

RMD – Shortened USDA Weekly Weather/Crop Conditions Report: 19 December 2024

December 8 – 14, provided by USDA/WAOB

International Weather and Crop Summary

HIGHLIGHTS

EUROPE: Widespread showers continued over much of Europe, with chilly conditions in the southwest contrasting with abnormal warmth in the southeast.

MIDDLE EAST: Variable showers but warmer temperatures prevailed over northern growing areas, though cold conditions lingered in eastern Iran.

NORTHWESTERN AFRICA: Despite the arrival of cooler weather, drought intensified across Morocco and western Algeria.

SOUTHEAST ASIA: Downpours continued to soak portions of the region.

AUSTRALIA: Rain in the northeast maintained soil moisture for summer crops, while mostly dry weather elsewhere favored winter grain harvesting.

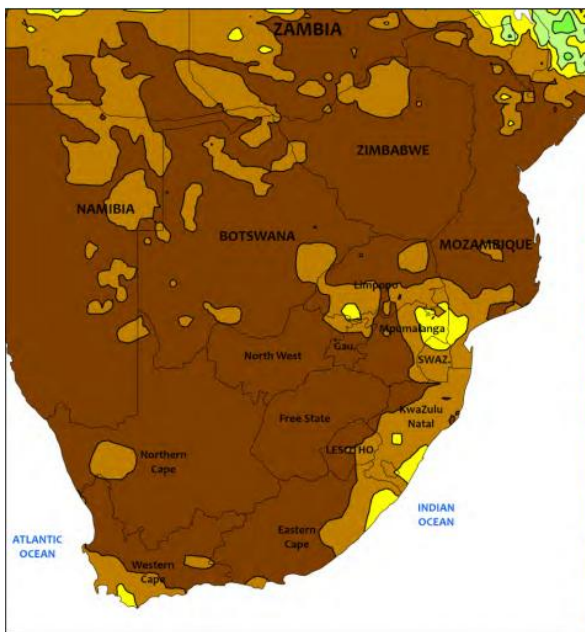
SOUTH AFRICA: Mostly dry and hot weather continued, with only pockets of light, scattered showers in the eastern corn belt and coastal areas of KwaZulu-Natal and Eastern Cape.

ARGENTINA: Warm, showery weather benefited emerging summer crops.

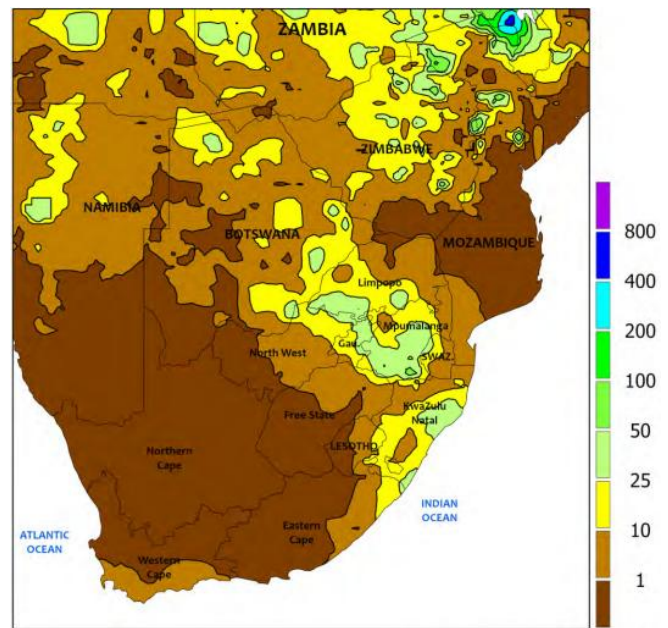
BRAZIL: Conditions remained overall favorable for soybeans and other summer crops, despite a reduction in rainfall in key production areas.



SOUTH AFRICA



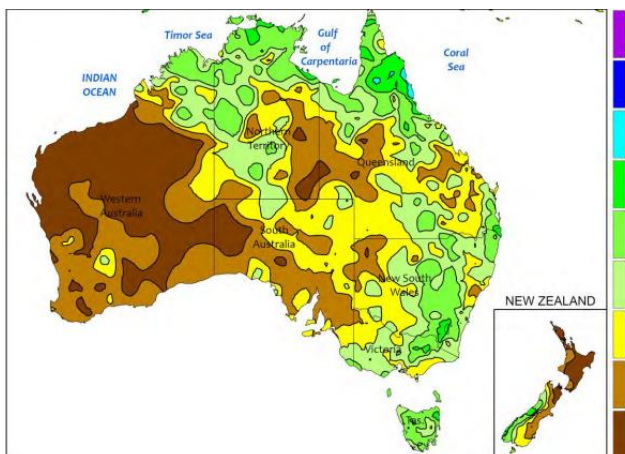
Previous Image - Total mm



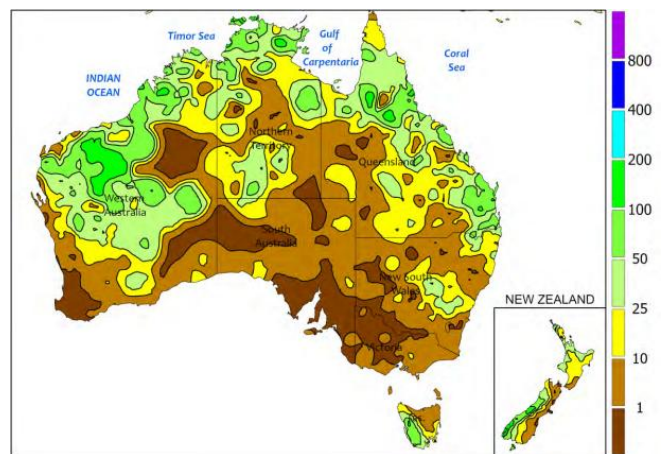
New Image - Total mm

Hot and mostly dry weather dominated much of the corn belt where daytime highs reached the upper 30s to lower 40s (degrees C). Temperatures continued to be 3 to 5°C above normal for the aforementioned region. Rainfall totaled 25 to 50 mm in some small areas around Mpumalanga, Gauteng, and coastal areas of KwaZulu-Natal. Northern North West to western Limpopo and down to the borders of Eswatini received 10 to 25 mm of rain. Due to the lack of sufficient rain and high temperatures, any corn planted in northwest KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng will be stressed. More rain is desperately needed in North West and Free State for germination. Elsewhere, hot, sunny weather spurred rapid growth of irrigated crops.

AUSTRALIA



Previous Image - Total mm

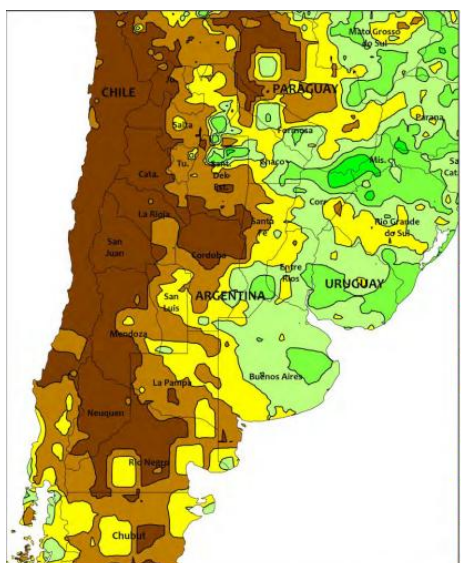


New Image - Total mm

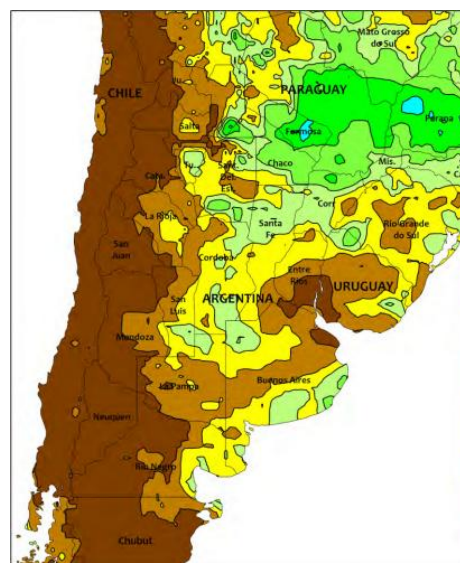
Widespread showers (10-50 mm, locally more) persisted over southern Queensland and parts of New South Wales, maintaining near- to above-normal soil moisture for summer crops. The rain continued to slow fieldwork, including additional sorghum planting, but the wet weather had a negligible impact on winter crop harvesting, which has concluded in most northern locations. Elsewhere in the wheat belt, mostly dry weather in Victoria, South Australia, and Western Australia favoured winter crop harvesting. Approximately 90 percent of the grain reportedly has been harvested in the west, while nearly two-thirds has been collected in the southeast. Hot weather (temperatures averaging 2-5°C above normal) in Western Australia sped the dry down of mature winter grains, with maximum temperatures primarily in the upper 30s and lower 40s degrees C. In

the south and east, temperatures were generally seasonable, with maxima mainly in the lower to middle 30s degrees C.

ARGENTINA



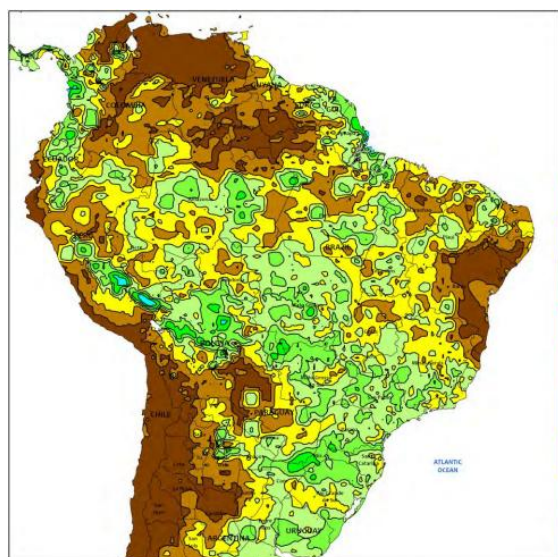
Previous Image - Total mm



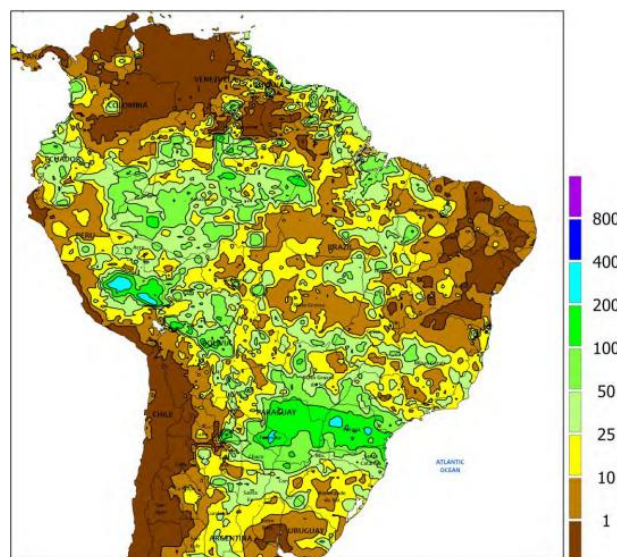
New Image - Total mm

Conditions remained overall favourable for emerging summer crops throughout the region. Although drier weather returned to the lower Paraná River Valley (northern Buenos Aires and environs), sunny skies and temperatures capped in the lower 30s (degrees C) benefited emerging and vegetative crops following several weeks of ample rain. Light to moderate rainfall (10-50 mm, locally higher) continued elsewhere in central Argentina, accompanied by temperatures ranging from the upper 20s to the middle 30s. Meanwhile, moderate to heavy rain (25 to locally more than 100 mm) overspread northern Argentina and reached northward into Paraguay, greatly increasing moisture reserves for cotton and other summer crops. Weekly temperatures averaged 1 to 3°C below normal across the north, although highest daytime temperatures still reached the middle and upper 30s. According to the government of Argentina, corn and soybeans were 68 and 66 percent planted, respectively, as of December 12. Additionally, cotton was 77 percent planted, while wheat and barley were 59 and 25 percent harvested, respectively.

BRAZIL



Previous Image - Total mm



New Image - Total mm

Warm, showery weather maintained overall favourable prospects for soybeans and other summer crops, although rainfall tapered off from last week's levels in several states. In southern Brazil, moderate to heavy rain (25-100 mm) fell in Paraná, southern Mato Grosso do Sul, and western São Paulo. Pockets of dryness (amounts totalling below 10 mm) prevailed elsewhere, however, including large sections of Rio Grande do Sul, which has already experienced several periods of extended dryness this season. Highest daytime temperatures ranged from the upper 20s to lower 30s (degrees C) in the aforementioned areas, promoting rapid growth of summer crops without the addition of stressful heat. According to the government of Paraná, first-crop corn and soybeans were 78 and 60 percent flowering or filling, respectively, as of December 9. In Rio Grande do Sul, corn was 92 percent planted as of December 12, with over 60 percent reproductive or filling; meanwhile 90 percent of soybeans were planted, with the earliest planted crops in or nearing reproduction. Farther north, warm, showery weather maintained overall favourable conditions for emerging to vegetative soybeans. In Mato Grosso, which has recorded abundant rainfall after a late start to the rainy season, the relatively light rain (amounts totalling below 10 mm in spots) and summer warmth (daytime highs reaching the lower and middle 30s) favoured development of soybeans in need of increased sunshine.

Source:

Highlights provided by USDA/WAOB. This report is a shortened version of the Weekly USDA report.

Full report - <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/wwcb.pdf>

Compiled by DJF