

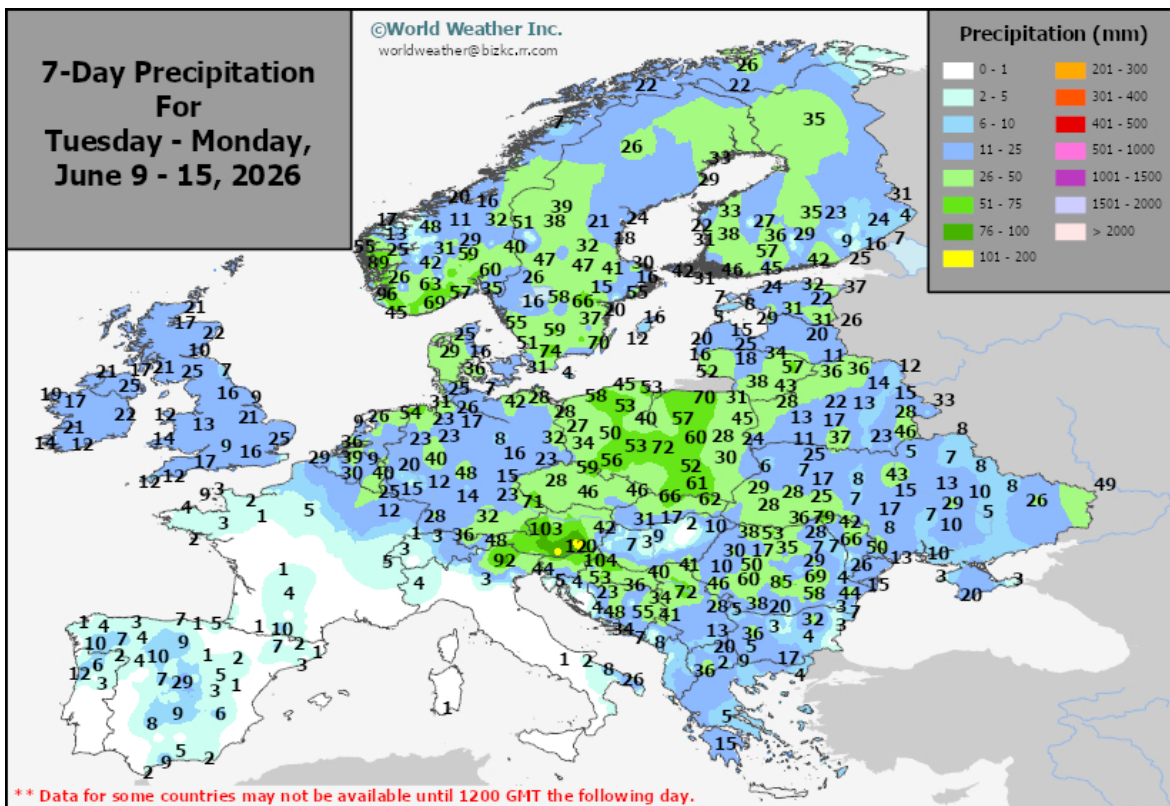
France Drought To Worsen As Temperatures Turn Hot

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, June 16 (World Weather Inc.) – *France and neighboring areas in Italy and the Iberian Peninsula dried down significantly during the past week due to a lack of rain. Precipitation will remain limited for these locations for at least another ten-day period with temperatures surging above to well above normal. Aggressive drying will continue and may further impact the development of winter, spring and summer crops.*

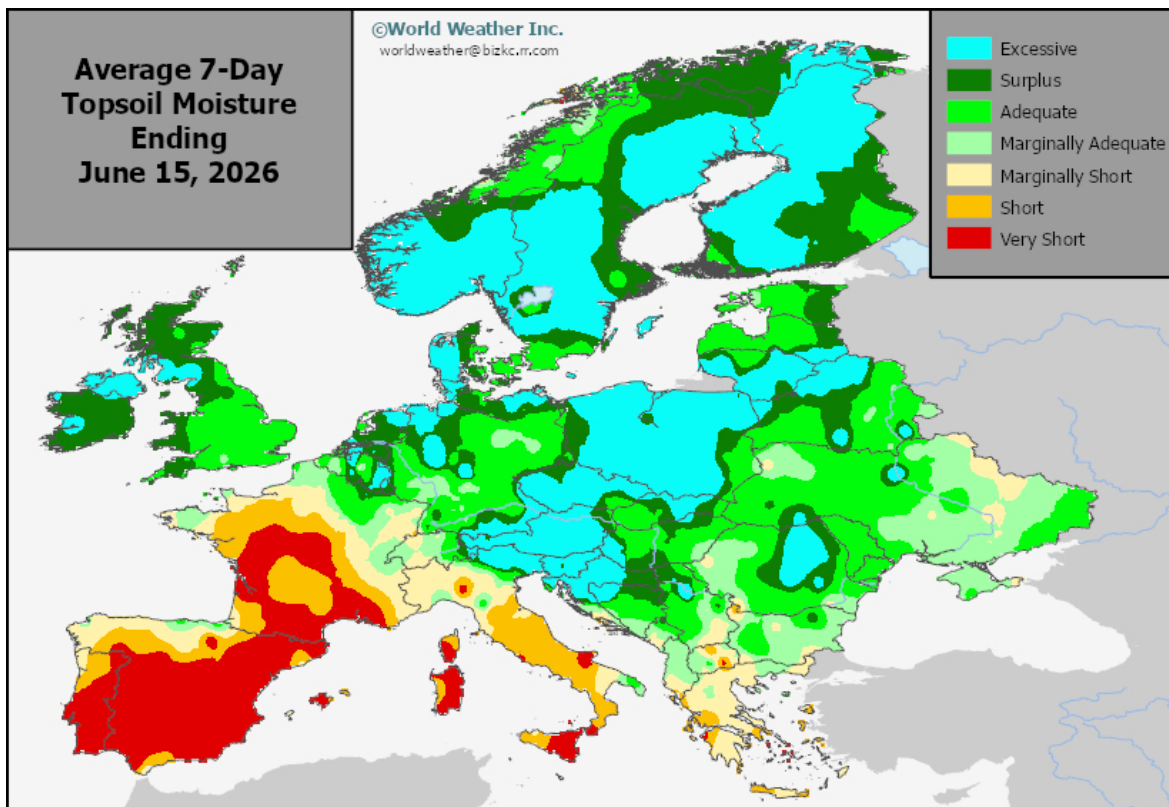
Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, and neighboring areas will also see temperatures surge above normal resulting in faster drying rates, though soil moisture is better in these areas and it may take a while before crop stress evolves. The need for timely rain will increase later this month and during July for much of Western Europe. Eastern Europe has ample moisture to support favorable development of grains and oilseeds, at least in the short-term.

Rainfall varied significantly across Europe during the past week. Poland, Czechia, Slovakia, Romania, and immediate neighboring areas received 1.10 to 3.38 inches of rain for the seven-day period ending June 15. Other locations in Eastern Europe into Germany, Denmark, the Netherlands, Belgium, and much of the United Kingdom and Ireland received 0.39 to 2.00 inches of rain. *A few pockets in Spain and northern Portugal received 0.20 to 0.47 inch of rain with a local total of 1.14 inches in central Spain. France, Italy, and other areas in the Iberian Peninsula were either dry or did not receive enough rain to counter evaporation.*



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No part of Europe is drier than France where less than half of normal precipitation has occurred since mid-March and the most recent 30-day period ending June 14 had left three-fourths of the nation with less than 25% of normal rain. It has also been drier biased in Spain, Portugal and parts of Italy; though, these areas normally trend drier in June making the limited precipitation a little less significant relative to that of France. **Top and subsoil moisture is rated short to very short in a large part of France where winter crops are finishing reproduction, filling and maturing. The dryness has been cutting into yield potentials; though temperatures have not been terribly hot which has allowed crop development to advance amazingly better than one would expect under the circumstances.**



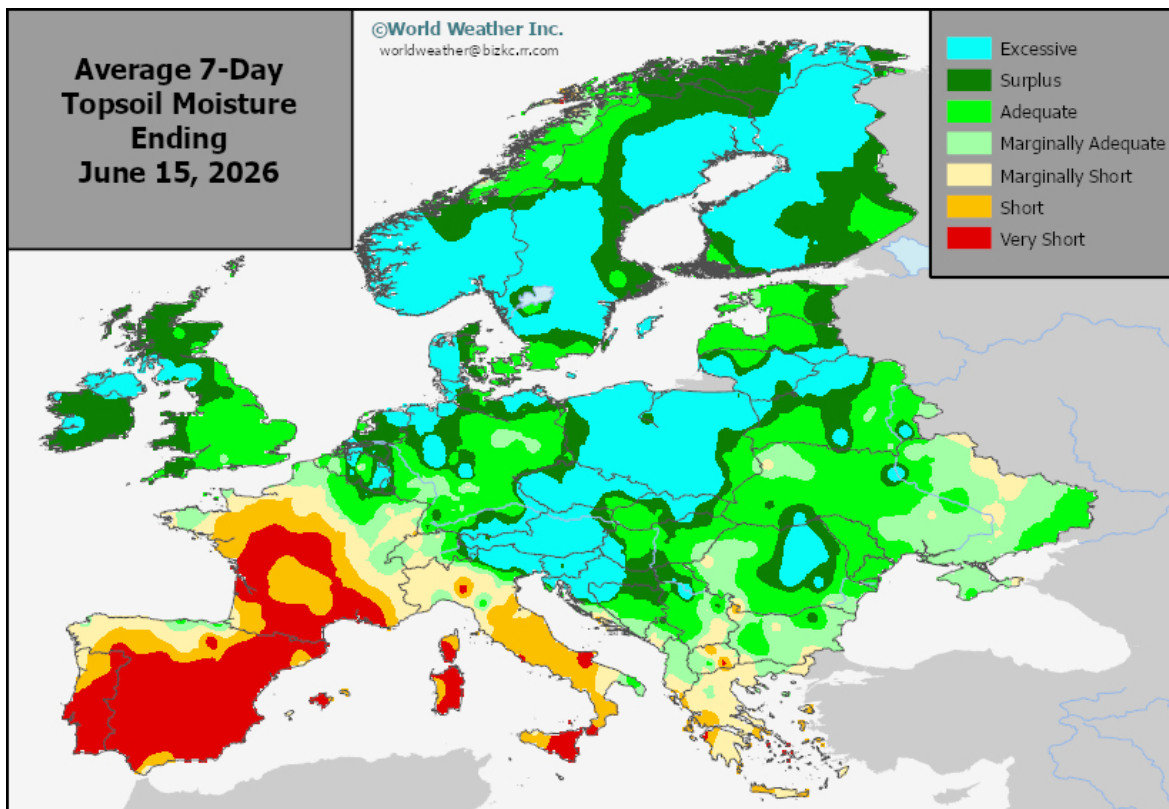
Spain, Portugal and Italy had good rainfall during the winter and spring seasons and were not nearly as dry as long as parts of France. That has helped their winter crops to mature and be harvested with favorable production. Spring and summer crops in these nations are largely irrigated because of their Mediterranean climate which is dry during the summer. Most other areas in Europe have adequate to excess topsoil moisture.

Dryness is an increasing concern for France. Much of the country is too dry to support aggressive growth – at least in unirrigated fields. Continued dryness in coming weeks may raise the potential for production losses for spring and summer crops.. The Iberian Peninsula and Italy would also benefit from erratic rain in coming weeks, especially in dryland areas. The remainder of Europe has ample moisture to support relatively favorable development conditions.

WEATHER OUTLOOK

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Weather in Europe will be influenced by an intensifying high-pressure ridge during the coming week. The ridge will initially build over France and the Iberian Peninsula today and Wednesday before shifting to central Europe later this week through early next week. **Disturbances tracking over the ridge will still generate erratic rainfall for portions of Europe.** Ireland and Scotland will see some of the most frequent rain with totals ranging from 0.25 to 1.50 inches and locally more by next Tuesday morning. Northern France, Belgium, the Netherlands, and a few pockets in northern Spain into Germany, Denmark, and much of Eastern Europe will receive 0.10 to 0.75 inch of rain with local amounts over 1.00 inch. Other locations in France, the Iberian Peninsula, and Italy will receive little to no rain. **Drier-than-usual weather may prevail for much of Europe June 24-30 as the ridge meanders over Europe.**

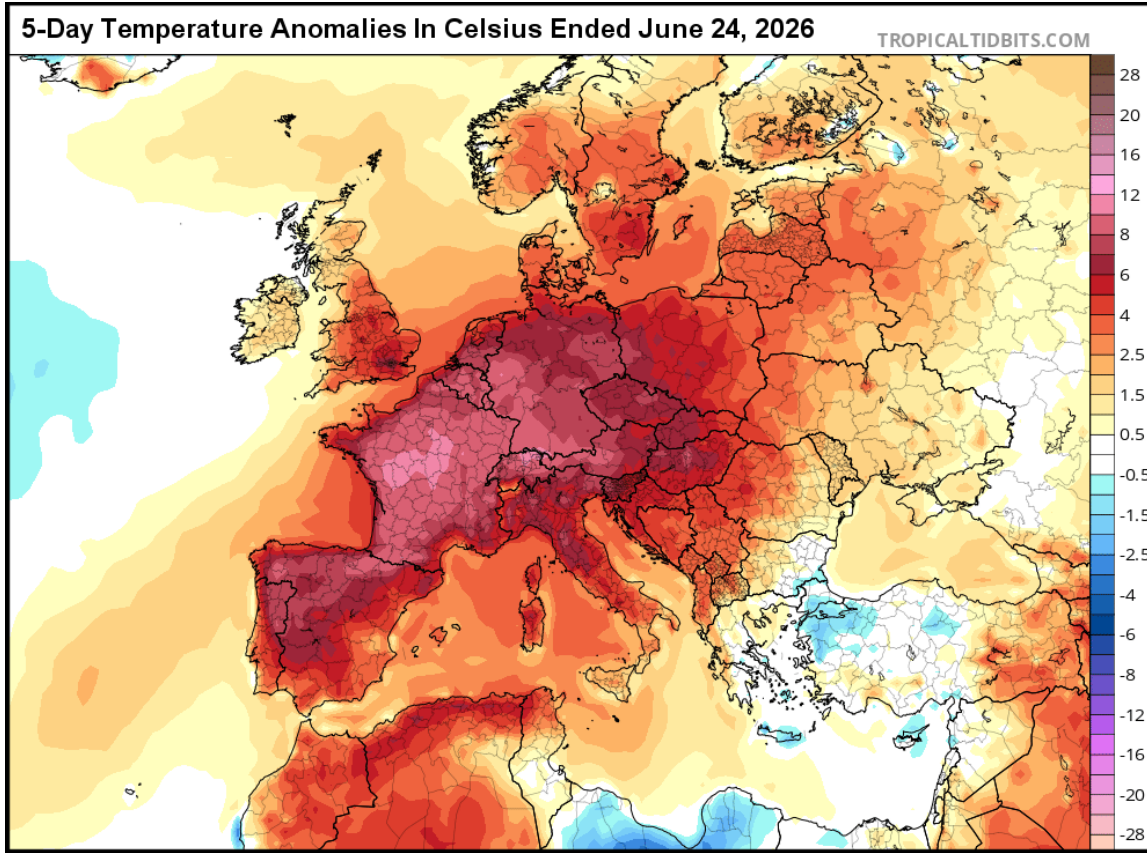


Temperatures will surge above or even well above normal for much of Europe outside the northern production areas due to the intensifying high pressure ridge. France, Italy, and the Iberian Peninsula will often warm to the 80s and 90s Fahrenheit with pockets warming above 100 degrees. Daytime highs elsewhere will be in the 70s and 80s with many areas in Germany, Poland, and southeastern Europe also warming to the 90s Friday into early next week. **Warmer than usual conditions will persist June 24 – 30.**

Aggressive drying is slated for France, the Iberian Peninsula, and Italy for at least the next seven to ten days. These areas are already too dry in unirrigated fields and the lack of moisture will continue to promote uneven or poor growth. Periods of much warmer than usual weather may also cause stress crops and livestock. Unless rain potentials increase significantly in the first part of July, production may be impacted by the ongoing dryness.

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Other areas in Europe will likely dry down through early next week due to the lack of abundant rain and gradual warming trend; however, these areas will have sufficient moisture in the ground to maintain new growth, at least in the short-term. The need for timely rain will increase late this month into early July to maintain favorable long-term production potentials.



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