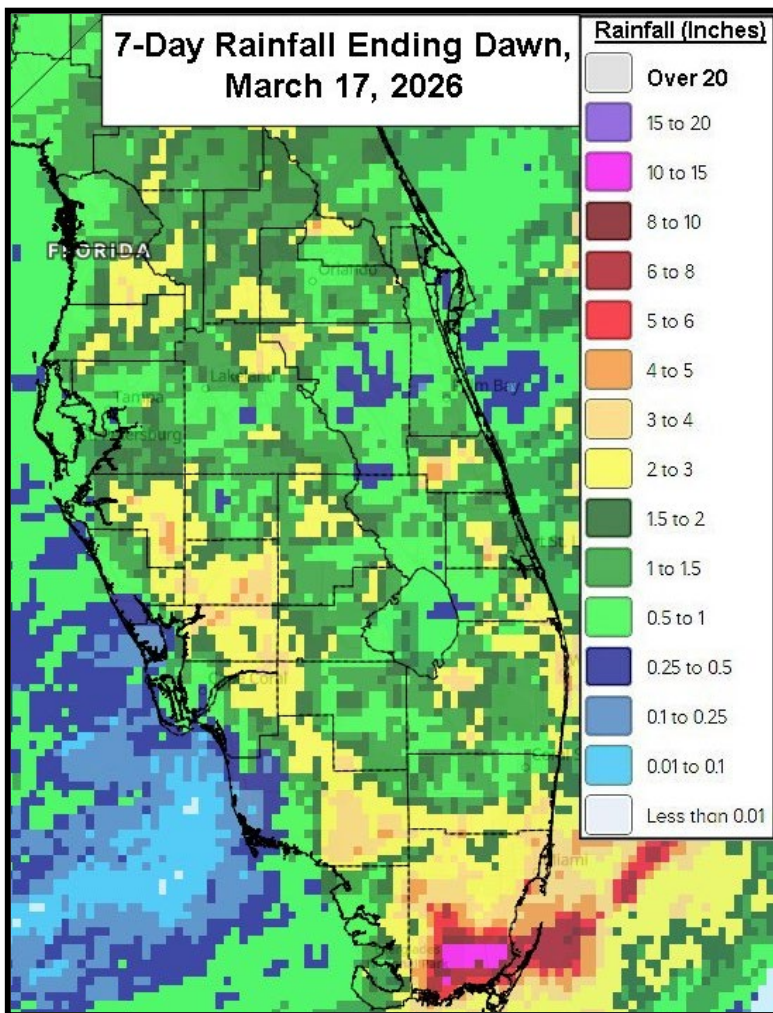


Weekly Citrus Weather

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, March 17 (World Weather Inc.) – **Florida's** main citrus areas received significant rainfall during the past week. **Resulting rain was too light to completely fix the drought, but was still beneficial for the citrus that is flowering or setting fruit.** Drier weather will return during the coming week and most areas will gradually dry down. The need for timely rain will increase late this month into April as more of the citrus is flowering and setting fruit. Harvesting and general farming activity will advance swiftly. In **Brazil**, the main citrus areas saw a good mix of rain and sunshine during the past week. With more rain on the way during the coming week, citrus conditions will remain favorable. **Mexico's** citrus areas will receive varying amounts of rain during the coming week. **Northeastern Mexico will be driest and would benefit from increased rainfall.**

FLORIDA



Rain was often scattered across the main citrus areas of Florida during the past week. Moisture totals for the seven-day period ending this morning ranged from 0.50 to 3.00 inches with local amounts of 4.00 inches or slightly more for counties along the Gulf and Atlantic coastlines. Recent rainfall likely improved the moisture profile, though additional rain will be needed to completely fix the drought that evolved over the winter. Precipitation likely supplemented irrigation for the citrus that is flowering and setting fruit. Harvesting of the previous season's crop and general farming activity may have otherwise advanced slowly during the wettest period.

Temperatures were near to above normal in Florida during the past week despite the periods of rain.

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Daytime highs peaked in the 80s and lower 90s Fahrenheit with many areas only warming to the middle or upper 70s March 13. Nighttime lows were in the upper 50s and 60s most days, though lows this morning dropped to the 40s and lower 50s.

Precipitation will be limited for Florida during the coming week. Light rain will still be scattered across a few locations in southern fringes of citrus country today. Spotty rain will also occur late Thursday into Friday, generally for areas near the Atlantic Ocean. Little to no rain will fall most other days. The rain that does occur will be too light to counter evaporation. Residual moisture from recent rainfall combined with irrigation will support flowering and fruit setting, though the need for significant rain will increase later this month and early April to reverse the drying trend. Harvesting and general farming activity will advance swiftly.

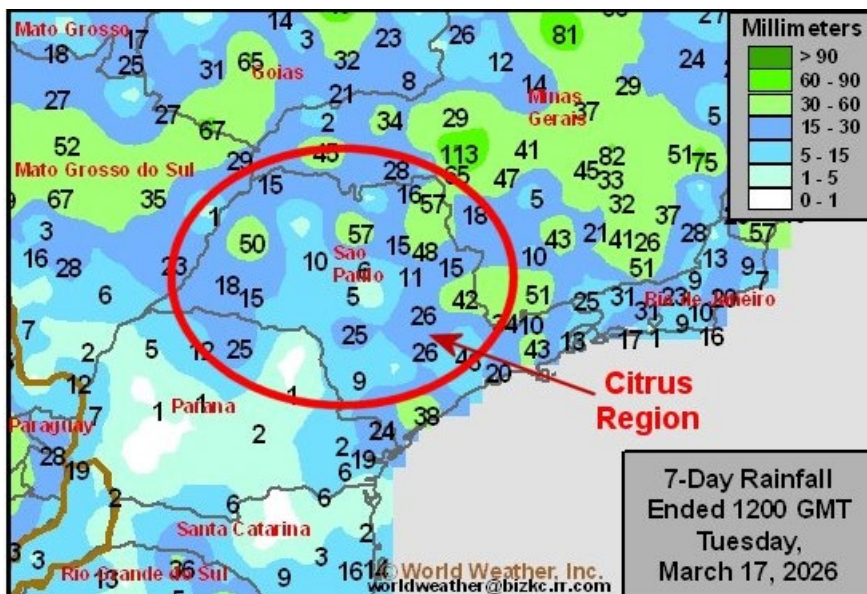
Florida will experience mild temperatures during the next few days before warming near or slightly above normal later in the forecast period. Daytime highs today into Thursday will be in the 60s and lower 70s with pockets only warming to the 50s today. Highs Friday and Saturday will increase to the 70s before increasing further from the mid-70s to mid-80s Sunday and the first part of next week. Low temperatures will be in the 40s and lower 50s through Saturday with pockets cooling to the upper 30s Wednesday. Lows Sunday will be in the 50s before increasing to the upper 50s and 60s early next week.

BRAZIL

Brazil's citrus areas saw a mix of erratic rain and sunshine during the past week. Moisture totals for the seven-day period ending this morning ranged from 0.39 to 2.25 inches. Temperatures were slightly above normal with highest readings in the upper 80s and 90s. Lowest temperatures were in the upper 50s and 60s. Waves of rain and warm weather

supported a good environment for aggressive citrus growth.

Sao Paulo and southwestern Minas Gerais will see a mix of erratic rain and sunshine during the coming week. Much of the rain will occur through Saturday in part due to a slow-moving disturbance. Drier weather will evolve later this weekend and early next week. Moisture

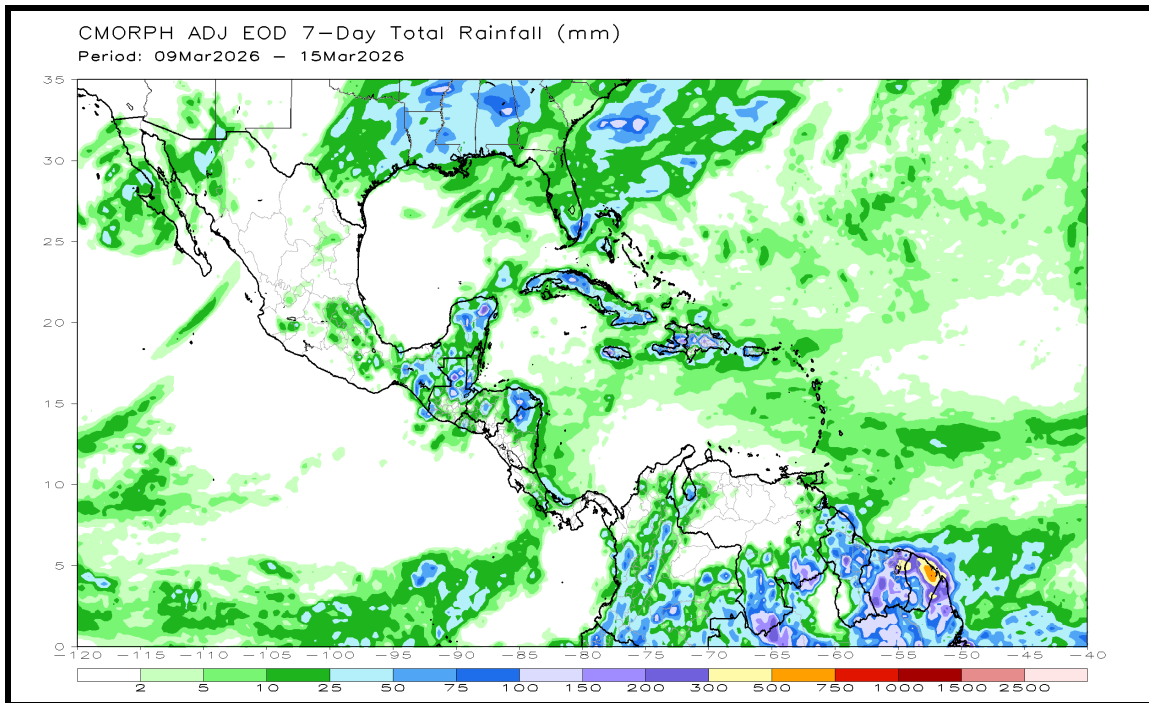


totals by next Tuesday morning will range from 0.50 to 2.00 inches with drier pockets in southeastern Sao Paulo. Temperatures will be near or slightly above normal with daytime highs in the 80s and lower 90s. Low temperatures will be in the 60s and lower 70s. The environment will remain favorable for aggressive citrus growth in most locations.

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MEXICO

Veracruz, Puebla, and northern Oaxaca saw a mix of spotty rain and sunshine during the past week. Moisture totals for the seven-day period ending March 15 ranged from trace amounts to 1.00 inch with locally greater amounts possible. Northeastern Mexico and other production areas in western Mexico received little to no rain. Temperatures were often warmer than usual with highest readings in the upper 80s and 90s. Portions of northeastern Mexico also warmed above 100 degrees at times. Lowest temperatures were in the 50s and 60s.



The rain was welcome where it occurred during the past week in much of east-central Mexico and northern Oaxaca. Rainfall was too light to significantly improve the moisture profile and much more is needed in the coming weeks. Spotty rain earlier this year has likely supported some flowering. However, the main citrus areas are in need of more frequent rain for ideal flowering, fruit setting, and general development.

Northeastern Mexico will be mostly dry during the coming week as a high-pressure ridge builds over western North America. Scattered showers will otherwise make their way from east-central into western Mexico's citrus areas on a frequent basis. Some of the most widespread and significant rain will occur through Thursday and again early next week. Moisture totals by next Tuesday morning will range from 0.50 to 2.00 inches with locally greater amounts in Veracruz, Puebla, and Oaxaca. Michoacan and Colima will receive 0.10 to 0.75 inch of rain and locally greater amounts. Temperatures will be mild today with highs in the 70s and 80s and pockets in the 60s. Warmer air will settle over the region for the remainder of the coming week with highs increasing to the 80s and 90s in most locations.

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Low temperatures will be in the 50s and 60s with pockets in east-central and western Mexico only cooling to the 70s.

Rainfall in east-central and western Mexico will be well-timed for citrus flowering and fruit setting. These areas will need additional rain later this month and early April as more trees flower. Northeastern Mexico will also need to see rain increase later this month and early April to support better flowering, fruit setting and general development.

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