

# World Cotton Weather

## Australia Production Down; Brazil Planting Complete

By Drew Lerner

Kansas City, February 26 (World Weather, Inc.) – Cotton planting is complete in Brazil with early season crop emergence and establishment expected to advance well. Argentina crop conditions vary greatly due to varying soil conditions. In Australia, cotton has had a tough year in which some of the unirrigated western crops have suffered from excessive heat and dryness after planting was reduced in the spring. Spring prospects for cotton are looking favorable in the U.S. while there are some concerns building for India and Pakistan later this year and China's Xinjiang region should see a relatively normal start to its planting season.

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### UNITED STATES

#### West Texas

- Soil moisture is poor; though the planting season is still months away
- The spring outlook does not favor a big improvement in soil moisture – at least not in the early spring and the region will be closely monitored
  - Late spring precipitation is likely to be timely and beneficial
- There is relatively good chance late spring rainfall will be timely and even better chance that summer rainfall will improve; however, transitional years from La Nina to El Nino are not always fruitful for rainfall unless the transition to El Nino comes rapidly.
  - This year's El Nino event is unlikely in early summer

#### South Texas

- Planting normally begins soon and soil moisture is quite poor in unirrigated areas today
  - Rain must fall in the next few weeks to improve dryland fields for planting, emergence and establishment
  - Poor winter precipitation likely has water supply low as well and greater rain is needed to improve runoff and river and stream flow from the southern Rocky Mountain region into the lower Rio Grande Valley

#### Coastal Bend Area of Texas

- Upper coast soil moisture is better than the lower coast

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- Rain is needed in most of the region; though there is plenty of time for it to evolve
- Better rainfall potential should evolve during the second half of spring leaving March precipitation a little light and infrequent
- Improved rainfall is expected during the middle and latter part of spring

### Texas Blacklands

- Soil moisture may not be ideal today; though a big boost in precipitation is predicted in early March that will help improve the situation
- A favorable moisture outlook is seen for the start of planting this year; though the situation will need to be monitored

### Delta

- Soil moisture is favorable today and is likely to be much greater by mid-March due to rain that falls in the first half of the month
- Planting conditions this spring are likely to be good with a low potential for the kind of excessive moisture that was present last spring
  - That should help fieldwork advance more normally once soil temperatures rise sufficiently to support the process

### Southeastern States

- **Drought remains in place in the southeastern United States, despite some timely rainfall in recent weeks**
  - Soil moisture would be sufficient to plant cotton today, but there is concern that by the time the planting season starts there may be some renewed dryness
- **Drought should be eased during the spring and cotton planting should advance relatively well; though there is some concern that dryness will return during the summer threatening some of the region's possible production**
  - A close watch on summer precipitation is warranted
  - Mostly likely rainfall will be below normal, but it may still occur in timely intervals
- **Spring planting should go well once soil temperatures get high enough to support germination and early growth**
  - There is some potential for late season frost and freezes this year

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### Far West

- Water supply for California's central valleys is more than sufficient for 2026 to be a favorable production year
- No extreme heat for any prolonged period of time is predicted for summer 2026
- Monsoon activity in Arizona should be normal to slightly above normal which will help support favorable production in 2026
- Water supply is low and mountain snow pack in the southern Rocky Mountains is below normal adding a little more pressure for a good monsoon season
- Spring rainfall is expected to be periodic, but not as abundant as desired

### BRAZIL

### Center West

- Cotton planting has just recently concluded
- Crops went into the soil relatively close to on time
  - Emergence and establishment are expected to occur well in the next couple of weeks with some of the early planted crop already up and developing
- Timely rain is predicted for the next few weeks
- Concern is rising that soil moisture may not be as abundant at the end of the monsoon (early April) this year as it should be which may lead to some crop moisture stress during the dry season
  - Cotton is a desert crop and should perform better than corn in the anticipated environment; though, a close watch on soil moisture is warranted during the last days of the monsoon
- The dry season will be seasonably dry and a little warmer than usual unlike that of last year in which rainfall was unusually great supporting a large crop

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### ARGENTINA

- Soil moisture varies greatly from one production region to another
- Rain is needed in Chaco and northern Santa Fe where some crop moisture stress may be present today
- Planting was late in some areas of the north because of dryness
- Soil conditions are rated well in Santiago del Estero and some areas in Santa Fe and Salta as well as minor production areas in northern Cordoba; however, a general soaking of rain would be welcome especially in Chaco
- Rain will be limited into the first part of next week and then much improved precipitation is expected for the balance of next week and into the following weekend
  - Sufficient rainfall is expected by mid-month to greatly relieve dryness in Chaco, Formosa and northern Santa Fe
  - Long term crop development potential will improve greatly from expected rainfall
- Timely showers and thunderstorms and warm weather is predicted for the second half of March

### AUSTRALIA

- **Summer has been brutal to some of the unirrigated cotton in western portions of Queensland's production region and in parts of New South Wales**
  - Bouts of excessive heat in January and early February was quite punishing to cotton resulting in smaller bolls and in some of the most adversely impacted fields there may be a reduction in boll counts
- Irrigated cotton has likely performed well and all crops grown in eastern Queensland should have performed well this season
- New South Wales crop conditions likely vary greatly from very good in the northeast part of the production region to poor in some central and southern production areas
- Six days of temperatures ranging from 105 to 118 degrees Fahrenheit occurred earlier this month while soil moisture was absent had a negative impact on crops; though some much-needed rain fell immediately following the heatwave resulting in some relief

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- This year's planted acreage was reduced by 22% according to an early season report and that in combination of the hot and dry conditions at times this summer should result in the smaller crop; though much of this was already anticipated after the early season announcement of reduced acreage
- Cotton is filling bolls and maturing across the production region
- Early harvesting will occur soon; though the bulk of harvesting is still several weeks away
- **Weather in March** is expected to be drier biased; although not completely dry
  - There will be some timely rainfall, although it is more likely late in the month rather than early in the month which may raise a little concern for some infrequent fiber quality concerns resulting from short term bouts of significant rain

## SOUTH AFRICA

- Cotton has likely developed well this summer in most of the production region
- Some of the driest conditions have been in the west which is where the largest percentage of crops are irrigated
- Excessive heat did not occur very often during the growing season which should have production close to average
- Recent rainfall has been restricted and many western and northern production areas have been a little too dry recently; though rain is expected over the next couple of weeks improving late season crop development
- Cotton development likely varies greatly from one region to another with much of the crop filling bolls
  - Some late season boll setting may result from the coming rain

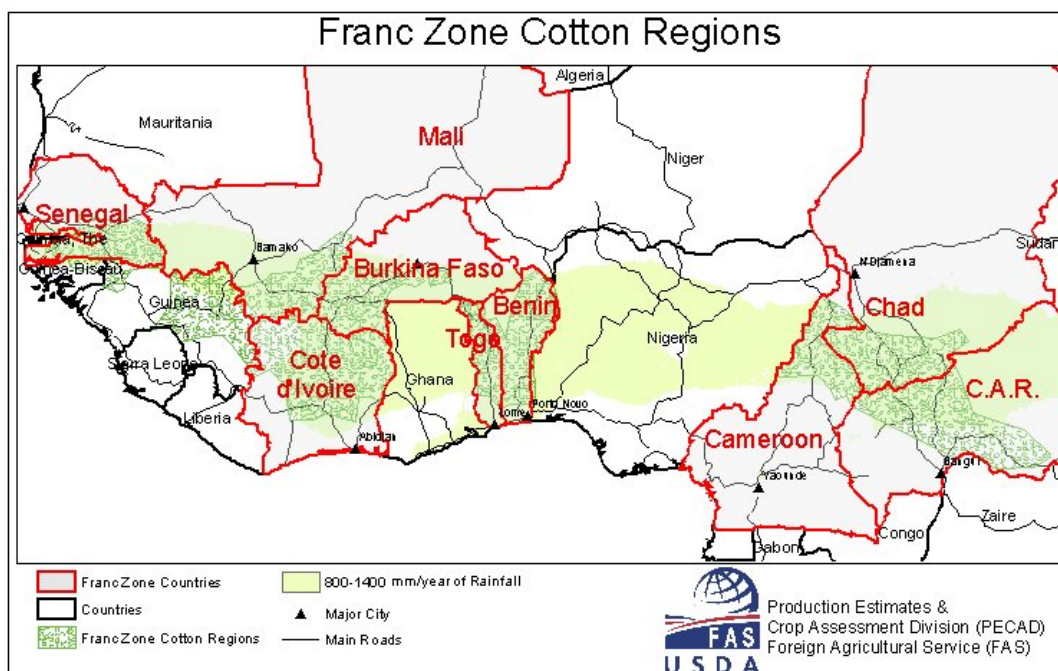
## WEST-CENTRAL AFRICA

- Cotton will be planted from April through June once seasonal rain has evolved
- Off season rainfall was greater than usual this year
- Rain prospects for the planting season this year are good

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- Some concern is evolving for less than usual rainfall late in the growing season this year because of developing El Nino conditions



## MIDDLE EAST

- Early season planting usually begins in March and the prospects are much better than thought to be a few months ago
- Winter precipitation has been frequent and very helpful in relieving drought in many areas
- Soil moisture is rated well today from southeastern Turkey into parts of Iraq and Iran; though, the distribution of rainfall was not even and there are some areas still needing greater rainfall
  - Water supply shortages may be continuing especially in northeastern Iran
- March is expected to bring more rain early in the month and then some drying is expected late in the month which should prove to be a very good environment for planting

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### SPAIN/GREECE

- **Rainfall during the winter has been sufficient for a welcome boost to both soil moisture and water supply in southern Spain and parts of Greece**
  - **Some areas in Greece have reported serious flooding; though, most of that has been in urban areas**
- Drier weather is impacting Spain now and that will continue into the coming weekend
  - Timely rain is predicted to resume in Spain next week with sufficient amounts to maintain or restore highly favorable soil conditions for planting
- Planting normally occurs in April and May in Spain with some early season planting in late March depending on soil temperatures and moisture
- Planting in Greece can occur in early March, although this year's planting may be a little slower starting due to cool soil temperatures

### XINJIANG, CHINA

- Rainfall during the winter has only been significant in the far northeastern producing areas in the nation which is a minor production region
- The bulk of cotton production country has been dry; though this is not unusual
- **Mountain snowpack in the region is suspected of being normal to below normal** which implies a normal to slightly lighter than usual runoff potential
  - **Caution is advised on the mountain snowpack since data from the region is limited**
- Mostly dry conditions are likely in the first half of March in the key production areas while some additional snow and rain fall in the minor production areas of the northeast
- Mountain snowfall is expected to increase during the first half of March and World Weather, Inc. anticipates a relatively normal distribution of precipitation during the second half of the month
- Recent temperatures have been warmer biased and that trend will likely continue
- Cotton planting can begin in March – usually in the second half of the month
  - April and May are the most important months for planting in Xinjiang

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- Minor cotton areas in eastern China have adequate to short soil moisture today; though precipitation is expected in the next ten days
  - Planting in these areas typically occurs in April and May
  - The prospects for planting in the eastern production area are good

### INDIA/PAKISTAN

- Irrigated, early-season, cotton is often planted in the March through May period
  - April and May are the most active months for planting
  - Some fieldwork can begin in March, though
- Rainfall this month has been limited which is not unusual
  - **There is some concern over lower water supply in the 2026 growing season this year and a close watch on the entire situation is warranted**
  - There is also much discussion about a new dam on the Ravi River in northern India that is supposed to restrict water flow into northern Pakistan beginning this year
- Weather conditions are expected to include less than usual moisture during the late winter and spring and rising temperatures which may raise more concern about the water supply
- El Nino is expected to develop this summer and autumn which may restrict rainfall in Pakistan and northern India during the second half of the monsoon season
  - Such conditions could harm cotton production, although much depends on water supply and the timeliness of rain expected
  - There will likely be some water supply issues for both northern India and Pakistan; though the situation may not be a crisis
    - Much will depend upon summertime temperature anomalies this year and the timeliness of monsoonal rain
- World Weather, Inc. believes monsoonal rainfall will be less than usual which adds more pressure on the water supply to support irrigated crops especially in Pakistan and northwestern India
- Gujarat and Rajasthan, India will be included in lighter than usual rain during the second half of the monsoon season this year
- Cotton areas farther to the south in India are expected to perform better than those in the northwest

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- [Early season cotton in northern India and Pakistan that is largely irrigated should perform normally](#)

### MEXICO

- [Water supply is lighter than usual in areas getting that water from the southern U.S. Rocky Mountain region or the northern Sierra Madre range due to poor winter precipitation](#)
- **Water supply is suspected for being lighter than usual, but not necessary critically low**
- Rainfall in recent weeks has been well below normal leaving soil moisture poor for spring planting outside of irrigated fields
- Mexico rainfall will be restricted over a large part of the next two weeks
- [Late March precipitation is predicted to be a little greater than that of early March, but likely to continue lighter than usual leaving concern about early season cotton planting and development](#)
  - Most of the early crop in Mexico is irrigated and as long as water supply is sufficient the crop should be planted normally
- **Monsoonal rainfall is expected to be normal to slightly greater than normal with temperatures a little above 30-year averages**

### CENTRAL ASIA

- [Cotton areas from Turkmenistan to Uzbekistan and Tajikistan will get some timely rainfall in the next few weeks to help with planting moisture](#)
- Greater rain will be needed during the spring planting season to ensure a well-established crop
- [Water supply is suspected of being below normal; though that has not been confirmed](#)
- Planting will begin in March and continue during April
- [This year's production prospects are average to slightly below average due to lighter than usual spring rainfall and warm biased temperatures](#)

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