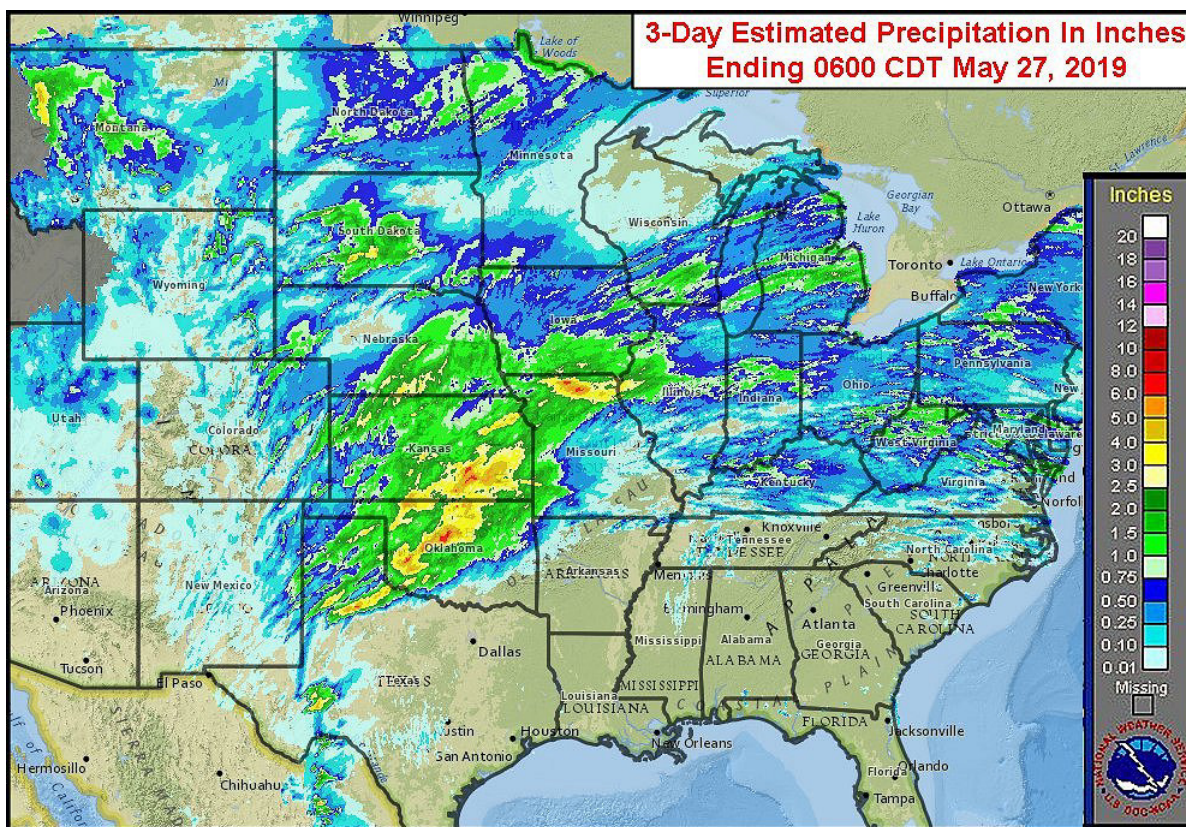


## Frequent Storms In Heart Of U.S. Midwest This Week; SE Dry

By Drew Lerner

Kansas City, May 27 (World Weather Inc.) – Showers and thunderstorms occurred frequently during the weekend in the heart of the Midwest, but no area was wetter than the southwestern Corn Belt; including Kansas, western and northern Missouri, southern Iowa, northwestern Illinois and Nebraska. Areas to the east also reported rain, but it was less intensive. The heart of the Midwest is still facing frequent showers and thunderstorms this week and into the coming weekend. Temperatures will be warm favoring good evaporation rates between rain events, but the rain falls too frequently for an aggressive planting pace – at least in the majority of the production region. Drought in the southeastern states will continue to intensify while drying occurs in the Delta, southern Plains and Canada's Prairies.



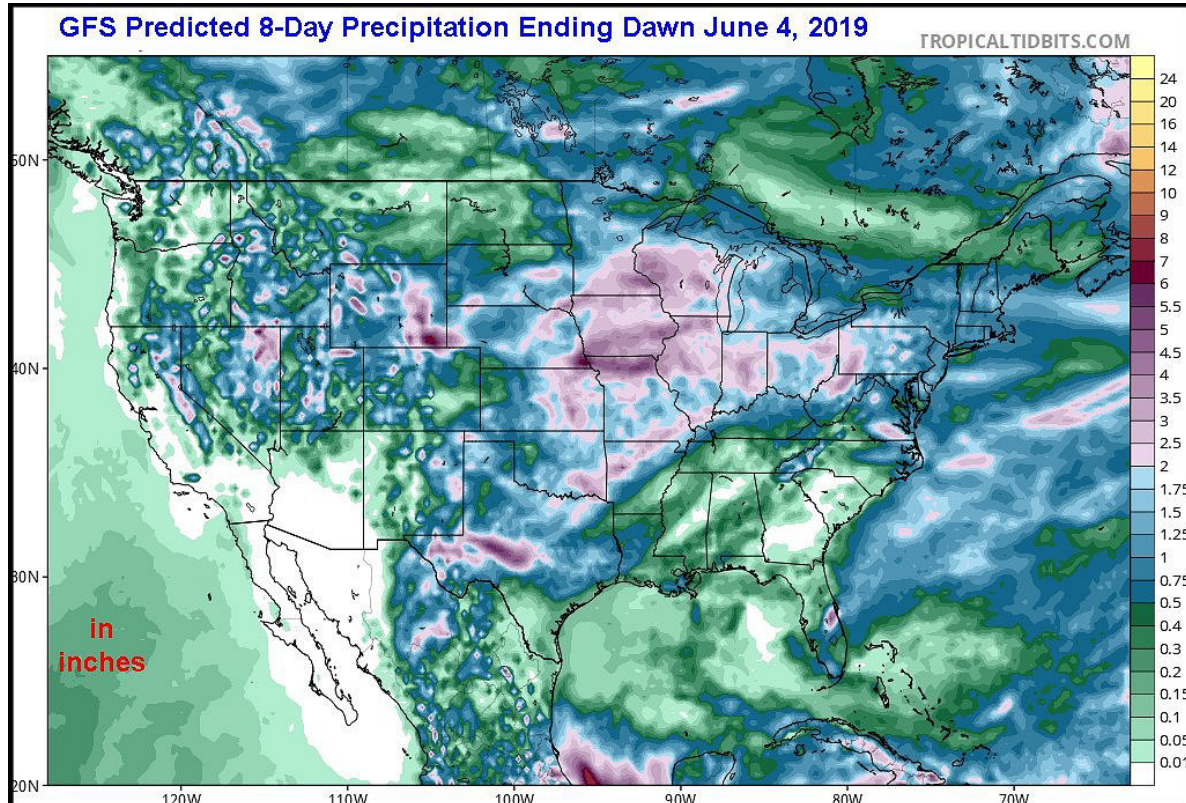
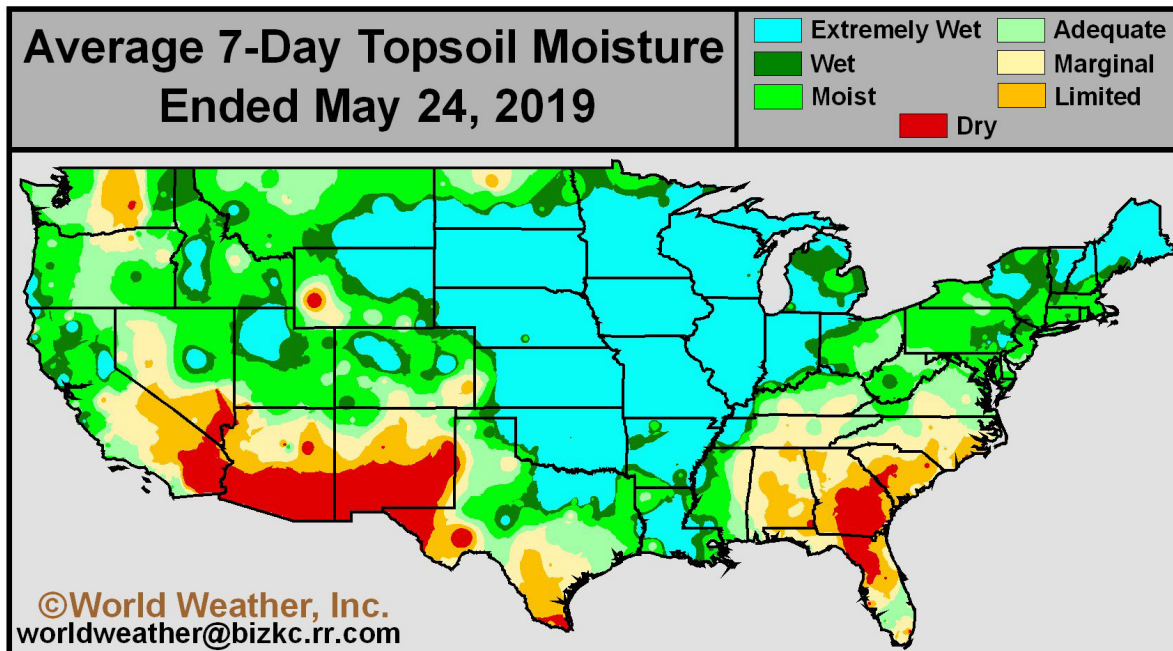
Rain was most significant during the three-day period ending dawn today from the Texas Panhandle through much of Oklahoma, Kansas and Nebraska to southern Iowa, northern and western Missouri and northwestern Illinois. Rainfall in these areas ranged from 1.00 to 3.00 inches with local totals, according to Doppler radar, reaching up into the range of 3.00 to 6.00 inches. Northern Missouri, south-central and southeastern Kansas and the central through southwestern parts of Oklahoma were wettest. A few strong thunderstorms also produced very heavy rainfall in the Texas Panhandle.

Numerous reports of hail, damaging wind and tornadoes came in from the high Plains region from the Texas Panhandle to eastern Colorado and western Kansas. Flood



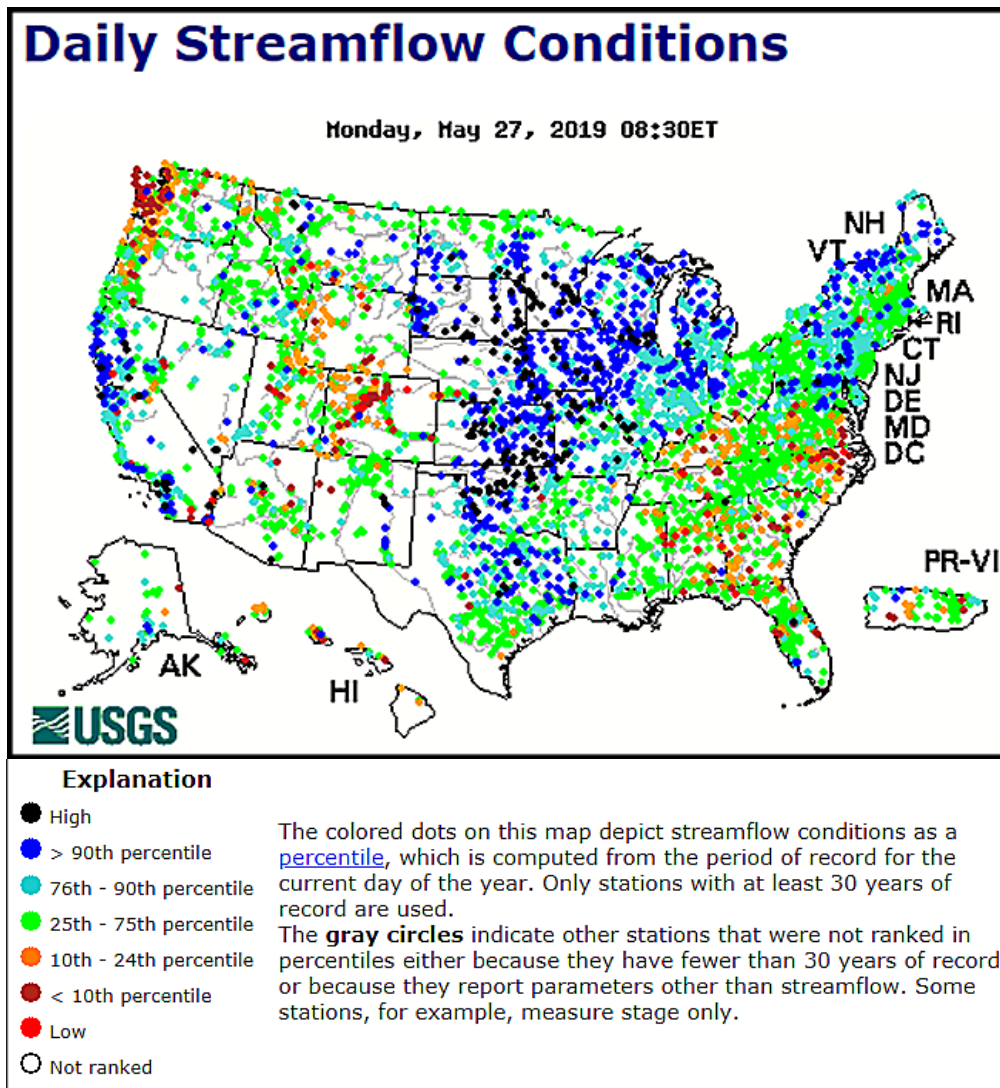
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warnings and watches cover many areas from the central Plains to the Mississippi River Basin and many farming communities are dealing with standing and running water through production areas. Some additional damage has occurred to previously planted fields and more delay to fieldwork has occurred and will occur as the wet weather bias continues.



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Soil conditions were already excessively wet Friday in much of the Midwest before the weekend rain fell and even in those areas that received light amounts of rain over the past few days there was not much drying of significance. The additional rain coming up this week will keep the ground saturated and limit fieldwork throughout the largest portion of the Midwest impacting a huge portion of the Corn Belt, including those areas that have not been able to plant. The end result of all this may be an unprecedented or a nearly-unprecedented amount of corn acreage left fallow or forced to be planted to some other crops.



Predicted rain totals of the coming week are significant, but it really is not about the volume of rain as much as it is the frequency. Rain falls nearly every day this week and in the coming weekend in the heart of the Midwest. Farming activity will remain on hold and obviously prevent plant dates will come and go in the next seven days leaving a tremendous amount of corn acreage not planted.

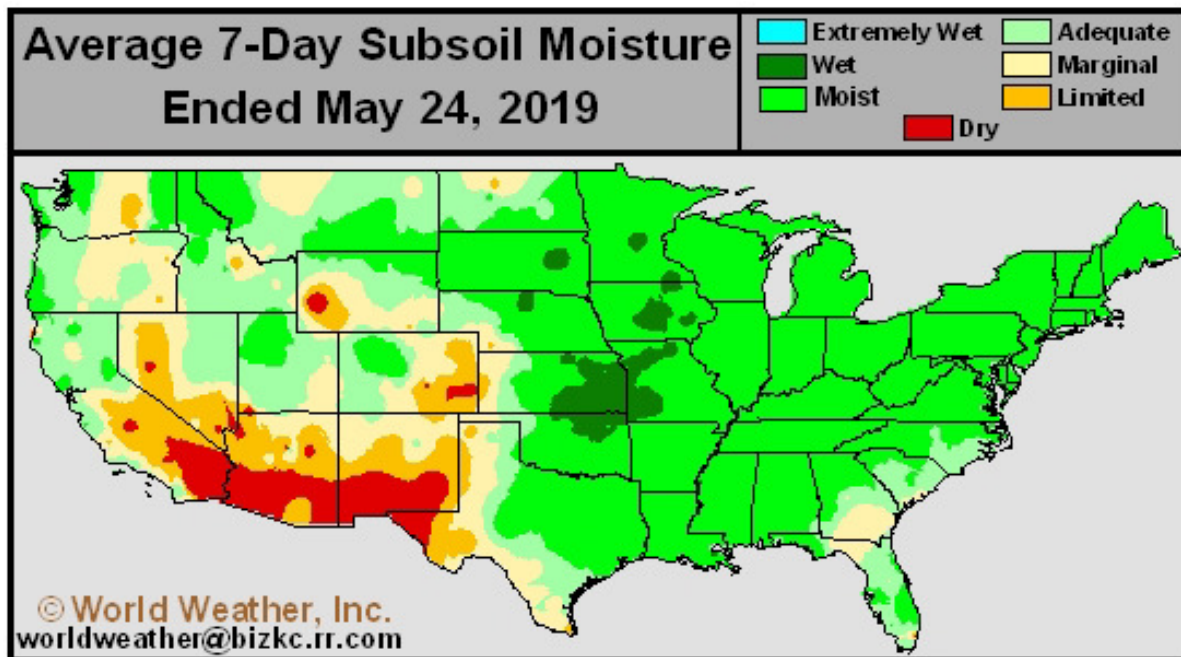
In the meantime, the southeastern United States, southern Texas and the southwestern desert region have reported very little rainfall in recent days and



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temperatures were quite warm to hot. Extreme highs in the southeastern states ranged in the 90s to 102 degrees Fahrenheit the past three days. The heat accelerated drying in the southeastern states, but also in southern Texas where highs did not rise above 100, but were plenty warm to hot. Needless to say, soil conditions that were already too dry late last week in the southeastern states are now more critically dry and the outlook for significant relief is extremely low. World Weather, Inc. expects drought in the southeastern states to last over the next few weeks with only a few breaks. That dryness will be closely monitored for signs of expansion to the west and north over time in June.

**The U.S. Delta** received no rain and also experienced some very warm temperatures during the weekend allowing the region to finally dry down after weeks of excessive rain and flooding. It will take a while for the region to dry out enough to remove areas of standing water, but the outlook is promoting additional dry and warm weather through the coming eight days with the exception of the far northern parts of the region where some rain is expected during the second half of this week.



Another area of limited rainfall and warming temperatures this week will be in the **far northern Plains and neighboring Canada's Prairies**. Net drying will occur from northern and eastern Montana, North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota into Saskatchewan, southeastern Alberta and portions of southwestern Manitoba. Completely dry conditions are unlikely in these areas, but a net loss in soil moisture is expected and parts of the region (Canada in particular) cannot afford to lose any more moisture. This is the third growing season in a row that parts of Canada's Prairies have been dealing with drought and there is no subsoil moisture in parts of the region to carry on normal crop development while waiting for rain. High temperatures in these areas will be in the 70s and lower to a few middle 80s Fahrenheit this week, which may not be excessively hot like in the southeastern United States, but it will be warm enough to continue a steady decline in soil moisture and a slow rise in crop stress.

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Most of **Texas** outside of the far south and Coastal Bend will get rain this week maintaining a favorable outlook for crop development, but some disruption to farming activity is likely. Dryness in southern Texas has become significant recently and only irrigated crops are performing normally. Substantial rain is needed, but not very likely for a while.

In the meantime, the **Pacific Northwest** will experience periodic showers and thunderstorms along with the Great Basin and areas southwest into northern California this week.

Average **temperatures in the United States this week** will be very warm to hot in the southeastern states with some warmer than usual readings likely in the lower eastern Midwest. Canada's Prairies will be warmer than usual along with the dry parts of the northern Plains and far northern parts of the Pacific Northwest. Temperatures will be more seasonable elsewhere.

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