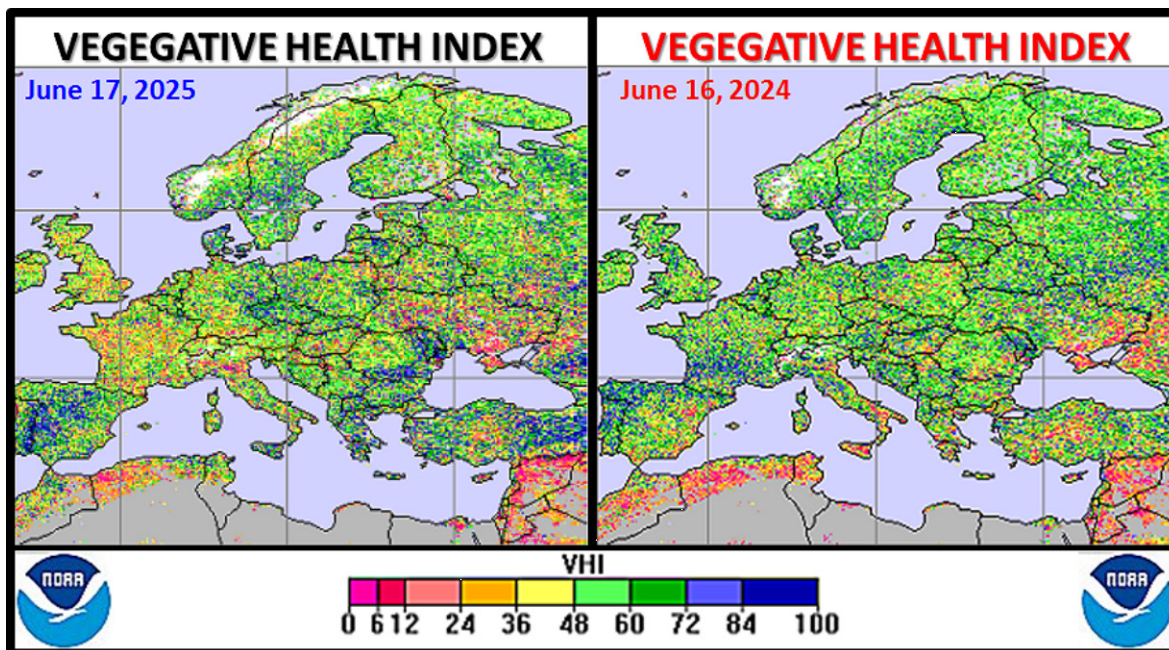


Drought in Europe Festering; Lasting Relief Unlikely

By Andrew Owen and Drew Lerner

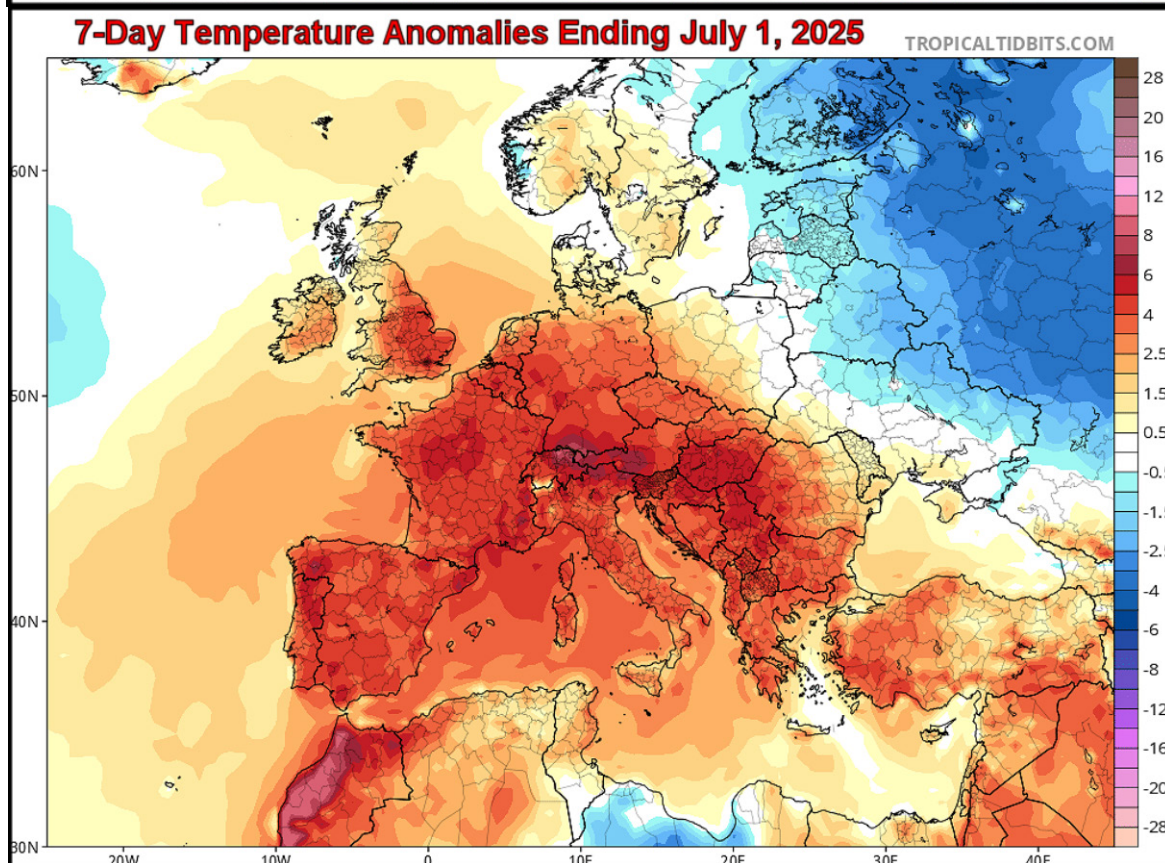
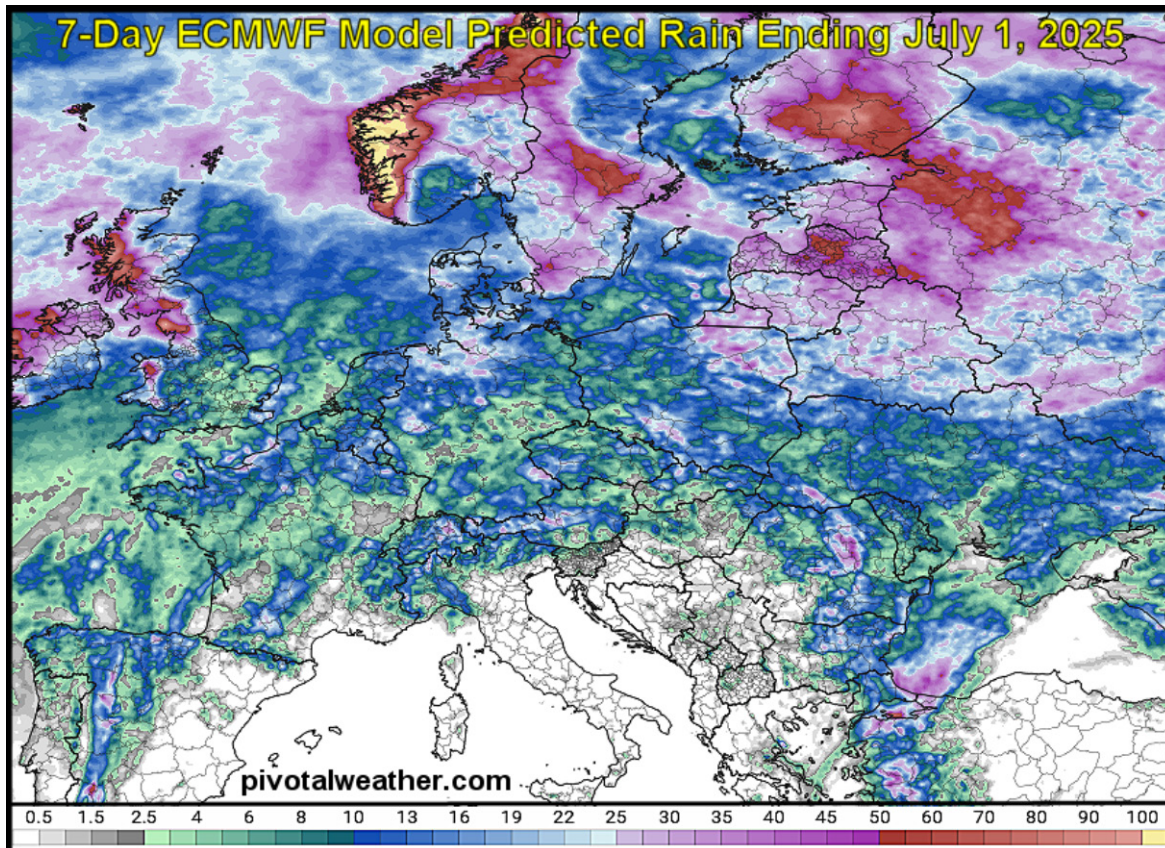
Kansas City, June 23 (World Weather Inc.) – [Drought has already been an ongoing event in portions of Europe this year, but the lack of heat earlier this year helped to minimize the event.](#) [Now that summer has arrived and temperatures are much warmer in portions of the continent the drier bias in the soil and water supply shortage is becoming much more notable. The coming ten days will not offer much relief and the situation will be more closely monitored.](#) The environment will quickly become quite harsh for some of the unirrigated crops; including corn, soybeans, sunseed, sugar beets, sorghum and others. Crop moisture stress is already an issue and the latest Vegetative Health Index shows a further decline in crop conditions from that of earlier this month. Soil conditions are more favorable in northeastern and some central European locations, but timely rain will soon be needed for those areas as well as western and southeastern parts of the continent.

Rainfall was minimal across France, Germany, the Low Countries and some neighboring areas of both Scandinavia and southeastern England this past week and the same was suggested for most of the lower Danube River Basin. Quick drying occurred in each of these areas and it was accelerated by rising temperatures reaching into the 80s and 90s Fahrenheit in recent days.



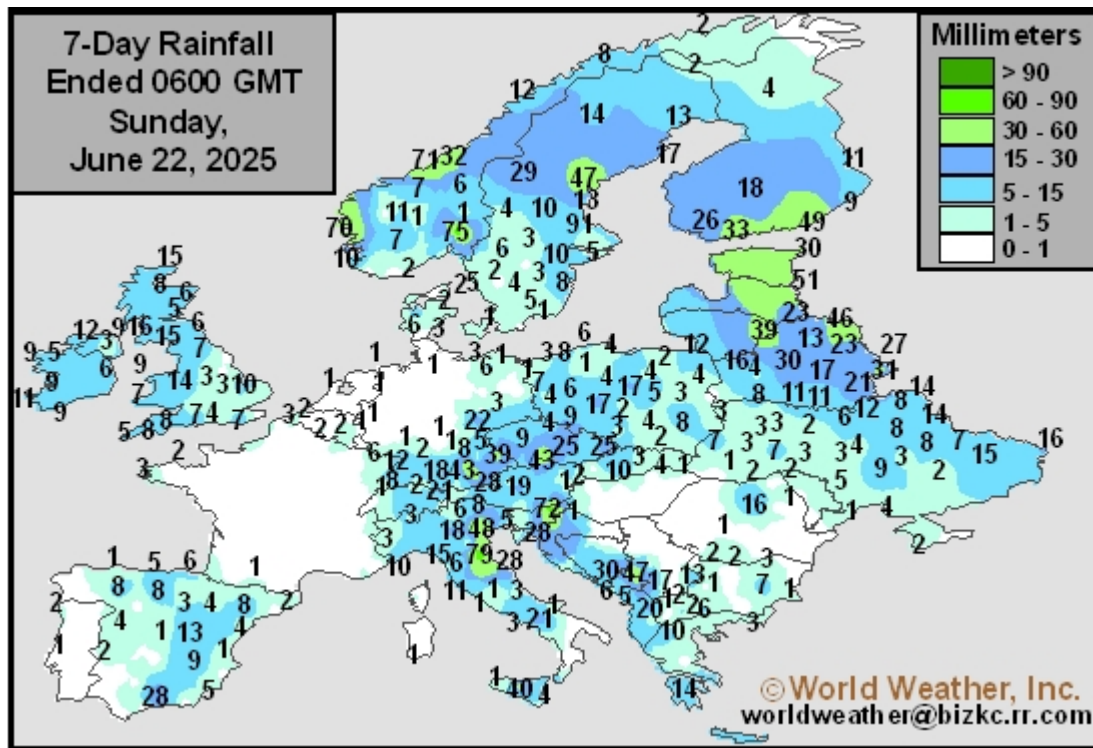
[Crop moisture stress has been increasing gradually in recent weeks. The onset of much warmer temperatures recently is accelerating crop moisture stress and expanding the moisture shortages.](#) [A notable decline in crop health was suggested in Vegetative Health Index a week ago and that was prior to the onset of much warmer temperatures late last week through the weekend.](#) France the U.K., western Germany, northern Spain and parts of both Wales and England were seeing declining crop and field conditions in the week ending June 17 and that trend continued over this past week.

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The best news for European farmers is that it will not be completely dry during the next week to ten days. Scattered showers and thunderstorms are expected which may help hold the temperature back just a little. More importantly the moisture will offer some short term relief from dryness infrequently and that might help crops handle the situation a little longer. Nonetheless, with temperatures well above normal in the coming week the rainfall of 0.20 to 0.80 inch is not likely to be enough to prevent additional declines in crop and field conditions especially since some of the rainfall forecast may be a little out of line with reality.



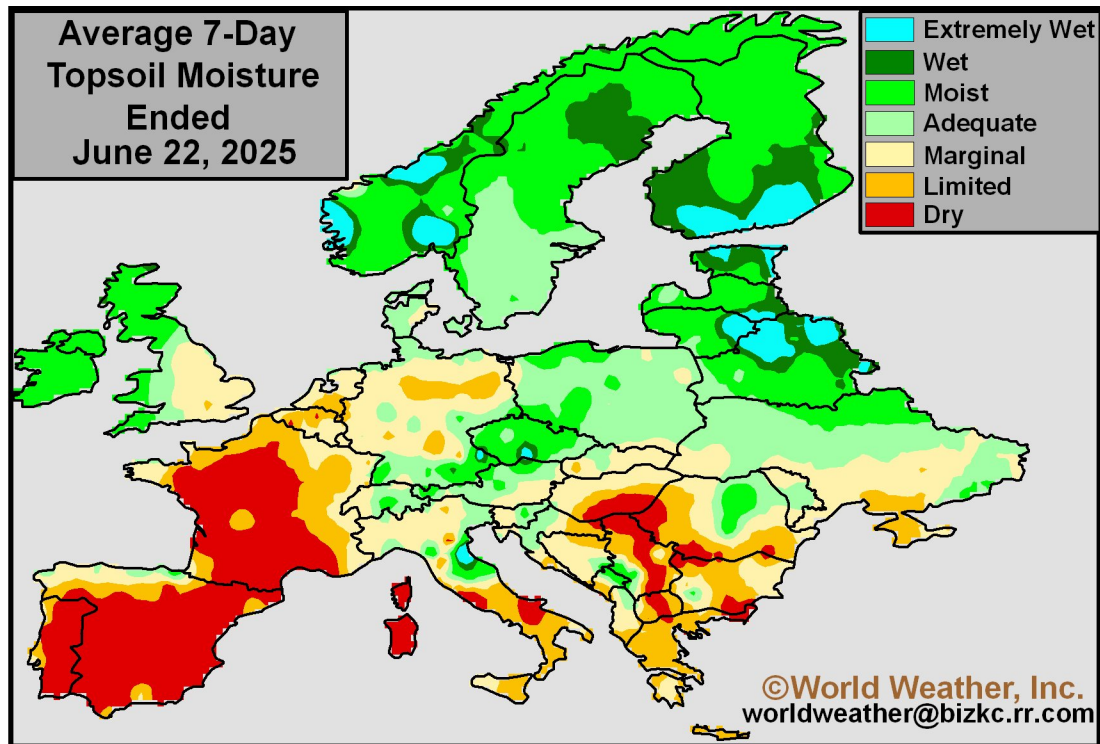
In the meantime, Europe's greatest rain in the week ending June 22 occurred in Belarus and portions of the Baltic States, along with southern fringes of Germany, Czechia, Croatia, southwestern Serbia, portions of Italy, and immediate neighboring locations were 0.32 to 1.85 inches of rain resulted with local amounts to 3.11 inches in northeastern Italy. Portions of Ukraine, Poland, Spain, the United Kingdom, Ireland, northern Romania, and neighboring locations received 0.12 to 0.67 inches of rain.

Dryness has been a long lasting event. France, much of the Iberian Peninsula, portions of Italy, and several areas in the Balkans region outside eastern sections of Romania and Bulgaria, along with a few locations near the Adriatic Sea, received near to below normal rainfall for the 30-day period ending June 20. Several areas in France, Portugal, and western Spain received less than 50% of normal rainfall during this time. Some of the dryness has been ongoing for months with well below normal rainfall occurring in France, the U.K. and parts of Germany for at least the past three months. Precipitation elsewhere in Europe was generally near or slightly above normal.

Moisture shortages were noted in a large section of France, the Iberian Peninsula, and portions of southeastern Europe due to the lack of rain in recent weeks. Soil moisture

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elsewhere in Europe was adequate to marginally adequate, though many fields have lost moisture in recent days and are becoming too dry as well.



The need for abundant rain is steadily increasing across Europe, but especially in the west where it has been a festering problem for weeks. Topsoil moisture is now rated short to very short in most of Western Europe excepting western parts of the U.K. and a few locations near the mountains in southern Germany and northeastern Italy. Dry soil is already stressing crops in unirrigated fields of France and the lower Danube River Basin while beginning to impact parts of Germany, the U.K., and Italy as well as Greece and southern Ukraine. Production potentials are slipping lower and significant rain must occur soon to stop that decline in summer grain and oilseed crops as well as unirrigated sugarbeets. Other locations in Europe had some moisture to support relatively good development despite some locations experiencing net drying in recent days.

WEATHER OUTLOOK

Precipitation will be limited for a large section of Europe this week. A series of disturbances will still generate spotty rain when tracking over the continent through the end of the workweek. A high-pressure ridge will then extend across Western Europe over the weekend and will restrict precipitation for most production areas. Belarus, the Baltic States, and portions of northern Poland and northern and eastern Ukraine, along with Scotland, will receive 0.50 to 2.00 inches of rain with locally greater amounts by next Monday morning. Other production areas will receive 0.10 to 0.75 inch of rain with local amounts of 1.50 inches or slightly more in France, northern Spain, southern Poland, northern Italy, and neighboring locations. Many areas in the Balkans region, southern Italy, and southeastern

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Spain will also miss out on much of the rain. The ridge will gradually break down July 1 – 7 and rain will slowly return to portions of Western Europe. Eastern Europe may remain drier biased during the second week of the outlook.

In addition to the lack of abundant rain, temperatures will often trend above normal for portions of Europe this week. Daytime highs will often reach the 70s and 80s Fahrenheit for much of the continent. Portions of southeastern Europe, the Iberian Peninsula, and France will often warm to the 90s as well, most notably through mid-week and again over the weekend. Many areas in the United Kingdom will also only warm to the 60s. Seasonable to seasonably warm weather will again be most common July 1 – 7, though some cooling will be possible in portions of Western Europe later in the period once the ridge breaks down.

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