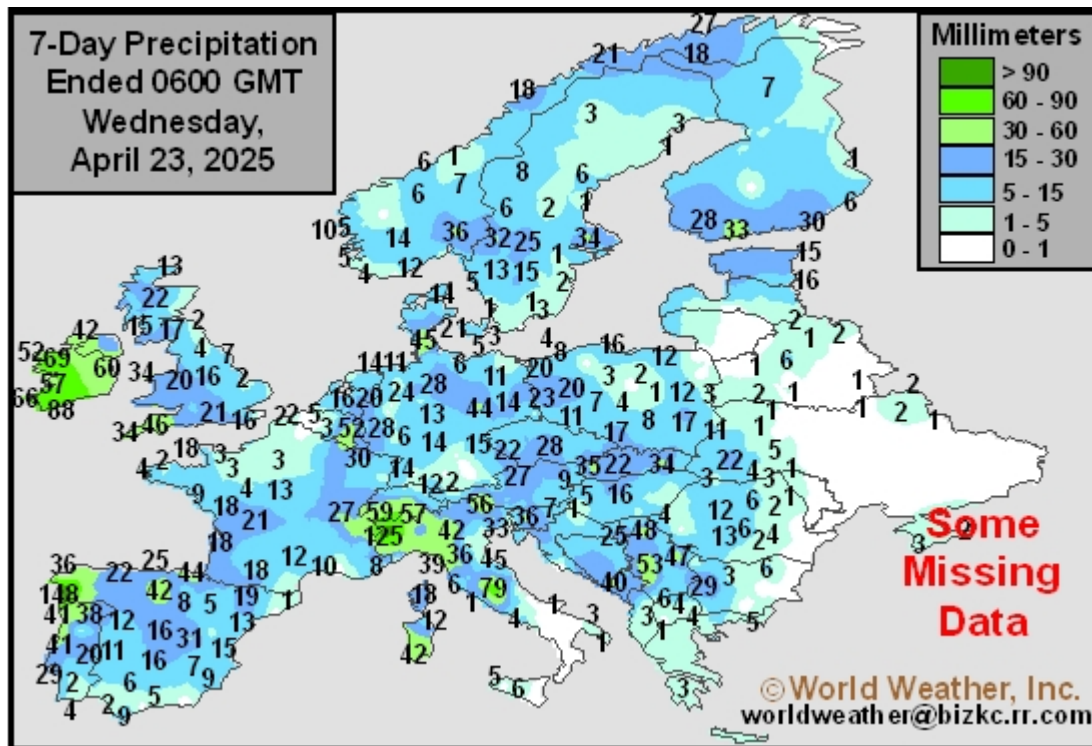


Europe Dryness Not A Significant Threat Yet

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, April 23 (World Weather Inc.) – Several areas from France and the United Kingdom into Poland, the Baltic States, and neighboring locations have been drier than usual since early this year. These areas still have enough moisture to support generally good planting and establishment, though soil moisture is likely lower than usual for this time of year. A week or two of drier weather later this spring or early summer may raise concerns for uneven or poor establishment and early-season development. Other locations in Europe have ample moisture to support aggressive establishment and growth. Northeastern Europe and portions of Ukraine will be drier than usual through the middle of next week. The need for timely rain will increase for these locations in May. Other production areas in Europe will see a mix of rain and sunshine that will maintain a good environment for planting and establishment.

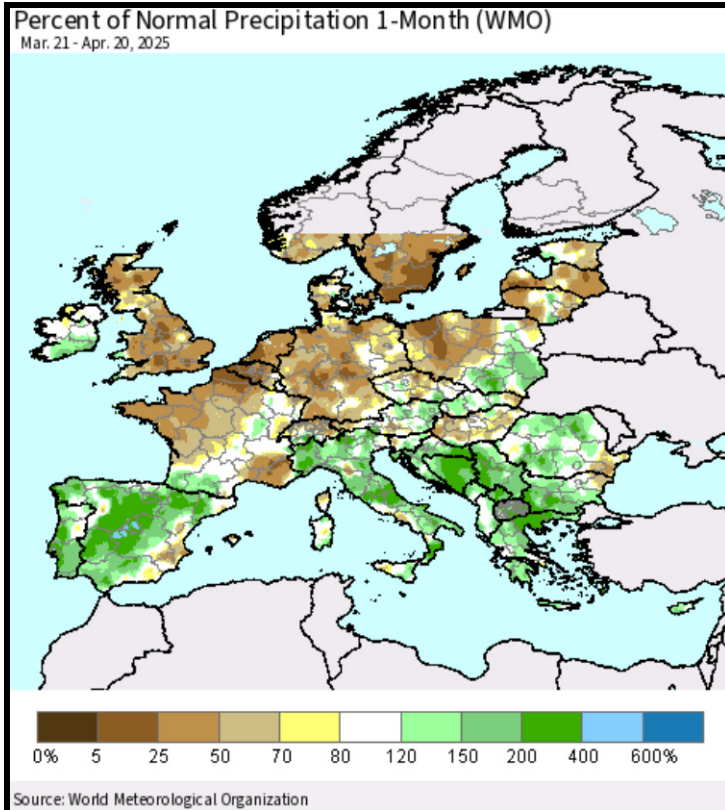
Rainfall varied across the main production areas in Europe during the past week. Ireland, northern Spain, northern and central Portugal, and portions of eastern France and northern Italy received 0.75 to 2.91 inches of rain and locally greater amounts for the seven-day period ending this morning. Other locations in Spain, France and Portugal through the United Kingdom and Germany into Poland, western Ukraine, Croatia, Bosnia, and Herzegovina, Serbia, western sections of Romania and Bulgaria, and immediate neighboring areas received 0.24 to 1.73 inches of rain. The remaining areas in Eastern Europe received little or no rain.



Areas from France and the United Kingdom through Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Denmark into Poland and the Baltic States were generally drier than usual

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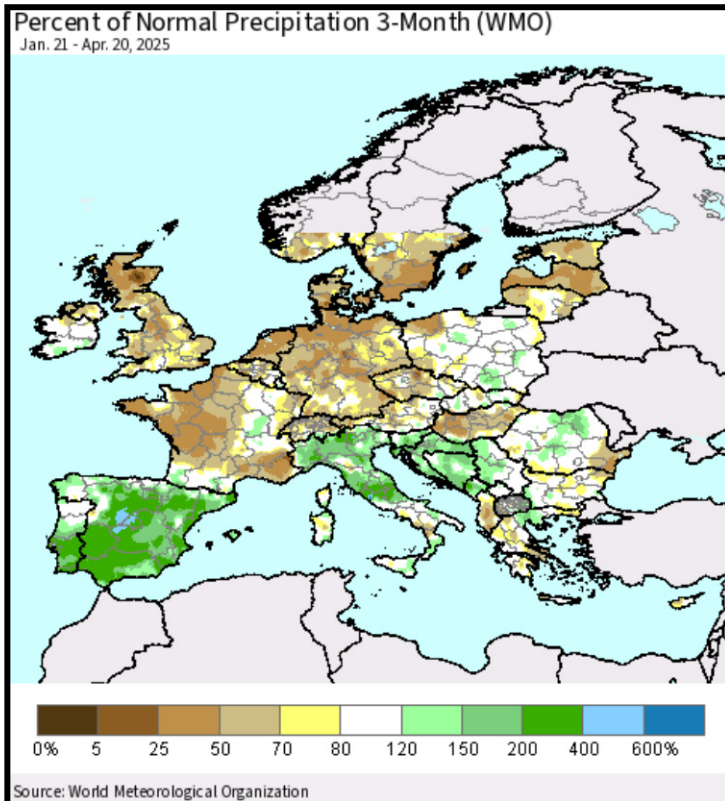
for both the 30-day and 90-day period ending April 20, though several pockets saw near normal precipitation during this time. Other locations in Europe received near to above



normal precipitation with portions of Spain, Italy, and southeastern Europe receiving more than 150% of normal precipitation in the 30-day period ending April 20.

Soil moisture is rated adequately in much of Europe; however, some areas in northern Italy, Slovenia and the northwestern half of the Iberian Peninsula are excessively wet. In contrast, portions of Ukraine, Poland, Belarus, the lower Danube River Basin and northern France have marginally adequate to slightly short topsoil moisture.

There is some concern that several locations in northern Europe have lower than usual soil moisture for this time of year due to the drier than usual conditions in recent months.

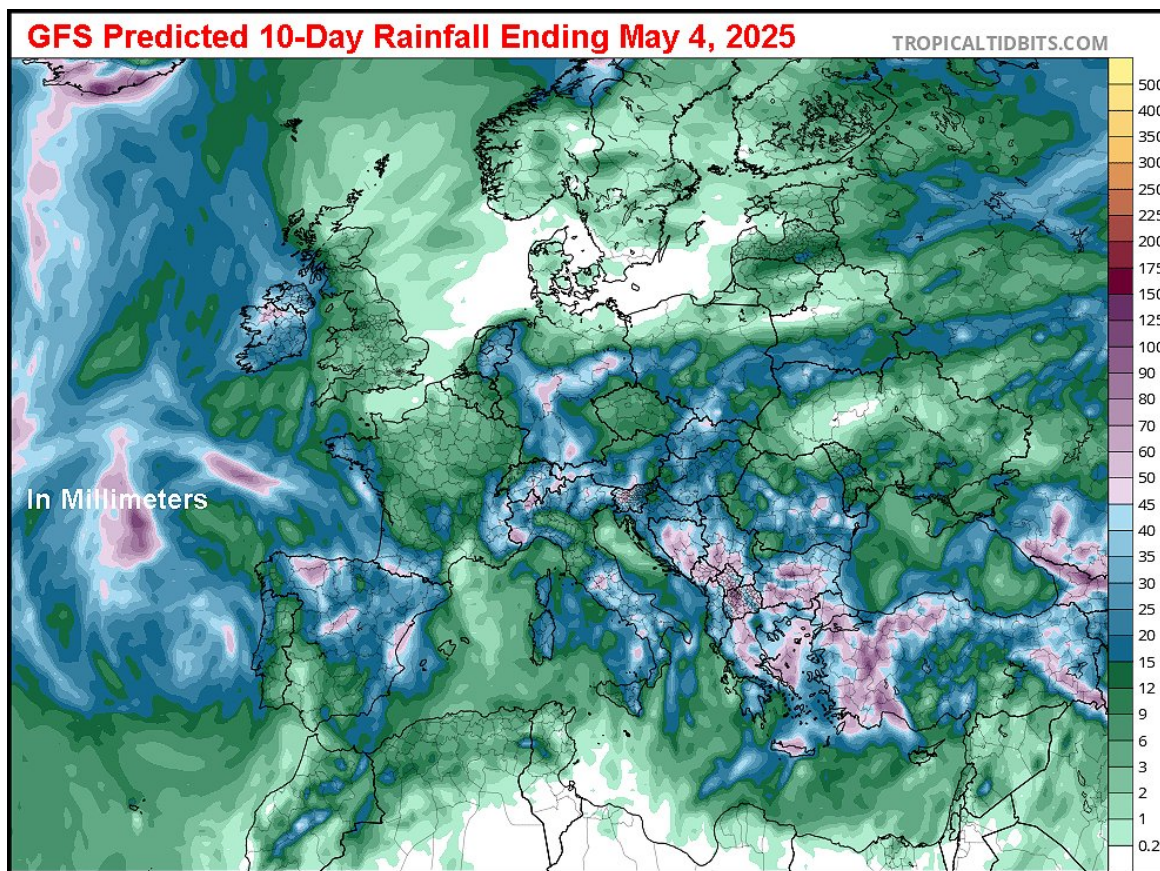


Planting and establishment prospects are relatively favorable across Europe due to timely precipitation and leftover moisture from the winter. The environment has also been favorable for the winter wheat, barley, and rapeseed in much of the continent. *The main concern going forward will be the need for timely rain as more crops go in the ground, especially for those that experienced drier or much drier than usual conditions since late January. A brief period of drier weather may firm the ground too much for ideal establishment in the coming weeks.*

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WEATHER OUTLOOK

The main production areas in Europe will see a mix of erratic rainfall and dry weather through the middle of next week. Two disorganized disturbances will generate much of the erratic rainfall when tracking over the continent through Saturday. A few light showers will linger in Italy and a few neighboring locations Sunday. Drier weather will evolve Monday and Tuesday, though another system could generate rain in portions of the Iberian Peninsula and France. The southern halves of Spain and Portugal, along with Belarus, northern Poland, portions of central Ukraine, and the Baltic States will either miss out on the rain or not receive enough precipitation to impact long-term soil conditions. Other locations will receive 0.40 to 2.00 inches of rain with several areas in Serbia, Kosovo, Montenegro, and neighboring locations receiving 3.00 inches or more of moisture. Much of Europe will again see a mix of precipitation and dry weather May 1 – 7.

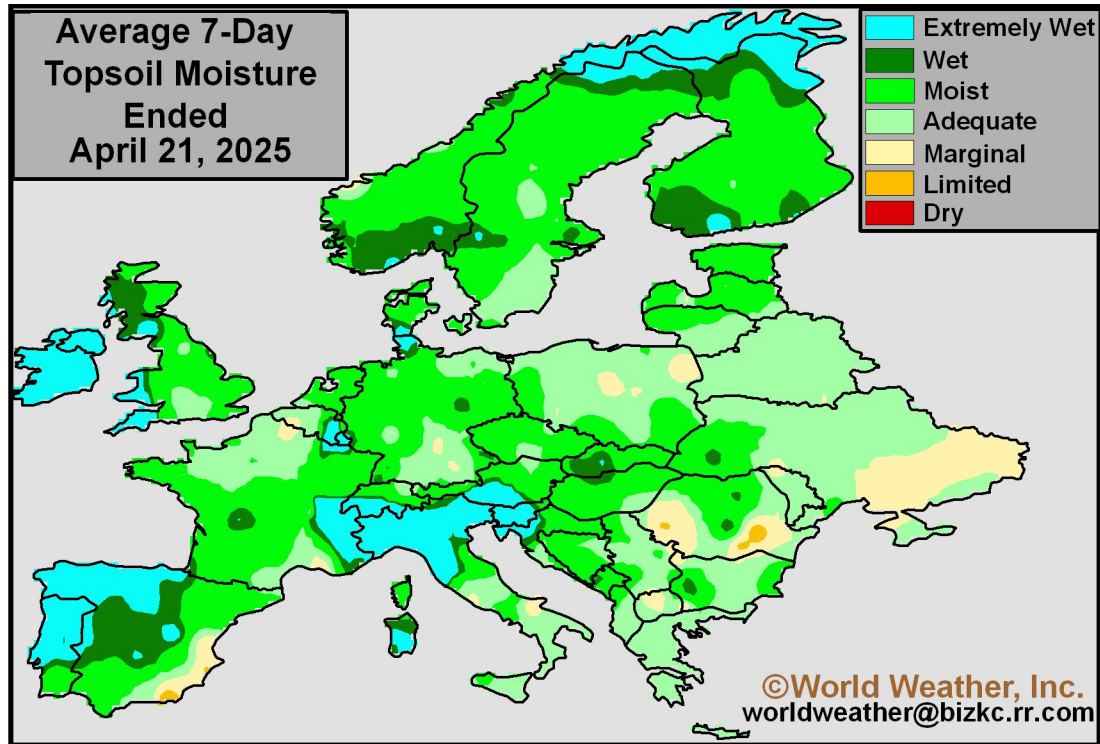


The temperature profile will trend near to above normal in much of Europe through the middle of next week. Daytime highs will peak to the 50s and 60s Fahrenheit most often with many areas in Eastern Europe warming to the 70s and lower 80s through Friday. Portions of the Iberian Peninsula will also warm to the 70s and 80s over the weekend and the first part of next week. Low temperatures will be in the 30s and 40s most often with pockets in southern Europe only cooling to the 50s.

Portions of the Baltic States, southern Spain and Portugal, and neighboring locations will slowly dry down through the middle of next week. These areas may lose

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enough moisture to impact establishment conditions and the need for rain will remain high. Other locations in Europe will still have enough moisture to maintain relatively favorable planting and establishment conditions. The need for significant rain will remain high in May, especially from France and the United Kingdom into the Baltic States and northern Poland.



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