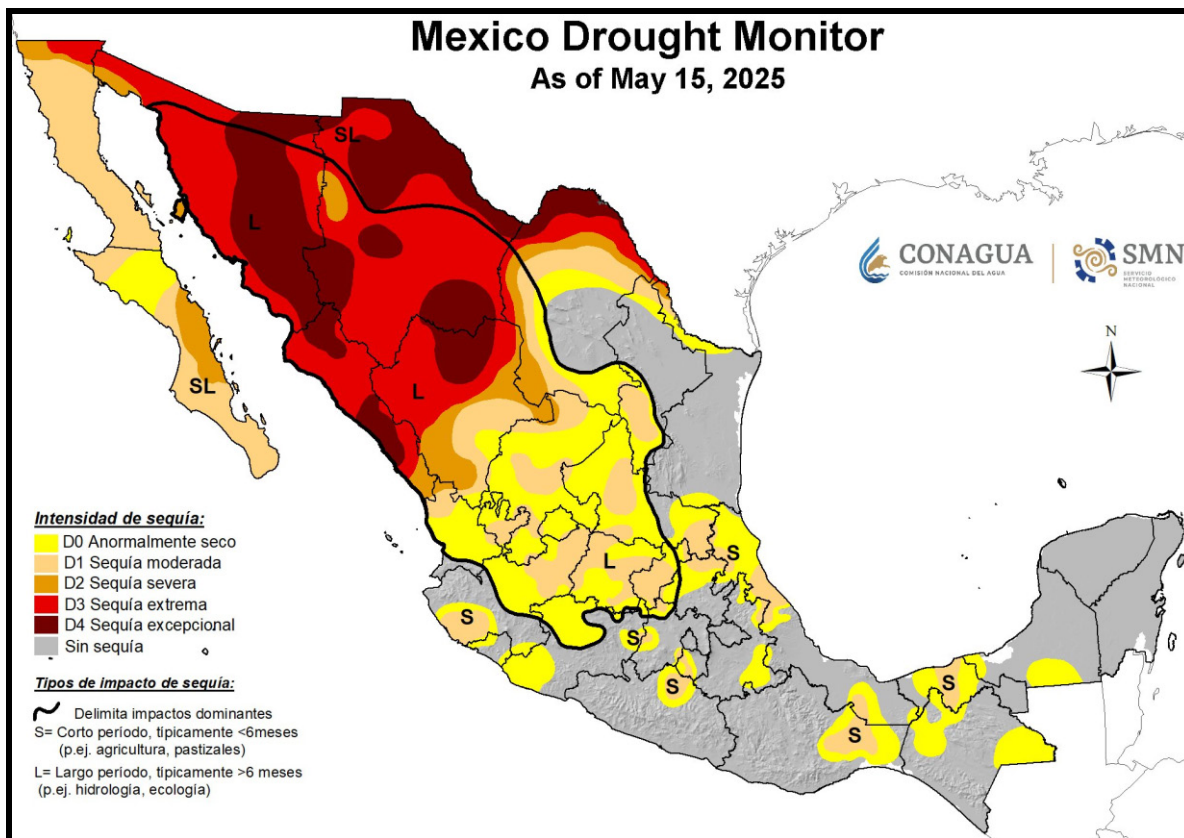


Mexico Monsoon Season Approaches; Relief To Dryness Coming

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, May 19 (World Weather Inc.) – Drought remains quite serious in the northwest half of Mexico and it has expanded to the southeast in recent weeks. The nation is set to see significant pre-monsoonal rain this week. The early rainfall will help bolster soil moisture in several areas of southern, central, and northeastern Mexico. Early-season planting prospects will improve for the summer grains, oilseeds, cotton, and other crops produced this time of year, though additional rain will likely be needed to support ideal long-term crop conditions. Other areas in northern Mexico into west-central Mexico will miss out on the rain this week and drought will prevail. These areas will likely not receive significant rain until later this summer once the monsoon season is well underway. Abundant rainfall will be needed to completely fix the drought.

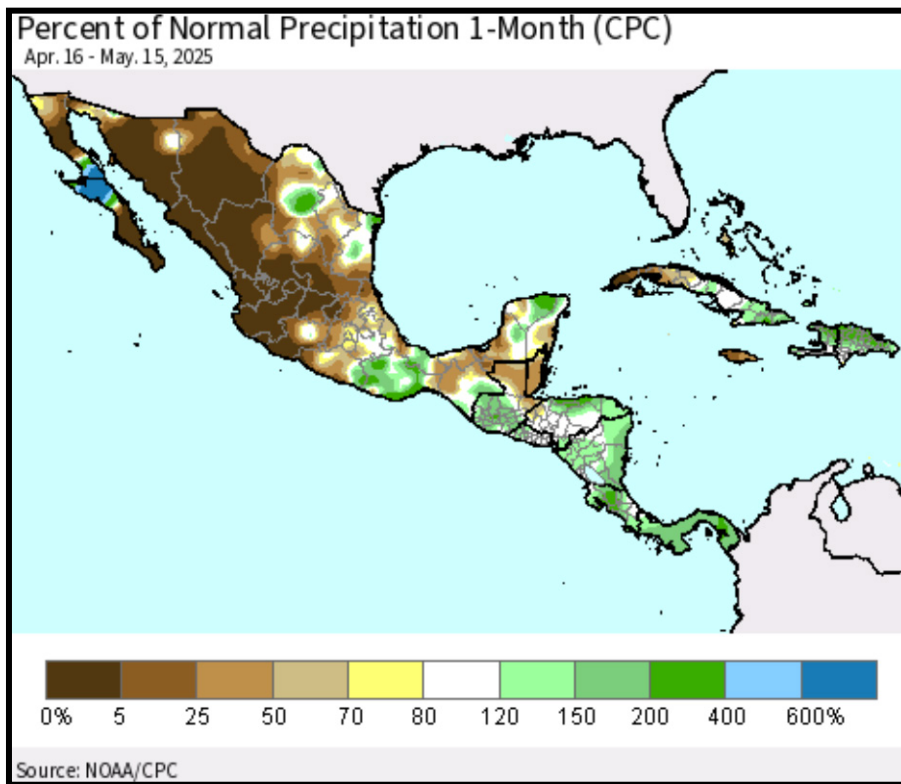
Several areas in Oaxaca, southern Veracruz, and pockets in southeastern and northeastern Mexico received near to above normal precipitation for the 30-day period ending May 18. The remaining production areas in Mexico were otherwise drier or much drier than usual, though these areas do not normally receive much in the way of significant precipitation this time of year.



Northwestern Mexico into portions of north-central and west-central Mexico remain in a severe to exceptional drought due to the continued dryness and periods of warm or hot weather in recent weeks. Abnormally dry conditions or moderate drought

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also expanded across central Mexico and pockets of east-central and southern Mexico in



recent weeks. Drought is not only impacting agriculture, but water supply is dangerously low in many Mexico communities and winter crop production is down this year because of poor rainfall and low water supply.

Many areas in southern and eastern Mexico received timely rain earlier this year with periodic dryness mixed in. The environment was relatively favorable

for the winter grains, oilseeds, citrus and other crops. Central Mexico had enough moisture earlier in the growing season to support new growth, though the dryness may have impacted late-season development in more recent weeks. The remaining production areas for the winter crops were too dry to support favorable conditions over the growing season and production may be reduced as a result.

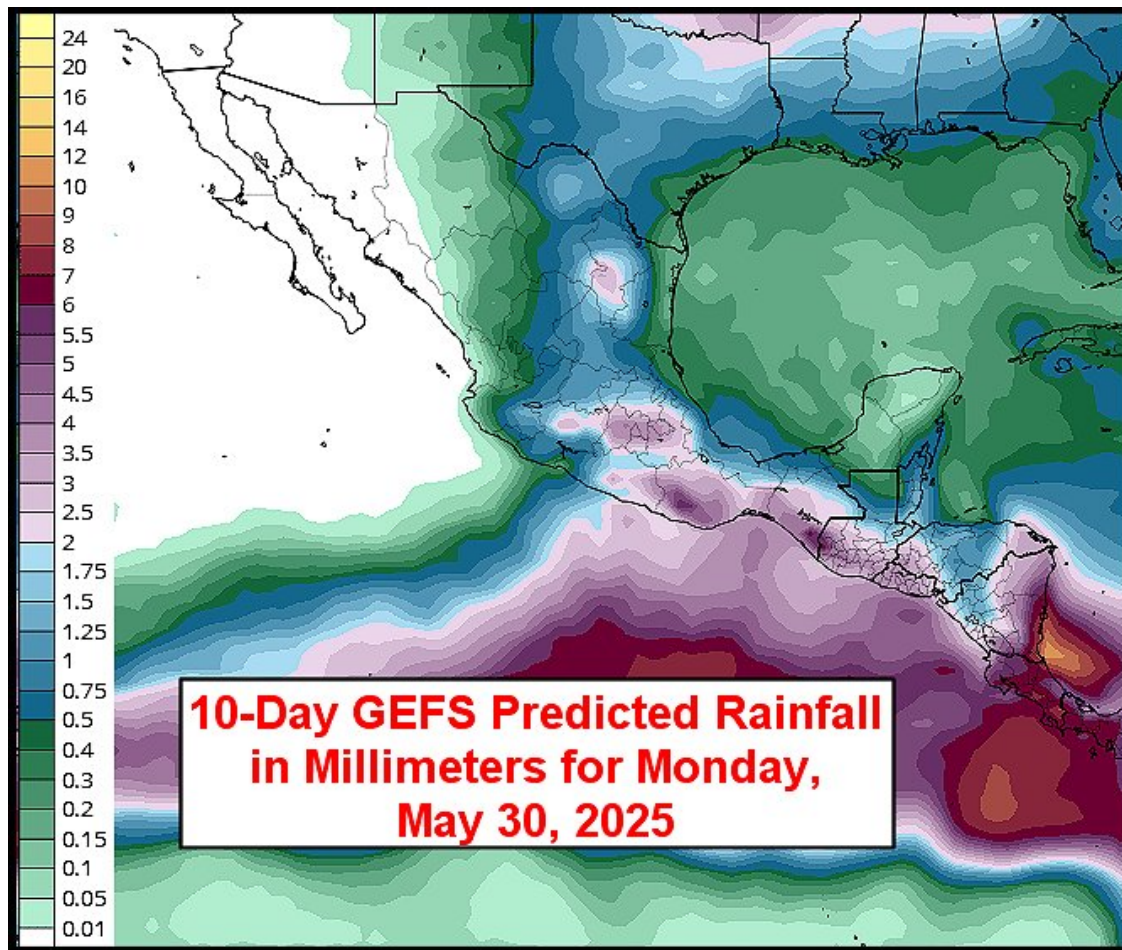
Planting of the summer grains, oilseeds, cotton, and other crops usually begins at this time of year and continues through the first part of the summer. The periodic rain has likely supported relatively good establishment and germination in the wetter areas of southern and eastern Mexico; however, producers in the driest areas may wait for the monsoon to begin before planting a significant amount of crop.

WEATHER OUTLOOK

Pre-monsoonal rain is slated from southern into east-central, central, and northeastern Mexico this week. Only a few light showers are expected today. More widespread and significant rain will evolve on a frequent basis for the remainder of the week. Moisture totals by next Monday morning will range from 0.75 to 4.00 inches with local amounts of 5.00 inches or more in Oaxaca and neighboring locations. The Yucatan Peninsula will also miss out on much of the precipitation. Northwestern, west-central, and north-central Mexico will otherwise remain dry or mostly dry. Any rain that does occur will be lost to evaporation. Waves of precipitation will likely prevail from portions of southern Mexico into east-central, central, and northeastern Mexico May 27 – June while drier biased conditions persist elsewhere.

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The waves of precipitation will help bolster soil moisture for much of southern, east-central, central, and northeastern Mexico in the coming weeks. The precipitation will help ease or break the drought or abnormally dry conditions for the areas that dried down in recent weeks. Early-season planting prospects will further improve for these locations. Harvesting of the winter crops may otherwise advance slowly during the wetter periods. Northwestern, north-central, and west-central Mexico will otherwise remain in a severe to exceptional drought. Producers may need to wait before the monsoon is well underway before starting to plant.



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