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The Canadian Agriculture Weather Prognosticator

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World Weather To Watch

- France has become too dry once again, but rain should begin falling more routinely in early June
- Western portions of the Former Soviet Union are going to become too wet in early June raising some concern over wet weather disease for small grains
- Australia soil moisture rises greatly to support wheat, barley and canola planting
- India's pre-monsoon rainfall was lighter than usual; rain needed
- Brazil Safrinha crops are drying down; yields are fair to good
- Argentina will get timely rain in early June to support wheat and barley
- U.S. Midwest drying down temporarily
- Rapeseed harvesting in China gets delayed by rain in May

Stop The Hype: El Nino No Threat To Prairies

Voices of reason are so hard to find anymore. It is amazing how pre-occupied man has become in trying to find the next threat to our livelihood. There is way too much hype about just about everything and this "super" El Nino business is the worst one yet—at least when listening to the hype and worrying about North America Weather.

Most El Nino events whether weak, strong or super strong have a low influence on North America until the fourth quarter of the calendar year in which it develops and into the first quarter and sometimes the first several months in the New Year. Until that time, there is no need to fear about some catastrophic weather event for the Prairies or the United States. The sad part of the developing hysteria is that it does not matter what weather adversity we have in North America this summer (and, yes, we will have some) it will be blamed on El Nino and if that is not enough then it will be blamed on climate change.

Twenty or thirty years ago, when social media was mostly just dreamed of everyone went about their business focusing on what was most important and that was earning money and raising families. People accepted adverse weather when it came in stride and we dealt with the adversity with the thought in mind that God has the upper hand on everything that happens in the world. Today there is the mindset that something has changed or in broken and that the weather is out of control. How much of that is true and how much of that is the result of "TMI" (too much information)?

If we close our eyes and turn off the television and stop looking at social media for just a few minutes and think back about the weather in each of our little worlds most of us would come to the conclusion that, yeah, we have a few bad weather events, but mostly the weather has been good and we have managed the environment well and still have produced crops and raised our families.

The problem is that we have the television on and the social media platforms in our faces every moment of the day making us feel the pain of every weather adversity that occurs anywhere else on the planet. It is good to know what is going on around the world, but we need to look at what is happening in our own back yard and compare that to all of the other years in our lives. The truth will reveal itself very quickly how much is real and how much is hype.

As for this "super" El Nino business is concerned, the impact on North America will be minimal. Typically, El Nino will offer greater moisture in the atmosphere over the middle latitudes which should translate into a favorable environment for periodic rain. Stop! Before we go any further it is important to note that in any growing season here in the Prairies there are periods of strong wind, severe thunderstorms, drought or dryness and flooding. Be sure to recognize that and understand that our weather will not be perfect this summer because it never is, but we certainly do not want to blame every little bit of weather adversity on climate change or on "super" El Nino. The reality is that our weather this summer will be just like all summers with challenges for some of us and good conditions for others. Until the late autumn and winter we cannot blame "super" El Nino on any of our adversity here in North America.

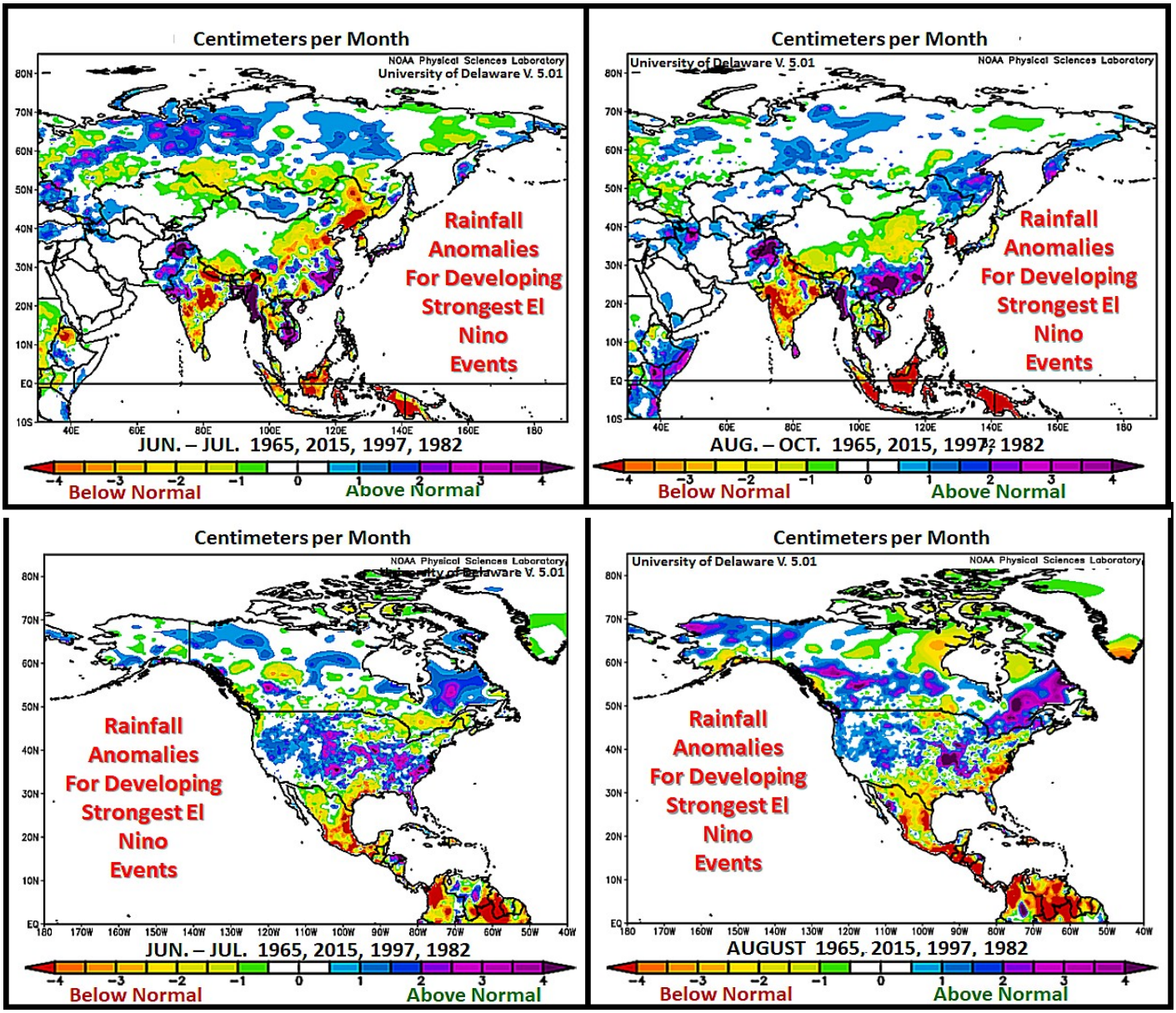
El Nino No Threat To Prairies This Summer

Late in the third quarter of this year and on into early 2027 we will certainly encounter warmer than usual winter and precipitation may be below average. This will likely translate into some concern coming into spring of 2027, but at least for the next three months our weather will be just as abnormal as it is in any year.

Now, for the tropical regions of the world, yes, there will be some significant adversity and we will be impacted if enough growing areas in the world have bad crop conditions. Typically, though, world grain and oilseed production issues are most serious on a global scale in multi-year La Nina events and that is when market futures prices usually soar to much higher levels and stay there.

El Nino years typically create more production issues for rice, sugarcane, coffee and cocoa than for coarse grain and traditional oilseeds. Yes, there is usually some impact on oil palm production and that has an indirect impact on canola prices, but this can be a positive thing for the average Canadian producer since our production is usually more consistent in El Nino events and we have a better chance to cash in on rising market prices.

There is opportunity for the North American farmer to take advantage of weather adversity in Southeast Asia, India, central Africa and a part of Central America by hedging the various soft agricultural commodities. However, traders need to realize, in the past, El Nino events have not had nearly the impact on corn, soybeans, wheat or a few other traditional grain and oilseeds as they have had on sugar, rice, coffee and cocoa.



June To Start Wet in Alberta; Summer Looks Favorable

The last two days of May are included in the June outlook and rainfall will be substantial in Alberta where widespread 1.00 to 2.00-inch totals are likely along with local totals of 3.00 to more than 4.00 inches. The region west of Highway Two will be most anomalously wet.

Rainfall after this last weekend of May will still be greater than usual in portions of northern Alberta and a new area of anomalously great rain may evolve in southern Manitoba and extreme southeastern Saskatchewan for a brief period of time in the first couple of days of June. There will be some additional rain later in the month, but only a very small area in the southeastern Prairies will actually be wetter biased for the month.

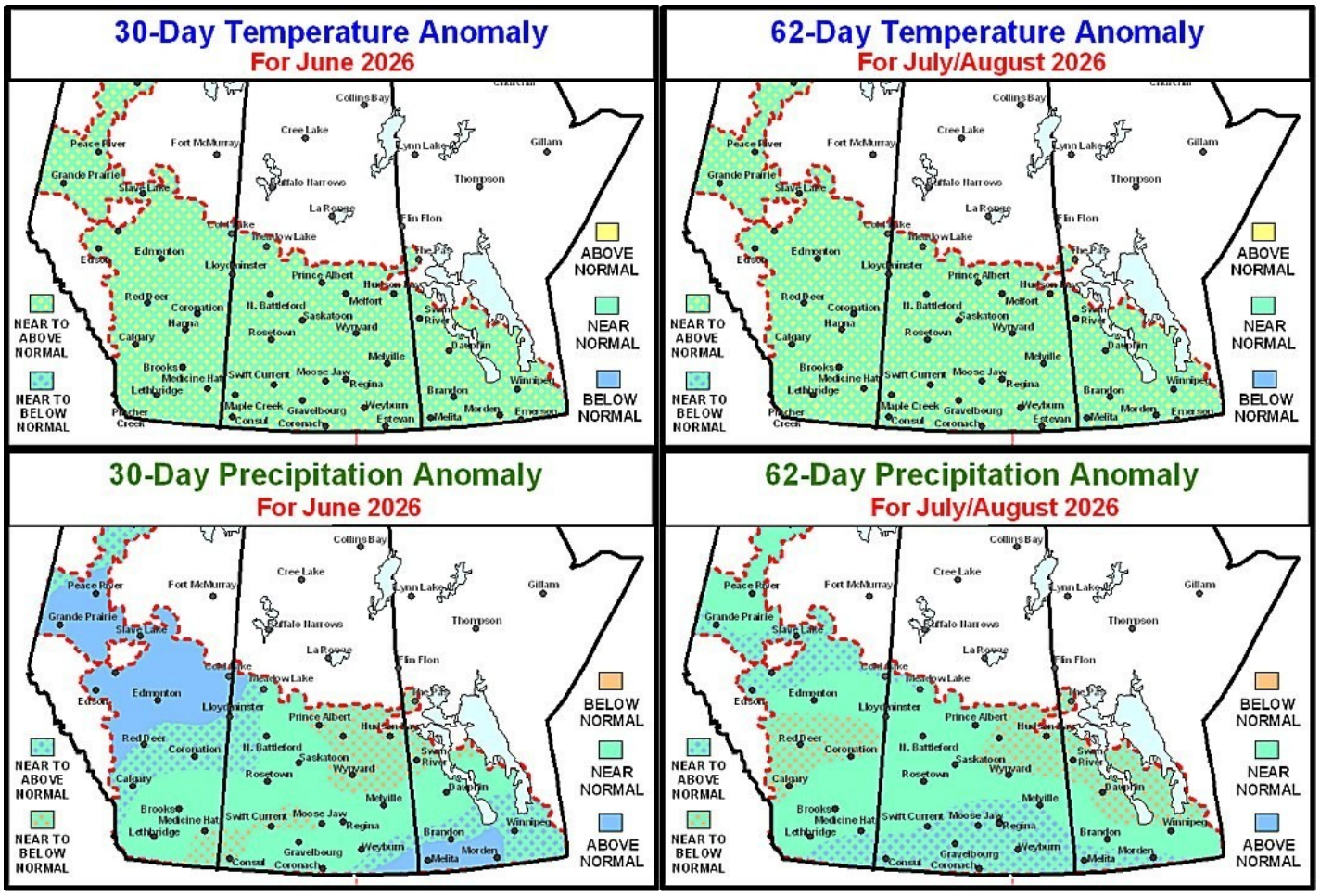
Most other areas in the Prairies are expected to see near to below normal precipitation during the month. The driest areas relative to normal are expected in northeastern Saskatchewan and northwestern Manitoba, although a few areas in the southwest of Saskatchewan and in the Cypress Hills of southeastern Alberta will also be dry.

Most of the precipitation anomalies that are expected will not be overwhelmingly great, but with a warmer than usual temperature bias during the month some drying is expected. With that said, there will be some timely rainfall and crop conditions should remain largely beneficial.

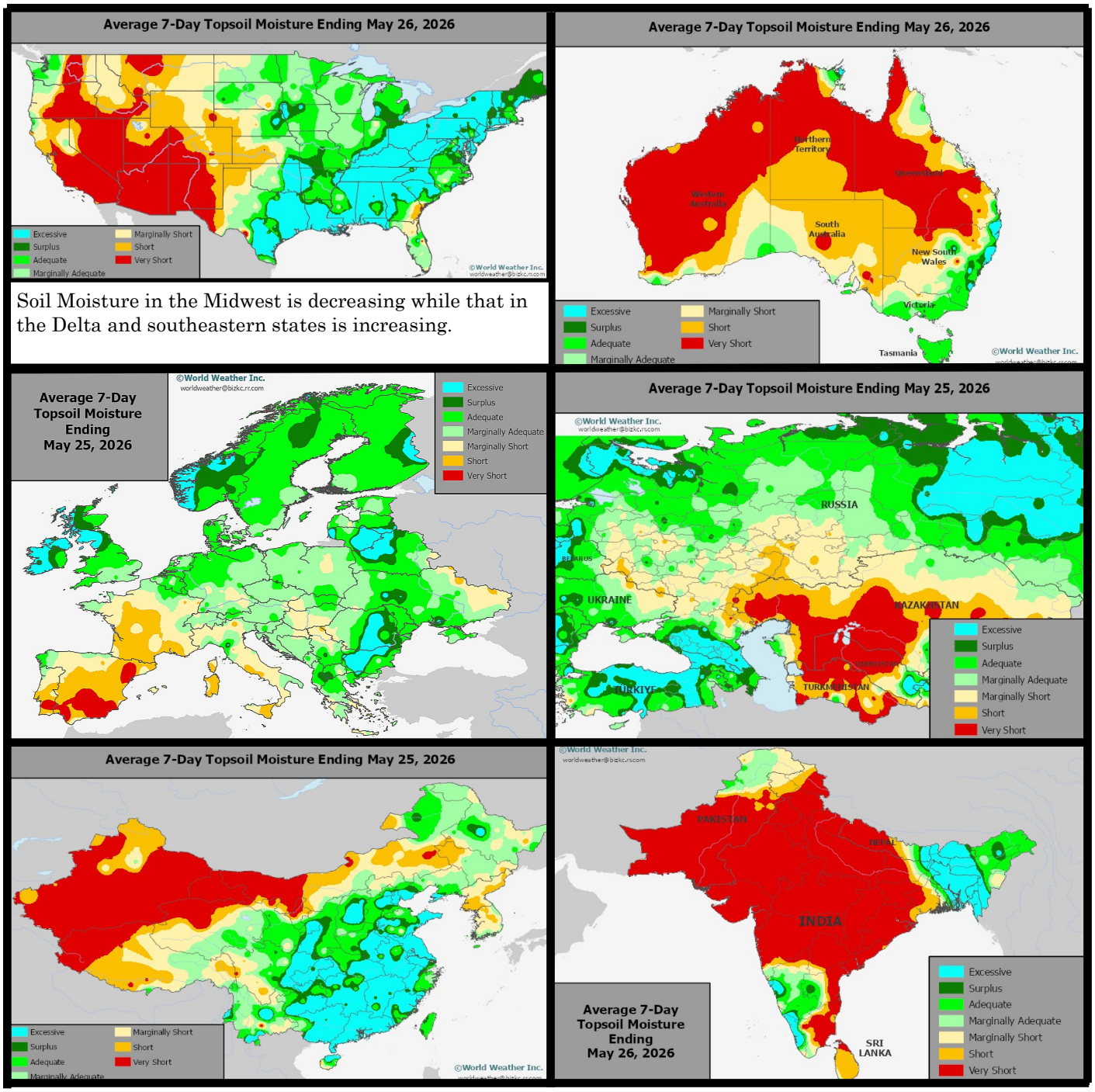
There will be some pockets of dryness in the Prairies during June. So, be careful not to assume all is going to be great. Crop moisture stress will develop in pockets raising concern about long-term crop growth potentials, but some timely rain is probable and should prevent the drier areas from becoming a regional disaster.

July and August weather is still expected to be favorably mixed with rain and sunshine while temperatures are a little warmer than usual. The situation will be similar to that of June with the most dominating region of lighter than usual precipitation being in the northeastern part of the Prairies. There is a chance that rain in southern Manitoba will need to be reduced for July and August and that will be closely monitored.

For now, the bottom line for the Prairies in 2026 should be favorable. Not a perfect year, by any means, but a year of mixed impacts with a few areas a little too wet (possibly in the NW) and a few areas too dry (probably in the NE). There will also be a few pockets of drying in central parts of the Prairies that will need to be watched.



Selected Weather Images From Around The World

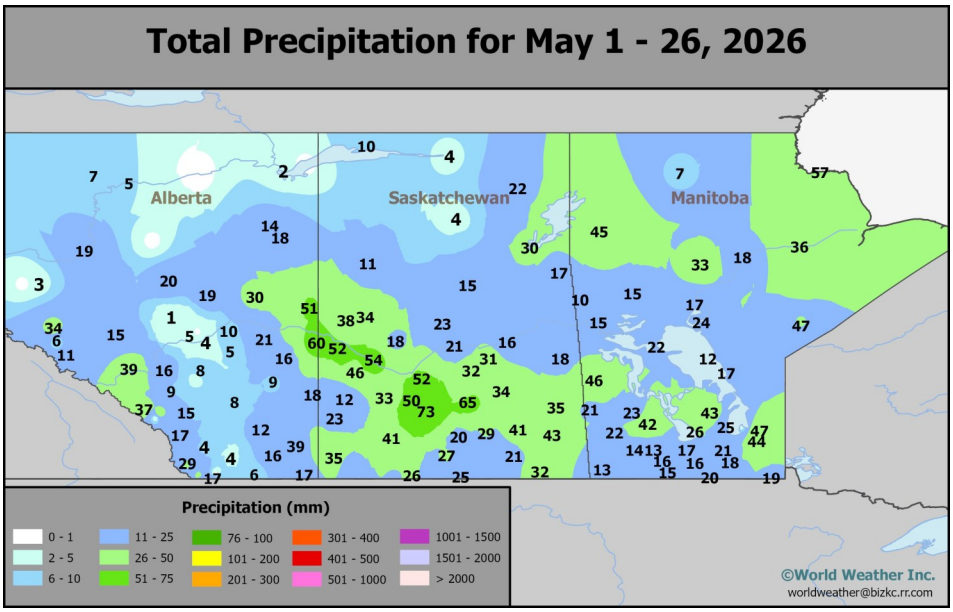


Soil Moisture in the Midwest is decreasing while that in the Delta and southeastern states is increasing.

France has dried out quite a bit in the past week due to limited rainfall and warmer than usual temperatures. Subsoil moisture is marginally adequate to short making the need for rain high in June to maintain good production potentials. Other areas in Europe are still in good shape. Soil moisture in the U.S. Midwest, Delta and southeastern states is rated well along with that in much of east-central and southeastern China. There is some need for rain in the U.S. western Plains especially in hard red winter wheat areas. India pre-monsoonal showers and thunderstorms have been lackluster leaving some concern about early June planting moisture outside of a few areas in the far south. Portions of the former Soviet Union turned drier and warmer in late May, but a new trend toward wetter and cooler weather in early June will lead to much improved soil moisture. Eastern and southern Australia will receive sufficient rain in the coming week to ten days for improvement in wheat, barley and canola planting and establishment.

May Brings More Moisture To Some Areas; Still Dry SW

Precipitation during the month of May was most significant from northeastern Alberta through the heart of Saskatchewan to portions of Manitoba. Moisture totals in these areas ranged from 20 to 50 millimeters (0.79 to nearly 2.00 inches) with local amounts reaching 73 millimeters (2.87 inches) in central Saskatchewan. The moisture was near to above normal for the month and many areas reported a nice boosting of topsoil moisture to support planting and early season emergence. However, a fair amount of the early month was colder than usual and that slowed farming activity additionally beyond the precipitation events. Snow and rain fell during the early month.



In contrast, precipitation in central and western Alberta was noted to be lighter than usual in many areas. Some locations in the Highway Two corridor in central Alberta and areas east into the interior east-central parts of the province reported 0.05 to 0.62 inch of moisture or 1-16 millimeters. A few areas in interior western Alberta reported greater rainfall, but not enough to counter evaporation. Most of the province was notably drier than usual raising worry over the future of spring planting and early season crop development.

For northeastern Saskatchewan and northern and central Manitoba, the biggest problem with early to mid-May weather was cool temperatures. The sudden meltdown of substantial snow accumulations in late April and May resulted in some very serious flooding in some areas and the cool early to mid-May weather failed to bring a notable drying trend to the region leaving the farmer mentality to anticipate unusually late planting in June. But, suddenly a miracle appears and a blocking ridge of high pressure evolved in this past week over the eastern Prairies inducing some impressive heat and strong wind speeds. The combined impact of heat, low humidity and strong wind speeds was ideal in bringing about some quick drying.

The northeastern Prairies excessive topsoil moisture and flooding was aided by poor subsoil moisture lingering from last summer's dryness. The percolation downward into the ground of some of the excess moisture from the snow melt and occasional bouts of light precipitation resulted in some quick drying especially once the wind increased and the temperatures rose above normal.

Unfortunately for some areas in east-central Saskatchewan and a few areas in southern Manitoba, the ground was already plenty wet from last autumn and the spring precipitation and coolness left water standing in many fields preventing some producers from getting into their fields.

This week's incredibly strong wind speeds, unusual heat and lack of precipitation was almost exactly what the doctor ordered to get the region back in favorable condition for spring planting.

The blocking ridge of high pressure over the eastern Prairies was offering a great opportunity for aggressive drying and accelerated planting to take place. Some of the wettest areas, however, will require additional days and possibly weeks of dry weather before fieldwork can begin earnestly.

The blocking high pressure ridge aloft over Manitoba, western Ontario and eastern Saskatchewan was not only inducing a welcome change toward drier and warmer soil conditions in the east, but it was also setting the stage for an impressive rain event in central and western Alberta this coming weekend with a follow up disturbance in the central Prairies during early to mid-week next week.

Two Montana low pressure centers will move into the Prairies to bring on additional precipitation. The wetter bias fits very well with the lunar cycle and some developing El Nino summers of the past. Confidence remains very high that the recent drought years will become a thing of the past before too much longer. There will still be pockets of dryness this summer, but there will also be a few areas of abundant moisture. A few areas may report a little too much rain, although the biggest concern about excessive moisture may come in 2027 and 2028 rather than in this year. Some notable periods of drying are expected later this summer.

First Half Of June Plenty Wet, Warm

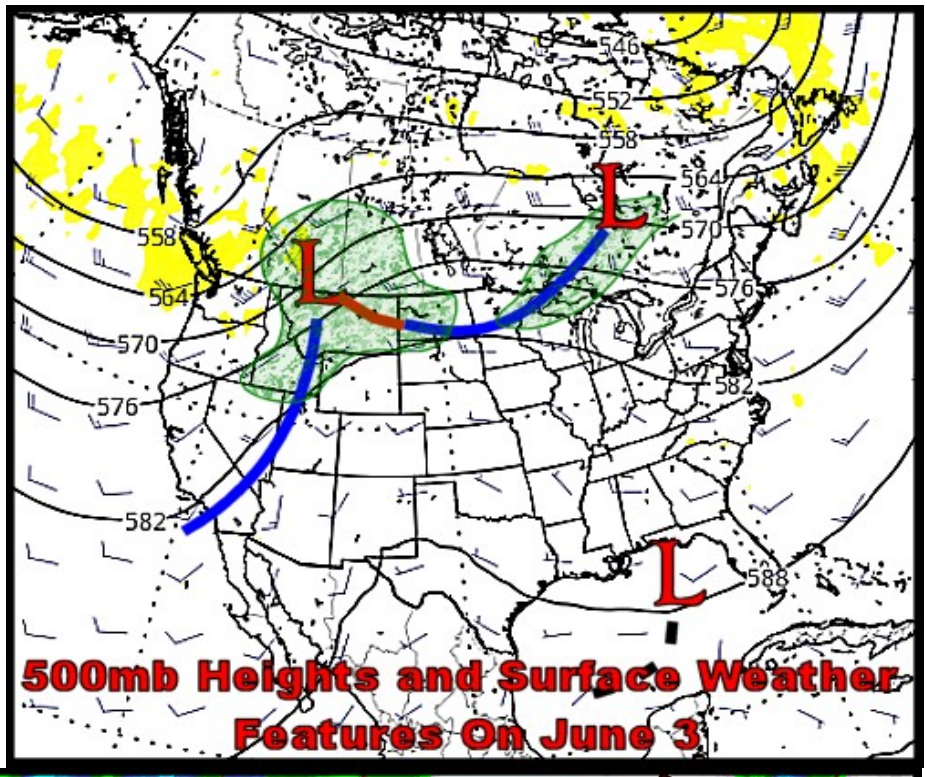
After the last weekend in May generates impressive rain in the western Prairies, another disturbance moves across the Prairies producing more rain during the middle to latter part of next week. Behind that storm system is yet another system. This sequence of storm systems moving through the Prairies will produce a wetter than usual bias that will need to be closely monitored especially in Alberta where it will be wettest from the late May storm.

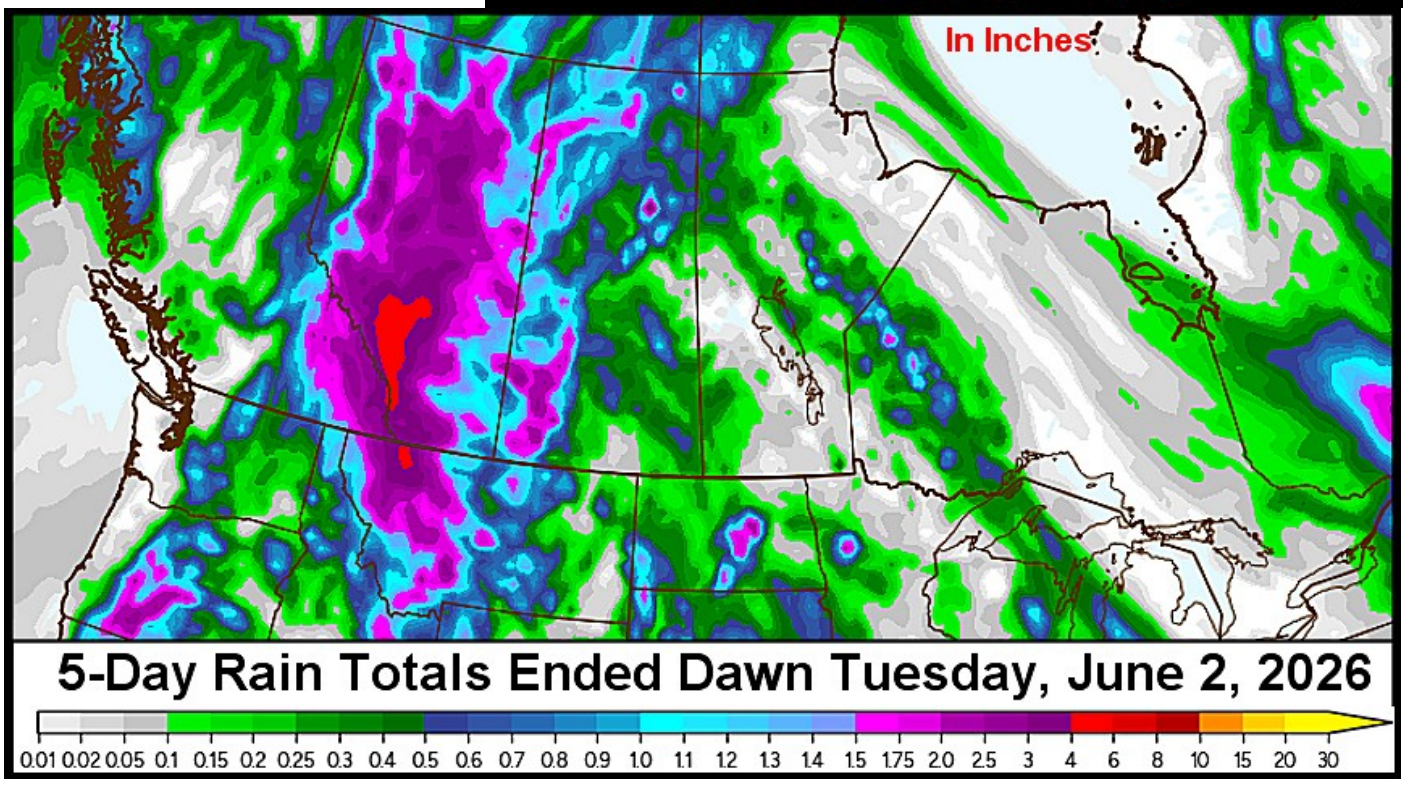
The sequence of weather disturbances could last through the first half of June before a return of cooler air comes to the eastern Prairies forcing the jet stream to the south again for a little while. That should make late June a little drier and milder especially in the east.

Some of the analog years have suggested June would be the wettest month of the summer, but World Weather, Inc. has discounted that idea for now, but is not out of the realm of possibilities especially after the wetter bias at the beginning of the month.

Temperatures will be near to above normal during the first half of June. Cooling is predicted in the east during late June, but that cool off will not likely be enough to force temperatures below normal for the entire month.

A wetter bias may return later in the summer after a short-term bout of drying.





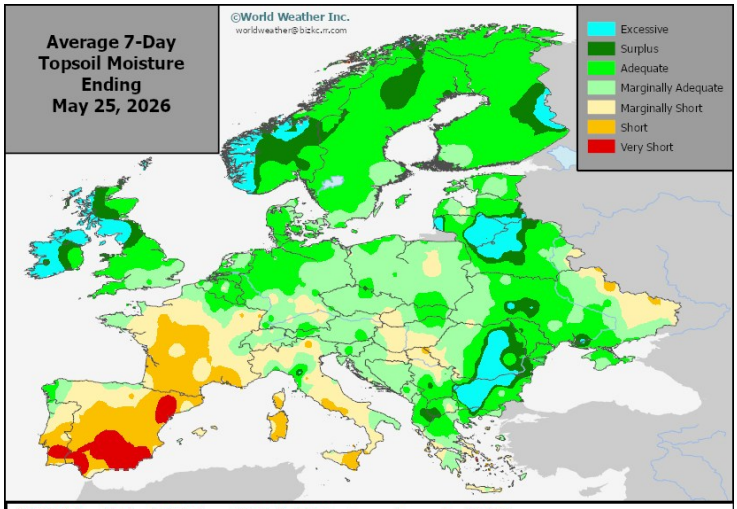
Europe Drying Raises Concern over French Crops

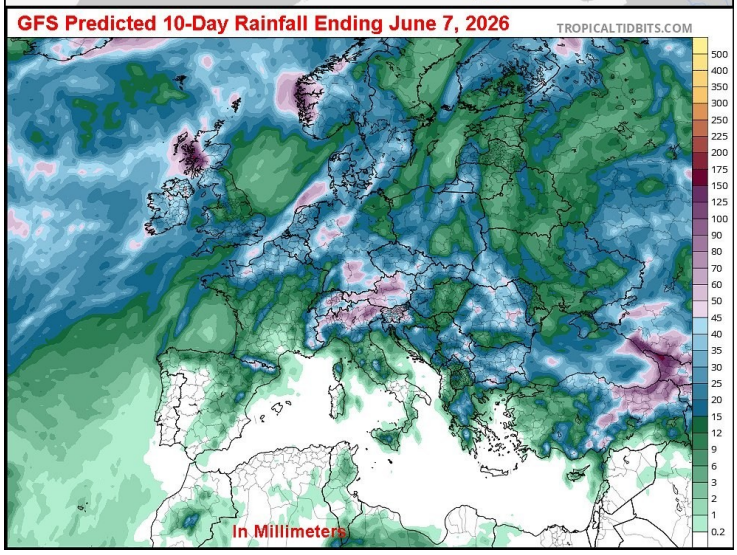
Weather conditions in Europe during much of the spring season have been and continues to be supportive of crop development and farming activity. Recent drying and warmth have accelerated dryness in France, Spain, Portugal, Italy and parts of both the U.K. and Germany. This dryness will continue for a few more days, but rain is expected next week that should bring relief to at least parts of this dry region.

Rainfall across the European continent has fallen off in recent weeks. Lighter than usual precipitation has impacted many areas from the United Kingdom and France into Italy, the northern Balkan region and areas off the east into the Baltic Plain. Some areas across that region have reported less than half of normal precipitation. However, that is very misleading because soil moisture is rated more favorably due to cool temperatures during much of the past month.

France is the country of greatest concern for now. Topsoil conditions are becoming very short of moisture in western and southern parts of the nation; although, subsoil moisture is still rated marginally short to adequate. Crop stress likely began in France last weekend because of ongoing high temperatures in the 80s Fahrenheit and no rain of significance.

Spain and Portugal are also quite dry, but that is not nearly as unusual for this time of year since their rainy season usually ends in April. The Iberian Peninsula is normally drying out at this time of year and that is why most spring and summer crops are irrigated.





There are several other areas in Italy, Germany and the southern part of the United Kingdom that are also drying out and a close watch on the situation is warranted as the drying trend continues. Areas to the east still have sufficient subsoil moisture to support most crops while the topsoil is firming.

High pressure developed aloft over western Europe late last week and dominated the weekend and it will prevail into this coming weekend. The system is responsible for greatly diminishing rainfall across the continent and for heating up the temperatures. Widespread 80-degree highs occurred during the weekend and will continue this week which is likely to expand dryness in the topsoil across a larger part of European continent. For now, though, the biggest concern will be for France where the ground is already too dry.

The high-pressure ridge over western Europe is expected to break down next week. However, the system is unlikely to be followed by widespread generalized rain. Instead, there will be a continuation of warmer-than-usual temperatures and some scattered showers and thunderstorms, but no widespread soaking rain. That will warrant a much closer watch on the continent for the next few weeks in case the high-pressure ridge returns without sufficient rain falling first.

Crop stress is expected during the coming week, but losses to winter, spring and summer crops are unlikely – at least initially. There will have to be some significant rain soon, though, to protect production potentials.

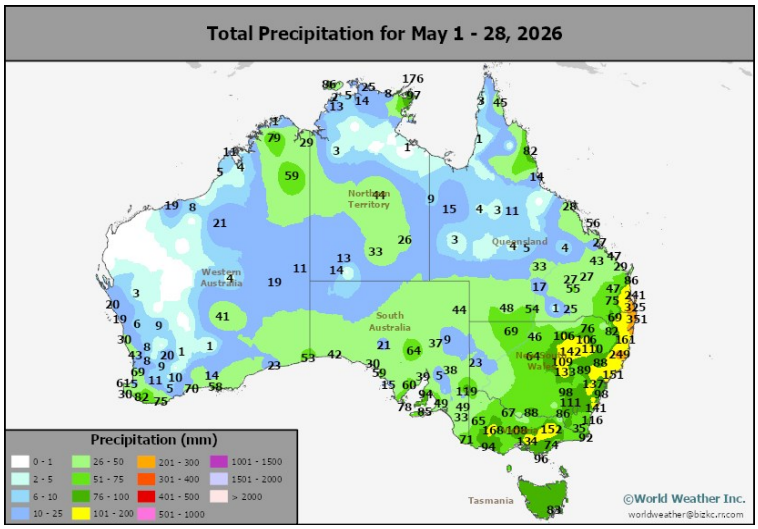
Impressive Eastern Australia Rain Improves Crop Moisture

Recent rainfall in eastern Australia has bolstered soil moisture in a favorable manner. There have been a few bouts of rain this month from South Australia through New South Wales, Victoria and more recently in southeastern Queensland. The moisture has brought relief to a dry bias that cut into summer crop yields and improved the outlook for wheat, barley and canola establishment.

Autumn rainfall is of critical importance since the evolution of El Nino this year promises to produce a harsh spring when these crops reproduce. Well-established wheat, barley and canola have a better chance of handling dryness from El Nino in the spring than do crops that are not well established in the autumn.

Western Australia rainfall has been more limited recently, but some welcome rain is forthcoming.

Rain fell significantly in key Australia crop production areas earlier this week and that moisture combined with some lighter precipitation reported earlier in the past week has bolstered soil moisture once again. Rain totals over the seven-day period ending dawn (Australia time) Thursday varied from 0.30 to 1.45 inches in southeastern Queensland and from 0.25 to 0.62 inch in Victoria and South Australia with a few amounts over 1.00 inch. Northeastern New South Wales was wettest with rainfall of 0.62 inch to 3.58 inches. Western Australia also reported some rain with coastal areas getting more than 1.00 inch while interior western wheat, barley and canola areas in the state reported 0.05 to 0.40 inch.



The seven-day moisture totals may not seem very significant, but when adding that moisture to early May rainfall the amounts become more impressive. Some areas in eastern New South Wales and Victoria recorded 1.00 to 4.30 inches of moisture with some locations noting 4.00 to nearly 5.00 inches. That is an impressive amount of rain for the month and something that does not happen very often. Soil moisture has been favorably raised in most of the wheat, barley and canola areas in New South Wales, South Australia, Victoria and a part of southeastern Queensland. Planting was disrupted at times, but the moisture this month was of critical importance following a rather hot, dry, summer.

More importantly is the developing El Nino that has been talked about in recent months. El Nino events usually produce a harsh environment during reproduction in September and October in eastern Australia. The better winter crops are established in the autumn and winter, the higher potential that the crops will eek out a fair yield in the spring, despite El Nino related dryness. That is not always the case, but certainly if the crops were not well established in the autumn dryness in the spring would certainly have a huge impact on them cutting yields greatly when warm and dry weather occurs during reproduction. Yields may still fall in the spring, but at least crops will be well established with deep root systems because of rain in May and that may reduce some of the potential losses if heat and dryness evolve like other El Nino events.

Western Australia, of course is the exception. Western Australia's month to date rainfall has been a bit disappointing with few areas getting more than 0.40 inch of moisture. The greatest amount noted on the accompanying rainfall map was 0.79 inch, but very few areas reported that much moisture. Greater rain is needed and some is expected.

Additional rain is predicted over southern Australia's winter grain and oilseed production region during the coming ten days. If the GFS weather forecast model is correct there will not only be additional moisture of benefit for South Australia, southern and eastern New South Wales and Victoria, but most importantly in Western Australia. If all of the rain falls that is advertised there may be another 1.00 to 3.00 inches occurring in Western Australia, Victoria and southeastern South Australia while 0.20 to 0.75 inch occurs in other areas. That would be sufficient in further ensuring a very well-established winter crop throughout the nation.