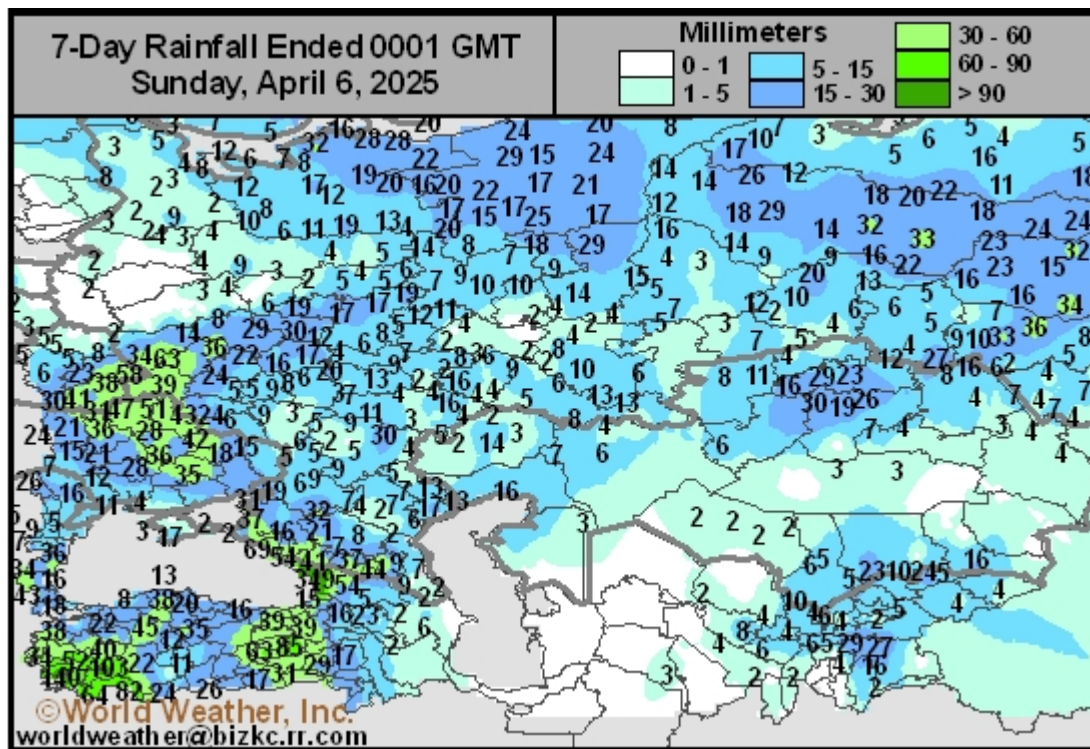


Russia, Ukraine Precipitation Beneficial For Winter Crops

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, April 7 (World Weather Inc.) – *After establishing poorly last autumn, winter grains and oilseeds in Russia, Ukraine, and neighboring locations are still in need of precipitation. Timely precipitation in recent weeks has already increased soil moisture, though much more would be welcome to support ideal crop prospects.* Waves of rain and snow are slated for the main production areas this week that will further increase the moisture profile. The outlook for winter crops will continue to improve. However, periods of cooler weather will limit aggressive growth in the short-term. Early-season planting prospects for summer grains and oilseeds will also remain relatively favorable due to the additional precipitation, although more rain is needed.

Precipitation was noted in much of Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, and Kazakhstan during the past week. Central and western Ukraine, eastern Belarus, and immediate neighboring areas in southwestern Russia received 0.83 to 2.28 inches of moisture for the seven-day period ending April 6. Other production areas received 0.20 to 1.18 inches of moisture with pockets that received little to no precipitation.

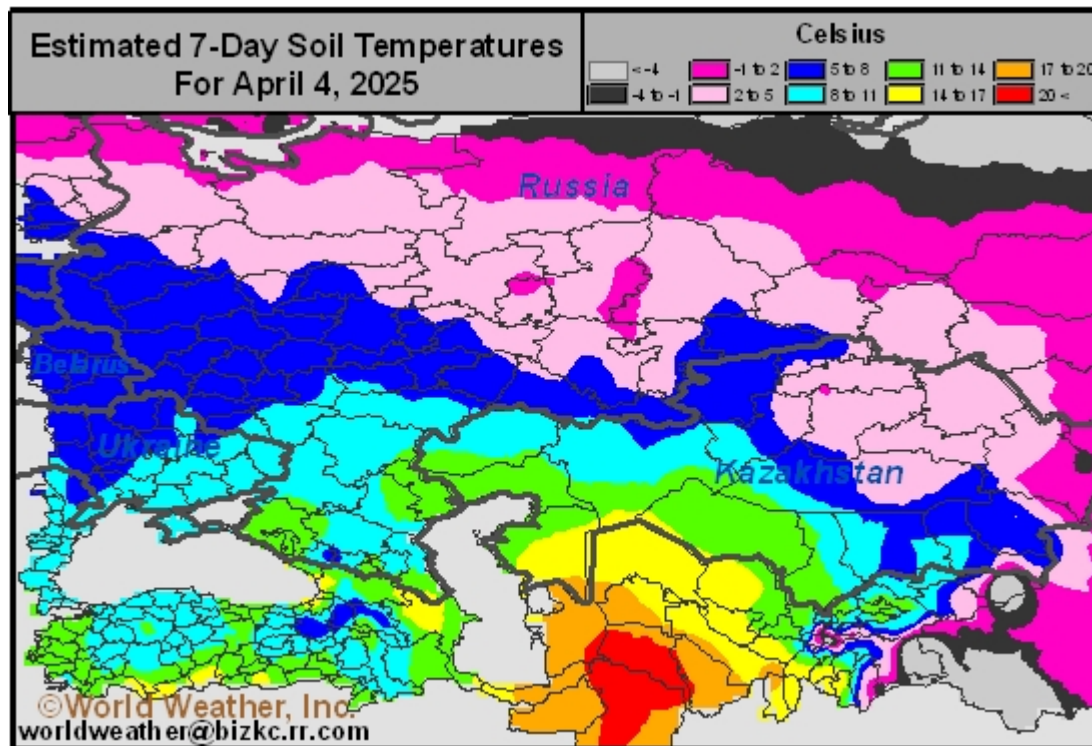


Soil moisture is rated adequate to excessive in much of Russia, Ukraine, western Kazakhstan, Belarus, and neighboring locations. As of April 4, soil temperatures were warm enough to promote new growth for the winter grains and oilseeds for Russia's USDA defined 'Southern Region' and portions of the Volga River Basin into western Kazakhstan and portions of eastern and southern Ukraine. Other winter crop areas in Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, and neighboring locations remained too cold to bring most crops out of dormancy

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or support aggressive growth. Weekend freezes had no negative impact on any of the winter crops.

Winter wheat, barley, rye, and rapeseed established poorly in portions of Russia, Ukraine, western Kazakhstan, and Belarus last autumn due to a lack of moisture. Precipitation over the winter and earlier this spring helped improve the moisture profile in time to support a better outlook for winter grain and oilseeds. There is still a need for timely precipitation in the coming weeks as seasonal warming promotes more aggressive growth. Planting prospects for spring crops has also improved due to recent precipitation.



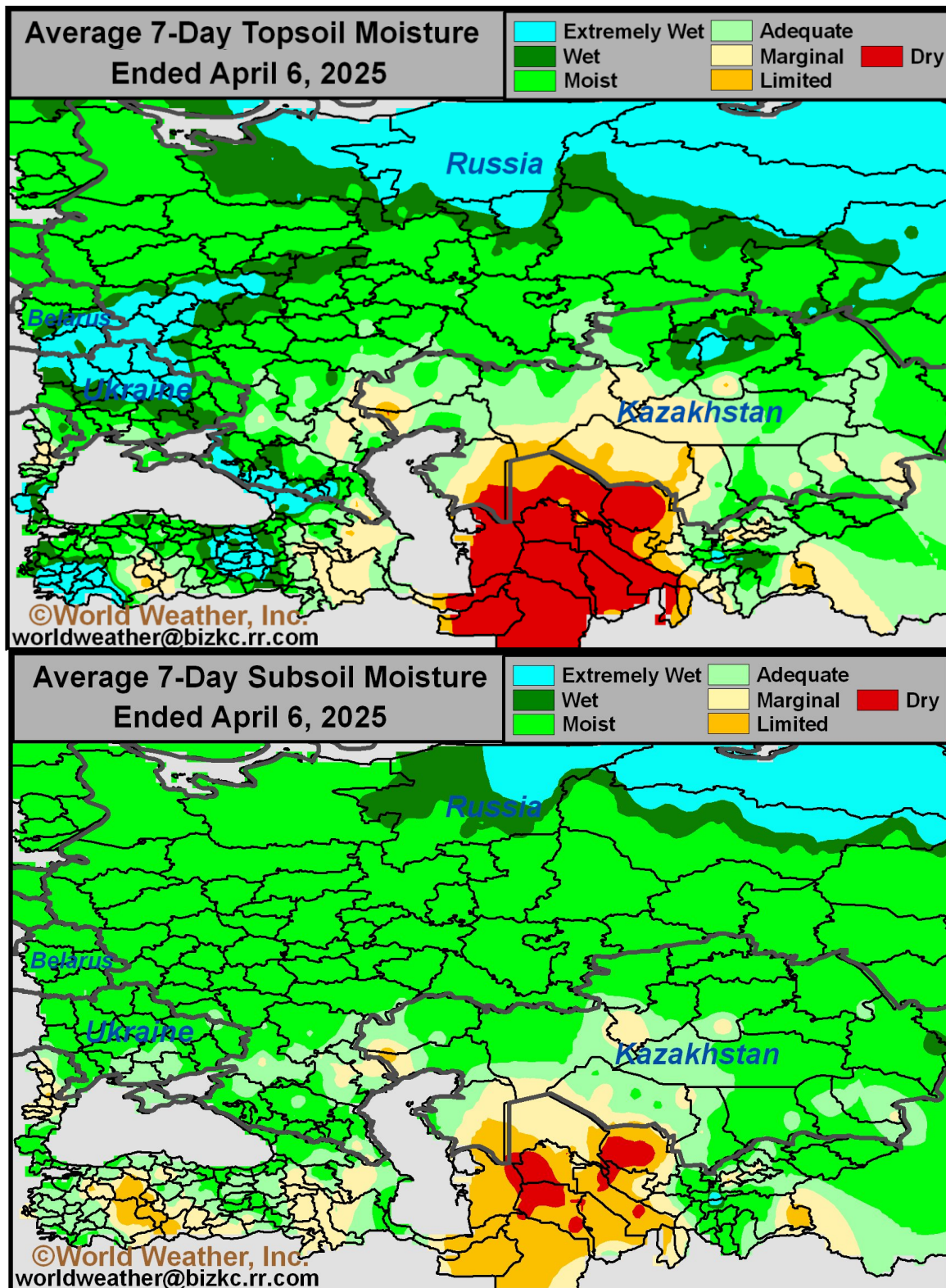
Two upper-level troughs will make their way across Russia this week. A series of disturbances tracking around the troughs will promote waves of rain and snow for much of Russia, Ukraine, western Kazakhstan, Belarus, and neighboring locations. Moisture totals by next Monday morning will range from 0.50 to 2.00 inches with pockets that only receive 0.20 to 0.50 inch of moisture in southern Russia and western Kazakhstan. The 'Southern Region' and western Kazakhstan will either see much of the precipitation fall as rain or not receive enough snow to completely cover the ground. Other locations will see accumulating snow ranging from 1 to 6 inches and locally greater amounts.

A high-pressure ridge will likely build over Eastern Europe April 15 – 21 that will reduce precipitation potentials and raise temperatures for much of Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, and western Kazakhstan. Brief periods of light precipitation will still be possible.

Seasonably cool weather is slated for much of Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, and western Kazakhstan this week. Many areas in Russia and western Kazakhstan will warm to the 50s and 60s Fahrenheit today and Tuesday as warmer air ahead of the trough pushes into the region. Highs elsewhere will generally be in the 30s and 40s. Highs for the remainder of the week will settle to the 40s and 50s with pockets only warming to the 30s in much of crop country. Nighttime lows will often drop to the 20s and 30s with portions of Russia and

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western Kazakhstan only cooling to the 40s through mid-week. Seasonable to seasonably warm weather will be most common for Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, and western Kazakhstan April 15 – 21 due to the potential for ridge development over Eastern Europe.



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Additional precipitation this week will further increase soil moisture or keep soil moisture near current levels for the main winter crop areas in Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, western Kazakhstan, and neighboring locations. The outlook for crops will remain relatively favorable, though the snow and periods of cool weather will limit growth. Warmer weather during the second week of the outlook should stimulate more aggressive development. Early-season planting prospects for the summer grains and oilseeds will remain relatively favorable as well, though timely rain and warmer temperatures must evolve and prevail for the best results.

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