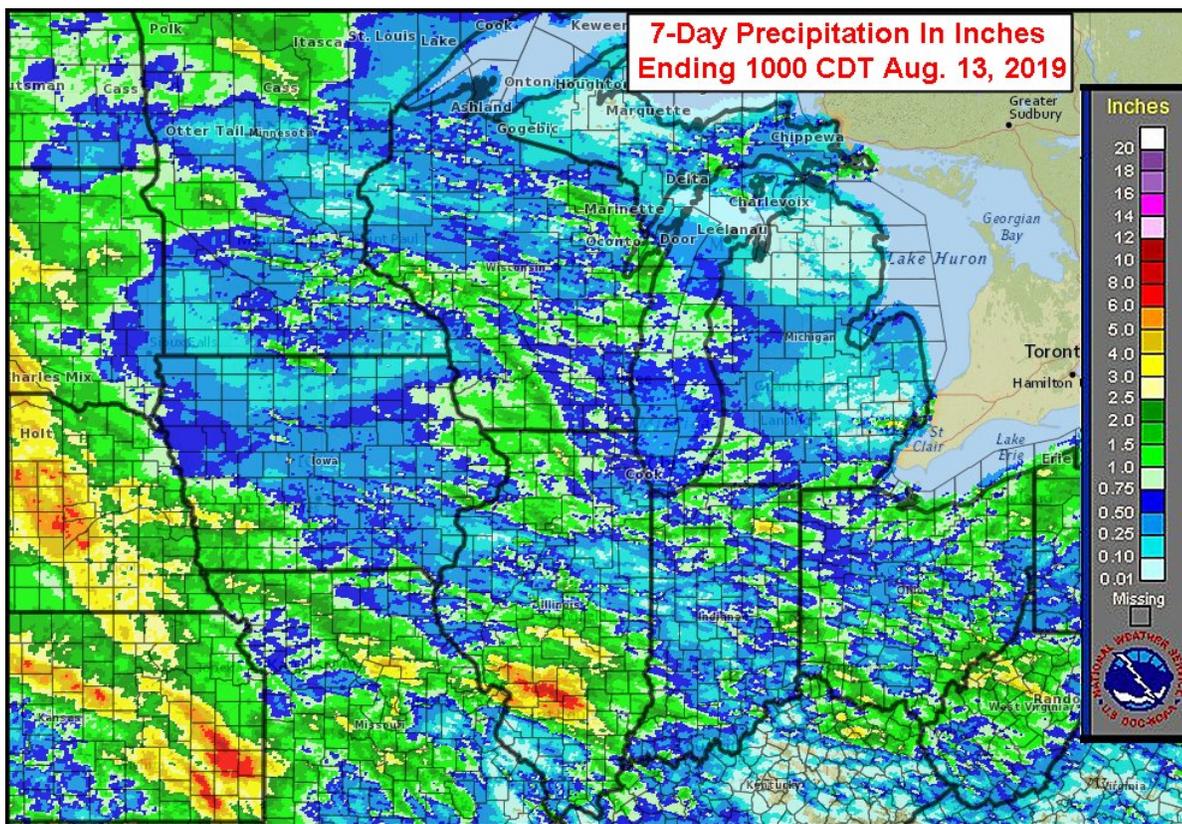


U.S. Midwest Recent Rain Highly Varied; More Of Same Likely

By Drew Lerner

Kansas City, August 13 (World Weather Inc.) – [Recent rainfall in the U.S. Midwest has brought relief to weeks of below average precipitation. However, its distribution has not been uniform.](#) Some areas in southern Illinois have received multiple inches of rain while other counties in the heart of the state and in the far south have recorded little to no rain. [A similar variety of rain amounts were noted in Indiana, Ohio, Michigan and Kentucky suggesting crop conditions still vary greatly across the region. Corn and soybean production from the Midwest this summer is going to vary greatly from one state to another and one county to another, but some improvement is expected because of additional rain coming soon.](#)



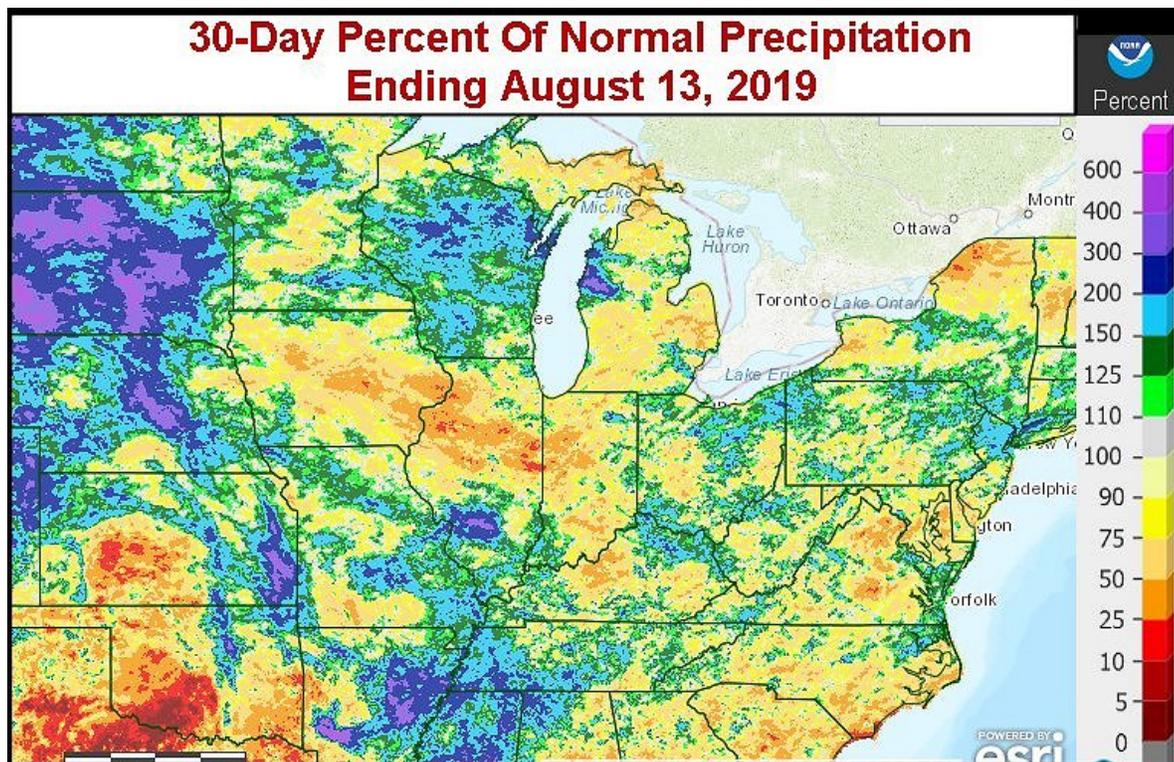
A half-dozen (6) counties in the interior southern part of Illinois have received 3.00 to more than 6.00 inches of rain in the past seven days. However, that is a little misleading. Many other areas have not reported nearly as much rain. A large part of Iowa has received 0.10 to 0.75 inch, although a few counties in the northeast and southwest have received much greater amounts.

Some of the greatest rainfall in northern Illinois, northern and eastern Indiana and the perimeter of Ohio ranged from 0.50 to 1.50 inches. Doppler radar imagery suggested some of the rain in each of these areas reached into the range of 1.50 to nearly 3.00 inches, but the greatest rainfall was never generalized. [The greater rainfall outside of southern](#)

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Illinois was much more pocketed leaving just as many areas with minimal rainfall as there were areas with substantial rainfall.

Such a distribution of rain in an area that has not done well with precipitation for the past several weeks has left crop conditions varying almost as widely. There is still need for a general soaking of rain across the heart of the Midwest to seriously replenish soil moisture and to stimulate the best summer crop development. Had it not been for the milder than usual temperatures this summer crop stress could have been many times more serious with a more dramatic decline in production potentials. Instead the region continues to experience some pockets of very good crop development while others are struggling with dryness.



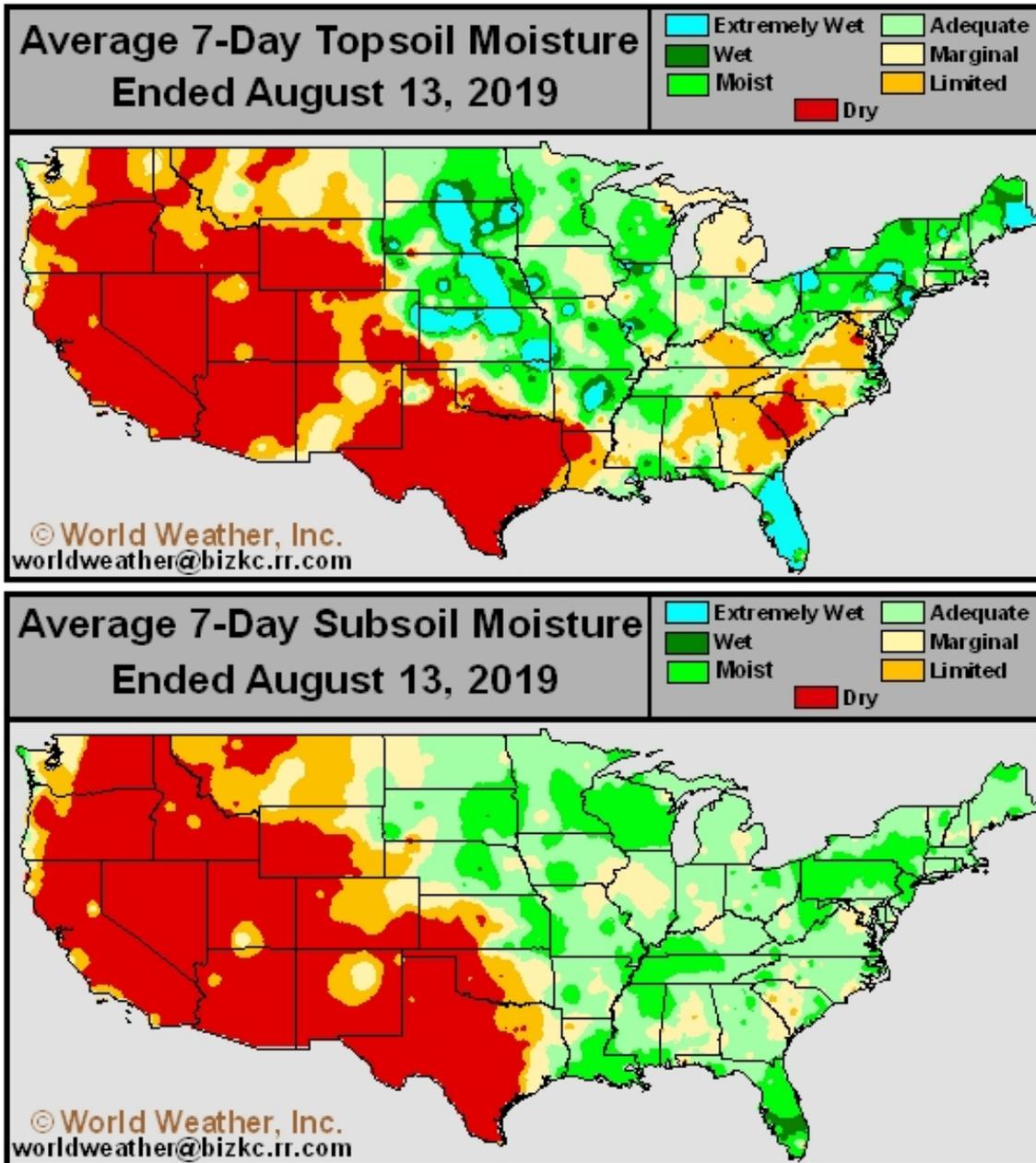
The latest soil assessment for the U.S. clearly shows a favorable environment for plant development remains in the upper Midwest and Delta while there is some suggestion of sporadic improvements in various locations around the Midwest because of the rain reported recently.

The lack of persistent hot weather this summer has been especially helpful in protecting late planted and under-developed crops from a more seriously stressed environment. Recent daily high temperatures in the upper 70s and 80s Fahrenheit have helped to conserve soil moisture and maintain a very good moisture profile relative to the very late plantings that took place this year.

Illinois, eastern Iowa and a few random locations in Indiana and Kentucky have experienced the greatest moisture stress, but without temperatures getting into the 90s Fahrenheit very often plants have managed the moisture situation as well as possible and that has kept production potentials poised better than many producers and traders feared earlier this year when planting delays were widespread. Temperatures in the past 30 days

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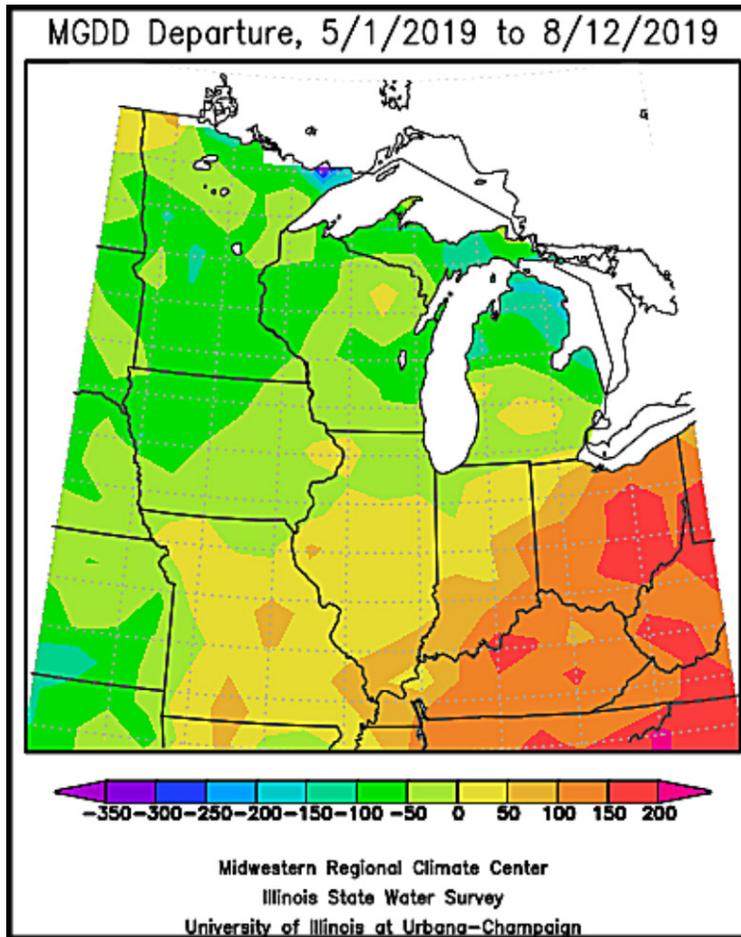
have been slightly cooler biased in the southwestern Corn Belt and slightly warmer biased in the northeast, but for the most recent two weeks temperatures have been more consistently below average. That suggests some of the degree day accumulations may be slipping lower.



Warm weather in July was helpful in keeping the departure from normal growing degree day accumulations from becoming more significant than they have. It is bad enough that crops were planted much later than usual, but the situation could be much worse had temperatures been more significantly cooler biased in recent weeks. Crops are actually performing relatively well under the environment that they exist. That does not

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mean a bumper crop is in the making. The true test will come in late August and September when seasonal cooling begins.



Normal degree day accumulations usually start dropping off in September and if temperatures are anything less than warmer than usual this year there is a very good chance that degree day accumulations will slip further and further away what is required for normal crop development leaving immature crops in an ever-increasing battle to get sufficient heat units to finish out the growing season normally. **For corn**, heat unit accumulation is extremely important and without the usual amount of heat units the crop will not mature as fast as usual and the longer that degree-day accumulations slip further behind the average the greater the potential will be for crop damage in the event that frost and freezes come at a normal or even earlier than normal dates.

Soybean development is more light-sensitive, but during the heart of pod setting and filling the plants like warm and wet conditions. Recent weather was good for early season soybean development such as that which occurs in the late spring when the crop is planted normally. However, the peak of the heating season is already here today and the longer term outlook is not looking to be much warmer than usual – at least not after the first part of September and that will add more pressure for potential crop damage if frost and freezes occur normally.

Rain is expected to continue erratically distributed across the Midwest. Most areas will receive some rain in the next couple of weeks and enough may occur to help hold the line on soil moisture and crop development. In other words, the region should not experience a serious change in the current situation. Some areas will still struggle with low soil moisture while others will get enough moisture to see crop development improve a little. However, this periodic rainfall pattern will be the byproduct of a northwesterly flow pattern aloft and that means there will be additional shots of cool air coming into the Midwest periodically as well as periodic rain.

The moisture influx will be supportive of crop development, but the periodic shots of cooler temperatures and the slowly declining sun angle will make it difficult for both corn and soybeans in the Midwest to develop as aggressively as desired raising more concern about the potential impact of normal frost and freezes in September and October.

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Sure, there will be some periods of warm weather impacting the Midwest in the next few weeks, but confidence is low that we will see temperatures warmer than usual over such a prolonged period of time that crops will finish out without the risk of frost and freezes coming into play. The risk of early season coolness is greatest in the northern Plains and upper Midwest.

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