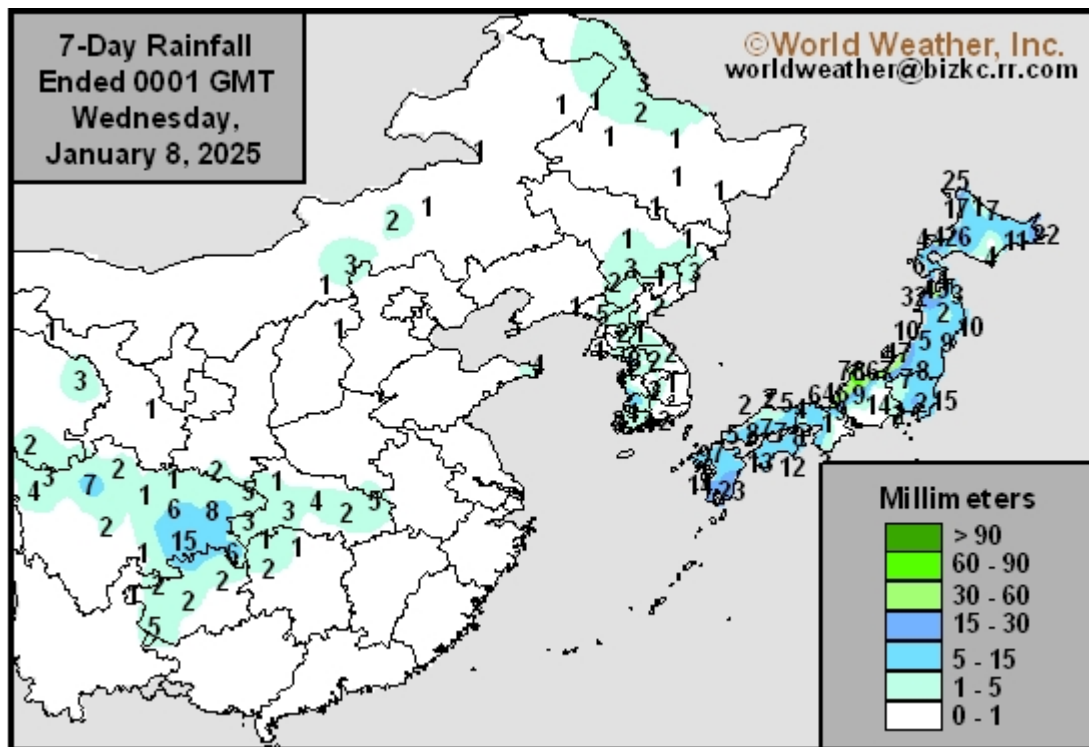


Southern China Dryness To Spread, Intensify

By Andrew Owen

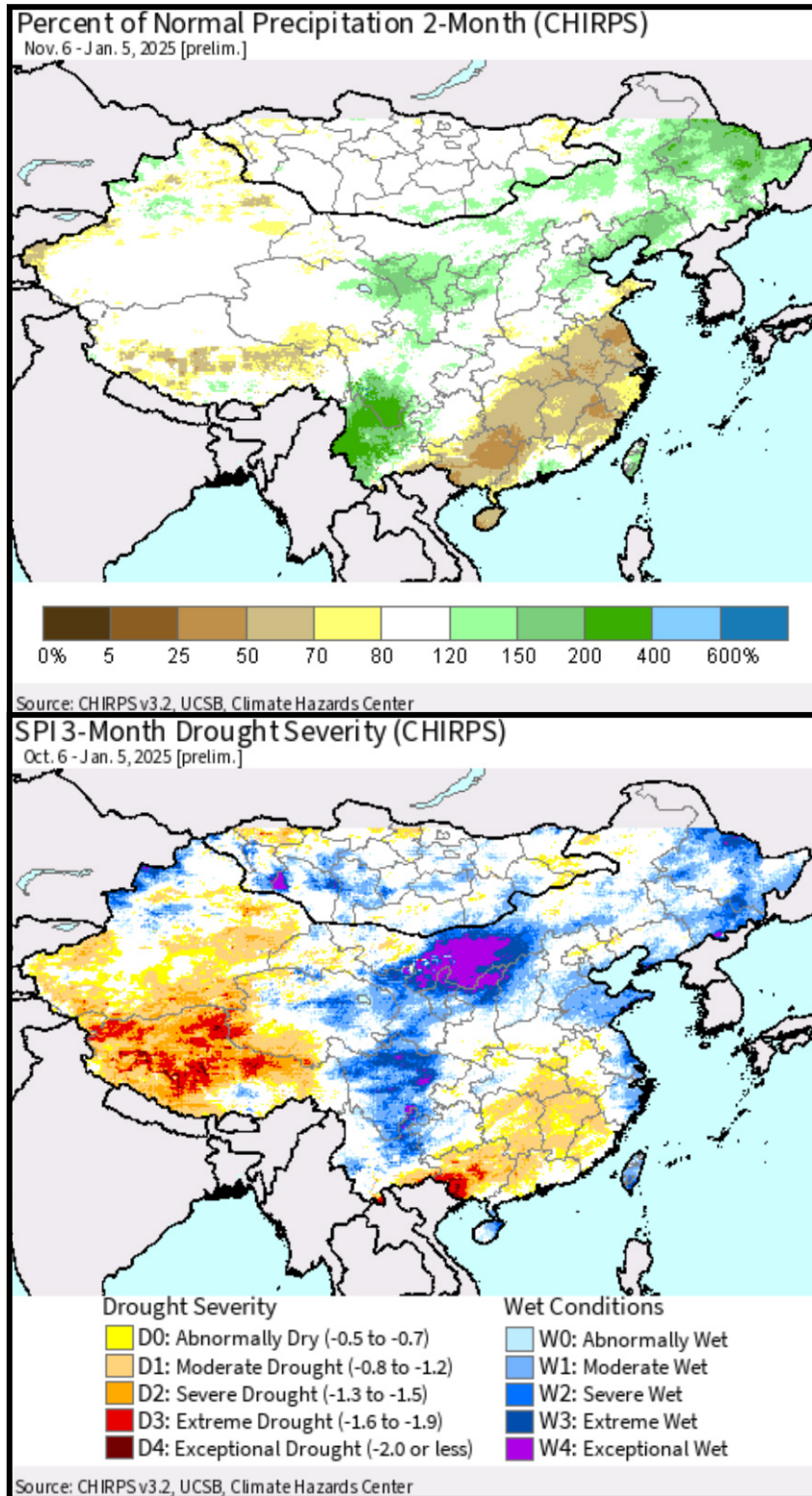
Kansas City, January 8 (World Weather Inc.) – Southern and east-central China was mostly dry in the most recent seven-day period. Temperatures were also warmer than normal at times enhancing drying rates for these areas. *Drought or abnormally dry conditions are persisting and there is no precipitation of significance expected in the next ten days to two weeks. Winter rapeseed development conditions may be impacted once seasonal warming brings crops out of dormancy in the driest areas of the Yangtze River Basin in February and March which is normal.* Winter wheat prospects remain favorable for the North China Plain and neighboring locations, though timely precipitation would also be welcome. *The only other area of concern is in the southern coastal provinces where early rice planting begins in March and soil moisture must be improved by then to support planting.*

Sichuan saw a mix of precipitation and sunshine during the past week. Moisture totals for the seven-day period ending this morning ranged from trace amounts to 0.59 inch. A few locations in Guizhou, northwestern Hunan, Hubei, Inner Mongolia, Heilongjiang, and southern Jilin also received upwards of 0.20 inch of moisture. The remaining production areas for China were mostly dry.



A large section of southern China outside Yunnan into Anhui, Jiangsu, Zhejiang, eastern Hubei, and neighboring locations have been drier than normal during the past two months. These locations generally received 50% to 80% of normal precipitation for the 60-day period ending January 5 with pockets that only received 25% to 50% of normal

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precipitation. The remaining locations in crop country received near or above normal precipitation.

Many areas in southern China and the Yangtze River Basin continued to dry down in recent weeks as drier biased conditions persisted. Drought or abnormally dry conditions were noted in several locations in Guangxi, Guangdong, Hunan, Jiangxi, eastern Hubei, and neighboring locations. *While no immediate crop impacts will occur, early-season rice and other crop planting may get off to a sluggish start this spring if dryness persists. Winter rapeseed in the driest locations of the Yangtze River Basin may also develop unevenly when the crop comes out of dormancy.*

Winter wheat prospects in the North China Plain remain relatively good despite several locations receiving little or no precipitation in recent weeks. The crop was well established prior to dormancy and the need for moisture will be minimal until seasonal

warming occurs this spring. The main production areas still have enough soil moisture to support growth early in the spring, although most locations would still benefit greatly from a good shot of precipitation in the coming weeks to maintain a good outlook for the crops.

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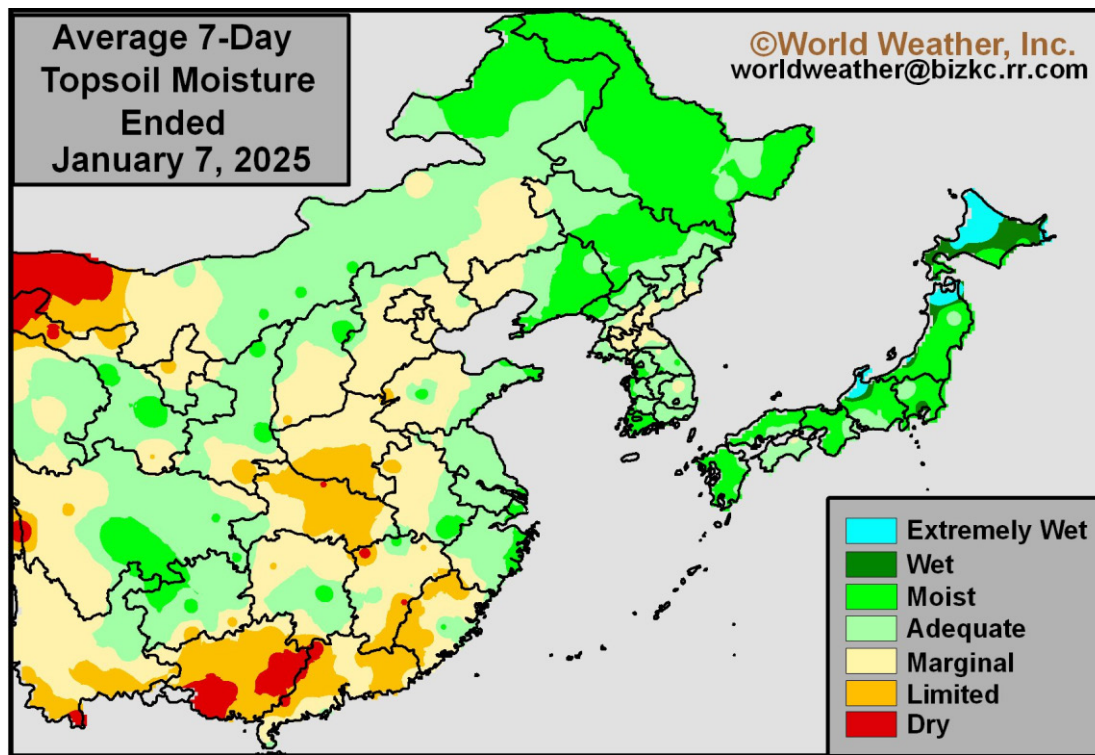
WEATHER OUTLOOK

Sichuan, Guizhou, northern Yunnan, western Hubei, and neighboring locations will see a mix of precipitation and sunshine through the middle of next week. The most widespread precipitation will occur through Friday with a few light showers expected this weekend and early next week. Moisture totals by next Wednesday morning will range from 0.50 to 2.00 inches and locally greater amounts. Other locations near and south of the Yangtze River will have a few opportunities for precipitation during the next few days, though resulting precipitation will be too light to impact long-term soil conditions.

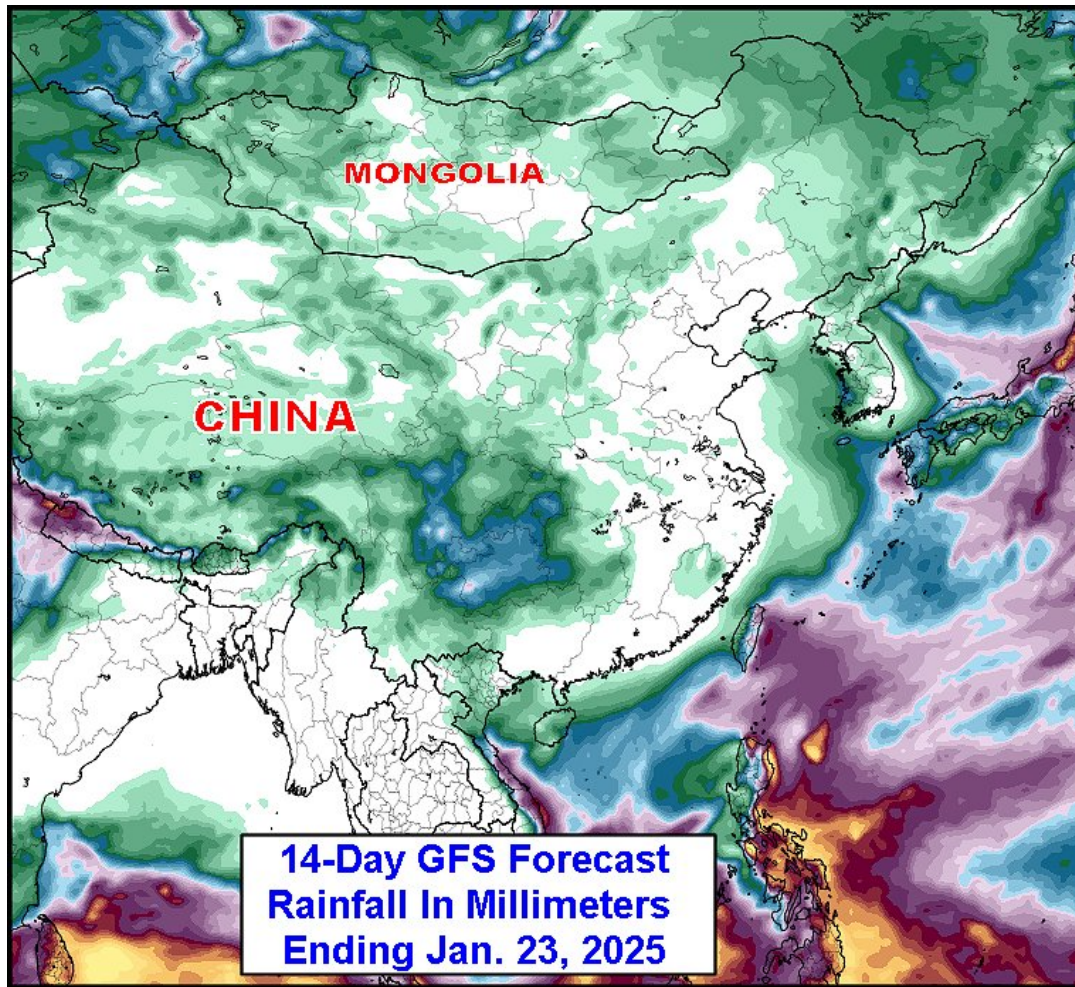
Northern China will see periods of spotty snowfall through early next week. Accumulations will range from a dusting to 3 inches, though several production areas will not receive any snow. The North China Plain and central Yellow River Basin will otherwise trend dry or mostly dry through the middle of next week.

Precipitation will remain limited for much of China January 16 – 22. Periods of light and erratic precipitation will continue for Sichuan, Yunnan, and neighboring locations, though resulting precipitation will not be enough to significantly bolster soil moisture. A few light snow flurries cannot be ruled out for northern China as well.

Dryness will spread and intensify across portions of southern China outside Yunnan and much of the east-central China in the coming weeks. The need for precipitation will further increase and concerns for delayed planting this spring will persist. Timely rain will also be needed in east-central China to support a better outlook for rapeseed development this spring. Winter wheat prospects will remain relatively favorable, though timely precipitation would also be welcome later this month and into February.



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