

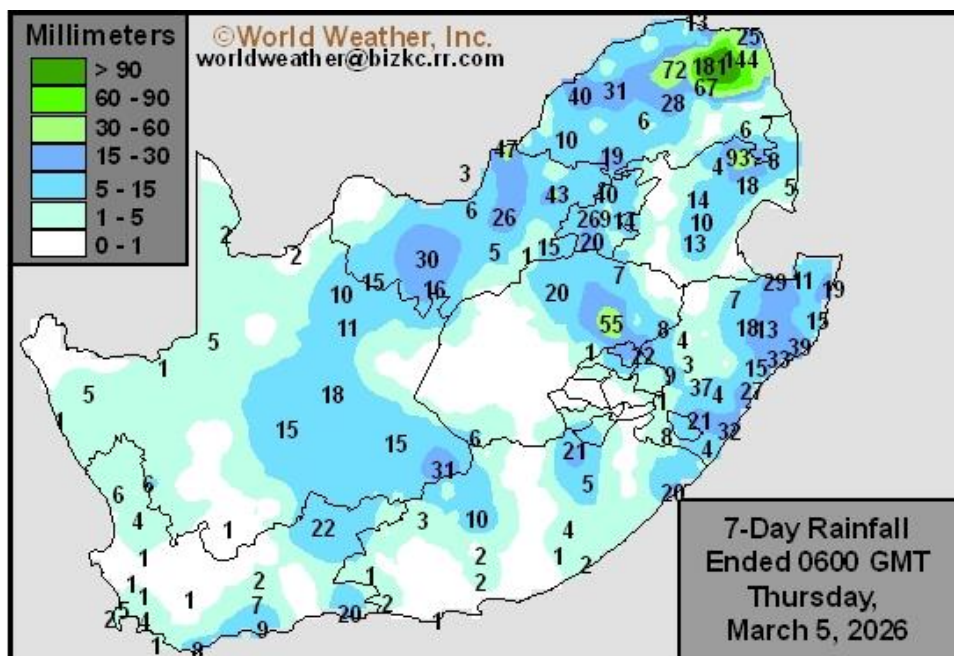
# South Africa Rain Will Maintain Favorable Late-Season Growth

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, March 5 (World Weather Inc.) – The main coarse grain, oilseed, and cotton areas in South Africa saw a good mix of rain and sunshine during the past week. Additional rain will occur today and Friday before a period of drier weather evolves this weekend into the middle of next week. The environment will remain favorable for aggressive late-season development despite the lack of significant follow-up rain after Friday. Maturation conditions will also start to improve for the earliest-planted crops once drier weather sets in. **Yield potentials will remain above normal despite the period of drier weather in the western production areas earlier in the growing season.**

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Alternating periods of erratic rain and sunshine were noted for much of South Africa during the past week. Moisture totals for the seven-day period ending this morning ranged from 0.39 to just over 2.00 inches with a few exceptions. Many areas in eastern Limpopo and pockets in northeastern Mpumalanga received up to 7.13 inches of rain. Many areas in Western Cape, western Northern Cape, and southern Eastern Cape also only received light amounts of rain or were dry. Soil moisture remains at adequate or marginally adequate levels in the main production areas, though portions of Northern Cape still have a shortage of moisture.

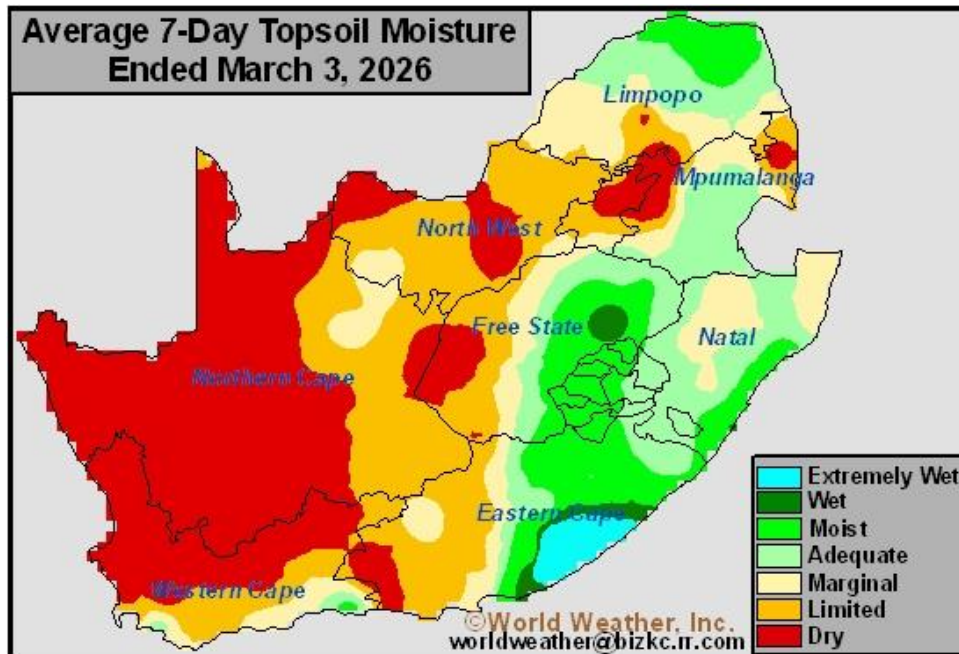


The environment remained generally favorable for the coarse grains, oilseeds, and cotton produced this time of year in South Africa during the past week. Most locations received enough rain or had enough moisture to support aggressive growth. While yield potentials were hurt in some of the western production areas earlier in the season due to dryness, overall yields are still expected to be larger than average.

A strong frontal boundary will promote some of the most widespread and significant rain for South Africa during the coming week today into Friday. Light rain will linger in

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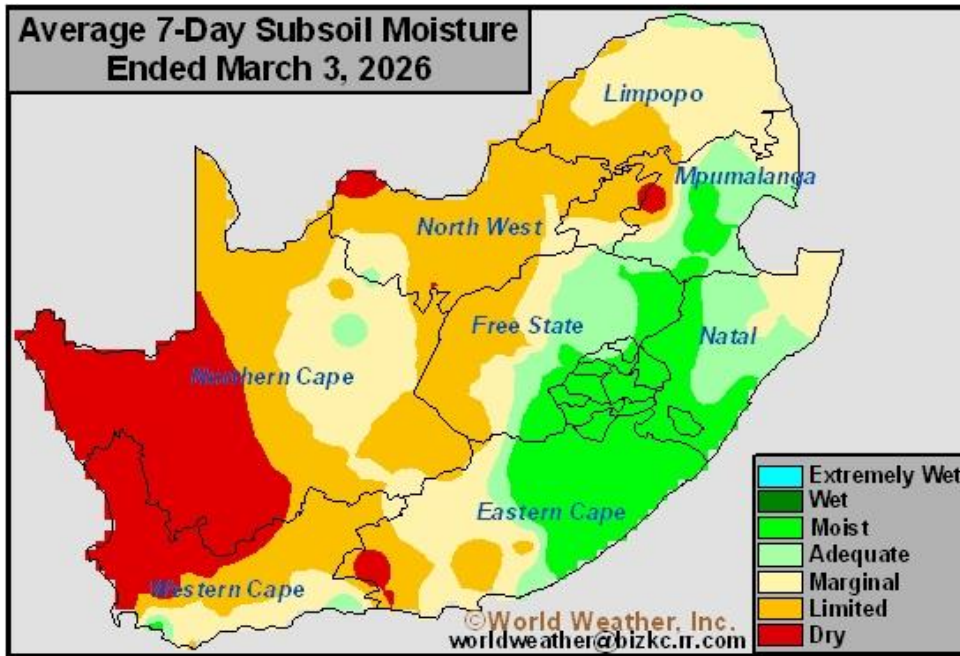
eastern South Africa over the weekend while areas farther west are mostly dry. Outside a few isolated showers, dry weather is slated for much of the country at the beginning and middle of next week. Moisture totals by next Thursday morning will range from 0.50 to 3.00 inches and locally greater amounts from eastern South Africa into Free State, North West, eastern Northern Cape, and portions of Eastern Cape. Other areas in western South Africa will be dry or not receive enough rain to counter evaporation. The main production areas in South Africa will then see a mix of mostly light rain and sunshine March 13 – 19.



The temperature profile will trend near or slightly above normal in South Africa during the coming week. Daytime highs will peak to the 70s and 80s Fahrenheit with a few exceptions. Many areas in the east and south will only warm to the upper 50s and 60s through the end of the weekend. Portions of western South Africa will also warm to the 90s next week. Low temperatures will be in the 50s and 60s with many areas in eastern and southern South Africa often cooling to the 40s. Seasonable to seasonably warm weather is slated for much of South Africa March 13 – 19.

Additional rain during the next few days will continue to support aggressive late-season development for much of South Africa. Most locations will have enough moisture for the crops through mid-March despite a lack of follow-up rain next week. Yield potentials will remain unchanged. Drier and warmer weather will also be welcome for the early-planted crops that will start maturing later this month.

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