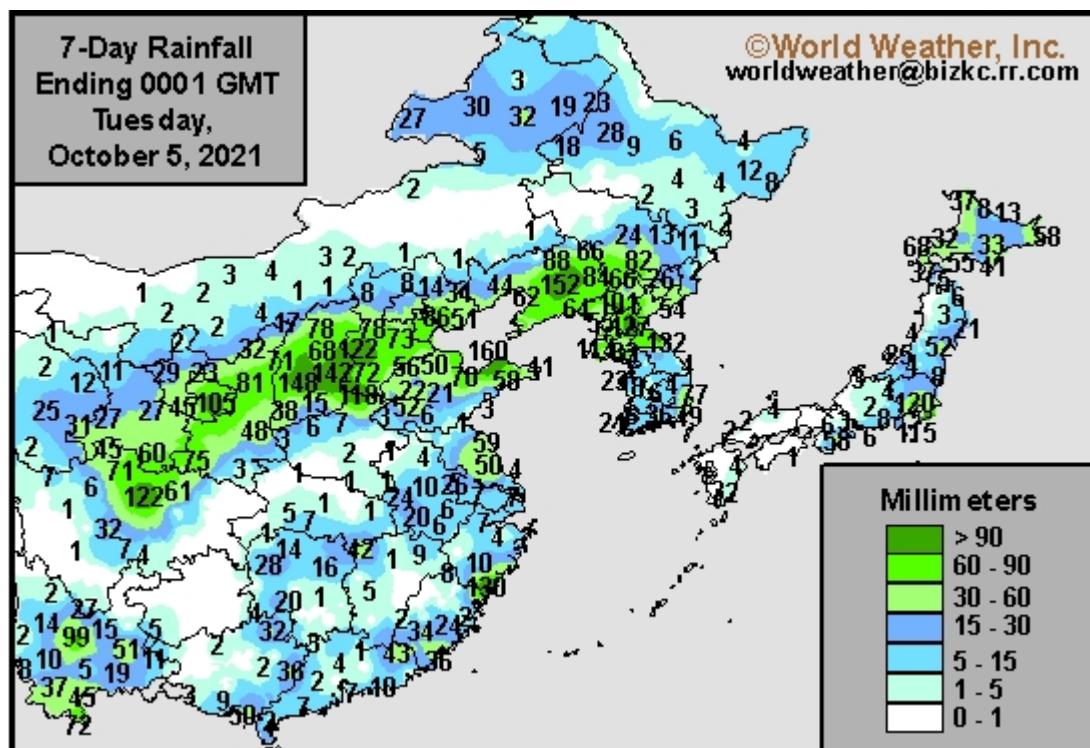


Northern China Wet Bias Ends; Heavy Rain Due In Guangdong

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, October 7 (World Weather Inc.) – Frequent rain in northern China has been disrupting summer crop maturation and harvest progress at times for the past few weeks. Some winter crop planting has also been interrupted. The region near and north of the Yellow River is finally going to see the rainy pattern come to an end as will Liaoning and Jilin. In the meantime, Tropical Depression 22W recently evolved in the South China Sea and will move across Hainan China, Friday and then inland over northern Vietnam this weekend. Rain will fall heavily from coastal areas of Guangdong through southern Guangxi through the weekend because of the depression while lighter rain impacts Yunnan, Guizhou, southwestern Hunan and southern Sichuan. Coastal flooding in Guangxi and western Guangdong will threaten rice and sugarcane and farming activity will come to a standstill.

Rain during the week ending Tuesday of this week was greatest from northern Sichuan and much of Shaanxi and Shanxi into southern and northeastern Hebei, northern Shandong, Liaoning, and southwestern Jilin where 1.89 to 5.98 inches resulted. Localized areas of 1.00 to nearly 4.00 inches occurred in Yunnan, southern Fujian, southern Zhejiang, Jiangsu and northwestern Jiangxi. Most other areas reported less than 0.80 inch of moisture with net drying in many areas.

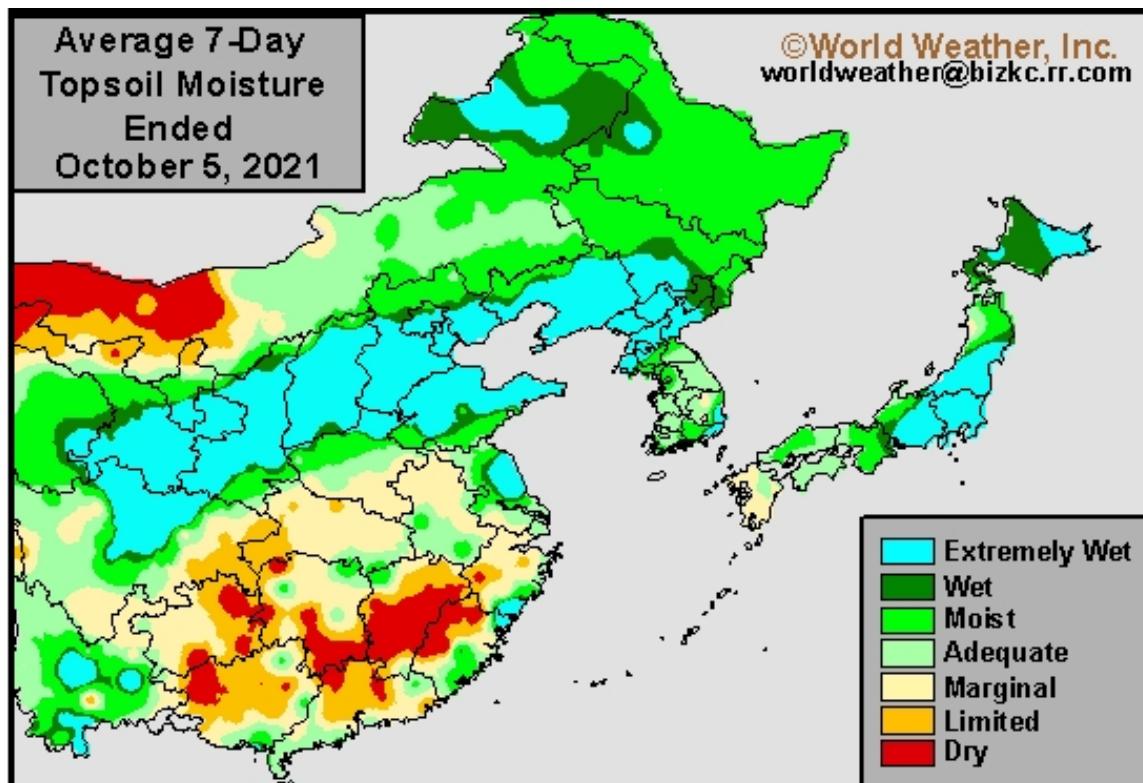


One of the reasons for the abundant rain in northern China was a slow moving cool air mass slipping southward across the region from the north. Temperatures dropped considerably during the week from high temperatures in the 70s Fahrenheit in the Northeast Provinces, the 80s north of the Yellow River and 90s farther to the south early in the period

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down to the 50s and 60s in the northeast and the upper 40s and 50s in Yellow River Basin Tuesday. Temperatures were still quite warm in southern China. Temperatures cooled enough in northeastern China for frost and freezes to occur in northern Heilongjiang and in eastern portions of Inner Mongolia ending the growing season for several areas.

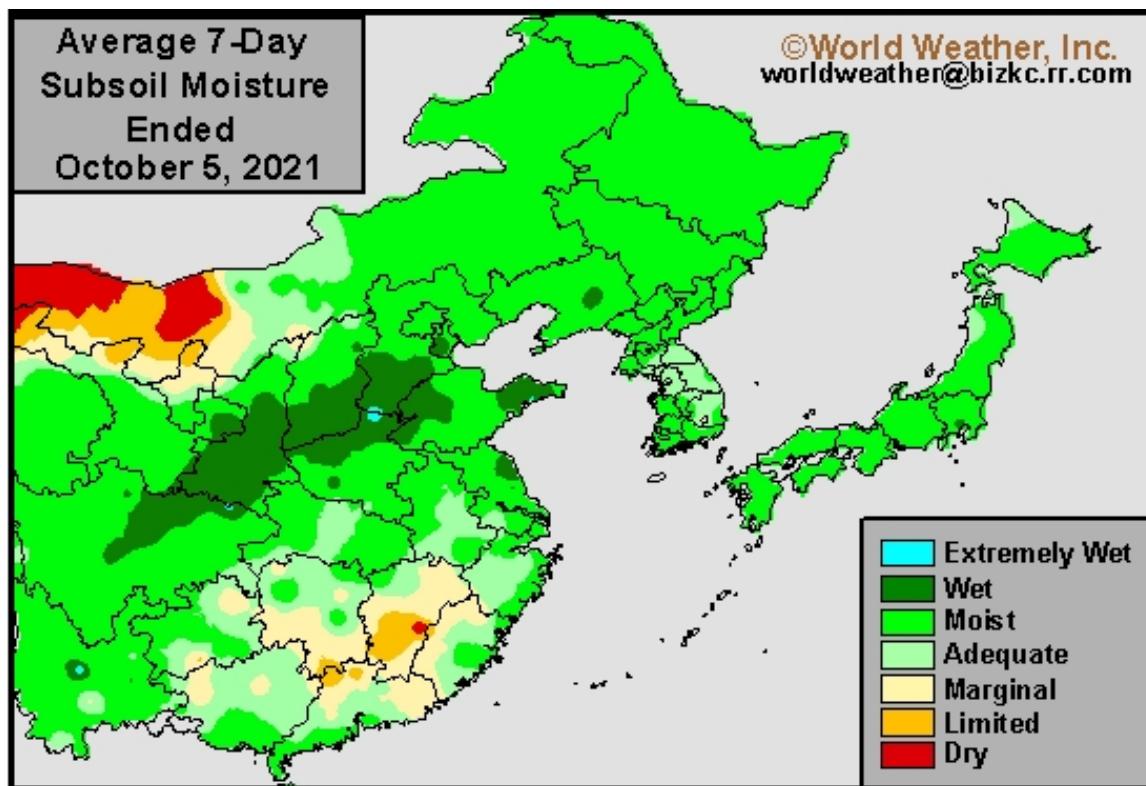
Northern China has been frequently saturated with moisture since the middle of August with the exception of a short period of about ten days in mid-September in which the ground was adequately moist. The persistent wet biased conditions resulted in frequent bouts of flooding and may have hurt summer crop production. The quality of early maturing crops may have been compromised with cotton being one of the bigger losers because of the wet bias. Most of the region noted above that received this past week's heavier rainfall still has excessive moisture and the wet conditions go down deeply into the ground.



In the meantime, interior southern China's drier tendency in the past week to ten days has allowed the ground to firm up. Top and subsoil moisture is now rated short to very short in Jiangxi, southern Hunan and immediate neighboring areas. The drier bias may have helped to speed along summer crop maturation and harvest progress, but immature crops might have felt a little moisture stress.

Many other areas south of the Yellow River Basin experienced marginally adequate to short topsoil moisture and mostly adequate subsoil moisture. These conditions maintained good crop development while allowing summer crop maturation and harvesting to advance where needed.

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WEATHER OUTLOOK

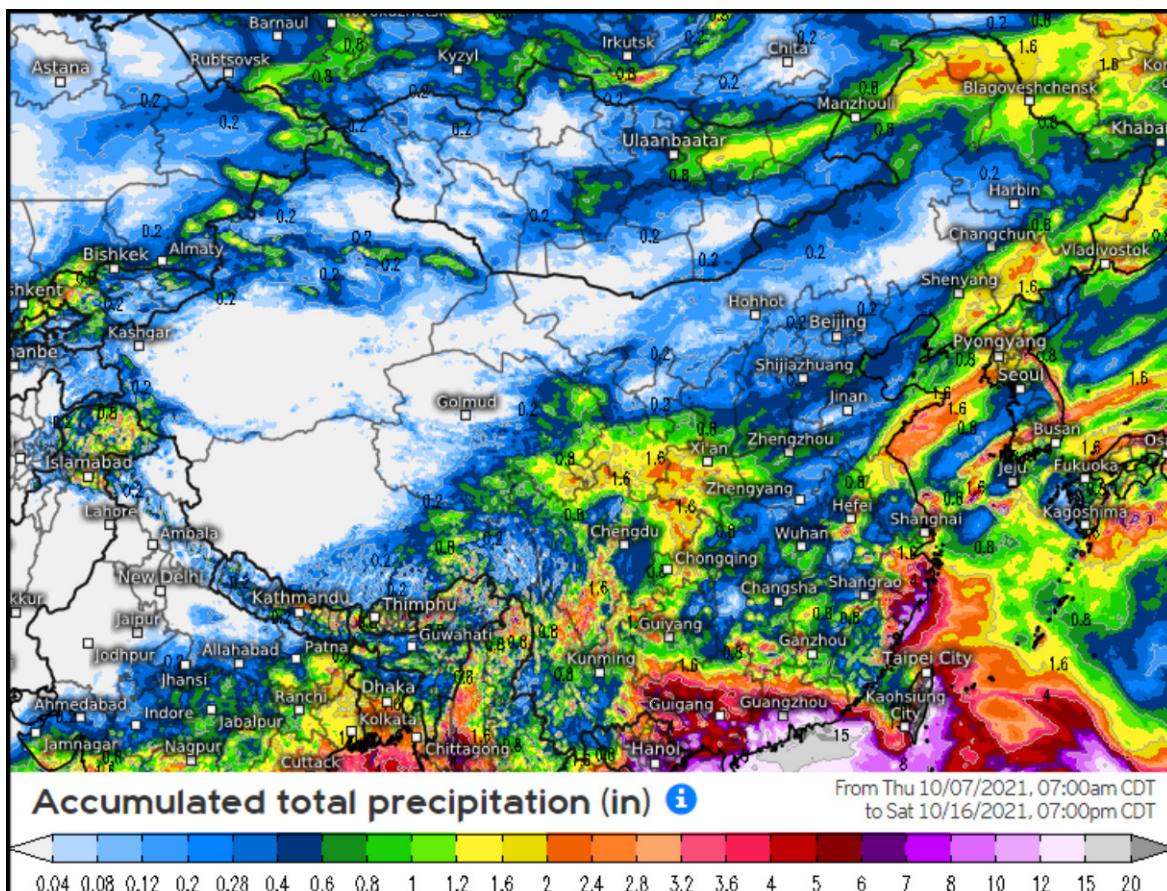
Weather for China will be variable during the coming week. One of the main concerns will be focused on Tropical Depression 22W. The disturbance became a tropical depression this morning over the South China Sea. The disturbance will track toward Hainan today before slowly advancing over the province Friday. Development into a tropical storm will likely occur later today, but no further development is expected. The system will then slowly track toward central Vietnam over the weekend before dissipating early next week.

Precipitation associated with Tropical Depression 22W will spread across southern Guangxi and Guangdong overnight tonight. The rain will then spread across Guangxi, Guangdong, eastern Yunnan, Guizhou, and southern Sichuan Friday through early Sunday before tapering off later in the day Sunday. Guangxi and western Guangdong will generally receive 4.00 to 8.00 inches of rain with local amounts of 12.00 inches or more by Monday morning. Other areas will receive 2.00 to 5.00 inches of rain and local amounts of 7.00 inches or more. Flooding will be most severe in southern Guangxi and southwestern Guangdong, where damage to rice and sugarcane is possible. Another tropical disturbance may bring light rain to these areas later next week, though no other follow-up rain is expected. Harvesting and general fieldwork will be slowed or delayed for the next several days until the ground has a chance to firm.

Portions of east-central and southeastern China will see a mix of erratic rain and sunshine through early next week. A tropical disturbance may then track near or into southeastern China Tuesday and Wednesday that may bring more significant rain to portions of Zhejiang, Jiangsu, and neighboring areas. Moisture totals by next Thursday morning will

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range from 0.75 to 3.00 inches in Zhejiang, Jiangsu, and portions of Fujian and Anhui. Greater amounts will also be possible near the coasts. Fieldwork will be delayed at times by the rain, but there will be no lasting impact on crops.



A disturbance will bring rain to portions of central Inner Mongolia, the central Yellow River Basin and remaining portions of the North China Plain into Northeast China. Friday and Saturday. Liaoning will receive the most rain from this event with totals ranging from 1.00 to 3.00 inches and locally more. Portions of Jilin, Heilongjiang and northeastern Inner Mongolia will also receive 0.50 to 2.00 inches of rain. Moisture totals elsewhere will range from 0.20 to 1.00 inch. Other than a few isolated showers in central Inner Mongolia next week, these areas will be mostly dry today and again Sunday into the middle of next week. Harvesting and general fieldwork will likely be slowed during the periods of rain, most notably in Liaoning. However, drier weather next week will support better fieldwork conditions. Rainfall will also not be enough to significantly impact crop quality outside the wettest locations in Liaoning.

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