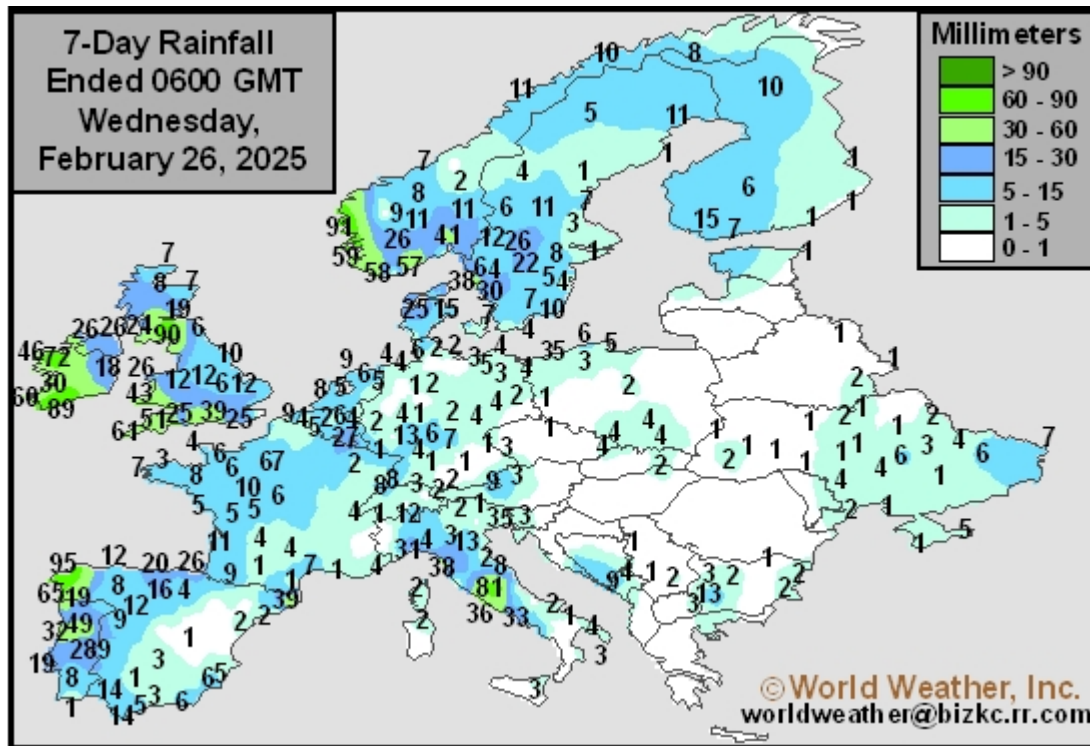


Southwestern Europe May Be Warm Enough To Begin Planting

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, February 26 (World Weather Inc.) – [Several areas in the Iberian Peninsula into southern and western France may be warming enough for early-season winter crop development and spring planting to begin.](#) Southeastern Spain is too dry for ideal planting prospects while other locations generally have enough moisture to support good establishment. Spain and Portugal will see a good mix of rain and dry weather through the middle of next week that will improve or maintain a good start to the planting season. Other areas in Europe will trend drier than normal through the middle of next week; however, the moisture profile will remain at favorable levels for planting and winter crop development when seasonal warming begins.

Precipitation varied across Europe during the past week. Portugal and northwestern Spain, along with the United Kingdom, Ireland, and portions of northern and central Italy, received 0.47 to 2.40 inches of moisture with local amounts up to 3.75 inches. Several areas in central Spain, western France, Belgium, and Germany received 0.12 to 0.47 inch of rain with local amounts up to 1.06 inches. Eastern Europe was either dry or did not receive enough precipitation to impact long-term soil conditions.



Temperatures during the past week were variable across Europe. Highest temperatures reached to the 50s and 60s Fahrenheit in much of Western Europe. Eastern Europe saw highest readings in the 40s and 50s, though portions of Ukraine and Belarus only saw highest temperatures in the 30s. Lowest temperatures were in the teens and 20s in Eastern Europe with pockets in the positive single digits. Lowest readings in Western

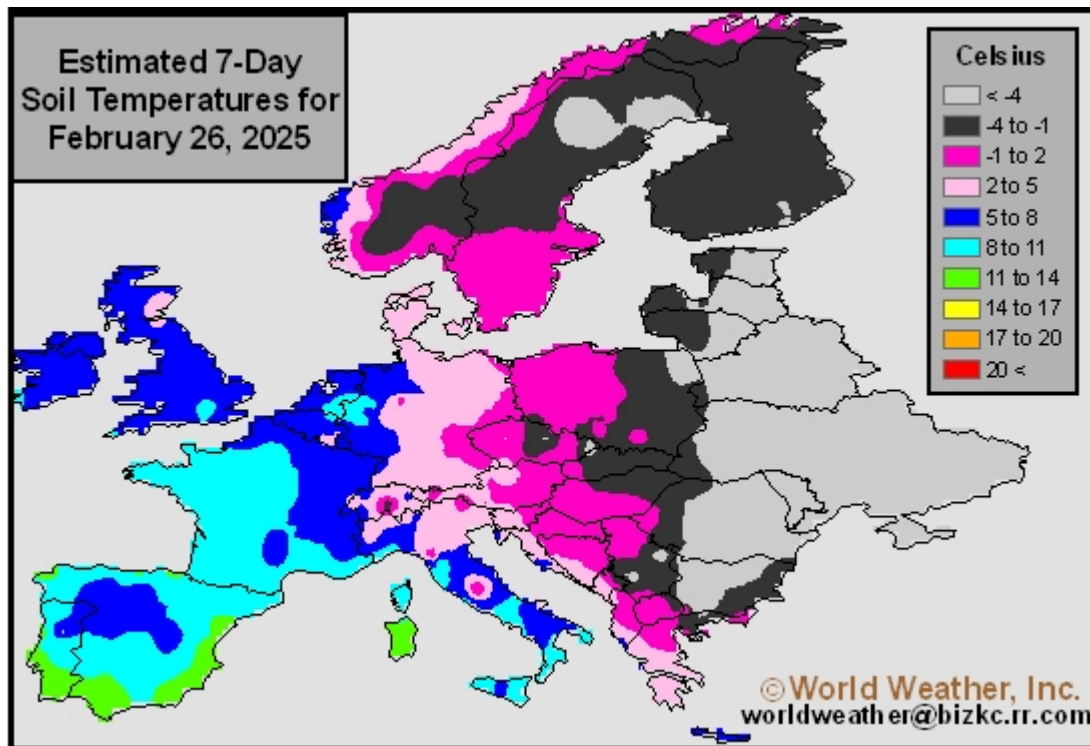
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Europe were generally in the 30s and lower 40s with portions of Germany cooling to the upper 20s.

Soil moisture was rated to adequately in a large section of Europe. Only southeastern Spain and a few areas in the lower Danube River Basin had a shortage of moisture. Some areas in the U.K., northwestern Spain, northern Portugal and Scandinavia are a little too wet.

Soil temperatures have warmed enough in portions of Spain, Portugal, and southern and western France to potentially bring winter crops out of dormancy. Early-season planting may also be underway or could begin in the coming days for the warmest locations of the Iberian Peninsula. The remaining crop areas in Europe generally remain cold enough to keep winter crops dormant or semi-dormant.

Southeastern Spain is a little too dry to support ideal winter crop development and spring crop planting and establishment. Timely rain will be needed in the coming weeks to support more favorable conditions, especially in dryland areas. Other locations in the Iberian Peninsula and southern France have enough moisture for both the winter crops and early-season spring crop planting. Winter crop prospects and planting prospects are relatively favorable elsewhere in Europe, though most locations are too cold to bring crops out of dormancy or to start planting.

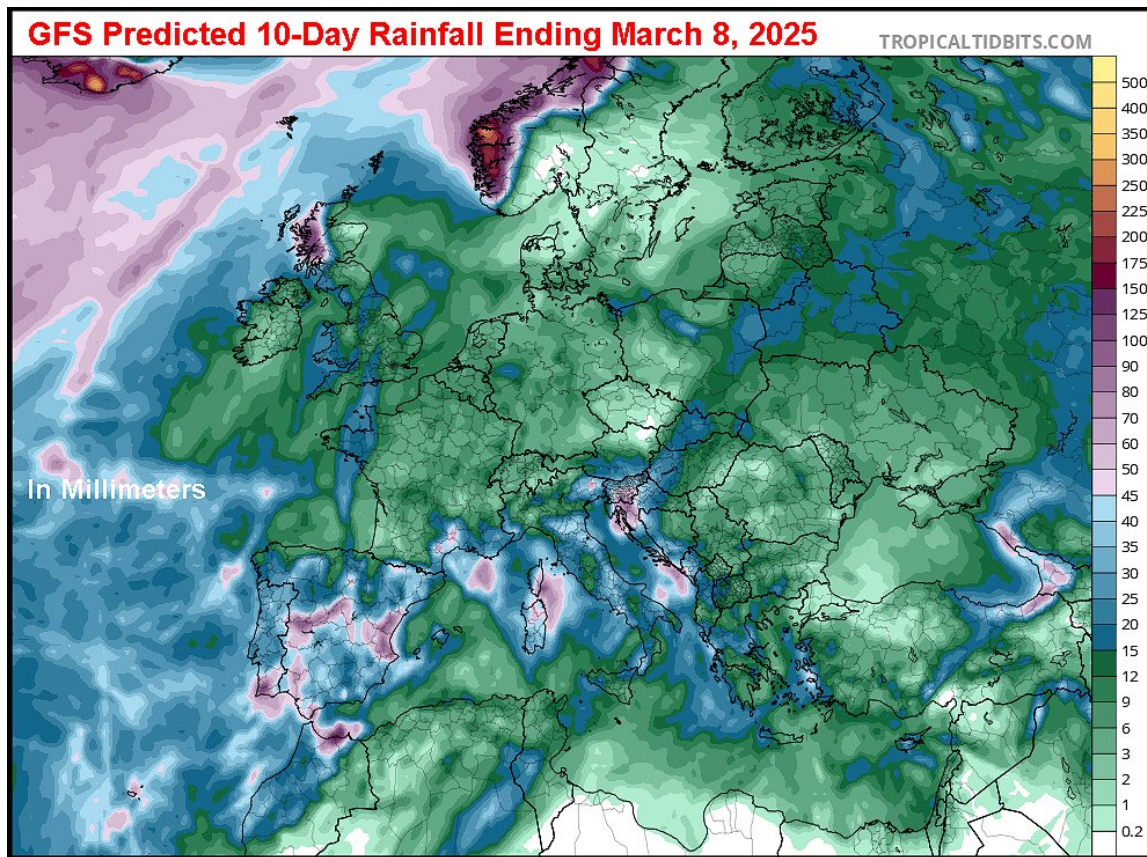


WEATHER OUTLOOK

Much of Europe will trend drier than normal through the middle of next week. However, most locations will still have an opportunity for spotty precipitation. Erratic rainfall will often evolve for Spain and Portugal late Thursday through the first part of next week as upper-level disturbances pass near the Iberian Peninsula. Moisture totals by next Wednesday morning will range from 0.25 to 1.50 inches with locally greater amounts in

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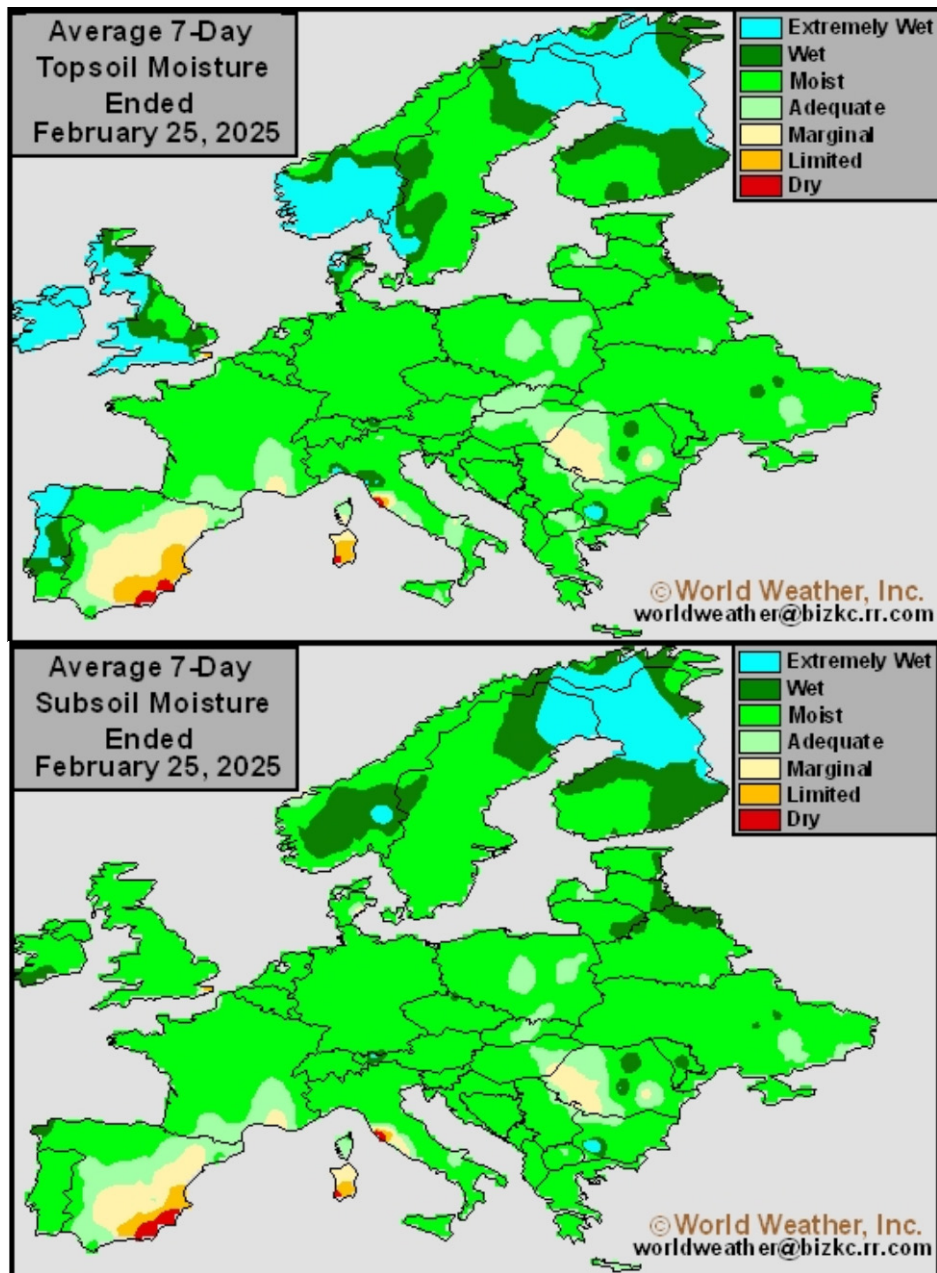
southern Portugal and the southern half of Spain. Portions of northern Spain will also receive little or no precipitation. A separate disturbance will generate erratic precipitation elsewhere in Europe through the end of the weekend before drier weather evolves early next week. Moisture totals by next Wednesday morning will range from 0.10 to 0.75 most often. However, several areas near the Adriatic Sea in Italy and southeastern Europe will receive 0.75 to 2.00 inches of moisture. Several areas in southern France will also be mostly dry. Europe will again see a mix of spotty precipitation and sunshine March 6 – 12. Precipitation will be greatest for Italy and other areas near the Adriatic Sea.



Seasonable to seasonably warm weather is slated for Europe through the middle of next week. Western Europe will generally warm to the 40s and 50s with pockets in the Iberian Peninsula warming to the 60s. Eastern Europe will see highs in the 30s and 40s with pockets in southeastern Europe occasionally warming to the 50s. Low temperatures will be in the upper 20s and 30s for Western Europe with pockets only cooling to the 40s. Eastern Europe will cool to the 20s and 30s as well. Temperatures will again trend near or slightly above normal March 6 – 12.

The periods of rain in the Iberian Peninsula will help improve or maintain a good environment for the winter crops that are coming out of or will come out of dormancy in the coming days. Early-season planting prospects will also improve or remain favorable. The lack of significant warming will otherwise keep winter crops dormant for most other locations in Europe. Soil moisture will remain at adequate levels for both the winter crops and spring crop planting later this spring.

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