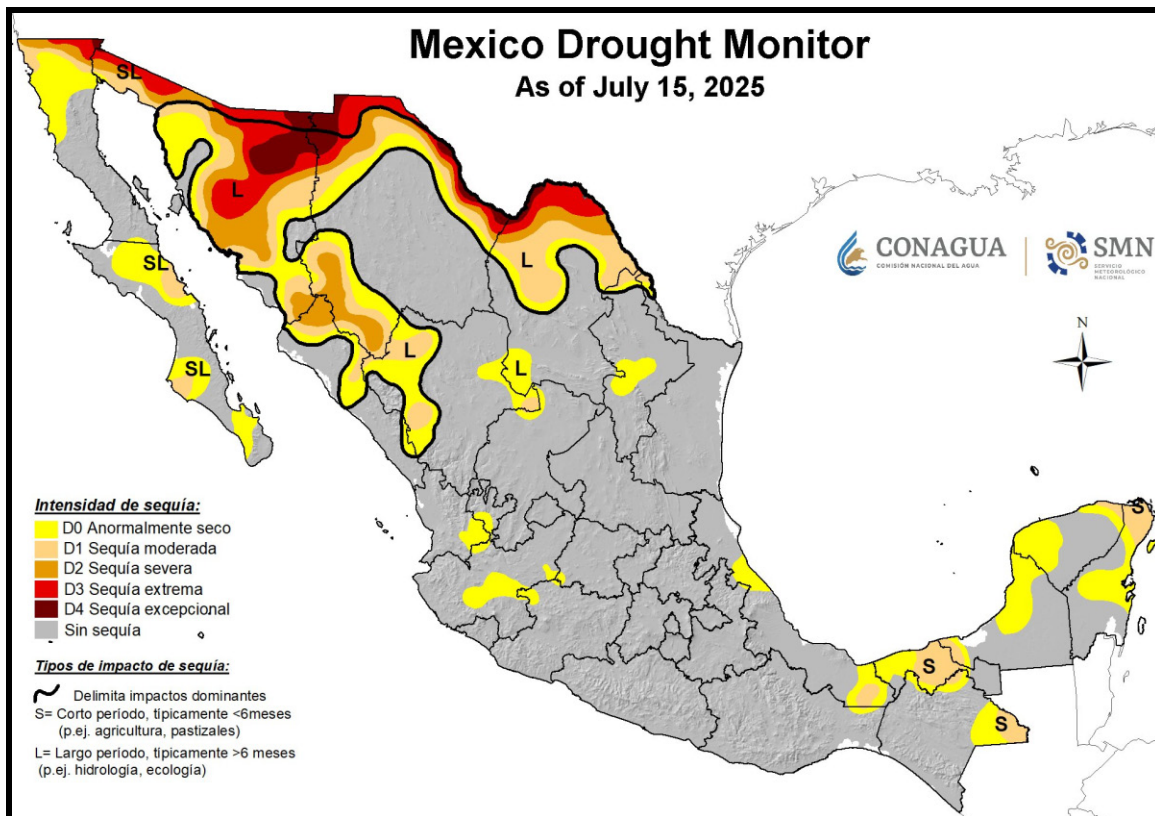


Mexico Monsoon Performs Better In Some Areas Than Others

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, August 1 (World Weather Inc.) – Mexico's monsoon got off to an aggressive start earlier this summer and performed well enough to improve crop and field conditions in most of the nation; however, the improvement has been more significant in some areas than others and there is need for more precipitation especially in light of the coming two weeks in which rainfall may be lighter than usual for several areas. Soil moisture is not ideally rated nationwide and some areas will experience net drying in the next two weeks raising the need for greater rain later this month.

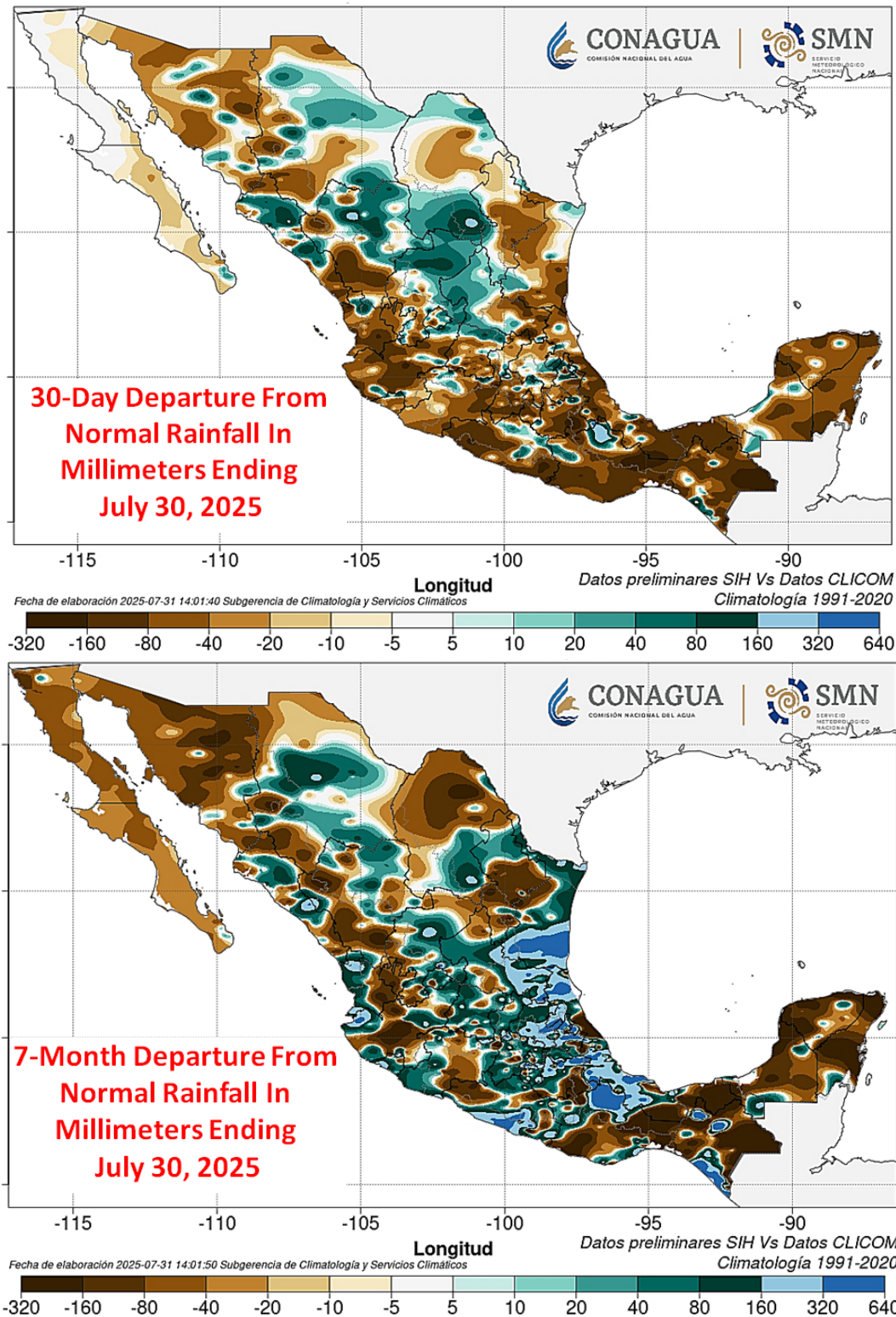


Mexico's drought monitor has reacted to the favorable rainfall distribution in June and early July with most of the nation being free of drought on July 15. The exceptions to that are near the U.S. border in the north and in portions of southwestern Chihuahua, western Durango and portions in Sinaloa. A recent decline in the frequency and intensity of rain has allowed the topsoil to firm up in a few areas relative to that of early July. The firming soil reflects a less intensive monsoon flow that has developed recently and that trend may continue over the coming week or two as high pressure dominates portions of the southwestern United States.

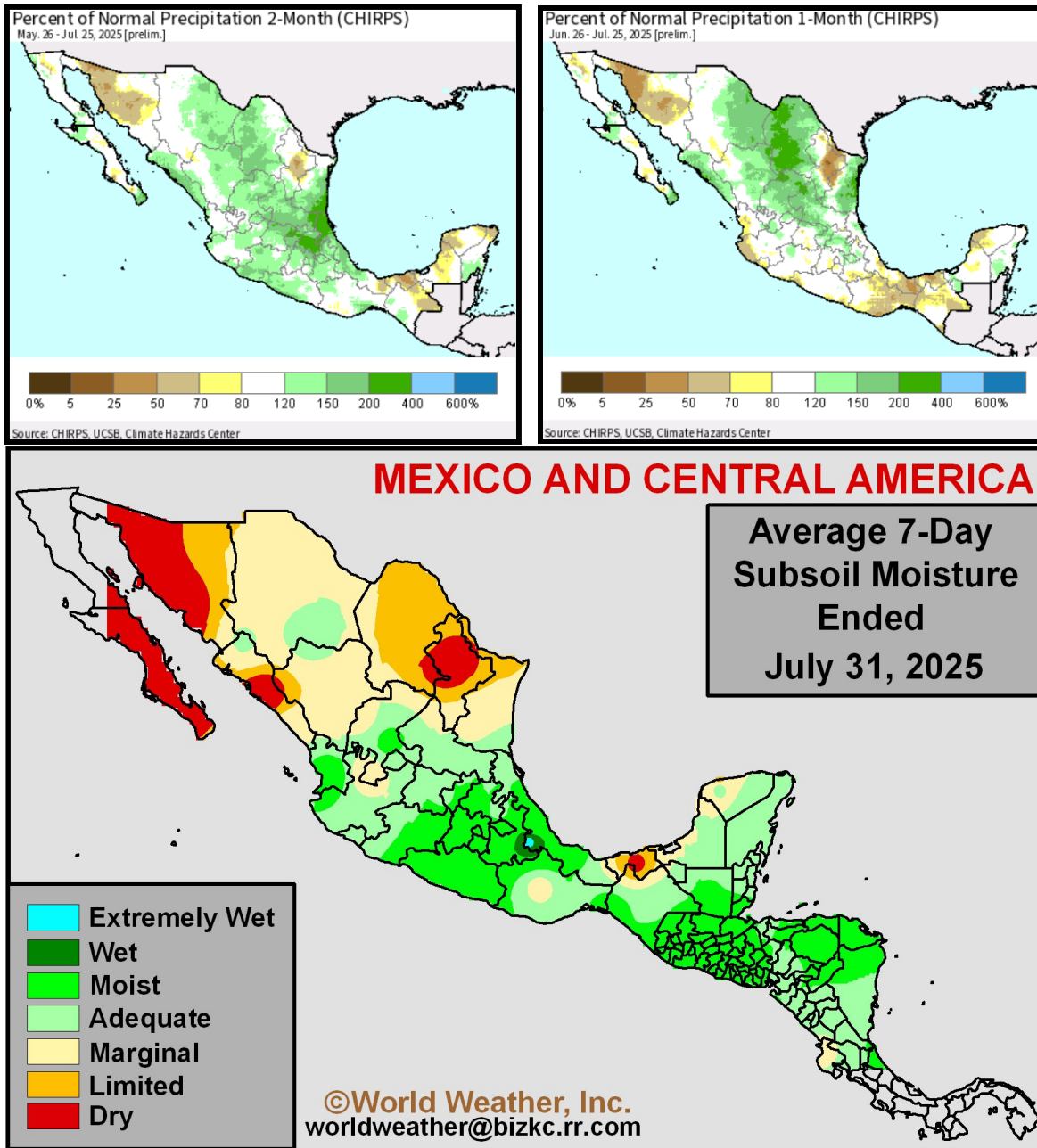
Despite the comments about drier biased conditions recently, most of the nation's summer crops are still performing relatively well. A greater volume of rain is needed, though, to bolster deep subsoil moisture and to restore water reservoir levels which are still well below normal after two years of drought.

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Mexico's National Weather Service shows the erratic distribution in rainfall during July in the chart below. Some areas were notably wetter biased while others were drier than usual. Sufficient rain fell to support crops, but greater rain is needed to restore soil moisture and water supply after two years of drought.



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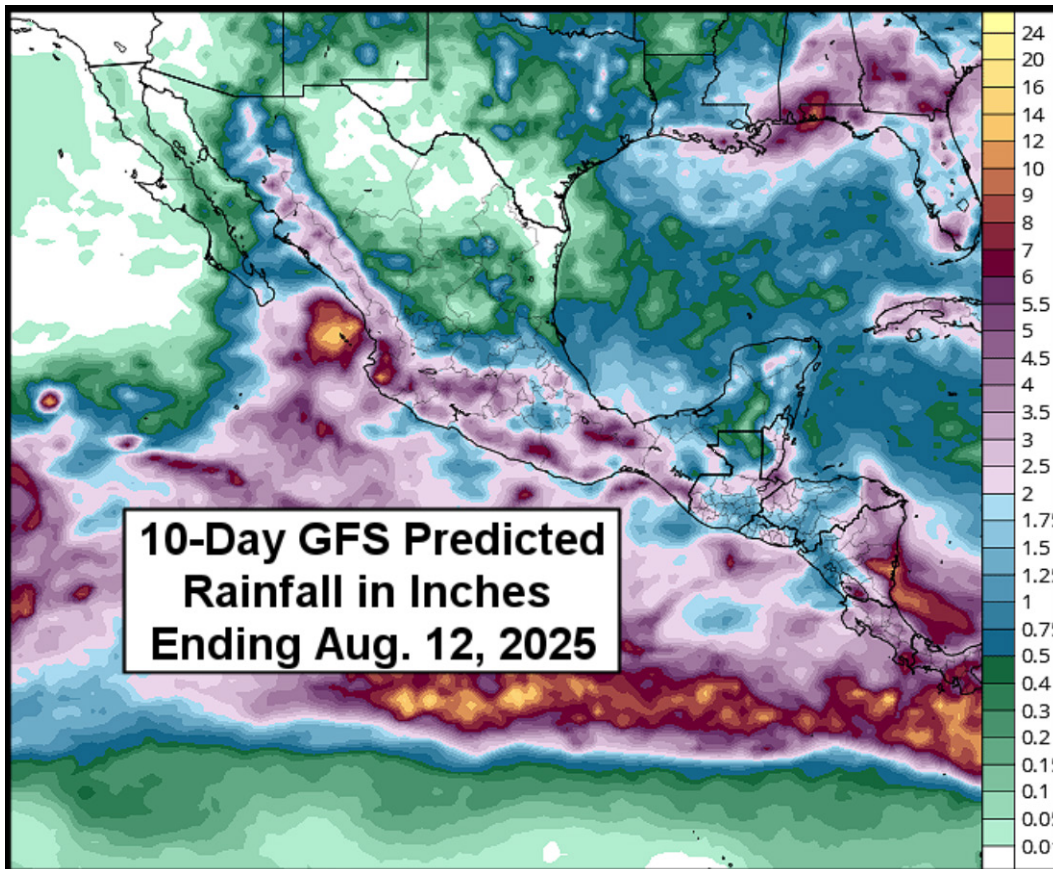
A large section of Mexico received near to above normal rainfall for the 60-day period ending July 25. Only portions of Sonora, southeastern Mexico, and Nuevo Leon were drier than usual during this time. However, in the most recent 30-day period ending July 25, rainfall was near to below normal in the southern half of Mexico, Sonora, and portions of Nuevo Leon. Other areas again received near to above normal precipitation.

Sonora and portions of Sinaloa, western and northern Chihuahua, northern Coahuila, and western Durango are still abnormally dry or under varying levels of drought as of July 15. Rainfall earlier this summer was not enough to completely fix the moisture deficits, though some improvement occurred. Other production areas are generally drought-free, though pockets in southeastern Mexico are starting to become abnormally dry once again.

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due to the lack of rain since early June. The net drying trend may continue for a while as the monsoon pattern weakens.

Frequent monsoonal rain since early June supported a good environment for aggressive establishment and growth for most crops in the country outside the driest locations in the northwest. Planting normally winds down in August depending on the crop. Production potentials are still favorable, although the drier areas will need greater rain soon.



WEATHER OUTLOOK

Monsoonal rain will favor southern Mexico through Veracruz, Hidalgo, Guanajuato, Jalisco, Nayarit, Sinaloa, and neighboring locations through the end of next week. Rainfall will be scattered across these locations on a frequent basis with totals ranging from 0.75 to 4.00 inches by next Friday morning. Local rain totals of 6.00 inches or more will also be possible from Oaxaca into western Jalisco. *Pockets in northeastern Mexico will receive light rain; though, resulting precipitation will be too light to counter evaporation leading to net drying. The remaining production areas will receive little to no rain resulting in net drying as well.* The southern half of the country and portions of northwestern Mexico will again see a good mix of monsoonal rain and sunshine August 9 – 15. The remaining production areas will trend drier than usual.

Northeastern Mexico and immediate neighboring locations will dry down for at least the next seven to ten days. Deep-rooted crops will still have enough moisture to maintain aggressive growth despite the drying trend. The need for rain will otherwise

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increase for the later-planted crops later this month. Extreme northwestern Mexico will also remain too dry for ideal crop conditions. Other locations in Mexico will receive enough rain or have enough moisture to maintain aggressive development through mid-August.

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