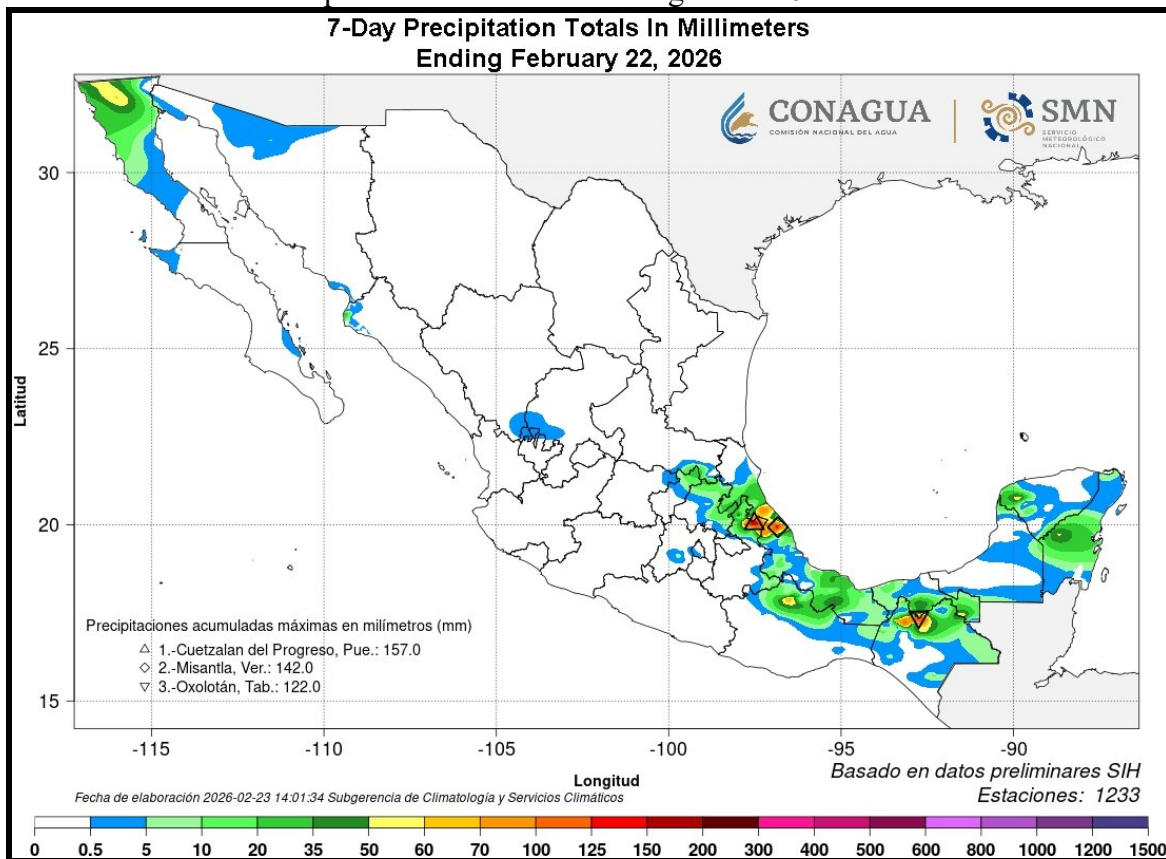
totals by next Tuesday morning will range from 0.50 to 2.00 inches with locally greater

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amounts in northern Sao Paulo and southwestern Minas Gerais. Temperatures will be near normal with daytime highs in the upper 70s and 80s. Pockets in western Sao Paulo will occasionally warm to the lower 90s as well. Low temperatures will be in the 60s and 70s. Additional rain and seasonable temperatures will support a good environment for citrus growth in most locations. However, there will still be a significant need for rain later in March.

MEXICO

Central and southern Veracruz and northern Oaxaca saw a mix of rain and sunshine during the past week. Moisture totals for the seven-day period ending February 22 ranged from 0.20 to 1.50 inches with local amounts over 2.00 inches. Other citrus areas in Mexico received little or no rain. Temperatures were warmer than usual at times during the past week. Highest readings were in the upper 80s and 90s with pockets in northeastern Mexico warming above 100 degrees. Lowest temperatures were in the 50s and 60s with portions of northeastern Mexico and pockets in Veracruz cooling to the 40s.



Rain was welcome where it fell in east-central Mexico during the past week. Flowering and fruit setting conditions were generally favorable in areas that received rain. Other production areas are in growing need of precipitation as more citrus trees get ready to flower.

Precipitation will be restricted for much of Mexico's main citrus areas during the coming week. Spotty rain will still occur from southern Veracruz and eastern Puebla into areas near and along the western Mexico coastline at times. A few pockets will receive 0.25

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to 0.75 inch of rain by next Tuesday morning, though most areas will not receive enough rain to counter evaporation. Temperatures will be warmer than usual with daytime highs often reaching the 80s and 90s. Portions of northeastern Mexico will also only warm to the 70s today. Low temperatures will be in the 50s and 60s with pockets only cooling to the 70s.

The need for rain will increase later in March for much of Mexico. Citrus flowering begins in February and March for several locations, primarily in east-central and northeastern Mexico. Many of these areas are too dry for ideal flowering and fruit setting.

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