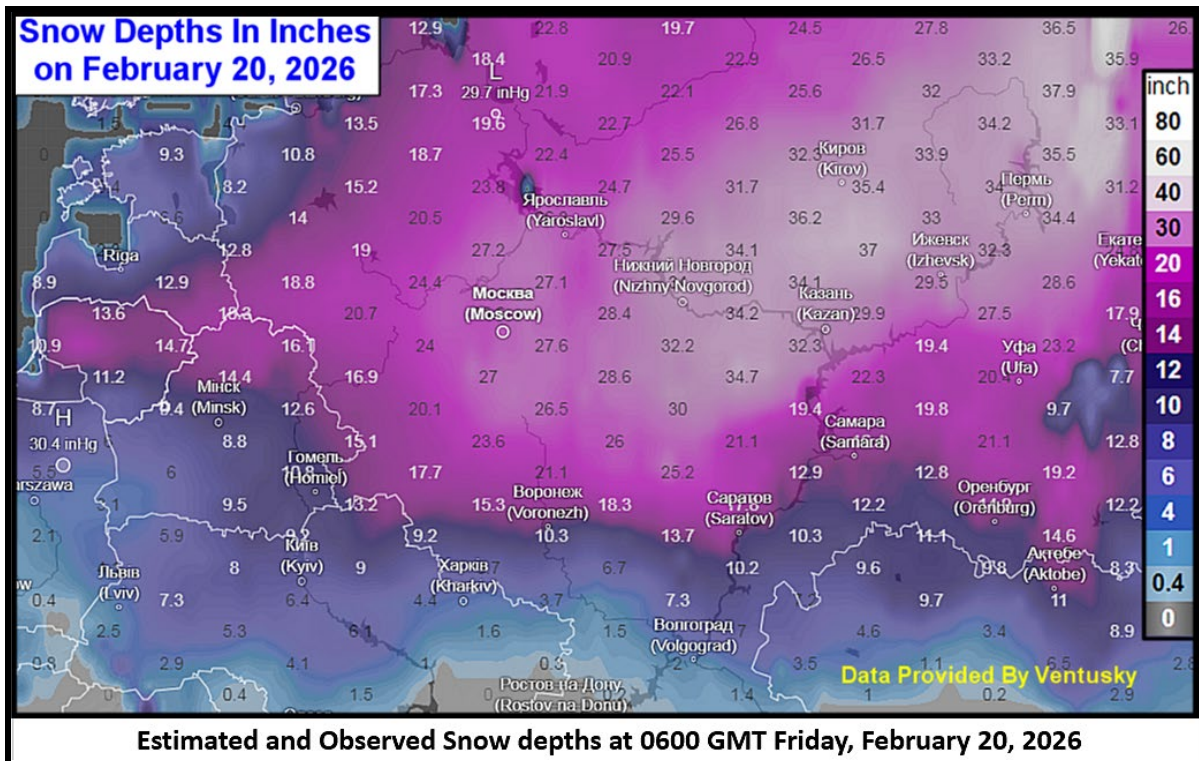


Russia Flood Threats Increasing Due To Abundant Snow

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, February 20 (World Weather Inc.) – Above normal precipitation and recent below to well below normal temperatures have helped increase snowpack in western Russia and several neighboring areas in Belarus, northern Ukraine, and portions of the Baltic States in recent weeks. These areas already have abundant to excessive soil moisture beneath the snow. ***With significant snowpack on top of the wet ground, flood potentials are rising and there is a threat of widespread flooding that could delay early-season planting and general fieldwork across if the situation does not improve over the next few weeks.*** The former Soviet Union production areas will continue to see a mix of precipitation and sunshine through the end of next week. ***Snowpack will further increase for several locations and the threat for flooding will remain high this spring.***

Much of Russia and Ukraine received near to above normal precipitation for the 30-day period ending February 18. Waves of precipitation combined with colder or much colder than usual conditions helped bolster snowpack across the main production areas outside Russia’s USDA defined “southern Region” and southern fringes of Ukraine. Belarus and the Baltic States received near to below normal precipitation during this time, though enough precipitation fell to further bolster soil moisture as well.



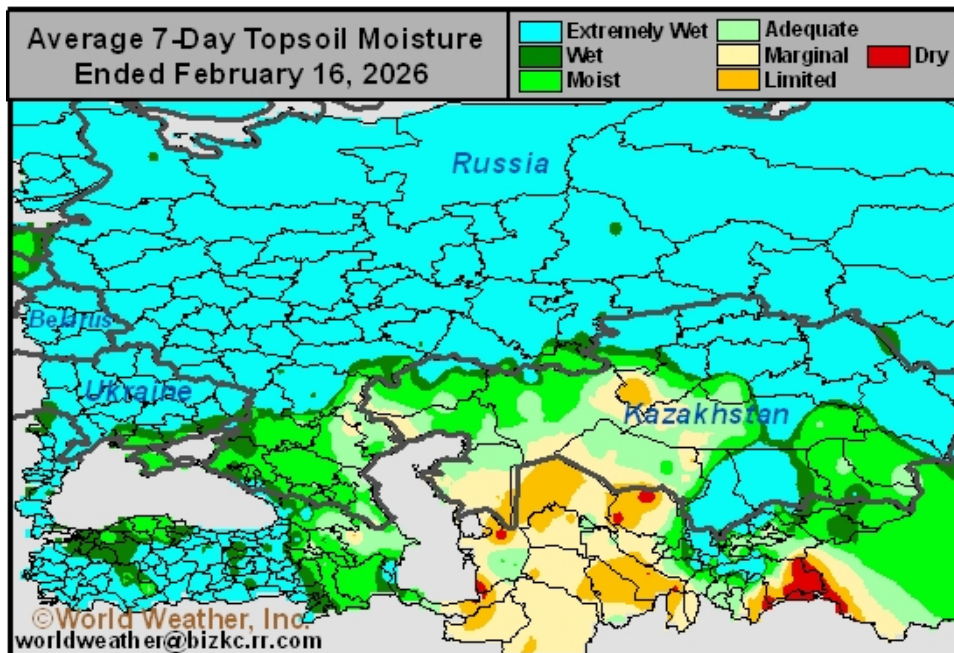
Estimated and Observed Snow depths at 0600 GMT Friday, February 20, 2026

Western Russia and portions of northern Belarus, southern Latvia, and northern Lithuania had an estimated 10 to nearly 30 inches of snow on the ground as of this morning according to data from Ventusky. Other production areas in the former Soviet Union had a few to upwards of 10 inches of snow on the ground as well outside Russia’s ‘Southern

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Region' and a few locations in southern Ukraine where snow cover was more limited or absent.

The ground is already saturated in a large section of the former Soviet Union due to ample precipitation earlier in the winter and late in the autumn. Abundant snowpack combined with the already wet soil may cause severe flooding this spring once seasonal warming occurs. Flooding could occur in many different manners having a variety of impacts on farm land. *If the flooding is mostly confined to rivers and streams then crop damage will be limited to those areas. However, since such a large part of the production region has excessive snow on the ground and saturated soil beneath it, there is potential that standing water on many fields could raise the potential for wheat, barley, rye and rapeseed smothering or drowning which could impact a large part of the crop. Flooding could also cause significant planting and early-season fieldwork delays in the spring.* The region would benefit from drier weather and slightly warm temperatures in coming weeks to slowly melt the snow and reduce the threat for flooding.



WEATHER OUTLOOK

The former Soviet Union production areas will see a mix of erratic precipitation and sunshine through the end of next week. A series of disturbances will often advance around the region and promote precipitation on a frequent basis. Many areas in Ukraine and Russia's 'Southern Region' will be warm enough for rain at times while areas farther north generally see precipitation fall as snow. Moisture totals by next Friday morning will range from 0.10 to 0.75 inch and locally more. Snowfall will range from a dusting to 5 inches with locally greater amounts to the north of Russia's main crop region. An active weather pattern is also slated for much of the former Soviet Union February 28-March 6.

Temperatures will climb near or even above normal at times for the former Soviet Union through the end of next week. Many areas with deep snowpack will see daytime highs slightly above freezing next week. Daytime temperatures will not be warm enough to

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significantly melt much of the snow and there is no risk of flooding through the first days in March.

The situation for the former Soviet Union will remain mostly unchanged through early March. Deep snowpack will persist and the ground will remain saturated. Flood threats will remain high later in March once the snow starts to melt. Early-season planting and fieldwork may get off to a slow start, especially for areas with deeper snowpack; although, very little planting occurs prior to April and May is the most aggressive month for planting spring crops.

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