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RMD – Shortened USDA Weekly Weather/Crop Conditions Report: 20 May 26

May 10 – 16, 2026, provided by USDA/WAOB

International Weather and Crop Summary

HIGHLIGHTS

EUROPE: Widespread showers and thunderstorms—some severe—continued across much of Europe, maintaining or improving soil moisture for winter crops.

WESTERN FSU: The return of moderate to heavy showers renewed fieldwork delays but benefited vegetative to reproductive winter crops.

EASTERN FSU: Dry weather facilitated wheat and barley planting in the spring grain belt, while late-season showers farther south maintained good to excellent prospects for filling winter wheat.

MIDDLE EAST: Additional moderate to heavy showers in Turkey and northwestern Iran maintained adequate to abundant moisture supplies for reproductive to filling winter grains.

AUSTRALIA: Showers in southern Australia improved soil moisture for winter crop planting, while drought persisted across northern of New South Wales and southern Queensland.

SOUTH ASIA: While dry weather dominated much of the region, heavier rainfall persisted in northeastern India, Bangladesh, and the far south near Sri Lanka.

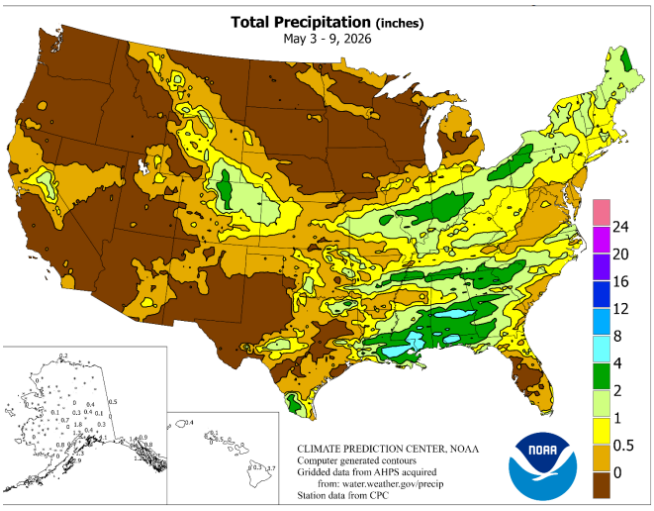
EAST ASIA: Showers across southern China supported rice and rapeseed development, while eastern and northern areas of the region saw little rain.

SOUTHEAST ASIA: The onset of the Southwest Monsoon in the latter half of the week delivered widespread, abundant rainfall, boosting soil moisture and supporting early-season crop growth across the region.

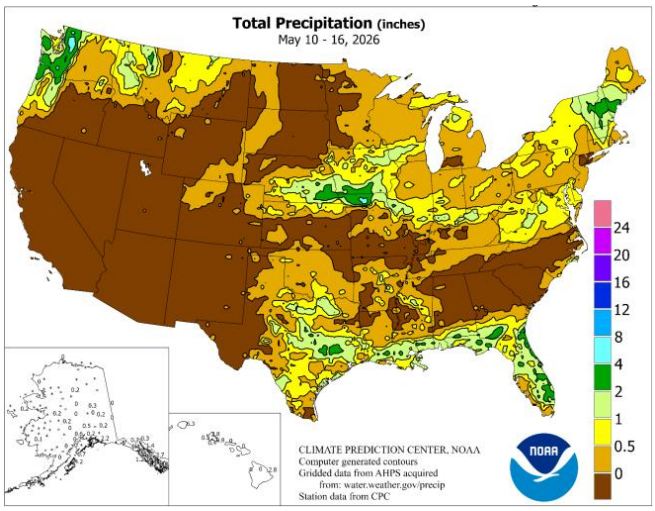
MEXICO: Seasonally expanding showers, heaviest in the east, promoted planting activities on the southern plateau corn belt. CANADIAN PRAIRIES: A powerful spring storm temporarily halted fieldwork, including small grain planting, due to high winds, blowing dust, and occasional rain.

SOUTHEASTERN CANADA: Cool, damp conditions limited early-season fieldwork.

USA

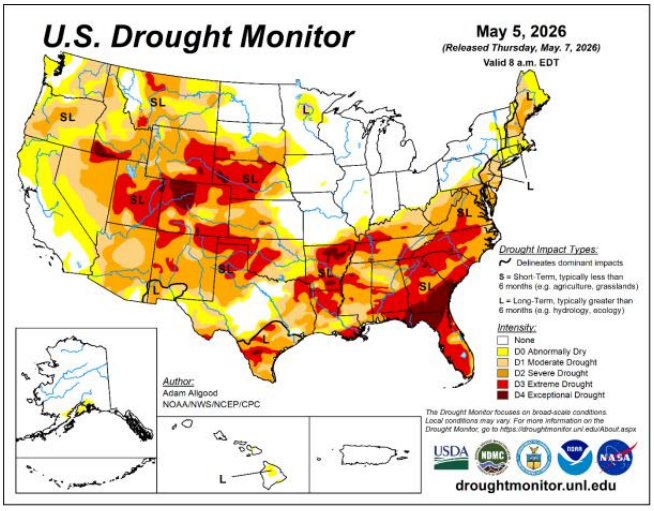


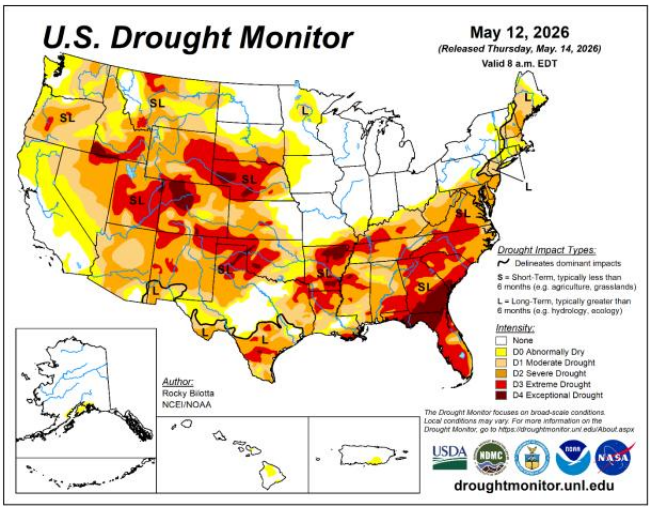
Previous Image - Total inches

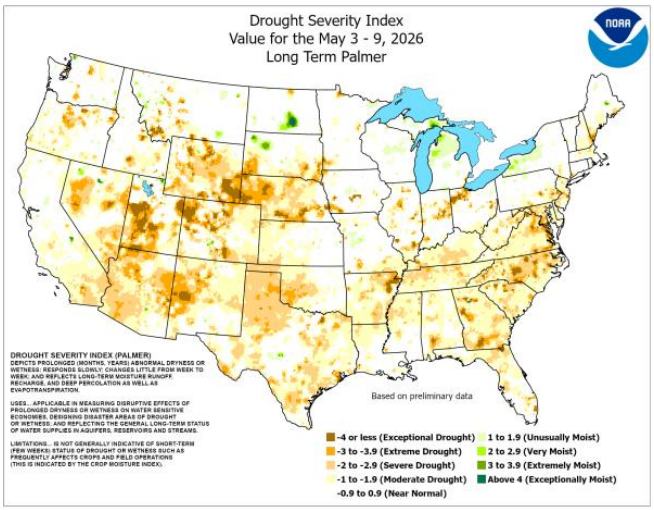


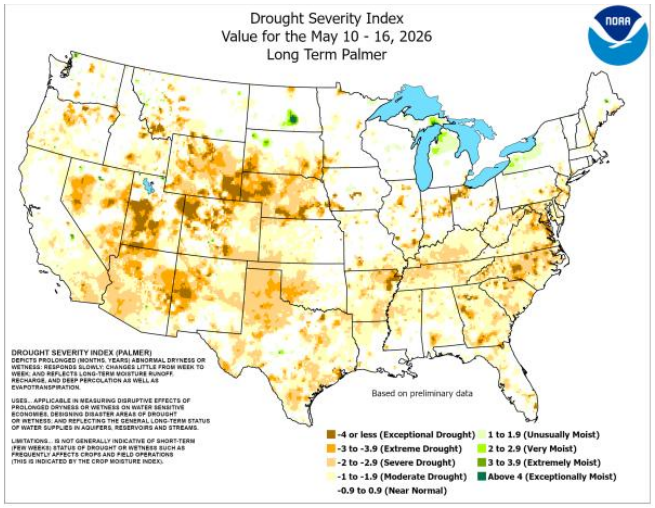
New Image - Total inches

Weather conditions varied widely across major U.S. agricultural regions. Temperatures were near to above normal across much of the central and western U.S., with portions of the central Rocky Mountains and central Great Plains recording anomalies of 6 to 10°F above normal. In contrast, below-normal temperatures were observed across much of the eastern U.S., where parts of the Ohio Valley and Atlantic Coast States experienced anomalies of 4 to 10°F below normal. Meanwhile, localized areas in the Pacific Northwest, Southeast, and Northeast recorded above-normal rainfall, while much of the U.S. saw near- to below-normal precipitation.









Corn: By May 17, producers had planted 76 percent of the nation's corn crop, equal to last year but 6 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Thirty-nine percent of the corn acreage had emerged by May 17, eight percentage points behind last year but 2 points ahead of the 5-year average.

Soybeans: Sixty-seven percent of the 2026 soybean crop had been planted by May 17, four percentage points ahead of last year and 14 points ahead of the 5-year average. By May 17, thirty-two percent of the soybean acreage had emerged, equal to last year but 9 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average.

Winter Wheat: Seventy-one percent of the nation's winter wheat crop was headed by May 17, nine percentage points ahead of last year and 13 points ahead of the 5-year average. On May 17, twenty-seven percent of the 2026 wheat crop was reported in good to excellent condition, 1 percentage point below last week and 25 points below the same time last year.

Cotton: Forty-one percent of the cotton acreage had been planted by May 17, three percentage points ahead of last year and 1 point ahead of the 5-year average. By May 17, Arizona and California had planted 90 and 95 percent of their 2026 intended cotton acreage, respectively.

Sorghum: Thirty percent of the nation's sorghum acreage had been planted by May 17, two percentage points behind last year but equal to the 5-year average. Texas had planted 77 percent of its sorghum acreage by May 17, equal to last year but 1 percentage point ahead of the 5-year average.

Rice: Producers had seeded 88 percent of the 2026 rice acreage by May 17, two percentage points ahead of last year and 1 point ahead of the 5-year average. Seventy-four percent of the nation's rice acreage had emerged by May 17, two percentage points ahead of last year and 7 points ahead of the 5-year average. On May 17, seventy-four percent of the nation's rice acreage was rated in good to excellent condition, 1 percentage point above last week but 5 points below the same time last year.

Small Grains: Producers had seeded 87 percent of this year's oat crop by May 17, three percentage points behind last year but 5 points ahead of the 5-year average. Sixty-two percent of the nation's oat acreage had emerged by May 17, seven percentage points behind last year and 1 point behind the 5-year average. Forty-six percent of the oat acreage was rated in good to excellent condition, 4 percentage points below the same time last year.

Eighty-one percent of the nation's barley had been planted by May 17, eight percentage points ahead of last year and 10 points ahead of the 5-year average. Forty-nine percent of the barley had emerged by May 17, six percentage points ahead of last year and 10 points ahead of the 5-year average.

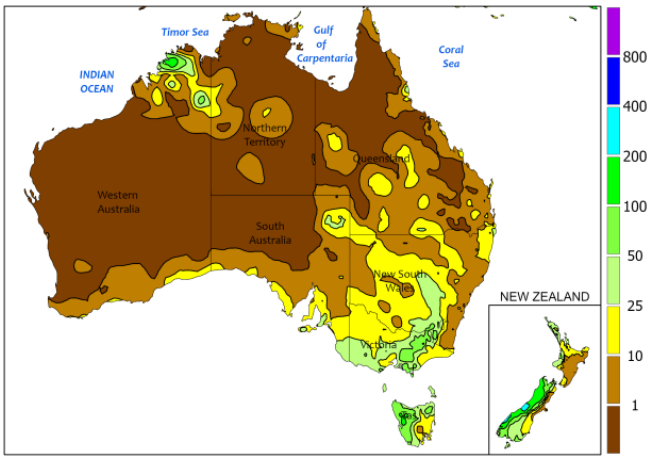
Seventy-three percent of the spring wheat had been seeded by May 17, seven percentage points behind last year but 7 points ahead of the 5-year average. Thirty-nine percent of the spring wheat had emerged by May 17, three percentage points behind last year but 5 points ahead of average.

Other Crops: Forty-one percent of the peanut acreage had been planted by May 17, eight percentage points behind last year and 7 points behind the 5-year average. By May 17, planting had begun in seven of the eight estimating states.

Ninety-eight percent of the 2026 sugarbeet acreage had been planted by May 17, one percentage point behind last year but 14 points ahead of the 5-year average.

By May 17, producers had planted 6 percent of this year's sunflower crop, 6 percentage points behind last year but equal to the 5-year average. Kansas and North Dakota reported planting progress of 10 and 11 percent, respectively, by May 17.

AUSTRALIA



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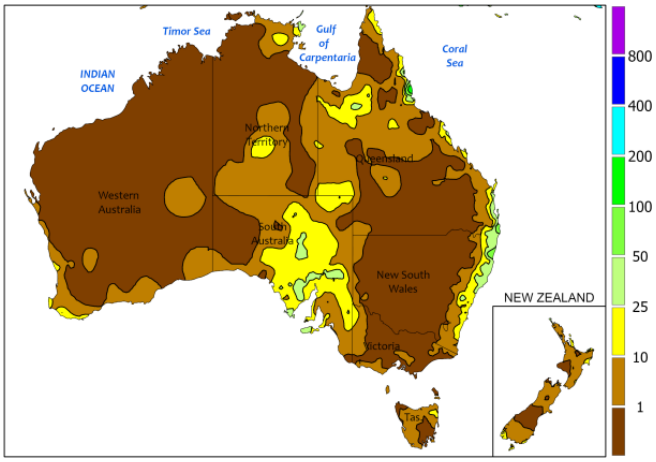
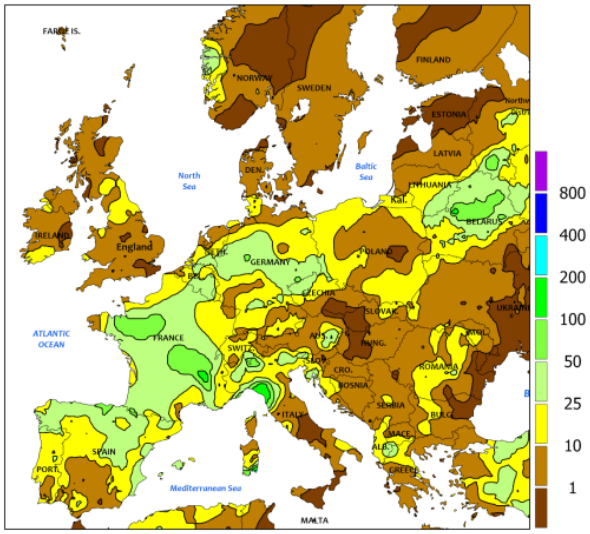


New Image - Total mm

Showers in southern Australia contrasted with dry weather in southwestern and eastern growing areas. Mostly sunny skies in Western Australia favored winter crop planting, though dryness and shortterm drought have intensified in the state's northern crop districts. Conversely, moderate to heavy showers (10-45 mm) eased short-term dryness and moistened soils for winter crop planting

from the Eyre Peninsula into western portions of Victoria and New South Wales. Farther east, dry and very warm weather (2-4°C above normal) exacerbated drought but favored a rapid pace of fieldwork in northern New South Wales and southern Queensland. However, much-needed showers arrived in these very dry eastern croplands at the end of the monitoring period, though consistent and widespread rains will be needed to fully eradicate the drought and recharge reservoirs.

EUROPE



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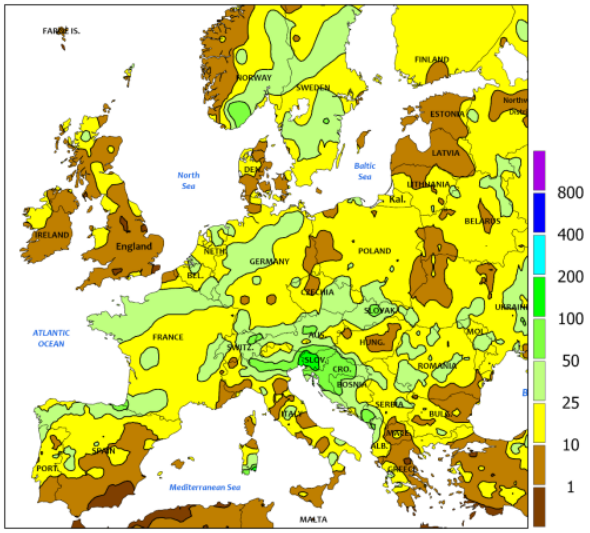
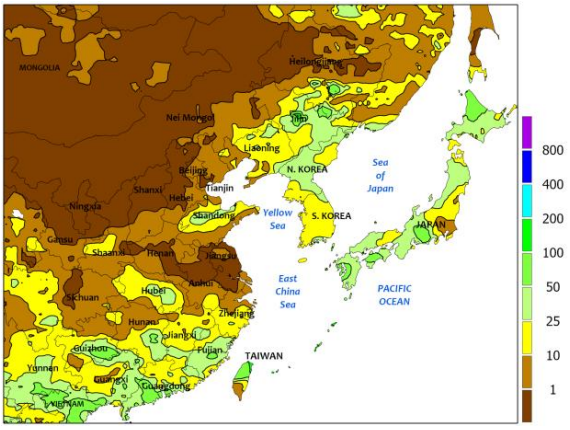


New Image - Total mm

Unsettled albeit chilly weather persisted across much of the continent. A series of disturbances trekked east and south-eastward across Europe, producing widespread moderate to heavy showers and thunderstorms (10 -75 mm, locally m o re) across nearly all major growing areas. Furthermore, a swath of heavy to excessive rainfall (100- 300 mm) caused localized flooding from northeastern Italy into Croatia. The rain further eased lingering dryness concerns across northern Europe and maintained adequate to abundant soil moisture for winter grains and oilseed s in southern portion s of the continent. Some of the storms were severe, with numerous reports of hail, damaging winds, and tornadoes across northern Italy and pockets of large hail in the southern Balkans. Despite the widespread showers, locally dry conditions lingered in southern Spain (Andalucía), though above - normal precipitation was still apparent in this region over the past 6 months. Temperatures averaged 2 to 4°C below normal nearly everywhere save for near- normal readings in Greece and the lower Balkans. Winter crops were entering or progressing through reproduction in western and southern Europe but still in the latter vegetative stages of development in northeastern growing areas. *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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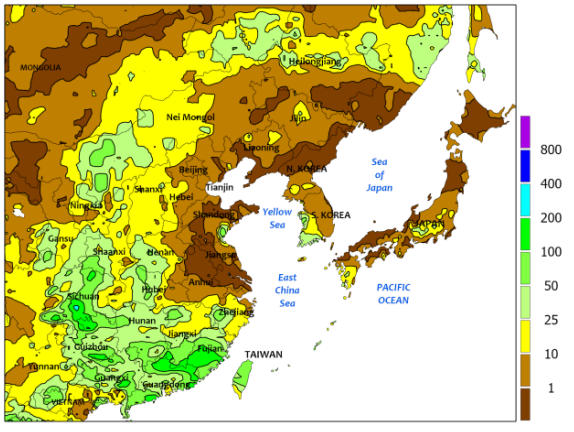
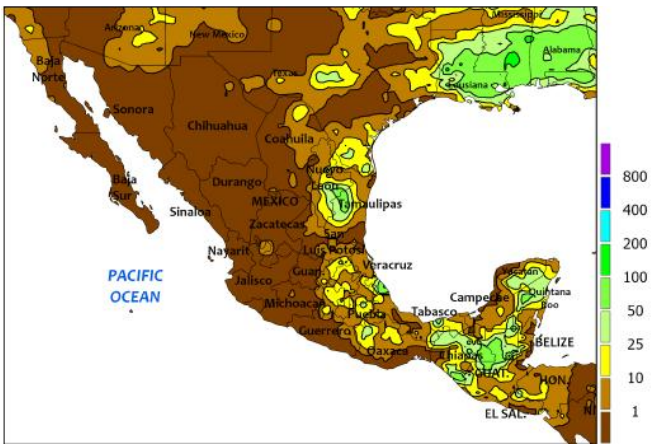


New Image - Total mm

High pressure moving from central China over the Yellow and East China Seas shifted eastward through the week, bringing drier weather to eastern and northern China as well as much of the Korean Peninsula and Japan. In contrast, southern and central China saw showers totalling 10 to 100 mm, with some localized amounts exceeding 100 mm. This rainfall was particularly beneficial for rice and rapeseed growth in the Yangtze Valley. Temperatures across the region ranged from near to as much as 6°C above normal, with daytime highs generally in the upper 20s to middle 30s (degrees C), and in Japan and the Korean Peninsula from the middle 20s to lower 30s.

MEXICO



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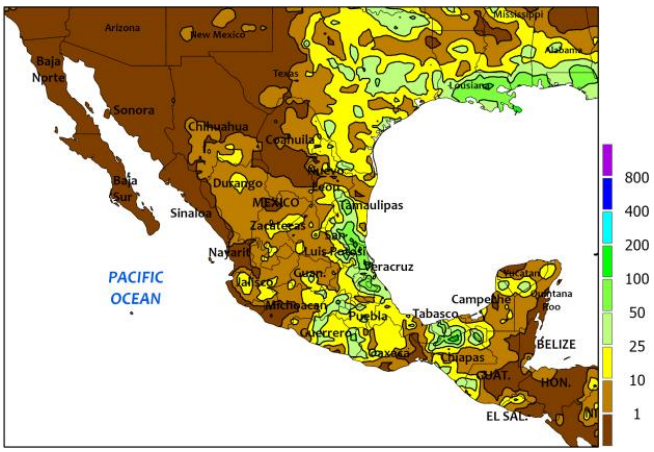

New Image - Total mm

Seasonal showers began to spread westward and northward across Mexico, although the heaviest rain (locally 10 to 50 mm or more) was focused across eastern sections of the southern plateau corn belt. Still, the general increase in rainfall coverage and intensity promoted summer crop planting. Additionally, slightly cooler weather developed across the southern plateau, with temperatures remaining near normal in eastern areas and averaging mostly 1 to 3°C above normal farther west. Meanwhile, extreme heat (temperatures averaging as much as 3 to 5°C above normal and peaking in some areas above 40°C) shifted into northwestern Mexico, hastening winter wheat maturation and boosting irrigation demands for any recently planted summer crops, including cotton

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