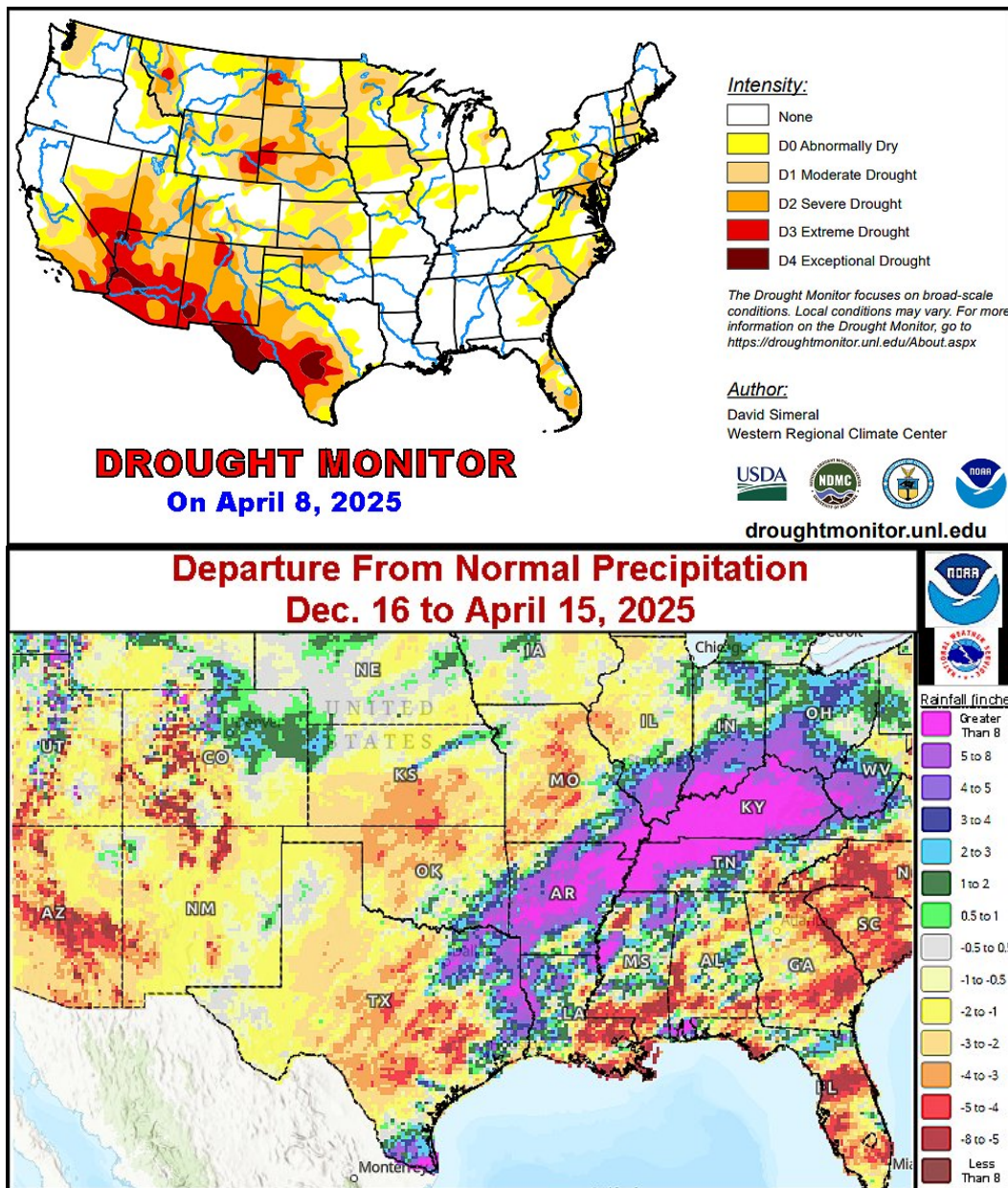


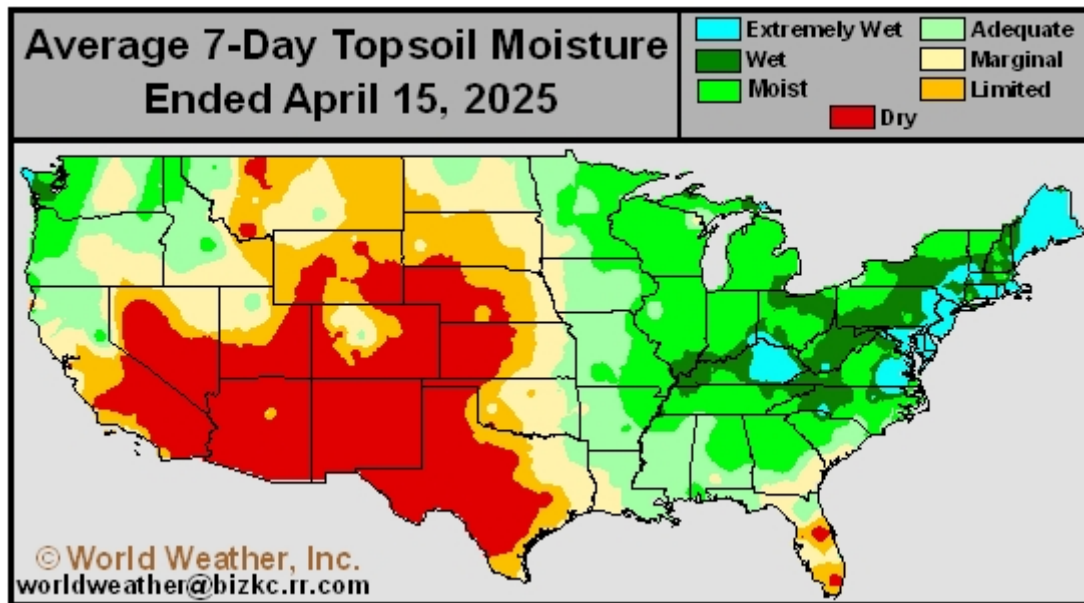
U.S. Hard Red Winter Wheat Rain To Offer Partial Relief

By Scarlett Waters and Drew Lerner

Kansas City, April 16 (World Weather Inc.) – Soil conditions in most of the U.S. hard-red winter wheat crop region have remained drier biased since late 2024. Soil moisture remains short to very short and drought intensity varies across the crop region with abnormally dry to severe drought conditions present as of April 8. [Meaningful rainfall over 1.00 inch has not broadly occurred over this region since November 18th, 2024](#) with a few bouts of light precipitation occurring in isolated instances since then. To mitigate this dryness, much more precipitation will be needed in the coming weeks. [Rain advertised over the next couple of weeks will provide some partial relief, but it remains debatable how significant the precipitation will be.](#)



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In the next 10-days, computer forecast models are indicating multiple thunderstorm events occurring across the central and southern Plains, beginning as early as Saturday. These waves of precipitation will eventually bring moisture to much of the wheat region from Nebraska to Texas; however, the forecast models are still uncertain on the exact amounts to occur.

Storm systems moving through the central United States in recent months have not been orientated in an optimum manner to bring moisture from the Gulf of Mexico to portions of hard red winter wheat country. The southwestern Plains have been cheated of rain often, although the greatest moisture deficits since mid-December are from central Kansas into central Oklahoma. A few areas in this driest region have moisture deficits of more than 5 inches which may not seem like that much, but for some areas in the central Plains that is getting to be significant. Southwestern Kansas has moisture deficits of 2.00 to 3.00 inches which in a normal year can come from a single storm or two.

The storm orientation problem in the central United States is expected to continue making it difficult for the kind of generalized rain event to develop that is needed for a big turnaround in crop and field conditions. However, with that said, the next two weeks do offer probably the best environment for bringing some needed rain to the region.

This weekend's advertised precipitation event does not look capable of generating enough rain to seriously change the overall condition of unirrigated crops in the southwestern Plains. A few showers are possible, but with temperatures soaring into the 90s and possibly near 100 degrees Thursday with very low humidity it will be difficult to get enough rain to fall to replenish moisture lost in recent days, let alone from the past four months. Nonetheless, some showers will briefly pop up when cool air arrives during the weekend.

A series of frontal systems will push across the central and southern Plains next week and into the following weekend. These frontal systems will come as weak cool fronts that become nearly stationary briefly in the southern parts of the region and then retreat to the north as warm fronts. *The frontal systems will act as trigger mechanisms for setting off showers and thunderstorms; however, storm centers reaching the central United States*

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may still lack the proper orientation to bring Gulf of Mexico moisture ideally over these frontal boundaries to produce drought busting rainfall. Some shower and thunderstorm activity is certainly probable, but the kind of soaking rain that is required to seriously change the moisture profile in hard red winter wheat areas is not very likely. Partial relief is probable, but a big turnaround in the moisture profile is not very likely.

A more stable period of weather may then evolve in the **last days of April and early May** limiting rain potentials once again. *Complete dryness is still not likely, but an ideal scenario for serious rainfall in the southwestern Plains looks doubtful even though some rain will fall.*

The greatest rainfall next week and during the following weekend is far more likely in central and eastern wheat areas of Kansas into eastern Oklahoma and north-central Texas than in the high Plains region. There is time for this outlook to change and a close watch is warranted, but early indications suggest the need for greater rain will continue.

Crop conditions are not likely to be seriously improved from the stressful environment of the past few months. Crops have been hurt by widely fluctuating diurnal temperatures, high wind speeds, very low humidity and poor rainfall. Significant frost and freeze events have also occurred periodically since January. *All of this combined with the potential for disappointing rainfall in the next couple of weeks in the southwestern Plains suggests a smaller than usual crop this year with some potential quality issues as well.*

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