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# RMD – Shortened USDA Weekly Weather/Crop Conditions Report: 17 October 2024

October 6 – 12, provided by USDA/WAOB

## International Weather and Crop Summary

### HIGHLIGHTS

**EUROPE:** Widespread moderate to heavy showers continued across much of the continent, though locally dry conditions returned to parts of southeastern Europe.

**WESTERN FSU:** A stagnant weather pattern sustained unseasonable warmth and extreme drought from eastern Ukraine into western Russia, while moderate to heavy rain expanded over western croplands.

**MIDDLE EAST:** Dry and very warm weather returned to Turkey after recent rain, while seasonably dry conditions prevailed elsewhere.

**SOUTH ASIA:** The withdrawal of the southwest monsoon returned to a slower pace, allowing showers to continue in the southern half of India.

**EAST ASIA:** Wet weather in winter crop areas of China increased moisture supplies but slowed fieldwork.

**SOUTHEAST ASIA:** Showers across the Philippines and parts of Indochina were unwelcome for ripening rice but maintained ample moisture reserves for the next cropping season.

**AUSTRALIA:** Isolated showers in the south and west provided little additional moisture for filling winter crops.

**ARGENTINA:** Locally heavy rain helped to stabilize winter grain conditions in drought-stricken western farming areas.

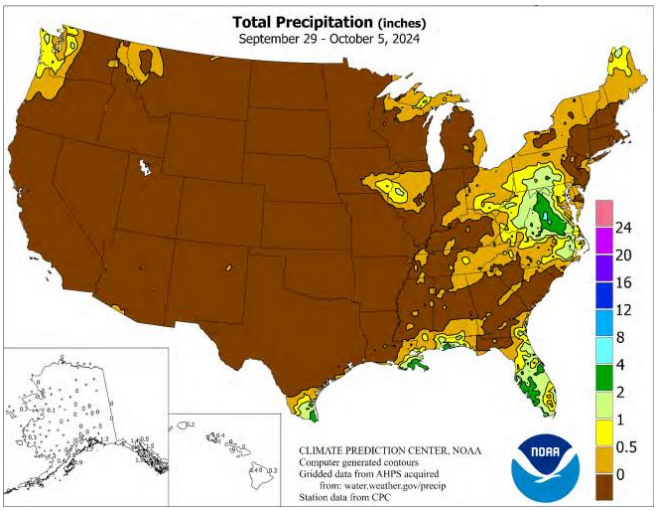
**BRAZIL:** Showers provided timely moisture for emerging soybeans in key production areas in central and northeastern Brazil.

**MEXICO:** Late-season showers benefited corn and other summer crops advancing toward maturity.

**CANADIAN PRAIRIES:** Continued favorable weather supported final stages of spring crop harvesting and allowed fall herbicide and fertilizer applications to begin.

**SOUTHEASTERN CANADA:** Warm, mostly dry weather maintained favorable conditions for immature summer crops and emerging winter wheat.

## USA

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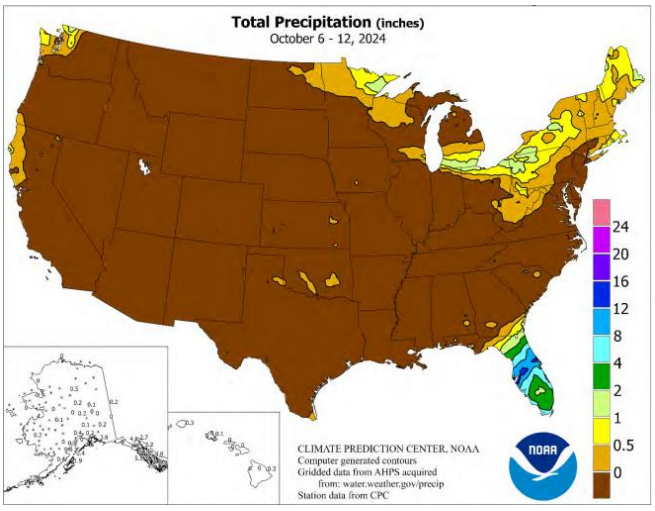
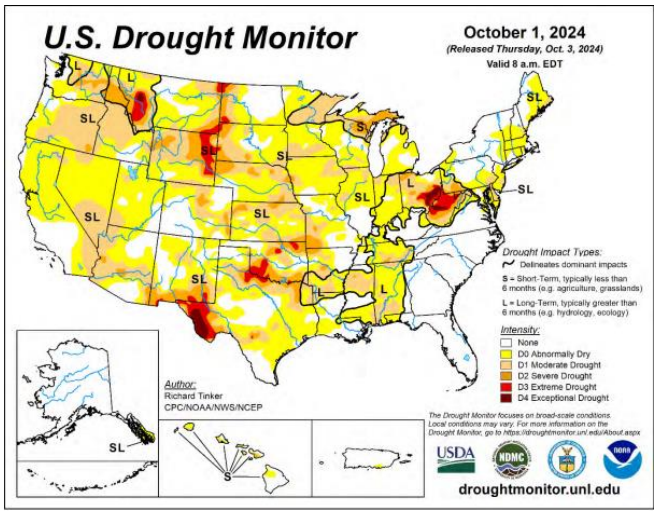



New Image - Total in inches

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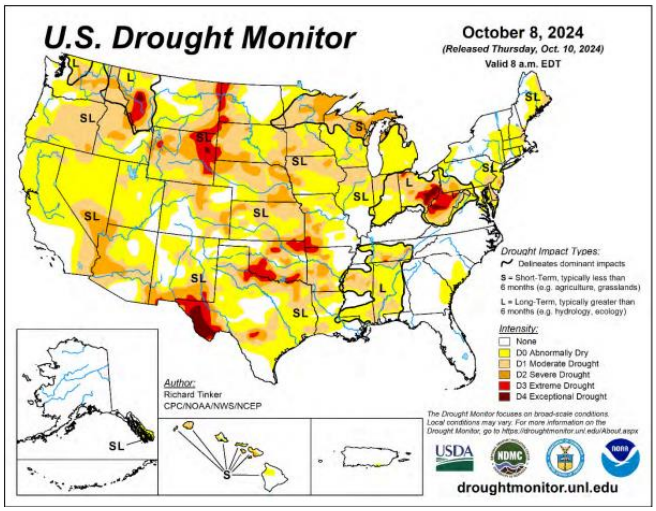



New Image

**Most of the nation remained drier than normal. In contrast, most of peninsular Florida recorded at least twice the normal amount of weekly precipitation, as Hurricane Milton made landfall on Florida's Gulf Coast, cutting across the state and battering it with deadly tornadoes, historic rain, and high winds. Some locations along Florida's Atlantic Coast and Gulf Coast received at least 12 inches of rain. Meanwhile, most of the nation was warmer than normal, with parts of the Plains, Rockies, and Southwest averaging 12°F or more above normal. In contrast, much of the East Coast was moderately cooler than normal.**

**Corn**: Ninety-four percent of the nation's corn acreage was mature by October 13, one percentage point ahead of last year and 5 points ahead of the 5-year average. Fortyseven percent of the 2024 corn acreage was harvested by week's end, 5 percentage points ahead of last year and 8 points ahead of average. Corn harvesting advanced 10 percentage points or more during the week in 15 of the 18 estimating states. On October 13, sixty-four percent of the nation's corn acreage was rated in good to excellent condition, equal to the previous week but 11 percentage points above the previous year. In Iowa, the largest cornproducing state, 76 percent of the corn crop was rated in good to excellent condition.

**Soybeans**: Nationally, leaf drop was 95 percent complete by October 13, one percentage point behind last year but 3 points ahead of the 5-year average. Soybean harvest across the nation was 67 percent complete by October 13, ten percentage points ahead of last year and 16 points ahead

of average. Harvesting advanced 20 percentage points or more during the week in 11 of the 18 estimating states.

**Winter Wheat**: Nationwide, producers had sown 64 percent of the intended 2025 winter wheat acreage by October 13, one percentage point behind last year and 2 points behind the 5-year average. Planting progress advanced by 10 percentage points or more during the week in 12 of the 18 estimating states. Nationwide, 35 percent of the winter wheat acreage had emerged by October 13, one percentage point behind last year and 3 points behind average. During the week, winter wheat emergence advanced by 25 and 32 percentage points, respectively, in Idaho and Nebraska.

**Cotton**: By October 13, eighty-eight percent of the nation's cotton had open bolls, 2 percentage points ahead of both last year and the 5-year average. By October 13, thirtyfour percent of the nation's cotton acreage was harvested, 3 percentage points ahead of last year and 4 points ahead of average. Cotton harvest advanced 18 percentage points during the week in Arkansas, Mississippi, and Missouri. On October 13, thirty-four percent of the 2024 cotton acreage was rated in good to excellent condition, 5 percentage points above the previous week and 4 points above the previous year.

**Sorghum**: By October 13, eighty-nine percent of the nation's sorghum acreage was mature, equal to last year but 2 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Fifty-three percent of the 2024 sorghum acreage had been harvested by October 13, three percentage points ahead of both last year and the 5-year average. Sorghum harvest progress advanced 22 and 20 percentage points, respectively, during the week in Nebraska and South Dakota. Ninety-five percent of sorghum acreage in Texas had been harvested by October 13, four percentage points ahead of both last year and the average. Forty-four percent of the nation's sorghum acreage was rated in good to excellent condition on October 13, one percentage point below the previous week but 2 points above the previous year.

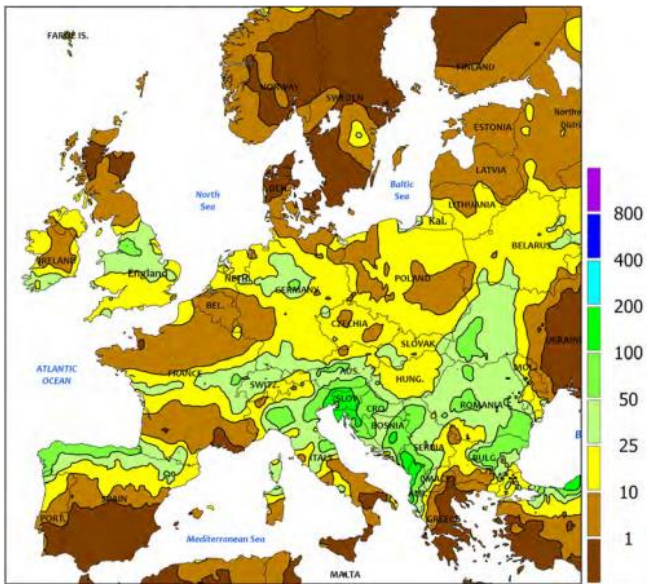
**Rice**: Nationally, 91 percent of the rice acreage was harvested by October 13, five percentage points ahead of both last year and the 5-year average. Rice harvest advanced 15 percentage points during the week in California.

**Other Crops**: Thirty percent of the nation's peanut acreage was harvested as of October 13, eight percentage points behind last year and 11 points behind the 5-year average. Peanut harvest advanced 10 percentage points or more during the week in six of the eight estimating states. On October 13, fifty-three percent of the nation's peanut acreage was rated in good to excellent condition, 3 percentage points above the previous week and 2 points above the same time last year.

By October 13, sugarbeet producers had harvested 42 percent of the nation's crop, equal to last year but 4 percentage points behind the 5-year average. During the week, sugarbeet harvest advanced 29 and 24 percentage points, respectively, in Minnesota and North Dakota.

By October 13, fourteen percent of this year's sunflower crop was harvested, 4 percentage points ahead of last year but 2 points behind the 5-year average. During the week, sunflower harvest advanced 19 and 12 percentage points, respectively, in Colorado and South Dakota.

## EUROPE

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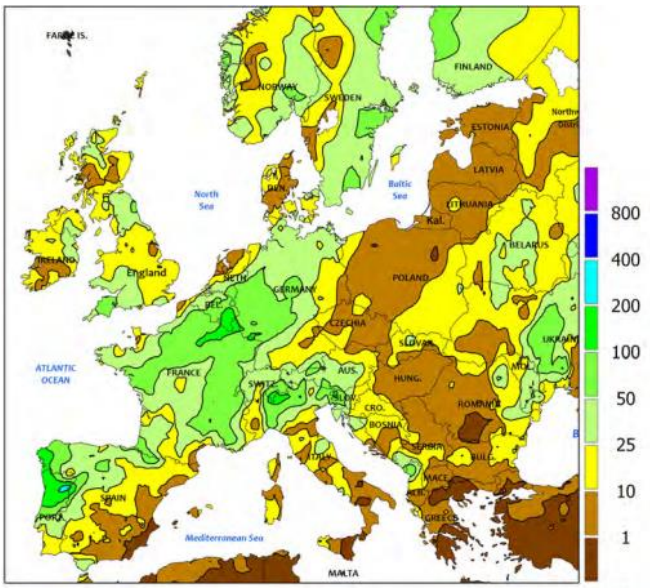
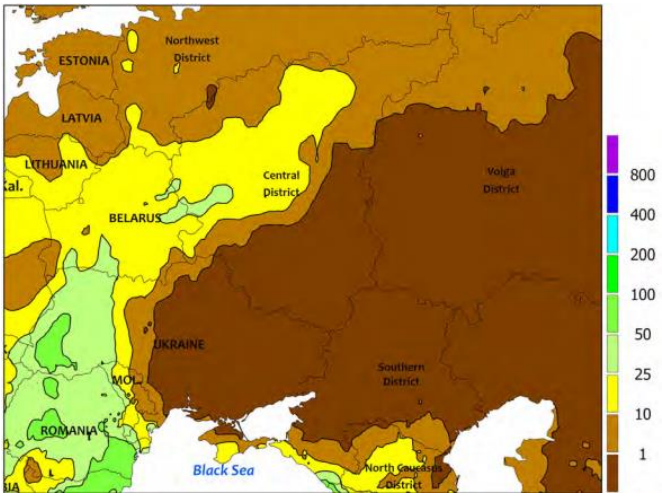



New Image - Total mm

Widespread showers continued across much of Europe, though pockets of dryness lingered in southeastern growing areas. The recent multi-week stretch of wet weather persisted, with 15 to 100 mm of rainfall reported from England and France into central Europe. Moderate to heavy rain also expanded southward across Portugal and Spain, easing short-term dryness and improving soil moisture for winter grains. Some of the rain was associated with the remnants of former Atlantic Hurricane Kirk, which spawned locally heavy downpours (more than 100 mm) and strong, gusty winds across the western Iberian Peninsula as well as northern and eastern portions of France. Heavy rain (50- 170 mm) also fell in northern Italy, causing localized flooding and impeding seasonal fieldwork. Despite the continued wet weather over much of Europe, favorably drier conditions (2-15 mm) in Poland and the Baltic States favored late winter crop planting and other seasonal fieldwork. Pockets of drier weather (less than 10 mm) were also noted across the Danube River Valley, renewing drought concerns in Hungary and — to a lesser extent — southwestern Romania and environs. Near- to abovenormal temperatures replaced the recent cold snap, with anomalous warmth (up to 4°C above normal) most prevalent in the continent's southeastern quadrant.

## WESTERN FSU

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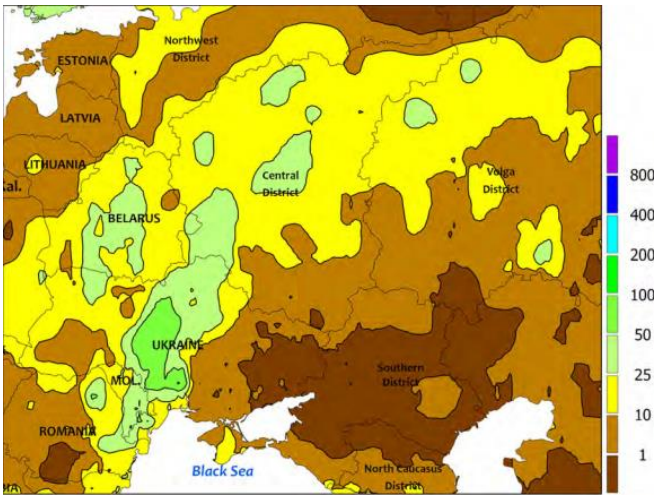
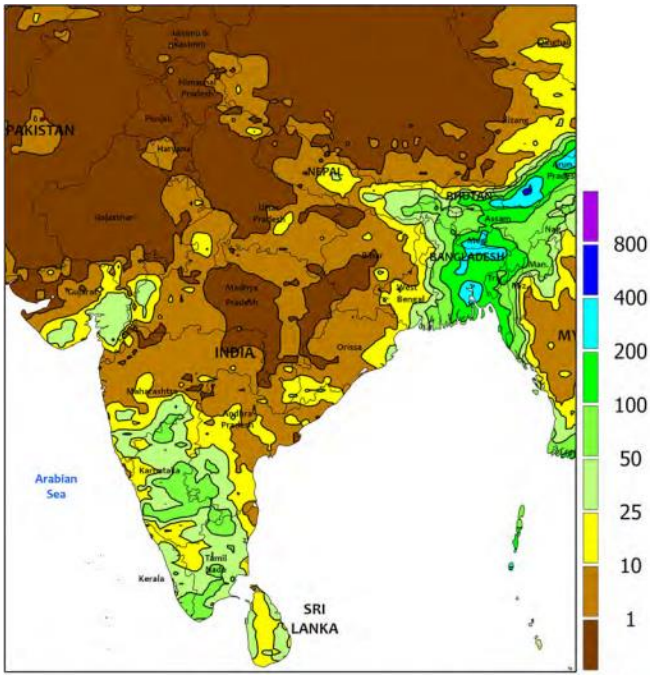



New Image - Total mm

A blocking high over western Russia maintained a stagnant weather pattern across the region. Persistent dryness and warmth (3-7°C above normal) favoured a rapid pace of summer crop harvesting but exacerbated drought (90-day rainfall locally less than 25 percent of normal) for winter crop planting and establishment from central Ukraine into western Russia. Since July 1, rainfall in many of these croplands has been the lowest of the past 30 years, by far. However, rain encroached

from the west into Moldova (10- 30 mm), western Ukraine (25-65 mm), and Belarus (10-25 mm), maintaining (south) or improving (north) soil moisture for winter crop establishment. At week's end, the satellite derived Vegetation Health Index (VHI) continued to depict poor to abysmal crop vigour over most of Ukraine and Russia, while the VHI has improved in Moldova and western Ukraine due to recent and ongoing rain.

## INDIA

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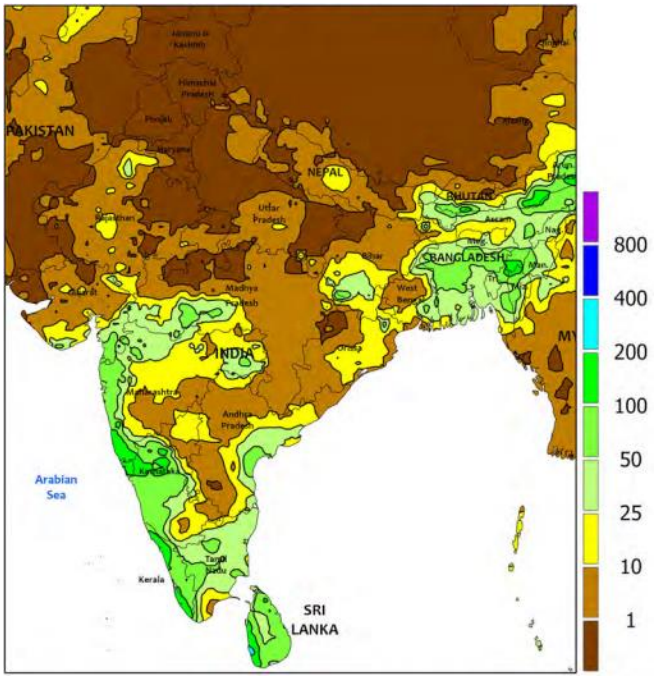
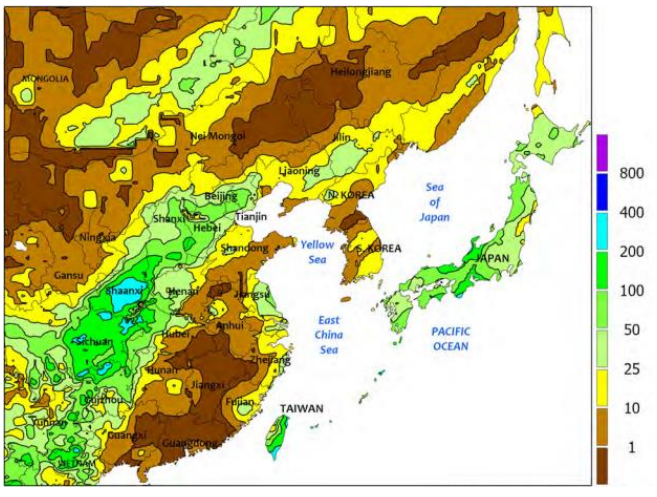



New Image - Total mm

The retreat of the southwest monsoon returned to a slower pace after progressing more seasonably last week. As a result, showers, albeit lighter, continued across the southern half of India during the reporting period. Rainfall amounts varied from over 50 mm in southernmost states and along the western coast to less than 25 mm in the interior and much of the east; seasonably dry weather prevailed in the north where the monsoon had already withdrawn. The lingering wet weather supported later planted kharif crops, although the majority of kharif crops were beginning to mature at this point, as well as bolstered moisture supplies for the upcoming rabi crop season (widespread sowing typically begins in November).

## EASTERN ASIA

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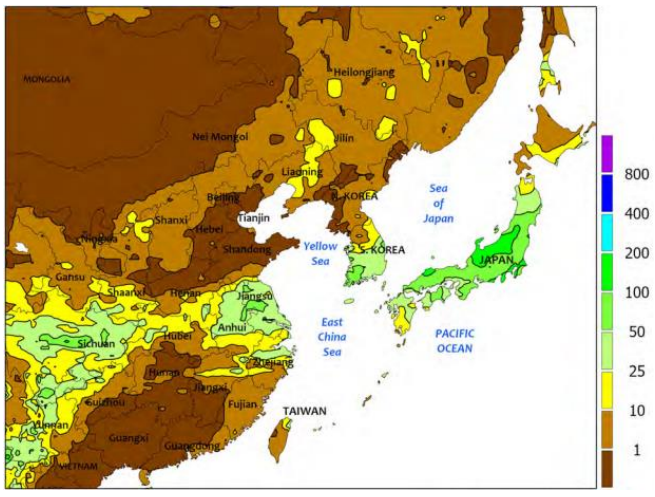
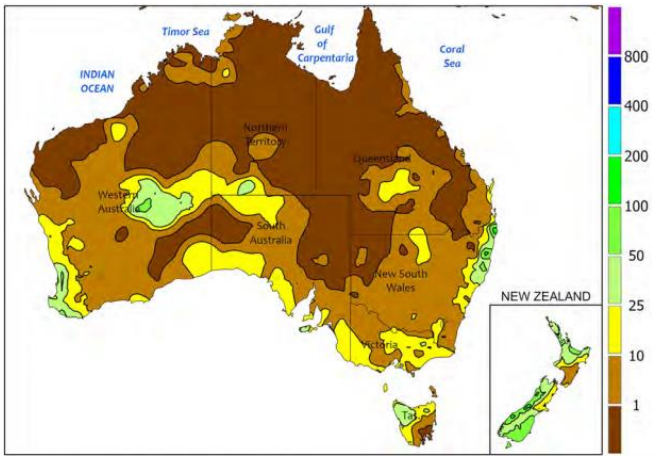



New Image - Total mm

A parade of low-pressure systems brought unsettled weather across the Yangtze Valley and neighbouring sections of the North China Plain into South Korea and central Japan. Rainfall totals exceeded 25 mm in most areas, topping 50 mm in some locales. While the showers bolstered irrigation supplies and soil moisture for the start of the winter cropping season, the wet weather slowed fieldwork. Temperatures for the week were near to above normal (up to 3°C above average) throughout the region, as freezing temperatures pushed farther into northernmost provinces of China (typically occurring by mid-October).

## AUSTRALIA

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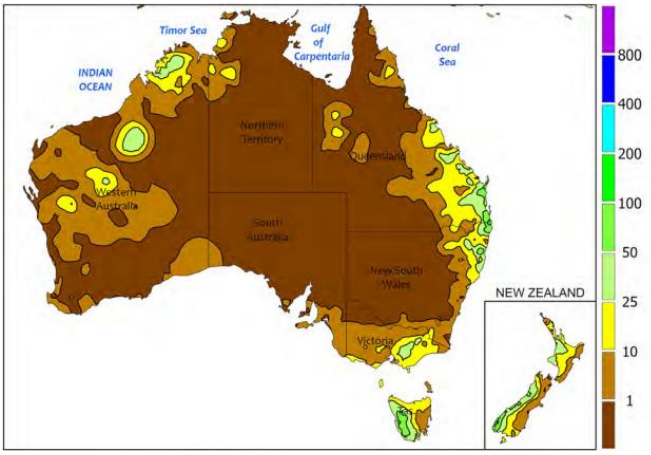
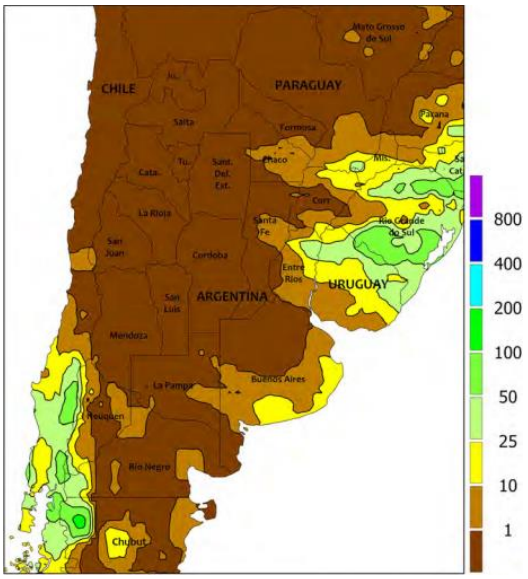



New Image - Total mm

Widespread showers (5-25 mm) in southern Queensland and northeastern New South Wales increased soil moisture for summer crop planting, germination, and emergence, but the rain slowed winter wheat dry down and initial harvesting in northernmost growing areas. In contrast, isolated showers in South Australia, northern Victoria, and the remainder of New South Wales provided little additional water for filling winter grains and oilseeds, potentially trimming local yield prospects further in some southern areas. Similarly, mostly dry weather prevailed in Western Australia, aiding dry down of the earliest maturing winter crops in the north but reducing moisture supplies for immature wheat, barley, and canola elsewhere. Unseasonably warm weather (temperatures averaging 3-4°C above normal) accelerated crop development and elevated evaporation rates in the west, while seasonably warm weather covered the south and west.

## ARGENTINA

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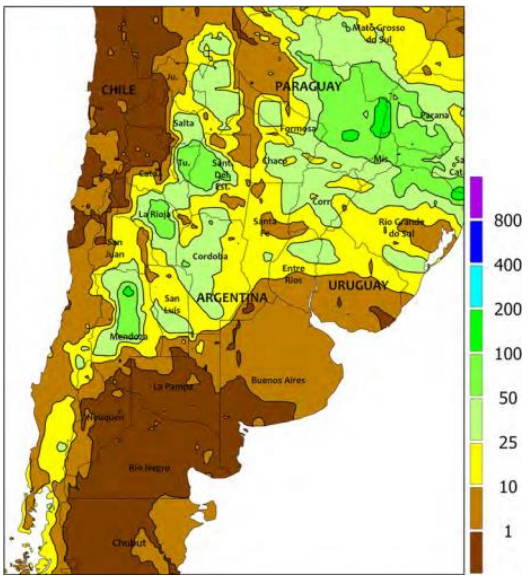
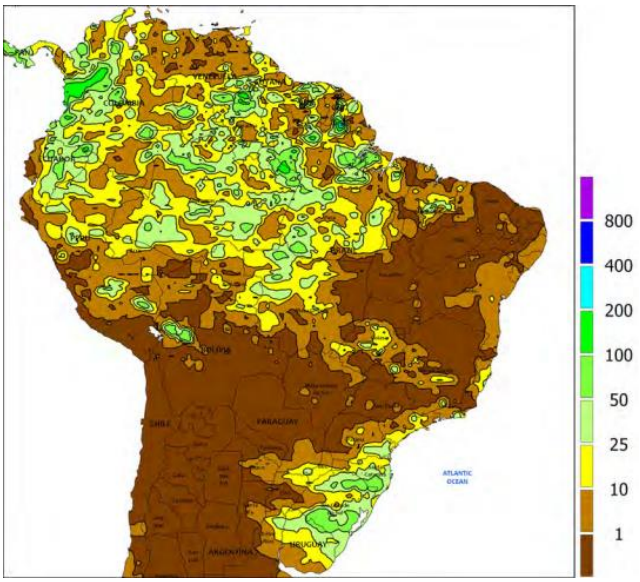



New Image - Total mm

Locally heavy showers overspread drought-stricken western farming areas, helping to stabilize the condition of winter grains while increasing moisture for summer crop germination. Rainfall totalled 10 to 75 mm, locally higher, over a large area stretching from Córdoba north-eastward into Paraguay. In contrast, mostly dry weather (rainfall totalling below 5 mm) dominated La Pampa and Buenos Aires. Temperatures averaged near to slightly above average, with highest daytime temperatures ranging from the 20s (degrees C) in and around Buenos Aires to the lower 40s near the border with Paraguay. According to the government of Argentina, sunflowers were 25 percent planted as of October 10, 5 points ahead of last year's pace, while corn was 13 percent planted (15 points last year). In addition, wheat was reportedly flowering in all delegations in Córdoba and Santa Fe, making this week's rain especially timely even though crops had already incurred some irreversible damage from drought.

## BRAZIL

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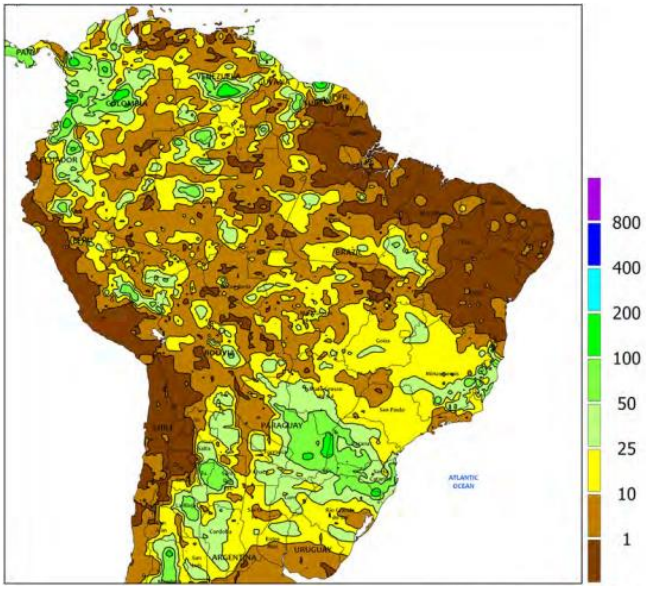
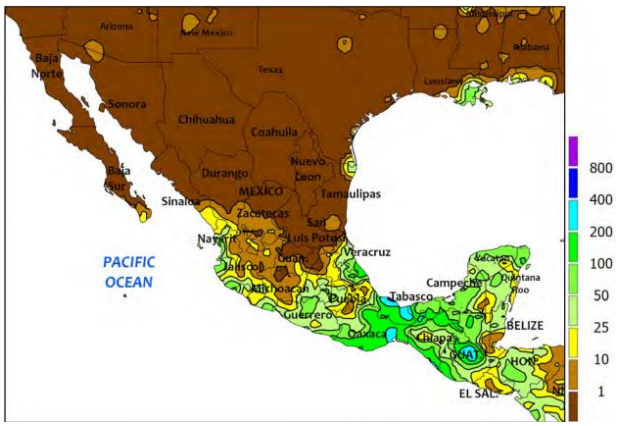



New Image - Total mm

Scattered showers provided timely moisture for germination of soybeans and other summer crops in northern agricultural areas, although many farmers still awaited the onset of seasonal rainfall to begin planting. Amounts totalling 10 to 25 mm were recorded from Mato Grosso south-eastward through Minas Gerais, and in Tocantins, but other locations – including agricultural areas from western Bahia northward - remained mostly dry. Although the rainfall was patchy, it marked the first significant rainfall of the 2024-25 growing season in many states and signalled the onset of the rainy season for some producers. According to the government of Mato Grosso, soybeans were 9 percent planted as of October 11, compared with 35 percent last year and the 5-year average of 24 percent. Farther south, moderate to heavy rain (10-50 mm) fell from southern sections of both Mato Grosso do Sul and São Paulo southward, benefiting emerging summer crops but locally hampering fieldwork, including wheat harvesting. According to the government of Paraná, wheat was 73 percent harvested as of October 7, while first-crop corn and soybeans were 85 and 33 percent planted, respectively. In Rio Grande do Sul, corn was reportedly 64 percent planted as of October 10, and wheat was mostly filling to maturing, with 2 percent harvested.

## MEXICO

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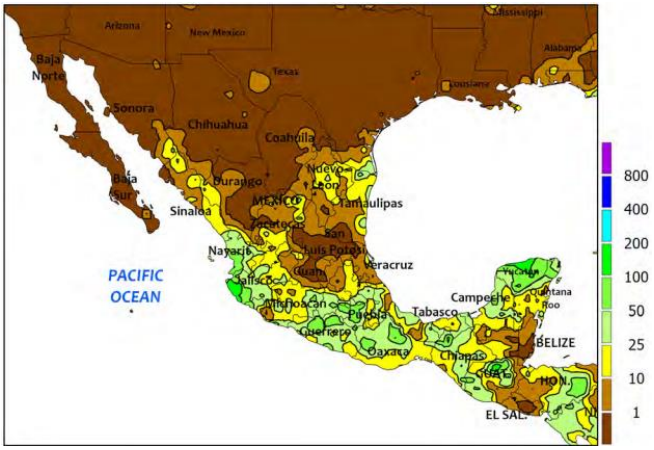


New Image - Total mm

Late-season showers benefited corn and other immature, rainfed summer crops in key southern production areas. Rainfall totalled 10 to 50 mm across the southern plateau (Jalisco to Puebla) and along the southern Pacific Coast (Guerrero to Oaxaca); similar amounts were recorded in southeastern agricultural districts (southern Veracruz to Chiapas and Campeche), benefiting summer crops while also helping to increase reservoir reserves for winter farming. Drier conditions prevailed farther north, although pockets of heavy rain (25-50 mm) were concentrated over Nayarit and portions of the northeast (Tamaulipas and Nuevo Leon). In northwestern watersheds, significant rainfall (greater than 10 mm) was confined to Sinaloa and southern Sonora. Above normal temperatures (daytime highs reaching 40°C locally) accompanied the northwestern dryness, maintaining high evaporative losses.

## 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