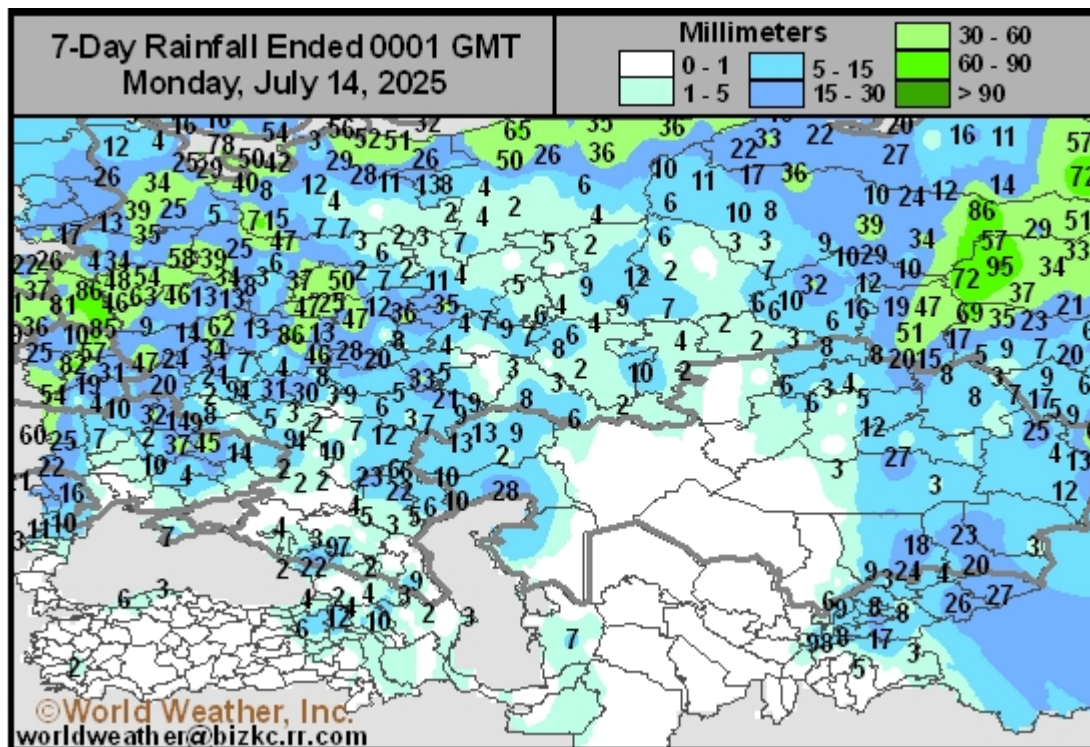


Eastern Ukraine, Russia's 'Southern Region' To Dry Down

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, July 15 (World Weather Inc.) – Precipitation was limited from eastern and central Ukraine into Russia's USDA defined 'Southern Region' and the Volga River Basin during the past week. These areas have dried down significantly, which was beneficial for winter grain and oilseed maturation and harvesting. However, the environment deteriorated for the summer grains and oilseeds produced in these areas. Eastern Ukraine and the 'Southern Region' will remain drier and warmer biased during the coming week. Moisture stress will be a growing concern for the summer crops. Other locations in Russia have ample moisture for the summer crops and conditions will remain favorable in the coming week.

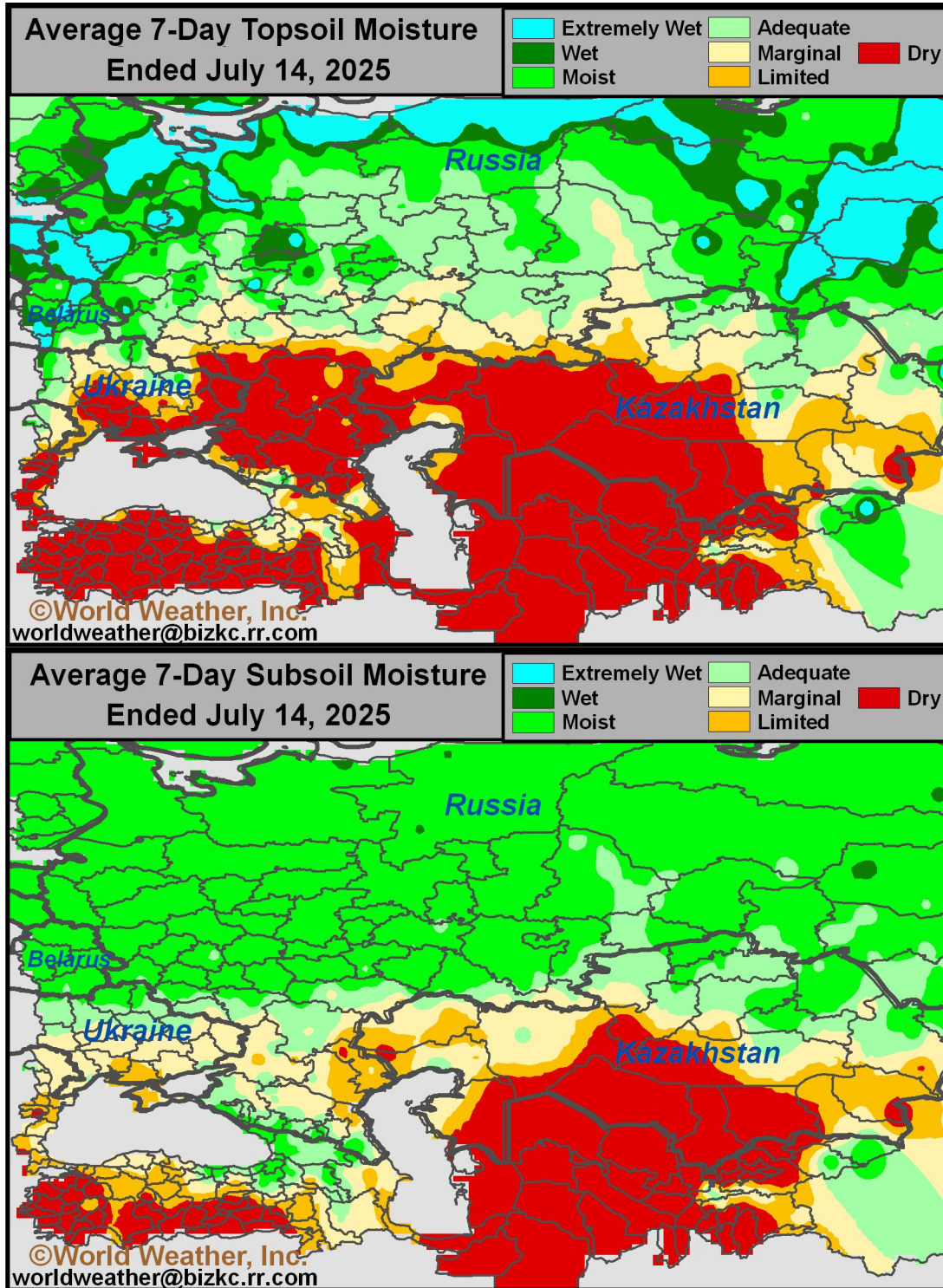
Pockets in the eastern two-thirds of Ukraine into a few locations in Russia's 'Southern Region' received 0.39 to 1.77 inches of rain for the seven-day period ending July 14. However, most locations were dry or did not receive enough rain to counter evaporation. The Volga River Basin and western Kazakhstan into the Ural Mountains region, eastern New Lands, and northern Kazakhstan received 0.16 to 0.79 inch of rain with local amounts up to 2.00 inches in the New Lands. Western Russia otherwise received 0.35 to 2.00 inches of rain with local amounts approaching 3.50 inches.



In addition to the lack of rain during the past week, many areas in Russia's Volga River Basin and 'Southern Region' saw daytime temperatures climb above 100 degrees Fahrenheit at times. Other production areas near and west of the Ural Mountains into Ukraine saw highest readings climb into the upper 80s and 90s.

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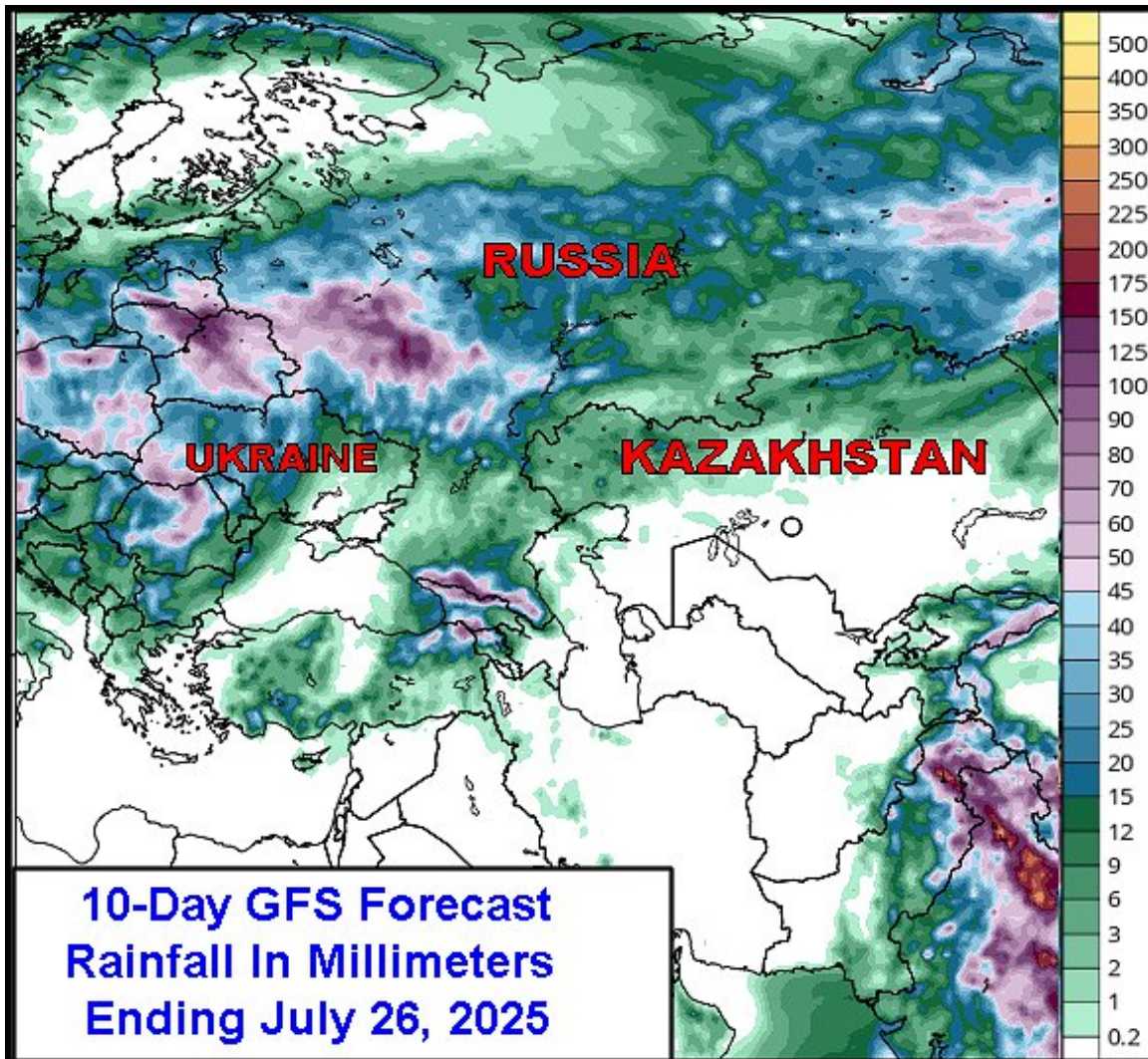
Aggressive drying was noted from the eastern two-thirds of Ukraine into the Volga River Basin, 'Southern Region', and western Kazakhstan during the past week. These areas have short or critically short topsoil moisture. Other locations in Russia and northern Kazakhstan have adequate amounts of moisture.



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Maturation and harvesting of the winter wheat, barley, rye, and rapeseed advanced swiftly in the main production areas of the Volga River Basin, 'Southern Region', western Kazakhstan, and the eastern two-thirds of Ukraine. Production potentials were unchanged despite the periods of hot weather. The environment for unirrigated summer grain and oilseeds otherwise deteriorated for these locations as the ground firmed. The need for significant rain is high to reduce concerns for moisture stress that may reduce production potentials.

The remaining locations in Russia and northern Kazakhstan still have enough moisture to maintain a good environment for the summer grains and oilseeds. These areas still had enough moisture to support aggressive growth, even in areas that only received light rain in recent days.



WEATHER OUTLOOK

Drier- and warmer-than- normal weather will prevail from eastern Ukraine into the 'Southern Region' during the coming week. A high-pressure ridge will remain over the region and limit rainfall most days. Periods of spotty rain will still occur, though

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resulting rainfall will be lost to evaporation. Daytime highs will peak to the upper 80s and 90s with pockets warming above 100 degrees late this week into early next week.

Aggressive drying will prevail and the ground will remain dry to critically dry. Maturation and harvesting of the winter grain and oilseeds will continue with few disruptions.

Unirrigated summer grain and oilseed conditions will otherwise remain less than favorable to poor.

Western Russia, the Volga River Basin, and the remaining production areas in Ukraine will have several opportunities for rain during the coming week. Scattered showers will begin today and Wednesday as an upper-level disturbance approaches from the west. More widespread and significant rain will occur later this week and weekend due to the disturbance. Moisture totals by next Tuesday morning will range from 0.50 to 2.00 inches with local amounts of 3.00 inches or more in western Russia. Temperatures will be near normal with daytime highs often reaching the 70s and 80s. The rain and warm weather will support a good environment for the summer grains, oilseeds, and other crops produced this time of year.

The Ural Mountains region will also trend drier than usual during the coming week. Periods of light rain will occur, though resulting rainfall will be lost to evaporation. These areas will dry down, which may start to impact development rates for the summer grains and oilseeds. Northern Kazakhstan and the eastern New Lands will otherwise see a good mix of rain and sunshine. These areas will receive 0.25 to 1.00 inch of rain with local amounts of 1.50 inches or more by next Tuesday morning. Conditions for the summer crops will remain relatively favorable.

Areas to the east of the Ural Mountains in the eastern New Lands will remain favorably moist and experience additional rain along with mild to warm temperatures. Such conditions should provide a good environment for ongoing spring wheat, sunseed and other crop development.

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