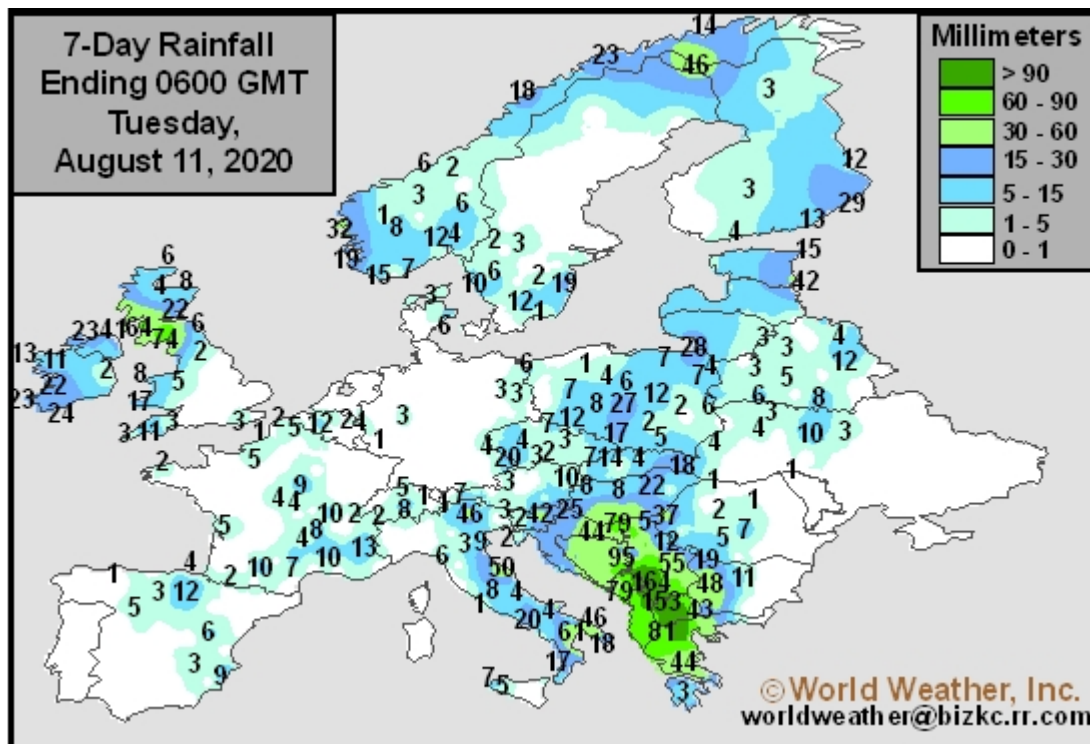


Western Europe Will Receive Much-Needed Rain

By Andrew Owen and Drew Lerner

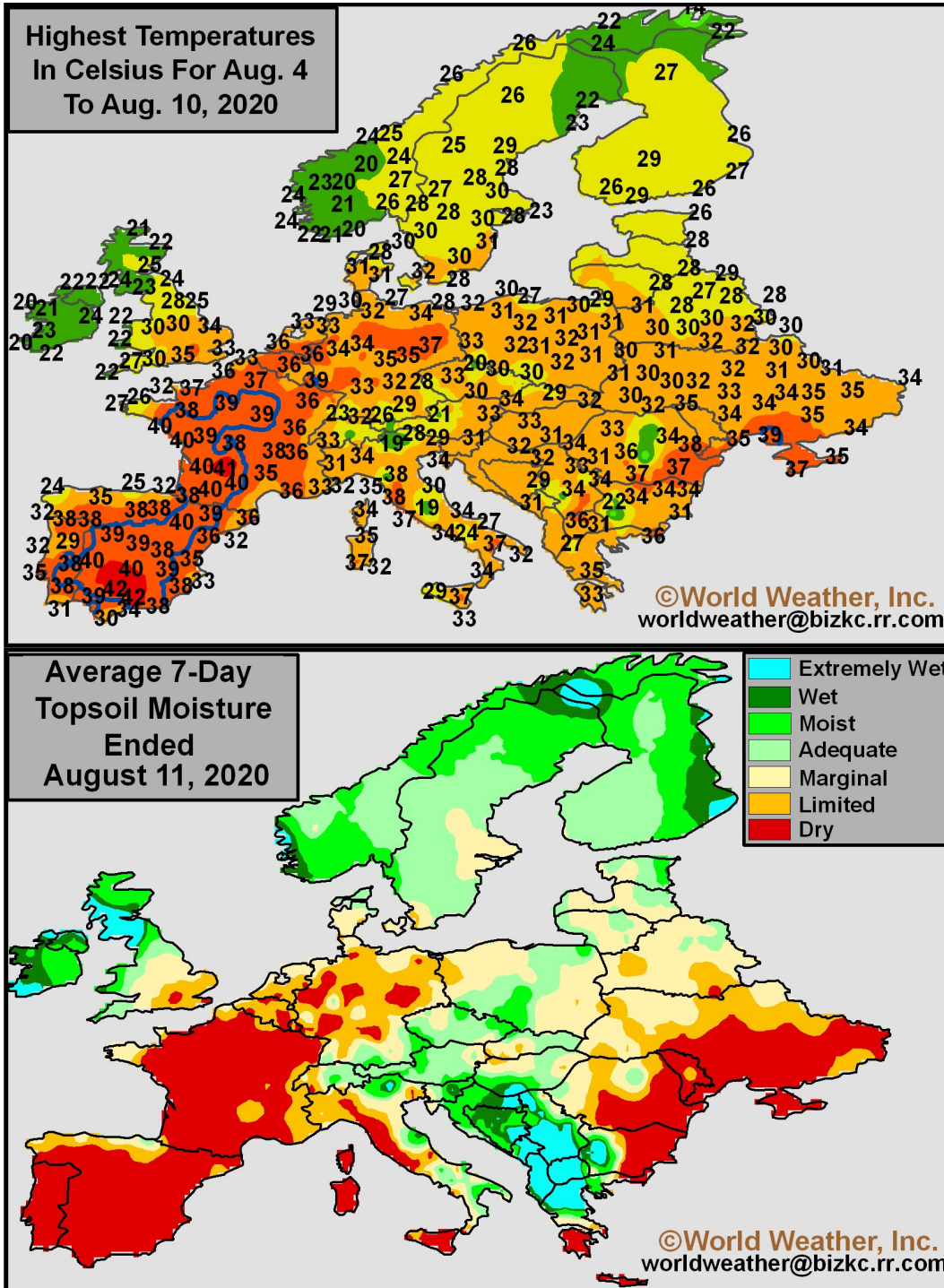
Kansas City, August 11 (World Weather Inc.) – *Drought in France continues quite serious with rainfall in July just 28% of normal making it the driest July since 1959. Water restrictions have been in place for quite a while, but they have become more significant with the onset of additional heat as well as persistent dryness. This past week's weather expanded and intensified dryness more notably in Germany, Belgium, Netherlands and the United Kingdom. Crop development has become more stressful in recent weeks and many areas do not have enough soil moisture to support much growth. The good news is that much of Western Europe will see much-needed rain through early next week that will alleviate some of the dryness. Crops will react favorably once soil moisture increases, although the rain comes too late for many crops to restore their full production potential especially in France where dryness has been most intense for the longest period of time.* Crop production cuts have already occurred in Western Europe, but the coming rain should put an end to the declining trend – at least for a while. In the meantime, many areas in Eastern Europe will dry down through early next week.

Rainfall varied across Europe during the past week. Western sections of Greece and Bulgaria into Croatia and southern Hungary received the most rain. Moisture totals for the seven-day period ending this morning ranged from 0.75 to 3.74 inches of rain with local amounts up to 6.46 inches in northern Macedonia and neighboring areas. Portions of Poland received 0.20 to 1.10 inches of rain. Scotland into Ireland received 0.32 to 0.95 inch of rain with local amounts up to 2.91 inches in Scotland. A few pockets in France, western Ukraine, Belarus, and the Baltic States received light rain, though much of the precipitation was lost to evaporation. The remaining portions of Europe were dry or mostly dry.

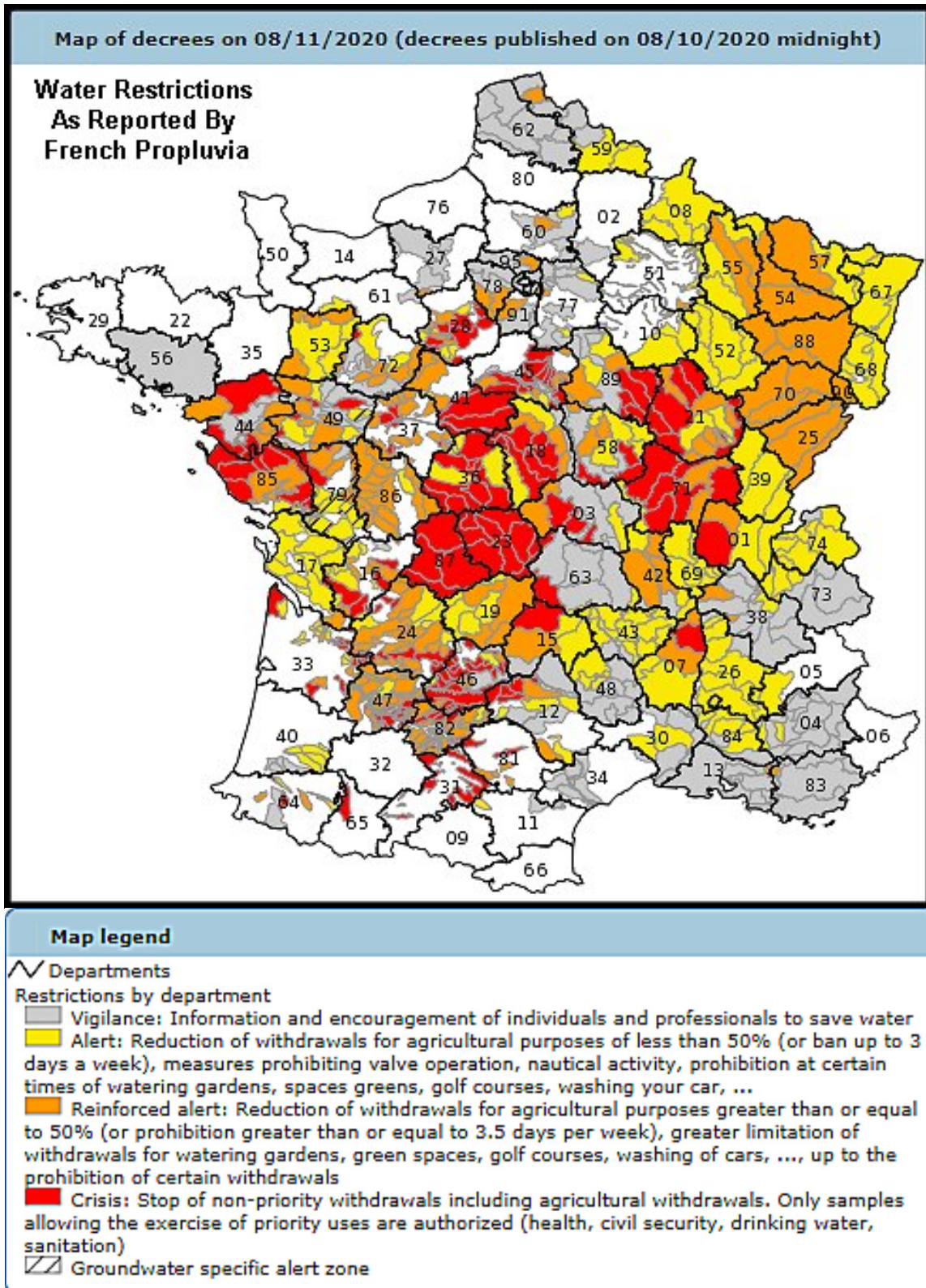


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A heatwave was noted in France during the past several days. Daytime highs often reached the upper 80s and 90s Fahrenheit with a many locations warming to the range of 100 to 105 degrees. Germany and southern sections of the United Kingdom were also warmer than normal at times with highs reaching the upper 80s and 90s. Eastern Europe saw highest temperatures reach the upper 80s and 90s as well.



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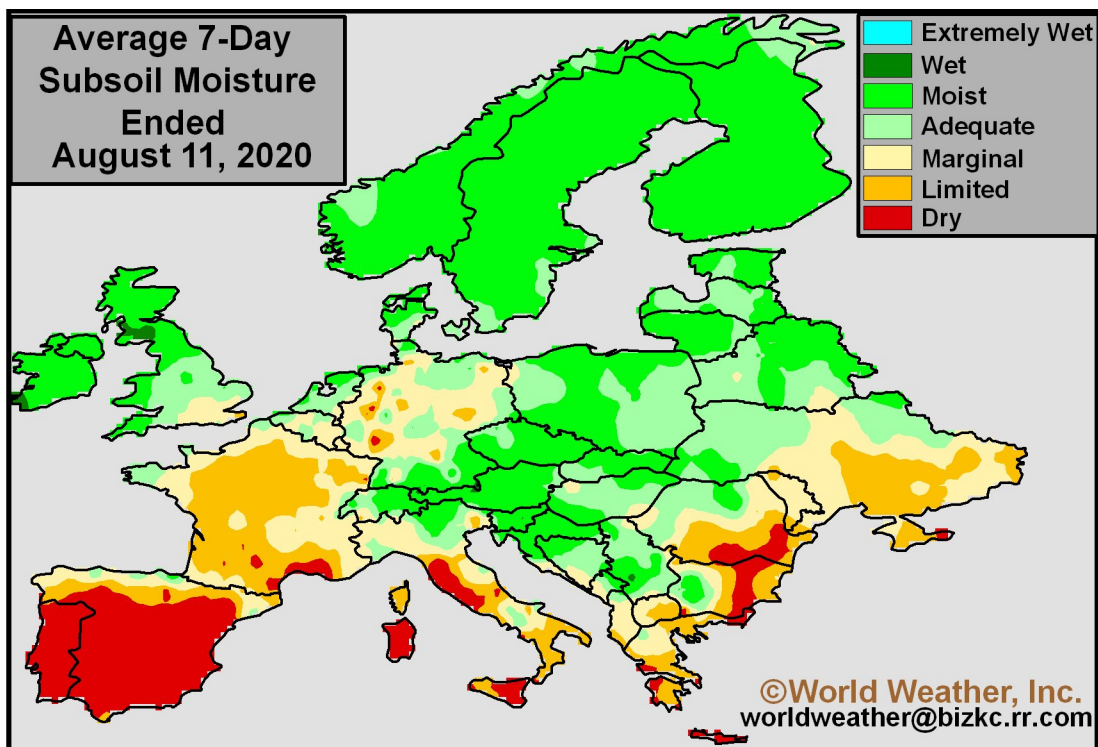
Much of France is now critically dry. Portions of Germany and some southern areas of England and Wales are also quite dry and in need of rain along with Belgium and Netherlands. Water restrictions have reached a “crisis” level for nearly half of France’s

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water departments with many others advising some kind of restriction on consumption. These restrictions pertain to agriculture as much as human consumption.

In the meantime, portions of southern Romania, southern and eastern Ukraine and eastern Bulgaria are also dry to critically dry. Other sections of the Balkans region have adequate to excessive topsoil moisture stemming from recent rainfall. The remaining production areas in Europe generally have adequate to marginally adequate subsoil moisture and adequate to short topsoil moisture.

The extended period of dryness coupled with warm to hot weather in recent days continued to promote a poor environment for summer crop development for unirrigated areas in France and most other areas noted above with short to very short soil moisture. Crop moisture and heat stress has negatively impacted summer crop production as dryness did for many of the region's winter crops. Rain is needed immediately to stop crop condition declines and to support the best production potentials.



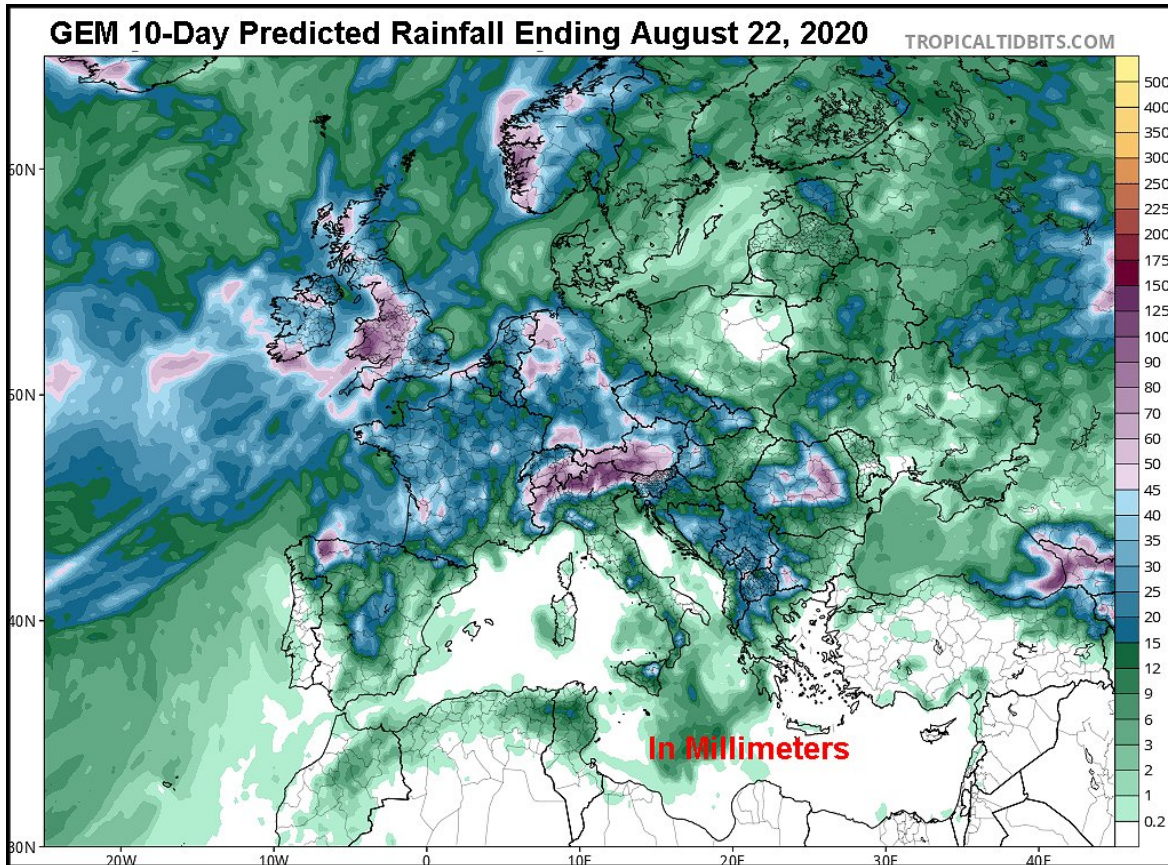
Two disturbances will slowly track across Western Europe during the coming week. The most widespread and significant rain will fall through Thursday with periods of light rain continuing into early next week. Moisture totals by next Tuesday morning will range from 0.50 to 2.00 inches with local amounts over 3.00 inches in the United Kingdom and western Germany. Drier pockets are also expected for southern France and eastern Germany. *The rain will slowly bolster soil moisture, but amounts will be too light to restore production potentials.*

The periods of rain in Western Europe through early next week will help support more aggressive coarse grain and oilseed development. Crop conditions will remain far from ideal despite the rain and additional precipitation would be welcome later this month. Production cuts are still expected in France and the driest areas of Germany,

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Belgium and England. Other production areas in Western Europe will see mostly favorable conditions persist.

Crop development has also slowed or remains sluggish in unirrigated areas from eastern Bulgaria and much of Romania into Ukraine, Belarus and portions of Poland and the Baltic States in recent weeks as the ground firmed. The driest areas in southeastern Europe may have seen some production impacts as well. Western sections of the Balkan Countries have the greatest soil moisture and the best summer crop production potential.



Timely rain will persist **from northern Greece and western Bulgaria into Croatia and neighboring areas** during the coming week. Portions of Romania and Hungary will see a good mix of rain and sunshine as well. Rain totals by next Tuesday morning will range from 0.40 to 2.00 inches with locally greater amounts. Other areas in Eastern Europe will be dry or mostly dry. Any rain that falls will be too light to impact long-term soil conditions.

Western sections of the Balkans will receive enough rain to keep soil moisture at adequate to excessive levels through early next week. Crop development conditions will remain favorable. Many areas in Romania will also receive enough rain to bolster soil moisture, though the precipitation will be unable to completely fix the moisture deficits. Crops may improve marginally. However, much of the country will be too dry to support ideal crop conditions.

Ukraine and Poland into Belarus and the Baltic States will continue to dry down through early next week. The moisture profile will gradually become critically dry in a large portion of Ukraine while significant moisture shortages slowly evolve in the remaining

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countries. Development will either remain sluggish or continue to slow down as the ground firms. Concerns for production cuts will increase in Ukraine due to the ongoing dryness.

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