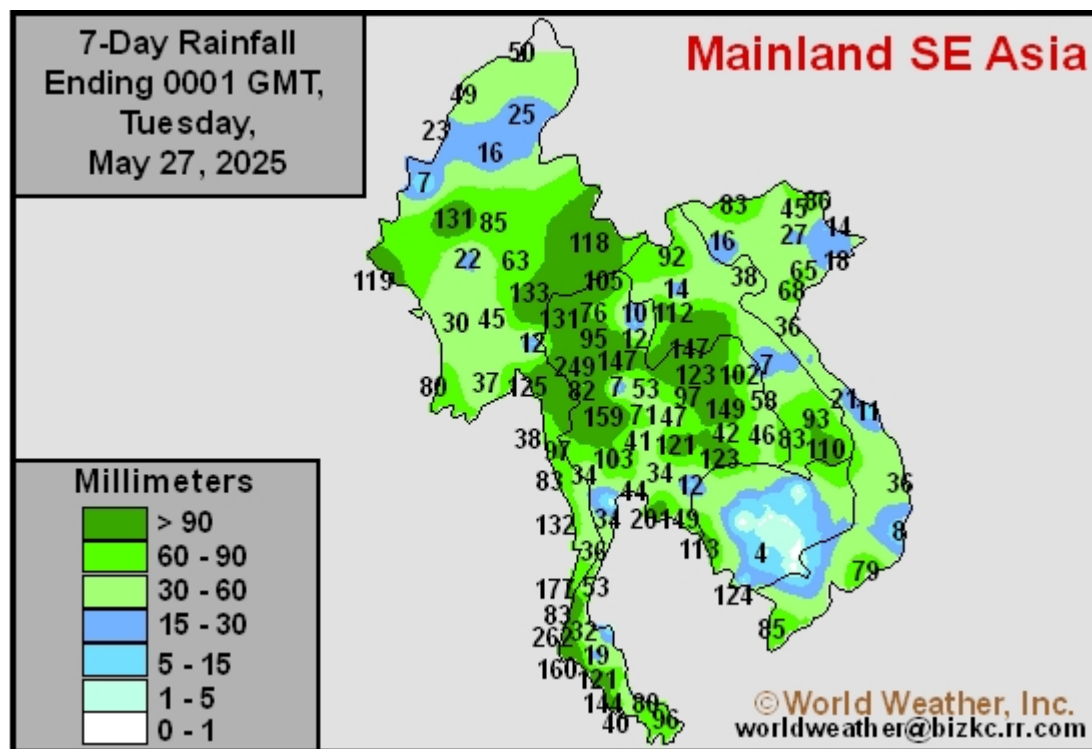


Mainland SE Asia Soil Moisture Improving; More Rain Coming

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, May 27 (World Weather Inc.) – [After drying down significantly earlier this spring, waves of rain in mainland Southeast Asia slowly improved the moisture profile during the past month stimulating more aggressive crop development and better planting and establishment conditions.](#) Additional rain during the coming week will keep soil moisture rated favorably in much of the region, although parts of Vietnam need greater rain. [The outlook for planting and establishment will remain good.](#) In the meantime, portions of Indonesia and Malaysia were slightly drier than usual in recent weeks. [Portions of Sumatra will remain drier-biased for at least the next seven days and a boost in precipitation would be welcome later in June.](#)

Mainland Southeast Asia received rain on a frequent basis during the past week. Moisture totals for the seven-day period ending this morning ranged from 1.50 to 6.30 inches with local amounts up to 9.80 inches in Thailand. In contrast, pockets in Vietnam only received 0.32 to 0.89 inch of rain. Precipitation as a percent of normal for the 30-day period ending May 25 was generally near to above normal across mainland Southeast Asia as well. Only a few locations in southern Laos and neighboring areas were drier than normal.



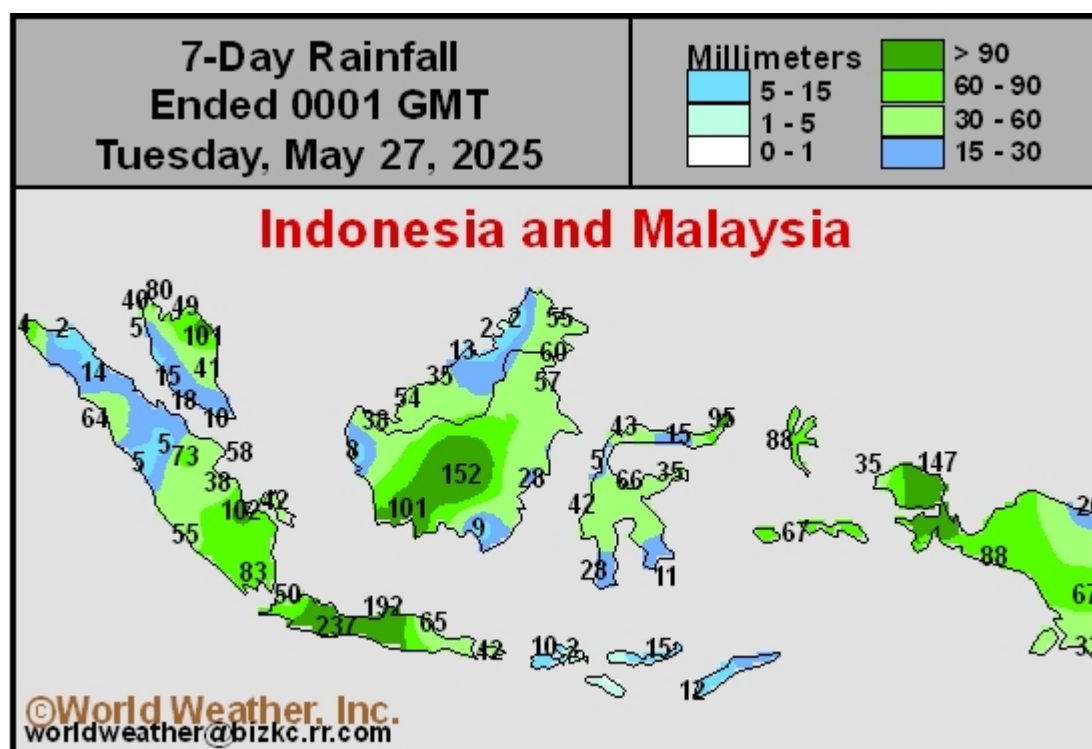
The moisture profile slowly improved in mainland Southeast Asia in recent weeks due to wetter than normal conditions. The change in weather was welcome to sugarcane and rice production areas as well as to corn, veggie and other crops produced in the region. Concern over dryness was running high in March and especially April as pre-monsoonal

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precipitation was more sporadic and lighter than desired, but the month of May has clearly reversed that trend and greatly improved the outlook for kinds of crops.

Waves of rain will prevail for mainland Southeast Asia during the coming week. Precipitation will occur on a near daily basis with some of the most widespread and significant rain occurring through Friday. Moisture totals by next Tuesday will range from 1.50 to 5.00 inches with local amounts of 8.00 inches or more in southern Laos, western Thailand, and neighboring locations. The wet weather pattern will continue June 4-10.

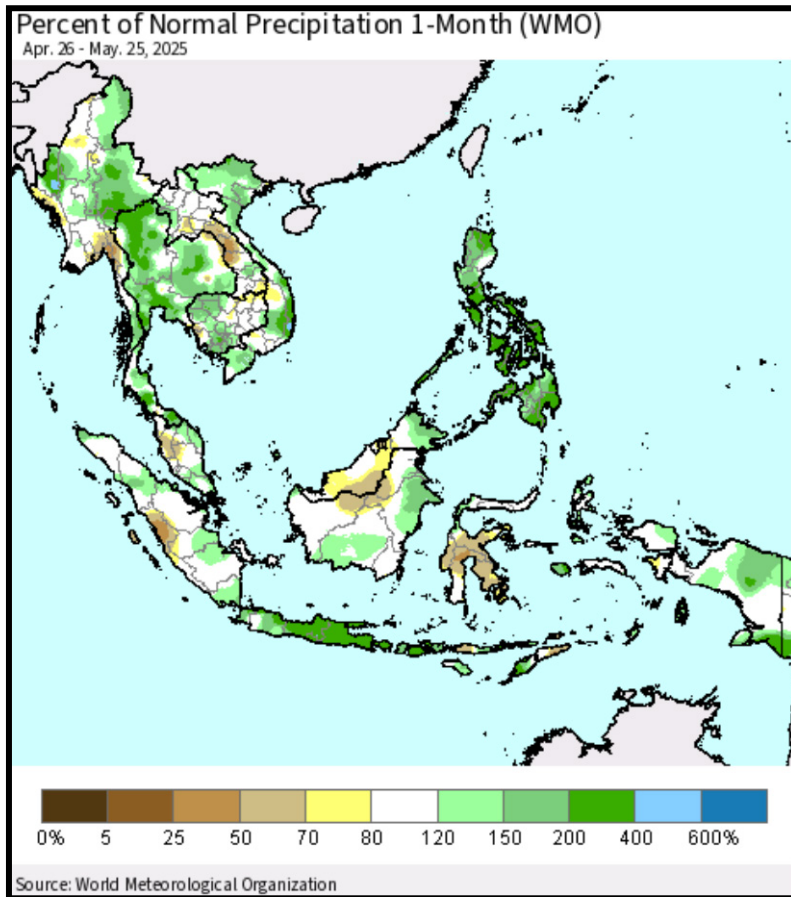
Soil moisture will remain at adequate to excessive levels in much of mainland Southeast Asia in coming weeks. Flooding is not unusual at this time of year and that is exactly what is likely to evolve in portions of the region; including Myanmar and parts of western Thailand. Minor crop and structural damage will be possible, though no major production impacts are expected. The environment will otherwise remain favorable for aggressive crop development.



Indonesia and Malaysia received varying amounts of rain during the past week. Most locations received 0.50 to 4.00 inches of rain for the seven-day period ending this morning. Pockets in Java and Kalimantan received 6.00 to 9.33 inches of rain while pockets Malaysia, northern Sumatra, and the Lesser Sunda Islands only received 0.20 to 0.50 inch of moisture. For the 30-day period ending May 25, many areas in Sulawesi, northern Borneo, and central Sumatra were drier than usual. Other locations received near to above normal rainfall. The main production areas in Indonesia and Malaysia still have ample moisture to support aggressive growth in rice, sugarcane, oil palm, coffee, cocoa, corn, coconut and a host of other crops; including many herbs and spices.

Precipitation will vary across Indonesia and Malaysia during the coming week. Sumatra, western Java, and western Kalimantan will trend drier than usual. Periods of light rain will still occur with totals ranging from 0.10 to 0.75 inch and local amounts over 1.00

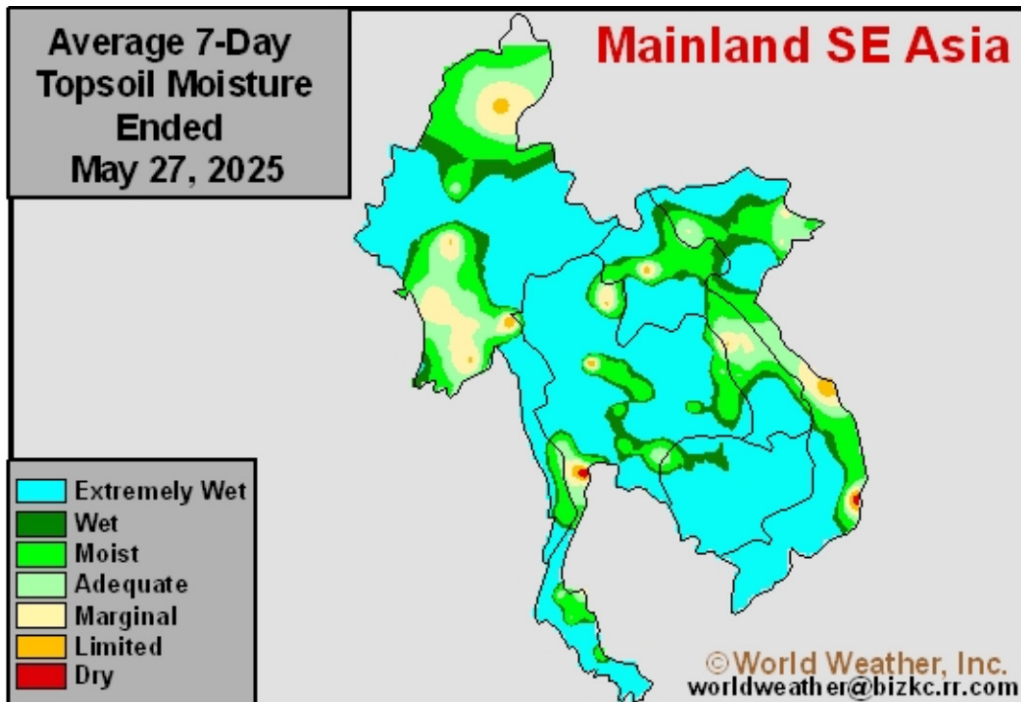
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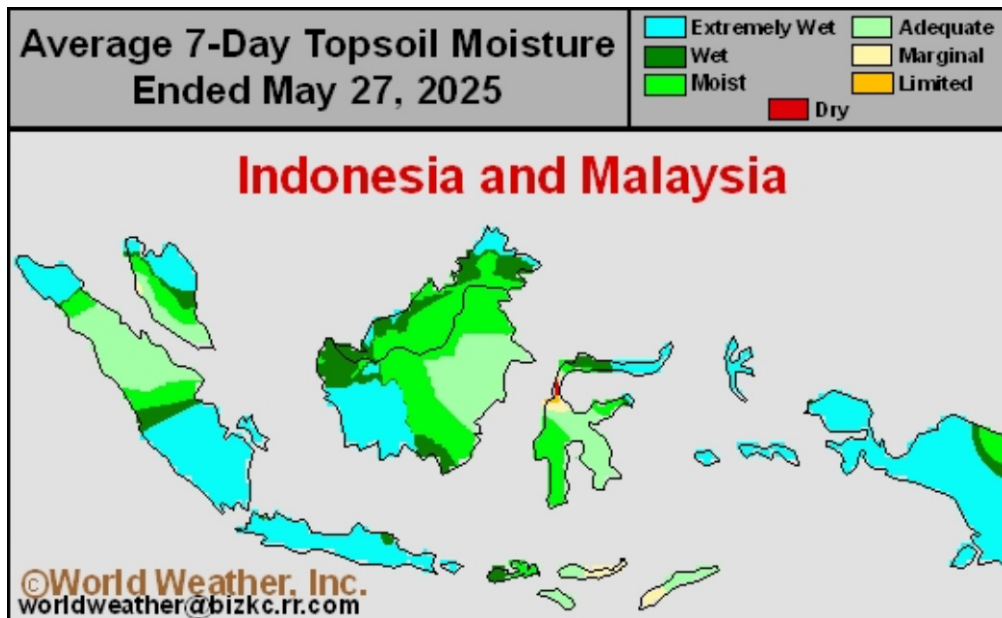
inch by next Tuesday morning. Precipitation will occur on a more frequent basis for the remaining locations. Moisture totals by next Tuesday morning will range from 1.00 to 4.00 inches with locally more in Sulawesi. Alternating periods of precipitation and sunshine will continue for much of Indonesia and Malaysia June 4-10.

Pockets in Sumatra and western Kalimantan may trend a little too dry at times for ideal crop development in the coming weeks. These areas will still have some moisture to support new growth, though a boost in rain may be needed later in June. Other locations in Indonesia and Malaysia will receive

enough rain to maintain aggressive growth.



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