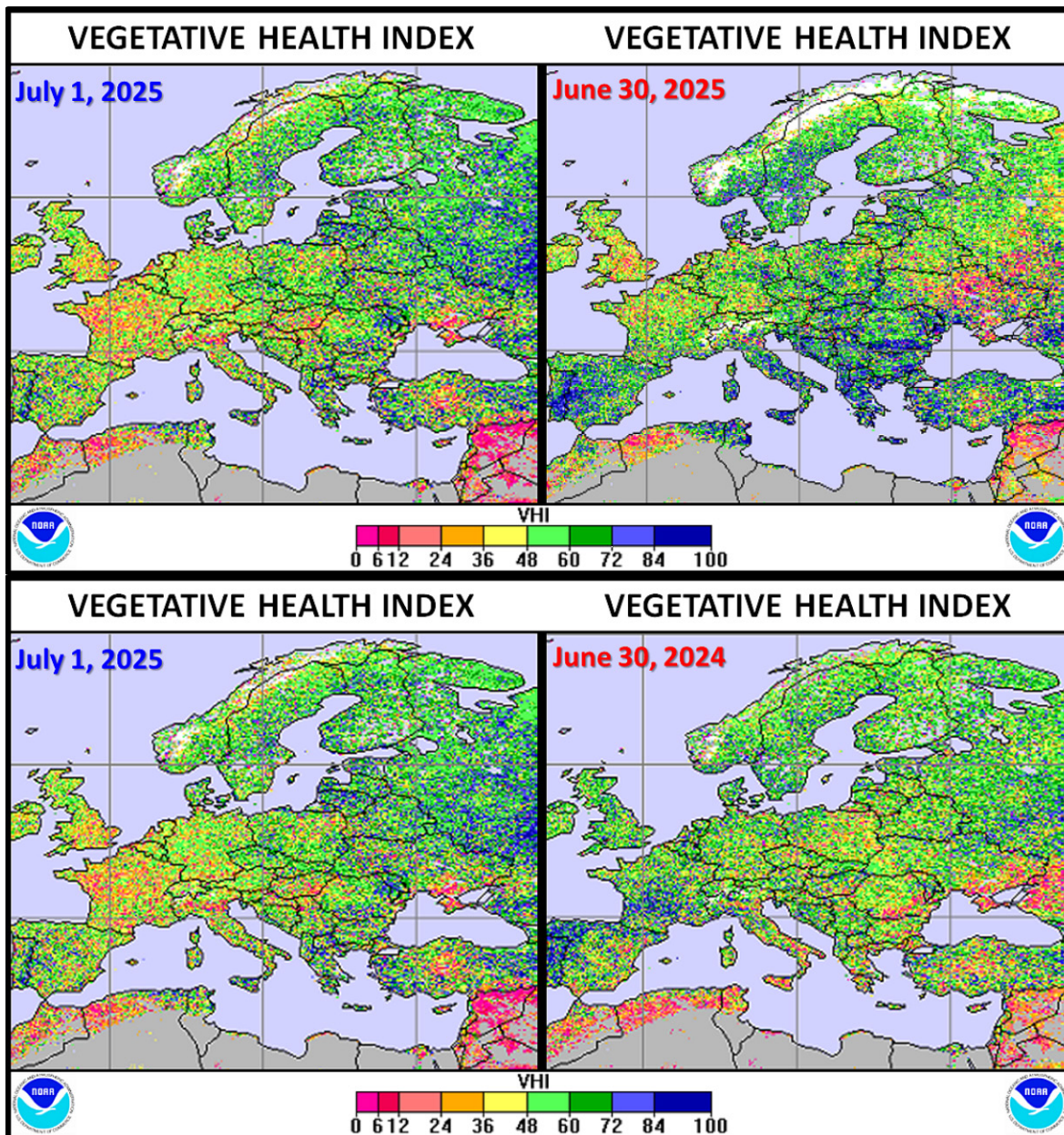


European Drought Reflected In Vegetative Health Index

By Andrew Owen and Drew Lerner

Kansas City, July 9 (World Weather Inc.) – Drought remains a big concern in portions of France, The United Kingdom and immediate neighboring areas as well as in portions of the lower Danube River Basin. Cooling has occurred this week relative to that of last week, but very little rain has come with it in western parts of the continent while a deep upper level trough of low pressure has brought and will continue to bring rain to central and northeastern parts of the continent. Little to no relief is expected in the drier areas of Europe for the next ten days leading to further declines in crop conditions which have clearly been reflected in the Vegetative Health Index for the region.

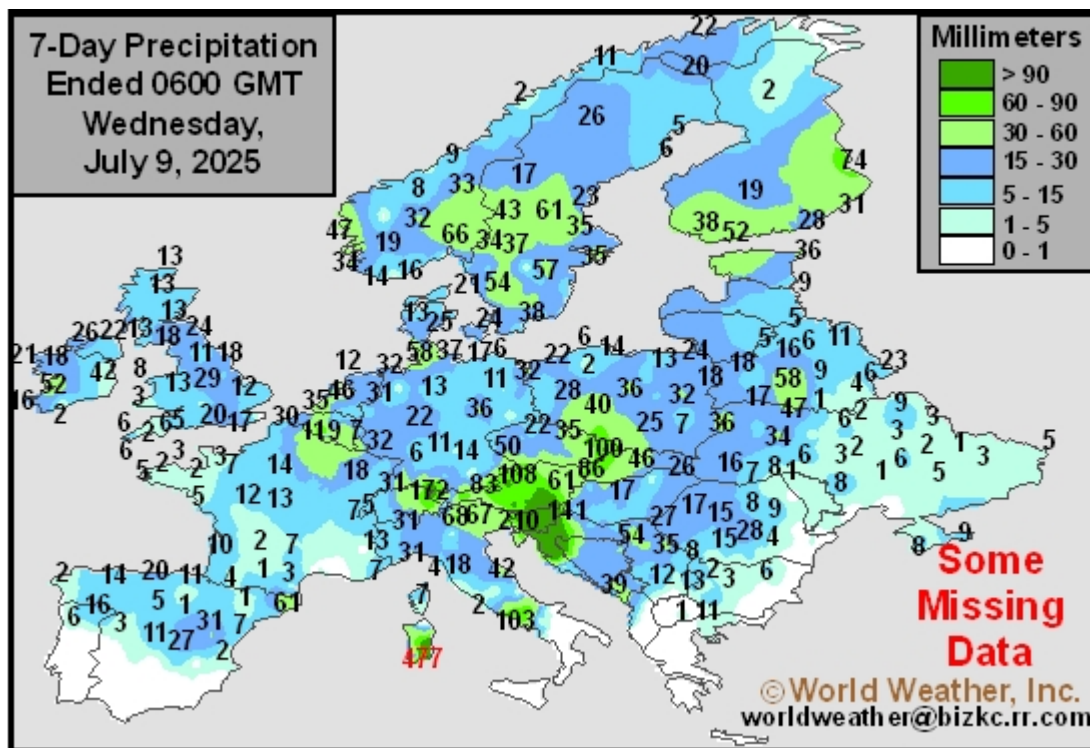


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Prolonged below normal precipitation across portions of Europe this year has cut deeply into crop development – more so in the most recent 30-days than earlier in the year due to hotter temperatures. Crop health has certainly been impacted with vegetative development retarded from that of last year in many areas. The reduction in vegetative health is reflected in the above stress maps which not only reveal a notable decline in crop conditions since the end of June this year, but also a notable decline over that of last year at this time.

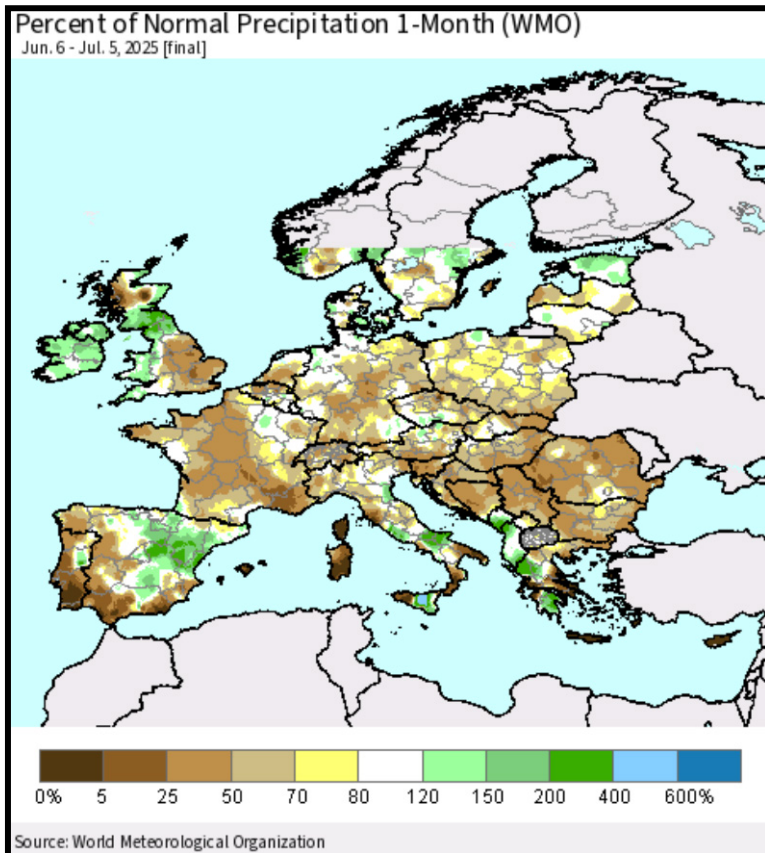
Cooling occurred across much of Europe in recent days after a very hot and stressful period of time impacted the central, western and southeastern parts of the continent last week. Some rain accompanied the cooler weather, but amounts in France, parts of the United Kingdom, Spain, Portugal and southeastern Europe were limited. Some areas in central and western Ukraine through the lower Danube River Basin received less than 0.70 inch of rain with a few areas dry or mostly dry. Rainfall in parts of France and the southern U.K. was also less than 0.60 inch except in a few southern England locations where up to 0.88 inch resulted.

In contrast, rainfall reached between 0.70 inch and 2.75 inches in northern parts of the U.K., the Low Countries, northwestern Germany, Denmark, southern Scandinavia and from northern Italy and Slovenia through Poland to western Belarus and western Ukraine. Local totals of 2.75 to 4.69 inches occurred from northeastern Italy to southwestern Poland and eastern Czech Republic as well as in Belgium.



Temperatures were warmer or much warmer than normal for much of Europe during the past week. Highest readings were in the 80s and 90s Fahrenheit for much of mainland Europe with pockets in the Iberian Peninsula, Germany, and southeastern Europe warming above 100 degrees. Cooling occurred during the weekend and earlier this week with many areas in the United Kingdom only seeing highest readings in the 60s and 70s. Some high

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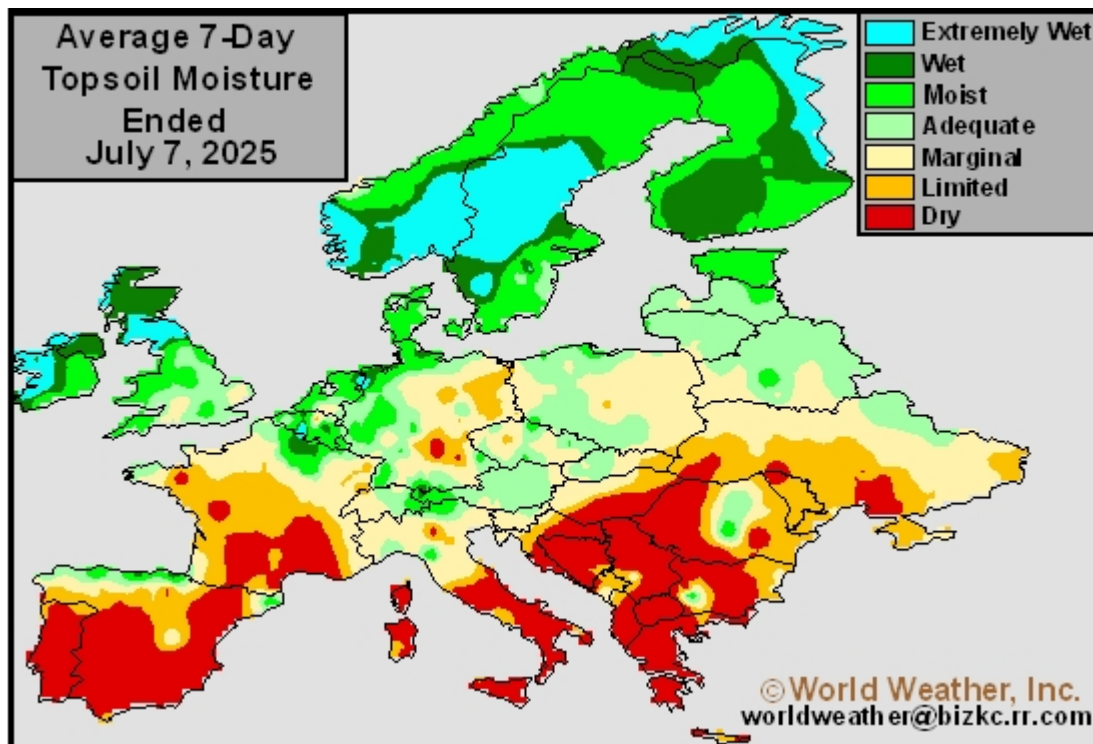


temperatures the past two days were limited to the upper 50s and 60s in central parts of the continent.

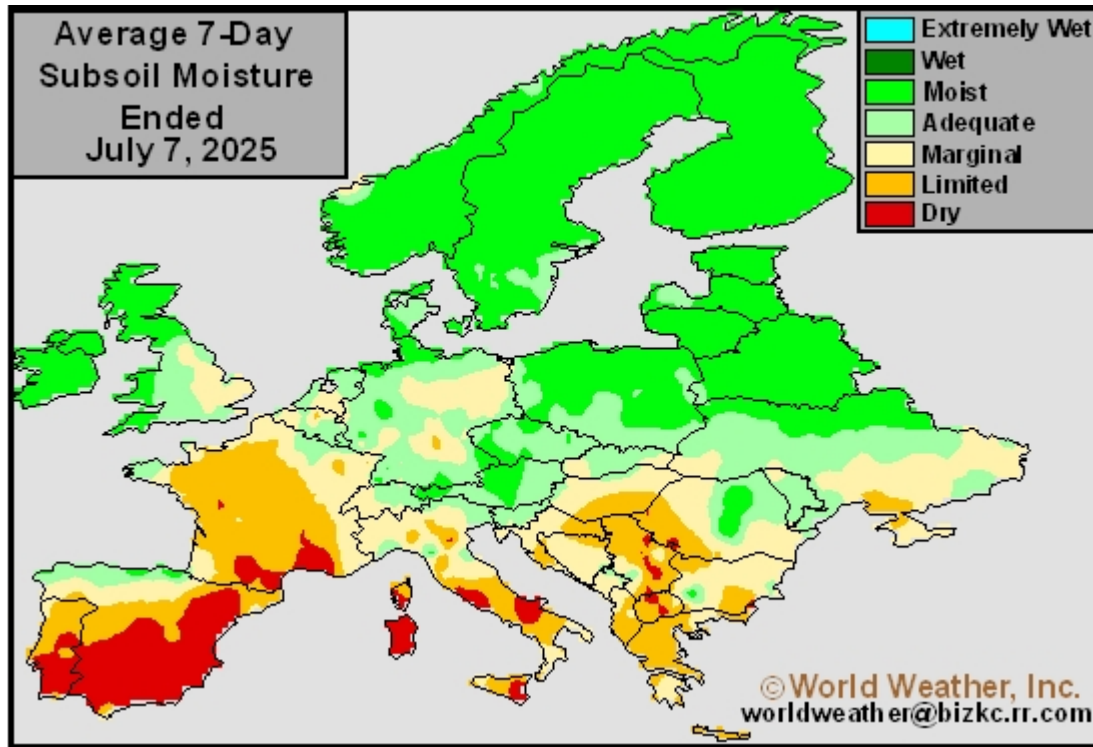
A large section of Europe trended drier than usual during the past month. Only a few locations in eastern Spain, Ireland, the United Kingdom, southern Italy, western Greece, and immediate neighboring areas were wetter than usual for the 30-day period ending July 5. Portions of France, southeastern England, central Germany, and southeastern France otherwise received less than 50% of normal precipitation for this time of year.

Soil moisture was rated short to critically short in much of France, the Iberian

Peninsula, Italy, the Balkans region, and southern Ukraine due to the lack of significant rain in recent weeks. Other areas have adequate to marginally adequate moisture.



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Spotty rain that occurred in recent weeks has not been enough to sustain a good environment for crop growth and development. Production cuts have already occurred and may be greatest on spring and summer crops than those of the winter since many of those are being harvested and were maturing as the driest conditions settled in. Continued drier-than-usual conditions may lead to greater production losses in France, some neighboring areas and in the lower Danube River Basin. Other locations in Europe have received some periodic moisture to support new growth especially in recent days. However, many fields in Germany, southern England, Poland, northern Ukraine, and Belarus are becoming too dry for ideal crop prospects and timely rain is needed for these areas as well.

WEATHER OUTLOOK

France, the Iberian Peninsula, southern England, and Belgium, along with the lower Danube River Basin and much of Italy, will remain drier than usual through the middle of next week. A disturbance will still bring erratic rainfall to portions of France, northern Spain, southern England, and Belgium at the beginning of next week with moisture totals ranging from 0.10 to 0.75 inch and local amounts over 1.00 inch by next Wednesday morning. The lower Danube River Basin will either be dry or not receive enough rain to counter evaporation.

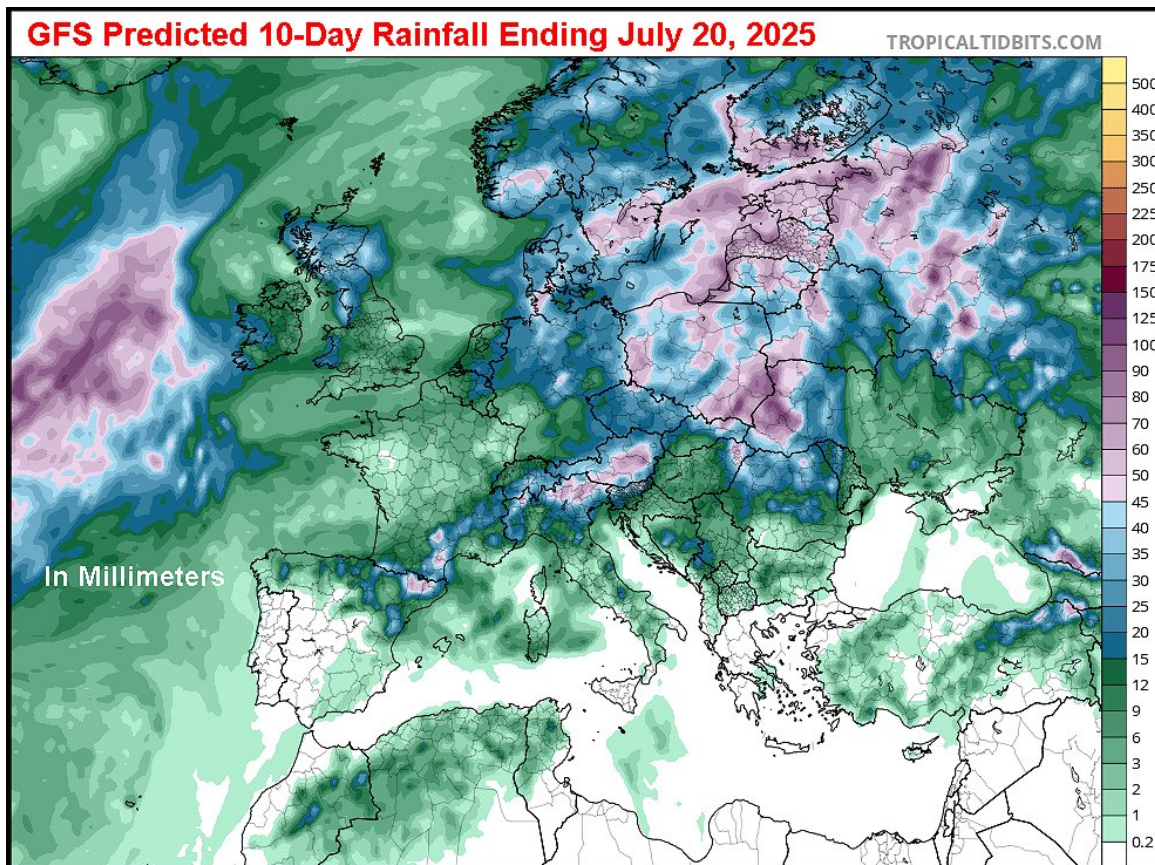
The remaining production areas in Europe will see a good mix of rain and sunshine through the middle of next week. An upper-level disturbance over the Baltic Plain will promote waves of rain for northeastern Europe and neighboring locations through the end of the weekend. A separate disturbance will promote erratic rainfall for Ireland and other areas in the United Kingdom into Germany and neighboring areas late this weekend and early next week. Moisture totals by next Wednesday morning will range from 0.50 to 2.00 inches

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with local amounts of 3.00 inches or more in Poland, Belarus, western Ukraine, and the Baltic States.

Temperatures will vary across Europe through the middle of next week due to the location of upper-level disturbances over the continent. The Iberian Peninsula and much of France, southern England, and Italy, along with the eastern two-thirds of Ukraine and portions of Romania, Bulgaria, and Greece, will warm above normal with daytime highs in the 70s and 80s. Several pockets in Spain, southern France, and extreme southeastern Europe will often warm to the 90s as well. Temperatures will be milder elsewhere with highs often reaching the 60s and 70s, though pockets will warm to the 80s at the beginning and middle of next week.

Aggressive drying is slated to continue for France, southern England, much of the Iberian Peninsula, the lower Danube River Basin, and neighboring locations through at least the middle of next week. The environment will remain poor for new crop growth and production potentials. Other locations in Europe will receive some rain to support new development, at least for the short-term. Many areas in Germany, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, and neighboring locations will still need more rain later this month to maintain relatively good crop development.



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