

RMD – Shortened USDA Weekly Weather/Crop Conditions Report: 1 May 2024

April 21 – 27, 2024, provided by USDA/WAOB

International Weather and Crop Summary

HIGHLIGHTS

EUROPE: An untimely hard freeze impacted reproductive winter crops across western, central, and northeastern Europe, while rain eased dryness concerns in the Balkans.

WESTERN FSU: Continued cool and rainy weather in the west stood in sharp contrast with persistent heat and dryness farther east.

EASTERN FSU: Sunny skies encouraged early spring grain sowing in the north and cotton sowing in the south, though some showers across eastern Uzbekistan and environs boosted soil moisture and irrigation reserves.

MIDDLE EAST: Sunny and hot weather expanded across the region, though rain lingered in southeastern croplands.

EAST ASIA: Heavy showers in southern China supported rice, while unseasonable warmth in winter crop areas promoted development.

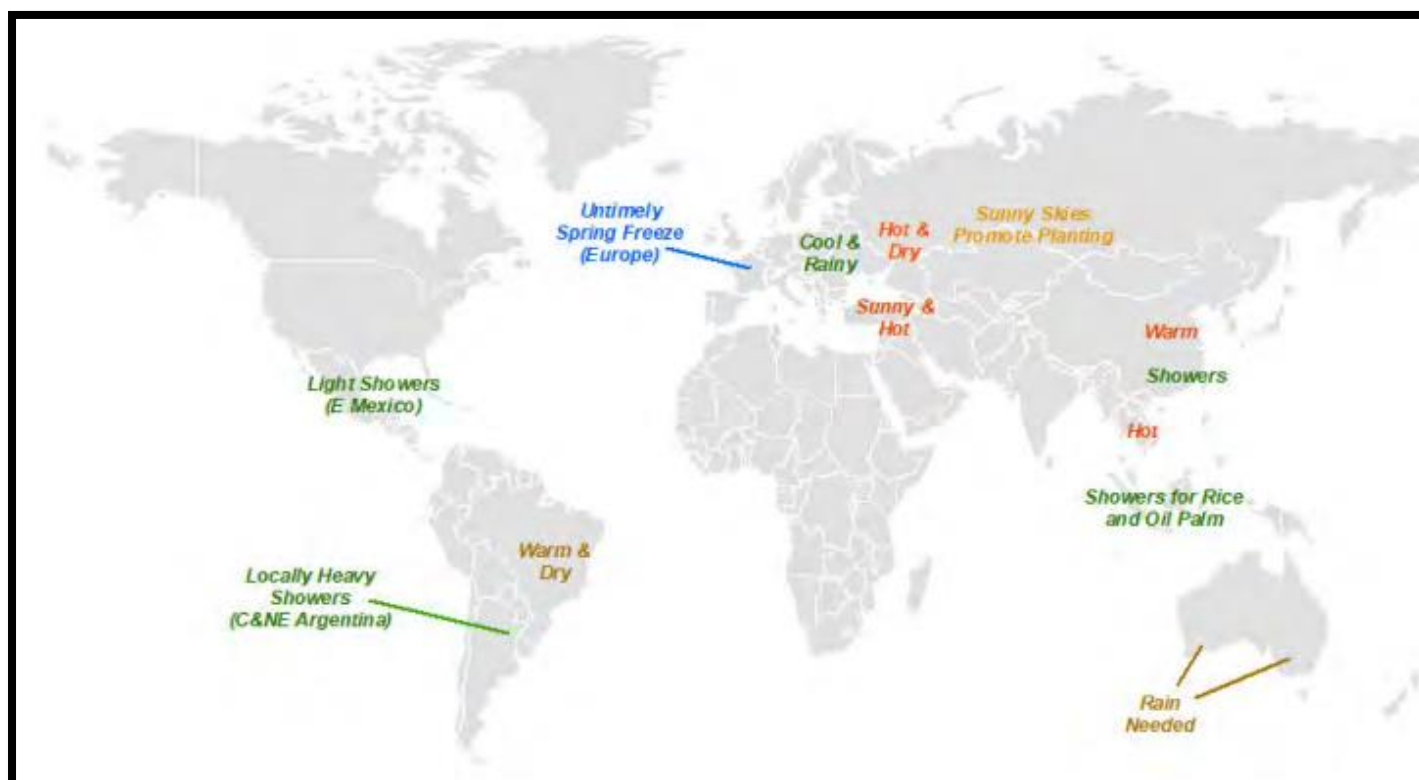
SOUTHEAST ASIA: Showers prevailed in southern portions of the region, while extreme heat plagued northern locales.

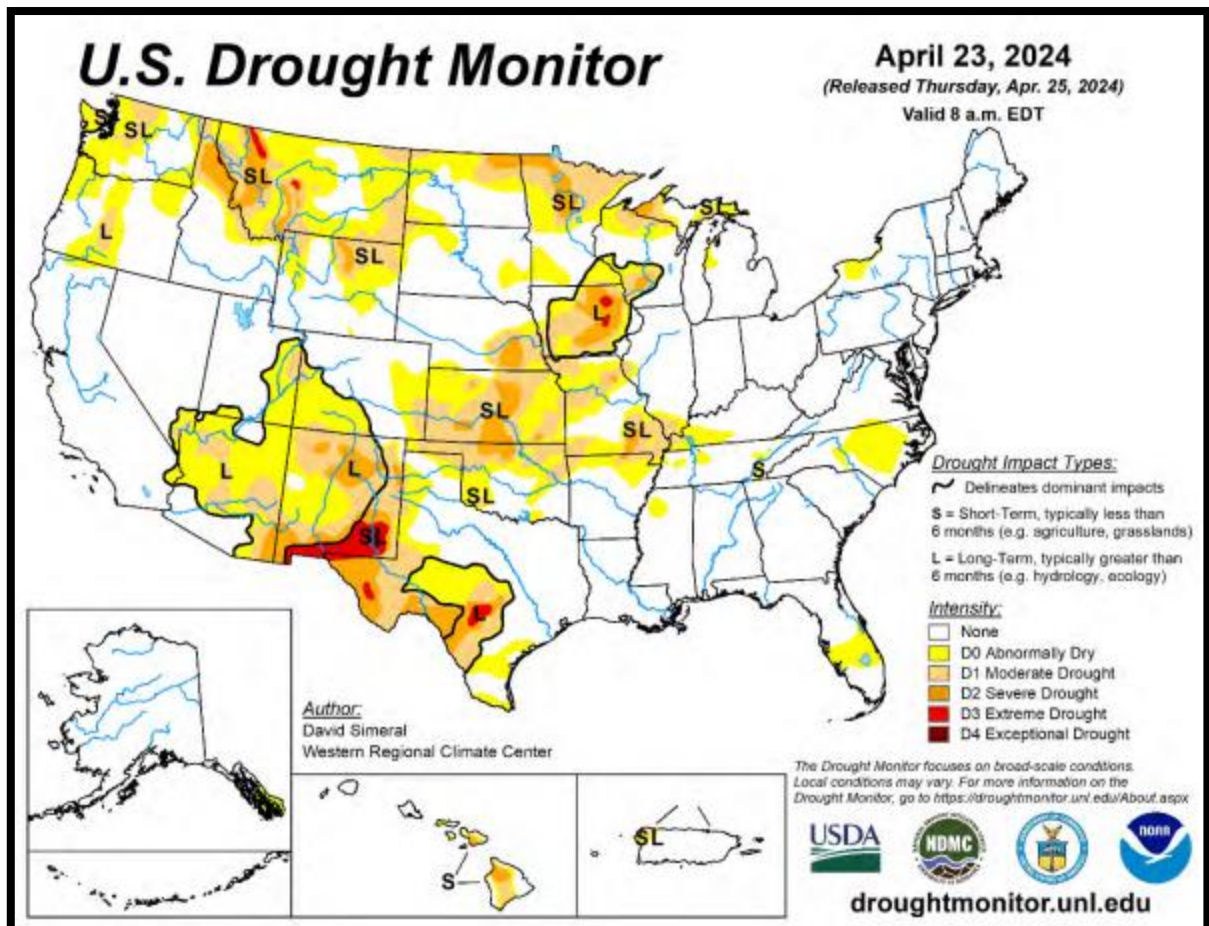
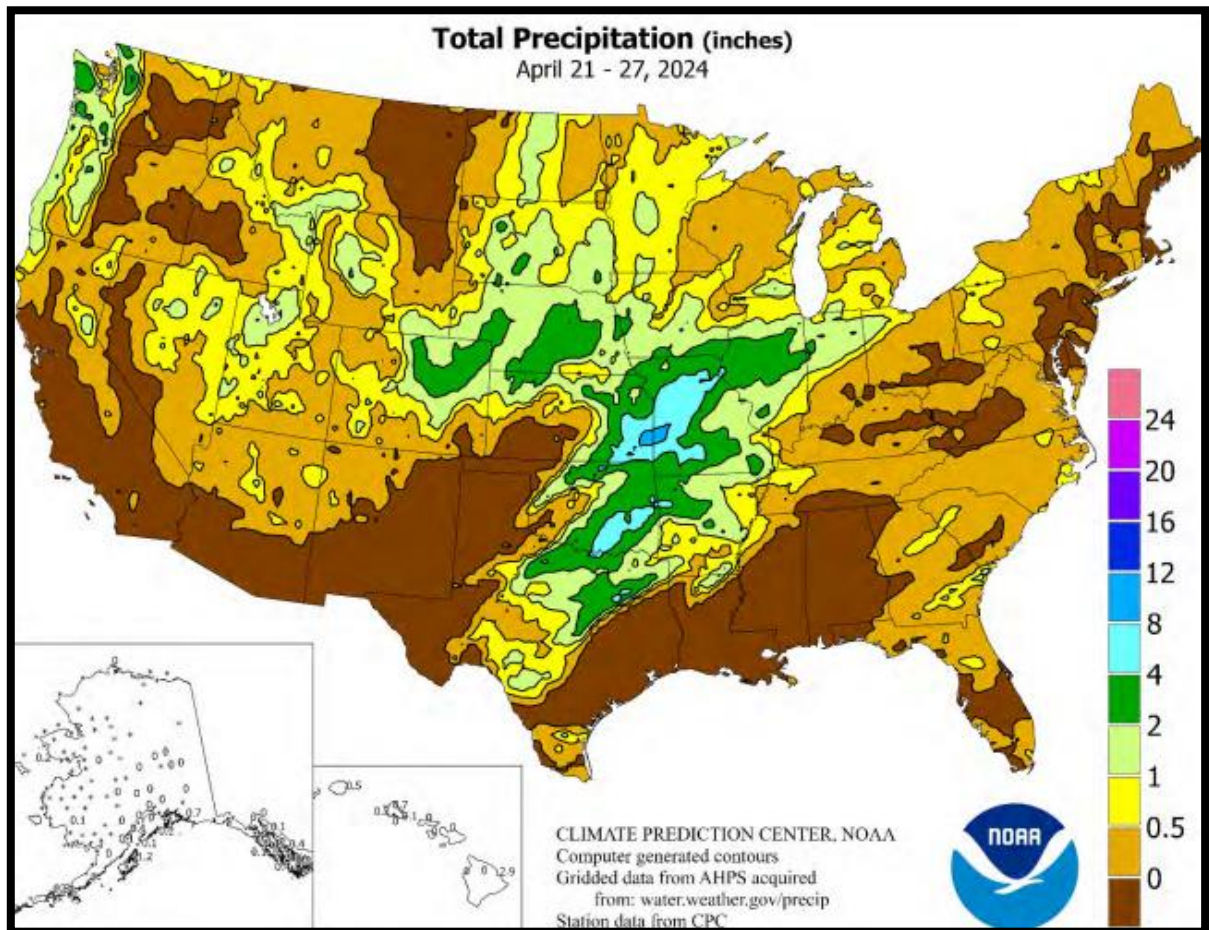
AUSTRALIA: Rain is needed in the south and west to promote winter crop planting and germination.

ARGENTINA: Scattered showers provided additional moisture for winter grain development in eastern farming areas.

BRAZIL: Dry, sunny weather dominated large sections of central Brazil.

MEXICO: Local showers helped to condition fields for planting corn and other rain-fed summer crops.





Large sections of the Great Basin, Mississippi Valley, Great Plains, Rockies, and Southwest recorded at least twice the normal amount of weekly precipitation. Parts of eastern Kansas received at least 6 inches of rain. Meanwhile, most of the nation's mid-section and West recorded above-normal temperatures for the week. Parts of the Great Plains and Rockies recorded temperatures 6°F or more above normal. In contrast, most of the eastern one-third of the nation was cooler than normal. Some locations in eastern Kentucky, the mid-Atlantic, and Northeast noted temperatures 6°F or more below normal.

Corn: By April 28, producers had planted 27 percent of the nation's corn crop, 4 percentage points ahead of last year and 5 points ahead of the 5-year average. Progress was furthest advanced in Texas and North Carolina, with 71 and 70 percent planted, respectively. Seven percent of the nation's corn acreage had emerged by April 28, two percentage points ahead of the previous year and 3 points ahead of average.

Soybean: Eighteen percent of the nation's soybean acreage was planted by April 28, two percentage points ahead of last year and 8 points ahead of the 5-year average. Progress was furthest advanced in Arkansas and Mississippi, with 56 and 52 percent planted, respectively.

Winter Wheat: By April 28, thirty percent of the nation's winter wheat crop was headed, 7 percentage points ahead of last year and 9 points ahead of the 5-year average. On April 28, forty-nine percent of the 2024 winter wheat crop was reported in good to excellent condition, 1 percentage point below the previous week but 21 points above last year. In Kansas, the largest winter wheat-producing state, 31 percent of the winter wheat crop was rated in good to excellent condition.

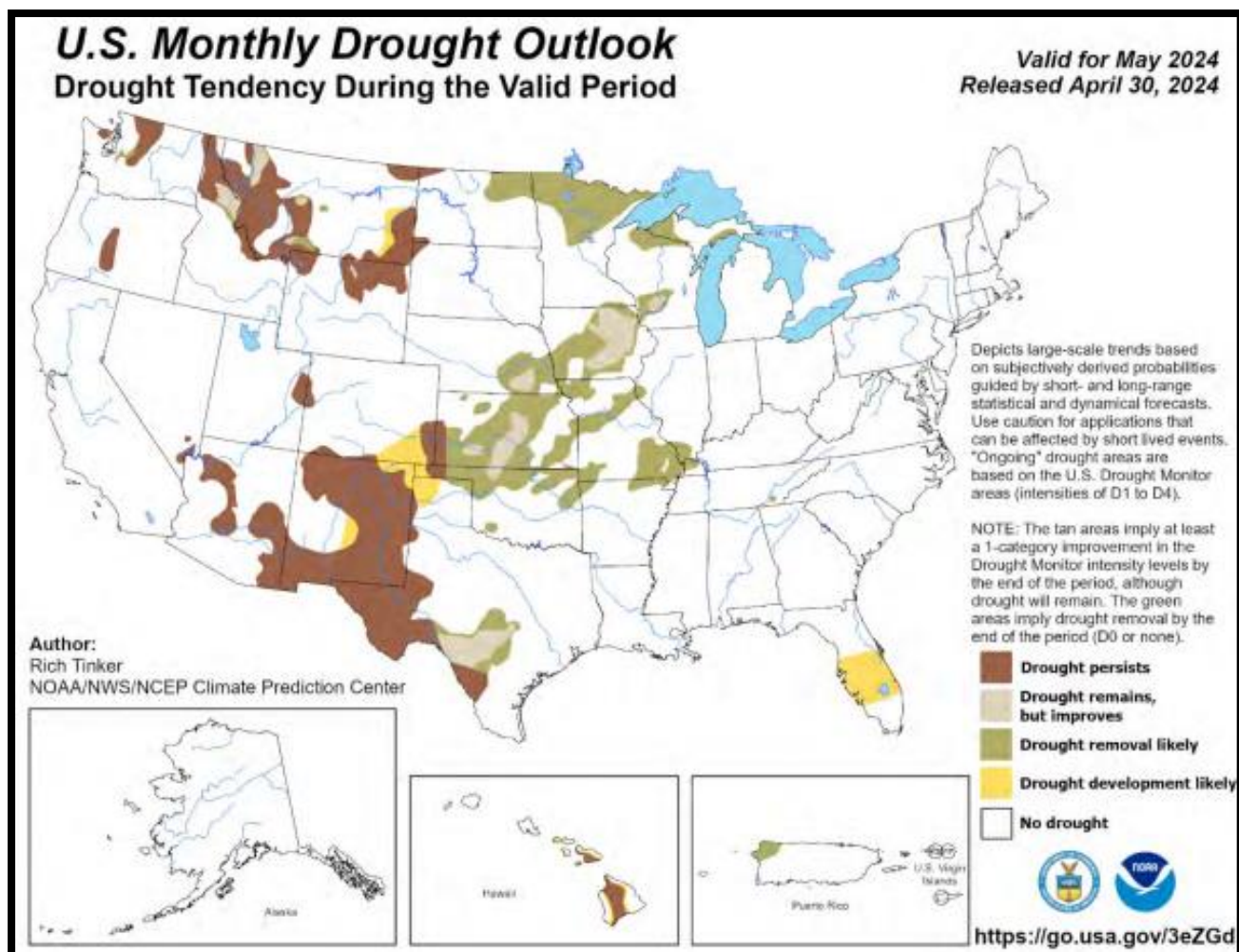
Cotton: Nationwide, 15 percent of the cotton crop was planted by April 28, one percentage point ahead of both the previous year and the 5-year average. Planting progress was furthest advanced in Arizona at 64 percent, 21 percentage points ahead of last year and 9 points ahead of average.

Sorghum: Nineteen percent of the nation's sorghum acreage was planted by April 28, one percentage point behind both last year and the 5-year average. Texas had planted 65 percent of its sorghum acreage by April 28, two percentage points behind last year and 1 point behind average.

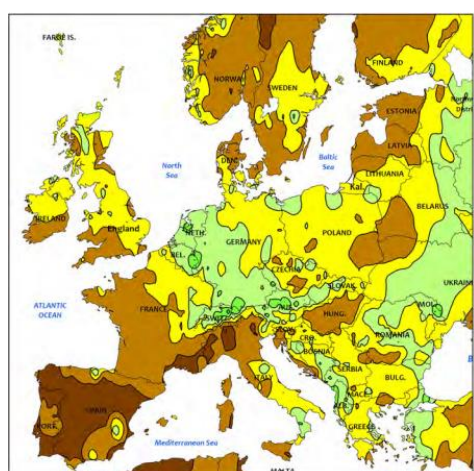
Rice: By April 28, producers had seeded 72 percent of the 2024 rice acreage, 12 percentage points ahead of the previous year and 26 points ahead of the 5-year average. Louisiana and Texas had the largest percentages of acreage planted, at 92 and 86 percent, respectively. By April 28, forty-eight percent of the nation's rice acreage had emerged, 12 percentage points ahead of last year and 20 points ahead of average.

Small Grains: Nationally, oat producers had seeded 63 percent of this year's acreage by April 28, sixteen percentage points ahead of last year and 12 points ahead of the 5-year average. Forty-two percent of the nation's oat acreage had emerged by April 28, ten percentage points ahead of the previous year and 8 points ahead of average. Thirty-five percent of the nation's barley crop was planted by April 28, nineteen percentage points ahead of last year and 6 points ahead of the 5-year average. Progress was furthest advanced in Washington and Idaho, with 70 and 65 percent planted, respectively. Six percent of the nation's barley crop had emerged by April 28, four percentage points ahead of the previous year but 2 points behind average. By April 28, thirty-four percent of the spring wheat crop was seeded, 24 percentage points ahead of last year and 15 points ahead of the 5-year average. Progress was furthest advanced in Washington and Idaho, with 76 and 72 percent planted, respectively. By April 28, five percent of the nation's spring wheat crop had emerged, 3 percentage points ahead of the previous year but equal to the 5-year average.

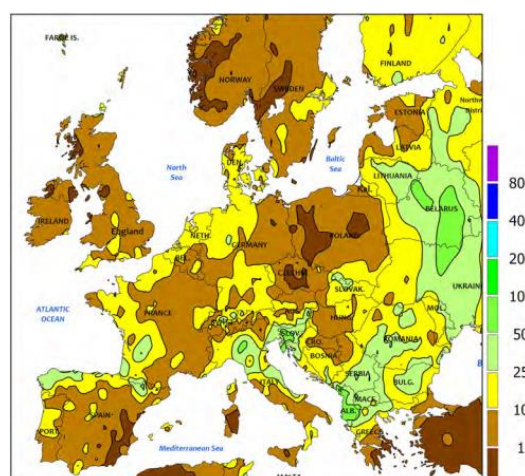
Other Crops: Nationally, producers had planted 9 percent of the 2024 peanut acreage by April 28, two percentage points ahead of the previous year and 1 point ahead of the 5-year average. Producers in Florida had planted 23 percent of the 2024 intended acreage by week's end, equal to last year but 1 percentage point ahead of average. By April 28, sixty-six percent of the sugarbeet crop was planted, 44 percentage points ahead of last year and 34 points ahead of the 5-year average. Progress was furthest advanced in Minnesota and



EUROPE



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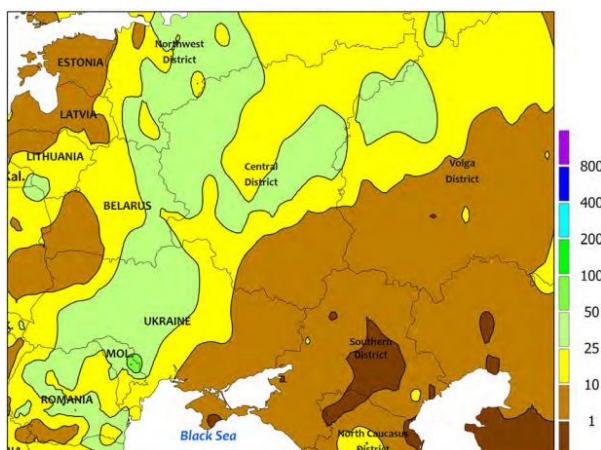


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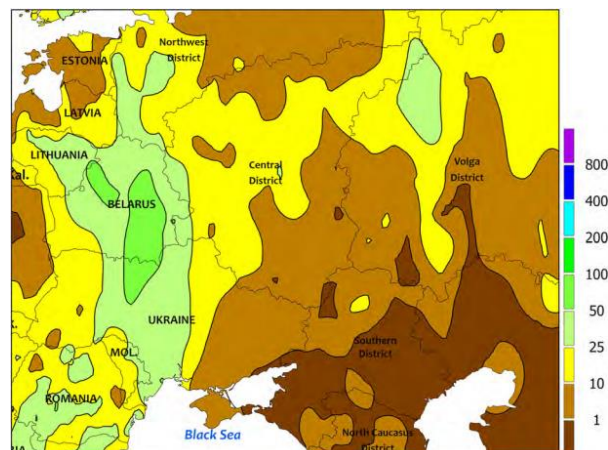
An untimely hard freeze overspread much of Europe, with additional showers in western and central growing areas transitioning to heavy rain in southeastern portions of the continent. Sharply colder weather (3-7°C below normal) overspread Europe, with hard freezes (-8 to -2°C) posing a threat to reproductive

winter crops from central and eastern France eastward into Poland and environs. Similarly, the cold snap also impacted winter grains in northern portions of Spain and England; more information regarding the hard freeze can be found on page 29 of this week's Bulletin. Widespread albeit highly variable showers (2-55 mm) over much of western and central Europe maintained adequate to locally abundant moisture supplies for winter grains and oilseeds. Conversely, dry weather in eastern Germany and Poland facilitated spring grain and summer crop planting, though moderate to heavy rain wrapping into the Baltic States (locally more than 40 mm) slowed fieldwork. Meanwhile, 10 to 55 mm of rainfall in the Balkans eased soil moisture deficits and improved prospects for reproductive winter crops, though the rain largely bypassed northern Serbia, eastern Croatia, and western Hungary. Similarly, moderate to heavy rain (locally more than 60 mm) in northern Italy boosted moisture supplies for reproductive winter grains and emerging summer crops.

WESTERN FSU



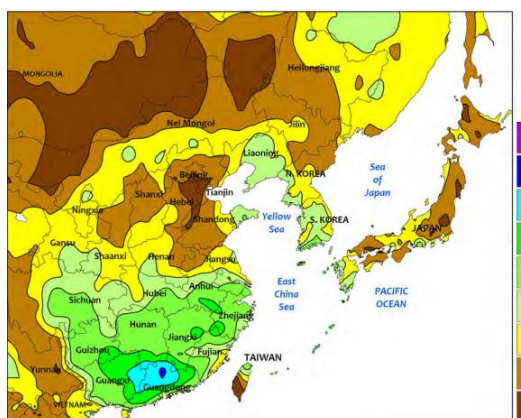
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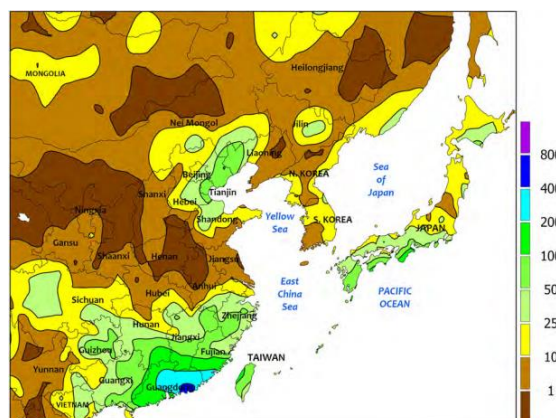
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Continued hot and dry weather across Russia and eastern Ukraine contrasted sharply with rainy and cooler conditions in western growing areas. Temperatures averaged 4 to 9°C above normal from southeastern Ukraine into Russia, accelerating winter crop growth but heightening soil moisture losses. In particular, daytime highs into the lower and middle 30s (degrees C) in southern Russia hastened winter wheat toward or into the heading stage of development up to two weeks ahead of average. Many of these same primary winter crop areas have received little to no rainfall since early February, with this week's isolated showers (5 mm or less) doing little to ease concerns over developing drought. However, spring grain and summer crop sowing proceeded without delay. Similar to previous weeks, moderate to heavy rain (10-70 mm) across Moldova, central and western Ukraine, Belarus, and northwestern Russia boosted moisture reserves for emerging spring grains in the north and late-vegetative winter crops in the south but curtailed fieldwork. The cloudy, showery weather in the west was accompanied by near- to below normal temperatures (up to 4°C below normal in the far west).

EASTERN ASIA



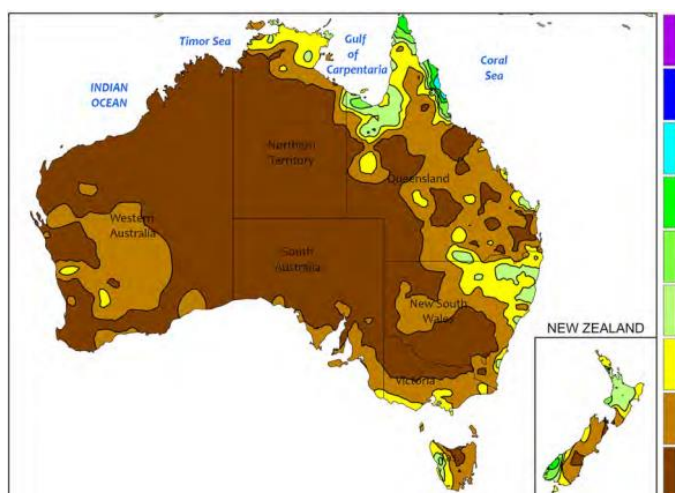
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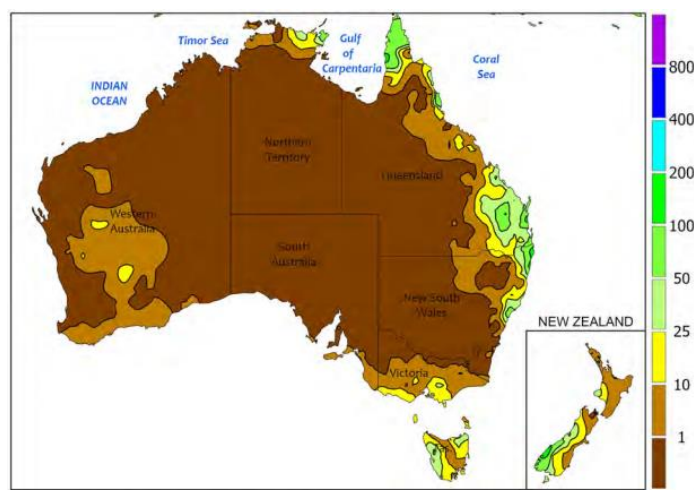
New Image - Total mm

Daily showers in southern China further boosted moisture supplies for early-crop rice approaching reproduction. In some locales, rainfall totals topped 200 mm, with two-week totals nearing 400 mm. Rainfall became light (less than 25 mm) and more spotty into the Yangtze Valley where flowering rapeseed could benefit from additional moisture. Meanwhile, precipitation (10-50 mm) in wheat areas was limited to eastern- and northern-most portions of the North China Plain; spring rainfall has trended near normal, maintaining good soil moisture for the crop now in reproductive stages of development. Furthermore, temperatures for the period across all winter crop areas were as much as 4°C above average, promoting crop development but increasing moisture requirements. Elsewhere, cotton sowing proceeded in western China, while corn and soybean planting activities expanded in the northeast under unseasonably mild conditions. Additionally, warmer-than-normal weather on the Korean peninsula and in Japan supported rice sowing.

AUSTRALIA



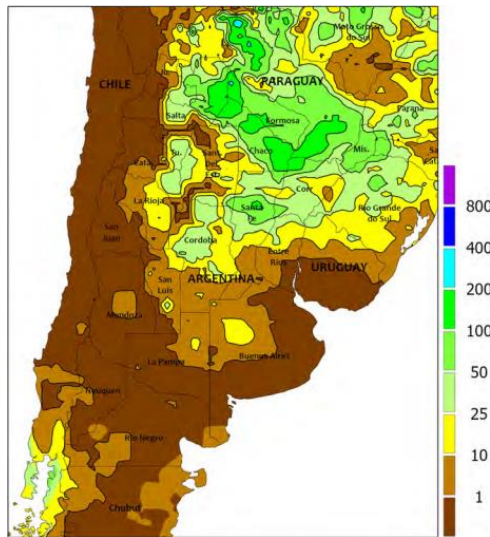
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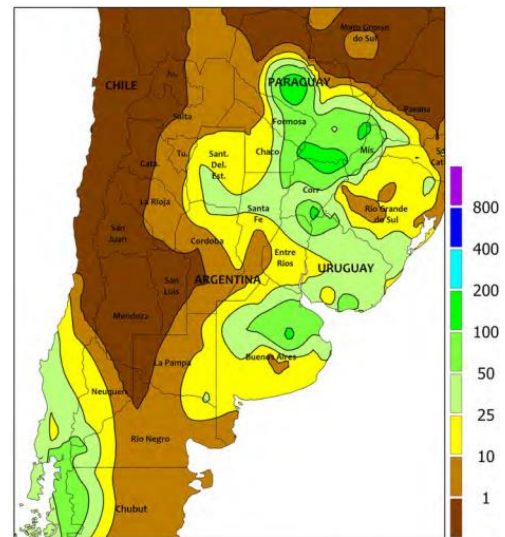
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After a wet start (10-50 mm, locally more) to the week, drier weather overspread southern Queensland, allowing cotton and sorghum harvesting and winter wheat planting to steadily regain momentum. Farther south, mostly dry weather prevailed across New South Wales and northern Victoria, enabling summer crop harvesting and early winter crop sowing to proceed without delay. A combination of sunny skies, mild temperatures, and average to above-average topsoil moisture favoured germination of recently sown winter grains and oilseeds throughout eastern Australia. Elsewhere in the wheat belt, dry weather persisted in South Australia and Western Australia. Farmers have reportedly been dry sowing winter crops, but some farmers are likely waiting for rain to arrive before planting. Regardless, more rain is needed in these states to help fill the soil moisture profile and to spur winter crop germination and emergence. Temperatures averaged 2 to 4°C below normal in South Australia and near to somewhat below normal (up to 2°C below normal) elsewhere in the wheat belt, with maximum temperatures generally in the lower to middle 20s (degrees C).

ARGENTINA



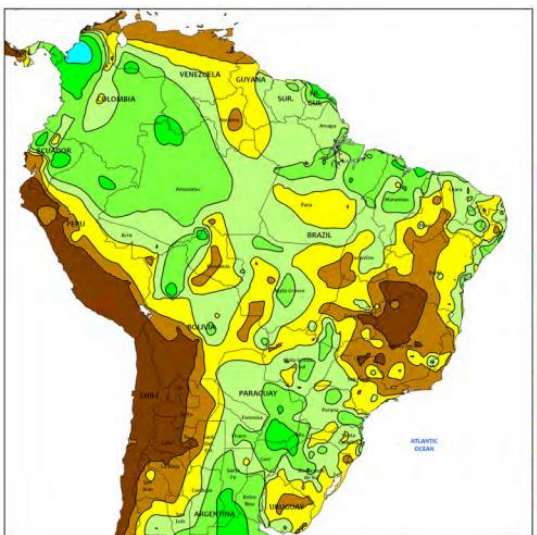
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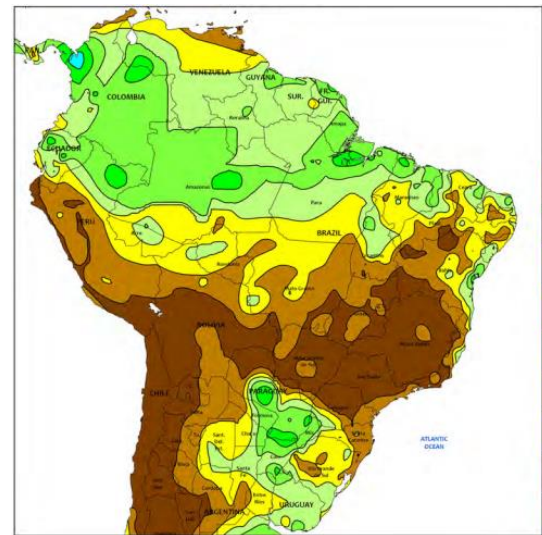
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Soaking rain slowed summer crop harvesting in central Argentina, although the moisture will ultimately benefit winter grains. Rainfall totalling 50 to more than 100 mm extended from Buenos Aires and La Pampa northward to southeastern Paraguay, with lesser amounts (below 25 mm) recorded in and around southern Corrientes. Drier conditions also prevailed in the far northwest (in and around Salta). Seasonably mild weather accompanied the showers, with highest daytime temperatures ranging from the lower and middle 20s (degrees C) in La Pampa and Buenos Aires to the lower 30s farther north. Although nighttime lows dropped below 5°C locally, no freezes were reported. According to the government of Argentina, corn and soybeans were 20 and 14 percent harvested, respectively, and cotton was 9 percent harvested.

BRAZIL



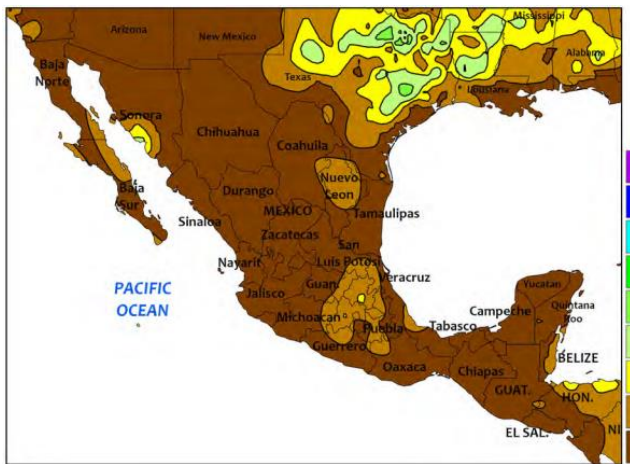
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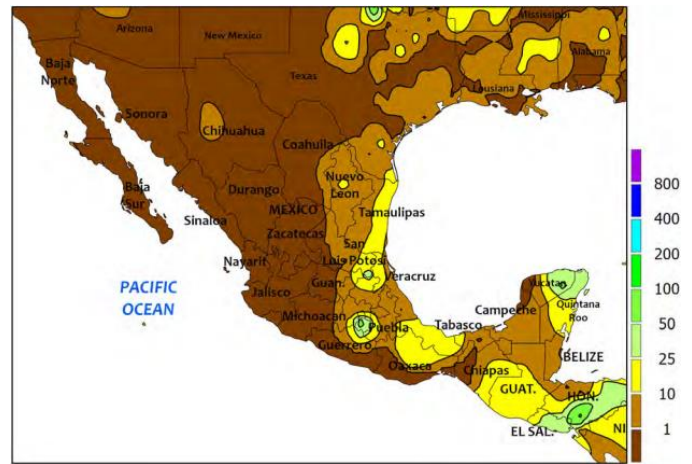
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Warm, sunny weather promoted rapid development of corn and cotton in key production areas of central Brazil. No rain fell from Mato Grosso do Sul and central Paraná northward into Bahia, including most of Goiás and neighbouring sections of Mato Grosso, with highest temperatures reaching the middle 30s (degrees C) daily. In contrast, variable showers (10-50 mm) benefited immature crops in the far northern (Maranhão and environs) and southern (Rio Grande do Sul and southern Paraná) production areas. According to the government of Paraná, over 80 percent of the second corn crop had flowered as of April 22, while harvesting of both first-crop corn (97 percent) and soybeans (99 percent) was nearing completion.

MEXICO



Previous Image - Total mm



New Image - Total mm

Scattered showers provided timely moisture for germination of rain-fed summer crops in eastern farming areas. Rain was widely scattered and light, however, with few locations recording more than 10 mm, and heavier, more widespread rain will be needed soon. This is particularly true for eastern summer crop areas on the southern plateau (Jalisco to Puebla) and along the Gulf Coast, which have entered the summer growing season in varying degrees of drought. Warm, sunny weather prevailed elsewhere, with high temperatures reaching 40°C in some of the warmer locations in the north and southeast, prompting rapid maturation of winter grains and other winter-grown crops.

Source:

Highlights provided by USDA/WAOB. This report is a shortened version of the Weekly USDA report.

Full report - <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/wwcb.pdf>

Compiled by DJF