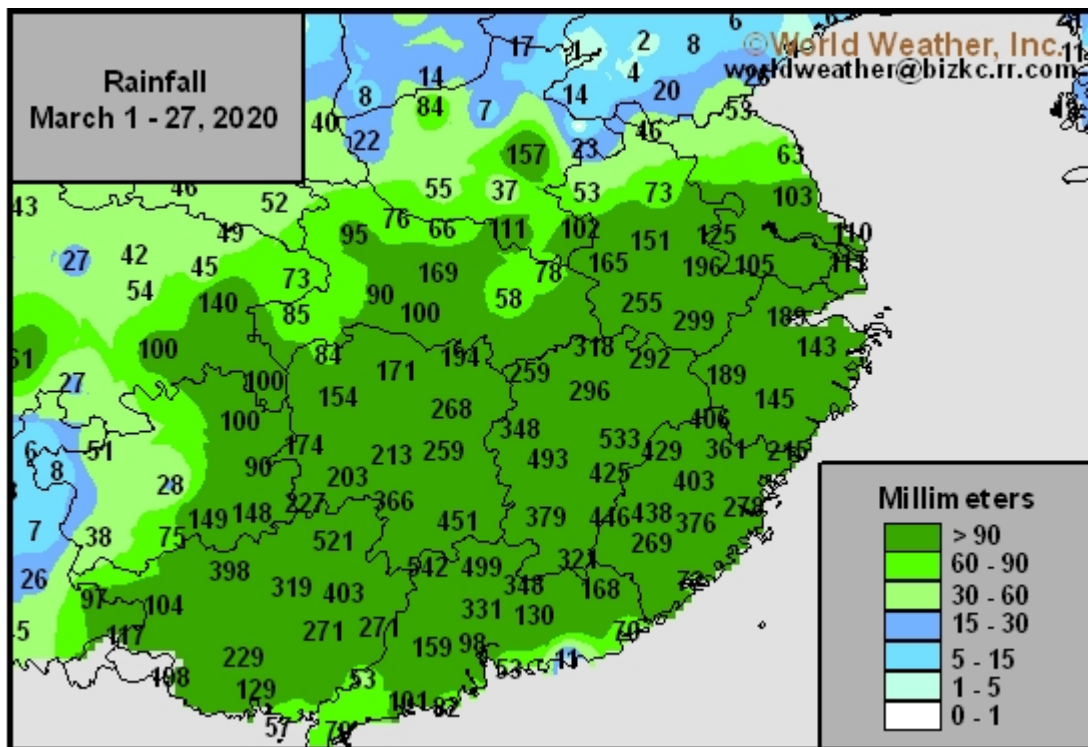


# Serious Flood Potential Builds In Southern China

By Andrew Owen and Drew Lerner

Kansas City, March 27 (World Weather Inc.) – *Frequent rain near and especially south of China's Yangtze River has the ground exceptionally wet. Recent heavy rain has already brought bouts of flooding to the region and now the potential for more serious flooding is rising. Very heavy rainfall on top of soil that is already saturated deeply into the ground will result in substantial runoff over the coming week and that is expected to culminate in some serious flooding.* Early season planting of corn and rice has already struggled to begin, but this flood event will further delay that activity and could raise need for some replanting. Some of the region's sugarcane could also be negatively impacted, although most of that crop will not be a part of the greatest rainfall. Planting delays are also expected for southern cotton because of the wet and cool bias in interior southern China.

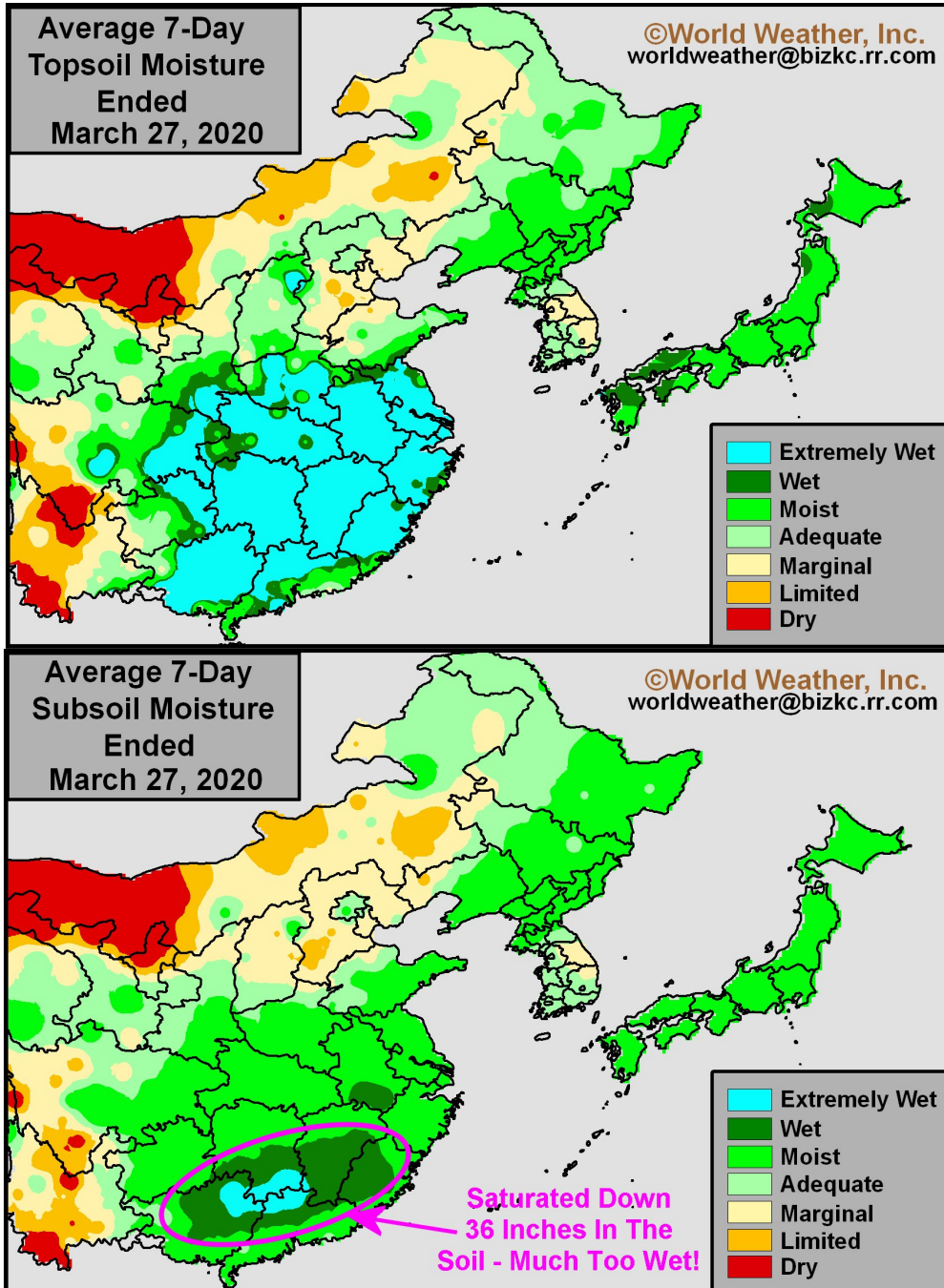
Several waves of rain were noted near and south of the Yangtze River so far this month. Rainfall from March 1 – 27 ranged from 6.00 to nearly 21.00 inches from Hunan, Jiangxi, and southern Anhui into Zhejiang, Fujian, and much of Guangdong and Guangxi. Hubei and portions of eastern Sichuan and Guizhou were not nearly as wet, but still received 1.50 to nearly 6.00 inches. Many areas were already excessively wet before this past week's rain fell already resulting some flooding in parts of the region.



Most areas near and south of the Yangtze River are dealing with extreme abundance of moisture due to the waves of rain this month. Flooding has already impacted some of the wettest areas recently, but the situation may become many times worse over the coming week because of additional heavy rainfall.

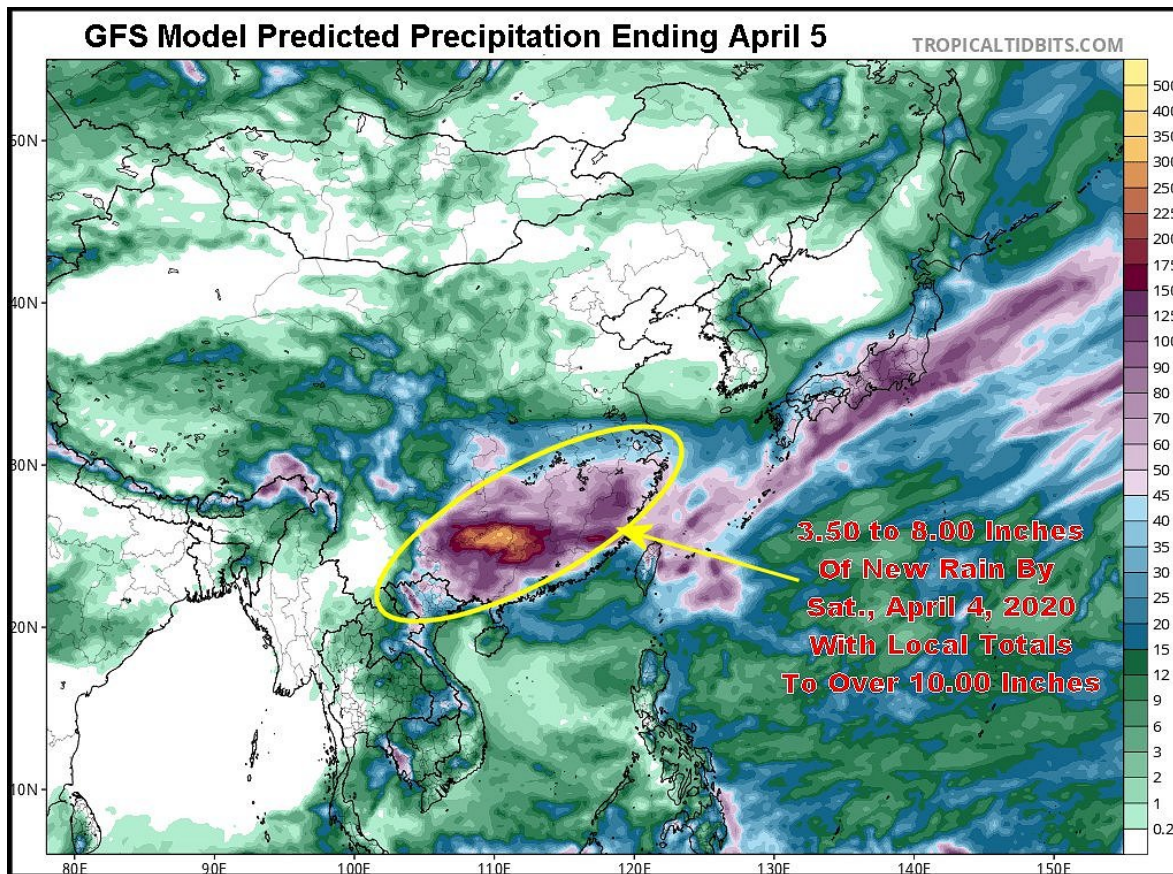
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Soil conditions are saturated with moisture at both the top and subsoil levels. Anytime that the entire soil column becomes saturated down to the 36-inch level on the World Weather, Inc. soil moisture charts the potential for serious flooding becomes exceptionally high and that is where southern China is today. Topsoil moisture is rated excessively from the Yangtze River Basin southward to the interior southern coastal provinces. Subsoil moisture which includes depths of 18 to 36 inches is also rated wet to excessive when that happens there is no place for new rainfall to go. The entire soil column is saturated and every drop of rain that falls in that situation becomes runoff which raises the potential for serious flooding when heavy rain is predicted.



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There will be no opportunity for meaningful drying in the next ten days. Rain will fall frequently and totals for the week will range from 3.50 to more than 8.00 inches across most of the region that already has excessive moisture. There are some computer forecast models that have suggested rainfall could get to the range of 10.00 to 12.00 inches in some locations. The area threatened by such amounts of rain is huge and if all of that moisture is going to occur as runoff there is going to be widespread serious flooding especially since many rivers and streams are already running quite high from previous rain and runoff shortening the period of time that a more serious flood will develop.



Flooding will culminate in damage to agricultural land and personal property. Delays to travel through the region south of the Yangtze River are also expected because of high water. Structural damage to many roads, bridges, homes and businesses is also expected.

Early season rice and corn planting has already been delayed in southern China because of too much moisture this month and the flood event will perpetuate that situation more deeply into April and will raise the need for some replanting as well.

A short term break in the precipitation is expected April 6-8 before additional rain falls in a part of the region April 9-10.

For crops that are not in the most serious flood prone area of China there will still be some negative impact with rainy weather and soggy fields preventing much fieldwork for a while. Rapeseed and some minor wheat areas near and north of the Yangtze River will need some drier weather soon to protect crop development potentials. These areas are not likely to be nearly as wet as those to the south of the River.

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