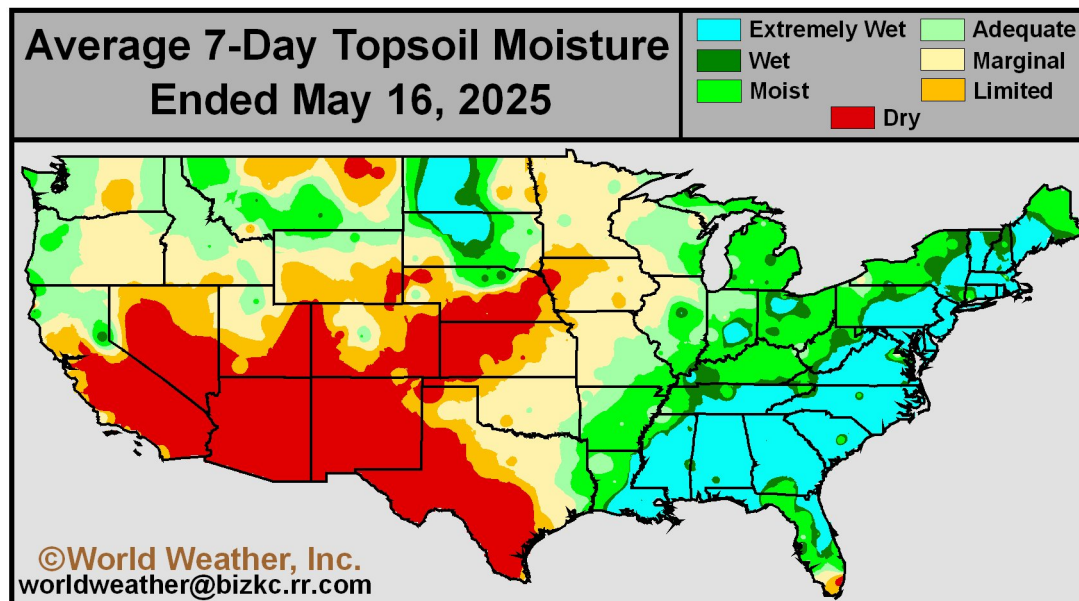


# U.S. Midwest Soil To Trend Wetter; Possibly Too Wet South

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, May 16 (World Weather Inc.) – An impressive rain event brought drought and dryness relief to the western Dakotas, southeastern Saskatchewan and southwestern Manitoba the past two days. An active weather pattern in the United States during the next seven days will bring on wetter field conditions to many areas from South Dakota to the northern Delta and lower Midwest. The moisture boost will be welcome in Iowa, Nebraska, northern Missouri and areas east into central Illinois and northern Indiana; however, the return of rain to the lower Midwest and northern Delta will not be welcome since planting in those areas has been a constant struggle since flooding occurred in late March and early April. Improved crop development potential and better future planting conditions are likely in areas relieved from dryness, but longer field-working delays are likely in the lower Midwest where some areas are still too wet from previous rain.

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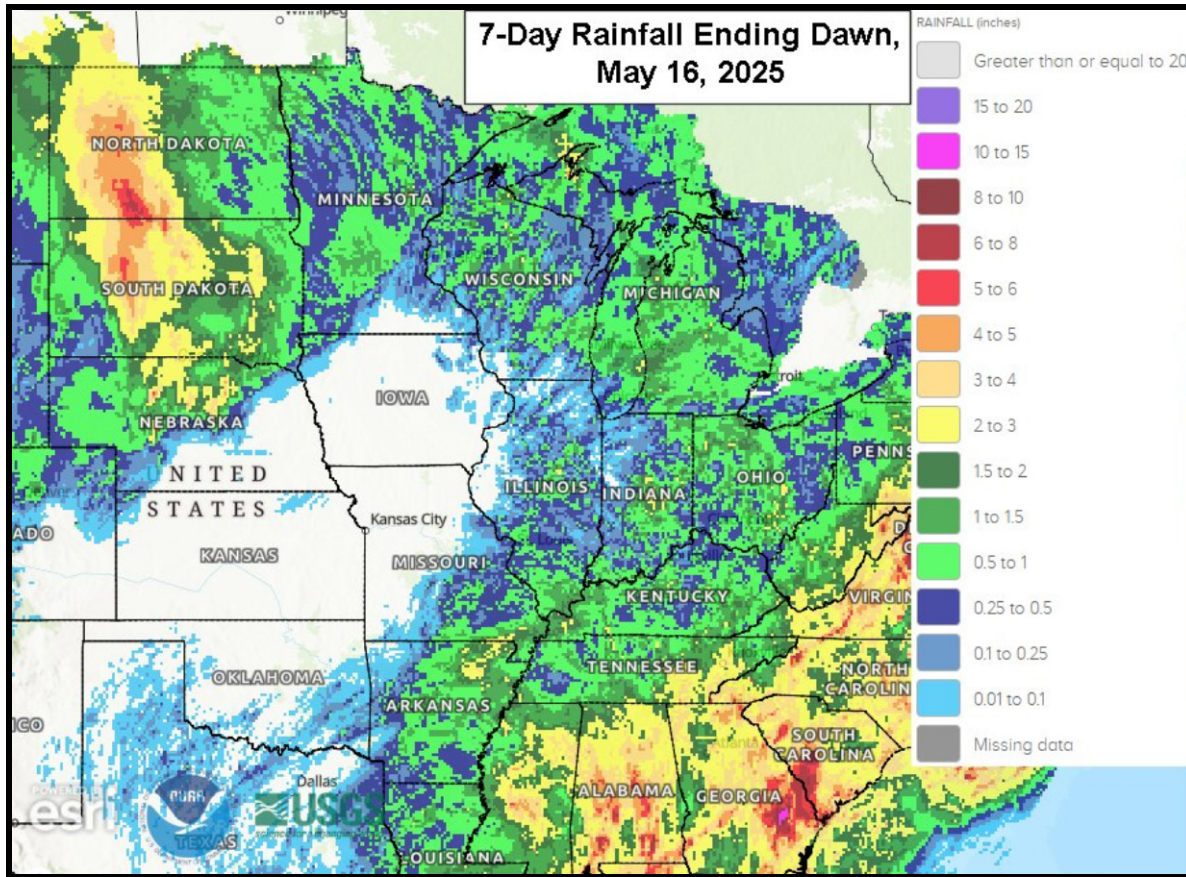


Much of the Midwest experienced net drying conditions during the past week and temperatures were quite warm to hot for a few days resulting in accelerated drying. Areas in the western Corn and Soybean Belt that were already a little dry biased before the week began dried out quickly and today's topsoil moisture is rated marginally adequate to short with areas from Nebraska and parts of Kansas into western Iowa and southwestern Minnesota running very short of moisture. Net drying to the east was more beneficial than detrimental since the ground was a little too for fieldwork in some eastern Midwest locations.

The greatest precipitation noted during the past week occurred in the western Dakotas where periods of heavy rain fell over the past two days. Amounts ranged from 1.50 to 5.28 inches and locally more resulting in the complete saturation of the topsoil. Other areas in the eastern Dakotas, much of Montana, a large section of Minnesota (outside the southeastern and south-central production areas) and portions of Wisconsin, Michigan,

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central and southern Illinois, southeastern Missouri, Kentucky, Indiana, and Ohio received 0.25 to 1.50 inches of rain with local amounts over 2.00 inches.



As of May 13, a large section of the northern Plains was abnormally dry or in a moderate to severe drought. Recent rainfall likely helped improve the dryness, though additional rain will be needed to completely break the drought in areas that missed out on the most significant rain. Planting remains near or ahead of normal in much of the region. Establishment conditions likely improved. *There is still a need for more rain to support better long-term development potentials for grain, oilseeds, sugar beets, oats, and other crops in the central and northeastern Plains and neighboring areas of the western Corn and Soybean Belt.*

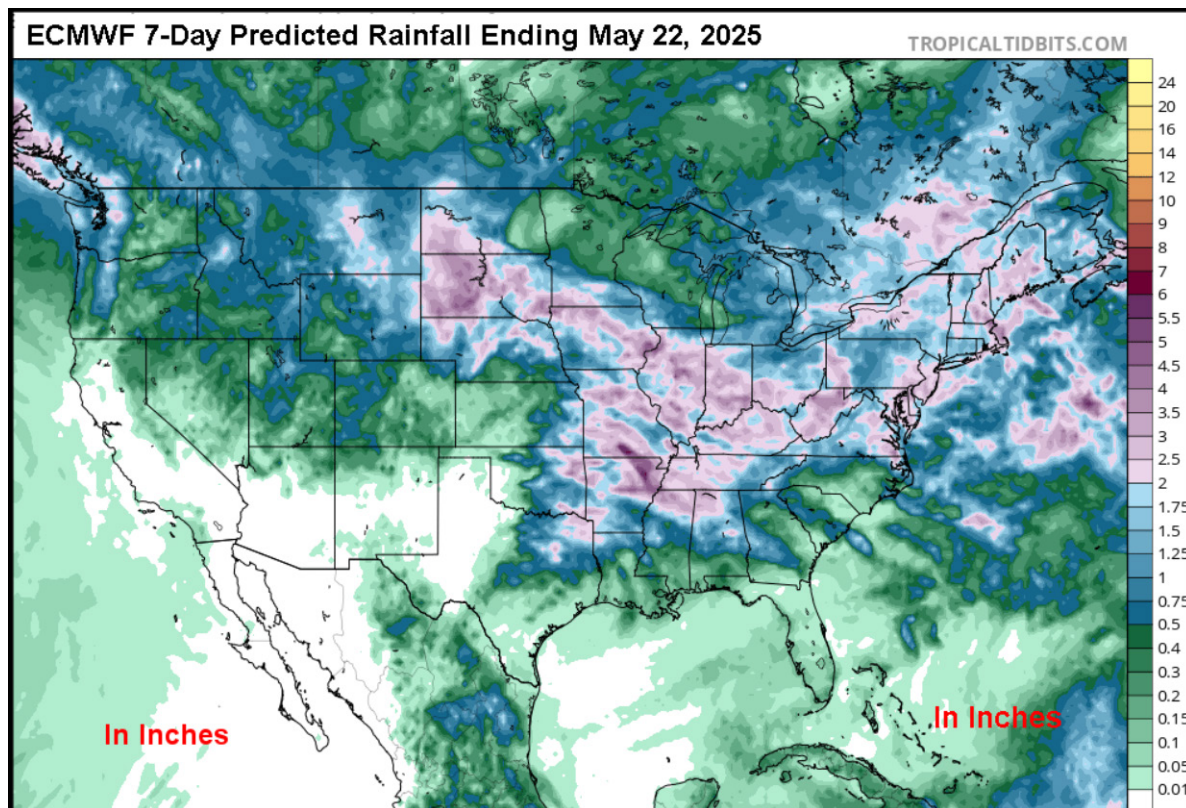
Several areas from the western Midwest into the northern half of Illinois, northern Indiana and portions of Michigan were abnormally dry or in a moderate drought as of May 13. The lack of rain and periods of warm weather in recent days promoted aggressive drying, though the environment was beneficial for aggressive planting and fieldwork. Other locations in the Midwest remained drought-free due to periods of significant rain earlier in the spring. As long as timely rain occurs in the western Corn and Soybean Belt in the coming weeks, establishment and early-season development conditions will be generally favorable across the region.

## WEATHER OUTLOOK

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### Northern Plains

The disturbance that recently brought rain to the northern Plains will continue to promote precipitation for portions of the Dakotas and Minnesota today. Scattered showers will also evolve later today into Saturday for Montana. Another disturbance will then make its way across the northern Plains Sunday into Tuesday that will generate varying amounts of rain for the region. A few light showers will also be possible later next week, most notably in Montana and North Dakota. Much of Montana, North Dakota, eastern South Dakota, and southern Minnesota will receive 0.75 to 3.00 inches of rain with locally greater amounts in North Dakota and South Dakota by next Friday morning. Pockets in eastern Montana will also only receive 0.25 to 0.75 inch of moisture. Most other locations in Minnesota will receive 0.25 to 0.75 inch of rain. Precipitation potentials will decrease May 24-30 when a high-pressure ridge potentially builds over western North America. However, periods of spotty rain will still be possible.



Additional rainfall through the end of next week will either keep soil moisture near current levels or further bolster soil moisture. Planting and general fieldwork may advance slowly, especially in the wettest areas of the Dakotas. However, long-term production potentials will improve or remain favorable across the region. The reduction in rain during the second week of the outlook should allow for more aggressive planting as well.

### Midwest

The Midwest will also have several opportunities for rain through the end of next week. The first round of erratic rainfall will occur today and Friday as the disturbance over

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the northern Plains shifts into the Upper Midwest. After a brief period of drier weather Sunday, a storm system will make its way across the region Monday and Tuesday. Light rain will linger in the eastern Midwest Wednesday before drier weather returns to most locations Thursday. Moisture totals by next Friday morning will range from 1.00 to 3.00 inches in much of the Midwest with local amounts of 3.00-4.00 inches or slightly more possible for the lower Ohio River Valley and areas south into the Delta.

Flash flooding will be a concern for the lower Midwest Monday into Tuesday as the strong storm system advances over the region. Hail and damaging wind speeds will also be concerns for areas that experience severe thunderstorms. Minor damage to emerged corn and soybeans will be possible. Some of the crop may need to be reseeded if the damage is severe enough.

Many areas in the lower Midwest and southward into the northern Delta are still much too wet following the first round of flooding rain that impacted the region in late March and early April. Flooding was so severe during that period of time that winter crops in low-lying areas were lost and some of those areas still have excessive moisture in the fields or are too muddy to be worked because of periodic rain falling since that time. Needless to say, spring and summer crop planting is well behind the norm in these wettest areas and the coming week of weather will exacerbate the situation.

Warm temperatures in the Midwest the past couple of days will linger into the weekend and 80-degree highs will help to speed along evaporation; however, the warm and dry conditions will not last long enough to get producers back into the wettest fields and when the rain resumes next week it will do so with enough significance to set back all of the drying that occurred this weekend and fieldwork will remain on hold. Drier weather should evolve in the May 24-30 period.

### Upper Midwest

In the meantime, portions of the upper Midwest will not receive enough rain to fully restore topsoil moisture. Central Wisconsin and central and southeastern Minnesota will only receive 0.25 to 0.75 inch of rain which will not be enough to restore favorable topsoil moisture. The May 24-30 period will result in light and erratic rainfall throughout the Midwest leaving these areas in the upper Midwest with a drier bias and also leading to the return of net drying for the central Plains and southwestern Midwest.

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