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AgriSeker fa( ) EST. 2015

RISK MANAGEMENT 2025/26

CUMULUS

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LAND BANK
INSURANCE (SOC) LIMITED

Contents

Summary

Rain and thundershowers during the weekend

Widespread rain and thundershowers are expected over the central to eastern parts through the weekend, associated with cloudy to overcast and cool conditions. Some areas in the east may receive significant totals, but further west, over the central parts, totals are expected to remain below 25 mm in most areas. The summer-grain production region is included in the area that will receive rain, with significant totals expected over the eastern parts of the region, while totals should be lower over the western parts. It will gradually clear from the west by Sunday. However, it is still expected to be cloudy and cool on Monday, with light showers in places over the eastern half of the country then. From Tuesday onwards, it should be warmer, with maximum temperatures normalizing following the cool conditions during the weekend and Monday. It will also be drier during the rest of next week, with only isolated thundershowers over the central to eastern parts.

Following the wet conditions during the weekend, forecast models indicate drier conditions, with typical summer thundershowers, mostly isolated in nature. Most rainfall activity will be located to the north and east of South Africa during the rest of the month, but further thundershowers are still possible over South Africa, mainly over the Highveld and other areas where thundershowers commonly occur during summer.

Given the expected development of La Niña, seasonal forecasts continue to indicate a relatively wet summer over the interior. However, while still leaning towards normal to wetter-than-normal conditions, the latest forecasts issued in October and November are somewhat less indicative of wet conditions during the mid- to late-summer period than those issued in September.

The following is a summary of weather conditions during the next few days (until middle next week):

- On average, temperatures will be near- to below-normal over most parts, but above normal over the western parts, including the western to northern parts of the winter rainfall region
- Total rainfall will be above normal over the central to eastern interior on average, including the summer grain-production region.
- Total rainfall will be below normal over most of the southern to south-western parts.
- No rain is expected over the central to western parts of the Northern Cape, the winter rainfall region and interior of the Western Cape.
- Cloudy to overcast and cool conditions with widespread showers and thundershowers are expected over the central to eastern parts during the weekend, clearing from the west on Sunday, with only cloudy to overcast and cool conditions with isolated light showers on Monday remaining over the northeastern parts.
- It will be drier from Tuesday with only isolated thundershowers over the central to eastern areas, especially on the Highveld and surrounding areas.
- It will be hot on most days over the south-western and far-western parts, including the western to northern parts of the winter rainfall region.
- While large areas will receive rain during the next few days, the occurrence of severe thunderstorms should not exceed levels that are normal for this time of year. The rain-producing systems are not expected to result in widespread outbreaks of severe storms. There will be a larger tendency for cloudy and cooler conditions with “softer” weather.
- **The summer-grain production region** will receive above-normal rainfall over most parts, but totals will be relatively low over most of the south-western parts. Significant totals (> 50 mm) may occur over the eastern parts during the weekend. Cloudy to overcast and wet conditions will dominate until Monday. It will be warmer with only isolated thundershowers during the rest of next week.
- **The winter rainfall region** will experience summer-like conditions, with strong to gale-force south-easterly winds in the southwest. It will be hot on most days over the western to northern parts of the region. Light showers may occur initially along the Garden Route, where it should be cooler than over the rest of the region due to southerly to south-easterly winds.

Overview of expected conditions over the main agricultural production areas

An upper-air trough, supported by a surface ridging high and tropical moisture from the north, will bring widespread showers and thundershowers over the interior until Sunday, with overcast and cool conditions lingering in the northeast until Monday. The rest of next week will be drier with only isolated thundershowers over the interior and higher temperatures. With the high-pressure system to the sough, the flow over the western to south-western parts will be off-shore, and it will be hot most of the time there.

Maize production region:

A wet and cool weekend is expected, especially over the central to eastern parts. It should be drier next week with isolated thundershowers and a recovery in temperatures.

- Maximum temperatures over the eastern grain-production areas will range between 17°C and 26°C, with the lower temperatures expected during the weekend and Monday. Minimum temperatures will range between 9°C and 14°C.
- Maximum temperatures over the western grain-production areas will range between 19°C and 32°C, with the cooler conditions expected during the weekend. Minimum temperatures will be in the order of 12°C to 18°C.

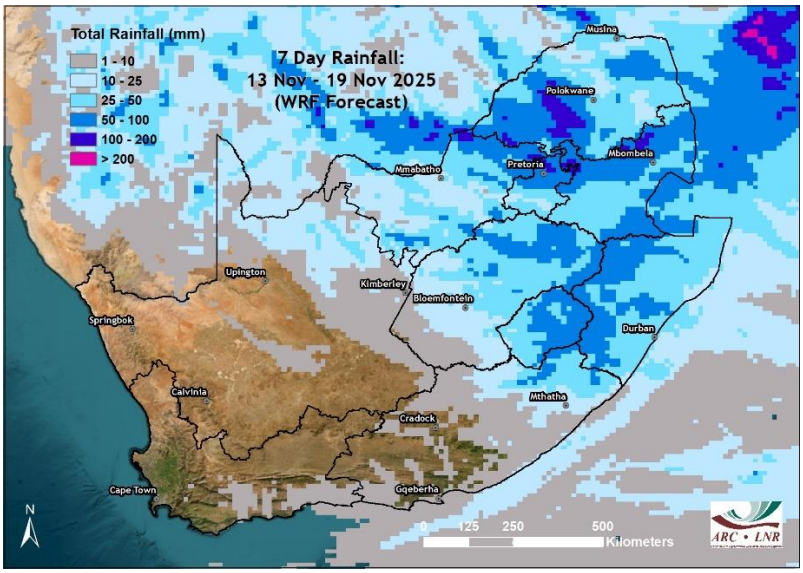
- **Friday (14th):** Partly cloudy and warm, becoming cloudy with scattered showers and thundershowers, but isolated in the northeast. Moderate to fresh north-westerly winds are expected over the central to western parts.
- **Saturday (15th):** Partly cloudy and mild to overcast and cool with widespread showers and thundershowers.
- **Sunday (16th):** Cloudy to overcast and cool with widespread showers and thundershowers except for the west where it will be partly cloudy with isolated afternoon thundershowers. Fresh easterly to north-easterly winds are expected over the region.
- **Monday (17th):** Overcast and cool over the central to eastern parts, with light showers in places. It will be partly cloudy and mild in the west with isolated afternoon thundershowers.
- **Tuesday to Thursday (18th – 20th):** Temperatures are expected to recover and it will be partly cloudy and warm with isolated afternoon thundershowers, concentrating more eastwards as the week progresses.

Cape Wine Lands and Rûens:

Summer-like conditions will persist through the entire period, with strong to gale-force south-easterly winds over the south-western parts and sunny to partly cloudy skies over the region. It will be hot at times over the western to northern parts, including the Swartland. The Garden Route will be cooler, due to an on-shore flow. Light showers are expected over the southern parts initially.

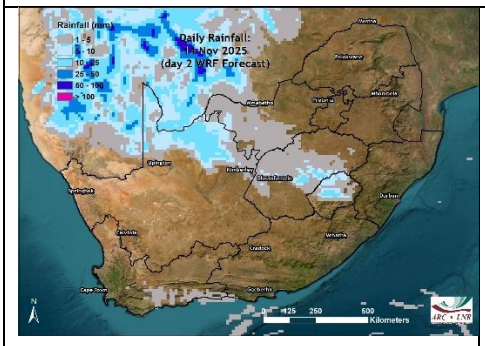
Daily summary of expected conditions (14 – 19 Nov)

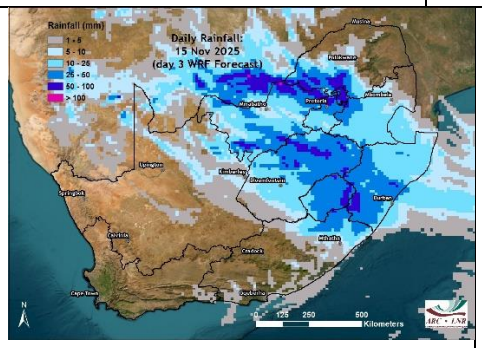
(GFS forecast downscaled using WRF)

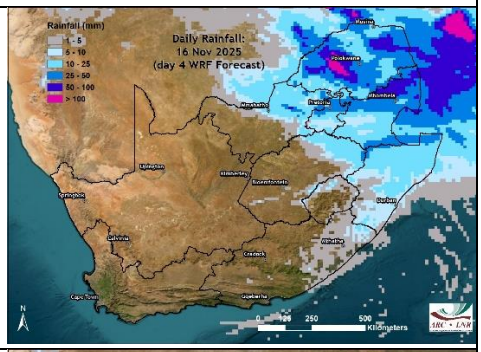


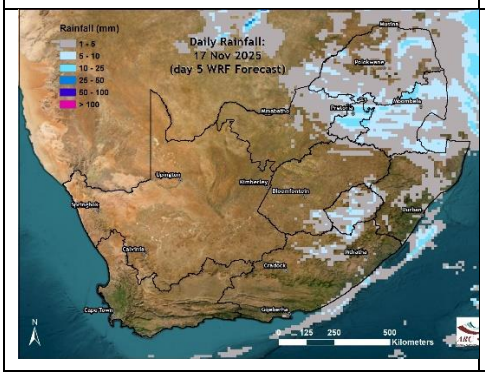
Rainfall

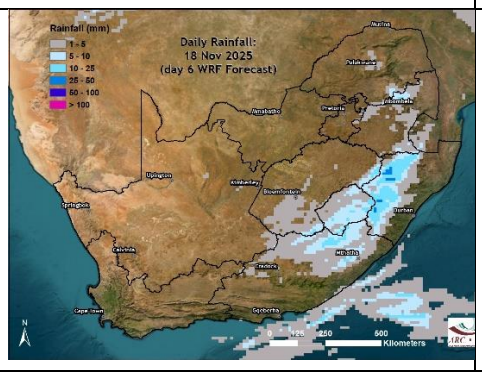
- Most of the central to eastern parts and the Garden Route will receive rain during the next few days.
- It will be dry over the south-western parts, including most of the winter rainfall region.
- Some areas in the northeast, including the central to eastern parts of the summer-grain production area, may receive more than 50 mm in total during the period.

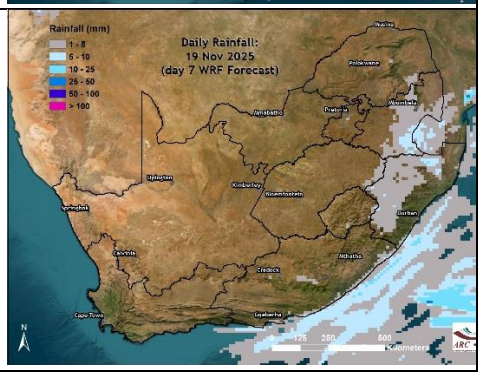




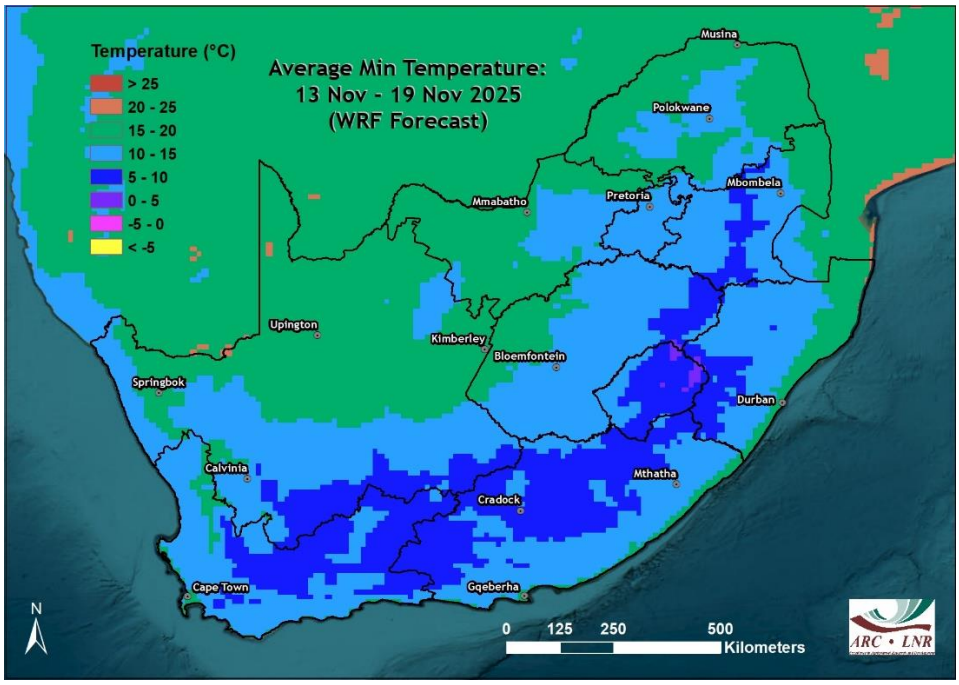






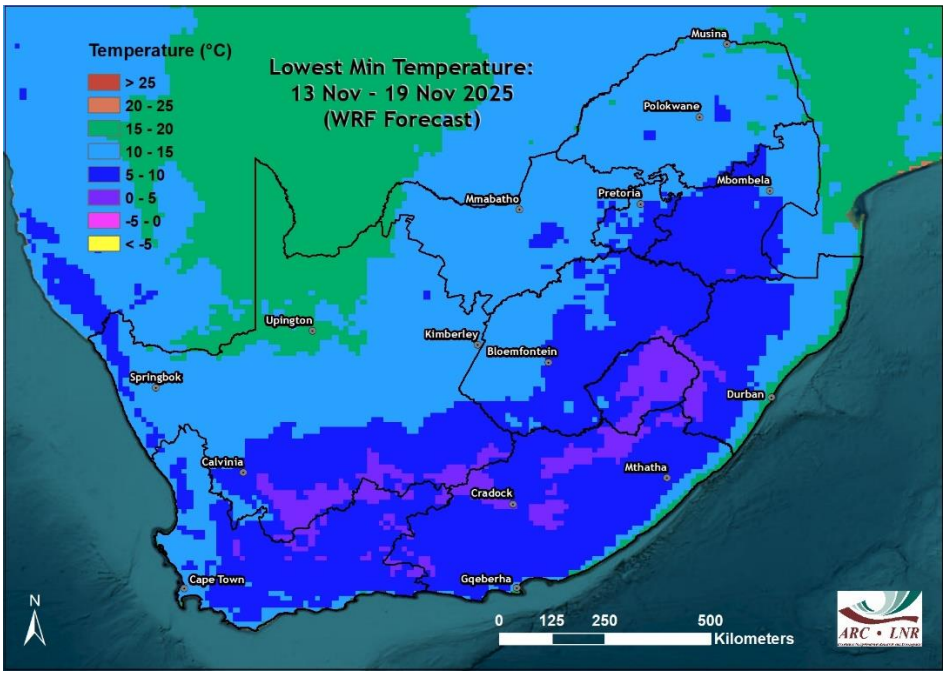


- Scattered showers and thundershowers are expected over large parts during the weekend, clearing by Monday.
- Isolated thundershowers are possible over the central to eastern parts on Tuesday and Wednesday next week.
- Light showers are expected initially along the Garden Route, slowly progressing up the southeast to east coast during the next few days.



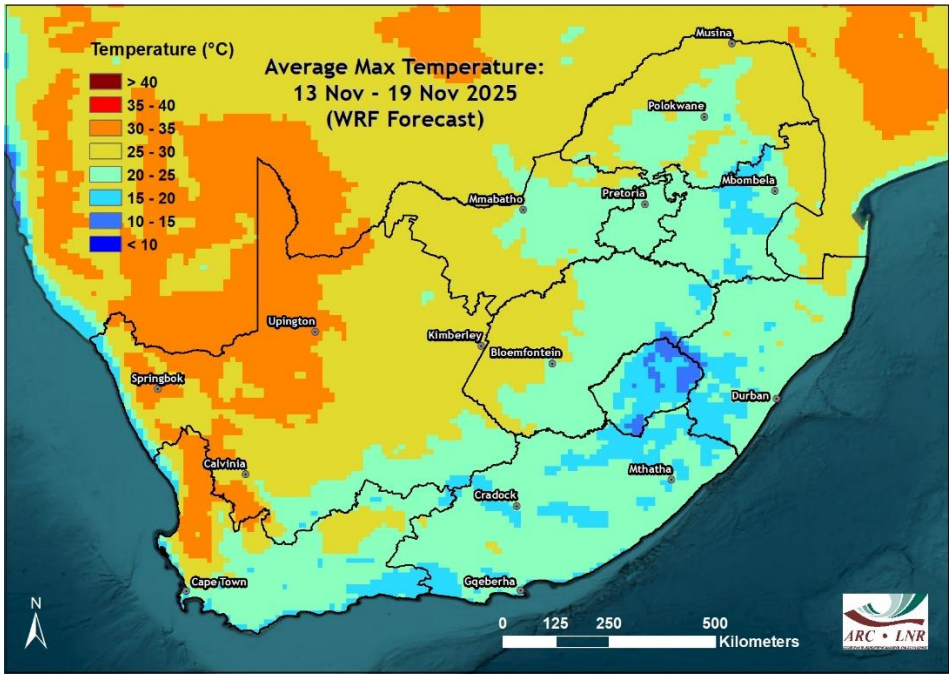
Average minimum temperatures

- Average minimum temperatures will range between 10 and 20°C over most of the country.



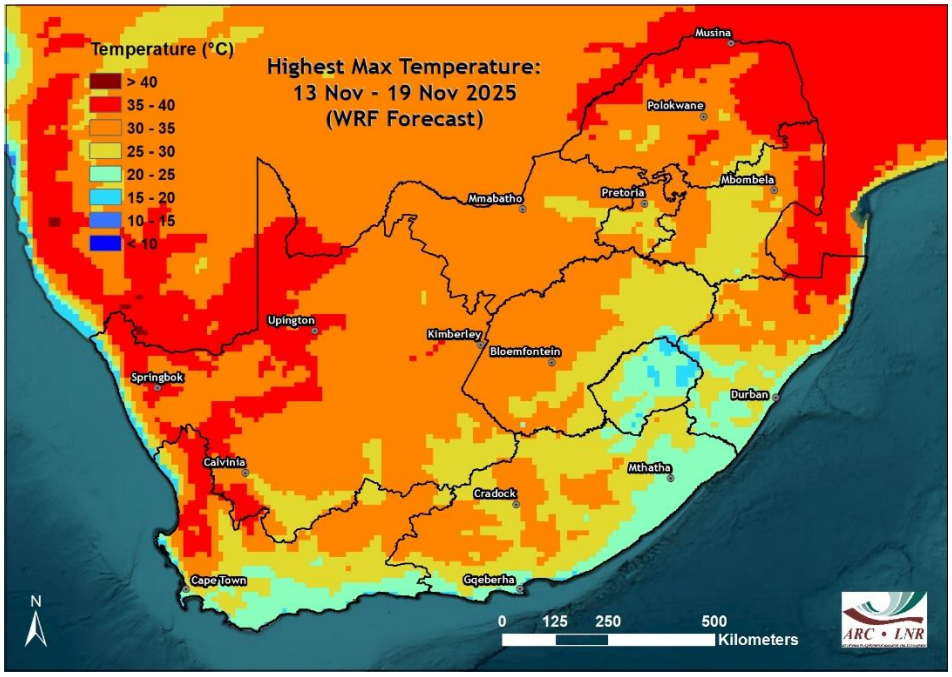
Lowest minimum temperatures

- Lowest minimum temperatures will remain above 5°C over most of the summer grain production region.



Average maximum temperatures

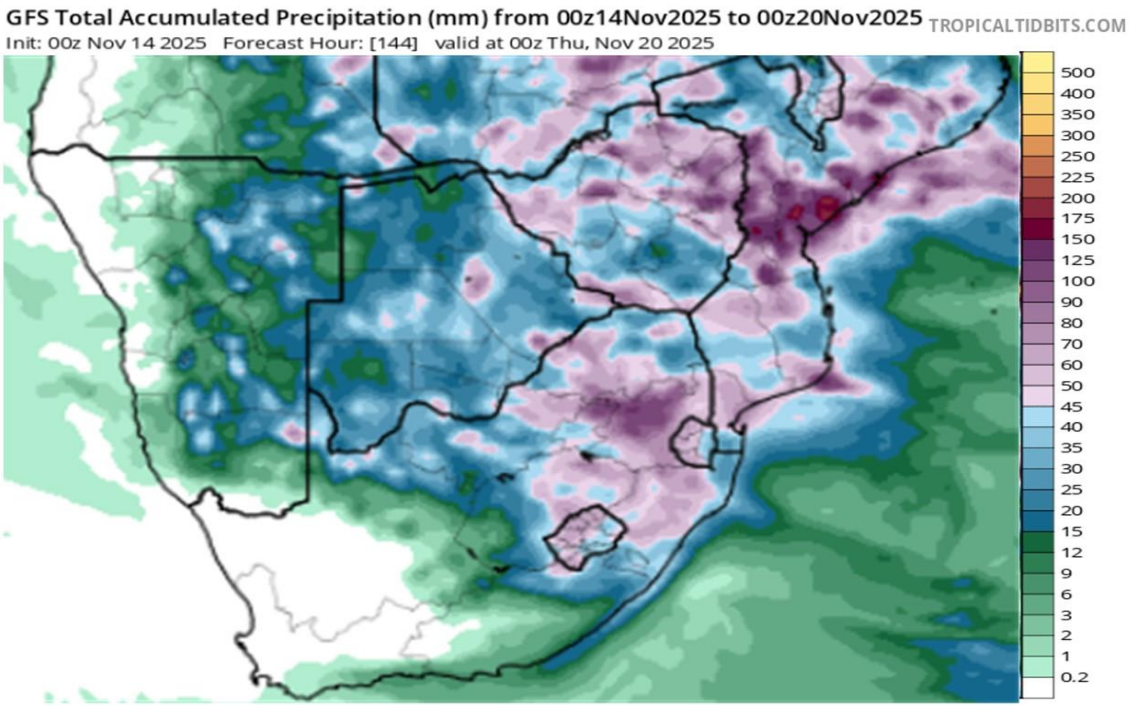
- Average maximum temperatures will range between 15 and 30°C over most of the interior, but will exceed 30°C over the western parts.

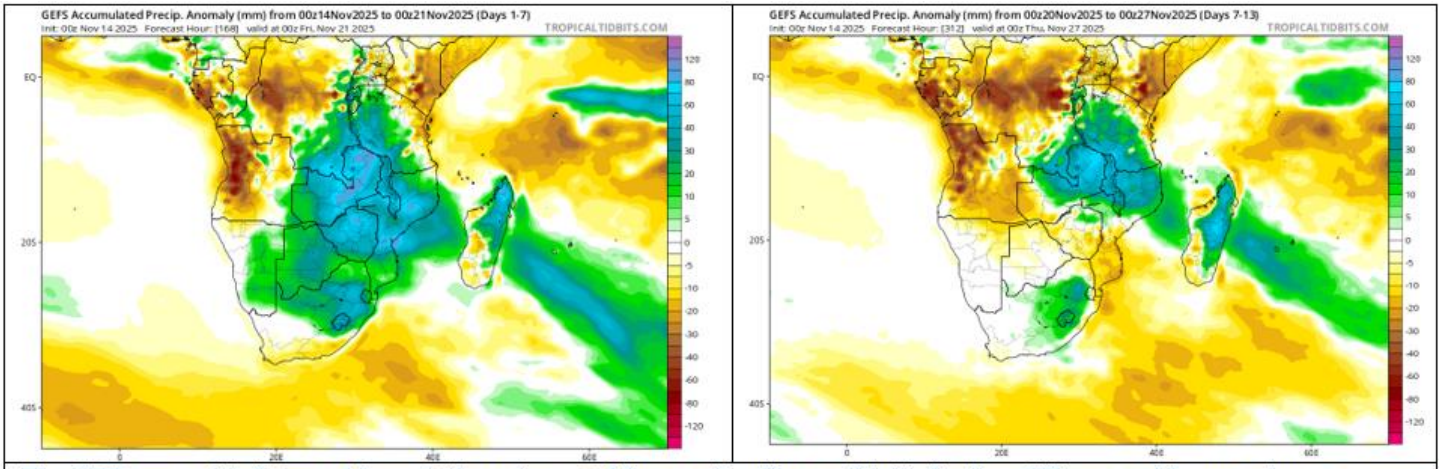


Highest maximum temperatures

- **Highest temperatures, exceeding 35°C, are expected:** Over the western parts of the Northern Cape and western to north-western parts of the Western Cape on most days.
- It will be hot over the Lowveld and Limpopo River Valley on Saturday.

Medium term rainfall summary





The GFS ensemble forecast (consisting of several forecasts with small initialization differences) favors above-average rainfall over the interior until the 21st (left), including the summer grain-production region. This anomaly is associated with expected showers or thundershowers until Sunday/Monday. From then until the 27th (right), most of the rainfall in the region shifts eastwards, according to current forecasts, with increased convective activity indicated over the Mozambique Channel and northeast of South Africa while more typical summer thundershowers are expected over South Africa.

Possible extreme conditions - relevant to agriculture

The South African Weather Service issues warnings for any severe weather that may develop, based on much more information (and in near-real time) than the output of only 2 weather models (GFS and the ECMWF model) considered here in the beginning of a week-long period (14 – 20 November). It is therefore advised to keep track of warnings that may be issued by the SAWS (www.weathersa.co.za) as the week progresses.

According to current model projections (GFS / ECMWF models) of weather conditions during the coming week, the following may negatively affect agricultural activities and production:

Cool, wet conditions may be conducive to fungal diseases:

- Central to north-eastern to eastern parts of the country, including the summer grain-production region: **Friday to Monday (14th – 17th).**

Significant falls (more than 50 mm in 24 hours):

- Central to north-eastern to eastern parts of the country, including the summer grain-production region: **Friday to Monday (14th – 17th).**

Waterlogged conditions: Recent rains and the expectation of more rain during the weekend may lead to waterlogged conditions hindering access to fields:

- Northern to north-eastern Free State, Mpumalanga, Gauteng, central to southern and eastern North West.

It will be hot, with maximum temperatures exceeding 35°C:

- Western to north-western part of the Northern Cape, north-western to western interior of the Western Cape, including the Swartland: **Friday to Thursday (14th – 20th).**
- Lowveld: **Saturday (15th).**

Warm to hot, dry and windy conditions will increase the fire hazard where vegetation is dry:

- South-western interior, including the western to northern parts of the winter rainfall region: **Friday to Thursday (14th - 20th).**

Strong to gale-force south-easterly winds are possible:

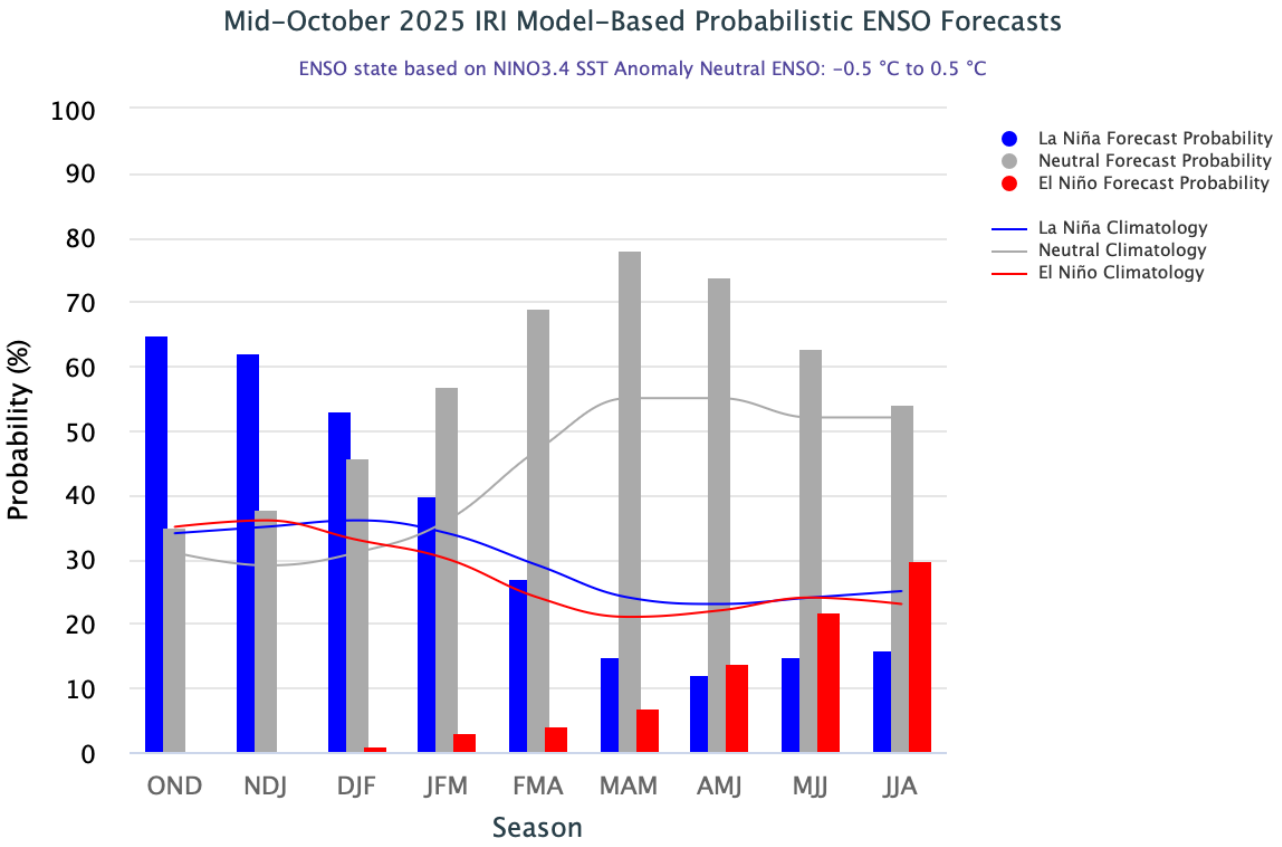
- South-western parts of the Western Cape: **Friday to Thursday (14th – 20th).**

Seasonal forecast

Current ENSO conditions:

While only some institutions classify the climate state as a La Niña currently, La Niña conditions, both in the ocean and atmosphere, are strengthening.

The graph below shows the International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI) ENSO forecast.



***International Research Institute for Climate and Society*- http://iri.columbia.edu/**

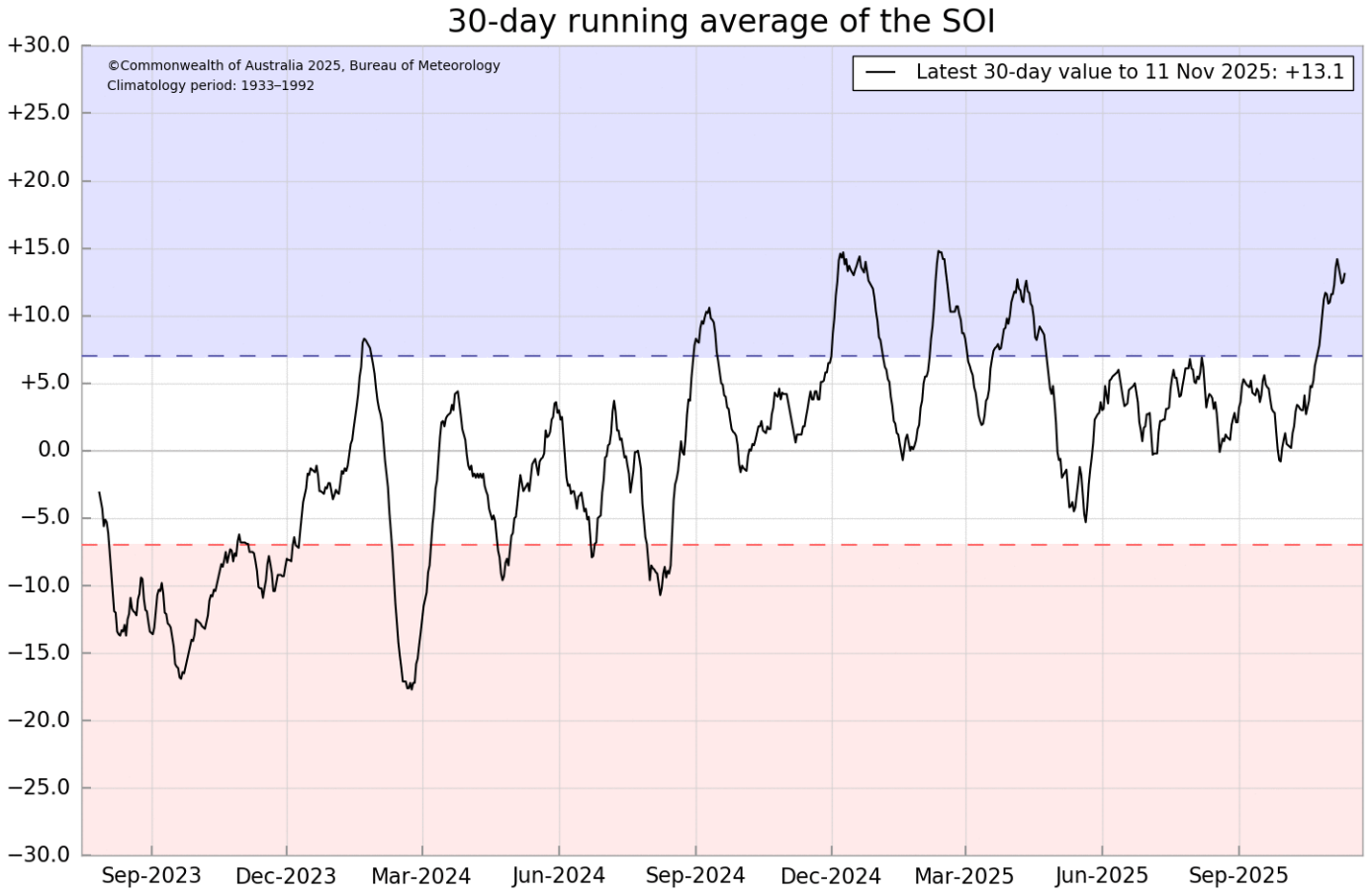
In their most recent update (issued 20 October), the IRI states that" As of mid-October 2025, the equatorial Pacific remains in an ENSO-neutral state, with sea surface temperatures in the Niño 3.4 region close to average but exhibiting a gradual cooling trend. The IRI ENSO plume forecast indicates a moderate probability (65%) of La Niña conditions developing during October–December 2025. These La Niña conditions are expected to persist through the boreal winter of 2025/2026 (53%). However, beginning in January–March, ENSO-neutral conditions are forecasted to return with probabilities of 57%. The chances of El Niño development remain very low—below 10%—through March–May 2026, but increases to 14%, 22%, and 30% during April–June, May–July, and Jun-Aug 2026 respectively."

In their most recent update (11 November), the **Australian Bureau of Meteorology** states that “El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) remains neutral but there are signs La Niña may be developing:

- El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) remains neutral but there are signs La Niña may be developing. The latest relative Niño3.4 SST index value for the week ending 9 November 2025 is −0.84 °C. Sustained values below –0.8 °C are consistent with a La Niña pattern. Weekly values of the relative Niño3.4 index have been fluctuating around the La Niña threshold since mid-to-late September.
- Atmospheric indicators, such as trade winds, pressure and cloud patterns over the equatorial central Pacific, show some signs of La Niña development. As at 9 November, the 30-day Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) has strengthened to +12.4, while the 90-day SOI value is +7.1. Sustained 90-day SOI values above +7.0 are indicative of La Niña. Trade wind and cloud patterns have been indicative of La Niña since at least mid-to-late September.
- The Madden–Julian Oscillation is in the western Pacific, as at 8 November 2025. For the next fortnight, most models forecast it to stall, before potentially weakening. This could enhance trade winds in the short-term over the western and central Pacific, which may provide a temporary boost towards La Niña conditions. It may also be contributing to the forecast for above average rainfall over northern Australia in the coming fortnight.
- The Bureau's model currently predicts that tropical Pacific Ocean temperatures are likely to just meet La Niña levels until at least January, before returning to neutral in mid-to-late summer. This timing aligns with most international models assessed.
- The Southern Annular Mode (SAM) index is neutral as at 8 November. It is forecast to remain neutral over the next fortnight though there is a broad range in possible outcomes indicating increased uncertainty.”….. ***http://www.bom.gov.au***

The Southern Annular Mode (SAM) is currently in weakly negative territory and expected to remain negative to neutral during the coming week. Weak negative to neutral values in the SAM are not specifically associated with negative or positive rainfall anomalies over southern Africa.

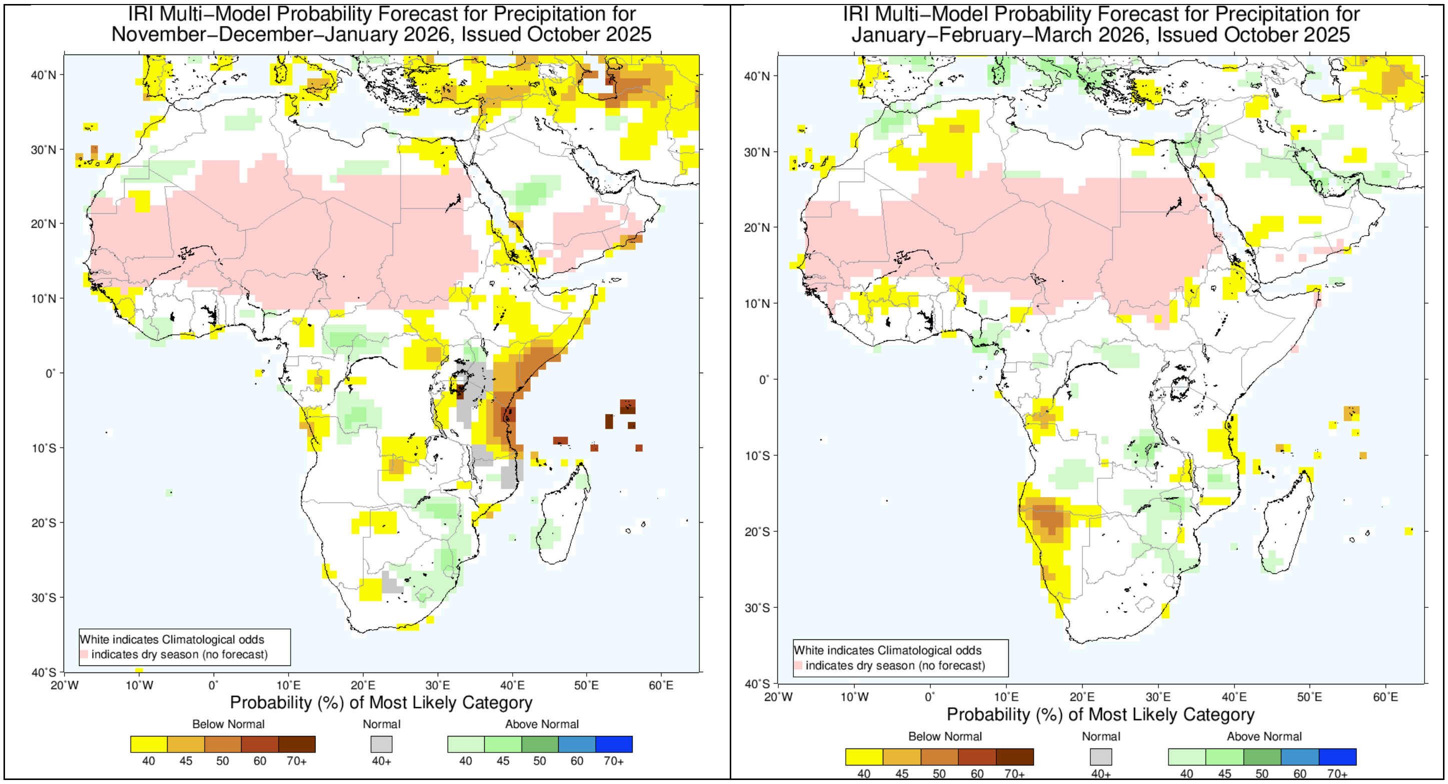
The 30-day Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) have increased further +13.1 and therefore representing atmospheric pressure patterns in the Australia – Pacific region indicative of La Niña conditions.



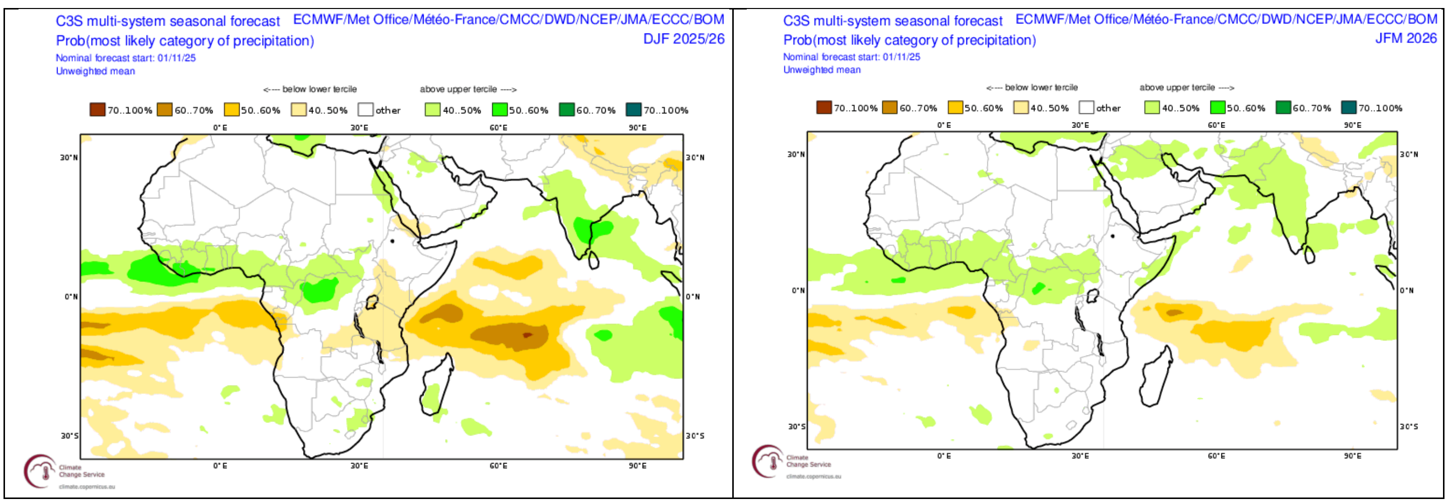
Australian Bureau of Meteorology **- http://www.bom.gov.au**

Seasonal forecasts issued by various international institutions

Seasonal forecasts (updated in October and November 2025) still favor normal to above-normal rainfall over the summer rainfall region, associated with an expectation of the intensification of the La Niña event in the Pacific Ocean. The wet signal for mid- and late-summer period has weakened between the September and October versions of forecasts.



Probabilistic forecasts by the International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI) for rainfall for early summer (November 2025 to January 2026, left – Forecast issued in 2025-10) and mid- to late summer (January to March 2026, right – Forecast issued in 2025-10).



Probabilistic multi-model forecasts by the multi-system COPERNICUS Programme for rainfall for mid-summer (December 2025 to February 2026, left – Forecast issued in 2025-11) and mid- to late summer (January to March 2026, right – Forecast issued in 2025-11).

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CUMULUS seasonal outlook

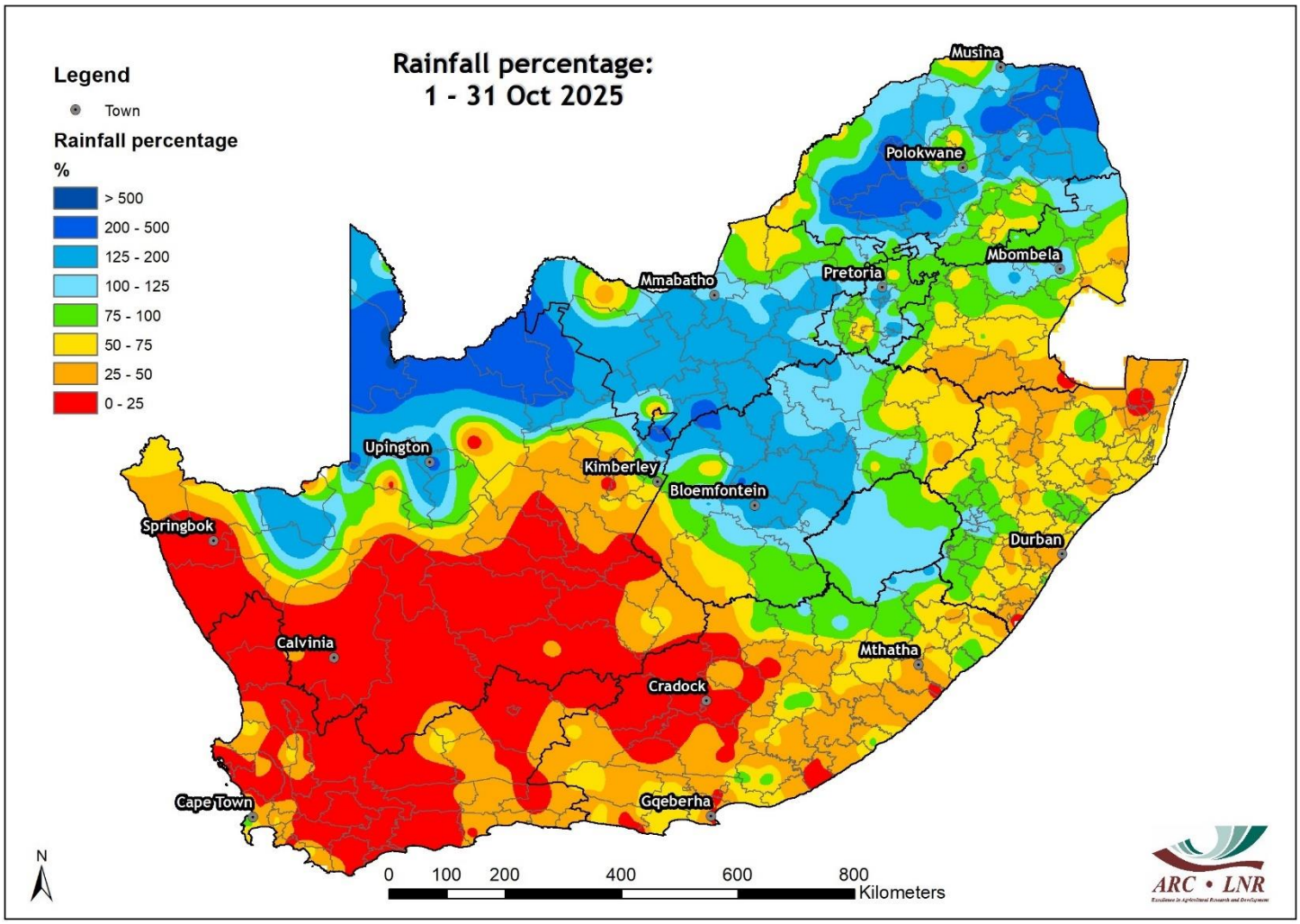
This outlook is based on the typical observed rainfall patterns over the north-eastern half of the country (including most of the summer grain-production region), which are associated with the cyclic variability of the global climate system. Summers similar to 2025/26 usually experience near-normal rainfall totals over the north-eastern parts of the country. There is a tendency for above-normal rainfall during January, while relatively dry conditions are usually observed during February and early March.

Typical patterns during similar summers, over the north-eastern half of the summer rainfall region, are:

- **October**: Near-normal to above-normal rainfall over the north-eastern half of the summer rainfall region
- **November**: Near-normal to below-normal rainfall over the north-eastern half of the summer rainfall region
- **December**: Somewhat wetter earlier in the month but usually trending drier into early January over the north-eastern half of the summer rainfall region
- **January**: Relatively dry early in the month, but above-normal rainfall is possible during the second half over the north-eastern half of the summer rainfall region
- **February-early March**: Near-normal to below-normal rainfall over the north-eastern half of the summer rainfall region
- **Mid- to late March**: Above-normal rainfall over the north-eastern half of the summer rainfall region

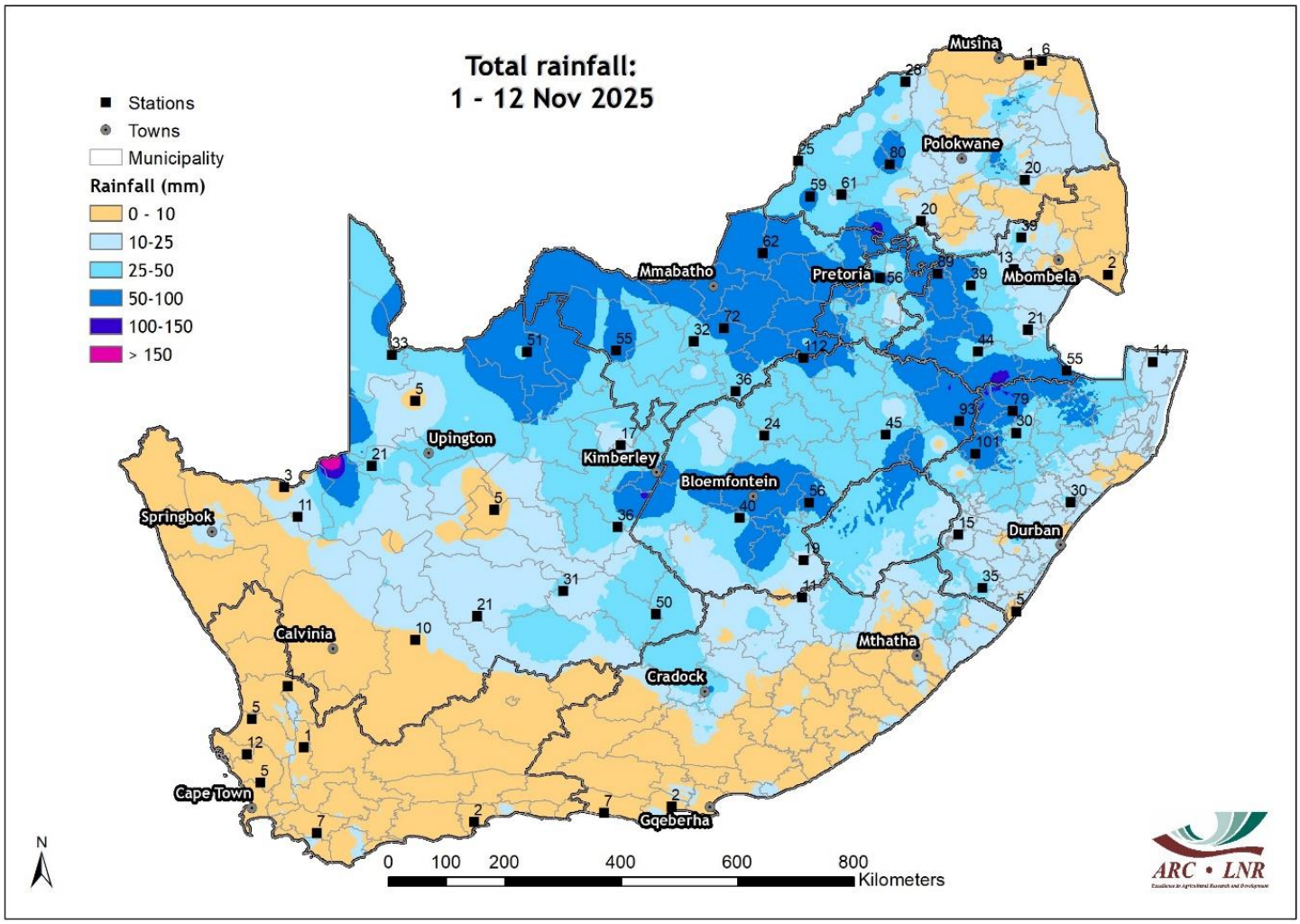
Observed conditions

Rainfall (% of long-term mean): 1 –31 October 2025



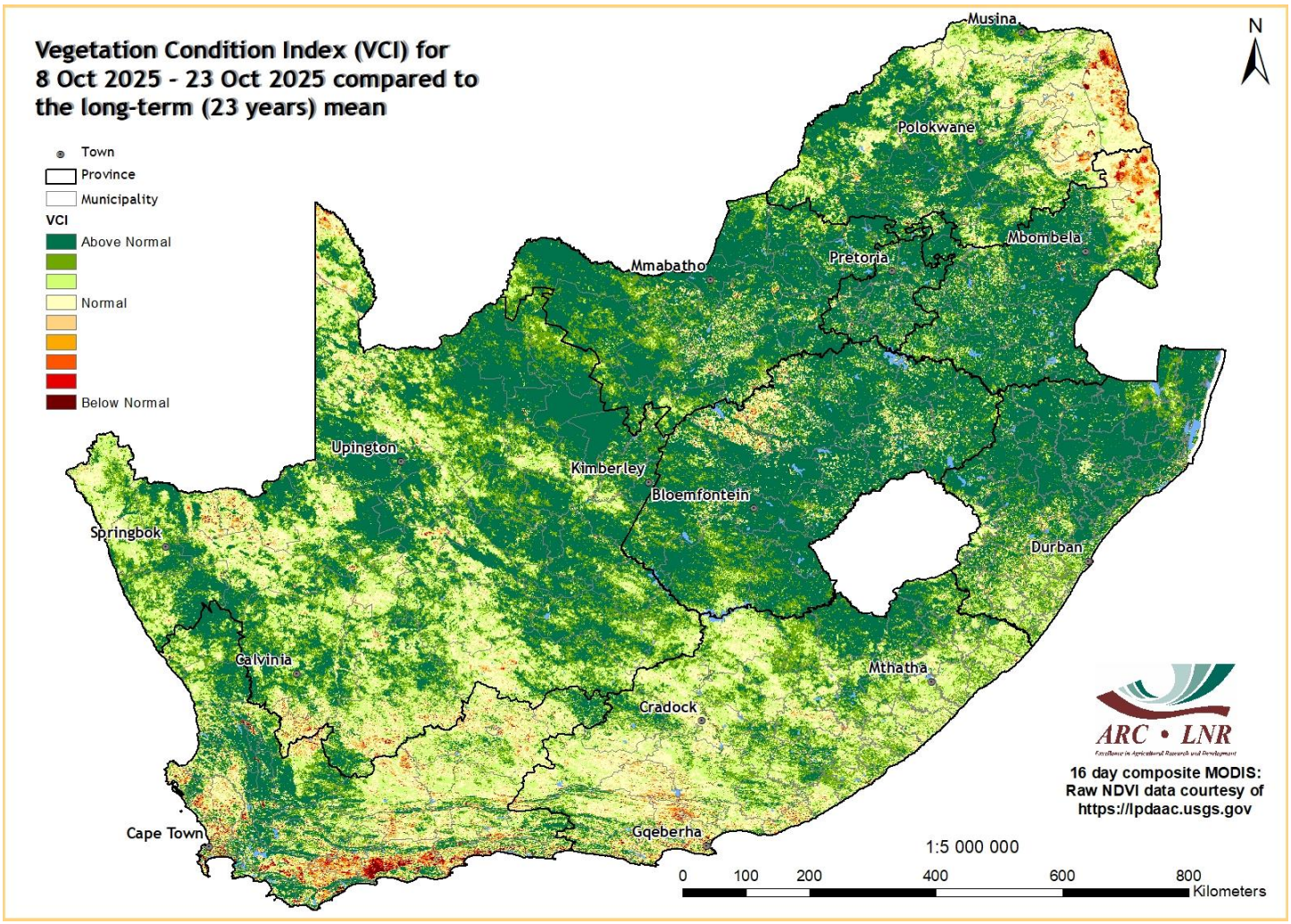
Above-average rainfall has occurred over some of the northern parts of the country in October, but most of the southern and western parts, as well as large areas of the northern Free State, Mpumalanga, and KwaZulu-Natal, experienced below-average rainfall.

Rainfall (mm): 1 to 12 November 2025



Large areas in the east, including much of North West, western Mpumalanga and the north-eastern Free State, received more than 50 mm of rain from 1 to 12 November. Little to no rain fell over the Western and Eastern Cape provinces and western parts of the Northern Cape. It was also relatively dry over the Lowveld and Limpopo River Valley.

Vegetation Condition Index: October 2025



Vegetation activity by October was above normal over most areas, following widespread rain above-normal rainfall until April and again by August-October over large parts of the interior. The Lowveld is an exception, where it has been relatively dry since February. Over the winter rainfall region, especially the eastern parts of the region, and further east along the Garden Route, below normal rainfall is having a negative impact on vegetation activity.

Sources of information

Seasonal forecasts: Published by the COPERNICUS Programme (***https://climate.copernicus.eu/seasonal-forecasts***)

Rainfall, temperature and wind maps over South Africa for the past week:
Agricultural Research Council - Institute for Soil, Climate and Water (ISCW) – Climate Data Bank. Data recorded by the automatic weather station network of the ARC-ISCW.

Vegetation condition maps: Copernicus Global Land service, distributed by VITO.

Information related to: ENSO, IOD and SOI:
Australian Bureau of Meteorology - ***http://www.bom.gov.au***
Climate Prediction Center - ***http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov***
International Research Institute for Climate and Society- ***http://iri.columbia.edu/***

Information related to the SAM:
The Annular Mode Website - ***http://www.atmos.colostate.edu/ao/index.html***

SST map:
NOAA Climate Prediction Center - ***http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov***

Daily conditions over South Africa:
WRF model downscaling of GFS forecasts.

Fires:
MODIS data, distributed by the Land Processes Distributed Active Data Center (LP DAAC), located at the US Geological Survey's EROS Data Center

Soil moisture:
https://nasagrace.unl.edu/

Precipitation and temperature outlooks for the coming week:
https://www.tropicaltidbits.com/