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RMD – Shortened USDA Weekly Weather/Crop Conditions Report: 3 Dec 25

November 23 – 29, provided by USDA/WAOB

International Weather and Crop Summary

HIGHLIGHTS

EUROPE: Cold and unsettled weather continued over much of Europe, though warmer-than-normal conditions lingered in southeasternmost portions of the continent.

MIDDLE EAST: Rain in western Turkey contrasted with increasingly dry conditions over Iran.

NORTHWEST AFRICA: Dry weather in Morocco juxtaposed with additional showers from north-central Algeria into northern Tunisia.

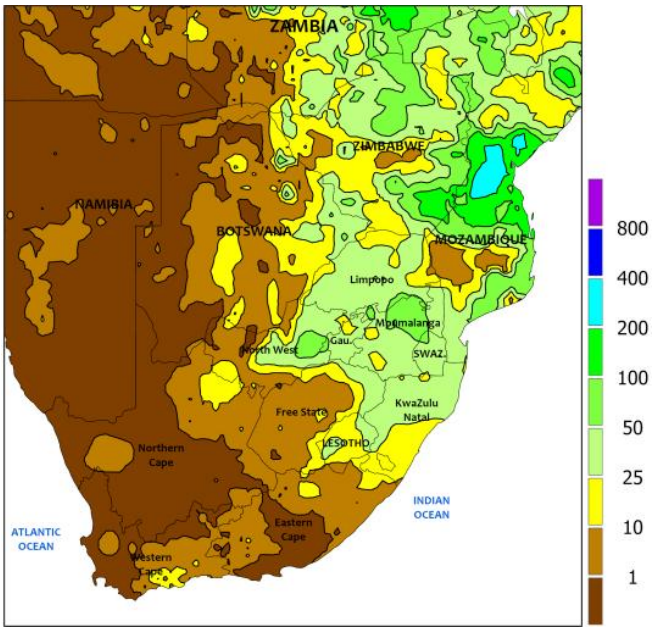
AUSTRALIA: Sunny skies prevailed over most of the country's primary winter crop areas, with cool temperatures in the west giving way to extreme heat in parts of eastern Australia.

SOUTH AFRICA: Widespread warm and rainy weather continued, maintaining favorable moisture for much of the corn belt and coastal sugarcane regions of KwaZulu-Natal.

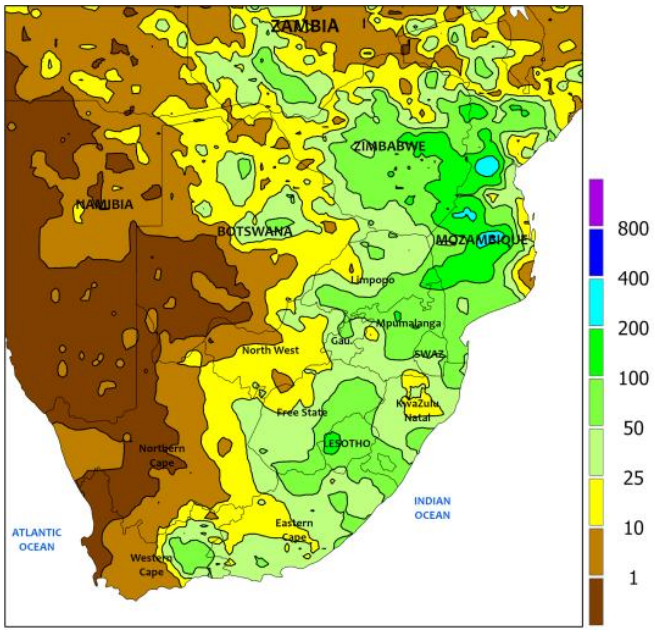
ARGENTINA: Drier weather dominated the region, reducing moisture for summer crop germination.

BRAZIL: Scattered showers persisted across most of the region; however, southern Brazil experienced limited moisture as summer grains and oilseeds began their reproductive stage.

SOUTH AFRICA



Previous Image - Total mm



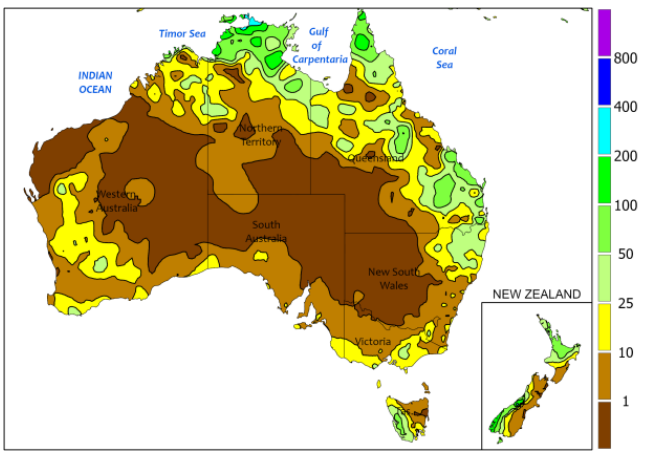
New Image - Total mm

Widespread beneficial rain continued this week across much of the Corn Belt and the KwaZulu-Natal coastal sugarcane belt. Rainfall generally ranged from 10–50 mm, with some localised areas receiving up to 100 mm.

Temperatures varied considerably across the region. The Corn Belt was cooler than normal, with deviations of 1–3 °C below average and daytime highs mostly in the upper 20s to mid-30s °C. In contrast, western parts of the country were warmer than usual (1–4 °C above average), with maximum temperatures reaching the mid- to upper 30s °C.

In the Western Cape, sunny and warm conditions persisted, speeding up the drying-down of wheat crops while supporting strong development in tree crops and vineyards.

AUSTRALIA



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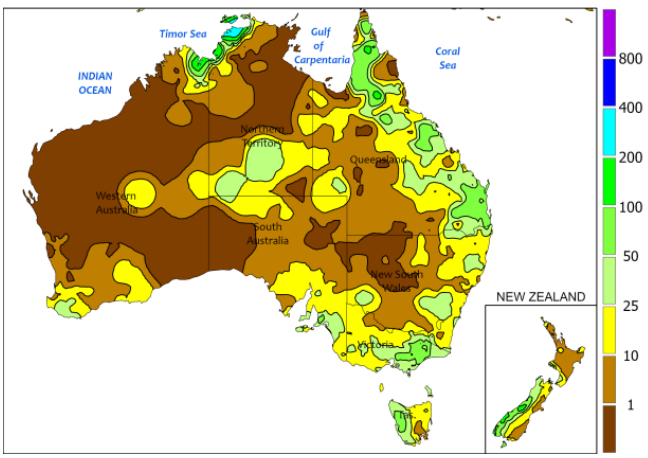


New Image - Total mm

Mostly dry conditions dominated the main grain-growing regions during the reporting period. A large high-pressure system delivered clear skies and stable weather across Western Australia and from central New South Wales into southern Queensland.

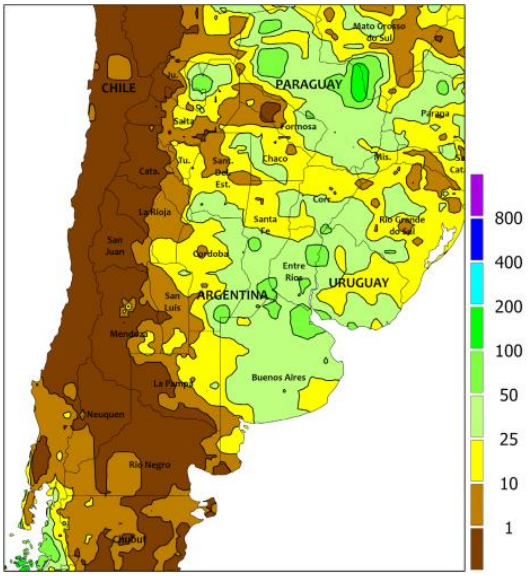
In the east, extreme heat affected northern New South Wales and southern Queensland, with maximum temperatures of 35–39°C. This likely caused heat stress to late-maturing winter wheat, barley, and canola crops. By contrast, Western Australia experienced cooler-than-average conditions (up to 5°C below normal), which were close to ideal for crop dry-down and harvest operations.

Useful rainfall was limited:

- Light to moderate showers (1–15 mm in southern SA, 5–30 mm in Victoria) gave a timely boost to later-developing winter crops, especially wheat, barley, and canola.
- Moderate to heavy rain (10–65 mm, locally higher) fell mainly outside prime agricultural zones, including southeastern Australia and along/east of the Great Dividing Range in southeastern Queensland and northeastern New South Wales. These rains had little direct impact on winter cropping but improved irrigation and soil moisture reserves for upcoming summer crops in the far eastern areas.

Overall, the predominantly dry and sunny weather favoured winter crop maturation and harvest progress across most key regions, with the main exceptions being heat stress in parts of the eastern grain belt and beneficial late showers in southern SA and Victoria.

ARGENTINA



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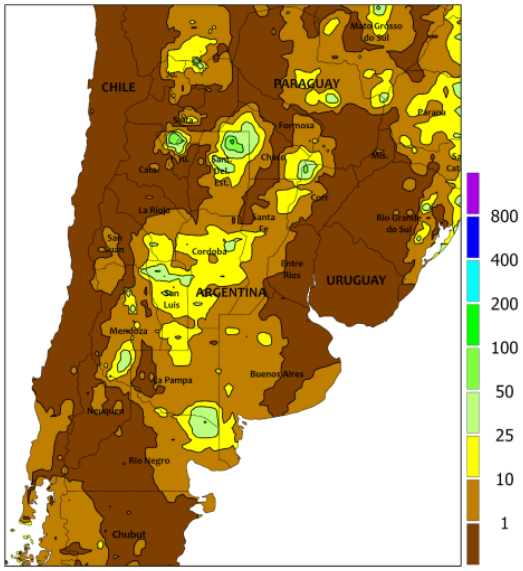


New Image - Total mm

Dry to arid weather dominated most of Argentina's agricultural belt this week, creating generally unfavourable conditions for the establishment and early development of summer crops (corn, soybeans, cotton, and sunflowers). Soil moisture reserves continued to decline in many areas due to a lack of meaningful rainfall combined with persistent heat.

The only notable exception was a southwestern band covering most of La Pampa, San Luis, western Córdoba, and eastern Mendoza, where scattered showers delivered beneficial rainfall of 10–50 mm. These rains provided a timely boost to early-planted summer crops and helped recharge topsoil moisture ahead of wider planting activity.

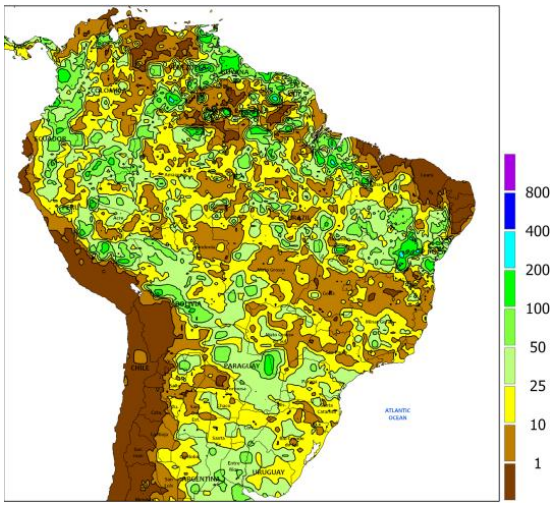
Temperatures were well above normal across the entire region. Daytime highs typically reached the mid- to upper 30s °C, with localized extremes touching the low 40s °C in western Formosa, Chaco, and much of Santiago del Estero. The combination of extreme heat and dry conditions is likely to increase stress on recently emerged summer crops, particularly in the northern and central provinces.

Planting progress as of 27 November (official government data):

- Sunflowers: 94% planted
- Early corn: 51% planted
- Soybeans: 39% planted
- Cotton: 30% planted

The coming weeks will be critical; without widespread soaking rains, further delays in planting and increased risk of stand loss in emerged crops are likely, especially across the core northern and eastern growing regions.

BRAZIL



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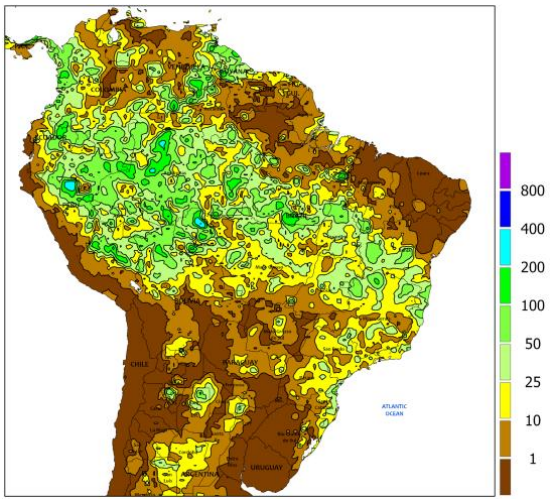


New Image - Total mm

Eastern Brazil experienced ongoing rainfall (10–100 mm, locally higher), which brought localised but welcome relief to areas previously affected by drought. These showers supported germination and early growth of summer crops, especially soybeans and corn.

In contrast, southern Brazil stayed predominantly dry. Paraná and Rio Grande do Sul received little to no rain (mostly <10 mm), leading to declining topsoil moisture and increasing concern for recently planted summer crops, particularly where irrigation is unavailable.

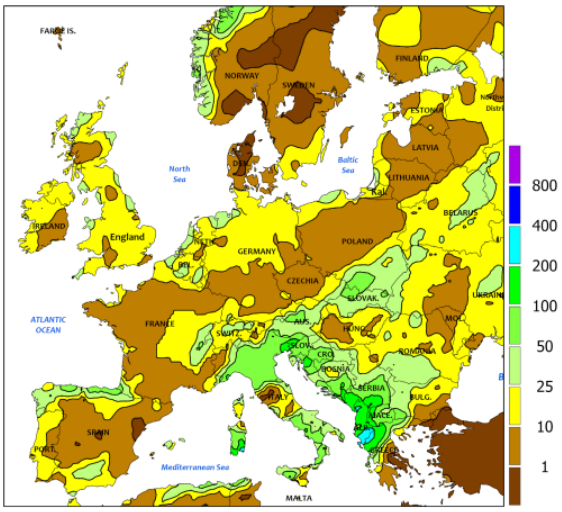
Temperatures were close to seasonal averages across most of the country, with daytime highs generally in the low to mid-30s °C. Hotter conditions prevailed in Mato Grosso do Sul and parts of Mato Grosso, where maxima occasionally climbed into the upper 30s °C. Fortunately, Mato Grosso — a key producing state — also received beneficial scattered showers (10–100 mm), supporting robust early-season development of soybeans and both safrinha and full-season corn.

Planting progress (as of 27 November):

- Paraná: first-crop corn — 100 % planted; soybeans — 97 % planted.

The sharply contrasting rainfall pattern is reinforcing a north-wet/south-dry divide. While eastern and central-western growing areas are generally in good shape, the continued dryness in the south (especially Paraná and Rio Grande do Sul) raises the risk of delayed soybean development and potential yield loss in rain-fed corn if substantial rainfall does not arrive soon.

EUROPE



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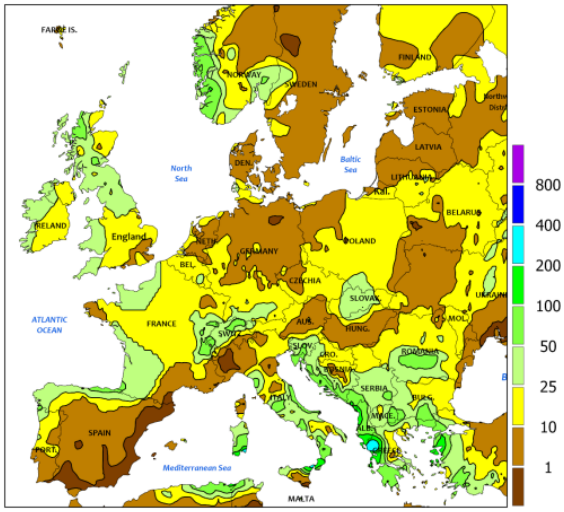

New Image - Total mm

Cold, wet conditions continued to dominate most of Europe for a second straight week as a deep southward dip in the jet stream locked in an unseasonably chilly pattern.

- Temperatures averaged 2–6°C below normal across a broad swath from southern Germany through Poland and into the Baltic States.
- A second consecutive week of hard freezes (lows –13 to –2°C) combined with weekly mean temperatures below 5°C pushed nearly all winter wheat, barley, and rapeseed into full dormancy, except in Greece and the lower Balkans where anomalous warmth persisted (2–6°C above normal).

Widespread moderate to heavy rainfall (10–50 mm, locally higher) kept soil moisture plentiful for eventual spring regrowth across northern Spain, France, the United Kingdom, and eastward into central Europe. The season's first significant snowfall blanketed the Czech Republic, Poland, and the Baltic States.

Extremely heavy totals again affected flood-prone areas:

- Western Balkans, western Italy, and southern Italy recorded weekly totals commonly exceeding 100 mm, with localised amounts over 200 mm.

Note: Surface observations from France and Hungary were incomplete or unreliable this week; radar and satellite imagery were used to supplement the analysis.

The persistently cold and saturated pattern remains favourable for dormancy and disease suppression in winter crops but continues to delay final field work and increases the risk of waterlogging in lower-lying areas of western and central Europe.

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