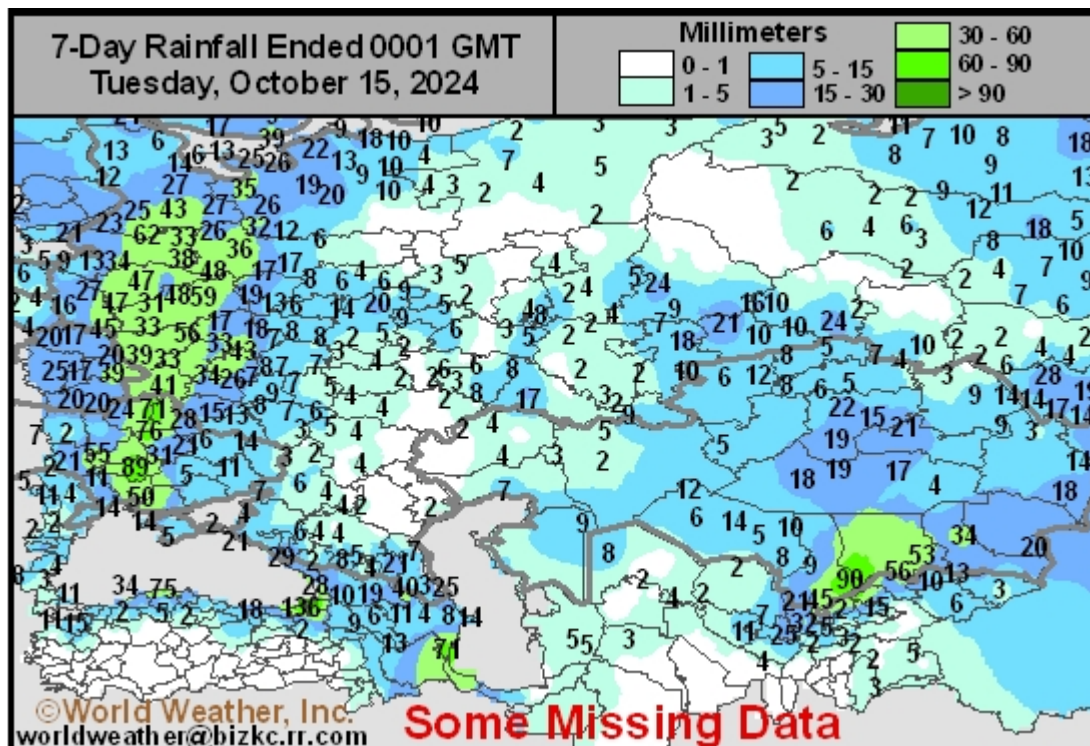


# Russia's Winter Wheat Region To Receive Much-Needed Rain

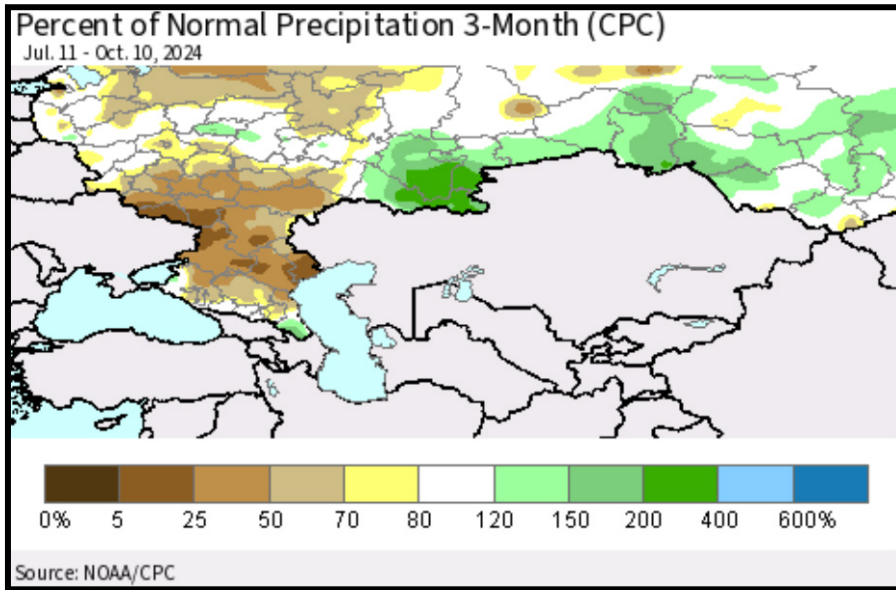
By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, October 15 (World Weather Inc.) – Months of drier than normal weather impacted planting conditions for the winter wheat, barley, rye, and rapeseed for Russia's Volga River Basin and USDA defined 'Southern Region', portions of Ukraine, and neighboring locations in the western Commonwealth of Independent States. Delayed planting may lead to lower than usual acreage, though there is still some time before normal planting dates end. The region will receive much-needed precipitation during the coming week that will likely promote aggressive late-season planting across the region. Establishment conditions will likely improve. However, much more precipitation is needed to completely fix the moisture deficits. The rain may reduce concern over significant production losses, though the precipitation may be coming too late to promote usual yields.

Central Ukraine and western Russia received some of the most significant precipitation in the western Commonwealth of Independent States during the past week. Moisture totals for the seven-day period ending this morning ranged from 1.00 to 3.50 inches with local amounts up to 5.43 inches in central Ukraine. Belarus, other areas in Ukraine, and portions of southwestern Russia, the eastern New Lands, and northern Kazakhstan received 0.20 to 1.00 inch of moisture with local amounts up to 1.54 inches in Belarus. The remaining production areas in Russia and western Kazakhstan were either dry or did not receive enough rain to impact long-term soil conditions. Some significant snow also fell in north-central Kazakhstan and neighboring areas of Russia's southeastern New Lands.



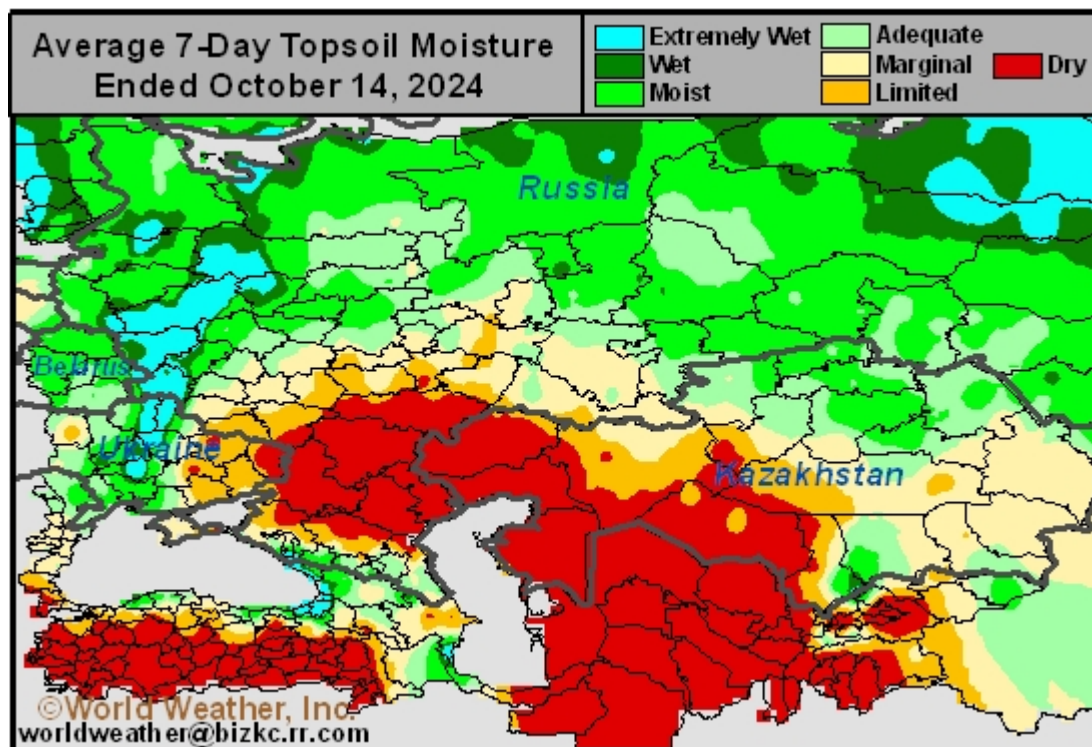
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A large section of the Volga River Basin, the ‘Southern Region’, and southwestern Russia, along with portions of Ukraine, were drier or much drier than normal during the past few months. Precipitation as a percent of normal ranged from 25% to 70% with pockets that only received 5% to 25% of normal

precipitation for the 90-day period ending October 10.

Soil moisture remains short to critically short in much of the Volga River Basin and ‘Southern Region’, eastern Ukraine, western Kazakhstan, and neighboring locations. Other locations in the western CIS have adequate to marginally adequate amounts of moisture with portions of central Ukraine and western Russia that are excessively wet.

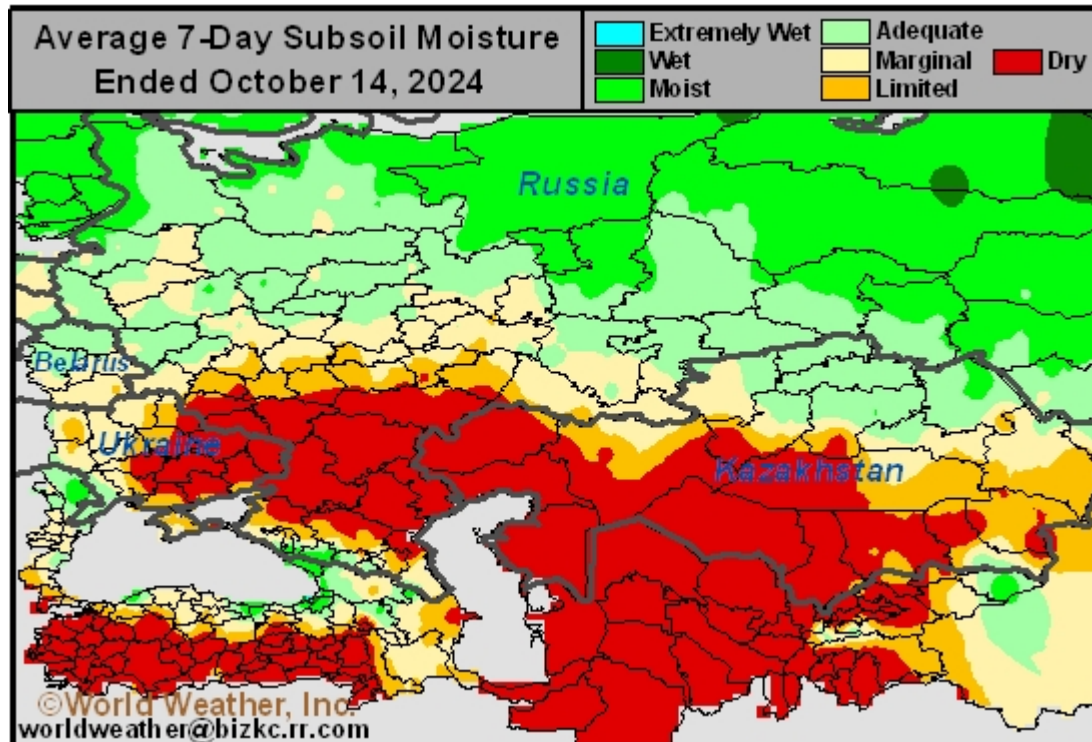


Harvesting of the summer grains and oilseeds is nearly complete in Russia, Ukraine and Kazakhstan. The main focus remains on the delayed planting of the winter grains and oilseeds due to the ongoing drought. Normal planting dates extend through

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the end of October and time is running out. Planted acreage may be lower than usual for the upcoming season and more importantly crops may not be well established without significant rain and enough warm weather to get stands up to normal prior to dormancy.

Ukraine reported it's planting of winter cereals to be complete on 72% of the intended acreage on October 14. The field progress breaks down to 75% of the wheat, 52% of the barley and 73% of the rye was officially planted. Winter rapeseed was also planted on 91% of the acreage. All of this was reported from the Ministry of Agrarian Policy. Winter cereal planting was ahead of last year's pace of 65.2% probably because of this year's dryness.

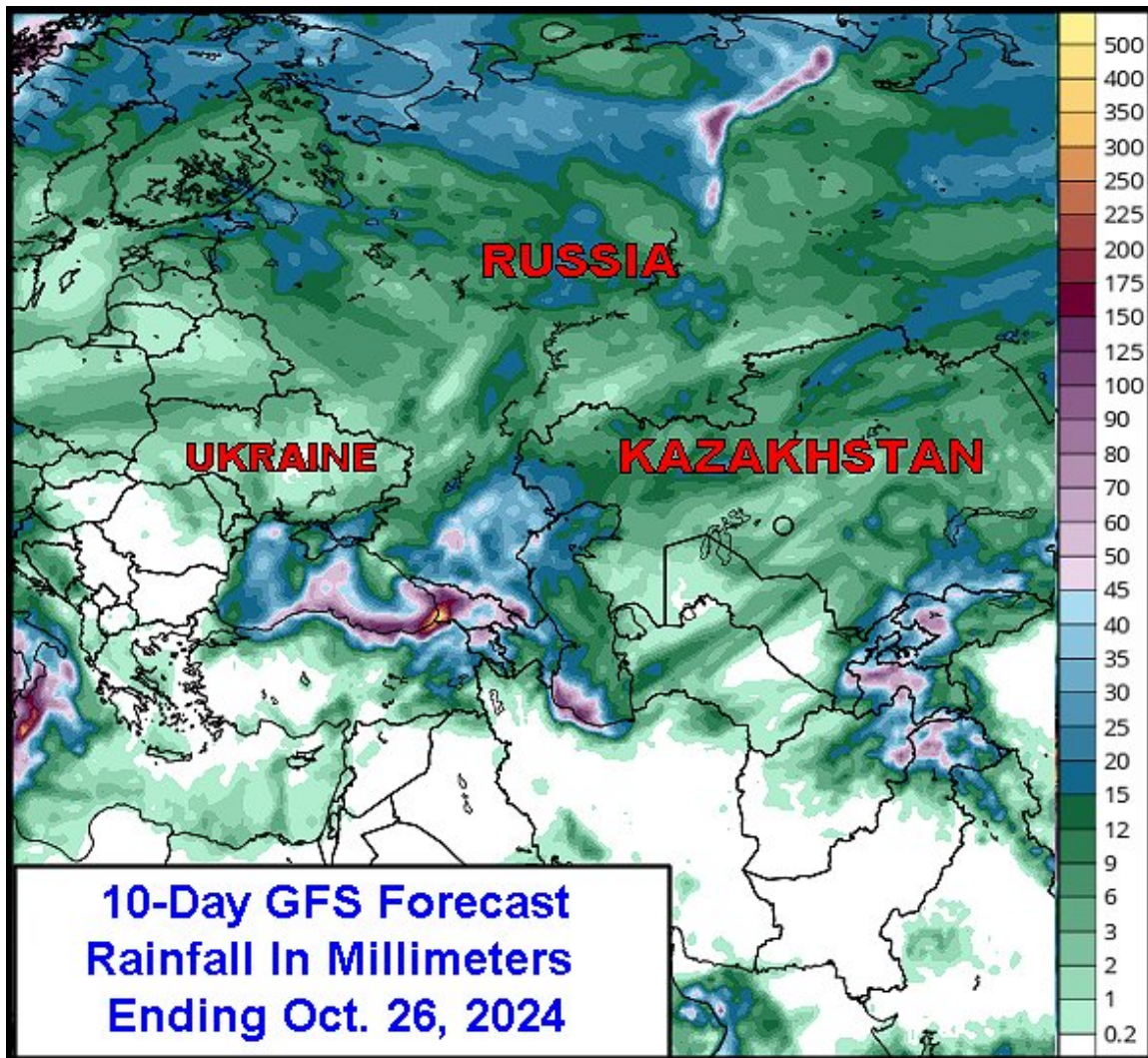


No planting progress statistics were available for Russia, although the Black Sea consultancy firm SovEcon suggested planting was behind the usual pace in the South, Volga and Central regions of Russia. The winter seeding rates were supposed be the lowest in 11 years and if the crop is not completely planted it is most likely not well emerged or established either because some of these crop areas have been drier than usual for a very long period of time. Without adequate soil moisture for germination, emergence and establishment, the crops are destined to be poorly established at the time of dormancy and that could raise the potential for winterkill during the colder weeks of winter further reducing next year's production potential. With all of that said, rain is forthcoming, although it may not be enough.

## WEATHER OUTLOOK

## Russia's Winter Wheat Region To Receive Much-Needed Rain

The Volga River Basin and 'Southern Region' into western Kazakhstan will receive much-needed precipitation during the coming week. Precipitation will be scattered across these areas on a frequent basis through the end of the weekend as an upper-level low-pressure center slowly advances over the region. Moisture totals by next Tuesday morning will range from 0.30 to 1.25 inches with drier pockets in western Kazakhstan and a few local totals as great as 2.50 inches. Other locations in the western CIS will receive little to no precipitation during this time. Precipitation in some areas will be too light to significantly impact long-term soil conditions. The 'Southern Region' will again have opportunities for precipitation October 23 – 29 while the remaining locations in the western CIS are drier than normal.



Precipitation in the Volga River Basin, 'Southern Region', and western Kazakhstan will be well-timed for the recently planted winter wheat, barley, rye, and rapeseed. Establishment conditions will slowly improve, though much more precipitation will be needed to completely fix the moisture deficits. Late-season planting will likely advance swiftly as producers try to take advantage of the moisture. However, planted

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*acreage may remain lower than usual for the upcoming season. Portions of eastern Ukraine may remain too dry to support favorable late-season planting.*

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