

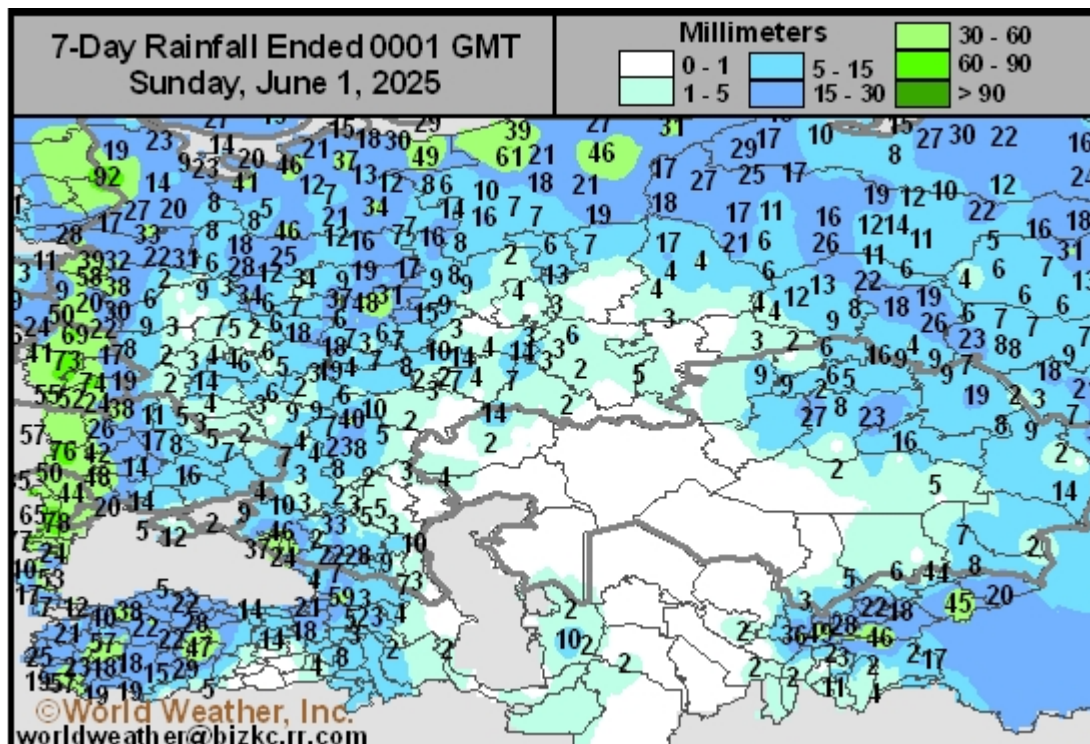
Russia's Lower Volga Basin, Neighboring Areas Resume Drying

By Andrew Owen and Drew Lerner

Kansas City, June 2 (World Weather Inc.) – A short term bout of rain fell in a part of Russia's Southern Region during the weekend temporarily disrupting a new bout of drying that brought soil moisture back to the short and very short moisture levels late last week.

The moisture was short-lived and the region will experience another week of dry and warm biased conditions further depleting soil moisture and stressing winter crops as they reproduce and fill. Neighboring areas of eastern Ukraine and western Kazakhstan failed to get rain during the weekend are destined to continue drying as well. Rain is advertised for a part of the drier-biased region next week. The moisture should come along and prevent dryness from threatening yields. Unirrigated summer crops in the region are also stressed in the drier and warmer biased environment and that will prevail until early next week. Favorably moist conditions are common in the remainder of the former Soviet Union.

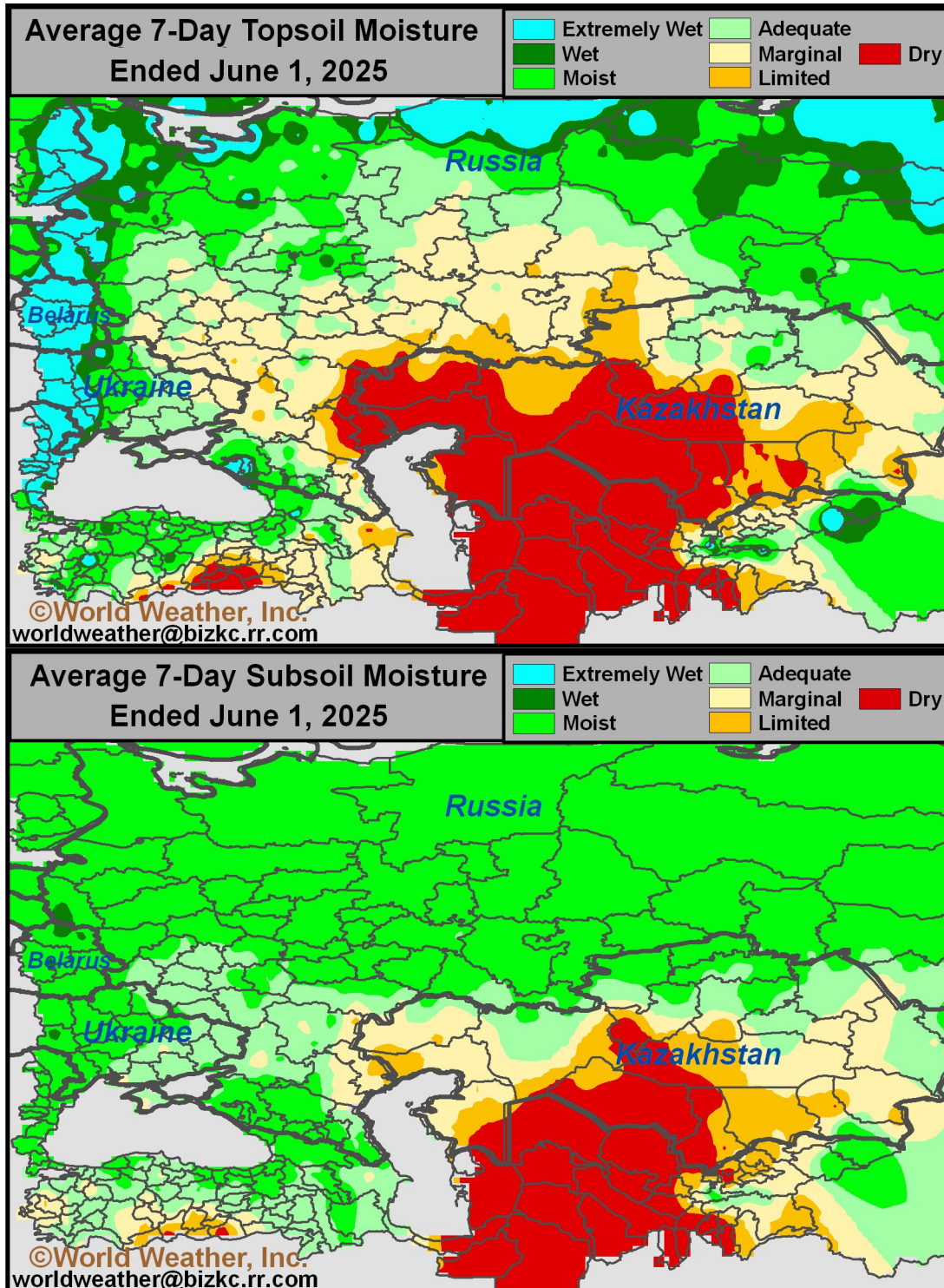
Western Ukraine into Belarus saw several waves of rain during the past week. Moisture totals for the seven-day period ending June 1 ranged from 0.50 to 3.00 inches. Other locations in Ukraine into Russia's crop country and northern Kazakhstan saw periods of spotty rain as well. Most locations received 0.12 to 0.75 inch of rain with local amounts up to 1.60 inches in the Volga River Basin. Portions of western Kazakhstan and the Ural Mountains production region were mostly dry as well.



Soil moisture is rated adequate to excessive in western Ukraine and much of Belarus due to the waves of rain in recent weeks. Other locations in Ukraine, Russia, and Kazakhstan have marginally adequate to short moisture with Kazakhstan very short of moisture. Several locations in Russia's Volga River Basin and 'Southern Region', along with

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western Kazakhstan and eastern fringes of Ukraine, are starting to dry down a little too much in the topsoil stressing unirrigated crops.



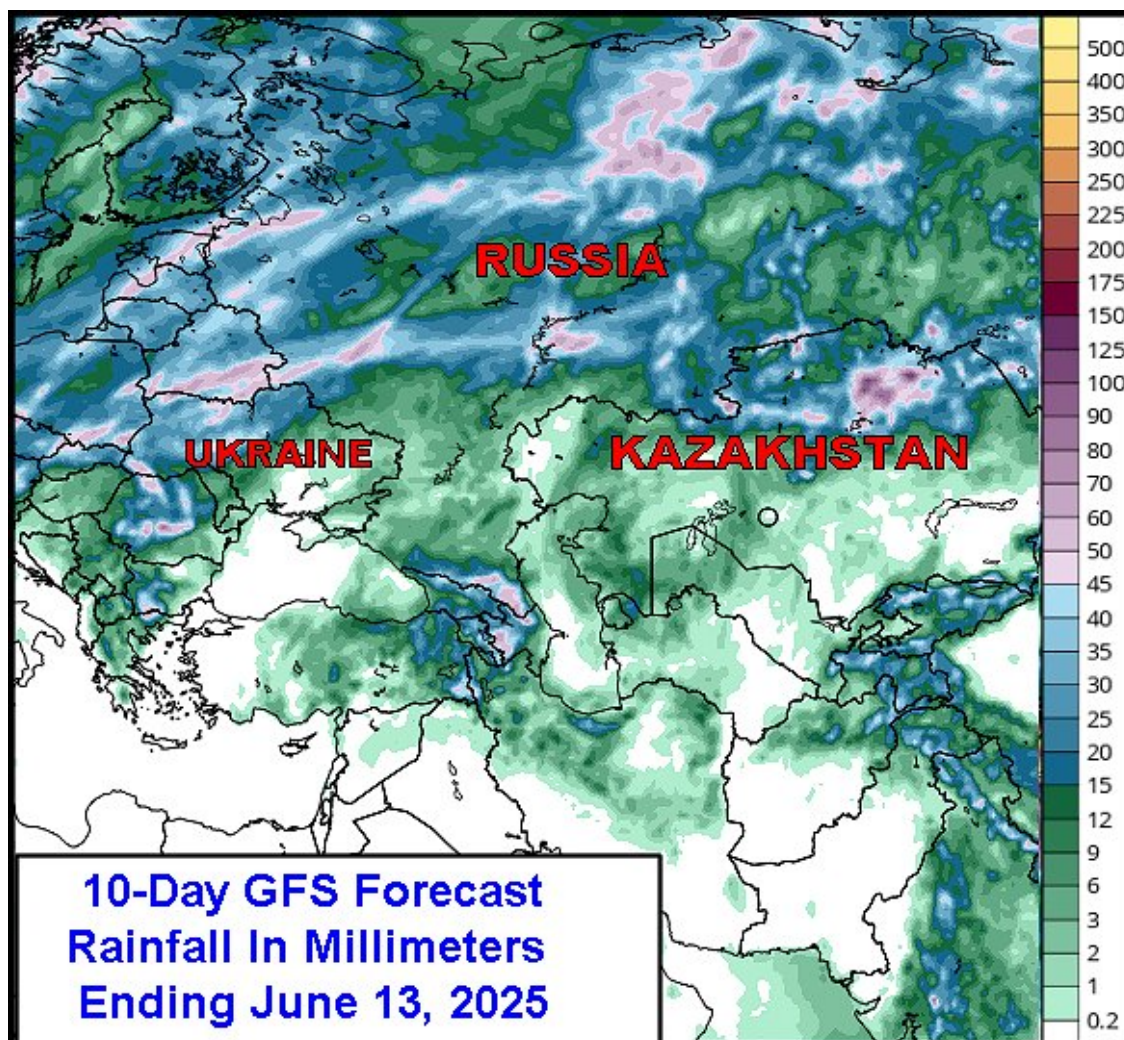
Subsoil moisture was still rated favorably Sunday which supported winter crops and early planted and established summer crops favorably, despite drying in the topsoil. [More](#)

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recently planted summer crops will require some timely rainfall soon to protect early development from a more threatening environment. Rain that is slated for next week should arrive in time to maintain production outlooks for both winter and summer crops, although the precipitation must be well distributed.

Recent dryness has not lasted long enough to be a significant threat to winter crop production, although if rain fails to develop next week as advertised that might change to some degree. Much of the winter grain and oilseeds in southern Russia, Ukraine and Kazakhstan will fill and mature during June. Subsoil moisture should be sufficient to carry most winter crops to the finish line without significant reductions in yield, but next week's rain will be important in ensuring that to be the case. Summer crops have a little more to lose if dryness prevails, but the longer term outlook is mostly favorable for the production region and that should also prevent this bout of dryness from having much impact on corn, soybeans, sunseed, or other late season crops.

The remaining production areas in Russia, Ukraine, and northern Kazakhstan have enough moisture to support relatively good establishment and early-season growth. Planting should be complete or winding down in the main production areas.



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WEATHER OUTLOOK

Precipitation will vary across Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and neighboring areas this week. Eastern Ukraine through Russia's lower Volga River Basin and 'Southern Region' into western Kazakhstan will trend drier than usual. Brief periods of light rain will still occur, though high pressure will gradually build over the region and limit precipitation. Much of the rain that does occur will be too light to impact long-term soil conditions. Other production areas in Ukraine, Russia, and northern Kazakhstan, along with Belarus and the Baltic States, will see a good mix of rain and sunshine. A series of disturbances will promote erratic rainfall on a near daily basis. Moisture totals by next Monday morning will range from 0.50 to 2.00 inches with local amounts of 3.00 inches or more, primarily in Belarus and the Baltic States. The high-pressure ridge that potentially builds over Eastern Europe later this week and weekend will gradually break down during the June 10 – 16 period. Much of Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Belarus, and neighboring locations will see a mix of rain and sunshine during this time.

The temperature profile will trend near to above normal for much of Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and neighboring areas this week. Daytime highs will peak in the 70s and 80s Fahrenheit most often with several areas from Eastern Ukraine into western Kazakhstan often warming to the 90s through mid-week and again over the weekend. Low temperatures will be in the 50s and 60s with pockets occasionally cooling to the 40s. Seasonable to seasonably warm weather will prevail June 10-16.

Aggressive drying is slated from eastern Ukraine through Russia's Volga River Basin and 'Southern Region' into western Kazakhstan this week. The environment will be favorable for early maturing winter grain and oilseeds, although the bulk of winter crops will be filling and may require one more rain event to ensure a limited amount of crop stress and the best yields. Early harvesting begins in late June and early July. In the meantime, the environment for summer crops will deteriorate rapidly and a good soaking of rain will be needed later this month to ensure the best possible crop development potential is met.

The remaining production areas in Russia, Ukraine, and northern Kazakhstan will either receive enough rain or have enough moisture to support relatively good development conditions for the summer grains and oilseeds this week. Timely rain will still be needed later this month to maintain a good outlook for the crops.

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