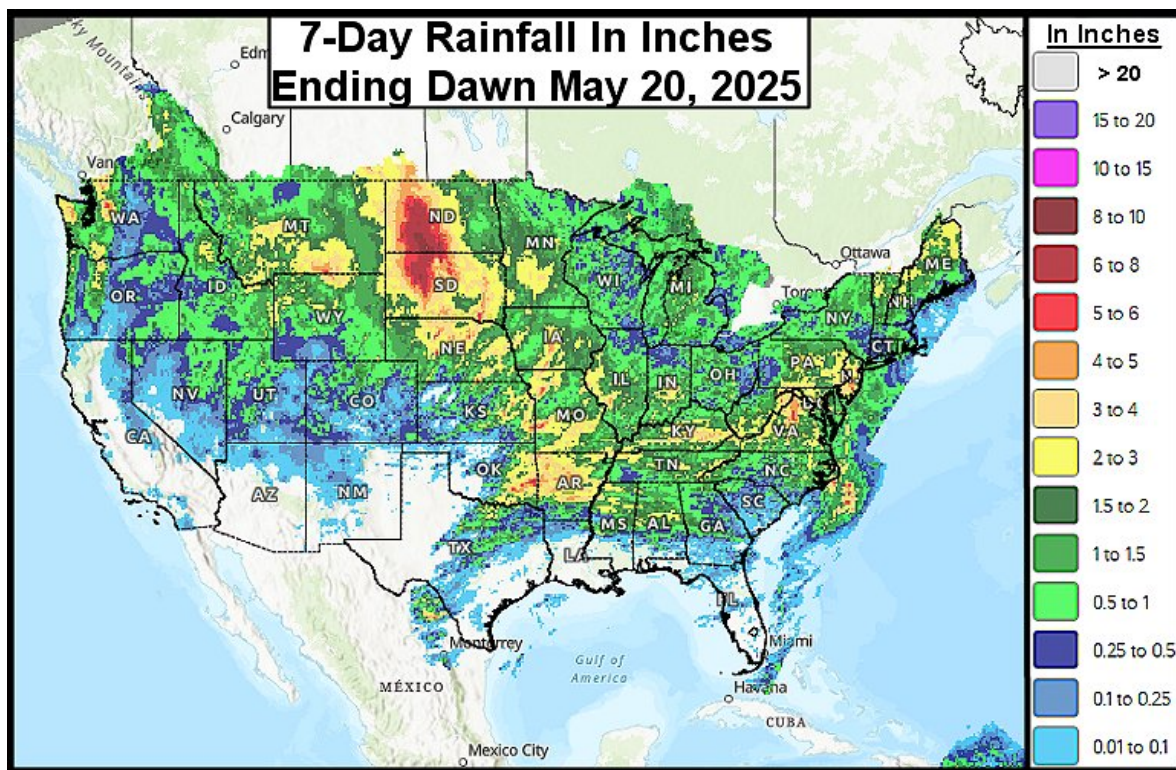


Recent U.S. Rain Greatly Improves Topsoil Moisture

By Drew Lerner

Kansas City, May 20 (World Weather Inc.) – Rain has fallen beneficially across nearly all of the most important spring and summer crop areas in the northern U.S. Plains, Midwest, Delta and interior southeastern states over the past week. Topsoil moisture that was rated poorly a week ago in the northern Plains and western Corn and Soybean Belt has been bolstered by the precipitation. Subsoil moisture is still low in the northern and central Plains and in portions of the northwestern and west-central Corn and Soybean Belt, though the situation has improved enough for a short term bout of more aggressive early season crop development and planting as drier days resume. Cool temperatures will conserve the soil moisture for several days before warming returns.



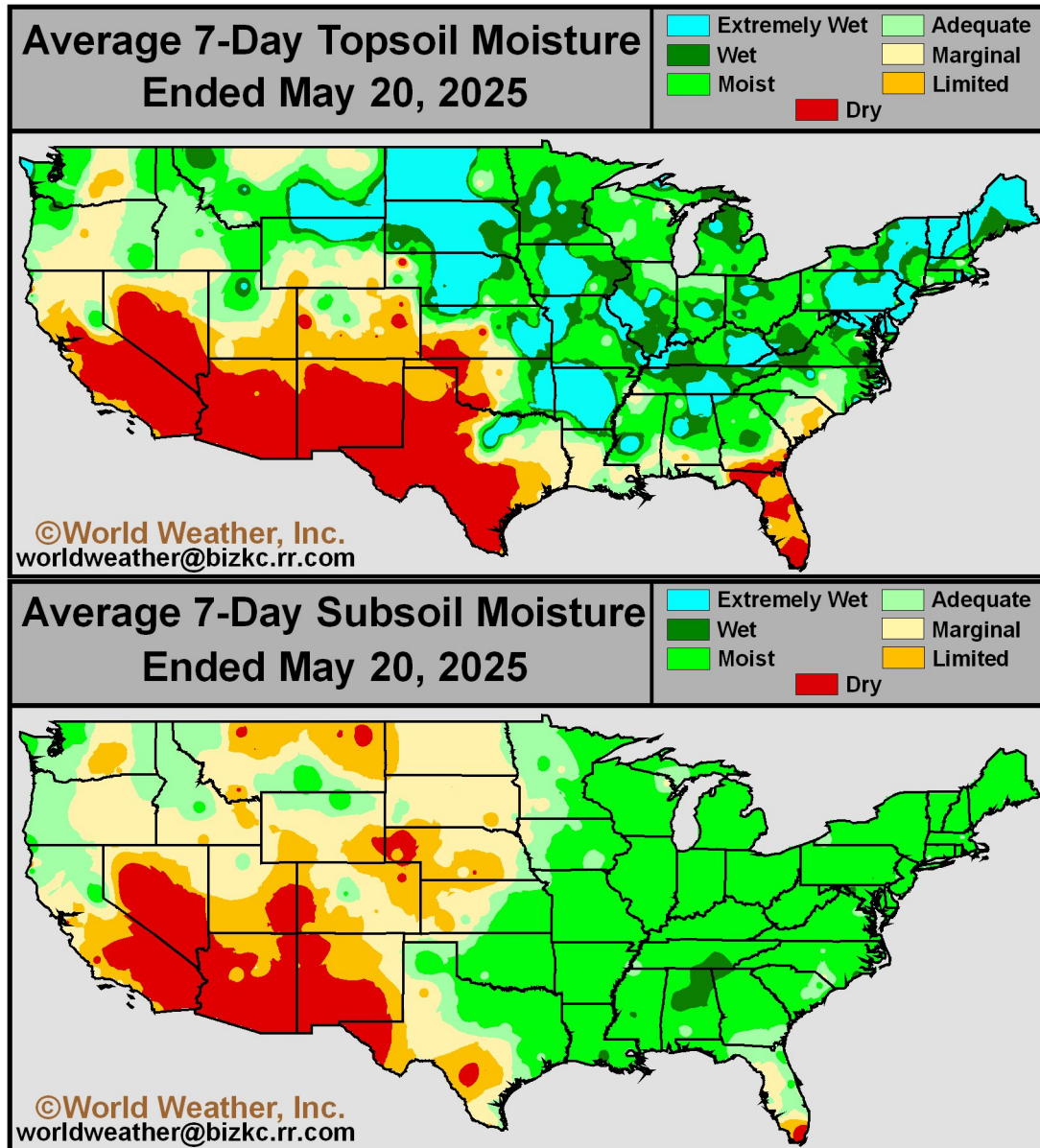
Monday and today's rain in the western Corn and Soybean Belt improved the moisture profile in one of the few longer standing areas of drier soil in Iowa, western Illinois and some neighboring areas. Last week's substantial rain event in the western Dakotas continues to stand out as the single greatest rain event of the week with totals varying from 2.50 to more than 6.00 inches.

There were some pockets of limited rain in northern Illinois, northern Indiana, eastern Ohio and in the thumb region of Lower Michigan during the past week, but some of those areas are still expecting rain over the next day or two.

Dryness is much more significant in western and southern Texas and along the central Gulf of Mexico coast to Florida, far southern Georgia and portions of South Carolina. A significant amount of western and south-central Kansas and the Texas

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Panhandle is also quite dry along with the southwestern desert region and portions of the interior northwestern states. *The moisture boost in the northern half of the Plains and western Midwest, however, was a significant change from that of last week and the improvement should translate into a very fine finish to the planting season for those areas. Soil moisture will also be sufficient to induce quick emergence and establishment.*



Subsoil moisture is still rated poorly in the northern and central Plains, although some of this week's rain will percolate downward into the subsoil during the next few days. Follow up precipitation would be welcome, but for now a period of drying would be great for the remaining spring planting to be completed.

Weather patterns continue to support favorable crop development potential, despite several long term computer forecast models and many private and public forecasting entities suggesting heat and dryness would be a problem this month. Excessive heat was noted in

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the northern Plains and Canada's Prairies in the past week prior to the rain development and raised considerable concern about the future of crop development. Then along came the past week of rain and suddenly the moisture profile improved and temperatures tumbled down below average where they are likely to be into the end of this week.

This spring's weather seems to have reflected all of the prevailing weather patterns that are dominating the atmosphere; including the solar cycle, lunar cycle and neutral ENSO conditions. [Spring has followed very closely to the patterns of the past and that lends some further encouragement for the World Weather, Inc. outlook that calls for drying in the lower Midwest, Delta and Tennessee River Basin during the summer and for improving rainfall in the southwestern states. Summer is also expected to bring additional rain to the northern Plains and Canada's Prairies in June followed by a drier July in the U.S./Canada border region.](#) The Gulf of Mexico Coast States should get some timely rain in the next ten days, but some of the dryness noted in South Carolina, southern Georgia and Florida may only be temporarily eased.

Summer is still expected to be a little drier than usual in the central Plains while the Midwest sees a mix of precipitation and sunshine favoring crop development, despite some pockets of below normal precipitation.

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