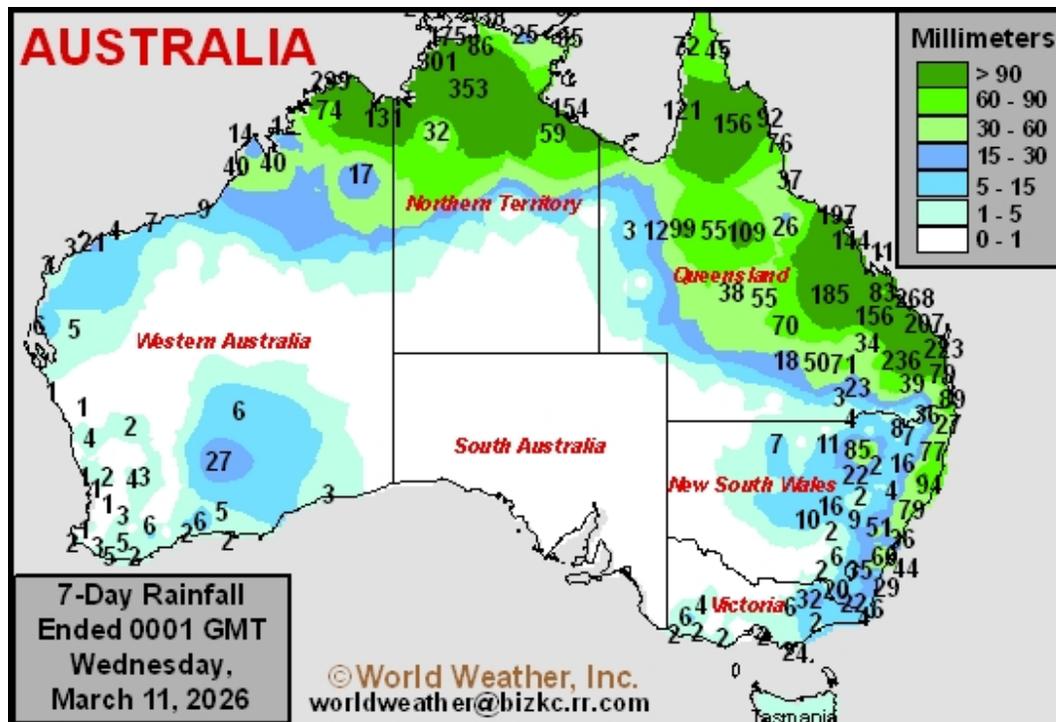


Australia Summer Crop Production Hurt By Hot, Dry Summer

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, March 11 (World Weather Inc.) – [A weak tropical weather system brought rain to Queensland during the past week. Some of the precipitation was excessive and resulted in flooding that damaged open boll cotton quality and raised concern about sucrose levels in some of the sugarcane produced along the coast. Other early maturing coarse grain and oilseed crop maturation and harvesting was also disrupted.](#) The remainder of eastern Australia summer crop areas experienced dry or net drying conditions during the past week. [Precipitation will be limited for much of eastern Australia through the middle of next week resulting in improved crop maturation and harvest conditions in the wettest areas of Queensland. New South Wales and Victoria will also experience a good environment for early season crop maturation and harvesting.](#)

Much of Queensland outside the extreme southern production areas received varying amounts of rain during the past week, primarily due to remnants of a weak tropical disturbance. Central and southeastern Queensland received 0.71 to 2.75 inches of rain for the seven-day period ending this morning while eastern coastal areas of Queensland reported 3.00 to 10.50 inches. Extreme southwestern and south-central Queensland was otherwise dry or mostly dry. A few locations in central New South Wales and southwestern Victoria received up to 0.39 inch of rain while other locations in eastern Australia were mostly dry. South Australia was also dry while pockets in Western Australia received up to 0.24 inch of moisture.

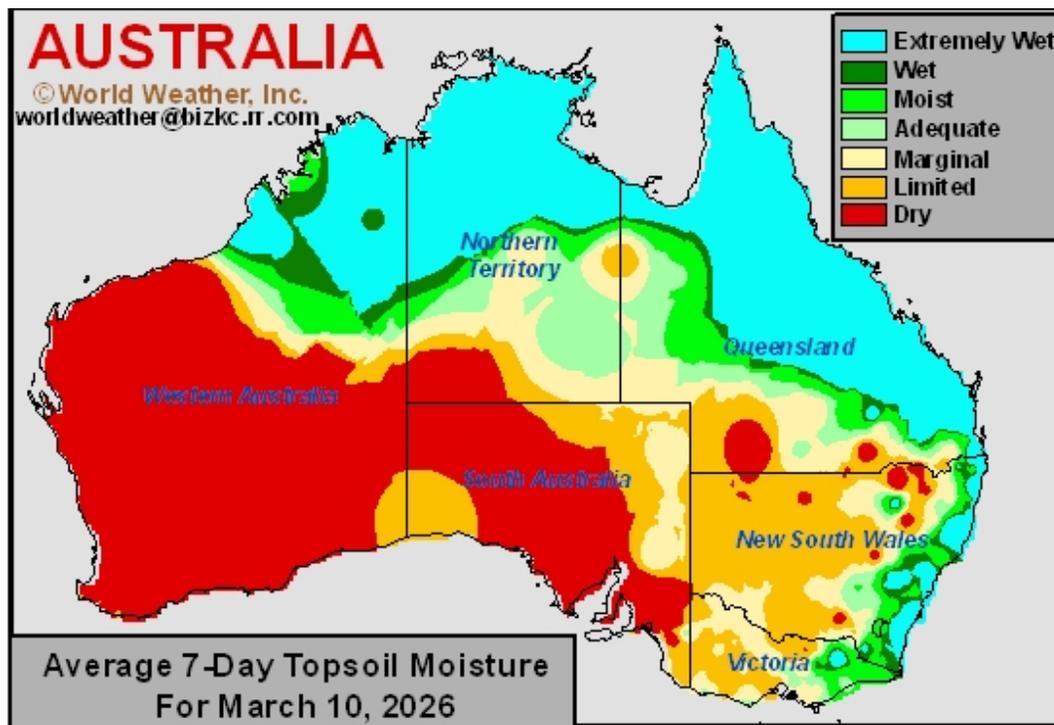


Rainfall during the past week bolstered soil moisture in much of southeastern and central Queensland. Cotton fiber quality was likely compromised in areas where the crop

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was in the open boll stage of development. Flooding was also noted along the Queensland coastline where the greatest rain resulted. Minor damage to sugarcane was suspected in the wettest locations, although improving weather over the next ten days will allow some recovery. Soil moisture remains short to very short in most other summer crop production areas of Australia.

Overall, production for the summer coarse grain, oilseeds, and cotton is expected to be lower than the previous five-year average according to ABARES. A period of warmer and hotter than usual conditions over the growing season, including record-breaking heat in portions of Victoria, negatively impacted development. Spotty rain since then was not enough to reverse the impacts from the hot and dry weather. Recent rain in Queensland may have also slowed or delayed maturation and early-season harvesting of the early-planted crops.



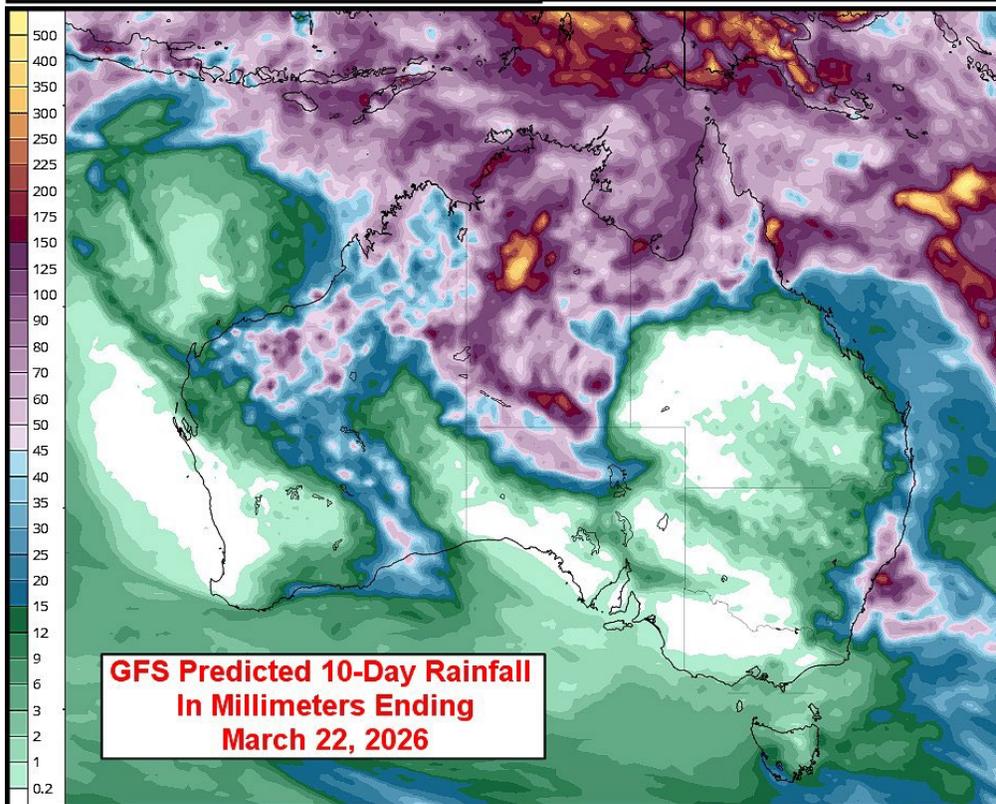
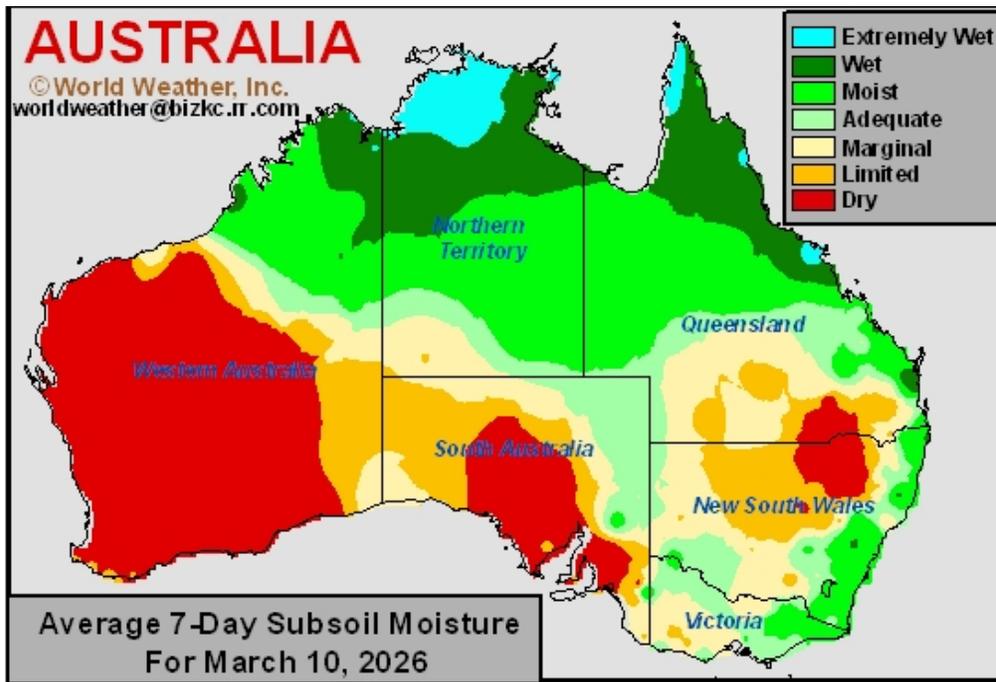
WEATHER OUTLOOK

Precipitation will be limited for a large section of Australia's main production areas through the middle of next week. Spotty rain will still occur in portions of New South Wales and Queensland over the weekend and the first part of next week as a disorganized disturbance advances over central Australia. A few pockets will receive 0.25 to 0.75 inch of rain by next Wednesday morning. However, most locations will not receive enough rain to counter evaporation. South Australia will be mostly dry while a few light showers occur in portions of Western Australia during the next few days. These areas will receive trace amounts to 0.50 inch of rain with local totals to 1.00 inch. Precipitation will again be limited for eastern Australia March 19-25, though brief periods of light rain cannot be ruled out.

The lack of rain will help firm the ground in Queensland in the coming weeks. Maturation and harvest conditions will slowly improve as the ground firms. New South

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Wales and Victoria will also experience favorable conditions for maturation and early-season harvesting; however, late season crops will need some timely rain especially in unirrigated fields.



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