

RMD – Shortened USDA Weekly Weather/Crop Conditions Report: 20 Feb 25

February 9 – 15, provided by USDA/WAOB

International Weather and Crop Summary

HIGHLIGHTS

EUROPE: Rain and snow fell across much of the continent, with colder-than-normal conditions in the north giving way to anomalous warmth in the south.

MIDDLE EAST: Additional rain and snow maintained or improved soil moisture for winter grains.

NORTHWESTERN AFRICA: Despite some western showers, extreme drought in Morocco contrasted sharply with good to excellent winter grain prospects farther east.

SOUTHEAST ASIA: Heavy showers continued to saturate crops in minor-producing areas of the eastern Philippines.

AUSTRALIA: In the east, widespread, soaking rain and seasonably warm weather benefited immature cotton and sorghum.

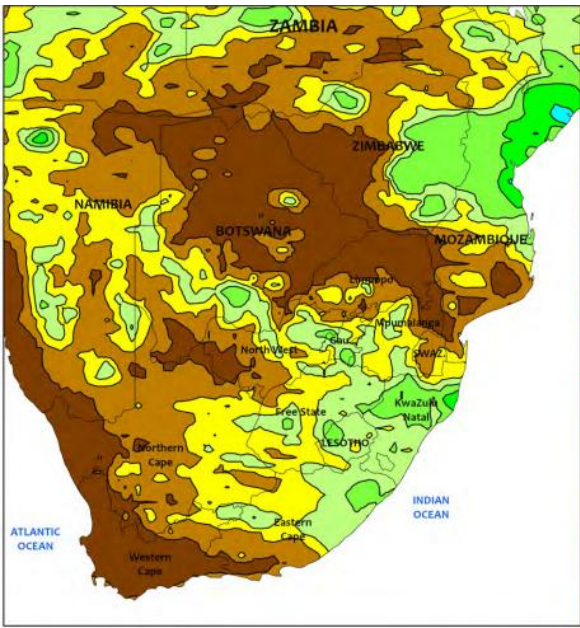
SOUTH AFRICA: Cooler temperatures and beneficial rain fell for the eastern corn belt.

ARGENTINA: Rain continued in key central growing areas, further benefiting reproductive corn and soybeans.

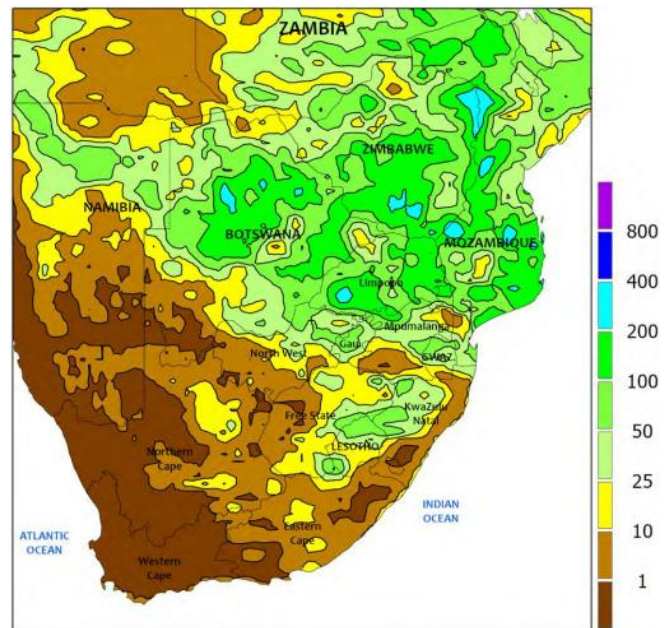
BRAZIL: Patchy rainfall did little to improve soil moisture in southern sections, while continued showers in parts of the Center-West maintained favorable soil moisture.



SOUTH AFRICA



Previous Image - Total mm

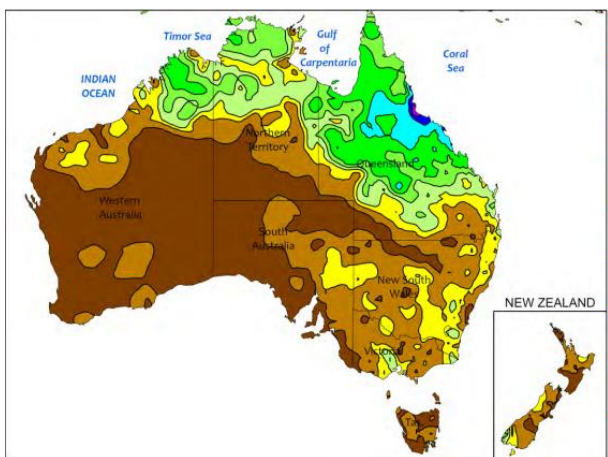


New Image - Total mm

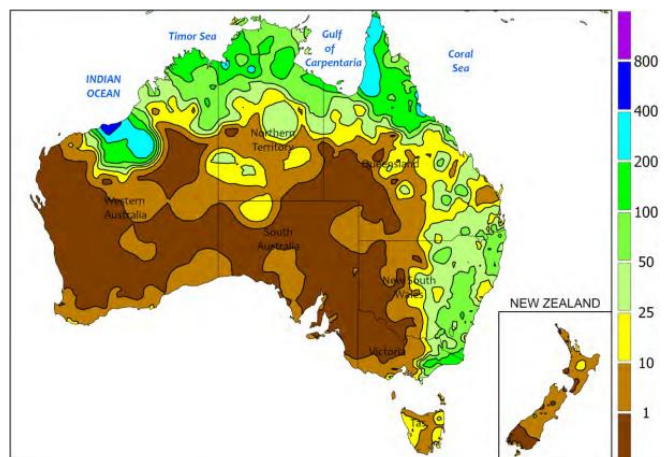
Cooler temperatures and scattered showers for most of the corn belt created favorable conditions for the growth of corn and other summer crops. The western corn belt received some much-needed rain, however, amounts in western North West and northwestern Free State totaled less than 10 mm which continued to limit moisture for rain-fed crops in those areas. Rainfall amounts in the eastern corn belt were higher (totaling 25-200 mm). Daytime highs throughout the corn belt averaged in the upper 20s to lower 30s degrees C. Hot, seasonably dry weather continued for most of Northern Cape and Western Cape, with maximum temperatures ranging from the lower to upper 30s.

*Surface-based weather station data from South Africa were either missing or suspect; radar and satellite data were used to augment the analysis.

AUSTRALIA



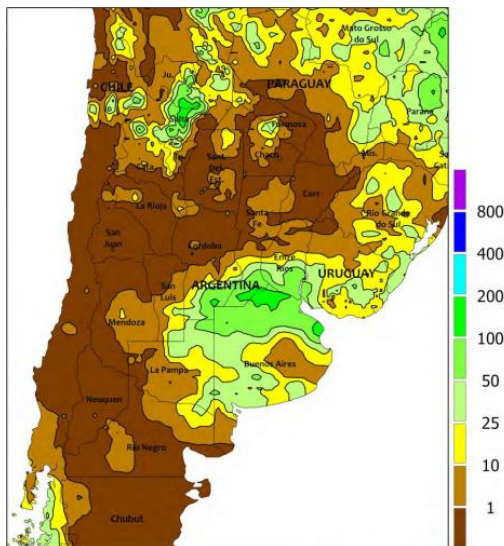
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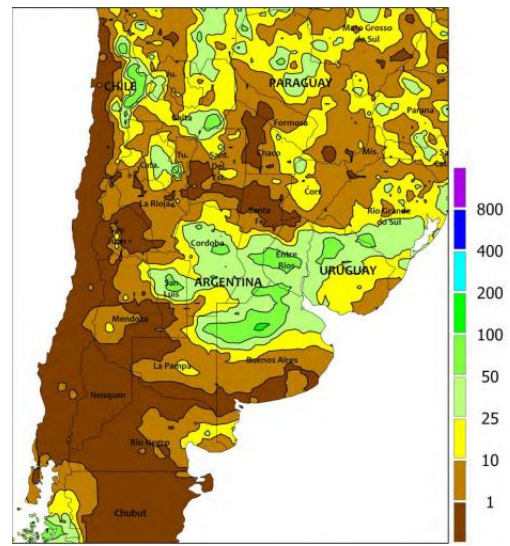
New Image - Total mm

Widespread, soaking rain overspread eastern Australia, with rainfall amounts ranging from 25 to 50 mm in most major summer crop producing areas. The rain helped increase root zone soil moisture to near- to above-average levels by week's end. The wet weather slowed harvesting of the earliest-sown sorghum, but the rain promoted development of later-sown sorghum, cotton, and other immature summer crops. Seasonably warm weather aided summer crop development as well, with maximum temperatures mostly in the lower to middle 30s degrees C.

ARGENTINA



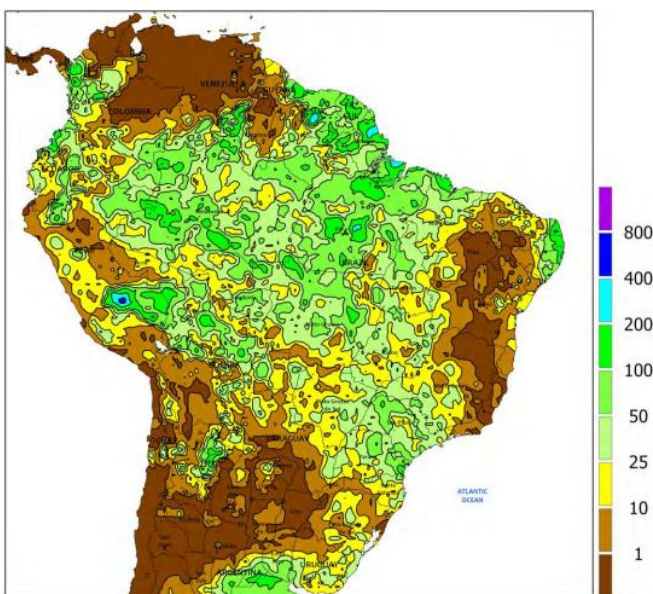
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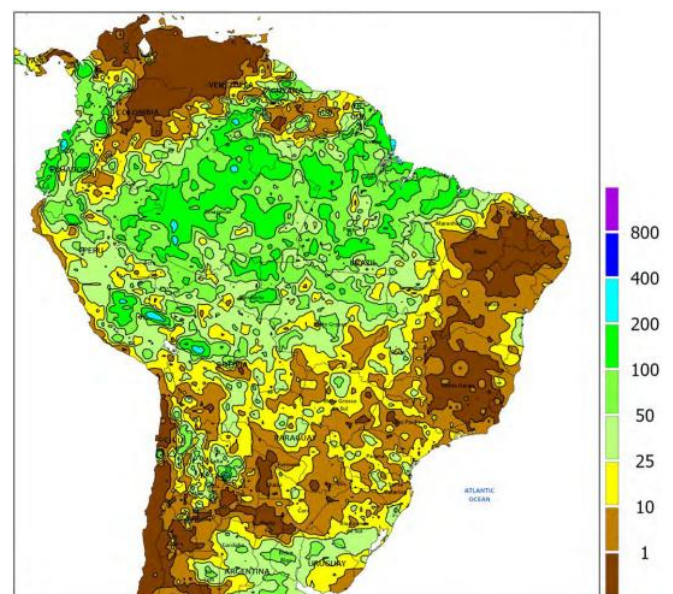
New Image - Total mm

For the second consecutive week, widespread, soaking rain fell across key summer crop producing areas, further benefiting reproductive corn, soybeans, and other crops. Many locations in northern Buenos Aires, central and southern Cordoba, southern Santa Fe, and elsewhere in central Argentina received between 25 and 50 mm of rain, with locally higher amounts. The rain was especially timely, helping to further stabilize crop conditions and yield prospects in the wake of previous heat and dryness. Temperatures averaged 0 to 3°C above normal, with maxima in the middle to upper 30s degrees C. In contrast, hotter, drier weather prevailed across much of northern Argentina. Although many locations received some rainfall, amounts were generally below normal. Additionally, maximum temperatures climbed into the lower 40s degrees C throughout the region, increasing stress on many immature summer crops. Cooler, wetter weather is needed in the north to help stabilize crop prospects. Although many summer crops in Argentina have yet to reach maturity, sunflower harvesting was underway. According to the government of Argentina, 18 percent of the sunflower crop had been harvested as of February 13, compared with 17 percent last year.

BRAZIL



Previous Image - Total mm



New Image - Total mm

Showers were more patchy from southern sections of the Centre-West (Mato Grosso do Sul) into the south (Rio Grande do Sul), with only isolated amounts greater than 25 mm. The drier weather

aided soybeans and other first season crops in the latter stages of development. However, in the case of drought-afflicted soybeans in Rio Grande do Sul, the accelerated development was at the expense of yield potential; filling soybeans are reportedly 13 points ahead of last year's pace and 8 points ahead of the average. Meanwhile, rainfall continued across Mato Grosso, with most areas recording between 10 and 50 mm. While the moisture was favourable for newly planted second-crop corn and cotton, the wet weather slowed soybean harvesting (14 points behind last year's pace) and subsequently second crop corn planting (also 14 points behind last year). Unseasonable heat (approaching 40°C) briefly made an appearance in the southwest border areas of the country before cooler weather eased crop stress by week's end.

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

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