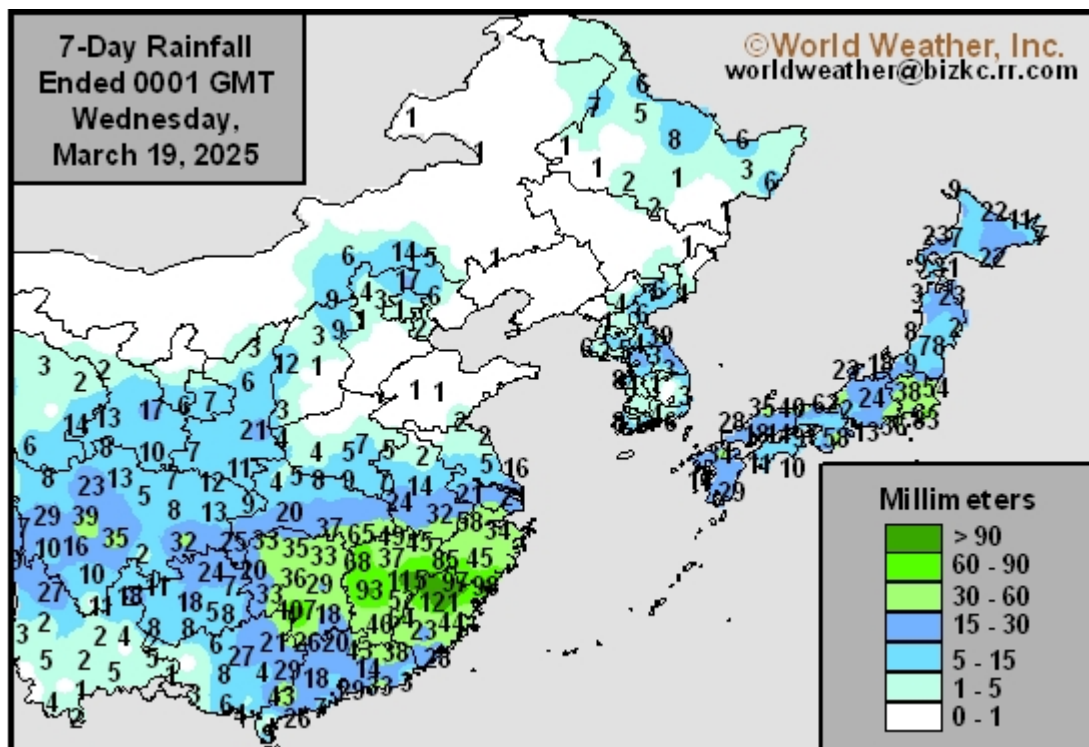


Southern China Dryness A Growing Concern For Rice, Corn

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, March 19 (World Weather Inc.) – [Dryness is an increasing concern across far southern China where early corn and rice are grown and where sugarcane and some citrus are produced as well. The region trended drier than normal during the past few months and many areas are a little too dry for ideal planting conditions and new growth.](#) With drier-biased conditions persisting for at least another week, planting prospects and sugarcane development will remain less than ideal. [Rapeseed and southern wheat areas in the Yangtze River Basin will also experience a net decline in soil moisture over the next week to ten days, although soil moisture today is favorably rated. The North China Plain and Yellow River Basin will also have need for rain soon to ensure the best possible start to the growing season.](#)

Precipitation varied across the main production areas in China during the past week. Fujian, Zhejiang, Jiangxi, and Hunan received 1.14 to 3.35 inches of rain with local amounts up to 4.76 inches for the seven-day period ending this morning. Guangdong, eastern Guangxi, Guizhou, Sichuan, Hubei, northern Yunnan, and the southern halves of Anhui and Jiangsu received 0.32 to 1.69 inches of rain. Shaanxi and portions of northern Hebei and central Inner Mongolia received 0.20 to 0.83 inch of moisture. A few locations in Shanxi, Henan, and Heilongjiang received up to 0.47 inch of moisture. The remaining locations received little to no precipitation.

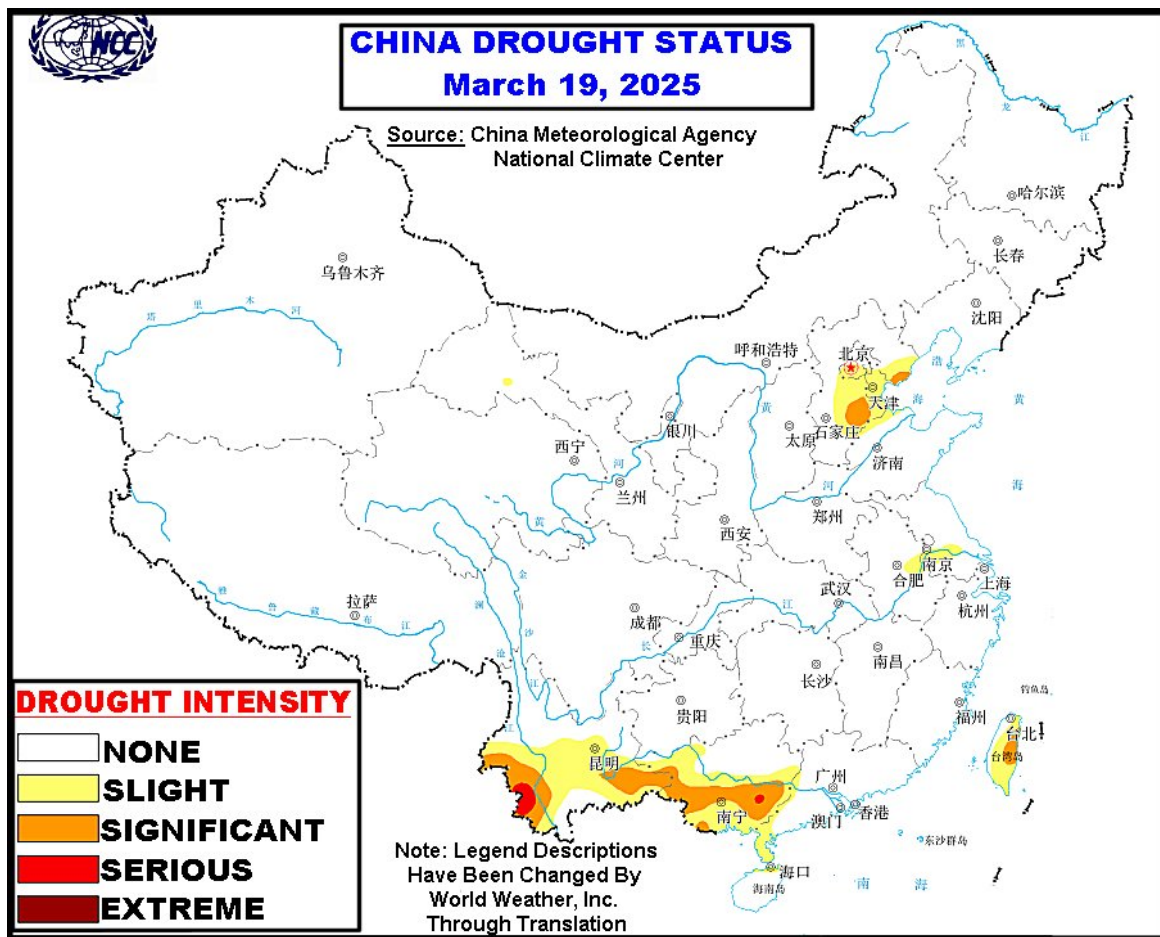


Soil moisture is rated adequate to excessive in much of the Yangtze River Basin and portions of southeastern China. Other locations have adequate to marginally adequate moisture, though several areas in Yunnan, western Guangxi, Hebei, and neighboring

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locations have a shortage of moisture in the topsoil. The ground is warm enough to support early season planting, germination and new growth in much of southern China. The Yangtze River Basin and pockets in the North China Plain have also warmed enough to bring winter crops out of dormancy.

Early-season rice and corn planting usually begins in southern China in March. Planting conditions have been less than favorable to poor in parts of crop country due to the lack of available moisture. Sugarcane development conditions have also been less than ideal in the driest locations. The need for significant rain is high in order to support better planting conditions for the early crop as well as development conditions for sugarcane. Continued dryness may raise concern over production impacts for the upcoming season.

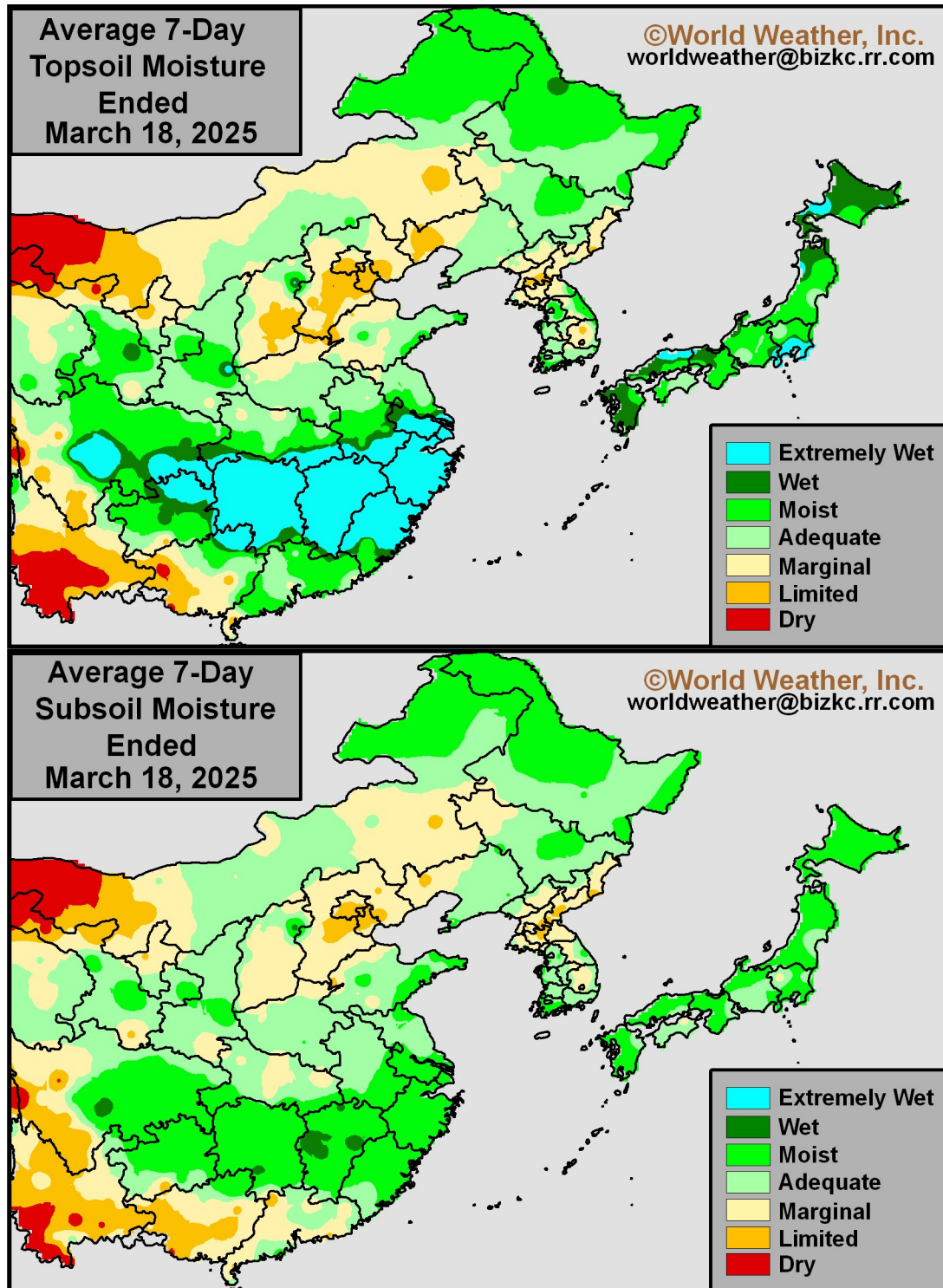


Most of China has had a favorable late winter and early spring precipitation pattern. Timely rain has impacted rapeseed areas of the Yangtze River Basin after being a little too dry during the heart of winter. The China Meteorological Agency has suggested that drought has been evolving recently in Yunnan and southern Guangxi and it may be impacting a small part of Taiwan and Hebei; however, none of the dryness has prevailed long enough to have a serious impact on spring farming activity.

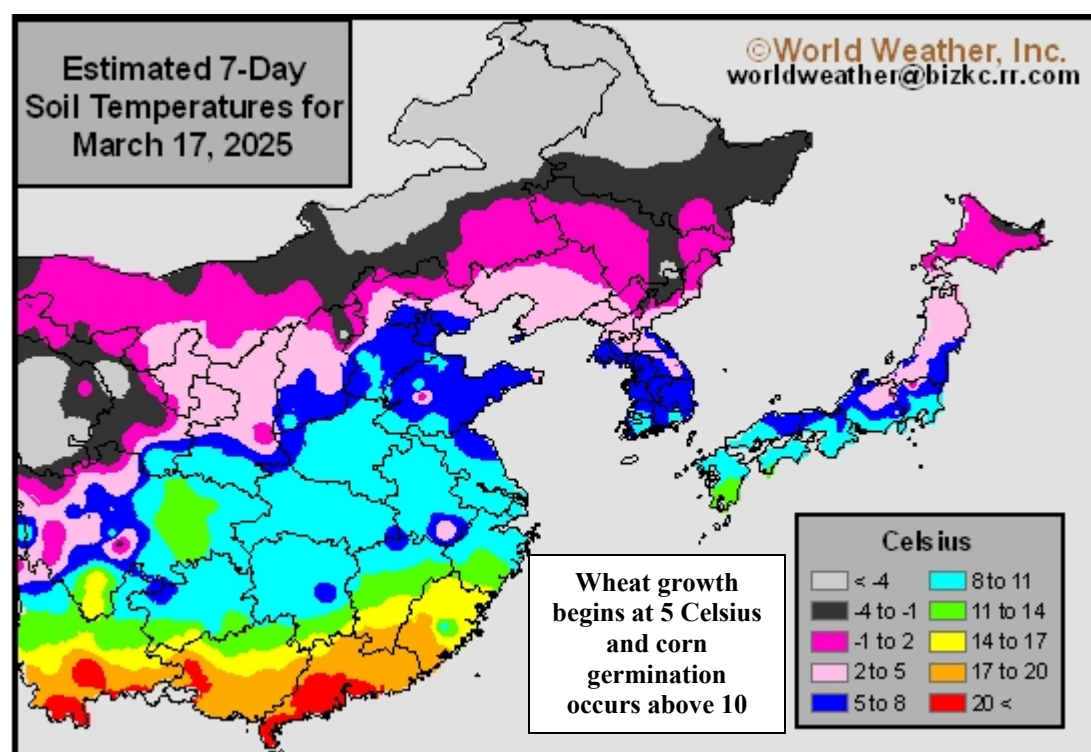
Winter rapeseed conditions in the Yangtze River Basin are relatively good due to periods of precipitation in recent weeks. The North China Plain has some moisture for

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winter wheat once the crop comes out of dormancy; however, most locations would still benefit from timely precipitation in coming weeks to maintain a good outlook for early season crop development. Planting of summer crops is still several weeks away in portions of the North China Plain, central Yellow River Basin, and northern China.



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Winter rapeseed conditions in the Yangtze River Basin are relatively good due to periods of precipitation in recent weeks. The North China Plain has some moisture for winter wheat once it comes out of dormancy; however, most locations will need from timely precipitation to ensure the best possible start to the growing season. Planting of summer crops is still several weeks out in portions of the North China Plain, central Yellow River Basin, and northern China. Some sugarbeet and spring wheat planting, however, will begin next month.

WEATHER OUTLOOK

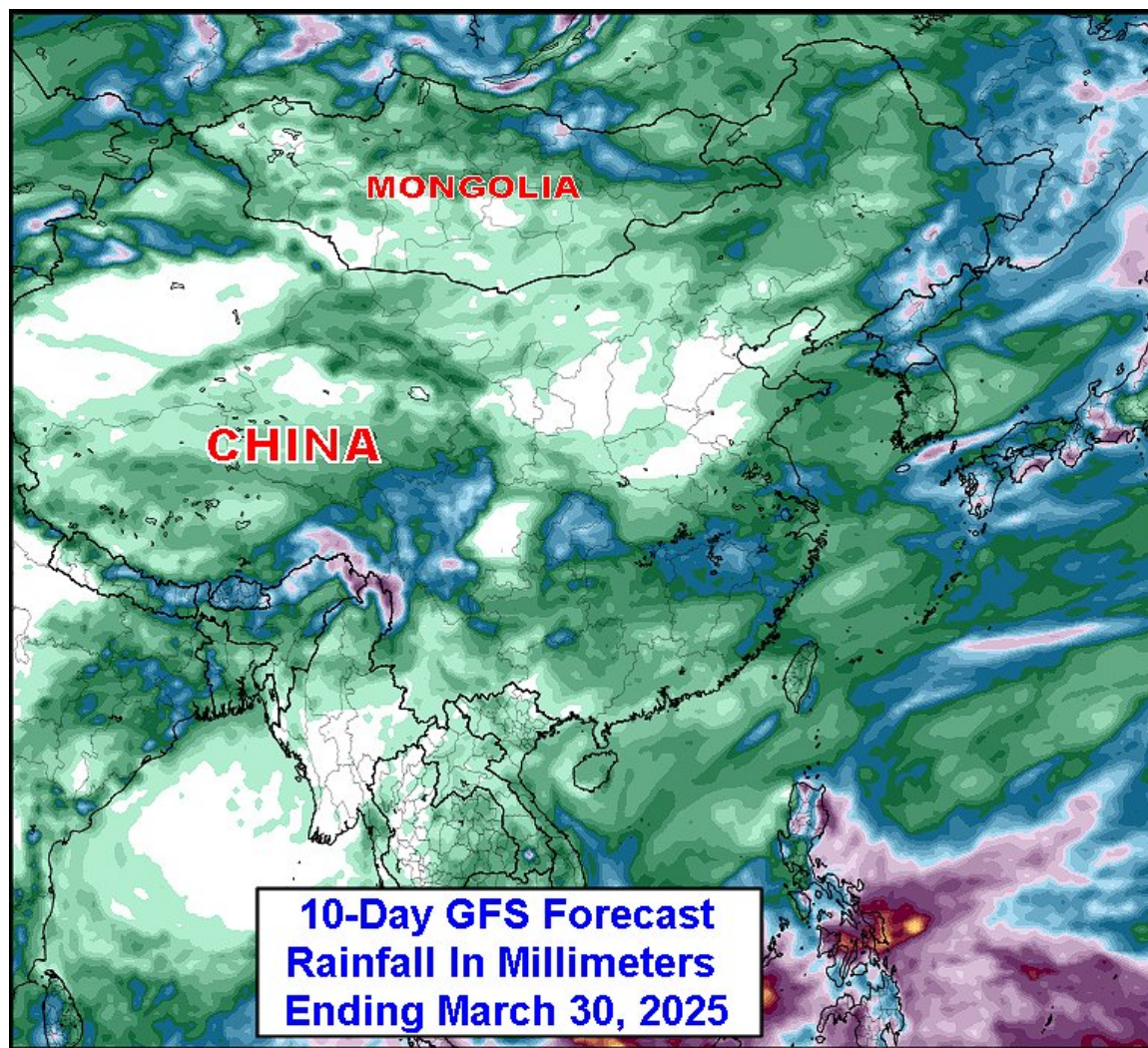
A large section of China will trend drier than normal during the coming week. Spotty precipitation will still occur through the end of the weekend for Sichuan, Yunnan, Guizhou, and neighboring locations. A band of scattered showers will also evolve in portions of the Yangtze River Basin early next week. Moisture totals by next Wednesday morning will only range from 0.10 to 0.75 inch for these locations. Southeastern China, along with the North China Plain and central Yellow River Basin, will be dry or mostly dry. Northern China will have a few opportunities for erratic rain and snow as well. Snow and rain totals will be too light to significantly impact long-term soil conditions. Areas near and south of the Yangtze River will see precipitation potentials gradually increase March 27 – April 2 while areas farther north remain drier than usual.

Early rice and corn Planting conditions and sugarcane development conditions will remain less than favorable to poor for much of southern China through at least the middle of next week. The boost in rain during the second week of the outlook may marginally improve the moisture profile, but will likely be too light to completely fix the

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dryness. Producers may wait for better rainfall before planting a significant amount of the rice and corn.

The main winter rapeseed and winter wheat areas will dry down through the middle of next week as well. The boost in rain during the second week of the outlook may be enough to limit impacts to the rapeseed in much of the Yangtze River Basin. Yield potentials should remain mostly unchanged. The need for rain will otherwise increase later in April for the North China Plain and central Yellow River Basin to not only support a good outlook for the winter wheat, but to also improve early-season planting prospects for the coarse grains, oilseeds, cotton, and other crops planted in the spring.



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