

Climate Impact Company Early AG Wire

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Monday April 2, 2018

Today's Highlight: U.S. Wheat Cold but Europe Wheat Warmer

Early Season Cold limits U.S. spring planting: The southwest Great Plains wheat growing areas encounter 2 cold waves the next 10 days. Each are brief with the bulk of steady cold staying to the north of this crop area. A cold start to the week with temperatures 10-20F below normal this morning but the cold fades later today. Briefly quite warm ahead of the next cold shot arriving tomorrow. Into midweek is cold with the core of the cold affecting north and east wheat zones (*Fig. 1*). Another brief warm surge Thursday ahead of the strongest cold arriving Friday when temperatures are >20F below normal in the wheat region (*Fig. 2*). The late week cold rolls into the far southern states next weekend (*Fig. 3*) not retreating until early next week. More cold is expected into the west/southwest Great Plains mid-next week although not as strong as this week. The 32F line dips to central Oklahoma on Wednesday and Saturday morning

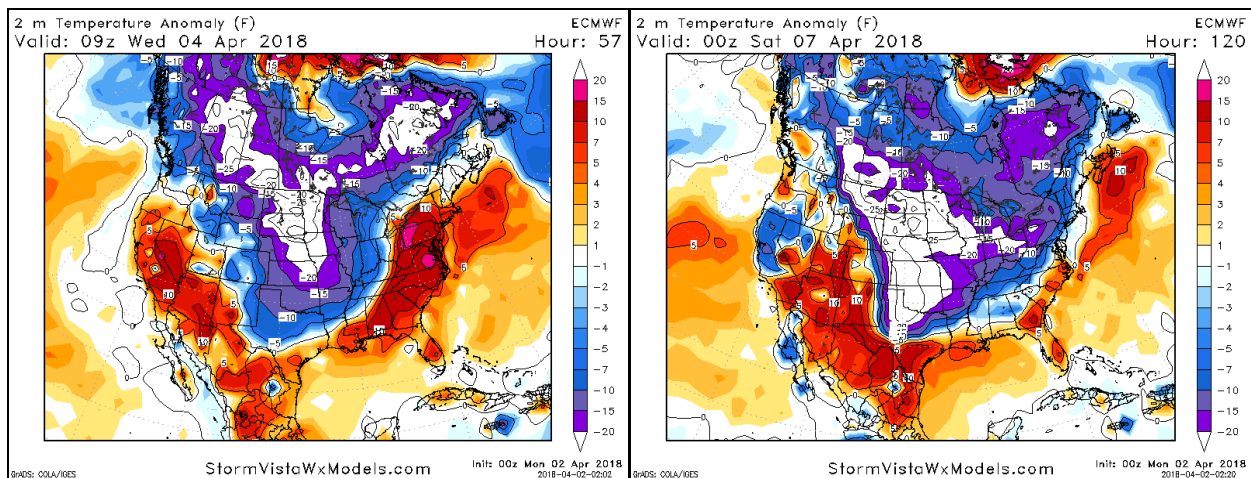


Fig. 1-2: The ECMWF OP depiction of temperature departure from normal midweek and late week.

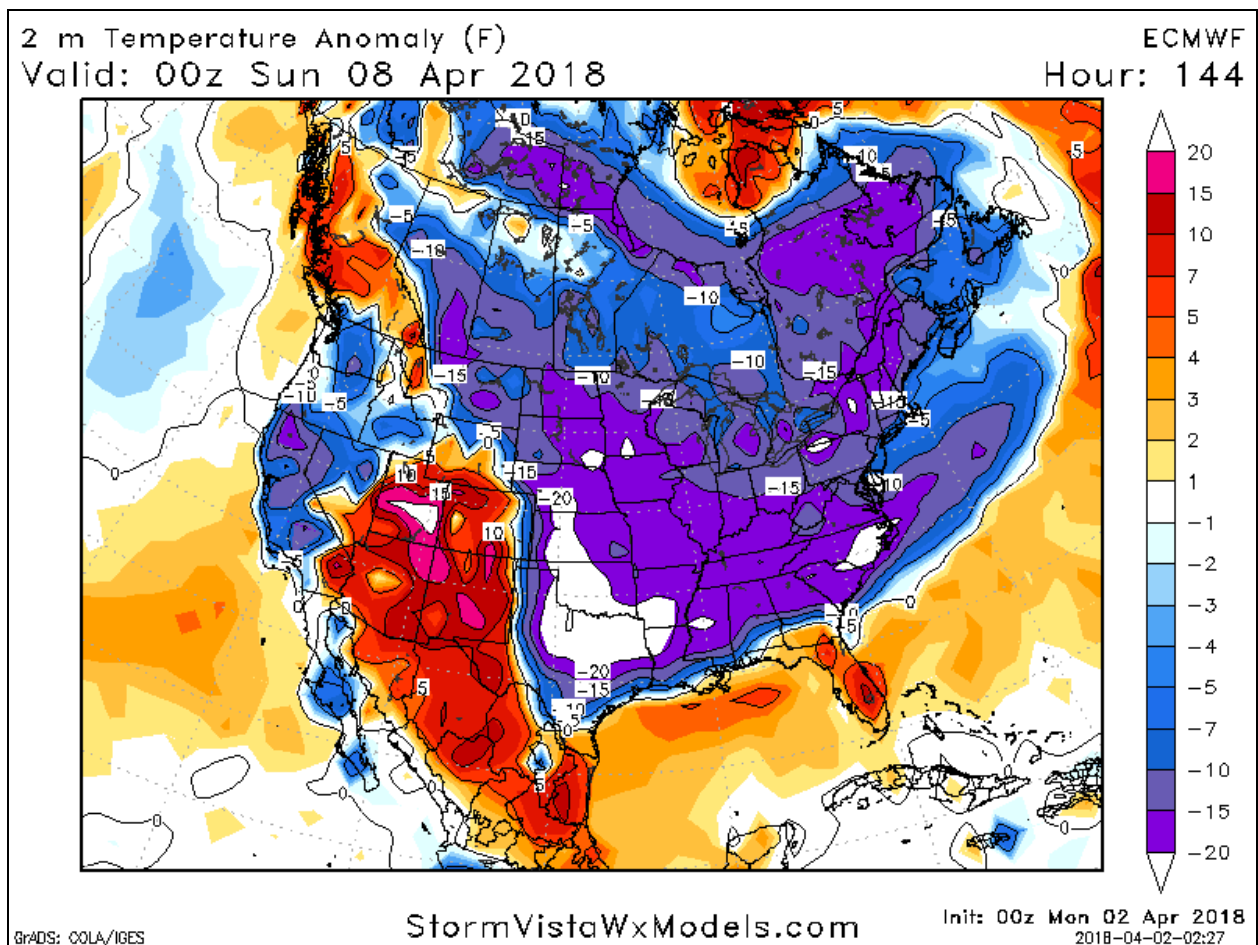


Fig. 3: Depiction of anomalous cold next Saturday evening in the southern U.S. when actual temperatures are in the 40's (some 30's) at sunset.

U.S. precipitation: Last week's forecasts were indicating heavy rains in the Mid-South/East-Central U.S. However, over-the-weekend the heavy precipitation forecasts eased. Most of the heavy precipitation the next 15 days is across the Ohio/Tennessee Valley and less extreme than previously indicated according to the GFS ensemble (*Fig. 4*). The bulk of the wheat growing areas are dry during this period. The northern Plains are wetter than normal with more snow likely given how cold the forecast remains. The Midwest also tends to be wetter than normal.

The less potent wet forecast is due to a faster shift of the Madden Julian oscillation eastward (*Fig. 5*) from the East Pacific to the Atlantic tropics (and east from there).

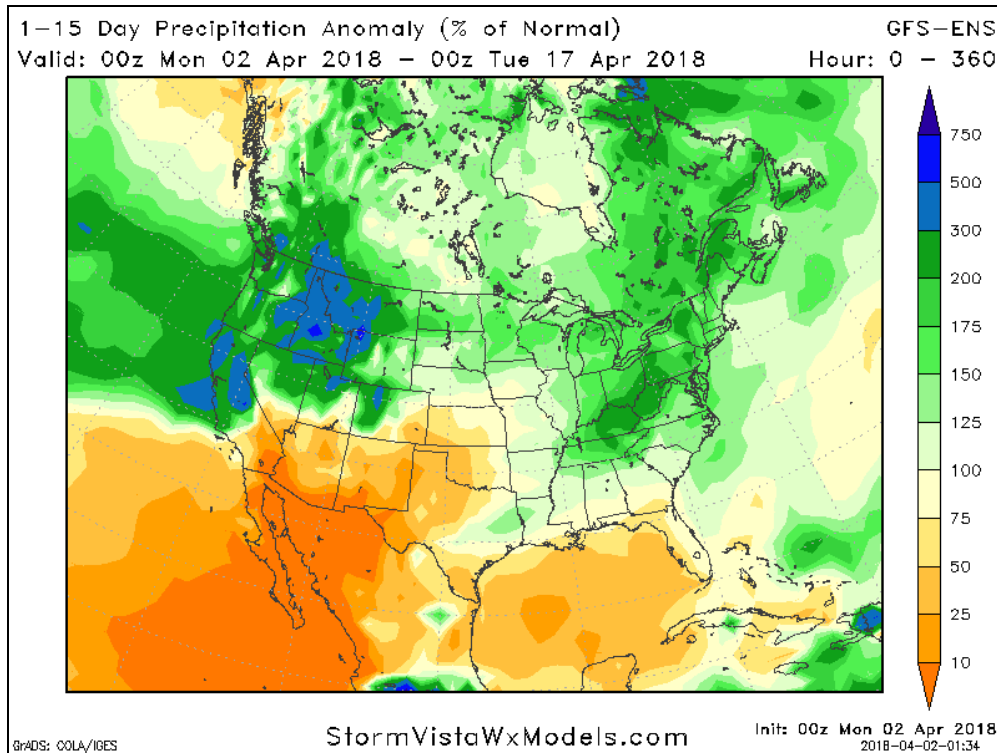


Fig. 4: The GFS ENS 15-day percent of normal precipitation forecast is still wet OH/TN Valley(s) but less extreme than forecast last week.

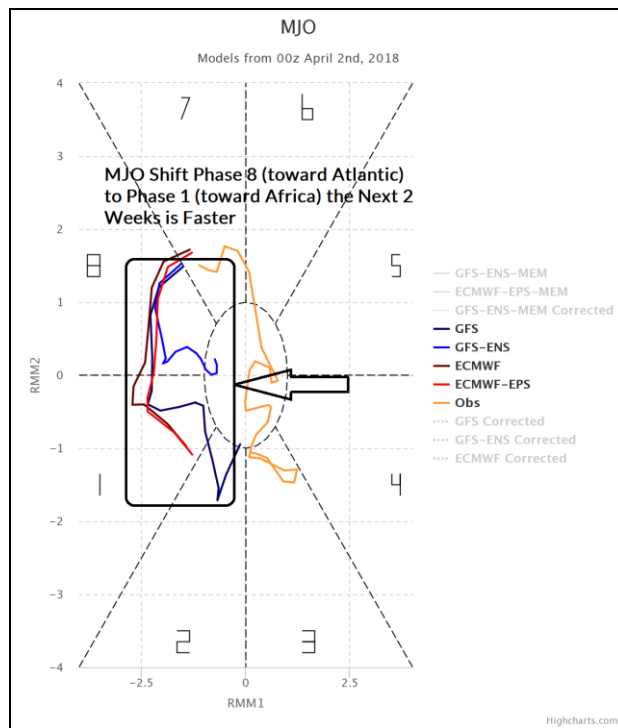


Fig. 5: The MJO forecast is steadily progressive through the Atlantic tropics in the 8-14 day period less supportive of U.S. storminess.

Europe planting shifts toward ideal weather: A nice warm-up is forecast across southeast/east Europe toward Ukraine and the Black Sea region for the next 7-10 days. After short-term rains depart Ukraine by early tomorrow a wedge of anomalous warmth sprawls across east/southeast Europe with temperatures 8-18F above normal tomorrow (*Fig. 6*). The warm pulses continue through next weekend peaking next Sunday (*Fig. 7*). There may be some cooler air returning to east/southeast Europe late in the 6-10 day period. The pattern is generally dry with 2 or 3 days of showers (not heavy) over the next 10 days. Climate Impact Co. will issue a new extended-range forecast later today.

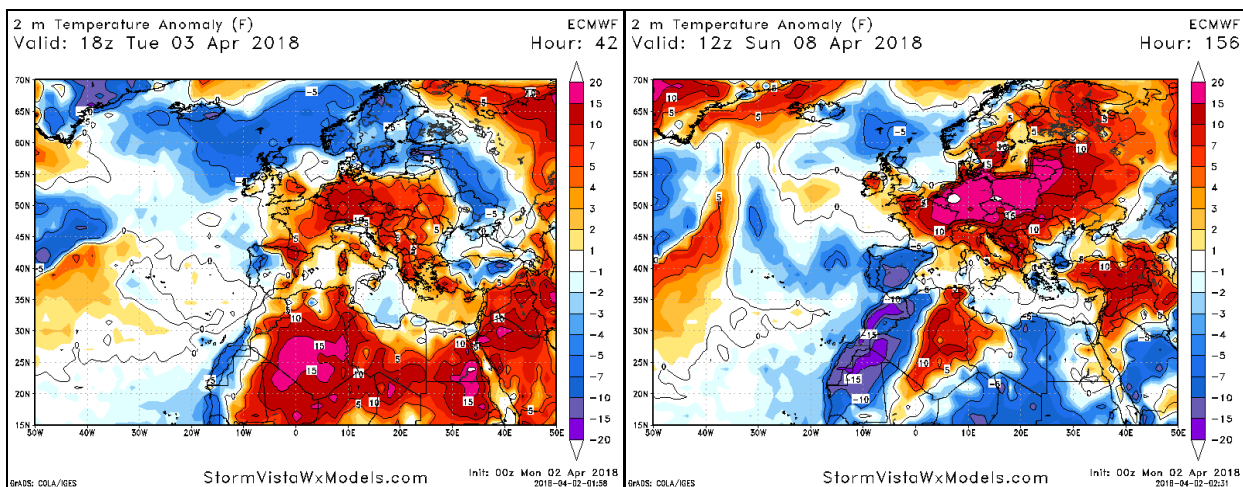


Fig. 6-7: Tomorrow's warmup in southeast Europe and peak warming Sunday based on the ECMWF OP temperature anomaly forecast.

Argentina: The more progressive MJO causes extremes in Argentina. The ECM OP indicates heavy rains in the 6-10 day period (*Fig. 8*) along a slow moving cold front affecting most of wheat and soybean areas. However, once the MJO pushes east of South America longitude a very dry pattern may return in the 11-15 day period as indicated by the GFS OP (*Fig. 9*).

Last week across Argentina observed widespread dry conditions (*Fig. 10*).

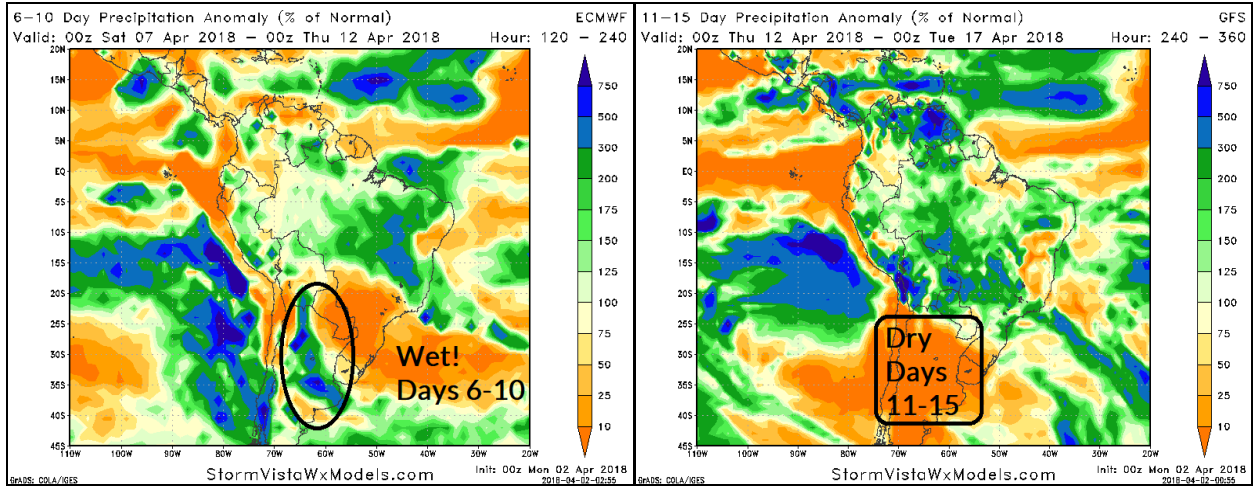


Fig. 8-9: A very wet period is forecast by the ECMWF in the 6-10 day period followed by a drier climate days 11-15 as indicated by the GFS OP.

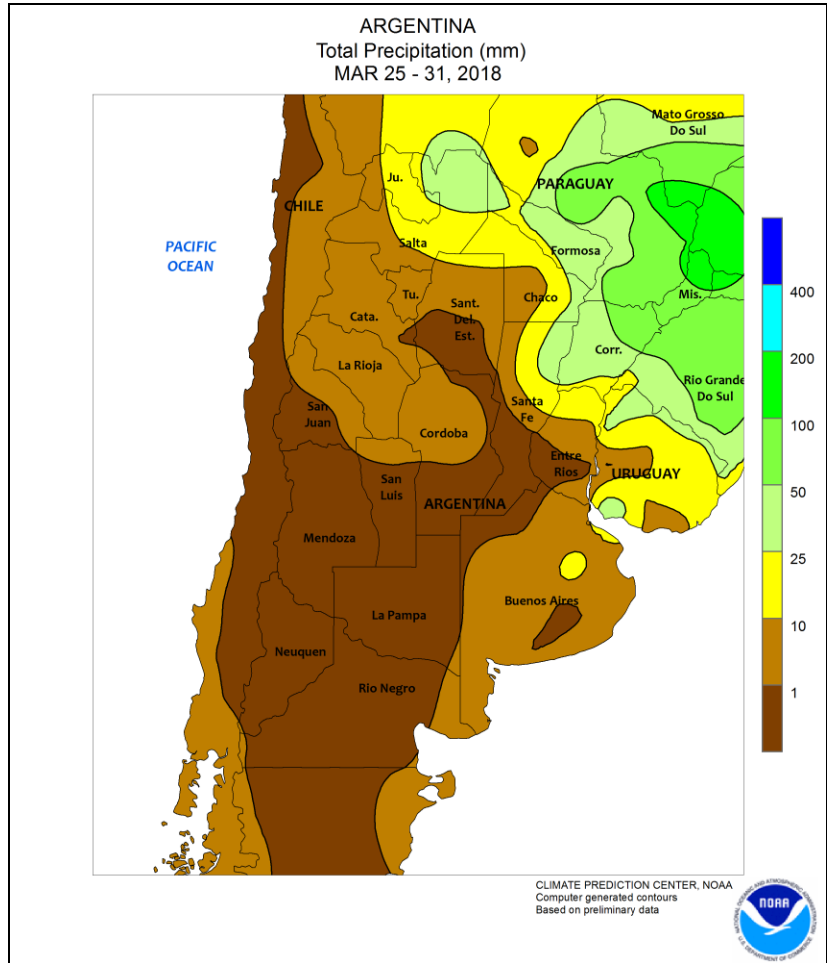


Fig. 10: A dry last week of March across Argentina.