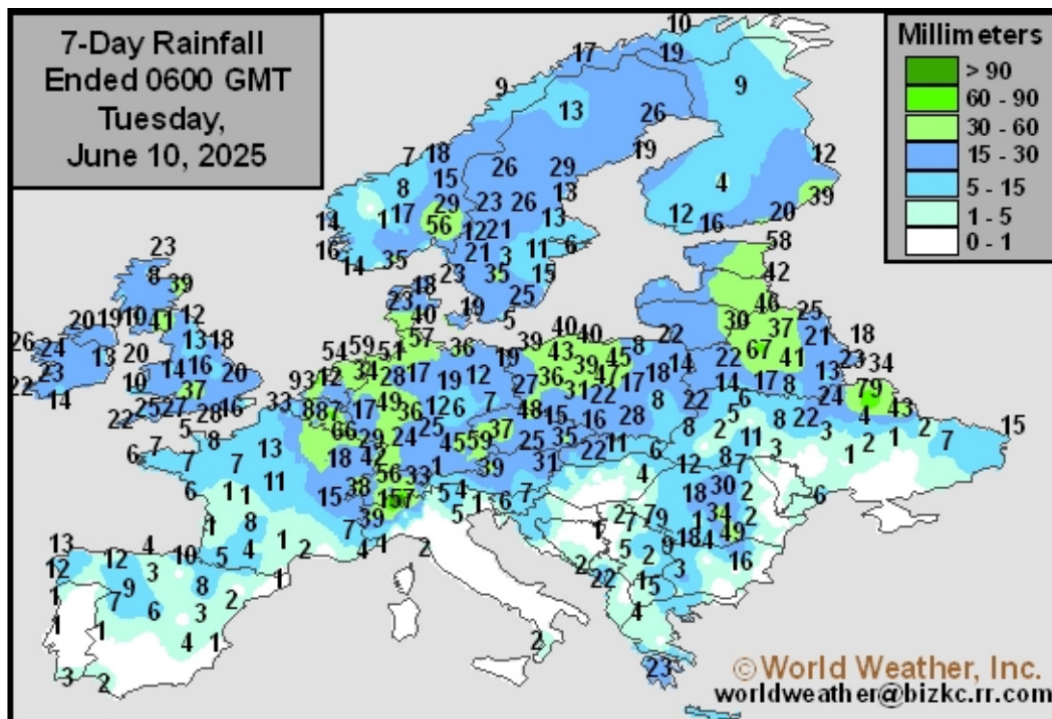


French Crop Stress To Rise Away From Strong Thunderstorms

By Andrew Owen and Drew Lerner

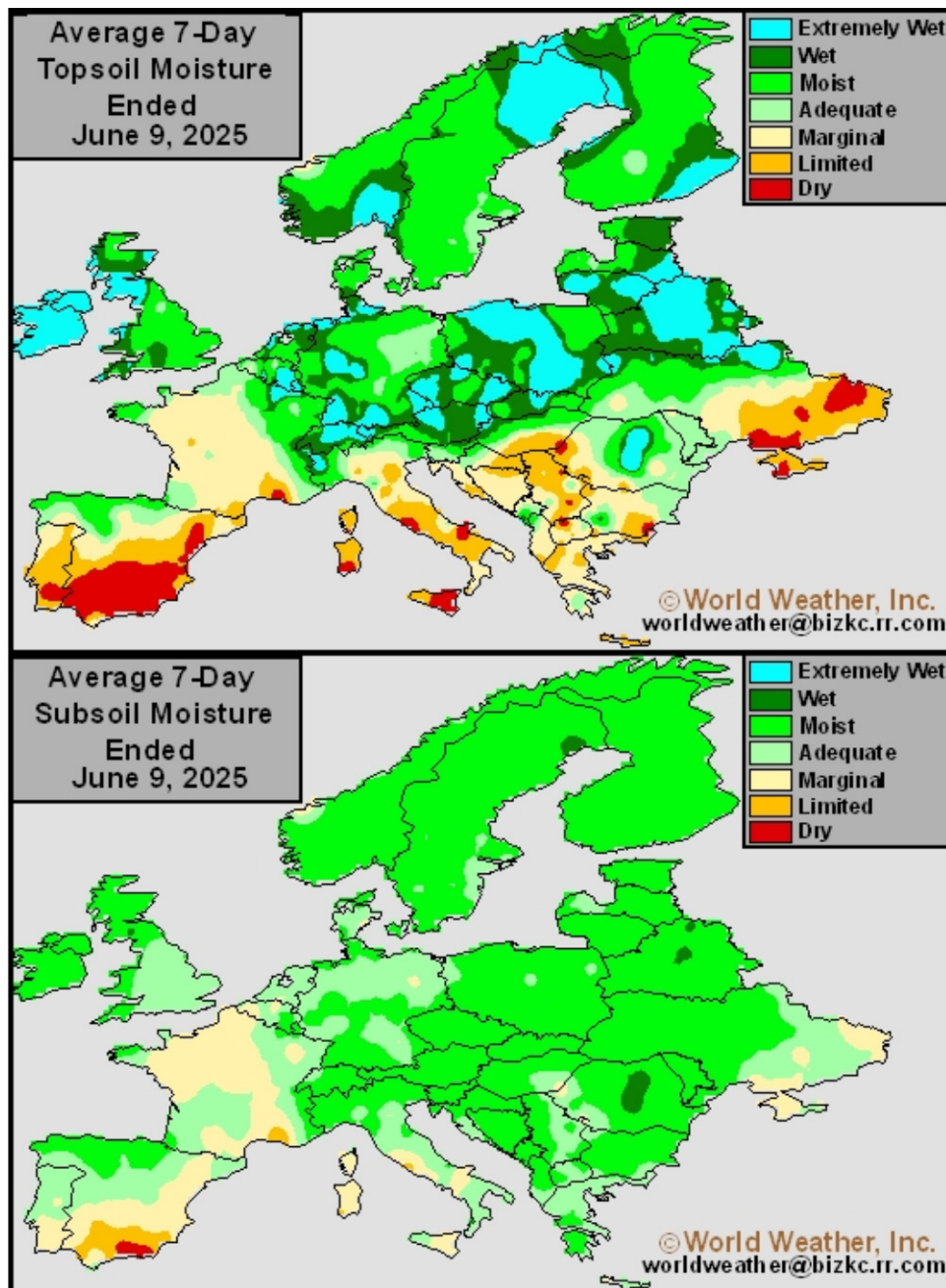
Kansas City, June 12 (World Weather Inc.) – Net drying occurred during the past week in France, the Iberian Peninsula and portions of southeastern Europe due to the lack of rain and warm daytime temperatures. *Drying in the Mediterranean region is typical during the summer and seeing dryness evolving in Spain, Portugal and parts of southeastern Europe is not unusual, although rain will be needed soon in the lower Danube River Basin and especially in France where it is already notably drier than usual. Drier and warmer than usual weather is slated for a large part of Europe through the next ten days as a ridge of high pressure builds over the continent. Drying will be of greatest concern in France and eastern Ukraine, although locally strong weekend thunderstorms are possible in parts of France.*

The United Kingdom and Ireland through eastern France, Germany, Belgium, and the Netherlands into Poland, Belarus, northern Ukraine, Romania, and the Baltic States saw a mix of rain and sunshine during the past week. Moisture totals for the seven-day period ending June 10 ranged from 0.50 to 2.00 inches with local amounts up to 3.00 inches in Belarus, northern Ukraine, and Belgium. Other areas in France into northern and central Spain and a few other areas in the Balkans region received up to 0.50 inch of moisture. Little to no rain was noted elsewhere.



Topsoil moisture is short to very short in France, eastern Ukraine, and a large section of southeastern Europe, Italy, and the Iberian Peninsula. Other locations have adequate to excessive moisture. Subsoil moisture was rated marginally adequate to short in these drier biased areas while rated adequately in most other areas.

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The lack of soil moisture in Europe today is of greatest interest in eastern Ukraine and France where crop moisture stress should already be evolving. That stress will likely be exacerbated by warmer temperatures in the coming week to ten days especially in France. Drying in Spain and Portugal is normal at this time of year since the dry season runs from May through September. Some drying in Italy is also not unusual at this time of year.

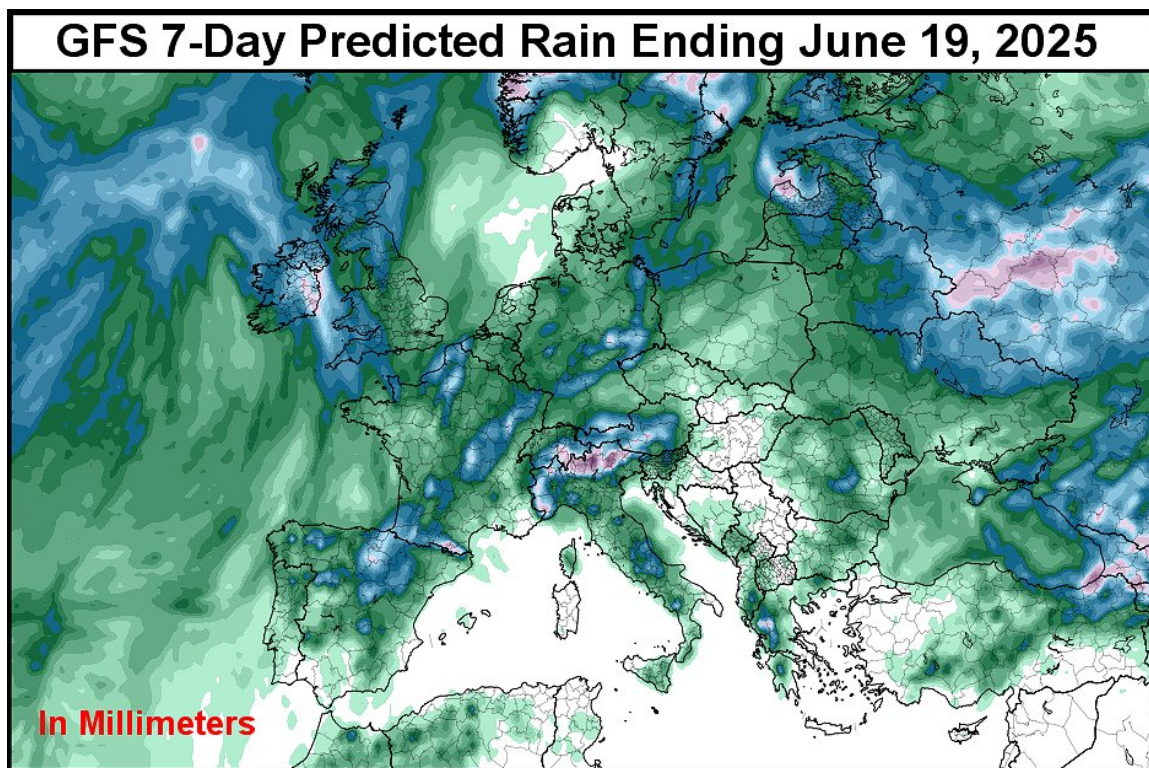
Subsoil moisture in the Balkan Countries is not low enough for the recent drying to have a big impact on crop development. Eastern Ukraine's drying is of greater concern due

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to the more limited subsoil moisture and very dry topsoil. Most other areas in Europe had ample moisture to support aggressive crop growth.

Europe will initially be impacted by a high-pressure ridge as it extends from northwestern Africa and the Iberian Peninsula into France, Germany, and neighboring locations through Friday. Very warm to hot temperatures will briefly occur today and Friday, but the ridge will be briefly weakened by a cool front pushing through Western Europe Friday night into the weekend. That frontal system will generate localized areas of strong to severe thunderstorms that may produce heavy rain, hail and damaging wind. Coverage of the severe weather will be low and areas not impacted by the strongest storms will not get enough rain to counter evaporation.

The high pressure ridge will quickly establish over Western Europe again during the early to middle part of next week and will restrict precipitation once again while raising temperatures well above normal.

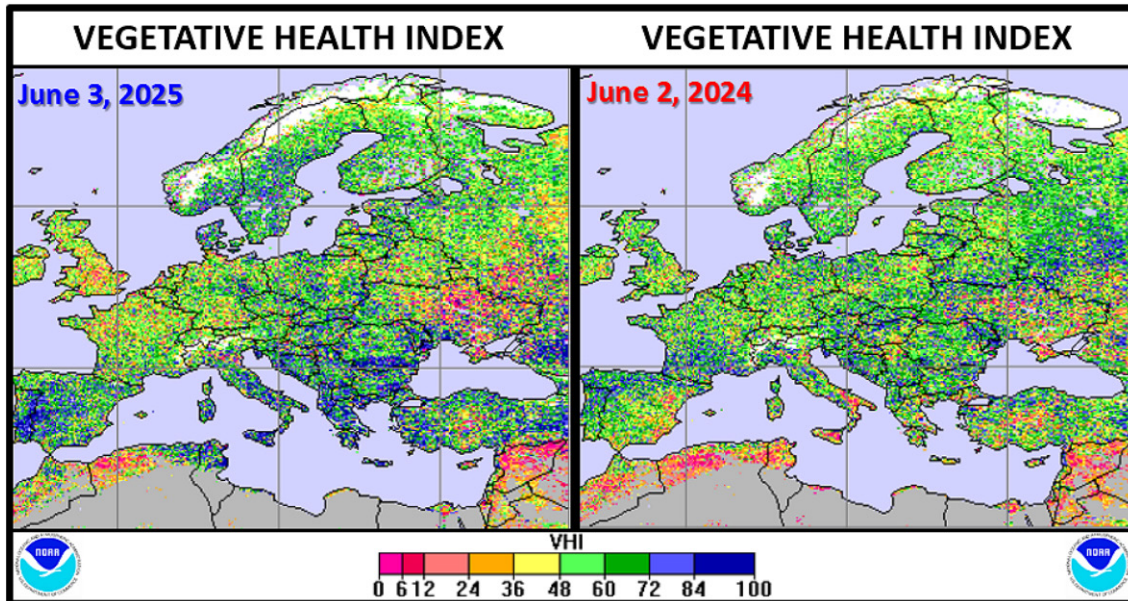


Belarus, northern Ukraine, and the Baltic States will receive 0.25 to 1.00 inch of rain with local amounts of 1.50 inches or more by next Wednesday morning. Several areas in northern Spain, western France, Ireland, and the United Kingdom will receive 0.10 to 0.75 inch of rain with local amounts of 1.50 inches or slightly more during this time. Other production areas in Europe will either miss out on rain completely or not receive enough to impact long-term soil conditions. The ridge may remain a common feature over Western Europe June 19-25; though periods of light and erratic rain will continue in parts of the continent.

In addition to the lack of abundant rainfall in a large section of Europe, temperatures will often surge above normal due to the ridge funneling warmer air into the continent. France, Germany, and the Iberian Peninsula will often warm to the 70s and 80s Fahrenheit

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through Saturday with several areas in Spain and pockets in France warming to the 90s. Other areas in Europe will warm to the 60s and 70s through Saturday with several pockets in the Balkans region often warming to the 80s. Highs will generally settle to the 70s and 80s in much of Europe later this weekend and early next week with many areas in Spain and pockets in southeastern Europe and southern France warming back to the 90s. Portions of northern Europe will only warm to the 60s. Seasonable to seasonably warm weather will persist June 19-25.



Aggressive drying is slated for a large section of Europe through the middle of next week, most notably in France (outside of where the locally strong thunderstorms occur), Germany, and the Balkans region. The lack of moisture and periods of warmer than normal weather may slow new development for the coarse grain, oilseeds, sugarbeets and other crops produced in France, southeastern Europe, eastern Ukraine, and neighboring locations. With drier biased conditions possible into the second week of the outlook, concern may increase for production impacts as the ground continues to firm. Other locations in Europe will initially have enough moisture to support aggressive growth during the next several days. However, the ground may trend a little too dry for ideal crop conditions later this month and timely rain will be needed.

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