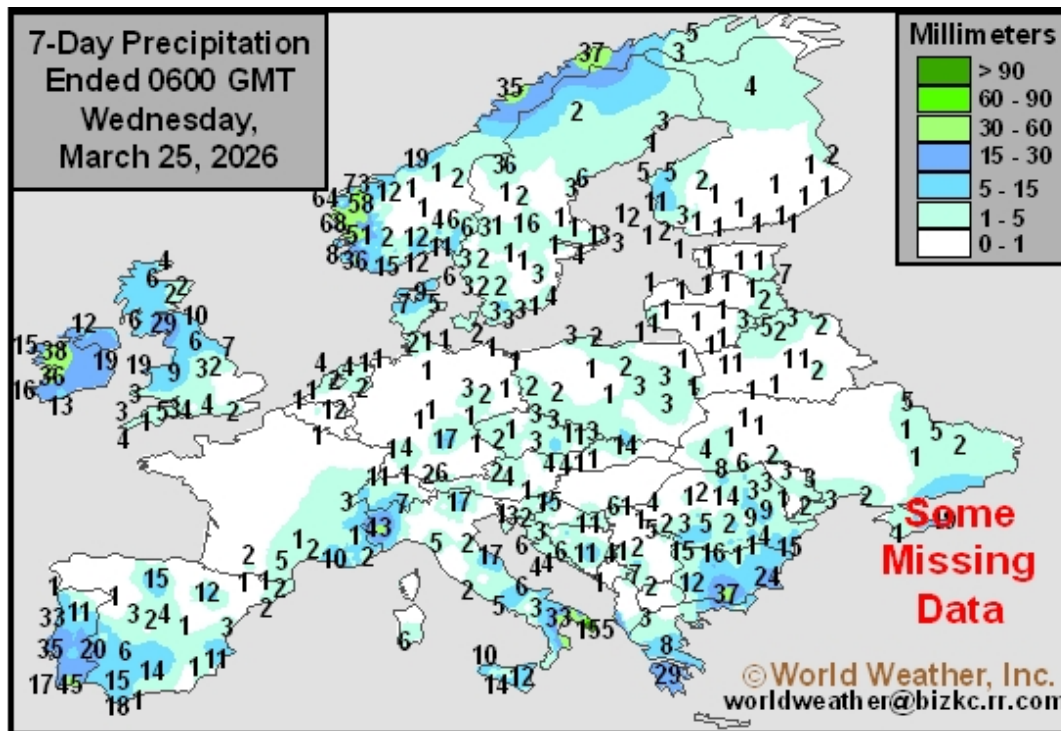


Europe Soil Moisture Looking Good For Spring Crop Use

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, March 26 (World Weather Inc.) – *Despite trending warmer than usual during the past month, much of eastern and central Europe are too cold to support much winter grain and oilseed growth. Crop development is under way in the Iberian Peninsula and portions of southern France, Italy, and neighboring areas.* Most crop areas have ample moisture to support favorable development once seasonal warming occurs; however, many areas in Western and central Europe will trend cooler than usual during the coming week. New growth will be minimal due to the lack of significant daytime heating. Precipitation will vary across Europe during this time with waves of precipitation slated for the Balkans region while western parts of the continent are driest.

Portugal, Ireland, Bulgaria, and portions of Italy received some of the most significant precipitation in Europe during the past week. Moisture totals for the seven-day period ending March 25 ranged from 0.43 to 1.77 inches in most locations. Several pockets in Spain, southern France, southern Germany, the United Kingdom, Romania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and neighboring areas received trace amounts to 0.59 with a local amount of 1.14 inches in Scotland. Other locations were dry or did not receive enough precipitation to counter evaporation. Soil moisture remains at adequate levels in much of Europe despite many areas trending mostly dry during the past week.

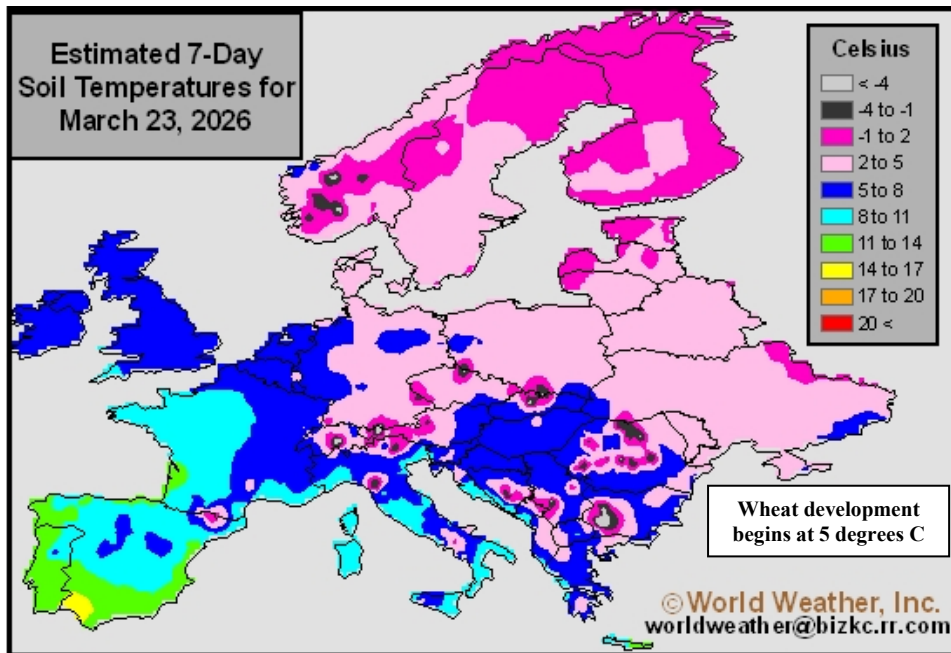


The Iberian Peninsula and several areas in France, Italy, and the United Kingdom were warm enough as of March 23 to bring winter grains and oilseeds out of dormancy. Portions of southeastern Europe were also warm enough to stimulate new growth while other areas in Europe were still too cold to bring crops out of dormancy or semi-dormancy.

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Production potentials are relatively good due to timely precipitation last autumn. However, the need for warmer weather is needed to bring the remaining crops out of dormancy.

Planting of the summer grains, oilseeds, and other crops usually begins in April and continues through May or early June depending on the region and crop. Planting should get off to a good start once temperatures allow it, though a few pockets in France and Spain would benefit from some additional precipitation.



WEATHER OUTLOOK

Precipitation will be highly variable across Europe during the coming week. An upper-level disturbance will generate precipitation for south-central and southeastern Europe today through the end of the weekend. A frontal boundary will also generate precipitation from northwest to southeast for several locations in Europe late Friday through the end of the weekend. A disturbance will bring precipitation to the United Kingdom and portions of central and Eastern Europe Sunday into Tuesday. Light precipitation will be possible for several locations in northern and Eastern Europe toward the middle of next week as well.

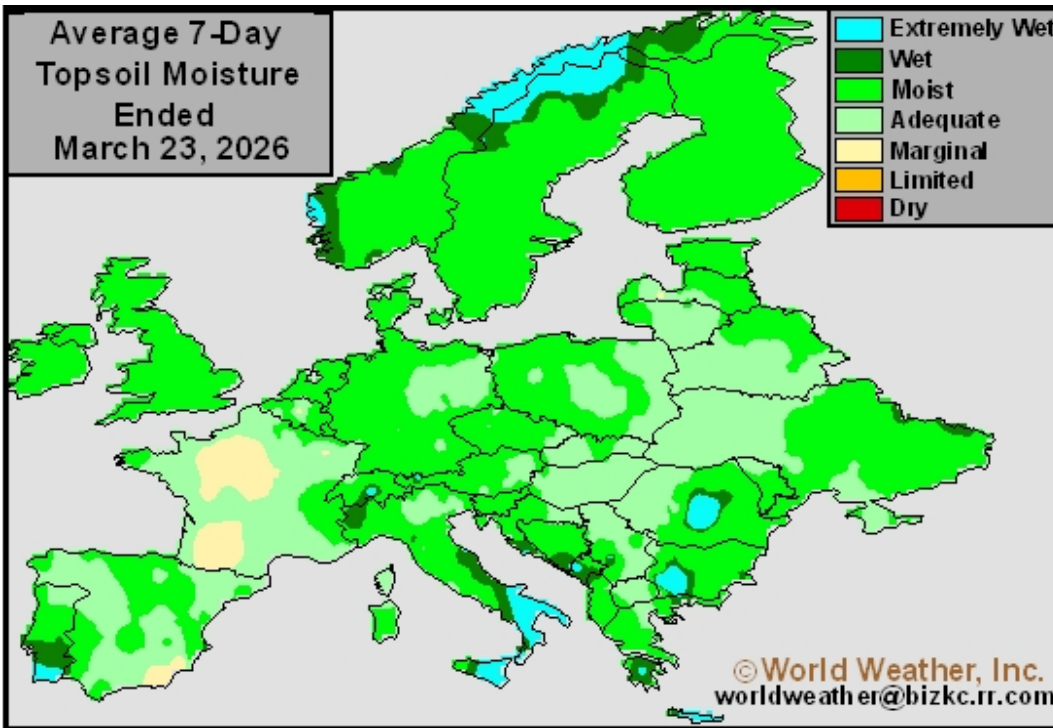
Moisture totals by next Thursday morning will range from 0.75 to 4.00 inches in much of southeastern Europe with local amounts of 6.00 inches or more in Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and neighboring locations. Other areas in Eastern Europe into Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, Denmark, and eastern fringes of France will receive 0.25 to 1.50 inches of moisture with local amounts of 2.00 inches or more, though portions of the Baltic States and Belarus will only receive trace amounts to 0.50 inch of moisture. The United Kingdom, Ireland, other areas in France, and portions of northern Spain will receive trace amounts to 0.50 inch of moisture. Other locations in the Iberian Peninsula will be dry or not receive enough precipitation to counter evaporation. Light snow accumulations will occur in portions of Germany, Poland, western Ukraine, and southeastern Europe.

Seasonable to seasonably cool weather is slated for a large section of Europe during the coming week. Daytime highs will be in the 40s and 50s Fahrenheit with many pockets in Eastern Europe and the Iberian Peninsula warming to the 60s on a frequent basis. Pockets in

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central Europe will also only warm to the 30s during periods of significant precipitation. Low temperatures will be in the 30s and 40s with portions of Germany and neighboring locations often cooling to the upper 20s.

A weak high-pressure ridge may gradually build over Europe April 3 – 9. The temperature profile will gradually shift from seasonably cool to near or above normal. Much of the continent will also see a mix of precipitation and sunshine during this time despite development of a high-pressure ridge.



The periods of cool weather in the coming week will limit aggressive winter grain and oilseed growth for portions of central and Eastern Europe. Early-season planting and fieldwork may also advance slowly due to the wet and cool conditions. Precipitation will be enough to maintain a good outlook for new development and early-season planting prospects later in April. Western Europe will likely remain warm enough to stimulate new wheat, barley, and rapeseed growth, especially in the Iberian Peninsula. However, the need for timely rain will increase toward mid-April.

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