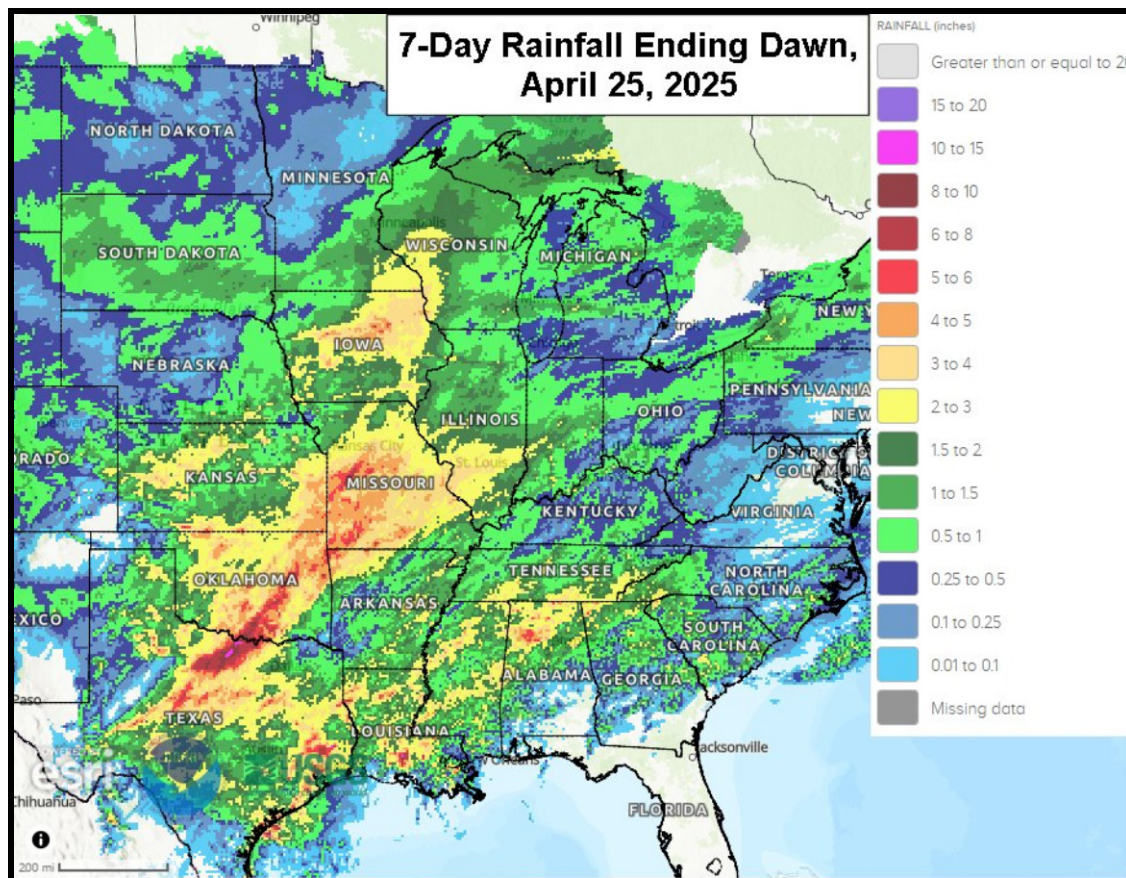


U.S. Midwest Rain, Storms May Impact Planting

By Andrew Owen

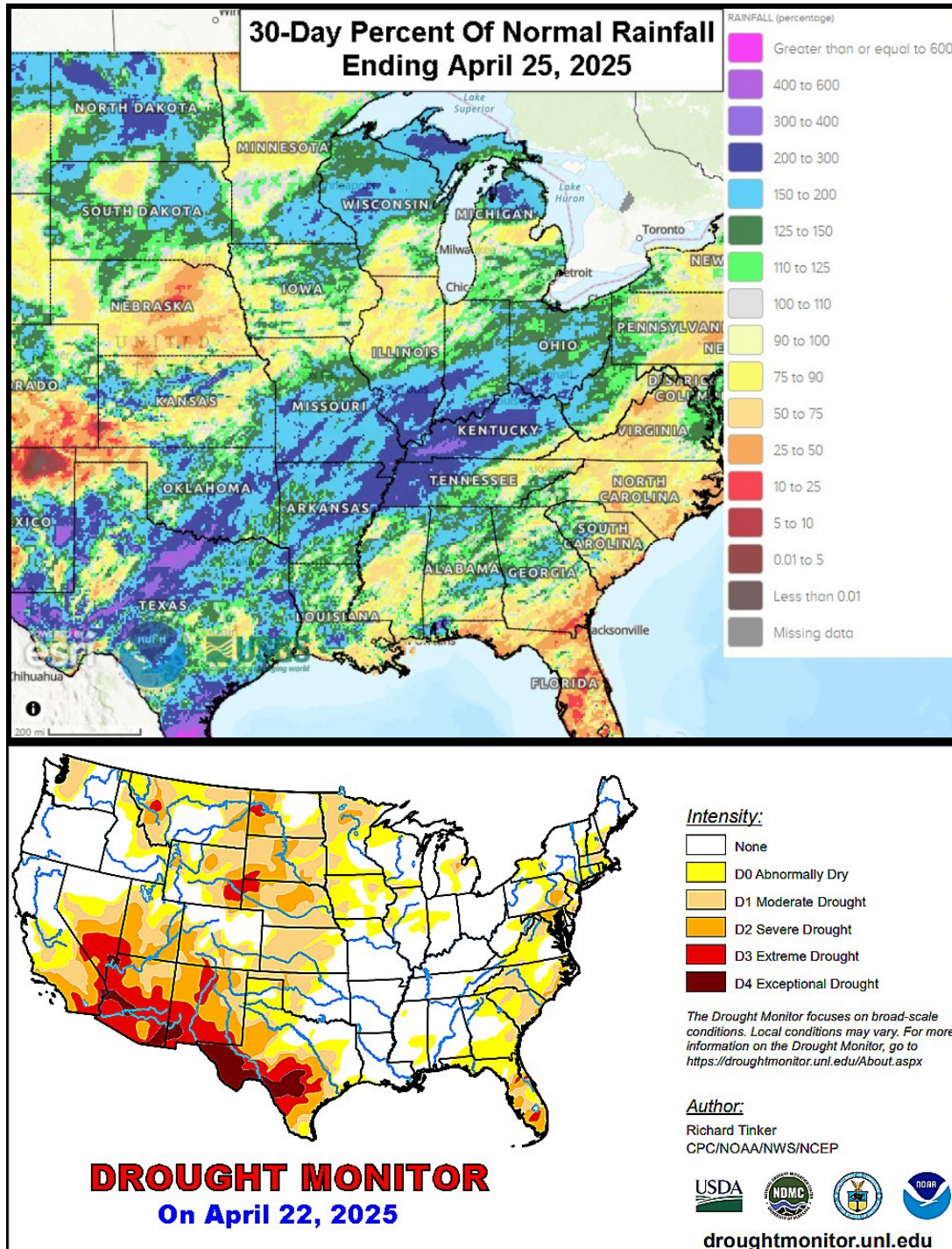
Kansas City, April 25 (World Weather Inc.) – Early-season corn and soybean planting is underway in the U.S. Midwest, Delta, and southeastern states. Waves of rain and flooding have impacted fieldwork in portions of these regions and there is a growing need for dry weather. Many areas in the lower Midwest and northern Delta are still too wet for planting due excessive rain and flooding earlier this month and some periodic light rain since then. Long-term crop prospects are otherwise favorable. Some dryness remains down deep in the soil in portions of the northern Plains and western Corn and Soybean Belt and the need for additional rain is high. All U.S. crop areas will receive rain and storms through the end of next week that may further impact planting rates. The rain will be welcome in the western Midwest, though not enough to end drought in some areas.

Waves of rain were noted for the U.S. Midwest during the past week. Iowa, Illinois, northern and southeastern Missouri, southeastern Minnesota, western Wisconsin, and pockets in western Indiana received some of the most frequent and significant rain with totals ranging from 0.50 to 3.00 inches and local amounts of 4.00 inches or more in Iowa for the seven-day period ending this morning. Most other locations received 0.25 to 1.50 inches of rain with drier pockets in Minnesota and southern Michigan.



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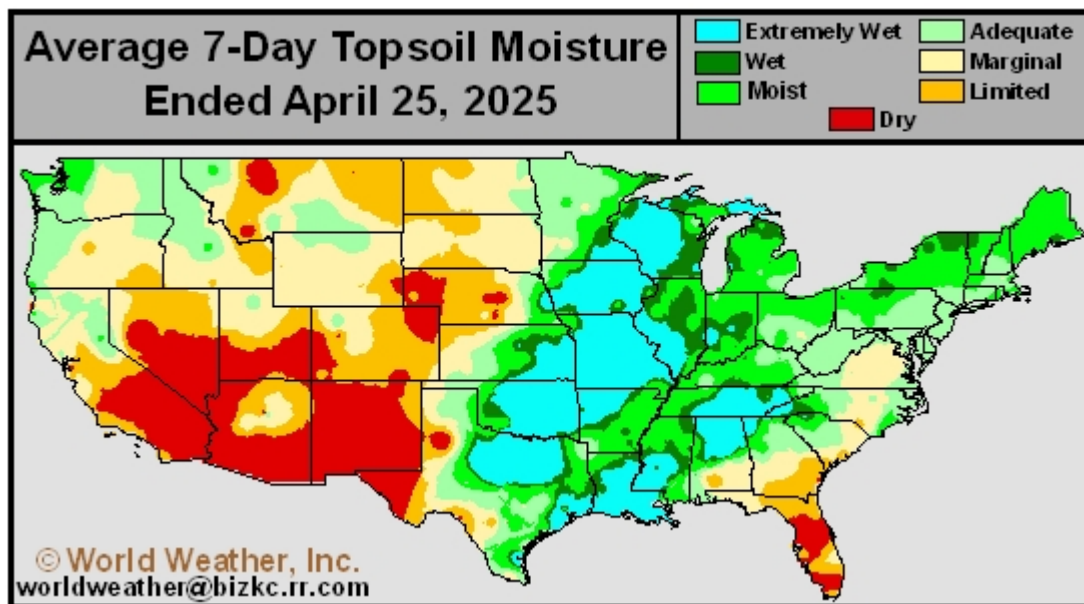
Precipitation varied across the Midwest in recent weeks. Much of the eastern Corn and Soybean Belt (outside northwestern Indiana into the southern half of Illinois, southeastern Missouri, and neighboring locations) received 125% to 300% of normal rainfall for the 30-day period ending this morning. Several areas in southeastern Minnesota, northern and central Wisconsin, northeastern Iowa, and the Dakotas also received 125% to 200% of normal precipitation. The remaining production areas in the Midwest were drier than usual.



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Much of the eastern Midwest was drought-free as of April 22 due to the waves of rain in recent weeks. The ground is saturated in many fields and producers would welcome a period of drier and warmer weather. Abnormally dry conditions or moderate drought was otherwise noted in a portion of the western Midwest despite several areas receiving timely precipitation in recent weeks. Additional rain was needed to eliminate dryness.

Planting of soybeans and corn is underway in several midwestern states. As of April 20, overall corn planting in the U.S. was 12%, up from 10% for the 2020-2024 average. Soybean planting was 8% complete compared to 5% for the previous five-year average. There are still several areas in the eastern and southern Midwest that are too wet for aggressive planting and are in need of drier and warmer weather. More significant rain is otherwise needed in the western Corn and Soybean Belt to reverse the drying trend and support a better outlook for the upcoming season.



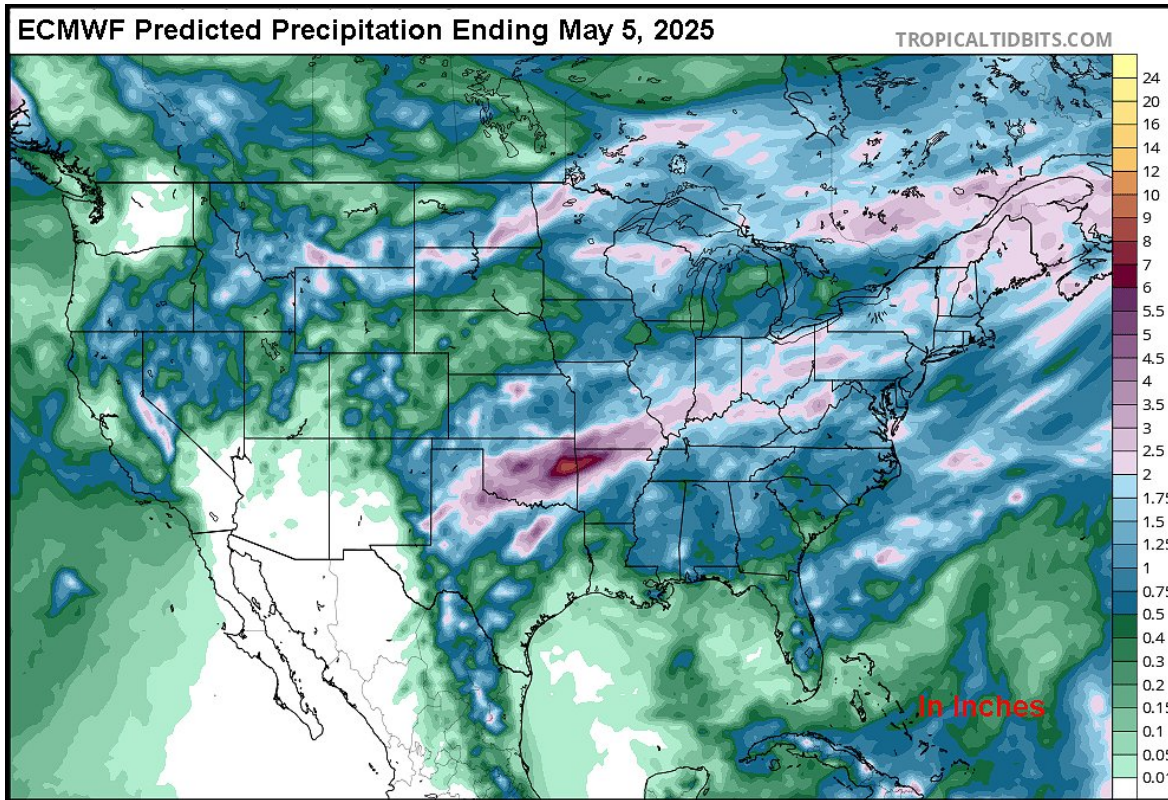
WEATHEROUTLOOK

A relatively normal spring-like pattern will bring disturbances into the **Midwest** on a frequent basis through the end of next week. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms will initially evolve today as a disturbance advances farther over the region. Light and erratic rain is slated for several locations in the western and southern Midwest over the weekend. **The next major storm system will then make its way across the region Monday and Tuesday. There is a threat for severe storms in portions of the western Corn Belt that could generate significant rain, hail, damaging winds, and even a few tornadoes.**

Additional rain will be possible later next week as well. Moisture totals by next Friday morning will range anywhere from 0.75 to 3.00 inches with locally greater amounts possible for areas that experience thunderstorms. Pockets in eastern Nebraska, western Iowa, southeastern South Dakota, and neighboring areas will also only receive 0.10 to 0.75 inch of moisture. The Midwest will again have a few opportunities for erratic rainfall May 3- 9, though overall rain totals will likely be lower compared to the first week of the outlook

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and temperatures should trend warmer after a brief bout of cooling resulting in faster drying rates.



Temperatures will fluctuate across the Midwest through the end of next week. Highs will most often reach the 50s and 60s Fahrenheit, though warmer air ahead of next week's system will bring highs to the 70s and 80s in several locations Sunday and Monday. Several areas in the eastern Corn Belt will warm to the 70s and 80s Tuesday as well. Low temperatures will be in the 40s and 50s with portions of the Upper Midwest cooling to the 30s at times.

Waves of rain in the coming week will likely slow or delay planting at times across the Midwest. The most significant delays will likely occur in the wettest areas of the eastern and southern Corn and Soybean Belt. There will still be plenty of time to get the rest of the crop in the ground later in May as long as periods of drier weather occur. Precipitation in the western Corn Belt will otherwise help improve the moisture profile in several areas struggling with drought or abnormally dry conditions. Establishment prospects will improve marginally, though the driest areas will need additional rain to completely fix the moisture deficits.

The U.S. Delta into northern Alabama, northern and portions of central Georgia, portions of South Carolina and western North Carolina saw a mix of erratic rain and sunshine during the past week. Moisture totals for the seven-day period ending this morning ranged from 0.50 to 3.00 inches. Other locations in the southeastern states either missed out on the rain or did not receive enough to counter evaporation.

Much like the lower Midwest, northern sections of the Delta were also much wetter than normal in recent weeks. Rainfall as a percent of normal ranged from 150% to 300% for

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the 30-day period ending this morning. Precipitation was more variable in the lower Delta and southeastern states with many areas in southern Georgia, northern Florida, the Carolinas, and Virginia trending drier or much drier than usual. *Abnormally dry conditions or moderate drought expanded across the Carolinas and portions of Georgia, northern Florida, and Virginia and the need for rain is increasing.* Other locations in the southeastern states and much of the Delta are drought-free and planting conditions have been relatively good.

The Delta and southeastern states will see a mix of erratic rainfall and sunshine through the end of next week. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms will occur on a near daily basis as disturbances track near the region. Moisture totals by next Friday morning will range from 0.40 to 1.50 inches, though the northern Delta will receive 1.00 to 4.00 inches of rain. Northern Florida and immediate neighboring areas will also only receive 0.10 to 0.40 inch of moisture. Alternating periods of erratic rainfall and sunshine will likely prevail May 3 – 9.

Planting will advance around the periods of rain in the southeastern states and Delta in the coming weeks. However, portions of the northern Delta may remain too wet for ideal planting conditions. The rain will otherwise help keep soil moisture near current levels. The Delta will have ample moisture to support aggressive establishment and growth. The driest areas in the southeast will otherwise need more significant rain later in May to promote ideal long-term crop prospects.

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