# U.S. Precipitation Will Ease Dryness In "Portions" Of Midwest

**By Andrew Owen**

Kansas City, February 28 (World Weather Inc.) – Several areas in the U.S. Midwest and southeastern states saw drought or abnormally dry conditions prevail or evolve in recent weeks as drier than normal weather developed and/or persisted. ***The Upper Midwest and western sections of the Corn and Soybean Belt, along with southern South Carolina and portions of Georgia, experienced the greatest deviation from normal precipitation.*** Other locations in the Midwest and southeastern states, along with the Delta, were generally drought-free as timely precipitation occurred in recent weeks. The main production areas will see a good mix of precipitation and dry weather through the end of next week that will help improve the moisture profile in some of the driest locations. However, additional precipitation may be needed in some of those areas and others to fix the dryness. Early-season planting prospects will improve for areas struggling with moisture deficits.

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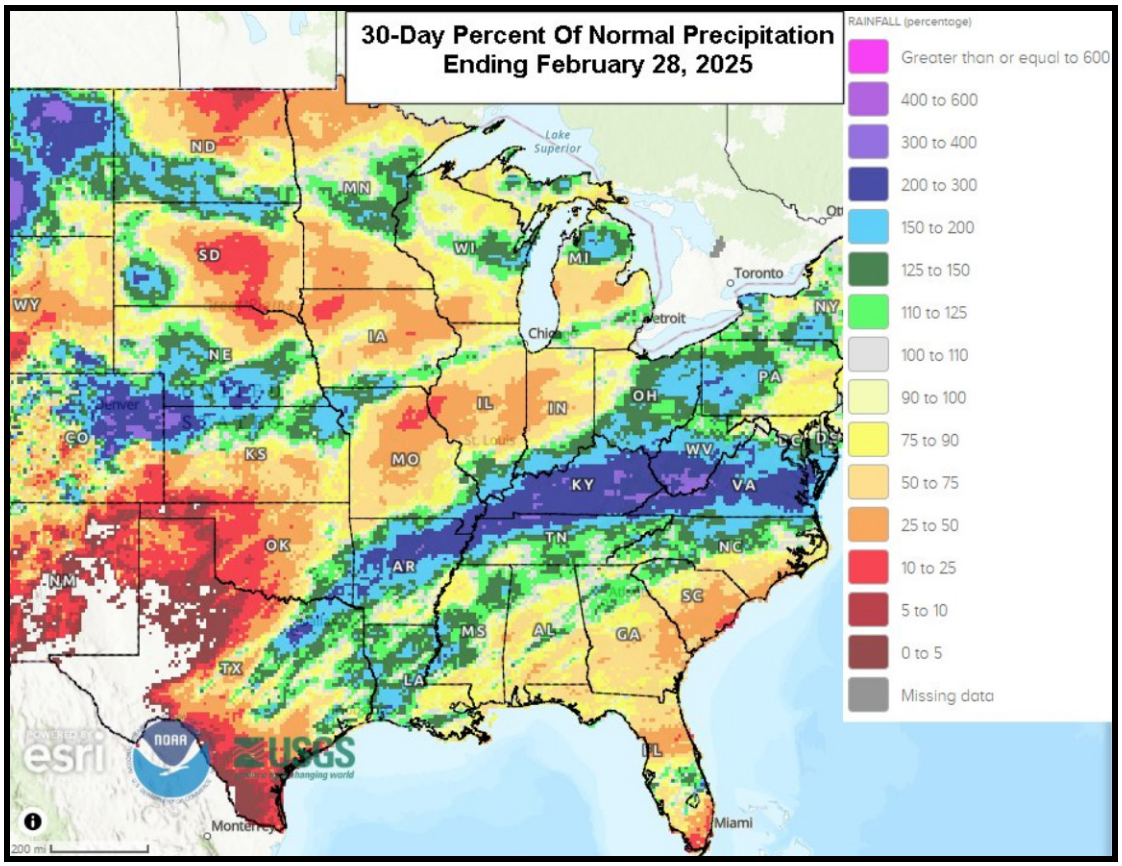
Several areas in the Delta into the lower Ohio River Valley, Virginia, western and northern North Carolina, northwestern South Carolina, and northern Georgia received near to above normal precipitation during the past month. Precipitation as a percent of normal ranged from 110-200% of normal with several areas in Kentucky, Virginia, and the northern Delta receiving two to four times normal precipitation. The remaining locations in the southeastern states and Midwest generally received below normal precipitation. Portions of Iowa, southern Minnesota, Illinois, Indiana, and South Carolina only received 25-50% of normal precipitation during this time with drier pockets.



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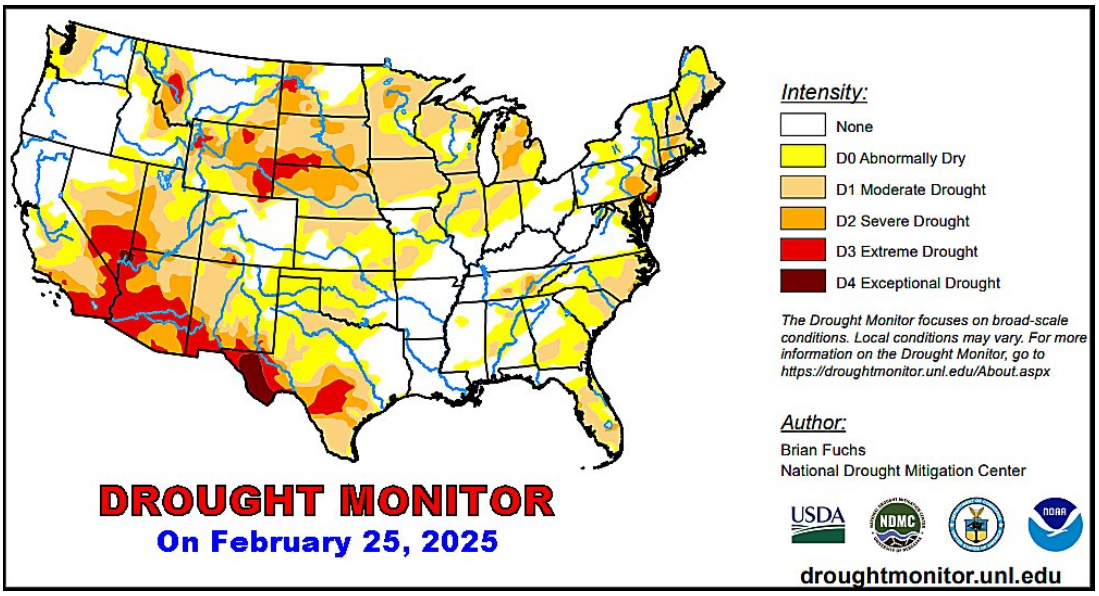
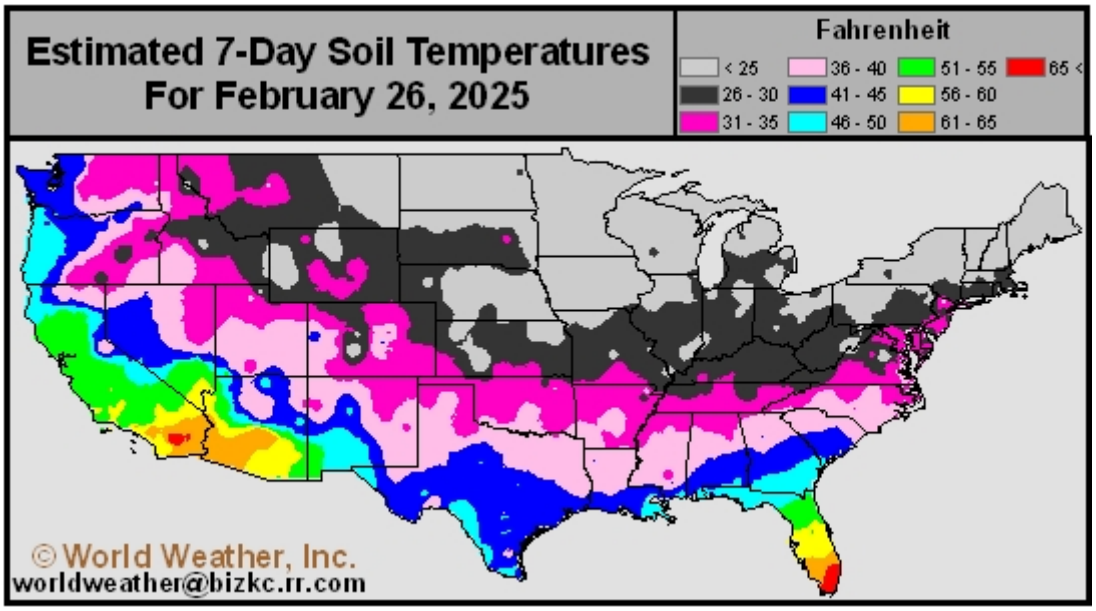
As of February 25, several areas in Midwest outside the lower Ohio River Valley, along with portions of the southeastern states, were abnormally dry or in a moderate drought. The Delta and lower Ohio River Valley were otherwise drought-free.




Soil temperatures are warm enough to promote new growth in portions of Florida. However, the ground is generally too cold to bring winter crops out of dormancy or support early-season planting in much of the southeastern states, Delta, and Midwest. That will likely change, though, in this next seven days as normal and above-normal temperatures evolve.



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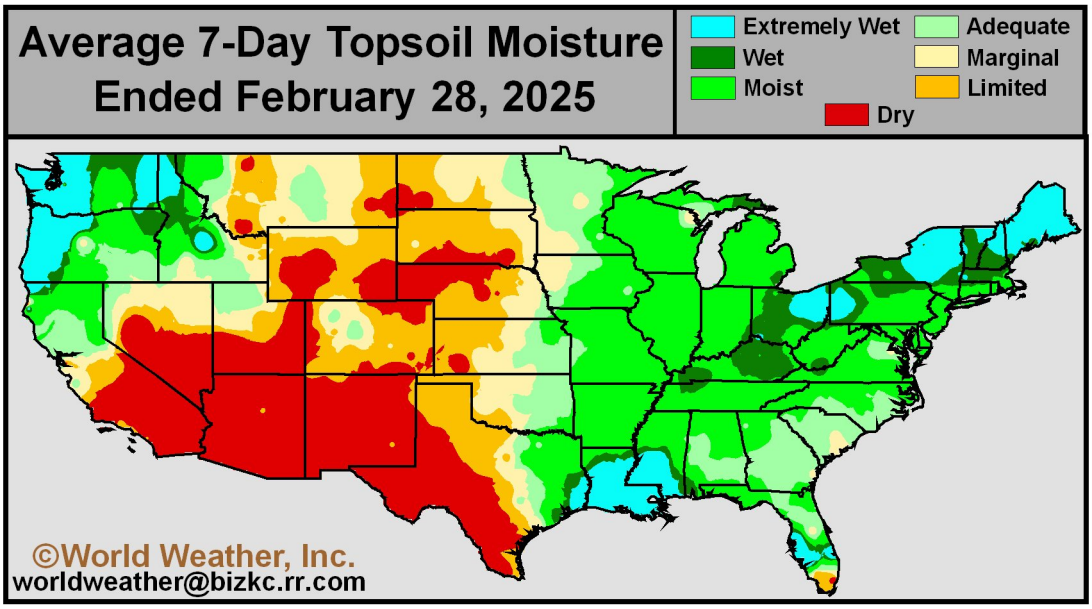
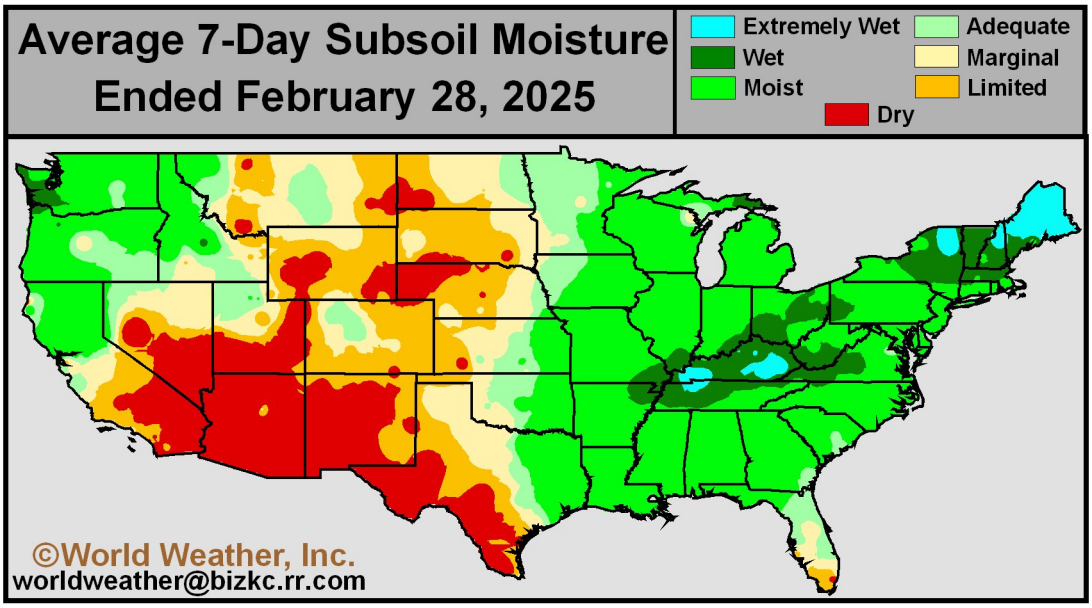
**The driest areas in the Midwest and southeastern states** ***are in need of precipitation in the coming weeks. While early-season planting does not usually begin until late March or early-April, these areas are too dry to support ideal planting and establishment. There is still plenty of time for better precipitation before widespread planting begins and no major impacts are expected as of yet.***

**The Delta and lower Ohio River Valley**, otherwise, have ample moisture to support favorable planting this spring. ***There is some concern, though, that the eastern Midwest will trend too wet during the planting season leading to delayed fieldwork and the longer the current weather trend prevails the greater that potential will be***. Winter wheat prospects remain relatively favorable in Indiana, Illinois, and neighboring locations, though a good shot of precipitation would be welcome.



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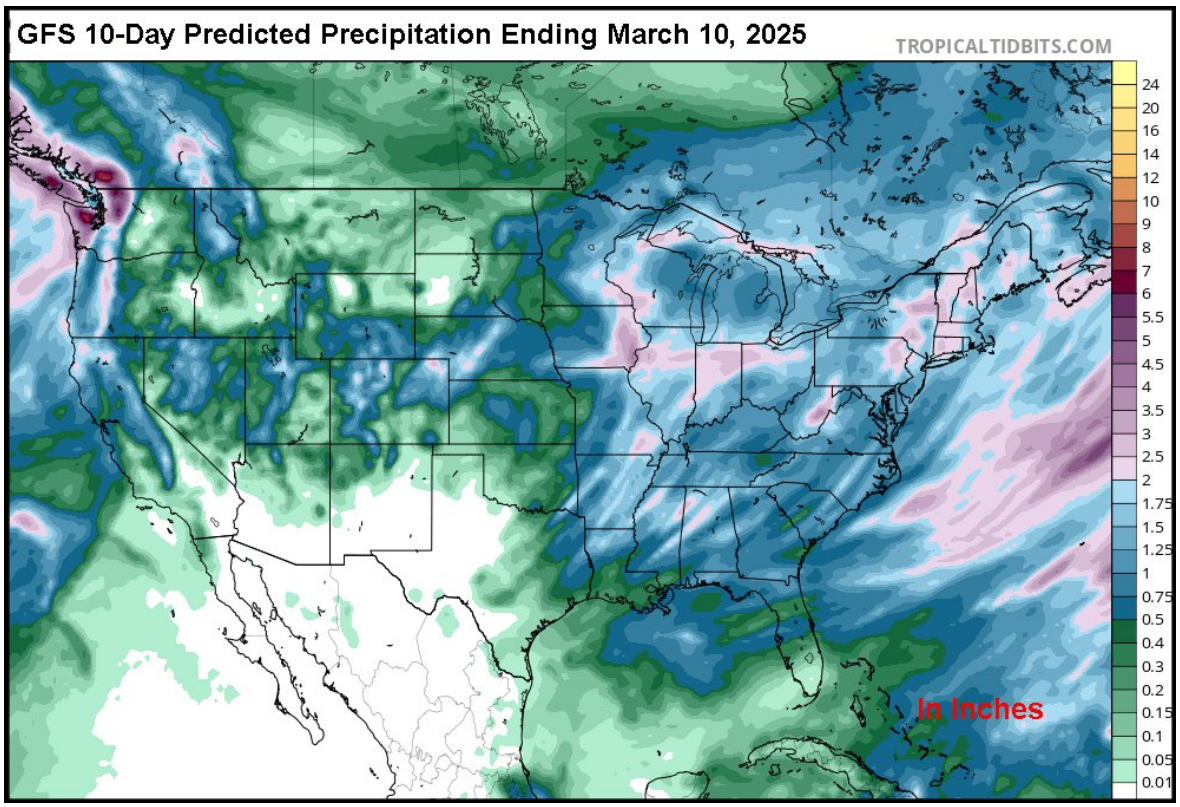
## WEATHER OUTLOOK

A weak disturbance will bring light precipitation to the Upper Midwest and immediate neighboring locations today into Saturday. However, much of the Delta, Midwest, and southeastern states will be dry. A more active weather pattern is expected next week as disturbances race across North America. Some of the most widespread and significant precipitation will occur Tuesday and Wednesday as the strongest disturbance advances over the region. Moisture totals by next Friday morning will range from 0.50 to 2.00 inches in much of the Delta, and from Iowa and southeastern Minnesota into the eastern Corn and Soybean Belt. The remaining locations in the Midwest and much of the southeastern states will receive 0.10 to 0.75 inch of moisture with local amounts of 1.00 inch or slightly more in Georgia and the Carolinas. The active weather pattern will likely persist March 8 – 14 as well.




The temperature profile will vary across eastern North America through the end of next week. Some of the warmest conditions will occur today and again Tuesday into Wednesday with many areas in the Midwest, Delta, and southeastern states warming to the 50s and 60s Fahrenheit. ***Some extreme highs over 70 will be possible as well which may lead to some of the potential for severe thunderstorms during mid-week as cooler air returns.*** Temperatures will be milder most other days with highs often reaching the 30s and 40s, though many areas in the Delta and southeastern states will still warm to the 50s and 60s at times. Seasonable to seasonably warm weather will be most common for much of eastern North America March 8 – 14.

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Waves of precipitation in the coming weeks will gradually bolster soil moisture for much of the southeastern states, Delta, and portions of the Midwest. However, many areas in the western Corn and Soybean Belt and portions of Georgia and South Carolina may not receive enough precipitation to completely fix the drought or abnormally dry conditions. As long as timely precipitation continues later in March, winter crop prospects and early-season planting conditions will be favorable.

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