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The Canadian Agriculture Weather Prognosticator

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World Weather To Watch

- Thailand sugarcane, rice and corn areas are becoming too dry
- Relief from dryness is under way in Sumatra and Java, Indonesia oil palm areas
- India's monsoon is off to a poor start with another week of the same expected before rain develops.
- France continues too dry with a heatwave under way that sent temperatures to the range of 32-41 Celsius Thursday
- Former Soviet Union weather has been fine so far this season
- Southern Safrinha corn in Brazil is vulnerable to frost and freezes late next week
- Argentina winter crops are being planted under favorable conditions
- Australia wheat, barley and canola have been planted and are establishing well

Impressive First Half Of June Rainfall

Late May and the first half of June have proven once again that there is more to be gained by studying weather cycles than there is to fearing climate change. Weather in the past few weeks defied some of the greatest computer forecast models built on AI and climate change both of which were predicting another drought year in the Prairies. But, where is the drought? In the Peace Country, your are correct. The bulk of the Prairies are not dealing with drought or excessive heat, but continue to deal with frequent precipitation and periodic bouts of cool weather.

The weather trends of the past few weeks have come directly from the 18-year cycle and the influence seen in these cycles by developing El Nino. Blending the data has kept the official forecast for the Prairies (by World Weather, Inc.) away from the drought scenarios that so many others have touted and more toward a favorable production year. If the truth were to be known, the past 30 days has been surprisingly wet, but long overdue for some areas in the Prairies and not shocking after coming out of such a long period of drought.

Eastern Alberta, far eastern Saskatchewan and western and northern Manitoba crop areas have certainly received some impressive rain totals during the past 30 days with totals of 83 to nearly 169 millimeters. And that does not include some of the crazy unofficial amounts that were noted northwest of Vegreville, AB and northwest of Winnipeg where amounts have been even greater.

Flooding has been occurring in portions of the Prairies since the snowmelt season ended. Parts of northeastern and north-central as well as east-central Saskatchewan along with parts of west-central into northwestern Manitoba started dealing with excessive moisture then and have not seen the ground firm since then.

As reported so clearly by Larry Weber of Weber Commodities earlier this season, fieldwork got off to a very poor start and that does not usually bode very well for production throughout the Prairies, but the weather has managed to improve in some areas enough to get a fair amount of the planting done despite being late and with some fields not emerging or establishing well.

Not all of the production region has been dealing with impressive rain totals. The Peace River Region is indeed still suffering from drought, but had it not been for some impressive snow events last autumn and during the winter and spring the region would be facing a disaster. Despite below normal precipitation this growing season the Peace Country could still eek out a good crop if greater and more timely precipitation falls soon and that is still a viable possibility. There is still some evidence that the Peace Country may see the end of this past two year drought, but when it ends it could be a little sloppy and wet.

Most of the computer weather forecast models have been suggesting greater rain is on its way to the Peace River Region. A close watch on that area is warranted and hopefully this year's crops were planted and spraying has advanced well because it may soon be difficult to get into some fields after rain begins falling more routinely.

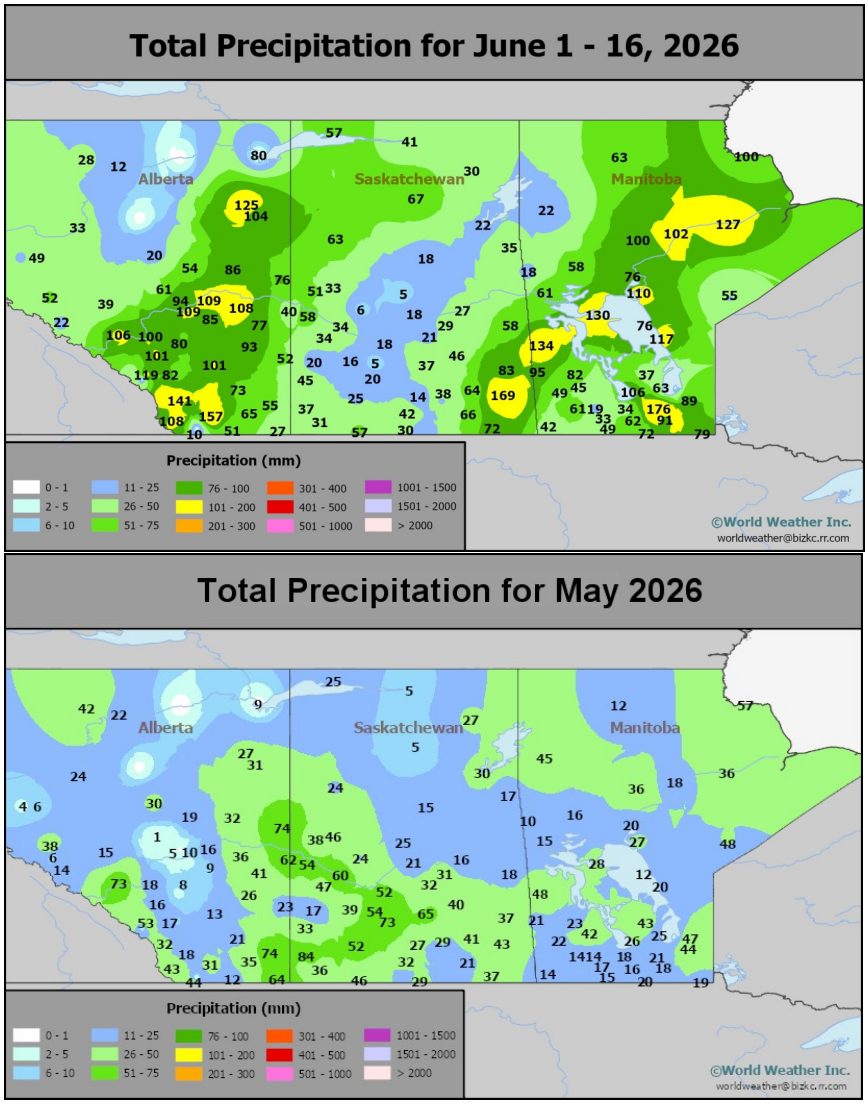
Impressive First Half Of June Rainfall (continued from page 1)

In addition to dryness in the Peace River region, portions of central and interior western Saskatchewan have been drying down recently. Rain in May helped many producers get planting done with quick emergence, but there are a few areas that are needing a good drink of water.

Some areas near the Moose Jaw area and a few out to the west near the Kindersley area and points westward across the border into east-central Alberta have managed to miss the greatest rain. In fact, some of the rainfall has been dismally light and a good soaking must occur soon to ensure a well established crop with good production potentials.

There are many other areas in central parts of Saskatchewan that have been cheated out of rain so far this month; however, the month is not over and there is still potential for dryness to be eased. World Weather, Inc. believes there will be some timely rain in the drier areas of central Saskatchewan, but it may be difficult to get above normal rainfall into those areas for a while.

One of the greatest blessings and greatest concerns for the growing season, thus far, has been the temperatures. Cool-biased conditions have kept drying rates low and that has been an ongoing problem with drying rates between rain events. A short term bout of unusually warm conditions in late May lasting several days brought the eastern part of the Prairies some much needed relief to excess moisture, but that was not a fix that impacted all of the wetter areas. Some locations fought surplus moisture this entire month because of rain systems that followed the brief period of warm and windy weather.



In the meantime, the cool conditions helped to conserve soil moisture for those areas in the Prairies that did not get nearly as much rain so far this month. That may have retarded early season crop growth rates, but it helped to prevent the drier areas from becoming too dry and presenting a greater threat to early season crop development.

Now there is need for greater rain in some central parts of the Prairies as well as the Peace River Region and both areas should get precipitation in the second half of June. The precipitation will be frequent and sufficient to improve crop and field conditions in the Peace River Region while the precipitation that falls in some central Saskatchewan locations may still be lighter than usual. Enough rain will fall in the drier areas of Saskatchewan to support crops, although not ideally and the need for greater rain will continue for some areas.

In the meantime, the abundance of early June rain in eastern Alberta has seriously improved soil moisture and set the stage for a better production year without fear of long term dryness, but much of that, of course, will be determined by additional rain and temperatures coming through July and into August.

The wetter areas in east-central parts of Saskatchewan and in some of the heavier clay soil areas of southeastern Saskatchewan do not need additional rain for a while and temperatures need to warm greatly. Less rain is expected in the coming week, but it will return later this month and the best news is that temperatures will return to normal next week.

June To Finish With Relief To Dryness in Saskatchewan

The last 12 days of June will bring a couple of additional weather disturbances to the Prairies and there is some potential that at least a part of Saskatchewan's drier region will get relief. The relief is very important since July will likely bring back some warmer than usual temperatures and par back the rain a bit. If significant rain does not fall in the drier areas of Saskatchewan, July could stress some of the drier crops enough to harm their production potential.

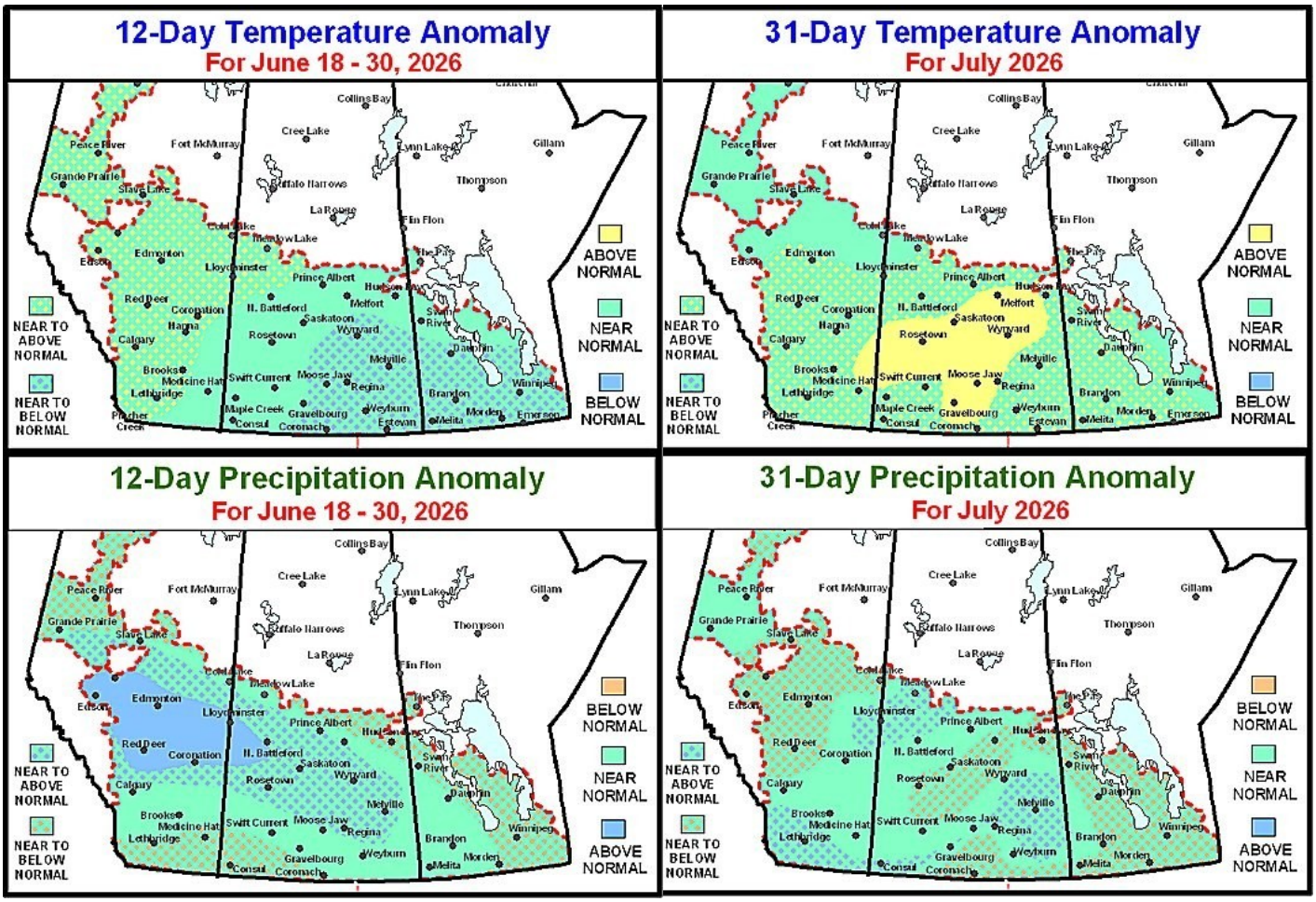
A minor weather disturbance moving across the Prairies at the time of this writing (June 18) will move across Saskatchewan and into Manitoba June 19 followed by a short term bout of drying. A new weather disturbance is expected to evolve in the Peace River region of British Columbia and most of western Alberta Friday before advancing east southeast across central Alberta to central parts of Saskatchewan Saturday before finally moving into Manitoba on Sunday. The storm will not produce much moisture in the southwestern Prairies, but should produce moisture in most other areas with at least partial relief to the driest areas shown in central Saskatchewan on page two of this prognosticator. Some areas in south-central Saskatchewan may not be adequately relieved by this storm system.

One more weather disturbance is predicted to occur in central and northern parts of Alberta June 24-25 and it may break up into scattered showers in portions of the Prairies June 26-29 bringing a little more moisture to parts of the region.

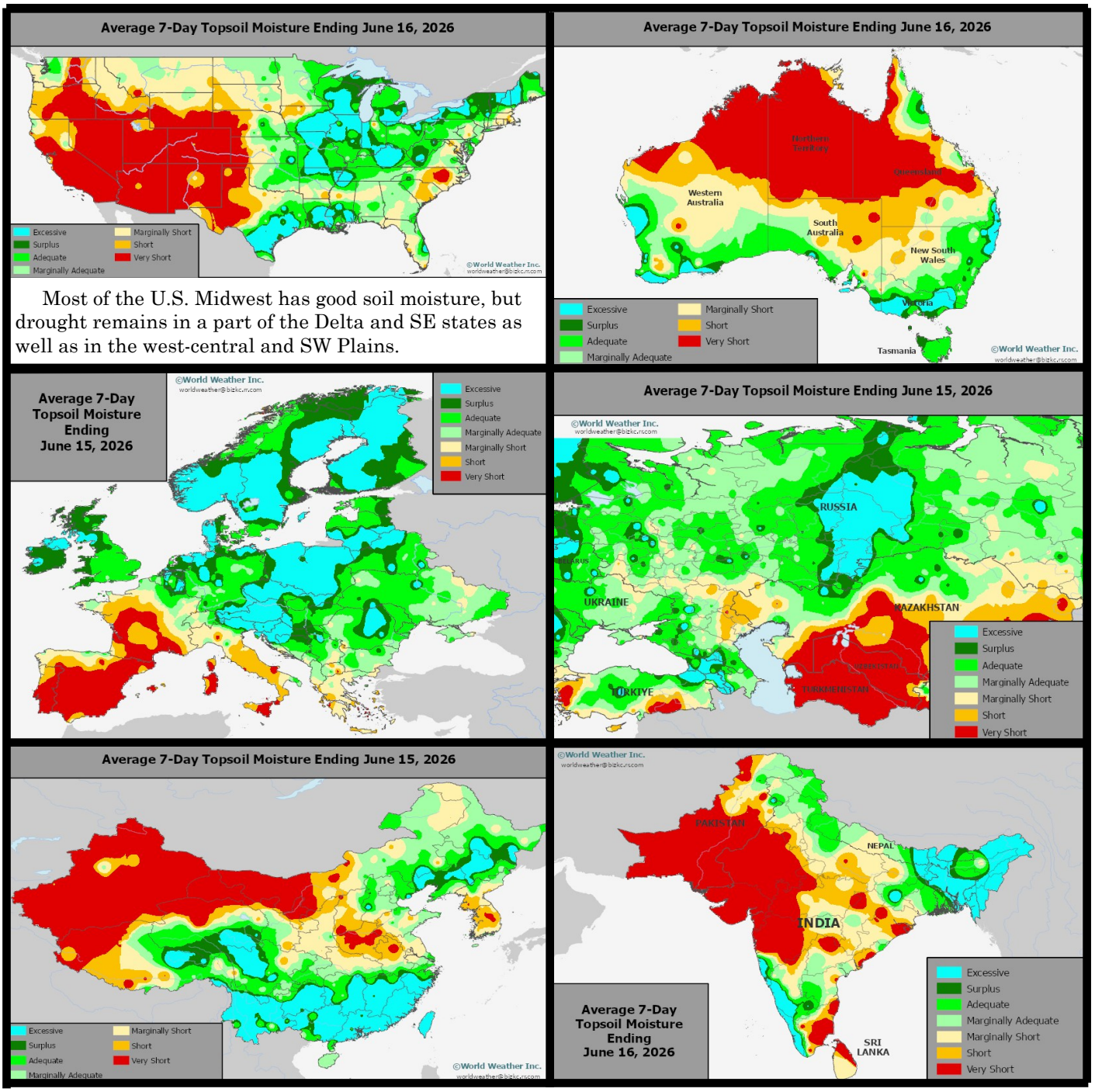
The unusual coolness present in the Prairies this week will linger through the coming week, but warming is expected shortly thereafter in the last days of June beginning in the west and advancing to the east.

July will bring some different weather to the Prairies especially in the first half of the month. Temperatures should trend warmer than usual during that period of time. The warmth should prevail into late month in central parts of the Prairies while a small amount of cooling evolves in the eastern and far western parts of the Prairies.

Rainfall in July is expected to be quite varied and probably a little lighter biased at times compared to June. However, locally strong thunderstorms periodically will provide some pockets of better rain. The month may end up producing some net drying conditions making the rain of late June all the more important in carrying on normal crop development.



Selected Weather Images From Around The World

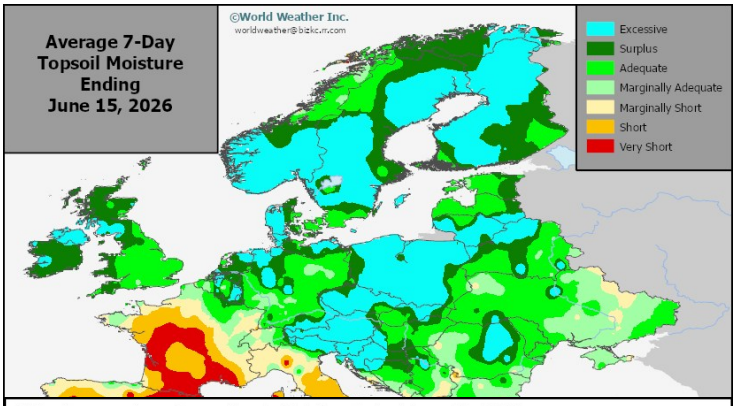


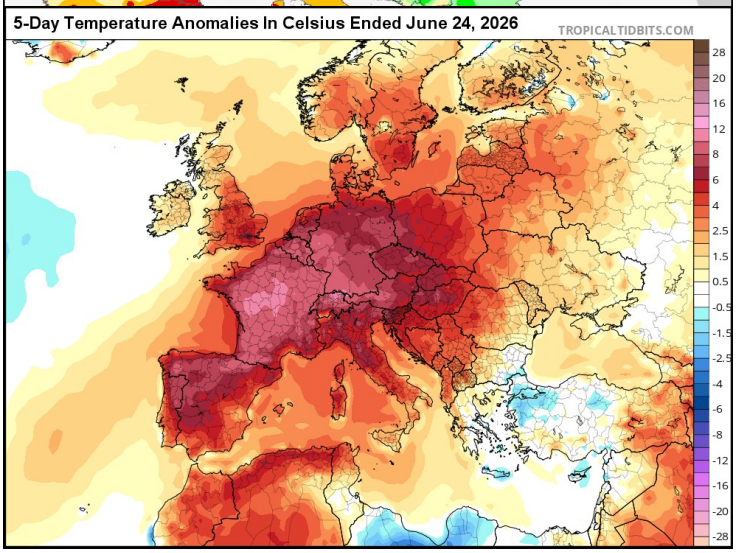
Most of the U.S. Midwest has good soil moisture, but drought remains in a part of the Delta and SE states as well as in the west-central and SW Plains.

India's monsoon continues to perform poorly and little change is expected before the last week of this month when rainfall will increase. Developing drought in France has been accelerated by recent hot temperatures. Other areas in western Europe are drying down, but no area is as dry as France. China has been a little too wet in the south recently while east-central portions of the nation have begun to dry out. Corn, soybean, spring wheat, rice and sugarbeet areas of northeastern China have been getting frequent rain improving the moisture situation there. Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Belarus and the Baltic States are experiencing some very good weather conditions supporting favorable crop development. Australia's wheat, barley and canola production areas have seen timely rain that has most crops favorably established. U.S. weather has been plenty moist recently with drought easing rain in the Delta and southeastern states and some flooding rain in parts of the Midwest. Drought remains in the west-central and SW Plains.

France Drought To Worsen As Temperatures Get Hot

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 in Europe will be influenced by an intensifying high-pressure ridge during the coming week. The ridge began to build over France and the Iberian Peninsula during mid-week last week before shifting to central Europe this weekend 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 to crops and livestock. Unless rain potentials increase significantly in the first part of July, production may be impacted by the ongoing dryness.

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.

Early Autumn Harvest Weather May Be A Bit Wetter

Research for the autumn harvest season is well under way and early indications suggest that the prolonged open weather in recent past years may be a trend of the past. Most producers are already recognizing that the Prairies weather has changed and, indeed, it has and will continue to change.

The El Nino phenomenon promises to cut back our winter precipitation and bring us a warmer winter as well. These conditions will add some importance to the anticipated wetter bias that may be around in the early to middle parts of autumn.

World Weather, Inc. does not believe autumn will be a washout, but we do believe that some periodic rain is probable and will slow down some of the fieldwork relative to recent past years. Most folks know that the weeks of warm and dry weather seen in recent past years are a little unusual for the Prairies. Preparing now for a little more moisture in the autumn will be very important.

A crazy wet harvest is not expected, but fieldwork will be delayed periodically until El Nino's influence on the region becomes most significant which will probably not occur until November at the earliest and probably December. Temperatures may also be a feature to consider for the autumn this year.

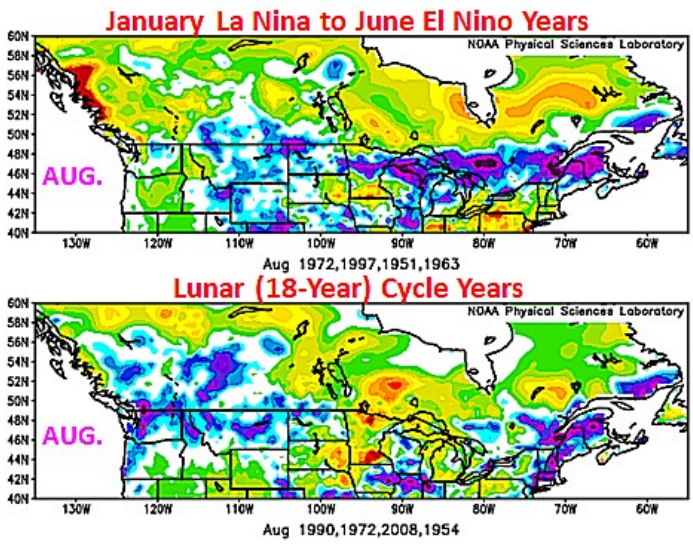
This year's weather has been (in part) influenced by a 45-day repeating cycle of cooler than usual weather. This pattern has been prevailing since last November. These "intra-seasonal" patterns do not repeat over multiple years and often die out after going through the winter and early spring; however, this year's cold cycle pattern has had a very strong signal and has repeated later and longer than usual. This past week's colder than usual weather that of the coming week is part of that cycle.

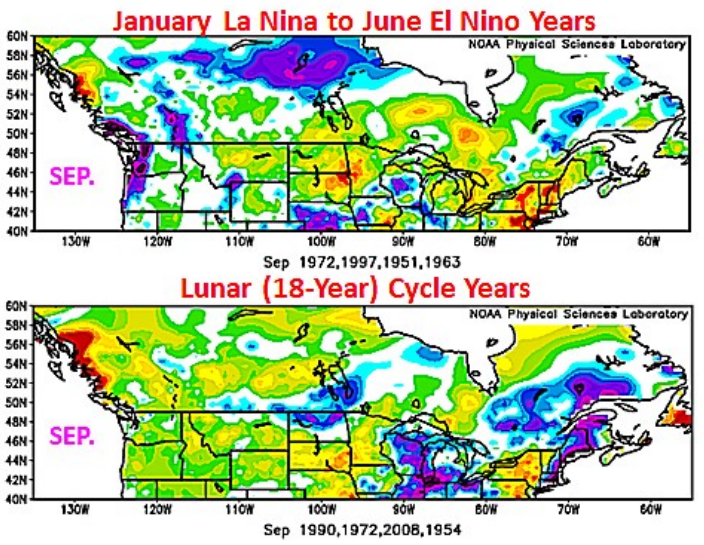
The mere fact that the 45-day cold cycle has occurred again as a strong event suggests it may have a little more staying power to appear once and perhaps two more times before finally washing out.

The next appearance of this cold cycle will be in late July and usually the trend is preceded by a bout of unusually warm weather . That is one of the reasons for July's forecast being warmer than usual . There is support for the warmer bias in early July also coming from a Madden Julian Oscillation event that induces warmer than usual weather in western North America and milder than usual conditions in the east. The timing of the Madden Julian Oscillation event is nearly perfect with the 45-day cool cycle raising confidence in the coming change in weather.

The warmer biased weather in early July will be very important after delayed spring planting and sluggish crop development in recent weeks. It will also be very important because if the 45-day cool cycle does repeat the eastern Prairies may experience cooler than usual weather in late July and early August. Degree –day accumulations are already behind the norm this year and some crops were planted much later than usual. If there is no warmer-biased weather soon crops would be far enough behind in their development to raise the potential for frost and freeze damage if cool temperatures occur normally as they may this season.

If, for some reason, the 45-day cool cycle returns one more time after late July it could be seen again in the first half of September . That could come with a frost and freeze risk which means crops will need to be mature enough by then to be safe from frost and freezes. Some planting was still under way in the first half of June and those are the crops most vulnerable to early season frost and freeze damage especially if degree day accumulations do not improve greatly soon.





India's Monsoon Pace Will Remain Sluggish Another Week

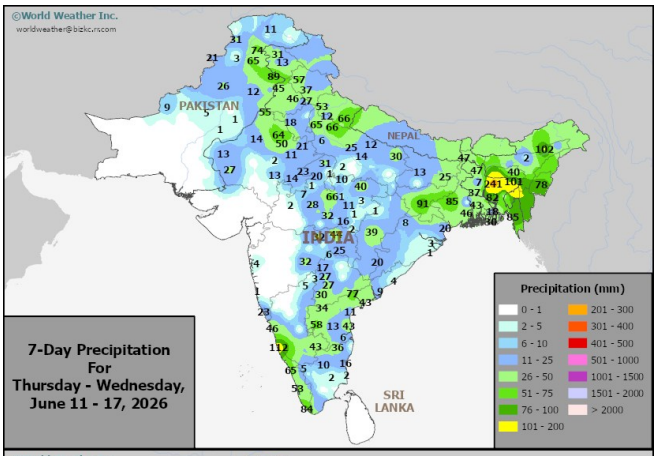
Early-season monsoonal rain remains below normal for a large section of India. Precipitation has been sluggish primarily due to the Madden-Julian Oscillation, which has been making its way across the Western Hemisphere and Africa since early this month. This position of the MJO tends to suppress convection in India and neighboring locations, leading to lower than usual rainfall.

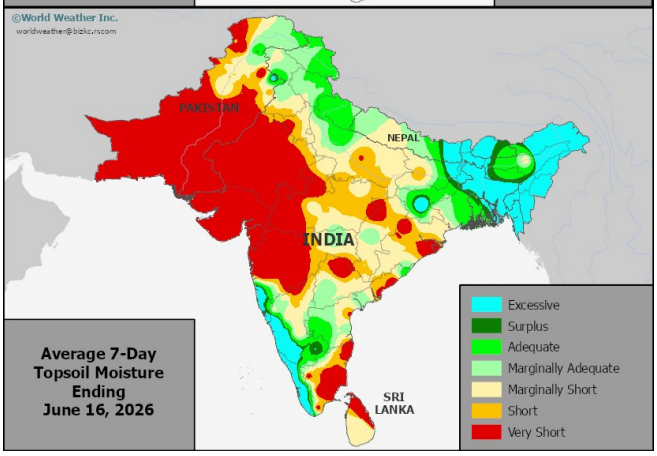
Bangladesh and the Eastern States as well as areas along the southwestern coastline, have adequate or excessive soil moisture. Localized flooding was suspected recently in areas that received the greatest rain. Several locations in southern, far northern, and the remaining portions of eastern India received enough rain to improve topsoil moisture to adequate or marginally adequate levels while subsoil moisture remains short or very short. The remaining production areas still have a significant shortage of moisture.

The early-disruption of the monsoon is already raising a production concern. There is still ample time for monsoonal rain to fix moisture deficits and support better planting and establishment conditions; however, the evolution and intensification of El Nino could further reduce rain potentials and hurt production potentials. The need for significant rain is high during these next few weeks to at least improve establishment and early-season development.

Planting and early season fieldwork advanced favorably due to the lack of rain, but only in areas that received some moisture. Planting in other areas will remain on hold until significant rain falls.

Monsoonal rain will remain lighter and more sporadic than usual for a large section of India during the coming week as the Madden-Julian Oscillation event slowly weakens and diminishes over the Western Hemisphere and Africa. The Eastern





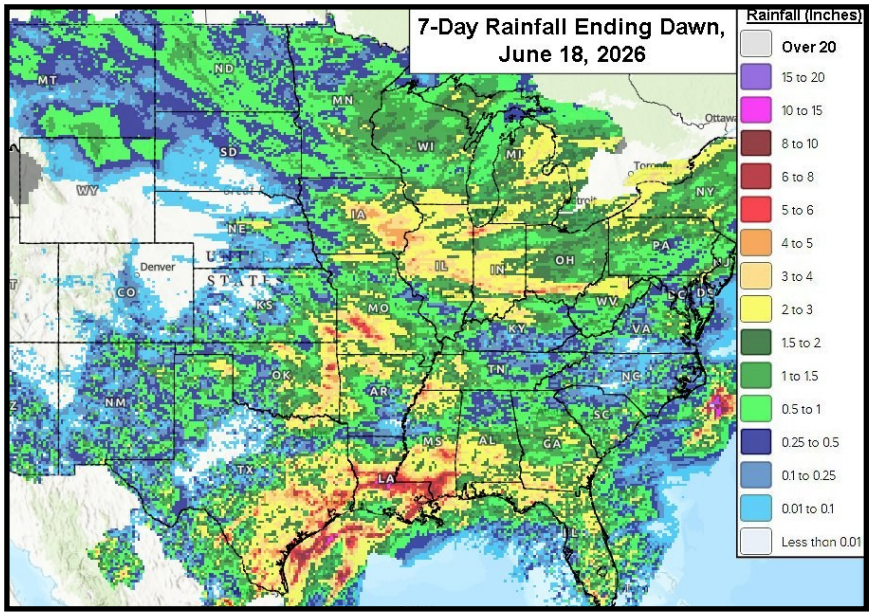
States and portions of Bangladesh, along with Kerala and coastal Karnataka, will still see frequent rainfall. Moisture totals by June 24 will range from 3.00 to 7.00 inches and local amounts of 10.00 inches or more. Other areas in southern India into Odisha will see a good mix of rain and sunshine with totals ranging from 0.50 to 3.00 inches and locally more. The remainder of eastern India into portions of Rajasthan and Maharashtra will see periodic rain with totals of 0.10 to 0.75 inch and local amounts of 1.50 inches. Other areas will be dry or dry down additionally.

Rainfall in southern and extreme eastern India will be enough to bolster or keep soil moisture at adequate or excessive levels through the middle of next week. Localized flooding will be a concern and may promote minor damage. Planting and general fieldwork will likely be slowed or delayed as well. Moisture shortages will prevail elsewhere due to the lack of significant rain and warm to hot daytime temperatures. Planting will likely advance swiftly in areas where significant rain has either fallen or will fall. However, establishment and early-season development conditions will remain less than favorable to poor until greater rain falls

Rain potentials will increase for a large section of India June 25-July 1. The Madden-Julian Oscillation event will likely come to an end by the start of the forecast period. With the end of this MJO event, a more normal distribution of rainfall will be possible over India. A monsoonal disturbance could even evolve over the Bay of Bengal before making its way into the country during this time. Precipitation will likely be greatest in portions of eastern and central India if this disturbance verifies, though western and northern India will have more opportunities for rain as well. The environment may slowly improve for crop establishment and early-season development.

Key U.S. Crop Areas To See Waves Of Rain

Weather in the main agricultural areas east of the Rocky Mountains was active during the past week. Waves of rain and thunderstorms were noted and helped bolster soil moisture from portions of the southern Plains and Delta into the Midwest and U.S. southeast. Drought prevails in portions of the Plains, Delta, and southeastern states, though steady improvements were noted recently. Coarse grain, oilseed, cotton, and other crops generally benefitted from the rain despite ongoing drought for some. The active weather pattern will continue for most locations east of the Rocky Mountains for at least another week. Additional rain will further alleviate drought in several locations.



As of June 16, drought or abnormally dry conditions were ongoing in a large portion of the southeastern states, Delta, and a large section of the Plains. Many areas in western Oklahoma, the Texas Panhandle, eastern Colorado, Nebraska, southeastern South Dakota, Arkansas, the Carolinas, and neighboring areas were under extreme to exceptional drought still despite some rain in recent weeks. The Midwest was generally drought-free, though several areas in the western Corn Belt and Upper Midwest were abnormally dry or even under a moderate drought. It is very important to note in the above image that over the past month there has been a notable reduction in drought across the Delta, Tennessee River Basin and southeastern states. Dryness has been more persistent in the western half of the nation.

The Drought Monitor does not adequately reveal what is taking place across key U.S. crop areas. Despite all of the drought and dryness shown on the Drought Monitor, soil moisture is rated favorably in most major crop areas suggesting plant growth is advancing favorably. There are some exceptions; including parts of the Carolinas and in the high Plains region from Nebraska to West Texas where drought is an issue along with most of the western United States.

Corn planting was generally complete across the U.S. as of June 14 while soybean planting was 95% finished. Cotton planting was 86% complete while 68% of the sorghum was in the ground. Peanut and rice planting were nearly complete while 82% of the sunseed was planted.

Early-season growing conditions have been relatively favorable across the U.S. Midwest this season due to timely rain and a lack of excessive heat. Conditions for winter wheat produced in the Midwest are relatively favorable as well, although less frequent and less significant rain is needed to mature crops without running a quality risk. Production potentials for most summer crops will be good as long as temperatures return to a more normal range soon and a better mix of rain and sunshine evolves to prevent flooding from expanding more deeply across key crop areas.

Crop prospects are more variable in the southeastern states, Delta, and Plains due to sporadic rainfall earlier this year leading to severe drought in several locations. Rainfall in recent weeks has helped improve the moisture profile in parts of the southeast and Delta. Conditions likely improved for the short-term, though most areas still need more rain to completely break the drought and support more favorable prospects for the grains, oilseeds, cotton, and other crops produced in these locations.

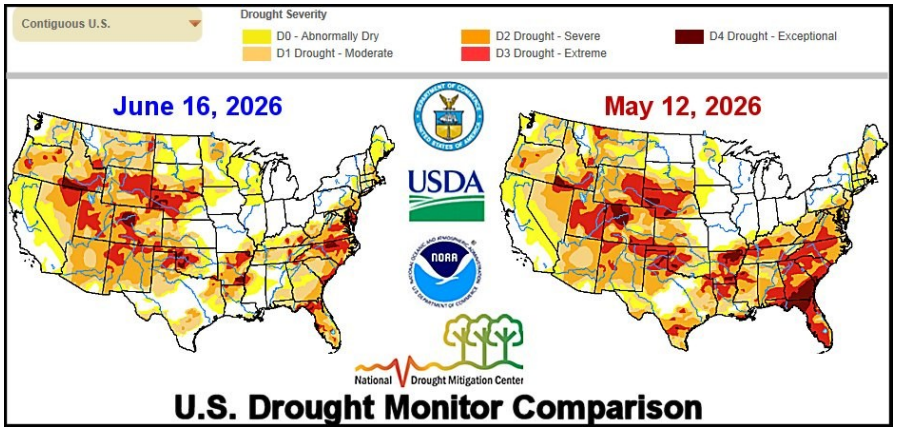
Sorghum, cotton, and other grains produced in the summer in parts of the central and southern Plains are struggling due to drought and periods of warmer weather in recent weeks. A few areas in the northern Plains are also too dry for ideal crop prospects.

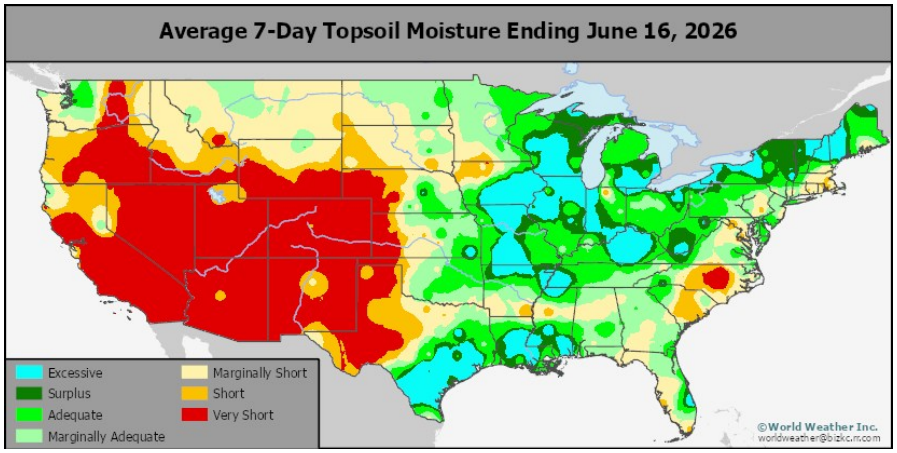
In the meantime, winter wheat

Key U.S. Crop Areas To See Waves Of Rain (continued from page 8)

harvesting has begun for portions of the Plains. As of June 14, Texas had already harvested 75% of its wheat, compared to 73% in Oklahoma and 28% in Kansas. Colorado and Nebraska had not yet begun the harvest. Production is expected to be lower than usual due to an expansion of drought over the winter and earlier this spring.

Areas near and east of the Rocky Mountains will have several opportunities for rain during the coming week. An upper-level low-pressure trough will slowly shift from central Canada into eastern North America through early next week with another upper-level disturbance taking this path later next week. Disturbances closer to the surface will track around these upper-level features and generate waves of rain and thunderstorms. Moisture totals by next Thursday morning will range from 0.75 to 4.00 inches with a few exceptions. Pockets in the northern Plains and Upper Midwest will only receive 0.25 to 0.75 inch of rain. Pockets from the central Plains into the Delta and southeastern states will also receive more than 5.00 inches of moisture. Thunderstorms will favor the southeastern states today and Friday, though a few isolated storms will be possible elsewhere. The main threat for storms will shift into the Plains and neighboring areas over the weekend.





The trough will help promote cooler than usual conditions from the northern and central Plains into the Midwest during the coming week. Highest temperatures will be in the 70s and lower 80s Fahrenheit, though many areas will only warm to the 60s at times. Lowest temperatures will be in the 50s and lower 60s with pockets in the northern Plains and Upper Midwest cooling to the upper 40s. The southern Plains, Delta, and southeastern states will experience near to slightly above normal temperatures. Highest readings for these areas will be in the 80s and lower 90s with warmer pockets in Texas. Lowest temperatures will be in the upper 60s and 70s.

A relatively similar weather pattern will be possible for North America near and east of the Rockies June 26-July 2. Waves of rain and storms will continue for most locations. Additional rain during this time will be enough to keep soil moisture near current levels or further increase moisture. Temperatures will trend near to slightly above normal, though periods of slightly cooler weather will still occur.

The active weather pattern through early July will be enough to perpetuate the improving drought situation in portions of the southeastern states, Delta, and the Plains. The Midwest will remain relatively drought-free due to the additional rain, although some areas are liable to be too wet. Summer crop conditions will remain favorable for the Midwest and either remain good or improve in the southeastern states, Delta, and Plains. Winter wheat harvesting may advance slowly during the wetter periods in the Midwest and central Plains and the crop should be closely monitored for signs of quality declines.