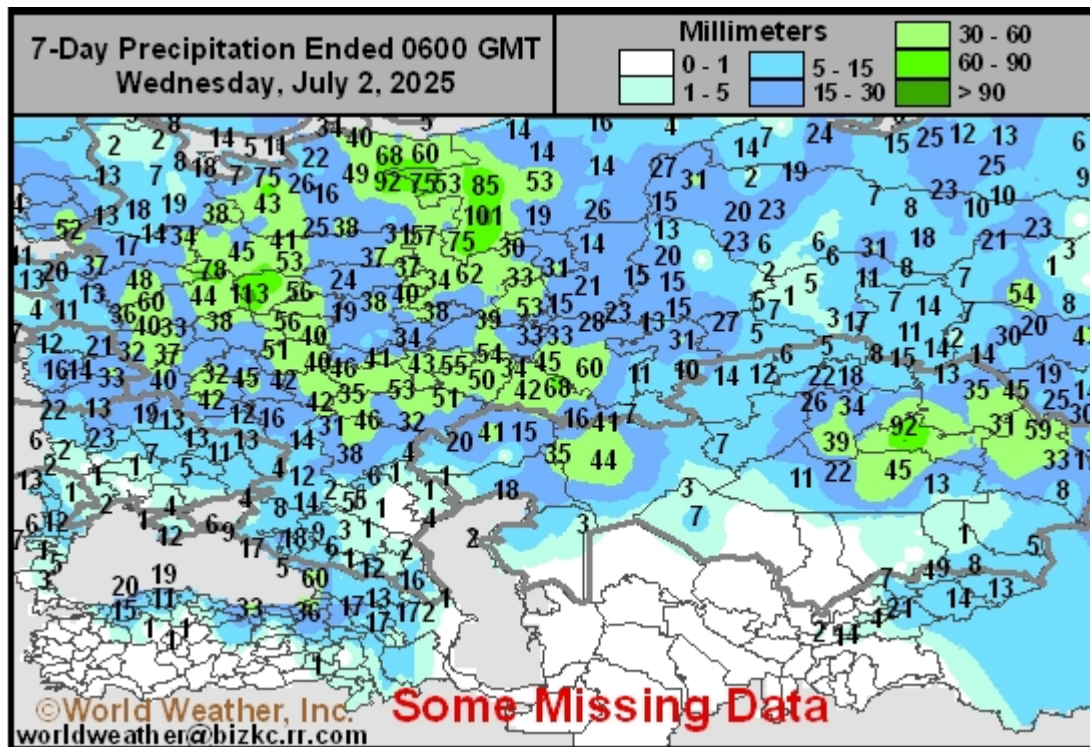


Russia Spring, Summer Crops Face Frequent Rain

By Andrew Owen and Drew Lerner

Kansas City, July 2 (World Weather Inc.) – Wetter-than-usual weather during the past month was noted across Russia's main production areas. The rain came at a time when winter grains and oilseeds were maturing and getting ready for harvest. Minor harvest delays were suspected with some quality reductions also a concern. Planting of the summer crops and general fieldwork may have advanced slowly in the wettest locations as well. Long-term production potentials for the summer crops are otherwise favorable due to the ample moisture. The main winter wheat and barley production areas will trend drier than usual through the middle of next week and the lack of rain will be beneficial for more crop maturation and harvesting. Spring cereals and some summer grain and oilseed crops produced a little farther to the north, however, will experience another ten days of frequent rain.

Waves of rain were noted in the main production areas of Russia, Kazakhstan, and Belarus during the past week. Moisture totals for the seven-day period ending July 1 ranged from 0.50 to 2.68 inches with portions of Russia's eastern New Lands and northern Kazakhstan only receiving 0.12 to 0.50 inch of moisture. Russia's main production areas generally received near to above normal rainfall in June with several pockets receiving more than 200% of normal precipitation. Soil moisture is at adequate to excessive levels, even in areas that only received light rain during the past week.



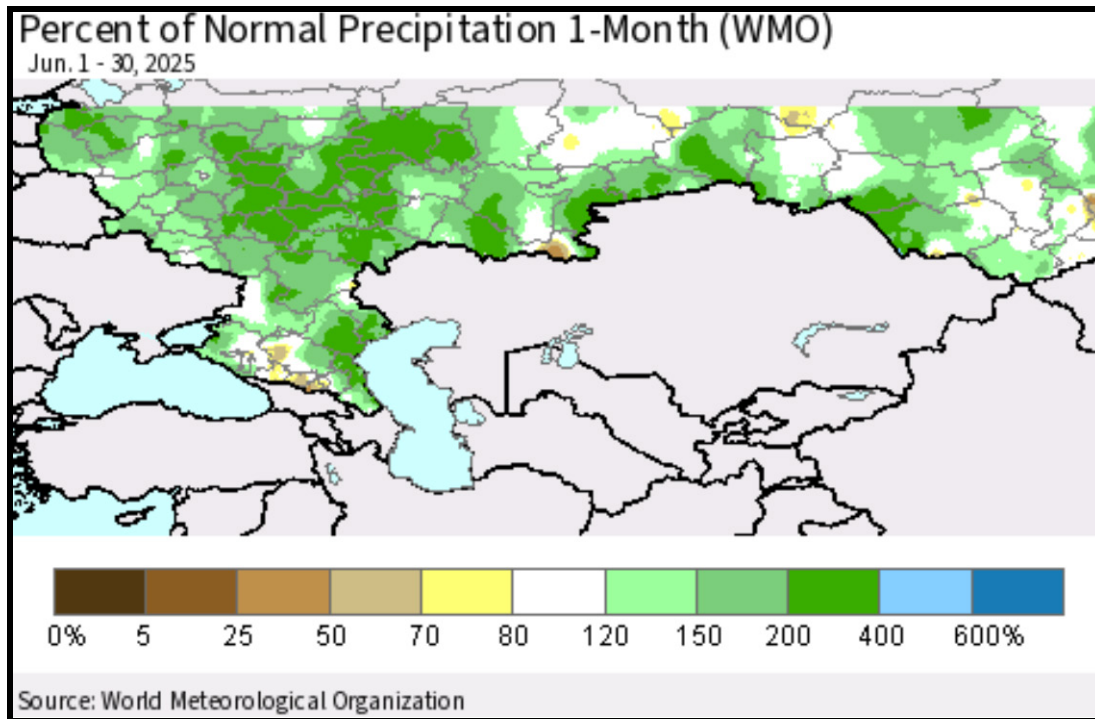
Wet weather in recent weeks continued to promote less than favorable conditions for the winter wheat, barley, rye, and rapeseed filling and maturation in portions of Russia, western Kazakhstan, and neighboring locations in the former Soviet Union.

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Minor quality reductions were possible in the wettest locations, though yields are still expected to be good. Drier weather is needed in coming weeks as the harvest normally occurs in July and early August.

In the meantime, the environment remained favorable for spring cereals, coarse grain, oilseeds, and other crops in Russia and neighboring locations. Late-season planting may have advanced slowly in the wettest locations. Production potentials are otherwise good due to the ample amount of moisture so far this growing season.

Southern Russia and western Kazakhstan will have an opportunity to dry down through the middle of next week. Periods of spotty rain will still occur today into this weekend as disturbances advance over the region. Northern Kazakhstan and the eastern New Lands will receive 0.50 to 2.00 inches of rain with local amounts of 3.00 inches or more by next Wednesday morning. Other locations in Russia and much of western Kazakhstan will receive 0.10 to 0.75 inch of rain with local amounts over 1.00 inch. Precipitation may remain limited in the south July 10-16, though periods of spotty rain will still occur.



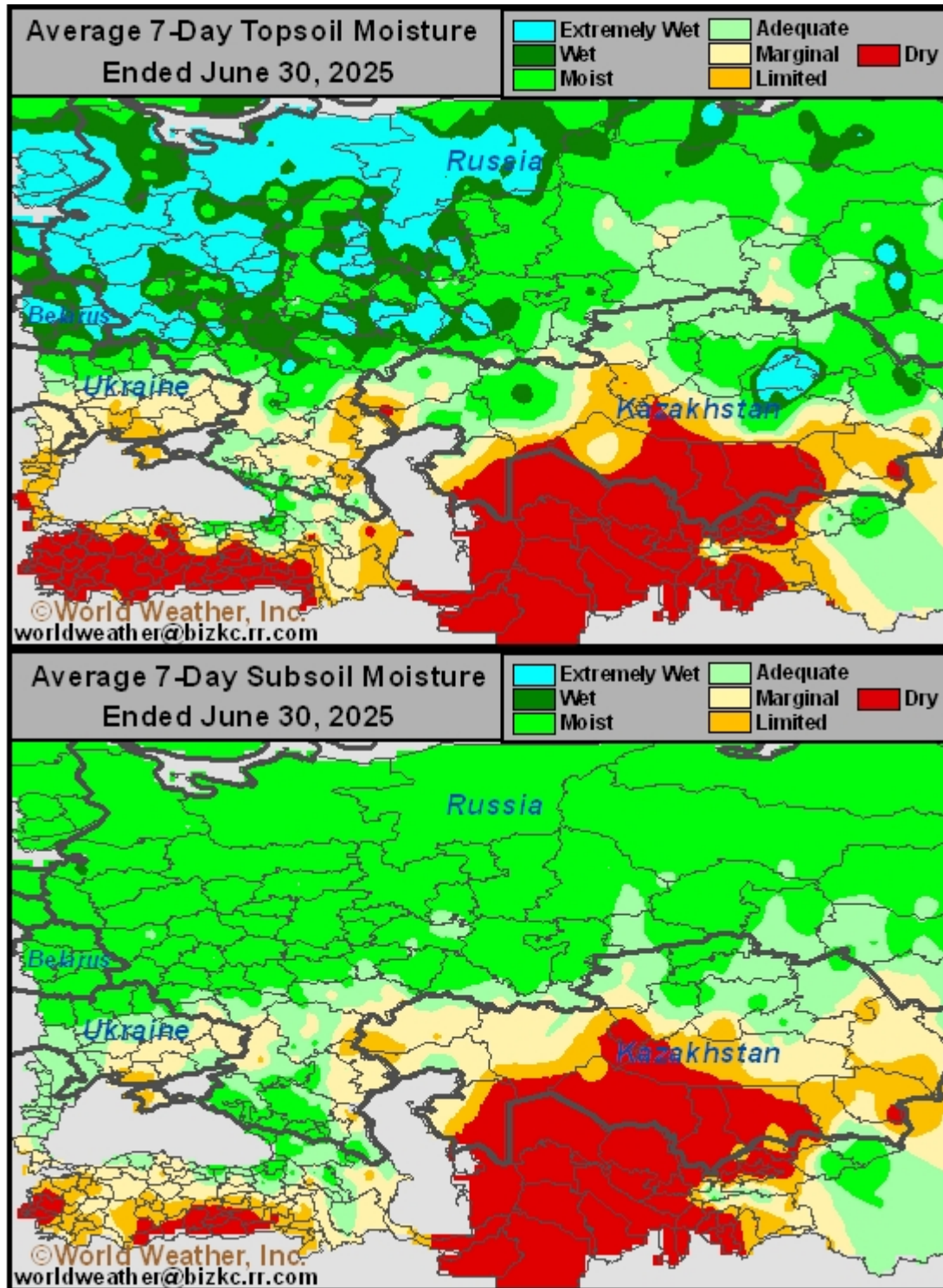
Temperatures will vary across Russia and neighboring locations through the middle of next week. Daytime highs will initially reach the 60s and 70s Fahrenheit today and Thursday as an upper-level disturbance advances over the region. Highs will settle to the 70s and 80s for the remainder of the coming week with pockets still only warming to the 60s Friday and this weekend. Seasonable to seasonably warm weather will be most common July 10 – 16.

The lack of abundant rainfall and gradual warming trend in southern Russia will gradually improve maturation and harvest conditions for the main winter grain and oilseed areas and the same is true for western Kazakhstan, and neighboring locations.

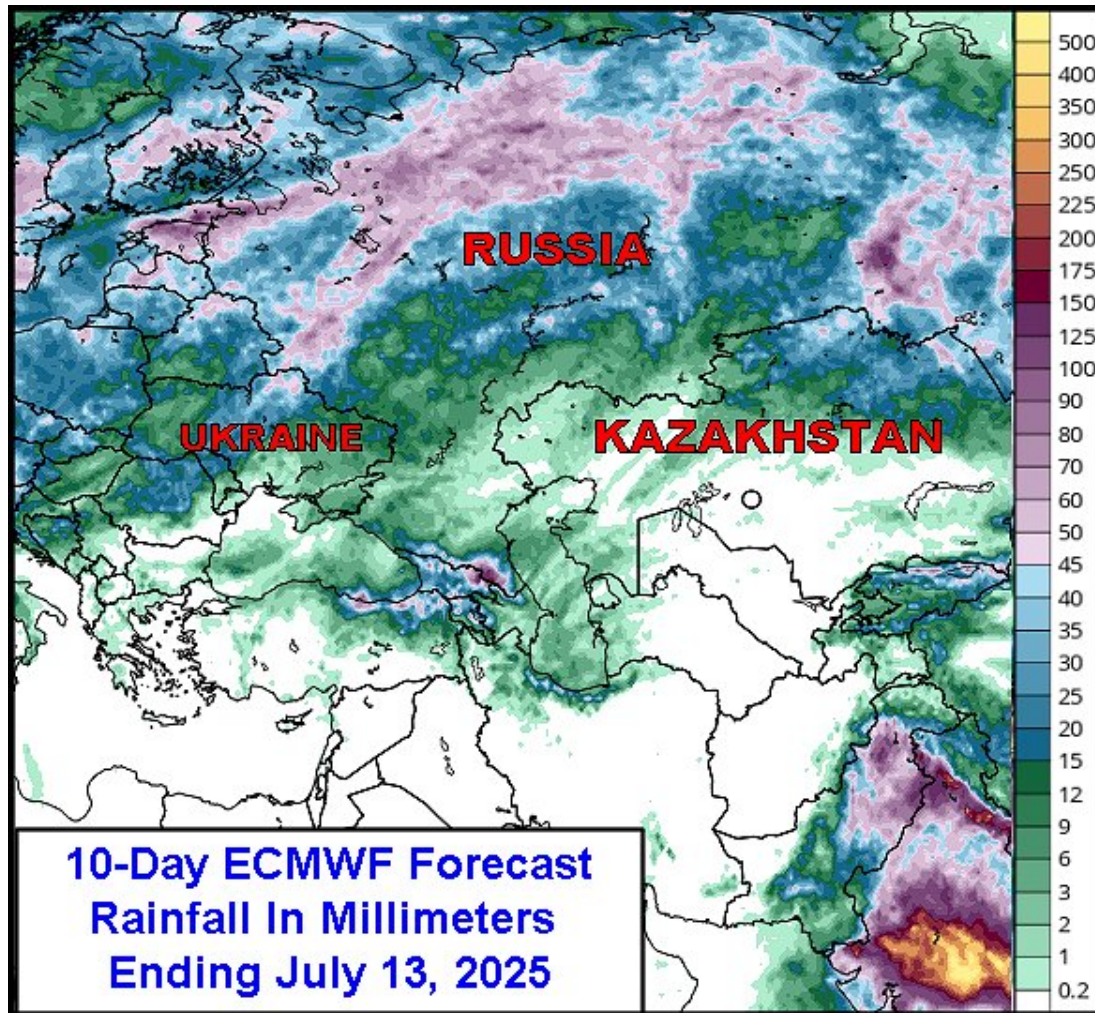
In contrast, the main spring cereal and sunseed production areas will experience frequent rain during the next ten days. The moisture will be good for long term crop

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development; however, spring cereals will not welcome the wetter bias since the potential will remain for wet weather disease and slower crop development potential because of the wet conditions. Summer crops are grown a little farther south where rainfall is not likely to be quite as persistent resulting in a mostly good plant development environment.



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