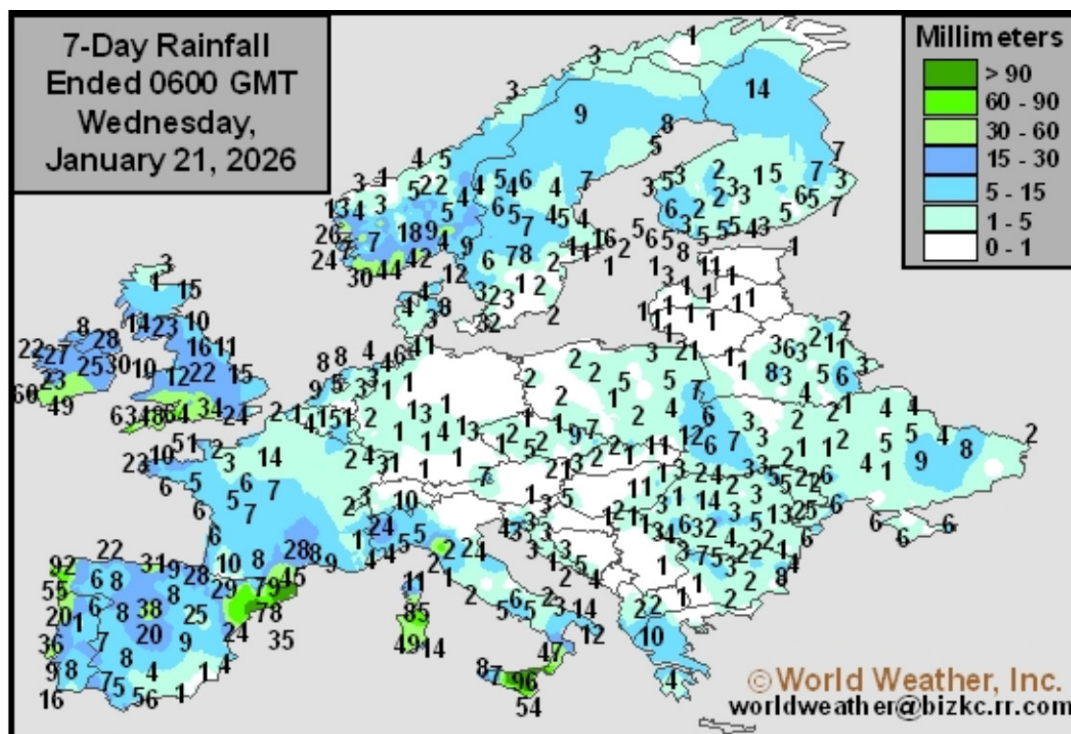


# Western Europe Moisture Situation Will Improve Additionally

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, January 21 (World Weather Inc.) – *France continues to report less than usual precipitation. Drought has been an ongoing problem since last spring; although there has been enough precipitation in recent weeks to improve soil moisture and crop development potentials in the spring. With that said, though, there are still water supply and soil moisture deficits sufficient to maintain some concern.* Weather conditions in the next ten days will be stormy in western and southern Europe where additional improvements in soil moisture and water supply are likely. Other locations in Europe will see a mix of erratic precipitation and sunshine. The outlook for winter crops and early-season planting this spring will either improve or remain relatively favorable across Europe because of improved soil moisture in recent months and that which is coming to a few of the lingering dry-biased areas.

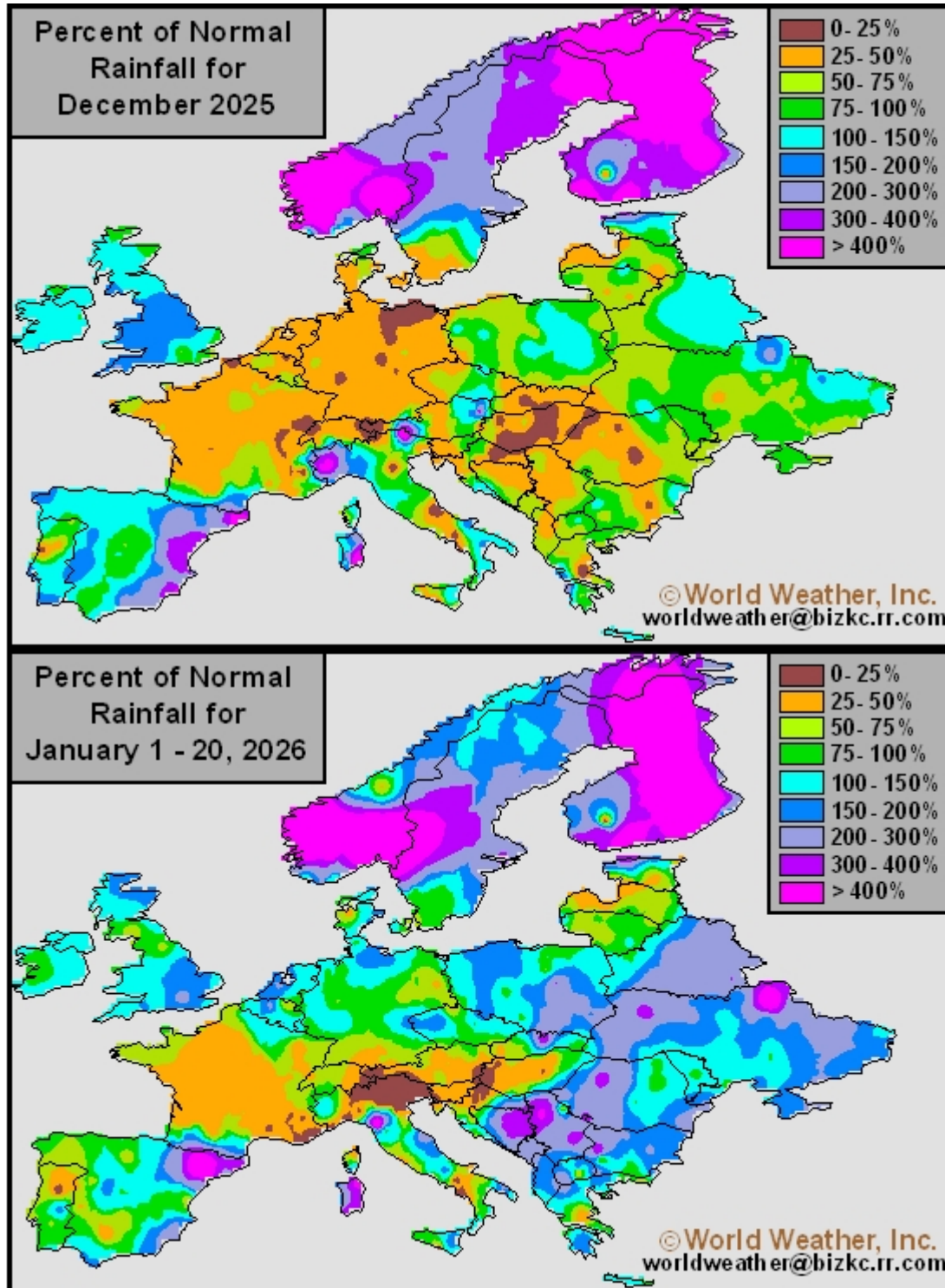
The Iberian Peninsula, United Kingdom, Ireland, and southern France received some of the most significant rain in the main production areas of Europe during the past week. Moisture totals for the seven-day period ending this morning ranged from 0.32 to 1.50 inches with local amounts up to 2.50 inches. Other locations received trace amounts to 0.39 inch of moisture, though many areas in central Europe and the Baltic States were dry.



December precipitation was notably below average from France to Germany and from Slovakia into much of the Balkan Countries. Spain and Portugal, however, along with the U.S. and northwestern Italy were wetter biased as were a few areas from eastern Poland into Belarus and Ukraine. The first three weeks of January have continued drier than usual in France and from northeastern Italy and Austria into Hungary. A few areas in northern

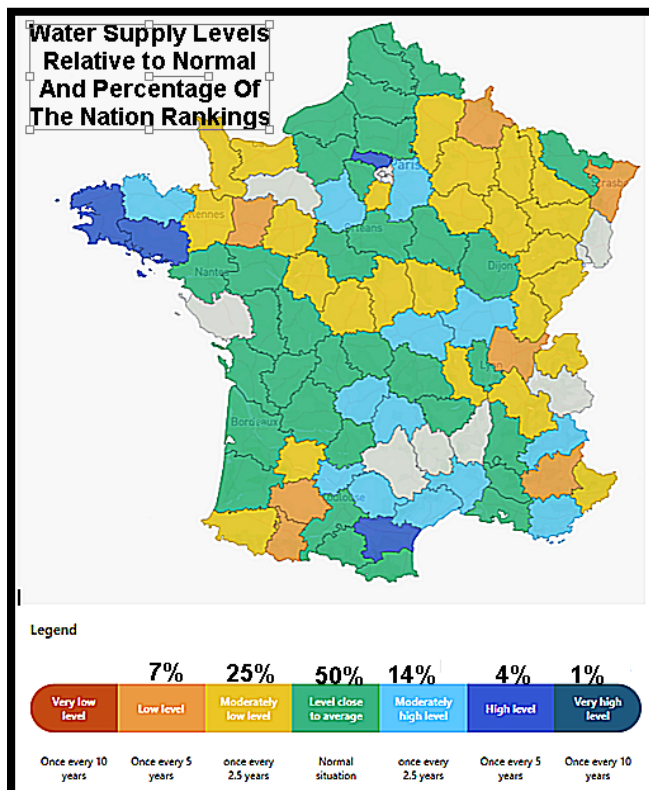
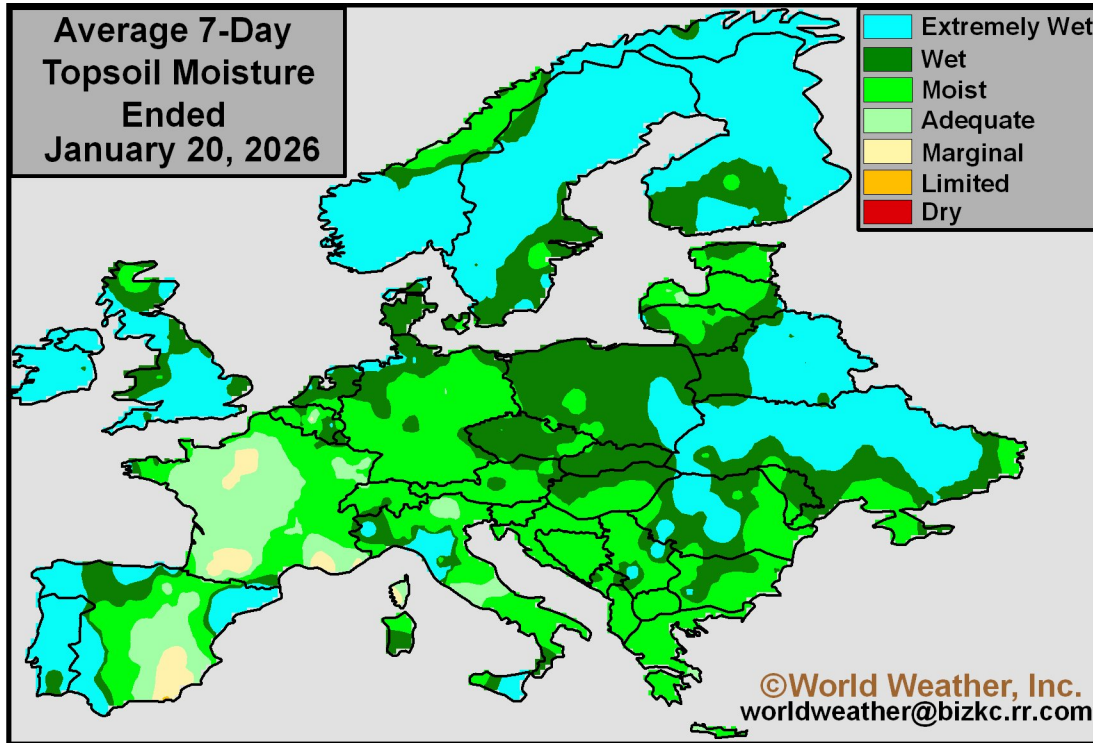
## Western Europe Moisture Situation Will Improve Additionally

Portugal and south-central Spain also experienced less than usual moisture in the first three weeks of this month along with the Baltic States. Most other areas were wetter biased; including parts of north-central and eastern Spain as well as southern Spain and from central Italy through the Balkan Countries to Ukraine and Belarus. Poland and parts of Germany have also had near to above normal precipitation this month.



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Cool temperatures in recent weeks combined with bouts of rain and snow (no matter how light) have resulted in a favorable topsoil moisture profile. There are still areas of dryness in France and Spain; though additional precipitation expected in the next ten days may further reduce the moisture deficits and help saturate the topsoil.



*Crops are dormant or semi-dormant throughout the continent and the moisture supply is mostly a moot point for now. However, when spring arrives soil moisture and water supply will be far more important than it is today. Most of Europe is poised for a good start to the growing season; though, it will be imperative that additional rain falls in France and parts of Spain to fully restore water supply to normal.*

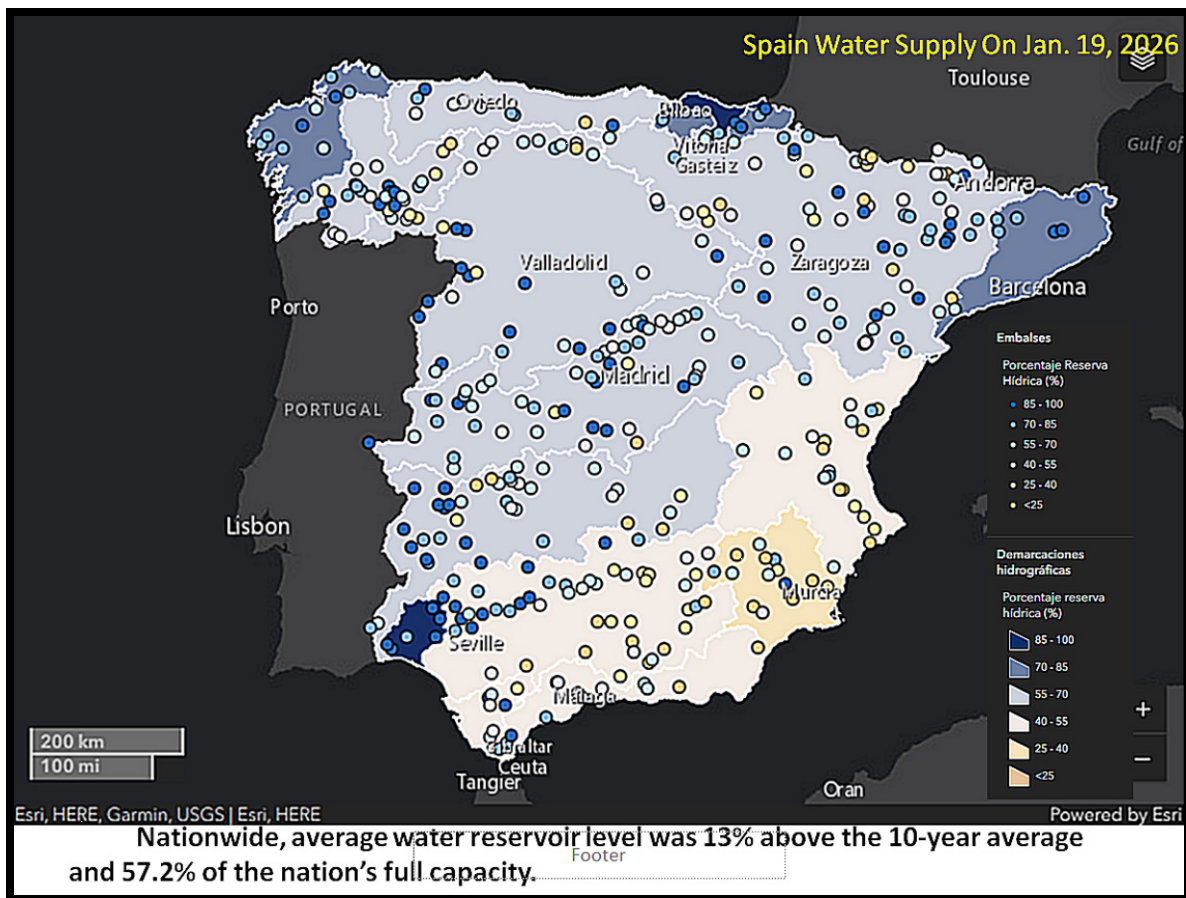
Spain is reporting its reservoirs are about 57.2% of full capacity for the nation. That may seem like a problem, but today's water reserves across the nation are 13% greater than the most recent 10-year average. That is not necessarily a huge positive, but it certainly provides greater hope for

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sufficient irrigation water supply in 2026. Central and northern reservoirs in Spain are reporting 55-70% of capacity water levels with a few areas in the far north running much closer to full capacity. The southern and east-central parts of the nation have average water supply at 40-55% of capacity while a small region in southeastern Spain has 25-40% of the full capacity. That may sound a little disturbing, but these figures are still much improved over some of those in recent past years.

France is also reporting a wide range of water supply and groundwater levels. About 30% of the nation has normal water levels while 25% has moderately low levels of water on reserve. Only 7% of the nation's water supply is considered at low levels which is surprising given how much of 2025 was drier than usual. There are a few water districts (mainly in the southeast) reporting moderately high water levels and there are only a few areas that are rated at a high level.

The next few weeks may contribute greatly to the water supply situation and rainfall over the next few weeks will certainly help to improve the bottom line.



*Winter grain and oilseed prospects are relatively favorable across Europe. While many areas in Eastern Europe experienced sub-zero degree Fahrenheit readings earlier in the winter, most locations were blanketed by snow that protected the crops. The main production areas have ample moisture to support relatively favorable development this spring. However, a few locations in France and the Iberian Peninsula are still in a drought and would benefit from more rain in the coming weeks.*

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## WEATHER OUTLOOK

Precipitation will be highly variable across Europe through the middle of next week. An upper-level trough of low pressure will meander around the northeastern Atlantic Ocean during this time that will send waves of precipitation across Europe. France, the United Kingdom, Ireland, much of the Iberian Peninsula outside extreme eastern Spain, Italy, and areas along the Adriatic Sea in southeastern Europe will receive 0.50 to 3.00 inches of rain with many areas in northern Portugal, northwestern Spain, and pockets in France receiving 5.00 inches or more of moisture. Other locations in Europe will receive 0.10 to 0.75 inch of moisture with locally greater amounts in Ukraine and the Balkans region.

Rain and snow are both slated for much of Europe during the coming week. Higher elevated areas in the Iberian Peninsula through portions of southern France, southern Germany, and northern Italy into southern Poland, western Ukraine, and southern Belarus, along with portions of the United Kingdom, will see 2 to 6 inches of snow accumulate with local amounts over 8 inches. Snowfall elsewhere will be relatively light.

*France and the Iberian Peninsula will receive enough precipitation through the middle of next week to improve long-term soil conditions. Water storage levels will likely increase, though the driest areas in eastern Spain and eastern France will not receive enough precipitation to significantly increase soil moisture or reservoir levels. Soil moisture will remain at favorable levels elsewhere in Europe. Long-term prospects for the winter grains and oilseeds will remain favorable.*

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