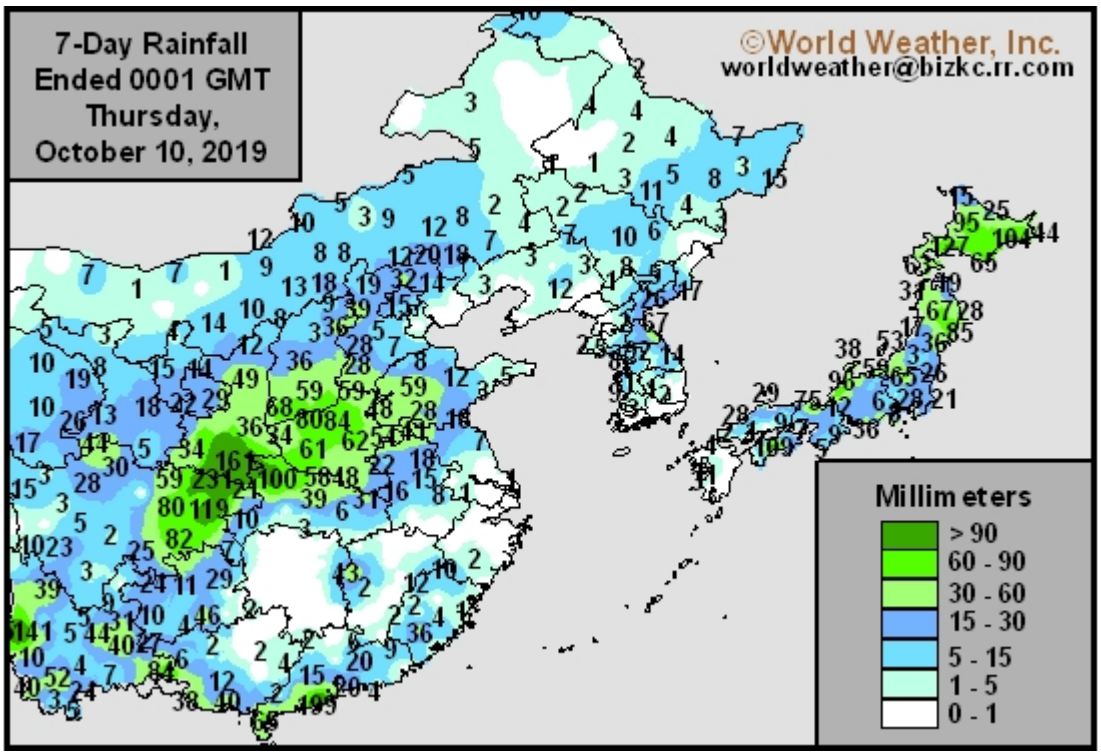
East-Central China Will Remain Drier Biased 10 More Days

By Andrew Owen and Drew Lerner

Kansas City, October 10 (World Weather Inc.) – ***East-central China and much of the middle and lower Yangtze River Basin remained dry or critically dry during the past week. Very little rain has fallen in recent weeks and the precipitation that did occur was generally lost to evaporation without benefiting crops. The environment has been favorable for aggressive summer crop maturation and harvesting, but winter wheat and rapeseed production areas need moisture to support planting, emergence and establishment. These areas will remain drier biased into October 21.*** A full blown drought is under way in the Yangtze River Basin where no relief is expected in this coming week, but conditions will improve after mid-month. Some of the Yangtze River Basin dryness has been expanding into rice and sugarcane production areas stressing some crops. In the meantime, portions of the Yellow River Basin reported some much-needed rain recently easing dryness and bolstering soil moisture for improved winter crop planting and establishment.

Rainfall during the past week was variable across China. Eastern Sichuan, Shaanxi, southern Shanxi, northern Hubei and Henan were wettest with rainfall from 1.50 to 4.69 inches and local amounts up to 9.09 inches in eastern Sichuan and southern Shaanxi. Other portions of the North China Plain and northern Shanxi received 0.20 to 2.32 inches of rain. Northern Hebei and central Inner Mongolia received 0.30 to 1.26 inches of rain. Northeast China, in the meantime, received a trace to 0.43 inch of moisture. Yunnan, Guizhou, and the remaining portions of Sichuan reported 0.40 to 2.05 inches of rain while portions of Guangxi, Guangdong, Fujian, and Jiangxi received up to 0.79 inch with local amounts to 1.69 inches.



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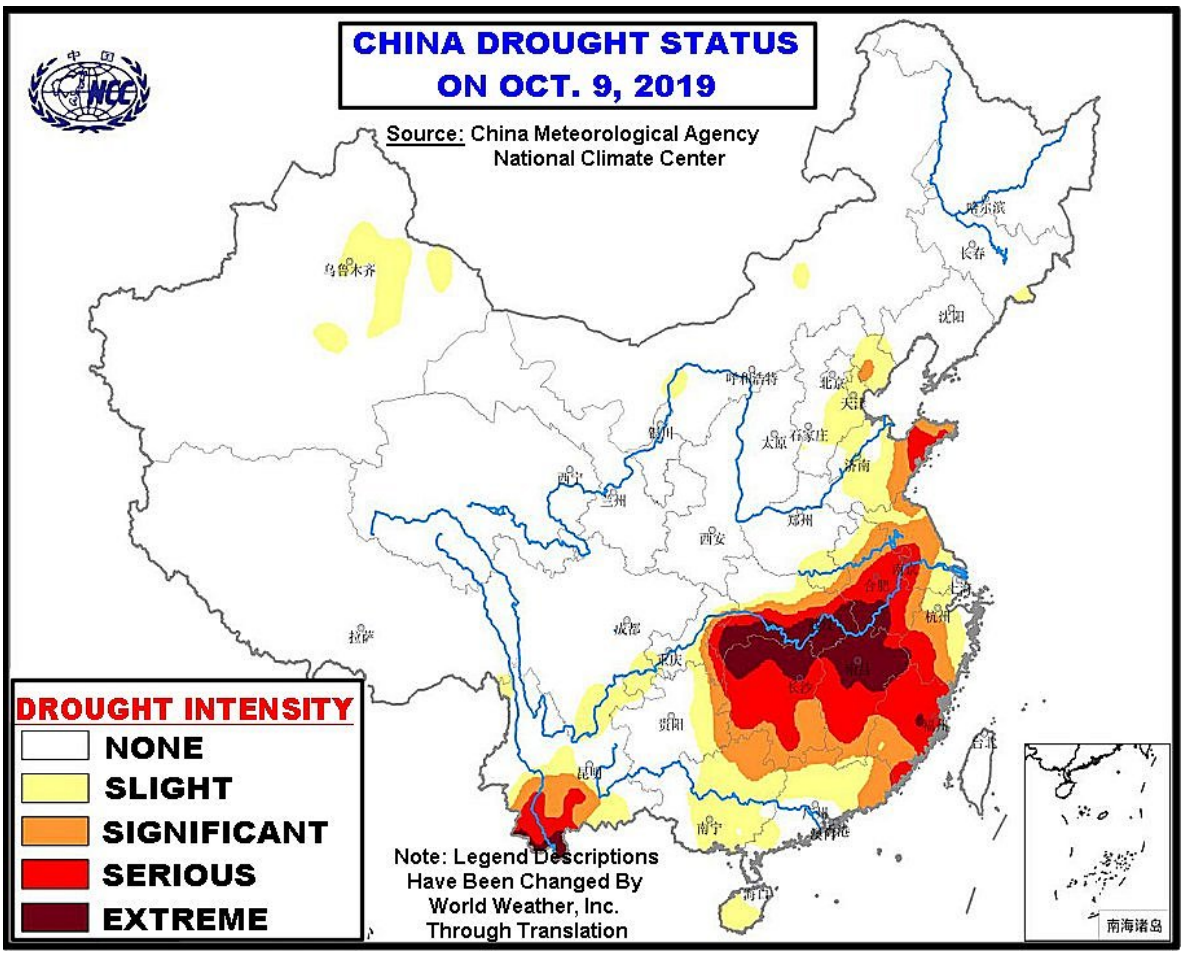
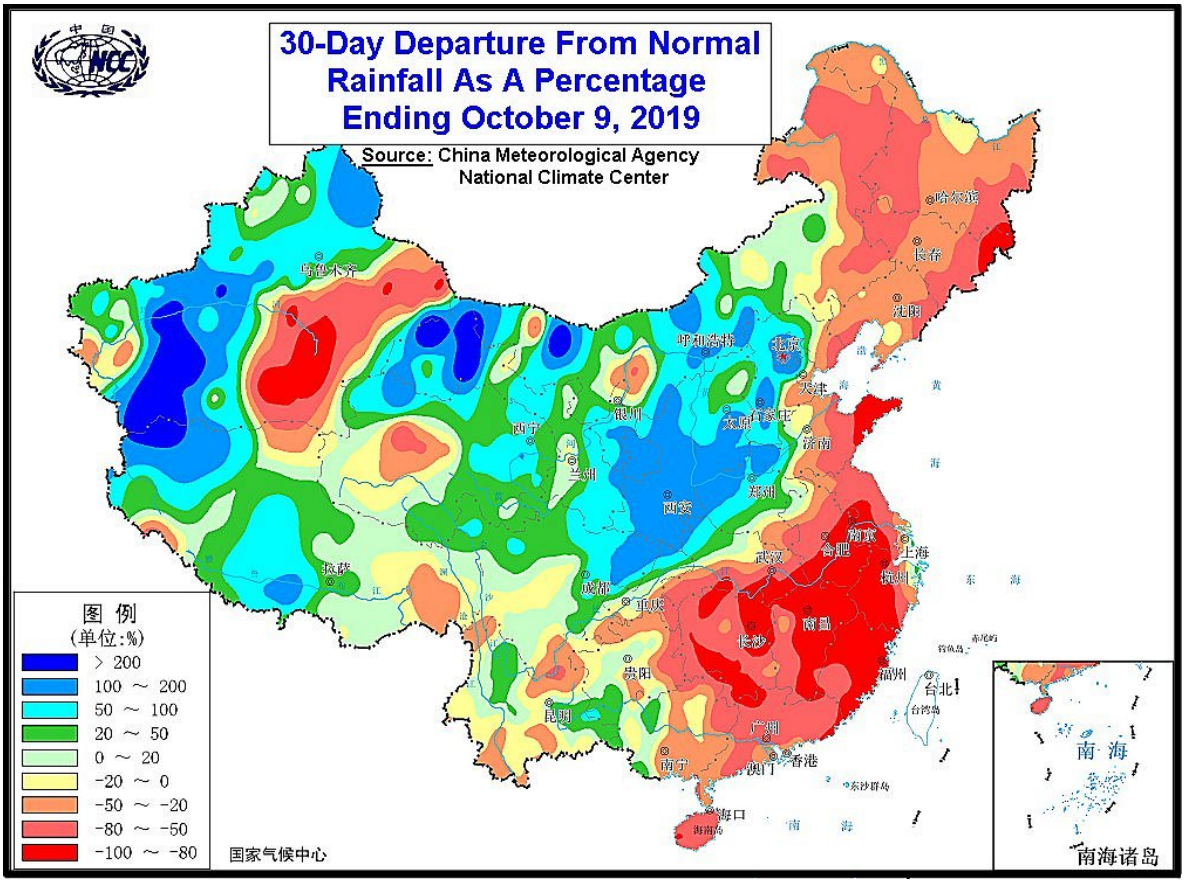
Drought continues to dominate southeastern China. The China Meteorological Agency and National Climate Center suggest a serious to extreme drought is under way from the middle and lower Yangtze River Basin into Fujian and parts of Zhejiang. Drought is also prevailing in far southern Yunnan and in eastern parts of Shandong while a tendency toward drought has been occurring in the remainder of Shandong and eastern Hebei. Some of the southern sugarcane and rice areas in China have also been dealing with a tendency towards drought, but will likely experience improving conditions soon.



Dryness has also been impacting China's Northeast Provinces where precipitation in the past 30 days has been 50-80% of normal in many areas with several regions reporting 20-50% of normal precipitation. That dryness was nearly as great as that in the southeastern parts of the nation, although the northeastern crop areas had more beneficial moisture earlier in the year whereas the Yangtze River Basin and parts of the southeast have been dry for a much longer period of time.

Not all of China has been too dry. A moisture surplus region is present in the Yellow River Basin and western portions of the North China Plain where the past 30 days have been wetter biased. Some areas in Shaanxi, southern Shanxi, northwestern Henan and northeastern Sichuan have reported 1.0 to 2.0 times' the normal rainfall. Another area that

has been more significantly wet has been in western Xinjiang where rainfall has been more than 2.0 times' normal in a few areas.

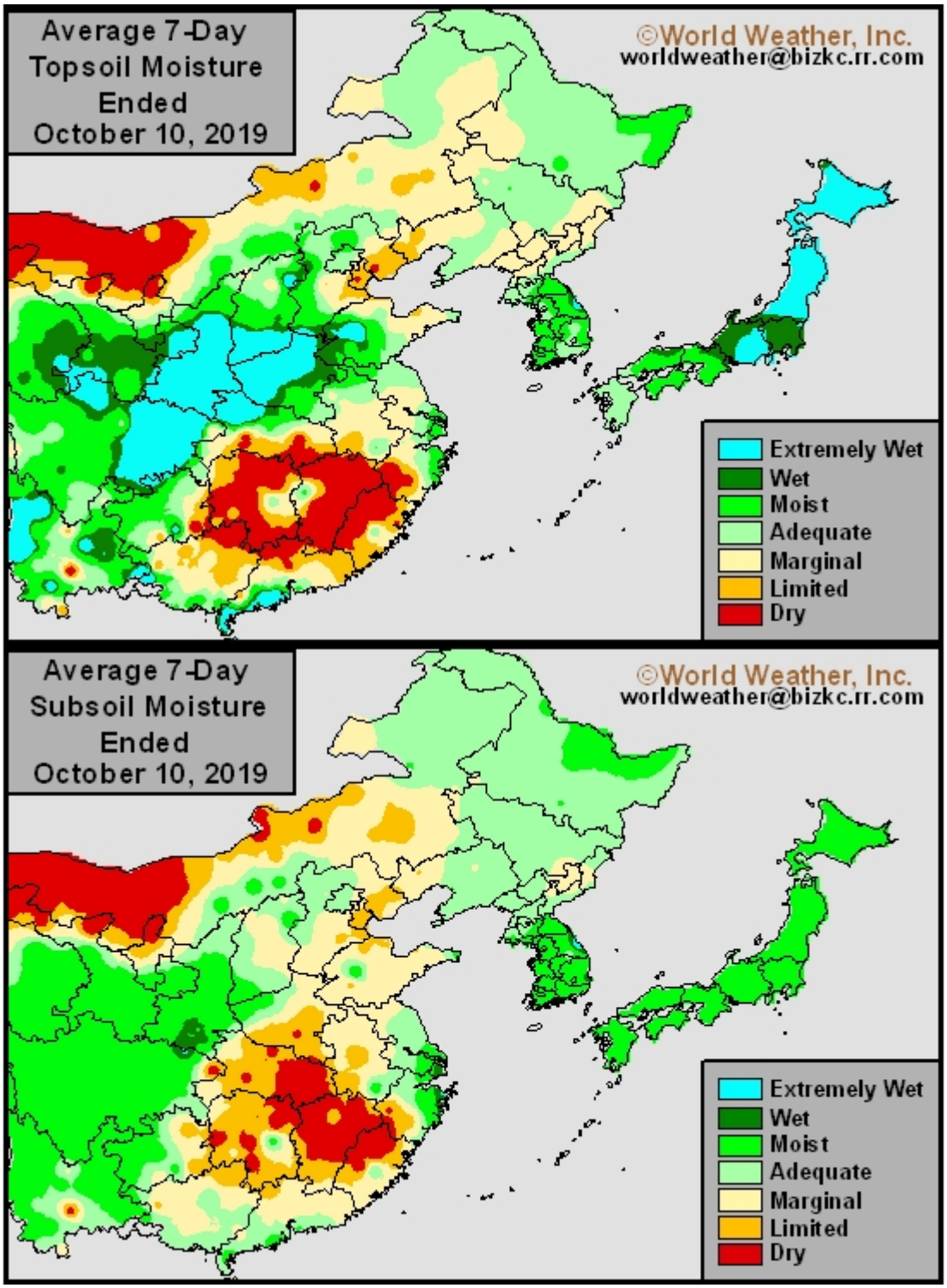


Jiangxi, Hunan, Fujian, and neighboring areas in Guangdong, Guangxi, Hubei, Anhui, and Zhejiang all have short to very short soil moisture. These areas have been drier than normal on a frequent basis in recent weeks with temperatures often trending above normal. The environment has been generally favorable for aggressive maturation and harvesting, though late season development in September was poor. These areas do not represent a large amount of the winter wheat or rapeseed production; however, there is a need for better rain in the near future to improve the outlook for any winter crops produced in the region. ***Late double-cropped rice in this region has been more seriously impacted by dryness – at least in areas not irrigated – and production potentials have dropped because of limited rainfall.***

In the meantime, the recent rain during the past two days in **Shandong and Henan** helped bolster topsoil moisture. ***There is still a need for additional rainfall to completely reverse the moisture deficits across eastern portions of the North China Plain, though winter wheat and rapeseed prospects have improved in many areas.*** Before the recent rain, maturation and harvesting advanced swiftly. Production cuts are still suspected for some of the summer coarse grain and oilseeds produced in the North China Plain due to dryness lingering over much of the growing season.

Northeast China and central Inner Mongolia have slowly dried down in recent weeks. The lack of abundant rain was beneficial for expediting maturation and harvesting

after a wet finish to the summer. Early frost and freezes likely damaged some of the immature corn and soybeans in portions of Heilongjiang and northeast Inner Mongolia in September, but the impact was not likely very great. Otherwise, yields in the region have likely been favorable this year.



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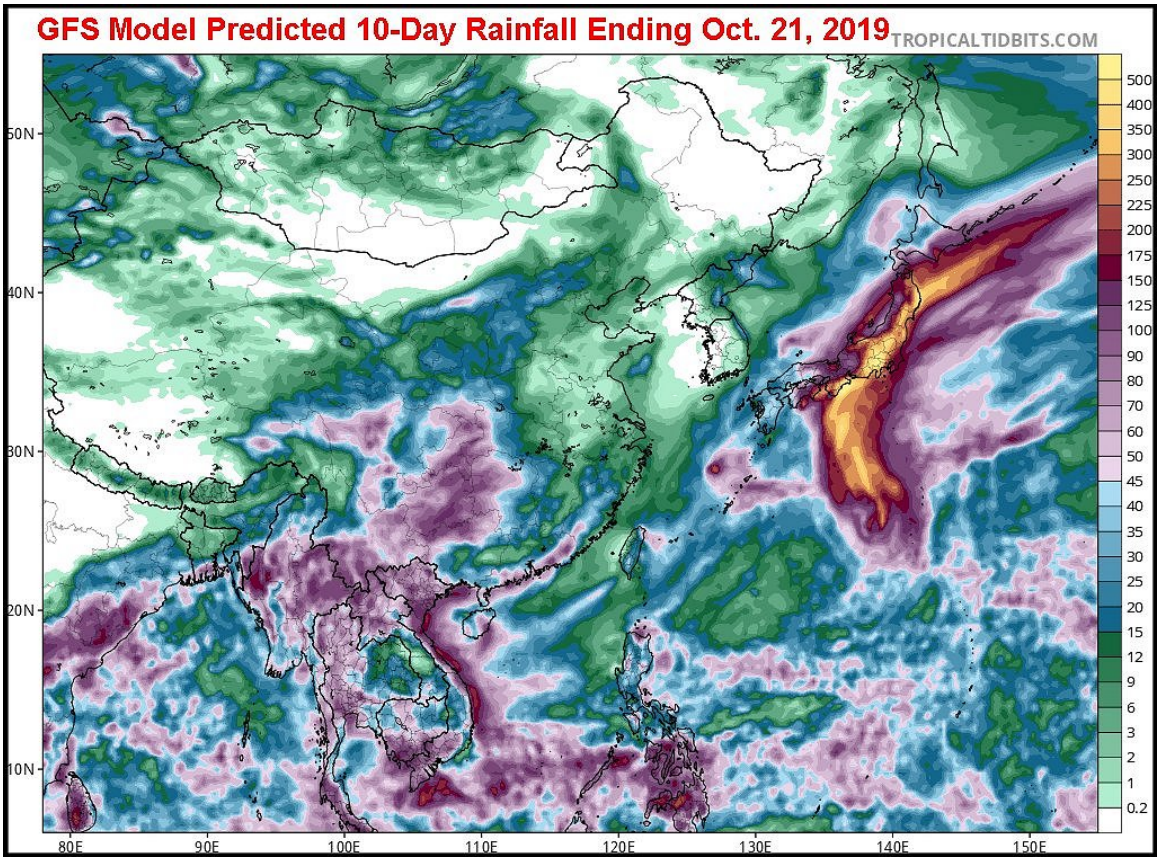
Portions of the **southernmost provinces** have dried a little too much in recent weeks as well. ***Harvesting advanced swiftly, though late season sugarcane and rice growth conditions have deteriorated***.

FORECASTS

Areas from **Jiangxi and Zhejiang into much of the North China Plain** will be drier biased through the end of next week. Brief periods of light rain are expected, though resulting rainfall will be too light to counter evaporation. The lack of rain and seasonable to seasonably warm weather will continue to promote a good environment for the harvest. However, winter wheat and rapeseed planting and establishment prospects will generally remain less than favorable. Shandong and Henan will still have ample moisture in the next few days to support aggressive planting before the ground dries in these areas as well. Overall, timely rain will be needed later this month and early November to support ideal winter crop conditions.



Southern China into Sichuan and the central Yellow River Basin will see a mix of erratic rain and sunshine during the coming week. Moisture totals by next Thursday morning will range from 0.40 to 2.00 inches most often with several coastal areas receiving up to 4.00 inches of rain. Many areas in Sichuan and northern Yunnan will receive more

than 4.00 inches of moisture as well. The rain will be beneficial for early season winter wheat and rapeseed planting in Sichuan, Shaanxi, and Shanxi. Any crops still growing in southern China will welcome the rain as well. Sugarcane and rice improvements are expected. Harvesting and general fieldwork will otherwise be sluggish at times, most notably for Sichuan and Yunnan.

Northeast China and much of northern Hebei and central Inner Mongolia will be drier biased through the end of next week. Only brief periods of light rain are expected in northern Hebei and central Inner Mongolia. The lack of abundant rain will continue to promote aggressive harvesting.
