

The Canadian Agriculture Weather Prognosticator

Volume XVIII Issue V

<http://www.worldweather.cc>

July 14, 2026

World Weather To Watch

- U.S. crop weather still mostly good, but not ideal
- Northern U.S. Plains, southern Canada drying to prevail for a while
- Unusual hot, dry, weather in Western Europe threatens summer crops more than winter grain and oilseeds
- India's Monsoon still on track for first drought since 2016, despite recent increases in rainfall
- Australia winter crops remain in better than expected shape
- South Africa, Argentina and Southern Brazil winter crops still poised to yield well, but the greater weather challenges are still forthcoming
- Wet bias in Former Soviet Union could raise spring wheat and sunseed quality concerns

Atmospheric Cycle Lessons One More Time

Years ago, in the United States, the infamous Wendy's hamburger franchise ran a long series of commercials asking "where's the beef" when looking at the competition's hamburgers because the Wendy burger was so much bigger. The same question must be asked about this year's drought. Where is it?

The Peace River producers know where it has been, but the question really is about the rainy weather that has over spread most of the Prairies this season. Why was it not predicted better by forecasters and computer weather models? The best answer is that today's forecast models are only looking at past rainfall data and not looking at the trends and cycles that support them. World Weather, Inc. does not get the long range forecasts right any more often than some of its competition, but this year's weather trends have followed a sequence seen in the past that did not promote drought.

Our official forecast did call for greater rain in portions of the Prairies this year, but the rain has been surprisingly great and even though it seems so far off from expectations, it fits so very well with a pattern seen multiple times in this forecaster's long career. Prolonged, severe, drought is quite often followed by excessive rain events. This can be seen often in the recent historical record and not just in Canada, but all over the world. The longer and more serious drought becomes the higher the potential is that when the drought breaks it will do so with great intensity.

World Weather, Inc. has been looking for this greater rainfall year for at least two years and with egg on our face we have issued wetter forecasts only to recall

them when it became obvious that the prediction was not going to verify. This year turned out to be the year. Some of the heavy rain that has occurred in Alberta this year has fit very well with other 18-year cycle years and data from developing El Nino events of the past have usually contributed some increase in rainfall for the Prairies, but no one saw this coming.

Lost acreage in north-central Alberta, and in portions of the production region from east-central Saskatchewan into west-central and northern Manitoba has been significant. Other areas in north-eastern Saskatchewan and a few in north-central parts of the province have come close to losing crops a couple of times.

Drought was not expected in the Prairies by World Weather, Inc. this year, but neither was the intensity or persistence of May and June rainfall. Now, with that said, it is very important to note that the World Weather, Inc. Trend Model pointed hard to June as being a month of significant rain in both the southeastern Prairies and the northwest. Even though the forecast did not completely verify what you need to know is that the month of July tended to be drier in many areas in Prairies in other similar years.

The first week to ten days of July, however, have had a hard time cutting out the rain. However, a short-term break in the precipitation evolved last week and has prevailed into a part of this week. Unfortunately for the wetter areas in the Prairies there is too much moisture on the ground and in the ground and as temperatures heat up this month that moisture will be pulled out of the soil and put back into the atmosphere allowing additional

Atmospheric Cycle Lessons One More Time (continued from page 1)

rain to fall at times and some of it could be heavy.

The big multiple day rain events that were seen this spring are over. The precipitation that occurs in July and August will be more convective in nature and the potential for large thunderstorm clusters to develop at times will be greater than usual. That will translate into a few pockets of heavy rain separated by some large sized areas of more restricted rainfall.

Another feature that has changed for the summer is the orientation of the high pressure ridge in the United States. The lack of snowpack and precipitation in the U.S. Rocky Mountains this spring left the door wide open for a dominating ridge of high pressure to be located over the mountains this summer. That ridge may restrict monsoon moisture from flowing into parts of the United States and storms moving across the top of the ridge may flatten it leading to less heat and more rain.

Recent moderate to excessive rain this year will make it hard for a persistent ridge of high pressure to extend very far to the north of the U.S./Canada border this summer. It will evolve periodically, but it will not likely have much staying power because of feedback moisture from the soil and frequent disturbances moving across the top of the ridge resulting from a strong jet stream. Brief periods of wetter-biased weather are expected in late July and early August and again in early to mid-September. These wetter periods may lead to some slower crop maturation rates and delays for

early season harvesting.

After so much of the Prairies experienced late season planting this year the wetter finish to the growing season could present a few problems with plant maturity when the season's first frost and freezes come around.

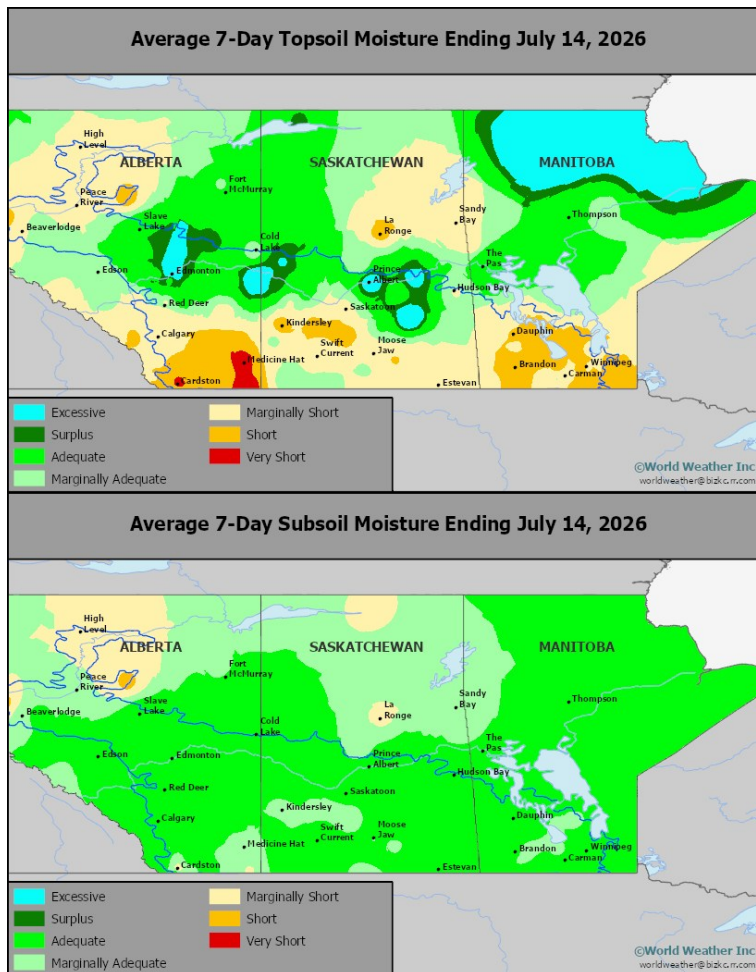
pected to be near to above normal which may bring along some greater degree day accumulations, but instability in the atmosphere promises to put a cap on some of the heating which might be good for late-planted crops, but there is a concern for the first autumn frost and freeze event.

World Weather, Inc. does not believe that this year's first frost or freeze will come much earlier than usual, but crops may not be as mature at that time as they ought to be raising a little concern. The next round of cool North America weather is slated for late July, according to the 45-day cool cycle; however, this time around the coldest conditions are expected in Ontario and Quebec and not in the Prairies which should help crops develop a little quicker.

The coming ten days will be drier biased in the southwestern Prairies with areas from southern Alberta to southwestern Saskatchewan getting restricted rainfall and seeing some of the warmest temperatures. That should lead to faster drying rates and a little quicker crop maturation.

uration.

Some of the crop areas in southern parts of the Prairies are not nearly as wet as areas to the north and it would not be surprising to see some pockets of dryness evolve. Those drier pockets may come and go in late July August with only a few areas struggling to get timely rain. A more active storm pattern will resume in Late July and early August bringing the first bout of timely rain for the driest areas.



World Weather, Inc. believes the more active weather pattern in September will help hold temperatures up long enough to get many crops matured enough to minimize the impact of first season frost and freezes, but that may become a concern because the bouts of heat this summer will be confined to a few short periods of time keeping crop development rates a little behind that which is desired.

Late July temperatures are ex-

More Rain Coming; Active Pattern To Resume

Some much needed drying occurred in the southern half to two-thirds of the Prairies in recent days. The change was quite welcome and helped to firm the soil in some areas while stimulating faster crop development rates. In the meantime, northern portions of the Prairies failed to see much of a break with strong thunderstorms late last week and early in the weekend.

The pause in rainy weather will be short-lived with the return of a more active weather pattern forthcoming in this first week of the outlook. Enough rain will fall over the balance of this month for many areas to finish the month wetter than usual and those that are not wet will still get near normal precipitation. There is potential for another short term break in the pattern during the last days of July and early August, but that pause in the action will also be

short-lived.

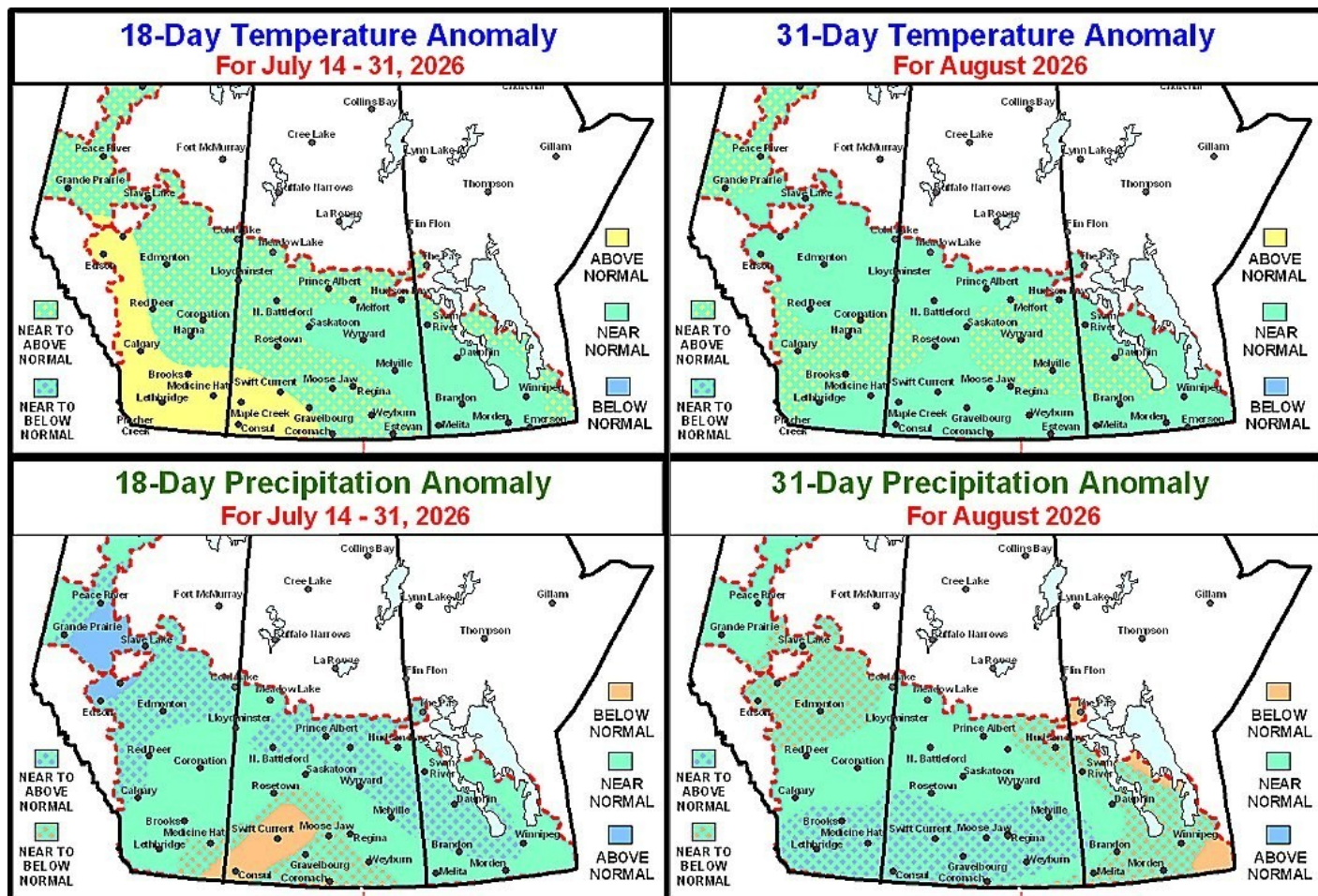
Over the past five days there have been many serious changes to the outlook in the Prairies—at least from a computer weather forecast model perspective. Drier-biased weather looked likely for the balance of July at the end of last week, but that changed during over the past couple of days as the advertised high pressure ridge changes its intensity and orientation just enough to bring back the rain.

The environment that is present across North America reinforces the general rule that rainy weather begets rainy weather. High pressure ridges cannot stand up against strong moisture feedback from the soil and this is being proven across the Prairies this week. Unlike the high pressure ridges that evolved in the early 2020s, this week's high pressure ridge

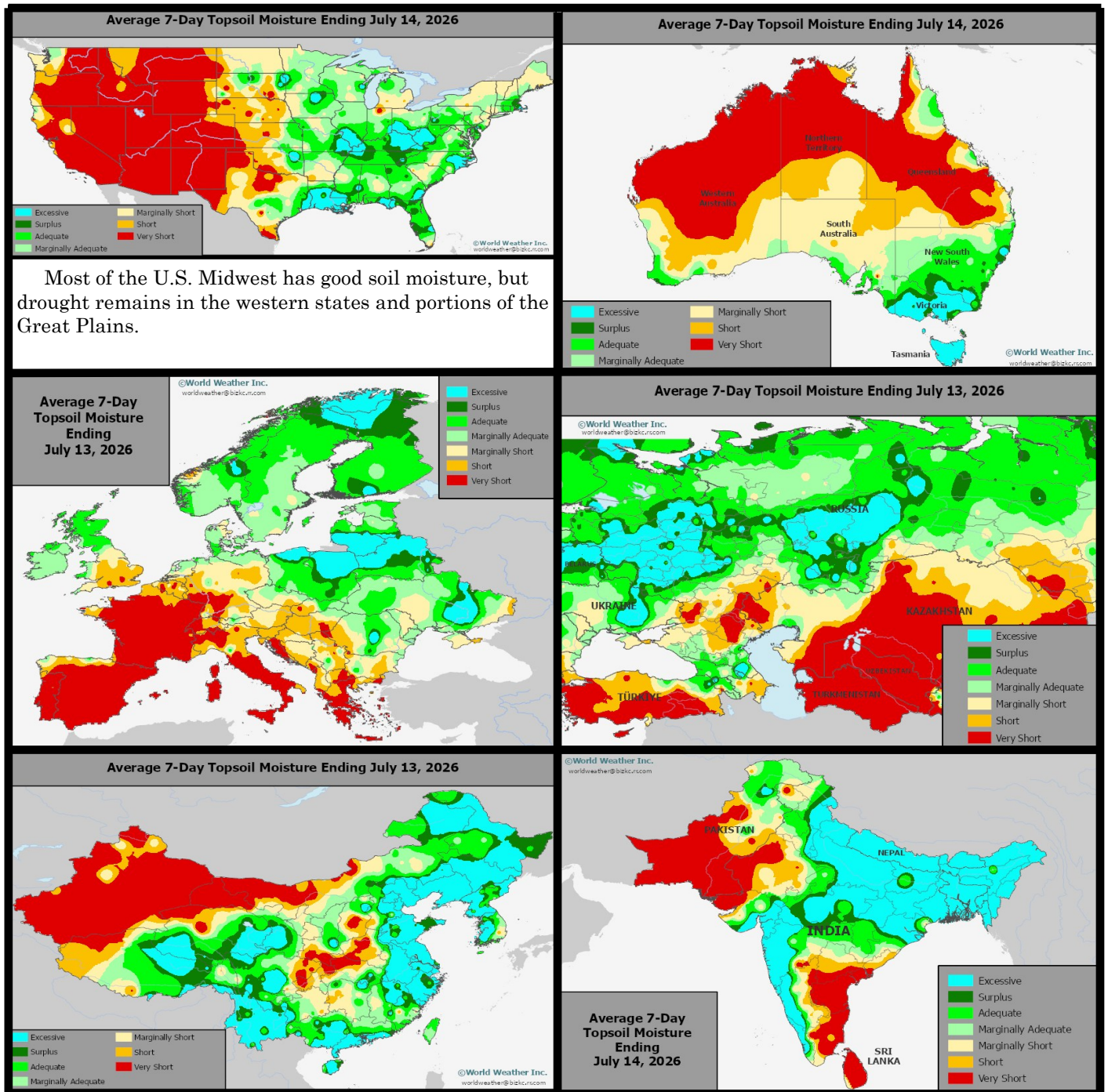
is trying to build over the Prairies where soil moisture is plentiful and the feedback moisture into the atmosphere is not allowing the ridge to set up for a prolonged dry and warm bi-ased pattern.

August is expected to have periods of rain in it as well and that will make for a challenge to those crops planted late. Maturation could be slowed by the wetter bias and there is reason to believe that autumn coolness will occur on time this year making it more important that crops have enough dry and warm weather in the next few weeks to be sped toward the finish line before September frost and freezes arrive.

August weather may make it a little challenging to get early season harvests complete in some areas and that may lead to some quality issues in at least a few areas.



Selected Weather Images From Around The World



Soil moisture Tuesday was still plentiful in key U.S. crop areas even though temperatures during the weekend rose to between 37 and 45 Celsius in the northern Plains. Rain is expected to return later this month maintaining a favorable outlook for crops. Australia is facing a change in weather over the next couple of weeks with drier and warmer biased conditions impacting New South Wales and Queensland setting the stage for a classic El Nino hot, dry, spring threatening winter and spring crops. Drought in western Europe is still very serious in France and becoming bad in the U.K. and parts of Germany. Eastern Europe and parts of the Former Soviet Union have a few dry pockets, but most crops are still developing well. Eastern China and India have seen some timely rainfall recently leaving crops in both nation performing relatively well. There is fear that central, southern and northwestern India will trend much drier and hotter later this summer and southern China may trend a little too wet at times.

A Welcome Respite From Rain For Many In The Prairies

Rainfall varied greatly across the Canadian Prairies last week. Many areas in southern and western Saskatchewan, northeastern and north-central Alberta, and southwestern Manitoba received 0.39 to 2.60 inches of rain for the seven-day period ending July 8. Most other production areas received 0.20 to 0.95 inch of rain with pockets in southern and extreme northwestern Alberta that were mostly dry. A few strong thunderstorms occurred late last week and during the weekend in east-central and northern Saskatchewan pushing some of the rain totals in those areas over an inch or two.

A large section of the Prairies was wetter than usual during the past month. As of July 13, most locations received 115% to more than two times' normal rainfall. The exceptions were in southeastern Manitoba, in the Peace River region and in a few locations in western and far southeastern Alberta as well as in southeastern Saskatchewan where below normal moisture was noted.

The ground is saturated in several areas of the Prairies due to the waves of rain in recent weeks. Standing water was noted in several fields and likely delayed fieldwork. A period of drier weather in the coming weeks would be beneficial for those still dealing with standing water.

Production potentials remain favorable for much of the Prairies. However, recent very warm to hot temperatures and limited rain has led to a firmer soil in southern Alberta and southern Manitoba as well as in portions of interior southwestern Saskatchewan and in a few Peace River crop areas. In contrast, exces-

sive rain in May and June induced serious flooding in north-central Alberta and in parts of east-central, northeastern and north-central Saskatchewan and west-central through northwestern Manitoba where some acreage reduction occurred after crops were drowned by standing or running water.

An unsettled weather pattern is about to resume across the Prairies after the recent break from frequent rain and mild to cool temperatures. The expected rain will restore or

couple of weeks capable of producing hail, damaging wind and possible flooding, although the areas impacted should be relatively small.

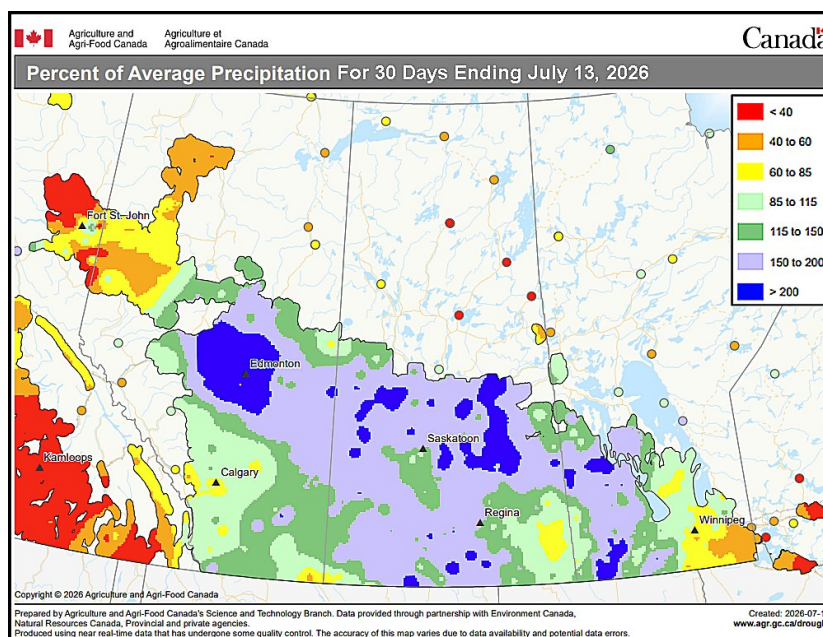
Temperatures will be near to above normal during the coming two weeks. Several extreme highs in the lower 30s Celsius will be possible while most daily readings will be in the 20s. Lowest temperatures at night "may" slip into a few upper single digit readings while most areas will experience teens and a few lower 20s.

Waves of rain in northwestern Alberta and northeastern British Columbia will be welcome in the balance of this month easing drought and improving crop development conditions.

Rain in most other areas will provide to be supportive of ongoing good crop development since the moisture should not be excessively great outside of a few small areas. A close watch will be warranted on southern Alberta and southern Manitoba since both

areas will have some potential for seeing other bouts of warm and dry weather.

Southern Manitoba should receive some timely rain in the next two weeks leading to a little short-term relief from recent drying; however, more rain will be needed and the situation will be closely monitored in August. Similarly, a close watch on southern Alberta and southwestern Saskatchewan rainfall and crop conditions is warranted since those areas will receive less than usual rain in the coming ten days to two weeks leaving crops vulnerable to the next wave of hot and dry weather. Some timely rain is expected, though.



maintain favorable soil moisture for many crop areas, although the moisture will end up being a little too light in southern Alberta, southwestern Saskatchewan and a few southern Manitoba areas where the need for greater rain will rise in August.

Northern Alberta and northeastern British Columbia will receive the greatest amount of rain during the next couple of weeks with some areas getting 1.00 to nearly 3.00 inches. Moisture totals in other areas will vary from 0.75 to 1.50 inches with a few areas in the southwestern Prairies getting less than 0.75 inch. There will be several strong to severe thunderstorms that evolve over the next

Extreme Heat In North U.S. Plains; Drought Expanding

Excessive heat developed in the northern Plains during the weekend as expected with extreme highs to 115 degrees Fahrenheit Sunday afternoon. Temperatures may not be quite so extreme this week, but they will still be in the 90s to over 100 while little to no rain falls resulting in an expansion of drought from South Dakota, Nebraska, Wyoming and Montana northward to a part of both North Dakota and Minnesota. Rain is possible in the second week of the forecast, but it is unclear how significant that will be. Partial relief will come with the rain (favoring the northeast part of the region), but the situation warrants a very close watch.

Temperatures Sunday afternoon soared well above 100 degrees Fahrenheit across the northern U.S. Plains from central Montana to the western Dakotas and southward into Wyoming and northwestern Nebraska. Extreme highs reached the range of 107 to 115 degrees (41-46C) in southeastern Montana while reaching 109 (42C) in western North Dakota and 110 (43C) in northwestern South Dakota and 109 in some northern sugarbeet areas of Wyoming.

The heat shifted to the east Monday and lost some of its intensity; however, highs of 95 to 106 (35-41C) still occurred into Tuesday (July 14) in portions of the northern Plains. The heat was expected to prevail from Kansas to southern North Dakota, southeastern Montana and west-central Minnesota through the end of this week.

Not much rain will fall for ten days throughout the northern Plains and that, along with the persistent heat, will allow drought to expand east and northward from Montana and southern South Dakota. Rain will eventually bring a little relief to these areas in the second week of the outlook, but it is unclear how significant that relief will be and the situation will be closely monitored.

Stress to livestock and crops has already been great and it will worsen over the next few days even though the extreme heat is dissipating.

downtrend dashing some producers hopes of better futures prices on harvest day. If there is such a falling out in the futures market it will be an additional confirmation of how the solar cycle can predict market performance.

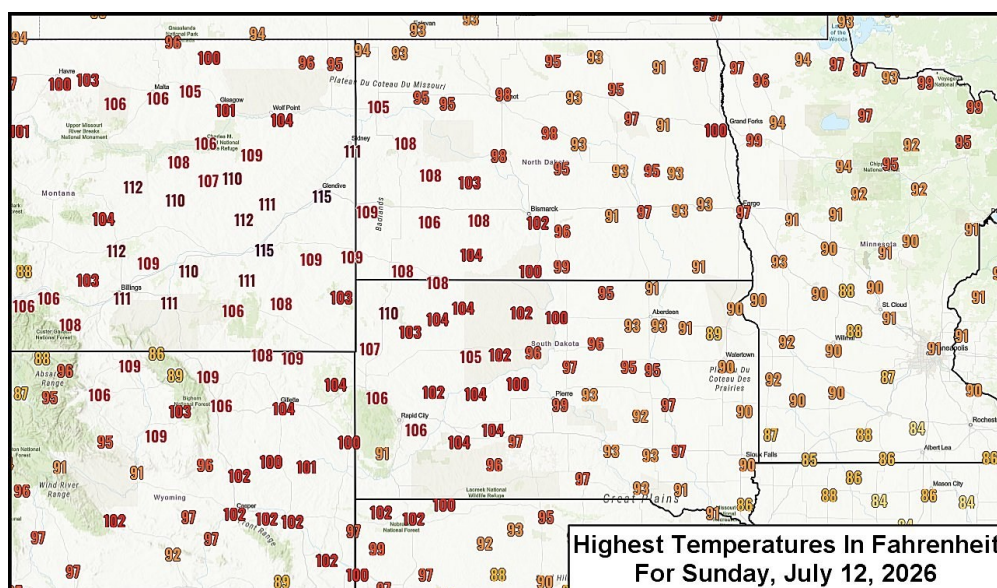
As World Weather, Inc. demonstrated earlier this year, futures market prices usually run higher over multiple years after the solar minimum and in particular the solar minimum of the 22-year solar cycle. There tends to be a multi-year La Nina event shortly after the solar

minimum and it can lead to drying in the middle latitudes throughout the world supporting shorter crop production in many areas and sending futures prices higher over a lengthy period of time.

Today's solar cycle is mid-way between the solar maximum (2024) and the next solar minimum (2031)

which tends to be a period of more favorable crop weather around the world in the mid-latitudes limiting grain and oilseed futures price appreciation from moving aggressively higher or lower over multiple years. Instead, futures prices tend to get stuck in a multi-year trading range in this part of the solar cycle which matches market behavior recently.

Keep an eye on the market and the weather this week. Most likely the model consensus will soon shift to a better U.S. crop and that may help put some weakness back in the trade. In the meantime, El Nino will favor rice, sugarcane, coffee and cocoa price appreciation.



The latest computer forecast modeling suggested not only will the Canadian Prairies trend wetter, but so will the northern U.S. Plains and a part of the northwestern Corn and Soybean Belt where the heat wave and extreme conditions occurred in recent days. It is still unclear how significant the rain will be and how much cooling is expected. The situation must be closely monitored because without rain soon many of these summer crop areas will suffer production cuts.

If rain falls before any serious crop production loss takes place, the recent uptick of commodity futures prices will soon turn into a notable

Southern Indonesia Dryness Intensifying

Northern and central Sumatra and northern fringes of Kalimantan, along with Peninsular Malaysia, received near to above normal rainfall for the 30-day period ending July 11. Other locations in Indonesia were drier than usual with many areas in Java, the Lesser Sunda Islands, Sulawesi, and southern Kalimantan only receiving 5% to 50% of normal rainfall during this time. The remaining areas in Malaysia received near or slightly below normal rainfall.

Java, the Lesser Sunda Islands, Sulawesi, and southern sections of Sumatra and Kalimantan all dried down in recent weeks due to the drier than usual weather. These areas are too dry to support favorable conditions for rice, sugarcane, corn, many herbs and spices and other short-rooted crops. Palm oil, coffee, cocoa, rubber and coconut production may also be impacted later this year or even early 2027 if drier weather persists in the coming weeks and months as it should in relation to strong El Nino events. The need for timely rain will be high in the near future to improve long-term production potentials.

Other areas in Indonesia and much of Malaysia have ample moisture to support good conditions for

most crops today; although, northern Sumatra dried down a little too much during the past week and a good shot of rain would be welcome.

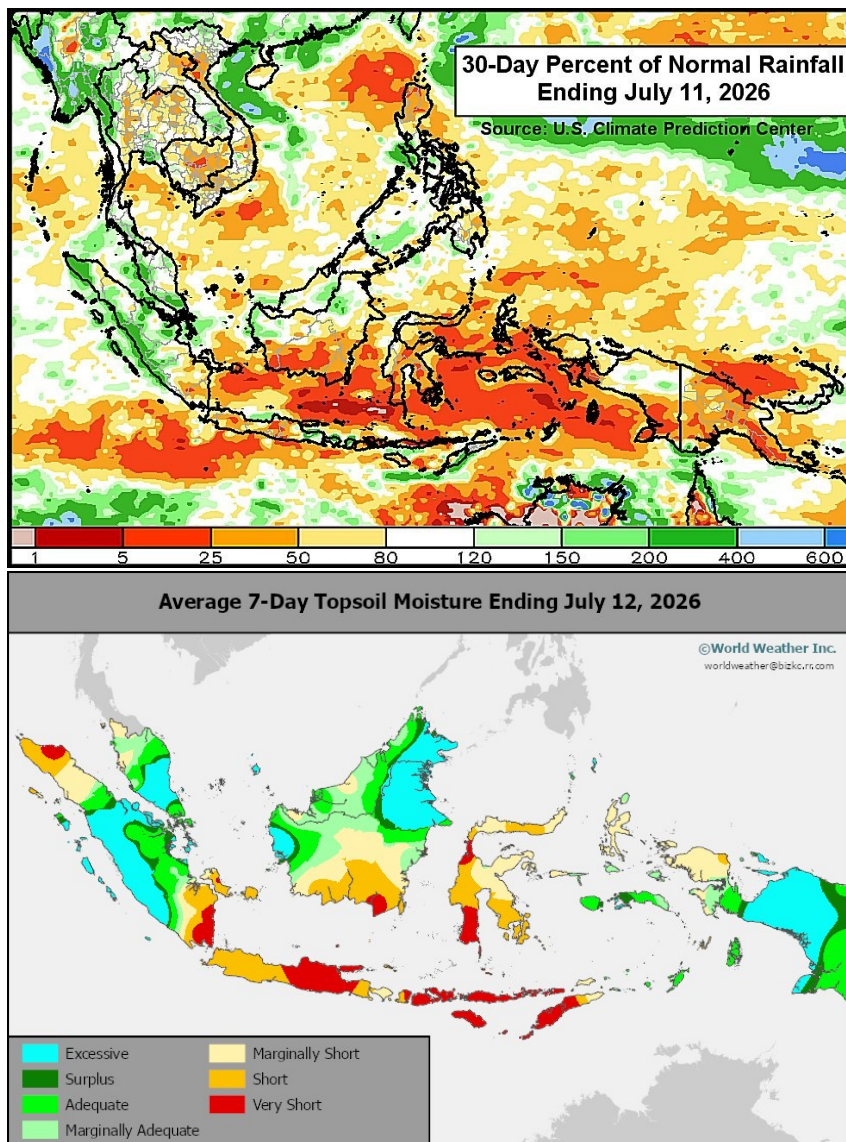
Precipitation will again be limited for Java, the Lesser Sunda Islands,

these locations. Spotty rain will still occur at times, though most locations will not receive enough rain to counter evaporation or significantly impact long-term production potentials. Other areas in Indonesia and much of

Malaysia will see a mix of erratic rain and sunshine this week. Moisture totals by next Monday morning will range from 0.75 to 3.00 inches with local amounts over 4.00 inches. Pockets in Sulawesi will also only receive 0.25 to 0.75 inch of rain. Drier-than-usual weather will likely prevail for much of Indonesia and portions of Malaysia July 21-27 as the MJO wave continues to advance slowly over the western Pacific Ocean.

The ground will continue to firm for Java, the Lesser Sunda Islands, and southern sections of Sumatra and Kalimantan for at least the next week to ten-day period. Development conditions may further deteriorate for short-rooted crops produced in these areas. Production concerns for palm oil, coconut, rubber, coffee, cocoa and other tree crops may increase as well. Other locations in Indonesia

and much of Malaysia will receive enough rain or have enough moisture to support relatively good conditions for new crop growth.



and southern sections of Sumatra and Kalimantan this week. The position of the Madden-Julian Oscillation over the western Pacific Ocean normally tends to suppress rainfall for

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Western Europe Will Not See Much Drought Relief

France and a large section of the Iberian Peninsula and Italy continue to have short or very short soil moisture due to the lack of rain and periods of warm weather during the past week. Southeastern Europe and portions of western Germany and southern England also dried down significantly during the past week. Other areas in Eastern Europe received enough rain to keep soil moisture at adequate or excessive levels.

The environment remained poor for new grain, oilseed, sugarbeet and other crop growth in the driest areas of France, the Iberian Peninsula, Italy, and neighboring locations due to the ongoing dryness. Hot weather earlier this summer already withered several crops and the lack of follow-up rain continued to promote poor crop conditions. Concerns over production potential are rising.

Many areas in western Germany, southern England, Belgium, and the Netherlands are also too dry for ideal crop conditions, although the dryness has not been nearly as persistent as that in France. A good shot of rain is needed in the near future to limit production impacts.

In Eastern Europe, the Balkan region dried down a little too much in some areas during the past week to support ideal grain, oilseed, and other crop development. No major production impacts were suspected as of yet, though the need for rain is high.

Northeastern Europe, otherwise, received enough rain to maintain a good environment for new growth.

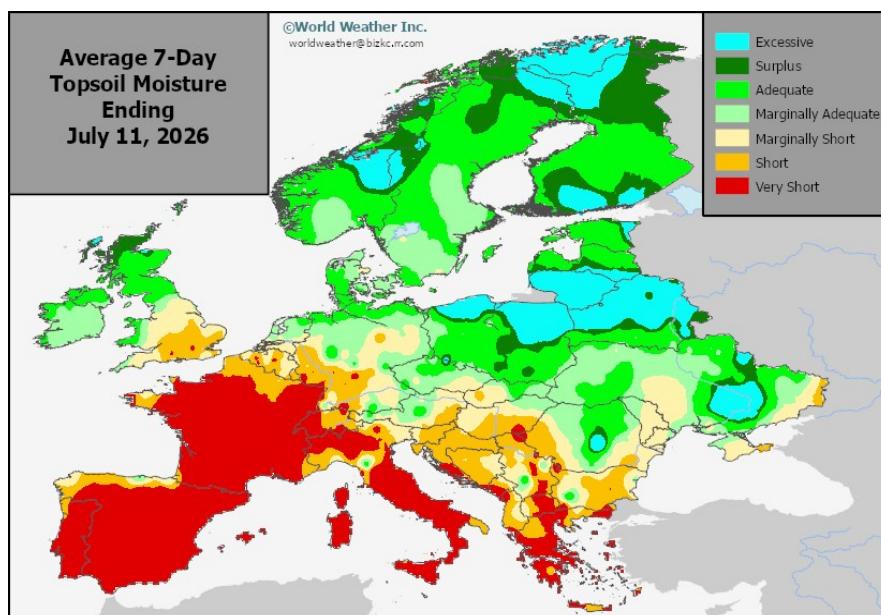
Europe will receive varying amounts of rain this week. Two disturbances will initially promote scattered showers through Friday while tracking across the continent, though the Iberian Peninsula, United Kingdom, and Ireland will be mostly dry. The main band of erratic rainfall will then shift into Eastern Europe over the weekend. Moisture totals by next Monday morning will range from 0.35

enough to counter evaporation. The main production areas will see a mix of spotty rain and sunshine July 21 – 27, though much of Western Europe and the Balkans will not receive enough rain to significantly improve the moisture profile.

Temperatures will trend near to above normal for much of Europe this week. . Seasonable to seasonably warm weather will persist July 21 – 27.

Much of the rainfall in France will be too light to significantly improve the moisture profile this week, but there will be a few areas of temporary improved topsoil moisture. Much of the rain that falls will be lost to evaporation limiting its benefit. The ground will remain too dry to support favorable growth in much of Western Europe outside portions of the United Kingdom, Ireland, and Germany. Concern over production will persist.

A large section of southeastern Europe outside portions of Romania will continue to dry down this week as well. The ground will become or remain too dry for ideal growth and the need for timely rain will be high. Production may be impacted if the ground continues to firm through the end of the month. Other areas in Eastern Europe will receive enough rain or have enough moisture to maintain a good environment for new growth.



to 2.00 inches and local amounts of 3.00 inches or slightly more from much of Germany (outside the northwest corner), northern Italy, and neighboring areas into Poland, western Ukraine, Romania, Belarus, and the Baltic States. Several areas in northern and central France will receive 0.25 to 1.50 inches of rain with pockets that are mostly dry. Southeastern Europe will receive 0.10 to 0.75 inch of rain with local amounts of 1.00 inch or slightly more. The remaining locations will either miss out on much of the rain or not receive

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