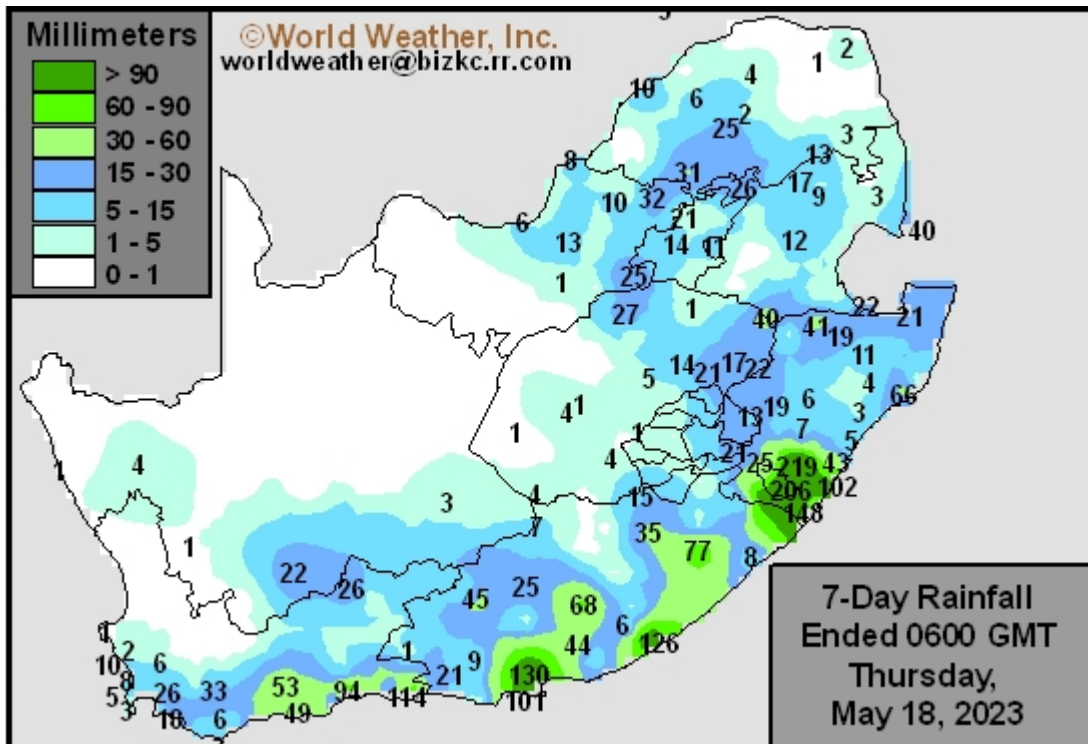


# South Africa Harvest Will Advance Around Spotty Rain

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, May 18 (World Weather Inc.) – Summer crop harvesting continues in South Africa, though some periodic rain has interfered with fieldwork at times. Progress is being made and weather conditions in this coming week will become a little more conducive for faster field progress, despite a few showers periodically. In the meantime, winter wheat planting conditions are generally favorable in Western Cape, Northern Cape, and Free State. Rain and/or irrigation is promoting good establishment and growth.

By far, the most significant rain of the past week occurred in southern Natal where several areas reported 5.00 to 8.62 inches of rain resulting in some flooding. Southern portions of Eastern Cape and eastern coastal areas of Western Cape also reported moderate to heavy rain with amounts of 2.00 to more than 5.00 inches. Rainfall in other areas of South Africa were not nearly so great, although local totals of 1.00 to 1.61 inches resulted in northern Natal, southeastern Free State and in a few areas from southwestern Limpopo into southeastern portions of North West. A few areas in south-central Northern Cape also reported 1.00 inch of rain while amounts in all other areas varied from 0.15 to 0.88 inch. Much of the rain western North West, eastern Limpopo, Mpumalanga, western Free States and northwestern parts of Western Cape experienced dry or mostly dry conditions as did the balance of Northern Cape.



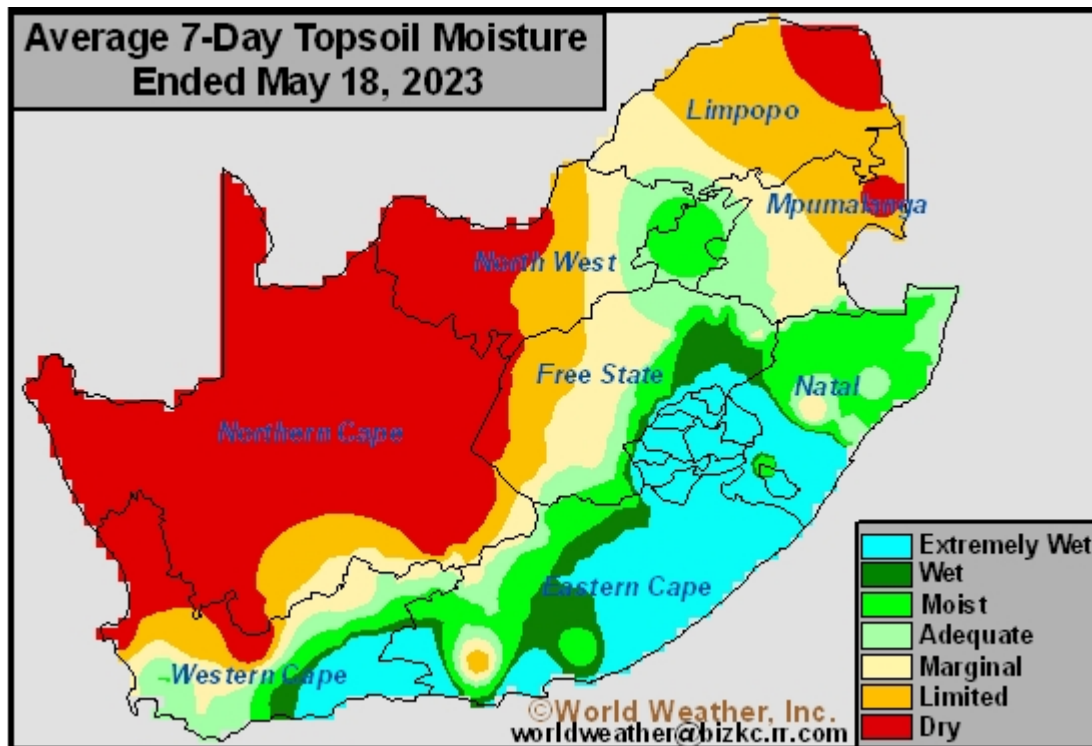
Most of the areas that received heavy rainfall in this past week have excessive topsoil moisture. Topsoil moisture was rated adequate to marginally adequate surrounding the heavy rainfall areas from Gauteng and neighboring areas southward into the remainder of Natal, eastern Free States and into the balance of Eastern Cape and southern Western

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Cape. The remaining production areas have short to very short topsoil moisture. Subsoil moisture was rated marginally adequate to slightly short in most of the summer crop region except in eastern Limpopo, northeastern Mpumalanga, central and western Northwest, far western Free State and from eastern parts of Eastern Cape through all of Northern Cape.

Harvesting is ongoing in South Africa and should continue into June. Recent rainfall may have slowed the harvest, most notably the wettest areas in Natal. Some crop quality declines may have occurred in the flooded areas of southern Natal and southern Eastern Cape. Some decline in sugarcane sucrose levels was suspected as well. Production in all other parts of the nation were unaffected by this past week's rain outside of slowing the harvest briefly.

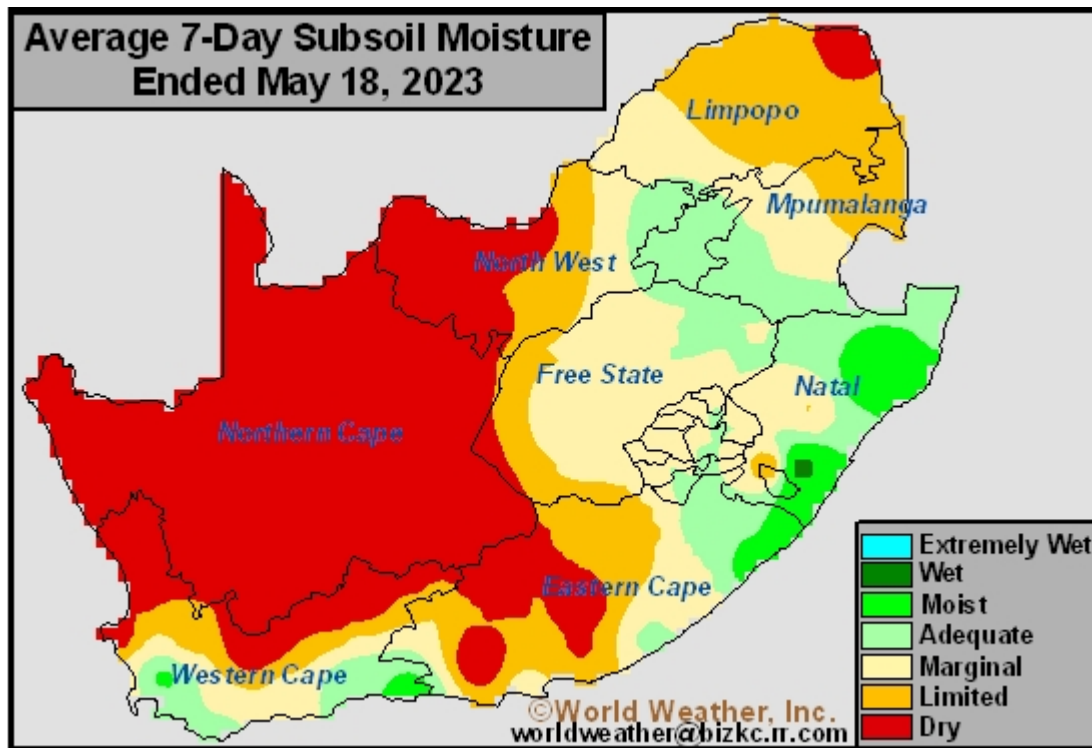
*Winter wheat, barley and canola planting is under way in Western Cape, Northern Cape, and Free State. Soil moisture is good for planting in several areas, but unirrigated areas rated with short to very short topsoil moisture must have rain soon to support planting, germination and emergence.*



A few disturbances will impact South Africa during the coming week. Light rain will initially be scattered across portions of southern and eastern South Africa today and Friday as a frontal boundary advances over the region. Another front will promote light rain in southern South Africa over the weekend. Western Cape and neighboring areas will also have an opportunity for rain toward the middle of next week. Western Cape, Eastern Cape, and Natal will receive 0.25 to 1.00 inch of rain with local amounts of 2.00 inches or more in southern Natal by next Thursday morning. Mpumalanga and neighboring areas in Free State and Limpopo will receive 0.10 to 0.40 inch of moisture. Little to no rain is expected elsewhere. Much of South Africa will see a mix of erratic rain and sunshine May 26 – June 1.

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The periods of rain may again slow harvesting and general fieldwork during the coming week for portions of Natal. Other production areas will have plenty of opportunities to harvest between the periods of spotty rain. Winter wheat, barley and canola planting will also advance around the rain. Western Cape will have plenty of moisture to maintain aggressive establishment and growth. Irrigated crops in Northern Cape and Free State will also have plenty of moisture. The rain-fed areas in Free State would otherwise benefit from a good shot of rain late this month into June to maintain favorable wheat and barley prospects.



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