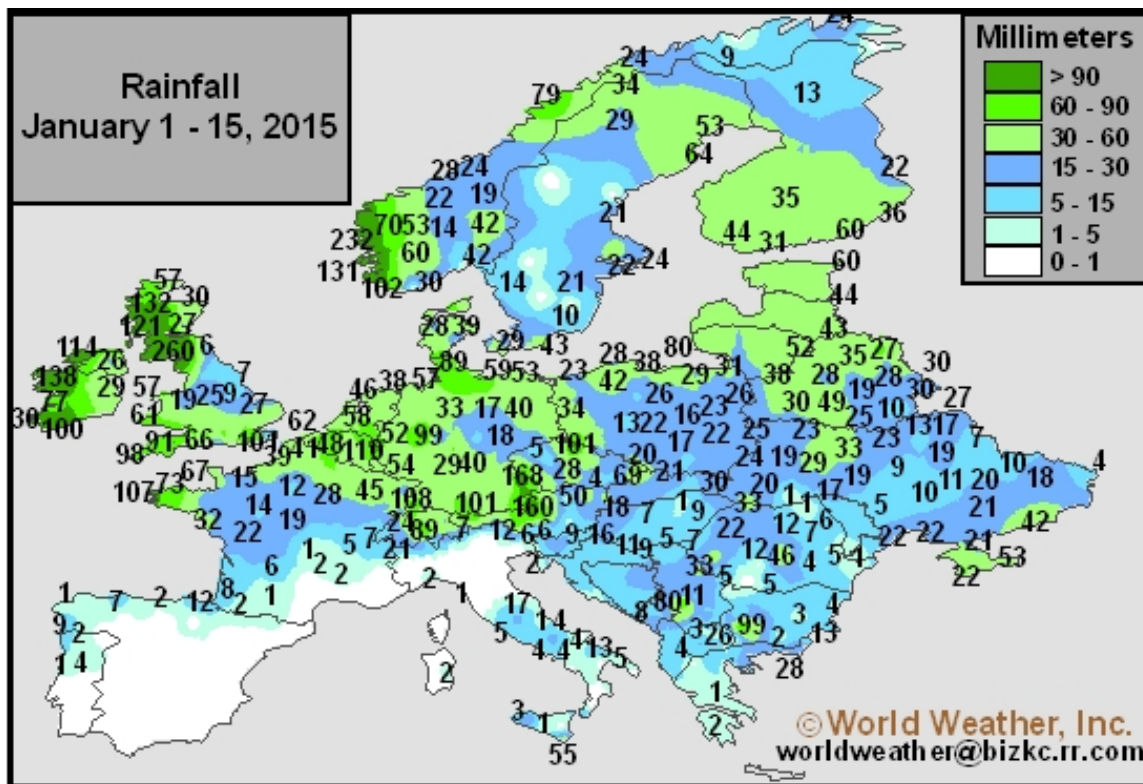


Flood Potentials Rising in Europe

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, January 15 (World Weather Inc.) – Recent weather across Europe has been wettest in the north where widespread saturated soil conditions are present. Sufficient precipitation has occurred recently to induce some significant runoff and some minor flooding may already be under way. Additional storminess is expected across western and northern portions of the continent during the coming week to ten days that will maintain saturated field conditions in some areas and induce similar conditions in other areas. Flood potentials will be high and until an extended period of dry weather evolves the potential for a more serious flood event will continue to build. In the meantime, some much needed moisture will impact Spain and Portugal during the coming week to lift topsoil moisture for better long term crop development potential.

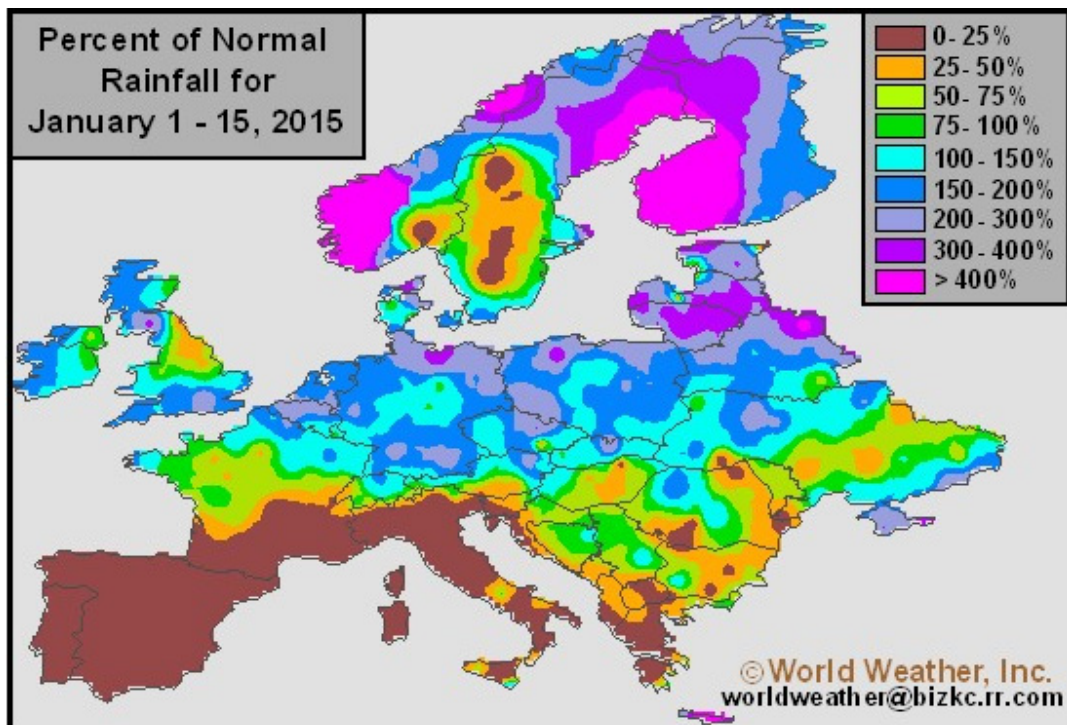
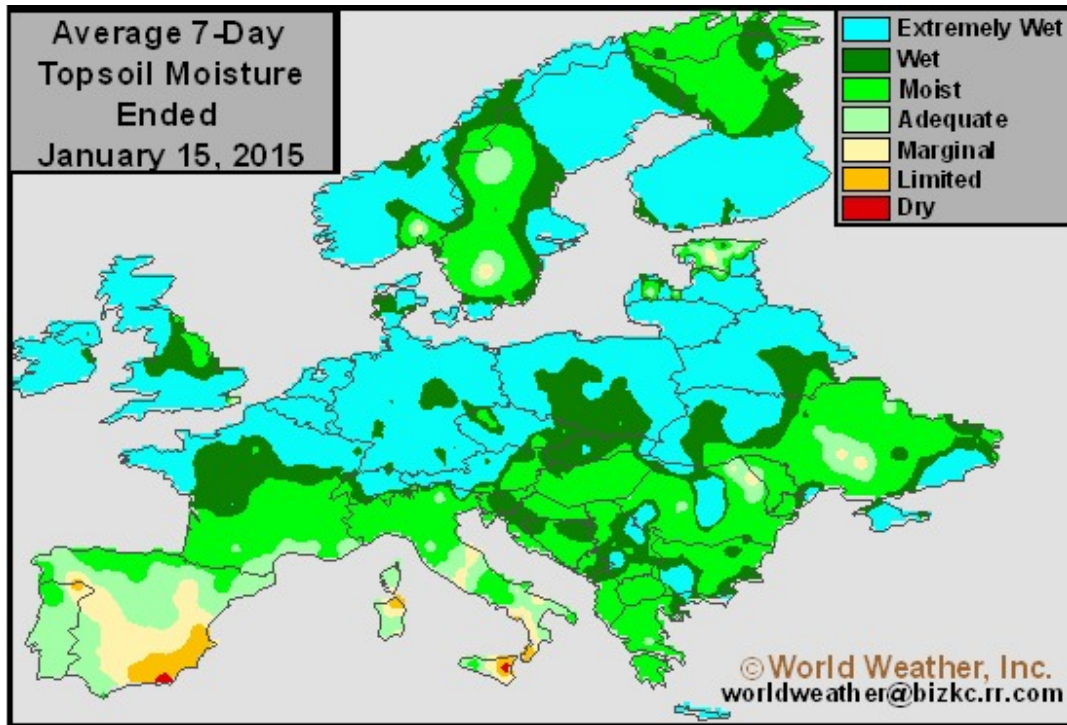
Snow became widespread in central and eastern parts of Europe earlier this month, but recent warming has melted the snow at nearly the same time that rain evolved across many northern and some central areas in the continent. As a result, the ground has been saturated with moisture and some significant runoff has likely occurred possibly leading to some flooding.



Rain totals during the first half of this month varied from 0.60 to more than 2.50 inches from the United Kingdom and far northern France to Germany, Czech Republic, northern Poland and some of the Baltic States, Belarus and northwestern Ukraine. Rain totals reached up over 5.00 inches in portions of Scotland and Ireland with totals reaching nearly 9.00 inches in western Norway. A couple of locations in southern Germany and

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Belgium recorded rain totals of 3.00 to more than 5.00 inches. Rainfall elsewhere in the central and southeastern parts of the continent was not nearly as great, but sufficient on top of saturated or nearly saturated soil to induce some increased runoff.



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Top and subsoil moisture is rated adequate to excessive across a very large part of Europe. Only portions of Spain, Portugal and southern Italy have short to very short topsoil moisture. Most areas are not critically dry, but there is need for greater rain to not only bolster soil moisture for planting, but to raise river and stream flows so that the region's water reservoirs can be recharged for spring and summer irrigation purposes.

One reason for the excessive amount of moisture from Germany through the Baltic States is the greater than usual rainfall noted in the past two weeks. Many areas in the region have received one to three times the normal amount of precipitation. Other areas across the continent reported varying amounts of moisture so far this month. Western Ukraine received near to above average amounts while the Balkan Countries of southeastern Europe reported near to below average moisture. Spain, southern France, Italy and Greece were among some of the driest areas and received less than 25% of normal precipitation since the beginning of January.

Much of Europe also received timely precipitation in November and December that bolstered soil moisture, but much of that was in the southeast and south-central parts of the continent where the ground is not quite as wet today as it is further north. Northern Italy and southeastern France endured some serious flooding last autumn.

Several disturbances will slam into Europe from the Atlantic Ocean during the next two weeks. These disturbances will produce enough precipitation to further bolster soil moisture. Western Europe will receive the most precipitation with seven-day amounts ending next Thursday morning varying from 0.50 to 2.00 inches. Some locally greater amounts of rain varying from 2.00 to 4.00 inches will fall in France, Portugal, and western Spain. Many areas in Italy will also receive more than 2.00 inches of moisture while eastern Spain will be driest with few areas getting more than 0.50 inch.

Even though the disturbances will produce significant precipitation in Western Europe, Eastern Europe will still receive "some" moisture. However, amounts will be lighter than in western areas of the continent with seven-day totals ranging from 0.05 to 0.50 inch and locally more. Greece will be one of the wettest areas with moisture totals ranging from 1.00 to more than 2.50 inches.

Temperatures will trend near to below average in Western Europe and near to above average in Eastern Europe over the coming week. The cooler weather will slow drying rates in Western Europe. Soil moisture will continue to increase in portions of western and northern Europe, which could promote flooding in several areas with Germany and surrounding areas at the top of the greatest flood potential. Drier weather is needed in the last week of this month and early February to avoid a more serious flood event.

Flooding should not be a significant concern in Eastern Europe where sufficient amounts of warm weather will occur along with a more limited rainfall pattern that lead to improved field conditions. Most areas will either see a net decrease in soil moisture or will see soil moisture remain at current levels.

Spring planting may be slowed in parts of Europe this year if the wetter weather bias prevails through February. Some planting delay is anticipated.

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