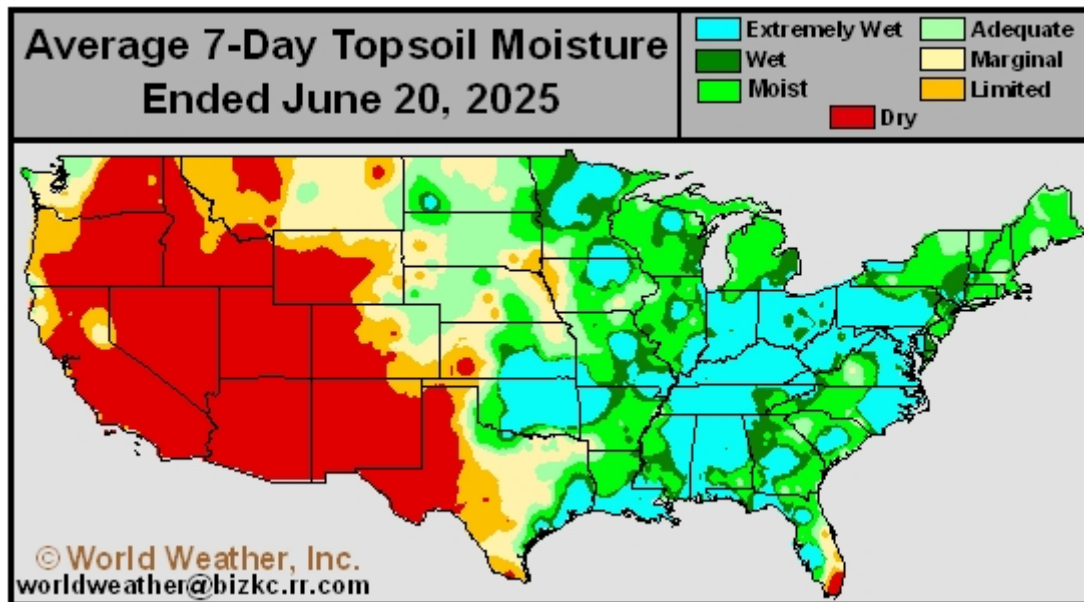


Mid-South U.S. Drying To Be Closely Monitored

By Drew Lerner

Kansas City, June 20 (World Weather Inc.) – Wet weather in the Mid-South region of the United States has been quite impressive this year with some parts of the Delta, Tennessee River Basin, Kentucky and Oklahoma each reporting record or near record rainfall at various times during the spring. Weather pattern changes forthcoming over this next week will bring the region some beneficial drying. The beneficial drying can probably occur over a week to ten days without disturbing too many folks, but there is potential that drying will become longer lasting and the region needs to be closely monitored for late summer dryness issues.



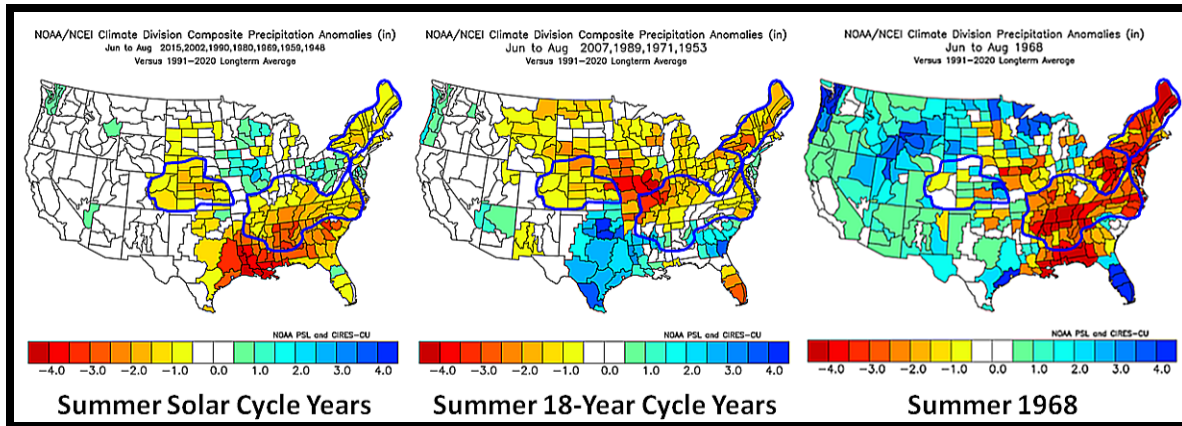
Today's topsoil moisture is rated adequate to excessive across most of the mid-south region and the soggy field conditions have been a problem for many producers since late March and early April when the rainy pattern first evolved. Rain was again reported in most of the region during this past week causing the ground to be saturated or remain saturated as it has been for many weeks.

A ridge of high pressure aloft moving east across the United States this weekend will eventually settle over the eastern United States and it will prevail there over multiple days next week. Daily high temperatures in the 90s Fahrenheit are expected with little to no rain for at least ten days and some forecast models suggest the drying trend could last a couple of weeks.

World Weather, Inc. reminds its readers of the trend that has been prevailing this year has been the byproduct of the solar and lunar cycles and the neutral ENSO conditions that have been prevailing. As reported earlier this year, each of these three influences on North America weather this past winter and spring was quite similar and as these patterns continue working together one of the most dominating features in each pattern is a summer turnaround in rainfall patterns. Areas that were wet most of the spring are expected to trend drier than usual this summer.

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The graphic below brings this feature home very quick and easily. There are several trends that the three repeating cycles have been suggesting for spring and summer this year, but there are some conflicting influences. The one region in North America that all three patterns agree on is the return of below normal precipitation and warm biased temperatures during the summer. Confidence in this returning feature is moderately high and World Weather, Inc. does not believe there is much to stand in the way of this potential trend change except for the possibility of a tropical cyclone to impact the region later in the year.



Most likely any tropical cyclone risk is still several weeks away and that will give the Delta, Tennessee River Basin, interior southeastern states and interior southern Plains a good amount of time to dry down. Completely dry weather is unlikely, but lighter than usual rainfall and warm temperatures should promote the trend and this week's high pressure ridge over eastern North America will certainly help to get the trend started.

As noted previously, a short term period of dry and warm weather would be ideal for crops and field conditions throughout the mid-south region; however, too much of a good thing is possible this year. Improving soil and crop conditions should evolve and prevail into early July. Sometime in mid-to late July and August, though, the region or at least parts of the region may become too dry.

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