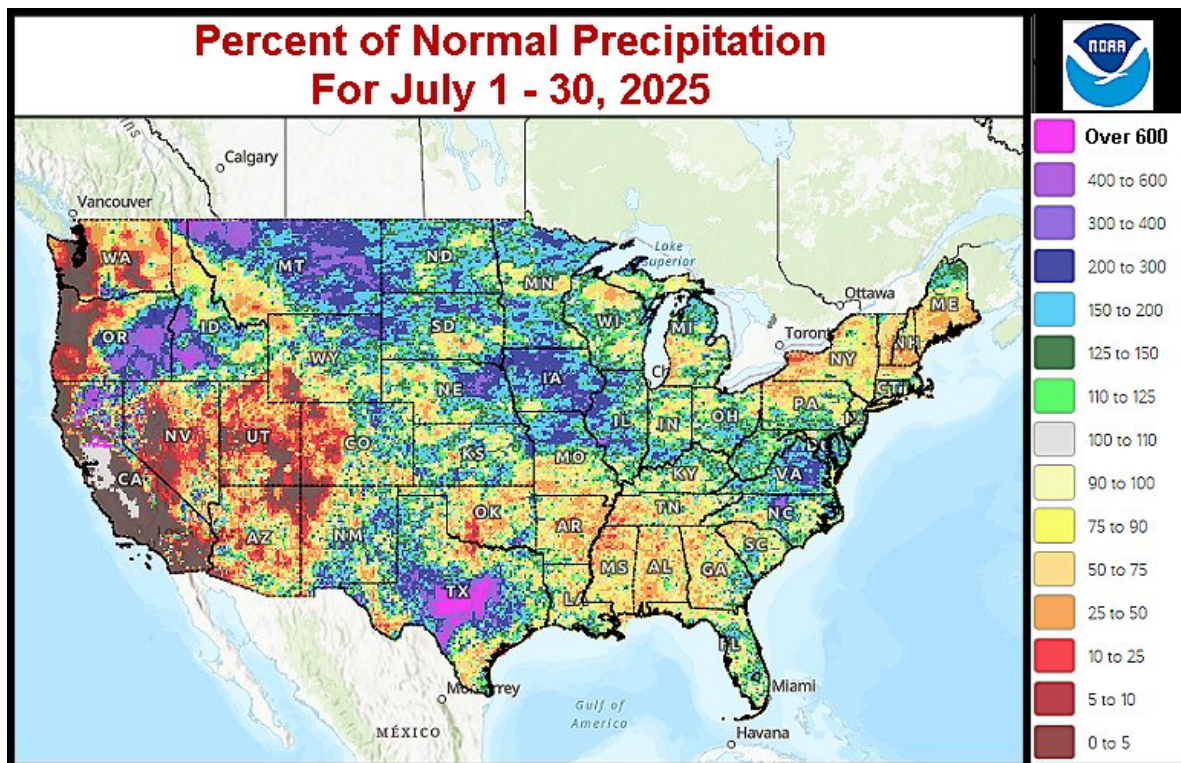


U.S. August Weather To Remain Favorable For Crops

By Drew Lerner

Kansas City, July 30 (World Weather Inc.) – July weather was predicted by World Weather, Inc. to be favorable in key U.S. production areas, but the month was better than expected. Some of the areas predicted to have drier biased conditions ended up wetter bolstering summer crop production potentials above those already expected. The Delta and interior southeastern states dried out as expected. ***The weather patterns supporting all of this are unlikely to change greatly during the coming 30 days and that should lead to more support for a favorable production year. There will be some areas of net drying, but the dryness is not likely to be great enough to seriously threaten production.***

July was quite a bit different than anticipated by World Weather, Inc. The one area that verified well was the drier than usual conditions in the Delta and Tennessee River Basin and the Pacific Northwest. The month was notably wetter than expected in the northwestern Great Plains and from eastern Nebraska and northeastern Kansas through Iowa to portions of Illinois. Similarly the region from Michigan to the northeastern states was drier than expected. Monsoon moisture flux from Mexico was greater than usual; however, the moisture flux was expected to pass through the northern Plains to the upper Midwest and while this part of the forecast verified very well the rainfall in Montana was much greater than expected.

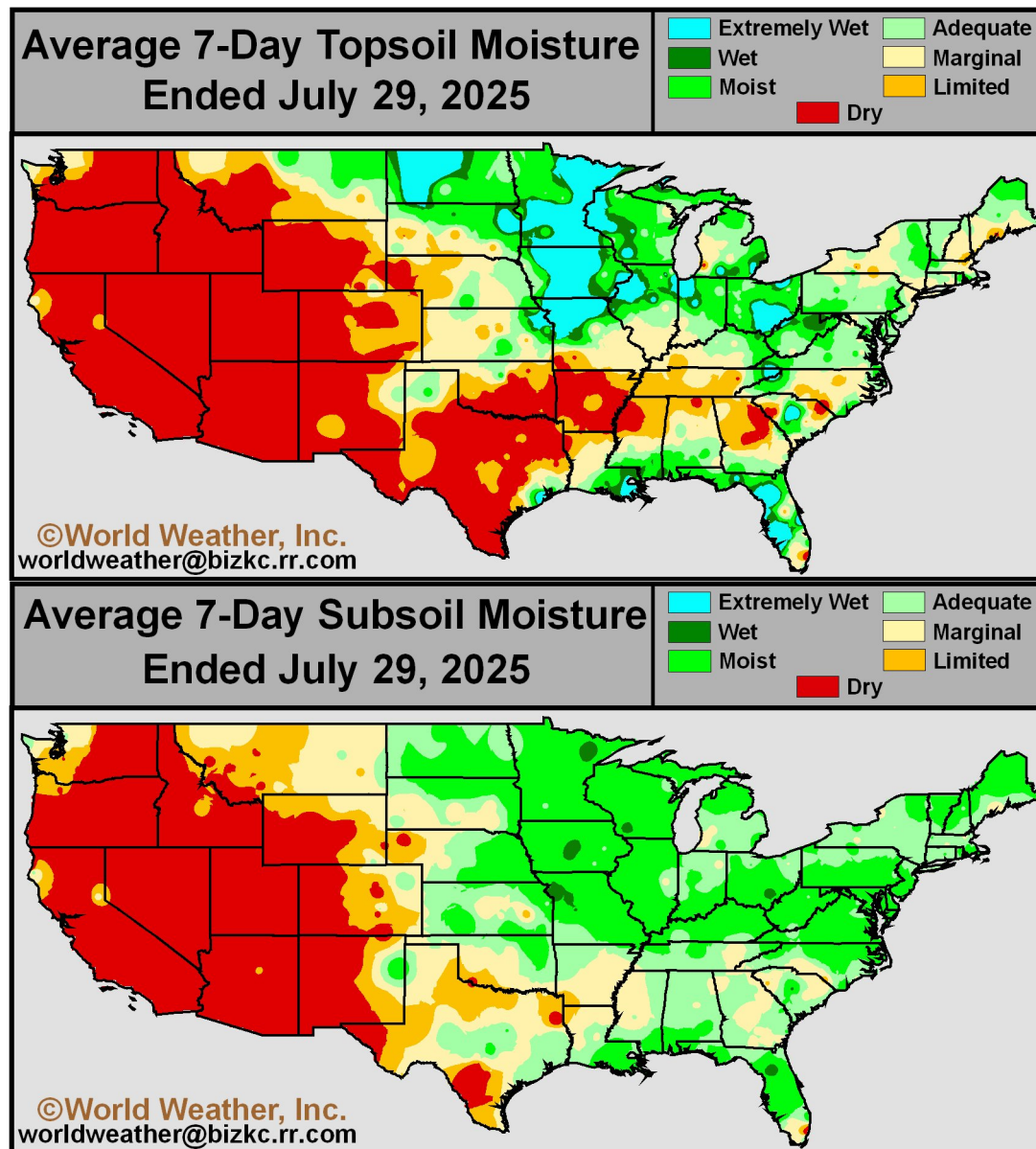


Topsoil moisture at the end of July was rated adequately to abundantly across the far northern Plains from northeastern Montana to Wisconsin and in Iowa, northeastern Kansas, northern Missouri and areas southeast into Ohio and northeastern Kentucky. Other areas

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were a little drier biased; though, not dry enough to seriously stress crops. Soil moisture decreased greatly during the month in the Delta and Tennessee River Basin and into the southeastern states where the need for rain was rising at the end of the month.

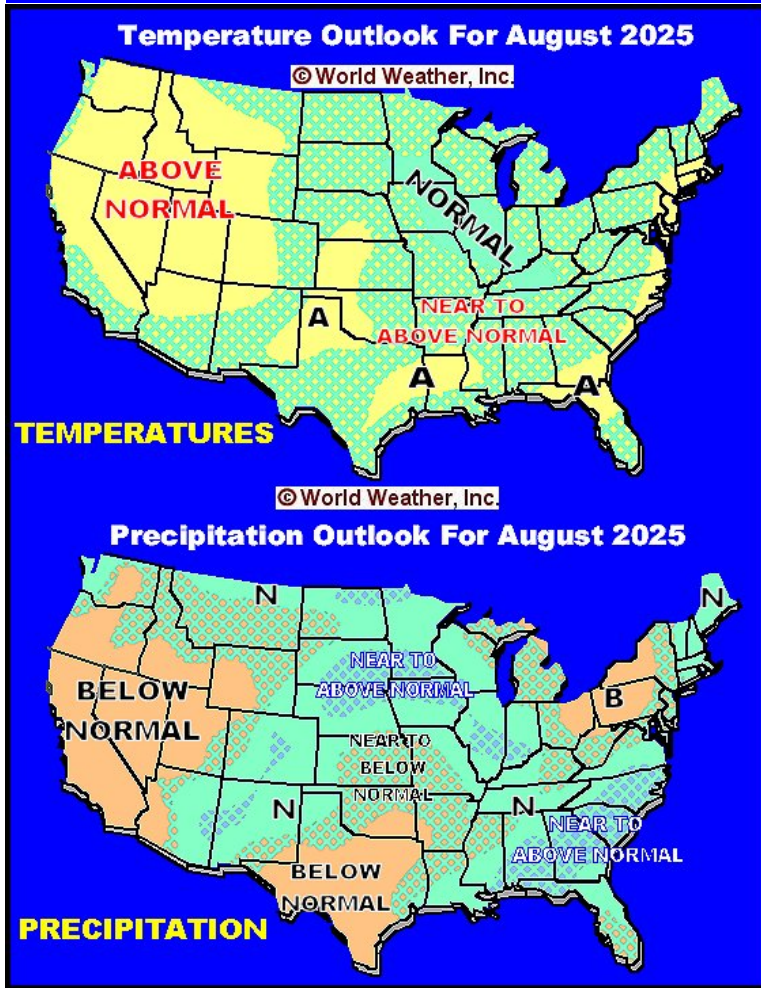
Cooling likely in the first week of August will be accompanied by rain and thunderstorms that should reverse the drying trend in the Delta and Tennessee River Basin as well as the southeastern United States. Rain in Michigan and the northeastern part of the nation may bring some partial relief, although more moisture will be needed later in August to protect summer crop production potentials.



Soil conditions in July dried out considerably in the southern Great Plains along with the Delta, but the start of the month brought on a terrible flood event in central Texas and the ground has continued drying since the second week of the month. West Texas rain during July was reduced and most of the dryland cotton, sorghum and corn

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production areas were dealing with moisture stress when the month came to an end. Timely rain must evolve in August to restore the best possible production potentials for dryland crops.



Dryness in the western United States is not unusual for the summer season, but there is some concern about the drying tendency since water reservoir levels have been declining quickly especially in the Pacific Northwest. There are some forecasters speaking of La Nina returning in the third and four quarters of 2025 and if that happens, winter rainfall in California may be below normal once again leading to declining water reserves for 2026.

There is not much reason to anticipate a major slowdown in the jet stream or upper level winds during August, although some reduction in the speeds is natural in late summer. As a result, the odds of seeing a blocking weather pattern in

August over or near North America are low. August is one of those months that "normal" rainfall is rarely enough to counter evaporation and net drying tends to occur in more summers than not. For that reason, producers and traders should anticipate less soil moisture at the end of August than there is today. By no means should that be interpreted as drought like conditions. Subsoil moisture is rated favorably in much of the Midwest today and the weather pattern in early August should do a fair job of maintaining that situation which will be very important since subsoil moisture will carry summer crops to the finish line. Favorable subsoil moisture should protect production potentials even if and when the topsoil dries out.

August weather is going to provide some short term beneficial moisture to the Delta and Tennessee River Basin to reverse recent drying; however, a drier and warmer scenario will resume later in the month. The only potential exception to this expectation would come from a tropical cyclone that suddenly appears and threatens the region with torrential rain. Such events are very hard to predict this far in advance.

The mean ridge position in early to mid-August will be similar to that of July located over the Rocky Mountain region and western Great Plains; however, some eastward shifting of the ridge into the heart of the Great Plains and western Corn Belt is possible late in the month. The ridge will be of low amplitude (weak) intensity and that should allow 1) early

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season cooler air to pool in Canada in late August and early September while 2) maintaining a warm and humid bias in the U.S. Great Plains and Midwest. The combination of these two features will lead to 3) increasing rain frequency in southern Canada and the northern U.S. Plains in September and a rising potential for some cold air of significance to threaten eastern Canada's Prairies in mid-September. August weather, however, should be well mixed with timely rain and seasonably warm temperatures in key U.S. crop areas and that should allow soybeans and other late season crops need to finish out the growing season well.

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