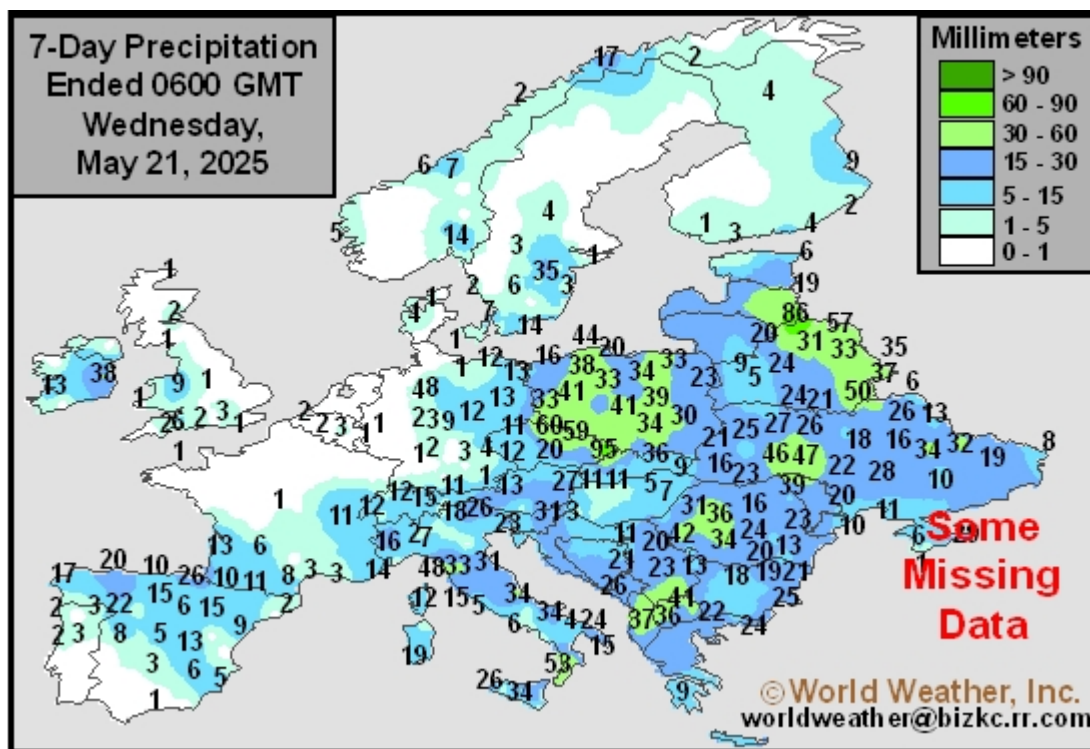


Germany, France Too Dry; Temporary Relief Coming For Some

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, May 22 (World Weather Inc.) – Portions of France, Germany, and the United Kingdom dried down a little too much in recent weeks to support ideal conditions for unirrigated crops. These areas are not critically dry, but are still in need of precipitation in the near future to limit production impacts. There will be opportunities for erratic rainfall during the coming week that will offer some relief to the dryness, most notably in Germany and the U.K.; however, resulting rainfall will be too light to completely fix the dryness and this will be especially true in portions of France. Other production areas in Europe received timely rain during the past week with more on the way in coming days. The environment will remain relatively good for the summer crops outside the wettest pockets in southeastern Europe.

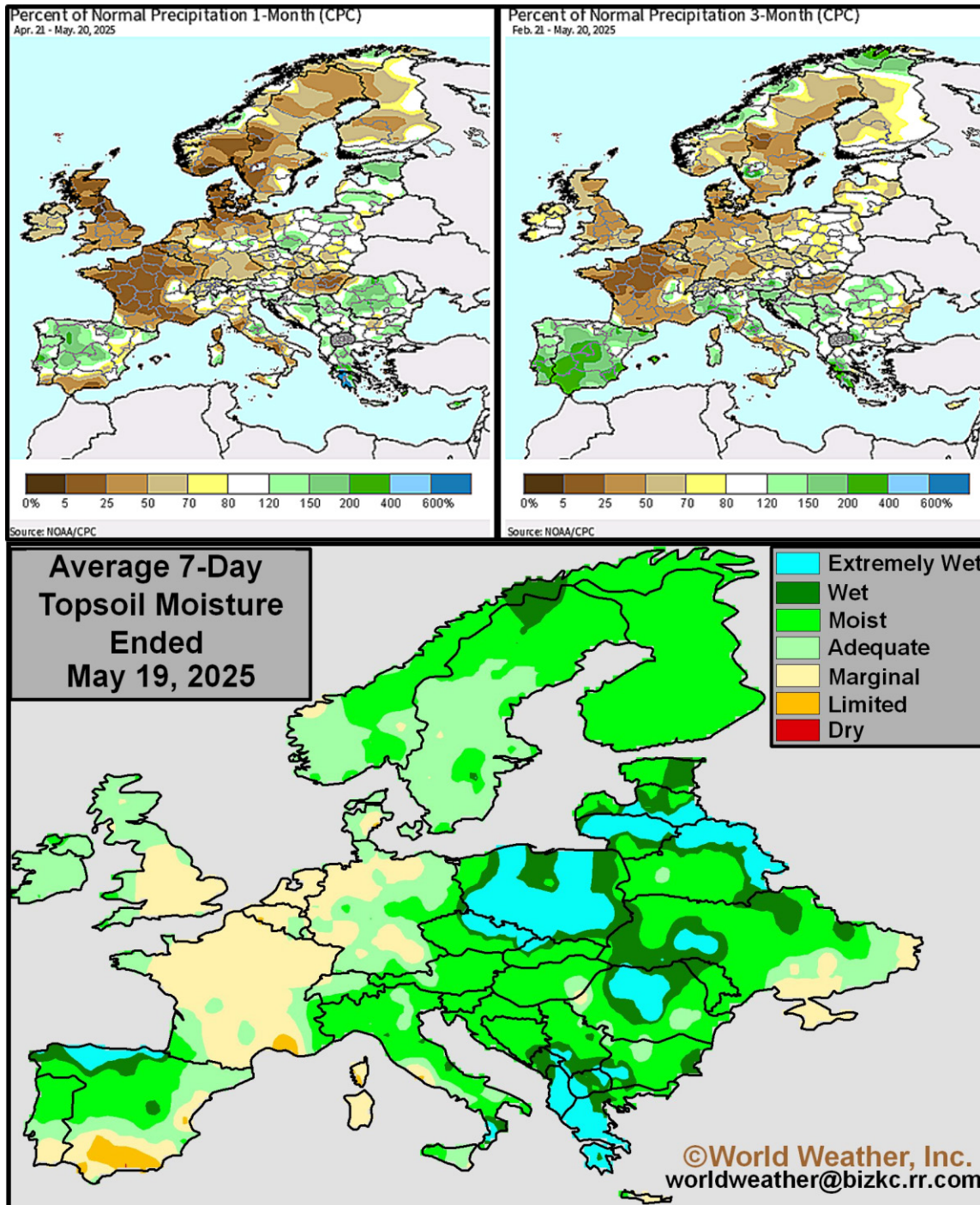
A large section of Eastern Europe saw a good mix of precipitation and sunshine during the past week. Moisture totals for the seven-day period ending May 21 ranged from 0.63 to 2.00 inches in the main production areas. Several areas in Italy and portions of northern Spain and Ireland received 0.24 to 1.50 inches of rain. A few locations in eastern Germany, southern France, central Spain, and southern England received up to 0.51 inch of moisture. The remaining locations in Western Europe received little to no rain.



A large section of France, Germany, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Denmark, Belgium, and the Netherlands, along with portions of southern Spain and Hungary, were drier or much drier than normal during the past 30 and 90 days. Portions of northern Germany, Denmark, France, and the United Kingdom received less than 25% of normal rainfall for the 30-day period ending May 20. Other production areas in Europe generally

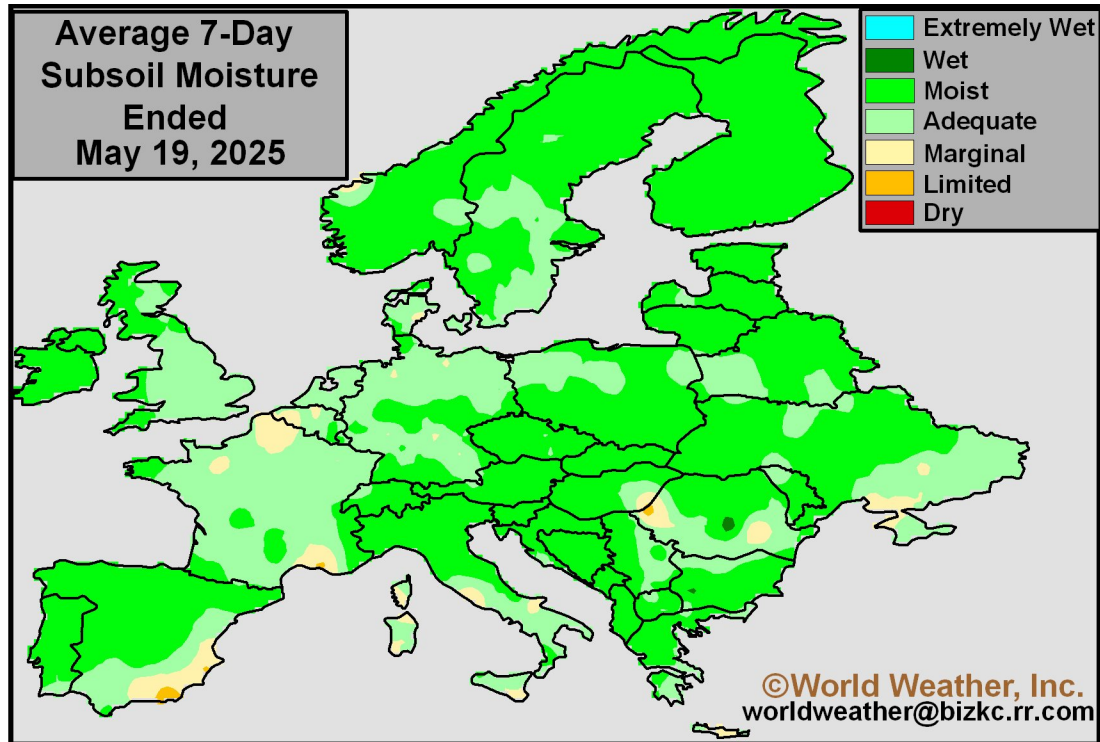
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received near or above normal rainfall. The drier than usual conditions were nearly as significant in the 90-day period leaving water supply, river and stream flows and soil moisture below normal. Mild temperatures have helped avert a true crisis for crops, but if the region fails to get significant rain before the next heatwave arrives the situation could become more serious. Fortunately, there is rain slated for much of the dry region, but it is still debatable how great the rainfall will be. Portions of France are likely to be missed by the coming week of rain.



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Topsoil moisture is marginally adequate to short in much of France, Germany, the United Kingdom, southern Spain, and neighboring locations due to the drier or much drier than normal conditions in recent weeks. Some pockets are becoming more seriously dry, although subsoil moisture is still favorable in many areas. Timely rain in the near future should reduce some of the concern, although lower yields may still be a possibility for some areas. Other locations in Europe have ample moisture to support aggressive growth.



WEATHER OUTLOOK

Precipitation will vary across Europe during the coming week. Western France, Portugal, and much of Spain outside the southeast corner will either miss out on precipitation or not receive enough to counter evaporation. Other locations in Western Europe will see a mix of erratic rainfall and sunshine as disturbances often pass by. Moisture totals by next Thursday morning will range from 0.50 to 2.00 inches with drier pockets in eastern France and southern England. Eastern Europe will otherwise have several opportunities for rain due to the frequent succession of disturbances. Rainfall by next Thursday morning will range from 0.75 to 3.00 inches with local amounts of 5.00 inches or slightly more in southeastern Europe. Portions of western Poland will also only receive 0.10 to 0.75 inch of rain.

Temperatures will vary across Europe during the coming week. Daytime highs will initially peak to the 50s and 60s Fahrenheit through Saturday with portions of the Iberian Peninsula and extreme Eastern Europe still warm to the 70s and lower 90s. Highs will increase to the 60s and 70s with pockets in the 80s next week. Western Europe will see temperatures trend above or slightly above normal May 30 – June 5 while temperatures trend closer to normal in Eastern Europe.

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A weak high-pressure ridge could again limit precipitation for portions of Western Europe May 30 – June 5. Periods of light and erratic rain will still be possible; though, the ridge will promote periods of warmer than normal weather resulting in some net drying.

Eastern Europe will otherwise continue to see a good mix of rain and sunshine during this time.

The approaching high pressure ridge of May 30-June 5 raises the importance of this coming week's rain. Relief is likely in many areas, but there is some concern that the moisture gained might be lost to evaporation when the warmer days of early June arrive. Additional rain will certainly be needed in northwestern and west-central Europe later in June to prevent dryness from festering into a greater threat for production.

Other areas in Europe will have enough moisture to maintain aggressive growth. Portions of southeastern Europe may even trend a little too wet at times and would benefit from drier weather later in June.

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