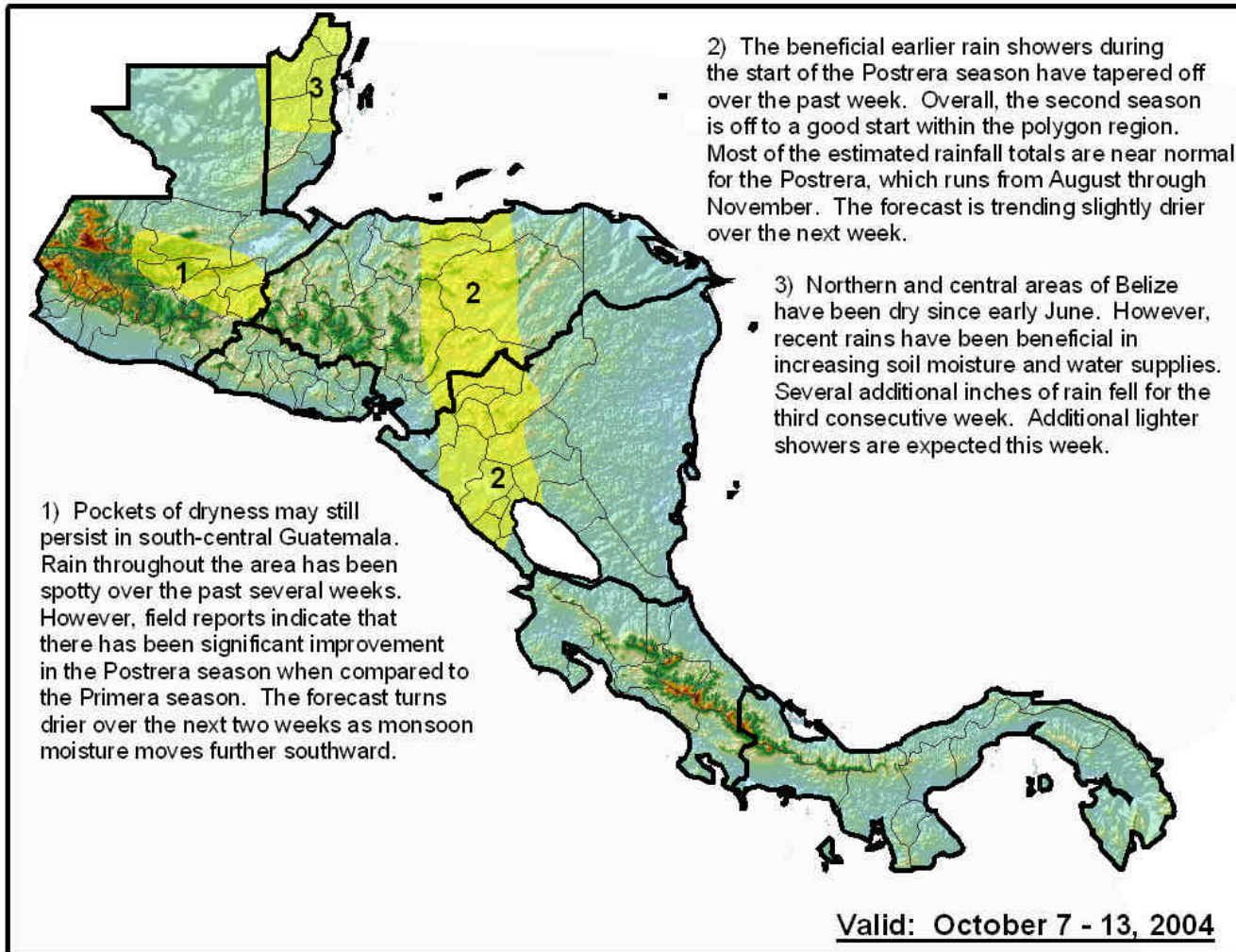


The MFEWS

Central America Weather Hazards Assessment

for

October 7 - 13, 2004



Hazards Assessment Text Explanation:

1. Estimated rain amounts over south-central Guatemala have varied from 5 to 75 mm for the past week. Some isolated pockets of dryness may still exist from the Primera and the first half of the Postrera seasons. Isolated crop areas within the hazard area could have problems as the current season progresses. However, the region as a whole is performing better now than was observed in the Primera season. The forecast is trending towards a drier pattern over the next several weeks as the recent surge of monsoon moisture migrates just south of the region. It may be premature, but this could be signaling the end of the seasonal rainfall.
2. Rain showers are becoming less frequent over central Honduras and northwest Nicaragua. Over the preceding weeks, the area had experienced a turnaround as rainfall was above normal. During the past two weeks rainfall has been slightly below normal, which may begin to question rainfall distribution for crops. The Postrera season is entering the stretch where plentiful moisture is desired, however, with the recent drying trend forecasted to continue the area will need to be monitored throughout the remainder of the season.
3. Northern and central Belize continues to receive heavy rain. Over the past week additional amounts of 50 to 125 mm fell over the area. This brings the totals to greater than 200 mm for the months of September and October. This should act to increase moisture supplies, but it may have only a slight impact to early crops. The later that crops were planted in the main season, the better they should fair as the drydown and harvest is set to begin over the next month. Some additional showers are expected to continue this week.

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