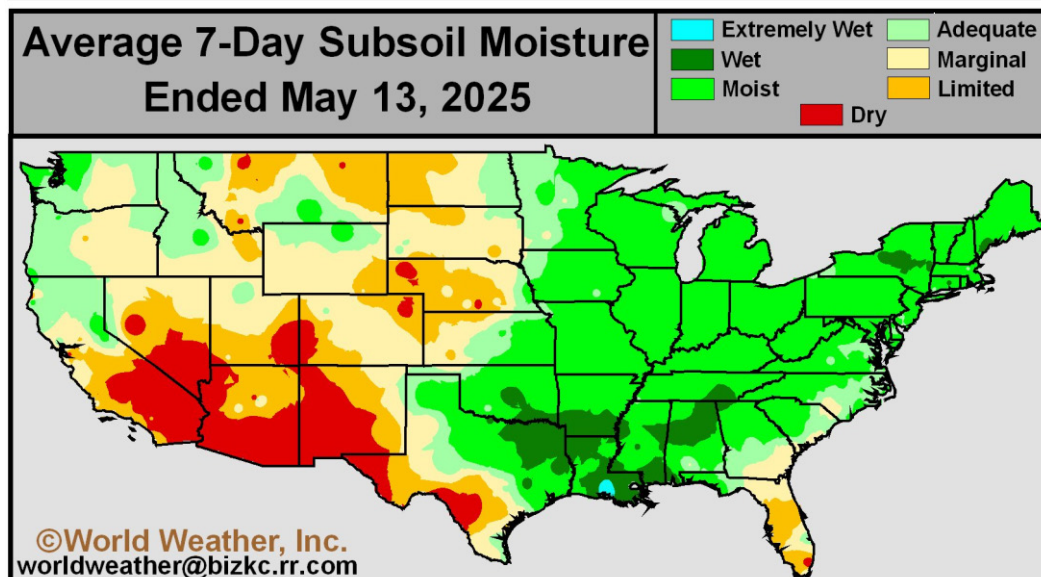
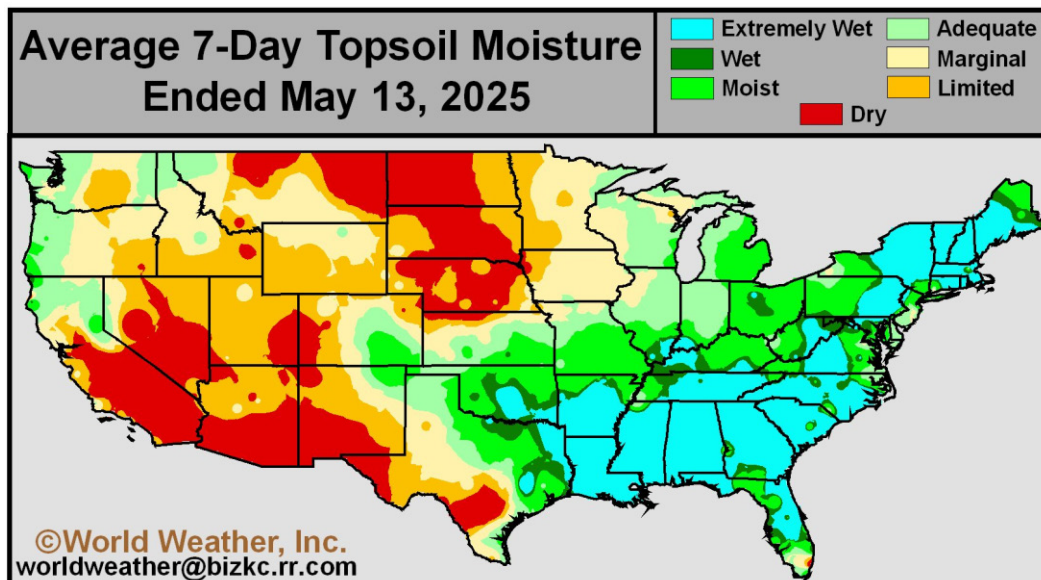


U.S. Northern Plains, SE Canada Prairies To Get Needed Rain

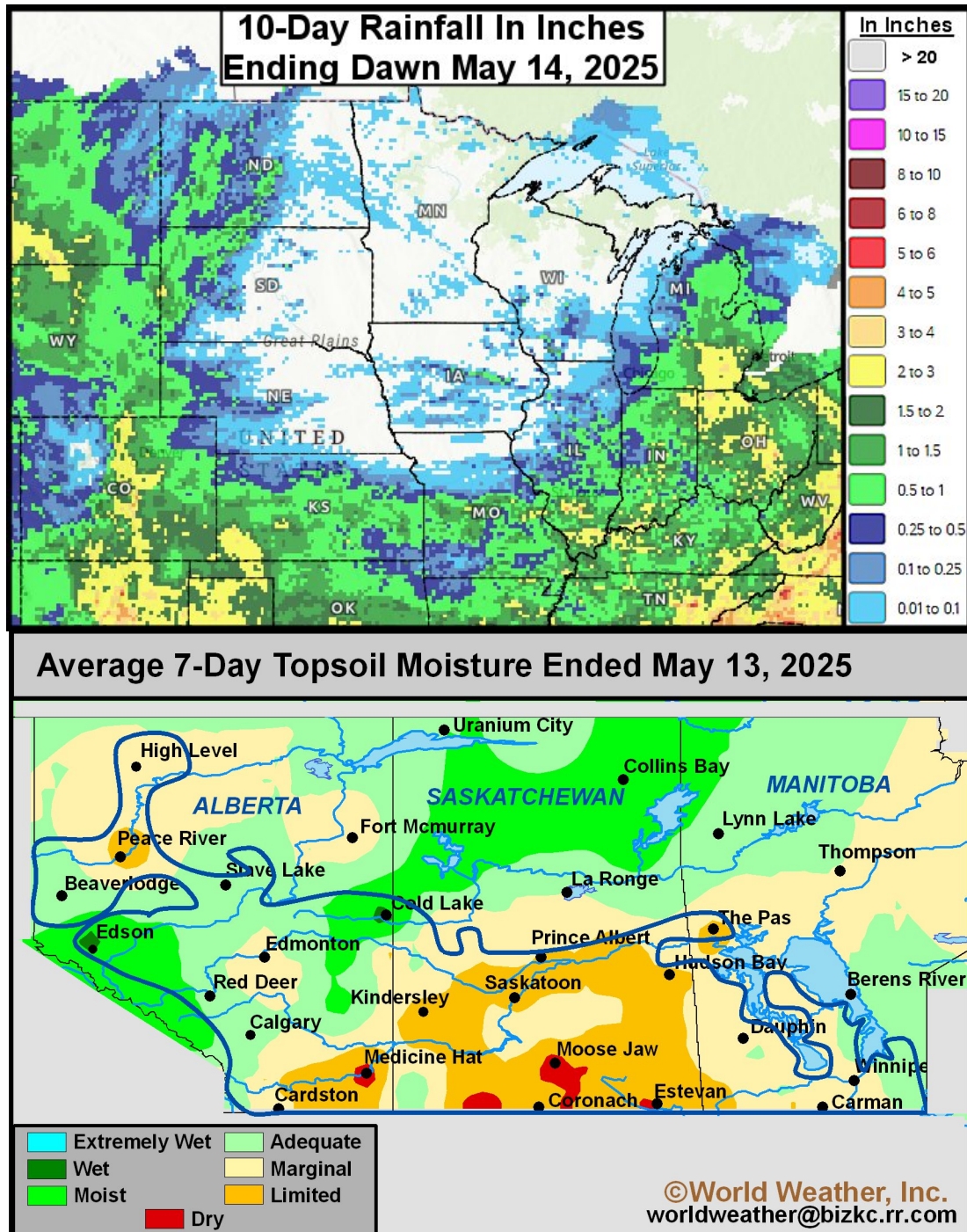
By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, May 14 (World Weather Inc.) – *A significant shift in weather is expected portions of the northern U.S. Plains and a part of eastern Canada's Prairies starting tonight and lasting into Saturday followed by another rain event next week. These two precipitation events will greatly ease drought and abnormally dry conditions that have been prevailing in the western Dakotas for months and ease dryness that has just recently evolved in the eastern Dakotas and Minnesota after a very warm and dry period earlier this week and last weekend. The region produces a significant amount of spring wheat, barley, oats, sunseed, coarse grain, oilseeds, sugarbeets and a few other crops.* Continued dryness would have had a large negative impact on production especially in the western Dakotas, but relief will come. The Missouri River Basin will be wettest and flash flooding is possible.



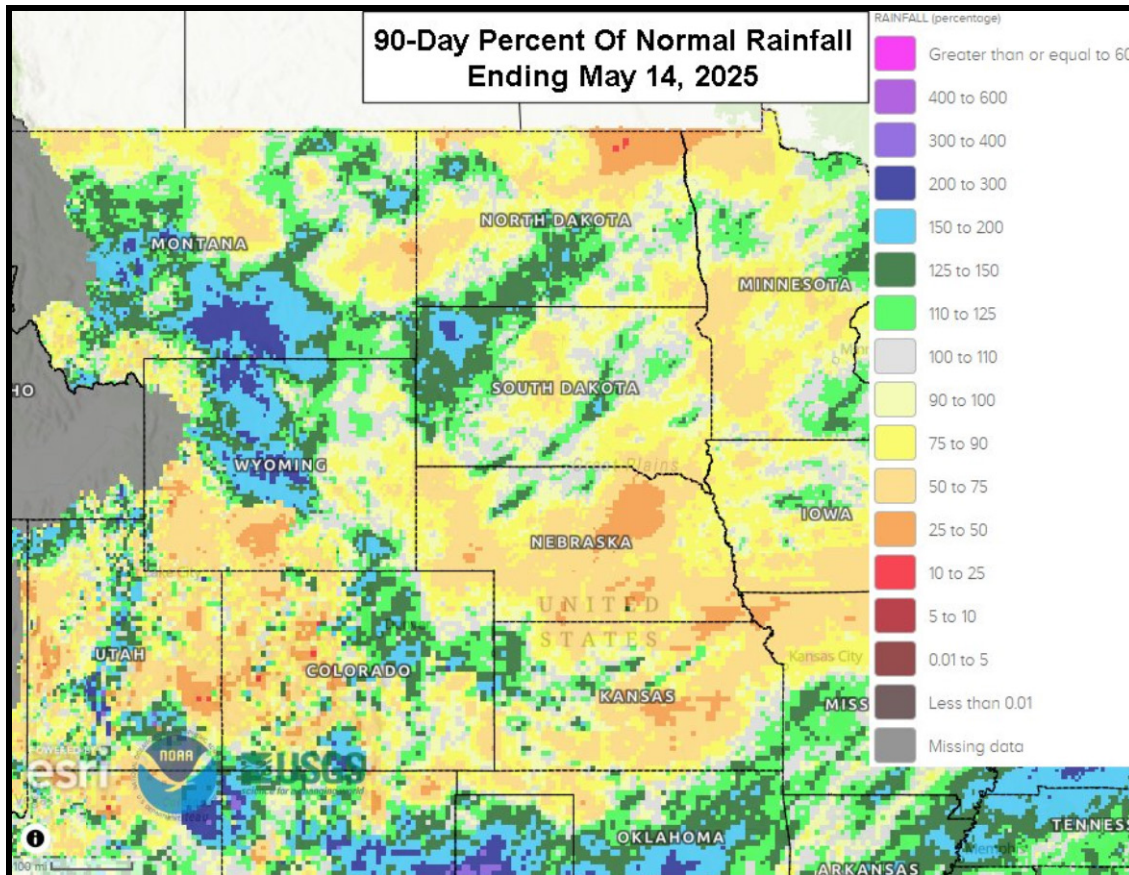
U.S. Northern Plains, SE Canada Prairies To Get Needed Rain

The western Dakotas and portions of eastern and northern Montana were quite dry coming into May. They were suffering from dryness like that of the southwestern Canada Prairies. The entire region was much too dry and worry over crop development had been and continues to run high. The eastern Dakotas and Minnesota were in better moisture shape at the beginning of this month than they are now because of the past several days of 80- and 90-degree heat that has been zapping moisture from the soil at a very fast pace.



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Rainfall varied across the U.S. northern Plains during the past ten days. Minnesota, eastern South Dakota, and much of eastern and central North Dakota were either dry or did not receive enough rain to counter evaporation. Montana and western North Dakota received 0.10 to 1.00 inch of rain from some precipitation that evolved during the weekend and earlier this week, but it was not enough to break the long term dry weather trend. A few counties in southern and western Montana, however, received up to 2.00 inches



A few of the wetter locations in central North Dakota, southern and western Montana, and pockets in western North Dakota and eastern Montana received near to above normal rainfall for the 90-day period ending this morning and parts of southern Montana received two to three times normal moisture. However, other areas in the northern Plains were drier than usual, receiving 50-90% of normal precipitation with drier pockets in northeastern North Dakota.

The moisture profile is most important and much of the western Dakotas and eastern and northern Montana as well as well as parts of Saskatchewan have short to very short soil moisture. Many areas are becoming too dry for crop development and the need for rain is soaring especially after this week's heat.

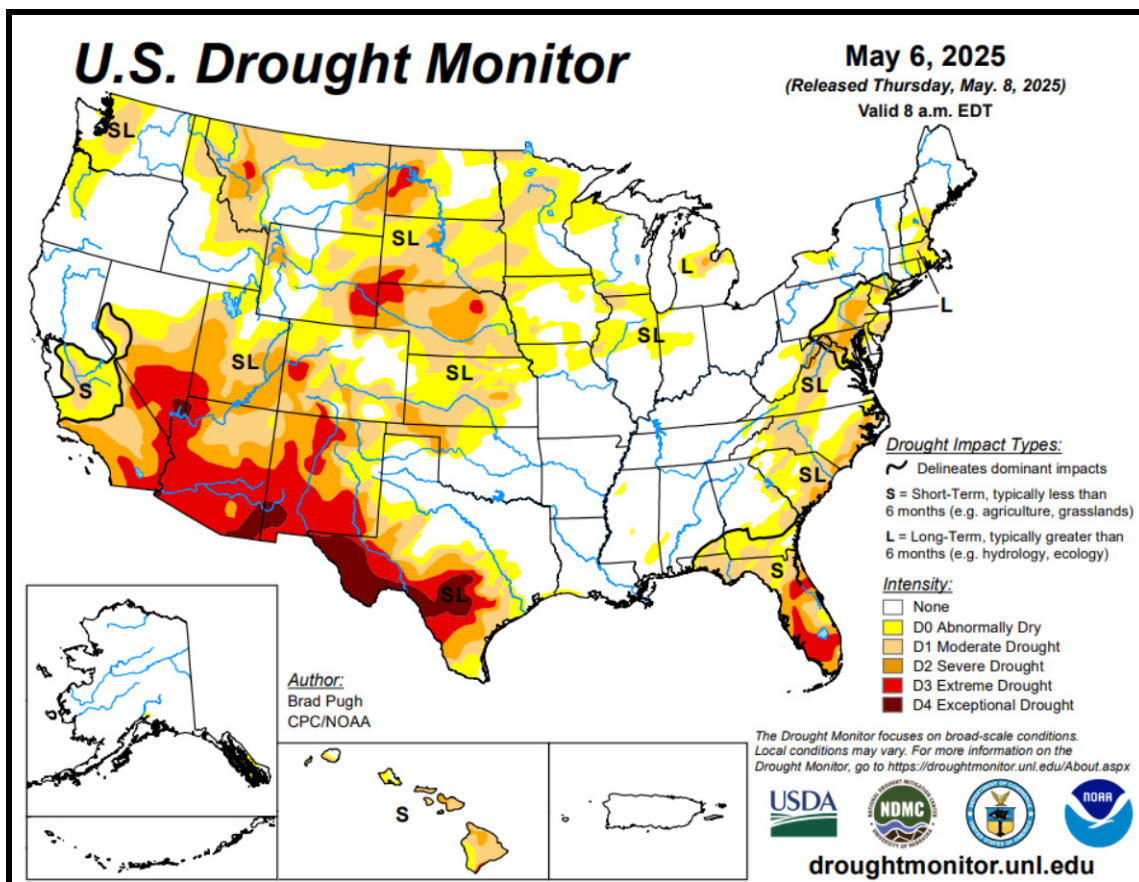
WEATHER OUTLOOK

A wet weather pattern is slated for the northern Plains through the middle of next week. The most widespread and significant rain will occur through Friday as an upper-level trough slowly advances over the region. Precipitation will begin on Montana and the

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Dakotas today before gradually shifting easterly across the region Thursday and Friday. Strong thunderstorms will also be possible for portions of the Dakotas and Minnesota today into Thursday. Light rain will be scattered across a few locations Saturday. The next upper-level trough will then generate additional waves of rain and thunderstorms Sunday into the first part of next week. Moisture totals by next Wednesday morning will range from 1.00 to 4.00 inches in a large section of crop country. Portions of western and central North Dakota and a part of central South Dakota will potentially receive five to possibly more than 6.00 inches. The northern Plains will have a few opportunities for spotty rain May 22 – 28, though rainfall during this time will be much lower compared to the first week of the outlook.

Rain in far eastern Saskatchewan and west-central and southwestern Manitoba, Canada will vary from 0.75 to 2.50 inches with a few amounts over 3.00 inches. Most of that improved soil moisture in Canada will be confined to a relatively small region, but that is an area that has experienced some of the poorest precipitation relative to normal during the winter.



Temperatures will vary across the northern Plains through the middle of next week. Minnesota and the eastern Dakotas will initially warm to the 80s Fahrenheit today while highs only reach the 50s and 60s in Montana and western North Dakota. Highs will drop to the 70s and lower 80s in Minnesota and eastern fringes of the Dakotas Thursday while highs elsewhere are in the 50s and 60s with pockets in the 40s. Most locations will then only warm to the 50s and 60s with pockets in the 40s for the remainder of the coming week. A

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gradual warming trend is expected May 22 – 28 with temperatures gradually returning to normal.

Waves of rain through the middle of next week will significantly improve the moisture profile. Several fields will likely receive enough rain to break the drought or abnormally dry conditions. Long-term production potentials will improve for much of the grains, oilseeds, oats, sugar beets, and other crops produced this time of year. Planting and general fieldwork may otherwise advance slowly or come to a standstill due to the abundant rainfall. Recently planted crops may need to be reseeded in areas that experience severe flooding.

Dryness will continue in parts of Montana and across a large part of both Saskatchewan and eastern Alberta; however, **the coming week of precipitation provides a little more support for the World Weather, Inc. spring and summer outlooks since we have tended to be an outlier relative to the U.S. National Weather Service, Environment Canada and a number of private weather forecasting groups in regard to the long term outlooks for spring and summer released late last winter and early in the spring. Most of those entities suggested below normal precipitation would dominate the spring and summer from the Plains through Canada's Prairies whereas World Weather, Inc. expected a wetter late spring in the northern Plains, upper Midwest and southern Canada Prairies.**

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