

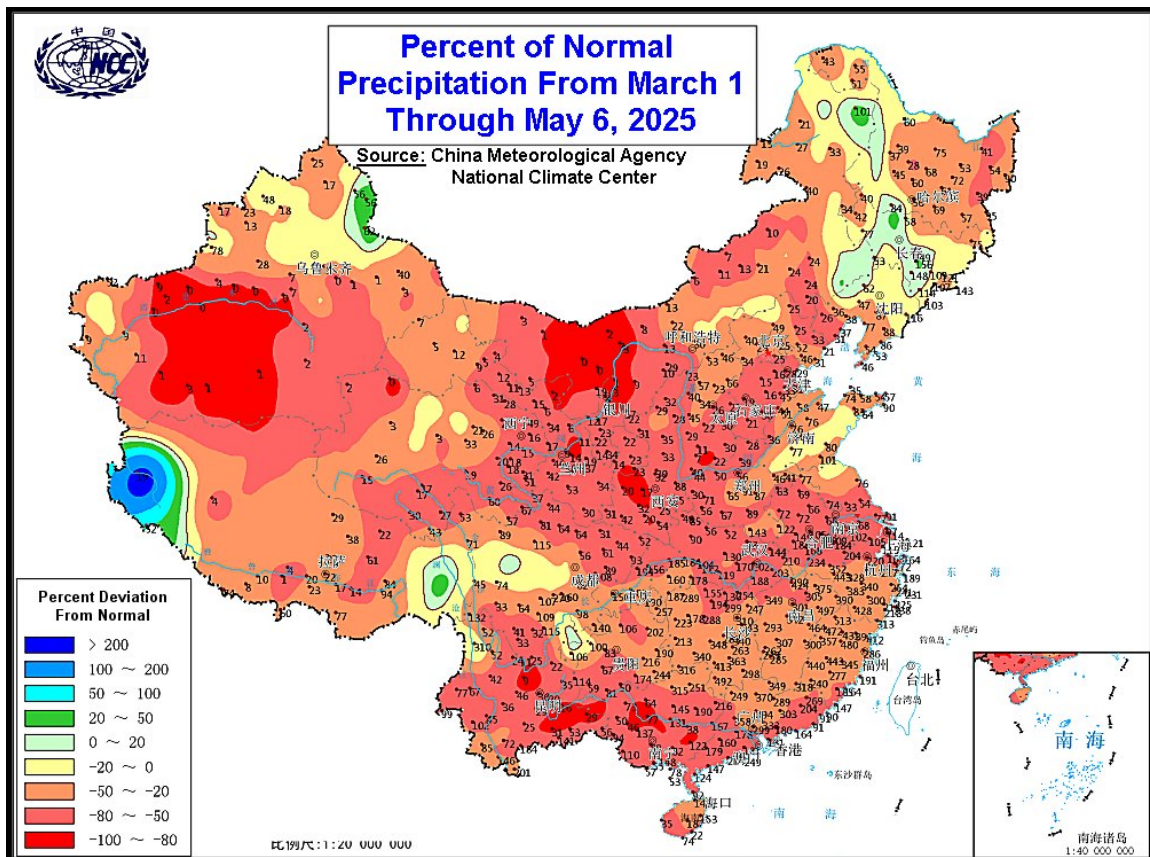
World Wheat Weather

How Bad Is The Drought In China?

By Drew Lerner

Kansas City, May 6 (World Weather Inc.) – [Drought has evolved in a part of east-central China and the below normal rainfall that has prevailed in recent weeks and months has brought much speculation to the overall condition of wheat and its production potential. A large part of the China crop is irrigated, but that which is not will lose some production potential. Very warm to hot weather is expected next week as the crop finishes reproduction and fills which may be stressful for many crops – both irrigated and not irrigated.](#) In the meantime, wheat conditions have improved and will improve additionally near the Black Sea. Conditions in the U.S. have not been ideal with some flood damage in Oklahoma and in the lower Midwest and Delta. In the meantime, a close watch on Australia is under way because of a limited rainfall outlook for the next ten days. Argentina is expected to have a good year and there are parts of Europe that could run into some dryness, although that is not a sure thing.

CHINA

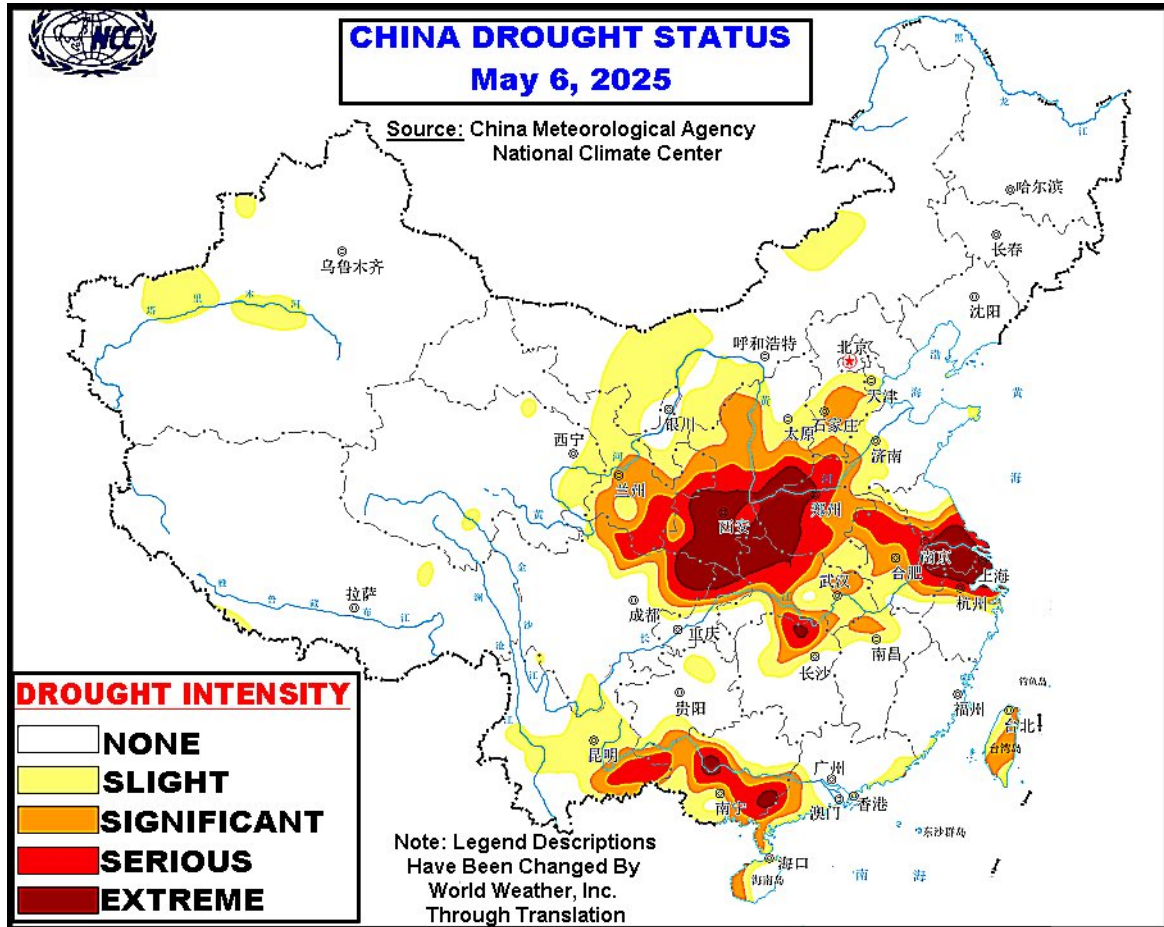


- Below normal precipitation has impacted China winter wheat production areas for the past few months

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How Bad Is The Drought In China?

- Dryness has not been much of an issue until recently when temperatures turned hotter
 - Extreme highs reached into the 80s and 90s Fahrenheit in the past week with one location reaching 104 this past weekend
- Temperatures have cooled off temporarily, but more heat is expected this weekend especially next week when upper 80s and 90s are expected once again with a few extremes near and above 100 likely

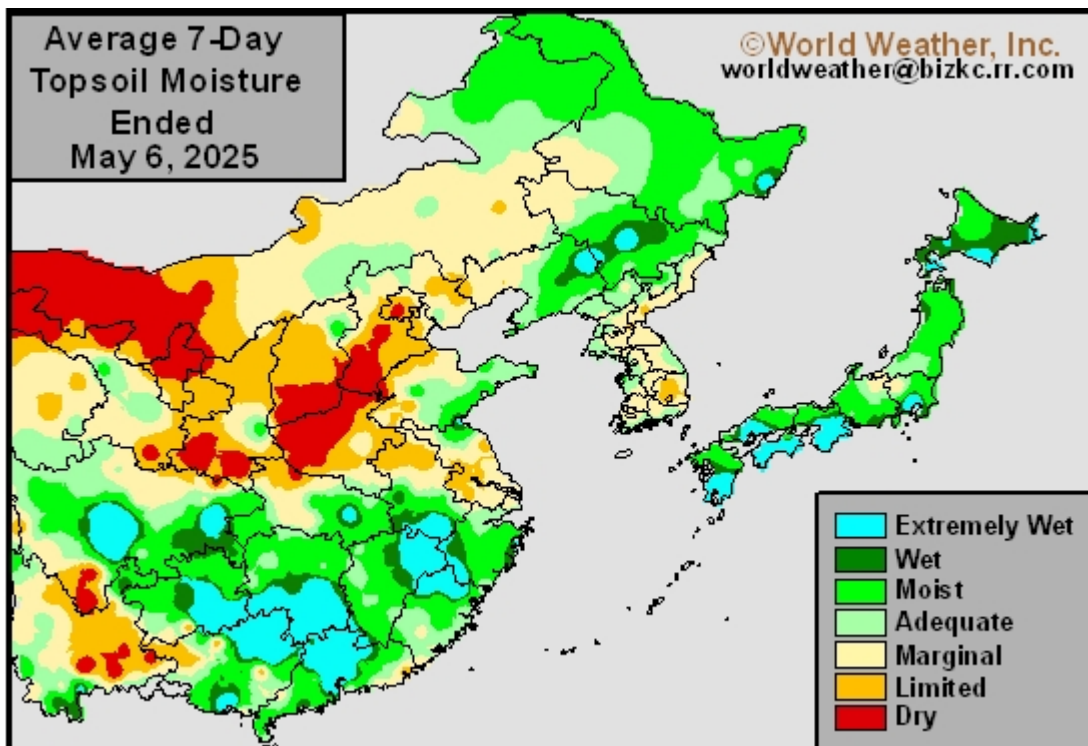


- Wheat is in the late reproductive and filling stages of development with some of the crop already maturing
 - Early harvesting begins in late May and bulk of harvesting comes in June
 - With most of reproduction already complete the biggest part of the crop has already been determined; however, heat and dryness during the filling stage can shrink the yield, but it would also raise its protein level
- A large part of the wheat crop is irrigated which should place a cap on the production loss resulting from too much heat and dryness late in the growing season, although there will be some production impact

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- Henan may be at the core of the driest and hottest weather and produces nearly one third of the total winter wheat crop
 - There is also a considerable amount of irrigation in the province which may limit production cuts
 - Nonetheless, there will still some negative impact
- China might experience a 10% cut in production from these conditions, but that is just a shot in the dark based on weather conditions, the suspected development stage of crop growth, the amount of irrigation in the region and the time of the year
 - The actual impact could be much different and with dryness expected to prevail for two more weeks and some hot weather anticipated the number could be a little conservative.



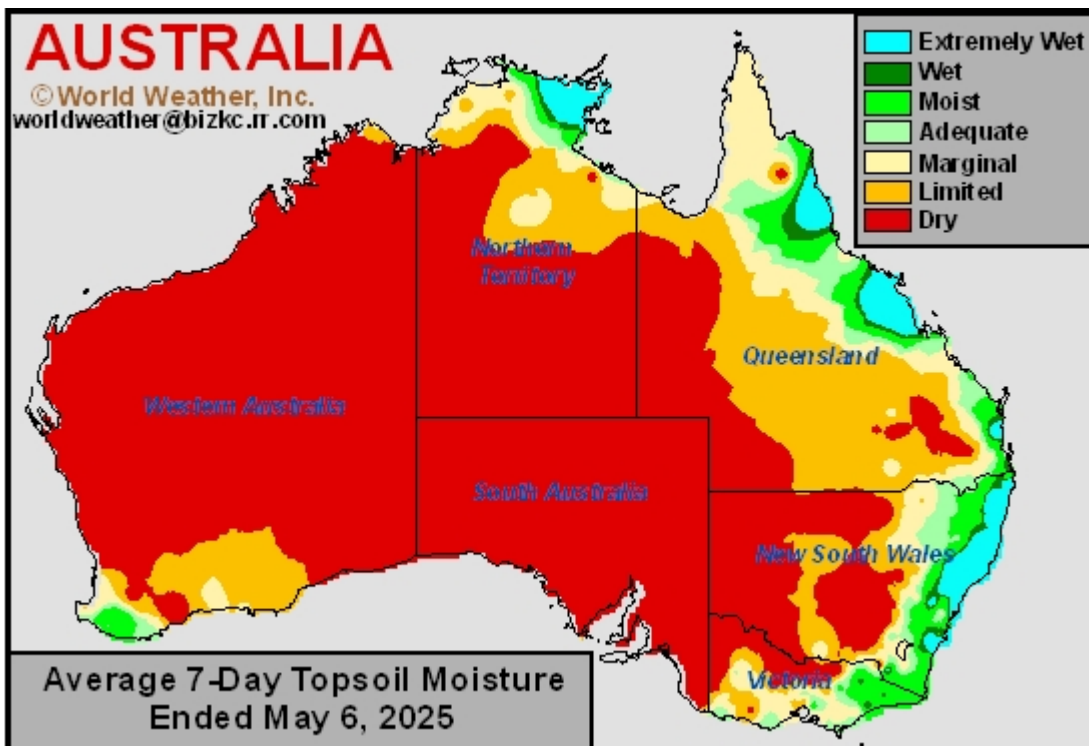
AUSTRALIA

- Wheat and barley planting normally begins in late April and continues through June
 - In some years planting occurs in July, although late planted crops usually do not yield as well as the early planted crops
- Planting did begin in late April, although only in a few areas where soil moisture was most favorable
- Weather conditions have turned dry in key production areas after April rain diminished

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- Not much rain is predicted for the next ten days to possibly two weeks
 - Some rain will fall in Victoria, southeastern South Australia and in a few New South Wales locations, although the impact on soil moisture will be light
 - Western Australia will be left quite dry
- There is plenty of time for rain to improve across winter crop areas
 - Ocean surface temperatures surrounding Australia are warmer than usual and that will help to make it rain a little later this season and in the winter as the air temperatures begin to cool
- World Weather, Inc. believes the planting season will go relatively well and there will be some timely rain to establish crops favorably
 - Precipitation will be greatest and most frequent in the east



ARGENTINA

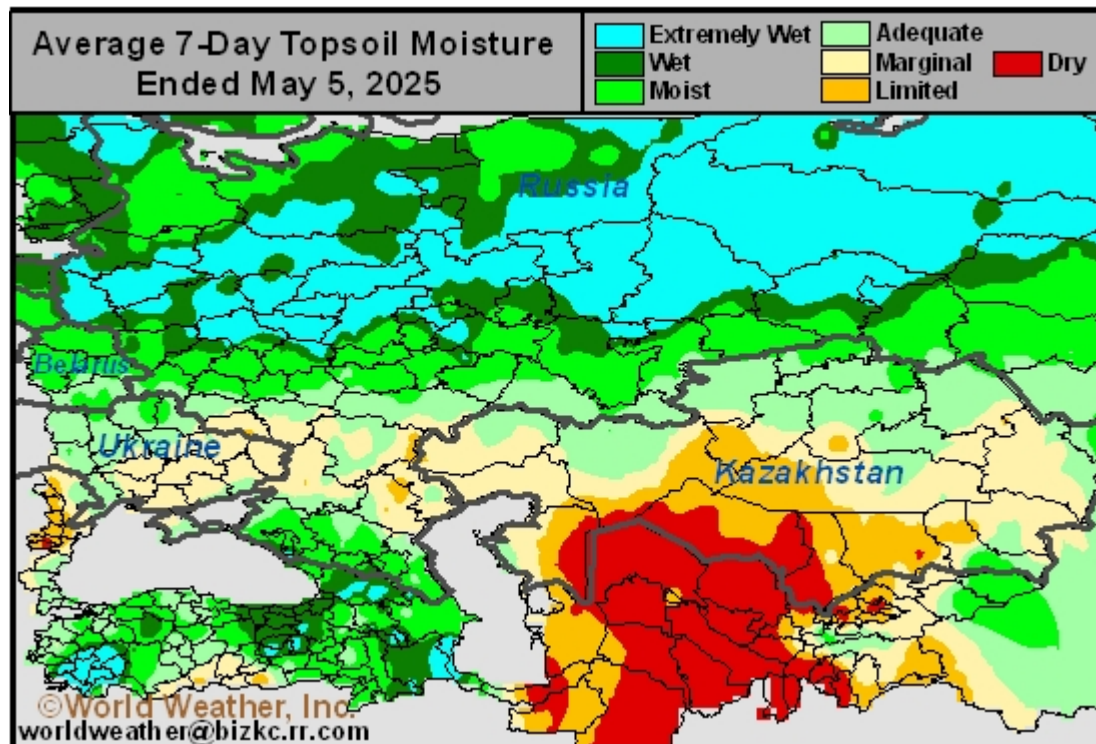
- Wheat planting is not expected to begin until the last days of May and will be most aggressive in June
 - This year's soil moisture profile is expected to be much improved over that of recent past years which should lead to an aggressive planting season with possibly greater production

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BLACK SEA REGION

- **Weather conditions in the Black Sea region were far from ideal in the autumn**
 - Many areas were too dry for good winter crop establishment
 - Some crops failed to emerge and others were poorly established
 - A lack of winterkill during the winter protected production
 - Timely precipitation in the late winter and early spring allowed new root and tiller development to occur setting the stage for better production potential
 - No excessive heat has occurred this spring while crops were improving
 - Some frost and freezes set back wheat and barley development briefly, but no permanent damage occurred



- Recent weather has trended drier than usual after near to above normal precipitation in April
 - Warm temperatures in late April spurred on new crop development and led to drier soil conditions
 - Soil conditions did not become critically dry because of recent cooling bringing the temperatures down and conserving soil moisture
- Weather conditions are predicted to turn a little wetter in the coming ten days which is likely to lift soil moisture just ahead of reproduction which could bolster yield potentials

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- This year's production will still be lower than usual, but not nearly the disaster feared last autumn when crops were not emerged or established very well
- Temperatures will continue to be near to below normal over the next ten days which may keep crop development a little slow, but that is good for yield potentials in this case
 - Frost may set back development in northern Ukraine and northern parts of Russia's Southern region, but no permanent damage is likely

TURKEY

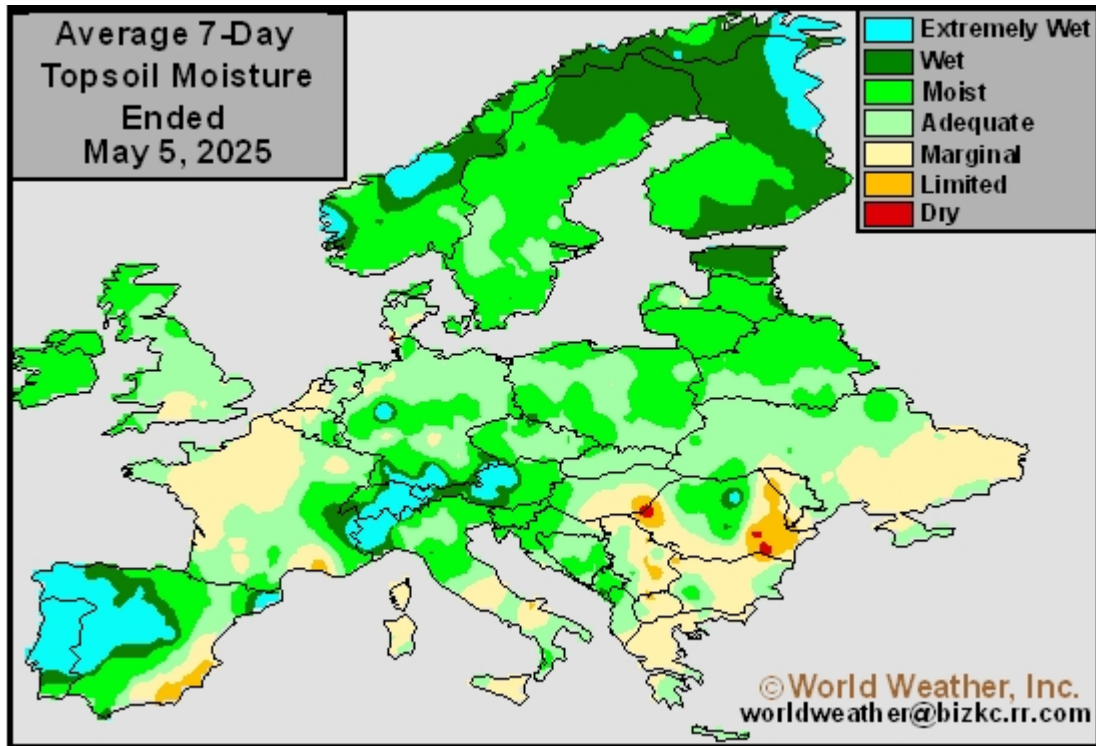
- Winter crop conditions vary quite a bit, but most of the nation's crop is suspected of being in good shape for the less than ideal conditions that occurred last autumn
 - Harvesting does not begin until June for barley and mostly occurs in July and August for wheat
- Yield potentials may rise further if timely rain and seasonable temperatures continue into June

EUROPE

- Weather conditions recently have been quite good for developing winter wheat, rye and barley and for the planting of spring crops
 - No serious region of dryness has been present this season
 - Spain has had one of its best rain distribution years in a very long time
 - Some dryness has lingered in the lower Danube River Basin, although timely has occurred to support most crop needs

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- Spring planting has advanced well in those areas that produce a spring cereal crop
- *There is some concern about drying in the North and Baltic Sea regions, although the situation has not become critical because of recent mild to cool temperatures*
- Timely rain is possible a little later this month in northern Europe, although it is still questionable how significant that will be
 - **Warmer temperatures with limited rainfall could lead to crop moisture stress, but if rain falls before it turns warmer crop production potentials could be much higher as long as there is timely follow up rain**

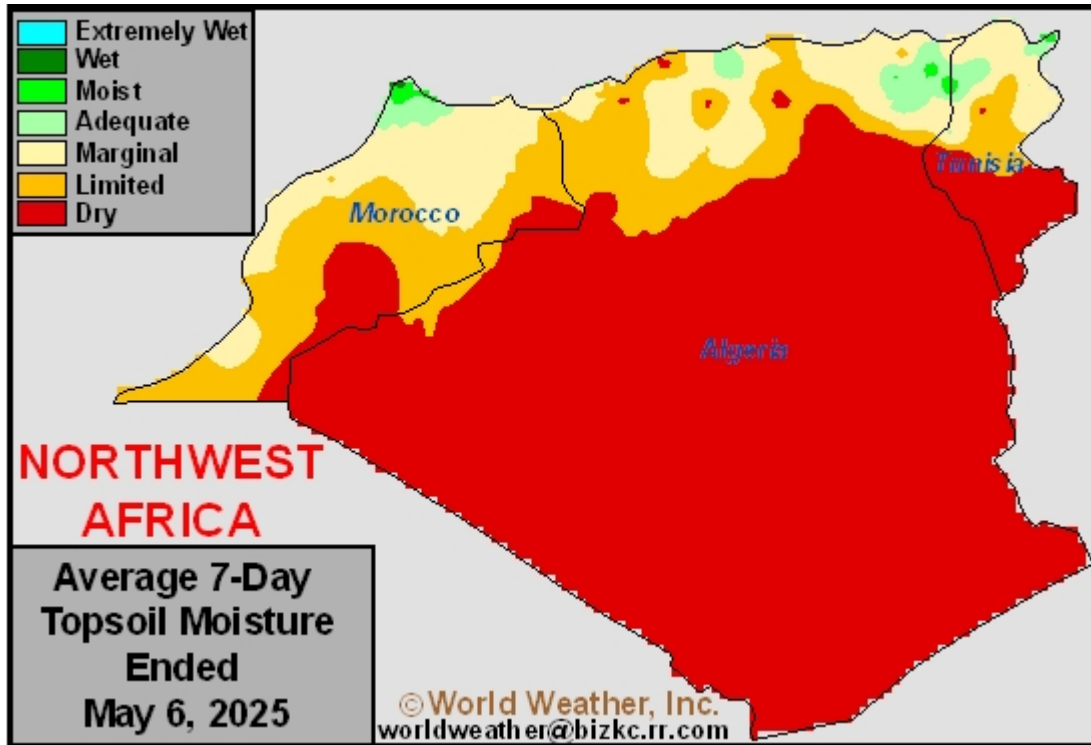
NORTH AFRICA

- Drought in southwestern Morocco and northwestern Algeria has cut into production again this year; however, much improved weather in north-central Morocco has likely improved production potential from that region greatly
- Algeria and Tunisia weather has likely been good enough to support an average to slightly above average crop

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- Weather is expected to be sufficiently wet enough in northeastern Algeria and Tunisia to continue supporting crops through late reproduction and filling during the next couple of weeks
- Harvesting in Algeria and Tunisia occurs mostly from the end of May into July whereas Morocco's harvest occurs from now through the end of June



INDIA

- As of April 14, India had 38% of its wheat crop harvested and good field progress should have occurred through the end of April
- Recent shower activity in the north of India may be interfering with some harvest progress and there may be a few pockets of worry over crop quality; however, the harvest has gone well and the quality concerns should prove to be minor
- Harvesting usually concludes in May
 - **Rain in northern parts of the nation will continue this week resulting in delays to fieldwork and some additional concern over unharvested crop quality; however, the impact of rain should be low**
- Production estimates were running very high in recent estimates with some organizations suggesting record production

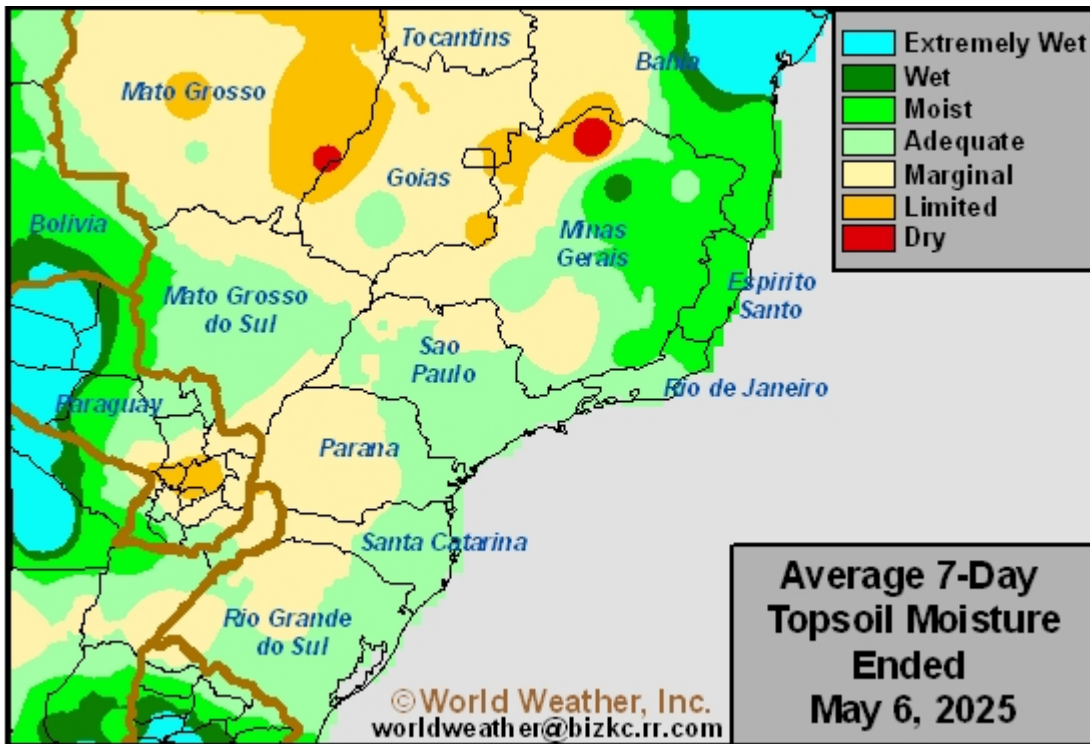
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- Improved harvest conditions are likely later this month

BRAZIL

- Wheat planting has begun in southern Brazil; although, rain in the far south occurring later this week will be a setback to some of the fieldwork
 - The resulting moisture will be good for long term crop development
 - **Soil moisture in Parana and neighboring areas is adequate to get crops planted, germinated and emerged, although some timely rain will be needed later this month to maintain the best conditions**



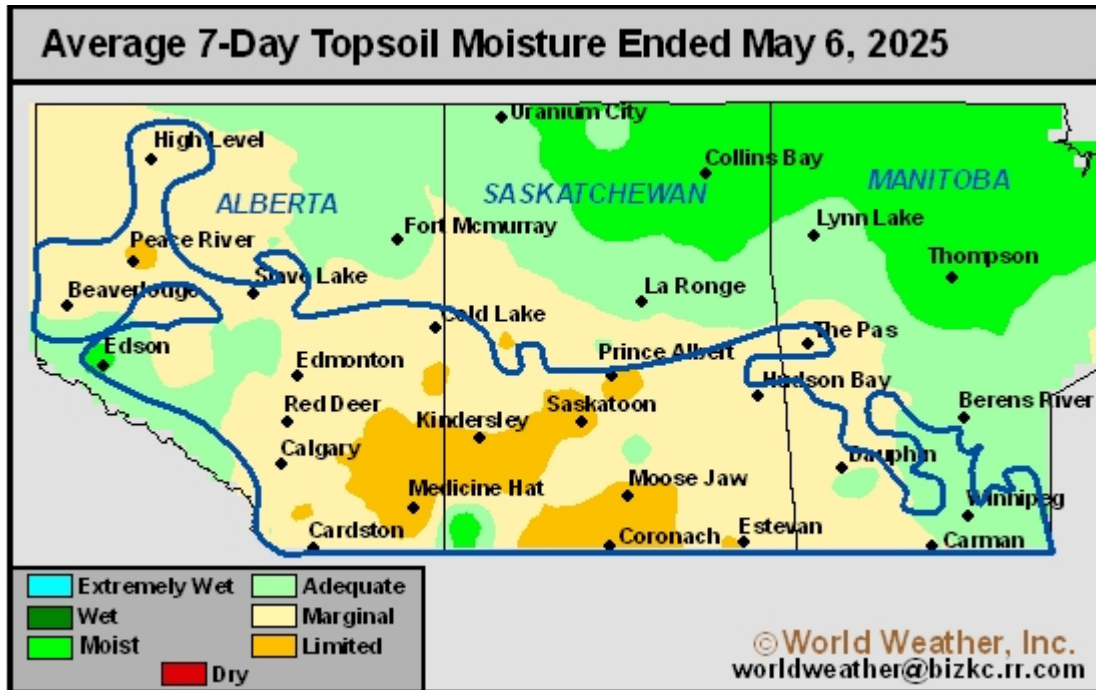
CANADA

- Wheat conditions in Ontario and Quebec are rated favorably
 - Early season crop development has been a little slow due to wet conditions and some periodic cool conditions, but the crop is poised to perform well
 - *There is some concern for possible late season freezes this year; outside of that crop development should advance well*
- Planting has begun in Canada's Prairies and soil moisture varies across the region
 - Some fields are still a little dry from multiple years of drought

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- Other fields have had timely rain
- Warming across the Prairies is raising soil temperatures for better incentive to plant crops and to support germination with a little more warm weather this month
- A boost in precipitation is expected later this month that should lead to improved crop emergence and establishment conditions



UNITED STATES

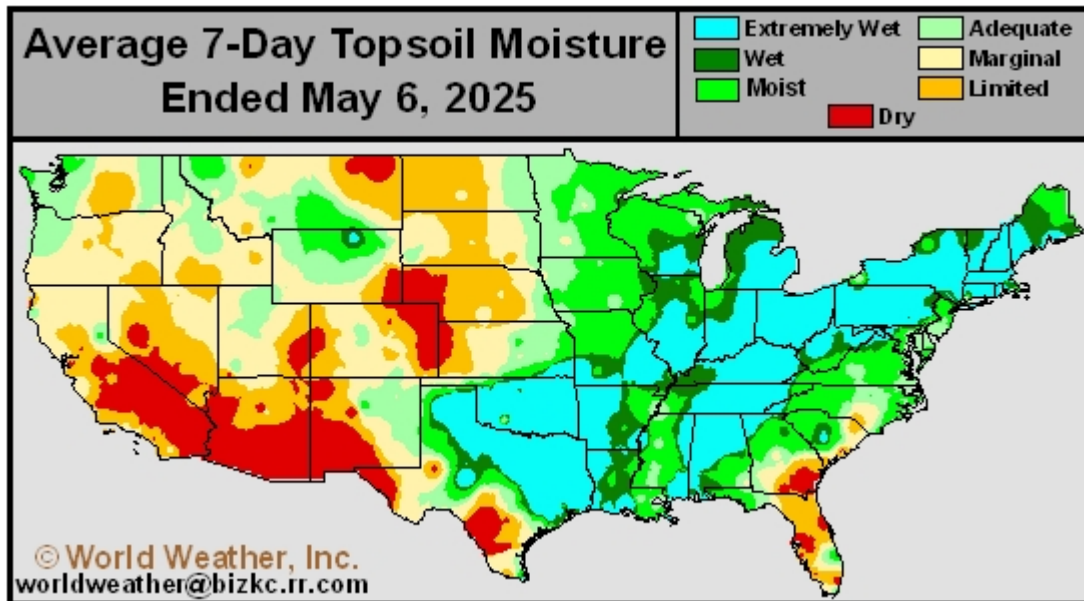
Hard Red Winter Wheat

- Crop conditions have improved this spring in Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas; however, some of the improvement came rather late in the spring and some areas in Oklahoma went from too dry to too wet in a little more than two weeks resulting in some flooding
- Dryness remains in Nebraska, Colorado and some areas in western Kansas
- Production will be down this year because of drought, extreme temperature swings, winterkill, wind damage and now flood damage
- Weather conditions should improve later this week into next week with less rain in the wettest areas of the south and a return of warmer temperatures

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- Crop conditions in Nebraska and Colorado may briefly improve, although more rain will be needed and not much is expected after the next few days



Northern Plains Wheat

- [Winter crop conditions in Montana are favorably rated, although a little too dry in the northeast](#)
 - Western North Dakota and portions of South Dakota have also been a little too dry and warm recently, although crop production potentials are not terrible
 - Timely rain is needed in the next few weeks to improve production potentials
- [Spring wheat and barley planting is under way and progressing well especially this week due to recent dry and warm biased conditions](#)
 - Timely rain will be needed following this week's dry and warm bias and some computer forecast models are suggesting some rain will fall; however, a greater amounts of moisture than that advertised may be needed to ensure the best emergence and establishment conditions
 - Planting could be slowed in some areas if adequate rainfall does not evolve in the next couple of weeks

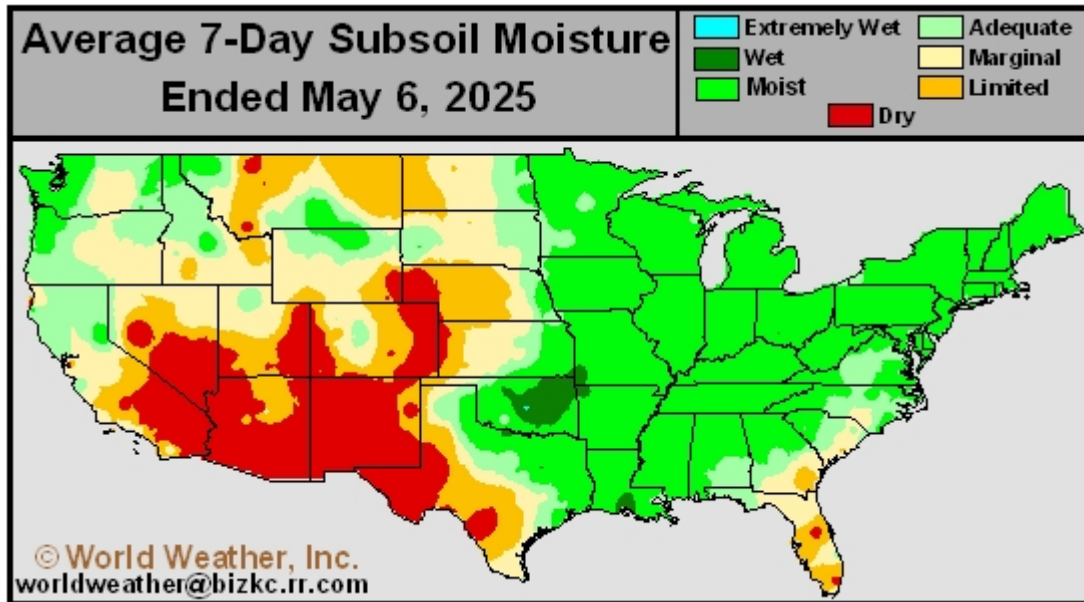
Midwest/Delta/southeast Soft Wheat

- [Wheat conditions are mostly good, although flood conditions last month in the lower Midwest and areas southward into the Tennessee River Basin and northern Delta did damage some production](#)

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- Most of the important soft wheat production areas have managed to benefit from spring weather and production potentials are mostly good except in the crop damaged areas noted above
- Weather in the next two weeks will be favorably mixed for ongoing crop development
 - Some timely rain will be needed after a period of drier and warmer weather expected during the middle part of this month.



U.S. Pacific Northwest

- Unirrigated wheat in the Yakima Valley of central Washington and northern Oregon is stressed by dryness
 - Rain must fall soon to stimulate better crop development
 - Irrigated crops are in favorable shape with little change likely
 - Water supply has been improving as snowmelt takes place from the Cascade Mountains
- Spring planting is under way and many of those crops are irrigated, but rain would be welcome and beneficial if it were to develop
- The next ten days look dry with periods of warm weather likely
 - Concern over dryness will not go away for dryland crops during this period of time.

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MEXICO

- Unirrigated wheat has not likely performed well this year
- Irrigated crops should have performed well with favorable yields as long as water supply was adequate
- Drought continues to threaten production
- No rain of significance is expected in the next two weeks
- Crop development varies from reproductive to filling, maturation and some early harvesting
 - The harvest lasts through July

SOUTH AFRICA

- Early season wheat planting and barley planting has begun and should be advancing relatively well due to favorably moist conditions that occurred in April
- Planting will continue through June
- Some additional rain would be welcome, but crops should be off to a favorable start
- Rain is expected to be limited over the next ten days to two weeks
- Irrigated fields will perform well

MIDDLE EAST

- Soil moisture has not been ideal this spring from Israel and Jordan into Iraq, although autumn and winter moisture was more favorable
 - Some yield reduction may have occurred in a part of this region
 - Iran production is expected to be more favorable
 - Most crops in the region should be filling, maturing and being harvested with little change in weather expected for a while keeping southern areas dry and northern areas in a showery pattern for a while
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