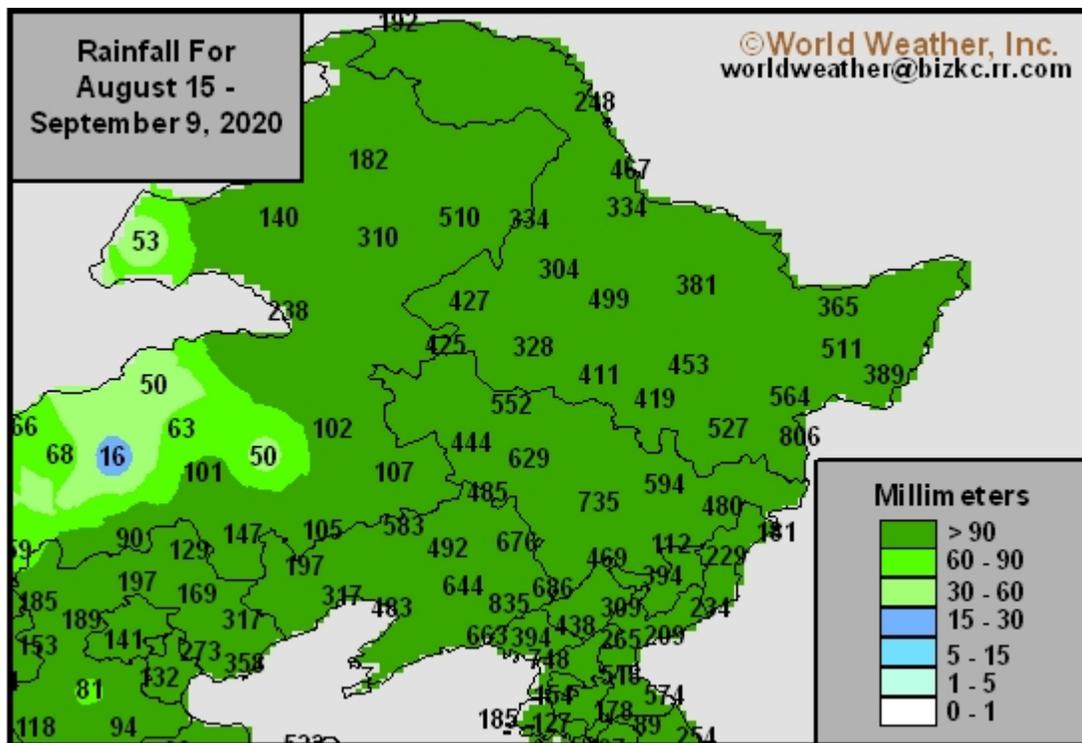


Northeast China Flooding Delaying Harvest, Threatens Crops

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, September 9 (World Weather Inc.) – *A series of typhoons promoted heavy rain in Northeast China stemming back to mid-August. The rain generated several rounds of flooding that limited early season maturation and harvesting of corn, soybeans, rice and some peanuts. Quality reductions and some production losses are suspected in all three provinces from Liaoning to Heilongjiang as well as in a part of eastern Inner Mongolia. The bulk of summer crop harvesting occurs from late September through November and an extended period of drier and warmer weather is now needed to firm up the ground to support that process without any further damage.* Northeast China is done with the heavy rain events, but lighter precipitation will continue periodically into next week and that will prevent flood water from fully receding and limit the potential for any significant drying of farmland.

Several waves of heavy rain were noted in Northeast China since mid-August. Rainfall from August 15 – September 9 ranged from 17.48 to 32.87 inches in Jilin and the eastern half of Liaoning. Other areas in Northeast China received 7.17 to 20.12 inches with local amounts up to 31.73 inches in southern Heilongjiang.



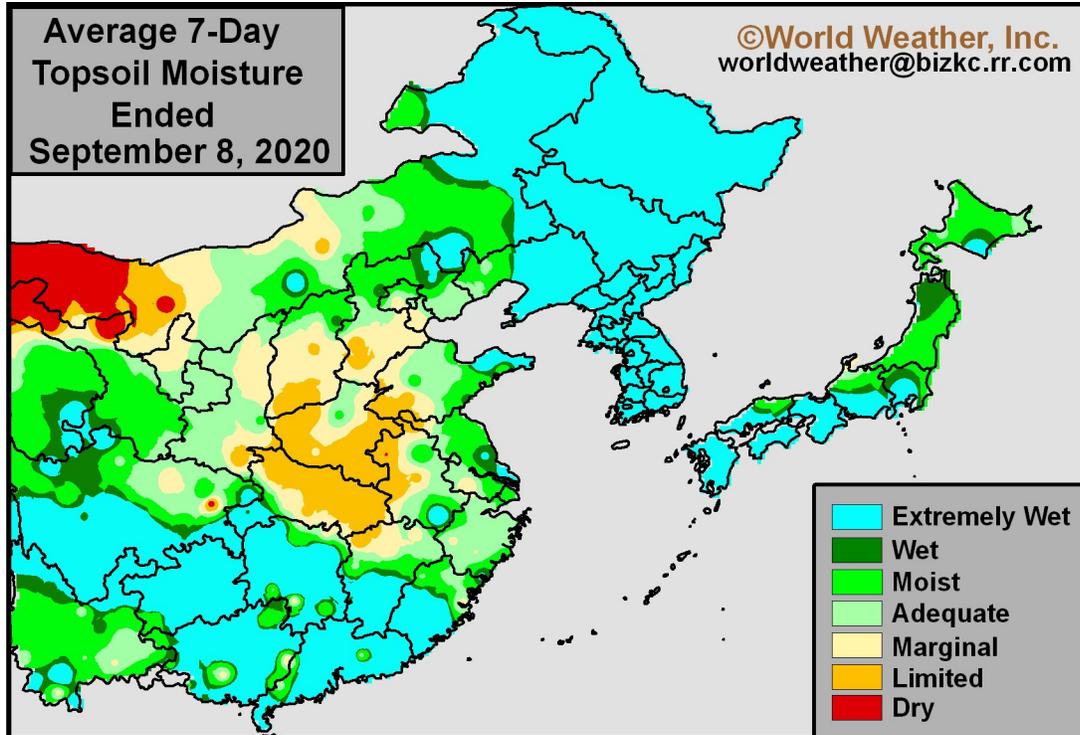
The first disturbance to impact Northeast China in recent weeks was Typhoon Bavi. Typhoon Bavi initially brought heavy rain and strong winds to portions of the Korean Peninsula August 25 – 27. Bavi started to weaken when moving inland over North Korea August 27 before moving into Northeast China as an extratropical cyclone. Although Bavi weakened significantly when reaching Northeast China, the disturbance was still strong

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enough to generate several inches of rain for portions of Liaoning, Jilin, and neighboring areas.

The more recent tropical cyclones to impact Northeast China were Typhoon Maysak and Typhoon Haishen. Typhoon Maysak tracked near southwestern Japan early in September before clipping southeastern South Korea and eastern North Korea September 2 – 3. Maysak then tracked into Jilin before transitioning to an extratropical cyclone. The disturbance lingered over the region through September 7. Typhoon Haishen then took a similar path as Typhoon Maysak and eventually reached Northeast China during the first week of September and hit the eastern Korean Peninsula September 7. The disturbance rapidly weakened when moving from the Korean Peninsula into Northeast China in more recent days. Both disturbances still generated significant rain and strong winds for much of Northeast China despite not tracking into the region as a strong tropical system.

The bouts of heavy rain have kept the ground saturated in much of Northeast China in recent weeks. Late season crop development and maturation was disrupted due to the wet soil and flooding. Soil conditions over the past week to ten days have been saturated with moisture down at least three feet, according to World Weather, Inc. Quality declines have been a growing concern, most notably for the soybeans and peanuts that have been sitting in saturated or flooded fields. Corn and rice impacts may be lower than that of soybeans outside the wettest pockets, though strong wind speeds may have damaged induced some lodging of corn stalks. Much of the spring wheat was already out of the ground before the wet weather occurred. *The region is now in need of drier and warmer weather to reduce flooding and excessive soil moisture and to support a better environment for maturation and harvesting.*

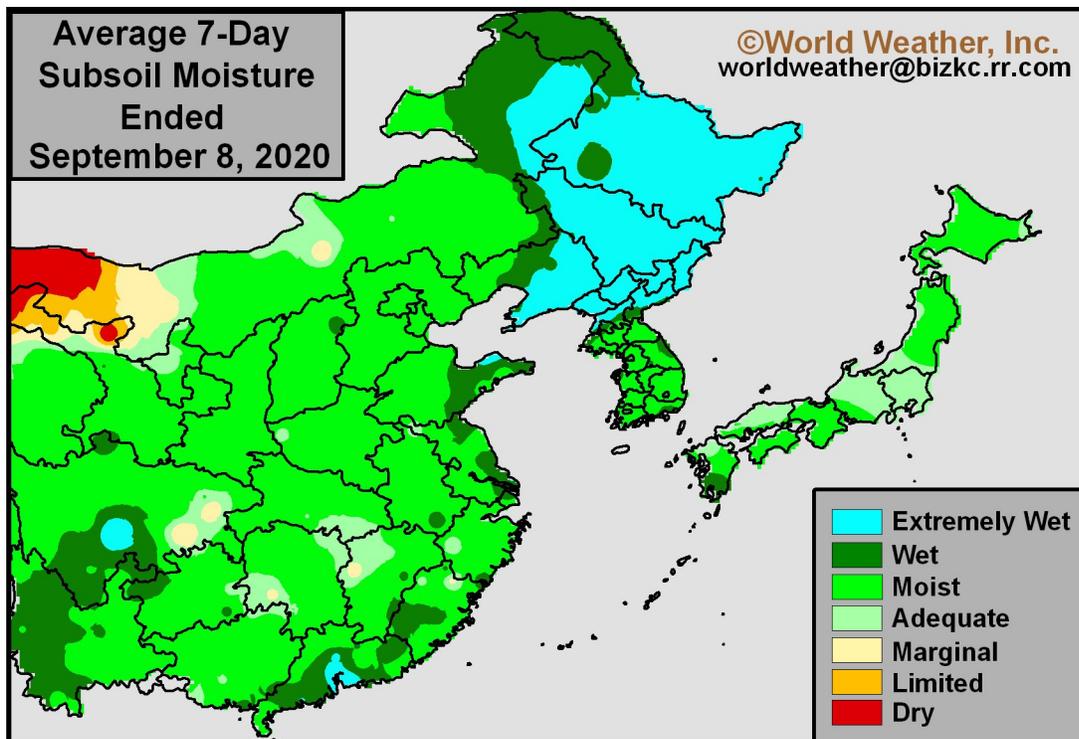


Lingering showers from Typhoon Haishen will continue to generate erratic rainfall for Northeast China today and Thursday. The region will also see periods of precipitation

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later Friday through the first part of next week. Moisture totals by next Wednesday morning will range from 0.75 to 2.00 inches and locally greater amounts for Liaoning, Jilin, west-central Heilongjiang, and immediate neighboring areas in Inner Mongolia. Other production areas in Northeast China will receive 0.25 to 1.00 inch of rain with locally greater amounts during this time. Temperatures will be near to slightly above normal with daytime highs peaking to the 60s and 70s Fahrenheit most often.

Additional rainfall during the next several days will continue to limit field access and crop maturation will remain sluggish with some concern for mold and mildew impacting soybeans and peanuts. Much drier weather is needed before harvesting and generally fieldwork can begin in Liaoning, Jilin, and neighboring areas. Some drying is expected later in the forecast period, though the ground will not be dry enough to support ideal harvest conditions until late this month. Other production areas in the northeast of China will slowly dry down through the middle of next week. The environment will gradually improve for more harvesting.



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