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The Canadian Agriculture Weather Prognosticator

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World Weather At A Glance

- Drought continues from Mexico to the southwestern Canada Prairies.
- Weather in the first half of May was wet in Canada's eastern Prairies resulting in extended field working delays.
- Southwestern Canada's Prairies are still too dry for sustainable crop development and the region will have constant need for rain.
- Europe is drying down in France, Spain, Portugal, Germany and the U.K., although rain is expected this week in Germany, the U.K. and northern France.
- Eastern Australia has become abundantly wet for autumn and winter crop planting.
- Western Argentina and U.S. hard red winter wheat areas need rain while spring wheat areas in the Plains and Prairies need dry weather.
- East-central China has been drying out

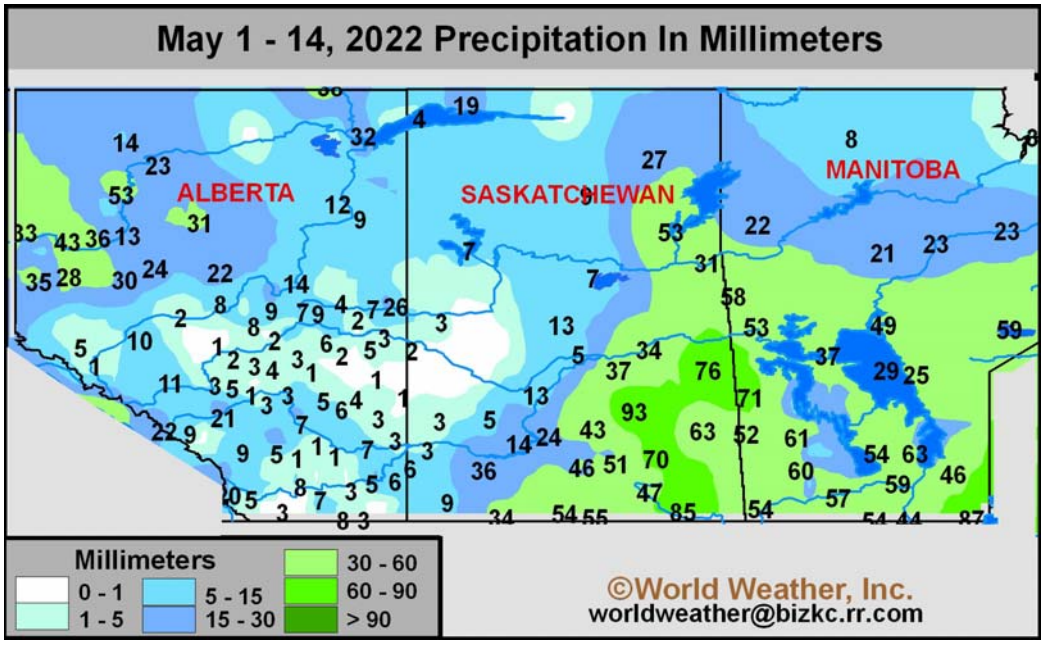
Too Much Rain Raises Planting Fears In East

April's wet weather in Manitoba has expanded to the west in the first half of May. As a result, there is a huge area of land from the east half of Saskatchewan through Manitoba that is either becoming too wet for fieldwork or is too wet raising an entirely different concern for 2022 relative to last year.

Last year at this time the prayers were for rain and the fear was for a failed crop because of drought. This year the fear has shifted to one of not planting because of too much rain. The clock continues to tick for optimum planting dates and this past week's rain seriously raised worry over the potential of getting crops planted before it becomes too late.

Late planting in the Prairies always raises concern over the potential for frost and freeze damage at the end of the growing season. That concern raises more pressure for getting crops planted as quickly as possible, but with the ground so wet at this point in time there is a potential that some fields may not get planted unless there is a serious shift in weather soon.

In the meantime, western parts of the Prairies (except western Alberta) have continued to miss out on significant rain events and dryness remains a huge concern. There have been brief periods of light rainfall that have supported some fieldwork , but after multiple years of drought there is a serious concern about failed crops because of no subsoil moisture to carry crops after germination and emergence without good follow up rain. This is of great concern in southern and east-central Alberta and

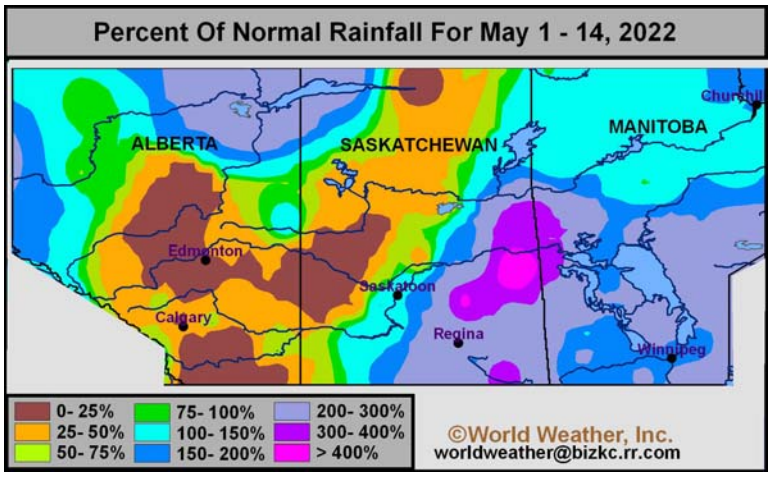


Too Much Rain Raises Planting Fears In East (continued from page 1)

west-central and parts of southwestern Saskatchewan.

Most of the wettest areas in the eastern Prairies are bracing for another round of rainy weather and that is expected later this week. The event will favor the same areas that were negatively impacted by rain late last week and early in the weekend suggesting a more serious level of concern about field conditions. Some expansion of flooding is possible in many areas later this week with the new storm.

A large pool of cooler than usual air should follow the storm and if it occurs as advertised there will be a change in the upper air wind flow that will help curb the rainy weather for a while. The cold airmass will first bring in a late season frost and freeze to many areas, but it will also bring in drier air and it is hoped that the drier air will represent a trend change that will last long enough to get fields to dry.



World Weather, Inc. believes this break in the pattern will be of critical importance because the wetter bias is bound to return. The eastern Prairies need to not only dry down, but it needs to heat up as well. One of the problems with bringing warmer air into a cold airmass at this time of year is that it will nearly always result in more rain. So, in this particular case the need is for a northwesterly flow pattern to return and prevail for a two to three week period so that the region can dry down without getting too much warm air back into the region.

The one thing eastern producers must take note of is that the wetter bias will return. This break in the weather may only last several days or it could last week to ten days, but it is not likely to last long enough for ideal planting weather to return. So, for those areas where the ground is much too wet today, there is a good chance that the surplus moisture will disappear later this month and into the first days of June, but the mud may still remain. Plans should be made now to proceed with planting when conditions get good enough to do so because of the potential that the rain will return before optimum planting conditions evolve. Waiting for optimal field conditions is NOT advised because of the high potential that rainy pattern will resume soon.

La Nina is still very near its peak intensity, but it will begin weakening this week and it should weaken through the end of this month and well into June. The weakening trend will bring back the potential for warmer weather and that will help in getting the fields to dry better between rain events, but a ridge of high pressure is not likely to be prevalent during these next few weeks and the potential for rain to fall additional is quite high. The warming will have to be good enough to get fields to dry down enough to at least float in some seed. Perhaps the window for planting will widen greater than feared and the entire crop can get planted in these next few weeks.

The bottom line is that we should be prepared to work as hard as possible during the drier days coming up to get the crop in the ground before rain returns. There is no promise how long the break will last and World Weather, Inc. is convinced that it will not be long enough to bring on ideal field conditions so we must be prepared to run hard in a less than optimal environment.

In the meantime, there have been no changes in the situation for the driest areas in the southwestern Prairies. Precipitation is still expected to come and go periodically, but it will still be erratic and often too light to seriously change the long term moisture situation leaving constant concern about the fate of this year's crops after planting is completed. As stated previously, the potential for improved rainfall this summer is still good for all of the drought stricken areas. A full restoration of subsoil is unlikely, but rain should fall often enough to improve field and crop conditions. The change is expected to begin showing up in June and precipitation should fall more routinely during the heart of summer. The outlook has not changed for these areas including southern and east-central Alberta and west-central and parts of southwestern Saskatchewan.

In the meantime, too much moisture in the Peace River region and Slave lake areas of western Alberta is also a concern, but that area should experience better drying conditions in the next few weeks to get fieldwork accomplished. It will take a while for the dry bias to fully kick in and just like the eastern Prairies the advice is to not wait for ideal conditions. This part of the Prairies will likely see a drier finish to the growing season and the spring wet bias should progressively give way to drier biased weather as the year progresses.

No Prolonged Warmth Expected Rest Of Month

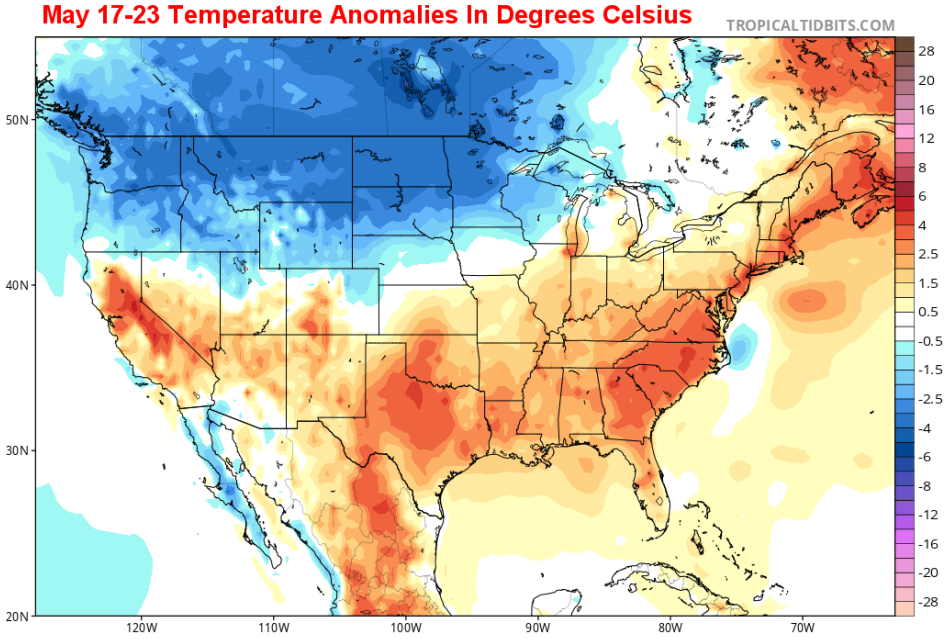
One of the biggest culprits to the eastern Prairies moisture abundance has been cool temperatures. The stratospheric cooling event that developed in late March dictated a cooler than usual bias in a part of North America in April and that verified a little too well. Had it been warmer last month there would have been greater drying between storms in Manitoba and eastern Saskatchewan.

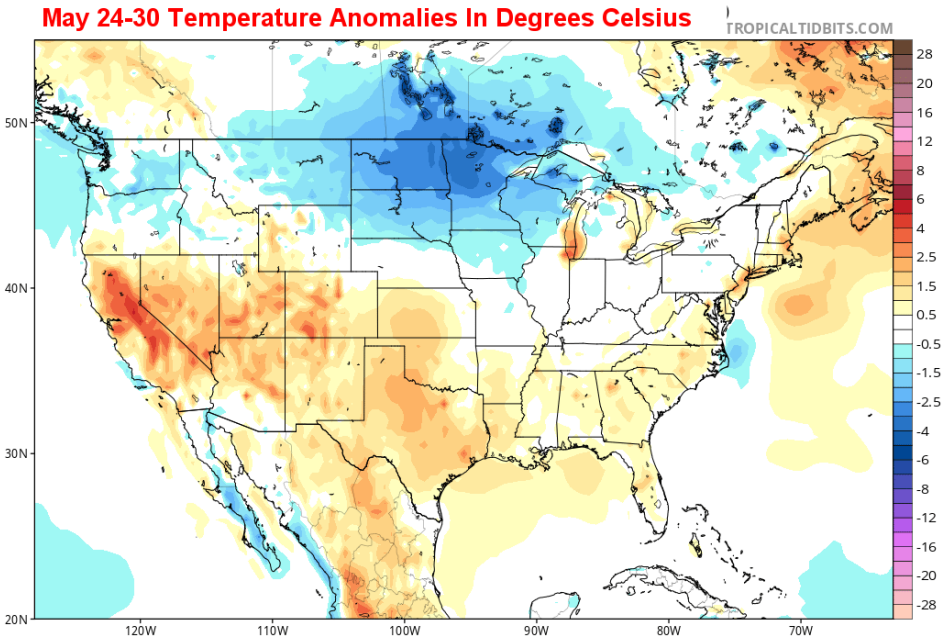
Most of the effects of stratospheric warming have abated, but the strength in La Nina has helped to perpetuate the cooler bias in the first half of this month. La Nina is expected to diminish greatly in the next few weeks and that will restore the potential for warmer weather, but La Nina is still near its peak of intensity and it will take a couple of weeks for the coolness to abate.

Frost and freezes will impact many areas in the Prairies late this week into the following weekend and that could negatively impact a few early planted crops, but planting is so far behind the usual pace in some areas that the impact should be low.

A cooler than usual temperature regime will certainly prevail during this coming week and a little bit into next week as well, but a change is forthcoming and the western Prairies will feel this warm up first for a while next week. The first half of June should bring warmer temperatures to the Prairies, although there will still be weather systems moving through the region to prevent an extended period of excessive heat from occurring. With that said, there may be a short term bout of notably warmer biased conditions.

June will be the month in which a high pressure ridge is expected to build up in the U.S. Plains. That ridge of high pressure will bring a number of changes to North America. The U.S. Plains will heat up and rainfall will drop off in that region and the western Corn and Soybean Belt of the Midwest. For Canada, the change

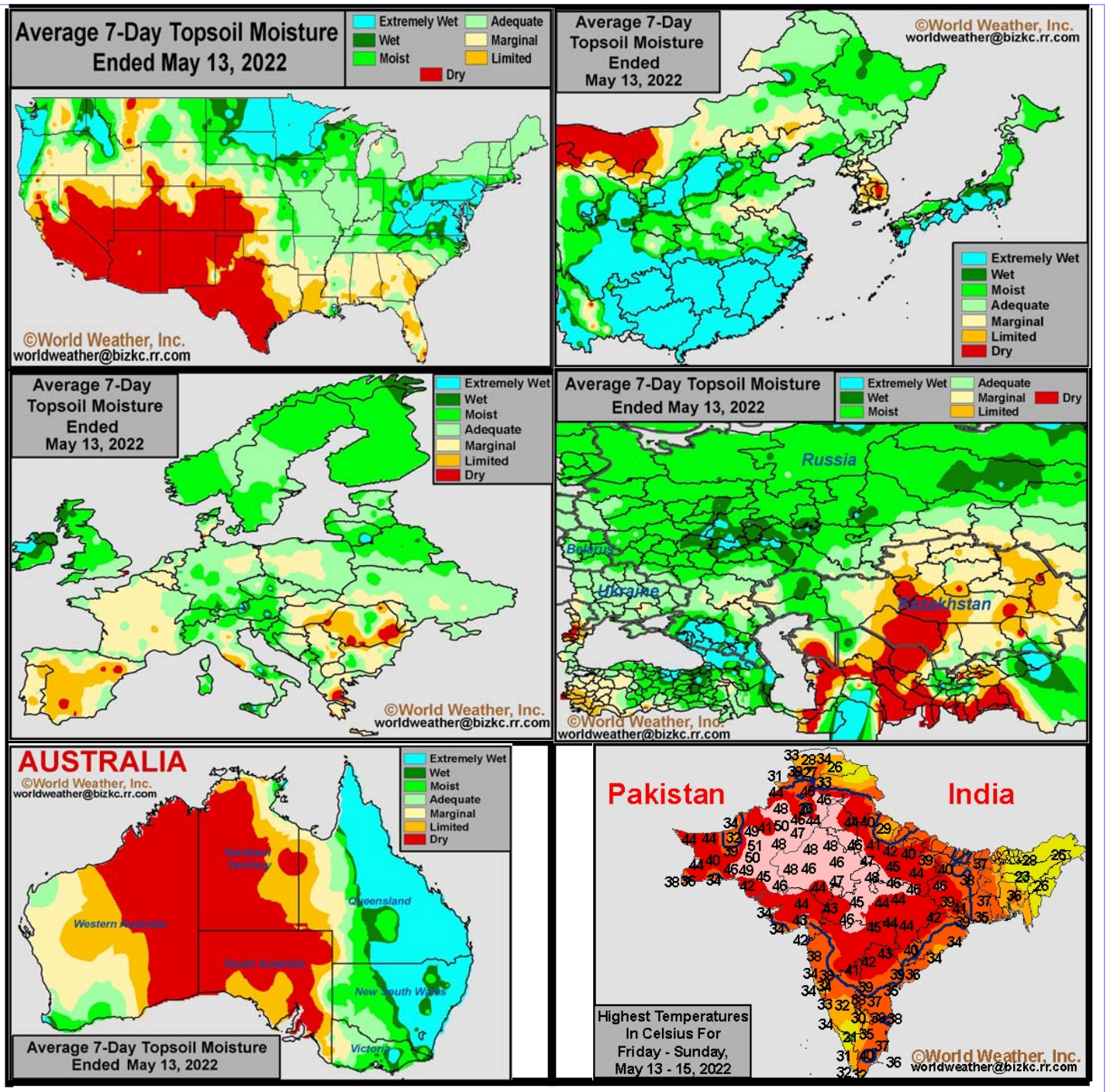




should bring a little less frequent and less intensive rain to the southeastern corner of the Prairies, but the time in which that change occurs will be critical in determining how quickly the weather will improve in southern Manitoba and southeastern Saskatchewan.

Ridge building in the central United States should also shift the wet weather pattern seen in recent weeks across the eastern Prairies to the west and that is when the first round or two of needed rain will reach into some of the drought stricken areas of the southwestern Prairies. It is still unclear whether this change will occur in early June or mid-June, but the change is coming. The precipitation will then become more routine during the heart of the summer months and that is when the southeastern Prairies and the Peace River region of northwestern Alberta “may” start trending drier and warmer.

Selected Weather Images From Around The World



U.S. planting progress jumped ahead during the past week ending a few dismal weeks of fieldwork because of wet and cold weather. However, another period of rainy weather is forthcoming and will fail to allow fieldwork to get back on schedule for a while. East-central China is drying down and will continue doing so for the next two weeks. Eventually, unirrigated crop areas in the North China Plain will become too dry. In the meantime, southern China has been too wet and needs to dry down. Europe is another key crop area that has been drying out. Rain is needed in Spain, Portugal and France as well as in a part of the Balkan Countries. Other areas in Europe are favorably moist with winter and spring crops poised to perform well. Russia and Ukraine weather has been good recently and spring fieldwork has advanced relatively well. Excessive heat in India has raised some serious concerns for livestock and some crops while eastern Australia have recently turned wetter for future wheat, barley and canola planting.

One More Rain Event In SE Before Weather Changes

A change in weather is forthcoming during the second half of May. First, there will be a significant surge of cold air coming to most of the Prairies. The coldest conditions are expected this weekend when frost and freezes are expected in many areas. There is some potential for a follow up shot of cold in the last days of this month, although confidence is low.

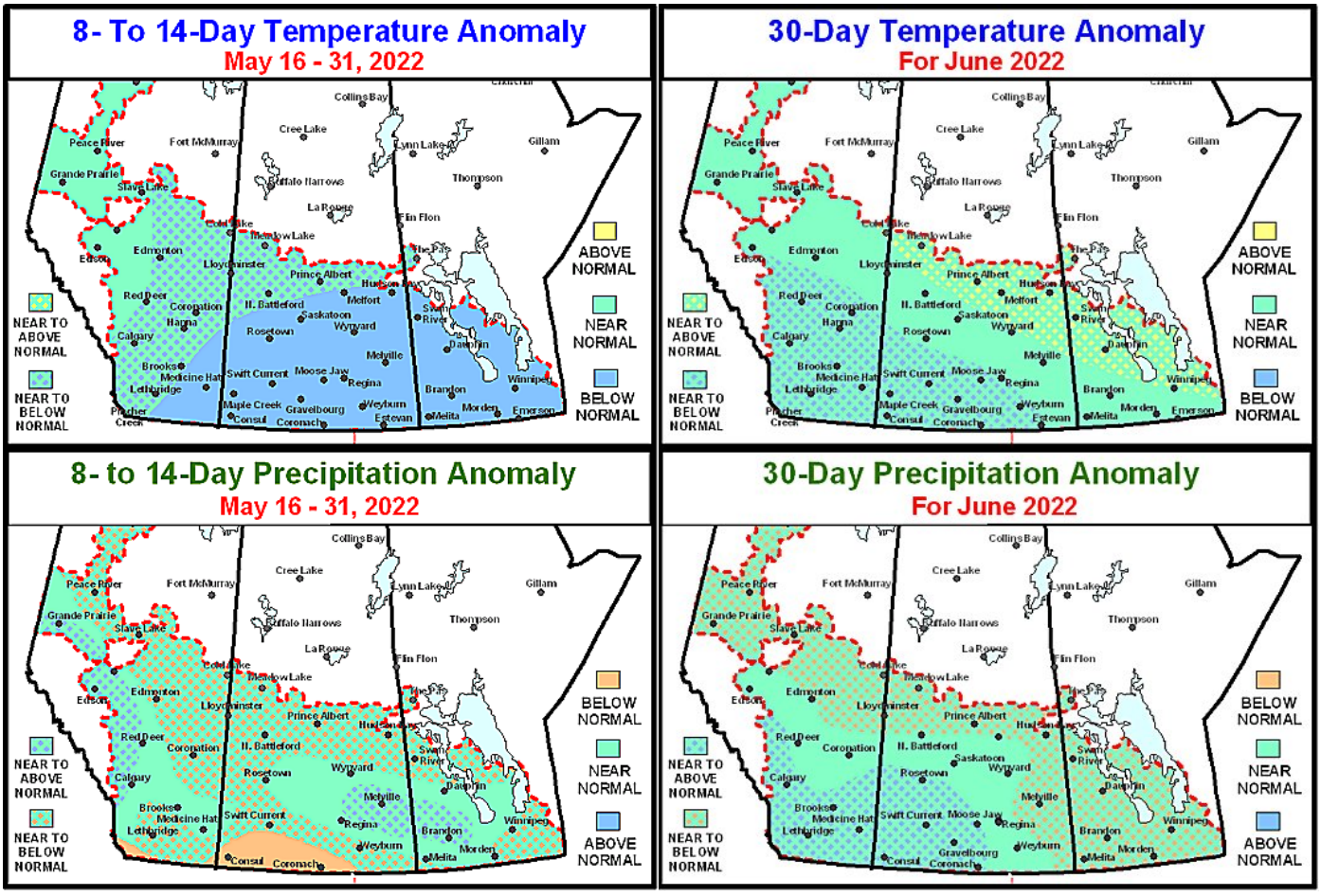
The coming colder weather will induce a boost in precipitation as it settles into the Prairies. The moisture is expected to be most significant in central through interior southeastern parts of Saskatchewan and in southwestern portions of Manitoba. There will also be a region of wetter biased conditions along the Front Range of the Alberta Rocky Mountains. Moisture totals will be near to below average in most other areas. Temperatures in the balance of May will be cooler than usual which may not bode well for quick drying in the wetter areas, but a trend change may come as the cold weather settles into the Prairies.

That trend change will include less than usual precipitation for many areas in the Prairies as the month of May comes to a close. There is some potential that once the rain from this week ends that precipitation in the balance of this month will be more infrequent and light allowing fieldwork to advance more favorably.

June weather is expected to be different as well, but the change in June may be slow to evolve. The change will include a better distribution of rain to the southwestern Prairies while the southeastern Prairies experience a little less frequent and less significant precipitation. These trend changes will be extremely important for promoting fieldwork and crop development.

Temperatures in June may continue to be a little milder than usual in the southwestern half of the Prairies while the northeast trends a little warmer than usual. These anomalies may need to be adjusted since it is unclear when the pattern changes are going to set in. Precipitation in June is expected to be near to above normal in the southwestern and south-central Prairies while near to slightly lighter than usual across northern and eastern most portions of the region.

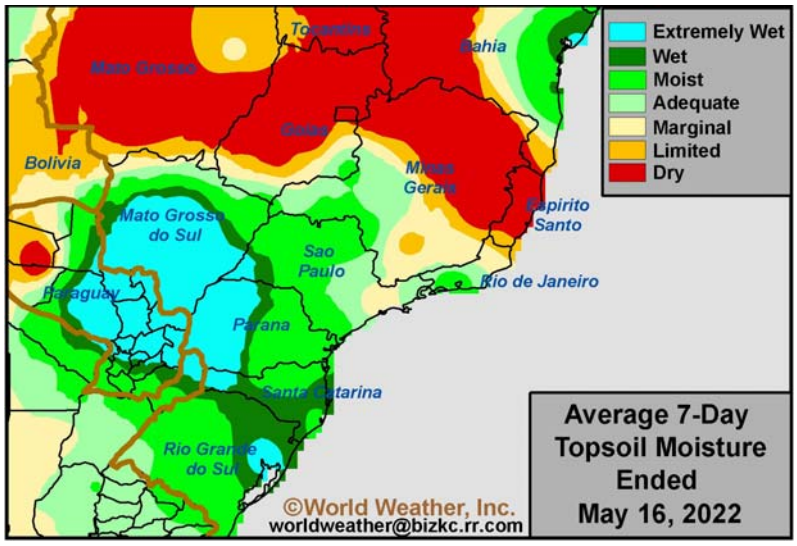
The implied result of June weather changes should be improved spring planting conditions in the southeast and better emergence, establishment and early growth prospects in previous drought stricken areas of the southwest.



Frost Threat In Parana, Brazil While Mato Grosso Dries

An unusually cold airmass for so early in the cool season will be settling into South America during the latter part of this week bringing with it frost and freezes in Argentina, Uruguay southern Paraguay and southern Brazil. There is some concern over possible Safrinha corn damage in Parana when temperatures slip into the frost range late this week and early in the weekend. Damage to crops is expected to be minor, but if the cold becomes more intensive the potential impact could be huge since so much of the Safrinha corn in Mato Grosso and Goias has already lost yield potential due to dryness.

Recent rainfall helped lift soil moisture to adequate or excessive levels in much of Mato Grosso do Sul. Far southern Brazil, Sao Paulo, and portions of western Minas Gerais also have adequate soil moisture while Mato Grosso, Goias, the northern half of Minas Gerais and Bahia remain dry due to the extended period of drier and warmer weather.



Safrinha corn conditions continued to deteriorate in Mato Grosso, Goias, and the small production areas of Bahia and northern Minas Gerais. These areas saw seasonal rainfall come to an end a few weeks earlier than usual. The lack of moisture slowed crop development and slowly raised concern over potential production losses. If these areas see a good soaking of rain in the near future the decline in production potential will stop, but some losses have already occurred and will not be reversible. Cotton conditions in Mato Grosso and Bahia have also been a little dry, but in Bahia that has helped to expedite crop maturation and sets the stage for good harvest weather. Mato Grosso dryness in cotton areas has begun to stress the crop, although cotton usually fares much better than corn in a dry environment.

Other Safrinha corn areas in far southern Brazil, Mato Grosso do Sul, Sao Paulo, and southwestern Minas Gerais have seen more favorable development conditions during the past week. The outlook for these locations is generally good. Winter wheat planting likely advanced swiftly in Rio Grande do Sul due to the lack of heavy rainfall during the past week. Establishment and growth for the winter wheat has generally been good in recent weeks for much of southern and center-south Brazil.

A large section of Brazil will be drier biased this week. However, a strong frontal boundary will promote erratic rainfall for portions of southern Brazil, Minas Gerais, Bahia, and neighboring areas Wednesday. Eastern sections of Rio Grande do Sul and Santa Catarina will receive 0.75 to 2.00 inches of rain with locally greater amounts by Thursday morning. Other locations will receive 0.10 to 0.75 inch of rain with drier pockets. Southern and portions of center-south and center-west Brazil will likely see a mix of rain and sunshine May 24 – 30 while northeastern Brazil remains drier biased.

The strong cold front will also drop temperatures below normal in much of southern Brazil and neighboring areas in Sao Paulo, Mato Grosso do Sul, Uruguay, Paraguay and eastern Argentina in coming days. Morning low temperatures will often drop to the 30s and 40s Fahrenheit through Saturday before warmer air returns. Several pockets in Parana and immediate neighboring locations may see temperatures hover near freezing for a few hours with pockets potentially dipping below freezing for a brief period of time.

Safrinha corn in Parana is still immature and may be vulnerable to damage from freezes. Widespread freezes are not expected and no severe corn damage is expected. Frost is more likely and should not significantly impact much of the crop. However, any pockets that do see freezing temperatures for more than an hour or two may see some production potential and grain quality reduced.

Mato Grosso, Goias, and northwestern Minas Gerais into southern Bahia will continue to struggle with dryness this week and probably through the end of this month. Dryness is not unusual at this time of year, but the early start to it in late March and early April is what has hurt production thus far this year. Safrinha corn and cotton conditions will remain less than favorable to poor in center west and some center south production areas because of dryness. Concern over production losses will further increase as dryness intensifies. Far southern Brazil and much of Mato Grosso do Sul, Sao Paulo and southwestern Minas Gerais will have enough moisture to maintain good corn development conditions despite the lack of rain.

East-Central China Drying

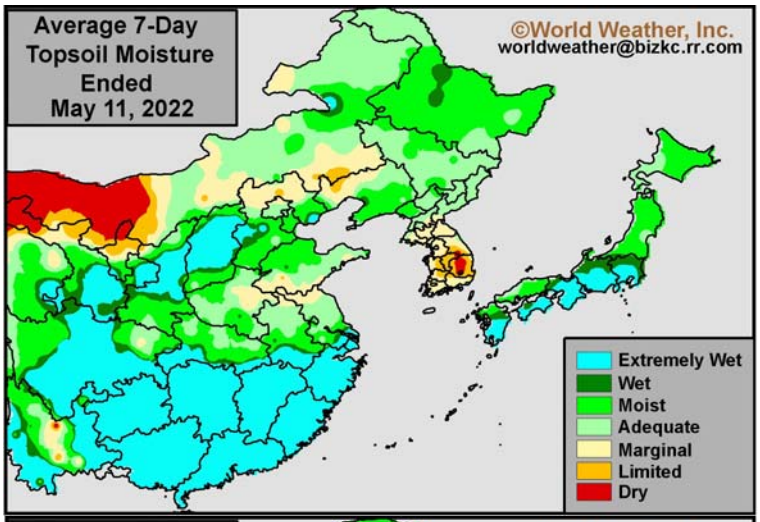
China weather this spring has been mostly good, but a recent trend change has begun to dry out the soil in east-central parts of the nation; including the North China Plain.

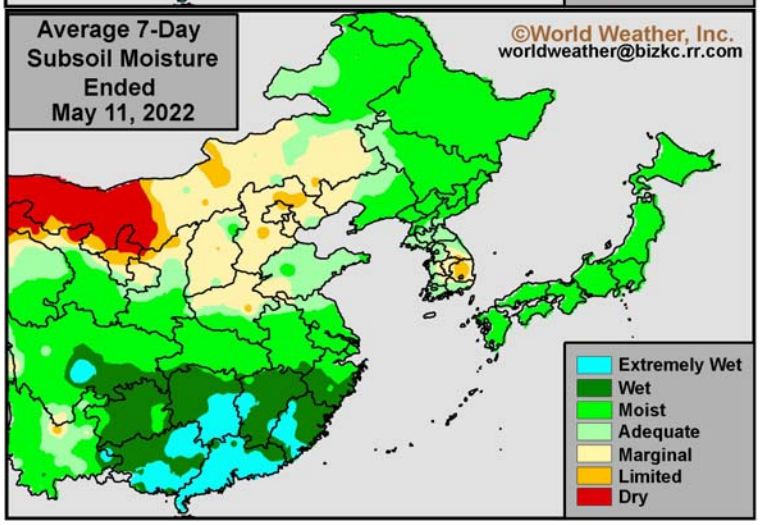
Research earlier this year revealed a potential for less than usual rainfall in northeastern China during the spring and summer. The data only suggested less than usual rainfall and not a full blown drought. The recent trend in near term weather disfavoring rainfall is reflective of the research conducted and raises a little flag of caution due to the potential for dryness in a part of the nation.

The past two summers have been extremely wet with several areas reporting record or near record rainfall. Flooding was excessive at times and damage to many crops and personal property resulted. This year's weather has been much improved with much less flooding and more timely rainfall.

Rapeseed production is expected to be much improved over that of last year and early season rice and sugarcane development should be evolving relatively well. The same may not be true for some winter wheat and barley production areas in the North China Plain and Yellow River Basin.

Northern China experienced a net drying bias in recent weeks after flooding rain occurred last autumn during the planting season. Some of the wheat crop failed to be adequately established because of the frequency and degree of intensity of flooding that resulted. Crops may not have been as well established as they usually are and there is need for timely rain to this day across parts of the same region.





The latest weather data confirms that the most recent 30 days have been lighter than usual with rainfall in east-central and northern parts of the nation. The drier bias was welcome—at least initially because of the moisture excessiveness that may have been lingering from the wet autumn conditions.

A recent rainfall trend decline was noted in east-central China and the pattern may prevail for a while. High pressure aloft will have much to say about eastern Asia rainfall, but one of the impacts will be less than usual moisture. The limited precipitation will lead to a firming of topsoil and that has already begun across the region. A continuation of limited rain is predicted for the next two weeks especially in the North China Plain and Yellow River Basin.

The long term trend models have suggested that while east-central China is driest this spring there is potential that the drier conditions will shift to the north into the Yellow River Basin and northeastern provinces during the late spring and summer. If this trend verifies there could eventually be a threat to corn, soybeans, rice, groundnuts and a host of other crops.

For now, the warmer and drier bias in east-central China should prove to be timely and beneficial for winter wheat filling and maturation. Much of the wheat crop is irrigated and there will be sufficient moisture to support a favorable production environment. Summer grain and oilseed planting, however, will become sluggish without significant rain soon.

U.S. Corn Planting Still Behind, But It Advances Well

A huge improvement in planting weather occurred in the U.S. Midwest during the past week allowing field progress to advance better than at any other time this planting season. Fieldwork is still behind the normal pace in most of the Midwest and that is true for both corn and soybeans.

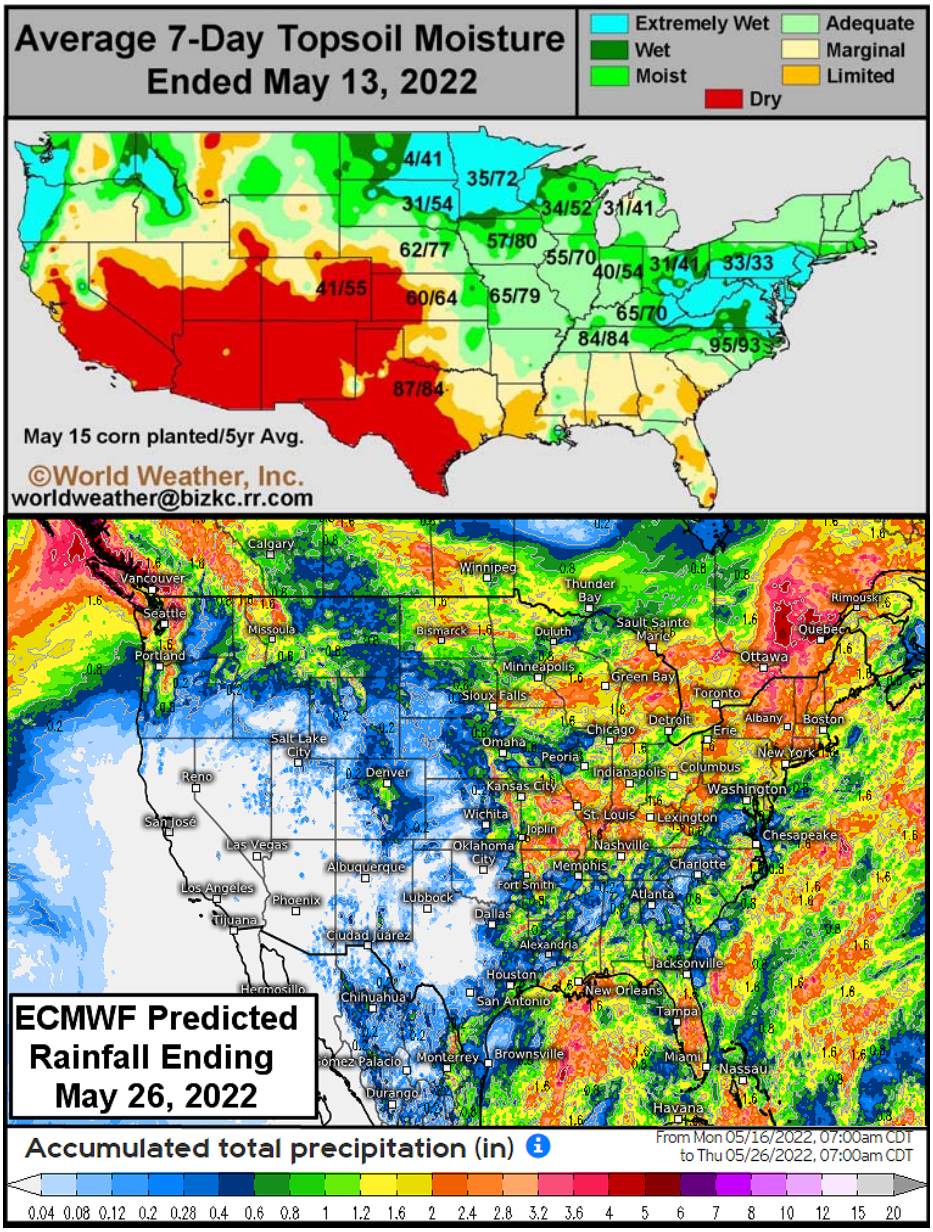
Field progress has advanced best in the southern production areas of the Midwest and Plains which makes sense due to the fact that temperatures have been warmest in the region for the longest period of time and there have been only a few periods of time in which fieldwork was seriously delayed.

Most of the spring fieldwork was on hold prior to this past week due to frequent rain and cooler temperatures; however, a warm temperature regime and less precipitation was exactly what was needed to get this year's crops in the ground.

As of Sunday, the greatest spring planting delays have continued in North Dakota where only 4% of the corn crop had been planted compared to 41% normal. Kansas, Texas, Kentucky, Tennessee and N. Carolina fieldwork was either near the five year average or just slightly behind it.

Despite the warmer bias that evolved this past week fieldwork in the north is still notably behind the usual pace. Minnesota reported 35% of the corn crop in the ground compared to 72% average. Iowa had 57% of its corn in the ground compared to 80% normally completed.

Soil moisture was rated adequately across the lower Midwest Friday before scattered showers and thunderstorms evolved during the weekend and that in combination with warm temperatures was nearly ideal for advancing fieldwork swiftly.



Weather in this coming week is not expected to be nearly as great with a few showers and thunderstorms expected often during the coming two weeks. Most of the precipitation is not excessively great and that means seasonably warm temperatures will help to promote net drying between rain events. The bottom line will be good for fieldwork at times, but progress is not likely to be nearly as great as that of this past week. Concern about too much rain is expected to resurface in the next two weeks and drier weather will be extremely important by then to get this crop fully planted.