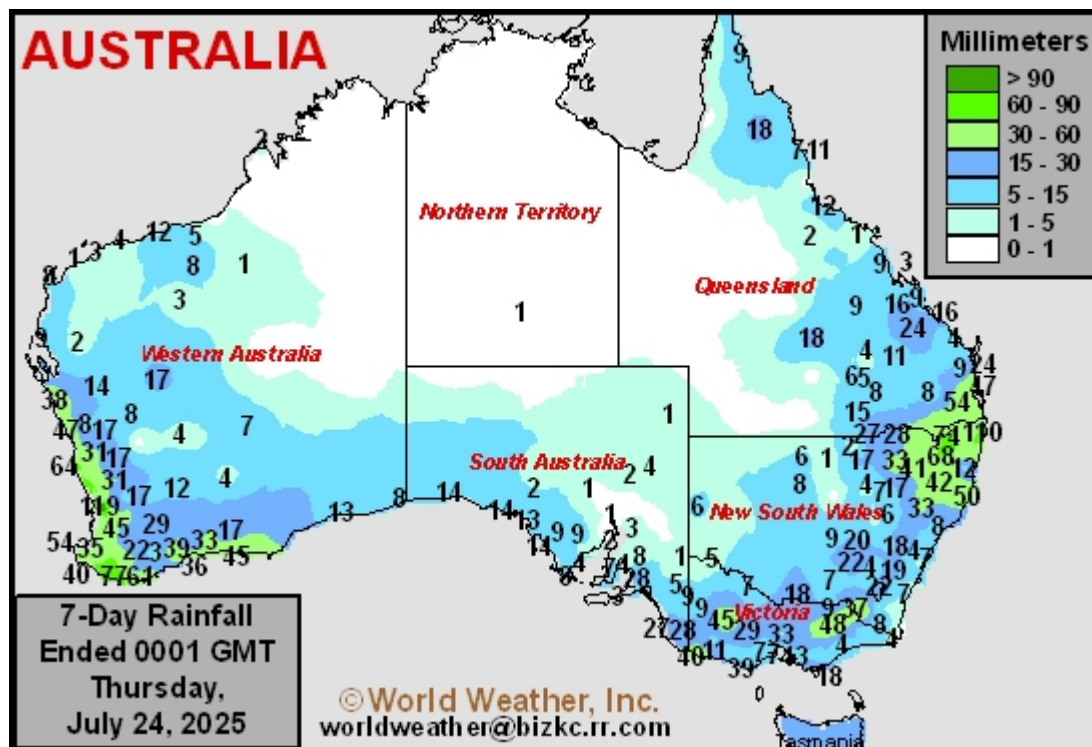


Australia's Winter Crop Areas To Receive Much-Needed Rain

By Andrew Owen

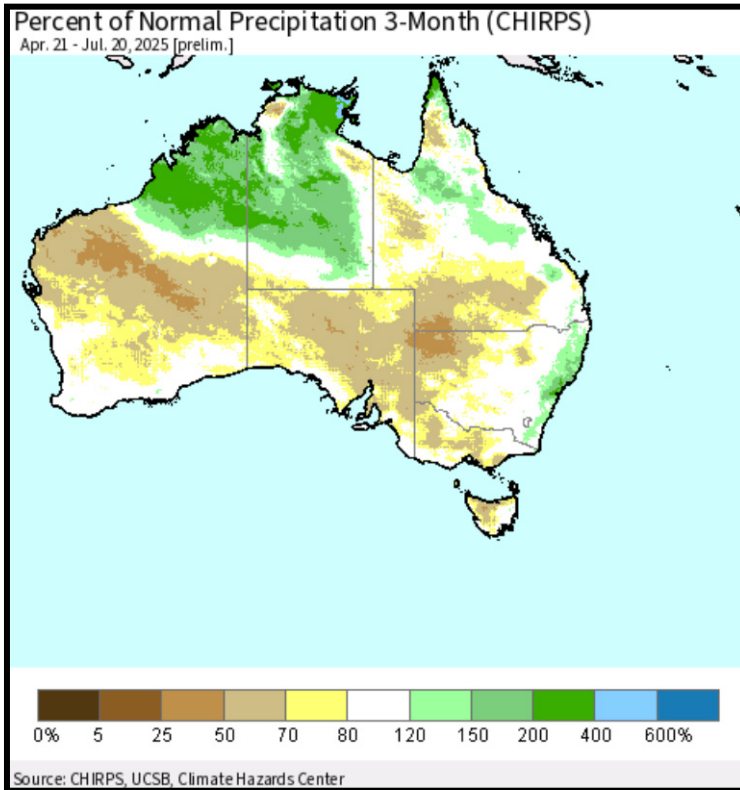
Kansas City, July 24 (World Weather Inc.) – Winter wheat, barley, and canola production potentials are highly variable across Australia this season due to an uneven and often poor distribution of rainfall since April. Many areas in Queensland, New South Wales, and pockets in Victoria and South Australia have been drier or much drier than normal for months and many crops were planted in dry soil. Minor production potential losses may have already occurred due to the lack of rain so far this growing season. A series of disturbances will bring timely rain to a large section of Australia's main production areas during the coming week. While rainfall will be too light to completely fix the moisture deficits in the driest fields, development conditions will improve for at least the short-term. Additional rain will still be needed in August to further improve production potentials.

Recent rain has already been ramping up in Australia with a notable increase in its frequency during the past week. Some of the greatest rain fell in the Darling Downs region in northeastern New South Wales and far southeastern Queensland where totals of 1.00 to nearly 3.00 inches resulted. One location along the upper coast of New South Wales reported 4.30 inches of moisture. Crop areas near the coast of Western Australia also reported significant rain with amounts of 1.00 to 1.77 inches. Interior crop areas of Western Australia, Victoria and far southeastern South Australia reported 0.35 to 0.68 inch with local totals to 1.58 inches. The lightest and most sporadic rain was in the remainder of South Australia, northwestern Victoria, central New South Wales and interior southeastern Queensland where 0.05 to 0.60 inch resulted.



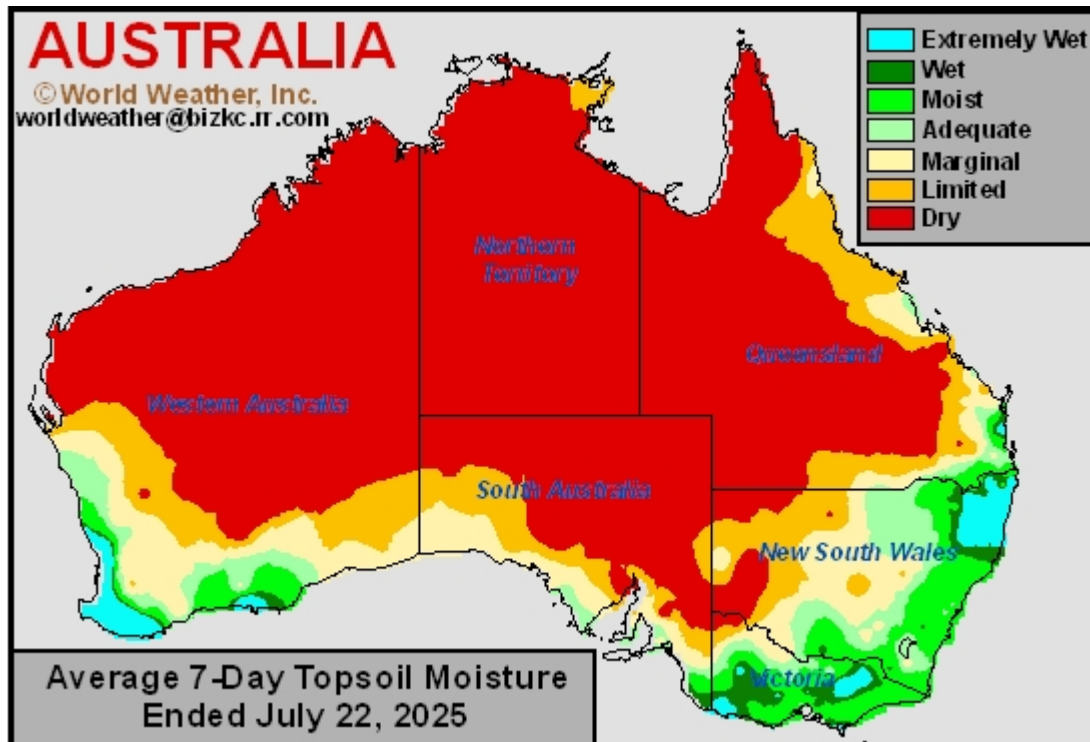
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Several areas in southern Queensland, western New South Wales, and portions of



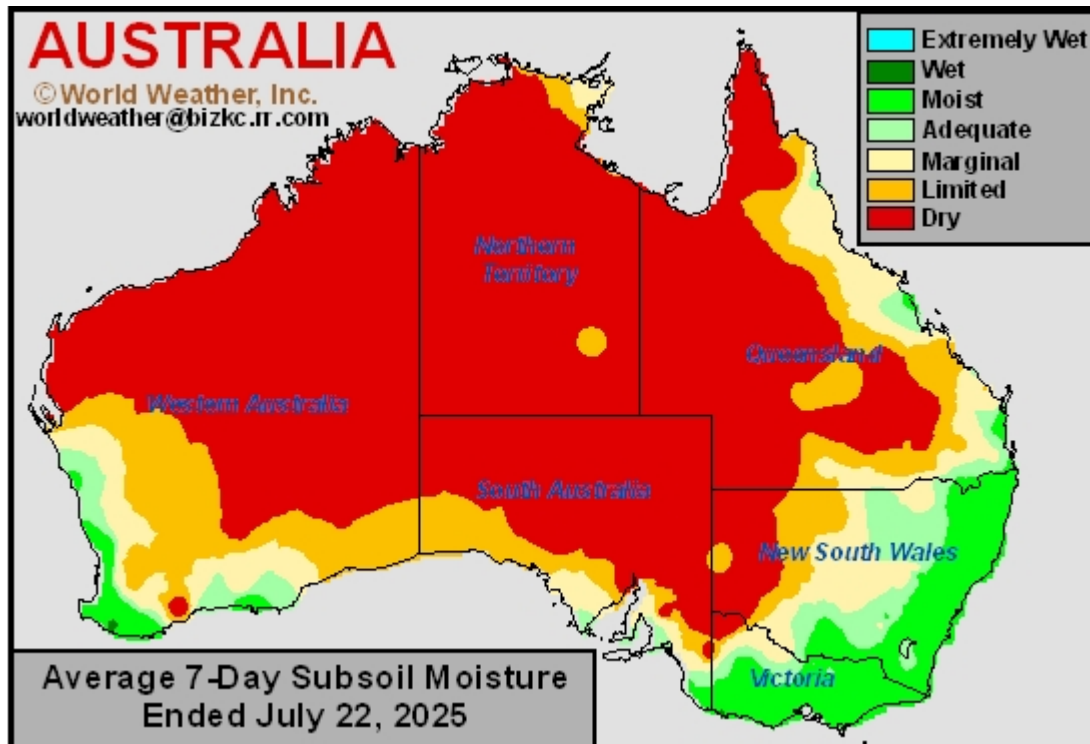
Victoria and South Australia were drier than normal for the 90-day period ending July 20. Other production areas received near or slightly below normal rainfall during this time. In the more recent 30-day period ending July 20, a large section of Queensland and New South Wales was drier or much drier than normal. Victoria and South Australia received near or slightly below normal rainfall while Western Australia received near to slightly above normal precipitation.

Soil moisture is rated adequate to excessive in far western parts of Western Australia and Victoria, though interior portions of Western Australia still have a shortage of moisture. South Australia and portions of south-central and eastern New South Wales have adequate or marginally adequate moisture. Severe moisture deficits are otherwise ongoing in Queensland and western New South Wales.



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Winter wheat, barley, and canola prospects are variable in Australia. Victoria and portions of South Australia and southern New South Wales received enough rain in recent weeks to maintain relatively good production potentials. The increased rainfall for Western Australia has also improved production potentials. Queensland and the remaining portions of New South Wales otherwise remain too dry to support ideal crop prospects. Production declines will be possible if drier biased conditions persist into early spring.



WEATHER OUTLOOK

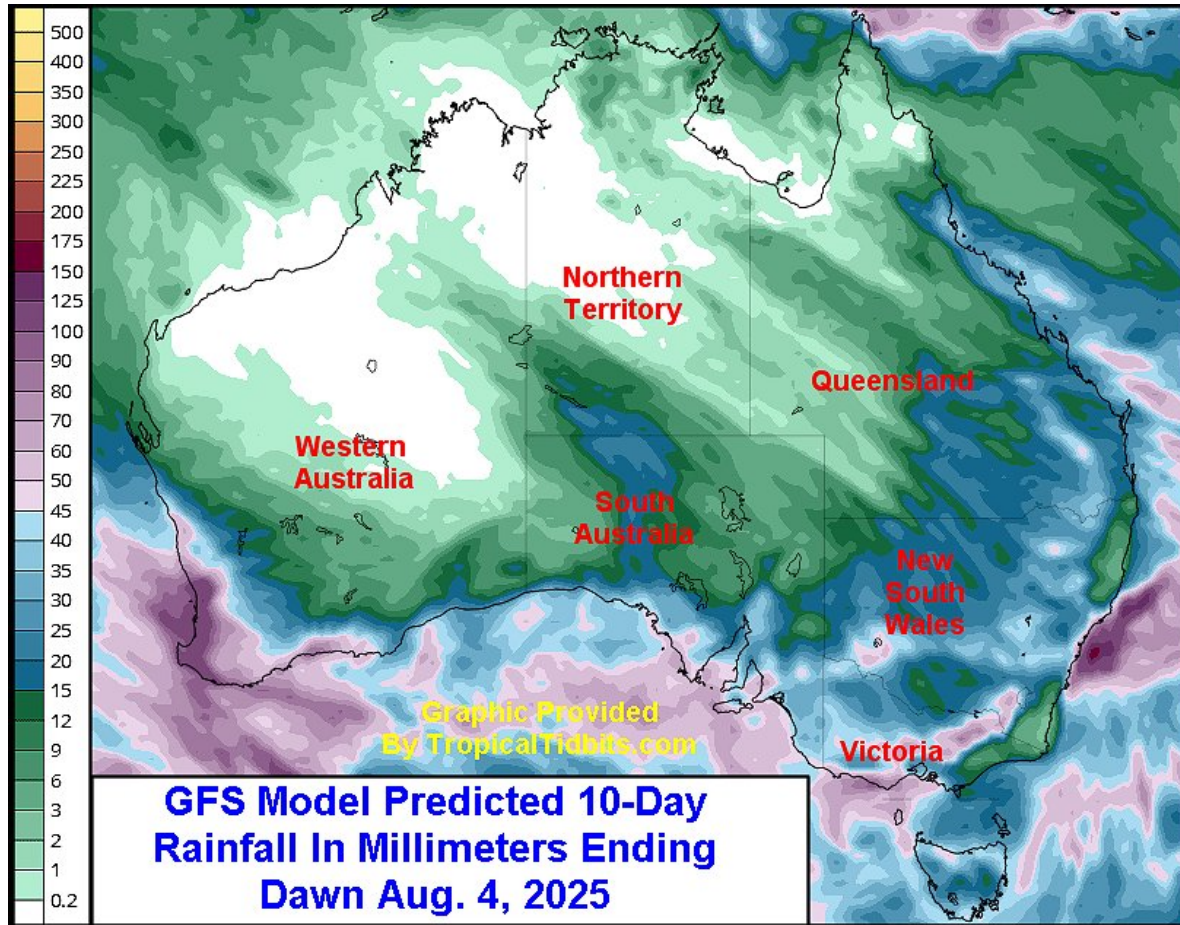
The main production areas in Australia will see a good mix of rain and sunshine during the coming week. A disturbance and frontal boundary will bring the first round of rain to the country today through Saturday. Light showers will linger in southeastern Australia later this weekend as well. Another disturbance will bring rain from west to east across the country late Saturday through Tuesday. Moisture totals by next Thursday morning will range from 0.50 to 2.00 inches with local amounts of 3.00 inches or slightly more in Victoria, South Australia, and southern Western Australia. Pockets in Queensland and northern fringes of crop country in Western Australia will also only receive 0.25 to 0.50 inch of rain. Australia's production areas will have a few opportunities for spotty rain August 1 – 7, though rain potentials will generally be lower compared to the first week of the outlook.

Seasonable to seasonably cool weather will be most common for Australia during the coming week. Daytime highs will peak to the 50s and 60s Fahrenheit with portions of Queensland warming to the 70s Friday and again Tuesday. Pockets in Victoria, southern New South Wales, and southern Western Australia will only warm to the 40s at times as well. Low temperatures will be in the 30s and 40s with portions of Queensland and northern

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New South Wales only cooling to the 50s through Saturday and toward the middle of next week. The temperature profile will be closer to normal August 1 – 7.

Rainfall during the coming week will help improve the moisture profile across the main production areas of Australia. The driest areas, mainly Queensland and New South Wales, will need additional rain to completely fix the moisture deficits. However, winter grain and oilseed prospects will improve. Timely rain will still be needed in August to further improve production potentials.



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