

UKRAINE CORN SOWING IS DELAYED. HOW MANY RISKS DOES THIS ADD?

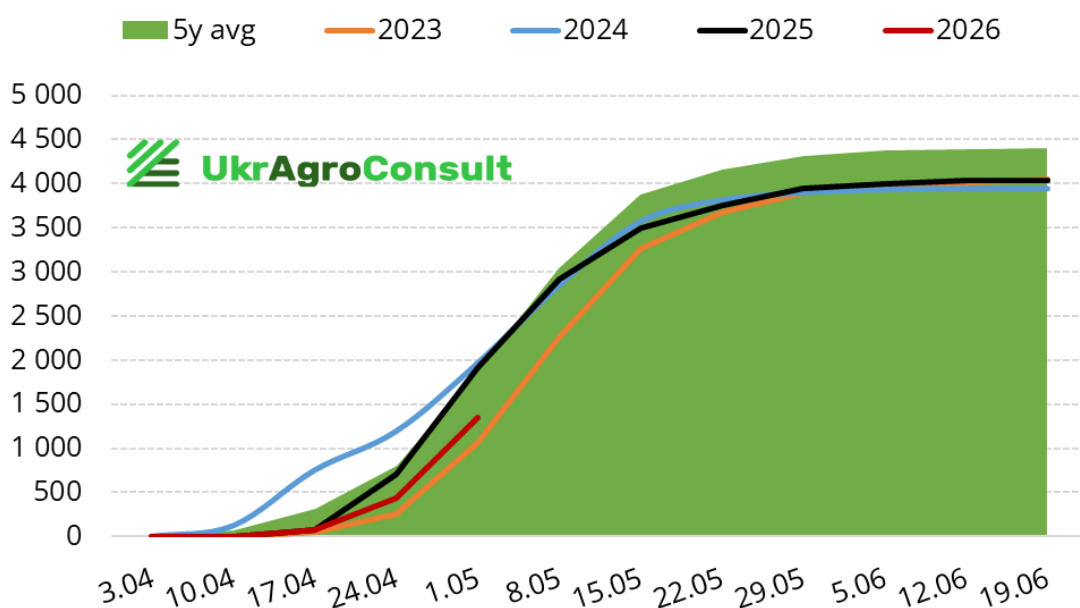
- **Corn planting lags behind both last year's pace and multi-year averages**
- **Upcoming rainfall may ease local moisture deficit, but it will further delay planting**

Ukraine's corn sowing is clearly behind schedule. As of May 5, farmers planted 1.35 M ha, or around 30% of planned area. Progress accelerated sharply over the last week, adding about 20%, but the gap vs. both last year and the multi-year average remains significant.

Late sowing alone does not automatically mean lower yield. The 2023 season is the best reminder. Sowing was even slower, but Ukraine corn yield of 7.83 mt/ha was record that year. The real driver will be not the sowing date itself, but weather during vegetation, soil moisture, input availability and crop protection.

Sowing is late as spring started cold, with night temperatures falling close to 0°C. At the same time, soils were over-wet after heavy late-winter snow cover. Farmers waited for more stable temperatures and better field conditions.

Corn sowing progress, K ha



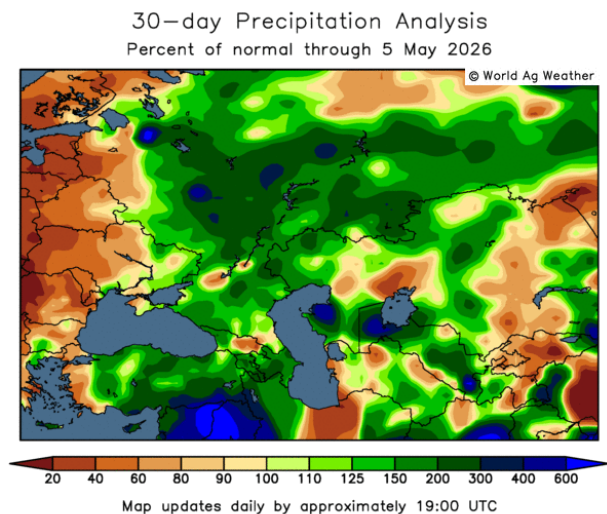
Source: UkrAgroConsult basing on Ukrainian Statics Service

Now the situation is uneven across Ukraine. The highest concern is in central and partly northern regions, where three risks overlap:

- large planned corn area;
- slow sowing progress;
- weak moisture in the topsoil layer.

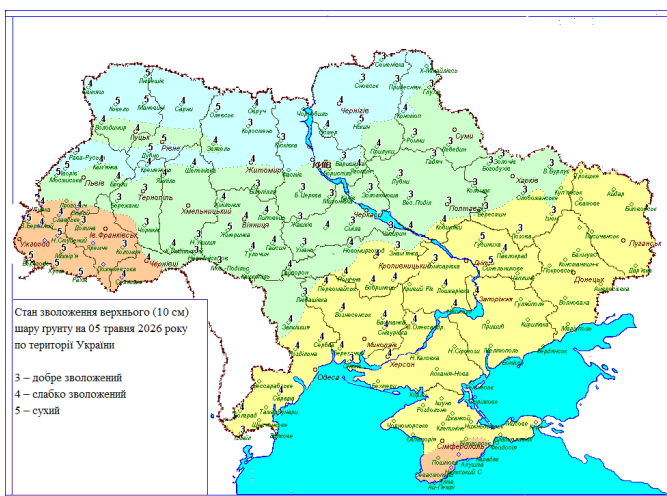
UkrAgroConsult will monitor corn conditions in these regions.

Precipitation over the last 30 days, % of normal



Source: WorldAgWeather

Moisture content of the topsoil

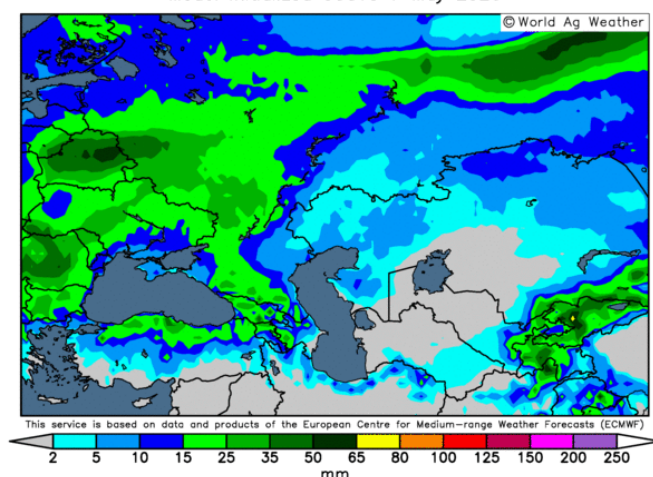


Source: Ukrhydrometeorological Centre

Rain can help, but also delay fieldwork, extending the sowing. The forecast for May 8-15 is more favorable. Rains are expected across the west, north, much of the centre and parts of the east. For corn, this is important. Moisture is needed from the start for seed germination, uniform emergence and early root development. In central Ukraine, rainfall may arrive just in time and reduce the risk of poor crop establishment.

Precipitation forecast in Ukraine, May 8-15

ECMWF Precipitation Forecast: Ensemble Median
 Days 1-7: 00UTC 8 May 2026 – 00UTC 15 May 2026
 Model Initialized 00UTC 7 May 2026



Source: WorldAgWeather

Production forecast remains unchanged. UkrAgroConsult keeps its early May forecast for Ukraine's 2026/27 corn crop unchanged at 31.5 M mt.

This is a cautiously positive scenario. It is based on the fact that Ukraine entered spring with good deep soil moisture. Historical data show that late sowing can still produce strong yields if summer weather is favorable.

But this forecast is not protected from revision. If the next few weeks (next 30-.45 days) bring high temperatures without enough rain, the baseline yield may need to be reduced.

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