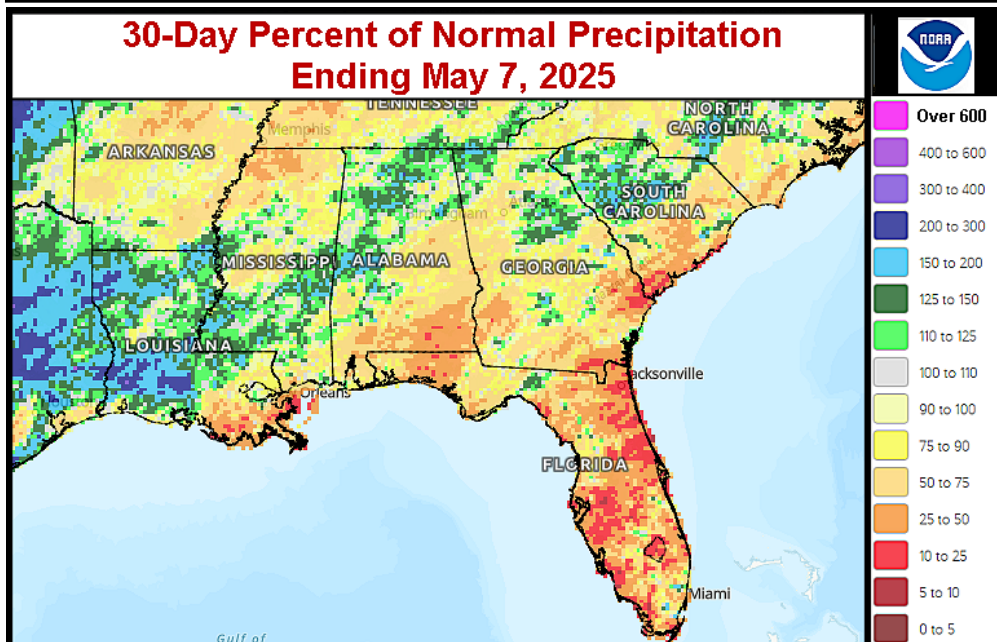
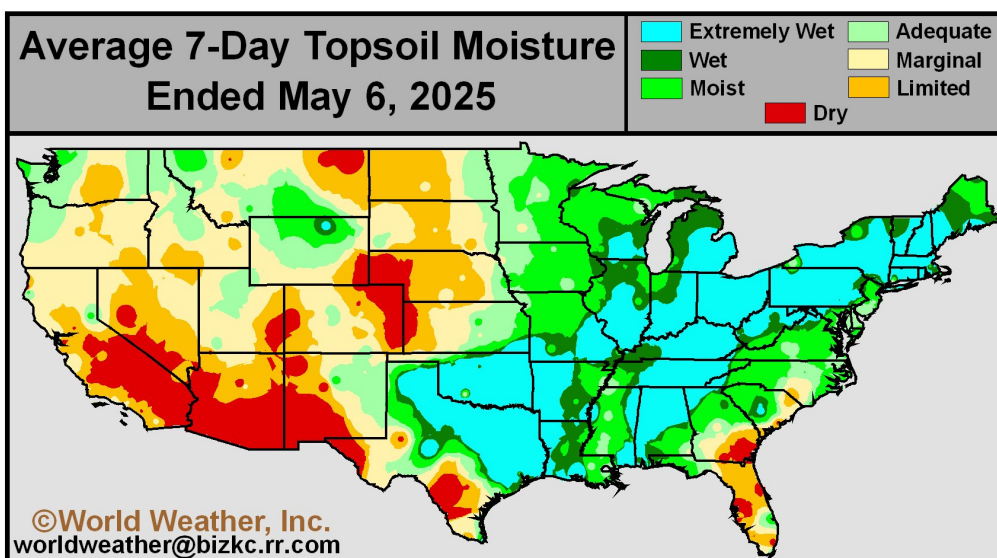


Southeast U.S. To Get Drought Relief

By Drew Lerner

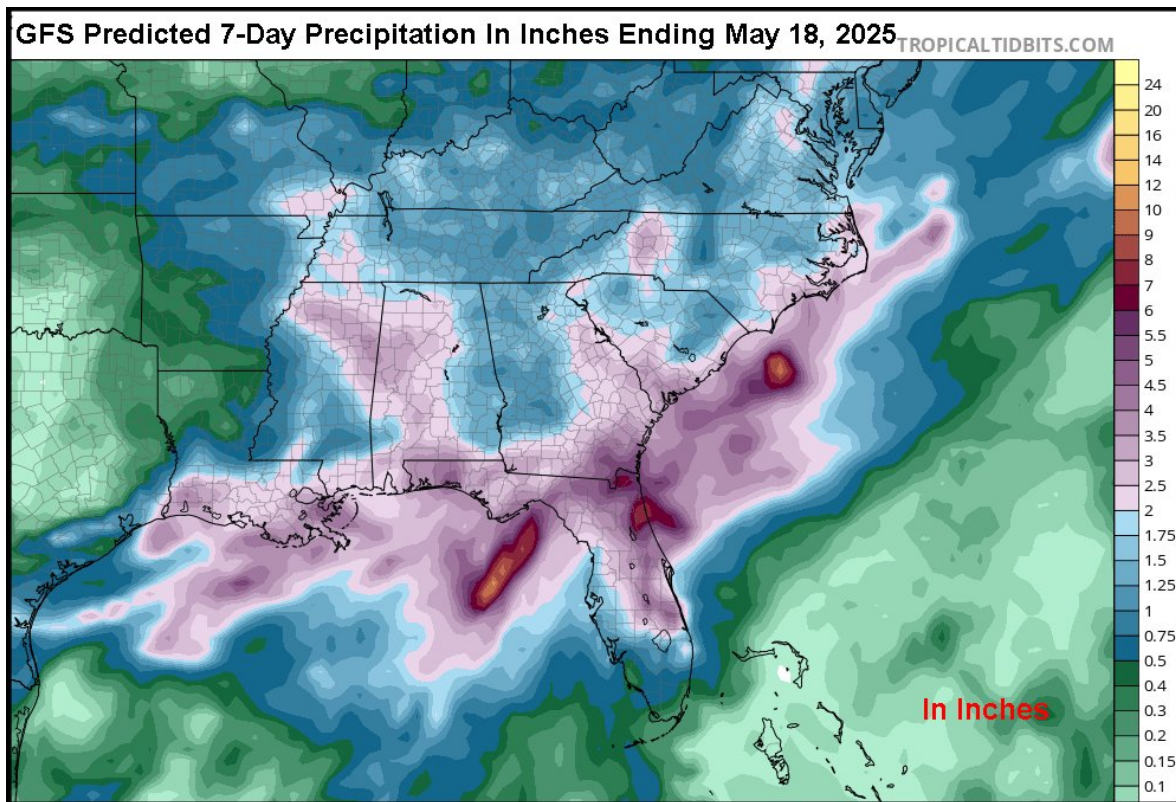
Kansas City, May 7 (World Weather Inc.) – *The far southeastern corner of the United States has been enduring erratic rainfall this spring that has allowed warm temperatures to evaporate moisture from the soil faster than it has received it. As a result, abnormally dry conditions and various stages of drought have been evolving in recent weeks from Florida and southeastern Alabama through a large part of southern and eastern Georgia to portions of eastern South Carolina and southeastern North Carolina. A large, cut-off, upper level low pressure system over the lower Mississippi River Basin during the next few days should eventually provide a moisture surge through some of these drier areas bringing much needed relief and improving development potential for cotton, corn, soybean, peanut and a host of other crops.*



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Rainfall during the past 30 days has been well below normal in Florida, southeastern Alabama, southern and eastern South Carolina and portions of southern Georgia. Some of these driest areas have reported less than 25% of the usual rainfall and many other areas have had no more than half of the normal moisture. That follows other months of limited rainfall earlier this year. The 60-day percent of normal chart shows southern and eastern South Carolina, parts of southeastern Alabama and much of the Florida peninsula getting 50-75% of the usual rain with portions of central and southwestern Florida getting less than 25% of the norm.

Dryness is not just confined to these areas, but is also occurring in parts of Virginia and North Carolina and relief must occur soon to protect production potentials for corn, soybeans, cotton and peanuts among other crops. Seasonably warm temperatures have helped to create the droughty environment, although recent temperatures have been milder than usual and that has helped to buy a little more time.



Rain is expected to evolve late this week and through the weekend. Sufficient amounts should occur to at least provide some temporary relief and crops should respond quite well to the moisture. A complete fix to the moisture deficits in the soil are unlikely, but enough rain should fall to give crops a chance to become better established and in some cases better production potential. Rainfall of 1.00 to 2.50 inches and local totals of 2.50 to possibly more than 4.00 inches will occur during the Friday through Tuesday period. Southern Georgia, southeastern Alabama and northern Florida are likely to be wettest. Drier than usual weather is predicted to resume during mid-week next week and it should prevail for at least a week and possibly ten days.

Southeast U.S. To Get Drought Relief

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