

Month-By-Month Crop Production Cycle In Brazil

Below are the month-to-month sequence of what to expect in Brazil during the growing season.

September

Winter wheat is harvested in southern Brazil.

Corn is planted in southern Brazil.

Early soybean and corn planting begins in Mato Grosso and central Brazil.

Rains usually begin about this time in central Brazil first, temperatures are very hot.

Scattered showers start to occur in southern Brazil, temperatures can be hot.

October

Finish wheat harvest and corn planting in southern Brazil.

Begin soybean planting in southern Brazil, continue corn and soybean planting in central Brazil.

Rainfall frequency picks up in Brazil, rains 1-2 times a week, distribution may be uneven.

Temperatures remain very hot in central Brazil, warming up in southern Brazil.

November

Main soybean planting month in Brazil, first corn crop should be all planted by now.

Earliest planted soybeans may start flowering by end of the month.

Early planted corn begins pollination.

Rainfall now more frequent, 3-4 times a week, remains very hot.

December

Finish soybean planting, early soybeans starting to flower and set pods.

Begin spraying to control soybean rust.

Corn crop completes pollination and begins grain filling.

Cotton planted in central Brazil.

Rains every day, especially in central Brazil, southern Brazil not quite as wet.

Cloud cover and rains hold temperatures in the 90's.

January

Soybeans flowering and setting pods.

Some very early soybeans in central Brazil may be harvested this month.

First harvested soybeans shipped to processors.

Continue spraying to control soybean rust.

Corn in grain filling phase.

Peak of rainy season, rains 2-3 times a day in central Brazil, overcast, very hot and humid.

February

Main pod filling month for soybeans.

Early soybean harvest and corn harvest begins.

Harvested soybeans arrive at ports, exports begin by early February.

Soybean rust control now focused on later maturing soybeans.

Safrinha (second corn crop) planted after early soybean harvest.

Can still be very rainy in central Brazil, rainfall less frequent in southern Brazil.

March

Main soybean harvesting month, corn harvest wraps up.

Soybean exports in full swing.

Critical time for soybean rust to affect late maturing soybeans.

Safrinha corn crop in vegetative phase.

Begin planting winter small grain crop in southern Brazil.

Rains become more scattered, weather becomes dryer by the end of the month.
Temperatures become more moderate.

April

Finish soybean harvest.
Long lines of trucks taking soybeans to the ports and long lines of vessels waiting to load.
Safrinha corn crop in late vegetative stage or early reproductive.
Rains become more scattered in central Brazil, southern Brazil also starting to dry out.
Temperatures ease to more moderate levels.

May

Safrinha corn matures, early harvest begins.
Rains have ended in central Brazil and dry season has started.
Scattered rains continue to fall in southern Brazil.
Temperatures are warm in central Brazil, cooling in southern Brazil.

Cropping And Weather Sequence For Argentina

Below are the month-to-month sequence of what to expect in Argentina during the growing season.

September

Early corn planted in northern Argentina, corn planting progresses southward.
Begin sunflower planting.
Wheat in vegetative to heading phase.
Temperatures in northern Argentina can be quite warm.
Temperatures in central Argentina warming up to 70's-80's but cool spells still possible.
Rainfall in the form of spring showers.

October

Main corn planting month especially in central Argentina.
Finish sunflower planting.
Begin early soybean planting by end of month.
Wheat moving from heading to filling.
Temperatures warming up to the 80's or hotter.
Rainfall can be variable.

November

Corn planting finishes in central Argentina.
Corn pollination starts in northern Argentina.
Soybean planting at full steam.
Wheat moving from filling to maturing.
Sunflowers flowering.
Temperatures now at summertime levels, can have heat waves as well.
Summertime rains usually become more abundant.

December

Last corn planted in southern Argentina.
Corn beginning to pollinate in central Argentina.
Corn in northern Argentina moving from filling to maturity.
Finish planting full season soybeans.
Start double crop soybeans after wheat harvest.
Main month for harvesting wheat.
Temperatures now approaching maximum summer highs.
Rainfall usually common, but can have dry spells.

January

Early corn in northern Argentina approaching maturity.
Corn moving from pollination to filling in central Argentina.
By end of month, some early corn and sunflowers being harvested.
Finish wheat harvest.
Full season soybeans flowering and starting pod set, finish planting double crop beans.
Maximum summer temperatures.
Rainfall usually common, but can have dry spells.

February

More corn and sunflowers now being harvested.
Corn in central Argentina entering grain filling.
Full season soybeans setting and filling pods.
Double crop soybeans flowering.
Sunflower harvest in full swing.
Temperatures can still be very hot, but starting to cool by end of month.
Rainfall usually getting lighter.

March

Lot of corn now being harvested, much of the crop maturing.
Main month for soybean pod filling.
Harvest begins on early maturing soybeans.
Temperatures cooling down.
Rainfall getting lighter.

April

Finish up most of the corn harvest.
Full season soybean harvest in full swing.
Plant winter crops.
Temperatures cooling to “fall-like” levels.
Rainfall usually sparse.

May

Finish harvesting double crop soybeans.
Plant winter crops.

The cropping sequence and weather in Argentina is quite different than it is in Brazil. Brazilian weather is very tropical, whereas in Argentina, it is similar to the mid-south here in the U.S. In fact, Buenos Aires is the same latitude as about Charleston, South Carolina. Rainfall in Argentina is the result of passing frontal systems coming up from the south. In Brazil, the rains are mainly the result of convective showers similar to what you see in Florida. Most of the fronts in Argentina move from the southwest to the northeast and remember, low pressures spin clockwise in the Southern Hemisphere which is opposite of the way they spin in the Northern Hemisphere.