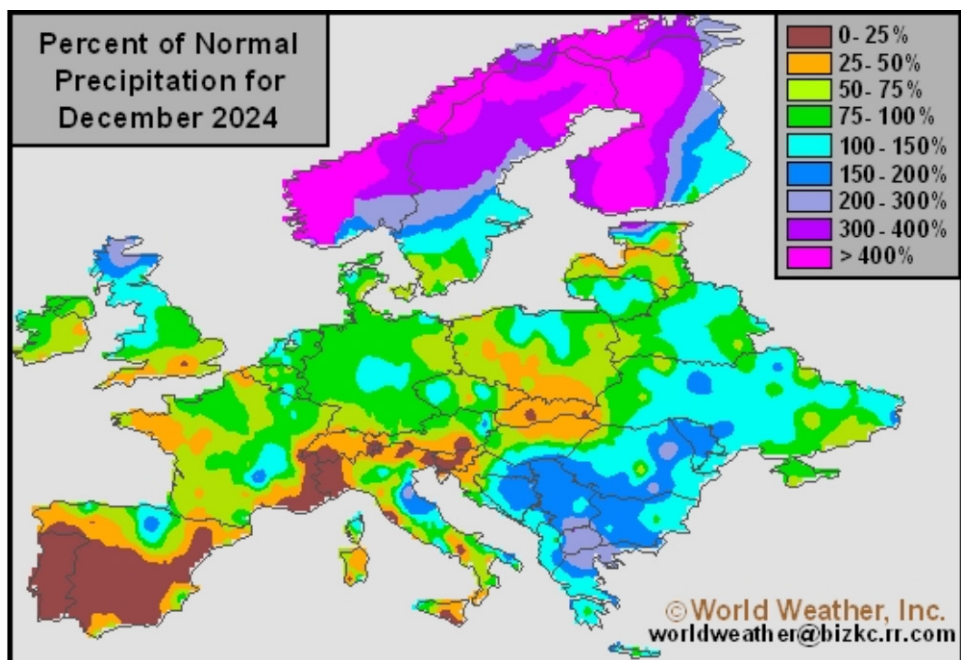


Southeast Europe Received Timely Precipitation In December

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, January 3 (World Weather Inc.) – *Several locations in Europe’s Balkan region were struggling with dryness heading into December. Winter grain and oilseeds likely established unevenly in the driest locations and the need for timely winter precipitation was high. December provided some of that needed moisture and winter crop prospects improved.* Other locations outside portions of the Iberian Peninsula still have adequate soil moisture. Precipitation through the end of next week will favor Western Europe, though several locations in Eastern Europe will receive some precipitation as well. Overall production potentials for Europe’s winter grains and oilseeds will remain favorable. There is potential for local flooding in France during this coming week.

Southeastern Europe and much of Ukraine received near to above normal precipitation in December. Precipitation ranged from 100% to 200% of normal in many areas with a few areas wetter. A large section of the Iberian Peninsula, southeastern and western France, northern Italy, southern Poland, and neighboring locations were drier than normal while near normal precipitation occurred in the remaining production areas. Soil moisture was rated adequately in much of Europe outside portions of the Iberian Peninsula at the end of December.



The timely precipitation in December helped improve winter grain and oilseed potentials for much of Southeastern Europe. Several areas were previously struggling with dryness and many crops likely established unevenly last autumn. The region now has ample moisture to support more aggressive growth this spring once seasonal warming brings crops out of dormancy.

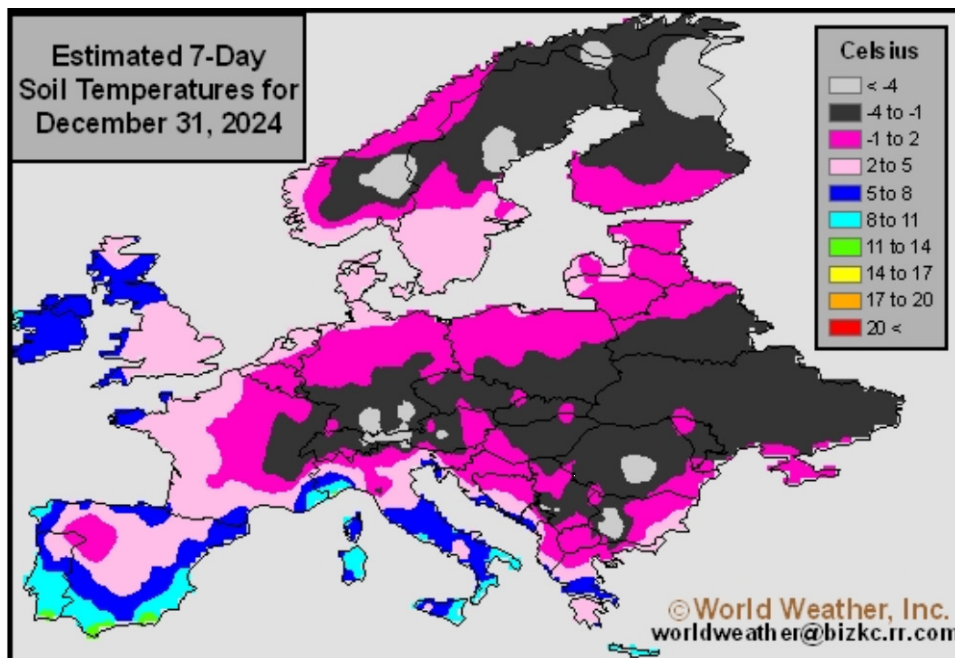
The remainder of Europe outside portions of Spain also has ample moisture to support relatively good winter grain and oilseed prospects for the upcoming season.

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However, the driest areas in central and southern Spain are in need of timely precipitation to support ideal conditions for the crops.

WEATHER OUTLOOK

A series of disturbances will advance into Europe through the end of next week. These disturbances will promote several waves of precipitation with exceptions of Bulgaria and eastern Romania into eastern and central Ukraine. France, Germany, the United Kingdom, northern Spain, Portugal, and areas along the eastern Adriatic Sea will receive 0.75 to 4.00 inches of moisture by next Friday morning. Other locations will receive 0.25 to 1.50 inches of moisture with locally greater amounts. Light snow will accumulate from eastern France into portions of Germany, Poland, Belarus, and neighboring locations. Much of Europe will see a mix of precipitation and sunshine January 11 – 17, though most production areas will receive less precipitation compared to the first week of the outlook.

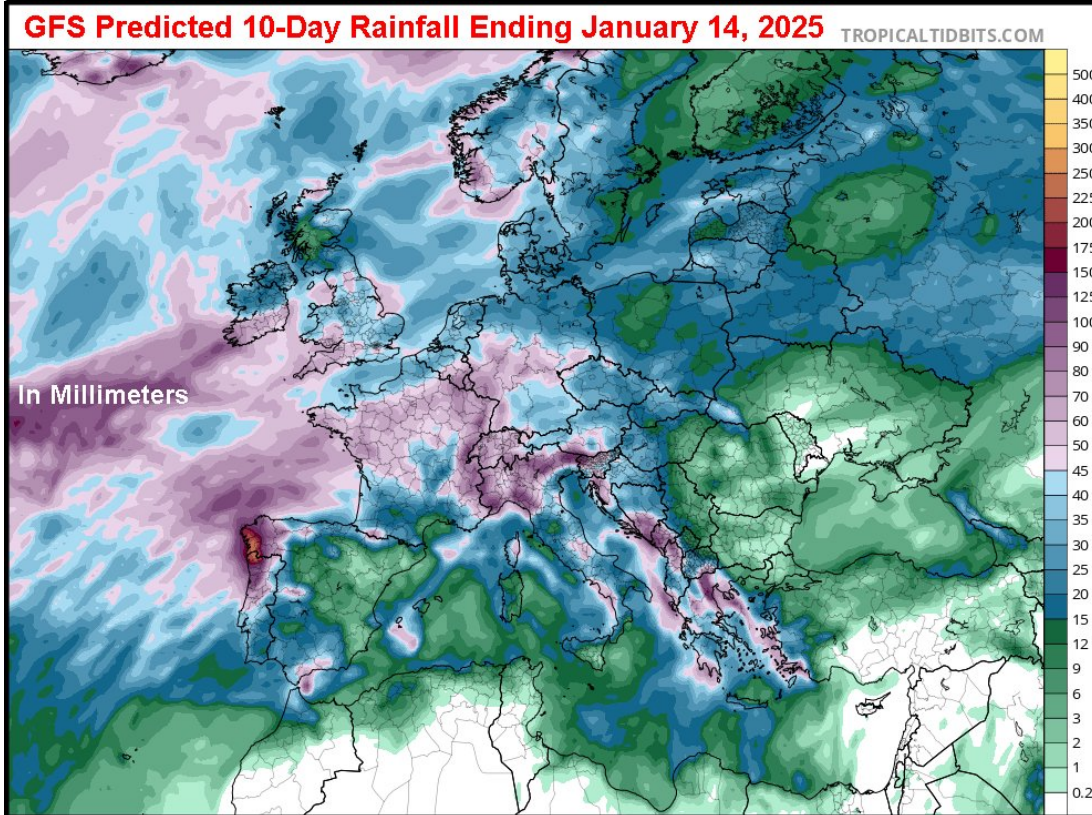
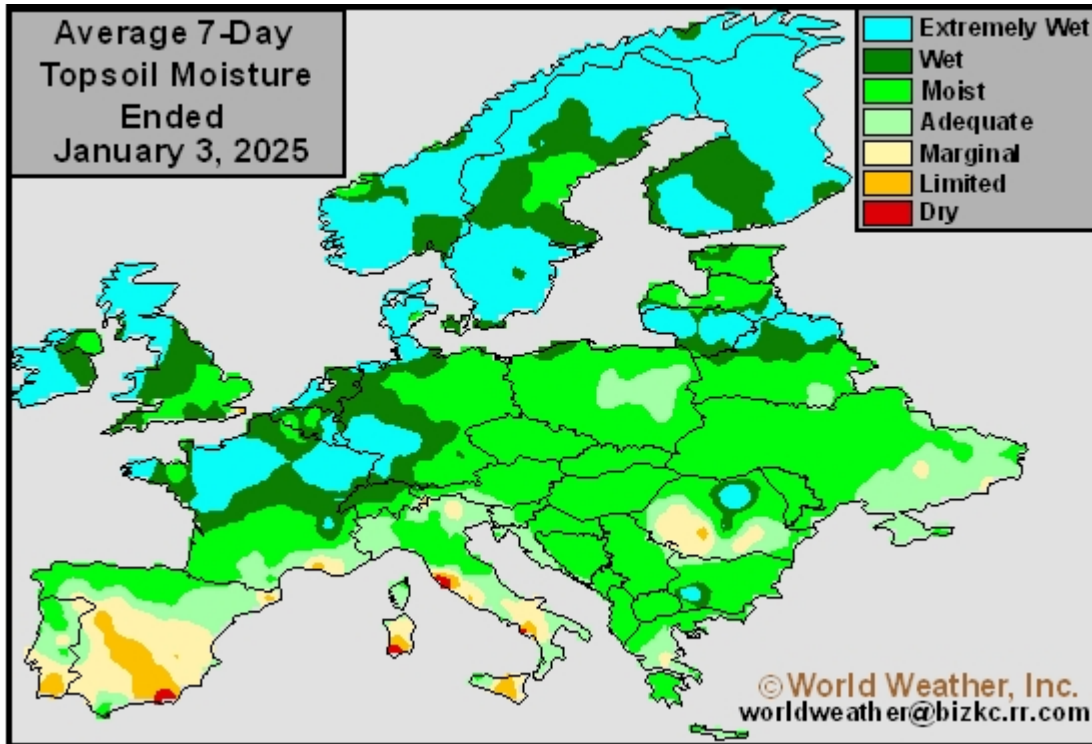


Soil moisture will be adequate or excessive in much of Europe in the coming weeks due to waves of precipitation. However, a few pockets in central and southern Spain will not receive enough precipitation to completely fix the dryness. The outlook for the winter grains and oilseeds will remain favorable for much of the continent. Localized flooding will be a concern in the wettest locations of Western Europe, though crop and structural damage will be minimal.

Many areas in Europe have adequate to surplus topsoil moisture today with northern areas already wettest. The precipitation coming in the next week may improve some of the drier bias in the southwest, but it may also expand the wet conditions in northern and west-central parts of the continent which may eventually lead to a rising potential for flooding. Rain coming over the next seven to ten days may lead to some local flooding in France

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because of the already saturated condition of the soil. Southeastern Spain, in the meantime, may keep some of its moisture shortage for a little while longer.



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