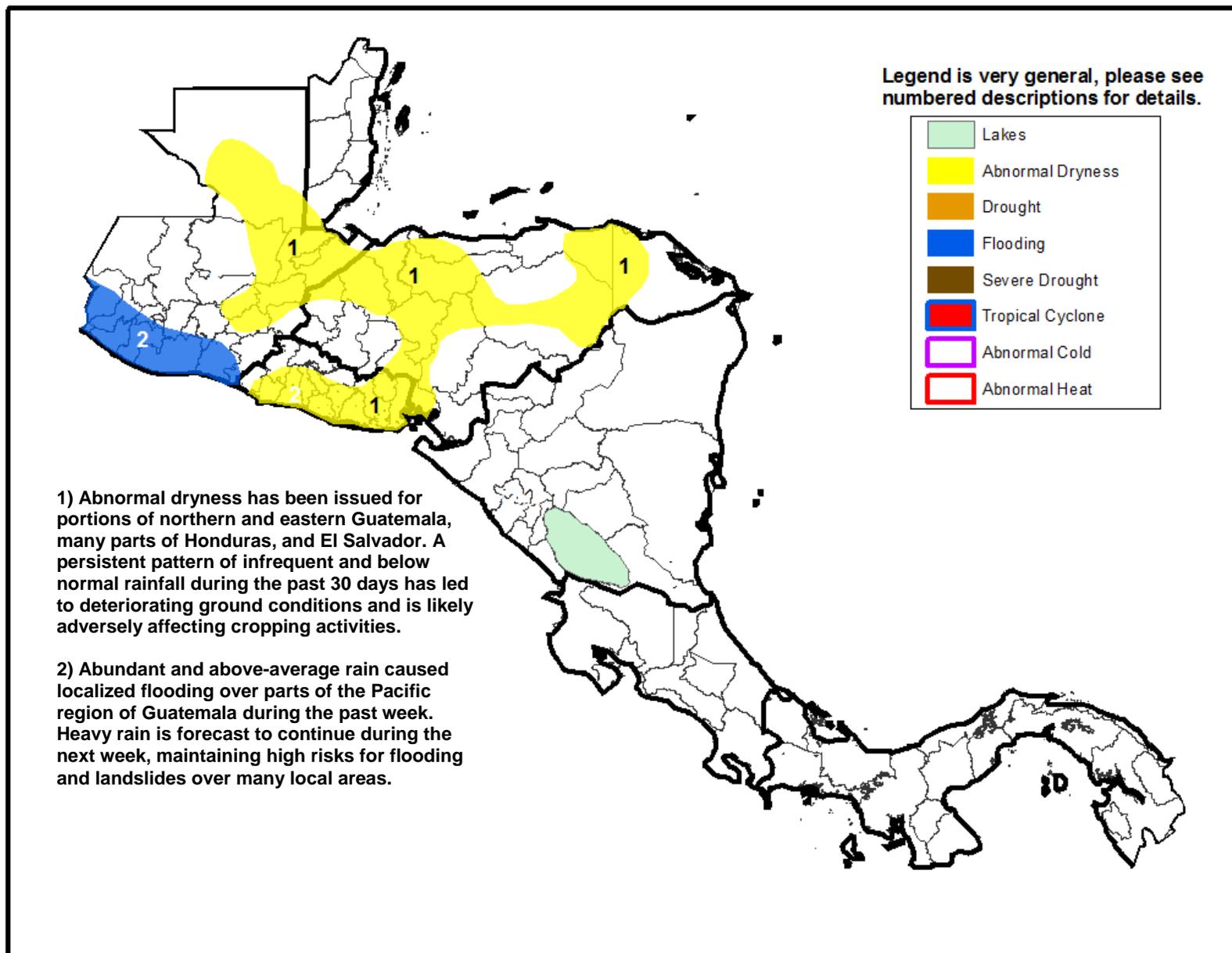




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook June 9 – June 15, 2016

- Heavy rain forecast over northern Central America during the next week.



The first growing season expected to begin during the next week.

Insufficient and infrequent rainfall has been observed over Central America since the beginning of April. The lack of rain has affected the northern portions of the region, including the Jalapa, Zacapa, El Progreso, Chiquimula, Izabal, and Petén departments of eastern and northern Guatemala, western and northern Honduras, and El Salvador. Across these regions, accumulated rain over the past two months has accounted less than 50 percent of the average, indicating large moisture deficits that have already negatively impacted cropping activities. During the past week, an increase in rainfall was observed mostly over southern Central America, where downpours were recorded. Heavy rain also caused localized flooding in southern Guatemala. In contrast, light and below-average rain continued over the northern portions as Guatemala, western El Salvador, and Honduras. This has further increased thirty-day rainfall deficits over the dry portions of the region. If the May-August rainfall season does not start over the upcoming weeks, it may adversely impact crops again after drought-stricken, below-average yields during the previous years.

During the next week, rainfall forecasts indicate a significant increase in rainfall across Central America. This may announce the onset of the first growing season. Abundant rain is expected over Guatemala, El Salvador, western Honduras, and the Southern Caribbean. Moderate to heavy and average to below-average rain is expected, however, throughout the central parts and Atlantic Basin of Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama. The forecast uptake in rain should help alleviate dryness over many areas, but it also may trigger localized flooding over some areas.

