

RMD – Shortened USDA Weekly Weather/Crop Conditions Report: 19 Mar 25

March 9 – 15, provided by USDA/WAOB

International Weather and Crop Summary

HIGHLIGHTS

EUROPE: Moderate to heavy rain in southern and eastern Europe contrasted with mostly dry weather in the northwest, while anomalous warmth lingered in eastern crop areas.

WESTERN FSU: Unseasonably warm weather hastened winter crops out of dormancy well ahead of normal.

MIDDLE EAST: Warm and dry weather in the west juxtaposed with showers and somewhat cooler temperatures farther east.

NORTHWESTERN AFRICA: Additional drought-easing rain in Morocco and western Algeria further improved prospects for reproductive winter wheat and barley.

SOUTHEAST ASIA: Widespread showers in Indonesia benefited oil palm but were unfavorable for ripening first-crop rice.

AUSTRALIA: The remnants of tropical cyclone Alfred brought some showers to major summer crop producing areas, while periods of rain moistened soils for upcoming winter grain sowing in the west.

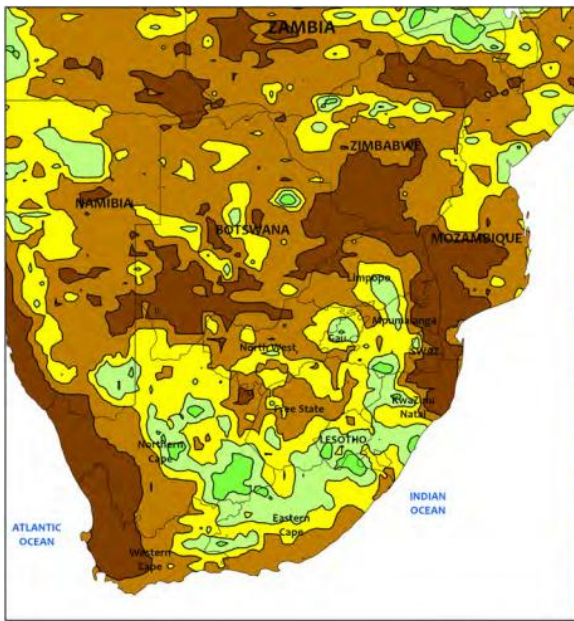
SOUTH AFRICA: Mild, showery weather maintained overall favorable conditions for immature corn.

ARGENTINA: Drier weather overspread the south, while showers persisted in central growing areas.

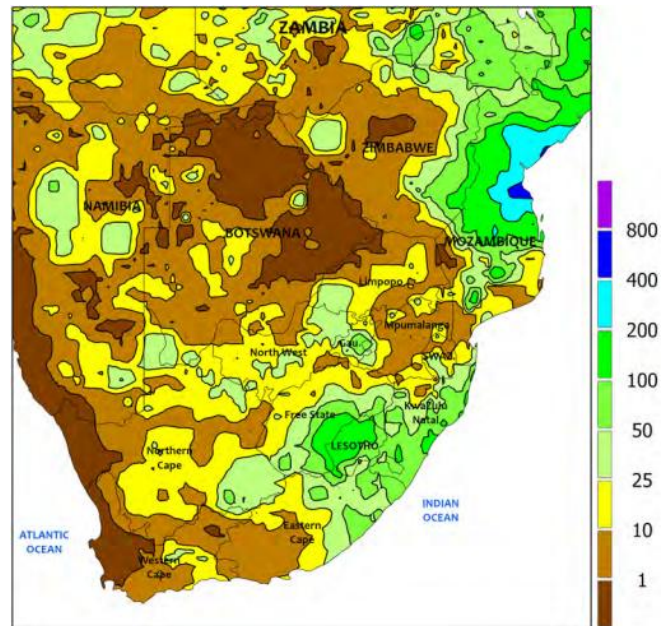
BRAZIL: Lighter, but still widespread, rainfall across the Center-West benefited second-crop corn and cotton.



SOUTH AFRICA



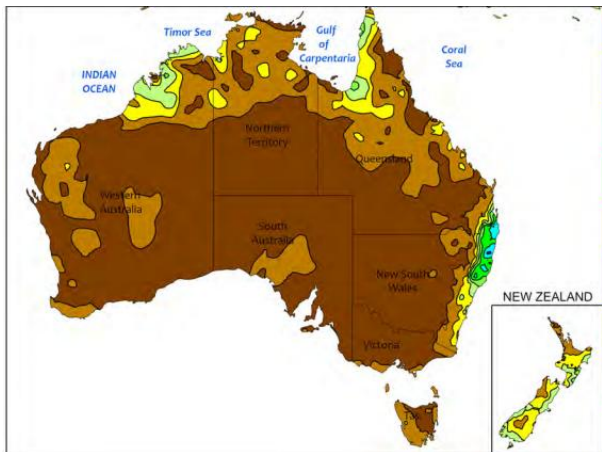
Previous Image - Total mm



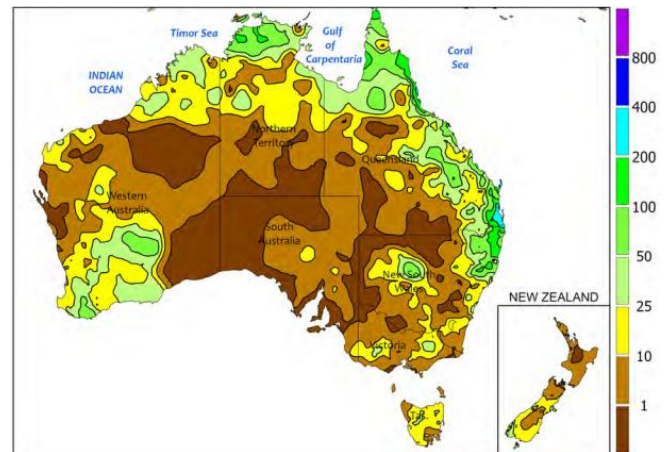
New Image - Total mm

Mild, showery weather maintained overall favorable conditions for immature corn and other summer crops. Rainfall totaled 10 to 50 mm for much of the Maize Triangle. Some areas of Gauteng and Mpumalanga received less than 10 mm of rain, while heavier rain fell along the KwaZulu-Natal coastal area westward through parts of Eastern Cape (amounts totaling 50-100 mm). Near-normal temperatures continued, with daytime highs ranging from the upper 20s to lower 30s degrees C. Meanwhile, mostly dry, sunny weather prevailed in tree and vine crop areas of Western Cape.

AUSTRALIA



Previous Image - Total mm

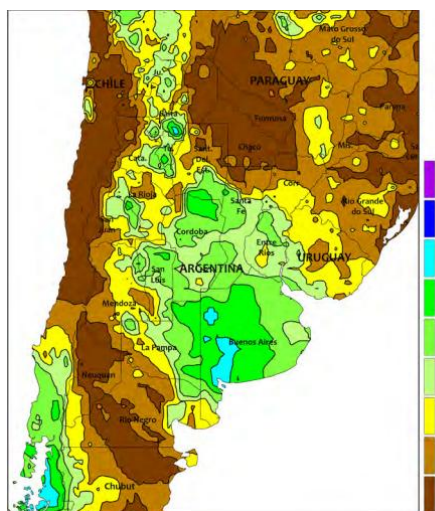


New Image - Total mm

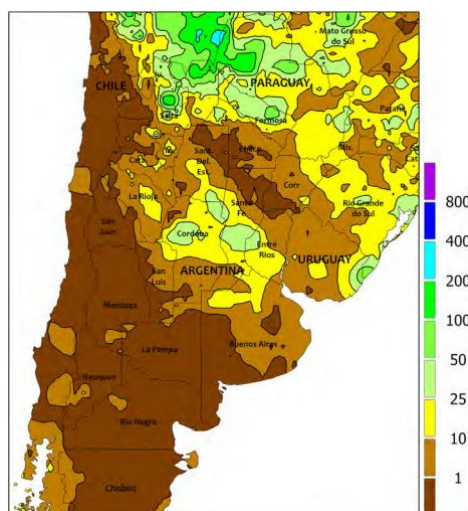
During the first half of the week, the remnants of tropical cyclone Alfred brought some showers to major summer crop producing areas in southern Queensland and northern New South Wales. Rainfall amounts ranged from 1 to 2 mm in western growing areas to around 25 mm in the east. The wet weather may have temporarily interrupted some fieldwork, including early cotton and sorghum harvesting, but the rain helped boost topsoil moisture somewhat in advance of upcoming winter crop planting. Winter crop sowing typically begins in mid-April in northern portions of the wheat belt and gains momentum during May as planting advances southward. Sunny skies during the latter half of the week enabled fieldwork to resume in most parts of eastern Australia. Likewise, showers and thunderstorms in Western Australia (1-20 mm in the north, 25-90 mm in the south) conditioned soils for winter grain planting in April and May. Temperatures averaged near normal in southern Queensland and northern New South Wales, with daytime highs mostly in the upper 20s and lower

30s (degrees C). Extreme heat (40-43°C) from southern South Australia into northwestern Victoria had little to no significant agricultural impact.

ARGENTINA



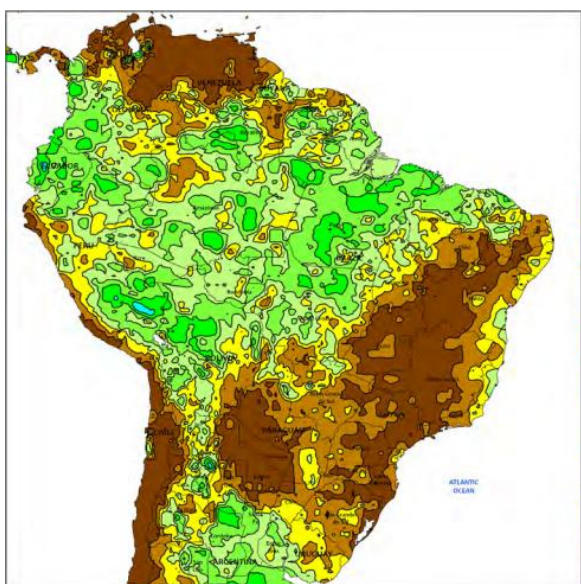
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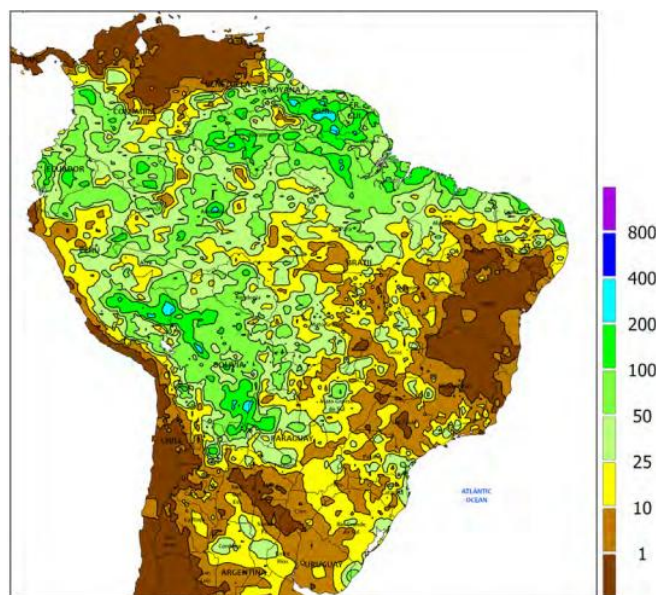
New Image - Total mm

In the wake of recent soaking rain, drier weather overspread southern Argentina, promoting dry down and harvesting of the earliest maturing summer crops, such as sunflowers. A combination of sunny skies and abundant topsoil moisture benefited some immature summer crops as well, but soil moisture remained excessive in various locations. Widespread showers (5 -25 mm or more) in central Argentina maintained adequate to locally excessive moisture supplies as well. Similar to southern growing areas, some immature summer crops benefited from the moisture, while other crops would welcome drier weather. In northern Argentina, scattered showers (5 - 25 mm or more) favoured summer crop development in Salta and Santiago del Estero, while a pocket of drier weather persisted in eastern Chaco, further hindering late cotton development. Unseasonably cool weather (temperatures averaging 2 - 4°C below normal) covered much of Argentina, with maximum temperatures mostly in the upper 20s and lower 30s degrees C. According to the government of Argentina, 24 percent of the sunflower crop was harvested as of March 13, compared with 43 percent last year. The corn harvest has begun too, with 6 percent of the crop harvested, versus 3 percent last year.

BRAZIL



Previous Image - Total mm



New Image - Total mm

Showers eased somewhat across the Centre-West but continued to provide beneficial moisture to second crop corn and cotton. Most municipalities of the Centre-West recorded at least 10 mm of rain, with some locales topping 50 mm. Second-crop corn planting was nearing completion in Mato Grosso and was over 80 percent complete nationally. While long-term moisture supplies have been favourable in Mato Grosso, shorter-term moisture conditions (last 60 days) have been subpar and comparable to last year. In fact, outside of Mato Grosso, rainfall in other key corn areas has been consistently below average since January 1. Meanwhile in the far south, soybean harvesting was progressing slowly in Rio Grande do Sul (5 percent complete versus the median of 8 percent), likely due to some recent wet weather. The soybean crop in Rio Grande do Sul was adversely affected by continued dryness over the course of the season, lowering yield expectations. Temperatures in the south have moderated, with cooler weather (1-3°C below average) helping to stabilize the crop.

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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