

The Canadian Agriculture Weather Prognosticator

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World Weather To Watch

- U.S. Corn and Soybean Belt drying down as the harvest approaches; crop prospects still good
- Drought spreading, intensifying across U.S. Plains
- France expected to see major crop losses this year; other areas in Europe also struggling with dryness
- India monsoon will be highly variable in coming weeks
- Australia winter grain, oilseed prospects favorable
- China in good shape despite flooding and tropical disturbances
- Parts of Russia may be impacted by early frost, light freezes
- Harvest will get off to good start in other locations for former Soviet Union
- Indonesia drought to begin impacting oil palm production soon.

Harvest May Continue To Advance Slowly

September marks the beginning of meteorological autumn for the Northern Hemisphere. Obviously, it also marks the expansion of the harvest season for much of the Prairies. While this season has had its challenges, rainfall in recent weeks helped improve late-season development for several areas that were previously struggling with moisture deficits after a period of dryness in July. Conditions were far from ideal where the most significant drying occurred earlier this summer. Recent crop progress reports still suggest overall crop conditions are relatively favorable compared to the past five- and ten-year averages, though development is still lagging behind normal in several locations as temperatures were often mild in August and earlier this year.

The upper-air pattern has verified relatively well this month with a cool start to the month before giving way to gradual warming in more recent days. The cooler conditions lingered a little later than initially thought and kept development behind normal stages for many fields. A brief cold surge early in the month helped drop temperatures to the lower positive single digits in part due to the dryness. No major crop impacts were noted due to the brief cooldown outside sluggish development and early-season maturation.

The event that brought rain to some of the driest areas in the southern Prairies earlier this month was well-timed despite being unable to completely reverse the drying trend that occurred in July. There were several locations in Saskatchewan and Manitoba that were still much drier than usual and could have used the rain. Some of the southern Prairies have seen abnormally dry conditions

or even moderate drought evolve in recent days as drier and warmer weather returned. It's a little too early to talk about dryness expanding across the Prairies, at least immediately.

The main need for the Prairies and neighboring areas in North America in the coming weeks is warmth. Warmth for the crops that are still growing, warmth for aggressive maturation, warmth to enhance drying between rain events, warmth to keep us from having to turn on the heater earlier than usual. As long as the warmth persists for at least the next few weeks, crops should have enough time make it to maturation before there is a major threat for freezes.

We are still a little too early in the year to really talk about the major impacts El Nino will have on the Prairies and North America in general. A strong El Nino event is still in store, maybe one of the most intense events in recorded history. This potentially record-breaking El Nino does not necessarily suggest a more intense pattern for North America this autumn and winter as other teleconnections can influence weather and the upper-air pattern in general. It is still something to monitor as El Nino events tend to promote warmer than usual conditions over the winter months for parts of the Prairies.

Having said that, an El Nino-like upper-air pattern may have already begun with weak ridging over western North America and some troughing over eastern Canada in recent days. Ridging over western North America is more likely due to ongoing drought in the western U.S., though we have seen a more active pattern over Canada during this time,

Harvest May Continue To Advance Slowly (continued from page 1)

increasing confidence that this pattern may also be associated with an El Nino-like state.

Ridging in some form is likely over North America for at least the first ten days of September. This ridge will often promote above to well above normal temperatures and should expedite late-season development and maturation.

The threat for early-freezes will be low during this time, but can't be completely ruled out as a trough makes its way into western Canada to start September. This trough could bring a brief shot of colder weather with frost and light freezes possible in the northern and eastern Prairies. However, now widespread damaging freezes are likely. The pattern becomes a little murkier mid-September. There is still the threat for a significant cold front associated with the 45-day cycle during the September 15 – 20 period, which I touched up on in the last prognosticator. Some of the long-term forecast models suggest this is possible as well due to the ridge shifting into eastern North America. A strong cold air mass was also noted over Russia and could eventually make its way near or into North America toward mid-September. Warmer or much warmer than usual weather during the first third of the month will hopefully limit impacts to crops that are still behind usual development stages for this time of year.

Once this cold surge passes, the ridge may re-establish over western North America to end September, which is a return to the El Nino-like

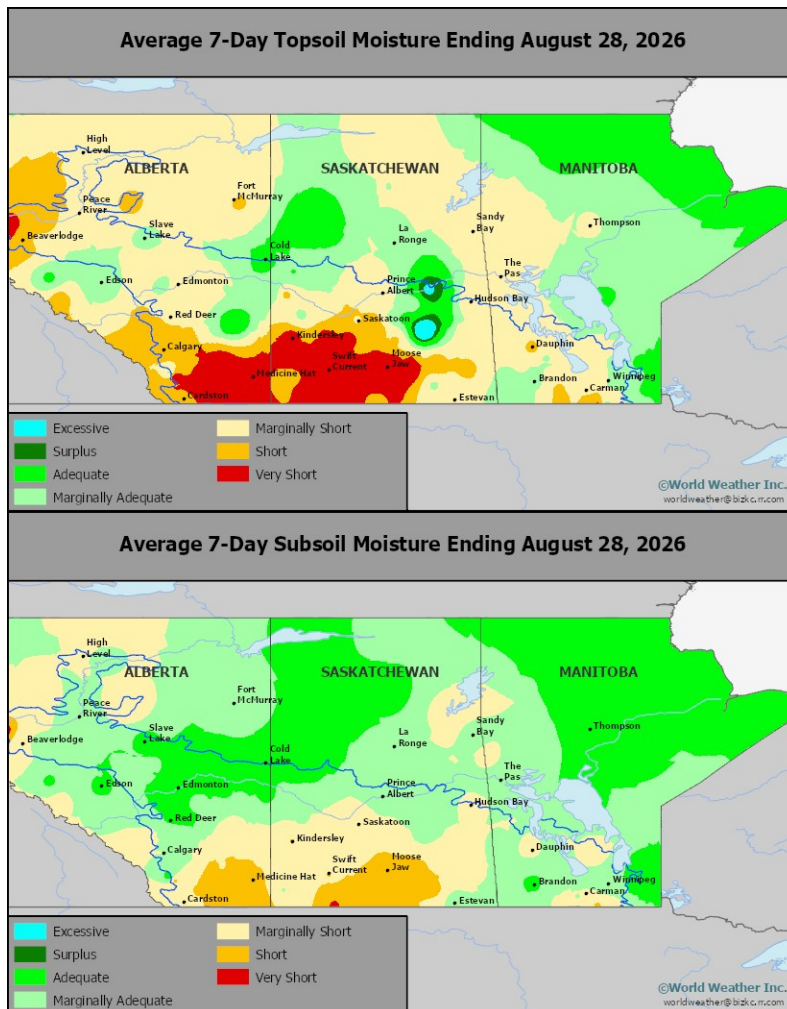
upper-air pattern. However, this ridge may be relatively weak as portions of the Pacific Northwest and neighboring areas potentially trend a little wetter than usual in the first half of September. Temperatures for the month will overall trend a little warmer than usual for much of the Prairies. This warmer bias for the

with the ongoing severe drought in western North America, World Weather Inc believes the cool shot mid-September will be relatively short-lived and ridging will return later in September. The Madden-Julian Oscillation will not be a major factor for the pattern in the coming weeks and other teleconnection signals remain relatively weak.

A usual autumn-like precipitation profile is slated for the Prairies in September. There is not a general pattern for precipitation with regards to the El Nino and 18-year cycle and periods of rain and sunshine are slated for most locations. Precipitation will likely trend a little lower than usual during the first ten-days of the month due to the ridge, though there will still be enough precipitation around to potentially limit aggressive harvesting and general fieldwork. There may be a little more active weather mid-September due to the 45-day pattern potentially sending a strong cold front into the region. Although the ridge will likely return later in the month, the weak nature of the ridge may be unable to re-

strict rainfall for most locations outside southern Alberta and southwestern Saskatchewan. As a result, the Prairies will see near to slightly above normal precipitation with exceptions for the southwest corner of crop country.

For October, chances will increase for a sustained El Nino-like pattern over North America. Much like the pattern for September, the U.S. in general was a little warmer



month aligns with the best analog year of 2023, where a strong El Nino and negative phase of the Pacific Decadal Oscillation were also in effect.

There is, however, some uncertainty with the overall temperature profile for the Prairies in September. The 18-year cycle suggests a cool or mild temperature bias. Analog El Nino years also suggest a cool bias for the Prairies in September despite warmth in 2023. However,

Drought May Expand Across Southern Prairies

and parts of Alberta and British Columbia. Other El Nino years suggest a relatively usual upper-air pattern with warmer than usual conditions in western Canada and the Pacific Northwest. Eastern North America and the U.S. southwest were otherwise cooler than usual. The overall temperature pattern for October will likely trend near to above normal with the greatest deviation from normal temperatures occurring in Alberta, British Columbia, and parts of Saskatchewan. Manitoba will likely see temperatures trend closer to normal with some cooler days likely as the ridge intensifies over western North America at times, causing a trough to develop downstream over central or eastern Canada. Precipitation will trend near normal with some slightly drier than usual pockets likely in the southwestern Prairies.

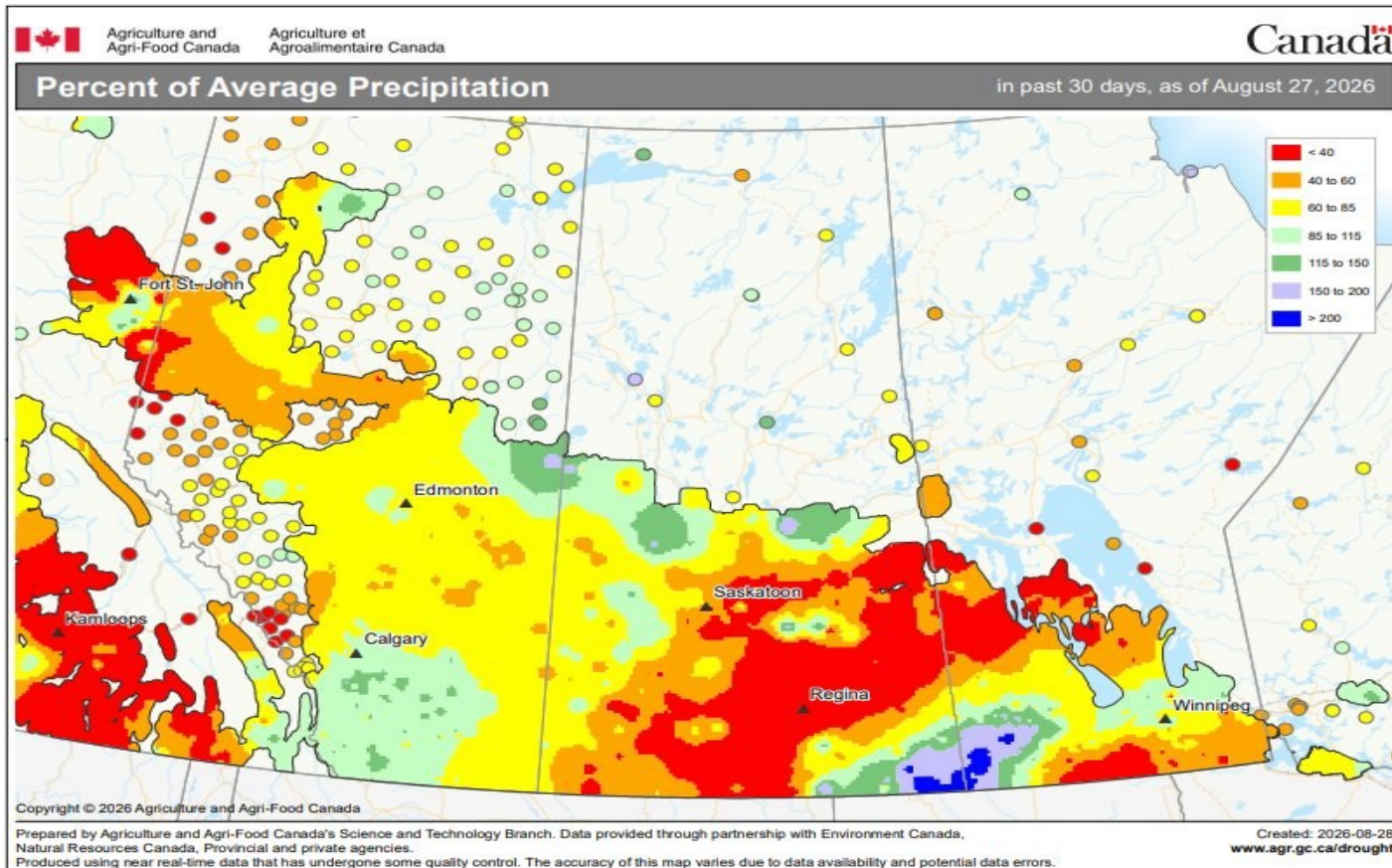
As mentioned earlier in the prognosticator, the main concern for

the Prairies in the coming weeks will be the threat for cooling during mid-September. The heat until then should expedite growth and maturation, which could reduce the threat for damaging conditions. The harvest season will be far from ideal as the Prairies see a mix of rain and sunshine for several weeks. With warmer weather lingering for at least the first half of September, there will still be threats for damaging thunderstorms on a frequent basis as well.

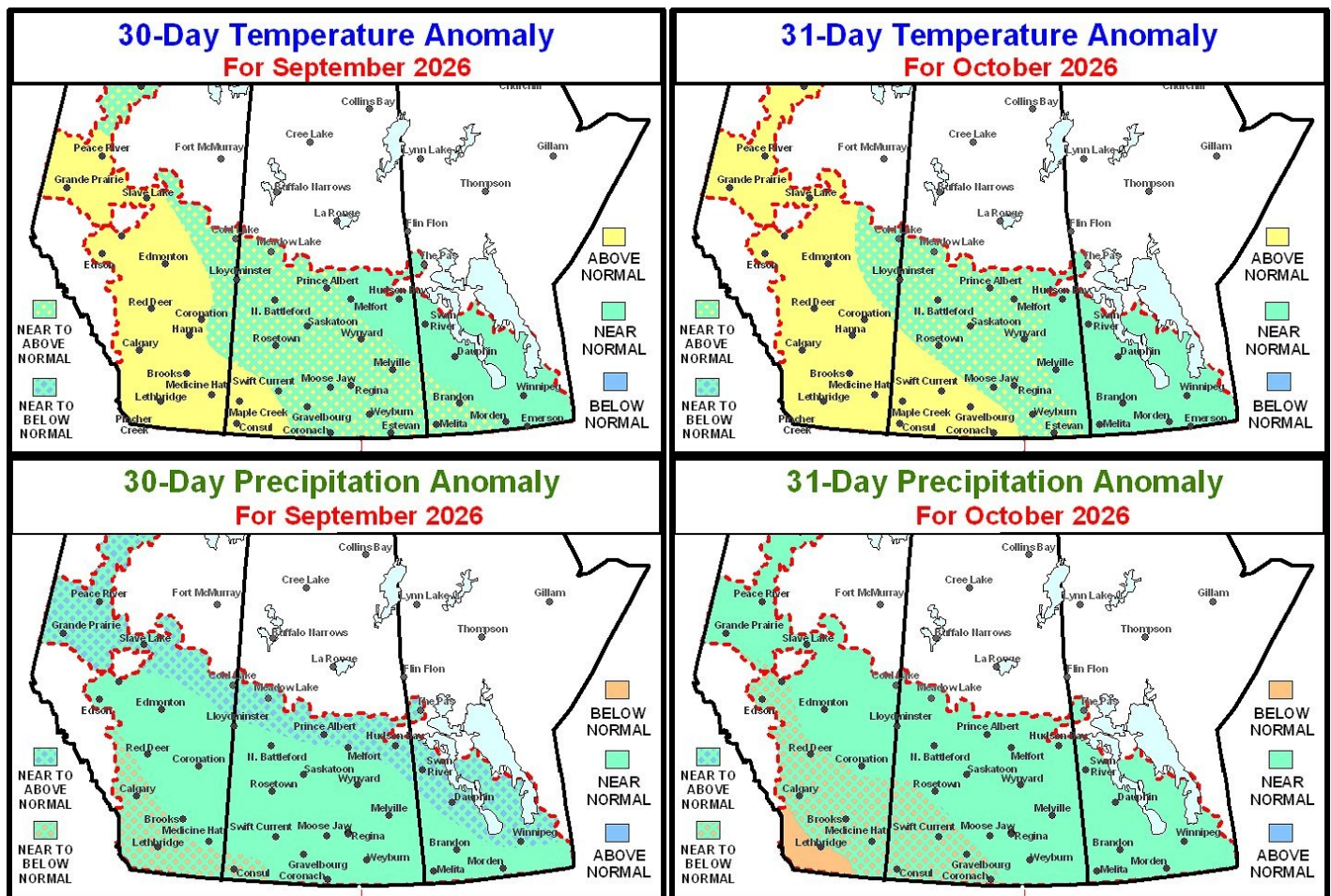
Another longer-term concern will be the potential for an expansion of the drought from the U.S. northern Plains. Much of the region was under abnormally dry conditions or moderate to extreme drought as of August 27, which has likely crept into the southern Prairies in recent days as well. Continued dryness in the coming weeks will further intensify dryness for at least southern sections of Alberta and Saskatchewan, if not sev-

eral other locations near and south of the Highway 16 corridor. There will still be bouts of rain in the coming weeks that should slow the drying trend at times. Resulting rainfall will still be too light for much to stay in the ground before the winter freeze up occurs. Winter grains may not have enough moisture to establish favorably this season and the need for timely winter precipitation will be high.

Drought or abnormally dry conditions may stick around in at least the southwest corner of the Prairies through the end of autumn, especially if an El Nino-like pattern prevails for much of November. We may be talking about dryness for the coming weeks and months, though the frequency of the precipitation may keep soil moisture at more favorable levels for much of the autumn in northern and eastern sections of the Prairies.

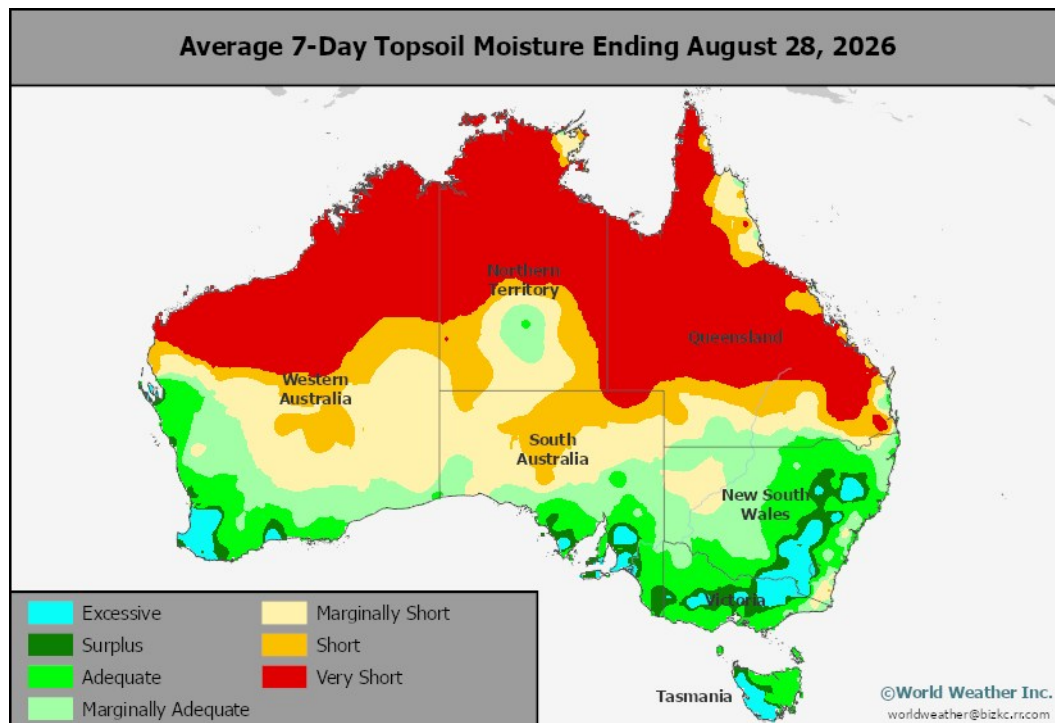


September and October Weather Outlooks



The southwestern Prairies will continue to dry down in the coming months in part due to the evolution of an El Nino-like upper-air pattern. Peace River country and neighboring areas may also dry down too much before the winter freeze up period arrives.

Australia Crop Moisture Situation



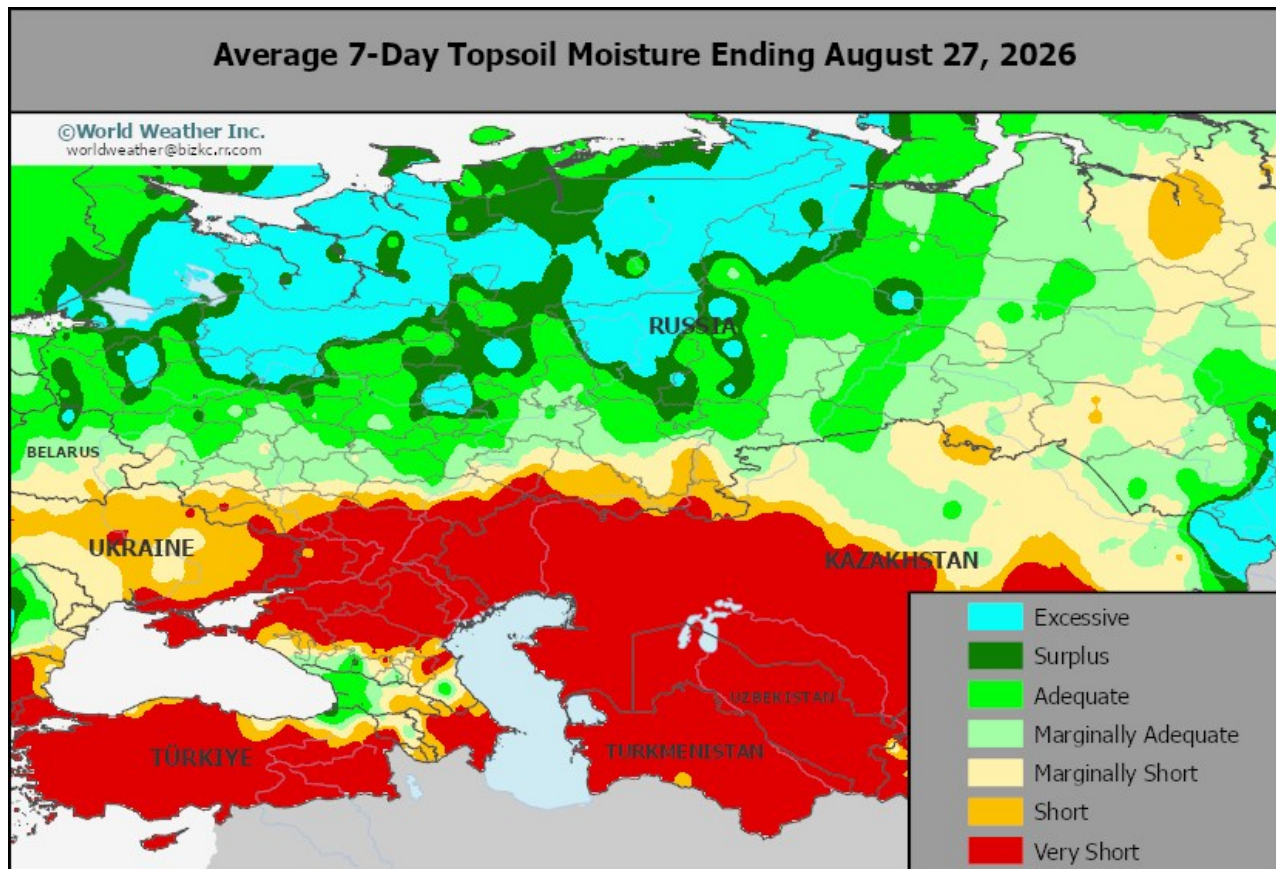
Australia winter wheat, barley, and canola prospects remain favorable given the threat from El Nino limiting rainfall over the growing season. Queensland and Western Australia trended a little drier at times over the southern hemisphere winter, though there was generally enough rain to promote a good environment for most crops. Yield prospects are higher than early estimates, though production will be lower than last year despite the good weather. Producers tend to reduce planted acreage in an El Nino environment and tend to plant more in a La Nina environment, which explains the lower yields from last year despite the good weather.

Although weather for Australia has been favorable so far this season, a shift in the pattern is expected in September and potentially into October. With El Nino firmly in place, drier than usual weather will be most common for western and southern Australia. Periodic rain will still occur during this time and should limit drying at times. However, a net reduction in moisture is expected for much of September.

The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD), which also has an impact on weather in Australia, is somewhat neutral and may trend slightly positive in September and October. Although the signal for the IOD is relatively weak, the shift to a (weakly) positive phase in the IOD combined with the influence from El Nino increases the chances for drier than usual weather for Australia during the southern hemisphere spring.

The potential for drier weather in September and October in Australia may impact reproduction and filling of winter wheat, barley, and canola. The main production areas will have some moisture to support new growth for at least the first part of September, if not into the latter part of the month as well. However, the ground may dry a little too much to ensure a good ending to the growing season. Crops may mature a little early if an intense dryness occurs before crops are finished developing. Yield potentials may be slightly reduced depending on the intensity of the dryness.

Russia Moisture Profile Still Looks Favorable



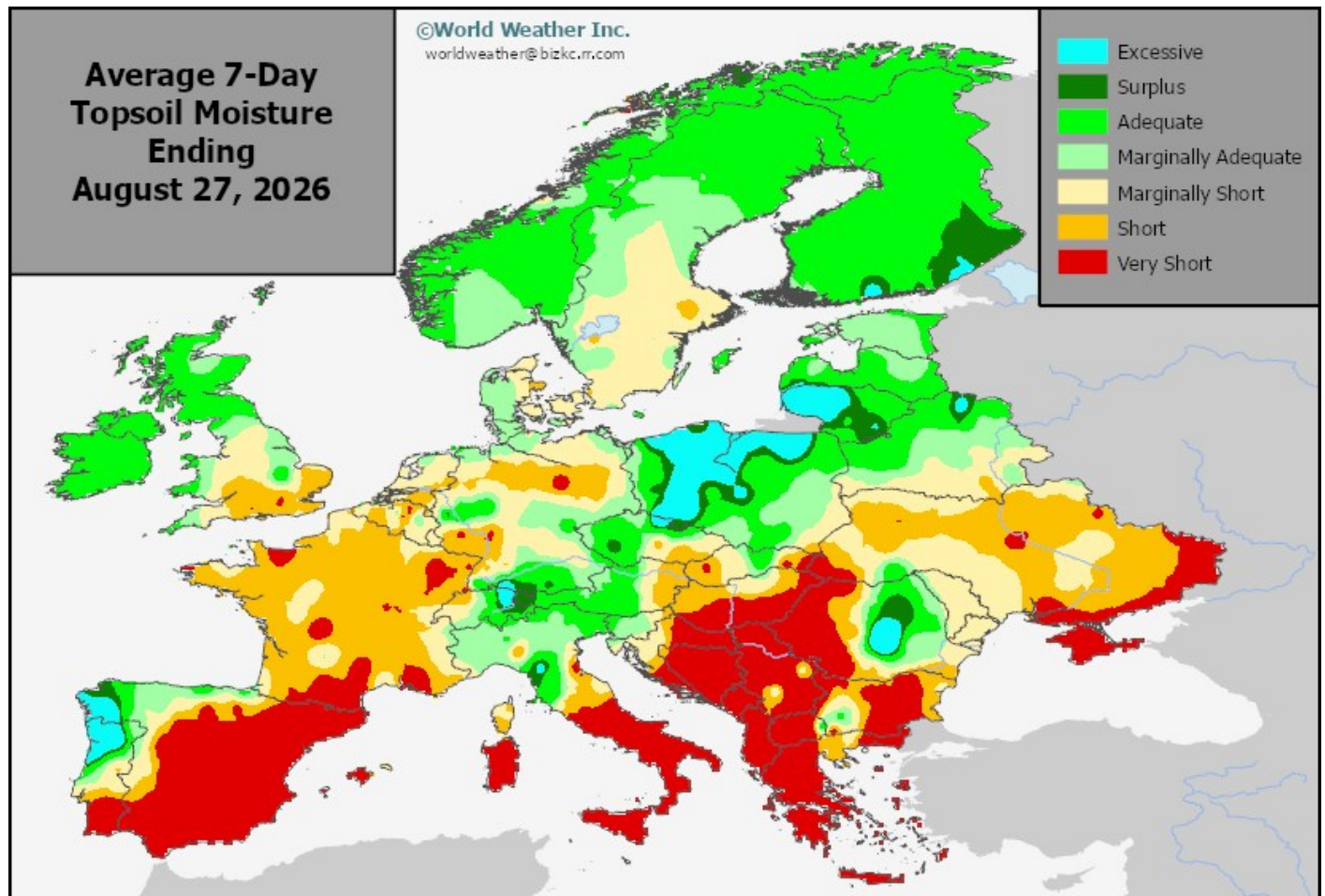
The environment was favorable for maturation and harvesting of spring grains and oilseeds for much of Ukraine, southern Russia, and western Kazakhstan during the past week. The lack of rain and warm weather limited harvest and fieldwork delays. Russia's eastern New Lands, Belarus, and the Baltic States may have received enough rain to slow maturation and harvesting, though quality impacts were suspected of being minimal. Late-season development conditions were otherwise relatively favorable for the Eastern New Lands, northern Kazakhstan, Belarus, and neighboring areas due to the periods of rain. Warmer and drier weather is now needed for much of the former Soviet Union to support ideal maturation and harvesting.

A pool of cold air will advance over the former Soviet Union in the coming days. Low temperatures will often drop to the 30s and 40s Fahrenheit for the eastern New Lands and northern Kazakhstan with pockets cooling to the upper 20s this weekend and early next week.

Frost and light freezes in the eastern New Lands and northern Kazakhstan in the coming days may damage the late maturing spring wheat, sunseed, soybeans, and other grains and oilseeds produced in the region. These areas were wet at times during the growing season, slowing development and leaving some crops immature leading into this weekend's frost and freeze event. The environment should improve during the second week of the outlook once warmer weather returns.

Other locations in Russia and western Kazakhstan into Ukraine, Belarus, and neighboring areas will see relatively good conditions for spring grain and oilseed maturation and harvesting. Cool day-time temperatures may slow maturation for some, though production impacts should be minimal. The ground will otherwise dry down due to the lack of significant precipitation. The need for timely rain will increase later in September to support better winter grain and oilseed planting.

Western Europe Still Expecting Major Losses

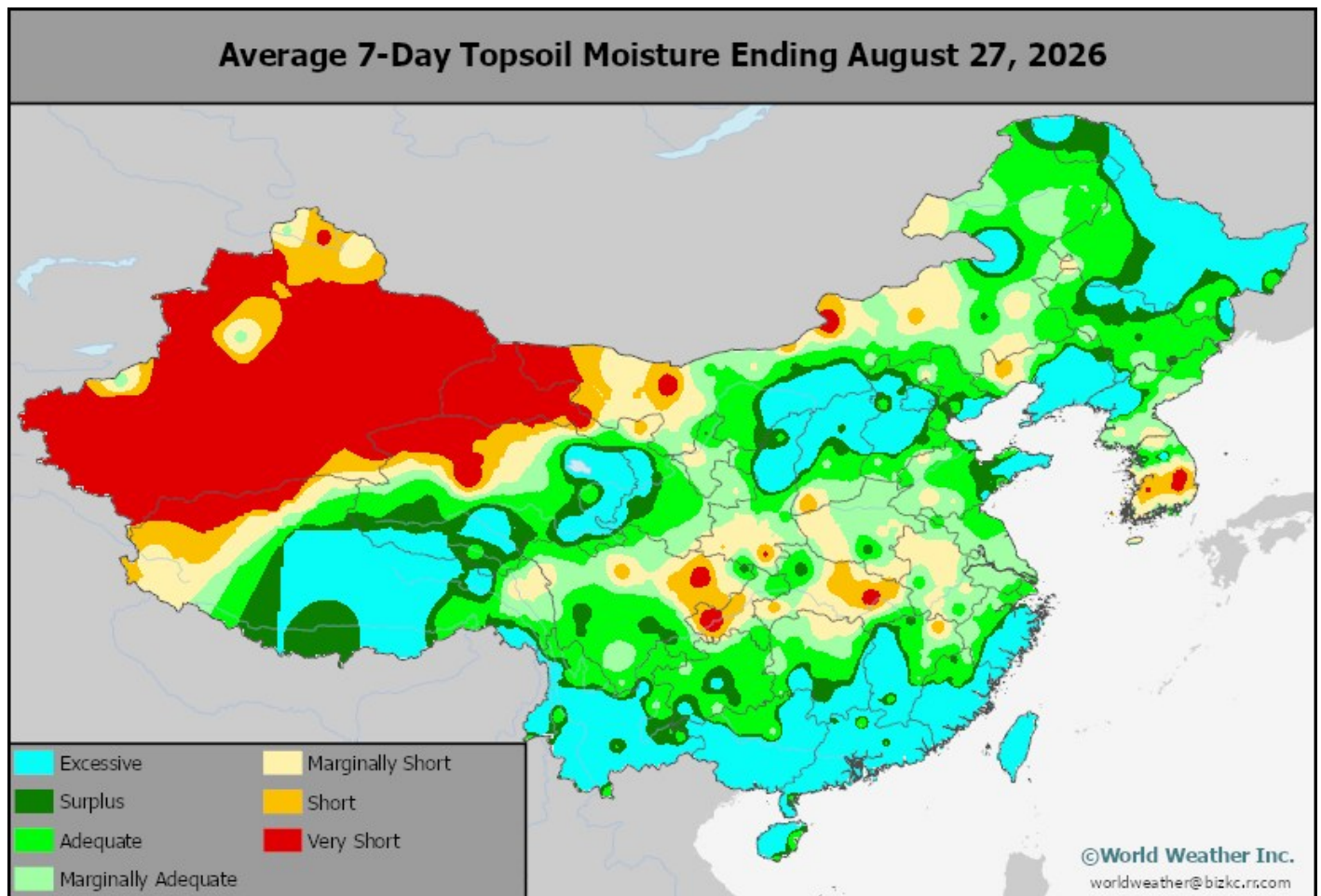


No major changes were noted for **Europe** since the last prognosticator, although recent rain in Germany, northern Italy and areas northeast to the Baltic States and Belarus brought some temporary relief from dryness. Significant production losses are expected in Western Europe, France in particular, due to the extended periods of drier and much warmer than usual weather over the growing season. Several areas in England, Germany, the Iberian Peninsula, and neighboring areas in Western Europe are also expected to see negative production impacts due to adverse conditions. Southeastern Europe also trended too dry for ideal late-season growth.

Precipitation will occur on a frequent basis across northern Europe in coming weeks. The rain may slow maturation and harvesting at times, though additional production losses should be minimal. Southern Europe will see more favorable conditions for maturation and harvesting in the coming weeks. The need for timely rain will increase later in the autumn to improve overall planting and production potentials for winter grains and oilseeds produced in the region.

Some production cuts occurred this summer because of dryness in areas from western Slovakia southward to northern Serbia and northwestern Romania.

China Crops Generally Good Despite Flooding

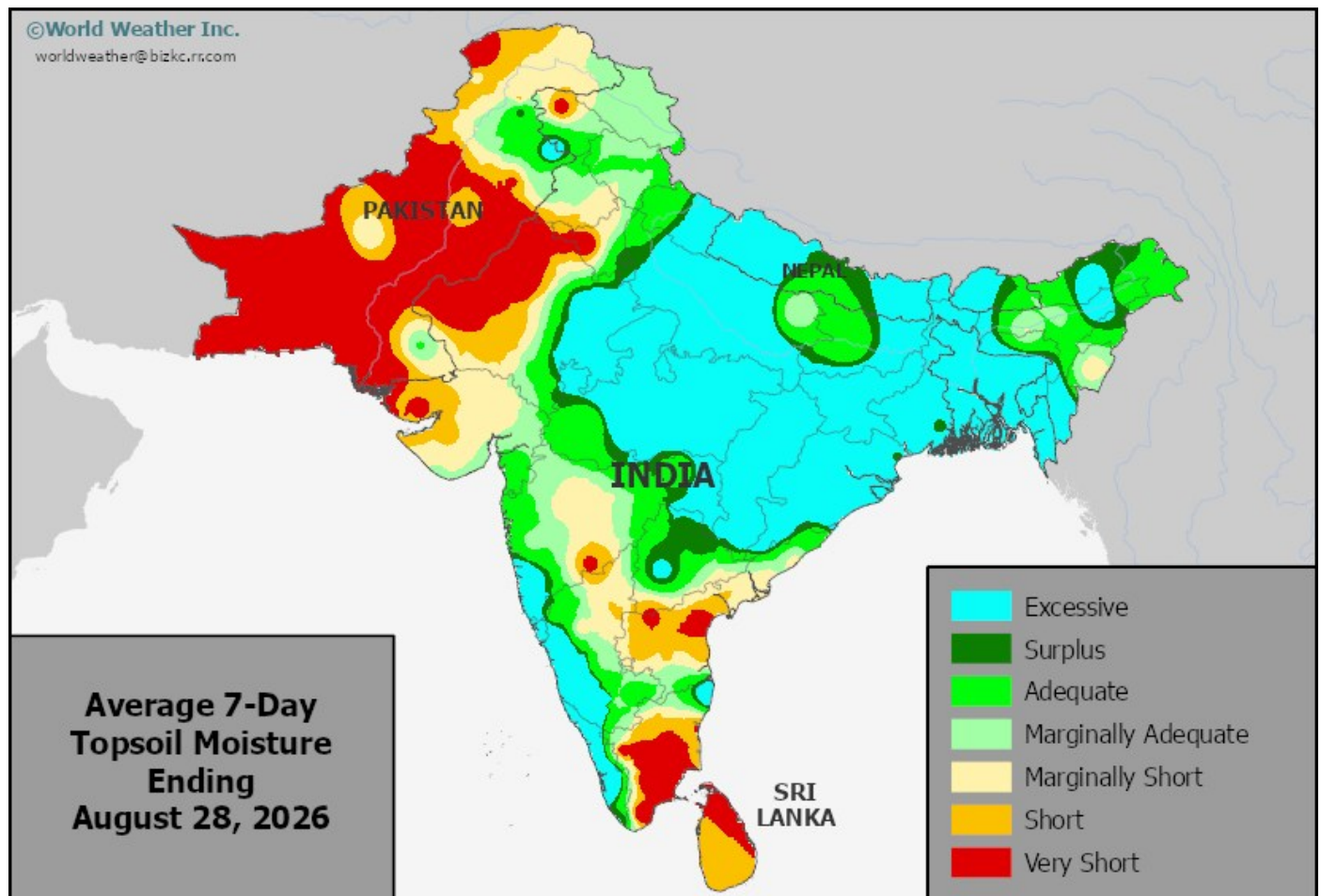


China crop prospects are relatively favorable despite some adverse conditions this year. The main production areas had ample moisture in recent weeks for aggressive growth. Tropical disturbances generated a little too much rain at times, leading to localized flooding. Overall damage was suspected of being minimal. Much of China is now in need of drier and warmer weather for better maturation and harvesting.

Alternating periods of rain and sunshine are slated for much of China in the coming weeks. Net drying is slated for at least portions of the North China Plain, central Yellow River Basin, and neighboring production areas. Conditions for crop maturation and harvesting will gradually improve and overall production potentials will remain favorable.

Winter wheat planting begins in late September and October and that is when drying will be most needed in that part of the nation. Last year's planting was delayed by a substantially wetter than usual period that lasted a few weeks early in the traditional dry season, but this year will be different with the biggest wet bias in China expected in the southern provinces which may impact some rice and sugarcane.

Concerns For Dryness Will Return For Western India

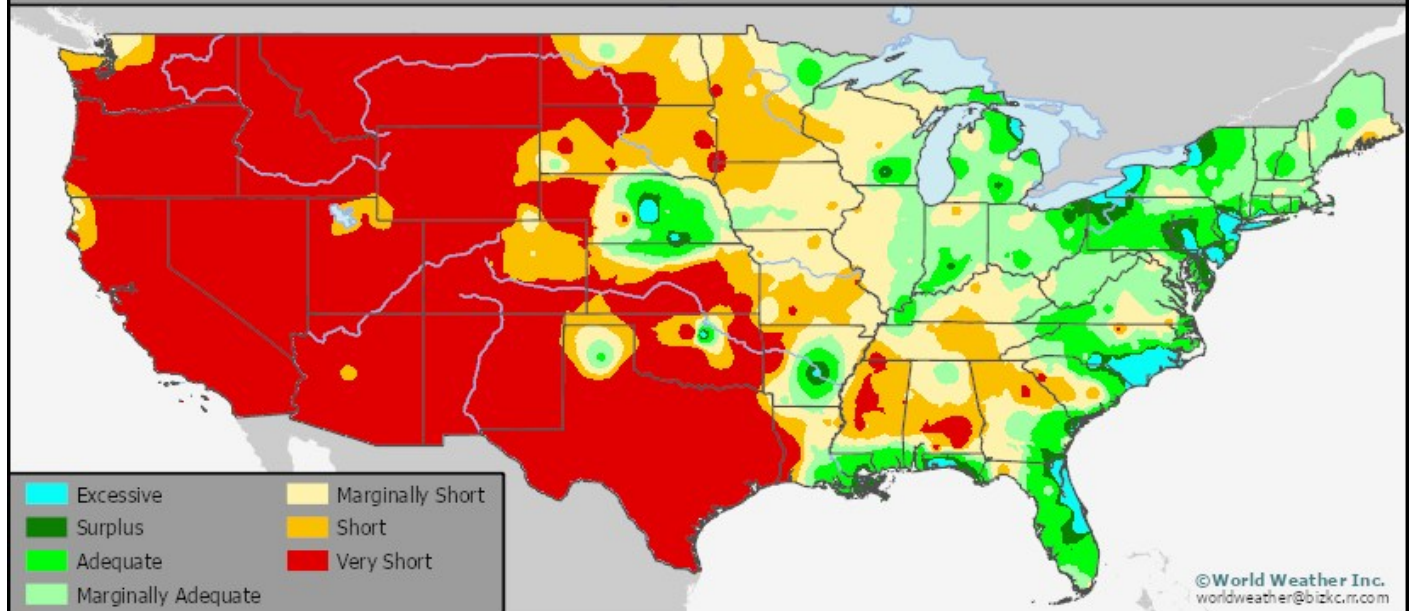


India is still facing a challenging year. After a slow start to the monsoon season in June, significant rainfall in July and August helped bring overall rain amounts closer to normal for several locations. Southern and portions of western India were still drier than usual since the monsoon season began and are in need of more rain. Overall production potentials are highly variable with potential cuts possible for some of the grains, oilseeds, pulses, and other crops produced in western and southern India.

Western and southern India will see limited rainfall through mid-September. The ground will rapidly firm and remain or become too dry for aggressive growth. If timely rain does not return later in September, concern for production losses will increase further. Northern India may start to dry down toward mid-September as well and will need timely rain. Eastern and central India will otherwise see waves of rain that will support relatively good crop conditions. Not only will concern for lower production increase in the coming weeks due to uneven rainfall across India, the ongoing El Nino could impact prospects for the winter crops as well.

U.S. Plains Will Continue To Dry Down

Average 7-Day Topsoil Moisture Ending August 28, 2026



U.S. corn and soybean prospects remain generally good, especially for the Midwest. A relatively warm and dry bias is slated for the Midwest for at least the next seven days, which should expedite maturation of the earlier-planted crops. The environment may become too dry for the later-planted crops, though overall production potentials will remain favorable. Harvesting of spring wheat will also advance swiftly.

Grain, oilseed, and pulse conditions are variable for the northern U.S. Plains are variable with most being rated fair or good. Crops are maturing and beginning to be harvested, though some erratic rainfall may impact harvest conditions at times in coming weeks.

Winter wheat planting for most of the central and southern Plains will not begin for several weeks; however, crops normally planted early for livestock grazing often go into the ground in early September. With intensifying drought occurring recently, producers may have to wait for better rainfall before putting a significant amount of crop in the ground. El Nino may bring “some” relief to the dryness late this autumn and winter.

Typically, El Nino produces a wet bias in California, the southwestern states, northern Mexico and in the Gulf of America coastal states during late autumn and especially during winter and temperatures are usually cooler than usual. Northern parts of the U.S., like Canada’s Prairies tend to be warmer and drier than usual during El Nino winter events.

Given the dryness prevalent today in North America there is some concern about a dry start to 2027 growing season in the northern U.S. Plains and southern Canada’s Prairies while favorable moisture is in place in the lower and eastern U.S. Midwest.