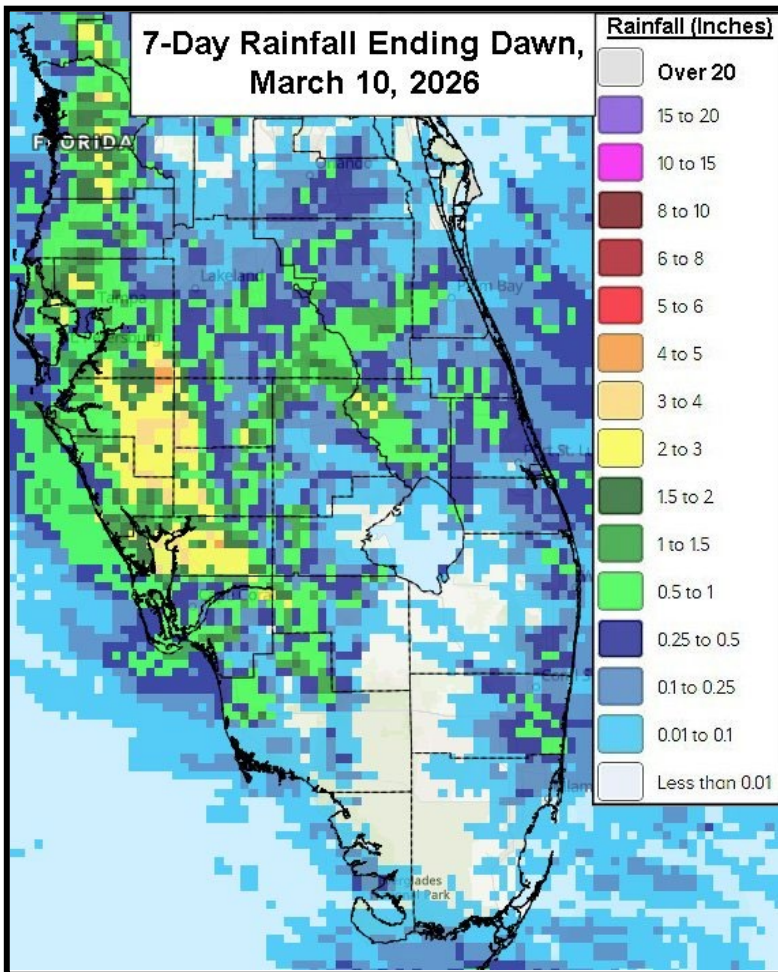


Weekly Citrus Weather

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, March 10 (World Weather Inc.) – The northwest corner of citrus country in Florida received significant rainfall during the past week while lighter rain totals were noted elsewhere. Rainfall likely supplemented irrigation while also potentially impacting the harvest. Drought is ongoing and the need for significant rain is high. The main citrus areas will have several opportunities for rain in the coming days that will chip away at the drought. Additional rain will be needed to completely fix the moisture deficits. Brazil's citrus areas will also see significant rainfall during the coming week that will support good citrus conditions. In Mexico, many areas in east-central Mexico will receive timely rain that will support good flowering and fruit setting. Northeastern and western Mexico will see periods of light rain, though more will be needed.

FLORIDA



Rainfall varied across the main citrus areas in Florida during the past week. Hillsborough, Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte, and western Hardee and De Soto Counties received 1.00 to 4.00 inches of rain for the seven-day period ending this morning. Other locations received 0.10 to 1.00 inch of rain with drier pockets in southern fringes of citrus country. Rainfall was welcome where it fell and likely supplemented irrigation. However, drought is prevalent across the region and much more rain is needed for ideal flowering, fruit setting, and general development. Harvesting and general farming activity may have been sluggish in the wettest locations.

Seasonably warm weather was noted in much of

Florida during the past week. Daytime highs peaked to the 80s Fahrenheit most days with pockets in recent days warming to the lower 90s. Many areas also only warmed to the mid- or upper-70s March 3. Nighttime lows were in the 60s and lower 70s.

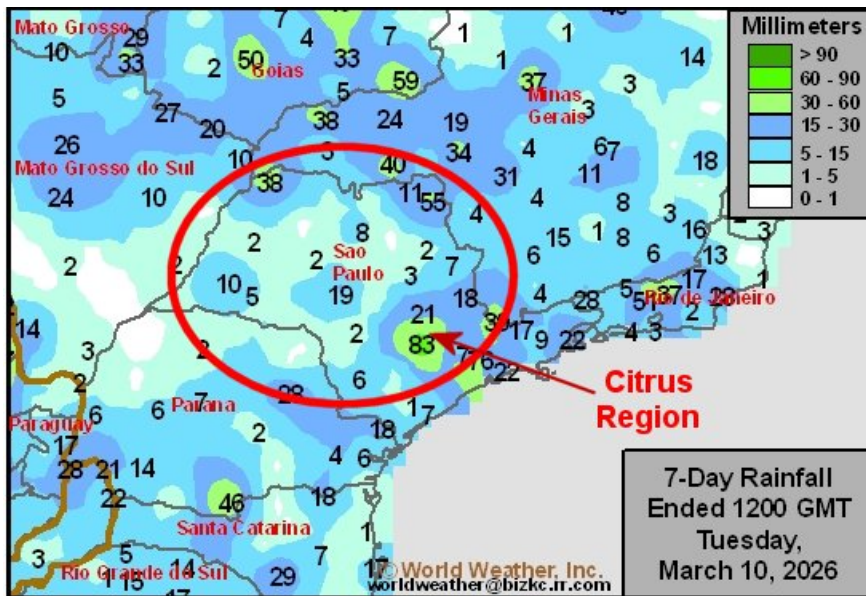
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Florida will see a significant increase in rainfall during the coming week. High pressure will initially limit precipitation today and Wednesday. A frontal boundary will generate scattered showers Thursday and Friday. Another frontal boundary will generate more significant rain over the weekend and early next week. Moisture totals by next Tuesday morning will range from 0.50 to 3.00 inches and locally more. Rain will help improve the moisture profile, though not enough will fall to fix the drought. Precipitation will still supplement irrigation and promote relatively good conditions for citrus flowering and fruit setting. Harvesting and general farming activity may be sluggish during the wettest periods.

Temperatures will remain warm through Thursday ahead of the frontal boundaries. Daytime highs will reach the 80s and lower 90s while low temperatures through Friday morning are in the 60s and lower 70s. More seasonable temperatures will then occur for the remainder of the coming week with highs dropping to the 70s and lower 80s. Many areas may also only warm to the 60s next Tuesday. Low temperatures over the weekend and early next week will be in the upper 50s and 60s with colder pockets possible next Tuesday.

BRAZIL

The main citrus areas in Brazil saw a mix of erratic rain and sunshine during the past week. Northern and eastern Sao Paulo and southwestern Minas Gerais received 0.43 to 2.17 inches of rain with a local amount of 3.27 inches in southeastern Sao Paulo. Other areas in Sao Paulo received trace amounts to 0.75 inch of rain. Temperatures were warm with highest readings in the upper 80s and 90s. Lowest temperatures were in the 50s and 60s. Citrus conditions were generally favorable, though the driest areas in Sao Paulo would benefit from a boost in rain later this month.



Sao Paulo and southwestern Minas Gerais will have several opportunities for rain during the coming week. A disturbance will promote scattered showers and isolated storms through Thursday. Another disturbance will continue to generate rain Friday and Saturday before drier weather evolves later this weekend and

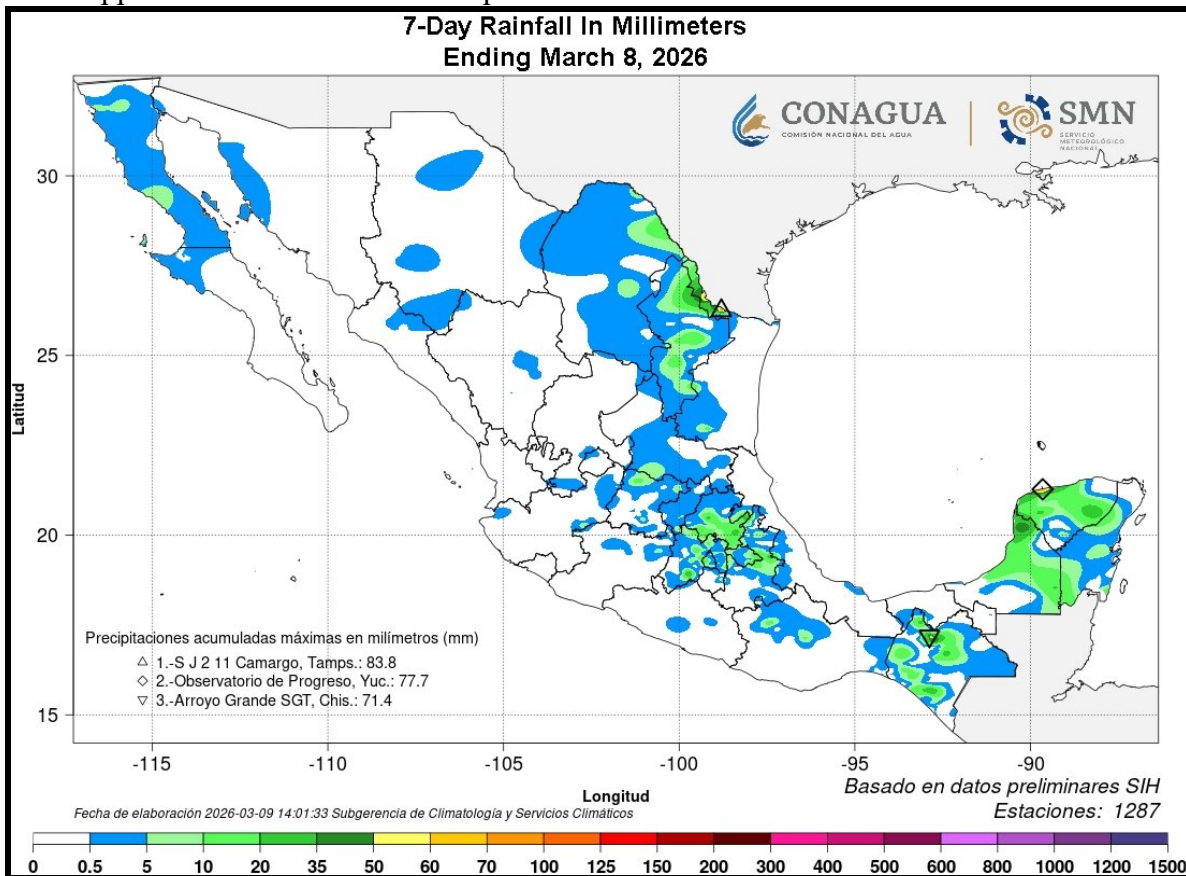
early next week. Moisture totals by next Tuesday morning will range from 0.75 to 3.00 inches with local amounts over 4.00 inches in northern Sao Paulo and southwestern Minas Gerais. Temperatures will be near normal with daytime highs in the upper 70s and 80s. Pockets in western Sao Paulo could also warm to the lower 90s early next week. Low temperatures will be in the 60s and 70s.

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More frequent and significant rain will bolster or keep soil moisture at adequate to excessive levels in Sao Paulo and southwestern Minas Gerais. Citrus development conditions will remain relatively favorable across the region.

MEXICO

Spotty rain was noted in portions of Puebla, northern Oaxaca, San Luis Potosi, Nuevo Leon, and western Tamaulipas during the past week. Moisture totals for the seven-day period ending March 8 only ranged from trace amounts to 0.39 inch with local amounts up to 0.75 inch. Other production areas in east-central, northeastern, and western Mexico received little to no rain. Temperatures were often warmer than usual with highest readings in the upper 80s and 90s. Lowest temperatures were in the 50s and 60s.



The need for more significant rain is growing across the main citrus areas in northeastern, east-central, and western Mexico. Trees usually flower in February and March, especially in the east.

Mexico's citrus areas will see a mix of erratic rain and sunshine during the coming week. A weak frontal boundary will initially generate spotty rain in portions of east-central and western Mexico later Wednesday into Friday. Isolated showers will continue for a few locations Saturday and early Sunday. A stronger frontal boundary will promote more widespread rain late Sunday and Monday. Moisture totals by next Tuesday morning will range from 0.50 to 2.00 inches with local amounts of 3.00 inches or slightly more in Veracruz, Puebla, and Oaxaca. Northeastern Mexico and other areas in western Mexico will receive trace amounts to 0.50 inch of rain. Temperatures will be warm through Sunday with

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daytime highs in the 80s and 90s. More seasonable temperatures will evolve early next week with highs in the 70s and 80s for much of citrus country. Low temperatures will be in the 50s and 60s with pockets only cooling to the lower 70s.

Rainfall will be welcome where it occurs during the coming week, most notably in Veracruz, Puebla, and Oaxaca. Flowering and fruit setting conditions will improve or remain favorable. Other locations in Mexico will need more significant rain later this month for ideal citrus conditions.

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