RMD
Your Partner in Future Success
Tel: (044) 873 5930
Tel: (012) 665 5010
Reg No: 1997/013668/07
Web: www.rmd.co.za
26B Cathedral Street
George
6529
Postnet Suite 32
Private Bag x32
Highveld 0169

RMD – Shortened USDA Weekly Weather/Crop Conditions Report: 13 May 26

May 3 – 9, 2026, provided by USDA/WAOB

International Weather and Crop Summary

HIGHLIGHTS

EUROPE: Much-needed rain in northern Europe eased dryness concerns and improved winter crop prospects.

WESTERN FSU: Warmer and drier weather promoted winter crop development and allowed seasonal fieldwork to resume.

MIDDLE EAST: Additional moderate to heavy showers maintained adequate to abundant moisture supplies for reproductive to filling winter grains across the western half of the region.

NORTHWEST AFRICA: Dry conditions in Morocco contrasted with additional late-season showers in Algeria and Tunisia.

AUSTRALIA: Showers in southeastern Australia contrasted with dry weather across the rest of the continent's primary growing areas.

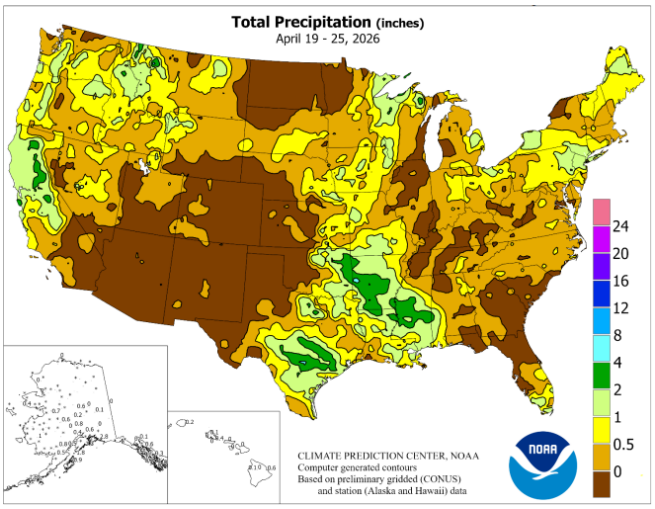
SOUTH ASIA: Moisture in the far north and far south supported key agricultural areas, while easing rains in Bangladesh allowed some floodwaters to begin receding.

EAST ASIA: Continued showers across southern China, the Korean Peninsula, and Japan benefited rice and other early season crops.

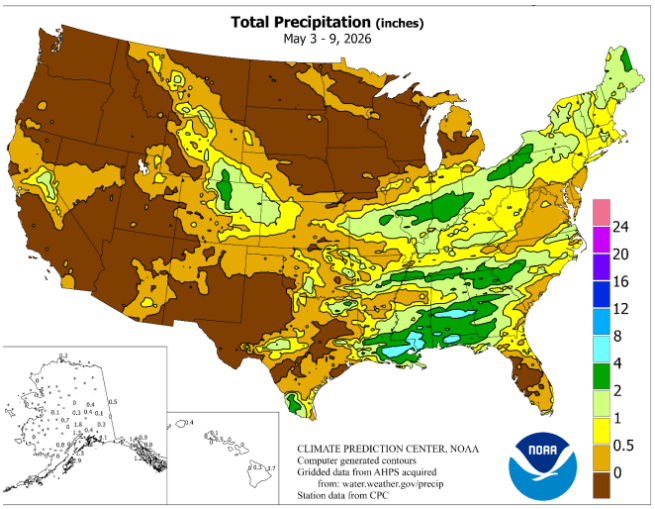
SOUTHEAST ASIA: Widespread showers aided rice planting in Malaysia and Thailand, but excessive moisture in parts of Indonesia may hinder fields that are ready for harvest.

MEXICO: Spotty showers, accompanied by early-season heat, continued to limit planting activities across the southern plateau corn belt.

USA

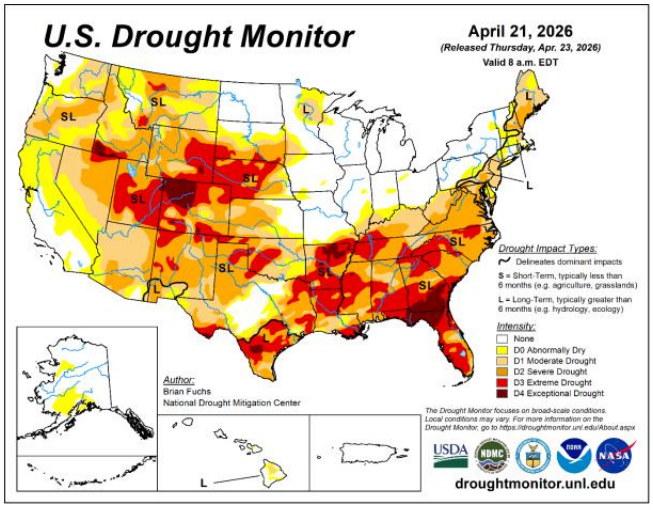


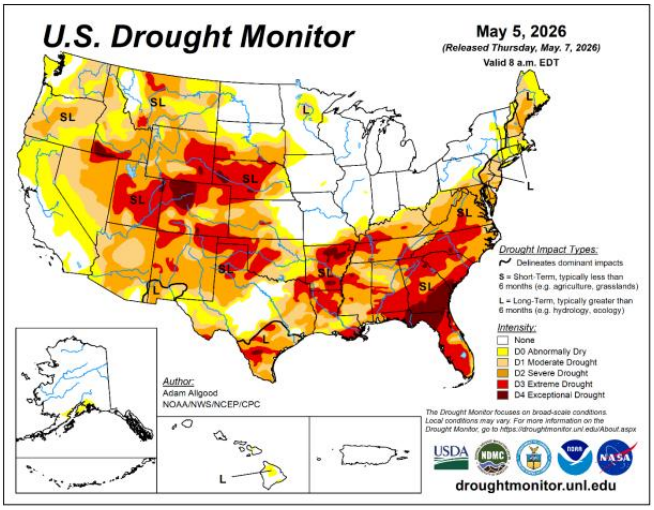
Previous Image - Total inches

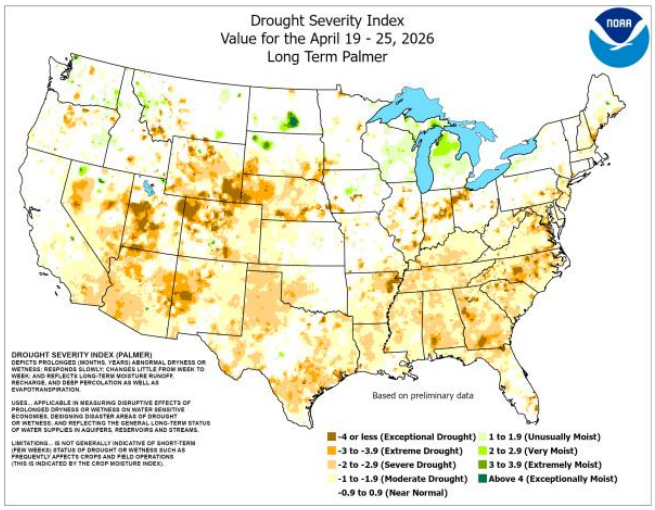


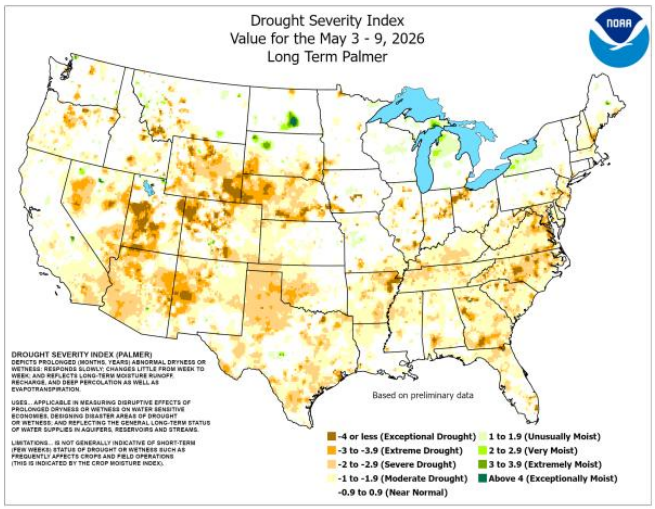
New Image - Total inches

Temperatures across much of the northern and central U.S. tended cooler than average, especially throughout the northern Plains and upper Midwest, where temperature ranged from several degrees below average to more than 10°F below normal in isolated acres. In contrast, parts of the southern Plains, Southwest, and central Rockies experienced slightly warmer-than-normal conditions. Precipitation patterns showed a strong regional divide during the week. Much of the Great Plains, northern Rockies, and West Coast remained drier than normal, contributing to expanding drought concerns in parts of the northern Plains. Meanwhile, wet conditions prevailed across the lower Mississippi Delta and parts of the Southeast, where rainfall exceeded 4 inches in some locations.









Corn: By May 10, producers had planted 57 percent of the nation's corn crop, 2 percentage points behind last year but 5 points ahead of the 5-year average. Twenty-three percent of the nation's corn acreage had emerged by May 10, three percentage points behind of last year but 4 points ahead of the 5-year average.

Soybeans: Forty-nine percent of the 2026 soybean crop had been planted by May 10, four percentage points ahead of last year and 13 points ahead of the 5-year average. By May 10, twenty percent of the nation's soybean acreage had emerged, 4 percentage points ahead of last year and 8 points ahead of the 5-year average.

Winter Wheat: Sixty-one percent of the nation's winter wheat crop was headed by May 10, ten percentage points ahead of last year and 16 points ahead of the 5-year average. On May 10, twenty-eight percent of the 2026 winter wheat crop was reported in good to excellent condition, 3 percentage points below last week and 26 points below the same time last year.

Cotton: Twenty-nine percent of the cotton acreage had been planted by May 10, two percentage points ahead of last year and 1 point ahead of the 5-year average. By May 10, California was the furthest advanced in progress, with 90 percent planted, 16 percentage points ahead of last year and 7 points ahead of the 5-year average.

Sorghum: Twenty-five percent of the nation's sorghum acreage had been planted by May 10, one percentage point behind last year but 1 point ahead of the 5-year average. Texas had planted 73 percent of its sorghum acreage by May 10, equal to last year but 1 percentage point behind the 5-year average.

Rice: Producers had seeded 84 percent of the 2026 rice acreage by May 10, five percentage points ahead of last year and 7 points ahead of the 5-year average. Sixty-nine percent of the rice acreage had emerged by May 10, six percentage points ahead of last year and 12 points ahead of average. On May 10, seventy-three percent of the rice acreage was rated in good to excellent condition, 1 percentage point below last week and 4 points below the same time last year.

Small Grains: Producers had seeded 76 percent of this year's oat crop by May 10, four percentage points behind last year but 3 points ahead of the 5-year average. Fifty percent of the oat acreage had emerged by May 10, seven percentage points behind last year and 2 points behind average.

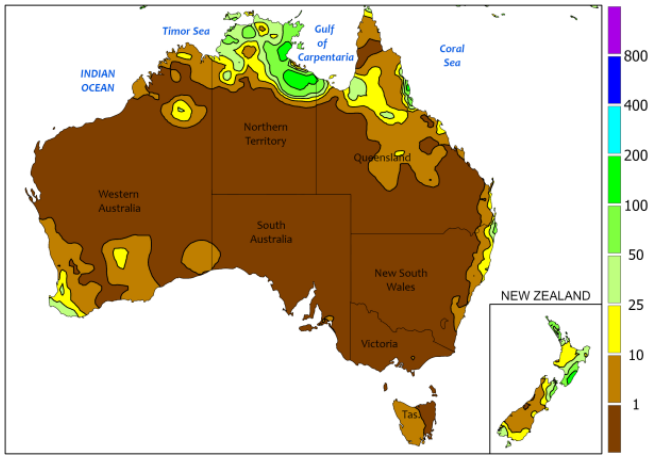
Sixty-five percent of the barley acreage had been planted by May 10, four percentage points ahead of last year and 7 points ahead of the 5-year average. Thirty-three percent of the barley had emerged by May 10, six percentage points ahead of last year and 8 points ahead of the 5-year average.

Fifty-three percent of the spring wheat had been seeded by May 10, ten percentage points behind last year but 2 points ahead of the 5-year average. Twenty-three percent of the spring wheat had emerged by May 10, two percentage points behind last year but 4 points ahead of the 5-year average.

Other Crops: Twenty-five percent of the peanut acreage had been planted by May 10, seven percentage points behind last year and 5 points behind the 5-year average. By May 10, planting had begun in seven of the eight estimating states.

Seventy-nine percent of the 2026 sugarbeet acreage had been planted by May 10, eleven percentage points behind last year but 7 points ahead of the 5-year average.

AUSTRALIA



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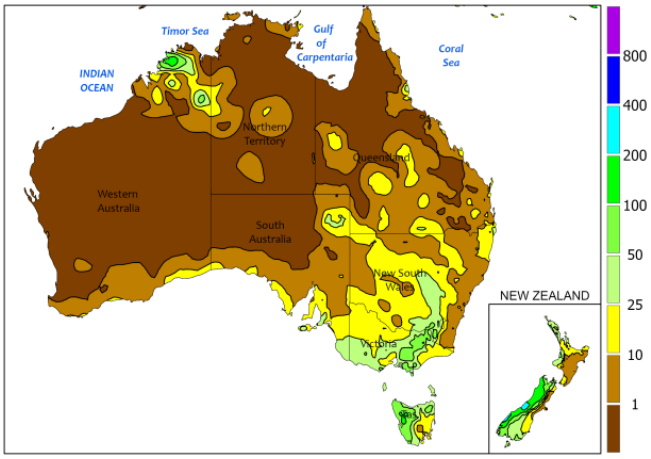
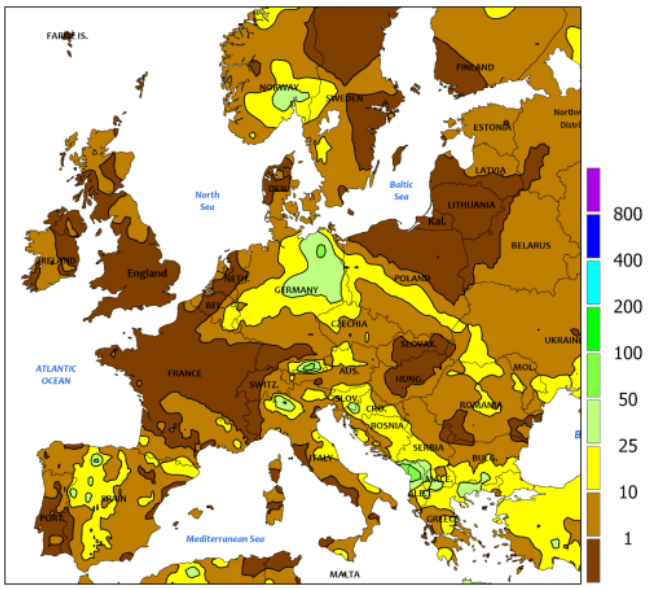


New Image - Total mm

Mostly dry but cool weather prevailed across the continent, though showers provided sorely needed soil moisture in southeastern crop areas. Sunny skies and below-normal temperatures (up to 3°C below normal) promoted early winter crop sowing, though light to moderate showers (1-25 mm) scraped the southern Eyre Peninsula and environs. In eastern Australia, much-needed showers (10-35 mm) in central New South Wales eased drought and improved soil moisture for winter crop sowing; despite the showers, the statewide reservoir storage levels for New South Wales reported

by the Australian Bureau of Meteorology stood at 47.3 percent of full as of May 11, the lowest since March 2021. Conversely, dry weather lingered in northwestern Victoria, northern and southwestern portions of New South Wales, and southern Queensland.

EUROPE



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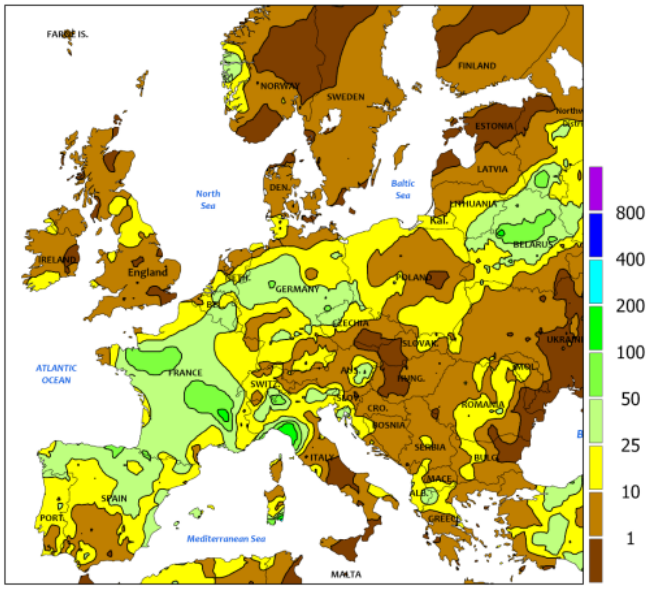
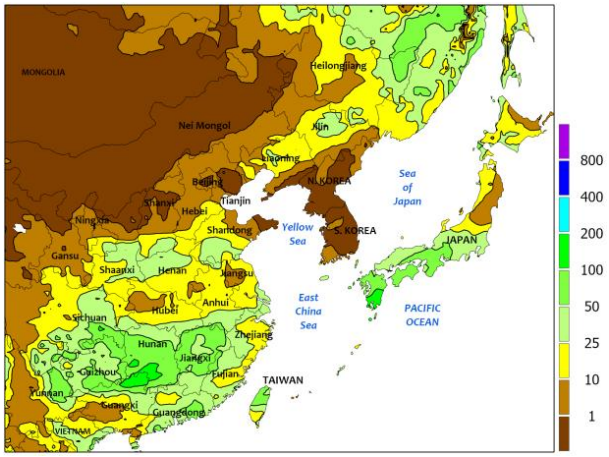


New Image - Total mm

Much-needed rain arrived in northern Europe while showers continued across southern growing areas. The blocking high which had held firm over northern Europe for the past several weeks relented and shifted eastward in early May. As a result, sorely needed rain (10-70 mm) overspread France*, Germany, Poland, and Lithuania, improving soil moisture for vegetative (northeast) to reproductive (west) winter grains and oilseeds. Widespread showers continued across southern Europe, with moderate to heavy rain in northern portions of Spain and Italy (10- 50 mm, locally more) maintaining favorable prospects for reproductive to filling winter grains. A band of light to moderate showers (5- 45 mm) from western Bulgaria into central and northern Romania kept soils favourably moist for reproductive winter wheat and rapeseed, while short-term dryness lingered over the rest of Hungary and the Balkans. Despite the northern rain, mostly dry conditions (5 mm or less) lingered in southeastern England, Denmark, and southern Scandinavia. Above-normal temperatures (2-5°C above normal) prevailed from southern Germany into central and southern Poland, while temperatures up to 3°C below normal were noted in Scandinavia and southeasternmost portions of the continent. *Surface-based weather station data from France and Hungary were either missing or suspect; radar and satellite data were used to augment the analysis.

EASTERN ASIA



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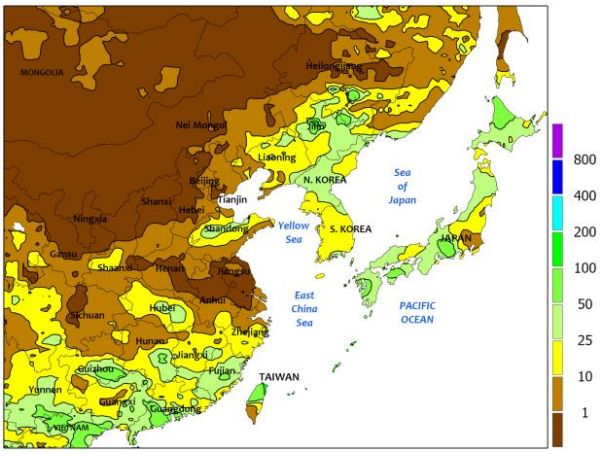

New Image - Total mm

Scattered showers persisted across southern China, benefiting rice growth and rapeseed in its reproductive stages. Rainfall totals typically ranged from 10 to 50 mm, with isolated areas receiving up to 100 mm. In contrast, most of northern and northeastern China saw little to no precipitation (less than 10 mm). Showers also continued across the Korean Peninsula and Japan, providing favorable moisture for rice and other early season crops. Across the Korean Peninsula, above normal rainfall (10-50 mm) supported paddy field preparations and maintained moist soils for early corn and other field crops. In Japan, most areas recorded 25 to 75 mm of rain, supplying ample moisture for paddy field flooding and transplanting. Daytime highs across China generally ranged from the middle 20s to lower 30s (degrees C) in most key production areas, while nighttime temperatures in the far north dropped to freezing or slightly below. Across Japan and the Korean Peninsula, daytime highs averaged in the middle 20s.

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