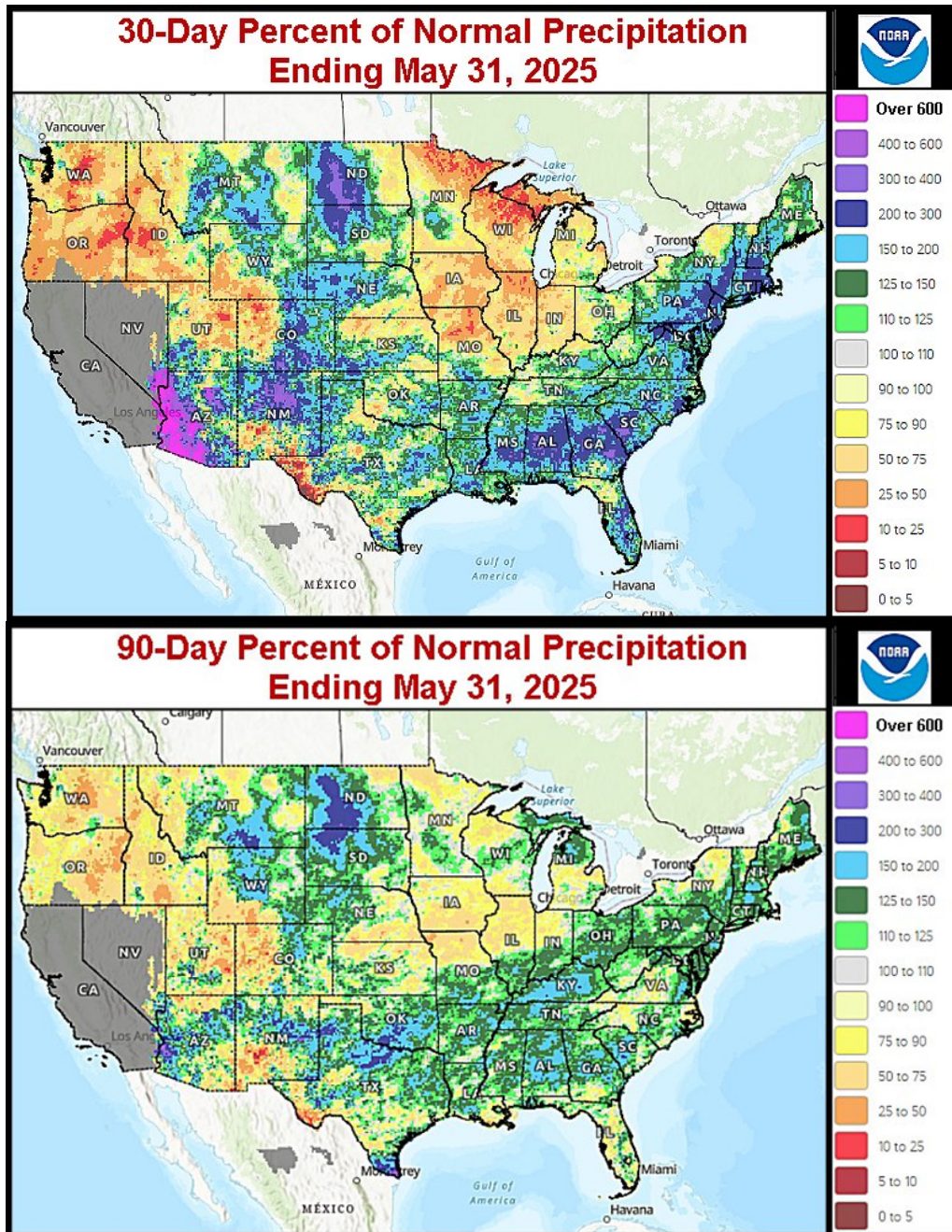


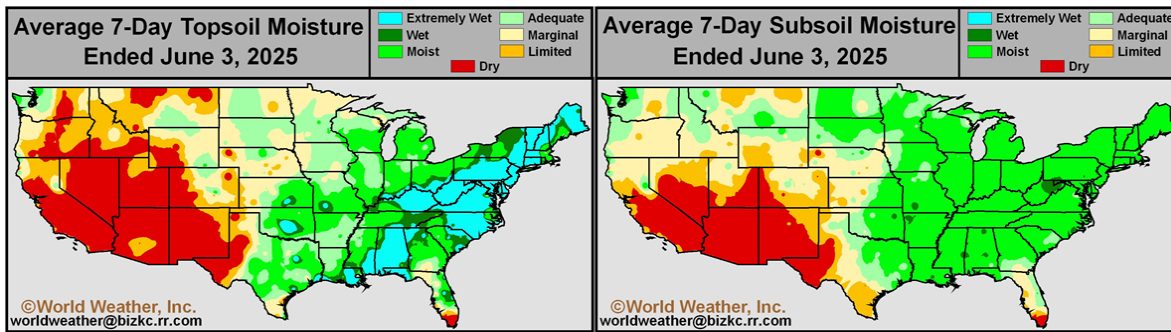
U.S. Midwest Drier Crop Areas To Be Tried By Pressure Ridge

By Drew Lerner

Kansas City, June 5 (World Weather Inc.) – Soil moisture has been favorably rated this spring in key Midwestern crop areas, despite some notably lighter than usual precipitation in the central and west. Drier and warmer weather is due in the middle of June and if significant rain does not fall before the heat comes along some areas may quickly turn too dry. The forecast offers some light precipitation before the heat arrives, but more rain will be needed.

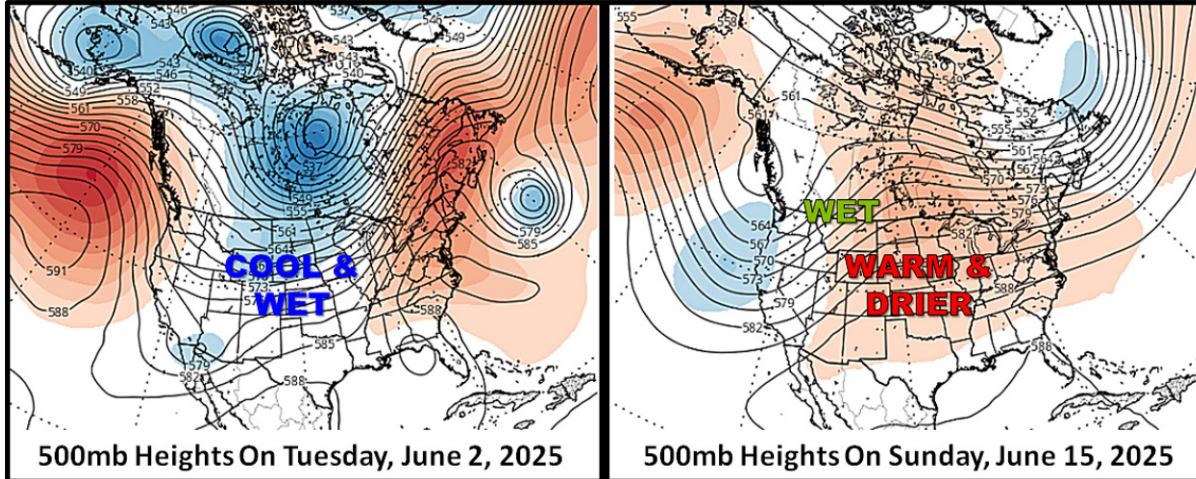


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Soil moisture in the Midwest has held up very well this spring despite below normal precipitation in many areas from northern Missouri and parts of Nebraska into portions of Iowa and Illinois. The most recent 30 days were most anomalously drier biased with rainfall well below average in many areas across the Midwest, but mild to cool temperatures in recent weeks has played a huge role in conserving the moisture and supporting crops in highly favorable manner.

This week's soil assessment, however, shows some light moisture content in parts of Iowa, northern Missouri, Nebraska, the eastern Dakotas, Minnesota, and Illinois. No area is critically dry, but it will not take much warm and dry weather to deplete the topsoil moisture and force crops to start relying on subsoil moisture for long term crop development. Any prolonged period without rain and warmer than usual weather that occurs this summer before a general soaking rain occurs could lead to some crop stress relatively soon after a few days of dry and warm weather evolves.

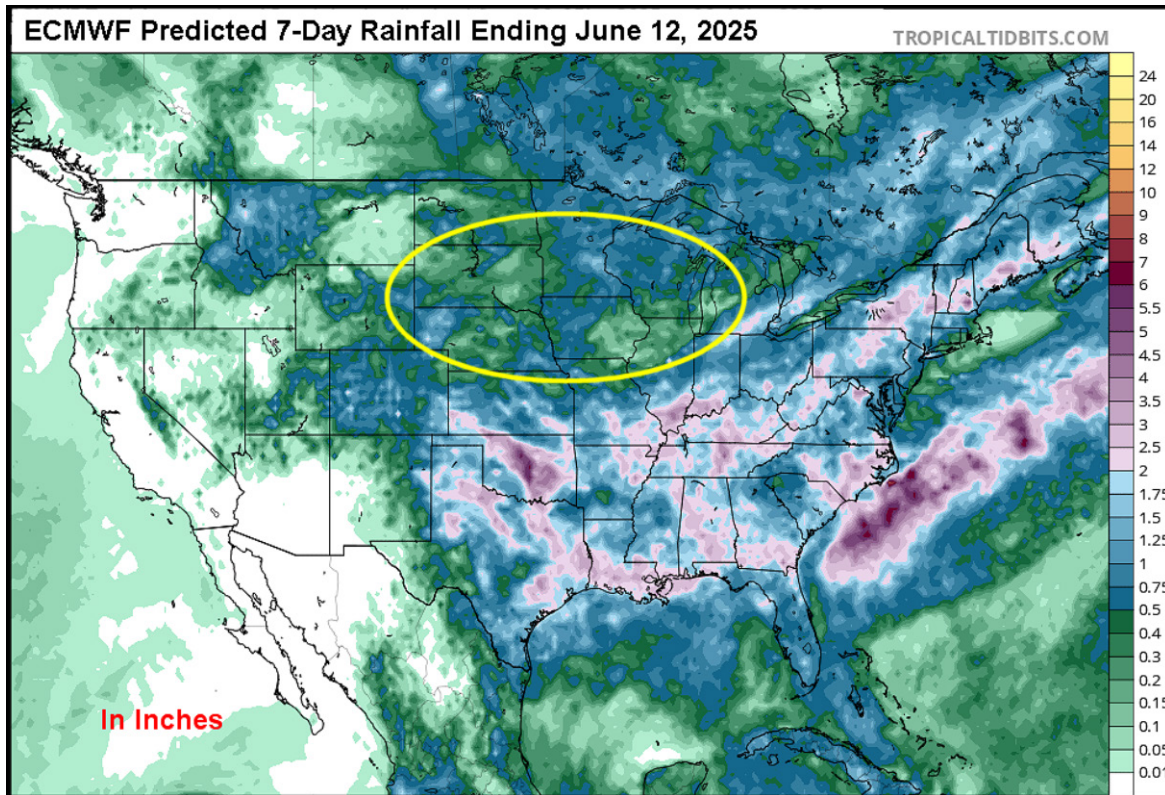


Changes in weather are slated to occur in the next ten days. Today's deep trough of low pressure aloft over central North America is keeping temperatures milder than usual and keeping rainfall a little subdued in the already drier-biased areas of the Midwest. Rain has been and will continue to fall frequently from the central and interior southern Plains into the Delta, Tennessee River Basin and lowermost Midwest as long as the trough of low pressure prevails.

A ridge of high pressure is expected to build into the middle of North America by the middle of this month. The ridge may be strong for a few days as it settles in, but the strong jet stream prevailing in the Northern Hemisphere is likely to flatten out the ridge and

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reduce some of its intensity. The weakening of the ridge will be very important because while the ridge is strong it is likely to create some very warm and drier biased weather conditions over the Plains and western Corn and Soybean Belt possibly drying out the already drier biased western Midwest.

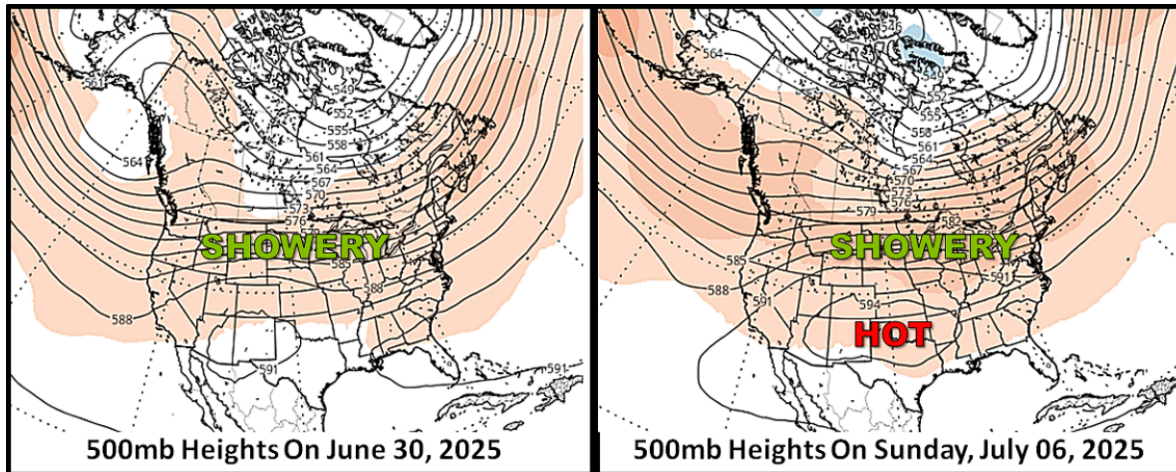


Some of the longer range forecast modeling this week has suggested the strong ridge of high pressure that evolves near mid-month will be quickly flattened out by a continuing strong jet stream. Flattening the ridge of high pressure ridge will occur as storm systems move across its top and as each disturbance passes by portions of Canada's Prairies, the northern U.S. Plains and upper Midwest will likely receive some rain. Nebraska and Iowa will be included in in this potential, but rainfall may continue lighter than usual at times which will lead to a close monitoring of forecast changes throughout the summer – or at least until a general soaking rain evolves. Other areas in the northwestern half of the Corn and Soybean Belt will be subjected to similar conditions.

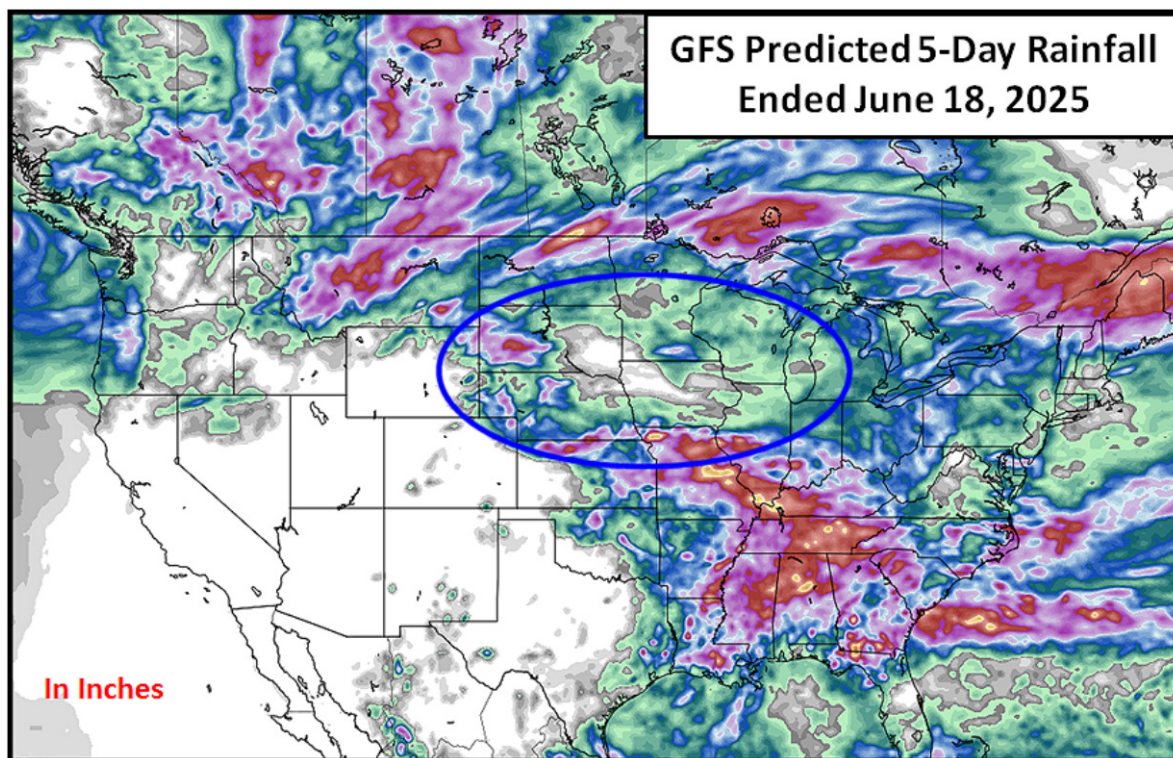
World Weather, Inc. looks for a couple of brief opportunities for rain in the drier areas of the Midwest as the ridge of high pressure starts to build into the middle of North America next week and into the following weekend. There will also be some rain that falls this weekend as the last shot of cooler air from Canada surges south into the central United States. However, the resulting rainfall will be a little too light to carry crops through any extended period of dry and warm weather. As long as the ridge of high pressure flattens out as expected later this month and into early July there will be potential for timely rainfall. If the ridge does not flatten out there would be potential for extended periods of limited rain and very warm temperatures which could prove more threatening to those

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areas already seeing light soil moisture especially if temperatures are warm biased as expected.



The bottom line is soil moisture in parts of the Midwest may dry down over the next ten days, despite a few timely rain events because of light rain intensity and warmer temperatures. The warmth is likely to accelerate drying rates between rain events and some of the rainfall may be little too light leading to a net decline in soil conditions for parts of the region. Subsoil moisture will carry crops for a while, but timely rain will soon be necessary. As the ridge of high pressure flattens later this month and in early July there will be “some opportunity” for timely rainfall, but if a stronger ridge prevails the situation could turn a little more threatening in a relatively short period of time.



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