

The Canadian Agriculture Weather Prognosticator

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World Weather To Watch

- Drought remains a concern in the U.S. central and southern Plains, Mid-South region and southeastern states; though there is a good chance for rain in each of these areas in the coming ten days
- Southern Safrinha corn production areas in Brazil are also too dry, but they also have a chance for rain periodically in the coming week to ten days.
- Argentina has been too dry for the past couple of months; though that pattern is likely coming to an end for now
- Australia needs rain to improve wheat, barley and canola planting
- China is plenty moist especially in its rape-seed area where some drying is needed to support the harvest
- Forecasters and producers worldwide are watching for El Nino.

Snow Promises More Delay To Field Access

A massive upper level low pressure center was over the northern part of Saskatchewan at the time of this reporting. The system was generating unusually cold temperatures and inducing widespread snowfall from eastern Alberta to northwestern Manitoba. After so many years of drought and relatively quiet spring weather the event has received quite a bit of attention especially since there was already a considerable amount of snow still on the ground in north-central and northeastern Saskatchewan crop areas and in a part of west-central and northwestern Manitoba along with some east-central Saskatchewan locations prior to this storm's arrival.

Late season snow is not that unusual for the Prairies, but it does add a great deal of frustration to the planting intentions when the growing season window tends to be so narrow in some years. Snow was on the ground in the south half of Saskatchewan and far southern Manitoba in 2023 and it was a little more broad based in northern and southeastern Saskatchewan and Manitoba in 2022. Prior to that it was the Peace River region that had so much snow to deal with on April 24 in the years 2018 to 2021. Northern Manitoba had a considerable amount of snow to melt in 2014, but the most significant recent historical year of broad-based snow of significance on April 24 was in 2013.

The snow situation in 2013 lingered in the northeastern Prairies for a week or two, though the snow field slowly shrank during that time. It was not until May 6 that all of that snow was gone in 2013.

By the time the current storm system ends, the snow field will reach from east-

ern Alberta through the northwest half of Manitoba. Within that region, the most impressive depths will be north of Highway 16 in Saskatchewan's northeast and east-central crop areas and in the northwestern one third of Manitoba. These areas will be in a cool, northwesterly flow pattern aloft during the next few weeks keeping temperatures low, but not as low as those of this weekend.

Snow melt is expected over the next week to ten days and with no further snow of significance expected to fall the ground ought to be visible again by the end of the first week in May with perhaps a few exceptions in far northeastern Saskatchewan and northwestern Manitoba.

Just because the snow melts does not mean farmers will be in the fields. Frost is still in the ground beneath the snow and that will take some time to abate as well. That may translate into little to no fieldwork prior to May 15 in some of today's deepest snow-covered fields.

World Weather, Inc. pointed out the potential for northeastern parts of the Prairies to struggle with getting into the fields this year. However, that statement was made with no knowledge of this week's massive storm system and significant snowfall.

Outside of the snow situation this week's storm system promises to get some beneficial moisture into the soil after a few years of dryness. The amount of moisture that gets into the soil will vary greatly from one location to another depending on how much frost remains in the ground. Some of the recent warmest areas in Alberta and western Saskatchewan will find all of the moisture from this week's snow

Snow Promises More Delay To Field Access (from page 1)

event melting into the soil beneficially improving planting prospects, though some of those areas will still need an abundance of moisture to get subsoil moisture recharged. This may not be the right time of year for restoring soil moisture especially as the main planting season arrives.

There is a weather pattern change coming in the last days of April and first half of May that should place a ridge of high pressure back over the western Prairies while trough of low pressure is over Ontario, Quebec and the U.S. Midwest. In this scenario a return of warm biased temperatures should evolve with much of the western and southern Prairies returning to a drier than usual pattern—at least during the first half of May.

The northeast part of the Prairies will be in a northwesterly flow pattern aloft which may promote brief shots of light precipitation as seen in late March and early April. That may pro-

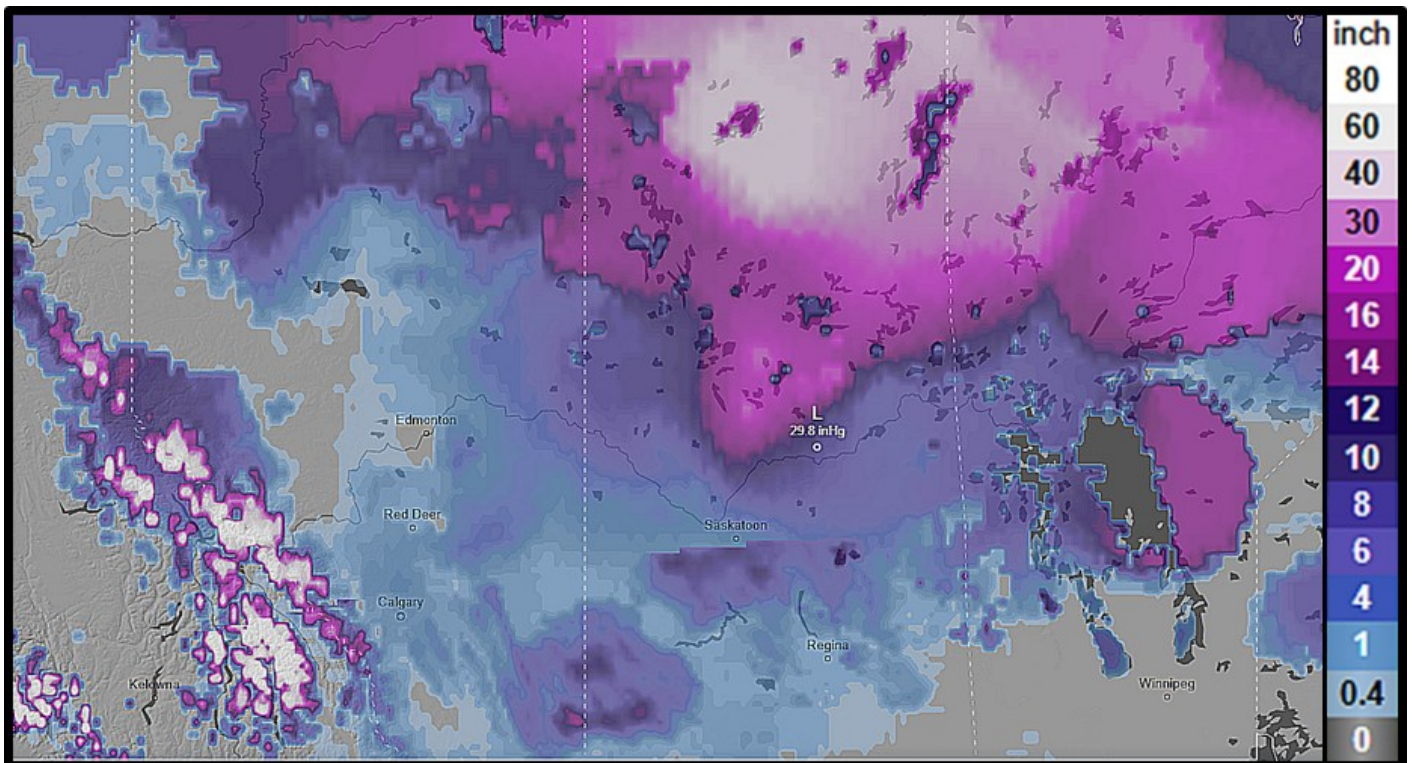
long field working delays because of a possible slow snow melt rate resulting from the cooler northwesterly flow pattern aloft and from the occasional light precipitation that often comes in that pattern.

Another area of concern because of excessive snow on the ground is in the Alberta portion the Peace River Region. This region has an incredible amount of snow on ground and the area impacted most significantly is from about 50 kilometers south of Peace River (the city) through the High Level and Fort Vermillion area. Snow depths in this region are at least 14 inches and probably more close to 20 inches in northern parts of the region. Some of the snow water equivalency charts have suggested that there may be more than 4 inches (102 millimeters) in the snowpack waiting to be released by warmer temperatures. Some flooding could come out of this melting snow pack if

it happens to occur while rain is falling.

In contrast to the Alberta side of the Peace River region, the British Columbia portion is largely snow free with a few exceptions. Precipitation totals during the past year and half in this region and extending over the border to western most parts of Alberta's Peace country there is an on-going drought of significance worrying producers over the prospects for this growing season.

Most of the computer forecast models for the Peace River Region have suggested only light and sporadic precipitation in the next week with temperatures slowly rising above normal. The following week will be warmer than usual and still drier than usual maintaining concern for drought in the west and rapid snow melt and flooding in the east.



Snow Depth and Coverage on April 25, 2026

Data and Map provided by Ventusky.com

May Outlook Trends Wetter; NE Prairies Driest in June

April weather was definitely wetter than expected and even though May is supposed to be a drier and warmer month, but World Weather, Inc. has increased May precipitation. Most of the increase comes late in the month. The southeastern corner of the Prairies should be dry early in May and then during mid- to late-month there should be a disturbance or two that will bring some moisture to the region.

Southwestern parts of the Prairies should be dry biased during the first half of May, but a late month storm system, perhaps a weak Montana Low will evolve and bring some moisture to the region. Southern Alberta could receive some significant moisture, but again, this will be late in the month. Early month precipitation in southern Alberta will not be completely absent, though most of the precipitation should be sporadic and

light similar to that of recent months.

May temperatures will be warm biased in the west. There is some potential that temperatures in the east will be cooler than that suggested here and that the warmer biased areas may be a little farther to the west.

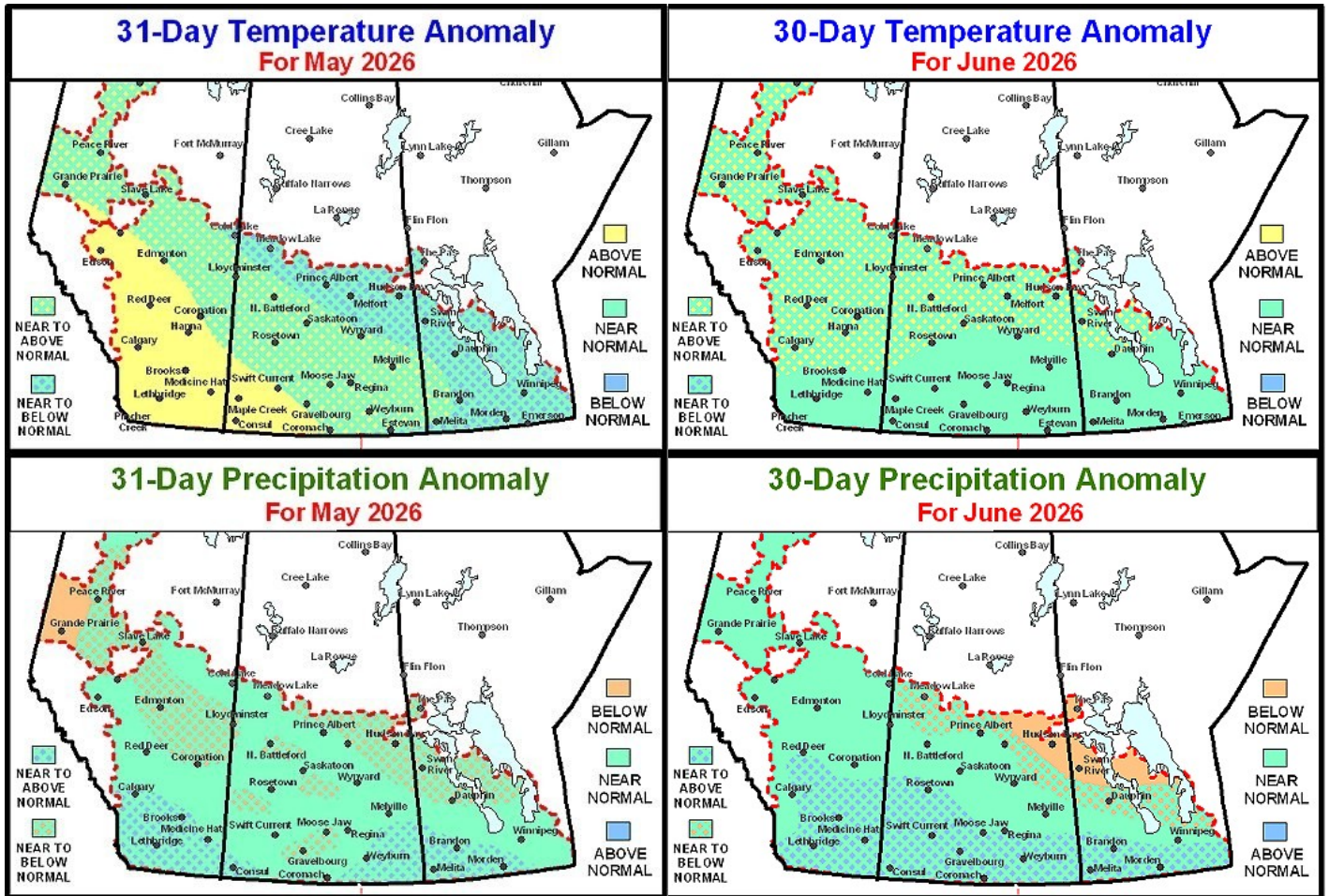
Peace country precipitation is expected to be lighter than usual as well as that in interior northern and some central Alberta locations. An erratic precipitation pattern is expected in the heart of Saskatchewan. The far northeastern corner of Saskatchewan and northwestern Manitoba should receive less than usual moisture.

The June outlook has not changed much. The Prairies should see a boost in rainfall during the month. Many areas will receive near to above normal precipitation and there is some potential for a few areas to become

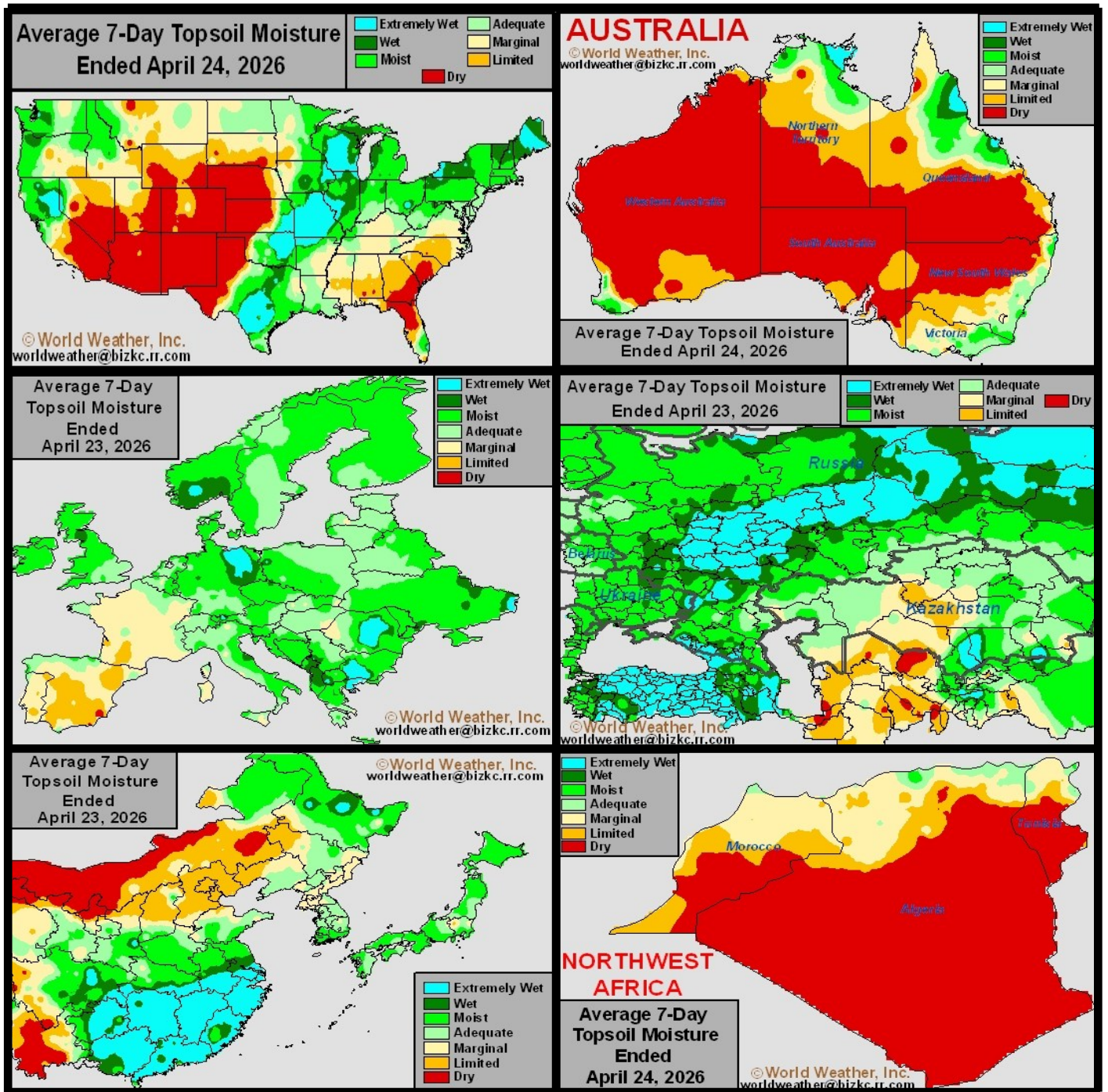
much wetter than usual probably in the southeast. Our forecast may also be a little too dry in the northeastern part of the Prairies and that will become clearer during May.

The temperature bias in June may also be too warm. If the rain turns out to be more aggressive during the month there would be potential for cooler than usual readings in a part of the Prairies. World Weather, Inc. still favors the northwest part of the region for some warmer-biased conditions. However, excessive heat does not seem very likely.

If the forecast is correct there should be a gradual ramping up in the precipitation pattern from early May into June with early May probably driest and coolest in the northeast. The summer still looks generally favorable with very few seriously dry areas.



Selected Weather Images From Around The World



Southern China has become too wet at the same time that rapeseed is filling and maturing. Some early season harvesting should be underway, but additional rain may slow the process and raise a little quality concern. North Africa has dried recently, but more rain is coming just in time to maintain a favorable production outlook. France, Spain and Portugal have been drying out, too, and some rain will fall in the Iberian Peninsula while France and the North Sea Countries continue to slowly dry down. The remainder of Europe has good soil moisture. Western portions of the Former Soviet Union are trending too wet at least to the north of Ukraine and west of Belarus and the Baltic States. The wet bias will continue for another ten days which may slow spring planting that is under way. The U.S. is still dealing with drought in hard red winter wheat areas, the Delta and southeastern states; though rain is expected during the next ten days. Australia needs rain to support its wheat, barley and canola planting season from now through July.

Long Term Outlook Good After Slow Start To Fieldwork

Precipitation in the Prairies over the past 30 days varied significantly. Several areas in central and southern Manitoba, extreme southeastern Saskatchewan, southern fringes of Alberta, and a large section of Peace River country in northwestern Alberta and northeastern British Columbia received less than usual moisture for the 30-day period ending April 22. Other production areas received near to above normal precipitation with pockets in Alberta and Saskatchewan getting nearly double the norm.

Temperatures in recent weeks were also colder or much colder than usual for a large section of the Prairies. Southern fringes of Alberta and extreme southwestern Saskatchewan were the only areas that saw near or slightly below normal temperatures for the 30-day period ending April 20.

Warm weather earlier in this past week helped melt a significant amount of snow; however, many northern and eastern production areas still had snow on the ground as of April 22 prior to the most recent snowstorm.

Early-season fieldwork had begun in the southwestern corner of the Prairies prior to this week's storm, though field progress was not that great because of concern about dryness and some periodic cool weather.

Waves of snow and a little rain along with colder than usual weather limited early season fieldwork outside portions of southern Alberta and immediate neighboring areas. April is normally the first month that produc-

ers can get into their fields for some early planting mostly in the southwest. Too much snow has been on the ground in northern and eastern areas for any pre-planting fieldwork and the southwestern parts of the Prairies are still dealing with moisture shortages. Recent cool weather has helped conserve recent precipitation in the southwest where planting moisture has improved, but there is no subsoil moisture to support crops if an extended period of dry and warm weather were to evolve.

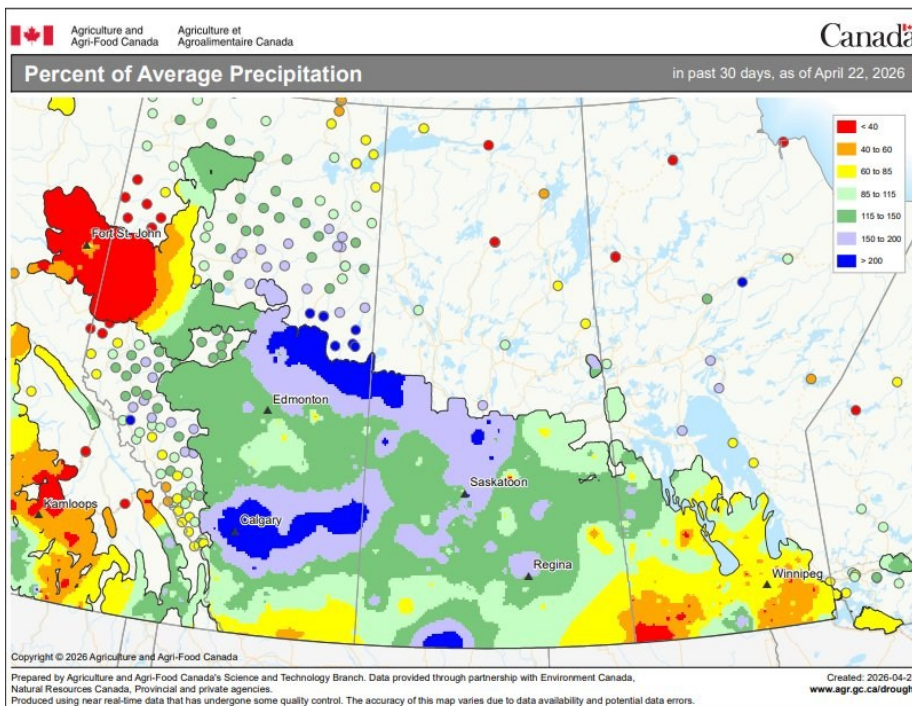
The moisture profile should be

as. This system has become locked into the region by a pair of high-pressure systems to the east and west. The blocking pattern will keep the storm system meandering over the Prairies for another day or two promoting rounds of snow, rain, and/or a wintry mixture of precipitation. Another disturbance tracking around the upper-level system will promote precipitation in SE Manitoba Sunday into Monday. Drier weather will be possible during mid-week, though spotty showers may linger.

This weekend's snowstorm across the central and northeastern parts of the Prairies today will help raise some planting moisture, but with frost in the ground there may also be some standing water and mud to deal with which may delay fieldwork. In the meantime, there must be greater precipitation in the southwestern Prairies before confidence rises over long-term development potential.

Once this weekend storm abates next week will have very little precipitation of significance. The Prairies will see a mix of erratic precipitation and sunshine May 1-7 as a weak high-pressure ridge builds over western North America for a few days. Disturbances will still track near or into the Prairies at times leaving behind very light amounts of moisture from rain and possibly a little wet snow.

Temperatures will often trend below or well below normal through early next week in the Prairies. Temperatures will then slowly recover from the current cold snap.



beneficial for a large section of the Prairies in May and early June once conditions allow producers to get into the fields. However, that is not true for western parts of the Peace River Region and in some of the driest fields in Palliser's Triangle. Producers will be very concerned about putting crops into the ground in the southwest without having confidence that rain will fall more frequently,

An upper-level disturbance recently entered the Prairies and began producing rain and snow in the central and northeastern production areas.

Outlook Good After Slow Start To Fieldwork (continued from page 5)

Western parts of the Prairies will warm better in the coming week than eastern areas since they will be closer to the ridge of high pressure. Temperatures in the east will not likely rise above normal and with the snow around readings are likely to remain below normal for a while. Temperatures will fluctuate between cool and warm May 1-7, though cooler conditions will occur most often, especially for Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

Early-season planting and general fieldwork will likely advance slowly through at least the first week

of May across the Prairies due to time needed to melt the snow, raise soil temperatures and begin firming the ground in the wettest areas. The moisture profile may improve marginally in southern Alberta and southwestern Saskatchewan from this week's storm, though not enough precipitation is expected to fix long term dryness. Overall, the planting pace will continue sluggish and behind the norm for a while until the snow is gone and consistent warm weather is present.

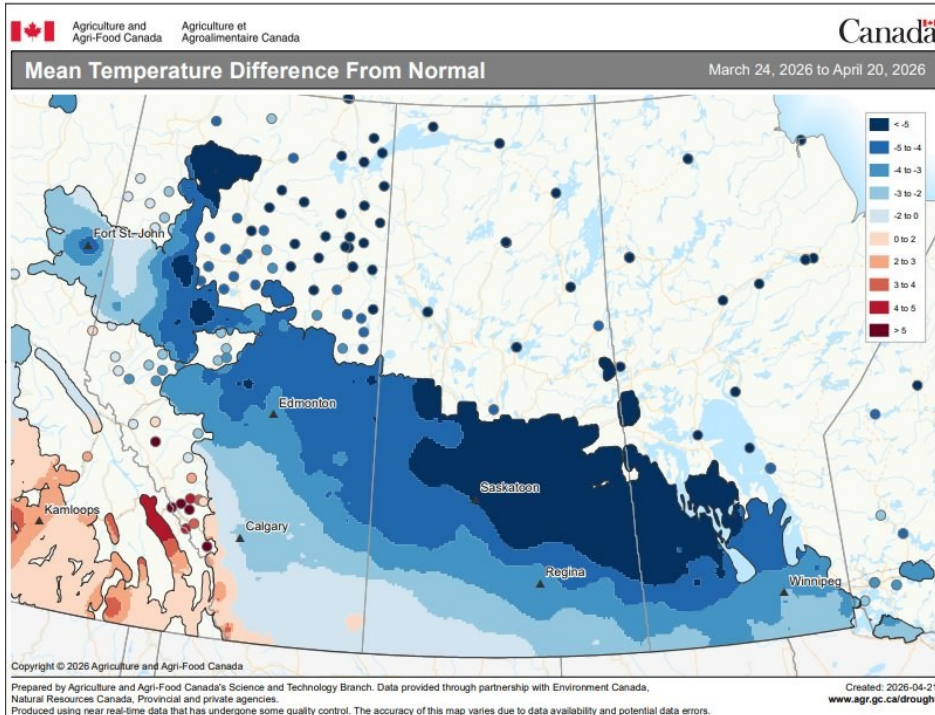
The most important question remains about the weather for the bulk of the growing season. World Weather, Inc. has been please to see the changes noted so far this year in North America. Even though drought remains in the southwestern Prairies there have been significant improvements to the precipitation pattern in recent months.

Last autumn dryness was prevailing in a huge part of North America. Most of the dryness north of the Prairies was notably relieved during the middle of winter which is quite unusual, but promising for the future. Despite continued drought and dryness in the southwestern Prairies there has been a certain amount of rhythm to the precipitation that has been falling. Looking back at the months of January, February and March as well as this month it is clear that the atmosphere is capable of producing rain and snow and that

storms were more common.

The combination of seeing drought relief to our north, timely precipitation in the heart of the Prairies (even if lighter than usual), drought relief coming to parts of the United States and an aggressively developing El Nino speaks loudly into the ear of this meteorologist that the patterns have changed. All of this is occurring well beyond those extreme years of the 22-year solar cycle and even beyond the recent sunspot maximum and all of that suggests better weather days are

ahead. Now, what "better weather days" ahead means is going to be quite different for each producer out there and there is potential that the "better weather" may not be as good as we would like. Moving away from the hot and dry years will be welcome, but some of us do not have to think back too many years ago to remember some of the wetter years and how challenging they were.



it does not seem to take much to generate a little moisture even though much of what has been seen in the southwestern Prairies and Peace Country as well as southern Manitoba has been below average.

This week's Montana low pressure system that brought the rain and snow to the Prairies was the first such event seen in a very long time. It is hard to remember when the last Montana low impacted the Prairies, but this event is very much reminiscent of years long past when such

The pendulum is on its way back in the other direction now, but before it gets too wet lets hope for a few good years with timely rain and seasonable temperatures just for a little break from all of the stressful years of the recent past.

The autumn harvest season will not likely be as dry as that of recent past years. The harvest will likely be a little slower and a close watch on late season rain events may be necessary since a wetter bias may eventually set in and raise the potential for a little worry over crop quality.

Beyond The Hype Of “Super El Nino”

Once again, the infamous media has managed to take a natural cycle in the earth’s atmosphere and present it as if it was an event that will be worse than ever before. The event is El Nino and because it is expected to develop rapidly and become very strong there has been a tendency for the media to over exaggerate its impact. The advertised ENSO (El Nino/Southern Oscillation) event has been predicted to be one of the strongest seen in recent history, but the difference between a “super” El Nino and strong one is miniscule and there is no need for the hype. The evolution into El Nino will be swift and its intensity impressive eventually, but the impact on the earth may not be as dramatic as implied by some of the hype.

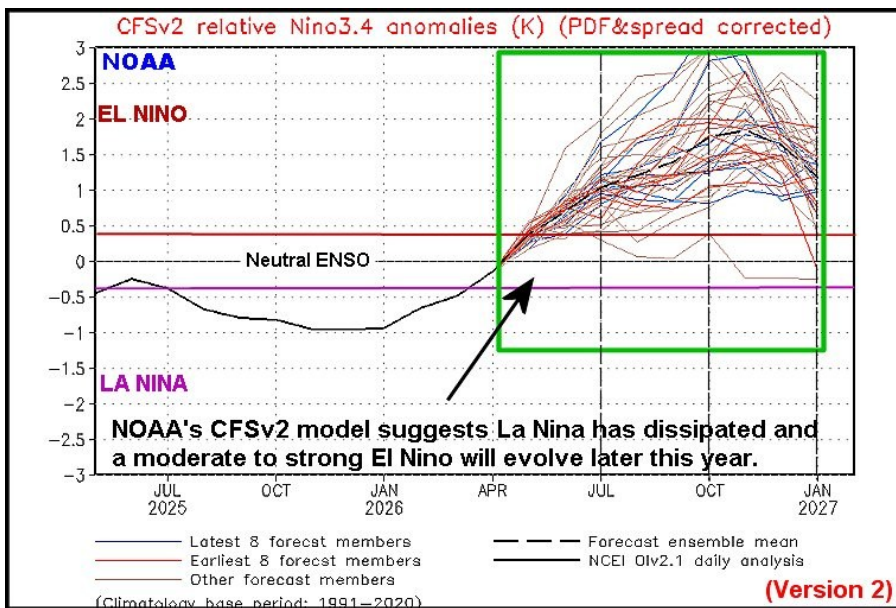
Both the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Australian Bureau of Meteorology have agreed on a quick transition to El Nino over the next couple of months and that has also been predicted by the European Center of Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF). That is fine. El Nino events occur periodically and they can sometimes be more intense than others, but there are a few very important features that need to be examined.

The first feature is that the world’s oceans are warmer in general than they used to be. This implies when the ocean temperatures in the

eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean become significantly warmer than usual, the contrast between that part of the world’s ocean temperatures and the surrounding water may not be nearly as great as it was in 1997, 1965 or even 2015, which are the three most recent strong El Nino events that have occurred. World Weather, Inc. believes that without as much of a contrast in ocean temperatures between the eastern equatorial region and water temperatures to the north, south and west may result in some moderation of the im-

under way when the event begins.

Even though El Nino has a very large atmospheric influence it still has to interact with other patterns prevailing in the atmosphere and that is where the challenge begins in predicting the impact of this coming event. In this case, deeming the coming El Nino as a “super” El Nino is okay, until the way it is presented becomes threatening or daunting on human and animal life, including agriculture. That then becomes irresponsible reporting.



In anticipation of the coming El Nino there are several anomalies that are sure to take place. The intensity of the anomalies presented here can only be speculated about at this point in time, but there is a very good potential that some flavor of the anomalies presented here will take place and they will have an impact that may be greater for some areas more than others.

pects of El Nino relative to those of decades ago. That, though, is a speculative comment.

It may be speculation, but the potential for the coming El Nino to be a little different from those of the past is quite high. It is natural for each ENSO event to be a little different from those of the past. Meteorologists can only speak in general terms of what should happen as El Nino develops, but the details of that impact are likely to be swayed by other atmospheric patterns that are already

Before getting into the details of this year’s phenomenon there are a couple of additional comments that need to be made. First, the rapid development of El Nino is likely to bring scientists to making the statement that El Nino has begun without much atmospheric verification. In other words, the ocean temperature anomalies required for El Nino are likely to evolve quickly, though the atmosphere will probably not shift to traditional El Nino biases as quickly as we declare the phenomenon to be

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Beyond The Hype Of “Super El Nino” (continued from page 7)

in place. So be careful to give the atmosphere a few weeks to months before the anomalous weather begins. It is also very important to note that the forecast models for ENSO events do not perform very well beyond three months which warrants some caution when predictions are made about their intensity months in advance.

This year’s coming El Nino is also expected to last longer than some of the recent El Nino events which should lead to some significant precipitation anomalies in time. Those anomalies will likely be greatest in the fourth calendar quarter of 2026 and possibly during a larger portion of 2027.

In general, El Nino events tend to reduce moisture in the atmosphere over tropical regions of the planet while increasing moisture in the middle latitudes. This will occur in both the Northern and Southern Hemispheres. The longer El Nino lasts the more anomalous the precipitation pattern is likely to be. That is why late 2026 and 2027 are expected to have some of the greater weather anomalies associated with this ENSO event and looking for extreme conditions as early as this summer may be rushing the situation a little bit. The following is a breakdown of what is generally expected with the El Nino

event and the impact on agriculture.

Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines are always first to deal with El Nino weather anomalies. Below normal precipitation is likely to show up in these areas relatively soon in the period from late May into the end of this year. Below normal precipitation should be the rule, but that does not mean drought will be present from

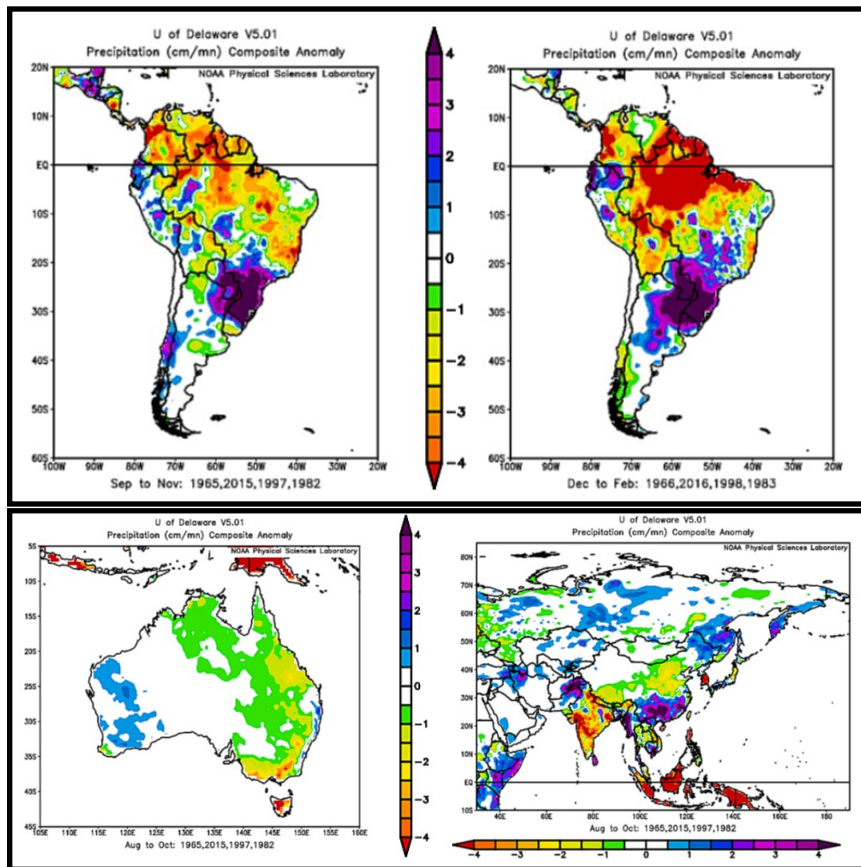
and rubber. The deeper-rooted crops may not experience serious moisture stress for months, but there is usually some impact.

The mainland areas of Southeast Asia (Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and Thailand) are often influenced by El Nino events too resulting in dryness that can seriously cut into some of the tropical crop production. Some

El Nino events have had quite an impact on rice, sugarcane, corn and coffee production in these areas, but not all El Ninos have the same level of impact and a close watch on the developing event is needed. Most likely May and June weather this year will not be nearly as anomalous in these areas as it may be late in 2026 or during 2027 depending on how long the event lasts.

India is another Asian country that will experience the influence of El Nino. India’s weather, though, will also be impacted by Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD). IOD is like a mini-El

Nino event of its own reflecting changes in Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea ocean surface temperatures. A positive IOD brings more moisture to India because of warm ocean water in the Arabian Sea whereas the negative phase reduces ocean water temperatures and rainfall for India. The worst El Nino droughts for India often occur while IOD is in



the beginning. These areas, though, do tend to experience some lasting precipitation anomalies and in some severe El Nino events that can lead to a reduction in crop production starting with rice, sugarcane and other short-rooted crops and then “eventually” impacting the deeper-rooted tree crops like oil palm, coconut, coffee, cocoa

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Beyond The Hype Of “Super El Nino” (continued from page 8)

its negative phase. This year’s El Nino will likely see IOD in its positive phase and that may help reduce the impact of El Nino – at least for a while. Eventually, India will experience below normal precipitation and warmer than usual temperatures and that could impact the production of all kinds of crops from the pulses to groundnuts, soybeans, millet, sugarcane, rice and a host of other crops. India’s rainfall pattern is expected to begin favorably in this year’s monsoon, but late summer rainfall is expected to fall below normal threatening some crops as they reproduce and fill.

Central Africa can also be negatively impacted by an El Nino event with less than usual rainfall impacting coffee, cocoa, sugarcane, rice and cotton. Again, these anomalies do not necessarily start off on the day El Nino is declared; though, over time the region will experience less than usual rainfall on a consistent basis generating warmer and drier than usual weather. For this year, the drying is expected to come late enough to have a low impact on the main season coffee and cocoa crop, but could adversely impact the mid-crop. Central America and parts of both far northern South America and southern Mexico also tend to see precipitation fall off below normal in time.

Eastern Australia is another subtropical region that will experience below normal rainfall in the coming year because of El Nino. In the past,

some of the most extreme dryness and heat has occurred in Queensland and northern New South Wales in strong El Nino events and this is one region that will likely experience such conditions again during the latter part of the third quarter of this year and into the fourth quarter.

In contrast, to the drier biases anticipated in the tropical realms of the world, the middle latitudes tend to trend wetter – at least in some areas. Eastern Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay and a large part of southern Brazil are typically wetter biased during their spring and summer seasons during an El Nino event. Some-

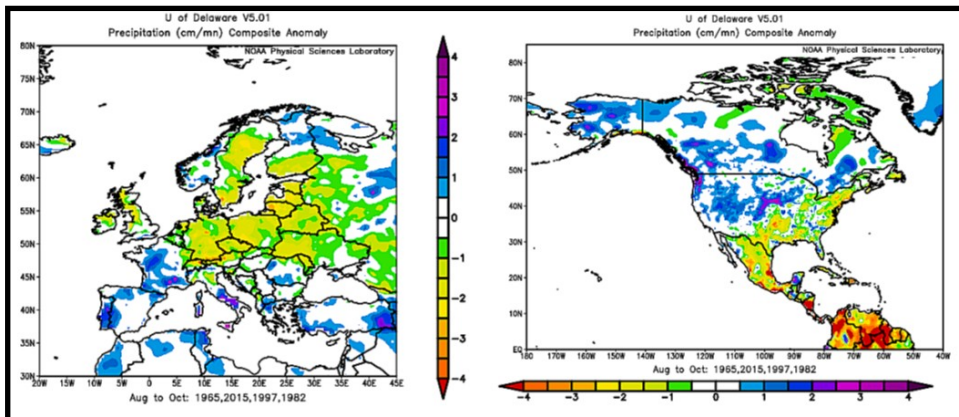
times the wet bias can be a deterrent for agriculture and even though drought is not present there can sometimes be some negative impact from too much moisture. Interestingly, northeastern Brazil tends to be drier than usual in the late spring and summer seasons (Southern Hemisphere) during El Nino events. So, for Brazil the west and south usually experience abundant precipitation and plenty of rain while the northeast has a drier bias.

South Africa is more negatively impacted by El Nino than South America with a similar dry and warm response like that of eastern Austral-

ia typical during their late spring and summer seasons. Typically, in the year of a developing El Nino winter wheat, barley and canola get planted quickly and establish well, but run into moisture shortages and some heat during reproduction and filling during the spring and early summer. Summer crops are usually more impacted by El Nino dryness than the winter crops.

In North America, mature El Nino events tend to produce above normal rainfall or at least there is a tendency for much less dryness during this ENSO phase relative to La Nina and the neutral phase of ENSO. Canada and the northern U.S. typically see more impact from El Nino during the late autumn and winter months than at other times of the year with a drier and warmer than usual bias while the southern U.S. is wetter and cooler biased. During the summers of an El Nino year there tends to be more moisture available for rain especially in the United States, but remember this year’s event will need a little time before the moisture abundance becomes apparent – at least in some crop areas.

Europe and the heart of Asia are least influenced by El Nino, though there is a tendency for better timed rainfall during these events. There is a slight drier than usual bias for eastern Europe during stronger El Nino events and southern China tends to be wetter biased.



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