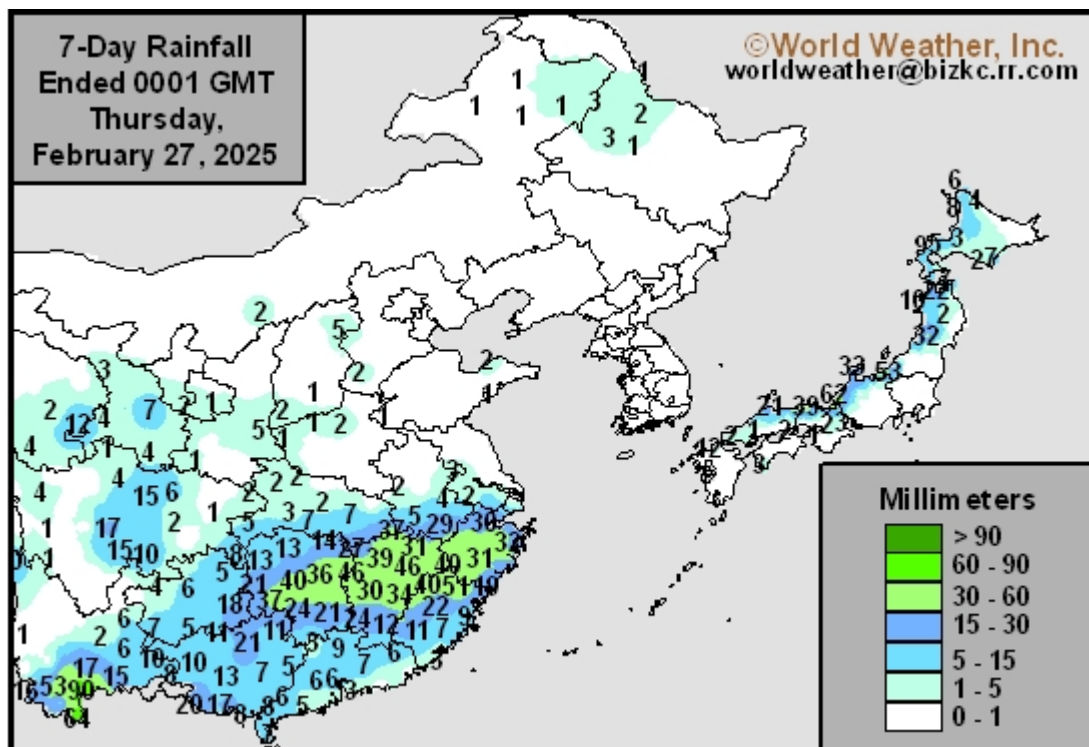


Southern China Rain Will Improve Soil Moisture; More Needed

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, February 27 (World Weather Inc.) – Southern China saw some spotty rain during the past week with more significant rain on the way in the coming days. The rain will help improve the moisture profile just in time as early-season rice, corn, and sugarcane planting normally begins late February or early March. Rainfall will be too light to completely fix the moisture deficits and additional precipitation will be needed later in March. The Yangtze River Basin, North China Plain, and central Yellow River Basin will also see a good mix of precipitation and dry weather during the coming week. Precipitation totals will be enough to maintain a good outlook for the winter rapeseed and wheat. Some of the rapeseed may come out of dormancy, though temperatures will not be warm enough to promote growth across the main winter grain and oilseed production areas.

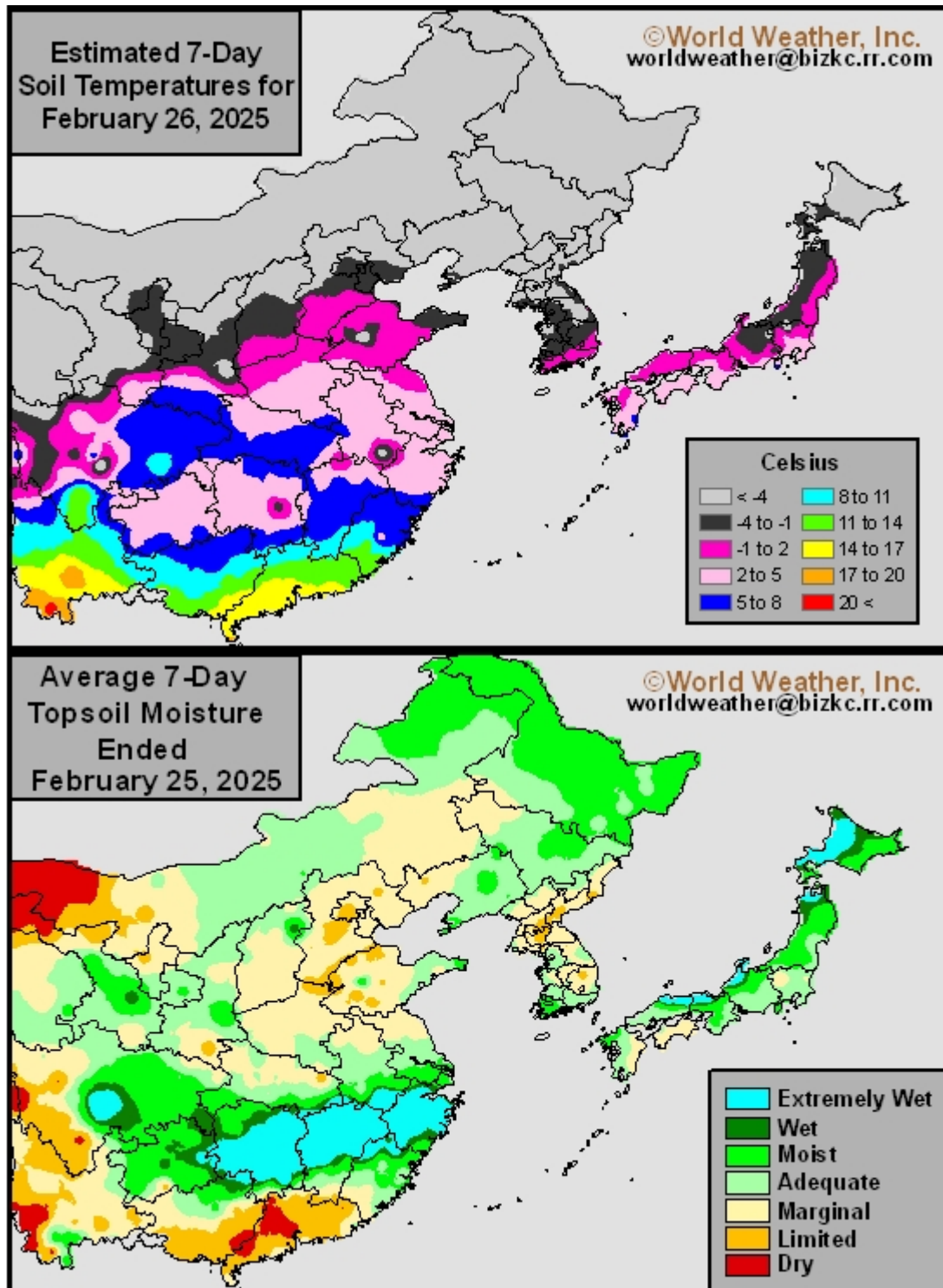
Hunan, Jiangxi, Zhejiang, northern Fujian, and southern Yunnan received the most significant precipitation in China during the past week. Moisture totals for the seven-day period ending this morning ranged from 0.50 to 2.00 inches with local amounts up to 3.54 inches in southern Yunnan. Guangxi, Guangdong, southern Fujian, Guizhou, and portions of Sichuan, Hubei, and southern Anhui received 0.20 to 1.14 inches of moisture. Pockets in Shaanxi, Shanxi, Henan, and Heilongjiang received up to 0.20 inch of moisture. Little to no precipitation was noted elsewhere.



Moisture shortages persist in southern China despite recent precipitation. The Yangtze River Basin has adequate to excessive amounts of moisture. Areas north of the Yangtze River generally have adequate to marginally adequate amounts of moisture. [Soil](#)

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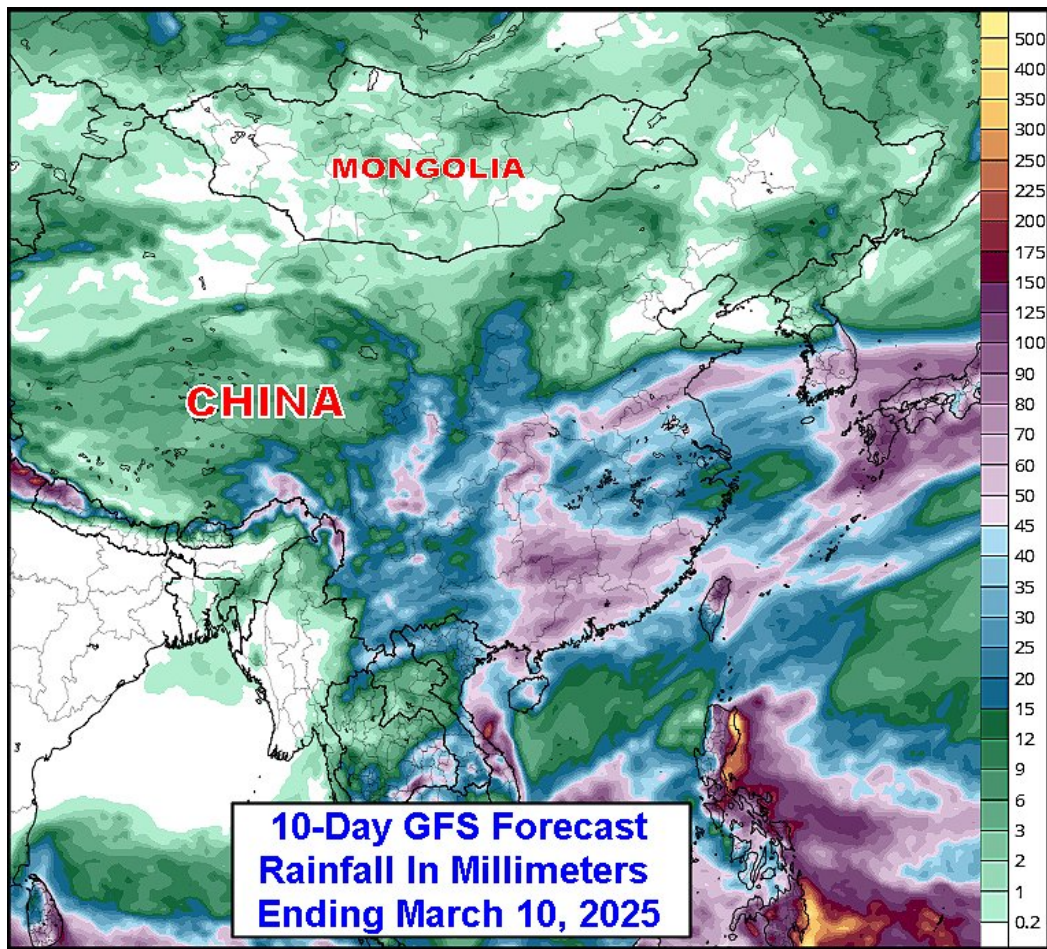
temperatures are warm enough in southern China to allow for planting. Areas further north are generally too cold for early-season planting or to bring winter grains and oilseeds out of dormancy.



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Early-season planting prospects in southern China remain less than favorable due to low soil moisture, although spotty rain in recent weeks has been welcome. Both warmer temperatures and greater rain are needed from the southern coastal provinces into Yunnan. Early season rice and corn planting usually begins in late February and especially March along with early development of sugarcane as the ground begins to warm. Some producers may wait for greater rainfall to fix the moisture deficits before planting a significant amount of crop. Planting near and north of the Yangtze River will likely begin later in March and April once seasonal warming occurs.

Winter rapeseed and wheat prospects remain generally favorable across the Yangtze River Basin and North China Plain. Recent precipitation in the Yangtze River Basin will promote aggressive growth in the coming weeks once the crop comes out of dormancy. A few locations in the North China Plain are a little too dry for ideal wheat growth, though there is still time for better precipitation before seasonal warming brings the crops out of dormancy.



WEATHER OUTLOOK

Areas near and south of the Yangtze River will have several opportunities for precipitation during the coming week. Other than a few isolated showers, precipitation will

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be limited today. Disturbances will promote more widespread precipitation Friday through Monday with some more showers likely Tuesday and Wednesday. Moisture totals by next Thursday morning will range from 0.75 to 4.00 inches in much of the Yangtze River Basin. Southern China will receive 0.50 to 3.00 inches of rain, though much of Yunnan will only receive 0.10 to 0.75 inch of rain. A similar weather pattern is expected March 7 – 13.

Waves of rain in the coming weeks will gradually bolster soil moisture across southern China. Additional rainfall may be needed to completely fix the dryness, though conditions are expected to improve in much of crop country. Early-season planting conditions will improve. The Yangtze River Basin will also receive enough precipitation to keep soil moisture at adequate or excessive levels in the coming weeks. Winter rapeseed prospects will remain favorable and periods of warmer weather may bring some of the crop out of dormancy.

The North China Plain and central Yellow River Basin will also have opportunities for precipitation during the coming week. After a brief period of drier weather today, disturbances will promote more widespread precipitation Friday into Monday. Light showers will persist for Shaanxi and immediate neighboring areas toward the middle of next week as well. Moisture totals by next Thursday morning will range from 0.50 to 3.00 inches, though southern Hebei and immediate neighboring locations in Shanxi and Shandong may not receive more than 0.25 inch of moisture. Some of the precipitation will fall as snow with many areas in Shaanxi, Hubei, southern Shanxi, and neighboring areas receiving a dusting to 3 inches of snow. Drier-than-normal weather will then evolve March 7 – 13.

Rain and snow in the coming days will help improve the moisture profile for much of the North China Plain and central Yellow River Basin. Winter wheat prospects will remain favorable for most locations. However, southern Hebei and neighboring areas will need timely precipitation later in March. Temperatures will generally remain too cold to promote much growth through at least the end of next week.

Northern China will only have a few opportunities for light and erratic precipitation during the coming week. Rain and snow totals will be too light to impact long-term soil conditions. Only a few bouts of light precipitation are expected March 7 – 13. Planting in northern China is still several weeks out. As long as timely rain occurs later in March and April, planting prospects should be favorable.

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