

Weekly World Cotton Weather

Southern U.S. Plains Dryness Relief Not Complete

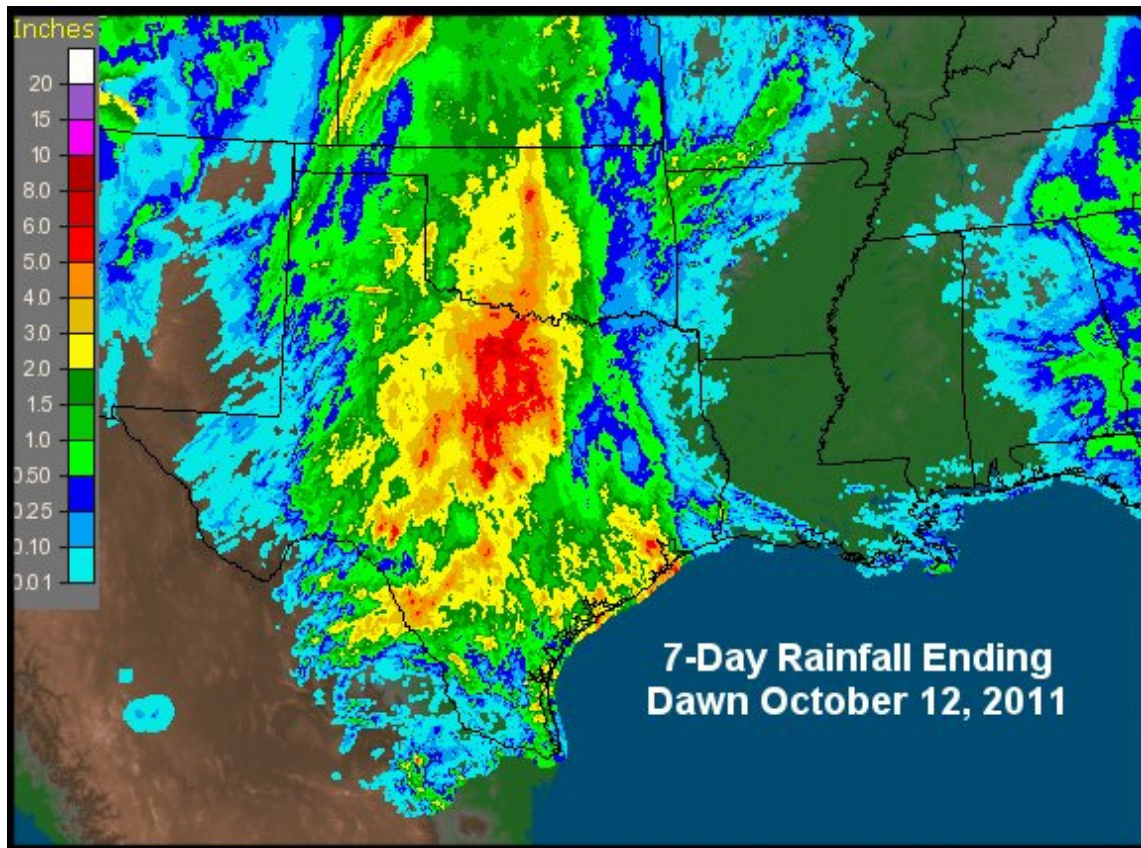
By Drew Lerner

Kansas City, October 12 (World Weather, Inc.) – Drought in the southern U.S. Plains reached serious proportions during the summer with cotton being adversely impacted from Oklahoma through all of Texas. Worry over the continuation of drought into 2012 was rising when along came a general soaking of rain this past weekend. The rain event was the most significant seen in more than a year and soil conditions were seriously bolstered raising hopes that the drought was ending, but World Weather, Inc. believes otherwise.

UNITED STATES

Southern Plains

Rainfall during the past week ranged from 2.00 to more than 6.00 inches over a huge area from central and parts of southeastern Texas through the heart of Oklahoma. The precipitation was welcome and had a terrific impact on raising soil moisture after months of dryness, but the region still needs additional rain and the odds are not very good that another general rain event like that will occur anytime soon. La Nina is still in control of the southern Plains and that reduces the potential for another soaking, especially from December to March when the odds strongly disfavor significant rain. There is still potential for some brief periods of light rain occasionally during the next few months, but net drying is highly probable.



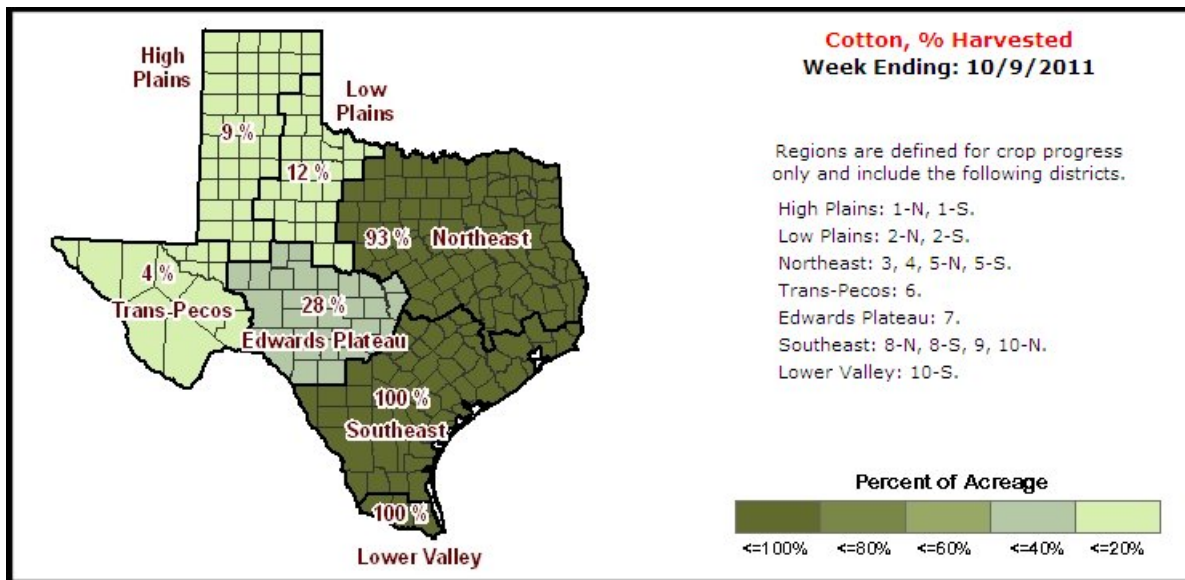
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Cotton harvesting was complete in much of southern and eastern Texas when the heavy rain fell and that limited the number of fields that experienced crop damage from the heavy rain or associated flooding. Harvesting was under way in West Texas. The high Plains region reported 9% of this year's cotton harvested while 12% of the Low Plains crop was baled. The Edwards Plateau region had 28% of this year's crop harvested. Each of these western cotton production areas were subjected to rain just as the remainder of the state was, although amounts in the region varied from 0.25 to 1.00 inch most often with a few counties and parts of counties reporting upwards to 2.00 inches. The further west one traveled in the region the lighter the rain was.

All of the precipitation in western Texas was welcome, but much of the region was running a little light on amounts and the percentage of relief resulting there was low enough that the drought is officially continuing. Rain in West Texas may have reduced the quality of cotton fiber quality and a small portion of the fiber may have been strung out of bolls making harvest more difficult if not impossible.

Weather conditions over the coming week will trend much drier. Very little to no precipitation will fall across the cotton production region from Texas to Kansas. The entire region will experience a new bout of net drying conditions and that may eventually deplete soil moisture and return some desperately dry conditions. In the meantime, the returning dry weather will help get harvest progress back under way after this past week's flooding rain. Temperatures over the coming week will continue warm with highs in the 80s Fahrenheit and that will likely lead to faster drying time.



Delta

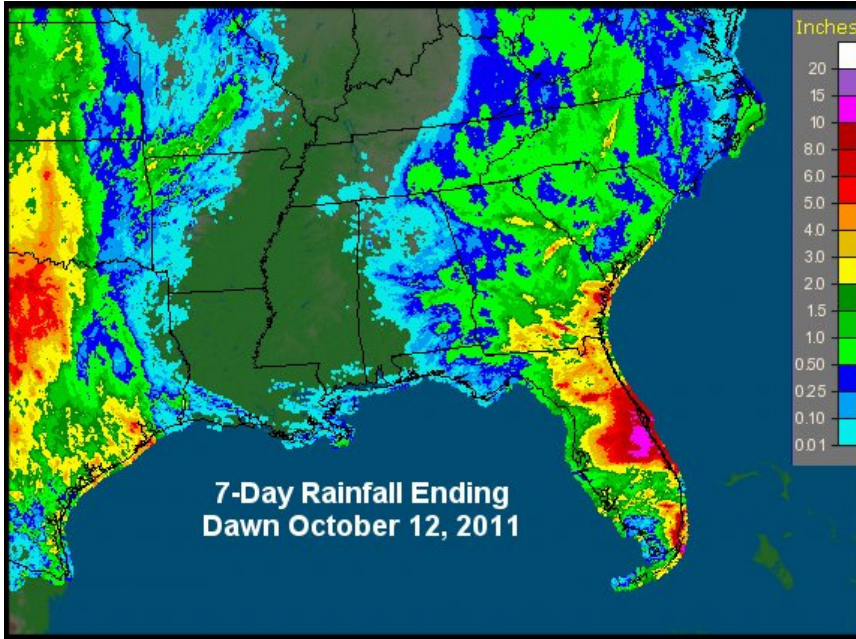
No rain fell during the past week and only a limited amount of moisture was expected in this coming week. The drier biased conditions will favor rapid crop maturation and harvest progress.

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Southeastern States

Rain fell in most of the region from northern Florida and eastern Alabama through the Carolinas and Georgia to Virginia this past week. Resulting rainfall was greatest in the



southern part of this region where southern Georgia and northern Florida reported 2.00 to 4.00 inches of rain and locally more. Rainfall in the remainder of the cotton production region varied from 0.25 to 0.75 inch with local totals getting up close to 2.00 inches. Virginia had the lightest precipitation.

Weather conditions during the weekend were mixed for this year's harvest. Before the weekend rain

event evolved precipitation had been minimal and good crop maturation and harvest conditions were noted. The environment has since begun to improve again with less rain and warmer temperatures.

However, with that said, it is important to note that weather patterns during the past week or two had been quite dry favoring aggressive cotton harvest progress and fieldwork has advanced well, despite recent rain. Some of the rain this past weekend was great enough to discolor some of the cotton and it certainly delayed fieldwork. The only significant quality declines should have occurred in southern Georgia and a part of northern Florida.

Weather conditions in the coming week will provide a good mix of rain and sunshine resulting in a favorable environment for cotton maturation and harvest progress.

Far West

Some rain fell across the cotton production region of California's central valleys this past week. Much of the rain was light, but it did interrupt fieldwork briefly. No serious changes to fiber quality were suspected, although a few delays to harvesting were suspected. Weather conditions in this coming week are expected to be favorable toward cotton maturation and harvest progress any rain that falls will not be significant and that should translate into more favorable field working conditions.

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

Favorable cotton planting weather occurred across Argentina's primary production region from Chaco and Formosa into northern Santa Fe. However, some of the cotton located

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further west in Santiago del Estero failed to get rain and that left some of the production region too dry. Rainfall in the heart of cotton production country ranged from 2.50 to around 4.00 inches which was sufficient to bolster soil moisture for more aggressive planting progress in the coming week. In contrast, Santiago del Estero reported rainfall of rarely more than 0.60 inch.

Well timed rainfall and seasonable temperatures in this coming week should translate into another week of favorable planting, germination and plant emergence conditions. Some welcome rain may reach into the drier western crop areas, but resulting rainfall will still be less than usual.

Paraguay

Rain was widespread in southern Paraguay with all cotton areas impacted at one time or another. Resulting rainfall varied from 1.00 to 3.50 inch which was more than enough to support planting and good early season crop development.

Weather conditions in this coming week will provide additional rain and thunderstorms maintaining the best possible crop moisture and development potential.

Brazil

Rain fell significantly across cotton production areas of center south Brazil this past week. Amounts were light and probably aided in the planting, emergence and establishment of crops throughout the region. There is still need for additional rain and the prospects are very good that the needed moisture will evolve in the coming week. The precipitation should help to further eliminate lingering dryness after seasonal rains were slow in beginning. The long term outlook is favorable for most of the production region.

CHINA

Favorable cotton maturation and harvest progress continued across the nation this past week. Rain was limited for a large part of the week and that helped fieldwork advance with a limited amount of delay. Some rain has evolved in the past day or two and that has brought on the first round of harvest delay. However, the interruption will not last long and there will likely be a new extended period of dry weather forthcoming that will further promote crop maturation and harvest progress.

AUSTRALIA

Well timed rainfall occurred in Queensland and northern New South Wales during the past week favoring a net increase in soil moisture. Improved cotton planting and early establishment has occurred and it will continue for a while as additional periods of rain will occur intermixed with periods of sunshine and dry weather. The environment should become close to ideal for early season crop development and that should help to translate into favorable early season plant development.

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INDIA

Rain during the past week was most significant from Maharashtra into Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. The region is known for its late season cotton development potential. Recent rain has occurred in time to support better crop development and production potentials. More of the same kind of weather is expected over the next full week to ten days.

Net drying occurred in northwestern India; including Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab and most of Haryana. The lack of precipitation was perfect for the filling, maturing and harvest stages of development. Little change in weather was expected over the coming week.

UZBEKISTAN/KAZAKHSTAN/TURKMENISTAN/TAJIKISTAN

A limited amount of rain fell across Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan and Kazakhstan this past week. The precipitation that fell was brief and light failing to be great enough to raise soil moisture for crops. Most of the cotton was being harvested and fieldwork should advance well in the coming week as precipitation continues minimal.

TURKEY/GREECE

The first significant storm system of the autumn season occurred early in this past week. Widespread rain fell across both Greece and western Turkey. Some of the rain was heavy and it bolstered topsoil moisture at a time of year when dryness was preferred. Some fiber quality declines may have occurred, but most of the crop was not seriously harmed. Drier weather is needed over a prolonged period of time to be assured of the best possible harvest environment.

Some additional rain may be falling during the coming week as another weather disturbance comes into the region. Greece and Turkey are both expected to receive rain and there may be another short term bout of fiber quality concerns.

SPAIN

Cotton harvest weather was nearly ideal this past week. Dry weather dominated the past seven days and the coming two weeks will be dry, as well.

CENTRAL AFRICA FRANC ZONE

Rainfall over the past week was abundant. Nearly all areas from Ivory Coast through Nigeria to the Central African Republic received rain at one time or another and amounts were sufficient to support good cotton filling and maturation conditions. Drier weather is now needed to promote harvesting. The rather strange distribution of rainfall during the past few weeks may not have induced the best possible cotton production and quality, but under the circumstances the production outlook is quite favorable.

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