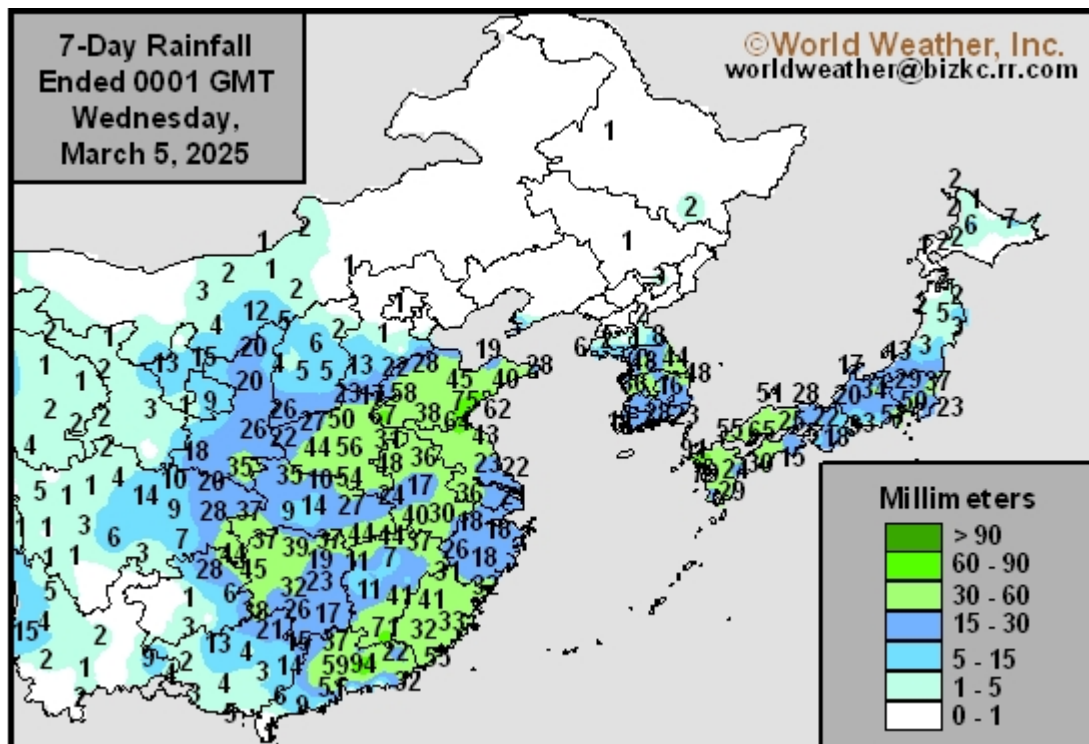


Southern China Planting Prospects Improving

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, March 5 (World Weather Inc.) – [Much of east-central and southern China received some much needed rain in the past week bolstering topsoil moisture in wheat and rapeseed areas and improving the prospects for early season corn and rice planting in the south.](#) Most of the southern coastal provinces and Yunnan have been dealing with limited rainfall in recent weeks due to La Nina-biased conditions. The demise of La Nina has brought on some needed moisture for improved planting potentials, although much more rain is still needed. Much of southern China outside Yunnan will see waves of rain through at least the middle of next week that will continue to chip away at the dryness. Planting prospects for the rice and corn will slowly improve and the moisture will stimulate better sugarcane and citrus development potential.

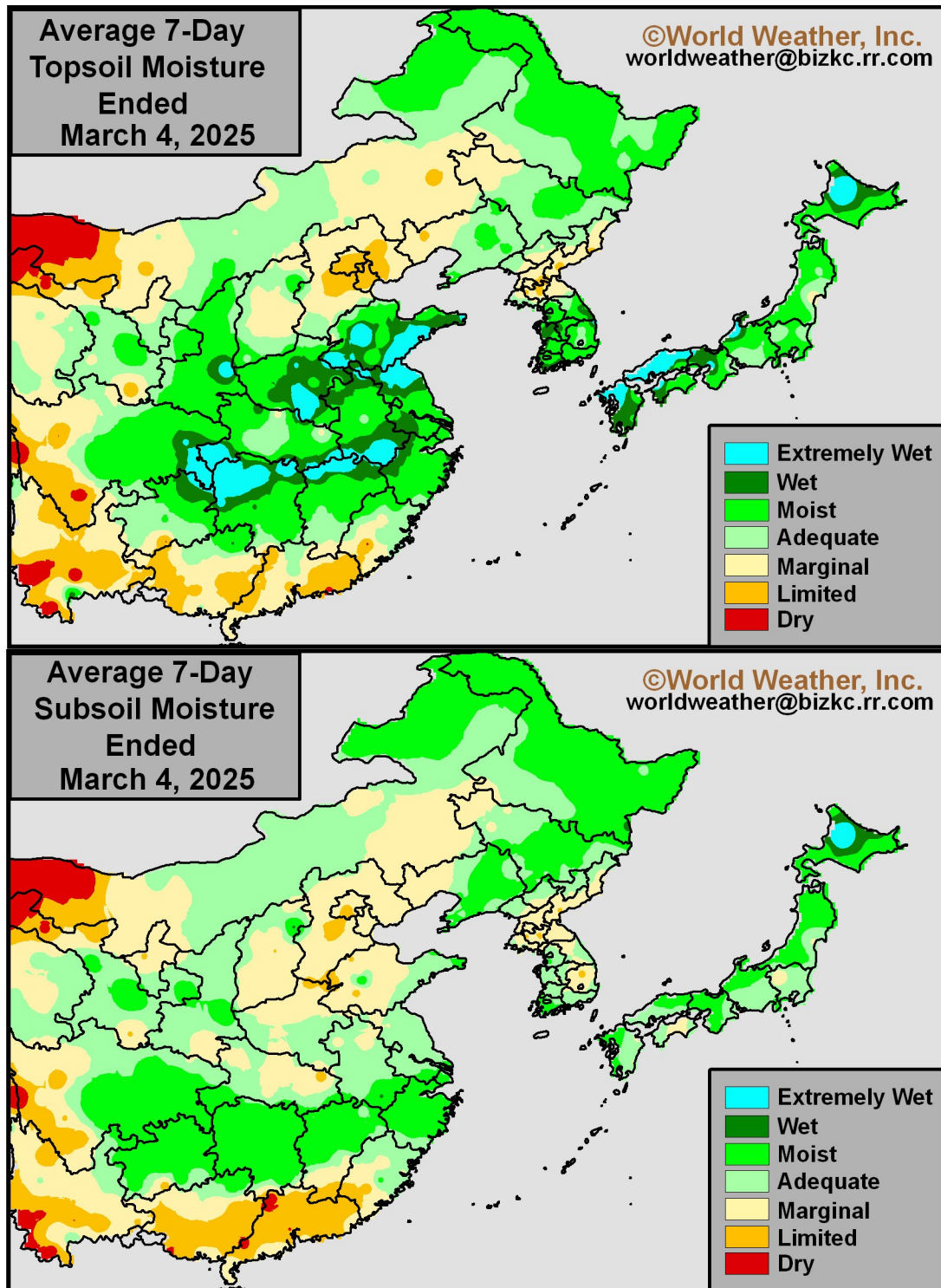
Guangdong and Fujian through Zhejiang, Jiangxi, Hunan, Hubei, and eastern Sichuan into Henan, Shandong, Anhui, Jiangsu, and southern Shaanxi received 0.67 to 2.32 inches of moisture with local amounts up to 3.70 inches for the seven-day period ending this morning. Other areas in Shaanxi into Shanxi, southern Hebei, central Sichuan, eastern Guizhou, and portions of northern and eastern Guangxi and southeastern Yunnan received 0.24 to 1.18 inches of moisture. A few locations in central Inner Mongolia received up to 0.47 inch of moisture while other areas in northern China were mostly dry.



[Moisture shortages persist in portions of southern China despite recent precipitation. However, most locations are not critically dry. Portions of northern Hebei, Inner Mongolia, western Liaoning, and Shanxi have marginally adequate or adequate](#)

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moisture. The remaining production areas have adequate to excessive amounts of moisture.

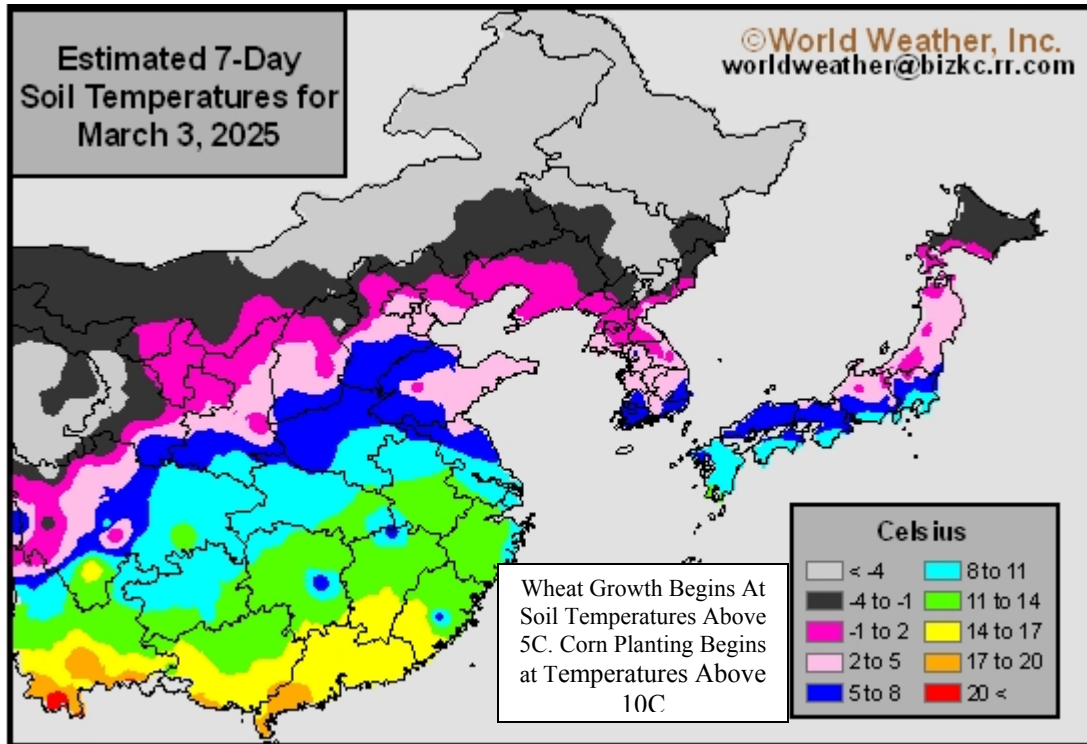


Soil temperatures were warm enough to support planting in much of southern China. Portions of the Yangtze River Basin are also warm enough to bring winter rapeseed out of

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dormancy. The ground otherwise remains too cold to bring winter wheat out of dormancy in the North China Plain.

Early-season planting of the rice, corn, and sugarcane usually begins in March for southern China. Planting conditions have started out less than ideal due to the ongoing moisture deficits that evolved over the winter. Recent rainfall may have marginally improved planting and establishment, though much more precipitation is needed to support ideal establishment and early-season development.



Winter rapeseed and wheat prospects are generally favorable across the Yangtze River Basin and North China Plain. Recent precipitation has helped keep soil moisture at favorable levels for aggressive growth once the ground warms. Early-season development conditions have likely been favorable for areas near and south of the Yangtze River that have warmed enough to bring the crop out of dormancy.

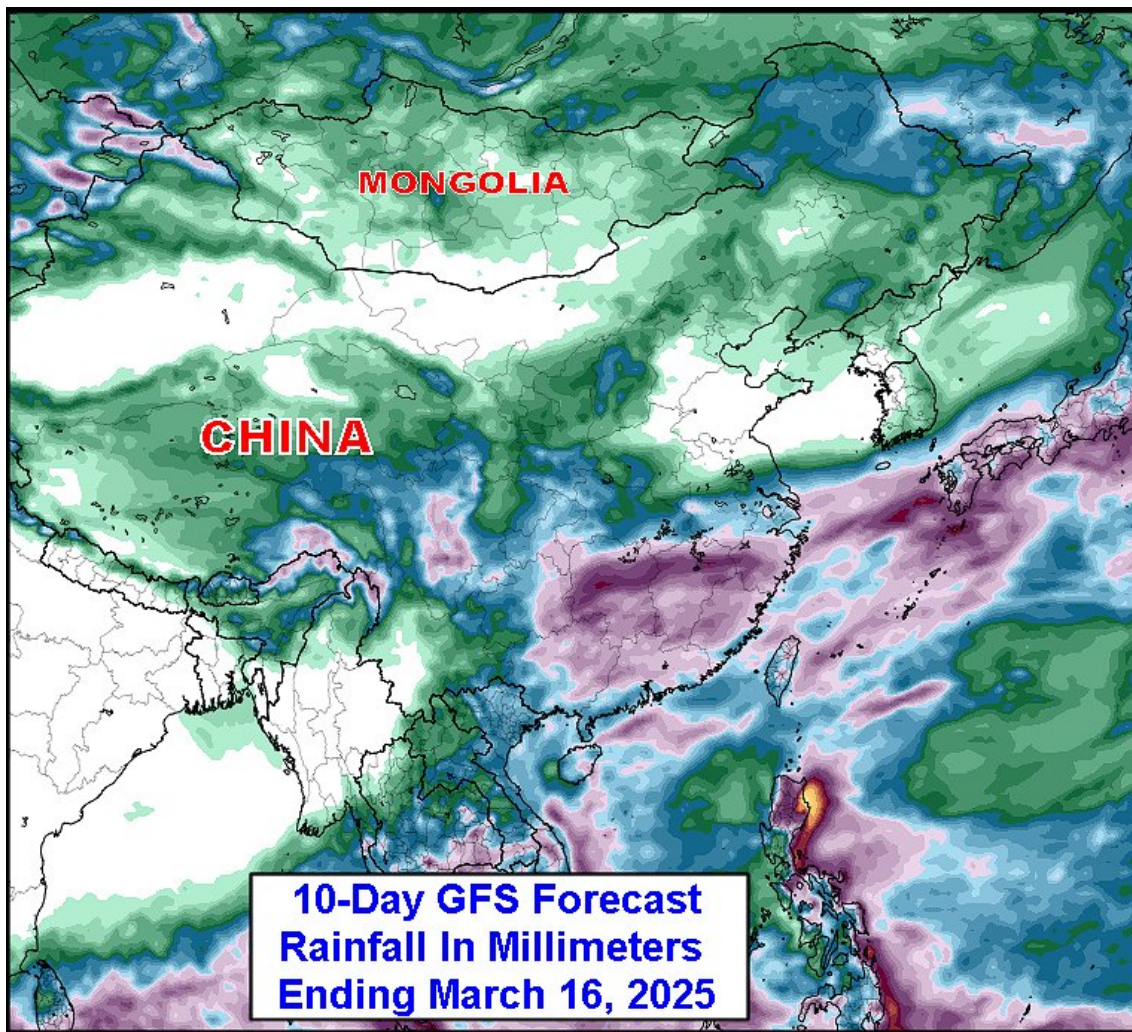
WEATHER OUTLOOK

Waves of precipitation are slated for much of southern China and the Yangtze River Basin through the middle of next week. Precipitation will evolve on a near daily basis with some of the most widespread and significant precipitation occurring through Sunday. Moisture totals by next Wednesday morning will range from 0.75 to 4.00 inches, though Yunnan will only receive 0.10 to 0.75 inch of rain. Snow or a wintry mixture of precipitation will occur at times in the Yangtze River Basin, though snow and ice accumulations will be minimal. The wet weather pattern will likely persist for March 13 – 19.

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Additional precipitation in the coming weeks will further increase the moisture profile for much of southern China outside Yunnan. Planting and establishment conditions will continue to improve. Temperatures will be warm enough to stimulate establishment and early-season growth. Winter rapeseed prospects will also remain favorable for the Yangtze River Basin. Some development is expected as temperatures gradually warm in the coming weeks.

The North China Plain and central Yellow River Basin will see limited precipitation during the coming week. Any precipitation that occurs will be too light to counter evaporation or impact long-term soil conditions. Drier-than-normal weather will likely persist March 13 – 19. The main winter wheat areas will still have enough moisture to support favorable long-term crop conditions. Temperatures may warm enough by mid-March to bring some of the wheat out of dormancy.



Northern China will have a few opportunities for spotty precipitation through the middle of next week. Light precipitation will be scattered across a few locations through Friday. Disturbances will continue to promote erratic precipitation this weekend and the first part of next week. Moisture totals by next Wednesday morning will range from 0.10 to 0.75 inch, though many pockets in Inner Mongolia and Liaoning will receive little or no

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precipitation. Precipitation will fall as a mixture of rain and snow. Several areas in Jilin, Heilongjiang, and northeastern Inner Mongolia will see a dusting to 4 inches of snow accumulate. The region will again see a mix of precipitation and dry weather March 13 – 19. Planting is still several weeks out for much of northern China. The region should have enough moisture to support relatively good early-season planting prospects.

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