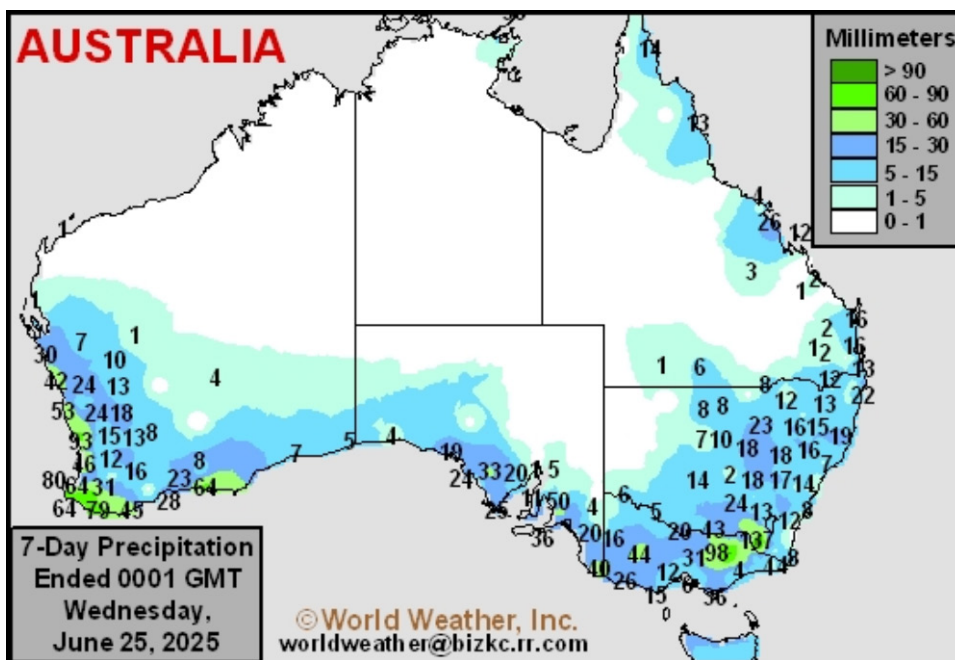


Australia Winter Crops In Need Of Rain Ahead Of Spring

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, June 26 (World Weather Inc.) – Many winter grain and oilseed areas in Australia are lacking soil moisture due to drier-biased weather in recent weeks. Enough rain has likely fallen to induce germination and emergence, although establishment is not as good as it should be with crops moving into semi-dormancy. There is not yet a significant concern for major production cuts for the upcoming season; however, there will be a need for timely rain later in the winter and early spring to induce the best possible establishment before aggressive growth begins. Rainfall will continue lighter than usual for at least the next seven to ten days and no major changes to the outlook are expected.

Victoria, South Australia, and Western Australia saw a mix of rain and sunshine during the past week. Moisture totals for the seven-day period ending June 25 ranged from 0.32 to 1.97 inches. Central New South Wales received up to 0.91 inch of rain during this time. Western New South Wales and much of Queensland was either dry or did not receive enough rain to counter evaporation.



Precipitation varied across the main production areas in Australia during the past month. Several locations in central New South Wales received near or slightly above normal rainfall for the 30-day period ending June 20. Rainfall was near normal in Western Australia. Victoria, South Australia, southern Queensland, and the remaining portions of New South Wales received near to below normal precipitation during this time.

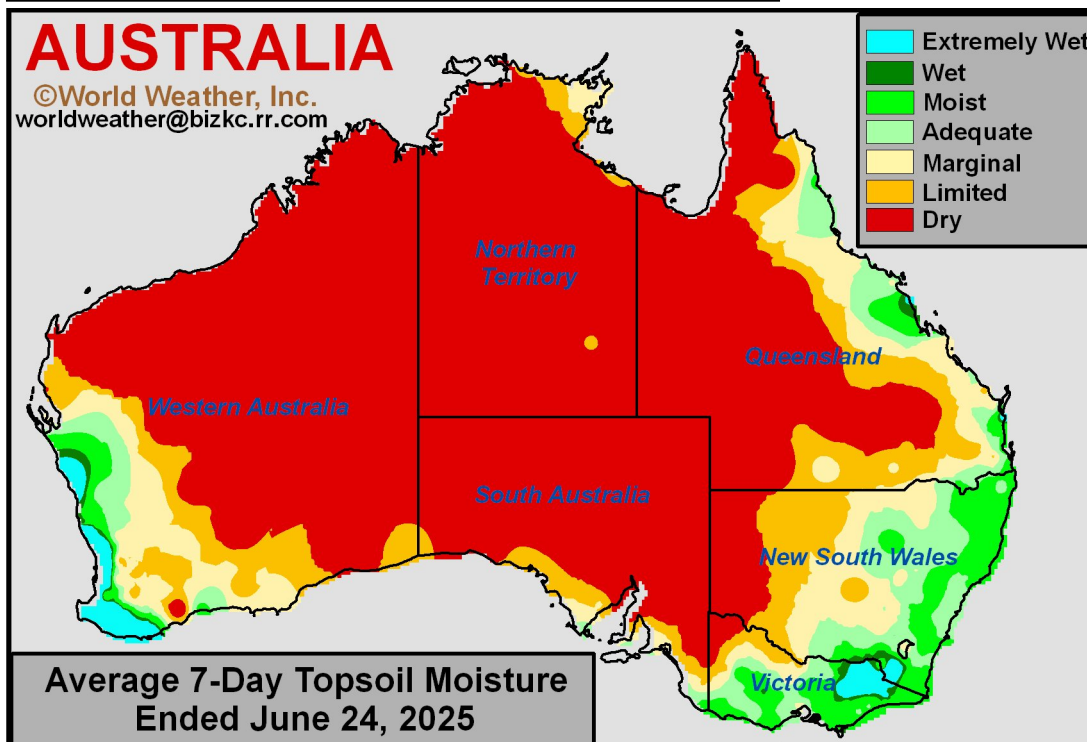
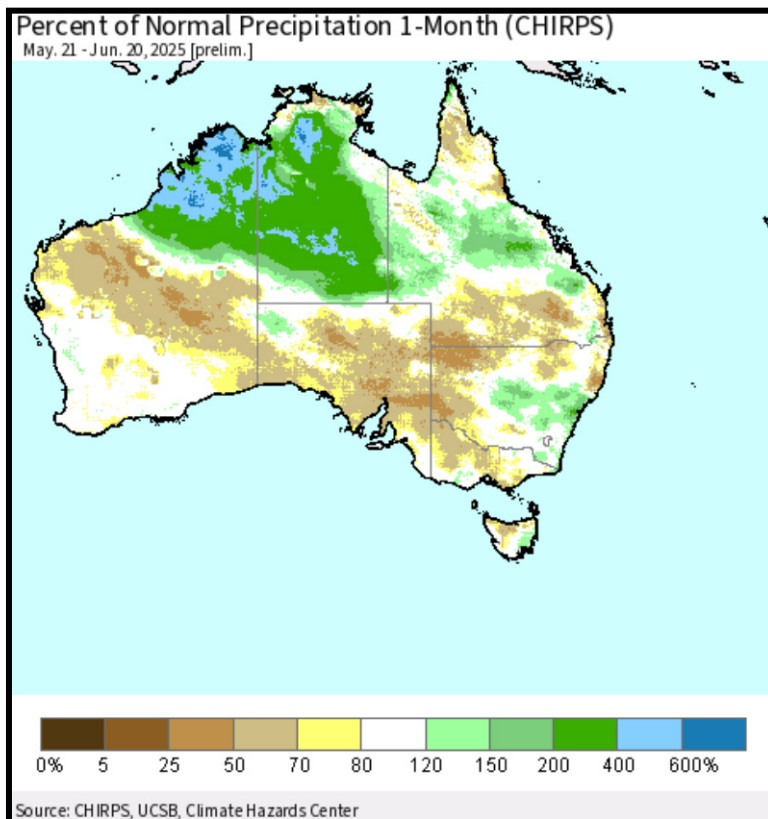
Soil moisture varies greatly across the nation with unirrigated crop areas in southern Queensland reporting critically dry conditions as is the case in interior South Australia and some minor crop areas in Western New South Wales. In contrast, soil moisture was rated marginally adequate to short in New South Wales, Victoria and in

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some Western Australia crop areas. The wettest soil is in crop areas near the west coast of Western Australia where some fields are favorably wet; however, just a short distance

inland soil conditions are rated marginally adequate to very short of moisture.

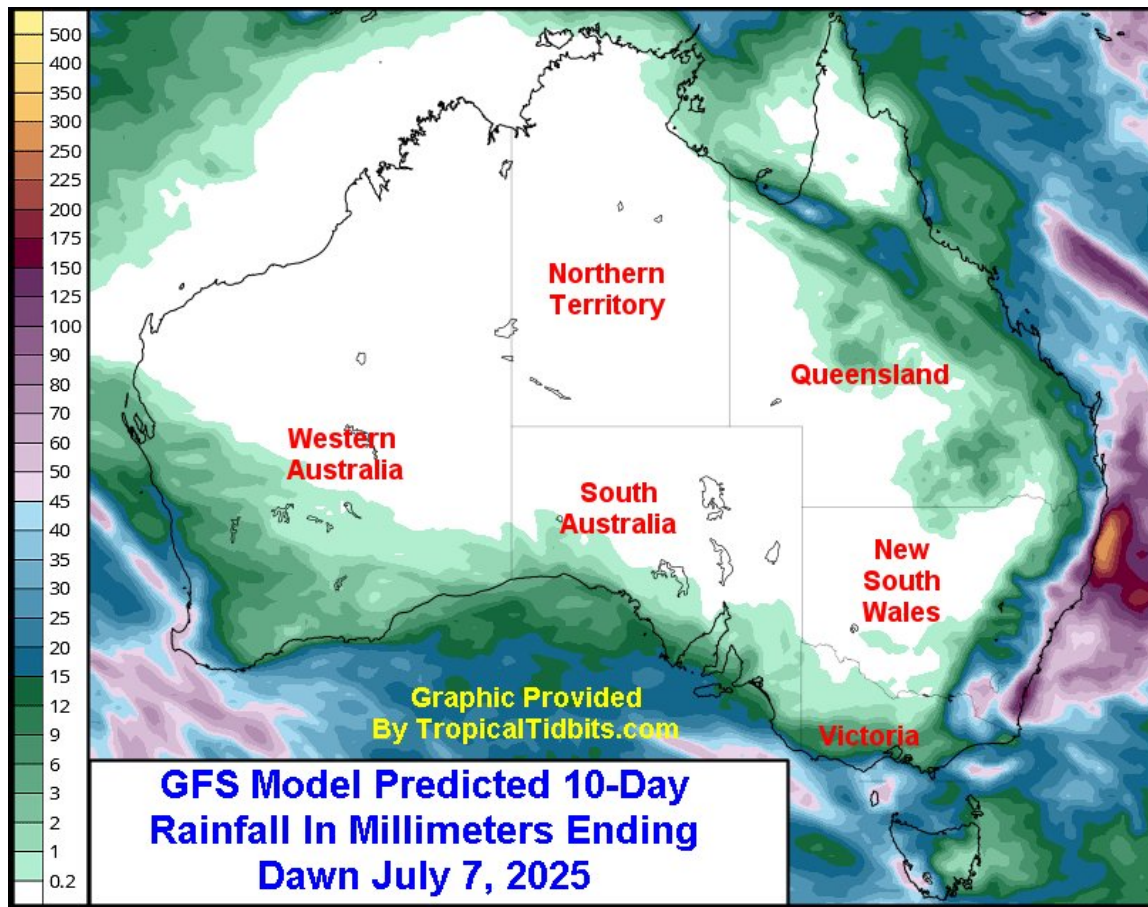
Recent rainfall was welcome where it occurred in the winter wheat, barley, and canola areas of Australia. The main production areas still need much more rain to support ideal long-term conditions, most notably in the driest areas of Queensland and New South Wales. Crops likely germinated relatively well, despite many areas trending drier than usual during the planting season. As long as timely rain occurs before spring, long-term outlooks will be relatively favorable.



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Australia's production areas will trend drier than usual during the coming week. Light rain will occur in portions of Western Australia, South Australia, Victoria, and Queensland, though resulting amounts will rarely be enough to counter evaporation. New South Wales will be mostly dry. Western Australia, South Australia, and Victoria will then have a few opportunities for mostly light rain July 4-10 while drier than usual conditions persist in Queensland and New South Wales.

Winter wheat, barley, and canola will be trending semi-dormant in July and August at which time plant moisture demand will be very low. Mild to cool conditions are already expected over the next week to ten days with daytime highs only reaching the 50s and 60s Fahrenheit and nightly lows staying in the 30s and 40s with a few 20s. Some net drying is slated and the need for significant rain will remain high for later this winter. **Overall, production potentials should remain mostly unchanged despite ongoing moisture deficits in Queensland and western New South Wales due to the cool temperatures and low plant moisture demand.**



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