

## RMD – Shortened USDA Weekly Weather/Crop Conditions Report:

29 Feb 2024

February 18 – 24, 2024, provided by USDA/WAOB

### International Weather and Crop Summary

#### HIGHLIGHTS

**EUROPE:** Continued anomalous warmth accelerated winter grain and oilseed green up and development, with additional rain in central and northern crop areas juxtaposed with acute short-term dryness in the Balkans.

**WESTERN FSU:** Colder weather over Russia contrasted with persistent warmer-than-normal conditions in western croplands.

**MIDDLE EAST:** Mostly drier and cooler weather favored winter grain development after last week's heavy rain.

**NORTHWESTERN AFRICA:** Persistent severe drought in the west transitioned to additional timely rain in eastern growing areas.

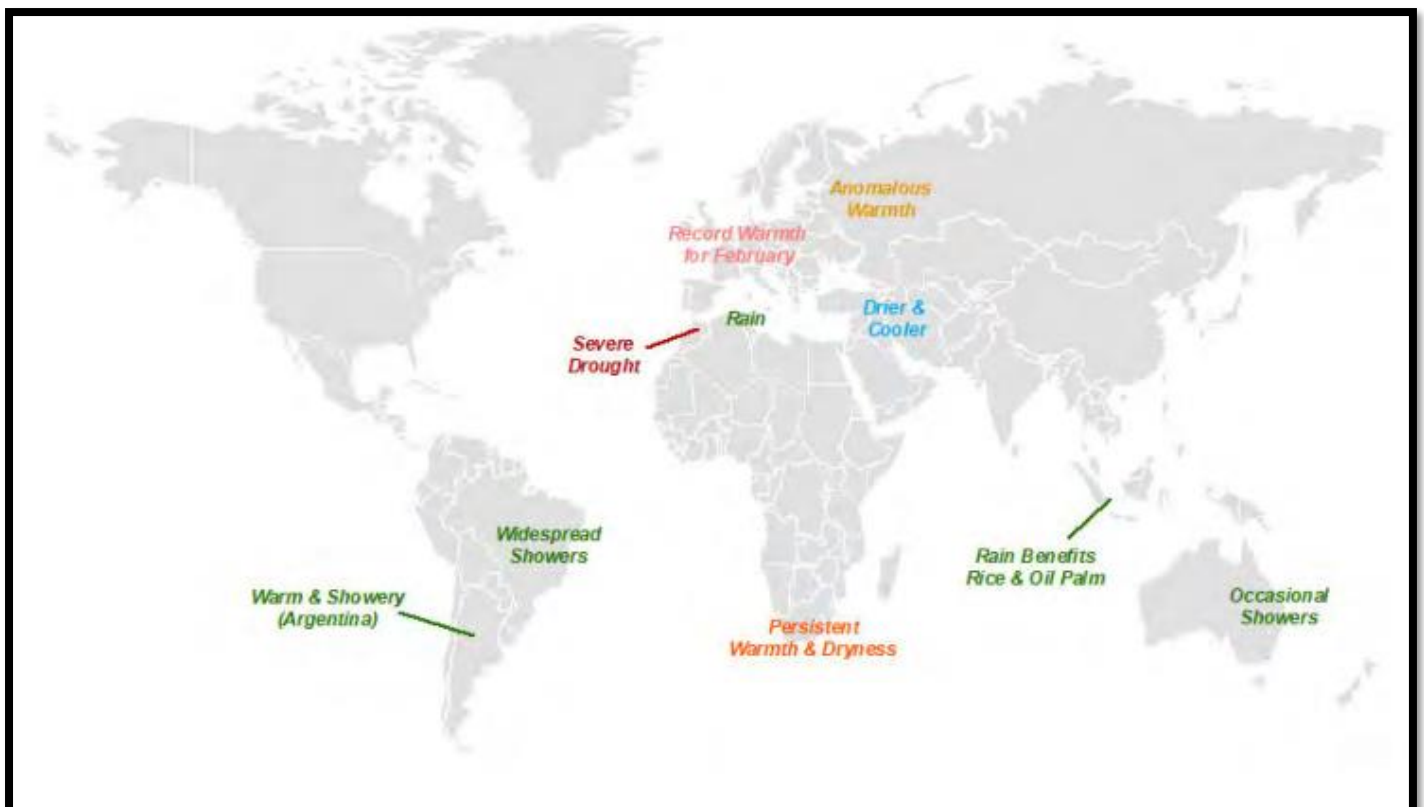
**SOUTHEAST ASIA:** Southern showers maintained favorable moisture for rice and oil palm.

**AUSTRALIA:** Occasional showers benefited immature summer crops, but periods of dry weather favored early sorghum harvesting.

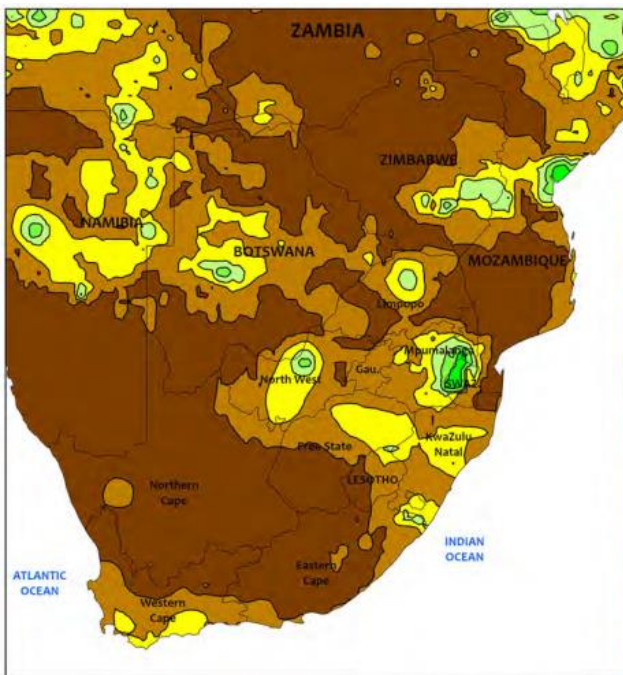
**SOUTH AFRICA:** Dryness and summer heat further reduced moisture for corn and other reproductive summer crops.

**ARGENTINA:** Warm, showery weather favored rapid growth of summer crops.

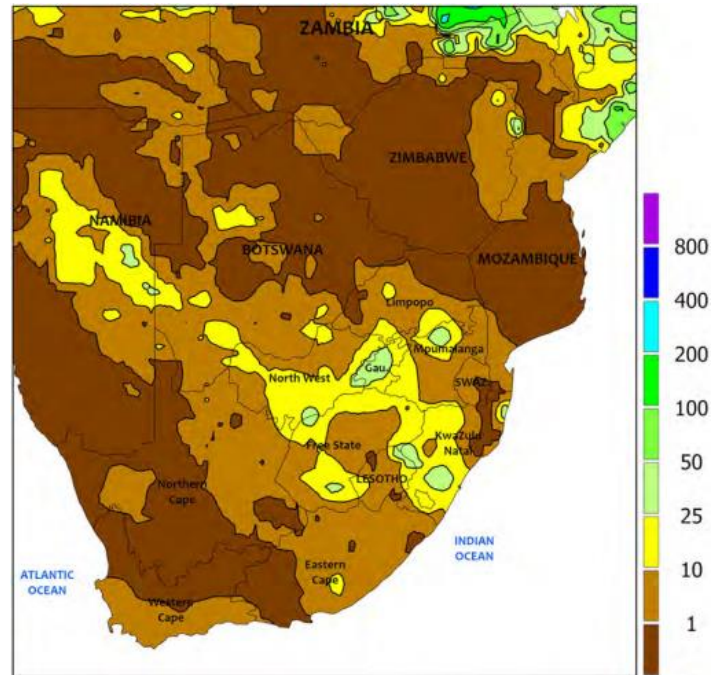
**BRAZIL:** Widespread, locally heavy showers benefited immature soybeans, corn, and cotton.



## SOUTH AFRICA



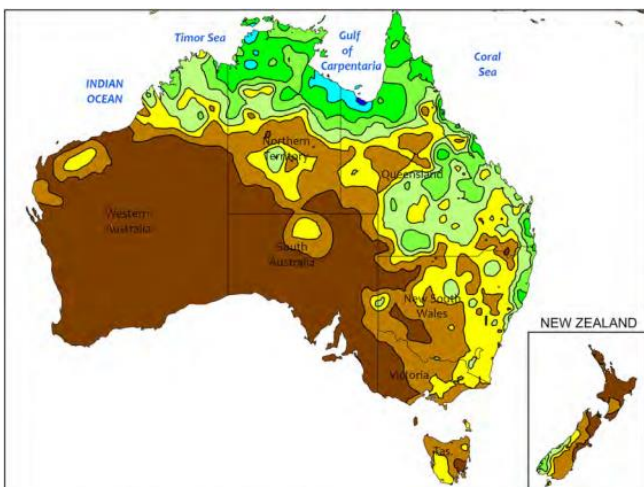
Previous Image - Total mm



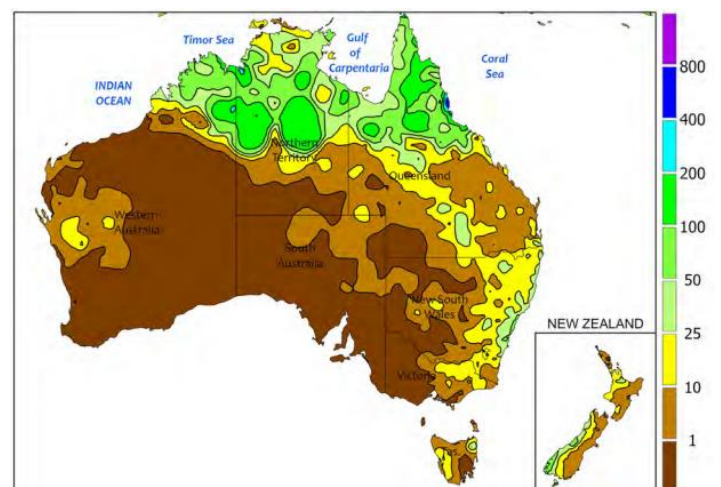
New Image - Total mm

Unseasonable warmth and dryness further reduced moisture reserves for corn and other rain-fed summer crops, threatening losses in yield potential as crops advanced through reproductive phases of development. Except for an outbreak of strong storms over Gauteng (rainfall totaling greater than 25 mm) at midweek, showers were generally widespread and light, with few other locations receiving more than 25 mm in the main eastern farming areas. Temperatures averaging 2 to 4°C above normal exacerbated the impact of the continuing dryness, which began as early as January in some locations. Highest daytime temperatures ranged from the upper 20s to lower 30s (degrees C) over eastern sections of the corn belt (western Mpumalanga and environs) and in rain-fed sugarcane areas of southern KwaZulu-Natal. Higher temperatures (35- 40°C) were recorded elsewhere, including northern and western sections of the corn belt. The heat – combined with the extended drying trends – was untimely for later-planted corn in reproductive to filling stages of development. Meanwhile, hot, sunny weather (highs reaching 40°C) spurred rapid growth of irrigated crops in the Cape Provinces

## AUSTRALIA



Previous Image - Total mm

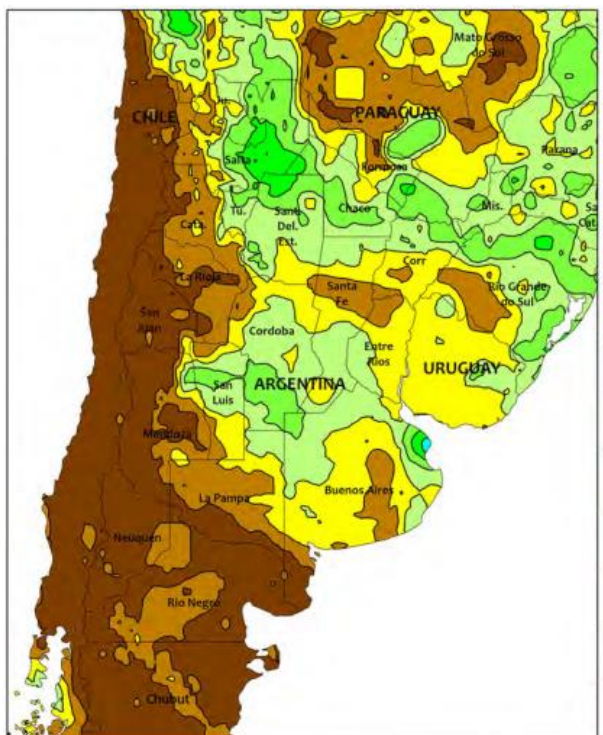


New Image - Total mm

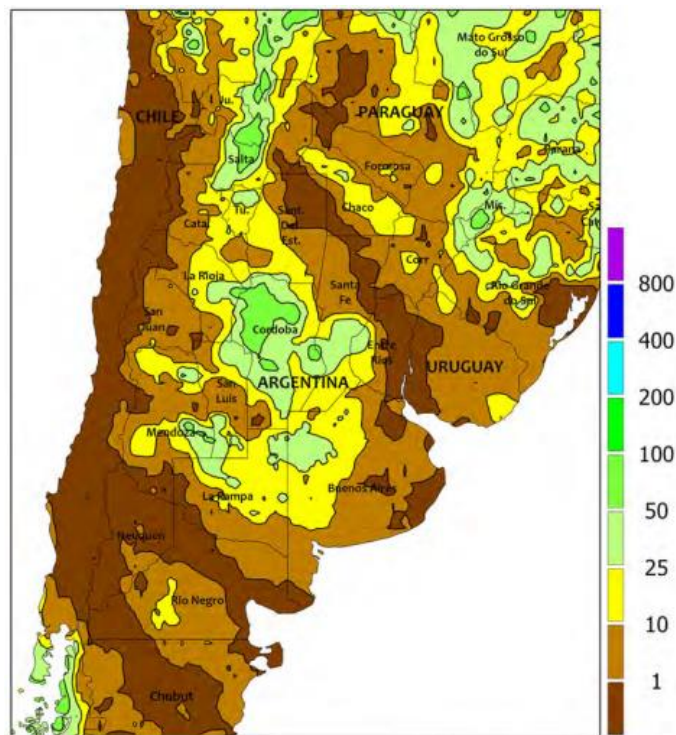
In southern Queensland, isolated showers (5-15 mm or more) benefited local immature dryland summer crops, but mostly dry weather elsewhere favoured maturation and harvesting of the earliest planted sorghum. The lack of rain in many locations likely increased local irrigation requirements as

well. Farther south, more widespread showers (5-25 mm or more) in New South Wales maintained ample soil moisture for immature summer crops, while periods of dry weather allowed fieldwork to progress. Seasonably warm weather covered eastern Australia, aiding crop development, but hot weather blanketed southern and western Australia. Maximum temperatures were in the middle to upper 30s (degrees C) in the east and upper 30s to middle 40s in the south and west. Although winter crop planting won't begin until April, cooler weather would be welcome in these latter areas to help reduce evaporation rates and subsequently conserve pre-planting moisture supplies.

## **ARGENTINA**



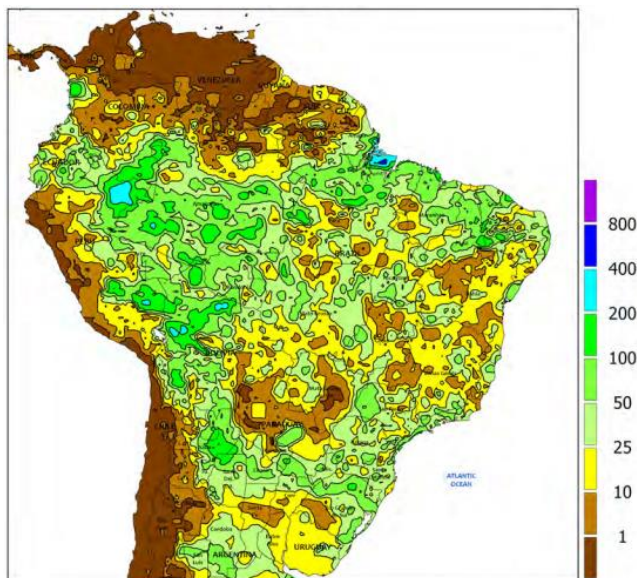
Previous Image - Total mm



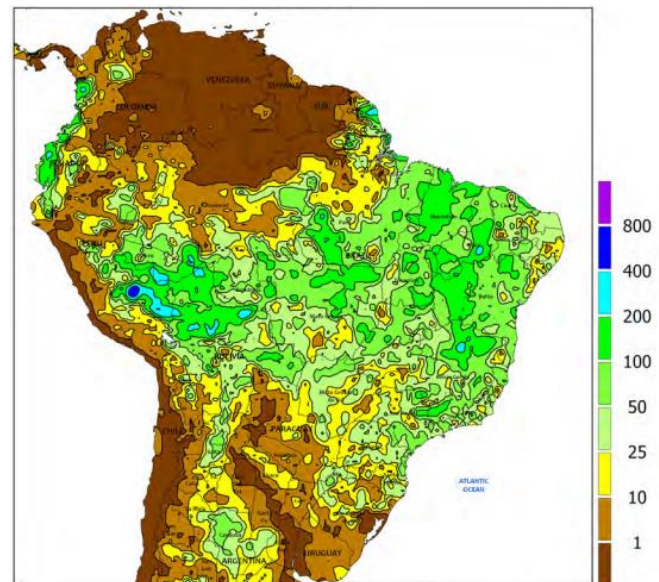
New Image - Total mm

Warm, showery weather benefited immature summer crops in many major production areas. Rainfall totalled 10 to locally more than 50 mm from La Pampa and western Buenos Aires northward, with some of the heaviest rainfall (greater than 50 mm) concentrated over Córdoba. Amounts were lower (mostly below 10 mm) in eastern farming areas (eastern Buenos Aires to Formosa), although moisture reserves remained favourable following weeks of beneficial rain. Temperatures averaged 1 to 2°C above normal regionwide, with daytime highs holding in the low and middle 30s (degrees C) in the high-yielding farming areas of central Argentina (La Pampa, Buenos Aires, and neighbouring areas from Córdoba to Entre Ríos). According to the government of Argentina, sunflowers were 19 percent harvested (24 percent last year) as of February 22; fieldwork was nearing completion over earlier-maturing northern production areas, but no harvesting was reported yet in Buenos Aires or La Pampa. Additionally, later-planted summer crops had reportedly benefited from improved conditions.

## **BRAZIL**



Previous Image - Total mm



New Image - Total mm

Widespread, locally heavy showers maintained generally favourable conditions for immature summer crops. Rainfall totalling 25 to more than 100 mm overspread a broad area from Mato Grosso eastward, reaching nearly all major interior and coastal farming areas as far south as Minas Gerais. Temperatures averaging within 1°C of normal (highs reaching the lower and middle 30s degrees C) fostered rapid development of crops under mostly seasonable conditions. According to the government of Mato Grosso, soybeans were 76 percent harvested as of February 23, 4 points ahead of last year's pace; corn planting was 80 percent completed, compared with 73 percent last year and the 5-year average of 75 percent. Rainfall was patchy farther south, totalling 5 to 50 mm from southern Mato Grosso do Sul and São Paulo southward through Rio Grande do Sul, although most of Paraná recorded more than 25 mm. In addition, temperatures averaging 1 to 3°C above normal maintained high evaporative losses, particularly in western and northern locations where daytime highs reached the middle 30s. According to the government of Rio Grande do Sul, corn was 65 percent harvested as of February 22; meanwhile, nearly 85 percent of soybeans had flowered, with 3 percent reaching maturity. In Paraná, first-crop corn and soybeans were 55 and 42 percent harvested, respectively, as of February 19; second-crop corn was 55 percent planted.

### **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