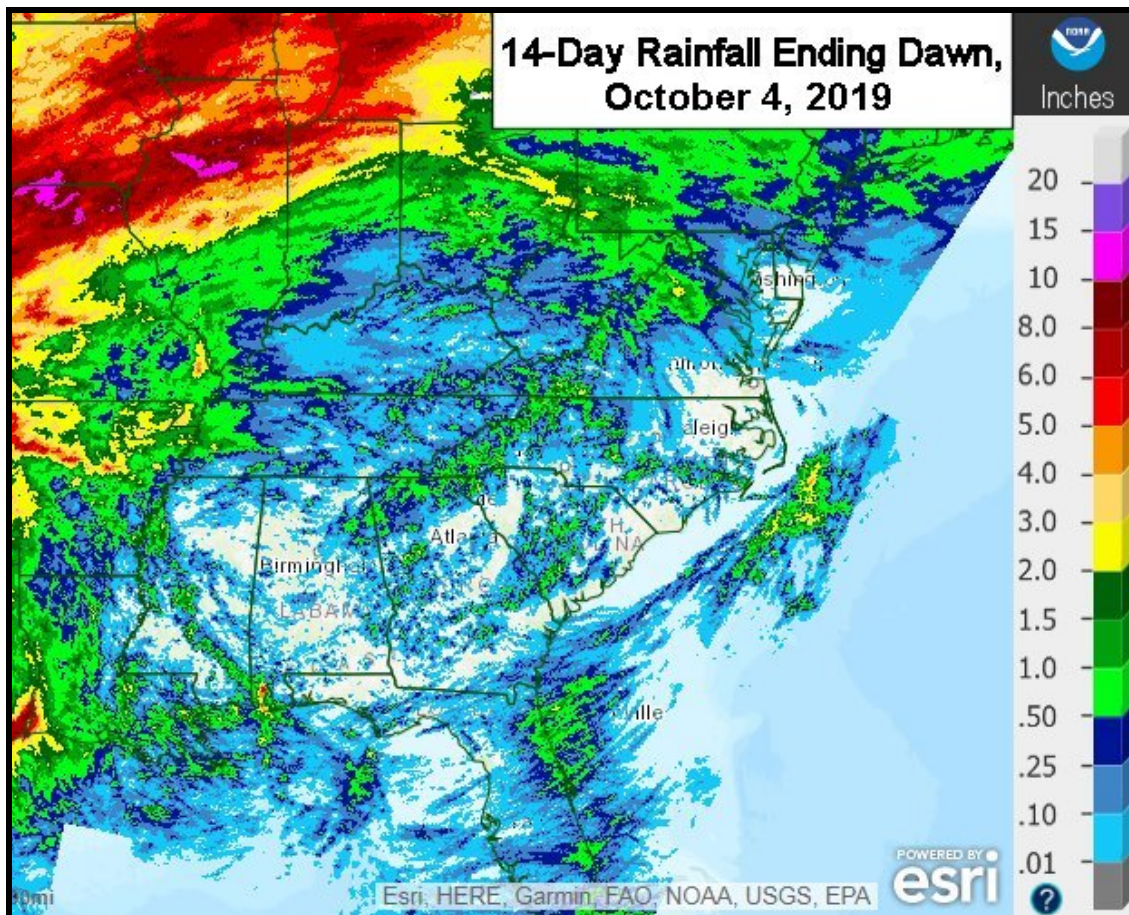


Southeastern U.S. Drought May Be Briefly Eased

By Andrew Owen and Drew Lerner

Kansas City, October 4 (World Weather Inc.) – *The U.S. Delta, southeastern states, and Ohio River Basin have been much drier than normal during the past month. The lack of rain and periods of warm weather promoted aggressive drying across these areas. Maturation and harvesting advanced swiftly, though late season development conditions were often poor and worry over winter wheat planting and establishment is beginning to rise. There will be opportunities for erratic rainfall during the next two weeks that will help alleviate “some” of the dryness. However, drought status in the southeastern states will not go away.* In the meantime, several areas in the Midwest will again receive enough rain to slow or delay harvesting in the coming days.

The southeastern states, Ohio River Basin, and large portion of the Delta have been drier than normal during the past month. These areas received little to no precipitation and the rain that did occur was rapidly lost to evaporation. However, portions of Arkansas, southeast Missouri, and western Tennessee received 0.50 to 2.00 inches of rain for the 30-day period ending this morning. Pockets from northern Georgia to western North Carolina also received up to 1.50 inches of rain, but most of the southeastern states received an inadequate amount of moisture to counter evaporation with daily highs in the 80s and 90s and some extremes over 100 Fahrenheit.



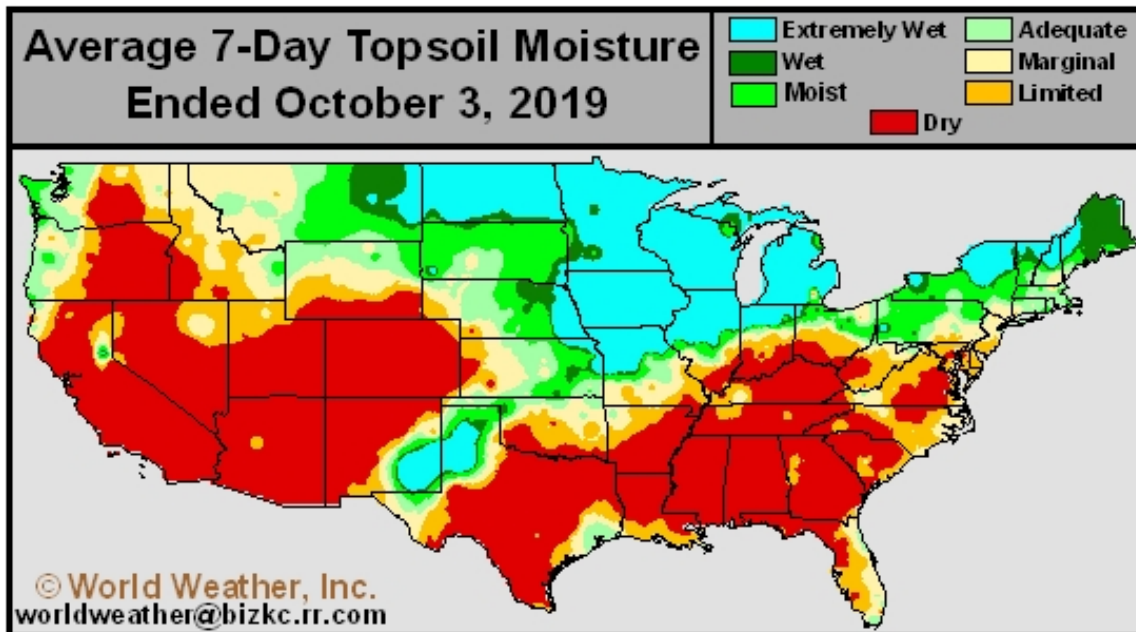
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Soil moisture is short to critically short across the southeastern states, Delta, and Ohio River Basin. Harvesting and general fieldwork advanced swiftly as a result of the dryness. Maturation conditions have also been favorable, although the dryness likely caused some of the later planted crops (especially in the lower Midwest) to mature at the expense of some yield and quality.

The weather pattern that caused the dryness in the southeastern states, Delta, and Ohio River Basin during the past month will temporarily break down in the coming days. Waves of erratic rainfall are expected during the next two weeks that will help ease some of the dryness – more so in the Delta and Ohio River Valley than in the southeastern states. Rainfall by next Friday will range from 0.20 to 0.75 inch with a few totals over 1.25 inches in the Ohio River Valley while 0.50 to 1.50 inches and locally more occur in the Delta. However, rainfall from southeastern Alabama and northwestern Florida to Virginia will rarely be as great as 0.70 inch with most areas getting less than 0.35 inch.

October 12-18 weather will bring a little more rainfall to the southeastern states briefly, but resulting amounts will not be sufficient to fully break the drought. However, some increase in topsoil moisture may occur briefly. The lower Midwest and Delta will experience another short term bout of light precipitation that will help those areas be a little more favorably moist than the southeastern states, but additional moisture will be needed.

Some of the rain expected next week and in the week of October 14 will come with shots of colder air. The cooler conditions and light rainfall might slow crop maturation for immature crops in the Midwest and some of the moisture may slow or disrupt harvesting, but the interruptions are expected to be brief.



ELSEWHERE IN THE MIDWEST

The remaining portions of the Midwest have seen variable rainfall during the past two weeks. Some of the wettest conditions occurred from southern Iowa and northern

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Missouri into the northern half of Illinois, southern Wisconsin, northern Indiana, and western Michigan. Moisture totals for the 14-day period ending this morning ranged from 4.00 to 10.00 inches with local amounts up to 15.00 inches from northern Missouri and southern fringes of Iowa into north-central Illinois. Other production areas in the Midwest received 1.00 to 5.00 inches of rain with local amounts up to 8.00 inches in North Dakota.

The ground remains adequately to excessively wet for a large portion of the Midwest outside the Ohio River Basin. Maturation and harvesting have been sluggish at best and there are significant concerns for reduced crop quality in the wettest fields. These areas need to see an extended period of dry and warm weather to firm up the ground and promote more aggressive harvesting. *Soybeans and corn are already seeing lower yields because of late planting and freezing temperatures expected late next week and into the following weekend could cause more damage to the crop.*

Rainfall will be variable across the Midwest during the coming week. Most areas in the western Corn Belt will receive rain periodically and moisture totals by Friday, Oct. 11, will vary from 0.50 to 2.00 inches with much of that coming from rainfall this weekend and from a second weather system during the second half of next week that precedes colder temperatures. Oct. 12-18 will be a little drier with just one significant precipitation event that precedes a reinforcing shot of cold air that occurs after October 17.

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