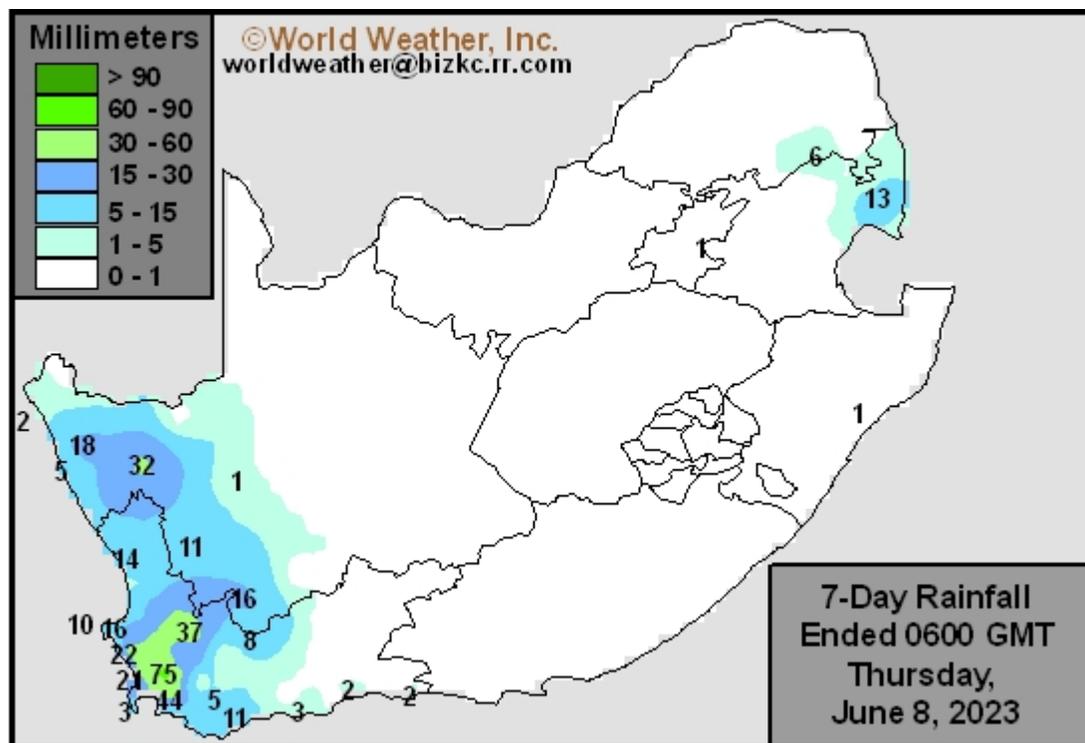


South Africa Winter Wheat Prospects Will Remain Favorable

By Andrew Owen

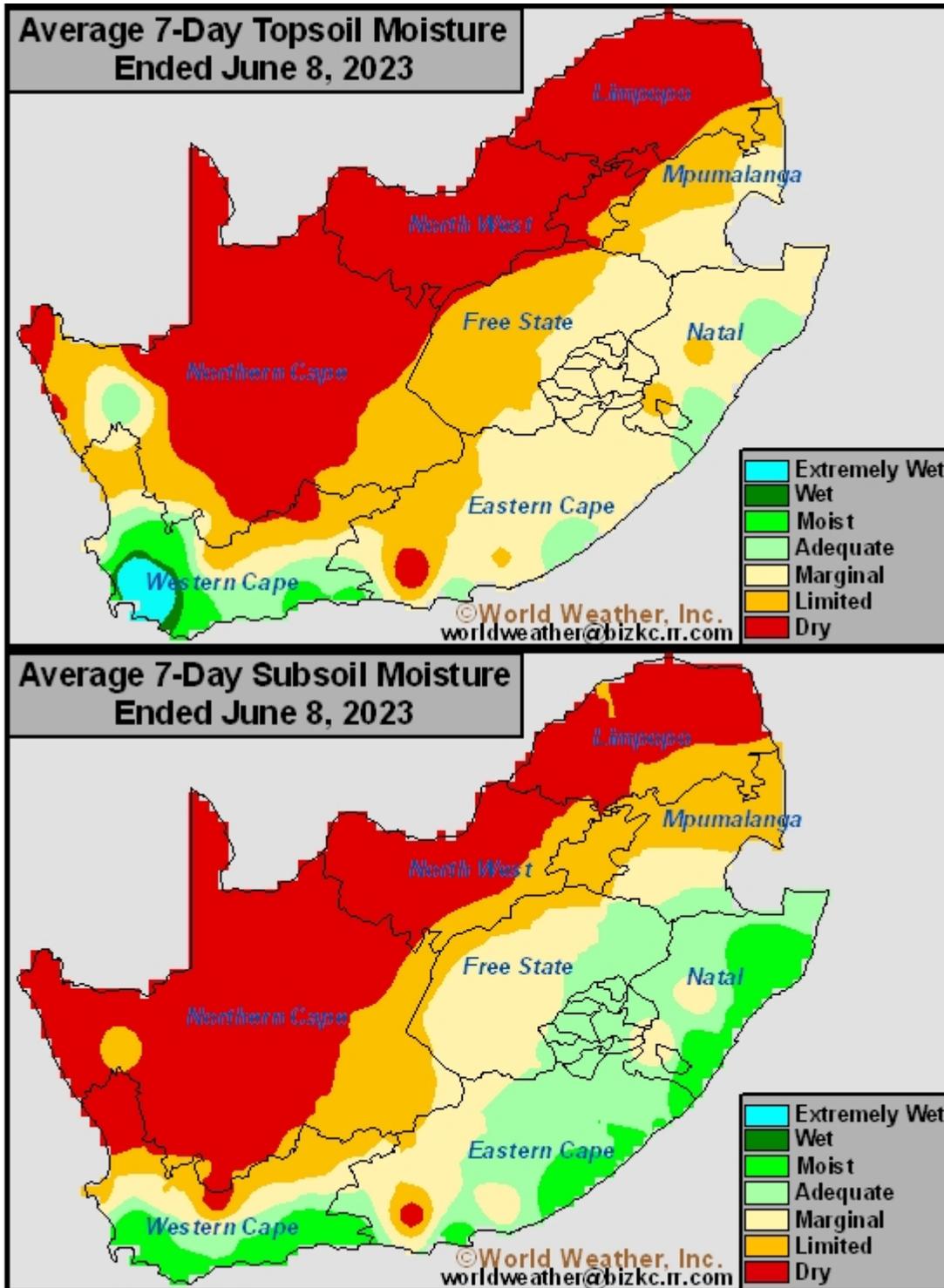
Kansas City, June 9 (World Weather Inc.) – Western Cape received timely rain during the past week that helped keep soil moisture rated adequately. With more rain on the way during the coming week, winter wheat prospects will remain favorable across the region. Northern Cape and Free State otherwise dried down during the past week and will not receive much rain during the next two weeks. Rain-fed crop conditions may start to deteriorate while irrigated wheat remains in good shape. Any harvesting of the summer crops that is not yet complete in eastern and central South Africa will otherwise advance with few disruptions.

The western half of Western Cape into western Northern Cape saw a mix of rain and sunshine during the past week. Moisture totals for the seven-day period ending Thursday morning ranged from 0.20 to 1.73 inches with a local amount of 2.95 inches in southwestern Western Cape. Pockets in northeastern Mpumalanga received 0.24 to 0.51 inch of rain during this time while the remaining production areas in South Africa were dry or mostly dry.



Topsoil moisture was rated short to very short in much of the nation except Western Cape where it was rated adequately. Subsoil moisture was rated favorably over a larger part of the nation from Western Cape through Eastern Cape to southern Mpumalanga and southern Free State to Natal. There is need for more rain in winter crop areas, but the dry bias elsewhere is great for late season summer crop maturation and harvest progress.

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WEATHER OUTLOOK

South Africa will see varying amounts of rain during the coming week. A weak disturbance will initially generate erratic rainfall for western and southern South Africa

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today into Friday. After a brief period of mostly dry weather Saturday, another disturbance and frontal boundary will promote more widespread rain for western, central, and southern South Africa Sunday through early Tuesday. Drier weather will return later Tuesday into Wednesday, though light rain will still occur near and along the southern South Africa coastline. Western Cape will receive 0.75 to 3.00 inches of rain with local amounts of 4.00 inches or more in the southwest corner by next Thursday morning. Eastern Cape and portions of southern and western Northern Cape will receive 0.25 to 1.00 inch of rain and local amounts up to 2.00 inches in Eastern Cape. Natal and portions of Free State will receive 0.10 to 0.50 inch of moisture. The remaining locations in South Africa will be dry or mostly dry.

Drier-than-normal weather is slated for much of the country June 16 – 22. However, periods of light rain will still be possible in southern and western South Africa.

Additional rain in Western Cape will help maintain a good outlook for this year's winter wheat. Aggressive development will continue across the region. Northern Cape and much of Free State will continue to dry down during the next two weeks. Irrigated wheat will continue to grow under generally favorable conditions, though a shot of rain would still be welcome. The need for timely rain will otherwise increase for the rain-fed wheat in Free State late this month into early July. Late-season harvesting and general fieldwork will otherwise advance swiftly in eastern and central South Africa.

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