

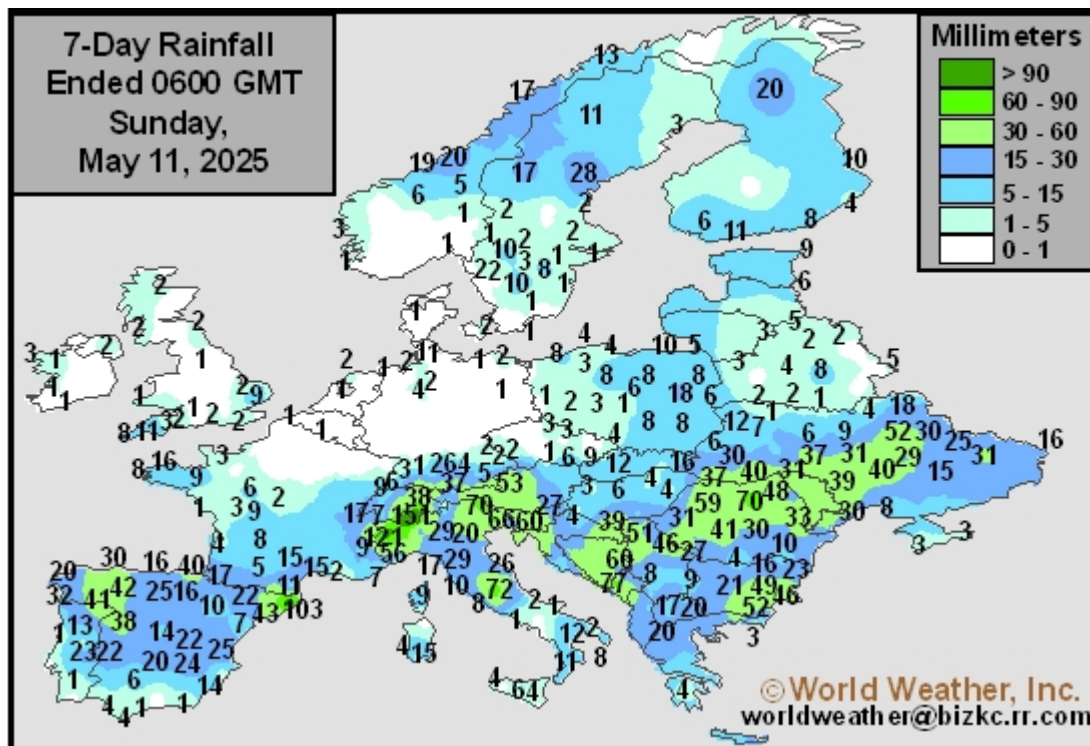
Germany, North Sea Region To Stay Drier Biased For 10 Days

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, May 12 (World Weather Inc.) – Several areas from France and the United Kingdom into Poland and the Baltic States received limited precipitation in recent weeks. Additional drying is expected for at least the next week to ten days. Many fields will become too dry for ideal crop development and planting of late season crops may slow. Germany and the North Sea region will be at the center of the driest weather. The need for abundant rain will increase late this month into early June to support better crop development and protect production potentials. The remainder of Europe will see a good mix of rain and sunshine this week.

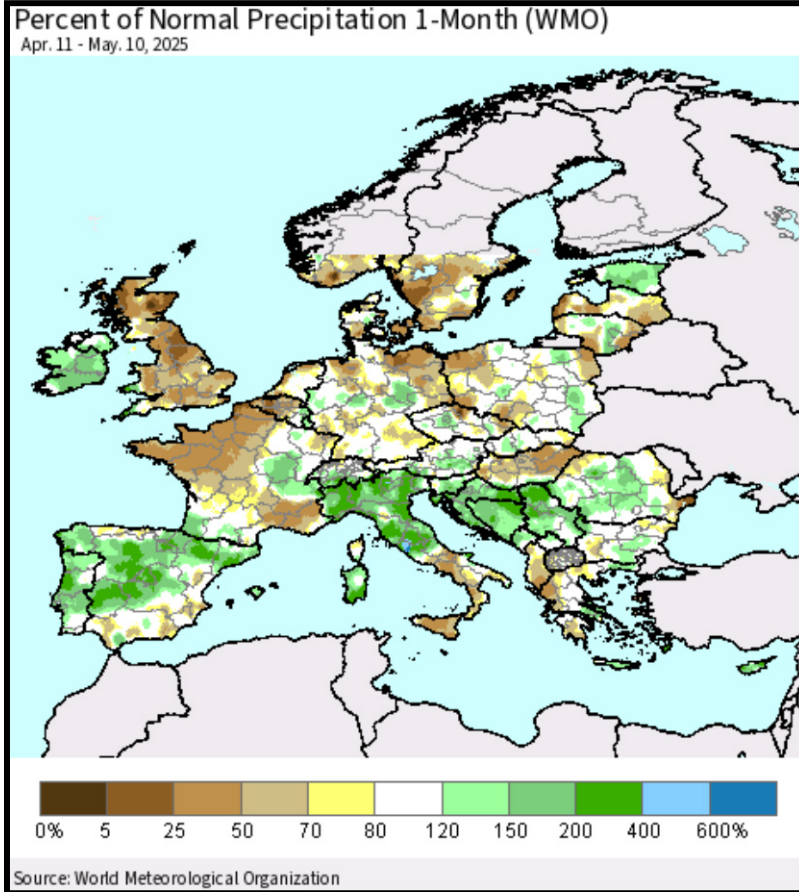
A general lack of moisture occurred over the past week from northern France and the U.K. to southern Norway, southern Sweden, Denmark, Germany and western Poland. Portions of the region have reported below to well below normal precipitation for the past couple of months, although the lack of exceptionally warm weather has helped keep evaporation rates low enough to conserve soil moisture. Planting has likely advance well this year, though, emergence and establishment may not be quite up to par because of the limited moisture situation.

Rainfall varied across the remainder of Europe this past week. The Balkans region and much of Ukraine into northern and central Italy, southern fringes of Germany, much of northern and central Spain, and northern Portugal received 0.50 to 2.50 inches of rain for the seven-day period ending May 11. Several areas in Poland, Belarus, the Baltic States, and southern and western France received 0.12 to 0.71 inch of moisture. Pockets in southern England received up to 0.43 inch of moisture.



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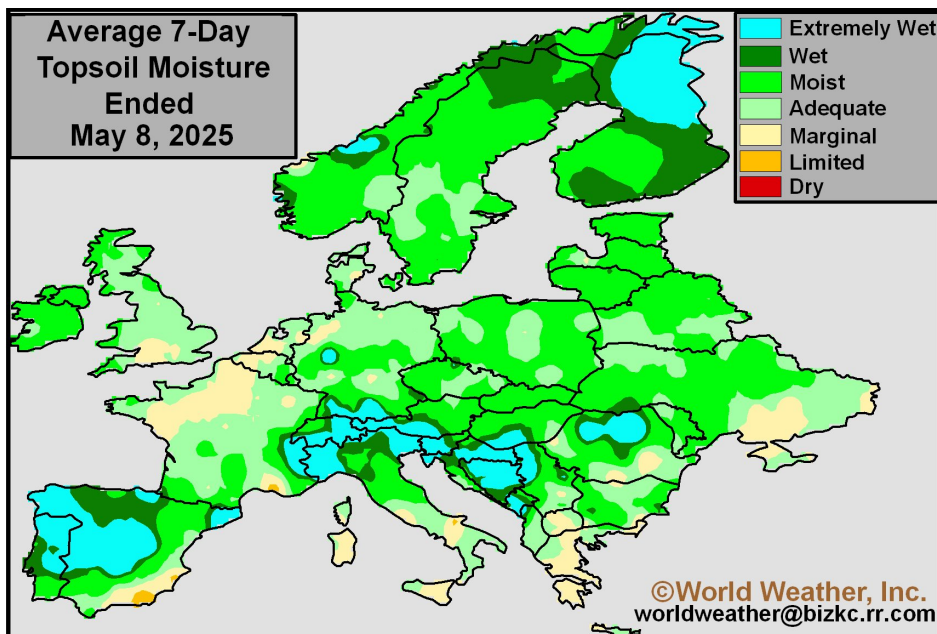
Temperatures during the past week were mild in Poland, Belarus, the Baltic States, and neighboring areas in Ukraine with highest readings only reaching the 50s and 60s



Fahrenheit. Seasonable temperatures were noted elsewhere with highest readings in the 60s and 70s. Portions of southeastern Europe warmed to the 80s at times as well. Lowest temperatures were in the 30s and 40s with pockets in Poland and Belarus cooling to the 20s.

The United Kingdom and a large section of France (outside the southeast corner) into portions of Germany, Poland, the Baltic States, and neighboring locations received near to below normal rainfall for the 30-day period ending May 10. Portions of the United Kingdom, northern France, and northeastern Germany received less than 50% of

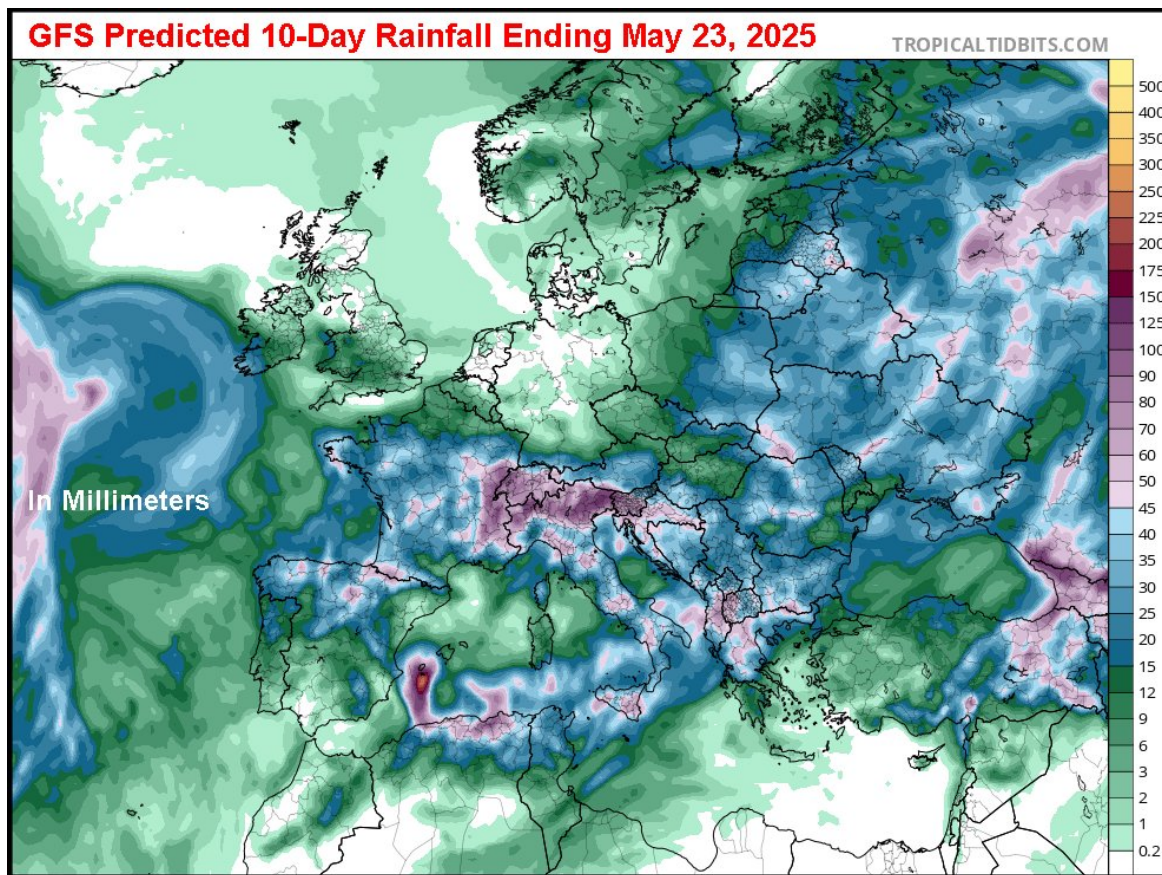
normal precipitation during this time. Southern Italy was also drier than usual while other production areas in Europe generally received near or above normal precipitation.



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Soil moisture is still rated adequate or marginally adequate in a large section of Europe. However, many areas in France and the United Kingdom into northeastern Europe dried down during the past week and are in growing need of moisture.

Planting and establishment conditions remained relatively favorable for much of Europe in recent days. Pockets in northwestern and northeastern Europe are trending a little too dry for ideal establishment and early-season development. As long as timely rain occurs in the near future, production potentials will remain favorable. Winter wheat, barley, and rapeseed development and maturation conditions were relatively favorable in much of the main production areas.



WEATHER OUTLOOK

Precipitation will vary across Europe this week. The United Kingdom, Ireland, and France into Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, Denmark, western Poland, and portions of the Baltic States will trend drier than normal as a broad area of high pressure builds over the North Sea. Brief periods of light rain will still occur, though most locations will not receive enough rain to counter evaporation or impact long-term soil conditions. Southern Portugal and southwestern Spain will also trend drier than usual this week and will not receive enough rain to counter evaporation. The remaining production areas in Europe will see a mix of erratic rainfall and sunshine this week. Much of the precipitation will occur through

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Friday as disturbances track across the continent. Moisture totals by next Monday morning will range from 0.25 to 1.50 inches with local amounts over 2.00 inches in northern Spain, Italy, and extreme southeastern Europe. Much of Europe will have a few opportunities for rain May 20 – 26 with the greatest amount of precipitation expected in southern Europe.

Temperatures will be seasonable to seasonably cool for Eastern Europe this week as an upper-level trough meanders over the region. Daytime highs will still reach the 40s and 50s most often with several pockets in southeastern Europe warming to the 60s and lower 70s through Thursday. Low temperatures will be in the 30s and 40s with pockets in Poland, western Ukraine, and neighboring locations cooling to the upper 20s Friday and this weekend. The temperature profile will be near normal in Western Europe. Daytime highs will peak in the 60s and 70s most often with portions of the United Kingdom only warming to the 50s. Low temperatures will be in the 40s and 50s. Seasonable temperatures will be most common for Europe May 20-26.

The lack of rain will promote a good environment for winter grain and oilseed maturation in coming weeks for western and northern Europe; however, moisture is needed to preserve favorable production potentials. Rainfall elsewhere in Europe will not be enough to significantly impact maturation and quality. Aggressive drying is slated from France, the United Kingdom, and neighboring locations into Poland, Belarus, the Baltic States, and neighboring areas. These areas will likely become too dry to support ideal summer crop establishment and early-season growth. With additional drying likely during the second week of the outlook, many crops may establish or grow unevenly or poorly. The remaining locations in Europe will have enough moisture to support relatively good crop development.

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