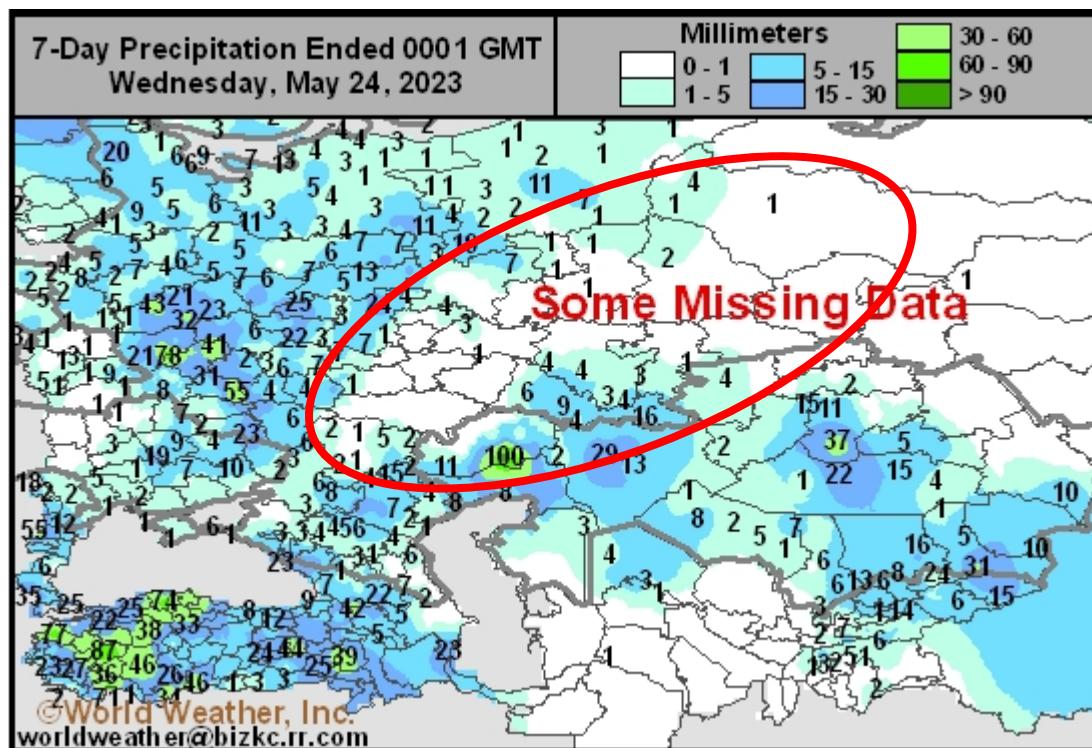


# Russia's Eastern New Lands Drying Out Again

By Andrew Owen and Drew Lerner

Kansas City, May 25 (World Weather Inc.) – [Russia's eastern New Lands and northern Kazakhstan received little to no rain during the past week and more of the same was expected through most of next week while temperatures rise above normal. The environment has already begun to firm the ground once again and that is raising a little more interest in the long term outlook for sunseed and wheat that are produced in the region.](#) Drying occurred earlier this year, but it was followed by some timely rainfall preventing serious dryness from evolving. There may be another chance for rain in the June 3 – 9 period and as long as it verifies dryness will not become an issue, but the situation needs to be closely monitored since the warmer days of summer are quickly approaching and that will accelerate drying rates between rain events. Western Ukraine, Belarus and the Baltic States will also have a chance to dry down for a while and that will be monitored as well.

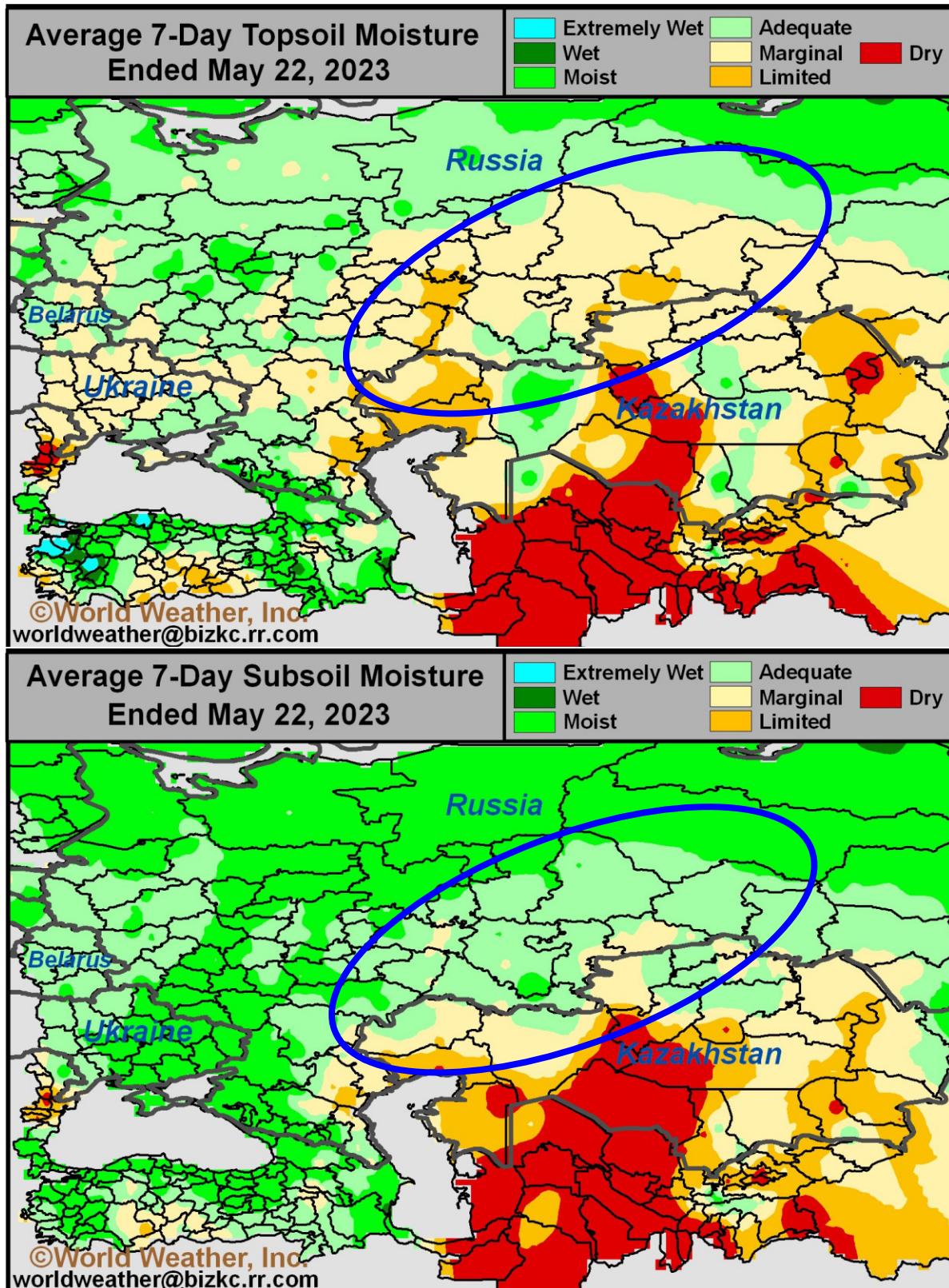
Net drying occurred during the week ending May 24 across most of Russia's New Lands and in a part of northern Kazakhstan. Many areas were dry and those that were not only received up to 0.40 inch of moisture which was not enough to counter the week's evaporation. Northern Kazakhstan was notably wetter than the eastern New Lands. Temperatures in the region were not exceptionally warm either which helped to slow the drying rates that dominated the week.



Western and central Ukraine, Belarus and portions of the Baltic States also failed to get much rain during the past week while areas between these two drier regions received enough rain to bolster topsoil moisture. Rainfall in the Volga River Basin varied from 0.20

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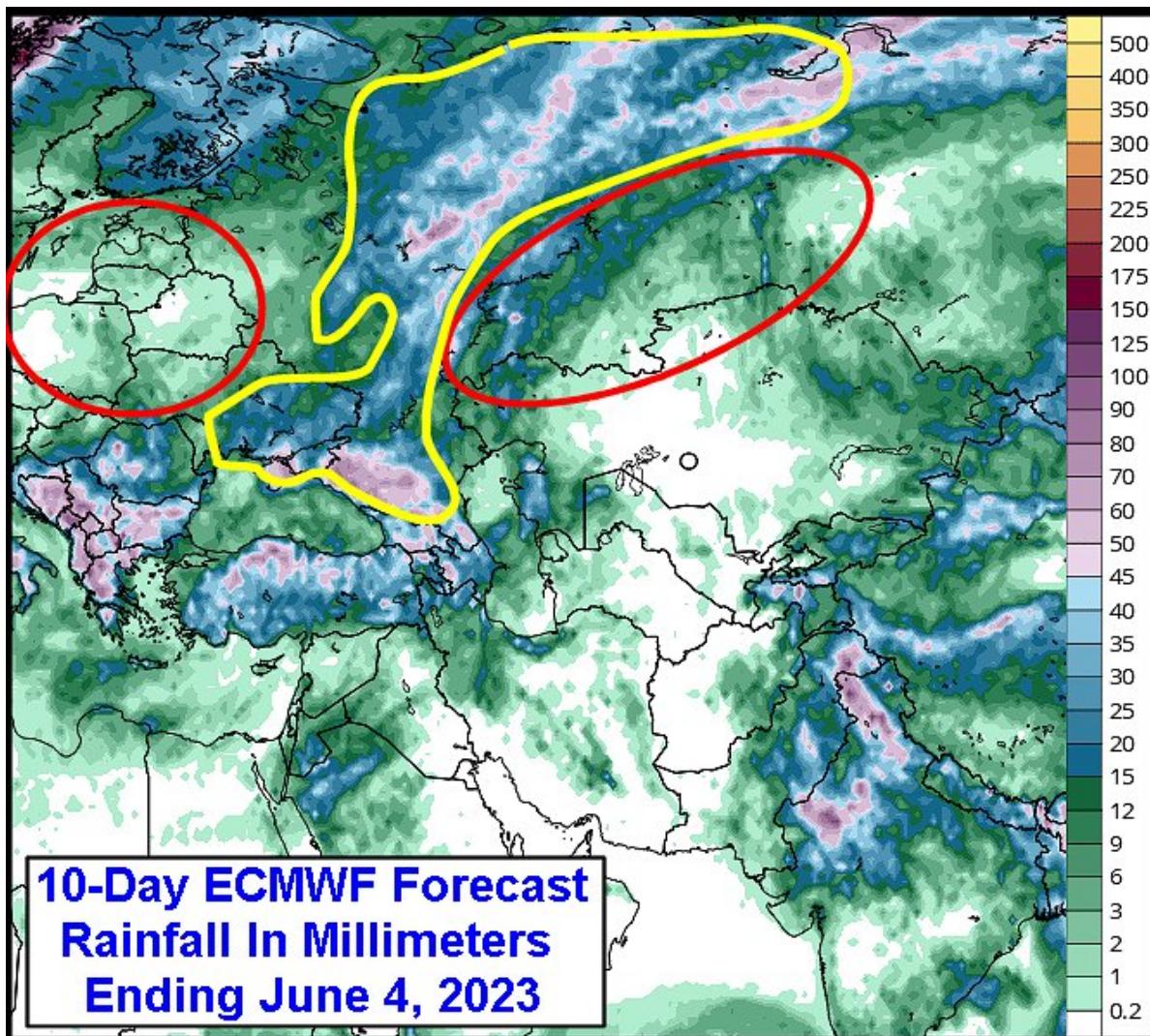
to 1.00 inch with a number of areas getting 1.00 to 3.00 inches of moisture especially near the Belarus and Ukraine border.



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Some of the topsoil in the New Lands has become short to very short of moisture in the past week, but the subsoil is still marginally adequate to slightly short. These conditions are not very threatening to crops, but another week of drying is expected and that will further deplete topsoil moisture especially with temperatures rising into the 80s more routinely. The expected drying in Kazakhstan and from the Ural Mountains eastward through Siberia in this coming week will further deplete topsoil moisture and may lead to a greater level of crop stress. No critically dry conditions are expected, but the need for rain will be steadily rising.

There is potential for rain in the June 3-9 period across the central and eastern New Lands. Confidence in the amount of rain that is expected is not very great and the situation will be closely monitored. Early indications suggest 0.30 to 1.00 inch of moisture will occur during that week with a few pockets of greater rain. Not all areas will get sufficient relief to reduce worry over dryness especially if another ridge of high pressure evolves later this summer as it may.



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### CROP AREAS WEST OF THE URAL MOUNTAINS

*Highly favorable crop moisture has been prevalent this growing season in areas west of the Ural Mountains.* There was a time early in the spring when the ground was a little too wet, but that has passed. A closer watch on western Ukraine, Belarus and Baltic States may be warranted in future weeks since those areas are firming up, but that region is favored for rain later this summer.

This past week's rain in the Volga River Basin, eastern Ukraine and Russia's Southern Region was a boon toward winter and spring crop development. Outside of the impacts of war, crops in the region should be experiencing a highly favorable spring season from a temperature and rainfall perspective.

This coming week is expected to be very similar to last week with the Volga River Basin area eastward to the western slopes of the Ural Mountains and Russia's Southern Region getting sufficient amounts of rain to further support good plant development. Production potentials will also stay high.

Rainfall in this coming week is expected to range from 0.50 to 2.00 inches from Ukraine and Russia's Southern Region through the middle and lower Volga River Basin to the Ural Mountains with a few rain amounts of 2.00 to 4.00 inches. Farther to the west, however, rainfall will be less than 0.50 inch with dry conditions likely in the Baltic States, Belarus and western most parts of Russia where net drying is possible.

*The weather pattern does not change much in the June 3-9 period adding perhaps a little too much moisture to parts of the Volga River Basin, Russia's Southern Region and parts of both the Ural Mountains region and Ukraine.*

A change in weather may be needed in the middle and latter part of June to improve rainfall in the eastern New Lands, western Ukraine, Belarus and the Baltic States while reducing it in the Volga Basin, Ural Mountains region and Russia's Southern Region.

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