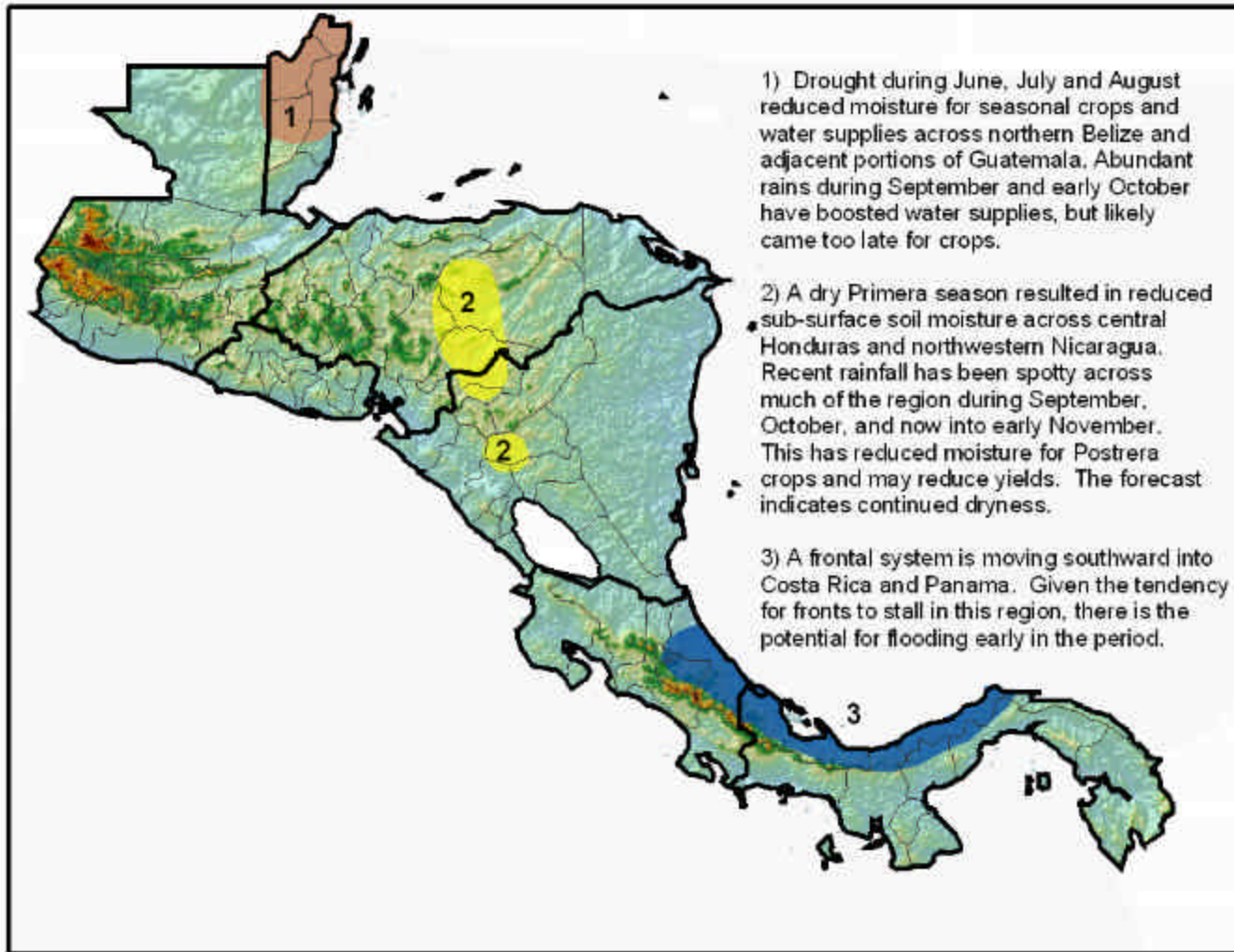


The MFEWS

Central America Weather Hazards Assessment

For

November 11 - 17, 2004



Hazards Assessment Text Explanation:

1. The drought across northern Belize during June, July and August received some relief in September and early October with above normal rainfall amounts. While the September/October rains helped to recharge water supplies, they likely came too late for the crops. As a result, significant crop yield reductions are possible in the area. The past week saw some beneficial rains in Belize, particularly in the east. Forecast suggests additional showers this week, but likely on the lighter side.
2. Dry conditions during the Primera season resulted in reduced sub-surface soil moisture levels across much of central Honduras and northwestern Nicaragua and likely resulted in crop yield reductions during the Primera season. Rainfall has been light during September and early October across western Olancho and El Paraiso in Honduras and the surrounding region which has also reduced moisture for Postrera crops. A lack of rainfall in the initial state of growth in Nueva Segovia and Madriz in Nicaragua may contribute to a slight reduction in the bean harvest. In addition, there is a report of 10% reduction of the harvest in the municipalities of Terrabona, Ciudad Dario, San Isidro, Sebaco, and the south western portions of Matagalpa in Nicaragua. There are no signs of improvement as the past week has been dry and the forecast indicates little relief during the period.
3. A frontal system currently moving through the central Caribbean will bring showers and thunderstorms to Costa Rica and Panama. Given the tendency for these frontal systems to stall and linger in this region, there is the potential for flooding in the next 72 hours. Models indicate that rainfall totals could be as high as 175 mm or more during this period, with 24 hour totals potentially higher than 100 mm.

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