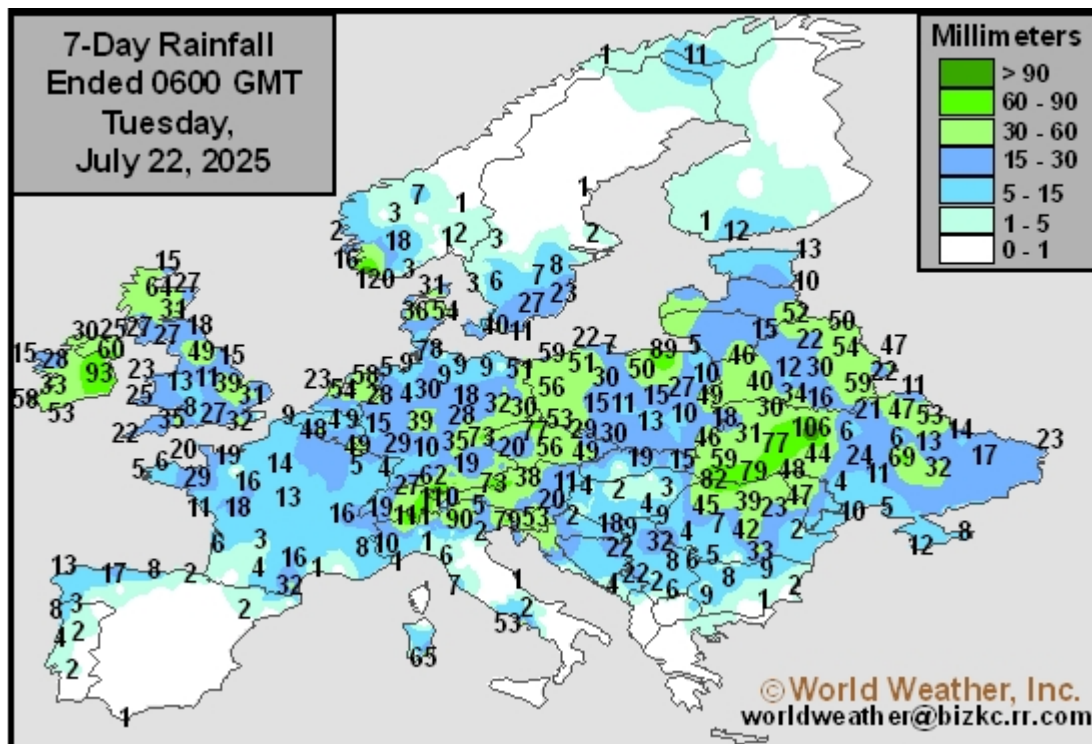


Rain Potentials For Parts Of France May Improve Soon

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, July 22 (World Weather Inc.) – France and the lower Danube River Basin are the two driest areas in Europe and unirrigated crops in both regions are seriously stressed by the lack of rainfall and soil moisture. Recent weather has been less oppressively hot in northwestern Europe relative to that of earlier this month, but rain eluded much of France while it fell more significantly in parts of the U.K., Germany and the Low Countries. The potential for greater rainfall in France is improving, but the moisture will be slow to come. Relief in the lower Danube River Basin may be even slower arriving, but perhaps some relief will come to that region as well. The remainder of Europe has been and will continue to see a more typical summer time weather pattern.

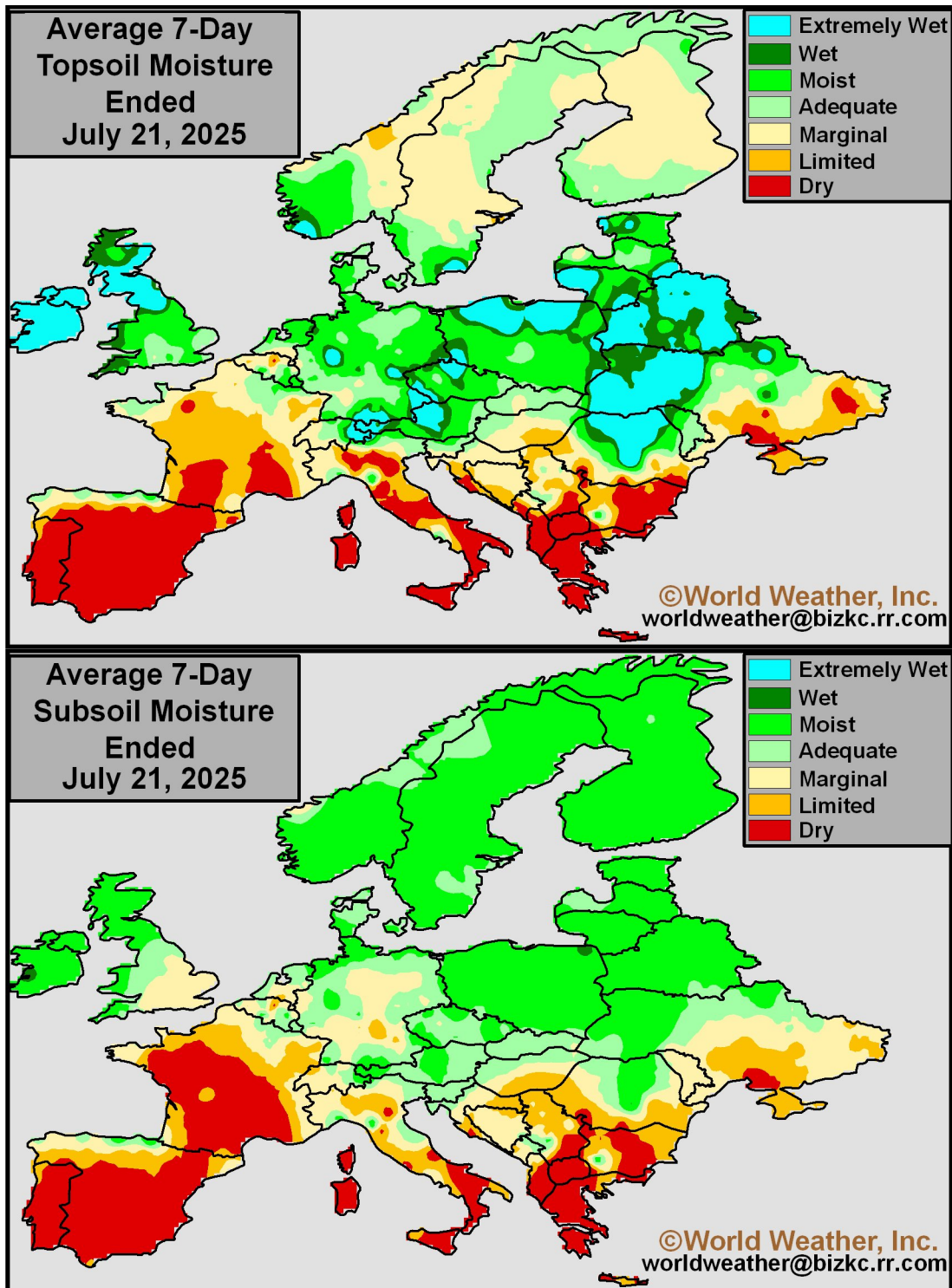
Ukraine, Belarus, the Baltic States, and northern Romania through Poland, Czechia and Germany into Denmark, the Netherlands, Belgium, and much of the United Kingdom and Ireland received rain on a frequent basis during the past week. Moisture totals for the seven-day period ending this morning generally ranged from 0.43 to 2.50 inches with local amounts up to 4.00 inches in western Ukraine and Ireland. France Southern Romania, Serbia, Hungary, northwestern Spain, and neighboring locations received 0.20 to 0.75 inch of rain with local amounts up to 1.30 inches in France. Little to no rain was noted in the remaining production areas of Europe.



Periods of warmer than normal weather were noted for much of Europe during the past week, although temperatures were not as hot as those of earlier this month or in late June. Highest readings were in the 80s and 90s Fahrenheit with pockets in Spain and southeastern Europe warming above 100 degrees. Several areas in the United Kingdom and

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Ireland also only warmed to the 70s. Lowest temperatures were in the 40s and 50s with pockets only cooling to the lower 60s.

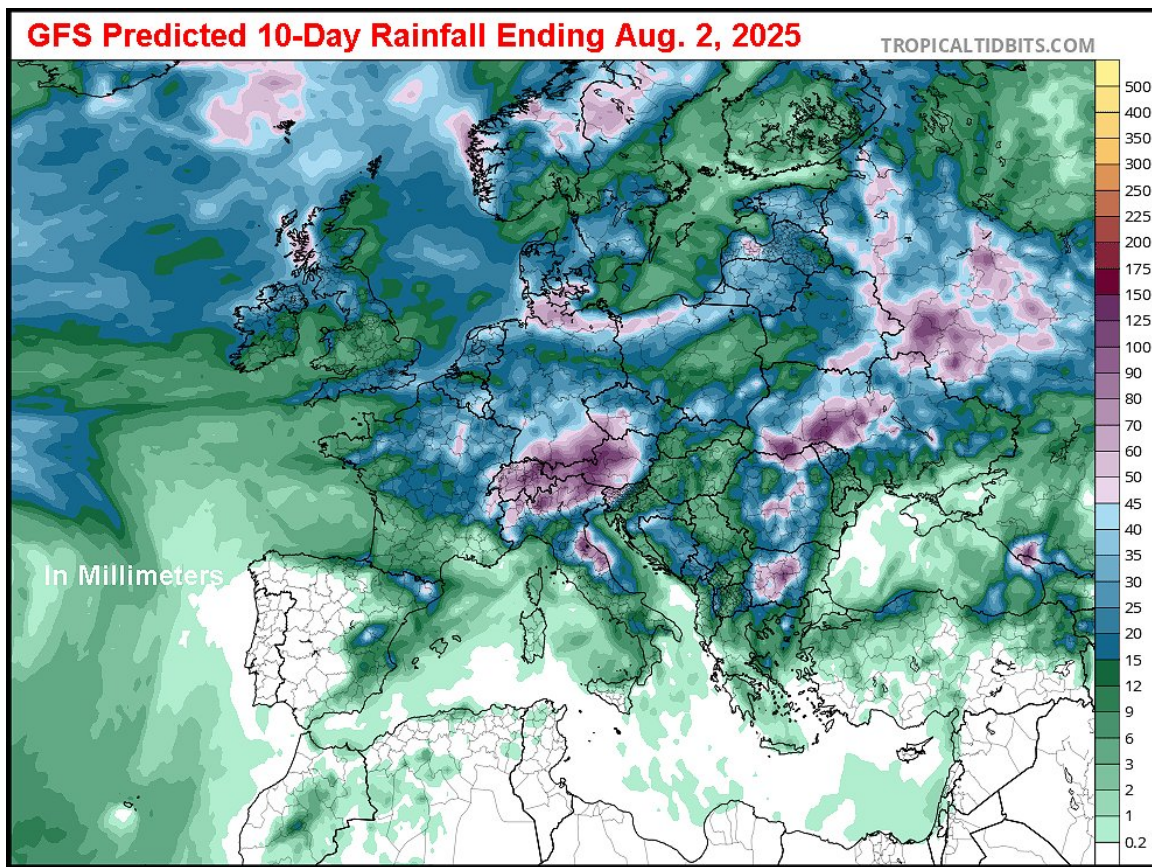


Soil moisture remains critically short in unirrigated areas of France, the Iberian Peninsula, Italy, and the lower Danube River Basin. However, dryness is normal at this time

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of year in Spain, Portugal and portions of southern Italy and Greece leaving the lower Danube River Basin, France and numerous neighboring areas in Germany, the U.K., northern Italy and southeastern Ukraine abnormally dry. Other areas in Europe have adequate to surplus topsoil moisture and adequate subsoil moisture.

The ongoing moisture shortages in for much of France, the Iberian Peninsula, the lower Danube River Basin, and portions of Italy continue to promote less than favorable to poor grain, oilseed, and other crop conditions. Unirrigated production potentials have already been reduced in the driest areas, though some improvements will be possible if rain increases in the near future. Other locations in Europe have enough moisture to support aggressive growth.



WEATHER OUTLOOK

Precipitation will vary across Europe during the coming week. Two upper-level disturbances will slowly track across the continent through Saturday and will bring erratic rainfall to several production areas. Another disturbance will make its way across the region and promote rain for portions of Western and southeastern Europe over the weekend and early next week.

The Iberian Peninsula, southern France, the United Kingdom and Ireland, and portions of southern Italy will either be dry or not receive enough rain to counter evaporation. Other production areas in Europe will receive 0.25 to 1.50 inches of rain with local amounts over 2.00 inches in Germany, Poland, the Baltic States, and neighboring locations. The main production areas will again have a few opportunities for rain July 30 –

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August 5, though much of Europe may trend drier or slightly drier than usual for this time of year.

Temperatures will vary across Europe during the coming week. Eastern Europe and the Iberian Peninsula will see temperatures trend near to above normal. Daytime highs will peak to the 70s and 80s with portions of Spain and southeastern Europe often warming to the 90s. Other locations in Western Europe will see temperatures trend near or slightly below normal. High temperatures will still be in the 70s and lower 80s, though several areas will only warm to the 60s through Friday as the upper-level disturbances pass over the region.

France and the lower Danube River Basin will continue to suffer from moisture deficits during the coming week despite the periods of spotty rain. Crop development conditions will remain less than favorable to poor for most locations. Many areas in the United Kingdom and Ireland and other locations in the Balkans region may also trend a little too dry for ideal growth by early next week. The need for timely rain will increase. Other locations in Europe will receive enough rain to maintain aggressive growth.

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