

RMD – Shortened USDA Weekly Weather/Crop Conditions Report: 23 Apr 2024

April 14 – 20, 2024, provided by USDA/WAOB

International Weather and Crop Summary

HIGHLIGHTS

EUROPE: Early-week heat in the south gave way to an expanding and intensifying cold snap over central and northern Europe.

WESTERN FSU: Cool and rainy weather in the west contrasted sharply with heat and dryness farther east.

MIDDLE EAST: Sunny and hot weather followed last week's heavy rain across central and eastern portions of the Middle East, while historic rainfall was reported in the southeast.

NORTHWESTERN AFRICA: Sunny and hot weather in western crop areas further lowered yield prospects and hastened wheat and barley maturation.

EAST ASIA: Continued rainfall in southern China benefited vegetative early-crop rice and reproductive rapeseed.

SOUTHEAST ASIA: Showers in southern portions of the region contrasted with heat to the north.

AUSTRALIA: Initial winter crop sowing continued, but rain is needed in the south and west to aid germination.

SOUTH AFRICA: Lingering showers improved local moisture reserves.

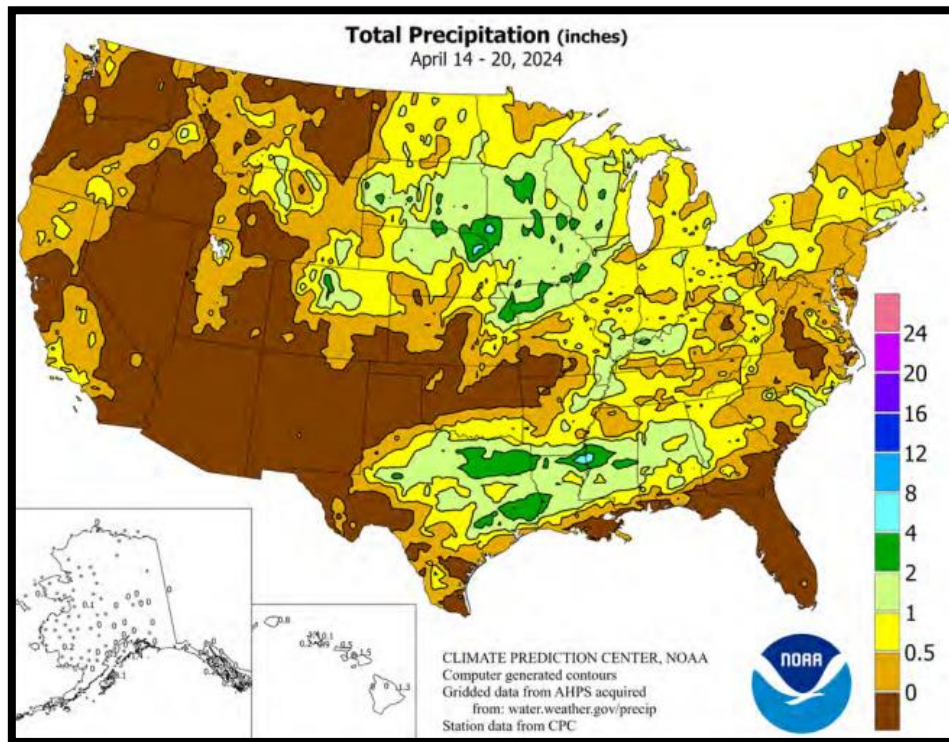
ARGENTINA: Heavy rain slowed summer crop harvesting, while increasing long-term moisture reserves for winter grains.

BRAZIL: Showers benefited immature corn and cotton in the main second-season production areas.

MEXICO: Warm, dry weather prevailed across the country.



USA



Most of the eastern and western one-thirds of the U.S. were drier than normal, while large parts of the nation's mid-section recorded above-normal precipitation. Some locations across the Great Plains and lower Mississippi Valley recorded weekly rainfall totaling 4 inches or more. Meanwhile, much of the mid-Atlantic, Midwest, South, and Southwest recorded above-normal

temperatures for the week. Many locations in the Ohio Valley, Southeast, and Tennessee Valley recorded temperatures 8°F or more above normal. In contrast, parts of the Great Plains, Pacific Northwest, and northern Rockies were cooler than normal. A few areas in Montana and North Dakota recorded temperatures 6°F or more below normal.

Corn: By April 21, producers had planted 12 percent of the nation's corn crop, equal to last year but 2 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Texas was the furthest advanced in progress with 68 percent planted, 2 percentage points behind last year but 3 points ahead of average. Three percent of the nation's corn acreage had emerged by April 21, one percentage point ahead of both the previous year and the 5-year average.

Soybean: Eight percent of the nation's soybean acreage was planted by April 21, equal to last year but 4 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Progress was furthest advanced in Arkansas and Louisiana, with 43 and 42 percent planted, respectively.

Winter Wheat: By April 21, seventeen percent of the nation's winter wheat crop was headed, 1 percentage point ahead of last year and 4 points ahead of the 5-year average. On April 21, fifty percent of the 2024 winter wheat crop was reported in good to excellent condition, 5 percentage points below the previous week but 24 points above last year. In Kansas, the largest winter wheat-producing state, 36 percent of the winter wheat crop was rated in good to excellent condition.

Cotton: Nationwide, 11 percent of the cotton crop was planted by April 21, equal to both the previous year and the 5-year average. Planting progress was furthest advanced in Arizona with 42 percent, 12 percentage points ahead of last year and 1 point ahead of average.

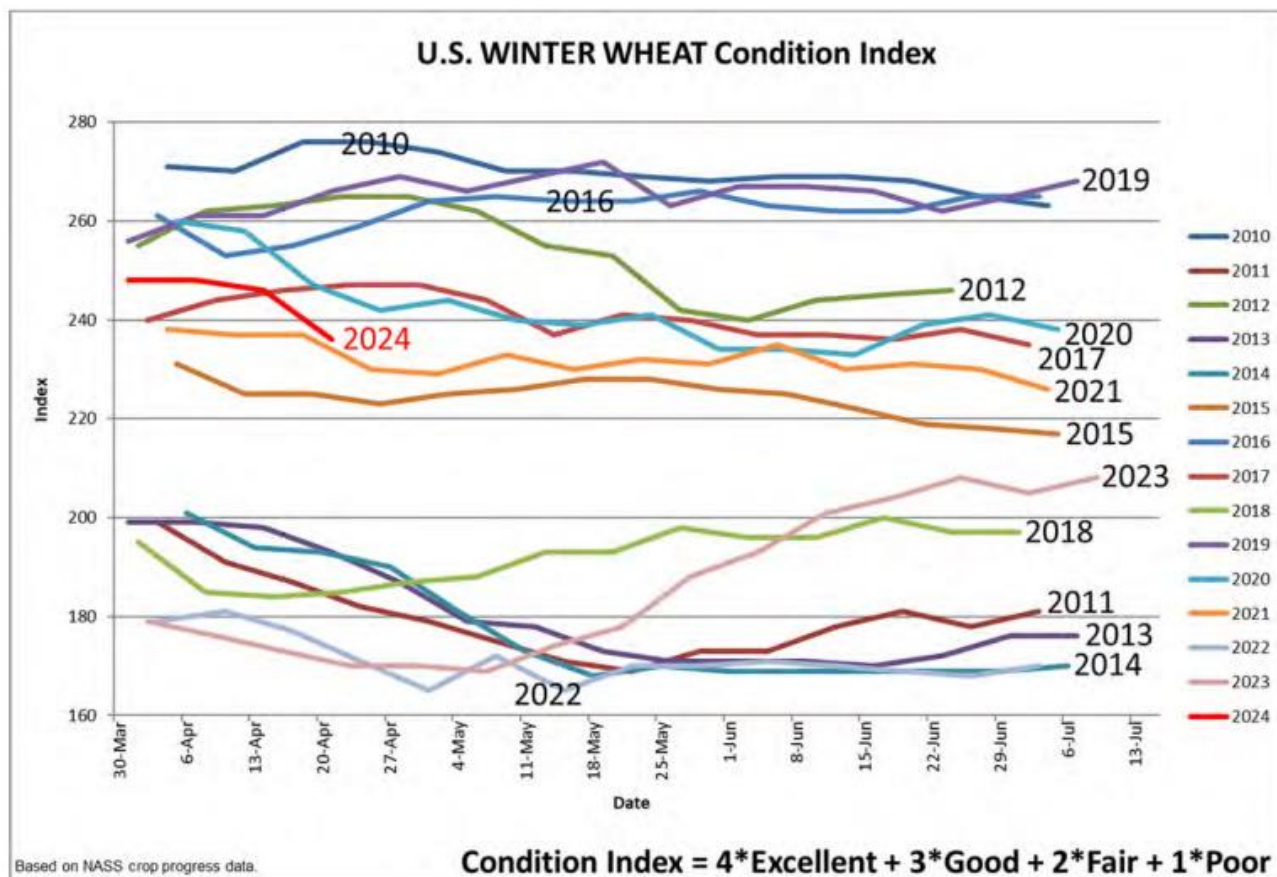
Sorghum: Seventeen percent of the nation's sorghum acreage was planted by April 21, equal to last year but 1 percentage point behind the 5-year average. Texas had planted 60 percent of its sorghum acreage by April 21, equal to both last year and the 5-year average.

Rice: By April 21, producers had seeded 59 percent of the 2024 rice acreage, 12 percentage points ahead of the previous year and 24 points ahead of the 5-year average. Louisiana and Texas had the largest percentages of acreage planted, with 87 and 72 percent, respectively. By April 21, thirty-three percent of the nation's rice acreage had emerged, 6 percentage points ahead of last year and 13 points ahead of average.

Small Grains: Nationally, oat producers had seeded 51 percent of this year's acreage by April 21, eleven percentage points ahead of last year and 9 points ahead of the 5-year average. Thirty-five percent of the nation's oat acreage was emerged by April 21, eight percentage points ahead of the previous year and 7 points ahead of average. Twenty-four percent of the nation's barley crop was planted by April 21, fifteen percentage points ahead of last year and 5 points ahead of the 5-year average. Progress was furthest advanced in Idaho and Washington, with 53 and 52 percent planted, respectively. Two percent of the nation's barley crop had emerged by April 21, one percentage point ahead of the previous year but 1 point behind average. By April 21, fifteen percent of the spring wheat crop was seeded, 11 percentage points ahead of last year and 5 points ahead of the 5-year average. Progress was furthest advanced in Washington and Idaho, with 60 and 55 percent planted, respectively. By April 21, two percent of the nation's spring wheat crop had emerged, 1 percentage point ahead of the previous year but 1 point behind average.

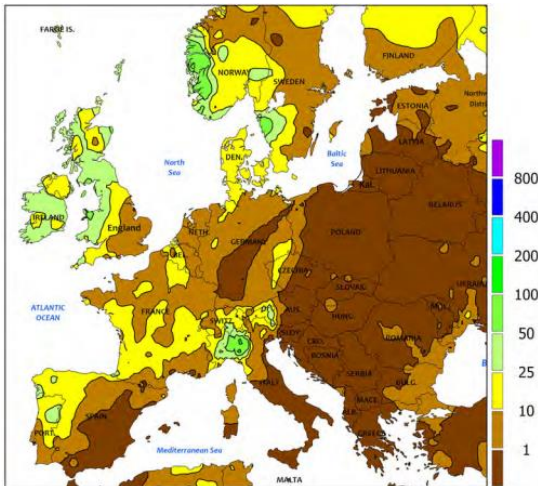
Other Crops: Nationally, peanut producers had planted 3 percent of the 2024 peanut acreage by April 21, equal to both the previous year and the 5-year average. Producers in Florida had planted 11 percent of the 2024 intended acreage by week's end, 6 percentage points behind last year and 3 points behind average.

By April 21, twenty-six percent of the sugarbeet crop was planted, 10 percentage points ahead of last year and 7 points ahead of the 5-year average. Progress was furthest advanced in Idaho and Minnesota, with 39 and 29 percent planted, respectively

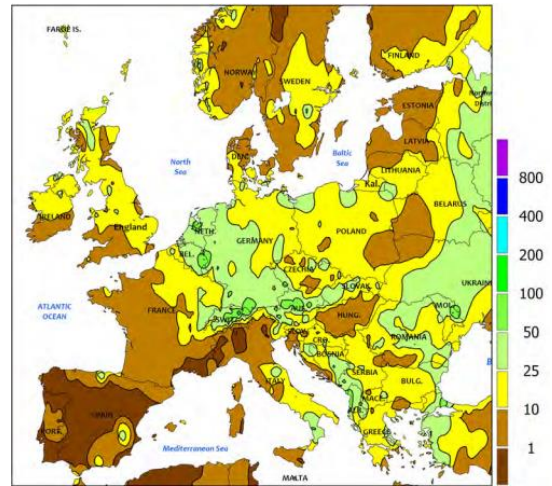


Over the last 15 years, condition indices for U.S. winter wheat have fallen into two distinct groups, with lower spring values observed in 2011, 2013, 2014, 2018, 2022, and 2023. However, 2023 ended on a "high note," with improving wheat condition indices in May and June. In 2024, recent and ongoing dryness has led to April declines in crop condition.

EUROPE



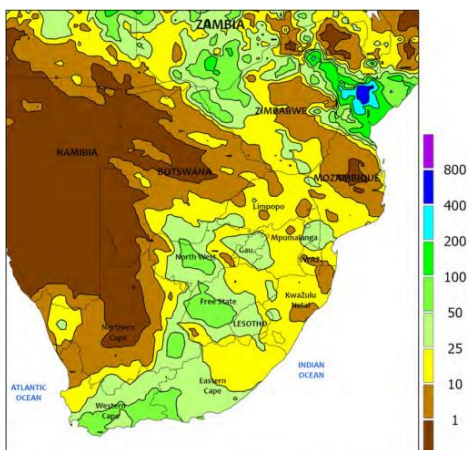
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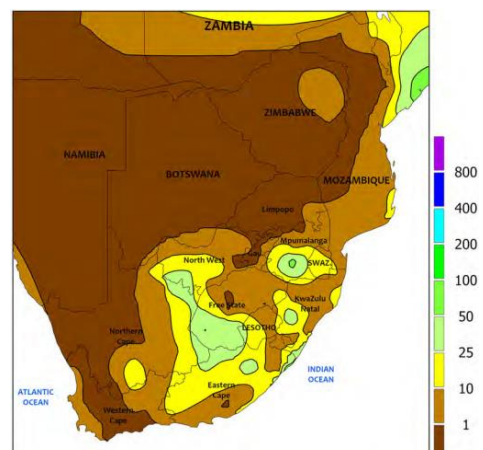
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Early-week heat in the south gave way to an expanding and intensifying late-season cold snap across central and northern Europe. Abnormal warmth early in the period over southern Europe sustained a rapid winter crop development pace, with temperatures averaging 3 to 7°C above normal on the Iberian Peninsula and from Greece into the southern Balkans. Heat was most pronounced (32-34°C) in southern Romania before a strong cold front pushed through. The cold front produced a wide swath of 10 to 50 mm of rain from England and eastern France into eastern Europe, maintaining water-logged soils in Germany but easing short-term dryness and drought in southeastern Europe. Behind the cold front, sharply colder air overspread the continent save for southern-most growing areas. Minimum temperatures dropped as low as -2°C across northeastern Germany, Poland, and the Baltic States, and reached -4°C in croplands of southern Sweden. While the initial surge of cold air did not pose an immediate risk of widespread damage to winter crops, temperatures after the monitoring period dropped further and likely caused some freeze damage to flowering rapeseed in the northeast and heading winter wheat in the west. More information regarding the ongoing late-season freeze will be provided in next week's Bulletin.

SOUTH AFRICA



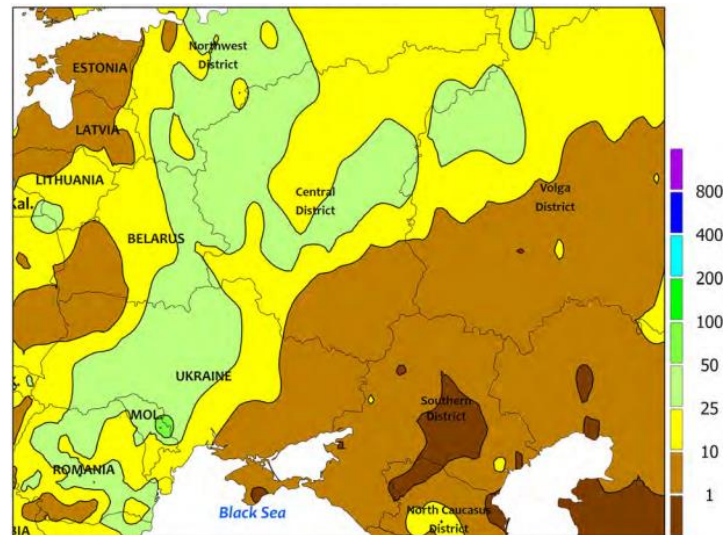
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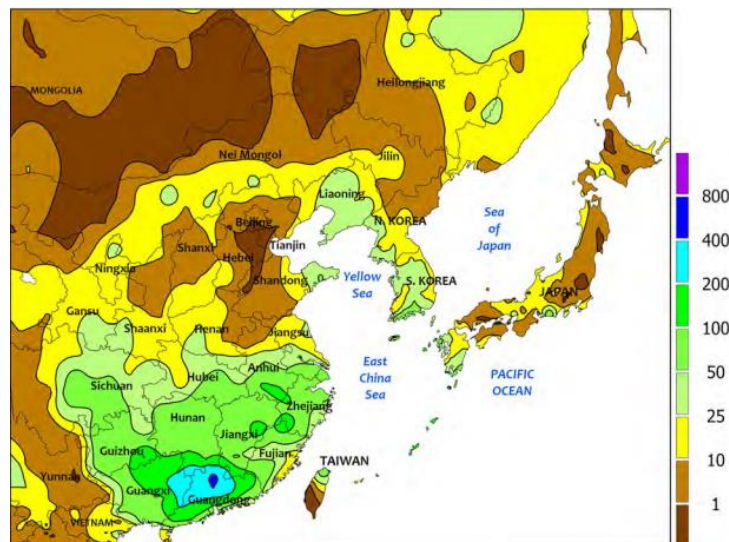
Scattered showers lingered across the region, further improving long-term moisture reserves but coming too late to significantly improve yield prospects of summer crops already impacted by the summer drought. Patches of heavy rain (25- 50 mm) at the western, southern, and eastern edges of the corn belt contrasted with seasonably drier conditions (amounts totaling below 10 mm locally) from Limpopo southward into Free State. Mild weather accompanied the showers, with daytime highs reaching the upper 20s and lower 30s (degrees C) and nighttime lows dropping below 10°C. Near-complete dryness prevailed farther west, promoting maturation and harvesting of irrigated crops, including corn and cotton in the Orange River Valley. *This is the final weekly summary of the season; coverage will resume when planting of 2024/25 summer crops begins.*

WESTERN FSU



Continued hot and dry weather across Russia and eastern Ukraine juxtaposed with rainy and cooler conditions in western growing areas. Temperatures averaged 4 to 8°C above normal from southeastern Ukraine into Russia, accelerating winter crop growth but heightening soil moisture losses. In particular, daytimes highs into the lower 30s (degrees C) in southern Russia hastened winter wheat through the jointing stage of development up to two weeks ahead of average. Many of these same primary winter crop areas have received little to no rainfall since early February, increasing concerns over developing drought. However, spring grain and summer crop sowing proceeded without delay in areas where producers opted to plant in the very dry soils. Meanwhile, widespread moderate to heavy rain (10-40 mm) across Moldova, central and western Ukraine, southeastern Belarus, and northwestern Russia improved moisture reserves for emerging spring grains in the north and late-vegetative winter crops in the south. The cloudy, showery weather in the west was accompanied by near-normal temperatures, though abnormal warmth (up to 5°C above normal) was noted in growing areas immediately adjacent to the Black Sea.

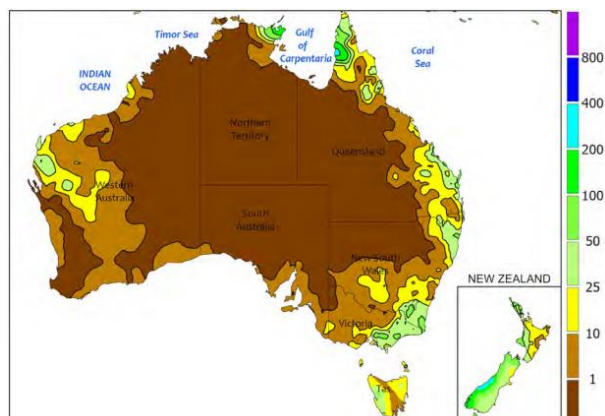
EASTERN ASIA



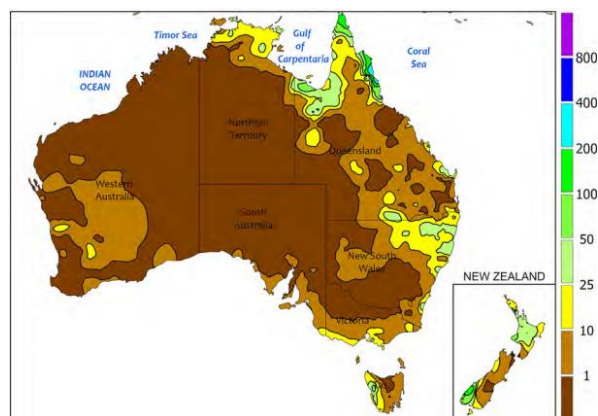
Waves of showers continued to move through southern China, with totals surpassing 400 mm locally. The bulk of the moisture was beneficial for vegetative early-crop rice in southern-most provinces as well as flowering rapeseed in the Yangtze Valley. However, flooding was likely where rainfall amounts were the highest (Guangdong). Rain (topping 25 mm) also filtered into northern wheat areas, aiding heading wheat, although central sections of the North China Plain received less than 5 mm. Meanwhile, weekly average temperatures above 10°C in northeastern China

supported early corn and soybean sowing in addition to rice sowing on the Korean peninsula and in Japan; temperatures were up to 7°C above average and more typical of mid-May. Furthermore, above-average temperatures (up to 4°C above average) in western China allowed cotton planting to begin slightly ahead of usual.

AUSTRALIA



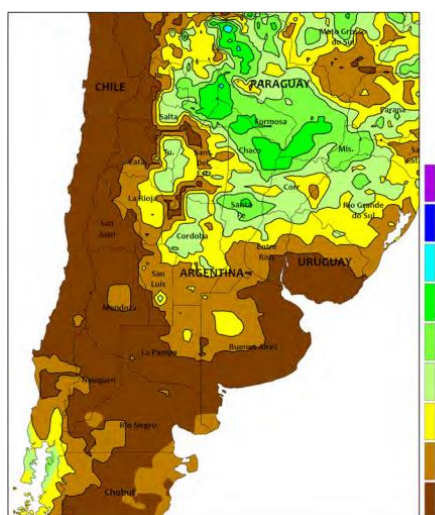
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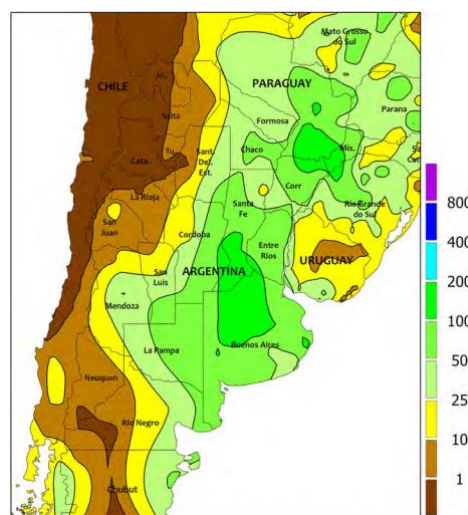
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A concentrated area of showers (10-30 mm) in northern New South Wales slowed local cotton and sorghum harvesting, while sunny skies elsewhere in eastern Australia favoured fieldwork, including initial wheat, canola, and other winter crop planting. Root zone soil moisture remained near to above average in southern Queensland, New South Wales, and most of Victoria, providing a promising start to the winter crop growing season as crops begin to germinate. Farther west, isolated, light showers (less than 5 mm) brought little additional moisture to major crop producing areas in South Australia and Western Australia, where soil moisture was below normal. Farmers were reportedly dry sowing crops in these areas, but rain is needed to help encourage uniform germination and emergence. Temperatures averaged 2 to 3°C above normal in Western Australia, 2 to 4°C below normal in the southeast, and near normal in the northeast.

ARGENTINA



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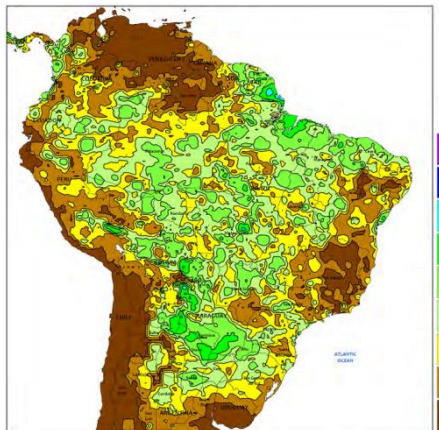


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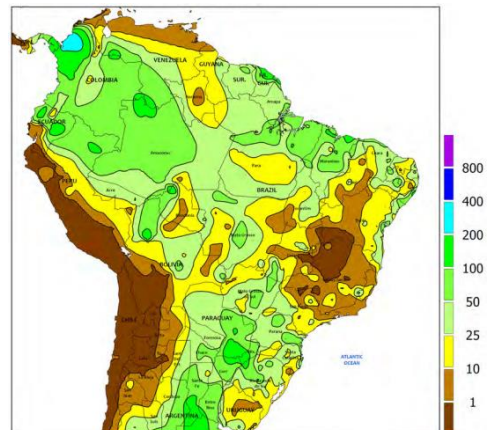
Soaking rain slowed summer crop harvesting in central Argentina, although the moisture will ultimately benefit winter grains. Rainfall totalling 50 to more than 100 mm extended from Buenos Aires and La Pampa northward to southeastern Paraguay, with lesser amounts (below 25 mm) recorded in and around southern Corrientes. Drier conditions also prevailed in the far northwest (in and around Salta). Seasonably mild weather accompanied the showers, with highest daytime temperatures ranging from the lower and middle 20s (degrees C) in La Pampa and Buenos Aires to

the lower 30s farther north. Although nighttime lows dropped below 5°C locally, no freezes were reported. According to the government of Argentina, corn and soybeans were 20 and 14 percent harvested, respectively, and cotton was 9 percent harvested.

BRAZIL



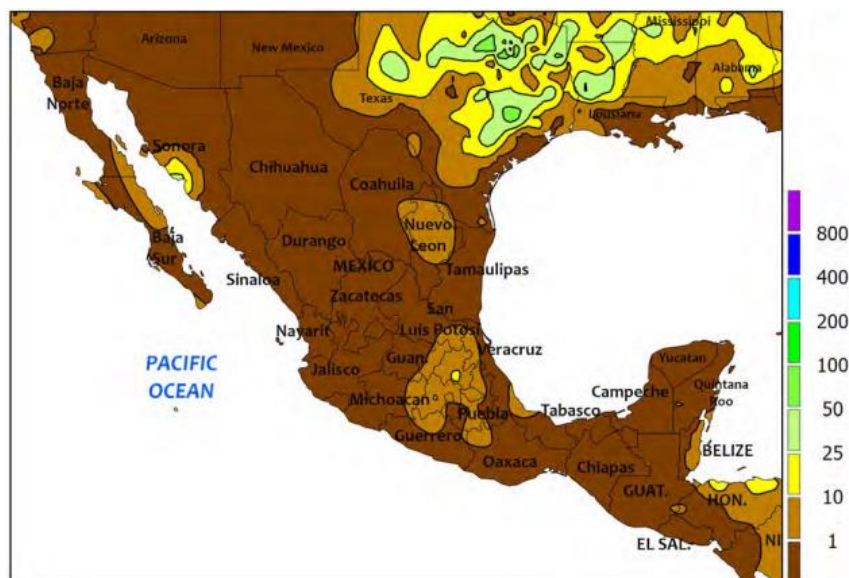
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Locally heavy showers maintained overall favourable conditions for immature summer crops in major production areas of southern, central, and northeastern Brazil. In southern farming areas, rainfall totalled 25 to 100 mm from Rio Grande do Sul northward through Mato Grosso do Sul, with drier conditions continuing in eastern São Paulo and southern Minas Gerais. Mild weather accompanied the rain, with highest daytime temperatures mostly in the upper 20s and lower 30s (degrees C). According to government reports, 70 percent of the second corn crop was in flowering to filling stages of development in Paraná as of April 15, while harvesting of both first-crop corn (96 percent) and soybeans (98 percent) was nearing completion. In Rio Grande do Sul, 49 percent of soybeans were harvested as of April 18, while corn was 78 percent harvested. Farther north, locally heavy rain (25-50 mm) fell over sections of Mato Grosso, Goiás, and the northeastern interior, while pockets of dryness dominated a large area spanning northern Minas Gerais, southwestern Bahia, and eastern Goiás. Meanwhile, seasonal rainfall (10-100 mm) intensified along the northeastern coast, increasing moisture for sugarcane, cocoa, and other crops. Temperatures reached the lower 30s throughout the region, hitting 35°C in the traditionally warmer sections of Mato Grosso and Tocantins. Seasonal dryness typically develops over Brazil's northeastern interior by late April or early May.

MEXICO



Mostly dry, unseasonably warm weather prevailed throughout the region, providing limited opportunities for planting corn and other rain-fed summer crops. Most locations were completely dry, with only isolated locations reporting more than 10 mm, including a section of the southern plateau corn belt to the west of Puebla. Weekly average temperatures were 3°C or more above normal in central portions of the country, with daytime highs reaching above 35°C in most parts of the country. According to the Mexico Drought Monitor, large sections of central and northwestern Mexico entered the spring in Extreme (D3) to Exceptional (D4) Drought, requiring a timely start to the rainy season for planting summer crops and to begin replenishing reservoirs.

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