

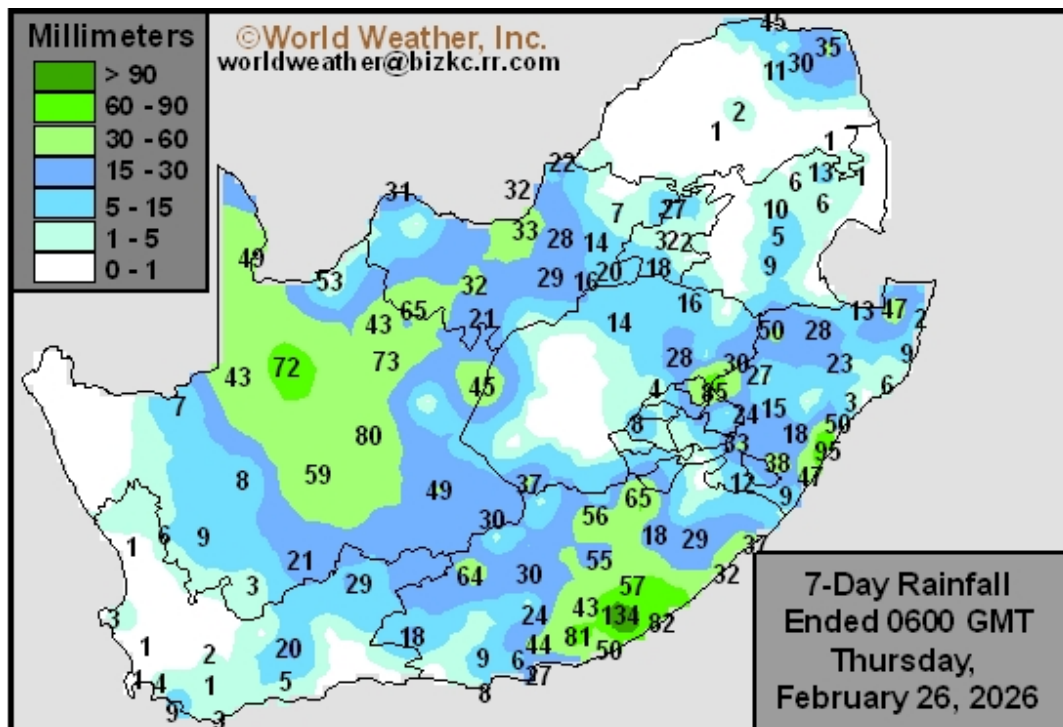
# South Africa Soil Moisture Improvements To Continue

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, February 27 (World Weather Inc.) – [A strong, slow-moving disturbance brought rain to much of South Africa during the past week easing a period of drier weather that had much of the west and north a little too dry. The rain was welcome, especially in Northern Cape and western sections of Free State and North West, which had been drying for the longest period of time.](#) Most locations received enough rain or had enough moisture to support either renewed growth and development or to sustain development that was still ongoing in the wetter areas. Early season harvesting may have been disrupted by the new rainfall. Alternating periods of rain and sunshine are expected through the next week to ten days perpetuating these conditions.

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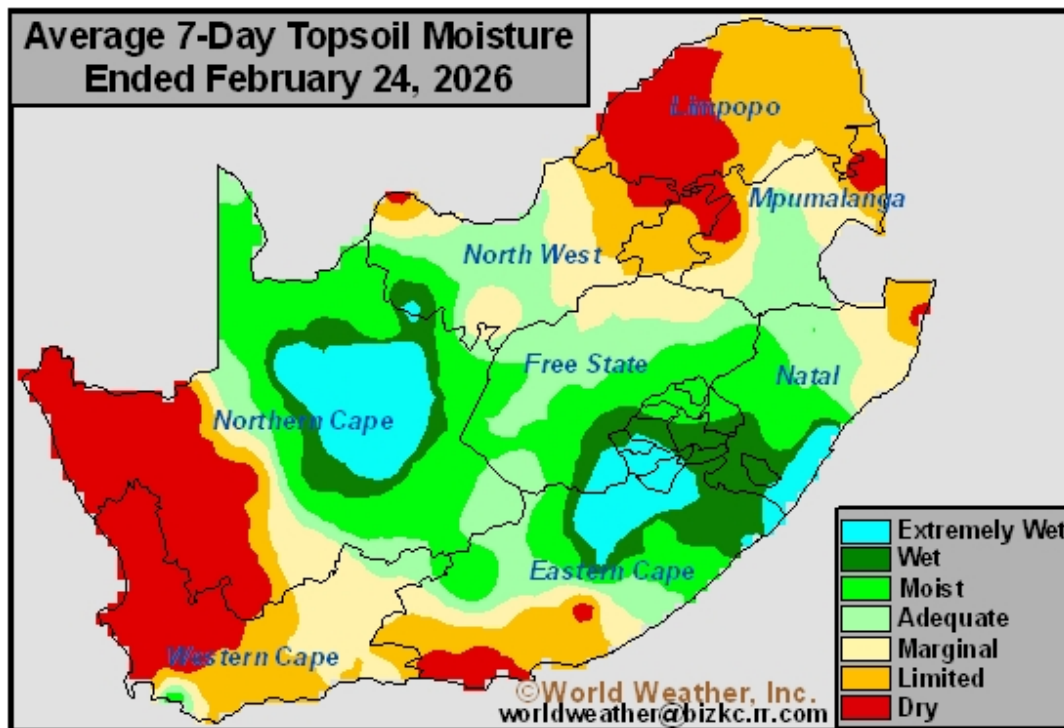
Northern Cape, Eastern Cape, and Natal received some of the most significant rain in South Africa during the past week. Moisture totals for the seven-day period ending Thursday ranged from 0.59 to 3.75 inches. Several areas in Free State, North West, and eastern Limpopo received 0.43 to 1.50 inches of rain with local amounts up to 2.56 inches. The remaining areas in South Africa generally received 0.20 to 1.14 inches of rain with pockets that were mostly dry.



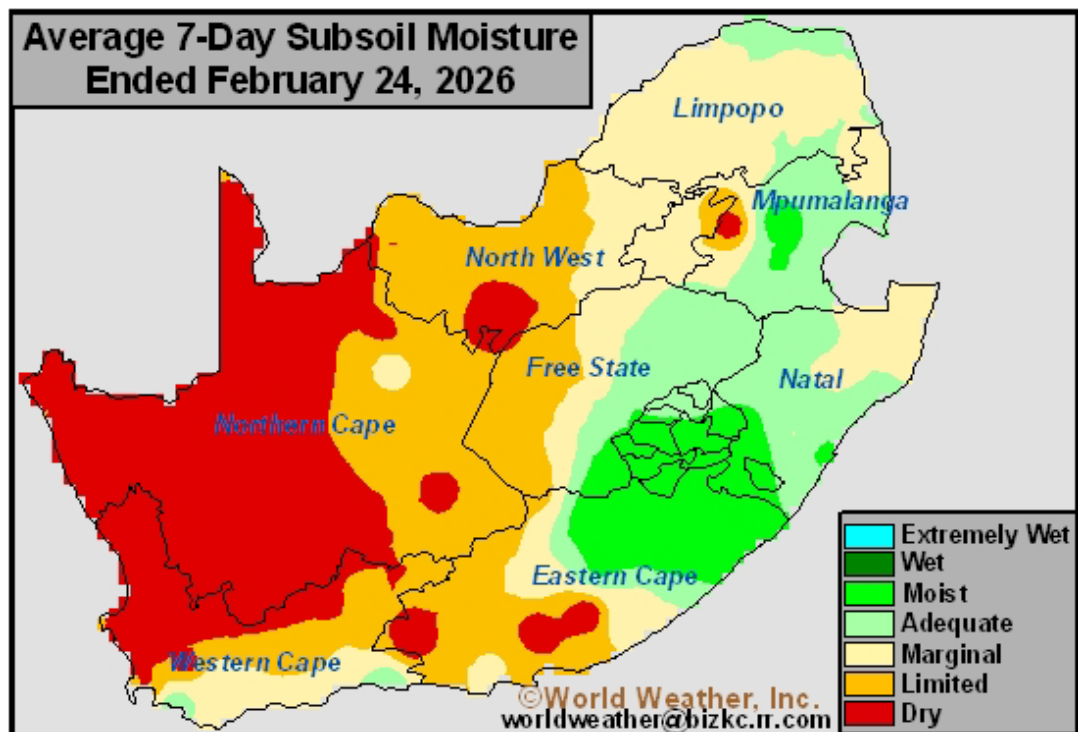
Recent rainfall in western and southern summer crop areas helped lift topsoil moisture to adequate or excessive levels in; however, many areas in extreme western South Africa and pockets in the northeast still have a shortage of topsoil moisture. Subsoil moisture is also still lacking in the western half of the country while areas farther east have adequate moisture.

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Coarse grains, oilseeds, cotton, and other crops grown in Northern Cape and western sections of Free State and North West reacted favorably from the recent rain. These areas were becoming too dry for ideal growth earlier this month prior to this recent precipitation. Dryland crops started to resume slow development, but now have ample moisture to support more aggressive growth. Other production areas in South Africa either received enough rain or had enough moisture to support relatively favorable conditions for ongoing development. The week's rainfall may have disrupted early season harvesting of peanuts and other crops. The bulk of harvesting for most crops comes a little later in autumn.



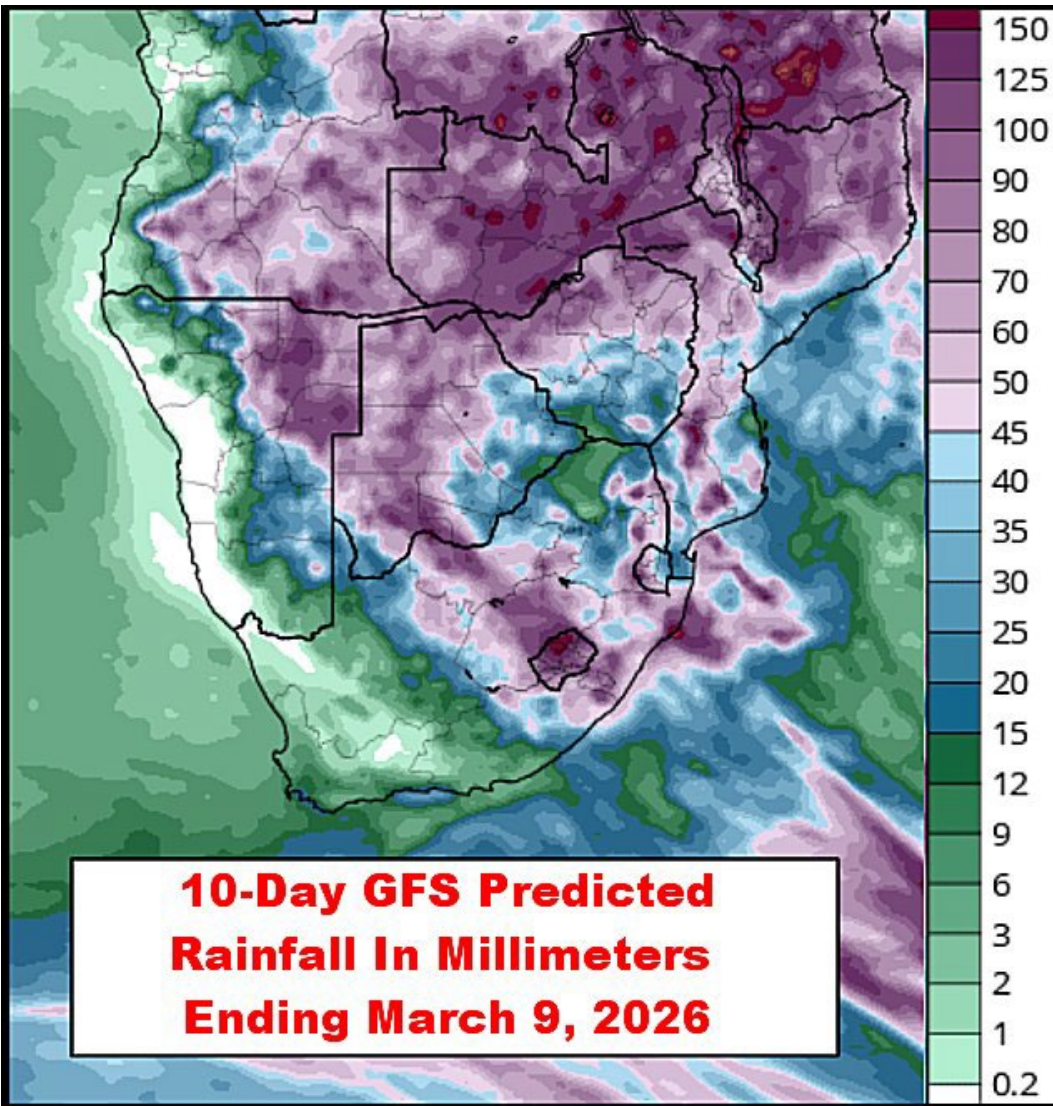
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### WEATHER OUTLOOK

South Africa will see a mix of erratic rain and sunshine during the coming week. Light rain will initially be scattered across portions of southern and eastern South Africa today and early Friday. A frontal boundary will promote more widespread rain late Friday and this weekend. Scattered showers will continue in the eastern half of the country at the beginning and middle of next week. Erratic rain could also reach Northern Cape and neighboring areas later Wednesday. Moisture totals by next Thursday morning will range from 0.50 to 2.00 inches with local amounts of 3.00 inches or slightly more in Natal, Mpumalanga, Limpopo, Gauteng, and eastern sections of Free State, North West, and Eastern Cape. Other areas in Eastern Cape, Free State, and North West into portions of Northern Cape will receive 0.25 to 1.50 inches of rain. Other areas in western South Africa will receive little to no rain. Much of South Africa will see a mix of erratic rain and sunshine March 6 – 12.

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The temperature profile will trend near normal for South Africa during the coming week. 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. Many areas in southern and eastern South Africa will also only warm to the upper 50s and 60s Sunday and the first part of next week. Low temperatures will be in the 50s and 60s with pockets in eastern and southern South Africa cooling to the 40s. Seasonable to seasonably warm weather is slated for much of South Africa March 6 – 12.

Additional rain during the coming weeks will limit drying or even slightly bolster soil moisture in a large section of crop country. The environment will remain good for aggressive growth for much of the coarse grains, oilseeds, and cotton. Production potentials will remain larger than usual.

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